Quantum Corrected Effective Action of String and F-theory

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Mid to late 90s: a sense of unity and optimism

Prologue



Prologue



Post mid 2000s: full of uncertainty!

Motivation

• 10^{500} vacua or not, need to have control of quantum corrections (in g_s and α ') to understand the *vacuum structure* of string theory



- Some key issues in particle physics and cosmology are sensitive to Planck suppressed operators (e.g., gravity mediated SUSY, inflation,..).
- Non-perturbatively generated and higher dim. operators may explain small #s in Nature (e.g.,Yukawa/flavor hierarchies, v-masses, µ-term).

Summary of Our Work

A modest attempt to compute exact results on quantum corrected EFT of string compactifications (GHSS):

I. Garcia-Etxebarria, H. Hayashi, R. Savelli, GS, JHEP **1303**, 005 (2013).



I. Garcia-Etxebarria



H. Hayashi



R. Savelli

- Make use of string dualities to compute exact in g_s (albeit perturbatively exact in α ') Kahler potential in String/F-theory.
- See also Savelli's parallel talk on Tuesday.

F-theory

- Non-perturbative formulation of IIB string theory [Weigand's talk]
- SL(2,Z) symmetry on axiodilaton τ=C₀ + i e^{-Φ} seometrize τ as complex structure of a two-torus [Vafa];[Morrison,Vafa];...



- Aspects of F-theory EFT obtained so far have not fully exploited the geometrical nature of F-theory to describe non-perturbative physics; non-perturbative symmetries not manifest.
- GHSS: Geometric interpretation of quantum corrections in terms of Gopakumar-Vafa invariants; SL(2,Z) symmetry manifest.

Moduli Stabilization

- Perturbative α' corrections to K have played a key role in moduli stabilization, e.g, [Balasubramanian, Berglund, Conlon, Quevedo]
- $O(\alpha'^3)$ correction to K [Becker², Haack, Louis] was heavily used.
- O (g_s² α'²) corrections to K were found for some N=1,2 toroidal orientifolds, cancellations in V ("extended no-scale") [Berg, Haack, Kors];[Hebecker, von Gersdorff];[Cicoli, Conlon, Quevedo]
- We found an exact in g_s and all orders in α' generalization of these results. [Garcia-Etxebarria, Hayashi, Savelli, GS]
- Generalization is particularly important for moduli stabilization in F-theory GUTs as strong g_s coupling effects are invoked. [Cicoli, Mayrhofer, Valandro]; [Cicoli, Krippendorf, Mayrhofer, Quevedo, Valandro]

Summary of Strategy

- Consider a particular N=2 model: F-theory on K3 x K3
 - \rightarrow obtain exact in g_s, perturbatively exact in α ' Kahler potential
 - more constraining than N=Ibut yet exhibit similar features
 - → pattern of corrections N=4 \rightarrow N=2 as guide for N=1 case.
- Extensive use of string dualities and the c-map:



F-theory Effective Action

Effective Action

• F-theory is an exact completion (in g_s) of IIB but is perturbatively defined in α '. At tree-level in α ': $\mathcal{K} = \mathcal{K}_K + \mathcal{K}_c$,

where $\mathcal{K}_K = -3 \log \mathcal{V}_{CY_4}$, $\mathcal{K}_c = -\log \int_{CY_4} \Omega_4 \wedge \bar{\Omega}_4$,

• In the weakly coupled IIB orientifold limit (Sen's limit):

$$\mathcal{K}_c = -\log(\mathrm{Im}S_0) - \log i \int_{\mathrm{CY}_3} \Omega_3 \wedge \bar{\Omega}_3 + \frac{g_s}{2i \int_{\mathrm{CY}_3} \Omega_3 \wedge \bar{\Omega}_3} \mathcal{K}_{\mathrm{D7}} + \mathcal{O}(g_s^2)$$

- Kc contains all g_s corrections sum in an SL(2,Z) invariant way.
- Physics depends on intrinsic fibration structure!
 Labels
 (monodromies) of 7-branes change, not their mutual relations.
- Target space duality in M-theory when CY4 is trivially fibered but this symmetry holds generally for elliptically fibered CY4.

SL(2,Z)

- Strong-weak coupling transformation: Local Lagrangian?
- Gauge couplings of gauge fields from KK reduction of bulk SUGRA or 7-branes do not change under SL(2,Z), e.g.,

$$\frac{1}{g_{\rm YM}^2} \sim \frac{{\rm Vol}(4{\rm -cycle})}{g_s} = \widehat{\rm Vol}(4{\rm -cycle}),$$

only Einstein frame volumes are involved, SL(2,Z) inv.

- We shall verify that each α'-tower of corrections displays an SL(2,Z) symmetry for F-theory on K3xK3.
- More general than the case in [Collinucci, Soler, Uranga] as fibration is non-trivial; yet enjoy the non-renormalization theorems for N=2, and admits multiple dual descriptions.

F/M-theory Picture



- Reduce M to IIA along A.
- T-dualize IIA to IIB along **B**.
- Take the $v^0 = Vol(T^2) \rightarrow 0$ limit.
- Type IIB string theory with varying axio-dilaton.
 - IIB metric in Einstein frame and 10d Poincaré $r = (v^0)^{-3/4}$.
 - The finite quantity $v_s^{\alpha} = \sqrt{v^0} v_M^{\alpha}$ is the 2-cycle size in string units.
- M-theory scale is <u>small</u> compared to string length $l_M/l_s = (v^0)^{1/4}$.
 - → Look for higher derivative corrections to 11d sugra which survive the F-theory limit $v^0 = Vol(T^2) \rightarrow 0$.

Our Model & Its Heterotic Dual

Our Model

- Consider Type IIB orientifold on K3 $\times T^2/Z_2$
- 4 Fixed points: positions of 4 O7-planes wrapping R^{1,3} x K3
- N=2, D=4 Compactification:
 - Vector multiplets:
 - ▶ 3 bulk: axio-dilaton (S), K3 volume (T), T² cplx str. (U).
 - I6 brane: transverse positions of D7-branes (Cⁱ).
 - No D3-moduli (16 rigid, space-time-filling, "half" D3s).
 - Hypermultiplets: complex structure of K3 and Kahler modulus of T².
- Focus on quantum corrections to the metric of the vector multiplet moduli space (a Special Kahler manifold).

Duality Dictionary

• We computed such corrections by following the duality

 $\begin{array}{cccc} \text{S-duality} & \text{T-duality} \\ \text{Heterotic} & \longleftrightarrow & \text{Type I} & \longleftrightarrow & \text{Type I'} \end{array}$

• Heterotic & Type I are a strong-weak coupling dual-pair in 10d:

• Upon further T-duality, the vector moduli space gets mapped to:



5-brane instantons & worldsheet instantons in heterotic become
 D3 instantons and D(-1) instantons in Type I'.

Threshold Corrections

• Special Kahler geometry (N=2 prepotential):

$$K = -\log i \left[2\mathcal{F} - 2\bar{\mathcal{F}} - \sum_{\alpha} (\phi^{\alpha} - \bar{\phi}^{\alpha}) \left(\partial_{\phi^{\alpha}} \mathcal{F} + \partial_{\bar{\phi}^{\alpha}} \bar{\mathcal{F}} \right) \right]$$

- Use CFT techniques to compute all α' corrections in heterotic dual by going to orbifold limit (2-cycle volumes in hypers.)
 - Kahler potential for Type IIB orientifold, exact in gs
- First, ignore the Wilson Lines: [Harvey, Moore];[Henningson, Moore]

$$\mathcal{F}_H(S_H, T_H, U_H) = \hat{S}_H T_H U_H + h(T_H, U_H),$$

$$\hat{S}_H = S_H + \frac{1}{2} \partial_{T_H} \partial_{U_H} h(T_H, U_H) \,,$$

exact in α ', perturbatively exact in g_s .

• $S_H \rightarrow S_H + \lambda$ is an exact symmetry in perturbation theory. F_H (and S_H) has no perturbative corrections beyond one loop in $g_s = I/Im S_{H_s}$.

Threshold Corrections

• Prepotential for Type IIB Orientifold:

$$F(S, \hat{T}, U) = S\hat{T}U + h(S, U),$$
$$\hat{T} = T + \frac{1}{2}\partial_S\partial_U h(S, U)$$

exact in $g_s = I/Im S$, perturbatively exact in $\alpha'^2 = I/Im T$.

• In the region Im S > Im U

$$h(S,U) = -\frac{i}{(2\pi)^4} \left[\operatorname{Li}_3\left(e^{2\pi i(S-U)}\right) + \sum_{\substack{k,l \ge 0\\(k,l) \ne (0,0)}} c(kl) \operatorname{Li}_3\left(e^{2\pi i(kS+lU)}\right) \right] + \frac{15i}{2\pi^4} \zeta(3) + \frac{U^3}{12\pi},$$

where
$$\operatorname{Li}_{m}(z) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{z^{n}}{n^{m}}, \qquad \sum_{n=-1}^{\infty} c(n)z^{n} = \frac{E_{6}E_{4}}{\eta^{24}}(z)$$

S, U interchanged when Im U > Im S.

Threshold Corrections

- Kahler potential is invariant under shift of F (also h) by a polynomial at most quadratic in Φ^a with real coefficients.
- Ambiguity in h is related to non-trivial monodromies at special regions of moduli space.
- h develops co-dim. 1,2 singularities due to enhanced gauge symmetry.
- Classical duality group is modified, but K should be unaffected.

Perturbative α' Corrections

• Expand the log to get perturbative α ' corrections to K:

$$\begin{split} K(S,T,U) &= K^{(0)}(S,T,U) + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n} K^{(n)}(S,T,U) \,, \\ K^{(0)}(S,T,U) &= -\log \left[-i(S-\bar{S})(T-\bar{T})(U-\bar{U}) \right] \,, \\ K^{(n)}(S,T,U) &= -\frac{(-1)^n}{(T-\bar{T})^n} \left[\frac{2h-2\bar{h}}{(S-\bar{S})(U-\bar{U})} - \frac{\partial_S h + \partial_{\bar{S}} \bar{h}}{U-\bar{U}} - \frac{\partial_U h + \partial_{\bar{U}} \bar{h}}{S-\bar{S}} \right. \\ &\left. - \frac{1}{2} (\partial_S \partial_U h - \partial_{\bar{S}} \partial_{\bar{U}} \bar{h}) \right]^n \,. \end{split}$$

- Only $(g_s \alpha')^{2n}$ terms survive since $\partial_S h \longrightarrow 0$ exponentially for $S \longrightarrow i\infty$
- α'^3 term of BBHL is absent since χ (K3 x T²)=0.
- Odd powers of g_s are absent as open string moduli are frozen.

Perturbative α' Corrections

• Kahler modulus and axio-dilaton mix at α'^2 order (n=1):

$$K^{(1)} = -\frac{\mathcal{E}(U,\bar{U})}{(T-\bar{T})(S-\bar{S})} \qquad \qquad \mathcal{E} := \lim_{S \to i\infty} \frac{2h-2\bar{h}}{U-\bar{U}} - \partial_U h - \partial_{\bar{U}}\bar{h} \,.$$

agrees with I-loop open string computation [Berg, Haack, Kors]

- Such corrections come from (i) KK exchange between D7s and non-mobile D3s, or (ii) Mobius amplitude between parallel D7s.
- (I/Im T)² (I/Im S)⁰ correction which comes from exchange of strings wound around the intersection of D7s is absent as two D7s either do not intersect or coincide, and K3 has no I-cycle.
- At each perturbative α ' order, the Kahler potential is inv. under

 $O(2,2,\mathbb{Z}) = SL(2,\mathbb{Z})_S \times SL(2,\mathbb{Z})_U \rtimes \mathbb{Z}_2$

• Generalized to include Wilson lines & checked SL(2,Z) invariance.

Summary of Corrections



- ✓ Terms non-perturbative in g_s from D(-1) instantons.
- ✓ Only $(g_s \alpha')^{2n}$ terms survive at perturbative level
- $\checkmark \alpha'^3$ term of BBHL is absent since χ (K3 x T²) = 0.
- ✓ No odd powers of g_s , as open string moduli are frozen.

Non-perturbative in α ' corrections are not included in this analysis:

- WS & D1 instantons are absent due to orientifold projection.
- ED3 wrapping T² x (2-cycle of K3) correct hyper. moduli sp. metric.
- SL(2,Z) invariant ED3 branes wrapping K3 (more later) not included here.

Non-perturbative α ' Corrections

- ED3 wrapping K3 are non-perturbative in both α ' and $g_{s.}$
- Their contribution is trivially SL(2,Z) invariant.
- The exact prepotential:

$$\mathcal{F} = \hat{S}\hat{T}U - \frac{\hat{T}}{2}\sum_{i=1}^{16} (C^i)^2 + \tilde{h}(\hat{S}, U, C^i) + \sum_m \mathcal{A}_m(\hat{S}, U, C^i)e^{2\pi i mT}$$

- The A-factor can be computed from the Type IIA dual on a CY₃ which admits a K3 fibration over S².
- D3 instantons→worldsheet instantons wrapping S² on the IIA side. Partial results were obtained in [Berglund, Mayr].

Lift to F-theory

Heterotic Picture

- Type IIB orientifold on K3 x T²/Z₂ is related by two T-dualities to the BSGP model [Bianchi,Sagnotti];[Gimon,Polchinski]
- The BSGP model is S-dual to heterotic SO(32) theory w/o vector structure [Bianchi];[Witten], though its maximal gauge group is U(16).
- Heterotic SO(32) without vector structure is dual to heterotic $E_8 \times E_8$ with instanton embedding (12,12).
 - At generic points of the hypermultiplet moduli space, only U(1)⁴ is left, corresponding to S_H, T_H, U_H, and the graviphoton.
- Heterotic SO(32) with vector structure is dual to heterotic $E_8 \propto E_8$ with different instanton embedding.
 - Not enough instantons for complete Higgsing to U(1)s. Need to turn on WLs, e.g., (24,0) instanton embedding requires 8 WLs.

Heterotic Picture

- We focus on the vector multiplet moduli space.
- When WLs are turned off, prepotential of the theory w/o vector structure matches that w/ vector structure.
- This insensitivity to instanton embedding (and hence 4D gauge groups) can be explained using the relation to SUSY index [Lopes Cardoso, Curio, Lust]. We also showed this by explicit computation.
- Expressions for heterotic SO(32) and E₈xE₈ with general instanton embeddings & WLs can be found in [Henningson, Moore].

F-theory Picture

- 8D duality: Heterotic on $T^2 = F$ -theory on K3
- Heterotic on K3 x T^2 = F-theory on K3 x K3
- Our model actually admits more F-theory duals.
- If the heterotic K3 admits an elliptical fibration over P¹, we get an F-theory dual on $X_3 \times T^2$ where X_3 =K3 fibration over P¹:
 - Same X₃ on which the dual IIA theory compactified [Louis, Sonnenschein, Theisen, Yakielowicz].
 - Base of X₃ as an elliptical fibration is an Hirzebruch surface F_n, with n related to the instanton embedding of the dual heterotic E₈xE₈ theory [Morrison, Vafa].
 - X₃ = WP_{1,1,2,8,12} (24) for (12,12) instanton embedding [Klemm, Lerche, Mayr];[Hosono,Klemm,Theisen,Yau]

Quantum Corrections

- We checked that the classical vector multiplet moduli space matches the classical moduli space of K3'.
- Quantum corrections \rightarrow Quantum moduli space of K3'.
 - Factorization destroyed but SK-geometry preserved.
- Identify BPS objects in M-theory which generate the corrections found. Recall the M-theory definition of F-theory:



T-duality circle S_T

M-theory circle S_M

Quantum Corrections

- ♦ Non-perturbative g_s corrections: D(-1) instantons in IIB → D0-brane in IIA looping along $S_T \rightarrow KK$ particle in 11D with non-trivial p_M & w_T.
 - For trivial fibration: higher derivative corrections to IID SUGRA
 [Green,Gutperle];[Green,Vanhove];[Green,Gutperle,Vanhove];[Green,Sethi]
 - \rightarrow Contribute to R⁴ coupling $\rightarrow \alpha'^3$ correction of BBHL
 - Non-trivial fibration: contributions already at order α'^2
 - For these I_M corrections to stay finite in the F-theory limit, they should appear as powers of $l_M^2/\sqrt{v_0}$ because of the relation:

$$l_M/l_s = (v_0)^{1/4}$$

A subset of higher derivative corrections to IID SUGRA (F-theory limit)

Quantum Corrections

- Perturbative g_s corrections when combined with the nonperturbative ones lead to SL(2,Z) invariant sets of g_s corrections for each α' tower. This suggest:
 - ► IID supergravitons with non-trivial w_T but no p_M
 - IID supergravitons with non-trivial w_{M} , and possibly p_T

(c.f. [Green, Vanhove])

Being loops of I-cycle of the fiber, these sources should generate corrections proportional to $l_M^2/\sqrt{v_0}$, thus survive the F-theory limit.

Explicit Computation

Explicit Computation

- We have identified the BPS objects in M-theory responsible for the corrections to the vector multiplet moduli space metric for F-theory on K3xK3'.
- Direct Schwinger-loop calculation on K3' along the lines of [Collinucci, Soler, Uranga] is hard, due to non-trivial fibration.
- We make use of other F-theory duals to bypass this difficulty.

Chain of Dualities



Swapping the role of elliptic fiber of X₃ and F-theory fiber

- Hypermultiplet moduli space of a braneless F-theory
- M-theory method [Collinucci, Soler, Uranga] to compute corrections.
- However, this procedure gives more corrections than needed!
 - + IIA vector multiplet moduli space metric has only α ' corrections.
 - IIB hypermultiplet moduli space receives both α ' & g_s corrections.
 - Extract tree-level in g_s part of Schwinger-loop computation

(Note g_s here is neither g_s nor α ' of the original F-theory on K3xK3!)

M-theory Computation

- Hypermultiplet moduli space of F-theory on $X_3 \times T^2$
- D-instantons ↔ D-particles via c-map [Seiberg,Shenker];[Ooguri,Vafa]
- Compute corrections to the hypermultiplet moduli space (equiv. Einstein term (~R) in 3d effective action)



M-theory Computation

Compute Schwinger-loops for X₃ =WP_{1,1,2,8,12} (24)

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{F}_{\text{class}} &= \frac{1}{6} \kappa_{\alpha\beta\gamma} t_{\alpha} t_{\beta} t_{\gamma} \,, \\ \mathcal{F}_{\text{pert}} &= -\frac{i}{4(2\pi)^{3}(\tau_{2})^{3/2}} \,\chi(X_{3}) \, \sum_{(m,n) \neq (0,0)} \frac{\tau_{2}^{3/2}}{|m\tau + n|^{3}} \,, \\ \mathcal{F}_{\text{non-pert}} &= \frac{i}{2(2\pi)^{3}(\tau_{2})^{3/2}} \, \sum_{\mathbf{d}} n_{d_{\alpha}} \, \sum_{(m,n) \neq (0,0)} \frac{\tau_{2}^{3/2}}{|m\tau + n|^{3}} \, e^{2\pi i d_{\alpha} (mc_{\alpha} + nb_{\alpha} + i|m\tau + n|j_{\alpha})} \end{aligned}$$

- $\kappa_{\alpha\beta\gamma}$ = classical intersection # of X₃
- $n_{d\alpha}$ = genus-zero Gopakumar-Vafa invariants of X₃
- $c_{\alpha,} b_{\alpha,} j_{\alpha}$ = zero modes of the RR 2-form, the B-field, & the Kahler form expanded in a basis of H^{1,1}(X₃,Z)
- Displays SL(2,Z) for each perturbative α ' tower; also contains non-perturbative α ' corrections again in SL(2,Z) inv. manner.

Final Result

• To derive corrections to the vector multiplet moduli space metric of the *original* F-theory on K3xK3, consider the limit:

 $g_s \to 0, \quad i.e., \quad \tau_2 \to \infty$

• Matches with the heterotic computation. Identify:

$$-\frac{1}{2}n_{l+k,-k,l-k} = c(lk)$$

- Counting rational curves via modular forms [Henningson, Moore].
- c(lk) agree with GV invariants in [Hosono, Klemm, Theisen, Yau].
- Given GV invariant for the 0-class is the Euler number:

$$n_{0,\dots,0} = -\frac{\chi(X_3)}{2}$$

• GV invariants \approx non-perturbative (in g_s) generalization of the BBHL term (albeit here the α ' corrections are of order α ⁽²).

Generalizations

- To generalize this result to include 7-brane moduli Cⁱ, one considers X₃ with the right number of vector multiplet.
- For example, with 8 Cⁱ switched on, use $X_3 = WP_{1,1,12,28,42}$ (84) as $\mathcal{F}_{vector\ multiplet.}$ should be insensitive to instanton embedding.
- Repeat the Schwinger-loop computation with a different set of topological invariants.

Summary

- Computed the *exact* in g_s , perturbatively exact in α ', vector multiplet moduli Kahler potential \mathcal{K} of an N=2 F-theory model.
- Provided an M/F-theory interpretation of corrections to the Kahler potential and identified the contributing BPS states.
- Shown explicitly that quantum corrections to the Kahler potential are SL(2,Z) invariant at each α ' level.
- Shown that Kahler moduli & complex structure moduli start to mix when perturbative α ' corrections are taken into account.
- Provided a genuine (albeit indirect) M-theory computation.

Outlook

- A modest step towards the ambitious goal of computing exact results for realistic compactifications.
- Even within the realm of N=2 compactifications, we have focussed on the easiest half of the problem, i.e., *vector multiplet* moduli.
- It'd be interesting to apply the remarkable work on understanding quantum corrections to the hypermultiplet moduli space, see e.g.,: [Robles-Ilana,Rocek,Saueressig,Theis,Vandoren];[Alexandrov,Saueressig,Vandoren]; [Pioline,Persson];[Bao,Kleinschmidt,Nilsson,Persson,Pioline];[Alexandrov]; [Alexandrov,Saueressig];[Alexandrov,Manschot,Pioline];...

in F-theory as we have done for the vector multiplet moduli.



Outlook



- The Holy Grail is to find non-pert. results for $N \le I$ compactifications.
- The pattern of corrections from N=4→N=2 that we found may serve as a guide for further breaking to N=1. More concretely:
 - **★** Compute directly D-particle loops for non-trivial elliptic fibration
 - ★ Spontaneously breaking N=2→N=1 (e.g, by fluxes); sometimes inherit structure of N=2 effective action. See, e.g., [Ferrara, Girardello,Porrati]; [Fre,Girardello,Pesando,Trigiante][Louis,Symth,Triendl], ...
- More α' corrections arise in N=1 String/F-theory vacua (albeit only tree-level g_s result in [Grimm, Savelli, Weißenbacher]; [Pedro, Rummel, Westphal])
- Any such progress would undoubtedly shed light on the vacuum structure of string theory and its low energy descriptions.

