



Instituto de
Física
Teórica
UAM-CSIC



Infinite Distance Limits, Light Towers & Duality Frames

Ignacio Ruiz,
SUSY2024 , June 10th, 2024



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Infinite Distance Limits,
Or:
“Three Supersymmetries
for the prize of one shape”

Ignacio Ruiz,
SUSY2024 , June 10th, 2024

Based on:

[2405.20332] Etheredge, Heidenreich, Rudelius, **I.R.**,
Valenzuela

[2311.01501, 2311.01536] Castellano, **I.R.**, Valenzuela

[2306.16440] Etheredge, Heidenreich, McNamara,
Rudelius, **I.R.**, Valenzuela

[WIP] Fraiman, **I.R.**, Valenzuela

String Theory and dualities

11d

M-theory

S-Duality



S^1

$g_s \rightarrow \infty$

S^1/\mathbb{Z}_2

$g_s \rightarrow \infty$

O9

Type I

Type IIB

Type IIA

Het. $SO(32)$

Het. $E_8 \times E_8$

10d

T-dual on S^1

T-dual on S^1

9d

S-Duality

⋮

Swampland Program

c.f. Veronica's talk!

What are the conditions that any consistent theory of Quantum Gravity must follow?

Can it give us information about dualities?

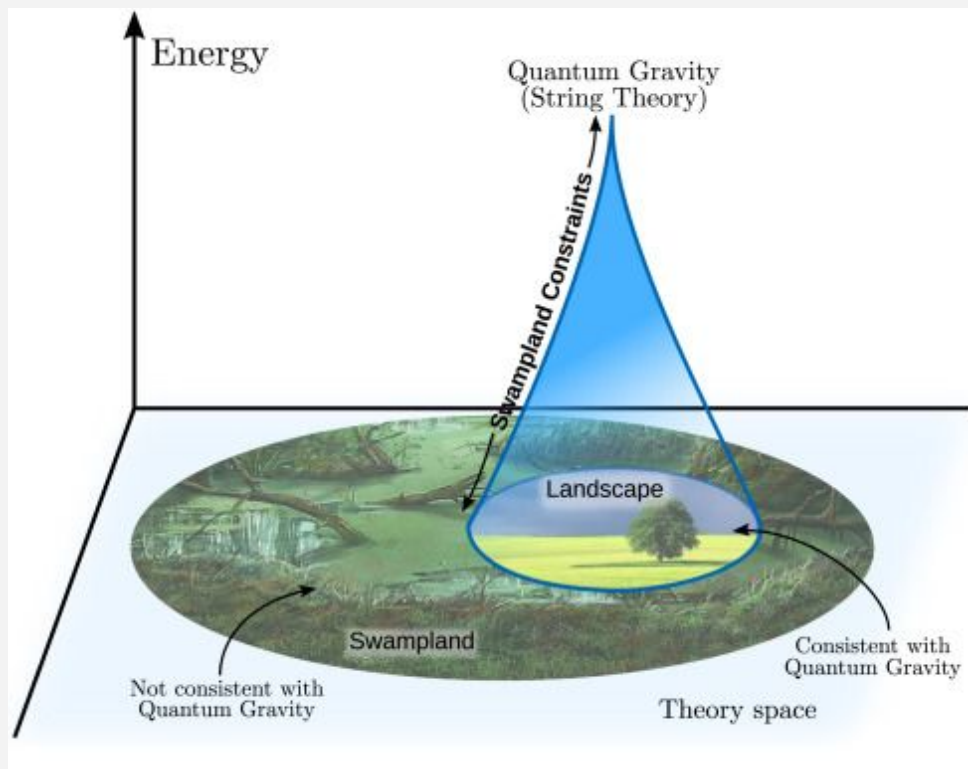
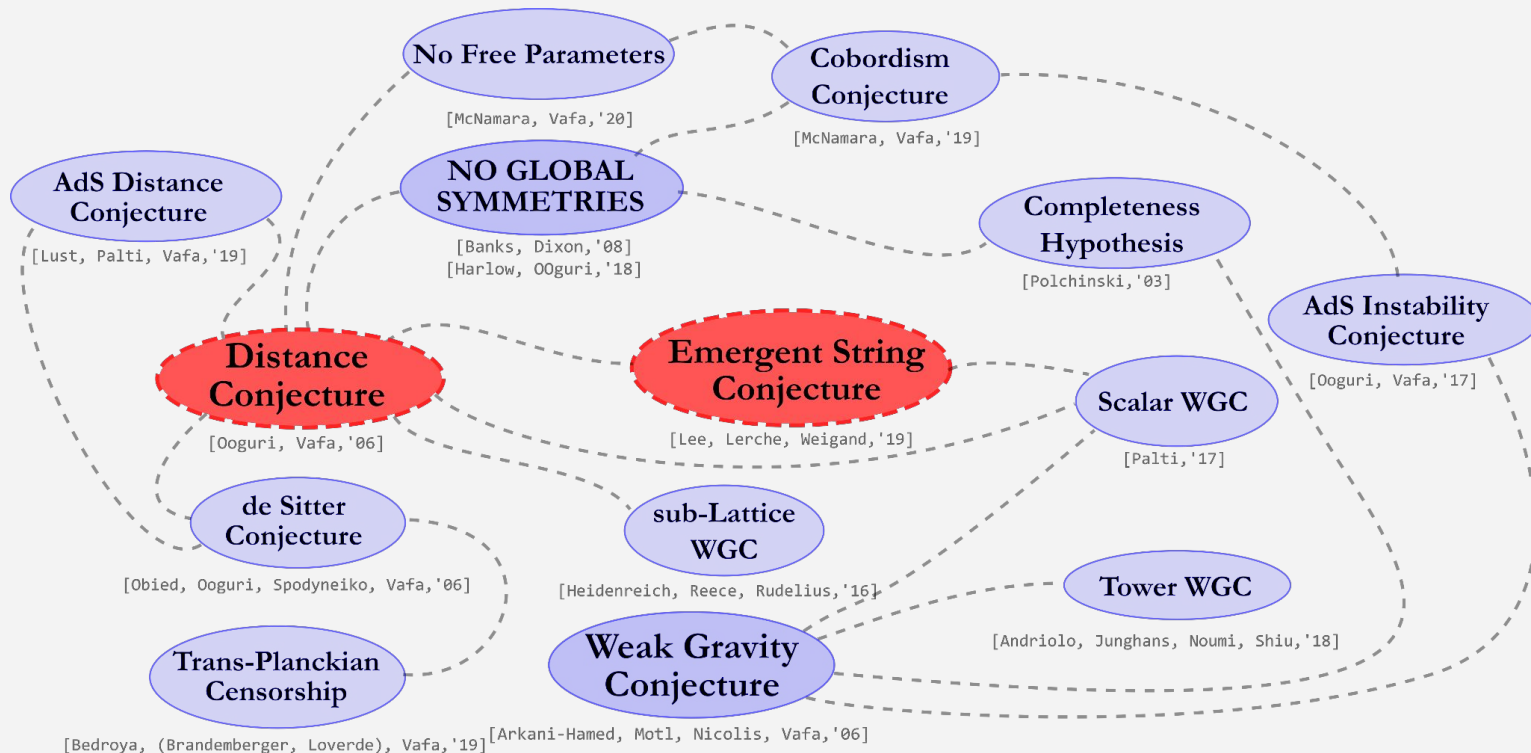


figure taken from [van Beest, Calderón-Infante, Mirfendereski, Valenzuela, '20]

1. Introduction

Swampland Program

c.f. Veronica's talk!



Swampland Distance Conjecture

[Ooguri, Vafa, '07]

c.f. Veronica's talk!

Given a d -dimensional EFT coupled to Einstein gravity with scalars taking value on some moduli space \mathcal{M} we have the following terms in the effective action:

$$S_{\text{EFT}} \supseteq \frac{1}{2\kappa_d^2} \int d^d x \sqrt{-g} (R_g - G_{ij} \partial_\mu \phi^i \partial^\mu \phi^j)$$

with G_{ij} the **moduli space metric**.

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with G_{ij} the **moduli space metric**.

We can use it to define angles and distances, e.g.:

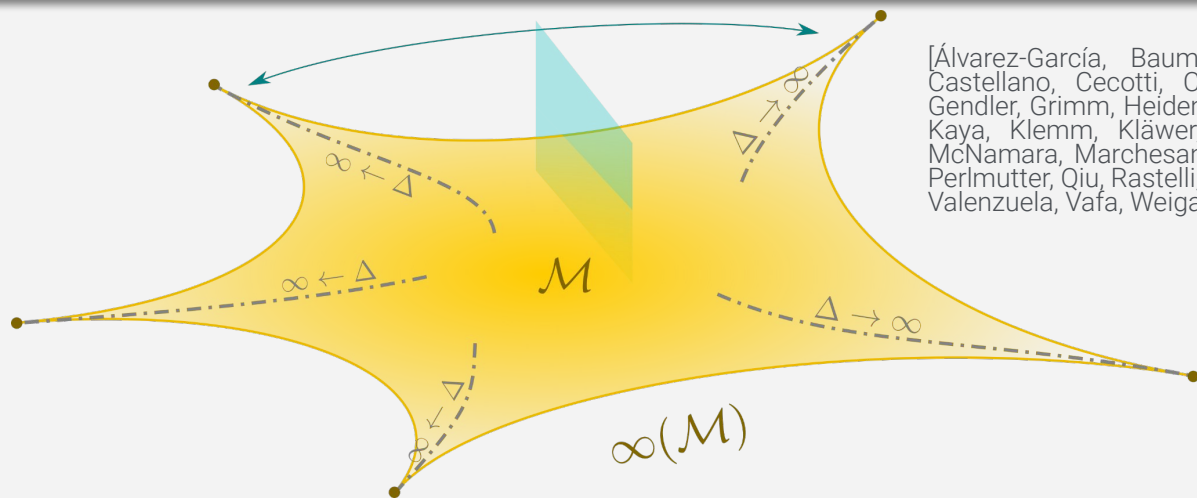
$$\Delta(\tau) = \int_0^\tau \sqrt{G_{ij} \partial_t \phi^i \partial_t \phi^j} dt$$

with $\vec{\phi} : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathcal{M}$ some geodesic trajectory.

Swampland Distance Conjecture

As we move towards infinite distance limits, there is an **infinite tower of states** becoming **exponentially light**:

$$M(\Delta) \sim M(0)e^{-\alpha\Delta} \quad \text{as } \Delta \rightarrow \infty \text{ with } \alpha = \mathcal{O}(1).$$



[Álvarez-García, Baume, Blumenhagen, Buratti, Calderón-Infante, Castellano, Cecotti, Corvilain, Cribiori, Etheredge, Erkiner, Font, Gendler, Grimm, Heidenreich, van de Heisteeg, Herráez, Ibáñez, Joshi, Kaya, Klemm, Kläwer, Knapp, Lanza, Lee, Lerche, Li, Lockhart, McNamara, Marchesano, Montella, Martucci, Montero, Ooguri, Palti, Perlmutter, Qiu, Rastelli, Reece, Rudelius, **IR**, Schlechter, Stout, Uranga, Valenzuela, Vafa, Weigand, Wiesner, Wolf...]

Emergent String Conjecture

[Lee, Lerche, Weigand, '19]

What are the possible tower one finds?

Any infinite distance limit is either a decompactification limit or a limit in which there is a weakly coupled string becoming tensionless.

[Álvarez-García, Aoufia, Basile, Baume, Calderón-Infante, Kläwer, Lanza, Lee, Leone, Lerche, Marchesano, Martucci, Perlmutter, Rastelli, Rudelius, Vafa, Valenzuela, Weigand, Wiesner, Xu...]

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Possible light towers:

[Álvarez-García, Aoufía, Basile, Baume, Calderón-Infante, Kläwer, Lanza, Lee, Leone, Lerche, Marchesano, Martucci, Perlmutter, Rastelli, Rudelius, Vafa, Valenzuela, Weigand, Wiesner, Xu...]

KK states

String oscillator modes

Different towers and limits will have different exponential rates α .

2. Type IIB on S^1 (32 supercharges)

Duality Frames

We have two moduli: 10d dilaton $\phi_{\text{IIB}} = \log g_{\text{IIB}}$ and circle radius R_{IIB} .

Perturbative control is given in **large volume, small coupling** regime:

$$g_{\text{IIB}} \ll 1 \qquad R_{\text{IIB}} \gg \sqrt{\alpha'}$$

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Out of it we perform T- or S-duality to go to there:

IIB-IIB S-duality

$$R_{\text{IIB}'} = R_{\text{IIB}}$$

$$g_{\text{IIB}'} = g_{\text{IIB}}^{-1}$$

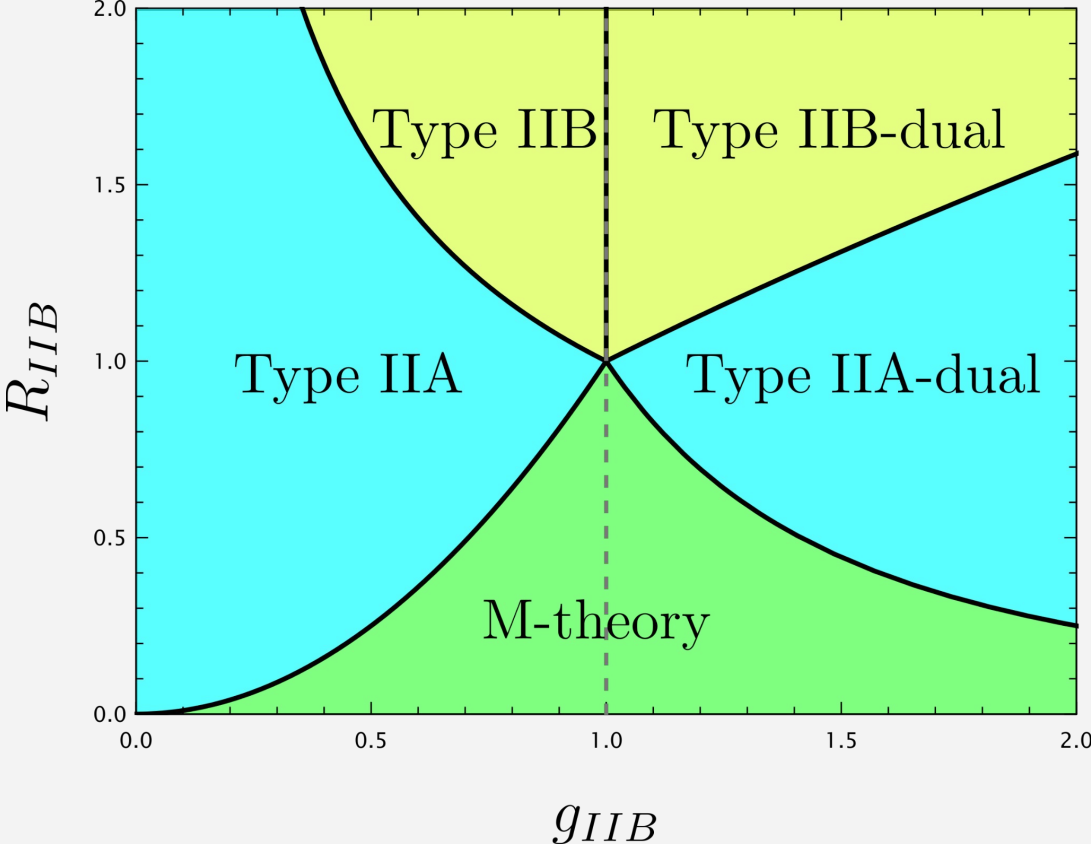
IIB-IIA T-duality

$$R_{\text{IIA}} = \frac{\alpha'}{R_{\text{IIB}}} \quad g_{\text{IIA}} = g_{\text{IIB}} \frac{\sqrt{\alpha'}}{R_{\text{IIB}}}$$

IIA-Mth duality

$$R_{10} = g_{\text{IIA}}^{2/3}$$

Duality Frames



Canonical coordinates

The 9d EFT action has a kinetic term for the scalars

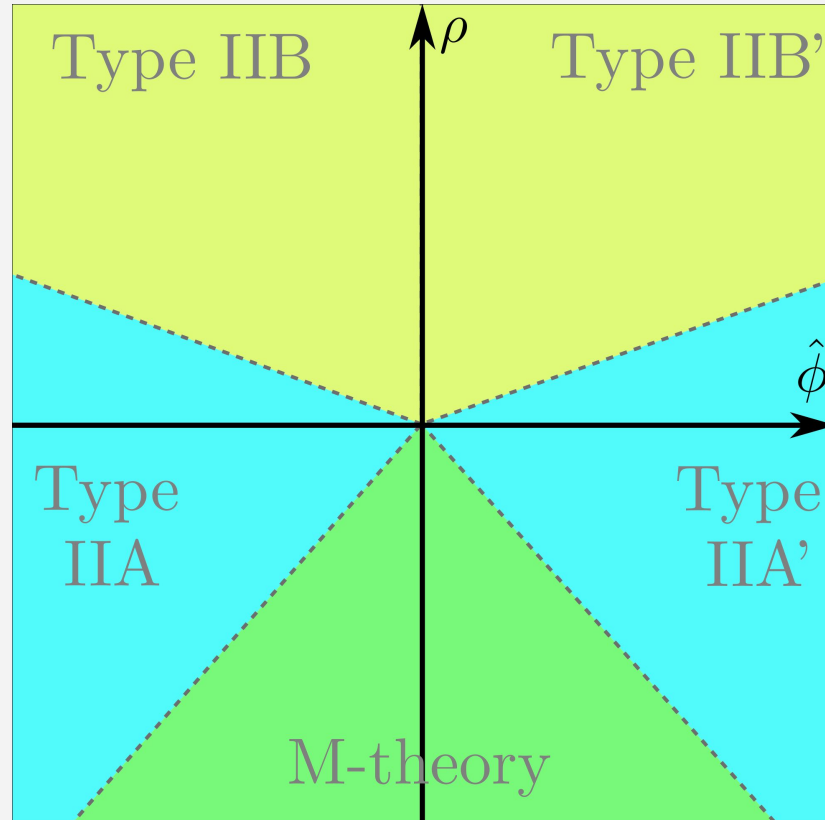
$$S_{\text{IIB}}^{(9\text{d})} \supset \frac{1}{2\kappa_9^2} \int d^9x \sqrt{-g} \left\{ R_g - \frac{1}{2}(\partial\phi)^2 - \frac{8}{7R_{\text{IIB}}^2}(\partial R_{\text{IIB}})^2 \right\}$$

We can perform a change of coordinates to go to **flat coordinates**

$$\mathbf{G}_{ab} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{2} & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{8}{7R_{\text{IIB}}^2} \end{pmatrix} \longrightarrow \hat{\phi} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\phi \quad \rho = \sqrt{\frac{8}{7}} \log R_{\text{IIB}}$$

This allows identification between \mathcal{M} and $T_p\mathcal{M}$.

Putting things together



Light towers of states

We can compute states becoming light in at least one limit:

$$T_{F1} \sim M_{\text{Pl},10}^2 e^{-\phi/2} \Rightarrow \frac{m_{F1}}{M_{\text{Pl},9}} \sim R_{\text{IIB}}^{-1/7} e^{-\phi/4}$$

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$$m_{\text{KK}} \sim \frac{1}{R_{\text{IIB}}} \Rightarrow \frac{m_{\text{KK}}}{M_{\text{Pl},9}} \sim R_{\text{IIB}}^{-8/7}$$

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$$m_{F-w} \sim R_{\text{IIB}} e^{-\phi/2} \Rightarrow \frac{m_{F-w}}{M_{\text{Pl},9}} \sim R_{\text{IIB}}^{6/7} e^{-\phi/2}$$

$$m_{D1-w} \sim R_{\text{IIB}} e^{-\phi/2} \Rightarrow \frac{m_{D1-w}}{M_{\text{Pl},9}} \sim R_{\text{IIB}}^{6/7} e^{\phi/2}$$

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ALL TOWERS

$$T_{D1-w} \sim M_{\text{Pl},10}^2 e^{+\phi/2} \Rightarrow \frac{m_{D1-w}}{M_{\text{Pl},10}} \sim R_{\text{IIB}}^{-1/7} e^{-\phi/4}$$

ARE BPS!

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Scalar charge to mass ratio vectors

For multifield moduli spaces asymptotic limits can be complicated: Exponential rate of towers also depends on the **direction** we are taking!

For it we define **scalar charge-to-mass ratio vectors**:

$$\vec{\zeta}_I = -\vec{\nabla} \log m_I(\vec{\varphi})$$

Given an asymptotic direction $\hat{\tau}$, then $\lambda_I = \hat{\tau} \cdot \vec{\zeta}_I$

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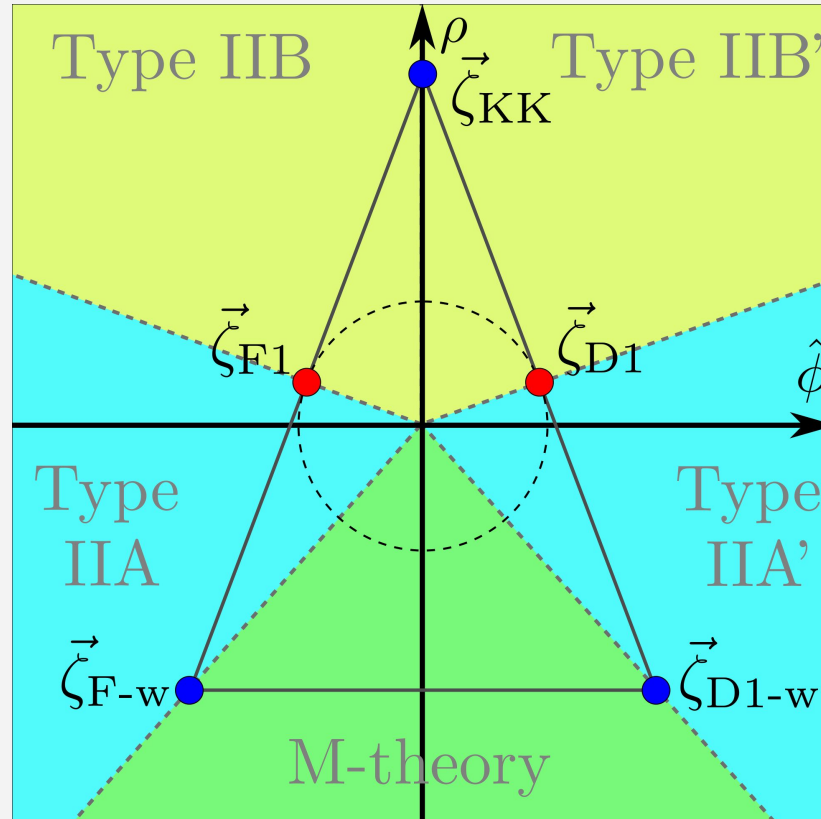
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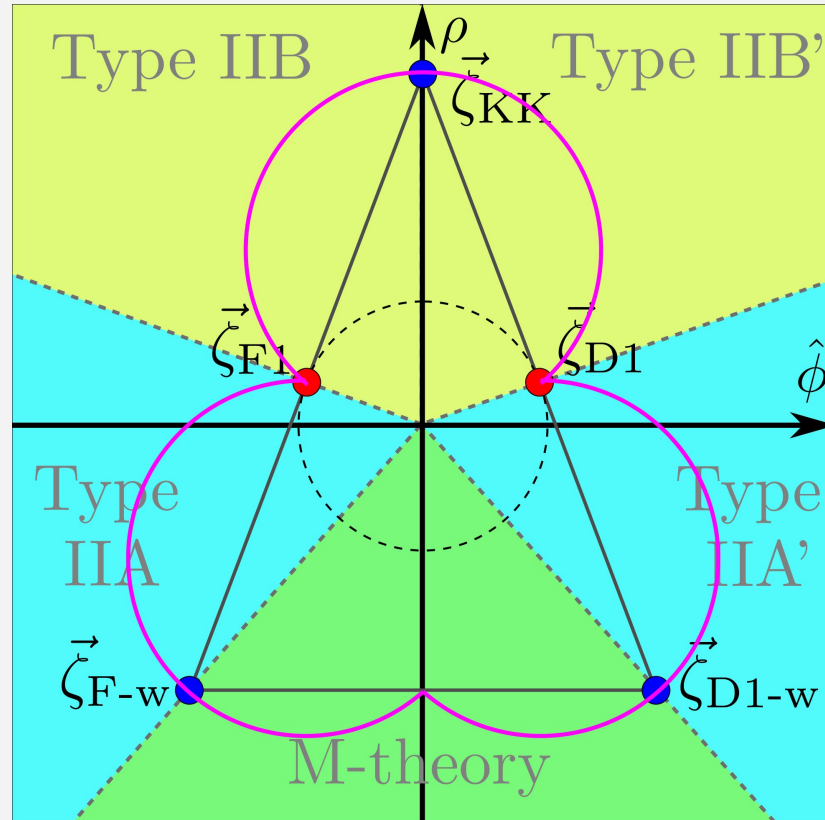
$$\vec{\zeta}_{\text{KK}} = \left(0, \sqrt{\frac{8}{7}}\right) \quad \vec{\zeta}_{\text{F1}} = \left(\frac{1}{2\sqrt{2}}, \frac{1}{2\sqrt{14}}\right) \quad \vec{\zeta}_{\text{D1}} = \left(-\frac{1}{2\sqrt{2}}, \frac{1}{2\sqrt{14}}\right)$$

$$\vec{\zeta}_{\text{F-w}} = \left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}, -\frac{3}{\sqrt{14}}\right) \quad \vec{\zeta}_{\text{D1-w}} = \left(-\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}, -\frac{3}{\sqrt{14}}\right)$$

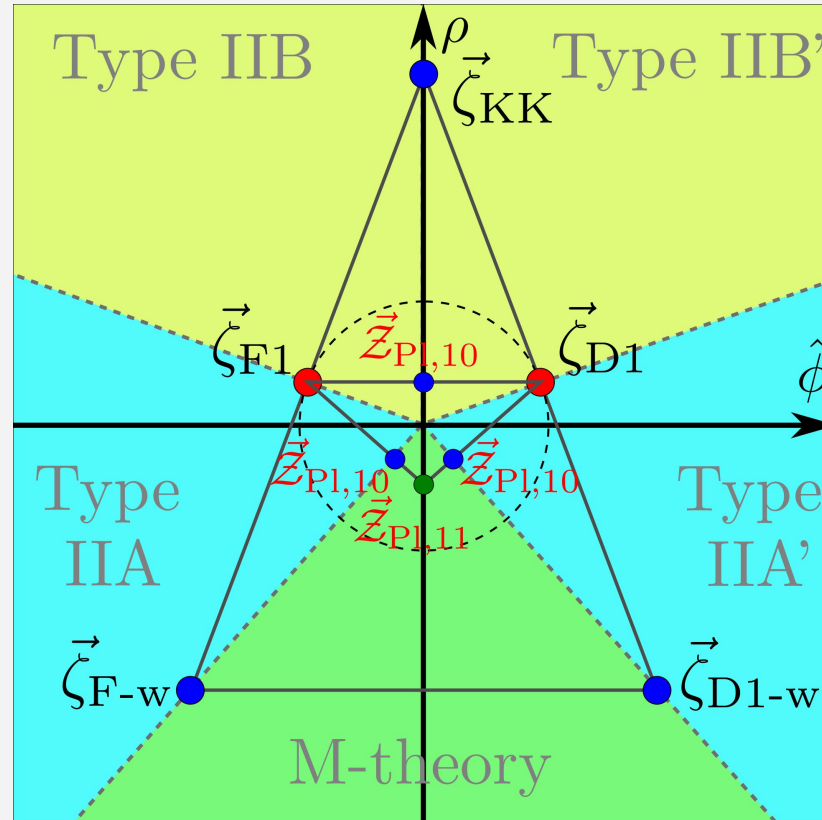
Putting things together



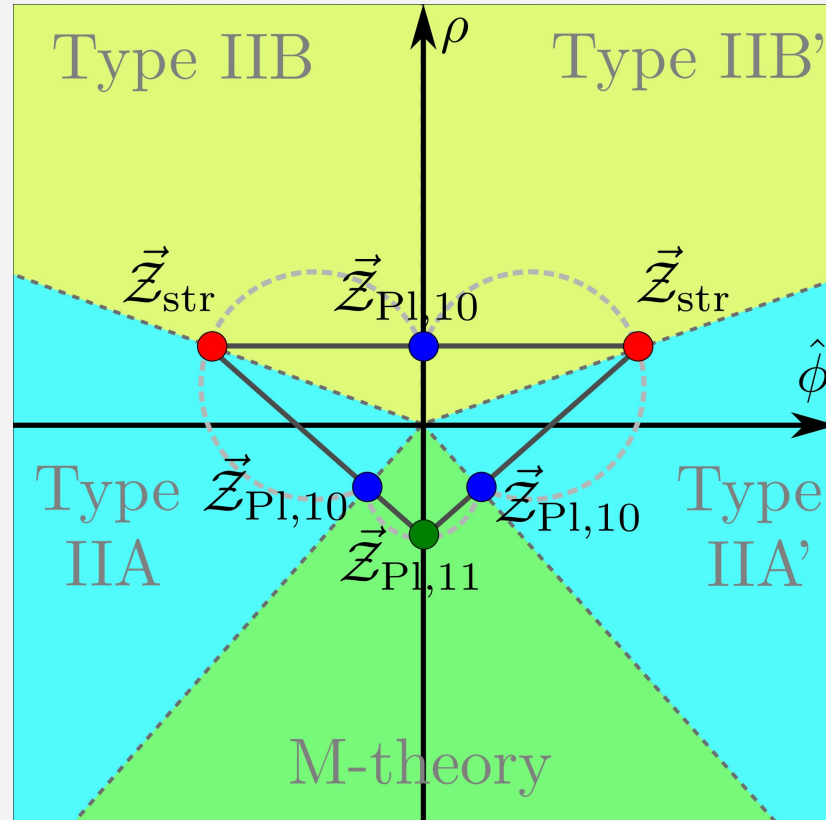
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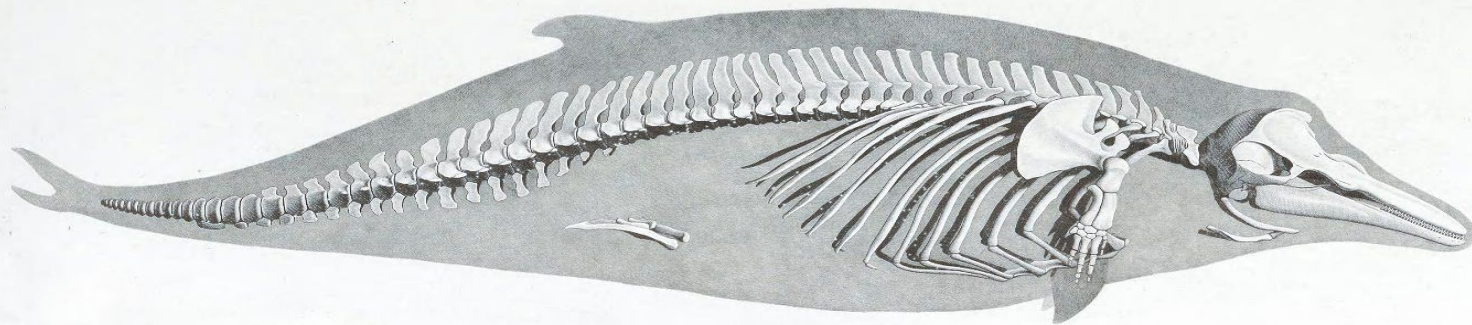


Putting things together

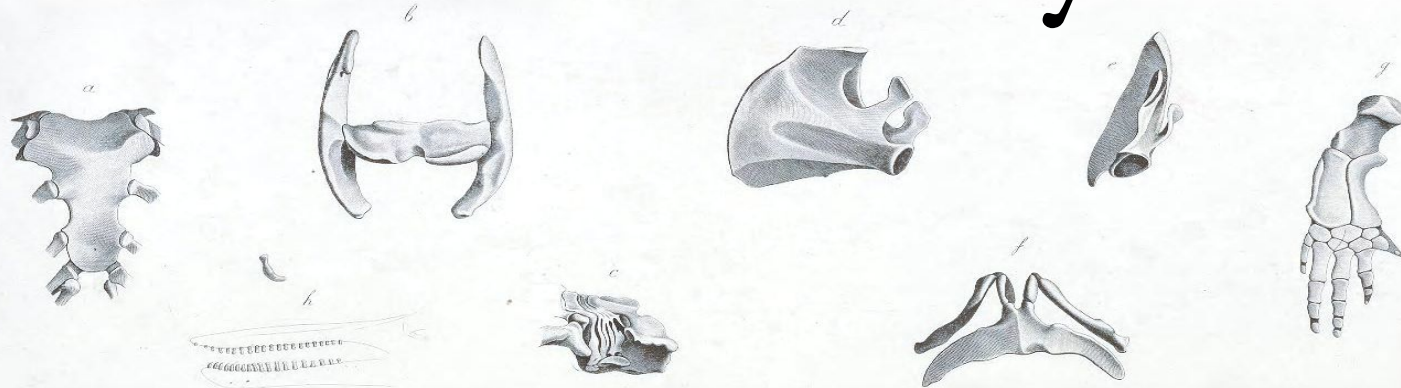


Putting things together





3. Some Taxonomy Rules



Dimensional reduction

Consider EFT action in D dimensions:

$$S_D \supseteq \int d^D x \sqrt{-g_D} \left[\frac{1}{2\kappa_D^2} \mathcal{R}_D - \frac{1}{2} (\partial \hat{\phi})^2 \right]$$

We reduce to $d = D - n$:

$$S_d \supseteq \int d^d x \sqrt{-g_d} \left[\frac{1}{2\kappa_d^2} \left(\mathcal{R}_d - \frac{d+n-2}{n(d-2)} (\partial \log \mathcal{V}_n)^2 \right) - \frac{1}{2} (\partial \hat{\phi})^2 \right]$$

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We define canonically normalized volume modulus:

$$\hat{\rho} = \frac{1}{\kappa_d} \sqrt{\frac{d+n-2}{n(d-2)}} \log \mathcal{V}_n$$

Dimensional reduction

This controls the KK scale:

$$m_{\text{KK}, n} \sim \mathcal{V}_n^{-1/n} \sim M_{\text{Pl}; d} e^{-\kappa_d \sqrt{\frac{d+n-2}{n(d-2)}} \hat{\rho}}$$

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Higher dimensional tower:

$$m_0 \sim M_{\text{Pl}; D} e^{-\kappa_D \lambda_D \hat{\phi}} \sim M_{\text{Pl}; d} \exp \left\{ -\kappa_d \lambda_D \hat{\phi} - \kappa_d \sqrt{\frac{n}{(d+n-2)(d-2)}} \hat{\rho} \right\}$$

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So that

$$\vec{\zeta}_{\text{KK},n} = \left(0, \sqrt{\frac{d+n-2}{n(d-2)}} \right) \quad \vec{\zeta}_0 = \left(\lambda_D, \sqrt{\frac{n}{(d+n-2)(d-2)}} \right)$$

Dimensional reduction

It is then evident that:

$$|\vec{\zeta}_{\text{KK},n}|^2 = \frac{d-2+n}{n(d-2)} \quad |\vec{\zeta}_{\text{osc}}|^2 = \frac{1}{d-2}$$

While neighbouring towers have

$$\vec{\zeta} \cdot \vec{\zeta}' = \frac{1}{d-2}$$

Dimensional reduction

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Generally:

$$\vec{\zeta}_a \cdot \vec{\zeta}_b = \frac{1}{d-2} + \frac{1}{n_a} \delta_{ab}$$

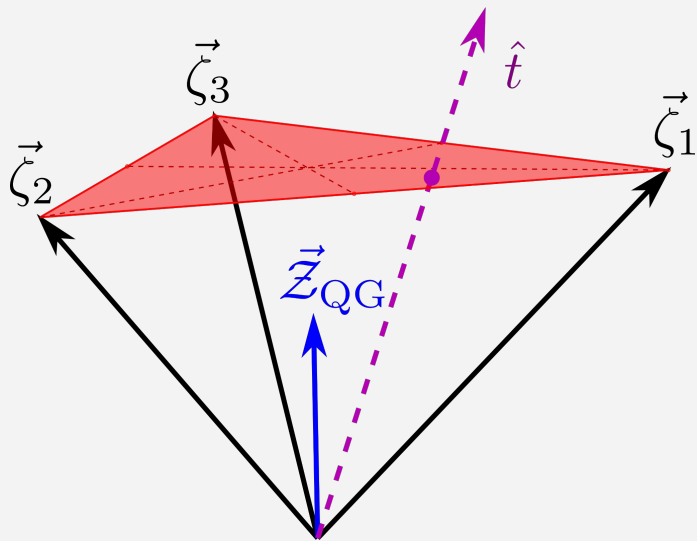
Some assumptions

We can use the above expressions if the following is true:

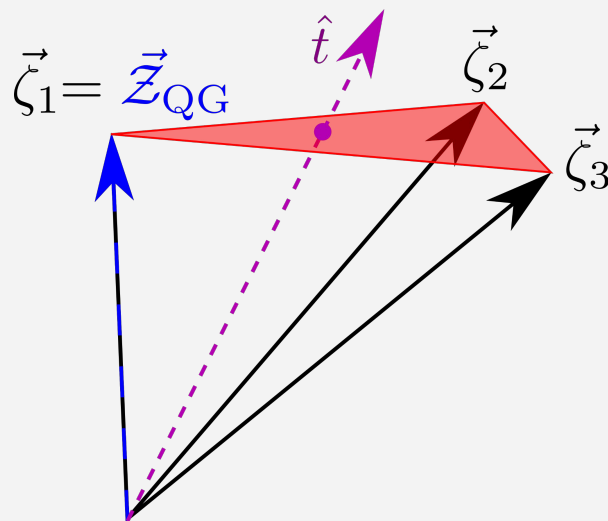
- The **Emergent String Conjecture** holds!
- In **decompactifications limits** the resulting spacetime manifold is **Ricci-flat** except in measure-zero regions (so **no defects** or **running solutions**).
- The above is true in the resulting EFT after decompactification: We can proceed in an **iterative manner**.

Putting things together

Neighboring tower vectors within a **duality frame** (same species scale) form a **frame simplex**:



“Planckian” phase



“Stringy” phase

Some assumptions

We can use the above expressions if the following is true:

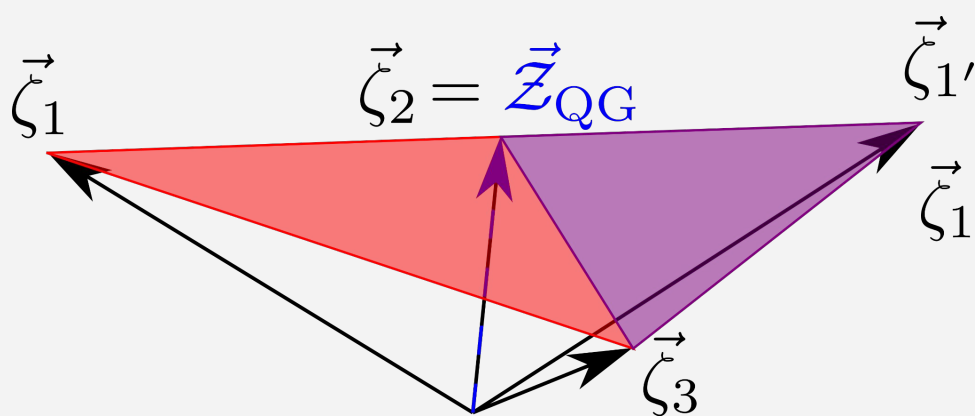
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In order to be able to glue together the different **frames** we will need

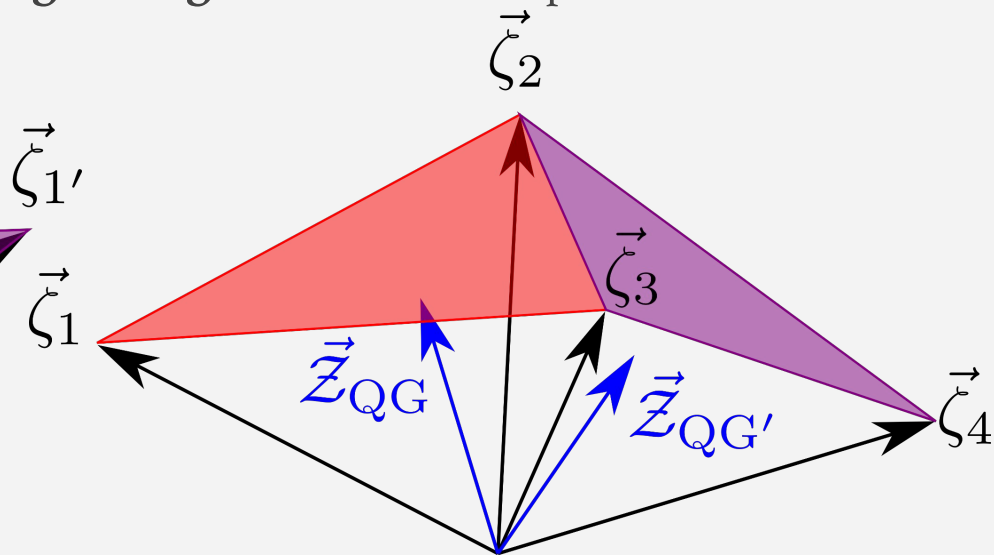
- There is an **asymptotically flat** slice of \mathcal{M} to which the ζ -vectors are **tangent**.
- For generic limits the expression of the leading ζ -vectors is **constant** (so **no sliding**).

Putting things together

Under *relatively mild* assumptions we can **glue together** frame simplices into **frame complex**:



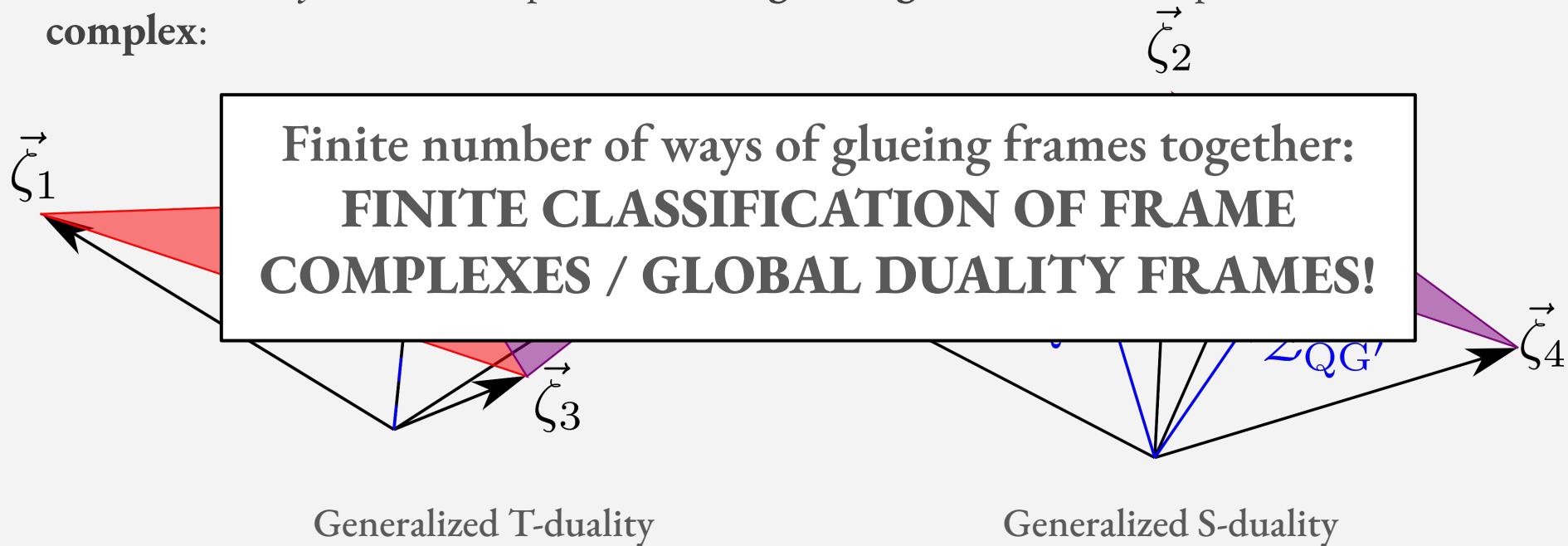
Generalized T-duality

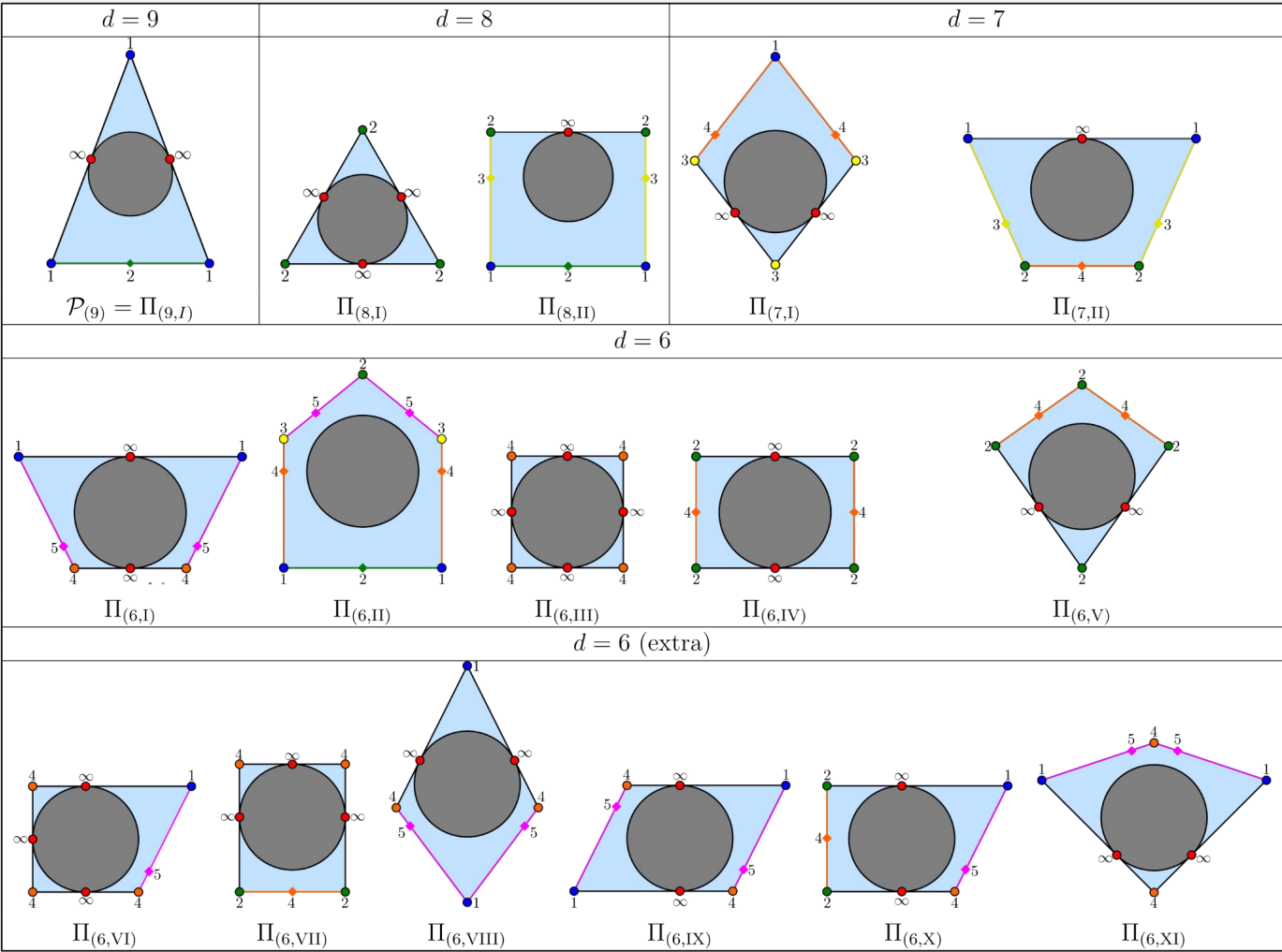


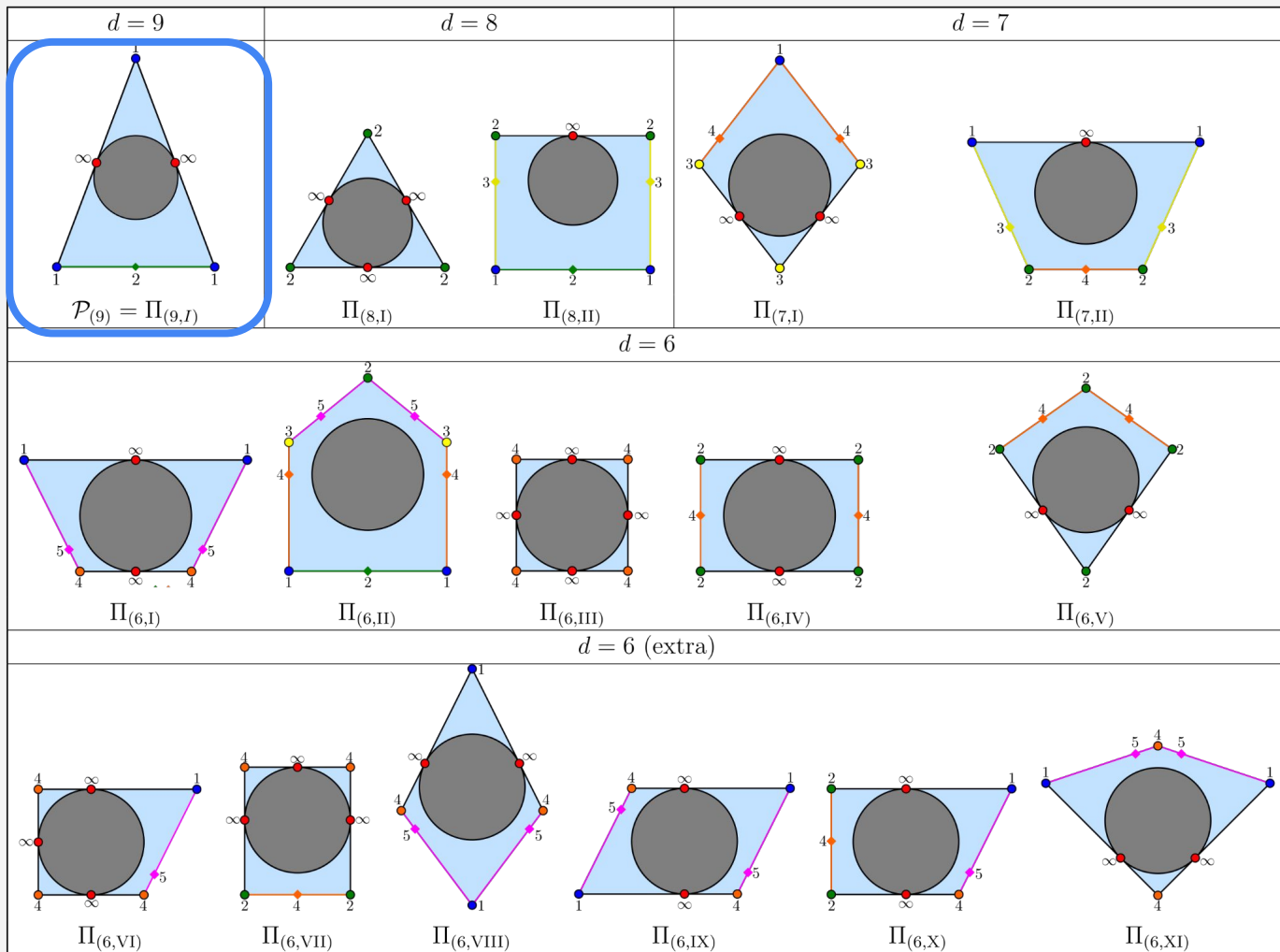
Generalized S-duality

Putting things together

Under *relatively mild* assumptions we can **glue together** frame simplices into **frame complex**:







**What about
fewer supercharges?**

What about fewer supercharges?

Laboratory: 9d Heterotic String Theories

Quick Review:

Heterotic string theory on S^1

In $d=10$ there are 8 theories with rank 16.

Name	Gauge symmetry	\mathcal{N}	Tachyons
HE	$E_8 \times E_8 \times \mathbb{Z}_2$	1	0
HO	$\frac{\text{Spin}(32)}{\mathbb{Z}_2}$	1	0
$O(16) \times O(16)$	$\frac{\text{Spin}(16) \times \text{Spin}(16)}{\mathbb{Z}_2} \times \mathbb{Z}_2$	0	0
U(16)	$\frac{SU(15) \times U(1)}{\mathbb{Z}_2} \times \mathbb{Z}_2$	0	2
$(E_7 \times SU(2))^2$	$\frac{(E_7 \times SU(2))^2}{\mathbb{Z}_2} \times \mathbb{Z}_2$	0	4
$O(24) \times O(8)$	$\frac{\text{Spin}(24) \times \text{Spin}(8)}{\mathbb{Z}_2}$	0	8
$E_8 \times O(16)$	$E_8 \times \text{Spin}(16)$	0	16
$O(32)$	$\text{Spin}(32)$	0	32

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$O(32)$	$\text{Spin}(32)$	0	32

Quick Review:

Heterotic string theory on \mathbb{S}^1

In $d=10$ there are 8 theories with rank 16.

Compactifying on \mathbb{S}^1 one obtains a 9d theory with rank 17, 18 moduli (R, ϕ, \vec{A}) and

$$\mathcal{M}_{\text{SUSY}} = O(\Gamma_{17,1}) \backslash O(17, 1) / O(17) \times \mathbb{R}^+$$

$$\mathcal{M}_{\text{SUSY}} = O(\Upsilon_{17,1}) \backslash O(17, 1) / O(17) \times \mathbb{R}^+$$

$$G_{\text{cl}} = \text{Diag} \left\{ \frac{1}{2}, \frac{8}{7} R^{-2}, \frac{\alpha' e^{-\phi}}{2R^2}, \dots, \frac{\alpha' e^{-\phi}}{2R^2} \right\}$$

Non flat + Compact moduli!

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$E_8 \times O(16)$	$E_8 \times \text{Spin}(16)$	0	16
$O(32)$	$\text{Spin}(32)$	0	32

Quick Review:

Heterotic string theory on S^1

Worksheet perturbative states:

$$\frac{m}{M_{\text{Pl},9}} = \frac{|(R^2 e^{\phi/2} + \frac{1}{2} \vec{A} \cdot \vec{A})w - n + \vec{\pi} \cdot \vec{A}|}{R^{8/7}}$$

Particularly $\frac{m_{\text{KK}}}{M_{\text{Pl},9}} \sim \frac{|n - \vec{\pi} \cdot \vec{A}|}{R^{8/7}}$ (more complicated for winding modes).

Quick Review:

Heterotic string theory on S^1

Worksheet perturbative states:

$$\frac{m}{M_{\text{Pl},9}} = \frac{|(R^2 e^{\phi/2} + \frac{1}{2} \vec{A} \cdot \vec{A})w - n + \vec{\pi} \cdot \vec{A}|}{R^{8/7}}$$

Particularly $\frac{m_{\text{KK}}}{M_{\text{Pl},9}} \sim \frac{|n - \vec{\pi} \cdot \vec{A}|}{R^{8/7}}$ (more complicated for winding modes).

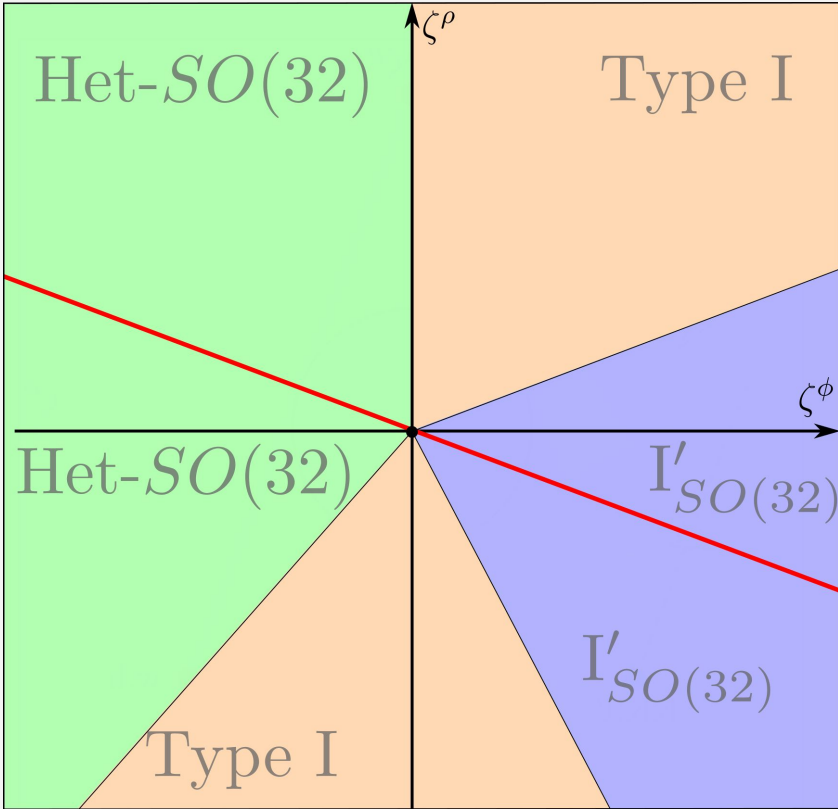
As well as string oscillator modes

$$\frac{m_{\text{osc}}}{M_{\text{Pl},9}} \sim e^{\phi/4} R^{-1/7}$$

4. SUSY Heterotic on S^1 (16 Supercharges)

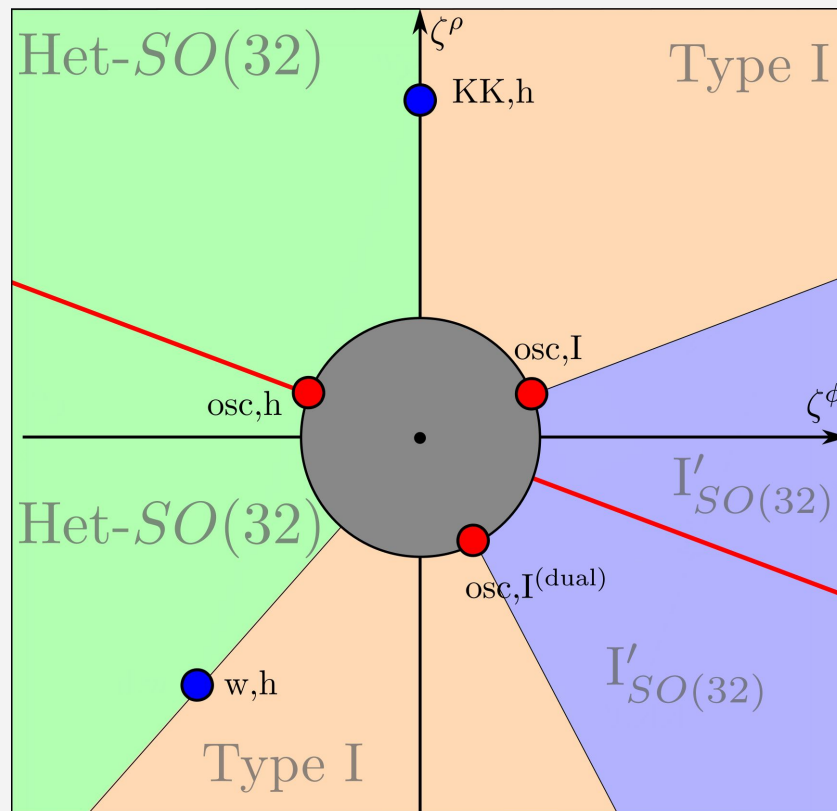
[Etheredge, Heidenreich, MacNamara, Rudelius, **I.R.**, Valenzuela, **2306.16440**]

$SO(32)$ heterotic on S^1

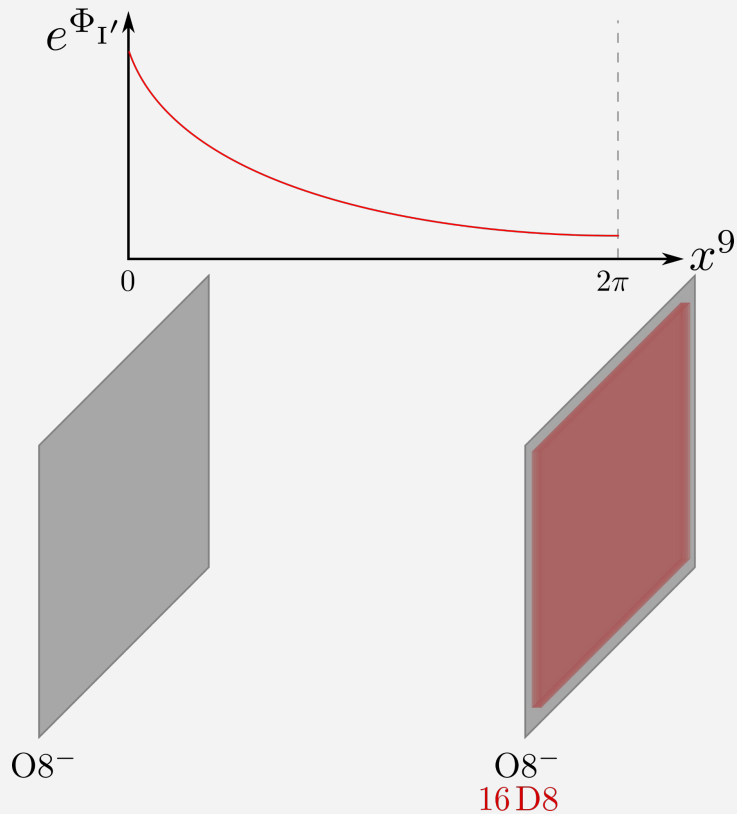


[Polchinski, Witten, '96]

$SO(32)$ heterotic on S^1

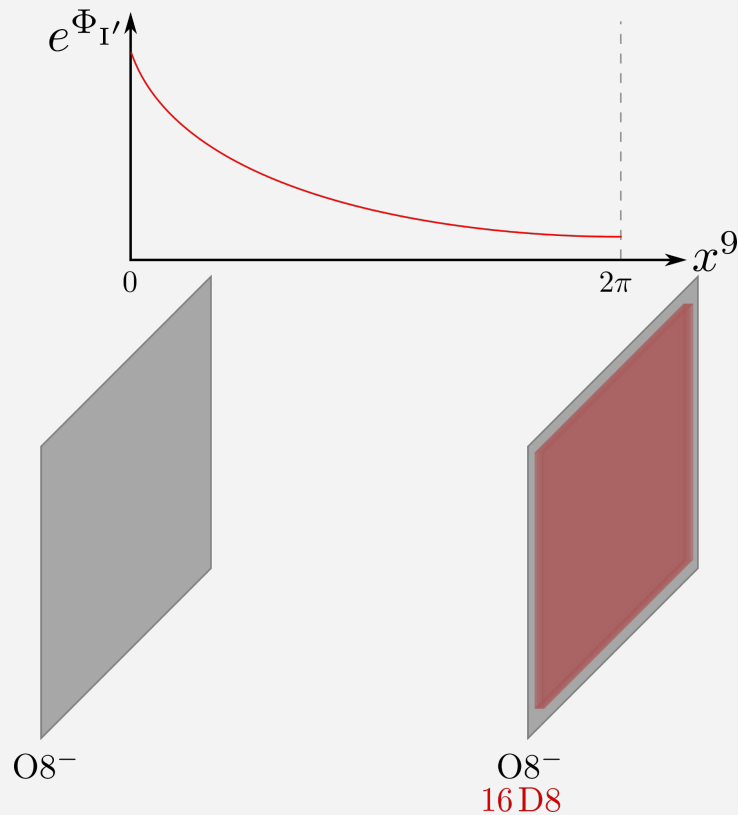


$SO(32)$ heterotic on S^1 : Type I' frame



$SO(32)$ heterotic on S^1 : Type I' frame

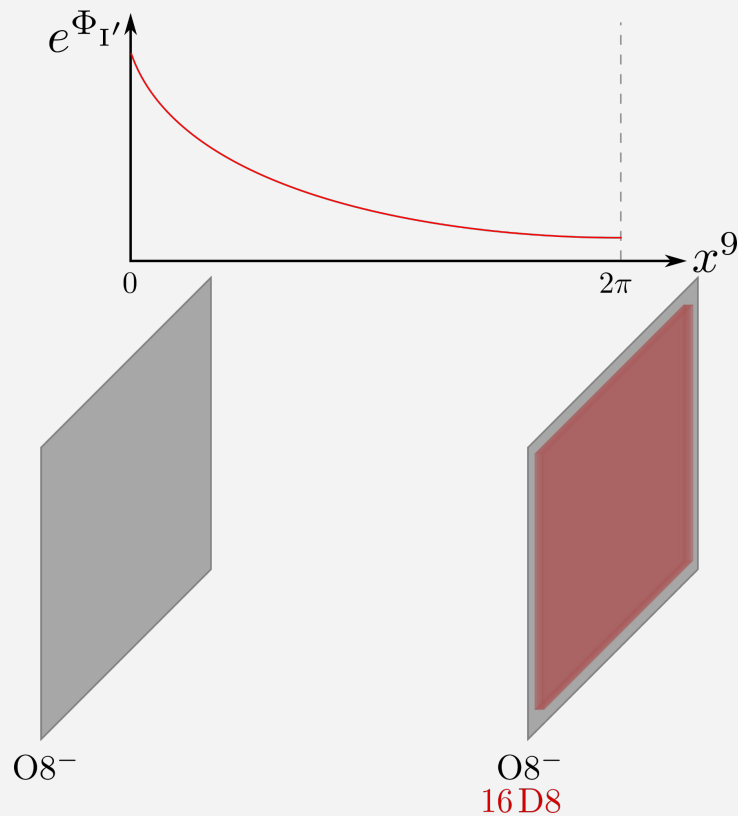
When moving **parallel** to the self-dual line we do **NOT** decompactify to a vacuum but to a running solution: **Massive Type IIA**.



$SO(32)$ heterotic on S^1 : Type I' frame

When moving **parallel** to the self-dual line we do **NOT** decompactify to a vacuum but to a running solution: **Massive Type IIA**.

- The emergent string tower does not become light.



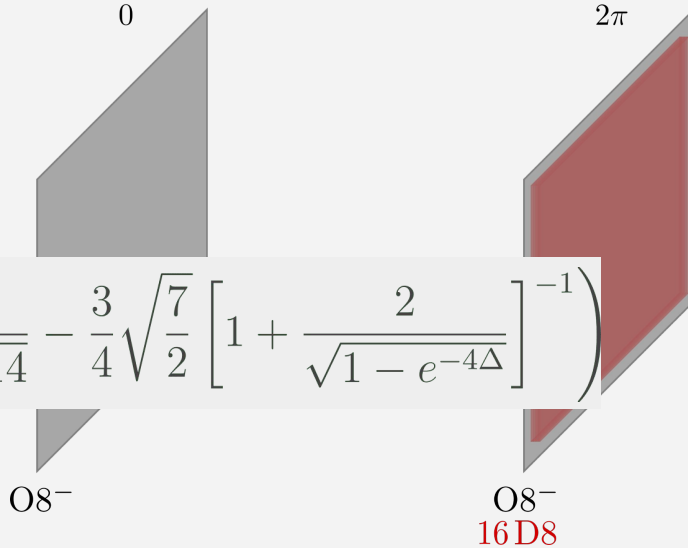
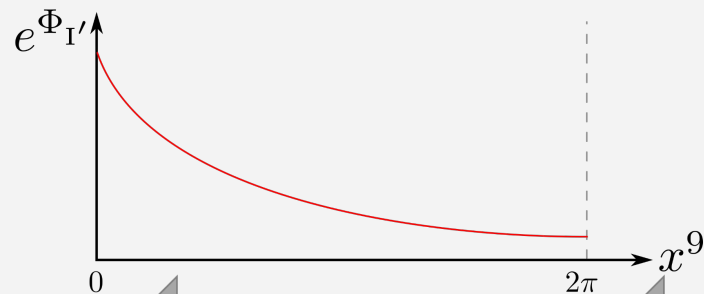
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When moving **parallel** to the self-dual line we do **NOT** decompactify to a vacuum but to a running solution: **Massive Type IIA**.

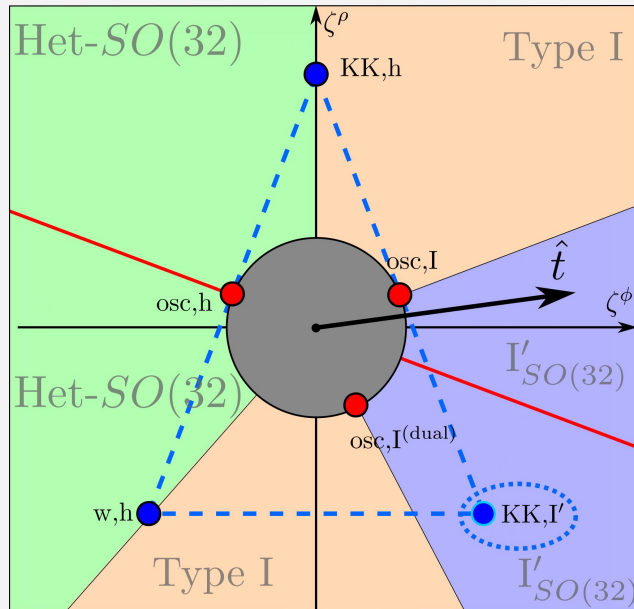
- The emergent string tower does not become light.
- The expression $m_{\text{KK},I'}(\vec{\phi})$ is not homogeneous:

$$\vec{\zeta}_{\text{KK},I'} = \left(\frac{5}{4\sqrt{2}} + \frac{3}{4\sqrt{2}} \left[1 + \frac{2}{\sqrt{1 - e^{-4\Delta}}} \right]^{-1}, -\frac{5}{4\sqrt{14}} - \frac{3}{4} \sqrt{\frac{7}{2}} \left[1 + \frac{2}{\sqrt{1 - e^{-4\Delta}}} \right]^{-1} \right)$$

depends on distance Δ to self-dual line.

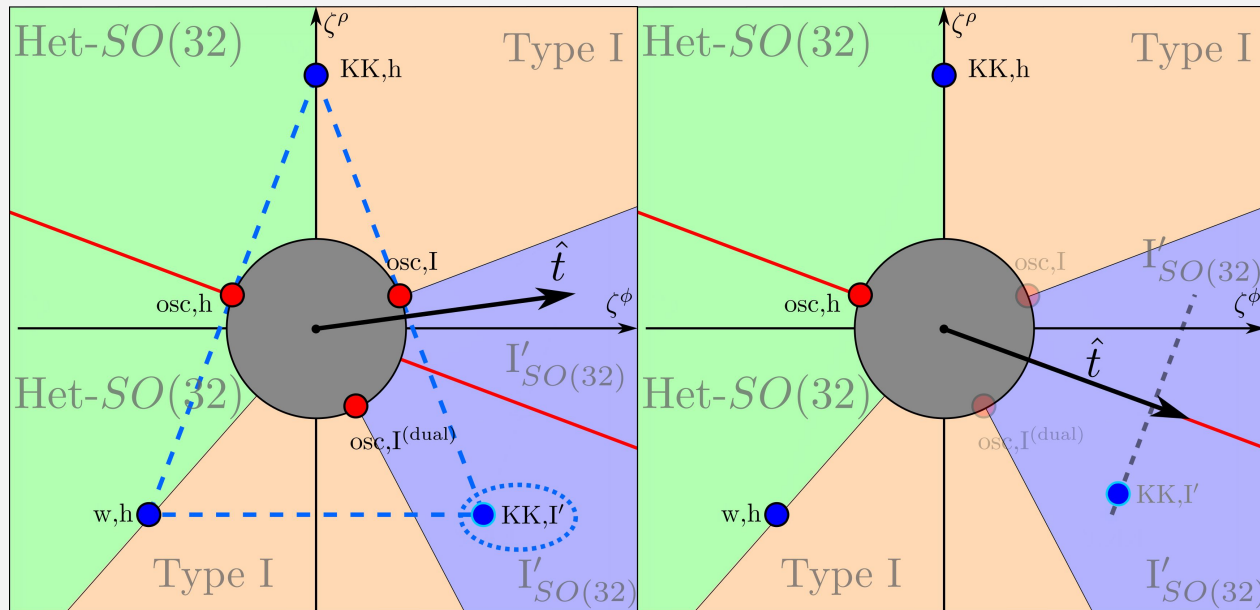


$SO(32)$ heterotic on S^1 : Type I' frame



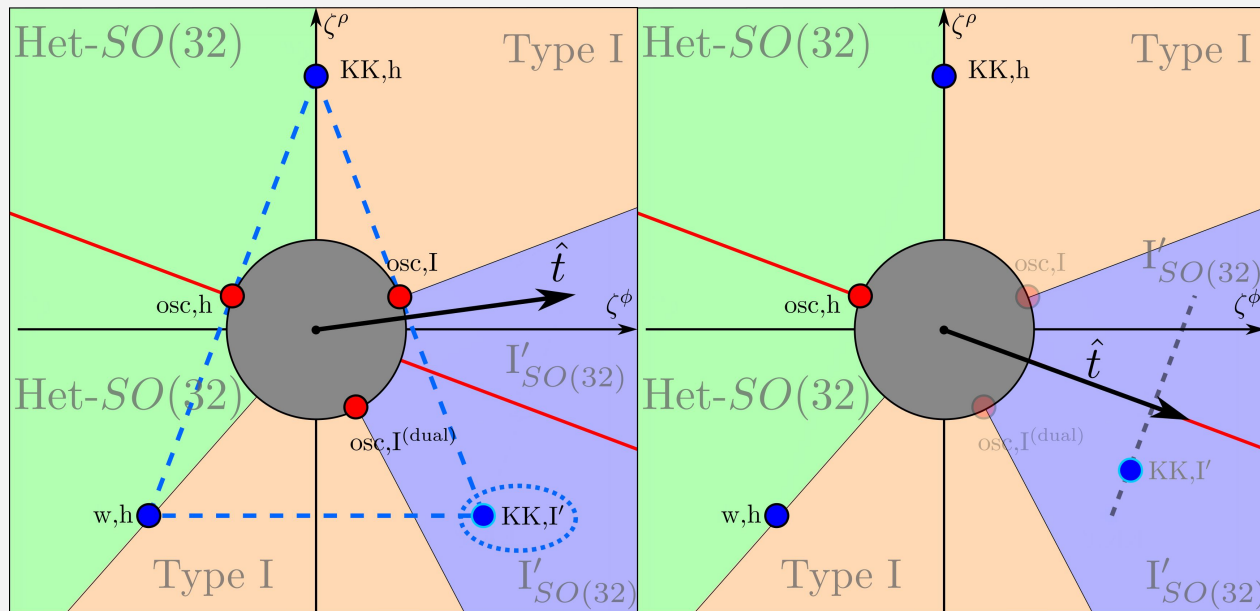
[Etheredge, Heidenreich, MacNamara, Rudelius, I.R., Valenzuela,'23]

$SO(32)$ heterotic on S^1 : Type I' frame



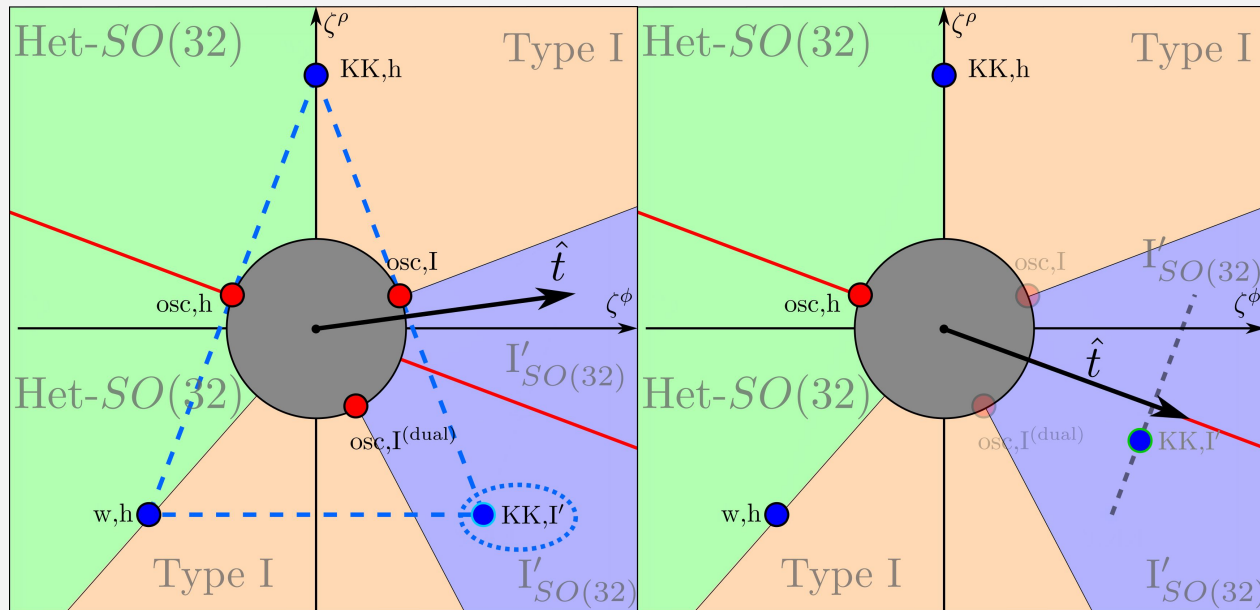
[Etheredge, Heidenreich, MacNamara, Rudelius, I.R., Valenzuela,'23]

$SO(32)$ heterotic on S^1 : Type I' frame



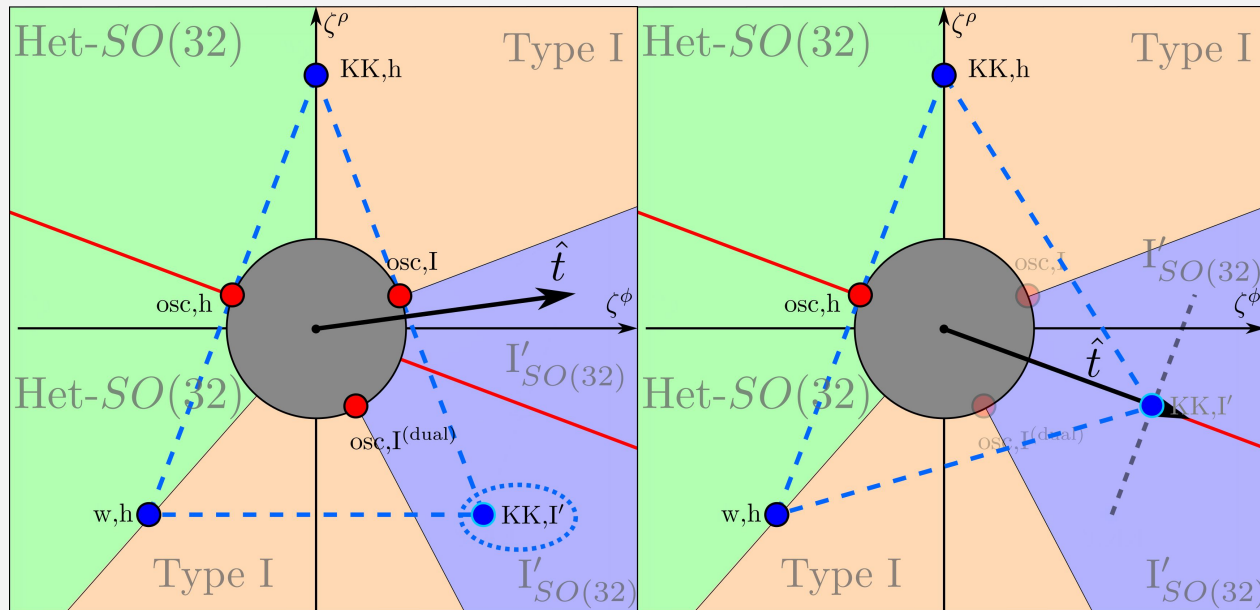
[Etheredge, Heidenreich, MacNamara, Rudelius, I.R., Valenzuela,'23]

$SO(32)$ heterotic on S^1 : Type I' frame

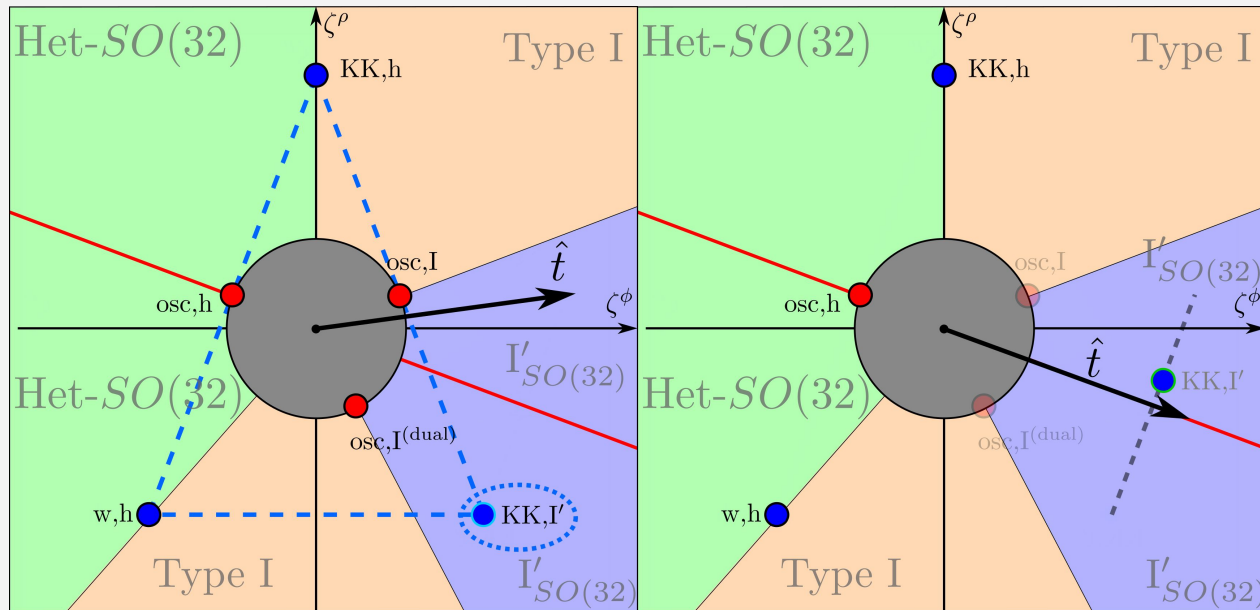


[Etheredge, Heidenreich, MacNamara, Rudelius, I.R., Valenzuela,'23]

$SO(32)$ heterotic on S^1 : Type I' frame

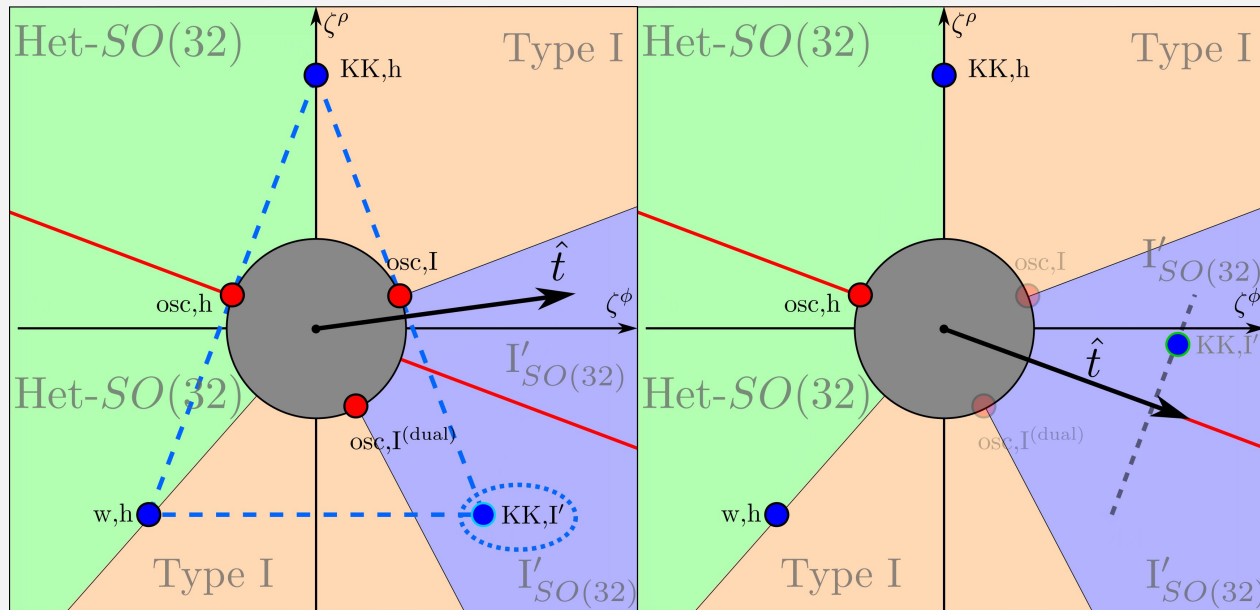


[Etheredge, Heidenreich, MacNamara, Rudelius, I.R., Valenzuela,'23]



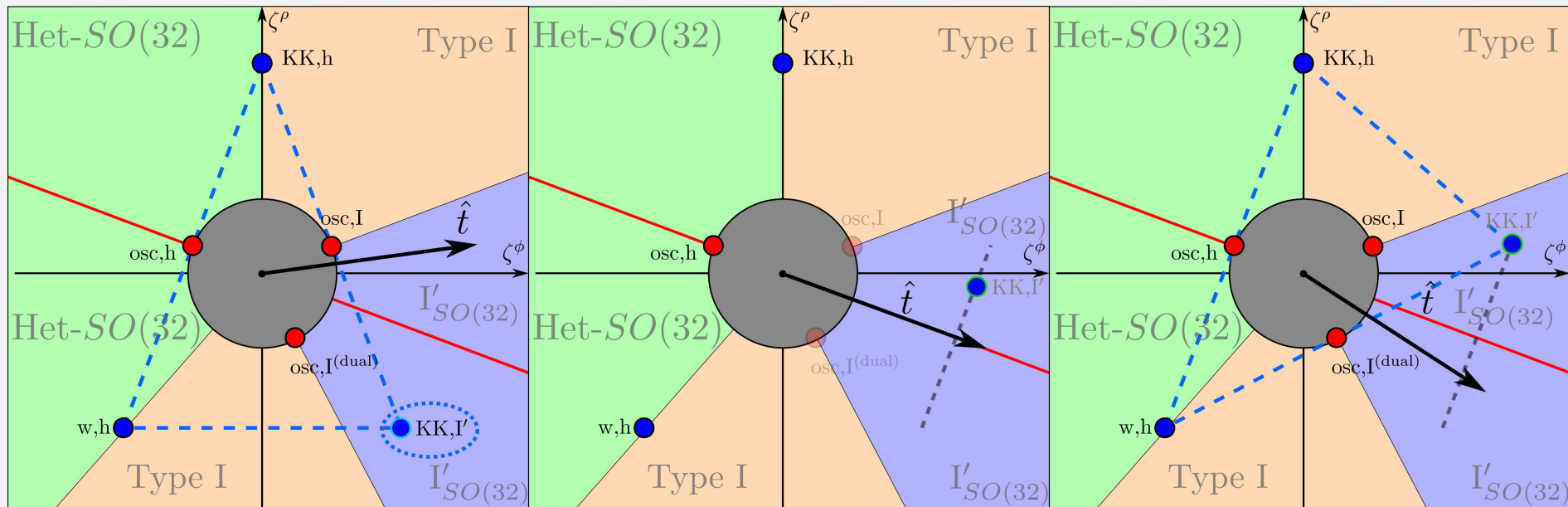
[Etheredge, Heidenreich, MacNamara, Rudelius, **I.R.**, Valenzuela,'23]

$SO(32)$ heterotic on S^1 : Type I' frame



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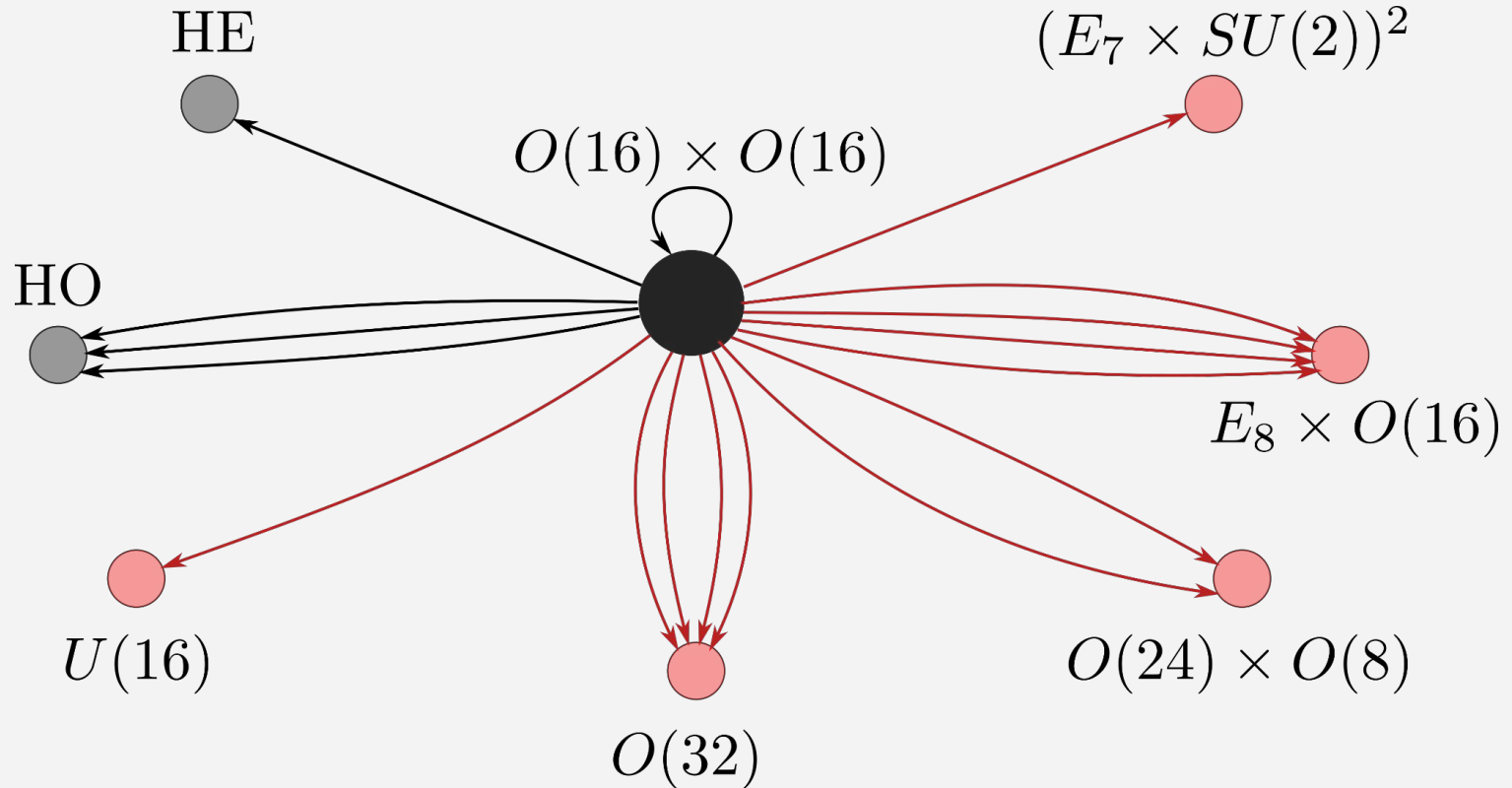
$SO(32)$ heterotic on S^1 : Type I' frame



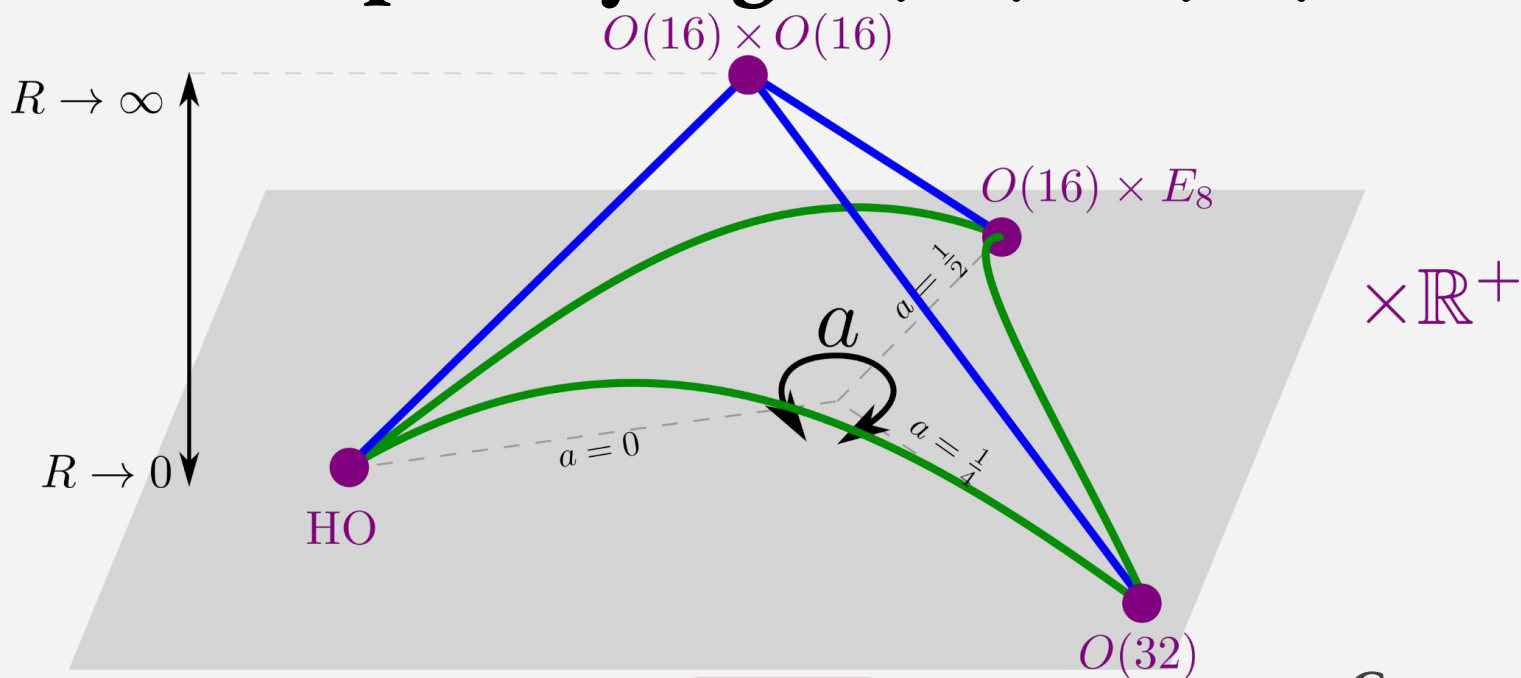
5. ~~SUSY~~ Heterotic on S^1 (0 Supercharges)

[Fraiman, **I.R.**, Valenzuela, *WIP*]

Compactifying $O(16) \times O(16)$ on S^1



Compactifying $O(16) \times O(16)$ on S^1



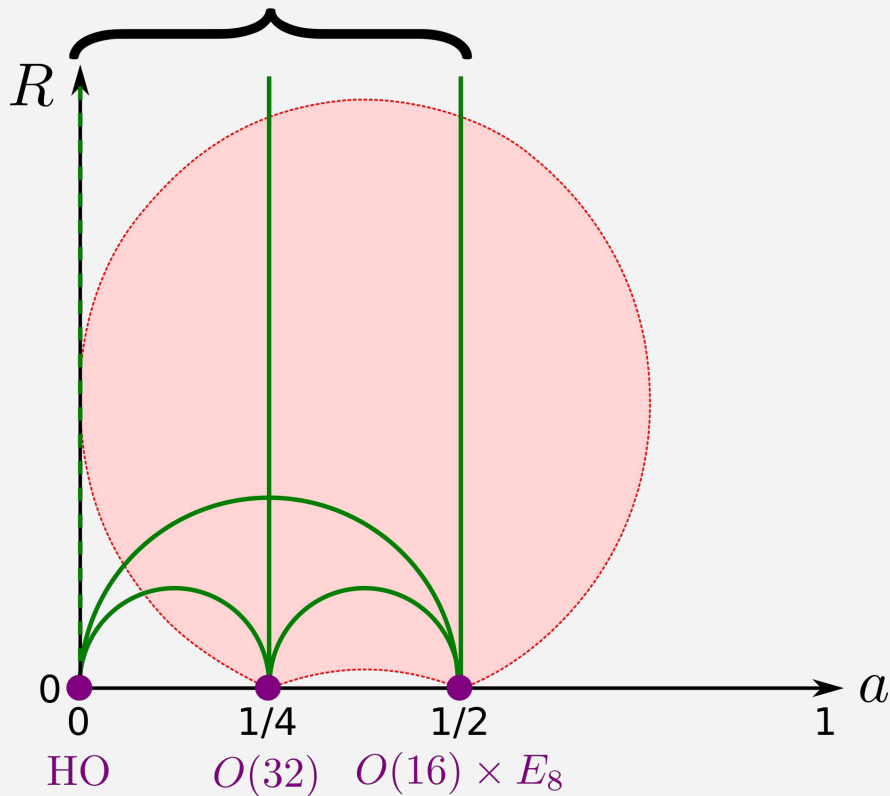
Constant ϕ and

$$\vec{A} = (0^7, 1, a^7, 1 - a), \quad a \in [0, 1]$$

Compactifying $O(16) \times O(16)$ on S^1

Slice with constant ϕ and

$$\vec{A} = (0^7, 1, a^7, 1 - a), \quad a \in [0, 1]$$



Compactifying $O(16) \times O(16)$ on S^1

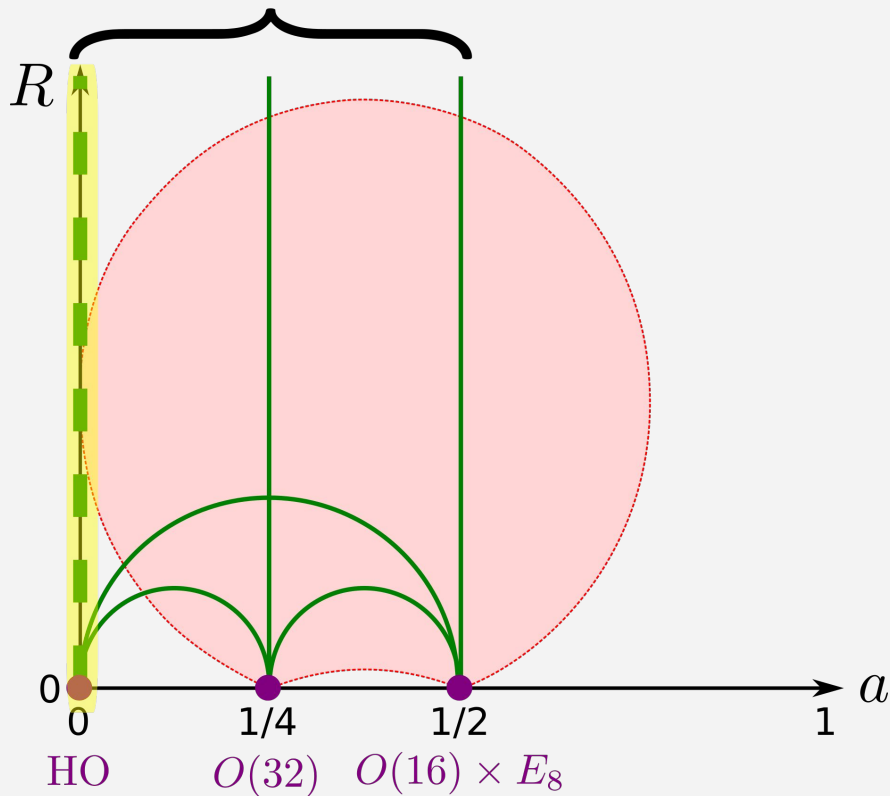
$O(16) \times O(16)$

Slice with constant ϕ and

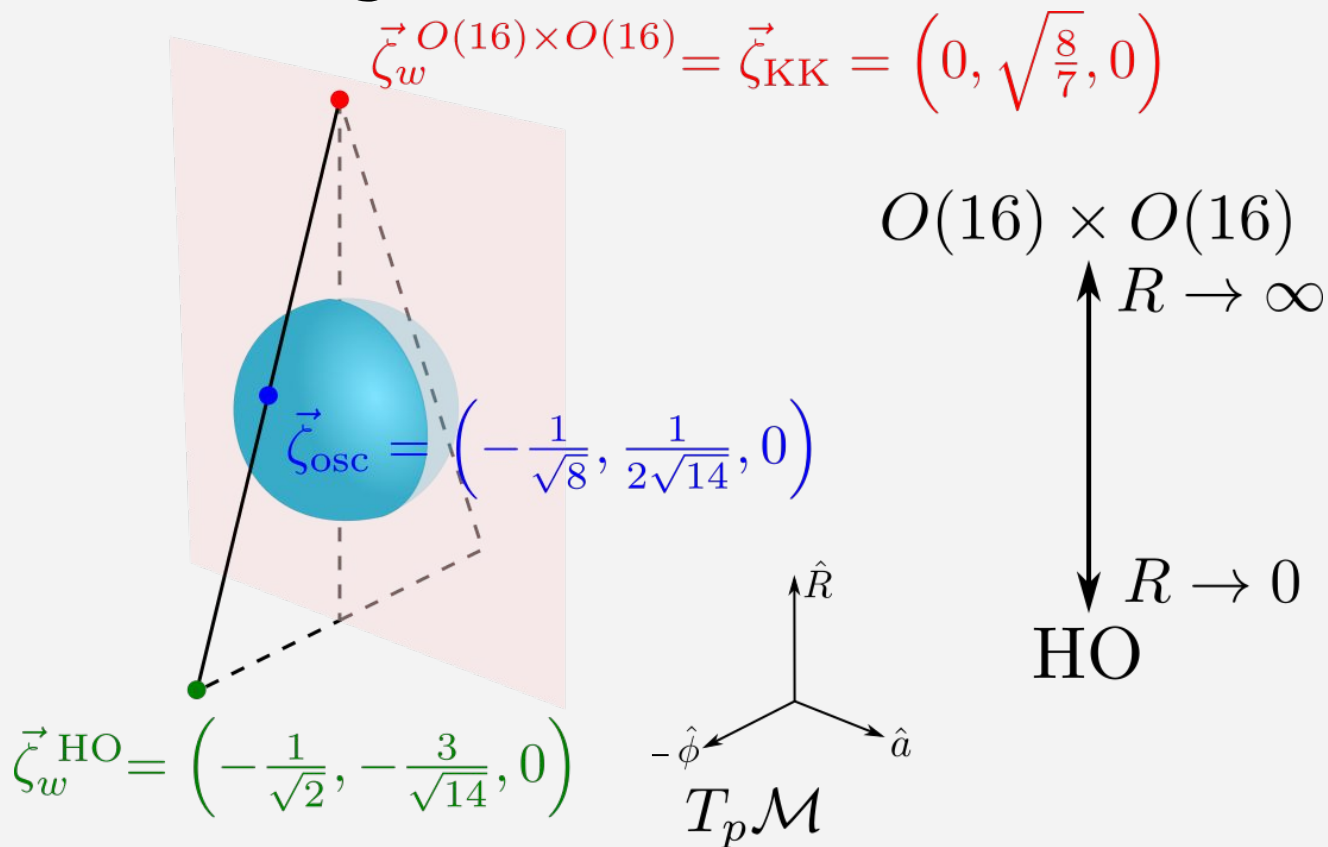
$$\vec{A} = (0^7, 1, a^7, 1 - a), \quad a \in [0, 1]$$

Interpolation $HO \rightleftharpoons O(16) \times O(16)$:

$$\gamma(a) = (\phi_0, R, 0), \quad R \in [0, \infty]$$



Interpolating mode: $\text{HO} \rightleftharpoons \text{O}(16) \times \text{O}(16)$



Compactifying $O(16) \times O(16)$ on S^1

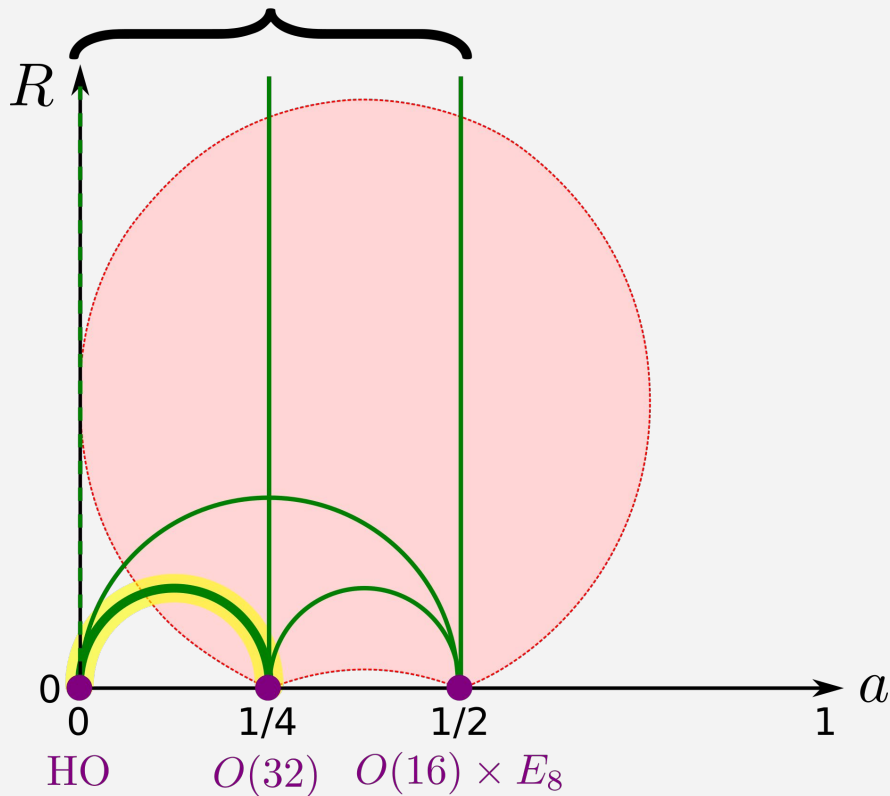
$O(16) \times O(16)$

Slice with constant ϕ and

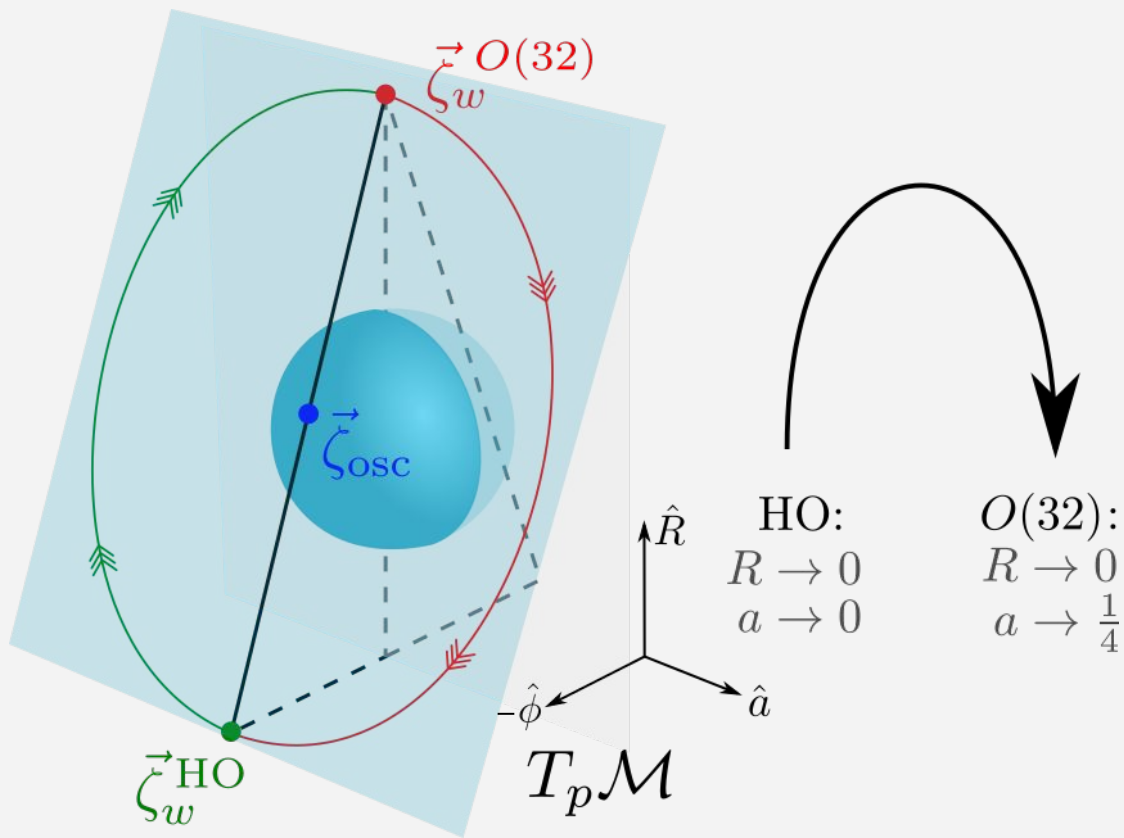
$$\vec{A} = (0^7, 1, a^7, 1 - a), \quad a \in [0, 1]$$

Geodesic interpolating $HO \rightleftharpoons O(32)$:

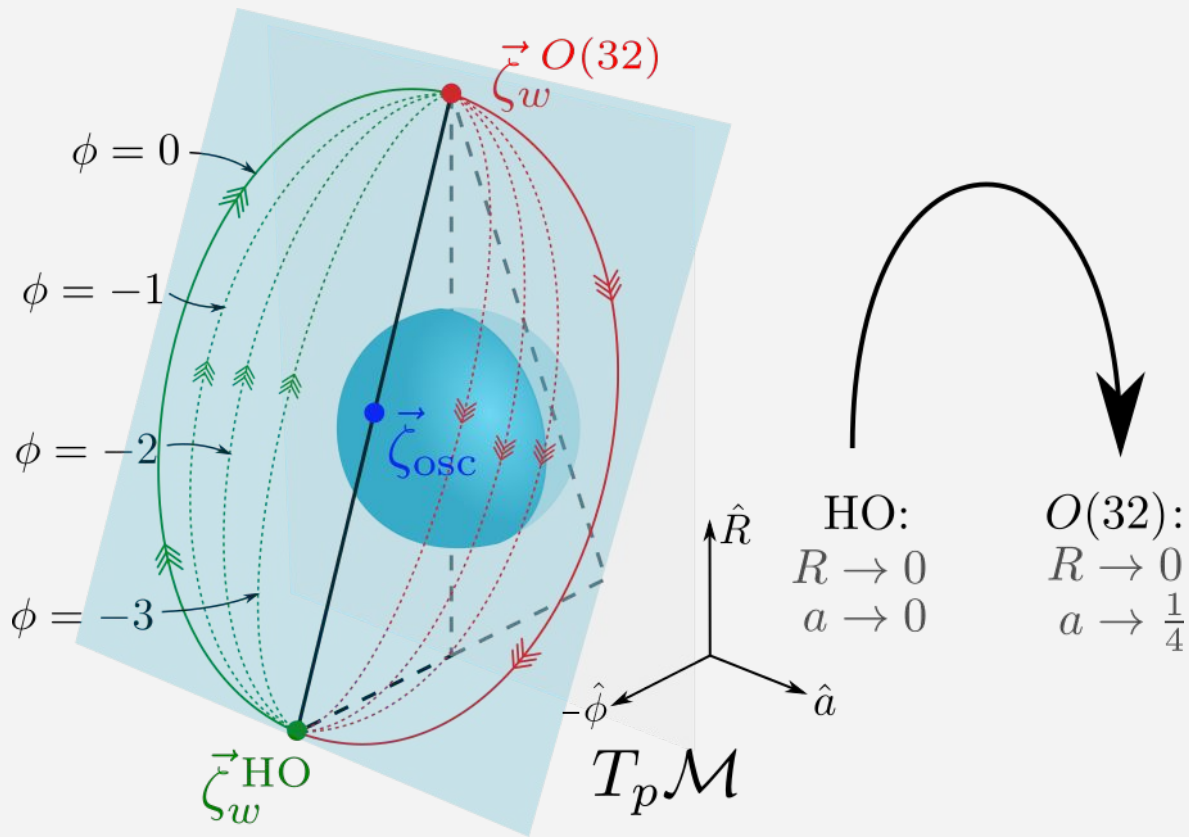
$$\gamma(a) = (\phi_0, \sqrt{a - 4a^2}, a), \quad a \in \left[0, \frac{1}{4}\right]$$

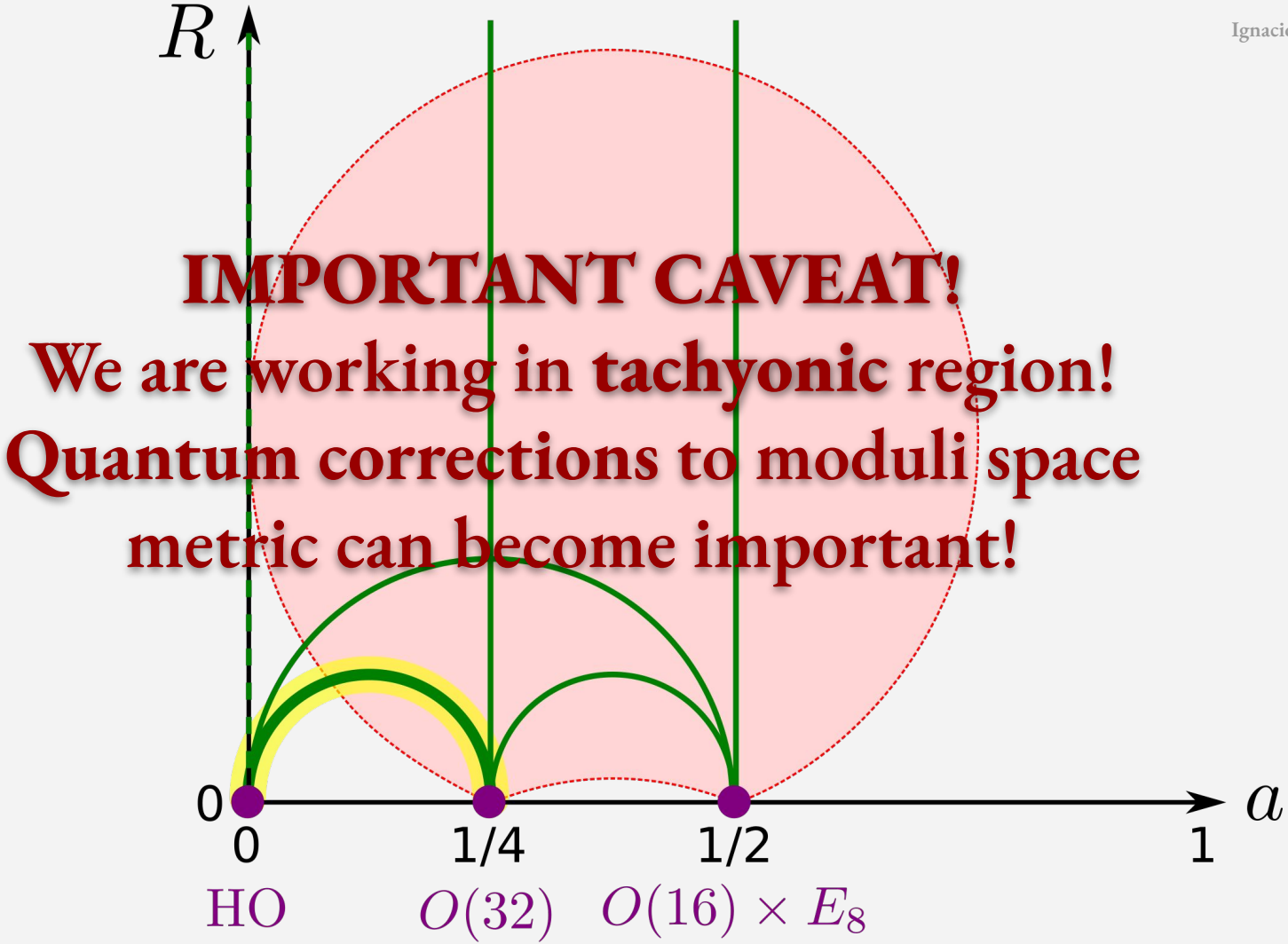


Interpolating mode: $\text{HO} \rightleftharpoons \text{O}(32)$



Interpolating mode: $\text{HO} \rightleftharpoons \text{O}(32)$





6. Conclusions & Outlook

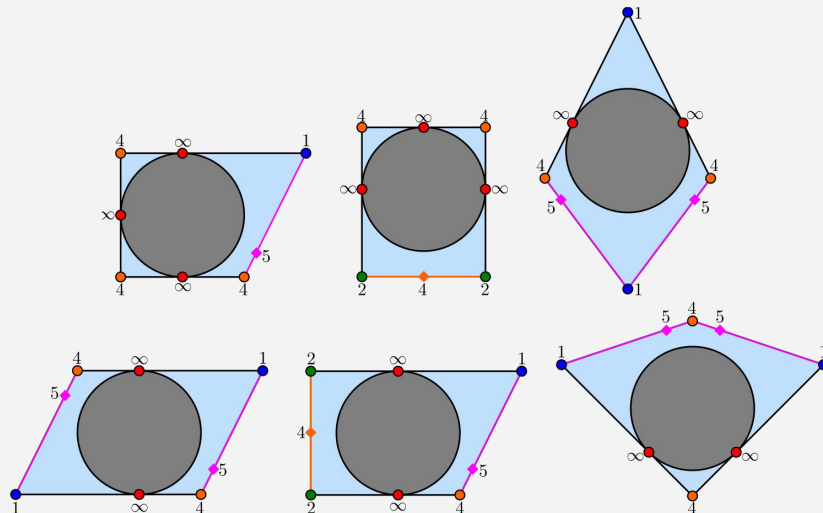
Conclusions and Outlook

- Using **Emergent String Conjecture** (only KK or strings as leading towers) we can derive a set of rules that constrain the behavior of both towers of light states and species scale for generic **infinite distance limits**.
 - Under additional assumptions this rules can be applied globally to produce a **systematic classification** of a **finite** list of possibilities of **duality frame/tower** arrangement.
 - **Generalization** to broader settings with lower dimensions and less supercharges:
 - Possibility of **sliding**.
 - **Non-flat** moduli spaces \rightarrow Local frames?
 - Inclusion of axions and other **compact scalars**.
- } Can we fully understand all possibilities?

Open problems

Some examples not observed:

- Some featuring **asymmetric** KK vertices with respect to string oscillator modes: Some **worldsheet** CFT argument to **exclude** this?
- Others seem fine but have not been observed: **Unobserved corner of Landscape?**



Take home message:

There is much we can learn about **duality frames** and **global** geometry of moduli spaces from Swampland principles.

Emergent String Conjecture powerful enough to highly constrain possible limits, even in multi-field settings and less supercharges.

Continuous families of infinite distance limits can be sorted into a highly constrained **discrete set of duality frames** sharing a common perturbative limit of specific validity range.

Other work: [Bedroya, Hamada,'23], [van de Heisteeg,'24]

Thank you!