

The background of the slide is a reproduction of the painting 'The Starry Night' by Vincent van Gogh. It features a swirling, turbulent blue sky filled with bright, glowing yellow stars and a large, luminous crescent moon. In the foreground, a dark, jagged cypress tree stands on the left, and a small village with a church spire is visible in the distance under the night sky.

Inflation in String Theory

Lecture 3

Gary Shiu

From the last lecture ...

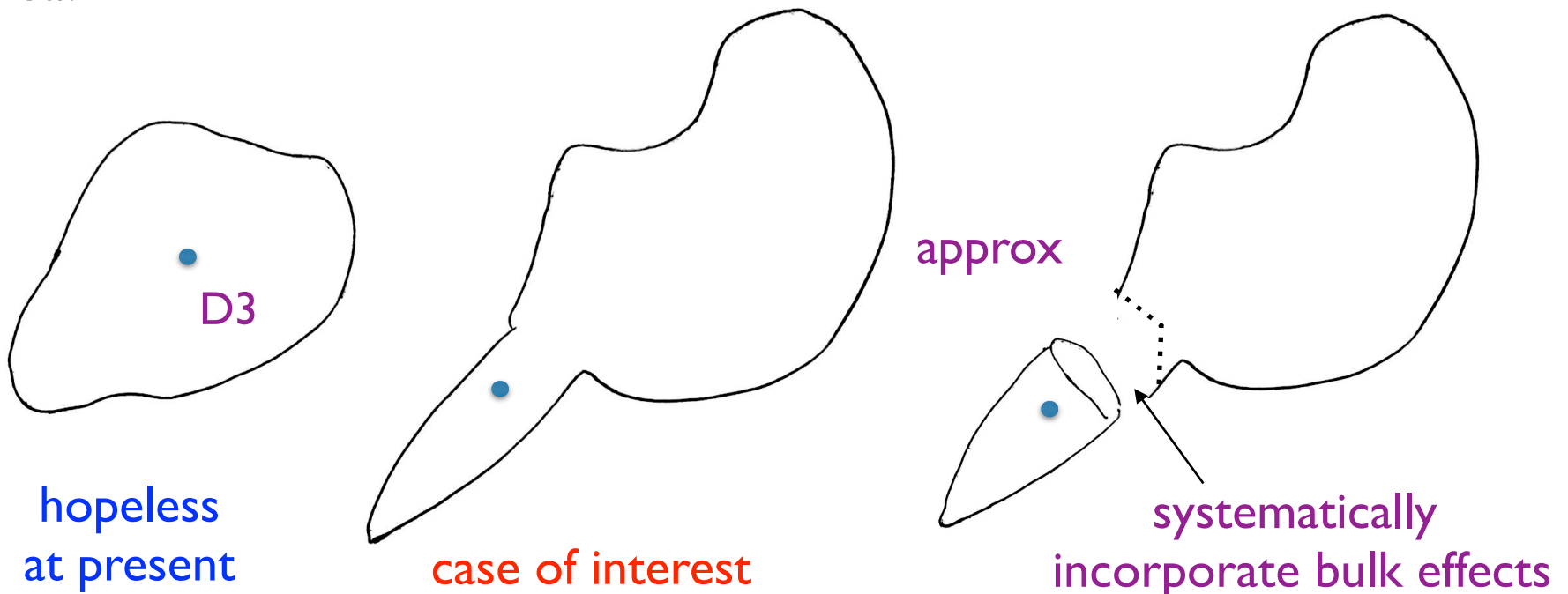
D3-brane Potential

- The Kahler potential contains:

$$K(T, \bar{T}, z_\alpha, \bar{z}_\alpha) = -3 \ln \left[T + \bar{T} - \gamma k(z_\alpha, \bar{z}_\alpha) \right] \quad \nabla_\alpha \bar{\nabla}_\beta k = g_{\alpha\bar{\beta}}$$

difficult to get metric for compact CY \rightarrow need a simpler setting

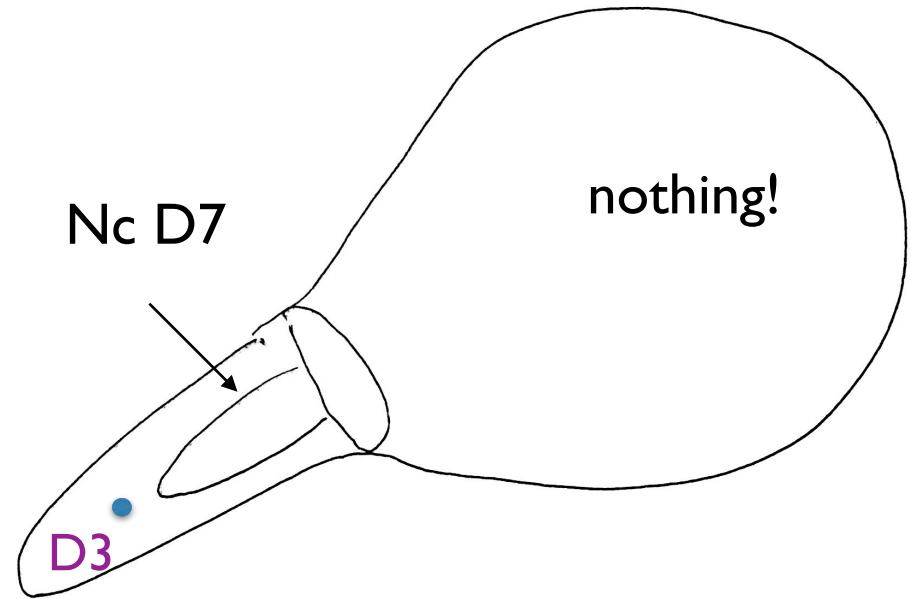
- Idea:



Compactification Effects

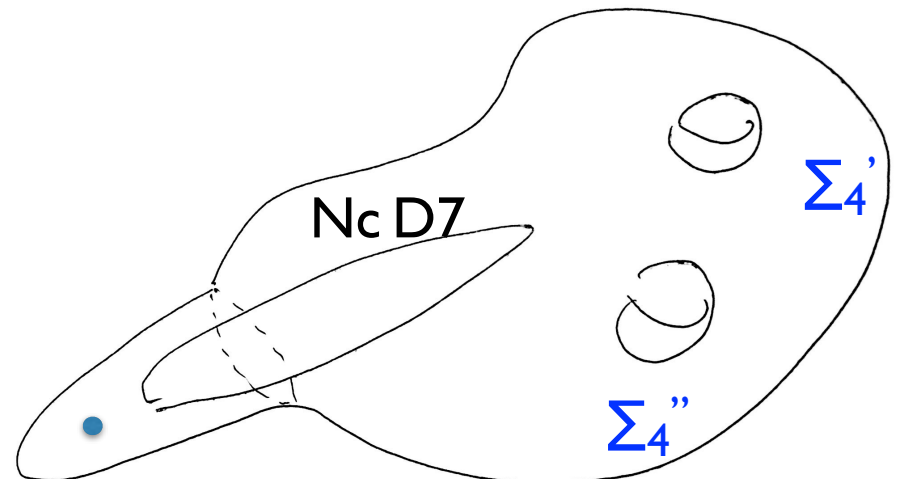
- For a toy model:

we can compute $V(\phi)$ in full!



- Distant Σ_4 can give non-negligible contribution to $V(\phi)$

we'll *parametrize* these effects
for Calabi-Yau cones



Calabi-Yau Cones

- Let Y_5 be a Sasaki-Einstein manifold

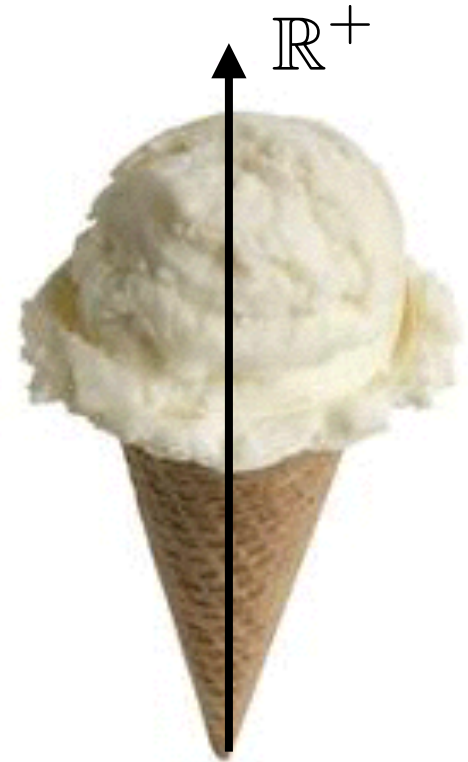
if $Y_5 \times \mathbb{R}^+$ is Kahler $R_{ab} \propto g_{ab}$

- The cone $ds_{10}^2 = dr^2 + r^2 ds_{Y_5}^2$ has a CY metric
- Taking N D3 at the tip of the cone, and in near-horizon limit,

$$ds_{10}^2 = \left(\frac{r}{R}\right)^2 \eta_{\mu\nu} dx^\mu dx^\nu + \left(\frac{R}{r}\right)^2 (dr^2 + r^2 ds_{Y_5}^2)$$

$$\Leftrightarrow AdS_5 \times Y_5 \text{ with } R^4 = \frac{4\pi^4 g_s N \alpha'^2}{\text{Vol}(Y_5)}$$

- This is dual to an $N=1$ SCFT (useful later on).

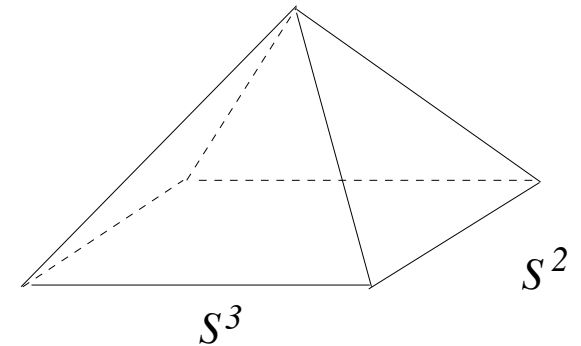


Conifold

- Simplest example of CY cones is the conifold:

$$\sum_{A=1}^4 z_A^2 = 0$$

- Topologically, the conifold is a cone over $S^2 \times S^3$:



$$z^A = x^A + iy^A \quad x \cdot x = \frac{1}{2}\rho^2, \quad y \cdot y = \frac{1}{2}\rho^2, \quad x \cdot y = 0$$

- Metrically, the base Y_5 is the Einstein manifold $T^{1,1}$:

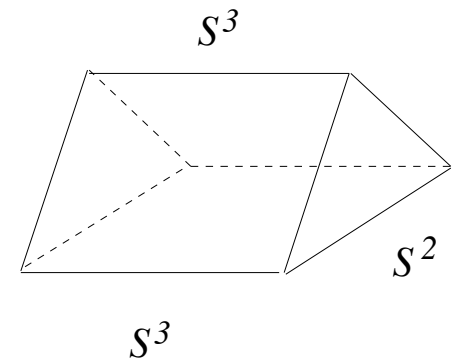
$$T^{1,1} = [SU(2) \times SU(2)]/U(1)$$

parametrized by coordinates $\theta_1, \theta_2, \Phi_1, \Phi_2, \Psi$ (detailed form of the metric can be found e.g., in [\[Candelas, de la Ossa\]](#)). Isometry group $SU(2) \times SU(2) \times U(1)$.

Warped Conifold

- N D3 at the tip of the conifold \rightarrow warped conifold; FT dual is an $N=1$ SCFT worked out by [Klebanov, Witten] (more later).
- If we have N D3 at the tip and M D5 wrapping the shrinking S^2 , the conifold is **warped** and **deformed**:

$$\sum_{A=1}^4 z_A^2 = \varepsilon^2$$



- S^2 shrinks to zero size while the S^3 size remains finite:

$$r_A = \sqrt{g_s M \alpha'}$$

SUGRA valid if $g_s M \gg 1$

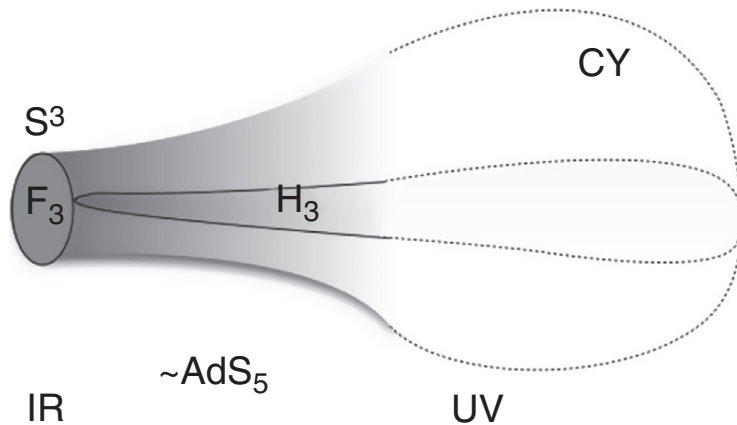
- SUGRA solution [Klebanov, Strassler] is everywhere smooth.

Warped Deformed Conifold

Alternative description in terms of fluxes:

$$\frac{1}{(2\pi)^2 \alpha'} \int_A F_3 = M \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{1}{(2\pi)^2 \alpha'} \int_B H_3 = K \quad N \equiv MK$$

Near tip, $S^3 \times \mathbb{R}^3$



Far from tip,

approximated by $\text{AdS}_5 \times T^{1,1}$
(up to “log corrections”)

See [GS, Underwood];[GS, Underwood, Kecskemeti, Maiden] for CMB effects.

CFT Dual

- KW CFT has $U(N) \times U(N)$ gauge group & matter fields:

	$U(N)$	$U(N)$	$SU(2)$	$SU(2)$	$U(1)_R$
A_1, A_2	N	\bar{N}	2	1	$\frac{1}{2}$
B_1, B_2	\bar{N}	N	1	2	$\frac{1}{2}$

w/ a superpotential (see [\[Klebanov, Witten\]](#) for details)

$$W_{\text{tree}} = \lambda \epsilon^{ik} \epsilon^{j\ell} A_i B_j A_k B_\ell$$

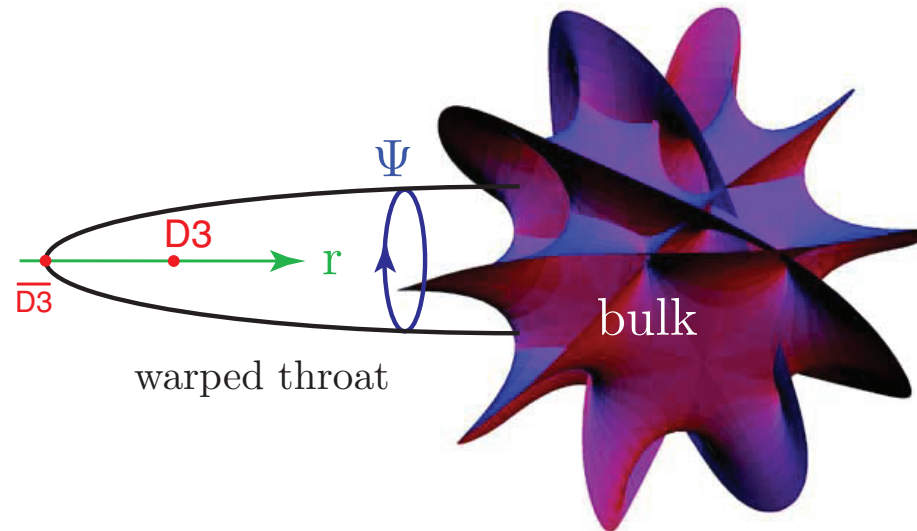
- Isometry becomes $SU(2) \times SU(2)$ global symmetries and $U(1)_R$

- Moduli space of vacua = $\{D=0\}/U(1)$ is the coset space $T^{1,1}$:

$$D = |A_1|^2 + |A_2|^2 - |B_1|^2 - |B_2|^2 - \cancel{\xi_{FI}} = 0 \quad \begin{matrix} \nearrow \\ \xi_{FI} \neq 0 \\ \text{(resolved conifold)} \end{matrix}$$

Our Strategy

- Non-compactification gives $G_N = 0$ (not useful)
- General $SU(3)$ holonomy manifold is intractable (need metric)
- Middle ground: inclusion of compactification effects in a finite throat:

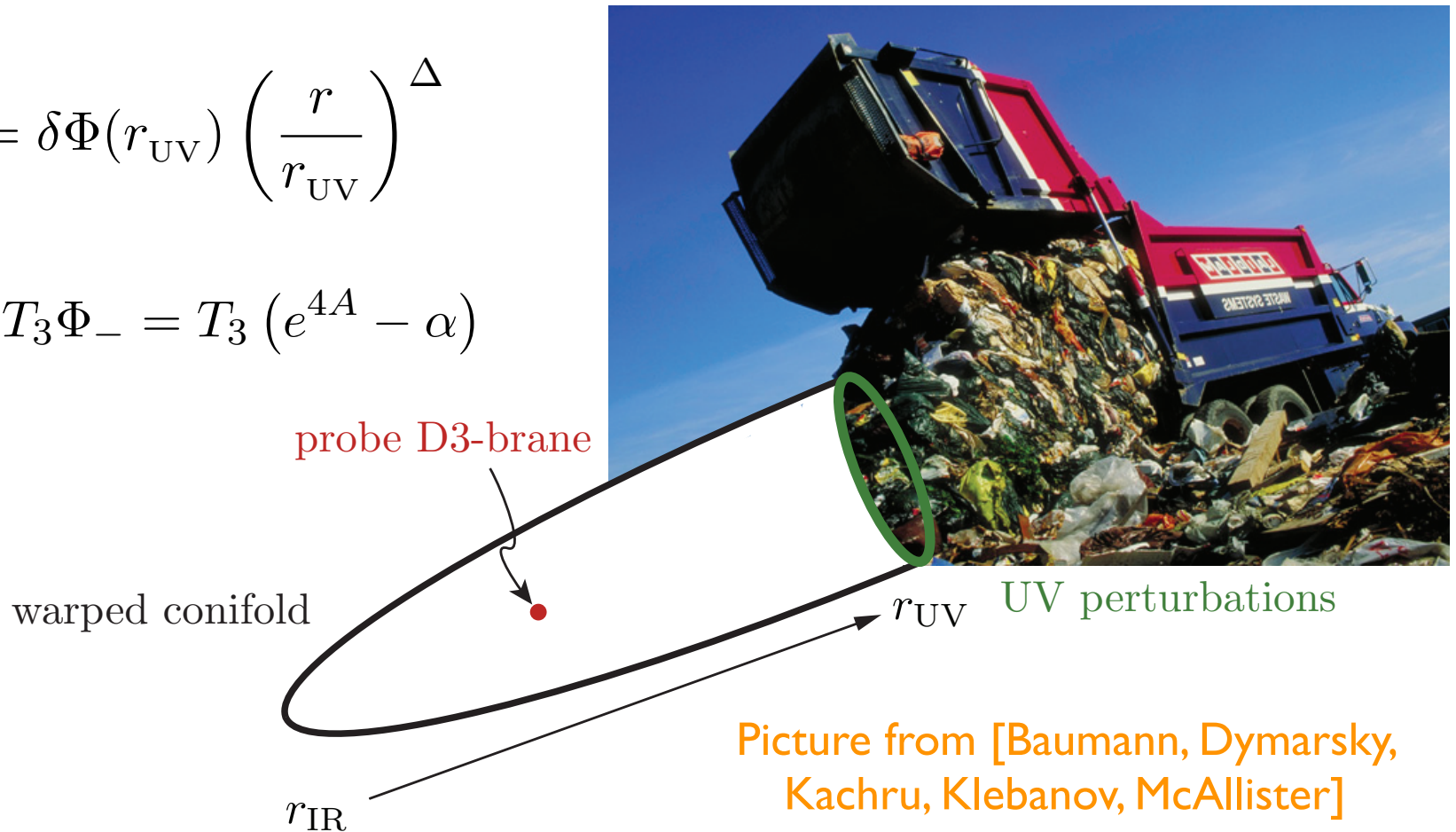


- Planck-scale effects come from the bulk of compactification (“Planck brane”).

UV Perturbations

$$\delta\Phi(r) = \delta\Phi(r_{\text{UV}}) \left(\frac{r}{r_{\text{UV}}} \right)^\Delta$$

$$V_{D3} = T_3 \Phi_- = T_3 (e^{4A} - \alpha)$$



On the CFT side:

$$\mathcal{L}_{CFT} \rightarrow \mathcal{L}_{CFT} + \sum_i \mathcal{O}_i^\Delta c_i$$

Two Dual Views

AdS x T^{1,1}

$$\delta\Phi(r) = \delta\Phi(r_{UV}) \left(\frac{r}{r_{UV}} \right)^\Delta$$

D3 position ϕ_{D3}

KW CFT

$$\mathcal{L}_{CFT} \rightarrow \mathcal{L}_{CFT} + \sum_i \mathcal{O}_i^\Delta c_i$$

vev describing location
on Coulomb branch

Now in EFT, we could write:

$$V_{renorm} + \sum_{i, \Delta_i > 4} c_i \mathcal{O}^{\Delta_i} \frac{1}{\Lambda^{\Delta_i - 4}}$$

Spectroscopy of T^{1,1} gives the “structure” of the potential;
not the Wilson coefficients c_i

Two Dual Views

Here, the structure of operator dimensions $\{\Delta_i\}$ is not easy to get from the QFT, as the KW theory is strongly coupled.

We can obtain the spectroscopy of $\{\Delta_i\}$ in SUGRA and learn:

$\{\Delta_i\} \Leftrightarrow$ what sort of physics (fluxes, branes) in the bulk

This is a first step; next could try to understand the typical values of c_i and eventually statistics of c_i in the landscape.

Conifold Spectroscopy

D3-potential is given by Φ_- , whose solutions are given by:

$$\nabla^2 \Phi_- = R_4 + \frac{g_s}{96} |\Lambda|^2 + e^{-4A} |\nabla \Phi_-|^2 + \mathcal{S}_{\text{loc}}$$

$$\uparrow$$

$$\Lambda \equiv \Phi_+ G_- + \Phi_- G_+$$

The 3-form flux in turn satisfies: $d\Lambda + \frac{i}{2} \frac{d\tau}{\text{Im}\tau} \wedge (\Lambda + \bar{\Lambda}) = 0$

Consider first: $\nabla^2 \Phi_- = R_4$

In quasi-dS: $R_4 \approx 12H^2 \Rightarrow V = T_3 \Phi_- = V_0 + H^2 \phi^2 + \dots$

$$\eta = M_P^2 \frac{V''}{V} = \frac{2}{3} + \dots$$

can this contribution be
canceled by other sources?

Conifold Spectroscopy

Localized sources:

$$\nabla^2 \Phi_- = R_4 + \frac{g_s}{96} |\Lambda|^2 + e^{-4A} |\nabla \Phi_-|^2 + \mathcal{S}_{\text{loc}}$$

\Downarrow

$$V_{\mathcal{C}}(x) = D_0 \left(1 - \frac{27}{64\pi^2} \frac{D_0}{T_3^2 r_{\text{UV}}^4} \frac{1}{x^4} \right) \quad \text{Brane Inflation [Dvali-Tye]}$$

Warping flattens the potential

[Kachru, Kallosh, Linde, Maldacena, McAllister, Trivedi] (KKLMMT)

Conifold Spectroscopy

Bulk contributions:
$$V_{\mathcal{B}}(x, \Psi) = \mu^4 \sum_{LM} c_{LM} x^{\Delta(L)} f_{LM}(\Psi)$$

After some work, one obtains in this example [Baumann et al]

$$\begin{aligned} V = V_0 &+ c_{ij}(\Psi)\phi^1 + a_{3/2}h_{3/2}(\Psi)\phi^{3/2} \\ &+ [b_2 + c_2 + a_2h_2(\Psi)]\phi^2 \\ &+ c_{\sqrt{28}-3}j_{\sqrt{28}-3}(\Psi)\phi^{\sqrt{28}-3} \\ &+ \dots \end{aligned}$$

Tracing the origin: **a-terms:** fluxes; **b-terms:** effect of R_4 ;
 c-terms: harmonic parts of Φ_-

Dual CFT Operators

On the gravity side, Δ is related to the eigenvalue of Laplacian:

$$\Delta(L) \equiv -2 + \sqrt{6[J_1(J_1 + 1) + J_2(J_2 + 2) - R^2/8] + 4}$$

Δ should correspond to conformal dim. of operators in CFT.

Strongly coupled CFT, but Δ of some operators are protected.

Chiral operators $\mathcal{O}_{3/2} = \text{Tr}(A_i B_j) + c.c.$ Δ determined by R-charge
 $J = \bar{J} = R/2 = 1/4$

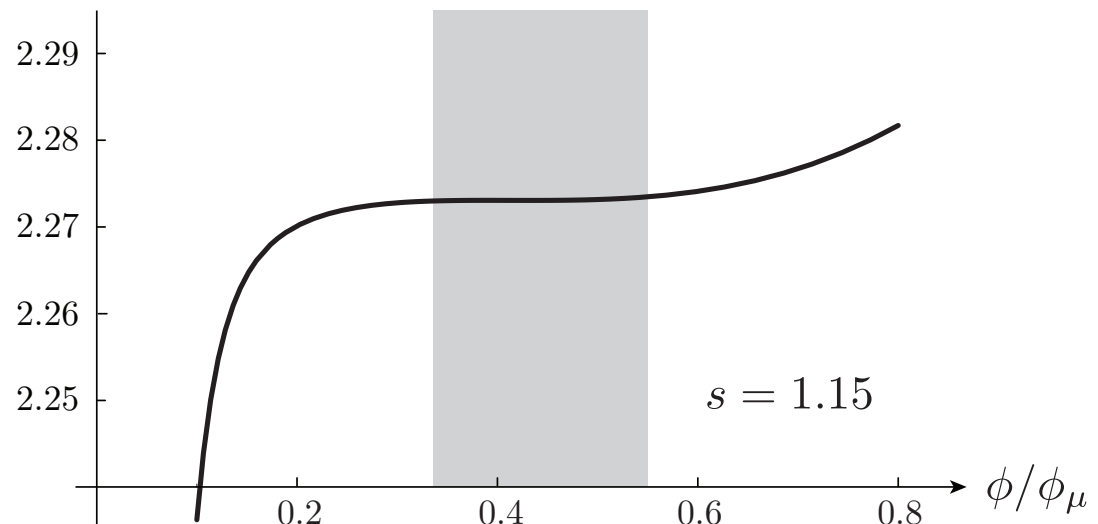
Non-chiral operators $\mathcal{O}_2 = \text{Tr}(A_1 \bar{A}_2) , \text{Tr}(A_2 \bar{A}_1) , \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \text{Tr}(A_1 \bar{A}_1 - A_2 \bar{A}_2)$

same multiplet as $SU(2) \times SU(2)$ global sym, current, $\Delta=2$

Some Features of D3-brane Inflation

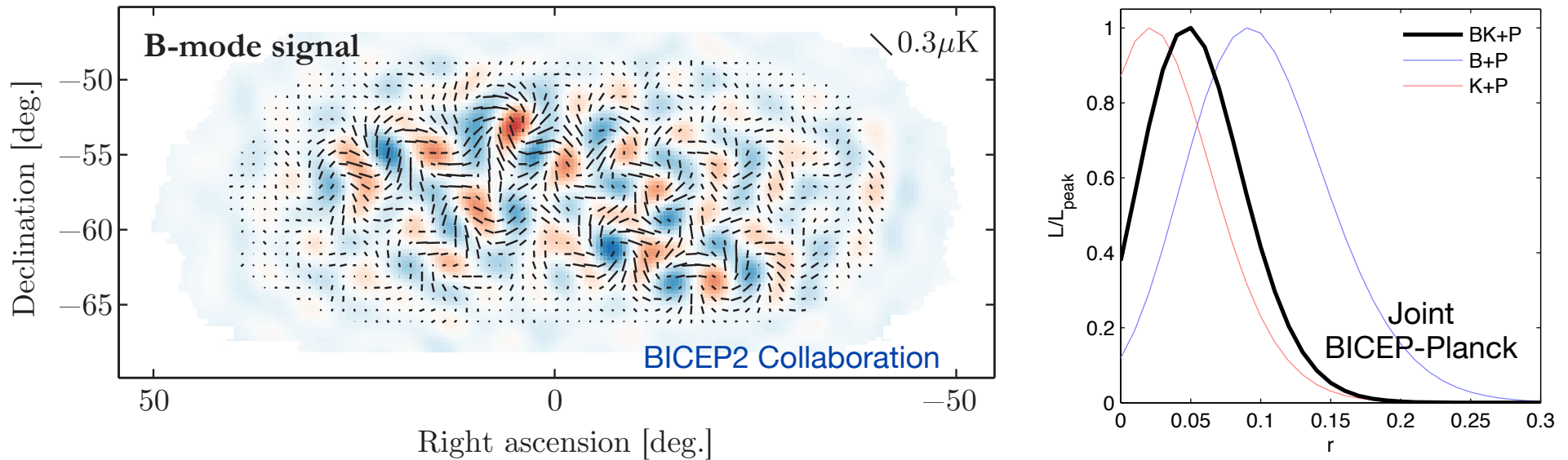
- Small field inflation (undetectable r) \rightarrow next
- Kinetic term of DBI form: for “relativistic” motion, inflaton reaches “speed limit” (strong and distinctive NG).
- $V(\phi)$ receives crucial contribution from moduli stabilization, e.g., W_{NP} & bulk effects.
- Wilson coefficients depend on UV completion (string theory).
- Phenomenology:

inflection point
inflation



Lecture 3

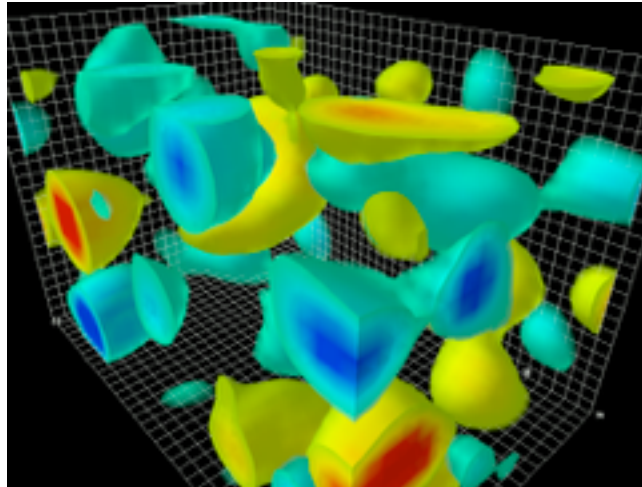
Primordial B-mode



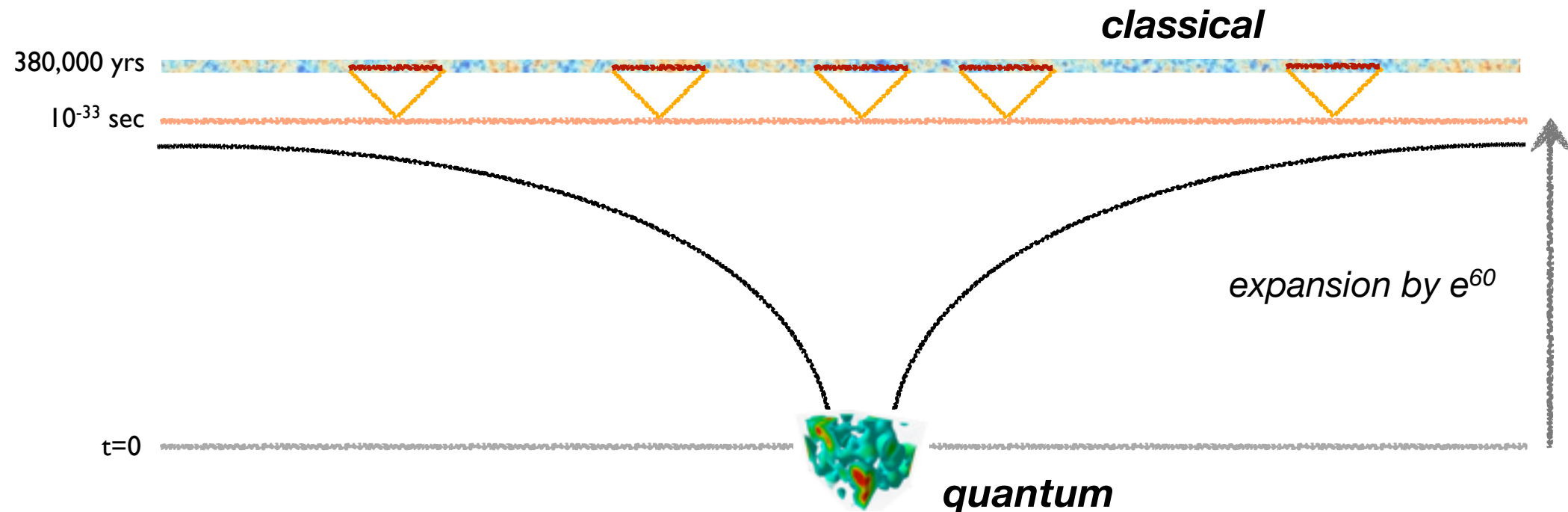
Many experiments including BICEP/KECK, PLANCK, ACT, PolarBeaR, SPT, SPIDER, QUEIT, Clover, EBEX, QUaD... can potentially detect such primordial B-mode with sensitivity $\Delta r \lesssim 10^{-2}$.

LiteBIRD (& CMBS4) may even have the sensitivity of $\Delta r \sim 10^{-3}$.

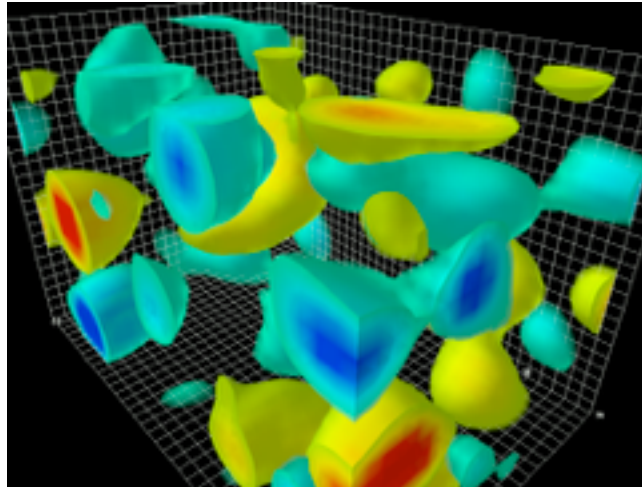
Any massless field experiences quantum fluctuations during inflation:



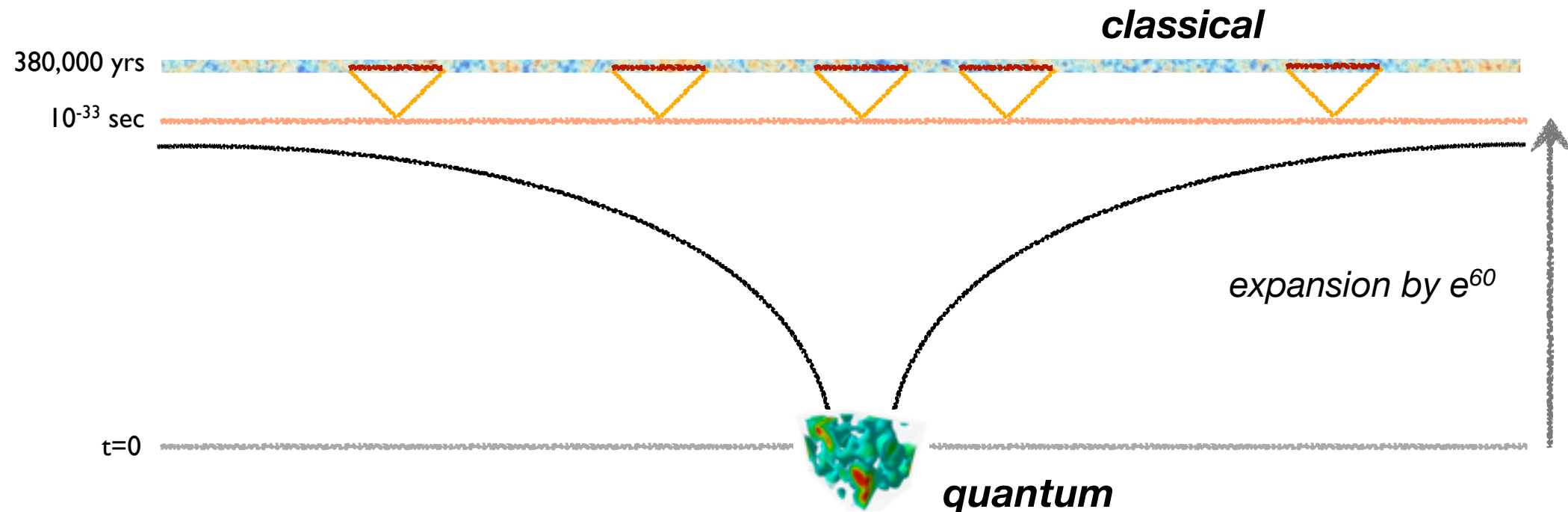
Inflation stretches these to macroscopic scales:



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Inflation stretches these to macroscopic scales:



Two massless fields that are guaranteed to exist are:

ζ

Goldstone boson

of broken time translations

h_{ij} graviton

Two massless fields that are guaranteed to exist are:

ζ

Goldstone boson

of broken time translations

$$\Delta_s^2 = \frac{1}{4\pi^2} \frac{H^4}{f_\pi^4}$$

symmetry breaking

($= \dot{\phi}^2$ for slow-roll inflation)

h_{ij} graviton

expansion

$$\Delta_t^2 \equiv \frac{2}{\pi^2} \frac{H^2}{M_{\text{pl}}^2}$$

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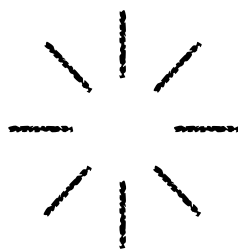
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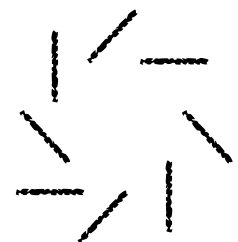
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E-modes:



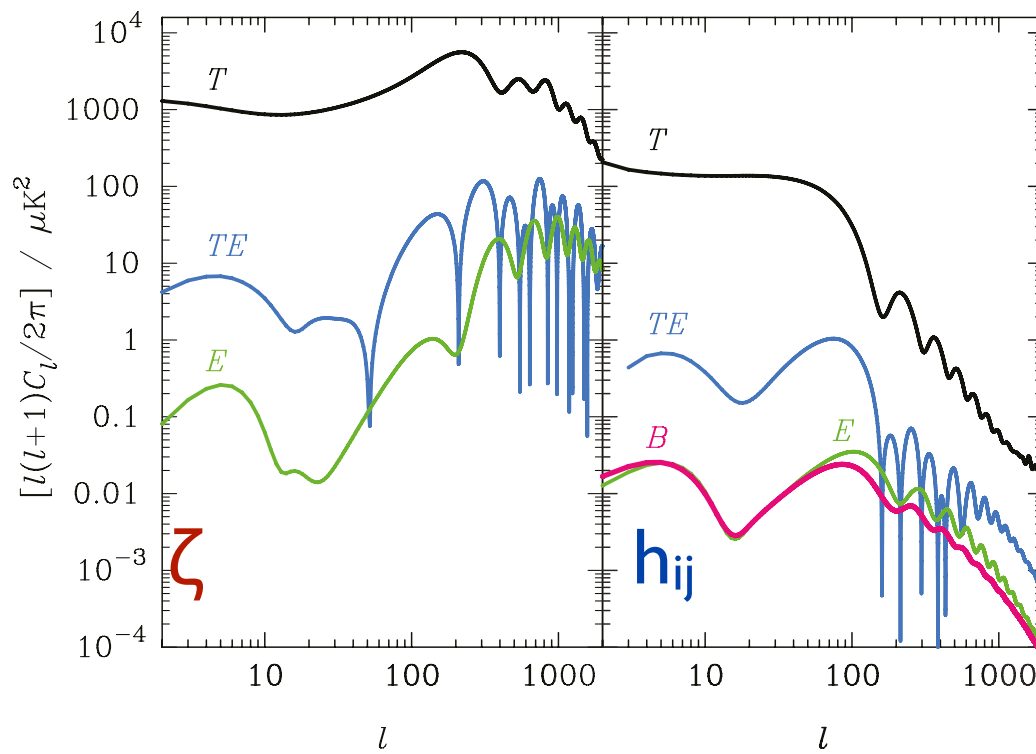
B-modes:



h_{ij} graviton

expansion

$$\Delta_t^2 \equiv \frac{2}{\pi^2} \frac{H^2}{M_{\text{pl}}^2}$$



B-mode and Inflation

If primordial B-mode is detected, natural interpretations:

- ◆ Inflation took place at an energy scale around the GUT scale

$$E_{\text{inf}} \simeq 0.75 \times \left(\frac{r}{0.1} \right)^{1/4} \times 10^{-2} M_{\text{Pl}}$$

- ◆ The inflaton field excursion was super-Planckian

$$\Delta\phi \gtrsim \left(\frac{r}{0.01} \right)^{1/2} M_{\text{Pl}}$$

Lyth '96

- ◆ Great news for string theory due to strong UV sensitivity!

Assumptions in the Lyth Bound

- ▶ single field
- ▶ slow-roll
- ▶ Bunch-Davies initial conditions
- ▶ vacuum fluctuations

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For counterexamples, see, e.g.,

[Cook and Sorbo](#)

[Senatore, Silverstein, Zaldarriaga](#)

[Barnaby, Moxon, Namba, Peloso, GS, Zhou](#)

[Mukohyama, Namba, Peloso, GS](#)