

# Exact BPS couplings and black hole counting

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*based on works with: S. Alexandrov, S. Banerjee, G. Bossard, C. Cosnier-Horeau,  
E. d'Hoker, M. B. Green, A. Kleinschmidt, J. Manschot, D. Persson, R. Russo, ...*



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- For string vacua with  $\mathcal{N} \geq 4$  SUSY in 3+1 dimensions, the exact **BPS indices  $\Omega(Q)$**  are given by **Fourier coefficients of (classical, or Jacobi, or Siegel) modular forms**. This gives access to their large charge behavior, and enables detailed comparison with the Bekenstein-Hawking formula  $\log |\Omega(Q)| \sim \frac{1}{4} \mathcal{A}(Q)$

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# Introduction

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- Importantly, the BPS index  $\Omega(Q, z)$  is discontinuous across real codimension-one walls in moduli space, due to the (dis)appearance of **multi-centered black hole bound states**.
- For  $\mathcal{N} = 4$ , subtracting contributions from two-centered bound states, the indices counting single-centered black holes are **Fourier coefficients of mock Jacobi forms** [*Dabholkar Murthy Zagier'12*].

- In  $\mathcal{N} = 2$  string vacua, such as type IIA strings compactified on a **Calabi-Yau threefold**  $\mathcal{X}$ , precision counting is much less advanced.

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- The mathematical incarnation of BPS indices are the generalized **Donaldson-Thomas invariants** of the **category of coherent sheaves**  $D(\mathcal{X})$ , which are notoriously difficult to compute.

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- A second complication is that **multi-centered black hole bound states** with **arbitrary number of constituents** may now contribute to the index.

*Denef '00; Denef Moore '07*

- A general approach to the problem of precision counting of BPS states in  $D + 1$ -dimensional string vacua is to consider **protected couplings in the low energy effective action** in  $D$  dimensions **after compactifying on a circle** of radius  $R$ .

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- A famous example is the t Hooft-Polyakov monopole in  $D = 4$ , which descends to the instanton responsible for confinement in 3D QED [*Polyakov 1977*]

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- **BPS couplings** are interactions with  $f + 2n < \mathcal{N}$ , which only get corrections from instantons preserving some fraction of SUSY:

| $\mathcal{N}$ | $k$ | $(\mathcal{N} - k)/\mathcal{N}$ | BPS couplings                     |
|---------------|-----|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 32            | 16  | 1/2                             | $\mathcal{R}^4$                   |
| 32            | 24  | 1/4                             | $\nabla^4 \mathcal{R}^4$          |
| 32            | 28  | 1/8                             | $\nabla^6 \mathcal{R}^4$          |
| 16            | 8   | 1/2                             | $F^4, \mathcal{R}^2$              |
| 16            | 12  | 1/4                             | $\nabla^2 F^4, F^2 \mathcal{R}^2$ |
| 8             | 4   | 1/2                             | $(\nabla\phi)^2$                  |

- The coefficients of these couplings are functions  $f^{(D)}(R, z, \phi)$  of the radius  $R$ , moduli  $z$  in dimension  $D + 1$ , and holonomies  $\phi$  of the  $n$  gauge fields along the circle:

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- In presence of gravity, the dual of the Kaluza-Klein gauge field  $g_{\mu, D+1}$  leads to an additional scalar  $\sigma$ , the **NUT potential**, which lives in a circle bundle over  $\mathcal{T}_{2n}$ ,

$$\mathcal{M}_3 \sim \mathbb{R}^+ \times \mathcal{M}_4 \times \mathcal{T}_{2n} \times \mathbf{S}^1$$

# BPS indices from large radius limit

- In the limit  $R \rightarrow \infty$ ,  $f^{(D)}(R, z, \phi)$  is expected to behave as

$$f^{(D)}(R, z, \phi) \sim R f^{(D+1)}(z) + \sum_{Q \in \Lambda \setminus \{0\}} \Omega_n(Q, z) e^{-R\mathcal{M}(Q, z) + iQ \cdot \phi} + \dots$$

where  $\mathcal{M}(Q, z)$  is the BPS mass,  $\Omega_n(Q, z) \sim \text{Tr}(-1)^{2J_3} (2J_3)^n$  is the **helicity supertrace** counting BPS states with  $k = 2n$  fermionic zero-modes.

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  - 4 For gravitational theories in  $D = 3$ , contributions from **Taub-NUT instantons** of order  $\mathcal{O}(e^{-R^2})$ , needed to resolve the ambiguity of the divergent sum  $\sum_Q e^{S_{\text{BH}}(Q) - R\mathcal{M}(Q)}$  [BP Vandoren (2009)]

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- The take-home message is that the BPS coupling  $f^{(D)}(R, z, \varphi)$  provides a natural **generating series of BPS indices** in dimension  $D + 1$ , similar in spirit to the naive **black hole partition function**  $Z_n(R, z, \phi) = \sum_Q \Omega_n(Q, z) e^{-R\mathcal{M}(Q, z) + iQ \cdot \phi}$  but better behaved.

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- For  $\mathcal{N} = 2$  vacua, viewing type IIA/ $\mathcal{X} \times S^1$  as  $M/\mathcal{X} \times T^2$ , we expect the full spectrum of BPS states to be described by automorphic forms under  $G_3(\mathbb{Z}) = SL(2, \mathbb{Z}) \times \text{Mon}(\mathcal{X}) \times H_{2n+1}$ .

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- In third case, we find that generating series of DT invariants supported on divisors are **mock modular forms of higher depth**.

- 1 From BPS indices to BPS-saturated couplings
- 2 1/8-BPS couplings in  $\mathcal{N} = 8$  string vacua
- 3 1/4-BPS couplings in  $\mathcal{N} = 4$  string vacua
- 4 1/2-BPS couplings in  $\mathcal{N} = 2$  string vacua
- 5 Conclusion

# Outline

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- In type II string compactified on a torus  $T^d$ , the LEEA is expected to be invariant under  $G_{D=10-d}(\mathbb{Z}) = E_{d+1}(\mathbb{Z})$ , which extends both the T-duality group  $SO(d, d, \mathbb{Z})$  and global diffeomorphisms  $SL(d + 1, \mathbb{Z})$  of the M-theory torus. *[Hull Townsend 95, Witten 95]*

# 1/2-BPS and 1/4-BPS couplings in $\mathcal{N} = 8$ string vacua

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- Supersymmetric Ward identities and known perturbative contributions uniquely determine the  $\mathcal{R}^4$  and  $\nabla^4 \mathcal{R}^4$  couplings:

$$f_{\mathcal{R}^4}^{(D)} = 2\zeta(3) \mathcal{E}_{\frac{3}{2}\Lambda_1}^{E_{d+1}(\mathbb{Z})}, \quad f_{\nabla^4 \mathcal{R}^4}^{(D)} = \zeta(5) \mathcal{E}_{\frac{5}{2}\Lambda_1}^{E_{d+1}(\mathbb{Z})}$$

where  $\mathcal{E}_{S\lambda_k}^{G_D(\mathbb{Z})}$  is the **Langlands-Eisenstein series**

$$\mathcal{E}_{S\lambda_k}^{G_D(\mathbb{Z})} = \sum_{\gamma \in P_k(\mathbb{Z}) \setminus G(\mathbb{Z})} y_k^{-2s} |_{\gamma} = \frac{1}{2\zeta(2s)} \sum_{\substack{Q \in \Lambda_k \\ Q \times Q = 0}} [\mathcal{M}(Q)]^{-s}$$

# 1/2-BPS and 1/4-BPS couplings in $\mathcal{N} = 8$ string vacua

- At weak coupling coupling, these reproduce the known tree-level, **one-loop** and **two-loop** contributions, plus infinite series of D-instanton corrections. [*Green Gutperle '97, ...*]

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- At weak coupling, these reproduce the known tree-level, **one-loop** and **two-loop** contributions, plus infinite series of D-instanton corrections. [*Green Gutperle '97, ...*]
- In the large radius limit, one recovers the expected  $\mathcal{O}(e^{-R\mathcal{M}(Q)})$  contributions from **1/2-BPS** and **1/4-BPS** states in dimension  $D + 1$ , respectively, weighted by the helicity supertraces  $\Omega_8(Q)$  and  $\Omega_{12}(Q)$ , [*Green Miller Russo Vanhove '10, BP '10, Bossard BP '16*]

$$\Omega_8(Q) = \begin{cases} 1 & (Q \times Q = 0) \\ 0 & (Q \times Q \neq 0) \end{cases}$$
$$\Omega_{12}(Q) = \begin{cases} \sigma_3[\text{gcd}(Q \times Q)] & (I'_4(Q) = 0, Q \times Q \neq 0) \\ 0 & (I'_4(Q) \neq 0) \end{cases}$$

where  $Q \times Q$  is the Jordan quadratic product on  $\Lambda_{d+1}$  and  $I'_4(Q)$  is the gradient of the quartic invariant  $I_4(Q)$ .

# 1/8-BPS couplings in $\mathcal{N} = 8$ string vacua

- The coupling  $\nabla^6 \mathcal{R}^4$  is not given by an Eisenstein series, since SUSY requires

$$\left( \Delta_{E_{d+1}} - \frac{6(D-6)(14-D)}{D-2} \right) f_{\nabla^6 \mathcal{R}^4}^{(D)} = -[f_{\mathcal{R}^4}^{(D)}]^2$$

up to additional linear source terms in dimension  $D = 4, 5, 6$  where the local and non-local parts of the 1PI effective action mix.

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- Upon decompactifying from  $D = 3$  to  $D = 4$ , we expect contributions from 1/8-BPS black holes, weighted by  $\Omega_{14}(\mathbf{Q}) = c(I_4(\mathbf{Q})) \sim e^{\pi \sqrt{I_4(\mathbf{Q})}}$ , where  $c(n)$  are the coefficients of the weak holomorphic form

$$h(\rho) = \frac{\theta_4(2\rho)}{\eta^6(4\rho)} = \sum_{n \geq -1} c(n) q^n, \quad q = e^{2\pi i \rho}$$

*Maldacena Moore Strominger '99; Shih Strominger Yin '05; BP '05; Sen '08*

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- In  $D = 6$ , a solution reproducing known perturbative contributions up to genus 3 is [\[BP 2015\]](#)

$$f_{\nabla^6 \mathcal{R}^4}^{(6)} = \pi \text{R.N.} \int_{\mathcal{F}_2} d\mu_2 \Gamma_{5,5}^{(2)} \varphi_{KZ} + \frac{8}{189} \mathcal{E}_{4\Lambda_5}^{SO(5,5,\mathbb{Z})}$$

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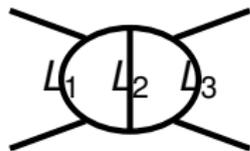
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- In generic dimension, another proposal for the exact  $\nabla^6 \mathcal{R}^4$  coupling is obtained by covariantizing the two-loop supergravity amplitude [Bossard Kleinschmidt '15; Bossard Kleinschmidt BP '20]

# Exact $\nabla^6 \mathcal{R}^4$ coupling in $\mathcal{N} = 8$ string vacua

- Performing the change of variables [Green Kwon Vanhove '99]

$$\begin{pmatrix} L_1 + L_2 & L_2 \\ L_2 & L_2 + L_3 \end{pmatrix} = \frac{1}{V\tau_2} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \tau_1 \\ \tau_1 & |\tau|^2 \end{pmatrix}$$



and integrating over overall scale  $V$ , this produces

$$f_{\nabla^6 \mathcal{R}^4}^{(D)} = \frac{8\pi^2}{3} \frac{\Gamma(d-2)}{\pi^{d-2}} \int_{\mathcal{F}} \frac{d\tau_1 d\tau_2}{\tau_2^2} A(\tau) \sum'_{\substack{Q_1, Q_2 \in \Lambda_{d+1} \\ Q_i \times Q_j = 0}} \left[ \frac{\tau_2}{G(Q_1 + \tau Q_2, Q_1 + \bar{\tau} Q_2)} \right]^{d-2}$$

where  $A(\tau)$  is given in standard fundamental domain  $\mathcal{F}$  by

$$A(\tau) = \frac{|\tau|^2 - \tau_1 + 1}{\tau_2} + \frac{5\tau_1(\tau_1 - 1)(|\tau|^2 - \tau_1)}{\tau_2^3}, \quad \frac{A(\tau)}{V} = L_1 + L_2 + L_3 - \frac{5L_1 L_2 L_3}{L_1 L_2 + L_2 L_3 + L_3 L_1}$$

and extended to upper half-plane by modular-invariance.

# Exact $\nabla^6 \mathcal{R}^4$ coupling and BPS indices

- The agreement with weak coupling expansion (and alternative proposal in  $D = 6, d = 4$ ) follows by observing [BKP'20]

$$\varphi_{KZ}(\Omega) = \sum_{\gamma \in (GL(2, \mathbb{Z}) \ltimes \mathbb{Z}^3) \setminus Sp(4, \mathbb{Z})} (A(\tau)/V) |_{\gamma}$$

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- Accordingly, the U-duality group enhances from  $G_4(\mathbb{Z}) = SL(2, \mathbb{Z}) \times O(22, 6, \mathbb{Z})$  to  $G_3(\mathbb{Z}) = O(24, 8, \mathbb{Z})$  [Sen 1994]

# 1/2-BPS and 1/4-BPS couplings in $\mathcal{N} = 4$ string vacua

- The 4-derivative and 6-derivative couplings in  $D = 3$

$$F_{abcd}(\Phi) \nabla\Phi^a \nabla\Phi^b \nabla\Phi^c \nabla\Phi^d + G_{ab,cd}(\Phi) \nabla(\nabla\Phi^a \nabla\Phi^b) \nabla(\nabla\Phi^c \nabla\Phi^d)$$

are expected to get contributions from 1/2-BPS and 1/4-BPS instantons, respectively. *[Bossard Cosnier-Horeau BP '16]*

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- SUSY requires that the coefficients satisfy various differential constraints. Schematically,

$$\mathcal{D}_{ef}^2 F_{abcd} = 0, \quad \mathcal{D}_{ef}^2 G_{ab,cd} = F_{abk(e} F_{f)cd}^k$$

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- These constraints imply that  $F_{abcd}$  is perturbatively exact at one-loop, while  $G_{ab,cd}$  is perturbatively exact at two-loop in heterotic perturbation theory. For brevity we focus on  $G_{ab,cd}$ .

# BPS indices from Siegel modular forms

- Degeneracies of 1/4-BPS dyons are given by Fourier coefficients of a **meromorphic Siegel modular form**:

$$\Omega_6(Q, P; z) = (-1)^{Q \cdot P} \int_{\mathcal{C}} d^3\Omega \frac{e^{i\pi(\rho Q^2 + \sigma P^2 + 2\nu Q \cdot P)}}{\Phi_{10}(\Omega)}$$

where  $\Omega = \begin{pmatrix} \rho & \nu \\ \nu & \sigma \end{pmatrix} \in \mathcal{H}_2$ , and  $\Phi_{10}$  is the Igusa cusp form of weight 10 under  $Sp(4, \mathbb{Z})$ . *[Dijkgraaf Verlinde Verlinde '96; David Jatkar Sen '05-06]*

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- The integration contour is chosen as  $\mathcal{C} = [0, 1]^3 + i\Omega_2^*$  with

$$\Omega_2^* = \Lambda \left[ \frac{1}{S_2} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & S_1 \\ S_1 & |S|^2 \end{pmatrix} + \frac{1}{|P_R \wedge Q_R|} \begin{pmatrix} |P_R|^2 & -P_R \cdot Q_R \\ -P_R \cdot Q_R & |Q_R|^2 \end{pmatrix} \right]$$

with  $\Lambda \gg 1$ . This ensures that  $\mathcal{C}$  crosses a zero of  $\Phi_{10}$  whenever  $z$  crosses a wall of marginal stability. [*Cheng Verlinde '07*]

# Wall-crossing from residues

- By virtue of

$$\frac{1}{\Phi_{10}(\Omega)} \stackrel{v \rightarrow 0}{\sim} \frac{1}{v^2} \times \frac{1}{\Delta(\rho)} \times \frac{1}{\Delta(\sigma)}$$

where  $1/\Delta = \sum_{N \geq -1} c(N) q^N$  is the generating function of the BPS indices  $\Omega_4(Q, P)$  counting 1/2-BPS states, the jump in  $\Omega_6(Q, P; z)$  matches the contribution of **bound states of two 1/2-BPS dyons**:

$$\Delta\Omega_6(Q, P) = \pm(P_1 Q_2 - P_2 Q_1) \Omega_4(Q_1, P_1) \Omega_4(Q_2, P_2)$$

where  $P_1 \parallel Q_1, P_2 \parallel Q_2, (Q, P) = (Q_1, P_1) + (Q_2, P_2)$ .

*Denef Moore '07*

# Perturbative $\nabla^2(\nabla\Phi)^4$ coupling in $D = 3$

- The  $\nabla^2(\nabla\Phi)^4$  coupling receives up to two-loop corrections,

$$g_3^6 G_{ab,cd} = \frac{c_0}{g_3^2} \delta_{ab} \delta_{cd} + \delta_{ab} G_{cd}^{(1)} + g_3^2 G_{ab,cd}^{(2)} + \mathcal{O}(e^{-1/g_3^2})$$

where the **one-loop** correction is given by [Sakai Tani '87]

$$G_{ab}^{(1)} = \text{RN} \int_{\mathcal{F}_1} d\mu_1 \frac{\widehat{E}_2 \Gamma_{23,7}[P_{ab}]}{\Delta},$$

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- Here,  $P_{ab}$  and  $P_{ab,cd}$  are quadratic and quartic polynomials in lattice vectors.

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- For  $\gamma = n[pt]$  supported on a **point**, S-duality requires  $\Omega(\gamma, z) = -\chi_{\mathcal{X}}$  (independent of  $z$ )

*Robles-Llana Rocek Saueressig Theis Vandoren '06*

# Constraining DT invariants from S-duality

- For  $\gamma = \beta + n[pt]$  supported on a **curve**  $\beta$ ,  $\Omega(\gamma, z) = \sum_{d|\beta} \frac{1}{d^3} n_{\beta/d}^{(0)}$   
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*Robles-Llana Saueressig Theis Vandoren '07*

- For  $\gamma = \mathcal{D} + \beta + n[pt]$  supported on an **ample divisor**  $\mathcal{D}$ , the generating series of attractor indices  $h_{\mathcal{D},\beta}(\tau) = \sum_n \Omega_*(\gamma) q^n$  should be a vector-valued **weakly holomorphic modular form** of prescribed (negative) weight and multiplier system.

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- For  $\gamma$  supported on a **reducible divisor**  $\mathcal{D} = \sum_{i=1}^n \mathcal{D}_i$ , the same generating series  $h_{\mathcal{D},\beta}(\tau)$  should be a vector-valued **mock modular form** of **depth**  $n - 1$  and same weight/multiplier system.

*Alexandrov Banerjee Manschot BP '16-19*

# Constraining DT invariants from S-duality

- For  $\gamma = \beta + n[pt]$  supported on a **curve**  $\beta$ ,  $\Omega(\gamma, z) = \sum_{d|\beta} \frac{1}{d^3} n_{\beta/d}^{(0)}$  hence coincides with **genus-zero Gopakumar-Vafa invariant** (independent of  $z$ )

*Robles-Llana Saueressig Theis Vandoren '07*

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- For  $\gamma$  supported on the **full CY3**, S-duality relates  $\Omega(\gamma, z)$  to **topological string partition function** and ill-understood KKM effects.

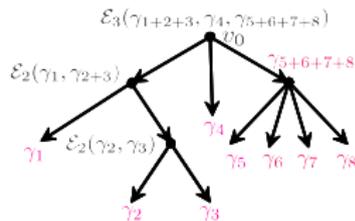
# Mock modularity for DT invariants

- More explicitly (setting  $\mathcal{D} = p$  and suppressing dependence on  $\beta$ ) there exists explicit functions  $R_n(\{\gamma_i\}, \tau_2)$ , built out of **generalized error functions**  $\mathcal{E}_V = \mathcal{E}_V^{(0)} + \mathcal{E}_V^{(+)}$  such that

$$\widehat{h}_p = h_p + \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \sum_{\gamma = \sum_{i=1}^n \gamma_i} e^{i\pi\tau Q_n(\{\gamma_i\})} R_n(\{\gamma_i\}, \tau_2) \prod_{i=1}^n h_{p_i}$$

transforms as a modular form of weight  $-\frac{1}{2}b_2 - 1$ . Here  $Q_n(\{\gamma_i\}) = \kappa^{ab} q_a q_b - \sum_{i=1}^n \kappa_i^{ab} q_{i,a} q_{i,b}$  and  $\kappa^{ab} = (\kappa_{abc} p^c)^{-1}$

$$R_n = \text{Sym} \left\{ \sum_{T \in \mathbb{T}_n^S} (-1)^{n_T - 1} \mathcal{E}_{V_0}^{(+)} \prod_{V \in V_T \setminus \{V_0\}} \mathcal{E}_V^{(0)} \right\}$$



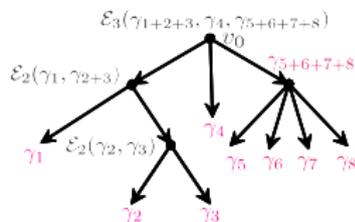
Alexandrov Banerjee Manschot BP '16-19

# Mock modularity for DT invariants

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$$\partial_{\bar{\tau}} \widehat{h}_p = \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \sum_{\gamma = \sum_{i=1}^n \gamma_i} e^{i\pi\tau Q_n(\{\gamma_i\})} \widehat{R}_n(\{\gamma_i\}, \tau_2) \prod_{i=1}^n \widehat{h}_{p_i}$$

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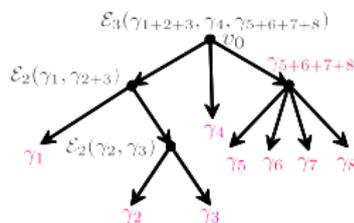


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- In principle, one can use this information to determine  $h_p$  from the knowledge of the polar coefficients. In practice, this has only been done for one-parameter families of compact CY (such as the quintic) with primitive D4-brane charge [Gaiotto Strominger Yin '06]

- For local CY three-folds of the form  $\mathcal{X} = K_S$  where  $S$  is a Fano surface, the DT invariants supported on  $N[S]$  are equal to rank  $N$  Vafa-Witten invariants.

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- For  $N = 2$ ,  $S = \mathbb{P}^2$ , it reduces to the usual story about the generating series of Hurwitz class numbers.

*Zagier '75; Klyashko '91; Yoshioka '94; Vafa Witten '94; Dabholkar Putrov Witten '20*

- 1 From BPS indices to BPS-saturated couplings
- 2 1/8-BPS couplings in  $\mathcal{N} = 8$  string vacua
- 3 1/4-BPS couplings in  $\mathcal{N} = 4$  string vacua
- 4 1/2-BPS couplings in  $\mathcal{N} = 2$  string vacua
- 5 Conclusion

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- The contributions from  $D - \bar{D}$  instantons and Kaluza-Klein monopoles are not well understood yet. A first principle derivation from string field theory would be desirable.
- The hypermultiplet moduli space in type IIB/ $\mathcal{X}$  is identical to the vector multiplet moduli space in type IIA on  $\mathcal{X} \times S^1$ , and determined by the same DT invariants, so this story may have implications for string phenomenology as well.