

# On the classification of 5d conformal matter SCFTs

Based on past and upcoming work in collaboration with:  
Michele Del Zotto, Antoine Bourget, Mario De Marco, Michele Graffeo,  
Julius Grimminger

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A rich toolbox to investigate the features of 5d SCFTs, and to propose **classification programs**:

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- F-theory on elliptic threefolds + dimensional reduction
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Countless works by (in no particular order):

Intriligator, Morrison, Seiberg, Vafa, Hanany, Jefferson, S. Katz, H-C Kim, Aharony, Kol, Apruzzi, Lawrie, Lin, Schäfer-Nameki, Bhardwaj, Zafir, Xie, Del Zotto, Closset, Saxena, Carta, Akhond, Sperling, Hayashi, S-S Kim, Tachikawa, Yonekura, Ohmori, Dwivedi, Benini, Benvenuti, Sacchi, Wang, Mu, Zhang, Shimizu, Giacomelli, Yau, Bourget, Collinucci, Valandro, Acharya, Grimminger, De Marco, Graffeo, Lambert, Santilli, Dierigl, Uhlemann, Najjar, Svanes, Tian, Heckman, Meynet, Moscrop, Hübner, Bergman, Oh, De Wolfe, Iqbal, E. Katz, Rodríguez-Gómez, Carreño Bolla, Franco, Arias-Tamargo, Furrer, Magureanu, Bertolini, Mignosa, Honda, Tizzano, Benetti-Genolini, Lee, Taki, Yagi, van Beest, Eckhard, Cabrera, Gaiotto, Witten, Cremonesi, Albertini, García-Etxebarria, Hosseini, Willett, Cvetič, Torres...

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Atoms share these features:  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} 1. \text{ given flavor symmetry } (\mathfrak{g}_1, \dots, \mathfrak{g}_n) \\ 2. \text{ Irreducible (no quiver phase with a node of type } \mathfrak{g}_i) \end{array} \right.$

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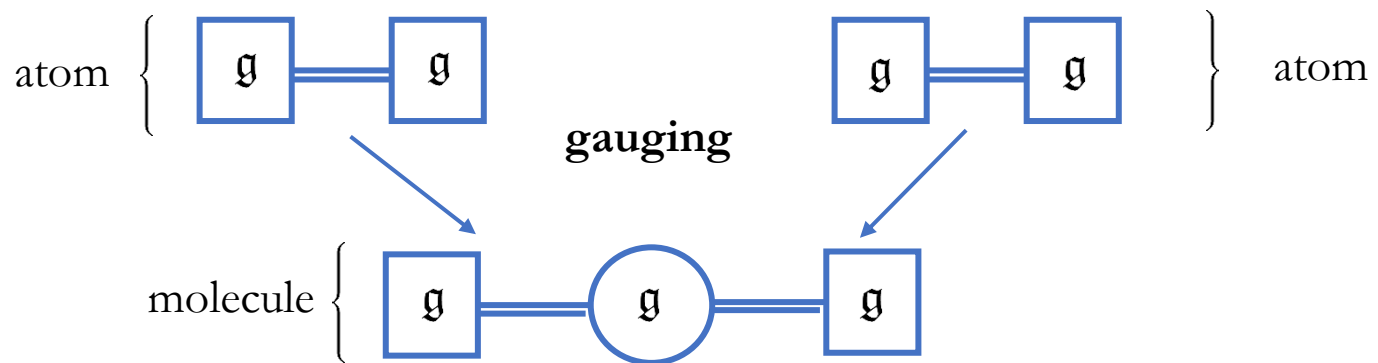
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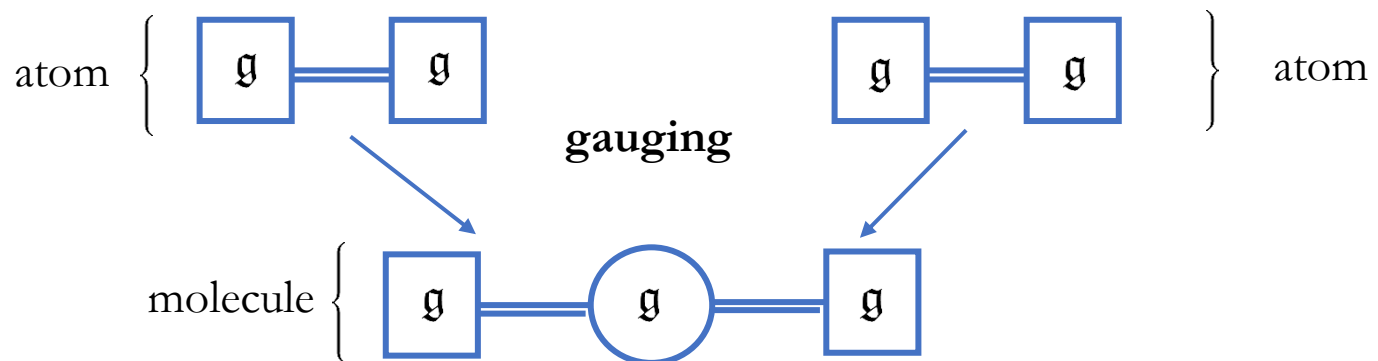
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- Notice: this approach has been extremely successful in the classification of 6d  $\mathcal{N} = (1, 0)$  SCFTs [Del Zotto, Heckman, Tomasiello, Vafa '14], [Heckman, Morrison, Vafa '14], [Heckman, Morrison, Rudelius, Vafa '15], [Bhardwaj '19]

# Summary of results

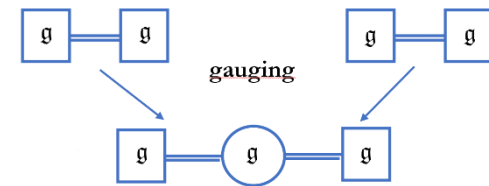
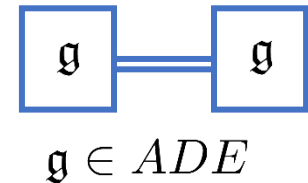
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## I. Bifundamental Conformal Matter theories

- we **identify** and **classify** a finite set of atoms, that can be gauged together to form more complicated molecules [[De Marco, Del Zotto, Graffeo, AS, 23](#)], [[Bourget, De Marco, Del Zotto, Grimminger, AS, 25](#)]
- we provide a coherent picture of their Higgs branch, connecting with class-S constructions and magnetic quiver techniques [[De Marco, Del Zotto, Grimminger, AS, 25](#)]

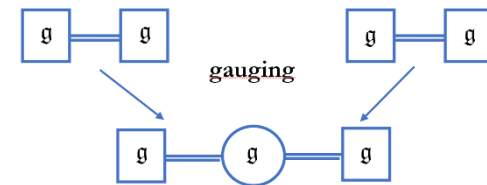
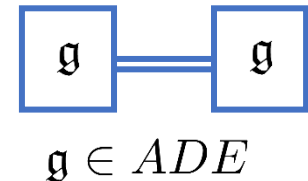


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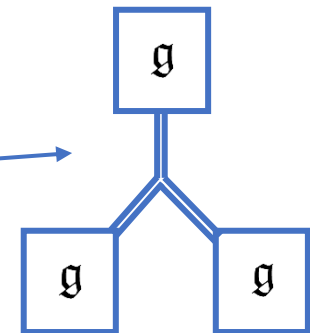
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## II. Trinions and Tetraons Conformal matter theories

- Trinions of type  $A$  admit a (well-known) atomic classification
- A new balancing condition on generalized quivers shows the natural appearance of **trinions** and **tetraons** of type  $D$   
→ caveat: they are not irreducible, hence not atoms

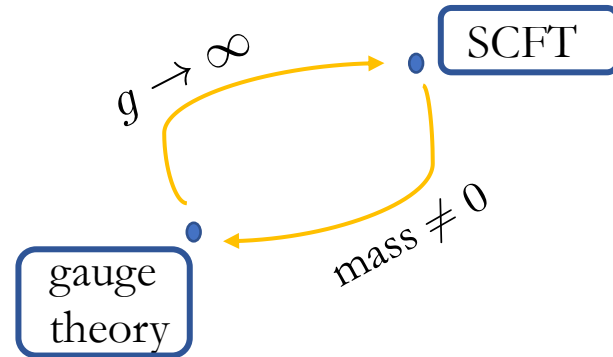


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# 5d $\mathcal{N} = 1$ SCFTs

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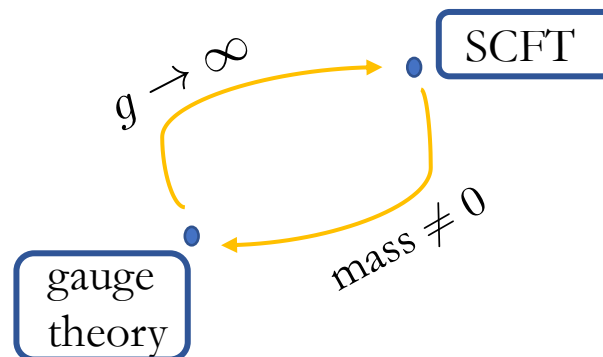
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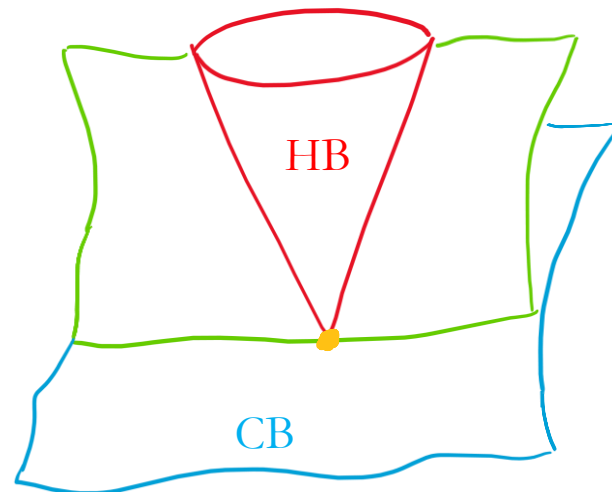
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Since the mid-nineties [Seiberg '96], [Morrison, Seiberg '96][Intriligator, Morrison, Seiberg '97], thriving effort to study of the properties of 5d SCFTs via String-/M-/F-theoretic methods.

Data to characterize the fixed points:

- **Moduli spaces** of vacua
- **RG flows**
- **Symmetries** (gauge, flavor, categorical symmetries...)



# Geometric engineering of 5d SCFTs

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11d

**M-theory**

dimensional reduction on  
**singular**  
**non-compact**  
**canonical CY 3-fold**

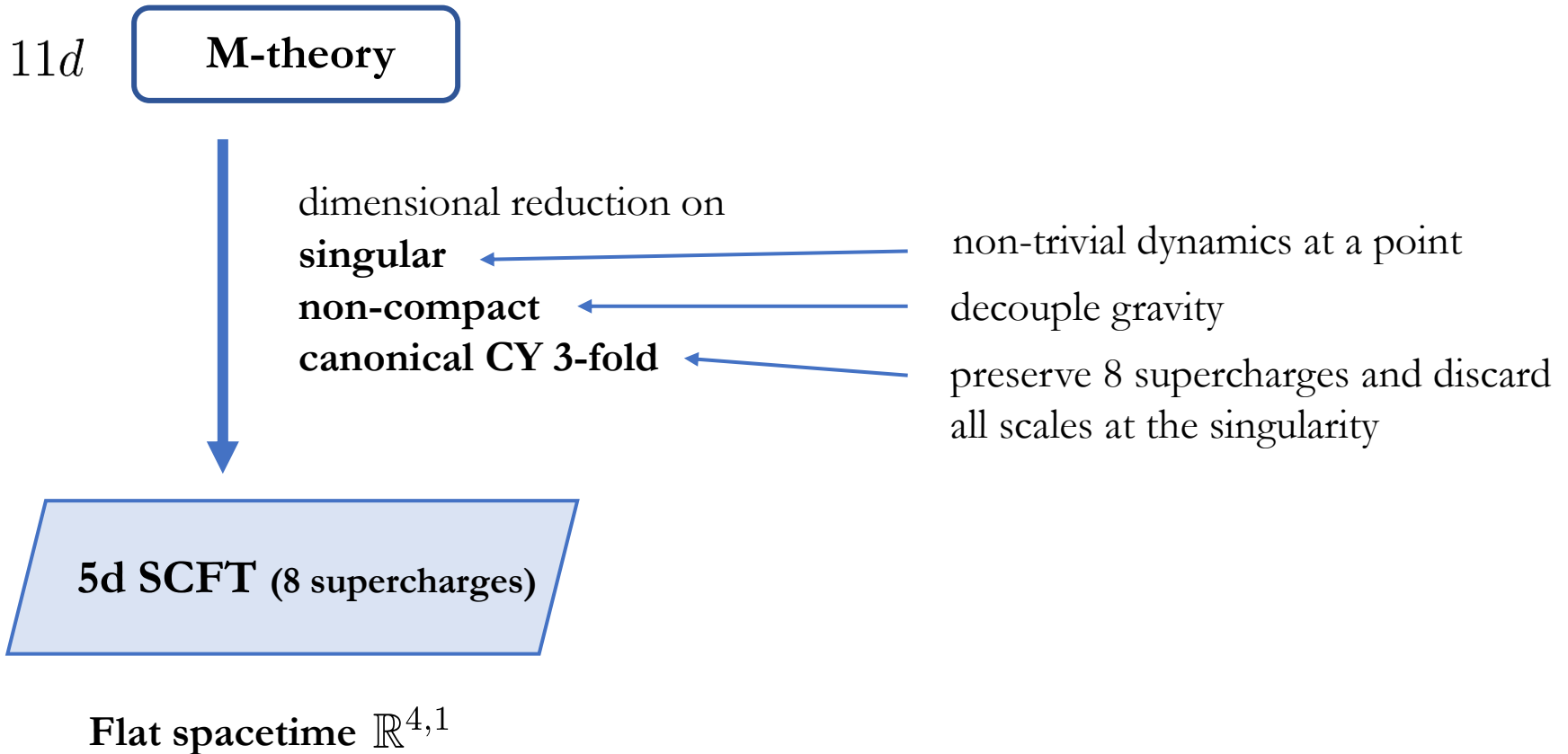
**5d SCFT (8 supercharges)**

Flat spacetime  $\mathbb{R}^{4,1}$



# Geometric engineering of 5d SCFTs

construct 5d SCFTs employing M-theoretic setups on non-compact CY3



# M-theory/5d SCFTs dictionary

## 5d SCFT

- Coulomb branch parameters
- Mass parameters
- Higgs branch parameters

## DICTIONARY


## CY threefold $X$

- Compact divisors  $\longleftrightarrow H_4(\tilde{X}, \mathbb{R})$
- Non-compact divisors  $\longleftrightarrow H_2(\tilde{X}, \mathbb{R}) - H_4(\tilde{X}, \mathbb{R})$
- Normalizable complex structure deformations  $\longleftrightarrow H_3(\hat{X}, \mathbb{R})$

( $\tilde{X}$  is the resolved CY3,  $\hat{X}$  is the deformed CY3)

# Bifundamental 5d CM SCFTs

- **Motivating question:** find analogue of 6d conformal matter (bifundamental matter with non-trivial gauge dynamics) in 5d setting



UV flavor symmetry  $\supseteq \mathfrak{g} \times \mathfrak{g}$ ,  $\mathfrak{g} \in ADE$

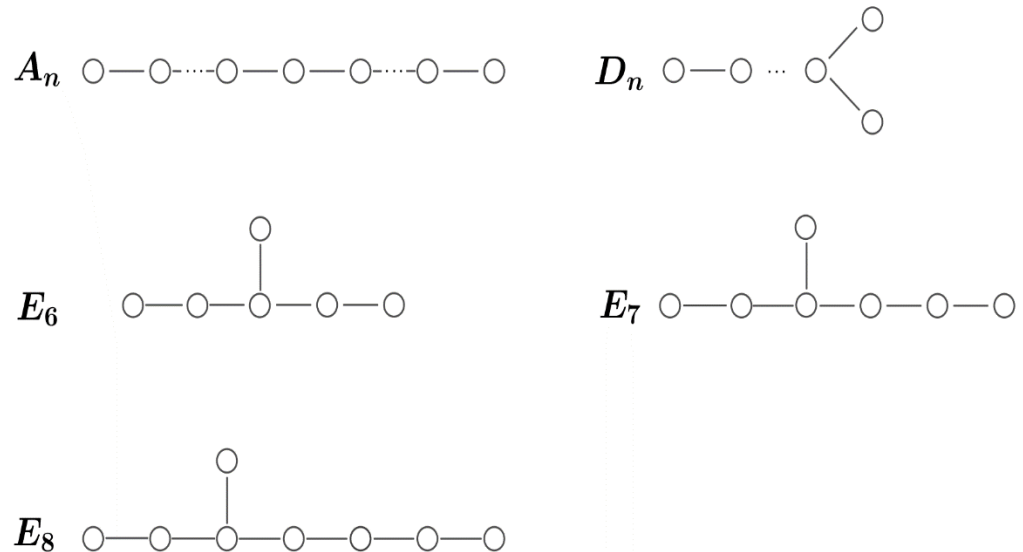
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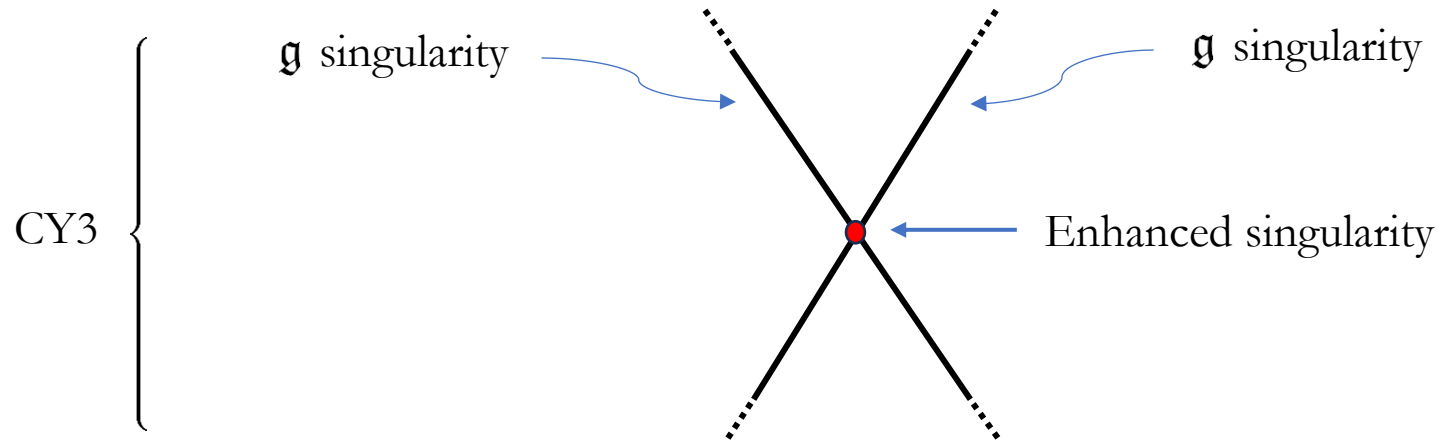
$$\boxed{\mathfrak{g}} \text{---} \boxed{\mathfrak{g}} \quad \text{UV flavor symmetry} \supseteq \mathfrak{g} \times \mathfrak{g}, \quad \mathfrak{g} \in ADE$$

- Geometric answer:** **5d conformal matter** can be constructed from M-theory geometric engineering

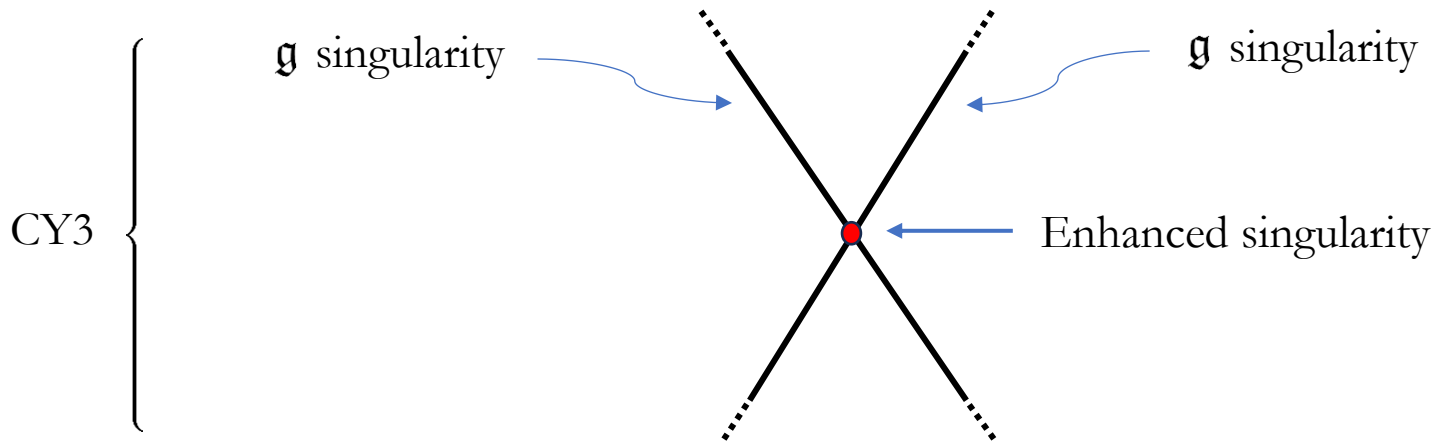
$$\left\{ \begin{array}{ll} A_n : & x^2 + y^2 + z^{n+1} = 0 \\ D_n : & x^2 + zy^2 + z^{n-1} = 0 \\ E_6 : & x^2 + y^3 + z^4 = 0 \\ E_7 : & x^2 + y^3 + yz^3 = 0 \\ E_8 : & x^2 + y^3 + z^5 = 0 \end{array} \right.$$



# Atoms of bifundamental 5d CM SCFTs



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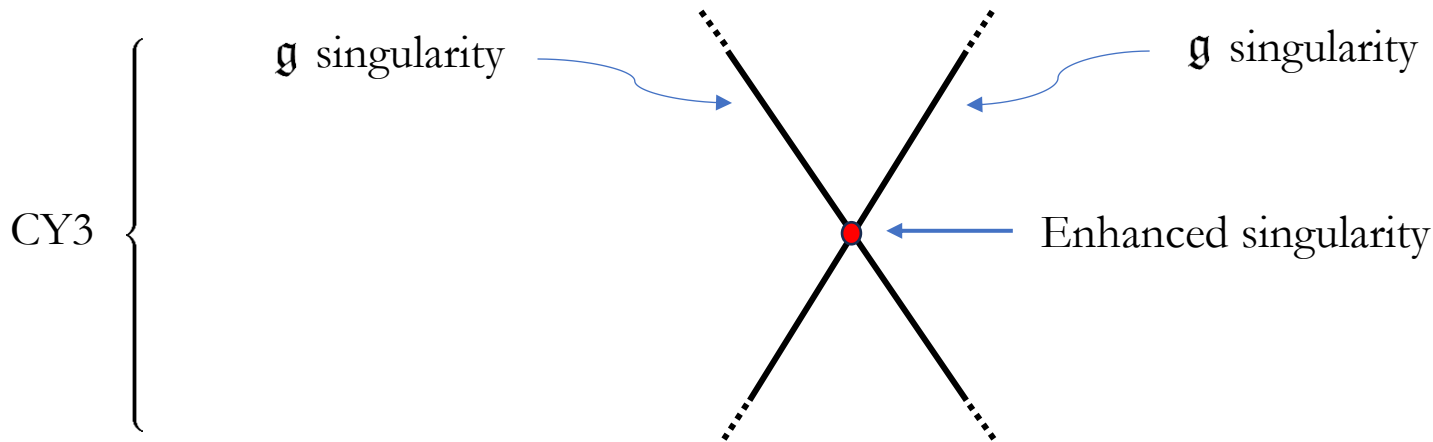


- **Example:** 5d conformal matter  $(E_6, E_6)$  can be built from M-theory geometric engineering on:

$$\text{CY3: } \begin{cases} x^2 + y^3 + z^4 = 0 \\ x = uv \end{cases}$$

base change  $\nearrow$   $E_6$  singularity

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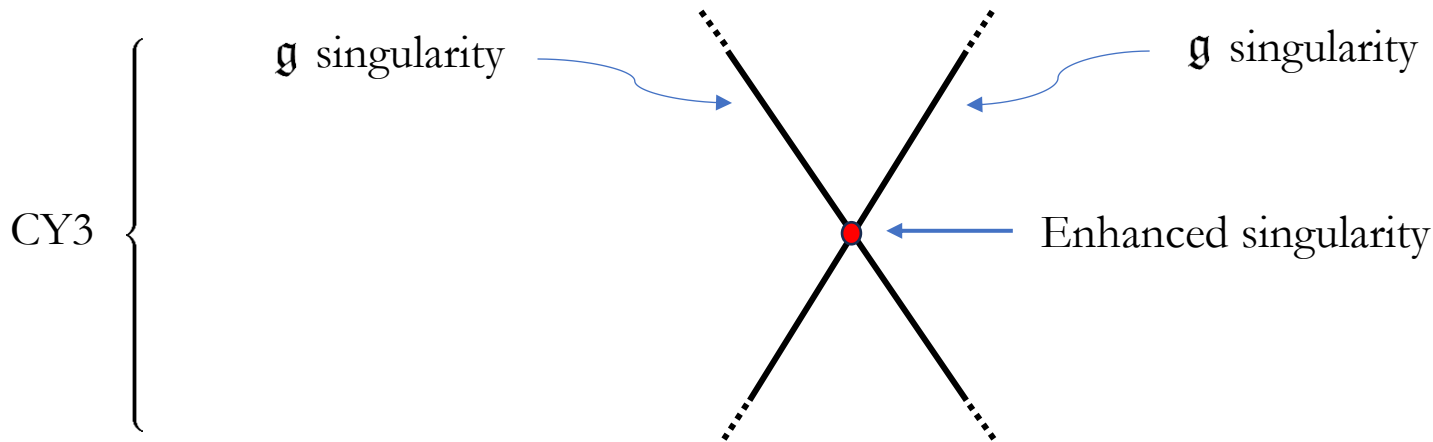
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Singular lines:  $u = y = z = 0$   $E_6$  type  
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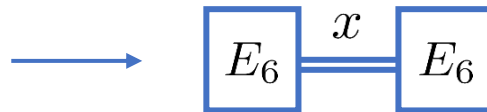
Intersection:  $u = v = y = z = 0$

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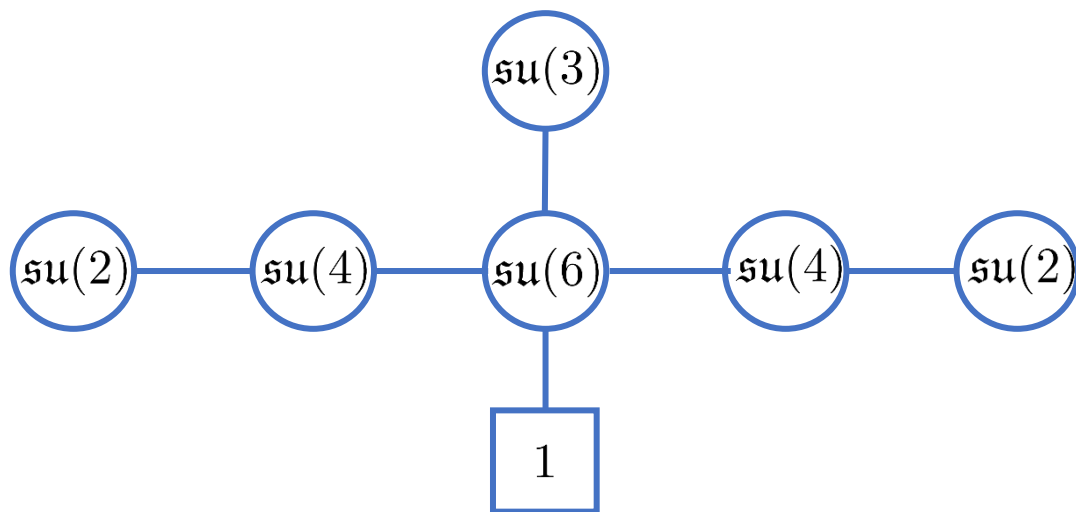
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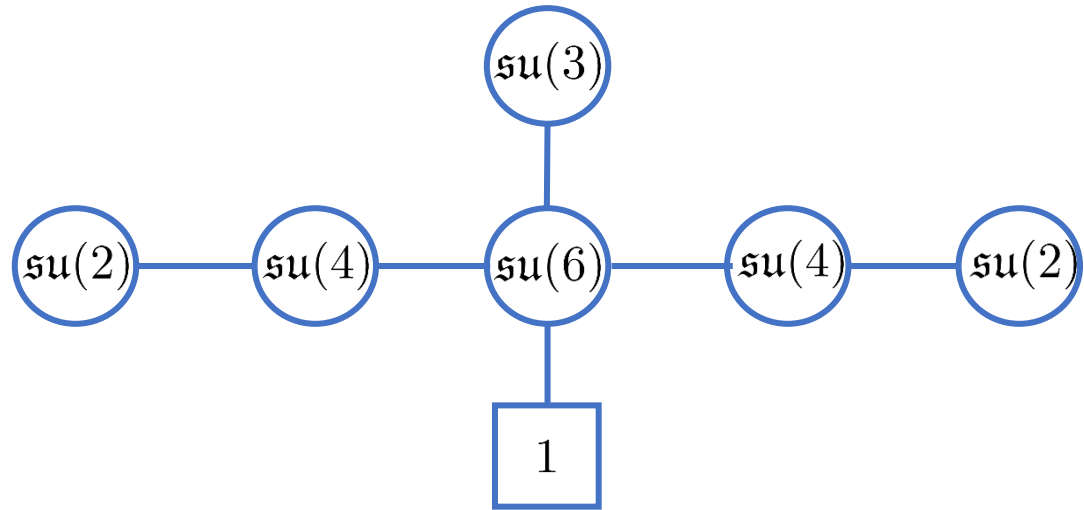
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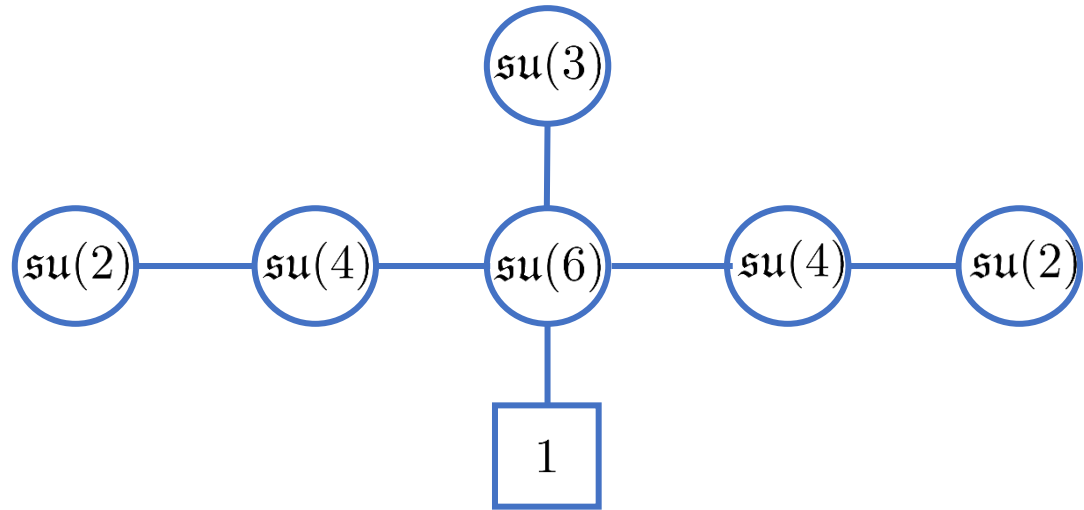
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[Tachikawa '15], [Yonekura, '15]: balanced special unitary quiver of shape  $\mathfrak{g}$  with  $\mathfrak{g} \in ADE$   
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The quiver above has  $E_6$  shape  $\longrightarrow$  the fixed point has at least  $E_6 \times E_6$  flavor symmetry  
and it is balanced



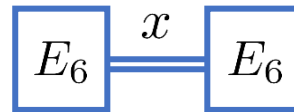
Independent **field-theoretic check** that the M-theory geometry gives rise to the expected flavor symmetry

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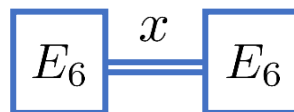
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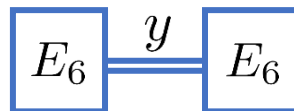
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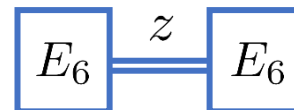
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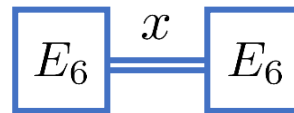
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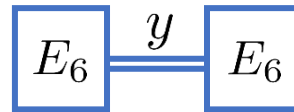
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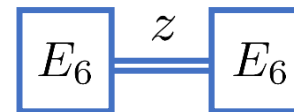
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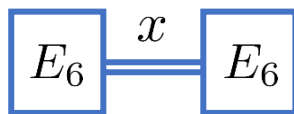
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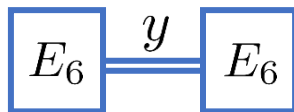
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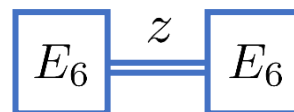
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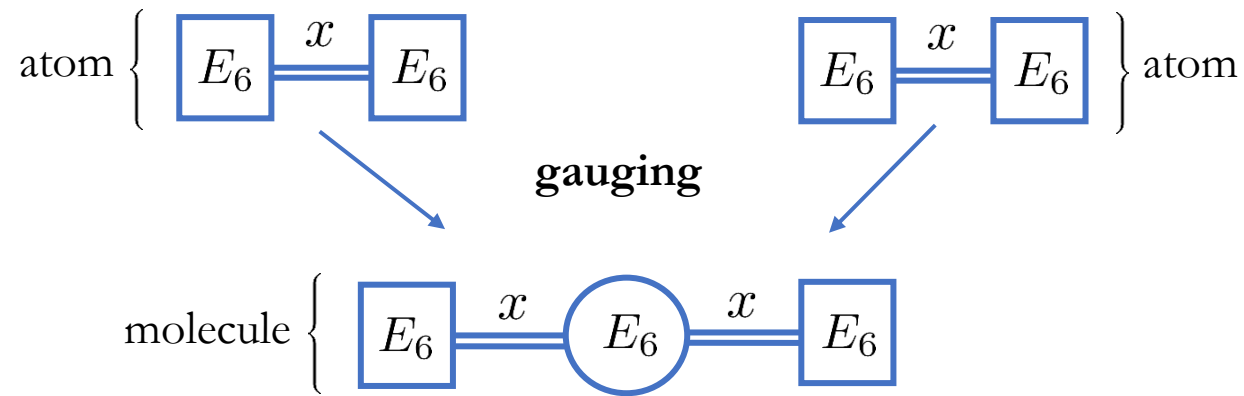


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- All these theories exhibit at least a  $E_6 \times E_6$  factor in the UV flavor symmetry
- We can employ the same technology to identify bifundamental atoms for all ADE algebras

# Molecules of 5d CM SCFTs

- **5d conformal matter atoms** can be used as fundamental blocks to construct more complicated SCFTs of conformal matter type



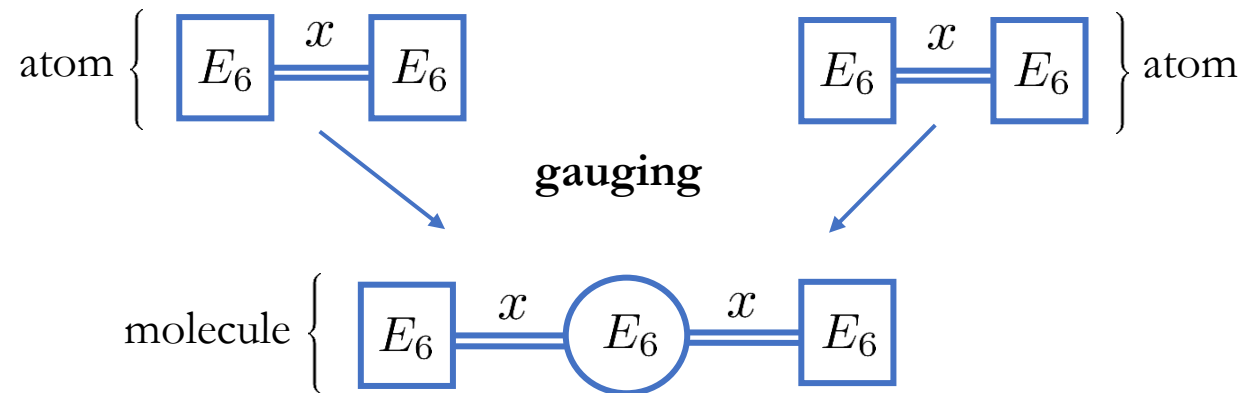
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- **Most general molecule:**

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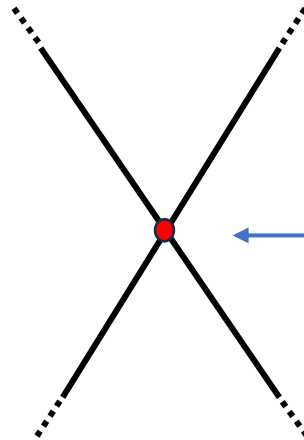
$\boxed{E_6} \xrightarrow{x} \bigcirc E_6 \xrightarrow{\quad} \cdots \cdots \cdots \bigcirc E_6 \xrightarrow{z} \boxed{E_6}$

contracting all  $\mathbb{P}^1$ 's

# Novel 5d UV dualities

**CY3:** 
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For cases with only  $\mathcal{Z}$   
see [Ohmori, Shimizu,  
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Enhanced singularity

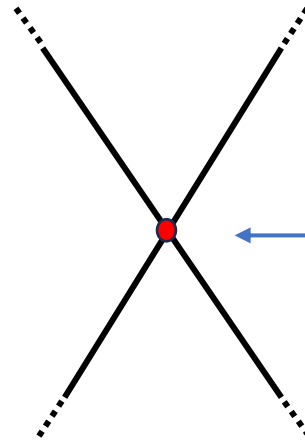


SCFT phase

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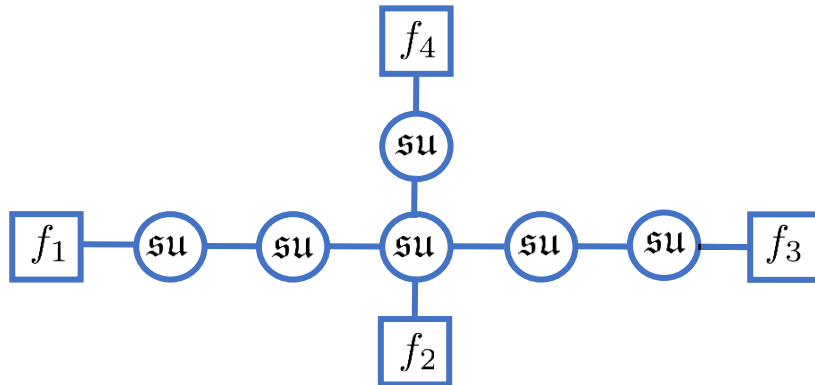
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SCFT phase

Resolution

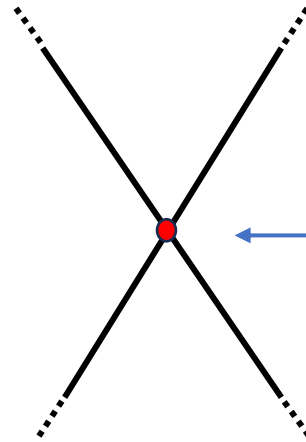


Lagrangian gauge theory phase (shape  $\mathfrak{g}$ )

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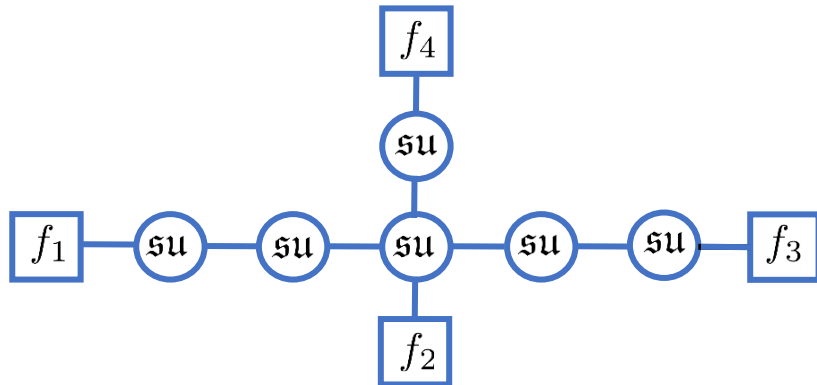
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Generalized quiver phase

# On the classification of 5d bifundamental CM

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- **Surprising aspect:** there exist 5d CM SCFTs which are neither atoms nor molecules (i.e. they are not gaugings of atoms, but they can be Higgsed to molecules)
  - $\longrightarrow$  we call these theories 5d CM **hybrids**

We obtain a full classification of atoms and hybrids for all ADE algebras

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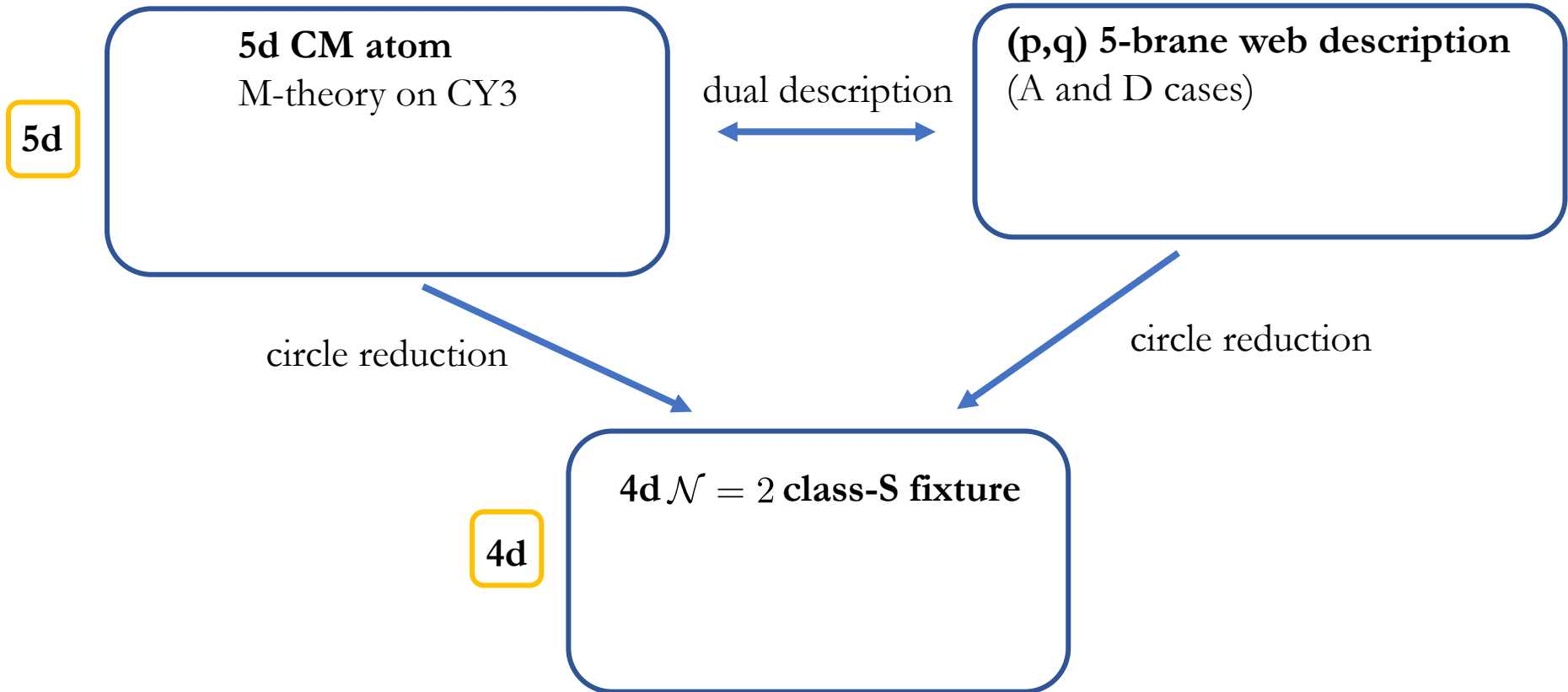
**Example:**

$(E_6, E_6)$  5d CM

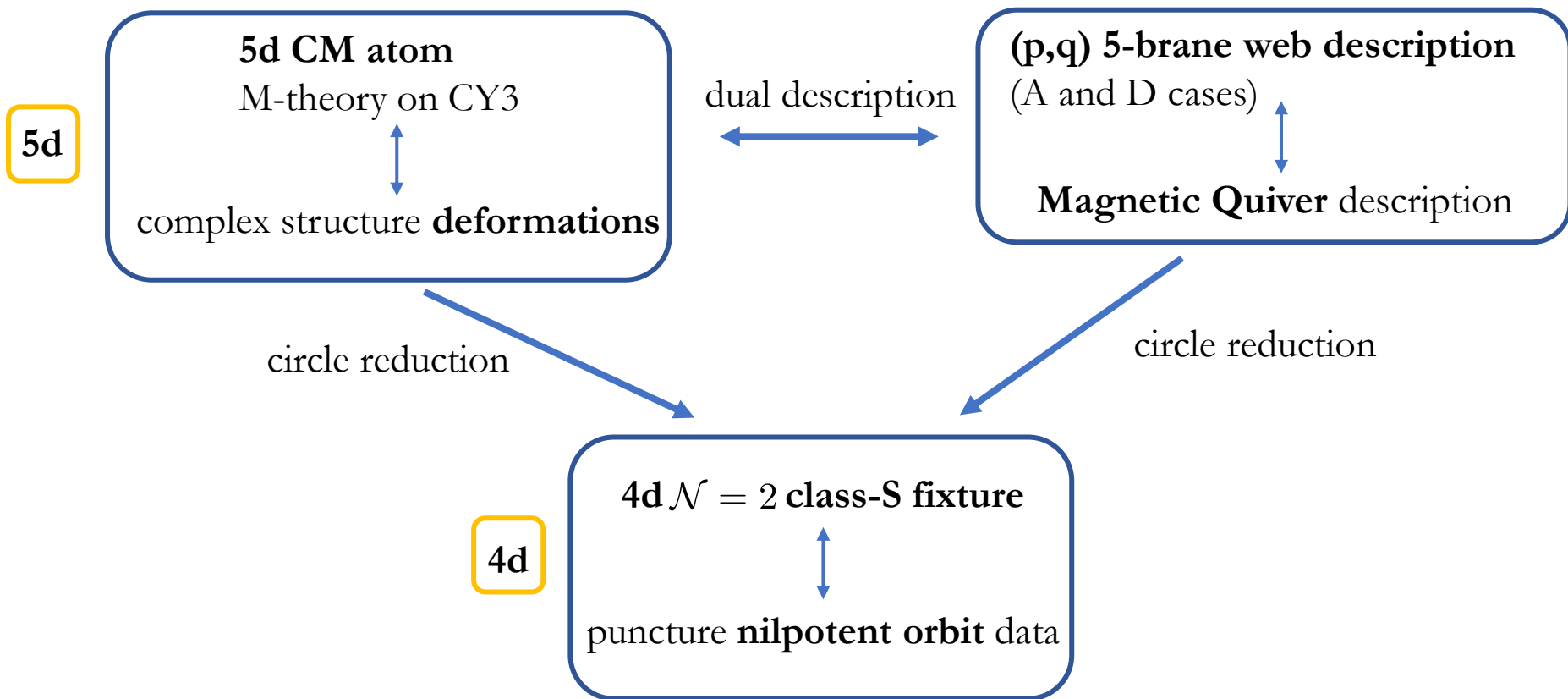
Coweight	Dynkin Quiver	Type	CY3
$\begin{bmatrix} & & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$		Atom	$z = uv$
$\begin{bmatrix} & & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$		Atom	$y = uv$
$\begin{bmatrix} & & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$		Atom	$x = uv$
$\begin{bmatrix} & & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$		Atom	$x + iz^2 + cyz = uv$
$\begin{bmatrix} & & 0 \\ 3 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$		Atom	$x + iz^2 = uv$
$\begin{bmatrix} & & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$		Atom	$x - iz^2 + cyz = uv$
$\begin{bmatrix} & & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 3 \end{bmatrix}$		Atom	$x - iz^2 = uv$

Coweight	Dynkin Quiver	Type	CY3
$\begin{bmatrix} & & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$		Hybrid	$z^3 + cy^2 = uv$
$\begin{bmatrix} & & 0 \\ 2 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$		Hybrid	$z(x + iz^2) + cy^2 = uv$
$\begin{bmatrix} & & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$		Hybrid	$z(x - iz^2) + cy^2 = uv$
$\begin{bmatrix} & & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 2 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$		Hybrid	$y(x - iz^2) + cx^2 = uv$
$\begin{bmatrix} & & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$		Hybrid	$y(x + iz^2) + cx^2 = uv$
$\begin{bmatrix} & & 0 \\ 0 & 3 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$		Hybrid	$(x + iz^2)^2 + cz^5 = uv$
$\begin{bmatrix} & & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 3 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$		Hybrid	$(x - iz^2)^2 + cz^5 = uv$

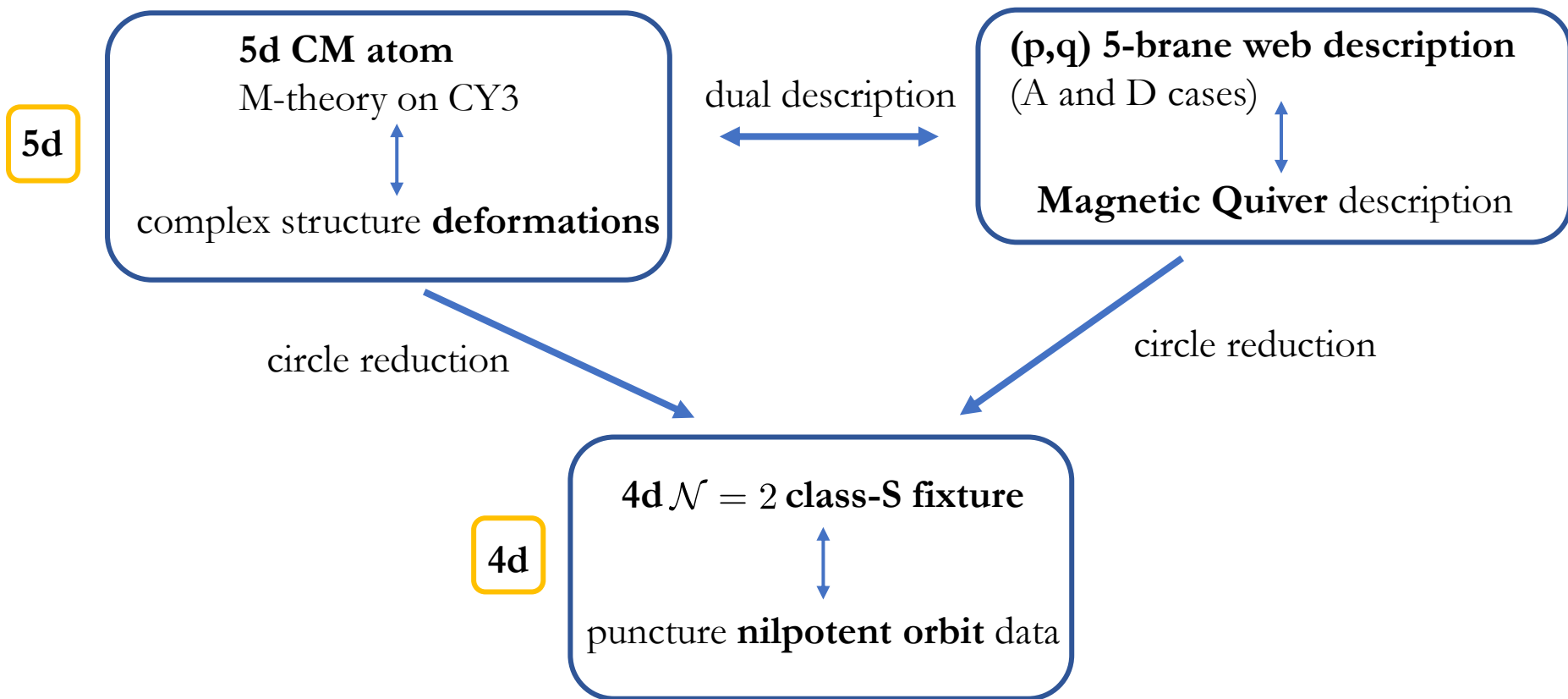
# What about the Higgs branch? (atoms)



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For **5d CM atom SCFTs** all these techniques perfectly agree, yielding the dimension of the Higgs branch at the UV fixed point

# What about the Higgs branch? (molecules)

5d

**5d CM molecule**  
M-theory on CY3



complex structure **deformations**

dual description



**(p,q) 5-brane web description**  
(A and D cases)

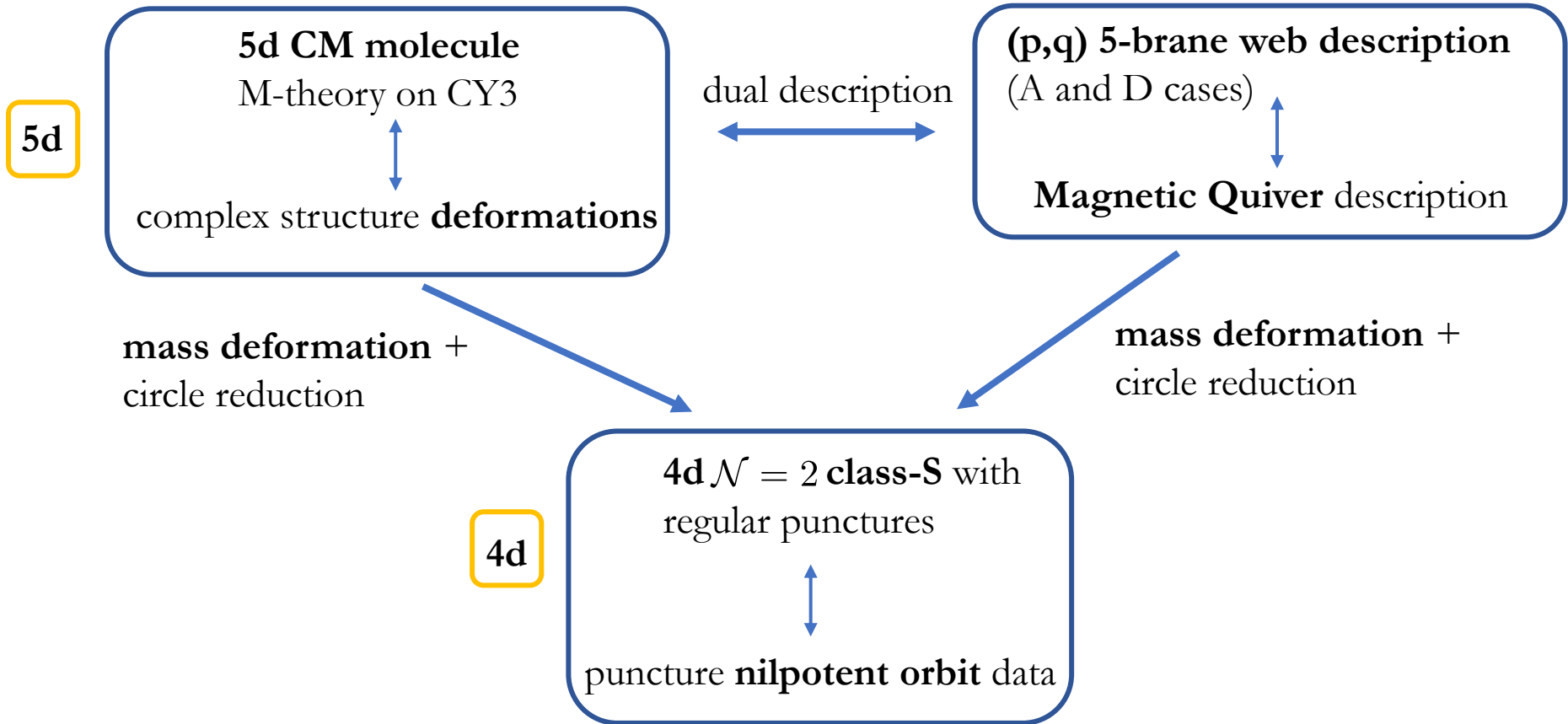


**Magnetic Quiver** description

- For **5d CM molecules SCFTs** the magnetic quiver and CY3 perspective perfectly agree



# What about the Higgs branch? (molecules)




- For **5d CM molecules SCFTs** the magnetic quiver and CY3 perspective perfectly agree
- The HB from the class-S phase undergoes enhancement at the UV fixed point  
(See [Ohmori, Shimizu, Tachikawa, Yonekura '15] )

# 6d origin of bifundamental 5d CM SCFTs

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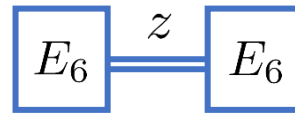
The diagram shows a quiver with two square nodes, each labeled  $E_6$ . They are connected by a double horizontal line. Above the double line is a single line with the label  $z$ .

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Weierstrass model

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$$\begin{cases} x^2 + y^3 + z^4 = 0 \\ z^2 = uv \end{cases} \xrightarrow{\text{decompactify and deform}} \begin{cases} x^2 + y^3 + z^4 = 0 \\ z^2 + cx = uv \end{cases} \xrightarrow{\text{discard irrelevant terms}} \begin{cases} x^2 + y^3 + z^4 = 0 \\ x = uv \end{cases}$$

# Extending the (partial) atomic classification



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Sketch of the state of the art:

**6d  $\mathcal{N} = (1, 0)$  SCFTs:** (almost) complete classification in terms of **bifundamental** theories

[Del Zotto, Heckman, Tomasiello, Vafa '14], [Heckman, Morrison, Vafa '14], [Heckman, Morrison, Rudelius, Vafa '15], [Bhardwaj '19]

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**5d  $\mathcal{N} = 1$  SCFTs:** partial atomic classification of **bifundamental** theories. What about **trinions**/**tetraons**/...? Do they exhibit a similar “atomic” structure?

**Short answer:** for case  $A$   $\longrightarrow$  atomic classification (well-known)  
for case  $D$   $\longrightarrow$  trinions and tetraons exist, but they are not irreducible (**new UV flavor enhancements**)

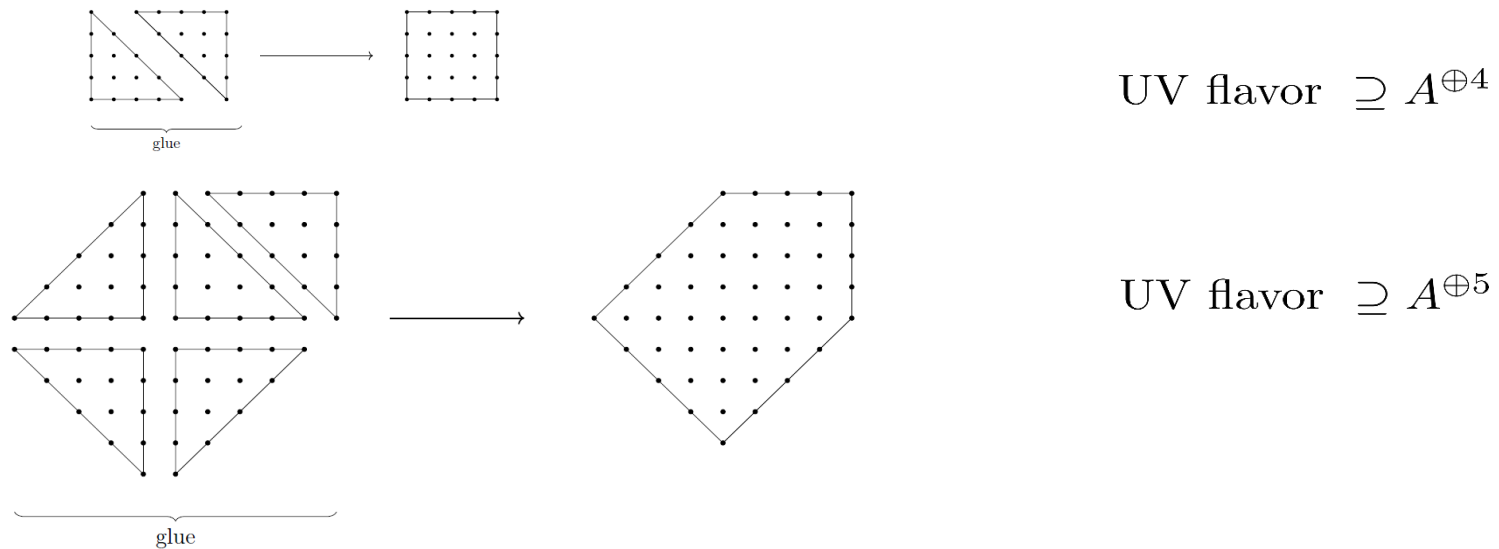
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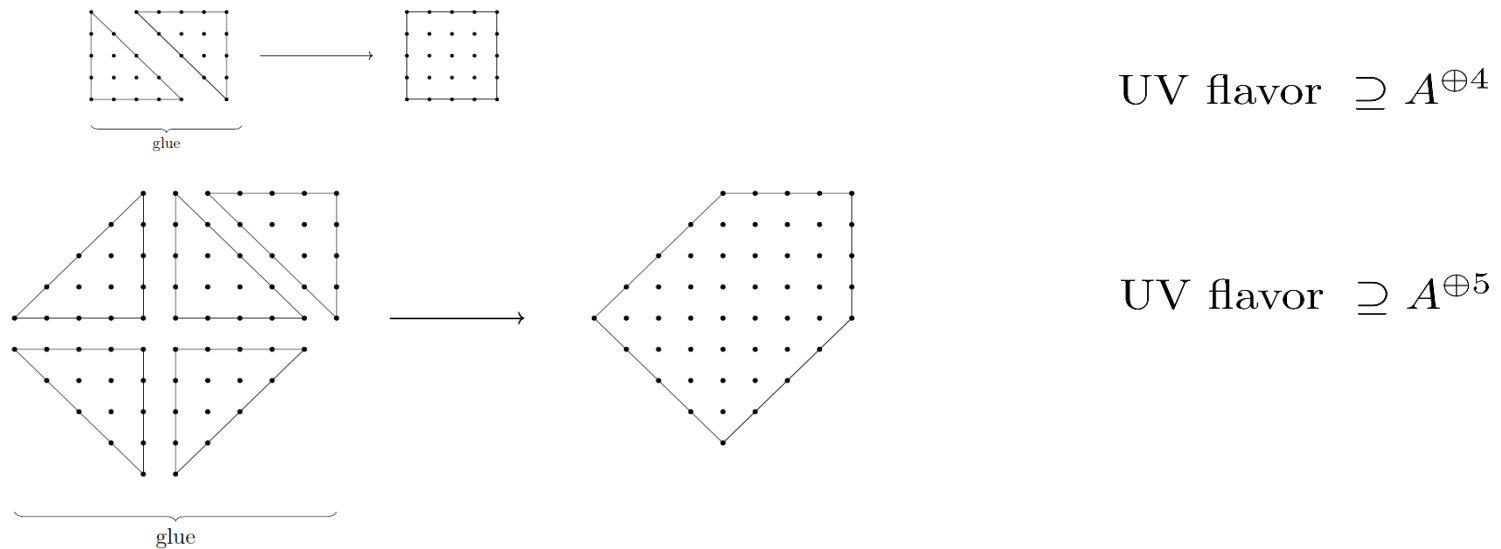
- It is well-known that 5d SCFTs with plenty of  $A$  UV flavor factors exist
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- Punchline: the philosophy of the atomic classification holds for the  $A$  trinions

## 5d CM trinions and tetraons

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# 5d CM trinions and tetraons

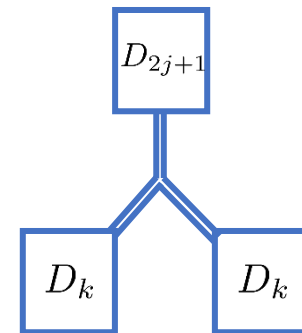
- Claim: there exist **trinion** and **tetraon** 5d SCFTs with UV flavor group  $D^{\oplus 3}$  and  $D^{\oplus 4}$
- Constructive proof via M-theory geometric engineering

Trinion  $(D_{2j+1}, D_k, D_k) :$

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Singularities:

$x = y = u = 0$	$D_k$ type
$x = y = u^{2j-1} + v^2 = 0$	$D_k$ type
$x = u = v = 0$	$D_{2j+1}$ type



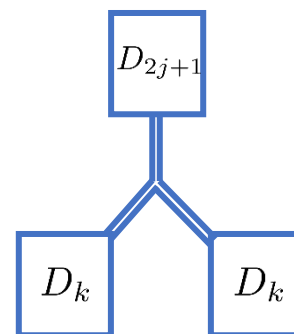


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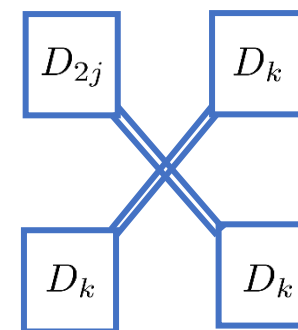
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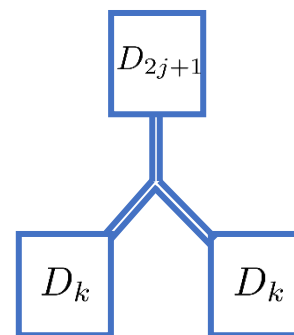


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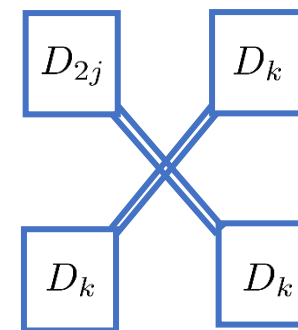
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No straightforward way to construct trinions and tetraons of type  $E_6, E_7, E_8$

# 5d CM trinions and tetraons

- List of canonical CY3 that can be constructed with this method:
- They are all of type  $(\mathfrak{g}, D_k, \dots)$  for some  $\mathfrak{g}$

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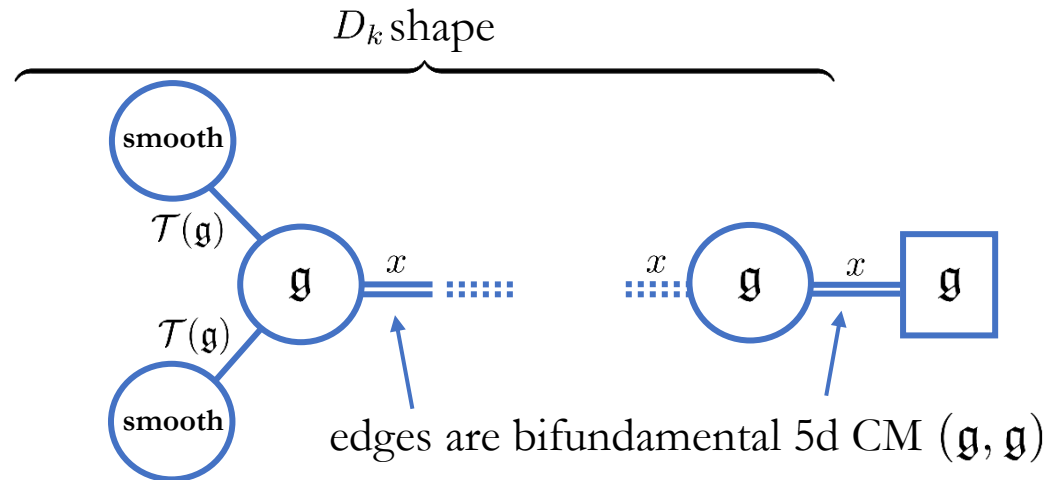
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- The UV flavor symmetry can be checked through a **generalized version** of the flavor enhancement theorem by [Yonekura '15]

# Novel flavor enhancement conjecture

- Consider the canonical CY3 in the aforementioned list, all of type  $(\mathfrak{g}, D_k, \dots)$

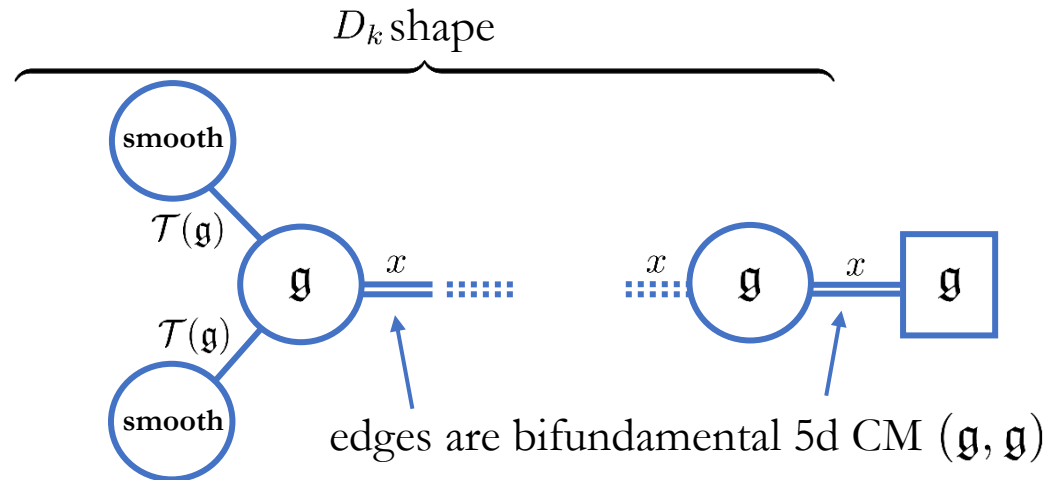


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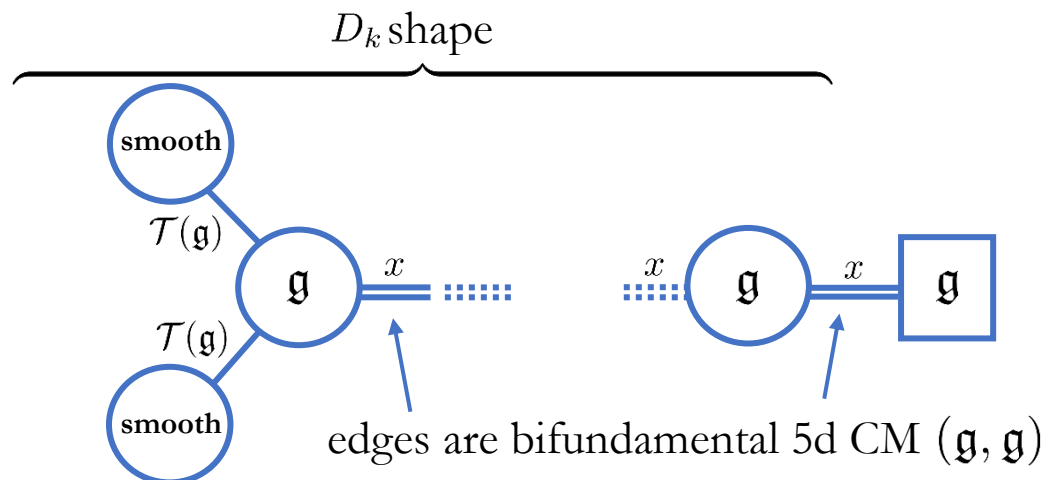


- each gauge node supplies a topological  $U(1)_T$
- each double edge supplies as many  $U(1)$  flavor factors as the ones in the 5d CM  $(\mathfrak{g}, \mathfrak{g})$
- $\mathcal{T}(\mathfrak{g})$  supplies  $U(1)^f$ , where  $f$  depends on  $\mathfrak{g}$

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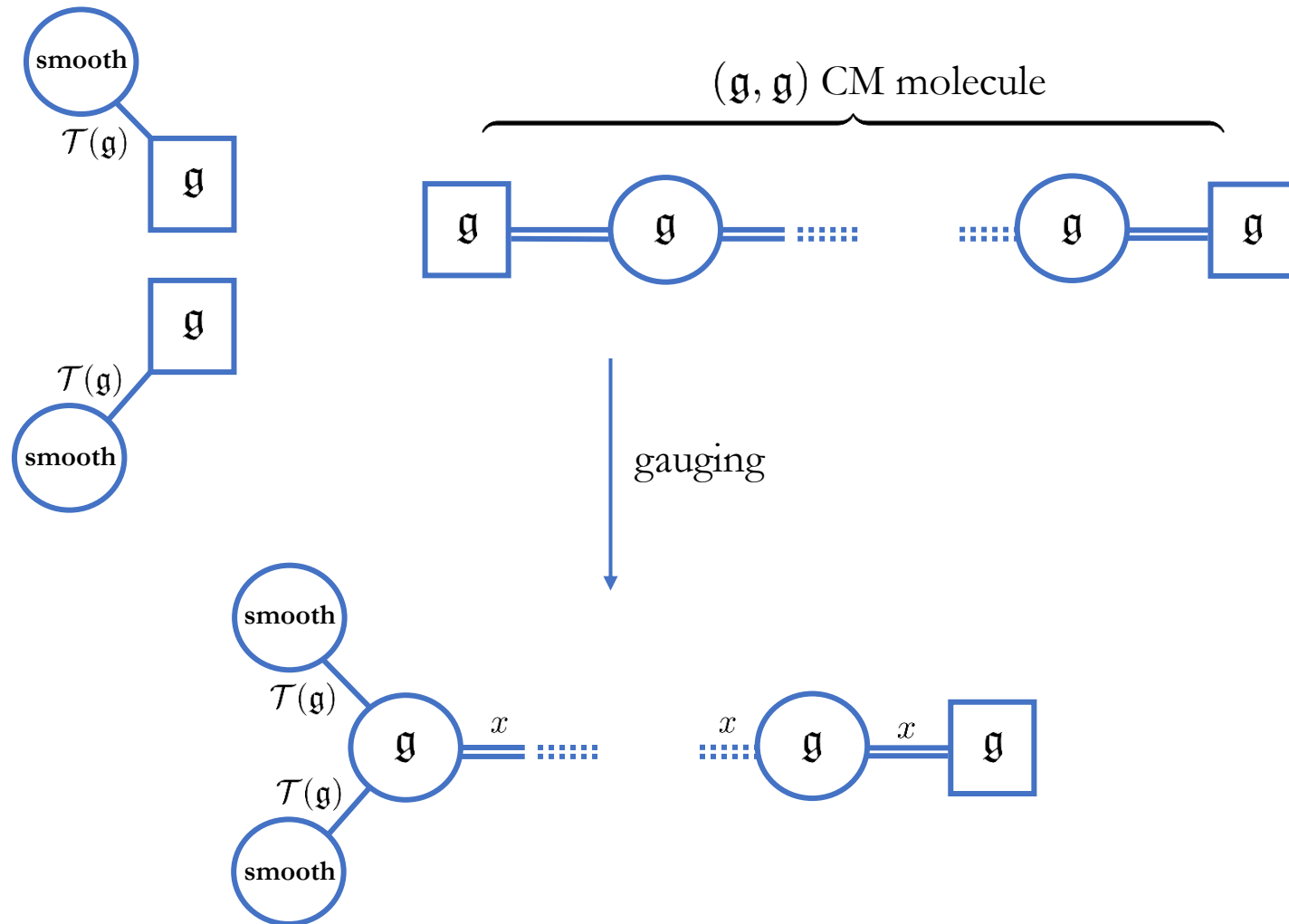
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  - $\mathcal{T}(\mathfrak{g})$  supplies  $U(1)^f$ , where  $f$  depends on  $\mathfrak{g}$
- Upshot:** the total UV flavor rank from the generalized quiver theory **precisely matches** the flavor that is detected by the singular non-compact lines in the CY3 geometry
- Example: with  $\mathfrak{g} = D_{2j}$  we match the rank of  $(D_{2j}, D_k, D_k, D_k)$ , in accordance with the expectation from the corresponding canonical CY3

# Reducibility of trinions and tetraons

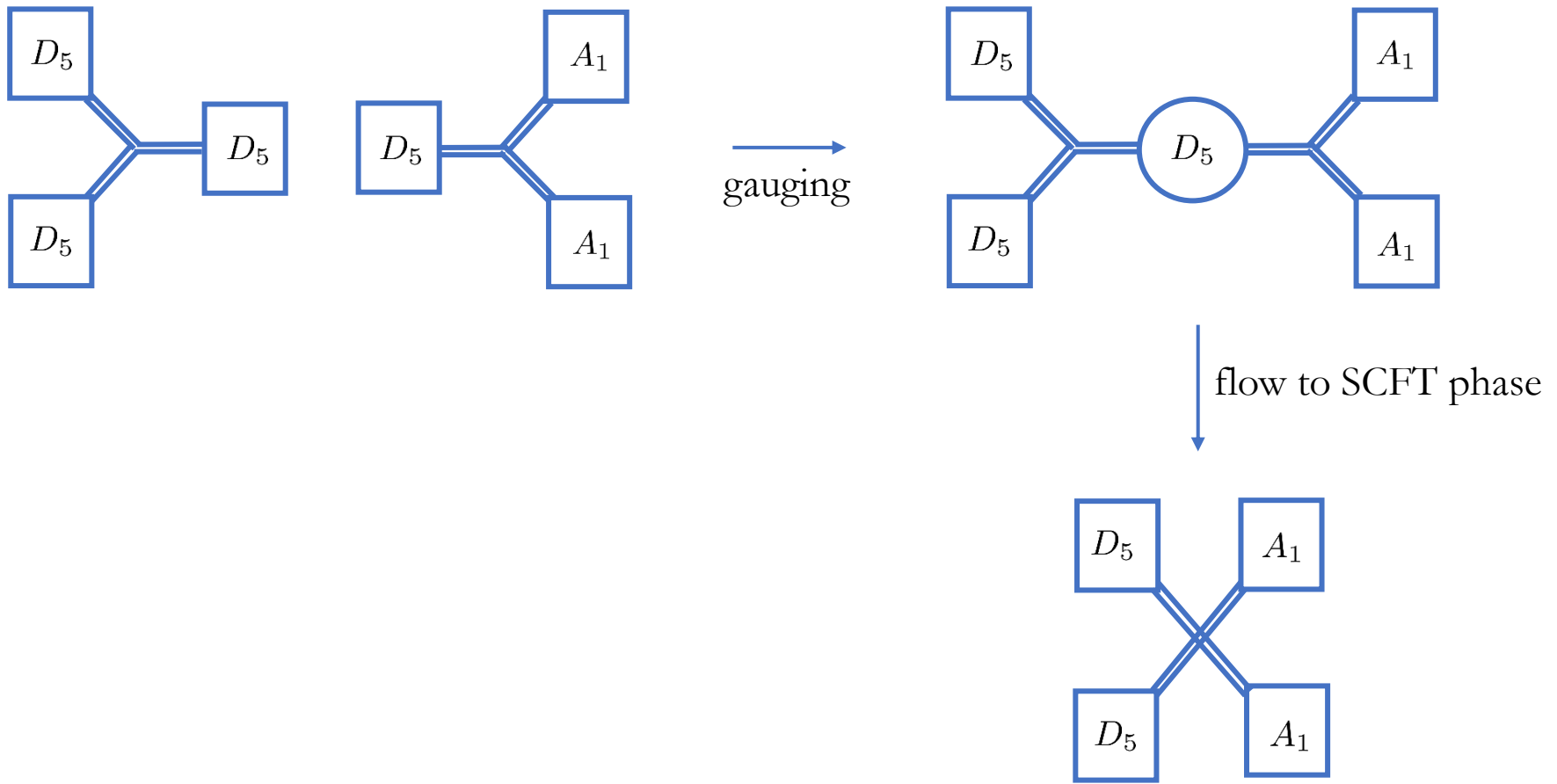
- These new theories are not irreducible  $\longrightarrow$  **they are not atoms**





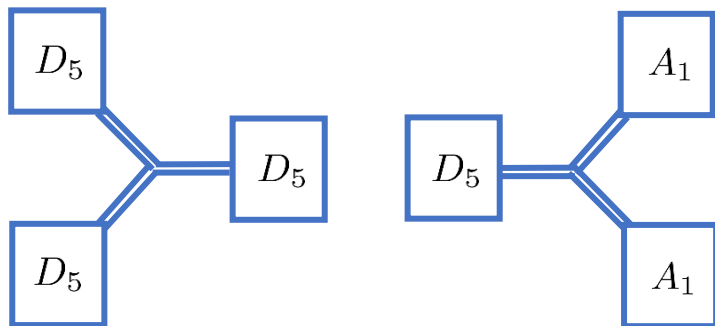
# Gauging of 5d CM trinions and tetraons

- Trinions and tetraons admit a very limited set of gaugings that flow to a 5d fixed point

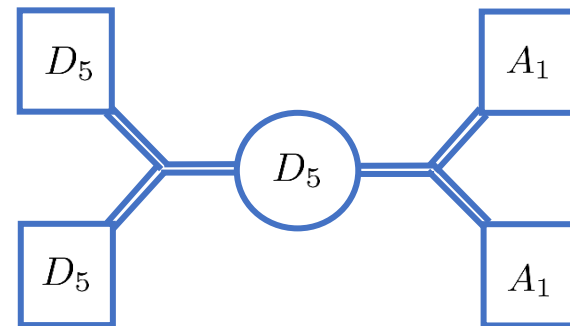


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gauging

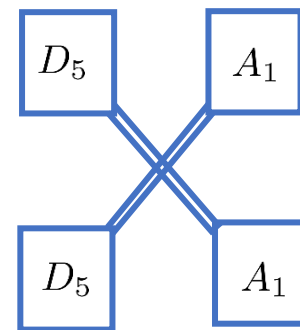


flow to SCFT phase

non-toric non-complete intersection  
canonical CY3: 6 variables and 4 equations

$$\begin{cases} A_1 B_2 - A_2 B_1 = 0 \\ A_1 B_3 - A_3 B_1 = 0 \\ A_2 B_3 - A_3 B_2 = 0 \\ A_1 B_1 + B_2 (B_3^2 + A_2 B_2^2) + B_2 A_2^3 (A_3^2 + A_3^3)^4 = 0 \end{cases}$$

←→




# State of the art on the classification of 5d CM SCFTs

- We have seen that 5d **bifundamental** CM of type  $(\mathfrak{g}, \mathfrak{g})$  can be neatly organized into an Atomic Classification scheme (i.e. identify the collection of elementary atoms and their gaugings, in correspondence with singular CY3 geometries)  $\longrightarrow$  more atoms than in 6d

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  - I. 5d CM trinions of type  $A$  exist and can be gauged together (i.e. they are **atoms**)
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- 5d trinions/tetraons of type  $D$  admit a very constrained chemistry (they are not irreducible, and we find a **novel UV flavor enhancement** conjecture)

# Discussion and outlook

- The formalism of M-theory geometric engineering on **explicit** canonical CY3 seems to be approaching its limit: non-complete intersections with non-isolated singularities most likely dominate the landscape of CY3  $\longrightarrow$  extremely hard to classify
- Do further trinion/tetraon 5d CM of type  $D, E_6, E_7, E_8$  lie in this largely unexplored setting?

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- A more **intrinsic** approach to these questions is highly desirable

**Hint:** it has been conjectured [Jefferson, Katz, Kim, Vafa '18], [Bhardwaj '19] that all 5d  $\mathcal{N} = 1$  SCFTs descend from 6d setups (SCFTs or LSTs)

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## Open questions:

- 6d origin of 5d CM trinions and tetraons
- 5d CM SCFTs for non-simply laced flavor groups
- 4d descendants of 5d CM molecules/hybrids/trinions/tetraons



# STRINGS AND GEOMETRY 2026

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**Thank you for your attention!**

# Circle reduction of 5d CM atoms

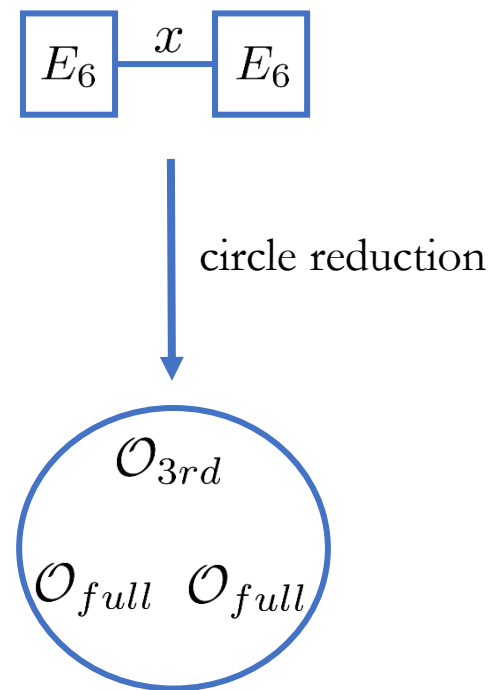
- The 4d  $\mathcal{N} = 2$  SCFT descendants can be identified for all 5d CM atoms:

Singularity	$\mathcal{O}_{3rd}$	$\mathcal{O}_{3rd}^L$	rank $\text{CB}_{\mathcal{T}_{4d}}$	flavor sym
$X_{A_{2j+1}}^{(1)}$	$[2^{j+1}]$	$[(j+1)^2]$	$j^2$	$A_{2j+1} \times A_{2j+1} \times \mathfrak{u}(1)$
$X_{A_{2j}}^{(1)}$	$[2^j, 1]$	$[j+1, j]$	$j(j-1)$	$A_{2j} \times A_{2j} \times \mathfrak{u}(1)$
$X_{D_{2j+2}}^{(1)}$	$[3^2, 2^{2j-2}, 1^2]$	$[(2j+1)^2, 1^2]$	$j(2j+3)$	$D_{2j+2} \times D_{2j+2} \times \mathfrak{u}(1)^2$
$X_{D_{2j+3}}^{(1)}$	$[3^2, 2^{2j-2}, 1^4]$	$[2j+3, 2j+1, 1^2]$	$j(2j+5) + 1$	$D_{2j+3} \times D_{2j+3} \times \mathfrak{u}(1)$
$X_{D_{2j+2}}^{(2)}$	$[2^{2j}, 1^4]$	$[2j+3, 2j+1]$	$2j^2 + j - 2$	$D_{2j+2} \times D_{2j+2}$
$X_{D_{2j+3}}^{(2)}$	$[2^{2j+2}, 1^2]$	$[(2j+3)^2]$	$j(2j+3)$	$D_{2j+3} \times D_{2j+3} \times \mathfrak{u}(1)$
$X_{D_j}^{(3)}$	$[3, 1^{2j-3}]$	$[2j-3, 1^3]$	$j-2$	$D_j \times D_j \times \mathfrak{su}(2)$
$X_{E_6}^{(1)}$	$A_2$	$E_6(a_3)$	15	$E_6 \times E_6$
$X_{E_6}^{(2)}$	$2A_1$	$D_5$	10	$E_6 \times E_6 \times \mathfrak{u}(1)$
$X_{E_6}^{(3)}$	$A_1$	$E_6(a_1)$	5	$E_6 \times E_6$
$X_{E_7}^{(1)}$	$A_2 + A_1$	$E_6(a_1)$	31	$E_7 \times E_7 \times \mathfrak{u}(1)$
$X_{E_7}^{(2)}$	$(3A_1)''$	$E_6$	20	$E_7 \times E_7 \times \mathfrak{su}(2)$
$X_{E_7}^{(3)}$	$A_1$	$E_7(a_1)$	10	$E_7 \times E_7$
$X_{E_8}^{(1)}$	$A_2 + A_1$	$E_8(a_4)$	60	$E_8 \times E_8$
$X_{E_8}^{(2)}$	$2A_1$	$E_8(a_2)$	38	$E_8 \times E_8$
$X_{E_8}^{(3)}$	$A_1$	$E_8(a_1)$	21	$E_8 \times E_8$

# Relations to other known constructions

We wish to investigate the 4d  $\mathcal{N} = 2$  theories obtained reducing 5d CM **atoms** on a circle

- Non-trivially, the resulting 4d  $\mathcal{N} = 2$  theory is a **SCFT**
- ↓
- It is a **class-S** fixture  
6d  $\mathcal{N} = (2, 0)$  theory of type  $\mathfrak{g} \in ADE$   
on a sphere with **three regular punctures**
  - Checks:
    - matching **CB dimension**
    - matching **HB dimension**
    - matching **flavor symmetry**



- punctures  $\mathcal{O}_{full} \times \mathcal{O}_{full} \times \mathcal{O}_{3rd}$
- flavor sym  $\mathfrak{g} \oplus \mathfrak{g} \oplus \mathfrak{g}_{rest}$

# Circle reduction of 5d CM molecules

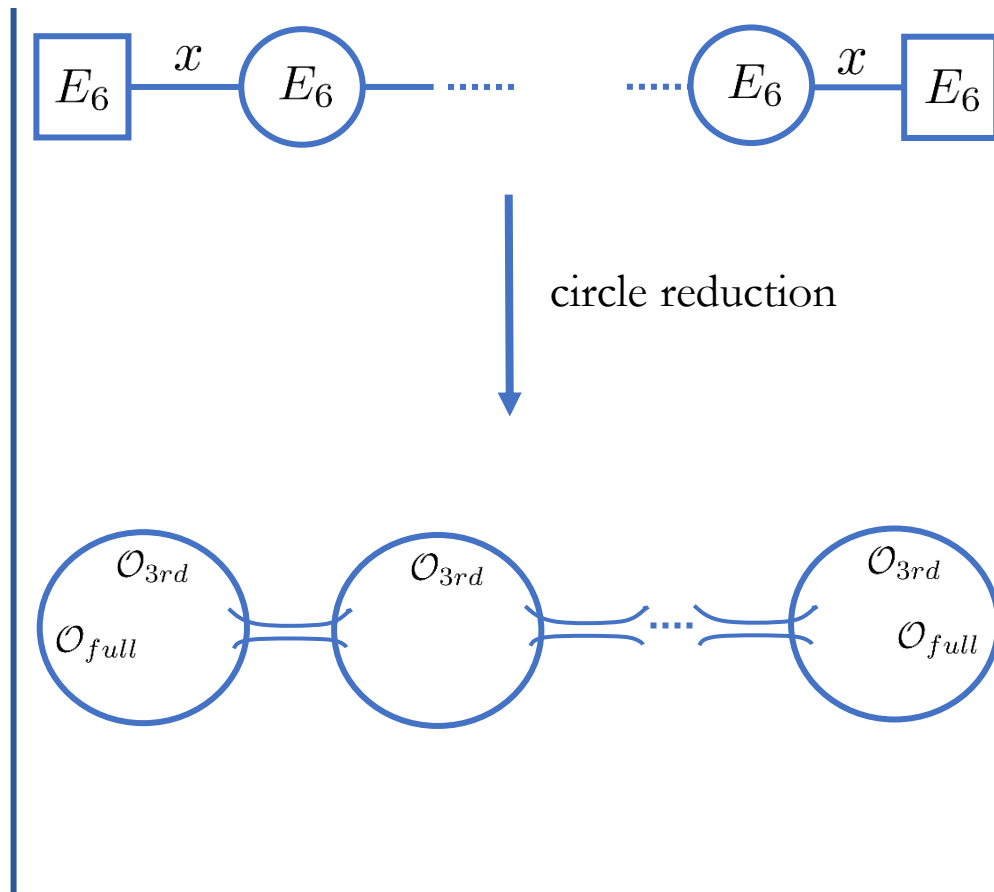
What about the 4d  $\mathcal{N} = 2$  theories obtained reducing 5d CM **molecules** on a circle

- Molecules admit a 4d  $\mathcal{N} = 2$  **class-S** description which is **not a SCFT**



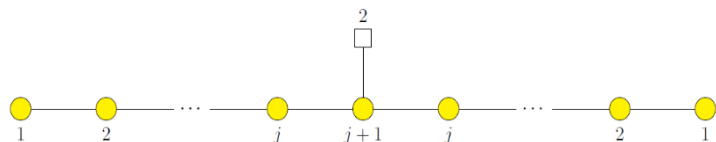
- It corresponds to a low-energy quiver gauge theory phase of the 5d SCFT engineered by:

$$\text{CY3: } \begin{cases} x^2 + y^3 + z^4 = 0 \\ x^{n_1} y^{n_2} z^{n_3} = uv \end{cases}$$

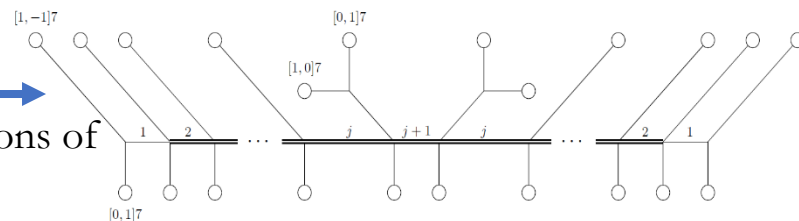


# 5d CM SCFTs across dimensions (example)

5d

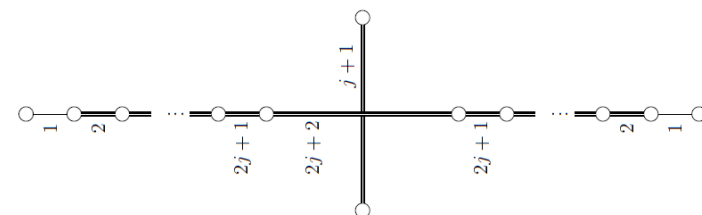


dual descriptions of  
IR phase



**CY3:** 
$$\begin{cases} x^2 + y^2 + z^{2j+2} = 0 \\ x = uv \end{cases}$$

dual descriptions at  
UV point



circle reduction

4d

6d  $\mathcal{N} = (2, 0)$   $A_{2j+1}$  on:

$$\begin{bmatrix} 3, 1^3 \\ 6 & 6 \end{bmatrix}$$

3d

**5d HB data** at UV point:

$$\begin{cases} \text{Flavor sym: } \mathfrak{su}(2j+2) \oplus \mathfrak{su}(2j+2) \oplus \mathfrak{u}(1) \\ \text{HB dimension: } 4j^2 + 9j + 4 \end{cases}$$

extract MQ

