

Outline

- Introduction / overview of some aspects of string/M theory on special holonomy spaces
 - singularities of G_2 holonomy spaces
- Complexity of the Dark Universe and special holonomy
- 4d Gauge Theories and New G_2 -holonomy spaces
- Ricci flat manifolds and the String Landscape

Special Holonomy Spaces in String/M theory

- Ubiquitous in string/M theory
- Arise as models of the extra dim^s of space
- Their properties play a huge role in physics models in string/M theory
- Especially Ricci flat special holonomy (Parallel spinors $\nabla\eta=0$ supersymmetry)

G_2 -holonomy spaces are
a FRAMEWORK for particle physics
and cosmology, much like QFT.

But G_2 -holonomy spaces are much
more constrained compared to QFT.

(Many QFT's are not in the
string landscape)

cf C. Vafa's talk

M theory on G_2 -holonomy Spaces :

- A geometric picture of the Universe :
- The basic ingredients of the Standard Model of Particle physics, Chiral Fermions and Non-Abelian Gauge fields, arise from special kinds of singularities of G_2 -holonomy spaces.
- Physically, the picture was understood using string dualities ...

String Dualities and G_2 -holonomy

- M-theory - Heterotic duality:
"K3-fibered compact G_2 -hol spaces"
(cf S. Donaldson's talk
S.T. Yau's talk)
- M-theory - Type IIA duality:
"6d Collapsed limits and G_2 -hol spaces
from S^1 -bundles over Calabi-Yau's"
cf M. Haskins and S. Salamon's talk

Review: 4d gauge theories from codim-4 orbifold singularities

- M-theory on $X \times \mathbb{R}^{3,1}$
 G_2 holonomy metric g_X
- A codim-4 orbifold singularity
 supported on $\underline{M^3} \times \mathbb{R}^{3,1} \subset X \times \mathbb{R}^{3,1}$
 \Downarrow 7d gauge theory on $M^3 \times \mathbb{R}^{3,1}$
 \downarrow Low energies $E \ll \frac{1}{\text{dim}(M^3)}$
- * 4d gauge theory on $\mathbb{R}^{3,1}$

Codim-4 orbifold singularities in
 a G_2 -holonomy space are always
 of A-D-E type, modelled locally
 on $\frac{\mathbb{R}^4}{\Gamma_{ADE}} \times M^3 \cong N(M^3)$

A-D-E is the gauge group supported
 along $M^3 \times \mathbb{R}^{3,1} \subset X \times \mathbb{R}^{3,1}$.

(cf BSA hep-th/9812205)

Remark: the precursor to this was a situation with much more symmetry, namely M theory on $K3 \times \mathbb{R}^7$ (Hull/Townsend; Witten) which was conjectured to be dual to Heterotic string theory on $T^3 \times \mathbb{R}^7$. This is important for the physical applications of "K3-fibered" G2-manifolds/spaces to physics. (cf talks by S. Donaldson, M. Haskins and S.T. Yau)

Codimension 7 Singularities and Chiral fermions

Quarks and Leptons (like electrons ^{or quarks} or neutrinos) are chiral fermions (S^+ and S^- interact differently)

In M theory on G_2 -holonomy spaces they arise from codim 7 singularities like
 e.g. Bryant-Salamon $C(\mathbb{CP}^3)$ or $C(\frac{SU(3)}{T^2})$
 G_2 cones or conjectural
 (cf Talk by S. Salamón) new metrics on
 $C(W\mathbb{CP}^3_{ppqa})$ (BSA/Witten)

Physics of M theory on a G_2 -holonomy Space

- Einstein (super) gravity plus
- Yang-Mills fields from codim 4 singularities
- Chiral fermions from codim 7 singularities
- Interactions from Associative 3-cycles
- Moduli fields (G_2 -moduli, $H^3(X, \mathbb{R})$)
- Axiom $\left(\frac{H^3(X, \mathbb{R})}{H^3(X, \mathbb{Z})} \right) \Rightarrow$ combine to

$$\frac{H^3(X, \mathbb{C})}{H^3(X, i\mathbb{Z})}$$

In particular, Beyond the Yang-Mills fields of the Standard Model one will have additional gauge fields, matter fields and interactions since the G_2 -hol space is expected to have more than ONE A-D-E singularity



In particular, Beyond the Yang-Mills fields of the Standard Model one will have additional gauge fields, matter fields and interactions

⇒ Rich and Complex
DARK sector motivated
by special holonomy.

SU(4) holonomy:

For Calabi-Yau fourfolds this
has been observed "experimentally"

by: A. Grassi, J. Halverson, J. Shaneson, W. Taylor

- J. Halverson, W. Taylor

- J. Halverson, C. Long, B. Sung:

- D. Morrison, W. Taylor

...

$$\langle \#ADE \rangle = 762 \pm 11$$

- DARK matter could have several, even MANY components.
- DARK matter will have interactions

Mention briefly some studies done in this direction

- Glueball Dark Matter
(BSA, M. Fairbairn, E. Hardy)

Here DM is a bound state of ^{H.S.} gluons
at a codim four singularity produced
from the decay in the early universe
of a G_2 or Calabi-Yau modulus field.

- Categorisation and Detection of Dark Matter
Candidates from String/M theory
(BSA, S. Ellis, G. Kane, M. Perry, B. Nelson)

• Multiple Moduli in Cosmology

(BSA, M. Dhuria, D. Ghosh, A. Maharana, F. Muia)

Since G_2 and Calabi-Yau's tend to have "lots" of moduli, we considered the impact of this, leading to a solution of the Dark Radiation and DM overabundance problems.

- Decays of slightly heavier moduli dilute abundances

Goal: to obtain/develop
a "complete" cosmological
history of a "typical"
 G_2 -holonomy or $SU(4)$ holonomy space
including all the moduli, axions,
and many dark sectors.
Generic physical predictions? ? ?

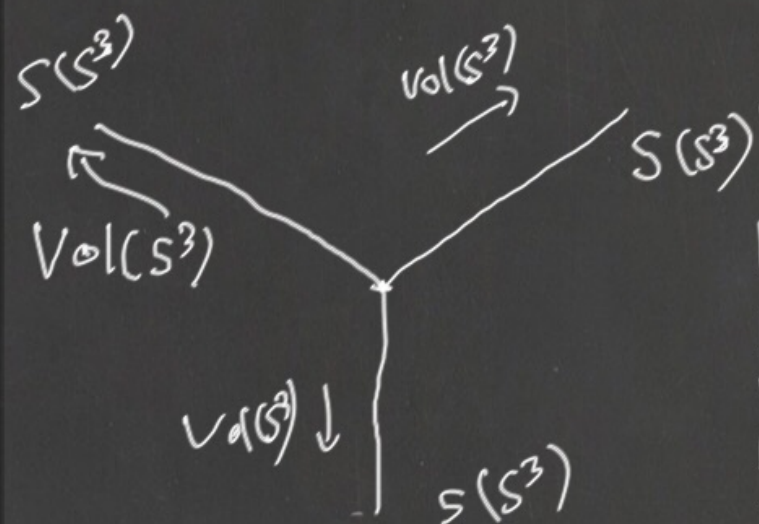
Part II

M-theory/Type IIA duality, New
 G_2 -holonomy Spaces and 4d Gauge Theories

work to appear with
L. Foscolo,
M. Najjar,
E. Svanes

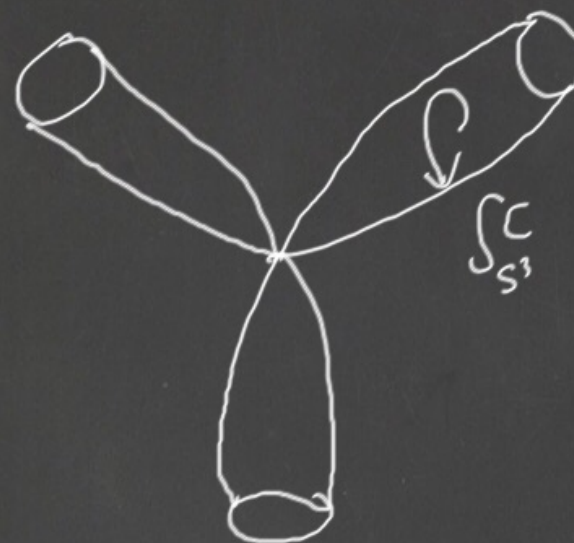
Classical Bryant-Salamon Moduli Space

Real G_2 -moduli space



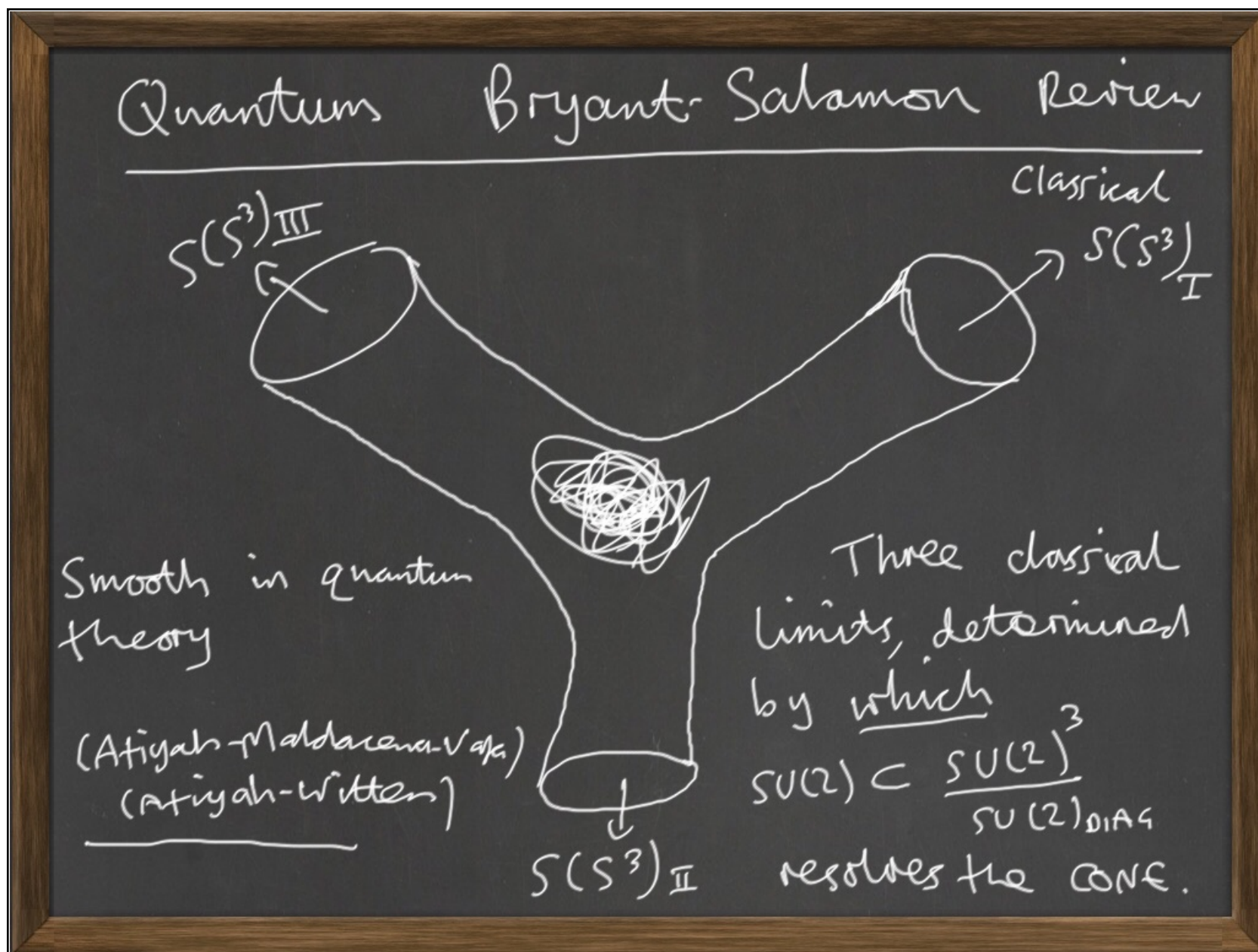
Three AC manifolds, filled in by a choice of $SU(2)$
 $\subset \underline{SU(2)}^3$ at ∞

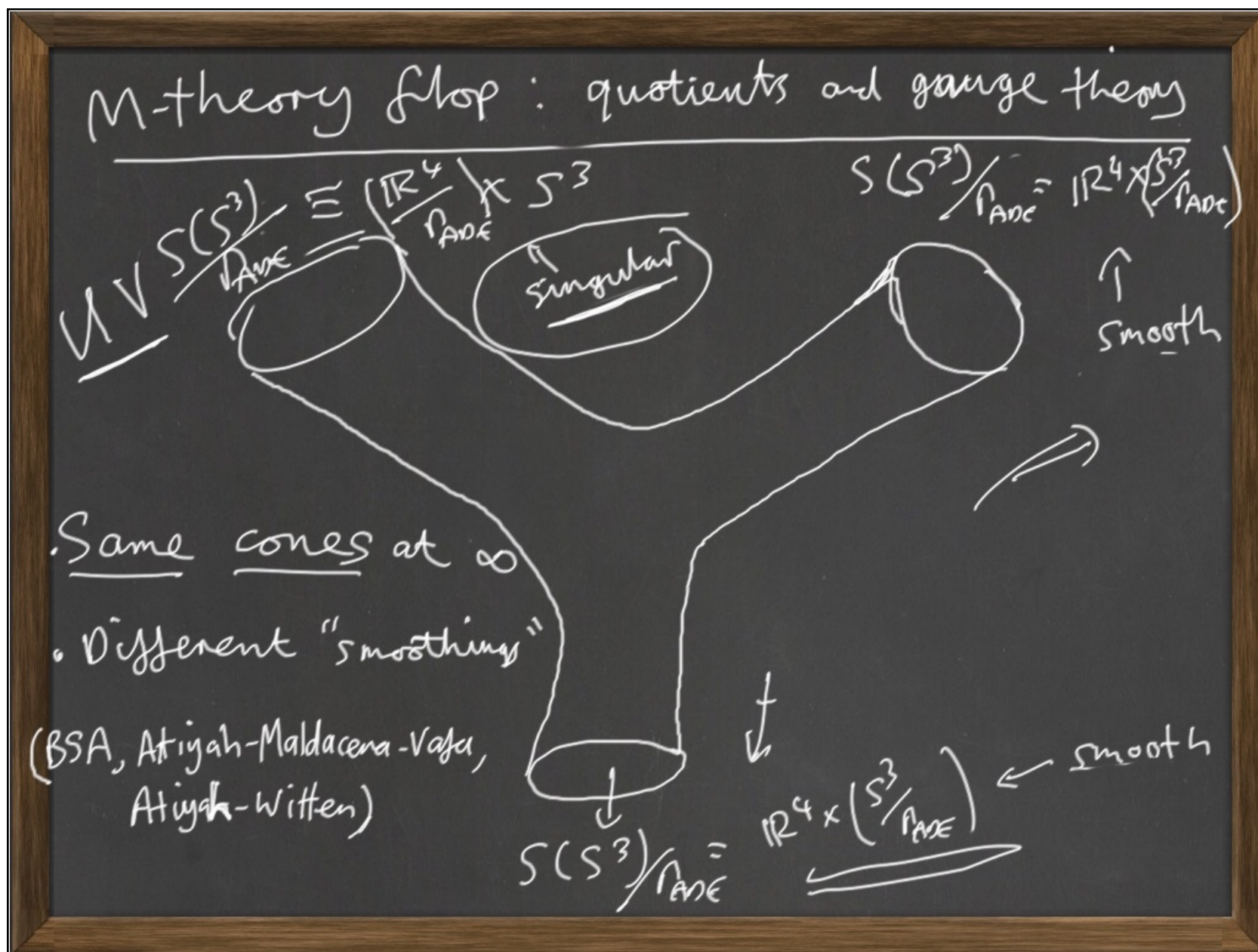
Complexified in
 M -theory



Complex moduli space

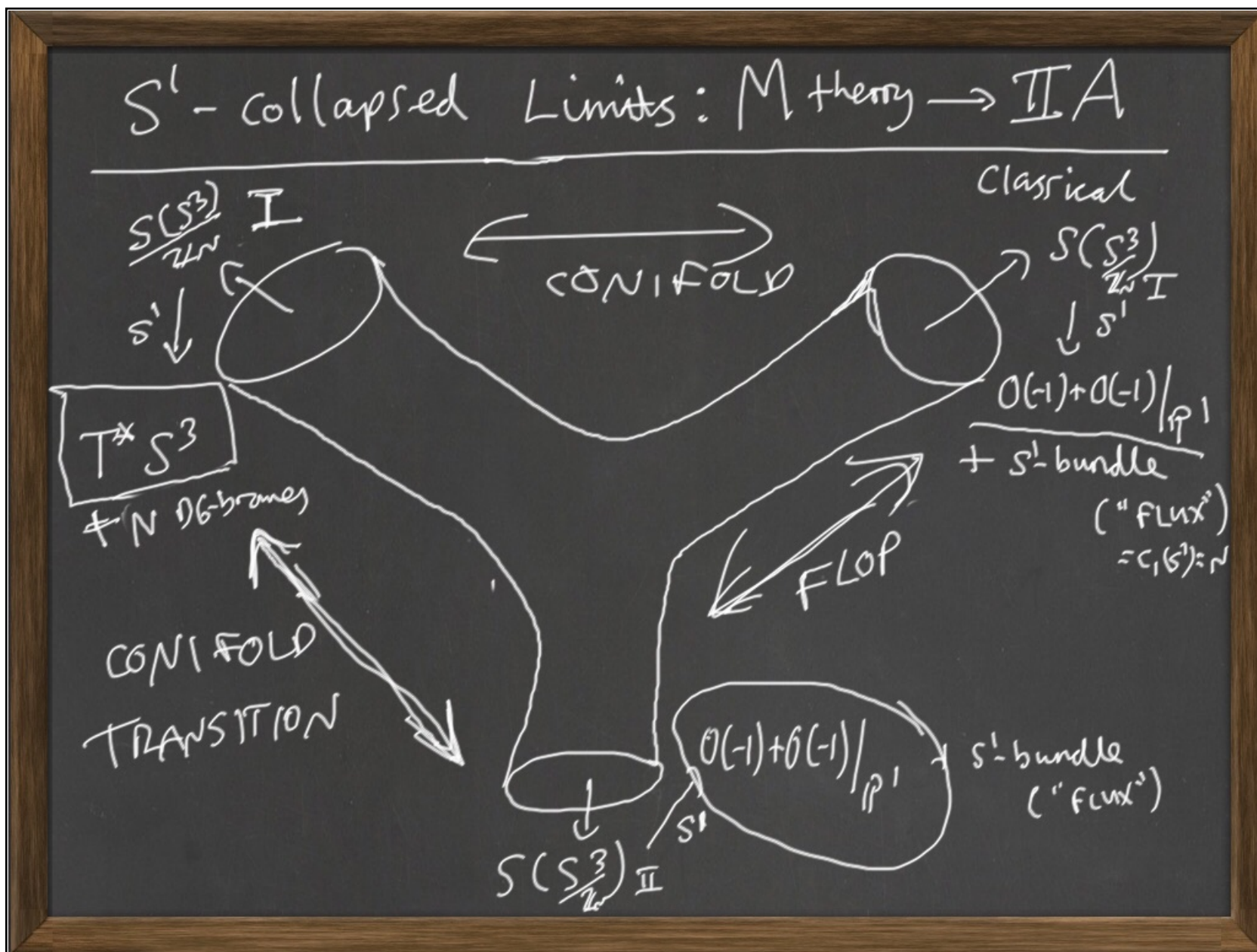
$$\mathbb{Z} \sim \int_{S^3} (q + iC)$$





Type IIA limits i.e. Examples which collapse to 6-mflds

- These generalise Bryant-Salamon, but instead of AC, they are ALC:
 - At ∞ , S^1 -bundles over Calabi-Yau 3-folds
- For metrics on $S(S^3)$ we have the
 - B_7 and D_7 metrics (Brannaber et al)
 - (Cretic et al) 2002
- Have $SU(2)^2 \times U(1)$ symmetry instead of $SU(2)^3 \leftarrow$



One can consider more general
Type IIA backgrounds:

If (B^6, ω, Ω) is a complete Calabi-Yau
three fold, Type IIA theory on (B, ω, Ω)
is equivalent to M-theory on

$(S^1 \times B, \varphi = \omega \wedge R d\theta + \text{Re } \Omega^{3,0})$ and R is "small".
What about more general S^1 -bundle
 $S^1 \rightarrow M^7 \rightarrow B^6$? ?

Physically, they are described for small R as Type IIA on (B, ω, R) plus a superpotential.

$$W = \int_B c_1(M) \wedge \omega \wedge \omega \quad (\omega = \omega + iB_2)$$

Supersymmetric, Minkowski solutions satisfy $\partial W = W = 0$

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{c_1(M) \wedge \omega = 0}$$

In M theory this is described
by a G₂-holonomy metric on
 $S^1 \rightarrow M^7 \rightarrow B$

• Foscolo-Haskins-Nordström
proved the following...

Thm (Foscolo-Haskins-Nordström):

If (B, ω, R) is an AC CY 3-fold
and M^7 an S^1 -bundle over

(B, ω, R) with $C_1(M) \wedge \omega = 0$,

then \exists a complete G_2 -holonomy
metric on M^7 , which collapses
to (B, ω, R) as $R \rightarrow 0$.

• This IS M-theory/Type IIA duality.

Foscolo-Flaskings-Nordström Thur
allows one to construct (infinitely)
many complete G_2 -manifolds
and G_2 -hol spaces with singularities.

I will v.briefly discuss one
class of examples which extends
the M-theory flop to an infinite
number of G_2 -manifolds...

(w/ Foscolo, Najjar + Svaner).

$$\bullet \quad B = \frac{\widetilde{\mathcal{C}}}{\mathbb{Z}_N} = \frac{\theta(-1) + \theta(-1)}{\mathbb{Z}_N} \Big|_{\mathbb{P}^1}$$

ie crepant resolutions of a
class of "hyperconifolds" \equiv quotient
of conifold \mathcal{C} .

- One "simple" class of resolutions, 'resolves each fiber', so one has $N-1$ fiber curves plus the base.

So M is a 7-orbifold labelled by
 N integers $(k_0, k_1, \dots, k_{N-1})$

$$S^1 \rightarrow M_{k_0, \dots, k_{N-1}} \rightarrow \tilde{\mathbb{C}} / \mathbb{Z}_N$$

At ∞ , all of these G_2 spaces
 are S^1 -bundles over $\boxed{S^2 \times \frac{S^3}{\mathbb{Z}_N}}$
 ie $\frac{S^3 \times S^3}{\Gamma(k, N, q)}$

$$k = k_0 + k_1 + 2k_2 + 1k_3$$

$$q = \sum_{i=1}^{N-1} i k_i \pmod{N}$$

So, at ∞ looks like ∞

in $\frac{S(S^3)}{\Gamma(k, N, 2)}$

In fact, $M_{\infty} = \frac{S(S^3)}{\mathbb{Z}_k \times \mathbb{Z}_N}$

is a quotient of the original
M-theory space we began with.

In that case, which is $N=1$,
 $M_k = S(S^3/\mathbb{Z}_k)$ is a smooth
 G_2 -manifold which describes
 IR (= Infrared = low energy) of a
 strongly coupled, confining, $SU(k)$
 gauge theory. (BSA, Atiyah-Maldacena
 vafa,
 Atiyah-Witten)
 4d

M_k can be "flopped" via a
 conifold transition to another
 G_2 -space, M_k^{uv} which describes
 the UV (= ultraviolet = high energy)
 physics of this gauge theory

M_k^{uv} has an A_{k-1} singularity along
 S^3

\Rightarrow IIA Limit is $T^*S^3 + k$ D6-branes

In fact, $M_{2000\dots} = \frac{S(S^3/\mathbb{Z}_N)}{\mathbb{Z}_N}$,

Under a conifold transition in Type IIA (ie an M-theory flop) we get another G_2 -orbifold, which is

$$M_{(N,K)}^{uv} = \frac{S(S^3/\mathbb{Z}_N)}{\mathbb{Z}_K} \quad \text{ie the } S^3 \times S^3 \text{ factors exchanged.}$$

$M_{(N,k)}^{uv}$ has an A_{k-1} singularity
 along S^3/\mathbb{Z}_N which has a
 Type IIA limit as T^*S^3/\mathbb{Z}_N
 plus k D6-branes.

There's a subtlety: one must
 specify the flat S^1 at ∞ .
 There are thus N IIA backgrounds
 on T^*S^3/\mathbb{Z}_N

$SU(k)$ gauge theory on S^3/\mathbb{Z}_N

actually has lots of vacua in
the UV, labelled by

FLAT $SU(k)$ connections.

$\text{Hom}(\mathbb{Z}_N, SU(k))$.

Each of these has an
IR limit which seem to

correspond to the 7-manifolds

$$S^1 \rightarrow \underbrace{M^7_{k_0 \dots k_{n-1}}} \rightarrow \widetilde{\mathbb{C} / \mathbb{Z}_N}$$

(4, 3) example

S^1 -bundles over $\frac{\theta(-1) + \theta(-1)}{\mathbb{Z}_3} |P| \cong M_{P, P, P}$

Fix $\sum P_i = 4 \Rightarrow 15$ S^1 -bundles (fluxes)

$q=0$

$c_1(2)$	Flat $SU(4)$
4 0 0	$SU(4)$
1 3 0	$SU(3) \times U(1)$
1 0 3	$SU(3) \times U(1)$
0 2 2	$SU(2) \times SU(2) \times U(1)$
2 1 1	$SU(2) \times U(1)^2$

$q=1$

0 4 0	$SU(4)$
0 1 3	$SU(3) \times U(1)$
3 1 0	$SU(3) \times U(1)$
2 0 2	$SU(2) \times SU(2)$
1 2 1	$SU(2) \times U(1)^2$

$q=2$

$c_1(2)$	Flat $SU(4)$
0 0 4	$SU(4)$
3 0 1	$SU(3) \times U(1)$
0 3 1	$SU(3) \times U(1)$
2 2 0	$SU(2) \times SU(2) \times U(1)$
1 1 2	$SU(2) \times U(1)^2$

Note: not all cases are covered
by FHN theorem, so the IR
 G_2 -manifold is only known to
exist in an (∞) subset of cases.
For those that do exist we can
make non-trivial checks of the
UV/IR correspondence....

The # of unbroken $U(1)$ factors
 will be the same in UV and
 IR $\Rightarrow (M_{k_0 \dots k_{n-1}}, \mathcal{Q})$ will
 have # $U(1)$ L^2 -normalisable
 harmonic 2-forms.

- This is true in all cases where
 the IR manifold is known •
 (Hausel, Hunsicker, Mazono) •

Earlier work on M theory on
quotients of $(S(S^3), \mathbb{Q}_{BS})$

by T. Friedmann

Hosonichi-Page

Supersymmetry, Ricci flat Manifolds
and the String Landscape.

(BSA, arXiv/1906.06886)

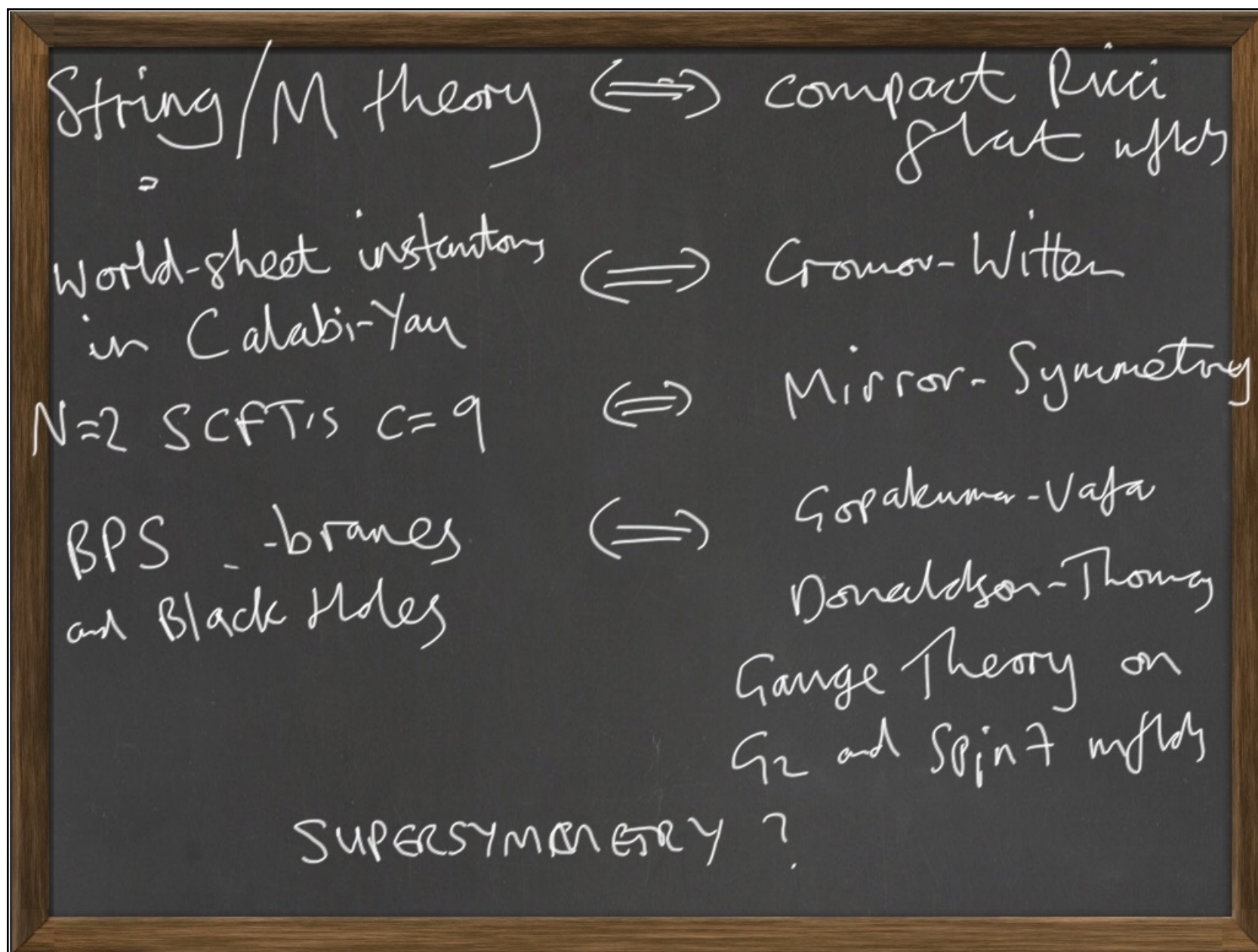
(also work to appear with
G. Aldazabal, A. Font, K. Narain
and I. Zadeh)

Does superstring / M-theory predict
supersymmetry below the Kaluza-Klein
or GUT scale?

- This has been a longstanding question.
- Most models of particle physics/cosmology in superstring theory start with a
COMPACTIFICATION TO MINKOWSKI SPACE.
- Usually based on Ricci flat metric

Compact Ricci flat manifolds
are remarkable objects!

Since the '80's they have had
lots of significant roles and
applications in string/M theory



Compact, simply connected Ricci flat manifolds of special holonomy: remarkable, rather magical objects.

Are they the only such Ricci flat manifolds?

All known examples are of this type.

A necessary condition for
superstring/M-theory to predict
low energy supersymmetry is:

Conjecture: All stable, compact,
Ricci flat manifolds have
special holonomy

i.e. ALL semi-classical, stable, Minkowski solutions are
supersymmetric.

A more physical statement is:

Conjecture: Minkowski vacua
of superstring / M-theory are
exactly supersymmetric.

i.e. Non-susy Minkowski is in
the swampland.

Berger/Simons Holonomy Classification

$\dim(X)$	$\text{Hol}(g_X)$	Name
n	$SO(n)$	Riemannian
$n=2k$	$U(k)$	Kähler
$n=2k$	$SU(k)$	Calabi-Yau
$n=4k$	$Sp(k) \cdot Sp(k)$	Quaternionic Kähler
$n=4k$	$Sp(k)$	HyperKähler
$n=7$	G_2	Exceptional
$n=8$	$Spin(7)$	Exceptional

• X irreducible, $\pi_1(X) = 0$

Ricci flatness and Holonomy		
$\text{Dim}(X)$	$\text{Hol}(g_X)$	Ricci flat? $\text{Ric}(g_X)=0?$
n	$\text{SO}(n)$???
$n=2k$	$\text{U}(k)$	NO
$n=2k$	$\text{SU}(k)$	YES
$n=4k$	$\text{Sp}(k) \cdot \text{Sp}(k)$	NO
$n=4k$	$\text{Sp}(k)$	YES
$n=7$	G_2	YES
$n=8$	$\text{Spin}(7)$	YES

Holonomy and Ricci flatness.

$\dim(X)$	$\text{Hol}(g_X)$	Name	Parallel Spinor? $\nabla \psi = 0$	Ricci flat? $\text{Ric} = 0$?
n	$\text{SO}(n)$	Riemannian	X	???
$n=2k$	$\text{U}(k)$	Kähler	X	X
$n=2k$	$\text{SU}(k)$	Calabi-Yau	✓	✓
$n=4k$	$\text{Sp}(k) \cdot \text{Sp}(k)$	Quaternionic Kähler	X	X
$n=4k$	$\text{Sp}(k)$	HyperKähler	✓	✓
$n=7$	G_2	Exceptional	✓	✓
$n=8$	$\text{Spin}(7)$	Exceptional	✓	✓

All known compact
simply connected Ricci flat
manifolds are
Supersymmetric $\Leftrightarrow \nabla_g \eta = 0$

Would not be true for generic
holonomy Ricci flat manifolds
if they existed,

The Structure of Compact Ricci flat Manifolds

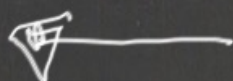
Cheeger-Cromoll Splitting Theorem:

A compact Ricci flat manifold is ISOMETRIC to $X = \frac{Y_1 \times Y_2 \times \dots \times Y_k \times T^d}{\Gamma}$, where $\pi_1(Y_i) = 1$ and Γ is finite.

\Rightarrow suffices to consider

A) X simply connected

B) X/Γ is π_1 finite

C) T^d/Γ 

D) $\frac{X \times T^d}{\Gamma}$

A) We will discuss what is known and how to prove the conjecture in a variety of cases

C) For non-susy examples we demonstrate a "Witten instability"

X is simply connected

Interesting in dim 4

Topologically $X(p, q) = p \mathbb{C}P^2 \# \underbrace{q \overline{\mathbb{C}P^2}}_{\text{Non-Sim}}$

or $X(n, m) = n K3 \# m S^2 \times S$ Spin

• Hitchin Thorpe: $X(p, q)$, $q \gg p$, no Einstein metric.

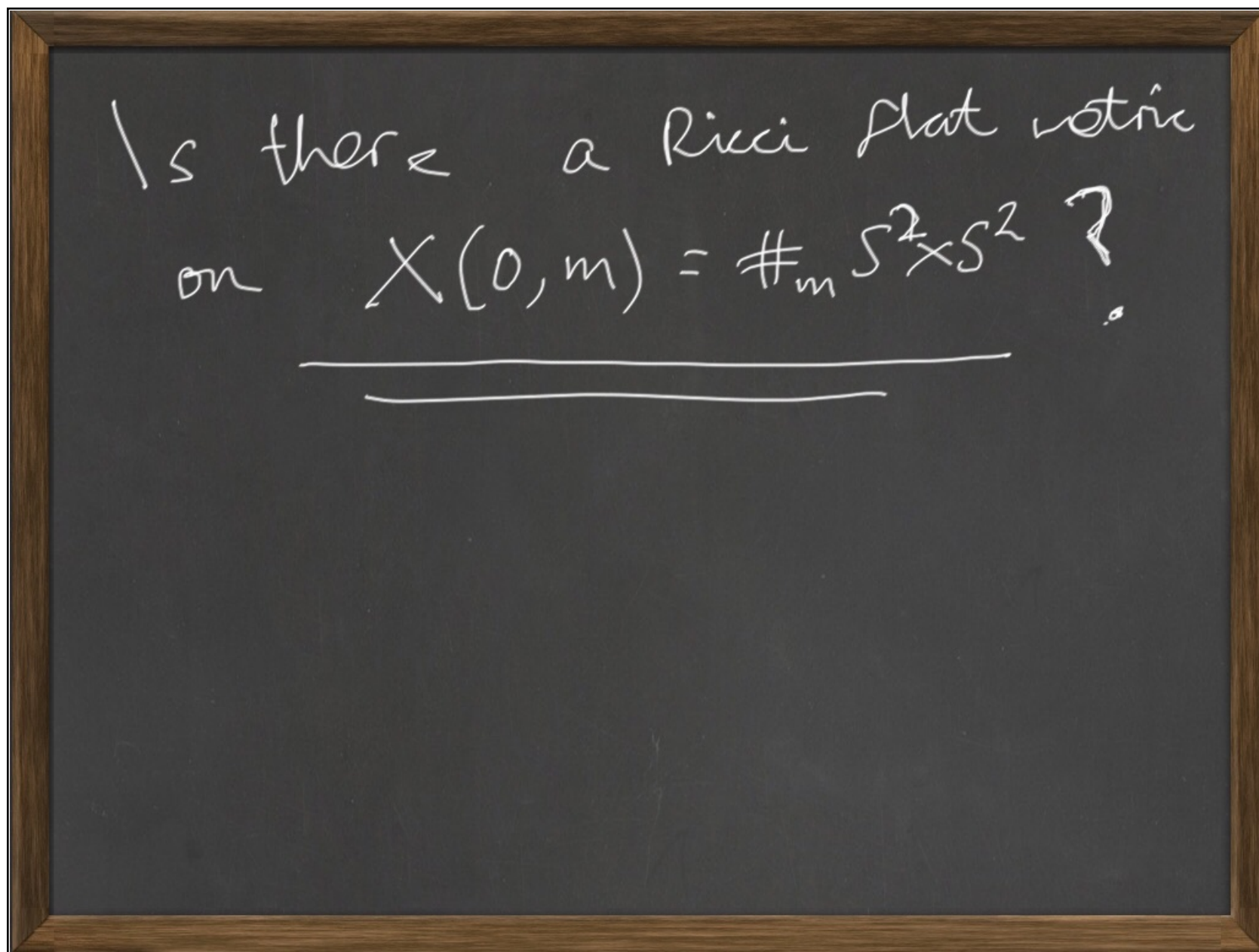
• Lichnerowicz-Hitchin: $\not{D}^2 = \nabla^2 + \frac{R}{4}$

So $R = 0$ implies harmonic spinors are parallel

$\Rightarrow X(n > 0, m)$ Ricci flat iff $n=1, m=0$

- Seiberg-Witten theory can also be used

- Explicit attempts to construct generic holonomy Ricci flat metrics can fail in interesting ways. (Brendle-Kapouleas)



X is flat ie T^n/Γ

Conjectured to be unstable when:

$Hd(n) \not\subseteq$ Ricci flat
holonomy group

ie T^n/Γ has no parallel
spinor.

Non-trivial instability even for
 $n=1$ with odd spin structure.

Witten Instability of $\mathbb{R}^4 \times S^1$ (1983)

- Witten gave alternative proof of Schoen-Yau mass theorem for \mathbb{R}^n using spinors
- Around same time he showed that flat $\mathbb{R}^4 \times S^1$ is unstable
- \exists a Euclidean instanton, (based on Euclidean Schwarzschild)
- \Rightarrow A bubble can be nucleated which eats the space from inside (v. quickly)
- S^1 has odd spin structure.

Witten

Euclidean Schwarzschild $d=5$

$$ds^2 = \frac{dr^2}{1 - \frac{R^2}{r^2}} + r^2 d\Omega_3^2 + \left(1 - \frac{R^2}{r^2}\right) d\phi^2$$

\uparrow
 round S^3

\uparrow
 $(2\pi R)$

$r: (R, \infty)$

At $r = \infty$, radius of $S^1 = R$.

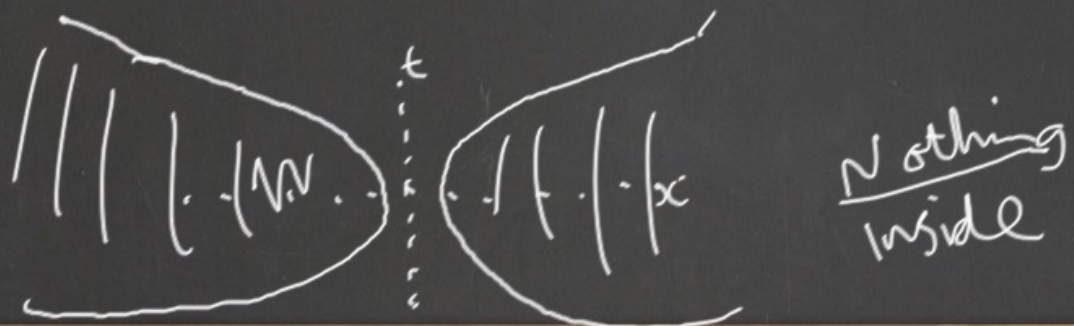
At $r \rightarrow R$ S^1 collapses and the geometry "ends".

Analytically continuing along a polar angle in S^3 gives a metric asymptotic to flat $\mathbb{R}^{3,1} \times S^1$ with an expanding "bubble of nothing".

$$ds^2 = \frac{dr^2}{(1 - \frac{R^2}{r^2})} + r^2 \underbrace{(d\theta^2 + \cos^2\theta d\phi^2)}_{\downarrow} + \underbrace{\left(1 - \frac{R^2}{r^2}\right) d\phi^2}$$

$$d\tilde{s}^2 = \frac{dr^2}{(1 - \frac{R^2}{r^2})} + r^2 (-dt^2 + \cosh^2 t d\tilde{\phi}^2) + \left(1 - \frac{R^2}{r^2}\right) d\phi^2$$

Bubble of nothing which eats space
from inside out. (Witten)



Critical point: the $\mathbb{R}^4 \times S^1$ at $r=\infty$ has ODD spin structure.

We will see that many non-susy flat manifolds have a similar instability.

- Consider only orientable, spin T^1/r
- $d=1, 2$ $\text{Rot}(r) = \mathbb{1}$ is S^1 or T^2 only
- $d=3$, \exists six manifolds:

X_3	Lattice, $\Lambda = \{a_1, a_2, a_3\}$	Γ	$\text{Hol}(g) = \text{Rot}(r)$
$G_1 = T^3$	$(1, 0, 0) (0, 1, 0) (0, 0, 1)$	$\mathbb{1}$	$\mathbb{1}$
$G_2 = T^3/\mathbb{Z}_2$	$(1, 0, 0) (0, 1, 0) (0, 0, 1)$	$\alpha = (R_3(\pi), \frac{a_3}{2})$	\mathbb{Z}_2
$G_3 = T^3/\mathbb{Z}_3$	$(1, 0, 0) (0, 0, 1) (-\frac{1}{2}, \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}, 0)$	$\alpha = (R_3(\frac{2\pi}{3}), \frac{a_3}{3})$	\mathbb{Z}_3
$G_4 = T^3/\mathbb{Z}_4$	$(1, 0, 0) (0, 1, 0) (0, 0, 1)$	$\alpha = (R_3(\frac{\pi}{2}), \frac{a_3}{4})$	\mathbb{Z}_4
$G_5 = T^3/\mathbb{Z}_6$	$(1, 0, 0) (0, 1, 0) (\frac{1}{2}, \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}, 0)$	$\alpha = (R_3(\frac{\pi}{3}), \frac{a_3}{6})$	\mathbb{Z}_6
$G_6 = T^3/(\mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_2)$	$(1, 0, 0) (0, 1, 0) (0, 0, 1)$	$\alpha = (R_3(\pi), \frac{a_3}{2})$ $\beta = (R_1(\pi), \frac{a_1+a_2}{2})$	$\mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_2$

Spin Structures on Flat 3-manifolds (Pfäffle)

X_3	Spin Structure		#
G_1	$a_1 \rightarrow \delta_1, a_2 \rightarrow \delta_2, a_3 \rightarrow \delta_3$	$\delta_i \in \pm 1$	8
G_2	$a_1 \rightarrow \delta_1, a_2 \rightarrow \delta_2, a_3 \rightarrow -1; \alpha \rightarrow \delta_3 \hat{\alpha}$	$\delta_i \in \pm 1$	8
G_3	$a_1 \rightarrow 1; a_2 \rightarrow 1; a_3 \rightarrow -\delta_3; \alpha \rightarrow \delta_3 \hat{\alpha}$	$\delta_3 = \pm 1$	2
G_4	$a_1 \rightarrow \delta_1; a_2 \rightarrow \delta_2; a_3 \rightarrow -1; \alpha \rightarrow \delta_2 \hat{\alpha}$	$\delta_i = \pm 1$	4
G_5	$a_1 \rightarrow 1; a_2 \rightarrow 1; a_3 \rightarrow -1; \alpha \rightarrow \delta \hat{\alpha}$	$\delta = \pm 1$	2
G_6	$a_i \rightarrow -1, \alpha \rightarrow \delta_1 i \epsilon_3, \beta \rightarrow \delta_2 i \epsilon_2, \gamma \rightarrow \delta_3 i \epsilon_1$	$\delta_1 \delta_2 \delta_3 = 1$ $\delta_i = \pm 1$	4
			28

- 27 NON-Susy SPIN STRUCTURES ON $\{T^3/n\}$
 - 26 of 27 descend from ODD SPIN STRUCTURES ON T^3 .
- $$\hat{\alpha} = \begin{pmatrix} e^{i\pi/n} & 0 \\ 0 & -e^{i\pi/n} \end{pmatrix}$$

Consider now the metric on $\mathbb{R}^2 \times S^3 \times T^2$:

$$ds^2 = \frac{dr^2}{(1-\frac{r^2}{r^2})} + r^2(d\theta^2 + \cos^2\theta d\varphi^2) + \underbrace{(1-\frac{r^2}{r^2})R^2 dx_1^2 + dx_1^2 + dx_2^2}_{S^1 \times T^2}$$

Can also be regarded as a metric on

$$\mathbb{R}^2 \times S^3 \rightarrow \frac{(\mathbb{R}^2 \times S^3 \times T^2)}{r} \rightarrow \frac{T^2}{r}$$

This describes an instability for 26 of the 27 NON-SUSY spin structures in dimension 3.

Clearly generalises to higher dimension

(w/ Aldasabal, Font, Narain and Zadeh)

$\frac{T^n}{r}$ can be studied exactly as
a 2d string theory. Many,
possibly all have a tachyon at
small enough $R \ll 1$.

This may be related to the
Witten instability at large R .

Rmk:

One interesting question which arises here is how to formulate superstring theory at the worldsheet level on manifolds with different spin structures.

Leads to interesting results even for S^1

(BSA, G. Aldazabal, A. Font, K. Narain, I. Zadeh)

So, lots of progress in applications of special holonomy to physics, I presented just a snap shot here, (see S. Schaefer-Nauki talk for more)

Very healthy exchange of ideas between mathematics and physics.

