

# Cosmological Questions for G2 Compactifications at Large N



Jim Halverson  
Northeastern University

Simons G2 Meeting @ KITP



**influenced heavily:** by collaborations with C. Long, D. Morrison, B. Nelson, F. Ruehle, G. Salinas, B. Sung, and W. Taylor.

# Today: Lessons at Large N

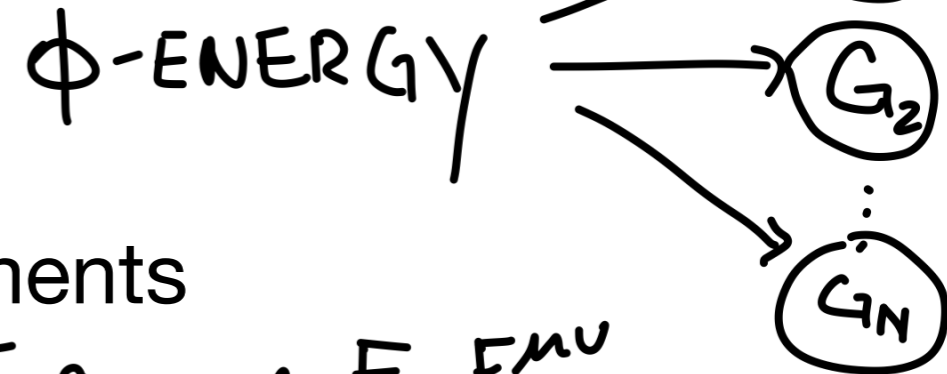
- $N \sim$  topological complexity (cycles, branes, fluxes, etc)
- **Lessons thus far:**
  - at large N in CY, many axions, large gauge sectors
  - most of known landscape lives at large N (e.g. flux vacua, F-theory bases)
- **Selection:** if cosmology picks generic bases or flux vacua, will find large gauge sectors and many axions.
- **Big caveat:** could be sharply peaked away from large N, would mean that these considerations don't apply.  
e.g. complexity measure, a la proteins and spin glasses.  
[\[Denef, Douglas, Greene, Zukowski\]](#)
- Do lessons apply in G2 at large N = large  $b_3$ ?

# Outline

- Large Gauge Sectors

$$G = G_1 \times G_2 \times \dots \times G_N$$

- Axions and Asymmetric Reheating



- Axion - Photon Couplings and Experiments

$$\mathcal{L} = \sum_i g_{i\gamma\gamma} a_i F_{\mu\nu} F^{\mu\nu}$$

## Some goals for each:

- 1) explain origin and relevance of large N
- 2) give G2 context and questions
- 3) convey why physically relevant

# Large Gauge Sectors

section outline:

1. **F-theory**
2. **Non-Higgsable Clusters**
3. **NHC in ensemble**
4. **Tree Ensemble**
5. **Combinatoric Picture**
6. **NHC in TCS G2**
7. **Questions for NHC in G2**
8. **Questions for Cosmology**

# F-theory

- Strongly coupled regime generalizing IIB

- Geometry  $\mathbb{R}^{3,1} \times Y_4$   $Y_4 \xrightarrow{\pi} B_3$  *ell. fib.*

WEIERSTRASS FORM

$$y^2 = x^3 + fx + g$$

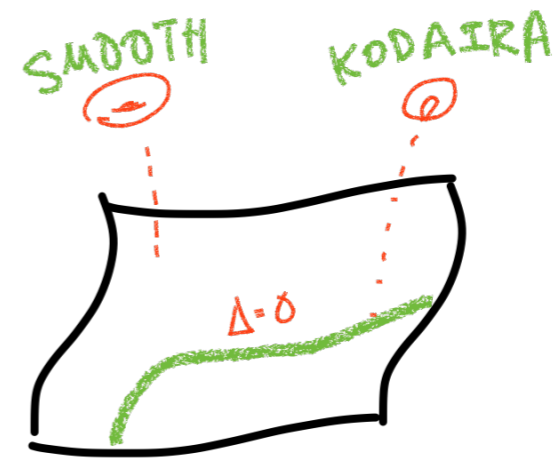
$$f \in \Gamma(-4K_B) \quad g \in \Gamma(-6K_B)$$

- Physics from geometry

DISCRIMINANT LOC

$$\Delta = 4f^3 + 27g^2 = 0$$

$\Rightarrow$



- G4-flux for chirality and moduli stabilization

$$G_4 + \frac{1}{2} C_2 \in H_4(Y_4, \mathbb{Z}) \quad n_{03} = \frac{\chi(Y_4)}{24} + \frac{1}{2} \int_X G_4 \wedge C_4 \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$$

# Non-Higgsable Clusters

Some selective progress: Anderson, Braun, del Zotto, Halverson, Heckman, Grassi, Morrison, Schafer-Nameki, Shaneson, Taylor, Vafa, Wang  
esp. [Morrison, Taylor]

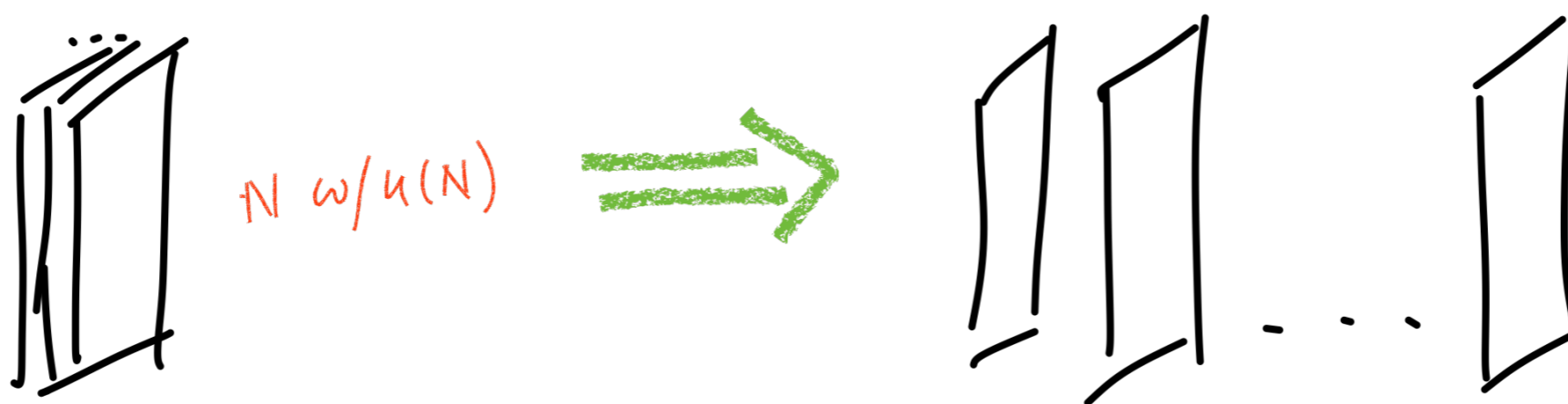
- Math Story:  $f$  and  $g$  factorize for generic CS.

$$f = z^a F \quad F \in \Gamma(-4K_B \otimes \mathcal{O}(-aZ))$$

$$g = z^b G \quad G \in \Gamma(-6K_B \otimes \mathcal{O}(-bZ))$$

$$\Delta = z^c \delta \quad \delta \in \Gamma(-12K_B \otimes \mathcal{O}(-cZ)) \quad c = \min(3a, 2b)$$

- Physics story: no CS deformation that splits branes (Higgses)



- 6d story: no Higgs b/c SYM or not enough matter. 4d:  $W$

- Facts:  $G = \prod_i G_i \quad G_i \in \{E_8, E_7, E_6, F_4, D_4, B_3, G_2, A_2, A_1\}$



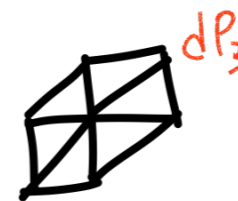
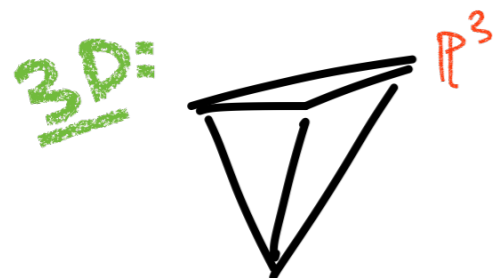
# NHC in Ensemble

- Rule of thumb: NHC when B not weak Fano

WEAK FANO:

$$-K_B \cdot C \gg 0 \quad \forall C$$

- Toric weak Fanos:



...

∑ 12 MORE

∑ 4318 MORE REFL POLY

FRST  $\Rightarrow$

$\mathcal{O}(10^{15})$

$B_3$

- Toric not weak Fanos: [\[2D torics, see Morrison, Taylor\]](#)

3D:

"SKELETON" ENSEMBLE:

[Taylor, Wang]

$\mathcal{O}(10^{3000})$  ESTIMATE

FROM  $\mathbb{P}^3$  BLW-UPS

"TREE" ENSEMBLE:

[J.H., Long, Sung]

$\frac{4}{3} \times 2.96 \times 10^{755}$

BLW-UPS

PHYSICS

$N_{ax} = 1883 \pm 29$

$rk(G) = 1609 \pm 17$

# FAC =  $762 \pm 11$

# Tree Ensemble

[J.H., Long, Sung]

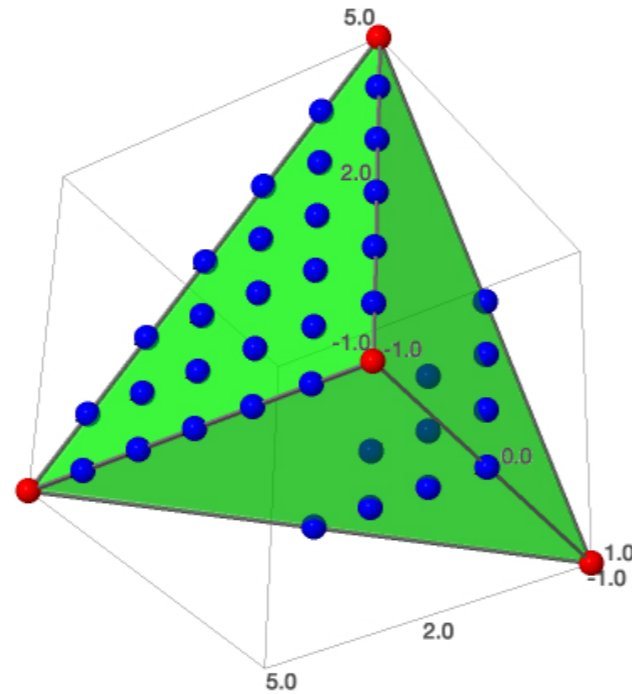
- **4D F-theory:** 3-fold  $B$ , gauge structure det'd by  $B$  topology, called “non-Higgsable cluster.”
- **Starting point:**  $B$  a weak Fano toric threefold, encoded in a certain triangulation (fine regular star) of a 3d reflexive polytope.
- **Topological transitions:** systematically perform sequences of toric blowups along toric curves and points.
- **Sequences are bounded:** if all singularities are canonical, geom. that transition is done from is at finite distance in CS moduli space.  
Alg. Geom: [Hayakawa] [Wang]      in F-theory: [Morrison]
- **Classification:** there are 82 (41,873,645) sequences over curves (points) that satisfy a sufficient condition for canonical singularities.
- **Ensemble:** all ways of performing these sequences of blowups. from an initial, fixed, triangulated polytope.



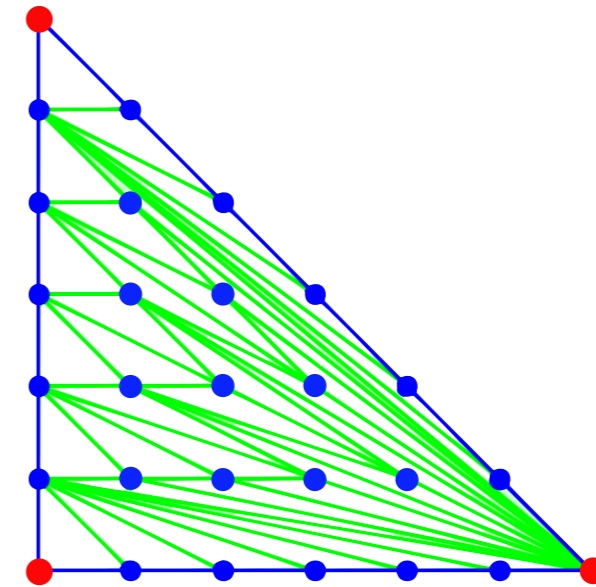
# The Combinatoric Picture

[J.H., Long, Sung]

- **Polytope:**



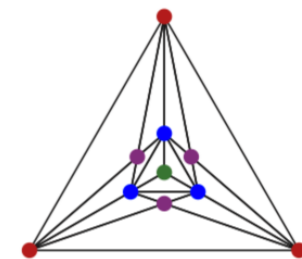
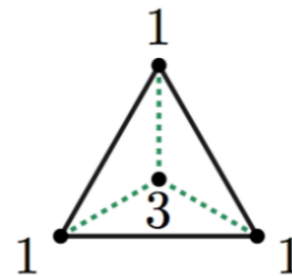
- **Triangulation:** (codim 1 faces)



**Fact:** any FRS triangulation of this has 108 edges, 72 faces.

- **Rep seq. of blowups:** (topological transitions, project into board)

•••••  
1 3 2 3 1



- **Ensemble Size:** (put the widgets on the triangulation)

$$82^{108} \times 41873645^{72} = 2.96 \times 10^{755}$$

# NHC in TCS G2

[Braun, Schafer-Nameki]

## TCS Construction:

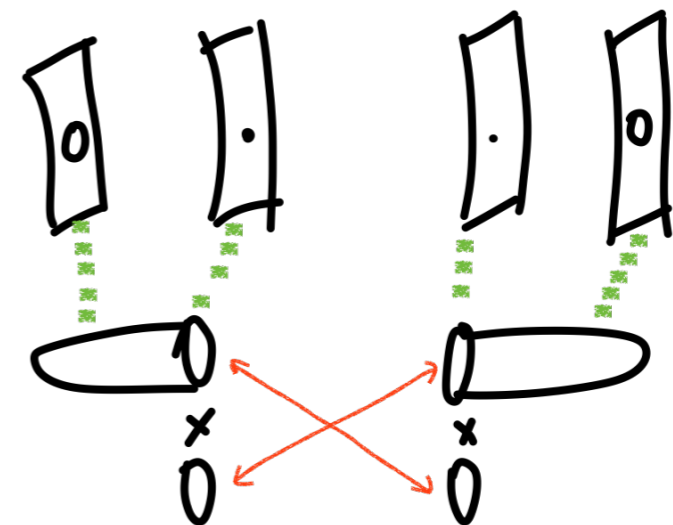
- K3-fibered building blocks
- Asymptotically cylindrical CY3
- Glued together at infinity by particular Hyper Kahler rotation, matching condition.

$$N_+ \cap N_- = G.$$

## TCS NHC:

- build block K3 fiber with lattice of resolved ADE.
- those cycles forced to vanish by matching.

(i.e. building block Kahler form forced to integrate to 0 on curves of ADE resolution)

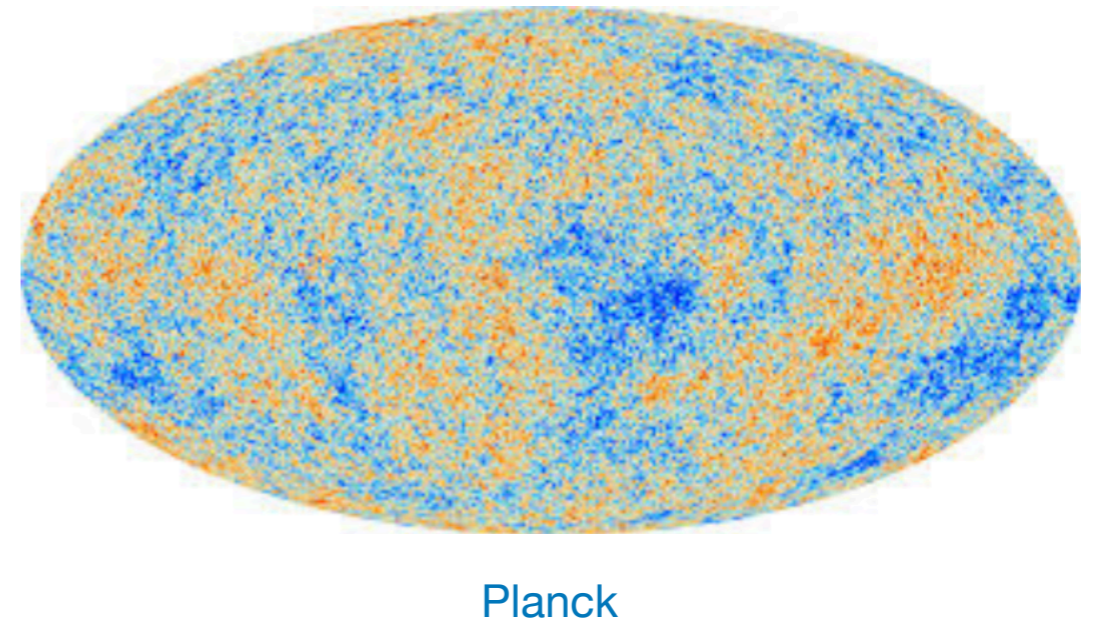
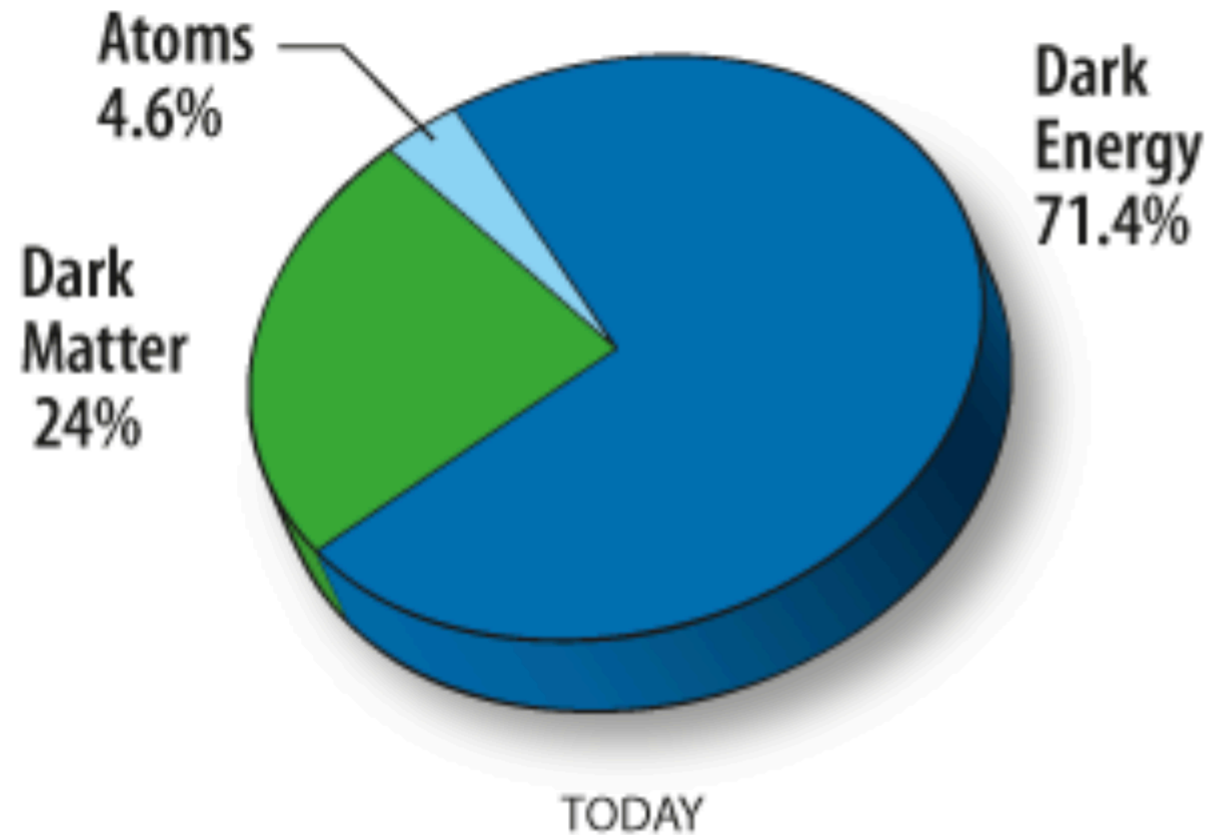


# Questions for NHC in G2

- NHC in G2: Singular with no smoothing G2 deformation.
- What can be said about these? Anything beyond TCS?
- Any reason to expect they are common at large  $N = \text{large } b^3$ ? (analog to CY)
- Do they emerge as we do more and more topological transitions to larger  $b^3$ ? (analog to CY)
- If yes, what is the physics of those NHC-yielding transitions?

6d analogs as in e.g. [Heckman, Morrison, Vafa]

# Questions for Cosmology



- Cosmology: precise science about evolution of the universe that has important open questions, and also gives constraints.
- Many gauge sectors  $\rightarrow$  dark matter!?
- Can motivate EFTs that work, but can also lead to problem: too much DM, that becomes worse at large  $N$  = large number of gauge sectors.

# Axions and Reheating

section outline:

1. **Origins of axions**
2. **in CY and G2**
3. **Axion Cosmology**
4. **Reheating Issues**
5. **Axion Reheating in F**
6. **Reheating Q's for G2**
7. **Ultralight @ large N**

# Origins of Axions

- Theories with extra dimensions and higher form gauge fields
- Examples: supergravity, and therefore string / M

CONTEXT  $\mathbb{R}^{3,1} \times X$   $C_p = \Theta_I \wedge \omega_I$   $\omega_I \in H^p(X)$

ORIGIN KK REDUCTION  $\Rightarrow$  4D FIELDS  $\Theta_I$

SYMMETRY  $C_p \mapsto C_p + d\Lambda_{p-1} \Rightarrow \Theta$  shift symms

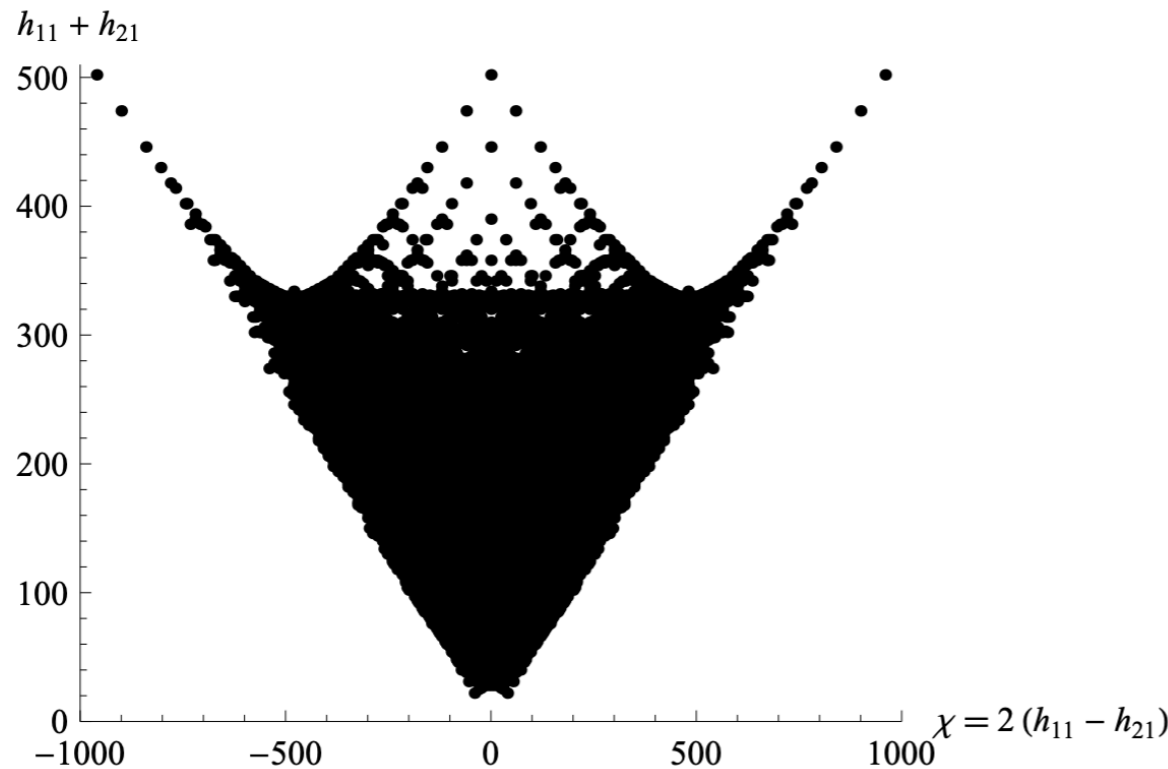
- One for each p-cycle in theory with p-form
- Topological complexity  $\sim$  num axions

# in CY and G2

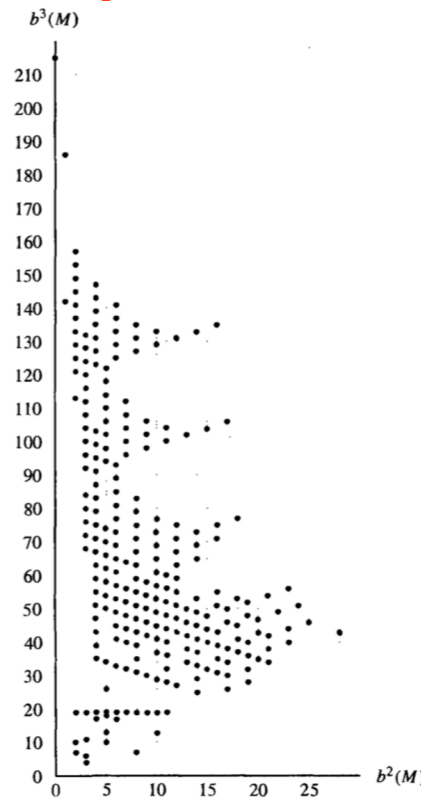
- E.g. IIB on CY3  $\int_{\Sigma_4} C_4, \int_{\Sigma_2} C_2, \int_{\Sigma_2} B_2 \Rightarrow 3 \text{ TYPES}$
- M on G2  $\int_{\Sigma_3} C_3 \Rightarrow \int_{\Sigma_3} \Phi + i C_3$  (complexified G2 modulus)

- Ensemble examples:

KREUZER-SKARKE



JOYCE MANIFOLDS

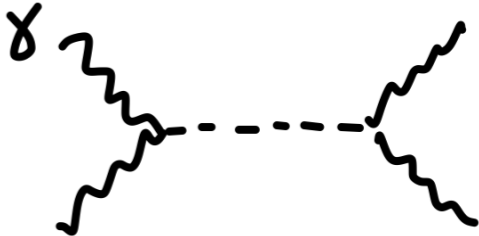


- Tree ensemble  $\int_{\Sigma_4} C_4 \Rightarrow \# \text{ axions } \sim 1800$

# Axion Cosmology

laundry list of ways they can be relevant

[see review by Marsh]

- **Inflation:** e.g. axion inflation of axion monodromy.
- **Reheating:** field that reheats not necessarily inflaton.
- **Dark matter:** QCD axion or general ALP (e.g. FDM)
- **$\gamma$  couplings:** light-by-light scattering 
- **Dark radiation:** relativistic DOF in universe

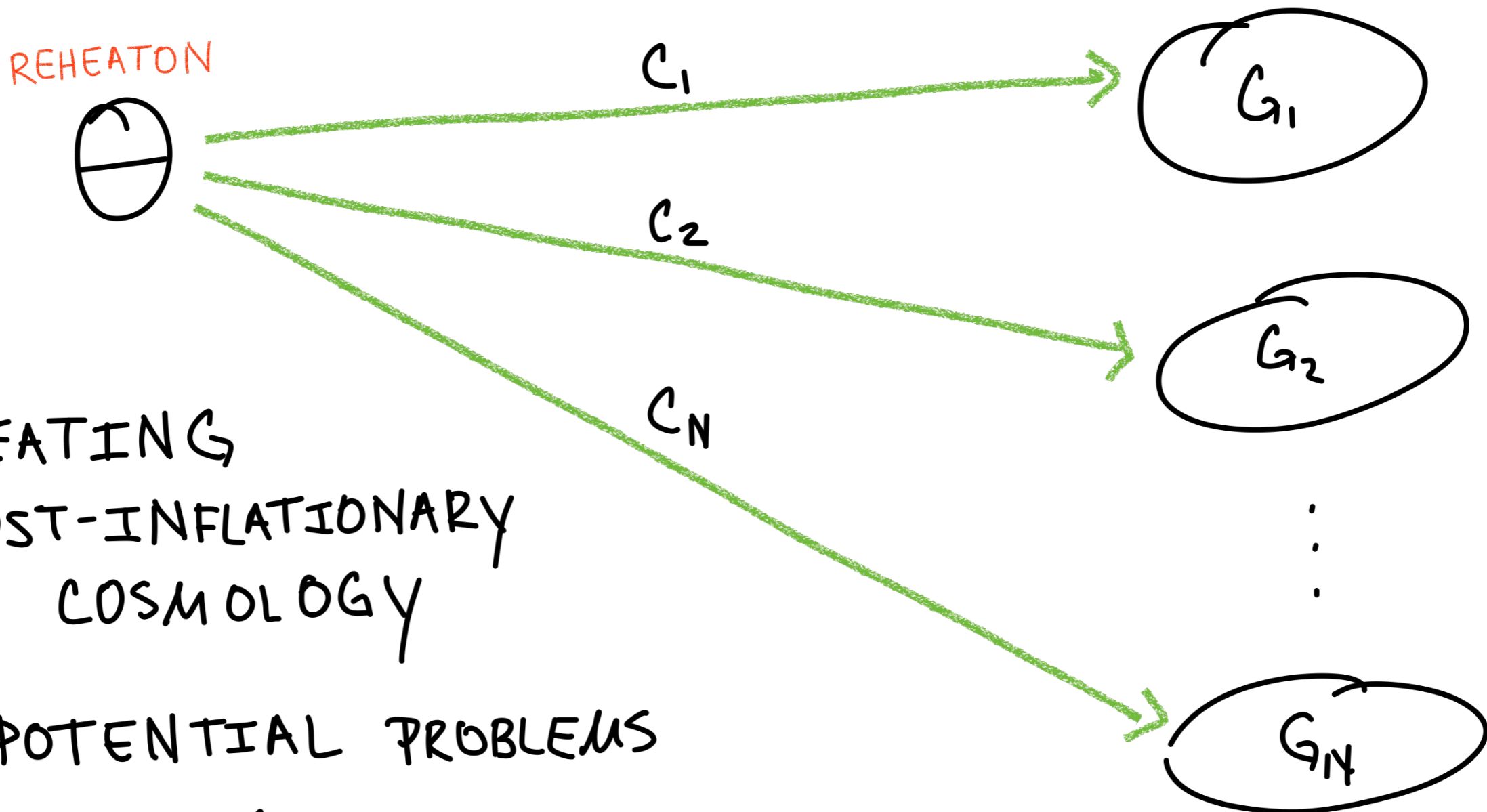
a single string compactification could realize many.

idea: “axiverse” with many axions realizing many possibilities.

[Arvanitaki et al.]



# Reheating Issues



1) REHEATING

⇒ POST-INFLATIONARY  
COSMOLOGY

2) ∃ POTENTIAL PROBLEMS

@ LARGE N

3) CAN BE SOLVED BY  
ASYMMETRIC REHEATING

*coupling  
distributions?*

*G<sub>2</sub> origin?*

$$\sum_i c_i \theta_{G_{\mu\nu i}} G^{\mu\nu i}$$

# F-theory and Axion EFT

- F data: roughly, topological intersections, overall volume divisor volumes, curve volumes.

$$\mathcal{V} = \frac{1}{6} \int_B J \wedge J \wedge J = \frac{1}{6} \kappa^{ijk} t_i t_j t_k \quad K = -2 \log(\mathcal{V})$$

$$\mathcal{L} = -\frac{1}{2} K_{ij} (\partial^\mu \theta^i) (\partial_\mu \theta^j) - V(\theta) - \sum_\alpha Q_i^\alpha (\tau^i F_\alpha^{\mu\nu} F_{\alpha\mu\nu} + \theta^i \tilde{F}_\alpha^{\mu\nu} F_{\alpha\mu\nu}) \quad x^{\alpha\beta} \equiv \frac{\text{vol}(D_\alpha \cap D_\beta)}{\text{vol}(D_\alpha) \times \text{vol}(D_\beta)} \quad c^\alpha = \frac{-\mathcal{V} x^{\check{\alpha}\alpha} + 1}{2\sqrt{-\mathcal{V} x^{\check{\alpha}\check{\alpha}} + 1}}$$

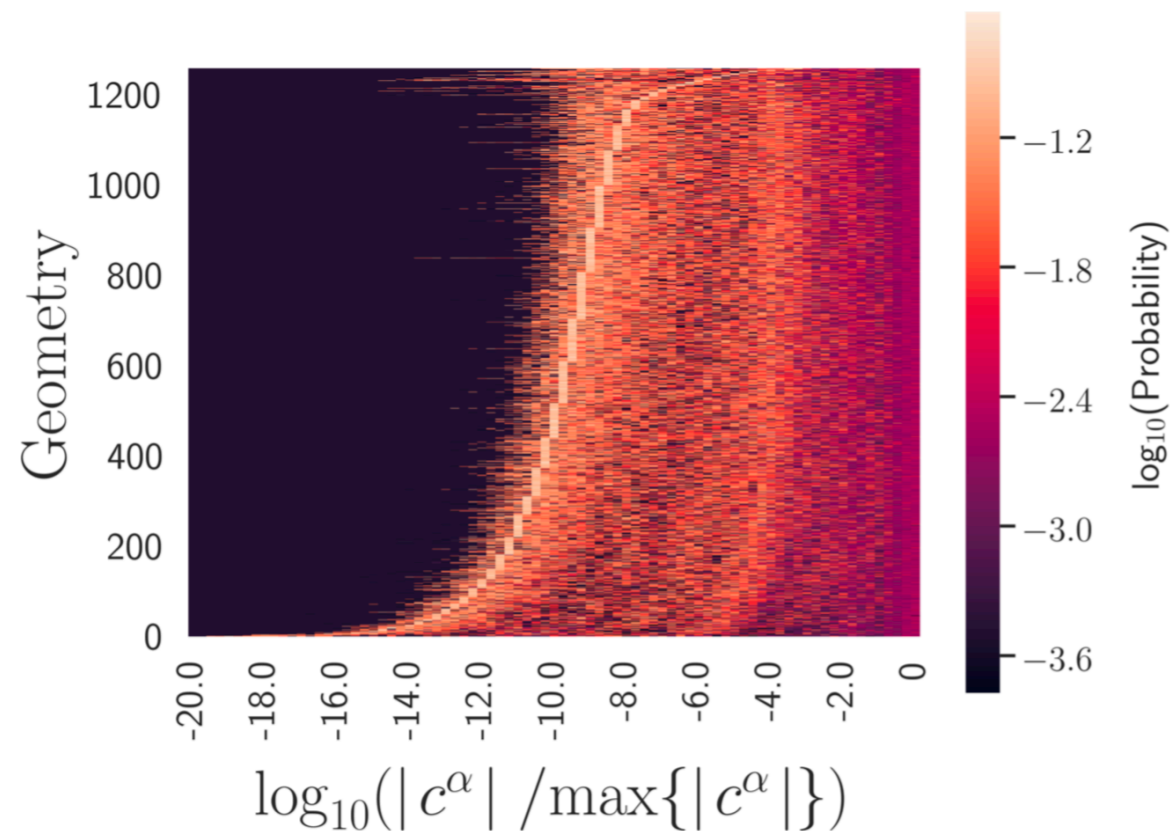
- Effective Lag:

$$\mathcal{L} = -\frac{1}{2} \delta_{ij} (\partial^\mu \phi^i) (\partial_\mu \phi^j) - V(\phi) - \frac{1}{4} \sum_\alpha G_\alpha^{\mu\nu} G_{\alpha\mu\nu} - \sum_\alpha c_i^\alpha \phi^i \tilde{G}_\alpha^{\mu\nu} G_{\alpha\mu\nu}$$

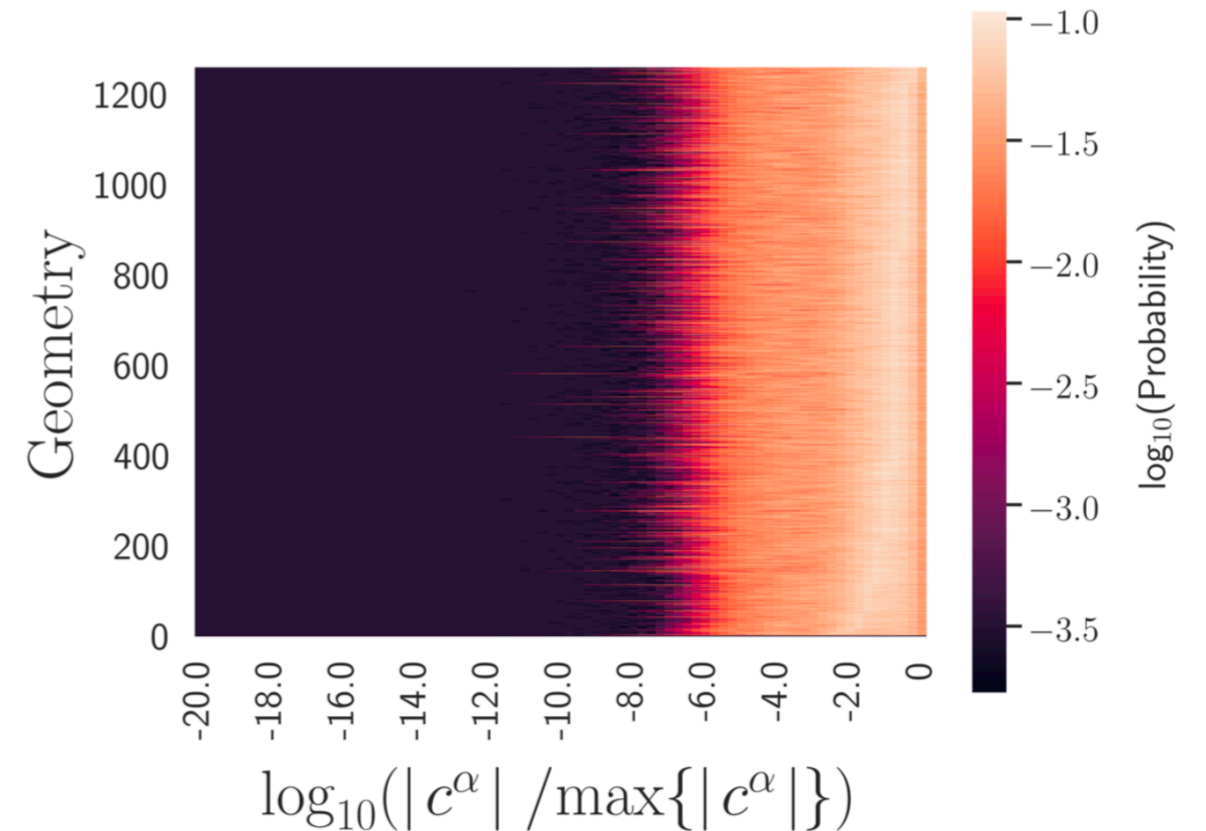
$$-\mathcal{L}_{\text{int}} = c^{\check{\alpha}} \check{\phi} \tilde{G}_{\check{\alpha}}^{\mu\nu} G_{\check{\alpha}\mu\nu} + \sum_{\alpha \neq \check{\alpha}} (c^\alpha \check{\phi} + \dots) \tilde{G}_\alpha^{\mu\nu} G_{\alpha\mu\nu}$$

# Asymmetric Axion Reheating in F

[JH, Long, Nelson, Salinas]



**Gauge oriented**



**Random LC of Gauge-Oriented**

- **Setup:** tree ensemble, sample geometries, sample stretched Kahler cone, compute topological axion couplings, canonically normalize.
- **Upshot:** perturbative axion reheating is asymmetric.  
LHS: O(1) coupling to  $\sim 1\%$  of gauge sectors  
RHS: O(1) coupling to  $\sim 10\%$  of gauge sectors

also in [Adshead, Heckman, Melchor Watson]?  
(though different context)

# Q's for G2 Axion Couplings

- G2 data of interest:

1) Kahler potential:  $K = -3 \log \left[ \frac{1}{2\pi^2} \frac{1}{7} \int \bar{\Phi} \wedge * \Phi \right]$

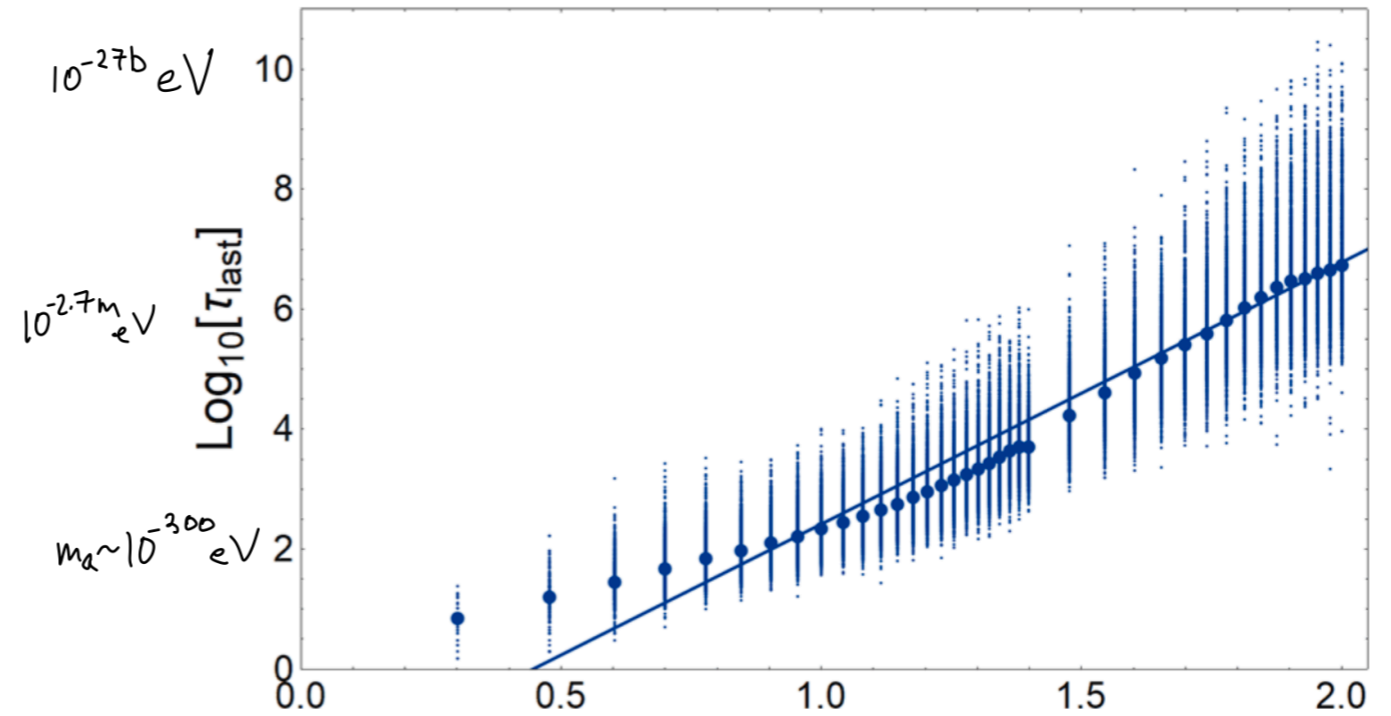
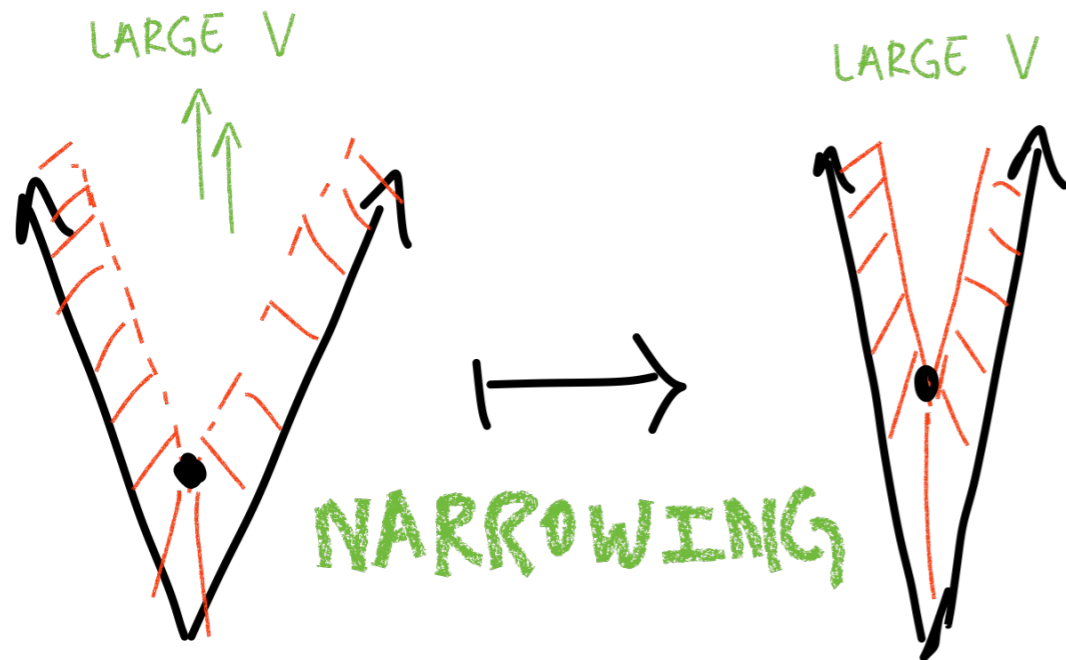
2) Geometric coupling to gauge sectors:  $\int_{M_3} \bar{\Phi} + i C_3$   
 $M_3 \in H_3(X)$

3) Sampling in G2 moduli space.

- Presumably (as usual) it's 2) that's hardest?  
Seems like major obstruction for now.

# Ultralight Axions at Large N

[Demirtas, Long, McAllister, Stillman]



$$m_{\text{last}}^2 \sim e^{-2\pi\tau_{\text{last}}}$$

- Stretched Kahler cone:

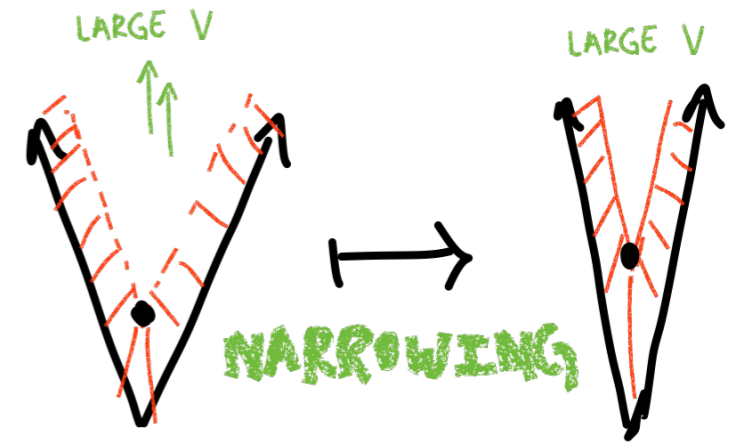
$$\tilde{K}(X) := \{J \in H^{1,1}(X) \mid \text{vol}_J(C) \geq 1\}$$

- Key: ignore WS instantons requires stretched Kahler.  
(needed for KKLT, LVS)

- Physics: ultralight axions.

$\ll$  Hubble today.

# G2 Ultralight Axions?



- Stretched Kahler cone:  $X = CY$   
 $\tilde{K}(X) := \{J \in H^{1,1}(X) \mid \text{vol}(C) \geq 1\}$

- “Stretched G2 Cone”:  $X = G_2$   
 $\tilde{G}(X) := \{\Phi \in H^3(X, \mathbb{R}) \mid \text{vol}_\Phi(\Sigma) \geq 1\}$

- Does this object become very narrow at large  $N = \text{large } b^3$ ?
- If so, M2-instanton contributions to axion mass ultralight.

# Conclusions

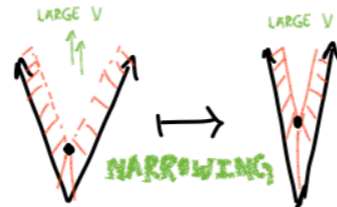
(wishlists and Q's on next slide)

- Large gauge sectors and # of axions expected in CY.
- Consequences for real-world physics. (constraints + effects).
- In G2 ensembles at large  $N = \text{large } b^3$ , expect similar?

# Questions for NHC in G2

- NHC in G2: Singular with no smoothing G2 deformation.
- What can be said about these? Anything beyond TCS?
- Any reason to expect they are common at large N = large b3? (analog to CY)
- Do they emerge as we do more and more topological transitions to larger b3? (analog to CY)
- If yes, what is the physics of those NHC-yielding transitions? (analog of 6d tensor branch transitions)

## G2 Ultralight Axions?



- Stretched Kahler cone:  $X = CY$   
 $\tilde{K}(X) := \{J \in H^{1,1}(X) \mid \text{vol}(C) \geq 1\}$
- “Stretched G2 Cone”:  $X = G_2$   
 $\tilde{G}(X) := \{\Phi \in H^3(X, \mathbb{R}) \mid \text{vol}_\Phi(\Sigma) \geq 1\}$
- Does this object become very narrow at large N = large b3?
- If so, M2-instanton contributions to axion mass ultralight.

comparison to RMT approach of [Stott, Marsh, Pongitivanickul, Price, Acharya?]

# Q's for G2 Axion Couplings

- G2 data of interest:

1) Kahler potential:  $K = -3 \log \left[ \frac{1}{2\pi^2} \frac{1}{7} \int \bar{\Phi} \wedge * \Phi \right]$

2) Geometric coupling to gauge sectors:  $\int \bar{\Phi} + i C_3$   
 $M_3$   
 $M_3 \in H_3(X)$

3) Sampling in G2 moduli space.

- Presumably (as usual) it's 2) that's hardest? Seems like major obstruction for now.

## ALP-photon G2 wishlist

- G2 data similar to before, but extra ingredient crucial:

$$W \approx \sum_{\Sigma_i \in H_3(X, \mathbb{Z})} A_i e^{-\int_{\Sigma_i} \bar{\Phi} + i C_3}$$

[Harvey, Moore]

G2 dual of infinite # contributions: [Braun, del Zotto, JH, Larfors, Morrison, Schafer-Nameki] [Acharya, Braun, Svanes, Valandro]

Requires control over associatives of appropriate type.

- Also: photon can have many origins in G2, e.g. from D5 or A4 ADE singularity and codim 7 singularities.

Or from A1 singularity + three-cycle of Harmonic two-form.

or ...  $\sigma \in H^2(X)$   $\Sigma_3 = \mathcal{PD}(\sigma \cup \sigma) \in H_3(X)$