Planes, Branes, and Automorphisms

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Abstract

I will report on some recent progress on the study of the local singularity structure of supersymmetric branes. This problem is a special case of the study of the singular structure of volume-minimizing surfaces. The talk will focus on some of the following topics: branes, M-theory (a.k.a. superstring theory), calibrated geometry, spinors, supersymmetry. All attempts will be made to be reasonably self-contained. Part of the talk will be based on `hep-th/9803260`.