



Mirror symmetry for G_2 manifolds



based on

- [\[1602.03521\]](#)
- [\[1701.05202\]](#)+[\[1706.xxxxx\]](#)
with Michele del Zotto (Stony Brook)



Strings, T-duality
&
Mirror Symmetry



Type II String Theories and T-duality

Superstring theories on different backgrounds can give rise to equivalent physics: '*string dualities*'

'T-duality':

$$\text{IIA on } \mathbb{R}^{1,8} \times S^1 \quad \cong \quad \text{IIB on } \mathbb{R}^{1,8} \times S^1$$

where $r_{IIA} = r_{IIB}^{-1}$. It is crucial that strings can wind around S^1 !

For type II strings on T^2 : T-duality along one S^1 swaps volume with complex structure.

This can be discussed at various levels:

- effective field theory
- worldsheet CFT
- full string theory \supset CFT
- topological String Theory

String Theory on K3 Surfaces

CFT's have an (intrinsically defined) 'moduli space' = moduli space of background (metric plus B-field) on which string propagates

The CFT of type IIA string theory on a K3 surface S has a moduli space which is a Grassmanian of four-planes $\Sigma_4 \rightarrow \Gamma^{4,20} \otimes R$

$$O(\Gamma^{4,20}) \backslash O(4,20) / O(4) \times O(20)$$

'Geometric Interpretation':

$$\Gamma^{4,20} = \Gamma^{3,19} \oplus U_v = H^2(S, \mathbb{Z}) \oplus H^0(S, \mathbb{Z}) \oplus H^4(S, \mathbb{Z})$$

pick $v_0 \in U_v$:

$$\Sigma_4 = \begin{cases} \hat{\omega}_i & = \omega_i - (\omega_i \cdot B) v \\ \hat{B} & = B + v_0 + v(\omega_i^2 - B^2) \end{cases}$$

$$\omega_i \cdot \omega_j = \delta_{ij}$$

The ω_i give the hyper Kähler structure of S and B is the two-form B-field [Aspinwall, Morrison]

Mirror Symmetries

$$\Gamma^{4,20} = \Gamma^{3,19} \oplus U_v = H^2(S, \mathbb{Z}) \oplus H^0(S, \mathbb{Z}) \oplus H^4(S, \mathbb{Z})$$

$$\Sigma_4 = \begin{cases} \hat{\omega}_i & = \omega_i - (\omega_i \cdot B) v \\ \hat{B} & = B + v_0 + v(\omega_i^2 - B^2) \end{cases}$$

Isometries of $\Gamma^{4,20}$ correspond to identical physics; this involves

- Diffeomorphisms of S
- Mirror Maps: $U_v \leftrightarrow U_w$

Mirror maps can associate smooth with singular geometries !

Physics stays smooth: strings wrapped on vanishing \mathbb{P}^1 s correspond to massive states (with mass $\sim B$), just as for finite volume !

Mirror maps arise from two T-dualities along a sLag fibration

[Strominger, Yau, Zaslow; Gross] !

This is stronger than the equivalence at the level of the CFT and includes states originating from wrapped D-branes; note: we map IIA \rightarrow IIA here

Calabi-Yau threefolds

On a suitably chosen pair of mirror Calabi-Yau threefolds X and X^\vee , the worldsheet CFTs associated to IIA and IIB are isomorphic. The Hodge numbers must satisfy

$$h^{1,1}(X) = h^{2,1}(X^\vee)$$

$$h^{2,1}(X) = h^{1,1}(X^\vee)$$

The CFT just sees the unordered set $\{h^{1,1}(X), h^{2,1}(X)\}$, but can't decide which one is which !

The exchange $h^{1,1} \leftrightarrow h^{2,1}$ is realized via an automorphism of the symmetry group of the CFT.

This duality has amazing implications [[Candelas, de la Ossa, Green, Parkes; ...](#)]

Analyzing states from wrapped branes led to the conjecture of a sLag T^3 fibration for Calabi-Yau threefolds, mirror symmetry in the full string theory \sim three T-dualities along this T^3 fibre [[Strominger, Yau, Zaslow](#)].

how to find X^\vee

For some Calabi-Yau threefolds, the exact CFT is known at special point in moduli space, the '*Gepner point*', allowing to construct the mirror geometry [Greene, Plesser]

Example: the quintic:

$$X : x_1^5 + x_2^5 + x_3^5 + x_4^5 + x_5^5 = 0 \quad \text{in } \mathbb{P}^4$$

The mirror X^\vee is found as a (resolution) of a quotient of X by \mathbb{Z}_5^3 acting with weights

$$(1, 0, 0, 0, 4)$$

$$(0, 1, 0, 0, 4)$$

$$(0, 0, 1, 0, 4)$$

Indeed $h^{1,1}(X) = h^{2,1}(X^\vee) = 1$ and $h^{2,1}(X) = h^{1,1}(X^\vee) = 101$.

Batyrev Mirrors

This has a beautiful generalization to toric hypersurfaces [Batyrev]. A pair of lattice polytopes (in lattices \mathbf{M} and \mathbf{N}) satisfying

$$\langle \Delta, \Delta^\circ \rangle \geq -1$$

are called reflexive and determine a CY hypersurface as follows:

- Via an appropriate triangulation, Δ° defines a fan Σ and a toric variety \mathbb{P}_Σ .
- Each lattice point ν_i on Δ° except the origin gives rise to a homogeneous coordinate x_i and a divisor D_i .
- Each lattice point m on Δ gives a **M**onomial and the hypersurface equation is

$$\mathbf{X}_{(\Delta, \Delta^\circ)} : \sum_{m \in \Delta} c_m \prod_{\nu_i \in \Delta^\circ} x_i^{\langle m, \nu_i \rangle + 1} = 0$$

Batyrev Mirrors

More abstract point of view: a polytope Δ defines

- a toric variety $\mathbb{P}_{\Sigma_n(\Delta)}$ via its normal fan $\Sigma_n(\Delta) = \Sigma_f(\Delta^\circ)$
- a line bundle $\mathcal{O}(\Delta)$; Δ is the Newton polytope of a generic section

$$\langle \Delta, \Delta^\circ \rangle \geq -1$$

Combinatorial formulas for Hodge numbers [Danilov, Khovanskii; Batyrev]:

$$h^{1,1}(X_{(\Delta, \Delta^\circ)}) = \ell(\Delta^\circ) - 5 - \sum_{\Theta^\circ[3]} \ell^*(\Theta^\circ[3]) + \sum_{\Theta^\circ[2]} \ell^*(\Theta^\circ[1]) \ell^*(\Theta^\circ[2])$$

$$h^{2,1}(X_{(\Delta, \Delta^\circ)}) = \ell(\Delta) - 5 - \sum_{\Theta[3]} \ell^*(\Theta[3]) + \sum_{\Theta[2]} \ell^*(\Theta[2]) \ell^*(\Theta^\circ[1])$$

$$h^{1,1}(X_{(\Delta, \Delta^\circ)}) = h^{2,1}(X_{(\Delta^\circ, \Delta)})$$

$$h^{2,1}(X_{(\Delta, \Delta^\circ)}) = h^{1,1}(X_{(\Delta^\circ, \Delta)})$$

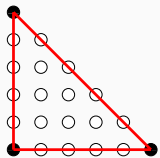
$$\mathbf{X}_{(\Delta, \Delta^\circ)} = \mathbf{X}_{(\Delta^\circ, \Delta)}^\vee$$

Examples

The Quintic

$$\Delta^\circ \sim \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ -1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ -1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad \Delta \sim \begin{pmatrix} -1 & -1 & -1 & -1 & 4 \\ -1 & -1 & -1 & 4 & -1 \\ -1 & -1 & 4 & -1 & -1 \\ -1 & 4 & -1 & -1 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$$

For the mirror, $\mathbb{P}_{\Sigma_n(\Delta^\circ)} = \mathbb{P}_{\Sigma_f(\Delta)}$ is $\mathbb{P}^4/(\mathbb{Z}_5)^3$ as in [\[Greene, Plesser\]](#) !
e.g. two-dimensional faces of Δ° look like this:



Extra points \sim refinement $\Sigma \rightarrow \Sigma_f$
 \sim resolution of orbifold singularities

Algebraic K3 Surfaces: $T(S) = U \oplus \tilde{T}(S)$; mirror symmetry swaps $N \leftrightarrow \tilde{T}$. This is realized by Batyrev's construction using 3D polytopes

Mirror Symmetry: the G_2 Story

We can put IIA or IIB string theory on a manifold of G_2 holonomy to compactify to $10 - 7 = 3$ dimensions.

- The CFT can only detect $b_2 + b_3$ but cannot discriminate [Shatashvili,Vafa].
- Arguments similar to SYZ imply coassociative T^4 fibration for G_2 manifolds. [Acharya]
- Discussed in detail for (few) examples of Joyce [Shatashvili,Vafa; Acharya; Gaberdiel,Kaste]
- And G_2 manifolds of the type $[\text{CY} \times S^1] / \mathbb{Z}_2$ [Eguchi,Sugawara; Roiban, Romelsberger, Walcher; Pioline, Blumenhagen, V.Braun]

Consider T^7/\mathbb{Z}_2^3 with action [Joyce]

$$\alpha : (x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4, x_5, x_6, x_7) \mapsto (-x_1, -x_2, -x_3, -x_4, x_5, x_6, x_7)$$

$$\beta : (x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4, x_5, x_6, x_7) \mapsto (-x_1, \frac{1}{2} - x_2, x_3, x_4, -x_5, -x_6, x_7)$$

$$\gamma : (x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4, x_5, x_6, x_7) \mapsto (\frac{1}{2} - x_1, x_2, -x_3, x_4, -x_5, x_6, -x_7)$$

Different smoothings \sim 'discrete torsion' in the orbifold CFT [Joyce; Acharya; Gaberdiel, Kaste] give

$$b_2(Y_l) = 8 + l \quad b_3(Y_l) = 47 - l$$

Different smoothings \sim 'discrete torsion' in the orbifold CFT give

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Action of various 'mirror maps' \sim T-dualities:

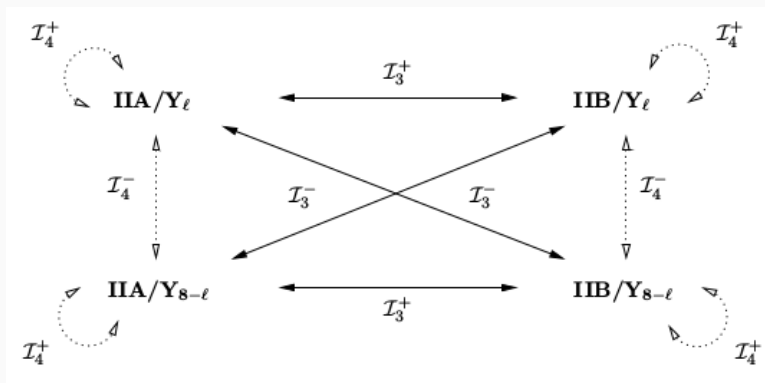


Figure taken from [\[Gaberdiel, Kaste\]](#)

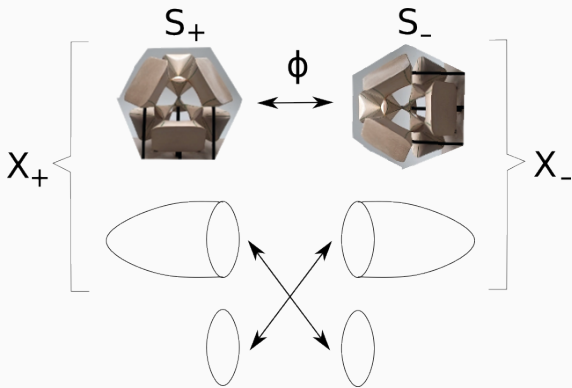


Twisted Connected Sums, Tops & Mirror Symmetry



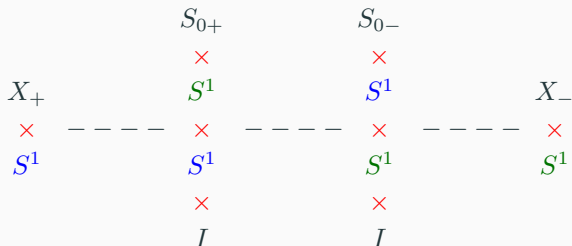
Twisted Connected Sum (TCS) G_2 Manifolds

[Kovalev; Corti, Haskins, Nordström, Pacini]



Can we find 'mirror geometries' for a given TCS G_2 manifold ?

Is there an SYZ picture ?



We can exploit the various SYZ fibrations to find a (coassociative) T^4 (at least in the Kovalev limit).

Four T-dualities correspond to

$$X_+ \rightarrow X_+^\vee \quad X_- \rightarrow X_-^\vee \quad S_{0\pm} \rightarrow S_{0\pm}^\vee$$

together with T-dualities along the various S^1 factors.

Can we give a construction and check $b_2 + b_3$ is invariant ?

Tops and Building Blocks

The acyl Calabi-Yau manifolds are $X_{\pm} = Z_{\pm}/S_{0\pm}$.

Z_{\pm} are called 'building blocks' [Corti, Haskins, Nordström, Pacini]. In particular, they are K3 fibred and satisfy

$$c_1(Z) = [S_0].$$

Can think of X as 'half' a compact K3 fibred Calabi-Yau threefold.

Such Calabi-Yau threefolds can be constructed from 4D reflexive polytopes Δ° with a 3D subpolytope $\Delta_F^{\circ} = \Delta^{\circ} \cap F$ cutting it into a pair of 'tops' $\diamond_a^{\circ}, \diamond_a^{\circ}$

[Candelas, Font; Klemm, Lerche, Mayr; Hosono, Lian, Yau; Avram, Kreuzer, Mandelberg, Skarke]

If $\pi_F(\diamond) \supseteq \Delta_F^{\circ}$ we call \diamond 'projecting'. This implies:

$X_{(\Delta, \Delta^{\circ})}$ is fibred by $X_{(\Delta_F, \Delta_F^{\circ})}$ and its mirror $X_{(\Delta^{\circ}, \Delta)}$ is fibred by algebraic mirror family $X_{(\Delta_F^{\circ}, \Delta_F)}$ of K3 surfaces.

Tops and Building Blocks

There are stable degeneration limits into K3 fibred threefolds

$$X_{(\Delta, \Delta^\circ)} \rightarrow Z_{(\diamond_a, \diamond_a^\circ)} \cup Z_{(\diamond_b, \diamond_b^\circ)}$$

$$X_{(\Delta^\circ, \Delta)} \rightarrow Z_{(\diamond_a^\circ, \diamond_a)} \cup Z_{(\diamond_b^\circ, \diamond_b)}.$$

- $Z_{(\diamond_a, \diamond_a^\circ)}$ and $Z_{(\diamond_b, \diamond_b^\circ)}$ each capture half of the ‘twisting’ in the K3 fibration; Singular fibres of X (over pts p_i) are distributed into two halves such that $\prod_{Z_{(\diamond_a, \diamond_a^\circ)}} \mu_i = \prod_{Z_{(\diamond_b, \diamond_b^\circ)}} \mu_i = 1$.
- $X = Z_{(\diamond, \diamond^\circ)}/S_0$ and $X^\vee = Z_{(\diamond^\circ, \diamond)}/S_0^\vee$ are an open mirror pair (at least in the SYZ sense);

Tops and Building Blocks

This motivates: a pair of dual projecting tops is a pair of lattice polytopes which satisfy

$$\langle \diamond, \diamond^\circ \rangle \geq -1$$

$$\langle \diamond, \nu_0 \rangle \geq 0$$

$$\langle m_0, \diamond^\circ \rangle \geq 0$$

with ν_0 and $m_0 \perp F$, $\langle m_0, \nu_0 \rangle = -1$ and $\pi_F(\diamond) \supseteq \Delta^\circ \cap F$. In fact, starting from \diamond , $Z_{(\diamond, \diamond^\circ)}$ is constructed as a hypersurface $\sim \mathcal{O}(\diamond)$ in \mathbb{P}_Σ , $\Sigma \rightarrow \Sigma_n(\diamond)$ as in Batyrev's construction:

$$Z_{(\diamond, \diamond^\circ)} : \sum_{m \in \diamond} c_m x_e^{\langle \nu_0, m \rangle} \prod_{\nu_i \in \diamond^\circ} x_i^{\langle \nu_i, m \rangle + 1} = 0 \quad \text{with } [x_e] \sim [S_0]$$

This allows a combinatorial computation of Hodge numbers [AB]:

$$h^{1,1} = -4 + \sum_{\Theta^{[3]} \in \diamond} 1 + \sum_{\Theta^{[2]} \in \diamond} \ell^*(\sigma_n(\Theta^{[2]})) + \sum_{\Theta^{[1]} \in \diamond} (\ell^*(\Theta^{[1]} + 1)(\ell^*(\sigma_n(\Theta^{[1]})))$$

$$h^{2,1} = \ell(\diamond) - \ell(\Delta_F) + \sum_{\Theta^{[2]} < \diamond} \ell^*(\Theta^{[2]}) \cdot \ell^*(\sigma_n(\Theta^{[2]})) - \sum_{\Theta^{[3]} < \diamond} \ell^*(\Theta^{[3]})$$

Blowing up the intersection of two anticanonical divisors $P = 0$ and $P' = 0$ in a semi-Fano toric threefold \mathbb{P}_F with rays $\sim \Delta_F^\circ$ gives a threefold equation

$$z_1 P = z_2 P' \in \mathbb{P}^1 \times \mathbb{P}_F,$$

which precisely corresponds to a 'trivial' top, i.e. \diamond° is the convex hull of

$$(\Delta_F^\circ, 0) \quad (0, 0, 0, 1).$$

Note: the normal fan of \diamond , which is the convex hull of

$$(\Delta_F, 0) \quad (\Delta_F, -1).$$

includes the ray $(0, 0, 0, -1)$ giving $\mathbb{P}^1 \times \mathbb{P}_F$ as the ambient space.

Strength of using polytopes is in resolving and analysing situations which degenerate K3 fibres. Can have large

$$|K| = |\ker(H^2(Z, \mathbb{Z}) \rightarrow H^2(S, \mathbb{Z}))|/|S|$$

giving large $b_2(J)$ for resulting TCS G_2 manifolds.

Reducible K3 fibres can easily be found from Δ° [Davis et al; AB, Watari]; similar to theory by [Kulikov], but can have multiplicities > 1 for fibre components.

Caveat: for arbitrary Δ_F° , need to make sure moduli space of algebraic K3 surfaces is 'large enough' to tune in order to find gluings. Guaranteed at least for 1009 semi-Fano out of 4319 weak Fano options [Corti, Haskins, Nordström, Pacini].

Mirror Building Blocks

Inverting the roles of \diamond and \diamond° gives us 'mirror building blocks' Z and Z^\vee with

$$h^{2,1}(Z) = |K(Z^\vee)|$$

where $K = \ker [H^2(Z, \mathbb{Z}) \rightarrow H^2(S_0, \mathbb{Z})] / [S]$.

Recall that (for orthogonal gluings):

$$b_2 + b_3 = 23 + 2 [h^{2,1}(Z_+) + h^{2,1}(Z_-)] + 2 [|K(Z_+)| + |K(Z_-)|] .$$

We are in business !

In fact, we can do a lot better: From our discussion of SYZ, we should trade *both* building blocks for their mirrors and use the mirrors of $S_{0\pm}$.

Hence: for a G_2 manifold J constructed from

$$X_+ = Z_{(\diamond_+, \diamond_+^\circ)} / S_+ \quad \text{and} \quad X_- = Z_{(\diamond_-, \diamond_-^\circ)} / S_-$$

the mirror J^\vee is found using

$$X_+^\vee = Z_{(\diamond_+^\circ, \diamond_+)} / S_+^\vee \quad \text{and} \quad X_-^\vee = Z_{(\diamond_-^\circ, \diamond_-)} / S_-^\vee$$

The hyper Kähler rotation used to glue $S_{0\pm}^\vee$ is found from that for $S_{0\pm}$.

If $T_+ \cap T_- \supset U$:

$$H^2(J, \mathbb{Z}) \oplus H^4(J, \mathbb{Z}) = H^2(J^\vee, \mathbb{Z}) \oplus H^4(J^\vee, \mathbb{Z})$$

$$H^3(J, \mathbb{Z}) \oplus H^5(J, \mathbb{Z}) = H^3(J^\vee, \mathbb{Z}) \oplus H^5(J^\vee, \mathbb{Z})$$

for any matching.

G2 Mirrors

The asymptotic K3 fibres $S_{0\pm}$ of Z_{\pm} are mapped to $S_{0\pm}^{\vee}$.

This exchanges $N \leftrightarrow \tilde{T}$ where $N = \text{im}(\rho)$ and $T = U \oplus \tilde{T} = N^{\perp} \in \Gamma^{3,19}$

Depending on the choice of ω and Ω , $S_{0\pm}^{\vee}$ can have ADE singularities (so TCS construction does not apply ... yet ? T^7/Γ gives singular examples of this type !)

In physics, we should include a B-field B_{\pm} in $N_+ \cap N_-$; matching condition becomes

$$\begin{aligned}\omega_+ &= \text{Re}(\Omega_-) & \text{Im}(\Omega_+) &= -\text{Im}(\Omega_-) \\ \omega_- &= \text{Re}(\Omega_+) & B_+ &= B_-\end{aligned}$$

preserved by mirror map on K3 surfaces with SYZ fibre calibrated by $\text{Im}(\Omega_+)$ and $-\text{Im}(\Omega_-)$.

Singularities come from -2 curves in $N_+ \cap N_-$ which will receive a stringy volume from B .

example

Consider two identical K3 fibred building blocks $Z_{\pm} = Z$ with
 $N_+ = N_- = U \oplus (-E_8)$

$$\begin{array}{llll} h^{1,1}(Z) = 11 & h^{2,1}(Z) = 240 & |N(Z)| = 10 & |K(Z)| = 0 \\ h^{1,1}(Z^\vee) = 251 & h^{2,1}(Z_+^\vee) = 0 & |N(Z^\vee)| = 10 & |K(Z^\vee)| = 240 \end{array}$$

We can glue such that $N_+ \cap N_- = 0 = \tilde{T}_+ \cap \tilde{T}_-$ to find smooth mirrors with

$$\begin{array}{l} b_2 + b_3 = 983 \\ b_2(J) = 0 \quad b_2(J^\vee) = 480 \\ b_3(J) = 983 \quad b_3(J^\vee) = 503 \end{array}$$

However, perpendicularly gluing to building blocks with quartic K3 fibre
 $N_{\pm} = (4)$ gives

$$N_+^\vee \cap N_-^\vee \subset (-E_8)^{\oplus 2}$$

Comparing to an example of Joyce

Consider again the smoothings Y_l of the orbifold T^7/\mathbb{Z}_2^3 .

They can be realized as a TCS [Nordström, Kovalev] with building blocks

$$((T^4/\mathbb{Z}_2) \times S^1 \times \mathbb{R}_+)/\mathbb{Z}_2$$

We can now compare our construction to the mirror maps I_3^\pm and I_4^\pm of [Gaberdiel, Kaste].

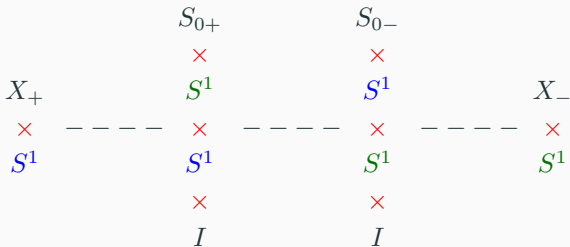
Our mirror map is $I_4^+ : Y_l \rightarrow Y_l$ which is trivial in this case and acts as $Z_+ \leftrightarrow Z_-$.

As an aside : the discrete torsion in the CFT description precisely corresponds to $H^3(Y_l, \mathbb{Z}) = \mathbb{Z}_2^{8-l}$.

The Curious Case of three T-dualities

What about other mirror maps in TCS picture ?

$I_3^- : Y_l \rightarrow Y_{8-l}$ corresponds to performing three T-dualities along T^3 SYZ fibre of Z_+ and elliptic fibre of Z_- !



Hence: for a TCS J built from Z_+ and Z_- , we construct $J^{\vee 3}$ from Z_+^{\vee} and Z_- . If $T_+ \cap N_- \supset U$:

$$H^\bullet(J, \mathbb{Z}) = H^\bullet(J^{\vee 3}, \mathbb{Z})$$

For orthogonal gluings $b_2 + b_3$ trivially invariant as

$$b_2 + b_3 = 23 + 2 [h^{2,1}(Z_+) + h^{2,1}(Z_-)] + 2 [|K(Z_+)| + |K(Z_-)|] .$$

Summary

We have motivated our construction by a 'physics picture' of SYZ fibrations and their generalization to G_2 as proposed by [Acharya], exploiting the structure of TCS G_2 manifolds in the Kovalev limit.

Our construction stands on its own and gives many pairs of G_2 manifolds with the same $b_2 + b_3$, as expected for G_2 mirrors from a CFT analysis [Shatashvili, Vafa]

Interestingly, mirrors can be singular; TCS G_2 manifolds are (real) K3 fibrations over S^3 and every K3 fibre has an ADE singularity.

Mathematically rigorous treatment of such solutions ?

Is 'mirror symmetry' the wrong name because we have more than a \mathbb{Z}_2 ?
Are all G_2 manifolds with the same $b_2 + b_3$ (or $H^\bullet(J, \mathbb{Z})$) dual as suggested by Shatashvili, Vafa ?

→ **Want to exploit physics to learn about G_2** ←

Thank You !

Need better understanding of CFT picture ! B-field and geometric singularities ?

We know the CFT for some examples of the type $[\text{CY} \times S^1] / \mathbb{Z}_2$, compare to TCS examples ?

Categories of D-branes ?

TCS G_2 's vs. $\text{CY} \times S^1 / \mathbb{Z}_2$; Gepner models ? S^1 fibrations and M-Theory - IIA duality ?

Topological G_2 strings [\[de Boer, Naqvi, Shomer\]](#) ?