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Robert L. Karp

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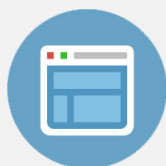
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## On the $\mathbb{C}^n/\mathbb{Z}_m$ fractional branes

Robert L. Karp<sup>a)</sup>

*Department of Physics, Virginia Tech Blacksburg, Virginia 24061, USA*

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We construct several geometric representatives for the  $\mathbb{C}^n/\mathbb{Z}_m$  fractional branes on either a partially or the completely resolved orbifold. In the process we use large radius and conifold-type monodromies and provide a strong consistency check. In particular, for  $\mathbb{C}^3/\mathbb{Z}_5$  we give three different sets of geometric representatives. We also find the explicit Seiberg duality which connects our fractional branes to the ones given by the McKay correspondence. © 2009 American Institute of Physics. [DOI: [10.1063/1.3072696](https://doi.org/10.1063/1.3072696)]

### I. INTRODUCTION

In recent years there have been significant advances in our understanding of the physical properties of D-branes throughout the entire moduli space of a given Calabi–Yau compactification. In particular, for type II compactifications Douglas showed that the topological B-branes are in one-to-one correspondence with the objects of the derived category of coherent sheaves on the Calabi–Yau variety.<sup>1</sup> To relate the topological B-branes to the physical ones he also pioneered the notion of  $\pi$ -stability. Subsequently Bridgeland axiomatized  $\pi$ -stability.

Since the Kahler deformations are exact in the topological B-model, the derived category description of topological B-branes is valid at any point of the moduli space. On the other hand,  $\mathcal{N}=2$  type II compactifications generically have a rich phase structure and the description of B-branes in the various phases is quite different. This gives rise to interesting mathematical statements, the best known of which is the celebrated McKay correspondence.

In general, determining the set of  $\pi$ -stable branes is cumbersome. One could start at a point with a good understanding of stability, e.g., a large radius point, where  $\pi$ -stability reduces to  $\mu$ -stability, and try to catalog what objects are lost and gained as the Kahler moduli are varied.<sup>2</sup>

Among the stable branes some of the most intriguing ones are the fractional branes. They are fractional in the following sense: assume that we are given a Calabi–Yau threefold which develops a singularity somewhere in the Kahler moduli space. We can probe the singularity using a space-filling D3-brane. At this point in Kahler moduli space the probe D3-brane becomes (marginally) unstable and *decays* into the fractional branes. This picture applies in a rather broad context and is not restricted to orbifolds, although it was first discovered for orbifolds.

On the other hand, orbifolds provide a rich testing ground. In this case D-branes can be described explicitly as boundary states in a solvable conformal field theory (CFT). The world-volume theory of the probe D3-brane, which is a quiver gauge theory,<sup>3</sup> gives a very different description of the D-branes, as objects in the derived category of representations of the quiver. The McKay correspondence gives an equivalence between this category and the derived category of coherent sheaves on the resolved space,<sup>4</sup> as required by the topological string argument.

The McKay correspondence is a prototype of what happens in general: In different patches of the moduli space one has very different looking descriptions for the D-branes, which sit in *inequivalent* categories, but if one passes to the derived category then they all become equivalent. Therefore it makes sense to talk about a geometric representative for a brane at any point in

<sup>a)</sup>Electronic mail: [rlk@vt.edu](mailto:rlk@vt.edu).

moduli space. Passing from an Abelian category to the derived category is physically motivated by brane-antibrane annihilation, thorough tachyon condensation.<sup>1,5</sup>

In the quiver language the fractional branes are the simple representations, i.e., those that have no nontrivial subrepresentations. Although the fractional branes are obvious in the quiver language, their geometric incarnation is unclear. The McKay correspondence tells us that there should be objects (bundles or perhaps complexes) on the resolved space whose  $\text{Ext}^1$ -quiver is the one we started with. One of the central problems in this area is to find these objects.

As a warm-up exercise one can try to determine the K-theory class of a fractional brane. So far, even this question has been answered only in a limited context using mirror symmetry techniques<sup>6</sup> or the McKay correspondence.<sup>1</sup>

A first goal of this paper is to get a deeper understanding of the geometry of fractional branes going beyond the K-theory. We do this without resorting to mirror symmetry or the McKay correspondence. Instead we use the quantum symmetry of an orbifold theory to generate the fractional branes as an orbit. This method has been successful for the  $\mathbb{C}^2/\mathbb{Z}_n$  orbifolds.<sup>8</sup>

Ultimately one would like to understand the world-volume theory of D-branes at an arbitrary point in the moduli space of a compact Calabi–Yau. Studying examples where one has at his disposal different methods hopefully will teach us the “mechanics” of the geometric approach and would certainly lead to results of phenomenological interest.

A second goal is to develop techniques to study monodromies in the Kahler moduli space. Monodromies played a crucial role in the Seiberg–Witten theory<sup>9</sup> and represent a subject of interest in itself. Using geometric engineering one can relate the Seiberg–Witten monodromies to D-brane monodromies.<sup>10,11</sup> As we will see shortly, the functors implementing the monodromy transformations are not simple by any measure. The relations they satisfy would be very hard to guess without physical input. By the end, we will have performed some very strong consistency checks. It is not surprising that a simple version of our functors, the Seidel–Thomas twist functors, plays an important role in Bridgeland’s work on  $\pi$ -stability.<sup>12</sup>

A third motivation is to investigate what, if anything, can be gained by using stacks. Our investigations are ultimately very different from the ones pioneered by Sharpe and collaborators. Our approach relies on an extension of the McKay correspondence due to Kawamata and naturally associates branes with regions of the moduli space where we have no solvable CFT description or reliable supergravity approximation. Fortunately, the algebrogeometric tools are powerful enough to produce several collections of fractional branes. This approach provides a detailed understanding of the  $Y^{p,p}$  spaces,<sup>13</sup> as assumed in Ref. 14. It came as a surprise to the present author to realize that using stacks, one can construct several collections of fractional branes for  $\mathbb{C}^n/\mathbb{Z}_m$  for any  $n$  and  $m$ ! The same statement is far from being true without the use of stacks.

Let us illustrate this point using the main workhorse of the paper,  $\mathbb{C}^3/\mathbb{Z}_5$ . This singularity has two partial resolutions, with exceptional divisors  $\mathbb{P}^2(2, 2, 1)$  and  $\mathbb{P}^2(1, 1, 3)$ .<sup>2</sup> Viewing both of them as stacks, one has length 5 exceptional collections  $\mathcal{O}, \mathcal{O}(1), \dots, \mathcal{O}(4)$ . The candidate fractional branes are the push forward of the dual collections. We prove that both  $\mathbb{P}^2(2, 2, 1)$  and  $\mathbb{P}^2(1, 1, 3)$  lead to the same  $\text{Ext}^1$ -quiver. Naturally, the details for the two cases are quite different, but the final result is the same. The superpotential comes from the  $\text{Ext}^2$  and is related to an  $A_\infty$ -structure. So going from  $\mathbb{P}^2(2, 2, 1)$  to  $\mathbb{P}^2(1, 1, 3)$  does not change the quiver but reinterprets the different terms in the superpotential in a nontrivial way.

Another motivation to understand fractional branes comes from the fact that they are related to each other through partial resolutions of the singularity.<sup>3</sup> For example, the resolution of the  $\mathbb{C}^2/\mathbb{Z}_n$  singularity has an exceptional divisor which is reducible, with  $n-1$  irreducible components  $C_i = \mathbb{P}^1$ .

The  $\mathbb{C}^2/\mathbb{Z}_n$  singularity can also be thought of as being produced by the collision of  $n-1$   $\mathbb{C}^2/\mathbb{Z}_2$

<sup>1</sup>For the ample physics literature on this subject see, e.g., Ref. 7 and references therein.

<sup>2</sup>As a scheme  $\mathbb{P}^2(2, 2, 1)$  is just  $\mathbb{P}^2$ , but as stacks they are different.

<sup>3</sup>I learned about this line of reasoning from Paul Aspinwall.

singularities. A  $C^2/Z_2$  fractional collection is given by  $\mathcal{O}_C, \mathcal{O}_C(-1)[1]$ , where  $C=P^1$ . In Ref. 8 we found the following  $C^2/Z_n$  fractional collection:  $\mathcal{O}_{\Sigma_j C_j}$  and  $\mathcal{O}_{C_i}(-1)[1]$ , with  $C_i=P^1$  from above. Moreover, we proposed a physical explanation for how the  $C^2/Z_n$  collection is obtained from the  $C^2/Z_2$  collections.

It is natural to try to extend the above procedure to an arbitrary singularity. This would also answer the following more interesting question: What is the gauge theory on the world-volume of a D3-brane probing a Calabi–Yau singularity. Phrasing it in this form, it is obvious that we are not going to get a simple answer.

Given a singularity  $S$ , we can partially resolve it. This creates new singularities; call them  $S_i$ . Even if we started with an isolated singularity, the resolution might produce nonisolated ones (this is the case even for  $C^3/Z_5$ ); therefore  $i$  might be a continuous index. Viewed individually, the singularity  $S_i$  has its own fractional branes  $F_{j_i}^{S_i}$ . As the Kahler modulus of the blow-up is turned off some of the  $F_{j_i}^{S_i}$  get destabilized and decay. The decay products are necessarily bound states of the old  $F_{j_i}^{S_i}$  and the ones that remain stable. We are guaranteed to find the fractional branes of the singularity  $S$  among these. The question then is as follows: How do we recognize them? Is there going to be a simple physical rule like the one proposed in Ref. 8 for  $C^2/Z_n$ ?

Once the fractional branes for a singularity have been obtained, the gauge theory on the probe will be the quiver theory whose quiver is the  $\text{Ext}^1$ -quiver of the fractional branes. This procedure was dubbed “quiver *LEGO*.”<sup>8</sup> Using the techniques of Ref. 15 the superpotential can also be computed, and one might obtain models of phenomenological interest.

The organization of the paper is as follows. In Sec. II we use toric methods to investigate the geometry of the  $C^3/Z_5$  model together with its Kahler moduli space. Section III starts with a review of the Fourier–Mukai (FM) technology, and then it is applied to the various  $C^3/Z_5$  monodromies. In Sec. IV we use the  $Z_5$  monodromy to produce a collection of fractional branes. This collection is compared to the one given by the McKay correspondence, and we produce an interesting Seiberg duality. In Sec. V we turn to a collection of fractional branes on the partially resolved  $C^n/Z_m$  orbifold using a generalization of the McKay correspondence by Kawamata. The partially resolved orbifold is singular, and it is not a global quotient either; hence it is particularly pleasing that we can handle it directly by geometric methods. The Appendix contains some spectral sequences that are used throughout the paper.

## II. $C^3/Z_5$ GEOMETRIES

In this section we review some aspects of the  $C^3/Z_5$  orbifold and the associated CFT. First we work out the relevant toric geometry of  $C^3/Z_5$ ; then we turn our attention to the moduli space of complexified Kahler forms and, in particular, its discriminant loci. We pay particular attention to the singularities in the moduli space.

### A. The toric geometry of $C^3/Z_5$

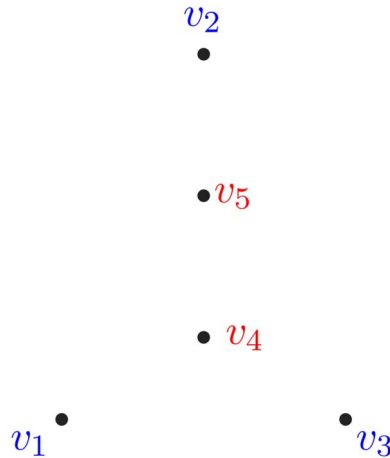
Let us consider the  $C^3/Z_5$  variety with a supersymmetric  $Z_5$  action, i.e.,  $Z_5 \subset \text{SL}(3, \mathbb{Z})$ . *A priori* there are two choices for the  $Z_5$  action:

$$(z_1, z_2, z_3) \mapsto (\omega z_1, \omega z_2, \omega^3 z_3), \quad \omega^5 = 1, \quad (1)$$

and

$$(z_1, z_2, z_3) \mapsto (\omega^2 z_1, \omega^2 z_2, \omega z_3), \quad \omega^5 = 1. \quad (2)$$

But obviously the second one is the square of the first one, and therefore we can talk about *the*  $C^3/Z_5$  variety, which is toric, and a convenient representation for it is provided by the fan in Fig. 1. More precisely, the fan for the  $C^3/Z_5$  toric variety consists of only one cone, generated by the vertices  $v_1, v_2$ , and  $v_3$ . In this figure we also included the vertices  $v_4$  and  $v_5$  corresponding to the crepant resolution of the singularity. We denote the resolved space by  $X$ . The exceptional locus of

FIG. 1. (Color online) The toric fan for the resolution of the  $\mathbb{C}^3/\mathbb{Z}_5$  singularity.

the blow-up is reducible, and it has two irreducible components corresponding to  $v_4$  and  $v_5$ . We denote the divisors associated with  $v_i$  by  $D_i$ .

The linear equivalences among the divisors and their intersections are well known, and we simply quote the result of Ref. 16:<sup>4</sup>

$$D_4 \cdot D_5 = D_4 \cdot D_1 = h, \quad D_4 \cdot D_2 = 0, \quad D_5 \cdot D_1 = f, \quad D_5 \cdot D_2 = h + 3f \quad (3)$$

and

$$D_4^2 = -3h, \quad D_5^2 = -2h - 5f. \quad (4)$$

The tools of toric geometry immediately tell us that the divisor  $D_4$  is a  $\mathbb{P}^2$ , while  $D_5$  is the Hirzebruch surface  $\mathbb{F}_3$ . There are curves in the class of  $h$  and  $f$  that lie in the compact divisors  $D_4$  and  $D_5$ . In particular,  $f$  is a fiber of  $\mathbb{F}_3$ , and  $h$  is the  $-3$  section  $s$  of  $\mathbb{F}_3$ . Similarly,  $h$  is the hyperplane class of  $\mathbb{P}^2$ , while  $f$  does not intersect  $\mathbb{P}^2$ .

Let us spend a moment analyzing the Kahler cone and its dual, the Mori cone. From the geometry it is clear that the curves  $h$  and  $f$  are the generators of the Mori cone of effective curves. Shrinking  $h$  also shrinks the divisors  $D_4$ , and hence gives a type II contraction, while shrinking  $f$  collapses the Hirzebruch surface  $\mathbb{F}_3$  onto its base, giving a type III degeneration.

The Kahler cone is dual to the Mori cone, and in our case both are two dimensional. The Kahler generators are represented by cohomology classes. We can use Poincare duality and represent the Kahler classes by 4-cycles and, in particular, divisors. It is immediate from the intersection products in Ref. 16 that the ordered pair  $\{h, f\}$  is dual to the ordered pair  $\{D_1, D_2\}$ :

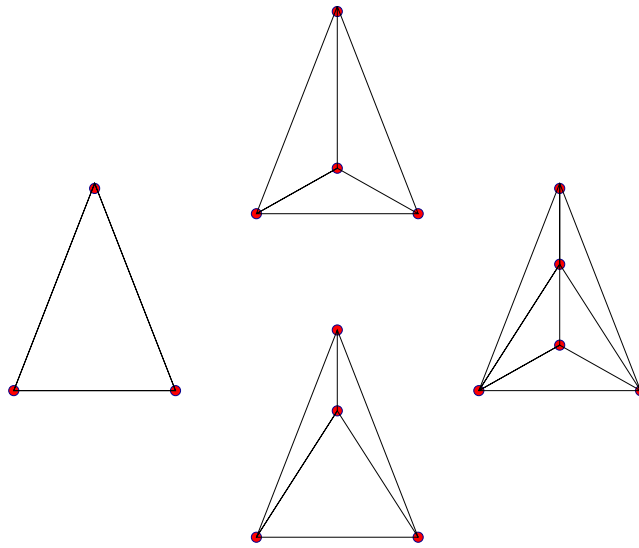
$$\{h, f\} \in H_2(X, \mathbb{Z}) \quad \text{is dual to} \quad \{D_1, D_2\} \in H_4(X, \mathbb{Z}). \quad (5)$$

Therefore the Kahler cone is generated by  $D_1$  and  $D_2$ . The precise ordering in (5) will play an important role later on.

By Lemma 3.3.2 in Ref. 17 there is a bijection between the Mori cone generators and the generators of the lattice of relations of the point set  $\mathcal{A} = \{v_1, \dots, v_5\}$ . In particular,  $h$  and  $f$  yield the relations

$$Q = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 & -3 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & -2 \end{pmatrix}. \quad (6)$$

<sup>4</sup>Since  $\mathbb{C}^3/\mathbb{Z}_5$  is noncompact, one restricts to the intersections of the compact cycles with other cycles, in this case  $D_4$  and  $D_5$ .

FIG. 2. (Color online) The four triangulations of the  $\mathbb{C}^3/\mathbb{Z}_5$  model.

## B. The $\mathbb{C}^3/\mathbb{Z}_5$ moduli space

The point set  $\mathcal{A}=\{v_1, \dots, v_5\}$  admits four triangulations (see Fig. 2). Therefore in the language of Refs. 18 and 19 the gauged linear sigma model (GLSM) has four phases.<sup>5</sup> The secondary fan has its rays given by the columns of the matrix (6) and is depicted in Fig. 3. The four phases are as follows: The completely resolved smooth phase, the two phases where one of the compact divisors  $D_4$  or  $D_5$  has been blown up to partially resolve the  $\mathbb{Z}_5$  fixed point, and finally the  $\mathbb{Z}_5$  orbifold phase.

The phase corresponding to the cone  $\mathcal{C}_2$  can be reached from the smooth phase  $\mathcal{C}_1$  by blowing down the divisor  $D_5$ . This creates a line of  $\mathbb{Z}_2$  singularities in the Calabi–Yau. We will refer to this phase as *the  $\mathbb{Z}_2$  phase*. Similarly, the phase  $\mathcal{C}_3$  is reached by blowing down the divisor  $D_4$  and creates a  $\mathbb{C}^3/\mathbb{Z}_3$  singularity. We call this *the  $\mathbb{Z}_3$  phase*.

The orbifold points in the moduli space are themselves singular points. This fact is related to the quantum symmetry of an orbifold CFT. For the  $\mathbb{Z}_2$  point, the homogeneous coordinate ring construction of Cox<sup>20</sup> shows a  $\mathbb{C}^2/\mathbb{Z}_2$  singularity with weights  $(1, -1)$ . Alternatively, using the “old”—group algebra  $\mathbb{C}[\sigma^\vee]$  of the dual cone  $\sigma^\vee$ —construction,<sup>21</sup> one arrives at the affine scheme  $\text{Spec } \mathbb{C}[y^{-1}, x^2y, x] = \text{Spec } \mathbb{C}[u, v, w]/(uv - w^2)$ . At the  $\mathbb{Z}_3$  point the moduli space locally is of the form  $\mathbb{C}^2/\mathbb{Z}_3$ , with weights  $(1, 2)$ .

But we can take the secondary fan in Fig. 3 literally, since it is the fan of moduli space, viewed as a toric variety. The four cones then have natural coordinates associated with them, and these are as follows:

$\mathcal{C}_1$	$\mathcal{C}_2$	$\mathcal{C}_3$	$\mathcal{C}_4$	
$x_1$	$y_1 = x_1^2 x_2$	$z_1 = 1/x_1$	$w_1 = 1/x_1^2 x_2$	(7)
$x_2$	$y_2 = 1/x_2$	$z_2 = x_1 x_2^3$	$w_2 = 1/x_1 x_2^3$	

The coordinates  $(x_1, x_2)$  are good coordinates on a dense open subset of the moduli space but fail at the boundary divisors corresponding to the toric compactification of the moduli space. This is where one needs to make the above change of coordinates. One also notices the  $x_1^2$  and  $x_2^3$  terms, which reflect the  $\mathbb{C}^2/\mathbb{Z}_2$  and  $\mathbb{C}^2/\mathbb{Z}_3$ , respectively, singularities. We will use these coordinates momentarily.

<sup>5</sup>In the GLSM language the rows of this matrix represent the  $U(1)$  charges of the chiral superfields.

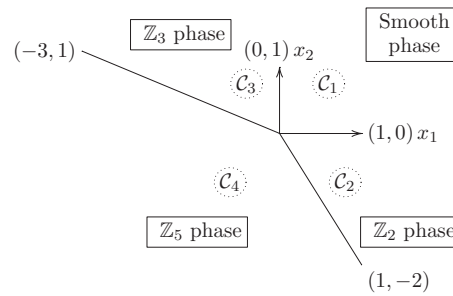


FIG. 3. The phase structure of the  $C^3/Z_5$  model.

**C. The discriminant**

The primary components of the discriminant locus of singular CFTs can be computed using the Horn parametrization.<sup>22,23</sup> We briefly review the construction. Let  $Q=(Q_i^a)_{i=1,\dots,n}^{a=1,\dots,k}$  denote the matrix of charges appearing in Cox’s holomorphic quotient construction.<sup>20</sup> The primary component of the discriminant,  $\Delta_0$ , is a rational variety, i.e., birational to a projective space. Horn uniformization gives an explicit rational parametrization for  $\Delta_0$ . Accordingly, we introduce  $k$  auxiliary variables,  $s_1, \dots, s_k$ , and form the linear combinations

$$\xi_i = \sum_{a=1}^k Q_i^a s_a \quad \text{for all } i = 1, \dots, n. \tag{8}$$

Let  $(x_a)_{a=1,\dots,k}$  be local coordinates on the moduli space of complexified Kahler forms or, equivalently, on the complex structure moduli space of the mirror.  $\Delta_0$  then has the following parametrization:

$$x_a = \prod_{i=1}^n \xi_i^{Q_i^a} \quad \text{for all } a = 1, \dots, k. \tag{9}$$

In our context the matrix of charges in question is  $Q$  from Eq. (6), and  $(x_1, x_2)$  are the local coordinates on the moduli space corresponding to the large radius phase. Applying the Horn uniformization equations, (8) and (9), gives

$$x_1 = -\frac{s_1^2(s_1 - 2s_2)}{(3s_1 - s_2)^3}, \quad x_2 = -\frac{s_2(3s_1 - s_2)}{(s_1 - 2s_2)^2}. \tag{10}$$

Both equations are homogeneous, and therefore  $x_1$  and  $x_2$  depend only on the ratio  $s_1/s_2$ . Eliminating  $s_1/s_2$  gives the sought after equation for  $\Delta_0$ :

$$\Delta_0 = 3125x_1^2x_2^3 + 500x_1x_2^2 - 225x_1x_2 + 16x_2^2 + 27x_1 - 8x_2 + 1. \tag{11}$$

In fact this is the only component of the primary discriminant.

The discriminant curve itself is singular. It has two singular points:

$$(x_1, x_2) = \left(-\frac{1}{25}, \frac{1}{5}\right) \quad \text{and} \quad (x_1, x_2) = \left(-\frac{32}{675}, \frac{9}{20}\right). \tag{12}$$

The first singular point is a double root of the  $\Delta_0 = \text{grad } \Delta_0 = 0$  equation, while the second is a triple root. This hints to the fact that the local structure of the two singular points is different.

To see the nature of the singularity we need to choose convenient coordinates around the singularities. We treat the point  $(-\frac{32}{675}, \frac{9}{20})$  first. A convenient change of variables is as follows:

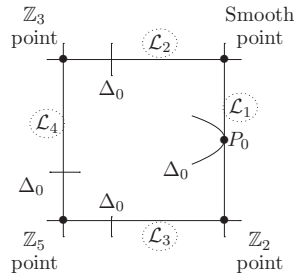


FIG. 4. The moduli space of the  $C^3/Z_5$  model.

$$(x_1, x_2) = \left(-\frac{32}{675} + \frac{8}{135}y_1, \frac{9}{20} + \frac{3}{4}y_2\right). \tag{13}$$

In terms of the new variables the discriminant becomes

$$\Delta_0 = y_1^2 + y_2^2 + 2y_1y_2 + \frac{10}{3}y_1y_2^2 - \frac{200}{27}y_1y_2^3 + 5y_1^2y_2 + \frac{25}{3}y_1^2y_2^2 + \frac{125}{27}y_1^2y_2^3 + \frac{80}{27}y_2^3. \tag{14}$$

This suggests a further change of variables:  $(y_1, y_2) \mapsto (y_1 - y_2, y_2)$ , in terms of which the leading terms of  $\Delta_0$  are

$$\Delta_0 = y_1^2 - \frac{20}{3}y_1y_2^2 + \frac{125}{27}y_2^3 + 5y_1^2y_2, \tag{15}$$

which shows that  $\Delta_0$  has a cusp at  $(x_1, x_2) = \left(-\frac{32}{675}, \frac{9}{20}\right)$ .

A similar analysis can be performed at the other singularity,  $(x_1, x_2) = \left(-\frac{1}{25}, \frac{1}{5}\right)$ , and show that  $\Delta_0$  has an ordinary double point there. The fact that one of the singularities is a cusp will be important later on, in Sec. III C, as it allows for different monodromies around different parts of the discriminant.

### D. Intersections

We now turn to the question which will be of crucial importance. We have already seen that the four maximal cones  $\mathcal{C}_1, \dots, \mathcal{C}_4$  in Fig. 3 correspond to the four distinguished phase points. Similarly, the four rays correspond to curves in the moduli space. It is immediate to see these are all  $\mathbb{P}^1$ , at least topologically. For us the analytic structure is important, and we need to be more careful here. The four curves connecting the different phase points are sketched in Fig. 4. The curves in question are weighted projective lines:  $\mathcal{L}_1 = \mathbb{P}^1(1, 2)$ ,  $\mathcal{L}_2 = \mathbb{P}^1(1, 3)$ ,  $\mathcal{L}_3 = \mathbb{P}^1(2, 5)$ , and  $\mathcal{L}_4 = \mathbb{P}^1(3, 5)$ . Since the singularities are in codimension 1, these spaces in fact are not singular, and they are all isomorphic to  $\mathbb{P}^1$ .

In terms of the coordinates  $(x_1, x_2)$  we have  $\mathcal{L}_1: (x_1 = 0)$  and  $\mathcal{L}_2: (x_2 = 0)$ . The discriminant  $\Delta_0$  intersects these two lines. To see what the order of intersection is, observe that

$$\Delta_0(x_1 = 0) = (4x_2 - 1)^2, \quad \Delta_0(x_2 = 0) = 27x_1 + 1. \tag{16}$$

Therefore  $\Delta_0$  intersects  $\mathcal{L}_1$  tangentially, while it is transverse to  $\mathcal{L}_2$ . We depicted this fact in Fig. 4 using a parabola and a short segment, respectively.

But what about the intersection of  $\Delta_0$  with  $\mathcal{L}_3$  and  $\mathcal{L}_4$ ? Clearly  $(x_1, x_2)$  are not the proper coordinates in these patches, but we can use the correct ones from Eq. (7). Let us focus on  $\mathcal{L}_3$  first. In the coordinates  $(y_1, y_2)$  of the cone  $\mathcal{C}_2$ ,  $\mathcal{L}_3$  is given by the equation  $y_2 = 0$ . To determine the form of  $\Delta_0$  in the new coordinates is more complicated, but there are two different ways of doing it. The naive way is to observe that  $y_1y_2 = x_1^2$ , while  $y_2 = 1/x_2$ . So one can solve for  $x_1$  and  $x_2$  in terms of  $y_1$  and  $y_2$  and substitute into  $\Delta_0$  and then try to square an appropriately rearranged expression to get rid of the  $\sqrt{y_1y_2}$  terms.

The more efficient method is to go back to the Horn parametrization and run it for the coordinates  $(y_1, y_2)$ . This amounts to replacing the matrix (6) with



$$Q = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 1 & 2 & -5 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 & -1 & 2 \end{pmatrix}. \tag{17}$$

Both methods give the same answer:

$$\Delta_0 = (y_2 - 4)^4 + 5^{10}y_1^2(10^5 - 3 \cdot 10^5y_2 + 2 \cdot 5^5 \cdot 37y_2^2 - 23 \cdot 15^3y_2^3 + 2 \cdot 3^5 \cdot 5^2y_2^4 - 3^6y_2^5)y_1. \tag{18}$$

One immediately has that

$$\Delta_0(y_1 = 0) = (y_2 - 4)^4, \quad \Delta_0(y_2 = 0) = (3125y_1 + 16)^2. \tag{19}$$

This would suggest a fourth order and a tangential intersection, but in fact we have to remember that the  $(y_1, y_2)$  coordinates double all the intersections, and hence we have a tangential and a transverse intersection.

To shed more light on the last statement, let us recall that the curve  $\mathcal{L}_1$ , given by the equation  $x_1=0$ , after the change of coordinates  $y_1=x_1^2x_2$  becomes  $y_1=0^2$ , exhibiting the doubling that we referred to before. The tangential intersection at  $y_2=4$  is the previous  $x_2=1/4$  point, which was also a tangential intersection. The curve  $y_2=0$  is none other than  $\mathcal{L}_3$ , and hence it is transverse to  $\Delta_0$ .

Finally we turn to the intersection of  $\mathcal{L}_4$  and  $\Delta_0$ . In this case the naive elimination method fails due to the cube root, but the Horn parametrization works. A similar analysis shows that the curve  $\mathcal{L}_4$  given by the equation  $z_1=0$  is also transverse to  $\Delta_0$ .

### III. $\mathbb{C}^3/\mathbb{Z}_5$ MONODROMIES

We start this section with a brief review of FM functors. Then we express the various monodromy actions on D-branes in terms of FM equivalences. The remaining part of the section deals with expressing the D-brane monodromies appearing in the  $\mathbb{C}^3/\mathbb{Z}_5$  moduli space in terms of FM functors.

#### A. Fourier–Mukai functors

For the convenience of the reader we review some of the key notions concerning FM functors and at same time specify the conventions used. We will make extensive use of this technology in the rest of the paper. Our notation follows.<sup>24</sup>

Given two nonsingular proper algebraic varieties,  $X_1$  and  $X_2$ , an object  $\mathcal{K} \in D(X_1 \times X_2)$  determines a functor of triangulated categories  $\Phi_{\mathcal{K}}: D(X_1) \rightarrow D(X_2)$  by the formula<sup>6</sup>

$$\Phi_{\mathcal{K}}(A) := \mathbf{R}p_{2*}(\mathcal{K} \otimes p_1^*(A)), \tag{20}$$

where  $p_i: X \times X \rightarrow X$  is projection to the  $i$ th factor:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & X_1 \times X_2 & \\ p_1 \swarrow & & \searrow p_2 \\ X_1 & & X_2. \end{array} \tag{21}$$

The object  $\mathcal{K} \in D(X_1 \times X_2)$  is called the **kernel** of the FM functor  $\Phi_{\mathcal{K}}$ .

It is convenient to introduce the **external tensor product** of two objects  $A \in D(X_1)$  and  $B \in D(X_2)$  by the formula

---

<sup>6</sup> $D(X)$  denotes the *bounded* derived category of coherent sheaves on  $X$ .  $\mathbf{R}p_{2*}$  is the total right derived functor of  $p_{2*}$ , i.e., it is an exact functor from  $D(X)$  to  $D(X)$ . Similarly,  $\mathbf{L}$  is the total left derived functor of  $\otimes$ . In later sections these decorations will be subsumed.

$$A \boxtimes B = p_2^* A \otimes p_1^* B. \quad (22)$$

The importance of FM functors when dealing with derived categories stems from the following theorem of Orlov.<sup>7</sup>

**Theorem 3.1:** *Let  $X_1$  and  $X_2$  be smooth projective varieties. Suppose that  $\mathbf{F}: \mathbf{D}(X_1) \rightarrow \mathbf{D}(X_2)$  is an equivalence of triangulated categories. Then there exists an object  $\mathcal{K} \in \mathbf{D}(X_1 \times X_2)$ , unique up to isomorphism, such that the functors  $\mathbf{F}$  and  $\Phi_{\mathcal{K}}$  are isomorphic.*

The first question to ask is how to compose FM functors. Accordingly, let  $X_1, X_2$ , and  $X_3$  be three nonsingular varieties, while let  $\mathcal{F} \in \mathbf{D}(X_1 \times X_2)$  and  $\mathcal{G} \in \mathbf{D}(X_2 \times X_3)$  be two kernels. Let  $p_{ij}: X_1 \times X_2 \times X_3 \rightarrow X_i \times X_j$  be the projection map. A well-known fact is as follows.

**Proposition 3.2:** *The composition of the functors  $\Phi_{\mathcal{F}}$  and  $\Phi_{\mathcal{G}}$  is given by the formula*

$$\Phi_{\mathcal{G}} \circ \Phi_{\mathcal{F}} \simeq \Phi_{\mathcal{H}}, \quad \text{where } \mathcal{H} = \mathbf{R}p_{13*}(p_{23}^*(\mathcal{G}) \otimes p_{12}^*(\mathcal{F})). \quad (23)$$

Proposition 3.2 shows that composing two FM functors gives another FM functor, with a simple kernel. The composition of the kernels  $\mathcal{F}$  and  $\mathcal{G} \in \mathbf{D}(X \times X)$  is therefore defined as

$$\mathcal{G} \star \mathcal{F} := \mathbf{R}p_{13*}(p_{23}^*(\mathcal{G}) \otimes p_{12}^*(\mathcal{F})). \quad (24)$$

There is an identity element for the composition of kernels:  $\delta_*(\mathcal{O}_X)$ , where  $\delta: X \hookrightarrow X \times X$  is the diagonal embedding. For brevity we will denote  $\delta_*(\mathcal{O}_X)$  by  $\mathcal{O}_{\Delta}$ :

$$\mathcal{O}_{\Delta} := \delta_*(\mathcal{O}_X). \quad (25)$$

$\mathcal{O}_{\Delta} = \delta_*(\mathcal{O}_X)$  has the expected properties

$$\mathcal{O}_{\Delta} \star \mathcal{G} = \mathcal{G} \star \mathcal{O}_{\Delta} = \mathcal{G} \quad \text{for all } \mathcal{G} \in \mathbf{D}(X \times X). \quad (26)$$

Finally, the functors

$$\begin{aligned} \Phi_{23}: \mathbf{D}(X_1 \times X_2) &\rightarrow \mathbf{D}(X_1 \times X_3), & \mathcal{G}_{23} &\in \mathbf{D}(X_2 \times X_3), & \Phi_{23}(-) &:= \mathcal{G}_{23} \star -, \\ \Phi_{12}: \mathbf{D}(X_2 \times X_3) &\rightarrow \mathbf{D}(X_1 \times X_3), & \mathcal{G}_{12} &\in \mathbf{D}(X_1 \times X_2), & \Phi_{12}(-) &:= - \star \mathcal{G}_{12} \end{aligned} \quad (27)$$

are morphisms between triangulated categories, i.e., they *preserve* distinguished triangles.

The composition of kernels is also associative,

$$\mathcal{G}_3 \star (\mathcal{G}_2 \star \mathcal{G}_1) \cong (\mathcal{G}_3 \star \mathcal{G}_2) \star \mathcal{G}_1. \quad (28)$$

Now we have all the technical tools ready to study the monodromy actions of physical interest.

## B. Monodromies in general

The moduli space of CFTs contains the moduli space of Ricci-flat Kahler metrics. This, in turn, at least locally has a product structure, with the moduli space of Kahler forms being one of the factors. This is the moduli space of interest to us. In what follows we study the physics of D-branes as we move in the moduli space of complexified Kahler forms. This space is *a priori* noncompact, and its compactification consists of two different types of boundary divisors. First we have the *large volume* divisors. These correspond to certain cycles being given infinite volume. The second type of boundary divisors is the irreducible components of the *discriminant*. In this case the CFT becomes singular. Generically this happens because some D-branes (or several of

<sup>7</sup>Theorem 2.18 in Ref. 25. The theorem has been generalized for smooth quotient stacks associated with normal projective varieties Ref. 26.

them, even infinitely many) go massless at that point, and therefore the effective CFT description breaks down. For the quintic this is the well-known conifold point.

The monodromy actions around the above divisors are well understood. We will need a more abstract version of this story in terms of FM functors, which we now recall.<sup>8</sup>

Large volume monodromies are shifts in the  $B$  field: “ $B \mapsto B + 1$ .” If the Kahler cone is higher dimensional, then we need to be more precise and specify a two-form or, equivalently, a divisor  $D$ . Then the monodromy becomes  $B \mapsto B + D$ . We will have more to say about the specific  $D$  soon.

The simplest physical effect of this monodromy on a D-brane is to shift its charge, and this translates in the Chan–Paton language into tensoring with the line bundle  $\mathcal{O}_X(D)$ . This observation readily extends to the derived category.

**Proposition 3.3:** *The large radius monodromy associated with the divisor  $D$  is*

$$L_D(\mathbf{B}) = \mathbf{B} \otimes \mathcal{O}_X(D) \quad \text{for all } \mathbf{B} \in D(X). \tag{29}$$

Furthermore, this is a FN functor  $\Phi_{\mathcal{L}}$ , with kernel

$$\mathcal{L} = \delta_* \mathcal{O}_X(D), \tag{30}$$

where  $\delta: X \hookrightarrow X \times X$  is again the diagonal embedding.<sup>9</sup>

For the conifold-type monodromies one has the following conjecture.<sup>10</sup>

**Conjecture 3.4:** *If we loop around a component of the discriminant locus associated with a single D-brane  $\mathbf{A}$  becoming massless, then this results in a relabeling of D-branes given by the autoequivalence of the derived category  $D(X)$ ,*

$$\mathbf{B} \mapsto \mathbf{C}(\mathbf{RHom}_{D(X)}(\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{B}) \otimes \mathbf{A} \rightarrow \mathbf{B}). \tag{31}$$

This action is again of FM type. Lemma 3.2 of Ref. 28 provides us with the following simple relation for any  $\mathbf{B} \in D(X)$ :

$$\Phi_{\mathbf{C}(\mathbf{A}^\vee \boxtimes \mathbf{A} \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_\Delta)}(\mathbf{B}) \cong \mathbf{C}(\mathbf{RHom}_{D(X)}(\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{B}) \otimes \mathbf{A} \rightarrow \mathbf{B}), \tag{32}$$

where for an object  $\mathbf{A} \in D(X)$  its dual is defined by

$$\mathbf{A}^\vee = \mathbf{RHom}_{D(X)}(\mathbf{A}, \mathcal{O}_X). \tag{33}$$

Throughout the paper  $\mathbf{C}(f)$  refers to the cone of the morphisms  $f: \mathbf{A} \rightarrow \mathbf{B}$ .

Since the functor  $\Phi_{\mathbf{C}(\mathbf{A}^\vee \boxtimes \mathbf{A} \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_\Delta)}$  will play a crucial role, we give it a name:

$$\mathbf{T}_\mathbf{A} := \Phi_{\mathbf{C}(\mathbf{A}^\vee \boxtimes \mathbf{A} \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_\Delta)}, \quad \mathbf{T}_\mathbf{A}(\mathbf{B}) = \mathbf{C}(\mathbf{RHom}_{D(X)}(\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{B}) \otimes \mathbf{A} \rightarrow \mathbf{B}). \tag{34}$$

The question of when is  $\mathbf{T}_\mathbf{A}$  an autoequivalence has a simple answer. For this we need the following definition.

**Definition 3.5:** *Let  $X$  be smooth projective Calabi–Yau variety of dimension  $n$ . An object  $\mathbf{E} \in D(X)$  is called  $n$ -spherical if  $\text{Ext}_{D(X)}^r(\mathbf{E}, \mathbf{E})$  is equal to  $H^r(S^n, \mathbb{C})$ , that is,  $\mathbb{C}$  for  $r=0, n$  and zero otherwise.*

One of the main results of (Ref. 28) is the following theorem (Proposition 2.10).

**Theorem 3.6:** *If  $\mathbf{E} \in D(X)$  is  $n$ -spherical then the functor  $\mathbf{T}_\mathbf{E}$  is an autoequivalence.*

This brief review brings us to a point where we can apply this abstract machinery to study the  $\mathbb{C}^3/\mathbb{Z}_5$  monodromies and eventually use them to construct the fractional branes.

<sup>8</sup>For an extensive treatment of monodromies in terms of FM functors see Ref. 27.

<sup>9</sup>For a proof of this statement we refer to Ref. 8.

<sup>10</sup>Originally due to Kontsevich, Morrison, and Horja and presented in Ref. 27.

### C. $C^3/Z_5$ monodromies

Now we have all the ingredients necessary for constructing the monodromy actions needed to generate the fractional branes. The toric fan for the moduli space of complexified Kahler forms was depicted in Fig. 3. The four maximal cones  $\mathcal{C}_1, \dots, \mathcal{C}_4$  correspond to the four distinguished phase points. The four edges correspond to curves in the moduli space. As discussed in Sec. II D the curves in question are weighted projective lines  $\mathcal{L}_1 = \mathbb{P}^1(1, 2)$ ,  $\mathcal{L}_2 = \mathbb{P}^1(1, 3)$ ,  $\mathcal{L}_3 = \mathbb{P}^1(2, 5)$ , and  $\mathcal{L}_4 = \mathbb{P}^1(3, 5)$  and are in fact all isomorphic to  $\mathbb{P}^1$ . The discriminant  $\Delta_0$  intersects the four lines, and we analyzed the order of every intersection. All this is summarized in Fig. 4.

When talking about monodromy there are two cases to be considered. One can loop around a divisor, i.e., real codimension 2 objects, or one can loop around a point inside a complex curve. Of course the two notions are *not* unrelated. Our interest will be in the second type of monodromy: looping around a point inside a  $\mathbb{P}^1$ .

What we would like to write down is the monodromy inside  $\mathcal{L}_3$  or  $\mathcal{L}_4$  around the  $Z_5$  point. Since there is no direct approach to doing this, we follow an indirect way: “go around.” Both  $\mathcal{L}_1$  and  $\mathcal{L}_3$  are spheres, with three marked points, and we can compute the corresponding monodromies. Our approach is to go from the smooth point to the  $Z_5$  point by first “moving” inside  $\mathcal{L}_1$  and then  $\mathcal{L}_3$ . An equally valid path is through  $\mathcal{L}_2$  and  $\mathcal{L}_4$ , but we are not going to deal with this.

We start with  $\mathcal{L}_1$ , which has three distinguished points: the smooth point,  $P_0 = \mathcal{L}_1 \cap \Delta_0$ , and the  $Z_2$  point. Monodromy around the smooth point inside  $\mathcal{L}_1$  is a large radius monodromy, and (5) together with Proposition 3.3 tells us that it is precisely  $L_{D_2}$ .

What about the monodromy around  $P_0 = \mathcal{L}_1 \cap \Delta_0$ ?  $P_0$  is a conifold-type point, but the intersection is tangential at this point. We know that at this point every D5-brane wrapping the fibers of the shrinking cycle  $D_5$  should go massless. The mass depends on the central charge, which in turn is only a function of the K-theory class. Using the K-theory analysis of Ref. 16 one can indeed verify the masslessness of the fiber-wrapping D5-branes.

In other words, there are infinitely many branes going massless at this point, and Conjecture 3.4 does *not* apply! At this point we could use Conjecture 4 from Ref. 27 developed for general degenerations, but we find it easier to proceed by an indirect method, which borrows from the techniques that gave supporting evidence for Conjecture 4 in Ref. 27.

Looking at Fig. 4, it is clear that there should be a relation between the following three monodromies: monodromy around  $P_0$  inside  $\mathcal{L}_1$ , monodromy around  $\Delta_0$ , and finally, monodromy around  $\mathcal{L}_1$ .

We can determine this relationship using knot theory. We remind the reader some facts about the topology of plane curve singularities. Let the curve  $C$  be given by the vanishing locus of the irreducible polynomial  $f$ . We assume that the origin is an isolated singularity of  $C$ . This information is distilled by the notation “ $(C, 0): f=0$ .” It is customary to take a small 3-sphere  $S_\epsilon^3$  of radius  $\epsilon$  around the origin and look at the intersection  $\mathbf{L}(C, 0) := C \cap S_\epsilon^3$ .  $\mathbf{L}(C, 0)$  is in fact a knot and is called the *link of the singularity*.

For  $K_1$  and  $K_2$  two disjoint knots in  $S^3$  their *linking number*  $\mathbf{lk}(K_1, K_2)$  is defined as follows: choose a 2-chain  $S$  in  $S^3$  such that  $\partial S = K_1$  [this is possible since  $H_1(S^3) = 0$ ].  $\mathbf{lk}(K_1, K_2)$  is then given by the intersection number  $S \cdot K_2$ .<sup>11</sup>

It is probably not surprising that the linking number of two algebraic knots can be computed purely algebraically. For convenience we reproduce Proposition II.20.12 of Ref. 29.

**Proposition 3.7:** *Let  $(C_i, P_0): f_i=0$  be two distinct irreducible plane curve singularities. The linking number of their knots equals their order of intersection:*

$$\mathbf{lk}(\mathbf{L}(C_1, \mathbf{P}_0), \mathbf{L}(C_2, \mathbf{P}_0)) = C_{1, \mathbf{P}_0} \cdot C_2, \quad (35)$$

where  $C_{1,0}C_2$  is the local intersection number of  $C_1$  and  $C_2$ .

<sup>11</sup>We are being intentionally loose about the orientation, since this will not affect our subsequent computations.

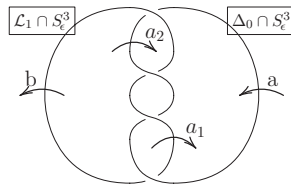


FIG. 5. The two links:  $L(\mathcal{L}_1, P_0) = \mathcal{L}_1 \cap S_\epsilon^3$  and  $L(\Delta_0, P_0) = \Delta_0 \cap S_\epsilon^3$ .

We can apply readily the proposition to our case for  $\Delta_0$  and  $\mathcal{L}_1$ . For us  $P_0 = \mathcal{L}_1 \cap \Delta_0$ . We already know that  $\Delta_{0,P_0} \mathcal{L}_1 = 2$ . Both  $L(\mathcal{L}_1, P_0) = \mathcal{L}_1 \cap S_\epsilon^3$  and  $L(\Delta_0, P_0) = \Delta_0 \cap S_\epsilon^3$  are unknotted circles,<sup>12</sup> and the link is represented in Fig. 5.

We can use the Wirtinger representation to compute a presentation for the fundamental group of the complement of the link.<sup>13</sup> Fix a basepoint above the sheet of paper, just before the eyes of the reader. Each arrow in Fig. 5 represents a loop with that basepoint going *under* the given arc, and therefore representing an element of  $\pi_1$ . The four crossing relations from top to bottom are<sup>14</sup>

$$ba = a_2b = a_1a_2 = aa_1 = ba. \tag{36}$$

This is three independent relations among the four loops  $b, a, a_1, a_2$ . We can solve for  $a_1$  and  $a_2: a_1 = a^{-1}ba$  and  $a_2 = bab^{-1}$  and also get one relation,

$$baba = abab. \tag{37}$$

Thus the fundamental group of the complement of the two knots is the group on two generators  $(a, b)$  subject to the single relation (37):

$$\pi_1(S^3 - (L_1 \cup L_2)) = \langle a, b | baba = abab \rangle. \tag{38}$$

Now remember that we are after the loop that encircles  $P_0$  inside  $\mathcal{L}_1$ . But this is the counter-clockwise path  $\mathcal{L}_1 \cap S_\epsilon^3$  from Fig. 5 and is homotopic to  $aa_2 = abab^{-1}$ . Using (37) this also equals  $b^{-1}aba$ . But  $a$  is a loop around  $\Delta_0$  and by Conjecture 3.4 the associated monodromy is  $T_{j_* \mathcal{O}_{D_5}}$ . Similarly  $b$  is a loop around  $\mathcal{L}_1$ , and Eq. (6) tells us that it is  $L_{D_1}$ . It thus follows that the monodromy around  $P_0$  inside  $\mathcal{L}_1$  is

$$M_{P_0} = L_{D_1}^{-1} \circ T_{j_* \mathcal{O}_{D_5}} \circ L_{D_1} \circ T_{j_* \mathcal{O}_{D_5}}. \tag{39}$$

Putting the pieces together we have the monodromy around the  $\mathbb{Z}_2$  point inside  $\mathcal{L}_1$ :

$$M_{\mathbb{Z}_2} = L_{D_1}^{-1} \circ T_{j_* \mathcal{O}_{D_5}} \circ L_{D_1} \circ T_{j_* \mathcal{O}_{D_5}} \circ L_{D_2}. \tag{40}$$

We can simplify this expression by observing that

$$L_{D_1}^{-1} \circ T_{j_* \mathcal{O}_{D_5}} \circ L_{D_1} \cong T_{j_* \mathcal{O}_{D_5}(-f)}$$

and have

$$M_{\mathbb{Z}_2} = T_{j_* \mathcal{O}_{D_5}(-f)} \circ T_{j_* \mathcal{O}_{D_5}} \circ L_{D_2}. \tag{41}$$

A much simpler computation shows that the monodromy around the  $\mathbb{Z}_3$  point inside  $\mathcal{L}_2$  is

<sup>12</sup>For the general result see, for example, Proposition 4.2.21 in Ref. 29.

<sup>13</sup>For a nice reference see Ref. 30.

<sup>14</sup>Our order convention is that  $xy$  represents the path  $x$  followed by the path  $y$ .

$$M_{Z_3} = T_{i_* \mathcal{O}_{D_4}} \circ L_{D_1}. \quad (42)$$

Now we can continue our march toward the  $Z_5$  point inside  $\mathcal{L}_3$ . Once again there are three distinguished points: the  $Z_5$  point,  $\mathcal{L}_3 \cap \Delta_0$ , and the  $Z_2$  point. By the same token as before, monodromy around  $\mathcal{L}_3 \cap \Delta_0$  is  $T_{i_* \mathcal{O}_{D_4}}$ . Of course we want the monodromy around the  $Z_5$  point, so we need the monodromy around this  $Z_2$  point, which *a priori* has nothing to do with the previous  $Z_2$  monodromy inside  $\mathcal{L}_1$ . But the monodromy around the  $Z_2$  point is more subtle. Figure 4 in fact is quite misleading, since in reality the spheres  $\mathcal{L}_1$  and  $\mathcal{L}_3$  intersect transversely in 4-space. Moreover, the intersection point is an orbifold itself:  $C^2/Z_2$ . To see what happens, we need to work out the local fundamental group of the complement of  $\mathcal{L}_1$  and  $\mathcal{L}_3$ .<sup>15</sup>

Since the intersection point is a  $C^2/Z_2$  orbifold, we surround it by the *lens space*  $L = S^3/Z_2$  instead of the usual sphere  $S^3$ .  $\mathcal{L}_1$  and  $\mathcal{L}_3$  are both smooth curves and therefore intersect  $L$  in unknotted circles. This way we reduced the problem of computing  $\pi_1(C^2/Z_2 - \{\mathcal{L}_1 \cup \mathcal{L}_3\})$  to computing  $\Pi = \pi_1(L - \{\mathcal{L}_1 \cup \mathcal{L}_3\})$ . To evaluate this consider the covering map  $q: S^3 \rightarrow L$ , with free  $Z_2$  action, induced by the  $Z_2$  action on  $C^2$ . The intersection of both  $\mathcal{L}_1$  and  $\mathcal{L}_3$  with  $L$  lift under  $q^{-1}$  to unknotted circles in  $S^3$ . These circles are linked once and thus  $\pi_1(S^3 - \{q^{-1}(\mathcal{L}_1) \cup q^{-1}(\mathcal{L}_3)\}) = \mathbb{Z} \oplus \mathbb{Z}$ .<sup>16</sup> The generators are the loops around  $q^{-1}(\mathcal{L}_1)$  and  $q^{-1}(\mathcal{L}_3)$ ; we call them  $g_1$  and  $g_2$ .

Since  $q$  is a normal cover we have a short exact sequence of Abelian groups,

$$0 \rightarrow \mathbb{Z} \oplus \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \Pi \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_2 \rightarrow 0. \quad (43)$$

We can easily show that  $\Pi = \mathbb{Z} \oplus \mathbb{Z}$  as well by choosing a convenient fundamental domain, and two generators for  $\Pi$ :  $l_1$  encircles  $\mathcal{L}_1$ , while  $l_2$  goes from a basepoint to its antipodal. This second generator is a closed curve in  $L = S^3/Z_2$  because of the quotienting, but it does not lift to  $S^3$ . Nevertheless,  $2l_2$  does lift to  $S^3$ , and  $q^{-1}(2l_2) = g_1 + g_2$ . In terms of the two bases  $\langle g_1, g_2 \rangle$  and  $\langle l_1, l_2 \rangle$  we have the nontrivial map in (43):

$$\mathbb{Z} \oplus \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z} \oplus \mathbb{Z} \quad \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ 0 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \quad (44)$$

Now we can continue our monodromy calculation. We claim that the loop around  $\mathcal{L}_1 \cap \mathcal{L}_3$  inside  $\mathcal{L}_1$  is *homotopic* to the loop around  $\mathcal{L}_1 \cap \mathcal{L}_3$  inside  $\mathcal{L}_3$ . This statement is not to be taken literally though. Neither  $\mathcal{L}_1$  nor  $\mathcal{L}_3$  are part of the moduli space, so we are not looping inside them. What we have are loops that are infinitesimally close to such loops but lie outside  $\mathcal{L}_1$  or  $\mathcal{L}_3$ . This distinction is usually irrelevant, but for us the singularity brings it to the forefront. What we need to do is to deform the loop inside  $\mathcal{L}_1$  around  $\mathcal{L}_1 \cap \mathcal{L}_3$  so that it does not intersect  $\mathcal{L}_1$  or  $\mathcal{L}_3$ , and similarly for the loop inside  $\mathcal{L}_3$  around  $\mathcal{L}_1 \cap \mathcal{L}_3$ . The reader can convince himself that the generic deformations are indeed both homotopic to  $l_2$ .

Therefore the monodromy inside  $\mathcal{L}_3$  around the  $Z_5$  point is given by

$$M_{Z_5} = T_{i_* \mathcal{O}_{D_4}} \circ M_{Z_2} = T_{i_* \mathcal{O}_{D_4}} \circ T_{j_* \mathcal{O}_{D_5}(-f)} \circ T_{j_* \mathcal{O}_{D_5}} \circ L_{D_2}. \quad (45)$$

## D. Quantum symmetries

It is an interesting question to ask how the  $Z_2$  ( $Z_3$ ) quantum symmetry of the partially resolved  $Z_2$  ( $Z_3$ ) orbifold is realized in the derived category setup. Accordingly, we would like to compute the action of  $(M_{Z_2})^2$  on a generic object. Unfortunately this seems too hard at this moment.<sup>17</sup> Nevertheless, we can compute the Chern character of  $(M_{Z_2})^2$  acting on a generic K-theory class  $x \in K(X)$ .

<sup>15</sup>This situation is similar to the one analyzed in Ref. 31.

<sup>16</sup>An equivalent way of seeing this is to note that  $C^2 - \{\mathcal{L}_1 \cup \mathcal{L}_3\}$  is homotopic to  $C^* \times C^*$ , and that  $S^1 \times S^1$  is a deformation retract of  $C^* \times C^*$ .

<sup>17</sup>The analogous statement for  $C^2/Z_3$  was proved in Ref. 8 while the compact case has been analyzed in Ref. 32.

Inspecting the form of  $M_{Z_2}$  in Eq. (41) we see that in order to compute  $\text{ch}((M_{Z_2})^2x)$  some general properties might be of use. Taking the Chern character of both sides in Eq. (34) one obtains<sup>28,31</sup>

$$\text{ch}(T_A(\mathbf{B})) = \text{ch}(\mathbf{B}) - \langle \mathbf{A}, \mathbf{B} \rangle \text{ch}(\mathbf{A}), \quad (46)$$

where  $\langle \mathbf{A}, \mathbf{B} \rangle$  is an Euler characteristic:

$$\langle \mathbf{A}, \mathbf{B} \rangle = \sum_i (-1)^i \dim \text{Ext}_{D(X)}^i(\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{B}). \quad (47)$$

The Grothendieck–Riemann–Roch theorem gives a useful way to compute this:

$$\langle \mathbf{A}, \mathbf{B} \rangle = \int_X \text{ch}(\mathbf{A}^\vee) \text{ch}(\mathbf{B}) \text{td}(X). \quad (48)$$

Using (46) and (48) one can show that for any K-theory class  $x$ ,

$$\text{ch}((M_{Z_2})^2x) = e^{D_1} \text{ch}(x) \quad (49)$$

and

$$\text{ch}((M_{Z_3})^3x) = e^{D_2} \text{ch}(x). \quad (50)$$

This suggests that both  $(M_{Z_2})^2$  and  $(M_{Z_3})^3$  act like large radius monodromies. The result is surprising at first, but a similar fact has been observed before,<sup>31,8</sup> and it is consistent with the general statement that monodromy at an orbifold point has to be associated with  $B$ -field components other than the blow-up mode of the orbifold. For more on this we refer to Refs. 31 and 8.

A similarly statement is true at the  $Z_5$  orbifold point:

$$\text{ch}((M_{Z_5})^5x) = \text{ch}(x). \quad (51)$$

We note that  $\text{ch}((M_{Z_2})x)$  does not have a simple expression, and similarly for  $\text{ch}((M_{Z_3})x)$  and  $\text{ch}((M_{Z_3})^2x)$ , and for the lower powers of  $M_{Z_5}$ .

#### IV. THE $C^3/Z_5$ FRACTIONAL BRANES

In this section we use the  $Z_5$  monodromy action found in the previous section to generate a collection of fractional branes and study some of their properties. As a starting point we need to know one of the fractional branes. We assume that the D5-brane wrapping the exceptional divisor  $D_5$  is one of the fractional branes. This is a natural assumption as long as we do not make any claims about the rest of the fractional branes. It is reasonable to expect that by various monodromy transformations any one of the fractional branes can be brought to this form. Instead of guessing the other two fractional branes, we look at the orbit of this D5-brane under the  $Z_5$  monodromy action. In the quiver language the fractional branes are the simple representations of the quiver and are mapped into each other under the  $Z_5$  quantum symmetry. Therefore, the fractional branes will necessarily form a length 5 orbit of the  $Z_5$  monodromy, which is an incarnation of the  $Z_5$  quantum symmetry.

##### A. Generating fractional branes

We start by recalling Eq. (45), which gives us the form of the  $Z_5$  monodromy  $M_{Z_5}$ . By the assumption made above the first fractional brane is  $j_*\mathcal{O}_{D_5}$ . The others are  $M_{Z_5}^k(j_*\mathcal{O}_{D_5})$  for  $k = 1, \dots, 4$ . We start out by computing  $M_{Z_5}(j_*\mathcal{O}_{D_5})$ .

##### 1. Computing $M_{Z_5}(j_*\mathcal{O}_{D_5})$

The first step is quite trivial:

$$j_*\mathcal{O}_{D_5} \xrightarrow{L_{D_2}} j_*\mathcal{O}_{D_5}(s+3f). \quad (52)$$

We act on this with  $T_{\mathcal{O}_{D_5}}$  (see footnote<sup>18</sup>) and use the fact that  $\mathbf{R}j_*$  is a triangulated functor to obtain

$$j_*\mathcal{O}_{D_5}(s+3f) \xrightarrow{T_{\mathcal{O}_{D_5}}} \mathbf{C}(j_*\mathcal{O}_{D_5}^{\oplus 5} \rightarrow j_*\mathcal{O}_{D_5}(s+3f)). \quad (53)$$

The intermediate steps above involved using the spectral sequence (A1), but we will always suppress the details. In fact almost every step in this section involves one or more spectral sequences.

Applying  $T_{j_*\mathcal{O}_{D_5}(-f)}$  to this gives something interesting:

$$C = \mathbf{C}(j_*\mathcal{O}_{D_5}(-f)^{\oplus 3}[1] \rightarrow \mathbf{C}(j_*\mathcal{O}_{D_5}^{\oplus 5} \rightarrow j_*\mathcal{O}_{D_5}(s+3f))). \quad (54)$$

We call this last complex  $C$ . It is easy to show that

$$\text{ch}(C) = -\text{ch}(j_*\mathcal{O}_{D_5}(-s)). \quad (55)$$

Moreover, by naive counting  $C$  is a line bundle on  $D_5$ . Therefore, it is natural to suspect the following.

**Lemma 4.1:**  $C \cong j_*\mathcal{O}_{D_5}(-s)[1]$ .

*Proof:* Since the functor  $\mathbf{R}j_*$  preserves triangles, and the morphisms in  $C$  come from  $\text{Hom}_{D_5}^0$  (rather than higher Hom on  $D_5 = \mathbb{F}_3$ , which would be transformed by the spectral sequence into  $\text{Hom}_X^0$ ),<sup>19</sup> we have that

$$\begin{aligned} C &= \mathbf{C}(j_*\mathcal{O}_{D_5}(-f)^{\oplus 3}[1] \rightarrow \mathbf{C}(j_*\mathcal{O}_{D_5}^{\oplus 5} \rightarrow j_*\mathcal{O}_{D_5}(s+3f))) \\ &\cong j_*\mathbf{C}(\mathcal{O}_{D_5}(-f)^{\oplus 3}[1] \rightarrow \mathbf{C}(\mathcal{O}_{D_5}^{\oplus 5} \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_{D_5}(s+3f))). \end{aligned} \quad (56)$$

Therefore  $C = j_*C_5$ , where

$$C_5 = \mathbf{C}(\mathcal{O}_{D_5}(-f)^{\oplus 3}[1] \rightarrow \mathbf{C}(\mathcal{O}_{D_5}^{\oplus 5} \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_{D_5}(s+3f))). \quad (57)$$

Using the long exact sequences associated with cones, one can show that

$$\text{Hom}_{D_5}^k(C_5, \mathcal{O}_{D_5}(-s)[1]) = \begin{cases} C & \text{for } k=0 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases} \quad (58)$$

Therefore there is a map  $f: C_5 \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_{D_5}(-s)[1]$  in  $\text{D}(D_5)$ . We will show that  $\mathbf{C}(f) = 0$  in  $\text{D}(D_5)$ , and therefore  $f$  is a quasi-isomorphism.

To show that  $\mathbf{C}(f) = 0$  in  $\text{D}(D_5)$  it is sufficient to prove that

$$\text{Hom}_{D_5}^k(E_i, \mathbf{C}(f)) = 0 \quad (59)$$

for a complete exceptional collection  $E_i$  on  $D_5 = \mathbb{F}_3$ . This is a *spanning class* in Bridgeland's sense.<sup>33</sup> A convenient choice is the strong exceptional collection

$$\mathcal{O}, \mathcal{O}(f), \mathcal{O}(s+3f), \mathcal{O}(s+4f) \quad (60)$$

on  $\mathbb{F}_3$ .<sup>34,35</sup> Using this collection, it is a tedious but straightforward exercise to prove (59).  $\square$

<sup>18</sup>To simplify the notation we denote  $T_{i_*\mathcal{O}_{D_k}}$  by  $T_{D_k}$ .

<sup>19</sup>This follows from the spectral sequence computation.



The final step of computing  $M_{Z_5}(j_*\mathcal{O}_{D_5})$  involves using the spectral sequence (A3) and results in

$$j_*\mathcal{O}_{D_5}(-s)[1] \xrightarrow{\tau_{\mathcal{O}_{D_4}}} \mathbf{C}(i_*\mathcal{O}_{D_4} \rightarrow j_*\mathcal{O}_{D_5}(-s)[1]) = k_*\mathcal{O}_{D_4+D_5}[1]. \quad (61)$$

The last equality follows from the exact triangle

$$j_*\mathcal{O}_{D_5}(-s) \rightarrow k_*\mathcal{O}_{D_4+D_5} \rightarrow i_*\mathcal{O}_{D_4} \rightarrow j_*\mathcal{O}_{D_5}(-s)[1], \quad (62)$$

where  $k:D_4+D_5 \hookrightarrow X$  is the embedding map. The triangle stems from the short exact sequence<sup>20</sup>

$$0 \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_C(-D) \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_{C+D} \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_D \rightarrow 0. \quad (63)$$

Thus the second fractional brane is  $k_*\mathcal{O}_{D_4+D_5}[1]$  and is a D5-brane that wraps both exceptional divisors,  $D_4$  and  $D_5$ . Equation (62) also shows that the D5-brane  $k_*\mathcal{O}_{D_4+D_5}$  wraps the intersection of  $D_4$  and  $D_5$  only once.

## 2. Computing $(M_{Z_5})^2(j_*\mathcal{O}_{D_5})$

To determine the third fractional brane we apply the  $Z_5$  monodromy again. Now the starting point is the second fractional brane  $k_*\mathcal{O}_{D_4+D_5}[1]$  from the previous section. Since all the operations that we perform are functors between triangulated categories, they all commute with the  $[1]$  shift functor, and therefore

$$M_{Z_5}(k_*\mathcal{O}_{D_4+D_5}[1]) = M_{Z_5}(k_*\mathcal{O}_{D_4+D_5})[1]. \quad (64)$$

So it suffices to compute  $M_{Z_5}(k_*\mathcal{O}_{D_4+D_5})$ . First of all

$$k_*\mathcal{O}_{D_4+D_5} \xrightarrow{L_{D_2}} k_*\mathcal{O}_{D_4+D_5}(D_2). \quad (65)$$

For the next step we need  $\mathbf{R}\mathrm{Hom}_X(j_*\mathcal{O}_{D_5}, k_*\mathcal{O}_{D_4+D_5}(D_2))$ . We will determine this in two different ways. The first method will use the cohomology long exact sequence associated with an exact triangle. The second method will use the spectral sequence (A4). Although the first method is *a priori* more straightforward, the spectral sequence is much more efficient. The fact that the two methods give the same result provides a consistency check for our calculations.

The exact triangle (62) implies that

$$j_*\mathcal{O}_{D_5}(3f) \rightarrow k_*\mathcal{O}_{D_4+D_5}(D_2) \rightarrow i_*\mathcal{O}_{D_4} \rightarrow j_*\mathcal{O}_{D_5}(3f)[1] \quad (66)$$

is an exact triangle as well. Applying the covariant functor  $\mathrm{Ext}_X^i(j_*\mathcal{O}_{D_5}, -)$  to the exact triangle (66) gives the long exact sequence

$$\mathrm{Ext}_X^i(j_*\mathcal{O}_{D_5}, j_*\mathcal{O}_{D_5}(3f)) \rightarrow \mathrm{Ext}_X^i(j_*\mathcal{O}_{D_5}, k_*\mathcal{O}_{D_4+D_5}(D_2)) \rightarrow \mathrm{Ext}_X^i(j_*\mathcal{O}_{D_5}, i_*\mathcal{O}_{D_4}). \quad (67)$$

The spectral sequence (A3) tells us that  $\mathrm{Ext}_X^i(j_*\mathcal{O}_{D_5}, i_*\mathcal{O}_{D_4}) = \delta_{i,1}\mathbb{C}^2$ , while using the spectral sequence (A1) gives

<sup>20</sup>Intuitively this formula is easy to understand. The inclusion map of  $D$  into  $C+D$  allows us to restrict functions from  $C+D$  to  $D$ . This is the map  $\mathcal{O}_{C+D} \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_D$ . The kernel of this map consists of those functions on  $C$  that vanish at the intersection point with  $D: \mathcal{O}_C(-D)$ . For a rigorous proof see Ref. 36.

$$\text{Ext}_X^i(j_*\mathcal{O}_{D_5}, j_*\mathcal{O}_{D_5}(3f)) = \begin{cases} \mathbb{C}^4 & \text{for } i = 0 \\ \mathbb{C}^2 & \text{for } i = 2 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases} \tag{68}$$

Using these two facts, the long exact sequence (67) tells us that  $\text{Ext}_X^i(j_*\mathcal{O}_{D_5}, k_*\mathcal{O}_{D_4+D_5}(D_2)) = \delta_{i,0}\mathbb{C}^4$ .

The same result can be obtained much quicker if we apply the spectral sequence (A4) to our case. By Serre duality

$$\text{Ext}_X^i(j_*\mathcal{O}_{D_5}, k_*\mathcal{O}_{D_4+D_5}(D_2)) = \text{Ext}_X^{3-i}(k_*\mathcal{O}_{D_4+D_5}(D_2), j_*\mathcal{O}_{D_5}) \tag{69}$$

The spectral sequence (A4) then reads

$$\begin{array}{c} \begin{array}{ccc} & \text{HP}(\mathbb{F}_3, \mathcal{O}(-2s - 8f)) & \\ q \uparrow & & \\ & \text{HP}(\mathbb{F}_3, \mathcal{O}(-s - 3f)) & \\ & \text{---} & \\ & p & \end{array} & = & \begin{array}{ccc} & 0 & 0 & \mathbb{C}^4 \\ q \uparrow & & & \\ & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ & \text{---} & & \\ & p & & \end{array} \end{array} \tag{70}$$

and therefore  $\text{Ext}_X^i(j_*\mathcal{O}_{D_5}, k_*\mathcal{O}_{D_4+D_5}(D_2)) = \delta_{i,0}\mathbb{C}^4$ , as we saw before.

Therefore we established that

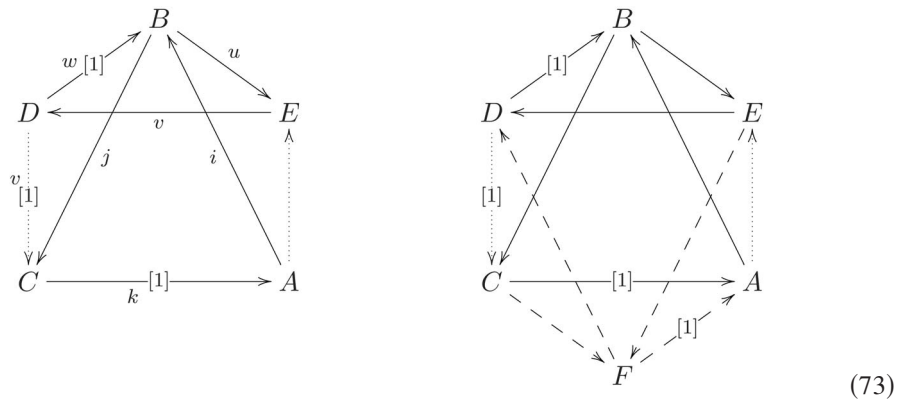
$$k_*\mathcal{O}_{D_4+D_5}(D_2) \xrightarrow{\tau_{\mathcal{O}_{D_5}}} \mathbb{C}(j_*\mathcal{O}_{D_5}^{\oplus 4} \rightarrow k_*\mathcal{O}_{D_4+D_5}(D_2)). \tag{71}$$

Applying  $\tau_{j_*\mathcal{O}_{D_5}(-f)}$  to this gives

$$k_*\mathcal{O}_{D_4+D_5}(D_2) \xrightarrow{\tau_{\mathcal{O}_{D_5}(-f)}} \mathbb{C}(j_*\mathcal{O}_{D_5}(-f)^{\oplus 3}[1] \rightarrow \mathbb{C}(j_*\mathcal{O}_{D_5}^{\oplus 4} \rightarrow k_*\mathcal{O}_{D_4+D_5}(D_2))). \tag{72}$$

The way it stands, this expression is not too revealing, but fortunately we can simplify it dramatically using a deep property of triangulated categories, known as the octahedral axiom.

**The octahedral axiom:** Assume that we are given two distinguished triangles having an object  $B$  in common,  $(A, B, C, i, j, k)$  and  $(B, D, E, u, v, w)$  (these are the solid arrows):



This setting gives us automatically two maps:  $u \circ i: A \rightarrow E$  and  $j[1] \circ w: D \rightarrow C[1]$ —these are the dotted lines above. Using the two maps we can construct two distinguished triangles:

$(A, E, F_1, u \circ i, \dots, \dots)$  and  $(C, F_2, D, \dots, \dots, j[1] \circ w)$ . The octahedral axiom states that  $F_1 = F_2$ , and the newly created two extra faces of the octahedron commute.<sup>21</sup>

Altogether, four of the faces of the octahedron are distinguished triangles and the other four faces commute. We can present the upper and lower halves of the octahedron separately:

We signaled a distinguished triangle with the symbol  $\Delta$  and a commuting triangle with  $\square$ .

Forgetting for a moment about the maps involved, the octahedral axiom can be rewritten as

$$C(C \rightarrow C(A \rightarrow E)) = C(C(C[-1] \rightarrow A) \rightarrow E). \tag{75}$$

This comes from the observation that  $D$  can be written in two different ways in terms of the other objects.

Now we can return to the monodromy computation. Using the octahedral axiom (75), the complex in (72) becomes

$$C(C(j_*\mathcal{O}_{D_5}(-f)^{\oplus 3} \rightarrow j_*\mathcal{O}_{D_5}^{\oplus 4}) \rightarrow k_*\mathcal{O}_{D_4+D_5}(D_2)). \tag{76}$$

To proceed we recall from Eq. (66) that

$$k_*\mathcal{O}_{D_4+D_5}(D_2) = C(i_*\mathcal{O}_{D_4}[-1] \rightarrow j_*\mathcal{O}_{D_5}(3f)) \tag{77}$$

and use another form of the octahedral axiom (once again  $D$  is written in two different ways):

$$C(C(A \rightarrow B) \rightarrow F) = C(B \rightarrow C(F[-1] \rightarrow A)). \tag{78}$$

Using (78) and (77), Eq. (76) becomes<sup>22</sup>

$$C(C(j_*\mathcal{O}_{D_5}(3f) \rightarrow C(j_*\mathcal{O}_{D_5}(-f)^{\oplus 3} \rightarrow j_*\mathcal{O}_{D_5}^{\oplus 4})) \rightarrow i_*\mathcal{O}_{D_4}). \tag{79}$$

This expression is in fact much simpler than it looks due to the following.

**Lemma 4.2:**  $C = C(j_*\mathcal{O}_{D_5}(3f) \rightarrow C(j_*\mathcal{O}_{D_5}(-f)^{\oplus 3} \rightarrow j_*\mathcal{O}_{D_5}^{\oplus 4})) \cong 0$ .

*Proof:* The proof is identical in spirit to one from the previous section, and therefore we are going to be sketchy. The functor  $j_*$  preserves triangles, and the morphisms in  $C$  are  $\text{Hom}^0$  on  $D_5 = \mathbb{F}_3$ , so  $C = j_*C_5$ , where

$$C_5 = C(\mathcal{O}_{D_5}(3f) \rightarrow C(\mathcal{O}_{D_5}(-f)^{\oplus 3} \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_{D_5}^{\oplus 4})). \tag{80}$$

An explicit computation then shows that  $\text{Hom}_{D_5}^k(E_i, C_5) = 0$  for the spanning class (60).  $\square$

Using the lemma we have that

<sup>21</sup>Although this way of stating the octahedral axiom is not the standard one, it is equivalent to the more customary one (Ref. 37).

<sup>22</sup>Here  $F = i_*\mathcal{O}_{D_4}$ ,  $A = j_*\mathcal{O}_{D_5}(3f)$ , and  $B = C(j_*\mathcal{O}_{D_5}(-f)^{\oplus 3} \rightarrow j_*\mathcal{O}_{D_5}^{\oplus 4})$ .

$$k_*\mathcal{O}_{D_4+D_5}(D_2) \xrightarrow{T_{\mathcal{O}_{D_5}(-f)}} j_*\mathcal{O}_{D_4}. \quad (81)$$

Therefore the last step of the computation involves  $T_{\mathcal{O}_{D_4}}(i_*\mathcal{O}_{D_4})$ . Here we can use a more general result.<sup>23</sup>

**Lemma 4.3:** *If  $A$  is an  $n$ -spherical object, then  $T_A(A) = A[1-n]$ .*

For  $n=3$  and  $A=i_*\mathcal{O}_{D_4}$ ,<sup>24</sup> the lemma gives  $T_{i_*\mathcal{O}_{D_4}}(i_*\mathcal{O}_{D_4}) = i_*\mathcal{O}_{D_4}[-2]$ , and thus

$$M_{Z_5}(k_*\mathcal{O}_{D_4+D_5}[1]) = i_*\mathcal{O}_{D_4}[-1]. \quad (82)$$

This establishes  $i_*\mathcal{O}_{D_4}[-1]$  as the third fractional brane.

### 3. Computing $(M_{Z_5})^3(j_*\mathcal{O}_{D_5})$

The first step is totally trivial since  $D_2$  and  $D_4$  are disjoint:

$$i_*\mathcal{O}_{D_4} \xrightarrow{L_{D_2}} i_*\mathcal{O}_{D_4}. \quad (83)$$

Now we act on this with  $T_{\mathcal{O}_{D_5}}$  and use the spectral sequence (A1):

$$i_*\mathcal{O}_{D_4} \xrightarrow{T_{\mathcal{O}_{D_5}}} \mathbf{C}(j_*\mathcal{O}_{D_5}^{\oplus 2}[-1] \rightarrow i_*\mathcal{O}_{D_4}). \quad (84)$$

Applying  $T_{j_*\mathcal{O}_{D_5}(-f)}$  gives

$$\mathbf{C}(j_*\mathcal{O}_{D_5}(-f) \rightarrow \mathbf{C}(j_*\mathcal{O}_{D_5}^{\oplus 2}[-1] \rightarrow i_*\mathcal{O}_{D_4})). \quad (85)$$

We can rewrite this expression using the octahedral axiom (75):

$$\mathbf{C}(\mathbf{C}(j_*\mathcal{O}_{D_5}(-f) \rightarrow j_*\mathcal{O}_{D_5}^{\oplus 2}[-1]) \rightarrow i_*\mathcal{O}_{D_4}). \quad (86)$$

The first cone simplifies if we use the Koszul resolution<sup>25</sup> (for the intersection of two fibers on  $D_5 = \mathbb{F}_3$ , which is empty, and recall that  $\mathcal{O}_{\emptyset} = 0$ ):

$$0 \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_{D_5}(-2f) \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_{D_5}(-f)^{\oplus 2} \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_{D_5} \rightarrow 0. \quad (87)$$

This shows that

$$\mathbf{C}(j_*\mathcal{O}_{D_5}(-f) \rightarrow j_*\mathcal{O}_{D_5}^{\oplus 2}) = \mathcal{O}_{D_5}(f), \quad (88)$$

and therefore (86) becomes

$$\mathbf{C}(\mathcal{O}_{D_5}(f)[-1] \rightarrow i_*\mathcal{O}_{D_4}). \quad (89)$$

Finally

$$\mathbf{C}(\mathcal{O}_{D_5}(f)[-1] \rightarrow i_*\mathcal{O}_{D_4}) \xrightarrow{T_{\mathcal{O}_{D_4}}} \mathbf{C}(i_*\mathcal{O}_{D_4} \rightarrow \mathbf{C}(\mathcal{O}_{D_5}(f)[-1] \rightarrow i_*\mathcal{O}_{D_4})) \cong \mathcal{O}_{D_5}(f). \quad (90)$$

In other words, the fourth fractional brane,  $\mathcal{O}_{D_5}(f)$ , is a 5-brane wrapping the  $\mathbb{F}_3$  with D3-brane flux turned on.

<sup>23</sup>For a proof the reader can consult Lemma 4.1 in Ref. 8.

<sup>24</sup>Proposition 3.15 of Ref. 28 guarantees that  $i_*\mathcal{O}_{D_4}$  is 3-spherical in the sense of Definition 3.5, or one can check this directly using the spectral sequence (A1).

<sup>25</sup>The maps are the correct ones needed for this to work.

**4. Computing  $(M_{Z_5})^4(j_*\mathcal{O}_{D_5})$**

First,

$$j_*\mathcal{O}_{D_5}(f) \xrightarrow{L_{D_2}} j_*\mathcal{O}_{D_5}(s+4f). \tag{91}$$

Acting with  $T_{\mathcal{O}_{D_5}}$  one obtains

$$j_*\mathcal{O}_{D_5}(s+4f) \xrightarrow{T_{\mathcal{O}_{D_5}}} \mathbf{C}(j_*\mathcal{O}_{D_5}^{\oplus 7} \rightarrow j_*\mathcal{O}_{D_5}(s+4f)). \tag{92}$$

Applying  $T_{j_*\mathcal{O}_{D_5}(-f)}$  gives

$$C = \mathbf{C}(j_*\mathcal{O}_{D_5}(-f)^{\oplus 5}[1] \rightarrow \mathbf{C}(j_*\mathcal{O}_{D_5}^{\oplus 7} \rightarrow j_*\mathcal{O}_{D_5}(s+4f))). \tag{93}$$

We named this last complex  $C$ . It is easy to show that

$$\text{ch}(C) = -\text{ch}(j_*\mathcal{O}_{D_5}(f-s)). \tag{94}$$

Moreover, by naive counting  $C$  is a line bundle on  $D_5$ . Therefore, it is natural to suspect the following.

**Lemma 4.4:**  $C \cong j_*\mathcal{O}_{D_5}(f-s)[1]$ .

*Proof:* The proof is by now standard: The crucial point is once again the fact that every map in  $C$  is a  $\text{Hom}^0$  on  $D_5 = \mathbb{F}_3$ , and thus  $C = j_*C_5$ , where

$$C_5 = \mathbf{C}(\mathcal{O}_{D_5}(-f)^{\oplus 5}[1] \rightarrow \mathbf{C}(\mathcal{O}_{D_5}^{\oplus 7} \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_{D_5}(s+4f))). \tag{95}$$

Using the long exact sequences associated with the cones one shows that

$$\text{Hom}_{D_5}^k(C_5, \mathcal{O}_{D_5}(f-s)[1]) = \begin{cases} C & \text{for } k=0 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases} \tag{96}$$

Therefore there is a map  $f: C_5 \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_{D_5}(-s)[1]$  in  $\mathbf{D}(D_5)$ , and it turns out that  $\mathbf{C}(f)$  is orthogonal to the spanning class (60), and we can conclude like in Lemma 4.1.  $\square$

Using the lemma the final step of  $M_{Z_5}(j_*\mathcal{O}_{D_5}(f))$  is

$$T_{\mathcal{O}_{D_4}}(j_*\mathcal{O}_{D_5}(f-s)[1]) = \mathbf{C}(i_*\mathcal{O}_{D_4}^{\oplus 2} \rightarrow j_*\mathcal{O}_{D_5}(f-s)[1]). \tag{97}$$

This is another 5-brane wrapping both  $D_4$  and  $D_5$ . One expects these branes in order to be able to describe the decays of all the  $C^3/Z_3$  fractional branes (which can be chosen to be  $\{\Omega_{P^2}^k(k)[k]\}_{k=0}^2$ ).

**B. The quiver**

Let us summarize the lengthy computation of this section. We have shown the following mappings under the action of  $M_{Z_5}$ :

$$\begin{aligned} j_*\mathcal{O}_{D_5} &\mapsto k_*\mathcal{O}_{D_4+D_5}[1], & j_*\mathcal{O}_{D_4+D_5} &\mapsto i_*\mathcal{O}_{D_4}[-2], \\ i_*\mathcal{O}_{D_4} &\mapsto j_*\mathcal{O}_{D_5}(f), & j_*\mathcal{O}_{D_5}(f) &\mapsto \mathbf{C}(i_*\mathcal{O}_{D_4}^{\oplus 2} \rightarrow j_*\mathcal{O}_{D_5}(f-s)[1]). \end{aligned} \tag{98}$$

Shifting appropriately, the following list of five objects forms an orbit of the  $Z_5$  orbifold quantum symmetry:

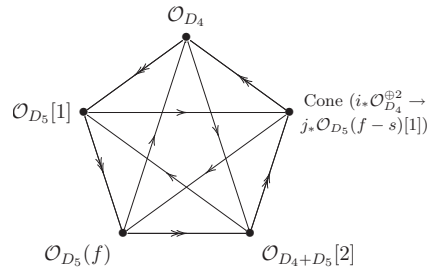


FIG. 6. The  $\mathbb{C}^3/\mathbb{Z}_5$ -quiver.

$$j_*\mathcal{O}_{D_5}[1], \quad k_*\mathcal{O}_{D_4+D_5}[2], \quad i_*\mathcal{O}_{D_4}, j_*\mathcal{O}_{D_5}(f), \quad \mathbf{C}(i_*\mathcal{O}_{D_4}^{\oplus 2} \rightarrow j_*\mathcal{O}_{D_5}(f-s)[1]). \quad (99)$$

Therefore we have potential sets of fractional branes. Let us call them  $\{\mathcal{F}_i\}_{i=1}^5$ . All of them are automatically 3-spherical since they were obtained by autoequivalence, and the initial one,  $j_*\mathcal{O}_{D_5}$ , is 3-spherical.

The first thing we need to check is whether their charges, measured by the K-theory, add up to that of the D3-brane. One easily computes the Chern characters, and has that

$$\sum_{i=1}^5 \text{ch}(\mathcal{F}_i) = \text{ch}(\mathcal{O}_{pt}). \quad (100)$$

Next we compute the  $\text{Ext}^1$ -quiver of the collection (99). Using the spectral sequences from the Appendix we obtain the well-known  $\mathbb{C}^3/\mathbb{Z}_5$ -quiver, depicted in Fig. 6.

Moreover, the  $\text{Ext}^0$  and  $\text{Ext}^3$  between different branes are all zero. Therefore the potentially tachyonic strings are missing. For every  $\text{Ext}^1$  there will be an  $\text{Ext}^2$  by Serre duality, and the  $\text{Ext}^2$  will give the correct superpotential.

Finally we need to check that the central charge, and hence the mass, of the  $\mathcal{F}_i$  is a fifth of the D3-brane central charge at the  $\mathbb{Z}_5$  point in moduli space. This can be done using the expression for the central charges in terms of the periods given in Ref. 16. This works because the central charges are determined by the large volume asymptotics, which depend only on the Chern character of the brane.

### C. Connection with the McKay correspondence

The classical version of the McKay correspondence<sup>38</sup> relates the representations of a finite subgroup  $\Gamma$  of  $\text{SL}(2, \mathbb{C})$  to the cohomology of the minimal resolution of the Kleinian singularity  $\mathbb{C}^2/\Gamma$ .

A solid understanding of the McKay correspondence culminated with the work of Bridgeland *et al.* [Bridgeland–King–Reid (BKR)],<sup>4</sup> who showed that in dimensions 2 and 3 the McKay correspondence is an equivalence of two very different derived categories.<sup>26</sup> Let us review their construction applied to  $\mathbb{C}^3/\mathbb{Z}_5$ . As we will see, the McKay correspondence provides a set of fractional branes, which is different from what we obtained by monodromy.

First we have the covering map  $q: \mathbb{C}^3 \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^3/\mathbb{Z}_5$  and the map  $\tilde{p}: X \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^3/\mathbb{Z}_5$  corresponding to the resolution of singularities. Using these two maps we can consider the fiber product  $Y$  of  $\mathbb{C}^3$  and  $X$  over  $\mathbb{C}^3/\mathbb{Z}_5$ :

<sup>26</sup>The BKR proof generalizes to higher dimensions provided there exists a crepant resolution (Ref. 4).

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 Y & \xrightarrow{q_2} & \mathbb{C}^3 \\
 q_1 \downarrow & & \downarrow q \\
 X & \xrightarrow{\bar{p}} & \mathbb{C}^3/\mathbb{Z}_5
 \end{array} . \tag{101}$$

Let  $\mathcal{Coh}^{\mathbb{Z}_5}(\mathbb{C}^3)$  be the category of  $\mathbb{Z}_5$ -equivariant coherent sheaves on  $\mathbb{C}^3$ . BKR show that the functor

$$\Phi = \mathbf{R}q_{2*} \circ q_1^* : D(X) \rightarrow D(\mathcal{Coh}^{\mathbb{Z}_5}(\mathbb{C}^3)) \tag{102}$$

is an equivalence of categories. This statement implies the classical McKay correspondence.

There is another equivalence at hand, although this one is more mundane: the one-to-one correspondence between the representations of the  $\mathbb{C}^3/\mathbb{Z}_5$  McKay quiver and the category of  $\mathbb{Z}_5$ -equivariant coherent sheaves on  $\mathbb{C}^3$  (for a review see Ref. 7). In the language of quiver representations the fractional branes are the simple objects, i.e., with no subobjects; the representations with all but one node assigned the trivial vector space, and all arrows are assigned the 0 morphisms. We can compose this equivalence with  $\Phi$  from (102) and ask for the inverse images of the simples in  $D(X)$ . This provides a set of fractional branes. Unfortunately this question has not been answered yet in the literature. So far the answer is known only for  $\mathbb{C}^n/\mathbb{Z}_n$  (for  $n=3$  see, e.g., Ref. 7) and  $\mathbb{C}^2/\Gamma$ .<sup>39</sup>

If we simplify the question and ask *only* about K-theoretic inverse images, then one can use the technology of Ito and Nakajima.<sup>40</sup> This process was carried out in Ref. 16 with the following answer:

$$j_*\mathcal{O}_{D_5}(-s) + i_*\mathcal{O}_{D_4} - j_*\mathcal{O}_{D_5}(-s-f) - i_*V, i_*\mathcal{O}_{D_4}(-1), -j_*\mathcal{O}_{D_5}(-s), j_*\mathcal{O}_{D_5}(-s-f), \tag{103}$$

where  $V$  is a rank 2 bundle on  $\mathbb{P}^2$ , with  $\text{ch } V = 2 - H - H^2/2$ ,  $H$  being the hyperplane class on  $\mathbb{P}^2$ .

This collection is to be contrasted with the one obtained in Sec. IV, more precisely (99). Next we elucidate their connection using Seiberg duality.

### 1. Seiberg duality

The original Seiberg duality<sup>41</sup> is a low-energy equivalence between  $N=1$  supersymmetric gauge theories: an  $SU(N_c)$  theory with  $N_f$  fundamental flavors and no superpotential and an  $SU(N_f - N_c)$  theory with  $N_f$  fundamental magnetic flavors with a superpotential containing mesons. The duality says that both flow to the same theory in the infrared. We will use the Berenstein–Douglas<sup>42</sup> extension of Seiberg duality, which has a natural stratification. In its simplest form it amounts to a base change for the branes. Since the new basis usually involves antibranes in the language of the old basis, this change is most naturally done in the derived category of coherent sheaves rather than sheaves alone. Therefore in this form Seiberg duality is an autoequivalence of the derived category of coherent sheaves, which by Orlov’s theorem (Theorem 3.1) is a FM functor.

The most general form of Seiberg duality arises when the  $t$ -structure of the derived category is changed. This is usually achieved by the use of tilting complexes.<sup>42</sup> What makes this possible is the underlying fact that there are different Abelian categories with equivalent derived categories.

Thus, in general, the difference between two collections of fractional branes can only be partially attributed to a choice of basepoint, since tiltings are more general than autoequivalences. The McKay collection, although not explicitly, but inherently is associated with the vicinity of the orbifold point. The collection obtained by monodromies explicitly involved the choice of a basepoint for the loops in the moduli space, and this basepoint was in the vicinity of the large volume point. Therefore it is reasonable to expect that the two collections differ only by a change in basepoint.

Indeed, one finds that the two collections (103) and (99) are related by monodromy around a point in moduli space where the brane wrapping both  $D_4$  and  $D_5$  is becoming massless, in other words  $\mathbb{T}_{\mathcal{O}_{D_4+D_5}}$ . The intuition for this fact comes from two observations. First, one recognizes that in K-theory  $j_*\mathcal{O}_{D_5}(-s) + i_*\mathcal{O}_{D_4} = k_*\mathcal{O}_{D_4+D_5}$  and second that  $\text{ch } V = \text{ch } \Omega_{\mathbb{P}^2}(1)$ , where  $\Omega_{\mathbb{P}^2}$  is the cotangent bundle of  $\mathbb{P}^2$ . The authors of Ref. 16 seem to be unaware of these facts.

Since  $\mathcal{O}_{D_4+D_5}$  is 3-spherical,<sup>27</sup> Lemma 4.3 tells us that

$$\mathbb{T}_{\mathcal{O}_{D_4+D_5}}(k_*\mathcal{O}_{D_4+D_5}[2]) = k_*\mathcal{O}_{D_4+D_5}[2-2] = k_*\mathcal{O}_{D_4+D_5}. \quad (104)$$

This establishes a link between the two sets. One can go further and show that  $\text{ch}(\mathbb{T}_{\mathcal{O}_{D_4+D_5}}(\mathcal{F}_i))$  for  $\mathcal{F}_i$  from the collection (99) is precisely the set given in (103). This is the most one can say at this point, since the collection (103) is defined only in K-theory.

One can turn the argument around and propose that the above relationship lifts to  $D(X)$ ; in other words the McKay collection is given by  $\mathbb{T}_{\mathcal{O}_{D_4+D_5}}$  applied to (99). This is easy to compute, since all the necessary Hom can be read off from the quiver. Applying  $\mathbb{T}_{\mathcal{O}_{D_4+D_5}}$  to (99) yields

$$i_*\mathcal{O}_{D_4}(-1)[2], \quad k_*\mathcal{O}_{D_4+D_5}, \quad j_*\mathcal{O}_{D_5}(-s)[1], \quad \mathbb{C}(k_*\mathcal{O}_{D_4+D_5}^{\oplus 2} \rightarrow j_*\mathcal{O}_{D_5}(f)), \quad j_*\mathcal{O}_{D_5}(-s-f)[2]. \quad (105)$$

Every step above is straightforward except for the last term,  $j_*\mathcal{O}_{D_5}(-s-f)[2]$ , where one needs to use the octahedral axiom (75).

It would be interesting to reproduce the collection (105) by a direct computation using  $\Phi$  from the McKay correspondence (102), as done for  $\mathbb{C}^3/\mathbb{Z}_3$  in Ref. 43 and for  $\mathbb{C}^2/\mathbb{Z}_n$  in Ref. 39.

## V. THE $\mathbb{C}^n/\mathbb{Z}_m$ -QUIVER FROM PARTIAL RESOLUTIONS

The partial resolutions of the  $\mathbb{C}^n/\mathbb{Z}_m$  singularity form a partially ordered set. The simplest partial resolutions involve blowing up *only one* exceptional divisor. This is particularly easy to do torically. For  $\mathbb{C}^3/\mathbb{Z}_5$  we sketched the partial resolutions in Fig. 2. In fact there is a one-to-one correspondence between the different  $\mathbb{Z}_m$  actions on  $\mathbb{C}^n$  and the different compact divisors in the resolution of the  $\mathbb{C}^n/\mathbb{Z}_m$  singularity. We outline this relationship briefly, as it plays a useful role in proving the main result of this section.

Since  $\mathbb{Z}_m$  is cyclic, the action is totally specified by how a primitive generator acts on  $\mathbb{C}^n$ :

$$(z_1, \dots, z_n) \mapsto (\omega_n^{a_1} z_1, \dots, \omega_n^{a_n} z_n), \quad (\omega_n)^n = 1. \quad (106)$$

We fix the  $a_i$  to be between 0 and  $m-1$ .

From the string theory point of view the most interesting  $\mathbb{Z}_m$  actions are those where  $\mathbb{Z}_m$  is a subgroup of  $\text{SL}(m, \mathbb{C})$ , since these admit crepant resolutions. From now on we make the following assumption:

$$m = \sum_{i=1}^n a_i. \quad (107)$$

There is a convenient toric representation for the  $\mathbb{C}^n/\mathbb{Z}_m$  variety. As explained in Sec. IIB of Ref. 21, the toric fan consists of only one cone, generated by the unit vectors of  $\mathbb{Z}^n$ , while the  $N$  lattice of the toric variety is

$$N = \mathbb{Z}^n + \frac{1}{m}(a_1, \dots, a_n)\mathbb{Z}. \quad (108)$$

<sup>27</sup>It was obtained from a 3-spherical object,  $j_*\mathcal{O}_{D_5}$ , by an autoequivalence.



Let  $\{e_i\}_{i=1}^n$  be the unit vectors of  $\mathbb{Z}^n$ . Condition (107) guarantees that the vectors  $e_i$  and  $v = (1/m)(a_1, \dots, a_n)$  all lie on the hyperplane  $\sum_{i=1}^n x_i = 1$ . It is also clear that  $v$  is an affine combination of the  $e_i$ . This representation links the different group actions (106) to the various rational affine combinations of the base vectors  $e_i$ .

For simplicity we assume that the  $a_i$  do not have a common divisor. If this were not the case, then this common divisor  $d$  would also divide  $m = \sum a_i$ , and the  $\mathbb{Z}_d$  subgroup of  $\mathbb{Z}_m$  would act trivially, effectively reducing the action to  $\mathbb{Z}_{m/d}$ . Of course this statement is valid for schemes and would fail if we viewed  $\mathbb{C}^n/\mathbb{Z}_m$  as a smooth Deligne–Mumford stack.

The lattice vector  $v = (1/m)(a_1, \dots, a_n)$  gives rise to a torus-invariant divisor  $D_v$ . As usual, the divisor itself is a toric variety, and with our assumption on the  $a_i$  it is the weighted projective space  $\mathbb{P}^{n-1}(a_1, \dots, a_n)$ . We sketch the argument.

First one observes that

$$\sum_{i=1}^n a_i(e_i - v) = \sum_{i=1}^n a_i e_i - mv = 0. \quad (109)$$

The  $N$  lattice of  $D_v$  by definition is  $N_{D_v} = N/\mathbb{Z}v$ .<sup>21</sup> The star of  $v$  consists of every cone, and the rays of  $D_v$  are  $e_i - v$ . Let us denote by  $\bar{u}$  the class of the image of  $u \in N$  under the natural projection  $N \rightarrow N_{D_v}$ . Therefore the relation (109) descends to

$$\sum_{i=1}^n a_i \bar{e}_i = 0. \quad (110)$$

This is the “signature” relation for  $\mathbb{P}^{n-1}(a_1, \dots, a_n)$ . One still needs to show the minimality of this relation.

*Proof:* We assume that there is another relation  $\sum_{i=1}^n r_i \bar{e}_i = 0$ . Lifting this to  $N$  means  $\sum_{i=1}^n r_i e_i = \alpha v$  for some  $\alpha \in \mathbb{Z}$ . In other words

$$r_i = \frac{\alpha}{m} a_i \quad \text{for all } 1 \leq i \leq n. \quad (111)$$

Now for no  $k$  is  $a_k = 0$  (otherwise we would not have a  $\mathbb{Z}_m$  action on  $\mathbb{C}^n$  but on a lower dimensional space), and thus  $r_k \neq 0$ , i.e., the length of the relation is minimal. Furthermore, if  $\alpha/m < 1$ , then  $m/\alpha$  divides  $a_i$  for all  $1 \leq i \leq n$ . We already assumed that the  $a_i$  do not have a common divisor, and thus  $\alpha/m \geq 1$ . Now summing both sides of (111) gives  $\sum_{i=1}^n r_i = \alpha \geq m$ , and thus (110) is indeed minimal.  $\square$

The McKay correspondence gives an equivalence between quiver representations and sheaves on the resolved space, but it glosses over the partial resolutions. One can fill in the gap by recasting it slightly into the language of stacks. First recall that there is an equivalence of categories between  $\mathbb{C}^n/G$ -quiver representations and coherent sheaves on the quotient stack  $[\mathbb{C}^n/G]$ . Therefore the McKay correspondence reads as

$$D([\mathbb{C}^n/G]) \cong D(\text{crepant resolution of } \mathbb{C}^n/G). \quad (112)$$

Kawamata generalized the above statement, and for  $G$  Abelian he proved that<sup>44</sup>

$$D([\mathbb{C}^n/G]) \cong D(\text{partial crepant stacky resolution}) \cong D(\text{crepant resolution}), \quad (113)$$

where in the middle one has to consider the partially resolved space as a stack.

Therefore it makes sense to talk about fractional branes on the partially resolved space and ask what they are. The strategy of this section is to use an appropriate set of objects on the exceptional divisor of the resolution to model the fractional branes. This strategy was successfully deployed in Ref. 14 as well.

We already saw that the divisor  $D_v$  is  $\mathbb{P}^{n-1}(a_1, \dots, a_n)$ . In the light of Kawamata's work, we need to consider the stack  $\mathbf{P}^{n-1}(a_1, \dots, a_n)$  instead. The reason for this is intuitively clear: in order for  $D_v$  to be able to capture the fact that it provides a partial resolution for the  $\mathbb{C}^n/\mathbb{Z}_m$  singularity, we have to retain more information than its scheme structure.

We consider the stack  $\mathbf{P}^{n-1}(a_1, \dots, a_n)$  from the point of view quotient stacks,<sup>35,45</sup> where it was shown that it has a full and strong exceptional collection of length  $n$ :

$$\mathcal{O}, \mathcal{O}(1), \dots, \mathcal{O}(m-1), \quad \text{where } m = \sum_{i=1}^n a_i. \quad (114)$$

The mutation-theoretic dual of this exceptional collection was thoroughly investigated in Ref. 45.<sup>28</sup> In particular, Proposition 2.5.11 of Ref. 45 states that the mutation-theoretic left dual of the collection  $\mathcal{O}, \dots, \mathcal{O}(m-1)$  is given by the full exceptional sequence

$$\mathcal{M}_{(1-m)}, \mathcal{M}_{(2-m)}, \dots, \mathcal{M}_{(-1)}, \mathcal{M}_{(0)}. \quad (115)$$

In order to explain the previous expression we need to introduce some notation. Let  $I \subseteq \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$  be a subset and consider the weighted projective stack  $\mathbf{P}^{n-1}(a_1, \dots, a_n)$ . Then  $\#I$  will denote the number of elements in  $I$ , while  $a_I = \sum_{i \in I} a_i$ . In this notation, for  $0 \geq l > -m$ , the complex  $\mathcal{M}_{(l)}$  is defined as a subcomplex of the Koszul complex  $\mathcal{K}$  twisted by  $\mathcal{O}(l)$ ,<sup>45</sup> with the  $j$ th term given by

$$\mathcal{M}_{(-l)}^j = \bigoplus_{\#I=-j, a_I \leq l} \mathcal{O}(l - a_I) \subseteq \bigoplus_{\#I=-j} \mathcal{O}(l - a_I) = \mathcal{K}^j(l). \quad (116)$$

In other words  $\mathcal{M}_{(l)}$  has nonzero components only in nonpositive degrees. Let us give two examples.

**Example 5.1:** For  $\mathbf{P}^1(a_1, a_2)$ , assuming that  $a_1 < a_2$ , the  $\mathcal{M}_{(l)}$  are<sup>29</sup>

$$\mathcal{M}_{(-l)} = \begin{cases} \mathcal{O}(l) & \text{for } 0 \leq l < a_1 \\ \mathcal{O}(l - a_1) \rightarrow \mathcal{O}(l) & \text{for } a_1 \leq l < a_2 \\ \mathcal{O}(l - a_1) \oplus \mathcal{O}(l - a_2) \rightarrow \mathcal{O}(l) & \text{for } a_2 \leq l < a_1 + a_2. \end{cases} \quad (117)$$

**Example 5.2:** For  $\mathbf{P}^1(1, 1, 3)$  the  $\mathcal{M}_{(l)}$  are

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{M}_0 &= \mathcal{O}, \\ \mathcal{M}_{-1} &= \mathcal{O}^{\oplus 2} \rightarrow \mathcal{O}(1), \\ \mathcal{M}_{-2} &= \mathcal{O} \rightarrow \mathcal{O}(1)^{\oplus 2} \rightarrow \mathcal{O}(2), \\ \mathcal{M}_{-3} &= \mathcal{O}(1) \rightarrow \mathcal{O} \oplus \mathcal{O}(2)^{\oplus 2} \rightarrow \mathcal{O}(3), \\ \mathcal{M}_{-4} &= \mathcal{O}(1)^{\oplus 2} \oplus \mathcal{O}(2) \rightarrow \mathcal{O}(1) \oplus \mathcal{O}(3)^{\oplus 2} \rightarrow \mathcal{O}(4). \end{aligned} \quad (118)$$

For brevity let us denote the stack  $\mathbf{P}^{n-1}(a_1, \dots, a_n)$  by  $\mathcal{Y}$ . Similarly, the partially resolved quotient stack  $\text{Bl}[\mathbb{C}^n/\mathbb{Z}_m]$ , with exceptional divisor  $D_v$ , is denoted by  $\mathcal{X}$ . Let

<sup>28</sup>For the definition and properties of mutations see, e.g., Ref. 34.

<sup>29</sup>We underlined the zeroth position in a complex.

$$i: \mathcal{Y} = \mathbf{P}^{n-1}(a_1, \dots, a_n) \hookrightarrow \mathcal{X} = \text{Bl}[\mathbb{C}^n/\mathbb{Z}_m]$$

denote the embedding morphism of stacks.

**Proposition 5.3:** For any  $n \geq 2$  and  $\mathbb{Z}_m$  action on  $\mathbb{C}^n$  such that the weights  $(a_1, \dots, a_n)$  do not have a common divisor and  $m = \sum_{i=1}^n a_i$  the pushed-forward complexes

$$i_* \mathcal{M}_{(1-m)}, i_* \mathcal{M}_{(2-m)}, \dots, i_* \mathcal{M}_{(-1)}, i_* \mathcal{M}_{(0)}$$

provide a model for the  $\mathbb{C}^n/\mathbb{Z}_m$  fractional branes.

*Proof:* The group  $\mathbb{Z}_m$  has  $m$  irreducible representations, all of them one dimensional. We label them by their characters:  $\rho^i$  for  $0 \leq i < m$ , where  $\rho^m = 1$ . In terms of these the  $\mathbb{Z}_m$  action (106) is  $\rho^{a_1} \oplus \dots \oplus \rho^{a_n}$ . The McKay quiver has its nodes given by the irreps, and the number of arrows from  $\rho^i$  to  $\rho^j$  is given by  $b_{ij}$  in the following formula:

$$\rho^i \otimes (\rho^{a_1} \oplus \dots \oplus \rho^{a_n}) = \bigoplus_{j=1}^n b_{ij} \rho^j. \tag{119}$$

Therefore  $b_{ij} = \#\{k \in \{1, \dots, n\} | a_k = j - i\}$ , i.e., the cardinality of the finite set.

Now we fix a node, say,  $\rho^i$ , and we analyze to what nodes do arrows go from this node. This information for all  $i$  is sufficient to draw the quiver. By (119) the arrows go to the nodes  $\rho^{a_k+i}$ . Now  $0 < a_k < m$  and  $0 \leq i < m$ , and thus  $0 < a_k + i < 2m$ . In conclusion, there are arrows going from node  $\rho^i$  to node  $\rho^j$  if

$$\begin{aligned} i < j \quad \text{and} \quad j = i + a_k \quad \text{for some } k \quad \text{or} \\ i > j \quad \text{and} \quad i + a_k = j + m \quad \text{for some } k. \end{aligned} \tag{120}$$

Taking into account the multiplicities, the number of arrows going from node  $\rho^i$  to node  $\rho^j$  is

$$N_{i \rightarrow j} = \begin{cases} \#\{k | a_k = j - i\} & \text{if } i < j \\ \#\{k | a_k = m + j - i\} & \text{if } i > j. \end{cases} \tag{121}$$

As we said, this is sufficient to draw the McKay quiver. Next we show that the same rules are satisfied by the Ext<sup>1</sup>-quiver of the proposed fractional branes.

To evaluate the Ext-groups we use the stacky version of the spectral sequence (A1) (see, e.g., Ref. 43). In our case  $i: \mathcal{Y} = \mathbf{P}^{n-1}(a_1, \dots, a_n) \hookrightarrow \mathcal{X} = \text{Bl}_k[\mathbb{C}^n/\mathbb{Z}_m]$ . For  $\mathcal{E}$  and  $\mathcal{F}$  two objects in  $D(\mathcal{Y})$  the spectral sequence reads

$$E_2^{p,q} = \text{Ext}_{\mathcal{Y}}^p(\mathcal{E}, \mathcal{F} \otimes \Lambda^q N_{\mathcal{Y}/\mathcal{X}}) \Rightarrow \text{Ext}_{\mathcal{X}}^{p+q}(i_* \mathcal{E}, i_* \mathcal{F}). \tag{122}$$

Since  $N_{\mathcal{Y}/\mathcal{X}} = K_{\mathcal{Y}}$  has rank 1,<sup>30</sup> the spectral sequence degenerates at  $E_2$ , and we have that

$$\text{Ext}_{\mathcal{X}}^1(i_* \mathcal{E}, i_* \mathcal{F}) = \text{Ext}_{\mathcal{Y}}^1(\mathcal{E}, \mathcal{F}) \oplus \text{Ext}_{\mathcal{Y}}^0(\mathcal{E}, \mathcal{F} \otimes K_{\mathcal{Y}}). \tag{123}$$

Serre duality gives  $\text{Ext}_{\mathcal{Y}}^0(\mathcal{E}, \mathcal{F} \otimes K_{\mathcal{Y}}) = \text{Ext}_{\mathcal{Y}}^{n-1}(\mathcal{F}, \mathcal{E})^\vee$ , and therefore

$$\text{Ext}_{\mathcal{X}}^1(i_* \mathcal{E}, i_* \mathcal{F}) = \text{Ext}_{\mathcal{Y}}^1(\mathcal{E}, \mathcal{F}) \oplus \text{Ext}_{\mathcal{Y}}^{n-1}(\mathcal{F}, \mathcal{E})^\vee. \tag{124}$$

The  $\text{Ext}_{\mathcal{Y}}^i(\mathcal{M}(i), \mathcal{M}(j))$  groups are easily computed using Lemma 2.5.12 of Ref. 45:

$$\dim \text{Ext}_{\mathcal{Y}}^k(\mathcal{M}(i), \mathcal{M}(j)) = \#\{J \subseteq \{1, \dots, n\} | \#J = k, a_J = j - i\}. \tag{125}$$

Therefore

$$\dim \text{Ext}_{\mathcal{Y}}^1(\mathcal{M}(i), \mathcal{M}(j)) = \#\{k \in \{1, \dots, n\} | a_k = j - i\} \tag{126}$$

and

<sup>30</sup>We used the fact that  $K_{\mathcal{X}}$  is trivial.

$$\dim \text{Ext}_Y^{n-1}(\mathcal{M}(i), \mathcal{M}(j)) = \#\{k \in \{1, \dots, n\} | m - a_k = j - i\}, \quad (127)$$

Observe that both (126) and (127) vanish if  $i > j$ , and thus only one of them contributes to (124) for any given  $i$  and  $j$ . Putting the pieces together we have that

$$\text{Ext}_X^1(i_*\mathcal{M}(i), i_*\mathcal{M}(j)) = \begin{cases} \#\{k | a_k = j - i\} & \text{if } i < j \\ \#\{k | m - a_k = i - j\} & \text{if } i > j. \end{cases} \quad (128)$$

But this expression agrees with (121), and hence the two quivers are identical.

To complete the proof, we need to show that the  $i_*\mathcal{M}_{(l)}$  indeed “add up” to the D3-brane. It suffices to show the following K-theory relation:

**Lemma 5.4:**

$$\sum_{l=0}^{1-m} [\mathcal{M}_{(l)}] = [\mathcal{O}_{pt}]. \quad (129)$$

*Proof:* By definition

$$\sum_{l=0}^{m-1} [\mathcal{M}_{(-l)}] = \sum_{l=0}^{m-1} \sum_{j=0}^{n-1} (-1)^j [\mathcal{M}_{(-l)}^{-j}] = \sum_{l=0}^{m-1} \sum_{j=0}^{n-1} (-1)^j \sum_{\#I=j, a_I \leq l} (l - a_I) H, \quad (130)$$

where we called  $[\mathcal{O}(1)] = H$ . The last expression is in fact a sum over restricted pairs  $(l, I)$ ,

$$\sum_{(l, I): a_I \leq l} (-1)^{\#I} (l - a_I) H. \quad (131)$$

The idea of the proof is to reorganize the terms of this sum such that one has natural cancellations and then recognize the remaining terms as having to do with a certain Koszul resolution. To this aim we first investigate the pairs  $(l, I)$  from the above sum.

Since  $I \subset \{1, \dots, n\}$  its cardinality is  $k$  for some  $0 \leq k \leq n$ . These subsets fall into two categories: those that contain the element 1 and those that do not. The first step is to show that the  $I$  containing 1 cancel out many of the terms coming from the subset  $I - \{1\}$ .

Let  $I$  contain 1. The sum in (131) runs over pairs  $(l, I)$  such that  $a_I \leq l < m$ . The contribution of such a term is  $(-1)^{\#I} (l - a_I) H$ , with  $0 \leq l - a_I < m - a_I$ , or

$$(-1)^{\#I} \rho H \quad \text{for } 0 \leq \rho < m - a_I. \quad (132)$$

Now consider the subset  $I^c = I - \{1\}$ , assuming that  $1 \in I$ , for which  $a_{I^c} = a_I - a_1$ . The range of  $l$  for a pair  $(l, I^c)$  is  $a_{I^c} \leq l < m$ , i.e.,  $a_I - a_1 \leq l < m$ . The contributions coming from the  $(l, I^c)$  is  $(-1)^{\#I^c} (l - a_{I^c}) H$ , with  $0 \leq l - a_{I^c} < m - a_{I^c} = m - a_I + a_1$ , or using  $\#I^c = \#I - 1$ :

$$-(-1)^{\#I} \rho H \quad \text{for } 0 \leq \rho < m - a_I + a_1. \quad (133)$$

Comparing (132) and (133) we see that (132) cancels all the terms in (133), except those in the range  $m - a_I \leq \rho < m - a_I + a_1$ .

Let us rephrase what we obtained. Given a pair  $(l, I)$  we have the following:

- (1) if  $1 \in I$  then  $(l, I)$  gives no contribution to (131)—since it cancels part of the  $(l - a_I, I - \{1\})$  contribution;
- (2) if  $1 \notin I$  then  $(l, I)$  contributes to (131) only if  $m - a_I \leq l < m$ —the others are canceled by  $(l + a_1, I \cup \{1\})$ .

The second statement is justified so far only if  $\#I < n - 1$ . So what happens for  $\#I = n - 1$ ? If  $I' = \{2, \dots, n\}$ , then there is no contribution coming from  $I \cup \{1\} = \{1, \dots, n\}$ , since the condition  $l < m$  disallows any pair containing  $\{1, \dots, n\}$ . On the other hand,  $a_{I'} = \sum_{i=2}^n a_i = m - a_1$ , and thus the condition  $a_{I'} \leq l < m$  reads  $m - a_1 \leq l < m$ , which is what we want.<sup>31</sup>

Therefore the sum (131) has been reduced to (by the above conclusion the sum is unrestricted)

$$\sum_{l=m-a_1}^{m-1} \sum_{1 \notin I} (-1)^{\#I} (l - a_l) H = \left( \sum_{l=m-a_1}^{m-1} l \right) \left( \sum_{1 \notin I} (-1)^{\#I} \right) H - a_1 \left( \sum_{1 \notin I} (-1)^{\#I} a_l \right) H. \tag{134}$$

The first sum is

$$\sum_{1 \notin I} (-1)^{\#I} = \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} (-1)^i \binom{n-1}{i} = 0. \tag{135}$$

The second factor comes from the Koszul complex of the point  $[1, 0, \dots, 0]$  on  $\mathbf{P}^{n-1}(a_1, \dots, a_n)$ . The ideal in question is  $(x_2, \dots, x_n)$ , and the  $j$ th term of the Koszul complex is  $\mathcal{K}^j = \bigoplus_{\#J=j} \mathcal{O}(-a_J)$ , where now  $J \subset \{2, \dots, n\}$ . These  $J$  are precisely the  $I$  appearing in (134). Therefore

$$\sum_{1 \notin I} (-1)^{\#I} a_l H = [\mathcal{O}_{[1,0,\dots,0]}], \tag{136}$$

the K-class of the singular point  $[1, 0, \dots, 0]$ .  $a_1$  times this is a nonsingular point on the stack  $\mathbf{P}^{n-1}(a_1, \dots, a_n)$ , and this proves the lemma.  $\square$

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**APPENDIX: SOME USEFUL SPECTRAL SEQUENCES**

In the bulk of the paper we make extensive use of spectral sequences. We recall three of them here (for more details see Ref. 8).

The simplest case concerns a *smooth* subvariety  $S$  of a smooth variety  $X$ . Let  $i: S \hookrightarrow X$  be the embedding, and  $N_{S/X}$  the normal bundle of  $S$  in  $X$ . Then for two locally free sheaves  $\mathcal{E}$  and  $\mathcal{F}$  on  $S$ , we have the first spectral sequence:

$$E_2^{p,q} = \text{Ext}_S^p(\mathcal{E}, \mathcal{F} \otimes \Lambda^q N_{S/X}) \Rightarrow \text{Ext}_X^{p+q}(i_* \mathcal{E}, i_* \mathcal{F}) \tag{A1}$$

where  $\Lambda^q$  denotes the  $q$ th exterior power.

A more general case is when you are given two nested embeddings:  $j: T \hookrightarrow S$  and  $i: S \hookrightarrow X$ , a vector bundle  $\mathcal{F}$  on  $T$ , and a vector bundle  $\mathcal{E}$  on  $S$ . Then we have the spectral sequence

$$E_2^{p,q} = \text{Ext}_T^p(\mathcal{E}|_T, \mathcal{F} \otimes \Lambda^q N_{S/X}|_T) \Rightarrow \text{Ext}_X^{p+q}(i_* \mathcal{E}, j_* \mathcal{F}). \tag{A2}$$

The symbol  $|_T$  means restriction to  $T$ .

The final and most general case deals with two subvarieties  $T$  and  $S$  of  $X$ . Now the embeddings are  $i: S \hookrightarrow X$  and  $j: T \hookrightarrow X$ . Once again  $\mathcal{F}$  is a vector bundle on  $T$ , and  $\mathcal{E}$  is a vector bundle on  $S$ . The spectral sequence is

<sup>31</sup>There is no problem at the other end, where  $I = \{1\}$ , since  $I' = I - \{1\} = \emptyset$ , for which the condition  $a_{I'} \leq l < m$  reads  $0 \leq l < m$ , and no terms are missing for the assumed cancellation.

$$E_2^{p,q} = \text{Ext}_{S\cap T}^p(\mathcal{E}|_{S\cap T}, \mathcal{F}|_{S\cap T} \otimes \Lambda^{q-m}\tilde{N} \otimes \Lambda^{\text{top}}N_{S\cap T/T}) \Rightarrow \text{Ext}_X^{p+q}(i_*\mathcal{E}, j_*\mathcal{F}), \quad (\text{A3})$$

where  $\tilde{N} = TX|_{S\cap T}/(TS|_{S\cap T} \oplus TT|_{S\cap T})$  is a quotient of tangent bundles, while  $m = \text{rk } N_{S\cap T/T}$ .

We also recall a spectral sequence derived in Appendix B of Ref. 8. Let  $X$  be a smooth algebraic variety. Consider two divisors  $C$  and  $D$  on  $X$  and the embedding maps  $i: C+D \hookrightarrow X$  and  $j: C \hookrightarrow X$ . The divisor  $C+D$  is reducible and singular. For a coherent sheaf  $\mathcal{F}$  on  $C$ , the spectral sequence with the  $E_2^{p,q}$  term,

$$E_2^{p,q} = \begin{array}{c} \begin{array}{c} 0 \\ \text{HP}(C, \mathcal{F}(C^2+CD)) \\ \text{HP}(C, \mathcal{F}) \end{array} \end{array} \quad (\text{A4})$$

converges to  $\text{Ext}_X^{p+q}(i_*\mathcal{O}_{C+D}, j_*\mathcal{F})$ .

Although these spectral sequences were derived for sheaves, they extend to the derived category. It is also clear that (A1) is a particular case of (A2), which in turn is a particular case of (A3).

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