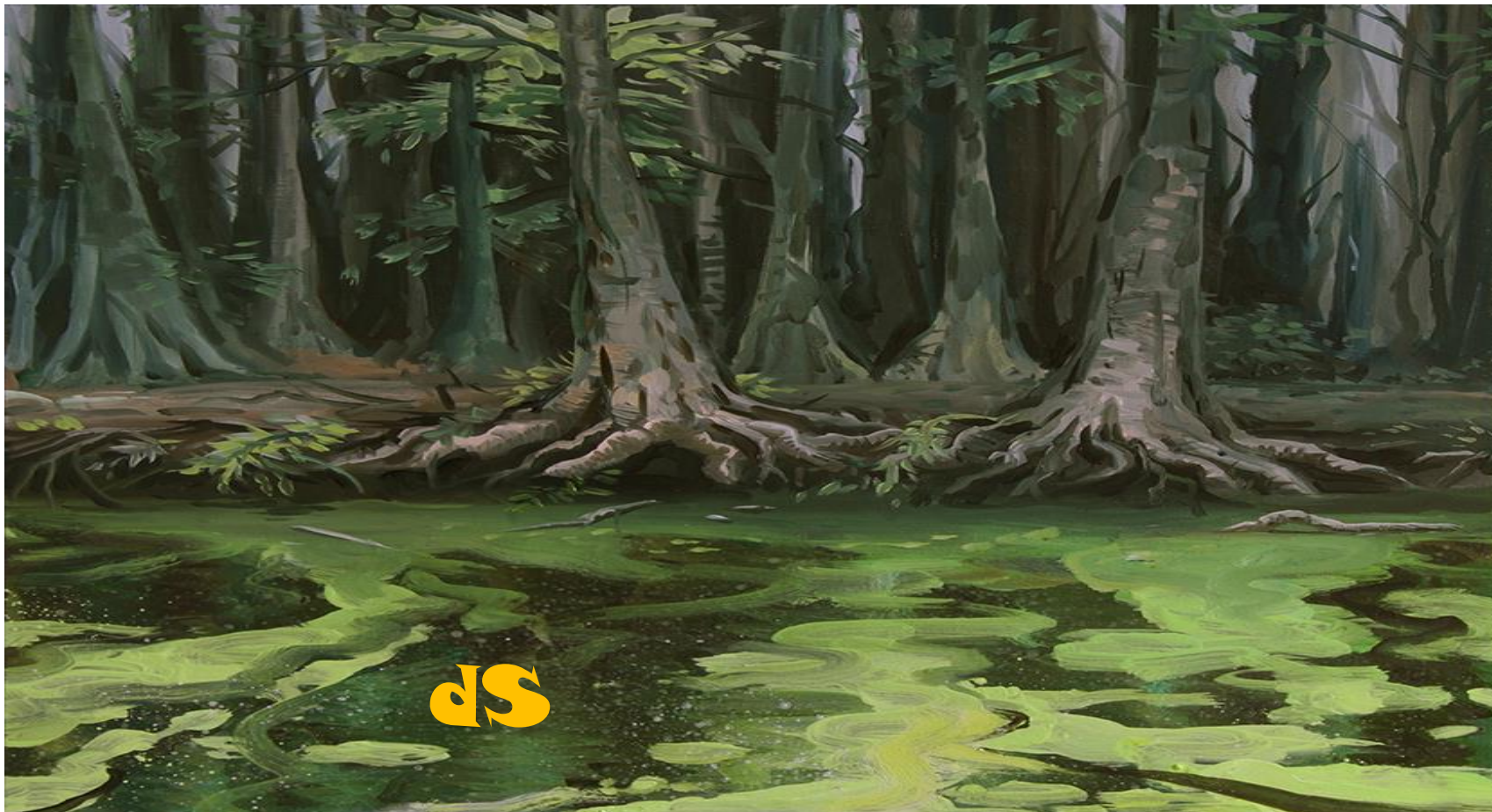


The tension between dS uplifts, 10d supergravity and 3D CFTs



Thomas Van Riet -- KULeuven

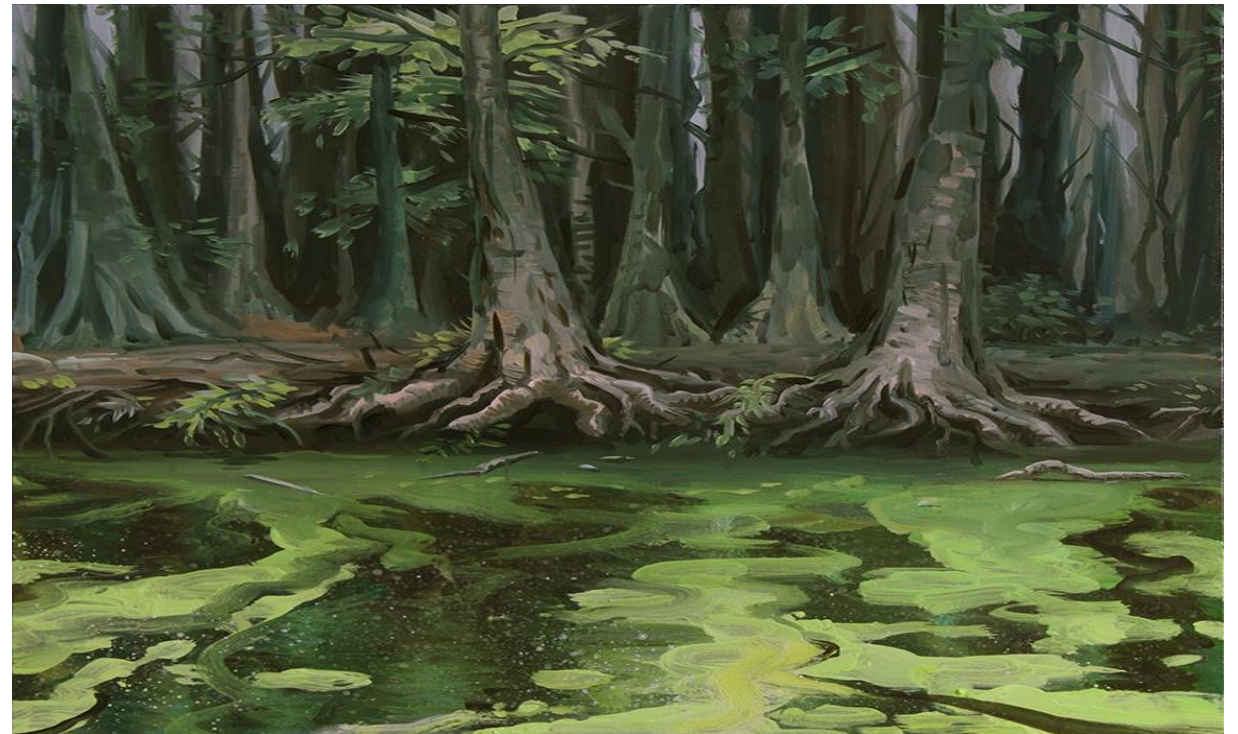
Vistas over the Swampland, Madrid, 2018.

Based on

- *Supersymmetric dS/CFT.* With **T. Hertog, G. T.-Mazzucchelli, G. Venken** [\[1709.06024\]](#)
- *Racing through the swampland: de Sitter uplift vs Weak Gravity.* With **J. Moritz**, [\[1805.00944\]](#)
- *The tension between dS uplifts, 10d supergravity and 3D CFTs.* With **M. Buican, F. Gautason, V. Van Hemelrijck**, [to appear](#).
- *What if string theory has no dS vacua?* With **U. Danielsson** [\[1804.01120\]](#)

The dS Swampland *conjecture*

What if string theory has no dS vacua? With U. Danielsson [\[1804.01120\]](#)



What if string theory has no dS vacua? With U. Danielsson [\[1804.01120\]](#)



If the “no-de Sitter conspiracy” is correct, does it work via [\[Obied, Ooguri, Spodyneiko, Vafa, 2018\]](#)

$$|\nabla V| \geq c \cdot V, \quad ?$$

Evidence against inequality?

1. All dS vacua in string theory ever proposed 😊
2. Higgs potential in standard model! [\[Denef, Hebecker, Wrase, 2018\]](#)
3. SUSY KKLT & racetrack models have unstable dS critical point away from AdS vacuum [\[Conlon 2018\]](#).
4. ``Classical'' dS solutions [\[Flauger, Paban, Robbins, Wrase 2008, Caviezel, Koerber, Kors, Lust, Wrase, Zagermann 2008 & many follow ups\]](#)

Evidence against inequality?

1. All dS vacua in string theory ever proposed ☺
2. Higgs potential in standard model! [Denef, Hebecker, Wrase, 2018]
3. SUSY KKLT & racetrack models have unstable dS critical point away from AdS vacuum [Conlon 2018].
4. ``Classical'' dS solutions [Flauger, Paban, Robbins, Wrase 2008, Caviezel, Koerber, Kors, Lust, Wrase, Zagermann 2008 & many follow ups]

....Or not?

1. I will criticize them later in this talk.
2. Not easy to debunk this argument.
3. OK. But requires trust in the AdS vacua...
4. No counter examples: all at strong coupling, small volume [Roupec, Wrase 2018]

Evidence against inequality?

1. All dS vacua in string theory ever proposed ☺
2. Higgs potential in standard model! [Denef, Hebecker, Wrase, 2018]
3. SUSY KKLT & racetrack models have unstable dS critical point away from AdS vacuum [Conlon 2018].
4. ``Classical'' dS solutions [Flauger, Paban, Robbins, Wrase 2008, Caviezel, Koerber, Kors, Lust, Wrase, Zagermann 2008 & many follow ups]

→ Examples 2, 3, 4 are **all tachyonic**. Maybe the Swampland inequality needs to be extended to include second derivatives (epsilon and eta) ? [Andriot 2018].

....Or not?

1. I will criticize them later in this talk.
2. Not easy to debunk this argument.
3. OK. But requires trust in the AdS vacua...
4. No counter examples: all at strong coupling, small volume [Roupec, Wrase 2018]



→ [Kallosh, Wrase 2018] The tachyons in classical dS can be removed by adding anti-D6 branes. Very nice & smart idea!

→ [\[Kallosh, Wrase 2018\]](#) The tachyons in classical dS can be removed by adding anti-D6 branes. Very nice & smart idea!

But does it work?

→ [\[Kallosh, Wrase 2018\]](#) The tachyons in classical dS can be removed by adding anti-D6 branes. Very nice & smart idea!

But does it work?

→ anti-D6 branes can decay against H-flux via KK5-brane nucleation [\[Gautason, Truijen, VR 2015\]](#)! Probe computation shows meta-stability is not impossible. Unclear whether probe condition is attainable.

→ [\[Kallosh, Wrase 2018\]](#) The tachyons in classical dS can be removed by adding anti-D6 branes. Very nice & smart idea!

But does it work?

- anti-D6 branes can decay against H-flux via KK5-brane nucleation [\[Gautason, Truijen, VR 2015\]](#)! Probe computation shows meta-stability is not impossible. Unclear whether probe condition is attainable.
- Even worse: [\[Danielsson, Gautason, VR 2016\]](#) shows that, in SUGRA regime, probe fails! Always unstable.

→ [\[Kallosh, Wrase 2018\]](#) The tachyons in classical dS can be removed by adding anti-D6 branes. Very nice & smart idea!

But does it work?

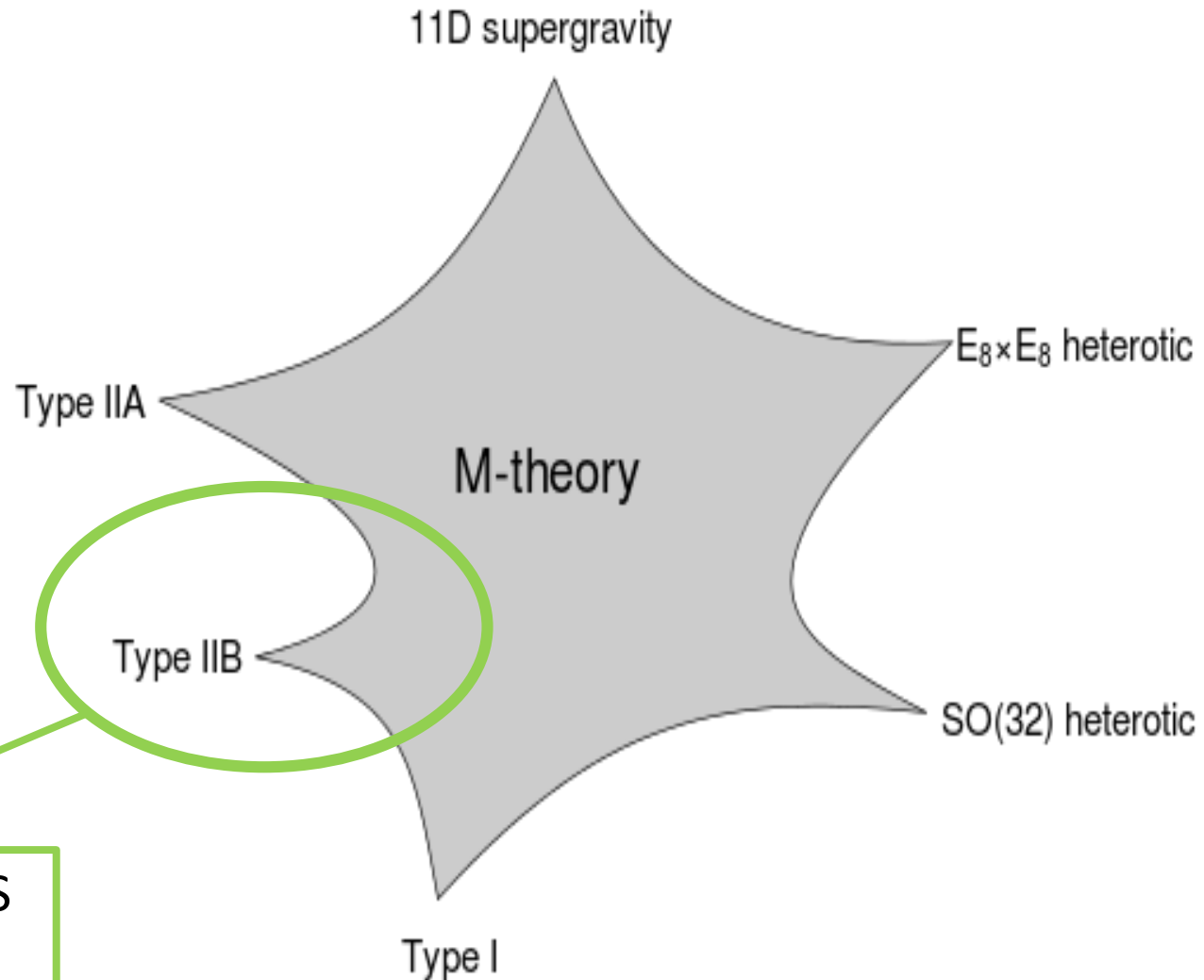
- anti-D6 branes can decay against H-flux via KK5-brane nucleation [\[Gautason, Truijen, VR 2015\]](#)! Probe computation shows meta-stability is not impossible. Unclear whether probe condition is attainable.
- Even worse: [\[Danielsson, Gautason, VR 2016\]](#) shows that, in SUGRA regime, probe fails! Always unstable.
- Not unreasonable that there is perturbative brane-flux decay. Needs to be checked.....



Whack a mole: Instabilities in dS model building

Issues with dS uplifts

Let us take vanilla models: KKLT, LVS,...



90% of all papers on dS
"corrections to GKP"

Problem 0: Bunch Davies is unphysical

IR backreaction effects of particle production in dS space; dS space decays no matter what.

[Polyakov, Mottola, Pimentel, Woordard, Markannen, Danielsson,]

Problem 0: Bunch Davies is unphysical

IR backreaction effects of particle production in dS space; dS space decays no matter what.

[Polyakov, Mottola, Pimentel, Woordard, Markannen, Danielsson,]

Problem 1: The approach to moduli stabilisation. [S. Sethi arXiv:1709.03554]

SUSY-breaking GKP fluxes have higher derivative forces who cannot be ignored and lead to runaway instead. See [Kachru, Trivedi 2018] for critical remarks.

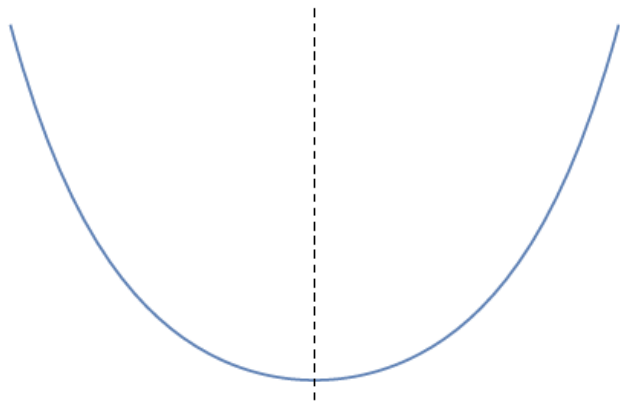


Figure 1: A good starting point.

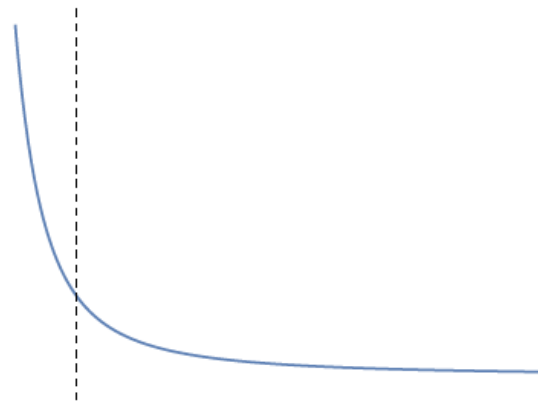


Figure 2: A not so good starting point.

Problem 0: Bunch Davies is unphysical

IR backreaction effects of particle production in dS space; dS space decays no matter what.
[Polyakov, Mottola, Pimentel, Woordard, Markannen, Danielsson,]

Problem 1: The approach to moduli stabilisation. [S. Sethi arXiv:1709.03554]

SUSY-breaking GKP fluxes have higher derivative forces who cannot be ignored and lead to runaway instead. See [Kachru, Trivedi 2018] for critical remarks.

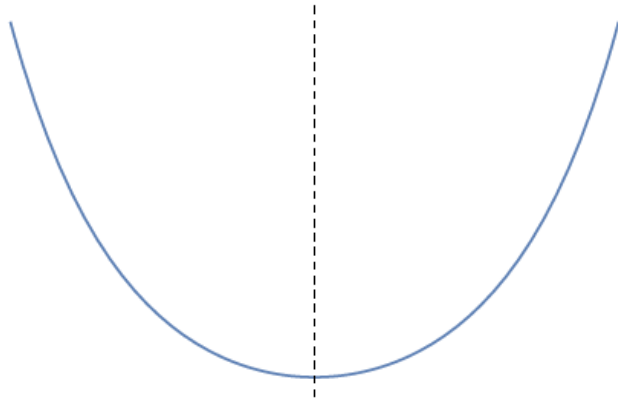


Figure 1: A good starting point.

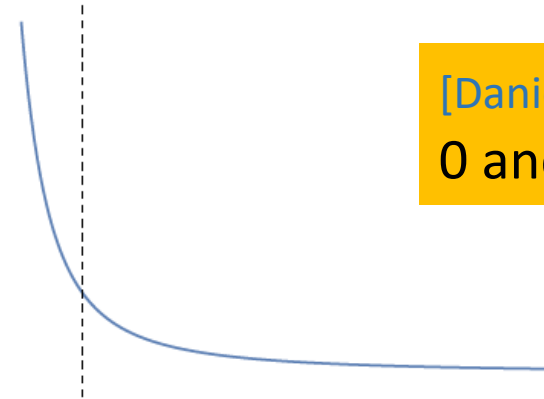


Figure 2: A not so good starting point.

[Danielsson 2018]: problem
0 and 1 not unrelated

Problem 2: 6D backreaction of antibranes

(Bena, Blaback, Grana,
Giecold, Puhm, Orsi,
Massai, Kuperstein,
Zagermann, Junghans,
Wrase, Danielsson,
Gautason, Vercnocke,
Diaz, Truijen, Cohen-
Maldonado, Hashimoto,
Cottrell, VR, Vargas,
Halmagyi, Kutasov,
Wisniji, McGuirk,
Massai, Shiu, Sumitomo,
Galante, Buchel,
Hartnett, Dymarsky,
Polchinski, Saad, Mintun,
Michel)



Review soon.

Problem 2: 6D backreaction of antibranes

- It seemed that singularities plagued the supergravity solutions describing anti-branes.

$$e^{-\phi} H^2 \rightarrow \infty$$

Problem 2: 6D backreaction of antibranes

- It seemed that singularities plagued the supergravity solutions describing anti-branes.

$$e^{-\phi} H^2 \rightarrow \infty$$

- If correct, direct brane-flux decay would make the system “side of the hill”.

Problem 2: 6D backreaction of antibranes

- It seemed that singularities plagued the supergravity solutions describing anti-branes.

$$e^{-\phi} H^2 \rightarrow \infty$$

- If correct, direct brane-flux decay would make the system “side of the hill”.
- This is unfortunate artefact of SUGRA. In string theory no problem. [Polchinski \[1509.05710\]](#) & [Michel, Mintun, Polchinski, Puhm, Saad \[1412.5702\]](#).

Problem 2: 6D backreaction of antibranes

- It seemed that singularities plagued the supergravity solutions describing anti-branes.

$$e^{-\phi} H^2 \rightarrow \infty$$

- If correct, direct brane-flux decay would make the system “side of the hill”.
- This is unfortunate artefact of SUGRA. In string theory no problem. [Polchinski \[1509.05710\]](#) & [Michel, Mintun, Polchinski, Puhm, Saad \[1412.5702\]](#).
- SUGRA is smart enough! *Singularities are not there.* [\[C.-Maldonado, Diaz, VR, Vercnocke 1507.01022 & C.-Maldonado, Diaz, Gautason, 1603.05678\]](#)

Problem 2: 6D backreaction of antibranes

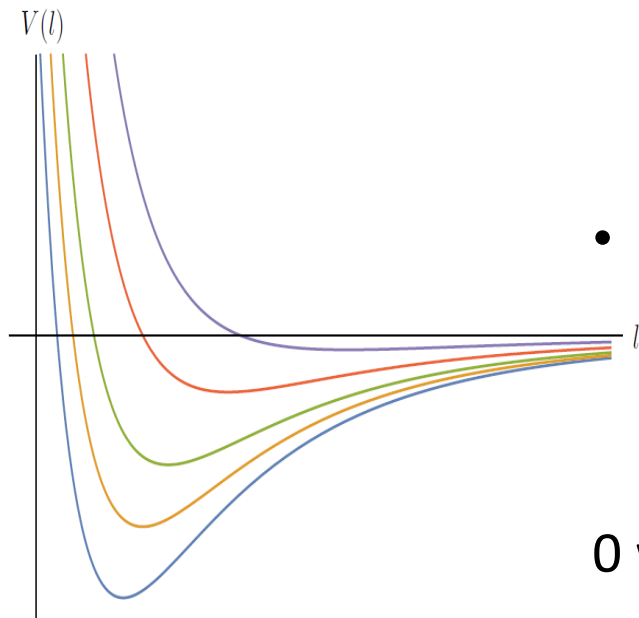
- It seemed that singularities plagued the supergravity solutions describing anti-branes.

$$e^{-\phi} H^2 \rightarrow \infty$$

- If correct, direct brane-flux decay would make the system “side of the hill”.
- This is unfortunate artefact of SUGRA. In string theory no problem. [Polchinski \[1509.05710\]](#) & [Michel, Mintun, Polchinski, Puhm, Saad \[1412.5702\]](#).
- SUGRA is smart enough! *Singularities are not there.* [\[C.-Maldonado, Diaz, VR, Vercnocke 1507.01022 & C.-Maldonado, Diaz, Gautason, 1603.05678\]](#)
- So it could have been a red herring. However, brane repelling tachyons [\[Bena, Grana, Kuperstein, Massai 1402.2294, 1410.7776 & Bena, Kuperstein 1504.00656 & Bena, Blaback, Turton 1602.05959\]](#). See also [\[Danielsson, 1502.01234 & Nakai, Ookouchi, Tanahashi, 1808.10235\]](#)

Problem 3: 4D backreaction of antibranes [Moritz, Retolaza, Westphal 1707.08678]

When KKLT uplifting is studied from a 10D point of view, we find AdS at best!



$$S_{D7} \supset \int_{\mathcal{M}_{10}} \delta_D^{(0)} e^{\phi/2} e^{-4A} \frac{\bar{\lambda} \bar{\lambda}}{16\pi^2} G_3 \wedge \star_{10} \Omega + c.c. ,$$

[Baumann,
Dymarsky,
Kachru,
Klebanov,
McAllister, 2010]

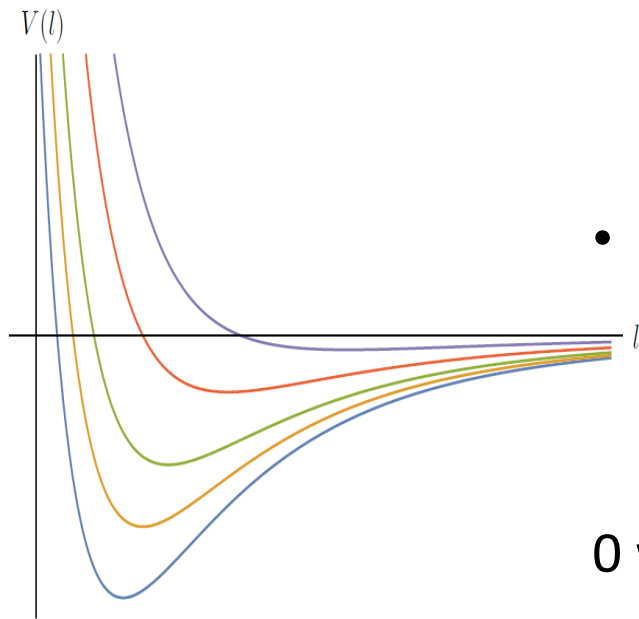
- Before uplift:

$$\underbrace{\nabla^2 \Phi^-}_{0 \text{ when integrated}} = R_4 + \underbrace{e^{-6A} |d\Phi^-|^2 + \frac{e^{2A}}{\text{Im}(\tau)} |G_3^-|^2 + \Delta_{\text{gaugino}}}_{\text{Positive in [Moritz, Retolaza, Westphal 2017]}}$$

- Positive in [Moritz, Retolaza, Westphal 2017]

Problem 3: 4D backreaction of antibranes [Moritz, Retolaza, Westphal 1707.08678]

When KKLT uplifting is studied from a 10D point of view, we find AdS at best!




$$S_{D7} \supset \int_{\mathcal{M}_{10}} \delta_D^{(0)} e^{\phi/2} e^{-4A} \frac{\bar{\lambda} \bar{\lambda}}{16\pi^2} G_3 \wedge \star_{10} \Omega + c.c. ,$$


[Baumann,
Dymarsky,
Kachru,
Klebanov,
McAllister, 2010]

- Before uplift:


$$\underbrace{\nabla^2 \Phi^-}_{0 \text{ when integrated}} = R_4 + \underbrace{e^{-6A} |d\Phi^-|^2 + \frac{e^{2A}}{\text{Im}(\tau)} |G_3^-|^2 + \Delta_{\text{gaugino}}}_{\text{Positive in [Moritz, Retolaza, Westphal 2017]}}$$

- Positive in [Moritz, Retolaza, Westphal 2017]
- Not quite [Buican, Gautason, Van Hemelrijck, VR, 2018]

- After uplift: extra term on RHS $e^{4A}(T_{\mu}^{\mu} - T_m^m)$  Same sign as other terms !

- After uplift: extra term on RHS $e^{4A}(T_{\mu}^{\mu} - T_m^m)$  Same sign as other terms !

If dS can occur then quite significant shifts in volume...so signs for loss of control of EFT if lift to dS is attempted! [\[Buican, Gautason, Van Hemelrijck, VR, 2018\]](#)

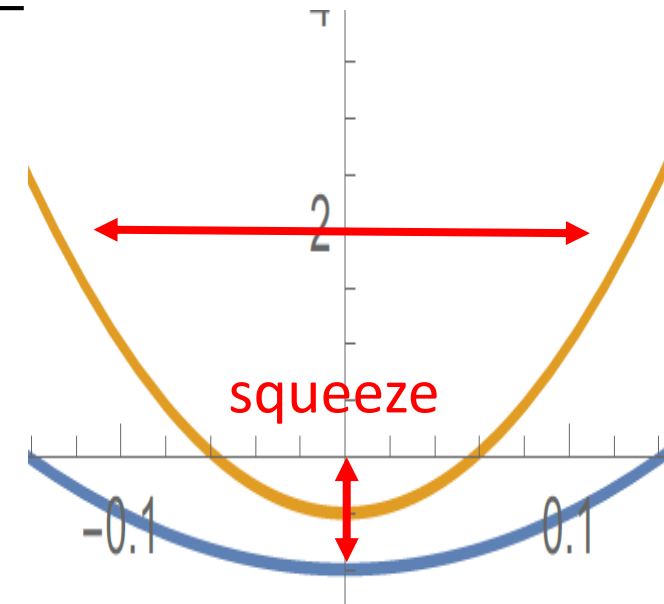
- After uplift: extra term on RHS $e^{4A}(T_\mu^\mu - T_m^m)$  Same sign as other terms !

If dS can occur then quite significant shifts in volume...so signs for loss of control of EFT if lift to dS is attempted! [Buican, Gautason, Van Hemelrijck, VR, 2018]

A way around problem 2 and 3 (controlled SUSY breaking) ?

If there exist SUSY AdS vacua for which *vacuum energy can be tuned to zero (from below) while keeping the masses of all modes fixed. Then any form of SUSY breaking leads to controlled dS vacua!*

$$m^2 R_{AdS}^2 \gg 1$$



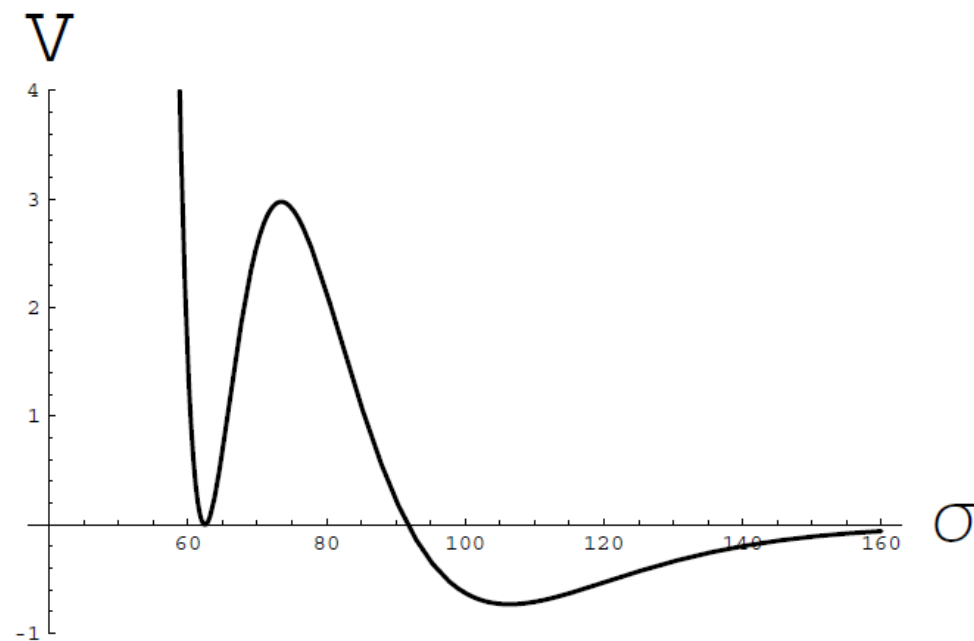
Claim: *such AdS vacua are in the Swampland.*

Example: racetrack fine-tuning [\[Kallosh, Linde, 2004\]](#)

$$W = W_0 + A \exp(iaT) + B \exp(ibT)$$

$$a = \frac{2\pi}{N_1}, \quad b = \frac{2\pi}{N_2}$$

$$N_1 = N_2 + 1 \sim N \gg 1$$

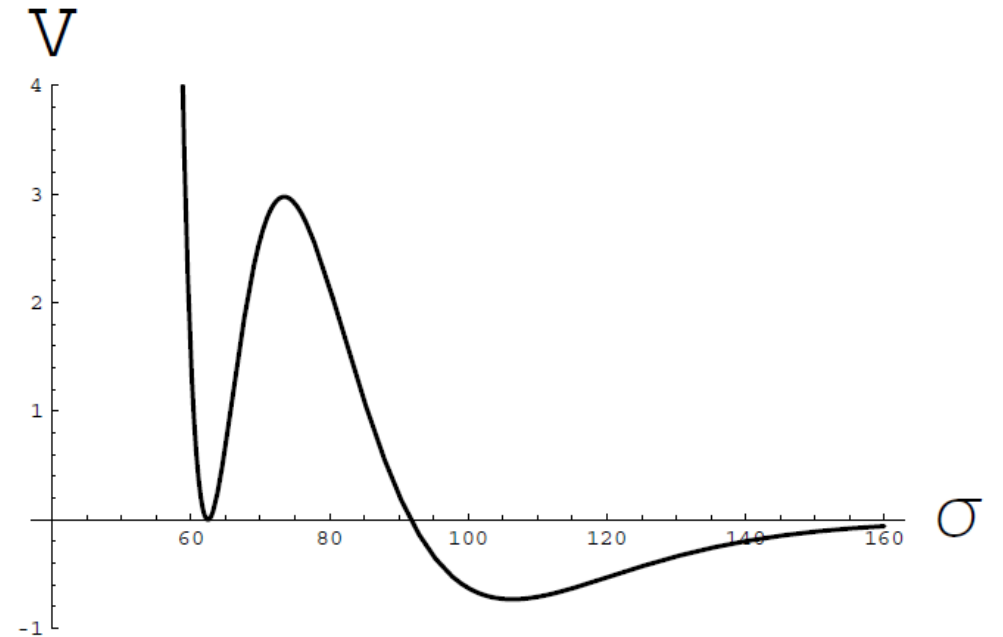


Example: racetrack fine-tuning [\[Kallosh, Linde, 2004\]](#)

$$W = W_0 + A \exp(iaT) + B \exp(ibT)$$

$$a = \frac{2\pi}{N_1}, \quad b = \frac{2\pi}{N_2}$$

$$N_1 = N_2 + 1 \sim N \gg 1$$



But exactly that limit makes the axionic partner of the volume modulus have parametrically large decay constant! [\[Moritz, VR, 1805.0944\]](#)

$$f \sim N M_{pl}$$

A violation of (the strong form) of the WGC for axions.

Beyond racetrack? \rightarrow AdS/CFT & conformal bootstrap, general nogo.

Condition for AdS's suitable for parametrically controlled dS uplifts: $mR = \kappa \gg 1$

This implies that the dual 3D (N=1) CFT has not a single low-lying operator!

$$\Delta = \frac{3}{2} + \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{9 + 4\kappa^2} \gg 1$$

Beyond racetrack? \rightarrow AdS/CFT & conformal bootstrap, general nogo.

Condition for AdS's suitable for parametrically controlled dS uplifts: $mR = \kappa \gg 1$

This implies that the dual 3D (N=1) CFT has not a single low-lying operator!

$$\Delta = \frac{3}{2} + \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{9 + 4\kappa^2} \gg 1$$

Is this possible? Conformal bootstrap implies it is difficult.

Beyond racetrack? \rightarrow AdS/CFT & conformal bootstrap, general nogo.

Condition for AdS's suitable for parametrically controlled dS uplifts: $mR = \kappa \gg 1$

This implies that the dual 3D (N=1) CFT has not a single low-lying operator!

$$\Delta = \frac{3}{2} + \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{9 + 4\kappa^2} \gg 1$$

Is this possible? Conformal bootstrap implies it is difficult.

Nogo if:

- CFT is local
- CFT is unitary
- CFT is parity preserving

Beyond racetrack? \rightarrow AdS/CFT & conformal bootstrap, general nogo.

Condition for AdS's suitable for parametrically controlled dS uplifts: $mR = \kappa \gg 1$

This implies that the dual 3D (N=1) CFT has not a single low-lying operator!

$$\Delta = \frac{3}{2} + \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{9 + 4\kappa^2} \gg 1$$

Is this possible? Conformal bootstrap implies it is difficult.

Nogo if:

- CFT is local
 - CFT is unitary
 - CFT is parity preserving
- } \rightarrow crossing symmetry constraints of
- $$\langle T_{\mu_1\nu_1}(x_1)T_{\mu_2\nu_2}(x_2)T_{\mu_3\nu_3}(x_3)T_{\mu_4\nu_4}(x_4) \rangle$$

lead to existence of operators for which: $\Delta^+ \leq 7$, $\Delta^- \leq 11.78$

Parity preservation?

- No vevs of “axions”
- Restriction; but not unthinkable similar bounds exist in general case
- Racetrack SUSY AdS as proposed in [\[Kallosh&Linde 2004\]](#) has zero axion vev.

WGC-conjecture

Conformal Bootstrap



dS / CFT ?

Typical reasons dS/CFT is tough:

- Wickrotating AdS \rightarrow dS typically inconsistent & No (simple) string theory background?
- Complex operator dimensions: $\Delta_{\pm} = \frac{3}{2} \pm \sqrt{\frac{9}{4} - m^2 R^2}$
- dS is at best meta-stable *in string theory* \rightarrow decaying geometry has no CFT dual

Typical reasons dS/CFT is tough:

- Wickrotating AdS \rightarrow dS typically inconsistent & No (simple) string theory background?
- Complex operator dimensions: $\Delta_{\pm} = \frac{3}{2} \pm \sqrt{\frac{9}{4} - m^2 R^2}$
- dS is at best meta-stable *in string theory* \rightarrow decaying geometry has no CFT dual

One counter example: AdS higher spin/ $O(N)$ vector model correspondence can be consistently Wickrotated to dS/ $SP(N)$ [Anninos, Hartman, Strominger 2011]

Typical reasons dS/CFT is tough:

- Wickrotating AdS \rightarrow dS typically inconsistent & No (simple) string theory background?
- Complex operator dimensions: $\Delta_{\pm} = \frac{3}{2} \pm \sqrt{\frac{9}{4} - m^2 R^2}$
- dS is at best meta-stable *in string theory* \rightarrow decaying geometry has no CFT dual

One counter example: AdS higher spin/ $O(N)$ vector model correspondence can be consistently Wickrotated to dS/ $SP(N)$ [Anninos, Hartman, Strominger 2011]

\rightarrow Ooguri-Vafa *conjecture*: non-SUSY AdS/non-SUSY CFT duality cannot be.

dS cannot be SUSY. So no dS/CFT... (aside higher spin theory)

Typical reasons dS/CFT is tough:

- Wickrotating AdS \rightarrow dS typically inconsistent & No (simple) string theory background?
- Complex operator dimensions: $\Delta_{\pm} = \frac{3}{2} \pm \sqrt{\frac{9}{4} - m^2 R^2}$
- dS is at best meta-stable *in string theory* \rightarrow decaying geometry has no CFT dual

One counter example: AdS higher spin/ $O(N)$ vector model correspondence can be consistently Wickrotated to dS/ $SP(N)$ [Anninos, Hartman, Strominger 2011]

\rightarrow Ooguri-Vafa *conjecture*: non-SUSY AdS/non-SUSY CFT duality cannot be.

dS cannot be SUSY. So no dS/CFT... (aside higher spin theory)

Why not supersymmetric (and hence stable?) dS?



- Examples exist! 10d IIA*/B* theories [[Hull hep-th/9806146](#)]. *But always with ghosts* (flipped sign of RR kinetic terms).



- Examples exist! 10d IIA*/B* theories [[Hull hep-th/9806146](#)]. *But always with ghosts* (flipped sign of RR kinetic terms).
- Ghosts thus unavoidable? → indeed, see dS superalgebra classification [[Pilch, Sohnius, van Nieuwenhuizen, 1985](#)]



- Examples exist! 10d IIA*/B* theories [[Hull hep-th/9806146](#)]. *But always with ghosts* (flipped sign of RR kinetic terms).
- Ghosts thus unavoidable? → indeed, see dS superalgebra classification [[Pilch, Sohnius, van Nieuwenhuizen, 1985](#)]
- However, maybe makes sense in some unconventional way [[Hull 1998](#), [Dijkgraaf, Heidenreich, Jefferson, Vafa, 1603.05665](#)]



- Examples exist! 10d IIA*/B* theories [[Hull hep-th/9806146](#)]. *But always with ghosts* (flipped sign of RR kinetic terms).
- Ghosts thus unavoidable? → indeed, see dS superalgebra classification [[Pilch, Sohnius, van Nieuwenhuizen, 1985](#)]
- However, maybe makes sense in some unconventional way [[Hull 1998](#), [Dijkgraaf, Heidenreich, Jefferson, Vafa, 1603.05665](#)]



Higher Spin dS/Sp(N)-CFT can be consistently supersymmetrised by adding spinor fields! [[Hertog, M.-Tartaglino, Venken, VR 2017](#)]

SUSY Vasiliev AdS / free O(N) model



SUSY Vasiliev dS / free Sp(N) model

dS/CFT ? [Maldacena, 2003]

$$\Psi_{HH}[h_{ij}, A_s] = Z_{QFT}[\tilde{h}_{ij}, J_s] \exp(iS_{st}[h_{ij}, A_s]/\hbar)$$

Spatial 3-metric

Matter fields

Sources related to boundary
metric and matter fields

dS/CFT ? [Maldacena, 2003]

$$\Psi_{HH}[h_{ij}, A_s] = Z_{QFT}[\tilde{h}_{ij}, J_s] \exp(iS_{st}[h_{ij}, A_s]/\hbar)$$

Spatial 3-metric

Matter fields

Sources related to boundary
metric and matter fields

- SUSY Vasiliev theory in dS? → Supersymmetrisation done in [Sezgin, Sundell 1208.6019]. Wickrotated holographic dual seems fine, no signs of instability, ghosts [Hertog, Tartaglino-Mazzucchelli, VR, Venken, 2017]

dS/CFT ? [Maldacena, 2003]

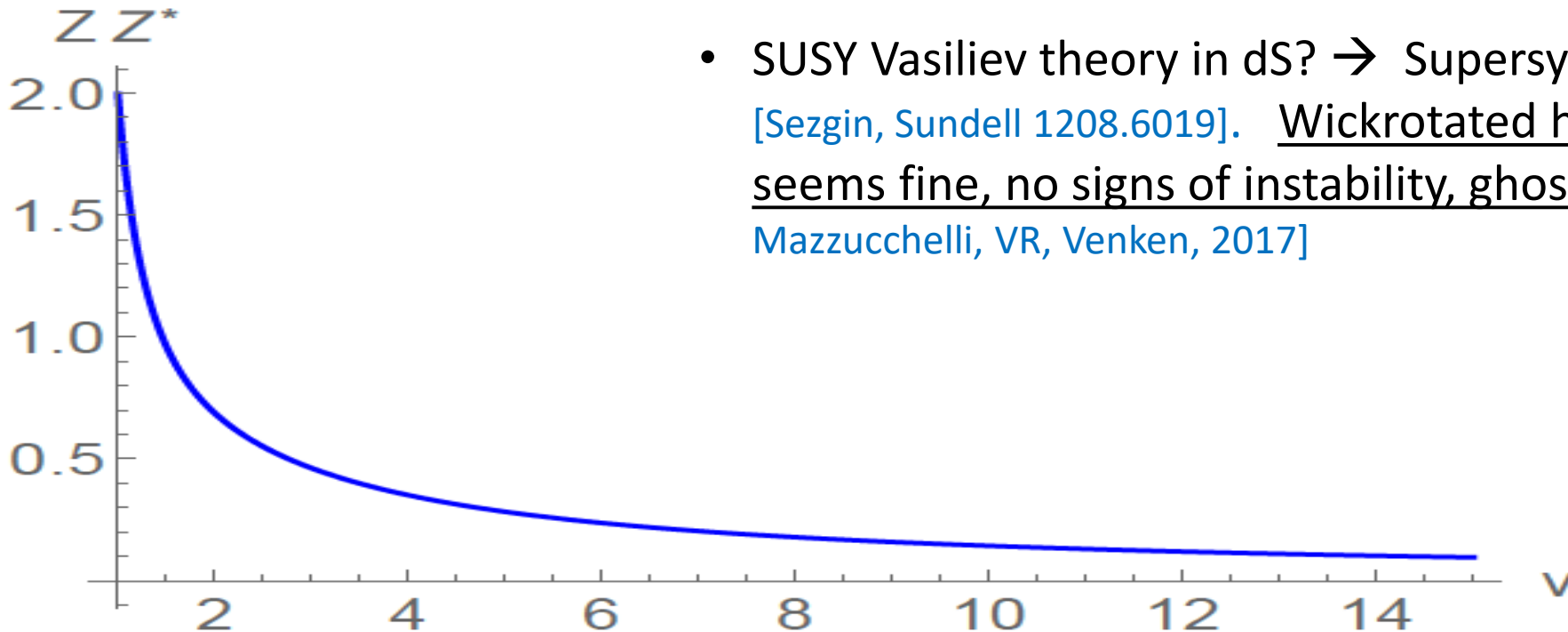
$$\Psi_{HH}[h_{ij}, A_s] = Z_{QFT}[\tilde{h}_{ij}, J_s] \exp(iS_{st}[h_{ij}, A_s]/\hbar)$$

Spatial 3-metric

Matter fields

Sources related to boundary
metric and matter fields

probability



- SUSY Vasiliev theory in dS? \rightarrow Supersymmetrisation done in [Sezgin, Sundell 1208.6019]. Wickrotated holographic dual seems fine, no signs of instability, ghosts [Hertog, Tartaglino-Mazzucchelli, VR, Venken, 2017]

Deformation by
bulk field

How? Hull '98:

If the type II^* string theories are truncated down to their supergravity limits, the supergravity theories have ghosts. However, in the full string theories, it is possible that the string gauge symmetries can be used to eliminate the ghosts. Indeed, the type II^* theories are linked by T-duality to the type II theories which are ghost-free, at least perturbatively.

How? Hull '98:

If the type II^* string theories are truncated down to their supergravity limits, the supergravity theories have ghosts. However, in the full string theories, it is possible that the string gauge symmetries can be used to eliminate the ghosts. Indeed, the type II^* theories are linked by T-duality to the type II theories which are ghost-free, at least perturbatively.

→ The tensionless limit is exactly the trick to “integrate in “ all the string modes and be able to compute. We find no instabilities. Hull’s intuition was correct!? [\[Hull 1998, Dijkgraaf, Heidenreich, Jefferson, Vafa, 1603.05665\]](#)

Conclusions

- A dS landscape in string theory, if there, has huge implications. Potentially “explains” cc problem [Linde, Susskind,...].

- A dS landscape in string theory, if there, has huge implications. Potentially “explains” cc problem [Linde, Susskind,...].
- It better rests on strong evidence. Ideas like KKLT are smart. But evidence not strong enough (yet?)

- A dS landscape in string theory, if there, has huge implications. Potentially “explains” cc problem [Linde, Susskind,...].
- It better rests on strong evidence. Ideas like KKLT are smart. But evidence not strong enough (yet?)
- Likewise we do not have strong evidence for the “no-dS conjecture”

- A dS landscape in string theory, if there, has huge implications. Potentially “explains” cc problem [Linde, Susskind,...].
- It better rests on strong evidence. Ideas like KKLT are smart. But evidence not strong enough (yet?)
- Likewise we do not have strong evidence for the “no-dS conjecture”
- More work is needed! (Current paradigm shift is healthy)

- A dS landscape in string theory, if there, has huge implications. Potentially “explains” cc problem [Linde, Susskind,...].
- It better rests on strong evidence. Ideas like KKLT are smart. But evidence not strong enough (yet?)
- Likewise we do not have strong evidence for the “no-dS conjecture”
- More work is needed! (Current paradigm shift is healthy)

But if I would have to bet now then:

My bet:



Our (stringy) universe



Vasilievs universe

