
Automorphic Forms and Heterotic EFT

Nicole Righi

based on work with J. M. Leedom, A. Westphal and A. Kidambi

Geometry, Strings and the Swampland Program

March 18, 2024

Prologue & Motivation

Heterotic string is a remarkable playground:

- 4d $N = 2$ heterotic - type II duality
- presence of modular symmetries
- control of the $N = 1$ EFT from higher susy subsectors
- outstanding work on vacua and SM

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 - control of the $N = 1$ EFT from higher susy subsectors
 - outstanding work on vacua and SM $\longrightarrow$ No-go thms for de Sitter vacua
[Green, Martinec, Quigley, Sethi '11][Gautason, Junghans, Zagermann '12]
[Kutasov, Maxfield, Melnikov, Sethi '15][Quigley '15]
[Leedom, NR, Westphal '22]
- $\Rightarrow$ Lessons for the Swampland program

Prologue & Motivation

[Leedom, NR, Westphal '22]

No-go thms for de Sitter vacua:

Theorem 1. No dS minima for $F_T = F_S = 0$

Theorem 2. No dS minima for $K = K_{\text{tree}}(S, T)$ and $F_T = 0$ but $F_S \neq 0$

note: racetrack cannot save you

Prologue & Motivation

[Leedom, NR, Westphal '22]

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$$K = -\ln(S + \bar{S}) + \delta K_{np}(S, \bar{S})$$

Prologue & Motivation

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metastable dS vacuum

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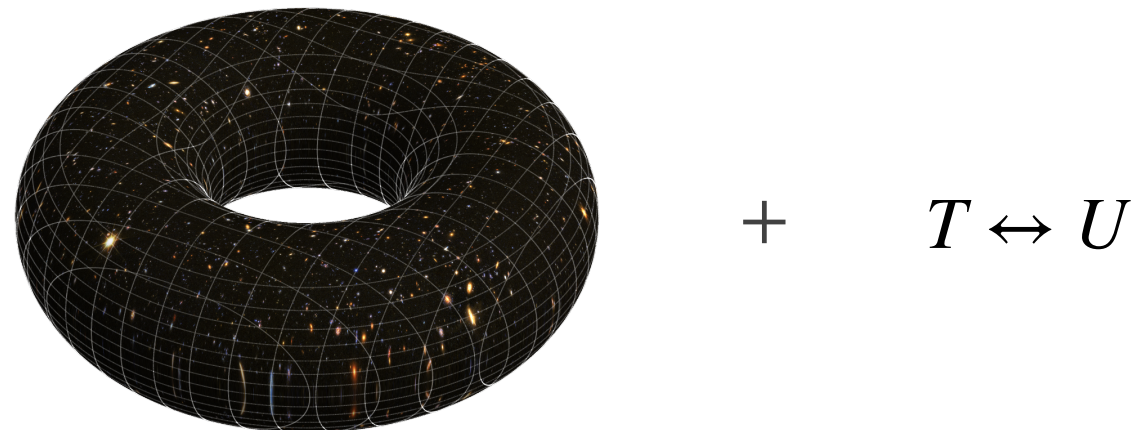
The Setup

$SL(2, \mathbb{Z}): ST(U)$ model

Dilaton $S = \frac{1}{g_s^2} + i\theta$

Kahler modulus $T = a + it$

Complex structure modulus $U = \frac{1}{G_{11}} \left(G_{12} + i\sqrt{\det(G)} \right)$



$\mathrm{Sp}(4, \mathbb{Z})$: $STUV$ model

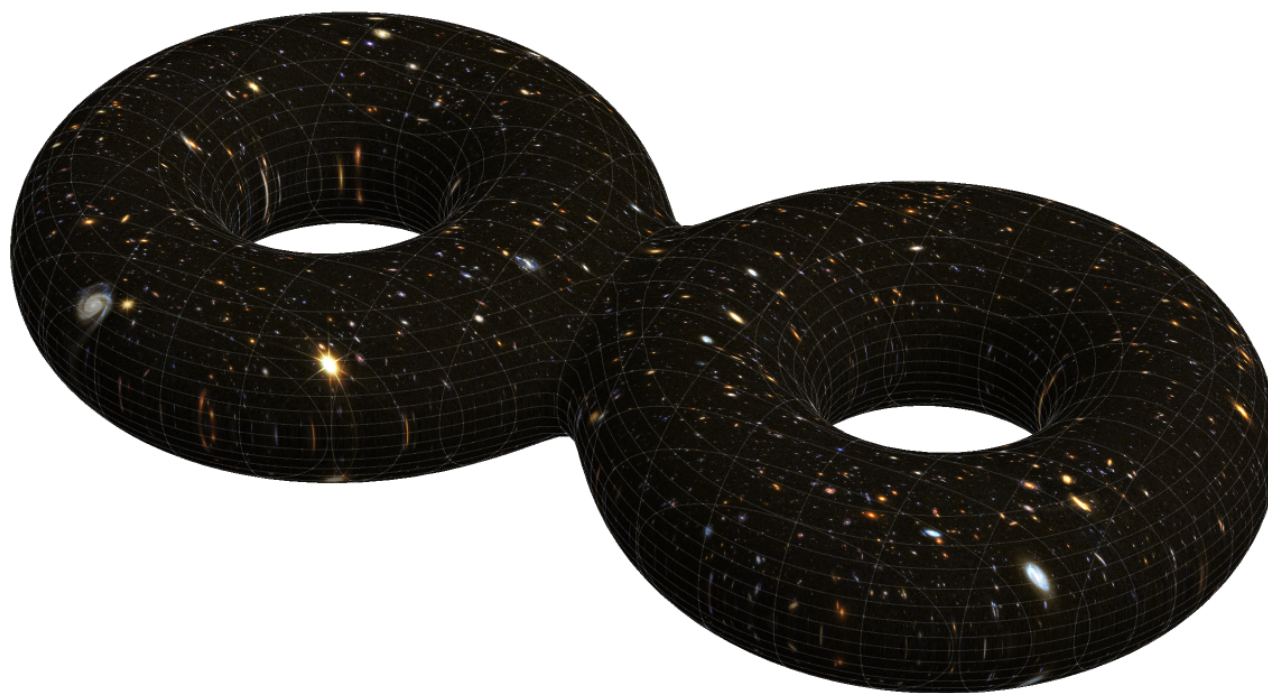
Dilaton $S = \frac{1}{g_s^2} + i\theta$

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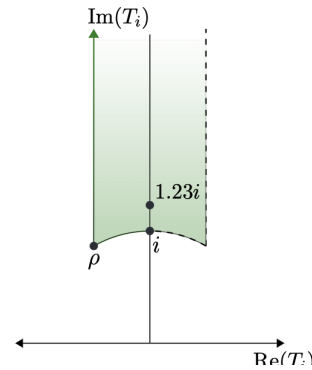
Wilson line $V = -w_2 + Uw_1$

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} \text{Kahler modulus } T = a + it + w_1(-w_2 + Uw_1) \\ \text{Complex structure modulus } U = \frac{1}{G_{11}} \left(G_{12} + i\sqrt{\det(G)} \right) \\ \text{Wilson line } V = -w_2 + Uw_1 \end{array} \right\} M = \begin{pmatrix} T & \frac{1}{2}V \\ \frac{1}{2}V & U \end{pmatrix}$$



$SL(2, \mathbb{Z})$

Fundamental domain



with 2 fixed pts

Modular form of
weight k

$$f(\gamma \cdot x) = (cx + d)^k f(x)$$
$$\gamma = \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} \in SL(2, \mathbb{Z})$$
$$ad - bc = 1$$

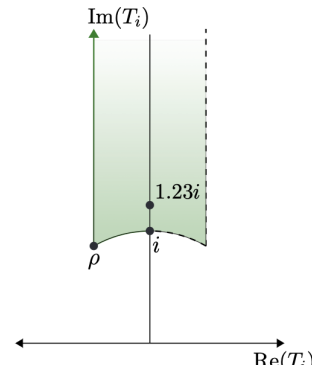
Ring

$$E_4, E_6, \eta$$

SL(2,ℤ)

Sp(4,ℤ)

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Siegel upper half plane
with 6 fixed pts σ_i

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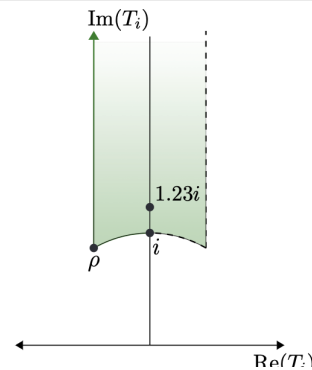
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$$\mathcal{E}_4, \mathcal{E}_6, \chi_{10}, \chi_{12}, \chi_{35}$$

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$X \rightarrow \text{cusp}$

Cusp form: $g(X) \rightarrow 0$

The EFT

The EFT: Kahler Potential

$$K_{(2)} = -\ln [\det(M - M^\dagger)] = -\ln \left[-(T - \bar{T})(U - \bar{U}) + \frac{1}{4}(V - \bar{V})^2 \right]$$

under $Sp(4, \mathbb{Z})$:

$$M \rightarrow (AM + B)(CM + D)^{-1}$$

$$K_{(2)} \rightarrow K_{(2)} + \ln [\det(CM^\dagger + D)] + \ln [\det(CM + D)]$$

[Lopes Cardoso, Lüst, Mohaupt '94]

[Ferrara, Kounnas, Lüst, Zwirner '91]

The EFT: superpotential

the superpotential is more involved!

$$K_{(2)} \rightarrow K_{(2)} + \ln [\det(CM^\dagger + D)] + \ln [\det(CM + D)]$$

require **invariance** of $\mathcal{V}$:

$$\text{defining } G \equiv K_{(2)} + \ln |W_{(2)}|^2 \Rightarrow \mathcal{V} = e^G \left(G_i G^{i\bar{j}} G_{\bar{j}} - 3 \right)$$

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$$W_{(2)} \rightarrow \det(CM + D)^{-1} W_{(2)}$$

We have a prediction on the form!

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W inherits its automorphic properties from moduli-dependent **threshold corrections**:

- b.c. for the running gauge couplings of the EFT at M_{string}
- moduli dependent = modular forms associated to the symmetry group
- computed in the $N = 2$ subsectors

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flashback to $SL(2, \mathbb{Z})$:

ring E_4, E_6, η

for gaugino condensation $W \sim \Lambda^3 \sim \mu_0^3 e^{-\frac{f_a}{b_a}}$

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$$f_a = S$$

tree
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$$f_a = S + b_a \ln \eta^6(T)$$

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threshold corrections Δ_a

[Dixon, Kaplunovsky, Louis '91]

[Kaplunovsky, Louis '95]

[Kiritsis, Kounnas '95]

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$\Rightarrow$ threshold corrections $f_a = S + \Delta_a$

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- without singularities in $\mathcal{F}$: $\Delta_a \sim b_a \ln(|\chi_{12}|^2)$
- with a singularity in $\mathcal{F}$ for $V \rightarrow 0$: $\Delta_a \sim b_a \ln(|\chi_{10}|^2)$

$$\Rightarrow W_{(2)} \sim \frac{e^{-S/b_a}}{e^{\Delta_a}}$$

The EFT: gaugino condensation

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$$W = \frac{e^{-S/b_a} H(T)}{\eta^6(T)} \quad H(T) = \left(\frac{E_4(T)}{\eta^8(T)} \right)^n \left(\frac{E_6(T)}{\eta^{12}(T)} \right)^m \mathcal{P}(j(T))$$

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$H(T)$ is the **most general modular function** on $SL(2, \mathbb{Z})$

[Rademacher, Zuckerman '38]

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Theorem:
$$H_{(2)} = \left(\frac{\mathcal{E}_4^3}{\chi_{12}} \right)^n \left(\frac{\mathcal{E}_6^2}{\chi_{12}} \right)^m \left(\frac{\mathcal{E}_4^2 \mathcal{E}_6 \chi_{10}}{\chi_{12}^2} \right)^\ell \mathcal{P}(j_{(2)})$$

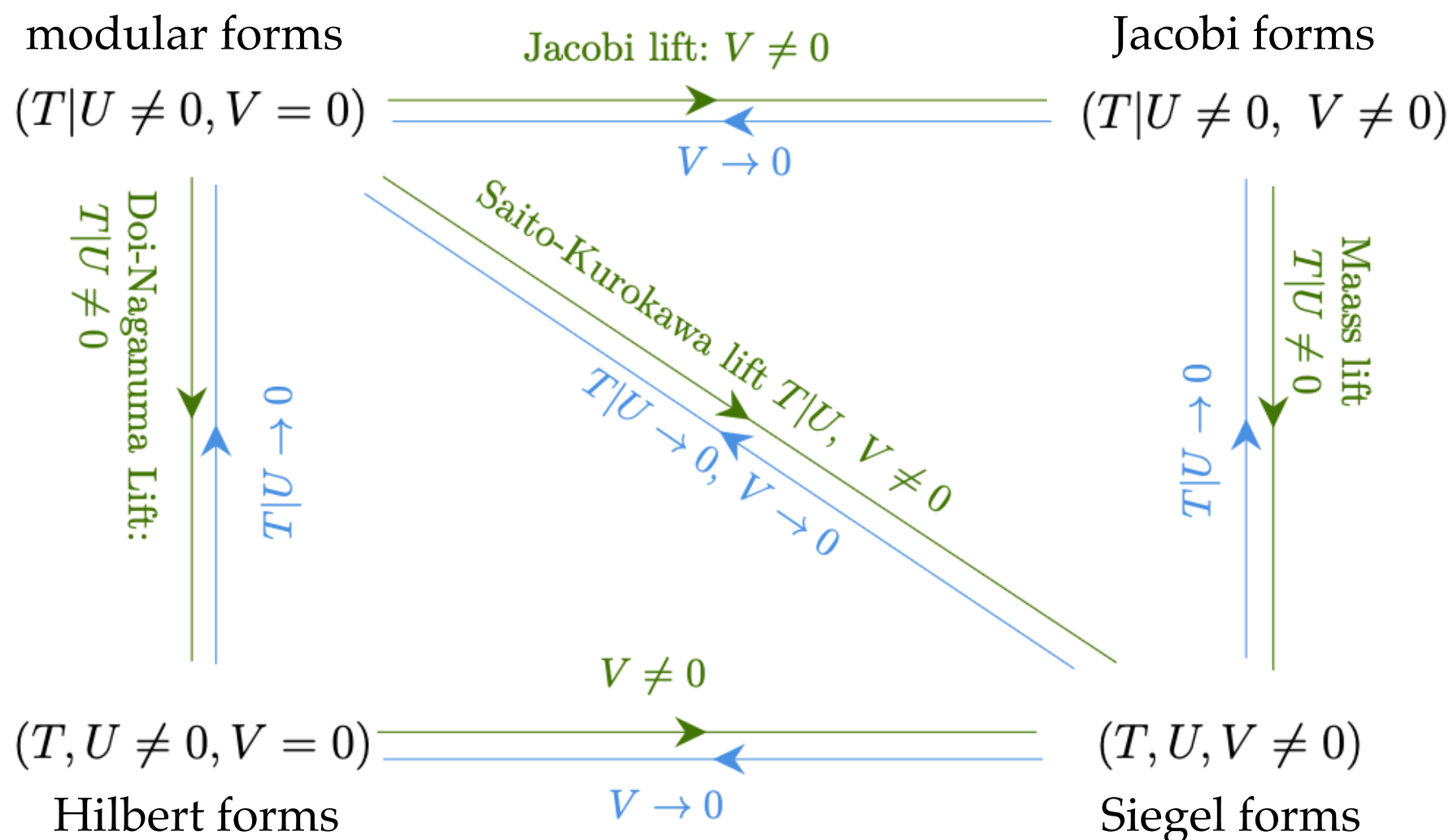
[Kidambi, Leedom, NR, Westphal WiP]

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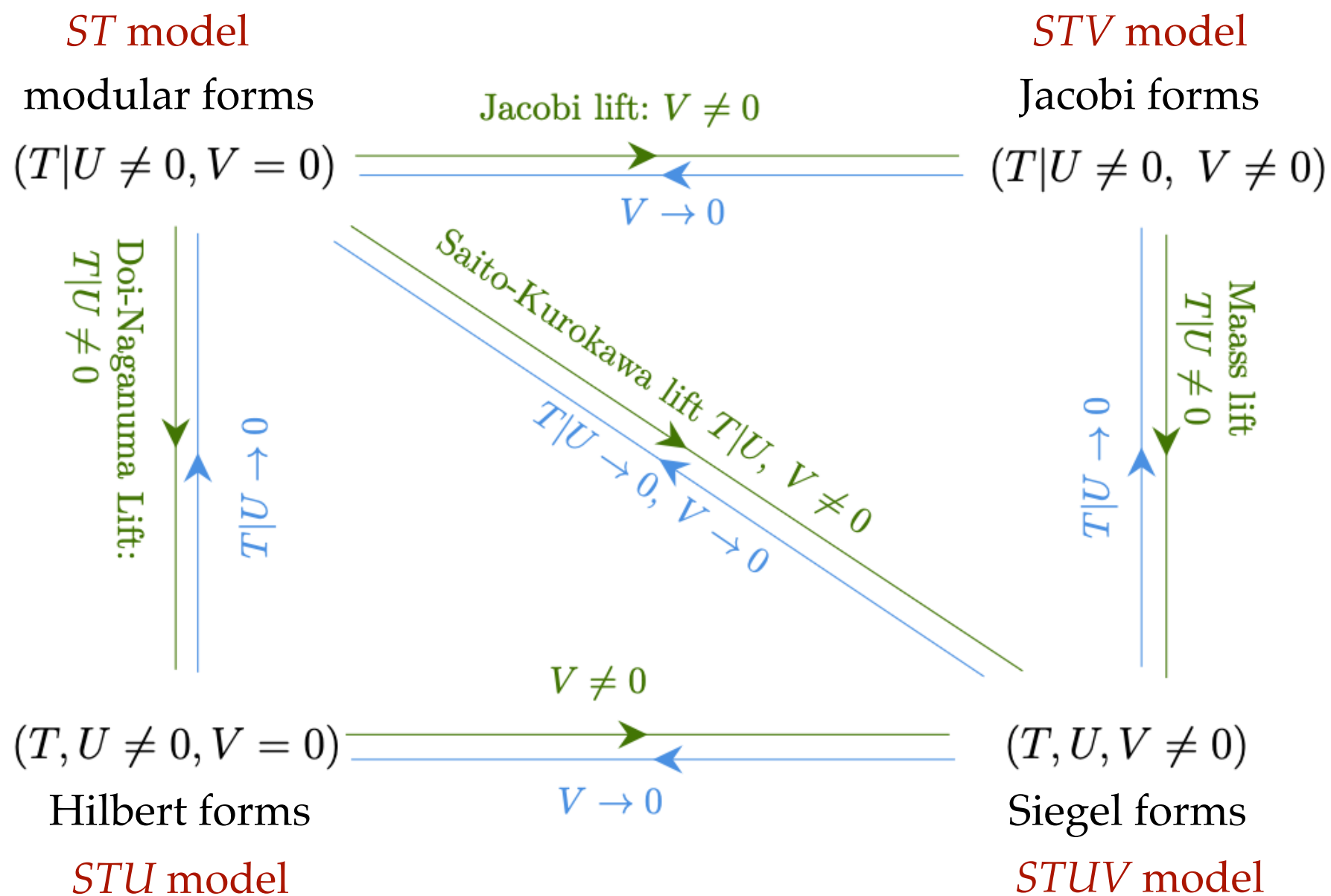
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The check:

1) Expansion in U

$$\mathcal{E}_4 = E_4(T) + 240E_{4,1}(T, V)e^{-2\pi U} + \dots$$

$$\mathcal{E}_6 = E_6(T) - 504E_{6,1}(T, V)e^{-2\pi U} + \dots$$

$$\chi_{10} = \phi_{10,1}(T, V)e^{-2\pi U} + \dots$$

$$\chi_{12} = \eta^{24}(T) + \frac{1}{12}\phi_{12,1}(T, V)e^{-2\pi U} + \dots$$

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2) Send $V \rightarrow 0$

$$E_{4,1}(T, V) \rightarrow E_4(T)$$

$$E_{6,1}(T, V) \rightarrow E_6(T)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \phi_{10,1}(T, V) &= \frac{1}{144}(E_6 E_{4,1} - E_4 E_{6,1}) \\ &\rightarrow 0 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \phi_{12,1}(T, V) &= \frac{1}{144}(E_4^2 E_{4,1} - E_6 E_{6,1}) \\ &\rightarrow 12 \eta^{24}(T) \end{aligned}$$

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The Vacua

Gaugino condensation and Vacua

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1) Compute the potential

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Why care about $H_{(2)}$?

1) Compute the potential

without explicitly computing $\mathcal{V}(S, T, U, V)$, we *prove*:

- all 6 fixed points σ_i are extrema:

since $\mathcal{V}(S, T, U, V)$ is a Siegel modular function, $\nabla \mathcal{V}(S, T, U, V)|_{\{T, U, V\}=\sigma_i} = 0$

- these extrema are always either Minkowski or AdS minima when $F_S = 0$

[Kidambi, Leedom, NR, Westphal *WiP*]

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$\Rightarrow$ can we uplift requiring $F_S \neq 0$?

Gaugino condensation and Vacua

[Leedom, NR, Westphal '22]

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2) For $F_S \neq 0$, at the 2 fixed pts:

$$H(T) = \left(\frac{E_4(T)}{\eta^8(T)} \right)^n \left(\frac{E_6(T)}{\eta^{12}(T)} \right)^m \mathcal{P}(j(T))$$

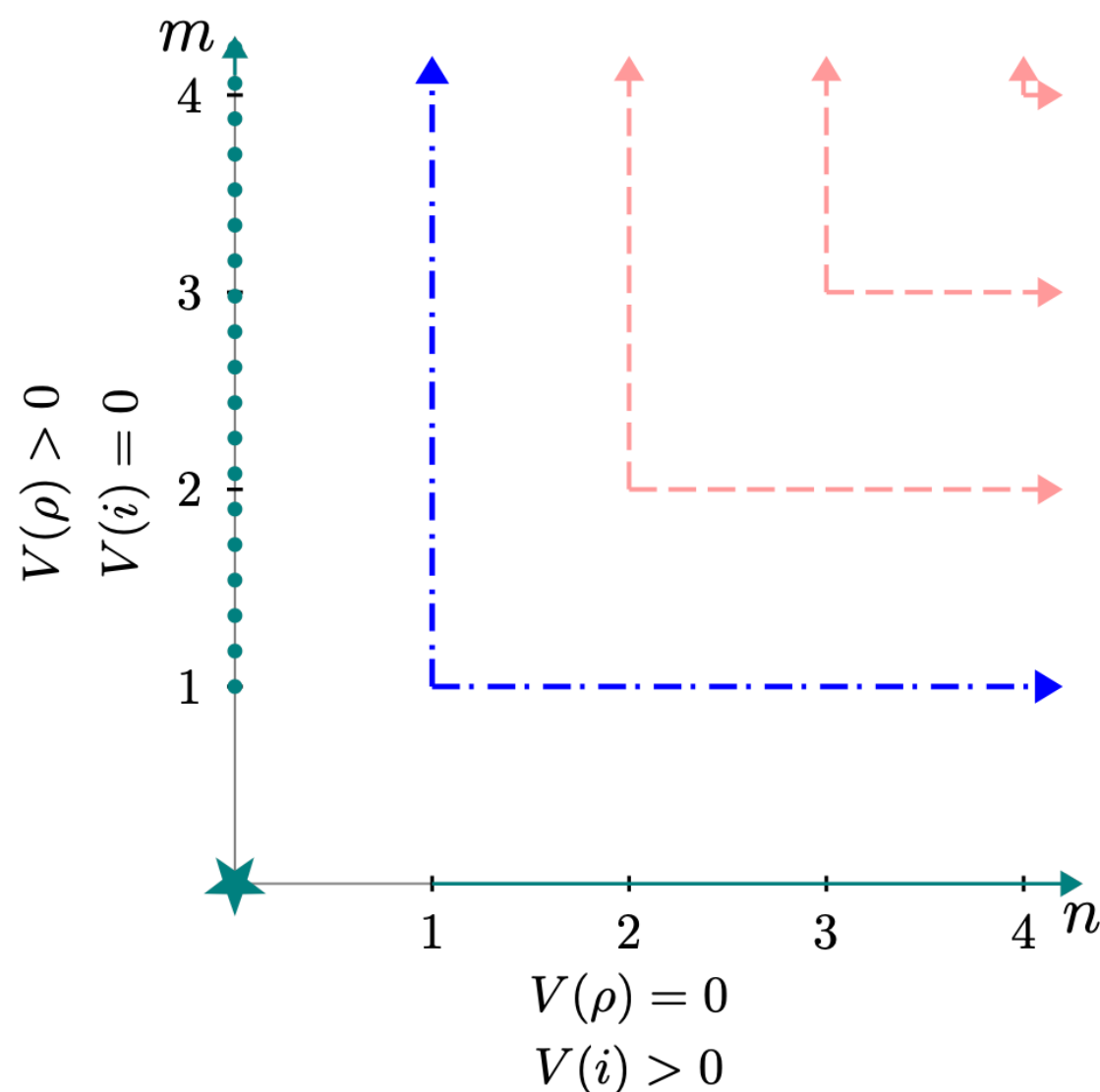
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★ dS at both
 $T = i, \rho$

— dS window $3 < A(S, \bar{S}) < \#$

⋯ dS interval $A(S, \bar{S}) > 3 - \frac{\hat{V}(T, \bar{T})}{H(T)}$

— unstable dS

-- Minkowski

$$A(S, \bar{S}) \sim F_S \bar{F}_{\bar{S}}$$

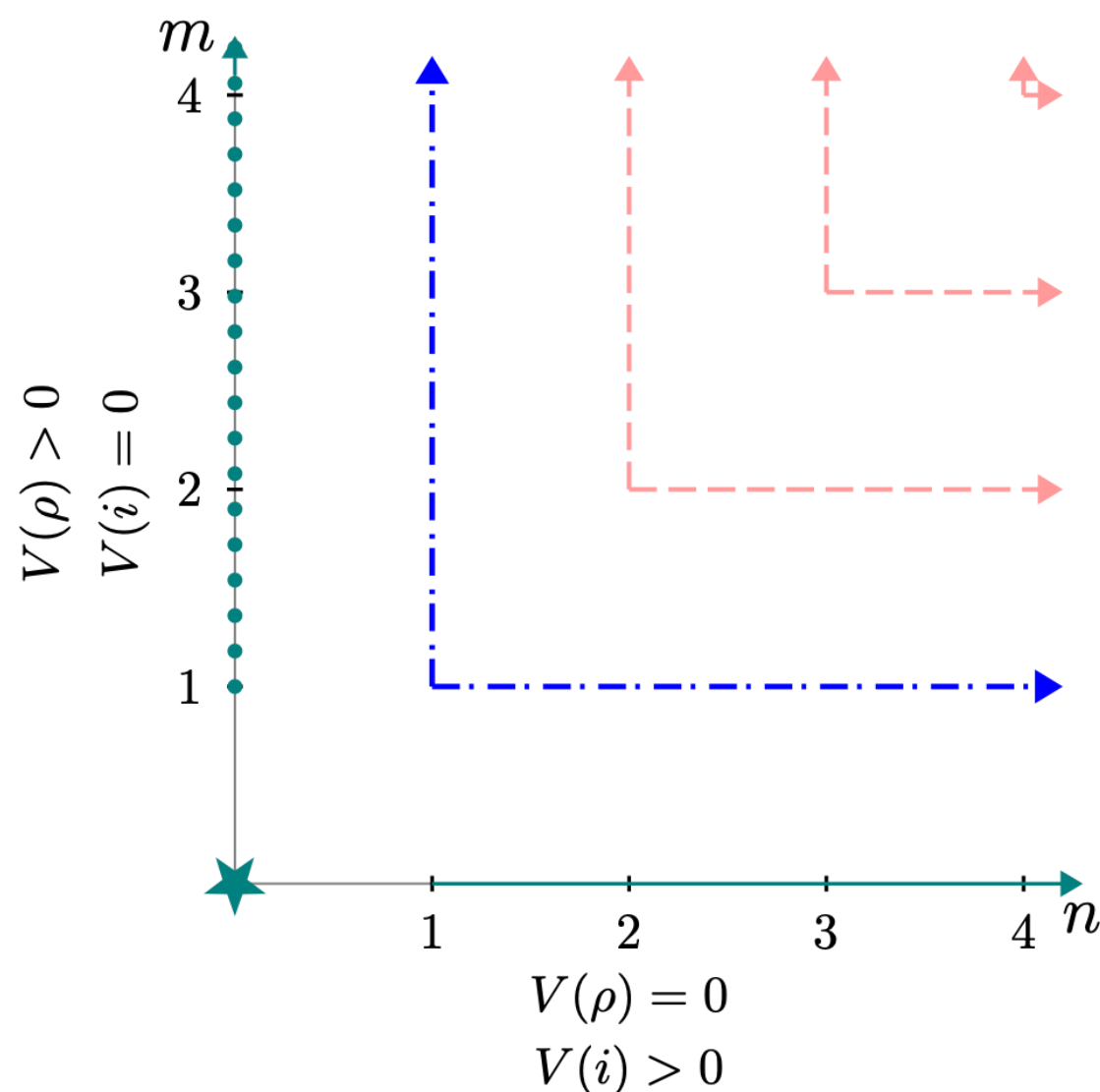
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WiP: produce similar results for

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- proven new no-go theorems for dS minima
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 - new, bigger landscape of heterotic vacua
 - extension of the no-go theorems: new dS vacua
 - relate our findings with the Swampland program
 - understand H and $H_{(2)} \leftrightarrow$ orbifold geometry

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Thank you