

# The Cardy-like limit of the $\mathcal{N}=1$ superconformal index

Marco Fazzi

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Based on [2012.15208](#) & [2103.15853](#)  
with Antonio Amariti (INFN Milano) and Alessia Segati (Milano Uni)

[see also [Cassani-Komargodski](#) 2104.01464  
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Here focus on  $d=4$  (field theory dimension).  
A lot of work in  $d=3$ , some results in  $d=5,6$

This talk:

Black hole entropy & superconformal index

New general formula for the Cardy-like limit

Examples (including & beyond  $\mathcal{N}=4$  super-YM)

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Extremal: zero temp  
“1/16-BPS”: 2 out of 32 supercharges

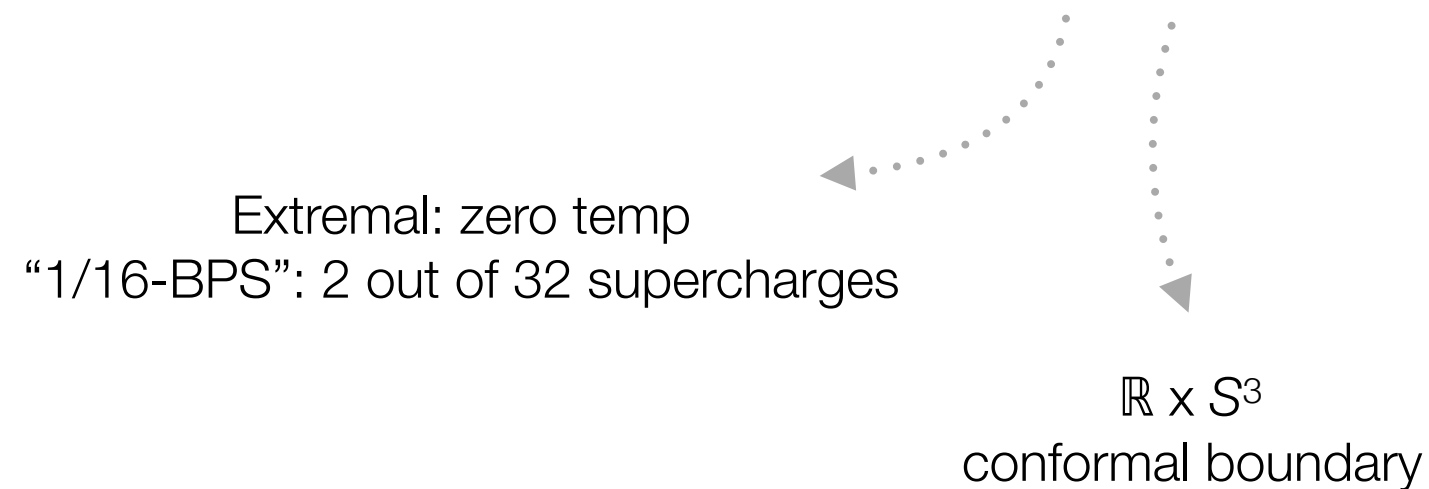
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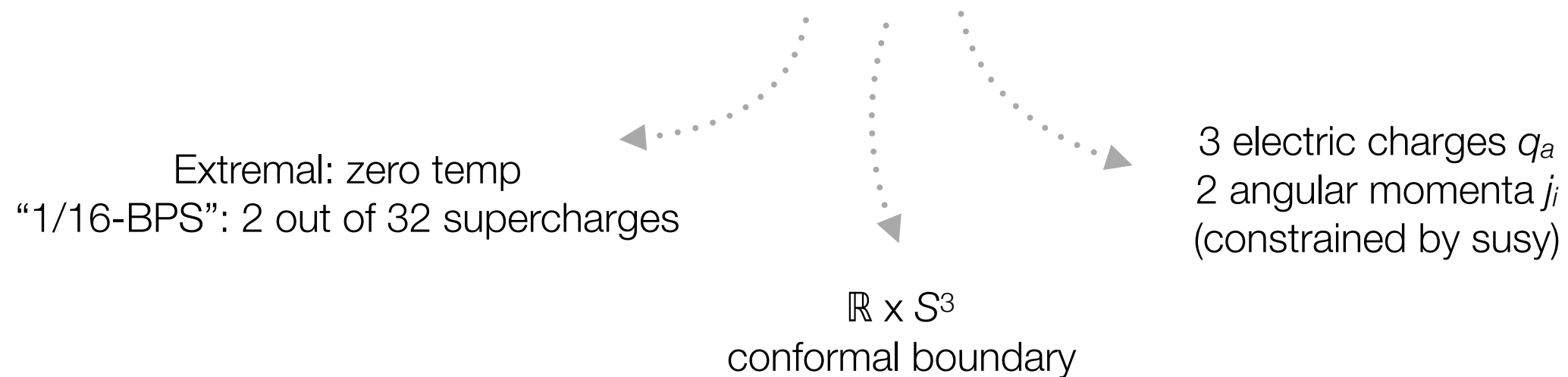
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Ensemble of states in dual  $\mathcal{N}=4$  on  $\mathbb{R} \times S^3$ ?

Susy & charges suggest BH entropy should be given by

**1/16-BPS states of  $\mathcal{N}=4$  super-YM w/ spins  $j_i$  & U(1) charges  $q_a$**

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**of  $d=4$   $\mathcal{N}=4$  SYM** at **large  $N$**  ( $\sim 1/\sqrt{G_{\text{Newton}}}$ ) & for **complex chemical potentials**

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The diagram features a central equation for BH entropy: 
$$S_{\text{BH}} \sim -\frac{i}{2} N^2 \frac{\Delta_1 \Delta_2 \Delta_3}{\omega_1 \omega_2}$$
 Three dotted arrows originate from this equation. One arrow points to the left towards the text 'real order- $N^2$  quantity ~  **$a_{\mathcal{N}=4}$  central charge**'. A second arrow points upwards and to the right towards the text 'associated w/ charge operators  $Q_a, a=1,2,3$ '. A third arrow points downwards and to the right towards the text 'associated w/ ang. momentum operators  $J_1, J_2$ '.

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real order- $N^2$  quantity  $\sim$   **$a_{\mathcal{N}=4}$  central charge**

associated w/ charge operators  $Q_a, a=1,2,3$

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The superconformal index of  $\mathcal{N}=4$  super-YM

$$\mathcal{I}_{\text{sc}} = \text{Tr} \big|_{\mathcal{Q}=0} (-1)^F e^{i(\Delta_a Q_a + \omega_i J_i)}$$

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**counts** 1/16-BPS states w/ **sign**: different from counting ALL 1/16-BPS states (entropy: hard problem)

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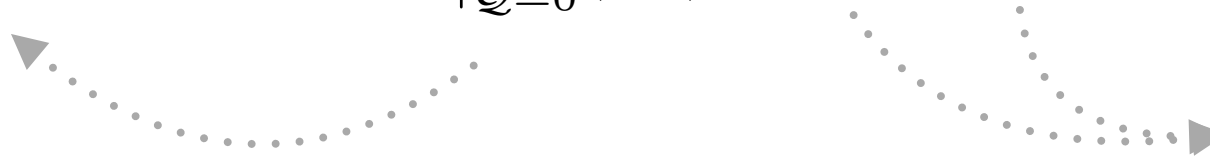


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The diagram shows the formula  $\mathcal{I}_{\text{sc}} = \text{Tr} \Big|_{\mathcal{Q}=0} (-1)^F e^{i(\Delta_a Q_a + \omega_i J_i)}$ . A curved dotted arrow points from the label 'preserved supercharge  $\mathcal{Q}$ ' to the  $\mathcal{Q}=0$  condition in the trace. Another curved dotted arrow points from the label '(complex)  $\Delta_a, \omega_i$  chemical potentials' to the exponent  $i(\Delta_a Q_a + \omega_i J_i)$ .

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**large- $N$  limit** from exact evaluation of superconformal index via “Bethe Ansatz” formula  $\mathcal{I}_{\text{sc}} = \sum Z H^{-1}$

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**“Cardy-like limit”**: small- $|\omega_i|$  limit from matrix model representation of superconformal index

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New general formula when  $\omega_1 = \omega_2 \equiv \tau$

[Amariti-MF-Segati '21]

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Valid for **holographic & non-holographic** theories ( $a=c$  or  $a \neq c$  at large  $N$ )

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**explains & expands previous results**

**$\mathcal{N}=4$  super-YM** (adj matter):  $\Gamma_Z = \dim Z(G)$

[SU: GonzalezLezcano-Hong-Liu-PandoZayas,  
USp, SO: Amariti-MF-Segati '20]

**toric  $SU(N)$  quivers** (bifundamental matter):  $\Gamma_Z = N$

[GonzalezLezcano-Hong-Liu-PandoZayas]

# One-slide proof: index as matrix model

$$\mathcal{I}_{\text{sc}}(\tau, \Delta) = \frac{(q; q)_{\infty}^{2 \text{rk}_G}}{|\text{Weyl}(G)|} \int \prod_{i=1}^{\text{rk}_G} du_i \frac{\prod_{I=1}^{n_{\chi}} \prod_{\rho_I} \tilde{\Gamma}(\rho_I(\vec{u}) + \Delta_I)}{\prod_{\alpha} \tilde{\Gamma}(\alpha(\vec{u}))} \equiv \frac{1}{|\text{Weyl}(G)|} \int \prod_{i=1}^{\text{rk}_G} du_i e^{S_{\text{eff}}(\vec{u}; \tau, \Delta)}$$

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$q$ -Pochhammer

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effective action

$$e^{2\pi i u_i} \in S^1$$

$u_i$  gauge holonomies

$\rho_I$  gauge weights  
 $\alpha$  gauge roots

matter chemical potentials

$$\Delta_I = \nu_I(\vec{\xi}) + R_I v_R$$

$\nu_I$  flavor weights;  
 $\xi$  flavor holonomies

$v_R$  R-sym chem potential  
 $R_I$  R-charges



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EOM of matrix model  $\int [du] e^{S_{\text{eff}}}$  **at leading order:**

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$$e^{2\pi i u_i} \in S^1$$

$u_i$  gauge holonomies

$\rho_I$  gauge weights  
 $\alpha$  gauge roots

matter chemical potentials

$$\Delta_I = \nu_I(\vec{\xi}) + R_I v_R$$

$\nu_I$  flavor weights;  
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plug Ansatz back into  $S_{\text{eff}}$  and impose **physical constraints** on matter chem. potentials  $\Delta_I$ :  
superconformal index computed by **3d pure Chern-Simons partition function** &  
dependence on SCFT **central charges  $a(\Delta_I)$ ,  $c(\Delta_I)$**

$\mathcal{N}=4$  SYM:  $\mathrm{USp}(2N)$  and  $\mathrm{SO}(N)$  gauge groups

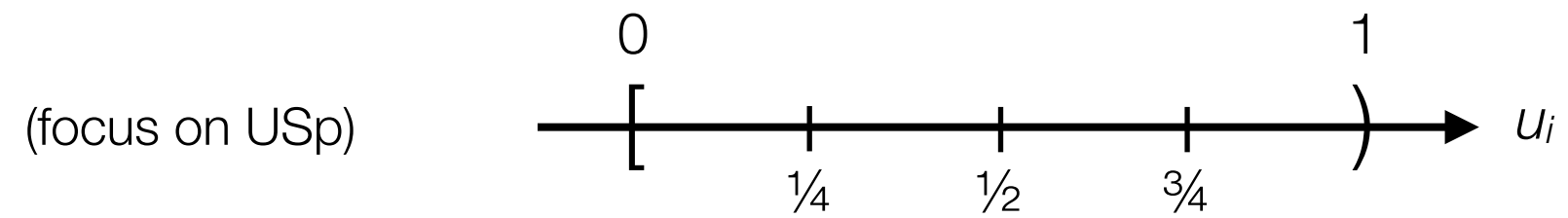
[Amariti-MF-Segati '20]



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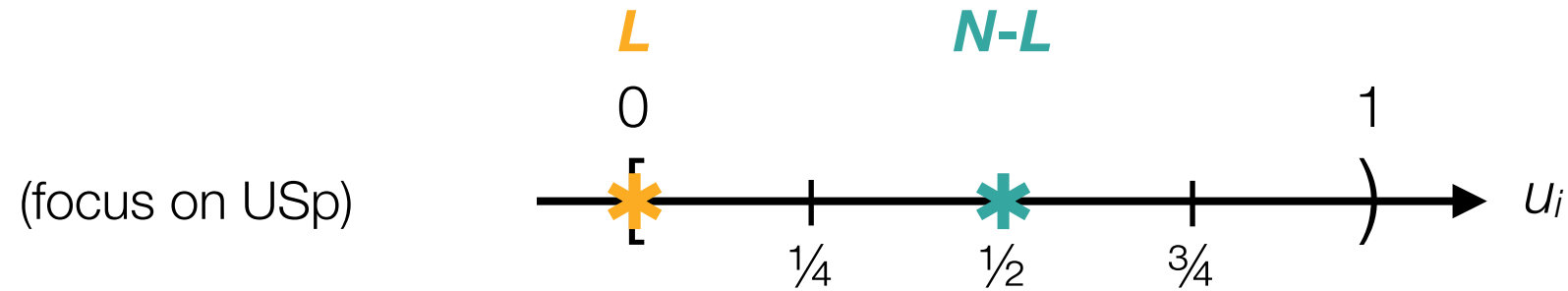
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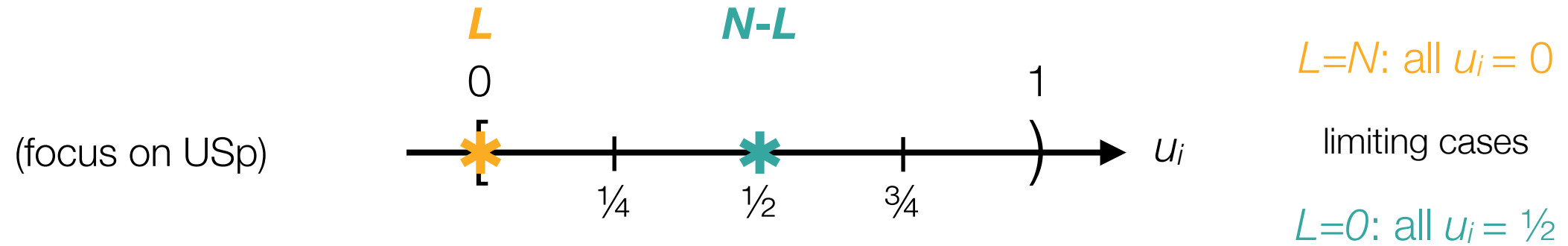


Dominant saddle in BH ‘region’ (constraints on  $\Delta_l$ ):  $u_i = m/2 + v_i \tau$ ;  $m = \{0, 1\} \Rightarrow \Gamma_Z = 2$

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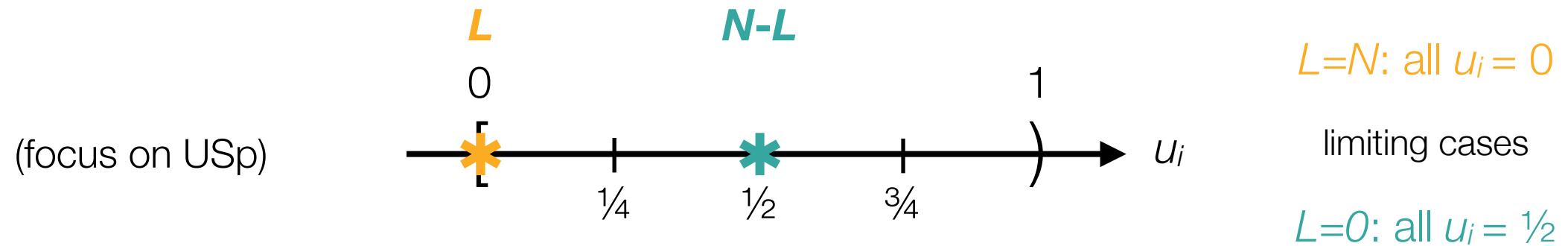


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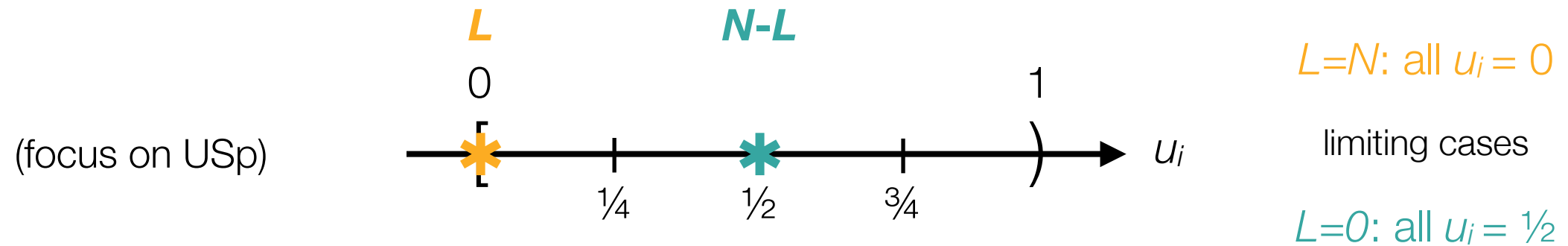
$$\log \mathcal{I}_{\text{sc}}^{\mathrm{USp}(2N)} \underset{|\tau| \rightarrow 0}{=} -\frac{i\pi N(2N+1)}{\tau^2} \prod_{I=1}^3 \left( \{\Delta_I\}_{\tau} - \frac{1+\eta}{2} \right) + \log 2 + \mathcal{O}(e^{-1/|\tau|})$$

with  $N$  holonomies at  $\mathbf{0}$  or  $\mathbf{1}/2$

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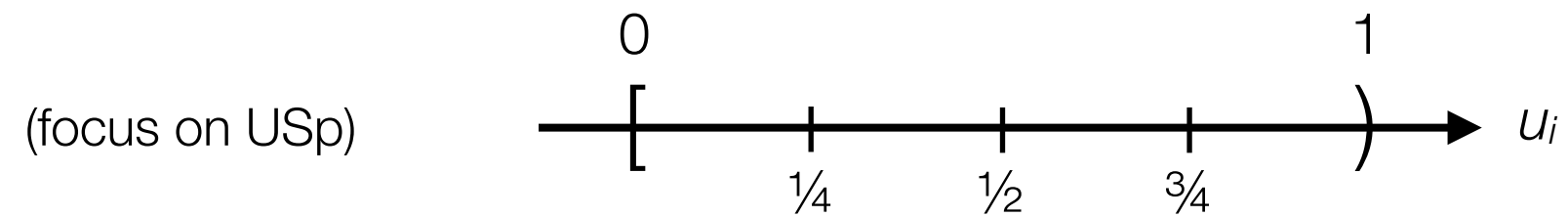
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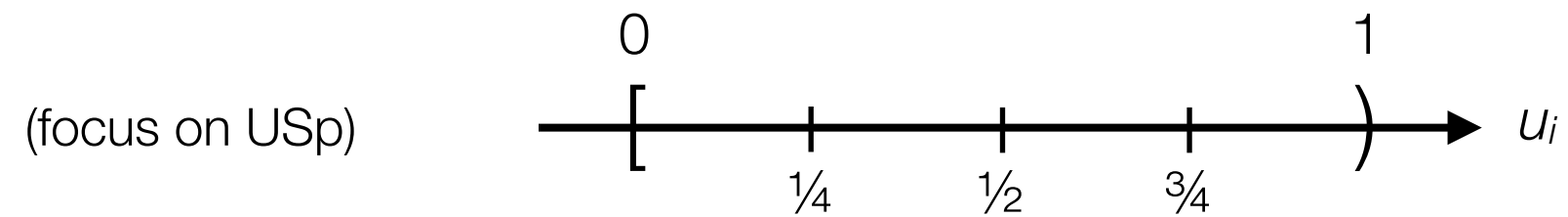
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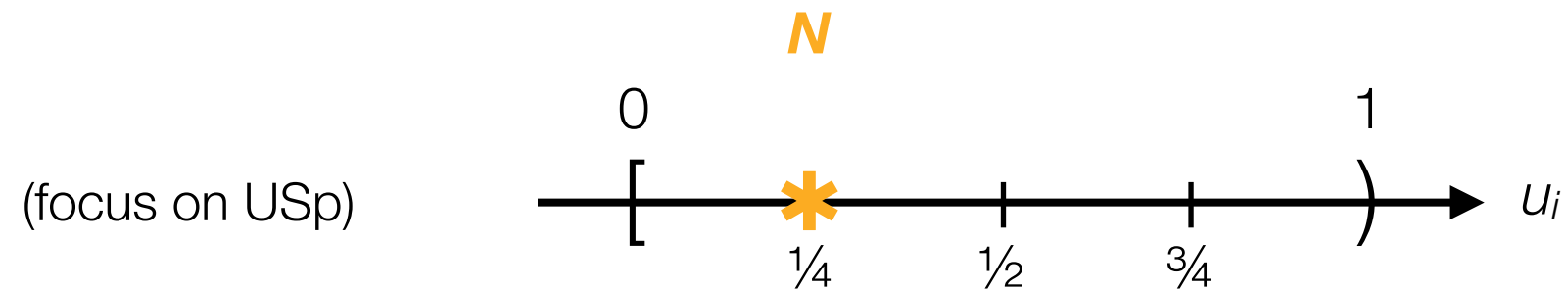


subdominant saddles:

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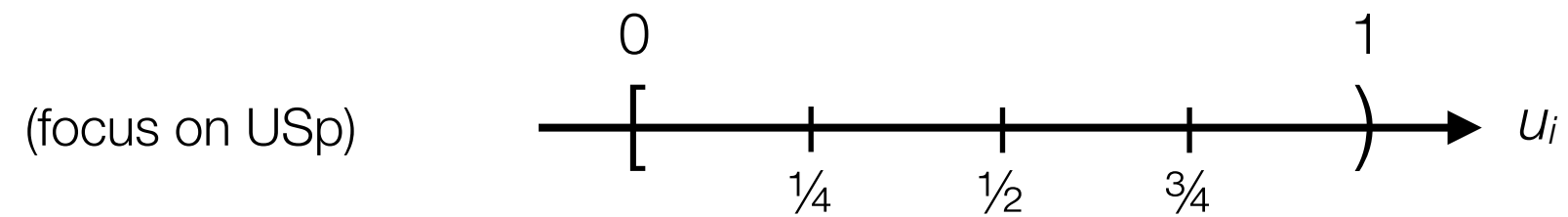
subdominant saddles:  **$N$  at  $\frac{1}{4}$**



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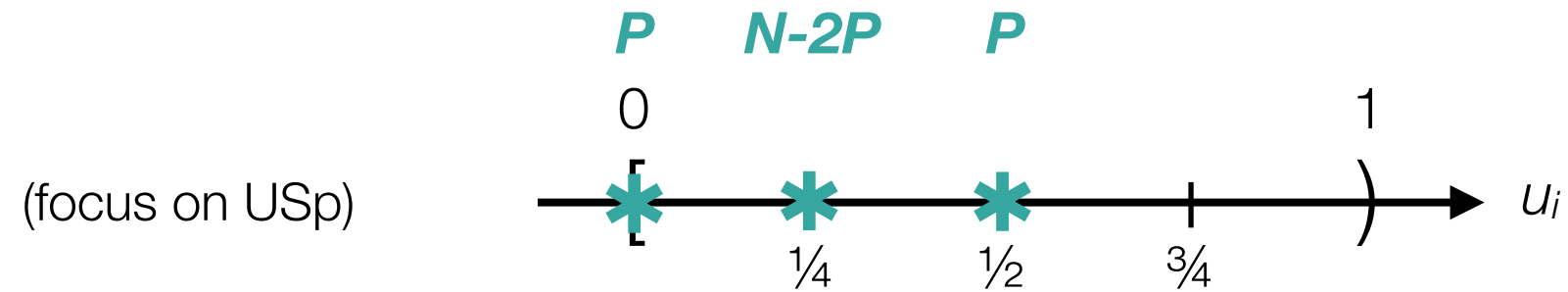


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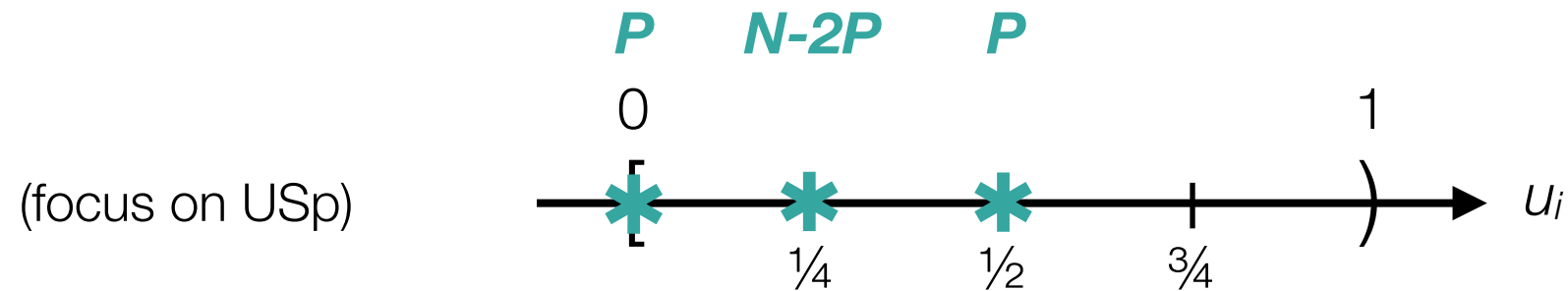


subdominant saddles:  $P$  at  $0$ ;  $P$  at  $\frac{1}{2}$ ;  $N-2P$  at  $\frac{1}{4}$

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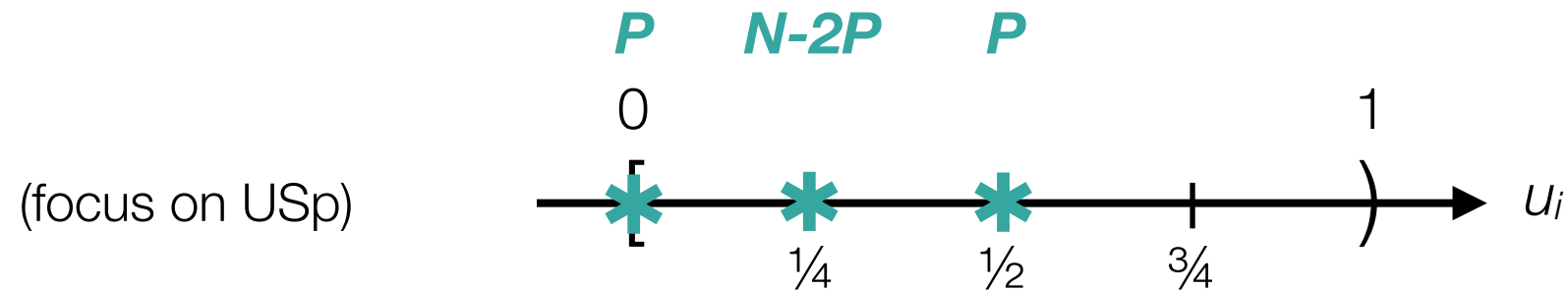
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hierarchy of saddles very important

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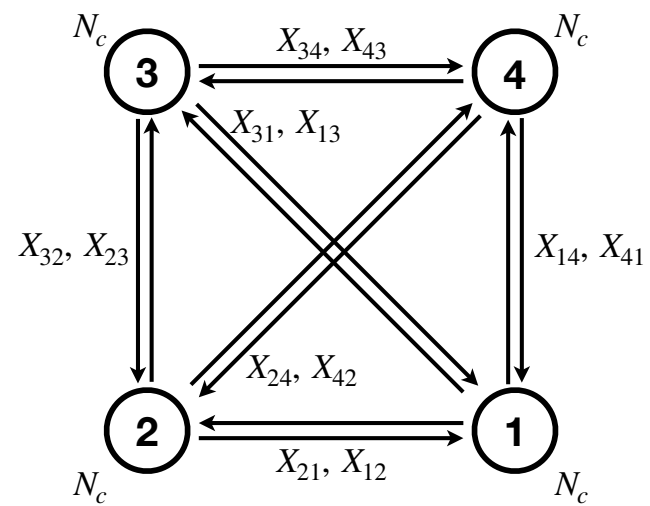
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S-duality between  $\mathrm{USp}$  and  $\mathrm{SO}$  (identity of superconformal indices) nontrivially realized on saddles

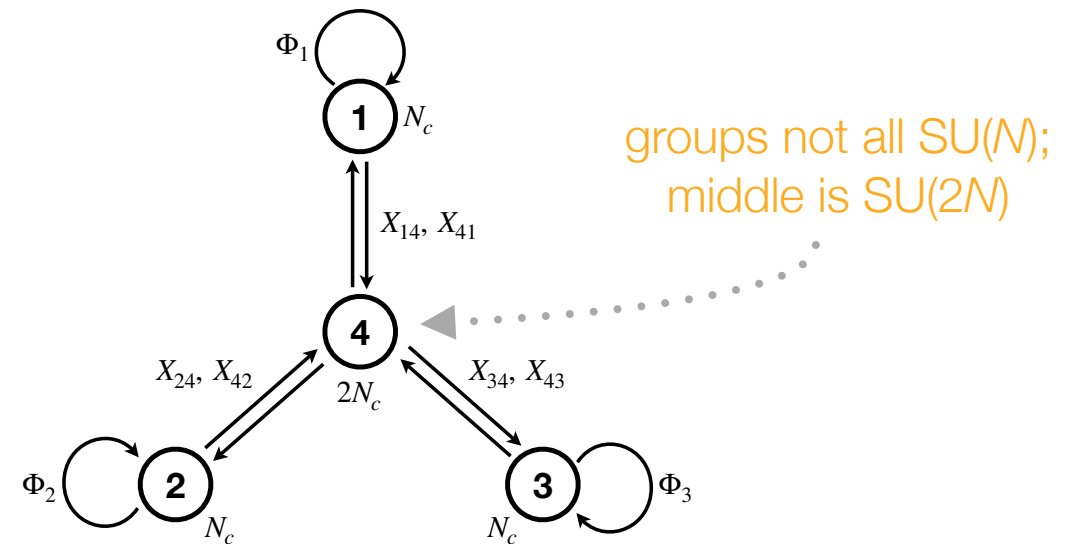
We've looked at more complicated  $\mathcal{N}=1$  models:  
non-toric (toric:  $U(1)^3$  global symmetry), not all ranks equal, non-holographic  
(including subleading corrections and finite terms)

[Amariti-MF-Segati '21]

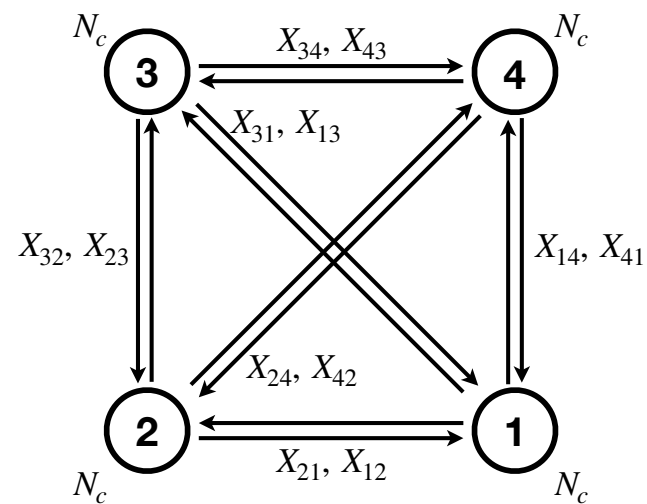
$N$  D3's probing  $\mathbb{C}^3 / \mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_2$   
(toric model:  $U(1)^3$ )



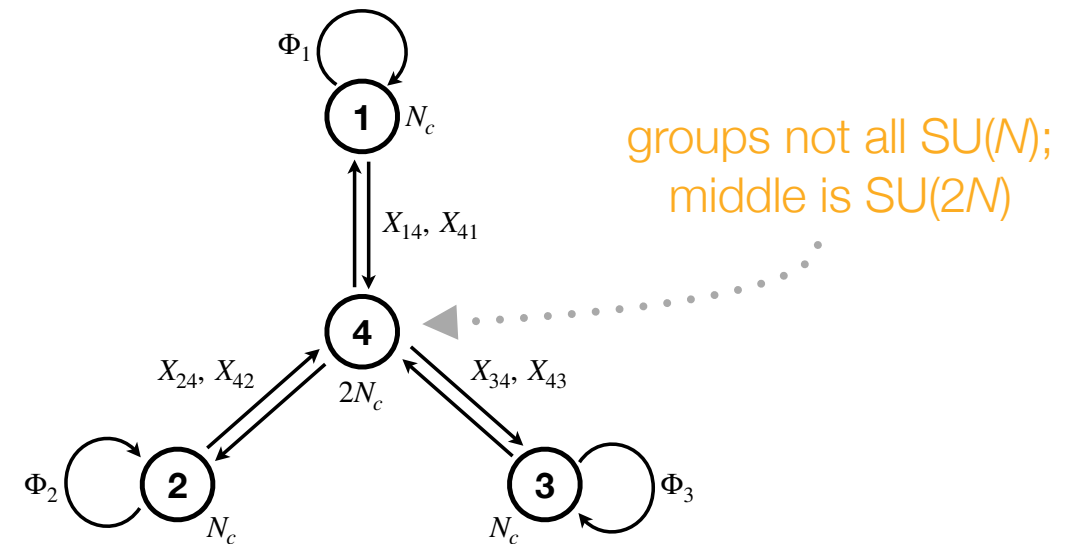
Seiberg-dual nontoric phase



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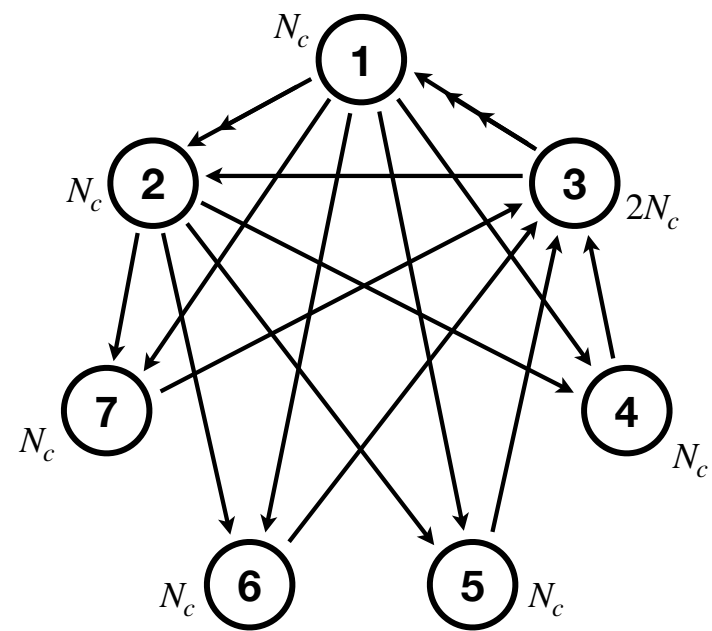


Cardy-like limit of superconformal indices computed independently in two phases from  $S_{\text{eff}}$  match precisely.  
Both given by our new formula with  $\Gamma_Z = N$

Nontrivial **check of validity** of our formula

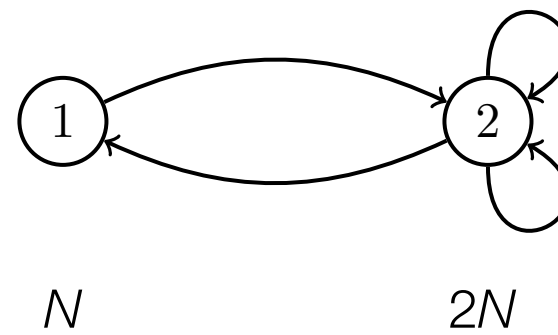
$N$  D3's probing non-toric threefolds (& different ranks):

Cone over  $dP_4$



4 flavor  $U(1)$ s

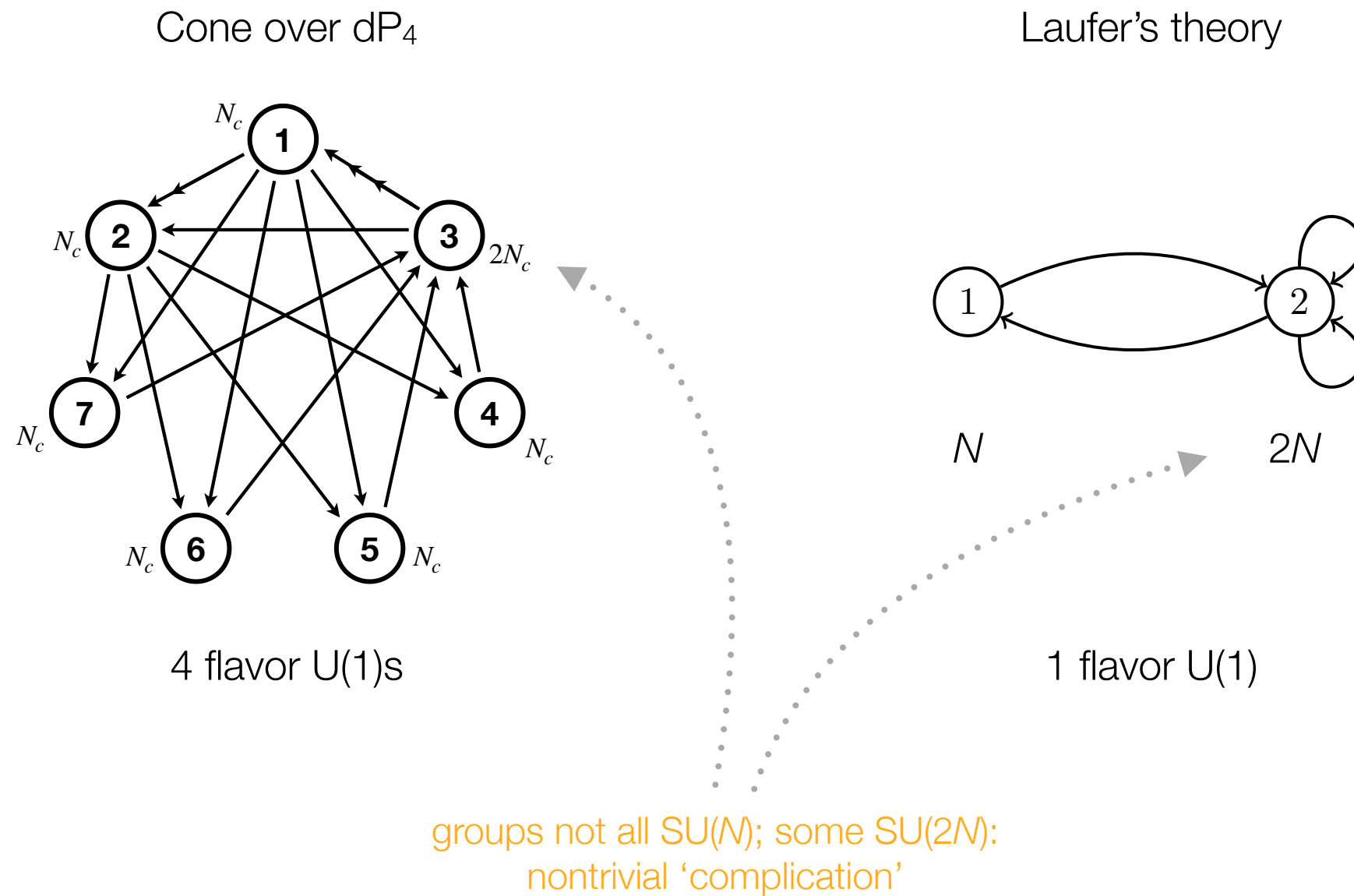
Laufer's theory



1 flavor  $U(1)$



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Non-holographic  $\mathcal{N}=1$  theories ( $a \neq c$  at large  $N$ ): SQCD

$\mathcal{N}=2$  theories

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family of  $\mathcal{N}=1$   $SU(n)$  Lagrangians

enhancing to  $(A_1, A_{2n-1})$  Argyres-Douglas  $\mathcal{N}=2$  SCFT

[Maruysohi-Song,...]

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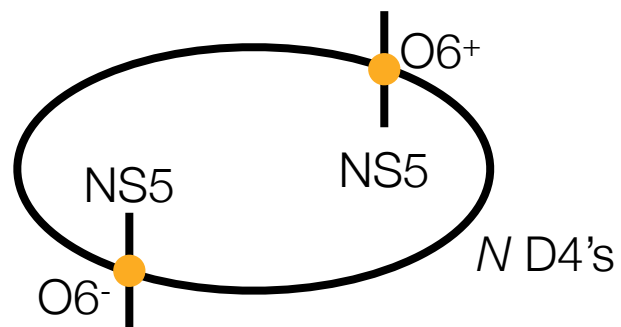
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[Maruysohi-Song,...]

$\mathcal{N}=2$  SCFT:  $SU(N)$  w/ hypers  $\begin{array}{|c|} \hline \square \\ \hline \square \\ \hline \end{array}$  &  $\begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array}$

[Ennes-Lozano-Naculich-Schnitzer]



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USp( $2M$ )

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enhancing to  $(A_1, A_{2n-1})$  Argyres-Douglas  $\mathcal{N}=2$  SCFT

[Maruysohi-Song,...]

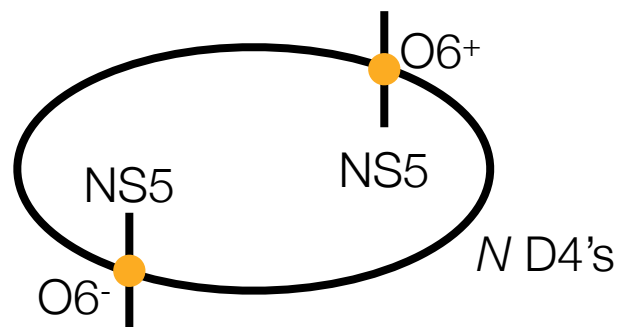
$\mathcal{N}=2$  SCFT: SU( $N$ ) w/ hypers  & 

[Ennes-Lozano-Naculich-Schnitzer]

Cardy-like limit of log of SCl matches  $S_{\text{BH}}$  at large  $N$

$$S_{\text{BH}} = 2\pi \sqrt{Q_2^2 - Q_\ell^2 - Q_{\tilde{\ell}}^2 + 2Q_1(Q_2 - Q_\ell - Q_{\tilde{\ell}}) - \frac{a}{4}(J_1 + J_2)}$$

[Hosseini-Zaffaroni]





# Non-holographic $\mathcal{N}=1$ theories ( $a \neq c$ at large $N$ ): SQCD

SU( $N$ ) in conformal window



adjoint SU( $N$ )

USp( $2N$ )

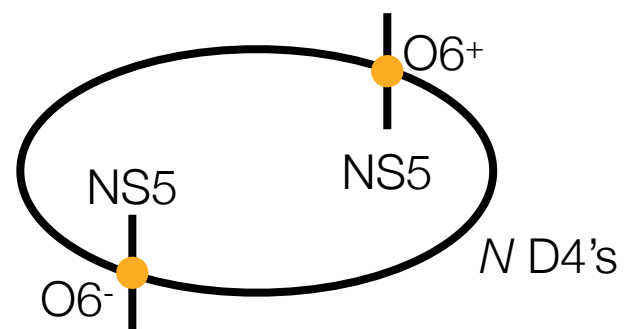
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peculiarity:  
 $\Gamma_Z = (3 + (-1)^N)/2$  depends on parity of  $N$   
(reflected in degeneracy of saddles)

## Conclusions

Formula for Cardy-like limit of superconformal index for generic  $\mathcal{N}=1$  ABCD SCFTs:  
extends previous results valid at lowest order and/or for non-generic theories (super-YM, toric)

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[3d EFT interpretation of result given by Cassani-Komargodski]

No ‘rigorous’ proof but can explicitly determine leading & subleading contributions  
with very general Ansatz  $u_i = u_{*i} + v_i \tau$  for matrix model saddle point

# Outlook

AdS/CFT derivation/interpretation of finite log correction  
(i.e. quantum gravity corrections to asymptotically-AdS BH entropy)

[Bobev-Charles-Gang-Hristov-Reys, Bobev-Charles-Hristov-Reys for AdS<sub>4</sub> BHs]

‘Derivation’ of new formula from 3d EFT for SU case: applicable to generic  $\mathcal{N}=1$  SCFTs too?

[Cassani-Komargodski for SU case]

Extend formula to 2 different angular momenta:  $\omega_1 \neq \omega_2 = T$

(Structure of) other subleading saddles?

[ArabiArdehali-Hong-Liu, CaboBizet-Cassani-Martelli-Murthy]

Bethe Ansatz approach in generic case is *terra incognita*; match large- $N$  limit to Cardy-like limit.  
Very nontrivial: eg ‘basic solutions’ don’t work for Laufer SU( $N$ ) x SU( $2N$ )



[Benini-Colombo-Soltani-Zaffaroni-Zhang for SU( $N$ ) holographic quivers dual to AdS<sub>5</sub> x S<sup>5</sup>]

Beyond  $\tau^0$ , exponentially suppressed orders in  $\tau^{-1}$  vs in  $N^{-1}$  from Bethe Ansatz. Match? Meaning?

[Aharony-Benini-Mamroud-Milan]

Thanks



# Index as matrix model

$$q = e^{i\tau}$$

$$\mathcal{I}_{\text{sc}}(\tau, \Delta) = \frac{(q; q)_{\infty}^{2 \text{rk}_G}}{|\text{Weyl}(G)|} \int \prod_{i=1}^{\text{rk}_G} du_i \frac{\prod_{I=1}^{n_{\chi}} \prod_{\rho_I} \tilde{\Gamma}(\rho_I(\vec{u}) + \Delta_I)}{\prod_{\alpha} \tilde{\Gamma}(\alpha(\vec{u}))} \equiv \frac{1}{|\text{Weyl}(G)|} \int \prod_{i=1}^{\text{rk}_G} du_i e^{S_{\text{eff}}(\vec{u}; \tau, \Delta)}$$

$$u_i \in (0, 1]$$

$$u_i \sim u_i + 1$$

$u_i$  gauge holonomies

$$(z_i = e^{2\pi i u_i} \in S^1)$$

$\rho_I$  gauge weight

$$\Delta_I = \nu_I(\vec{\xi}) + R_I v_R$$

$\nu_I$  flavor weight;  
 $\xi$  flavor holonomies

$v_R$  R-sym chem pot;  
 $R_I$  R-charge



# Index as matrix model

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For  $a=1, \dots, n_G$  gauge groups and  $l=1, \dots, n_{\chi}$  matter fields, effective action:

$$S_{\text{eff}}(\vec{u}; \tau, \Delta) = \sum_{I=1}^{n_{\chi}} \sum_{\rho_I} \log \tilde{\Gamma}(\rho_I(\vec{u}) + \Delta_I) + \sum_{a=1}^{n_G} \sum_{\alpha_a} \log \theta_0(\alpha_a(\vec{u}); \tau) + \sum_{a=1}^{n_G} 2 \text{rk}_{G_a} \log(q; q)_{\infty}$$

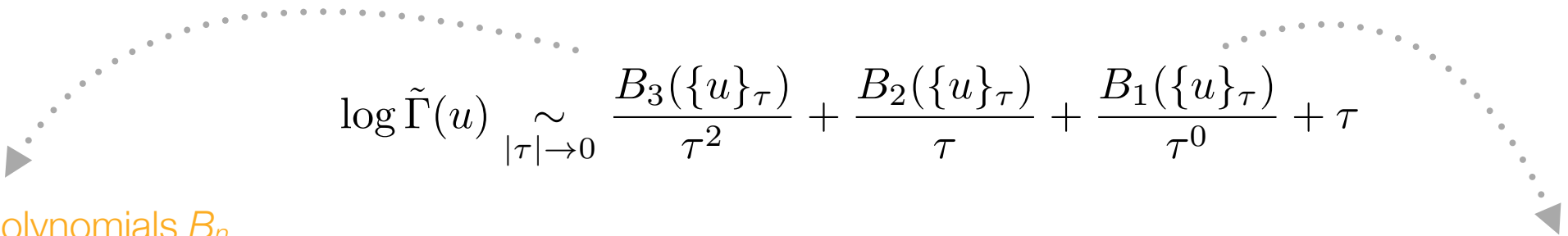
matter contribution

gauge  
 $[-\log \Gamma(u) = \log \theta_0(u)]$

$q$ -Pochhammer

## Saddles:

Expand all functions in  $S_{\text{eff}}$  for small  $\tau$ ; eg matter fields contribute as


$$\log \tilde{\Gamma}(u) \underset{|\tau| \rightarrow 0}{\sim} \frac{B_3(\{u\}_\tau)}{\tau^2} + \frac{B_2(\{u\}_\tau)}{\tau} + \frac{B_1(\{u\}_\tau)}{\tau^0} + \tau$$

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$$\{u\}_\tau \equiv u - [\text{Re}(u) - \cot(\arg \tau) \text{Im}(u)]$$

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EOM of matrix model **at leading order**:

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It **captures** up to **finite terms in  $\tau$** : goes beyond preexisting results up to  $\tau^{-2}$ ,  $\tau^{-1}$ .

Number of **inequivalent** ways of selecting **constants**  $u_{*i}$  given by  $\Gamma_{\mathbf{z}}$

Plug Ansatz back into  $S_{\text{eff}}$  and impose physical constraints on matter charges  $\Delta_i$

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 index of irrep

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toric  
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**CONSEQUENCE #2:** quadratic term reconstructs 3d  $G=\mathbf{ABCD}$  pure **CS** partition function at **level  $-\eta T(G)$**

[See also [Cassani-Komargodski](#) for 3d EFT interpretation.  
3d CS term previously observed in [GonzalezLezcano-Hong-Liu-PandoZayas](#) & [Amariti-MF-Segati '20](#)]

GR calculation of BH  $\subset$  AdS<sub>5</sub> x S<sup>5</sup> entropy:

$$S_{\text{BH}}(q_a, j_i) = 2\pi \sqrt{q_1 q_2 + q_1 q_3 + q_2 q_3 - \frac{\pi}{4G_{\text{N}}^{(5)} g_{\text{AdS}}^3} (j_1 + j_2)}$$

$$N^2 = \frac{\pi}{2G_{\text{N}}^{(5)} g_{\text{AdS}}^3}$$

Asymptotically AdS<sub>5</sub> BH:

Near the horizon:

$$ds^2_{r \sim r_c} \sim -(r - r_c)^2 dt^2 + \frac{dr^2}{(r - r_c)^2} + \text{const } ds^2_{\mathcal{M}_{d-1}}$$

Asymptotically AdS<sub>5</sub> (with  $\mathbb{R} \times M_{d-1}$  conformal boundary):

$$ds^2_{r \rightarrow \infty} \sim \frac{dr^2}{r^2} + r^2(-dt^2 + ds^2_{\mathcal{M}_{d-1}}) + \dots$$