

# $N=1$ Lagrangians for $N=2$ “non-Lagrangian” theories

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Based on work with

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1606.05632, 1607.04281, 1610.05311, 1707.04751, 1806.08353

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What is the “simplest”  
interacting 4d  $N=2$  SCFT?

A) Argyres-Douglas theory (very likely)

# Argyres-Douglas theory

- Theory describing a special point in the Coulomb branch of  $N=2$   $SU(3)$  SYM or  $N=2$   $SU(2)$  SQCD.  
[Argyres-Douglas 95] [Argyres-Plesser-Seiberg-Witten 95]
- At this special point, **mutually non-local** electromagnetically charged particles become **massless**.
- It is a **strongly-coupled  $N=2$  SCFT** with no tunable coupling. Commonly referred to as a “**non-Lagrangian theory**”
- Many generalizations. [Cecotti-Neitzke-Vafa 10][Cecotti-del Zotto 12][Xie 12]...
- Its Coulomb phase is well-understood, but the **conformal phase** is less-understood. [Cornagliotto, Lemos, Liendo 17][Talk by Lemos]

# Properties of the $H_0$ Argyres-Douglas theory

- There is a chiral operator of **dimension  $6/5$**  parametrizing the Coulomb branch.
- **Central charges:**  $a = \frac{43}{120}$  ,  $c = \frac{11}{30}$  [\[Aharony-Tachikawa 07\]](#)  
[\[Shapere-Tachikawa 08\]](#)
- The central charge  **$c$**  above is the **minimal** value of any interacting  $N=2$  SCFT! [\[Liendo-Ramirez-Seo 15\]](#)  
$$c \geq \frac{11}{30}$$
- The 2d chiral algebra corresponding to the AD theory is given by a non-unitary Virasoro **minimal model**.  
[\[Beem-Lemos-Liendo-Rastelli-van Rees 13\]](#)  
[\[Cordova-Shao 15\]](#)

# Is it possible to write a Lagrangian for the 'simplest 4d $N=2$ SCFT'?

- Challenges:
- Mutually non-local particles.
  - Chiral operators of fractional dimensions.

A) Sacrifice manifest (super)symmetry

# $N=1$ gauge theory flowing to the $H_0=(A_1, A_2)$ SCFT

[Maruyoshi-JS 16]

Matter content

|         | $q$ | $q'$ |     | $M$ | $X$ |
|---------|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|
| $SU(2)$ | 2   | 2    | adj | 1   | 1   |

Superpotential

$$W = \phi q q + M \phi q' q' + X \phi^2$$

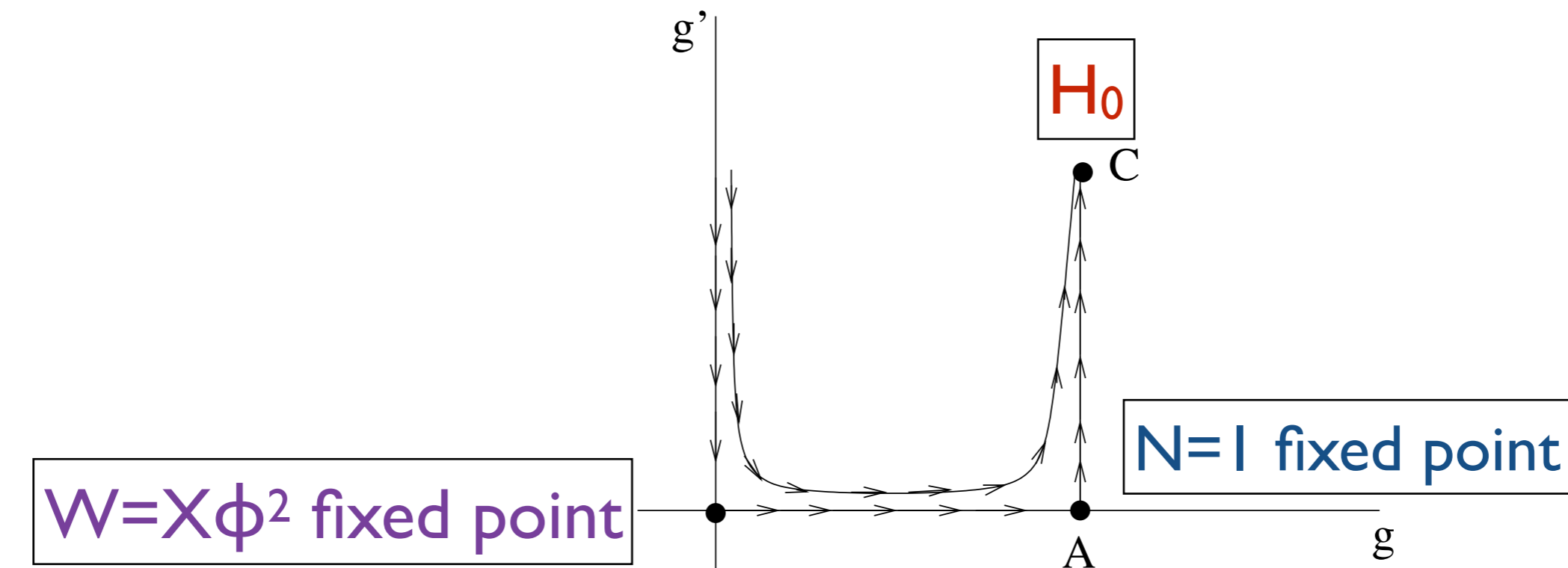
This theory has an anomaly free  $U(1)$  global symmetry that can be mixed with R-symmetry. R-charges fixed by a-maximization.

[Intriligator-Wecht 03]

# RG Flow to the $H_0$ theory

[Maruyoshi-JS][Maruyoshi-Nardoni-JS]

$$W = g\phi q q + g' M \phi q' q' + \lambda X \phi^2$$



@C, we get:  $a = \frac{43}{120}$ ,  $c = \frac{11}{30}$ ,  $\Delta(M) = \frac{6}{5}$

Agrees with that of the Argyres-Douglas theory!

# N=1 gauge theory flowing to the $H_1=(A_1, A_3)$ theory

- Matter contents:

|       | q | q' |     | M | X |
|-------|---|----|-----|---|---|
| SU(2) | 2 | 2  | adj | 1 | 1 |

- Interaction:

$$W = Mqq' + X\phi^2$$

This theory has  $SU(2)\times U(1)$  flavor symmetry.  
The  $U(1)$  symmetry can be mixed with R-symmetry.

@IR, we get:  $a = \frac{11}{24}, \quad c = \frac{1}{2}, \quad \Delta(M) = \frac{4}{3}$



# Checks & applications of the $N=1$ Lagrangian for the AD theory

- **Moduli space, chiral ring** agree with the known results.
- The **full superconformal index** of the AD theory. Can be compared against the Schur/Macdonald limits of the index computed in [\[Cordova-Shao\]](#)[\[Buican-Nishinaka\]](#)[\[JS\]](#)
- 3d Argyres-Douglas theory: 3d  $N=2 \rightarrow N=4$  [\[Benvenuti-Giacomelli\]](#)
- More SUSY partition functions for the AD theory  
[\[Fredrickson-Pei-Yan-Ye\]](#)[\[Gukov\]](#)[\[Fluder-JS\]](#)

Where are these 'Lagrangians'  
coming from?

Is there any organizing principle?

# N=1 Deformations of N=2 SCFT with global symmetry

- Consider N=2 SCFT  $\mathcal{T}_{UV}$  with **non-abelian global symmetry**  $\mathcal{F}$ .
- It has a **moment map** operator  $\mu$  valued in the adjoint of  $\mathcal{F}$ .
- Add **a chiral multiplet**  $M$  in the adjoint of  $\mathcal{F}$  and the following **superpotential**:

$$W = \text{Tr}(M\mu)$$

- $SU(2) \times U(1)$  R-symmetry broken to  $U(1)_R \times U(1)_A$

# N=1 Deformation via Nilpotent Higgsing

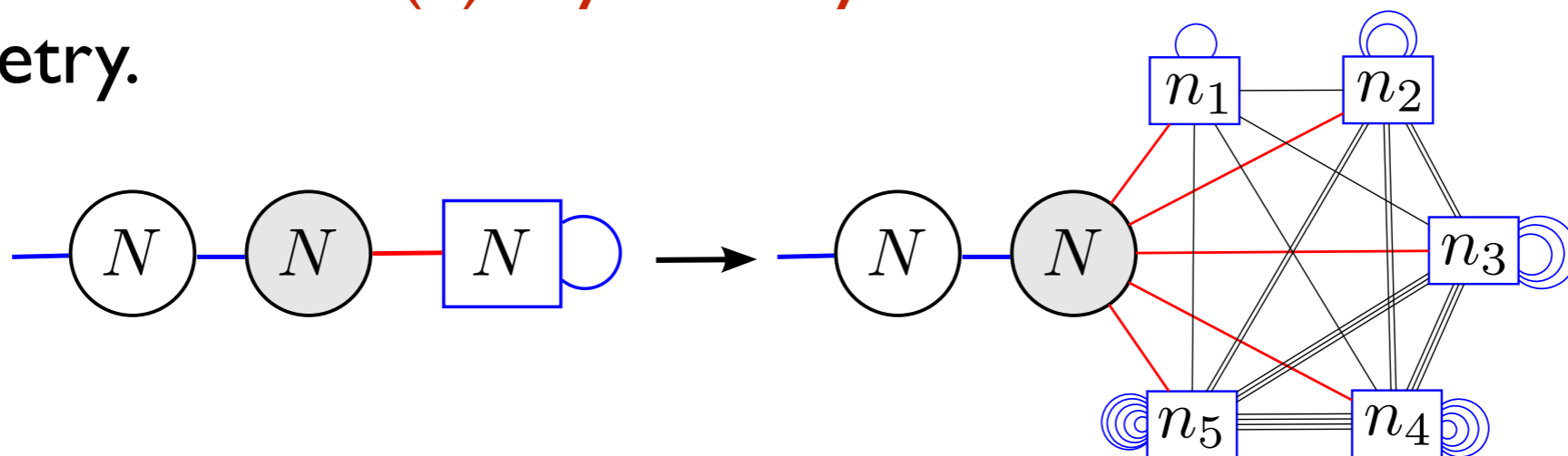
- Now, we give a **nilpotent vev** to  $M$ . [Gadde-Maruyoshi-Tachikawa-Yan]  
[Agarwal-Bah-Maruyoshi-JS]  
[Agarwal-Intriligator-JS]
- The deformation triggers a flow to a **new N=1 SCFT**.

$$\mathcal{T}_{UV} \rightsquigarrow \mathcal{T}_{IR}[\mathcal{T}_{UV}, \rho]$$

- Nilpotent elements are classified by the  $SU(2)$  embeddings  $\rho: SU(2) \rightarrow \mathcal{F}$ .

$$\langle M \rangle = \rho(\sigma^+)$$

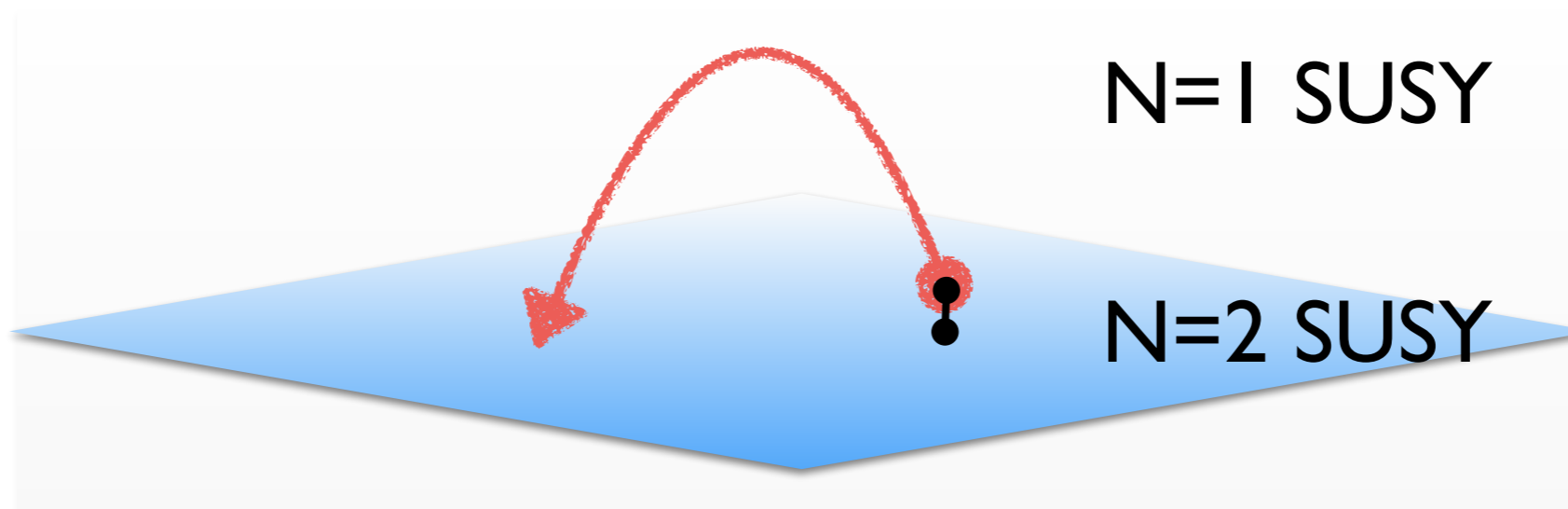
- It **preserves the  $U(1)_A$  symmetry** that can be mixed with R-symmetry.



# Results

[Maruyoshi-JS][Agarwal-Maruyoshi-JS]

- For a number of cases, **Supersymmetry enhances to  $N=2$**  at the fixed point.
- **$N=1$  RG flows** between (known)  **$N=2$  SCFTs**
- $N=1$  deformed **Lagrangian**  $N=2$  SQCD **flows** to the “**non-Lagrangian**” Argyres-Douglas (AD) theory!



# Deforming $SU(N)$ $N_f=2N$ : $\mathcal{F}=SU(2N)$

| $SU(2N)$ | $\rho : SU(2) \hookrightarrow SU(2N)$ | $a$                         | $c$                         | 4d $\mathcal{N} = 2$ SUSY   |
|----------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| $SU(4)$  | $[1^4]$                               | $\frac{23}{24}$             | $\frac{7}{6}$               | Yes; $N_c = 2, N_f = 4$     |
|          | $[3, 1]$                              | $\frac{7}{12}$              | $\frac{2}{3}$               | Yes; $(A_1, D_4)$ AD th.    |
|          | $[4]$                                 | $\frac{11}{24}$             | $\frac{1}{2}$               | Yes; $(A_1, A_3)$ AD th.    |
| $SU(6)$  | $[1^6]$                               | $\frac{29}{12}$             | $\frac{17}{6}$              | Yes; $N_c = 3, N_f = 6$     |
|          | $[5, 1]$                              | $\frac{13}{12}$             | $\frac{7}{6}$               | Yes; $(A_1, D_6)$ AD th.    |
|          | $[6]$                                 | $\frac{11}{12}$             | $\frac{23}{24}$             | Yes; $(A_1, A_5)$ AD th.    |
| $SU(8)$  | $[1^8]$                               | $\frac{107}{24}$            | $\frac{31}{6}$              | Yes; $N_c = 4, N_f = 8$     |
|          | $[2, 1^6]$                            | $\frac{73801}{17424}$       | $\frac{43121}{8712}$        | ?                           |
|          | $[4, 4]$                              | $\frac{9097}{3888}$         | $\frac{5129}{1944}$         | ?                           |
|          | $[7, 1]$                              | $\frac{19}{12}$             | $\frac{5}{3}$               | Yes; $(A_1, D_8)$ AD th.    |
|          | $[8]$                                 | $\frac{167}{120}$           | $\frac{43}{30}$             | Yes; $(A_1, A_7)$ AD th.    |
| $SU(10)$ | $[1^{10}]$                            | $\frac{247}{24}$            | $\frac{71}{6}$              | Yes; $N_c = 5, N_f = 10$    |
|          | $[5, 1^5]$                            | $\frac{5553943}{1383123}$   | $\frac{6257387}{1383123}$   | ?                           |
|          | $[5, 3, 1^2]$                         | $\frac{92540867}{24401712}$ | $\frac{52091009}{12200856}$ | ?                           |
|          | $[9, 1]$                              | $\frac{25}{12}$             | $\frac{13}{6}$              | Yes; $(A_1, D_{10})$ AD th. |
|          | $[10]$                                | $\frac{15}{8}$              | $\frac{23}{12}$             | Yes; $(A_1, A_9)$ AD th.    |
| $SU(12)$ | $[1^{12}]$                            | $\frac{247}{24}$            | $\frac{71}{6}$              | Yes; $N_c = 6, N_f = 12$    |
|          | $[4^3]$                               | $\frac{754501}{138384}$     | $\frac{424727}{69192}$      | ?                           |
|          | $[11, 1]$                             | $\frac{31}{12}$             | $\frac{8}{3}$               | Yes; $(A_1, D_{12})$ AD th. |
|          | $[12]$                                | $\frac{397}{168}$           | $\frac{101}{42}$            | Yes; $(A_1, A_{11})$ AD th. |

Here we list some of the deformations that gives **rational** central charges.

Those with “?” have  $N=1$  SUSY. [\[Evtikhiev\]](#)

Other deformations give **irrational** central charges, therefore they flow to  $N=1$  theories.

# Deforming $Sp(N), N_f=2N+2: \mathcal{F}=SO(4N+4)$

| $SO(4N + 4)$ | $\rho : SU(2) \hookrightarrow SO(4N + 4)$ | $a$                        | $c$                        | 4d $\mathcal{N} = 2$ SUSY |
|--------------|---|----------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| $SO(8)$      | $[1^8]$                                   | $\frac{23}{24}$            | $\frac{7}{6}$              | Yes; $N_c = 1, N_f = 8$   |
|              | $[3^2, 1^2]$                              | $\frac{7}{12}$             | $\frac{2}{3}$              | Yes; $(A_1, D_4)$ AD th.  |
|              | $[4, 4] \equiv [5, 1^3]$                  | $\frac{11}{24}$            | $\frac{1}{2}$              | Yes; $(A_1, D_3)$ AD th.  |
|              | $[5, 3]$                                  | $\frac{6349}{13872}$       | $\frac{3523}{6936}$        | ?                         |
|              | $[7, 1]$                                  | $\frac{43}{120}$           | $\frac{11}{30}$            | Yes; $(A_1, A_2)$ AD th.  |
| $SO(12)$     | $[1^{12}]$                                | $\frac{37}{12}$            | $\frac{11}{3}$             | Yes; $N_c = 2, N_f = 12$  |
|              | $[4^2, 2^2]$                              | $\frac{105027}{59536}$     | $\frac{61145}{29768}$      | ?                         |
|              | $[9, 1^3]$                                | $\frac{19}{20}$            | 1                          | Yes; $(A_1, D_5)$ AD th.  |
|              | $[11, 1]$                                 | $\frac{67}{84}$            | $\frac{17}{21}$            | Yes; $(A_1, A_4)$ AD th.  |
| $SO(16)$     | $[1^{16}]$                                | $\frac{51}{8}$             | $\frac{15}{2}$             | Yes; $N_c = 3, N_f = 16$  |
|              | $[5, 1^{11}]$                             | $\frac{109031}{27744}$     | $\frac{123889}{27744}$     | ?                         |
|              | $[5, 3^3, 1^2]$                           | $\frac{18250741}{5195568}$ | $\frac{10440877}{2597784}$ | ?                         |
|              | $[13, 1^3]$                               | $\frac{81}{56}$            | $\frac{3}{2}$              | Yes; $(A_1, D_7)$ AD th.  |
|              | $[15, 1]$                                 | $\frac{91}{72}$            | $\frac{23}{18}$            | Yes; $(A_1, A_6)$ AD th.  |
| $SO(20)$     | $[1^{20}]$                                | $\frac{65}{6}$             | $\frac{38}{3}$             | Yes; $N_c = 4, N_f = 20$  |
|              | $[2^2, 1^{16}]$                           | $\frac{4181}{400}$         | $\frac{2463}{200}$         | ?                         |
|              | $[3^4, 2^4]$                              | $\frac{29}{4}$             | $\frac{133}{16}$           | ?                         |

# Deforming $SO(N)$ $N_f=N-2: \mathcal{F}=Sp(N-2)$

| $Sp(N-2)$ | $\rho: SU(2) \hookrightarrow Sp(N-2)$ | $a$                          | $c$                          | 4d $\mathcal{N}=2$ SUSY   |
|-----------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| $Sp(2)$   | $[1^4]$                               | $\frac{19}{12}$              | $\frac{5}{3}$                | Yes; $N_c = 4, N_f = 4$   |
|           | $[2, 1^2]$                            | $\frac{10111}{7056}$         | $\frac{5381}{3528}$          | ?                         |
| $Sp(3)$   | $[1^6]$                               | $\frac{65}{24}$              | $\frac{35}{12}$              | Yes; $N_c = 5, N_f = 6$   |
|           | $[4, 1^2]$                            | $\frac{325}{192}$            | $\frac{341}{192}$            | ?                         |
| $Sp(4)$   | $[1^8]$                               | $\frac{33}{8}$               | $\frac{9}{2}$                | Yes; $N_c = 6, N_f = 8$   |
| $Sp(5)$   | $[1^{10}]$                            | $\frac{35}{6}$               | $\frac{77}{12}$              | Yes; $N_c = 7, N_f = 10$  |
| $Sp(6)$   | $[1^{12}]$                            | $\frac{47}{6}$               | $\frac{26}{3}$               | Yes; $N_c = 8, N_f = 12$  |
|           | $[2^2, 1^8]$                          | $\frac{589093}{80688}$       | $\frac{329335}{40344}$       | ?                         |
|           | $[4, 1^8]$                            | $\frac{13065}{2312}$         | $\frac{7085}{1156}$          | ?                         |
| $Sp(7)$   | $[1^{14}]$                            | $\frac{81}{8}$               | $\frac{45}{4}$               | Yes; $N_c = 9, N_f = 14$  |
|           | $[5^2, 1^4]$                          | $\frac{59094550}{10978707}$  | $\frac{129141025}{21957414}$ | ?                         |
|           | $[6, 3^2, 2]$                         | $\frac{375975613}{72745944}$ | $\frac{406255085}{72745944}$ | ?                         |
| $Sp(8)$   | $[1^{16}]$                            | $\frac{305}{24}$             | $\frac{85}{6}$               | Yes; $N_c = 10, N_f = 16$ |
|           | $[4^2, 2^2, 1^4]$                     | $\frac{389}{48}$             | $\frac{53}{6}$               | ?                         |
|           | $[5^2, 3^2]$                          | $\frac{30593927}{4642608}$   | $\frac{16735805}{2321304}$   | ?                         |
|           | $[5^2, 4, 1^2]$                       | $\frac{28118905}{4348848}$   | $\frac{3828919}{543606}$     | ?                         |

**No** non-trivial  
**N=2** fixed point!



Is there any pattern in  
the SUSY enhancement?

# Chiral Algebra associated to $\mathcal{T}_{UV}$

[Beem-Lemos-Liendo-Peelaers-Rastelli-van Rees]

$$\mathcal{T}_{UV} \mapsto \chi_{2d}[\mathcal{T}_{UV}]$$

- For **any 4d N=2 SCFT**, there is a **subsector** described by a **chiral algebra** with

$$c_{2d} = -12c_{4d}, \quad k_{2d} = -\frac{1}{2}k_{4d} .$$

- If the chiral algebra is given by the **affine Kac-Moody** algebra  $\hat{\mathcal{F}}_{k_{2d}}$ , the stress tensor is given by the **Sugawara tensor** with the central charge

$$c_{\text{Sugawara}} = \frac{k_{2d} \dim \mathcal{F}}{k_{2d} + h^\vee}$$

# When does SUSY enhance?

[Agarwal-Maruyoshi-JS][Agarwal-Sciarappa-JS]  
[Giacomelli]

$$\mathcal{T}_{UV} \rightsquigarrow \mathcal{T}_{IR}[\mathcal{T}_{UV}, \rho]$$

By studying a large set of Lagrangian/non-Lagrangian theories, we observe that the SUSY is enhanced in the IR if and only if

- $\mathcal{T}_{UV}$  satisfies  $c_{2d}[\mathcal{T}_{UV}] = c_{\text{Sugawara}(+n)}$  &  $\mathcal{F}$  is of **ADE type** (can have U(1)'s)
- Either of the two cases:
  1.  $\rho$  is the **principal** embedding.
  2.  $\rho$  is the 'next to **principal**' and  $\mathcal{T}_{UV}$  saturates the **flavor central charge bound**.  $k_F \geq k_{F,b}$  [BLLPRvR][Lemos-Liendo]

## WHY?

What about the minimal  
4d  $N=1$  SCFT?

# Minimal 4d $N=1$ SCFT?

- There is **no analytic bound** on the value of  $a$  or  $c$ .
- There is a candidate minimal SCFT suggested by **conformal bootstrap** with  $c \sim 0.11$ . But no explicit construction of such theory. [\[Poland-Stergiou\]](#)[\[Li-Meltzer-Stergiou\]](#)
- We explored a large set of SCFTs with Lagrangian descriptions by considering a simple setup.
- $SU(2)$  adjoint SQCD with  $N_f=1$  + **gauge singlets** with **all possible superpotential** couplings



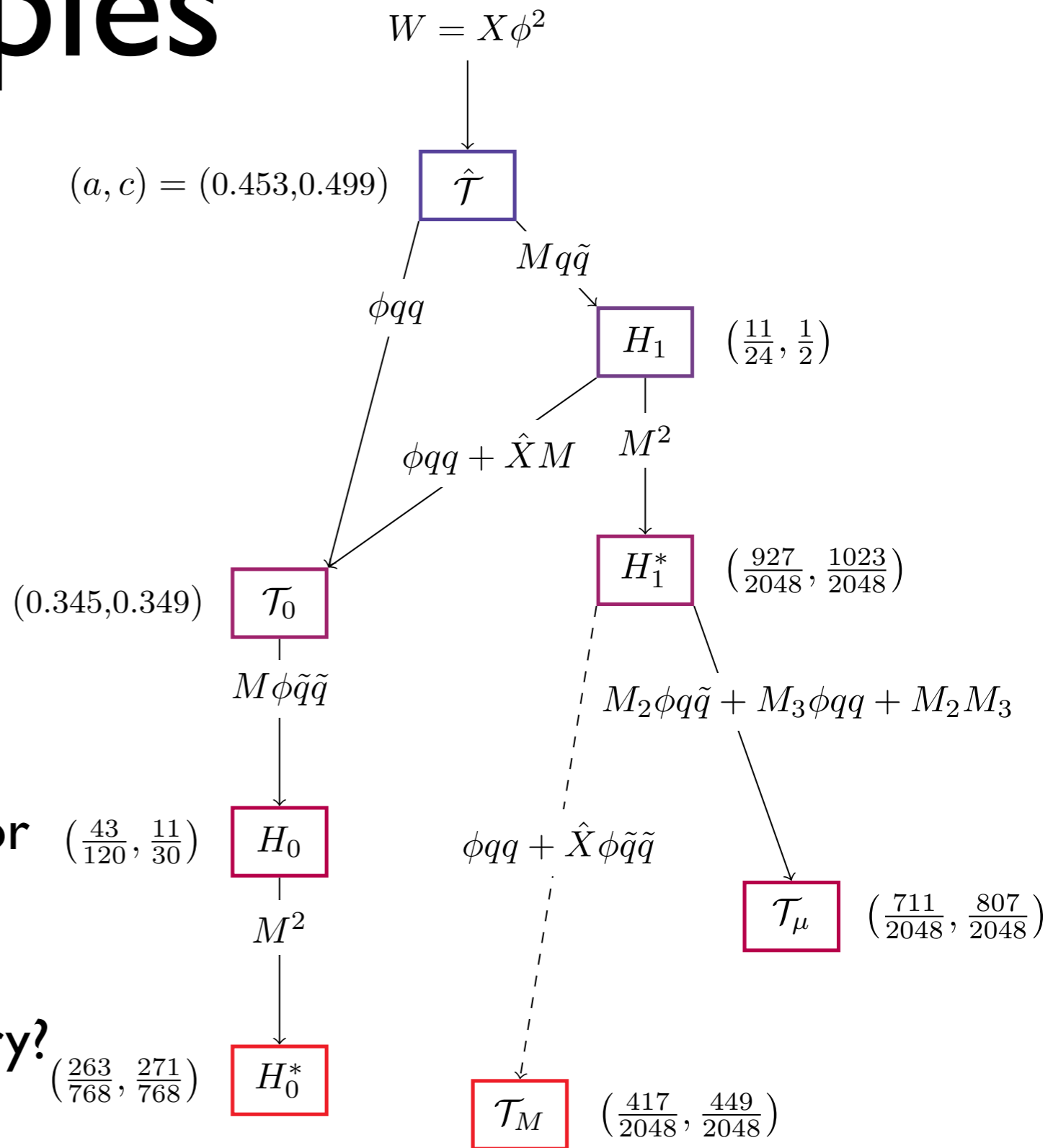
# Some examples

- $H_0^*$  has the **smallest value of  $a$** .  
[Xie-Yonekura][Buican-Nishinaka]

- $\mathcal{T}_0$  and  $H_1^*$  have the **smallest  $a$  with U(1) and SU(2) flavor**.

- $\mathcal{T}_0$  has the **smallest value of  $c$** .  
[Benvenuti]

- $\mathcal{T}_M$  contains ‘unphysical’ operator that is not in the chiral ring.  
Is it really ‘bad’ or just ‘ugly’?  
Can it be a new “minimal” theory?



# Summary



# Summary

- To a given N=2 SCFT  $\mathcal{T}_{UV}$  with **non-abelian global symmetry**  $\mathcal{F}$ , one can obtain N=1 SCFT  $\mathcal{T}_{IR}[\mathcal{T}_{UV}, \rho]$  labelled by SU(2) embedding  $\rho$  of  $\mathcal{F}$ .

$$\mathcal{T}_{UV} \rightsquigarrow \mathcal{T}_{IR}[\mathcal{T}_{UV}, \rho]$$

- For some special cases,  $\mathcal{T}_{IR}$  have **enhanced N=2 SUSY**.
- **N=1 Lagrangian theories** flowing to the **N=2 Argyres-Douglas theories** can be realized in this way.
- Many new “simple N=1 SCFTs” with small central charges can be constructed from a simple gauge theory setup.

# Outlook

- When and why SUSY enhancement happens?
- Other ‘non-Lagrangian’ theories? general ADs,  $T_N$ ,  $\mathcal{N}=3$   
cf)  $E_6, E_7, R_{0,N}$  SCFT [[Gadde-Razamat-Willett](#)][[Agarwal-Maruyoshi-JS](#)]
- SUSY enhancements in other d? [[Gaiotto-Komargodski-Wu](#)]  
[[Benini-Benvenuti](#)][[Gang-Yamazaki](#)]
- What is the minimal  $\mathcal{N}=1$  SCFT?

**Thank you!**