

# Novel AdS vacua from dynamical open strings

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Mostly based on [\[Balaguer, Bevilacqua, Dibitetto, Fernández-Melgarejo, GS '24, Bevilacqua, Dibitetto, GS \(to appear\)\]](#)

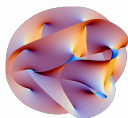
Meeting PRIN 'String Theory as a bridge  
between Gauge Theories and Quantum Gravity'  
17 Feb 2025, Sapienza University



**String Theory** is a highly constrained framework. For instance, the absence of anomalies imposes the number of spacetime dimensions to be  $D = 10$ , as also required in order for the gravitons to be massless.

Realistic field theories in lower dimensions can be recovered with an **effective** field theory approach:

- **Top-down:** the extra dimensions curl up in a small enough compact space, called **internal manifold**;

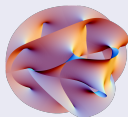


- **Bottom-up:** to establish some criteria that a low energy theory should meet in order to admit a UV completion in a Quantum Gravity theory (**swampland program**).

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# The scalar potential and the vacua

Upon compactification, the fields of the theory give rise to:

- scalars known as **moduli**, e. g. in IIA SUGRA, if  $M = (\mu, m)$ ,

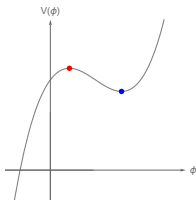
$$C_{MNR} \quad \rightarrow \quad C_{mnr} ;$$

- **gauge fluxes** ( $p$ -form fields integrated in the compact manifold), e. g. in IIA SUGRA

$$\oint_{\mathcal{C}_3} H_{(3)} \quad , \quad \oint_{\mathcal{C}_4} F_{(4)}$$

- **metric fluxes** associated to the geometry of the internal manifold.

Fluxes induce a **scalar potential** for the moduli, whose extrema correspond to the **vacua**.



A **vacuum** is a field configuration such that the metric is maximally symmetric. This condition can be realized if all macroscopic fields vanish, except scalars which can be constant.

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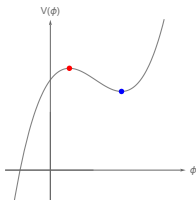
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# Gauged Supergravity and the embedding tensor formalism

**Supergravity theories** (SUGRA) provide a low-energy description of the lower-dimensional setting arising from flux compactifications. Supersymmetry (SUSY) constraints the field content, the isometries of the scalar manifold and the **global** symmetry group  $G_0$ .

A **gauging** of a certain subgroup  $G \subseteq G_0$  is needed in order to have a potential and moduli stabilization in a vacuum:

- the symmetry of vector fields is promoted to a **non-Abelian gauge symmetry**  $G$ ;
- scalar fields get minimally coupled to the vector fields  $A_\mu^M$ .

The **embedding tensor** formalism allows to perform the gauging in a  $G_0$ -covariant way:

$$\Theta_M^\alpha, \quad X_M = \Theta_M^\alpha t_\alpha .$$

[Nicolai, Samtleben '01]

The embedding tensor transforms in

$$\Theta \in V' \otimes \text{adj} = \theta_1 \oplus \cdots \oplus \theta_n .$$

Two types of constraints select the allowed irreps:

- $\mathbb{P}_1(\Theta) = 0$ ;
- $\mathbb{P}_2(\Theta \otimes \Theta) = 0$  linked to the closure of the gauge algebra

$$[X_M, X_N] = X_{MN}{}^P X_P .$$

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# The potential from the embedding tensor formalism

A gauge-invariant Lagrangian is obtained via:

- the minimal coupling of scalars through a **covariant derivative**

$$\partial_\mu \rightarrow D_\mu = \partial_\mu - g A_\mu^M \Theta_M^\alpha t_\alpha ;$$

- gauge-covariant field strengths.

An invariant Lagrangian under SUSY transformations is

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{gauged}} = \mathcal{L}_{\text{ungauged}}[\partial \rightarrow D] + \mathcal{L}_{\text{top}} + \mathcal{L}_{\text{YUK}} + \mathcal{L}_{\text{pot}} ,$$

with the further terms given by:

- gauge-covariant **topological** term  $\mathcal{L}_{\text{top}}$ ;
- Yukawa-like **bilinears** for fermions, e. g. in half-maximal SUGRA,

$$e^{-1} \mathcal{L}_{\text{YUK}} = g \left( A_1^{\alpha\beta} \bar{\psi}_{\mu\alpha} \gamma^{\mu\nu} \psi_{\nu\beta} + A_2^{\alpha\beta} \bar{\psi}_{\mu\alpha} \gamma^\mu \chi_\beta + A_{3A\beta}^\alpha \bar{\psi}_{\mu\alpha} \gamma^\mu \lambda^{A\beta} \right) + \text{h.c.} ,$$

with  $A_1, A_2, A_3$  linear in the embedding tensor;

- a potential, quadratic in the embedding tensor components, e. g. in half-maximal SUGRA

$$e^{-1} \mathcal{L}_{\text{pot}} = -g^2 (|A_1|^2 - |A_2|^2 - |A_3|^2) .$$

Fermionic shifts are also needed to have invariance under SUSY

$$\delta\psi_\mu^\alpha \rightarrow \delta\psi_\mu^\alpha + g A_1^{\alpha\beta} \gamma_\mu \varepsilon_\beta , \quad \delta\chi^\alpha \rightarrow \delta\chi^\alpha + g A_2^{\alpha\beta} \varepsilon_\beta , \quad \delta\lambda_{A\alpha} \rightarrow \delta\lambda_{A\alpha} + g A_{3A\alpha}^\beta \varepsilon_\beta .$$

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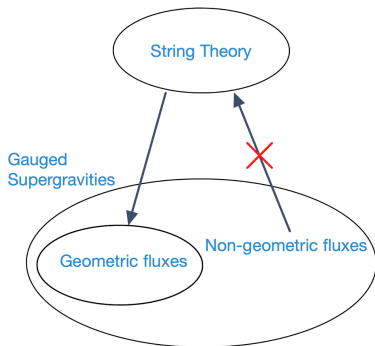
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# 10-dimensional interpretation of the embedding tensor components

Some of the embedding tensor components in gauged SUGRA have a 10-dimensional interpretation as **fluxes**.

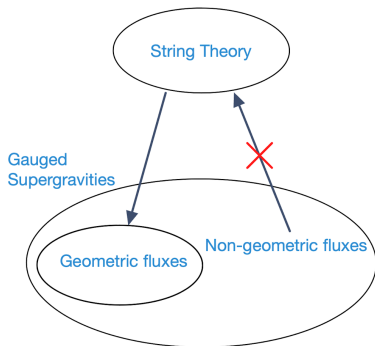


The embedding tensor encompasses all possible gaugings in all possible duality frames: a duality covariant description of string compactifications is allowed by **T-folds and S-folds**.

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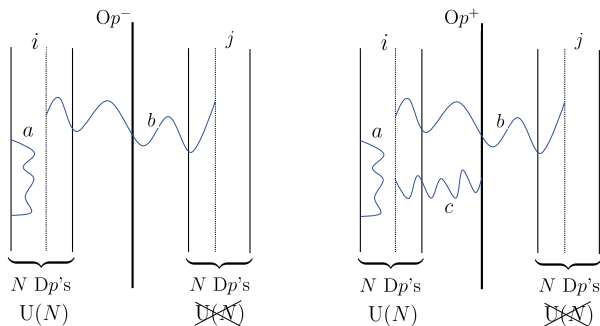
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# Dynamical open strings

The embedding tensor formalism has been exploited in order to find and characterize novel vacuum solutions when the dynamics of **open strings** is taken into account.

A massless vector multiplet is associated to each open string state ending in a **Dp-brane** and a super Yang-Mills theory is defined along the worldvolume of the branes. An enhancement of the gauge group occurs when parallel branes are in stacks:

$$U(1)^N \rightarrow U(N) .$$



# Dynamical open strings

**Orientifolds** (Op-planes) are stuck at the fixed locus of the involution

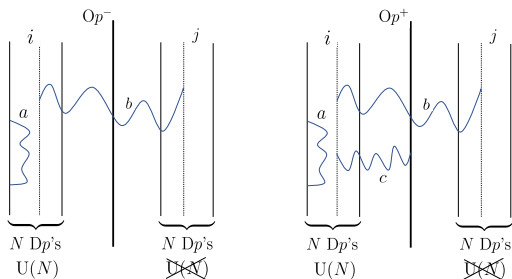
$$\Omega_{O_p} = \Omega \sigma_{O_p} \sigma_{FL} .$$

Parallel orientifolds to a stack of D-branes change the gauge group. The states surviving the orientifold projection are such that ( $\lambda_{ij}$  Chan-Paton factor)

$$\lambda = -M \lambda^T M^{-1} ,$$

with:

- $M = \mathbb{1}_{2N}$ :  $Op^-$ , gauge group is  $SO(2N)$ ;
- $M = \begin{pmatrix} 0_N & \mathbb{1}_N \\ -\mathbb{1}_N & 0_N \end{pmatrix}$ :  $Op^+$ , gauge group  $USp(2N)$ .



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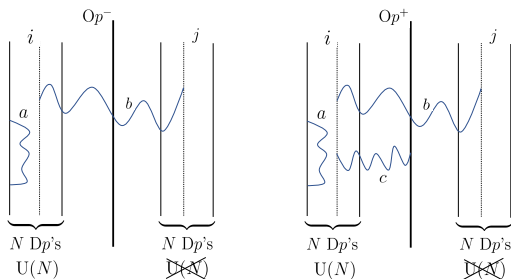
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# Flux compactification down to 4 dimensions

We analyze the flux compactification of massive type IIA SUGRA on **twisted tori** down to 4 dimensions, in presence of smeared parallel D6-branes and O6-planes:

$$\text{D6/O6} : \underbrace{- | - - -}_{4\text{D spacetime}} \underbrace{- - - \cdot \cdot \cdot}_{\substack{y^a \quad y^i \\ y^m}} .$$

(38 + 6 $\mathfrak{N}$ ) scalars are projected in by the orientifold involution.

Type IIA Field	$\sigma_{\text{O6}}$	$(-1)^{FL\Omega}$	physical dof's	Type IIA Flux	$\sigma_{\text{O6}}$	$(-1)^{FL\Omega}$
$\Phi$	+	+	1	$\omega_{ab}{}^c$	+	+
$g_{ab}$	+	+	6	$\omega_{ij}{}^c$	+	+
$g_{ij}$	+	+	6	$\omega_{ai}{}^j$	+	+
$B_{ai}$	-	-	9	$H_{ijk}$	-	-
$C_i$	-	-	3	$H_{abi}$	-	-
$C_{abc}$	+	+	1	$F_{(0)}$	+	+
$C_{aij}$	+	+	9	$F_{ai}$	-	-
$C_{abijk}$	-	-	3	$F_{abij}$	+	+
$Y^{Ii}$	-	-	3 $\mathfrak{N}$	$F_{abcijk}$	-	-
$\mathcal{A}^I{}_a$	+	+	3 $\mathfrak{N}$	$\mathcal{F}^I{}_{ab}$	+	+

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$Y^I{}_i$	-	-	$3\mathfrak{N}$	$F_{abcijk}$	-	-
$\mathcal{A}^I{}_a$	+	+	$3\mathfrak{N}$	$\mathcal{F}^I{}_{ab}$	+	+

## How to get moduli stabilization?

A flux-induced potential for the moduli can be found with different approaches:

- dimensional reduction from  $D = 10$  to  $d = 4$ ;
- $\mathcal{N} = 4, d = 4$  gauged SUGRA.

The compactification Ansatz for the metric reads

$$ds_{(10)}^2 = \tau^{-2} g_{\mu\nu} dx^\mu dx^\nu + \rho (\sigma^2 M_{ab} e^a e^b + \sigma^{-2} M_{ij} e^i e^j),$$

where  $e^m$  are the Maurer-Cartan forms, such that

$$de^m + \frac{1}{2} \omega_{np}{}^m e^n \wedge e^p = 0, \quad \omega_{[mn}{}^r \omega_{p]r}{}^q = 0, \quad \omega_{mn}{}^n = 0.$$

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## The SO(3) truncation

We perform an SO(3) **consistent** truncation, i. e. we only retain scalar fields and fluxes which are singlets under the diagonal part of

$$\boxed{\text{SO}(3)_a \times \text{SO}(3)_i \times \text{SO}(3)_I}$$

The scalar manifold consists of  $6 + 2\frac{\mathfrak{N}}{3}$  scalars (we mainly focus on  $\mathfrak{N} = 3$ ):

- from the **closed-string** sector:  $\rho, \tau, \sigma, C_{abc}, C_{aij}, B_{ai}$  ;
- from the **open-string** sector:  $(\mathcal{A}_a^I, Y^{Ii}) = (\mathcal{A}\delta_a^I, Y\delta^{Ii})$  .

Type IIA	fluxes	Parametrization
$F_{aibjck}$	$a_0$	$F_{aibjck} = \varepsilon_{abc} \varepsilon_{ijk} a_0$
$F_{aibj}$	$a_1$	$F_{aibj} = \varepsilon_{abc} \varepsilon_{ijk} \delta^{ck} a_1$
$F_{ai}$	$a_2$	$F_{ai} = \delta_{ai} a_2$
$F_0$	$a_3$	$F_0 = a_3$
$H_{ijk}$	$b_0$	$H_{ijk} = \varepsilon_{ijk} b_0$
$\omega_{ij}^c$	$b_1$	$\omega_{ij}^c = \varepsilon_{ijd} \delta^{cd} b_1$
$H_{abk}$	$c_0$	$H_{abk} = \varepsilon_{abk} c_0$
$\omega_{ka}^j = \omega_{bk}^i$	$c_1$	$\omega_{ka}^j = \varepsilon_{kal} \delta^{lj} c_1$
$\omega_{bc}^a$	$\bar{c}_1$	$\omega_{bc}^a = \varepsilon_{bcd} \delta^{ad} \bar{c}_1$
$\mathcal{F}_{ab}^K$	$g_0$	$\mathcal{F}_{ab}^K = \varepsilon_{abc} \delta^{cK} g_0$
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# The potential from dimensional reduction

Exploiting the compactification Ansatz for the metric after SO(3) truncation,

$$ds_{(10)}^2 = \tau^{-2} g_{\mu\nu} dx^\mu dx^\nu + \rho (\sigma^2 \delta_{ab} e^a e^b + \sigma^{-2} \delta_{ij} e^i e^j),$$

the scalar potential arises from the terms containing only moduli, in the actions both for the **bulk** and the **sources**.

$$\mathcal{S}_{\text{bulk}} = \frac{1}{2\kappa_{10}^2} \int d^{10}x \sqrt{-g^{(10)}} \left( e^{-2\Phi} (\mathcal{R}^{(10)} + 4(\partial\Phi)^2 - \frac{1}{12} |H_{(3)}|^2) - \frac{1}{4} \sum_{p=0}^5 \frac{|F_{(2p)}|^2}{(2p)!} \right)$$

The presence of a stack of coincident D6-branes and O6-planes is taken into account by two contributions: **Dirac-Born-Infeld** (DBI) and **Wess-Zumino** (WZ) actions.

[Myers '99]

$$S_{\text{D6}}^{\text{DBI}} = -T_{\text{D6}} \int_{\text{WV(D6)}} d^7x \text{Tr} \left( e^{-\hat{\Phi}} \sqrt{-\det(M_{MN}) \det(Q_j^i)} \right)$$

$$S_{\text{D6}}^{\text{WZ}} = \mu_{\text{D6}} \int_{\text{WV(D6)}} \text{Tr} \left\{ \text{P} \left[ e^{i\lambda\iota_Y\iota_Y} \left( \hat{C} \wedge e^{\hat{B}_{(2)}} \right) \wedge e^{\lambda\mathcal{F}} \right] \right\}$$

$$S_{\text{O6}}^{\text{DBI}} = -T_{\text{O6}} \int d^7x e^{-\Phi} \sqrt{-\det(G_{MN})}, \quad S_{\text{O6}}^{\text{WZ}} = \mu_{\text{O6}} \int_{\text{WV(O6)}} C_{(7)}$$

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$$\mathcal{S}_{\text{bulk}} = \frac{1}{2\kappa_{10}^2} \int d^{10}x \sqrt{-g^{(10)}} \left( e^{-2\Phi} (\mathcal{R}^{(10)} + 4(\partial\Phi)^2 - \frac{1}{12} |H_{(3)}|^2) - \frac{1}{4} \sum_{p=0}^5 \frac{|F_{(2p)}|^2}{(2p)!} \right)$$

The presence of a stack of coincident D6-branes and O6-planes is taken into account by two contributions: **Dirac-Born-Infeld** (DBI) and **Wess-Zumino** (WZ) actions.

[Myers '99]

$$S_{\text{D6}}^{\text{DBI}} = -T_{\text{D6}} \int_{\text{WV(D6)}} d^7x \text{Tr} \left( e^{-\hat{\Phi}} \sqrt{-\det(M_{MN}) \det(Q_j^i)} \right)$$

$$S_{\text{D6}}^{\text{WZ}} = \mu_{\text{D6}} \int_{\text{WV(D6)}} \text{Tr} \left\{ \text{P} \left[ e^{i\lambda_Y \iota_Y} \left( \hat{C} \wedge e^{\hat{B}_{(2)}} \right) \wedge e^{\lambda \mathcal{F}} \right] \right\}$$

$$S_{\text{O6}}^{\text{DBI}} = -T_{\text{O6}} \int d^7x e^{-\Phi} \sqrt{-\det(G_{MN})}, \quad S_{\text{O6}}^{\text{WZ}} = \mu_{\text{O6}} \int_{\text{WV(O6)}} C_{(7)}$$



Reduction of massive type IIA down to 4 dimensions on twisted tori admits a description in terms of 4d  $\mathcal{N} = 4$  **gauged** SUGRA (half-maximal SUSY due to the presence of sources). The multiplet content consists of one gravity and  $6 + \mathfrak{N}$  vector multiplets, which amounts to the boson fields: 1 **graviton**,  $12 + \mathfrak{N}$  **vector fields** and  $38 + 6\mathfrak{N}$  **scalars**.

The **global** symmetry of the theory is given by

$$G_{\text{global}} = \text{SL}(2, \mathbb{R}) \times \text{SO}(6, 6 + \mathfrak{N})$$

and the scalar manifold is its non-compact part

$$\mathcal{M}_{\text{scalar}} = \underbrace{\frac{\text{SL}(2, \mathbb{R})}{\text{SO}(2)}}_{M_{\alpha\beta}} \times \underbrace{\frac{\text{SO}(6, 6 + \mathfrak{N})}{\text{SO}(6) \times \text{SO}(6 + \mathfrak{N})}}_{M_{MN}}$$

We can also write  $M = \mathcal{V}\mathcal{V}^T$ , where  $\mathcal{V}$  is a **vielbein**.

The **embedding tensor**  $f_{\alpha MNP}$  needs to satisfy the quadratic constraints

$$f_{\alpha R[MN} f_{\beta PQ]}^R = 0, \quad \varepsilon^{\alpha\beta} f_{\alpha MNR} f_{\beta PQ}^R = 0.$$

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# The scalar potential

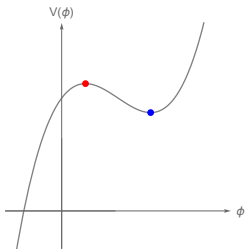
The gauging induces the **scalar** potential

$$V = \frac{1}{64} f_{\alpha MNP} f_{\beta QRS} M^{\alpha\beta} \left[ \frac{1}{3} M^{MQ} M^{NR} M^{PS} + \left( \frac{2}{3} \eta^{MQ} - M^{MQ} \right) \eta^{NR} \eta^{PS} \right] + \\ - \frac{1}{144} f_{\alpha MNP} f_{\alpha QRS} \varepsilon^{\alpha\beta} M^{MNPQRS} ,$$

with

$$\eta_{MN} = \eta^{MN} = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbb{O}_6 & \mathbb{I}_6 & \mathbb{O}_{6,\mathfrak{N}} \\ \mathbb{I}_6 & \mathbb{O}_6 & \mathbb{O}_{6,\mathfrak{N}} \\ \mathbb{O}_{\mathfrak{N},6} & \mathbb{O}_{\mathfrak{N},6} & \mathbb{I}_{\mathfrak{N}} \end{pmatrix} , \quad M_{MNPQRS} \equiv \varepsilon_{\underline{mnpqrs}} \dot{\mathcal{V}}_M^m \dot{\mathcal{V}}_N^n \dot{\mathcal{V}}_P^p \dot{\mathcal{V}}_Q^q \dot{\mathcal{V}}_R^r \dot{\mathcal{V}}_S^s .$$

[Schon, Weidner '06]



# The dictionary between the approaches

A dictionary allows to compare the outcomes of the different approaches:

$$\begin{aligned}
 C_{abc} &= \epsilon_{abc}\chi, & C_{aij} &= \epsilon_{aij}\chi_1, & B_{ai} &= \delta_{ai}\chi_2, \\
 e^\phi &= \frac{1}{\tau\sigma^3}, & e^{\varphi_1} &= \frac{\sigma}{\tau}, & e^{\varphi_2} &= \frac{1}{\rho}.
 \end{aligned}$$

Type IIA	Fluxes	$d = 4\mathcal{N} = 4$
$F_{aibjck}$	$a_0$	$-f_{+\bar{a}\bar{b}\bar{c}}$
$F_{aibj}$	$a_1$	$f_{+\bar{a}\bar{b}\bar{k}}$
$F_{ai}$	$a_2$	$-f_{+\bar{a}\bar{j}\bar{k}}$
$F_{(0)}$	$a_3$	$f_{+\bar{i}\bar{j}\bar{k}}$
$H_{ijk}$	$b_0$	$-f_{-\bar{a}\bar{b}\bar{c}}$
$H_{abk}$	$c_0$	$f_{+\bar{a}\bar{b}k}$
$\omega_{ij}^c$	$b_1$	$f_{-\bar{a}\bar{b}\bar{k}}$
$\omega_{ka}^j = \omega_{bk}^i$	$c_1$	$f_{+\bar{a}\bar{j}k} = f_{+\bar{i}bk}$
$\omega_{bc}^a$	$\bar{c}_1$	$f_{+\bar{a}\bar{b}\bar{c}}$
$\mathcal{F}^K_{ab}$	$g_0$	$f_{+\bar{a}\bar{b}K}$
$g_{IJ}^K$	$g_1$	$f_{+IJK}$

# The equivalence of the approaches

Through this dictionary, the terms in the gauged SUGRA potential can be identified with those arising from the dimensional reduction:

- the terms with the same scaling in the dilatons as the square of the embedding tensor components can be identified with the reduction of the R-R sector and modifications of the field-strengths due to the WZ action

$$\mathbf{F} = d\mathbf{C} + H_{(3)} \wedge \mathbf{C} + \mathbf{F}^{\text{flux}} \wedge e^{-B_{(2)}} + \Delta\mathbf{F}_{\text{WZ}}$$

- the other terms arise from the bulk action for the NS-NS sector or the DBI actions both for the D6-branes and the orientifold, as long as we take the [tadpole cancellation condition](#) into account

$$\oint_{\mathcal{M}_3^{(i)}} (dF_2 - H_3 \wedge F_0) = N_{D6} T_{D6} + T_{O6}$$

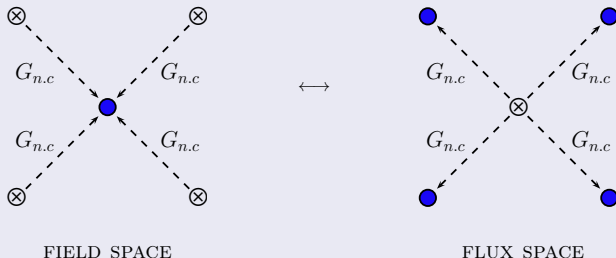
# The vacua of the theory

The **vacua** of the theory are the extrema of the potential

$$\partial_{\Phi} V|_{\Phi_0} = 0 .$$

Given the **homogeneity** of the scalar manifold, we can choose to work in the **flux** picture.

[Dibitetto, Guarino, Roest '11]



The vacua also have to satisfy the quadratic constraints:

$$c_1(c_1 - \bar{c}_1) = 0, \quad b_1(c_1 - \bar{c}_1) = 0, \quad a_3 c_0 + 2 a_2 c_1 - a_2 \bar{c}_1 = 0, \quad g_0 g_1 = 0$$

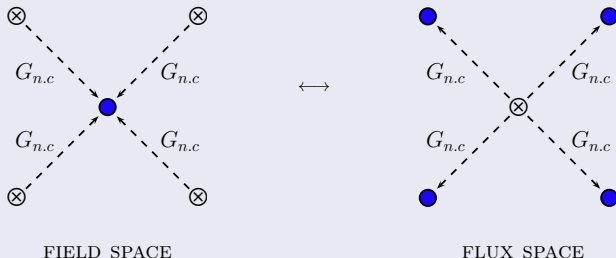
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## Solutions in the origin

Novel  $\text{AdS}_4$  vacua have been found in this setting ( $\Lambda < 0$ ).

- They are perturbatively **stable** if all the eigenvalues of the canonically normalized mass matrix

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{KIN}} = -\frac{1}{2} K_{AB} \partial\phi^A \partial\phi^B \quad \longrightarrow \quad \boxed{(m^2)^A_B = \frac{1}{|\Lambda|} K^{AC} \frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial\phi^C \partial\phi^B}}$$

are above the **Breitenlohner-Freedman bound**

$$m^2 \geq -\frac{3}{4}.$$

- The vacua with residual **SUSY** are such that

$$A_1^{ij} q_j = \sqrt{-3V} q^i, \quad A_2^{ij} q_j = 0.$$

Even though not completely general, we have started by looking for vacua in the **origin** of the scalar manifold.

Solution	$a_0$	$a_1$	$a_2$	$a_3$	$b_0$	$b_1$	$c_0$	$c_1 = \bar{c}_1$	$g_0$	$g_1$
<b>A</b>	$\lambda$	0	0	$s_1 \frac{\sqrt{5} + 3\sqrt{13}}{14} \lambda$	0	$-\frac{11 + \sqrt{65}}{14} \lambda$	0	$-\lambda$	$s_2 \frac{5\sqrt{10} + \sqrt{26}}{14} \lambda$	0
<b>B</b>	$\lambda$	0	0	$s_1 \frac{\sqrt{5} - 3\sqrt{13}}{14} \lambda$	0	$\frac{-11 + \sqrt{65}}{14} \lambda$	0	$-\lambda$	$s_2 \frac{5\sqrt{10} - \sqrt{26}}{14} \lambda$	0

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## Solutions out of the origin

Other vacua can be found when some scalars are out of the origin.

Solution	$a_0$	$a_1$	$a_2$	$a_3$	$b_0$	$b_1$	$c_0$	$c_1, \bar{c}_1$	$g_0$	$g_1$
1	$(s_2 \frac{3}{2} - \frac{1}{2} \mathcal{A}^2) \lambda$	$s_1 \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{\frac{3}{5}} \lambda$	$-s_2 \frac{\lambda}{6}$	$s_1 \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{\frac{5}{3}} \lambda$	$-s_1 s_2 \frac{\lambda}{\sqrt{15}}$	$\frac{\lambda}{3}$	$s_1 s_2 \frac{\lambda}{\sqrt{15}}$	$\lambda$	0	$-\frac{\lambda}{\mathcal{A}}$
2	$(s_2 \frac{5}{3} - \frac{1}{2} \mathcal{A}^2) \lambda$	0	0	$s_1 \frac{\sqrt{5}}{3} \lambda$	0	$\frac{\lambda}{3}$	0	$\lambda$	0	$-\frac{\lambda}{\mathcal{A}}$
3	$(s_2 - \frac{1}{2} \mathcal{A}^2) \lambda$	$-s_1 \frac{\lambda}{\sqrt{3}}$	$s_2 \frac{\lambda}{3}$	$s_1 \frac{\lambda}{\sqrt{3}}$	$s_1 s_2 \frac{\lambda}{\sqrt{3}}$	$\frac{\lambda}{3}$	$-s_1 s_2 \frac{\lambda}{\sqrt{3}}$	$\lambda$	0	$-\frac{\lambda}{\mathcal{A}}$
4	$(s_2 \sqrt{5} - \frac{1}{2} \mathcal{A}^2) \lambda$	0	0	$s_1 \lambda$	0	$\lambda$	0	$\lambda$	0	$-\frac{\lambda}{\mathcal{A}}$

- Solutions 1 are SUSY, Solutions 2, 3, 4 are not.
- Solutions 1, 3 and 4 ( $s_2 = +$ ) are perturbatively stable.

Stable non-SUSY vacua would deserve greater attention, since on grounds of the [AdS swampland conjecture](#), destabilizing mechanisms should exist.

[Ooguri, Vafa '17]

Some simple generalizations of these solutions have been also found in the instance  $\mathfrak{N} = 6$ .

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2	$(s_2 \frac{5}{3} - \frac{1}{2} \mathcal{A}^2) \lambda$	0	0	$s_1 \frac{\sqrt{5}}{3} \lambda$	0	$\frac{\lambda}{3}$	0	$\lambda$	0	$-\frac{\lambda}{\mathcal{A}}$
3	$(s_2 - \frac{1}{2} \mathcal{A}^2) \lambda$	$-s_1 \frac{\lambda}{\sqrt{3}}$	$s_2 \frac{\lambda}{3}$	$s_1 \frac{\lambda}{\sqrt{3}}$	$s_1 s_2 \frac{\lambda}{\sqrt{3}}$	$\frac{\lambda}{3}$	$-s_1 s_2 \frac{\lambda}{\sqrt{3}}$	$\lambda$	0	$-\frac{\lambda}{\mathcal{A}}$
4	$(s_2 \sqrt{5} - \frac{1}{2} \mathcal{A}^2) \lambda$	0	0	$s_1 \lambda$	0	$\lambda$	0	$\lambda$	0	$-\frac{\lambda}{\mathcal{A}}$

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# The reliability of our setup

The SUGRA approximation is reliable as long as the higher-loop expansion in  $g_s$  and the higher-derivative expansion in  $\alpha'$  are under control.

We look for the scaling of fields and fluxes with respect to

$$\mathbb{R}_\Omega^+ \equiv \mathbb{R}_{\text{trombone}}^+ \times \mathbb{R}_\rho^+ \times \mathbb{R}_\tau^+$$

Scalars	$\rho$	$\tau$	$\sigma$
$\Omega$ weights	$\Omega^2$	$\Omega^6$	$\Omega^0$

Fluxes	$H_{(3)}$	$F_{(p)}$	$\omega$	$\mathcal{F}^I$
$\Omega$ weights	$\Omega^2$	$\Omega^{2+p}$	$\Omega^0$	$\Omega^4$

Scales	$g_s$	$\frac{Vol_6}{(2\pi\ell_s)^6}$	$\frac{ \Lambda }{M_{\text{Pl}}^4}$	$\frac{\ell_{\text{KK}}}{\ell_{\text{AdS}}}$
$\Omega$ weights	$\Omega^{-3}$	$\Omega^6$	$\Omega^{-14}$	$\Omega^0$

An explicit perturbative corner for the fluxes is:

$$\lambda = 6 m n \quad , \quad \Omega^2 = \sqrt{5} p \quad , \quad \mathcal{A} = -\frac{6 n}{5 p^2} \quad ,$$

$$a_0 = 250 m n p^4 - 108 m n^3 \quad , \quad a_3 = 10 m n p \quad , \quad b_1 = 2 m n \quad , \quad c_1 = 6 m n \quad , \quad g_1 = m \quad .$$

## Flux compactification down to 7 dimensions

We examine the flux compactification of massive type IIA SUGRA on **3-spheres** down to 7 dimensions, in presence of localized parallel D6-branes and O6-planes:

$$\text{D6/O6} : \underbrace{- | - - - - -}_{7\text{D spacetime}} \overbrace{\cdot \cdot \cdot}^{y^i}$$

$S^3$  is the topology of the internal manifold of all supersymmetric  $\text{AdS}_7$  vacua.

[Aruzzi, Fazzi, Rosa, Tomasiello '13]

The orientifold involution projects in 1 graviton, a 3-form,  $6 + \mathfrak{N}$  vector fields and  $(10 + 3\mathfrak{N})$  scalars.

IIA fields	$\mathbb{Z}_2$ -even components	7D fields
$g_{MN}$	$g_{\mu\nu}$	graviton ( $\times 1$ )
	$g_{ij}$	scalars ( $\times 6$ )
$B_{MN}$	$B_{\mu i}$	vectors ( $\times 3$ )
$\Phi$	$\Phi$	scalar ( $\times 1$ )
$C_M$	$C_i$	scalars ( $\times 3$ )
$C_{MNP}$	$C_{\mu\nu\rho}$	3-form ( $\times 1$ )
	$C_{\mu jk}$	vectors ( $\times 3$ )
$\mathcal{A}^I{}_{\mu}$	$\mathcal{A}^I{}_{\mu}$	vectors ( $\times \mathfrak{N}$ )
$Y^{iI}$	$Y^{iI}$	scalars ( $\times 3\mathfrak{N}$ )

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These warped compactifications admit a low-energy description in terms of 7d  $\mathcal{N} = 1$  gauged SUGRA. One gravity multiplet and  $(3 + \mathfrak{N})$  vector multiplets give rise to the boson field content of the theory: 1 graviton, 1 2-form,  $6 + \mathfrak{N}$  vectors,  $10 + 3\mathfrak{N}$  scalars.

$$G_0 = \mathbb{R}_X^+ \times \text{SO}(3, 3 + \mathfrak{N})$$

The scalar manifold is its non-compact part

$$\underbrace{\mathbb{R}_X^+}_X \times \underbrace{\frac{\text{SO}(3, 3 + \mathfrak{N})}{\text{SO}(3) \times \text{SO}(3 + \mathfrak{N})}}_{M_{AB}} .$$

We focus on the instance  $\mathfrak{N} = 3$ . According to the  $\text{SO}(3)$  truncation, the brane-position moduli are

$$Y^i = Y \delta^{iI} t_I .$$



## The embedding tensor

As long as we focus on the closed-string sector, the global symmetry group is  $SO(3,3) \approx SL(4)$ . The gauging deformations surviving the linear constraints are:

$$\Theta \in \underbrace{\mathbf{10}'_{(+1)}}_{Q_{(mn)}} \oplus \underbrace{\mathbf{10}_{(+1)}}_{\tilde{Q}^{(mn)}} \oplus \underbrace{\mathbf{6}_{(+1)}}_{\xi_{[mn]}} .$$

A **Stueckelberg-like mass**  $\theta$  for the 2-form is another deformation.

$$\xi_{mn} = 0, \quad \tilde{Q}^{mn} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \tilde{q} \end{pmatrix}, \quad Q_{mn} = \begin{pmatrix} q & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & q & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & q & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

satisfy the quadratic constraints

$$\theta \xi_{mn} = 0, \quad \left( \tilde{Q}^{mp} + \xi^{mp} \right) Q_{pn} - \frac{1}{4} \left( \tilde{Q}^{pq} Q_{pq} \right) \delta_n^m = 0.$$

IIA fluxes	Deformations
$F_{(0)}$	$\sqrt{2} \tilde{q}$
$H_{ijk}$	$\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \theta \epsilon_{ijk}$
$\Theta_{ij}$	$q \delta_{ij}$
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satisfy the [quadratic constraints](#)

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# The potential and the vacua

The gauging induces the **scalar** potential

$$V = \frac{1}{64} \left[ \frac{X^2}{2} f_{ABC} f_{DEF} \left( \frac{1}{3} M^{AD} M^{BE} M^{CF} + \left( \frac{2}{3} \eta^{AD} - M^{AD} \right) \eta^{BE} \eta^{CF} \right) + \theta^2 X^{-8} - \frac{2}{3} \sqrt{2} X^{-3} \theta f_{ABC} M^{ABC} \right],$$

with  $M^{ABC} = \epsilon^{abc} \mathring{\mathcal{V}}_a^A \mathring{\mathcal{V}}_b^B \mathring{\mathcal{V}}_c^C$ .

We found different families of **AdS<sub>7</sub>** vacua.

ID	$\theta$	$q$	$\tilde{q}$	$g_{YM}$	mass spectrum	SUSY
1	$\frac{\lambda}{4}$	$\lambda$	$\frac{\lambda}{2}(2 + Y^2)$	$-\frac{\lambda}{2Y}$	$-\frac{8}{15}$ ( $\times 1$ ) $0$ ( $\times 6$ ) $\frac{16}{15}$ ( $\times 5$ ) $\frac{8}{3}$ ( $\times 1$ )	✓
2	$\frac{\lambda}{2}$	$\lambda$	$\frac{\lambda}{2}(2 + Y^2)$	$-\frac{\lambda}{2Y}$	$0$ ( $\times 8$ ) $\frac{4}{5}$ ( $\times 1$ ) $\frac{12}{5}$ ( $\times 1$ )	✗
3	$\frac{\lambda}{14}$	$\lambda$	$\frac{\lambda}{14}(-16 + 7Y^2)$	$-\frac{\lambda}{2Y}$	$0$ ( $\times 3$ ) $\frac{12}{5}$ ( $\times 5$ ) $\frac{2}{35} \left( 22 \pm \sqrt{1954} \right)$ ( $\times 1$ )	✗

# The potential and the vacua

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## The uplift to 10D

All SUSY ( $\mathcal{N} = 1$ )  $\text{AdS}_7$  vacua have been classified. All of them appear in massive type IIA and can be sourced by D6/D8-branes and/or O6/O8 orientifolds. Consistently with their  $R$ -symmetry  $\text{SU}(2)$ , their topology is

$$\text{AdS}_7 \times S^3$$

with  $S^3 = [0, N] \times S^2$ .

Exceptional Field Theory techniques seem to suggest that consistent truncations from 10D down to 7D SUGRA with an arbitrary number of vector multiplets do not exist.

[Malek, Samtleben, Vall Camell '19]

We expect the vacua to solve the Bianchi identities and the equations of motion of

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A consistent truncation has been found from 10D down to 7D  $\mathcal{N} = 1$  SUGRA with no vector multiplets (minimal SUGRA).

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The uplift Ansatz reads

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\ell}} ds^2 = g^2 X^{-1/2} \sqrt{-\frac{\alpha}{\ddot{\alpha}}} ds_7^2 + X^{5/2} \sqrt{-\frac{\ddot{\alpha}}{\alpha}} \left( dz^2 + \frac{\alpha^2}{\dot{\alpha}^2 - 2X^5 \alpha \ddot{\alpha}} ds_{S^2}^2 \right),$$

$$e^\Phi = 162 \cdot 2^{1/4} \pi^{5/2} X^{5/4} \frac{(-\alpha/\ddot{\alpha})^{3/4}}{(\dot{\alpha}^2 - 2X^5 \alpha \ddot{\alpha})^{1/2}},$$

$$B = \pi \ell \left( -z + \frac{\alpha \dot{\alpha}}{\dot{\alpha}^2 - 2X^5 \alpha \ddot{\alpha}} \right) \text{vol}_{S^2}, \quad F_2 = \ell \left( \frac{\ddot{\alpha}}{162\pi^2} + \frac{\pi F_0 \alpha \dot{\alpha}}{\dot{\alpha}^2 - 2X^5 \alpha \ddot{\alpha}} \right) \text{vol}_{S^2}.$$

$\alpha = \alpha(z)$  is a piecewise cubic function vanishing at the extrema of the interval

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## The effect of the sources

The uplift Ansatz also encodes the presence of sources:

- **D6-branes** at the extrema of the interval where  $\ddot{\alpha} \neq 0$ .
- **D8-branes** wrapping a cycle  $S^2$  and sitting where Romans' mass changes value

$$\ddot{\alpha} = -162\pi^3 F_0 \quad \longrightarrow \quad \partial_z^4 \alpha \sim f_a \delta(z - a)$$

The open-string dynamics giving rise to our vacua naturally contains the responsible perturbations for the brane polarization via **Myers effect**.



The **tadpole** cancellation condition reads

$$dF_2 - F_0 H_3 = Q \text{Vol}_{S^3}$$

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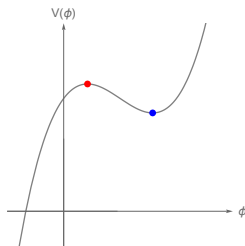
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# Conclusions

**Gauged SUGRA** and the embedding tensor formalism have been powerful tools to discover and analyze novel vacuum solutions in Supergravity when open string dynamics has been taken into account. This has been possible even when a consistent truncation from String Theory is missing.

A few possibilities appear as natural ways for these works to progress:

- to search for both perturbative and non-perturbative mechanisms destabilising the stable non-SUSY vacua; this kind of processes are expected on grounds of the AdS swampland conjecture;
- the new vacua emerge as results of the coupling of closed strings in the bulk and open strings on the branes; this occurrence would suggest non-trivial modifications in the usual holographic setting, which instead exhibits an AdS vacuum in the bulk and a conformal dual on the branes.

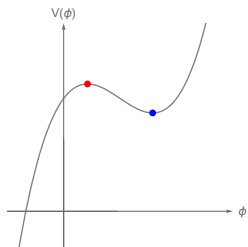


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Many thanks for your attention!

## The potential from dimensional reduction

The presence of a stack of coincident D6-branes is taken into account by two contributions: **Wess-Zumino** (WZ) and **Dirac-Born-Infeld** (DBI) actions.

[Myers '99]

$$S_{\text{D6}}^{\text{DBI}} = -T_{\text{D6}} \int_{\text{WV(D6)}} d^7x \text{Tr} \left( e^{-\hat{\Phi}} \sqrt{-\det(\mathbb{M}_{MN}) \det(\mathbb{Q}_j^i)} \right)$$

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## The modified Bianchi identities

The R-R field strengths in presence of fluxes read

$$\mathbf{F} = d\mathbf{C} + H_{(3)} \wedge \mathbf{C} + \mathbf{F}^{\text{flux}} \wedge e^{-B_{(2)}}$$

[Dall'Agata, Villadoro, Zwirner '09]

These - or equivalently their [Bianchi identities](#) - undergo further modifications due to the WZ action. For instance,

$$\int_{10} C_{(7)} \wedge J_{(3)}^{(D6)} \rightarrow d\bar{F}_{(2)} = J_{(3)}^{(D6)} .$$

These modifications need to be taken into account in the contributions to the potential, coming from the bulk and the DBI action.

The  $\text{SO}(3)$  **truncation** reduces the scalar manifold to be

$$\mathcal{M}_{\text{SO}(3)} = \frac{\text{SL}(2, \mathbb{R})}{\text{SO}(2)} \times \frac{\text{SO}\left(2, 2 + \frac{n}{3}\right)}{\text{SO}(2) \times \text{SO}\left(2 + \frac{n}{3}\right)}$$

which corresponds to a content of  $(6 + 2\frac{n}{3})$  scalars.

The truncated theory also admits a  $\mathcal{N} = 1$  description. Indeed, under the branching  $\text{SO}(3) \hookrightarrow \text{SU}(4)$ , the fundamental representation of the R-symmetry  $\text{SU}(4)$  splits as

$$\mathbf{4} \rightarrow \mathbf{1} \oplus \mathbf{3} .$$

The closed-string sector scalars can have a place in an [STU model](#):

$$S = \chi + ie^{-\phi} , \quad T = \chi_1 + ie^{-\varphi_1} , \quad U = \chi_2 + ie^{-\varphi_2} .$$

The scalar [potential](#), up to the quadratic constraints, reads

$$V = e^K \left( \sum_{\Phi} K^{\Phi\bar{\Phi}} |D_{\Phi} W|^2 - 3|W|^2 \right)$$

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The holomorphic [superpotential](#) is given by

$$W(\Phi) = P_F - P_H S + 3P_Q T ,$$

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