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VARIATIONS ON HETEROTIC STRINGS AND LATTICES

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2205.09764 [HEP-TH], WITH B. ACHARYA, G. ALDAZABAL, K. NARAIN, I. ZADEH

Hermann and the AEI



Nicolai Font



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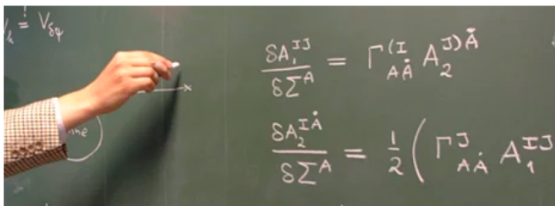
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Exceptional Quantum Gravity

Conformal Field Theory

String Theory

Supergravity and Symmetries





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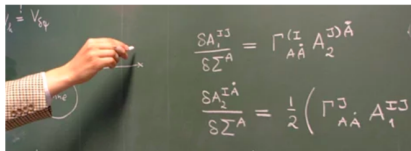
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REPRESENTATIONS OF SUPERSYMMETRY IN ANTI-DE SITTER SPACE^{*)}

H. Nicolai

CERN -- Geneva

1. Introduction

Anti-de Sitter space¹⁾, or AdS for brevity, is the natural background for gauged extended supergravity theories²⁾ and Kaluza-Klein supergravity [for recent reviews, see Refs. 3) and 4) and the lectures by B. de Wit, M.J. Duff, P. Fré and P. van Nieuwenhuizen at this school]. It is most easily described as the connected hyperboloid in \mathbb{R}^5 which is defined as the set of points obeying

$$\eta^{AB} y_A y_B = y_0^2 - y_1^2 - y_2^2 - y_3^2 + y_4^2 = \frac{1}{a^2} \quad (1.1)$$

The quantity a , which we set equal to one in what follows, is the inverse radius of AdS. It is not difficult to show¹⁾ that (1.1) is an Einstein space with negative cosmological constant

$$R_{\mu\nu} = -\Lambda g_{\mu\nu}, \quad \Lambda = -3a^2 < 0 \quad (1.2)$$

(our metric has signature $+----$), and that the curvature tensor is given by

$$R_{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} = a^2 (g_{\mu\rho} g_{\nu\sigma} - g_{\mu\sigma} g_{\nu\rho}) \quad (1.3)$$

^{*)} Lectures delivered at the Spring School on Supergravity and Supersymmetry, ICTP Trieste (Italy), April 1984.



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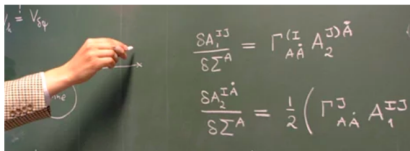
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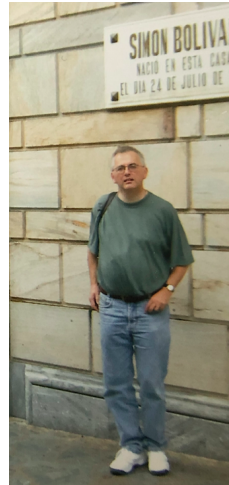
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Hermann in Venezuela, 2005



Simón Bolívar University



Simón Bolívar birth house



Caracas



Salto Ángel

height 979 m, plunge 807 m

Variations on heterotic strings and lattices

Aims and motivation

- study gauge symmetry enhancement in heterotic toroidal compactifications
which non-Abelian groups are allowed ?
- study non-supersymmetric heterotic compactifications
e.g. heterotic on $\mathbb{T}^3/\mathbb{Z}_2$, where \mathbb{Z}_2 reflects 2 right-moving directions
relation to M-theory on $K3/\mathbb{Z}_2$?

Contents

- Aria
 - Heterotic in 10 dim
 - Heterotic on \mathbb{T}^d and the Narain lattice $\Gamma_{16+d,d}$
- Variatio 1. Symmetry enhancement in toroidal compactifications
 - Heterotic on \mathbb{T}^d
 - Heterotic on $\mathbb{T}^d/\mathbb{Z}_2$ (CHL)
- Variatio 2. Non-supersymmetric heterotic on $\mathbb{T}^3/\mathbb{Z}_2$
 - Setup and classification
 - Construction of asymmetric orbifold
 - Results
- Aria da Capo
 - Final remarks

Aria

Heterotic in 10 dim

Gross, Harvey, Martinec, Rohm '85

- R -movers (superstring) + L -movers (bosonic)
- $\psi_R^M, X_R^M, M = 0, \dots, 9$ $X_L^M, Y_L^I, I = 1, \dots, 16$

- modular invariance $\Rightarrow Y_L^I$ must live on a 16-dim torus with even selfdual lattice

- only 2 such lattices

$\Gamma_8 \oplus \Gamma_8$, for the $E_8 \times E_8$ heterotic

Γ_{16} , for the $\text{Spin}(32)/\mathbb{Z}_2$ heterotic

Γ_8 : root lattice of E_8

$$\Gamma_{8q} = \left\{ (m_1, \dots, m_{8q}), (m_1 + \frac{1}{2}, \dots, m_{8q} + \frac{1}{2}) \mid m_k \in \mathbb{Z}, \sum_{k=1}^{8q} m_k = \text{even} \right\}$$

Narain lattice $\Gamma_{16+d,d}$

Narain '86

- new heterotic string theories in uncompactified dimensions < 10

R -movers (superstring) + L -movers (bosonic)

$$\psi_R^\mu, X_R^\mu, \quad \mu = 0, \dots, 9-d$$

$$X_L^\mu$$

$$\psi_R^j, X_R^j, \quad j = 1, \dots, d$$

$$X_L^j, Y_L^I, \quad I = 1, \dots, 16$$

- modular invariance $\Rightarrow (Y_L^I, X_L^j; X_R^j)$ must have momenta in an even selfdual lattice $\Gamma_{16+d,d}$, signature $(16+d, d)$

- infinite such lattices !

obtained applying $SO(16+d, d)$ transformations to reference lattice,

e.g. $\Gamma_8 \oplus \Gamma_8 \oplus^d U$

Ginsparg '87

U : even, selfdual, signature $(1,1)$

Moduli

Narain, Sarmadi, Witten '86

- new theories are really conventional compactifications on \mathbb{T}^d

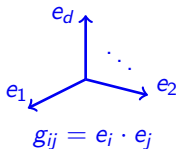
- background parameters = moduli

g_{ij} : metric of \mathbb{T}^d

b_{ij} : vev of Kalb-Ramond B -field

A_i^I : vev of gauge fields in Cartan sub-algebra

Wilson lines



- $\Gamma_{16+d,d}$ lattice vectors = momenta of $(Y_L^I, X_L^j; X_R^j)$

$$p^I = \Pi^I + A_i^I w^i, \quad i, j = 1, \dots, d$$

$$p_L = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} [n_i + (2g_{ij} - E_{ij}) w^j - \Pi \cdot A_i] \hat{e}^{*i}, \quad E_{ij} = g_{ij} + \frac{1}{2} A_i \cdot A_j + b_{ij}$$

$$p_R = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} [n_i - E_{ij} w^j - \Pi \cdot A_i] \hat{e}^{*i}. \quad \alpha' = 1$$

$w^j \in \mathbb{Z}$: windings, $n_j \in \mathbb{Z}$: quantized momenta, $\Pi \in \Gamma_8 \oplus \Gamma_8$

Variatio 1

Symmetry enhancement in toroidal compactifications

Heterotic on \mathbb{T}^d

- ▶ generic moduli \Rightarrow gravity multiplet + gauge multiplets of $U(1)^{d+16}$
of supersymmetry with 16 supercharges
- ▶ special moduli \Rightarrow enhancing of $U(1)^{d+16}$
e.g. $A_i = 0, b_{ij} = 0, g_{ij} = E_{ij} = \delta_{ij} \Rightarrow E_8 \times E_8 \times SU(2)^d$ rank $16 + d$
extra massless states with winding and quantized momenta
- ▶ which $G_{\text{rk}} \times U(1)^{d+16-\text{rk}}$ occur ? Mohaupt '93, Cachazo, Vafa '00, Fraiman, Graña, Núñez '18
will focus in maximal enhancing, i.e. $\text{rk} = 16 + d$
- ▶ G is ADE, roots $\mathbf{p}_L^2 = 2$, $\mathbf{p}_L = (\underbrace{p^I}_{16+d}, p_L)$, $\frac{1}{2}m_L^2 = \frac{1}{2}\mathbf{p}_L^2 + N_L - 1$
 $L \equiv$ root lattice of G

- ▶ which even L of signature $(16 + d, 0)$ can be embedded in $\Gamma_{16+d,d}$?

answer can be found by applying Nikulin's formalism

Nikulin '80

done in K3 context ($\Gamma_{18,2}$)

Shimada '00, Shimada, Zhang '01

done in heterotic context

AF, Fraiman, Graña, Núñez, Parra De Freitas = FFGNP '20

- ▶ lattice data

discriminant group: $A_L = L^*/L$

discriminant form: $q_L = \{x^2 \bmod 2, x \in A_L\}$

- ▶ L of signature $(16+d, 0)$ has embedding in $\Gamma_{16+d,d}$ if there exists an even lattice T of signature $(d, 0)$ such that $(A_T, q_T) \simeq (A_L, q_L)$, or L has overlattice M with $(A_T, q_T) \simeq (A_M, q_M)$ and $L = M_{\text{root}}$

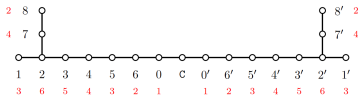
Finding all allowed L of rank $16 + d$

- start with all possible ADE ($d = 1$, 1137 rk 17; $d = 2$, 1599 rk 18)
check existence of T

$d = 2$, Shimada '00, Shimada, Zhang '01

- $d = 1$, simpler way based on extended Dynkin diagram (EDD) of $I_{17,1}$

Vinberg '72, Goddard, Olive '85

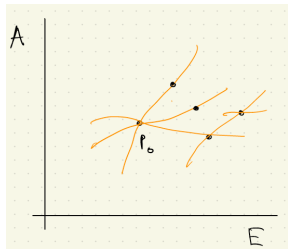


Cachazo, Vafa '00, Fraiman, Graña, Núñez '18

L 's of maximal rank: delete 2 nodes such that remainders form ADE Dynkin

- $d = 2$, for $I_{18,2}$ no EDD
instead use exploration algorithm

FFGNP '20-21



All allowed groups of maximal rank for the heterotic on S^1

Fraiman, Graña, Núñez '18, FFGNP '20

- * 44 groups, out of 1137 ADE of rank 17 e.g. $\cancel{D_{11}} \oplus \cancel{A_6}$, $\cancel{2A_5} \oplus \cancel{E_7}$
 - * maximal enhancings at $E = R^2 + \frac{1}{2}A^2 = 1$, fixed point of T-duality $w \leftrightarrow n$, $E' = \frac{1}{E}$, $A' = \frac{A}{E}$
 - * global form known, e.g. $L = A_{17}$, $G = \text{SU}(18)/\mathbb{Z}_3$
-

All allowed groups of maximal rank for the heterotic on \mathbb{T}^2

FFGNP '20

- * 325 groups, out of 1599 ADE of rank 18 e.g. $\cancel{D_{15}} \oplus \cancel{A_3}$, $\cancel{2A_6} \oplus \cancel{E_6}$
- * 359 distinct, for some 2 T 's
- * determined moduli, can always find points with $E_{ij} = \delta_{ij}$, i.e. with $b_{ij} = 0$
- * global form known, e.g. $L = 3A_6$, $G = \text{SU}(7)^3/\mathbb{Z}_7$

Heterotic on $\mathbb{T}^d/\mathbb{Z}_2$ (CHL strings)

- branch of superstring vacua with 16 supercharges in $(10-d)$ dim,
with gauge group of rank $(8+d)$

- first obtained in type I strings

Bianchi, Pradisi, Sagnotti '92

- later found in heterotic in fermionic formulation

Chaudhuri, Hockney, Lykken '95

- in bosonic formulation realized as $E_8 \times E'_8$ heterotic on $\mathbb{T}^d/\mathbb{Z}_2$

Chaudhuri, Polchinski '95

$$\mathbb{Z}_2 : X^9 \rightarrow X^9 + \frac{1}{2}(2\pi R), \quad \text{single out a } S^1 \text{ in } \mathbb{T}^d$$

$$E_8 \leftrightarrow E'_8, \quad Y_{\pm}^I \rightarrow \pm Y_{\pm}^I, \quad Y_{\pm}^I = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(Y^I \pm Y^{I+8}), I = 1, \dots, 8$$

left-right asymmetric action \longrightarrow asymmetric orbifold

Narain, Sarmadi, Vafa '87

- \mathbb{Z}_2 on momenta: $|p_+, p_-, p_L; p_R\rangle \rightarrow e^{i\pi n} |p_+, -p_-, p_L; p_R\rangle$
 $p_{\pm}^I = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(p^I \pm p^{I+8})$

$$e^{i\pi n} \text{ from } X^9 \rightarrow X^9 + \pi R, \quad P_9 = \frac{n}{R}, \quad e^{i\pi n} = e^{2i\pi P \cdot v}, \quad v : \text{shift vector}$$

CHL in 9 dimensions

- in S^1/\mathbb{Z}_2 , Wilson line must be symmetric under $E_8 \leftrightarrow E'_8$

$$A = \left(\underset{E_8}{a}, \underset{E'_8}{a} \right), \quad a \in \mathbb{R}^8, \quad \text{moduli: } a, R \text{ of } S^1$$

- $p_+ = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(\rho + 2aw), \quad p_- = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(\pi - \pi')$
 $p_L = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}R}(n + (R^2 - a^2)w - \rho \cdot a)$
 $p_R = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}R}(n - (R^2 + a^2)w - \rho \cdot a)$

$\Pi = (\pi, \pi'), \quad \pi \in E_8, \pi' \in E'_8$
 $\rho = \pi + \pi', \quad \rho \in E_8$

- $\sqrt{2}(p_+, p_L; p_R) \leftrightarrow Z = |\ell, n, \rho\rangle, \quad \ell = 2w, \quad Z^2 = \rho^2 + 2\ell n \in 2\mathbb{Z}$

Z spans Mikhailov lattice $\Gamma_{9,1} \simeq \Gamma_8 \oplus U$

states in orbifold spectrum correspond to $Z \in \Gamma_{9,1}$

Mikhailov '98, FFGNP '21

- generic moduli \Rightarrow gravity multiplet + gauge multiplets of $U(1)^9$
- special moduli \Rightarrow enhancing of $U(1)^9$

All allowed groups of maximal rank for the $E_8 \times E_8$ heterotic on S^1/\mathbb{Z}_2 FFGNP '21

i	L	E	a
1	A_9	2	$\frac{1}{3}w_1$
2	$A_1 + A_2 + A_6$	2	$\frac{1}{6}w_2$
3	$A_4 + A_5$	2	$\frac{1}{5}w_3$
4	$D_5 + A_4$	2	$\frac{1}{4}w_4$
5	$E_6 + A_3$	2	$\frac{1}{3}w_3$
6	$E_7 + A_2$	2	$\frac{1}{2}w_6$
7	$A_1 + A_8$	2	$\frac{1}{4}w_7$
8	D_9	2	$\frac{1}{2}w_8$
0	$E_8 + A_1$	2	0



$\Gamma_{9,1}$ a.k.a. E_{10}

- * can be obtained deleting one node in EDD of $\Gamma_{9,1}$
- * all groups at Kac-Moody level 2
- * all G simply connected
- * $E = R^2 + a^2 = 2$, fixed point of T-duality

$$\ell \leftrightarrow n, \quad E' = \frac{4}{E}, \quad a' = \frac{2a}{E}$$

Weyl reflection about node C

All allowed groups of maximal rank for the $E_8 \times E_8$ heterotic on $\mathbb{T}^2/\mathbb{Z}_2$ FFGNP '21

- * 61 groups, found using exploration algorithm
- * Mikhailov lattice: $\Gamma_{9,1} \oplus U(2)$ not self-dual
- * C algebras appear
- * ADE at Kac-Moody level 2, C at level 1
- * global form known

e.g. $L = 2A_1 \oplus 2A_3 \oplus C_2$, $G = \left(SU(2)^2 \times SU(4)^2 \times Sp(4) \right) / \mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_2$ Cvetič, Dierigl, Lin, Zhang '21

- * match results from F-theory on K3 Hamada,Vafa '21, Fraiman, Parra De Freitas '21

Variatio 2

Non-supersymmetric heterotic on $\mathbb{T}^3/\mathbb{Z}_2$

Setup 1. Heterotic on \mathbb{T}^3

- ▶ internal momenta live on Narain lattice $\Gamma_{19,3}$
- ▶ 7-dimensional theory with 16 supercharges
 - massless gravity multiplet (with 3 graviphotons)
 - massless gauge multiplets of $U(1)^{19}$ at generic moduli
 - charges of massive states span $\Gamma_{19,3}$
- ▶ strong coupling dual: M-theory on K3
 - 2nd cohomology group with K3 intersection form $\sim \Gamma_{19,3}$
 - C_{MNP} in 11-dim $\longrightarrow C_{\mu mn}$ in 7-dim, 19+3 $U(1)$ vectors
 - membranes wrapped on 2-cycles of K3 \longrightarrow charged states

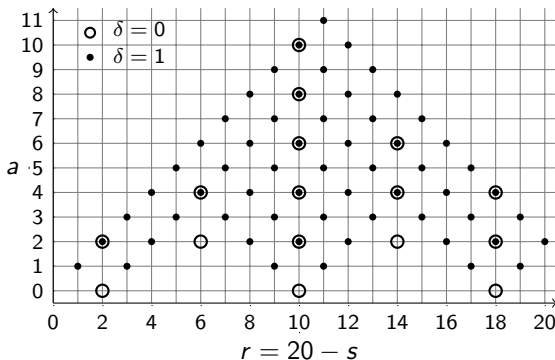
Witten '95

Setup 2. Heterotic on non-supersymmetric $\mathbb{T}^3/\mathbb{Z}_2$

- ▶ \mathbb{Z}_2 : reflection of s from 19 L -movers and 2 from 3 R -movers (superstring sector)
supersymmetry breaking, left-right asymmetric action
- ▶ expected duality to M-theory on K3 quotiented by analogous \mathbb{Z}_2
 \mathbb{Z}_2 reflects holomorphic 2-form, leaves volume form invariant
- ▶ there exist 75 such *non-symplectic* involutions Nikulin '83
classified in terms of lattice $I \subset \Gamma_{19,3}$ left invariant by involution
- ▶ invariant lattice I , even, signature $(r-1, 1)$, $1 \leq r \leq 20$, $I^*/I = \mathbb{Z}_2^a$
- ▶ normal lattice $N = I^\perp$, even, signature $(s, 2)$, $s = 20 - r$, $N^*/N = \mathbb{Z}_2^a$
- ▶ $P \in \Gamma_{19,3}$ has decomposition $P = (P_N, P_I)$, $P_N \in N^*$, $P_I \in I^*$

Classification of Nikulin non-symplectic involutions of $\Gamma_{19,3}$

- characterized by (r, a, δ) , $r = \text{rk}(I)$, $I^*/I = \mathbb{Z}_2^a$, $\delta = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } P_I^2 \in \mathbb{Z} \quad \forall P_I \in I^* \\ 1 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$



- $(r, a, \delta) \Rightarrow$ unique I up to $\text{SO}(r-1, 1)$, N up to $\text{SO}(s, 2)$

e.g. $(r, a, \delta) = (3, 1, 1) \Rightarrow I \sim A_1 \oplus U$, $N \sim E_7 \oplus E_8 \oplus 2U$

Construction of asymmetric $\mathbb{T}^3/\mathbb{Z}_2$ orbifold

reminder of closed strings on orbifolds

Dixon, Harvey, Vafa, Witten'85,86

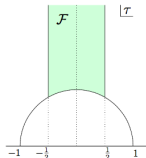
- * \exists twisted sectors: strings close up to action of orbifold generator g
- * orbifold projection: physical states must be invariant under action of g

both required by modular invariance of 1-loop partition function



1-loop vacuum amplitude

$$Z_{1\text{-loop}} = \int_{\mathcal{F}} \frac{d^2\tau}{\tau_2^2} \mathcal{Z}(\tau, \bar{\tau})$$



- * in $\mathcal{Z}(\tau, \bar{\tau})$ there is a sum over twisted sectors and a projection

Construction of asymmetric $\mathbb{T}^3/\mathbb{Z}_2$ orbifold

AAFNZ '22

- ▶ on R -movers orbifold generator g acts as rotation by π in a 2-plane

$\Rightarrow g^2$ acts as $-\mathbb{1}$ on space-time fermions g is actually order 4

- ▶ on $\Gamma_{19,3}$, $g|P_N, P_I\rangle = f(P_N)e^{2i\pi P_I \cdot v}|-P_N, P_I\rangle$

- ▶ v : shift vector, $4v \in \Gamma$

invariant lattice Γ characterized by (r, a, δ)

- ▶ \mathbb{Z}_4 phase $f(P_N)$: $f(0) = 1$, $f(P_N)f(-P_N) = e^{2i\pi P_N^2} = e^{2i\pi P_I^2} = e^{2i\pi P_I \cdot w}$

$w \in \Gamma^*$, $w^2 + \frac{1}{2}(s-2) \in 2\mathbb{Z}$, always exists

- ▶ $g^2|P_N, P_I\rangle = e^{2i\pi P_I \cdot (2v+w)}|P_N, P_I\rangle$

Construction of asymmetric $\mathbb{T}^3/\mathbb{Z}_2$ orbifold

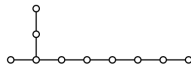
- ▶ 1-loop modular invariance (level-matching) $\Rightarrow 2v^2 + \frac{s}{4} \in \mathbb{Z}$
- ▶ level-matching not possible for $(r, a, \delta) = (1, 1, 1), (2, 2, 1)$ **I too small**
- ▶ for most other (r, a, δ) , v unique up to T-dualities of invariant lattice I

moduli of I, $\text{sign}(r-1, 1)$: radius R , $(r-2)$ -dim Wilson line A

T-dualities: $R \rightarrow 1/R$, discrete translations of A

T-dualities: Weyl reflections about a set of roots of I

e.g. $(r, a, \delta) = (10, 0, 0)$, $I \sim U \oplus E_8$ a.k.a. E_{10}



$(r, a, \delta) = (5, 3, 1)$, $I \sim U \oplus 3A_1$



Results

- ▶ full partition function $\mathcal{Z}(\tau, \bar{\tau})$
- ▶ $\mathcal{Z}(\tau, \bar{\tau}) \Rightarrow$ spectrum $\mathcal{Z}(\tau, \bar{\tau}) \sim \sum_{\text{states}} \left[\# \text{bosons} - \# \text{fermions} \right] e^{i\pi\tau m_L^2} e^{-i\pi\bar{\tau} m_R^2}$
- ▶ from gravity multiplet survive graviton, dilaton, Kalb-Ramond, 1 graviphoton
- ▶ from generic $U(1)^{19}$ gauge multiplets survive scalars, vectors of $U(1)^{r-1}$
enhancing at special moduli of lattices I (Coulomb branch) and N (Higgs branch)
- ▶ massless fermions only for special moduli, fermions always charged under $\Gamma_{19,3}$
membrane states in M-theory
most of K3 quotients by Nikulin involutions are not spin
 \Rightarrow only bosons from KK modes of 11-dim supergravity

Results

- tachyons appear in twisted sectors

become massive in regions of moduli space, but quantum effective potential likely to drive to negative mass

might signal different stable background ?!

Basile, Mourad, Sagnotti '18

- points with different (r, a, δ) are connected by transitions $r \rightarrow (r + 1)$

e.g.

$$(2, 0, 0)$$



$$(3, 1, 1)$$

$$I = U, N = E_8 \oplus E_8 \oplus 2U$$



$$I = A_1 \oplus U, N = E_7 \oplus E_8 \oplus 2U$$

$$E_8 \supset E_7 \oplus A_1$$

interpreted as motion along Higgs and Coulomb branches

Aria da Capo

Final remarks 1

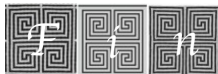
- Studied heterotic strings compactified on \mathbb{T}^d and $\mathbb{T}^d/\mathbb{Z}_2$ (CHL)
- Found all groups of maximal enhancing in 9dim, 8dim, using methods based on underlying momentum lattices (Narain or Mikhailov)
- Methods can be extended to lower dim, done in 7dim Fraiman, Parra De Freitas '21
- Results give support to String Universality:
group algebras and global structure satisfy criteria to be in landscape
Cvetič, Dierigl, Lin, Zhang '20, 21, Montero, Vafa '21, Hamada, Vafa '21

Final remarks 2

- Studied heterotic strings compactified on non-supersymmetric $\mathbb{T}^3/\mathbb{Z}_2$
- Elaborated world-sheet description as asymmetric orbifolds
 - * determined massless and tachyonic spectrum
 - * found pattern of transitions between branches of moduli space
- To do: relate to M-theory on $K3/\mathbb{Z}_2$ in more detail

Final remarks 2

- Studied heterotic strings compactified on non-supersymmetric $\mathbb{T}^3/\mathbb{Z}_2$
- Elaborated world-sheet description as asymmetric orbifolds
 - * determined massless and tachyonic spectrum
 - * found pattern of transitions between branches of moduli space
- To do: relate to M-theory on $K3/\mathbb{Z}_2$ in more detail



¡ Felices 70 Hermann !



¡ Y que cumplas muchos años más !