2 dim QED
and
String Theory

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based on arXiv:1812.10064 with Adi Armoni

closely related papers:
1807.00093, 1811.10642 Anber-Poppitz
1905.05781 Misumi-Tanizaki-Unsal

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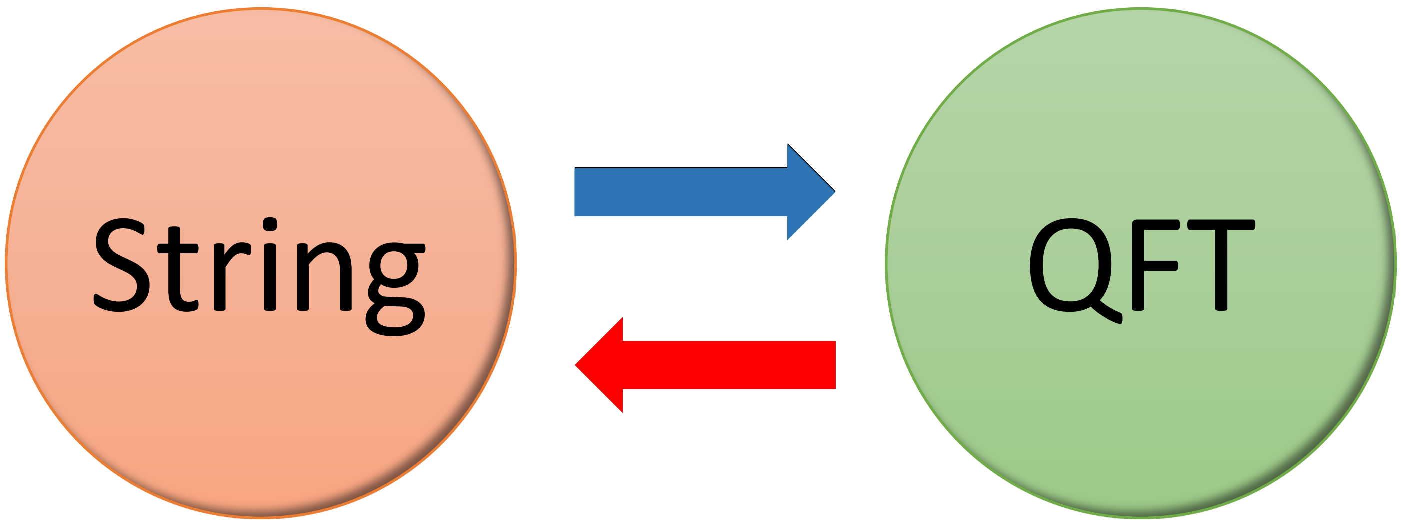
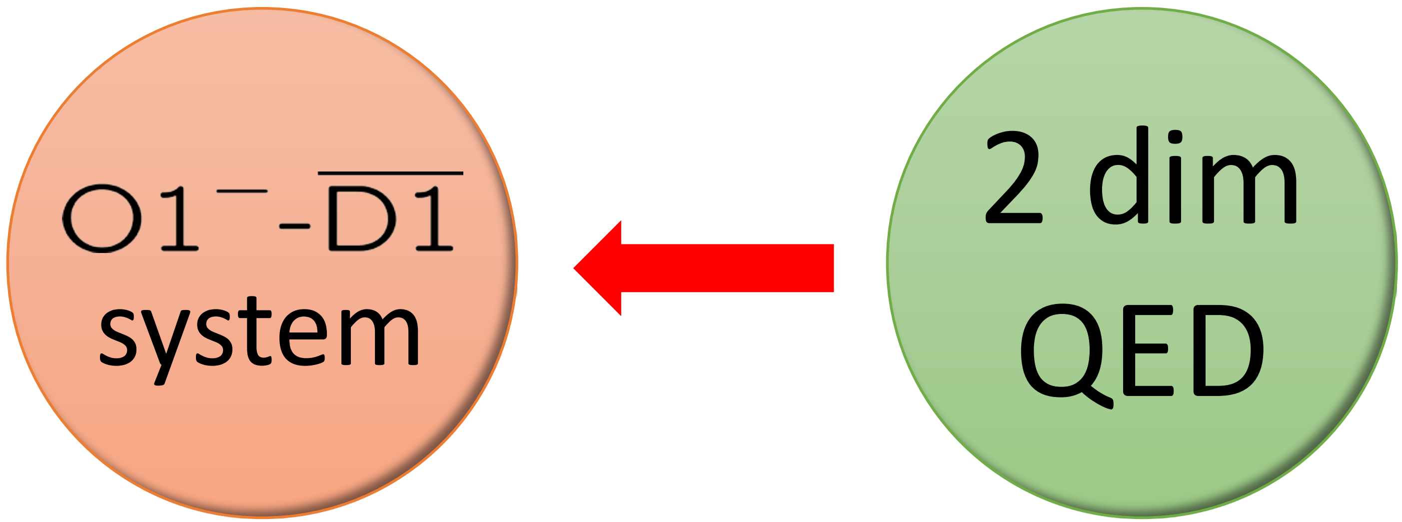
1 Introduction



We can use duality (S-duality, M-theory lift, holography etc.) in string theory to study QFT

Analysis in QFT can be applied to understand non-perturbative phenomenon in string theory ← This talk

Today, we consider 2 dim QED to study non-perturbative brane dynamics in string theory



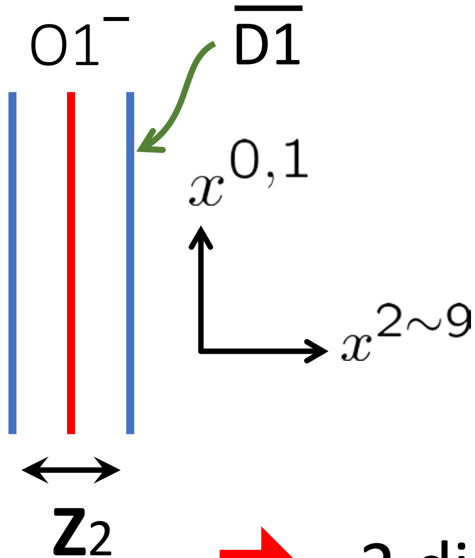
2 dim QED

- massless case is exactly solvable [Schwinger 1962, …]
- ∃ various techniques to analyze
- non-trivial and interesting strongly coupled QFT

➡ It will be interesting to apply it to string theory

$O1^-$-$\overline{D1}$ system

(Wait for more explanation)



		gauge	Lorentz 0,1	Rotation 2∼9
		$U(1)$ charge	$SO(1,1)$	$SO(8)$
gauge	a_μ	0	2	1
scalar	ϕ_I	0	1	8_v
fermion	ψ^i_+	2	1_+	8_+
fermion	ψ^i_-	2	1_-	8_-

➡ 2 dim QED with 8 Dirac fermions of charge 2
(coupled with 8 scalar fields)

This motivated us to consider

2 dim QED with N_f fermions of charge k

The k dependence turns out to be very important!

Consider charge *k* fermions x N_f $(k \in \mathbf{Z},\ k > 0)$

$$S = \int d^2x \left(-\frac{1}{4e^2} F_{\mu\nu}^2 + i\bar{\psi}_i \gamma^\mu (\partial_\mu + ikA_\mu)\psi^i \right) \qquad i = 1, \cdots, N_f$$

- *k* dependence cannot be eliminated by the rescaling $kA_\mu \to A_\mu$

  because of the flux quantization condition $\frac{1}{2\pi}\int F \in \mathbf{Z}$

- *k* dependence appears in the global symmetry

  - $\mathbf{Z}_{kN_f}$ axial sym: $\psi_\pm \to e^{\pm i\alpha}\psi_\pm \qquad \psi^i = \begin{pmatrix} \psi_+^i \\ \psi_-^i \end{pmatrix}$

    anomaly ⇒ $\alpha = \frac{\pi \ell}{kN_f}, \quad \ell = 1, 2, \cdots, kN_f$

  - $\mathbf{Z}_k$ 1-form sym : $A_1 \to A_1 + \frac{1}{kR}, \quad \psi^i \to e^{-ix^1/R}\psi^i$

    (Here, the x^1 direction is compactified to S^1 of radius R)

  It acts on the Wilson loop op. as $W \equiv e^{i\int dx^1 A_1} \to e^{2\pi i/k} W$

Main Results

- **New results in 2 dim QED** *cf* [Anber-Poppitz 2018]

  2 dim QED with N_f massless fermions of charge k

  $$\langle \det(\psi^{\dagger}_{+j}\psi^{i}_{-})\rangle \neq 0 \qquad \left(\text{although} \quad \langle \psi^{\dagger}_{+j}\psi^{i}_{-}\rangle = 0 \quad (\text{for } N_f > 1)\right)$$

  ⇒ Spontaneous Sym Breaking $\mathbf{Z}_{kN_f} \to \mathbf{Z}_{N_f}$

  ⇒ ∃ k degenerate vacua

- **Non-perturbative calculations in string theory**

  T_Q := tension of (Q,-1)-string (= bound state of Q F1 and 1 $\overline{\text{D1}}$)

  When (Q,-1)-string is placed near O1$^-$-plane with distance Y,

  $$T_Q = \text{const.} - C_Q\, g_s^{1/9} \alpha'^{-17/9} Y^{16/9} \qquad (Y^2 \ll g_s \alpha')$$

  $$\left(C_Q = \frac{18}{\pi^3}\left(\frac{e^{\gamma}}{2}\right)^{16/9} \times \begin{cases} 1 & (Q = \text{even}) \\ \cos^{16/9}(\pi/8) & (Q = \text{odd}) \end{cases} \right)$$

Plan

✓ 1. Introduction
2. 2 dim QED
3. Application to string theory
4. Conclusion

2 2 dim QED

Bosonization

- non-Abelian bosonization [Witten 1984]

$$\psi^i = (\psi^i_+, \psi^i_-)^T \longleftrightarrow u = (u^i{}_j) \in U(N_f)$$

Nf Dirac fermions — *U*(*Nf*) valued scalar field

$$\psi^\dagger_+ \psi_- \sim c\, u\ , \quad \psi^\dagger_- \psi_- \sim \frac{i}{2\pi} u \partial_- u^{-1}\ , \quad \psi^\dagger_+ \psi_+ \sim \frac{i}{2\pi} u^{-1} \partial_+ u\ ,$$

- $u = e^{i\varphi} g \qquad (e^{i\varphi}, g) \in U(1) \times SU(N_f)$

Identification $\varphi \to \varphi - \frac{2\pi}{N_f}\ , \quad g \to e^{\frac{2\pi i}{N_f}} g$

- Action for the bosonized description

level 1 WZW action

$$S = \int d^2x \left(-\frac{1}{4e^2} F^2_{\mu\nu} + \frac{N_f}{8\pi} \partial_\mu \varphi \partial^\mu \varphi + \frac{k N_f}{2\pi} \varphi F_{01} + S_{\text{WZW}}(g) \right)$$

$$S = \int d^2x \left(-\frac{1}{4e^2} F_{\mu\nu}^2 + \frac{N_f}{8\pi} \partial_\mu \varphi \partial^\mu \varphi + \frac{kN_f}{2\pi} \varphi F_{01} + S_{\rm WZW}(g) \right)$$

- Identification $\varphi \to \varphi - \frac{2\pi}{N_f}$, $g \to e^{\frac{2\pi i}{N_f}} g$: gauged **Z**$_{N_f}$ sym
- **Z**$_{kN_f}$ axial sym $\varphi \to \varphi - \frac{2\pi}{kN_f}$
- **Z**$_k$ 1-form sym $A_1 \to A_1 + \frac{1}{kR}$

- Canonical momenta conjugate to A_1, φ $(A_0 = 0 \text{ gauge})$

$$\Pi_A \equiv \frac{1}{2e^2} \partial_0 A_1 + \frac{kN_f}{2\pi} \varphi \ , \quad \Pi_\varphi \equiv \frac{N_f}{4\pi} \partial_0 \varphi$$

$$\mathbf{Z}_{kN_f} \ : \ \hat{V} \equiv \exp \left(-\frac{2\pi i}{kN_f} \int dx^1 \Pi_\varphi + i \int dx^1 A_1 \right)$$

$$\mathbf{Z}_k \ : \ \hat{U} \equiv \exp \left(\frac{2\pi i}{k} \Pi_A \right)$$

Non-commutative algebra

cf [Anber-Poppitz 2018]

$$\mathbf{Z}_{kN_f} \;:\; \hat{V} \equiv \exp\left(-\frac{2\pi i}{kN_f}\int dx^1 \Pi_\varphi + i\int dx^1 A_1\right)$$

$$\mathbf{Z}_{k} \;:\; \hat{U} \equiv \exp\left(\frac{2\pi i}{k}\Pi_A\right)$$

$$\rightarrow \quad \hat{U}\hat{V} = \hat{V}\hat{U}e^{\frac{2\pi i}{k}}$$

The classical $\mathbf{Z}_k$ x $\mathbf{Z}_{kN_f}$ symmetry is centrally extended.

⇒ The vacuum cannot be trivial !

The vacuum states have to be consistent with the above algebra

Vacuum structure

- $N_f = 1$ case $\langle \overline{\psi}\psi \rangle \neq 0$ [Anber-Poppitz 2018]

  $\Rightarrow$ the axial $\mathbf{Z}_k$ is spontaneously broken

  $\Rightarrow$ $\exists$ k degenerate vacua

$$\left(\begin{array}{l} cf \quad \mathcal{N}=1 \text{ SU}(N) \text{ SYM in 4 dim} \\ U(1)_R \xrightarrow{\text{anomaly}} \mathbf{Z}_{2N} \xrightarrow[\langle \lambda\lambda \rangle \neq 0]{\text{SSB}} \mathbf{Z}_2 \Rightarrow \exists\ N \text{ vacua} \end{array} \right)$$

- $N_f > 1$ case $\langle \overline{\psi}_i \psi^j \rangle = 0$ ← Coleman-Mermin-Wagner Theorem

$$\text{But, } \langle \det(\psi^{\dagger}_{+i}\psi^{j}_{-}) \rangle \overset{\text{bosonize}}{\sim} \langle \det u \rangle = \langle e^{iN_f \varphi} \rangle \neq 0$$

massive scalar (φ)

$\Rightarrow$ the axial $\mathbf{Z}_{kN_f}$ $\left(\varphi \to \varphi - \frac{2\pi}{kN_f} \right)$ is spontaneously broken to $\mathbf{Z}_{N_f}$

$\Rightarrow$ $\exists$ k degenerate vacua

Explicit construction of the *k* vacua

- Pick a vacuum, which is an eigenstate of $\hat{U} = \exp\left(\frac{2\pi i}{k}\Pi_A\right)$

$$\hat{U}|\theta\rangle = e^{i\theta/k}|\theta\rangle$$

<u>comments</u>

- $\hat{U}$ commutes with the gauge inv. local operators $F_{\mu\nu}, \varphi, \partial_\mu\varphi, \cdots$

  ⇒ Superselection sectors are characterized by the eigenvalue of $\hat{U}$

- θ is the θ parameter and $|\theta>$ is the θ vacuum

- The other vacua can be obtained by acting $\hat{V} = e^{i\int dx^1\left(-\frac{2\pi}{kN_f}\Pi_\varphi + A_1\right)}$

$$\{\text{vacuum}\} = \left\{|\theta\rangle, \hat{V}|\theta\rangle, \cdots, \hat{V}^{k-1}|\theta\rangle\right\} \quad \left(\hat{V}^n|\theta\rangle = |\theta + 2\pi n\rangle\right)$$

$\left(\hat{V}^k : \varphi \to \varphi - \frac{2\pi}{N_f} \text{ corresponds to the gauged } \mathbf{Z}_{N_f} \text{ sym}\right)$

⇒ *k* dim representation of the algebra $\hat{U}\hat{V} = \hat{V}\hat{U}e^{\frac{2\pi i}{k}}$

Mass deformation

- Consider adding a fermion mass term $\sim M_0 \overline{\psi}\psi$

  $\mathbf{Z}_{kN_f}$ sym is explicitly broken ⇒ The degeneracy of the k vacua is lifted

- For $M_0 \ll e$,

[Smilga 1992,
Hetrick-Hosotani-Iso 1995,
Rodriguez-Hosotani 1996]

$$\mathcal{E}(\theta) \propto M_0 \langle \theta \,|\, \overline{\psi}_j \psi^j \,|\, \theta \rangle = f(\theta)\, m_h^{\frac{2}{N_f+1}} M_0^{\frac{2N_f}{N_f+1}}$$

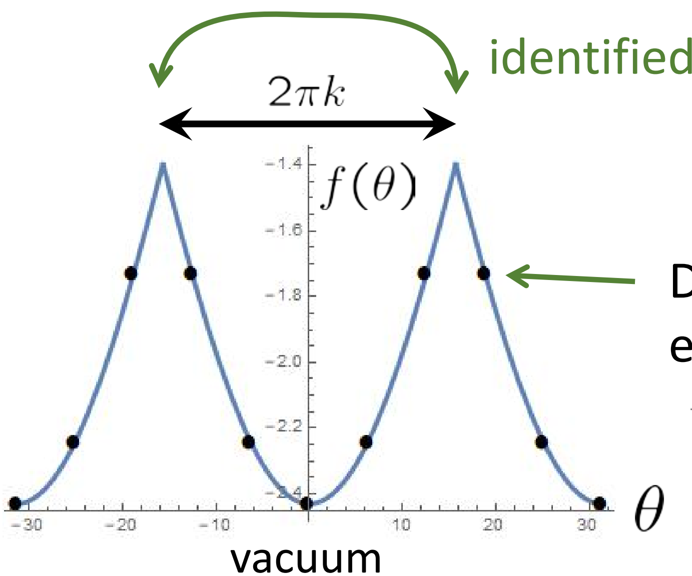
energy density of $|\theta>$

$$m_h^2 \equiv \frac{e^2 k^2 N_f}{\pi}$$

$$f(\theta) \equiv -\frac{N_f}{4\pi}\left(2\exp(\gamma)\cos\left(\frac{1}{N_f}\overline{(\theta/k)}\right)\right)^{\frac{2N_f}{N_f+1}}$$

$\overline{(x)} = x$ for $-\pi < x < \pi$

and $\overline{(x+2\pi)} = \overline{(x)}$



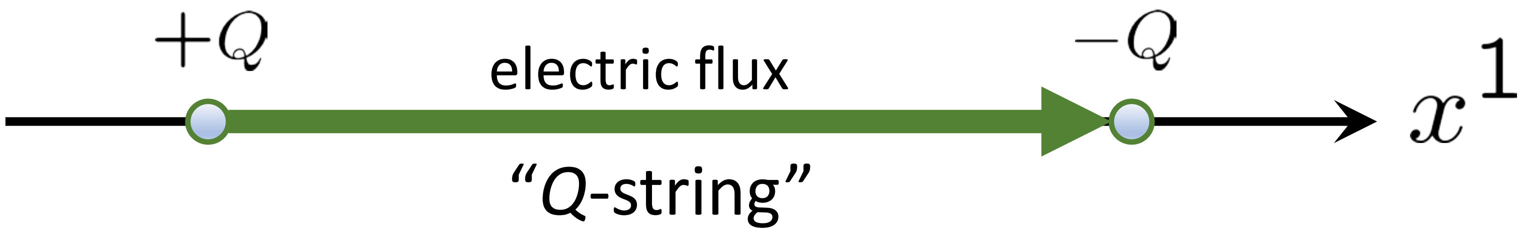
$f(\theta)$ for $N_f = 4$, $k = 5$

Dots:
energy of the k states

$$\hat{V}^n|0\rangle = |2\pi n\rangle \ , \quad n = 0, 1, \cdots, k-1$$

(k vacua for M_0=0 and θ = 0)

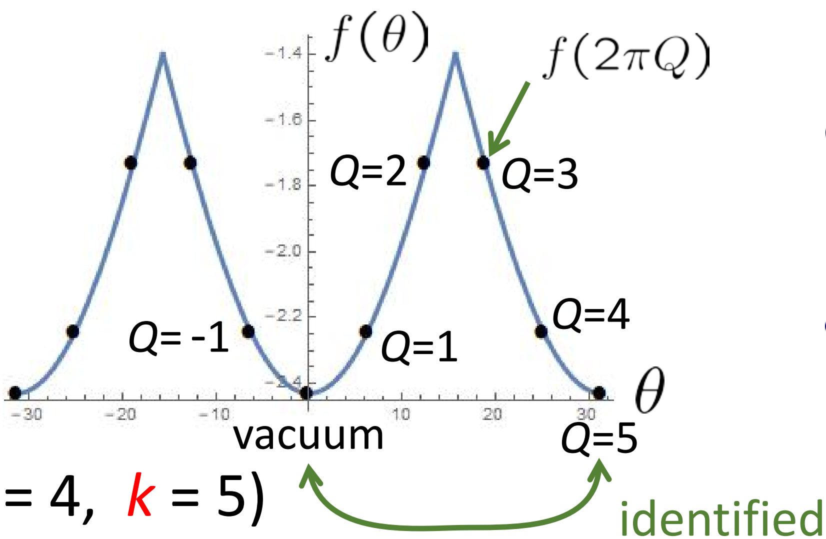
Q-string states



$$S_{\rm int} = Q\int dt A_0\Big|_{x^1=-L} - Q\int dt A_0\Big|_{x^1=+L} = Q\int F \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad \Delta\theta = 2\pi Q$$

➡ Q-string tension (= energy density of Q-flux) (for $\theta = 0$)

$$\sigma(Q) = \mathcal{E}(2\pi Q) - \mathcal{E}(0) \propto \left(f(2\pi Q) - f(0)\right) m_h^{\frac{2}{N_f+1}} M_0^{\frac{2N_f}{N_f+1}}$$



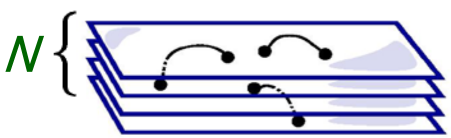
($N_f = 4$, $k = 5$)

- $\sigma(Q + k) = \sigma(Q)$
  screening by charge k fermions
- $\sigma(Q) \to 0$ as $M_0 \to 0$
  Q-string state becomes $Q^{\rm th}$ vacuum

④ Application to String Theory

D-brane & orientifold plane

- D*p*-brane: (*p*+1) dim object on which open strings can end



➡ (*p*+1) dim U(*N*) gauge theory

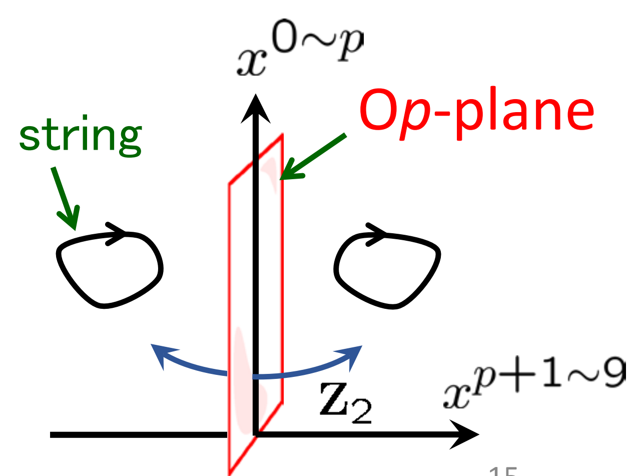
- O*p*-plane:

(*p*+1) dim fixed plane of $\mathbf{Z}_2$ $\begin{cases} x^{p+1\sim 9} \to -x^{p+1\sim 9} \\ \text{and flip orientation of strings} \end{cases}$

- Two basic types: O*p*$^-$ & O*p*$^+$

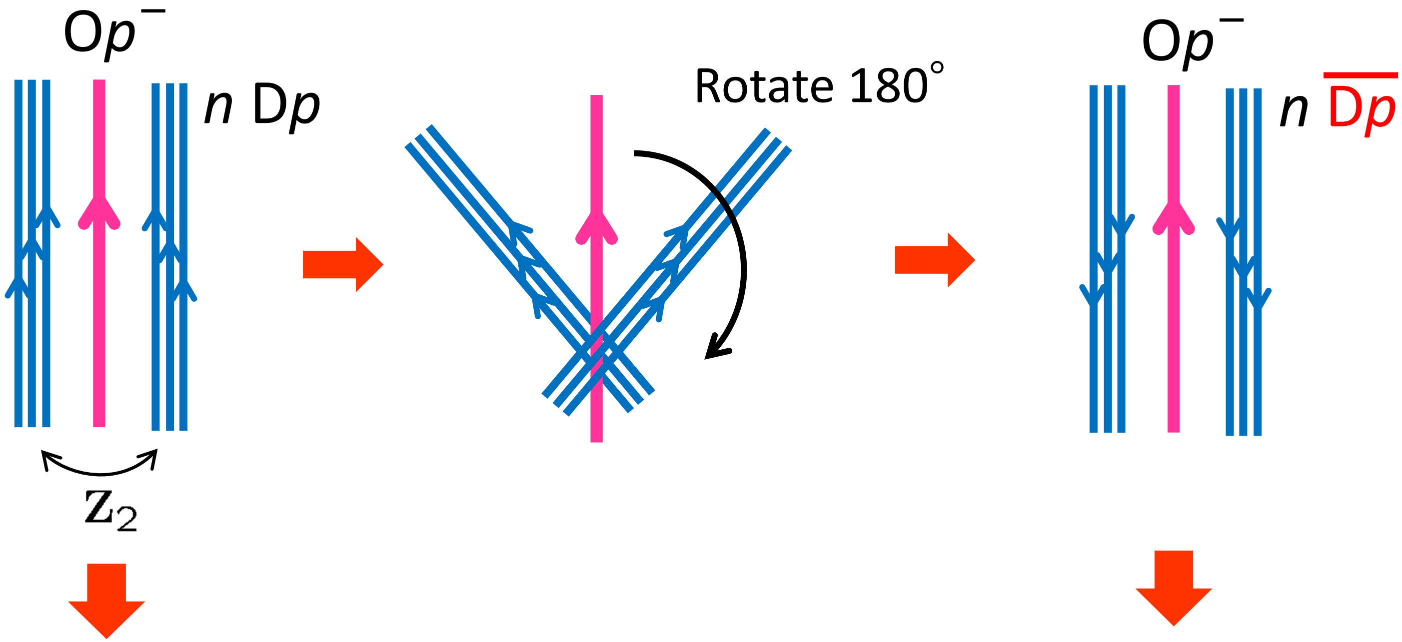
O*p*$^-$ + *n* D*p* ➡ SO(2*n*) gauge theory

O*p*$^+$ + *n* D*p* ➡ USp(2*n*) gauge theory

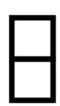


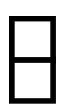
Op^{-}-$\overline{Dp}$ system

[SS 1999]

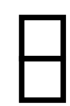


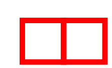
(p+1) dim maximally SUSY
SO(2n) gauge theory

A_μ, Φ_I (gauge, scalar)  of SO(2n)

Ψ^i (fermion)  of SO(2n)

(p+1) dim non-SUSY
SO(2n) gauge theory

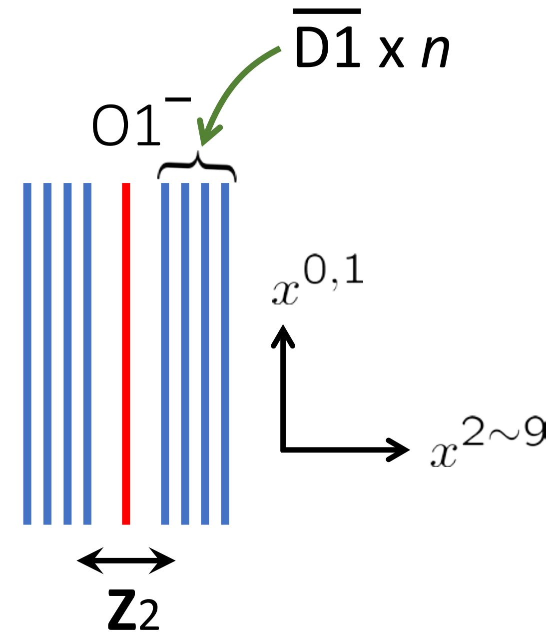
A_μ, Φ_I (gauge, scalar)  of SO(2n)

Ψ^i (fermion)  of SO(2n)

$O1^{-}$ - $\overline{D1}$ system

- $O1^{-}$-plane + $\overline{D1}$-brane x *n*

		gauge	Lorentz	
		$SO(2n)$	$SO(1,1)$	$SO(8)$
gauge	A_μ	adj ⊟	2	1
scalar	Φ_I	adj ⊟	1	8_v
fermion	Ψ^i_+	sym ◫	1_+	8_+
	Ψ^i_-	sym ◫	1_-	8_-



- *n* = 1 case

		gauge	Lorentz	
		$U(1)$ charge	$SO(1,1)$	$SO(8)$
gauge	a_μ	0	2	1
scalar	ϕ_I	0	1	8_v
fermion	ψ^i_+	2	1_+	8_+
	ψ^i_-	2	1_-	8_-

(+ neutral fermions)

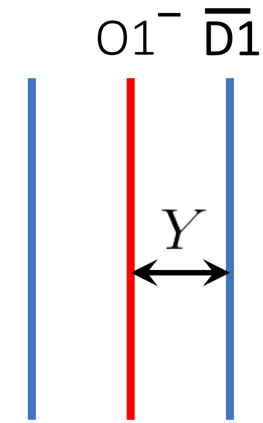
➡ 2 dim QED with k = 2, N_f = 8 coupled with 8 scalar fields

Interpretation

$$Z_{\text{Full}} = \int \mathcal{D}\phi \, e^{i\int d^2x \frac{1}{2}(\partial_\mu \phi_I)^2} Z_{\text{QED}}[\phi_I] \ ,$$

$$Z_{\text{QED}}[\phi_I] \equiv \int \mathcal{D}a \mathcal{D}\psi \mathcal{D}\overline{\psi} \, e^{iS_{\text{QED}}[a_\mu, \psi^i] + iS_{\text{Yukawa}}[\phi_I, \psi^i]}$$

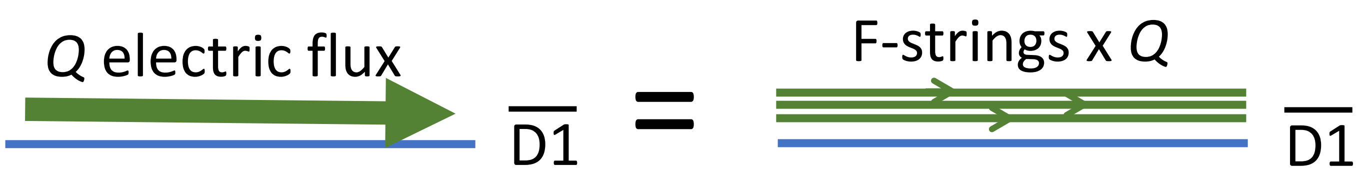
We focus on this QED part.



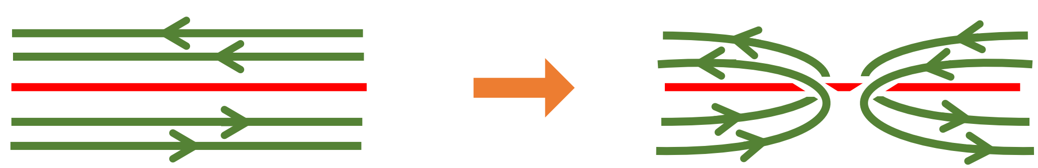
- $|\phi_I| \propto$ distance between $O1^-$ and $\overline{D1} \equiv Y$

  $\propto$ fermion mass M_0 ⬅ $S_{\text{Yukawa}} \sim \phi \overline{\psi} \psi$

- Q-string = (Q,−1)-string = bound state of $\overline{D1}$ and F1 x Q



- F1 x 2 can be screened

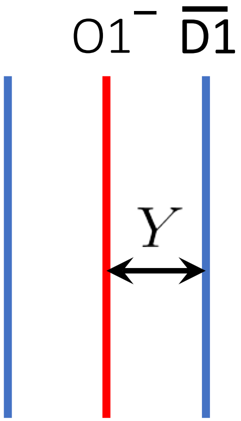


Prediction

T_Q := tension of $(Q,\text{-}1)$-string (= bound state of Q F1 and 1 $\overline{\text{D1}}$)

When $(Q,\text{-}1)$-string is placed near O1^--plane with distance Y,

$$
\begin{aligned}
T_Q &= \text{const.} + \mathcal{E}(2\pi Q) \qquad (\text{valid when } Y^2 \ll g_s\alpha') \\
&= \text{const.} - C_Q\, g_s^{1/9} \alpha'^{-17/9} Y^{16/9}
\end{aligned}
$$



$$
\left(\begin{array}{l}
C_Q \propto -f(2\pi Q) \propto \begin{cases} 1 & (Q = \text{even}) \\ \cos^{16/9}(\pi/8) & (Q = \text{odd}) \end{cases} \\
\text{Recall:} \quad \mathcal{E}(\theta) \propto f(\theta)\, m_h^{\frac{2}{N_f+1}} M_0^{\frac{2N_f}{N_f+1}}
\end{array} \right)
$$

cf) Behavior at large Y

$$T_Q = \frac{1}{2\pi\alpha'}\sqrt{Q^2 + \frac{1}{g_s^2}}$$

5 Conclusion

Summary

- We found SSB $\mathbf{Z}_{kNf} \to \mathbf{Z}_{Nf}$ and k vacua in 2 dim QED with Nf fermions of charge k
- Non-perturbative calculations in $O1^{-}$-$\overline{D1}$ system

Discussion

- How about 2 dim QCD? 3 dim QED? 4 dim QED?
- Curious relation: $$\langle \overline{\psi}_i \psi^i \rangle = \pi \alpha' \frac{\partial \mathcal{E}(Y)}{\partial Y}$$

chiral condensate — force between $O1^{-}$ and $\overline{D1}$

VEV in QFT — Brane dynamics

How general can this be?

How much can we learn from such relations?

Thank you !