A cubic deformation of ABJM: the squashed, stretched, warped, and perturbed gets invaded

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ABSTRACT: A superpotential deformation that is cubic in one of the chiral superfields of ABJM makes the latter theory flow into a new $\mathcal{N} = 2$ superconformal phase. This is holographically dual to a warped $\text{AdS}_4 \times_w S^7$ solution of M-theory equipped with a squashed and stretched metric on S^7 . We determine the spectrum of spin-2 operators of the cubic deformation at low energies by computing the spectrum of Kaluza-Klein (KK) gravitons over the dual AdS_4 solution. We calculate, numerically, the complete graviton spectrum and, analytically, the spectrum of gravitons that belong to short multiplets. We also use group theory to assess the structure of the full KK spectrum, and conclude that $\mathcal{N} = 2$ supermultiplets cannot be allocated KK level by KK level. This phenomenon, usually referred to as “space invaders scenario”, is also known to occur for another AdS_4 solution based on a different squashed S^7 .

KEYWORDS: Gauge-gravity correspondence, Supergravity Models, M-Theory

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1 Introduction

It is an interesting problem to characterise the low-energy physics that relevant deformations of superconformal field theories (SCFTs) will lead to. Focusing, for definiteness, on the Aharony-Bergman-Jafferis-Maldacena (ABJM) [1] SCFT defined on a stack of M2-branes, there is a well-known relevant, mass deformation that makes the theory flow into a new infrared (IR) fixed point [2]. This deformation can be implemented at the level of the holomorphic superpotential by writing a new term, $(\mathcal{Z}^4)^2$, *quadratic* in one of the four chiral matter superfields, $\mathcal{Z}^I$, $I = 1, \dots, 4$, that the $\mathcal{N} = 2$ formulation of ABJM encompasses. Both the resulting renormalisation group (RG) flow and its IR endpoint are manifestly $\mathcal{N} = 2$ and preserve an $SU(3)$ flavour group. The IR SCFT is holographically dual to an M-theory solution written by Corrado, Pilch and Warner (CPW) [3]. This geometry is a warped product, $AdS_4 \times_w S^7$, of four-dimensional anti-de Sitter (AdS) space and the seven-sphere, S^7 , supported by fluxes. The metric on S^7 is deformed from the usual, round, $SO(8)$ -invariant metric. Instead, it is ellipsoidally squashed and stretched along the Hopf fibre in such a way that only an $SU(3) \times U(1)$ symmetry is present, in agreement with the dual SCFT.

Perhaps less well-known is the fact that ABJM also admits *cubic* deformations in the $\mathcal{N} = 2$ chiral superfields that are still relevant [4]. In particular, a superpotential deformation by $(\mathcal{Z}^4)^3$ also generates an RG flow that has been similarly argued to lead the theory into a different new superconformal phase [4, 5]. The dual IR geometry has been described by Gabella, Martelli, Passias and Sparks (GMPS) [5] (see also [6]). Like the CPW solution, the GMPS geometry is also an $\mathcal{N} = 2$ warped product $\text{AdS}_4 \times_w S^7$ supported by fluxes, with the metric on the internal S^7 deformed as well from its usual $\text{SO}(8)$ -invariant round form by squashing and stretching the S^7 Hopf fibre. Accordingly, the symmetry and the supersymmetry of the GMPS configuration are also $\text{SU}(3) \times \text{U}(1)$ and $\mathcal{N} = 2$, again in agreement with the dual IR fixed point. Both the CPW and GMPS geometries in fact arise as particular solutions of the local analysis of [5], where the general $\mathcal{N} = 2$ configurations of M-theory containing an AdS_4 factor were classified.

Structurally, the holomorphic superpotential deformations of ABJM by a term of the schematic form

$$\Delta W = (\mathcal{Z}^4)^p, \quad (1.1)$$

with $p = 2$ or $p = 3$, are thus very similar, both from the field theory and from the gravity points of view. There is, however, a crucial difference: the existence in the former case of a related consistent truncation of $D = 11$ supergravity on S^7 [7] down to maximal supergravity in four dimensions with $\text{SO}(8)$ gauging [8]. The $\mathbf{35}_v$ scalars and $\mathbf{35}_c$ pseudoscalars of the $D = 4$ $\mathcal{N} = 8$ supergravity are holographically dual to the boson and fermion mass terms of the matter superfields of $\mathcal{N} = 8$ -enhanced ABJM, with respective relevant dimensions $\Delta = 1$ and $\Delta = 2$. These are precisely the type of deformations that (1.1) with $p = 2$ induces in the field theory Lagrangian, and this is in turn the reason why this deformation is amenable to analysis within $D = 4$ gauged supergravity. In contrast, the superpotential deformation (1.1) with $p = 3$ induces interaction terms in the field theory Lagrangian among operators of dimensions $\Delta = 2$ and $\Delta = \frac{5}{2}$ in the $\mathbf{294}_v$ and $\mathbf{224}_{cv}$ representations of $\text{SO}(8)$, respectively. In the bulk, these operators are dual to higher Kaluza-Klein (KK) modes, and there is no known $D = 4$ gauged supergravity that incorporates consistently their full non-linear interactions.

The existence of the $\mathcal{N} = 8$ consistent truncation [7] greatly facilitates the analysis of the $p = 2$ case over its $p = 3$ counterpart, both from the boundary and the bulk perspectives. Firstly, the fact that the CPW solution is known analytically while the GMPS one is only known numerically can certainly be put down to the additional insight that the consistent truncation brings in: from a purely $D = 11$ perspective, both solutions are described by the same system of complicated non-linear ordinary differential equations (ODEs) in one of the internal S^7 angles [5]. In fact, the $p = 2$ AdS solution and flow from ABJM were first found in the $D = 4$ gauged supergravity in [9] and [10, 11] (see also [12]), respectively, and then uplifted [3] to eleven dimensions.

Secondly, as we will see in this paper, notable differences occur in the determination of the spectrum of single-trace operators with conformal dimensions of order one for both IR SCFTs. Recall that this operator spectrum can be determined holographically by classifying the KK perturbations about the dual $\text{AdS}_4 \times_w S^7$ solutions. For the $p = 2$ CPW

background, various subsectors of the KK spectrum are known. An early computation of the KK spectra for fields of all spin $0 \leq s \leq 2$ within the slice of KK modes contained in $D = 4$ $\mathcal{N} = 8$ gauged supergravity was made in [13], using a combination of supergravity and group theory methods. Using similar group theory techniques, the KK modes with spin $0 \leq s \leq 2$ that lie in short representations of the supersymmetry superalgebra $\text{OSp}(4|2)$ of the background were determined in [14]. The entire spectrum of KK $s = 2$ gravitons was later computed in [15] (see also the more recent [16]). Also recently, the masses for all fields with $0 \leq s \leq 2$ in the first KK level have been computed [17].

In this paper, we provide steps towards the holographic determination of the spectrum of single-trace operators of dimension of order one for the $p = 3$ IR SCFT, and give complete results in specific subsectors focusing for simplicity on the spin-2 spectrum. More precisely, we determine numerically the complete spectrum of spin-2 operators. We also give analytically the spectrum of spin-2 operators that lie in short multiplets of $\text{OSp}(4|2)$. We do this by studying appropriate KK perturbations about the squashed, stretched, and warped solution of GMPS [5]. We also use group theory to propose an allocation of KK modes of all spin $0 \leq s \leq 2$ in $\text{OSp}(4|2)$ supermultiplets. A crucial difference with respect to the analogue group theory calculations of [13, 14] for the CPW solution is that the resulting $\text{OSp}(4|2)$ representations *do not* descend KK level by KK level from representations of the $\text{OSp}(4|8)$ superalgebra of $\mathcal{N} = 8$ ABJM. Instead, the states that furnish certain supermultiplets must be drawn from different KK levels of the $\mathcal{N} = 8$ phase. We refer to this phenomenon as *space invaders scenario*, borrowing the phrase from [18], where a similar phenomenon was observed for the KK spectrum on the squashed S^7 solution of [19]. The presence of space invader modes appears to be a feature of the KK spectrum of $\text{AdS}_4 \times S^7$ backgrounds, like GMPS [5] or the squashed S^7 of [19], that do not uplift from $D = 4$ $\mathcal{N} = 8$ $\text{SO}(8)$ -gauged supergravity.

Section 2 reviews the boundary and bulk sides of the ABJM deformation (1.1) with $p = 3$, while section 3 contains our main results: the complete numerical spectrum of KK gravitons (restricted for presentation reasons up to KK level $n = 3$) and some analytic results. The latter include the spectrum of gravitons that belong to short $\text{OSp}(4|2)$ supermultiplets, and a specific tower of gravitons that belong to long supermultiplets. Section 4 closes the main body of the paper with comments on the space invaders scenario. Two appendices on relevant group theory and on further speculation about space invasion complete the paper. Other results on KK graviton spectra in related contexts include [15, 16, 20–30].

2 A cubic superpotential deformation of $\mathcal{N} = 8$ ABJM

We start by reviewing some useful aspects of the field theories and their dual $\text{AdS}_4 \times_w S^7$ M-theory backgrounds.

2.1 Field theory side

The ABJM theory [1] is the superconformal $\text{U}(\text{N}) \times \text{U}(\text{N})$ Chern-Simons-matter gauge theory with $\mathcal{N} = 6$ supersymmetry describing the worldvolume of a stack of M2-branes on a $\mathbb{C}^4/\mathbb{Z}_k$ orbifold singularity. In $\mathcal{N} = 2$ superfield language, its field content comprises gauge

and chiral superfields. The gauge superfields $\mathcal{V}_b^a$ and $\hat{\mathcal{V}}_{\hat{b}}^{\hat{a}}$, with $a, \hat{a}$ labelling the fundamental of each $U(N)$ factor, are governed by a Chern-Simons action at levels k and $-k$ respectively. The matter superfields are $(\mathcal{Z}^A)_a^{\hat{a}}$ and $(\mathcal{W}_A)_{\hat{a}}^a$, with $A = 1, 2$, transforming in the $(\mathbf{N}, \bar{\mathbf{N}})$ and $(\bar{\mathbf{N}}, \mathbf{N})$ of the gauge group as well as in the fundamental of two global $SU(2)$'s. Apart from the standard kinetic term for the chiral matter, the theory also contains the quartic superpotential

$$W = \frac{2\pi}{k} \epsilon_{AC} \epsilon^{BD} \text{tr}(\mathcal{Z}^A \mathcal{W}_B \mathcal{Z}^C \mathcal{W}_D). \quad (2.1)$$

The theory is manifestly invariant under $U(1)_R \times SU(2) \times SU(2)$. However, for $k = 1, 2$, supersymmetry is expected to enhance to $\mathcal{N} = 8$, with the global symmetry correspondingly upgrading to a manifest $U(1)_R \times SU(4)$. To make the theory manifestly invariant under this larger group, t'Hooft monopole operators [31] must be used, see e.g. [32]. These operators, $(\mathcal{M}^q)_{\hat{a}_1, \dots, \hat{a}_q}^{a_1, \dots, a_q}$, carry q units of the baryonic $U(1)_b$ flux, with $U(1)_b \subset U(N) \times U(N)$ being the linear combination of $U(1)$'s orthogonal to the one corresponding to the centre of mass of the branes. With the help of these monopole operators, a new set of chiral superfields $\mathcal{Z}^I = (\mathcal{Z}^1, \mathcal{Z}^2, \mathcal{Z}^3, \mathcal{Z}^4)$ in the fundamental of $SU(4)$ and in the $(\mathbf{N}, \bar{\mathbf{N}})$ of the gauge group, can be introduced related to the original ABJM ones as

$$(\mathcal{Z}^3)_a^{\hat{a}} = (\mathcal{W}^1)_b^{\hat{b}} (\mathcal{M}^2)_{\hat{a}\hat{b}}^{ab}, \quad (\mathcal{Z}^4)_a^{\hat{a}} = (\mathcal{W}^2)_b^{\hat{b}} (\mathcal{M}^2)_{\hat{a}\hat{b}}^{ab}. \quad (2.2)$$

The $SU(4)$ -invariant [2, 33] superpotential can then be written as

$$W = \frac{4\pi}{k} (\mathcal{Z}^1)_a^{\hat{a}} (\mathcal{Z}^2)_b^{\hat{b}} (\mathcal{Z}^3)_c^{\hat{c}} (\mathcal{Z}^4)_d^{\hat{d}} \left[(\mathcal{M}^{-2})_{bc}^{\hat{a}\hat{c}} (\mathcal{M}^{-2})_{ad}^{\hat{b}\hat{d}} - (\mathcal{M}^{-2})_{bd}^{\hat{a}\hat{d}} (\mathcal{M}^{-2})_{ac}^{\hat{b}\hat{c}} \right]. \quad (2.3)$$

Although not manifestly, for $k = 1$ the supersymmetry of the model is increased to $\mathcal{N} = 8$ [33]. The supersymmetry superalgebra is therefore $OSp(4|8)$, and the R-symmetry group contained within the superalgebra is accordingly enhanced to $SO(8)$.

For $\mathcal{N} = 8$ ABJM, the superpotential (2.3) can be deformed by introducing an operator quadratic ($p = 2$ in the notation of the introduction) in one of the chirals [2], say $\mathcal{Z}^4$. This deformation obviously preserves the $SU(3) \subset SU(4) \subset SO(8)$ flavour group that rotates the remaining $\mathcal{Z}^A$, $A = 1, 2, 3$, and is manifestly $\mathcal{N} = 2$, with R-symmetry $U(1)_2 \subset SO(8)$. The subindex in $U(1)_2$ refers to $p = 2$. There is a large body of literature devoted to this case, some of which was reviewed in the introduction. Here, we will be more interested in the following deformation that is instead cubic in $\mathcal{Z}^4$,

$$\Delta W = \alpha (\mathcal{Z}^4)_a^{\hat{a}} (\mathcal{Z}^4)_b^{\hat{b}} (\mathcal{Z}^4)_c^{\hat{c}} (\mathcal{M}^{-3})_{abc}^{\hat{a}\hat{b}\hat{c}}, \quad (2.4)$$

where α is a coupling constant. This makes equation (1.1) with $p = 3$ more precise. Like $p = 2$, the $p = 3$ deformation (2.4) also preserves a flavour group $SU(3) \subset SU(4) \subset SO(8)$ acting on the remaining $\mathcal{Z}^A$, $A = 1, 2, 3$. The deformation (2.4) is also manifestly $\mathcal{N} = 2$. The IR R-charges of the chirals under the associated R-symmetry group $U(1)_3$ (the subindex now referring to $p = 3$) can be computed by requiring that the total superpotential, (2.3) plus (2.4), has R-charge two and that the free energy be extremal [34]. Assuming that the monopole operators are R-neutral, the result for these $U(1)_3$ IR R-charges is [4]

$$p = 3 : \quad R_1 \equiv R(\mathcal{Z}^A) = \frac{4}{9}, \quad A = 1, 2, 3, \quad R_2 \equiv R(\mathcal{Z}^4) = \frac{2}{3}, \quad (2.5)$$

see (A.4). In contrast the $p = 2$ quadratic deformation leads to $U(1)_2$ IR R-charges [4, 14]

$$p = 2 : \quad R_1 \equiv R(\mathcal{Z}^A) = \frac{1}{3}, \quad A = 1, 2, 3, \quad R_2 \equiv R(\mathcal{Z}^4) = 1. \quad (2.6)$$

The $SU(3)$ flavour group of both the $p = 2$ and $p = 3$ IR phases is the same subgroup of the $SO(8)$ R-symmetry of the ultraviolet (UV) $\mathcal{N} = 8$ ABJM theory: it is, in fact, the unique $SU(3) \subset SO(8)$. However, (2.6) and (2.5) show that the $U(1)_p$ R-symmetry groups for $p = 2$ and $p = 3$ are different $U(1)$ subgroups of $SO(8)$: they are different $U(1)$ combinations of the $U(1) \times U(1)$ that commutes with $SU(3)$ inside $SO(8)$: see appendix A. The full (super)symmetry of these IR SCFTs is thus $OSp(4|2)_p \times SU(3)$, with $U(1)_p \subset OSp(4|2)_p$, where we have attached a subscript $p = 2$ or $p = 3$ to signify that they are different (super)groups.

It is also useful to look at the deformation at the level of the Lagrangian. Using the conventional expression for the Lagrangian that derives from a superpotential (see e.g. (3.2) of [35]), the effect of the deformation (2.4) on top of (2.3) is to augment the ABJM Lagrangian with the following schematic interaction terms:

$$\Delta\mathcal{L} = \frac{1}{2}|\alpha|^2 (Z^4)^2 (\bar{Z}_4)^2 + \frac{1}{2}\alpha \chi^4 \chi^4 Z^4 + h.c., \quad (2.7)$$

where the contractions occur with monopole operators, which we have suppressed to avoid cluttering. Here, Z^I , χ^I , $I = 1, \dots, 4$, are the scalar and fermion components of the superfield $\mathcal{Z}^I$. In real notation, Z^I and χ^I respectively transform in the $\mathbf{8}_v$ and $\mathbf{8}_c$ of the $SO(8)$ R-symmetry group of $\mathcal{N} = 8$ ABJM. Accordingly, the operators in (2.7) are singlets under $SU(3) \times U(1)_3 \subset SO(8)$ that respectively branch from the $\mathbf{294}_v$ and $\mathbf{224}_{cv}$ representations of $SO(8)$. These operators have relevant dimension $\Delta = 2$ and $\Delta = \frac{5}{2}$, and thus do indeed generate RG flow as expected. In the $p = 2$ case, the ABJM Lagrangian is instead deformed with terms $Z^4 \bar{Z}_4$ and $\chi^4 \chi^4 + h.c.$ corresponding, up to terms in the ABJM analogue of the $\mathcal{N} = 4$ super-Yang-Mills Konishi operator, to mass terms for Z^4 and χ^4 . These mass terms have canonical dimension, $\Delta = 1$ and $\Delta = 2$, and are $SU(3) \times U(1)_2$ singlets respectively branching from the $\mathbf{35}_v$ and $\mathbf{35}_c$ of $SO(8)$.

2.2 Gravity side

The operators that deform the $\mathcal{N} = 8$ ABJM Lagrangian in the $p = 2$ case are dual to $SU(3) \times U(1)_2$ -invariant scalar and pseudoscalar KK modes that branch from the $\mathbf{35}_v$ and $\mathbf{35}_c$ representations of $SO(8)$, respectively. Both these modes arise at KK level $n = 0$ in the spectrum of the $\mathcal{N} = 8$ $AdS_4 \times S^7$ Freund-Rubin (FR) solution of $D = 11$ supergravity, dual to $\mathcal{N} = 8$ ABJM: see [18] for a review and table 2 of [14] for a convenient summary. As is well-known, a consistent truncation of $D = 11$ supergravity on S^7 exists [7] that retains all $n = 0$ KK modes and reconstructs their full non-linear interactions. The resulting $D = 4$ supergravity is $\mathcal{N} = 8$ and has gauge group $SO(8)$ [8]. In contrast, the operators in (2.7) that trigger the $p = 3$ RG flow are dual to the $SU(3) \times U(1)_3$ -invariant scalar and pseudoscalar KK modes discussed above, which arise at KK levels $n = 2$ and $n = 1$. There

is no known consistent truncation, maximally supersymmetric or otherwise, that retains these modes.¹

For this reason, unlike $p = 2$, the geometry dual to the $p = 3$ IR SCFT must be engineered directly in $D = 11$. The general class of M-theory solutions involving $\mathcal{N} = 2$ supersymmetry and an AdS_4 factor was analysed in [5]. What we are referring to here as the $p = 3$ GMPS geometry is a particular solution to their formalism which the authors of [5] discuss in detail. The $p = 2$ CPW geometry [3] can also be recovered [5] as a different solution in the same class. The local form of the family of geometries that encompasses both specific solutions is [5]

$$ds_{11}^2 = e^{2\Delta} \left(\frac{1}{4} ds^2(\text{AdS}_4) + ds_7^2 \right), \quad G_{(4)} = \frac{m}{16} \text{vol}(\text{AdS}_4) + F_{(4)}, \quad (2.8)$$

with AdS_4 of radius $L = 1$ and m a constant. The seven-dimensional internal metric takes on the local form

$$ds_7^2 = \frac{f \cdot \alpha}{4\sqrt{1+(1+r^2)\alpha^2}} ds^2(\mathbb{CP}_2) + \frac{\alpha^2}{16} \left[dr^2 + \frac{r^2 f^2}{1+r^2} (d\tilde{\tau} + \sigma)^2 \right. \\ \left. + \frac{1+r^2}{1+(1+r^2)\alpha^2} \left(d\tilde{\psi} + \frac{f}{1+r^2} (d\tilde{\tau} + \sigma) \right)^2 \right], \quad (2.9)$$

in terms of coordinates $r, \tilde{\psi}, \tilde{\tau}$. The line element $ds^2(\mathbb{CP}_2)$ corresponds to the Fubini-Study metric on the complex projective plane, normalised so that the Ricci tensor equals six times the metric, and σ is a local one-form potential for the Kähler form J on $\mathbb{CP}_2$, normalised as $d\sigma = 2J$. Finally, α and f are functions of the coordinate r only, the former simply a rewrite of the warp factor:

$$e^{6\Delta} \equiv \left(\frac{m}{6} \right)^2 (1 + r^2 + \alpha^{-2}). \quad (2.10)$$

These functions are subject to the following system of non-linear differential equations:

$$\frac{f'}{f} = -\frac{1}{2} r \alpha^2, \quad \frac{(r\alpha' - r^2\alpha^3)f}{\sqrt{1+(1+r^2)\alpha^2}} = -3, \quad (2.11)$$

where a prime denotes derivative with respect to r . The vectors $\partial_{\tilde{\psi}}$ and $\partial_{\tilde{\tau}}$ are Killing, and the isometry of the metric (2.9) is manifestly $\text{SU}(3) \times \text{U}(1) \times \text{U}(1)$. The former vector defines the local $\mathcal{N} = 2$ Reeb direction corresponding to the $\text{U}(1)_p$ R-symmetry, and the latter is broken by the internal four-form $F_{(4)}$, which we will not need to specify. The internal symmetry of the full $D = 11$ configuration (2.8) is thus $\text{SU}(3) \times \text{U}(1)_p$.

Each solution f and α to the system of ODEs (2.11) gives rise to an $\mathcal{N} = 2$ solution to the equations of motion of $D = 11$ supergravity of the form (2.8)–(2.10). The two solutions,

¹Some consistent truncations are known [36–38] that retain modes up the KK towers, but not the required ones. For example, the $\mathcal{N} = 2$ truncation of [36] keeps $\text{SU}(4)_s$ -invariant scalar and pseudoscalar modes from KK level $n = 2$, dual to irrelevant operators.

GMPS and CPW, of interest here correspond to specific choices of f and α subject to the boundary conditions

$$\begin{aligned} f &\xrightarrow{r \rightarrow 0} \frac{3p}{p-1}, & \alpha &\xrightarrow{r \rightarrow 0} w r^{-1+1/p}, & \text{with } w > 0, \\ f &\xrightarrow{r \rightarrow r_0} \frac{2\sqrt{1+r_0^2}}{r_0}(r_0-r), & \alpha &\xrightarrow{r \rightarrow r_0} \sqrt{\frac{2}{r_0(r_0-r)}}, \end{aligned} \quad (2.12)$$

for $p = 2$ or $p = 3$. For these choices, the local geometry (2.9) extends globally over S^7 . The coordinate r is globally defined and ranges in $0 \leq r \leq r_0$ for a solution-dependent constant r_0 . The coordinates $\tilde{\psi}$ and $\tilde{\tau}$ are only defined locally, but can be related to globally defined angles ψ and τ of period 2π via the transformation²

$$\psi = \frac{1}{p} \tilde{\psi}, \quad \tau = \tilde{\tau} + \frac{1}{3} \left(1 - \frac{1}{p}\right) \tilde{\psi} \quad (2.13)$$

for $p = 2$ or $p = 3$. The global coordinates ψ and τ are the angles on the Hopf fibres of S^7 and on the S^5 inside S^7 . In terms of the globally-defined angles, the $\mathcal{N} = 2$ Reeb vector is

$$R = \frac{4(p-1)}{3p} \partial_\tau + \frac{4}{p} \partial_\psi \equiv 4 \partial_{\tilde{\psi}}. \quad (2.14)$$

The analytical $p = 2$ CPW solution [3] is recovered for [5]

$$f = 6 \left(1 - \frac{r}{r_0}\right), \quad \alpha = \sqrt{\frac{2}{r(r_0-r)}}, \quad r_0 = 2\sqrt{2}. \quad (2.15)$$

The $p = 3$ GMPS solution is only known numerically [5]. We re-derive it here following [5] in order to calibrate our numerics. The equations (2.11) can be combined into a single non-linear ODE for f ,

$$\frac{1}{9} f (R\ddot{f} - 5\dot{f}) + \frac{1}{3} R \dot{f}^2 = \sqrt{-\dot{f} (6R^5 f - 4\dot{f} (1 + R^6))}, \quad (2.16)$$

in terms of a convenient new independent variable

$$R = r^{1/3}. \quad (2.17)$$

In (2.16), a dot denotes derivative with respect to R . An approximate solution to equation (2.16) can be found by expanding in Taylor series about³ $R = 0$:

$$f(R) = \frac{9}{2} - cR^2 - \frac{c^2}{9} R^4 + \frac{(2187 - 128c^3)}{3888} R^6 + \frac{(19683c - 1264c^4)}{104976} R^8 + \mathcal{O}(R^{10}), \quad (2.18)$$

²In the notation of [5], $\tilde{\psi}_{\text{here}} = \psi_{\text{there}}$, $\tilde{\tau}_{\text{here}} = \tau_{\text{there}}$ and $\psi_{\text{here}} = \varphi_{0,\text{there}}$ and $\tau_{\text{here}} = \varphi_{\text{there}}$ up to orientation, as one can check for the case $p = 2$ combining (4.10) of [39] and (3.25) of [40].

³We note a discrepancy between (2.18) and (4.63) in [5] in the coefficient of the R^8 term. We thank the anonymous referee for confirming that he agrees with (2.18).

Figure 1. Comparison between the numerically obtained functions f and α for the GMPS solution and their respective polynomial, (2.18), and rational, (2.19), approximations.

with c an integration constant. Using (2.18), the function α derives from (2.11) as

$$\alpha^2(R) \approx \frac{4(177147R^4 + 26244c(3R^6 - 4) - 23328c^2R^2 - 10368c^3R^4 - 5056c^4R^6)}{3R^4(1264c^4R^8 + 3456c^3R^6 + 11664c^2R^4 - 6561c(3R^6 - 16)R^2 - 59049(R^6 + 8))}. \quad (2.19)$$

The approximate analytical solutions (2.18), (2.19) can now be used to kick off a numerical integration of the system of ODEs (2.11). Imposing the right asymptotic behaviour near $R = R_0$, given by (2.12) with $p = 3$ through (2.17), the integration constant c and the upper limit r_0 for the variable r become fixed to

$$c \approx 2.4998, \quad R_0 \approx 1.1585 \quad \Longleftrightarrow \quad r_0 \approx 1.555. \quad (2.20)$$

Interestingly, the approximate solutions (2.18), (2.19) found close to $R = 0$ fit the numerically integrated functions very well across the entire range $0 \leq R \leq R_0$ for the value of c in (2.20): see figure 1.

3 Spectrum of massive gravitons on the GMPS solution

The spectrum of massive KK gravitons about the CPW solution [3] was determined analytically in [15]. Here, we pose the analogue boundary value problem for the GMPS solution [5] in section 3.1, and then turn to solve it numerically in section 3.2. The numerical integration can be systematised using the group theory of appendix A, and the *complete* graviton spectrum can be found. We do this in section 3.3, where we present the complete spectrum up to KK level $n = 3$. Section 3.4 contains analytic results on the short graviton spectrum and on a specific type of long $\text{OSp}(4|2)$ supermultiplets. Finally, the analysis of the graviton spectrum is used in section 3.5 to show that the GMPS metric does not descend from the flat Euclidean metric on $\mathbb{R}^8$.

3.1 Boundary value problem

Consider the line element

$$d\hat{s}_{11}^2 = e^{2A} \left[(\bar{g}_{\mu\nu}(x) + h_{\mu\nu}(x, y)) dx^\mu dx^\nu + d\bar{s}_7^2(y) \right], \quad (3.1)$$

where we have rescaled for convenience the warp factor and internal metric as

$$e^{2A} = \frac{1}{4} e^{2\Delta}, \quad d\bar{s}_7^2 = 4 ds_7^2, \quad (3.2)$$

with respect to (2.10) and (2.9). We fix the functions f and α appearing in the internal squashed and stretched metric on S^7 and warp factor to those corresponding to the $p = 3$ GMPS solution [5] as reviewed in section 2.2. The external metric in (3.1) contains $\bar{g}_{\mu\nu}(x) dx^\mu dx^\nu \equiv ds^2(\text{AdS}_4)$ as well as a spin-2 perturbation $h_{\mu\nu}(x, y)$. The latter is assumed to take on the factorised form

$$h_{\mu\nu}(x, y) = h_{\mu\nu}^{[tt]}(x) \mathcal{Y}(y), \quad (3.3)$$

with $\mathcal{Y}(y)$ a function on S^7 only, and $h_{\mu\nu}^{[tt]}$ transverse ($\bar{\nabla}^\mu h_{\mu\nu}^{[tt]} = 0$) with respect to the Levi-Civita connection corresponding to $\bar{g}_{\mu\nu}$, traceless ($\bar{g}^{\mu\nu} h_{\mu\nu}^{[tt]} = 0$), and subject to the Fierz-Pauli equation

$$\bar{\square} h_{\mu\nu}^{[tt]} = (L^2 M^2 - 2) h_{\mu\nu}^{[tt]}, \quad (3.4)$$

for a graviton of squared mass M^2 . Here, L is the effective AdS_4 radius introduced in our context by the warping $e^{2A(y)}$. The combination $L^2 M^2$ is dimensionless.

Under these assumptions, the KK graviton mass operator associated to (3.1) reads [20]

$$\mathcal{L} = -\frac{e^{-9A}}{\sqrt{\bar{g}_7}} \partial_m (e^{9A} \sqrt{\bar{g}_7} \bar{g}^{mn} \partial_n), \quad m, n = 1, \dots, 7, \quad (3.5)$$

with $\bar{g}_7$ and $\bar{g}^{mn}$ the determinant and inverse of the internal metric $d\bar{s}_7^2$ in (3.2). Using the expressions (2.9), (2.10), with the former written in terms of the global coordinates (2.13) for $p = 3$, the mass operator (3.5) becomes

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L} = & -\frac{4}{r\alpha^2 f^3} \partial_r \left[r f^3 \partial_r \right] - \frac{\sqrt{1 + (1 + r^2)\alpha^2}}{f \cdot \alpha} \square_{S^5} \\ & - \frac{4}{9} \left(1 + \frac{1}{r^2 \alpha^2} \right) \partial_\psi^2 - \frac{8}{3} \left[\frac{2}{9} \left(1 + \frac{1}{r^2 \alpha^2} \right) - \frac{1}{r^2 \alpha^2 f} \right] \partial_\psi \partial_\tau \\ & - \left[-\frac{\sqrt{1 + (1 + r^2)\alpha^2}}{f \cdot \alpha} + \frac{16}{81} \left(1 + \frac{1}{r^2 \alpha^2} \right) + \frac{4(1 + r^2)}{r^2 \alpha^2 f^2} - \frac{16}{9r^2 \alpha^2 f} \right] \partial_\tau^2. \end{aligned} \quad (3.6)$$

Here, $\square_{S^5}$ is the Laplacian on the round, unit radius S^5 . With a graviton perturbation of the form (3.3) subject to the field equation (3.4), the linearised Einstein equation satisfied by (3.1) becomes an eigenvalue problem for the mass operator (3.6):

$$\mathcal{L} \mathcal{Y} = L^2 M^2 \mathcal{Y}. \quad (3.7)$$

At this point, we can exploit the $SU(3) \times U(1)_\tau \times U(1)_\psi$ isometry of the metric (2.9) and expand the $\mathcal{L}$ -eigenfunction $\mathcal{Y}$ as

$$\mathcal{Y} = \sum_{\ell, m, j} \xi_{\ell, m, j}(r) Y_{\ell, m}(z, \bar{z}, \tau) e^{ij\psi}. \quad (3.8)$$

Here, $\xi_{\ell, m, j}(r)$ is a function of r only and $Y_{\ell, m}(z, \bar{z}, \tau)$ are the S^5 spherical harmonics (with definite $U(1)_\tau$ charge)

$$\square_{S^5} Y_{\ell, m} = -\ell(\ell + 4) Y_{\ell, m}, \quad \partial_\tau Y_{\ell, m} = im Y_{\ell, m}. \quad (3.9)$$

The quantum numbers in (3.8) and (3.9) range as

$$\ell = 0, 1, 2, \dots, \quad m = -\ell, -\ell + 2, \dots, \ell - 2, \ell, \quad j = 0, \pm 1, \pm 2, \dots \quad (3.10)$$

(note that i in (3.8) and (3.9) is the imaginary unit). The partial differential equation (3.7) thus reduces to the following Sturm-Liouville problem in $\xi_{\ell, m, j}(r)$ where, to avoid cluttering, we omit the quantum number subscripts on ξ :

$$\begin{aligned} L^2 M^2 \xi = & -\frac{4}{r\alpha^2 f^3} \frac{d}{dr} \left[r f^3 \frac{d\xi}{dr} \right] + \frac{\sqrt{1 + (1 + r^2)\alpha^2}}{f \cdot \alpha} \ell(\ell + 4) \xi \\ & + \frac{4}{9} \left(1 + \frac{1}{r^2 \alpha^2} \right) j^2 \xi + \frac{8}{3} \left[\frac{2}{9} \left(1 + \frac{1}{r^2 \alpha^2} \right) - \frac{1}{r^2 \alpha^2 f} \right] j m \xi \\ & + \left[-\frac{\sqrt{1 + (1 + r^2)\alpha^2}}{f \cdot \alpha} + \frac{16}{81} \left(1 + \frac{1}{r^2 \alpha^2} \right) + \frac{4(1 + r^2)}{r^2 \alpha^2 f^2} - \frac{16}{9r^2 \alpha^2 f} \right] m^2 \xi. \end{aligned} \quad (3.11)$$

The normalisable spin-2 modes correspond to the solutions of this ODE such that [20, 21]

$$\int_0^{r_0} dr r \alpha^2 f^3 |\xi|^2 < \infty, \quad (3.12)$$

supplemented with the fall-offs (2.12) with $p = 3$ for the metric functions.

3.2 Numerics

Solving the ODE (3.11) on the GMPS background entails a non-trivial numerical integration over a numerical background. We have nevertheless managed to obtain the *complete* graviton spectrum, as we will show in section 3.3. In this section, we set up our numerics.

We start by conveniently rewriting the ODE (3.11) in terms of the variable R defined in (2.17), whereby it becomes

$$\ddot{\xi} - \left(\frac{9}{2} R^5 \alpha^2 - R^{-1} \right) \dot{\xi} + \left(\frac{9}{4} L^2 M^2 R^4 \alpha^2 + A j^2 + B \ell(\ell + 4) + C m^2 + D j m \right) \xi = 0. \quad (3.13)$$

Here we have defined

$$\begin{aligned} A &\equiv -(R^4 \alpha^2 + R^{-2}), \\ B &\equiv -\frac{9}{4} R^4 \alpha f^{-1} \sqrt{1 + (1 + R^6) \alpha^2}, \\ C &\equiv \frac{9}{4} R^4 \alpha f^{-1} \sqrt{1 + (1 + R^6) \alpha^2} - \frac{4}{9} (R^4 \alpha^2 + R^{-2}) - 9 R^{-2} (1 + R^6) f^{-2} + 4 R^{-2} f^{-1}, \\ D &\equiv -\frac{4}{3} (R^4 \alpha^2 + R^{-2}) + 6 R^{-2} f^{-1}. \end{aligned} \quad (3.14)$$

Next, we obtain asymptotic forms of the normalisable solution to (3.13) close to each endpoint, $R = 0$ and $R = R_0$, of the domain of R . Near $R = 0$, the asymptotic form of (3.13) implied by (2.18) and (2.19) depends on whether the quantum number j is zero or not. For $j \neq 0$, the ODE (3.13) close to $R = 0$ takes on the form

$$\ddot{\xi} + \frac{1}{R}\dot{\xi} - \frac{j^2}{R^2}\xi = 0, \quad (3.15)$$

where the term in the eigenvalue $L^2 M^2$ drops out as it is subleading. The ODE (3.15) has solutions

$$\xi = aR^j + bR^{-j}, \quad (3.16)$$

with a, b constants. Compatibility with the normalisability condition (3.12) requires $a = 0$ for $j < 0$ and $b = 0$ for $j > 0$. When $j = 0$, (3.13) close to $R = 0$ reduces instead to

$$\ddot{\xi} + \frac{1}{R}\dot{\xi} + \left(\frac{2c}{3}L^2 M^2 - \frac{4c}{27}\ell(\ell+4) + \frac{4c}{243}m^2 \right) \xi = 0, \quad (3.17)$$

with the constant c given in (2.20). The solutions of (3.17) are now

$$\xi = aJ_0 \left(\sqrt{\frac{2c}{3}L^2 M^2 - \frac{4c}{27}\ell(\ell+4) + \frac{4c}{243}m^2} R \right) + bY_0 \left(\sqrt{\frac{2c}{3}L^2 M^2 - \frac{4c}{27}\ell(\ell+4) + \frac{4c}{243}m^2} R \right), \quad (3.18)$$

with a, b again integration constants and J_0 and Y_0 Bessel functions. In this case, normalisability, (3.12), requires $b = 0$.

Near $R = R_0$, with R_0 specified in (2.20), the asymptotic form turns out to depend on the quantum number ℓ . For $\ell = 0$, (3.13) close to $R = R_0$ becomes

$$\ddot{\xi} - \frac{3}{R_0 - R}\dot{\xi} + \frac{1}{R_0(R_0 - R)} \left(\frac{3}{2}L^2 M^2 - \frac{2}{3}j^2 \right) \xi = 0. \quad (3.19)$$

This has solutions

$$\xi = \frac{u}{R_0 - R} I_2 \left(\sqrt{\frac{2}{3} \frac{(4j^2 - 9L^2 M^2)(R_0 - R)}{R_0}} \right) + \frac{v}{R_0 - R} K_2 \left(\sqrt{\frac{2}{3} \frac{(4j^2 - 9L^2 M^2)(R_0 - R)}{R_0}} \right), \quad (3.20)$$

where u, v are constants and I_2 and K_2 modified Bessel functions. If $\ell \neq 0$, then (3.13) close to $R = R_0$ can be approximated to

$$\ddot{\xi} - \frac{3}{R_0 - R}\dot{\xi} - \frac{1}{4(R_0 - R)^2} \ell(\ell+4) \xi = 0, \quad (3.21)$$

which has solutions

$$\xi = u(R_0 - R)^{\ell/2} + v(R_0 - R)^{-(\ell+4)/2}. \quad (3.22)$$

In this case, normalisability requires $v = 0$ in both (3.20) and (3.22).

Now, the above asymptotic functions near $R = 0$ and $R = R_0$ can be used as seeds for the numerical integration of the ODE (3.13). Following [21], we have performed the

Figure 2. Wronskian W in (3.23) of the numerical functions $\xi_\lambda^L(R)$ and $\xi_\lambda^R(R)$ at $R = R_0/2$ for $\ell = m = 0$ and various values of j . The masses in table 1 correspond to the zeroes of W . The masses lying in short multiplets are marked with red dots (see section 3.4).

$k \setminus j$	0	1	2	3
0	0.00	2.44	5.78	9.99
1	5.92	10.00	14.86	20.54
2	14.94	20.57	26.94	34.11
3	27.03	34.13	42.05	50.71

Table 1. KK graviton masses $L^2 M_{k,j,\ell=0,m=0}^2$ on the GMPS background for a few values of the quantum numbers k and j , at $\ell = m = 0$, as obtained from figure 2. The KK tower with $k = 0$ corresponds to short gravitons (see section 3.4).

integration starting from both ends of the R interval, in terms of a parameter λ that labels the possible dimensionless squared masses. Denoting the functions obtained, for each λ , by integrating from the left and from the right as $\xi_\lambda^L(R)$ and $\xi_\lambda^R(R)$, the valid solutions to (3.13) can only arise for the specific values of λ for which both $\xi_\lambda^L(R)$ and $\xi_\lambda^R(R)$ are linearly dependent. This requires that the Wronskian,

$$W(\lambda, R) = \xi_\lambda^L(R) \dot{\xi}_\lambda^R(R) - \xi_\lambda^R(R) \dot{\xi}_\lambda^L(R), \quad (3.23)$$

Figure 3. Numerical eigenfunctions for the modes with masses in table 1.

vanishes for all R in its range. We choose, without loss of generality, to evaluate (3.23) at the midpoint of the interval in order to minimise the accumulated numerical error of each solution, $\xi_\lambda^L(R)$ and $\xi_\lambda^R(R)$. Plotting $W(\lambda, \frac{R_0}{2})$ as a function of λ at fixed value of the quantum numbers j, ℓ and m , the physical masses occur at the zeroes of this function: see for example figure 2 for the $\ell = m = 0$ case. The zeroes turn out to form an infinite discrete set, which we label by a non-negative integer $k = 0, 1, 2, \dots$ (the first zero corresponding to $k = 0$). We have tabulated a few results in table 1. Finally, the eigenfunctions can be plotted numerically: see figure 3 for a few examples.

3.3 The complete numerical KK graviton spectrum

Repeating the process outlined in section 3.2 for other values of the quantum numbers j, ℓ and m , we find other discrete series of graviton masses in the KK spectrum, labelled by a non-negative integer k . This procedure can be systematised using group theory by exploiting the fact that the GMPS geometry extends globally over S^7 . In this way, we are able to find the complete KK graviton spectrum.

For the $\mathcal{N} = 8$ FR solution $\text{AdS}_4 \times S^7$, with S^7 equipped with the round metric, the gravitons at KK level $n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$ belong to the symmetric traceless $[n, 0, 0, 0]$ representation of $\text{SO}(8)$. For the squashed, stretched and warped GMPS solution $\text{AdS}_4 \times_w S^7$, the gravitons must instead arrange themselves in $\text{SU}(3) \times \text{U}(1)_3$ representations $[p, q]_{r_3}$, with r_3 labelling the $\text{U}(1)_3$ R-charge. Since GMPS arises as an IR fixed point of an RG flow that originates upon relevant deformation of the $\mathcal{N} = 8$ phase, the quantum numbers p, q and r_3 must be related to the $\text{SO}(8)$ KK level n by branching of $[n, 0, 0, 0]$ under

$$\text{SO}(8) \supset \text{SU}(3) \times \text{U}(1)_3. \quad (3.24)$$

Specifically, we find (see appendix A)

$$[n, 0, 0, 0] \xrightarrow{\text{SU}(3) \times \text{U}(1)_3} \bigoplus_{\ell=0}^n \bigoplus_{t=0}^{n-\ell} \bigoplus_{p=0}^{\ell} [p, \ell - p]_{-R_1(\ell-2p)+R_2(n-\ell-2t)}, \quad (3.25)$$

where R_1 and R_2 are the IR R-charges (2.5) (or (2.6) for CPW) of the coordinates transverse to the M2-branes. Group theory arguments also allow us to translate between the set of quantum numbers (k, j, ℓ, m) used in section 3.2, with the quantum numbers (n, ℓ, p, t) adapted to the branching (3.25):

$$n = 2k + |j| + \ell, \quad m = 2p - \ell, \quad j = n - \ell - 2t, \quad (3.26)$$

with ℓ here and in section 3.2 identified. Finally, it can be checked that the quantum numbers (n, ℓ, p, t) that characterise the KK graviton spectrum range as

$$n = 0, 1, \dots, \quad \ell = 0, 1, \dots, n, \quad t = 0, 1, \dots, n - \ell, \quad p = 0, 1, \dots, \ell, \quad (3.27)$$

in agreement with the branching (3.25).

Integrating numerically the ODE (3.13) as explained in section 3.2, but now systematically using the quantum numbers (3.27), we are guaranteed to sweep over the complete mass spectrum. The eigenfunctions, and thus the schematic form of the dual operators, can be similarly inferred from the branching (3.25). Table 2 summarises our results up to $\text{SO}(8)$ KK level $n = 3$.

3.4 Analytic results: short and shadow gravitons

In the previous section, we arranged the GMPS graviton spectrum in representations of the $\text{SU}(3) \times \text{U}(1)_3$ residual bosonic symmetry of the background. This geometry also preserves $\mathcal{N} = 2$ supersymmetry, so the graviton spectrum must organise itself into representations of the full (super)symmetry group $\text{OSp}(4|2) \times \text{SU}(3)$ (with the $\text{U}(1)_3$ R-symmetry contained in the $\text{OSp}(4|2)$ factor). Recall that there are three types of $\text{OSp}(4|2)$ multiplets that contain states up to spin $s = 2$: massless, short and long. See e.g. tables 8, 9 and 10 of [14] for a summary of their state contents.

From table 2 we see that we obtain, as expected, a massless graviton which is an $\text{SU}(3) \times \text{U}(1)_3$ singlet. In addition to the $D = 4$ metric and gravitini, the $\mathcal{N} = 2$ massless graviton multiplet contains a vector. A fully non-linear consistent truncation on GMPS [40]

n	$[p, \ell - p]_{\frac{4}{9}(2p-\ell) + \frac{2}{3}(n-\ell-2t)}$	$d_{p, \ell-p}$	$L^2 M_{n, \ell, t, p}^2$	$\Delta_{n, \ell, t, p}$	Dual operator	Short?
0	$[0, 0]_0$	1	0	3	$\mathcal{T}_{\alpha\beta}^{(0)} _{s=2}$	✓
1	$[0, 0]_{\pm \frac{2}{3}}$	1	$\frac{22}{9}$	$\frac{11}{3}$	$\mathcal{T}_{\alpha\beta}^{(0)} \mathcal{Z}^4 _{s=2}, \text{ c.c.}$	✓
	$[1, 0]_{\frac{4}{9}}, [0, 1]_{-\frac{4}{9}}$	3	1.76	3.50	$\mathcal{T}_{\alpha\beta}^{(0)} \mathcal{Z}^a _{s=2}, \text{ c.c.}$	
2	$[0, 0]_{\pm \frac{4}{3}}$	1	$\frac{52}{9}$	$\frac{13}{3}$	$\mathcal{T}_{\alpha\beta}^{(0)} (\mathcal{Z}^4)^2 _{s=2}, \text{ c.c.}$	✓
	$[1, 0]_{-\frac{2}{9}}, [0, 1]_{\frac{2}{9}}$	3	4.68	4.13	$\mathcal{T}_{\alpha\beta}^{(0)} \mathcal{Z}^a \bar{\mathcal{Z}}_4 _{s=2}, \text{ c.c.}$	
	$[2, 0]_{\frac{8}{9}}, [0, 2]_{-\frac{8}{9}}$	6	3.88	3.97	$\mathcal{T}_{\alpha\beta}^{(0)} \mathcal{Z}^a \mathcal{Z}^b _{s=2}, \text{ c.c.}$	
	$[1, 0]_{\frac{10}{9}}, [0, 1]_{-\frac{10}{9}}$	3	5.07	4.21	$\mathcal{T}_{\alpha\beta}^{(0)} \mathcal{Z}^a \mathcal{Z}^4 _{s=2}, \text{ c.c.}$	
	$[0, 0]_0$	1	5.92	4.36	$\mathcal{T}_{\alpha\beta}^{(0)} (1 - 4a^2 \mathcal{Z}^4 \bar{\mathcal{Z}}_4 + b \mathcal{Z}^a \bar{\mathcal{Z}}_a) _{s=2}$	
	$[1, 1]_0$	8	4	4	$\mathcal{T}_{\alpha\beta}^{(0)} (\mathcal{Z}^a \bar{\mathcal{Z}}_b - \frac{1}{3} \delta_b^a \mathcal{Z}^c \bar{\mathcal{Z}}_c) _{s=2}$	
3	$[0, 0]_{\pm 2}$	1	10	5	$\mathcal{T}_{\alpha\beta}^{(0)} (\mathcal{Z}^4)^3 _{s=2}, \text{ c.c.}$	✓
	$[1, 0]_{-\frac{8}{9}}, [0, 1]_{\frac{8}{9}}$	3	8.48	4.77	$\mathcal{T}_{\alpha\beta}^{(0)} \mathcal{Z}^a (\bar{\mathcal{Z}}_4)^2 _{s=2}, \text{ c.c.}$	
	$[2, 0]_{\frac{2}{9}}, [0, 2]_{-\frac{2}{9}}$	6	7.27	4.59	$\mathcal{T}_{\alpha\beta}^{(0)} \mathcal{Z}^a \mathcal{Z}^b (\bar{\mathcal{Z}}_4) _{s=2}, \text{ c.c.}$	
	$[3, 0]_{\frac{4}{3}}, [0, 3]_{-\frac{4}{3}}$	10	6.36	4.43	$\mathcal{T}_{\alpha\beta}^{(0)} \mathcal{Z}^a \mathcal{Z}^b \mathcal{Z}^c _{s=2}, \text{ c.c.}$	
	$[0, 0]_{\pm \frac{2}{3}}$	1	10.00	5.00	$\mathcal{T}_{\alpha\beta}^{(0)} (2 - 5a^2 \mathcal{Z}^4 \bar{\mathcal{Z}}_4 + b \mathcal{Z}^c \bar{\mathcal{Z}}_c) \mathcal{Z}^4 _{s=2}, \text{ c.c.}$	
	$[1, 0]_{\frac{16}{9}}, [0, 1]_{-\frac{16}{9}}$	3	9.28	4.90	$\mathcal{T}_{\alpha\beta}^{(0)} \mathcal{Z}^a (\mathcal{Z}^4)^2 _{s=2}, \text{ c.c.}$	
	$[1, 0]_{\frac{4}{9}}, [0, 1]_{-\frac{4}{9}}$	3	9.08	4.87	$\mathcal{T}_{\alpha\beta}^{(0)} \mathcal{Z}^a (1 - 5a^2 \mathcal{Z}^4 \bar{\mathcal{Z}}_4 + b \mathcal{Z}^c \bar{\mathcal{Z}}_c) _{s=2}, \text{ c.c.}$	
	$[1, 1]_{\pm \frac{2}{3}}$	8	$\frac{70}{9}$	$\frac{14}{3}$	$\mathcal{T}_{\alpha\beta}^{(0)} (\mathcal{Z}^a \bar{\mathcal{Z}}_b - \frac{1}{3} \delta_b^a \mathcal{Z}^c \bar{\mathcal{Z}}_c) \mathcal{Z}^4 _{s=2}, \text{ c.c.}$	
	$[2, 0]_{\frac{14}{9}}, [0, 2]_{-\frac{14}{9}}$	6	8.02	4.70	$\mathcal{T}_{\alpha\beta}^{(0)} \mathcal{Z}^a \mathcal{Z}^b \mathcal{Z}^4 _{s=2}, \text{ c.c.}$	
	$[2, 1]_{\frac{4}{9}}, [1, 2]_{-\frac{4}{9}}$	15	6.60	4.48	$\mathcal{T}_{\alpha\beta}^{(0)} (\mathcal{Z}^a \mathcal{Z}^b \bar{\mathcal{Z}}_c - \delta_c^{(a} \mathcal{Z}^b) \mathcal{Z}^d \bar{\mathcal{Z}}_d) _{s=2}, \text{ c.c.}$	

Table 2. The complete KK graviton spectrum on the GMPS solution up to KK level $n = 3$. For each state, the $\text{SU}(3) \times \text{U}(1)_3$ representation where it belongs is shown, along with its degeneracy $d_{p, \ell-p}$, mass $L^2 M_{n, \ell, t, p}^2$, and conformal dimension $\Delta_{n, \ell, t, p}$. The schematic form of the dual operator is shown, with $\mathcal{T}_{\alpha\beta}^{(0)}$ denoting the IR SCFT stress-energy operator. Masses that correspond to short multiplets (ticked in the last column) and *shadow* long multiplets have been given analytically: see section 3.4.

(and on CPW [39, 40]) beyond the linearised analysis presented here exists to this $D = 4$ field content. This is in agreement with the general statements of [41, 42].

Inspection of our numerical results also allows us to detect analytically a tower of short gravitons. We indeed observe that, for every n , our numerical eigenvalues for the states with $\text{SU}(3) \times \text{U}(1)_3$ quantum numbers $[0, 0]_{\pm R_2 n}$, with R_2 given by the R-charge of $\mathcal{Z}^4$ in (2.5), are very well approximated by the analytic expression

$$L^2 M_n^2 = R_2 n (R_2 n + 3). \quad (3.28)$$

These states are thus short, since their conformal dimensions

$$\Delta_n = R_2 n + 3, \quad (3.29)$$

which arise from (3.28) as the larger solution to the equation

$$\Delta(\Delta - 3) = M^2 L^2, \quad (3.30)$$

are locked in terms of their R-symmetry charges

$$R_n = \pm R_2 n \quad (3.31)$$

through the relation

$$\Delta_n = |R_n| + 3. \quad (3.32)$$

For these states, the numerically obtained value of the masses has been replaced in table 2 with the analytic value (3.28).

From the branching (3.25), the short graviton multiplets can be seen to correspond to bound states of the energy-momentum superfield and the operator $\mathcal{Z}^4$ that is integrated out in the IR. Schematically,

$$\mathcal{T}_{\alpha\beta}^{(0)} (\mathcal{Z}^4)^n, \quad n = 0, 1, 2, \dots, \quad (3.33)$$

where $n = 0$ corresponds to the massless graviton. Curiously, for the CPW geometry, the operators (3.33) are also short [15]. Their physical properties remain as in (3.28)–(3.32) with R_2 still given by the R-charge of $\mathcal{Z}^4$, which now takes on the value (2.6). The group theory result (3.33) is in agreement with our numerics, and in fact allows us to obtain the corresponding eigenfunctions analytically. The eigenfunction of (3.7) with (3.6), dual to the operator (3.33), is given by

$$\mathcal{Y}_j = (\xi_1)^j e^{ij\psi}, \quad (3.34)$$

in terms of $\xi_1(r)$, which is the r -dependent function $\xi_{\ell,m,j}(r)$ in (3.8) with $j = 1$, $\ell = m = 0$ and $k = 0$ so that $n = 1$ via (3.26). The subscript in $\xi_1(r)$ refers to the fact that this function corresponds to an SU(3) singlet: the SU(3) singlet at KK level $n = 1$ in table 2. Inserting the eigenfunction $\xi_1(r)$ and its analytic eigenvalue (3.28) into (3.11) with the above choice of quantum numbers, the ODE (3.11) reduces to

$$(\xi'_1)^2 = \frac{1}{9r^2} \xi_1^2. \quad (3.35)$$

This equation can be analytically solved as

$$\xi_1 = r^{1/3} \equiv R, \quad (3.36)$$

in exact agreement with our numerical integration, see figure 4. A similar analysis for CPW leads to $\xi_1 = r^{1/2}$.

Our numerics strongly suggest that all other gravitons belong to long multiplets, with masses $M^2 L^2$ leading to conformal dimensions Δ through (3.30) that are above the bound (3.32), $\Delta > |R| + 3$. Group theory allows us to determine the structure of the dual operators as reported in table 2, but in general we can only access the mass eigenvalues numerically. There is an exception: for a certain series of long gravitons starting at SO(8)

Figure 4. Comparison between the numerical result for the $k = \ell = m = 0$ wavefunctions with $j = 1, 2, 3$, corresponding to short states, and the expected analytical result: the modulus of (3.34) with (3.36).

KK level $n = 2$, we can determine the masses analytically and relate the corresponding eigenfunctions to precise metric functions. These modes have $SU(3) \times U(1)_3$ charges $[1, 1]_{\pm R_2(n-2)}$, with R_2 again given in (2.5), and are dual to operators of the schematic form

$$\mathcal{T}_{\alpha\beta}^{(0)} \left(\mathcal{Z}^A \bar{\mathcal{Z}}_B - \frac{1}{3} \delta_B^A \mathcal{Z}^C \bar{\mathcal{Z}}_C \right) (\mathcal{Z}^4)^{n-2}, \quad n = 2, 3, \dots \quad (3.37)$$

In [15] it was observed that the analogue tower of modes for CPW has dimensions

$$\Delta_n = (n - 2)R_2 + 4 \quad (3.38)$$

(with R_2 accordingly given in (2.6) above). The authors of [15] suggested that this apparent protection of the conformal dimensions in terms of the R-charges for these modes occurs, despite being long, because they are *shadows* [43] of the massless vector at KK level $n = 0$, which lies in the $\mathbf{8}_0$ of $SU(3) \times U(1)_2$.

Our numerical routine described in section 3.2 finds a massive KK graviton over GMPS with quantum numbers $\ell = 2$, $k = j = m = 0$ and mass that can be very well approximated by the analytic value $L^2 M^2 = 4$. In terms of the quantum numbers (3.27) associated to the branching (3.25), this state is attained at KK level $n = 2$ with quantum numbers $\ell = 2$, $p = 1$, $t = 0$. From (3.30), the conformal dimension of this state is $\Delta = 4$, which agrees with (3.38) for $n = 2$. This suggests that this state lies at the bottom of a tower of shadow gravitons with dual operators (3.37) and conformal dimensions (3.38), exactly as for CPW but now with R_2 given by (2.5). Our numerical integration confirms this expectation. We do find numerically a tower of masses that can be very well approximated by the analytic expression

$$L^2 M_n^2 = ((n - 2)R_2 + 4)((n - 2)R_2 + 1), \quad n = 2, 3, \dots \quad (3.39)$$

with R_2 as in (2.5). These masses indeed correspond to the conformal dimension (3.38) through (3.30).

For these shadow gravitons we can also relate their eigenfunctions to a precise metric function. The eigenfunctions (3.8) corresponding to this tower of states can be written as

$$\mathcal{Y}_j = \xi_8 r^{j/3} Y_{2,0} e^{ij\psi}, \quad j = 0, 1, \dots, \quad (3.40)$$

Figure 5. (a): Wronskian at $R = R_0/2$ of the functions $\xi_\lambda^L(R)$ and $\xi_\lambda^R(R)$ corresponding to shadow solutions with $\ell = 2$, $m = j = 0$. A blue dot signals the expected mass of a shadow octet state. (b): wavefunction $\xi_8(R)$ for the lightest shadow mode with $\ell = 2$, $m = j = 0$. The agreement of the numerical result ξ_8 with the background function af is excellent, with the proportionality constant a fixed to $a = 2/9$.

where $\xi_8(r)$ is the r -dependent part of the eigenfunction of the lightest state in the tower, with $\ell = 2$, $k = j = m = 0$. The subscript in $\xi_8(r)$ refers to the fact this function corresponds to an SU(3) octet: the SU(3) octet, $[1, 1]$, at KK level $n = 2$ in table 2. In (3.40) we have assumed that the $(\mathcal{Z}^4)^j$ contributions in (3.37) amount to factors of $(r^{1/3}e^{i\psi})^j$ in the eigenfunction by virtue of (3.34), (3.36). The function ξ_8 satisfies the ODE (3.11) for all j and with the other quantum numbers suitably fixed, with mass eigenvalue (3.39) with n there related to j and $\ell = 2$ through (3.26). This discrete, j -dependent set of ODEs can be shown to be equivalent to the following set of two ODEs:

$$\xi_8 + \frac{2}{r\alpha^2}\xi_8' = 0, \quad \xi_8 - \frac{3\sqrt{1+(1+r^2)\alpha^2}}{f \cdot \alpha}\xi_8 + \frac{1}{r\alpha^2 f^3}(rf^3\xi_8')' = 0. \quad (3.41)$$

Now, the first ODE in (3.41) is the same as the first of the ODEs in (2.11) that characterise the background geometry. We thus conclude that ξ_8 is proportional to the metric function f . Having used this proportionality, it can then be shown that the second ODE in (3.41) can be deduced from (2.11). The complete set of eigenfunctions for the tower of long shadow multiplets is thus given by (3.40) with $\xi_8 \propto f$. See figure 5. We have verified that $\xi_8 \propto f$ also holds for the CPW case, with f now given analytically in (2.15).

3.5 GMPS is not isometrically embedded in $\mathbb{R}^8$

For all other long gravitons on the GMPS background, we do not have an argument to fix analytically their mass eigenvalues from our numerical results. Still, for the triplet, $[1, 0]_{R_1}$, of long gravitons at KK level $n = 1$ we may ask whether the corresponding eigenfunction is $\xi_3 \propto \sqrt{f}$. This suspicion is based on the previous observation that $\xi_8 \propto f$, and that the radial part of the octet eigenfunction should be quadratically related to that of the triplet, in agreement with the group theory branching (3.25). Figure 6 shows that this is indeed the correct picture, as our numerically integrated ξ_3 perfectly matches $\sqrt{f}$ up to

Figure 6. The radial wavefunction $\xi_3(R)$ of the triplet of long gravitons at KK level $n = 1$. The numerically integrated result is matched by $\sqrt{f}$ up to a proportionality constant $a = 2/9$, but not by the expression that would be expected if the S^7 constraint (3.42) held.

a numerical constant. Using the analytic expression (2.15), it is straightforward to check that $\xi_3 \propto \sqrt{f}$ also holds for the CPW solution.

It is also easy to verify for the CPW solution that the triplet, ξ_3 , and singlet, ξ_1 , radial eigenfunctions at KK level $n = 1$ are related through the quadratic constraint that realises S^7 as a geometric locus in $\mathbb{R}^8$:

$$\bar{Z}_C Z^C + \bar{Z}_4 Z^4 = 1. \quad (3.42)$$

Somewhat surprisingly, this relation does not hold for GMPS, as we will now show building on our results from section 3.4. To see this, let us assume (3.42) and reach a contradiction. Equation (3.42) implies

$$\xi_3 \propto \sqrt{1 - \xi_1^2} \quad (3.43)$$

by identifying the modulus of Z^4 with ξ_1 and that of Z^C with ξ_3 . Using $\xi_1 = (r/r_0)^{1/3}$ as follows from a constant rescaling of (3.36), $\xi_3 \propto \sqrt{f}$ as verified in figure 6, and $\xi_8 \propto \xi_3^2 \propto f$ as shown in figure 5, we conclude from (3.43) that

$$\xi_8 \propto 1 - \left(\frac{r}{r_0}\right)^{2/3} \quad (3.44)$$

for the octet at level $n = 2$. Using (3.41), we finally manage to obtain the following explicit expression for the α metric function:

$$\alpha^2 = \frac{4}{3r^2 \left[\left(\frac{r}{r_0}\right)^{-2/3} - 1 \right]}. \quad (3.45)$$

Remarkably, this expression obeys the correct asymptotics (2.12). Unfortunately, the function α in (3.45) does not satisfy the second ODE in (2.11) for any value of r_0 and thus cannot be the correct GMPS metric function. In contrast, for CPW the same logic starting from (3.42) allows one to recover the correct α in (2.15). The failure of the argument

for GMPS leads us to abandon the hypothesis that (3.42) should hold in the latter case. Equations (3.43)–(3.45) for GMPS are false, as must be the original assumption (3.42). Indeed, figure 6 manifestly shows that (3.43) as derived from the S^7 constraint (3.42) does not reproduce our numerical result for ξ_3 , not even including a proportionality constant.

From this discussion, we infer that the GMPS geometry is defined on a topological S^7 that, however, fails to satisfy the relation (3.42) and thus is not embedded isometrically in $\mathbb{R}^8$. Another example of an $\text{AdS}_4 \times S^7$ solution for which (3.42) does not hold is provided by the squashed S^7 of [19]. This has consequences for the general KK spectrum, as we now turn to discuss.

4 Space invaders scenario

We would like to conclude with some comments about the full KK spectrum over the GMPS solution [5]. It is certainly beyond the scope of this work to compute the full spectrum. Instead, we will content ourselves with drawing some conclusions from group theory about its structure, as similarly done in [14] for the CPW solution [3]. The main observation is that the KK spectrum displays a *space invaders scenario* similar to that described in [18] for the KK spectrum on the squashed S^7 solution [19].

As remarked in section 3.4, the full (super)symmetry group of the GMPS solution is $\text{OSp}(4|2) \times \text{SU}(3)$, and the KK spectrum must accordingly organise itself in representations of this (super)group. See appendix A of [14] for a convenient summary of $\text{OSp}(4|2)$ multiplets. In section 3.4, we branched the $\text{SO}(8)$ KK graviton representation $G_n \equiv [n, 0, 0, 0]$ at KK level n under the internal bosonic symmetry group decomposition (3.24) to find the $\text{SU}(3) \times \text{U}(1)_3$ graviton charges at each KK level. In appendix A, we have performed this exercise starting from all other $\text{SO}(8)$ towers for every KK level n :

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{graviton : } & G_n \equiv [n, 0, 0, 0], \\
 \text{gravitini : } & \mathcal{G}_n \equiv [n, 0, 0, 1] \oplus [n - 1, 0, 1, 0], \\
 \text{vectors : } & V_n \equiv [n, 1, 0, 0] \oplus [n - 1, 0, 1, 1] \oplus [n - 2, 1, 0, 0], \\
 \text{fermions : } & \mathcal{F}_n \equiv [n + 1, 0, 1, 0] \oplus [n - 1, 1, 1, 0] \oplus [n - 2, 1, 0, 1] \oplus [n - 2, 0, 0, 1], \\
 \text{scalars : } & S_n^+ \equiv [n + 2, 0, 0, 0] \oplus [n - 2, 2, 0, 0] \oplus [n - 2, 0, 0, 0], \\
 \text{pseudoscalars : } & S_n^- \equiv [n, 0, 2, 0] \oplus [n - 2, 0, 0, 2],
 \end{aligned} \tag{4.1}$$

where only representations with non-negative Dynkin labels contribute at level n . Branching the $\text{SO}(8)$ representations (4.1) under (3.24) as in appendix A, we determine how the full KK spectrum arranges itself in terms of $\text{SU}(3) \times \text{U}(1)_3$ representations.

The next step is to allocate fields of different spin but the same $\text{SU}(3)$ charges into $\text{OSp}(4|2)$ multiplets. For CPW [3] this exercise was carried out in [14], and crucially relies on the assignment of R-charges (2.6). Under the assumption that the allocation into supermultiplets should take place KK level by KK level, group theory alone was found to narrow down the possible spectrum of (short) multiplets to two possibilities dubbed scenarios I and II in [14]. Both scenarios differ by the embedding of the $\text{U}(1)_2$ IR isometry

Spin	SO(8)	SU(3) × U(1) ₃											
2	1	1 ₀											
$\frac{3}{2}$	8_s	1 ₊₁ 1 ₋₁	3 _{$\frac{1}{9}$} 3 _{$\frac{10}{9}$}	$\bar{3}$ _{$-\frac{1}{9}$} $\bar{3}$ _{$-\frac{10}{9}$}									
1	28	1 ₀	3 _{$-\frac{8}{9}$} 3 _{$\frac{10}{9}$}	$\bar{3}$ _{$\frac{8}{9}$} $\bar{3}$ _{$-\frac{10}{9}$}	8 ₀	3 _{$-\frac{2}{9}$}	$\bar{3}$ _{$\frac{2}{9}$}	1 ₀
	3 _{$-\frac{8}{9}$}	$\bar{3}$ _{$\frac{8}{9}$}									
$\frac{1}{2}$	56_s		3 _{$\frac{1}{9}$} 3 _{$\frac{1}{9}$}	$\bar{3}$ _{$-\frac{1}{9}$} $\bar{3}$ _{$-\frac{1}{9}$}	8 ₊₁ 8 ₋₁	3 _{$\frac{7}{9}$} 3 _{$-\frac{11}{9}$}	$\bar{3}$ _{$-\frac{7}{9}$} $\bar{3}$ _{$\frac{11}{9}$}	1 ₊₁ 1 ₋₁	6 _{$-\frac{1}{9}$}	$\bar{6}$ _{$\frac{1}{9}$}	1 _{$\frac{1}{3}$}	1 _{$-\frac{1}{3}$}
	3 _{$-\frac{17}{9}$}	$\bar{3}$ _{$\frac{17}{9}$}		3 _{$\frac{7}{9}$}	$\bar{3}$ _{$-\frac{7}{9}$}	1 ₊₁ 1 ₋₁					3 _{$\frac{1}{9}$} $\bar{3}$ _{$-\frac{1}{9}$}
0	35_v				8 ₀	3 _{$-\frac{2}{9}$}	$\bar{3}$ _{$\frac{2}{9}$}	1 ₀	6 _{$\frac{8}{9}$}	$\bar{6}$ _{$-\frac{8}{9}$}	1 _{$\frac{4}{3}$}	1 _{$-\frac{4}{3}$}	3 _{$\frac{10}{9}$} $\bar{3}$ _{$-\frac{10}{9}$}
	35_c		3 _{$-\frac{8}{9}$}	$\bar{3}$ _{$\frac{8}{9}$}	8 ₀	3 _{$-\frac{2}{9}$}	$\bar{3}$ _{$\frac{2}{9}$}	1 ₀	6 _{$-\frac{10}{9}$}	$\bar{6}$ _{$\frac{10}{9}$}	1 _{$-\frac{2}{3}$}	1 _{$\frac{2}{3}$}
	3 _{$\frac{16}{9}$}	$\bar{3}$ _{$-\frac{16}{9}$}	1 ₀ 1 ₊₂ 1 ₋₂					3 _{$-\frac{8}{9}$} , $\bar{3}$ _{$\frac{8}{9}$} 3 _{$-\frac{8}{9}$} , $\bar{3}$ _{$\frac{8}{9}$} 3 _{$-\frac{2}{9}$} , $\bar{3}$ _{$\frac{2}{9}$} 1 ₀
		Massless graviton	Short gravitino	Short gravitino	Massless vector	Short vector	Short vector	Long vector	Massive hyper	Massive hyper	Massive hyper	Massive hyper	Eaten modes

Table 3. Possible branching of the $\mathcal{N} = 8$ massless graviton multiplet into $\text{Osp}(4|2) \times \text{SU}(3)$ representations. The symbol denotes space invader states coming from KK level $n = 1$. See table 4 in appendix B.1 for a summary.

into $\text{SO}(8)$, and are related by a triality rotation [24]. The actual calculation of the KK graviton spectrum [15] confirmed scenario I as the correct choice.

Going through the same exercise for the GMPS solution [5] we find that we need to relax the assumption that the allocation of $\text{SU}(3) \times \text{U}(1)_3$ states into $\text{OSp}(4|2)$ multiplets should proceed KK level by KK level. Otherwise, the problem has no solution starting from the R-charge assignment (2.5), and that is not an option. Instead, states entering the same $\text{OSp}(4|2)$ multiplet must be retrieved from different $\text{SO}(8)$ KK levels n . For example, states from higher KK levels are needed to complete Short Gravitino multiplets in the $[1, 0]_{\frac{1}{9}}$ and $[1, 0]_{-\frac{1}{9}}$ and a Long Vector in the $[0, 0]_0$, whose states come mostly from $n = 0$. Table 3 shows a possible distribution of the $n = 0$ states into $\text{OSp}(4|2)$ multiplets that

assumes that all needed space invaders descend from KK level $n = 1$. Group theory is not enough to determine whether this or another invasion pattern is the correct one, though. Appendix B further speculates about this and other invasion patterns.

The other example we are aware of where a similar space invaders scenario occurs [18] is the $D = 11$ AdS₄ solution based on the squashed S^7 of [19]. Some features are common to GMPS and the squashed S^7 that lead to the existence of a space invaders scenario for their KK spectra. Firstly, neither of them arises as a vacuum of a consistently truncated $D = 4$ $\mathcal{N} = 8$ supergravity. Secondly, while both solutions are defined on a topological S^7 , their metrics cannot be isometrically embedded in $\mathbb{R}^8$ via (3.42). The squashed S^7 metric is instead embedded in the quaternionic projective space $\mathbb{HP}^2$ [18]. It would be interesting to determine if, similarly, GMPS could be embedded into the complex projective space $\mathbb{CP}^4$ by appropriately embedding the isometry group $SU(3)$. A notable difference between the squashed S^7 and GMPS is that the former is homogeneous while the latter is cohomogeneity-one. This feature allowed the authors of [44] to compute the complete KK spectrum on the squashed S^7 using techniques relevant to homogeneous spaces, which are obviously unavailable for GMPS. The spectrum generating technique of [17] (see also [16]) is not readily available either, as it relies on the existence of an $\mathcal{N} = 8$ consistent truncation. It would be interesting to investigate if some modification of these techniques allows for the computation of the complete KK spectrum over the GMPS solution.

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A Embedding $SU(3) \times U(1)_p$ into $SO(8)$

The internal bosonic symmetry group $SU(3) \times U(1)_p$, with $p = 2$ for CPW and $p = 3$ for GMPS, is embedded into $SO(8)$ via

$$SO(8) \supset SO(6)_v \times SO(2) \supset [SU(3) \times U(1)] \times SO(2) \supset SU(3) \times U(1)_p. \quad (\text{A.1})$$

Under the first two steps in the branching (A.1), the three basic irreps of $SO(8)$ split as

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{8}_v &\longrightarrow \mathbf{6}_0 + \mathbf{1}_1 + \mathbf{1}_{-1} \longrightarrow \mathbf{3}_{(-\frac{2}{3}, 0)} + \bar{\mathbf{3}}_{(\frac{2}{3}, 0)} + \mathbf{1}_{(0, +1)} + \mathbf{1}_{(0, -1)}, \\ \mathbf{8}_s &\longrightarrow \mathbf{4}_{\frac{1}{2}} + \bar{\mathbf{4}}_{-\frac{1}{2}} \longrightarrow \mathbf{3}_{(\frac{1}{3}, \frac{1}{2})} + \bar{\mathbf{3}}_{(-\frac{1}{3}, -\frac{1}{2})} + \mathbf{1}_{(-1, \frac{1}{2})} + \mathbf{1}_{(+1, -\frac{1}{2})}, \\ \mathbf{8}_c &\longrightarrow \mathbf{4}_{-\frac{1}{2}} + \bar{\mathbf{4}}_{\frac{1}{2}} \longrightarrow \mathbf{3}_{(\frac{1}{3}, -\frac{1}{2})} + \bar{\mathbf{3}}_{(-\frac{1}{3}, \frac{1}{2})} + \mathbf{1}_{(-1, -\frac{1}{2})} + \mathbf{1}_{(+1, \frac{1}{2})}. \end{aligned} \quad (\text{A.2})$$

The IR R-symmetry group $U(1)_p$ is the combination of the $U(1)$ that commutes with $SU(3)$ inside $SO(6)_v$ and the $SO(2)$ that commutes with $SO(6)_v$ inside $SO(8)$ which leads to the allocation of R-charges (2.5) for $p = 3$ and (2.6) for $p = 2$. Assigning the transverse M2-brane coordinates to the $\mathbf{8}_v$, we thus require that, under the third and final step in the branching (A.1),

$$\mathbf{8}_v \longrightarrow \mathbf{3}_{R_1} + \bar{\mathbf{3}}_{-R_1} + \mathbf{1}_{R_2} + \mathbf{1}_{-R_2}, \quad (\text{A.3})$$

with

$$R_1 = \frac{2p-2}{3p}, \quad R_2 = \frac{2}{p}. \quad (\text{A.4})$$

For completeness, we note that

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{8}_s &\longrightarrow \mathbf{3}_{\frac{1}{2}(-R_1+R_2)} + \bar{\mathbf{3}}_{\frac{1}{2}(R_1-R_2)} + \mathbf{1}_{\frac{1}{2}(3R_1+R_2)} + \mathbf{1}_{-\frac{1}{2}(3R_1+R_2)}, \\ \mathbf{8}_c &\longrightarrow \mathbf{3}_{-\frac{1}{2}(R_1+R_2)} + \bar{\mathbf{3}}_{\frac{1}{2}(R_1+R_2)} + \mathbf{1}_{\frac{1}{2}(3R_1-R_2)} + \mathbf{1}_{\frac{1}{2}(-3R_1+R_2)}. \end{aligned} \quad (\text{A.5})$$

Taking tensor products and (anti)symmetrisations of (A.3), (A.5), an arduous calculation allows us to find the branching under $SU(3) \times U(1)_p$ of the $SO(8)$ representations (4.1) that characterise the KK spectrum at the $\mathcal{N} = 8$ point. We obtain⁴

$$G_n = [n, 0, 0, 0] \xrightarrow{SU(3) \times U(1)_R} \bigoplus_{\ell=0}^n \bigoplus_{t=0}^{n-\ell} \bigoplus_{p=0}^{\ell} [p, \ell-p]_{-R_1(\ell-2p)+R_2(n-\ell-2t)}, \quad (\text{A.6})$$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{G}_n &= [n, 0, 0, 1] \oplus [n-1, 0, 1, 0] \\ &\xrightarrow{SU(3) \times U(1)_R} \\ &\bigoplus_{\ell=0}^n \bigoplus_{t=0}^{n-\ell} \bigoplus_{p=0}^{\ell} \bigoplus_{k=0}^1 \bigoplus_{a=0}^{1-k} \bigoplus_{b=0}^k [p+1-k-a, \ell-p+k-b]_{-R_1(\ell-2p-k-2a+2b+\frac{1}{2})} \\ &\quad + R_2(n-\ell-2t-k+\frac{1}{2}) \\ &\oplus \bigoplus_{\ell=0}^{n-1} \bigoplus_{t=0}^{n-1-\ell} \bigoplus_{p=0}^{\ell} \bigoplus_{k=0}^1 \bigoplus_{a=0}^{1-k} \bigoplus_{b=0}^k [p+1-k-a, \ell-p+k-b]_{-R_1(\ell-2p-k-2a+2b+\frac{1}{2})} \\ &\quad + R_2(n-\ell-2t+k-\frac{3}{2}) \end{aligned} \quad (\text{A.7})$$

$$\begin{aligned} V_n &= [n, 1, 0, 0] \oplus [n-1, 0, 1, 1] \oplus [n-2, 1, 0, 0] \\ &\xrightarrow{SU(3) \times U(1)_R} \\ &\bigoplus_{\ell=0}^n \bigoplus_{t=0}^{n-\ell} \bigoplus_{p=0}^{\ell} \bigoplus_{a,b=0}^1 [p+a, \ell-p+b]_{-R_1(\ell-2p+2a-2b)} \\ &\quad + R_2(n-\ell-2t) \\ &\oplus \bigoplus_{\ell=0}^n \bigoplus_{t=0}^{n-\ell} \bigoplus_{p=0}^{\ell+1} \bigoplus_{k=0}^1 [p, \ell-p+1]_{-R_1(\ell-2p+1)} \\ &\quad + R_2(n-\ell-2t-2k+1) \oplus \bigoplus_{\ell=0}^n [0, 0]_{R_2(n-2\ell)} \\ &\oplus \bigoplus_{\ell=0}^{n-1} \bigoplus_{t=0}^{n-1-\ell} \bigoplus_{p=0}^{\ell} \bigoplus_{a,b=0}^1 \bigoplus_{c=0}^{2-a-b} \bigoplus_{d=0}^{a+b} [p+c, \ell-p+d]_{-R_1(\ell-2p+3a+3b+2c-2d-3)} \\ &\quad + R_2(n-\ell-2t+a-b-1) \end{aligned}$$

⁴In (A.6)–(A.11) we have renamed $SU(3) \times U(1)_p$ as $SU(3) \times U(1)_R$ in order to avoid confusion with the Dynkin label p .

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \bigoplus_{\ell=0}^{n-1} \bigoplus_{t=0}^{n-1-\ell} \bigoplus_{p=0}^{\ell+1} [p, \ell-p+1]_{-R_1(\ell-2p+1)}^{+R_2(n-\ell-2t-1)} \\
 & \bigoplus_{\ell=0}^{n-2} \bigoplus_{t=0}^{n-2-\ell} \bigoplus_{p=0}^{\ell} \bigoplus_{a,b=0}^1 [p+a, \ell-p+b]_{-R_1(\ell-2p+2a-2b)}^{+R_2(n-\ell-2t-2)} \\
 & \bigoplus_{\ell=0}^{n-2} \bigoplus_{t=0}^{n-2-\ell} \bigoplus_{p=0}^{\ell+1} \bigoplus_{k=0}^1 [p, \ell-p+1]_{-R_1(\ell-2p+1)}^{+R_2(n-\ell-2t-2k-1)} \bigoplus_{\ell=0}^{n-2} [0, 0]_{R_2(n-2\ell-2)}, \quad (A.8)
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\mathcal{F}_n = [n+1, 0, 1, 0] \oplus [n-1, 1, 1, 0] \oplus [n-2, 1, 0, 1] \oplus [n-2, 0, 0, 1]$$

$$\xrightarrow{\text{SU}(3) \times \text{U}(1)_{\text{R}}}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \bigoplus_{\ell=0}^{n+1} \bigoplus_{t=0}^{n+1-\ell} \bigoplus_{p=0}^{\ell} \bigoplus_{k=0}^1 \bigoplus_{a=0}^{1-k} \bigoplus_{b=0}^k [p+1-k-a, \ell-p+k-b]_{-R_1(\ell-2p-k-2a+2b+\frac{1}{2})}^{+R_2(n-\ell-2t+k+\frac{1}{2})} \\
 & \bigoplus_{\ell=0}^{n-1} \bigoplus_{t=0}^{n-1-\ell} \bigoplus_{q=0}^1 \bigoplus_{p=0}^{\ell} \bigoplus_{a=0}^{q+1} \bigoplus_{b=0}^{2-q} [p+a, \ell-p+b]_{-R_1(\ell-2p-3q+2a-2b+\frac{3}{2})}^{+R_2(n-\ell-2t-q-\frac{1}{2})} \\
 & \bigoplus_{\ell=0}^{n-1} \bigoplus_{t=0}^{n-1-\ell} \bigoplus_{k,q=0}^1 \bigoplus_{p=0}^{\ell+1} \bigoplus_{a=0}^q \bigoplus_{b=0}^{1-q} [p+a, \ell+1-p+b]_{-R_1(\ell-2p-3q+2a-2b+\frac{5}{2})}^{+R_2(n-\ell-2t-2k-q+\frac{1}{2})} \\
 & \bigoplus_{\ell=0}^{n-1} \bigoplus_{q=0}^1 \bigoplus_{a=0}^q \bigoplus_{b=0}^{1-q} [a, b]_{-R_1(\frac{3}{2}-3q+2a-2b)+R_2(n-2\ell-q-\frac{1}{2})} \\
 & \bigoplus_{\ell=0}^{n-2} \bigoplus_{t=0}^{n-2-\ell} \bigoplus_{q=0}^1 \bigoplus_{p=0}^{\ell} \bigoplus_{a=0}^{q+1} \bigoplus_{b=0}^{2-q} [p+a, \ell-p+b]_{-R_1(\ell-2p-3q+2a-2b+\frac{3}{2})}^{+R_2(n-\ell-2t+q-\frac{5}{2})} \\
 & \bigoplus_{\ell=0}^{n-2} \bigoplus_{t=0}^{n-2-\ell} \bigoplus_{k,q=0}^1 \bigoplus_{p=0}^{\ell+1} \bigoplus_{a=0}^q \bigoplus_{b=0}^{1-q} [p+a, \ell+1-p+b]_{-R_1(\ell-2p-3q+2a-2b+\frac{5}{2})}^{+R_2(n-\ell-2t+2k+q-\frac{7}{2})} \\
 & \bigoplus_{\ell=0}^{n-2} \bigoplus_{q=0}^1 \bigoplus_{a=0}^q \bigoplus_{b=0}^{1-q} [a, b]_{-R_1(\frac{3}{2}-3q+2a-2b)+R_2(n-2\ell+q-\frac{5}{2})} \\
 & \bigoplus_{\ell=0}^{n-2} \bigoplus_{t=0}^{n-2-\ell} \bigoplus_{p=0}^{\ell} \bigoplus_{k=0}^1 \bigoplus_{a=0}^{1-k} \bigoplus_{b=0}^k [p+1-k-a, \ell-p+k-b]_{-R_1(\ell-2p-k-2a+2b+\frac{1}{2})}^{+R_2(n-\ell-2t-k-\frac{3}{2})}, \quad (A.9)
 \end{aligned}$$

$$S_n^+ = [n+2, 0, 0, 0] \oplus [n-2, 2, 0, 0] \oplus [n-2, 0, 0, 0]$$

$$\xrightarrow{\text{SU}(3) \times \text{U}(1)_{\text{R}}}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \bigoplus_{\ell=0}^{n+2} \bigoplus_{t=0}^{n+2-\ell} \bigoplus_{p=0}^{\ell} [p, \ell-p]_{-R_1(\ell-2p)+R_2(n-\ell-2t+2)} \\
 & \bigoplus_{\ell} \bigoplus_{t=0}^{n-2} \bigoplus_{q=0}^{n-2-\ell} \bigoplus_{k=0}^2 \bigoplus_{p=0}^{q} \bigoplus_{a,b=0}^{\ell+q} [p+a, \ell+q-p+b]_{-R_1(\ell+q-2p+2a-2b)}^{+R_2(n-\ell-2t+q-2k-2)}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \oplus \bigoplus_{\ell=0}^{n-2} \bigoplus_{k=0}^1 \bigoplus_{a,b=0}^k [a, b]_{-2R_1(a-b) + R_2(n-2\ell-2)} \oplus \bigoplus_{\ell=0}^{n-2} \bigoplus_{k,p=0}^1 [p, 1-p]_{-R_1(1-2p) + R_2(n-2\ell-2k-1)} \\
 & \oplus \bigoplus_{\ell=0}^{n-2} \bigoplus_{t=0}^{n-2-\ell} \bigoplus_{p=0}^{\ell} [p, \ell-p]_{-R_1(\ell-2p) + R_2(n-\ell-2t-2)}, \tag{A.10}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 S_n^- &= [n, 0, 2, 0] \oplus [n-2, 0, 0, 2] \\
 & \xrightarrow{\text{SU}(3) \times \text{U}(1)_R} \\
 & \bigoplus_{\ell=0}^n \bigoplus_{t=0}^{n-\ell} \bigoplus_{k=0}^2 \bigoplus_{p=0}^{\ell} \bigoplus_{a=0}^{2-k} \bigoplus_{b=0}^k [p+a, \ell-p+b]_{-R_1(\ell-2p+3k+2a-2b-3) + R_2(n-\ell-2t+k-1)} \\
 & \oplus \bigoplus_{\ell=0}^{n-2} \bigoplus_{t=0}^{n-2-\ell} \bigoplus_{k=0}^2 \bigoplus_{p=0}^{\ell} \bigoplus_{a=0}^{2-k} \bigoplus_{b=0}^k [p+a, \ell-p+b]_{-R_1(\ell-2p+3k+2a-2b-3) + R_2(n-\ell-2t-k-1)}. \tag{A.11}
 \end{aligned}$$

B Possible space invasion patterns

Group theory alone is not enough to determine the precise structure of the full KK spectrum of GMPS, once the assumption that the arrangement into $\text{OSp}(4|2)$ supermultiplets should occur KK level by KK level is abandoned. Space invaders can be drawn from higher KK levels in multiple ways that are still compatible with group theory. In this appendix, we go through a couple of these possibilities. Short of computing the actual spectrum, the present analysis remains inconclusive about the precise invasion pattern that is realised in the spectrum. The possible invasion patterns discussed below have been determined using the group theory branchings of appendix A.

B.1 Space invaders at level n drawn from level $n+1$

At KK level n , it typically happens that all the $\text{SU}(3) \times \text{U}(1)_3$ states at that level can be allocated into $\text{OSp}(4|2)$ multiplets, but these states are not enough to fill out these multiplets entirely. States in the same $\text{SU}(3)$ representation and with the appropriate $\text{U}(1)_3$ R-charges must be selected from higher KK levels in order to complete the multiplets. We think of the former states as naturally belonging to KK level n , while we refer to the latter states as space invaders. A working assumption consists in drawing invading states at KK level n only from the immediately higher level, $n+1$, for all n . Using this prescription, it is possible to fill out $\text{OSp}(4|2)$ multiplets consistently, as we check in tables 4, 5 and 6 for KK levels $n=0$, $n=1$ and $n=2$, respectively. Table 3 in section 4 contains further details of the case covered in table 4. Likewise, table 7 contains further details of the case covered in table 5. We kindly borrow the format of tables 3 through 12 from [14], as well as the $\text{OSp}(4|2)$ supermultiplet terminology. Also, in tables 4, 5, etc., for each $\text{OSp}(4|2)$ supermultiplet in the indicated $\text{SU}(3)$ representations, the value of its R-charge is indicated.

$[0, 0]$ MGRAV 0 LVEC* 0 HYP $+\frac{4}{3}, -\frac{4}{3}$	$[0, 1]$ SGINO* $-\frac{1}{9}$ SVEC* $+\frac{2}{9}$	$[0, 2]$ HYP $-\frac{8}{9}$
$[1, 0]$ SGINO* $+\frac{1}{9}$ SVEC* $-\frac{2}{9}$	$[1, 1]$ MVEC 0	
$[2, 0]$ HYP $+\frac{8}{9}$		

Table 4. Supermultiplets at KK level $n = 0$. A star denotes that the completion of the corresponding supermultiplet uses states coming from level $n = 1$. See table 3 in section 4 for further details.

$[0, 0]$ SGRAV $+\frac{2}{3}, -\frac{2}{3}$ LVEC* $+\frac{2}{3}, -\frac{2}{3}$	$[0, 1]$ LGRAV* $-\frac{4}{9}$ LGINO* $+\frac{5}{9}$ SGINO $-\frac{7}{9}$ HYP* $-\frac{10}{9}$	$[0, 2]$ SGINO $-\frac{5}{9}$ SVEC $-\frac{2}{9}$ HYP $-\frac{14}{9}$	$[0, 3]$ HYP $-\frac{4}{3}$
$[1, 0]$ LGRAV* $+\frac{4}{9}$ LGINO* $-\frac{5}{9}$ SGINO $+\frac{7}{9}$ HYP* $+\frac{10}{9}$	$[1, 1]$ SGINO $+\frac{1}{3}, -\frac{1}{3}$ SVEC $+\frac{2}{3}, -\frac{2}{3}$	$[1, 2]$ SVEC $-\frac{4}{9}$	
$[2, 0]$ SGINO $+\frac{5}{9}$ SVEC $+\frac{2}{9}$ HYP $+\frac{14}{9}$	$[2, 1]$ SVEC $+\frac{4}{9}$		
$[3, 0]$ HYP $+\frac{4}{3}$			

Table 5. Supermultiplets at KK level $n = 1$. A star denotes that the completion of the corresponding supermultiplet uses states coming from level $n = 2$. See table 7 for further details.

$[0, 0]$ LGRAV 0 SGRAV $+\frac{4}{3}, -\frac{4}{3}$ LVEC $+\frac{4}{3}^*, -\frac{4}{3}^*, 0, 0$	$[0, 1]$ conj. to $[1, 0]$	$[0, 2]$ conj. to $[2, 0]$	$[0, 3]$ conj. to $[3, 0]$	$[0, 4]$ conj. to $[4, 0]$
$[1, 0]$ LGRAV $+\frac{10}{9}^*, -\frac{2}{9}$ LGINO $+\frac{1}{9}, +\frac{1}{9}^*, -\frac{11}{9}$ LVEC $+\frac{4}{9}$ SVEC $-\frac{2}{9}^*$ HYP $+\frac{10}{9}^*, +\frac{4}{9}^*$	$[1, 1]$ LGRAV 0 LGINO $\pm 1^*, \pm \frac{1}{3}$ SVEC $+\frac{4}{3}, -\frac{4}{3}$ LVEC 0, 0	$[1, 2]$ conj. to $[2, 1]$	$[1, 3]$ conj. to $[3, 1]$	
$[2, 0]$ LGRAV $+\frac{8}{9}^*$ SGINO $+\frac{11}{9}$ LGINO $-\frac{1}{9}$ LVEC $+\frac{2}{9}, -\frac{4}{9}$ HYP $+\frac{20}{9}, +\frac{8}{9}$	$[2, 1]$ LGINO $+\frac{7}{9}^*, +\frac{1}{9}$ SVEC $+\frac{10}{9}$ LVEC $-\frac{2}{9}^*$	$[2, 2]$ LVEC 0		
$[3, 0]$ SGINO +1 LVEC $+\frac{2}{3}^*$ HYP +2	$[3, 1]$ SVEC $+\frac{8}{9}$			
$[4, 0]$ HYP $\frac{16}{9}$				

Table 6. Supermultiplets at KK level $n = 2$. A star denotes that the completion of the corresponding supermultiplet uses states coming from level $n = 3$.

Spin	SO(8)	SU(3) × U(1) ₃													
2	8_v	1_{2/3}	3_{4/9}												
$\frac{3}{2}$	56_c	1_{-1/3}	3_{-9/5}	8_{1/3}	6_{5/9}	3_{7/9}	3_{-5/9}								
	+	1_{-1/3}	3_{-9/5}												
	8_c	1_{5/3}	3_{13/9}												
			3_{13/9}												
1	160_v	1_{-4/3}	3_{-14/9}	8_{-2/3}	6_{-4/9}	3_{-2/9}	3_{-14/9}	15_{4/9}	8_{2/3}	6_{2/9}	1_{2/3}				3_{-18/9}
	+	1_{2/3}	3_{4/9}, 3_{4/9}	8_{-2/3}	6_{-4/9}	3_{-2/9}	3_{4/9}								
	56_v	1_{2/3}	3_{4/9}, 3_{4/9}	8_{4/3}	6_{14/9}	3_{16/9}									
			3_{2/9}				3_{-14/9} 3_{4/9}								
$\frac{1}{2}$	224_{vc}	1_{-1/3}	3_{-5/9}, 3_{-5/9}	8_{-5/3}	6_{-13/9}	3_{-11/9}	3_{-5/9}	15_{-5/9}	8_{-1/3}	6_{-7/9}	1_{-1/3}	10_{1/3}	6_{5/9}	3_{1/9}	3_{-17/9}, 3_{1/9}, 3_{7/9}
	+		3_{13/9}, 3_{13/9}	8_{1/3}	6_{5/9}	3_{7/9}	3_{-5/9}	15_{-5/9}	8_{-1/3}	6_{-7/9}	1_{-1/3}				1₋₁, 1₁
	160_c			8_{1/3}	6_{5/9}	3_{7/9}	3_{-5/9}	15_{13/9}	8_{2/3}	6_{11/9}	1_{2/3}				
							3_{-23/9} 3_{13/9}				1_{2/3}				
0	112_v		3_{4/9}	8_{-2/3}				15_{4/9}		6_{2/9}	1_{2/3}	10_{4/3}	6_{14/9}		3_{-8/9}, 3_{16/9} 1₋₂, 1₂
	224_{cv}				6_{-4/9}	3_{-2/9}	3_{-14/9} 3_{4/9} 3_{4/9}	15_{4/9} 15_{-14/9}	8_{-4/3} 8_{2/3}	6_{-16/9} 6_{2/9}	1_{-4/3} 1_{2/3}	10_{-2/3} 10_{2/3}	6_{-4/9} 6_{14/9}	3_{10/9}	3_{-8/9}, 3_{-2/9} 1₀, 1₀
							3_{-14/9}				1_{-2/3} 1_{2/3}			3_{-2/9}	
		Short graviton	Long graviton	Short gravitino	Short gravitino	Short gravitino	Long gravitino	Short vector	Short vector	Short vector	Long vector	Massive hyper	Massive hyper	Massive hyper	Invaders for $n = 0$

Table 7. Details of the branching of the $\mathcal{N} = 8$ supermultiplets at KK level $n = 1$ into $\text{Osp}(4|2)$ multiplets in $\text{SU}(3) \times \text{U}(1)_3$ representations, as given in table 5. denotes states coming from KK level $n = 2$. The last column shows the states which were already needed to complete supermultiplets at KK level $n = 0$. For every complex representation, the presence of its conjugate is understood.

[0, 0] MGRAV 0 LVEC $0^*, \pm \frac{2}{3}^{**}$	[0, 1] SGINO $-\frac{1}{9}^*$ LVEC $+\frac{2}{9}^{**}$	[0, 2] HYP $-\frac{8}{9}$
[1, 0] SGINO $+\frac{1}{9}^*$ LVEC $-\frac{2}{9}^{**}$	[1, 1] MVEC 0	
[2, 0] HYP $+\frac{8}{9}$		

Table 8. Multiplets at level $n = 0$ with short multiplets in the same $SU(3)$ representations as [14]. A star now denotes that the multiplet involves states coming from level $n = 1$, with a second star denoting that states from level $n = 2$ are also used. See table 11 for further details.

[0, 0] SGRAV $\pm \frac{2}{3}$ LVEC $\pm \frac{4}{3}^{**}$	[0, 1] LGRAV $-\frac{4}{9}^*$ LGINO $+\frac{5}{9}^*, -\frac{7}{9}^{**}$ LVEC $-\frac{10}{9}^{**}$	[0, 2] SGINO $-\frac{5}{9}$ LVEC $-\frac{2}{9}^*, \frac{4}{9}^*$	[0, 3] HYP $-\frac{4}{3}$
[1, 0] LGRAV $+\frac{4}{9}^*$ LGINO $-\frac{5}{9}^*, +\frac{7}{9}^{**}$ LVEC $+\frac{10}{9}^{**}$	[1, 1] LGINO $\pm \frac{1}{3}^*$ LVEC $\pm \frac{2}{3}^{**}$	[1, 2] SVEC $-\frac{4}{9}$	
[2, 0] SGINO $+\frac{5}{9}$ LVEC $+\frac{2}{9}^*, -\frac{4}{9}^*$	[2, 1] SVEC $+\frac{4}{9}$		
[3, 0] HYP $+\frac{4}{3}$			

Table 9. Multiplets at level $n = 1$ with short multiplets in the same $SU(3)$ representations as [14]. A star now denotes that the multiplet involves states coming from level $n = 2$, with a second star denoting that states from level $n = 3$ are also used. See table 12 for further details.

B.2 Matching the CPW short multiplets

The invasion pattern proposed in section B.1 leads to a number of short multiplets that do not have a counterpart for CPW, as can be checked by comparing tables 4, 5 and 6 above with tables 17, 18 and 19 of [14]. We can turn these possible short multiplets in the GMPS spectrum into long ones (i.e. *elongate* them) by putting in further extra states. At KK level n , these must necessarily involve KK levels higher than $n + 1$. With the additional prescription that, at level n , we use as many invaders from level $n + 1$ as possible, we find that these elongations are consistently possible by retrieving invaders from level $n + 2$ only, with no other levels needed. Tables 8, 9 and 10 illustrate this invasion pattern for KK levels $n = 0$, $n = 1$ and $n = 2$, respectively. Further details on the allocation of supermultiplets of tables 8 and 9 can be found in tables 11 and 12, respectively. Some ambiguities that arise using this prescription are discussed in the caption of table 10.

$[0, 0]$ LGRAV 0 SGRAV $+\frac{4}{3}, -\frac{4}{3}$ LVEC 0, 0, ...	$[0, 1]$ conj. to $[1, 0]$	$[0, 2]$ conj. to $[2, 0]$	$[0, 3]$ conj. to $[3, 0]$	$[0, 4]$ conj. to $[4, 0]$
$[1, 0]$ LGRAV $+\frac{10}{9}^*, -\frac{2}{9}^*$ LGINO $+\frac{1}{9}, +\frac{1}{9}^*, -\frac{11}{9}^*$ LVEC $+\frac{4}{9}^*, -\frac{2}{9}^{**}$	$[1, 1]$ LGRAV 0 LGINO $\pm 1^*, \pm \frac{1}{3}^*$ LVEC $0^*, 0^*$	$[1, 2]$ conj. to $[2, 1]$	$[1, 3]$ conj. to $[3, 1]$	
$[2, 0]$ LGRAV $+\frac{8}{9}^*$ LGINO $+\frac{11}{9}^{**}, -\frac{1}{9}^*$ LVEC $+\frac{2}{9}^{**}, -\frac{4}{9}^*, \frac{8}{9}^*$	$[2, 1]$ LGINO $+\frac{7}{9}^*, +\frac{1}{9}$ LVEC $+\frac{10}{9}^{**}, -\frac{2}{9}^*$	$[2, 2]$ LVEC 0		
$[3, 0]$ SGINO +1 LVEC $+\frac{2}{3}^*, 0^{**}$	$[3, 1]$ SVEC $+\frac{8}{9}$			
$[4, 0]$ HYP $+\frac{16}{9}$				

Table 10. Multiplets at level $n = 2$ with short multiplets in the same $SU(3)$ representations as [14]. A star now denotes that the multiplet involves states coming from level $n = 3$, with a second star denoting that states from level $n = 4$ are also used. There is an ambiguity for the $[1, 0]$ states: an invader from level $n = 4$ could either complete a LVEC $-\frac{2}{9}$ or a LGINO $-\frac{11}{9}$: we arbitrarily opted for the first choice. Furthermore, the dots in the $SU(3)$ singlets denote that there is a leftover state that could belong to any long multiplet.

Spin	SO(8)	SU(3) × U(1) ₃											
2	1	1₀											
$\frac{3}{2}$	8_s	1₊₁ 1₋₁	3_{$\frac{1}{9}$}	$\bar{3}_{-\frac{1}{9}}$									
1	28	1₀	3_{$-\frac{8}{9}$} 3_{$\frac{10}{9}$}	$\bar{3}_{\frac{8}{9}}$ $\bar{3}_{-\frac{10}{9}}$	8₀	3_{$-\frac{2}{9}$}	$\bar{3}_{\frac{2}{9}}$	1₀					
	$\blacktriangle_1$		3_{$-\frac{8}{9}$}	$\bar{3}_{\frac{8}{9}}$					1_{$-\frac{2}{3}$}	1_{$\frac{2}{3}$}			
$\frac{1}{2}$	56_s		3_{$\frac{1}{9}$} 3_{$\frac{1}{9}$}	$\bar{3}_{-\frac{1}{9}}$ $\bar{3}_{-\frac{1}{9}}$	8₊₁ 8₋₁	3_{$\frac{7}{9}$} 3_{$-\frac{11}{9}$}	$\bar{3}_{-\frac{7}{9}}$ $\bar{3}_{\frac{11}{9}}$	1₊₁ 1₋₁	1_{$\frac{1}{3}$}	1_{$-\frac{1}{3}$}	6_{$-\frac{1}{9}$}	$\bar{6}_{\frac{1}{9}}$	
	$\blacktriangle_1$		3_{$-\frac{17}{9}$}	$\bar{3}_{\frac{17}{9}}$		3_{$\frac{7}{9}$} 3_{$-\frac{11}{9}$}	$\bar{3}_{-\frac{7}{9}}$ $\bar{3}_{\frac{11}{9}}$	1₊₁ 1₋₁	1_{$\frac{1}{3}$} 1_{$-\frac{5}{3}$}	1_{$-\frac{1}{3}$} 1_{$\frac{5}{3}$}			3_{$\frac{1}{9}$} $\bar{3}_{-\frac{1}{9}}$
	$\blacktriangle_2$								1_{$-\frac{5}{3}$}	1_{$\frac{5}{3}$}			
0	35_v				8₀	3_{$-\frac{2}{9}$}	$\bar{3}_{\frac{2}{9}}$	1₀	1_{$\frac{4}{3}$}	1_{$-\frac{4}{3}$}	6_{$\frac{8}{9}$}	$\bar{6}_{-\frac{8}{9}}$	3_{$\frac{10}{9}$} $\bar{3}_{-\frac{10}{9}}$
	35_c		3_{$-\frac{8}{9}$}	$\bar{3}_{\frac{8}{9}}$	8₀	3_{$-\frac{2}{9}$}	$\bar{3}_{\frac{2}{9}}$	1₀	1_{$-\frac{2}{3}$}	1_{$\frac{2}{3}$}	6_{$-\frac{10}{9}$}	$\bar{6}_{\frac{10}{9}}$	
	$\blacktriangle_1$					3_{$\frac{16}{9}$} 3_{$-\frac{2}{9}$}	$\bar{3}_{-\frac{16}{9}}$ $\bar{3}_{\frac{2}{9}}$	1₀ 1₊₂ 1₋₂	1_{$-\frac{2}{3}$} 1_{$-\frac{2}{3}$}	1_{$\frac{2}{3}$} 1_{$\frac{2}{3}$}			3_{$-\frac{8}{9}$} , $\bar{3}_{\frac{8}{9}}$ 3_{$-\frac{8}{9}$} , $\bar{3}_{\frac{8}{9}}$ 3_{$-\frac{2}{9}$} , $\bar{3}_{\frac{2}{9}}$ 1₀
	$\blacktriangle_2$					3_{$-\frac{20}{9}$}	$\bar{3}_{\frac{20}{9}}$		1_{$-\frac{8}{3}$}	1_{$\frac{8}{3}$}			1_{$-\frac{2}{3}$} , 1_{$\frac{2}{3}$}
		Massless graviton	Short gravitino	Short gravitino	Massless vector	Long vector	Long vector	Long vector	Long vector	Long vector	Massive hyper	Massive hyper	Eaten modes

Table 11. Branching of the $\mathcal{N} = 8$ massless graviton multiplet into $\text{Osp}(4|2)$ multiplets in $\text{SU}(3) \times \text{U}(1)_3$ representations with short multiplets in the same $\text{SU}(3)$ representations as in [14], as summarised in table 8. $\blacktriangle_n$ denotes states coming from KK levels $n = 1, 2$.

Spin	SO(8)	SU(3) × U(1) ₃													
2	8_v	1_{3/2}	3_{4/9}												
$\frac{3}{2}$	56_c	1_{3/2}	3_{13/9}	6_{5/9}	8_{1/3}	3_{-5/9}	3_{7/9}								
	+	1_{-1/3}	3_{13/9}												
	8_c	1_{-1/3}	3_{-5/9}												
	2₂		3_{13/9}												
1	160_v	1_{3/2}	3_{4/9}	6_{14/9}	8_{4/3}	3_{4/9}	3_{-2/9}	15_{4/9}		8_{2/3}	6_{2/9}				3_{-2/9}
	+	1_{-4/3}	3_{4/9}	6_{-4/9}	8_{-2/3}	3_{-14/9}	3_{16/9}								1_{3/2}
	56_v	1_{3/2}	3_{-14/9}	6_{-4/9}	8_{-2/3}	3_{-2/9}									1_{-3/2}
	2₂		3_{22/9}		8_{4/3}	3_{4/9}	3_{16/9}		1_{-4/3}			6_{-4/9}	3_{10/9}		
$\frac{1}{2}$	224_{vc}	1_{-1/3}	3_{13/9}	6_{5/9}	8_{1/3}	3_{-5/9}	3_{7/9}	15_{13/9}	1_{-1/3}	8_{5/3}	6_{-7/9}	6_{5/9}	3_{1/9}	10_{1/3}	3_{-17/9} , 3_{-11/9}
	+		3_{-5/9}	6_{5/9}	8_{1/3}	3_{-5/9}	3_{7/9}	15_{-5/9}			6_{11/9}				3_{7/9} , 3_{1/9}
	160_c		3_{13/9}	6_{-13/9}	8_{-5/3}	3_{-5/9}		15_{-5/9}			6_{-7/9}				1₋₁ , 1_{5/3}
	2₂				8_{7/3}	3_{-5/9}	3_{7/9}		1_{-1/3}	8_{1/3}	6_{11/9}	6_{5/9}	3_{1/9}		1₁ , 1_{5/3}
	3₃					3_{13/9}	3_{7/9}		1_{-2/3}	8_{1/3}	6_{-13/9}	6_{-13/9}	3_{10/9}		1_{-1/3} , 1_{5/3}
						3_{-23/9}	3_{-11/9}			8_{5/3}	6_{-13/9}	6_{-13/9}	3_{10/9}		
0	112_v		3_{4/9}		8_{-2/3}			15_{4/9}			6_{2/9}	6_{14/9}		10_{4/3}	3_{16/9} , 3_{-2/9}
															1_{3/2} , 1₂
															1_{-2/3} , 1₋₂
	224_{cv}			6_{-4/9}	8_{-2/3}	3_{4/9}		15_{4/9}	1_{-4/3}	8_{2/3}	6_{2/9}	6_{-4/9}	3_{10/9}	10_{-2/3}	3_{-2/9} , 3_{-9/2}
					8_{4/3}	3_{4/9}		15_{-14/9}			6_{-16/9}				3_{-2/9} , 3_{-9/2}
						3_{-14/9}									10 , 10
	2₂				8_{4/3}	3_{-14/9}	3_{16/9}		1_{3/2}	8_{-14/3}	6_{2/9}	6_{-22/9}	3_{-2/9}		1_{3/2} , 1_{-2/3}
	3₃						3_{16/9}		1_{-10/3}	8_{5/3}			3_{28/9}		
		Short graviton	Long graviton	Short gravitino	Long gravitino	Long gravitino	Long gravitino	Short vector	Long vector	Long vector	Long vector	Long vector	Long vector	Massive hyper	Invaders for n=0

Table 12. Branching of the $\mathcal{N} = 8$ supermultiplets at KK level $n = 1$ into $\text{Osp}(4|2)$ multiplets in $\text{SU}(3) \times \text{U}(1)_3$ representations, as summarised in table 9. $\mathbf{2}_n$ denotes states coming from KK level $n = 2, 3$. The last column shows the states which were already needed to complete supermultiplets at KK level $n = 0$. For every complex representation, the presence of its conjugate is understood.

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