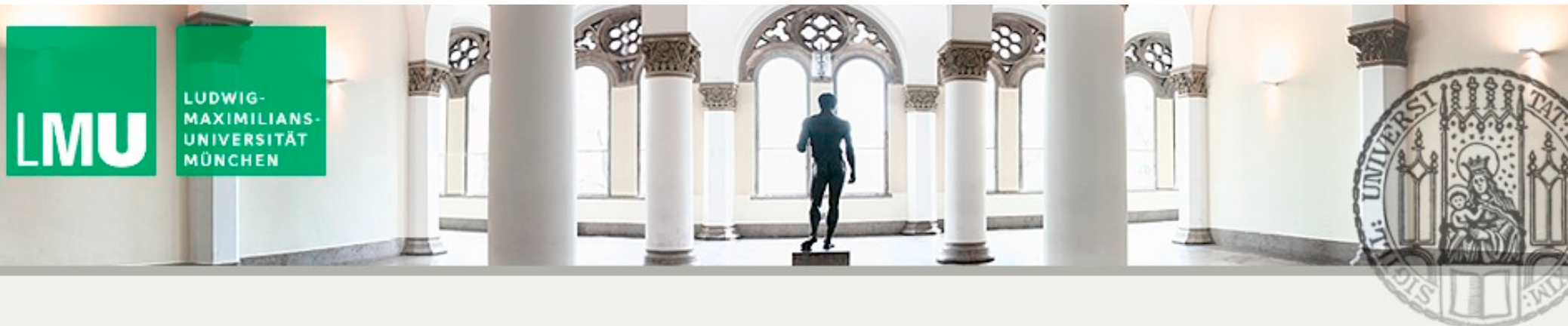


# W-Supergravity

DIETER LÜST (LMU, MPI)



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Joint work with Sergio Ferrara: arXiv:1805.10022

Sergio Ferrara & Alex Kehagias: arXiv:1806.10016, 1810.08147  
and with D. Klaewer & E. Palti, to appear



Hiroshi, my best congratulations for the  
Hamburg Joachim-Herz-Preis for theoretical physics.



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- Topological Strings
- Swampland
- .....

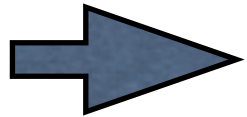
# No-go theorems in Quantum Gravity:

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Which IR consistent quantum field theories cannot be embedded into a UV complete quantum gravity theory?

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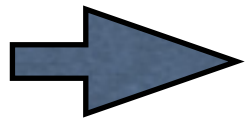


**Swampland program**

[H. Ooguri, C. Vafa (2006)]

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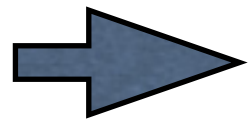
[N.Arkani-Hamed, L. Motl, A. Nicolis, C.Vafa (2007)]

- de Sitter swampland conjecture

[G. Obied, H. Ooguri, L. Spodyneiko, C.Vafa (2018)]

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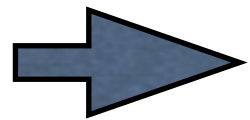
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In general, all (also hidden) assumptions have to be very carefully stated.

E.g. de Sitter vacua in **strongly coupled** world-sheet theories: DFT and non-geometric constructions.

[F. Hassler, D.L., S. Massai (2014)]

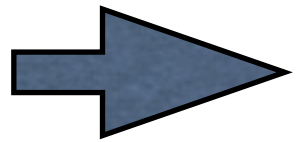
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Are there quantum field theories, which according to some no-go theorems, do not exist in the IR, but nevertheless can be realized in the UV?

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W - supergravity & W - superstrings

[S. Ferrara, D.L. (2018)]

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➡ **W - supergravity & W - superstrings**

[S. Ferrara, D.L. (2018)]

- Exist also for N=7 supersymmetry
- Topological theories: topological twist by S - duality and diffeomorphisms
- **Strongly coupled**, massive spin-four theories

## Classification of rigid, supersymmetric 4D field theories:

exist for  $\mathcal{N} = 1, 2, 4$  supersymmetry

But not for  $\mathcal{N} = 3$  (automatically extends to  $\mathcal{N} = 4$ )

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## Classification of 4D supergravity theories:

exist for  $\mathcal{N} = 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8$  supersymmetry

But not for  $\mathcal{N} = 7$  (automatically extends to  $\mathcal{N} = 8$ )

## Main assumptions:

- weak coupling
- CPT invariant lagrangian description
- massless N-extended spin-two gravity multiplet

This agrees with perturbative 4D string constructions:

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4D Heterotic string: # of right-moving supercharges:

$$\mathcal{N}_H = 1, \quad \mathcal{N}_H = 2, \quad \text{and} \quad \mathcal{N}_H = 4$$

$$\mathbb{R}^{1,3} \times \quad CY_3 \quad K3 \times T^2 \quad T^6$$

Again no  $\mathcal{N} = 3$  supersymmetry.

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Again no  $\mathcal{N} = 3$  supersymmetry.

4D Type II string: # of left + right-moving supercharges:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{N}_{II} = 1 &= 1_L + 0_R, & \mathcal{N}_{II} = 2 &= 2_L + 0_R, & \mathcal{N}_{II} = 2' &= 1_L + 1_R, \\ \mathcal{N}_{II} = 3 &= 2_L + 1_R, & \mathcal{N}_{II} = 4 &= 4_L + 0_R, & \mathcal{N}_{II} = 4' &= 2_L + 2_R, \\ \mathcal{N}_{II} = 5 &= 4_L + 1_R, & \mathcal{N}_{II} = 6 &= 4_L + 2_R, & \mathcal{N}_{II} = 8 &= 4_L + 4_R. \end{aligned}$$

Again no  $\mathcal{N} = 7$  supersymmetry.

[H. Kawai, S. Lewellen, H. Tye (1987);  
W. Lerche, D.L., A. Schellekens (1987);  
A. Antoniadis, C. Bachas, C. Kounnas (1987);

S. Ferrara, D.L., S. Theisen (1989); S. Ferrara, C. Kounnas (1989)]

How to evade „no-go theorems“:

# How to evade „no-go theorems“:

Field theory:

S-fold construction

[I. Garcia-Etxebarria, D. Regalado (2015/16);  
O. Aharony, M. Evtikhiev (2015);  
O. Aharony, Y. Tachikawa (2016);  
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$$(\mathcal{N} = 3_{SYM}) \equiv (\mathcal{N} = 4_{SYM}) / [(\text{R} - \text{sym.}) \times SL(2)_S] .$$

- Three invariant supercharges
- Strongly coupled theory (  $S = i$  )
- Non-lagrangian, superconformal theory

Follow similar strategy:

$$\mathcal{N} = 7 \text{ W - Sugra:} \quad \text{S-fold of } \mathcal{N} = 8 \text{ Sugra}$$

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Result: massless spin - two multiplet of  $\mathcal{N} = 8$

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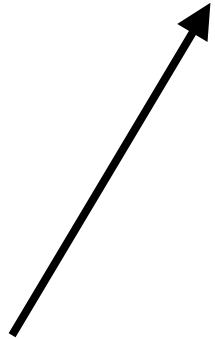
$$\mathcal{N} = 7 \text{ W - SUGRA} \equiv (\mathcal{N} = 4 \text{ YM}) \otimes (\mathcal{N} = 3 \text{ YM})$$

Two factors: massive spin-two multiplets of  $\mathcal{N} = 4$  and  $\mathcal{N} = 3$

Result: massive spin - four multiplet of  $\mathcal{N} = 7$

W - supergravity

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Higher spin theory

W - supergravity

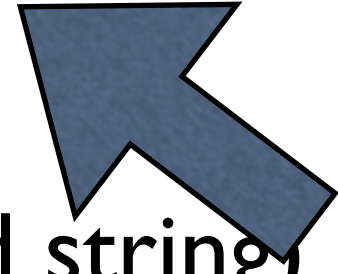
```
graph BT; A[Higher spin theory] --> C[W - supergravity]; B[Weyl] --> C;
```

Higher spin theory

Weyl

# Outline:

II) Double copy construction of  $W$ -supergravity -  
N=7  $W$ -supergravity



III) Spin-four  $W$  - superstring (closed string)

IV) Spin-two  $W$ -superstring (open string)

—————→ Two conjectures

V) Conclusion and Outlook

## II) Double copy construction of W - supergravity

$$\text{QFT}(\mathcal{N}_L) \otimes \text{QFT}(\mathcal{N}_R) = \text{Sugra}(\mathcal{N}_L + \mathcal{N}_R)$$

[Z. Bern, J. Carrasco, H. Johansson (2008/2010)  
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Operators/fields:  $\Phi_{L+R} = \Phi_L \otimes \Phi_R$

$\Phi_L, \Phi_R$  : Operators with scaling dimensions  $h_L, h_R$

Require:  $h_L = h_R = h$  ( $m_L = m_R = m$ )

## 4D Standard massless supergravity:

Tensor product of two massless vector multiplets ( $h = 1$ )

Supergravity :    Massless  $\text{Spin}(2) = V_{L, \mathcal{N}_L} \otimes V_{R, \mathcal{N}_R}$

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- (iv)  $\mathcal{N}_L = 0, \mathcal{N}_R = 4 \Rightarrow \mathcal{N} = 4$  Sugra
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## Non-standard W - supergravities in 4D :

We will need massive multiplets of  $\mathcal{N}$  - extended supersymmetric field theories:

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Massive spin-two Weyl super-multiplets:

$$W_{\mathcal{N}=4} : \text{Spin}(2) + \underline{8} \times \text{Spin}(3/2) + \underline{27} \times \text{Spin}(1) + \underline{48} \times \text{Spin}(1/2) + \underline{42} \times \text{Spin}(0)$$

States build  $USp(8)$  representations.

$$W_{\mathcal{N}=3} : \text{Spin}(2) + \underline{6} \times \text{Spin}(3/2) + (\underline{14} + \underline{1}) \times \text{Spin}(1) + (\underline{14}' + \underline{6}) \times \text{Spin}(1/2) + \underline{14} \times \text{Spin}(0)$$

States build  $USp(6)$  representations.

$$W_{\mathcal{N}=2} : \text{Spin}(2) + \underline{4} \times \text{Spin}(3/2) + (\underline{5} + \underline{1}) \times \text{Spin}(1) + \underline{4} \times \text{Spin}(1/2) + \text{Spin}(0)$$

States build  $USp(4)$  representations.

$$W_{\mathcal{N}=1} : \text{Spin}(2) + \underline{2} \times \text{Spin}(3/2) + \text{Spin}(1)$$

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S - fold construction of  $N=3$  field theory:

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One performs two types of simultaneous twists/projections:

**R-symmetry:**  $Q^{\alpha;1,2,3} \rightarrow e^{-i\pi/k} Q^{\alpha;1,2,3}, \quad Q^{\alpha;4} \rightarrow e^{3\pi/k} Q^{\alpha;4}$

**S-duality:**  $Q^{\alpha;1,2,3,4} \rightarrow e^{i\pi/k} Q^{\alpha;1,2,3,4}$

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Massless spin-one vector field  $V_i(x, \theta)$  is not invariant under the S - fold projection.

Invariant operators:  $\Phi^{2p} = \text{Tr}(V_{i_1} \bar{V}_{i_2} \dots V_{i_{2p-1}} \bar{V}_{i_{2p}})$   
( $h = 2p$ )

Lowest invariant operator:  $(h = 2)$

massive spin - two super-Weyl multiplet:

$$W_{\mathcal{N}=3} : \text{Spin}(2) + \underline{6} \times \text{Spin}(3/2) + (\underline{14} + \underline{1}) \times \text{Spin}(1) + (\underline{14}' + \underline{6}) \times \text{Spin}(1/2) + \underline{14} \times \text{Spin}(0)$$

$W_{\mathcal{N}=3}$  is a true  $\mathcal{N} = 3$  supermultiplet.

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Tensor product of two massive, spin-two Weyl multiplets:

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**Closed string = Open string  $\times$  Open string**

$$\Phi_{L+R, \mathcal{N}_L+3}^4 = W_{L, \mathcal{N}_L} \otimes W_{R, \mathcal{N}_R=3}$$

  
spin=4

  
spin=2

  
spin=2

(+matter)

# All possible S-fold, W - supergravities:

$$(i) \mathcal{N}_L = 4, \mathcal{N}_R = 3 \implies \mathcal{N} = 7 \text{ W - Sugra}$$

$$(ii) \mathcal{N}_L = \mathcal{N}_R = 3 \implies \mathcal{N} = 6 \text{ W - Sugra}$$

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Most prominent example:  $\mathcal{N} = 7$  W - supergravity:

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \left( \text{Spin}(2) + 8 \times \text{Spin}\left(\frac{3}{2}\right) + 27 \times \text{Spin}(1) + 48 \times \text{Spin}\left(\frac{1}{2}\right) + 42 \times \text{Spin}(0) \right)_{\mathcal{N}=4} \\
 & \otimes \left( \text{Spin}(2) + 6 \times \text{Spin}(3/2) + 15 \times \text{Spin}(1) + 20 \times \text{Spin}(1/2) + 14 \times \text{Spin}(0) \right)_{\mathcal{N}=3} \\
 = & \left( \text{Spin}(4) + \underline{14}_1 \times \text{Spin}\left(\frac{7}{2}\right) + (\underline{90}_2 + \underline{1}) \times \text{Spin}(3) + (\underline{350}_3 + \underline{14}_1) \times \text{Spin}\left(\frac{5}{2}\right) \right. \\
 & + (\underline{90}_2 + \underline{910}_4) \times \text{Spin}(2) + (\underline{350}_3 + \underline{1638}_5) \times \text{Spin}\left(\frac{3}{2}\right) + (\underline{2002}_6 + \underline{910}_4) \times \text{Spin}(1) \\
 & \left. + (\underline{1430}_5 + \underline{1638}_5) \times \text{Spin}\left(\frac{1}{2}\right) + \underline{2002}_6 \times \text{Spin}(0) \right)_{\mathcal{N}=7}
 \end{aligned}$$

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 \end{aligned}$$

Contains also spin-two and spin-3/2 states.

All massive states form representations of  $USp(14)$

Strongly coupled theory without Lagrangian

Can also be obtained directly by S-fold of  $\mathcal{N} = 8$

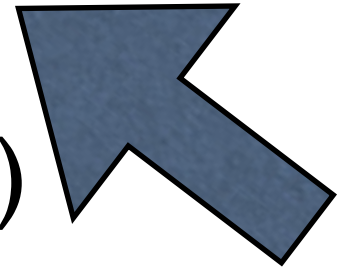
Precisely appears at first mass level in  
corresponding string construction.

# Outline:

II) Double copy construction of  $W$ -supergravity -  
 $N=7$   $W$ -supergravity

III) Spin-four  $W$  - superstring (closed string)

IV) Spin-two  $W$ -superstring (open string)



→ Two conjectures

V) Conclusion and Outlook

# III) W - Superstring construction (closed string)

Basic requirements for  $\mathcal{N} = 7$  in 4D:

Left-moving sector is untouched:

Type II: Four supercharges

Heterotic: Zero supercharges

Right-moving sector gets projected/twisted as in field theory:

Three invariant supercharges

No massless excitations

4D type II closed string in light cone gauge on

$$\mathbb{R}^{1,1} \times \mathbb{R}^2 \times T^6$$

4D type II closed string in light cone gauge on

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I complex uncompactified, transversal coordinate:

$$X(z, \bar{z}) = X_L(\bar{z}) + X_R(z)$$

4D type II closed string in light cone gauge on

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1 complex uncompactified, transversal coordinate:

$$X(z, \bar{z}) = X_L(\bar{z}) + X_R(z)$$

3 complex compactified coordinates:

$$Z^i(z, \bar{z}) = Z_L^i(\bar{z}) + Z_R^i(z) \quad (i = 1, 2, 3)$$

## S-fold projection in string theory:

### I.) R-symmetry projection in the internal sector:

Projection by a discrete element of T-duality group  $SO(6,6)$   
in the internal sector

Can be represented by discrete  $\mathbb{Z}_4$  rotation on the  
internal coordinates:

$$Z_L^i \rightarrow Z_L^i$$

$$Z_R^i \rightarrow e^{-\frac{i\pi}{2}} Z_R^i$$

Moduli have to be frozen at their  
fixed point values:

$$\tau = \rho = i$$

The internal space is a completely left-right asymmetric  
 $\mathbb{Z}_4$  orbifold .

## 2.) S - duality projection in the space-time sector:

It is given by a discrete element of the (string) Geroch group.

[R. Geroch (1972);  
I. Bakas (1994)]

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The Geroch group contains:

(i) Axion-dilaton transformations:

$$S = a + ie^{-2\phi}$$
$$SL(2)_S : \quad S \rightarrow \frac{\tilde{a}'S + \tilde{b}'}{\tilde{c}'S + \tilde{d}'}, \quad \tilde{a}'\tilde{d}' - \tilde{b}'\tilde{c}' = 1$$

[A. Font, L. Ibanez, D.L., F. Quevedo (1990);  
J.H. Schwarz, A. Sen (1993)]

## (ii) Ehlers transformations - G-duality:

Four-dimensional, transversal, complex graviton field:

$$G = \frac{g_{12}}{g_{11}} + i \frac{\sqrt{\det g}}{g_{11}}$$

Large 4D diffeomorphisms (Ehlers transformation):

$$SL(2)_G : \quad G \rightarrow \frac{\tilde{a} G + \tilde{b}}{\tilde{c} G + \tilde{d}}, \quad \tilde{a}\tilde{d} - \tilde{b}\tilde{c} = 1$$

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$$SL(2)_G : \quad G \rightarrow \frac{\tilde{a} G + \tilde{b}}{\tilde{c} G + \tilde{d}}, \quad \tilde{a}\tilde{d} - \tilde{b}\tilde{c} = 1$$

Combined action of  $SL(2)_S$  and  $SL(2)_G$ :

$$O(2, 2)_{S,G} \simeq SL(2)_S \times SL(2)_G \quad (\text{Geroch group})$$

## (ii) Ehlers transformations - G-duality:

Four-dimensional, transversal, complex graviton field:

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$SL(2)_S$  and  $SL(2)_G$  also act on the transversal string coordinates  $X_L, X_R$  as certain in general left-right asymmetric rotations.

Particular discrete  $\mathbb{Z}_4$  element:

$$X_L(\bar{z}) \rightarrow X_L(\bar{z}), \quad X_R(z) \rightarrow e^{-\frac{i\pi}{2}} X_R(z)$$

Dilaton and metric must be frozen:  $S = G = i$  .

This is a completely asymmetric  $\mathbb{Z}_4$  rotation of the transversal, uncompactified coordinates.

Geroch transformation becomes T-duality when further compactifying to two dimensions

[I. Florakis, I. Garcia-Etxebarria, D. Lüst, D. Regalado (2018)]

## Invariant right-moving spectrum:

**64 + 64 invariant states at the first mass level:**

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**Bosons:**  $b_{-1/2}^i b_{-1/2}^j b_{-1/2}^I |0\rangle$ ,  $b_{-1/2}^i b_{-1/2}^I b_{-1/2}^J |0\rangle$ ,  $b_{-1/2}^I b_{-1/2}^J b_{-1/2}^K |0\rangle$ ,  
 $b_{-3/2}^i |0\rangle$ ,  $b_{-3/2}^I |0\rangle$   
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$$\text{Spin}(2) + (\underline{14} + \underline{1}) \times \text{Spin}(1) + \underline{14} \times \text{Spin}(0)$$

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$$\text{Spin}(2) + (\underline{14} + \underline{1}) \times \text{Spin}(1) + \underline{14} \times \text{Spin}(0)$$

**Fermions:**  $(8)_c + (56)_c : b_{-1}^A |a\rangle$ ,  $(8)_s + (56)_s : \alpha_{-1}^A |\dot{a}\rangle$

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This precisely agrees with the massive  $\mathcal{N} = 3$  Weyl multiplet.

Now we can consider the following type II S - fold:

$$(\mathcal{N} = 7_{II}) \equiv (\mathcal{N} = 8_{II}) / (\text{T - duality} \times \text{Geroch})$$

3 invariant right-moving supercharges .

4 invariant left-moving supercharges .

- 7 invariant supercharges
- $S = i \Rightarrow$  strongly coupled
- $G = i \Rightarrow$  no massless graviton

Spectrum of type II  $\mathcal{N} = 7$  W - superstring theory:

- No massless states, no massless graviton & gravitini.
- Invariant states at first mass level:

Tensor product: (Fermionic left)  $\times$  (fermionic right):

$$\text{B : } [\text{Spin}(2) + 15 \times \text{Spin}(1) + 14 \times \text{Spin}(0)]_R \times [\text{Spin}(2) + 27 \times \text{Spin}(1) + 42 \times \text{Spin}(0)]_L , \\ [6 \times \text{Spin}(3/2) + 20 \times \text{Spin}(1/2)]_R \times [8 \times \text{Spin}(3/2) + 48 \times \text{Spin}(1/2)]_L$$

$$\text{F : } [6 \times \text{Spin}(3/2) + 20 \times \text{Spin}(1/2)]_R \times [\text{Spin}(2) + 27 \times \text{Spin}(1) + 42 \times \text{Spin}(0)]_L , \\ [\text{Spin}(2) + 15 \times \text{Spin}(1) + 14 \times \text{Spin}(0)]_R \times [8 \times \text{Spin}(3/2) + 48 \times \text{Spin}(1/2)]_L$$

$$\text{B : } [\text{Spin}(4) + 91 \times \text{Spin}(3) + 1000 \times \text{Spin}(2) + 2912 \times \text{Spin}(1) + 2002 \times \text{Spin}(0)] ,$$

$$\text{F : } [14 \times \text{Spin}(\frac{7}{2}) + 364 \times \text{Spin}(\frac{5}{2}) + 1988 \times \text{Spin}(\frac{3}{2}) + 3068 \times \text{Spin}(\frac{1}{2})]$$

Massive spin - four multiplet of  $\mathcal{N} = 7$  .

Agrees with double copy construction.

# Outline:

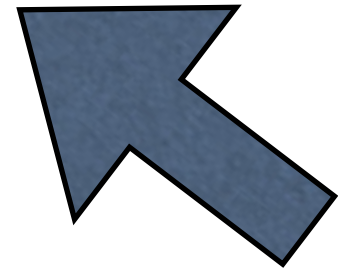
II) Double copy construction of  $W$ -supergravity -  
 $N=7$   $W$ -supergravity

III) Spin-four  $W$  - superstring (closed string)

IV) Spin-two  $W$ -superstring (open string)



Two conjectures



V) Conclusion and Outlook

## IV) Spin-two W-superstring (open string)

Open strings on D3-branes:

- Massless Yang-Mills gauge bosons + superpartners
  - Massive spin-two excitations + super partners
- Massive spin-two Weyl supermultiplet.

Mass:  $M_W = g_s M_s$

Closed strings in bulk:

Massless spin-two graviton + superpartners

Effective action of spin-two sector:

Weyl-square supergravity:

$$S = \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} \left( M_p^2 R + \frac{1}{g_W^2} W_{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} W^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} + \dots \right)$$

Weyl tensor:  $W_{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} = R_{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} + g_{\mu[\sigma} R_{\rho]\nu} + g_{\nu[\rho} R_{\sigma]\mu} + \frac{R}{3} g_{\mu[\rho} g_{\sigma]\nu}$

Propagating degrees of freedom: Bi-gravity theory:

Closed string: massless spin-two: metric  $g_{\mu\nu}$

Open string: massive spin-two: 2nd. „metric“  $w_{\mu\nu}$

4D Weyl-square  $W$  - supergravity exists for  $\mathcal{N} = 4, 3, 2, 1, 0$

One can also compute the fermionic  
as the scalar potential.



S-fold

Masses and couplings:  $M_W = g_W M_p$

In terms of string parameters:

$$M_p = M_s \sqrt{\mathcal{V}} \quad , \quad g_W = \frac{g_s}{\sqrt{\mathcal{V}}} = \frac{g_{YM}^2}{\sqrt{\mathcal{V}}} < g_{YM}$$

$\mathcal{V}$  : Internal volume

## Massless limit: two massless spin-two states

$$M_W \rightarrow 0 : \quad g_W \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{or} \quad M_p \rightarrow 0$$

$$S = \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} \left( \frac{1}{g_W^2} W_{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} W^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} + \dots \right)$$

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Theory becomes locally superconformal

Helicity zero component of spin-two state decouples

## Conjecture about holography:

$\mathcal{N} = 4$  spin-two superconformal Weyl supergravity on a 4D boundary (D3-branes) is holographically dual to  $\mathcal{N} = 8$  spin-four W - supergravity in the 5 D bulk theory.

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Spin-four operator on the boundary couples to spin-four field in the bulk:

$$J^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} = \text{ST}[W^{\mu\alpha\gamma\kappa}W^{\rho}_{\alpha\delta\kappa}W^{\nu}_{\beta\gamma\lambda}W^{\sigma\beta\delta\lambda}]$$

4D conformal dimension:  $\Delta_J = 8$

5D bulk mass:  $m^2\alpha' = (\Delta + s - 2)(\Delta - s + 2 - d)$

$$m^2 = 20/\alpha'$$

# Spin-two swampland conjecture:

D. Klaewer, D.L. , E. Palti, to appear

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Compare with WGC cut-off:  $\Lambda_{WGC} = g_{YM} M_p > \Lambda_W$

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Generic grounds state is de Sitter.

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Generic grounds state is de Sitter.

This is censored by the de Sitter swampland conjecture !



G. Obied, H. Ooguri, L. Spodyneiko, C. Wafa, 2018

## V) Summary

We have provided evidence for the existence of new  $N=7$ ,  $W$  - supergravity and  $W$  - superstring theories.

Strongly coupled theories with frozen graviton !  
(Strongly coupled phase of gravity ??)

- The internal space is non-geometric
  - modding out by T-duality.
- In 4D also modding out by S-duality
  - strongly coupled theory.
- In 4D also modding by large diffeomorphism -  
massive, topological theory.

No proof (yet) that these theories are fully consistent and full-fledged string theories.

But there exist fully consistent 2D non-geometric string construction with  $N=(20,8)$  supercharges (and also with  $N=(32,0)$ ,  $N=(24,24)$  and  $N=(48,0)$ ).

[I. Garcia-Etxebarria, I. Florakis, D.L., D. Regalado (2017)]

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[I. Garcia-Etxebarria, I. Florakis, D.L., D. Regalado (2017)]

Other exotic, strongly coupled gravity theories:  
 $(4,0)$  supergravity in six dimensions.

[C. Hull (2000)]

## Two new conjectures about $\mathcal{W}$ - supergravity:

Holographic duality: 4D spin-two  $\longleftrightarrow$  5D spin-four

New cut-off: spin-two scale

Should also hold for higher spins !

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# Thank you !