



Croucher Foundation  
裘槎基金會

# Heterotic Line Bundle Standard Models and Heterotic Flux Moduli Stabilisation

The gift, the curse, the dream  
Lucas Leung

based on arXiv:2505.XXXXX with Andrei Constantin, Andre Lukas and Luca A. Nutricati  
and arXiv:2507.XXXXX with Andrei Constantin and Andre Lukas

Oxford Dalitz Seminar - 15<sup>th</sup> May 2025



# Phenomenological Questions

## Fermion Masses and Mixings

Why do Yukawa matrices take these values?

Why do we have mass hierarchies?

## Hierarchy Problem

Why is the Higgs mass/ electroweak-scale suppressed?

## Dark matter

What is dark matter comprised of?

## Strong CP Problem

Why do we have a  $\theta$ -vacua?

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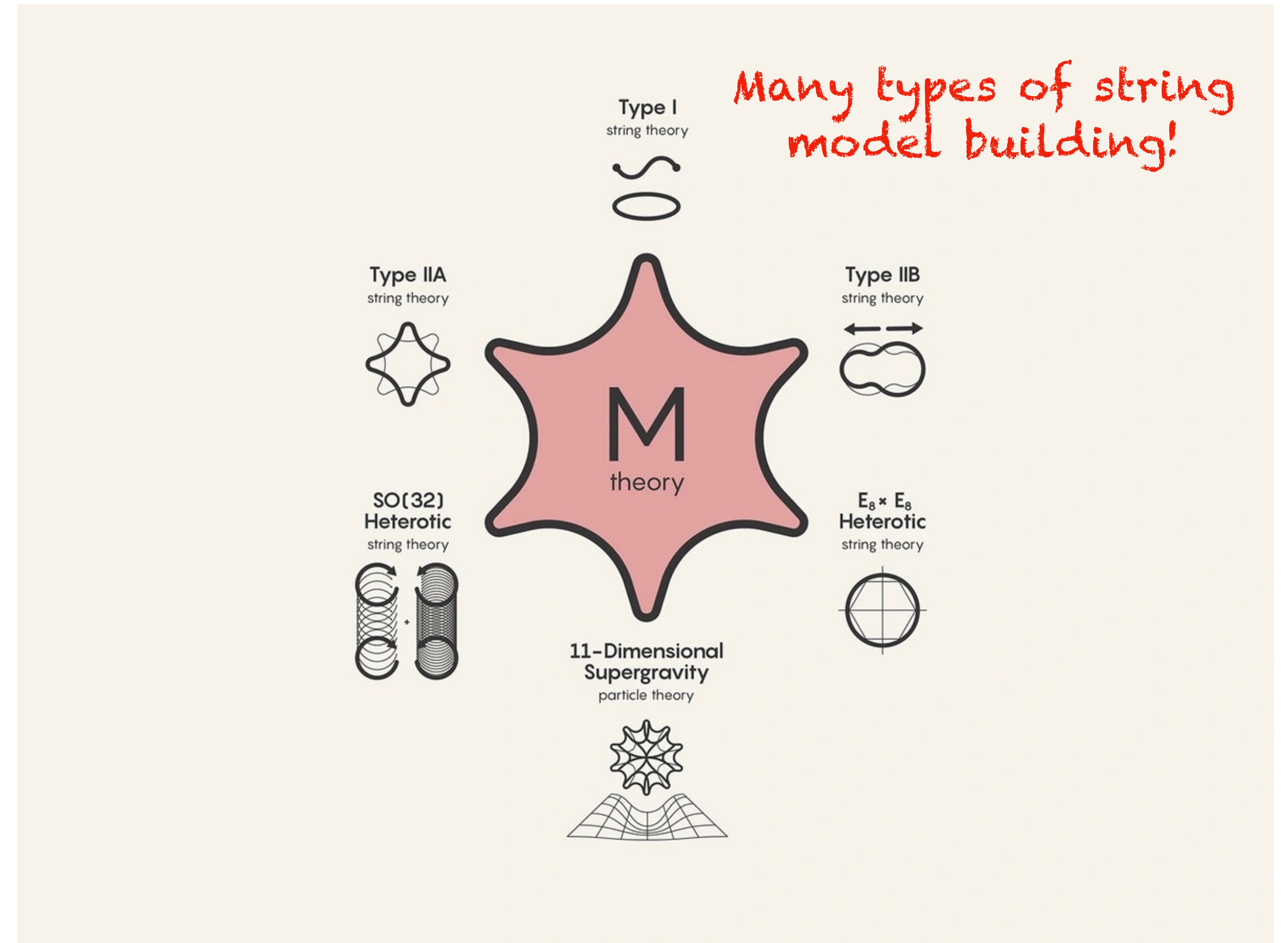
## Strong CP Problem

Why do we have a  $\theta$ -vacua?

**The optimistic HEP's view:**  
**How do I unify gravity with SM?**  
**QUANTUM GRAVITY?**

# String Model Building

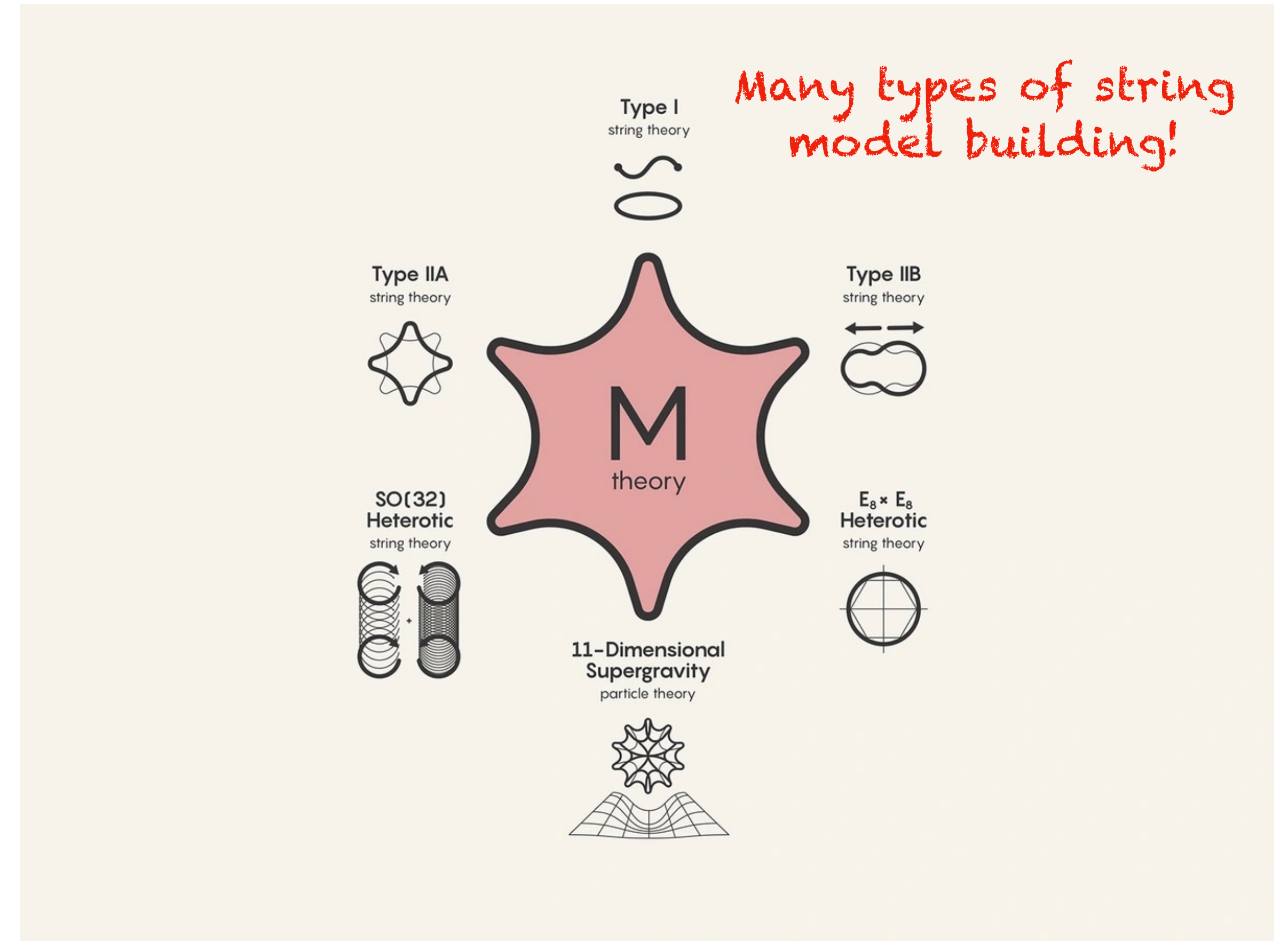
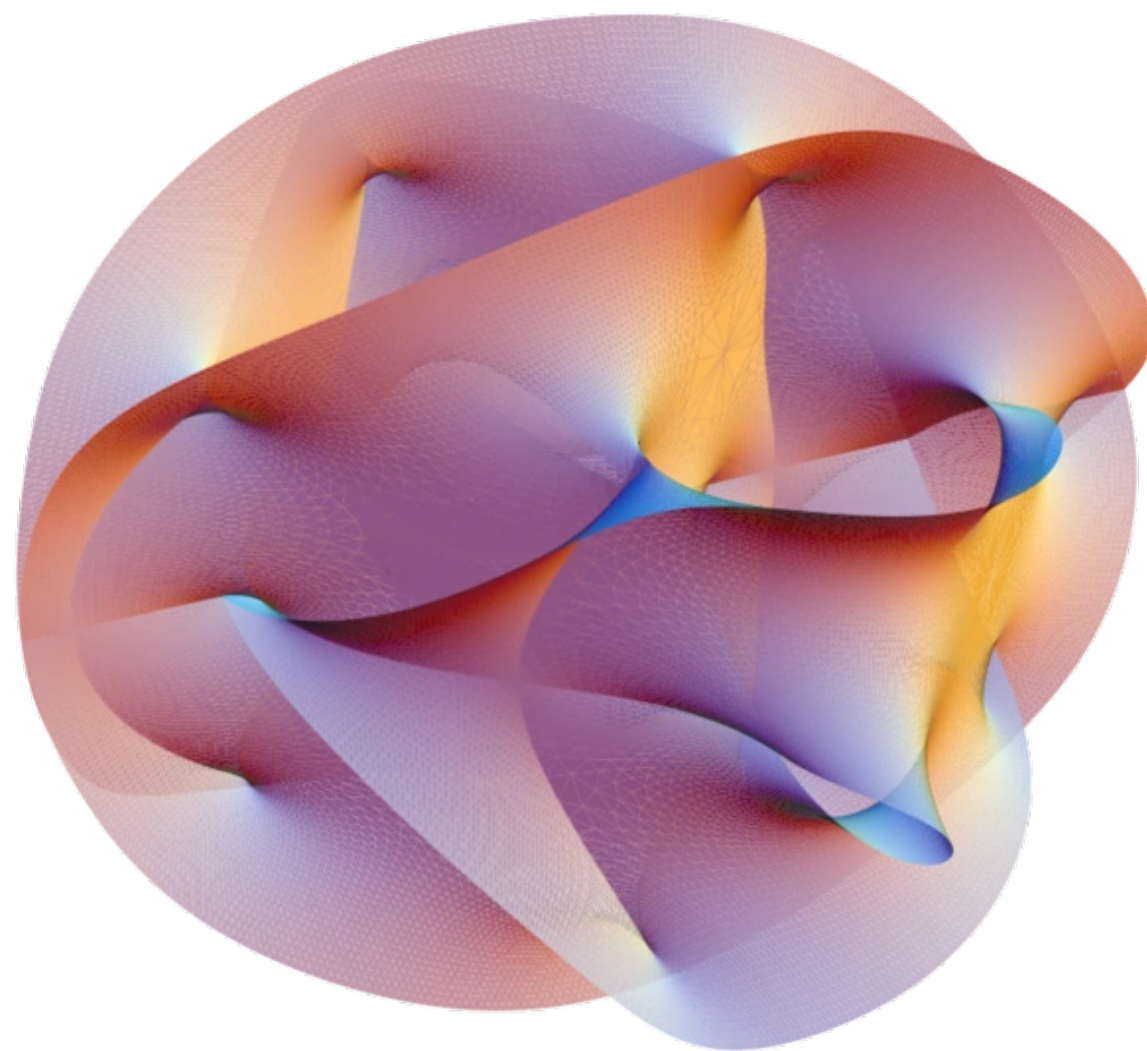
- most well-studied QG theory
- lots of dualities
- maybe best theory to understand HEP
- can get pheno properties!





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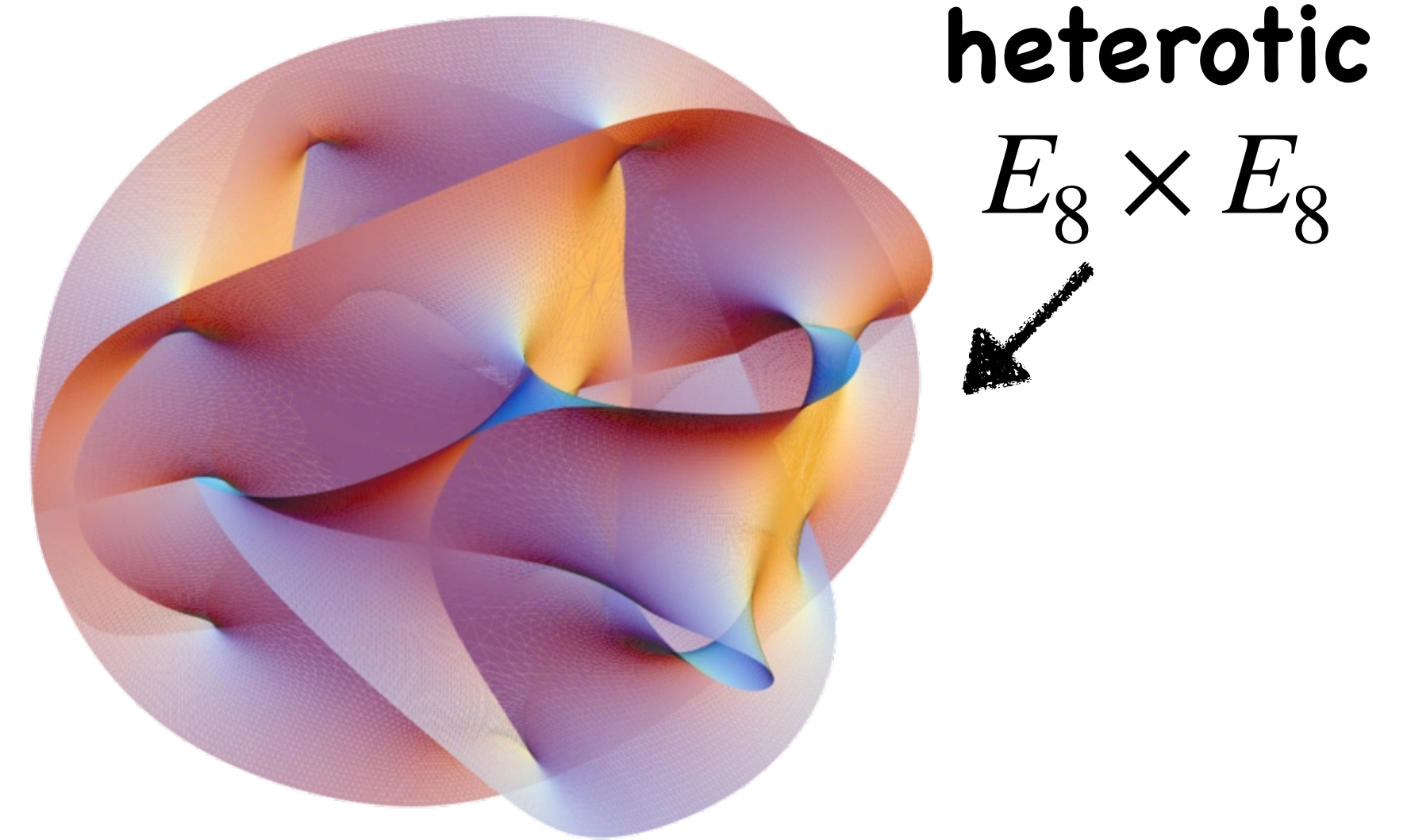
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 $E_8 \times E_8$  on smooth CYs

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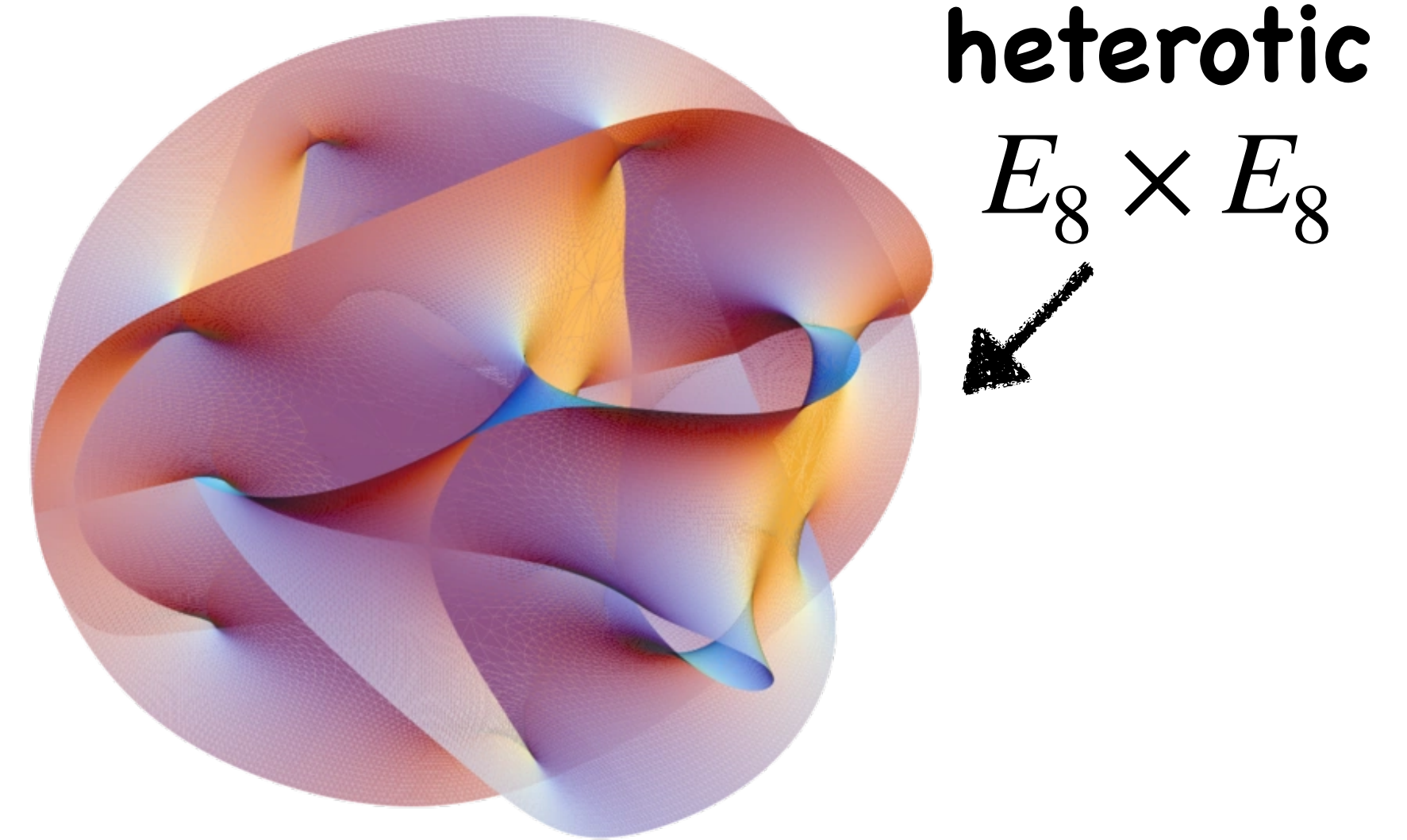
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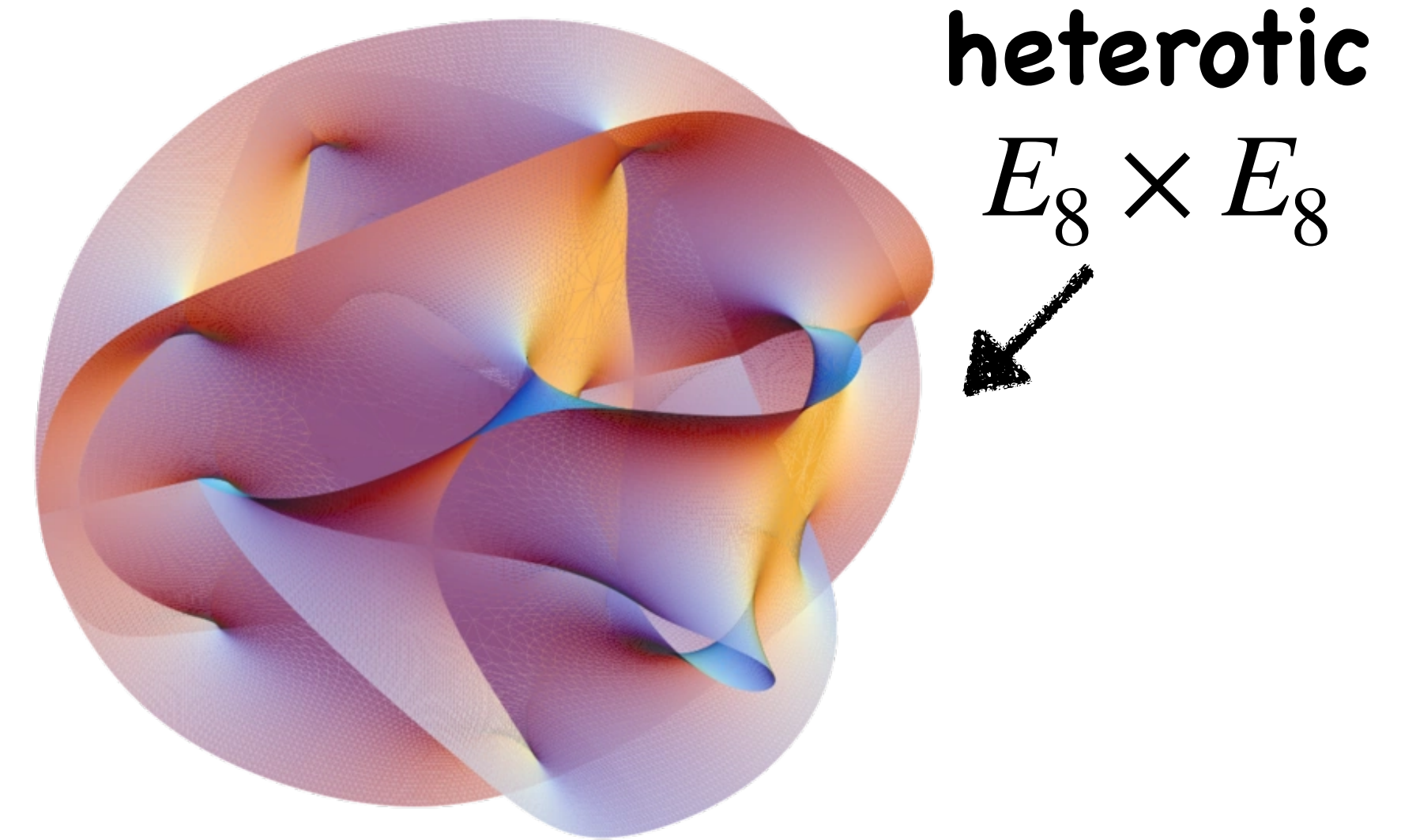


## Advantages

- Natural embedding of Standard Model gauge group into  $E_8$
- Have lists of smooth CYs - good understanding
- Models with no exotic matter can be found

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## Difficulties

- Need vector bundle - mathematically difficult
- CY metric, HYM connection not known - analytical calculations impossible
- no natural hierarchy of localisation of gauge degrees of freedom along the gravitational branes

# Content

- Heterotic Model Building and Line Bundle Standard Models
- Phenomenology of Heterotic Line Bundle Standard Models
- An Example Model
- Moduli Stabilisation - Strings and Heterotic
- Heterotic Flux Stabilisation - Generalities
- Example Cases and General Arguments
- Conclusions



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gift

curse

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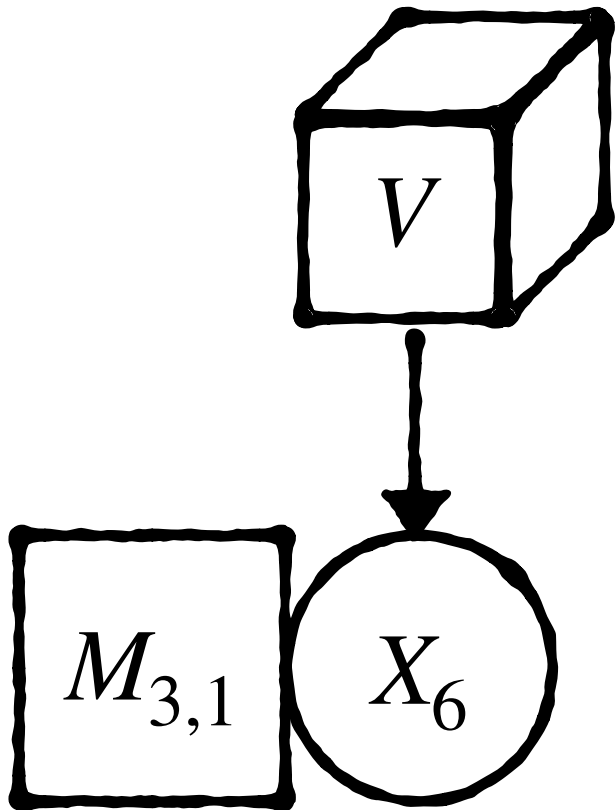
curse

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# Heterotic CY Compactifications and Line Bundle Standard Models

**Ingredients:**

- heterotic  $E_8 \times E_8$  superstring theory
- Calabi-Yau threefold  $X$
- vector bundle  $V \rightarrow X$  for vector multiplets



Mathematics	Physics
Topology	Spectrum
Geometry	Couplings

**Step 1 : GUT Gauge Group**

**Step 2 : Wilson-line breaking**

**Step 3 :  $U(1)$  symmetries**

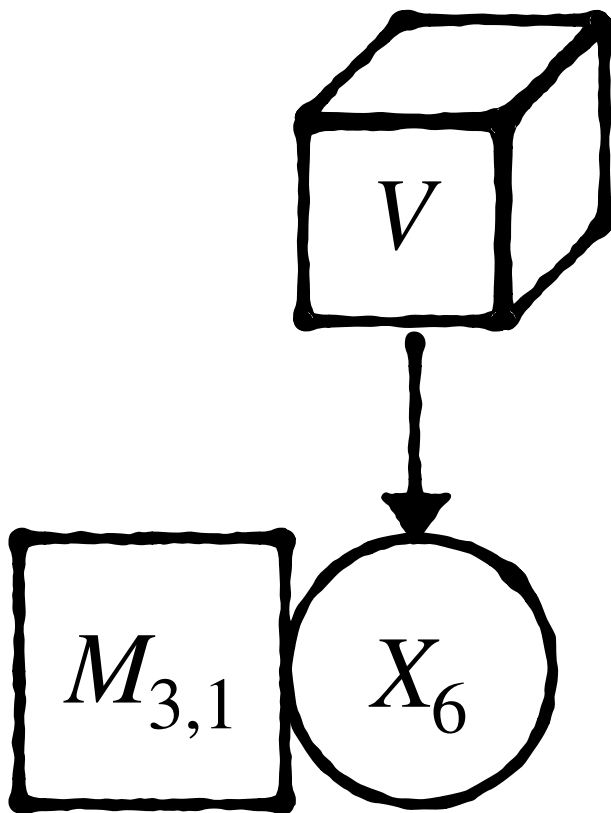
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We work with **Complete Intersection Calabi-Yau manifolds (CICYs)**:

These are manifolds that are hypersurfaces in projective spaces.



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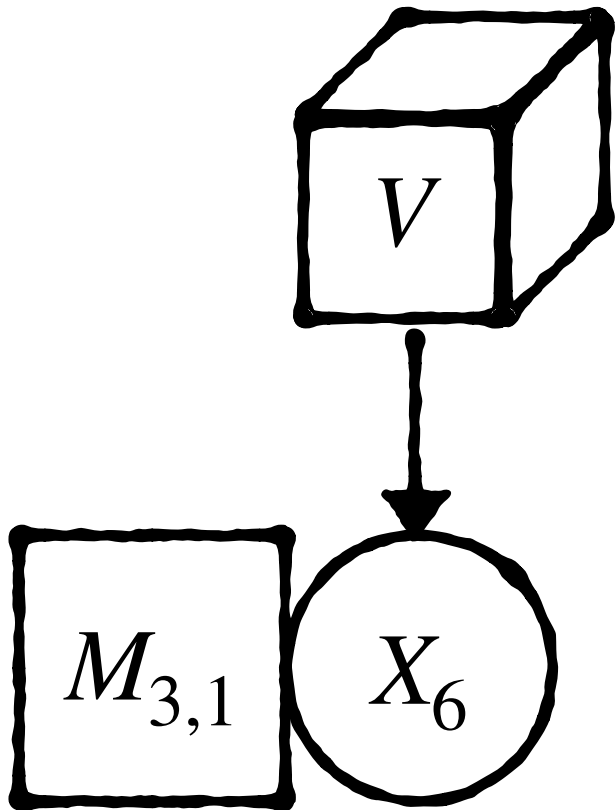
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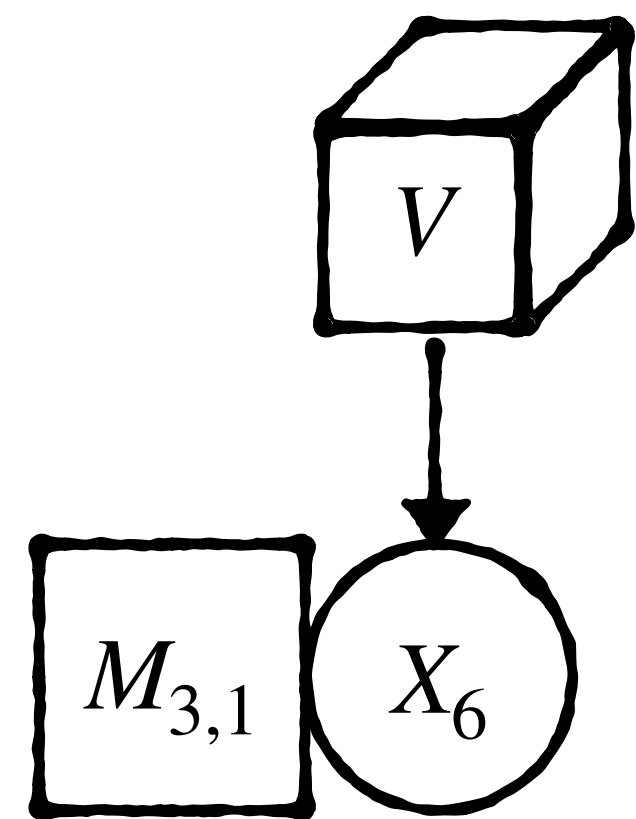
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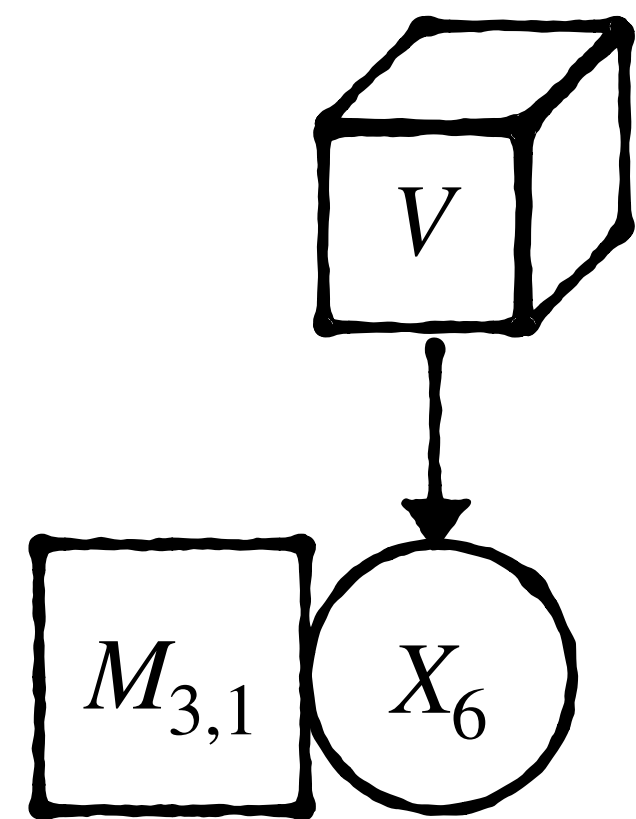


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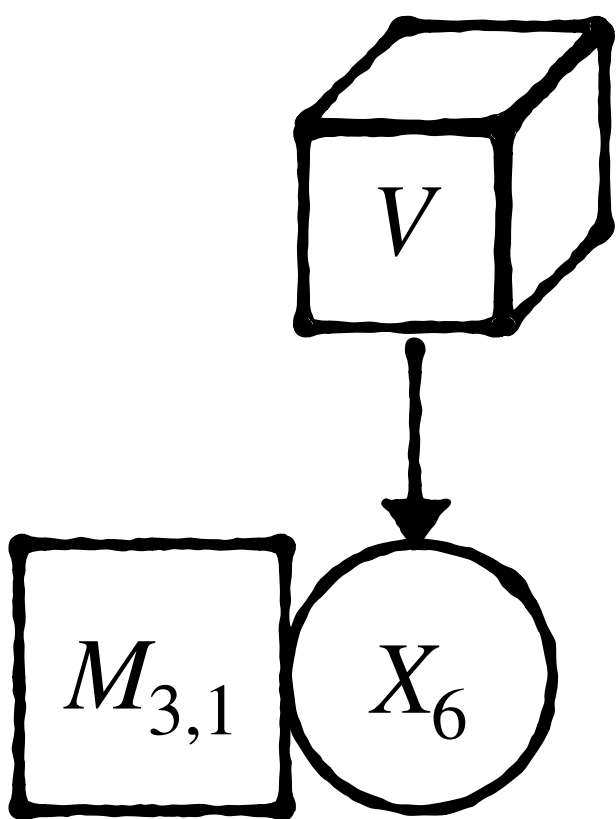
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Physical Yukawa couplings come from holomorphic Yukawa couplings

$$\lambda_{IJK} \sim \int_X \nu_I \wedge \nu_J \wedge \nu_K \wedge \Omega$$

scaled by matter field metric

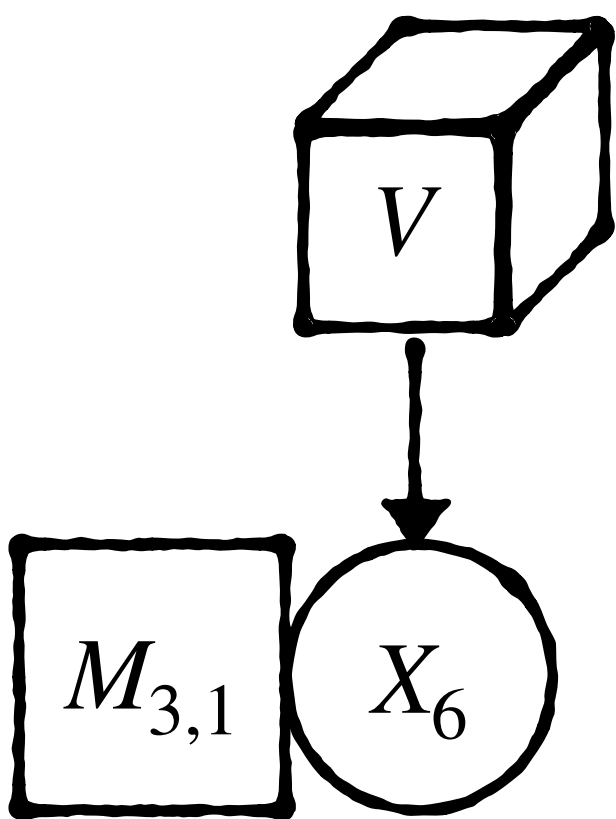
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Direct perturbative computation with aid of ML techniques possible! [Constantin et al. (2024)]

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## Coefficient calculation - DIFFICULT:

- $K_{IJ}$  requires knowledge of metric of  $X$
- complicated dependence on moduli fields
- non-perturbative corrections are hard

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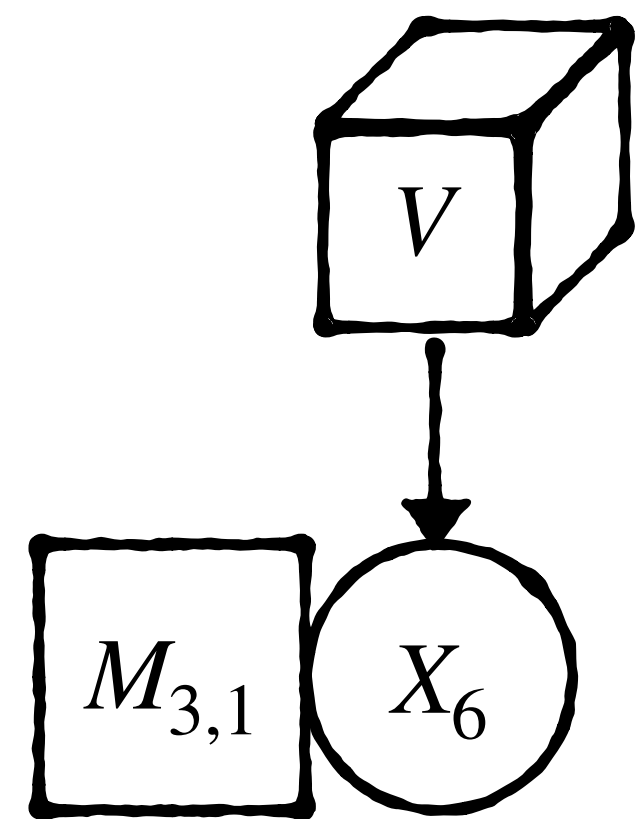
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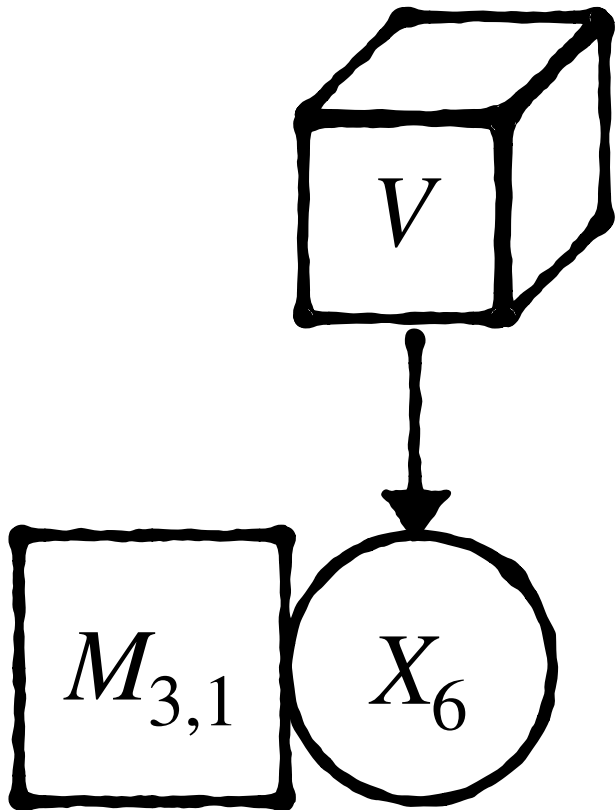


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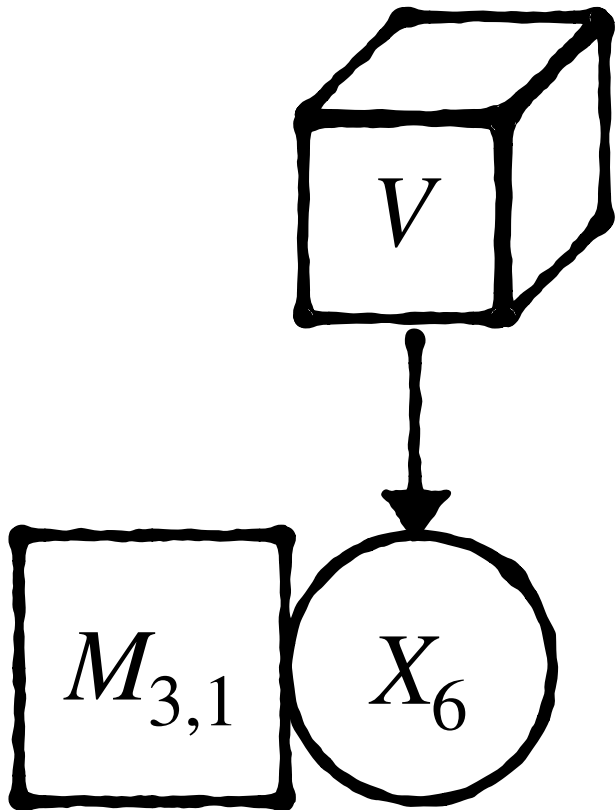
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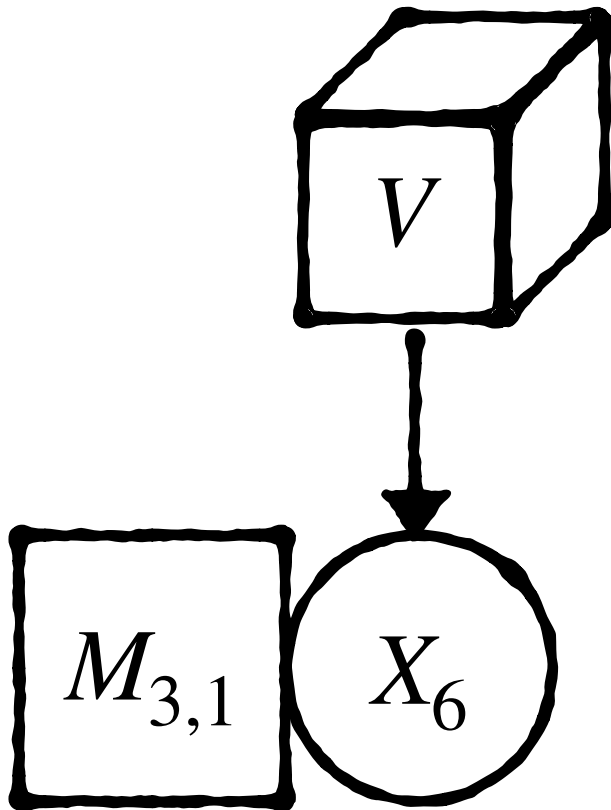
Select vector bundle + Get  $G_{\text{GUT}} \subset E_8$  

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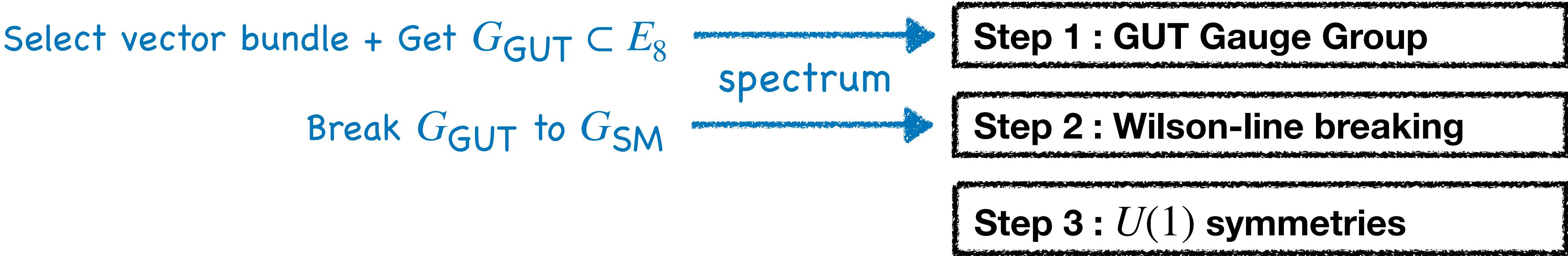
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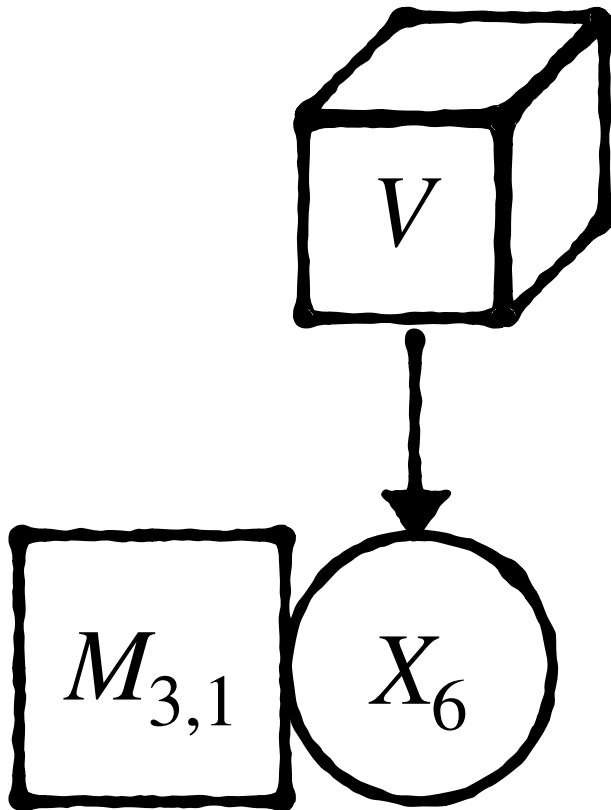
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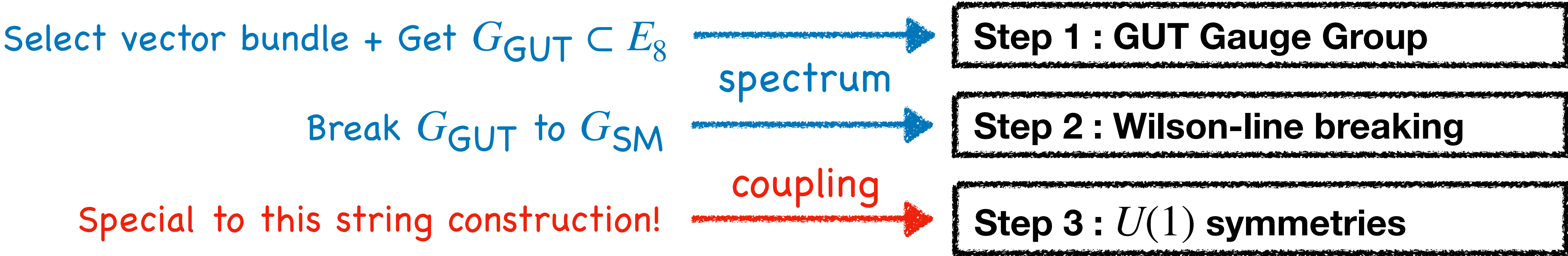
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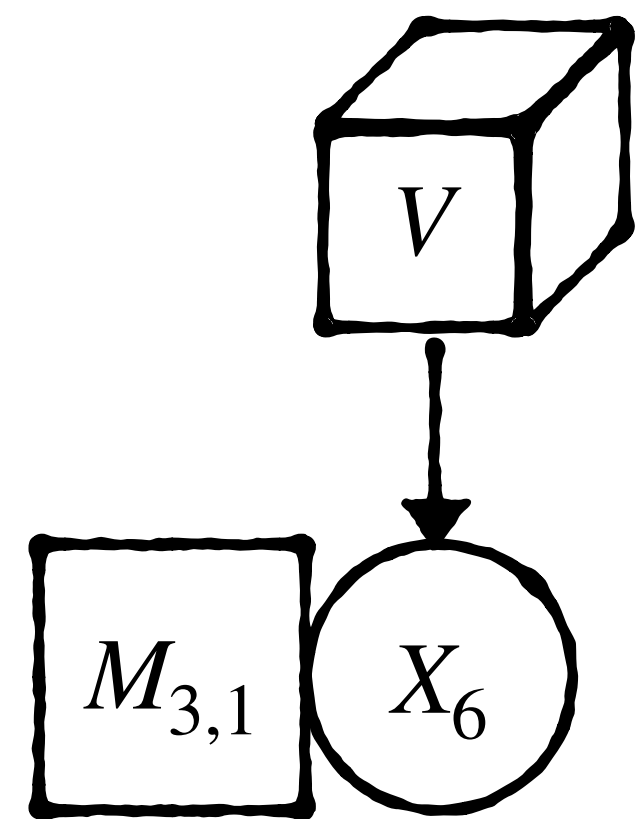




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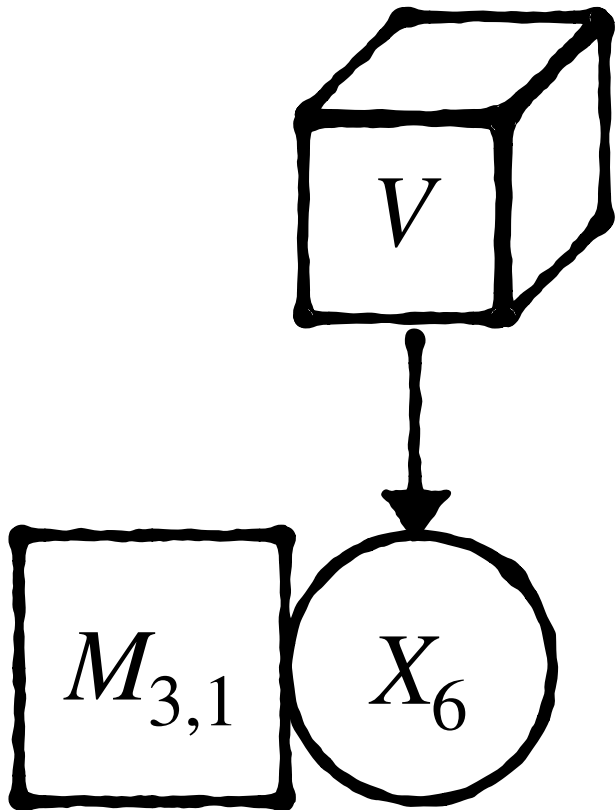


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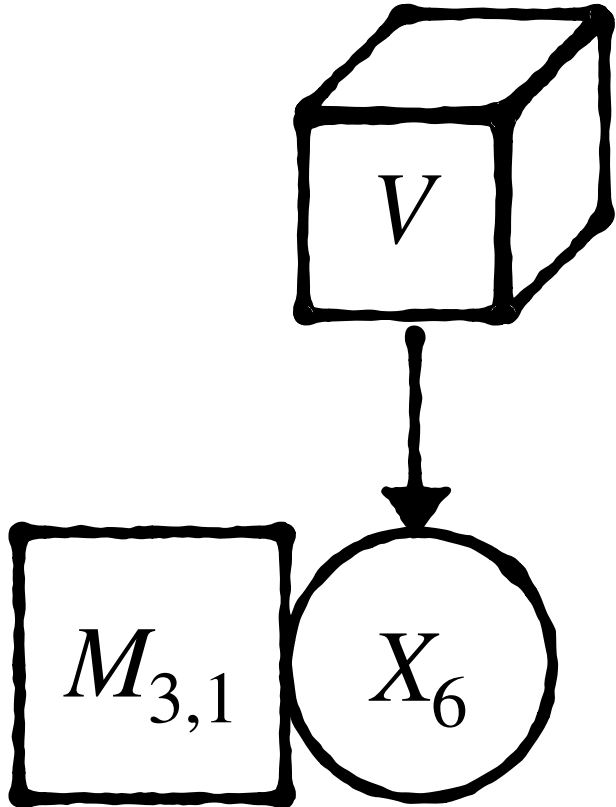
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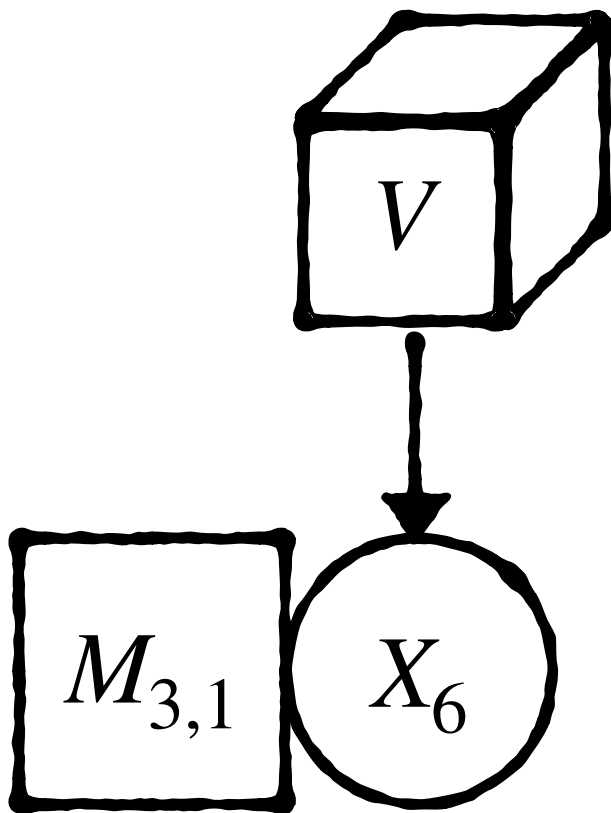
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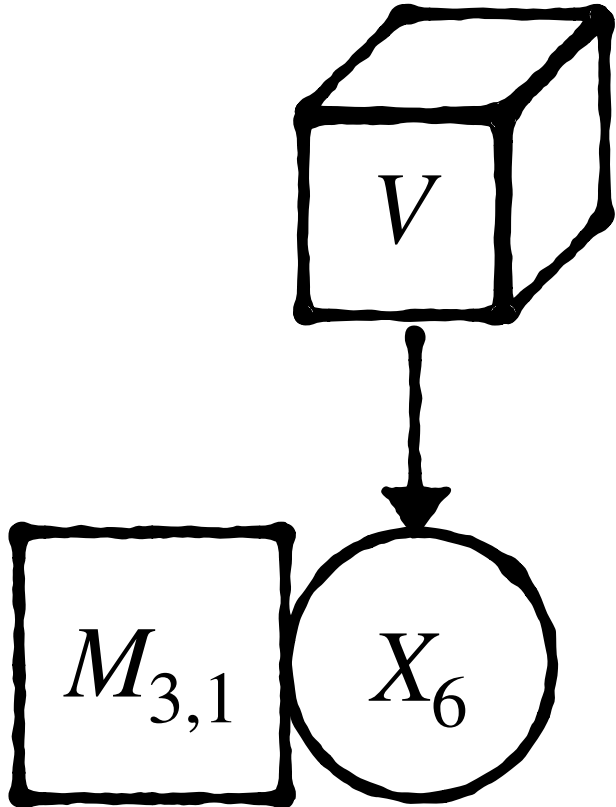
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$\Phi_B = e^{-T_B}$	$(\mathbf{1}, \mathbf{1})_1$	$\mathbf{1}$	$k_a^B$	Kähler moduli



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Low-energy matter field  
structure: **248** of  $E_8$

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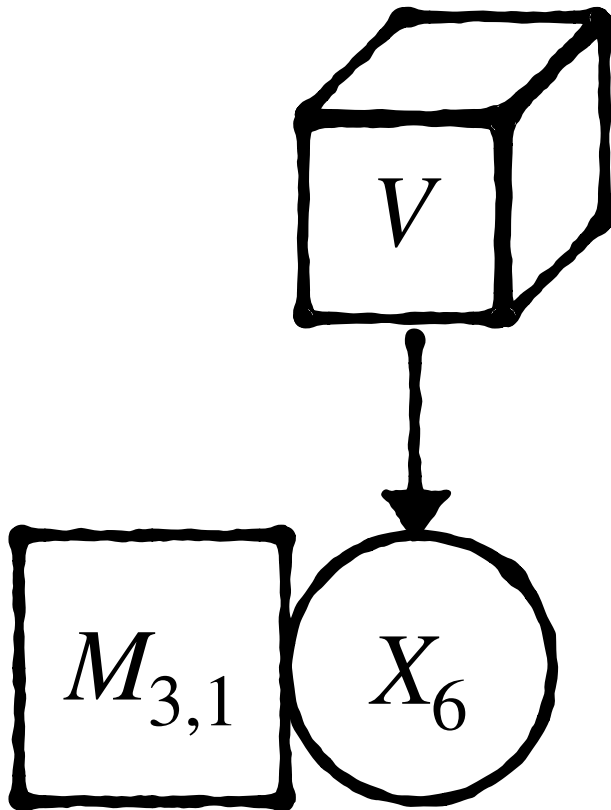
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Low-energy matter field structure: **248** of  $E_8$

Kähler moduli:  $T_B = t_B + i\chi_B$ , transforms as  

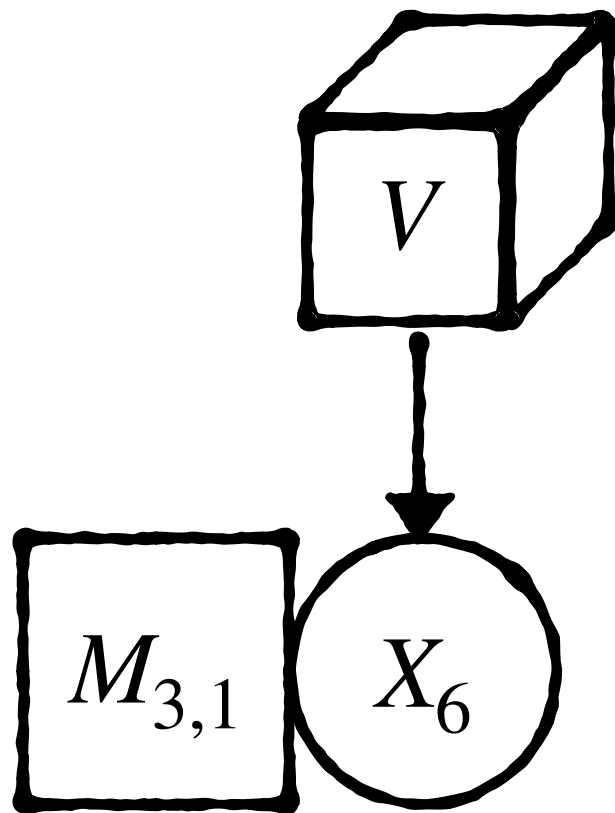
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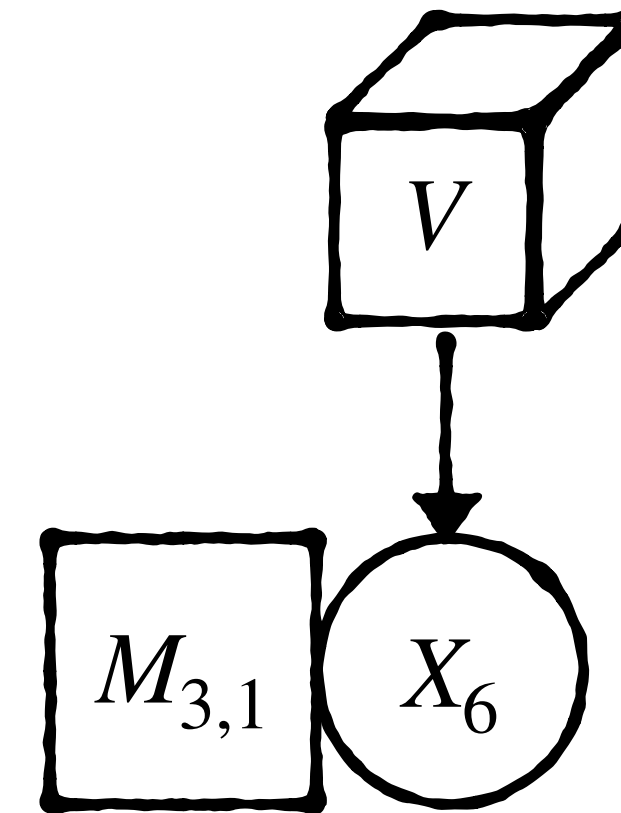
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**Large number of models with SM spectrum found by computational methods!**  
[Anderson et al. (2013), Constantin et al. (2018)]

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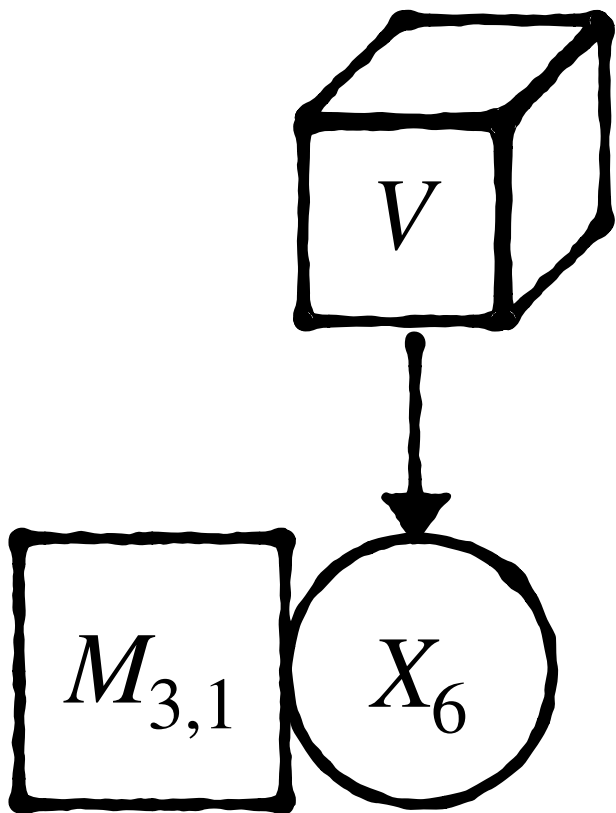
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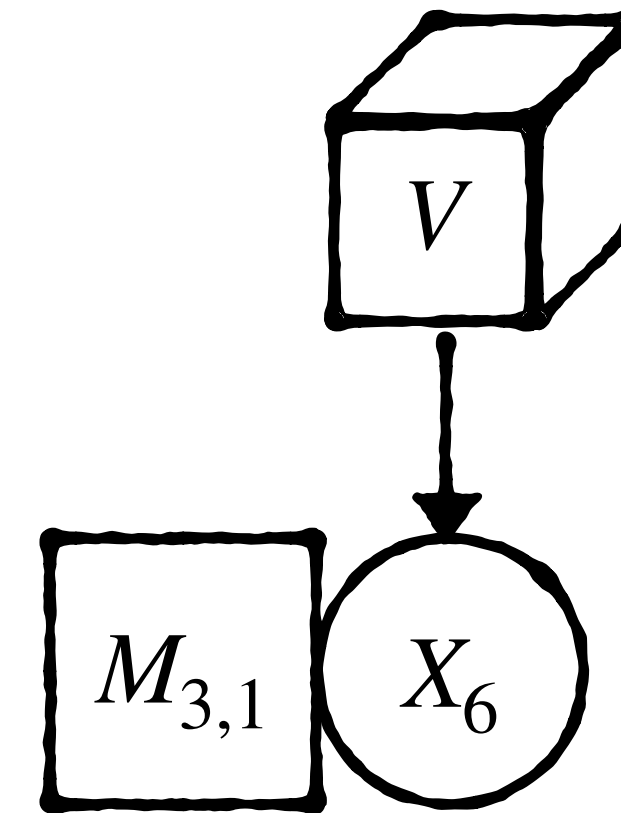
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# Heterotic CY Compactifications and Line Bundle Standard Models

## Ingredients:

- heterotic  $E_8 \times E_8$  superstring theory
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$$C \mapsto e^{-i\mathbf{q}(C) \cdot \epsilon} C$$

Use this to constrain the form of the Yukawa couplings in:

$$W = \hat{\Lambda}_{IJ}^u(\phi) H^u Q^I u^J$$

such that for example

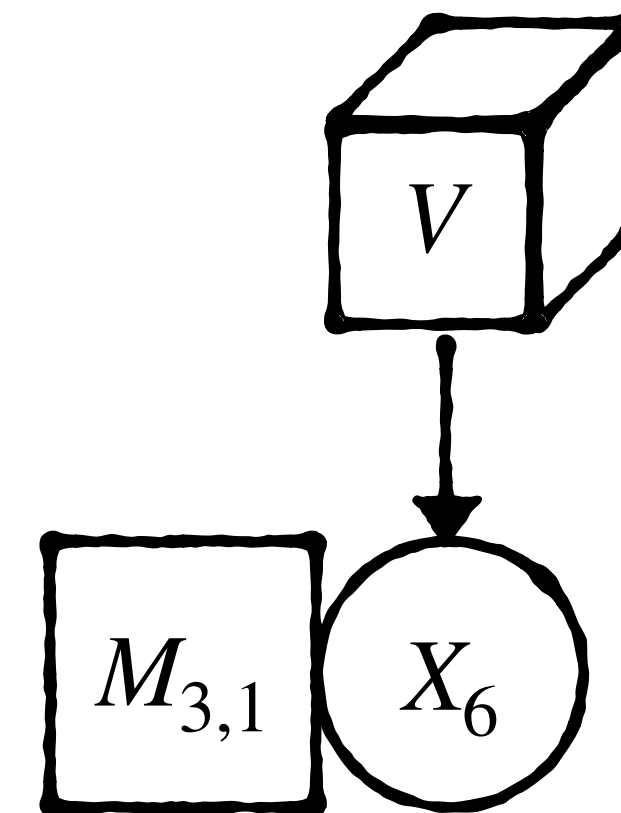
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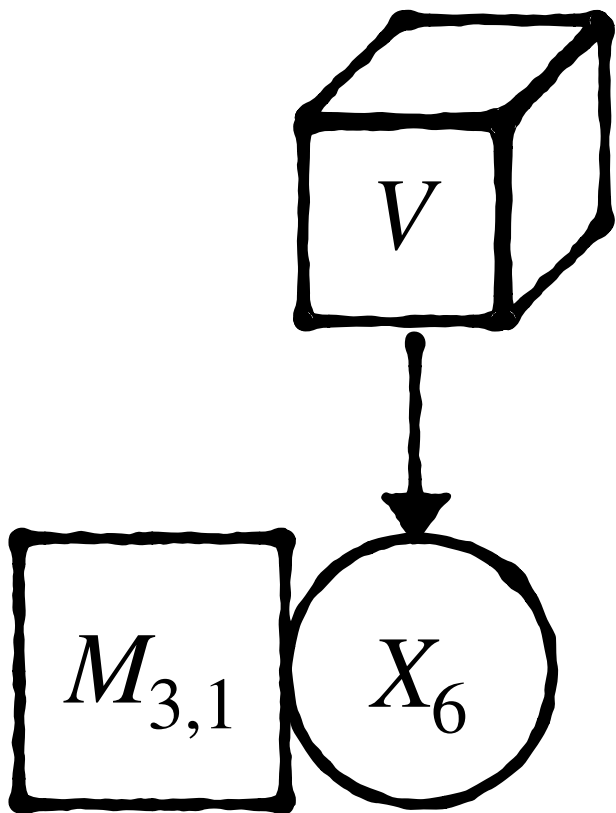
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a function of moduli fields  $\phi_a$  and  $\Phi_a$

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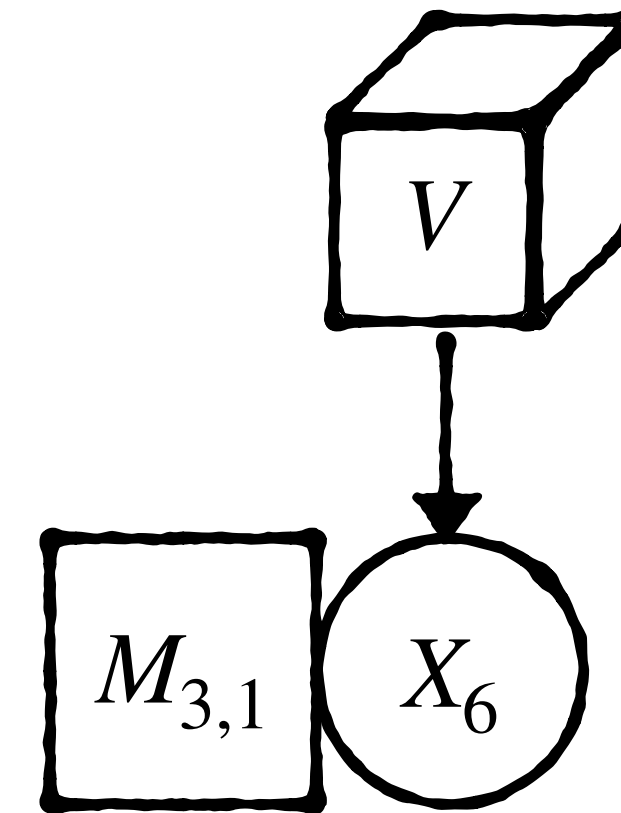
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**Can we calculate couplings and extract flavour physics?**

# Low-energy effective action and symmetries

- In low-energies the models are 4d  $\mathcal{N} = 1$  SUSY Standard Models [Anderson et al. (2012)]
- Relevant terms in the Kähler potential and superpotential:

$$K = \hat{k}^u H^u \bar{H}^u + \hat{k}^d H^d \bar{H}^d + K_{IJ}^C C^I \bar{C}^J + \dots$$

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## Yukawa couplings

- fermion masses and mixings
- gives masses and mixings of quarks and charged lepton masses

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## Neutrino Physics

- want to get three light families of neutrinos via the see-saw mechanism
- bundle moduli  $\phi_i$  with zero VEVs act as RH neutrinos
- $\hat{\mu}_I L^I H^u$  - Dirac mass terms
- $\hat{\mu}_0 \supset M_{ij} \phi_i \phi_j$  - Majorana mass terms

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- Using the global  $U(1)$  symmetries  $\mathcal{J}$  we write down low-energy effective Lagrangian
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## Models with good phenomenology

- fermionic masses and mixings (flavour physics)
- electroweak breaking scale
- neutrino physics

# Method

Models with SM spectrum  Models with good pheno

## Step 1: $\mu$ -term suppression

- $M_H \ll M_P$ , use VEVs of moduli fields to set small  $\mu$ -term
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## Step 2: masses and mixings

- for each combination use remaining VEVs to obtain masses and mixings
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- compute Dirac and Majorana couplings and construct neutrino masses - three light families?

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Descent algorithm on

$$a_{ij}, \langle \phi_a \rangle, \langle \Phi_i \rangle$$

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check if VEV choices  
consistent with possible  
neutrino physics

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# Results of Scans

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### Numbers

Total number of Cicys	46
Number of Line Bundles with diagonal equivariant structure + Higgs-pairs + No anti-families	26695 19659 16255 12122
LBs with unresolved cohomology	4488
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### Phenomenological Observations

- Order-one coefficients may generate hierarchy  
- their ranges are bounded
- Need full-rank up-Yukawa textures
- Trade-off between increasing rank of down-Yukawa and decreasing order-one range
- Generically R-parity violating terms not suppressed



# Example Model

## $\mu$ -term analysis

### Downstairs Spectrum

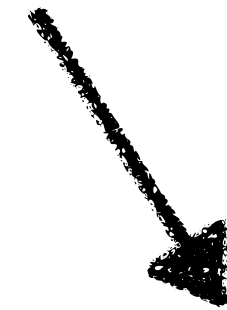
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**Compute  $\mu$ -term insertions**

$$\begin{aligned}
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$\mu$ -term can be consistently set to zero if we pick

$$\left\{ \langle \Phi_3 \rangle, \langle \Phi_4 \rangle, \langle \Phi_5 \rangle, \langle \phi_{1,3} \rangle, \langle \phi_{1,4} \rangle, \langle \phi_{2,4} \rangle, \langle \phi_{2,5} \rangle, \langle \phi_{3,5} \rangle, \langle \phi_{1,2} \rangle \right\} \rightarrow 0$$

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## Yukawa Masses

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### Yukawa Insertions

$$\Lambda^u \sim \begin{pmatrix} \Phi_5 & 0 & \Phi_5 \phi_{1,4} + \phi_{2,1} \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ \Phi_5 \phi_{1,4} + \phi_{2,1} & 1 & \Phi_5 \phi_{1,4}^2 + \phi_{1,4} \phi_{2,1} \end{pmatrix}$$

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### Scan of VEV values

$$\Phi_2 \rightarrow 0.01, \Phi_5 \rightarrow 0.0130746, \phi_{1,4} \rightarrow 0.370977, \\ \phi_{2,1} \rightarrow 0.47089, \phi_{3,1} \rightarrow 0.1,$$

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### Masses and mixing

$$(m_u, m_d, m_t) = (0.0216, 1.27, 172.4) \text{ GeV} \\ (m_d, m_s, m_b) = (0.00467, 0.093, 4.18) \text{ GeV} \\ (m_e, m_\mu, m_\tau) = (0.000511, 0.106, 1.78) \text{ GeV}$$

$$V_{\text{CKM}} = \begin{pmatrix} 0.970 & 0.242 & 0.00358 \\ 0.242 & 0.969 & 0.0448 \\ 0.00737 & 0.0444 & 0.999 \end{pmatrix}$$



# Short Summary

- Explored possible phenomenological issues and properties of heterotic line bundle Standard Models up to Picard number 5
- $\mathcal{O}(10)$  models with suppressed  $\mu$ -term and accurate charged fermion masses and mixings can be obtained
- Neutrino physics - nothing interesting so far...
- And R-parity needs more work too...

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Moduli Stabilisation



# Moduli Stabilisation in String Theory

## Types of Moduli Fields

- complex structure moduli  $z_I$
- Kähler moduli  $T_i$
- gauge bundle moduli  $\phi_a$
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## Non-vacuum solutions

- $p$ -form quantised fluxes
- localised sources (D-branes)

# Moduli Stabilisation in String Theory

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## Flux Compactifications

- sources of stress-energy in internal space - non-vacuum solutions
- small corrections to vacuum solution
- lead to SUSY-breaking mass splitting
- generate scalar potential  $V$  for moduli fields - masses

# Moduli Stabilisation in String Theory

## Construction of isolated vacua

### Step 1: 4d $\mathcal{N} = 1$ SUSY action

- for a particular type of theory write down structure of superpotential  $W$  and Kähler potential  $K$

- Superpotential:

$$W = W_{\text{flux}}(\tau, z_I) + W_{\text{np}}(\tau, z_I, T_i)$$

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### Step 2: Construct $V$ and exploit structure

- key quantity is F-term scalar potential

$$V_F = e^K \left[ K^{M\bar{N}} D_M W \bar{D}_{\bar{N}} \bar{W} - 3 |W|^2 \right]$$

- to obtain SUSY vacua - exploit structure such that F-terms of all moduli vanish exactly

$$D_{T_i} W = D_{z_I} W = D_{\tau} W = 0$$

need quantum corrections in  $W_{\text{np}}, K_{\text{pert}}, K_{\text{np}}$  to stabilise  $T_i$

# **Moduli Stabilisation in Heterotic Theories**

## **The KKLT Scenario**

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### Key idea 2

compactification near conifold singularity allows controllable breaking of SUSY



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## Basics of Periods and Fluxes

Question: What is  $W_{\text{flux}}$ ?

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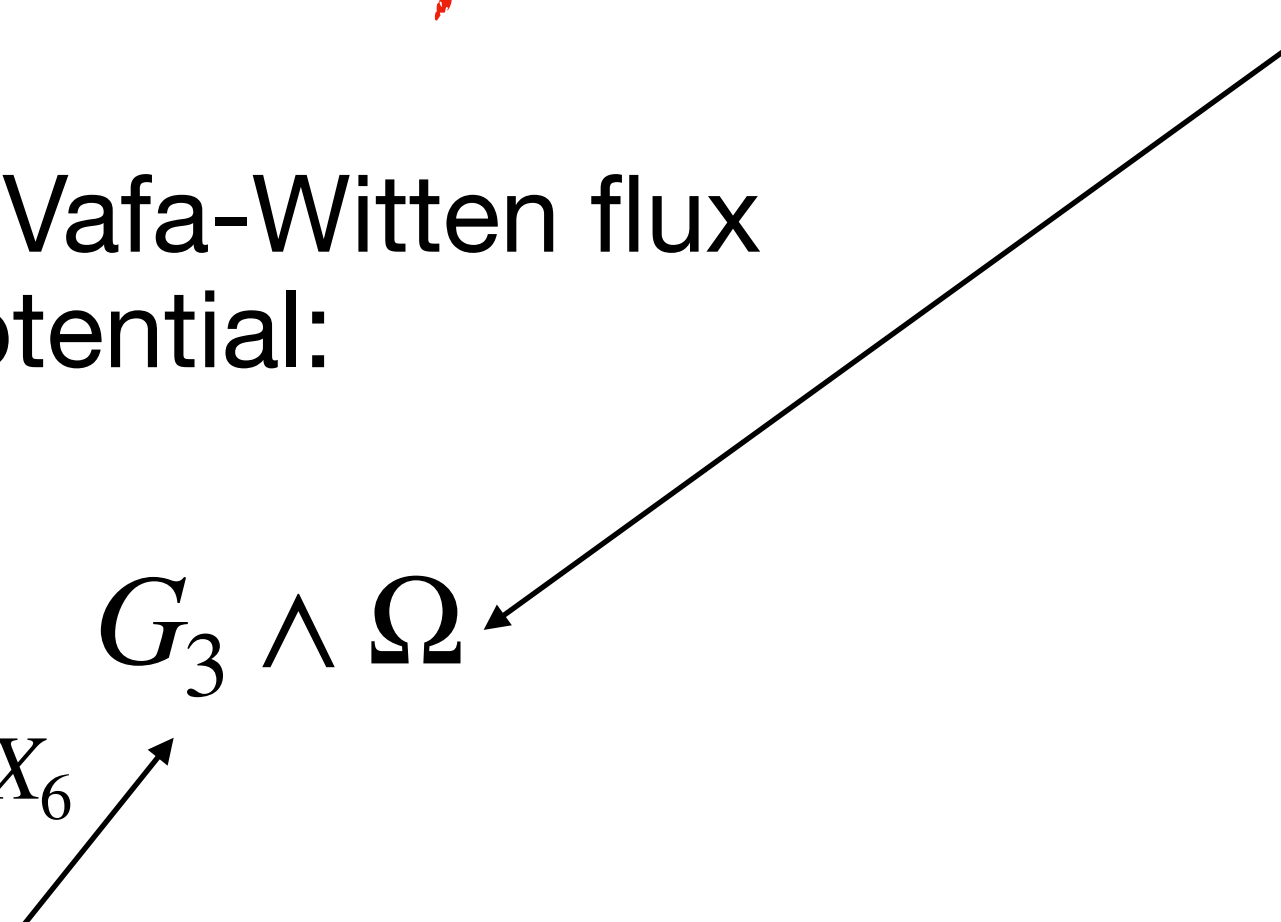
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Typically introduce symplectic basis of  $\alpha_A, \beta^A \in H_3(X_6, \mathbb{Z})$ ,  
 $A = 0, \dots, h^{2,1}$

Define period vector  $\Pi$  as

$$\Pi = \begin{pmatrix} \int \Omega \wedge \beta_A \\ \int \Omega \wedge \alpha^A \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \mathcal{F}_A \\ \mathcal{Z}^A \end{pmatrix},$$

such that

$\mathcal{Z}^A$  - homogeneous projective coords on cs moduli space

$$\mathcal{F} - \text{prepotential}, \quad \mathcal{F}_B = \frac{\partial \mathcal{F}}{\partial \mathcal{Z}^B}$$

$$\Omega = \mathcal{Z}^A \alpha_A - \mathcal{F}_B \beta^B \quad \text{holomorphic 3-form}$$

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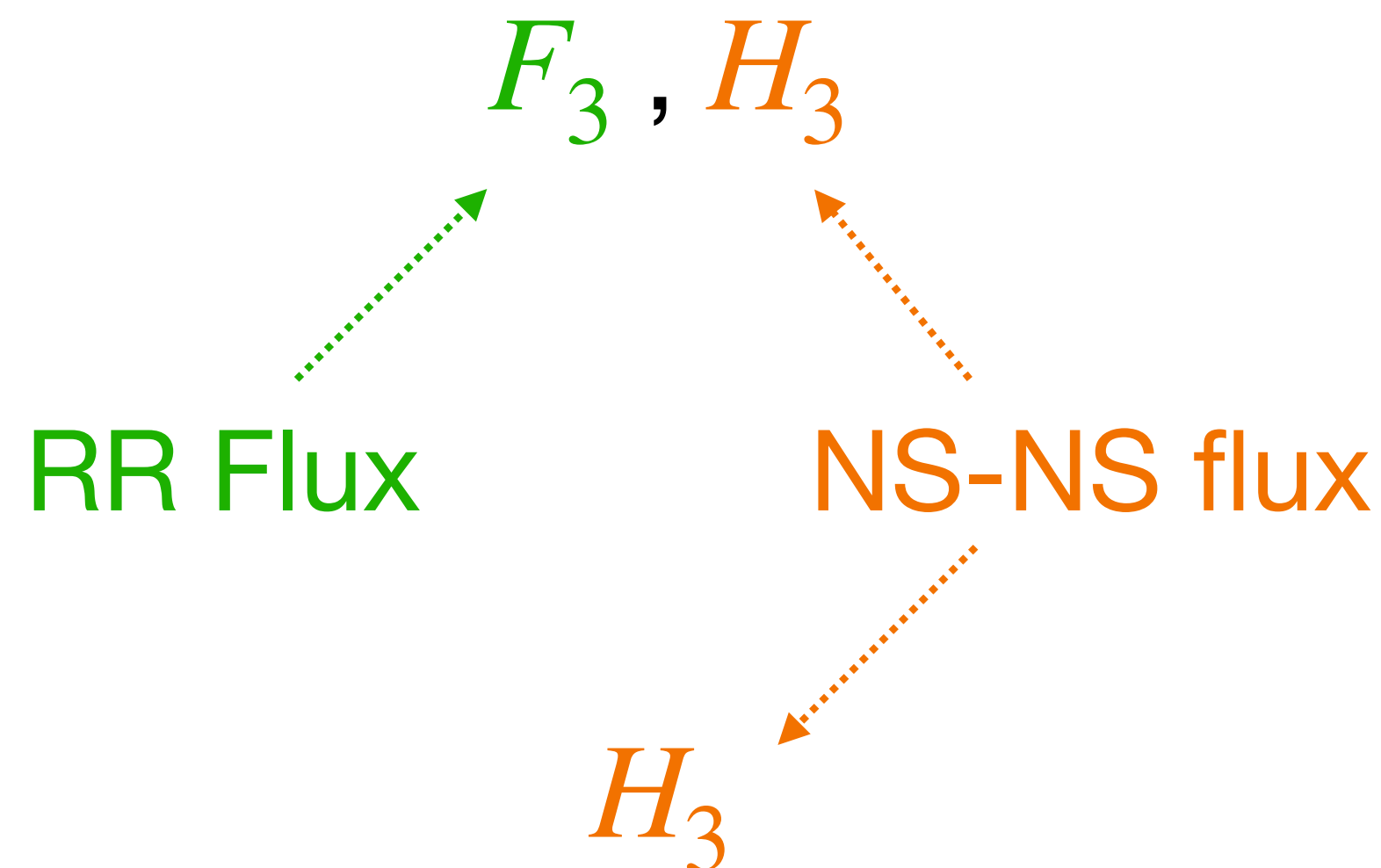
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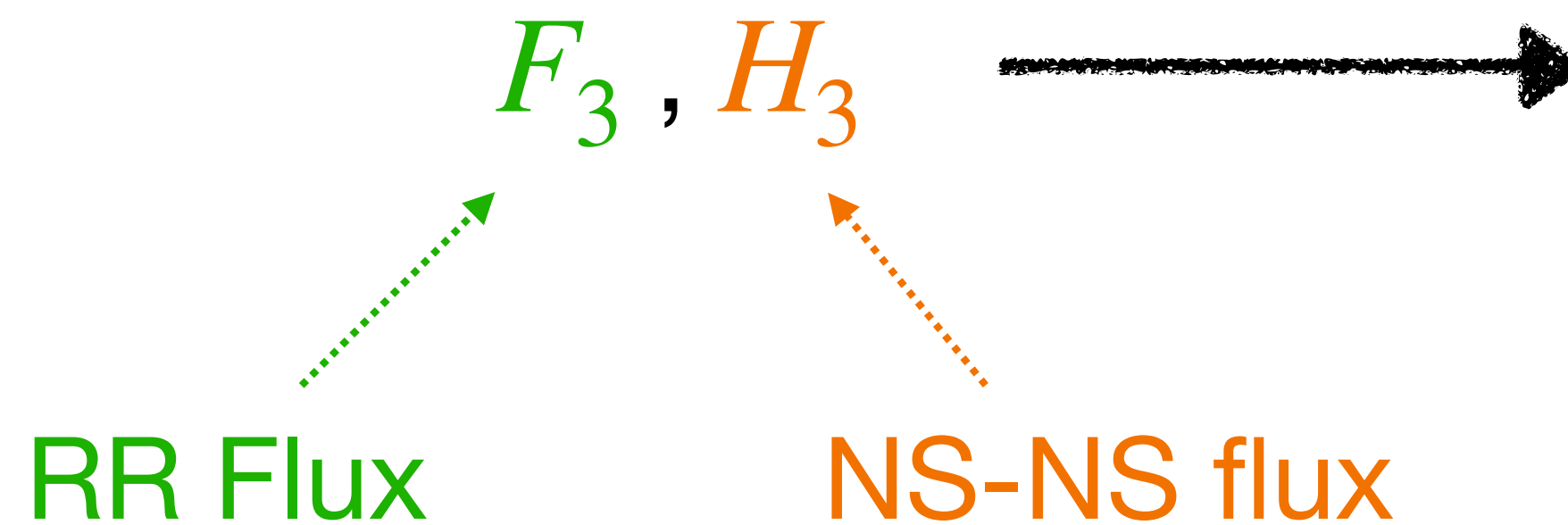
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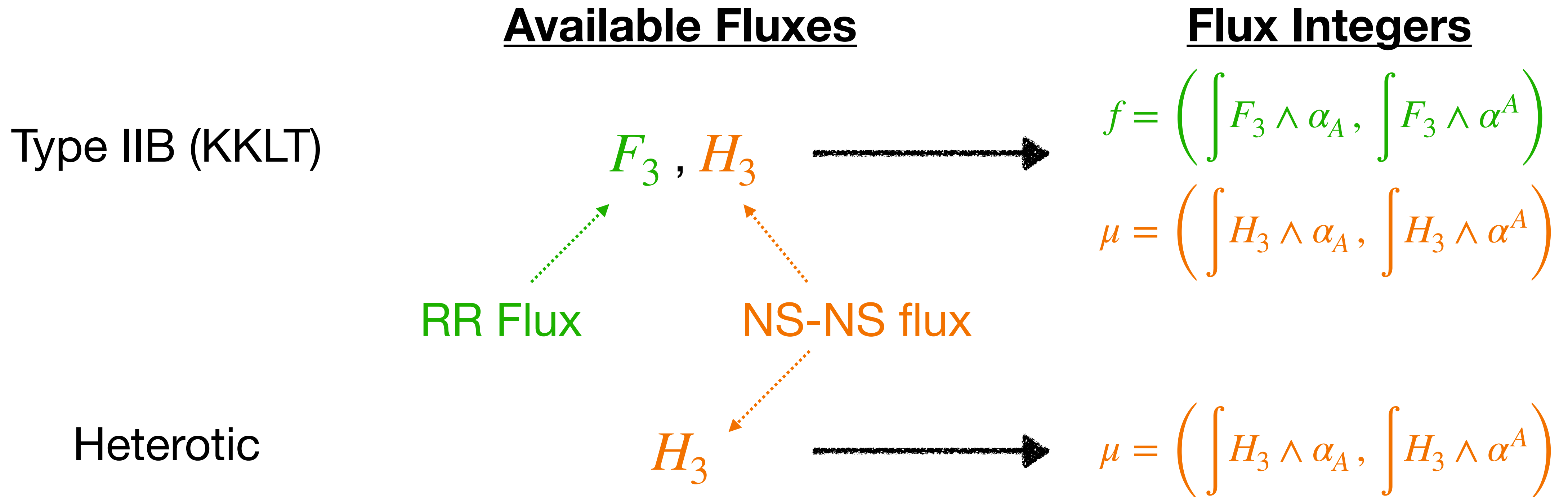
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$$W_0 = \sqrt{\frac{2}{\pi}} (f - \tau \mu)^T \cdot \eta \cdot \Pi$$

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No RR fluxes - traditional  
small  $W_0$  argument does  
not work - WHAT DO WE  
DO?

# Moduli Stabilisation in Heterotic Theories

## Quick Recap

- Natural context to study moduli stabilisation - **flux compactifications**
- Most prominent example - **KKLT scenario**, requires small  $W_0$
- Argument requires **large number of RR fluxes** which does not exist in heterotic theories
- Is it possible that we have  $W_0$  '**accidentally**' small to compete with the small non-perturbative term? For example - some natural region in complex structure moduli space that gives small  $W_0$ ?



# Heterotic Moduli Stabilisation

## Setting the scene

Recall introduced symplectic basis of  $\alpha_A, \beta^A \in H_3(X_6, \mathbb{Z}), A = 0, \dots, h^{2,1}$

Defined period vector  $\Pi$  as

$$\Pi = \begin{pmatrix} \int \Omega \wedge \beta_A \\ \int \Omega \wedge \alpha^A \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \mathcal{F}_A \\ \mathcal{Z}^A \end{pmatrix},$$

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## Things to calculate

- Scalar potential:

$$V = e^K \left( K^{a\bar{b}} D_a W D_{\bar{b}} \bar{W} - 3 |W|^2 \right)$$

- Global SUSY vacua:

$$\frac{\partial W}{\partial Z^a} = 0$$

- Local SUSY vacua:

$$F_a = W_a + K_a W = 0$$

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have defined affine versions of the  
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# Heterotic Moduli Stabilisation

## Large Complex Structure Limit

- Let us first look at large complex structure limit, where  $\mathcal{Z}^A \rightarrow \infty$ .
- In this case the leading pre-potential is

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$$\tilde{\kappa} = \tilde{d}_{abc} z^a z^b z^c \text{ is mirror volume}$$

# Heterotic Moduli Stabilisation

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### Local SUSY

- Want to set

$$F_a = \frac{\partial W}{\partial Z^a} - 2Z_a W = 0$$

- Crucial obstacle - solving this leaves

$$\Im(W_0) = w \left[ \frac{2m^0}{3} \tilde{\kappa} \right]$$

- This cannot be set small since  $\tilde{\kappa} \gg 1$

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# Heterotic Moduli Stabilisation

## General Complex Structure

- For general complex structure we do not have a general form of the pre-potential  $\mathcal{F}$ .
- Typically complicated - given by **hypergeometric functions**...
- Similar general arguments suggest that there is **no consistent SUSY Minkowski vacua**. But doesn't forbid AdS or dS vacua.
- What if we look at explicit examples to analyse general complex structure moduli spaces?

# Mirror Quintic

**Manifold**

$$p = \sum_{k=1} x_k^5 - 5\psi \prod_{k=1}^5 x_k$$

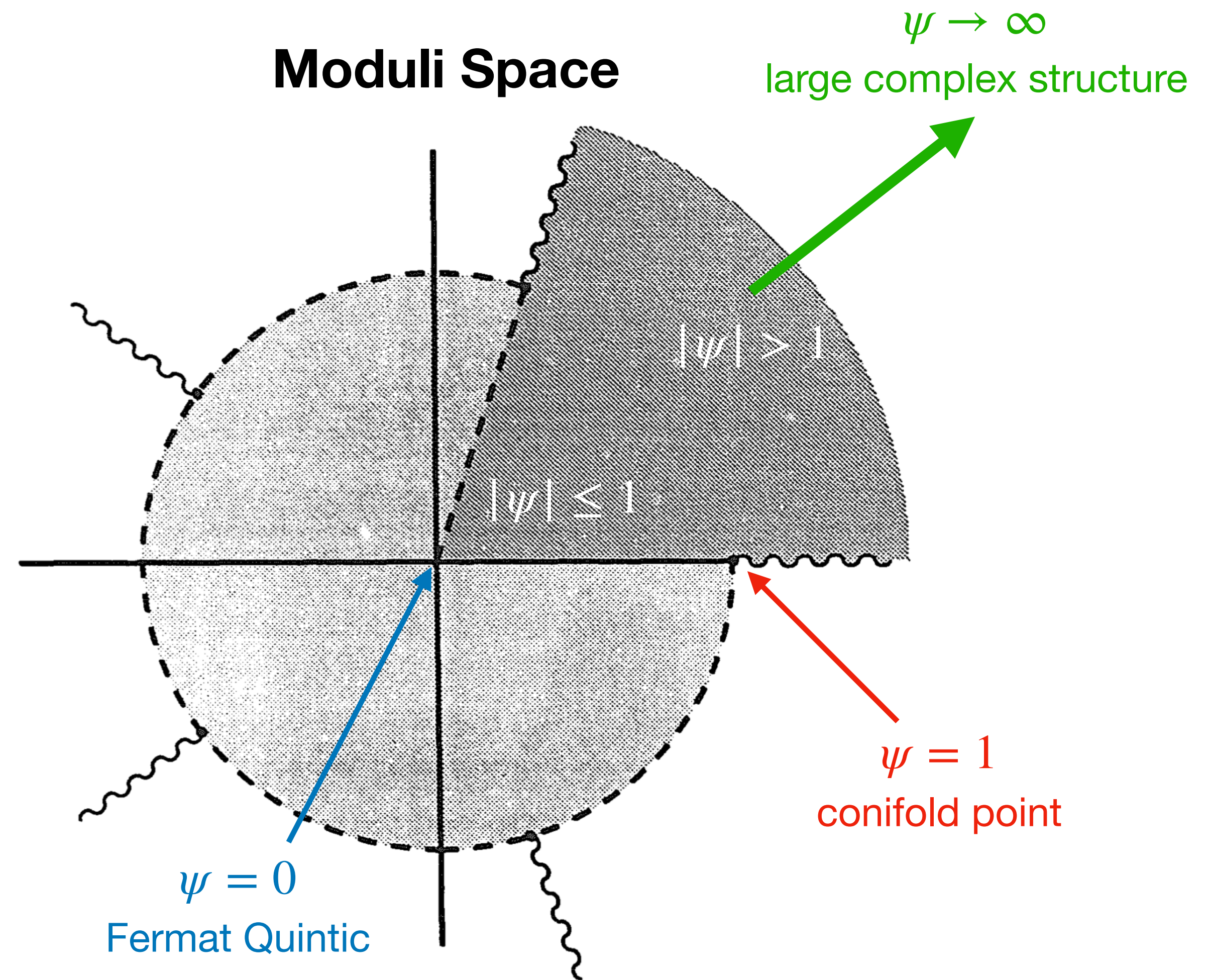


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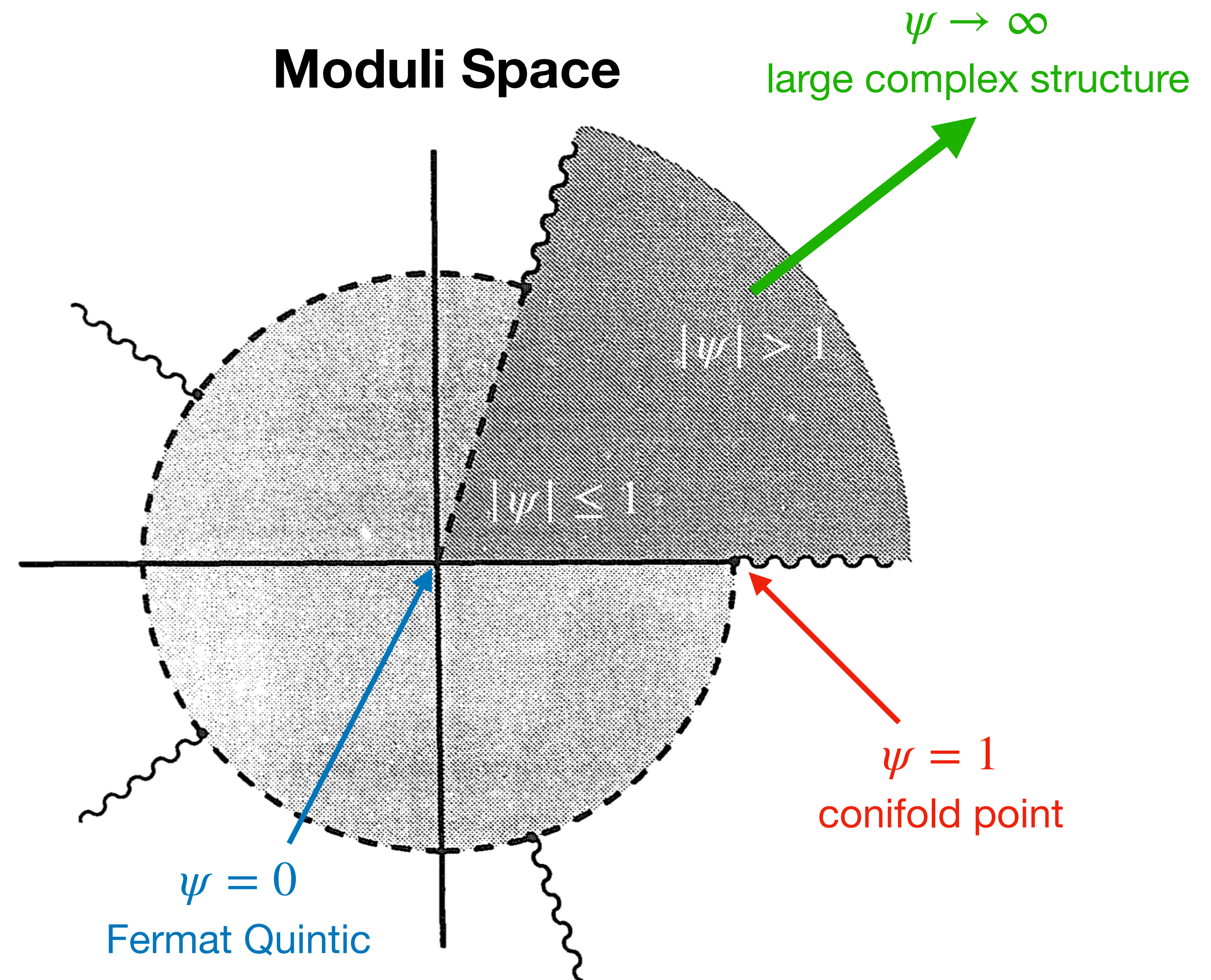
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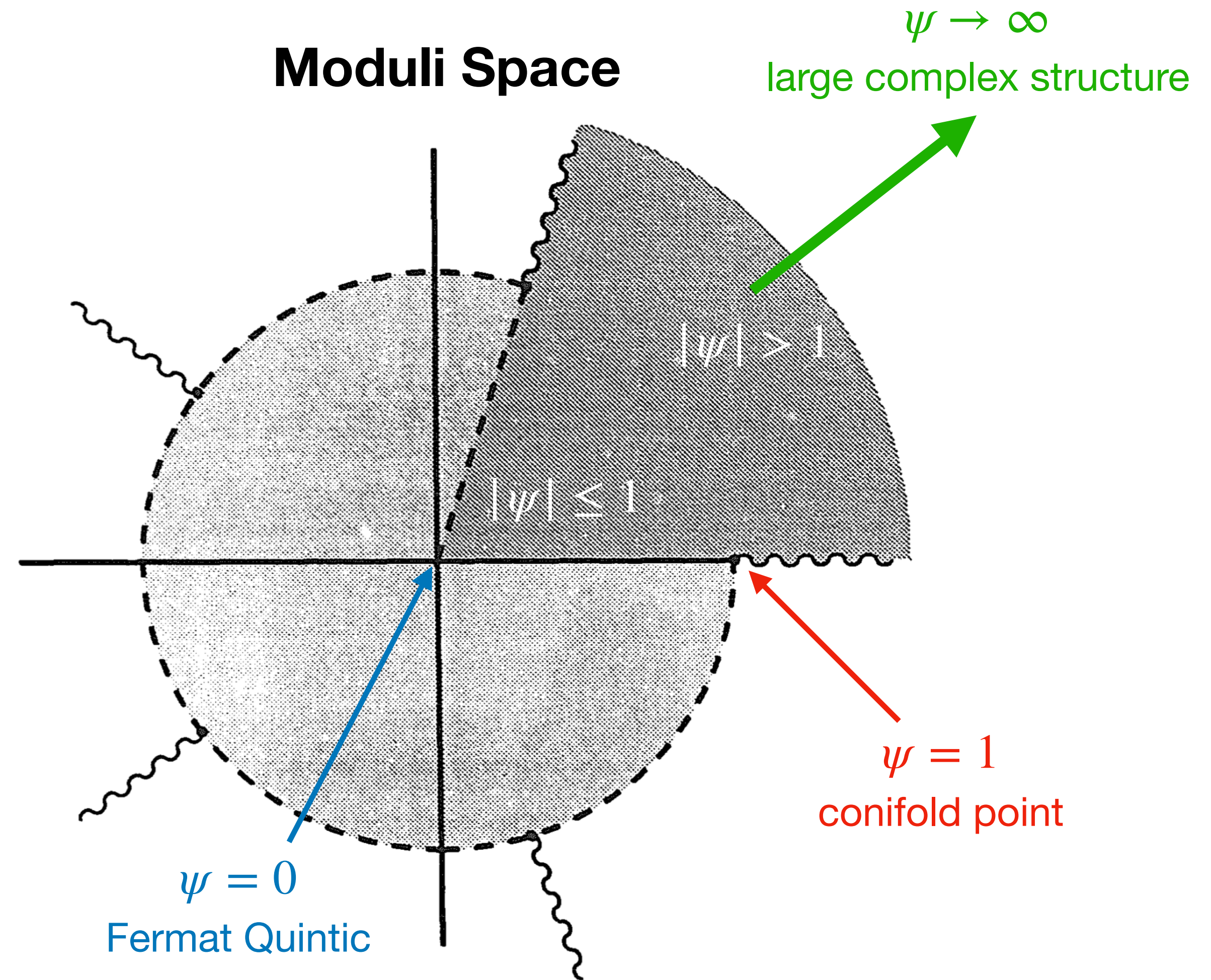
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$$\varpi_j(\psi) = \sum_{r=0}^3 \log^r(5\psi) \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} b_{jrn} \frac{(5n)!}{(n!)^5 (5\psi)^{5n}}$$

## Moduli Space

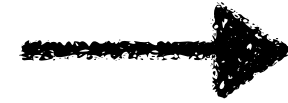




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**Period Expansion**  $|\psi| < 1$

$$\varpi_j(\psi) = -\frac{1}{5} \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \frac{\alpha^{2m+mj} \Gamma(\frac{m}{5}) (5\psi)^m}{\Gamma(m) \Gamma^4(1 - \frac{m}{5})}$$



**Period Expansion Basis**

$$\varpi(\psi) = \begin{pmatrix} \varpi_2 \\ \varpi_1 \\ \varpi_0 \\ \varpi_{k_1} \end{pmatrix}$$



**Period Vector**

$$\Pi = M\varpi$$

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$$W = w_\mu{}^T \eta \Pi$$

**Kähler potential**

$$K = -\log \kappa$$

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$$F_A = W_A - \frac{\kappa_A}{\kappa} W = 0$$

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Local SUSY

$$F_A = W_A - \frac{\kappa_A}{\kappa} W = 0$$

Scalar potential

$$V = K^{A\bar{B}} D_A W D_{\bar{B}} \bar{W} - 3|W|^2$$

# Mirror Quintic

## Global SUSY

- Scan all flux integers  $(n_0, n_1, m^0, m^1) \in \{-20, \dots, 20\}$
- Solve for  $\frac{\partial \hat{W}}{\partial \psi} = 0$
- Compute values of  $|\hat{W}/w|$
- Best one obtained -  $|\hat{W}/w| \sim 0.064$  at  $(n_0, n_1, m^0, m^1) = \pm (5, -2, 9, -4)$  and  $\psi = -0.55 - 0.25i$ .
- $\hat{W}$  not symplectically-invariant under  $Sp(4, \mathbb{Z})$ !



# Mirror Quintic

## Local SUSY

- Instead look at quantity

$$\mathcal{V} = e^{K/2} \hat{W}$$

- Repeat search for F-term set to zero,

$$F_a = W_a - \frac{\kappa_a}{\kappa} W$$

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### Found Minima

- $(n_0, n_1, m^0, m^1) = (4, 0, 7, -1)$
- $\psi_{\min} = 0.12 - 0.36i$
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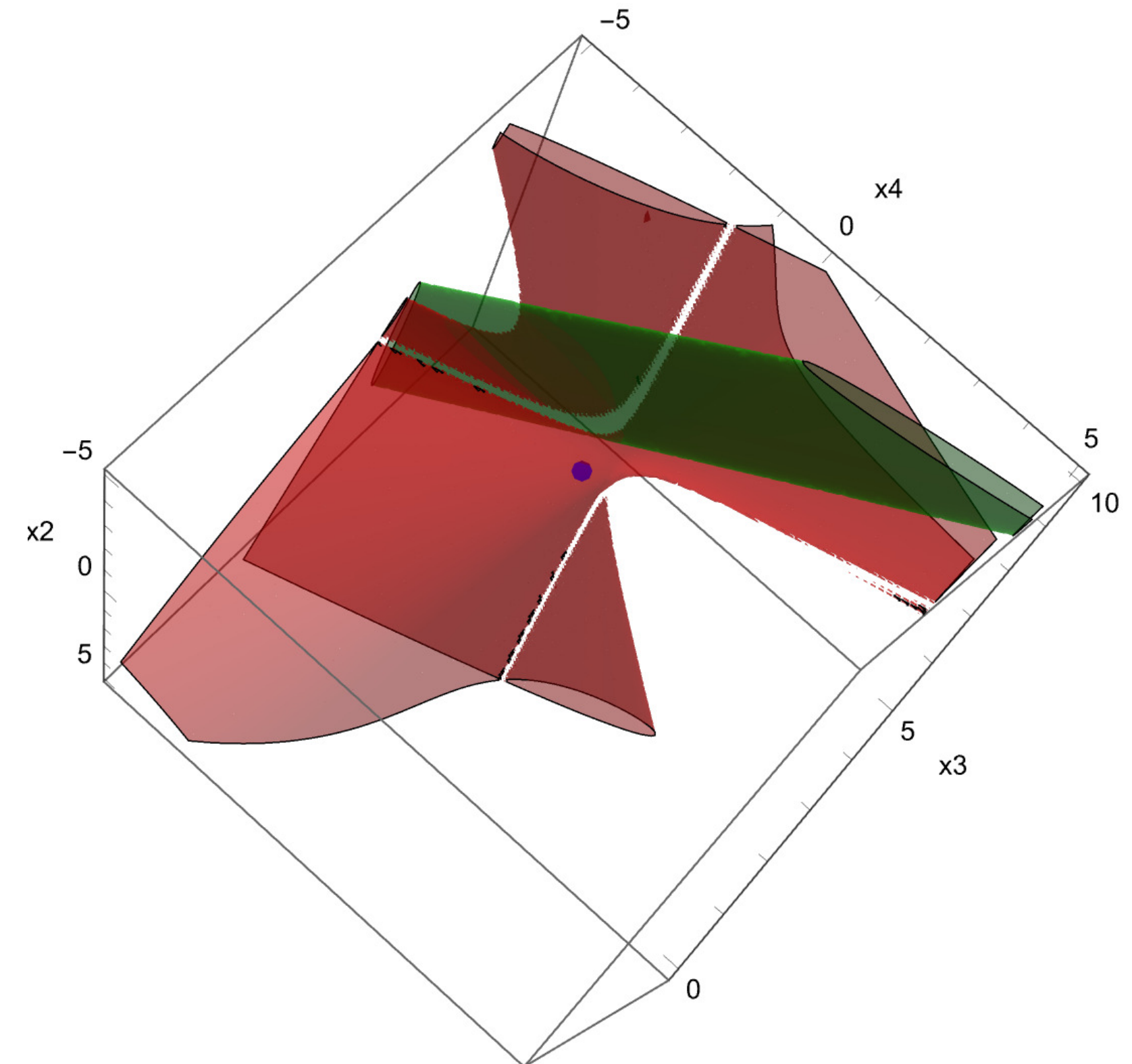
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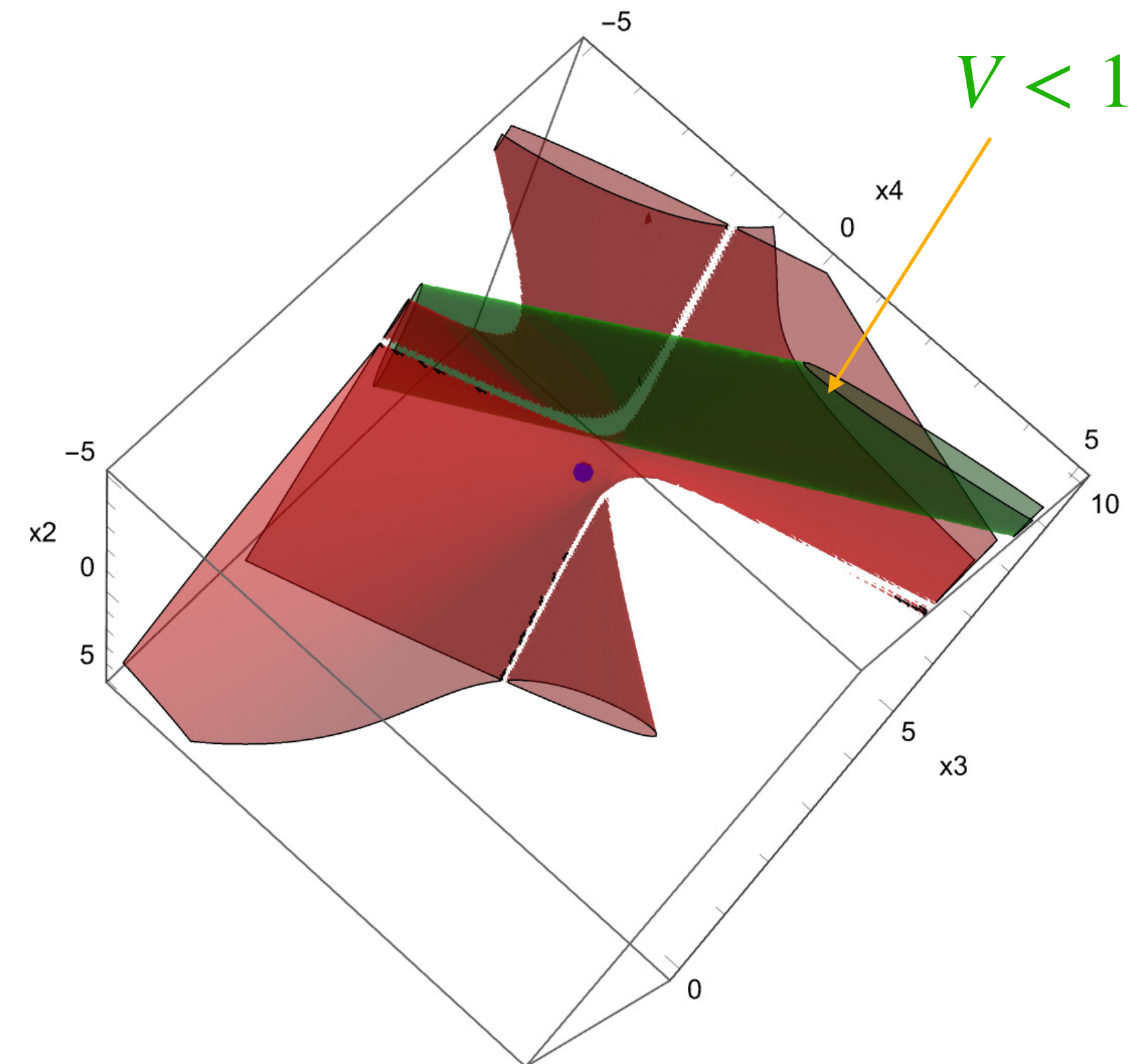
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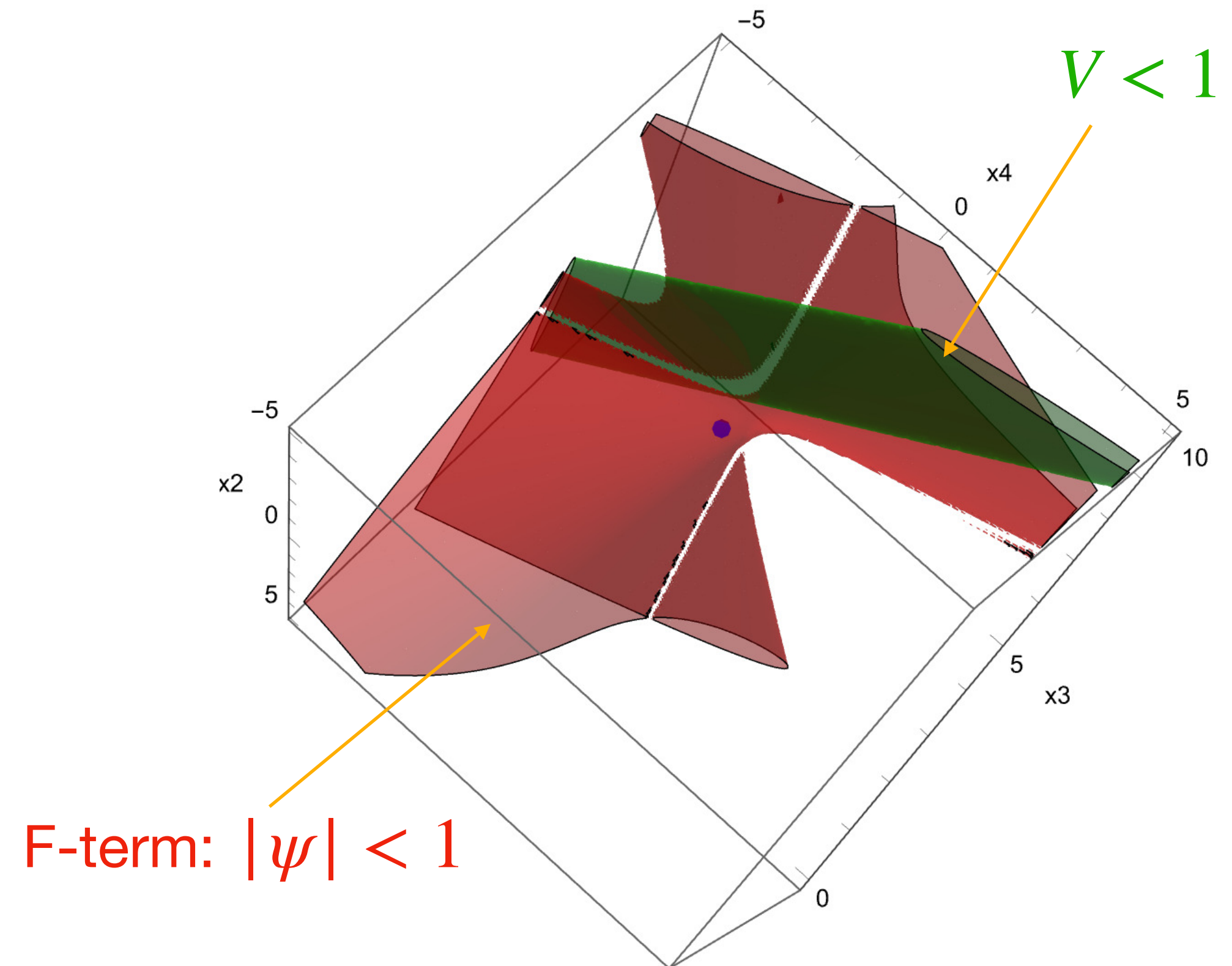
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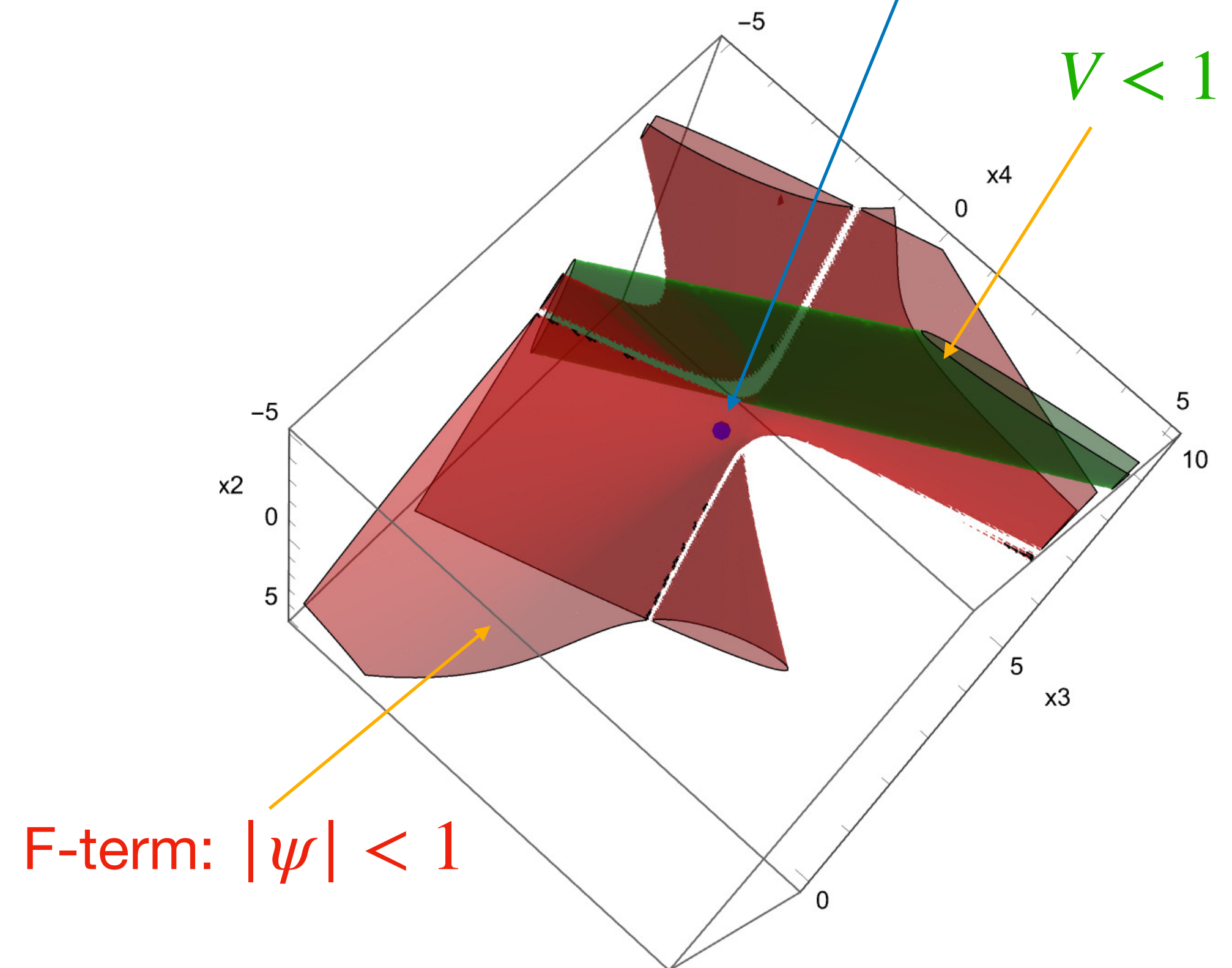
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$$\varpi_0(\psi) = -\frac{\pi}{k} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{\Gamma(n) \prod_{i=0}^4 \Gamma(1 - n\nu_i/k)} \frac{e^{\frac{i\pi(k-1)n}{k}}}{\sin\left(\frac{\pi n}{k}\right)} (\gamma\psi)^n,$$

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## Results

$k$	$(n_0, n_1, m^0, m^1)$	$\psi_{\min}$	$V_F$	$ W_{\text{homo}} $	$ \hat{\mathcal{W}}_0 $	$ \hat{\mathcal{W}}_1 $
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6	$(-2, 2, -11, 3)$	$-0.392 - 0.679i$	<b>7.01</b>	11.1	<b>0.421</b>	1.55
6	$(0, -2, 5, 0)$	$-0.785 - 0.0000226i$	<b>7.01</b>	11.1	0.423	<b>1.49</b>
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Not amazing...

# Two-parameter Model

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## Manifold

$$p = x_1^8 + x_2^8 + x_3^4 + x_4^4 + x_5^4 - 8\psi x_1 x_2 x_3 x_4 x_5 - 2\phi x_1^4 x_2^4$$

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Region	$(n_0, n_1, n_2, m^0, m^1, m^2)$	$(\psi_{\min}, \phi_{\min})$	$V_F$	$ W_{\text{homo}} $
$\left  \frac{8\zeta^4}{1 \pm \sqrt{\eta}} \right  < 1$	$(1, 2, -3, -1, 1, -2)$	$(-0.160 + 0.555i, 0.069 - 0.844i)$	0.001579	0.0287



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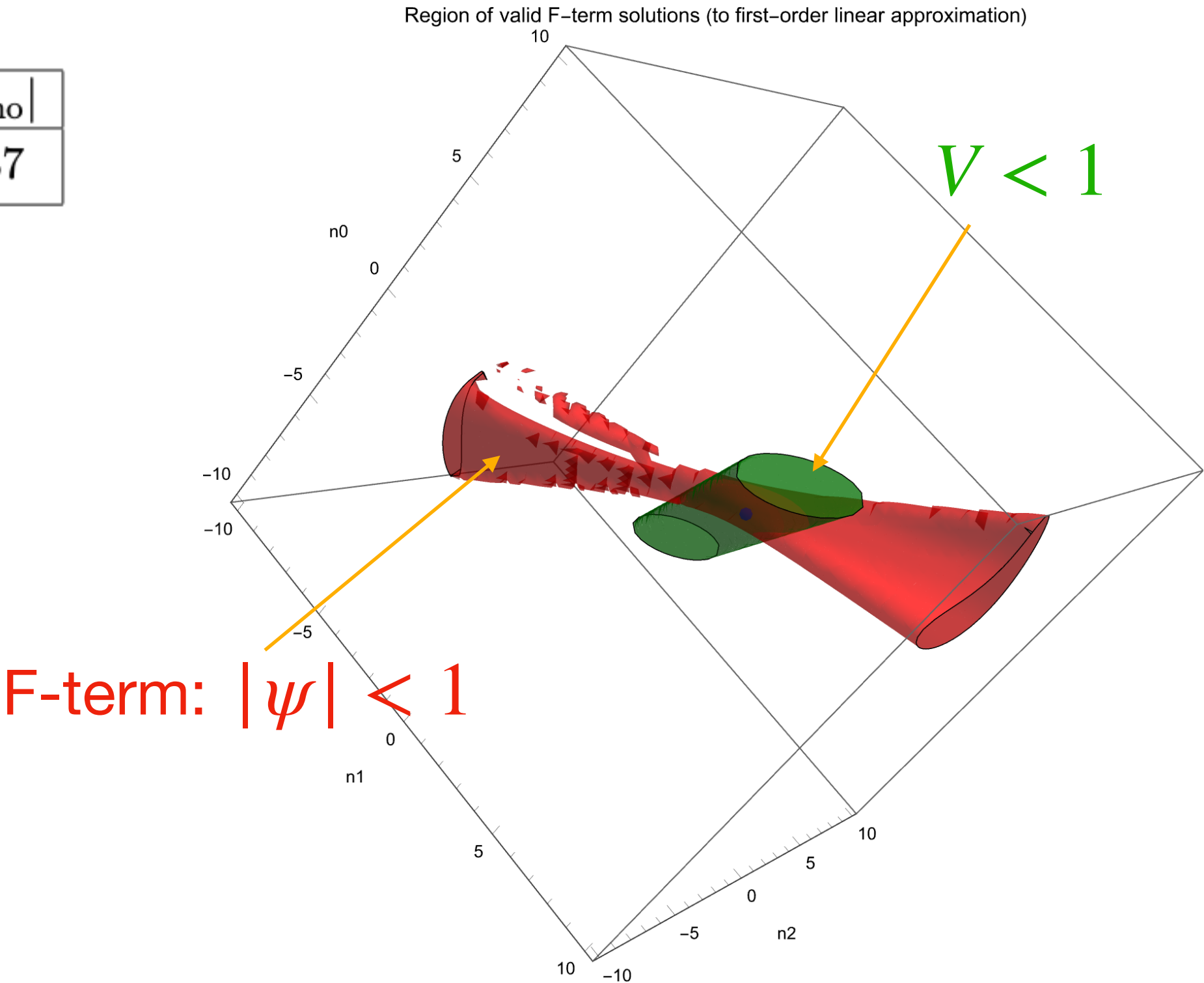
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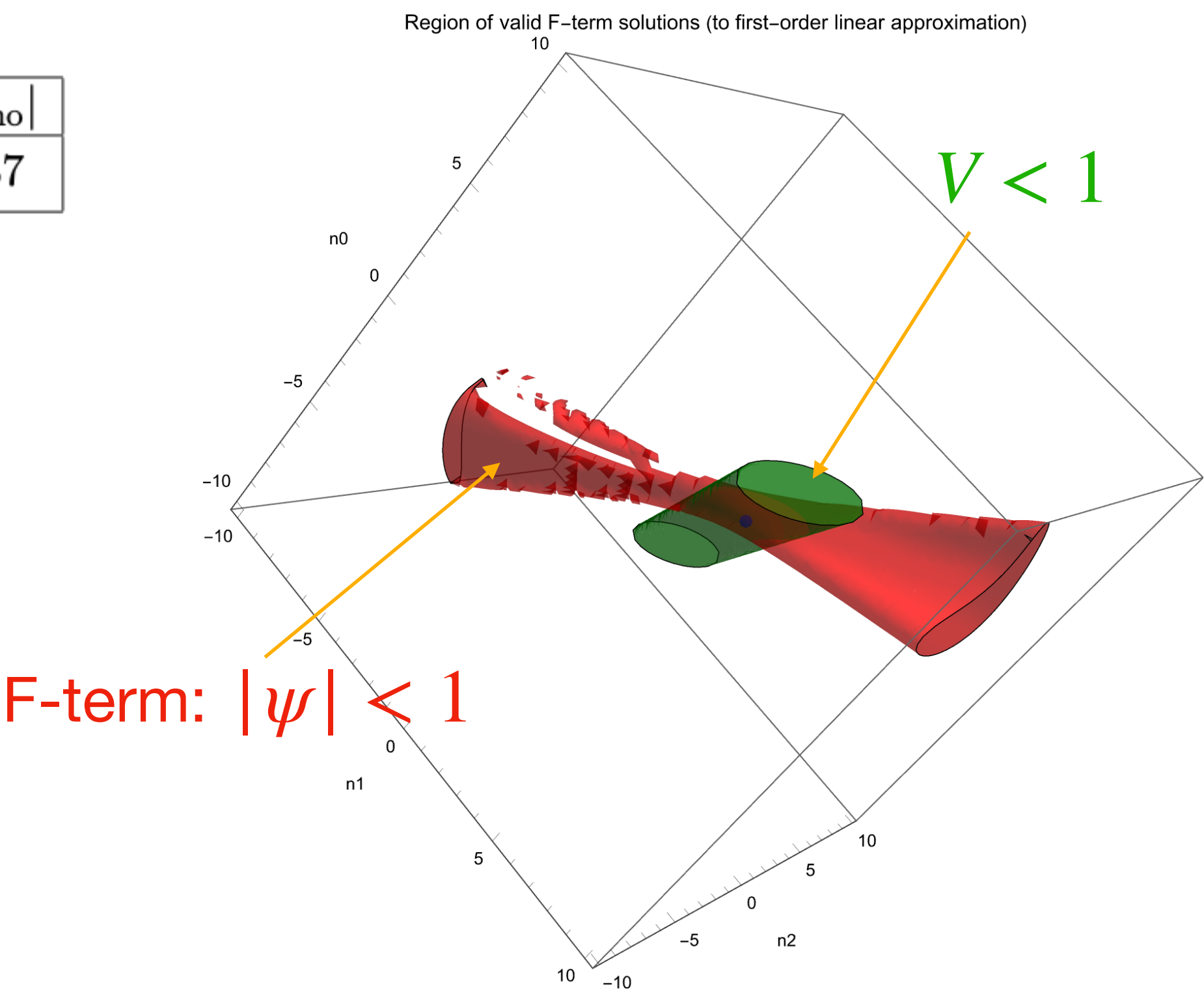
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small  $W_0$  seems possible!



# Conclusions

- Want to see if we can repeat KKLT-like scenario in heterotic string theory.
- No RR fluxes in heterotic means small- $W_0$  argument is not possible in heterotic.
- But  $W_0$  seems possible in some models - need specific period structure!
- **Constraints on period structure can be in principle be derived!**

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UV action

$$S_{UV} = \int Dx \dots$$

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4d effective action

$$S_{4d} = \int d^4x R + \dots$$

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$$S_{UV} = \int Dx \dots$$

Integral

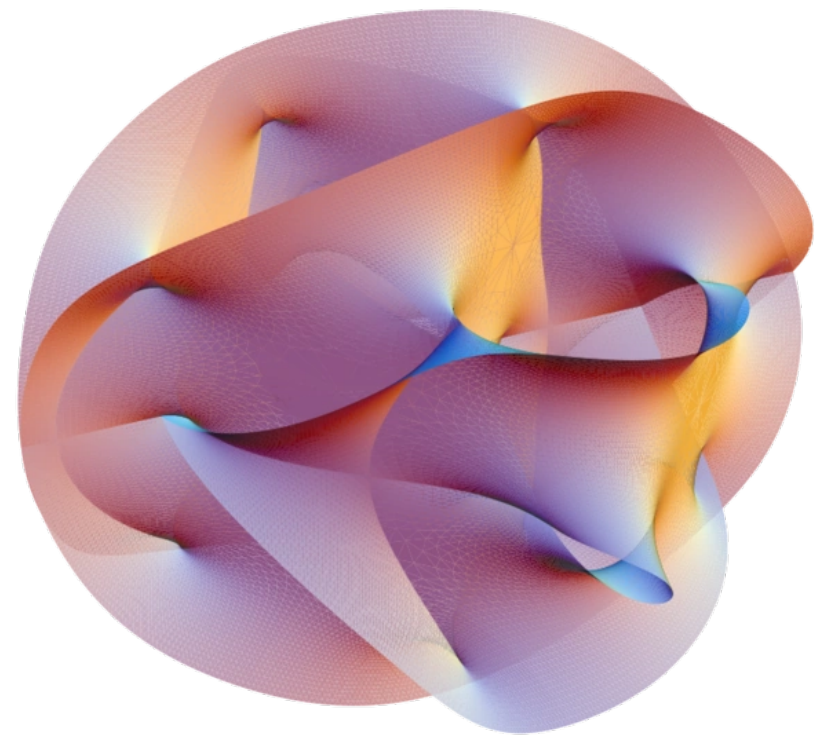


4d effective action

$$S_{4d} = \int d^4x R + \dots$$

# The Dream Scenario

Calabi-Yau Data  
(geometry + topology)



UV action

$$S_{UV} = \int Dx \dots$$

Integral

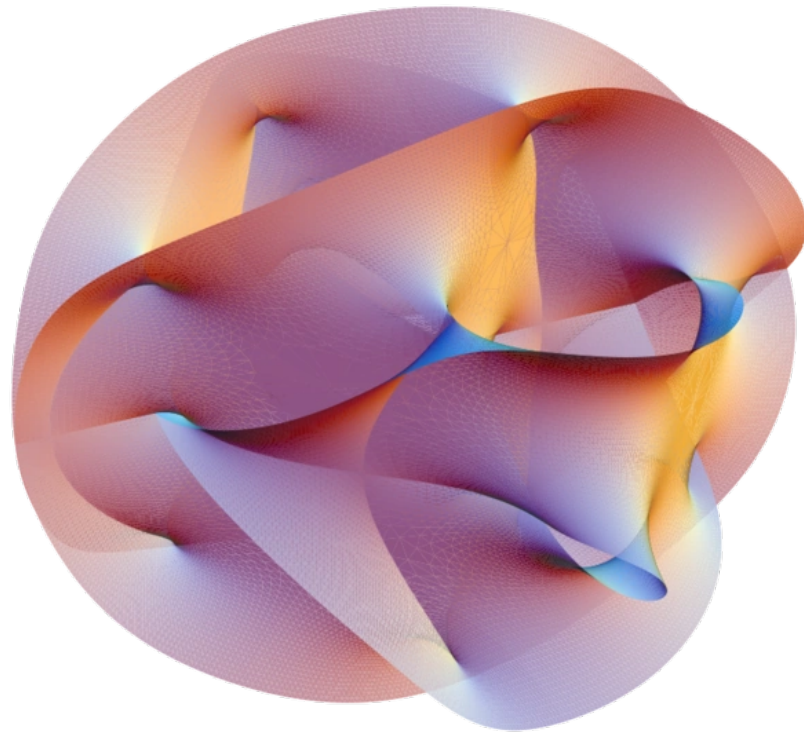


4d effective action

$$S_{4d} = \int d^4x R + \dots$$

# The Dream Scenario

Calabi-Yau Data  
(geometry + topology)

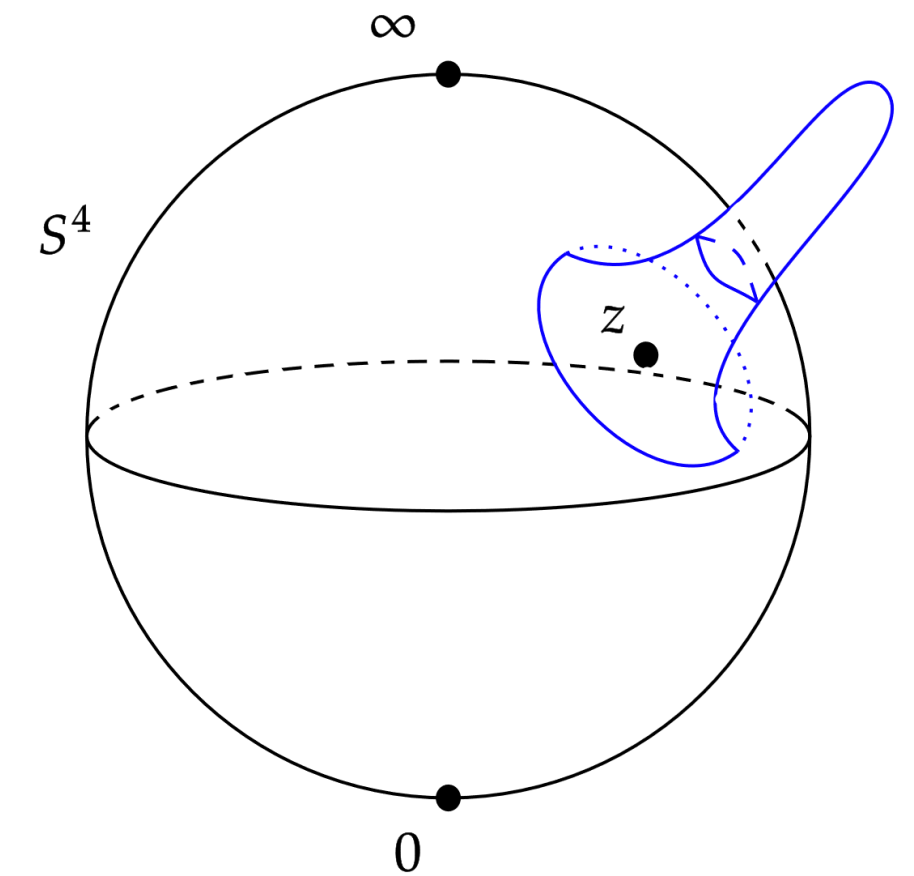


UV action

$$S_{UV} = \int Dx \dots$$

Integral

Non-perturbative effects

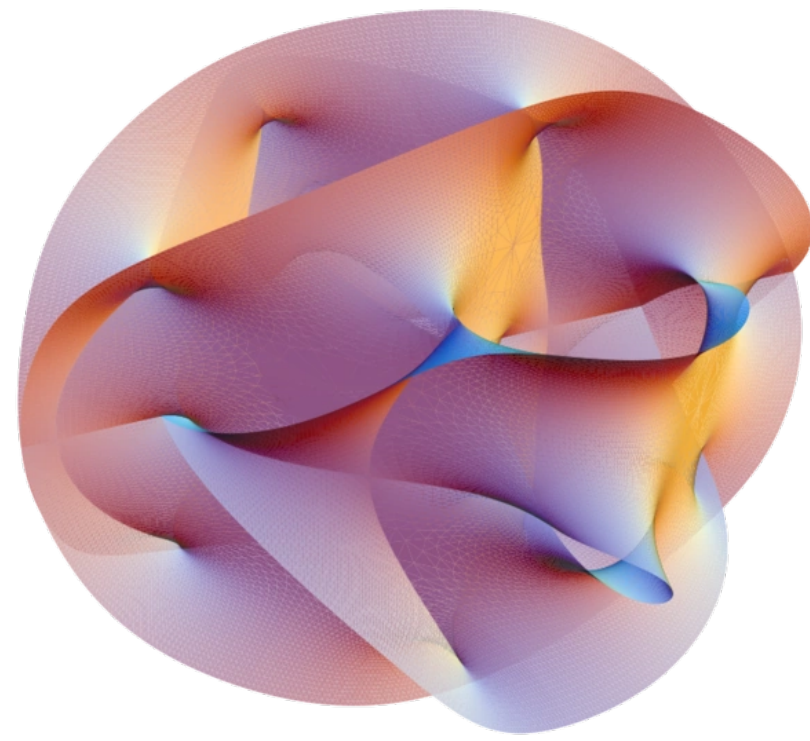


4d effective action

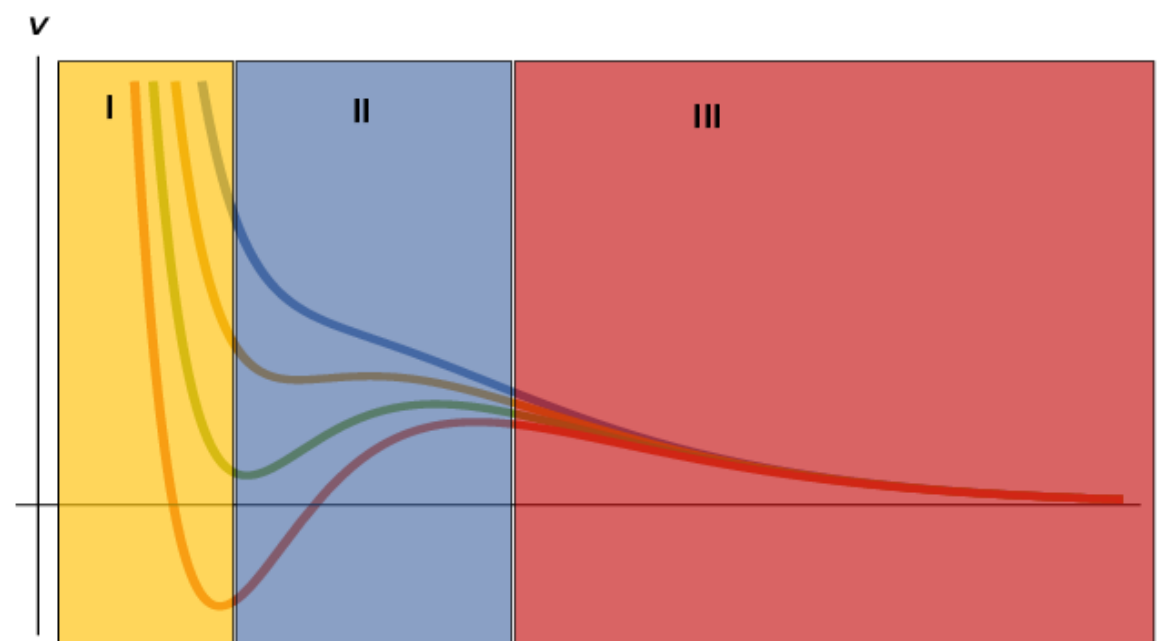
$$S_{4d} = \int d^4x R + \dots$$

# The Dream Scenario

Calabi-Yau Data  
(geometry + topology)



Moduli Stabilisation

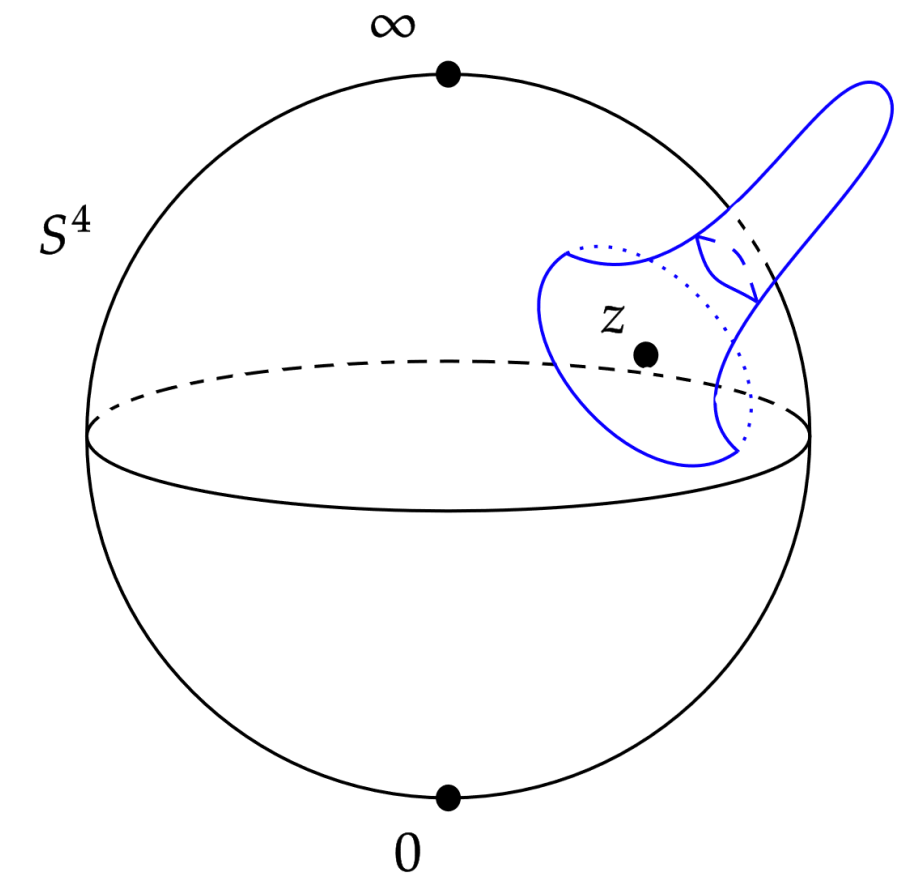


UV action

$$S_{UV} = \int Dx \dots$$

Integral

Non-perturbative effects



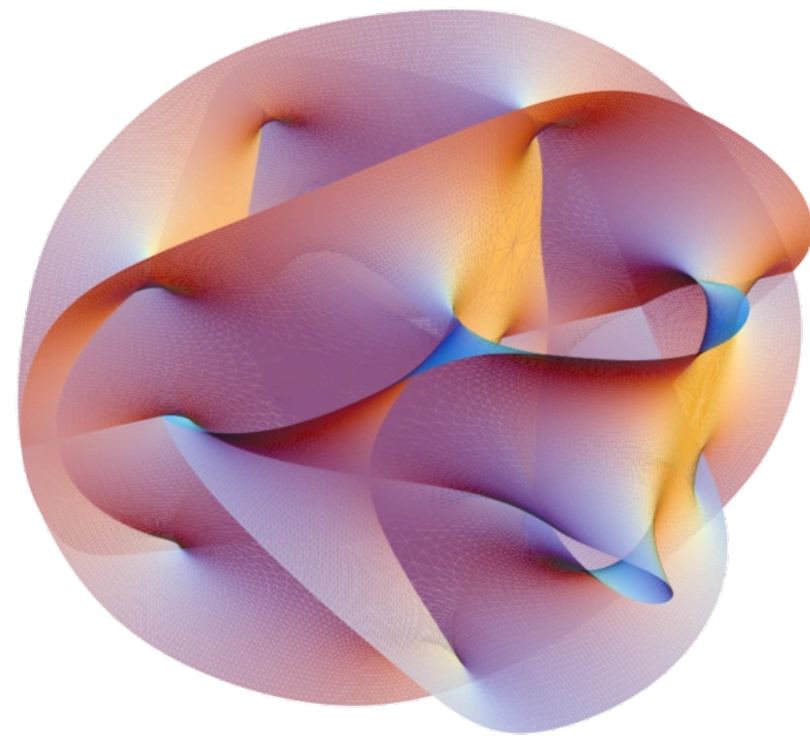
4d effective action

$$S_{4d} = \int d^4x R + \dots$$



# The Dream Scenario

Calabi-Yau Data  
(geometry + topology)

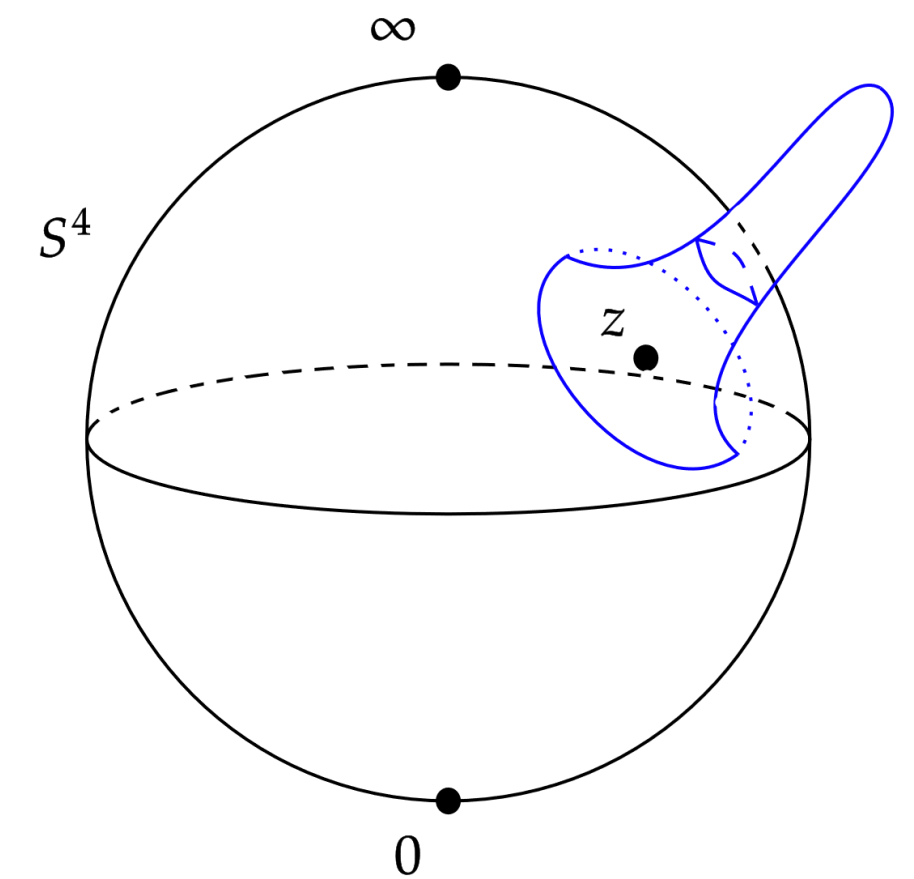


UV action

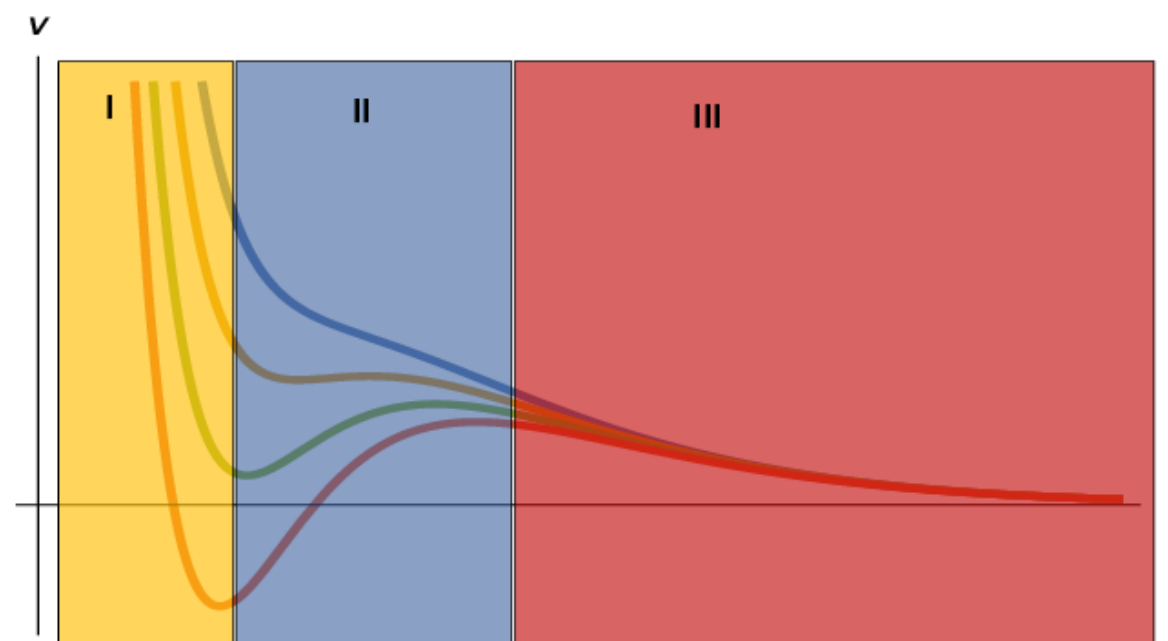
$$S_{UV} = \int Dx \dots$$

Integral

Non-perturbative effects



Moduli Stabilisation



SUSY

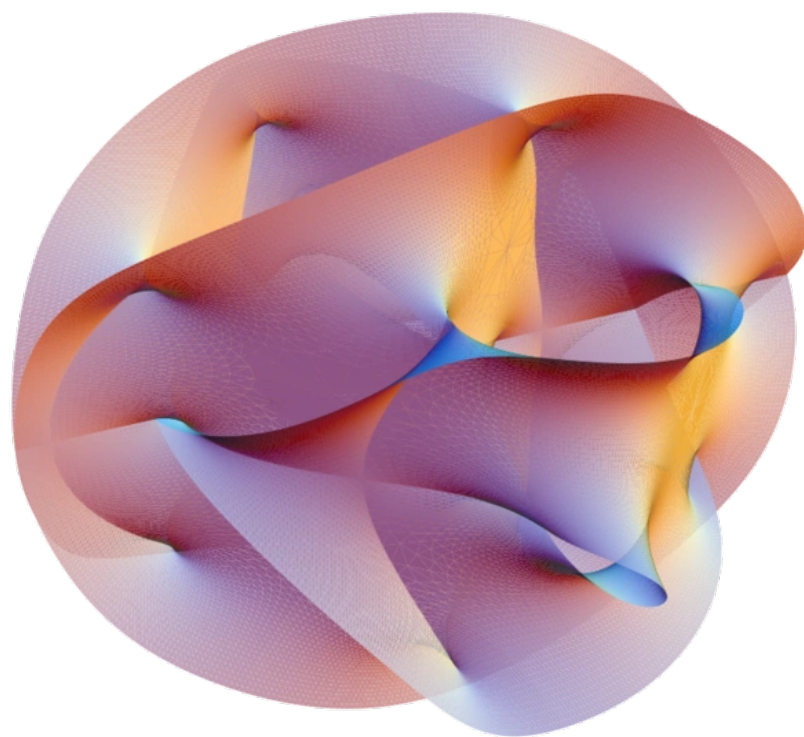
4d effective action

$$S_{4d} = \int d^4x R + \dots$$

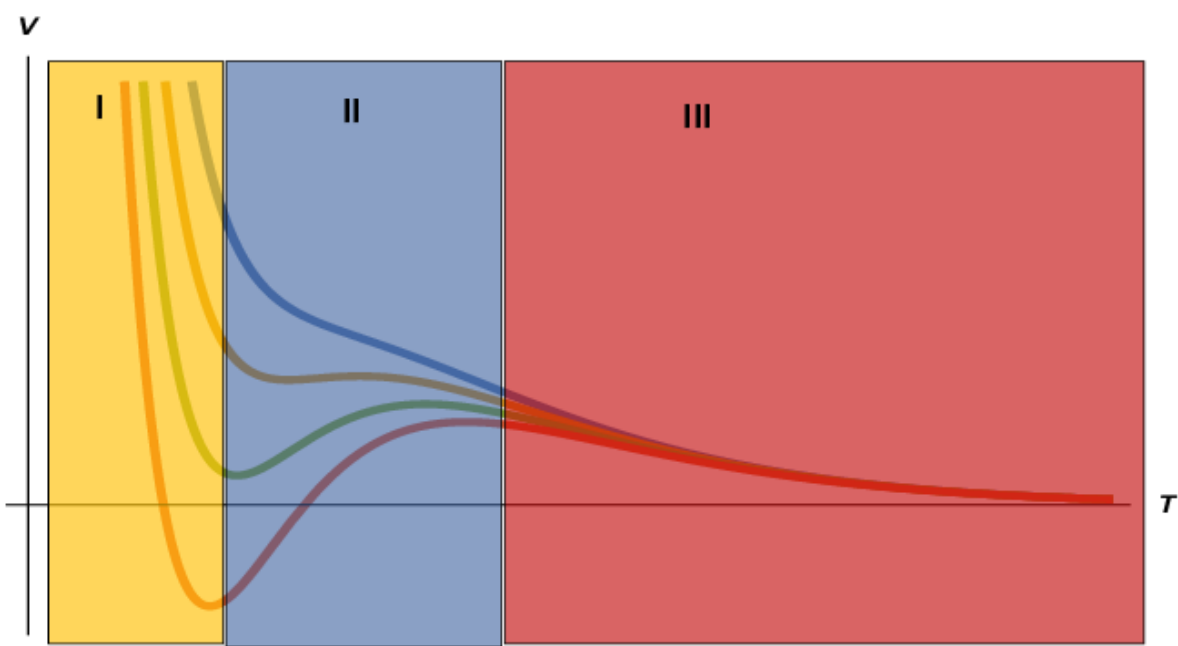


# The Dream Scenario

Calabi-Yau Data  
(geometry + topology)



Moduli Stabilisation

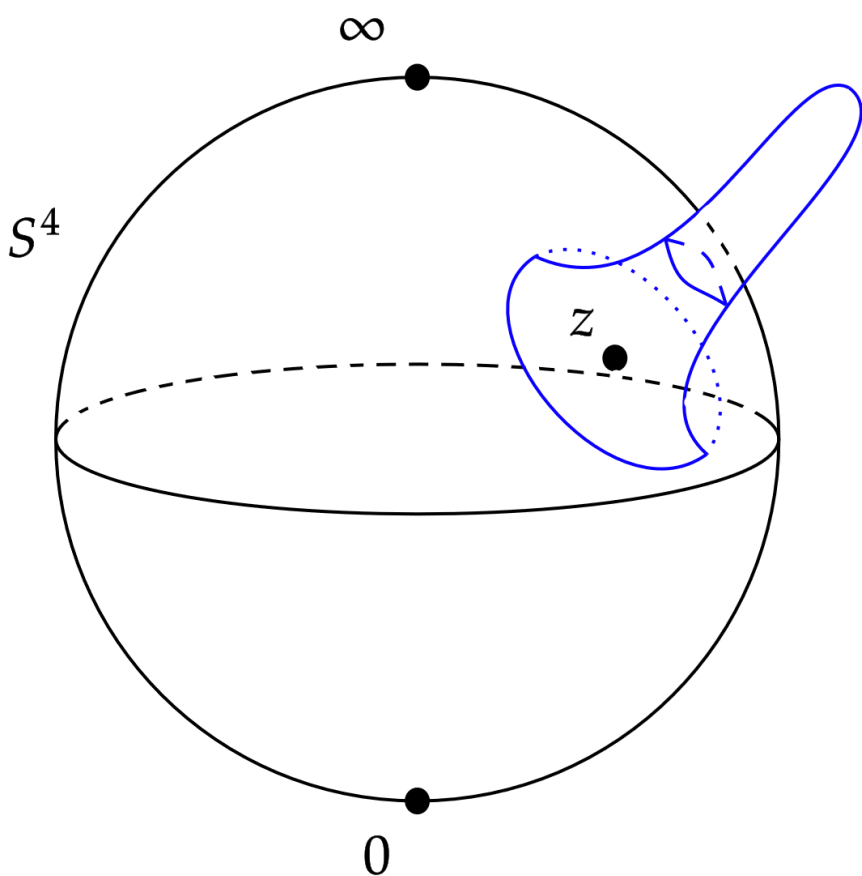


UV action

$$S_{UV} = \int Dx \dots$$

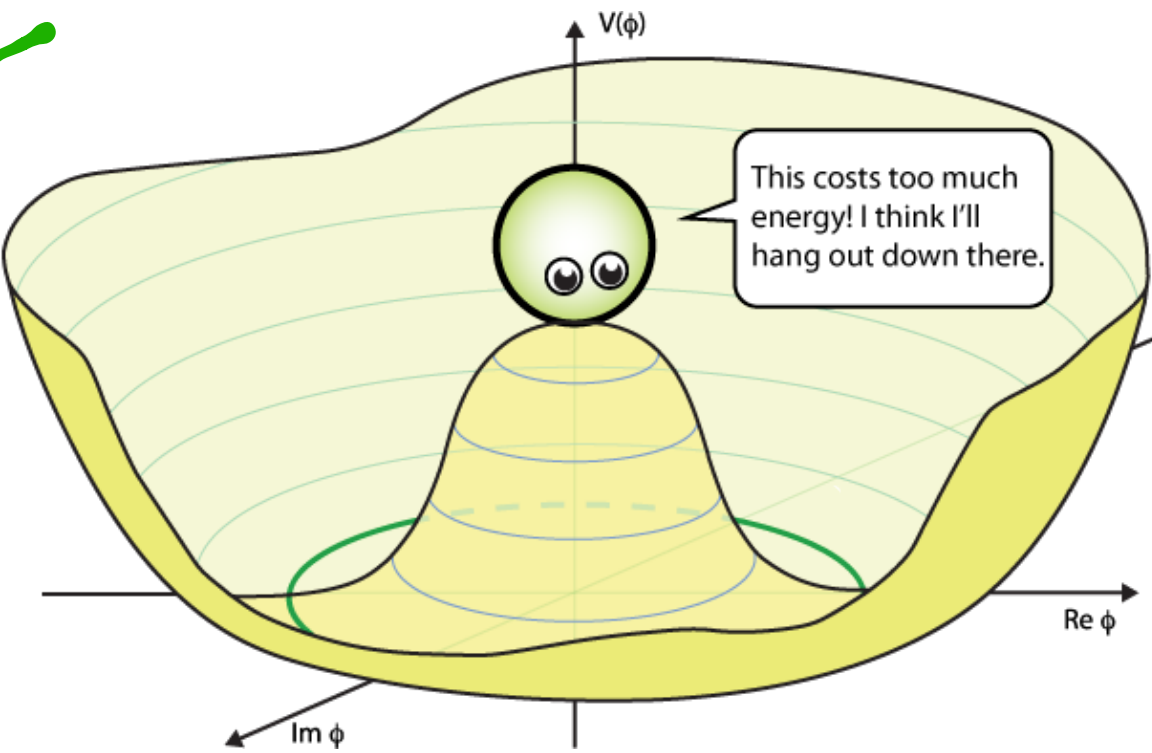
Integral

Non-perturbative effects



SUSY

Electroweak Physics

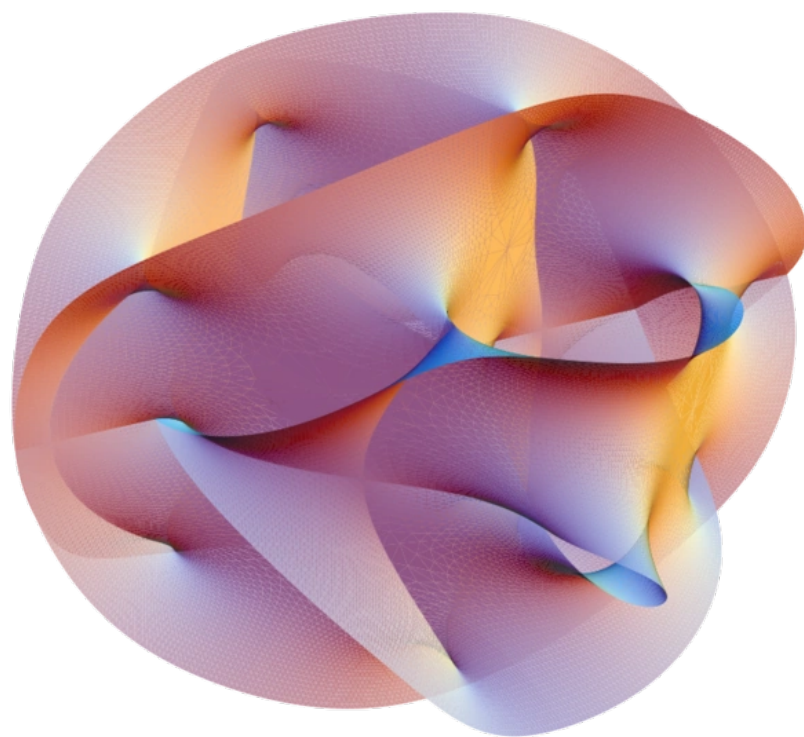


4d effective action

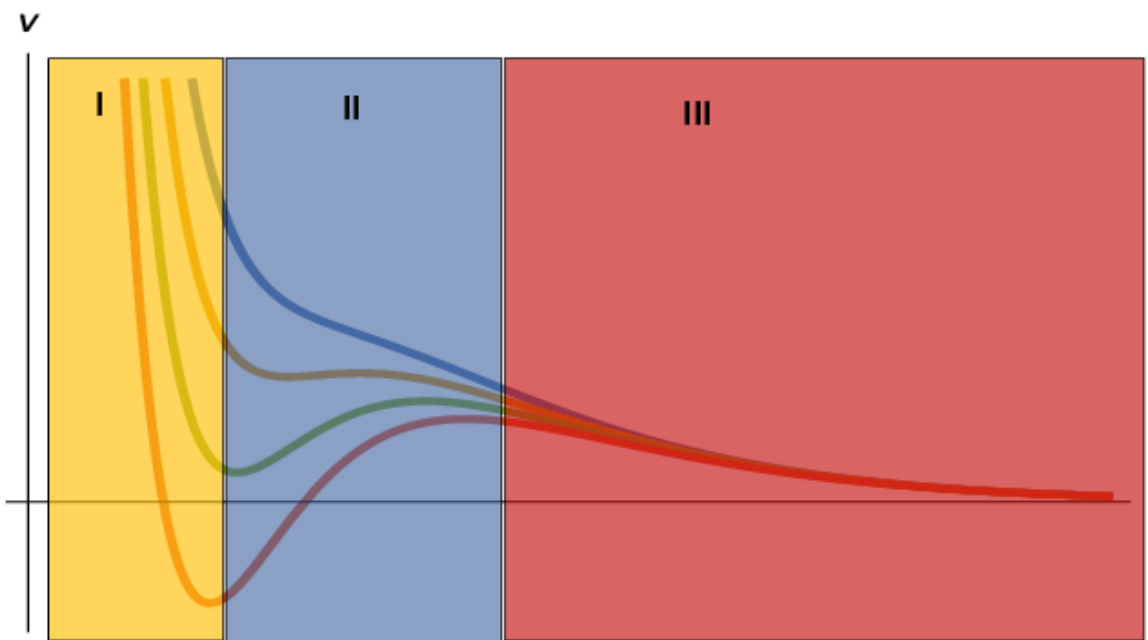
$$S_{4d} = \int d^4x R + \dots$$

# The Dream Scenario

Calabi-Yau Data  
(geometry + topology)



Moduli Stabilisation

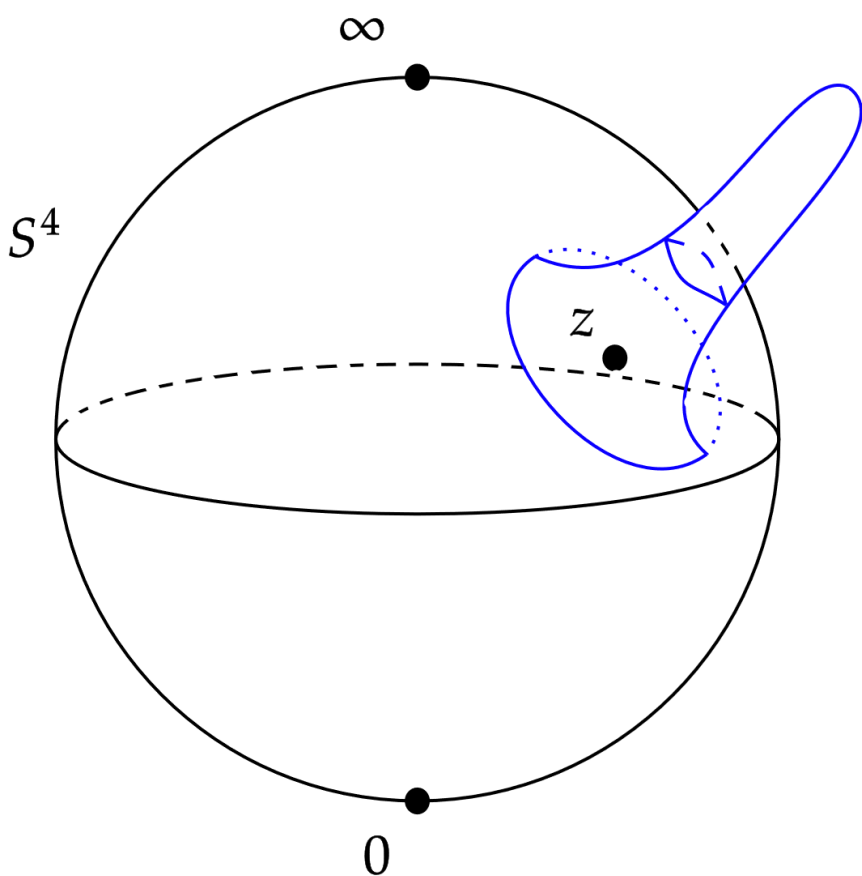


UV action

$$S_{UV} = \int Dx \dots$$

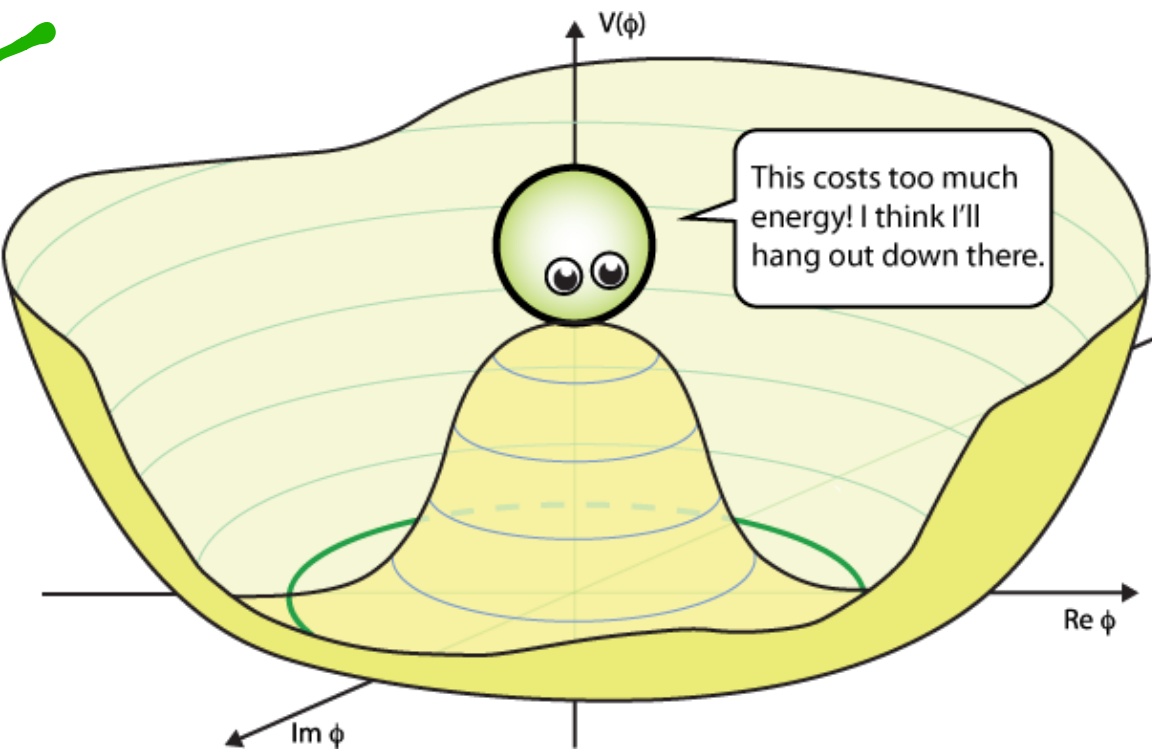
Integral

Non-perturbative effects



SUSY

Electroweak Physics



4d effective action

$$S_{4d} = \int d^4x R + \dots$$

String Phenomenology

# Outlook

- There is a lot more to do in string theory!
- **String model building is still hard - many computational and algebraic techniques needed.**
- Phenomenological issues like R-parity, electroweak symmetry breaking needs to be resolved.
- **Moduli stabilisation in heterotic string theory is difficult!**
- How often do 'accidents' occur?
- Are there general rules for small  $W_0$ ?