#### Strings, Fields and Holographic Correspondence

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1 Why holographic correspondence?

#### 2 Low energy limit of string theory

- Closed strings
- Open strings
- Branes and their sources
- Gauge theories on Dp brane

#### 3 AdS/CFT correspondence

• Anti-de Sitter geometry - basics

#### Conceptual issues

# Fundamental problems and why holographic correspondence?



#### Matter content of the Universe





## String concept

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• Two aspects of (super)string theory:

# Two theories within String theory Dynamics of Strings : { - Quantum 2d worldsheet CFT } - Target space dynamics of worldsheets } }

# String worldsheet

• Conceptual issues:



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 $\bullet$  *G*-coupling

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•  $\Phi$ -coupling

$$S_{\Phi} = -\frac{1}{4\pi} \int d^2 \sigma \sqrt{g} \, \Phi(X^{\mu}) R^{(2)}.$$

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- The energy-momentum tensor is:

$$T_{\alpha\beta} = \partial_{\alpha} X^{\mu} \partial_{\beta} X_{\mu} - \frac{1}{2} \eta_{\alpha\beta} \partial^{\rho} X^{\sigma} \partial_{\rho} X_{\sigma} = 0.$$

• The conservation conditions

$$\partial^{\alpha}T_{\alpha\beta} = 0, \quad , T^{\alpha}{}_{\alpha} = 0.$$

Define  $\Theta(z) = T^{00} + T^{01}$  and  $\overline{\Theta}(\overline{z}) = T^{00} - T^{01}$ . The algebra closed by  $\Theta(z)$  is the so-called Virasoro algebra

$$[L_n, L_m] = (n-m)L_{n+m} + \frac{c}{12}n(n^2 - 1)\delta_{n+m,0}, \quad \Theta(z) = \sum_n \frac{L_n}{z^{n+2}}.$$

• Requiring above symmetries of the  $\sigma$ -model string action, one ends up with the conditions ensuring the vanishing of the corresponding  $\beta$ -functions:

$$\begin{split} \beta^{G}_{\mu\nu} : & R_{\mu\nu} - \frac{1}{4} H_{\mu\sigma\lambda} H^{\sigma\lambda}_{\nu} + 3D_{\mu} \partial_{\nu} \Phi = 0, \\ \beta^{B}_{\mu\nu} : & -\frac{1}{2} D^{\sigma} H_{\sigma\mu\nu} + H_{\sigma\mu\nu} D^{\sigma} \Phi = 0, \\ \beta^{\Phi} : & \frac{1}{6} \left[ d - 10 \right] - \frac{\alpha'}{2} \left[ D^{2} \Phi - 2(\nabla \Phi)^{2} - \frac{1}{12} H^{2} \right] = 0. \end{split}$$

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The effective 10d action from closed strings

$$S = \frac{1}{2\kappa} \int d^{10}X \sqrt{|G|} e^{-2\Phi} \left( R + 4(\partial\Phi)^2 - \frac{1}{12}H^2 \right)$$

 $\surd$  should be understood as a universal one, i.e. any superstring background must satisfy the above equations

 $\sqrt{}$  the equations of motion following from this action coincide with the conditions ensuring vanishing of the  $\beta$ -functions.

#### Open strings

 adding open string sector
 In the case of boundaries of the world sheet one can write the action as

$$S = \frac{1}{1\pi\alpha'} \left( \int_{\Sigma} d^2 \sigma \frac{1}{2} (\partial_{\alpha} X_{\mu} \partial^{\alpha} X^{\mu} + \varepsilon^{\alpha\beta} B_{\mu\nu} \partial_{\alpha} X^{\mu} \partial_{\beta} X^{\nu}) + \int_{\partial \Sigma} d\sigma^1 A_{\mu} \partial_1 X^{\mu} \right)$$

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• boundary conditions:

$$(\mathbf{NN}): \ \partial_{\sigma} X^{\mu}_{|\sigma=0,\pi} = 0 \implies$$
$$X^{\mu}(\tau,\sigma) = q^{\mu} + 2\alpha' p^{\mu} \tau + i\sqrt{2\alpha'} \sum_{n \neq 0} \frac{1}{n} \alpha^{\mu}_{n} \cos n\sigma e^{-in\tau}$$

$$(\mathbf{DD}): \ X^{\mu}_{|\sigma=0} = q^{\mu}_{i}, \ X^{\mu}_{|\sigma=\pi} = q^{\mu}_{f} \implies X^{\mu}(\tau,\sigma) = q^{\mu}_{i} + \frac{1}{\pi}(q^{\mu}_{f} - q^{\mu}_{i}) + \sum_{n \neq 0} \frac{1}{n}\alpha^{\mu}_{n} \cos n\sigma e^{-in\tau}$$

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expanding the above action we get model dependent terms

$$S_{open}^{II} = -\frac{1}{2\kappa^2} \int d^{10}x \sum_p \frac{1}{2(p+2)!} F_{p+2}^2,$$

where  $F_{p+2}$  is the field strength of a p+1 form gauge field. The couplings  $A_{\mu}$  get promoted to gauge fields on the subspace where string endpoints live.

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- Dirichlet boundary conditions: determine a subspace called D-brane
- Stack of N parallel D branes



Figure: The degrees of freedom N parallel D-branes.

#### Effective open string action sources

type		form	el. source	mag. source
IIA	10d N=2 SUSY	$F_{[2]}$	D0	D6
	non-chiral			
IIA	10d N=2 SUSY	$F_{[4]}$	D2	D4
	non-chiral			
IIB	10d N=2 SUSY	$F_{[1]}$	D(-1)	D7
	chiral			
IIB	10d N=2 SUSY	$F_{[3]}$	D1	D5
	chiral			
IIB	10d N=2 SUSY	$F_{[5]}$	D3	D3
	chiral			

Table: Field strengths and sources in type II strings

**IIA**: two gravitini moving in opposite directions on the closed string world sheet, opposite chiralities under the 10d Lorentz group: a non-chiral theory. **IIB**: the gravitini have the same chiralities under 10d Lorentz group: chiral theory  $\rightarrow$  The main conclusion one can draw is that the (p + 1)-dimensional world-volume serves as source of (p + 2)-form field  $F_{[p+2]}$ .

#### Gauge theories on Dp brane

$$\begin{split} S_{Dp} &= S_{DBI} + S_{WZ} \,, \\ S_{DBI} &= -T_p \int_{Dp} d^{p+1} \xi \, \mathsf{STr} \sqrt{-\det\left(\mathcal{P}_{ab}[G_{\mu\nu} + B_{\mu\nu}] + 2\pi\alpha' F_{ab}\right)} \,, \\ S_{WZ} &= T_p \int_{Dp} \sum_i \mathsf{STr} \, \mathcal{P}[C_{(i)}] \wedge e^{\mathcal{P}[B] + 2\pi\alpha' F} \,, \end{split}$$

where  $T_p$  is the brane tension.

$$T_p = \frac{1}{g_S (2\pi)^p \alpha'^{(p+1)/2}} \,.$$

The pull-back of the background metric  $G_{\mu\nu}$  and Kalb-Ramond-field  $B_{\mu\nu}$  is denoted by  $\mathcal{P}$ . STr is the symmetrized trace.

• Expand the brane action and obtain the leading contribution

$$S = T_p \int d^{p+1} \xi \sqrt{g} e^{-\phi} (2\pi\alpha')^2 \frac{1}{2} \operatorname{tr} \left( F_{\alpha\beta} F^{\alpha\beta} \right) + T_p \int \sum_r C^{(r)} \wedge \operatorname{tr} e^{2\pi\alpha' F} + \cdots, \quad (1)$$

where we have not written terms involving fermions and scalars. This action is the sum of

- a Yang-Mills term,
- a Wess-Zumino term,
- an infinite number of corrections at higher orders in  $\alpha'$  indicated by  $\cdots$  in (1)

- The string endpoints on the same  $D_p$  branes transform under adjoint representation of the gauge group. The large number of these branes gives the background geometry.
- The string endpoints ending on different  $D_p D_{p'}$  branes transform in the fundamental. This is the way we introduce flavors in the theory.



#### Example: D3-brane

The solution for the D3 branes can be obtained from the above general solutions.

$$S = \frac{1}{2\kappa^2} \int_{M} d^{10} \mathcal{L}_{(10)} + \int_{\Sigma} d^4 z \mathcal{L}_{D3},$$
(2)

where we omitted possible interactions.

The explicit form of the D3-brane solution is

$$D3\text{-brane} = \begin{cases} ds^2 = H^{-\frac{1}{2}} dx_{(4)}^2 + H^{\frac{1}{2}} \left( dy^2 + y^2 d\Omega_{(5)}^2 \right), \\ H(y) = 1 + \left(\frac{R}{y}\right)^4, \\ F_{(5)} = d^4x \wedge dH^{-1} + \star d^4x \wedge dH^{-1}, \\ e^{\Phi} = g_s, \quad R^4 = 4\pi g_s N_c(\alpha')^2 \end{cases}$$
(3)

• Large N brane limit converts evectively the flat spacetime + N D3-branes into  $AdS_5 \times S^5$  spacetime.

## Cartoons for AdS/CFT correspondence



The left diagram showes how AdS/CFT correspondence is obtained. Large number of D3-branes bends the spacetime producing  $AdS_5 \times S^5$ .



The initial idea: (open) strings connect quark and antiquark. In holographic correspondence elementary and composite particles are understood in the sense of the picture above.

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- (Super-)Symmetry of  $AdS_5 \times S^5 \rightarrow SU(2,2|4)$

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AdS/dS spaces: basics

• Start with n-dimensional sphere defined by the rotational SO(n+1)

$$S^{n}: \quad X_{1}^{2} + X_{2}^{2} + \dots + X_{n+1}^{2} = R^{2}.$$
 (4)

•  $\exists n(n+1)/2$  Killing vectors leaving the sphere invariant

$$J_{ij} = X_i \partial_j - X_j \partial_i.$$
<sup>(5)</sup>

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$$X_1^2 + X_2^2 + \dots + X_n^2 - U^2 = -1.$$
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n(n+1)/2 vectors leave the hyperboloid invariant, but n independent

$$J_{iU} = X_i \partial_U + U \partial_i, \qquad i = 1, \dots, n.$$
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 Let us change the sing in the metric of the embedding space, i.e. let us pass to Minkowski target space

$$ds^{2} = dX_{1}^{2} + \dots + dX_{n}^{2} - dU^{2}.$$
(8)

This metric is left invariant by all n(n+1)/2 vectors! The isometry group becomes SO(n, 1), i.e. the Lorentz group.

We define hyperbolic space  $\mathbf{H}^n$  as the upper sheet of such a hyperboloid.

• Consider a one sheeted hyperboloid embedded in Minkowski space

$$X_1^2 + \dots + X_n^2 - X_{n+1}^2 = 1.$$
 (9)

The space we obtain is a space with a Lorentzian metric of constant curvature and it is known under the name *de Sitter space*,  $dS^n$ .

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embedded in a flat n + 1 dimensional space with the metric

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- The topology of the two spaces
  - The topology of  $AdS^n$  is  $R^{n-1} \otimes S^1$ .
  - The topology of  $dS^n$  is  $S^{n-1} \otimes R^1$ .

$$ds^{2} = \frac{1}{x_{0}^{2}} \left( dx^{0} + d\vec{x}^{2} \right), \quad ds^{2}_{AdS} = L^{2} \frac{dz^{2} + \eta_{\mu\nu} dx^{\mu} dx^{\nu}}{z^{2}}.$$
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• the vielbein and the corresponding spin connection are given by:

$$e_a^{\mu} = \frac{\delta_{\mu}^a}{x^0}; \quad \omega_i^{0j} = -\omega_i^{j0} = \frac{\delta_i^j}{x^0}; \quad a = 0, \dots d$$
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Christoffel symbols and spin connection coefficients

$$\Gamma_{ii}^{z} = \frac{1}{z} = -\Gamma_{tt}^{z} = -\Gamma_{zz}^{z}, \quad \omega_{z}^{i} = \frac{1}{z} dx^{i} \eta^{ii} \quad \text{no sum on } i, \qquad (14)$$

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u$ , no sum), Ricci and the scalar curvatures

$$R_{\mu\nu\mu}{}^{\nu} = \eta_{\mu\mu}\eta_{\nu}{}^{\nu}\frac{1}{z^2}, \quad R_{\mu\nu} = (d-1)\frac{1}{z^2}\eta_{\mu\nu}, \quad R = \frac{d(d-1)}{L^2}.$$
 (15)

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Dirac operator

$$D_{\nu} = \partial_{\nu} + \frac{1}{2x^{0}}\gamma_{0\nu}; \quad \Gamma^{\mu}D_{\mu} = x_{0}\gamma^{0}\partial_{0} + x_{0}\vec{\gamma}.\vec{\nabla} - \frac{d}{2}\gamma^{0}$$
(16)

The main ingredients

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• The quantum Hamilton-Jacobi functional

$$S(\phi_i) = \Gamma(\Phi_i)|_{\frac{\delta\Gamma}{\delta\Phi_i} = 0, \, \Phi_i|_{\partial M} = \phi_i}.$$
(18)

$$\gamma \to \rho^{-2}\gamma \implies \phi_i \to \rho^{d-\Delta_i}\phi_i.$$
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• For any given CFT one can define the generating functional of connected correlation functions

$$Z_{CFT}[\phi_i] = \langle e^{\int_{\Sigma} \phi_i \mathcal{O}_i} \rangle.$$
(20)

The  $\ensuremath{\mathsf{AdS}}/\ensuremath{\mathsf{CFT}}$  correspondence states the equality of

$$Z_{CFT}[\phi_i] = \Psi_{\Sigma_0}[\phi_i] \,, \tag{21}$$

where  $\Sigma_0$  is the (asymptotic) boundary of the spacetime.

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  - Changing the radial slice changes the induced metric on Σ<sub>ρ</sub>! Thus, knowing Σ<sub>ρ</sub> for all ρ (i.e. all possible γ) allows to reconstruct the semi-classical spacetime!
  - On the other hand, assuming the correspondence, the variation of the boundary means moving the radial slice in the bulk!

#### • The correspondence states

$$Z_{CFT}[\phi_0] = \int D\mathcal{O}e^{iS_{\text{cft}} + i\int d^d x \,\mathcal{O}(x)\phi_0(x)} = \int_{\Phi_{|_{=\phi_0}}} D\Phi e^{iS_{\text{ads}}} = \Psi_{\Sigma_{\rho}}[\phi_0]$$

Practically

$$\langle \mathcal{O}_{\Delta}(x_1) \dots \mathcal{O}_{\Delta}(x_n) \rangle_{\text{CFT,conn}} = (-1)^n \frac{\delta^n \log \Psi_{\Sigma_{\rho}}[\phi_0]}{\delta \phi_0 \dots \delta \phi_0} \Big|_{\phi_0 = 0}.$$
 (22)

# Example 1: N=4 SYM

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#### $\mathcal{N}=4$ field content

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The  $\mathcal{N} = 4$  vector multiplet consists of:

- the gauge field  $A_{\mu}$ ,
- four Weyl spinors  $\lambda^A_\alpha$  ,  $A=1,\ldots,4$

- six real scalars  $X_m$ ,  $m = 4, \ldots, 9$  corresponding to the six transverse directions to the D3 branes.

It is convenient to represent the scalars as a self-dual antisymmetric tensor  $X^{AB}$  of the *R*-symmetry group  $SU(4)_R \cong Spin(6)$ ,

$$(X^{AB})^{\dagger} = \bar{X}_{AB} \equiv \frac{1}{2} \epsilon_{ABCD} X^{CD} .$$
<sup>(23)</sup>

The explicit change of variables is

$$X^{AB} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & X_8 + iX_9 & X_6 + iX_7 & X_4 + iX_5 \\ \frac{-X_8 - iX_9 & 0 & X_4 - iX_5 & -X_6 + iX_7}{-X_6 - iX_7 & -X_4 + iX_5 & 0 & X_8 - iX_9} \\ \frac{-X_6 - iX_7 & -X_4 + iX_5 & 0 & X_8 - iX_9}{-X_4 - iX_5 & X_6 - iX_7 & -X_8 + iX_9 & 0} \end{pmatrix}$$

 $\Longrightarrow$  In components (in going from superspace to components, we redefine the coupling,  $g_{\rm superspace}=\sqrt{2}g_{\rm components}$ , to recover the usual normalization),

$$\mathcal{L}_{\mathcal{N}=4} = \operatorname{Tr}\left[-\frac{1}{4}F^{\mu\nu}F_{\mu\nu} - i\bar{\lambda}_A\bar{\sigma}^\mu D_\mu\lambda^A - \frac{1}{2}D^\mu\bar{X}_{AB}D_\mu X^{AB}\right]$$

$$+ i\sqrt{2}g X^{AB} \bar{\lambda}_A \bar{\lambda}_B - i\sqrt{2}g \bar{X}_{AB} \lambda^A \lambda^B - \frac{g^2}{4} [X^{AB}, X^{CD}] [\bar{X}_{CD}, \bar{X}_{AB}] \bigg],$$
(24)

where  $A,B=1,\ldots,4.$  The scalars  $X^{AB}$  are related to the three complex scalars  $\phi^a$  as

$$X^{AB} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \phi^3 & \phi^2 & \phi^1 \\ -\phi^3 & 0 & \phi_1^* & -\phi_2^* \\ \hline -\phi^2 & -\phi_1^* & 0 & \phi_3^* \\ -\phi^1 & \phi_2^* & -\phi_3^* & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$
(25)

and obey the self-duality constraint.

#### Example 2: N=2 SYM

The stack of branes:  $N_c D3$  branes forming the geometry;. The background in the  $N_c \rightarrow \infty$  limit approaches  $AdS_5 \times S^5$ . To introduce flavors we add  $N_F D7$  branes according to the Table 3



Figure: Embedding of  $N_F$  D7 branes in the background of  $N_c$  D3.

The  $AdS_5 \times S^5$  background is given by

$$ds^{2} = H^{-1/2}(r)\eta_{\mu\nu}dx^{\mu}dx^{\nu} + H^{1/2}(r)(d\vec{y}^{2} + d\vec{z}^{2}),$$
  

$$H(r) = \frac{L^{4}}{r^{4}}, \quad r^{2} = \vec{y}^{2} + \vec{z}^{2}, \quad \vec{y}^{2} = \sum_{m=4}^{7} y^{m}y^{m}, \quad \vec{z}^{2} = (z^{8})^{2} + (z^{9})^{2}$$
  

$$C_{0123}^{(4)} = H^{-1}, \quad e^{\phi} = e^{\phi_{\infty}} = g_{s}, \quad L^{4} = 4\pi g_{s}N_{c}(\alpha')^{2}.$$

#### $\mathcal{N} = 2$ field content

Each  $\mathcal{N}=2$  flavor hyper multiplet consists of two Weyl spinors and two complex scalars,

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
\psi_{\alpha}^{i} & \\
q^{i} & (\tilde{q}_{i})^{\dagger} \\
& \left(\tilde{\psi}_{i\,\alpha}\right)^{\dagger}
\end{array} (27)$$

Here  $i = 1, \ldots, N_f$  is the flavor index. The scalars form an  $SU(2)_R$  doublet,

$$Q^{\mathcal{I}} \equiv \begin{pmatrix} q \\ \tilde{q}^{\dagger} \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathcal{I} = 1, 2.$$
(28)

The flavor hyper multiplets are minimally coupled to the  $\mathcal{N} = 2$  vector multiplet that sits inside the  $\mathcal{N} = 4$  vector multiplet. This coupling breaks the R-symmetry  $SU(4)_R$  to  $SU(2)_L \times SU(2)_R \times U(1)_R$ , where  $SU(2)_R \times U(1)_R$  is the R-symmetry of the resulting  $\mathcal{N} = 2$  theory. There is a certain arbitrariness in the choice of embedding  $SU(2)_L \times SU(2)_R \times U(1)_R \subset SU(4)_R \cong Spin(6)$ .

⇒ This corresponds to the choice of orientation of the whole stack of D7 branes in the 456789 directions (we need to pick an  $\mathbb{R}^4 \subset \mathbb{R}^6$ ). For example if we choose the configuration of Figure, we identify  $SU(2)_L \times SU(2)_R \cong SO(4)$  with rotations in the 4567 directions and  $U(1)_R \cong SO(2)$  with a rotation on the 89 plane. A short calculation using our parametrization of the scalars (24) shows that this corresponds to the following natural embedding of  $SU(2)_L \times SU(2)_R \times U(1)_R \subset SU(4)_R$ :

Of course, any other choice would be equivalent, so long as it is performed simultaneously for all D7 branes.

 $\implies$  With the choice (29), the  $\mathcal{N}=4$  vector multiplet splits into the  $\mathcal{N}=2$  vector multiplet

and the  $\mathcal{N}=2$  hyper multiplet

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \lambda_{\alpha}^{3} & & \\ \frac{X_{4}+iX_{5}}{\sqrt{2}} & & \frac{X_{6}+iX_{7}}{\sqrt{2}} \\ & \lambda_{\alpha}^{4} \end{array}$$

$$(31)$$

The two Weyl spinors in the vector multiplet form an  $SU(2)_R$  doublet

$$\Lambda_{\mathcal{I}} \equiv \begin{pmatrix} \lambda_1 \\ \lambda_2 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathcal{I} = 1, 2, \qquad (32)$$

while the two spinors in the hyper multiplet form an  $SU(2)_L$  doublet,

$$\hat{\Lambda}_{\hat{\mathcal{I}}} \equiv \begin{pmatrix} \lambda_3 \\ \lambda_4 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \hat{\mathcal{I}} = 1, 2.$$
(33)

We use  $\mathcal{I}, \mathcal{J} \cdots = 1, 2$  for  $SU(2)_R$  indices and  $\hat{\mathcal{I}}, \hat{\mathcal{J}} \cdots = 1, 2$  for  $SU(2)_L$ indices. To make the  $SU(2)_L \times SU(2)_R$  quantum numbers of the scalars more transparent we also introduce the  $2 \times 2$  complex matrix  $\mathcal{X}_{\hat{\mathcal{II}}}$ , defined as the off-diagonal block of  $X^{AB}$ ,

$$\mathcal{X}^{\hat{\mathcal{I}I}} = \begin{pmatrix} X_6 + iX_7 & X_4 + iX_5 \\ X_4 - iX_5 & -X_6 + iX_7 \end{pmatrix}.$$
 (34)

Note that  $\mathcal{X}^{\hat{\mathcal{I}}\mathcal{I}}$  obeys the reality condition

$$\left(\mathcal{X}^{\hat{\mathcal{I}}\mathcal{I}}\right)^* = -\mathcal{X}_{\hat{\mathcal{I}}\mathcal{I}} = -\epsilon_{\hat{\mathcal{I}}\hat{\mathcal{J}}}\epsilon_{\mathcal{I}\mathcal{J}}\mathcal{X}^{\hat{\mathcal{I}}\mathcal{J}}.$$
(35)

We summarize in the following table the transformation properties of the fields:

	SU(N)	$SU(N_f)$	$SU(2)_L$	$SU(2)_R$	$U(1)_R$
$A_{\mu}$	Adj	1	1	1	0
$X^{12}$	Adj	1	1	1	+2
$\mathcal{X}^{\mathcal{I}\hat{\mathcal{I}}}$	Adj	1	2	2	0
$\Lambda_{\mathcal{I}}$	Adj	1	1	2	+1
$\hat{\Lambda}_{\hat{\mathcal{T}}}$	Adj	1	2	1	-1
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In superfield language the Lagrangian reads

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}_{\mathcal{N}=4} &= \mathrm{Tr} \left[ \int d^4 \theta \, e^{-gV} \, \bar{\Phi}_a \, e^{gV} \, \Phi^a + \int d^2 \theta \, W^2 \right. \\ &+ \left( \frac{i \, g}{3!} \int d^2 \theta \, \epsilon_{abc} \, \Phi^a \left[ \Phi^b, \, \Phi^c \right] + h.c. \right) \right] \,, \end{aligned}$$

In components (in going from superspace to components, we redefine the coupling,  $g_{superspace} = \sqrt{2}g_{components}$ , to recover the usual normalization),

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  - $\triangleright$  What duality teaches us about strongly coupled physics on both sides ?
  - $\triangleright$  Is there something beyond the conjecture that could help in studying features of quantum gravity, or what is underlying this duality ?

Next lectures will demonstrate how to approach these problems and will give simple examples of duality with focus on the field theory side.