

# Generalized Complex Geometry in String Theory

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# Introduction

What?

String theory **beyond** Calabi-Yau manifolds

Why?

- Emerging language might be of fundamental significance
- Are CY vacua special?
- Mirror symmetry, topological models...

Generalized complex geometry is the emerging language

reformulates metric in terms of differential forms

$$g \text{ determined by pair } (\Phi_+, \Phi_-) \quad \Phi = \sum_k \text{form}_k$$

compatible  $Cl(6,6)$   
pure spinors

Example:

$$\begin{array}{ll} \Phi_+ = e^{iJ} & \Omega \text{ defines } Gl(3,C) \text{ structure} & J \wedge \Omega = 0 \\ \Phi_- = \Omega & J \text{ defines } Sp(6,R) \text{ structure} & J^3/3! = i\Omega \wedge \bar{\Omega} \end{array}$$

- makes natural to relate metric and fluxes (as susy should require)

vacua

black hole attractor

IIB:

$$d\Phi_- = 0$$

$$\partial_r \Phi_- = f + i * f + |Z| \bar{\Phi}_-$$

$$d\Phi_+ = F + i * F + dA \wedge \bar{\Phi}_+$$

$$\partial_r \Phi_+ = 0$$

- puts order in arrays of possibilities

- example: (2,2) models ( $\sim \mathcal{N} = 2$  supergravity vacua, RR=0)

- know and love: Kähler

- [GatesHullRocek'84]:  $J_+$  for right-movers  
 $\neq J_-$  for left-movers

... neither is Kähler

all these cases are **generalized Kähler**  
[Gualtieri'04]

$$\left[ \Leftrightarrow (d + H \wedge) \Phi_{\pm} = 0 \right]$$

- similarly for supergravity:

- SU(3), SU(2)...

- different fluxes

# Plan

- Worldsheet models; an application (K3s)
- Supergravity vacua
  - (Black holes and topological models)

# Pure spinors

Internal spinors define geometries:

$$\eta_+^1 \otimes \eta_+^{1\dagger} = \frac{1}{6} \Omega_{mnp} \gamma^{mnp} \equiv \Omega$$

[Fierz]

Ex.:

$$\epsilon_1^{10} = \epsilon_+^4 \otimes \eta_1^+ + \text{c. c.}$$

$$\epsilon_2^{10} = \epsilon_\pm^4 \otimes \eta_2^+ + \text{c. c.}$$

6d spinors

via  $v^{1,0} \wedge \Omega = 0$  :

almost complex structure ( $c_1 = 0$ )  
 (dec.)  $\Omega \mid \Omega \wedge \bar{\Omega}$  nowhere zero

+  $d\Omega = 0 \Rightarrow$  complex ( $K = 0$ )

$$\eta_+^1 \otimes \eta_+^{1\dagger} = e^{iJ} \equiv 1 + iJ - \frac{1}{2}J^2 - \frac{i}{6}J^3$$

almost symplectic structure  
 $J \mid J^3$  nowhere zero

+  $de^{iJ} = 0 \Rightarrow$  symplectic

(CY: complex and symplectic)

$\Omega$  and  $e^{iJ}$  share a property

pure  $Cl(6,6)$  spinors

bispinors:

differential forms:

$\not\epsilon$

$C$

rep. for Clifford(6)xClifford(6)

rep. for Clifford(6,6)

For tensor products:

$$\gamma^m \not\epsilon$$

=

$$\left[ \cancel{(dx^m \wedge + g^{mn} \omega_n)} \right] \text{“gamma matrices”}:$$

contractions  $\nu_L$

since

$$\not\epsilon_{\pm} \gamma^m$$

=

$$\pm \left[ \cancel{(dx^m \wedge - g^{mn} \omega_n)} \right] \text{Wedges } \omega_{\pm}$$

$$\gamma^{\bar{i}} \eta_+ = 0$$

$\Downarrow$

$$Ann(\eta_+^1 \otimes \eta_+^{2\dagger}) = 3 + 3$$

$\Phi$  is called pure if

$$Ann(\Phi) = 6$$

Generalized Calabi-Yau:

$$d\Phi = 0$$

[Hitchin, Gualtieri...]

# Pairs of pure spinors determine a metric

$g$  symmetric:

Just as  $(J, j) \mapsto g_{mn} = j_m^p J_{pn}$  almost symplectic structure  $(J, j)$  “compatible”

$(\Phi_+, \Phi_-) \mapsto g^{mn} = \mathcal{J}_+^{mp} \mathcal{J}_-^n + \mathcal{J}_+^m \mathcal{J}_-^{pn}$  almost complex structure

$SU(3) \times SU(3)$  structure

$\Phi \mapsto \mathcal{J} \equiv (f = \text{Re}\Phi)$

$$\left[ \begin{array}{c|c} \mathcal{J}^{mn} = (f \wedge dx^m \wedge dx^n \wedge f)_{\text{top}} & \mathcal{J}_m{}^n = (f \wedge \partial_m \lrcorner dx^n \wedge f)_{\text{top}} \\ \hline \mathcal{J}^m{}_n = (f \wedge dx^m \wedge \partial_n \lrcorner f)_{\text{top}} & \mathcal{J}_m{}^n = (f \wedge \partial_m \lrcorner \partial_n \lrcorner f)_{\text{top}} \end{array} \right]$$

$$\mathcal{J}^2 = -1_{6+6}$$

[Hitchin; Gualtieri]  
[Kapustin, Orlov'00]

really: generalized trivial can. bundle

its eigenspaces are closed under Courant “Lie bracket for  $T \oplus T^*$ ”

$\mathcal{J}$  integrable: generalized complex

$(d + H \wedge) \Phi = 0$ : generalized Calabi-Yau

$(\mathcal{J}_+, \mathcal{J}_-)$  integrable: generalized Kahler

$(d + H \wedge) \Phi_{\pm} = 0$ : generalized Calabi-Yau metric



# Worldsheet

(1,1) models: no conditions on geometry  $\delta X^m = \epsilon Q X^m$

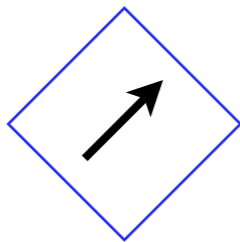
(2,1): impose extra susy  $\delta_+ X^m = \epsilon^+ j^m_n(X) D_+ X$

susy algebra  $\Rightarrow j$  is complex structure

[Hull]

invariance of action  $\Rightarrow [J = j \cdot g] \quad \partial J = iH^{2,1} \quad (\Leftrightarrow dJ = j \cdot H)$

$\text{Ann}(\Phi_+) \cap \text{Ann}(\Phi_-)$   
closed under Courant  
[Grana, Minasian, Petrini, AT]



“one  $\mathcal{J}$  and a half  
are integrable”

less directly related to GCG

$\exists$  (3,0) form  $\Omega$  for  $j \Rightarrow \mathcal{N} = 1$  supergravity vacuum

[Strominger]

and  $d\Omega = W\Omega = 0$

(“ $K = 0$ ”)

[toy model:  $\int d\theta^+ S_m D_+ X^m$  (2,0)  $\Leftrightarrow$  generalized complex]

[Lindstrom, Minasian, AT, Zabzine]

(2,2):  $\delta_{\pm} X^m = \epsilon^{\pm} j_{(\pm)n}^m D_{\pm} X$

- usual case:  $j_+ = j_- \Rightarrow$  Kähler

also:  $\int d^2\theta d^2\bar{\theta} K(\mathbb{X}, \bar{\mathbb{X}})$  chiral  $\mathcal{N} = 2$  superfields

- in general:  $j_{\pm}$  complex,  $dJ_{\pm} = \pm j_{\pm} \cdot H \Rightarrow$  generalized Kähler  
[GatesHullRocek] [Gualtieri]

- $[j_+, j_-] = 0 \Rightarrow \int d^2\theta d^2\bar{\theta} K(\mathbb{X}, \bar{\mathbb{X}}, \mathbb{Y}, \bar{\mathbb{Y}})$  "twisted chirals"

- $[j_+, j_-] \neq 0$  algebra only works **on-shell**

add extra fields  $\Rightarrow$  off-shell formulation exists!  $\int d^2\theta d^2\bar{\theta} K(\text{chirals, twisted chirals, "semichirals"})$

generator for canonical transformation from  $z_+^i$  to  $z_-^i$ .

[Lindstrom, Rocek, vonUnge, Zabzine]

Again,  $\exists$  closed(3,0) forms  $\Omega_{\pm}$  for  $j_{\pm} \Rightarrow \mathcal{N} = 2$  supergravity vacuum  
 $(d + H \wedge) \Phi_{\pm} = 0$  [Jeschek, Witt]

Ex.: **Enriques** surface  $c_1 = 0$  but  $K \neq 0 \Rightarrow$  no spacetime susy [Sharpe]

# Application: K3

[Huybrechts]  
[Aspinwall-Morrison]

$$\begin{matrix} & & 1 & & & \\ & & 0 & & 0 & \\ 1 & & 20 & & 1 & \\ & & 0 & & 0 & \\ & & 1 & & & \end{matrix}$$

- Moduli space of metrics:
- $H^2(K3)$  has signature (3, 19)  $(\alpha, \beta) \equiv \int \alpha \wedge \beta$
- $(\text{Re}(\Omega), \text{Im}(\Omega), J)$  span 3-plane w/ positive signature  
(and can be rotated in one another)

$$\Rightarrow \mathcal{M}_{\text{hK}} = \{ \text{such planes} \} \equiv Gr(3, 19) = \frac{SO(3, 19)}{SO(3) \times SO(19)}$$

- Compactify type II on K3:  $g : (3 \times 19) \quad B : 22 \quad \phi : 1 \Rightarrow 80$

4-planes in  $\mathbb{R}^{4,20}$ ? Why?

$$\mathcal{M}_{\text{string}} = \frac{SO(4, 20)}{SO(4) \times SO(20)}$$

- $H^{\text{even}} = H^0 \oplus H^2 \oplus H^4$  has signature (4, 20)

- $(\Phi_+, \Phi_-)$  span 4-plane w/ positive signature

$$\{(\Phi_+, \Phi_-)\} = \mathcal{M}_{2,2}$$

$$S^2 \times S^2 \downarrow$$

$$\{ \text{4-planes} \} = \mathcal{M}_{4,4}$$

Mirror symmetry:  $\Phi_+ \leftrightarrow \Phi_-$

# Vacua

[Grana, Minasian, Petrini, AT]

- **IIA, IIB**: Most general 4d vacua that preserve

- $\mathcal{N} = 1$ :  $\delta_\epsilon \psi_m = 0$   $\delta_\epsilon \lambda = 0$

- $RR \neq 0$

- 4d Poincaré  $g_{10} = e^{2A} g_4 + g_6$

$$F^{(10)} = F + \text{vol}_4 \wedge *F \quad F = \sum_k F_k$$

define differential

$$d_H(\cdot) \equiv e^{-2A+\phi} (d + H \wedge) (e^{2A-\phi} \cdot)$$

- then  $\exists (\Phi_+, \Phi_-)$

$$\begin{aligned} d_H \Phi_+ &= 0 \\ d_H \Phi_- &= dA \wedge \bar{\Phi}_- - \\ &\quad - \frac{1}{16} [c_- e^{A+\phi} F^t - i e^{A-\phi} c_+ *F] \end{aligned} \quad \text{IIA}$$

$$\begin{aligned} d_{-H} \Phi_- &= 0 \\ d_{-H} \Phi_+ &= dA \wedge \bar{\Phi}_+ + \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{16} [c_- e^{A+\phi} F + i c_+ e^{A-\phi} *F^t] \end{aligned} \quad \text{IIB}$$

$c_\pm$  integration constants  $M_6$  compact:  $\Rightarrow$  orientifold  $\Rightarrow c_- = 0$

- all (Minkowski) vacua are generalized Calabi-Yau  $(d + H \wedge) \Phi = 0$

[AdS generalization exists; “generalized half-flat”]

- Re :  $c_- F^t = 16(d + H \wedge)(e^{A-\phi} \text{Re} \Phi_-) \Rightarrow (d - H \wedge) F = 0$

Im :  $c_+ e^{4A} *F = -16(d + H \wedge)(e^{3A-\phi} \text{Im} \Phi_-) \Rightarrow (d + H \wedge) e^{4A} *F = 0$

compact  $\Rightarrow c_- = 0 \Rightarrow (d - H \wedge) F = \text{sources}$

- brane action DBI  $\left( \geq \int e^{3A-\phi} e^B \text{Im} \Phi_- \right) + \text{CS} \left( = \int e^{4A} e^B \tilde{C} \right)$

$\int_{\text{pullback bulk}}^{\text{IV}} \text{form} \rightarrow \text{closed} \Rightarrow \text{calibrated cycles}$

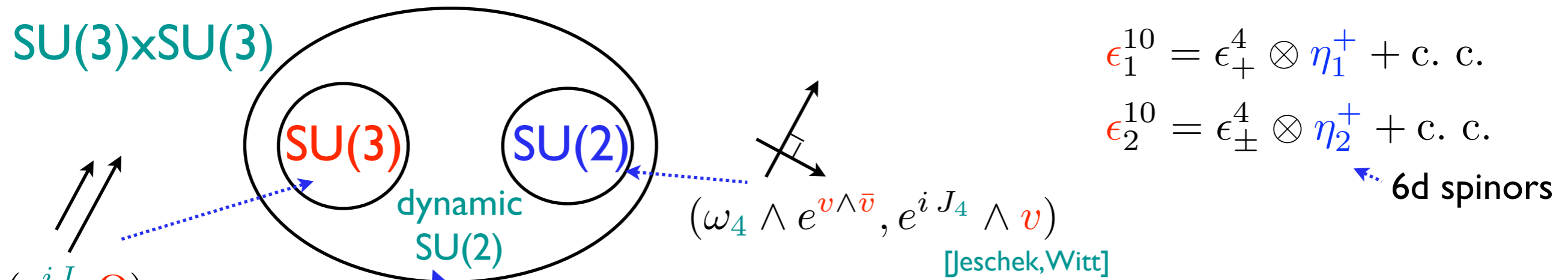
$\Rightarrow c_+ e^{4A} *F = -16(d + H \wedge)(e^{3A-\phi} \text{Im} \Phi_-)$

[Martucci, Smyth]  
gK:[Koerber]

- should also be derivable from  $SU(3) \times SU(3)$  prepotentials  $\mathcal{P}_\alpha(\Phi_\pm)$

[Vafa; LawrenceMcGreevy; GMPT]  
[GranaLouisWaldram]

- mirror symmetry?  $\Phi_+ \longleftrightarrow \Phi_-$



Popular  $SU(3)$  subcases: (all complex)

- **conformal CY;**  $F_3 + \tau H$  is  $(2, 1)$  and primitive;  $F_3 \wedge H + \text{sources} = dF_5$   
 $\Rightarrow \neq 0 \Rightarrow O3s, D3s$   
**D3** [GranaPolchinski, DasguptaRajeshSethi, GiddingsKachruPolchinski, KlebanovStrassler]

- can combine with **F-theory** (no longer conf. CY) but dual to CY **fourfold**  
**D7**

fake global issue:  
 seemingly  $c_1 = 0$ , but  
 must allow "S-duality  
 trans. functions"

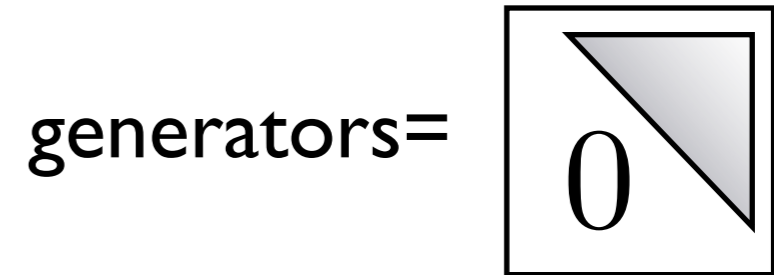
Less popular (non CY):

- $(dJ - ie^\phi F_3)_{\text{prim}}^{1,2} = 0$  [MaldacenaNunez] **D5**
- $(dJ - iH)^{1,2} = 0$  [Hull; Strominger] **NS5** not inside classification (RR  $\neq 0$ )

These cases are in correspondence with spacetime-filling **branes**

- Look inside a class: **nilmanifolds**

group manifolds;  
exponential of  
Lie algebras

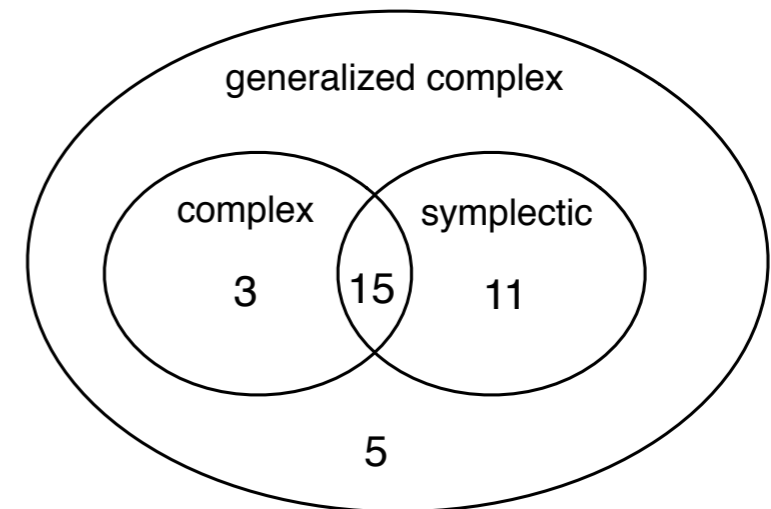


- All generalized complex  $d\Phi = 0$

- Action of orientifolds on  $\Phi_{\pm}$  is known

- All is left is to solve  $d\Phi' = *F$

- mod out by T-dualities:



[Cavalcanti, Gualtieri]

[Kapustin, Orlov'00(!)]

Ex.  $f^1_{ab} \xrightarrow{T_1} H_{1ab}$   
 $e^{i(12+34+56)} \xrightarrow{T_1} (1 + i2)e^{i(34+56)}$

three T-dualities  
 $\left[ \sqrt{|g|}e^B \Omega \longrightarrow \sqrt{|g|}e^{-B} e^{iJ} \right]$

[Fidanza, Minasian, AT]

- So far we have found only **T-duals of torus**

- Extending to **solvmanifolds**: compactness issues

[Saito; Auslander]

● take inspiration from generalized Kähler examples?

several  $(\Phi_+, \Phi_-)$  on  $\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^2$

compact, (2,2) models;  
but  $c_1 \neq 0$

[Gualtieri]  
[Hitchin]  
[Lin, Tolman;...]

- from deformations of ordinary Kähler

gen. deformations of ordinary complex structure:

$$\delta\Omega = \beta \lrcorner \Omega$$

bivector

$$H^0(\Lambda^2 T) \oplus H^1(T) \oplus H^2(\mathcal{O}) (= HH^2)$$

[Gerstenhaber, Schack]

ordinary  
complex def.

- from “generalized Kähler quotient”

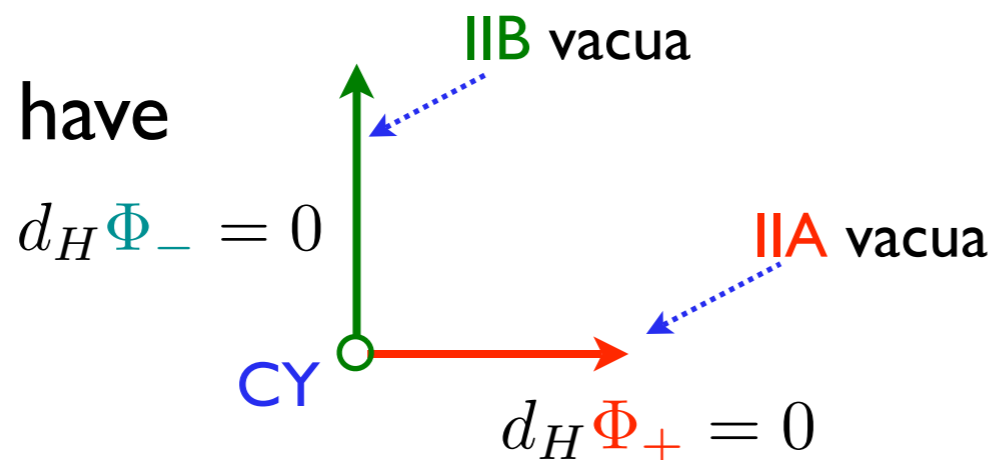
● Proof of concept:  $\mathcal{N} = 2$  string theory vacua do exist

[Chuang, Kachru, AT]

- obtained from effective 4d theory and non-CY transitions

- $0 \neq g_s \ll 1$  ; regions of strong curvature  $\Rightarrow$  not in 10d supergravity

● So we have





# Black holes

[Hsu, Maloney, AT]

... rather than vacua, again from compactification on  $M_6$

$$ds^2 = e^{2A(y)} \left[ \text{4d black hole metric} \right] + g^{\text{internal}}(r, y)$$

$$F^{(10)} = F + \text{vol}_4 \wedge *F + \text{vol}_{S^2} f + *_4 \text{vol}_{S^2} *f \quad f = \sum_k f_k$$

I.  $\forall r$  pure spinors describe  $\mathcal{N} = 2$  vacuum (with RR! “twice  $\mathcal{N} = 1$ ”)

II. at the horizon:  $f = \text{Im}(\bar{C}\Phi_-^{14})$  [attractor equation]

$$\text{CY: } f = \text{Im}(\bar{C}\Omega_-)$$

When can we solve it?

[Hitchin]:

[pointwise:] If and only if  $-\text{Tr}[\mathcal{J}(f)]^2 \equiv q(f) > 0$

$\int \sqrt{q(f)}$  is nothing but the  
horizon area

Clearly it had to be  $q > 0$ .

[ but: indirect extra  
constraint on  $\Phi^{14}$  ]

via [Ooguri,Vafa,Strominger] these black holes should be related to a

# Topological model

on a **symplectic** or **complex** manifold

- from a generalized Kahler  $(\mathcal{J}_+, \mathcal{J}_-)$   $\Rightarrow$  (2,2) model  $\xrightarrow{\text{twisting}}$  topological model [Kapustin]

- do we really need **both**?

For **SU(3)**:

suggested picture: [GMPT]

A	$de^{iJ} = 0$
B	$d\Omega = 0$
gen.	$d\Phi = 0$

- On CY: A independent of complex moduli
- On CY: B independent of symplectic moduli
- in fact: A defined on any symplectic manifold

[Alexandrov,Kontsevich,  
Schwarz,Zaboronsky]

use BV to produce topological models

So far it works well for  $[j_+, j_-] \neq 0$

[Zucchini; Pestun]

# Summary

## Supergravity

## Worldsheet (weaker)

	conditions ( $\sim$ )	geometry	compact?		cond.	geometry
$\mathcal{N} = 2$ RR=0	$(d + H \wedge) \Phi_{\pm} = 0$	“generalized CY metric”	no	(2,2)	$(\mathcal{J}_+, \mathcal{J}_-)$ integrable	generalized Kähler
$\mathcal{N} = 1$ RR $\neq$ 0	$(d + H \wedge) \Phi = 0$ $(d + H \wedge) \Phi' =$ $+c_- F + ic_+ *F$	generalized CY + “RR=gen.Nij.”	$c_- = 0$			
$\mathcal{N} = 1$ RR=0	$(d + H \wedge) \Omega = 0$ $\partial J = iH^{2,1}$	generalized CY +...?	no	(2,1)	“ $\mathcal{J} + 1/2$ integrable”	generalized complex +...?

$\mathcal{N} = 2$   
RR $\neq$ 0 “=twice  $\mathcal{N} = 1$  „  
RR $\neq$ 0

## Topological model

### Other dimensions:

3+8 [Tsimpis]

3+7 [Jeschek, Witt]

classical	anomaly	top. string
$\mathcal{J}$ integrable	$(d + H \wedge) \Phi = 0$	?

# Conclusions

- GCG nicely classifies vacua
- What is the use of this geometry?
  - Is this deep?