

# String Inflation

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*Higher-dimensional  
Inflation from brane back-reaction*



*w Leo van Nierop*

# On the shoulders of giants

*With thanks to Ulf Danielsson*

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# Outline

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- Inflation and the UV
- A simple model
  - Flux compactification
  - Brane back-reaction
- Higher-dimensional inflation

# Inflation and the UV

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- Cosmology provides rare access to UV physics
  - high energies directly accessed when generating primordial fluctuations
  - ingredients for successful cosmology (like light scalar fields) are difficult to embed into UV

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  - high energies directly accessed when generating primordial fluctuations
  - ingredients for successful cosmology (like light scalar fields) are difficult to embed into UV
- Motivates searches for string inflation
  - can find plausible low-energy 4D EFTs with interesting cosmology – *is this good enough?*

# Inflation and the UV

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- UV / inflationary wish list:
  - Control over all approximations (semi-classical limit, low-energy EFT, consistency of ingredients)

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eg in Higgs inflation: semiclassical approx controlled by  $E/\Lambda$ , where

$$\Lambda \sim \frac{M_p}{\xi} \quad \text{when } h \sim 0$$

$$\text{and } \Lambda \sim \frac{M_p}{\sqrt{\xi}} \quad \text{when } h \sim M_p$$

For comparison  $E \sim H \sim \frac{M_p}{\xi}$  during inflation ( $h \sim M_p$ )



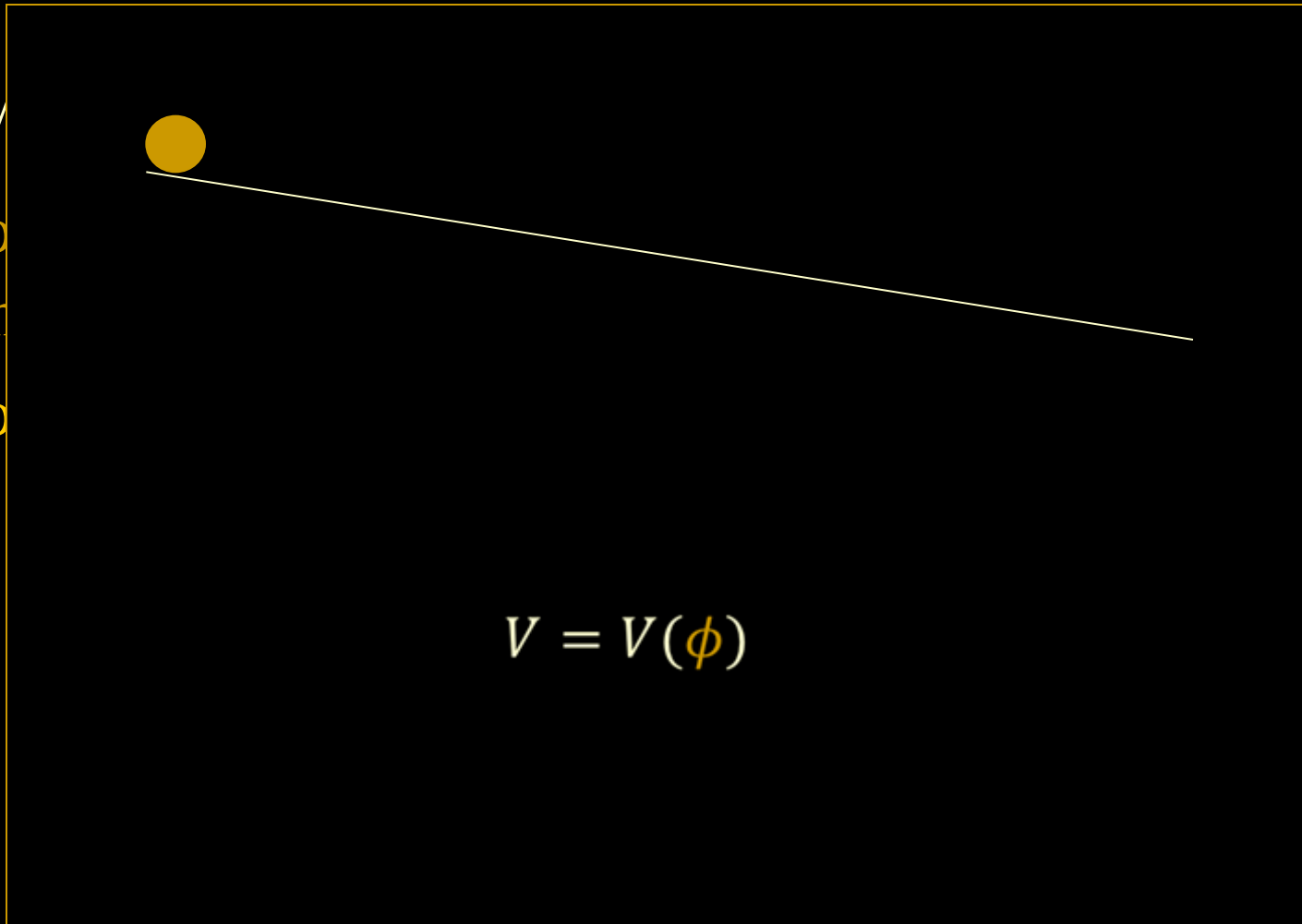
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- UV / inflationary wish list:
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  - Compactification and control over all moduli

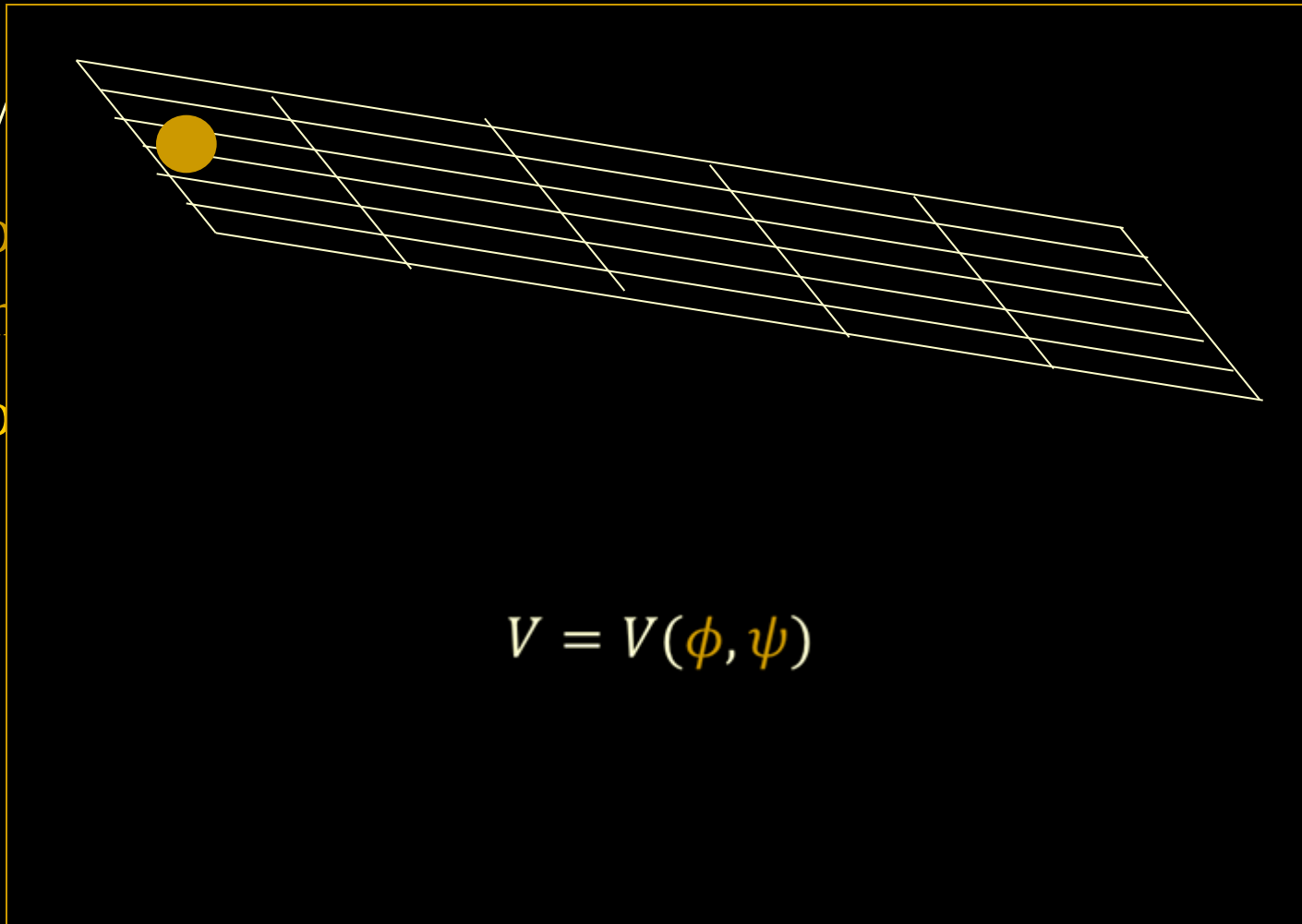
# Inflation and the UV

- UV /
- Co  
lim
- Co



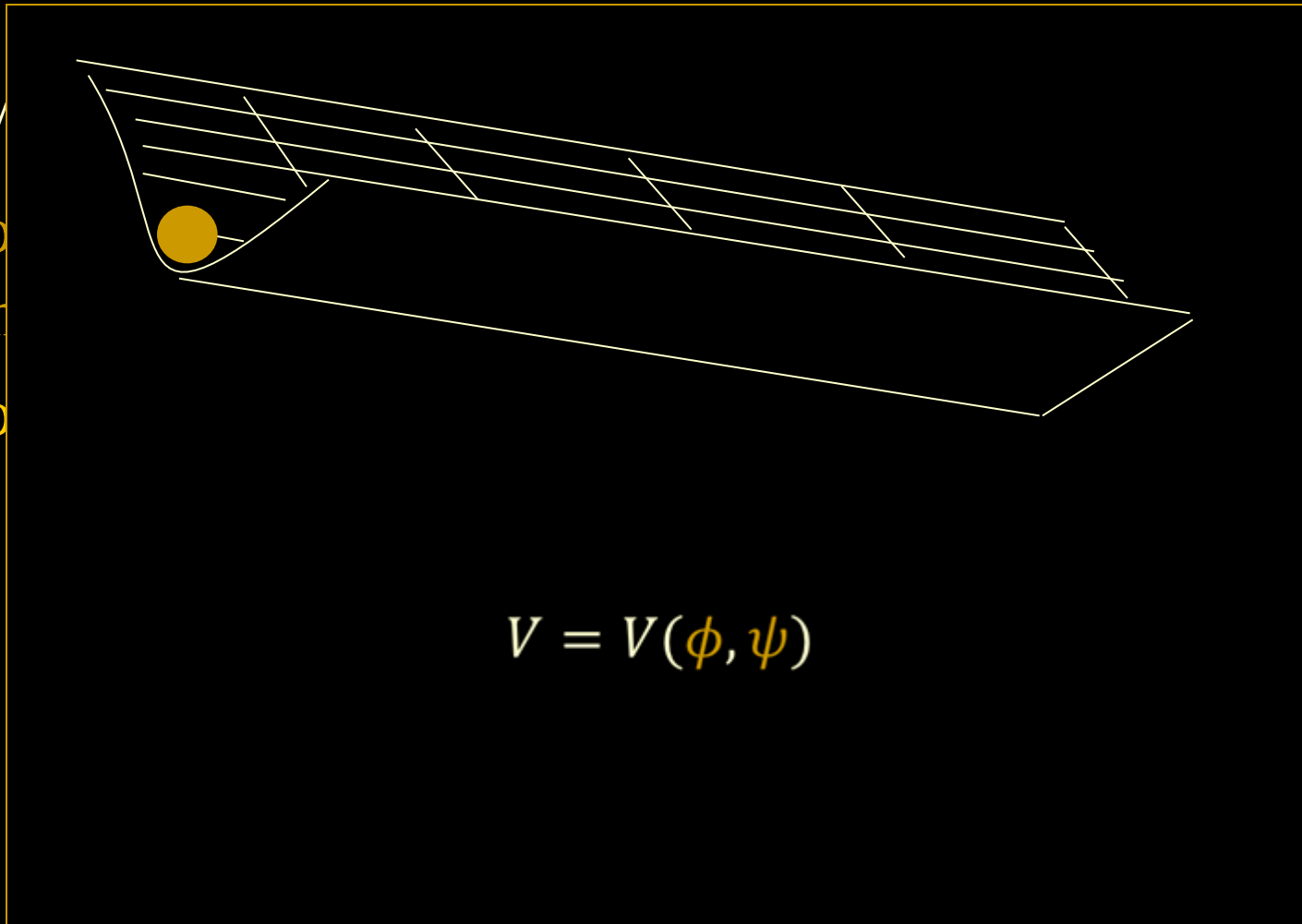
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# Inflation and the UV

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- UV / inflationary wish list:
  - Control over all approximations (semi-classical limit, low-energy EFT, consistency of ingredients)
  - Compactification and control over all moduli
  - Understanding of naturalness issues: the most dangerous interactions are usually those not written down...

# Inflation and the UV

- UV /

- Co

- lim

- Co

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eg: couplings to other heavy particles

$$V(\phi, \psi) = V_0(\phi) + M^2 \psi^2 + g \phi^2 \psi^2 + \dots$$

$$\delta m_\phi \propto M$$

or: ‘Planck slop’

$$V(\phi) = V_0 \left( 1 + \frac{\phi^2}{M_p^2} + \dots \right)$$

$$V_0 = H^2 M_p^2$$

# Simple model

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  - work in 4D effective theory, or
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# Simple model

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- Few explicit extra-dimensional cosmologies
  - work in 4D effective theory, or
  - work with moving branes in static backgrounds
- What do extra dimensions do during inflation?
- Require explicit solution of higher-dim eqs
  - Must stabilize moduli
  - Include brane back-reaction

# Simple model

- 6D Einstein-Maxwell-scalar system

$$L = \frac{1}{2\kappa^2} [R + (\partial\phi)^2] + e^{-a\phi} F_{mn}F^{mn} + V(\phi)$$

6D supergravity:  $a = 1$  and  $V = \left(\frac{2g_R^2}{\kappa^4}\right) e^\phi$

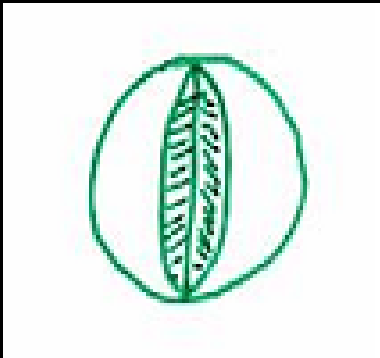
Scale invariance:  $g_{\mu\nu} \rightarrow \lambda g_{\mu\nu}$  and  $e^{-\phi} \rightarrow \lambda e^{-\phi}$

# Simple model

- Simple solution

$$ds^2 = \hat{g}_{mn} dx^m dx^n + [dr^2 + \alpha^2 L^2 \sin^2 \left(\frac{r}{L}\right) d\theta^2] e^{-a\phi_0}$$

$$F_{r\theta} = Q\alpha L \sin \left(\frac{r}{L}\right) e^{-a\phi_0} \quad \phi = \phi_0$$



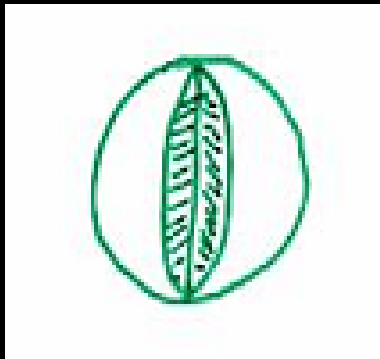
Flat direction:  $r^2 = L^2 e^{\phi_0}$

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Field equations

$$\frac{2g_R^2}{\kappa^2} = \frac{\kappa^2 Q^2}{2}$$

$$\kappa^2 Q^2 L^2 = 1 \quad \hat{R} = 0$$

Flux quantization

$$\frac{n}{g} = 2\alpha L^2 Q = \frac{\alpha}{g_R}$$

# Simple model

- How does system respond to changes in brane tension:  $T \rightarrow T_0 + \delta T(\phi)$ ?

Flux quantization:  $\frac{n}{g} = 2\alpha L^2 Q = \frac{\alpha}{g_R}$

Obstructs  $T$  to  $\delta T$  ?

$$1 - \alpha = \frac{\kappa^2 T}{2\pi}$$

# Simple model

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- Brane back-reaction: branes dictate boundary conditions in the near-brane limit

$$e.g. \quad r \frac{d\phi}{dr} \rightarrow \frac{\kappa^2}{2\pi} \left( \frac{\delta S_b}{\delta \phi} \right)$$

- $S(\phi)$  stabilizes  $\phi$ , giving exponentially large  $r^2 = L^2 e^{-\phi}$

# Simple model

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- Subdominant effects in the brane action are important for flux quantization

$$\text{if } L_b = T_b(\phi) + \Phi_b(\phi) *F + \dots$$

$$\text{then } \frac{n}{g} = Q \int dr e^{B-4W} + \frac{1}{2\pi} \sum_b \Phi_b$$

- $\Phi$  has interpretation as brane-localized flux

# Higher-dimensional inflation

- Exact time-dependent solution  $e^{-\phi} = (H_0\tau)^{c+2}$

$$ds^2 = (H_0\tau)^c [g_{mn}dx^m dx^n + \tau^2(g_{ij}dx^i dx^j)]$$

- FRW time in 4D Einstein frame  $dt = \mp(H_0\tau)^{c+1}d\tau$

- If  $c = -2$  then  $a(t) = e^{H_0 t}$  and  $r$  constant

- If  $c \neq -2$  then  $a(t) = (H_0 t)^p$  and  $r(t) = (H_0 t)^{1/2}$

$$\text{with } p = (c + 1)/(c + 2)$$

*acceleration if  $p > 1$  and so  $c < -2$*



# Higher-dimensional inflation

- What is the source and how does it end?
- Add inflaton  $\chi$  to one of the two source branes

$$L_b = T + e^{-\phi} [ (\partial\chi)^2 + V_0 + V_1 e^{\lambda\chi} + \dots ]$$

$$\chi = \chi_0 + \chi_1 \ln(H_0\tau)$$

- Then  $c + 2 = -\lambda\chi_1$  and  $H_0^2 = \lambda V_1 / [\chi_1 (3 + 2\lambda\chi_1)]$

# Conclusions

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- Inflation not easy (but not impossible) to plausibly embed into UV physics
- Many pitfalls
  - Control of approximations
  - Necessity to control potential for *all* light scalars
  - The danger of those fields not explicitly written: naturalness and decoupling of heavy states

# Conclusions

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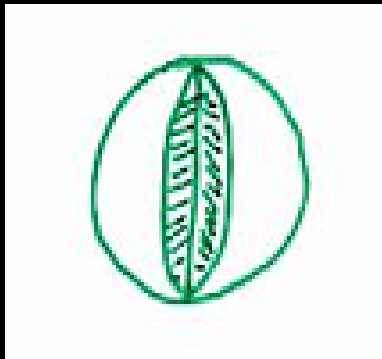
- Relatively little is known about explicitly higher-dimensional cosmology
- Branes and brane back-reaction can have important implications for low-energy theory
  - Little explored beyond codimension 1

# Setup

- Simple solution (non-SUSY case)

$$ds^2 = \hat{g}_{mn} dx^m dx^n + dr^2 + \alpha^2 L^2 \sin^2 \left( \frac{r}{L} \right) d\theta^2$$

$$F_{r\theta} = Q\alpha L \sin \left( \frac{r}{L} \right) \quad \phi = \phi_0$$



Field equations

$$\frac{2}{L^2} = \kappa^2 \left( \frac{3Q^2}{2} + \Lambda \right)$$

$$\hat{R} = \kappa^2 (Q^2 - 2\Lambda)$$

Flux quantization

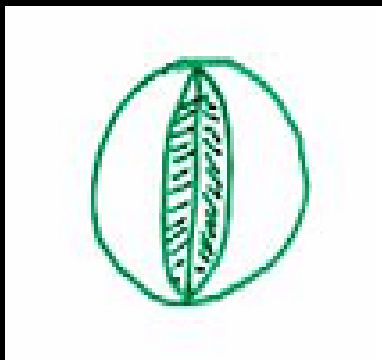
$$\frac{n}{g} = 2\alpha L^2 Q$$

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$$Q = \frac{n}{2\alpha g L^2} \quad \hat{R} = \kappa^2 (Q^2 - 2\Lambda)$$

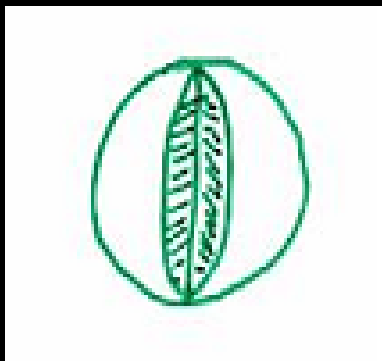
$$\frac{1}{L^2} = \frac{8\alpha^2 g^2}{3n^2 \kappa^2} \left[ 1 \mp \sqrt{1 - \left( \frac{3n^2 \kappa^4 \Lambda}{8\alpha^2 g^2} \right)} \right]$$

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$$F_{r\theta} = Q\alpha L \sin \left( \frac{r}{L} \right) \quad \phi = \phi_0$$



$$\text{Tune } \Lambda = \frac{Q^2}{2} \text{ so } \hat{R} = 0$$

$$\text{If } T \rightarrow T + \delta T \text{ then } \hat{R} \rightarrow -\frac{\kappa^2 \rho}{\pi \alpha L^2} \text{ where } \rho = 2 \delta T$$

# Calculation

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- More general solutions

$$ds^2 = e^{2W} \hat{g}_{mn} dx^m dx^n + dr^2 + e^{2B} d\theta^2$$

$$F_{r\theta} = Q e^{B-4W} \quad \phi = \phi(r)$$

# Calculation

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- Perturb brane properties

$$T \rightarrow T + \delta T(\phi)$$

- To evade time-dependence add current

$$\Delta L_{bulk} = J\phi \quad \text{or} \quad \Delta L_{bulk} = J$$

- Find general solution to linearized equations

$$\kappa^2 J L^2 \ll 1$$



# Calculation

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- Sample solutions

$$\delta W = W_0 + W_1 \cos\left(\frac{r}{L}\right)$$

$$\delta\phi = \phi_0 + \phi_1 \ln\left(\frac{1 - \cos(r/L)}{\sin(r/L)}\right) - \kappa^2 J L^2 \ln\left[\sin\left(\frac{r}{L}\right)\right]$$

and so on

# Calculation

- Brane-bulk boundary conditions:

$$(e^B \phi')_b = \frac{\kappa^2}{2\pi} \left( \frac{\partial L_b}{\partial \phi} \right)$$

$$(e^B W')_b = \frac{\kappa^2}{4\pi} \left( \frac{\partial L_b}{\partial g_{\theta\theta}} \right) = U_b$$

$$(e^B B' - 1)_b = -\frac{\kappa^2}{2\pi} \left[ \left( \frac{\partial L_b}{\partial \phi} + \frac{3}{2} \frac{\partial L_b}{\partial g_{\theta\theta}} \right) \right]$$

$$\text{Constraint: } 4U_b[2 - 2L_b - 3U_b] - \left( \frac{\partial L_b}{\partial \phi} \right)^2 = 0$$

# Calculation

- Non-SUSY result:

$$V_{eff}(\phi) = \phi \int \frac{d\phi}{\phi^2} \left[ \frac{\pi\alpha L^2 \hat{R}(\phi)}{\kappa^2} \right]$$

$$\rho = \sum_b \delta T_b(\phi_*) - 2Q\delta\Phi_b(\phi_*)$$

$$\left[ \frac{\partial}{\partial\phi} \sum_b \delta T_b(\phi) \right]_{\phi_*} = 0$$

# Calculation

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- SUSY result:

$$\left[ \sum_b \delta T_b - 2Q\delta\Phi_b + \frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial}{\partial\phi} \delta T_b(\phi) \right]_{\phi_*} = 0$$

ie Einstein frame potential:  $V = U(\phi)e^{2\phi}$

# Calculation

- SUSY result:

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$$\rho = \sum_b \delta T_b(\phi_*) - 2Q\delta\Phi_b(\phi_*) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_b \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial\phi} \delta T_b \right)$$

# Calculation

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- Intriguing choice:

$$\delta T_b = A + B\phi$$

with  $B \ll A$  since

$$\rho = B \ll \delta T_b$$