

# Late-time Attractors and Cosmic Acceleration

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## Based on work with:



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- G. Shiu, F. Tonioni, H.V. Tran, "Accelerating universe at the end of time," [arXiv:2303.03418]
- G. Shiu, F. Tonioni, H.V. Tran, "Late-time attractors and cosmic acceleration," [arXiv:2306.07327]

[See also Flavio Tonioni's parallel talk on Thursday]

# A plea to the theorists



Nobel Prize 2011



Photo: Roy Kaltschmidt. Courtesy: Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory

**Saul Perlmutter**



Photo: Belinda Pratten, Australian National University

**Brian P. Schmidt**



Photo: Homewood Photography

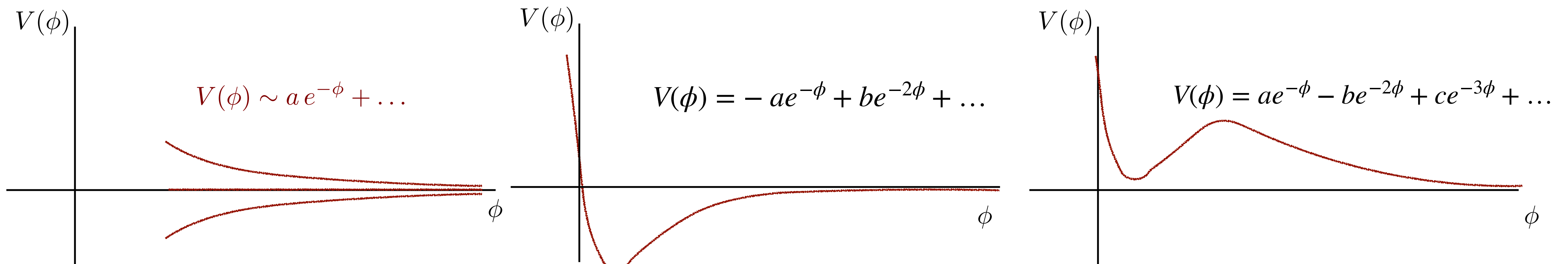
**Adam G. Riess**

But Riess suspects that the mystery can't be solved by observations alone. "We won't really resolve it until some brilliant person, the next Einstein-like person, is able to get the idea of what's going on," he said.

So he issued **a plea to the theorists**: "Keep working," he said. "We need your help. ... It's a very juicy problem, it's hard, and **you'll win a Nobel Prize if you figure it out. In fact, I'll give you mine.**"

# Dark Energy in String Theory

- Simplest possibility is  $\Lambda > 0$ . Sophisticated string theory scenarios for realizing dS vacua have been developed (KKLT, LVS, ...), but a fully explicit construction remains elusive.
- Root of the challenge: source of cosmic acceleration should be **derived** (not just postulated) in a UV complete theory of gravity.
- It is a formidable task to demonstrate that the microphysics which stabilizes all moduli would lead to a theoretically controlled metastable de Sitter vacuum.
- The Dine-Seiberg problem highlights the difficulty in finding **parametrically weakly-coupled vacua**.



# Asymptotic runaway potentials

This makes runaway to the boundary of field space an interesting possibility.

[Obied, Ooguri, Spodyneiko, Vafa];[Ooguri, Palti, GS, Vafa]

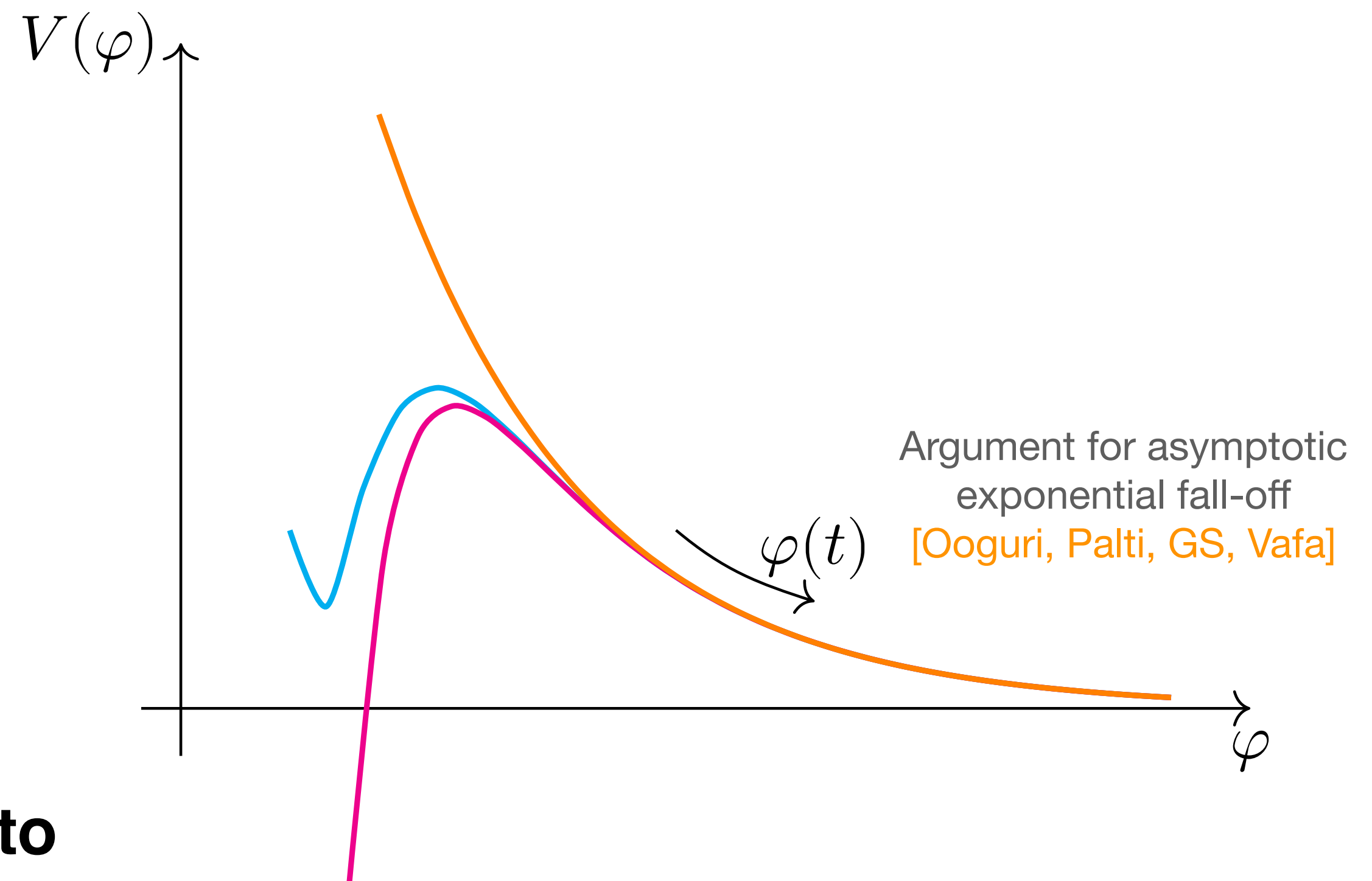
Cosmic acceleration can be realized with:

- a de Sitter critical point, or
- a runaway potential with  $\epsilon \equiv -\frac{\dot{H}}{H^2} < 1$

Related to the “deceleration parameter”  $q$ :

$$q \equiv -\ddot{a}a/\dot{a}^2$$

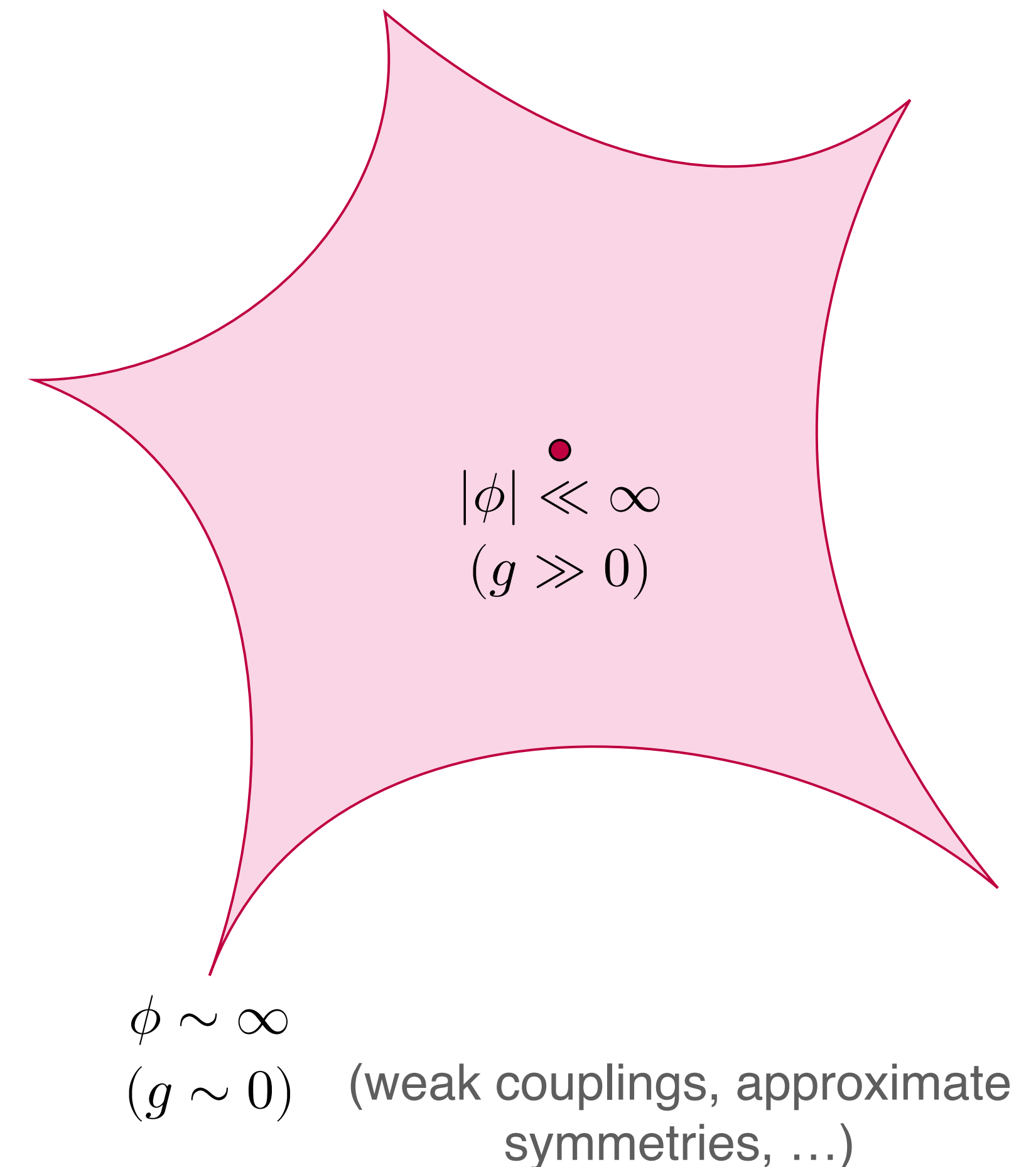
$$\epsilon = 1 + q.$$



**Criterion for acceleration is in general unrelated to potential gradient.** An aim of our work is to find the link (& the conditions for the link to exist) [GS, Tonioni, Tran]

# Is our current universe in the asymptotic region of the landscape?

- The **small numbers** & **approximate symmetries** observed in nature are consistent with the current universe approaching an asymptotic region where couplings are weak, global symmetries are restored, and  $V \rightarrow 0$ .
- This possibility has recently been explored in various forms [Montero, Vafa, Valenzuela];[Rudelius]; [Calderon-Infante, Ruiz, Valenzuela];[GS, Tonioni, Tran], [Cremonini, Gonzalo, Rajaguru, Tang, Wrase], ...
- As in many **dynamical systems**, the late-time regime exhibits some **universal behaviors**. This allows us to **prove bounds** on acceleration [GS, Tonioni, Tran, '23]
- Like large N expansion for QCD, studying the asymptotically late-time behavior may teach us about our current (old) universe [a la Dirac].



# Summary of Results

[GS, Tonioni, Tran, '23]

- We **bound the rate of time variation of the Hubble parameter at late time** [GS, Tonioni, Tran, '23, STT1] and in the recent work, we further turn this into a **bound on  $\gamma \equiv |\nabla V|/V$**  [GS, Tonioni, Tran, '23, STT2].
- The proper diagnostic for cosmic acceleration should be stated in terms of  $\epsilon$  rather than potential gradient commonly used in Swampland criteria.
- Our bound when applied to string theoretic constructions imposes a generic obstacle to acceleration if the dilation is one of the rolling fields. We also suggest several ways out.
- We prove the conditions under which scaling solutions are **late-time attractors**. Moreover, we prove that scaling solutions **saturate** our bound on  $\epsilon$ .
- For scaling solutions: 1) **we can express  $\epsilon = -\dot{H}/H^2$  in terms of a directional derivative  $\gamma_*$  of the potential, w/o assuming that a single potential term dominates or whether the kinetic or potential term dominates**; 2)  **$\gamma = \gamma_* = 2\sqrt{\epsilon/(d-2)}$** . But in general,  $\gamma$  and  $\gamma_*$  are unrelated to acceleration.
- Our results go beyond previous no-goes as we allow for **quantum effects** and we encompass **vacua and rolling solutions (irrespective of whether the kinetic term is negligible or not)**.

# Asymptotic late-time cosmologies



# Multi-exponential potentials

- In the asymptotic region, the **non-compact scalars** when canonically normalized to  $\phi^a$ ,  $a = 1, \dots, n$  have a potential that takes the form (also argument by [Ooguri, Palti, GS, Vafa]):

$$V = \sum_{i=1}^m \Lambda_i e^{-\kappa_d \gamma_{ia} \phi^a}.$$

where  $\Lambda_i, \gamma_{ia}$  depend on the microscopic origin of  $V_i$ ,  $\kappa_d = d$ -dim. gravitational coupling. The sources of potential include e.g. internal curvature, fluxes, branes/O-planes, Casimir-energy.

- The set of scalars  $\phi^a$  includes minimally the  **$d$ -dimensional dilaton  $\tilde{\delta}$**  and a **radion  $\tilde{\sigma}$  that controls the string-frame volume** unless these fields are stabilized at high energy scales.
- The field space metric is not always flat, e.g., the axio-dilaton and the Kahler modulus have constant curvature. Obstruction to canonical normalization?
- Asymptotically, saxion-axion mixings & axion kinetic terms are **exponentially suppressed** in the EOMs. Consistent to stabilize the axions and work with **canonically normalized saxions**.
- More involved arguments for asymptotic limit of complex structure moduli [Grimm, Li, Valenzuela]; [Calderon-Infante, Ruiz, Valenzuela].

# Cosmological Equations

- Non-compact  $d$ -dim. spacetime is characterized by the FLRW metric:

$$d\tilde{s}_d^2 = -dt^2 + a^2(t) dl_{\mathbb{R}^{d-1}}^2,$$

- Hubble parameter:  $H \equiv \frac{\dot{a}}{a}$ . The proper diagnostic for cosmic **acceleration** is  $\epsilon \equiv -\frac{\dot{H}}{H^2} < 1$

to be **distinguished from the slow-roll parameter**  $\epsilon_V = \frac{d-2}{4} \left( \frac{\nabla V}{V} \right)^2$ .

- Scalar field equations and Friedmann equations:

$$\ddot{\phi}^a + (d-1)H\dot{\phi}^a + \frac{\partial V}{\partial \phi_a} = 0,$$

$$\frac{(d-1)(d-2)}{2} H^2 - \kappa_d^2 \left[ \frac{1}{2} \dot{\phi}_a \dot{\phi}^a + V \right] = 0,$$

$$\dot{H} = -\frac{\kappa_d^2}{d-2} \left[ \frac{1}{2} \dot{\phi}_a \dot{\phi}^a - V \right] - \frac{d-1}{2} H^2,$$

# Cosmological Autonomous System

- It is convenient to work with the rescaled variables:

$$x^a = \frac{\kappa_d}{\sqrt{d-1}\sqrt{d-2}} \frac{\dot{\phi}^a}{H}, \quad y_i = \frac{\kappa_d \sqrt{2}}{\sqrt{d-1}\sqrt{d-2}} \frac{\sqrt{V_i}}{H}$$

- The cosmological equations can be formulated in terms of an autonomous system of ODEs given schematically as follows:

$$\frac{d\vec{z}}{dt} = g(\vec{z}), \quad \text{where } \vec{z} \equiv (x^1, \dots, x^n, y^1, \dots, y^m, H)$$

- Among the above ODEs is  $\epsilon = -\dot{H}/H^2 = (d-1)x^2$ ; strategy is to bound the kinetic energy.
- Friedmann equation also takes a simple form:

$$(x)^2 + (y)^2 = 1$$

# Bound on Late-time Cosmic Acceleration

- An accelerating universe can only be achieved if the total scalar potential is positive; we therefore focus on scenarios in which  $V > 0$  at least asymptotically.
- Individual potential terms can be positive or negative: our proof covers general cases but for clarity, let us first show how we bound the case when  $\Lambda_i > 0$  [General case in STT1].
- Rank order the exponents:

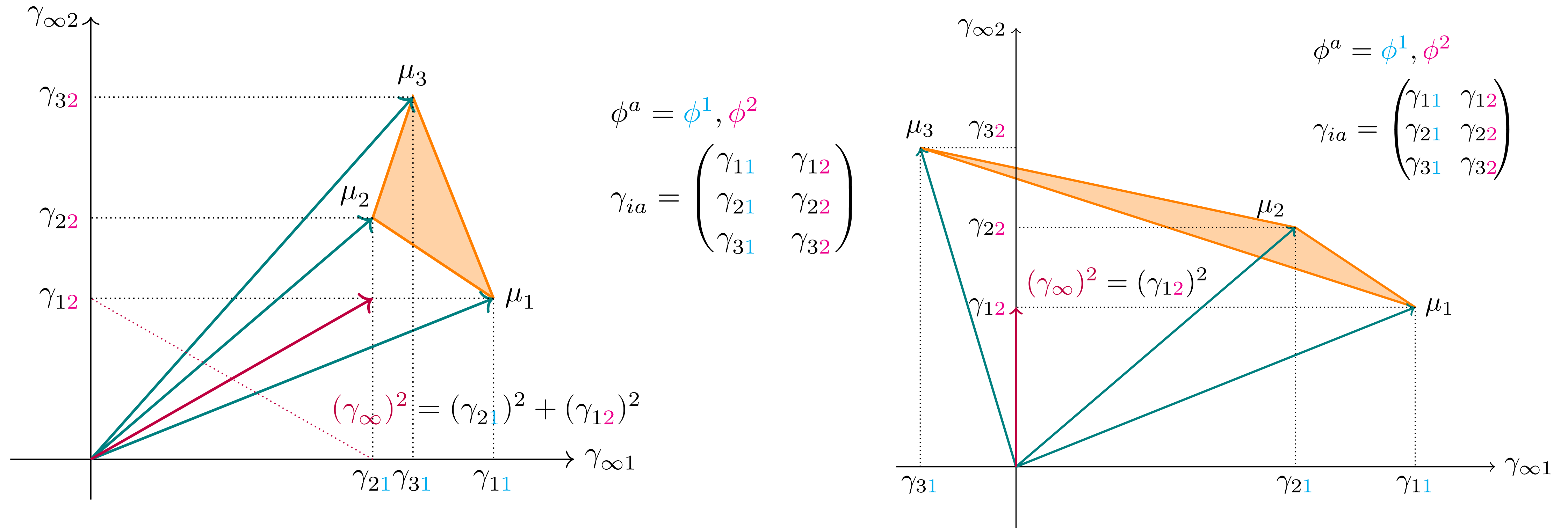
$$\gamma_{\infty}^a = \begin{cases} \gamma^a, & \gamma^a = \min_i \gamma_i^a > 0 \\ 0, & \gamma^a \leq 0 \end{cases}$$

- Then we derived analytically a late-time acceleration bound:

$$d - 1 \geq \epsilon \geq \frac{d - 2}{4} (\gamma_{\infty})^2$$

# Visualizing the Acceleration Bound

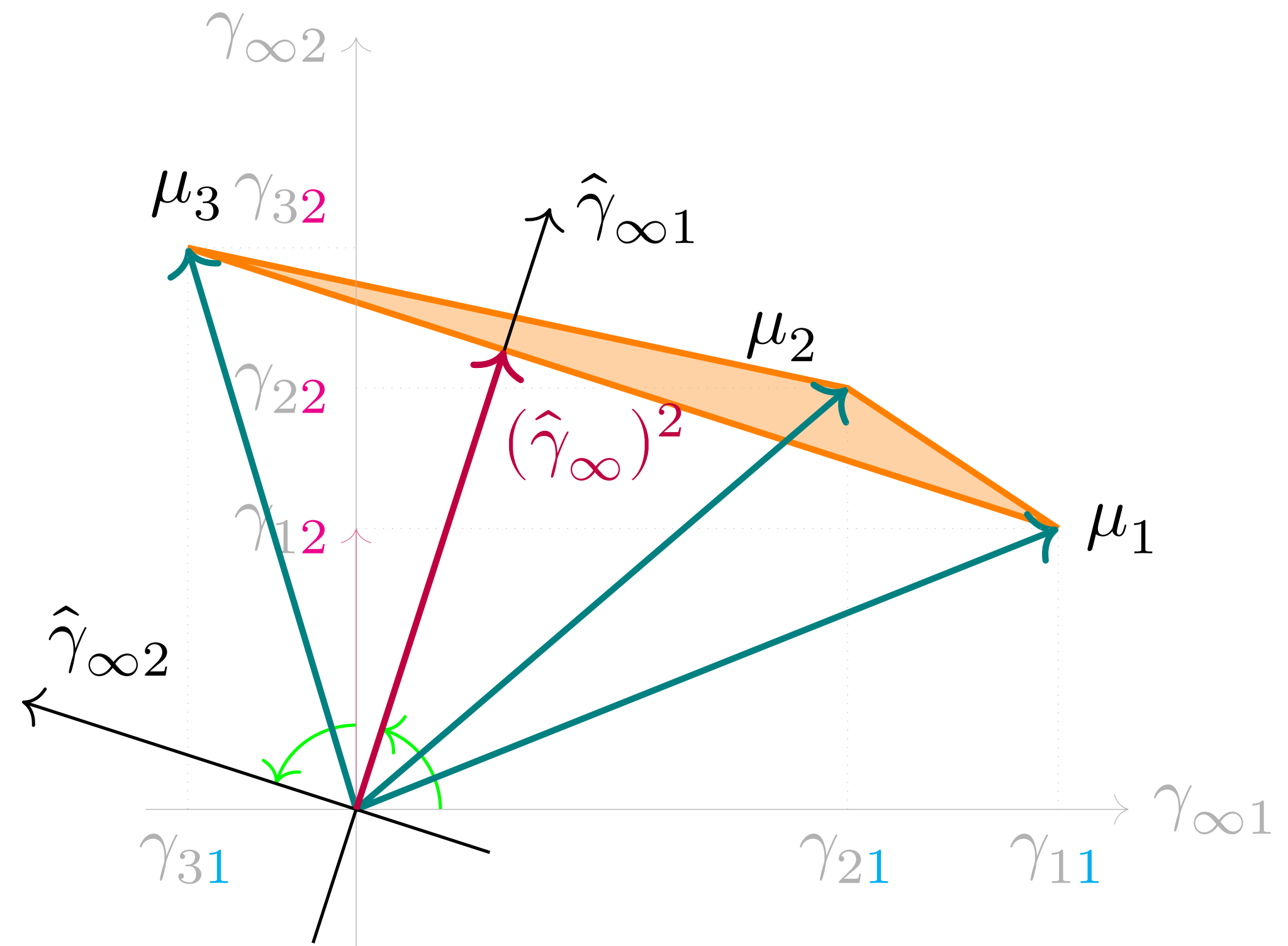
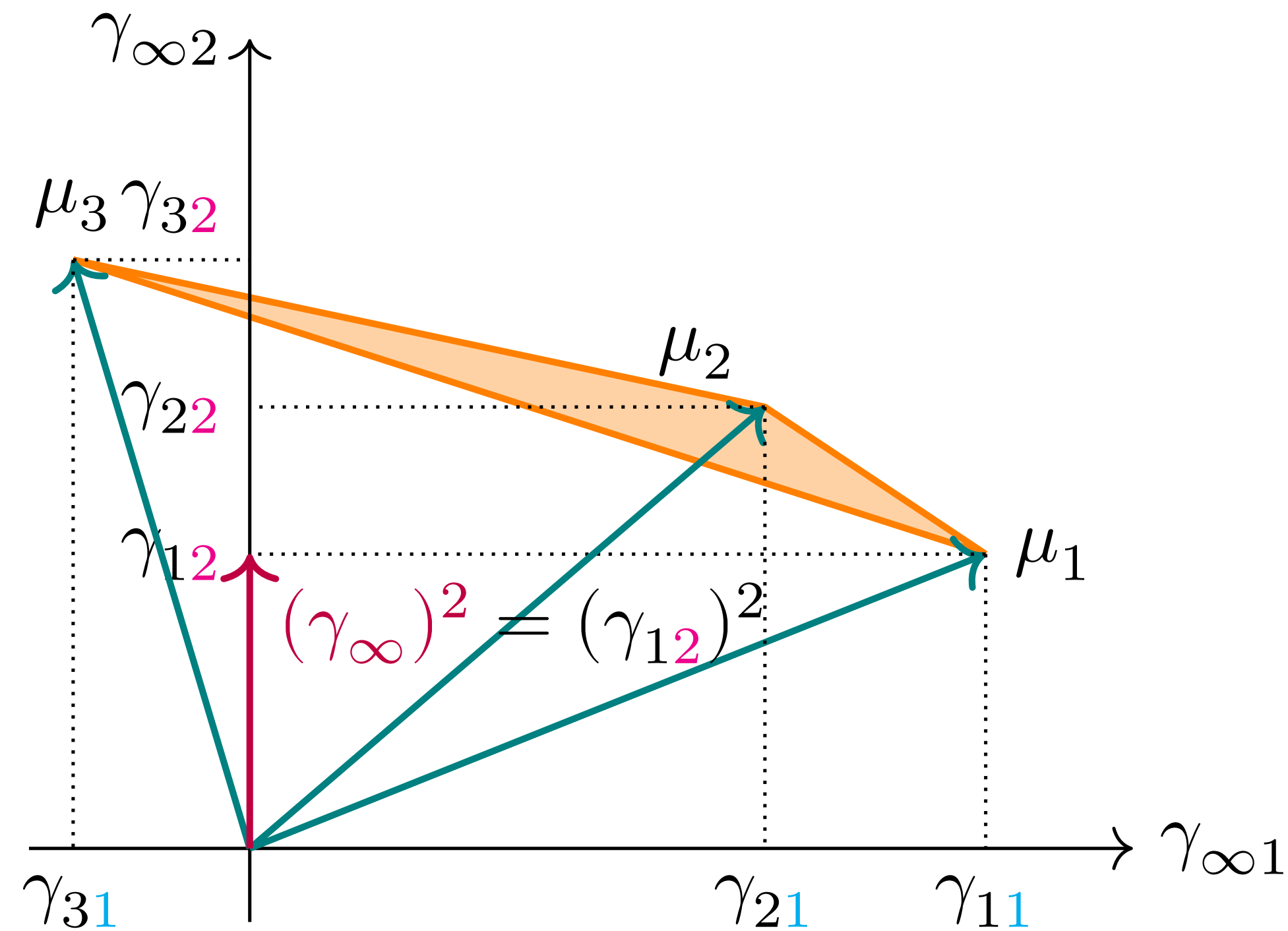
- Define vectors  $m$  vectors  $\mu_i$ , one for each potential term with components  $(\mu_i)_a = \gamma_{ia}$



# Optimizing the Acceleration Bound

- The bound in [GS, Tonioni, Tran, '23] as stated is naively basis-dependent, but it is clear that we can find an **optimal bound** by an  $O(n)$  rotation:

$$\epsilon \geq \frac{d-2}{4} \max_{R \in O(n)} [\gamma_\infty(R)]^2$$



# Dilaton Obstruction and General Remarks

- String-theoretical potentials take the form:

$$S = - \int_{X_{1,9}} [A_r \wedge \star_{1,9} A_r] \Lambda_{10,r} e^{-k\sigma - \chi_E \Phi} = - \int_{X_{1,d-1}} \tilde{\star}_{1,d-1} \Lambda e^{\kappa_d [\gamma_{\tilde{\delta}}(\chi_E) \tilde{\delta} - \gamma_{\tilde{\sigma}}(\chi_E, r, k) \tilde{\sigma}]}$$

RR fields are not weighed by  $e^{-\chi_E \Phi}$  but would not affect our argument.

- Universal couplings for the canonically normalized d-dimensional dilaton  $\tilde{\delta}$  :

$$\gamma_{\tilde{\delta}} = \frac{d}{\sqrt{d-2}} - \frac{1}{2} \chi_E \sqrt{d-2} \geq \frac{2}{\sqrt{d-2}} \Rightarrow \epsilon \geq \frac{d-2}{4} (\gamma_{\infty})^2 \geq \frac{d-2}{4} \gamma_{\tilde{\delta}}^2 \geq 1$$

- Ways out: 1)  $\tilde{\delta}$  is stabilized; 2)  $\tilde{\delta}$  is rolling but not in the asymptotic regions; 3)  $V$  contains at least three terms, not all of the same sign (e.g., from loop corrections).
- Non-universal couplings for other moduli: can use our bound to **constrain compactifications**.
- **Non-negligible kinetic terms** unless  $\gamma_{\infty}^2 \approx 0$ . Hence slow-roll generally does not hold.

# Scaling Solutions



# Scaling Solutions

- The cosmological autonomous system admits **scaling solutions** ( $\epsilon = \text{constant} > 0$ ):

- scale factor takes a power law form:  $a(t) \sim t^p$
- critical points of the autonomous system:  $\dot{x}^a = 0$

- Analytic solution:** for rank  $\gamma_{ia} = m$

- field space trajectory:  $\phi_*^a(t) = \phi_0^a + \frac{2}{\kappa_d} \left[ \sum_{i=1}^m \sum_{j=1}^m \gamma_i^a (M^{-1})^{ij} \right] \ln \frac{t}{t_0}, \quad M_{ij} = \gamma_{ia} \gamma_j^a.$

- scale factor:  $p = \frac{4}{d-2} \sum_{i=1}^m \sum_{j=1}^m (M^{-1})^{ij}.$

- The kinetic term & every potential term have the same parametric dependence in time:

**No slow-roll:**  $T(t) = T(t_0) \left( \frac{t_0}{t} \right)^2, \quad V_i(t) = V_i(t_0) \left( \frac{t_0}{t} \right)^2$

# Scaling Solutions: Relevance

- Late time scale factor is bounded by power-law behavior [GS, Tonioni, Tran, '23, STT1]:

$$d - 1 \geq \epsilon \geq \frac{d - 2}{4} (\gamma_\infty)^2 \quad \text{or } \epsilon = d - 1$$

- Scaling solutions are **perturbative late-time attractors** (linear stability) [Copeland, Liddle, Wands]; [Bergshoeff, Collinucci, Gran, Nielsen, Roest]; [Hartong, Ploegh, Van Riet, Westra]

- **New result** [GS, Tonioni, Tran, '23, STT2]: we can analytically prove that if

- all potential terms are positive definite, i.e.,  $\Lambda_i > 0$ , and

- $\lambda^i = \sum_{j=1}^m (M^{-1})^{ij} \geq 0$ , subject to  $\sum_{i=1}^m \lambda^i > 0$ . [no apparent subleading terms]

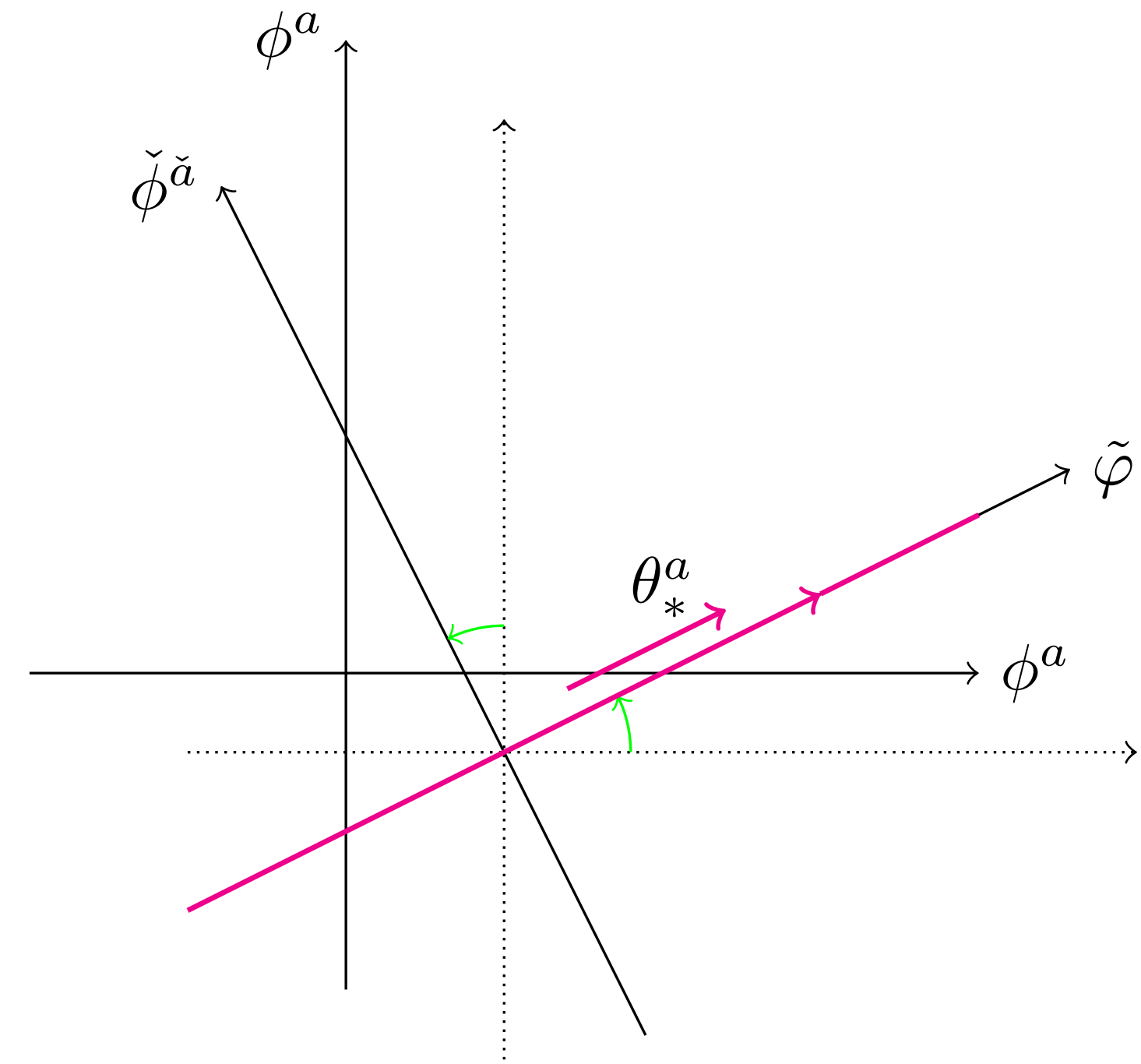
then scaling solutions are late-time attractors, irrespective of initial conditions!

# Scaling Solutions: Trajectory

- Straight line in field space:

$$\phi_*^a(t) = \phi_\infty^a + \frac{1}{\kappa_d} \alpha^a \ln \frac{t}{t_\infty}$$

$$\theta_*^a = \frac{\alpha^a}{\sqrt{\alpha_b \alpha^b}}$$



- Field space rotation such that  $\check{\phi}_*^{\check{a}}(t) = \check{\phi}_\infty^{\check{a}}$        $\tilde{\varphi}_*(t) = \tilde{\varphi}_\infty + \frac{1}{\kappa_d} \frac{2}{\gamma_*} \ln \frac{t}{t_\infty}$

- Normalized directional derivative:  $\gamma_* = - \left[ \frac{1}{V(\phi_*)} \theta_*^a \frac{\partial V}{\kappa_d \partial \phi_*^a}(\phi_*) \right] = \frac{2}{\sqrt{d-2}} \sqrt{\epsilon}$ .

# Criteria for Cosmic Acceleration

# Criteria for Cosmic Acceleration

[GS, Tonioni, Tran, '23]

- The proper criterion for acceleration is **time variation of Hubble**:  $\epsilon = -\dot{H}/H^2 < 1$
- For scaling solutions, we found an exact relationship of  $\epsilon$  with the **directional derivative**:

$$\gamma_* = - \left[ \frac{1}{V(\phi_*)} \theta_*^a \frac{\partial V}{\kappa_d \partial \phi_*^a}(\phi_*) \right] = \frac{2}{\sqrt{d-2}} \sqrt{\epsilon}.$$

- **Potential gradient norm** is often used in Swampland studies:

$$\gamma = \frac{\sqrt{\delta^{ab} \partial_a V \partial_b V}}{\kappa_d V},$$

- Scaling solutions are special  $\gamma = \gamma_* = 2\sqrt{\epsilon}/\sqrt{d-2} \Rightarrow \epsilon$  measures potential gradient.

# General Case

[GS, Tonioni, Tran, '23]

- In general  $\gamma_*$  and  $\gamma$  are **unrelated to acceleration** though  $\gamma \geq \gamma_*$  is general due to triangle inequality [Andriot, Horer, Tringas, '22].

- **Directional derivative:**

$$\gamma_* = \frac{2\sqrt{\epsilon}}{\sqrt{d-2}} \left[ 1 - \frac{1}{2} \frac{\eta}{(d-1) - \epsilon} \right] \quad \eta = -\dot{\epsilon}/(\epsilon H)$$

- Introduce a normal vector  $\nu_*^a = -\dot{\theta}_*^a / \sqrt{\dot{\theta}_*^b \dot{\theta}_*^b}$  and define a **non-geodesity factor  $\Omega$** :

$$\dot{\theta}_*^a = -\Omega \nu_*^a. \quad \text{rate of turning of field space trajectory}$$

- **Potential gradient norm:**

$$\gamma^2 = \gamma_*^2 + \frac{4\epsilon}{d-2} \frac{1}{[(d-1) - \epsilon]^2} \frac{\Omega^2}{H^2}.$$

[Achucarro, Palma, '18]

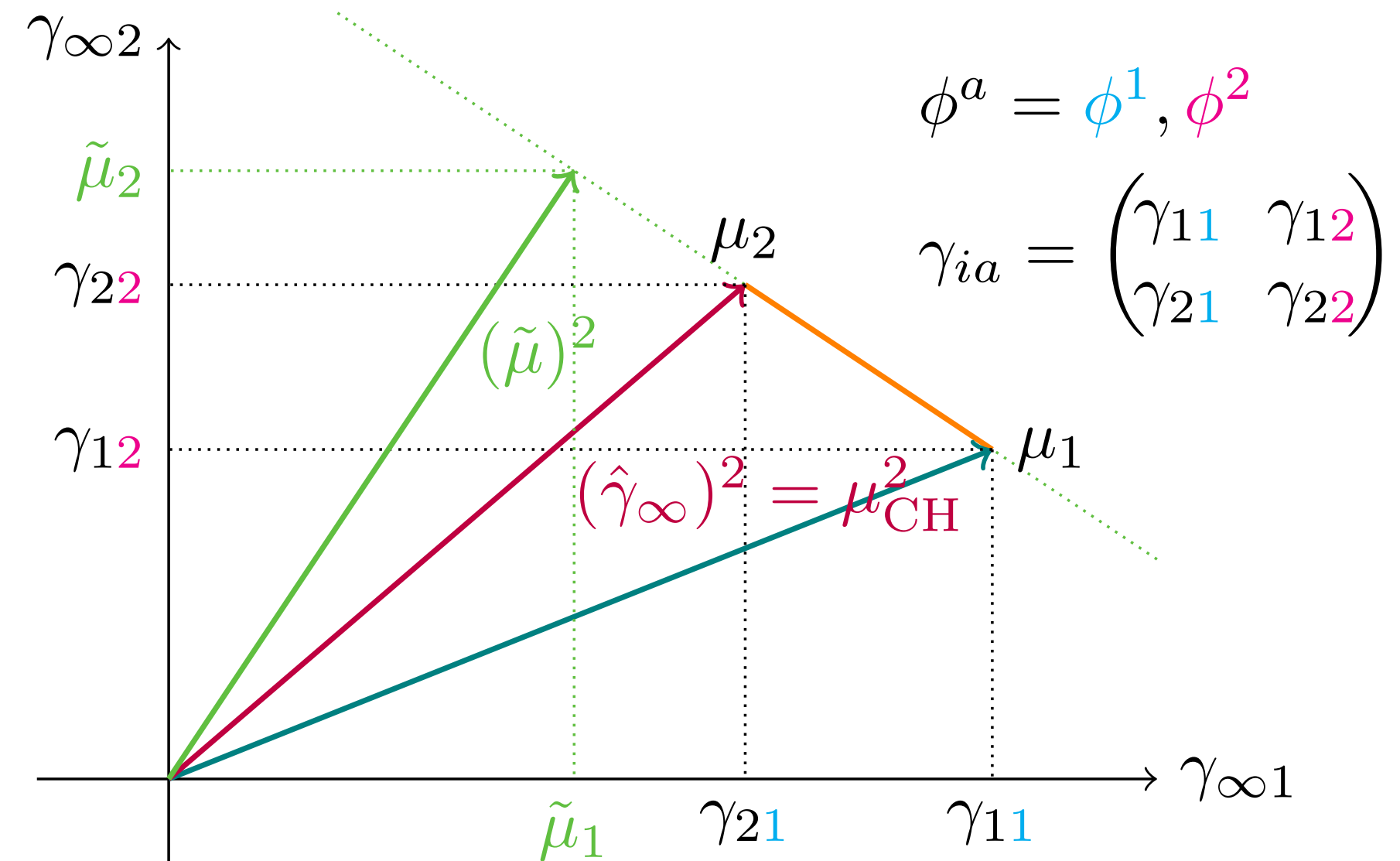
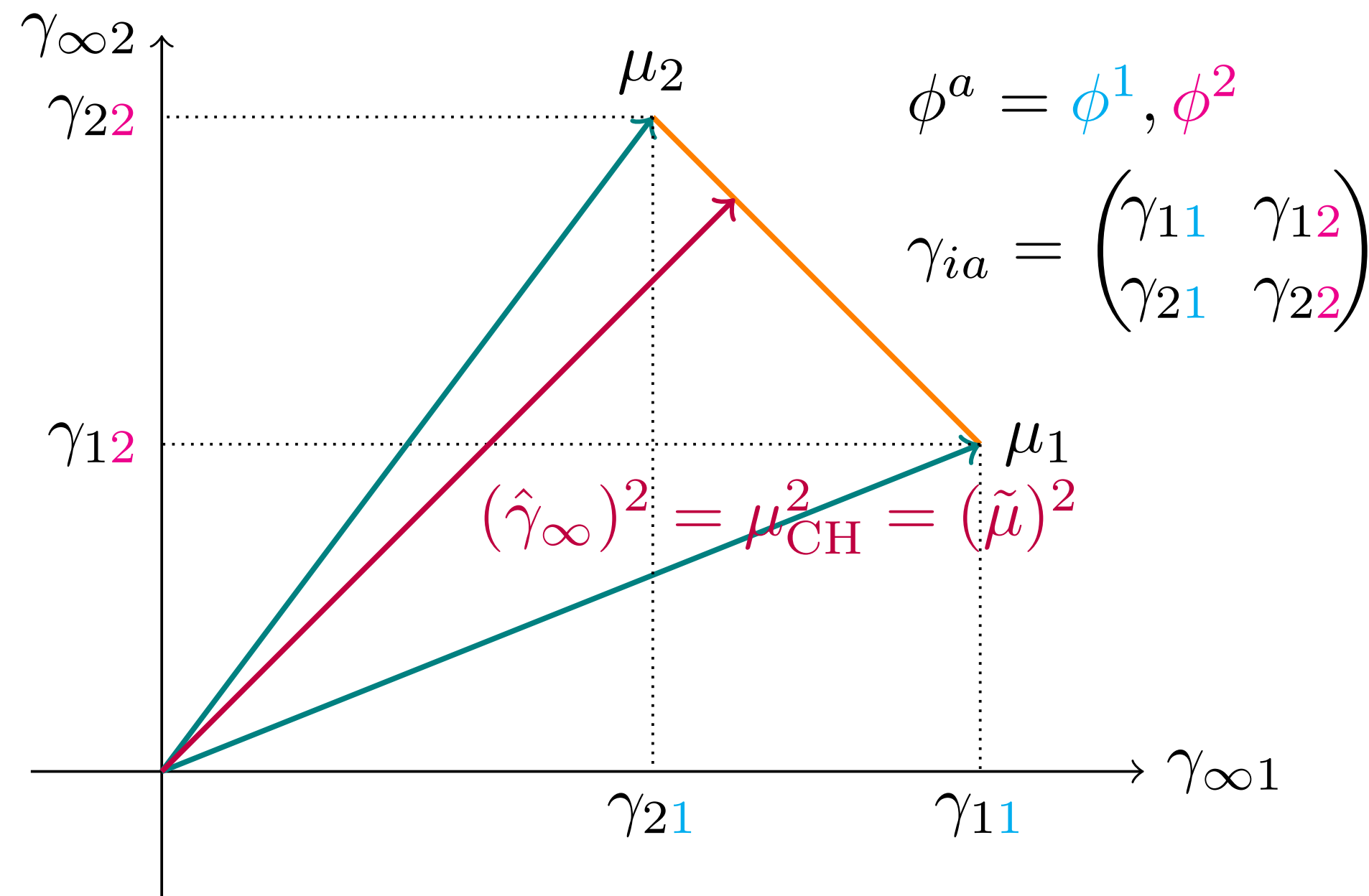
# Convex Hull

[GS, Tonioni, Tran, '23]

- Given the set of vectors  $(\mu_i)_a = \gamma_{ia}$ , define the convex hull of exponential couplings

$$\text{CH}(\{\mu_i\}_{i=1}^m) = \left\{ \nu_a = \sum_{i=1}^m \xi_i (\mu_i)_a : (\xi_i)_{i=1}^m \in (\mathbb{R}_0^+)^m, \sum_{i=1}^m \xi_i = 1 \right\}$$

- Similar to how it arises in multi-field generalization of the WGC and the distance conjecture.
- Two notion of distances: CH distance  $\mu_{\text{CH}} = \inf_{\nu \in \text{CH}} \sqrt{\nu_a \nu^a}$  and distance of the CH hyperplane:  $\tilde{\mu}$



# Convex Hull Criterion

[GS, Tonioni, Tran, '23]

- If all potential terms are positive, our optimal bound on  $\epsilon$  coincides with the CH distance:

$$\epsilon \geq \frac{d-2}{4} (\hat{\gamma}_\infty)^2 = \frac{d-2}{4} \mu_{\text{CH}}^2.$$

- Note that for potentials involving terms of both signs (but overall potential is positive), our optimal bound still holds, but the **CH distance may be an overestimation:**

$$\mu_{\text{CH}}^2 \geq (\hat{\gamma}_\infty)^2 \geq (\tilde{\mu})^2$$

- What is the significance of  $\tilde{\mu}$  = the distance of the CH hyperplane from the origin?
  - $\tilde{\mu}$  appears in a new bound on  $\epsilon$  we found in our paper 2!
  - if  $\mu_{\text{CH}} = \tilde{\mu}$ , we show that the above bound (in paper 1) is saturated by scaling solutions!



# Saturation by Scaling Cosmologies

[GS, Tonioni, Tran, '23]

- We show that  $\tilde{\mu}$  gives the  $\epsilon$ -parameter for scaling solutions (which are late-time attractors)!

$$(\tilde{\mu})^2 = \frac{1}{\sum_{i=1}^m \sum_{j=1}^m \delta_{ab} (\gamma^{-1})^{ai} (\gamma^{-1})^{bj}}$$

- Our (first)  $\epsilon$ -bound is saturated by scaling cosmology whenever the hyperplane distance vector intersects with the CH,

$$\epsilon = \frac{d-2}{4} (\hat{\gamma}_\infty)^2 = \frac{d-2}{4} \mu_{\text{CH}}^2 = \frac{d-2}{4} (\tilde{\mu})^2.$$

- If not, we show that there are subdominant potential terms, and no guarantee of convergence at late-time to scaling solutions.

# Swampland Conjectures & String Theory Examples

# Swampland Conjectures & String Examples

[GS, Tonioni, Tran, '23]

- Various values for the  $\mathcal{O}(1)$  constant in the de Sitter Conjecture  $\gamma \geq \gamma_{dS}$  have been proposed. Our bound informs us whether (& which of) these criteria have to do with cosmic acceleration.
- $(\nabla V)^2 = 0$  implies either a **de Sitter vacuum** ( $V \neq 0$ ) or **pure kination** ( $V = 0$ ), which **saturates** our bound:

$$\gamma \geq \gamma_* \geq \hat{\gamma}_\infty \left[ 1 - \frac{1}{2} \frac{\eta}{(d-1) - \epsilon} \right]$$

Our bound is in some sense optimal.

- We can test the conditions under which there is **separation of scales**, by tracking the time-dependence of moduli.
- We applied our scaling solution results and bounds to **string theory examples** (F-theory and type II string with fluxes, heterotic  $O(16) \times O(16)$  string with curvature & Casimir energy).

# Summary

# Summary of Results

[GS, Tonioni, Tran, '23]

- We **bound the rate of time variation of the Hubble parameter at late time** [GS, Tonioni, Tran, '23, STT1] and in the recent work, we further turn this into a **bound on  $\gamma \equiv |\nabla V|/V$**  [GS, Tonioni, Tran, '23, STT2].
- The proper diagnostic for cosmic acceleration should be stated in terms of  $\epsilon$  rather than potential gradient commonly used in Swampland criteria.
- Our bound when applied to string theoretic constructions imposes a generic obstacle to acceleration if the dilation is one of the rolling fields. We also suggest several ways out.
- We prove the conditions under which scaling solutions are **late-time attractors**. Moreover, we prove that scaling solutions **saturate** our bound on  $\epsilon$ .
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# Backup Slides

# String Theory Example 1

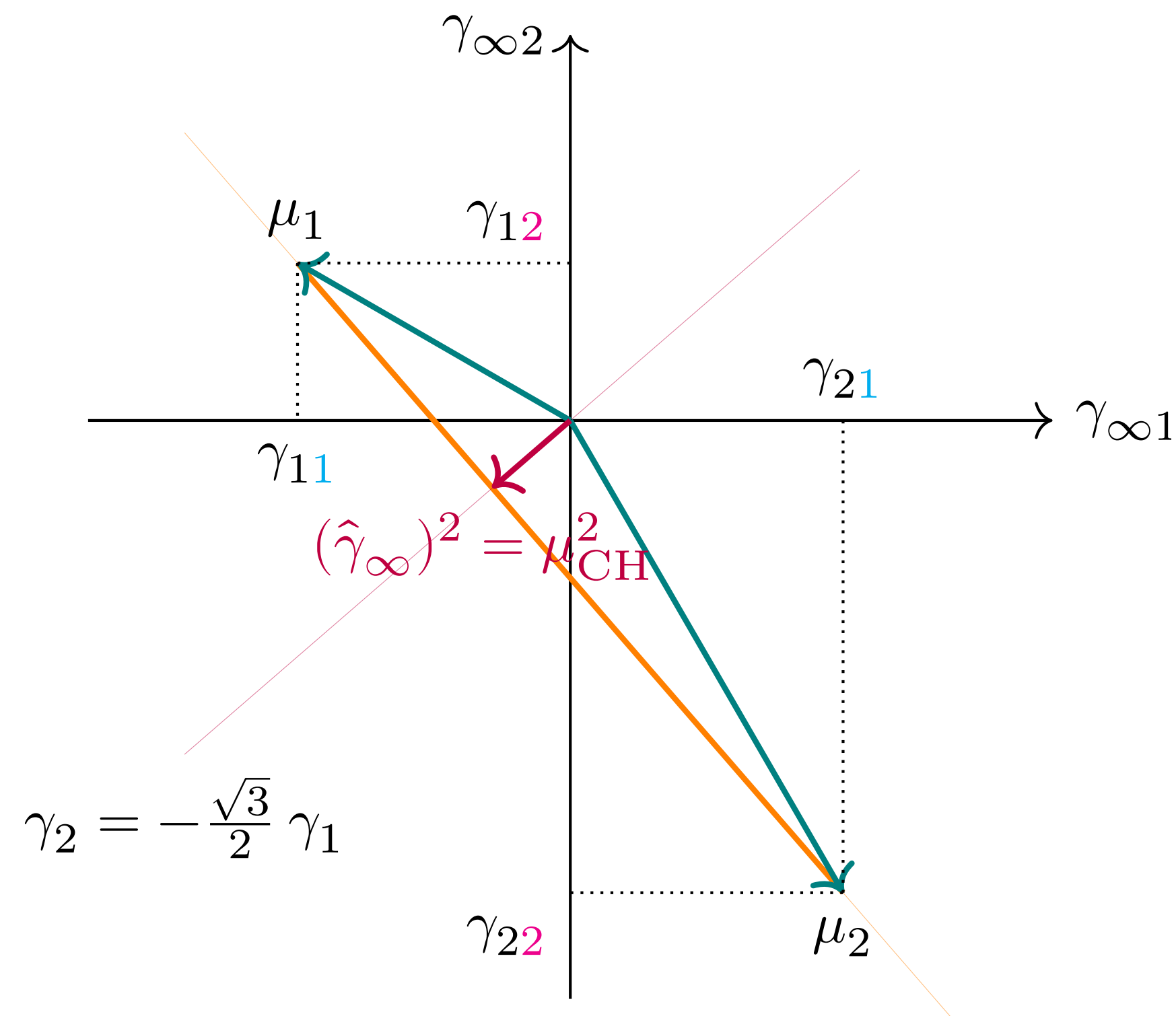
[GS, Tonioni, Tran]

Example previously considered in [Calderon-Infante, Ruiz, Valenzuela]

- Asymptotic limit of the complex structure moduli space of **F-theory on CY 4-fold**:

$$V = \Lambda_1 e^{\kappa_4 \sqrt{2} \tilde{\phi}^1 - \kappa_4 \sqrt{\frac{2}{3}} \tilde{\phi}^2} + \Lambda_2 e^{-\kappa_4 \sqrt{2} \tilde{\phi}^1 + \kappa_4 \sqrt{6} \tilde{\phi}^2} \quad \Lambda_1, \Lambda_2 > 0$$

assuming the Einstein frame volume is stabilized w/o affecting the above potential (big if!).



$$\phi^a = \phi^1, \phi^2$$

$$\gamma_{ia} = \begin{pmatrix} \gamma_{11} & \gamma_{12} \\ \gamma_{21} & \gamma_{22} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -\sqrt{2} & \sqrt{\frac{2}{3}} \\ \sqrt{2} & -\sqrt{6} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\epsilon \geq \frac{d-2}{4} (\hat{\gamma}_\infty)^2 = \frac{4-2}{4} \times \left[ \left( -\frac{2\sqrt{2}}{7} \right)^2 + \left( -\frac{\sqrt{6}}{7} \right)^2 \right] = \frac{1}{7}$$

$$(\lambda^1, \lambda^2) = (3/4, -1/4) \text{ together with } \Lambda_1, \Lambda_2 > 0 \Rightarrow$$

converges to scaling solutions at late-time,  $\epsilon = \frac{1}{7}$

# String Theory Example 2

[GS, Tonioni, Tran]

- $O(16) \times O(16)$  heterotic string with **positive** internal curvature ( $\Lambda_R < 0$ ) & Casimir energy:

$$V = \Lambda_R e^{\kappa_d [\frac{2}{\sqrt{d-2}} \tilde{\delta} - \frac{2}{\sqrt{10-d}} \tilde{\sigma}]} + \Lambda_C e^{\kappa_d [\frac{d}{\sqrt{d-2}} \tilde{\delta} + \sqrt{10-d} \tilde{\sigma}]}.$$

$\epsilon = d - 1$  because

$$\gamma_{\infty}^{-\tilde{\delta}} = \frac{d}{\sqrt{d-2}}, \quad \Rightarrow \quad (\gamma_{\infty})^2 = 4/(d-2) + 12 > 4(d-1)/(d-2),$$

$$\gamma_{\infty}^{-\tilde{\sigma}} = \sqrt{10-d},$$

- If internal curvature is **negative**,  $\Lambda_R, \Lambda_C > 0$ , we have a scaling solution as an attractor

$$\tilde{\delta}_*(t) = \tilde{\delta}_0 - \frac{1}{\kappa_d} \frac{12-d}{10} \sqrt{d-2} \ln \frac{t}{t_0}, \quad \text{with} \quad \epsilon = \frac{1}{1 - \frac{3(d-2)}{25}} > 1.$$

$$\tilde{\sigma}_*(t) = \tilde{\sigma}_0 + \frac{1}{\kappa_d} \frac{d-2}{10} \sqrt{10-d} \ln \frac{t}{t_0},$$

No acceleration for both cases as expected since  $\tilde{\delta}$  is rolling



# String Theory Example 3

[GS, Tonioni, Tran]

- Type II compactification with RR  $p$ -form and  $q$ -form fluxes:

$$V = \Lambda_1 e^{\kappa_d \left[ \frac{d}{\sqrt{d-2}} \tilde{\delta} + \frac{10-d-2q}{\sqrt{10-d}} \tilde{\sigma} \right]} + \Lambda_2 e^{\kappa_d \left[ \frac{d}{\sqrt{d-2}} \tilde{\delta} + \frac{10-d-2p}{\sqrt{10-d}} \tilde{\sigma} \right]},$$

We showed that scaling solutions are attractors if  $q < (10 - d)/2$  and  $p > (10 - d)/2$ :

$$\tilde{\delta}_*(t) = \tilde{\delta}_0 - \frac{1}{\kappa_d} \frac{2\sqrt{d-2}}{d} \ln \frac{t}{t_0}, \quad \epsilon = \frac{d^2}{4} > 1$$

$$\tilde{\sigma}_*(t) = \tilde{\sigma}_0,$$

No acceleration as expected since  $\tilde{\delta}$  is rolling

- Separation of scales:

$$l_H = l_H(t_0) \frac{t}{t_0},$$

$$l_{\text{KK},d} = l_{\text{KK},d}(t_0) \left( \frac{t}{t_0} \right)^{\frac{2}{d}}, \quad l_{s,d}(t) = l_{s,d}(t_0) \left( \frac{t}{t_0} \right)^{\frac{2}{d}}$$

KK length grows less quickly than Hubble length.