

# MACHINE LEARNING AS A DISCOVERY TOOL



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Accelerate Science Winter School  
Cambridge University  
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# The Beginning



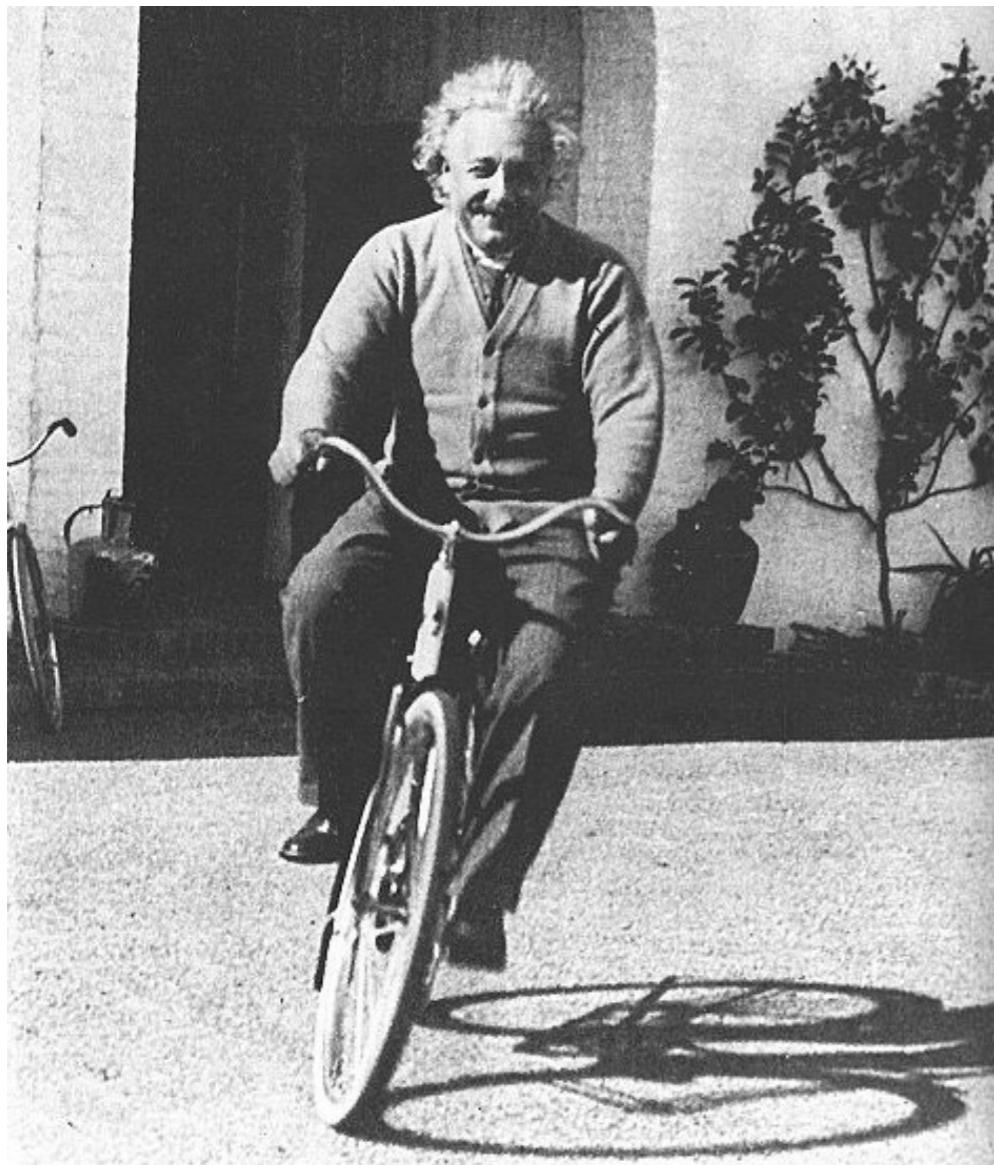
Image: Karen Carr

# Fundamental Questions

- How did the Universe begin?
- Why is the world the way it is?
- Could it have been some other way?
- What is the fundamental explanation for space, time, and matter?

# How We Do Physics

- Interrogate a theory at its limits and test it against other theories
- Investigate the tensions



## A gedankenexperiment

Turn on the headlight of your bicycle

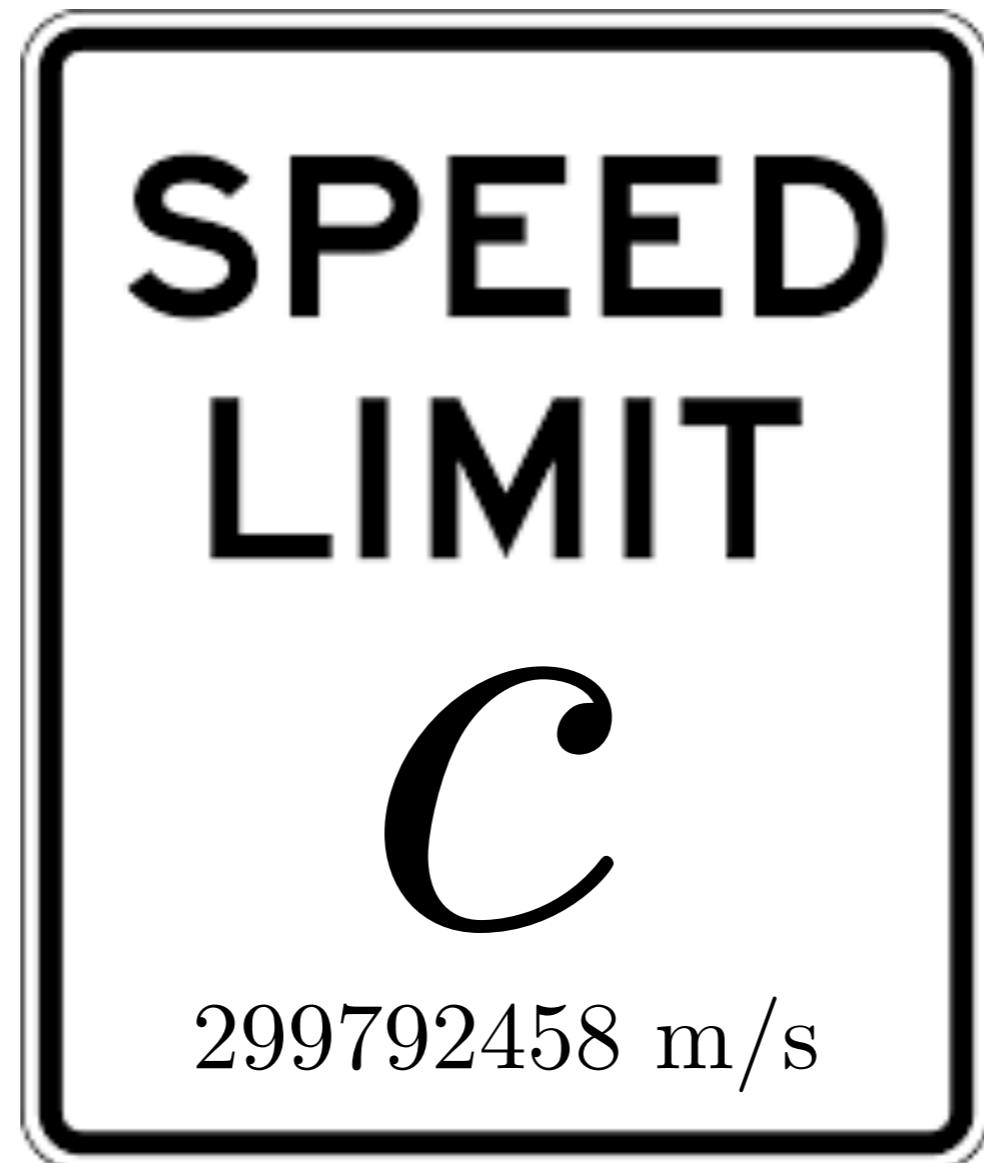
Suppose you bicycle faster than light

What do you see?

This thought experiment brings  
Galileo and Maxwell into tension

# Special Relativity

- Every observer measures the same speed of light
- The Universe has a speed limit



# Special Relativity

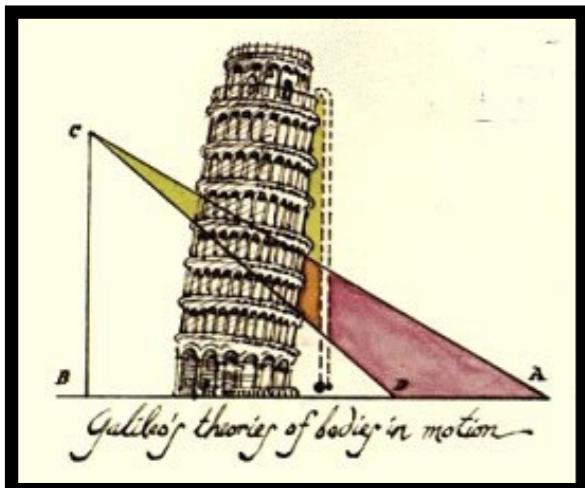
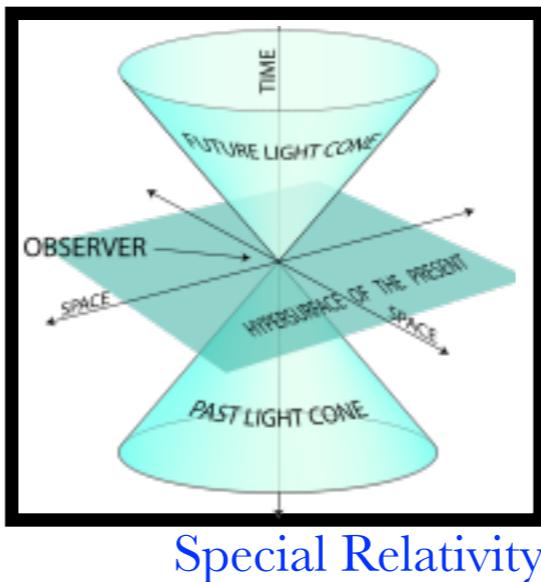
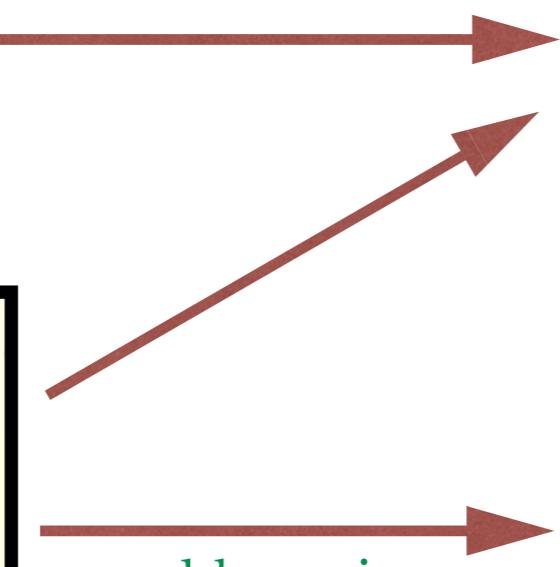
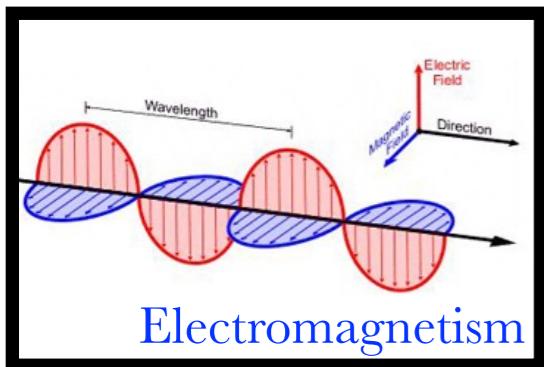
- Every observer measures the same speed of light
- The Universe has a speed limit



I OBEY THE SPEED LIMITS  
NO MATTER HOW STUPID THEY ARE

# Theories Beget Theories

- By testing electromagnetism against Galilean mechanics, we arrive at the special theory of relativity

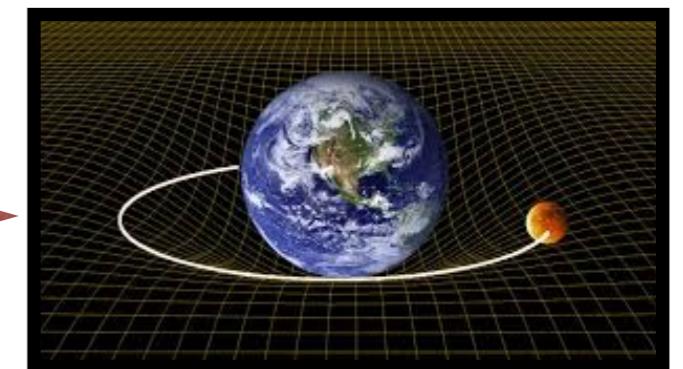
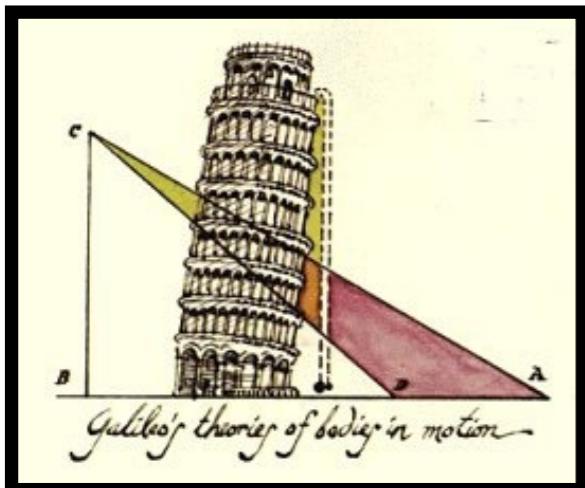
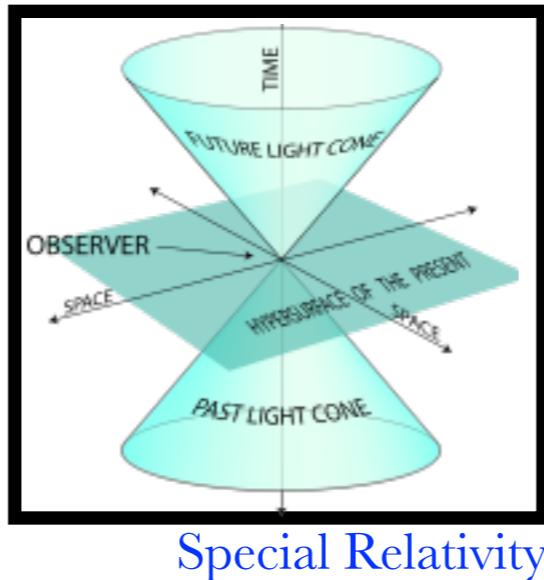
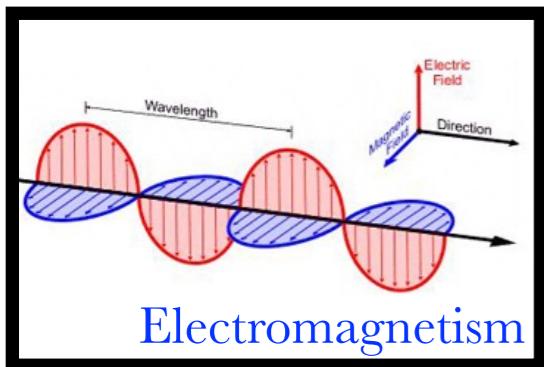


$$\vec{F} = m\vec{a}$$

$$\vec{F} = -\frac{G_N Mm}{r^2} \hat{\vec{r}}$$

# Theories Beget Theories

- By testing electromagnetism against Galilean mechanics, we arrive at the special theory of relativity
- Let's continue on this path



add gravity

# General Relativity

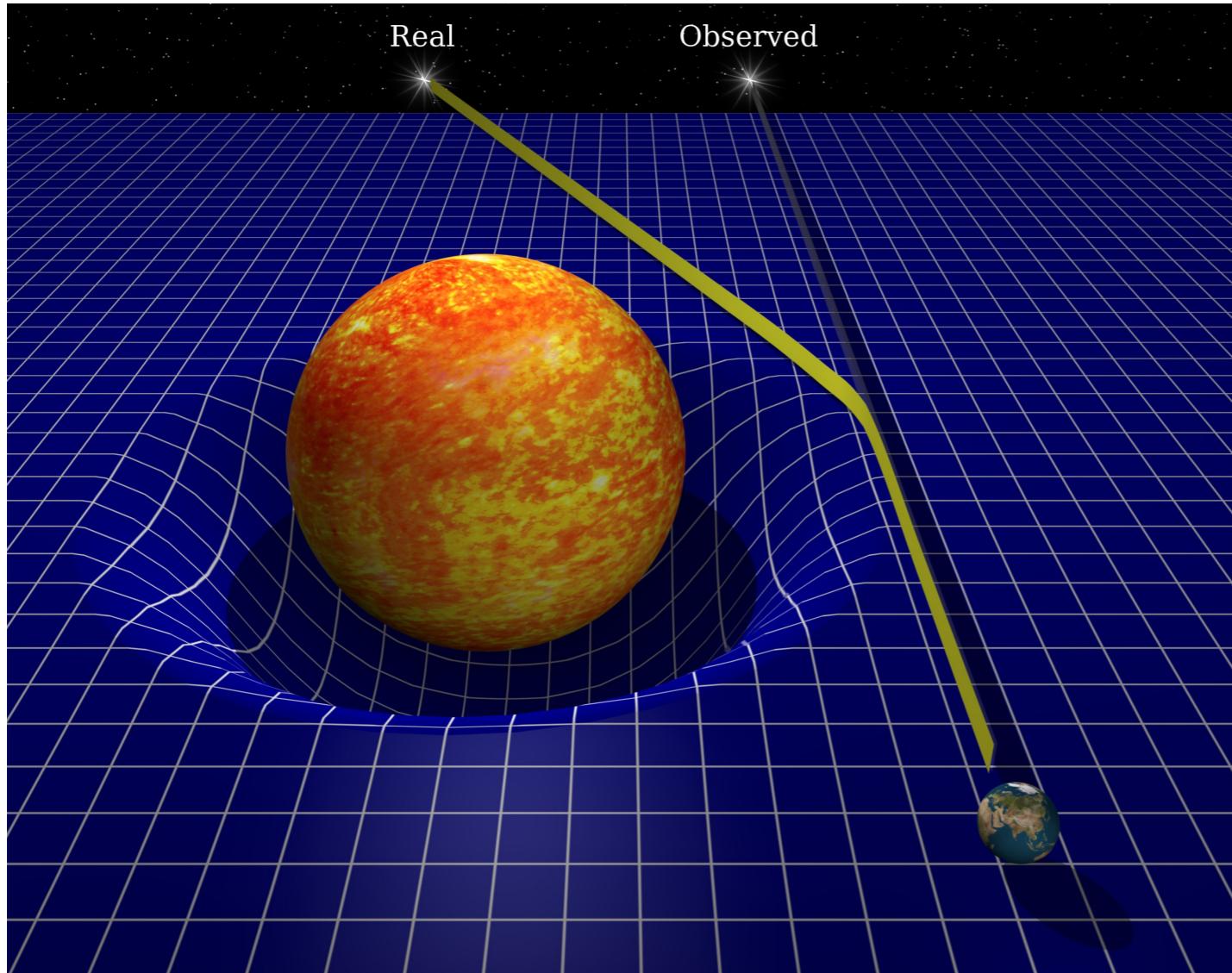


Image: Dave Jarvis

Force of gravity is geometry

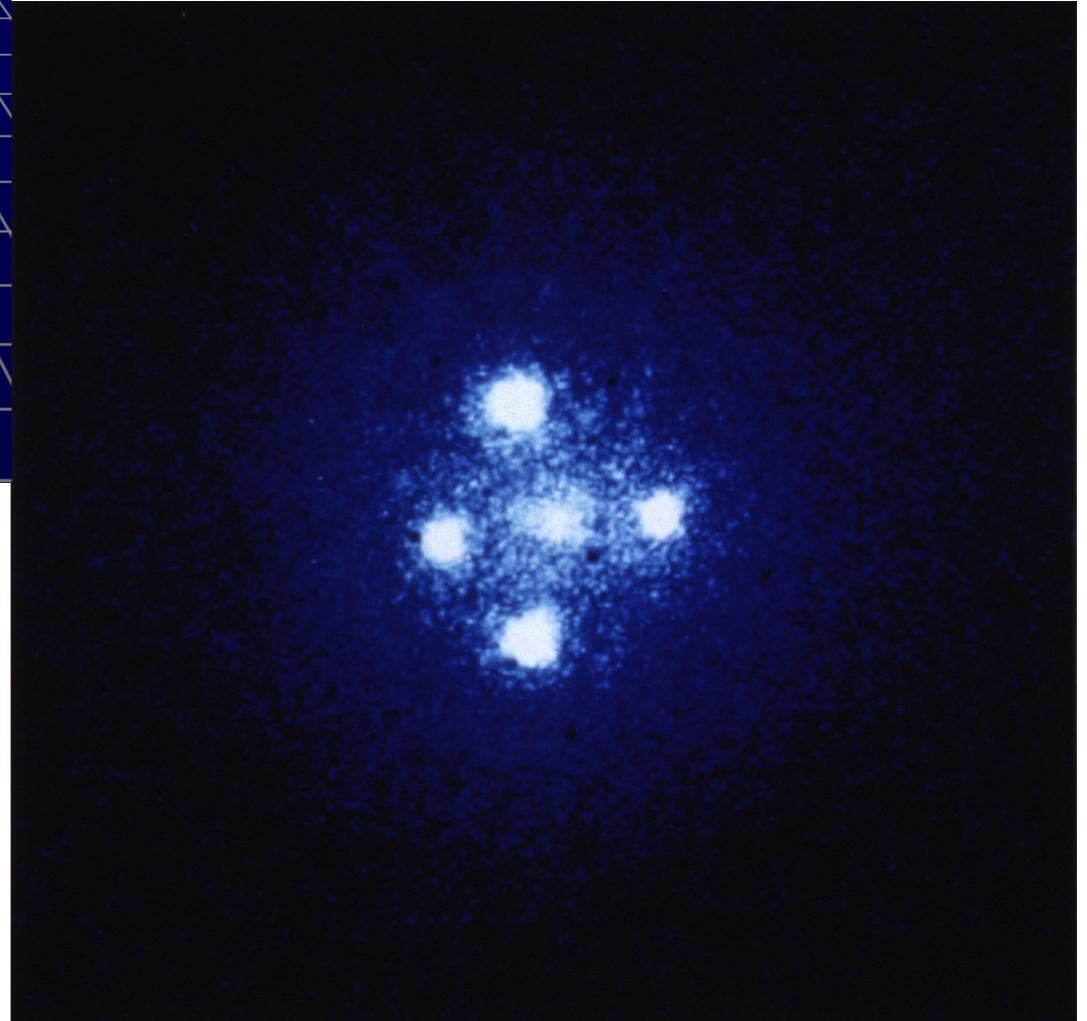
Verified from microns to cosmic scales

Image: ESA/NASA (HST)

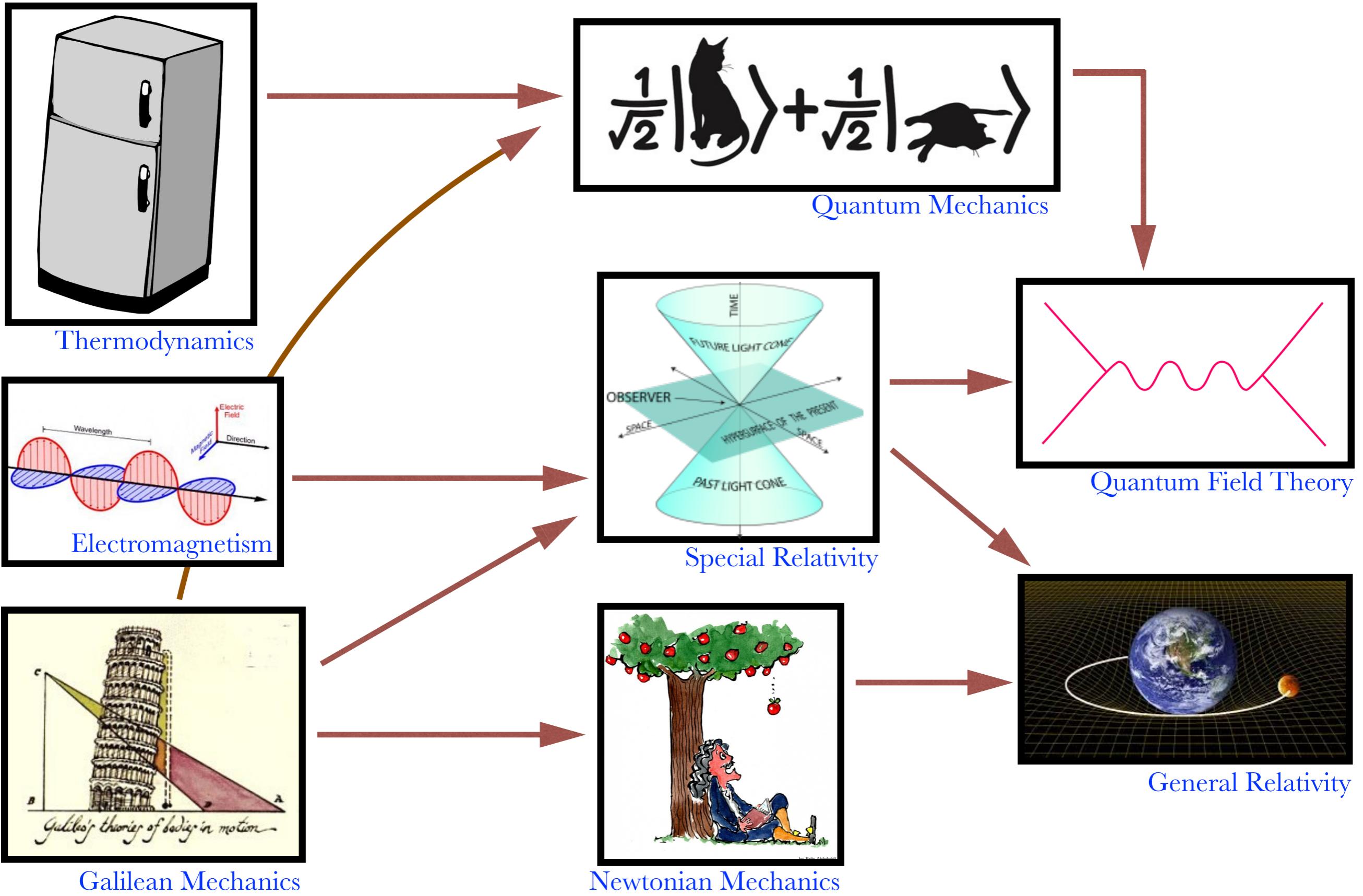
Another gedankenexperiment

What happens if the Sun suddenly disappeared?

Tension between Newton  
and Einstein

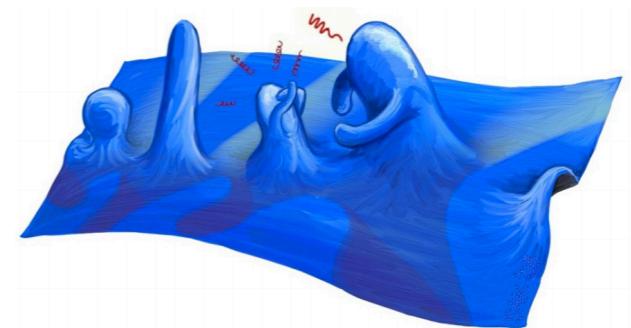


# Theory Space



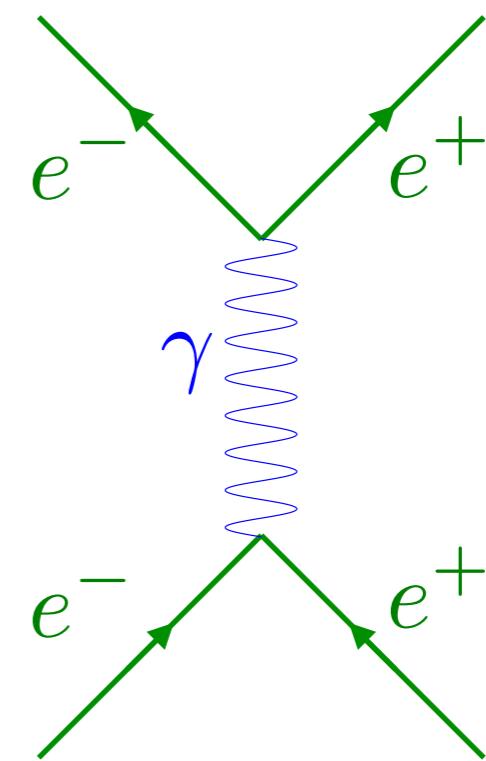
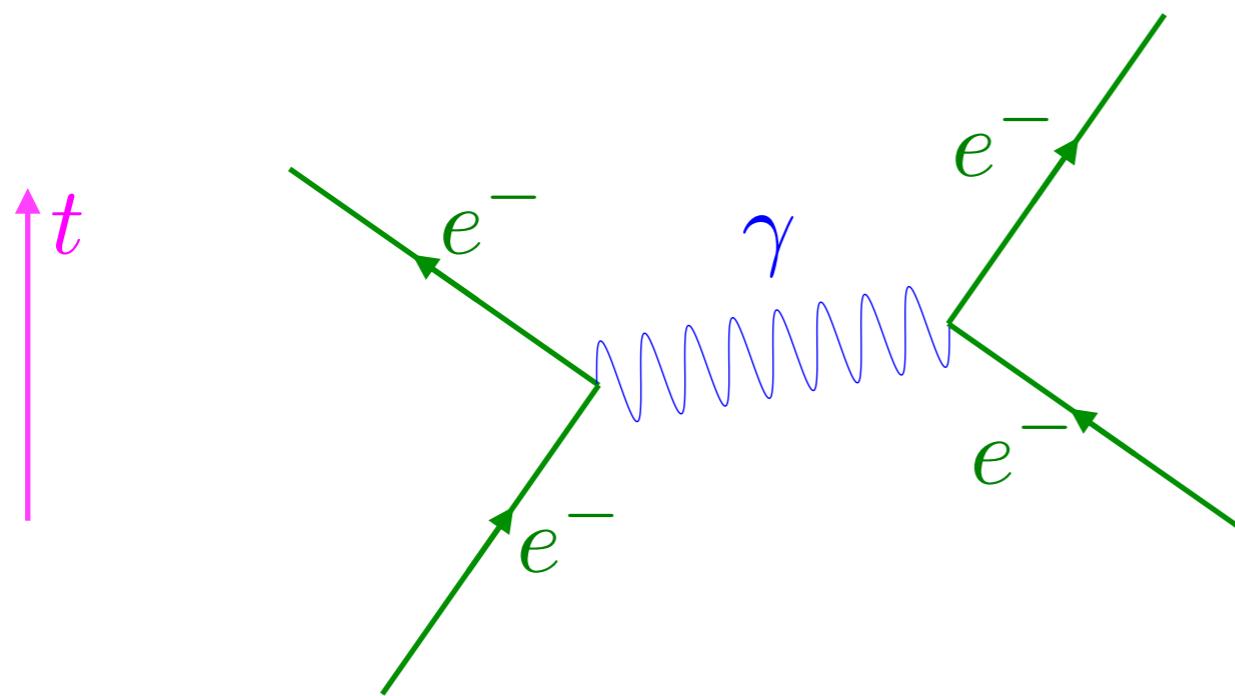
# Quantum Field Theory

- A field has a value at every point in spacetime



- Particles are local excitations of these fields

- To define a quantum field theory, we must specify the fields and how they interact



- Electrons and positrons interact by exchanging photons, for example

# Quantum Field Theory

- Fundamental forces are described by quantum field theory
- Standard Model

electromagnetism  
weak force  
strong force  
Higgs effect

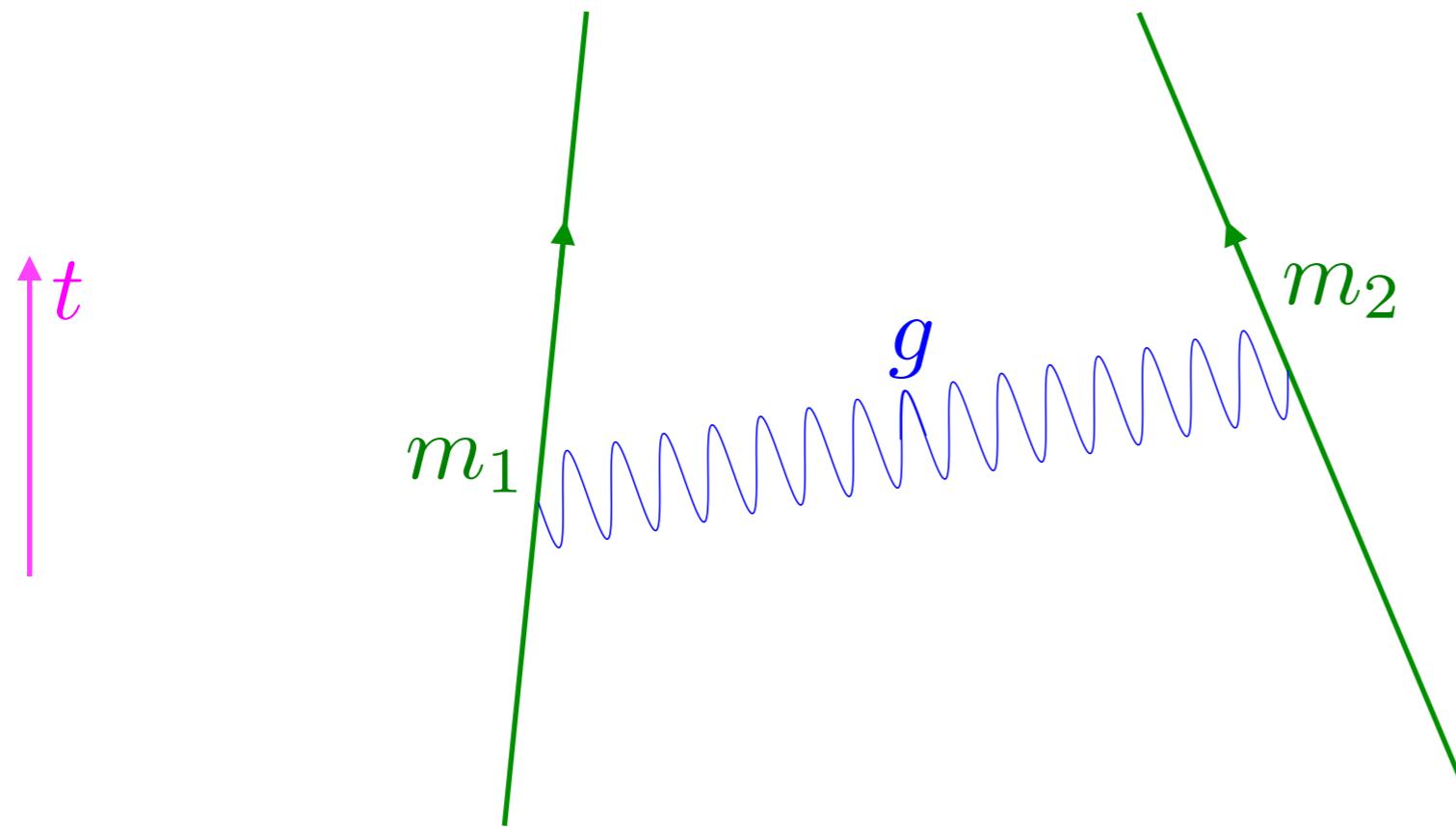
|         |  |                |                |                |             |              |
|---------|--|----------------|----------------|----------------|-------------|--------------|
|         | mass → ≈2.3 MeV/c <sup>2</sup><br>charge → 2/3<br>spin → 1/2 | u              | c              | t              | g           | H            |
|         | up   | charm          | top            | gluon          | Higgs boson |              |
| QUARKS  |  |                |                |                |             |              |
|         | ≈4.8 MeV/c <sup>2</sup><br>-1/3<br>1/2                       | d              | s              | b              | γ           |              |
|         | down   | strange        | bottom         | photon         |             |              |
| LEPTONS |  |                |                |                |             | Gauge Bosons |
|         | 0.511 MeV/c <sup>2</sup><br>-1<br>1/2                        | e              | μ              | τ              | Z           |              |
|         | electron   | muon           | tau            | Z boson        |             |              |
|         | <2.2 eV/c <sup>2</sup><br>0<br>1/2                           | ν <sub>e</sub> | ν <sub>μ</sub> | ν <sub>τ</sub> | W           |              |
|         | electron neutrino  | muon neutrino  | tau neutrino   | W boson        |             |              |

$$\alpha_{\text{exp}}^{-1} = 137.035999139(31)$$

$$\alpha_{\text{th}}^{-1} = 137.035999173(35)$$

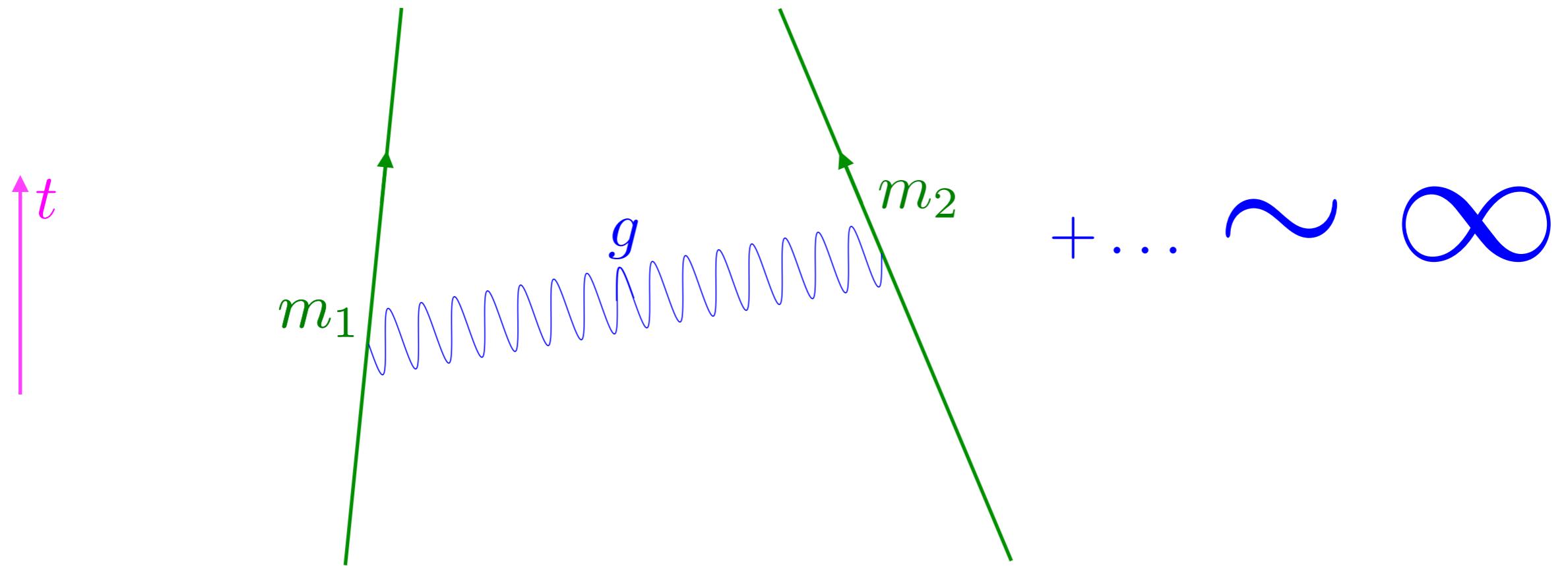
# One Theory of Physics

- Gravity is a response to curvature, but we experience this as a force
- Matter couples to geometry via mass
- What happens if we treat geometry as a quantum field?



# One Theory of Physics

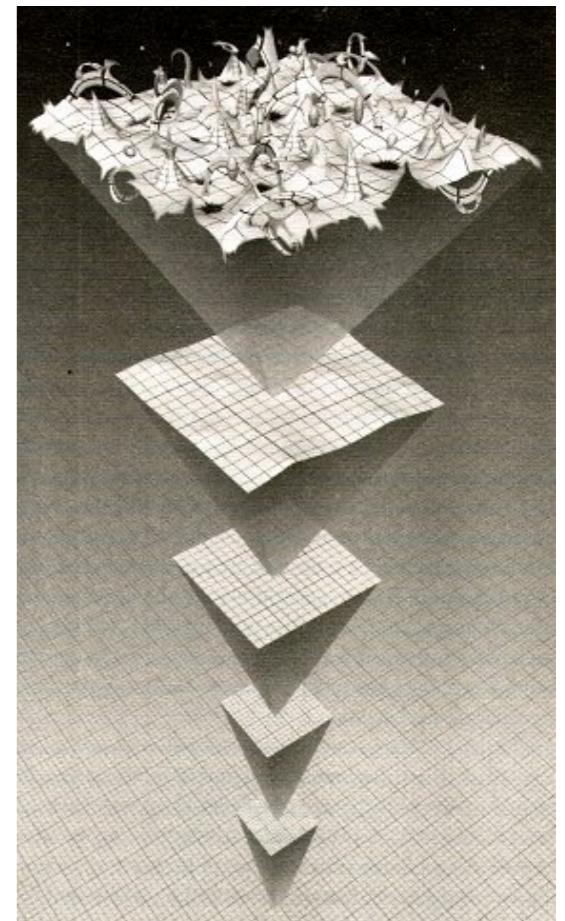
- Gravity is a response to curvature, but we experience this as a force
- Matter couples to geometry via mass
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# What Went Wrong?

- General relativity explains the dynamical response of geometry to the presence of matter or energy and conversely the dynamical response of matter to the curvature of spacetime
- In a quantum Universe, things fluctuate due to the uncertainty principle

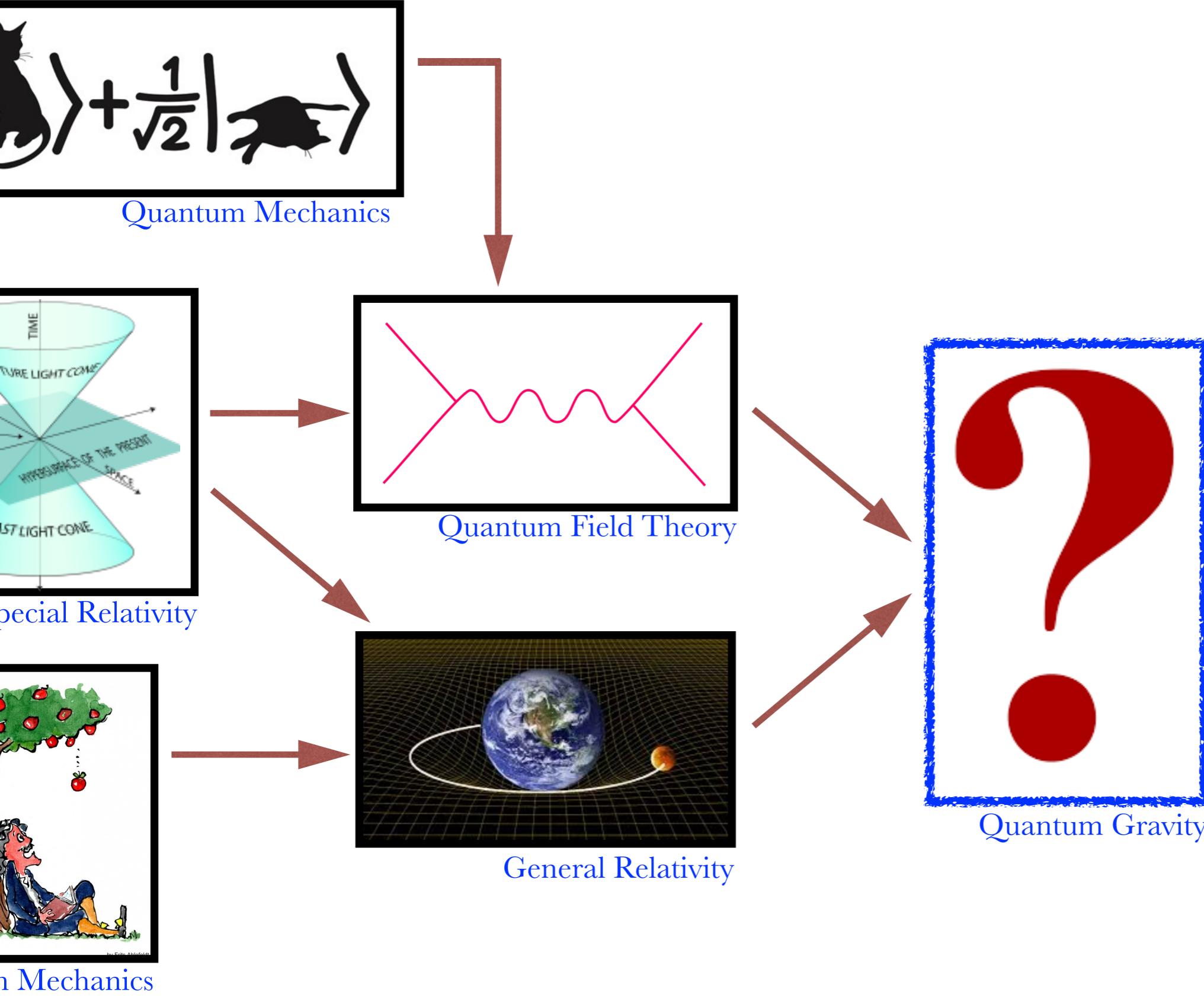
$$\sigma_x \sigma_p \geq \frac{\hbar}{2}$$



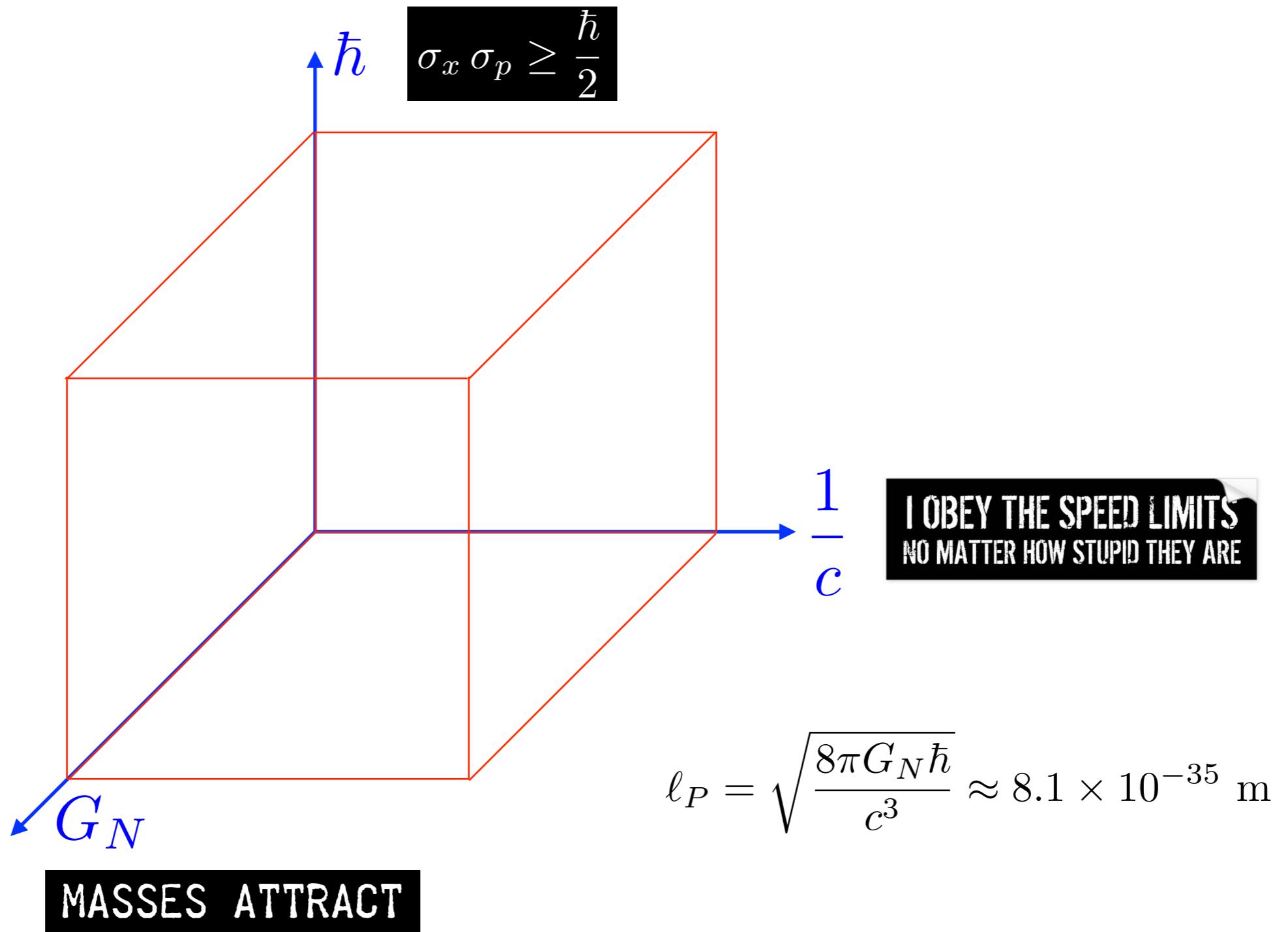
- Because spacetime itself fluctuates at the quantum level, one of the central assumptions of general relativity, that geometry is smooth, breaks down
- Quantum field theory is not the organizing principle

Image: Brian Greene

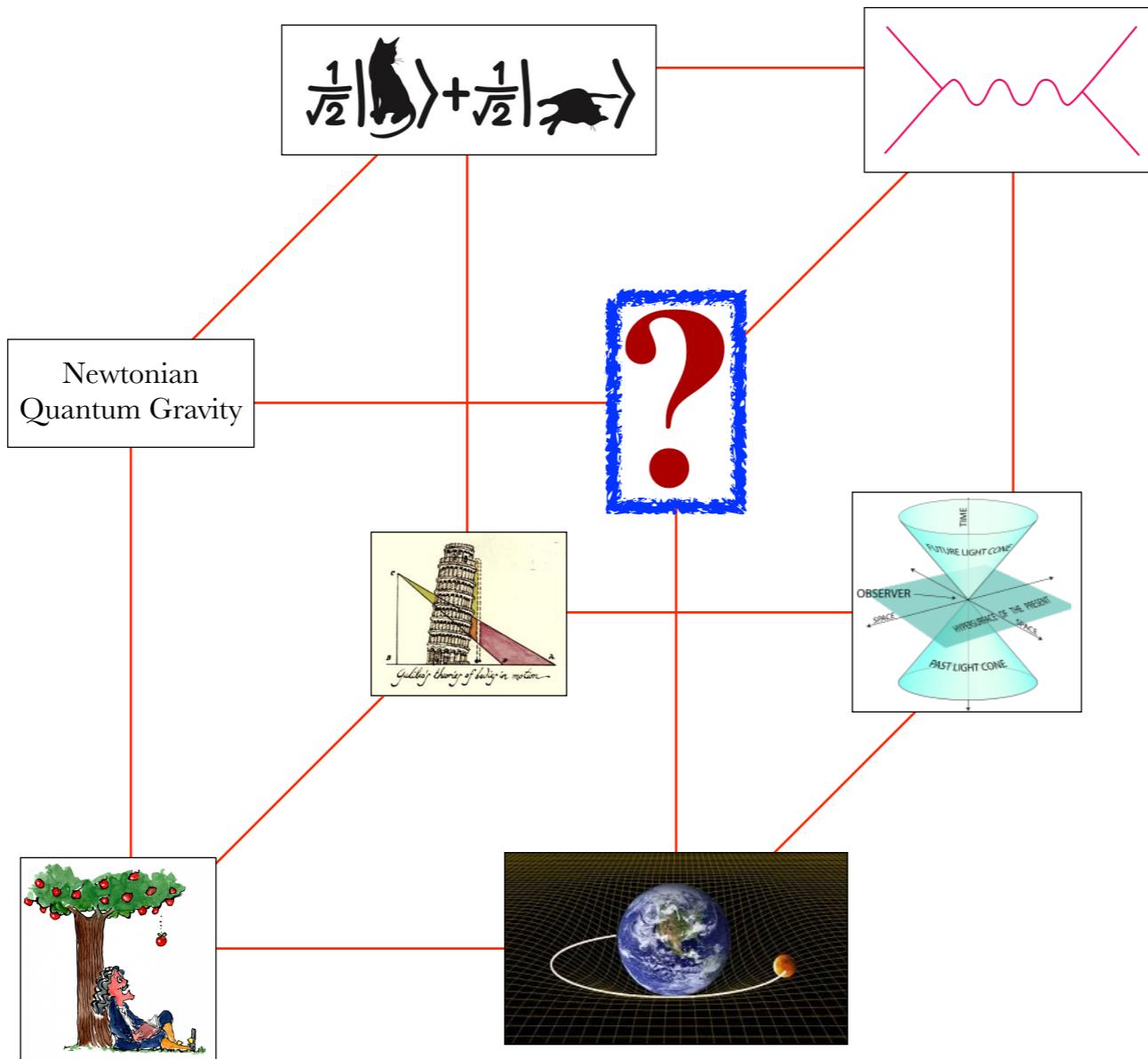
# A New Hope



# Bronstein's Cube



# Bronstein's Cube



FIELDS INTERACT  
VIA GAUGE FORCES  
PARTICLES ARE  
FIELD EXCITATIONS

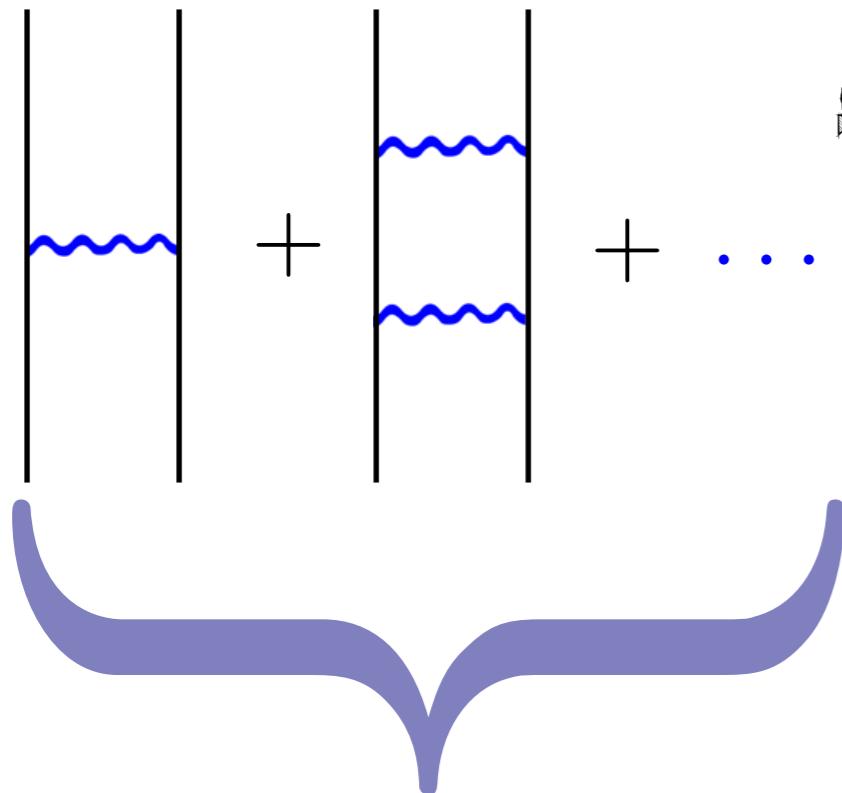
$$\begin{matrix} \hbar \\ G_N \\ \frac{1}{c} \end{matrix}$$

ENERGY COUPLES  
TO GEOMETRY

SPACETIME IS  
DYNAMICAL

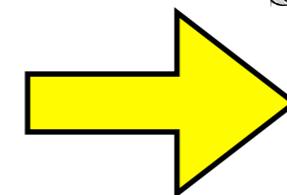
# String Theory

## Gravity as a QFT

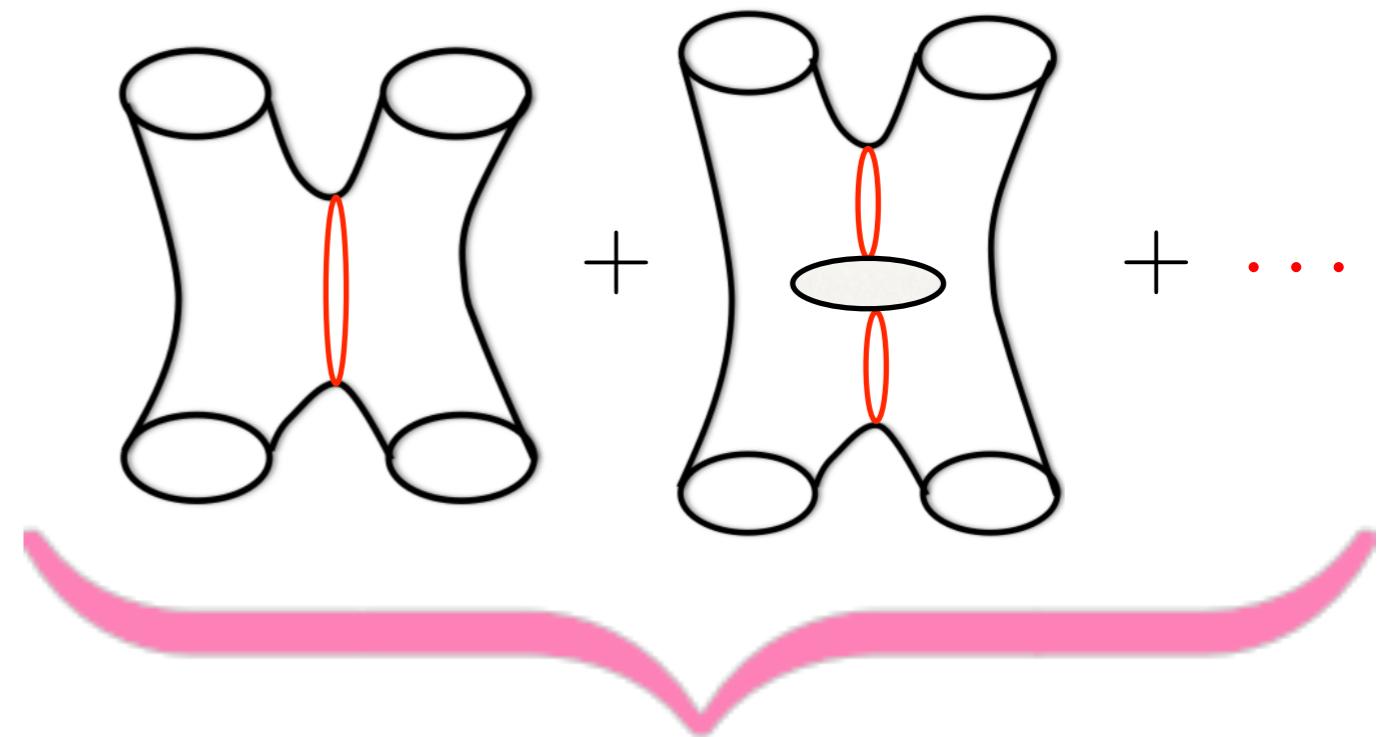


These are four dimensional

Smearing



## Gravity from String Theory



These are finite

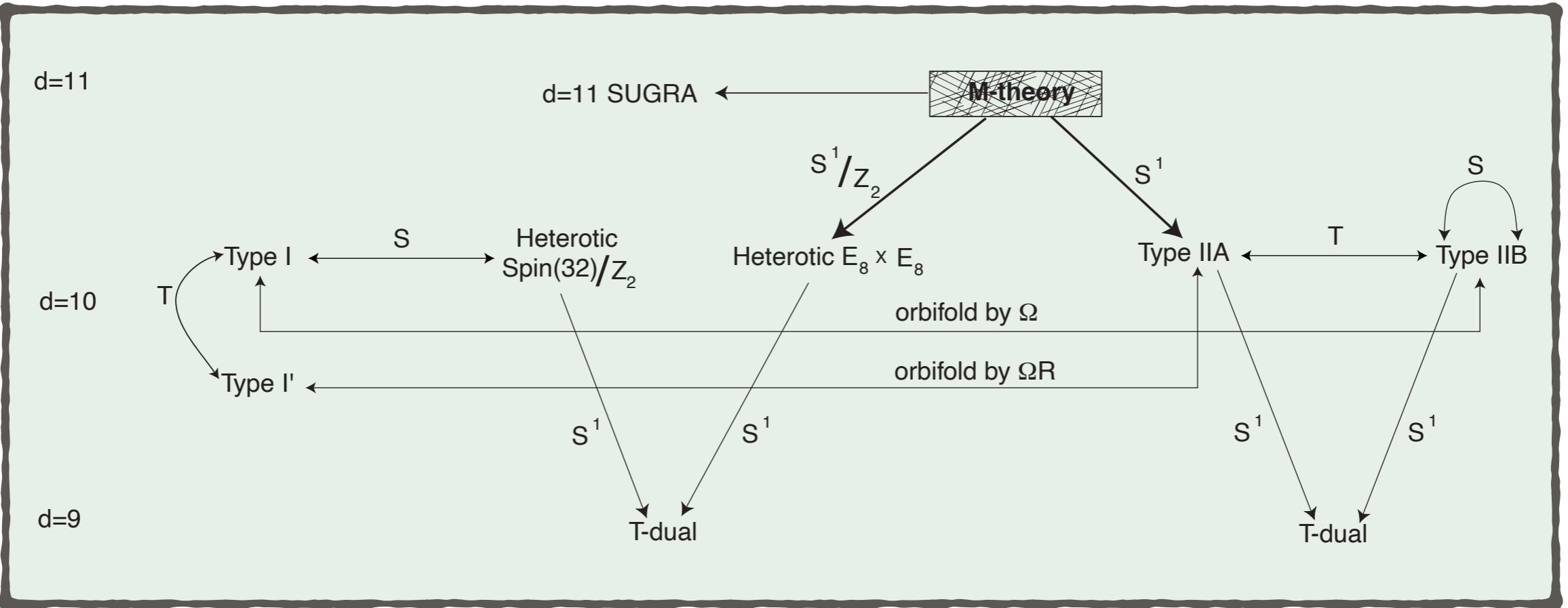
These are ten dimensional

[To prove the consistency of string theory we use the remarkable fact that  $\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} n \rightarrow -\frac{1}{12}$  ]

- $X^\mu : \Sigma \rightarrow \mathcal{M}$

Sigma model on the string worldsheet gives general relativity

# String Theory



- String theory is in fact a web of interconnected theories in ten (or eleven or twelve) dimensions
- We experience only four dimensions. So how do we proceed?

# The Forces of Nature

- Gravitational interactions described by Einstein

$$G_{\mu\nu} := R_{\mu\nu} - \frac{1}{2}g_{\mu\nu}R + \Lambda g_{\mu\nu} = \frac{8\pi G_N}{c^4}T_{\mu\nu}$$

- Standard Model

electromagnetism  
weak force  
strong force  
Higgs effect

| QUARKS       | mass →   | $\approx 2.3 \text{ MeV}/c^2$    | charge → | $2/3$   | spin → | $1/2$             | up                    | $\mathbf{u}$      |
|--------------|----------|----------------------------------|----------|---------|--------|-------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
|              | charge → | $1.275 \text{ GeV}/c^2$          | spin →   | $2/3$   | 1/2    | charm             | $\mathbf{c}$          |                   |
| LEPTONS      | mass →   | $\approx 173.07 \text{ GeV}/c^2$ | charge → | $2/3$   | 1/2    | top               | $\mathbf{t}$          | top               |
|              | mass →   | $\approx 4.8 \text{ MeV}/c^2$    | charge → | $-1/3$  | 1/2    | down              | $\mathbf{d}$          | down              |
| GAUGE BOSONS | mass →   | $\approx 95 \text{ MeV}/c^2$     | charge → | $-1/3$  | 1/2    | strange           | $\mathbf{s}$          | strange           |
|              | mass →   | $\approx 4.18 \text{ GeV}/c^2$   | charge → | $-1/3$  | 1/2    | bottom            | $\mathbf{b}$          | bottom            |
| GAUGE BOSONS | mass →   | $\approx 0.511 \text{ MeV}/c^2$  | charge → | $-1$    | 1/2    | electron          | $\mathbf{e}$          | electron          |
|              | mass →   | $\approx 105.7 \text{ MeV}/c^2$  | charge → | $-1$    | 1/2    | muon              | $\mathbf{\mu}$        | muon              |
| GAUGE BOSONS | mass →   | $\approx 1.777 \text{ GeV}/c^2$  | charge → | $-1$    | 1/2    | tau               | $\mathbf{\tau}$       | tau               |
|              | mass →   | $\approx 91.2 \text{ GeV}/c^2$   | charge → | $0$     | 1      | Z boson           | $\mathbf{Z}$          | Z boson           |
| GAUGE BOSONS | mass →   | $\approx 80.4 \text{ GeV}/c^2$   | charge → | $\pm 1$ | 1      | W boson           | $\mathbf{W}$          | W boson           |
|              | mass →   | $\approx 0.17 \text{ MeV}/c^2$   | charge → | $0$     | 1/2    | muon neutrino     | $\mathbf{\nu}_{\mu}$  | muon neutrino     |
| GAUGE BOSONS | mass →   | $\approx 15.5 \text{ MeV}/c^2$   | charge → | $0$     | 1/2    | tau neutrino      | $\mathbf{\nu}_{\tau}$ | tau neutrino      |
|              | mass →   | $\approx 2.2 \text{ eV}/c^2$     | charge → | $0$     | 1/2    | electron neutrino | $\mathbf{\nu}_e$      | electron neutrino |

# The Forces of Nature

- Gravitational interactions described by Einstein

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- Non-gravitational interactions are not encoded as geometry

**Theorem** [Coleman–Mandula]: symmetry group in 4 dimensions is Poincaré  $\times$  internal

# The Forces of Nature

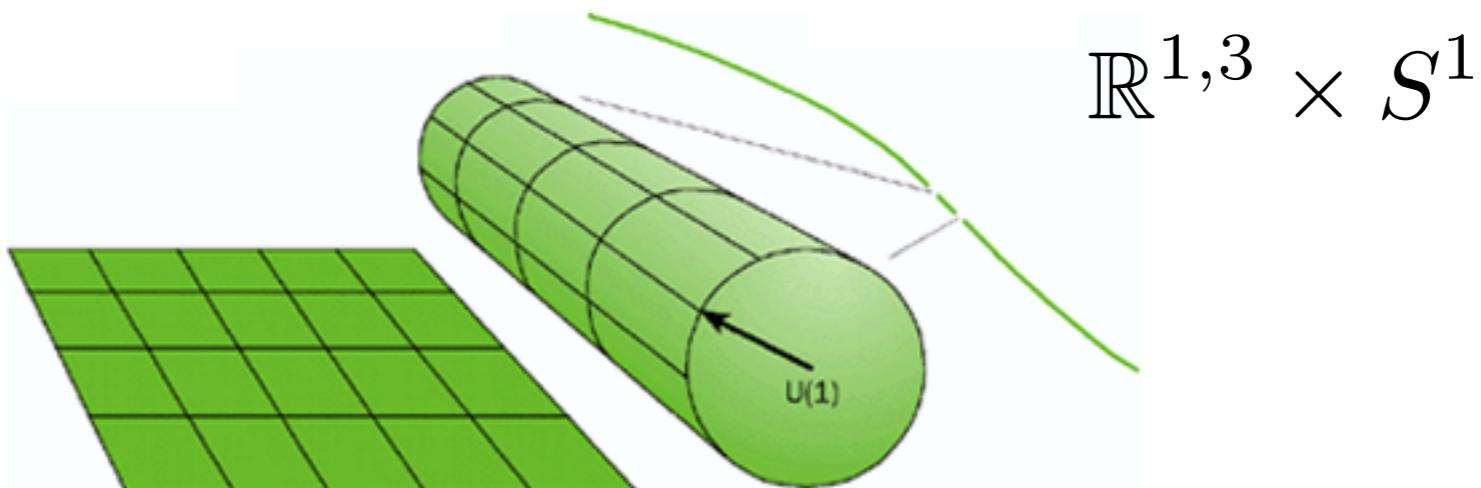
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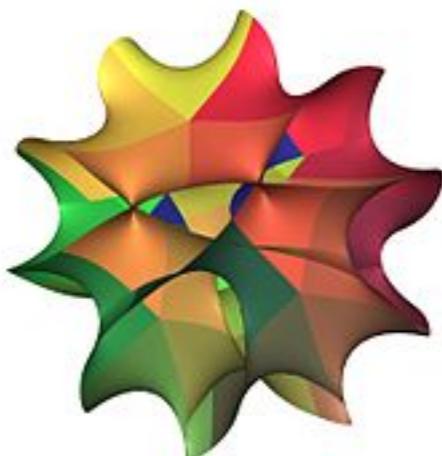
- Clever loophole: internal symmetries may arise from higher dimensional geometry



Kaluza–Klein: 5d Einstein equations give 4d Einstein + Maxwell equations

# Geometric Engineering

- Higher dimensional objects in string theory (branes) on which QFTs live
- Ten dimensional theory is consistent
- Ansatz for the geometry is  $\mathcal{M}_{10} = \mathbb{R}^{1,3} \times \text{CY}_3$
- Properties of Calabi–Yau determine physics in four dimensions  
**Example:**  $N_g = \frac{1}{2}|\chi|$  in simplest heterotic compactification models



Candelas, Horowitz, Strominger, Witten (1985)  
Greene, Kirklin, Miron, Ross (1986)

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# The Real World

- String theory supplies a framework for quantum gravity
- We are beginning to understand black holes and holography
- String theory is also an organizing principle for mathematics
- Finding our universe among the myriad of possible consistent realizations of a four dimensional low-energy limit of string theory is the **vacuum selection problem**
- Most vacua are *false* in that they do not resemble Nature at all
- Among the landscape of possibilities, we do not have even one solution that reproduces all the particle physics and cosmology we know

# The Unreal World

- The objective is to obtain the real world from a string compactification
- We would happily settle for a modestly unreal world

$\mathcal{N} = 1$  supersymmetry in 4 dimensions

$$G = SU(3)_C \times SU(2)_L \times U(1)_Y$$

Matter in chiral representations of  $G$ :

$$(\mathbf{3}, \mathbf{2})_{\frac{1}{6}}, (\overline{\mathbf{3}}, \mathbf{1})_{-\frac{2}{3}}, (\overline{\mathbf{3}}, \mathbf{1})_{\frac{1}{3}}, (\mathbf{1}, \mathbf{2})_{\pm \frac{1}{2}}, (\mathbf{1}, \mathbf{1})_1, (\mathbf{1}, \mathbf{1})_0$$

Superpotential  $W \supset \lambda^{ij} \phi \bar{\psi}_L^i \psi_R^j$

Three copies of matter such that  $\lambda^{ij}$  not identical

Consistent with cosmology

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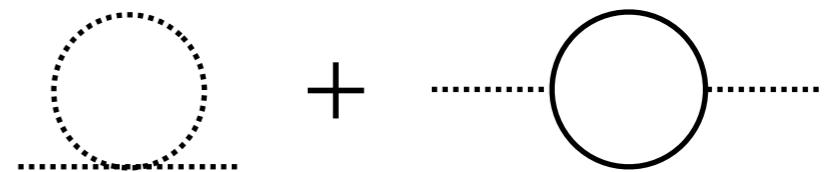
$\mathcal{N} = 1$  supersymmetry in 4 dimensions



No experimental evidence so far!

$$Q|\lambda\rangle \sim |\lambda \pm \frac{1}{2}\rangle$$

$$|\text{boson}\rangle \longleftrightarrow |\text{fermion}\rangle$$



$$m_H \ll m_P$$

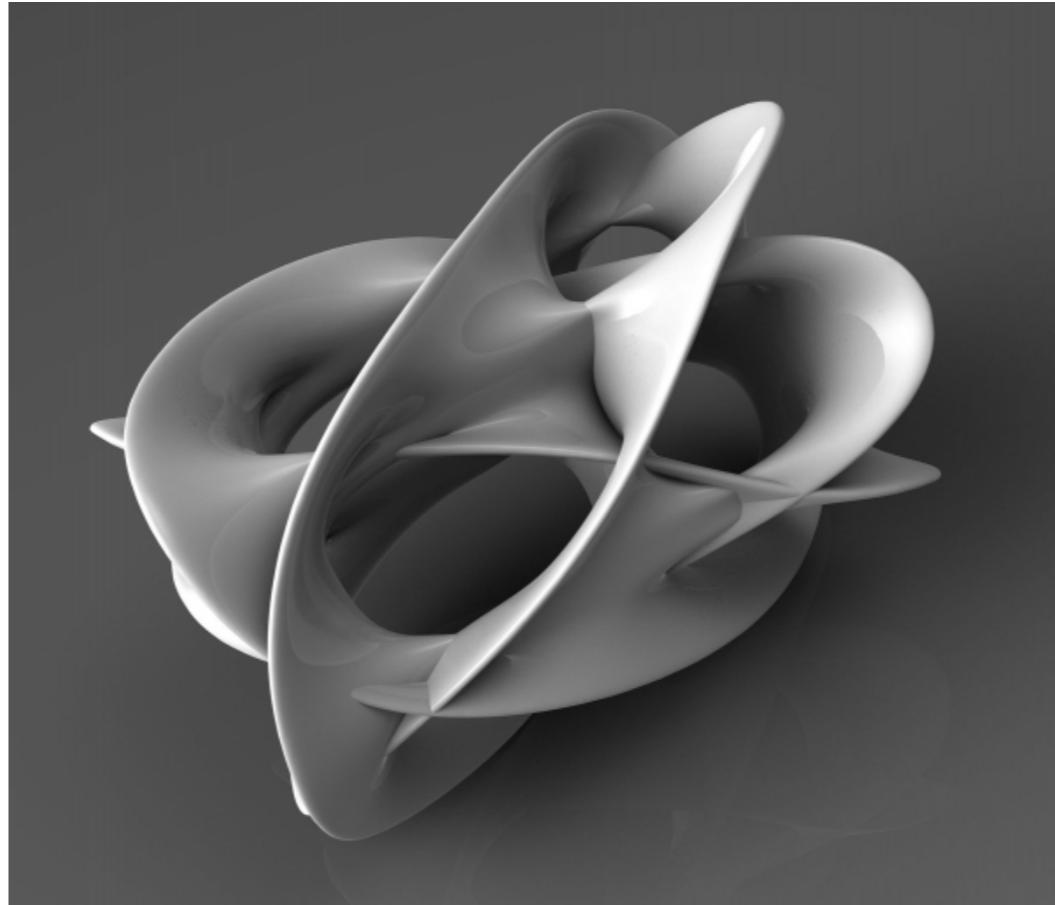
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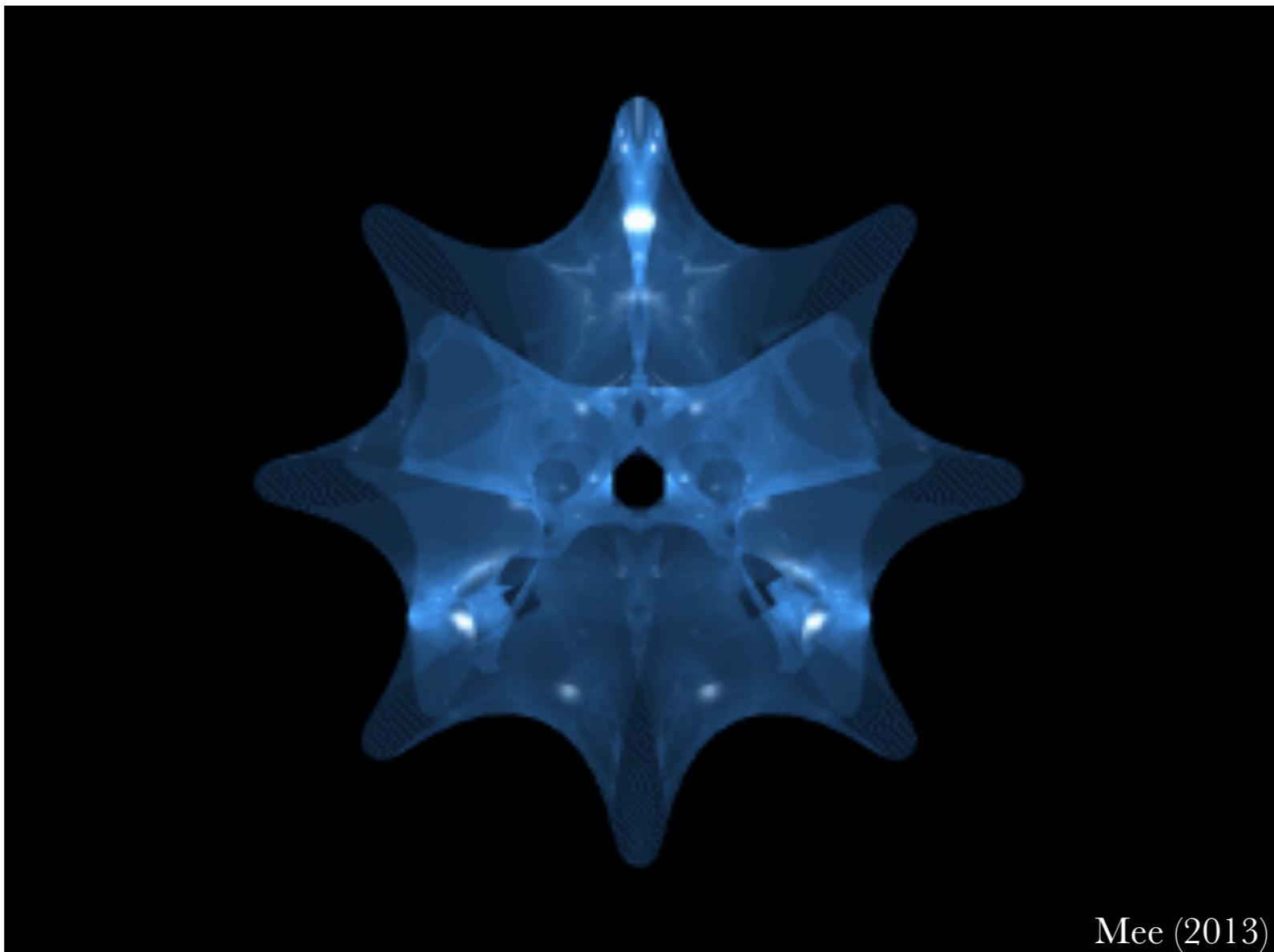
Because it is Ricci flat, the Calabi–Yau geometry ensures 4d supersymmetry

Use topological and geometric features of the Calabi–Yau to recover aspects of the real world



# PREDICTING A CALABI~YAU'S TOPOLOGICAL INVARIANTS

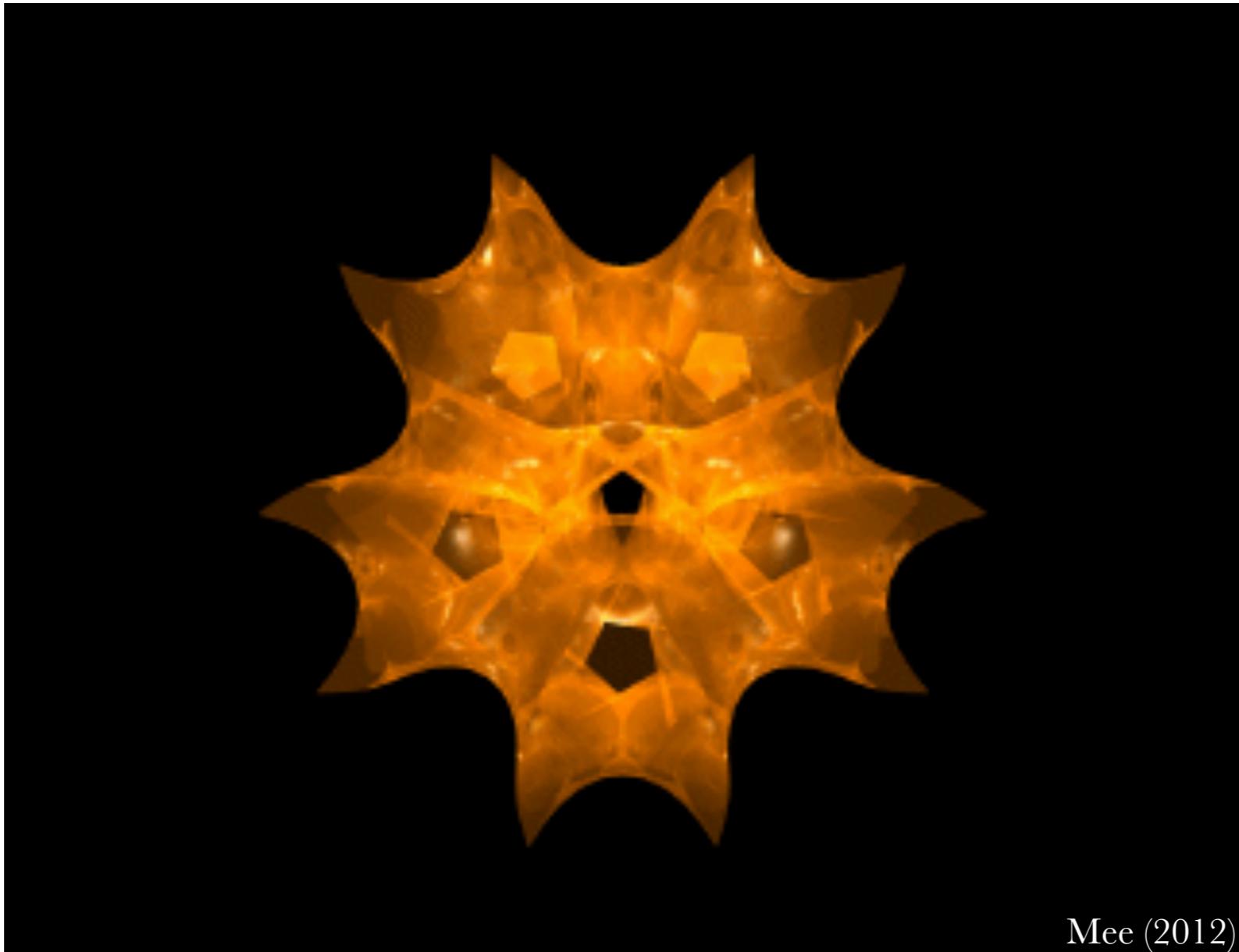
# Calabi–Yau



Mee (2013)

$$w^4 + x^4 + y^4 + z^4 = 0 \subset \mathbb{P}^3$$

# Calabi–Yau



Mee (2012)

$$u^5 + v^5 + x^5 + y^5 + z^5 = 0 \subset \mathbb{P}^4$$

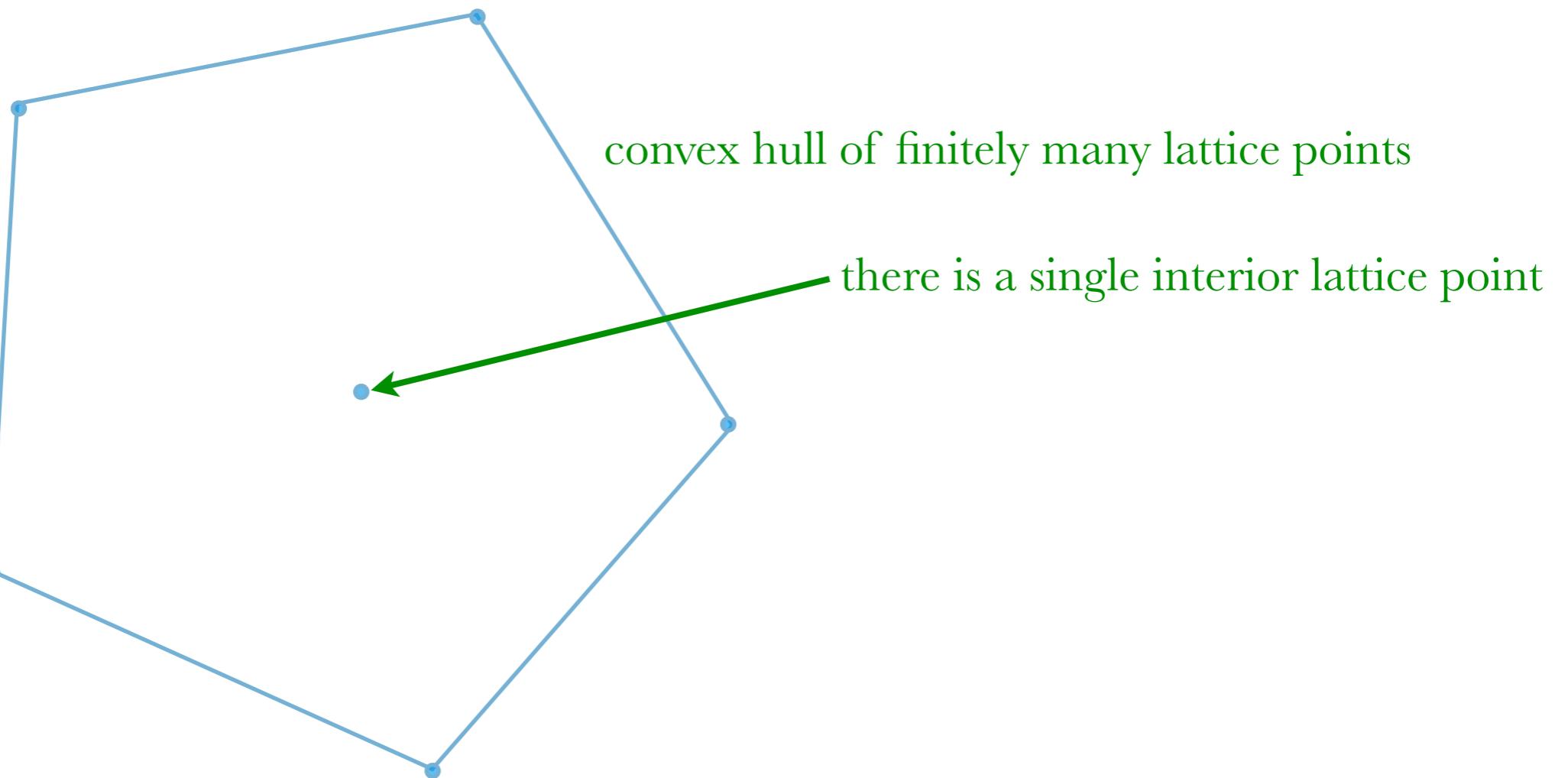
There is a nowhere vanishing holomorphic  $n$ -form

The canonical bundle is trivial

There is a Kähler metric with holonomy in  $SU(n)$

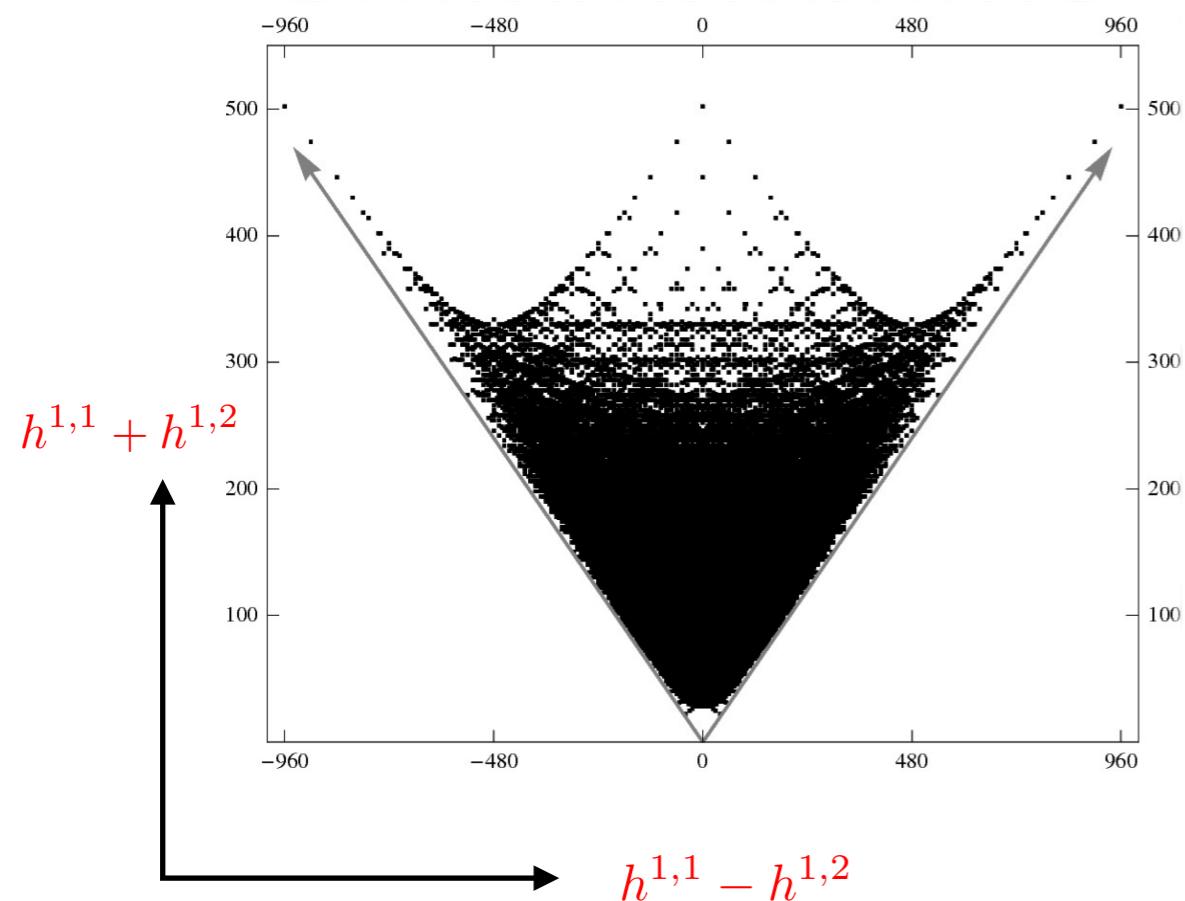
# Reflexive Polytopes

- Starting from a reflexive polytope, one can build a toric Calabi–Yau via methods of Batyrev, Borisov



# Reflexive Polytopes Catalogued

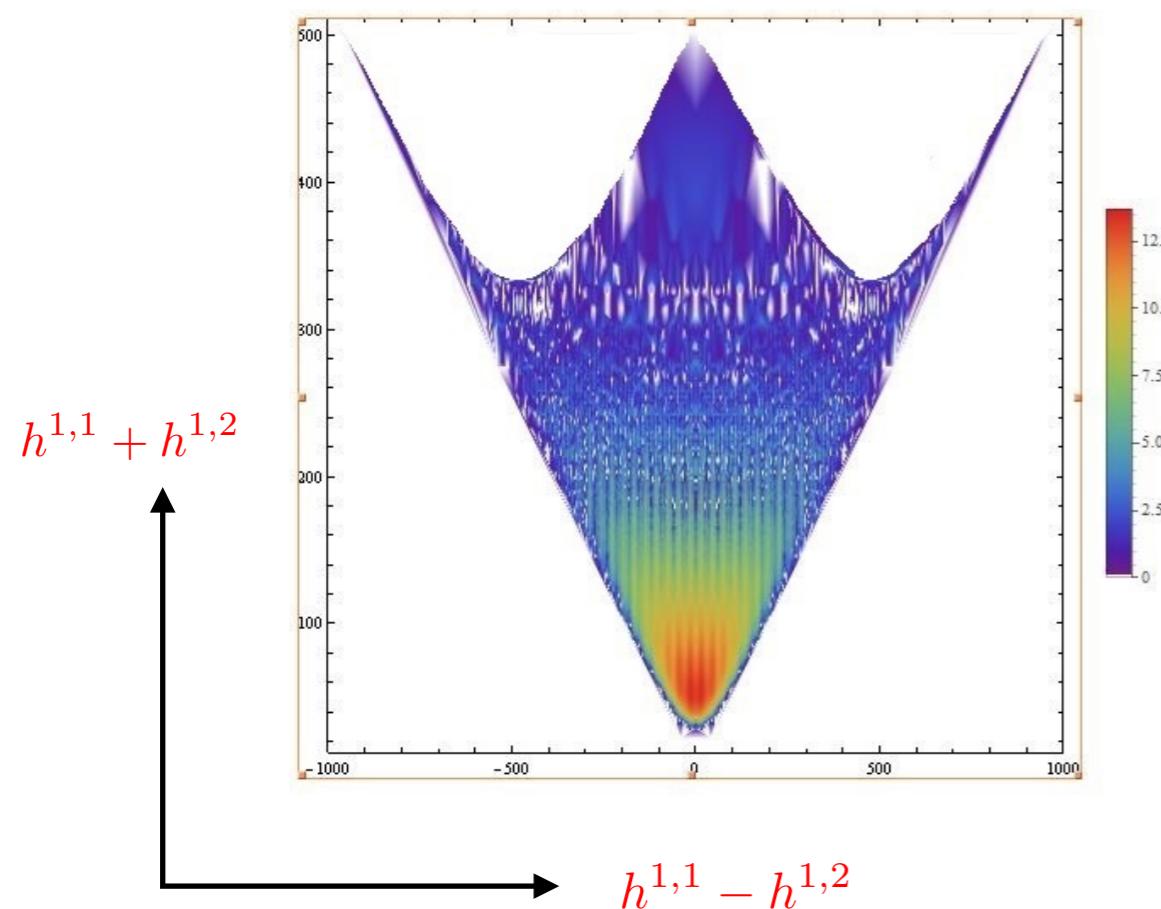
- Starting from a reflexive polytope, one can build a toric Calabi–Yau via methods of Batyrev, Borisov
- Kreuzer–Skarke obtained 473,800,776 reflexive polytopes that yield toric Calabi–Yau threefolds with 30,108 unique pairs of Hodge numbers



- Distribution of polytopes exhibits mirror symmetry

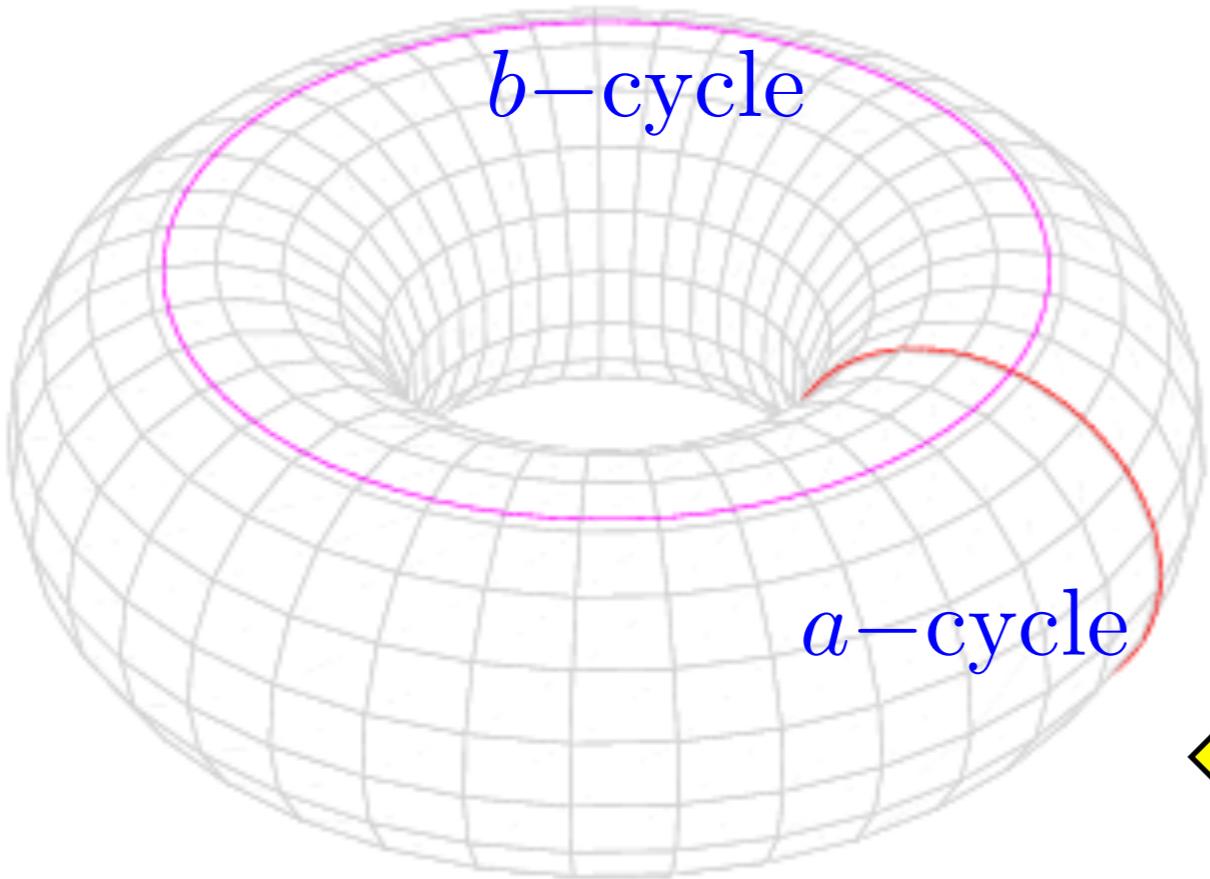
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- Distribution of polytopes exhibits mirror symmetry
- The peak of the distribution is at  $(h^{1,1}, h^{1,2}) = (27, 27)$   
There are 910,113 such polytopes
- Are there patterns in how the topological invariants are distributed?

# Torus

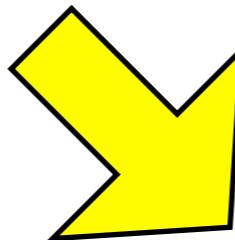


Kähler parameter: area  $A$

complex structure parameter:  $\tau$

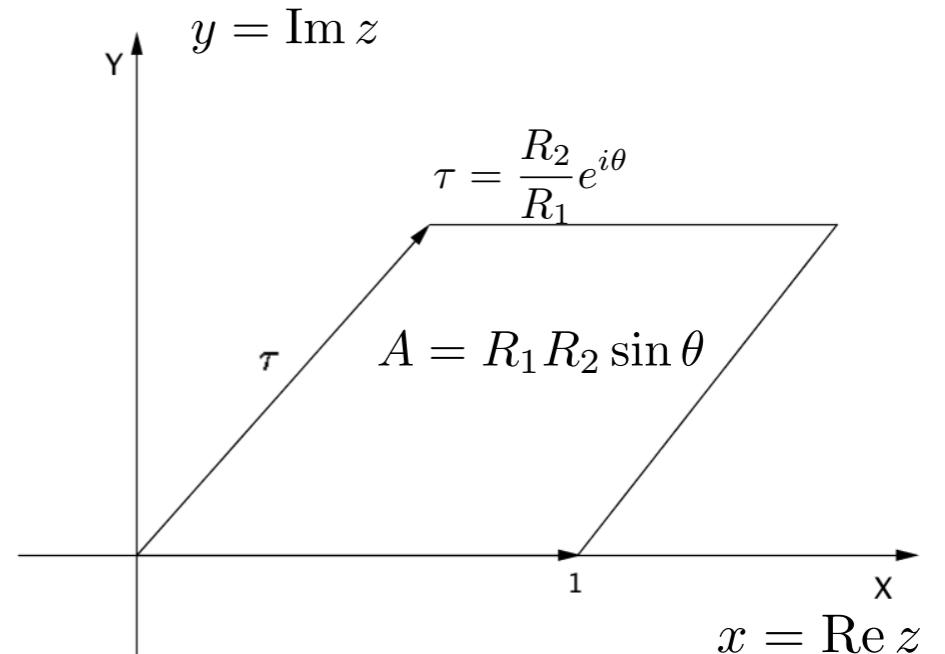
**size**

**shape**



Flat, but has non-trivial homotopy

There are non-contractible cycles



$$ds^2 = R_1^2 dx^2 + R_2^2 dy^2 + 2R_1 R_2 \cos \theta dx dy$$

# Moduli of CY<sub>3</sub>

- Geometrical moduli enumerated by number of embedded two-spheres and three-spheres

|   |           |           |           |       |   |   |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------|---|---|
|   |           |           |           |       |   | $h^{p,q} = \dim H^{p,q}$                  |
|   | 1         |           |           | $b_0$ |   |   |
|   | 0         | 0         |           | $b_1$ | $b_k = \dim H^k = \sum_{p+q=k} h^{p,q}$ |   |
| 0 |           | $h^{1,1}$ | 0         | $b_2$ |   |   |
| 1 | $h^{1,2}$ |           | $h^{2,1}$ | 1     | $b_3$                                   | $h^{p,q} = h^{q,p}$ (complex conjugation) |
| 0 |           | $h^{2,2}$ | 0         | $b_4$ | $h^{p,q} = h^{n-p,n-q}$                 | (Poincaré duality)                        |
| 0 |           | 0         |           | $b_5$ |   |   |
|   | 1         |           |           | $b_6$ | $\chi = \sum_{p,q} (-1)^{p+q} h^{p,q}$  |   |

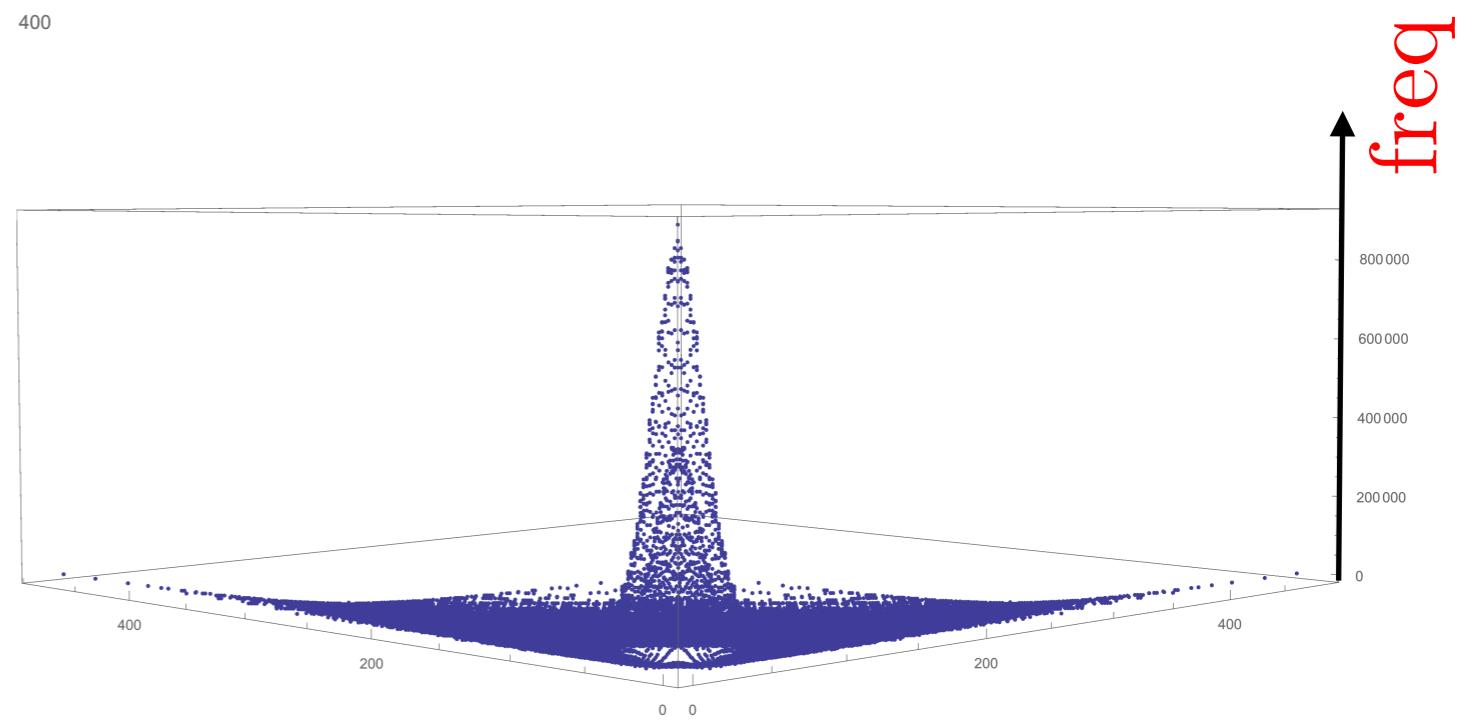
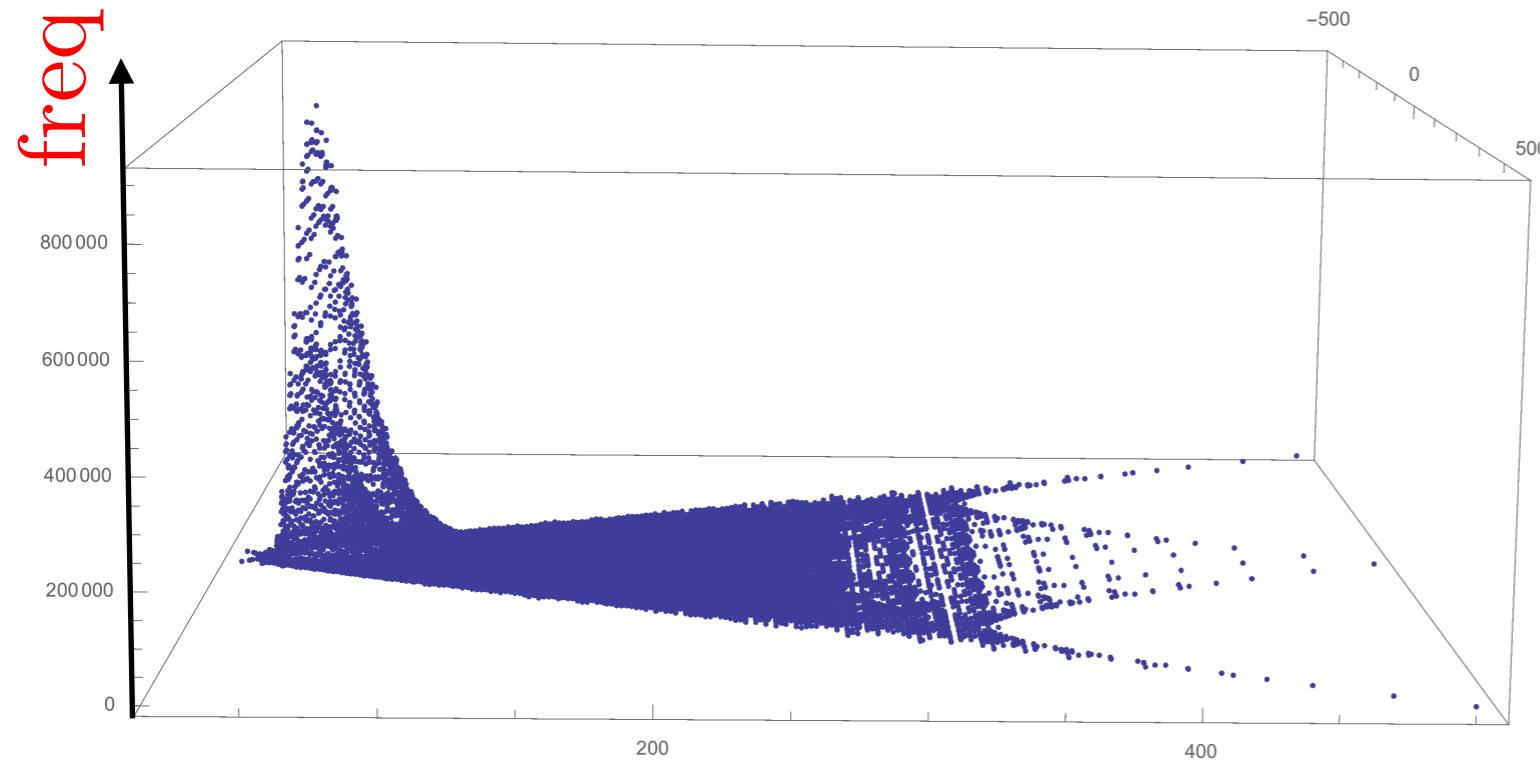
$h^{1,2} = \frac{b_3}{2} - 1$  **complex structure moduli**, counts the number of **three-cycles**

$h^{1,1} = b_2$  **Kähler moduli**, counts the number of **two-cycles and four-cycles**

$\chi = 2(h^{1,1} - h^{1,2})$  **Euler characteristic**,  $N_g = \frac{1}{2}|\chi|$

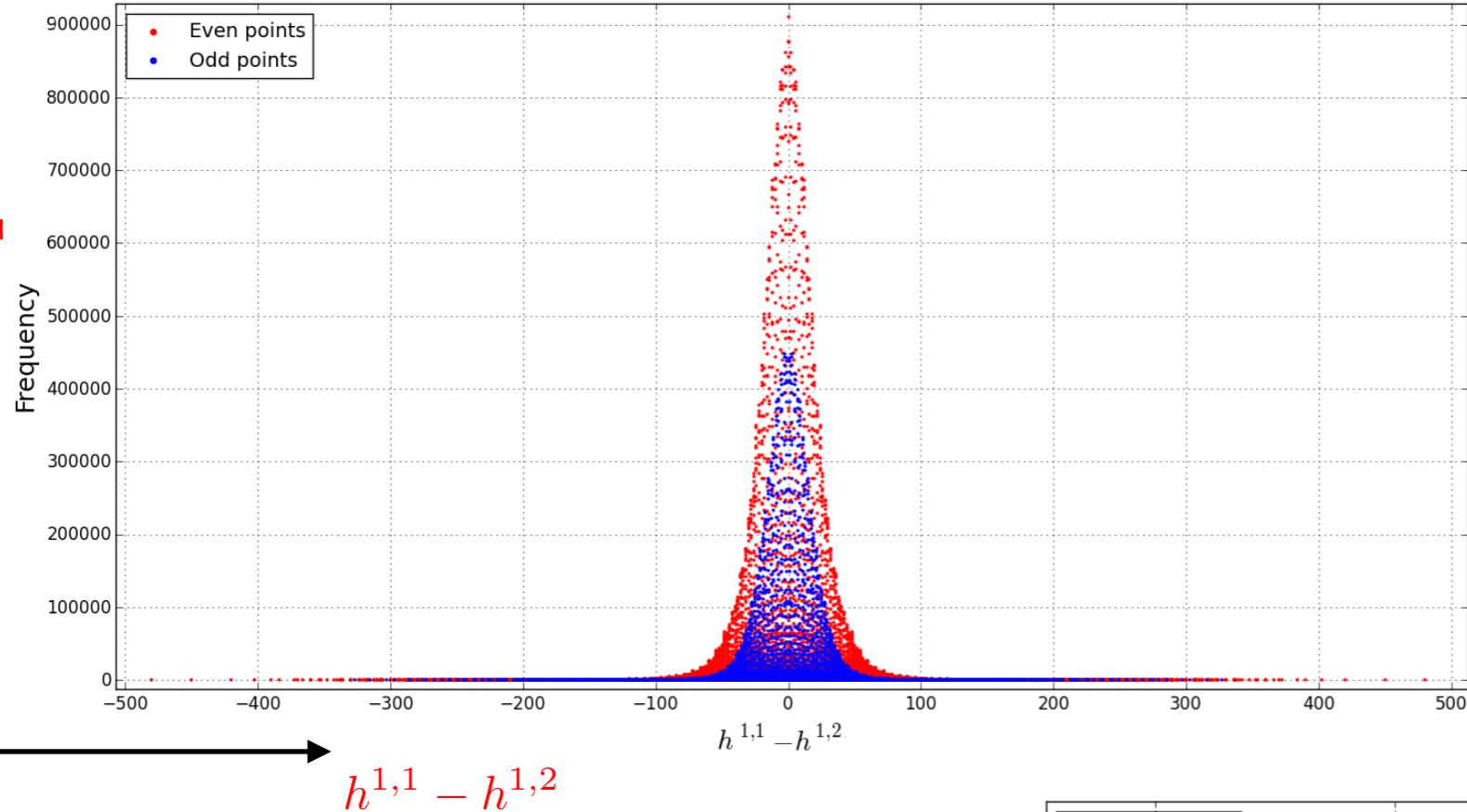
- Mirror symmetry** says that we can rotate the Hodge diamond by  $\pi/2$  and get a new Calabi–Yau with  $h^{1,1} \leftrightarrow h^{1,2}$

# 3d Plots of Polytope Data



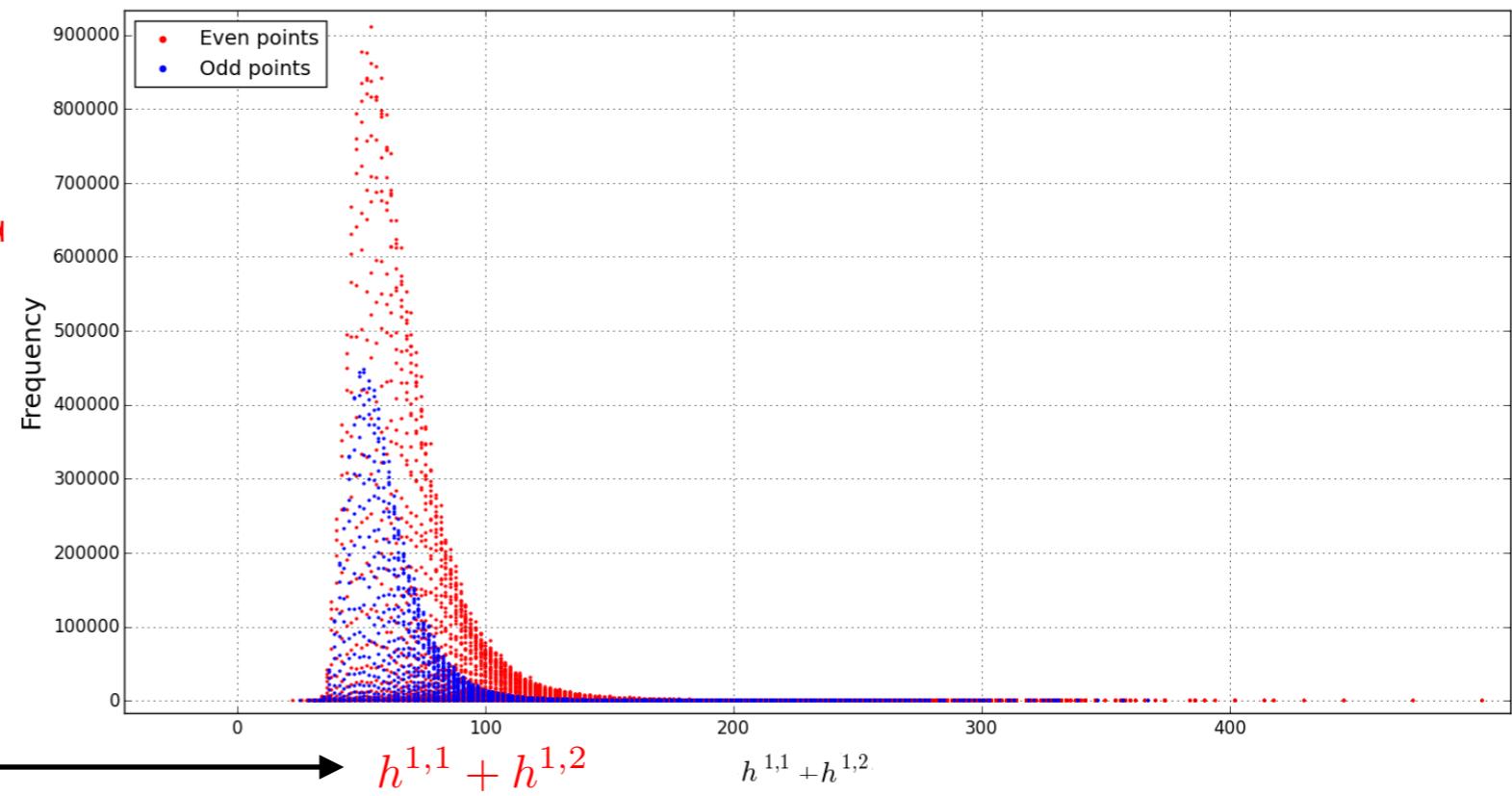
# Patterns in CY Distributions

freq

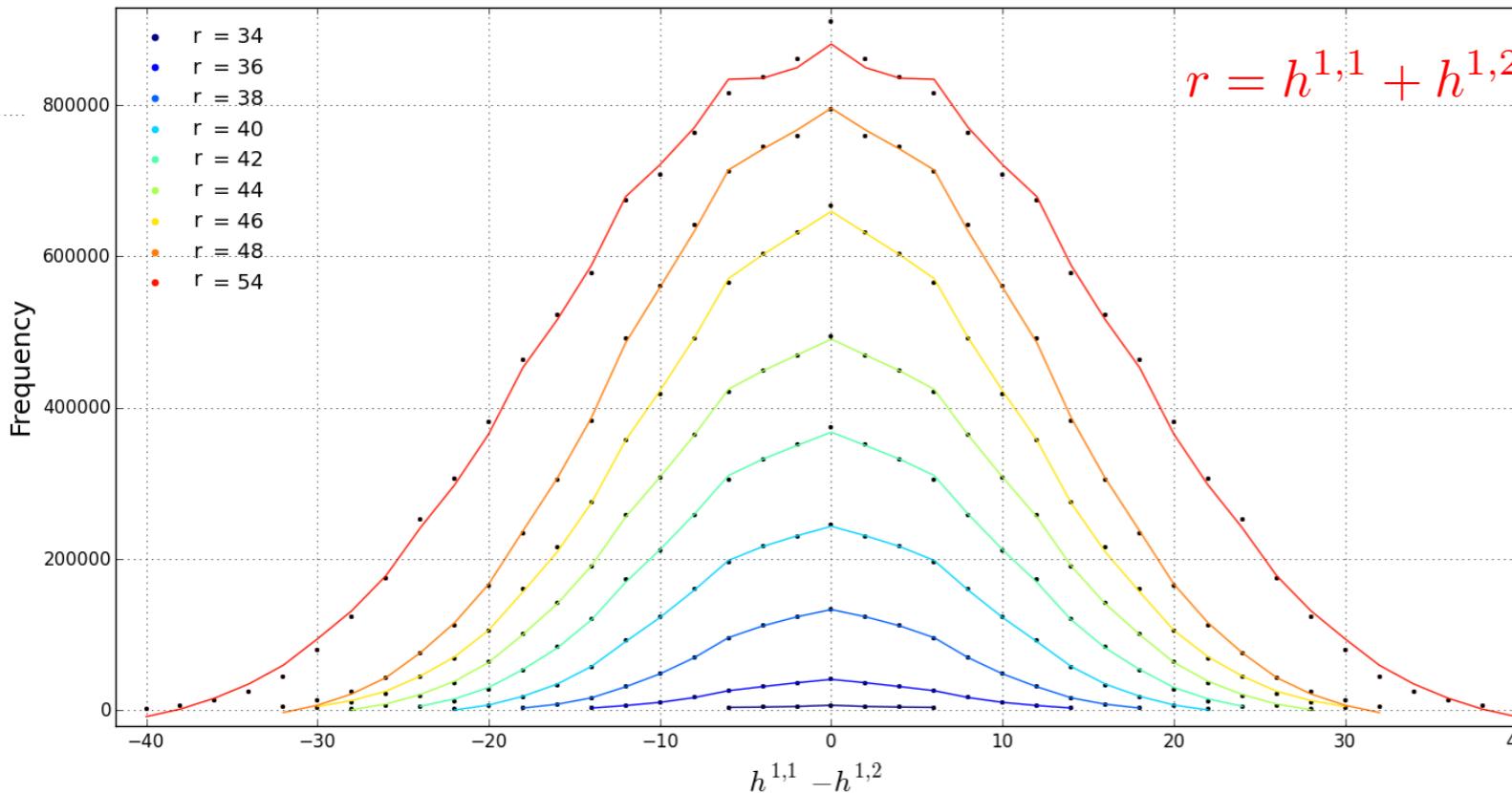


$h^{1,1} - h^{1,2}$

freq



# Patterns in CY Distributions

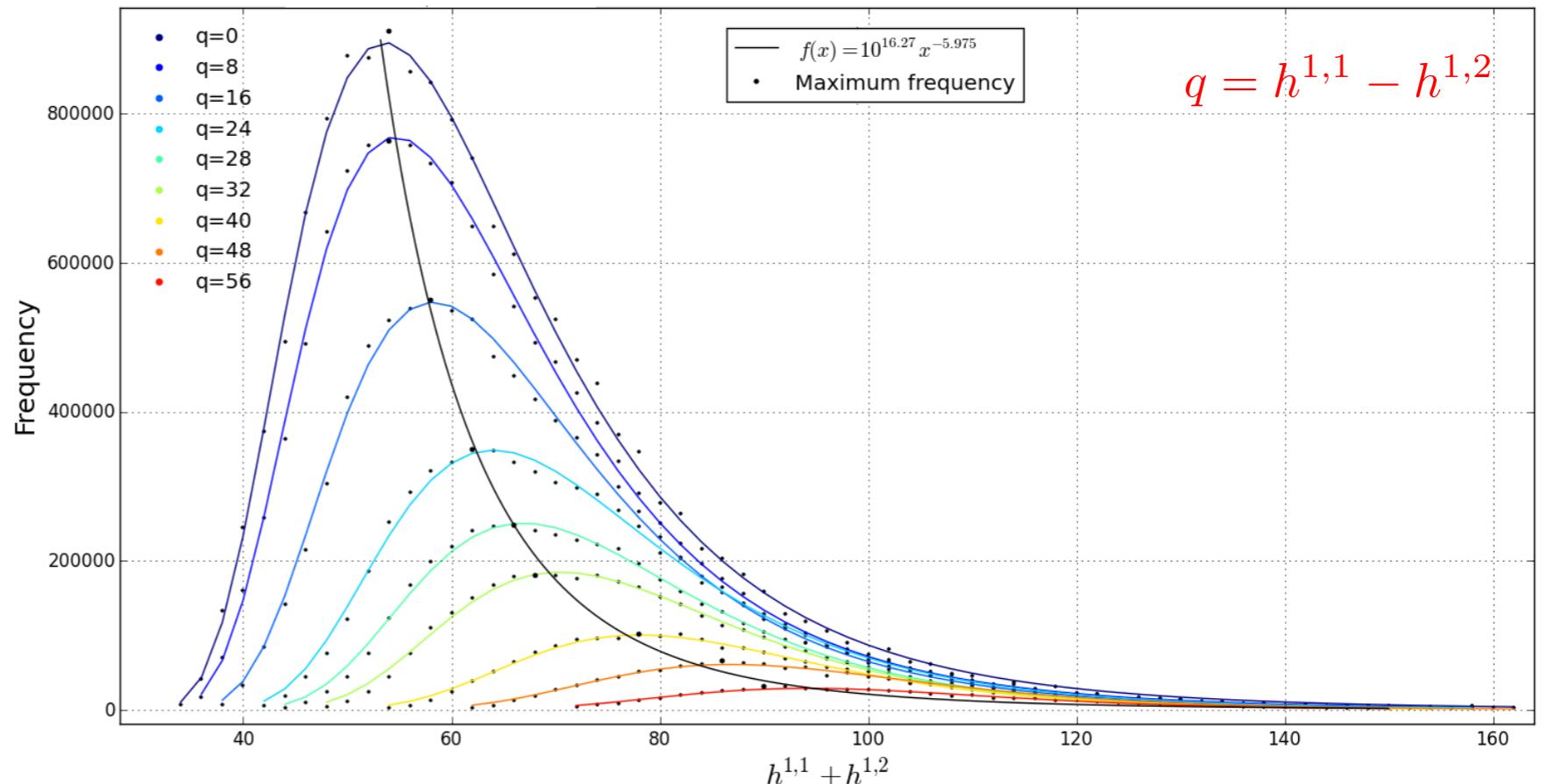


Pseudo-Voigt distribution  
sum of Gaussian and Cauchy

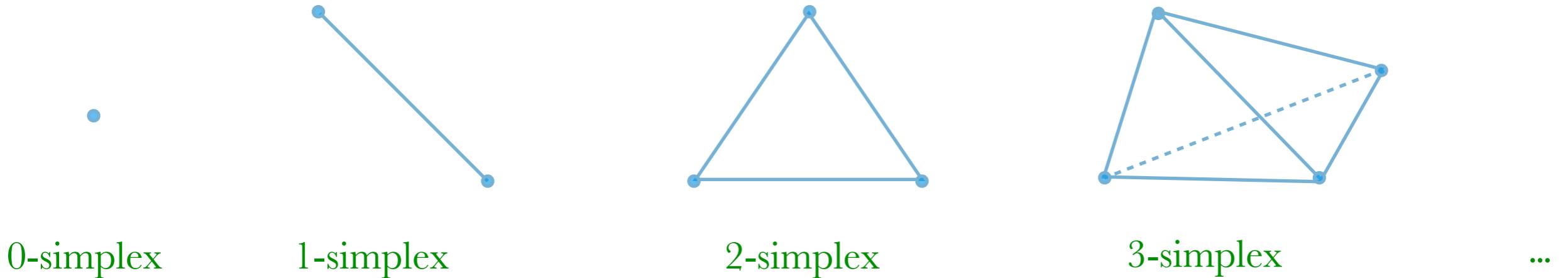
$$(1 - \alpha) \frac{A}{\sigma \sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{(x-\mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}} + \alpha \frac{A}{\pi} \left[ \frac{\sigma^2}{(x-\mu)^2 + \sigma^2} \right]$$

Planck distribution

$$\frac{A}{x^n} \frac{1}{e^{b/(x-c)} - 1}$$

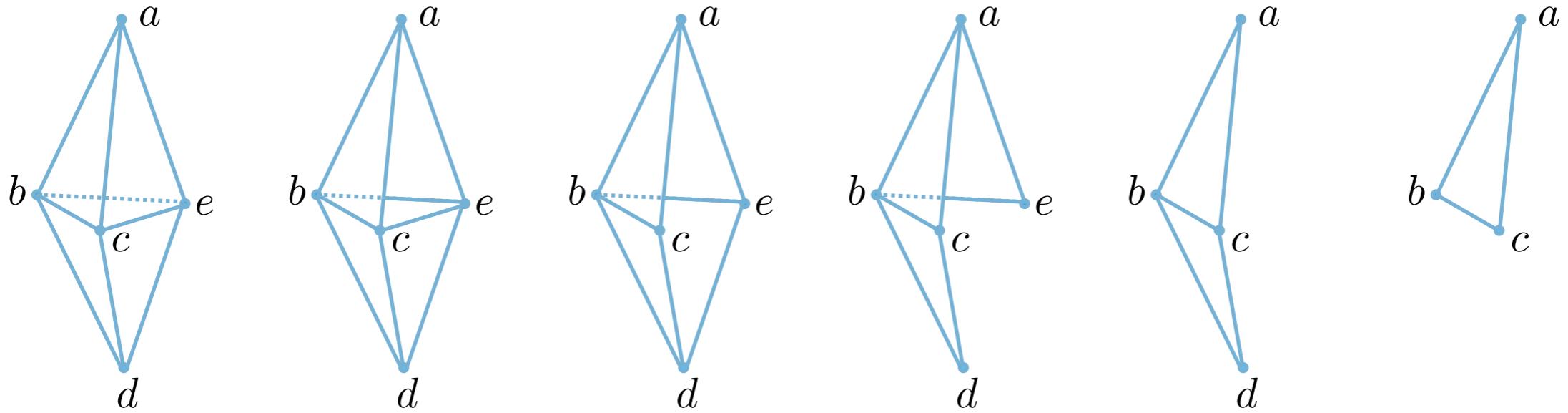


# From Polytopes to Geometries



- A **triangulation** of  $\mathcal{P}$  is a partition into simplices such that:
  - the union of all simplices is  $\mathcal{P}$
  - the intersection of any pair is a (possibly empty) common face
- From triangulation, we construct the Stanley–Reisner ring
- Unique rings correspond to different Calabi–Yau geometries
- For each, we have topological data, intersection form, Kähler cone

# Example: $S^2$



$$I_{\Delta} = (ad, bce)$$

minimal non-faces

$$\mathbb{K}_{\Delta} = \mathbb{K}[a, b, c, d, e]/I_{\Delta}$$

Stanley–Reisner ring

Homeomorphic to two-sphere

# From Polytopes to Geometries

- Every triangulation of a reflexive polytope can yield a Calabi–Yau
- We do not know how many toric Calabi–Yau geometries there are
- Different triangulations of the same polytope are expected, in general, to give different Calabi–Yau manifolds
- In principle, triangulations of different polytopes can give the same Calabi–Yau manifold
- The Calabi–Yau inherits topological invariants from the polytope
- 16 polytopes in  $\mathbb{R}^2$  give rise to elliptic curves (Calabi–Yau onefolds)  
4319 polytopes in  $\mathbb{R}^3$  give rise to K3 (Calabi–Yau twofolds)  
473800776 polytopes in  $\mathbb{R}^4$  give rise to at least 30108 Calabi–Yau threefolds

# A Calabi–Yau Database

The screenshot shows a web browser window titled "Toric CY Database" at the URL [rossealtman.com](https://rossealtman.com). The page has a dark background with orange highlights. On the left is a sidebar with links to "Toric CY Database", "Wiki Page", and "Contact Info". The main content area is divided into four sections: "Enter search parameters:", "Select Polytope Properties:", "Select CY Geometry Properties:", and "Select Triangulation-Specific Properties:". Each section contains a list of search fields. At the bottom, there are dropdown menus for "Count Only" (set to "--") and "Match" (set to "1 (0 = Unconstrained)", with options for "Polytopes", "Geometries", and "Triangulations"). A large blue button at the bottom right says "Search!". Below the search area, the URL <https://rossealtman.com> is displayed. The top right corner of the browser window shows the name "Vishnu".

This database is based on [arXiv:1411.1418](https://arxiv.org/abs/1411.1418). Please [cite us](#).  
Constructed with support from the National Science Foundation under grant NSF/CCF-1048082, EAGER: CiC: A String Cartography.

**Basic Query**      **Advanced Query**

**Enter search parameters:**

Format: Integers  
Polytope ID #:

Format: Integers  
h11:   
h21:   
Euler #:   
Favorable?:   
Fundamental Group:

Format: Integers  
Polytope #:   
Geometry # (within polytope):   
Triangulation # (within geometry):   
Triangulation # (within polytope):

Format: Integers  
# of Geometries (within polytope):   
# of Triangulations (within geometry):   
# of Triangulations (within polytope):

Format: Integers  
# of Newton Polytope Vertices:   
# of Newton Polytope Points:   
# of Dual Polytope Vertices:   
# of Dual Polytope Points:

Format: {{...},{...},...,{...}}  
(Mathematica matrix)  
(Resolved) Weight Matrix:   
Newton Polytope Vertex Matrix:   
Dual Polytope (Resolved) Vertex Matrix:   
CY 2nd Chern Numbers:   
Intersection Polynomial or Tensor:

**Select Polytope Properties:**

- Polytope ID #
- Polytope #
- H11
- H21
- Euler #
- Favorable?
- # of Newton Polytope Vertices
- # of Newton Polytope Points
- Newton Polytope Vertex Matrix
- # of Dual Polytope Vertices
- # of Dual Polytope Points
- Dual Polytope Vertex Matrix
- Dual Polytope Resolved Vertex Matrix
- Weight Matrix
- Resolved Weight Matrix
- Toric to Basis Divisor Transformation Matrix
- Basis from Toric Divisors
- Basis to Toric Divisor Transformation Matrix
- Toric from Basis Divisors
- Fundamental Group
- # of Geometries (within polytope)
- # of Triangulations (within polytope)

**Select CY Geometry Properties:**

- Geometry # (within polytope)
- # of Triangulations (within geometry)
- CY 2nd Chern Class (Basis)
- CY 2nd Chern Numbers
- CY Intersection Polynomial (Basis)
- CY Intersection Tensor (Basis)
- CY Mori Cone Matrix
- CY Kahler Cone Matrix
- Toric Swiss Cheese Solutions
- Explicit Swiss Cheese Solutions

**Select Triangulation-Specific Properties:**

- Triangulation # (within geometry)
- Triangulation # (within polytope)
- Triangulation
- Stanley-Reisner Ideal
- Ambient Chern Classes (Toric)
- Ambient Chern Classes (Basis)
- CY 2nd Chern Class (Toric)
- CY 3rd Chern Class (Toric)
- CY 3rd Chern Class (Basis)
- Ambient Intersection Polynomial (Toric)
- Ambient Intersection Tensor (Toric)
- Ambient Intersection Polynomial (Basis)
- Ambient Intersection Tensor (Basis)
- CY Intersection Polynomial (Toric)
- CY Intersection Tensor (Toric)
- Phase Mori Cone Matrix
- Phase Kahler Cone Matrix

Count Only:  Match:  Polytopes

Search!

<https://rossealtman.com>

Altman, Gray, He, VJ, Nelson (2014)

# CICYs

- Zero locus of a set of homogeneous polynomials over combined set of coordinates of projective spaces

$$X = \begin{array}{c} \mathbb{P}^{n_1} \\ \vdots \\ \mathbb{P}^{n_\ell} \end{array} \left( \begin{array}{ccc} q_1^1 & \cdots & q_K^1 \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ q_1^\ell & \cdots & q_K^\ell \end{array} \right) \chi$$

configuration matrix

$$\sum_r n_r - K = 3 \quad \text{complete intersection threefold}$$

$$\sum_a q_a^r = n_r + 1, \quad \forall r \in \{1, \dots, \ell\}$$

$$c_1 = 0$$

- $K$  equations of multi-degree  $q_a^r \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$  embedded in  $\mathbb{P}^{n_1} \times \cdots \times \mathbb{P}^{n_\ell}$
- Example:** quintic  $\mathbb{P}^4(5)_{-200}$   $4 - 1 = 3$   
 $5 = 4 + 1$
- Other examples:  
 $\mathbb{P}^5(3,3)_{-144}$  ,  $\mathbb{P}^5(4,2)_{-176}$  ,  $\mathbb{P}^6(3,2,2)_{-144}$  ,  $\mathbb{P}^7(2,2,2,2)_{-128}$

# CICYs

- Tian–Yau manifold:  $\begin{array}{c} \mathbb{P}^3 \\ \mathbb{P}^3 \end{array} \left( \begin{array}{ccc} 3 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 3 & 1 \end{array} \right)_{-18} \iff \begin{array}{lll} a^{\alpha\beta\gamma} w_\alpha w_\beta w_\gamma & = & 0 \\ b^{\alpha\beta\gamma} z_\alpha z_\beta z_\gamma & = & 0 \\ c^{\alpha\beta} w_\alpha z_\beta & = & 0 \end{array}$   
 $h^{1,1} = 14, \quad h^{1,2} = 23$

freely acting  $\mathbb{Z}_3$  quotient gives manifold with  $\chi = -6$

central to early string phenomenology

- Transpose is Schön's manifold, also Calabi–Yau

$$\begin{array}{c} \mathbb{P}^2 \\ \mathbb{P}^2 \\ \mathbb{P}^1 \end{array} \left( \begin{array}{cc} 3 & 0 \\ 0 & 3 \\ 1 & 1 \end{array} \right) \chi = 0$$

$$h^{1,1} = h^{1,2} = 19$$

$$\frac{1}{3} \cdot 5 \cdot (5 - 5^3) = -200$$

$$\frac{1}{3} \cdot (4 \times 2) \cdot (6 - 4^3 - 2^3) = -176$$

$$\frac{1}{3} \cdot (3 \times 3) \cdot (6 - 3^3 - 3^3) = -144$$

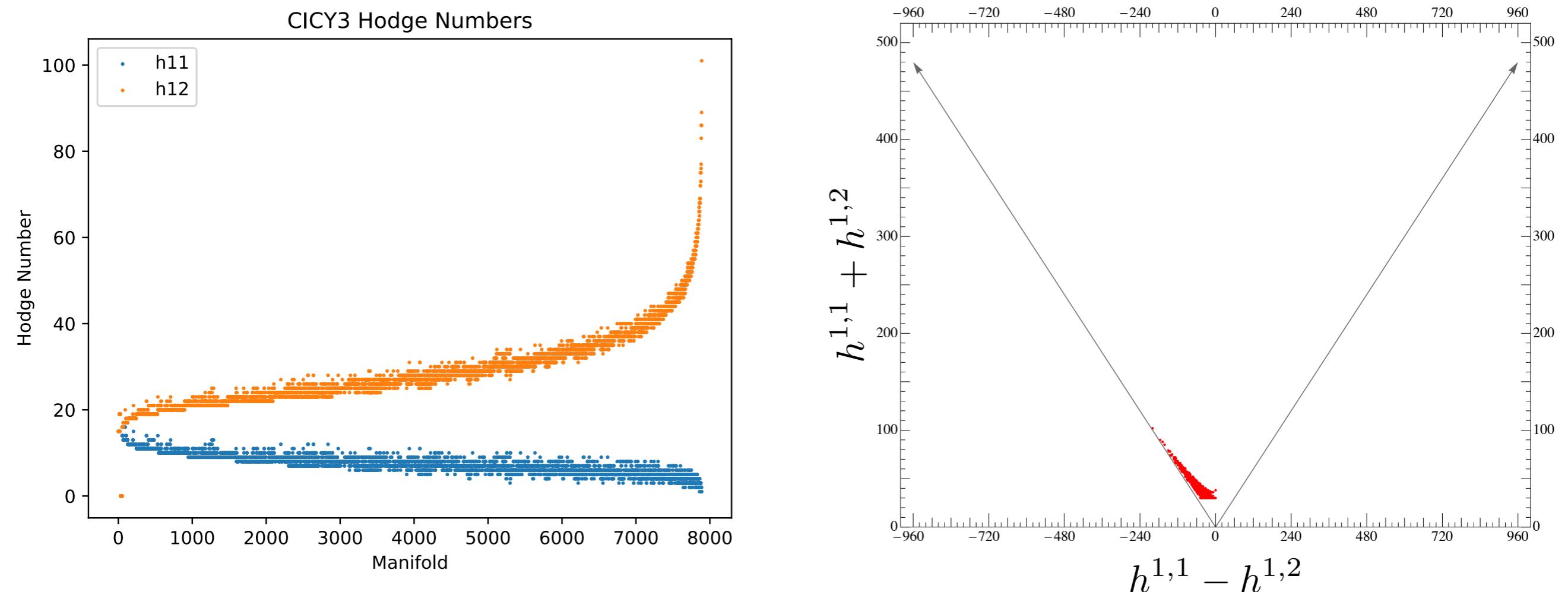
:

- Can compute  $\chi$  from configuration matrix

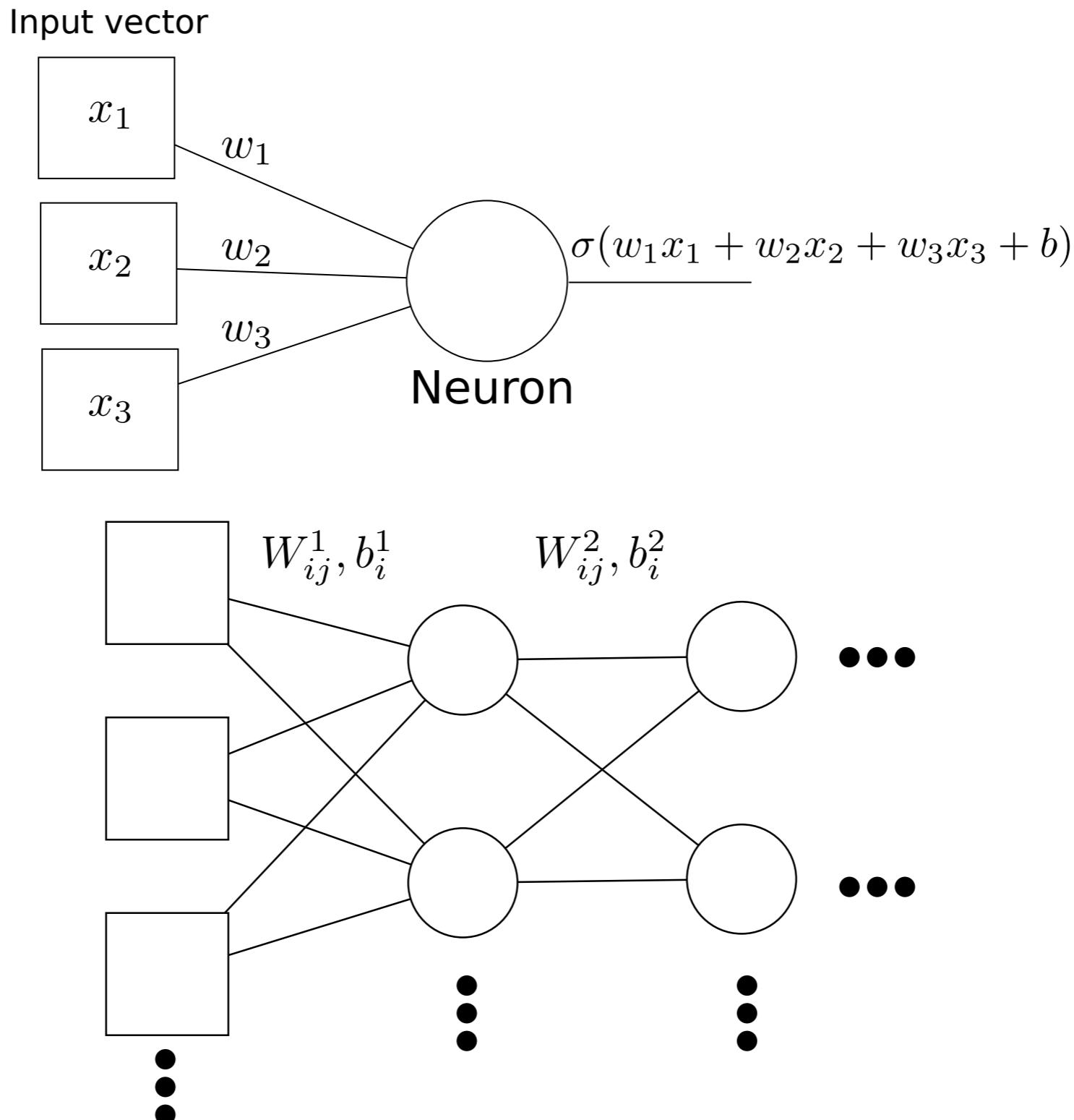
# CICYs

- We have: 7890 configuration matrices  
1 × 1 to 12 × 15 with  $q_a^r \in [0, 5]$   
266 distinct Hodge pairs  $0 \leq h^{1,1} \leq 19$ ,  $0 \leq h^{1,2} \leq 101$   
70 distinct Euler characters  $\chi \in [-200, 0]$   
195 have freely acting symmetries, 37 different finite groups  
from  $\mathbb{Z}_2$  to  $\mathbb{Z}_8 \rtimes H_8$ Candelas, He, Hübsch, Lutken, Lynker,  
Schimmrigk, Berglund (1986-1990)Braun (2010)
- By comparison, for fourfolds, there are 921497 CICYs  
$$4h^{1,1} - 2h^{1,2} + 4h^{1,3} - h^{2,2} + 44 = 0$$
  
Most of these are elliptically fiberedGray, Haupt, Lukas (2013)

# CICY Hodge Numbers



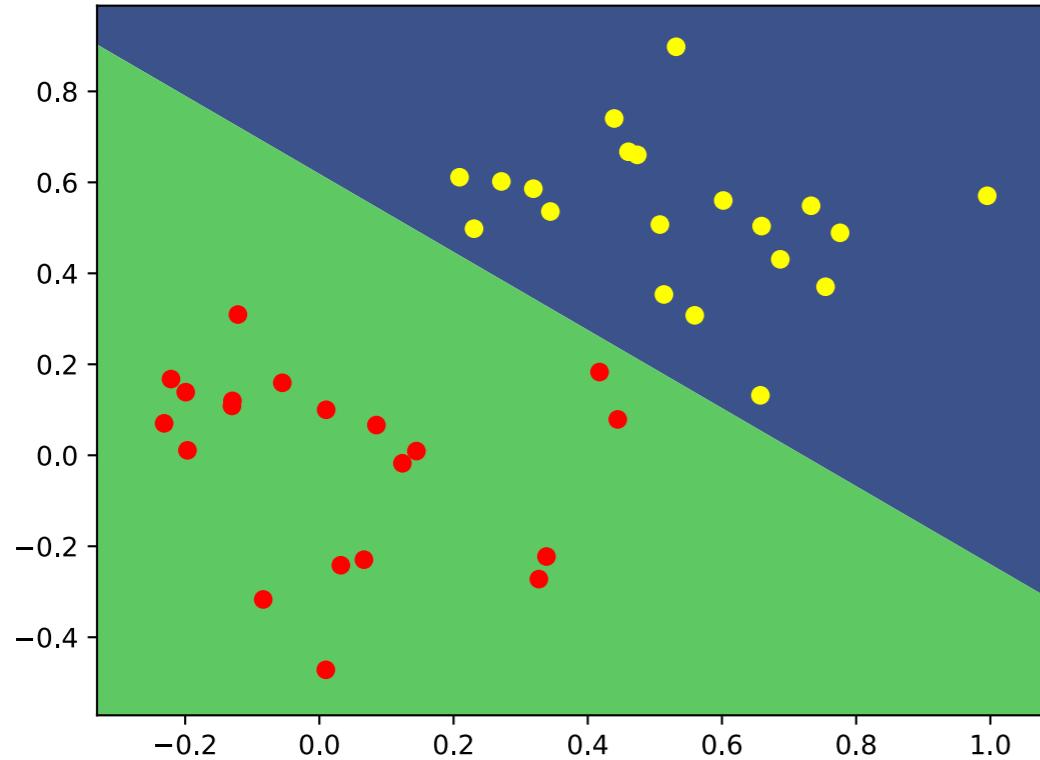
# Feedforward Neural Networks



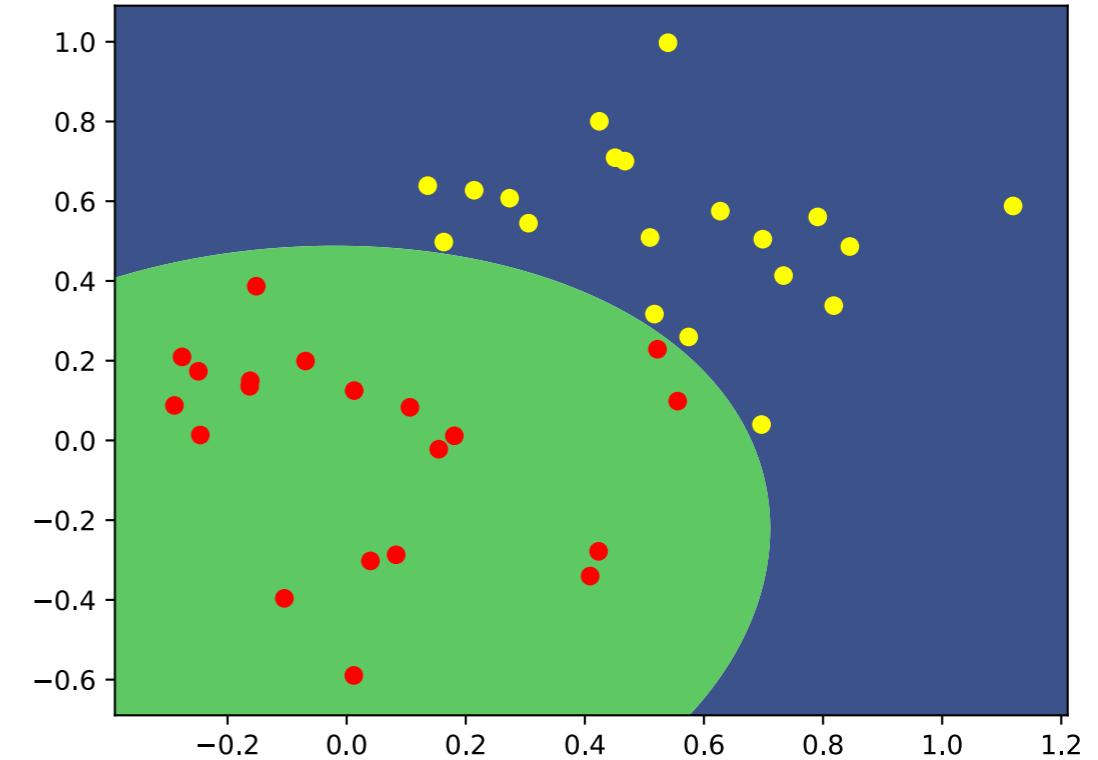
Schematic representation of feedforward neural network. The top figure denotes the perceptron (a single neuron), the bottom, the multiple neurons and multiple layers of the neural network.

# Support Vector Machines

Linear Kernel, linearly separable data

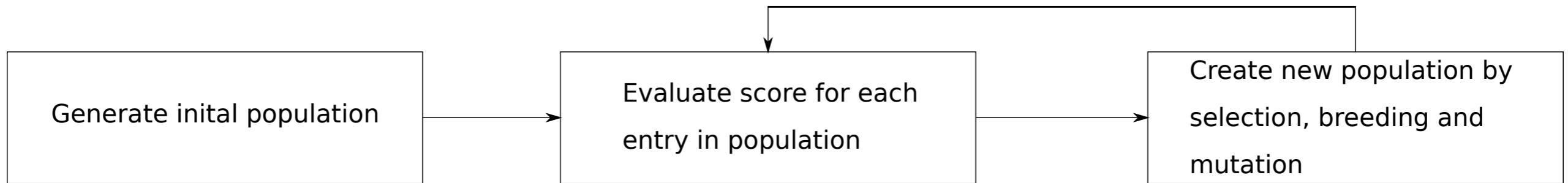


Gaussian Kernel, non-linearly separable data



SVM separation boundary calculated using our cvxopt implementation with a randomly generated data set.

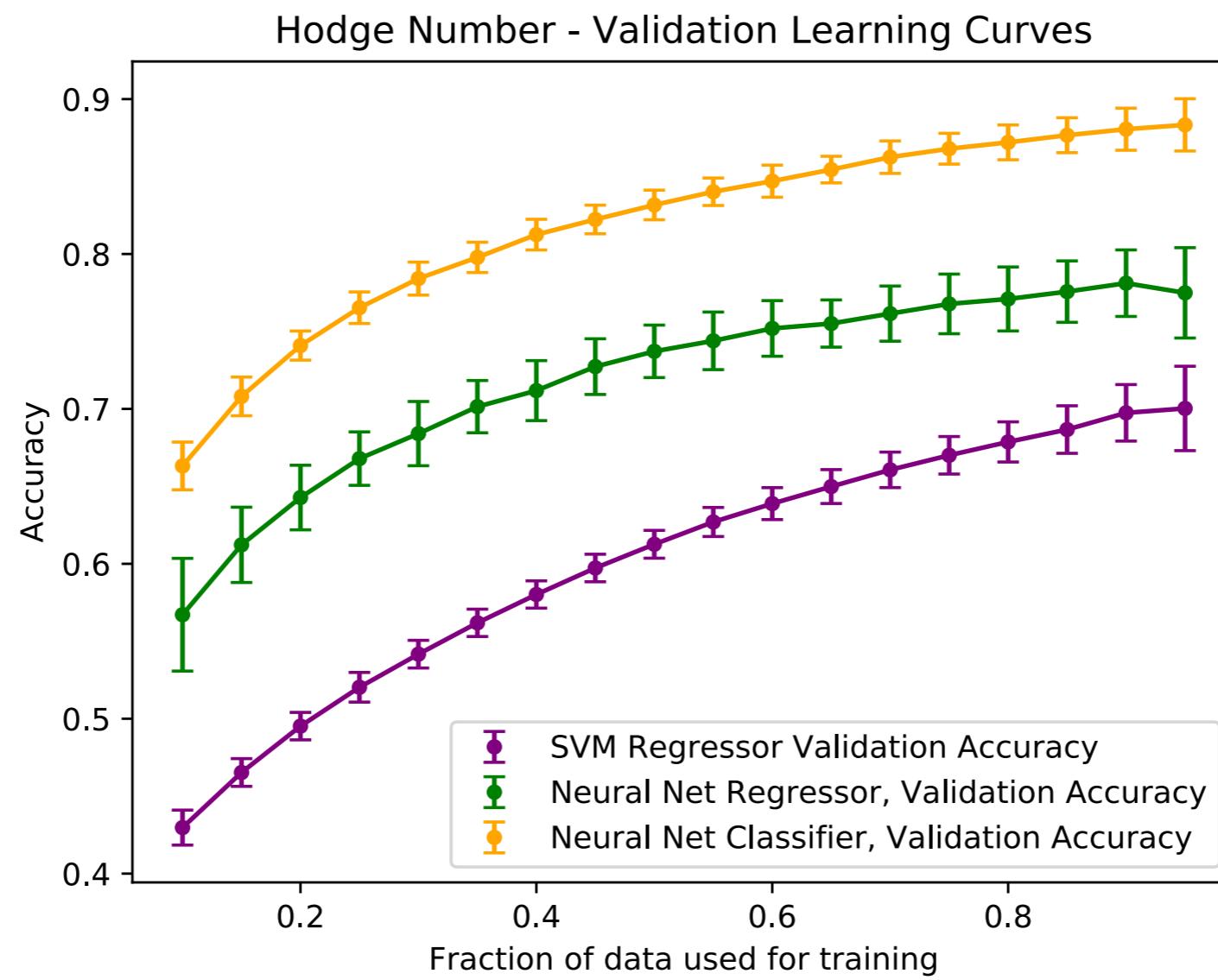
# Genetic Algorithms



Used to fix hyperparameters (*e.g.*, number of hidden layers and neurons in them, activation functions, learning rates and dropout) in neural network.

# Machine Learning $h^{1,1}$

- Since we know  $\chi = 2(h^{1,1} - h^{1,2})$  from intersection matrix, we choose to machine learn  $h^{1,1} \in [0, 19]$
- Previous efforts discriminated large and small  $h^{1,1}$
- Use Neural Network classifier/regressor and SVM regressor



# Machine Learning h<sup>1,1</sup>

|          | Accuracy                          | RMS                               | $R^2$                             | WLB          | WUB          |
|----------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| SVM Reg  | $0.70 \pm 0.02$                   | <b><math>0.53 \pm 0.06</math></b> | <b><math>0.78 \pm 0.08</math></b> | 0.642        | 0.697        |
| NN Reg   | $0.78 \pm 0.02$                   | $0.46 \pm 0.05$                   | $0.72 \pm 0.06$                   | 0.742        | 0.791        |
| NN Class | <b><math>0.88 \pm 0.02</math></b> | -                                 | -                                 | <b>0.847</b> | <b>0.886</b> |

$$\text{RMS} := \left( \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N (y_i^{pred} - y_i)^2 \right)^{1/2} \quad R^2 := 1 - \frac{\sum_i (y_i - y_i^{pred})^2}{\sum_i (y_i - \bar{y})^2}$$

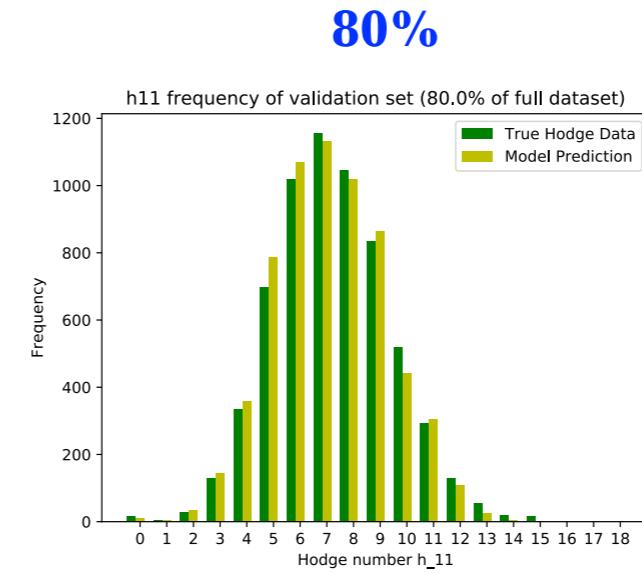
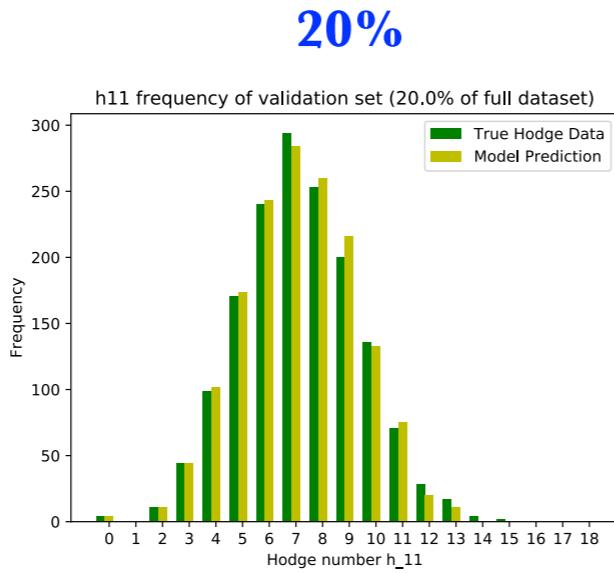
$$\omega_{\pm} := \frac{p + \frac{z^2}{2n}}{1 + \frac{z^2}{n}} \pm \frac{z}{1 + \frac{z^2}{n}} \left( \frac{p(1-p)}{n} + \frac{z^2}{4n^2} \right)^{1/2}$$

Wilson upper/lower bounds  
(WUB/WLB)

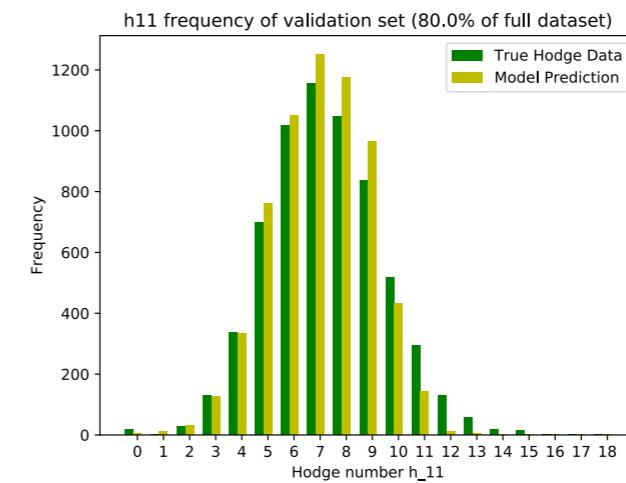
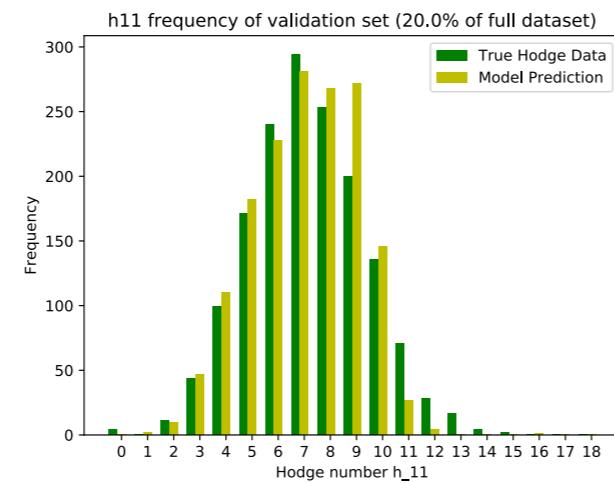
|              |                                      |
|--------------|--------------------------------------|
| $y_i$        | actual value                         |
| $\bar{y}$    | average value                        |
| $y_i^{pred}$ | predicted value                      |
| $p$          | probability of successful prediction |
| $z$          | probit                               |
| $n$          | number of samples                    |

# Machine Learning $h^{1,1}$

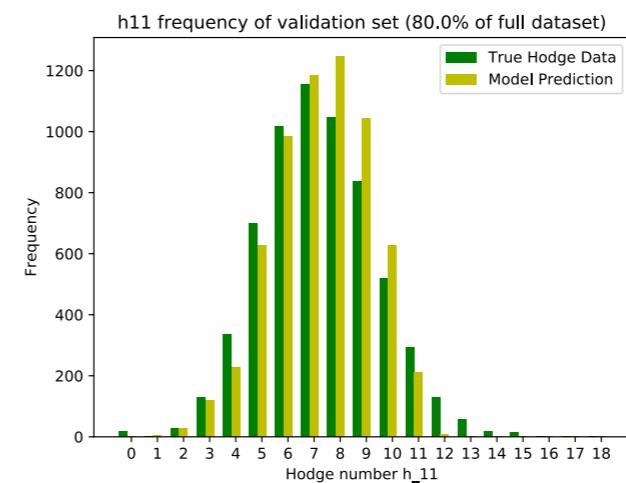
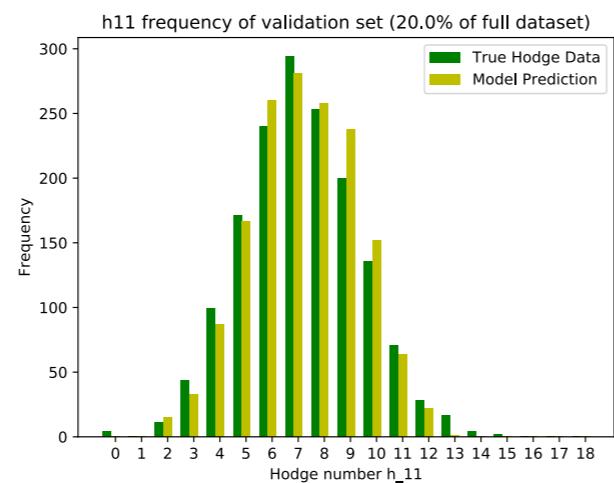
NN classifier



NN regressor



SVM regressor



# Quo Vadis?

**The Good**

During the last 10-15 years, several international collaborations have computed geometrical and physical quantities and compiled them in vast databases that partially describe the string landscape

**The Bad**

Computations are hard, especially for a comprehensive treatment:  
dual cone algorithm (exponential), triangulation (exponential),  
Gröbner basis (double exponential), how to construct stable bundles  
over Calabi–Yau manifolds constructed from half a billion polytopes?

**The Possibly Beautiful**

Borrow techniques from “Big Data”

# Machine Learning CICYs

- Subsequent work on topology of CICYs

Bull, He, VJ, Mishra (2019)

Erbin, Finotello (2020)

- Metrics on CICYs

— not known analytically

— needed, *e.g.*, to compute mass of electron

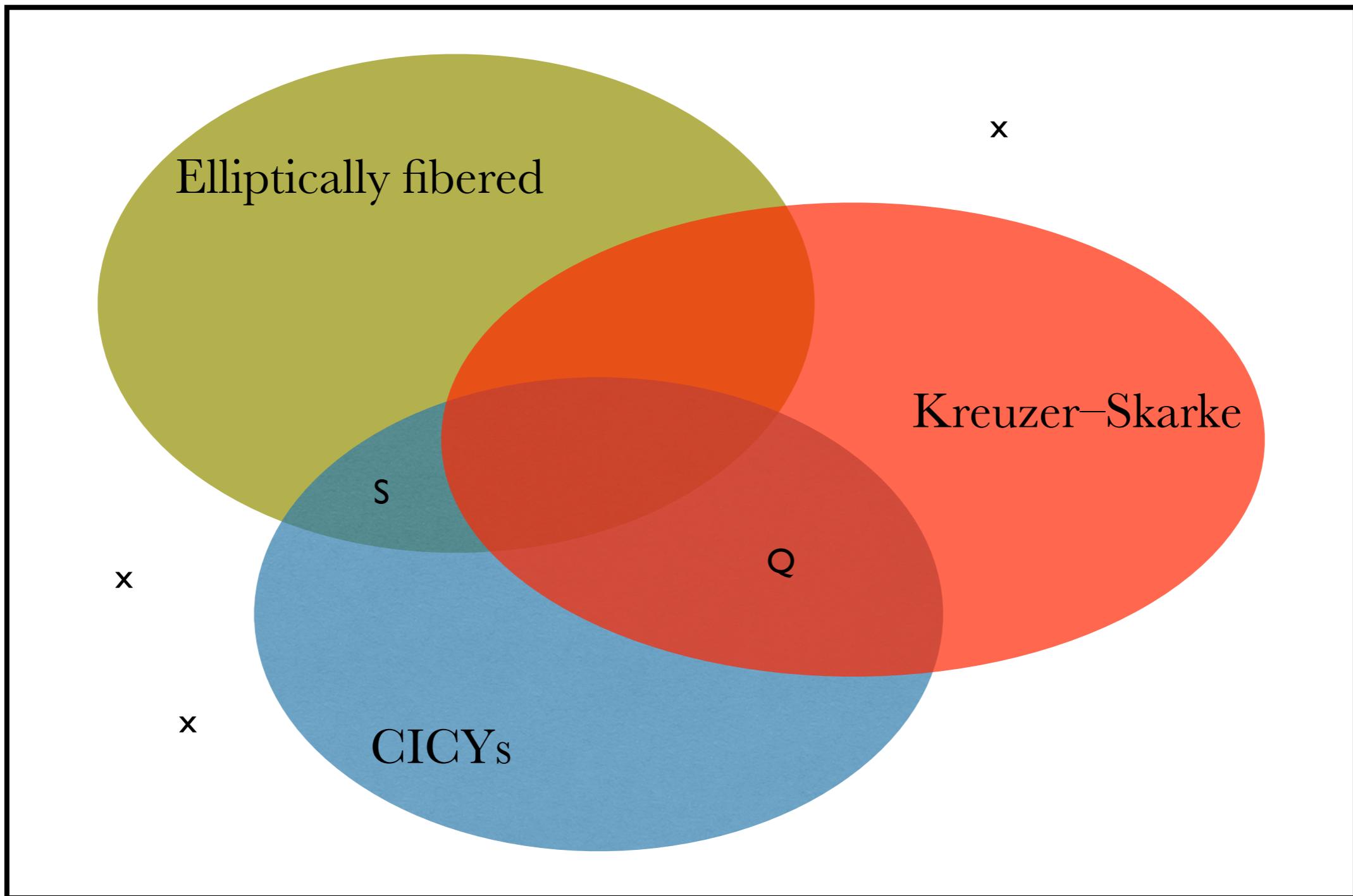
Ashmore, Ovrut, He (2019)

Anderson, Gerdes, Gray, Krippendorf, Raghuram, Rühle (2020)

Douglas, Lakshminarasimhan, Qi (2020)

VJ, Mayorga Peña, Mishra (2020)

# Calabi–Yau Threefolds

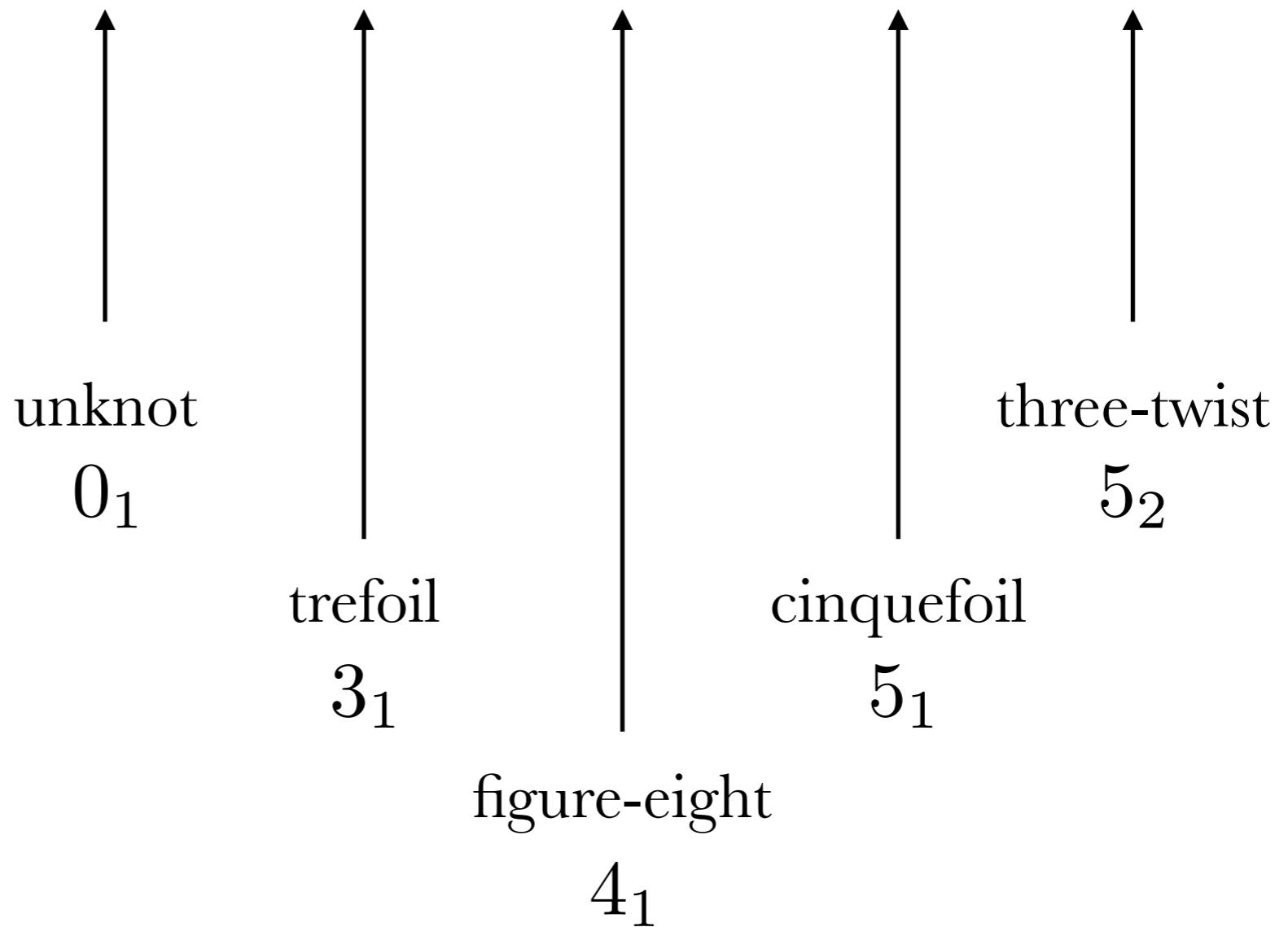
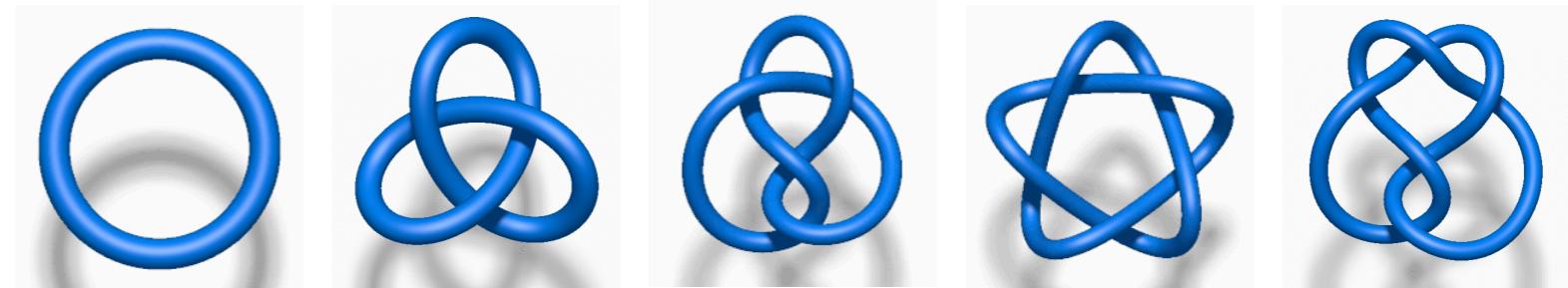


- Reid's fantasy: space of Calabi–Yaus is connected

# KNOT THEORY

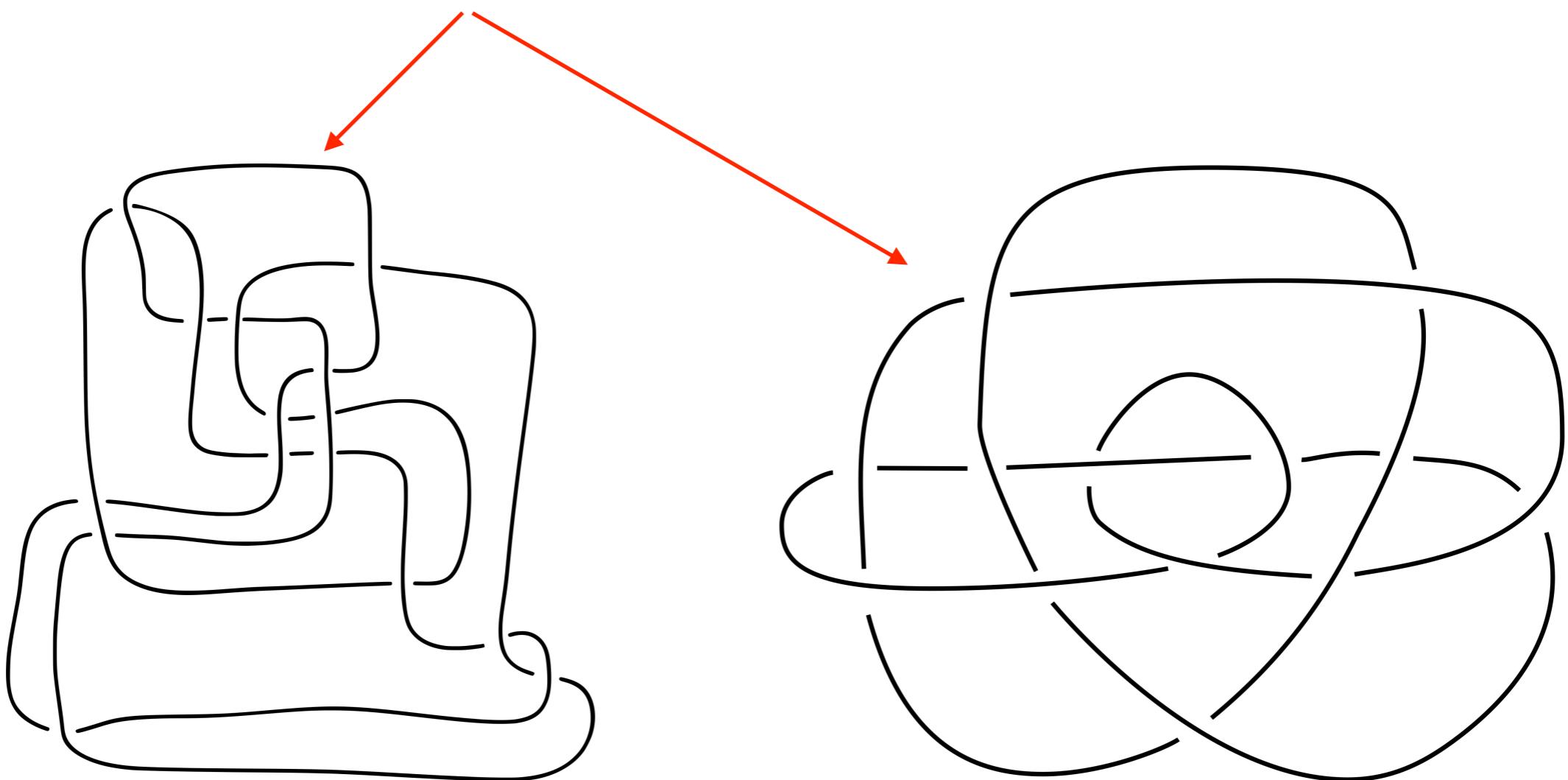
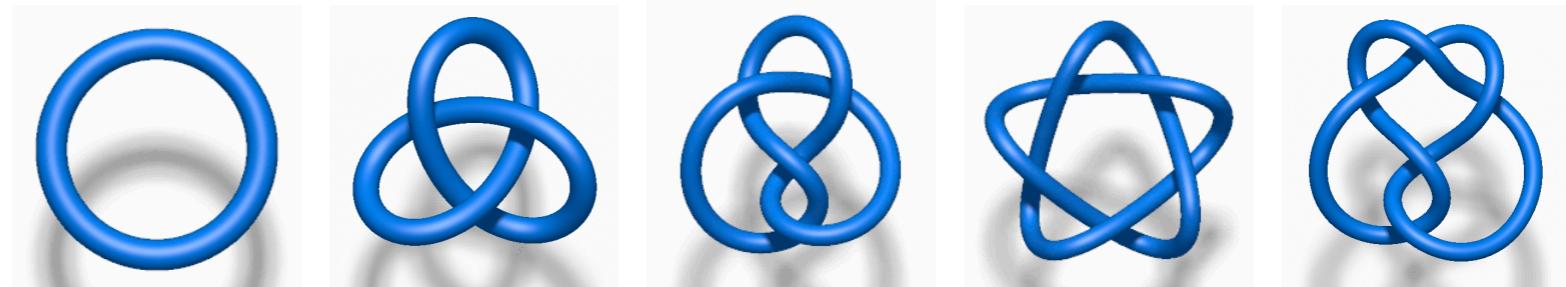
# Dramatis Personae

Knot:  $S^1 \subset S^3$ ; e.g.,



# Dramatis Personae

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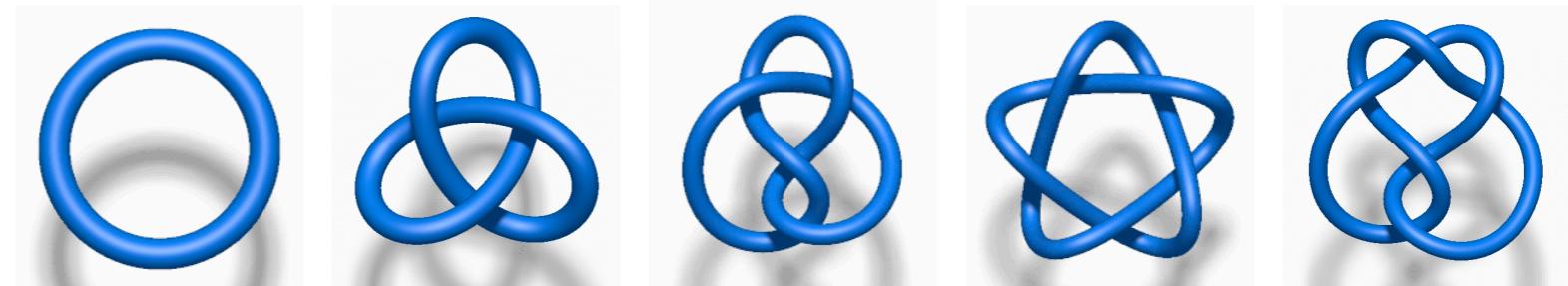


Thistlewaite unknot

Ochiai unknot

# Dramatis Personae

Knot:  $S^1 \subset S^3$ ; e.g.,



Jones polynomial: 
$$J(K; q) = (-q^{\frac{3}{4}})^{w(K)} \frac{\langle K \rangle}{\langle \textcirclearrowleft \rangle} \quad \langle \textcirclearrowright \rangle = q^{\frac{1}{4}} \langle \textcirclearrowleft \rangle + \frac{1}{q^{\frac{1}{4}}} \langle \textcirclearrowright \rangle$$

$w(K)$  = overhand – underhand

$$J(\textcirclearrowleft; q) = 1$$

Jones (1985)

topological invariant: independent of how the knot is drawn

Question: how to calculate these?

Answer: quantum field theory!

# Chern–Simons Theory

- What is the simplest non-trivial quantum field theory?
  - Chern–Simons theory in three dimensions
- Focus on **topology** instead of geometry



genus 0



genus 1

# Dramatis Personae

Knot:  $S^1 \subset S^3$ ; e.g.,



Jones polynomial: 
$$J(K; q) = (-q^{\frac{3}{4}})^{w(K)} \frac{\langle K \rangle}{\langle \text{O} \rangle}$$

$$\langle \times \rangle = q^{\frac{1}{4}} \langle \curvearrowleft \rangle + \frac{1}{q^{\frac{1}{4}}} \langle \curvearrowright \rangle$$

$w(K)$  = overhand – underhand

vev of Wilson loop operator along  $K$  in

□ for  $SU(2)$  Chern–Simons on  $S^3$

Jones (1985)  
Witten (1989)

$$J_2(4_1; q) = q^{-2} - q^{-1} + 1 - q + q^2 , \quad q = e^{\frac{2\pi i}{k+2}}$$

Hyperbolic volume: volume of  $S^3 \setminus K$  is another knot invariant

computed from tetrahedral decomposition of knot complement

Thurston (1978)  
Mostow (1968)

# Dramatis Personae

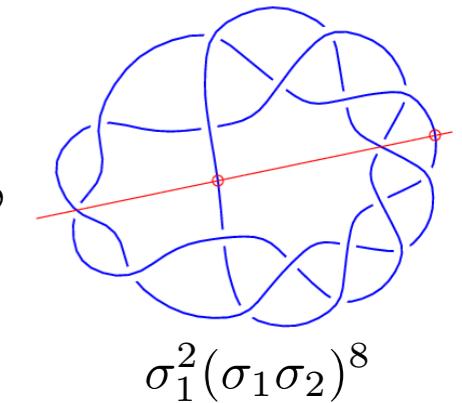
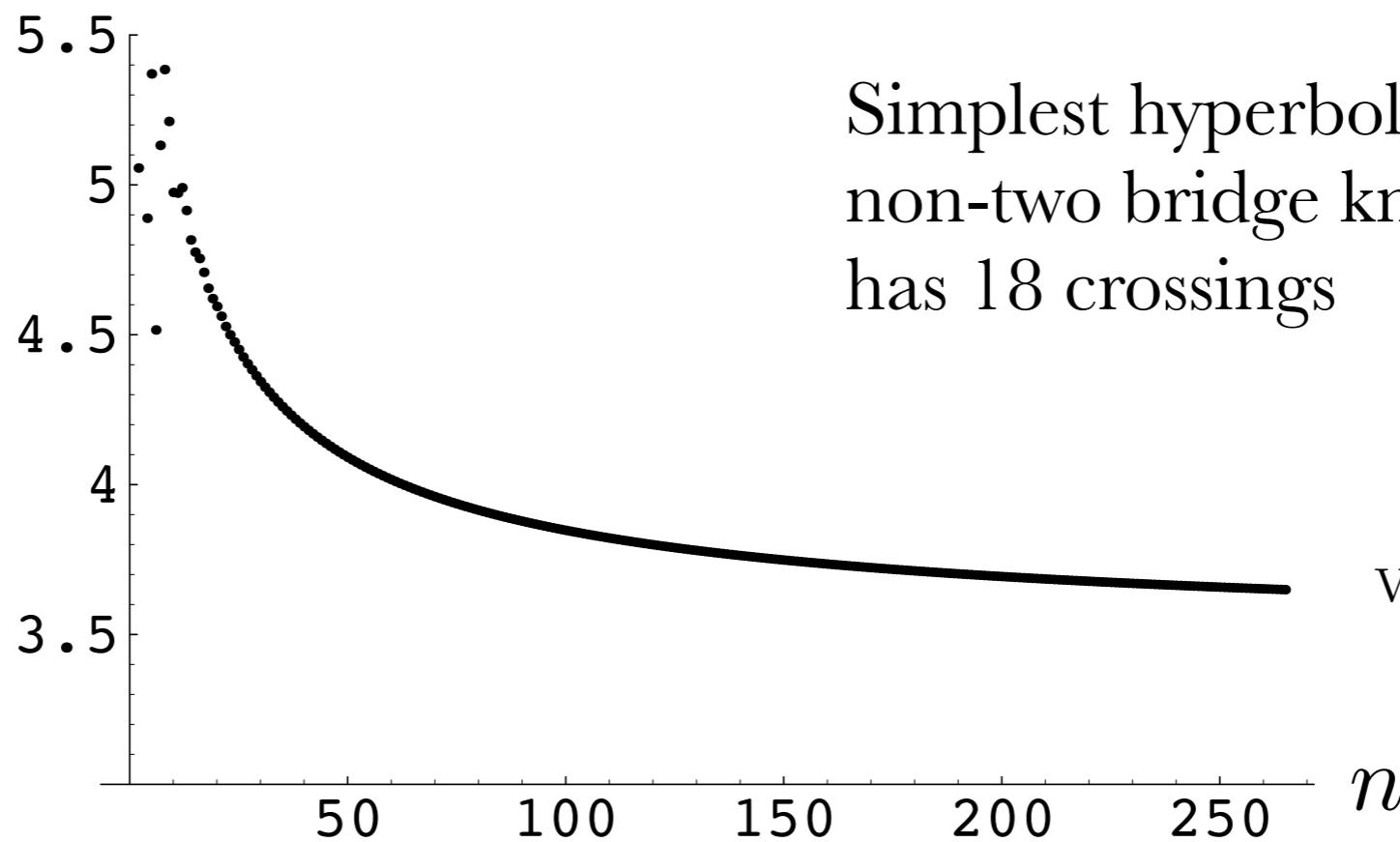
Volume conjecture:

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{2\pi \log |J_n(K; \omega_n)|}{n} = \text{Vol}(S^3 \setminus K)$$
$$\omega_n = e^{\frac{2\pi i}{n}}$$

Kashaev (1997)  
Murakami x 2 (2001)  
Gukov (2005)

In fact, we take  $n, k \rightarrow \infty$

LHS



Behavior is not monotonic!

Garoufalidis, Lan (2004)

# Dramatis Personae

Volume conjecture:

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{2\pi \log |J_n(K; \omega_n)|}{n} = \text{Vol}(S^3 \setminus K)$$

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Kashaev (1997)  
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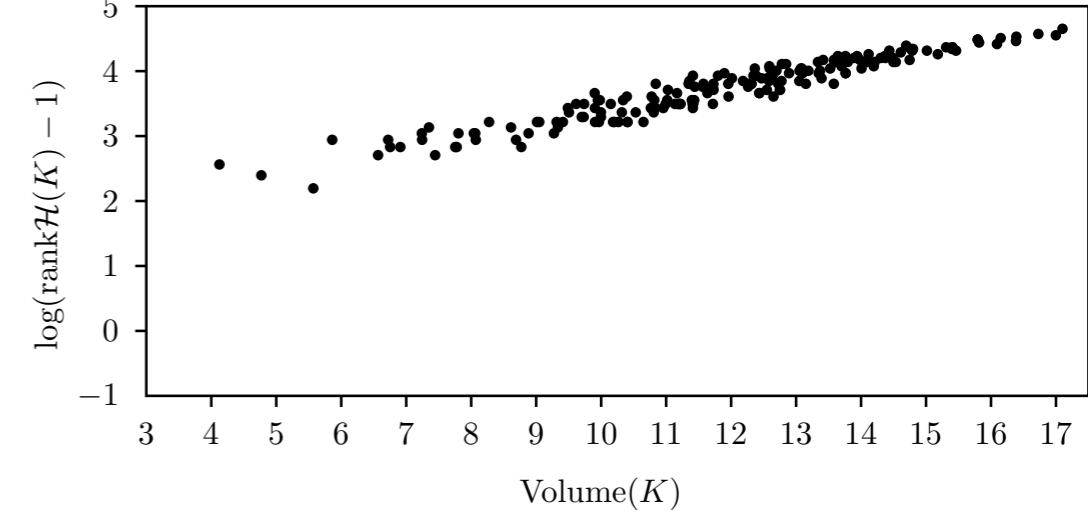
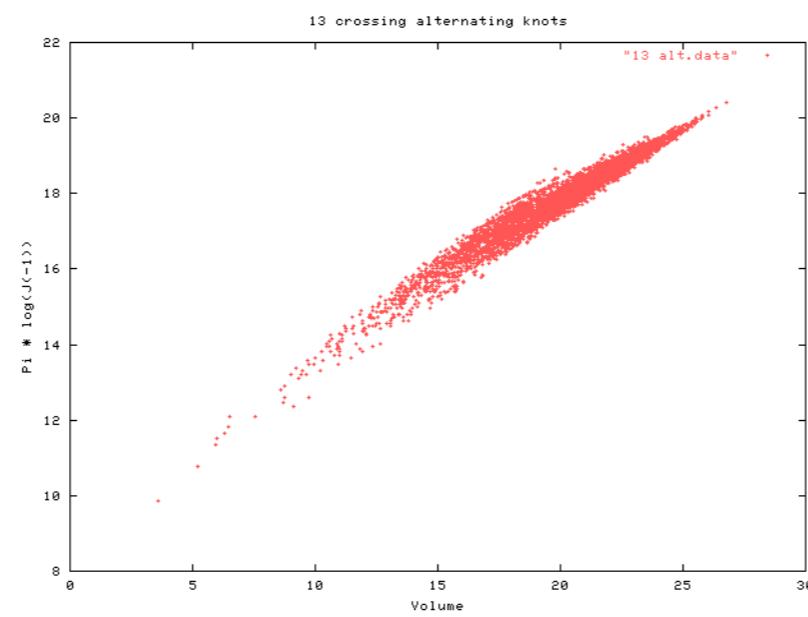
Khovanov homology:

a homology theory  $\mathcal{H}_K$  whose graded Euler characteristic is  $J_2(K; q)$ ; explains why coefficients are integers

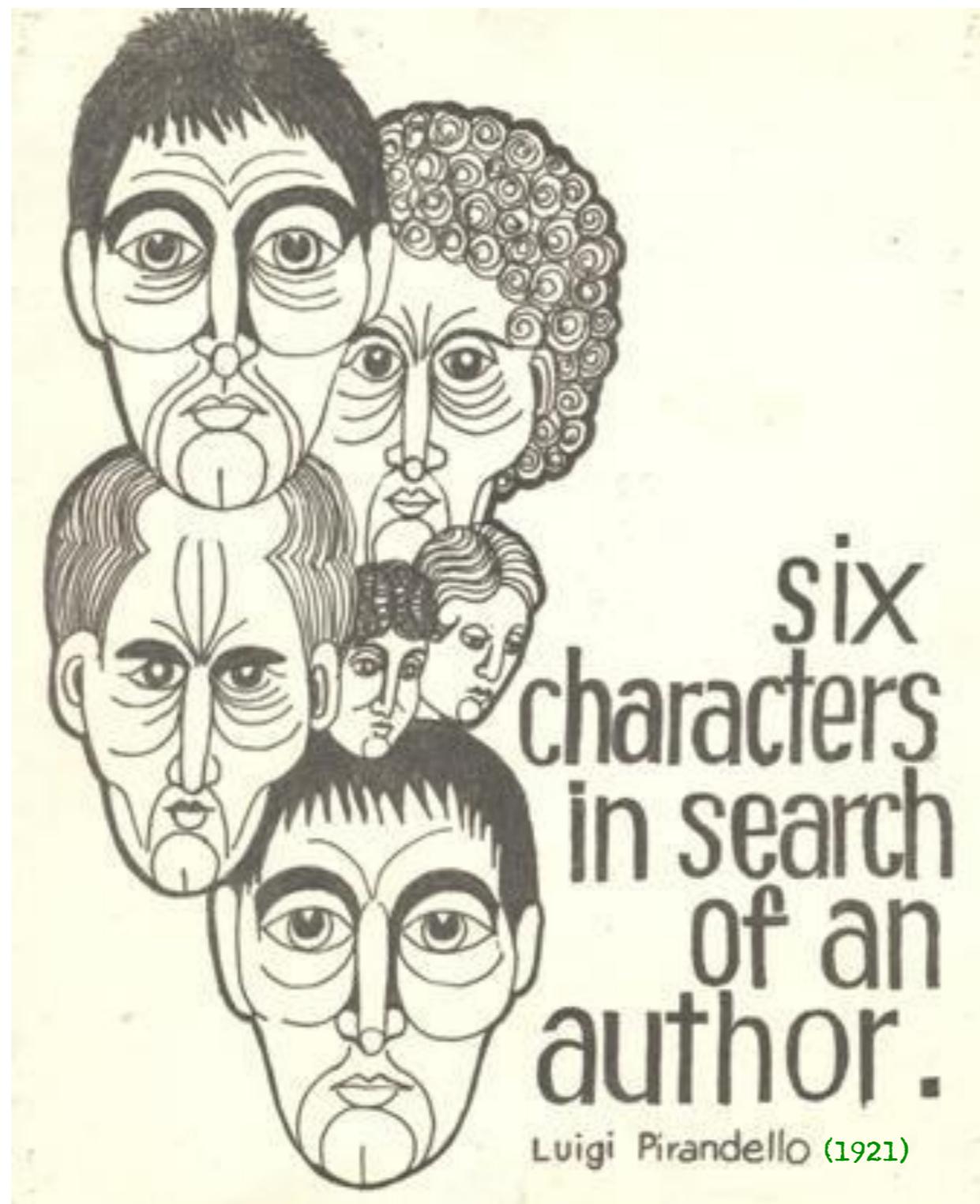
Khovanov (2000)  
Bar-Natan (2002)

$$\log |J_2(K; -1)|, \quad \log(\text{rank}(\mathcal{H}_K) - 1) \propto \text{Vol}(S^3 \setminus K)$$

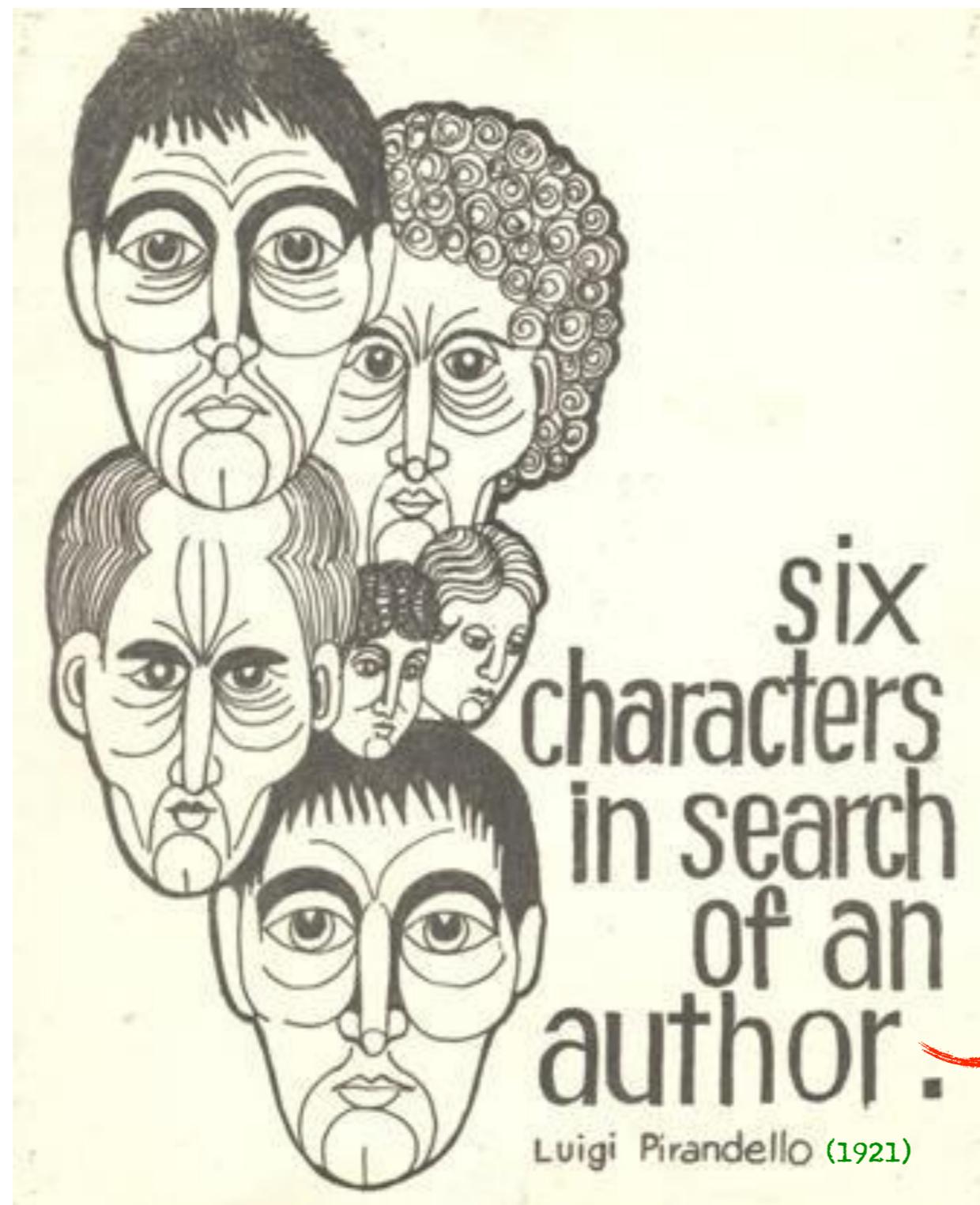
Dunfield (2000)  
Khovanov (2002)



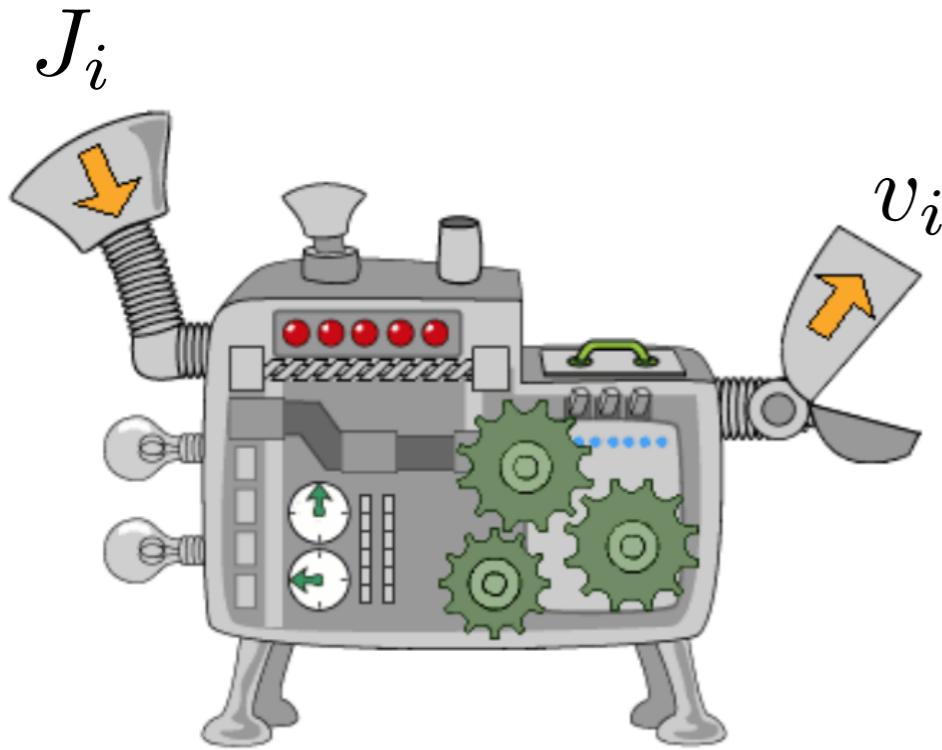
# Dramatis Personae



# Dramatis Personae



# Neural Network



$$\{J_1, \dots, J_n\} \longrightarrow \{v_1, \dots, v_n\}$$

$$J_i \in T$$

$$\{J'_1, \dots, J'_m\} \longrightarrow ???$$

$$J'_i \in T^c$$

Jones polynomials are represented as 18-vectors

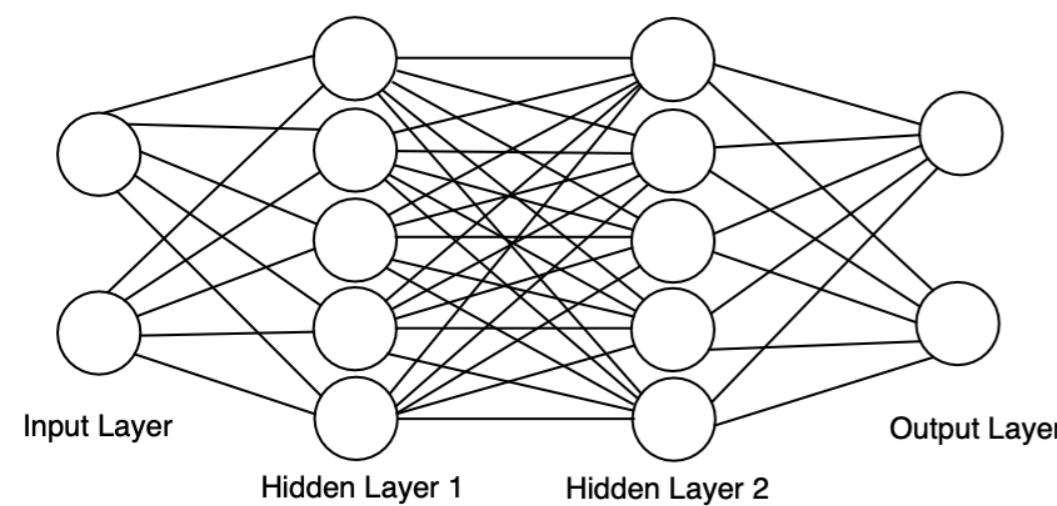
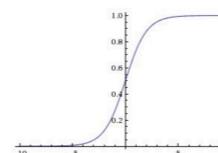
$$\vec{J}_K = (\min, \max, \text{coeffs}, 0, \dots, 0)$$

Two layer neural network in Mathematica

$$f_\theta(\vec{J}_K) = \sum_a \sigma \left( W_\theta^2 \cdot \sigma(W_\theta^1 \cdot \vec{J}_K + \vec{b}_\theta^1) + \vec{b}_\theta^2 \right)^a$$

Logistic sigmoids for the hidden layers

$$\sigma(x) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-x}}$$

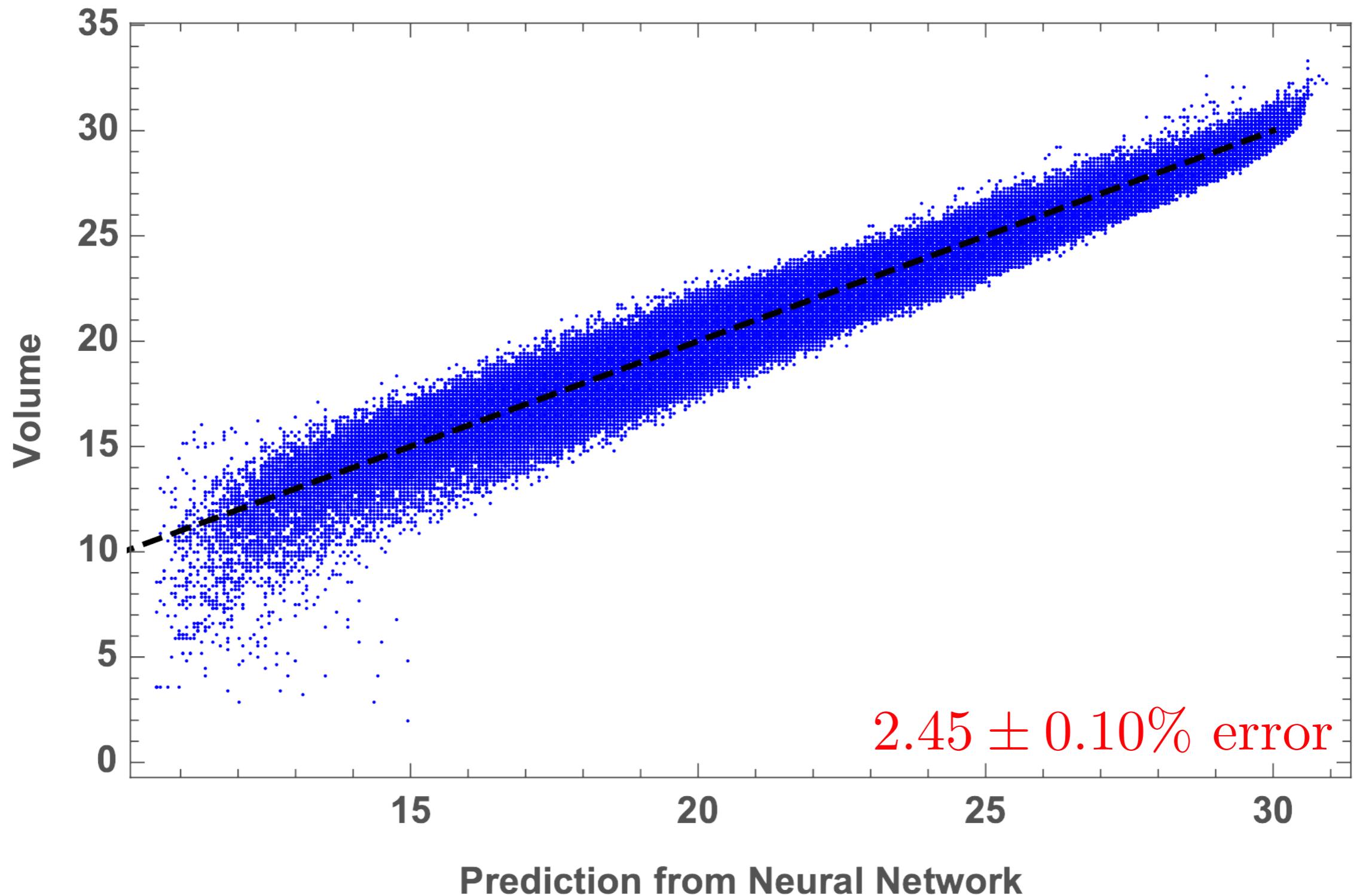


$$\vec{J} \quad 100 \times 18 \quad 100 \times 100$$

12000 hyperparameters

$$\sum_{a=1}^{100}$$

# Neural Network



trained on 10% of the 313,209 knots up to 15 crossings

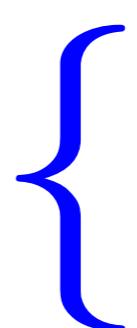
# Result

$$v_i = f(J_i) + \text{small corrections}$$

- $J_i$  does not uniquely identify a knot  
*e.g.*,  $4_1$  and K11n19 have same Jones polynomial, different volumes
- 174,619 unique Jones polynomials  
2.83% average spread in volumes for a Jones polynomial  
intrinsic mitigation against overfitting
- Same applies to 1,701,913 hyperbolic knots up to 16 crossings  
(database compiled from **Knot Atlas** and SnapPy)

# Result

$$v_i = f(J_i) + \text{small corrections}$$

- Neural network does better than more refined topological invariants
- Beyond the volume conjecture in Chern–Simons  
Jones polynomial (quantum)  $\longleftrightarrow$  volume (classical)  


weak coupling limit of  
 $SL(2, \mathbb{C})$  Chern–Simons  
strong coupling limit of  
 $SU(2)$
- Failed experiments (*e.g.*, learning Chern–Simons invariant) also teach us something — maybe about the need for underlying homology theory

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{2\pi \log J_n(K; e^{2\pi i/n})}{n} = \text{Vol}(S^3 \setminus K) + 2\pi^2 i \text{CS}(S^3 \setminus K)$$

*cf.* Calabi–Yau Hodge numbers,  
line bundle cohomology, etc.

# Result

$$v_i = f(J_i) + \text{small corrections}$$

- Universal Approximation Theorem: feedforward neural network, sigmoid activation function, single hidden layer with finite number of neurons can approximate continuous functions on compact subsets of  $\mathbb{R}^n$   
Cybenko (1989)  
Hornik (1991)
- Surprise here is simplicity of architecture that does the job
- Ours is in fact the best result in this direction
- We want a **not** machine learning knot result, however

# Entr'acte

$$v_i = f(J_i) + \text{small corrections}$$

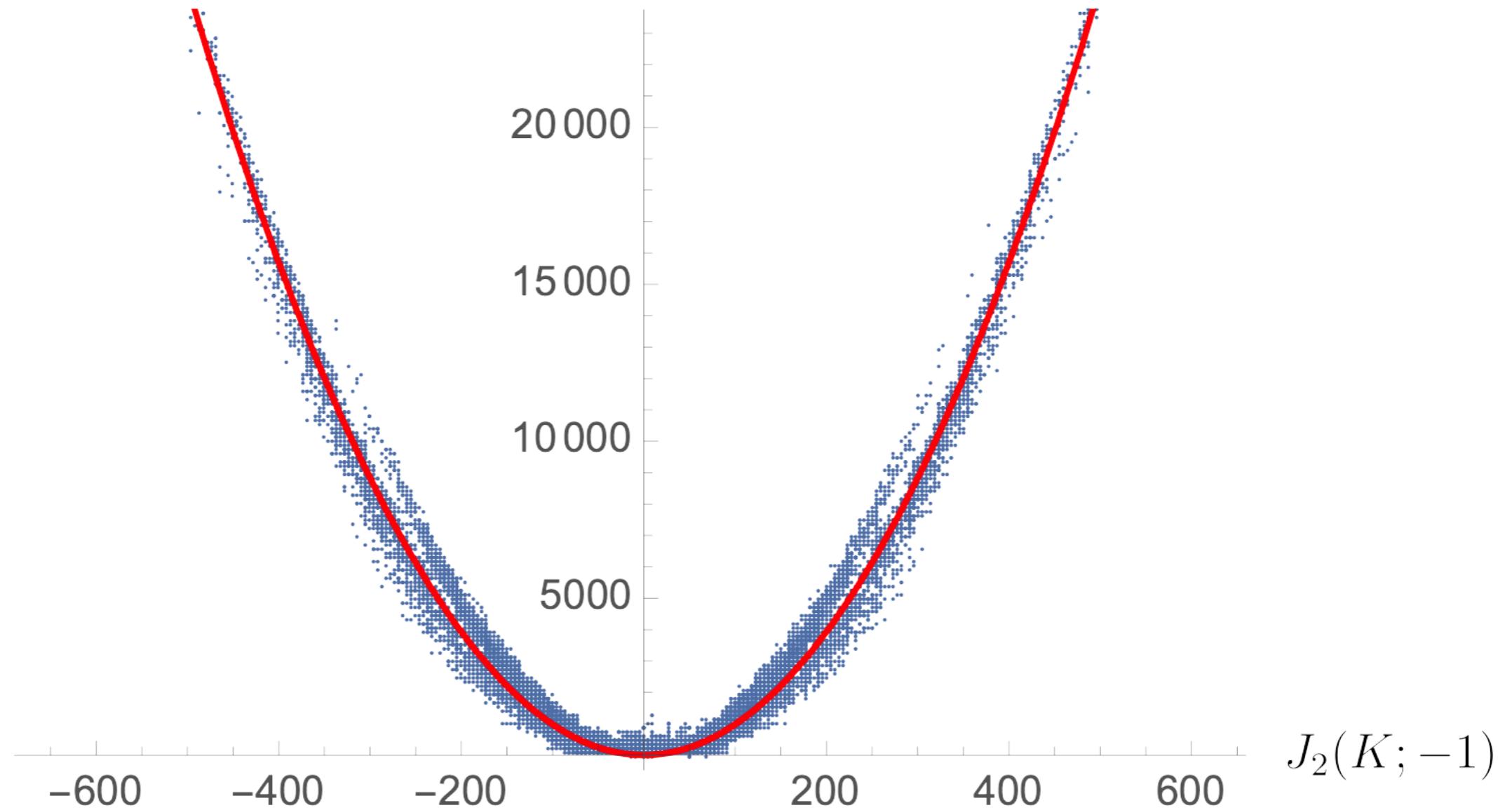
We seek to reverse engineer the neural network  
to obtain an analytic expression for  
the volume as a function of the Jones polynomial

To interpret the formula, we use machinery of  
analytically continued Chern–Simons theory

# Towards the Volume Conjecture

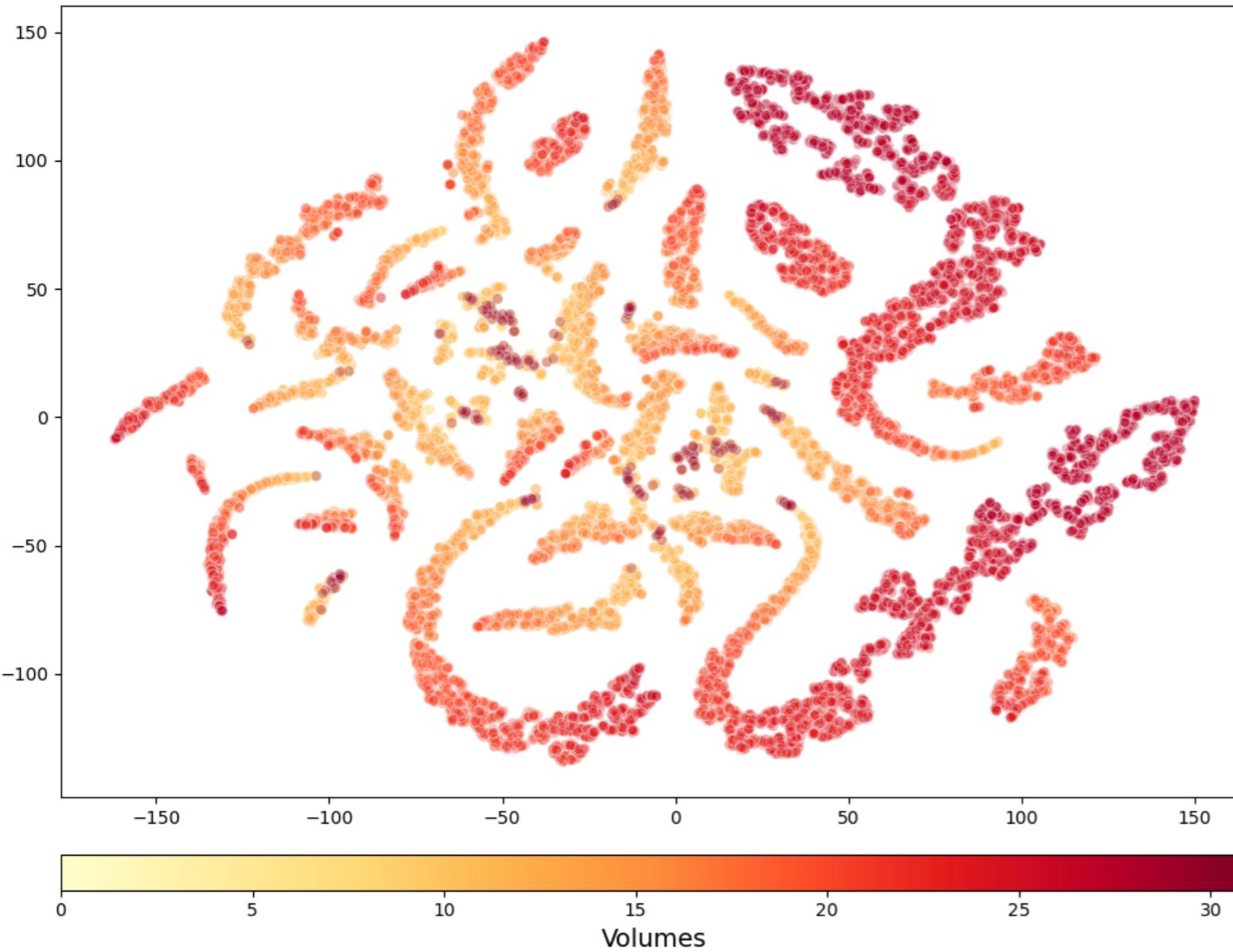
- The volume conjecture:  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{2\pi \log |J_n(K; \omega_n)|}{n} = \text{Vol}(S^3 \setminus K)$

$$|J_3(K; e^{2\pi i/3})|$$



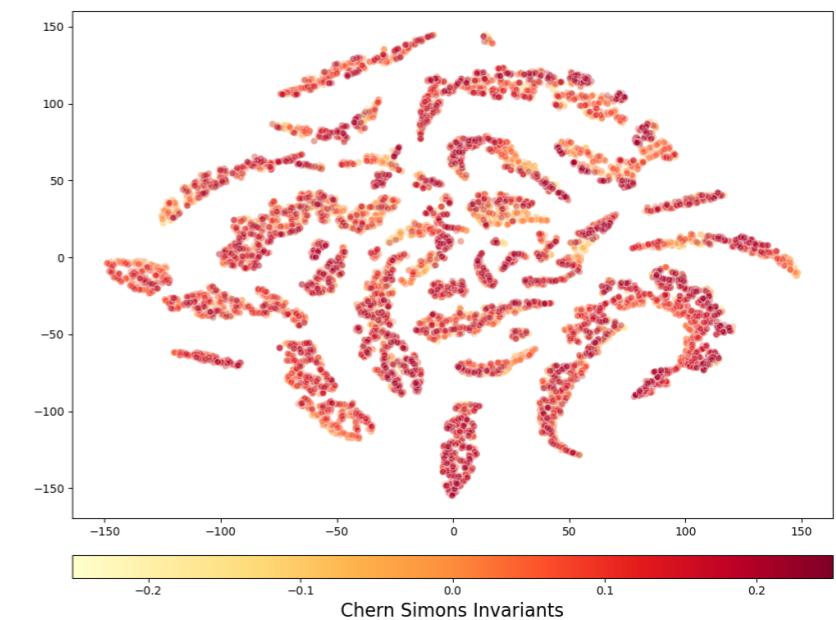
- 11,921 colored Jones polynomials at  $n = 3$

# t-SNE



Volume is learnable from coefficients

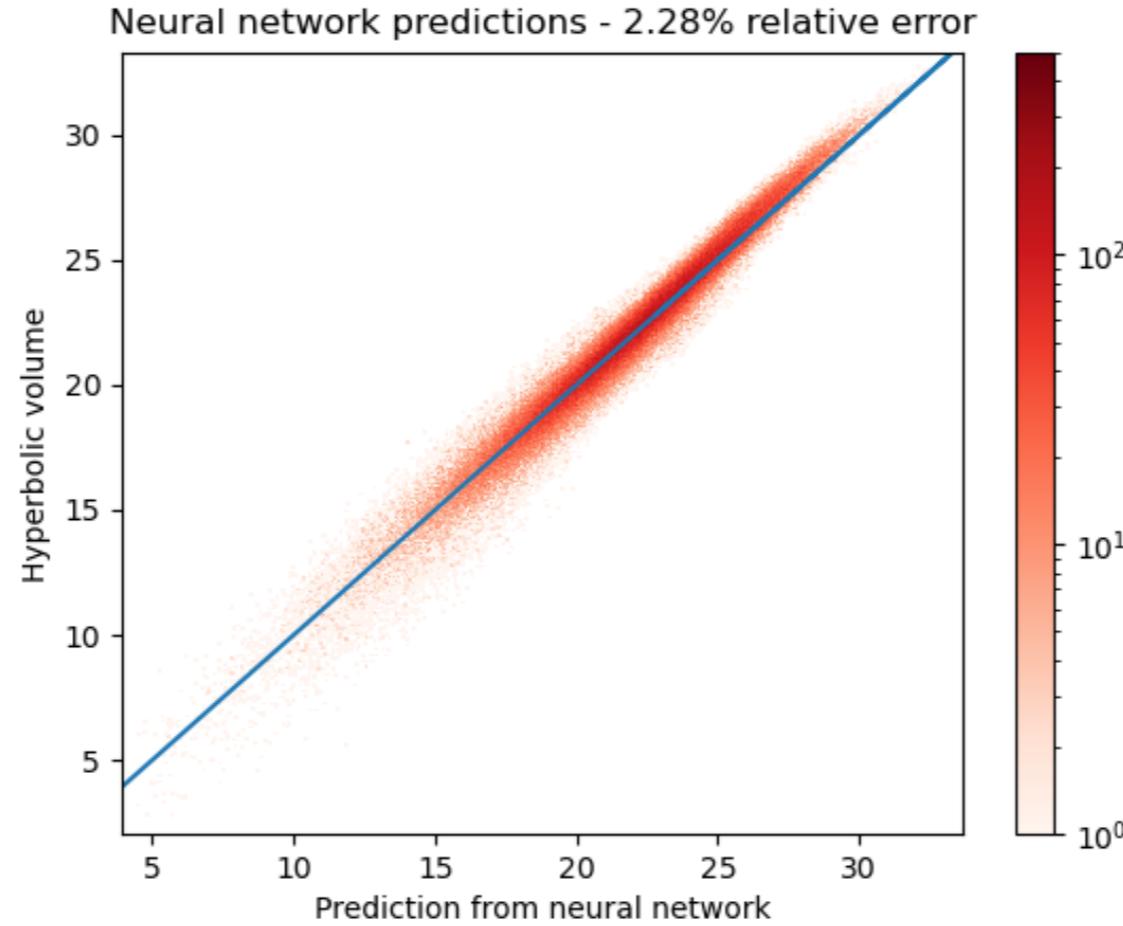
$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{2\pi \log J_n(K; \omega_n)}{n} = \text{Vol}(S^3 \setminus K) + 2\pi^2 i \text{CS}(S^3 \setminus K)$$



Chern–Simons invariant probably is not

# No Degrees Needed

- Suppose we drop the degrees and provide only the coefficients; Jones polynomial is no longer recoverable from the input vector
- Results are unchanged!



N.B.: we have switched to Python 3 using GPU-Tensorflow with Keras wrapper  
two hidden layers, 100 neurons/layer, ReLu activation, mean squared loss, Adam optimizer

# Jones Evaluations

- Physics in Chern–Simons theory that leads to volume conjecture may also be responsible for information in  $J_2(K; q)$
- Consider evaluations of Jones polynomial at roots of unity
- In particular, fix  $r \in \mathbb{Z}$  and evaluate  $j_p^r := J_2(K; e^{2\pi i p/(r+2)})$
- The input vector

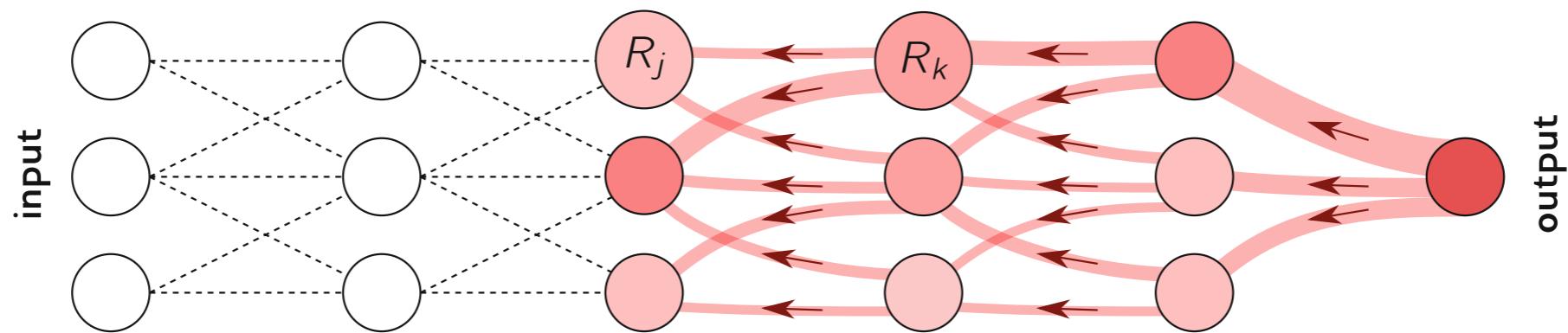
$$\mathbf{v}_{\text{in}} = (\operatorname{Re}(j_0^r), \operatorname{Im}(j_0^r), \dots, \operatorname{Re}(j_{\lfloor(r+2)/2\rfloor}^r), \operatorname{Im}(j_{\lfloor(r+2)/2\rfloor}^r))$$

does not degrade neural network performance

- In fact, we only need to feed in the magnitudes:  $\mathbf{v}_{\text{in}} = (|j_0^r|, \dots, |j_{\lfloor(r+2)/2\rfloor}^r|)$
- Consistent with degrees not mattering

# Layer-wise Relevance Propagation

- To determine which inputs carry the most weight, propagate backward starting from output layer employing a conservation property



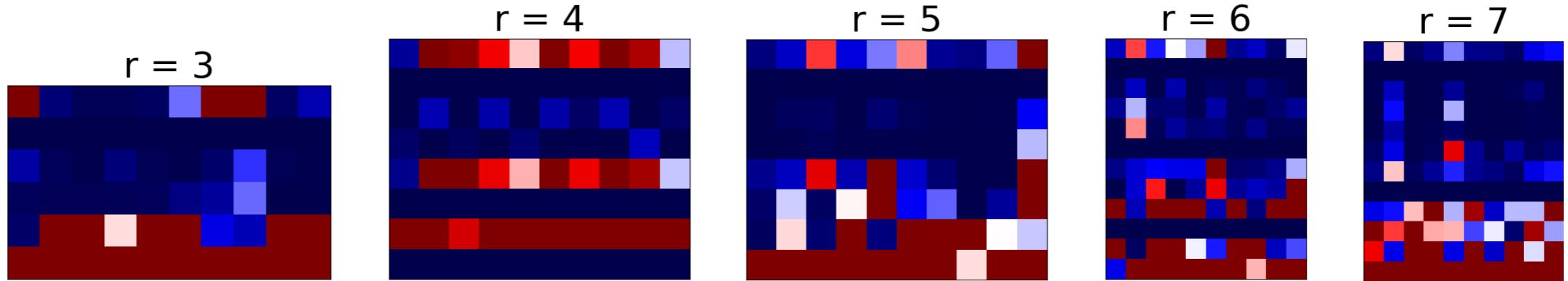
Montavon et al. (2019)

- Compute relevance score for a neuron using activations, weights, and biases

$$R_j^{m-1} = \sum_k \frac{a_j^{m-1} W_{jk}^m + b_k^m}{\sum_l a_l^{m-1} W_{lk}^m + b_k^m} R_k^m , \quad \sum_k R_k^m = 1$$

*j<sup>th</sup> neuron in layer m - 1*

# Layer-wise Relevance Propagation



- Each column is a single input corresponding to evaluations of the Jones polynomial at phases  $e^{\frac{2\pi i p}{r+2}}$ ,  $0 \leq 2p \leq r + 2$ ,  $p \in \mathbb{Z}$
- Ten different knots
- We show the relevances (red is most relevant) and notice that the same input features light up

# Relevant Phases

| $r$ | Error | Relevant roots   | Fractional levels                           | Error (relevant roots) |
|-----|-------|--|---|------------------------|
| 3   | 3.48% | $e^{4\pi i/5}$   | $\frac{1}{2}$                               | 3.8%                   |
| 4   | 6.66% | -1   | 0   | 6.78%                  |
| 5   | 3.48% | $e^{6\pi i/7}$   | $\frac{1}{3}$                               | 3.38%                  |
| 6   | 2.94% | $e^{3\pi i/4}, -1$   | $\frac{2}{3}, 0$                            | 3%                     |
| 7   | 5.37% | $e^{8\pi i/9}$   | $\frac{1}{4}$                               | 5.32%                  |
| 8   | 2.50% | $e^{3\pi i/5}, e^{4\pi i/5}, -1$                             | $\frac{4}{3}, \frac{1}{2}, 0$               | 2.5%                   |
| 9   | 2.74% | $e^{8\pi i/11}, e^{10\pi i/11}$                              | $\frac{3}{4}, \frac{1}{5}$                  | 2.85%                  |
| 10  | 3.51% | $e^{2\pi i/3}, e^{5\pi i/6}, -1$                             | $1, \frac{2}{5}, 0$                         | 4.39%                  |
| 11  | 2.51% | $e^{8\pi i/13}, e^{10\pi i/13}, e^{12\pi i/13}$              | $\frac{5}{4}, \frac{3}{5}, \frac{1}{6}$     | 2.44%                  |
| 12  | 2.39% | $e^{5\pi i/7}, e^{6\pi i/7}, -1$                             | $\frac{4}{5}, \frac{1}{3}, 0$               | 2.75%                  |
| 13  | 2.52% | $e^{2\pi i/3}, e^{4\pi i/5}, e^{14\pi i/15}$                 | $1, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{7}$               | 2.43%                  |
| 14  | 2.58% | $e^{3\pi i/4}, e^{7\pi i/8}, -1$                             | $\frac{2}{3}, \frac{2}{7}, 0$               | 2.55%                  |
| 15  | 2.38% | $e^{12\pi i/17}, e^{14\pi i/17}, e^{16\pi i/17}$             | $\frac{5}{6}, \frac{3}{7}, \frac{1}{8}$     | 2.4%                   |
| 16  | 2.57% | $e^{2\pi i/3}, e^{7\pi i/9}, e^{8\pi i/9}, -1$               | $1, \frac{4}{7}, \frac{1}{4}, 0$            | 2.45%                  |
| 17  | 2.65% | $e^{14\pi i/19}, e^{16\pi i/19}, e^{18\pi i/19},$            | $\frac{5}{7}, \frac{3}{8}, \frac{1}{9}$     | 2.46%                  |
| 18  | 2.49% | $e^{4\pi i/5}, e^{9\pi i/10}, -1$                            | $\frac{1}{2}, \frac{2}{9}, 0$               | 2.52%                  |
| 19  | 2.45% | $e^{2\pi i/3}, e^{16\pi i/21}, e^{6\pi i/7}, e^{20\pi i/21}$ | $1, \frac{5}{8}, \frac{1}{3}, \frac{1}{10}$ | 2.43%                  |
| 20  | 2.79% | $e^{8\pi i/11}, e^{9\pi i/11}, e^{10\pi i/11}, -1$           | $\frac{3}{4}, \frac{4}{9}, \frac{1}{5}, 0$  | 2.4%                   |

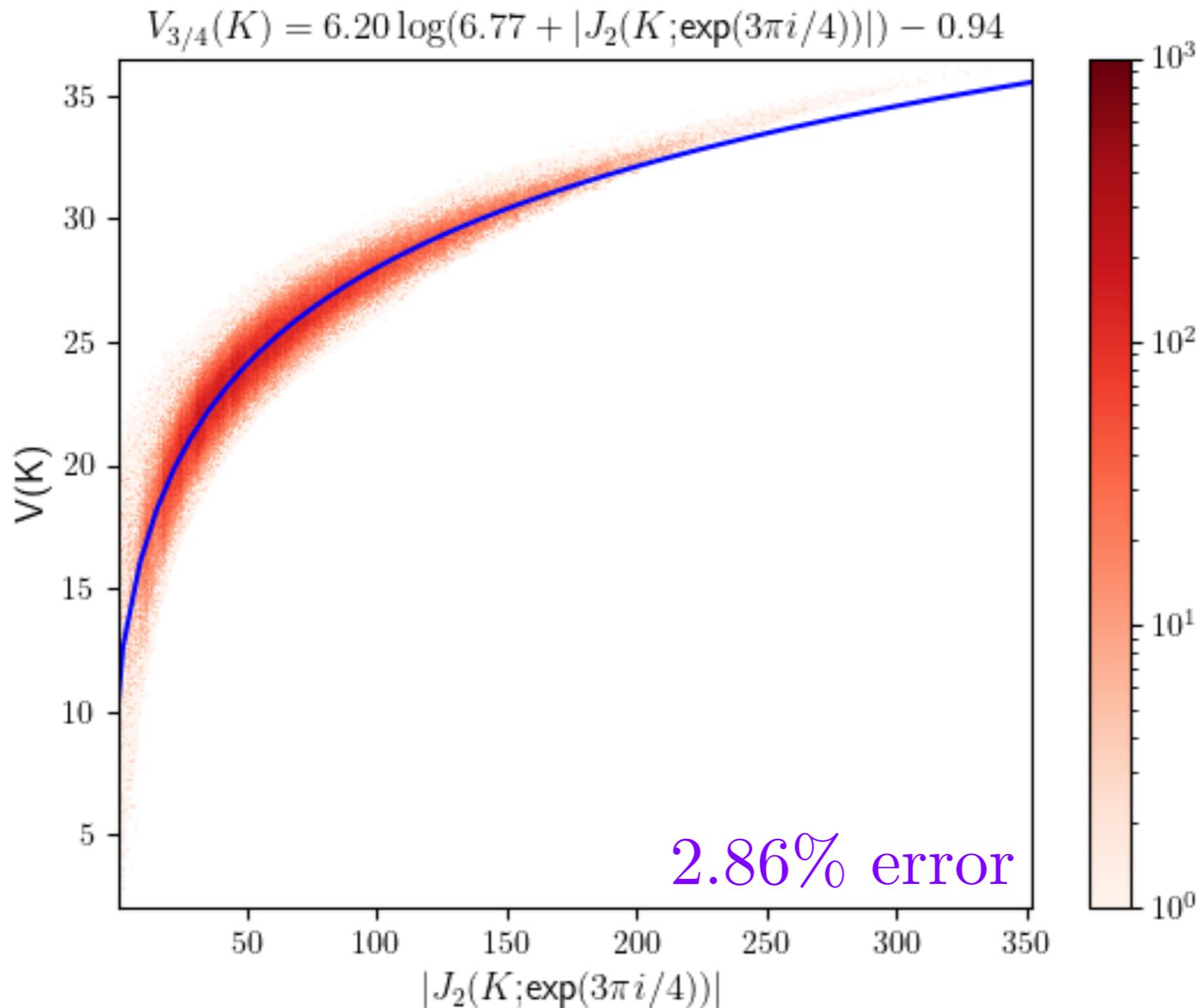
$$e^{ix} = e^{\frac{2\pi i}{k+2}}$$

# Phenomenological Function

$$\omega = e^{\frac{3\pi i}{4}}$$



$$k = \frac{2}{3}$$



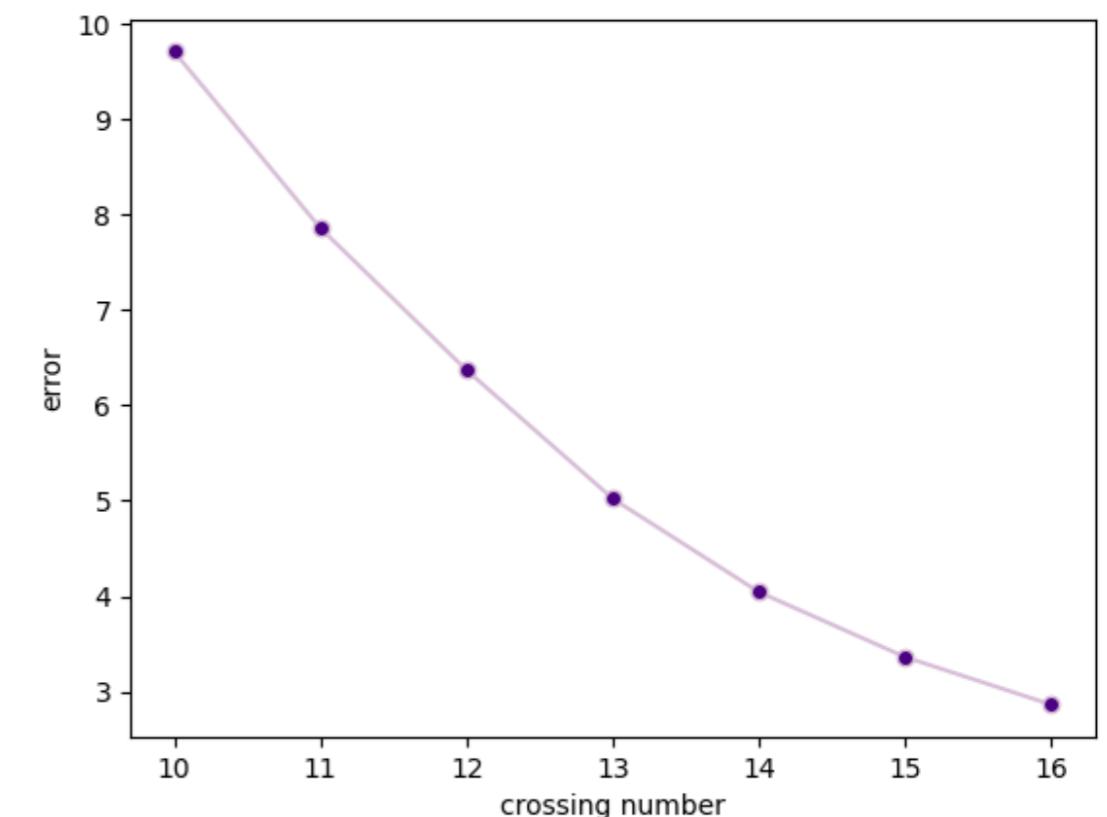
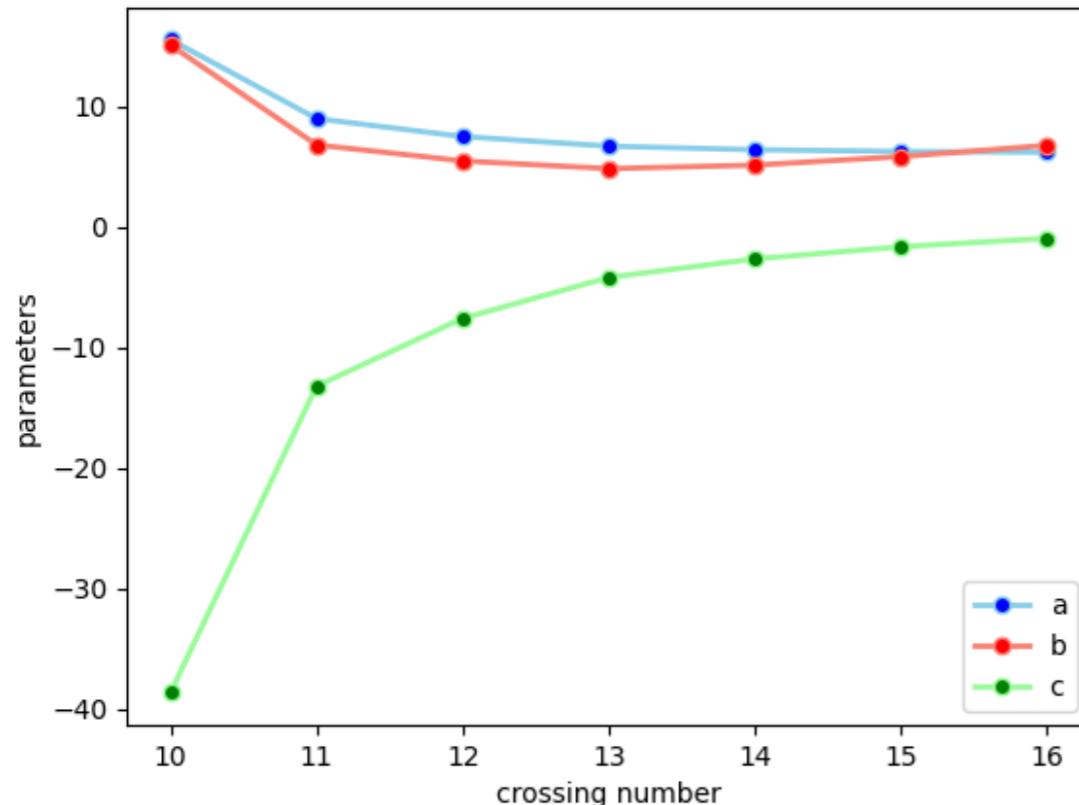
- Parameters fixed via curve fitting routines in Mathematica

# Phenomenological Function

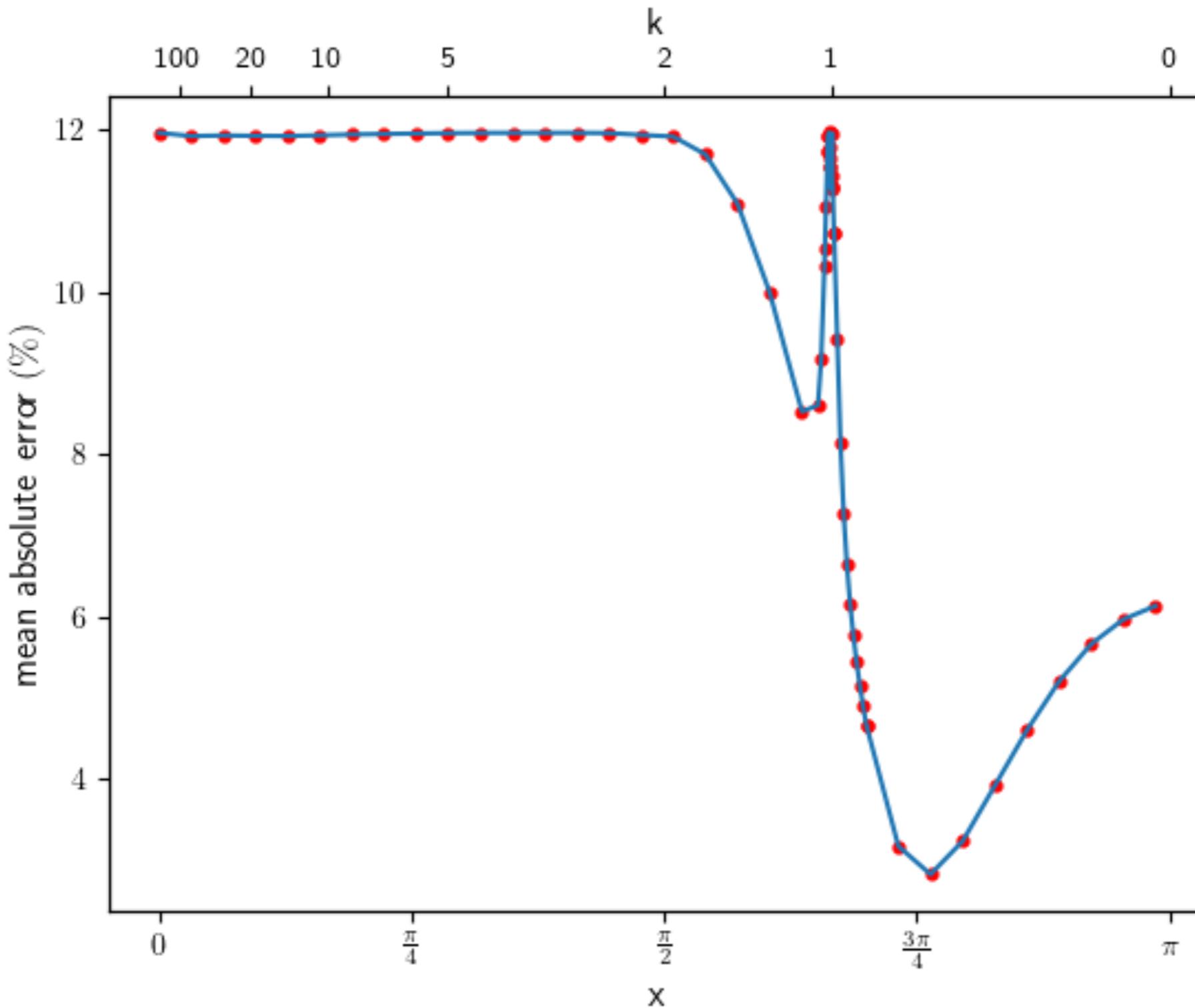
$$V_{3/4}(S^3 \setminus K) = 6.20 \log(|J_2(K; e^{\frac{3\pi i}{4}})| + 6.77) - 0.94$$

2.86% error compared to 2.28% error for neural network  
corresponds to Chern–Simons level  $k = \frac{2}{3}$

- Parameters of fit robust as a function of crossing number



# The Shape of Things



# A Better Formula

- Our reverse engineered function gave 2.86% error compared to 2.28% error for neural network; the latter is essentially intrinsic
- Can we do better with a formula? If so, how much better?
- Define a new error measure

$$\sigma = \frac{\text{variance of (actual volume} - \text{predicted volume)}}{\text{variance of volumes in dataset}}$$

[suggested to us in correspondence with **Fischbacher, Münker**]

$\sigma$ -measure is shift/rescaling invariant

- Can ask what fraction of variance is left unexplained

# A Better Formula

$$\sigma = \frac{\text{variance of (actual volume} - \text{predicted volume})}{\text{variance of volumes in dataset}}$$

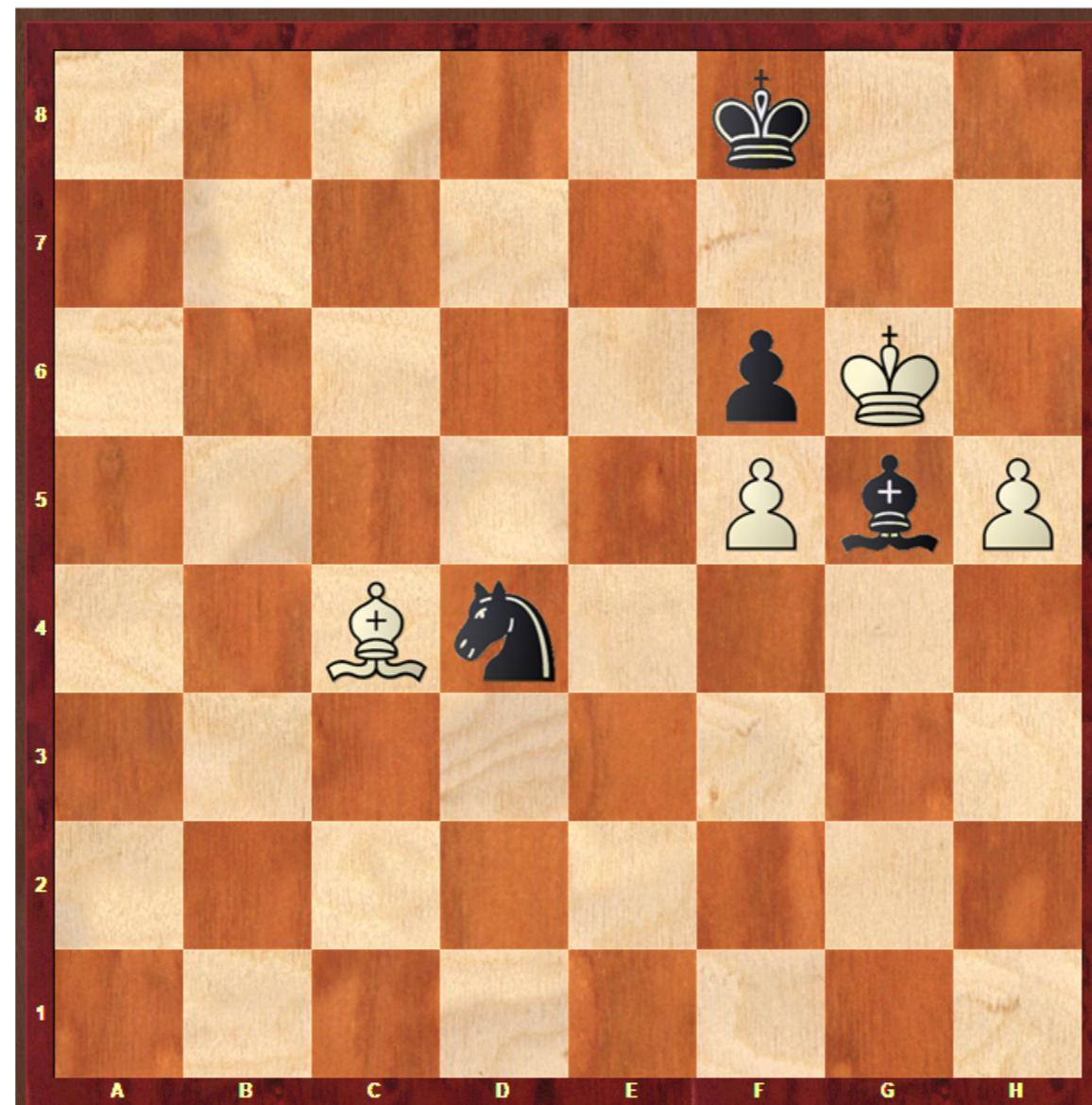
- By this measure, the neural network gives  $\sigma = 0.033$   
while our functional approximation gives  $\sigma = 0.068$
- If we just assign the average volume to every knot in the dataset,  $\sigma = 1$  ;  
this corresponds to plateau
- There is room for improvement, but it is remarkable that a function with  
only three fit parameters works so well

# Some Philosophy

# The Future

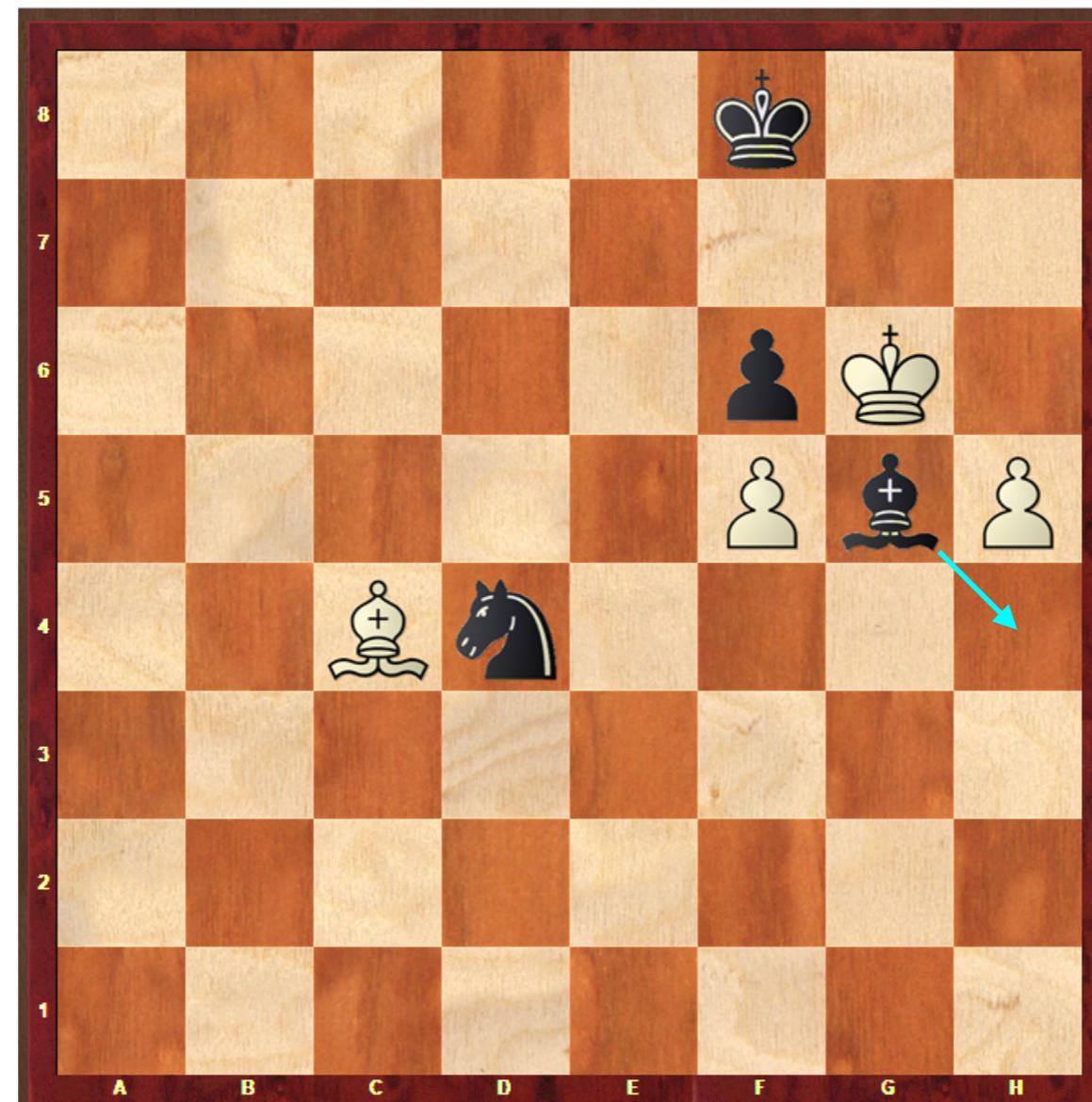
- Machine learning identifies associations
- Want to convert this to analytics — *i.e.*, how does the machine learn?
- What problems in physics and mathematics are machine learnable?
- Can a machine do interesting science?

# Stockfish/Sesse



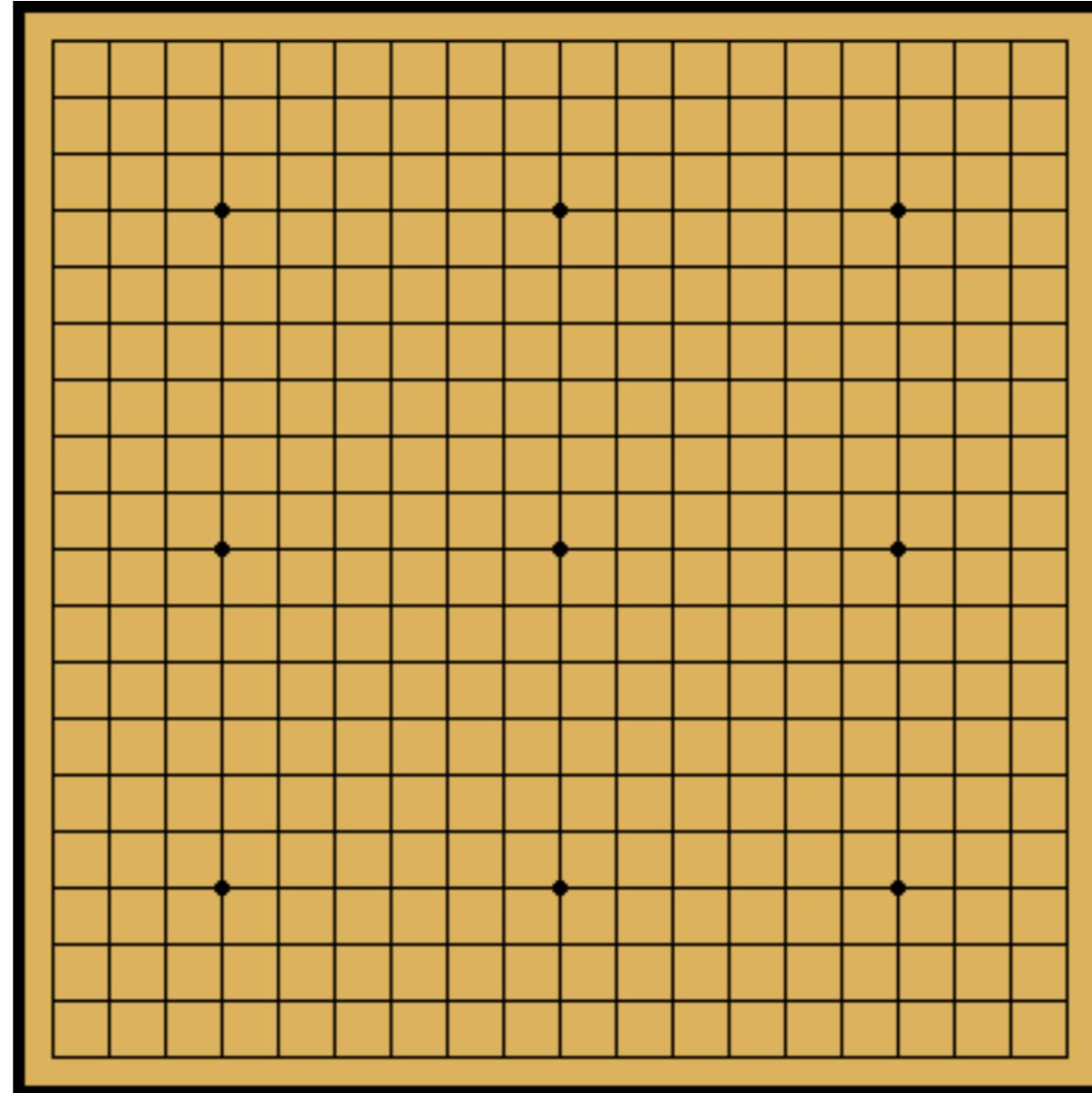
- Carlsen–Caruana, Game 6, World Chess Championship 2018
- Black to move and mate in 36

# Stockfish/Sesse



- Carlsen–Caruana, Game 6, World Chess Championship 2018
- Black to move and mate in 36

# AlphaZero



- Trained to play Go via self play and it crushes all human players
- Invents new **jōseki**

# Challenge

- How does a black box learn semantics without knowing syntax?
  - Generally unpublished failed experiments indicate what doesn't work
  - Knowing that there are approximate functions can we find analytic expressions by opening the black box?
- Can artificial intelligence do interesting research?
  - *cf.* new jōseki in go AlphaGo Zero (2017)
  - Proofs in real analysis Ganesalingam, Gowers (2013)
  - Proof assistants Voevodsky (2014)

# hep-th

- Use machine learning to classify papers into **arXiv** categories
- 65% success at exact subject, 87% success at formal vs. phenomenology
- Mapping words to vectors contextually, we discover syntactic identities

Paris – France + Italy = Rome

king – man + woman = queen

# hep-th

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- Mapping words to vectors contextually, we discover syntactic identities

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- An idea generating machine for **hep-th**:

symmetry + black hole = Killing

symmetry + algebra = group

black hole + QCD = plasma

spacetime + inflation = cosmological constant

string theory + Calabi–Yau = M-theory +  $G_2$

THANK YOU!