

BPS STATE COUNTING  
AND  
RELATED PHYSICS

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# INTRODUCTION

- BPS objects are very important to understand the non-perturbative dynamics in gauge / string theory  
(Instantons, monopoles, D-branes, etc.)
- Statistical counting of BPS states plays essential roles
- BPS states counting may give the non-perturbative formulation of gauge / string theory

# INTRODUCTION

Recently,

- Topological string amplitude from BPS state counting [Gopakumar-Vafa 1998]
- Exact instanton contribution to the prepotential for 4d  $N=2$  theory [Nekrasov 2002]
- Exact effective superpotential for 4d  $N=1$  theory by using the matrix model technique [Dijkgraaf-Vafa 2002]

But, SUSY and holomorphy are required

# INTRODUCTION

In these analysis, we encounter

- Extended Young diagram, plane partition...
- Lower dimensional *bosonic* gauge theory
  - ▶ 3d Chern-Simons [Gopakumar-Vafa 1998]
  - ▶ 2d Yang-Mills [Matsuo-Matsuura-KO 2004]
- Free fermions, CFT... [Losev-Marshakov-Nekrasov 2003]
- Interesting statistical models (melting crystal, random walks...)

# INTRODUCTION

But, why?? Is this accidental?

The answer should be  
in string dualities



*Integrable subset*

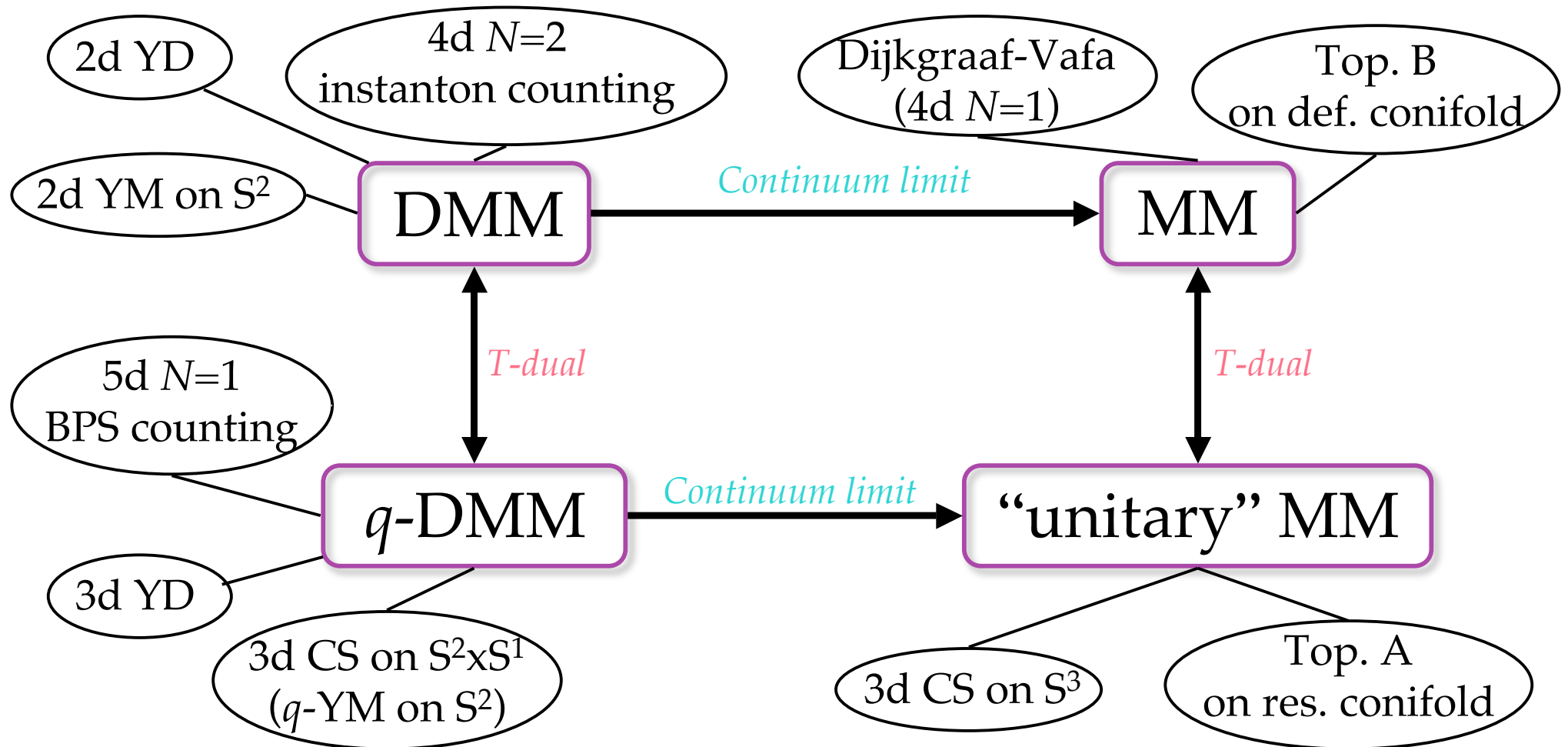
Topological / Non-critical M-theory

*7 dim*

*3 dim*

# OVERVIEW OF THIS TALK

Discrete Matrix Model exists behind various theories



# NEKRASOV'S INSTANTON COUNTING

Prepotential of 4d  $N=2$   $SU(r)$  gauge theory has the following instanton expansion

$$\mathcal{F}(a_l) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \mathcal{F}_k(a_l) \Lambda^{2rk}$$

Adjoint Higgs vev

$k$ -instanton contribution is given by the “volume” of the instanton moduli space

$$\mathcal{F}_k(a_l) = \int_{\hat{\mathcal{M}}_{r,k}} 1$$

# NEKRASOV'S INSTANTON COUNTING

To calculate  $k$ -instanton contribution, we utilize the D-instanton effective action ( $\mu, \nu = 1, \dots, 6$ )

$$S_{\text{inst}} = \frac{1}{g^2} \text{Tr} \left( \frac{1}{4} [X_\mu, X_\nu]^2 + \frac{1}{2} \bar{\Psi} \Gamma^\mu [X_\mu, \Psi] \right)$$

which is a reduced matrix model from 6d  $N=1$   $SU(k)$  Yang-Mills theory

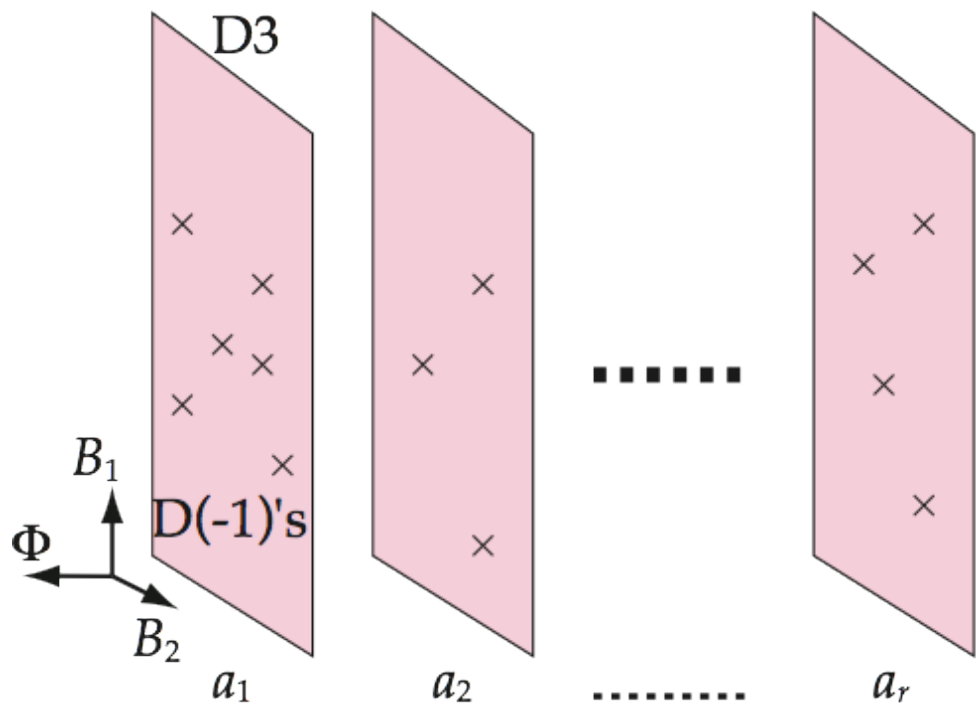
The  $k$ -instanton contribution is obtained from the partition function

$$Z_k = \int \mathcal{D}X \mathcal{D}\Psi e^{-S_{\text{inst}}}$$



# NEKRASOV'S INSTANTON COUNTING

$$B_1 = X^1 + iX^2, \quad B_2 = X^3 + iX^4, \quad \Phi = X^5 + iX^6, \dots$$



obeys ADHM eqs.

$$[B_1, B_1^\dagger] + [B_2, B_2^\dagger] + II^\dagger - J^\dagger J = \zeta$$

$$[B_1, B_2] + IJ = 0$$

# NEKRASOV'S INSTANTON COUNTING

$$Z_k = \int \mathcal{D}X \mathcal{D}\Psi e^{-S_{\text{inst}}}$$



Topological twist  
[Hirano-Kato]

+

$\Omega$ -background  $\Omega_{\mu\nu} =$   
[Moore-Nekrasov-Shatashvili]

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & \epsilon_1 & 0 & 0 \\ -\epsilon_1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \epsilon_2 \\ 0 & 0 & -\epsilon_2 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$Z_k(a_l | \epsilon) = \int \mathcal{D}\vec{\mathcal{B}} \mathcal{D}\vec{\mathcal{F}} \mathcal{D}\Phi e^{-Q_\epsilon \text{Tr} \Xi[\vec{\mathcal{B}}, \vec{\mathcal{F}}, \Phi]}$$

$$= \frac{\epsilon^k}{k! (2\pi i \epsilon_1 \epsilon_2)^k} \oint \prod_I \frac{d\phi_I}{P(\phi_I) P(\phi_I - \epsilon)} \prod_{I < J} \frac{\phi_{IJ}^2 (\phi_{IJ}^2 - \epsilon)}{(\phi_{IJ}^2 - \epsilon_1^2) (\phi_{IJ}^2 - \epsilon_2^2)}$$

$(\phi_{IJ} = \phi_I - \phi_J, \epsilon = \epsilon_1 + \epsilon_2)$

# NEKRASOV'S INSTANTON COUNTING

Poles at the fixed points of

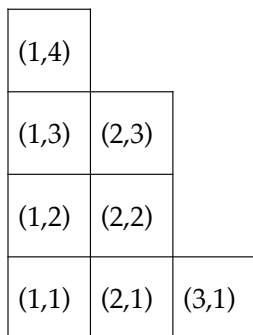
$$[B_l, \Phi] = \epsilon_l B_l$$

$$\Phi I - aI = 0$$

$$J\Phi - aJ = (\epsilon_1 + \epsilon_2)J$$

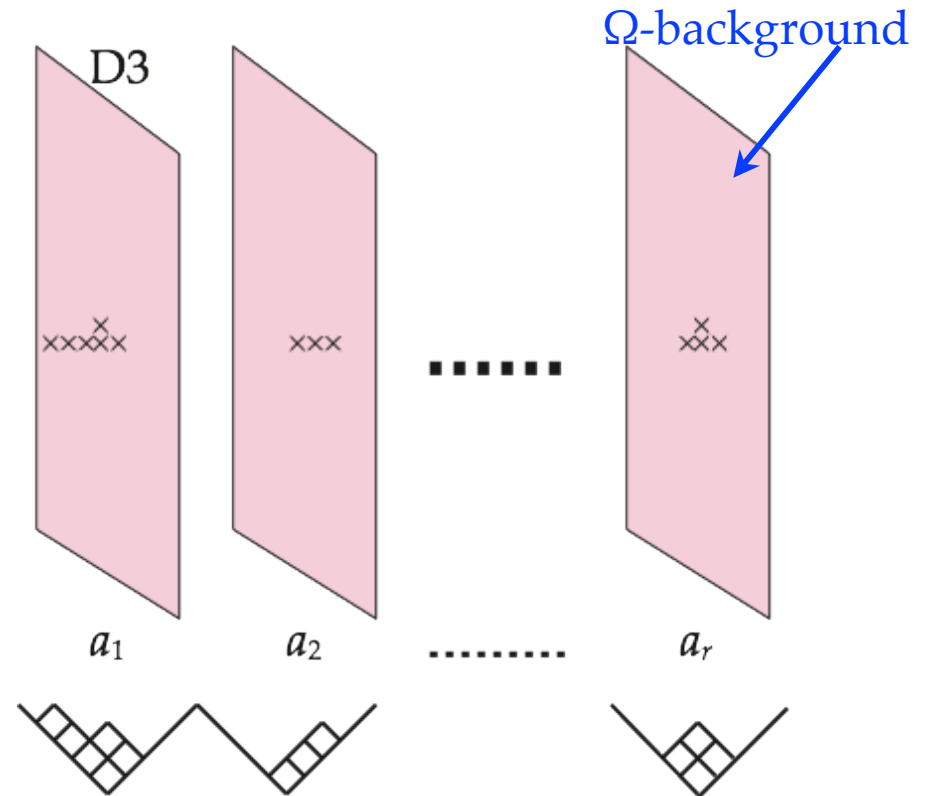


Young diagrams



$$\rightarrow_{(i,j)} B_1^{(i-1)} B_2^{(j-1)} \neq 0$$

$$\phi_{(i,j)} = a_l + \epsilon_1(i-1) + \epsilon_2(j-1)$$



# NEKRASOV'S INSTANTON COUNTING

Finally, we obtain after setting  $\epsilon_1 = -\epsilon_2 = \epsilon$

$$Z_k(a_l|\epsilon) = \sum_{\vec{Y}} \prod_{(l,i) \neq (n,j)} \frac{a_{ln} + \epsilon(k_i^{(l)} - k_j^{(n)} - i + j)}{a_{ln} + \epsilon(-i + j)}$$

where  $a_{ln} = a_l - a_n$  and  $\vec{Y}$  is a set of YDs with  $k$  total boxes

The prepotential of 4d  $N=2$  theory is recovered by taking the limit of  $\epsilon \rightarrow 0$

$$\mathcal{F}(a_l) = \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0} \epsilon^2 \ln \left( \sum_k Z_k(a_l|\epsilon) \Lambda^{2rk} \right)$$

# NEKRASOV'S INSTANTON COUNTING

Important point is:

Integration over instanton moduli space → diverge



Regularized summation over fixed points

||

Summation over sets of Young diagrams

# D-BRANE COUNTING

D5-brane compactified on  $S^2$  realizes 4d  $N=2$  theory

$$k\text{-instanton contribution} \sim e^{-\frac{A}{g_s} k}$$

*Area of  $S^2$*  ←

$\sim k$  D1's wrapping on  $S^2$

$r$  D5-branes compactified on  $S^2$

|| *Large  $N$  reduction*

$r$  sets of large  $N$  D-strings

# D-BRANE COUNTING

Effective theory on large N D-strings

||

Topologically twisted 2d U(N) gauge theory

[Bershadsky-Sadov-Vafa 1996]

Grand canonical ensemble for D1+D(-1) bound state

$$\left\langle \exp \left[ -\frac{1}{g_s} \int_{S^2} \text{Tr} (i\Phi F + \lambda \wedge \lambda) - \frac{\mu}{2g_s} \int_{S^2} \text{Tr} \Phi^2 \right] \right\rangle_{\text{top}}$$

|| Localization

$$Z_{2\text{dYM}} = \int \mathcal{D}A \mathcal{D}\Phi e^{-\frac{1}{g_s} \int_{S^2} \text{Tr} \left( i\Phi F + \frac{\mu}{2} \Phi^2 \right)}$$

# DISCRETE MATRIX MODEL

We can evaluate the 2d YM partition function exactly  
[Migdal 1975, Blau-Thompson 1993]

$$Z = \int \mathcal{D}A \mathcal{D}\Phi e^{-\frac{1}{g_s} \int_{S^2} \text{Tr} \left( i\Phi F + \frac{\mu}{2} \Phi^2 \right)}$$

↓  $\int_{S^2} dA_i = 2\pi p_i, \quad p_i \in \mathbb{Z}$

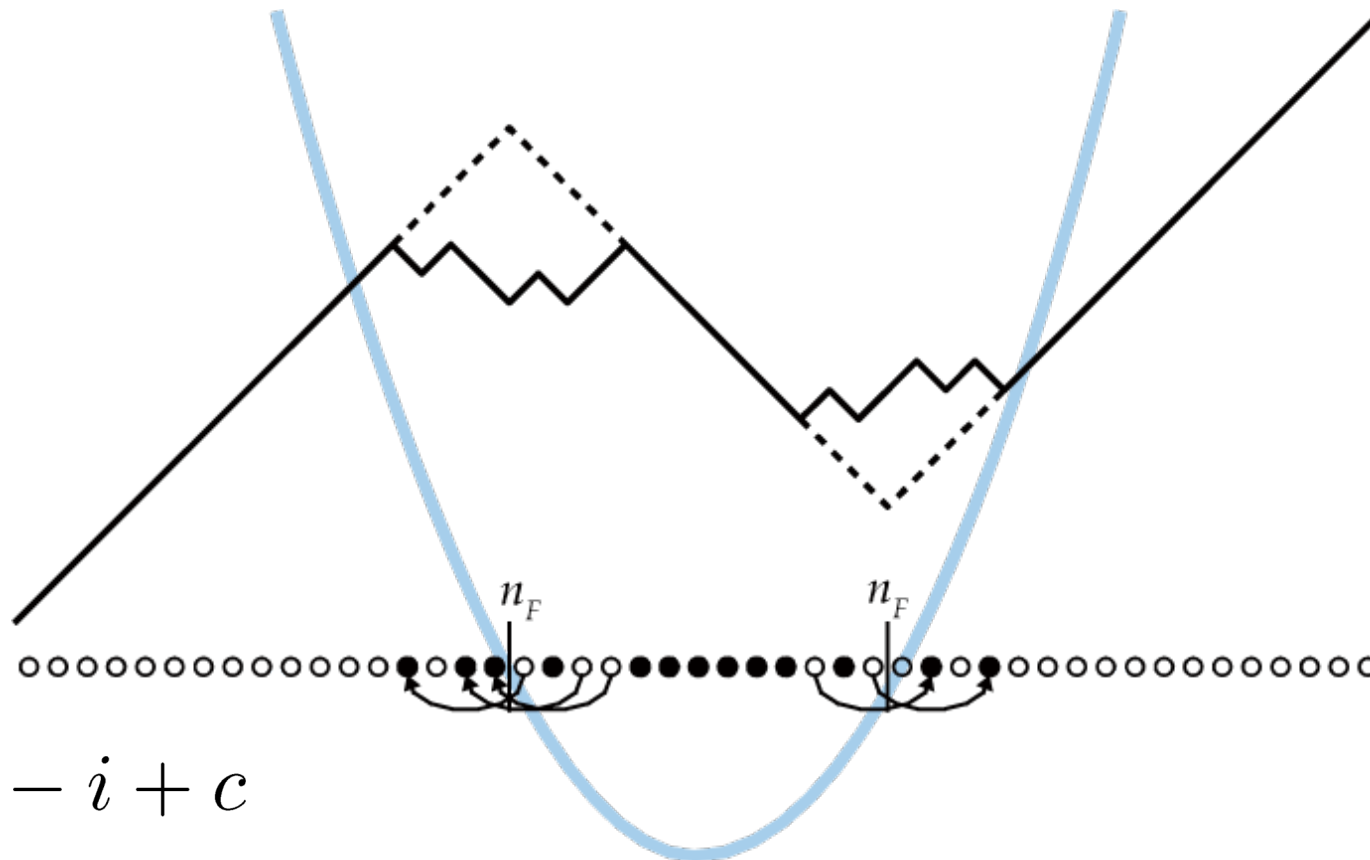
$$Z = \frac{1}{N!} \prod_k \sum_{p_k \in \mathbb{Z}} \int d\lambda_k \prod_{i < j} (\lambda_i - \lambda_j)^2 \exp \left[ -\frac{1}{g_s} \left( 2\pi i \lambda_k p_k + \frac{\mu A}{2} \lambda_k^2 \right) \right]$$

↓

$$Z = \sum_{n_1 > n_2 > \dots > n_N} \prod_{i < j} (g_s n_i - g_s n_j)^2 \exp \left[ -\frac{g_s \mu A}{2} \sum_i n_i^2 \right]$$



# EIGENVALUES



Eigenvalues

Free fermion



Instanton contributions

Fermion excitations

Young diagram



# DIFFERENCE EQUATION

Define

$$\Delta_{g_s} f(x) \equiv f(x + g_s) - f(x) \quad \text{and} \quad \rho(x) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \delta(x - g_s n_i)$$

Vandermonde determinant (measure) part becomes

$$2N^2 \int dx dy \log(x - y) \rho(x) \rho(y) = -2N^2 \int dx dy \gamma(x - y | g_s) \Delta_{g_s} \rho(x) \Delta_{g_s} \rho(y)$$

where  $\gamma(x | g_s)$  satisfies

$$\Delta_{g_s} \Delta_{-g_s} \gamma(x | g_s) = 2\gamma(x | g_s) - \gamma(x + g_s | g_s) - \gamma(x - g_s | g_s) = -\log x$$

# SOLUTION TO DIFFERENCE EQUATION

Recall

$$\log \Gamma(x + 1) - \log \Gamma(x) = \log x$$

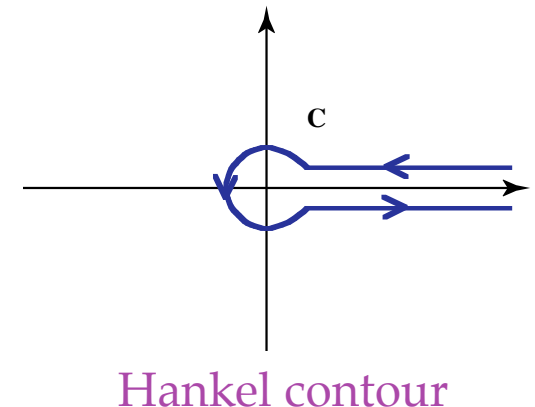
Solution to the 2nd order difference eq. is given by the *Barnes Double Gamma Function*

$$\gamma(x|g_s) = -\ln \Gamma_2(x|g_s)$$

or

$$\gamma(x|g_s) = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_C \frac{dt}{t} \frac{(\gamma + \log(-t))e^{-xt}}{(2 \sinh \frac{g_s t}{2})^2}$$

Schwinger's one-loop computation  
(BPS particle pair creation in graviphoton background)  
[Gopakumar-Vafa]



# ASYMPTOTIC EXPANSION

The kernel function  $\gamma(x|g_s)$  has the following Stirling like asymptotic expansion

$$\gamma(x|g_s) = \frac{1}{g_s^2} \left( \frac{1}{2} x^2 \log x - \frac{3}{4} x^2 \right) - \frac{1}{12} \log x + \sum_{g=2}^{\infty} \frac{B_{2g}}{2g(2g-2)} \left( \frac{g_s}{x} \right)^{2g-2}$$



- Perturbative part of the 4d  $N=2$  prepotential
- B-model topological string amplitude on deformed conifold
- $c=1$  string amplitude at self-dual radius

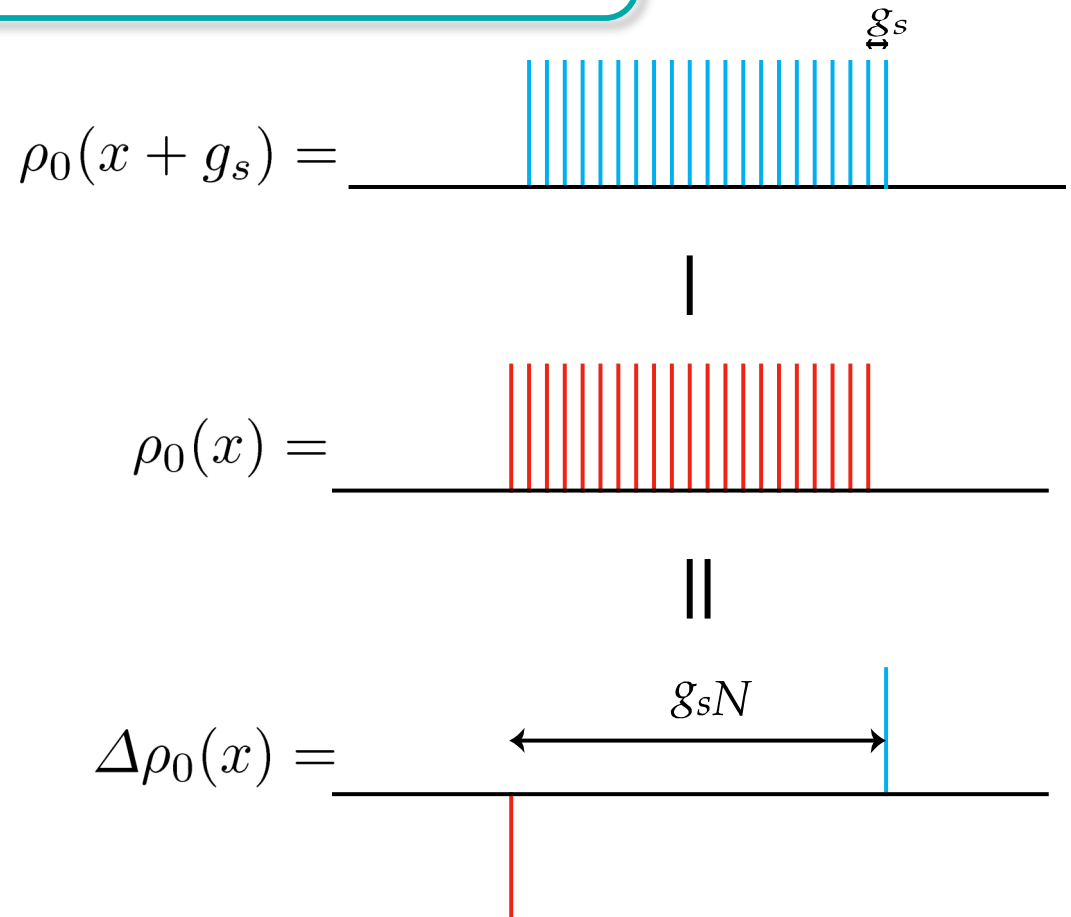
# GROUND STATE

$$-2N^2 \int dx dy \gamma(x - y | g_s) \Delta\rho_0(x) \Delta\rho_0(y)$$

Ground state



0-instanton contribution  
(perturbative part)



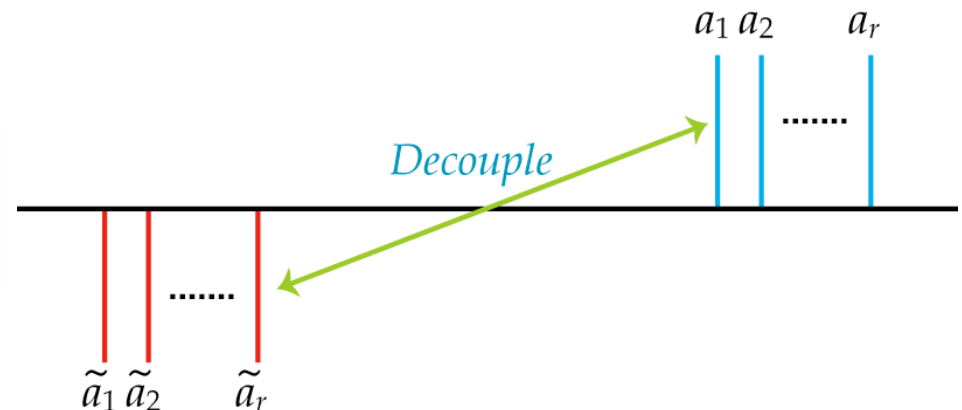
# PERTURBATIVE PART

Interesting fact in one-cut solution

$$\int \prod_i d\lambda_i \prod_{i < j} (\lambda_i - \lambda_j)^2 e^{-\frac{1}{g_s} \sum_i \lambda_i^2} \simeq e^{2\gamma(g_s N | g_s)}$$
$$= 1/\text{Vol}(U(N))$$

For multi-cut solution (multiple fermi surfaces)

$$\mathcal{F}_{\text{pert}}(a_l | g_s) = 2 \sum_{l \neq n} \gamma(a_l - a_n | g_s)$$



# LARGE N LIMIT

In the large N limit of the multi-cut solution, two fermi surfaces are completely decoupled

So we get

$$Z_{\text{DMM}} \underset{\substack{\uparrow \\ \text{Large } N}}{\simeq} |Z_{\text{Nekrasov}}|^2$$

# TRIGONOMETRIC EXTENSION

$$[\Phi, \cdot] \longleftrightarrow D_t = \partial_t + [\Phi, \cdot]$$

*T-dual*

$$\prod_{i < j} (\lambda_i - \lambda_j)^2 \longleftrightarrow \prod_{n, i < j} \left( i \frac{n}{\beta} + \lambda_i - \lambda_j \right)^2 \simeq \prod_{i < j} \left( \frac{1}{\beta} \sinh \beta (\lambda_i - \lambda_j) \right)^2$$

Then we have

$$Z = \sum_{n_1 > n_2 > \dots > n_N} \prod_{i < j} \left( \frac{1}{\beta} \sinh \beta (g_s n_i - g_s n_j) \right)^2 \exp \left[ -\frac{g_s \mu A}{2} \sum_i n_i^2 \right]$$

$q$ -deformed 2d YM [Aganagic-Ooguri-Saulina-Vafa]



# TRIGONOMETRIC EXTENSION

This model relates to

- The prepotential of 5d  $N=1$  gauge theory
- 3d Chern-Simons gauge theory on  $S^2 \times S^1$
- Microscopic BPS blackhole state counting  
[Aganagic-Ooguri-Saulina-Vafa 2004]
- Non-perturbative formulation of topological B-model on conifold /  $c=1$  string at self-dual radius

since in the  $\beta \rightarrow 0$  limit, we recover 2d YM /  
Discrete Matrix Model

# $q$ -DIFFERENCE EQUATION

Similar to the DMM (2d YM) case, the measure part becomes

$$\begin{aligned} & 2N^2 \int dx dy \log \left( \frac{1}{\beta} \sinh \beta(x - y) \right) \rho(x) \rho(y) \\ & = -2N^2 \int dx dy \tilde{\gamma}(x - y | g_s; \beta) \Delta_{g_s} \rho(x) \Delta_{g_s} \rho(y) \end{aligned}$$

where  $\tilde{\gamma}(x | g_s; \beta)$  satisfies

$$\Delta_{g_s} \Delta_{-g_s} \tilde{\gamma}(x | g_s; \beta) = -\log \left( \frac{1}{\beta} \sinh \beta x \right)$$

# MULTIPLE GAMMA FUNCTIONS

$$\Gamma_2(x|\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2) \simeq \prod_{(m,n) \in \mathbb{N}^2} (x + m\epsilon_1 + n\epsilon_2)^{-1}$$

4d case  
2d YD

$$\gamma(x|g_s) = -\ln \Gamma_2(x|\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2) \Big|_{\epsilon_1 = -\epsilon_2 = g_s}$$

$$\Gamma_3(x|\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2, \epsilon_3) \simeq \prod_{(l,m,n) \in \mathbb{N}^3} (x + l\epsilon_1 + m\epsilon_2 + n\epsilon_3)^{-1}$$

5d case  
3d YD

$$\tilde{\gamma}(x|g_s; \beta)$$

$$= -\ln \Gamma_3(x|\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2, \epsilon_3) - \ln \Gamma_3(\epsilon_3 - x|\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2, \epsilon_3) \Big|_{\substack{\epsilon_1 = -\epsilon_2 = g_s \\ \epsilon_3 = \frac{i}{\beta}}}$$

*Positive KK modes*

*Negative KK modes*

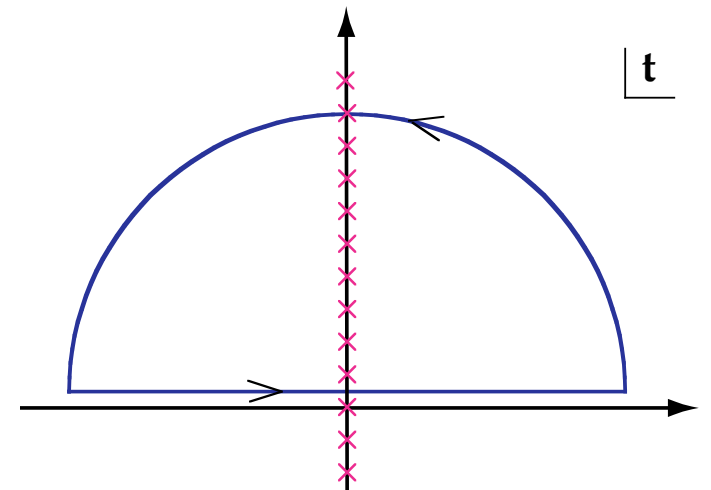
$$\text{Recall} \quad -\ln \Gamma(x) - \ln \Gamma(1-x) \simeq \ln \sin x$$

# INTEGRAL REPRESENTATION

$$\tilde{\gamma}(x|g_s; \beta) = -\frac{i\pi}{6} B_{3,3}(x|\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2, \epsilon_3) + \int_{\mathbb{R}+i\delta} \frac{dt}{t} \frac{e^{-xt}}{\prod_{i=1}^3 (1 - e^{-\epsilon_i t})} \Bigg|_{\substack{\epsilon_1 = -\epsilon_2 = g_s \\ \epsilon_3 = \frac{i}{\beta}}}$$

3rd order polynomial  
 ⇒ Perturbative part  
 of 5d gauge theory

Residues of the integral  
 ⇒ Non-perturbative corrections  
 of 5d gauge theory



# GENUS EXPANSION

More explicitly,

$$\begin{aligned}\tilde{\gamma}(x|g_s; \beta) &= \frac{\beta x^3}{6g_s^2} - \frac{x^2}{2g_s^2} \log \beta - \frac{\beta x}{12} - \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n} \frac{e^{-2\beta n x}}{(\sinh g_s \beta n)^2} \\ &= \sum_g \mathcal{F}_g g_s^{2-2g}\end{aligned}$$

where

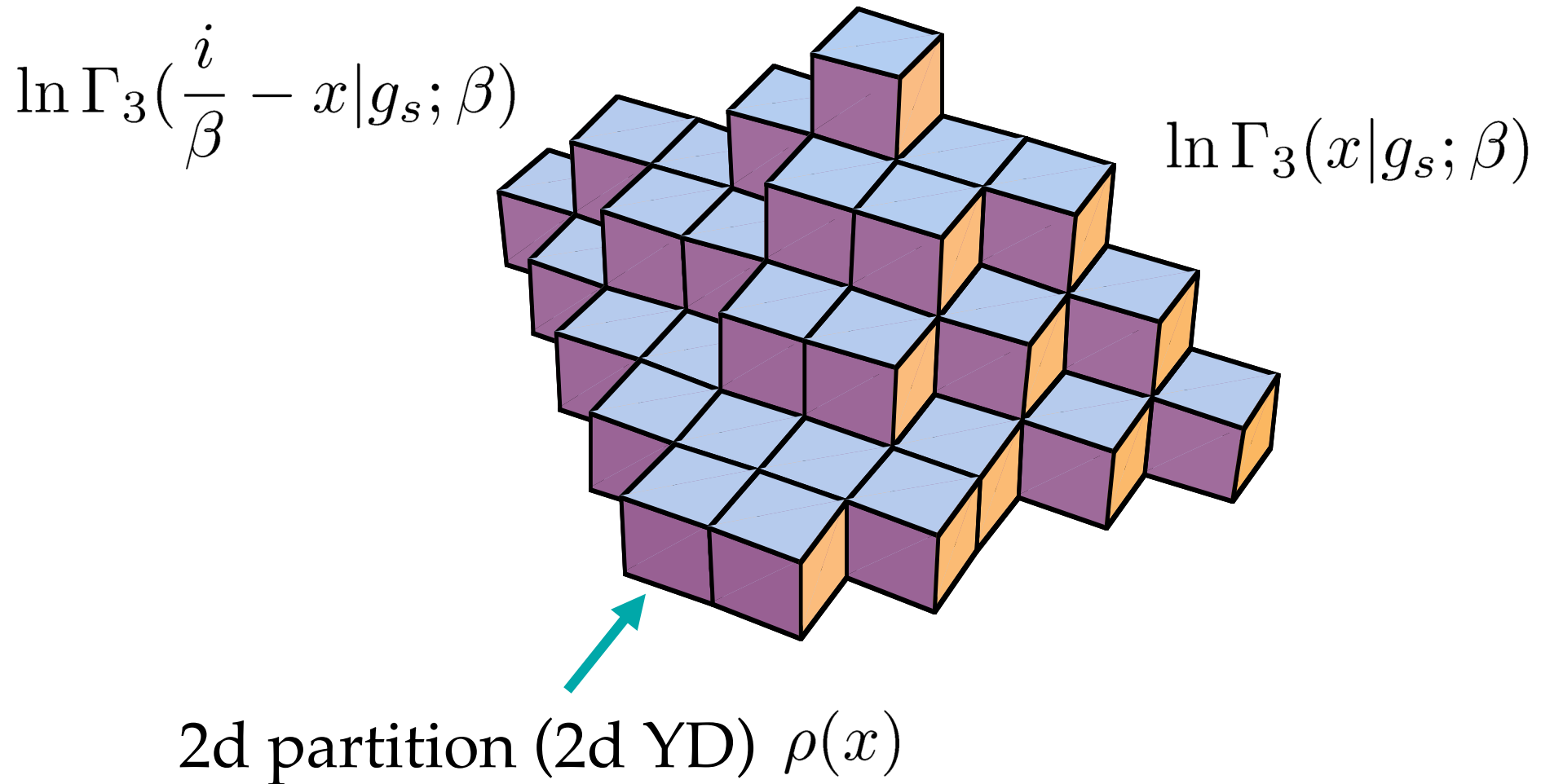
$$\mathcal{F}_0 = \frac{\beta x^3}{6} - \frac{x^2}{2} \log \beta + \frac{1}{\beta^2} \text{Li}_3(e^{-2\beta x})$$

$$\mathcal{F}_1 = -\frac{1}{12} \log \sinh \beta x$$

$$\mathcal{F}_g = \frac{B_{2g}(2\beta)^{2g-2}}{2g(2g-2)} \text{Li}_{3-2g}(e^{-2\beta x})$$

→ Topological A-model  
on resolved conifold

# RANDOM PLANE PARTITION



[Maeda-Nakatsu-Takasaki-Tamakoshi]

# CHERN-SIMONS PARTITION FUNCTION

Similar to the 4d case, we find

$$Z_{\text{CS}} = \int \prod_i d\lambda_i \prod_{i < j} \sinh^2(\lambda_i - \lambda_j) e^{-\frac{1}{g_s} \sum_i \lambda_i^2} \simeq e^{2\tilde{\gamma}(g_s N | g_s; \beta=1)}$$

Alternatively, using the Weyl formula

$$Z_{\text{CS}} = \frac{1}{(k + N)^{N/2}} \prod_{j=1}^{N-1} \left( 2 \sin \frac{\pi j}{k + N} \right)^{N-j}$$

where we set

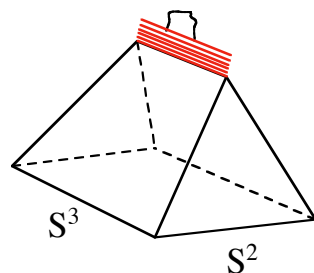
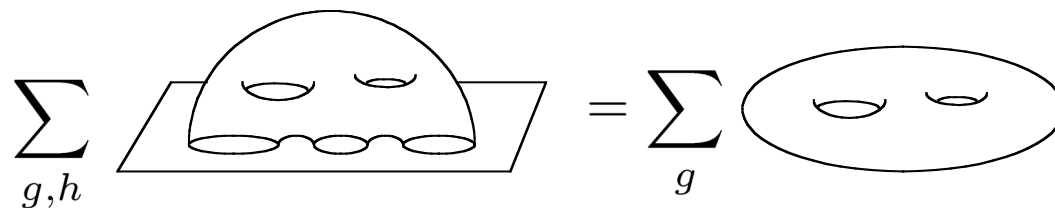
$$g_s = \frac{2\pi}{k + N}$$

# TOPOLOGICAL STRING AMPLITUDE

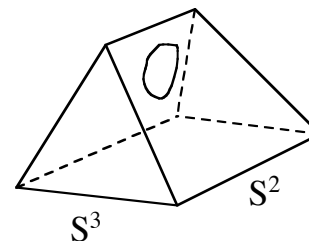
$$\sum_g \mathcal{F}_g^{\text{NP}} g_s^{2g-2} + \sum_{g,h} \mathcal{F}_{g,h}^{\text{P}} g_s^{2g-g+h} N^h = \sum_g \mathcal{F}_g^{\text{top}}(t) g_s^{2g-2}$$

Chern-Simons on  $S^3$   
(open string)

Closed top. A-model  
on resolved conifold



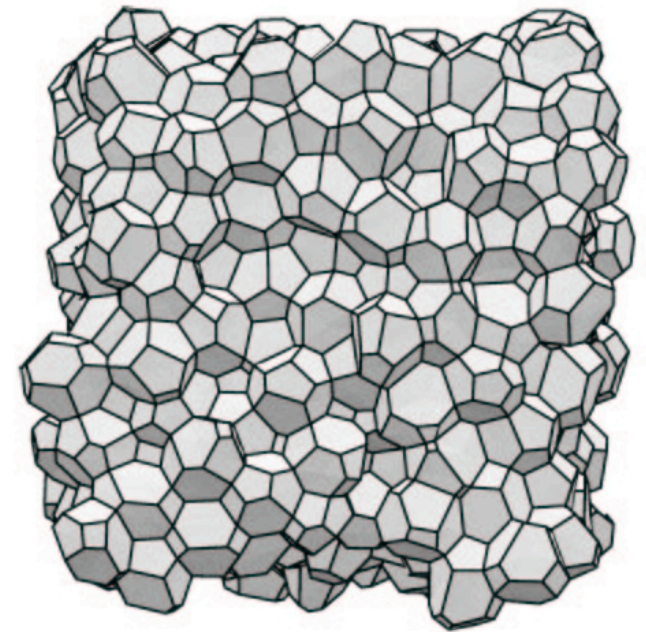
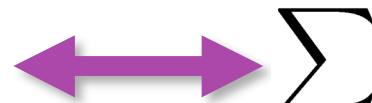
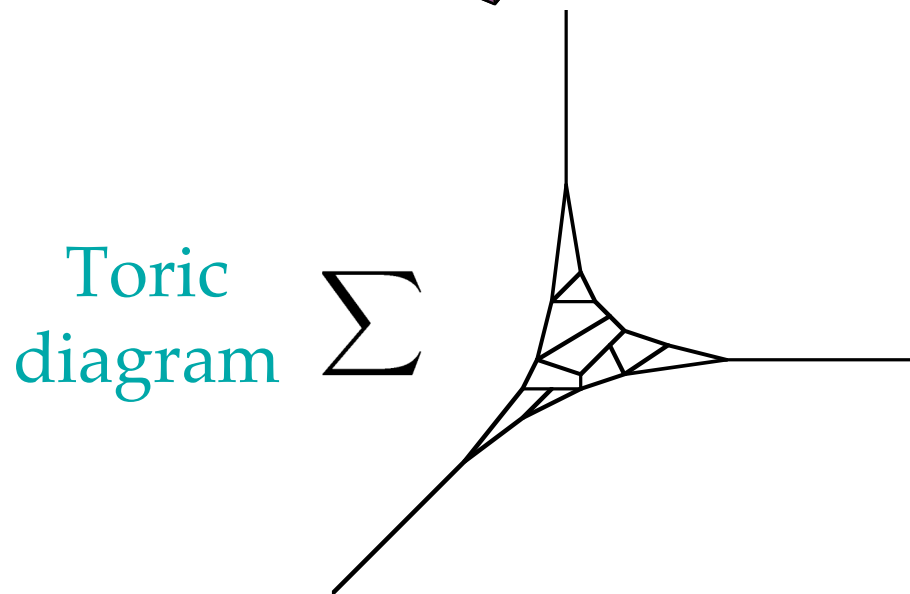
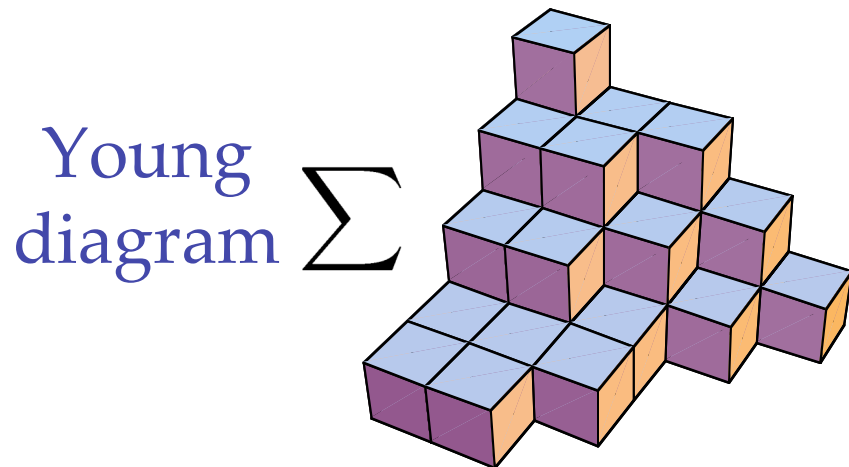
*open*



*closed*



# QUANTUM FOAM



Space-time foam

# TOPLOGICAL M(ATRIX) THEORY

Topological B-model

$$Z_k = \int \mathcal{D}X \mathcal{D}\Psi e^{-\frac{1}{g^2} \text{Tr} \left( \frac{1}{4} [X_\mu, X_\nu]^2 + \frac{1}{2} \bar{\Psi} \Gamma^\mu [X_\mu, \Psi] \right)}$$

$(\mu, \nu = 1, \dots, 6)$

$$Z_{2\text{dYM}} \simeq \left| \sum_k Z_k q^k \right|^2$$

$\updownarrow$  *T-dual*

$$\tilde{Z}_k = \int \mathcal{D}Y \mathcal{D}\Psi e^{-\frac{1}{g^2} \int_0^\beta dt \text{Tr} \left( \frac{1}{2} D_t Y^i D_t Y_i + \frac{1}{4} [Y^i, Y^j]^2 + \text{fermions} \right)}$$

$(i, j = 1, \dots, 5)$

$$Z_{q-2\text{dYM}} \simeq \left| \sum_k \tilde{Z}_k q^k \right|^2$$

[Hoppe-Kazakov-Kostov]

Topological A-model

# NON-CRITICAL STRINGS

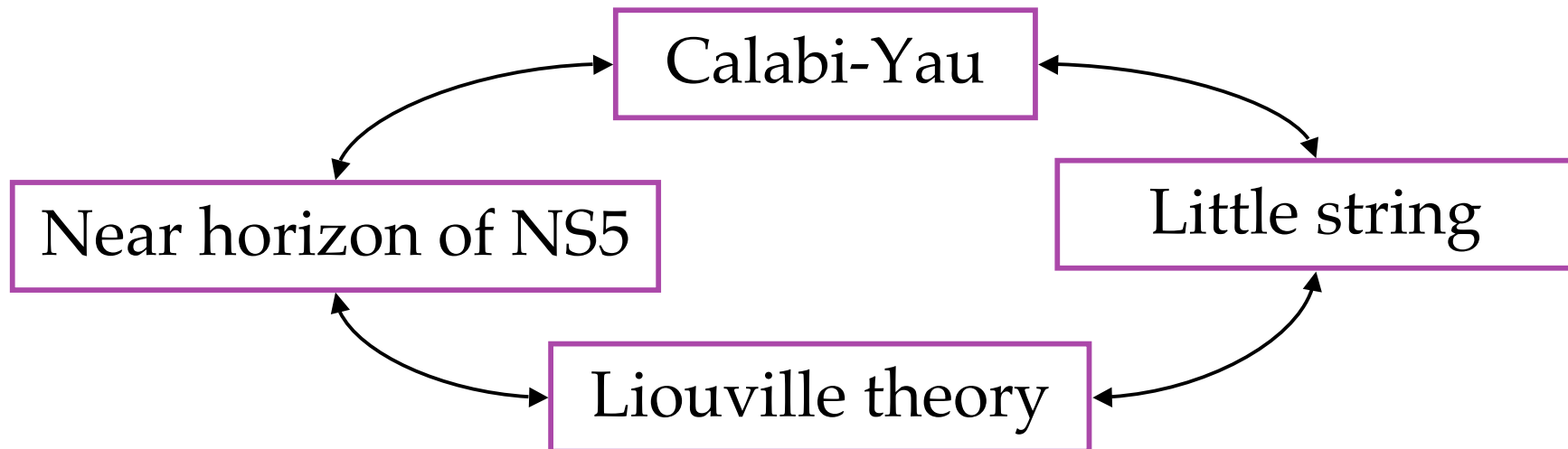
$$\mathcal{F}_{c=1}(\mu; R) = 2\gamma\left(-i\mu + \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2R} \mid \epsilon_1 = 1, \epsilon_2 = -\frac{1}{R}\right)$$

Self-dual radius



Self-dual  $\Omega$ -background

Why? We need to understand the duality relations



# NON-CRITICAL M-THEORY?

We expect [Alexandrov-Kostov 2004, Horava-Keeler 2005]:

$$\mathcal{F}_{\text{NCM}}(\mu; R) = 2\tilde{\gamma}\left(-i\mu + \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2R} \mid \epsilon_1 = 1, \epsilon_2 = \frac{1}{R}, \epsilon_3 = \frac{i}{\beta}\right)$$

In the  $\beta \rightarrow 0$  limit, we get  $c=1$  string

- $q$ -deformed discrete matrix model
- 3d Young diagram
- Multiple gamma function
- Non-relativistic Fermi liquid in 2+1 dimensions would be important to understand the non-perturbative dynamics of  $c=1$  strings!

# CONCLUSION

We have seen the relations between:

- BPS state counting
- Counting Young diagrams
- 2d Yang-Mills / 3d Chern-Simons
- Discrete matrix models
- Topological string theory
- Non-critical string theory

# FUTURE DIRECTIONS

- Elliptic extension  
(6d gauge theory, Topological F-theory...)
- Counting monopoles, vortexes, domain walls  
(Effective theory on solitons)
- Quantum foam and quantum gravity  
(Quantum theory of form gravity, CS gravity)
- Relation to integrable systems
- AdS bubbling
- Landscape of SUSY vacua