

# The Particle Physics Interpretation of particular SU(3) and G<sub>2</sub>-holonomy singularities

- Bobby S. Acharya (ICTP/KCL)
- Simons Collaboration in Special Holonomy  
Annual Meeting, Simons Foundation,  
NY September 9-10, 2021

Based on work done with:

SU(3)-holonomy: N. Lambert, M. Najjar,  
E.Svanes, J.Tian

G<sub>2</sub>-holonomy: L. Foscolo

## Motivation

M-theory on special holonomy spaces with particular kinds of singularities leads to a beautiful, geometric interpretation of particle physics phenomena, including models of real world particle physics

- One of the main raisons d'être of this Simons Collaboration has been to understand this picture more deeply
- Constructions/Existence proof of e.g.  $G_2$ -hol spaces with conical singularities

- Much progress has been made both in the compact and non-compact cases
- Here, I will explain some recent progress in understanding conical  $G_2$ -spaces associated with unified particle physics models
- Also, if time, will discuss physics of some Asymp. Conical CY 3-folds

## Outline

① Review  $G_2$ -holonomy singularities predicted by physics considerations  
(3d families of Kronheimer ALE spaces,  $X_{\Gamma_{ADE}}^4$ ,  $\Gamma_{ADE} \in \text{SU}(2)$ )

$$G_2\text{-holonomy spaces: } X_{\Gamma_{ADE}}^7 = \left\{ X_{\Gamma_{ADE}}^4(S^2) \mid \nabla S^2 \uparrow \text{HK triple} \right\}$$

- Claim: Cones over twistor spaces of  $SU(3)$ -irr S-D Einstein metrics on  $S^4$  realise a particular series of  $X_{D_K}^7$  (Hitchin), proving the conjecture in BSA/Witten

- physically this is how one realises particles transforming as  $\Lambda^2(\mathbb{C}^n)$  in  $SU(N)$  gauge theories. eg the familiar 10 of  $SU(5)$  Grand Unified Theories receive this geometric interpretation in M-theory.
- For  $N=3$   $\Lambda^2(\mathbb{C}^3)$  is the (anti) fundamental rep<sup>n</sup> of  $SU(3)$ , so this is closely related to  $\mathbb{R} \times WCP_{3,3,1,1}^3$  and another conjecture of BSA/Witten

## ② 5d Super Conformal Field Theories

- Arise from singular CY 3-folds
- Discuss briefly the metric
- Will study M-theory on  $\frac{\mathbb{C}^3}{\Gamma} \cap S^1(B)$

Example of  $\Gamma = \Delta(3N^3) = \mathbb{Z}_3 \ltimes (\mathbb{Z}_N \times \mathbb{Z}_N)$

Use results of Hc-Reid to predict  
the properties of infinite series of  
5d SCFT's.

① Particle Physics models from  
 $G_2$ -holonomy spaces.

$(X^7, \varrho)$  generic notation for  $G_2$ -hol. space.

- Codim 4 orbifold singularities in  $X^7$  are of type  $\mathcal{Q}_{ADE} \in SU(2) \Leftrightarrow ADE$  gauge symmetries and fields localised there.
- Physics predicts that if  $\mathcal{Q}_{ADE}$  is such a 3d orbifold locus, at points on  $\mathcal{Q}_{ADE}$  where the ADE singularity increases rank,

in particular ways such that  $X^7$  develops a codimension 7 singularity, that massless particles charged under ADE group are localised there.

(BSA/Witten, Atiyah/Witten).

- . In Particular, chiral fermions, (which are described by spinor fields in complex repr's of ADE) arise. These are crucial building blocks of the standard model of particle physics.

$X^7$  as a family of ALE spaces.

- $X_{\text{ALE}}^4 \cong \frac{\mathbb{C}^2}{\Gamma_{\text{ADE}}}$  with asymptotically locally Euclidean, HyperKähler metric.  
 $\omega_i = \text{HK triple}$
- Kronheimer: Moduli space of HK metrics  $\cong$  HyperKähler quotient quiver varieties based on affine Dynkin Diagram of ADE type.

- Explicitly, Kronheimer showed that for every -2-curve  $\Sigma \in X_{\text{ADE}}^{\mathbb{C}}$  and every triple  $\alpha_i \in H^2(X, \mathbb{R})$  s.t.  $\alpha \cdot \Sigma \neq 0$   $\exists$  an HK-triple,  $w_i$ , with  $[w_i] = \alpha_i$  exists.
- All ALE HK metrics arise this way
- The -2 curves are the exceptional divisors in  $\pi: X_h^4 \rightarrow \frac{\mathbb{C}^2}{n_{\text{ADE}}}$

$$\underline{\text{Example 1}} \quad X_{r_{A_1}}^4 = \frac{\widetilde{\mathbb{C}^2}}{\mathbb{Z}_2}$$

Here  $H_2(X) \cong \mathbb{Z}_2$  and there is one -2 curve,  $\lesssim \cong S^2$

Hence the moduli space is given by  
the 3-periods  $\{S_i = \int_{S^2}^{w_i}\}$   $\cong \mathbb{R}^3$

The total space  $X_7 = \{X_{r_{A_1}}^4, S_i\}$

fibers  $\frac{\widetilde{\mathbb{C}^2}}{\mathbb{Z}_2} \rightarrow X_7 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$

The  $S^2$  collapses at the origin

where the fiber is  $\frac{\mathbb{C}^2}{\mathbb{Z}_2}$ .

In fact one thinks physically as, starting with  $SU(2)$  gauge symmetry at the origin and generically breaking it as  $SU(2) \rightarrow U(1)$  by a commuting triple of Higgs fields, physically this realises  $U(1)$  with an "electron" and  $X_7 = \mathbb{R}^+ \times \mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^3$ .

Happily,  $\exists$  a conical metric on  $\mathbb{R}^+ \times \mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^3$ , that of Bryant-Salamon.

### Example 2

Consider  $\Gamma_{A_N} = \mathbb{Z}_N$  and the Kronheimer family of ALE spaces in which  $A_N \rightarrow A_{N-1}$ . This requires taking the 2-sphere represented by the last node of the Dynkin Diagram.

Hence  $X_7$  is the universal family of partial resolution of  $\frac{\mathbb{C}^2}{\mathbb{Z}_{N+1}}$  where we resolve only the last node.

$$\text{ie } \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{\mathbb{C}^2} \\ \downarrow \mathbb{Z}_{N+1} \end{array} X_7 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3$$

Partial resol<sup>D</sup>s

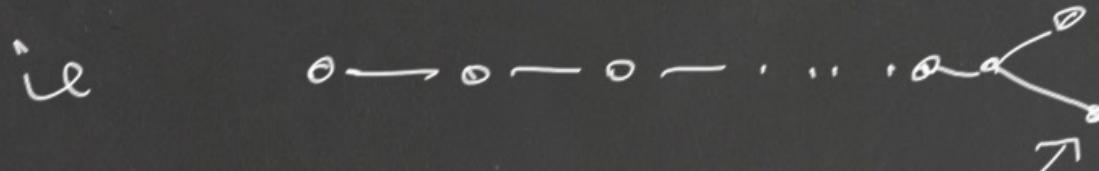
Here the generic fiber has an  $A_{N-1}$  singularity, whilst that over the origin has an  $A_N$  singularity.

$X^7 \cong \mathbb{R}^+ \times W \mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}_{n,n,1,1}^3$  realises  
particles in the fundamental of  $SU(N)$ .

Here, we do not know if a  
 $G_2$ -holonomy metric exists. We will  
later solve the problem for  $N=3$ .

Particle physics models often require  $\Lambda^2(\mathbb{C}^{k-2})$  rep<sup>n</sup> of  $SU(k-2)$ .

These arise from  $D_{k-2} \rightarrow A_{k-3}$ .

i.e.  Use this node.

In BSA/Witten we couldn't provide a useful description of  $X^7$ .

Here we will provide a description  
and show that a conical  $G_2$ -metric  
exists!

(This part is joint work  
with L. Foscolo)

In fact, the metrics are already  
in the literature.

Hitchin (Einstein metrics and  
Isomonodromic Transformation)

Constructed  $SO(3)$ -invariant  
cohomogeneity one Einstein  
metrics with  $\int R > 0$  on  $S^4$ .  
These have Self-Dual Weyl tensor.

Hitchin uses twistor methods  
to construct a compactification,  
 $Z_k$  of  $\frac{SL(2, \mathbb{C})}{P_{0k-2}}$  which turns  
out to be the twistor space of  
of  $S^4 \setminus RP^2$ .

- He was partly motivated to solve the  
Isomonodromic problem for  $P_{0k-2}^{1, \dots, 1}$  by using the  
natural flat connection on  $\frac{SL(2, \mathbb{C})}{P_{0k-2}}$

extending it to  $Z_k$ . Here the  $P^1$  intersects the "compactifying divisor" at the "punctures"  $p_i$ , providing the solution to the isomonodromy problem.

$Z_k$  can be described as the projectivisation of a series of rank 2 vector bundles over  $\mathbb{CP}^2$ , labelled by  $k$ .

$SO(3, \mathbb{C})$  acts on  $Z_k$  with dense, open orbit  $SO(3, \mathbb{C}) / P_{D_{k-2}}$

After identifying the required real structure and real twistor lines one can show that  $Z_k$  (minus a suitable set) is the twistor space of a 5D Einstein orbifold.

This turns out to be  $S^4$  with a degree  $k-2$  orbifold sing. along  $\mathbb{RP}^2$ .

Bryant-Salamon: if  $(M^4, g_{soe})$

is a complete 5-D Einstein orbifold  
with +ve scalar curvature, then  $\exists$

a  $G_2$ -holonomy metric on  $\wedge^2(M^4)$ .

This is "complete" as an orbifold and

vs Asymptotically conical.

At  $\infty$  the cone is  $R^+ \times Z(M)$

where  $Z(M')$  is the twistor space.

## Singularities of $X_7$

Hitchin's metrics on  $S^4$  have an orbifold singularity along an embedded  $\mathbb{RP}^2$  of the form (locally)  $\frac{\mathbb{C}}{\mathbb{Z}_{k-2}} \times \mathbb{RP}^2$ . In  $\mathbb{Z}_k$ , this  $\mathbb{RP}^2$  lifts to an  $S^2$  along which we have a cod<sup>4</sup>  $A_{k-3}$  singularity.

In  $\Lambda^2(S^4)$ , this becomes

an  $A_{k-3}$  singularity along

$\frac{\mathbb{R} \times S^2}{\mathbb{Z}_2}$  (non trivial line bundle  
over the  $\mathbb{R}\mathbb{P}^2$ )

$\Rightarrow A_{k-3}$  gauge symmetry along

$\frac{\mathbb{R} \times S^2}{\mathbb{Z}_2}$ .

\* Monodromy of  $\frac{\mathbb{C}^2}{\mathbb{Z}_{k-2}}$  around  $\pi_1(\frac{\mathbb{R} \times S^2}{\mathbb{Z}_2})$

$\Rightarrow$  Hint that  $A_{k-3}$  is broken  
by this monodromy.

But to what?

Two possibilities:  $SO(k-2)$

or  $Sp\left[\frac{k-3}{2}\right]$ .

On the other hand, when  
 $\Lambda^2(S^4)$  is degenerated to  
 $\mathbb{R}^+ \times \mathbb{Z}_k(S^4)$  we see the  
 $A_{k-3}$  gauge symmetry along  $\mathbb{R}^3$   
and a conical singularity at  
the origin.  
This is exactly as before!

Is this describing  $A_{K-3}$  gauge symmetry plus particles in some representation of  $A_{K-3}$ ?

YES! In fact the fiber over the origin is precisely  $\frac{\mathbb{C}^2}{\Gamma_{D_{k-2}}}$ .

Hence  $\mathbb{R}^+ \times \mathbb{Z}_k(S^4) \cong X_7(D_{k-2} \rightarrow A_{k-3})$  precisely the space we discussed before!

According to that discussion,  
we expect particles transforming  
as  $\Lambda^2(\mathbb{C}^{k-3})$  of  $A_{k-3}$ .

This proves the conjecture in  
(BSA/Witten).

To see that  $\mathbb{R}^+ \times \mathcal{Z}_k(S^4) \cong X^+(D_{k-2} \rightarrow A_{k-3})$

$\mathcal{Z}_k(S^4)$  contains (a Lagrangian)  $L = \frac{\tilde{s}^3}{r_{D_{k-2}}}$

( $\mathcal{Z}_k \setminus \begin{matrix} \text{(anti canonical)} \\ \text{divisor} \end{matrix} \cong \frac{SO(3, \mathbb{C})}{r_{D_{k-2}}}$ )

Complement of  $L = \exists \left( \frac{\tilde{\mathbb{C}}^2}{r_{D_{k-2}}} \right) = S^2 \times \frac{\tilde{\mathbb{C}}^2}{r_{D_{k-2}}}$

Here  $\frac{\tilde{\mathbb{C}}^2}{r_{D_{k-2}}}$  is the partial resol<sup>n</sup> with  $A_{k-3}$ -sing

Supersymmetry requires both scalar fields, and spinor fields to be localised at the codim=7 singularity.

If  $\phi \in \Lambda^2(\mathbb{C}^{K=7})$ , then a generic  $\langle \phi \rangle \neq 0$  can be thought of as a symplectic form,  $\langle \phi \rangle = a \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & & \\ -1 & 0 & & \\ & & 0 & 1 \\ & & -1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$

This breaks  $A_{k-3} \rightarrow Sp\frac{[k-3]}{2}$ .

So this is compatible with  
the smoothing of the conical  
singularity.

## Anomaly

Fermions in  $\Lambda^2(\mathbb{C}^n)$  of  $SU(N)$   
are "anomalous".

Witten (Anomaly Cancellation in  
 $G_2$ -manifolds)  
explained how to calculate  
such anomalies.

The local  $\frac{\mathbb{C}^2}{\mathbb{Z}_{k-2}}$  singularities  
admit a certain  $U(1)$  action.  
There is a corresponding  $U(1)$   
connection along  $\mathbb{R}^3$  whose  
1st Chern class on the bounding  $S^2$   
is the anomaly.

The computation of this degree gives  $d = 4 - (k-2)$

This is precisely the anomaly coefficient of the  $\Lambda^2(\mathbb{C}^{k-2})$  rep<sup>n</sup> of  $SU(k-2)$ .

Note that, since  $A_3 = D_3$ ,  
we have  $X_7(D_3 \rightarrow A_2)$   
 $\cong X_7(A_3 \rightarrow A_2)$

So, it is natural to expect that  
this is  $\mathbb{R}^+ \times WCP^3_{(3,3,1,1)}$

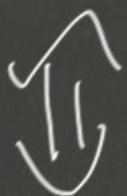
Hence we would establish that  $\exists$  a  
 $G_2$ -holonomy cone metric on  
 $\mathbb{R}^+ \times WCP^3_{(3,3,1,1)}$

② M theory on Calabi-Yau  
Orbifolds  $\frac{C}{r}$ .

Work done with

N. Lambert, M. Najjar,  
E. Sevanes and J. Tian

5d Super Conformal Field  
Theories



Codimension Six Singularities  
of Calabi-Yau 3-folds.

90's : Seiberg,  
Morrison/Seiberg  
Intriligator/Morrison/Seiberg

plus:

Lots of work since  
then, many hundreds  
of papers . . .

Including some of our  
collaborators here (Schuster-Namiki  
et al)

- Because these theories have "enough" supersymmetry, one can use "topology" plus analyticity of the field theory to make statements about the 5d SCFT's.  
eg phase structure, moduli space even count BPS states.
- But, what about the Calabi-Yau metric?

## Calabi-Yau metrics for 5d SCFT's

- Very little discussions in physics literature
- , Physicists tend to assume that some version of the Calabi-Yau theorem will hold in these singular, non-compact settings....

- 5d SCFT's do not contain gravity.
- Decoupling limit: Think of a compact CY 3-fold which develops a singularity via a divisor collapsing to a point.
- Physics analysis shows there are new, zero mass degrees of freedom at the singularity

- So lets decouple gravity by  
 $g_N \rightarrow 0$
- We might then be left with  
a non-trivial QFT in the limit
- But  $g_N \rightarrow 0$  means rescaling  
the region away from the  
singularity and pushing it  
to infinity.

- The result ought to be a non-compact CY 3-fold
- Metric? As we go off to infinity,  $r \rightarrow \infty$ , the CY metric must look like
$$g_{CY} = dr^2 + r^2 g(\Sigma_5) + \dots$$

So, we could define metrics with given asymptotic behaviour.

But are there different sensible choices for  $\alpha$ ?

Only the conical case  $\alpha=2$  has the scaling symmetry

$r \rightarrow \lambda r$ ,  $\text{Ricci} = 0$   
which would be inherited by the  
5d QFT

Secondly, the full spacetime  $(CY_3 \times \mathbb{R}^{4,1}, g)$  should be complete as a metric space.

Otherwise one has degrees of freedom at the boundary of the complete region.

- So, complete, asymptotically conical, Calabi-Yau metrics ( $\alpha=2$ ) seem to be the natural candidates
- Note:  $\exists$  algebraic CY 3-fold singularities which do NOT have conical metrics  
(Collins / Székelyhidi)

We consider M theory on  $\frac{\mathbb{C}^3}{\mathbb{R}} \times \mathbb{R}^{4,1}$   
with flat metric and  $\mathbb{R} \subset SU(3)$ .

90's : Roan, Ito, Markushevich, Reid

Showed all  $\frac{\mathbb{C}^3}{\mathbb{R}}$  admit  
crepant resolutions  $\widetilde{\frac{\mathbb{C}^3}{\mathbb{R}}}$ .

Van Coevering: These all admit  
AC Calabi-Yau metrics !

In the physics literature on 5d SCFT's, mostly the case when  $\mathbb{P}$  is Abelian has been studied.

Many of these give "rise to" interesting SCFT's.  
What about non-Abelian  $\mathbb{P}$ ?

A class of non-Abelian groups;

- Let  $H$  be a diagonal, Abelian finite subgroup of  $SU(3)$ , so elements are of the form  $h = \begin{pmatrix} \alpha & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \beta & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \gamma \end{pmatrix}$  with  $h^N = 1$ ,  $\alpha \beta \gamma = 1$ .
- Extend  $H$  by  $\mathbb{Z}_3$ :  $T = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$

The groups  $G = \langle H, T \rangle$  generated by  $H$  and  $T$  are known as "triangular".

Ho showed that one way to provide a crepant resolution of  $\frac{C^3}{H}$  is to first construct a  $T$ -invariant resolution of  $\frac{C^3}{H}$ .

and then resolve the quotient by  $T$  i.e  $\frac{\mathbb{C}^3}{G} = \frac{(\mathbb{C}^3/H)}{T}$ .

Physical Interpretation:

- 5d theory from  $\frac{\mathbb{C}^3}{H}$  has a  $T = \mathbb{Z}_3$  symmetry.
- Gauging this symmetry gives the 5d theory from  $\frac{\mathbb{C}^3}{G}$ .

# Example Gauging T-symmetry of 5d $T_N$ theories.

- 5d  $T_N$  theories arise from a particular  $H \cong \mathbb{Z}_N \times \mathbb{Z}_N$ :
- $$H = \left\langle \begin{pmatrix} \eta & \bar{\eta} \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \bar{\eta} \\ \eta & \bar{\eta} \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} \eta & 1 \\ 1 & \bar{\eta} \end{pmatrix} \right\rangle$$
- where  $\eta^N = 1$ .

$T_N$  theories (Gaiotto-Maldacena) are :

- Interacting SCFT's
- . Have global symmetry group  
 $SU(N)^3$
- . Have a Coulomb branch which corresponds to crepant resolutions  
 $\mathbb{C}^3 / \mathbb{Z}_N \times \mathbb{Z}_N$  with rank of gauge group  
= # compact divisors

- The 3  $SU(N)$  global symmetries arise from the 3 lines of  $A_{N-1}$  singularities in  $\frac{\mathbb{C}^3}{\mathbb{Z}_n \times \mathbb{Z}_n}$ .
- When we gauge the  $T$  symmetry the 3 lines are permuted so  $SU(N)^3 \rightarrow SU(N)$

• Further,  $T$  introduces additional global symmetries as it also has fixed points.

This is either:

$N \neq 3k$  1 line of  $A_2$ -singularities

$N = 3k$  3 lines of  $A_2$ -singularities

So flavour symmetry group  
is (at least):

$$G_F = \text{SU}(N) \times \text{SU}(3), N \neq 3k$$

$$\text{SU}(N) \times \text{SU}(3)^3, N = 3k$$

Physically this means gauging T can only be done if new states are introduced

In fact, using a construction  
of  $T_N$  theories in F-theory  
due to Benini, Benvenuti, Tachikawa  
we can show that when  
 $N = 3K$ , the gauged  $T$ -theory  
actually has symmetry  
 $SU(N) \times E_6$ !

One can also compute the rank of the Coulomb branch gauge group, using a theorem of Ito-Reid,

$$\text{rk(Gauge)} = \frac{1}{6}(N^2 - 3N + 2) \quad N=3k$$
$$\frac{1}{6}(N^2 - 3N + 6) \quad N=3k$$

So we predict an infinite series of 5d SCFT's with the above properties.

