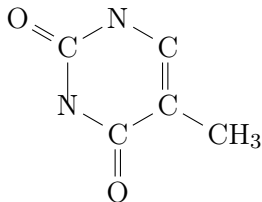
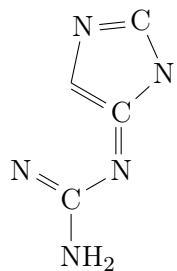
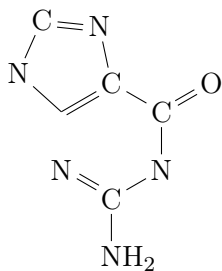
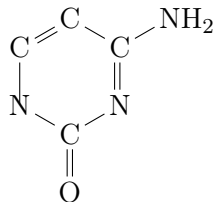


# $\alpha'$ -Bootstrap

or T-Duality covariance in supergravity



Falk Hassler



with Achilleas Gitsis (2412.17900, 2511.09615),  
and Luca Scala (2607.0548)



Uniwersytet  
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$$S = \int d^{26}x \sqrt{g} e^{-2\phi} \left[ R + (\nabla\phi)^2 - \frac{1}{12} H^2 + \frac{\alpha'}{4} \left( \frac{1}{24} H_i^{lm} H^{ijk} H_{jl}{}^n H_{kmn} + \frac{1}{8} H_{ij}{}^l H^{ijk} H_k{}^{mn} H_{lmn} + R_{ijkl} R^{ijkl} - H_i^{lm} H^{ijk} R_{jklm} - H_i^{lm} H^{ijk} R_{jlkm} - \nabla_{[k} H_{l]ij} \nabla^l H^{ijk} \right) + \dots \right]$$

Recipe (effective field theory):

- ▶ enumerate terms build from  $\nabla\phi$ ,  $H$ ,  $R$ , and  $\nabla$
- ▶ fix their coefficients by matching with string amplitudes or  $\beta$ -functions [\[here Metsaev, Tseytlin 87\]](#)

## Problem: Explosion of terms [Garousi, Razaghian 19; Garousi 20]

even after all possible:

- ▶ integrations by parts
- ▶ field redefinitions (using lower order field equation), like
- ▶ Bianchi identities, like

$$\int d^{26}x \sqrt{g} \nabla_i (e^{-2\phi} V^i) = 0$$

$$g_{ij} \rightarrow g_{ij} + \nabla_i \nabla_j \phi$$

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| order                | 1 | $\alpha'$ | $\alpha'^2$ | $\alpha'^3$ | ... |
|----------------------|---|-----------|-------------|-------------|-----|
| coefficients / terms | 3 | 8         | 60          | 872         | ?   |

Impossible to compute directly!

But still important for any application of string theory.

## Possible solutions: 1) T-duality constraints

[Meissner, Veneziano 91; Garousi; Codina, Hohm, Marques; Hornek, Wulff, Zacarias; ...]

sketch of the idea:

1. compactify on a  $d$ -dimensional torus

→ Kaluza-Klein vector fields  $A_i^\alpha$  and scalars  $h^{\alpha\beta}$

2. the resulting theory has to have a global  $O(d, d)$  symmetry (very complicated) [Sen 91]

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$$O(d,d) = \mathbb{R}^{d(d-1)/2} \rtimes GL(d) \rtimes \mathbb{R}^{d(d-1)/2}$$

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|                        |   |           |             |             |     |
|------------------------|---|-----------|-------------|-------------|-----|
| order                  | 1 | $\alpha'$ | $\alpha'^2$ | $\alpha'^3$ | ... |
| surviving coefficients | 1 | 1         | 0           | 1           | ?   |

## Possible solutions: 2) Bergshoeff-de Roo identification [Bergshoeff, de Roo 89]

1. take the action of the heterotic string @ leading order

$$S = \int d^{10}x \sqrt{g} e^{-2\phi} \left[ R + (\nabla\phi)^2 - \frac{1}{12} H^2 - \frac{\alpha'}{4} \text{tr} F^2 \right]$$

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2. identify the non-Abelian gauge potential  $A$  with the spin connection  $\omega^{(-)}$

$$A = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \omega^{(-)}$$

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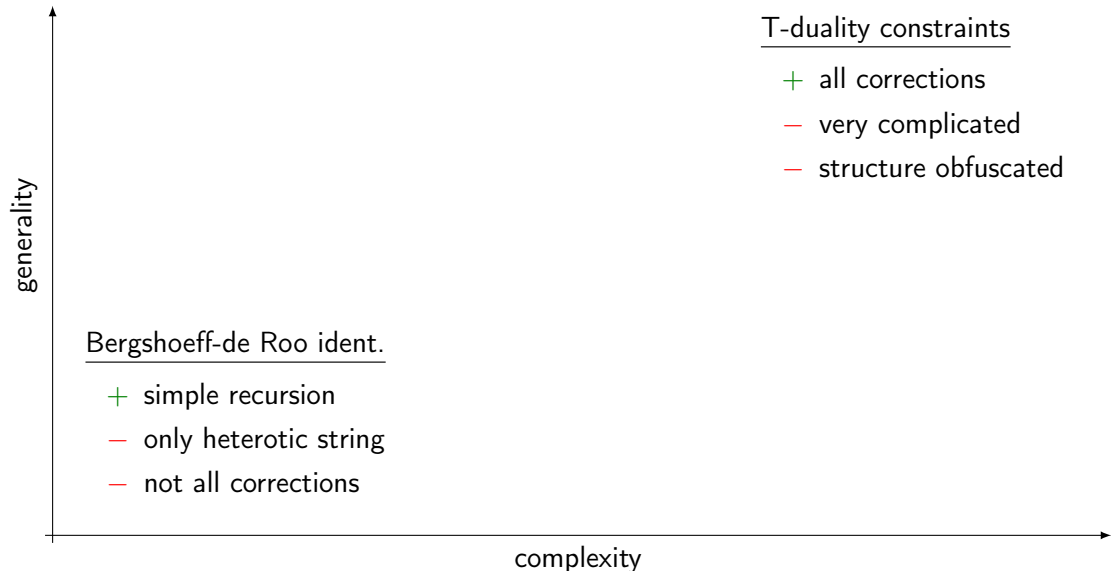
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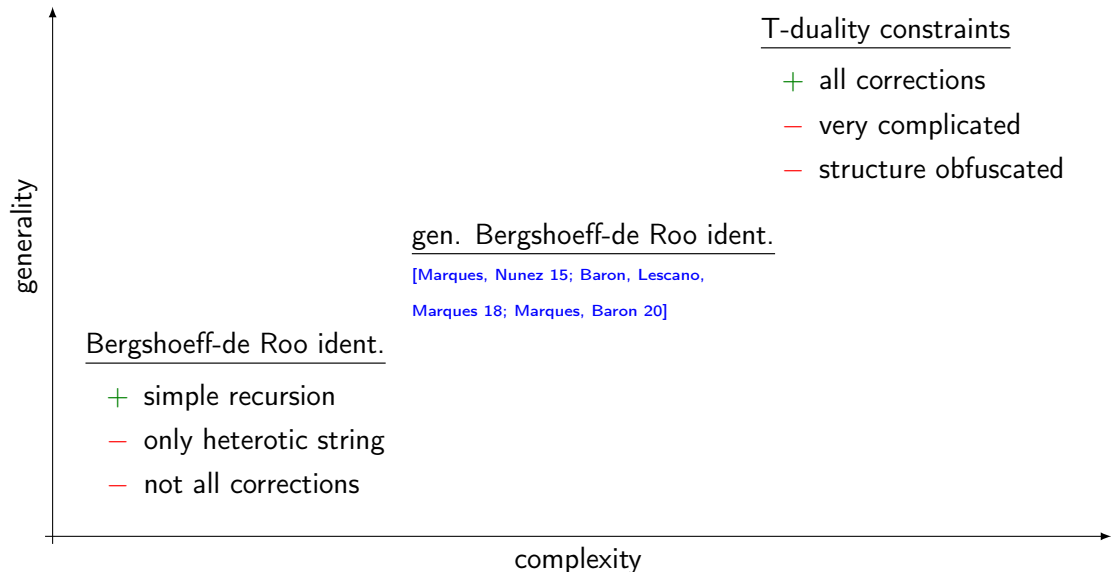
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ALL ORDER

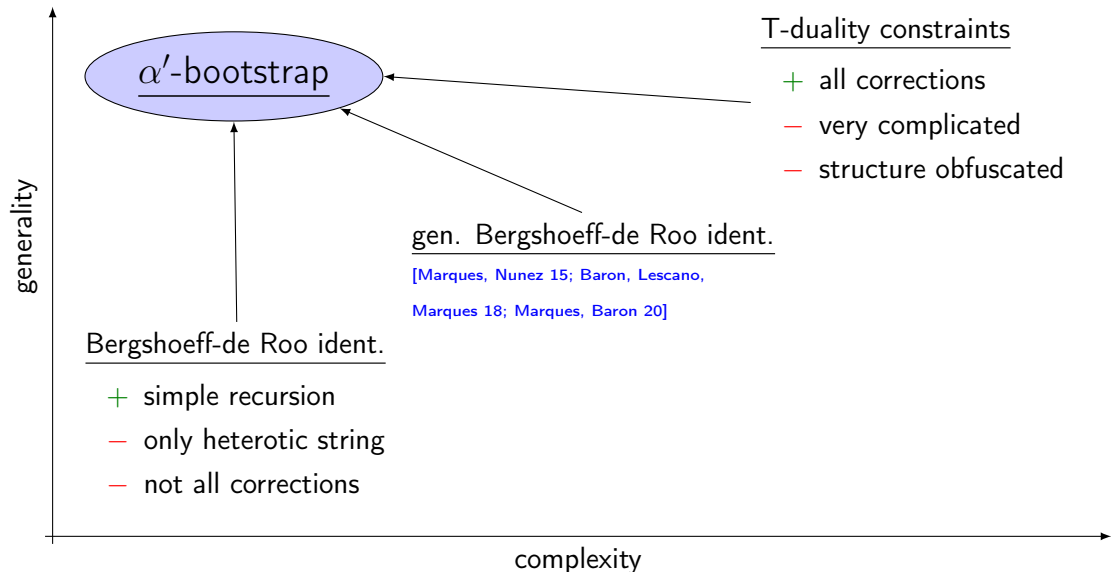
## A new approach



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## Idea: The best of both worlds

1. take a gauged, two-derivative action (similar to the heterotic string)

$$S = \int dx^D \sqrt{g} e^{-2\phi} \left[ R + 4(\nabla\phi)^2 - \frac{1}{12} \tilde{H}^2 - \frac{1}{4} F_{ij}{}^\alpha F^{ij\beta} h_{\alpha\beta} + \frac{1}{8} D_i h_{\alpha\beta} D^i h^{\alpha\beta} - V(h) \right]$$

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- ▶ vectors  $A_i^\alpha$  with non-Abelian field strength
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Problems:

- ▶ only  $g_{ij}$ ,  $B_{ij}$  and  $\phi$  are physical
- ▶ How to choose  $f_{\alpha\beta}{}^\gamma$  and  $\kappa_{\alpha\beta}$ ?

## Stage 1: Bye bye $A_i^\alpha$ and $h_{\alpha\beta}$ (the identification)

►  $h_{\alpha\beta} = \Pi^\gamma_\alpha \tilde{\kappa}_{\gamma\delta} \Pi^\delta_\beta$  is valued in the coset  $O(p, q)/(O(p) \times O(q))$

→  $p \cdot q$  independent components  $h_{\underline{\alpha}\bar{\beta}}$

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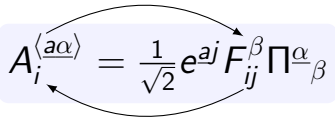
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example of identification:


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(similar for other components)

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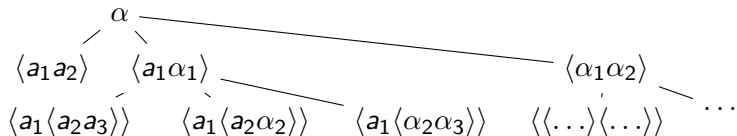
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► we split indices



## Stage 2: Fixing the gauge group

- combine tangent space and gauge group into  $V^{\mathcal{A}} = (V_A \quad V_\alpha) / W_{\mathcal{A}} = (W^A \quad W^\alpha)$   
where  $A$  splits like  $\alpha$ :  $A = (\underline{a} \quad \bar{a})$ ,  $\underline{a} = 1, \dots, D$  and  $\bar{a} = 1, \dots, D$

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- ▶ gauge group's structure constants are given by

$$f^{\langle \mathcal{A}_1 \mathcal{A}_2 \rangle \langle \mathcal{B}_1 \mathcal{B}_2 \rangle}_{\langle \mathcal{C}_1 \mathcal{C}_2 \rangle} = 2\delta_{[\mathcal{C}_1}^{[\mathcal{A}_1} \eta^{\mathcal{A}_2][\mathcal{B}_2} \delta_{\mathcal{C}_2]}^{\mathcal{B}_1]} - 2\delta_{[\mathcal{C}_1}^{[\mathcal{A}_1} f^{\langle \mathcal{B}_1 \mathcal{B}_2 \rangle | \mathcal{A}_2]}_{\mathcal{C}_2]} + 2\delta_{[\mathcal{C}_1}^{[\mathcal{B}_1} f^{\langle \mathcal{A}_1 \mathcal{A}_2 \rangle | \mathcal{B}_2]}_{\mathcal{C}_2]}$$

with

$$\eta^{\mathcal{A}\mathcal{B}} = \begin{pmatrix} \eta_{AB} & 0 \\ 0 & \kappa_{\alpha\beta} \end{pmatrix}$$

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original  $O(D, D)$  of T-duality

still needs to be fixed

- ▶  $\kappa_{\alpha\beta}$  has to be invariant,  $f_{\alpha(\beta}{}^\gamma \kappa_{\delta)\gamma} = 0$ , and chiral,  $\kappa_{\underline{\alpha}\bar{\beta}} = \kappa_{\bar{\beta}\underline{\alpha}} = 0$
- ▶ an obvious choice is the Killing metric scaled by  $a$  for  $\kappa_{\underline{\alpha}\underline{\beta}}$  and by  $b$  for  $\kappa_{\bar{\alpha}\bar{\beta}}$

## The Killing metric

- ▶ defined by  $\kappa^{\langle \mathcal{A}_1 \mathcal{A}_2 \rangle \langle \mathcal{B}_1 \mathcal{B}_2 \rangle} = f^{\langle \mathcal{A}_1 \mathcal{A}_2 \rangle \langle \mathcal{C}_1 \mathcal{C}_2 \rangle}{}_{\langle \mathcal{D}_1 \mathcal{D}_2 \rangle} f^{\langle \mathcal{B}_1 \mathcal{B}_2 \rangle \langle \mathcal{D}_1 \mathcal{D}_2 \rangle}{}_{\langle \mathcal{C}_1 \mathcal{C}_2 \rangle}$
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$$\kappa^{\langle \overline{\mathcal{A}}_1 \overline{\mathcal{A}}_2 \rangle \langle \overline{\mathcal{B}}_1 \overline{\mathcal{B}}_2 \rangle} = \frac{a}{2} \left( \eta^{\overline{\mathcal{A}}_1 [\mathcal{B}_1} \eta^{\overline{\mathcal{A}}_2 | \overline{\mathcal{B}}_2]} + f^{\langle \overline{\mathcal{A}}_1 \overline{\mathcal{A}}_2 \rangle [\mathcal{B}_1}{}_{\overline{\mathcal{D}}} \eta^{\overline{\mathcal{D}} | \overline{\mathcal{B}}_2]} + f^{\langle \overline{\mathcal{B}}_1 \overline{\mathcal{B}}_2 \rangle [\overline{\mathcal{A}}_1}{}_{\overline{\mathcal{D}}} \eta^{\overline{\mathcal{D}} | \overline{\mathcal{A}}_2]} \right)$$

► and  $a \rightarrow -b$  for  $\kappa^{\langle \underline{\mathcal{A}}_1 \underline{\mathcal{A}}_2 \rangle \langle \underline{\mathcal{B}}_1 \underline{\mathcal{B}}_2 \rangle}$

## The Killing metric

► defined by  $\kappa^{\langle \mathcal{A}_1 \mathcal{A}_2 \rangle \langle \mathcal{B}_1 \mathcal{B}_2 \rangle} = f^{\langle \mathcal{A}_1 \mathcal{A}_2 \rangle \langle \mathcal{C}_1 \mathcal{C}_2 \rangle} \langle \mathcal{D}_1 \mathcal{D}_2 \rangle f^{\langle \mathcal{B}_1 \mathcal{B}_2 \rangle \langle \mathcal{D}_1 \mathcal{D}_2 \rangle} \langle \mathcal{C}_1 \mathcal{C}_2 \rangle$

► infinite because  $\mathcal{A} = 1, \dots, \mathcal{N}$  with  $\mathcal{N} \rightarrow \infty$

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► example:  $\kappa_{\langle \overline{a} \overline{b} \rangle \langle \overline{c} \overline{d} \rangle} = \frac{a}{2} \eta_{\overline{a}} [\overline{c} \eta_{\overline{d}}] \overline{b}$

## Bootstrapping the identification

- ▶ like in the Bergshoeff-de Roo identification, start with

$$A_i^{(1)\langle\bar{a}\bar{b}\rangle} = \omega_i^{(-)ab}, \quad \text{and} \quad A_i^{(1)\langle\underline{a}\underline{b}\rangle} = -\omega_i^{(+)\underline{a}\underline{b}}$$

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- ▶ everything else is fixed by recursion, like

$$A_i^{(2)\langle\bar{b}\langle\bar{c}\bar{d}\rangle\rangle} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} R_i^{(-)bcd}, \quad \text{and} \quad A_i^{(2)\langle\bar{b}\langle\bar{c}d\rangle\rangle} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} R_i^{(+ )bcd}$$

or

$$\Pi^{(2)\langle\bar{a}b\rangle\langle\bar{c}\bar{d}\rangle} = \frac{1}{2} R^{(+ )cdab}, \quad \text{and} \quad \Pi^{(2)\langle\bar{a}\bar{b}\rangle\langle\bar{c}d\rangle} = -\frac{1}{2} R^{(-)cdab}$$

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- ▶ spin connections only appear in

1. covariant derivatives
2. Riemann tensors, or
3. Chern-Simons terms

## Plugging everything into the action (here 6 derivatives)

$$\begin{aligned}
 L^{(6)} = & -\frac{a^2}{8} \left[ 3H_{ij}^k R^{(-)ijln} \Omega_{kln}^{(-)} + 3R^{(-)ijkl} \nabla_i^{(-)} \Omega_{jkl}^{(-)} + \frac{3}{2} \Omega_i^{(-)jk} \Omega^{(-)i}_{jk} \right] \\
 & + \frac{b^2}{8} \left[ -3H_{ij}^k R^{(+ )ijln} \Omega_{kln}^{(+ )} + 3R^{(+ )ijkl} \nabla_i^{(+ )} \Omega_{jkl}^{(+ )} - \frac{3}{2} \Omega_i^{(+ )jk} \Omega^{(+ )i}_{jk} \right] \\
 & + \frac{ab}{2} \left[ \frac{1}{3} R_m^{(-)sku} R^{(-)j}{}_s{}^l{}_u R^{(-)m}{}_{jkl} - \frac{1}{8} R^{(-)rs}{}_{kl} R^{(-)tukl} R_{turs}^{(-)} \right. \\
 & \quad \left. - \frac{1}{8} R^{(-)mnrs} R^{(-)tu}{}_{mn} R_{turs}^{(-)} + \frac{3}{4} H_{ij}{}^q R^{(-)rsij} \Omega_{qrs}^{(-)} \right. \\
 & \quad \left. + \frac{3}{4} H_{ij}{}^q R^{(-)ijrs} \Omega_{qrs}^{(+ )} + \frac{3}{4} R^{(-)mnpq} \nabla_m^{(-)} \Omega_{npq}^{(+ )} \right. \\
 & \quad \left. - \frac{3}{4} R^{(+ )mnpq} \nabla_m^{(+ )} \Omega_{npq}^{(-)} + \frac{3}{4} \Omega^{(-)jln} \Omega_{jln}^{(+ )} \right. \\
 & \quad \left. - \frac{1}{8} (\nabla_i^{(+ )} R^{(+ )abcd} - 2H_{ie}^{[a} R^{(+ )b]ecd})(\nabla^{(+ )i} R_{abcd}^{(+ )} - 2H^i{}_{f[a} R_{b]}^{(+ )f}{}_{cd}) \right]
 \end{aligned}$$

| $a$       | $b$       | theory    |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| $\alpha'$ | $\alpha'$ | bosonic   |
| $\alpha'$ | 0         | heterotic |
| 0         | 0         | type II   |

## Towers of corrections

► all information about  $\alpha'$ -corrections are contained in  $\kappa_{\alpha\beta}$

► Question: What are allowed choices ?

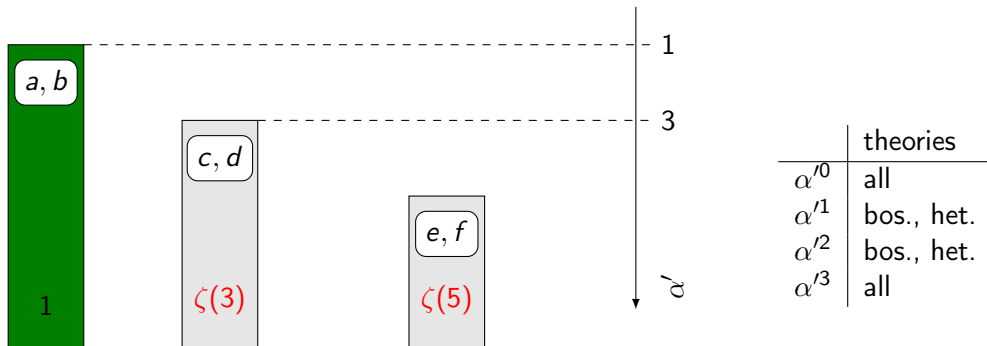
$$\kappa_{\alpha\beta} = \kappa_{\alpha\beta}(\underbrace{a, b}_{\text{are definitely there}}, \underbrace{c, d, e, f, \dots}_{\text{should be there}})$$

should be there

are definitely there

## Towers of corrections

- ▶ all information about  $\alpha'$ -corrections are contained in  $\kappa_{\alpha\beta}$
- ▶ Question: What are allowed choices ?  $\kappa_{\alpha\beta} = \kappa_{\alpha\beta}(\underline{a, b}, \underline{c, d, e, f, \dots})$
- ▶ each parameter creates an infinite tower of  $\alpha'$ -corrections
- ▶ no go theorem for  $\zeta(3)$  [Wulff, Hronek, Zacarias, Hsia, Kamal 20-24]



## Conclusions

- ▶ much more concise way to approach higher derivative corrections:

1. only certain combinations of building blocks are allowed

$\alpha'$ -bootstrap

Corrections arise from highly constrained combinations of the fundamental building blocks (Riemann tensor,  $H$ -flux, and their covariant derivatives). Like in chemistry, where molecules are not just some random combinations of atoms.

2. all remaining freedom is contained in choosing ad-invariant  $\kappa_{\alpha\beta}$

## Conclusions

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### $\alpha'$ -bootstrap

Corrections arise from highly constrained combinations of the fundamental building blocks (Riemann tensor,  $H$ -flux, and their covariant derivatives). Like in chemistry, where molecules are not just some random combinations of atoms.

2. all remaining freedom is contained in choosing ad-invariant  $\kappa_{\alpha\beta}$
- ▶ TODO: classify all allowed  $\kappa_{\alpha\beta}$
  - ▶ Can  $g_S$  corrections be captured in a similar way?

## A quick introduction to (generalized) Cartan geometry

- idea: build geometry from a group

$$\begin{array}{ccccccccc} \xi^a & \xrightarrow{\quad d \quad} & \varepsilon^a & \longrightarrow & T^a & \longrightarrow & \mathrm{BI}(T^a) & \longrightarrow & \dots \\ & \nearrow \tau & & & \nearrow & & \nearrow & & \nearrow \\ \Lambda^a_b & \longrightarrow & \omega^a_b & \longrightarrow & R^a_b & \longrightarrow & \mathrm{BI}(R^a_b) & \longrightarrow & \dots \\ & & & & \nearrow & & \nearrow & & \\ & & & & C^a_b & \longrightarrow & \mathrm{BI}(C^a_b) & \longrightarrow & \dots \end{array}$$

## A quick introduction to (generalized) Cartan geometry

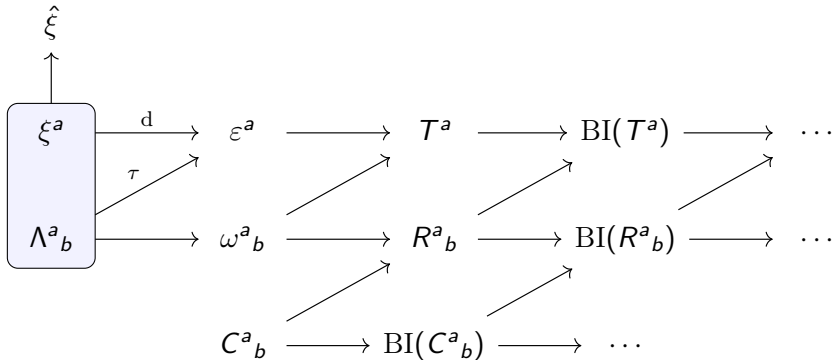
- idea: build geometry from a group

$$\hat{\xi} = \xi^a P_a + \Lambda^{ab} M_{ab}$$

Poincaré generators

$P_a$  translations

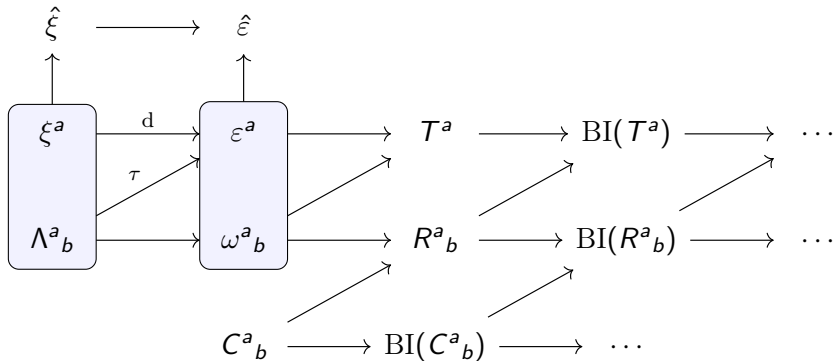
$M_{ab}$  Lorentz transformations



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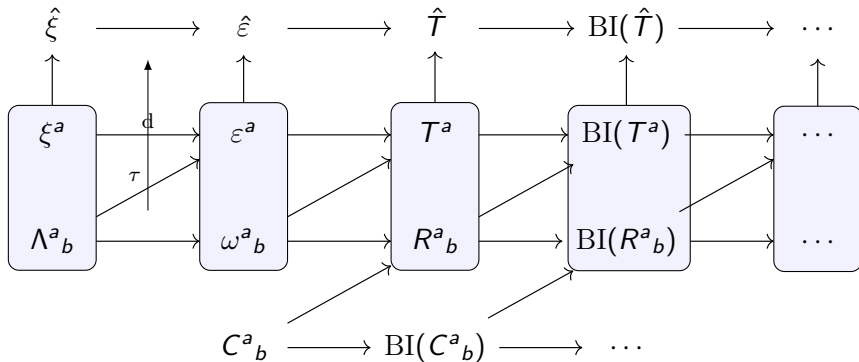
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$$\hat{\xi} = \xi^a P_a + \Lambda^{ab} M_{ab}, \quad \hat{\varepsilon} = \varepsilon^a P_a + \omega^{ab} M_{ab}, \quad \dots$$

- ▶ and use exterior derivative

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{d} &= d + \hat{e} \wedge && \text{with} \\ \hat{e} &= e_i^a P_a dx^i + \omega^{ab} M_{ab} && \underline{\text{Cartan connection}} \end{aligned}$$

$$\hat{\xi} \xrightarrow{\hat{d}} \hat{\varepsilon} \longrightarrow \hat{T} \longrightarrow \text{BI}(\hat{T}) \longrightarrow \dots$$

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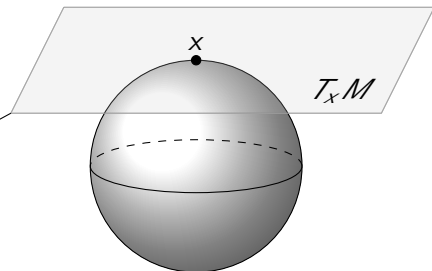
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with

Cartan connection

- ▶ substituting  $\hat{e} \rightarrow \hat{e}$  in the chain

- ▶ only input is model space  $G/H$



$$\hat{\xi} \xrightarrow{\hat{d}} \hat{e} \longrightarrow \hat{T} \longrightarrow \text{BI}(\hat{T}) \longrightarrow \dots$$

## We deal with generalized Cartan geometry [Poláček, Siegel 13; Butter, FH, Pope, Zhang 23; FH, Hulik, Osten 24]

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} \hat{\chi} & \longrightarrow & \hat{\xi} & \xrightarrow{\hat{D}} & \hat{E} & \longrightarrow & \hat{T} \longrightarrow \text{BI}(\hat{T}) \longrightarrow \dots \\ & & \swarrow \quad \searrow & & \swarrow \quad \downarrow \quad \searrow & & \\ & & \xi \quad \Lambda & & E \quad A \quad \Pi & & \end{array}$$

- new connection  $\Pi$  with corresponding curvature

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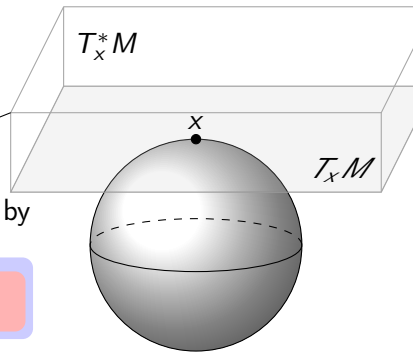
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$\hat{\xi} \swarrow \searrow$   
 $\xi \quad \Lambda$

$\hat{E} \swarrow \downarrow \searrow$   
 $E \quad A \quad \Pi$

► new connection  $\Pi$  with corresponding curvature

► model space is double quotient  $\tilde{H} \backslash G / H$  generated by



$$\dots \quad \tilde{t}^{\langle A \langle BC \rangle \rangle} \quad \tilde{t}^{\langle AB \rangle} \quad P_A \quad t_{\langle AB \rangle} \quad t_{\langle A \langle BC \rangle \rangle} \quad \dots$$

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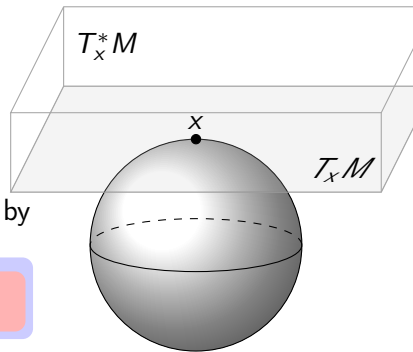
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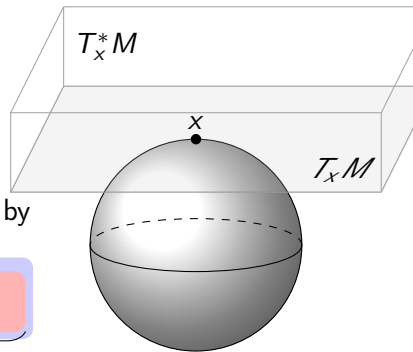
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fixed by index splitting prescription

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