



# Exceptional symmetry as a symmetry principle for sigma models

David Osten (University of Wrocław)

Workshop on Noncommutative and Generalized Geometry  
in String theory, Gauge theory and Related Physical Models,

Corfu, September 22<sup>th</sup>

based on: 2402.10269, 2306.11093, 2103.03267



Uniwersytet  
Wrocławski



POLONEZ BIS

# Motivation

**(Non-linear)  $\sigma$ -models?** big class of theories for model building & fundamental physics

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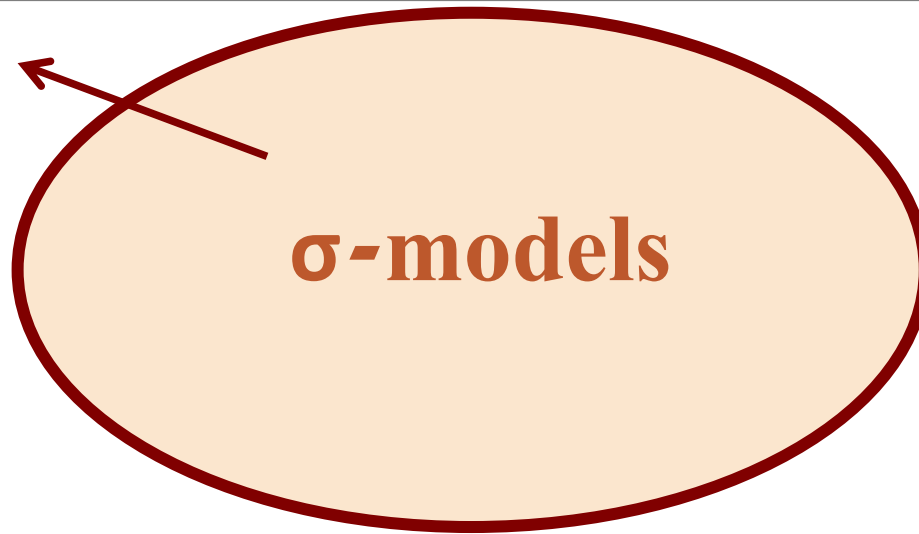
**$\sigma$ -models**

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**Particle physics**  
effective theories of  
mesons, skyrmions

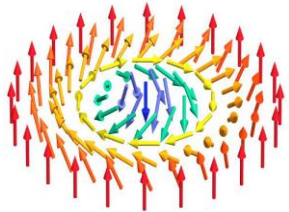


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**$\sigma$ -models**

## Condensed matter

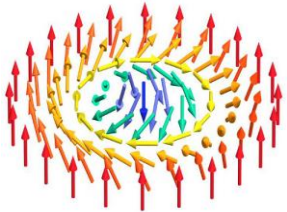
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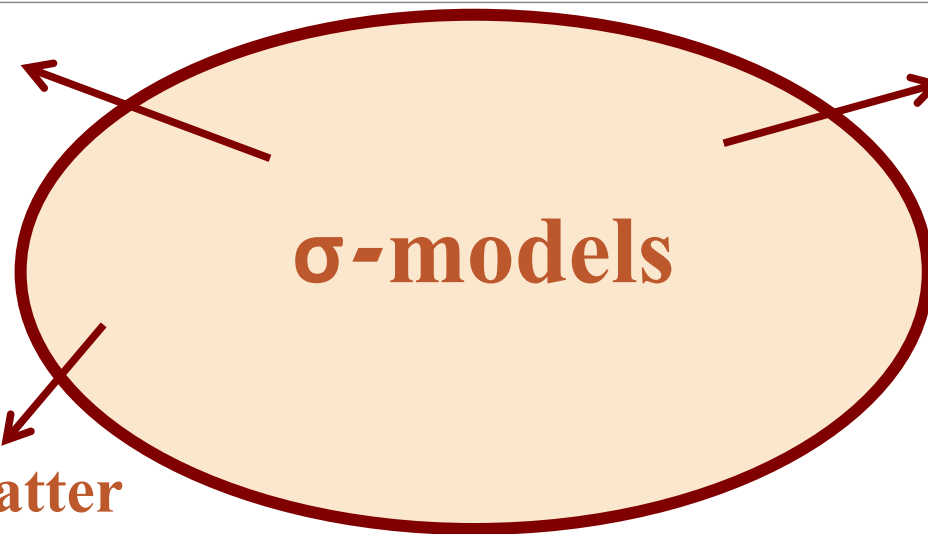
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## Gravity

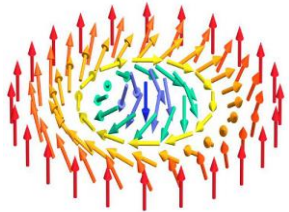
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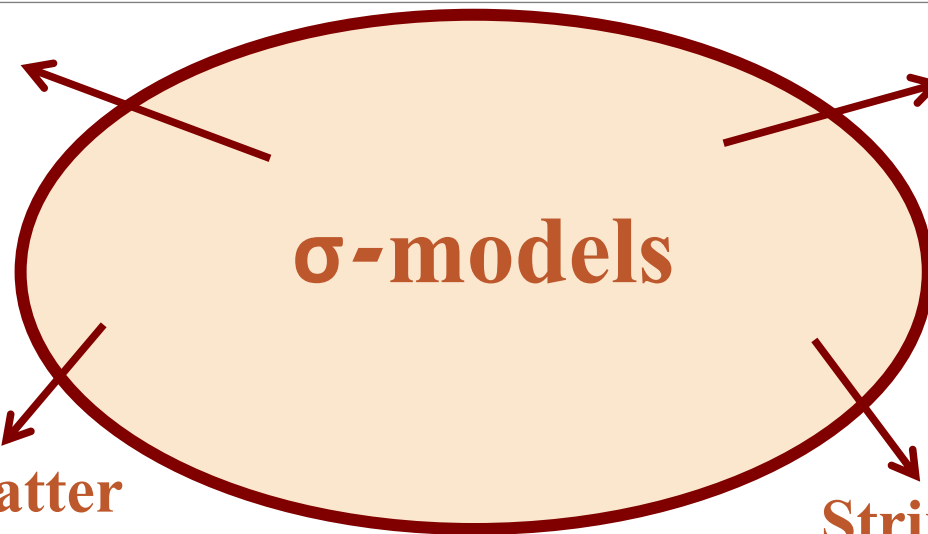
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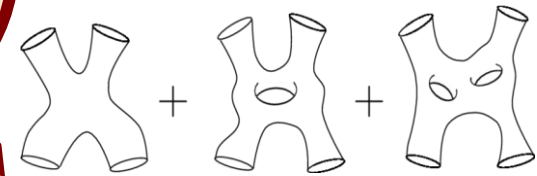
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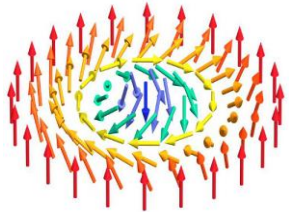
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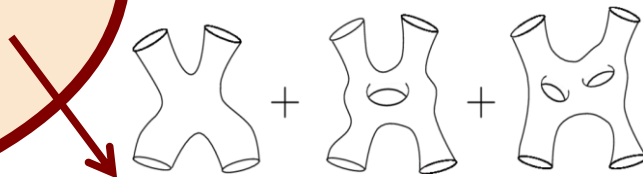
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## String and M-theory

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**integrability** (*exactly solvable models*),  
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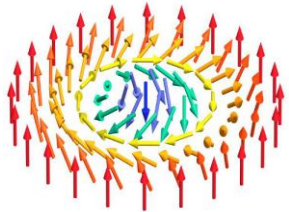


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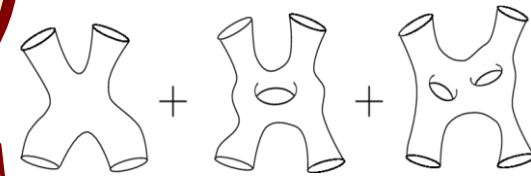
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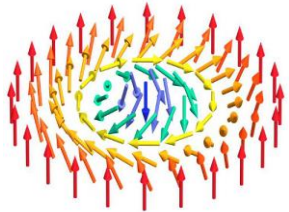
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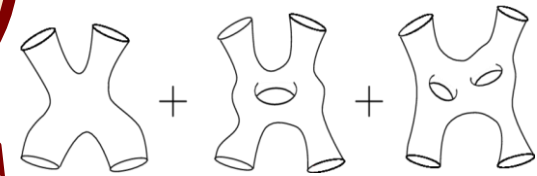
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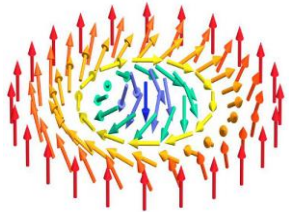
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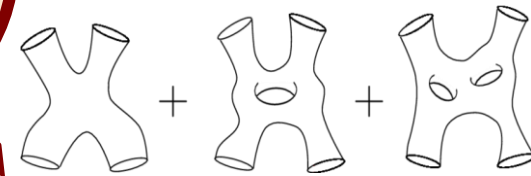
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**this talk**

(new symmetry principle (exceptional covariance) for special class of  $\sigma$ -models (sigma models with diff-invariance))

# Programme

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1. Sigma models
2. (Exceptional) generalised geometry
3. exceptional covariance as a symmetry property

# (Non-linear) $\sigma$ -models

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$$L \sim g_{mn}(x) \partial_\alpha x^m \partial^\alpha x^n (+C_{m_1 \dots m_p}) \partial_{\alpha_1} x^{m_1} \dots \partial_{\alpha_p} x^{m_p} \epsilon^{\alpha_1 \dots \alpha_p}$$

- fields  $x : \Sigma \rightarrow M$   
 $\sigma^\alpha$ : coordinates of  $\Sigma$ ,  $p = \dim \Sigma - 1$   
 $x^m$ : coordinates on field (target) space  $M$ ,
- 'coupling constants':  $g$  is a metric tensor on  $M$ ,  $C$  a  $(p+1)$ -form potential

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$p$	physical model	$\Sigma$	$M$	$C?$
1	point particle coupling to GR and EM	world-line	space-time	$A_\mu$
2	2d materials (continuum limit of spin chains, ...)	material	$O(3), O(N), \dots$	-
	(first quantised) string	world-sheet	space-time	yes
	Geroch model (GR with 2 Killing vectors)	eff. space-time	$SL(2, R)$	-
3	relativistic membrane (e.g. in M-theory)	world-volume	space-time	yes
4	effective theory for pions	space-time	$SU(N)$	-
	original Skyrme model	space-time	$\frac{SU(N) \times SU(N)}{SU(N)}$	Skyrme term

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with diff inv.

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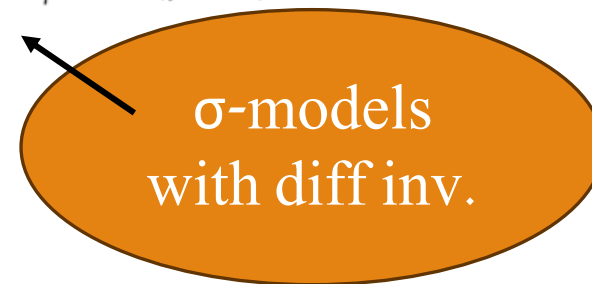
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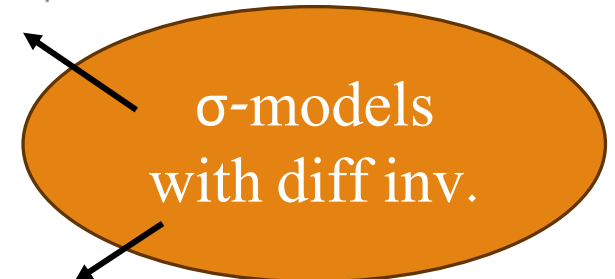
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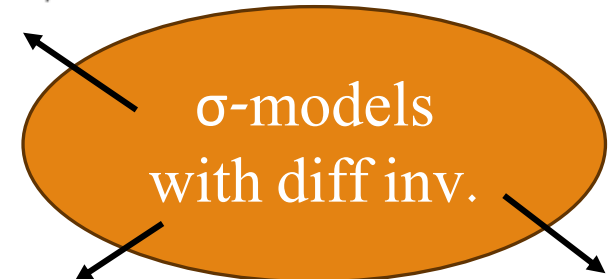
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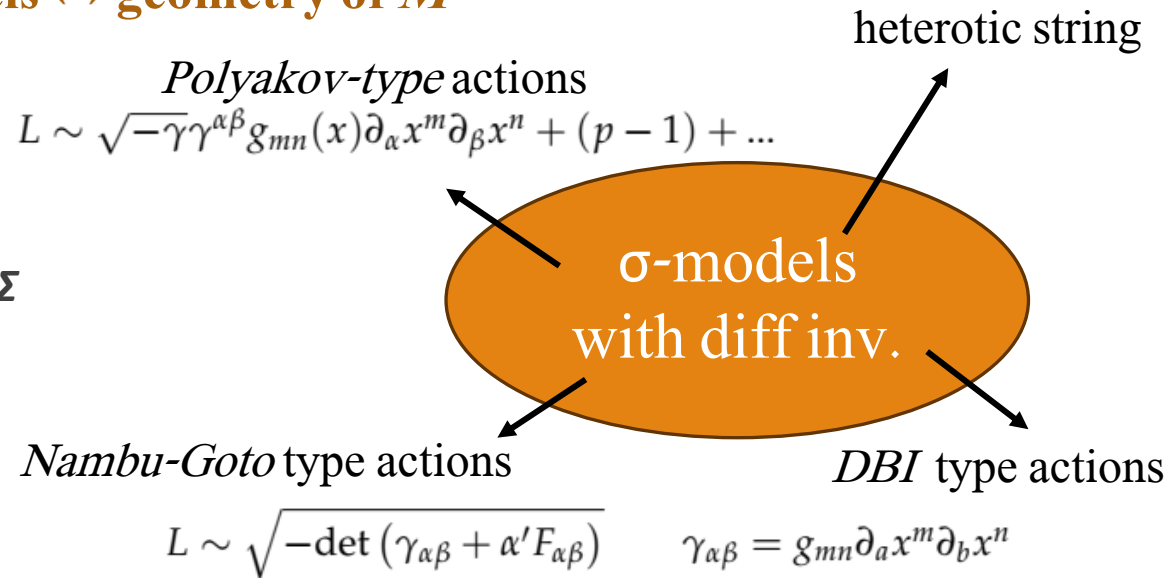
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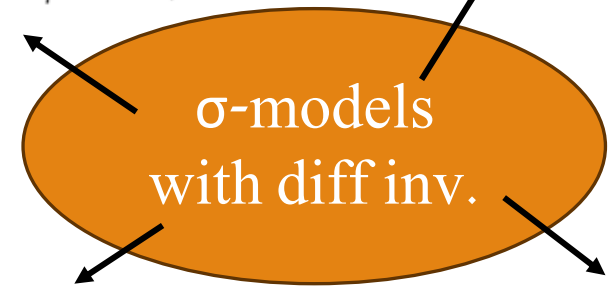
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heterotic string

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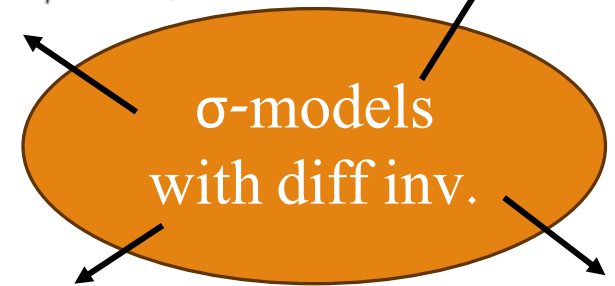
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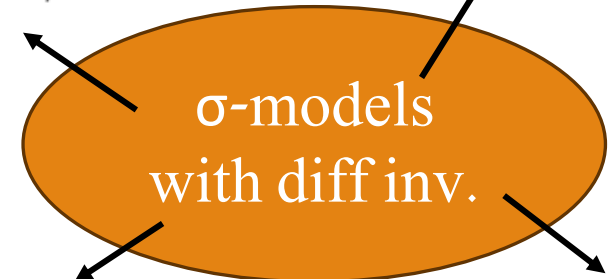
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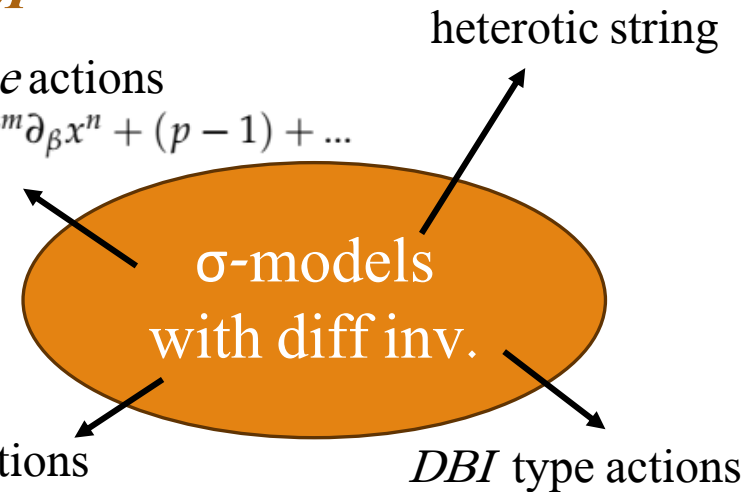
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- Covariance under exceptional generalised geometry restricts to  $\frac{1}{2}$ -BPS branes** (string, M-branes, D-branes, non-perturbative/exotic branes, ...) in supergravity [DO 21,23,24, building on Arvanitakis/Blair 17-22]  
 - only considering bosonic part (i.e. no supersymmetry necessary)

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- ex. 1: 2dim  $\sigma$ -models and  $O(d,d)$  generalised geometry  $S \sim \int (g_{mn} dx^m \wedge \star dx^n + B_{mn} dx^m \wedge dx^n)$

*[Siegel 92, Tseytlin 92]*

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- $O(d,d)$ -inv. metric:  $\eta = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$

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# Generalised geometry (overview)



	Riemannian geometry	Generalised Geometry
physical objects	metric $g$	metric $g$ , $(p+1)$ -form gauge fields $C, \dots$ , dilaton
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underlying bundle	tangent bundle $TM$	<i>,tensor‘ hierarchy of bundles</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• generalised tangent bundle <i>,<math>R_1</math>-bundle‘</i>: <math>TM \oplus \bigwedge^p T^*M \oplus \dots</math></li> <li>• <i>,<math>R_2</math>-bundle‘</i>: <math>\bigwedge^{p-1} T^*M \oplus \dots</math></li> <li>• ...</li> </ul>
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e.g. *,gauge transformations‘* for metric and  $p$ -form gauge field

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e.g. when interpreted as string/M-theory duality groups: **hidden symmetry made explicit**

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- example – membrane currents:

$$t_{M_1}^{(1)} = (p_m, dx^m \wedge dx^{m'}, 0, \dots)$$

$$t_{M_2}^{(2)} = (dx^m, 0, \dots)$$

$$t_{M_3}^{(3)} = (1, 0, \dots), \quad t_{M_q}^{(q)} = 0 \quad \text{for } q \geq 4$$

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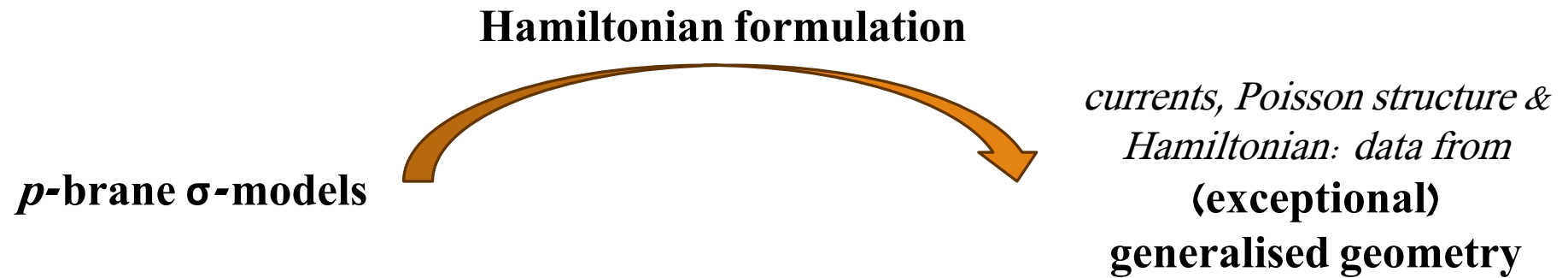
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***p*-brane  $\sigma$ -models**

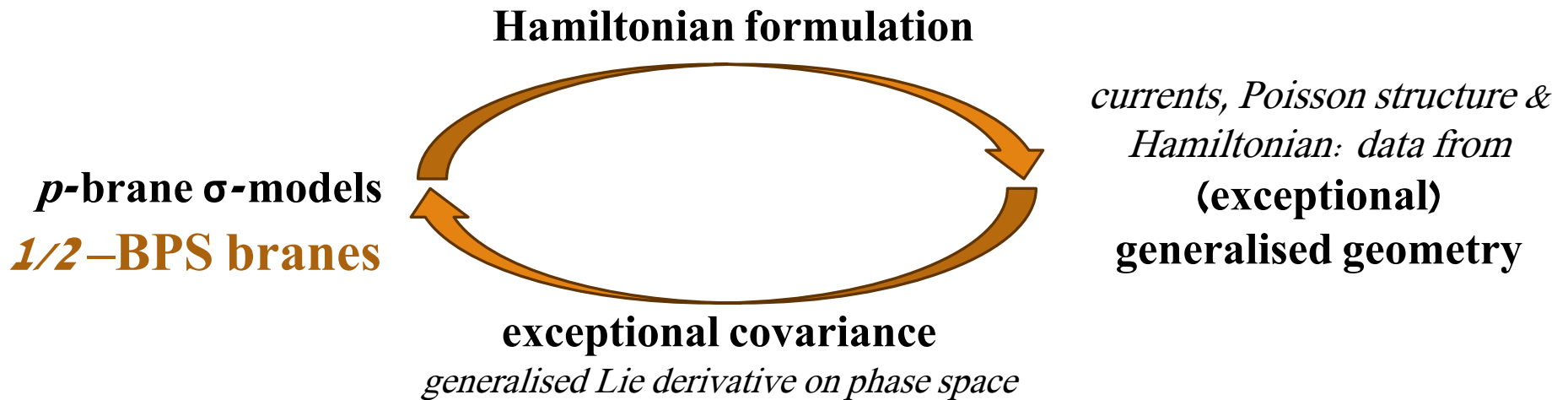
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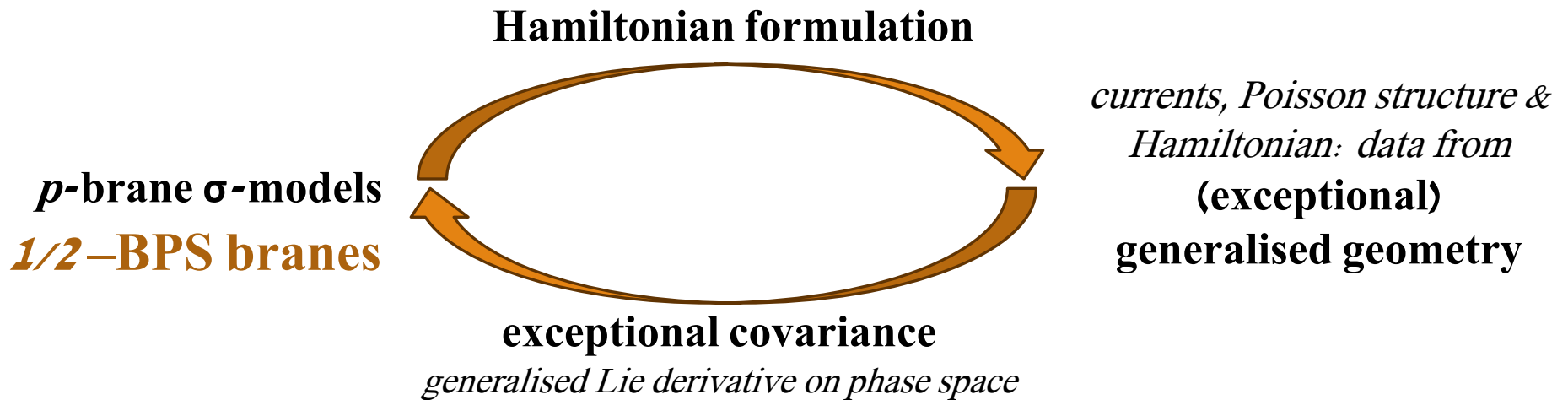
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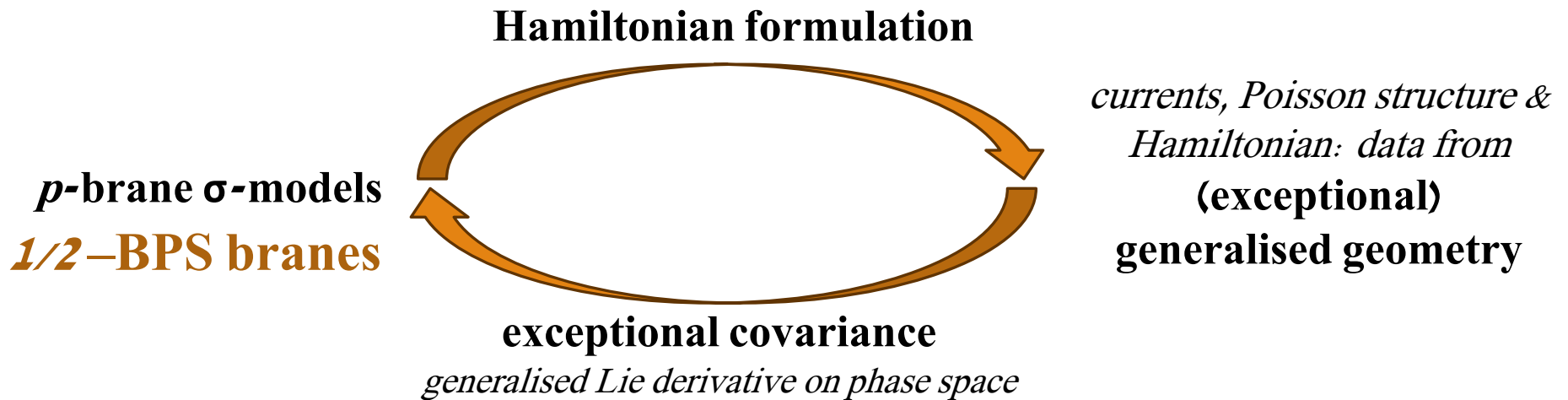
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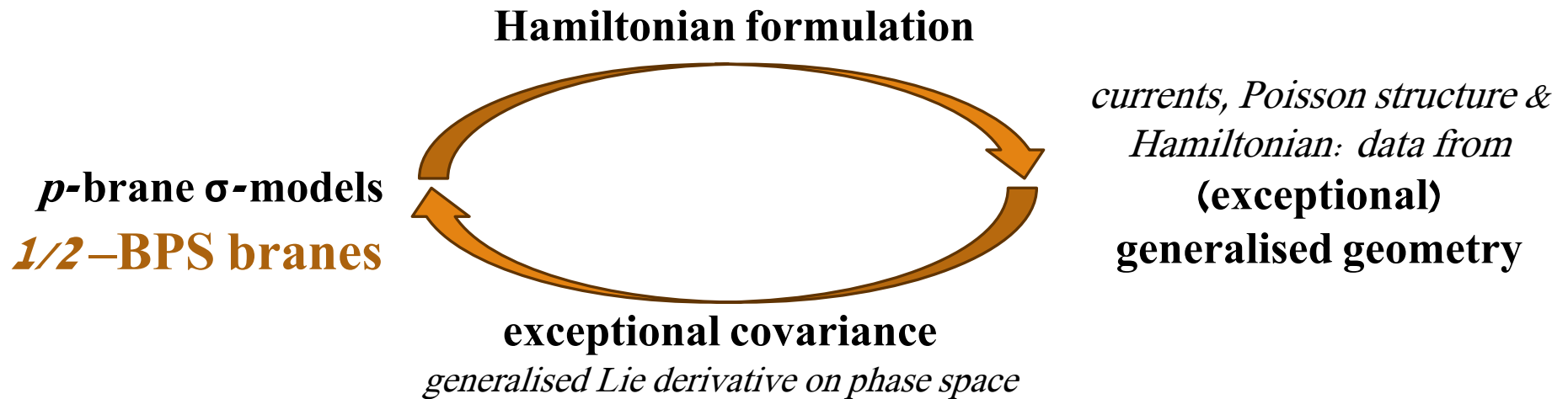
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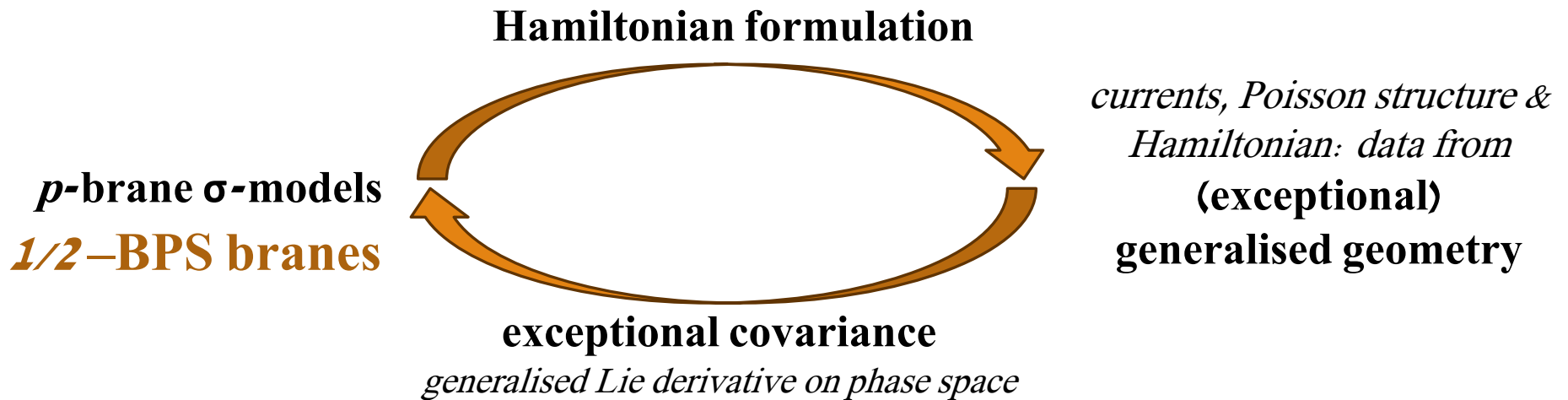
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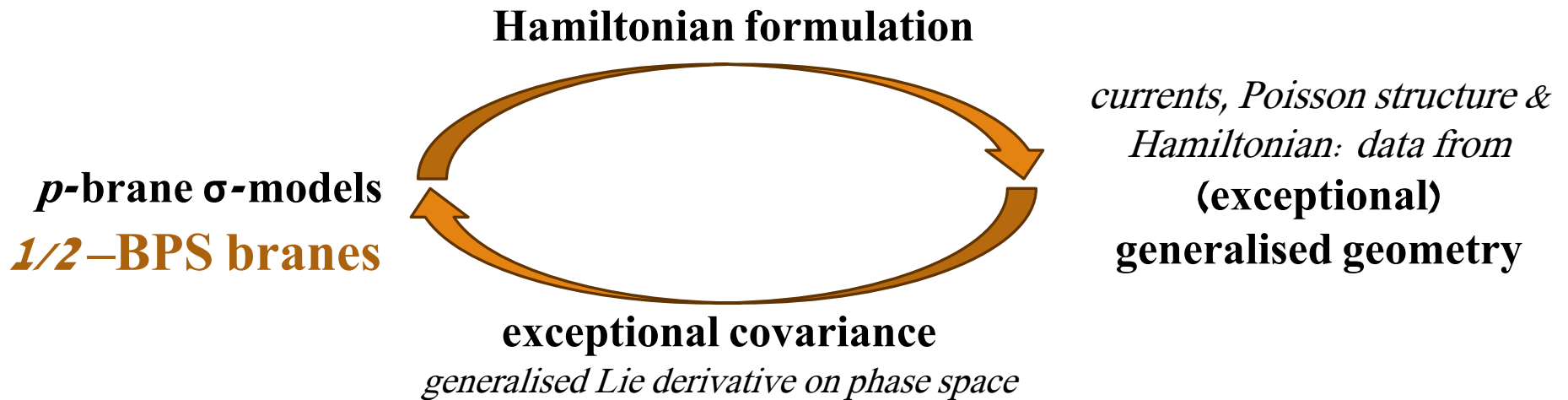
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- A-theory [\[Hatsuda, Hulik, Linch, Siegel, Wang, Wang 23\]](#) : non-conventional brane theories, without requiring exceptional covariance (brane charge constraints)

Thank you for your attention!