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BPS Surfaces Beyond Anomalies

The 6d $\mathcal{N} = (2,0)$ theory contains a surprisingly rich spectrum of BPS surface operators which generalise the construction of BPS Wilson loops over an arbitrary curve in 4d SYM. In this talk I will present their construction and show how, despite the lack of a lagrangian description, we can use superconformal symmetry to constrain their properties. In particular, while surface operators generally have divergences in the form of a conformal anomaly, in many cases we are also able to define a finite expectation value and calculate it at large N. I will discuss in more detail two examples which are the 6d analogs to the quark-antiquark potential and how they help us go beyond the large N limit.

Type of contribution

Contributed Talk or Poster

Author:TREPANIER, Maxime (ITMP, Moscow)Orateur:TREPANIER, Maxime (ITMP, Moscow)Classification de Session:Posters

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