

# Holographic Systematics of D-Brane Inflation



Liam McAllister  
Cornell

ISM08, Pondicherry

December 9, 2008

## Based on:

D. Baumann, A. Dymarsky, S. Kachru, I. Klebanov, & L.M., [0808.2811](#).

## Building on:

S. Kachru, R. Kallosh, A. Linde, J. Maldacena, L.M., S. Trivedi, [hep-th/0308055](#).

D. Baumann, A. Dymarsky, I. Klebanov, J. Maldacena, L.M., & A. Murugan, [hep-th/0607050](#).

D. Baumann, A. Dymarsky, I. Klebanov, L.M., & P. Steinhardt, [0705.3837](#).

D. Baumann, A. Dymarsky, I. Klebanov, & L.M., [0706.0360](#).

## See also:

C. Burgess, J. Cline, K. Dasgupta, & H. Firouzjahi, [hep-th/0610320](#).

O. DeWolfe, L.M., G. Shiu, & B. Underwood, [hep-th/0703088](#).

A. Krause & E. Pajer, [0705.4682](#).

S. Panda, M. Sami, S. Tsujikawa, [0707.2848](#).

A. Ali, R. Chingangbam, S. Panda, M. Sami, [0809.4941](#).

# Plan

- I. Motivation and background
  - I. Inflation
  - II. Inflation in string theory
- II. Case study: warped D-brane inflation
- III. Direct approach: computation of nonperturbative superpotential
- IV. Systematic method: enumeration of contributing modes
- V. Pre-Conclusions
- VI. Remarks on primordial tensor signature
- VII. Conclusions

Part I.

Inflation  
and  
String Inflation

# Inflation

A period of accelerated expansion

$$ds^2 = -dt^2 + e^{2Ht} d\vec{x}^2 \quad H \approx \text{const.}$$

- Solves horizon, flatness, and monopole problems.  
*i.e.* explains why universe is so large, so flat, and so empty.

A.Guth, 1981.

# Inflation

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- Solves horizon, flatness, and monopole problems.  
*i.e.* explains why universe is so large, so flat, and so empty.  
A.Guth, 1981.
- Predicts scalar fluctuations in CMB temperature:
  - approximately, but **not exactly**, scale-invariant
  - approximately Gaussian
- Predicts primordial **tensor** fluctuations

# Physics of inflation

- Scalar field  $\phi$  with a potential.  $V(\phi) \sim 10^{16} \text{ GeV}^4$

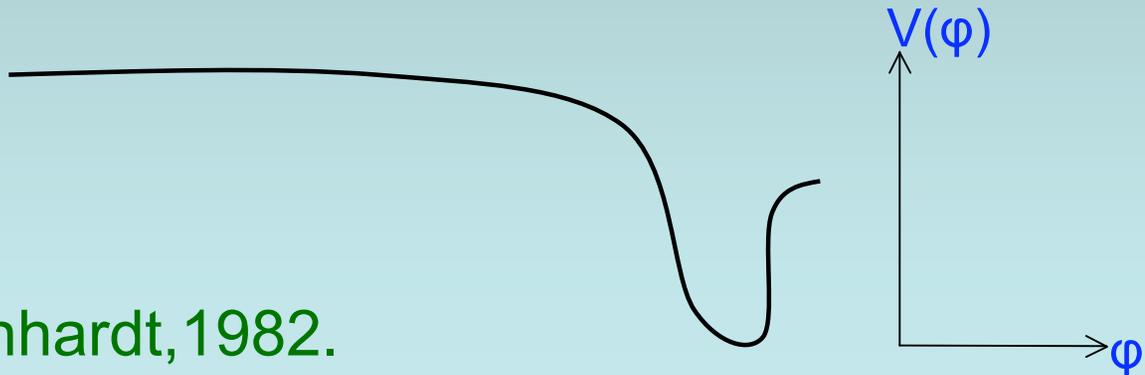
$$\mathcal{L} = -\frac{1}{2} \partial_\mu \phi \partial^\mu \phi - V(\phi)$$

- Potential drives acceleration.
- Acceleration is prolonged if  $V(\phi)$  is flat in Planck units:

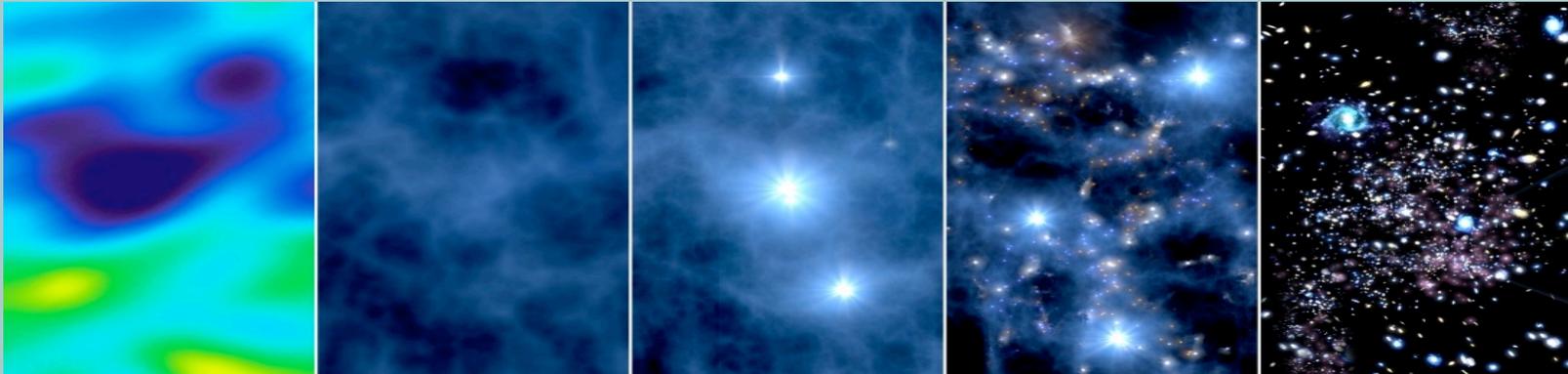
$$\eta \equiv M_{pl}^2 \frac{V''}{V} \ll 1 \quad \text{and} \quad \epsilon \equiv \frac{1}{2} M_{pl}^2 \left( \frac{V'}{V} \right)^2 \ll 1$$

A.Linde, 1982.

A. Albrecht and P.Steinhardt, 1982.



# Quantum fluctuations seed structure formation

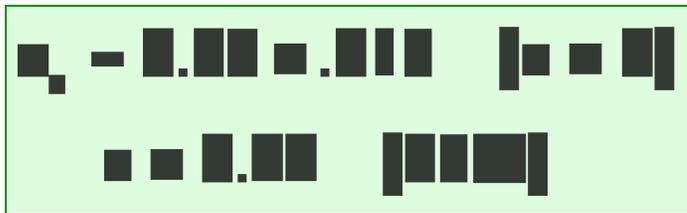
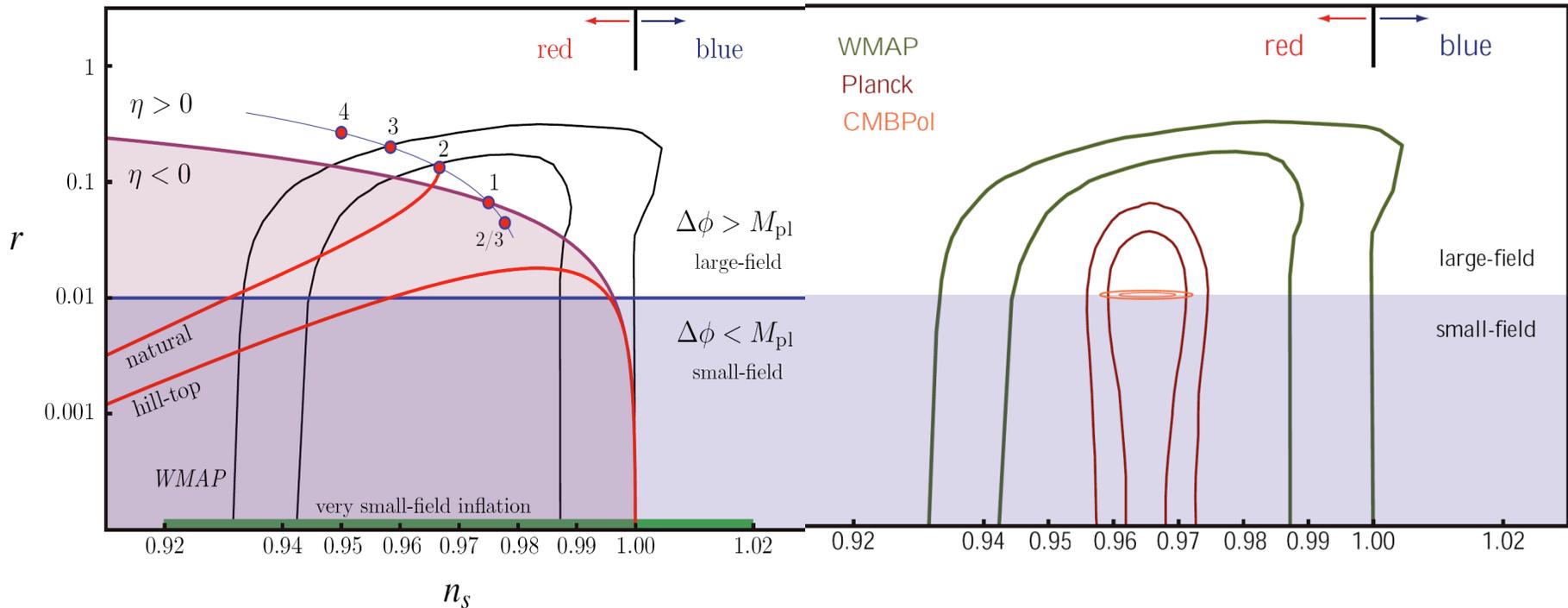


Perturbations are small enough to permit linear analysis, for a while.

This is a very clean and tractable system.

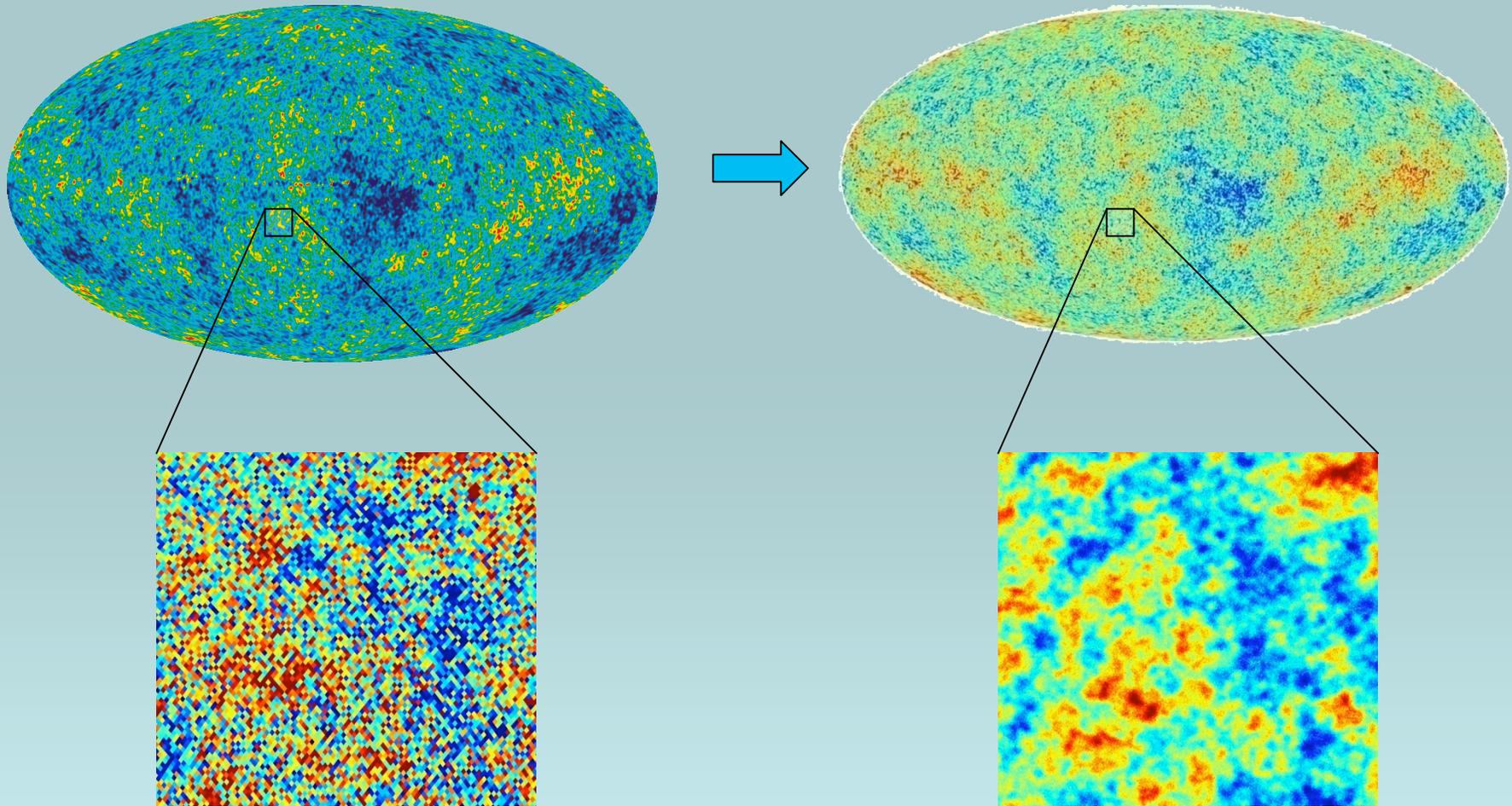
**Prediction:** these perturbations are approximately scale-invariant.

# Current Constraints



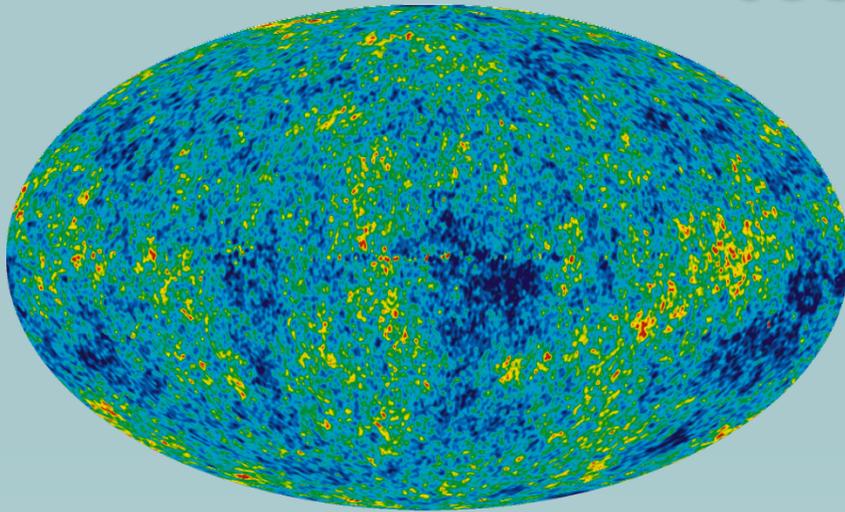
Expect **dramatic** improvements in these limits in next 5-10 years:  
**Planck**, **SPIDER**, **EBEX**, Clover, QUIET, BICEP, PolarBEAR,...

# From WMAP to PLANCK (2010?)

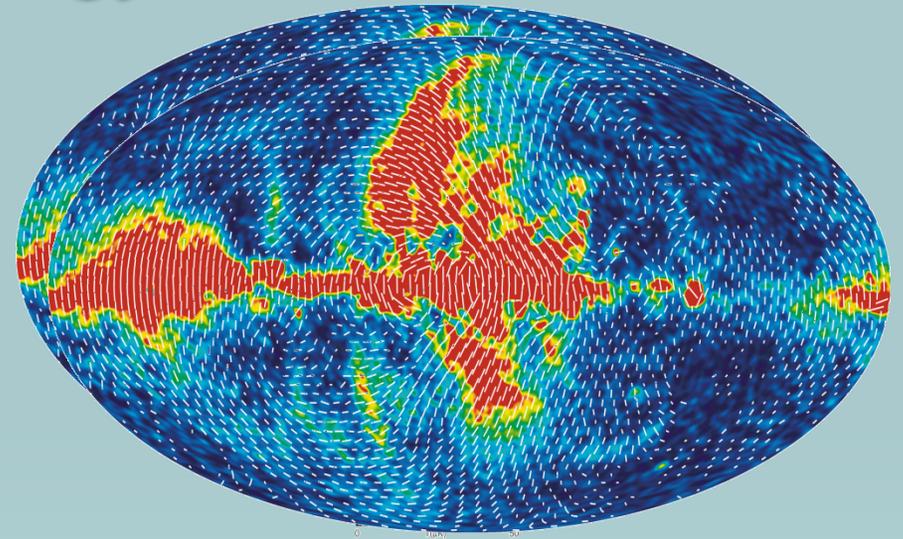


WMAP; C. Cantalupo, J. Borrill, and R. Stompor

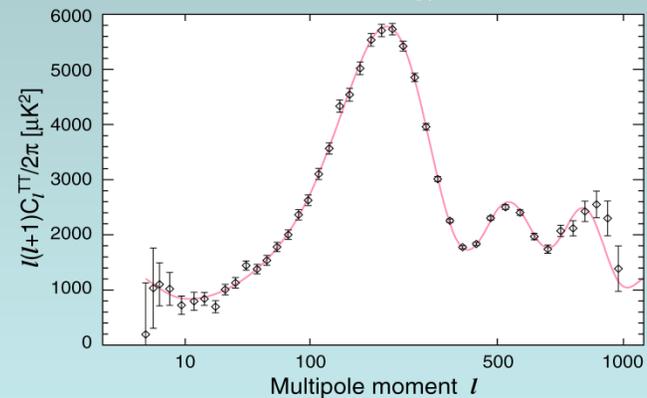
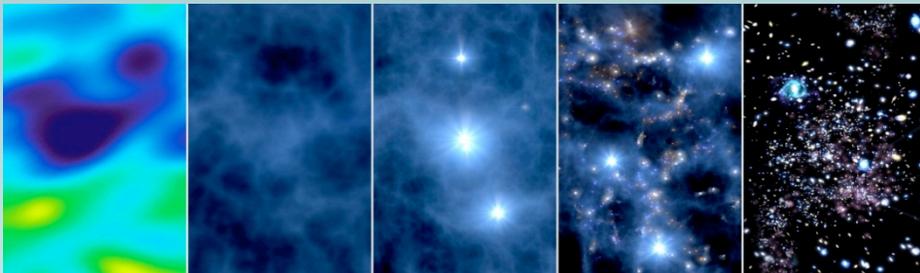
# Goal: develop theoretical models of the early universe suitable for an era of precision cosmology.



WMAP 5-year  
-200 T( $\mu$ K) +200



0 T( $\mu$ K) 50



NASA/WMAP Science Team

Since inflation occurred at sub-Planckian energies, why not just use effective QFT?

- Consistent if one is careful. However, inflation is UV-sensitive!
- So, would like toy models (at least) in which Planck-scale theory is specified.
- Moreover, rare opportunity to probe (some aspects of) Planck-scale physics.

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String theory provides:

- many fundamental scalar fields
- considerable UV control

Hope:

- use string theory to clarify UV issues in inflation
- use UV-sensitive aspects of inflation to constrain string theory – or at least, constrain string theory models of inflation

Warning: many aspects of inflation are **not** UV-sensitive.

# Aim:

Use CMB and LSS to probe fundamental physics.

# Method:

Propose and constrain mechanisms for inflation in string theory.

Focus on correlated signatures (tilt; tensors; non-Gaussianity; cosmic strings; isocurvature;...).

# Task:

Derive inflaton action in consistent, computable string compactifications with stabilized moduli.

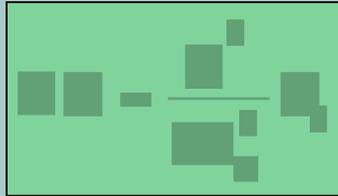
# Status Report: Inflation in String Theory

- We now have
  - many scenarios that are partially constructed in string theory.
  - a few scenarios that are complete or nearly so
- Modern models are **far more realistic** than those of 5-10 years ago. Moduli problem explicitly solved in a few cases, implicitly in a few more.
- Making correct predictions is still very difficult!
  - A key lesson across scenarios has been that **solving the moduli problem changes the scenario and can shift  $n_s$ ,  $r$  dramatically**. So one should be skeptical of predictions for these quantities in the absence of stabilization.
- It is clear that many complete models will soon exist. At present only a few are worked out in enough detail to make **correct** predictions.
- This talk: one of the best-understood scenarios.

# The eta problem

- Successful inflation requires controlling Planck-suppressed contributions to inflaton potential.

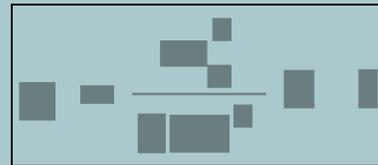
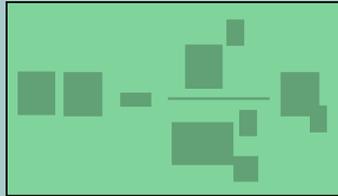
e.g.



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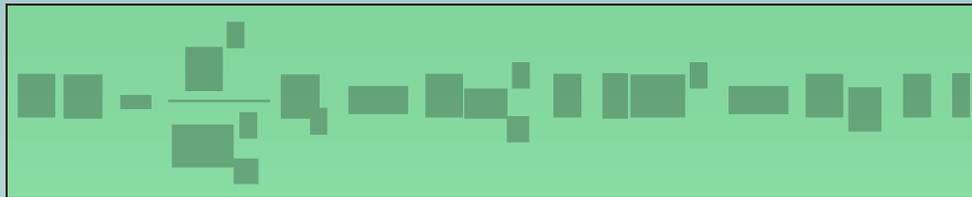
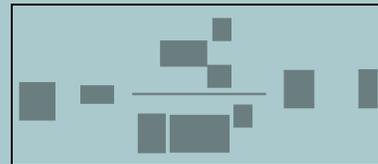
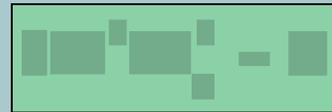
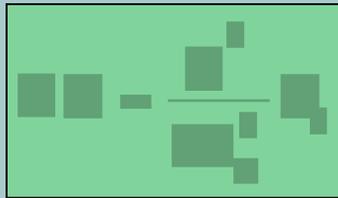
e.g.



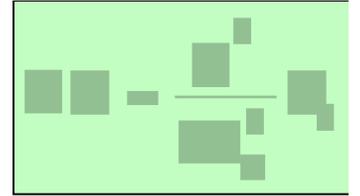
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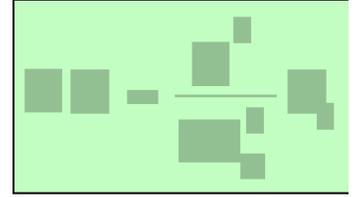


# The eta problem from an F-term potential



$$V \approx V_F = e^{K/M_{pl}^2} \left( K^{A\bar{B}} D_A W D_{\bar{B}} \bar{W} - \frac{3}{M_{pl}^2} |W|^2 \right)$$

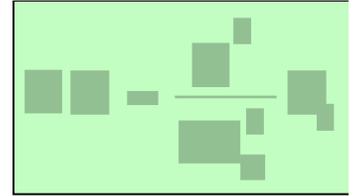
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$$K = K(0) + K_{,\phi\bar{\phi}}(0) \phi \bar{\phi} + \dots$$

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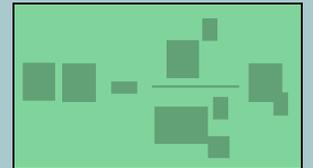
$$\mathcal{L} \approx K_{,\phi\bar{\phi}} \partial\phi \partial\bar{\phi} - e^{K(0)/M_{pl}^2} \left( 1 + \frac{1}{M_{pl}^2} K_{,\phi\bar{\phi}} \phi \bar{\phi} \right) \left( K^{A\bar{B}} D_A W D_{\bar{B}} \bar{W} - \frac{3}{M_{pl}^2} |W|^2 \right) + \dots$$

the canonically-normalized inflaton  $\varphi$  obeys  $\partial\varphi \partial\bar{\varphi} \approx K_{,\phi\bar{\phi}}(0) \partial\phi \partial\bar{\phi}$ ,

$$\Delta m_\varphi^2 \approx V_F(0)/M_{pl}^2 = 3H^2$$

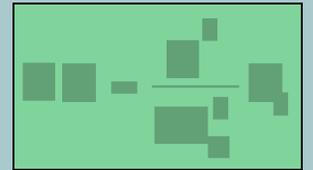
# Moduli stabilization and the eta problem

- Inflation requires controlling Planck-suppressed contributions to the inflaton potential **up to dimension 6**.
- Moduli stabilization almost always introduces such terms.
- Knowing (and controlling) the inflaton potential therefore requires **detailed information about moduli stabilization**.



# Moduli stabilization and the eta problem

- Inflation requires controlling Planck-suppressed contributions to the inflaton potential [up to dimension 6](#).
- Moduli stabilization almost always introduces such terms.
- Knowing (and controlling) the inflaton potential therefore requires [detailed information about moduli stabilization](#).
- ‘Detailed’ means one usually needs to know string +  $\alpha'$  corrections, backreaction effects, etc.
- Common approximations (classical, noncompact/large-volume, probe...) are often insufficient.
- String incarnation of (misnamed) supergravity eta problem ([Copeland, Liddle, Lyth, Stewart, & Wands astro-ph/9401011](#)).



# Today's talk

- Focus on a specific, concrete model: warped D-brane inflation.
- Determine form of inflaton potential, incorporating **all relevant contributions**.
  - approached directly, this is highly nontrivial.
  - We have explicitly computed a wide class of contributions.
  - to finish the job, we will take a different tack, inspired by AdS/CFT, that gives the complete answer and reduces to our earlier result in the appropriate limit.
- This gives very substantial progress towards an existence proof.
- It also provides a truly general characterization of possible phenomenological models in this scenario.

# Part II.

## D-brane Inflation

initiated in:

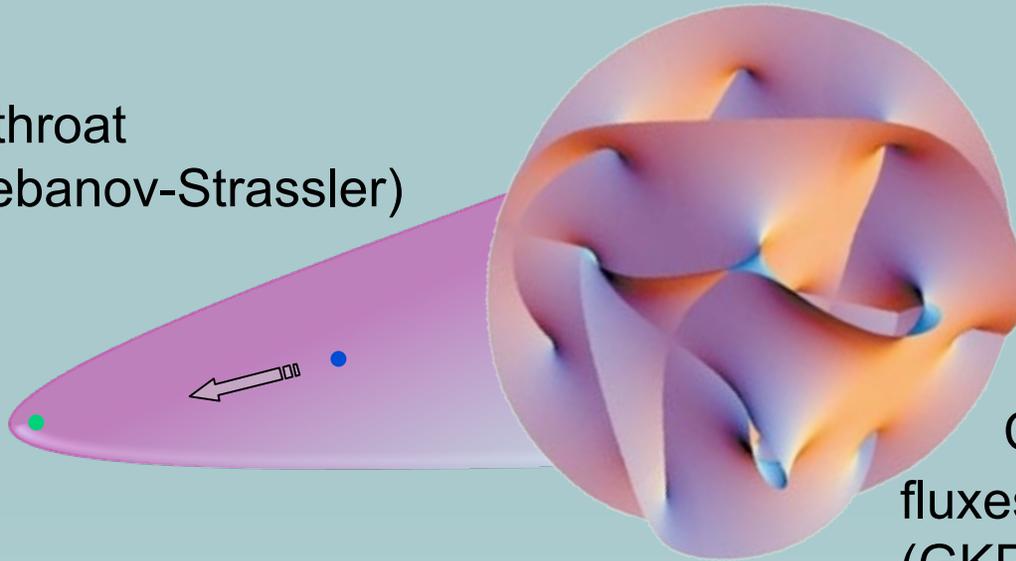
Dvali&Tye 1998

Dvali,Shafi,Solganik 2001

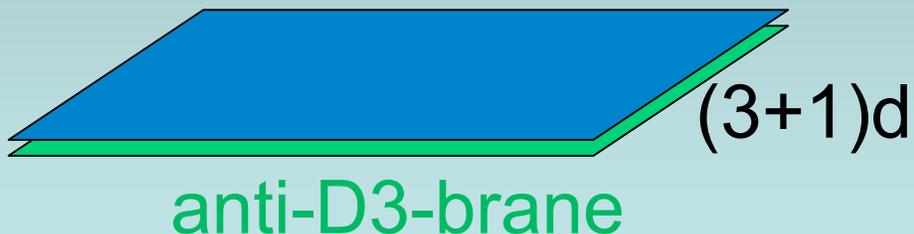
Burgess,Majumdar,Nolte,Quevedo,Rajesh,Zhang 2001

# Warped D-brane inflation

warped throat  
(e.g. Klebanov-Strassler)



CY orientifold, with  
fluxes and nonperturbative  $W$   
(GKP 2001, KKLT 2003)



warped throat gives:  
weak Coulomb potential  
control of energy scales  
explicit local geometry  
dual CFT

Kachru, Kallosh, Linde, Maldacena, L.M., Trivedi, 2003

# Throat Geometry

Finite-length KS throat, which we approximate by the Klebanov-Tseytlin solution:

$$ds^2 = h^{-1/2} \eta_{\mu\nu} dx^\mu dx^\nu + h^{1/2} (dr^2 + r^2 ds_{T^{1,1}}^2)$$

$$h(r) = \frac{27\pi}{4r^4} \alpha'^2 g_s M \left( K + g_s M \left( \frac{3}{8\pi} + \frac{3}{2\pi} \ln\left(\frac{r}{r_{\max}}\right) \right) \right)$$

Can ignore logs and approximate as  $\text{AdS}_5 \times T^{1,1}$  :

$$ds^2 = \frac{r^2}{R^2} (-dt^2 + dx_i^2) + \frac{R^2}{r^2} dr^2 + \text{angles}$$

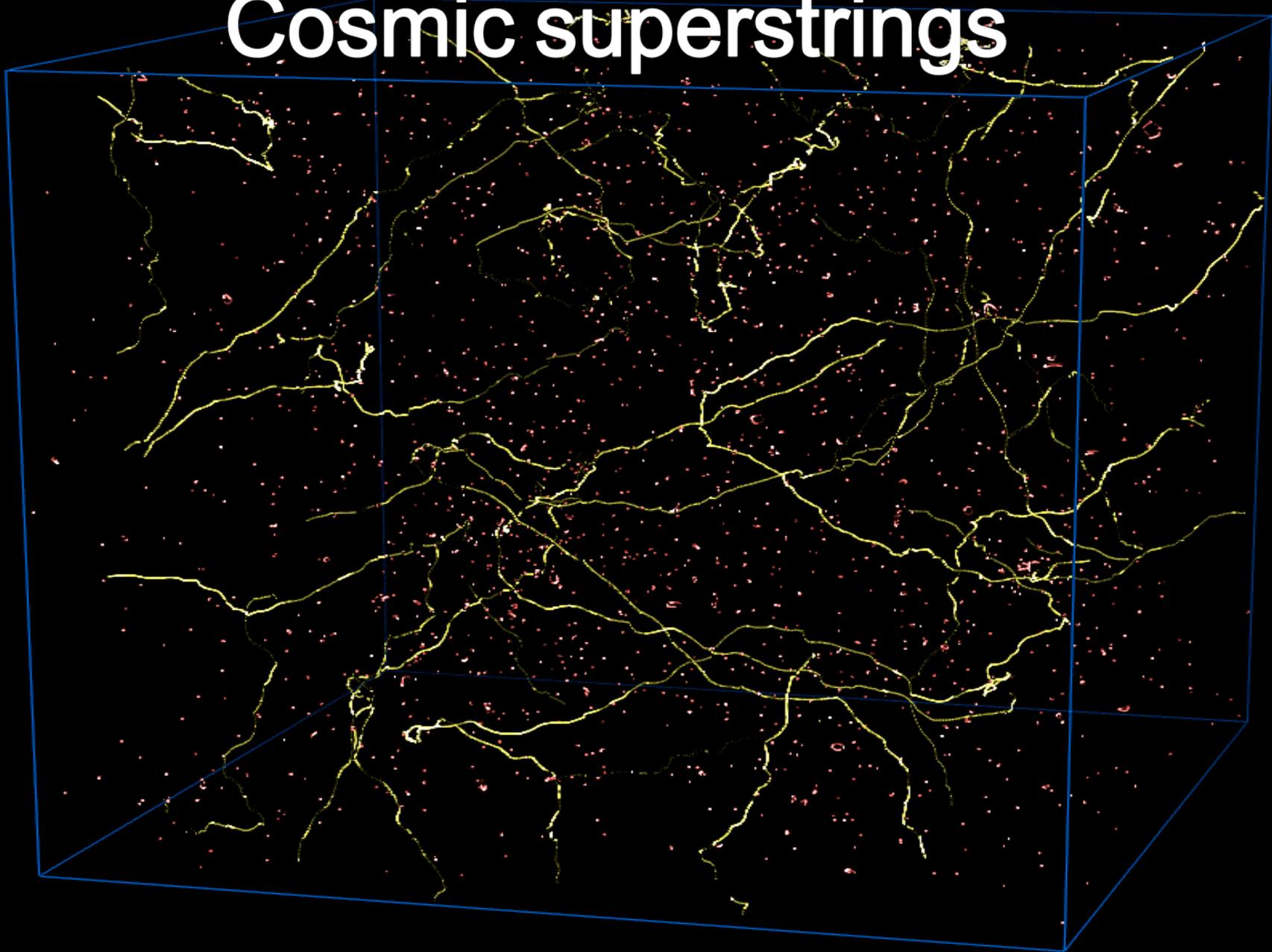
$$R^4 = \frac{27}{4} \pi g_s N \alpha'^2, \quad N \equiv KM$$

# Coulomb Potential

$$V = 2T_3 \frac{r_0^4}{R^4} \left( 1 - \frac{1}{N} \frac{r_0^4}{r_1^4} \right)$$

- Looks extremely flat, because interaction term is warped.
- If this were the whole story, the model would be perfect
  - dimensional transmutation explains smallness of slow-roll parameters
  - inflation has a natural end, with the possibility of interesting topological defects from tachyon condensation: cosmic superstrings.

# Cosmic superstrings



B. Allen and E.P. Shellard

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  - dimensional transmutation explains smallness of slow-roll parameters
  - inflation has a natural end, with the possibility of interesting topological defects from tachyon condensation: cosmic superstrings.
- In reality, many **more important** contributions to the potential!
- Origin: moduli stabilization and other ‘compactification effects’
- We need to understand and incorporate these effects.

# Does it work?

?

$$V(\phi) = V_{D3/\overline{D3}}(\phi) + H^2\phi^2 + \Delta V(\phi)$$

known in initial proposal

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- D. Baumann, A. Dymarsky, I. Klebanov, & L.M., [0706.0360](#).

Complete parameterization: D. Baumann, A. Dymarsky, S. Kachru, I. Klebanov, & L.M., [0808.2811](#).

# Part III.

## The D3-Brane Potential

# D3-branes in flux compactifications

$$ds^2 = e^{2A(y)} g_{\mu\nu} dx^\mu dx^\nu + e^{-2A(y)} \tilde{g}_{mn}(y) dy^m dy^n$$

$$\tilde{F}_5 = (1 + \star_{10}) [d\alpha(y) \wedge dx^0 \wedge dx^1 \wedge dx^2 \wedge dx^3]$$

$$V = T_3 \Phi_-$$

$$\Phi_{\pm} \equiv e^{4A} \pm \alpha$$

GKP solutions:

$$G_- = \Phi_- = 0$$

$$G_{\pm} \equiv (i \pm \star_6) G_3$$

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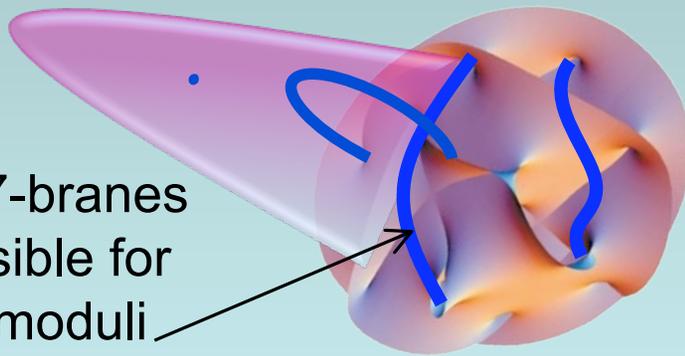
$$G_{\pm} \equiv (i \pm \star_6) G_3$$

D3-branes feel no potential in GKP solutions ('no-scale'),  
but  
nonperturbative stabilization of Kahler moduli will spoil this.

# D3-brane vacua in KKLT compactifications

$$W = \int G_3 \wedge \Omega + A(y)e^{-a\rho}, \quad \mathcal{K} = -3 \log(\rho + \bar{\rho} - k(y, \bar{y}))$$

ED3/D7-branes  
responsible for  
Kahler moduli  
stabilization



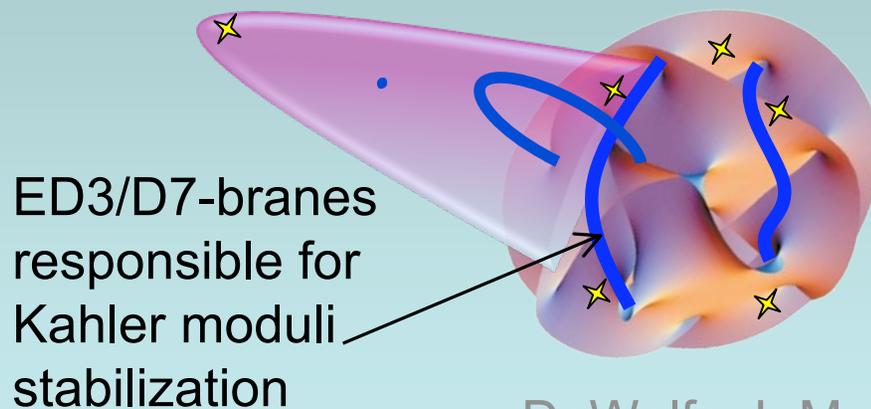
I will assume that  
# fermion zero modes = 2.  
cf. A. Uranga's talk

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For generic  $A(y)$ , **solutions** to  $D_\rho W = D_y W = 0$

i.e., **supersymmetric D3-brane vacua**, are **isolated**. But where are they, and what is the potential in between?



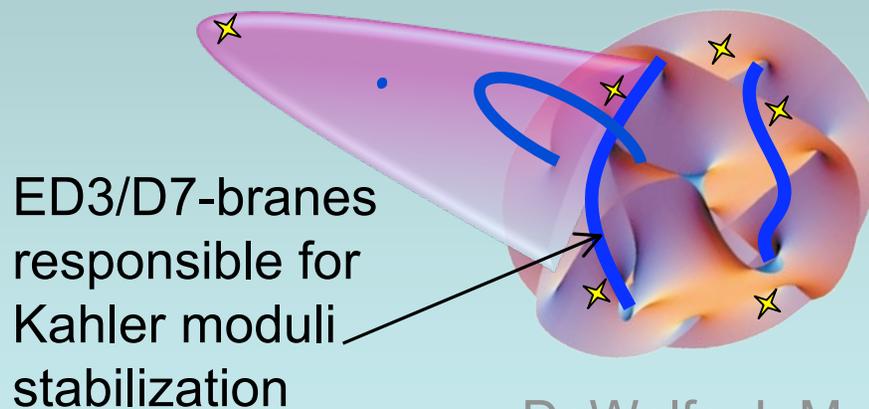
DeWolfe, L.M., Shiu, & Underwood, hep-th/0703088.

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We need to know  $A(y)$ .

DeWolfe, L.M., Shiu, & Underwood, hep-th/0703088.

Q. Can one compute  $A(y)$  in a special case?

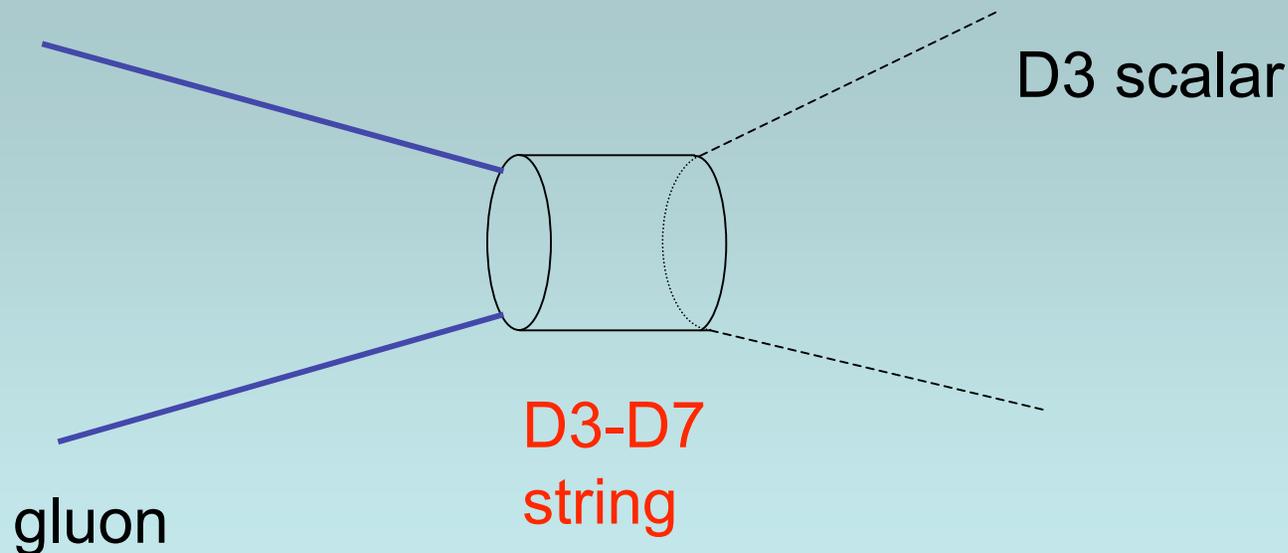
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In case of gaugino condensation, they compute dependence on D3 position  $y$  as **threshold correction** due to 3-7 strings.



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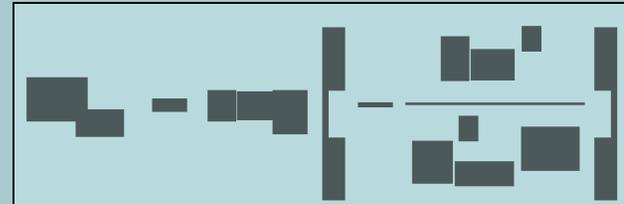
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Q. What about a case directly applicable to a D3-brane in a warped throat?

# Nonperturbative Effects



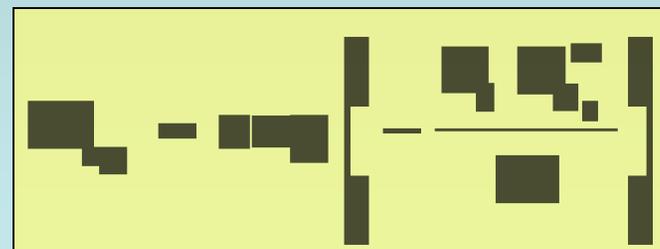
- Gaugino condensation on  $N$  D7-branes wrapping a four-cycle  $\Sigma_4$



- Euclidean D3-branes wrapping a four-cycle  $\Sigma_4$



Either case: can write



# Corrected Warped Volumes

$$V = \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} \sqrt{g_{\text{ind}}}$$

$$V \approx \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} \sqrt{g_{\text{ind}}} \sqrt{h(Y, X)}$$

(probe approximation)

Including D3-brane backreaction:

$$h = h(Y, X)$$

D3-brane position

$$V = \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} \sqrt{g_{\text{ind}}} \sqrt{h(Y, X)} + \delta V$$

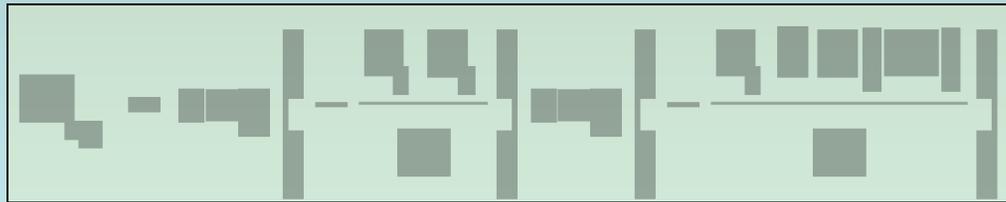
# D3-brane Backreaction

$$h = h_0(Y) + \delta h(X, Y)$$

$$V_{\Sigma_4}^w = \underbrace{\int_{\Sigma_4} d^4 Y \sqrt{g} h_0(Y)}_{V_0} + \underbrace{\int_{\Sigma_4} d^4 Y \sqrt{g} \delta h(X, Y)}_{\delta V}$$

$$\nabla_Y^2 \delta h(X, Y) = -2\kappa_{(10)}^2 T_3 \left[ \delta^6(X - Y) - \rho_{bg}(Y) \right]$$

- Solve for  $\delta h$
- Integrate over  $\Sigma_4$  to get  $\delta V(X)$
- Read off  $\delta W(X)$



# Comparison

Open String  
BHK

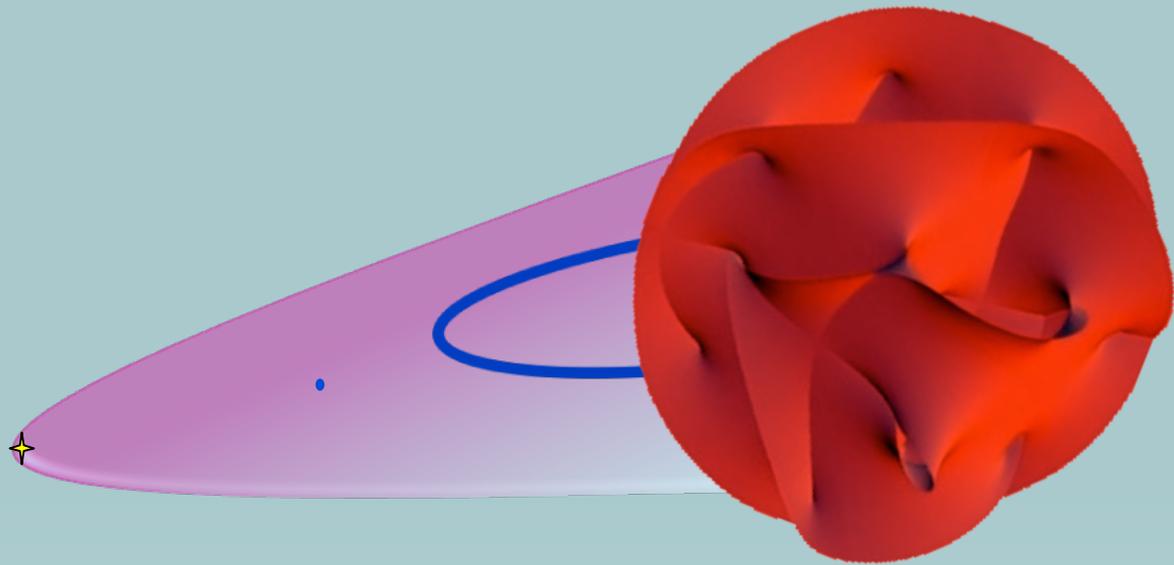
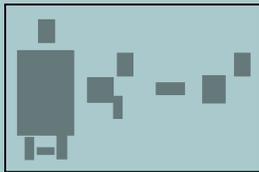
One-loop open string  
Threshold correction  
Gaugino only  
Hard  
Toroidal cases only  
Unwarped only

Closed String  
Giddings-Maharana; Us

Tree-level SUGRA  
Backreaction on warping  
Gaugino or ED3  
Comparatively easy  
More general geometries  
Warping ok

Perfect agreement where comparison is possible.

# A tractable background for computing $A(y)$ : a four-cycle embedded in the throat



Ideally, embedding should be SUSY in KS throat.

# Result for a general warped throat

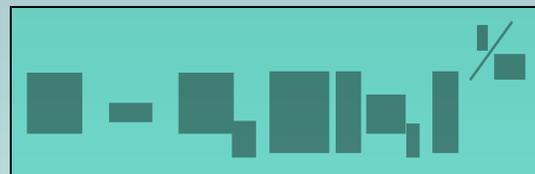
Ganor, [hep-th/9612007](#)

Baumann, Dymarsky, Klebanov, Maldacena, L.M., & Murugan,  
[hep-th/0607050](#).

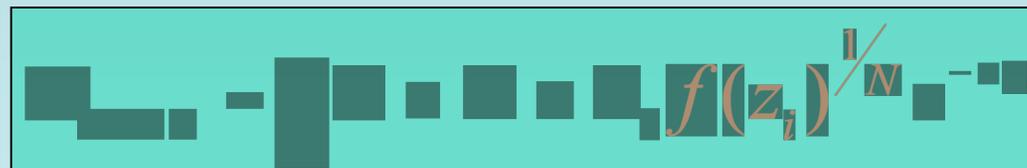
If  $N$  wrapped branes are embedded along



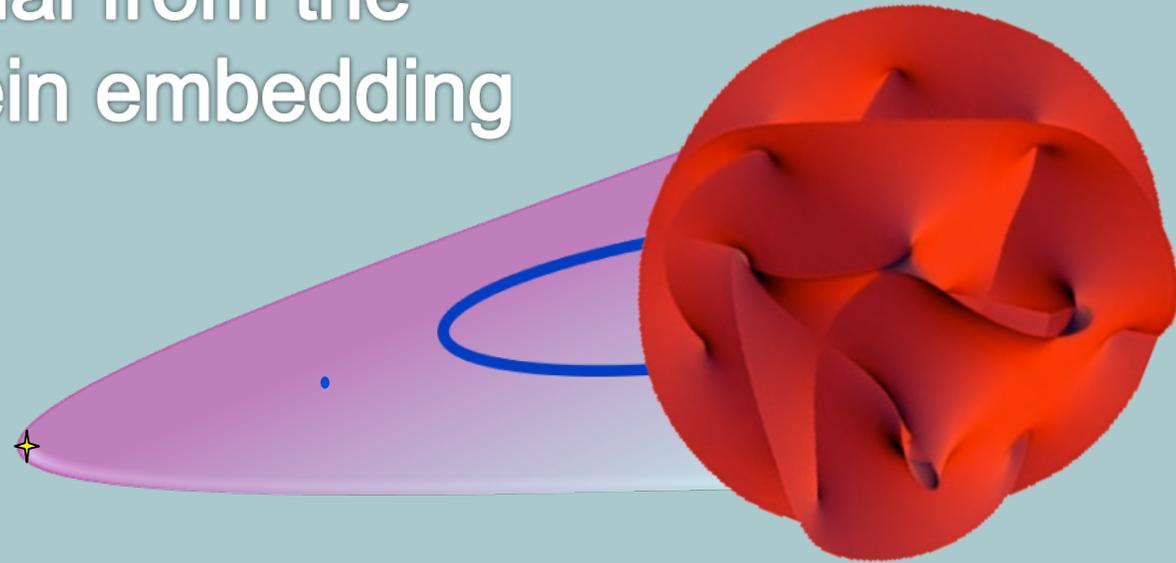
then the superpotential correction is



so the superpotential is



# Potential from the Kuperstein embedding



$$V(z_1) = \frac{1}{2} \mu^2 (z_1 - u)^2 + \frac{1}{4} \lambda (z_1 - u)^4$$

S. Kuperstein,  
hep-th/0411097

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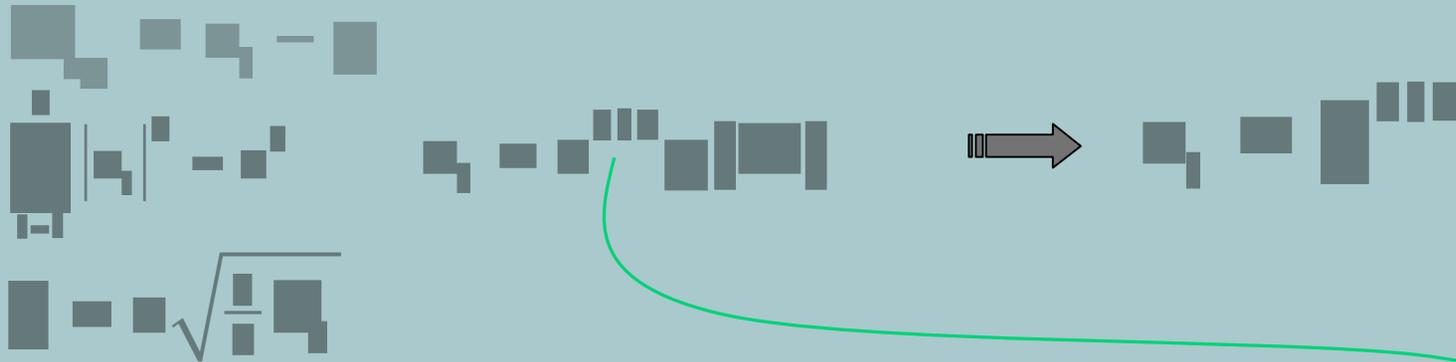
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# Holomorphy + throat geometry constrain corrections to potential

The diagram illustrates the derivation of a potential function through several steps:

- Step 1:** A complex expression involving a square root and various terms, representing the initial potential or a constraint equation.
- Step 2:** A series of terms, likely representing the expansion or simplification of the initial expression.
- Step 3:** A large arrow pointing to the right, indicating a transition or derivation.
- Step 4:** A simplified potential function, likely the result of applying holomorphy and throat geometry constraints.

# Holomorphy + throat geometry constrain corrections to potential



$$V(\phi) = V_{D3/\overline{D3}}(\phi) + M_{\text{pl}}^2 H^2 \left[ \left( \frac{\phi}{M_{\text{pl}}} \right)^2 - a_{3/2} \left( \frac{\phi}{M_{\text{pl}}} \right)^{3/2} \right]$$

new term in  $\Delta V$

No **quadratic** correction from this embedding!  
i.e. still cannot fine-tune inflaton mass per se

# A Nearly Explicit Model of D-brane inflation

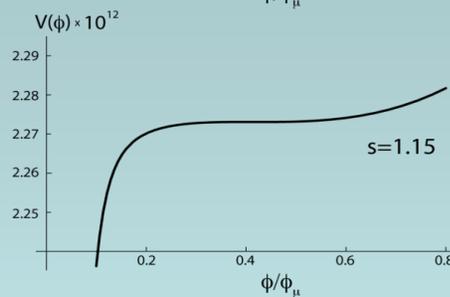
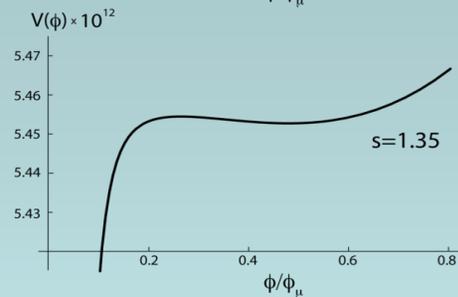
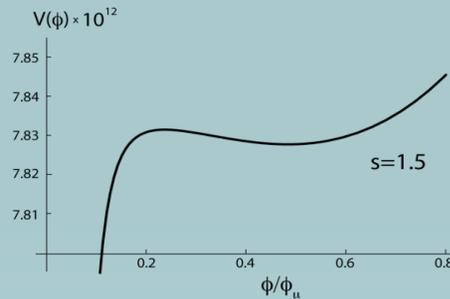
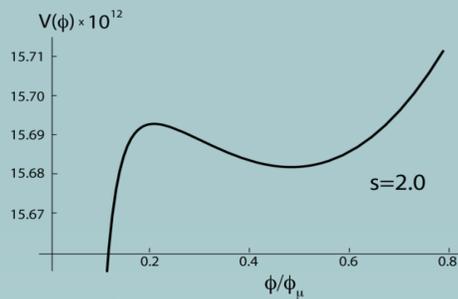
Baumann, Dymarsky, Klebanov, L.M., & Steinhardt, 0705.3837;

Baumann, Dymarsky, Klebanov, & L.M., 0706.0360.

Krause & Pajer, 0705.4682.

Dynamics:

Panda, Sami, Tsujikawa, 0707.2848.



$\Delta V$  does not include a quadratic term.  
Can fine-tune only locally.

D7-brane embedding:



For fine-tuned parameters, an inflection point appears.  
Inflation can occur near this inflection point.

Part IV.

# Holographic Systematics

# How can we be more complete and systematic?

- We had to assume that the divisor bearing nonperturbative effects sags into the throat.
  - This is likely not generic, and it imposes strong constraints on the parameters that only reflect our wish to compute, not the underlying physics.
- We have assumed that all other effects are **negligible!**
  - We have thereby neglected more distant divisors, bulk fluxes, distant antibranes, etc.
- Our result may be sensitive to the gluing of the throat into the compact space.
- Purely practically, while it is easy to compute the superpotential for a general embedding in a general throat, it is slightly subtle and rather involved to read off the complete potential that results.

# A Simple Idea

The D3-brane potential comes from  $\Phi_-$  alone. So we are interested in the profile of  $\Phi_-$ .

$$V = T_3 \Phi_-$$

$$\Phi_{\pm} \equiv e^{4A} \pm \alpha$$

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Arbitrary compactification effects can be represented by specifying boundary conditions for  $\Phi_0$  in the UV of the throat, i.e. by allowing arbitrary non-normalizable  $\Phi_0$  profiles.

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The warped geometry filters these effects; the leading contributions are those that diminish least rapidly towards the IR ( $\sim$  lowest few multipoles).

Normalizable  $\Phi_-$  profiles arise from supersymmetry-breaking at the tip and are already incorporated.

cf. [DeWolfe, Kachru, & Mulligan 0801.1520](#)

# Gauge Theory version

**Arbitrary compactification effects can be represented by allowing arbitrary deformations of the Lagrangian of the dual (approximate) CFT.**

Supersymmetric deformations:  
Aharony, Antebi, & Berkooz, [hep-th/0508080](#)

# Gauge Theory version

**Arbitrary compactification effects can be represented by allowing arbitrary deformations of the Lagrangian of the dual (approximate) CFT.**

These deformations incorporate couplings to bulk moduli  $X$  that get F-term vevs.

$$\Delta\mathcal{K} = c \int d^4\theta M_{UV}^{-\Delta} X^\dagger X \mathcal{O}_\Delta \quad \Rightarrow \quad \Delta V = c M_{UV}^{-\Delta} |F_X|^2 \mathcal{O}_\Delta$$

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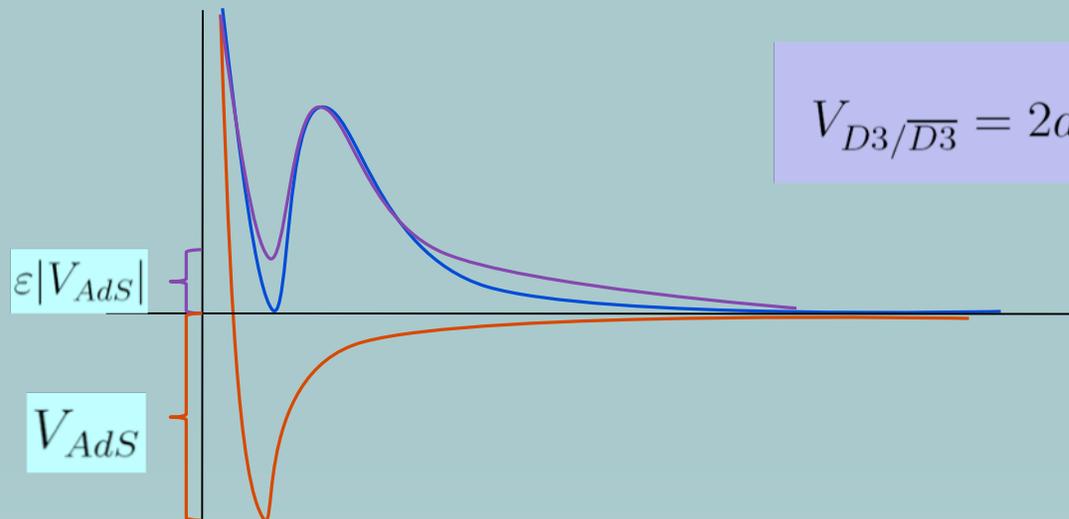
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The RG flow filters these effects; the leading contributions are those that diminish least rapidly towards the IR, i.e. **the most relevant contributions.**

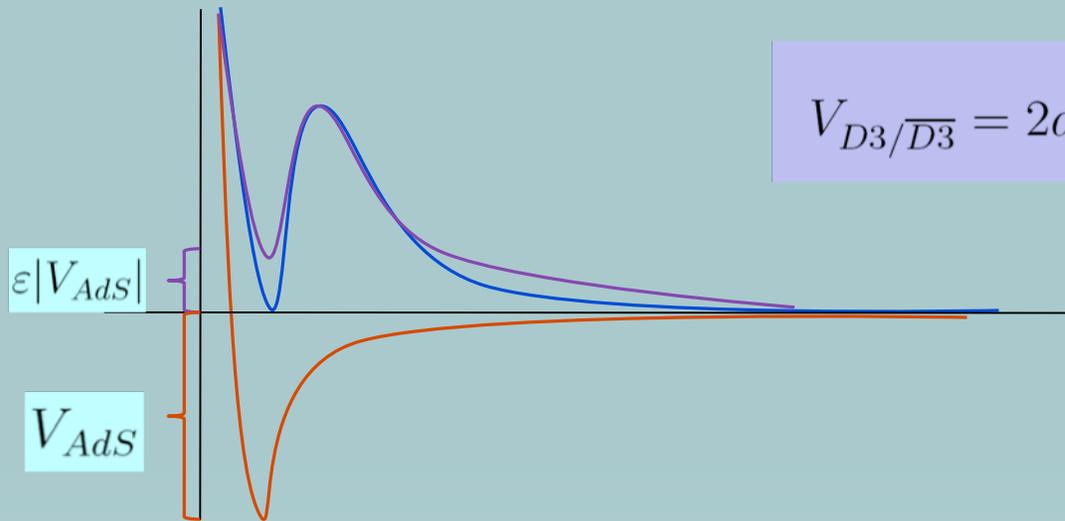
Deformations of the CFT state arise from supersymmetry -breaking at the tip and are already incorporated.

# Scale of the moduli F-terms



$$V_{D3/\overline{D3}} = 2a_0^4 T_3 = \epsilon |V_{AdS}|, \quad \epsilon \lesssim \mathcal{O}(1)$$

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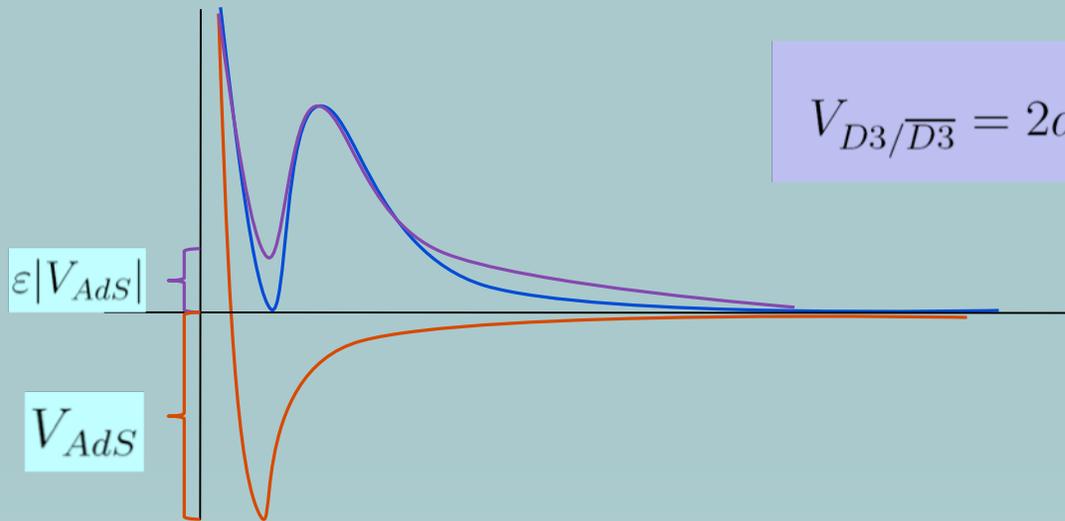


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$$\Delta V_F(D3) \sim |V_{AdS}| \sim \frac{1}{\epsilon} \times 2a_0^4 T_3$$

$$V_{UV}(D3) = \frac{c_F}{\epsilon} 2a_0^4 T_3 \equiv c a_0^4 T_3$$

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$$F_X \sim \xi a_0^2$$

# Method

Consider linearized  $\Phi$  perturbations around a finite-length KS throat, which we approximate by  $\text{AdS}_5 \times T^{1,1}$ .

$$ds^2 = h^{-1/2} \eta_{\mu\nu} dx^\mu dx^\nu + h^{1/2} (dr^2 + r^2 ds_{T^{1,1}}^2)$$

$$h(r) = \frac{27\pi}{4r^4} \alpha'^2 g_s M \left( K + g_s M \left( \frac{3}{8\pi} + \frac{3}{2\pi} \ln\left(\frac{r}{r_{\max}}\right) \right) \right)$$

In general, many other modes are turned on, but at the linear level they do not couple to D3-branes!

CFT version: interested only in operators that generate a potential on the Coulomb branch.

# Linearization around ISD compactifications

$$ds^2 = e^{2A(y)} g_{\mu\nu} dx^\mu dx^\nu + e^{-2A(y)} \tilde{g}_{mn}(y) dy^m dy^n$$

$$\tilde{F}_5 = (1 + \star_{10}) [d\alpha(y) \wedge dx^0 \wedge dx^1 \wedge dx^2 \wedge dx^3]$$

$$V = T_3 \Phi_-$$

$$\Phi_{\pm} \equiv e^{4A} \pm \alpha$$

$$G_{\pm} \equiv (i \pm \star_6) G_3$$

$$\tilde{\nabla}^2 \Phi_{\pm} = \frac{e^{8A+\phi}}{24} |\tilde{G}_{\pm}|^2 + e^{-4A} |\tilde{\nabla} \Phi_{\pm}|^2 + \text{local}$$

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So, solve the Laplace equation in  $\text{AdS}_5 \times T^{1,1}$ .

# Solution:

Kim, Romans, & van Nieuwenhuizen, 1985.  
Gubser, 1998.  
Ceresole, Dall'Agata, D'Auria, Ferrara, 1999.

$$\Phi_{-}(r, \Psi) = \sum_{L, M} \Phi_{LM} \left( \frac{r}{r_{UV}} \right)^{\Delta(L)} Y_{LM}(\Psi) + c.c.$$

$$L \equiv \{J_1, J_2, R\} \longleftrightarrow SU(2) \times SU(2) \times U(1)_R$$

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

$$\square_5 Y_{LM} = -\Lambda Y_{LM}$$

$$\Lambda \equiv 6 \left[ J_1(J_1 + 1) + J_2(J_2 + 1) - R^2/8 \right]$$

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$$V(\phi) = V_{D3/\overline{D3}}(\phi) + H^2 \phi^2 + \sum_{L,M} c_{\Delta} \left( \frac{\phi}{\phi_{UV}} \right)^{\Delta(L)} \alpha_{LM} Y_{LM}(\Psi) + c.c.$$

## Simple case: one mode

$$\Phi_{-}^{(\Delta)} = \left( \frac{r}{r_{UV}} \right)^{\Delta} f_L(\Psi)$$

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$$\Delta V = -c a_0^4 T_3 \left( \frac{\phi}{\phi_{UV}} \right)^{\Delta}$$



What are the lowest modes?

$$\{J_1, J_2, R\} = \left\{\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}, 1\right\}$$

$\Delta=3/2$  **chiral** mode

$$\Phi_-^{(3/2)}$$

$$\{J_1, J_2, R\} = \{1, 0, 0\} \text{ and } \{0, 1, 0\}$$

$\Delta=2$  **nonchiral** mode

$$\Phi_-^{(2)}$$

# Gauge Theory Description

Klebanov-Witten CFT:

Klebanov & Witten, [hep-th/9807080](#)

SU(N) x SU(N) gauge group

SU(2) x SU(2) x U(1)<sub>R</sub> global symmetry

bifundamentals A<sub>i</sub>, B<sub>i</sub>

ultraviolet deformation:

$$c \int d^4\theta M_{UV}^{-\Delta} X^\dagger X \mathcal{O}_\Delta$$

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contributing  
chiral operators:

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most relevant  
chiral operators:

$$\mathcal{O}_{3/2} = \text{Tr} (A_i B_j) + c.c.$$

## Discrete symmetries can forbid chiral perturbations

e.g.,  $A_i \rightarrow -A_i$  forbids  $\mathcal{O}_{3/2} = \text{Tr}(A_i B_j) + c.c.$

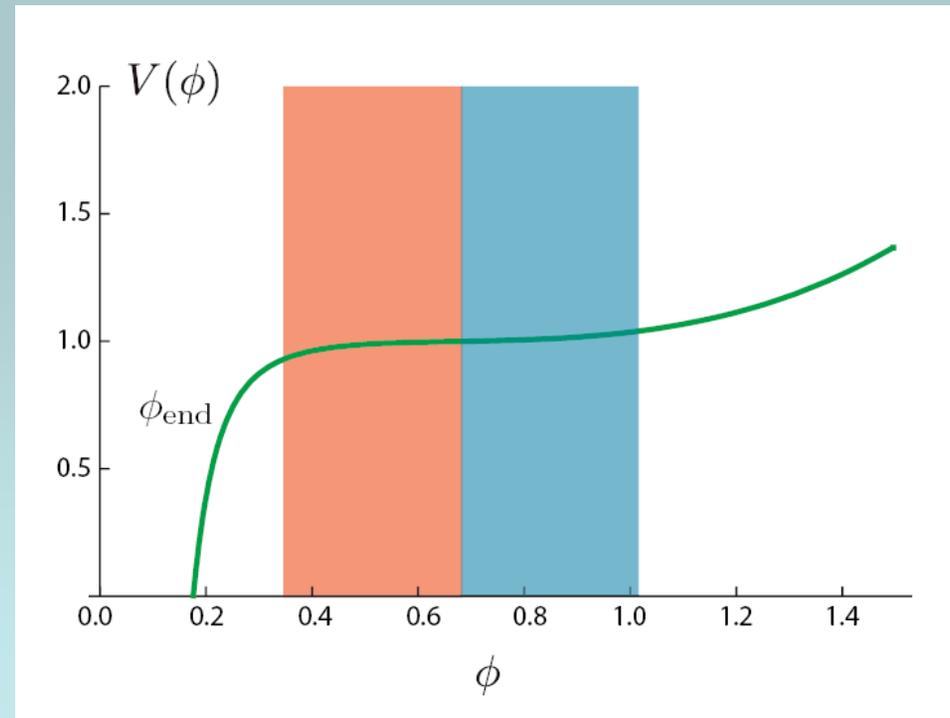
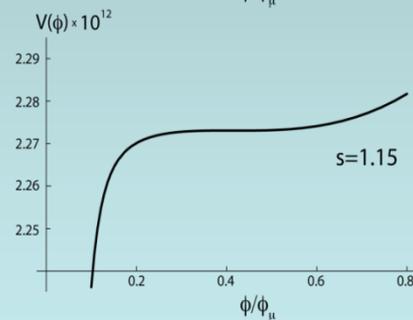
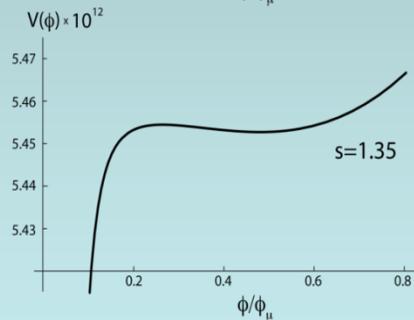
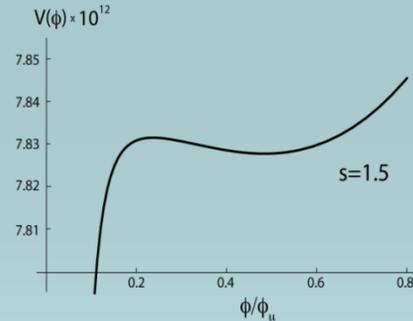
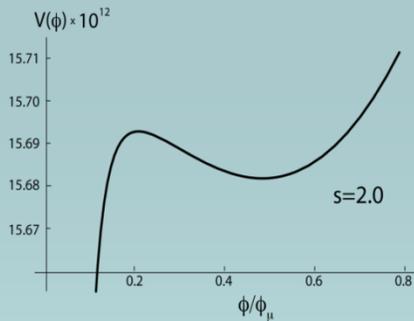
Moreover, the following nonchiral operators are in the supermultiplets of global symmetry currents, and have protected dimension,  $\Delta=2$ :

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

If the compactification preserves a discrete symmetry that forbids the leading chiral perturbation  $\mathbf{O}_{3/2}$ , the dominant compactification effect comes from  $\mathbf{O}_2$ .

# Scenario I: Inflection point inflation again!

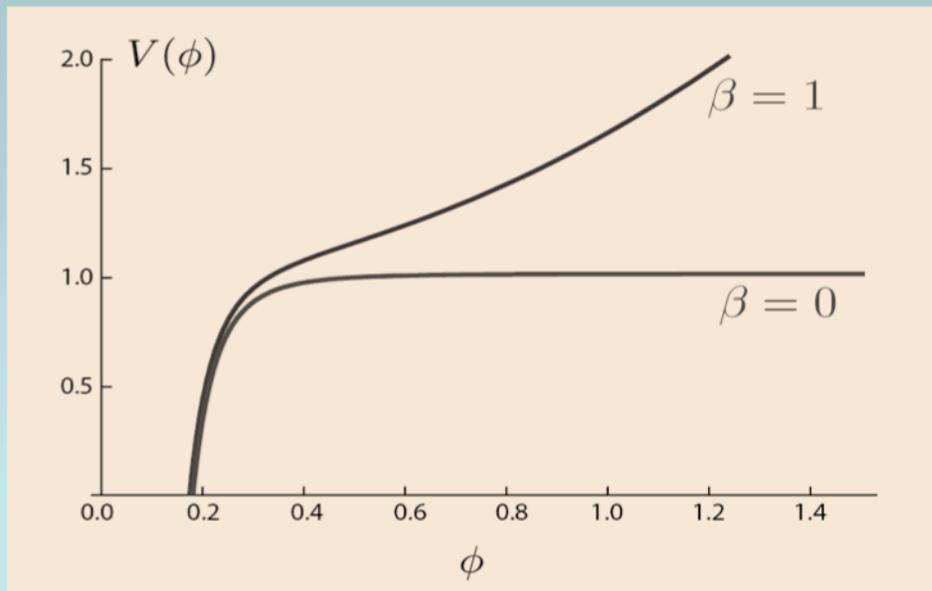
$$V(\phi) = V_{D3/\overline{D3}}(\phi) + M_{\text{pl}}^2 H^2 \left[ \left( \frac{\phi}{M_{\text{pl}}} \right)^2 - a_{3/2} \left( \frac{\phi}{M_{\text{pl}}} \right)^{3/2} \right]$$



# Scenario II: wherein the inflaton mass admits fine-tuning

$$V(\phi) = V_{D3/\overline{D3}}(\phi) + H^2 \underbrace{\left[ 1 - c_2 \left( \frac{M_{\text{pl}}}{M_{\text{UV}}} \right)^2 \right]}_{\equiv \beta} \phi^2$$

(This is the leading term if discrete symmetries forbid the chiral perturbation.)



Phenomenology:  
Firouzjahi & Tye, [hep-th/0501009](https://arxiv.org/abs/hep-th/0501009)

Part IV.

Pre-Conclusions

# Conclusions, Part I: Method

- We have an easy and completely systematic approach to computing the inflaton potential in warped brane inflation.
- Method: consider generic perturbation of ultraviolet region, sourced by supersymmetry-breaking compactification effects, and focus on most relevant terms.
- Equivalently, perturb dual CFT Lagrangian by most relevant operators.
- Our approach reproduces, extends, and simplifies the results of direct computation of  $W$  from wrapped D7-branes.
- We reliably capture totally general effects of compactification, provided that the D3-brane is far from the top and far from the tip.

# Conclusions, Part II: Implications

- Two scenarios:
  - ❖ inflection point inflation is most generic possibility.
  - ❖ discrete symmetry leads instead to terms that allow direct fine-tuning of the inflaton mass.
- Study of multifield effects is now straightforward.
- Moreover, since we know the structure of the most general potential for this system, one could try to understand generic predictions.

Part V.

Primordial Gravitational Waves  
from  
String Inflation

# Vacuum Fluctuations: Tensors

$$\delta g_{ij} \equiv h_{ij} = h_+ e_{ij}^+ + h_\times e_{ij}^\times$$

$$\langle h(k)h(k') \rangle = \frac{2\pi^2}{k^3} \delta^3(k - k') \mathcal{P}_T$$

$$\mathcal{P}_T = \frac{8}{M_P^2} \left( \frac{H}{2\pi} \right)^2$$

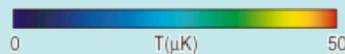
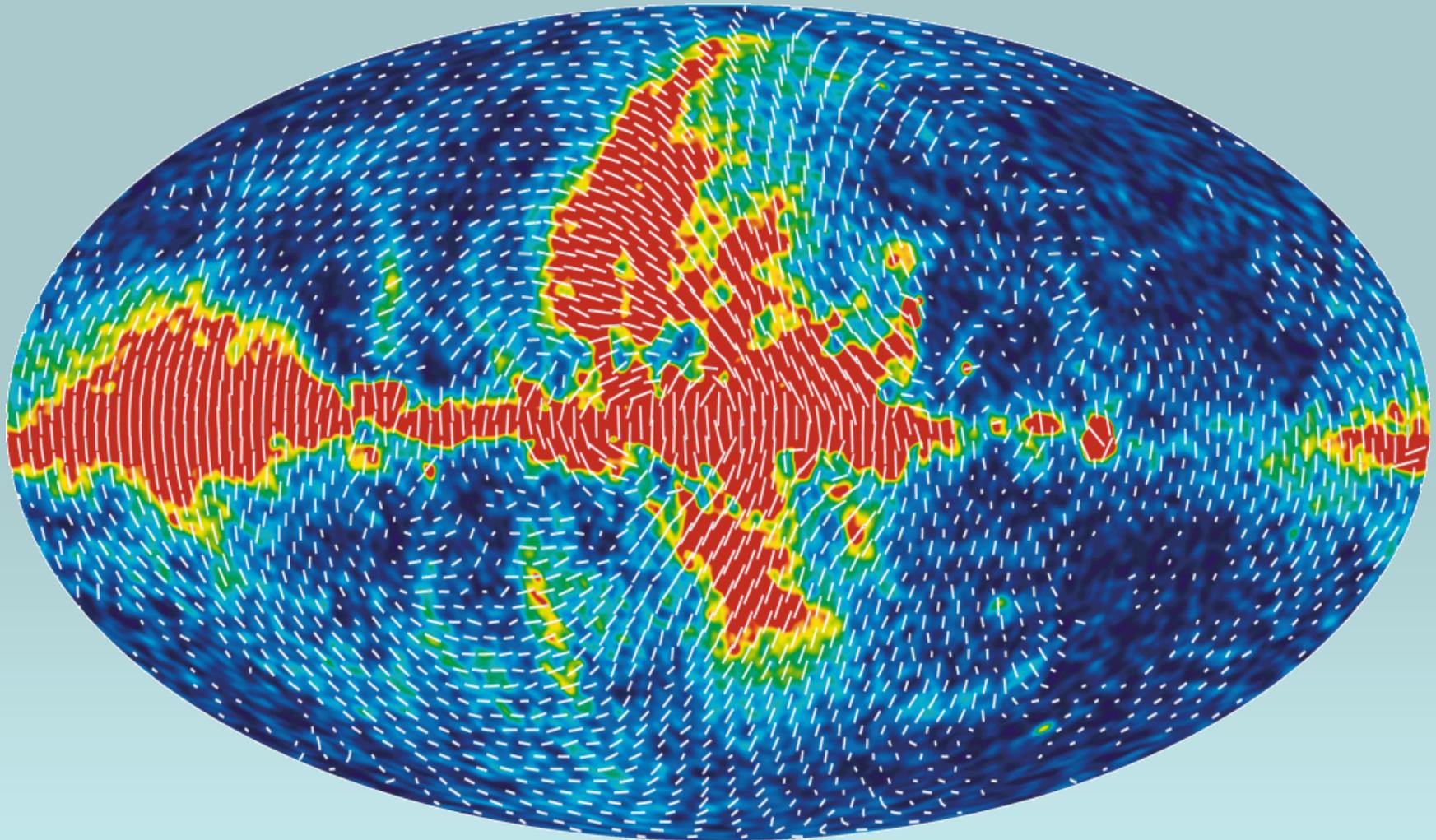
$$\mathcal{P}_S = \left( \frac{H}{2\pi} \right)^2 \left( \frac{H}{\dot{\phi}} \right)^2$$

$$r \equiv \frac{\mathcal{P}_T}{\mathcal{P}_S}$$

tensor-to-scalar ratio,  
a measure of the  
primordial tensor signal

May be visible through induced curl of CMB photons' polarization (B-mode): SPIDER, Clover, QUIET, BICEP, EBEX, PolarBEAR,...

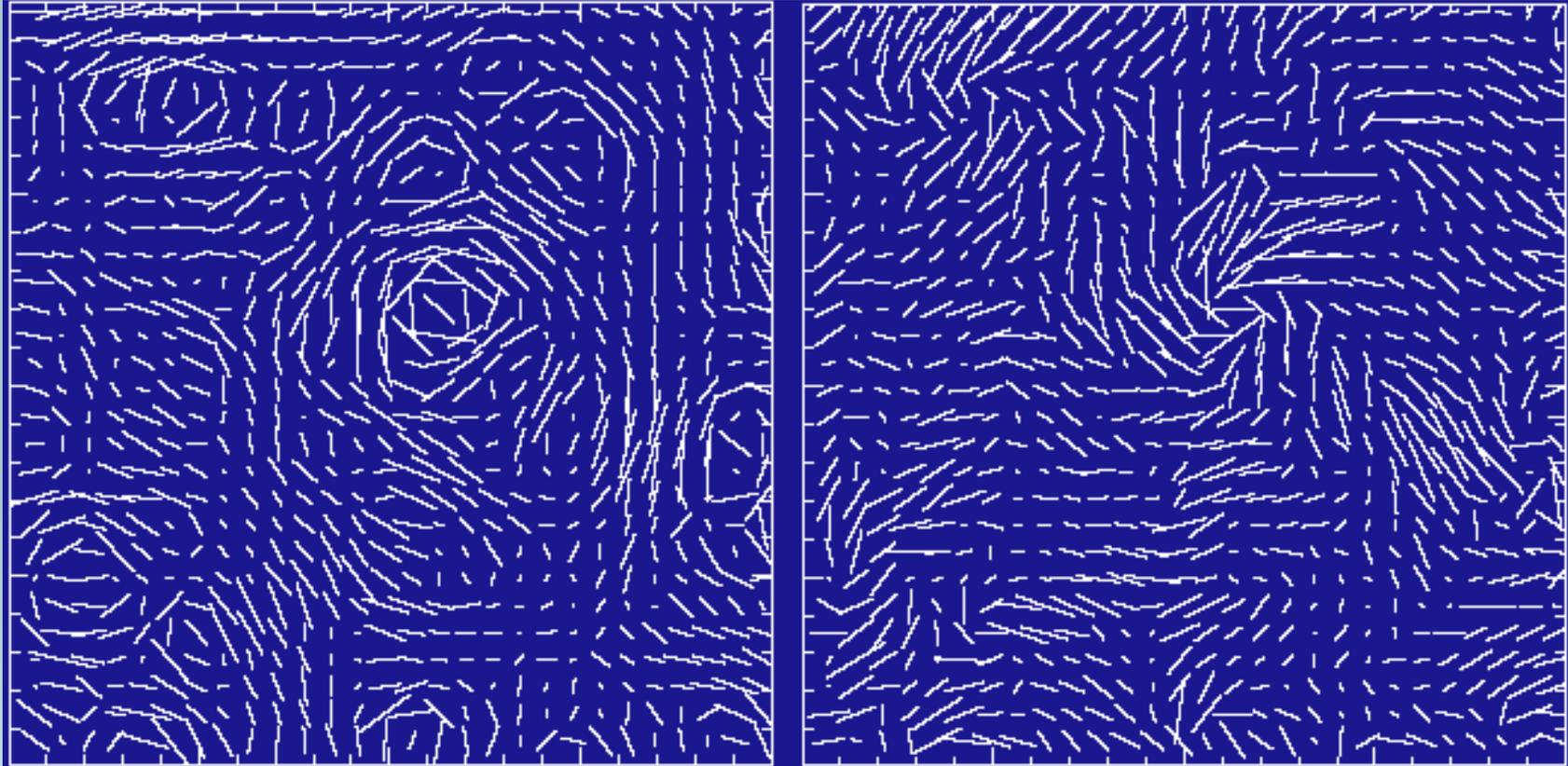
# Polarization seen by WMAP



NASA/WMAP Science Team

# E-mode vs. B-mode

(curl-free) (curl)

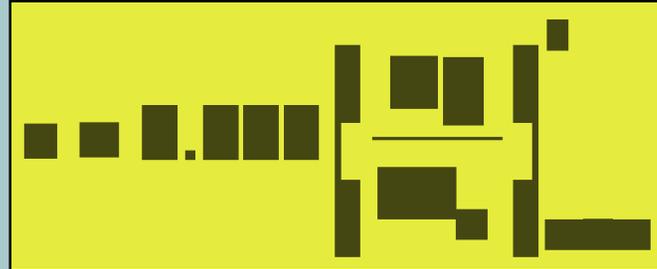
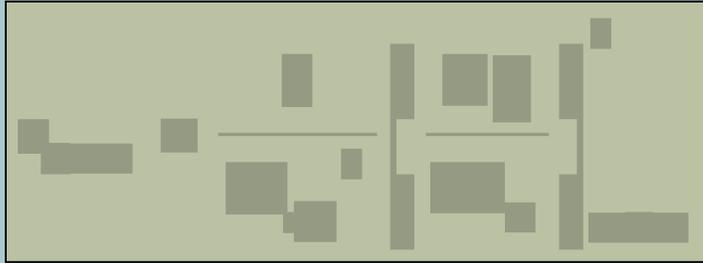


Primordial tensors induce curl of CMB photons' polarization (B-mode).

Image: Seljak and Zaldarriaga

# Lyth Bound

D.H. Lyth, 1996



Threshold for detection:

$r \sim 10^{-2}$  next decade

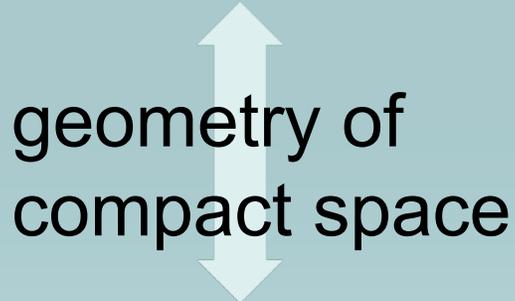
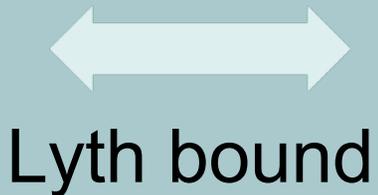
$r \sim 10^{-3} ?$  ultimate

**OBSERVABLE TENSORS  
REQUIRE**

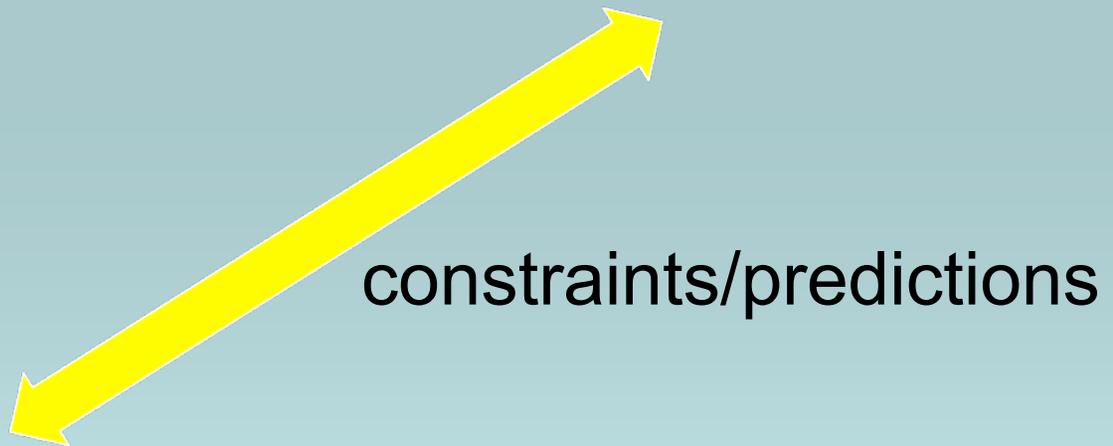
**TRANS-PLANCKIAN FIELD VARIATION  
WHICH REQUIRES  
ULTRAVIOLET INPUT.**

Planckian distances

Tensors in CMB



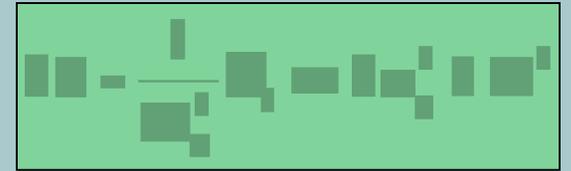
String theory



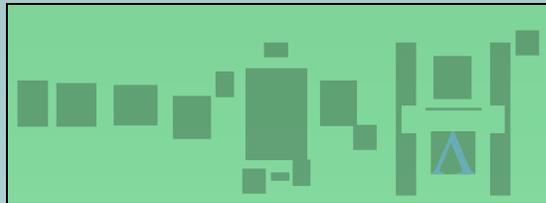
# The challenge:

- Small-field inflation  requires controlling Planck-suppressed corrections **up to dimension 6**

Reasonable to **enumerate and fine-tune** these terms.



- Large-field inflation  requires control of Planck-suppressed contributions of **arbitrary dimension!**



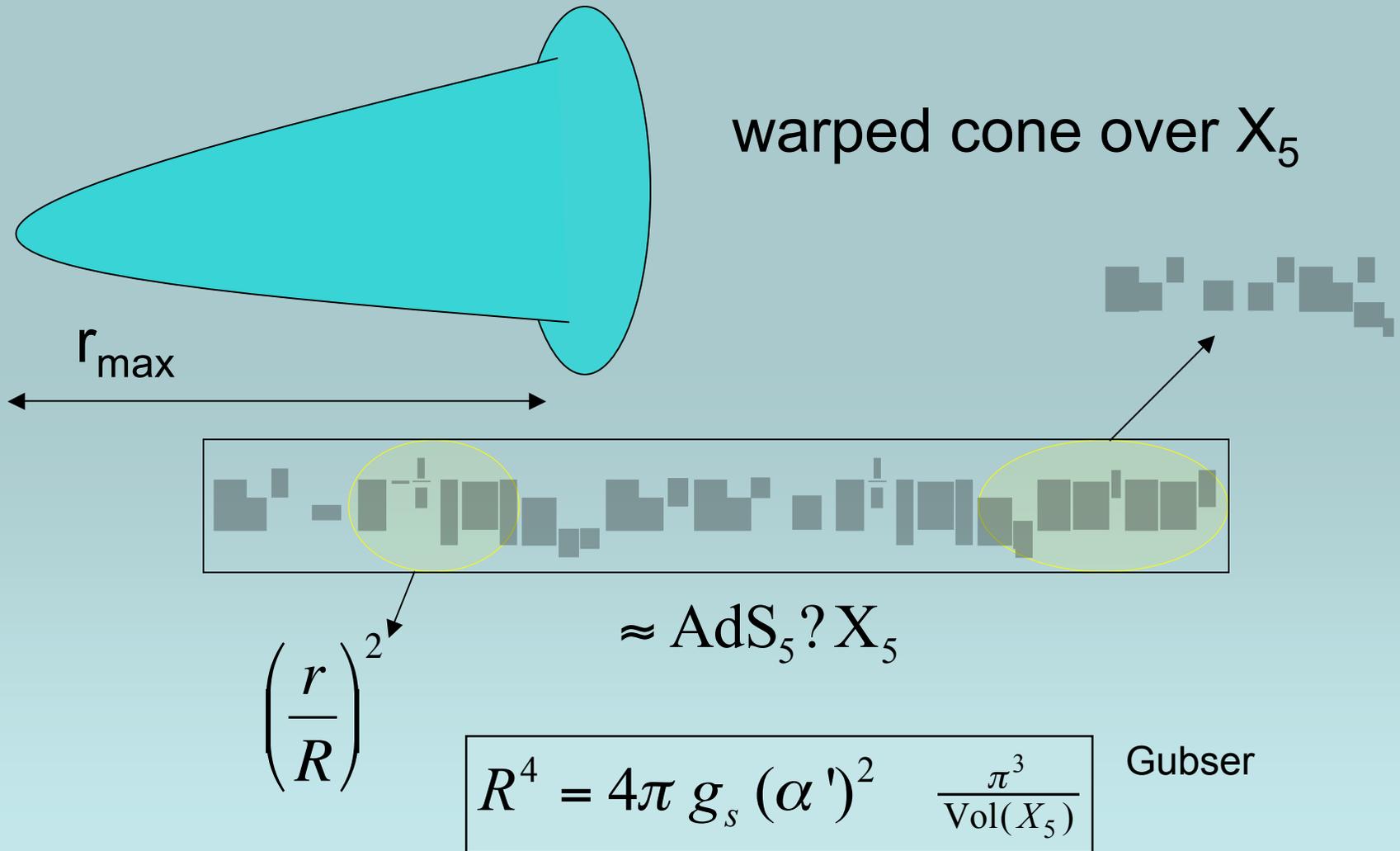
**Symmetry clearly essential.**

- Detectable tensors require super-Planckian displacements, so observations will distinguish these cases.

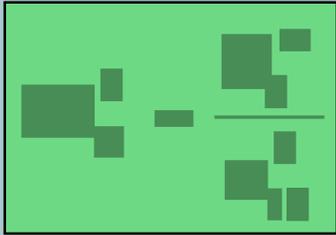


Lyth 1996

# Computing the Field Range



# Compactification Volume determines the 4d Planck Mass



$$M_P^2 = \frac{2\pi^4 g_s}{\kappa_{10}^2} r_{\max}^2 (\alpha')^2$$

$$\kappa_{10}^2 = \frac{1}{2} (2\pi)^7 g_s^2 (\alpha')^4$$

$$M_P^2 > \frac{2\pi^4 g_s}{\kappa_{10}^2} r_{\max}^2 (\alpha')^2$$



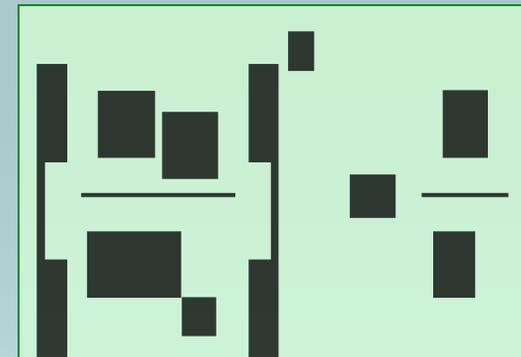
$$M_P^2 > \frac{2\pi^4 g_s}{\kappa_{10}^2} r_{\max}^2 (\alpha')^2$$

# Compactification Constraint on the Field Variation

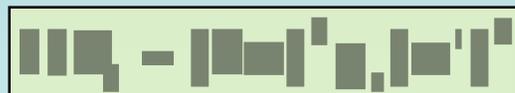
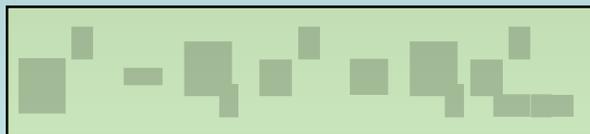
4d Planck Mass



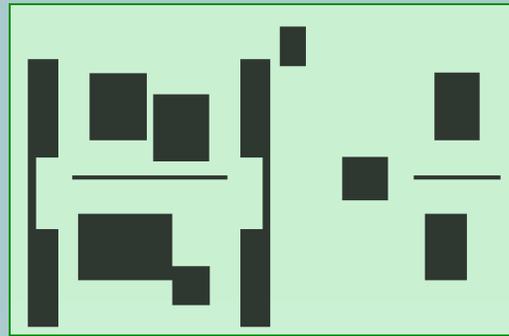
+



Canonical Inflaton Field



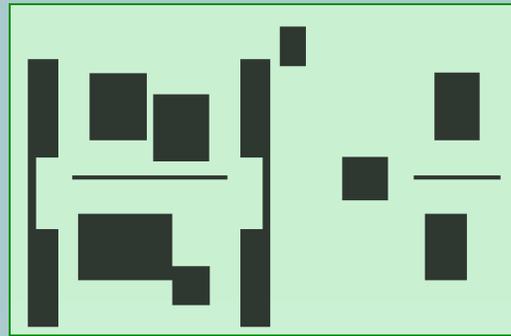
Resulting field range,  
for any scenario involving a D3-brane  
in a throat:



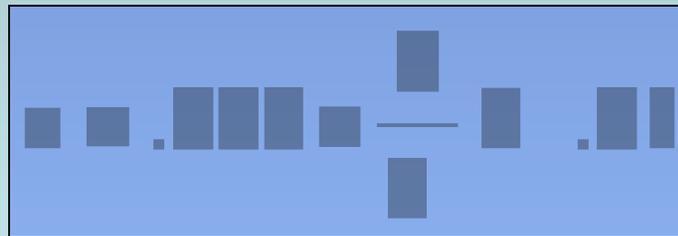
$N$  = the number of colors in the dual gauge theory

D. Baumann and L.M., [hep-th/0610285](https://arxiv.org/abs/hep-th/0610285).

Resulting field range,  
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in a throat:



$N$  = the number of colors in the dual gauge theory



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However, large field ranges, and hence tensor signals, are possible in string inflation – just not in warped D3-brane inflation.

**Mechanism:**

**Linear Inflation from Axion Monodromy**

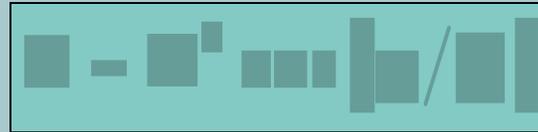
L.M., Silverstein, & Westphal, [0808.0706](#)

see also:

Silverstein & Westphal, [0803.3085](#).

# Natural Inflation in string theory?

Freese, Frieman, & Olinto, 1990:



$f > M_{\text{P}}$

Axion shift symmetry protects inflaton potential.

Banks, Dine, Fox, & Gorbатов, [hep-th/0303252](#):

$f > M_{\text{P}}$  not attainable in string theory?

(cf. also [Svrcek & Witten, hep-th/0605206](#))

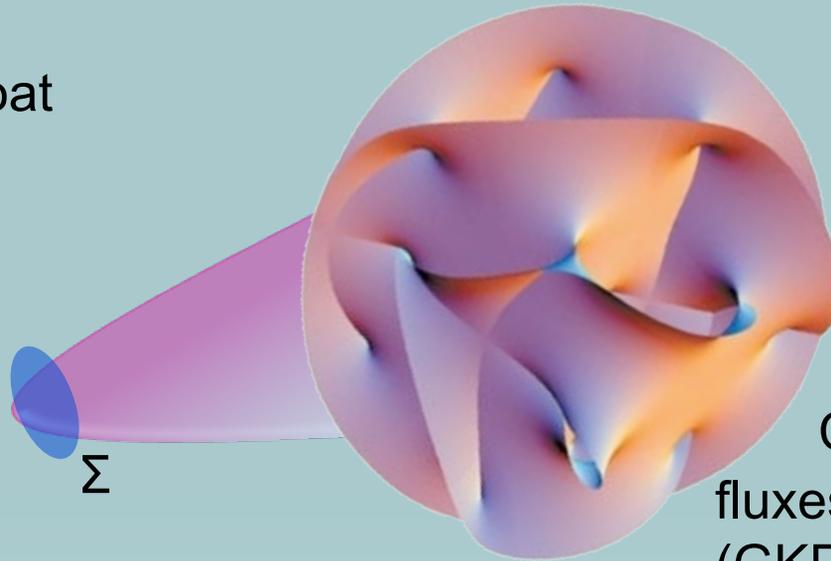
Dimopoulos, Kachru, McGreevy, & Wacker, [hep-th/0507205](#)

“N-flation”: use  $N \sim 10^3$  axions at once,  
as a collective excitation.

Our idea: **recycle a single axion  $N$  times.**

# Axion Inflation from Wrapped Fivebranes

warped throat



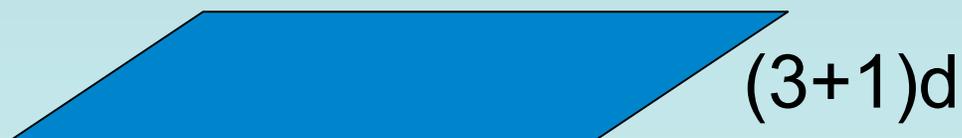
CY orientifold, with  
fluxes and nonperturbative  $W$   
(GKP 2001, KKLT 2003)

D5-brane/NS5-brane

$$\int_{\Sigma} B_2$$

$$\int_{\Sigma} C_2$$

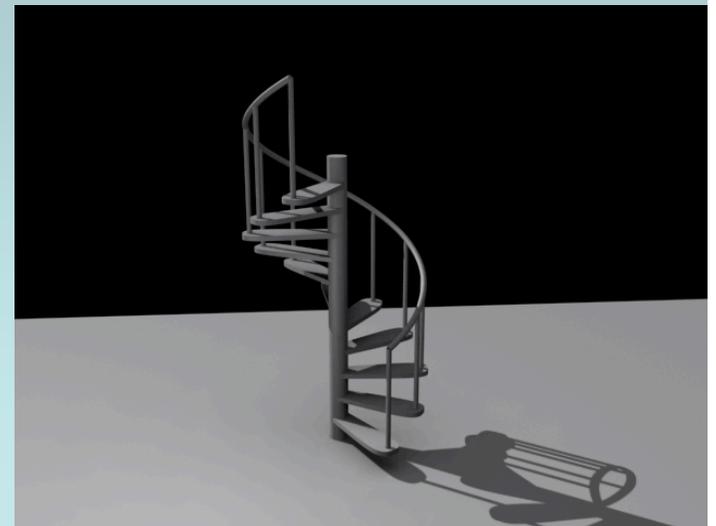
warped throat gives:  
control of energy scales



# Axion monodromy from wrapped fivebranes



- Fivebrane contribution **not** periodic: as axion shifts by a period, potential undergoes a **monodromy**  
cf. inflation from D-brane monodromy [Silverstein&Westphal, 0803.3085](#).
- This **unwraps** the axion circle and provides a **linear potential** over an *a priori* **unlimited field range**.
- In practice, controllable over large ( $\gg M_p$ ) but finite range.



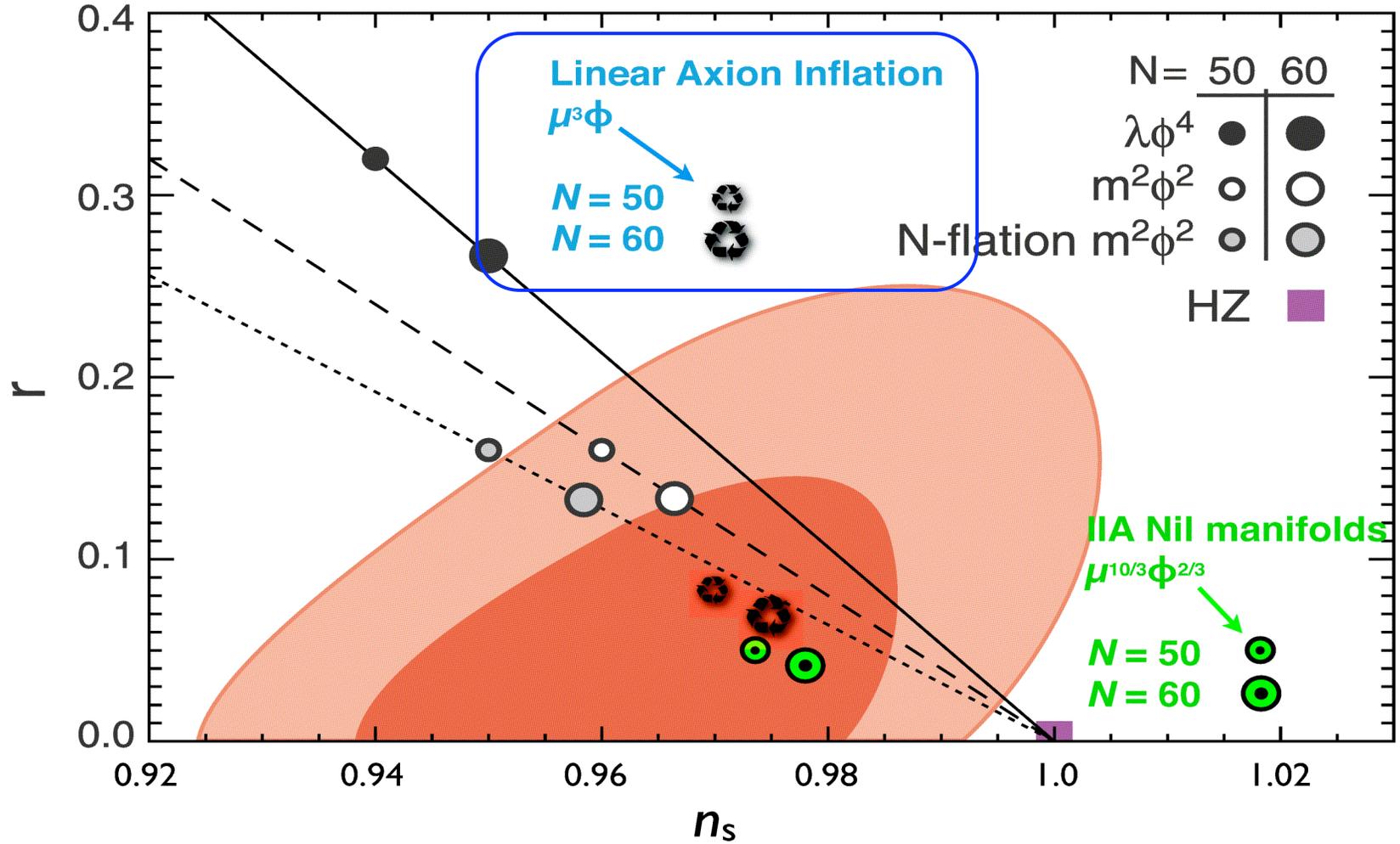
# It Works

- Backreaction on local geometry can be made small.
- Checked consistency with moduli stabilization (KKLT scenario).
- Renormalization of Planck mass from many light species is small.

For very reasonable parameter choices, the instanton contributions to the effective action can be neglected, and the additional problems above are addressed.

- Assumptions Summarized:
  - NS5-brane wrapping a curve  $\Sigma$  that is in a warped region and stabilized at finite volume.
  - Remaining moduli stabilized as in KKLT, by fluxes and strong gauge dynamics (ED3 stabilization may be manageable as well).
  - Tadpole canceled by e.g. anti-NS5-brane on distant cycle homologous to  $\Sigma$
- Reasonable to expect more efficient/minimal realizations.
- Core idea is very simple: the axionic shift symmetry protects the inflaton potential, just as in Natural Inflation.

# Chaotic Inflation



# Conclusions

- We can construct string inflation models that are realistic, reasonably explicit, and falsifiable.
- Well-understood class of small-field hybrid models: **warped D3-brane inflation**.
  - ❑ Computable local model with systematic incorporation of compactification effects from moduli stabilization.
  - ❑ Signatures include cosmic strings but not tensors.
- New class of large-field models: **axion monodromy**.
  - ❑ Axion shift symmetry naturally controls contributions to the inflaton action.
  - ❑ Robust tensor prediction  $r=.07$  can be falsified in 5-10 years.