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# Euclidean D-branes in type IIB string theory on Calabi-Yau threefolds

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ABSTRACT: We compute the contribution of Euclidean D-branes in type IIB string theory on Calabi-Yau threefolds to the metric on the hypermultiplet moduli space in the large volume, weak coupling limit. Our results are in perfect agreement with the predictions based on S-duality, mirror symmetry and supersymmetry.

KEYWORDS: D-branes, Nonperturbative Effects, Superstrings and Heterotic Strings

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## 1 Introduction

Type II string theories are known to receive non-perturbative contributions from Euclidean D-branes wrapped on compact cycles. These contributions are expected to play an important role in stabilizing the moduli in semi-realistic string compactifications and the determination of Yukawa couplings in the low energy effective field theory. For this reason it is important to learn how to systematically compute these contributions to string amplitudes.

In a previous paper [1], extending the results of [2–4], we computed these corrections to the hypermultiplet moduli space metric in type IIA string theory compactified on Calabi-Yau (CY) threefolds in the weak coupling limit and compared the results with the predictions based on S-duality, mirror symmetry and supersymmetry [5–7]. In this paper we repeat the analysis for type IIB string theory compactified on CY threefolds. Since the two theories are related by mirror symmetry, we could have gotten the result just by using this symmetry. Nevertheless, since our main goal is to learn how to compute D-instanton effects when they are not known from other considerations, it is important to develop independent techniques for doing these computations. Indeed, as we will see, the actual computation in type IIB string theory has a somewhat different flavor and different subtleties than those encountered in the analysis of type IIA string theory.

The rest of the paper is organized as follows. In section 2 we describe a few of our conventions, but refer to [1] for most of the world-sheet conventions. We also describe the low energy effective action obtained by compactifying tree level type IIB supergravity on a Calabi-Yau threefold and the relative normalization between the variables of supergravity used in section 2 and section 3 and the string theory variables that we use in later calculations. In section 3 we describe the predicted result for the D-instanton contribution to the hypermultiplet metric based on S-duality, mirror symmetry and supersymmetry. In section 4 we describe the general strategy for computing the instanton contribution using world-sheet techniques. This is essentially the same as in the case of type IIA string theory. In section 4.1 we compute the normalization factor associated with the contribution from D(-1)-branes in type IIB string theory. This case is somewhat different from the systems analyzed in type IIA string theory in [1], where the Euclidean branes were assumed to be rigid, with the only moduli being associated with the motion along the non-compact directions and the fermion zero modes associated with broken supersymmetry. In contrast, D(-1)-branes have additional moduli describing motion along the CY threefold. In section 5 and section 6 we compute the disk amplitudes with one hypermultiplet scalar and a pair of fermion zero modes for various scalars on various D-branes. These results are then put together following the general algorithm of section 4 to compute the correction to the metric on the hypermultiplet moduli space. In section 6 we generalize these results to multiple charge systems and by taking into account the effect of background  $B$  and RR fields. As a result, we find a perfect agreement with the prediction for the instanton contribution to the metric presented in section 3. The appendices contain various technical results that are used in the analysis in the main text.

## 2 Preliminaries

In this section we shall describe some of our conventions and the known results on the tree level action of type IIB string theory compactified on a Calabi-Yau threefold.

### 2.1 Conventions

Since most of our world-sheet conventions will follow those in [1], we shall not repeat them here. The main difference comes in the spin fields. Unlike in type IIA string theory, the left and right handed spin fields in type IIB string theory carry the same ten-dimensional chirality. Therefore, now the operator product expansion of the spin fields in the two sectors will take identical form, with the holomorphic fields / coordinates exchanged with the anti-holomorphic fields / coordinates. These have been described in (C.1). The other world-sheet relations that we shall use extensively are the normalizations of the open and closed string vacua that can be used to fix the normalization of the disk and sphere amplitudes:

$$\langle k|c_{-1}c_0c_1 e^{-2\phi}(0)|k'\rangle = (2\pi)^{p+1}\delta^{(p+1)}(k+k') \quad (2.1)$$

for the open string vacuum on a  $p$ -brane, and

$$\langle k|c_{-1}\bar{c}_{-1}c_0\bar{c}_0c_1\bar{c}_1 e^{-2\phi}(0)e^{-2\bar{\phi}}(0)|k'\rangle = -(2\pi)^{10}\delta^{(10)}(k+k') \quad (2.2)$$

for the closed string.

We shall use the same gamma matrix conventions as in [1], but since we shall use these results extensively, we shall review some of the relations here. First of all, we take all the ten-dimensional gamma matrices to be  $16 \times 16$  symmetric matrices. We denote the real coordinate labels of the CY threefold  $\mathfrak{Y}$  by lower case bold-faced letters  $\mathbf{m}, \mathbf{n}, \dots$ , the holomorphic coordinate labels of  $\mathfrak{Y}$  by lower case italic indices  $s, t, \dots$ , those of four-dimensional space by Greek letters  $\mu, \nu, \dots$ , denote by  $\tilde{\Gamma}^{\mathbf{m}}$  for  $4 \leq \mathbf{m} \leq 9$  the six-dimensional gamma matrices, by  $\gamma^\mu$  for  $0 \leq \mu \leq 3$  the four-dimensional gamma matrices and choose the ten-dimensional gamma matrices  $\Gamma^M$  as follows:

$$\tilde{\Gamma} = i\tilde{\Gamma}^4 \dots \tilde{\Gamma}^9, \quad \Gamma^\mu = \tilde{\Gamma} \otimes \gamma^\mu, \quad \Gamma^{\mathbf{m}} = \tilde{\Gamma}^{\mathbf{m}} \otimes I_4. \quad (2.3)$$

We denote by  $\eta, \bar{\eta}$  the covariantly constant spinors on  $\mathfrak{Y}$ , for which we have the following useful relations [1]:

$$\bar{\eta}\eta = 1, \quad \bar{\eta}\tilde{\Gamma}^{ijklmn}\eta = -i\epsilon^{ijklmn}, \quad \bar{\eta}\tilde{\Gamma}^{ij}\eta = i\omega^{ij}, \quad (2.4)$$

where  $\omega$  is the Kähler form on  $\mathfrak{Y}$  related to the metric in the holomorphic coordinates by  $\omega_{s\bar{t}} = i\mathbf{g}_{s\bar{t}}$ .

As in [1], the ten-dimensional spinor indices will be labelled by  $\alpha, \beta, \dots$  and the four-dimensional spinor indices will be labelled by the dotted indices  $\dot{\alpha}, \dot{\beta}, \dots$  and undotted indices  $\alpha, \beta, \dots$ . Since the relevant instantons break 4 out of 8 supersymmetries, they will carry 4 fermion zero modes from the open string sector that we denote by  $\tilde{\chi}^\alpha$  and  $\tilde{\chi}^{\dot{\alpha}}$ . We can also represent them as ten-dimensional spinors  $\mathcal{X}^\alpha, \hat{\mathcal{X}}^\beta$  by choosing

$$\mathcal{X} = \eta \otimes \tilde{\chi}^\alpha, \quad \hat{\mathcal{X}} = \bar{\eta} \otimes \tilde{\chi}^{\dot{\alpha}}. \quad (2.5)$$

In our analysis we shall use two types of Hodge dual. We denote by  $*$  the Hodge dual in ten dimensions and by  $\star$  the Hodge dual in the Calabi-Yau manifold. For both of these we use the string metric. However, we express our final result in the four-dimensional canonical metric.

## 2.2 Classical hypermultiplet moduli space

Upon compactification of type II string theory on a CY threefold  $\mathfrak{Y}$ , we get a  $\mathcal{N} = 2$  supersymmetric theory whose massless scalars can be divided into hypermultiplet and vector multiplet fields. In particular, the scalars labelling the hypermultiplet moduli space  $\mathcal{M}_H$  in type IIB formulation include the following fields:

- the fields  $z^a = b^a + it^a$  ( $a = 1, \dots, h^{1,1}(\mathfrak{Y})$ ) describing appropriately normalized complexified Kähler moduli of  $\mathfrak{Y}$ ;
- the RR fields defined as period integrals of the RR  $p$ -forms  $C^{(p)}$  of type IIB string theory over a basis of cycles in  $H_{\text{even}}(\mathfrak{Y}, \mathbb{Z})$

$$c^0 = C^{(0)}, \quad c^a = \int_{\gamma^a} C^{(2)}, \quad \tilde{c}_a = \int_{\tilde{\gamma}_a} C^{(4)}, \quad \tilde{c}_0 = \int_{\mathfrak{Y}} C^{(6)}, \quad (2.6)$$

where  $\{\gamma^a\}$  and  $\{\tilde{\gamma}_a\}$  are bases in  $H_2(\mathfrak{Y}, \mathbb{Z})$  and  $H_4(\mathfrak{Y}, \mathbb{Z})$ , respectively;

- the dilaton  $\tau_2$  whose vacuum expectation value is the inverse string coupling  $1/g_s$ ;
- the axion  $\sigma$  which is dual to the NSNS 2-form field in four dimensions.<sup>1</sup>

The precise normalization of these fields will be described later. Throughout this paper, we shall work in the large volume limit. However, unlike in the case of type IIA string theory, here the large volume limit is not exact, since the Kähler moduli belong to the hypermultiplet.

If we denote the collection of the hypermultiplet scalars by  $\{\lambda^m\}$ , then the kinetic term of these fields in the action has the form

$$-\frac{1}{2} \int d^4x \mathcal{G}_{mn}^H(\lambda) \partial_\mu \lambda^m \partial^\mu \lambda^n, \quad (2.7)$$

where in the large volume, small string coupling approximation, the metric  $\mathcal{G}_{mn}^H d\lambda^m d\lambda^n$  is given by

$$ds_{\text{cl}}^2 = \frac{1}{\tau_2^2} \left( 2d\tau_2 + \frac{\tau_2}{2V} \kappa_{ab} t^a dt^b \right)^2 + G_{ab} \left( dt^a dt^b + db^a db^b \right) + \frac{(dc^0)^2}{\tau_2^2} + \frac{G_{ab}}{\tau_2^2} \nabla c^a \nabla c^b + \frac{G^{ab} \nabla \tilde{c}_a \nabla \tilde{c}_b}{\tau_2^2 V^2} + \frac{(\nabla \tilde{c}_0)^2}{\tau_2^2 V^2} + \frac{(\nabla \sigma)^2}{4\tau_2^4 V^2}. \quad (2.8)$$

---

<sup>1</sup>Note that NS axion and the scalars defined by (2.6) are *different* from those that are usually used to express the hypermultiplet metric of type IIB string theory and that have simple transformation properties under the S-duality group (see, e.g., [5, 8, 9]). To make contact with the literature, we show the relations between the two sets of fields in appendix A.

Various quantities in this expression are defined as follows. Given a basis  $\{\omega_a\}$  of harmonic (1,1)-forms, dual to the basis  $\{\gamma^a\}$  of integer homology 2-cycles, i.e. satisfying  $\int_{\gamma^a} \omega_b = \delta_b^a$ , we define,

$$\kappa_{abc} = \int_{\mathfrak{Y}} \omega_a \wedge \omega_b \wedge \omega_c, \quad \kappa_{ab} = \kappa_{abc} t^c, \quad V = \frac{1}{6} \kappa_{abc} t^a t^b t^c, \quad (2.9)$$

and  $\kappa^{ab}$  to be the matrix inverse of  $\kappa_{ab}$ . Then the metrics appearing in (2.8) are given by

$$\begin{aligned} G_{ab} &\equiv -\frac{1}{V} \left( \kappa_{ab} - \frac{1}{4V} \kappa_{ac} t^c \kappa_{bd} t^d \right), \\ G^{ab} &\equiv (G^{-1})^{ab} = -V \left( \kappa^{ab} - \frac{1}{2V} t^a t^b \right), \end{aligned} \quad (2.10)$$

while various covariant one-forms are defined as

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla c^a &= dc^a - c^0 db^a, & \nabla \tilde{c}_a &= d\tilde{c}_a - \kappa_{abc} c^b db^c, & \nabla \tilde{c}_0 &= d\tilde{c}_0 - \tilde{c}_a db^a, \\ \nabla \sigma &= d\sigma + c^0 \nabla \tilde{c}_0 - c^a \nabla \tilde{c}_a + \tilde{c}_a \nabla c^a - \tilde{c}_0 dc^0. \end{aligned} \quad (2.11)$$

Note that these one-forms in  $\mathcal{M}_H$  can be described in a compact way using differential forms in  $\mathfrak{Y}$ . Let us define

$$B = b^a \omega_a, \quad C^{(\text{even})} = \sum_{k=0}^3 C^{(2k)} = c^0 + c^a \omega_a + \tilde{c}_a \tilde{\omega}^a + \tilde{c}_0 \omega_{\mathfrak{Y}}, \quad (2.12)$$

where  $\tilde{\omega}^a$  is a basis of harmonic (2,2)-forms satisfying  $\int_{\tilde{\gamma}^a} \tilde{\omega}^b = \delta_a^b$  and  $\omega_{\mathfrak{Y}}$  is a harmonic six-form satisfying  $\int_{\mathfrak{Y}} \omega_{\mathfrak{Y}} = 1$ . We also introduce operator  $\iota$  on even-forms which acts on  $H^{2k}(\mathfrak{Y})$  by the sign  $\iota = (-1)^k$ . For example,  $\iota(C^{(\text{even})})$  differs from (2.12) by the sign of  $c^a$  and  $\tilde{c}_0$  terms. Then we have, using (B.2) and (B.3),

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla C^{(\text{even})} &= dC^{(\text{even})} - dB \wedge C^{(\text{even})} = e^B d(e^{-B} C^{(\text{even})}), \\ \nabla \sigma &= d\sigma + \int_{\mathfrak{Y}} \iota(C^{(\text{even})}) \wedge \nabla C^{(\text{even})}, \end{aligned} \quad (2.13)$$

where all products are to be regarded as wedge products and  $d$  acts on the moduli space (not on  $\mathfrak{Y}$ ).

The action (2.7) has been written down in the background in which the four-dimensional canonical metric, normalized to have the action

$$-\int d^4x \sqrt{-\det g} R, \quad (2.14)$$

has been set equal to  $\eta_{\mu\nu}$ . The relationship between the variables appearing in (2.8) and those that appear in string (field) theory (which we shall denote by boldface letters) can be found either by comparing the kinetic terms or by comparing the disk one-point functions in the presence of an Euclidean D-brane. This is done in appendix F and the results are summarized in (2.23).

Due to mirror symmetry, the hypermultiplets moduli spaces of type IIA and type IIB string theories compactified on two mirror CY threefolds are identical. Therefore, the

classical metric (2.8) can be related by a coordinate change to the tree level metric in the type IIA formulation evaluated for the classical prepotential

$$F(X) = -\frac{1}{6}\kappa_{abc}\frac{X^aX^bX^c}{X^0}. \quad (2.15)$$

This coordinate change is known as *classical mirror map* and in our conventions it is given by

$$\begin{aligned} r &= \frac{1}{2}\tau_2^2V, & z^a &= b^a + it^a, & \zeta^0 &= c^0, & \zeta^a &= -c^a + c^0b^a, \\ \tilde{\zeta}_a &= -\tilde{c}_a + \kappa_{abc}b^b\left(c^c - \frac{1}{2}c^0b^c\right), & \tilde{\zeta}_0 &= -\tilde{c}_0 + b^a\tilde{c}_a - \frac{1}{2}\kappa_{abc}b^ab^b\left(c^c - \frac{1}{3}c^0b^c\right), \end{aligned} \quad (2.16)$$

where the variables on the left hand side are the same ones used in [1] to express the result for the metric in type IIA string theory. (The NS axion is the same on both sides.)

The metric (2.8) has a large isometry group. First of all, it is invariant under  $SL(2, \mathbb{R})$  transformations which include, in particular, S-duality inverting the string coupling. As explained in appendix A, the variables we are using are closely related (but not identical) to the variables distinguished by having simple transformations under this symmetry. Second, the metric is invariant under various shift symmetries. They include the invariance under shifts of the  $B$ -field

$$b^a \mapsto b^a + \epsilon^a, \quad (2.17)$$

and the Heisenberg symmetry involving shifts of the RR fields and the NS axion. To write them in terms of type IIB fields, it is again convenient to use the language of differential forms. Let  $\vartheta \in H^{(\text{even})}(\mathfrak{M})$  be a moduli independent even form. Then the Heisenberg symmetry is described by the following transformations

$$C^{(\text{even})} \mapsto C^{(\text{even})} + e^B\vartheta, \quad \sigma \mapsto \sigma + \theta - \int_{\mathfrak{M}} \iota(\vartheta) \wedge C^{(\text{even})} e^{-B}, \quad (2.18)$$

where the operator  $\iota$  was defined above (2.13). The invariance of the metric (2.8) under these transformations follows from the invariance of the covariant derivatives (2.13), which is straightforward to check taking into account the property

$$\iota(e^B\vartheta) = e^{-B}\iota(\vartheta). \quad (2.19)$$

### 2.3 Normalization of the fields

For our analysis we need to relate the moduli appearing in (2.8) to those that appear in the string theory computation. This has been done in appendix F. Here we shall summarize just the main results. We denote by  $\mathbf{g}_{MN}$  and  $\mathbf{B}_{MN}$  the ten-dimensional string metric and NSNS 2-form field, normalized so that the polarizations  $h_{MN}$  and  $b_{MN}$  appearing in the vertex operators are related to these fields via

$$\mathbf{g}_{MN} = \eta_{MN} + 2\kappa h_{MN}, \quad \mathbf{B}_{MN} = b_{MN}, \quad (2.20)$$

where  $\kappa$  is related to the string coupling  $g_s = 1/\tau_2$  via

$$\kappa = 2^3 \pi^{7/2} g_s. \quad (2.21)$$

Upon compactification on a CY threefold  $\mathfrak{Y}$ , they give rise to the scalar fields  $\mathbf{t}^a$  and  $\mathbf{b}^a$  defined using the expansion in the basis of (1,1)-forms

$$\mathbf{g}_{s\bar{t}} = -i\mathbf{t}^a \omega_{a,s\bar{t}}, \quad \mathbf{B}_{s\bar{t}} = \frac{1}{2\kappa} \mathbf{b}^a \omega_{a,s\bar{t}}. \quad (2.22)$$

In these variables the Kähler form of  $\mathfrak{Y}$  reads as  $\omega = \mathbf{t}^a \omega_a$ . We also denote by  $\mathbf{C}^{(2k)}$  the RR  $2k$ -form potential whose vertex operators are given in appendices D and E, and by  $\sigma$  the scalar obtained by dualizing the NSNS 2-form field  $\mathbf{B}_{\mu\nu}$ , whose normalization is given in (F.10). We then have the following relations between these variables and the ones appearing in section 2.2:

$$\mathbf{t}^a = (2\pi)^2 t^a, \quad \mathbf{b}^a = (2\pi)^2 b^a, \quad d\sigma = -\frac{(2\pi)^6}{2\kappa\tau_2^2} d\sigma, \quad \mathbf{C}^{(2k)} = \frac{(2\pi)^{2k}}{2^6\pi^{7/2}} C^{(2k)}. \quad (2.23)$$

The variable  $\tau_2$ , describing the ten-dimensional dilaton is the same in the string theory variables and in those that enter the metric (3.21). It will also be convenient to define

$$\kappa_{ab} = \kappa_{abc} \mathbf{t}^c = (2\pi)^2 \kappa_{ab} \quad (2.24)$$

and  $\kappa^{ab}$  as its inverse matrix.

Various useful quantities for Calabi-Yau threefolds and their properties may be found in appendix B.

### 3 Prediction for the D-instanton amplitude

In this section we shall describe the prediction for the D-instanton correction to the hypermultiplet moduli space metric in the weak coupling and large volume limit, where the word instanton will refer to any Euclidean D-brane whose world-volume lies along the compact directions. This prediction will be based on the mirror symmetry applied to the leading instanton contribution to the metric on  $\mathcal{M}_H$  in type IIA string theory found in [1].

#### 3.1 D-instantons in type IIB

The classical metric on  $\mathcal{M}_H$  given in (2.8) is not exact and receives quantum corrections, in particular non-perturbative corrections due to D-instantons. In contrast to type IIA string theory, where upon compactification on a CY threefold only D2-branes generated instanton corrections, in type IIB all  $Dp$  branes with  $p$  odd, as well as their bound states, generate non-perturbative contributions.

The charge vector  $\gamma = (q_\Lambda, p^\Lambda)$  classifying such D-instantons is given by the expansion of the so called generalized Mukai vector in the basis of even-dimensional cohomology [10]

$$\gamma \equiv \text{ch}(E)\sqrt{\text{Td}(\mathfrak{Y})} = p^0 + p^a \omega_a - q_a \tilde{\omega}^a + q_0 \omega_{\mathfrak{Y}}, \quad (3.1)$$

where  $\text{ch}(E)$  is the Chern character of  $E$ ,  $\text{Td}(\mathfrak{Y})$  is the Todd class of  $T\mathfrak{Y}$ , and the normalization and other properties of the basis forms  $\omega_a, \tilde{\omega}^a, \omega_{\mathfrak{Y}}$  are specified in appendix B. Strictly speaking, the correct mathematical description associates D-instantons to elements

in the derived category of coherent sheaves  $\mathcal{D}(\mathfrak{Y})$  [11, 12]. For our purpose however these mathematical subtleties will be unimportant,<sup>2</sup> and we can think about a D-instanton of charge  $\gamma = (q_\Lambda, p^\Lambda)$  as a bound state of D5-brane on  $\mathfrak{Y}$  with wrapping number  $p^0$ , D3-brane wrapping the 4-cycle  $-p^a \tilde{\gamma}_a$ , D1-brane wrapping the 2-cycle  $-q_a \gamma^a$ , and D(-1)-branes with charge  $-q_0$ , i.e. as a homology element

$$L_\gamma = -q_0 \gamma^0 - q_a \gamma^a - p^a \tilde{\gamma}_a + p^0 \mathfrak{Y}, \tag{3.2}$$

where  $\gamma^0 \in H_0(\mathfrak{Y})$ . Note that  $L_\gamma$  is Poincaré dual to  $\iota(\gamma)$  where  $\iota$  has been defined above (2.13). The minus signs appearing in this definition have been fixed in appendix F and are related to the choice of sign in the boundary conditions on the spin fields given in (C.7). We will denote by  $L_\gamma^{(2n)}$  the component of  $L_\gamma$  belonging to  $H_{2n}(\mathfrak{Y})$ . It is important to note that the BPS condition requires the wrapped cycle to be holomorphic, i.e. to have the volume form

$$v_\gamma^{(2n)} = \frac{1}{n!} (P_\gamma \omega P_\gamma)^n, \quad n = \frac{p+1}{2}, \tag{3.3}$$

where  $P_\gamma$  is the projection operator along  $L_\gamma^{(2n)}$ . This can be defined by using a local coordinate system in which the metric at a given point is  $\delta_{ij}$ , using the standard definition of the projector in flat spacetime and then expressing it in the original coordinate system.

As in type IIA, each BPS instanton breaks 4 out of 8 supercharges and is characterized by the central charge function which can be compactly written as

$$Z_\gamma = \int_{\mathfrak{Y}} e^{-z^a \omega_a} \gamma = q_0 + q_a z^a + \frac{1}{2} (pz^2) - \frac{p^0}{6} (z^3), \tag{3.4}$$

where we used a convenient notation  $(xyz) = \kappa_{abc} x^a y^b z^c$  and the second equality follows from (B.2) and (B.3). The corresponding instanton action is given by [14, 15]

$$\mathcal{T}_\gamma = 2\pi\tau_2 |Z_\gamma| + 2\pi i \Theta_\gamma, \quad \Theta_\gamma = \int_{\mathfrak{Y}} \gamma \wedge C^{\text{even}} e^{-B}. \tag{3.5}$$

The instanton corrections break the continuous symmetries discussed in the end of section 2.2. However, their discrete subgroups survive. In particular, the transformations (A.4) with  $\begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} \in \text{SL}(2, \mathbb{Z})$  form the S-duality group of type IIB string theory, the shifts (2.18) with  $\vartheta \in H^{(\text{even})}(\mathbb{Z}, \mathfrak{Y})$  and  $\theta \in 2\mathbb{Z}$  describe large gauge transformations of the RR fields and the  $B$  field, whereas (2.17) with  $\epsilon \in \mathbb{Z}$  correspond to monodromies around

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<sup>2</sup>Nevertheless, one should remember that the charges  $q_0, q_a$  are not integer but belong to a shifted lattice

$$q_a \in \mathbb{Z} - \frac{p^0}{24} c_{2,a} - \frac{1}{2} \kappa_{abc} p^b p^c, \quad q_0 \in \mathbb{Z} - \frac{1}{24} p^a c_{2,a},$$

where  $c_{2,a}$  are components of the second Chern class of  $\mathfrak{Y}$ . For explanation how this fact is reconciled with mirror symmetry, see [9, 13]. In the large volume limit that we shall be working in, these shifts in the lattice will not be important since for finite charges the contributions from  $p^0$  and  $p^a$  dominate over that from  $q_0$  and  $q_a$ . On the other hand, if we scale the charges so that their contributions are of the same order, then  $q_0$  and  $q_a$  have to be large in order to be able to compete with  $p^0$  and  $p^a$ , and the lattice shift becomes unimportant.

the large volume point in the complexified Kähler moduli space.<sup>3</sup> The requirement of these symmetries provides an important constraint on the moduli space metric.

The D-instanton amplitudes are proportional to  $e^{-\mathcal{T}_\gamma}$ , which is manifestly invariant under the large gauge transformations generated by  $\vartheta$  and  $\theta$  for any fixed  $\gamma$ .<sup>4</sup> However, this is not the case for the monodromy transformations generated by  $\epsilon^a$ . The fact that allows the D-instanton corrections to be consistent with monodromy invariance (2.17) is that the D-instanton action (3.5) stays invariant provided the charges also undergo a symplectic transformation to compensate the shift of the  $B$  field, namely,

$$\gamma \mapsto \gamma[\epsilon] = e^{\epsilon^a \omega_a} \gamma. \quad (3.6)$$

This suggests to introduce a  $b$ -dependent version of the charges

$$\check{\gamma} \equiv \gamma[-b] = e^{-B} \gamma, \quad (3.7)$$

or, more explicitly,

$$\begin{aligned} \check{p}^0 &= p^0, & \check{p}^a &= p^a - p^0 b^a, & \check{q}_a &= q_a + \kappa_{abc} p^b b^c - \frac{p^0}{2} \kappa_{abc} b^b b^c, \\ \check{q}_0 &= q_0 + q_a b^a + \frac{1}{2} (p b^2) - \frac{p^0}{6} (b^3). \end{aligned} \quad (3.8)$$

These charges stay invariant under monodromies and allow us to rewrite the central charge (3.4) and the axion coupling (3.5) as

$$Z_\gamma = \int_{\mathfrak{Y}} e^{-it^a \omega_a} \check{\gamma} = \check{q}_0 + i \check{q}_a t^a - \frac{1}{2} (\check{p} t^2) + i \check{p}^0 V, \quad (3.9)$$

$$\Theta_\gamma = \int_{\mathfrak{Y}} \check{\gamma} \wedge C^{(\text{even})} = \check{q}_0 c^0 - \check{q}_a c^a + \check{p}^a \check{c}_a + \check{p}^0 \check{c}_0, \quad (3.10)$$

where  $V$  was defined in (2.9).

### 3.2 The leading instanton contribution

Our goal is to find the leading D-instanton correction to the classical metric on  $\mathcal{M}_H$  which can then be tested against direct calculation of string amplitudes. Since the mirror symmetry allows to identify the metrics in type IIA and type IIB formulations, the simplest approach to our problem is to take the leading D-instanton contribution found on the type IIA side in [1] and translate it to the type IIB theory.<sup>5</sup> For this reason, we shall first review

<sup>3</sup>More precisely, to be the symmetries at non-perturbative level, most of these transformations should be supplemented with some additional constant terms whose origin can be traced to the non-integrality of the D-instanton charges in the type IIB formulation [16, 17] (see footnote 2). For example, (A.4) requires an additional shift of  $c_a$  by a term proportional to the second Chern class of  $\mathfrak{Y}$  and the multiplier system of the Dedekind eta function [13]. For our purposes however all these additional contributions to the symmetry transformations are not important and can be ignored.

<sup>4</sup>In fact, this would be true if the charges were integer. However, their non-integrality is compensated by the constant terms mentioned in footnote 3 so that  $e^{-\mathcal{T}_\gamma}$  is indeed invariant.

<sup>5</sup>Note that mirror symmetry was one of the inputs in the derivation of the D-instanton corrected metric in [5–7] (see, in particular, earlier work [18]) and hence can be freely used in this context. On the other hand, when we try to reproduce the results by explicit world-sheet calculation, we shall not make use of mirror symmetry.

the results for the leading D-instanton contribution in the type IIA variables introduced in section 2.

First, given a holomorphic prepotential<sup>6</sup>  $F(z^0, \dots, z^{h^{1,1}})$ , let us define the corresponding Kähler potential

$$\mathcal{K} = -\log K, \quad K = z^\Lambda N_{\Lambda\Sigma} \bar{z}^\Sigma, \quad N_{\Lambda\Sigma} = -2 \operatorname{Im} F_{\Lambda\Sigma}, \quad (3.11)$$

where  $F_{\Lambda\Sigma} \equiv \partial_{z^\Lambda} \partial_{z^\Sigma} F$ . We also introduce a one-form

$$\mathcal{C}_\gamma = N^{\Lambda\Sigma} \left( q_\Lambda - \operatorname{Re} F_{\Lambda\Sigma} p^\Sigma \right) \left( d\tilde{\zeta}_\Sigma - \operatorname{Re} F_{\Sigma\Theta} d\zeta^\Theta \right) + \frac{1}{4} N_{\Lambda\Sigma} p^\Lambda d\zeta^\Sigma, \quad (3.12)$$

where  $N^{\Lambda\Sigma}$  is the matrix inverse of  $N_{\Lambda\Sigma}$ . Using the form of  $F$  given in (2.15) and the change of variables (2.16), the instanton action  $\mathcal{T}_\gamma$  (3.5) takes the form

$$\mathcal{T}_\gamma = 8\pi \sqrt{\frac{r}{K}} |Z_\gamma| + 2\pi i \Theta_\gamma, \quad (3.13)$$

where (with  $z^0 \equiv 1$ )

$$Z_\gamma = q_\Lambda z^\Lambda - p^\Lambda F_\Lambda, \quad \Theta_\gamma = q_\Lambda \zeta^\Lambda - p^\Lambda \tilde{\zeta}_\Lambda. \quad (3.14)$$

Eqs. (3.13), (3.14) agree with the form of  $\mathcal{T}_\gamma$ ,  $Z_\gamma$  and  $\Theta_\gamma$  given in [1].

In terms of these quantities, the leading instanton contribution to the metric on  $\mathcal{M}_H$ , which follows both from a combination of supersymmetry, mirror symmetry and S-duality as well as from a direct computation of string amplitudes, was found to be ([1], eq. (3.5)):

$$ds_{\text{inst}}^2 = \sum_\gamma \frac{\Omega_\gamma \Sigma_\gamma}{16r \sqrt{2\pi \mathcal{T}_\gamma^{\text{R}}}} \left( \tilde{\mathcal{A}}_\gamma^2 + \mathcal{O}(d\mathcal{T}_\gamma) \right), \quad (3.15)$$

where the sum goes over the full charge lattice,  $\mathcal{T}_\gamma^{\text{R}} = \operatorname{Re} \mathcal{T}_\gamma$ ,  $\Omega_\gamma$  is the Donaldson-Thomas (DT) invariant<sup>7</sup> corresponding to instanton charge  $\gamma$  which (roughly) counts the number of independent supersymmetric cycles in the sector with charge  $\gamma$ , and the functions  $\Sigma_\gamma$  and  $\tilde{\mathcal{A}}_\gamma$  are defined as

$$\Sigma_\gamma = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{\sigma_{k\gamma}}{\sqrt{k}} e^{-k\mathcal{T}_\gamma}, \quad (3.16)$$

$$\tilde{\mathcal{A}}_\gamma = \frac{|Z_\gamma|}{\sqrt{rK}} \left( d\sigma + \tilde{\zeta}_\Lambda d\zeta^\Lambda - \zeta^\Lambda d\tilde{\zeta}_\Lambda - \frac{4i\sqrt{rK}}{|Z_\gamma|} \mathcal{C}_\gamma + 8r \operatorname{Im} \partial \log \frac{Z_\gamma}{K} \right). \quad (3.17)$$

<sup>6</sup>The prepotential is a function of  $h^{1,1} + 1$  variables  $z^\Lambda$ , homogeneous of degree 2. The complexified Kähler moduli coincide with the homogeneous coordinates  $z^a/z^0$ . For simplicity, we will work in the gauge  $z^0 = 1$  after taking the derivatives with respect to  $z^\Lambda$ .

<sup>7</sup>Note that for pure electric charges these invariants are known to be

$$\Omega_\gamma = \begin{cases} -\chi, & \gamma = (0, 0, 0, q_0), \\ n_{q_a}, & \gamma = (0, 0, q_a, q_0), \quad q_a \neq 0, \end{cases}$$

where  $\chi$  is the Euler characteristic of  $\mathfrak{Y}$  and  $n_{q_a}$  are its genus 0 Gopakumar-Vafa invariants.

Here  $\sigma_\gamma$  is a sign factor, known as quadratic refinement, which satisfies the defining relation  $\sigma_{\gamma_1}\sigma_{\gamma_2} = (-1)^{\langle\gamma_1,\gamma_2\rangle}\sigma_{\gamma_1+\gamma_2}$ , and  $\partial = dz^a\partial_{z^a}$  is the Dolbeault holomorphic differential on the Kähler space parametrized by  $z^a$ . Finally,  $\mathcal{O}(d\mathcal{T}_\gamma)$  in (3.15) refers to terms proportional to  $d\mathcal{T}_\gamma$ . As discussed in [1], these terms can be removed by field redefinition and cannot be determined by our analysis of string amplitudes.

To translate (3.15) to the type IIB formulation, one has to express it through the natural type IIB variables described in the beginning of section 2.2. This is the subject of the mirror map. While its large volume, weak coupling limit is given by (2.16), it is known however that it receives all possible quantum corrections *if we require the type IIB description to be invariant under the S-duality transformations given in (A.4)* [19, 20]. From the point of view of the type IIB theory, this amounts to a redefinition of the fields appearing on the right hand side of (2.16) and does not change the S-matrix of the theory. Since comparison with the string theory results are based on the S-matrix, such field redefinitions are invisible in the string theory computation. Therefore, for our purposes we can safely use the *classical* mirror map (2.16) to express the type IIA results in terms of the variables of the type IIB theory.

Given (2.15) and (2.16), we find

$$K = \frac{4}{3}(t^3) = 8V, \quad \partial K = -2i\kappa_{ab}t^b dz^a, \quad \frac{dr}{r} = \frac{2d\tau_2}{\tau_2} + \frac{1}{2V}\kappa_{ab}t^a dt^b, \quad (3.18)$$

$$d\sigma + \tilde{\zeta}_\Lambda d\zeta^\Lambda - \zeta^\Lambda d\tilde{\zeta}_\Lambda = \nabla\sigma, \quad (3.19)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{C}_\gamma &= \frac{\check{q}_0}{4V} \left( \nabla\tilde{c}_0 + \frac{1}{2}\kappa_{bc}t^c\nabla c^b \right) + \check{q}_a \left( -\frac{1}{2}\kappa^{ab}\nabla\tilde{c}_b + \frac{1}{4}t^a dc^0 \right) \\ &+ \frac{(\check{p}t^2)}{8V} \left( \nabla\tilde{c}_0 + \frac{1}{2}\kappa_{bc}t^c\nabla c^b \right) - \frac{1}{2}\check{p}^a\kappa_{ab}\nabla c^b - \frac{\check{p}^0}{4} \left( t^a\nabla\tilde{c}_a + Vdc^0 \right), \end{aligned} \quad (3.20)$$

where the last relation is obtained with help of (B.1) and we used covariant derivatives and charges defined in (2.11) and (3.8), respectively. These results allow us to rewrite (3.15) as

$$ds_{\text{inst}}^2 = \sum_\gamma \frac{\Omega_\gamma \Sigma_\gamma}{8\tau_2^2 V \sqrt{2\pi\mathcal{T}_\gamma^{\text{R}}}} \left( \mathcal{A}_\gamma^2 + \mathcal{O}(d\mathcal{T}_\gamma) \right), \quad (3.21)$$

where

$$\mathcal{A}_\gamma = \tilde{\mathcal{A}}_\gamma + \frac{i}{\pi} d\mathcal{T}_\gamma = \frac{\mathcal{T}_\gamma^{\text{R}}}{4\pi\tau_2^2 V} \nabla\sigma + \frac{i\mathcal{T}_\gamma^{\text{R}}}{\pi} \left( \bar{\partial} \log \frac{\bar{Z}_\gamma}{K} + \frac{dr}{2r} \right) - 4i\mathcal{C}_\gamma - 2d\Theta_\gamma, \quad (3.22)$$

and we shifted this quantity by the irrelevant term proportional to  $d\mathcal{T}_\gamma$  to facilitate comparison with the amplitude calculation. Substituting (3.10) and (3.20) into (3.22), one obtains the following explicit expression

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{A}_\gamma &= \frac{\mathcal{T}_\gamma^{\text{R}}}{4\pi\tau_2^2 V} \nabla\sigma + \frac{i\mathcal{T}_\gamma^{\text{R}}}{\pi} \left( \frac{d\tau_2}{\tau_2} - \frac{i}{4V}\kappa_{ab}t^a db^b \right) + 2i\tau_2 \frac{Z_\gamma}{|Z_\gamma|} d\bar{Z}_\gamma \\ &- \left( \frac{i\check{q}_0}{V} + \frac{i(\check{p}t^2)}{2V} + 2\check{p}^0 \right) \nabla\tilde{c}_0 + \left( 2i\kappa^{ab}\check{q}_b - 2\check{p}^a + i\check{p}^0 t^a \right) \nabla\tilde{c}_a \\ &+ \left( 2\check{q}_a - \frac{i}{4V} \left( 2\check{q}_0 + (\check{p}t^2) \right) \kappa_{ab}t^b + 2i\kappa_{ab}\check{p}^b \right) \nabla c^a - \left( 2\check{q}_0 + i\check{q}_a t^a - i\check{p}^0 V \right) dc^0. \end{aligned} \quad (3.23)$$

The instanton contribution (3.21) together with (3.23) is the prediction to be reproduced by the world-sheet approach. For future use we note that, as a consequence of (3.9), the factors  $\mathcal{T}_\gamma^R$  and  $Z_\gamma/|Z_\gamma|$  in the presence of background  $b^a$  may be obtained using their expressions for  $b^a = 0$  and then replacing  $\gamma$  by  $\tilde{\gamma}$ .

As discussed in [1], the quadratic refinement  $\sigma_\gamma$  appearing in (3.16) can be changed by including constant shifts in the definition of the RR scalars, leading to constant shift in  $\Theta_\gamma$ . Using this freedom, we can choose the sign factors  $\sigma_\gamma$  arbitrarily for a linearly independent set of basis vectors  $\gamma$ . For other charge vectors, they are fixed by the relation  $\sigma_{\gamma_1}\sigma_{\gamma_2} = (-1)^{\langle\gamma_1,\gamma_2\rangle}\sigma_{\gamma_1+\gamma_2}$  which is expected to follow from cluster property. However, since our approximation keeps only multi-instantons wrapping the same cycle, our analysis is not sensitive to this relation. On the other hand, in [1] we did show that cluster property implies the condition  $\sigma_{k\gamma} = (\sigma_\gamma)^k$  and the result for the annulus amplitude given below is consistent with the choice  $\sigma_\gamma = 1$ . Therefore, in our analysis below we shall not discuss the factors  $\sigma_\gamma$  any further.

We shall work in the large volume limit by scaling the fields as

$$\tau_2, c^0 \sim \lambda^0, \quad t^a, b^a, c^a \sim \lambda^{1/3}, \quad \tilde{c}_a \sim \lambda^{2/3}, \quad \tilde{c}_0, \sigma \sim \lambda, \quad (3.24)$$

and taking  $\lambda$  to be large. In this limit all terms in the tree level metric (2.8) scale in the same way. If we keep the charges fixed as we take this limit, then we can see, using (3.8), that the contribution from the charge associated with brane of highest dimension dominates in (3.23), e.g. when  $p^0$  is non-zero then the terms proportional to  $p^0$  dominate, when  $p^0 = 0$  but  $p^a$  is non-zero then terms proportional to  $p^a$  dominate and so on. However, due to the transformation (3.6) of the charges under the shift  $b^a \rightarrow b^a + \epsilon^a$ , it is more appropriate to scale the  $\epsilon^a$ 's appearing in (3.6) by  $\lambda^{1/3}$  as we take the large  $\lambda$  limit. This suggests the following scaling of the charges:

$$\gamma = e^{-\lambda^{1/3}\bar{f}^a\omega_a}\bar{\gamma} \quad (3.25)$$

with the barred quantities kept fixed as we take the large  $\lambda$  limit. We shall see in section 6.3 that this limit arises naturally when we switch on gauge field strengths on the D-branes and keep the magnitude of the field strength fixed as we take the large volume limit. It is easy to verify that under the scaling (3.25), the contributions to (3.23) (and also  $\mathcal{T}_\gamma$ ) are still hierarchical, i.e. when  $\bar{p}^0$  is non-zero then the terms proportional to  $\bar{p}^0$  dominate, when  $\bar{p}^0 = 0$  but  $\bar{p}^a$  is non-zero then terms proportional to  $\bar{p}^a$  dominate and so on.

#### 4 Strategy for computing instanton correction to the metric

The general strategy that we shall follow for the computation of D-instanton corrections to the metric is the same as that in [1]. For this reason we shall now briefly recall these results. The computation involves two parts. The first part is the computation of the exponential of the annulus amplitude. After factoring out the integration over the collective modes, this determines the normalization  $\mathcal{N}_{k,\gamma}^{(0)}$  of the  $k$ -instanton amplitude with each instanton carrying charge  $\gamma$ . The second part of the computation involves the disk amplitude with the insertion of a closed string vertex operator representing a hypermultiplet scalar  $\lambda^m$  and

a pair of open string vertex operators associated with the fermion zero modes  $\tilde{\chi}^\alpha, \tilde{\chi}^{\dot{\beta}}$ . This amplitude has the form

$$i a_{m,\gamma} \gamma_{\dot{\alpha}\alpha}^\mu \tilde{\chi}^\alpha \tilde{\chi}^{\dot{\alpha}} p_\mu \lambda^m, \quad (4.1)$$

where  $a_{m,\gamma}$  is a computable constant,  $p_\mu$  is the momentum carried by  $\lambda^m$  and we have used the convention that, while specifying an amplitude, we also multiply it by the fields whose amplitude is being computed. In terms of these quantities the instanton correction to the metric takes the form [1]:

$$ds_{\text{inst}}^2 = \sum_{\gamma} \Omega_{\gamma} \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \mathcal{N}_{k,\gamma} e^{-k\mathcal{T}_{\gamma}} \left( \sum_m a_{m,\gamma} d\lambda^m \right)^2, \quad \mathcal{N}_{k,\gamma} = 4\kappa^2 \mathbf{V}^{-1} \mathcal{N}_{k,\gamma}^{(0)}. \quad (4.2)$$

Here  $-\mathcal{T}_{\gamma}$  is the action of a single D-brane of charge  $\gamma$ ,  $\mathbf{V}$  is the volume of  $\mathfrak{Y}$  (B.4) and  $\kappa$  has been defined in (2.21). The real part  $\mathcal{T}_{\gamma}^{\text{R}}$  of the instanton action is given by

$$\mathcal{T}_{\gamma}^{\text{R}} = T_p |\mathbf{V}_{\gamma}|, \quad T_p = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^p g_s}, \quad (4.3)$$

where  $T_p$  is the Dp-brane tension and, for a Dp-brane wrapping a cycle  $L_{\gamma}^{(p+1)}$ , we define

$$\mathbf{V}_{\gamma} = \int_{L_{\gamma}^{(p+1)}} v_{\gamma}^{(p+1)}, \quad (4.4)$$

which can be expressed through the Kähler form using (3.3). By definition,  $\mathbf{V}_{\gamma}$  measures the volume of the cycle  $L_{\gamma}^{(p+1)}$ , but there are some caveats. First of all, note that (4.4) changes sign under  $\gamma \rightarrow -\gamma$  and is therefore not strictly positive. This is due to the fact that under  $\gamma \rightarrow -\gamma$ , a Dp-brane becomes an anti-Dp-brane which has opposite intrinsic orientation, but our definition of the volume form (3.3) remains intact. This is why to get the volume of the cycle, we had to put the absolute value symbol in (4.3). Second, we note that if  $\gamma$  is not primitive, but has the form  $l\gamma'$  for some positive integer  $l$  and some primitive vector  $\gamma'$ , then  $\mathbf{V}_{\gamma}$  is defined as  $l$  times the volume (with sign) of the cycle labelled by  $\gamma'$ . This is consistent with (4.3) since the action of an instanton is expected to be multiplied by  $l$  when the instanton charge is multiplied by  $l$ .

If the supersymmetric cycle associated with the charge  $\gamma$  is rigid, i.e. has no deformations other than the collective modes associated with the motion along non-compact directions and the fermion zero modes associated with broken supersymmetry, then the computation of  $\mathcal{N}_{k,\gamma}^{(0)}$  proceeds in the same way as in [1] and yields the result

$$\mathcal{N}_{k,\gamma}^{(0)} = g_{o,\gamma} 2^{-5} \pi^{-13/2} k^{-1/2}, \quad (4.5)$$

where  $g_{o,\gamma}$  is the open string coupling on the instanton, determined from the relation

$$\mathcal{T}_{\gamma}^{\text{R}} = \frac{1}{2\pi^2 g_{o,\gamma}^2} \Rightarrow g_{o,\gamma}^2 = 2(2\pi)^{p-2} \frac{g_s}{|\mathbf{V}_{\gamma}|}. \quad (4.6)$$

Therefore, we have

$$ds_{\text{inst}}^2 = \frac{\kappa^2}{2^3 \pi^{13/2} \mathbf{V}} \sum_{\gamma} \Omega_{\gamma} g_{o,\gamma} \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} k^{-1/2} e^{-k\mathcal{T}_{\gamma}} \left( \sum_m a_{m,\gamma} d\lambda^m \right)^2. \quad (4.7)$$

However, (4.5) needs to be modified for D(-1)-branes which have extra moduli corresponding to motion along  $\mathfrak{Y}$ . We shall determine this modified formula in section 4.1 where we shall also argue that this modification does not change the final formula (4.7) since it is accounted for by the DT invariant  $\Omega_\gamma$  for pure D(-1)-charge.

### 4.1 Normalization of the D(-1)-brane amplitudes

When a D $p$ -brane is wrapped on a rigid  $p$ -cycle, then the computation of the annulus partition function, that determines the overall normalization of the amplitudes due to a particular D-brane, follows from the analysis in [1] and yields the result (4.5). However, this does not work for D(-1)-branes which have extra moduli corresponding to motion inside  $\mathfrak{Y}$ . In this section we shall determine this extra contribution.

First we consider the case of a single D(-1)-brane. This has six additional bosonic moduli describing the location of the instanton on the Calabi-Yau space and twelve additional fermionic moduli representing the superpartners of these bosonic modes. The twelve additional fermions can be grouped into 6 complex fermions, and furthermore, due to SU(3) holonomy of the Calabi-Yau manifold, their spinor index can be traded for the tangent space vector index. We can represent the integral over these additional modes as

$$\int \prod_{i=1}^6 \left\{ \frac{dm_i}{\sqrt{2\pi}} d\lambda_i d\lambda_i^* \right\} e^S, \tag{4.8}$$

where  $m_i$  are the coordinates of the Calabi-Yau manifold and the action is fixed by supersymmetry. We can read this out e.g. from the dimensional reduction of the supersymmetric  $\sigma$ -model in two dimensions [21] to be:

$$S = -\frac{1}{4} R_{ijkl} \lambda_i^* \lambda_j^* \lambda_k \lambda_l. \tag{4.9}$$

The integral (4.8) may be expressed as

$$- \int \prod_{i=1}^6 \frac{dm_i}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \frac{1}{3!} \frac{1}{2^6} \epsilon^{i_1 j_1 i_2 j_2 i_3 j_3} \epsilon^{k_1 l_1 k_2 l_2 k_3 l_3} R_{i_1 j_1 k_1 l_1} R_{i_2 j_2 k_2 l_2} R_{i_3 j_3 k_3 l_3} = -\chi, \tag{4.10}$$

where  $\chi$  is the Euler number of the Calabi-Yau manifold. Therefore, (4.5) for  $k = 1$  is modified to

$$\mathcal{N}_{1,\gamma^0}^{(0)} = -\chi g_{o,\gamma^0} 2^{-5} \pi^{-13/2}. \tag{4.11}$$

The sign in (4.10) is ambiguous since it depends on the sign of the integration measure over the fermion zero modes. In principle the sign can be fixed using cluster property as in appendix C of [1]. However, we have not done this. Instead, we have used the information that the DT invariant associated to pure D(-1) charges is given by  $-\chi$  (see footnote 7).

Next we turn to  $k$ -instanton amplitudes. We shall now argue that for computing the ratio  $\mathcal{N}_{k,\gamma^0}^{(0)}/\mathcal{N}_{1,\gamma^0}^{(0)}$  we can use the results in ten-dimensional flat spacetime. The essence of the argument is as follows. Since the D-instantons move in ten-dimensional spacetime, the extra variables that we encounter for  $k$ -instantons are clearly the same whether they move in flat spacetime or the Calabi-Yau space. Furthermore, it was shown in [1] that the matrix

model governing the dynamics of multiple branes restricts the relative separation between the branes to a distance scale of order  $(g_{o,\gamma^0})^{1/2} \sim g_s^{1/4}$ . Therefore as long as  $\mathfrak{Y}$  has size of the order of string scale or larger, the dynamics of the relative separation between the branes is insensitive to the curvature of  $\mathfrak{Y}$  in the weak coupling limit and we can use the flat spacetime results of [4]. This gives:<sup>8</sup>

$$\frac{\mathcal{N}_k^{(0)}}{\mathcal{N}_1^{(0)}} = k^{3/2} \sum_{d|k} \frac{1}{d^2} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \mathcal{N}_k^{(0)} = -\chi g_{o,\gamma^0} 2^{-5} \pi^{-13/2} k^{3/2} \sum_{d|k} \frac{1}{d^2}. \quad (4.12)$$

Substituting this into (4.2) without the  $\Omega_\gamma$  factor, we get the following correction to the metric due to multiple D(-1)-branes:

$$-\frac{4\kappa^2}{\mathbf{V}} \chi g_{o,\gamma^0} 2^{-5} \pi^{-13/2} \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} k^{3/2} \sum_{d|k} \frac{1}{d^2} e^{-k\mathcal{T}_{\gamma^0}} \left( \sum_m a_{m,\gamma^0} d\lambda^m \right)^2. \quad (4.13)$$

We now claim that, taking into account that  $\Omega_{q_0\gamma^0} = -\chi$ , this result agrees with the contribution to (4.7) from charges of the form  $\gamma = \ell\gamma^0$  with  $\ell \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ . Indeed, using the relabelling  $d = n$ ,  $k = n\ell$ , one finds

$$\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} k^{3/2} \sum_{d|k} \frac{1}{d^2} e^{-k\mathcal{T}_{\gamma^0}} = \sum_{\ell=1}^{\infty} \ell^{3/2} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} n^{-1/2} e^{-n\ell\mathcal{T}_{\gamma^0}}. \quad (4.14)$$

Hence, one can rewrite (4.13) as

$$\frac{\kappa^2}{2^3\pi^{13/2}\mathbf{V}} \sum_{\ell=1}^{\infty} \Omega_{\ell\gamma^0} \ell^{-1/2} g_{o,\gamma^0} \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} k^{-1/2} e^{-k\ell\mathcal{T}_{\gamma^0}} \left( \sum_m \ell a_{m,\gamma^0} d\lambda^m \right)^2. \quad (4.15)$$

It remains to take into account that due to  $\mathcal{T}_{\ell\gamma^0} = \ell\mathcal{T}_{\gamma^0}$  and (4.6), one has  $g_{o,\ell\gamma^0} = \ell^{-1/2}g_{o,\gamma^0}$ , while the disk one-point function satisfies  $a_{m,\ell\gamma^0} = \ell a_{m,\gamma^0}$  because it has an overall multiplicative factor of  $\mathcal{T}_\gamma^R$ . Therefore, we can express (4.15) as

$$\frac{\kappa^2}{2^3\pi^{13/2}\mathbf{V}} \sum_{\ell=1}^{\infty} \Omega_{\ell\gamma^0} g_{o,\ell\gamma^0} \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} k^{-1/2} e^{-k\mathcal{T}_{\ell\gamma^0}} \left( \sum_m a_{m,\ell\gamma^0} d\lambda^m \right)^2. \quad (4.16)$$

This can now be interpreted as part of the contribution to (4.7), with  $\gamma$  taking values  $\ell\gamma^0$ .

In our analysis we have assumed that the 2 and 4-cycles of the CY are rigid so that D1 and D3-branes wrapped on these cycles have no extra moduli. When these conditions fail, there will be extra integrals in these cases as well. Our result for D(-1)-branes suggests that such extra contributions will also arise in the counting of BPS index of D1 and D3-branes wrapped on these cycles and will be included in the definition of the DT invariants  $\Omega_\gamma$  so that (4.7) will continue to hold in these cases as well.

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<sup>8</sup>If we use eqs. (10) and (25) of [4], we shall get the ratio to be  $k^{9/2} \sum_{d|k} 1/d^2$ . However,  $1/\sqrt{k}$  in the Chan-Paton factor of fermionic vertex operators now produce a factor of  $1/k$  in (4.9) and hence  $1/k^3$  in (4.10). This explains the power  $k^{9/2}/k^3 = k^{3/2}$  in (4.12).

## 5 Explicit computation of Dp-brane corrections

Our main goal is to reproduce the prediction (3.21) for the instanton contribution to the metric on  $\mathcal{M}_H$  by explicit world-sheet computation. In this section we will reproduce the ‘linear terms’ in  $\mathcal{A}_\gamma$ , namely those that survive when we set the background NSNS 2-form and RR fields to zero. In this case the  $b$ -dependent charges  $\check{q}_0$ ,  $\check{q}_a$  and  $\check{p}^a$  defined in (3.8) reduce to  $q_0$ ,  $q_a$  and  $p^a$  and all covariant derivatives (2.11) are replaced by ordinary ones. We shall further assume that only one type of charge is present, corresponding to Dp-brane wrapped on a  $(p+1)$ -cycle  $L_\gamma^{(p+1)}$  for fixed  $p$ . In section 6 we shall relax these assumptions.

The following equations will be used for the computation of the disk amplitudes [1]:

$$\{V_c\} = \frac{1}{2} \kappa T_p \langle c_0^- V_c \rangle, \tag{5.1}$$

and

$$\left\{ V_c \prod_{k=1}^n V_o^{(k)} \right\} = i \pi \kappa T_p \int \left\langle V_c \prod_{k=1}^n V_o^{(k)} \right\rangle. \tag{5.2}$$

Here  $V_c$  and  $V_o^{(k)}$  denote closed and open string vertex operators, respectively,  $k$  labels different operators, and  $\langle \rangle$  denotes correlation function on the upper half plane. Note that the formula takes a different form when no open string vertex operators are present — this can be traced to the presence of a conformal Killing vector on the disk with just one closed string insertion. On the right hand side of (5.2) the integration is performed over the locations of the  $(n-1)$  open string vertex operators along the real axis.

The main tools in our analysis will be the operator product expansion (C.1) and the boundary conditions (C.2), (C.7) that allow us to replace the anti-holomorphic fields in the upper half plane by the holomorphic fields at the complex conjugate points. The final correlation function will be evaluated using the normalization condition (2.1).

### 5.1 NSNS axion contribution

The analysis of this contribution is almost identical to the D2-brane contribution computed in [1] once we replace the tension  $T_2$  by  $T_p$ .

The disk amplitude with one 2-form vertex operator and a pair of open string zero modes in the presence of a flat Euclidean Dp-brane is given by:

$$i \pi \kappa T_p 2 b_{\mu\nu} \mathcal{X}^\alpha \hat{\mathcal{X}}^\beta \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dz \left\langle c \bar{c} (\partial X^\mu + i p_\rho \psi^\rho \psi^\mu) e^{ip \cdot X} e^{-\bar{\phi}} \bar{\psi}^\nu(i) c e^{-\phi/2} S_\alpha(0) e^{-\phi/2} S_\beta(z) \right\rangle. \tag{5.3}$$

Here we are using the same world-sheet notations as in [1]. Dropping  $\partial X^\mu$  and  $e^{ip \cdot X}$  terms whose contributions vanish due to the physical state condition, and using the doubling trick to replace the anti-holomorphic fields by holomorphic ones at the complex conjugate point, this becomes

$$- 2i \pi \kappa T_p b_{\mu\nu} \mathcal{X}^\alpha \hat{\mathcal{X}}^\beta \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dz \left\langle i c p_\rho \psi^\rho \psi^\mu(i) c e^{-\phi} \psi^\nu(-i) c e^{-\phi/2} S_\alpha(0) e^{-\phi/2} S_\beta(z) \right\rangle. \tag{5.4}$$

The minus sign arises due to Dirichlet boundary conditions on  $\bar{\psi}^\nu$ . As in [1], we shall take the  $z$  integration contour to pass above the origin. We now deform it to pick up the residue

from the pole at  $i$ . The effect of this is to drop the integration over  $z$  together with the factor  $e^{-\phi/2} S_\beta(z)$  inside the correlator and replace the factor  $\psi^\rho \psi^\mu(i)$  by  $(i\pi/2) (\Gamma^{\rho\mu})_\beta^\gamma e^{-\phi/2} S_\gamma(i)$ . The resulting correlation function can be easily evaluated and gives:

$$\frac{1}{2} \pi^2 \kappa T_p p_\rho b_{\mu\nu} \mathcal{X}^\alpha \widehat{\mathcal{X}}^\beta (\Gamma^{\rho\mu} \Gamma^\nu)_{\beta\alpha} (2\pi)^{p+1} \delta^{(p+1)}(0) \rightarrow \frac{1}{2} \pi^2 \kappa \mathcal{T}_\gamma^R p_\rho b_{\mu\nu} \mathcal{X}^\alpha \widehat{\mathcal{X}}^\beta (\Gamma^{\rho\mu\nu})_{\beta\alpha}, \quad (5.5)$$

where in the second step we have interpreted the  $(2\pi)^{p+1} \delta^{(p+1)}(0)$  as integration over the D $p$ -brane world-volume yielding a factor of  $|\mathbf{V}_\gamma|$  and used (4.3) to express  $T_p |\mathbf{V}_\gamma|$  as  $\mathcal{T}_\gamma^R$ . In terms of four-dimensional spinors the above expression becomes

$$\frac{1}{2} \pi^2 \kappa \mathcal{T}_\gamma^R p_\rho b_{\mu\nu} \tilde{\chi}^\alpha \tilde{\chi}^{\dot{\alpha}} (\gamma^{\rho\mu\nu})_{\dot{\alpha}\alpha}. \quad (5.6)$$

Following the same steps as in [1], we can express this in terms of a dual scalar  $\sigma$  (called  $\tilde{\sigma}$  in [1]) using the relation

$$p_\mu b_{\nu\rho} + p_\nu b_{\rho\mu} + p_\rho b_{\mu\nu} = \frac{1}{2\mathbf{V}} \epsilon_{\mu\nu\rho\tau} p^\tau \sigma, \quad (5.7)$$

where  $\mathbf{V}$  is the volume of the CY manifold given in (B.4). In terms of  $\sigma$ , the expression (5.6) takes the form

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{2} \pi^2 \kappa \mathcal{T}_\gamma^R \frac{1}{6\mathbf{V}} \epsilon_{\rho\mu\nu\tau} p_\tau \sigma (\gamma^{\rho\mu\nu})_{\dot{\alpha}\alpha} \tilde{\chi}^\alpha \tilde{\chi}^{\dot{\alpha}} &= -\frac{i\pi^2}{2\mathbf{V}} \kappa \mathcal{T}_\gamma^R p_\mu \sigma (\gamma^\mu)_{\dot{\alpha}\alpha} \tilde{\chi}^\alpha \tilde{\chi}^{\dot{\alpha}} \\ &= \frac{i\pi^2}{4V\tau_2^2} \mathcal{T}_\gamma^R p_\mu \sigma (\gamma^\mu)_{\dot{\alpha}\alpha} \tilde{\chi}^\alpha \tilde{\chi}^{\dot{\alpha}}, \end{aligned} \quad (5.8)$$

where in the last step we have used relations (2.23). Comparing this with (4.1), we get

$$a_{\sigma,\gamma} d\sigma = \frac{\pi^2}{4V\tau_2^2} \mathcal{T}_\gamma^R d\sigma. \quad (5.9)$$

## 5.2 Dilaton contribution

We shall now compute the coefficient  $a_{m,\gamma}$  associated with the dilaton field  $\tau_2$ . As in [1], we start with the dilaton vertex operator in the  $(-1, -1)$  picture which, at non-zero momentum, is given by

$$\tilde{V}_{-1,-1} = f_{\mu\nu} c \bar{c} e^{-\phi} \psi^\mu e^{-\bar{\phi}} \bar{\psi}^\nu e^{ip \cdot X}, \quad (5.10)$$

where

$$f_{\mu\nu} \propto \left( \eta_{\mu\nu} - (n \cdot p)^{-1} (n_\mu p_\nu + n_\nu p_\mu) \right), \quad (5.11)$$

and  $n$  is any four-vector for which  $n \cdot p \neq 0$ . Our first step will be to determine the normalization of  $f_{\mu\nu}$ . For this we compute the disk one-point function of the dilaton on a D(-1)-brane. This is given by:

$$\frac{\kappa T_{-1}}{2} \frac{1}{2} \langle (\partial c(i) - \bar{\partial} \bar{c}(i)) \tilde{V}_{-1,-1}(i) \rangle = -\frac{\kappa T_{-1}}{4} f_\mu{}^\mu. \quad (5.12)$$

Let  $\tilde{\tau}_2 = \tau_2 \sqrt{\mathbf{V}}$  be the inverse of the four-dimensional string coupling. Then  $f_\mu^\mu$  must be proportional to  $\delta\tilde{\tau}_2/\tilde{\tau}_2$ . On the other hand, since  $T_{-1} = 2\pi\tau_2$  we see that the expected one-point coupling of  $\delta\tau_2$  is  $-T_{-1}\delta\tau_2/\tau_2$ . Therefore, we choose

$$f_\mu^\mu = \frac{4}{\kappa} \frac{\delta\tilde{\tau}_2}{\tilde{\tau}_2} = \frac{4}{\kappa} \left( \frac{\delta\tau_2}{\tau_2} + \frac{\delta\mathbf{V}}{2\mathbf{V}} \right). \quad (5.13)$$

Once the normalization has been fixed this way, we can use it to compute the dilaton amplitude on any Dp-brane.

We shall now analyze the disk amplitude with one dilaton and a pair of open string fermion zero modes on a Dp-brane. It can be found using the dilaton vertex operator in the  $(-1, 0)$  picture

$$V_{-1,0} = -f_{\mu\nu} c \bar{c} \{ \partial X^\mu + i p_\rho \psi^\rho \psi^\mu \} e^{ip \cdot X} e^{-\bar{\phi}} \bar{\psi}^\nu(i) + \dots \quad (5.14)$$

This operator has the same form as the NSNS axion vertex operator. Therefore, the analysis of the amplitude follows exactly the same route as in section 5.1 and leads us to the left hand side of (5.5) with  $b_{\mu\nu}$  replaced by  $-f_{\mu\nu}/2$ :

$$-\frac{1}{4} \pi^2 \kappa T_p p_\sigma f_{\mu\nu} \mathcal{X}^\alpha \hat{\mathcal{X}}^\beta (\Gamma^{\sigma\mu} \Gamma^\nu)_{\beta\alpha} (2\pi)^{p+1} \delta^{(p+1)}(0) \rightarrow -\frac{1}{4} \pi^2 \kappa \mathcal{T}_\gamma^R p_\sigma f_{\mu\nu} \tilde{\chi}^\alpha \tilde{\chi}^{\dot{\alpha}} (\gamma^{\sigma\mu} \gamma^\nu)_{\dot{\alpha}\alpha}. \quad (5.15)$$

Expressing  $(\gamma^{\sigma\mu} \gamma^\nu)$  as  $\gamma^{\sigma\mu\nu} + \gamma^\sigma \eta^{\mu\nu} - \gamma^\mu \eta^{\sigma\nu}$ , and using the form of  $f_{\mu\nu}$  given in (5.11), we see that only the  $\gamma^\sigma \eta^{\mu\nu}$  term contributes. Finally, using (5.13), the resulting expression may be written as:

$$-\pi^2 \mathcal{T}_\gamma^R p_\sigma \left( \frac{\delta\tau_2}{\tau_2} + \frac{\delta\mathbf{V}}{2\mathbf{V}} \right) (\gamma^\sigma)_{\dot{\alpha}\alpha} \tilde{\chi}^\alpha \tilde{\chi}^{\dot{\alpha}}. \quad (5.16)$$

Comparing this with (4.1) and using (2.23), we obtain

$$(a_{m,\gamma} d\lambda^m)_{\text{dilaton}} = \frac{i\pi^2}{\tau_2} \mathcal{T}_\gamma^R \left( d\tau_2 + \frac{\tau_2}{2\mathbf{V}} d\mathbf{V} \right). \quad (5.17)$$

### 5.3 Kähler and B-field moduli contribution

A general closed string vertex operator in the  $(0, -1)$  picture, polarised in the internal CY directions, has the form

$$V_e = 2 e_{\mathbf{ij}} c \bar{c} \left( \partial X^{\mathbf{i}} + i p_\rho \psi^\rho \psi^{\mathbf{i}} \right) e^{ip \cdot X} e^{-\bar{\phi}} \bar{\psi}^{\mathbf{j}}(i) + \dots, \quad (5.18)$$

so that the amplitude is given by

$$2i\pi\kappa T_p e_{\mathbf{ij}} \mathcal{X}^\alpha \hat{\mathcal{X}}^\beta \int dz \left\langle c \bar{c} \left( \partial X^{\mathbf{i}} + i p_\rho \psi^\rho \psi^{\mathbf{i}} \right) e^{ip \cdot X} e^{-\bar{\phi}} \bar{\psi}^{\mathbf{j}}(i) c e^{-\phi/2} S_\alpha(0) e^{-\phi/2} S_\beta(z) \right\rangle. \quad (5.19)$$

We can drop the  $\partial X^{\mathbf{i}}$  and  $e^{ip \cdot X}$  terms since they do not contribute to the correlation function. Also, using the doubling trick, we can replace the  $\bar{c} e^{-\bar{\phi}} \bar{\psi}^{\mathbf{j}}(i)$  term by  $(P_{\mathbf{k}}^{\mathbf{j}} - Q_{\mathbf{k}}^{\mathbf{j}}) c e^{-\phi} \psi^{\mathbf{k}}(-i)$ , where  $P$  and  $Q$  are respectively projection operators tangential and transverse to the brane. This leads to,

$$2i\pi\kappa T_p i p_\rho \mathcal{X}^\alpha \hat{\mathcal{X}}^\beta e_{\mathbf{ij}} (P_{\mathbf{k}}^{\mathbf{j}} - Q_{\mathbf{k}}^{\mathbf{j}}) \int dz \left\langle c \psi^\rho \psi^{\mathbf{i}}(i) c e^{-\phi} \psi^{\mathbf{k}}(-i) c e^{-\phi/2} S_\alpha(0) e^{-\phi/2} S_\beta(z) \right\rangle. \quad (5.20)$$

Picking up the residue at  $z = i$ , evaluating the remaining correlator and expressing the result in terms of four-dimensional spinors, we get

$$-\frac{1}{2}\pi^2\kappa T_p p_\rho \tilde{\chi}^\alpha \tilde{\chi}^{\dot{\beta}} \gamma_{\dot{\beta}\alpha}^\rho e_{\mathbf{ij}} (P_{\mathbf{k}}^{\mathbf{j}} - Q_{\mathbf{k}}^{\mathbf{j}}) \bar{\eta} \tilde{\Gamma}^{\mathbf{i}} \tilde{\Gamma}^{\mathbf{k}} \eta (2\pi)^{p+1} \delta^{(p+1)}(0). \quad (5.21)$$

Since  $\bar{\eta} \tilde{\Gamma}^{\mathbf{i}} \tilde{\Gamma}^{\mathbf{k}} \eta = \mathbf{g}^{\mathbf{ik}} + i\boldsymbol{\omega}^{\mathbf{ik}}$  and  $Q_{\mathbf{k}}^{\mathbf{j}} = \delta_{\mathbf{k}}^{\mathbf{j}} - P_{\mathbf{k}}^{\mathbf{j}}$ , we have

$$e_{\mathbf{ij}}(P - Q)_{\mathbf{k}}^{\mathbf{j}} \bar{\eta} \tilde{\Gamma}^{\mathbf{i}} \tilde{\Gamma}^{\mathbf{k}} \eta = 2e_{\mathbf{ij}} P_{\mathbf{k}}^{\mathbf{j}} \left( \mathbf{g}^{\mathbf{ik}} + i\boldsymbol{\omega}^{\mathbf{ik}} \right) - \left( e_{\mathbf{i}}^{\mathbf{j}} + i e_{\mathbf{ij}} \boldsymbol{\omega}^{\mathbf{ij}} \right). \quad (5.22)$$

The second contribution can be easily evaluated. Indeed, using (2.20) which gives

$$e_{\mathbf{ij}} = \frac{\delta \mathbf{g}_{\mathbf{ij}}}{2\kappa} + \delta \mathbf{B}_{\mathbf{ij}}, \quad (5.23)$$

this term can be written as

$$-\frac{1}{2\kappa} \delta \mathbf{g}_{\mathbf{i}}^{\mathbf{j}} - i \delta \mathbf{B}_{\mathbf{ij}} \boldsymbol{\omega}^{\mathbf{ij}} = -\frac{i}{\kappa} \delta \mathbf{g}_{s\bar{t}} \boldsymbol{\omega}^{s\bar{t}} - 2i \delta \mathbf{B}_{s\bar{t}} \boldsymbol{\omega}^{s\bar{t}}, \quad (5.24)$$

where we have used  $\boldsymbol{\omega}^{s\bar{t}} = -i\mathbf{g}^{s\bar{t}}$  in the holomorphic indices  $s, t$ . Using (2.22), (B.12) and (2.23), we can rewrite (5.24) as,

$$-\frac{i}{2\kappa \mathbf{V}} \kappa_{abc} \mathbf{t}^b \mathbf{t}^c (\delta \mathbf{b}^a - i\delta \mathbf{t}^a) = -\frac{i}{2\kappa \mathbf{V}} \delta b^a \kappa_{abc} t^b t^c - \frac{1}{\kappa} \frac{\delta V}{V}. \quad (5.25)$$

This result should still be integrated over the wrapped cycle producing the factor  $|\mathbf{V}_\gamma|$ . Using (4.3), this gives the following contribution to (5.21):

$$-\frac{1}{2}\pi^2\kappa \mathcal{T}_\gamma^{\mathbf{R}} p_\rho \tilde{\chi}^\alpha \tilde{\chi}^{\dot{\beta}} \gamma_{\dot{\beta}\alpha}^\rho \left( -\frac{i}{2\kappa \mathbf{V}} \delta b^a \kappa_{ab} t^b - \frac{1}{\kappa} \frac{\delta V}{V} \right). \quad (5.26)$$

To evaluate the first term on the r.h.s. of (5.22), we use the BPS condition (3.3) which implies that the projector  $P_\gamma$  on the wrapped cycle (replacing  $P$  in the above formulæ) satisfies  $P_\gamma^{st} = P_\gamma^{s\bar{t}} = 0$ . Thus, we get

$$\begin{aligned} 2e_{\mathbf{ij}} P_{\gamma, \mathbf{k}}^{\mathbf{j}} \left( \mathbf{g}^{\mathbf{ik}} + i\boldsymbol{\omega}^{\mathbf{ik}} \right) &= 2e_{\mathbf{ij}} P_\gamma^{\mathbf{ij}} + 2(e_{s\bar{t}} - e_{\bar{t}s}) P_\gamma^{s\bar{t}} = \frac{2}{\kappa} (\delta \mathbf{g}_{s\bar{t}} + 2\kappa \delta \mathbf{B}_{s\bar{t}}) P_\gamma^{s\bar{t}} \\ &= \frac{2}{\kappa} (\delta \mathbf{b}^a - i\delta \mathbf{t}^a) \omega_{a, s\bar{t}} P_\gamma^{s\bar{t}} = \frac{8\pi^2}{\kappa} \delta \bar{z}^a \omega_{a, s\bar{t}} P_\gamma^{s\bar{t}}, \end{aligned} \quad (5.27)$$

where we expressed the result in terms of complexified Kähler moduli  $\bar{z}^a \equiv b^a - it^a = \frac{1}{4\pi^2}(\mathbf{b}^a - i\mathbf{t}^a)$ . For  $p = -1$ ,  $\omega_a$  has no component along the directions tangential to the brane and (5.27) vanishes. For  $p \geq 1$ , the contribution of (5.27) to (5.21) takes the form:

$$-4\pi^4 T_p p_\rho \tilde{\chi}^\alpha \tilde{\chi}^{\dot{\beta}} \gamma_{\dot{\beta}\alpha}^\rho I_p, \quad (5.28)$$

where

$$I_p = \delta \bar{z}^a \frac{\mathbf{V}_\gamma}{|\mathbf{V}_\gamma|} \int_{L_\gamma^{(p+1)}} v_\gamma^{(p+1)} \omega_{a, s\bar{t}} P_\gamma^{s\bar{t}} = \frac{i\delta \bar{z}^a}{\left(\frac{p-1}{2}\right)!} \frac{\mathbf{V}_\gamma}{|\mathbf{V}_\gamma|} \int_{L_\gamma^{(p+1)}} \omega_a \wedge \boldsymbol{\omega}^{\frac{p-1}{2}}, \quad (5.29)$$

and we used (B.13) and (B.19). Note the factor

$$\frac{\mathbf{V}_\gamma}{|\mathbf{V}_\gamma|} = \frac{\int_{L_\gamma^{(p+1)}} \boldsymbol{\omega}^{\frac{p+1}{2}}}{\left| \int_{L_\gamma^{(p+1)}} \boldsymbol{\omega}^{\frac{p+1}{2}} \right|} \quad (5.30)$$

that is needed to ensure that we choose the correct sign of the volume form. For D1-brane wrapped on  $L_\gamma^{(2)}$ , one obtains from (5.29)

$$I_1 = i\delta\bar{z}^c \frac{(-q_a \mathbf{t}^a)}{|q_b \mathbf{t}^b|} \int_{L_\gamma^{(2)}} \omega_c = i(\delta\bar{z}^c q_c) \frac{q_a \mathbf{t}^a}{|q_b \mathbf{t}^b|}. \quad (5.31)$$

For D3-brane wrapped on  $L_\gamma^{(4)}$ , one obtains

$$\begin{aligned} I_3 &= i\delta\bar{z}^a \frac{-(p\mathbf{t}^2)}{|(p\mathbf{t}^2)|} \int_{L_\gamma^{(4)}} \omega_a \wedge \boldsymbol{\omega} = -i \frac{(p\mathbf{t}^2)}{|(p\mathbf{t}^2)|} \delta\bar{z}^a \int_{\mathfrak{y}} \omega_a \wedge \boldsymbol{\omega} \wedge (-p^b \omega_b) \\ &= \frac{i(p\mathbf{t}^2)}{|(p\mathbf{t}^2)|} \kappa_{abc} \delta\bar{z}^a p^b \mathbf{t}^c, \end{aligned} \quad (5.32)$$

where  $-p^a \omega_a$  is the Poincaré dual form to  $L_\gamma^{(4)}$ . Finally, for D5-brane wrapped on  $p^0 \mathfrak{y}$ , one finds

$$I_5 = \frac{ip^0}{2} \delta\bar{z}^a \frac{p^0}{|p^0|} \int_{\mathfrak{y}} \omega_a \wedge \boldsymbol{\omega} \wedge \boldsymbol{\omega} = \frac{i|p^0|}{2} \kappa_{abc} \delta\bar{z}^a \mathbf{t}^b \mathbf{t}^c. \quad (5.33)$$

We shall be considering D-branes carrying only one type of charge so that only one of the terms is present. Using (3.4) and (2.23), all three contributions (5.31), (5.32) and (5.33), as well as the vanishing result for  $p = -1$ , can be written as

$$I_p = (2\pi)^{p-1} \frac{Z_\gamma}{|Z_\gamma|} \delta\bar{Z}_\gamma, \quad (5.34)$$

for vanishing background  $b^a$ . Substituting this into (5.28), we get the contribution from the first term on the r.h.s. of (5.22) to (5.21):

$$- \pi^2 (2\pi)^{p+1} T_p p_\rho \tilde{\chi}^\alpha \tilde{\chi}^{\beta} \gamma_{\beta\alpha}^\rho \frac{Z_\gamma}{|Z_\gamma|} \delta\bar{Z}_\gamma. \quad (5.35)$$

Adding (5.26) and (5.35) and using (4.1), (4.3), we get

$$a_{t^a, \gamma} dt^a + a_{b^a, \gamma} db^a = \pi^2 \mathcal{T}_\gamma^{\text{R}} \left( \frac{1}{4V} \kappa_{ab} t^b db^a - \frac{idV}{2V} \right) + 2i\pi^3 \tau_2 \frac{Z_\gamma}{|Z_\gamma|} d\bar{Z}_\gamma. \quad (5.36)$$

#### 5.4 RR contributions

Using the  $(-1/2, -1/2)$  picture vertex operator for RR fields given in appendix E, the disk amplitude with one RR closed string field with polarization  $F^{\gamma\delta}$  and two open string zero mode fields  $\mathcal{X}^\alpha$ ,  $\hat{\mathcal{X}}^\beta$  for a general Dp-brane can be expressed as

$$i\pi\kappa T_p F^{\gamma\delta} \mathcal{X}^\alpha \hat{\mathcal{X}}^\beta \int dz \left\langle c\bar{c} e^{-\phi/2} S_\gamma e^{-\bar{\phi}/2} \bar{S}_\delta(i) c e^{-\phi/2} S_\alpha(0) e^{-\phi/2} S_\beta(z) \right\rangle. \quad (5.37)$$

We shall take the  $z$  contour to lie above the origin as before. Using the boundary condition on the real line described in (C.7) and the doubling trick, we represent the closed string vertex operator as

$$\frac{i}{(p+1)!} c e^{-\phi/2} S_\gamma(i) c e^{-\phi/2} v_{I_1 \dots I_{p+1}} (\Gamma^{I_1 \dots I_{p+1}})^{\delta\delta'} S_{\delta'}(-i), \quad (5.38)$$

where  $v$  is the volume form along the brane. We can now calculate the correlation function by first deforming the  $z$  contour to pick up the residue at  $i$  using the following operator product expansion

$$e^{-\phi/2} S_\gamma(w) e^{-\phi/2} S_\beta(z) = i (w-z)^{-1} (\Gamma^M)_{\gamma\beta} e^{-\phi} \psi_M(w) + \dots \quad (5.39)$$

The operator at  $i$  then becomes  $2\pi c e^{-\phi} \psi_M (\Gamma^M)_{\beta\gamma}$ . We are now left with a  $\psi$ - $S$ - $S$  correlator that gives a term proportional to  $(\Gamma_M)_{\delta'\alpha}$ . The result is

$$\frac{i}{(p+1)!} \pi^2 \kappa T_p F^{\gamma\delta} \mathcal{X}^\alpha \hat{\mathcal{X}}^\beta (\Gamma^M)_{\beta\gamma} v_{I_1 \dots I_{p+1}} (\Gamma^{I_1 \dots I_{p+1}} \Gamma_M)_{\delta\alpha} (2\pi)^{p+1} \delta^{(p+1)}(0). \quad (5.40)$$

Our interest will be in the couplings proportional to  $p_\mu \mathbf{C}_{\mathbf{m}_1 \dots \mathbf{m}_{2k}}^{(2k)}$ . For this we pick the following term in the expansion of  $F^{\gamma\delta}$  given in (D.7), taking into account the doubling of the multiplicative factor due to the self-duality constraint (D.8):

$$\frac{i}{(2k)!} \mathbf{F}_{\mu \mathbf{m}_1 \dots \mathbf{m}_{2k}}^{(2k+1)} (\Gamma^{\mu \mathbf{m}_1 \dots \mathbf{m}_{2k}})^{\gamma\delta} = \frac{i}{(2k)!} i p_\mu \mathbf{C}_{\mathbf{m}_1 \dots \mathbf{m}_{2k}}^{(2k)} (\Gamma^\mu \Gamma^{\mathbf{m}_1 \dots \mathbf{m}_{2k}})^{\gamma\delta}. \quad (5.41)$$

Also since the brane lies along a subspace of  $\mathfrak{M}$ ,  $v$  is replaced by the volume form  $v_\gamma^{(p+1)}$  on the  $(p+1)$ -cycle  $L_\gamma^{(p+1)}$  wrapped by the D $p$ -brane with only internal components. Finally, the  $(2\pi)^{p+1} \delta^{(p+1)}(0)$  term has to be interpreted as integration along this cycle. Substituting (5.41) into (5.40) and using the expression for the tension from (4.3) and the last relation in (2.23), we get the relevant term to be

$$\begin{aligned} & - \frac{\pi^2 (2\pi)^{2k-p}}{8(p+1)!} \frac{i p_\mu}{(2k)!} \mathcal{X}^\alpha \hat{\mathcal{X}}^\beta \\ & \times \int_{L_\gamma^{(p+1)}} v_\gamma^{(p+1)} (v_\gamma^{(p+1)})_{\mathbf{i}_1 \dots \mathbf{i}_{p+1}} C_{\mathbf{m}_1 \dots \mathbf{m}_{2k}}^{(2k)} (\Gamma^M \Gamma^\mu \Gamma^{\mathbf{m}_1 \dots \mathbf{m}_{2k}} \Gamma^{\mathbf{i}_1 \dots \mathbf{i}_{p+1}} \Gamma_M)_{\beta\alpha}. \end{aligned} \quad (5.42)$$

Due to the presence of two factors of  $v_\gamma^{(p+1)}$ , we do not need to include the compensating sign that accompanied (5.29). By splitting the sum over  $M$  into non-compact and compact directions, and using (2.3), we can write

$$\Gamma^M \Gamma^\mu \Gamma^{\mathbf{m}_1 \dots \mathbf{m}_{2k}} \Gamma^{\mathbf{i}_1 \dots \mathbf{i}_{p+1}} \Gamma_M = \gamma^\mu \Gamma^{\mathbf{m}} \tilde{\Gamma}^{\mathbf{m}_1 \dots \mathbf{m}_{2k}} \Gamma^{\mathbf{i}_1 \dots \mathbf{i}_{p+1}} \Gamma_{\mathbf{m}} - 2\gamma^\mu \tilde{\Gamma}^{\mathbf{m}_1 \dots \mathbf{m}_{2k}} \Gamma^{\mathbf{i}_1 \dots \mathbf{i}_{p+1}}. \quad (5.43)$$

Substituting this into (5.42), using four-dimensional spinor notation (2.5) and  $\tilde{\Gamma}\eta = 1$ , we can express the amplitude as

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{\pi^2 (2\pi)^{2k-p}}{8(p+1)!} \frac{i p_\mu}{(2k)!} \tilde{\chi}^\alpha \tilde{\chi}^\beta \gamma_{\beta\alpha}^\mu \int_{L_\gamma^{(p+1)}} v_\gamma^{(p+1)} (v_\gamma^{(p+1)})_{\mathbf{i}_1 \dots \mathbf{i}_{p+1}} C_{\mathbf{m}_1 \dots \mathbf{m}_{2k}}^{(2k)} \\ & \times \bar{\eta} \left[ \tilde{\Gamma}^{\mathbf{m}} \tilde{\Gamma}^{\mathbf{m}_1 \dots \mathbf{m}_{2k}} \tilde{\Gamma}^{\mathbf{i}_1 \dots \mathbf{i}_{p+1}} \tilde{\Gamma}_{\mathbf{m}} + 2 \tilde{\Gamma}^{\mathbf{m}_1 \dots \mathbf{m}_{2k}} \tilde{\Gamma}^{\mathbf{i}_1 \dots \mathbf{i}_{p+1}} \right] \eta. \end{aligned} \quad (5.44)$$

Comparison with (4.1) turns this into the following contribution to  $a_{m,\gamma}d\lambda^m$ :

$$\frac{\pi^2(2\pi)^{2k-p}}{8(p+1)!} \frac{1}{(2k)!} \int_{L^{(p+1)}} v_\gamma^{(p+1)} (v_\gamma^{(p+1)})_{\mathbf{i}_1 \cdots \mathbf{i}_{p+1}} dC_{\mathbf{m}_1 \cdots \mathbf{m}_{2k}}^{(2k)} \times \bar{\eta} \left[ \tilde{\Gamma}^{\mathbf{m}} \tilde{\Gamma}^{\mathbf{m}_1 \cdots \mathbf{m}_{2k}} \tilde{\Gamma}^{\mathbf{i}_1 \cdots \mathbf{i}_{p+1}} \tilde{\Gamma}_{\mathbf{m}} + 2 \tilde{\Gamma}^{\mathbf{m}_1 \cdots \mathbf{m}_{2k}} \tilde{\Gamma}^{\mathbf{i}_1 \cdots \mathbf{i}_{p+1}} \right] \eta, \quad (5.45)$$

with the understanding that the differential  $d$  acting on  $C^{(2k)}$  is in the moduli space and not in spacetime.

The general procedure that we shall follow for analyzing the integrand of (5.45) is as follows. We first express the product  $\tilde{\Gamma}^{\mathbf{m}_1 \cdots \mathbf{m}_{2k}} \tilde{\Gamma}^{\mathbf{i}_1 \cdots \mathbf{i}_{p+1}}$  using the identity

$$\tilde{\Gamma}^{\mathbf{i}_1 \cdots \mathbf{i}_{2a}} \tilde{\Gamma}^{\mathbf{j}_1 \cdots \mathbf{j}_{2b}} = \sum_{\ell=\max(0,(a+b-3))}^{\min(2a,2b)} (-1)^{\ell(\ell+1)/2} \delta^{\mathbf{i}_1 \cdots \mathbf{i}_\ell, \mathbf{j}_1 \cdots \mathbf{j}_\ell} \tilde{\Gamma}^{\mathbf{i}_{\ell+1} \cdots \mathbf{i}_{2a}} \tilde{\Gamma}^{\mathbf{j}_{\ell+1} \cdots \mathbf{j}_{2b}} + \text{inequivalent perm. with sign}, \quad (5.46)$$

where

$$\delta^{\mathbf{i}_1 \cdots \mathbf{i}_n, \mathbf{j}_1 \cdots \mathbf{j}_n} \equiv g^{\mathbf{i}_1 \mathbf{j}_1} \cdots g^{\mathbf{i}_n \mathbf{j}_n} + (-1)^P \text{ weighted perm. of } \mathbf{j}_1, \cdots, \mathbf{j}_n, \quad (5.47)$$

and inequivalent permutation in (5.46) means all  $\binom{2a}{\ell}$  inequivalent permutations of  $\mathbf{i}_1, \cdots, \mathbf{i}_{2a}$  and independently, all  $\binom{2b}{\ell}$  inequivalent permutations of  $\mathbf{j}_1, \cdots, \mathbf{j}_{2b}$ . Then we can manipulate the resulting expression with the help of the identity

$$\bar{\eta} \left[ \tilde{\Gamma}^{\mathbf{m}} \tilde{\Gamma}^{\mathbf{j}_1 \cdots \mathbf{j}_{2\ell}} \tilde{\Gamma}_{\mathbf{m}} + 2 \tilde{\Gamma}^{\mathbf{j}_1 \cdots \mathbf{j}_{2\ell}} \right] \eta = (8 - 4\ell) \bar{\eta} \tilde{\Gamma}^{\mathbf{j}_1 \cdots \mathbf{j}_{2\ell}} \eta, \quad (5.48)$$

and then use (2.4) to evaluate the right hand side. This allows us to express the integrand in terms of geometric quantities on  $\mathfrak{M}$ . Note that for  $\ell = 2$  the right hand side vanishes and so we do not need the expression for  $\bar{\eta} \tilde{\Gamma}^{\mathbf{i} \mathbf{j} \mathbf{k} \mathbf{l}} \eta$ .

We shall now evaluate (5.45) for different values of  $k$  and  $p$ . Note that  $p$  is always odd. Even though  $\mathbf{F}^{(3)}$  and  $\mathbf{F}^{(7)}$  are related by the duality relation (D.8), and therefore the corresponding potentials  $\mathbf{C}^{(2)}$  and  $\mathbf{C}^{(6)}$  are related by (E.27), we shall treat  $\mathbf{C}_{\mathbf{m}\mathbf{n}}^{(2)}$  and  $\mathbf{C}_{\mathbf{m}_1 \cdots \mathbf{m}_6}^{(6)}$  as independent fields in our analysis. This is due to the fact that the internal components of  $\mathbf{C}^{(6)}$  are equivalent to the ones obtained by dualizing the field  $\mathbf{C}_{\mu\nu}^{(2)}$ , but are not related to the internal components of  $\mathbf{C}^{(2)}$ . Since much of our analysis will be repetitive, we shall give most of the details at the beginning, but will be progressively less explicit as we proceed.

#### 5.4.1 D(-1)-brane

For  $p = -1$ , we can use (5.48) to simplify (5.45) to

$$- \pi^3 (2\pi)^{2k} \frac{(4k-8)}{4(2k)!} dC_{\mathbf{m}_1 \cdots \mathbf{m}_{2k}}^{(2k)} \bar{\eta} \tilde{\Gamma}^{\mathbf{m}_1 \cdots \mathbf{m}_{2k}} \eta. \quad (5.49)$$

It remains to make this result explicit for different  $k$ .

**0-form potential.** For  $k = 0$ , using  $\bar{\eta}\eta = 1$  and taking into account that  $C^{(0)} = c^0$ , (5.49) gives

$$a_{c^0, \gamma^0} dc^0 = 2\pi^3 dc^0, \quad (5.50)$$

where  $\gamma^0$  refers to the charge vector corresponding to a single D(-1)-brane.

**2-form potential.** For  $k = 1$ , using the relation  $\tilde{\eta}\tilde{\Gamma}^{ij}\eta = i\omega^{ij}$  and expressing the 2-form field through the moduli  $c^a$  (see (2.12)), one finds that (5.49) reduces to

$$a_{c^a, \gamma^0} dc^a = 2i\pi^5 dC_{ij}^{(2)} \omega^{ij} = 4i\pi^5 (\omega_a, \omega) dc^a = 4i\pi^5 \frac{1}{2V} \kappa_{abc} \mathbf{t}^b \mathbf{t}^c dc^a = \frac{i\pi^3}{2V} \kappa_{ab} t^b dc^a, \quad (5.51)$$

where we have used the identity (B.12) in the third step and the first relation in (2.23) in the last one.

**4-form potential.** Since for  $k = 2$  (5.49) vanishes, there is no coupling to  $C^{(4)}$ , or equivalently its components  $\tilde{c}_a$  along  $\mathfrak{Y}$ .

**6-form potential.** Using the relation  $\tilde{\eta}\tilde{\Gamma}^{m_1 \dots m_6} \eta = -i\epsilon^{m_1 \dots m_6}$ , we can express (5.49) for  $k = 3$  as

$$a_{\tilde{c}_0, \gamma^0} d\tilde{c}_0 = i\pi^3 (2\pi)^6 (\star dC^{(6)}) = \frac{i\pi^3}{V} d\tilde{c}_0, \quad (5.52)$$

where in the second step we have used (B.7) and (2.23).

The results derived above are for a single D(-1)-brane, which, according to (3.2), carries charge  $q_0 = -1$ . For D(-1)-brane charge  $q_0$ , the above results should be multiplied by  $-q_0$ .

#### 5.4.2 D1-brane

**0-form potential.** For  $p = 1$ ,  $k = 0$ , after using (5.48), (2.4) and (B.13), we can express (5.45) as

$$\frac{\pi i}{8} dC^{(0)} \int_{L_\gamma^{(2)}} v_\gamma^{(2)} (v_\gamma^{(2)})_{ij} \omega^{ij} = \frac{\pi i}{4} dc^0 \int_{-q_a \gamma^a} \omega = -\frac{\pi i}{4} q_a \mathbf{t}^a dc^0. \quad (5.53)$$

Using again (2.23), we find

$$a_{c^0, q_b \gamma^b} dc^0 = -i\pi^3 q_a t^a dc^0. \quad (5.54)$$

**2-form potential.** For  $p = 1$ ,  $k = 1$ , using (5.46), (5.48) and (2.4), we can express (5.45) as

$$\pi^3 \int_{L_\gamma^{(2)}} v_\gamma^{(2)} \left( i dC_{ij}^{(2)} (v_\gamma^{(2)})^j_{\mathbf{k}} \omega^{\mathbf{ik}} + dC_{ij}^{(2)} (v_\gamma^{(2)})^{\mathbf{ji}} \right). \quad (5.55)$$

The first term in the integrand vanishes which can be seen by expressing it in terms of holomorphic and anti-holomorphic components. Thus, taking into account that  $C^{(2)} = c^a \omega_a$ , one remains with

$$a_{c^a, q_b \gamma^b} dc^a = -2\pi^3 dc^a \int_{-q_a \gamma^a} \omega_a = 2\pi^3 q_a dc^a. \quad (5.56)$$

**4-form potential.** For  $p = 1$ ,  $k = 2$ , the contribution (5.45) gives the following expression

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{2}{4!} \pi^5 \int_{L_\gamma^{(2)}} v_\gamma^{(2)} (v_\gamma^{(2)})_{ij} dC_{klmn}^{(4)} \left( i \epsilon^{ijklmn} - 12i \delta^{\mathbf{im}} \delta^{\mathbf{jn}} \omega^{\mathbf{kl}} \right) \\ & = -i\pi^5 \int_{L_\gamma^{(2)}} \left( -4 \star dC^{(4)} + v_\gamma^{(2)} dC_{ijkl}^{(4)} (v_\gamma^{(2)})^{\mathbf{ij}} \omega^{\mathbf{kl}} \right). \end{aligned} \quad (5.57)$$

The second term in the integrand can be rewritten using (B.9) as follows

$$\begin{aligned}
dC_{ijkl}^{(4)}(v_\gamma^{(2)})^{ij} \omega^{kl} &= \frac{1}{8} dC_{ijkl}^{(4)}(v_\gamma^{(2)})^{ij} \epsilon^{klmnpq} \omega_{mn} \omega_{pq} \\
&= \frac{1}{16} \epsilon_{ijklrs} (\star dC^{(4)})^{rs} (v_\gamma^{(2)})^{ij} \epsilon^{klmnpq} \omega_{mn} \omega_{pq} \\
&= (v_\gamma^{(2)})^{ij} (\star dC^{(4)})^{kl} (\omega_{ij} \omega_{kl} + 2 \omega_{ik} \omega_{lj}) \\
&= 4(v_\gamma^{(2)}, \omega) (\star dC^{(4)}, \omega) + 4(v_\gamma^{(2)})^{s\bar{t}} \omega_{s\bar{u}} (\star dC^{(4)})^{\bar{u}v} \omega_{v\bar{t}}.
\end{aligned} \tag{5.58}$$

Using (2.12), (B.10) and (B.2), one can show that  $(\star dC^{(4)}, \omega) = \mathbf{t}^a d\tilde{c}_a / \mathbf{V}$ . Using also  $\omega_{s\bar{t}} = i\mathbf{g}_{s\bar{t}}$  in the second term on the r.h.s. of (5.58), one obtains

$$dC_{ijkl}^{(4)}(v_\gamma^{(2)})^{ij} \omega^{kl} = \frac{4}{\mathbf{V}} (v_\gamma^{(2)}, \omega) \mathbf{t}^a d\tilde{c}_a - 4(v_\gamma^{(2)}, \star dC^{(4)}). \tag{5.59}$$

Thus, (5.57) becomes

$$i\pi^5 \int_{-q_a \gamma^a} \left( 8 \star dC^{(4)} - \frac{4}{\mathbf{V}} \mathbf{t}^a d\tilde{c}_a \omega \right) = 8i\pi^5 \kappa^{ab} q_a (d\tilde{c}_b), \tag{5.60}$$

where we used (B.6). Due to (2.24), this gives

$$a_{\tilde{c}_a, q_b \gamma^b} d\tilde{c}_a = 2i\pi^3 \kappa^{ab} q_a d\tilde{c}_b. \tag{5.61}$$

**6-form potential.** For  $k = 3$ , (5.45) vanishes due to (5.48). This shows that

$$a_{\tilde{c}_0, \gamma} d\tilde{c}_0 = 0. \tag{5.62}$$

### 5.4.3 D3-brane

**0-form potential.** For  $p = 3$ ,  $k = 0$ , the integrand in (5.45) vanishes due to (5.48) and we have

$$a_{c^0, p^b \gamma_b} dc^0 = 0. \tag{5.63}$$

**2-form potential.** In this case we have  $p = 3$ ,  $k = 1$  and can express (5.45) as

$$\frac{\pi i}{4! \cdot 8} \int_{L_\gamma^{(4)}} v_\gamma^{(4)} dC_{ij}^{(2)}(v_\gamma^{(4)})_{klmn} \left( \epsilon^{ijklmn} - 12 \delta^{im} \delta^{jn} \omega^{kl} \right). \tag{5.64}$$

This can further be rewritten as

$$\begin{aligned}
\frac{\pi i}{4} \int_{L_\gamma^{(4)}} \left( \star dC^{(2)} - dC^{(2)} \wedge \omega \right) &= -\frac{\pi i}{4} \int_{-p^a \tilde{\gamma}_a} \left( 2dC^{(2)} \wedge \omega - \frac{(\mathbf{t}^2 dc)}{4\mathbf{V}} \omega^2 \right) \\
&= \frac{\pi i}{4} \left( 2(ptdc) - \frac{(\mathbf{t}^2 dc)}{4\mathbf{V}} (pt^2) \right),
\end{aligned} \tag{5.65}$$

where we used (B.2) and (B.5). Therefore, taking into account the first relation in (2.23), we have

$$a_{c^a, p^b \gamma_b} dc^a = 2i\pi^3 \kappa_{ab} p^a dc^b - \frac{i\pi^3}{4\mathbf{V}} (pt^2) \kappa_{ab} t^a dc^b. \tag{5.66}$$

**4-form potential.** In this case we have  $p = 3$ ,  $k = 2$  and can express (5.45) as

$$\frac{2\pi^3}{4!} \int_{L_\gamma^{(4)}} v_\gamma^{(4)} (v_\gamma^{(4)})_{ijkl} \left[ dC^{(4)ijkl} + 2i dC^{(4)ijk} \omega_{ml} - \frac{2i}{3!} dC^{(4)i} \epsilon^{mnpjkl} \right]. \quad (5.67)$$

The last two terms actually vanish: the vanishing of the second term becomes evident after writing it in the holomorphic and anti-holomorphic components, whereas the vanishing of the third one follows just from the anti-symmetrization of indices as the index  $\mathbf{i}$  can equal neither  $\mathbf{jkl}$  nor  $\mathbf{mnp}$ , and these six indices must all be different. Thus, one remains with

$$a_{\tilde{c}_a, p^b \gamma_b} d\tilde{c}_a = 2\pi^3 \int_{-p^a \tilde{\gamma}_a} dC^{(4)} = -2\pi^3 p^a d\tilde{c}_a. \quad (5.68)$$

**6-form potential.** In this case we have  $p = 3$ ,  $k = 3$  and can express (5.45) as

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{2i\pi^5}{4!} (\star dC^{(6)}) \int_{L_\gamma^{(4)}} v_\gamma^{(4)} (v_\gamma^{(4)})_{ijkl} \epsilon^{ijklmn} \omega_{mn} &= 4i\pi^5 (\star dC^{(6)}) \int_{-p^a \tilde{\gamma}_a} \star \omega \\ &= -2i\pi^5 \frac{(pt^2)}{V} d\tilde{c}_0, \end{aligned} \quad (5.69)$$

where we used (B.9) and (B.2). Therefore, due to (2.23), we have

$$a_{\tilde{c}_0, p^b \gamma_b} d\tilde{c}_0 = -\frac{i\pi^3}{2V} (pt^2) d\tilde{c}_0. \quad (5.70)$$

#### 5.4.4 D5-brane

**0-form potential.** In this case we can express (5.45) as

$$a_{c^0, \tilde{\gamma}_0} dc^0 = \frac{i dc^0}{8(2\pi)^3} \int_{\mathfrak{Y}} v_\gamma^{(6)} = \frac{i \mathbf{V}}{8(2\pi)^3} dc^0 = i\pi^3 V dc^0, \quad (5.71)$$

where in the last step we have used (2.23). Here  $\tilde{\gamma}_0$  corresponds to the charge vector describing a D5-brane wrapped on  $\mathfrak{Y}$ .

**2-form potential.** In this case the integrand in (5.45) vanishes and we have

$$a_{c^a, \tilde{\gamma}_0} dc^a = 0. \quad (5.72)$$

**4-form potential.** In this case we can express the contribution (5.45) as

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\pi^2}{8 \cdot 6! \cdot 4!} \frac{1}{2\pi} \binom{6}{2} \times 4! \times 4i \int_{\mathfrak{Y}} v_\gamma^{(6)} (v_\gamma^{(6)})^{\mathbf{i}_1 \dots \mathbf{i}_6} dC_{\mathbf{i}_1 \dots \mathbf{i}_4}^{(4)} \omega_{\mathbf{i}_5 \mathbf{i}_6} \\ = \frac{i\pi}{4} \int_{\mathfrak{Y}} v_\gamma^{(6)} (v_\gamma^{(6)}, dC^{(4)} \wedge \omega) = \frac{i\pi}{4} \int_{\mathfrak{Y}} dC^{(4)} \wedge \omega = \frac{i\pi}{4} \mathbf{t}^a d\tilde{c}_a. \end{aligned} \quad (5.73)$$

Using the first relation in (2.23), one finds

$$a_{\tilde{c}_a, \tilde{\gamma}_0} d\tilde{c}_a = i\pi^3 t^a d\tilde{c}_a. \quad (5.74)$$

**6-form potential.** For  $p = 5$ ,  $k = 3$ , we can express (5.45) as

$$a_{\tilde{c}_0, \tilde{\gamma}_0} d\tilde{c}_0 = -2\pi^3 \int_{\mathfrak{J}} dC^{(6)} = -2\pi^3 d\tilde{c}_0. \quad (5.75)$$

Eqs. (5.71)–(5.75) hold for a single D5-brane carrying charge  $p^0 = 1$ . For general  $p^0$ , these expressions should be multiplied by  $p^0$ .

### 5.5 Final result

Adding the various contributions to  $a_{m,\gamma} d\lambda^m$  obtained in this section, we get

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_m a_{m,\gamma} d\lambda^m &= \frac{\pi^2}{4V\tau_2^2} \mathcal{T}_\gamma^R d\sigma + \frac{i\pi^2}{\tau_2} \mathcal{T}_\gamma^R d\tau_2 + \frac{\pi^2}{4V} \mathcal{T}_\gamma^R \kappa_{ab} t^b db^a + 2i\pi^3 \tau_2 \frac{Z_\gamma}{|Z_\gamma|} d\bar{Z}_\gamma \\ &\quad - q_0 \left[ \frac{i\pi^3}{V} d\tilde{c}_0 + \frac{i\pi^3}{2V} \kappa_{ab} t^b dc^a + 2\pi^3 dc^0 \right] \\ &\quad + q_a \left[ 2i\pi^3 \kappa^{ab} d\tilde{c}_b + 2\pi^3 dc^a - i\pi^3 t^a dc^0 \right] \\ &\quad + \left[ -\frac{i\pi^3}{2V} (pt^2) d\tilde{c}_0 - 2\pi^3 p^a d\tilde{c}_a + 2i\pi^3 \kappa_{ab} p^a dc^b - \frac{i\pi^3}{4V} (pt^2) \kappa_{ab} t^a dc^b \right] \\ &\quad + p^0 \left[ -2\pi^3 d\tilde{c}_0 + i\pi^3 t^a d\tilde{c}_a + i\pi^3 V dc^0 \right], \end{aligned} \quad (5.76)$$

with the understanding that this result is valid when only one type of charge is present. Comparing this with (3.23) for vanishing background values of  $b^a$  and RR fields, we conclude that

$$\sum_m a_m d\lambda^m = \pi^3 \mathcal{A}_\gamma. \quad (5.77)$$

Now, using (4.6) and (4.7), we can express the instanton correction to the metric as:

$$ds_{\text{inst}}^2 = \frac{\kappa^2}{2^3 \pi^{13/2} \mathbf{V}} \sum_\gamma \frac{\Omega_\gamma}{(2\pi^2 \mathcal{T}_\gamma^R)^{1/2}} \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} k^{-1/2} e^{-k\mathcal{T}_\gamma} \left( \sum_m a_{m,\gamma} d\lambda^m \right)^2. \quad (5.78)$$

Using (2.21), (2.23) and (5.77) this reduces to

$$ds_{\text{inst}}^2 = 2^{-7/2} \pi^{-1/2} (\tau_2^2 V)^{-1} \sum_\gamma \frac{\Omega_\gamma}{(\mathcal{T}_\gamma^R)^{1/2}} \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} k^{-1/2} e^{-k\mathcal{T}_\gamma} \mathcal{A}_\gamma^2. \quad (5.79)$$

This is in perfect agreement with the prediction (3.21).

## 6 Non-linear terms

The results of explicit instanton calculation given in (5.76), (5.78) match the prediction (3.21) when the background values of  $B$  and RR fields are set to zero in the expression for  $\mathcal{A}_\gamma$ . Furthermore, in (5.76) we had to restrict to instantons carrying only one type of charge, while the result (3.21) includes sum over instantons that can carry multiple types of charges corresponding to Dp-branes for different values of  $p$ . Our goal in this section will be to rectify these defects.

### 6.1 Disk amplitude with one RR field and a pair of zero modes

First, we shall study the effect of switching on the  $B$  field along  $\mathfrak{M}$  on the amplitudes involving the RR fields. In the presence of such a background, the tension of a  $Dp$ -brane is modified to:

$$\tilde{T}_p \equiv T_p \sqrt{\det(\mathbf{g}_{\parallel} + 2\kappa\mathbf{B}_{\parallel})} / \sqrt{\det\mathbf{g}_{\parallel}}, \quad (6.1)$$

where the subscript  $\parallel$  denotes the pullback along the world-volume directions of the D-brane. The boundary condition on the spin fields given in (C.7) get modified to [22]

$$\begin{aligned} e^{-\bar{\phi}/2} \bar{S}_{\alpha}(\bar{z}) &= -\frac{i}{(2k)!} \frac{\sqrt{\det\mathbf{g}_{\parallel}}}{\sqrt{\det(\mathbf{g}_{\parallel} + 2\kappa\mathbf{B}_{\parallel})}} v_{\mathbf{m}_1 \dots \mathbf{m}_{2k}} (\Gamma^{\mathbf{m}_1 \dots \mathbf{m}_{2k}} \hat{e}^{-\kappa(\mathbf{B}_P)_{ij} \Gamma^{ij}})_{\alpha}^{\beta} e^{-\phi/2} S_{\beta}(z), \\ e^{-3\bar{\phi}/2} \bar{S}^{\alpha}(\bar{z}) &= \frac{i}{(2k)!} \frac{\sqrt{\det\mathbf{g}_{\parallel}}}{\sqrt{\det(\mathbf{g}_{\parallel} + 2\kappa\mathbf{B}_{\parallel})}} v_{\mathbf{m}_1 \dots \mathbf{m}_{2k}} (\Gamma^{\mathbf{m}_1 \dots \mathbf{m}_{2k}} \hat{e}^{-\kappa(\mathbf{B}_P)_{ij} \Gamma^{ij}})^{\alpha}_{\beta} e^{-3\phi/2} S^{\beta}(z), \end{aligned} \quad (6.2)$$

where  $\mathbf{B}_P = P\mathbf{B}P$  denotes the projection of  $\mathbf{B}$  along the brane.<sup>9</sup> The factor of  $2\kappa$  comes from the particular normalization of the 2-form field we have chosen, reflected in (2.20).  $\hat{e}$  should be interpreted as an exponential on forms: after Taylor expanding, one has to antisymmetrize the tangent-space indices of the  $\Gamma$ -matrices. Due to this, the series terminates after a finite number of terms; e.g. in the case of the D1-brane, only the first two terms survive.

The modifications (6.1), (6.2) due to the presence of background  $B$  field can affect the computation of the  $a_m$ 's in section 5 by changing the result of the disk amplitude with one closed string vertex operator and two fermion zero modes from the open string sector. In the absence of  $B$ -field background, the integral in (5.45) has the general form

$$\frac{1}{(p+1)!} \int_{L_{\gamma}^{(p+1)}} v_{\gamma}^{(p+1)} v_{\gamma, \mathbf{i}_1 \dots \mathbf{i}_{p+1}}^{(p+1)} Y^{(p+1) \mathbf{i}_1 \dots \mathbf{i}_{p+1}} = \int_{L_{\gamma}^{(p+1)}} Y^{(p+1)} \quad (6.3)$$

for some  $(p+1)$ -form  $Y^{(p+1)}$ . Using the Poincaré duality between  $(p+1)$ -cycles and  $(5-p)$ -forms on  $\mathfrak{M}$ , we can associate a  $(5-p)$ -form  $\omega_{\gamma}^{(5-p)}$  with  $L_{\gamma}^{(p+1)}$  and express the integral (6.3) as

$$\int_{\mathfrak{M}} \omega_{\gamma}^{(5-p)} \wedge Y^{(p+1)}. \quad (6.4)$$

In particular, we have

$$\omega_{\gamma}^{(0)} = p^0, \quad \omega_{\gamma}^{(2)} = -p^a \omega_a, \quad \omega_{\gamma}^{(4)} = -q_a \tilde{\omega}^a, \quad \omega_{\gamma}^{(6)} = -q_0 \omega_{\mathfrak{M}}, \quad (6.5)$$

while their sum, which we denote by  $\omega_{\gamma}$ , can be seen as Poincaré dual to the homology element (3.2). It follows from the remark below (3.2) that  $\omega_{\gamma} = \iota(\gamma)$ .

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<sup>9</sup>While the pullback and projection are closely related objects, they are not the same. The former has its indices labelled by the intrinsic coordinates on the brane that run over  $(p+1)$  values while the latter has its indices labelled by the coordinates of the full spacetime even though it will be a matrix of rank  $\leq (p+1)$ .

Now let us consider the effect of switching on the  $B$ -field. The net effect is to make the following replacement in the expression for the integrand in (5.45):

$$\begin{aligned}
 v_{\gamma, \mathbf{i}_1 \dots \mathbf{i}_{p+1}}^{(p+1)} \Gamma^{\mathbf{i}_1 \dots \mathbf{i}_{p+1}} &\Rightarrow v_{\gamma, \mathbf{i}_1 \dots \mathbf{i}_{p+1}}^{(p+1)} \Gamma^{\mathbf{i}_1 \dots \mathbf{i}_{p+1}} e^{-\kappa(\mathbf{B}_P)_{ij} \Gamma^{ij}} \\
 &= v_{\gamma, \mathbf{i}_1 \dots \mathbf{i}_{p+1}}^{(p+1)} \left[ \Gamma^{\mathbf{i}_1 \dots \mathbf{i}_{p+1}} + 2\kappa \mathbf{B}^{\mathbf{i}_1 \mathbf{i}_2} \Gamma^{\mathbf{i}_3 \dots \mathbf{i}_{p+1}} + \frac{(2\kappa)^2}{2} \mathbf{B}^{\mathbf{i}_1 \mathbf{i}_2} \mathbf{B}^{\mathbf{i}_3 \mathbf{i}_4} \Gamma^{\mathbf{i}_5 \dots \mathbf{i}_{p+1}} \right. \\
 &\quad \left. + \frac{(2\kappa)^3}{6} \mathbf{B}^{\mathbf{i}_1 \mathbf{i}_2} \mathbf{B}^{\mathbf{i}_3 \mathbf{i}_4} \mathbf{B}^{\mathbf{i}_5 \mathbf{i}_6} \Gamma^{\mathbf{i}_7 \dots \mathbf{i}_{p+1}} \right],
 \end{aligned} \tag{6.6}$$

where we have terminated the sum using the fact that  $p$  is at most 5. The rest of the factors remain the same. Note that on the r.h.s. of (6.6) we have used the full  $\mathbf{B}_{ij}$  since contraction with  $v_{\gamma}^{(p+1)}$  given in (3.3) automatically ensures projection along the brane. Since the factors  $\sqrt{\det(\mathbf{g}_{\parallel} + 2\kappa \mathbf{B}_{\parallel})} / \sqrt{\det \mathbf{g}_{\parallel}}$  cancel between (6.1) and (6.2), we effectively make the replacement

$$Y^{(p+1)} \Rightarrow Y^{(p+1)} + \frac{2\kappa}{(2\pi)^2} \mathbf{B} \wedge Y^{(p-1)} + \frac{1}{2} \frac{(2\kappa)^2}{(2\pi)^4} \mathbf{B} \wedge \mathbf{B} \wedge Y^{(p-3)} + \frac{1}{6} \frac{(2\kappa)^3}{(2\pi)^6} \mathbf{B} \wedge \mathbf{B} \wedge \mathbf{B} \wedge Y^{(p-5)}. \tag{6.7}$$

In writing the above expression we have used the fact that when we go from  $p$ -brane contribution to the  $(p-2)$ -brane contribution, we have to replace the  $\Gamma^{\mathbf{i}_1 \dots \mathbf{i}_{p+1}}$  contracted with the volume form on the brane by  $\Gamma^{\mathbf{i}_3 \dots \mathbf{i}_{p+1}}$  and also the tension that multiplies the amplitudes gets multiplied by a factor of  $(2\pi)^2$ . Substituting this into (6.4) and using the relation  $\frac{2\kappa}{(2\pi)^2} \mathbf{B} = \sum_a b^a \omega_a = B$  following from (2.22) and (2.23), we obtain

$$\int_{\mathfrak{y}} \omega_{\gamma}^{(5-p)} \wedge Y^{(\text{even})} e^B, \quad Y^{(\text{even})} = \sum_{k=0}^3 Y^{(2k)}. \tag{6.8}$$

Let us combine all charge vectors together by considering the formal sum of contributions (6.8) for different  $p$  keeping in mind that at this stage, a physical instanton will carry only one of the four types of charges corresponding to a given value of  $p$ . With this understanding we can express the net contribution from the formal sum as

$$\int_{\mathfrak{y}} \omega_{\gamma} \wedge e^B Y^{(\text{even})} = \int_{\mathfrak{y}} \iota(\check{\gamma}) \wedge Y^{(\text{even})} = \int_{\mathfrak{y}} \omega_{\check{\gamma}} \wedge Y^{(\text{even})}, \tag{6.9}$$

where we used  $\omega_{\gamma} = \iota(\gamma)$ , (2.19) and (3.7). Since we are allowed to have only a fixed value of  $p$ , (6.9) should be interpreted as follows. The contribution due to a given  $Dp$ -brane of fixed charge in the presence of a background  $B$  field is given by the sum of the contributions from different types of branes, carrying charges  $\check{p}^{\Lambda}, \check{q}_{\Lambda}$ , with no background  $B$  field. However, these charges are not independent, since they are all determined by the charge labelling the original  $Dp$ -brane which could be  $p^0, p^a, q_a$  or  $q_0$ . We shall partially overcome this restriction in section 6.3.

So far the analysis of this section has been done for constant  $B$  field and vanishing RR background. Therefore, we could not determine the terms proportional to  $db^a$  inside the covariant derivatives in (2.11). However, the following argument can be used to show

that what appear in the expression for  $\sum_m a_m d\lambda^m$  are the full covariant derivatives. The point is that perturbative amplitudes in type IIB string theory as well as all instanton amplitudes, with the sole exception of a disk with one closed string vertex operator, are computed using the  $(-1/2, -1/2)$  picture vertex operators of the RR fields, which involve the field strengths  $\mathbf{F}^{(2k+1)}$  instead of the potentials  $\mathbf{C}^{(2k)}$ . This leads to a symmetry under constant shift of the potentials  $\mathbf{C}^{(2k)}$  which translates to the shift symmetry (2.18). The disk one-point functions that are responsible for the breaking of the shift symmetry can be summed to produce the factor  $e^{-k\mathcal{T}_\gamma}$  that accompanies the instanton amplitude — this has been checked explicitly in appendix section G. Therefore,  $\sum_m a_m d\lambda^m$  must be invariant under the continuous shift symmetry. This is precisely achieved by the covariant derivatives whose invariance under transformations (2.18) was verified in the end of section 2.2.<sup>10</sup>

To summarize, we found that the RR contribution to  $a_m d\lambda^m$  in the presence of the  $B$  field is given by the RR contribution to (5.76) with the charges replaced by  $\check{p}^\Lambda, \check{q}_\Lambda$  and the differentials of the RR scalars replaced by their covariant versions (2.11). This gives

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{\pi^3} \left( \sum_m a_{m,\gamma} d\lambda^m \right)_{RR} &= -\check{q}_0 \left[ \frac{i}{V} \nabla \tilde{c}_0 + \frac{i}{2V} \kappa_{ab} t^b \nabla c^a + 2dc^0 \right] + \check{q}_a \left[ 2i\kappa^{ab} \nabla \tilde{c}_b + 2\nabla c^a - it^a dc^0 \right] \\ &+ \left[ -\frac{i}{2V} (\check{p}t^2) \nabla \tilde{c}_0 - 2\check{p}^a \nabla \tilde{c}_a + 2i\kappa_{ab} \check{p}^a \nabla c^b - \frac{i}{4V} (\check{p}t^2) \kappa_{ab} t^a \nabla c^b \right] \\ &+ p^0 \left[ -2\nabla \tilde{c}_0 + it^a \nabla \tilde{c}_a + iV dc^0 \right]. \end{aligned} \quad (6.10)$$

This agrees with the RR part of (3.23).

## 6.2 Disk amplitude with one NSNS field and a pair of zero modes

Turning on a constant  $\mathbf{B}$  field in the internal directions along the D-brane modifies the boundary condition on  $\psi^M$ , with the doubling trick now leading to the replacement [23]

$$\bar{c} e^{-\bar{\phi}} \bar{\psi}^M(i) \rightarrow O^M_N c e^{-\phi} \psi^N(-i), \quad (6.11)$$

where  $O$  is the orthogonal matrix

$$O = P(\mathbf{g}_P + 2\kappa \mathbf{B}_P)^{-1}(\mathbf{g}_P - 2\kappa \mathbf{B}_P) - Q, \quad \mathbf{B}_P = P\mathbf{B}P, \quad \mathbf{g}_P = P\mathbf{g}P, \quad (6.12)$$

and  $P$  and  $Q$  are the projection operators tangential and transverse to the brane, respectively. Note that the inverse of  $(\mathbf{g}_P + 2\kappa \mathbf{B}_P)$  exists since it is taken inside the subspace projected by  $P$ . In addition, the D-brane tension is modified as in (6.1). Since the action of  $O$  on directions transverse to the brane does not depend on  $\mathbf{B}$ , the dilaton and NSNS axion amplitudes are formally the same as those found in section 5.1 and section 5.2 before with the D-brane tension modified as above.

<sup>10</sup>Note that while the shift symmetry in string field theory shows the existence of a shift symmetry of  $\sum_m a_m d\lambda^m$ , the actual transformation laws may be different due to the possibility of non-trivial transformations relating the fields and the transformation parameters in string field theory and effective field theory description. What we are using here to fix the form of  $a_m$  is the knowledge that the missing terms must be proportional to  $db^a$  together with the shift symmetry transformation laws (2.18) that leave the tree level action (2.8), (2.11) invariant.

In the case of Kähler and B-field moduli, (5.21) generalizes to

$$-\frac{1}{2}\pi^2\kappa\tilde{T}_p p_\rho \gamma_{\beta\alpha}^\rho \tilde{\chi}^\alpha \tilde{\chi}^{\dot{\beta}} e_{ij} O_{\mathbf{k}}^j (\mathbf{g}^{\mathbf{ik}} + i\boldsymbol{\omega}^{\mathbf{ik}}) (2\pi)^{p+1} \delta^{(p+1)}(0). \quad (6.13)$$

Since  $Q = 1 - P$ , we can write as in (5.22)

$$e_{ij} O_{\mathbf{k}}^j (\mathbf{g}^{\mathbf{ik}} + i\boldsymbol{\omega}^{\mathbf{ik}}) = 2e_{ij} \left( P (\mathbf{g}_P + 2\kappa \mathbf{B}_P)^{-1} \mathbf{g}_P \right)^j_{\mathbf{k}} (\mathbf{g}^{\mathbf{ik}} + i\boldsymbol{\omega}^{\mathbf{ik}}) - \left( e_i^i + i e_{ij} \boldsymbol{\omega}^{ij} \right). \quad (6.14)$$

The second term gives the same contribution as (5.26) with  $\mathcal{T}_\gamma^R$  including the effect of the background  $B$  field as shown in (G.6), whereas the first can be rewritten as (cf. (5.27))

$$\frac{2}{\kappa} (\delta \mathbf{b}^a - i \delta \mathbf{t}^a) \omega_{a, s\bar{t}} \left( P (\mathbf{g}_P + 2\kappa \mathbf{B}_P)^{-1} P \right)^{\bar{t}s} = \frac{2}{\kappa} (\delta \mathbf{g}_P + 2\kappa \delta \mathbf{B}_P)_{s\bar{t}} \left( (\mathbf{g}_P + 2\kappa \mathbf{B}_P)^{-1} \right)^{\bar{t}s}, \quad (6.15)$$

where  $\delta \mathbf{g}_P$  and  $\delta \mathbf{B}_P$  are defined as the projection of  $\delta \mathbf{g}$  and  $\delta \mathbf{B}$  on the brane, i.e. we do not take into account the possible variation of  $P$  in defining these quantities.<sup>11</sup>

If we work within the subspace projected by  $P$ , then we can regard  $(\delta \mathbf{g}_P + 2\kappa \delta \mathbf{B}_P)$  as a  $(p+1)/2 \times (p+1)/2$  matrix obtained by this projection and  $(\mathbf{g}_P + 2\kappa \mathbf{B}_P)^{-1}$  as the inverse of this matrix. There is a closely related object where instead of using projection we use the pullback operation for covariant tensors. The projection depends on the choice of metric but the pullback does not. For a rank (1,1) tensor  $M$ , the pullback  $M_{\parallel}$  and the projection  $M_P$  are related by  $M_{\parallel} = W M_P \bar{W}^T$  for some matrix  $W$ . However, in the combination appearing in (6.15) the dependence on the matrix  $W$  cancels, showing that we can replace the matrices by their pullback. This allows us to express it as:

$$\frac{2}{\kappa} \text{Tr}_h \left[ (\delta \mathbf{g}_{\parallel} + 2\kappa \delta \mathbf{B}_{\parallel}) (\mathbf{g}_{\parallel} + 2\kappa \mathbf{B}_{\parallel})^{-1} \right] = \frac{2}{\kappa} \delta \log \det_h (\mathbf{g}_{\parallel} + 2\kappa \mathbf{B}_{\parallel}), \quad (6.16)$$

where the subscript ‘h’ indicates that we are considering the trace and determinant using the holomorphic coordinates on the brane as in (6.15). Since pullback of a covariant tensor does not depend on the choice of metric, in this form it does not matter if in computing  $\delta \mathbf{g}$  and  $\delta \mathbf{B}$  we first compute the variation and then take the pullback or take the variation of the pullback, and therefore we could pull the  $\delta$  outside the trace and the determinant. Using (6.16), the contribution of the first term in (6.14) to (6.13) is given by:

$$-\pi^2 \tilde{T}_p p_\rho \gamma_{\beta\alpha}^\rho \tilde{\chi}^\alpha \tilde{\chi}^{\dot{\beta}} \frac{\mathbf{V}_\gamma}{|\mathbf{V}_\gamma|} \int_{L^{(p+1)}} v_\gamma^{(p+1)} \delta \log \det_h (\mathbf{g}_{\parallel} + 2\kappa \mathbf{B}_{\parallel}). \quad (6.17)$$

The factor  $\mathbf{V}_\gamma/|\mathbf{V}_\gamma|$  has the same origin as in (5.29). Now using (G.4) with  $M = \mathbf{g} + 2\kappa \mathbf{B}$  and  $N$  some matrix having the expansion  $N_{s\bar{t}} = N^a \omega_{a, s\bar{t}}$  with coefficients independent of  $t^a$  and  $b^a$ , we get

$$\log \det_h (\mathbf{g}_{\parallel} + 2\kappa \mathbf{B}_{\parallel}) = \log \bar{Z}_\gamma + \log \det_h N_{\parallel} - \log \bar{Z}_\gamma(N), \quad (6.18)$$

<sup>11</sup>Of course, the cycle itself, determined from the requirement of holomorphy, does not depend on the choice of  $\mathbf{g}$  and  $\mathbf{B}$ , but  $P$ , expressed in a fixed coordinate system, could still depend on the choice of the metric.

where  $\bar{Z}_\gamma(N)$  is  $\bar{Z}_\gamma$  evaluated at  $z^a = N^a/(2\pi)^2$ . Since the last two terms are independent of the moduli, their variation vanishes and we obtain

$$\delta \log \det_{\text{h}} \left( \mathbf{g}_{\parallel} + 2\kappa \mathbf{B}_{\parallel} \right) = \frac{\delta \bar{Z}_\gamma}{\bar{Z}_\gamma}. \tag{6.19}$$

Since this is a constant in  $\mathfrak{Y}$ , it comes out of the integral in (6.17). The integration now yields a factor of  $\mathbf{V}_\gamma$ . Using the relation  $\bar{T}_p |\mathbf{V}_\gamma| = \mathcal{T}_\gamma^{\text{R}} = 2\pi\tau_2 |Z_\gamma|$  in the presence of a background  $B$  field, as verified in (G.6), we can express (6.17) as

$$- \pi^2 p_\rho \gamma_{\beta\alpha}^\rho \tilde{\chi}^\alpha \tilde{\chi}^{\dot{\beta}} 2\pi\tau_2 |Z_\gamma| \frac{\delta \bar{Z}_\gamma}{\bar{Z}_\gamma}. \tag{6.20}$$

Adding (5.26) and (6.20) and using (4.1), we get

$$a_{t^a, \gamma} dt^a + a_{b^a, \gamma} db^a = \pi^2 \mathcal{T}_\gamma^{\text{R}} \left( \frac{1}{4V} \kappa_{ab} t^b db^a - \frac{idV}{2V} \right) + 2i\pi^3 \tau_2 \frac{Z_\gamma}{|Z_\gamma|} d\bar{Z}_\gamma. \tag{6.21}$$

This has the same form as equation (5.36), except that it is now valid even in the presence of background  $B$  field.

Finally, we shall discuss the replacement of  $d\sigma$  in (5.76) by the full covariant derivative  $\nabla\sigma$  that appears in the expression for  $\mathcal{A}_\gamma$  in (3.23). This follows essentially from the same argument as in [1]. Since the tree level kinetic term (2.8) also involves  $\nabla\sigma$ , such a term must be present already in the dualization rule (5.7) due to the presence of an additional term in the action involving the NSNS 3-form field strength before dualization. In other words, the Fourier transform of  $d\sigma$  is replaced by the Fourier transform of  $\nabla\sigma$  on the r.h.s. of (5.7). Therefore,  $d\sigma$  in (5.76) should be replaced by  $\nabla\sigma$ .

In summary, we have shown that the contribution to  $\sum_m a_{m, \gamma} d\lambda^m / \pi^3$  from the NSNS sector fields  $\lambda^m$  reproduces the result given in the first line of (3.23) even in the presence of background  $B$  field.

### 6.3 Multiple-charge system

Notwithstanding our use of the formal sum in (6.9), our analysis up to now applies to the case where the instanton carries a single type of  $Dp$ -brane charge. We shall now rectify this defect by using the fact that the original  $Dp$ -brane could carry world-volume gauge field with field strength  $F_{\mathbf{ij}}$  and this could induce  $Dq$ -brane charges with  $q < p$ . It is known that in the world-volume theory the combination  $F + B$  appear together. Therefore, if we decompose  $F$  as<sup>12</sup>

$$F = f^a \omega_a, \tag{6.22}$$

then in (3.8) the combination  $f^a + b^a$  will appear together. For reasons that will become clear soon, let us denote the charge carried by the original system by  $\bar{\gamma} = (\bar{p}^\Lambda, \bar{q}_\Lambda)$  —

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<sup>12</sup>Since  $F$  must be along the world-volume of the brane, not all  $f^a$ 's are allowed. But since the final formula is sensitive only to the components of  $F$  along the brane, the extra variables are automatically eliminated.

as before only one of these charges will be taken to be non-zero. Then, using the form notation, (3.7) will now be replaced by

$$\check{\gamma} = e^{-B-F}\bar{\gamma} = e^{-B}\gamma, \tag{6.23}$$

where in the last step we defined

$$\gamma = e^{-F}\bar{\gamma}. \tag{6.24}$$

As a result, (6.23) has the form identical to (3.7). The analysis of the earlier sections will now proceed as before with  $\gamma$  replaced by  $\bar{\gamma}$  and  $B$  replaced by  $B + F$ . But by regarding  $\gamma$  as the instanton charge and by choosing the  $f^a$ 's appropriately, we can now make all of the charges  $(p^\Lambda, q_\Lambda)$  (or a subset of them) non-zero. We still have the constraint that in terms of the barred variables, only one charge can be non-zero at a time. Since  $f^a$ 's, representing flux of gauge field strengths through 2-cycles, are quantized, the charges  $(p^\Lambda, q_\Lambda)$  remain quantized since  $(\bar{p}^\Lambda, \bar{q}_\Lambda)$  are quantized. In contrast,  $b^a$ 's are continuous variables and as a result  $\check{p}^a, \check{q}_a, \check{q}_0$  are not quantized. Eq. (6.23) shows that the final result, expressed in terms of  $\gamma$  and  $B$ , takes the same form as before.

We can now make contact with the large volume limit described in (3.25) if we identify  $f^a$  with  $\lambda^{1/3}\bar{f}^a$ . Therefore,  $f^a$  scales in the same way as  $b^a$ . This is natural since  $f^a + b^a$  appear in this combination in all formulæ, but also from the point of view that with this choice  $F_{ij}F^{ij}$  on the brane remains finite as we take the large volume limit. Hence, if we keep the magnitude of the gauge field strength on the brane fixed as we take the large volume limit then we naturally arrive at the scaling described in (3.25). Put another way, even though according to (3.25) the charges associated with lower dimensional branes are scaled up in the large volume limit, the charge is spread out over the higher dimensional brane so that the charge density remains finite. The comments below (3.25) also show that in terms of the barred variables, only the one associated with the highest dimensional brane contributes in the large volume limit. Therefore, the surviving contribution can be obtained by starting with a single D-brane and switching on gauge fields on the brane, keeping  $F_{ij}F^{ij}$  on the brane finite as we take the large volume limit.

Even though by varying the  $f^a$ 's we can vary the charges carried by a system, we do not have enough variables to vary all charges independently. For example, if we begin with a D5-brane along  $\mathfrak{Q}$ , we have  $h^{1,1}$   $f^a$ 's and  $\bar{p}^0$  which cannot be used to vary all  $2h^{1,1}+2$  charges independently. This can be rectified by allowing the gauge fields to take more general form than the restriction of  $f^a\omega_a$  to the brane, but we shall now argue that in the natural large volume limit these additional charges will not scale up appropriately so as to be able to contribute to the D-instanton amplitude. For this let us again consider the case where the parent brane is a D5-brane ( $\bar{p}^0 = 1$ ). In the presence of a background 2-form field, the U(1) gauge field on the brane is known to have a non-commutative instanton solution [24] that carries D1-brane charge and is localized with finite width on a codimension 4 subspace. In this case we expect supersymmetry to require this codimension 4 subspace to be a supersymmetric cycle. In principle, the D1-brane charge induced this way can be varied independently by varying the number of non-commutative instantons. However, since the D1-brane charge is localized on the D5-brane, if we want to scale it up by  $\lambda^{2/3}$  as will be

required to be able to contribute to the instanton amplitude, we need to have large localized D1-brane charge density on the D5-brane. This is not a natural large volume limit. For this reason, we stick to the limit (3.25) even though in this limit not all components of charge contribute to the amplitude.

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## A Manifestly S-duality invariant metric

In this paper we expressed the moduli space metric in terms of the NSNS axion  $\sigma$ , identical to the one used in the type IIA formulation, and the RR scalar fields (2.6) that are period integrals of the RR  $p$ -form potentials. This choice is particularly convenient for comparison with calculations based on string amplitudes since these are the potentials  $C^{(p)}$  that enter the expressions for the RR vertex operators, see appendix E. However, under the S-duality group the fields  $\tilde{c}_a$ ,  $\tilde{c}_0$  and  $\sigma$  transform in a very complicated way, making it hard to see the S-duality invariance of the metric (2.8). For this reason, usually the metric is expressed in terms of a somewhat different set of fields. If one introduces [5, 25]

$$\begin{aligned} c_a &= -\tilde{c}_a + \frac{1}{2}\kappa_{abc}b^b c^c, & c_0 &= -\tilde{c}_0 + b^a \tilde{c}_a - \frac{1}{3}(b^2 c), \\ \psi &= -\frac{1}{2}\sigma + \frac{1}{2}c^0 \tilde{c}_0 - \frac{1}{2}c^a \tilde{c}_a + \frac{1}{6}(bc^2), \end{aligned} \tag{A.1}$$

and defines  $\tau = c^0 + i\tau_2$ , then the classical metric (2.8) takes the form (see, e.g., [8, 26])

$$\begin{aligned} ds_{\text{cl}}^2 &= \frac{1}{\tau_2^2} \left( 2d\tau_2 + \frac{\tau_2}{2V} \kappa_{ab} t^a dt^b \right)^2 + \frac{(dc^0)^2}{\tau_2^2} + G_{ab} dt^a dt^b \\ &+ \frac{G_{ab}}{\tau_2^2} (dc^a - \tau db^a)(dc^b - \bar{\tau} db^a) + \frac{G^{ab}}{\tau_2^2 V^2} \nabla c_a \nabla c_b \\ &+ \frac{1}{\tau_2^4 V^2} \left[ |d\psi + \tau dc_0|^2 + |(c^a - \bar{\tau} b^a) \hat{\nabla} c_a|^2 \right] \\ &- \frac{1}{\tau_2^4 V^2} \left[ (d\psi + \tau dc_0)(c^a - \bar{\tau} b^a) + (d\psi + \bar{\tau} dc_0)(c^a - \tau b^a) \right] \hat{\nabla} c_a, \end{aligned} \tag{A.2}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla c_a &= dc_a + \frac{1}{2}\kappa_{abc}(c^b db^c - b^b dc^c), \\ \hat{\nabla} c_a &= dc_a + \frac{1}{6}\kappa_{abc}(c^b db^c - b^b dc^c). \end{aligned} \tag{A.3}$$

Except the first line, (A.2) is manifestly invariant under the following  $SL(2, \mathbb{R})$  transformations

$$\begin{aligned} \tau &\rightarrow \frac{a\tau + b}{c\tau + d}, & t^a &\rightarrow |c\tau + d| t^a, \\ \begin{pmatrix} c^a \\ b^a \end{pmatrix} &\rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} c^a \\ b^a \end{pmatrix}, & \begin{pmatrix} c_0 \\ \psi \end{pmatrix} &\rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} d & -c \\ -b & a \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} c_0 \\ \psi \end{pmatrix}. \end{aligned} \tag{A.4}$$

In particular, the variable  $\tau$  is the usual complexified coupling constant on which  $SL(2, \mathbb{R})$  acts by the familiar fractional-linear transformations. The first line in (A.2) can also be rewritten in manifestly invariant way as follows:

$$\frac{|d\tau|^2}{\tau_2^2} - \frac{1}{\tau_2 V} \kappa_{ab} d(\sqrt{\tau_2} t^a) d(\sqrt{\tau_2} t^b) + \frac{1}{2\tau_2 V^2} (\kappa_{ab} t^a d(\sqrt{\tau_2} t^b))^2. \tag{A.5}$$

Thus, this set of fields is adapted for studying S-duality of the hypermultiplet moduli space in the type IIB formulation and has been widely used in this context. However, in this paper S-duality is not used and therefore we prefer to work in terms of  $\tilde{c}_a$ ,  $\tilde{c}_0$  and  $\sigma$ .

## B Kähler moduli space and holomorphic cycles

In this appendix we collect various useful relations that hold on the Kähler moduli space of a CY threefold.

First of all, note that for the classical prepotential (2.15), one finds the following expressions for the matrix of its second derivatives

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Re } F_{\Lambda\Sigma} &= \begin{pmatrix} (t^2 b) - \frac{1}{3}(b^3) & \frac{1}{2} \kappa_{abc}(b^b b^c - t^b t^c) \\ \frac{1}{2} \kappa_{abc}(b^b b^c - t^b t^c) & -\kappa_{abc} b^c \end{pmatrix}, \\ N_{\Lambda\Sigma} &= -2 \text{Im } F_{\Lambda\Sigma} = \begin{pmatrix} 2\kappa_{cd} b^c b^d - 4V & -2\kappa_{ac} b^c \\ -2\kappa_{bc} b^c & 2\kappa_{ab} \end{pmatrix}, \\ N^{\Lambda\Sigma} &= -\frac{1}{4V} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & b^a \\ b^b & -2V\kappa^{ab} + b^a b^b \end{pmatrix}. \end{aligned} \tag{B.1}$$

Next, let  $\omega_a \in H^{1,1}(\mathbb{Z}, \mathfrak{H})$  be a basis of harmonic (1,1)-forms and  $\tilde{\omega}^a \in H^{2,2}(\mathbb{Z}, \mathfrak{H})$  be a basis of harmonic (2,2)-forms such that they satisfy the following relations [27]

$$\omega_a \wedge \omega_b = \kappa_{abc} \tilde{\omega}^c, \quad \omega_a \wedge \tilde{\omega}^b = \delta_a^b \omega_{\mathfrak{H}}, \tag{B.2}$$

where  $\omega_{\mathfrak{H}}$  is a 6-form normalized as  $\int_{\mathfrak{H}} \omega_{\mathfrak{H}} = 1$  and  $\kappa_{abc}$  are intersection numbers introduced in (2.9). This implies

$$\omega_a \wedge \omega_b \wedge \omega_c = \kappa_{abc} \omega_{\mathfrak{H}}. \tag{B.3}$$

The Kähler form  $\omega$  expanded in this basis gives rise to the moduli  $\mathbf{t}^a$ :  $\omega = \mathbf{t}^a \omega_a$ , and measures the volume of the CY threefold

$$\mathbf{V} = \frac{1}{6} \int_{\mathfrak{H}} \omega \wedge \omega \wedge \omega = \frac{1}{6} \kappa_{abc} \mathbf{t}^a \mathbf{t}^b \mathbf{t}^c. \tag{B.4}$$

The action of the Hodge operator on this basis is [28]

$$\star \omega_a = -\omega \wedge \omega_a + \frac{\kappa_{ab} \mathbf{t}^b}{4\mathbf{V}} \omega \wedge \omega = \mathbf{V} \mathbf{G}_{ab} \tilde{\omega}^b, \quad (\text{B.5})$$

$$\star \tilde{\omega}^a = -\kappa^{ab} \omega_b + \frac{\mathbf{t}^a}{2\mathbf{V}} \omega = \mathbf{V}^{-1} \mathbf{G}^{ab} \omega_b, \quad (\text{B.6})$$

$$\star \omega_{\mathfrak{y}} = \mathbf{V}^{-1}, \quad (\text{B.7})$$

where  $\kappa_{ab} = \kappa_{abc} \mathbf{t}^c$ , the metric  $\mathbf{G}_{ab}$  is given by

$$\mathbf{G}_{ab} \equiv -\frac{1}{\mathbf{V}} \left( \kappa_{ab} - \frac{1}{4\mathbf{V}} \kappa_{ac} \mathbf{t}^c \kappa_{bd} \mathbf{t}^d \right), \quad (\text{B.8})$$

and  $\mathbf{G}^{ab}$  is its inverse. A particular case of these relations is

$$\star \omega = \frac{1}{2} \omega^2, \quad \star \omega^2 = 2\omega. \quad (\text{B.9})$$

Since for any two  $p$ -forms one has

$$\alpha \wedge \star \beta = (\alpha, \beta) \mathbf{V} \omega_{\mathfrak{y}}, \quad (\text{B.10})$$

where we defined the inner product on  $p$ -forms

$$(\alpha, \beta) = \frac{1}{p!} \alpha_{\mathbf{i}_1 \dots \mathbf{i}_p} \beta^{\mathbf{i}_1 \dots \mathbf{i}_p}, \quad (\text{B.11})$$

the relations (B.9) and (B.3) imply

$$(\omega_a, \omega) = \frac{\omega_a \wedge \omega^2}{2\mathbf{V} \omega_{\mathfrak{y}}} = \frac{1}{2\mathbf{V}} \kappa_{abc} \mathbf{t}^b \mathbf{t}^c. \quad (\text{B.12})$$

Note that this relation implies that the quantity on the l.h.s. is constant on  $\mathfrak{Y}$ .

Let us consider a  $2n$ -dimensional holomorphic cycle  $L_\gamma^{(2n)}$  with the volume form  $v_\gamma^{(2n)}$  given in (3.3) and a Poincaré dual form  $\omega_\gamma^{(6-2n)}$  given in (6.5). For any  $2n$ -form  $\alpha^{(2n)}$ , one has the obvious identity

$$\int_{L_\gamma^{(2n)}} v_\gamma^{(2n)} \left( v_\gamma^{(2n)}, \alpha^{(2n)} \right) = \int_{L_\gamma^{(2n)}} \alpha^{(2n)}. \quad (\text{B.13})$$

Then we also have the relation

$$\omega^n \wedge \omega_\gamma^{(6-2n)} = n! \mathbf{V}_\gamma \omega_{\mathfrak{y}}, \quad (\text{B.14})$$

where  $\mathbf{V}_\gamma$  is the volume of  $L_\gamma^{(2n)}$  defined in (4.4). To prove this, we first note that it follows from (6.5), (B.2) and (B.3) that the left hand side of (B.14) is proportional to  $\omega_{\mathfrak{y}}$  with the proportionality factor being a constant on  $\mathfrak{Y}$ . We can then integrate both sides over  $\mathfrak{Y}$ . The left hand side takes the form  $\int_{L_\gamma^{(2n)}} \omega^n$  which evaluates to  $n! \mathbf{V}_\gamma$  due to (3.3). On the right hand side  $\int_{\mathfrak{Y}} \omega_{\mathfrak{y}}$  gives 1. This fixes the constant of proportionality to be  $n! \mathbf{V}_\gamma$ .

We now claim that for any  $2n$ -form  $\alpha^{(2n)}$  on  $\mathfrak{Y}$  one has

$$\left( \alpha^{(2n)}, v_\gamma^{(2n)} \right) = \frac{\mathbf{V}}{\mathbf{V}_\gamma} \left( \alpha^{(2n)}, \star \omega_\gamma^{(6-2n)} \right) \quad \text{on } L_\gamma^{(2n)}. \quad (\text{B.15})$$

To prove this relation, note that we can write

$$\begin{aligned}
\int_{L_\gamma^{(2n)}} \alpha^{(2n)} &= \int_{\mathfrak{Y}} \alpha^{(2n)} \wedge \omega_\gamma^{(6-2n)} = \mathbf{V} \int_{\mathfrak{Y}} \omega_{\mathfrak{Y}} \left( \alpha^{(2n)}, \star \omega_\gamma^{(6-2n)} \right) \\
&= \frac{\mathbf{V}}{n! \mathbf{V}_\gamma} \int_{\mathfrak{Y}} \omega^n \wedge \omega_\gamma^{(6-2n)} \left( \alpha^{(2n)}, \star \omega_\gamma^{(6-2n)} \right), \\
&= \frac{\mathbf{V}}{\mathbf{V}_\gamma} \int_{L_\gamma^{(2n)}} v_\gamma^{(2n)} \left( \alpha^{(2n)}, \star \omega_\gamma^{(6-2n)} \right),
\end{aligned} \tag{B.16}$$

where we used (B.10) and (B.14). On the other hand, the original integral can also be rewritten as

$$\int_{L_\gamma^{(2n)}} v_\gamma^{(2n)} \left( \alpha^{(2n)}, v_\gamma^{(2n)} \right). \tag{B.17}$$

Hence, the integrals (B.16) and (B.17) must be equal. But in fact, since  $\alpha^{(2n)}$  is arbitrary and, in particular, can be multiplied by any function on  $\mathfrak{Y}$ , the equality holds for the integrands as well. This proves (B.15).

Next, let  $\omega_\gamma$  denote the Kähler form projected along the cycle. It should not be confused with  $\omega_\gamma^{(6-2n)}$  appearing above. It turns out that the mixed components of  $\omega_\gamma$  are proportional to those of the projector  $P_\gamma$  on the cycle  $L_\gamma^{(2n)}$ . Indeed,

$$\omega_\gamma^{s\bar{t}} = (P_\gamma)_{s'}^s (P_\gamma)_{\bar{t}'}^{\bar{t}} \omega^{s't'} = -i P_\gamma^{s\bar{t}}, \tag{B.18}$$

where we used  $\omega^{s\bar{t}} = -i \mathbf{g}^{s\bar{t}}$ .

Now we claim that for any (1,1)-form  $\alpha$  one has

$$\alpha_{s\bar{t}} P_\gamma^{s\bar{t}} = \frac{i}{(n-1)!} (\alpha \wedge \omega^{n-1}, v_\gamma^{(2n)}). \tag{B.19}$$

Indeed, for  $n = 1$  it is a direct consequence of (B.18):

$$i(\alpha, v_\gamma^{(2)}) = i \alpha_{s\bar{t}} \omega_\gamma^{s\bar{t}} = \alpha_{s\bar{t}} P_\gamma^{s\bar{t}}. \tag{B.20}$$

For  $n = 2$ , similarly we have

$$\begin{aligned}
i(\alpha \wedge \omega, v_\gamma^{(4)}) &= \frac{i 6^2}{2 \cdot 3 \cdot 4!} \alpha_{ij} \omega_{kl} \left( \omega_\gamma^{ij} \omega_\gamma^{kl} + 2 \omega_\gamma^{ik} \omega_\gamma^{lj} \right) \\
&= -\frac{i}{2} \alpha_{s\bar{t}} \left( 2 P_\gamma^{s\bar{t}} (\omega_{u\bar{v}} P_\gamma^{u\bar{v}}) + 2 P_\gamma^{s\bar{u}} \omega_{\bar{u}\bar{v}} P_\gamma^{v\bar{t}} \right) = \alpha_{s\bar{t}} P_\gamma^{s\bar{t}},
\end{aligned} \tag{B.21}$$

where we again used (B.18) and that for  $2n$ -dimensional cycle,  $(P_\gamma)_s^s = n$ . Finally, for  $n = 3$  there is no projection and we find

$$P_\gamma^{s\bar{t}} = \mathbf{g}^{s\bar{t}}, \tag{B.22}$$

so that

$$\begin{aligned}
\frac{i}{2} (\alpha \wedge \omega^2, v_\gamma^{(6)}) &= \frac{i}{12 \cdot 15 \cdot 6!} \left( \frac{6!}{8} \right)^2 \alpha_{ij} \omega_{kl} \omega_{mn} \left( \omega^{ij} \omega^{kl} \omega^{mn} + 4 \omega^{ik} \omega^{lj} \omega^{mn} \right. \\
&\quad \left. + 2 \omega^{ij} \omega^{km} \omega^{nl} + 8 \omega^{ik} \omega^{mj} \omega^{nl} \right) \\
&= \frac{1}{16} \alpha_{s\bar{t}} \mathbf{g}^{s\bar{t}} 2 (6^2 - 24 - 12 + 8) = \alpha_{s\bar{t}} P_\gamma^{s\bar{t}}.
\end{aligned} \tag{B.23}$$

## C Boundary condition on spin fields

In this appendix we shall discuss the choice of boundary conditions on the spin fields. We shall work in background with vanishing NSNS 2-form field. When this field is present in the background, (C.1) remains unchanged but (C.2) and subsequent equations are modified in a way described in section 6.

We begin with the operator product expansions:

$$e^{-\phi}\psi^M(z) e^{-\phi/2}S_\alpha(w) = \frac{i}{2}(z-w)^{-1}(\Gamma^M)_{\alpha\beta}e^{-3\phi/2}S^\beta(w) + \dots, \quad (\text{C.1a})$$

$$e^{-3\phi/2}S^\alpha(z) e^{-\phi/2}S_\beta(w) = (z-w)^{-2}\delta_\beta^\alpha e^{-2\phi}(w) + \dots, \quad (\text{C.1b})$$

$$e^{-\bar{\phi}}\bar{\psi}^M(\bar{z}) e^{-\bar{\phi}/2}\bar{S}_\alpha(\bar{w}) = \frac{i}{2}(\bar{z}-\bar{w})^{-1}(\Gamma^M)_{\alpha\beta}e^{-3\bar{\phi}/2}\bar{S}^\beta(\bar{w}) + \dots, \quad (\text{C.1c})$$

$$e^{-3\bar{\phi}/2}\bar{S}^\alpha(\bar{z}) e^{-\bar{\phi}/2}\bar{S}_\beta(\bar{w}) = (\bar{z}-\bar{w})^{-2}\delta_\beta^\alpha e^{-2\bar{\phi}}(\bar{w}) + \dots, \quad (\text{C.1d})$$

where  $\dots$  denote less singular terms. We also consider the possible choice of boundary conditions on the real axis:

$$e^{-\bar{\phi}}\bar{\psi}^{M_\perp}(\bar{z}) = -e^{-\phi}\psi^{M_\perp}(z), \quad e^{-\bar{\phi}}\bar{\psi}^{M_\parallel}(\bar{z}) = e^{-\phi}\psi^{M_\parallel}(z) \quad (\text{C.2a})$$

$$e^{-\bar{\phi}/2}\bar{S}_\alpha(\bar{z}) = \frac{\varepsilon}{(2k)!}v_{M_1\dots M_{2k}}(\Gamma^{M_1\dots M_{2k}})_\alpha^\beta e^{-\phi/2}S_\beta(z), \quad (\text{C.2b})$$

$$e^{-3\bar{\phi}/2}\bar{S}^\alpha(\bar{z}) = \frac{\varepsilon'}{(2k)!}v_{M_1\dots M_{2k}}(\Gamma^{M_1\dots M_{2k}})_\beta^\alpha e^{-3\phi/2}S^\beta(z), \quad (\text{C.2c})$$

$$e^{-2\bar{\phi}}(\bar{z}) = e^{-2\phi}(z), \quad (\text{C.2d})$$

where  $\varepsilon$  and  $\varepsilon'$  are possible phases that we want to determine and  $v_{M_1\dots M_{2k}}$  is the volume form along the Euclidean  $D(2k-1)$ -brane. Even though we have displayed the arguments of holomorphic fields as  $z$  and the anti-holomorphic fields as  $\bar{z}$ , we must remember that on the real axis  $z = \bar{z}$ . In (C.2a),  $M_\perp$  and  $M_\parallel$  denote directions transverse and tangential to the D-brane, respectively.

Using (C.2), we can express (C.1c) as

$$\begin{aligned} & -e^{-\phi}\psi^{M_\perp}(z) \frac{\varepsilon}{(2k)!}v_{M_1\dots M_{2k}}(\Gamma^{M_1\dots M_{2k}})_\alpha^\beta e^{-\phi/2}S_\beta(z) \\ &= \frac{i}{2}(z-w)^{-1}(\Gamma^{M_\perp})_{\alpha\beta} \frac{\varepsilon'}{(2k)!}v_{M_1\dots M_{2k}}(\Gamma^{M_1\dots M_{2k}})_\gamma^\beta e^{-3\phi/2}S^\gamma(z). \end{aligned} \quad (\text{C.3})$$

Manipulating the left hand side using (C.1a), we get

$$-\varepsilon v_{M_1\dots M_{2k}}\Gamma^{M_1\dots M_{2k}}\Gamma^{M_\perp} = \varepsilon' v_{M_1\dots M_{2k}}\Gamma^{M_\perp}\Gamma^{M_1\dots M_{2k}} \Rightarrow \varepsilon = -\varepsilon'. \quad (\text{C.4})$$

Note that in type IIA string theory  $2k$  is replaced by  $2k+1$  and we would get an extra minus from the gamma matrix commutators, giving  $\varepsilon = \varepsilon'$ .

Next we use the boundary conditions (C.2) in (C.1d) to get

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{\varepsilon'}{(2k)!}v_{M_1\dots M_{2k}}(\Gamma^{M_1\dots M_{2k}})_\gamma^\alpha e^{-3\phi/2}S^\gamma(z) \frac{\varepsilon}{(2k)!}v_{N_1\dots N_{2k}}(\Gamma^{N_1\dots N_{2k}})_\beta^\delta e^{-\phi/2}S_\delta(w) \\ &= (z-w)^{-2}\delta_\beta^\alpha e^{-2\phi}(w). \end{aligned} \quad (\text{C.5})$$

Using (C.1b), this gives

$$\frac{\varepsilon'}{(2k)!} v_{M_1 \dots M_{2k}} \frac{\varepsilon}{(2k)!} v_{N_1 \dots N_{2k}} \left[ (\Gamma^{M_1 \dots M_{2k}}) (\Gamma^{N_1 \dots N_{2k}})^T \right]_{\beta}^{\alpha} = \delta_{\beta}^{\alpha} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \varepsilon \varepsilon' = 1. \quad (\text{C.6})$$

Using (C.4) and (C.6), we see that we have  $\varepsilon = \pm i$ ,  $\varepsilon' = \mp i$ . We shall choose  $\varepsilon = -i$  and  $\varepsilon' = i$  so that the boundary conditions (C.2b) and (C.2c) take the form:

$$\begin{aligned} e^{-\bar{\phi}/2} \bar{S}_{\alpha}(\bar{z}) &= -\frac{i}{(2k)!} v_{M_1 \dots M_{2k}} (\Gamma^{M_1 \dots M_{2k}})_{\alpha}^{\beta} e^{-\phi/2} S_{\beta}(z), \\ e^{-3\bar{\phi}/2} \bar{S}^{\alpha}(\bar{z}) &= \frac{i}{(2k)!} v_{M_1 \dots M_{2k}} (\Gamma^{M_1 \dots M_{2k}})^{\alpha}_{\beta} e^{-3\phi/2} S^{\beta}(z). \end{aligned} \quad (\text{C.7})$$

## D Normalization of the RR fields

In this appendix we shall fix the normalization of the RR fields by analyzing the two-point function of the gauge invariant field strength. The results of this appendix will be insensitive to the presence of a constant background NSNS 2-form field, since this does not affect the closed string sector.

We introduce the off-shell level zero RR field in Siegel gauge in the  $(-1/2, -1/2)$  picture:

$$|\phi_R\rangle = \int \frac{d^{10}p}{(2\pi)^{10}} F^{\alpha\beta}(p) c \bar{c} e^{-\phi/2} S_{\alpha} e^{-\bar{\phi}/2} \bar{S}_{\beta} e^{ip \cdot X}(0) |0\rangle, \quad (\text{D.1})$$

and in the  $(-3/2, -3/2)$  picture

$$|\tilde{\phi}_R\rangle = \int \frac{d^{10}p}{(2\pi)^{10}} A_{\alpha\beta} c \bar{c} e^{-3\phi/2} S^{\alpha} e^{-3\bar{\phi}/2} \bar{S}^{\beta}(0) e^{ip \cdot X}(0) |0\rangle. \quad (\text{D.2})$$

We have chosen to work in Siegel gauge for convenience; the two-point function of the gauge invariant field strength will be independent of the choice of gauge. The quadratic part of the string field theory action is given by [29]

$$S_{RR} = 4 \left[ -\frac{1}{2} \langle \tilde{\phi}_R | c_0^- \mathcal{X}_0 \bar{\mathcal{X}}_0 (Q_B + \bar{Q}_B) | \tilde{\phi}_R \rangle + \langle \tilde{\phi}_R | c_0^- (Q_B + \bar{Q}_B) | \phi_R \rangle \right], \quad (\text{D.3})$$

where  $Q_B, \bar{Q}_B$  are the holomorphic and anti-holomorphic BRST operators and  $\mathcal{X}_0, \bar{\mathcal{X}}_0$  are the zero modes of the holomorphic and anti-holomorphic picture changing operators. All these operators have been reviewed in [1]. The overall normalization factor of 4 has been chosen to ensure that the kinetic term in the NSNS sector has conventional normalization [3], but once this has been fixed, we must use the same normalization in the RR sector unless we change the rules for the interaction terms in string field theory. Using the operator product expansions of the world-sheet fields which can also be found in [1], the action (D.3) evaluates to

$$S_{RR} = \int \frac{d^{10}p}{(2\pi)^{10}} \left[ -\frac{1}{8} A_{\alpha\beta}(-p) A_{\gamma\delta}(p) p^2 p^{\alpha\gamma} p^{\beta\delta} + p^2 A_{\alpha\beta}(-p) F^{\alpha\beta}(p) \right]. \quad (\text{D.4})$$

We can eliminate  $A_{\alpha\beta}$  using its equation of motion and write the action as

$$S_{RR} = 2 \int \frac{d^{10}p}{(2\pi)^{10}} \frac{1}{p^2} F^{\alpha\beta}(-p) \not{p}_{\alpha\gamma} \not{p}_{\beta\delta} F^{\gamma\delta}(p). \quad (\text{D.5})$$

From this action we can calculate the propagator of  $F^{\alpha\beta}$ :

$$\langle\langle F^{\alpha\beta}(p') F^{\gamma\delta}(p) \rangle\rangle = -(2\pi)^{10} \delta^{(10)}(p+p') \frac{1}{4p^2} \not{p}^{\alpha\gamma} \not{p}^{\beta\delta}, \quad (\text{D.6})$$

where  $\langle\langle \cdot \rangle\rangle$  denotes expectation value in string field theory.

We now expand  $F^{\alpha\beta}$  as

$$F^{\alpha\beta} = \frac{i}{2} \sum_{k=0}^4 \frac{1}{(2k+1)!} \mathbf{F}_{M_1 \dots M_{2k+1}}^{(2k+1)} (\Gamma^{M_1 \dots M_{2k+1}})^{\alpha\beta}, \quad (\text{D.7})$$

where due to chirality of the spinors  $S_\alpha$ ,  $\mathbf{F}^{(2k+1)}$  satisfies a self-duality constraint

$$* \mathbf{F}^{(2k+1)} = (-1)^k \mathbf{F}^{(9-2k)}. \quad (\text{D.8})$$

Here we have used the following conventions

$$\epsilon^{01\dots 9} = 1, \quad (\Gamma^{01\dots 9})_\alpha^\beta = \delta_\alpha^\beta. \quad (\text{D.9})$$

The reason for including the factor of  $i$  in (D.7) will become clear soon. The factor of 2 in the denominator has been included to compensate for the fact that the contribution from  $\mathbf{F}^{(2k+1)}$  and  $\mathbf{F}^{(9-2k)}$  in (D.7) are identical due to the self-duality constraint (D.8). With this understanding, we have

$$\mathbf{F}_{M_1 \dots M_{2k+1}}^{(2k+1)} = -\frac{i}{16} \text{Tr} (\Gamma_{M_{2k+1} \dots M_1} F). \quad (\text{D.10})$$

For  $k=2$  there is a self-duality constraint on the field strength  $\mathbf{F}^{(5)}$ . So even though  $\mathbf{F}^{(5)}$  appears only once in the sum in (D.7), the same component  $\mathbf{F}_{M_1 \dots M_5}^{(5)}$  appears twice in the sum: once as a coefficient of  $(\Gamma^{M_1 \dots M_5})^{\alpha\beta}$  and once more as a coefficient of  $\Gamma$  with complementary indices. Therefore, in (D.10) we still get a factor of 2 that cancels the factor of 2 in the denominator of (D.7). Using (D.6) and (D.10) we get

$$\begin{aligned} & \langle\langle \mathbf{F}_{M_1 \dots M_{2k+1}}^{(2k+1)}(p') \mathbf{F}_{N_1 \dots N_{2k+1}}^{(2k+1)}(p) \rangle\rangle \\ &= -\frac{1}{256} (\Gamma^{M_{2k+1} \dots M_1})_{\alpha\beta} (\Gamma^{N_{2k+1} \dots N_1})_{\gamma\delta} \langle\langle F^{\alpha\beta}(p') F^{\gamma\delta}(p) \rangle\rangle \\ &= (2\pi)^{10} \delta^{(10)}(p+p') \frac{1}{4p^2} \frac{1}{256} \text{Tr} (\Gamma^{M_1 \dots M_{2k+1}} \not{p} \Gamma^{N_{2k+1} \dots N_1} \not{p}) \\ &= (2\pi)^{10} \delta^{(10)}(p+p') \frac{1}{64p^2} \left[ -p^2 \delta^{M_1 \dots M_{2k+1}, N_1 \dots N_{2k+1}} \right. \\ & \quad \left. + 2 \left( p^{M_1} p^{N_1} \delta^{M_2 \dots M_{2k+1}, N_2 \dots N_{2k+1}} + \text{cyclic perm.} \right) \right], \end{aligned} \quad (\text{D.11})$$

where the  $\delta$  symbol can be defined as in (5.47) after suitable generalization to ten dimensions and ‘cyclic perm.’ include cyclic permutations of two sets,  $M_1, \dots, M_{2k+1}$  and

$N_1, \dots, N_{2k+1}$ , producing  $(2k+1)^2$  terms. Note that only the second term produces a pole in the propagator.

We shall now compare this with the two-point function constructed from the action

$$S = -\frac{a_k}{2 \cdot (2k+1)!} \int d^{10}x \mathbf{F}_{M_1 \dots M_{2k+1}}^{(2k+1)} \mathbf{F}^{(2k+1)M_1 \dots M_{2k+1}}, \quad (\text{D.12})$$

where  $a_k$  is a constant and

$$\mathbf{F}_{M_1 \dots M_{2k+1}}^{(2k+1)} = \partial_{M_1} \mathbf{C}_{M_2 \dots M_{2k+1}}^{(2k)} + \text{cyclic perm. with sign}. \quad (\text{D.13})$$

Our goal will be to compute the two-point function of  $\mathbf{F}^{(2k+1)}$  in this theory. Since it is gauge invariant, we can use the harmonic gauge:

$$\partial^{M_1} \mathbf{C}_{M_1 \dots M_{2k}}^{(2k)} = 0. \quad (\text{D.14})$$

In this gauge the action takes the form

$$\begin{aligned} S &= \frac{a_k}{2 \cdot (2k)!} \int d^{10}x \mathbf{C}_{M_1 \dots M_{2k}}^{(2k)} \partial_M \partial^M \mathbf{C}^{(2k)M_1 \dots M_{2k}} \\ &= -\frac{a_k}{2 \cdot (2k)!} \int \frac{d^{10}p}{(2\pi)^{10}} \mathbf{C}_{M_1 \dots M_{2k}}^{(2k)}(-p) p^2 \mathbf{C}^{(2k)M_1 \dots M_{2k}}(p). \end{aligned} \quad (\text{D.15})$$

From this we get

$$\langle\langle \mathbf{C}_{M_1 \dots M_{2k}}^{(2k)}(p') \mathbf{C}_{N_1 \dots N_{2k}}^{(2k)}(p) \rangle\rangle = (2\pi)^{10} \delta^{(10)}(p+p') \frac{1}{a_k p^2} \delta_{M_1 \dots M_{2k}, N_1 \dots N_{2k}}, \quad (\text{D.16})$$

and hence

$$\begin{aligned} &\langle\langle \mathbf{F}_{M_1 \dots M_{2k+1}}^{(2k+1)}(p') \mathbf{F}_{N_1 \dots N_{2k+1}}^{(2k+1)}(p) \rangle\rangle \\ &= (2\pi)^{10} \delta^{(10)}(p+p') \frac{1}{a_k p^2} \left( p^{M_1} p^{N_1} \delta^{M_2 \dots M_{2k+1}, N_2 \dots N_{2k+1}} + \text{cyclic perm.} \right). \end{aligned} \quad (\text{D.17})$$

Let us now compare the pole terms in (D.11) and (D.17). The reason that we can only compare the pole terms is that off-shell, the string field theory action is different from the one given in (D.12), (D.13). This will become clear in appendix E, where we shall see that in string field theory the field strength  $\mathbf{F}^{(2k+1)}$  is given both in terms of a  $2k$ -form potential and a dual  $(8-2k)$ -form potential, and therefore the propagator of the field strength off-shell is not expected to agree with the one computed from the action (D.12), (D.13) where we use only the  $2k$ -form potential. Comparison of the pole terms in (D.11) and (D.17) gives

$$a_k = 32. \quad (\text{D.18})$$

Therefore, the action for  $\mathbf{C}^{(2k)}$  is

$$S = -\frac{16}{(2k+1)!} \int d^{10}x \mathbf{F}_{M_1 \dots M_{2k+1}}^{(2k+1)} \mathbf{F}^{(2k+1)M_1 \dots M_{2k+1}} = -16 \int \mathbf{F}^{(2k+1)} \wedge * \mathbf{F}^{(2k+1)}. \quad (\text{D.19})$$

Note that we could also formulate the theory in terms of the dual fields, e.g.  $\mathbf{C}^{(2k)}$  could have been traded for  $\mathbf{C}^{(8-2k)}$  by replacing  $k$  by  $4-k$  in (D.19). Either action could

be used to compute the propagator of the field strength as well as its dual, and we shall get the same result for the residue at the pole even though the finite parts will in general differ. However, we need to use only one of the two actions and not add them.

Finally, note that for  $k = 2$  the action (D.19) vanishes if we impose the self-duality constraint from the beginning. However, we can still use (D.19) with the understanding that we first use this to calculate two-point function of  $\mathbf{F}^{(5)}$  and then use it only for self-dual  $\mathbf{F}^{(5)}$ . If on the other hand we want to couple the action to gravity and compute the energy-momentum tensor, then we get a double counting since the energy momentum tensor will receive a particular contribution twice — once from the field and once more from the dual, while in actual practice we should have this contribution only once. In this case we need to include an extra factor of  $1/2$  compared to (D.19). Therefore such an action has the form:

$$S = -8 \int \mathbf{F}^{(5)} \wedge * \mathbf{F}^{(5)}. \quad (\text{D.20})$$

## E Vertex operator for the RR fields and string field theory action

In this appendix we shall describe the construction of the on-shell vertex operators of the RR fields in different pictures in ten-dimensional type IIB string theory. The results of this appendix will also be insensitive to the presence of background NSNS 2-form field. Most of them follow from the results of appendix D in [1] after exchange of chiral and anti-chiral spinor indices in the anti-holomorphic sector.

In the  $(-1/2, -1/2)$  picture, the off-shell RR field at level 0, describing massless fields, is given by a state  $|\phi_R\rangle$  satisfying the conditions  $b_0^- |\phi_R\rangle = 0$ ,  $L_0^- |\phi_R\rangle = 0$ . The general form of  $|\phi_R\rangle$  is:

$$|\phi_R\rangle = \int \frac{d^{10}p}{(2\pi)^{10}} F^{\alpha\beta}(p) c \bar{c} e^{-\phi/2} S_\alpha e^{-\bar{\phi}/2} \bar{S}_\beta e^{ip \cdot X}(0)|0\rangle, \quad (\text{E.1})$$

for some set of functions  $F^{\alpha\beta}(p)$ . This has the same form as (D.1) since there are no additional states at level zero even after relaxing the Siegel gauge condition. Acting with the BRST operator, we find

$$\begin{aligned} (Q_B + \bar{Q}_B)|\phi_R\rangle = & \int \frac{d^{10}p}{(2\pi)^{10}} F^{\alpha\beta}(p) \left[ \frac{p^2}{4} (\partial c + \bar{\partial} \bar{c}) c \bar{c} e^{-\phi/2} S_\alpha e^{-\bar{\phi}/2} \bar{S}_\beta e^{ip \cdot X}(0)|0\rangle \right. \\ & \left. - \frac{1}{4} (\not{p})_{\alpha\gamma} c \bar{c} \eta e^{\phi/2} S^\gamma e^{-\bar{\phi}/2} \bar{S}_\beta e^{ip \cdot X}(0)|0\rangle + \frac{1}{4} (\not{p})_{\beta\delta} c \bar{c} e^{-\phi/2} S_\alpha \bar{\eta} e^{\bar{\phi}/2} \bar{S}^\delta e^{ip \cdot X}(0)|0\rangle \right]. \end{aligned} \quad (\text{E.2})$$

Therefore, BRST invariance of the vertex operator will require

$$p^2 F^{\alpha\beta}(p) = 0, \quad F^{\alpha\beta}(p) (\not{p})_{\alpha\gamma} = 0, \quad F^{\alpha\beta}(p) (\not{p})_{\beta\delta} = 0, \quad (\text{E.3})$$

where  $\not{p} \equiv p_M \Gamma^M$ . We now expand  $F^{\alpha\beta}$  as in (D.7). Substituting this into (E.3) we get:

$$p^2 \mathbf{F}_{M_1 \dots M_{2k+1}}^{(2k+1)}(p) = 0, \quad p^{M_1} \mathbf{F}_{M_1 \dots M_{2k+1}}^{(2k+1)} = 0, \quad p_{[M_0} \mathbf{F}_{M_1 \dots M_{2k+1}}^{(2k+1)} = 0. \quad (\text{E.4})$$

These are the usual on-shell conditions for a  $(2k+1)$ -form field strength.  $\mathbf{F}^{(5)}$  also satisfies a self-duality constraint.

We will also need the BRST invariant vertex operator for these states in the  $(-1/2, -3/2)$  picture. To find it, we begin with the general form of level zero string field in the  $(-3/2, -3/2)$  picture:

$$|\tilde{\phi}_R\rangle = \int \frac{d^{10}p}{(2\pi)^{10}} \left[ A_{\alpha\beta} c \bar{c} e^{-3\phi/2} S^\alpha e^{-3\bar{\phi}/2} \bar{S}^\beta(0) + E_\alpha^\beta (\partial c + \bar{\partial} \bar{c}) c \bar{c} e^{-3\phi/2} S^\alpha \bar{\partial} \bar{\xi} e^{-5\bar{\phi}/2} \bar{S}_\beta(0) \right. \\ \left. + D_\beta^\alpha (\partial c + \bar{\partial} \bar{c}) c \bar{c} \partial \xi e^{-5\phi/2} S_\alpha e^{-3\bar{\phi}/2} \bar{S}^\beta(0) \right] e^{ip \cdot X}(0) |0\rangle. \quad (\text{E.5})$$

From this we get

$$(Q_B + \bar{Q}_B) |\tilde{\phi}_R\rangle = \int \frac{d^{10}p}{(2\pi)^{10}} \left[ \frac{p^2}{4} A_{\alpha\beta} - \frac{1}{4} E_\alpha^\gamma (\not{p})_{\gamma\beta} + \frac{1}{4} D_\beta^\gamma (\not{p})_{\gamma\alpha} \right] \\ \times (\partial c + \bar{\partial} \bar{c}) c \bar{c} e^{-3\phi/2} S^\alpha e^{-3\bar{\phi}/2} \bar{S}^\beta e^{ip \cdot X}(0) |0\rangle, \quad (\text{E.6})$$

$$|\tilde{\phi}_{-1/2, -3/2}\rangle \equiv \bar{\mathcal{X}}_0 |\tilde{\phi}_R\rangle = \int \frac{d^{10}p}{(2\pi)^{10}} \left[ \frac{1}{2} A_{\alpha\beta} (\not{p})^{\beta\gamma} c \bar{c} e^{-3\phi/2} S^\alpha e^{-\bar{\phi}/2} \bar{S}_\gamma(0) \right. \\ - \frac{1}{2} E_\alpha^\beta c \bar{c} e^{-3\phi/2} S^\alpha e^{-\bar{\phi}/2} \bar{S}_\beta(0) \\ + \frac{1}{2} D_\beta^\alpha (\not{p})^{\beta\gamma} (\partial c + \bar{\partial} \bar{c}) c \bar{c} \partial \xi e^{-5\phi/2} S_\alpha e^{-\bar{\phi}/2} \bar{S}_\gamma(0) \\ \left. - \frac{1}{2} D_\beta^\alpha c \bar{c} \partial \xi e^{-5\phi/2} S_\alpha \bar{\eta} e^{\bar{\phi}/2} \bar{S}^\beta(0) \right] e^{ip \cdot X}(0) |0\rangle, \quad (\text{E.7})$$

and the  $(-1/2, -1/2)$  picture string field

$$|\phi_R\rangle = \mathcal{X}_0 |\tilde{\phi}_{-1/2, -3/2}\rangle = \int \frac{d^{10}p}{(2\pi)^{10}} \left[ \frac{1}{4} A_{\alpha\beta} (\not{p})^{\beta\gamma} (\not{p})^{\alpha\delta} - \frac{1}{4} E_\alpha^\gamma (\not{p})^{\alpha\delta} + \frac{1}{4} D_\beta^\delta (\not{p})^{\beta\gamma} \right] \\ \times c \bar{c} e^{-\phi/2} S_\delta e^{-\bar{\phi}/2} \bar{S}_\gamma e^{ip \cdot X}(0) |0\rangle. \quad (\text{E.8})$$

Comparison of (E.1) and (E.8) leads to the identification

$$F^{\alpha\beta} = \frac{1}{4} (\not{p} A \not{p} - \not{p} E + D \not{p})^{\alpha\beta}. \quad (\text{E.9})$$

Also (E.6) leads to the on-shell condition

$$p^2 A - E \not{p} + \not{p} D = 0, \quad (\text{E.10})$$

which implies (E.3).

From (E.9) we see that the description in terms of the matrices  $A$ ,  $E$  and  $D$  provides a redundant description of the field strength  $F^{\alpha\beta}$ . Indeed,  $F^{\alpha\beta}$  is invariant under the transformation

$$A \rightarrow A + \Lambda, \quad E \rightarrow E + \Lambda' \not{p}, \quad D \rightarrow D + \not{p} (\Lambda' - \Lambda). \quad (\text{E.11})$$

The redundant degrees of freedom are related to gauge transformation parameters in the  $(-3/2, -3/2)$  picture. We shall choose a particular gauge in which  $A = 0$ . Therefore, we have on-shell

$$F = \frac{1}{4} (D \not{p} - \not{p} E), \quad \not{p} D = E \not{p}. \quad (\text{E.12})$$

We can decompose  $E_\alpha^\beta$  and  $D_\beta^\alpha$  as:

$$E_\alpha^\beta = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{k=0}^5 \frac{1}{(2k)!} E_{M_1 \dots M_{2k}}^{(2k)} (\Gamma^{M_1 \dots M_{2k}})_\alpha^\beta, \quad D_\beta^\alpha = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{k=0}^5 \frac{1}{(2k)!} D_{M_1 \dots M_{2k}}^{(2k)} (\Gamma^{M_1 \dots M_{2k}})^\alpha_\beta, \quad (\text{E.13})$$

with the coefficients satisfying the self-duality constraints

$$*E^{(2k)} = (-1)^{k+1} E^{(10-2k)}, \quad *D^{(2k)} = (-1)^k D^{(10-2k)}. \quad (\text{E.14})$$

Using (D.10), (E.12), (E.13) and (E.14), we get

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{F}_{M_1 M_2 M_{2k+1}}^{(2k+1)} &= -\frac{i}{16} \text{Tr} (\Gamma_{M_{2k+1} M_{2k} \dots M_1} F) = \frac{i}{4} p^M \left( D^{(2k+2)} + E^{(2k+2)} \right)_{MM_1 \dots M_{2k+1}} \\ &\quad - \frac{i}{4} \left[ p_{M_1} \left( D^{(2k)} - E^{(2k)} \right)_{M_2 \dots M_{2k+1}} \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \text{cyclic perm. of } M_1, \dots, M_{2k+1} \text{ with sign} \right]. \end{aligned} \quad (\text{E.15})$$

Also, multiplying the second equation in (E.12) by  $\Gamma_{M_1 \dots M_{2k+1}}$  and taking the trace, we get

$$\begin{aligned} &p^M \left( D^{(2k+2)} + E^{(2k+2)} \right)_{MM_1 \dots M_{2k+1}} \\ &= - \left[ p_{M_1} \left( D^{(2k)} - E^{(2k)} \right)_{M_2 \dots M_{2k+1}} + \text{cyclic perm. of } M_1, \dots, M_{2k+1} \text{ with sign} \right]. \end{aligned} \quad (\text{E.16})$$

Using this, we can express (E.15) as

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{F}_{M_1 \dots M_{2k+1}}^{(2k+1)} &= -\frac{i}{2} \left[ p_{M_1} \left( D^{(2k)} - E^{(2k)} \right)_{M_2 \dots M_{2k+1}} \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \text{cyclic perm. of } M_1, \dots, M_{2k+1} \text{ with sign} \right]. \end{aligned} \quad (\text{E.17})$$

One can check that (E.15)–(E.17) are consistent with the duality relations given in (D.8) and (E.14).

Let us now define

$$\mathbf{C}^{(2k)} = \frac{1}{2} \left( E^{(2k)} - D^{(2k)} \right). \quad (\text{E.18})$$

Then the fields  $\mathbf{C}^{(2k)}$  have no self-duality constraint and we have, using (E.14),

$$*\mathbf{C}^{(10-2k)} = \frac{1}{2} (-1)^k \left( E^{(2k)} + D^{(2k)} \right), \quad (\text{E.19})$$

which gives

$$E^{(2k)} = \mathbf{C}^{(2k)} + (-1)^k * \mathbf{C}^{(10-2k)}, \quad D^{(2k)} = -\mathbf{C}^{(2k)} + (-1)^k * \mathbf{C}^{(10-2k)}. \quad (\text{E.20})$$

Also (E.13) may be expressed as,

$$E_\alpha^\beta = \sum_{k=0}^5 \frac{1}{(2k)!} \mathbf{C}_{M_1 \dots M_{2k}}^{(2k)} (\Gamma^{M_1 \dots M_{2k}})_\alpha^\beta, \quad D_\beta^\alpha = - \sum_{k=0}^5 \frac{1}{(2k)!} \mathbf{C}_{M_1 \dots M_{2k}}^{(2k)} (\Gamma^{M_1 \dots M_{2k}})^\alpha_\beta. \quad (\text{E.21})$$

Due to the absence of self-duality constraint on  $\mathbf{C}^{(2k)}$ , the two expressions in (E.21) are not simply related despite the similarity in their appearance, since the  $\Gamma$  matrices in the two expressions are different. Eq. (E.17) now gives

$$\mathbf{F}_{M_1 \dots M_{2k+1}}^{(2k+1)} = i \left[ p_{M_1} \left( \mathbf{C}^{(2k)} \right)_{M_2 \dots M_{2k+1}} + \text{cyclic perm. of } M_1, \dots, M_{2k+1} \text{ with sign} \right]. \quad (\text{E.22})$$

Note that while the zero modes of the fields  $\mathbf{C}^{(2k)}$  are all independent, their field strengths are related due to the self-duality constraint (D.8) on  $\mathbf{F}^{(2k+1)}$ . This is reflected in (E.16), which can be written in terms of  $\mathbf{C}^{(2k)}$  using (E.21). In our analysis we shall need to consider the fields  $\mathbf{C}_{\mathbf{m}_1 \dots \mathbf{m}_{2k}}^{(2k)}$  along the internal directions of  $\mathfrak{Q}$  with the only non-vanishing components of fields strengths proportional to  $\mathbf{F}_{\mu \mathbf{m}_1 \dots \mathbf{m}_{2k+1}}^{(2k+1)} = i p_\mu \mathbf{C}_{\mathbf{m}_1 \dots \mathbf{m}_{2k}}^{(2k)}$ . Self-duality constraint (D.8) on  $\mathbf{F}^{(2k+1)}$  relates these components to different components  $\mathbf{F}_{\nu \rho \sigma \mathbf{n}_1 \dots \mathbf{n}_{6-2k}}^{(9-2k)}$ . Therefore, we can treat the  $\mathbf{F}_{\mu \mathbf{m}_1 \dots \mathbf{m}_{2k+1}}^{(2k+1)}$  given above as independent and replace  $\mathbf{F}_{\nu \rho \sigma \mathbf{n}_1 \dots \mathbf{n}_{6-2k}}^{(9-2k)}$  in terms of these components to express (D.7) as

$$F^{\alpha\beta} = - \sum_{k=0}^3 \frac{1}{(2k)!} p_\mu \mathbf{C}_{\mathbf{m}_1 \dots \mathbf{m}_{2k}}^{(2k)} (\Gamma^{\mu \mathbf{m}_1 \dots \mathbf{m}_{2k}})^{\alpha\beta}. \quad (\text{E.23})$$

Eqs. (E.7) with  $A_{\alpha\beta} = 0$  and (E.21) with the components along  $\mathfrak{Q}$  can be used to read out the vertex operator of the  $(2k)$ -form field  $\mathbf{C}_{\mathbf{m}_1 \dots \mathbf{m}_{2k}}^{(2k)}$  in the  $(-1/2, -3/2)$  picture, while (E.1) and (E.23) may be used to read out the same vertex operator in the  $(-1/2, -1/2)$  picture.

It is instructive to express (E.15) and (E.16) in position space using the language of differential forms. We have

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{F}^{(2k+1)} &= \frac{1}{4} * d * \left( D^{(2k+2)} + E^{(2k+2)} \right) - \frac{1}{4} d \left( D^{(2k)} - E^{(2k)} \right), \\ &* d * \left( D^{(2k+2)} + E^{(2k+2)} \right) = -d \left( D^{(2k)} - E^{(2k)} \right). \end{aligned} \quad (\text{E.24})$$

Using the self-duality constraints (E.14), we can rewrite these relations as

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{F}^{(2k+1)} &= (-1)^{k+1} \frac{1}{4} * d \left( D^{(8-2k)} - E^{(8-2k)} \right) - \frac{1}{4} d \left( D^{(2k)} - E^{(2k)} \right), \\ (-1)^{k+1} * d \left( D^{(8-2k)} - E^{(8-2k)} \right) &= -d \left( D^{(2k)} - E^{(2k)} \right). \end{aligned} \quad (\text{E.25})$$

Using (E.18), we can express (E.25) as

$$\mathbf{F}^{(2k+1)} = \frac{1}{2} d\mathbf{C}^{(2k)} + \frac{(-1)^k}{2} * d\mathbf{C}^{(8-2k)} \quad (\text{E.26})$$

and

$$d\mathbf{C}^{(2k)} = (-1)^k * d\mathbf{C}^{(8-2k)}. \quad (\text{E.27})$$

Let us compare these with the equations of motion derived from the string field theory action (D.3) in the  $A_{\alpha\beta} = 0$  gauge. The action takes the form:

$$\sum_{k=0}^4 \int \left( \mathbf{F}^{(2k+1)} - \frac{1}{4} d\mathbf{C}^{(2k)} - \frac{(-1)^k}{4} * d\mathbf{C}^{(8-2k)} \right) \wedge * \left( d\mathbf{C}^{(2k)} - (-1)^k * d\mathbf{C}^{(8-2k)} \right), \quad (\text{E.28})$$

up to a constant of proportionality. Here  $\mathbf{F}^{(2k+1)}$  is subject to the algebraic constraint (D.8). The equation of motion of  $\mathbf{F}^{(2k+1)}$  leads to (E.27) and the equation of motion of  $\mathbf{C}^{(2k)}$  leads to the exterior derivative of (E.26). Therefore, the solutions to string field theory equations of motion contain additional degrees of freedom. As has been discussed in detail in [29], the extra modes describe free fields and decouple from the theory even after adding interaction terms to the action, which involve  $\mathbf{F}^{(2k+1)}$  but not  $\mathbf{C}^{(2k)}$ . Note that  $\mathbf{C}^{(10)}$  does not appear in the action since  $d\mathbf{C}^{(10)}$  vanishes, but we include this as a field in the theory. This demands that in a consistent theory the one-point function of  $\mathbf{C}^{(10)}$  on the disk must vanish. This is part of the tadpole cancellation constraint in the theory.

Note that while  $\mathbf{C}^{(2k)}$ 's for different  $k$  are independent fields to begin with, (E.27) puts a constraint on their field strengths so that on-shell we only have half the number of degrees of freedom. In perturbation theory this can be made explicit by restricting  $k$  to be in the range 0 to 2, but this will allow us to couple these fields only to  $Dp$ -branes for  $p \leq 5$ . When we compactify the theory so that the ten-dimensional Lorentz invariance is broken, we could also use  $\mathbf{C}^{(2k)}$  for certain components of the fields and  $\mathbf{C}^{(8-2k)}$  for the other components. We make use of this explicitly in our analysis where instead of dualizing  $\mathbf{C}_{\mu\nu}^{(2)}$  to a scalar field in four dimensions, we directly use the components of  $\mathbf{C}^{(6)}$  along the Calabi-Yau threefold to describe the same scalar. In this way we can ensure that we have all the components of  $\mathbf{C}^{(2k)}$  that couple to at least those D-branes that do not extend along the non-compact spacetime directions. This is captured in (E.23).

## F Normalization of the hypermultiplet moduli

In this appendix we shall describe the normalization of the various hypermultiplet moduli fields in our conventions and find their relations to those appearing in section 2 and section 3 by comparing the tree level kinetic terms and the D-brane actions.

We begin by comparing the D-brane actions. We see from (3.5) and (3.9) that for  $B = 0$ , the real part of the action for an Euclidean  $Dp$ -brane ( $p = 1, 3, 5$ ) wrapped on a cycle  $L_\gamma$  is given by:

$$-\mathcal{T}_\gamma^R = \begin{array}{c|c|c} & p = 1 & p = 3 & p = 5 \\ \hline & -2\pi\tau_2|q_a t^a| & -2\pi\tau_2|(pt^2)/2| & -2\pi\tau_2 V \end{array} \quad (\text{F.1})$$

On the other hand,  $\mathcal{T}_\gamma^R$  should be given by the product of the tension of the brane times the volume of the wrapped cycle, as in (4.3). Since the volume form on the holomorphic cycle is given by (3.3) where the Kähler form is parametrized by  $\omega = \mathbf{t}^a \omega_a$ , the volume is found to be

$$|\mathbf{V}_\gamma| = \begin{array}{c|c|c} & p = 1 & p = 3 & p = 5 \\ \hline & |q_a \mathbf{t}^a| & |(pt^2)/2| & \mathbf{V} \end{array} \quad (\text{F.2})$$

where  $\mathbf{V} = \frac{1}{6} (\mathbf{t}^3)$  is the volume of  $\mathfrak{M}$ . Multiplying by the tension  $(2\pi)^{-p}\tau_2$  and comparing with (F.1), we find that the two forms of the action coincide provided

$$\mathbf{t}^a = (2\pi)^2 t^a. \quad (\text{F.3})$$

The relation (F.3) also implies

$$\kappa_{ab} = (2\pi)^2 \kappa_{ab}, \quad \mathbf{G}_{ab} = (2\pi)^{-4} G_{ab}, \quad \mathbf{G}^{ab} = (2\pi)^4 G^{ab}, \quad \mathbf{V} = (2\pi)^6 V. \quad (\text{F.4})$$

Let us now find the relative normalization of the moduli associated with the internal components of the 2-form field. In ten dimensions we begin with the action

$$-\frac{1}{6} \int d^{10}x H_{MNP} H^{MNP}, \quad H_{MNP} = \partial_M \mathbf{B}_{NP} + \partial_N \mathbf{B}_{PM} + \partial_P \mathbf{B}_{MN}. \quad (\text{F.5})$$

$\mathbf{B}_{MN}$  normalized this way has its vertex operator normalized as in (5.3) [1]. Upon compactification we introduce the moduli  $\mathbf{b}^a$  via (2.22). Using (B.5) and (B.12), it is easy to check that the kinetic term of these moduli takes the form

$$-\int d^4x \int_{\mathfrak{M}} \partial_\mu \mathbf{B} \wedge \partial^\mu \star \mathbf{B} = -\int d^4x \frac{\mathbf{V}}{4\kappa^2} \mathbf{G}_{ab} \partial_\mu \mathbf{b}^a \partial^\mu \mathbf{b}^b, \quad (\text{F.6})$$

where  $\mathbf{G}_{ab}$  has been defined in (B.8). However, this result is derived in the string frame when the Einstein-Hilbert action is multiplied by  $\mathbf{V}/(2\kappa^2)$ . We need the result in the canonical frame in which the Einstein-Hilbert action is multiplied by 1. This requires us to redefine the four-dimensional spacetime metric by a multiplicative factor of  $2\kappa^2/\mathbf{V}$ , which in turn multiplies the kinetic term of the scalar fields by  $2\kappa^2/\mathbf{V}$ . This converts the kinetic term to

$$-\frac{1}{2} \int d^4x \mathbf{G}_{ab} \partial_\mu \mathbf{b}^a \partial^\mu \mathbf{b}^b. \quad (\text{F.7})$$

On the other hand, according to (2.7), (2.8) the kinetic term for  $b^a$  is given by

$$-\frac{1}{2} \int d^4x G_{ab} \partial_\mu b^a \partial^\mu b^b. \quad (\text{F.8})$$

Comparing the two kinetic terms and using (F.4), we get

$$\mathbf{b}^a = (2\pi)^2 b^a, \quad (\text{F.9})$$

up to a sign.

Next, we determine the normalization of the scalar field  $\sigma$  dual to the NSNS 2-form  $B$ . With the standard normalization of string theory, its kinetic term is given by (see [1], eq. (6.21))

$$-\int d^4x \frac{\kappa^2}{2\mathbf{V}^2} \partial_\mu \sigma \partial^\mu \sigma, \quad (\text{F.10})$$

where we have used the normalization in which the background canonical metric is set to  $\eta_{\mu\nu}$ . Comparing this with the kinetic term for  $\sigma$  in (2.7), (2.8) and using (F.4), we get

$$\sigma = -\frac{(2\pi)^6}{2\kappa\tau_2^2} \sigma, \quad (\text{F.11})$$

where the sign has been chosen to match the result (3.23).

Finally, we consider the moduli associated with the RR fields  $\mathbf{C}^{(2k)}$  whose kinetic term appears in (D.19). Upon compactification on a Calabi-Yau manifold and conversion to the canonical frame, it becomes

$$- \int d^4x \frac{32\kappa^2}{\mathbf{V}} \int_{\mathfrak{Y}} \partial_\mu \mathbf{C}^{(2k)} \wedge \star \partial^\mu \mathbf{C}^{(2k)}. \quad (\text{F.12})$$

On the other hand, due to (2.6), (B.2), (B.5), (B.6) and (F.4), the kinetic terms for the RR scalars  $c^0$ ,  $c^a$ ,  $\tilde{c}_a$  and  $\tilde{c}_0$  in (2.7), (2.8) can be rewritten as

$$- \int d^4x \frac{(2\pi)^{4k}}{2\tau_2^2 \mathbf{V}} \int_{\mathfrak{Y}} \partial_\mu C^{(2k)} \wedge \star \partial^\mu C^{(2k)}. \quad (\text{F.13})$$

This result is valid even when the background  $b^a$  are non-zero as long as they are constants. Thus, we conclude that

$$\mathbf{C}^{(2k)} = s_k \frac{(2\pi)^{2k}}{8\kappa\tau_2} C^{(2k)} = s_k \frac{(2\pi)^{2k}}{2^6 \pi^{7/2}} C^{(2k)}, \quad (\text{F.14})$$

where  $s_k = \pm 1$  is a sign remaining undetermined at this stage.

In principle, the signs left undetermined by the above analysis can be fixed, up to symmetry transformations, by comparing the tree level S-matrix computed from the worldsheet theory to those obtained from the action (2.8). Once this is done, we can compute the disk one-point functions of various fields and check that they agree with the ones obtained from the  $e^{-\mathcal{T}\gamma}$  factor in the instanton amplitude. We shall not do this. Instead we shall use the disk one-point functions to fix the signs. The agreement between the magnitudes of these normalization constants computed using the two approaches can be regarded as a check on our computation.

Let us compute the one-point function of  $\mathbf{C}^{(2k)}$  on the disk, and compare with the imaginary part  $-2\pi i \Theta_\gamma$  of the  $D(2k-1)$ -instanton action. For this we need to use the vertex operator of the  $2k$ -form field in the  $(-1/2, -3/2)$  picture. Using (E.7) with  $A_{\alpha\beta} = 0$  and (E.21), we see that the relevant part of the vertex operator is given by

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{V} = & - \frac{1}{2 \cdot (2k)!} \mathbf{C}_{M_1 \dots M_{2k}}^{(2k)} \left[ (\Gamma^{M_1 \dots M_{2k}})_\alpha^\beta c \bar{c} e^{-3\phi/2} S^\alpha e^{-\bar{\phi}/2} \bar{S}_\beta \right. \\ & \left. - (\Gamma^{M_1 \dots M_{2k}})_\beta^\alpha c \bar{c} \partial \xi e^{-5\phi/2} S_\alpha \bar{\eta} e^{\bar{\phi}/2} \bar{S}^\beta \right] e^{ip \cdot X}, \end{aligned} \quad (\text{F.15})$$

where we have dropped the term in the third line of (E.7) since it does not satisfy the  $\xi$ - $\eta$  charge conservation and therefore will have vanishing one-point function on the disk. Also for this computation we can drop the  $e^{ip \cdot X}$  factor. Due to (5.1), the disk one-point function of  $\mathbf{C}^{(2k)}$  takes the form

$$\begin{aligned} A = & - \frac{\kappa T_{2k-1}}{2 \cdot (2k)!} \frac{1}{2} \mathbf{C}_{M_1 \dots M_{2k}}^{(2k)} \left[ (\Gamma^{M_1 \dots M_{2k}})_\alpha^\beta \left\langle (\partial c - \bar{\partial} \bar{c}) c \bar{c} e^{-3\phi/2} S^\alpha e^{-\bar{\phi}/2} \bar{S}_\beta(i) \right. \right. \\ & \left. \left. - (\Gamma^{M_1 \dots M_{2k}})_\beta^\alpha \left\langle (\partial c - \bar{\partial} \bar{c}) c \bar{c} \partial \xi e^{-5\phi/2} S_\alpha \bar{\eta} e^{\bar{\phi}/2} \bar{S}^\beta(i) \right\rangle \right]. \end{aligned} \quad (\text{F.16})$$

Using the  $D(2k - 1)$ -brane boundary condition (C.7), the doubling trick and the operator product expansion (C.1), the correlation function becomes

$$A = -\frac{\kappa T_{2k-1}}{8 \cdot (2k)!} \mathbf{C}_{M_1 \dots M_{2k}}^{(2k)} \times \frac{1}{(2k)!} v^{M_1 \dots M_{2k}} \times (-4i) \times (-1)^k (2k)! \times 16 \times (2\pi)^{2k} \delta^{(2k)}(0). \quad (\text{F.17})$$

Here the factor  $(-4i)$  represents the equal contribution from the two terms inside the square bracket, the 16 comes from the trace of the identity operator in the spinor representation and the  $(-1)^k (2k)!$  comes from contraction of the gamma matrices:

$$\text{Tr} \left( \Gamma_{M_1 \dots M_{2k}} \Gamma^{N_1 \dots N_{2k}} \right) = 16 \delta_{M_1 \dots M_{2k}}^{N_1 \dots N_{2k}} (-1)^{(2k-1)(2k)/2}. \quad (\text{F.18})$$

Interpreting the  $(2\pi)^{2k} \delta^{(2k)}(0)$  factor as the integral of over the  $(2k)$ -cycle  $L_\gamma$ , we get

$$A = (-1)^k 8i\kappa T_{2k-1} \int_{L_\gamma} \mathbf{C}^{(2k)}. \quad (\text{F.19})$$

On the other hand, this one-point function can be extracted from the  $-2\pi i \Theta_\gamma$  term in the instanton action, where  $\Theta_\gamma$  is specified in (3.5). Since the boundary condition (C.7) that we have used to arrive at (F.19) is valid in the absence of background  $B$  field, we need to consider

$$-2\pi i \int_{\mathfrak{D}} \gamma \wedge C^{\text{even}} = 2\pi i \sum_{k=0}^3 (-1)^k \int_{L_\gamma} C^{(2k)}, \quad (\text{F.20})$$

where we used (3.1) and (3.2). Comparing with (F.19), one finds

$$\mathbf{C}^{(2k)} = \frac{\pi}{4\kappa T_{2k-1}} C^{(2k)} = \frac{(2\pi)^{2k}}{2^6 \pi^{7/2}} C^{(2k)}, \quad (\text{F.21})$$

which agrees with (F.14) for  $s_k = 1$  for all  $k$ .

Note that our results (F.5)–(F.14), involving purely the closed string sector, are valid whether or not a background NSNS 2-form field is present, provided (F.3), (F.4) hold. However (F.1)–(F.4) and (F.16)–(F.21) involve the open string sector and therefore are valid only when the background NSNS 2-form field is absent. Since (F.3), (F.4) were used in finding the relations between variables given in (F.5)–(F.14), these relations should also be regarded as proven only in the absence of background  $B$  field. However, we have verified in appendix G that (F.3), (F.9), (F.21) correctly reproduce the disk one-point functions even when the  $B$  field is switched on. Therefore, these relations, as well as (F.11), remain valid in the presence of the background  $B$  field.

## G D-instanton action in the presence of NSNS 2-form field

In this appendix we shall compute the D-brane action in the presence of a constant background  $B$  field and compare the result with (3.5). First, we shall compute the imaginary part, which involves the disk amplitude with just one RR vertex operator in the presence of a background  $B$  field. We take the RR vertex operator in the  $(-1/2, -3/2)$  picture as in appendix F and follow the procedure described in section 6.1 to study the effect of the

background  $B$  field. The net result is the same as in section 6.1, namely that we replace the charges by the effective charges given in (3.8). Therefore, (F.19) is replaced by the sum:

$$A = \sum_{k=0}^3 (-1)^k 8i\kappa T_{2k-1} \int_{L_\gamma^{(2k)}} \mathbf{C}^{(2k)} = 2\pi i \sum_{k=0}^3 (-1)^k \int_{\mathfrak{Y}} \omega_{\check{\gamma}}^{(6-2k)} \wedge C^{(2k)} = -2\pi i \Theta_\gamma, \quad (\text{G.1})$$

where we used the relation (F.21), (3.10) and that

$$\sum_k (-1)^k \omega_{\check{\gamma}}^{(6-2k)} = - \sum_k (-1)^k \omega_{\check{\gamma}}^{(2k)} = -\iota(\omega_{\check{\gamma}}) = -\check{\gamma} \quad (\text{G.2})$$

as remarked below (6.5). The right hand side of (G.1) is precisely the imaginary part of  $-\mathcal{T}_\gamma$  given in (3.5).

Next we shall compute the real part of the action of Euclidean  $Dp$ -branes in the presence of background  $B$  field. Such action is given by

$$\mathcal{T}_\gamma^R = T_{2n-1} \left| \int_{L_\gamma^{(2n)}} v_\gamma^{(2n)} \sqrt{\det(\mathbf{g}_\parallel + 2\kappa \mathbf{B}_\parallel)} / \sqrt{\det \mathbf{g}_\parallel} \right|. \quad (\text{G.3})$$

To evaluate the integrand, let  $M_{ij}$  be a rank two tensor in  $\mathfrak{Y}$  with only mixed components, i.e.  $M_{st} = M_{\bar{s}\bar{t}} = 0$ , and suppose further that  $M_{s\bar{t}}$  may be expanded as  $M^a(\omega_a)_{s\bar{t}}$ . Then its pullback  $M_\parallel$  on  $L_\gamma^{(2n)}$  will also be a matrix with only mixed components in the holomorphic coordinates, i.e.  $(M_\parallel)_{ab} = (M_\parallel)_{\bar{a}\bar{b}} = 0$ , and its determinant factorizes into  $(\det(M_\parallel)_{\bar{b}a})(\det(M_\parallel)_{a\bar{b}})$ , where the indices  $a, b$  now label holomorphic coordinates on  $L_\gamma^{(2n)}$ . We shall use the notation  $\det_{\text{h}}(M_\parallel)$  to denote the determinant of the matrix  $(M_\parallel)_{a\bar{b}}$ . Let  $N$  be another rank two covariant tensor with similar properties. Then we have on  $L_\gamma^{(2n)}$

$$\frac{\det_{\text{h}}(M_\parallel)}{\det_{\text{h}}(N_\parallel)} = \frac{\det_{\text{h}}(M_P)}{\det_{\text{h}}(N_P)} = \frac{(M^n, v_\gamma^{(2n)})}{(N^n, v_\gamma^{(2n)})} = \frac{M^n \wedge \omega_\gamma^{(6-2n)}}{N^n \wedge \omega_\gamma^{(6-2n)}} = \begin{cases} 1 & n = 0, \\ \frac{q_a M^a}{q_a N^a} & n = 1, \\ \frac{(pM^2)}{(pN^2)} & n = 2, \\ \frac{(M^3)}{(N^3)} & n = 3, \end{cases} \quad (\text{G.4})$$

where the first equality follows from the identities  $M_\parallel = WM_P \bar{W}^T$ ,  $N_\parallel = WN_P \bar{W}^T$  as stated above (6.16), the second equality follows from the definition of the determinant, and we used (B.15), (B.10), (6.5), (B.2) and (B.3) for the rest of the equalities. Note that while in the first two expressions we need to pullback / project  $M$  and  $N$  onto  $L_\gamma^{(2n)}$  before computing the determinant, in the later expressions no such projection is needed. Applying this result to the integrand in (G.3) where the matrices  $M = \mathbf{g} + 2\kappa \mathbf{B}$  and  $N = \mathbf{g}$  satisfy the above assumptions, one finds

$$\sqrt{\frac{\det(\mathbf{g}_\parallel + 2\kappa \mathbf{B}_\parallel)}{\det \mathbf{g}_\parallel}} = \begin{cases} \left| \frac{q_a z^a}{q_a t^a} \right| & n = 1, \\ \left| \frac{(pz^2)}{(pt^2)} \right| & n = 2, \\ \left| \frac{(z^3)}{(t^3)} \right| & n = 3. \end{cases} \quad (\text{G.5})$$

Since this quantity is constant on  $\mathfrak{Y}$ , the integral in (G.3) gives rise just to the factor of  $|\mathbf{V}_\gamma|$ . Therefore, the net effect of the background  $B$  field on  $\mathcal{T}_\gamma^R$  is to give an extra multiplicative

factor given by the r.h.s. of (G.5). Since we have already verified in appendix F that in the absence of  $B$  field the  $\mathcal{T}_\gamma^R$  computed from the D-brane action agrees with the results given in (F.1), we can now use (3.4) to conclude that in the presence of the background  $B$  field, the real part of the action is given by

$$\mathcal{T}_\gamma^R = 2\pi\tau_2|Z_\gamma| \tag{G.6}$$

consistently with (3.5).

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