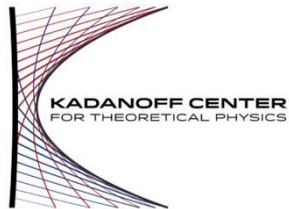


# Quantum Corrected Black Hole Entropy & EFT Transitions

Alberto Castellano Mora

Mar 10th 2025

UW Madison, HEP & Cosmology Seminar



# Based on:

- *Black Hole Entropy, Quantum Corrections and EFT Transitions*,  
A. Castellano, M. Zatti,  
[[arXiv:2502.02655](https://arxiv.org/abs/2502.02655)]



- *The Double EFT Expansion in Quantum Gravity*  
J. Calderón-Infante, A. Castellano, A. Herráez,  
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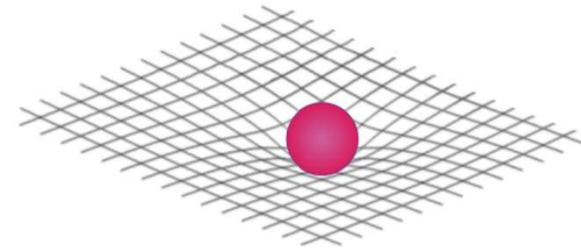
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# Structure of Grav. EFTs

- At low energies (i.e.  $E \ll M_{\text{Pl}}$ ) Gravity is well-described by an **Effective Field Theory** (EFT)

$$S_{\text{EH}} [g_{\mu\nu}] = \frac{1}{2\kappa_d^2} \int d^d x \sqrt{-g} (\mathcal{R} - 2\Lambda_{\text{c.c.}})$$



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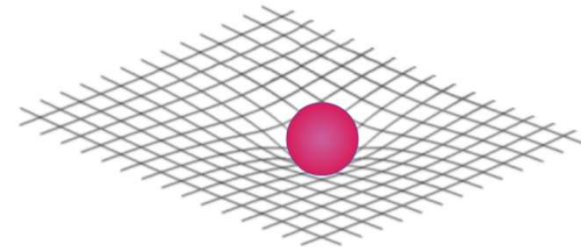
- The derivative expansion is controlled by the Quantum Gravity scale  $\Lambda_{\text{QG}} \stackrel{?}{\simeq} M_{\text{Pl}}$

[v. d. Heisteeg, Vafa, Wiesner, Wu '22-23  
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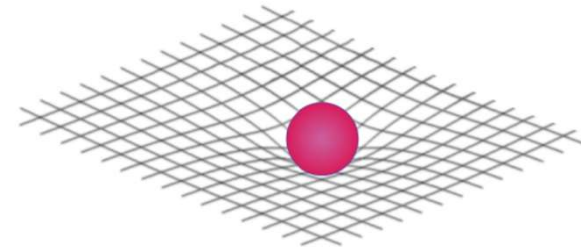
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*Higher-curv. ops. are suppressed by QG scale!*

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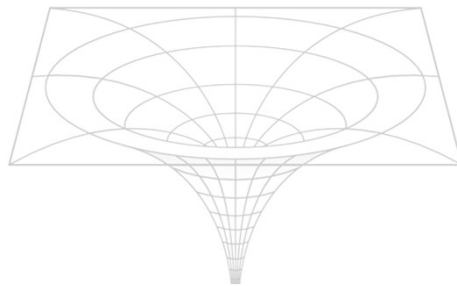
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$$S_{\text{EFT},d} \supset \frac{1}{2\kappa_d^2} \int d^d x \sqrt{-g} \left( \mathcal{R} - 2\Lambda_{\text{c.c.}} + \sum_{n>2} \frac{O_n(\mathcal{R})}{\Lambda_{\text{QG}}^{n-2}} \right) + \int d^d x \sqrt{-g} \sum_{n>2} \frac{O_n(\mathcal{R})}{M^{n-d}}$$

- The scale  $M$  is usually associated to (milder) EFT breakdown (mass states, KK modes, etc.)
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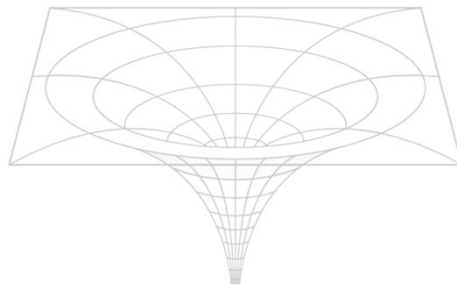


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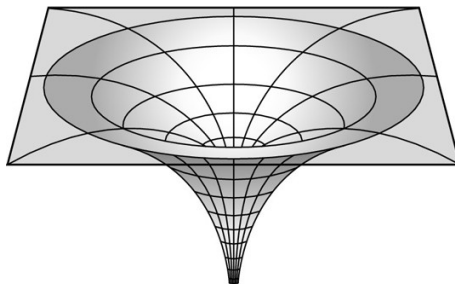


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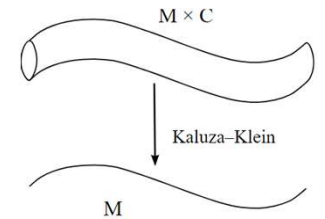
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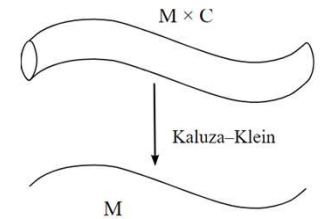


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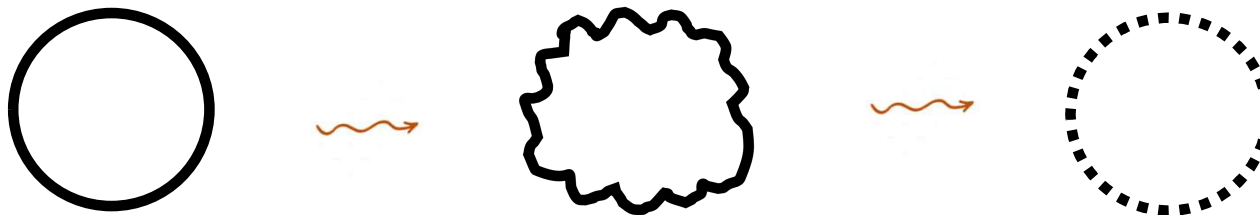
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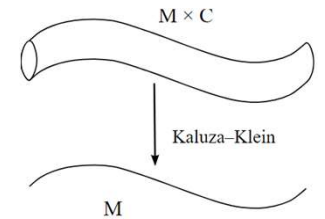
- Question 1: Do neutral black holes know about  $M_{\text{KK}}$ ?  $\rightsquigarrow$  **Answer**: Yes! [Gregory, Laflamme '93]



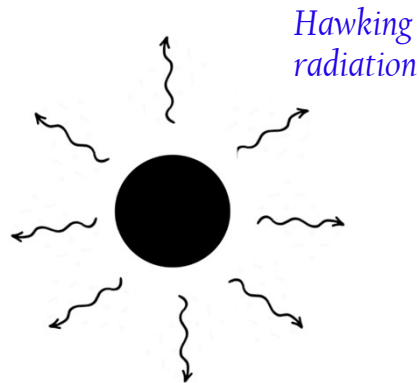
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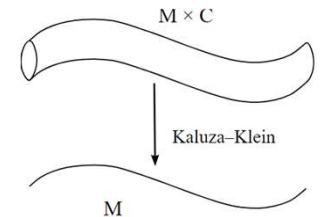


[Dvali, (Redi) '07]

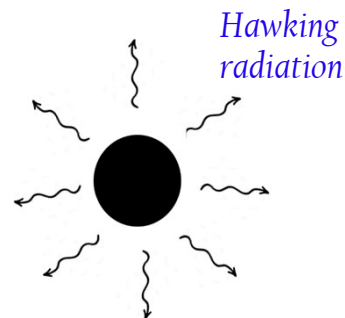
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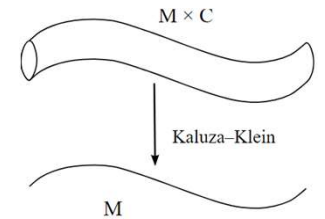


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$$R_{\text{BH}, \text{min}} \sim \Lambda_{\text{QG}}^{-1} \rightsquigarrow S_{\text{BH}} \gtrsim \left( \frac{M_{\text{Pl}}}{\Lambda_{\text{QG}}} \right)^{d-2}$$

## In This Talk...

- **Main goal:** Illustrate these expectations in a controlled setup
- We consider supersymmetric theories and BPS objects  $\rightsquigarrow$  Extremal BHs
- In particular, we focus on 4d N=2 theories and investigate how these two scales show up in the quantum-corrected BH entropy
  1. When  $R_{\text{BH}} \sim M_{\text{KK}}^{-1}$  the low-dim EFT no longer provides a good estimate of BH entropy (EFT transition)
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# Outline

- I. Review: 4d  $N=2$  BPS Black Holes
- II. Gluing Entropies Across Dimensions
  - i. The D0-D2-D4 System
  - ii. Perturbative Corrections and Non-Local Resummation
  - iii. Leading Non-Perturbative Effects
- III. The Fate of Other BPS Systems
  - i. The D2-D6 System
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- IV. Summary and Outlook

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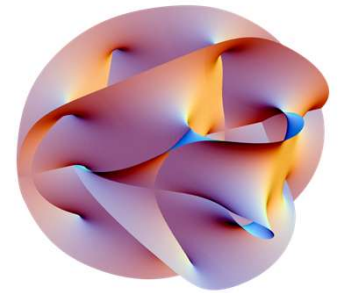
## Part I

# **Review: 4d N=2 BPS Black Holes**

# 4d N=2 Theories: The Lagrangian

- Consider 4d theories preserving **8 supercharges**. E.g., take Type IIA on CY 3-fold
- The bosonic action reads (@ 2-derivative level)

$$S_{\text{IIA}}^{4\text{d}} = \frac{1}{2\kappa_4^2} \int \mathcal{R} \star 1 + \frac{1}{2} \text{Re} \mathcal{N}_{AB} F^A \wedge F^B + \frac{1}{2} \text{Im} \mathcal{N}_{AB} F^A \wedge \star F^B - \frac{1}{\kappa_4^2} \int G_{a\bar{b}} dz^a \wedge \star d\bar{z}^b + h_{pq} dq^p \wedge \star dq^q ,$$



- The moduli space factorizes between vector and hypermultiplets

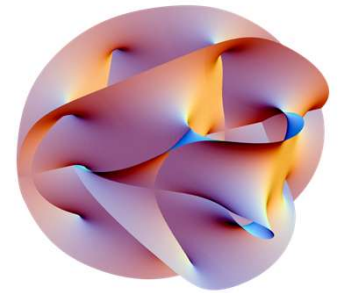
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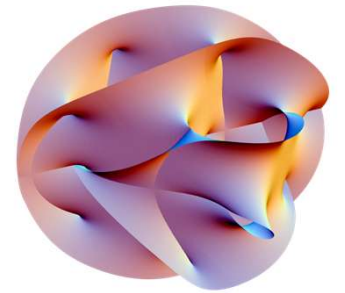
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## 4d N=2 Theories: The Lagrangian

- The vector multiplet sector is a **projective special Kähler manifold**

$$G_{a\bar{b}} = \partial_a \partial_{\bar{b}} K, \quad \text{with } K = -\log i \left( \bar{X}^A(\bar{z}) \mathcal{F}_A(z) - X^A(z) \bar{\mathcal{F}}_A(\bar{z}) \right), \quad z^a = \frac{X^a}{X^0}$$

- The latter is completely determined by the prepotential

$$\mathcal{F} = \frac{1}{2} X^A \mathcal{F}_A, \quad \text{where } \mathcal{F}_A = \partial_{X^A} \mathcal{F}$$

- Moreover, N=2 supersymmetry fixes the gauge kin. matrix in terms of previous quantities

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- This includes higher-curvature/derivative ops of the form

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- There are further terms linear in Riem and quadratic in  $W$ , which are also important

$$W_{\mu\rho}^{ij,-} \nabla^\rho \nabla^\sigma W_{\sigma\nu}^{kl,-} \epsilon_{ik} \epsilon_{jl}, \quad \text{with } W_{\mu\nu}^- = 2ie^{K/2} \text{Im} \mathcal{N}_{AB} X^A F_{\mu\nu}^{B,-}, \quad W_{\mu\nu}^{ij,-} = \frac{\epsilon^{ij}}{2} W_{\mu\nu}^-$$



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 Scalars
 Graviton & graviphoton (anti-self-dual)

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$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{h.d.}} \supset \sum_{g \geq 1} \mathcal{F}_g(X^A) \mathcal{R}_-^2 W_-^{2g-2} + \text{h.c.},$$

 Scalars
 Graviton & graviphoton (anti-self-dual)

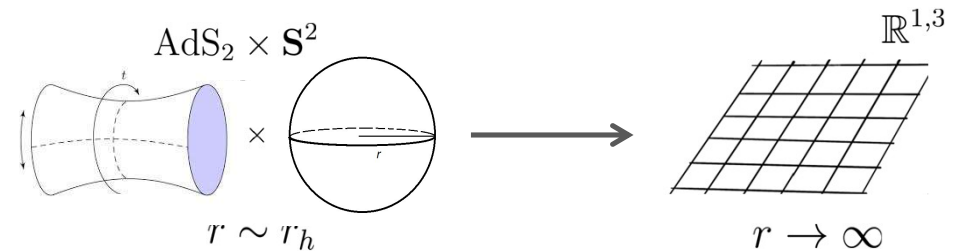
- There are further terms linear in Riem and quadratic in  $W$ , which are also important

$$W_{\mu\rho}^{ij,-} \nabla^\rho \nabla^\sigma W_{\sigma\nu}^{kl,-} \epsilon_{ik} \epsilon_{jl}, \quad \text{with } W_{\mu\nu}^- = 2ie^{K/2} \text{Im} \mathcal{N}_{AB} X^A F_{\mu\nu}^{B,-}, \quad W_{\mu\nu}^{ij,-} = \frac{\epsilon^{ij}}{2} W_{\mu\nu}^-$$

## 4d N=2 Theories: BPS BHs

- An interesting class of objects are **BPS** (extremal) **black holes**

$$ds^2 = -e^{2U(r)} dt^2 + e^{-2U(r)} (g(r)^{-2} dr^2 + r^2 d\Omega_2^2)$$



- Physical properties** characterized by **gauge charges** (attractor mechanism) [Ferrara, Kallosh, Strominger '95]
- This can be generalized to include higher-derivative corrections! [Lopes-Cardoso, Wit, Mohaupt '98-'99]
- We introduce rescaled variables and (symplectic) generalizations thereof

$$Y^A = e^{\mathcal{K}/2} \bar{\mathcal{Z}} X^A$$

$$\Upsilon = e^{\mathcal{K}} \bar{\mathcal{Z}}^2 W^2$$

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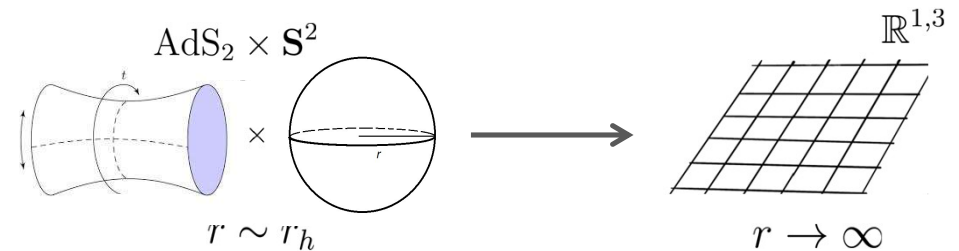
$$|\mathcal{Z}|^2 = p^A F_A(Y, \Upsilon) - q_A Y^A$$

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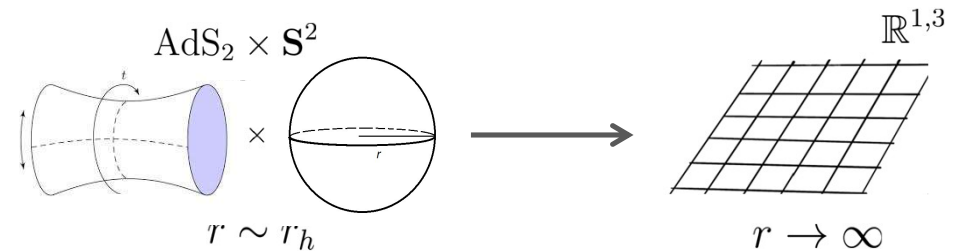
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$$F(X, W^2) = \sum_{g=0}^{\infty} F_g(X^A) W^{2g} \quad \text{with} \quad F_g(Y^A) = (-1)^g 2^{-6g} \mathcal{F}_g(Y^A)$$

Higher derivative BPS effects included!

- In terms of this the attractor equations read as usual [Behrndt et al '98]

$$ip^A = Y^A - \bar{Y}^A \quad iq_A = F_A(Y, \Upsilon) - \bar{F}_A(\bar{Y}, \bar{\Upsilon}) \quad \text{with} \quad \Upsilon = -64$$

- The quantum-corrected entropy formula can also be determined to be

$$\mathcal{S}_{\text{BH}} = \pi \left[ |\mathcal{Z}|^2 + 4\text{Im} (\Upsilon \partial_{\Upsilon} F(Y, \Upsilon)) \right] \quad [\text{Lopes-Cardoso, Wit, Mohaupt '99}]$$

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# The Large Volume Regime

- Up to now we have kept things **general** (i.e. **model-independent**)
- To answer our original question, we henceforth focus on the **large radius singularity**
- There, the generalized prepotential reads as

$$F(Y, \Upsilon) = \frac{D_{abc} Y^a Y^b Y^c}{Y^0} + d_a \frac{Y^a}{Y^0} \Upsilon + G(Y^0, \Upsilon) + \mathcal{O}(e^{2\pi i z^a})$$

$$D_{abc} = -\frac{1}{6} \mathcal{K}_{abc}$$

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- The (universal) leading quantum correction (due to constant maps) is given by

$$G(Y^0, \Upsilon) = -\frac{i}{2(2\pi)^3} \chi_E(X_3) (Y^0)^2 \sum_{g=0,2,3,\dots} c_{g-1}^3 \alpha^{2g} + \dots$$


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Asymptotic growth

with  $c_{g-1}^3 = (-1)^{g-1} 2(2g-1) \frac{\zeta(2g)\zeta(3-2g)}{(2\pi)^{2g}}$

Expansion parameter

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- The **attractor solutions simplify** considerably. For instance, the **entropy** yields

$$\mathcal{S}_{\text{BH}} = \pi \left[ |\mathcal{Z}|^2 - 2i d_a \left( \frac{Y^a}{Y^0} \Upsilon - \frac{\bar{Y}^a}{\bar{Y}^0} \bar{\Upsilon} \right) - 2i \left( \Upsilon \frac{\partial G(Y^0, \Upsilon)}{\partial \Upsilon} - \bar{\Upsilon} \frac{\partial \bar{G}(\bar{Y}^0, \bar{\Upsilon})}{\partial \bar{\Upsilon}} \right) \right]$$

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# Outline

I. Review: 4d  $N=2$  BPS Black Holes

II. Gluing Entropies Across Dimensions

- i. The D0-D2-D4 System
- ii. Perturbative Corrections and Non-Local Resummation
- iii. Leading Non-Perturbative Effects

III. The Fate of Other BPS Systems

- i. The D2-D6 System
- ii. A closer look @ non-perturbative effects

IV. Summary and Outlook

Part II

# Gluing Entropies Across Dimensions

# The D0-D2-D4 BH System

- Consider **BPS BHs** with **no D6-brane** charge
- The **two-derivative** attractor **solution** is well known. We thus **impose**

$$W^2 \rightarrow 0, \quad F(X^A, W^2) \rightarrow \mathcal{F}(X^A)$$

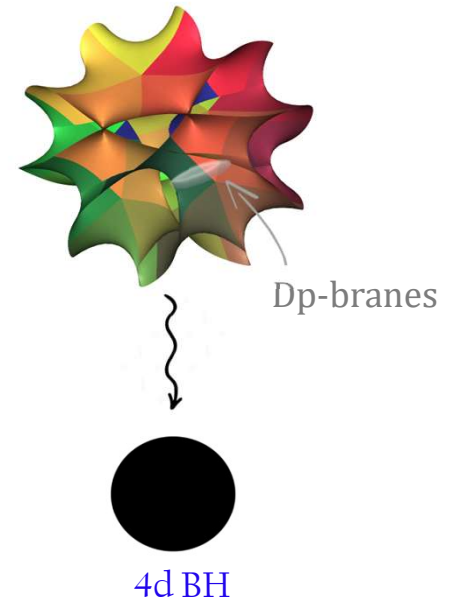
- The solution reads [Shmakova '96]

$$CX^a = \frac{1}{6}CX^0 D^{ab}q_b + \frac{i}{2}p^a \quad (CX^0)^2 = \frac{1}{4} \frac{D_{abc}p^a p^b p^c}{\hat{q}_0} \equiv (x^0)^2$$

- From here one may easily determine both the radius and the entropy of the BH system

$$\frac{r_h^2}{G_4} = |Z(q_A, p^B)|^2 = -\frac{D_{abc}p^a p^b p^c}{CX^0} = 2\sqrt{\frac{1}{6}|\hat{q}_0| \mathcal{K}_{abc}p^a p^b p^c}$$

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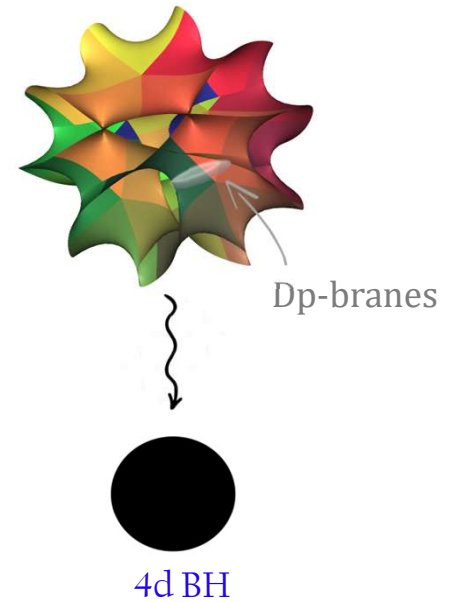
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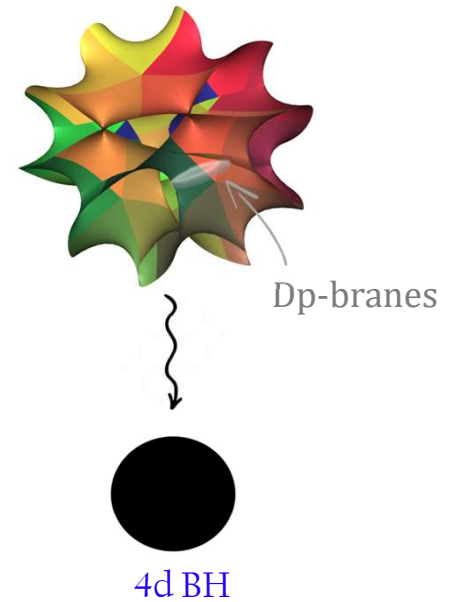
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- We assumed large vol approximation  $\rightsquigarrow$  need to ensure that the solution is **consistent!**
- Due to monotonicity of BPS flow, we only have to worry about the horizon locus [Ferrara '95-'97]
- Compute stabilized volumes:

$$t_h^a = \text{Im} \left( \frac{CX^a}{CX^0} \right) \Big|_{\text{hor}} = p^a \sqrt{\frac{6|\hat{q}_0|}{\mathcal{K}_{abc} p^a p^b p^c}}$$

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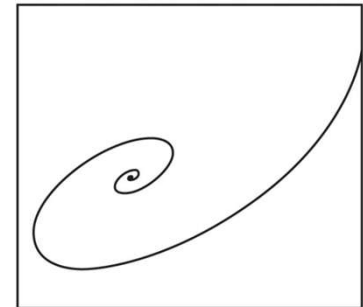
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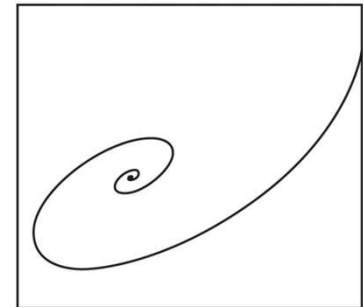


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$\rightsquigarrow$  We do not specify  $x_0$

# Including Perturbative Quantum Corrections

- Taking now the generalized prepotential with the **leading quant. corrections** yields

$$(Y^0)^2 = \frac{\frac{1}{4}D_{abc}p^a p^b p^c - d_a p^a \Upsilon}{\hat{q}_0 + i(G_0 - \bar{G}_0)}, \quad \text{with } G_0 \equiv \frac{\partial G(Y^0, \Upsilon)}{\partial Y^0}$$

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$$Y^a = \frac{1}{6}Y^0 D^{ab} q_b + \frac{i}{2}p^a \quad \leftarrow \text{Same as before!}$$

- Notice that in order to **recover** the previous **classical solution** we need to **impose**

$$|\hat{q}_0| \gg p^a \gg 1, \quad |\hat{q}_0| \gg |i(G_0 - \bar{G}_0)|$$

- One can thus find an **iterative solution** of the form

$$(Y^0)^2 = (y^0)^2 \left( 1 + \frac{i(G_0(y^0, \Upsilon) - \bar{G}_0(\bar{y}^0, \bar{\Upsilon}))}{|\hat{q}_0|} + \dots \right) \quad \text{with } (y^0)^2 = (x^0)^2 \left( 1 - 4d_a p^a \Upsilon / D_{bce} p^b p^c p^e \right)$$

# Including Perturbative Quantum Corrections

- The **corrected** black hole **entropy** and **radius** read as [Lopes-Cardoso, Wit, Mohaupt '99]

$$|\mathcal{Z}|^2 = 2\sqrt{\frac{1}{6}|\hat{q}_0|\mathcal{K}_{abc}p^ap^bp^c + \dots}$$

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Now we require large values for  $x_0$

# The Transition Regime

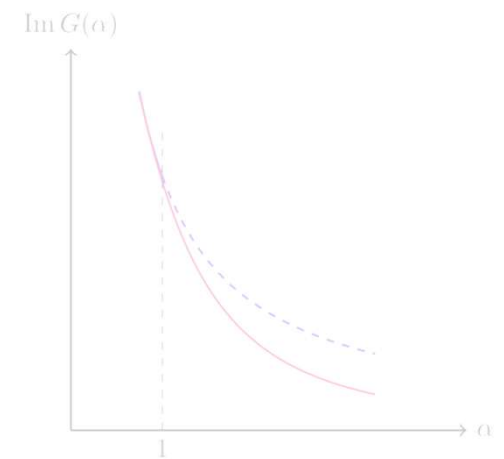
- Including the leading quant. corrections yields **sensible answers** for **certain hierarchies**
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$$G(Y^0, \Upsilon) \sim -\frac{i}{2(2\pi)^3} \chi_E(X_3) (Y^0)^2 \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} c_{k-1}^3 \alpha^{2k} \quad \text{with } c_{k-1}^3 \sim (2k-3)!$$

- The optimal truncation can be determined to behave as  $N_* \sim \frac{1}{2} \left(1 + \frac{4\pi^2}{\alpha}\right)$
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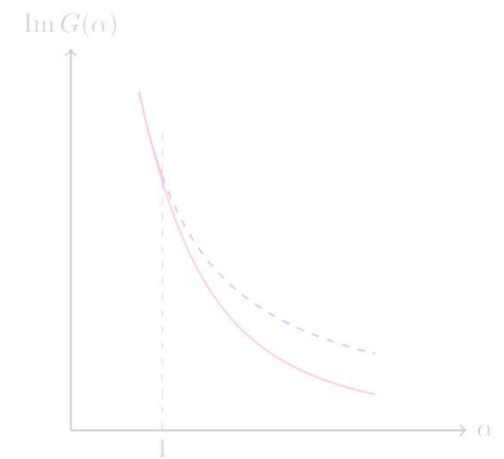
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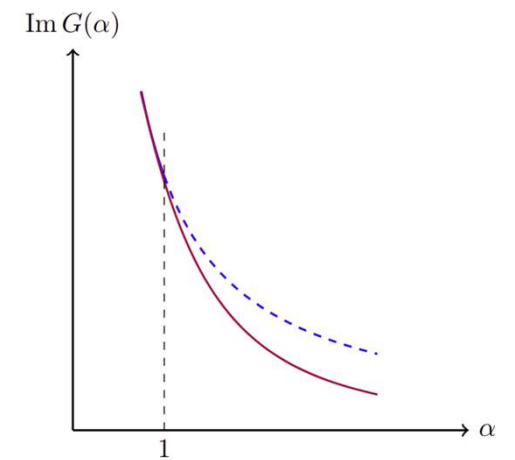
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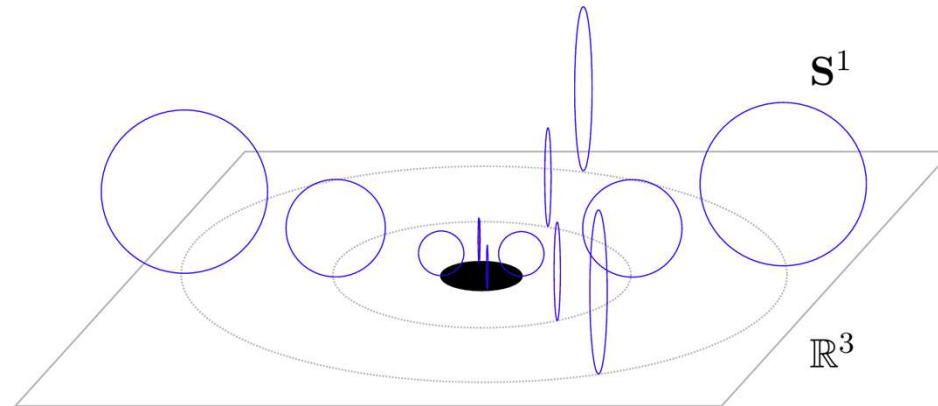
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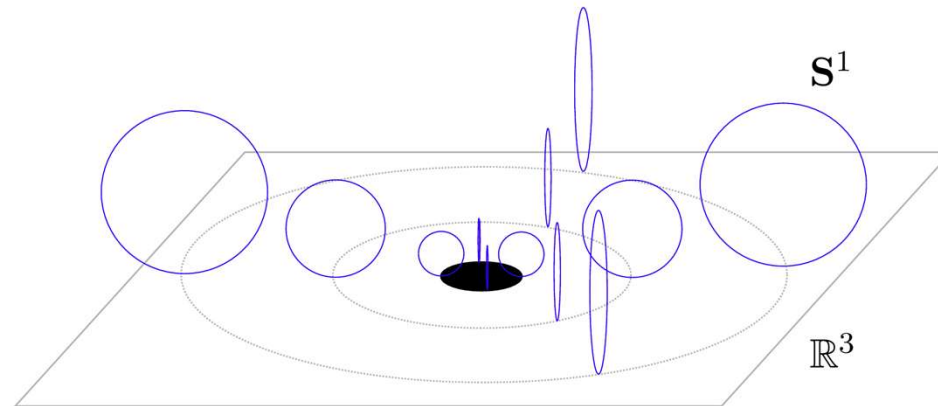
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# Non-Local Resolution & EFT Transition

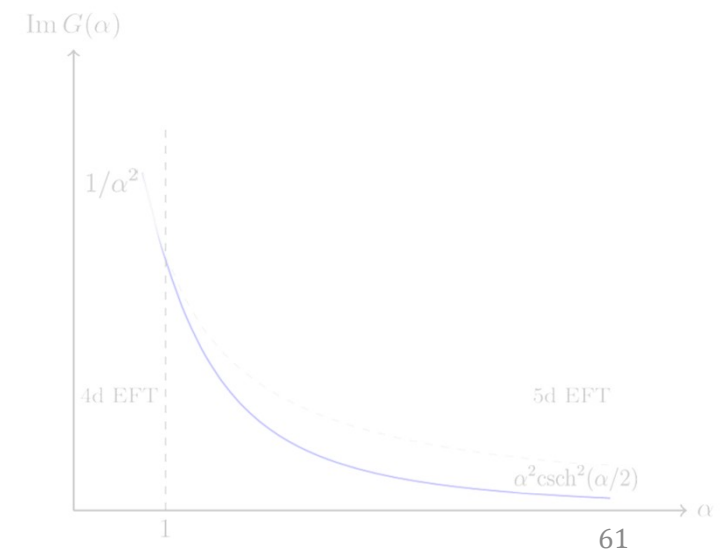
- **Key observation:** use the **Gopakumar-Vafa** representation of the topological free energy

[Gopakumar, Vafa '98]

$$G(Y^0, \Upsilon) = \frac{i}{2(2\pi)^3} \chi_E(X_3) (Y^0)^2 \frac{\alpha^2}{4} \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} \int_{0^+}^{\infty} \frac{ds}{s} \frac{1}{\sinh^2(\pi n \alpha s)} e^{-4\pi^2 n^2 s} = G^{(p)}(\alpha) + G^{(np)}(\alpha)$$

- Considering just the perturbative piece, one can resum the series as follows

$$G^{(p)}(Y^0, \Upsilon) = \frac{i}{2(2\pi)^3} \chi_E(X_3) (Y^0)^2 \alpha^2 \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} n \operatorname{Li}_1(e^{-\alpha n})$$



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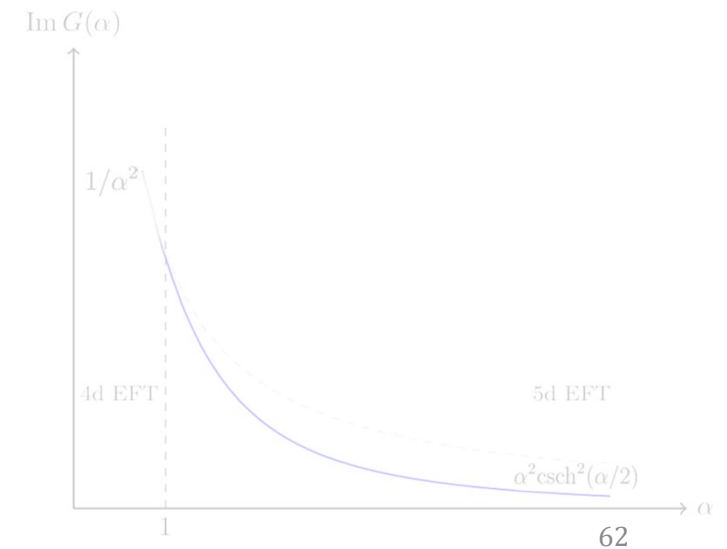
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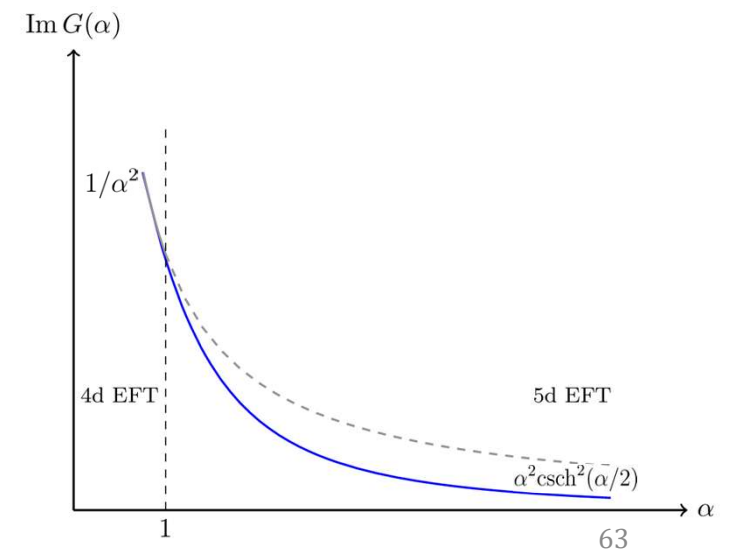
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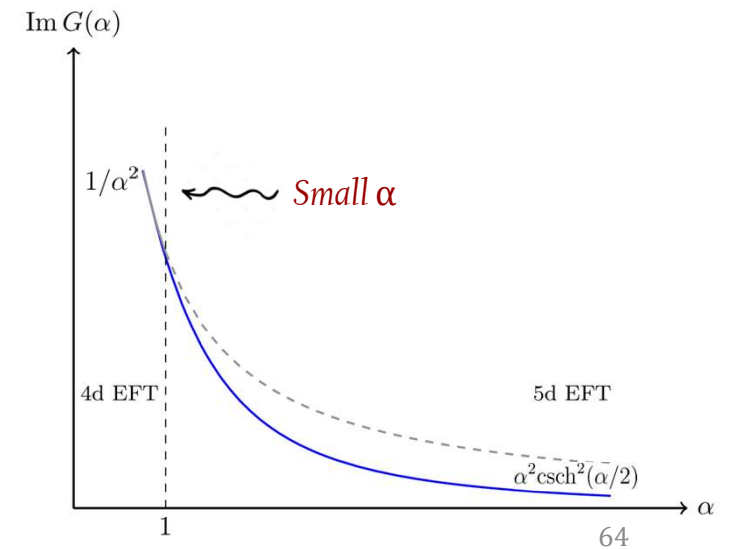
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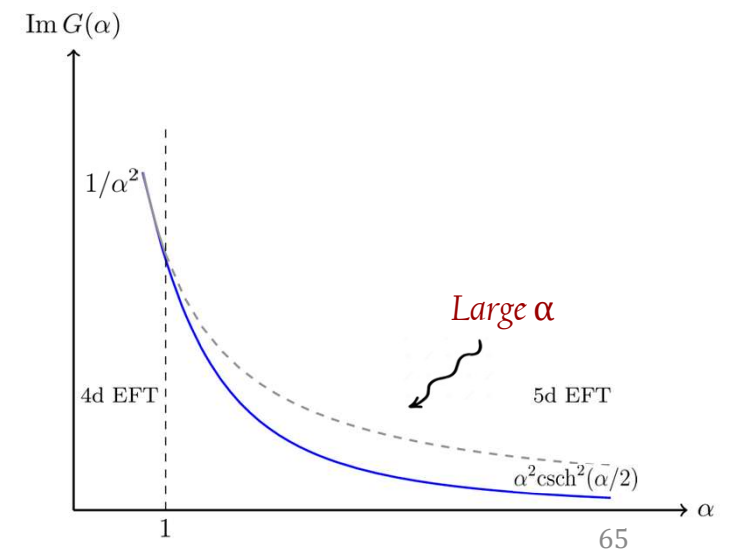
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- The **BPS quantum extropy** would then read as

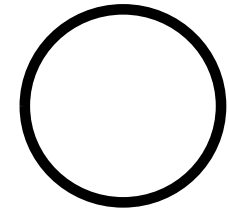
$$\mathcal{S}_{\text{BH}} = 2\pi \sqrt{\frac{1}{6} |\hat{q}_0| (\mathcal{K}_{abc} p^a p^b p^c + c_{2,a} p^a)} \left( 1 - \frac{\chi_E(X_3) Y^0 \alpha^2}{(2\pi)^3 |\hat{q}_0|} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} n^2 \text{Li}_0(e^{-\alpha n}) \right)^{-1/2} + \frac{\chi_E(X_3)}{4\pi^2} (Y^0)^2 \alpha^2 \left( \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} n \text{Li}_1(e^{-\alpha n}) + (Y^0)^{-1} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} n^2 \text{Li}_0(e^{-\alpha n}) \right)$$

# Explicit Gluing with 5d Black Strings

- What are we getting in the **5d limit** ( $r_5 \gg r_h$ )?

- The 4d BH lifts to a 5d black string wrapped on M-theory circle

$$\mathcal{S}_{\text{BH}} \xrightarrow{\alpha \rightarrow \infty} 2\pi \sqrt{\frac{1}{6} |\hat{q}_0| (\mathcal{K}_{abc} p^a p^b p^c + c_{2,a} p^a)}$$



- What we obtained is nothing but the IR regulated infinite black string entropy!

- This matches perfectly the microscopic counting result [Maldacena, Strominger, Witten '97, Vafa '97]

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- Remarkably, it includes the QG correction due to the  $R^2$  [Sen '05, Kraus, Larsen '05, Castro et al '07]

- Notice that the minimal BH entropy arises when cubic and linear pieces compete!!

$$\mathcal{S}_{\text{BH}} \gtrsim \left( \frac{M_{\text{Pl}}}{\Lambda_{\text{QG}}} \right)^2 \quad \text{with } \Lambda_{\text{QG}} \simeq M_{\text{Pl},5} \quad \text{[Cribiori, Lust, Staudt '23, Calderón, Delgado, Uranga '23]}$$

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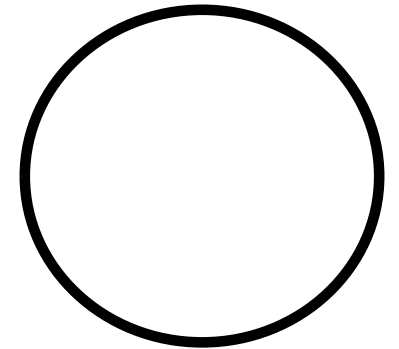
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$$S_{\text{BH}} \gtrsim \left( \frac{M_{\text{Pl}}}{\Lambda_{\text{QG}}} \right)^2 \quad \text{with } \Lambda_{\text{QG}} \simeq M_{\text{Pl},5} \quad [\text{Cribiori, Lust, Staudt '23, Calderón, Delgado, Uranga '23}]$$



## Including Non-Perturbative Effects

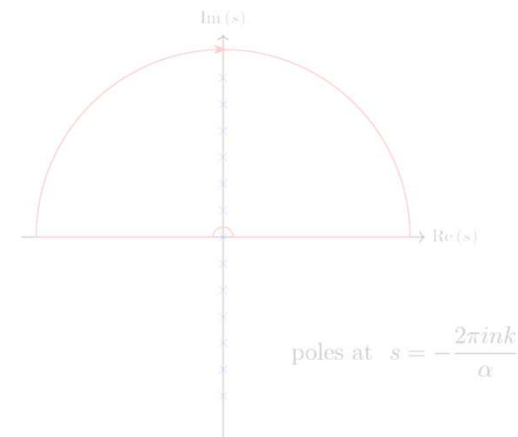
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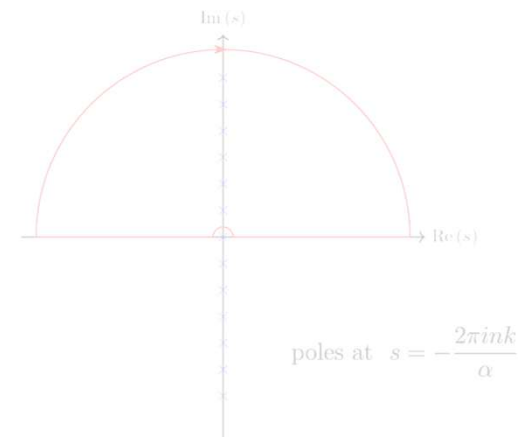
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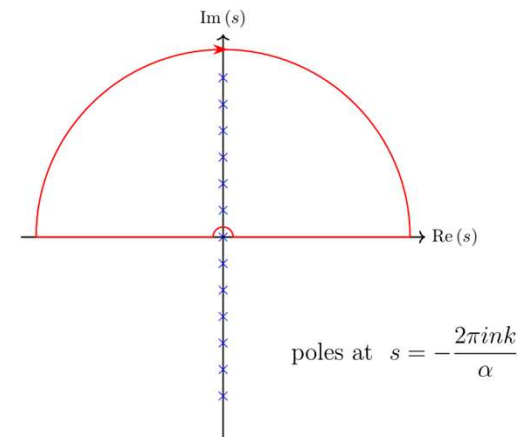
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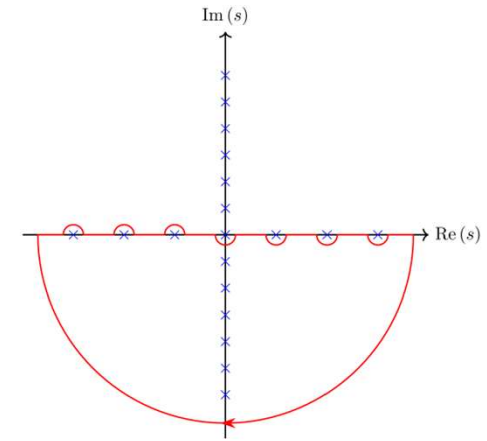
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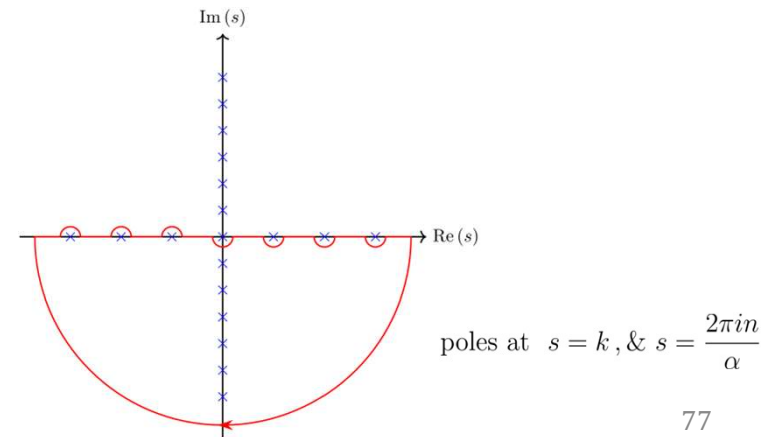
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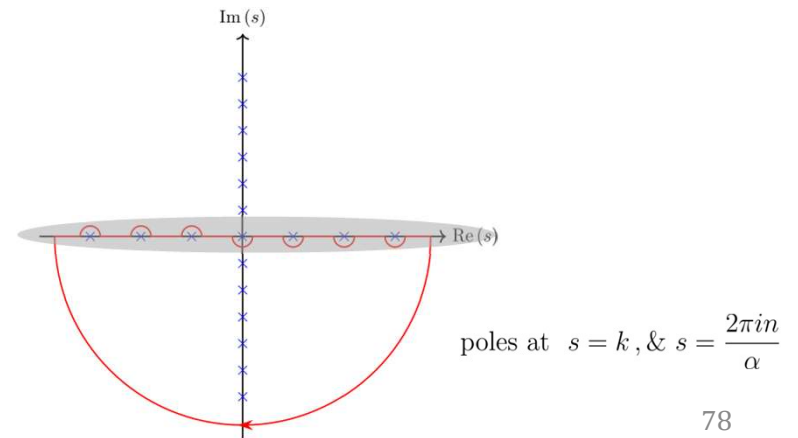
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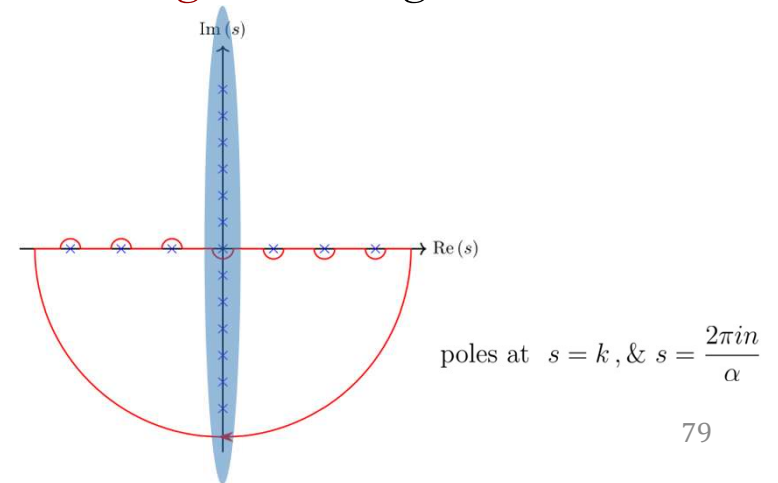
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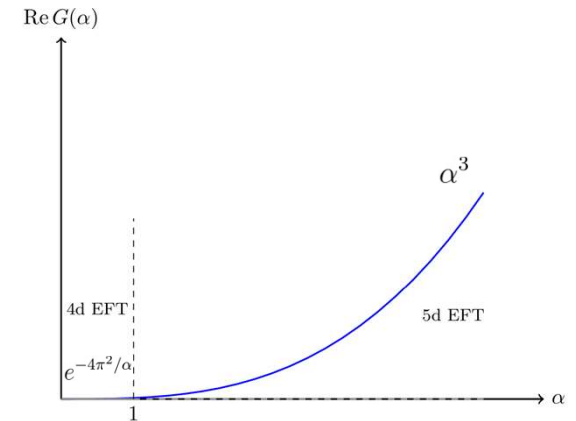
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# Including Non-Perturbative Effects

- The **non-perturbative** correction is now easily determined

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{I}^{(np)}(\alpha) &= -2\pi i \alpha \sum_{n,k=1}^{\infty} \frac{n}{k} e^{-\frac{4\pi^2 kn}{\alpha}} \left(1 + \frac{\alpha}{4\pi^2 kn}\right) \\ &= -2\pi i \alpha \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left( n \operatorname{Li}_1 \left( e^{-\frac{4\pi^2 n}{\alpha}} \right) + \frac{\alpha}{4\pi^2} \operatorname{Li}_2 \left( e^{-\frac{4\pi^2 n}{\alpha}} \right) \right) \end{aligned}$$



- Notice the problematic **growth** for  $\alpha \gg 1$

- Crucially, this has a different complex phase, and it does not enter the att. eqs nor BH obsvs!

$$(Y^0)^2 = \frac{\frac{1}{4} D_{abc} p^a p^b p^c - d_a p^a \Upsilon}{\hat{q}_0 + i(G_0 - \bar{G}_0)}$$

*Attractor eq.*

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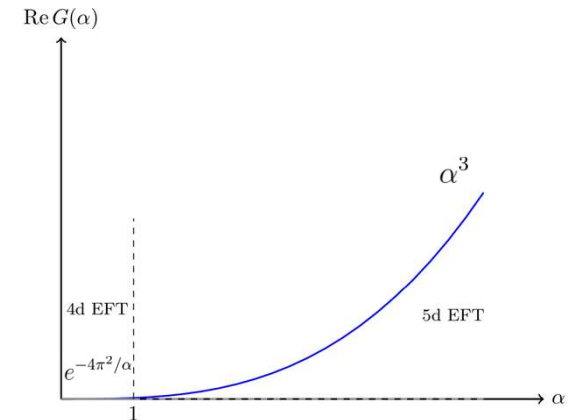
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# Outline

I. Review: 4d  $N=2$  BPS Black Holes

II. Gluing Entropies Across Dimensions

- i. The D0-D2-D4 System
- ii. Perturbative Corrections and Non-Local Resummation
- iii. Leading Non-Perturbative Effects

III. The Fate of Other BPS Systems

- i. The D2-D6 System
- ii. A closer look @ non-perturbative effects

IV. Summary and Outlook

## Part III

# The Fate of Other BPS Black Hole Systems

# The (Classical) D2-D6 BH System

- We would now like to study other **BPS solutions** which include **D6-brane charge**
- At 2-derivatives the problem is hard: we must deal with a quadratic alg. system
- We focus on a particularly simple system, i.e. the D2-D6 BPS black hole
- Having no D4 charge implies

$$CX^0 = \text{Re } CX^0 + i \frac{p^0}{2} \quad CX^a = \bar{C} \bar{X}^a = \text{Re } CX^a$$

- The attractor equations read

$$D_{abc} (CX^b)(CX^c) = -\frac{q_a}{3p^0} |CX^0|^2$$

$$q_0 = \frac{2p^0 \text{Re } CX^0 (D_{abc} (CX^a)(CX^b)(CX^c))}{|CX^0|^4} = -\frac{2 \text{Re } CX^0 (q_a CX^a)}{3|CX^0|^2}$$



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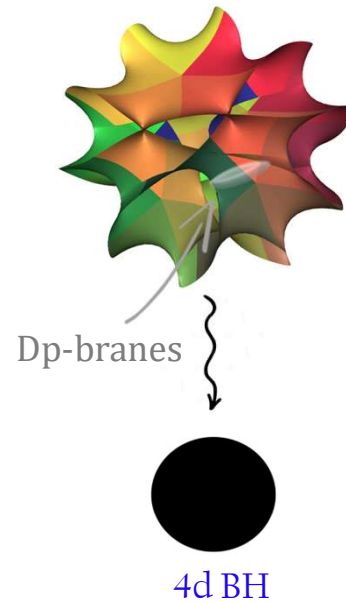
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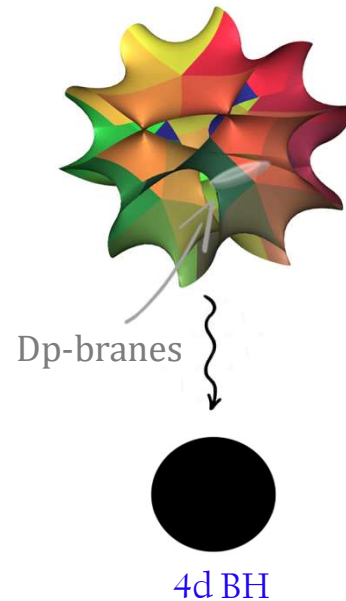
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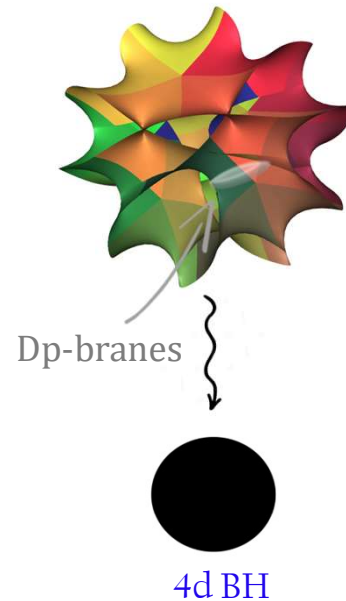
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- Defining the variables

$$x^a = \text{Re } CX^a \sqrt{\frac{3}{|CX^0|^2}} \implies D_{abc} x^b x^c = -\frac{q_a}{p^0}$$

- One can easily write the physical properties of the BHs such as the central charge

$$|Z|^2 = -\frac{4}{3}(q_a CX^a)$$

- ...as well as the relevant volumes (implying the hierarchy  $q_a \gg p^0$ )

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- The formal series of corrections is now alternating

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# The (Quantum) D2-D6 BH System

- The **quantum corrected attractor solution** reads

$$3D_{abc}Y^bY^c = -\frac{q_a}{p^0}|Y^0|^2 - d_a\Upsilon$$

$$0 = \frac{2p^0 \operatorname{Re} Y^0 (D_{abc}Y^aY^bY^c + d_aY^a\Upsilon)}{|Y^0|^4} - i(G_0 - \bar{G}_0)$$

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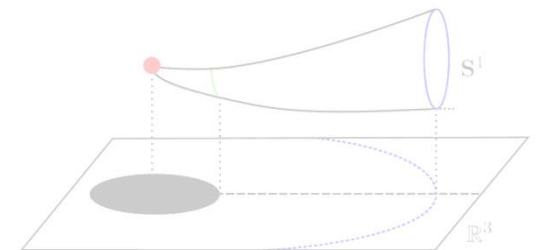
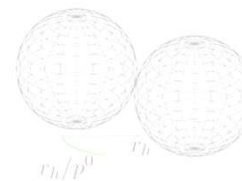
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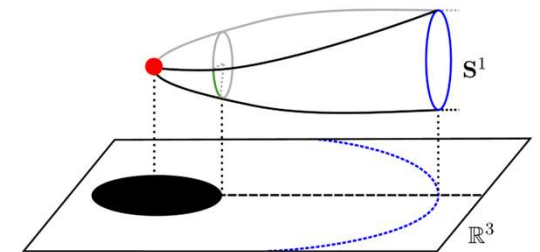
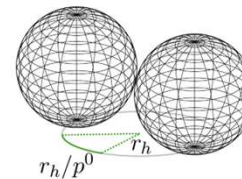
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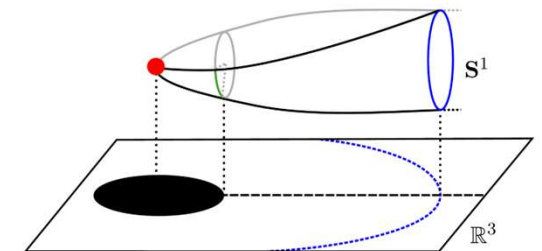
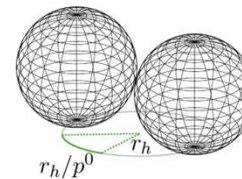
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# Non Local and Non Perturbative Effects

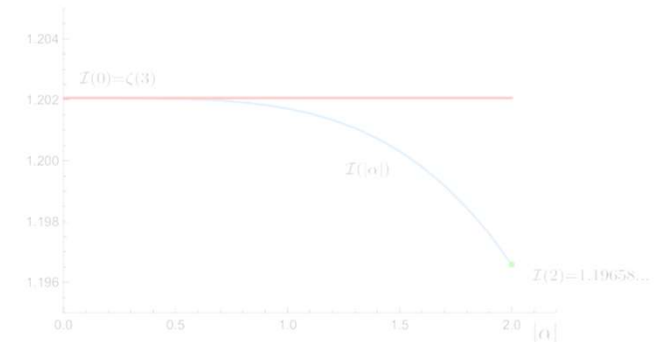
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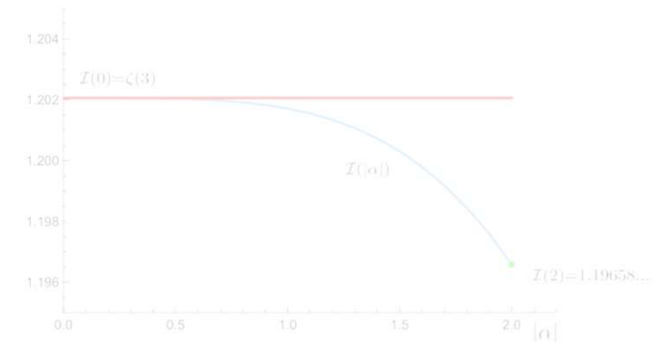
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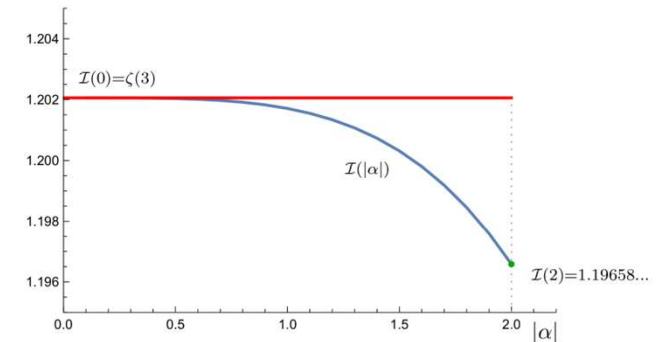
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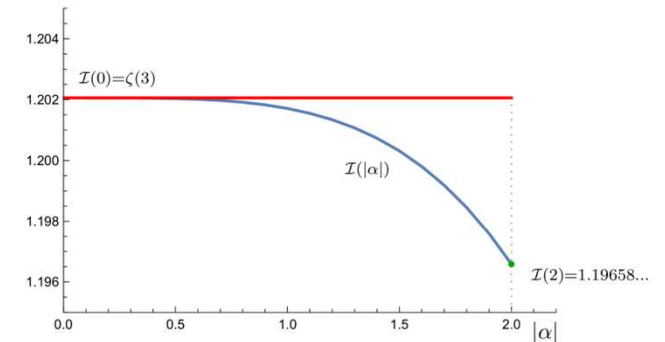
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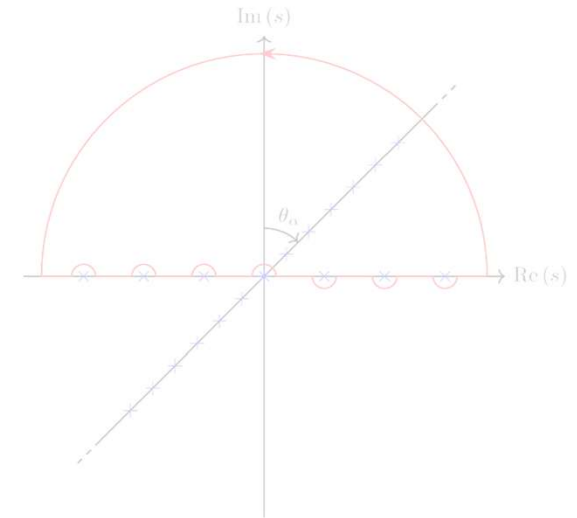
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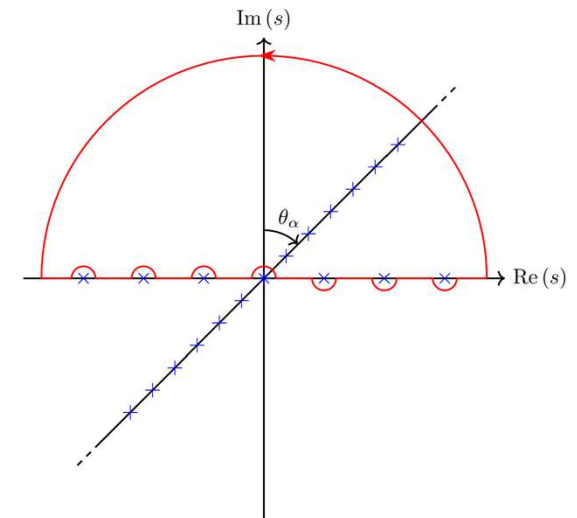
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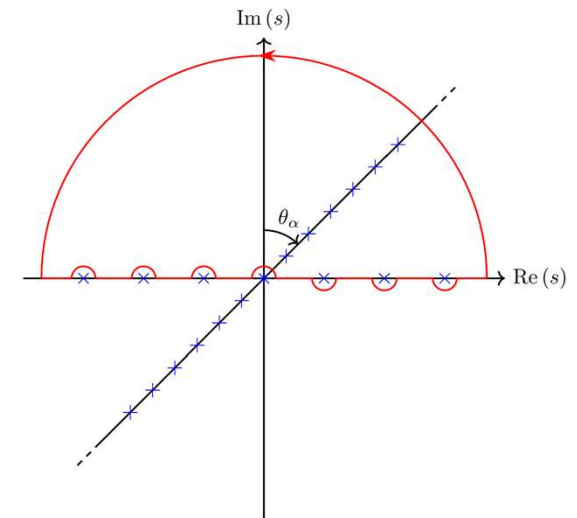
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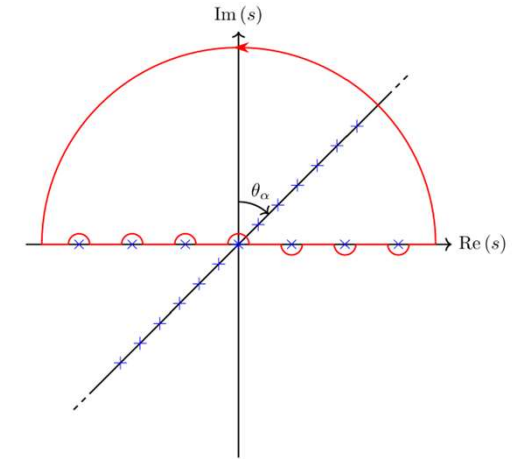
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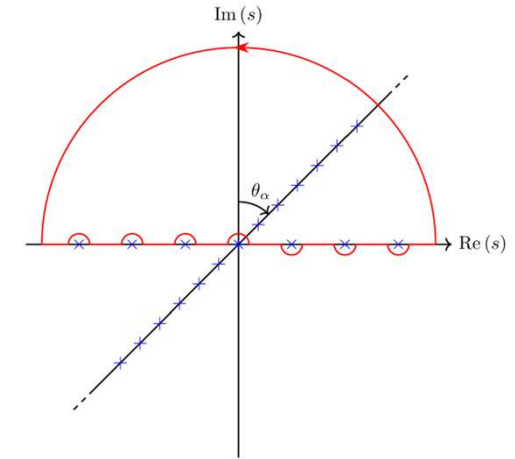
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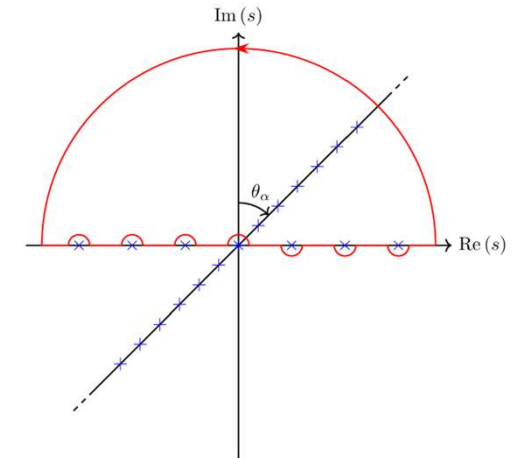
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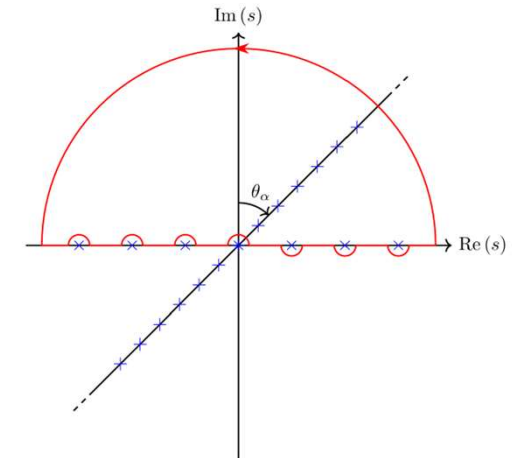
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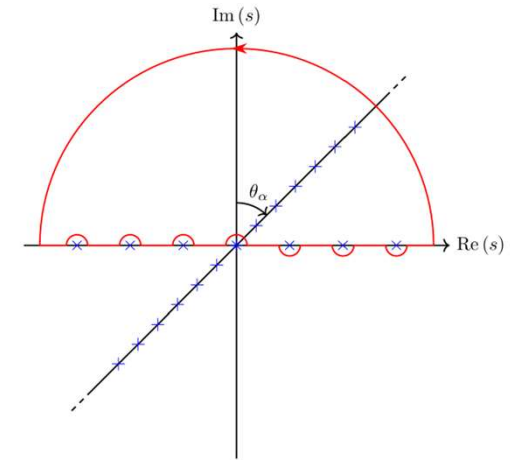
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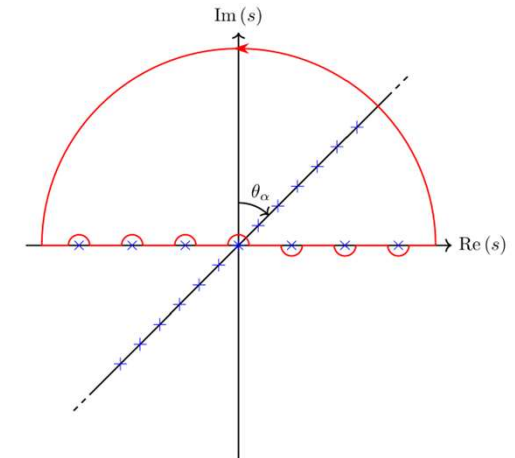
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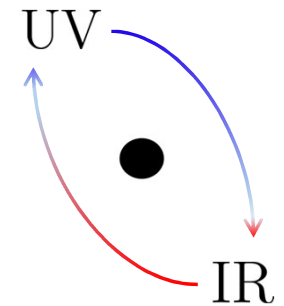
## Part IV

# Summary and Outlook



# Summary & Outlook

- We have illustrated how extremal BHs can probe the **multi-scale structure** of gravity
- At curvatures/energies around  $M$  there is an **EFT transition**
  1. The EFT gives wrong/misleading predictions for BH observables
  2. This can be cured by resumming the quantum corrections
- At curvatures/energies around  $\Lambda_{\text{QG}}$  we reach the **minimal BH entropy**
- We illustrated this in 2 particular examples: **D0-D2-D4** and **D2-D6** systems
  1. **Asymptotic series** breaks down at dual **M-theory** circle scale
  2. **Non-local effects** allow to resum and **dilute** the corrections in the 5d regime
  3. Only the **QG suppressed** effects survive
  4. **Non-perturbative** phenomena do not spoil the analysis



# Conclusions & Outlook

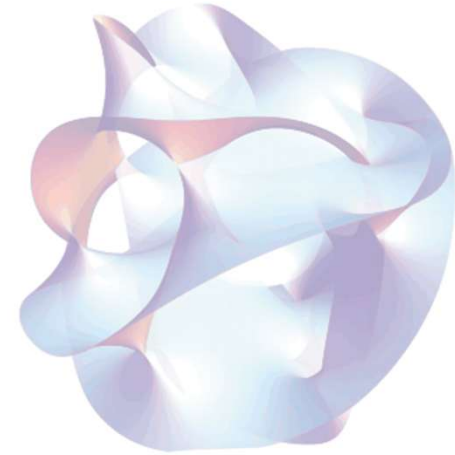
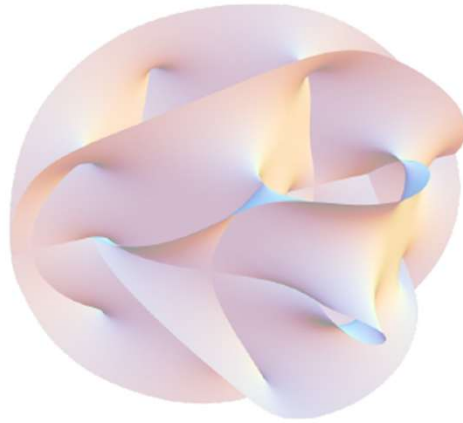
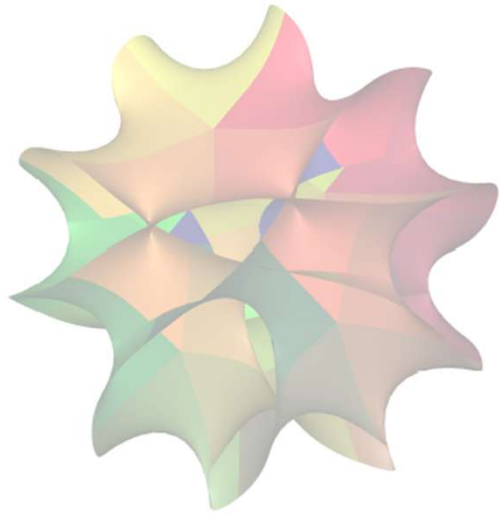
- There are many possible **extensions** of our work
  1. Going beyond large volume (e.g. include WS instantons)
  2. BHs probing the **F-theory limit** in elliptic CYs [WIP]
  3. BHs probing weakly coupled string phases [WIP]
  4. Small BHs [WIP]
- It is also important to understand the **fate** of **non-pert. effects** in the general case [WIP]
- One should also revisit the **GV computation** in  $\text{AdS}_2 \times \text{S}^2$  [WIP]
- Stay **tuned!**



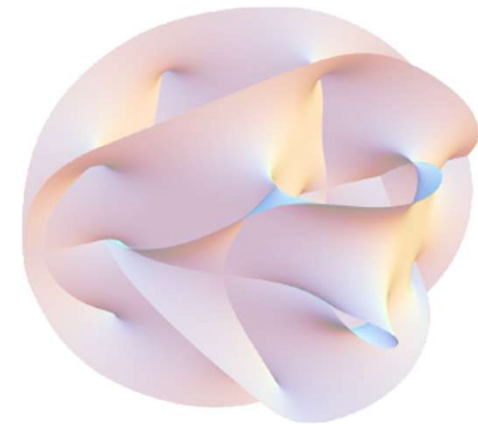
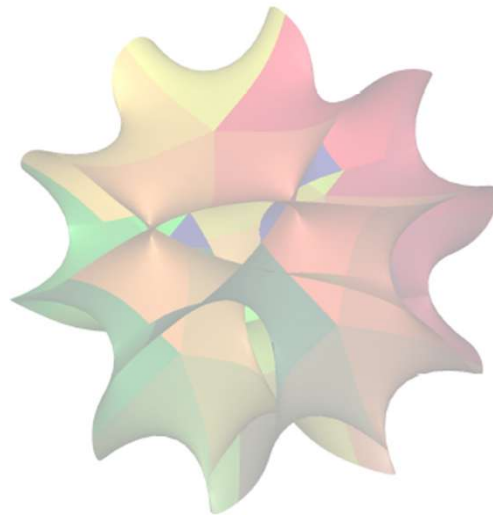
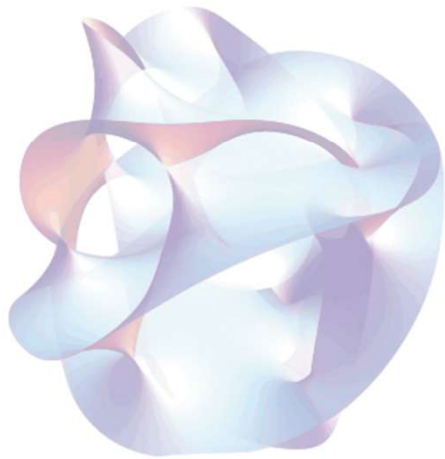


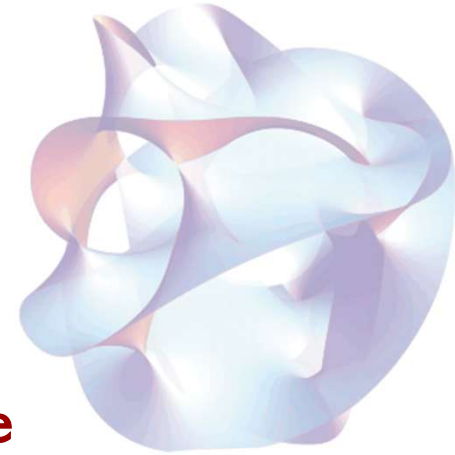
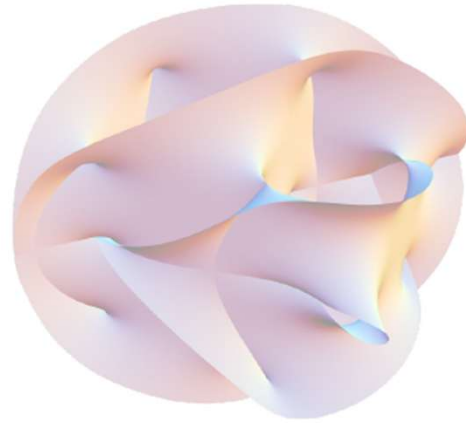
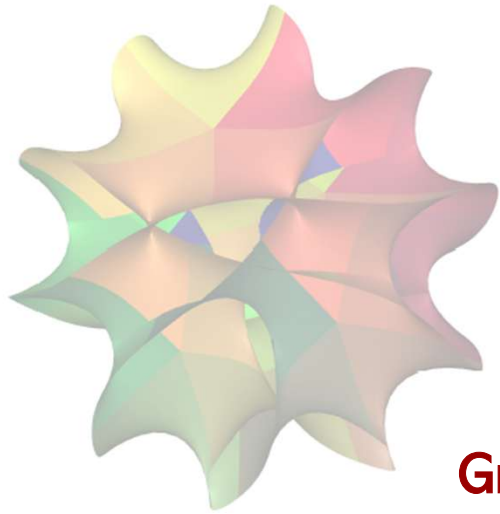
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attention!

 Contact: [acastellano@uchicago.edu](mailto:acastellano@uchicago.edu)

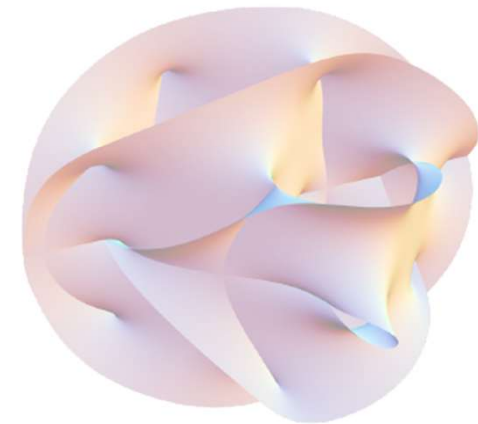
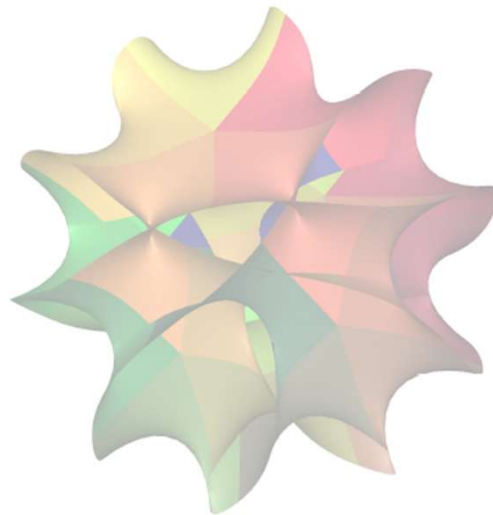
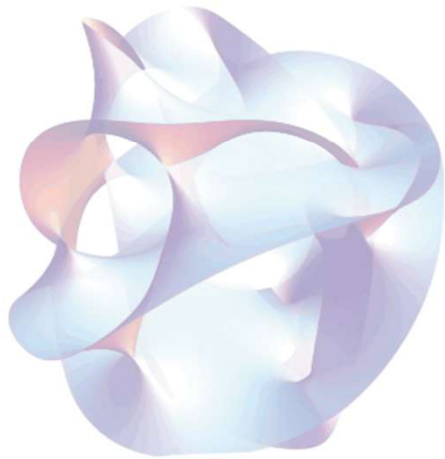


**Back-up Slides**





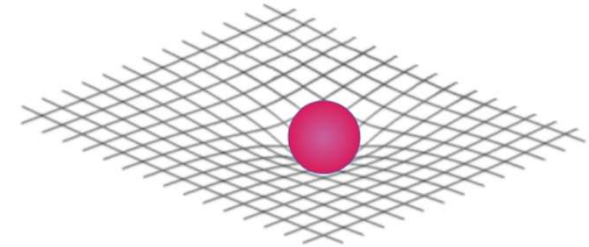
**Gravity and the Species Scale**



# The Species Scale

- Gravity is non renormalizable

$$S_{\text{EH}}[g_{\mu\nu}] = \frac{1}{2\kappa_d^2} \int d^d x \sqrt{-g} (\mathcal{R} - 2\Lambda_{\text{c.c.}})$$



- Recall that  $G_N$  is precisely the coupling constant

$$\mathcal{R}_{\mu\nu} - \frac{1}{2}g_{\mu\nu}\mathcal{R} + \Lambda_{\text{c.c.}}g_{\mu\nu} = 8\pi G_N T_{\mu\nu} \quad \text{with} \quad T_{\mu\nu} = -\frac{2}{\sqrt{-g}} \frac{\delta S_{\text{matter}}}{\delta g^{\mu\nu}}$$

- The most natural guess for  $\Lambda_{\text{QG}}$  is thus the energy scale associated to  $G_N$

$$\Lambda_{\text{QG}} := \kappa_d^{-\frac{1}{d-2}} = M_{\text{Pl};d}$$

- Hence, the EFT expansion for gravity should read as [e.g., Donoghue '94]

$$S_{\text{EFT}}[g_{\mu\nu}] = \frac{1}{2\kappa_d^2} \int d^d x \sqrt{-g} \left( \mathcal{R} - 2\Lambda_{\text{c.c.}} + \sum_{n \geq 2} \frac{\mathcal{O}_n(\mathcal{R})}{M_{\text{Pl};d}^{n-2}} \right) \leftarrow \text{Higher-curv. ops. are Planck suppressed!}$$

# The Species Scale

- Let's **test** this idea using well-motivated gravity principles [AC, Herráez, Ibáñez '21-24]
- Consider a **spherical box** in  $d$  spacetime dim
- **How many** field/metric configurations?

$$E = c_1 R^{d-1} T^d$$

$$S = c_2 (RT)^{d-1}$$

 $\implies$ 

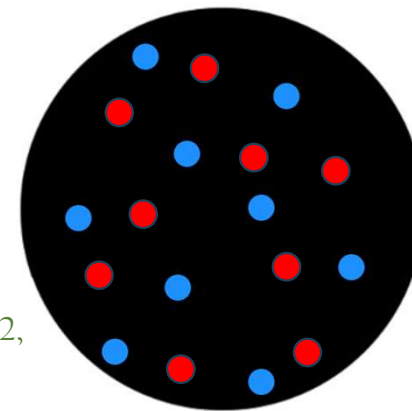
$$S \lesssim A^{\frac{d-1}{d}} \ll \frac{A}{4}$$

[Bekenstein '72,  
Bousso '99]

$$R \gtrsim \left( \frac{E}{M_{\text{Pl};d}^{d-2}} \right)^{\frac{1}{d-3}}$$

*No collapse condition*

$$N = \mathcal{O}(1)$$



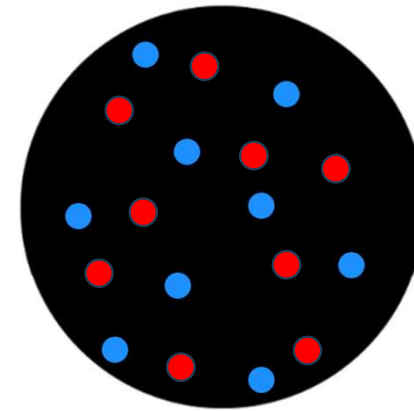
- Well-established **entropy bounds** impose that minimal size is reached for  $A = \mathcal{O}(1)$

# The Species Scale

- But what if  $N$  is very large? [AC, Herráez, Ibáñez '21-24]
- Repeating the same exercise now yields

$$\begin{aligned}
 E &= c_1 N R^{d-1} T^d \\
 S &= c_2 N (RT)^{d-1}
 \end{aligned}
 \implies
 \begin{aligned}
 S &\leq c_3 (N A^{d-1})^{\frac{1}{d}} \\
 &\leq \frac{A}{4}
 \end{aligned}$$

$\uparrow$   
 $R \gtrsim \left( \frac{E}{M_{\text{Pl};d}^{d-2}} \right)^{\frac{1}{d-3}}$



- To avoid violation of entropy bounds we need to impose  $N \lesssim A$ !



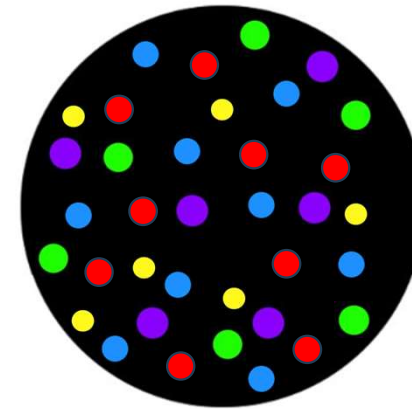
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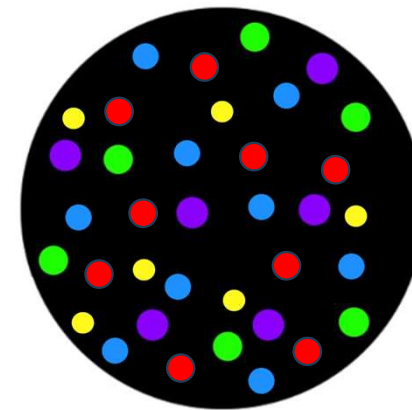
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$\begin{matrix} \uparrow \\ \text{wavy line} \\ \uparrow \\ R \gtrsim \left( \frac{E}{M_{\text{Pl};d}^{d-2}} \right)^{\frac{1}{d-3}} \end{matrix}$

$N \gg 1$



- Minimal length in gravity is actually

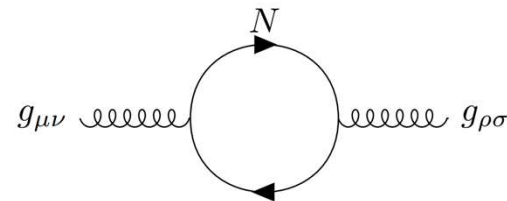
$$A \geq N \implies \ell_{\min} = \ell_{\text{sp}} := \ell_{\text{pl}} N^{\frac{1}{d-2}}$$

# The Species Scale

- We thus **define** (asymptotically) the **species scale** as follows [Dvali, Redi '07; Dvali, Gómez '10]

$$\Lambda_{\text{sp}} \approx \frac{M_{\text{Pl};d}}{N^{\frac{1}{d-2}}} \lesssim M_{\text{Pl};d}$$

- Notice that **when  $N$  grows**,  $\Lambda_{\text{sp}}$  and  $M_{\text{Pl};d}$  decouple!
- This is particularly interesting in light of **Swampland conjectures**
- There exist **various arguments** to arrive at the conclusion  $\Lambda_{\text{QG}} = \Lambda_{\text{sp}}$  [Dvali '07]
  1. Perturbative (graviton series)
  2. Non-perturbative (Black holes)



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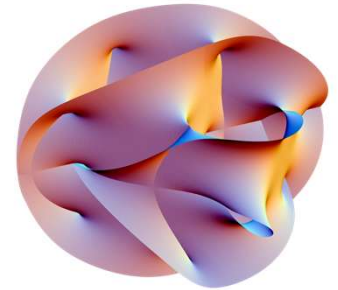
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$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{EFT},d} \supset \sqrt{-g} \left[ \frac{1}{2\kappa_d^2} \left( \mathcal{R} + \sum_{n>2} \frac{\mathcal{O}_n(\mathcal{R})}{\Lambda_{\text{sp}}^{n-2}} \right) \right] + (\text{matter})$$

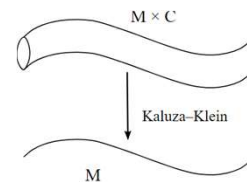
[v. d. Heisteeg, Vafa, Wiesner, Wu '22-23  
AC, Herráez, Ibáñez '23]

# One Scale to Rule them All

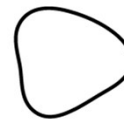
- Actually, from **string theory**, the fact that  $\Lambda_{\text{QG}} \neq M_{\text{Pl};d}$  is not that surprising
- In fact,  $M_{\text{Pl};d}$  typically depends on the starting theory & **details** of the compact.



1. In **decompact. limits** one obtains  $\Lambda_{\text{sp}} \sim M_{\text{Pl};d+k}$

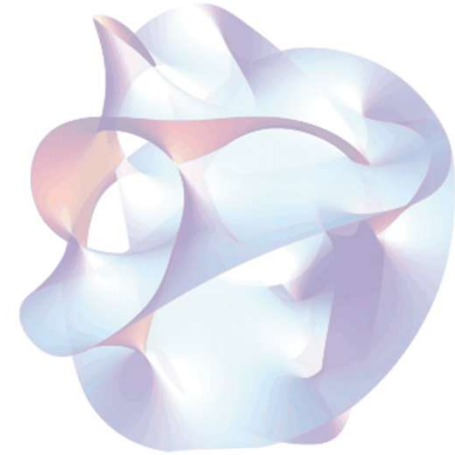
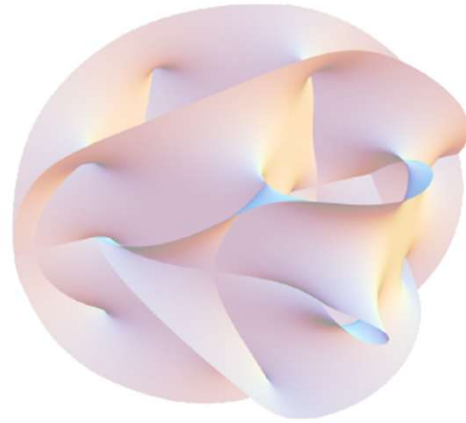
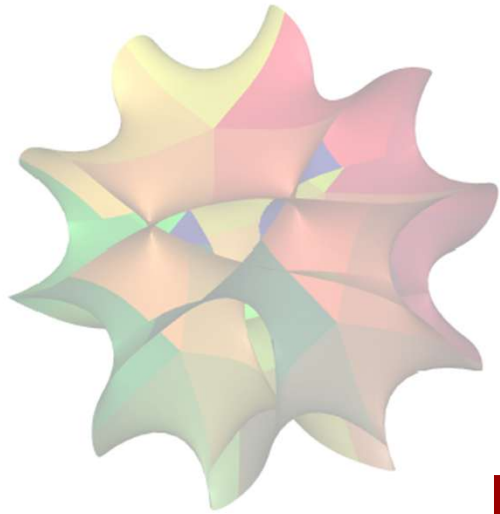


2. For **weak coupling** points we find  $\Lambda_{\text{sp}} \sim \sqrt{T_s}$

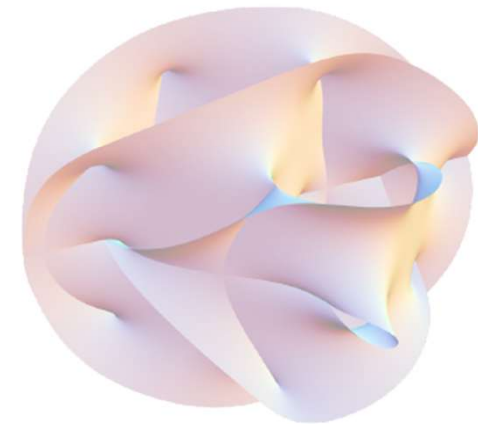
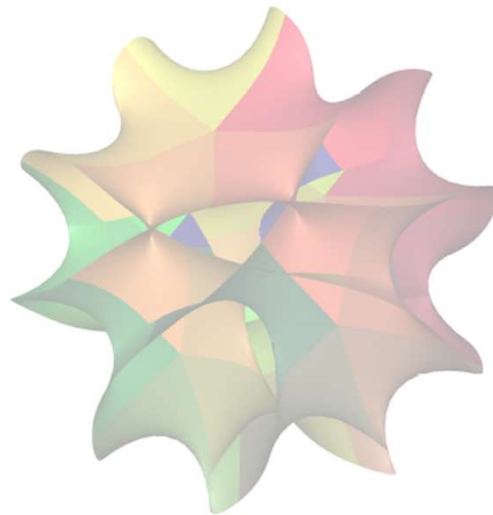
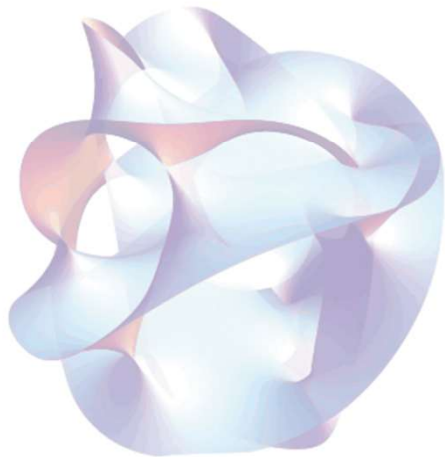


[AC, Herráez, Ibáñez '21-24]

- Both limits are thus understood under the **same concept** within QG
- Moreover, it suggests that the appearance of **light towers** is **the** universal mechanism for quantum gravity 'phase transitions'



**Entropy vs Entropy Index**



# What do we mean by Entropy?

- The previous formula arises by using **Wald's formalism** in a **truncated theory** [Lopes-Cardoso, Wit, Mohaupt '99]
- Essentially, one ignores D-term-like and hypermultiplet contributions
- Some of these were shown to give vanishing corrections [Lopes-Cardoso et al. '00, Murthy, Reys '13]
- It is believed that what we actually compute is a grav. index [Ooguri, Vafa, Strominger '04]

$$\mathcal{S}_{\text{BH}} = \log \mathcal{Z}_{\text{index}} - iq\phi \quad \text{with} \quad \mathcal{Z}_{\text{index}} = \text{Tr} \left[ (-1)^F e^{iq\phi} \right]_{\text{susy}} = \sum_q (-1)^F \Omega(p, q) e^{iq\phi}$$

- In the large charge expansion one would have

$$\mathcal{Z}_{\text{index}} \sim \mathcal{Z} \quad \Longrightarrow \quad \mathcal{S}_{\text{micro}} = \log \Omega(p, q) \sim \mathcal{S}_{\text{BH}} \quad [\text{Zaffaroni '19}]$$

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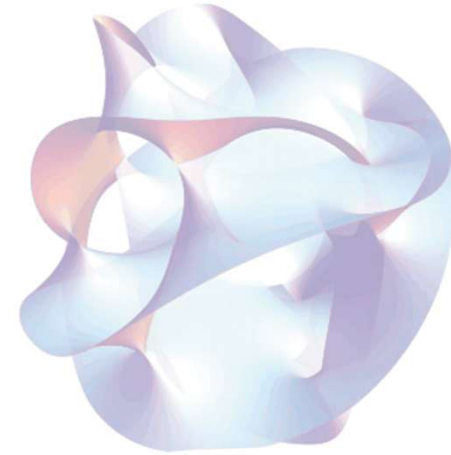
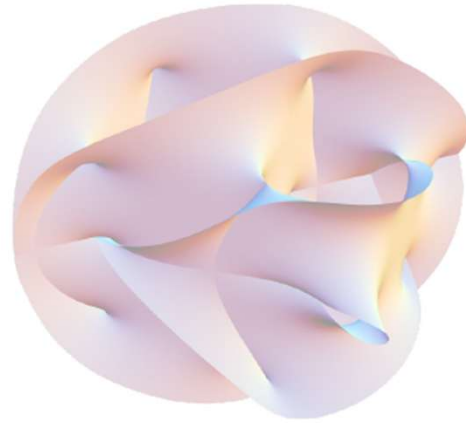
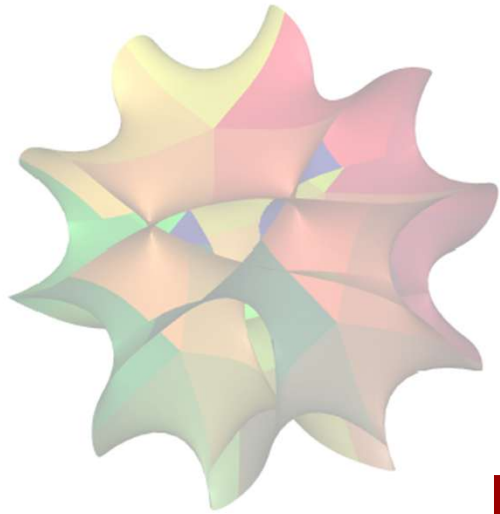
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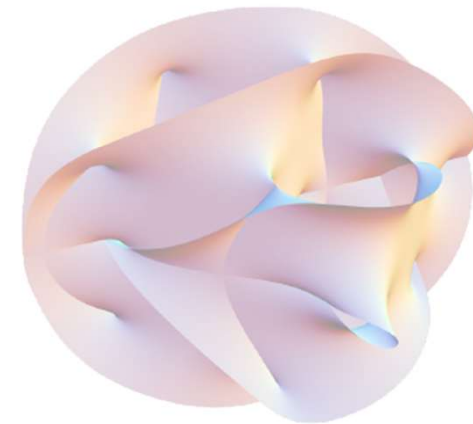
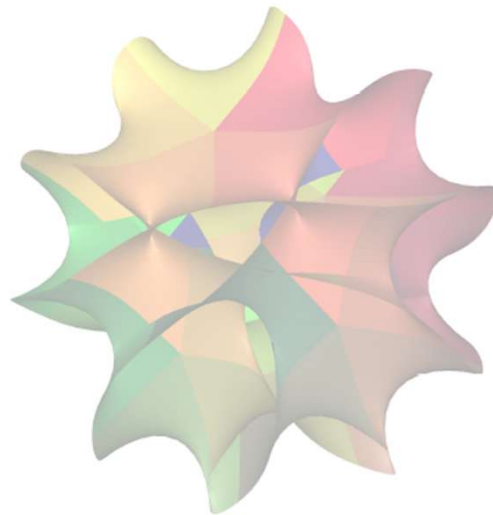
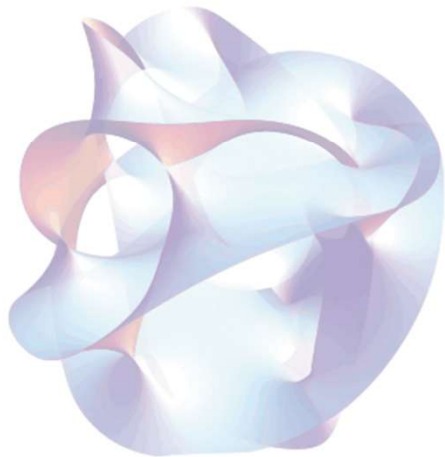
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**Details on Gopakumar-Vafa**



# Higher genus free energies

- **Beyond two derivatives**, there exist interesting higher-curvature BPS operators in 4d N=2

$$S_{\text{IIA}}^{4\text{d}} \supset \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} \left( \sum_{g \geq 1} \mathcal{F}_g(X^A) \mathcal{R}_+^2 F_+^{2g-2} \right) + \text{h.c.}$$

$\underbrace{\hspace{10em}}_{\text{Scalars}}$ 
 $\underbrace{\hspace{10em}}_{\text{Graviton \& graviphoton (self-dual)}}$

- The Wilson ‘coefficients’ are computed by **topological string theory** [Antoniadis, Gava, Narain, Taylor ‘95]

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{g \geq 0} \mathcal{F}_g F_+^{2g-2} &= -\frac{1}{4} \int_{0+}^{i\infty} \frac{d\tau}{\tau} \frac{1}{\sin^2 \frac{\tau F_+ \bar{Z}}{2}} e^{-\tau m^2} \\ &= \frac{1}{4} \int_{0+}^{\infty} \frac{d\tau}{\tau} \sum_{g \geq 0} \frac{2^{2g} (2g-1)}{(2g)!} (-1)^g B_{2g} \left( \frac{\tau F_+}{2} \right)^{2g-2} e^{-\tau Z} + \mathcal{O}\left(e^{-\frac{Z}{F_+}}\right) \end{aligned} \quad [\text{Gopakumar, Vafa ‘98}]$$

- Alternatively, one may use **Gopakumar-Vafa prescription**: integrating-out procedure

# Higher genus free energies

- The latter approach makes manifest the **UV behaviour** [AC, Herráez, Ibáñez '23]

$$\mathcal{F}_g \propto \int_{\varepsilon}^{\infty} d\tau \tau^{2g-3} e^{-\tau Z} = Z^{2-2g} \Gamma(2g-2, \varepsilon Z) \quad \text{with } \varepsilon = \Lambda_{\text{UV}}^{-2}$$

Central charge  $\uparrow$

- For  $g \geq 2$  the loop integral **converges**, whereas for  $g = 0, 1$  one needs to properly **regularize**!
- Let us **briefly** consider the case  $g = 1$ , corresponding to the  $\mathcal{R}_+^2$  operator
- **World-sheet** computation: [Cecotti, Fendley, Intriligator, Vafa '93]

$$\mathcal{F}_1 = \frac{1}{2} \int \frac{d^2\tau}{\tau_2} \text{tr} \left( (-1)^F F_L F_R e^{2\pi i H_0} e^{-2\pi i \bar{H}_0} \right) \quad \text{It is an index!}$$

# Higher genus free energies

- This can be integrated exactly [Bershadsky, Cecotti, Ooguri, Vafa '93]

$$\mathcal{F}_1 = \frac{1}{2} \left( 3 + h^{1,1} - \frac{\chi_E(X_3)}{12} \right) K_{\text{ks}} + \frac{1}{2} \log \det G_{i\bar{j}} + \log |f|^2$$

- For any **infinite distance** boundary one indeed finds [v.d. Heisteeg, Vafa, Wiesner, Wu '23]

$$\mathcal{F}_1 \sim \left( \frac{M_{\text{Pl};4}}{\Lambda_{\text{sp}}} \right)^2 \quad \text{In agreement with expectations!}$$

- E.g., for **Enriques** CY  $(K3 \times \mathbf{T}^2) / \mathbb{Z}_2$  we find (@ large torus volume)

$$\mathcal{F}_1 = -6 \log (T_2 |\eta(T)|^4) + \text{const.} = 2\pi T_2 + \mathcal{O}(\log T_2) \sim \frac{M_{\text{Pl};4}^2}{T_{\text{NS5, str}}}$$

Dual heterotic string

# Higher genus free energies

- For  $g \geq 2$  the situation is **different** (and more interesting)
- We find the **same behaviour** for all 3 diff. kinds of limits: decomp. To M/F-theory or emergent string limits [AC, Herráez, Ibáñez '23]
- For illustration purposes, we focus on the simplest one: the **M-theory** (large vol) limit
- The **dominant** contribution to  $\mathcal{F}_{g>1}$  comes from D0-brane tower

$$m_n = 2\pi|n| \frac{m_s}{g_s} = |n| m_{D0} \quad \forall n \in \mathbb{Z}$$

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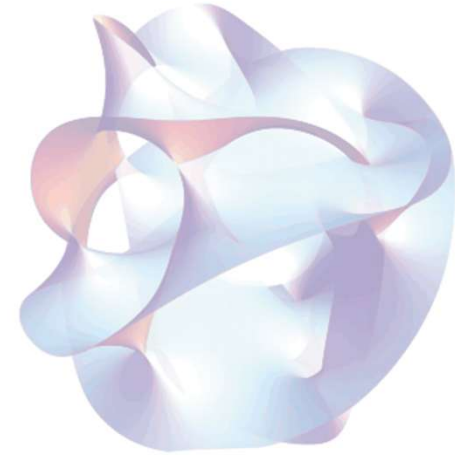
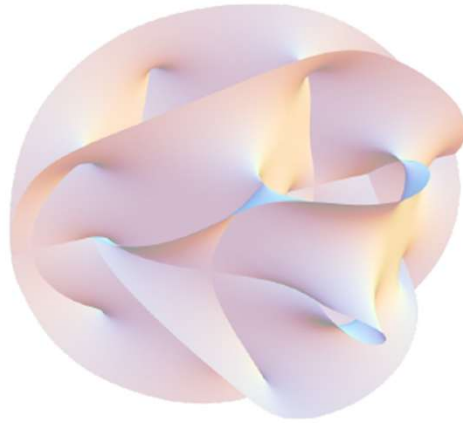
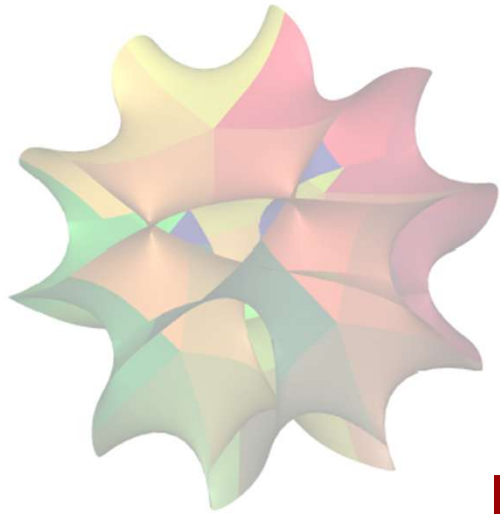
$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathcal{F}_{g>1}^{\text{D0}} &= \chi_E(X_3) \frac{(2g-1)\zeta(2g)}{(2\pi)^{2g}} \sum'_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} \int_0^\infty d\tau \tau^{2g-3} e^{-\tau n m_{\text{D0}}} \\
 &= \chi_E(X_3) \frac{(2g-1)\zeta(2g)}{(2\pi)^{2g}} \Gamma(2g-2) m_{\text{D0}}^{2-2g} \sum'_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} \frac{1}{n^{2g-2}} \\
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**Extending Some Results**

