

# Quantum Foam, Topological Strings and Black Holes

Cumrun Vafa  
Strings '04

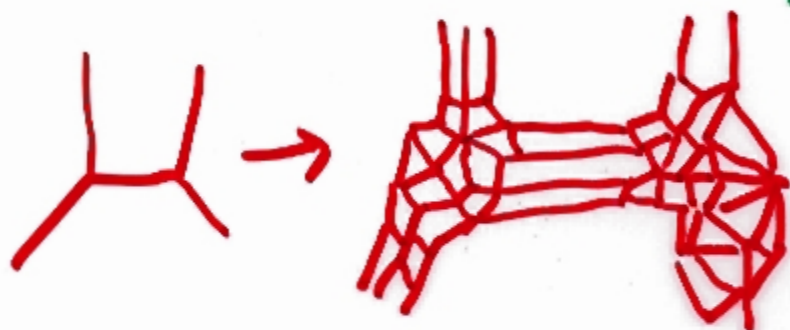
- Based on:
- Okounkov, Reshetikhin, V. hep-th/0309208
  - Iqbal, Nekrasov, Okounkov, V. /0312022
  - Neitzke, V. /0402128 } See Dijkgraaf + Nekrasov's talks
  - Nekrasov, Ooguri, V. /0403167 }
  - Ooguri, Strominger, V. /0405146 } See Strominger's talk
  - V. /0406058

# Plan of my talk:

- Review of topological strings



- Quantum foam interpretation of topological strings



- 5d Black holes  $\leftrightarrow$  perturbative topological string  
 $Z_{BH}^{(5)} = Z_{top}^{per}$

- 4d Black holes  $\leftrightarrow$  Non-perturbative topological strings  
 $Z^{(4)} = |Z_{top}|^2$

- Example:  
 (Elliptic 3-fold)

2d YM

4d Black hole

t Hooft limit

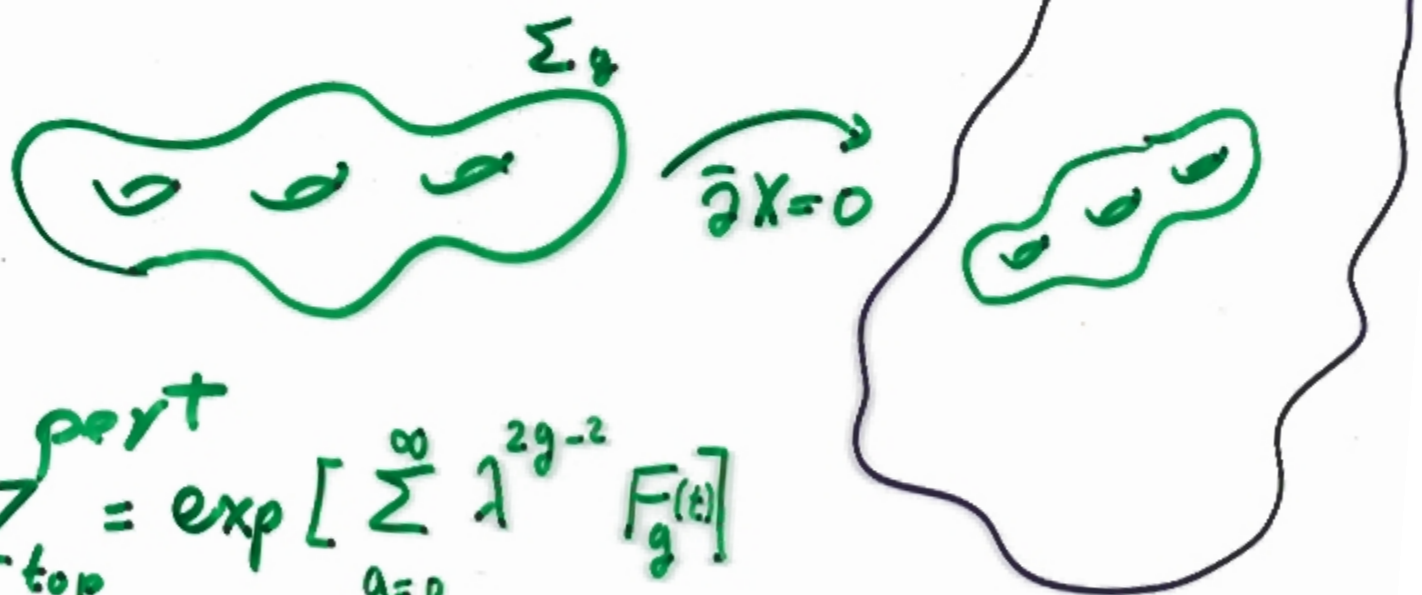
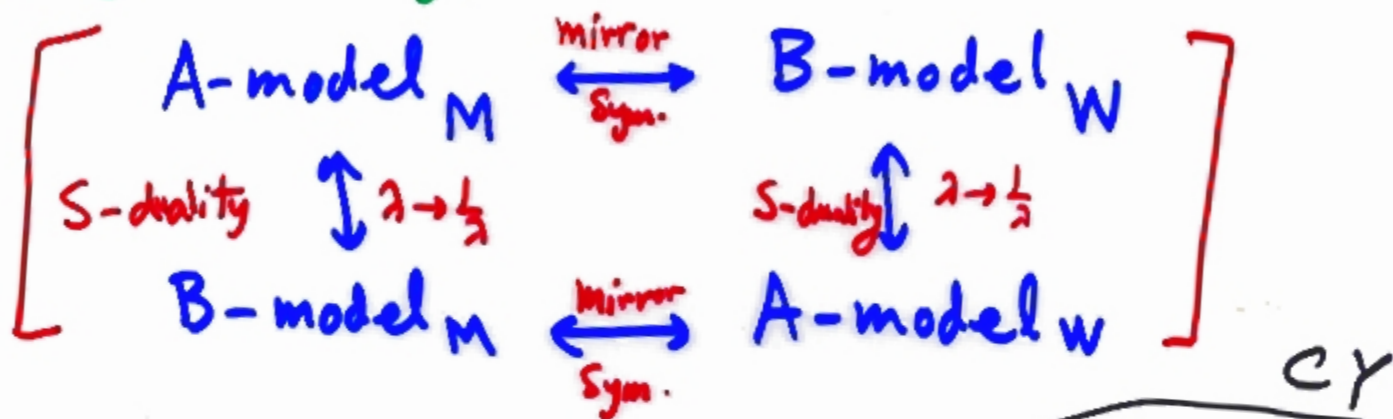
pert. top string

5d Black hole

quantum foam

# Review of Topological Strings

Here we will mainly discuss A-model topological string on CY. [W]



$$Z_{\text{top}}^{\text{pert}} = \exp \left[ \sum_{g=0}^{\infty} \lambda^{2g-2} F_g(t) \right]$$

$$F_g(t) = \sum_{\substack{\text{hol.} \\ \text{maps} \\ \text{from genus } g}} e^{-A_{\Sigma_g}(t)}$$

$t$ : Kähler moduli of CY

Despite tremendous reduction to  
holomorphic maps  $\rightarrow$  Still hard to  
compute. For generic CY only  
low genus  $F_g$  has been computed (using  
[BCOV] mirror sym.)

For non-compact (toric) CY  $\rightarrow$   
complete sol'n to perturbative topological string  
using: Topological Vertex formalism  
[AKMV]

which in turn was arrived at using

large N-duality of C.S.  $\rightarrow$  top. string

[GV]

4 and recently rederived using mirror symmetry.  
[ADKMV]

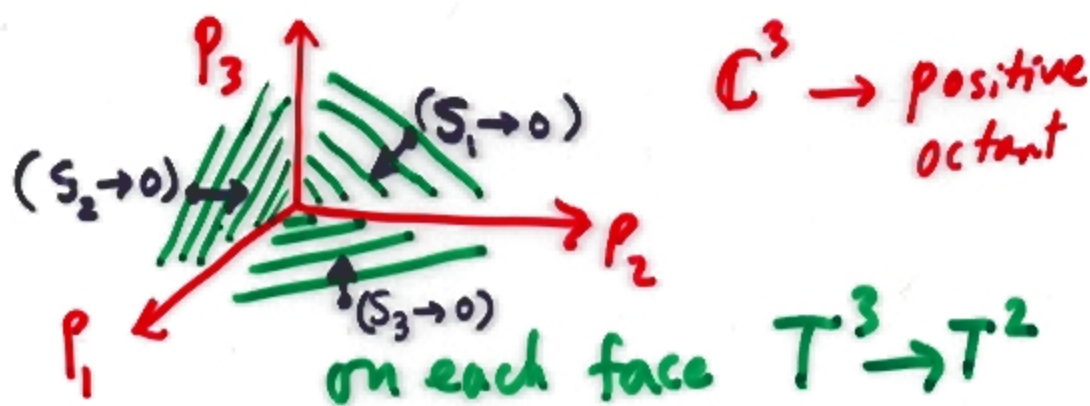
# Toric CY

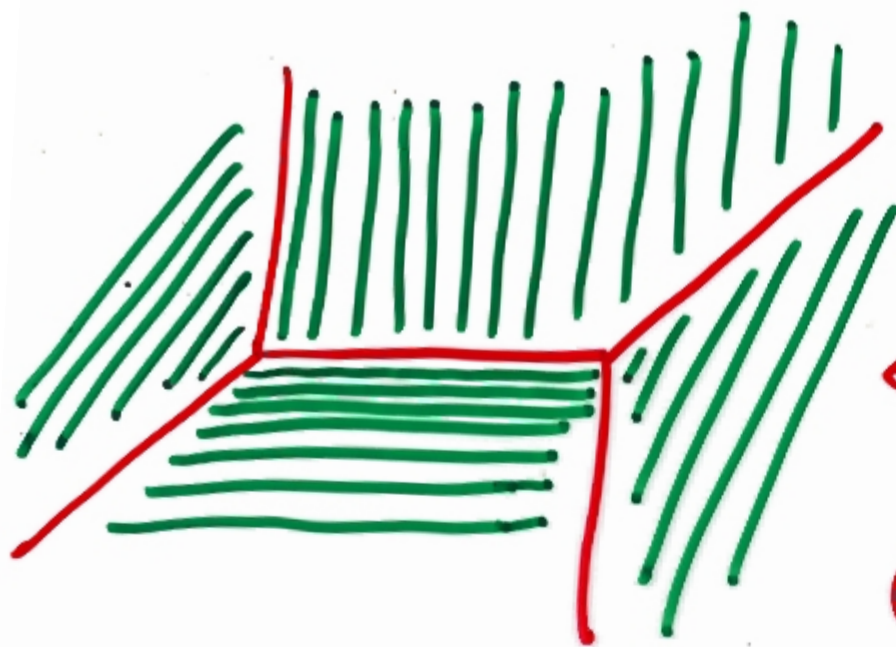
Toric CY: CY as the phase space of a particle on  $T^3$  with restrictions on momenta:

$$\mathbb{C}^3 : (z_1, z_2, z_3) \rightarrow (|z_1|^2, |z_2|^2, |z_3|^2, \theta_1, \theta_2, \theta_3) \\ (p_1, p_2, p_3, \theta_1, \theta_2, \theta_3)$$

$$h = \sum_i dz_i \wedge d\bar{z}_i \rightarrow \sum_i dp_i \wedge d\theta_i$$

Note:  $p_i \geq 0$   $\{\theta_i\} \in T^3$



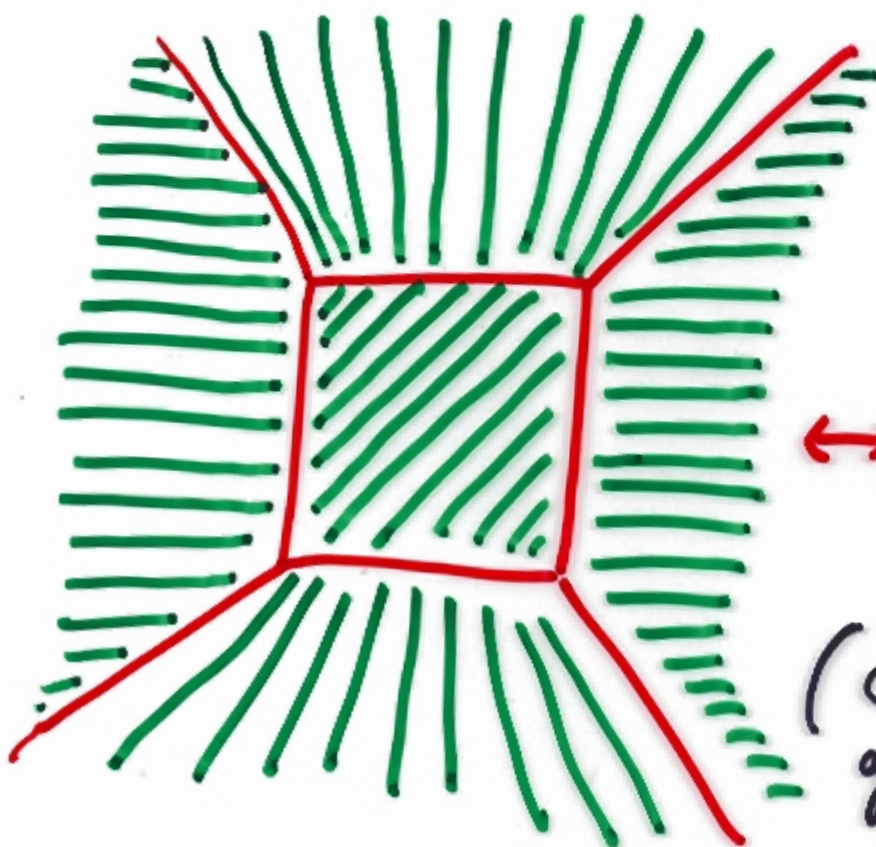


$$O(-1) \oplus O(-1)$$

$$\downarrow$$

$$P^1$$

(resolution of conifold)



$$O(-2, -2)$$

$$\downarrow$$

$$P^1 \times P^1$$

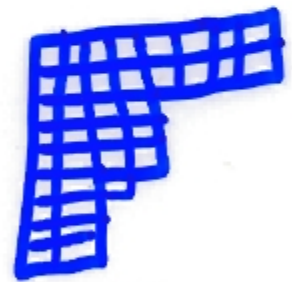
(can be used for  
geometric engineering  
of  $N=2, SU(2)$   
in  $d=4$ )

# Topological Vertex Formalism



trivalent  
"Feynman"  
diagrams

To each edge  $\rightarrow R_i$

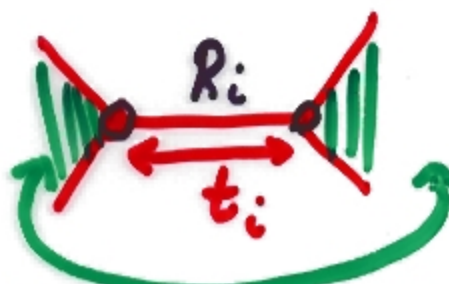


Propagator  $\rightarrow e^{-t_i |R_i| - m_i \lambda K(R_i)}$  2d Young diagram

$|R_i| = \#$  boxes,  $K(R_i)$  Casimir

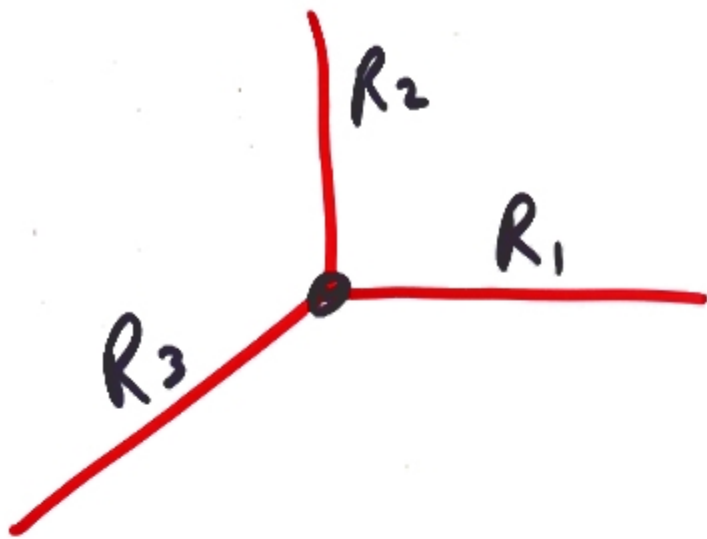
$t_i$  : length

$m_i$  : relative orientation of faces



$\lambda$ : string coupling

Relative Orientation:  $m_i$



To each vertex

$C_{R_1 R_2 R_3}(q)$ : rational fn. of  $q$

$$q = e^{-\lambda}$$

" "  $\sum_{R_i} \rightarrow = \int_{\text{top}}^{\text{(pert.)}}$



# Reinterpretation of Topological Vertices

as  
Quantum Foam

Target space theory of A-model



Kähler gravity on CY

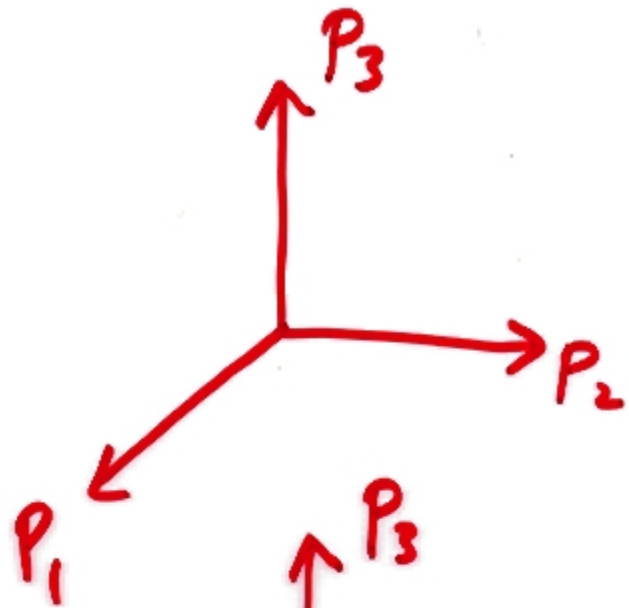
We expect

$$Z_{\text{target}} = \sum_{\text{Kähler geometries + topologies}} e^{-S}$$

$$S = \frac{1}{\lambda^2} \int k \wedge k \wedge k$$

For example:

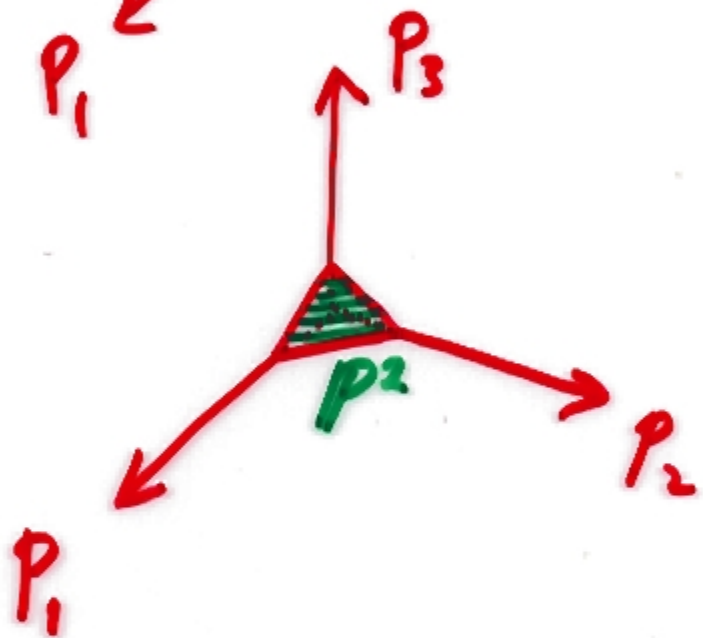
$\mathbb{C}^3$



blowup

"O(-1)"

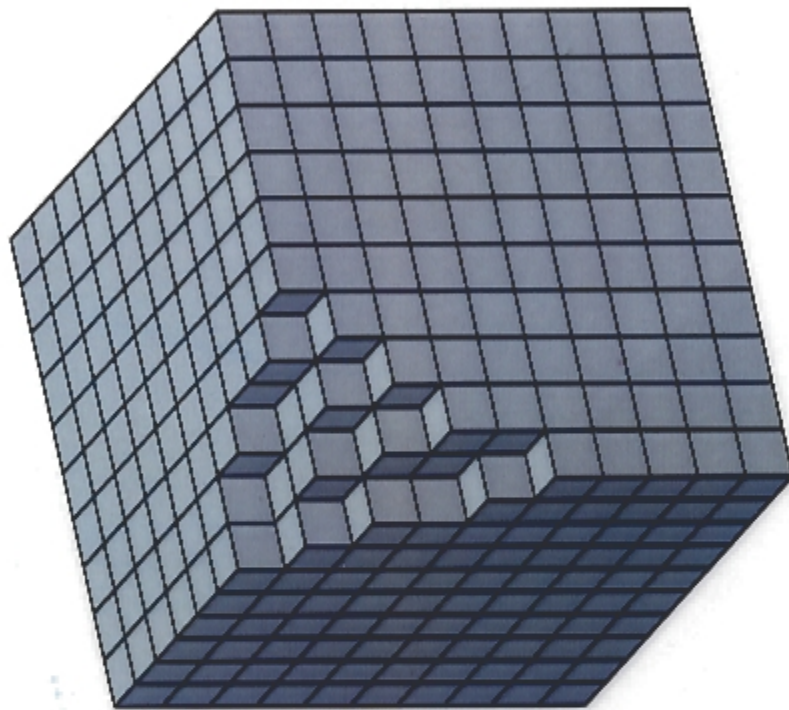
$p^2$

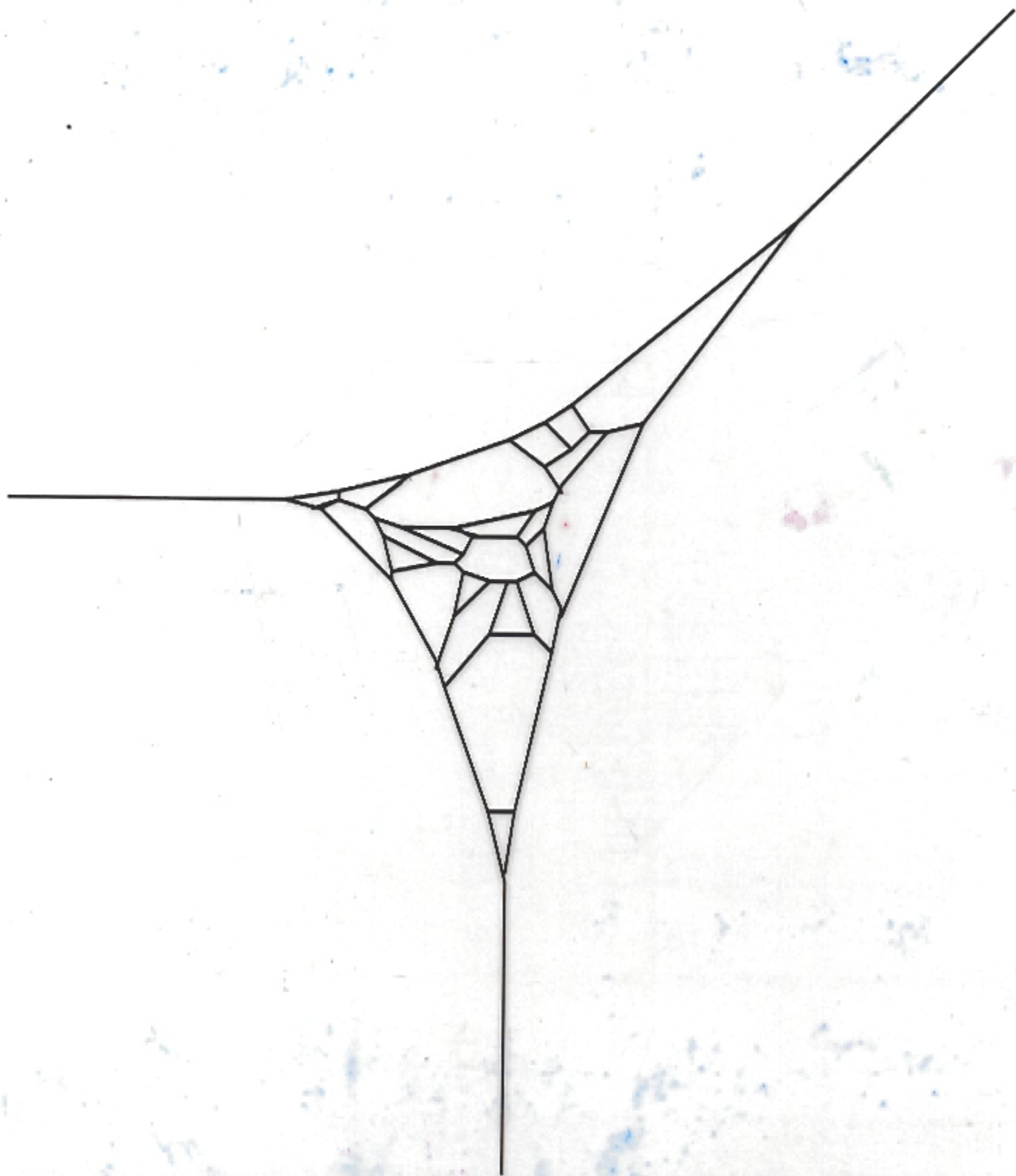


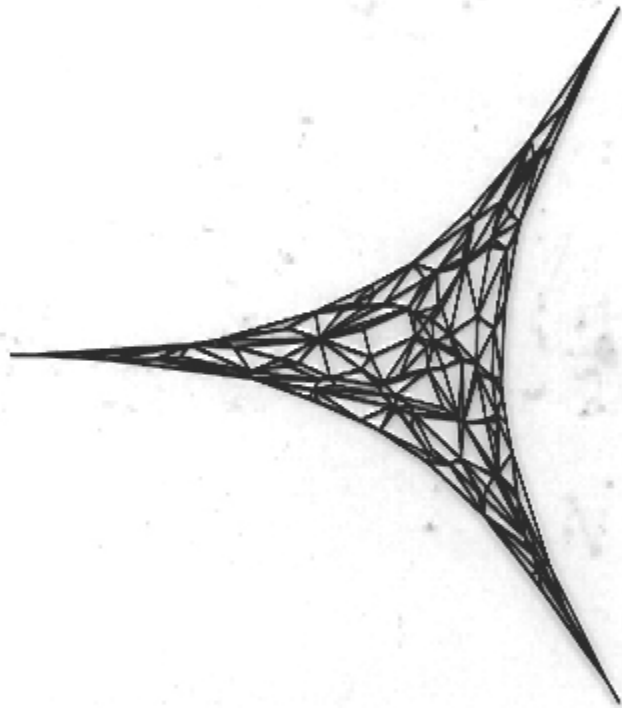
$\Delta S =$  Action cost:  $\frac{1}{\lambda^2} \int k_{\wedge} k_{\wedge} k = \frac{1}{\lambda^2} \int dp_1 dp_2 dp_3$   
 deleted region

$\hat{p}_i = \frac{p_i}{\lambda}$  "Planck units"

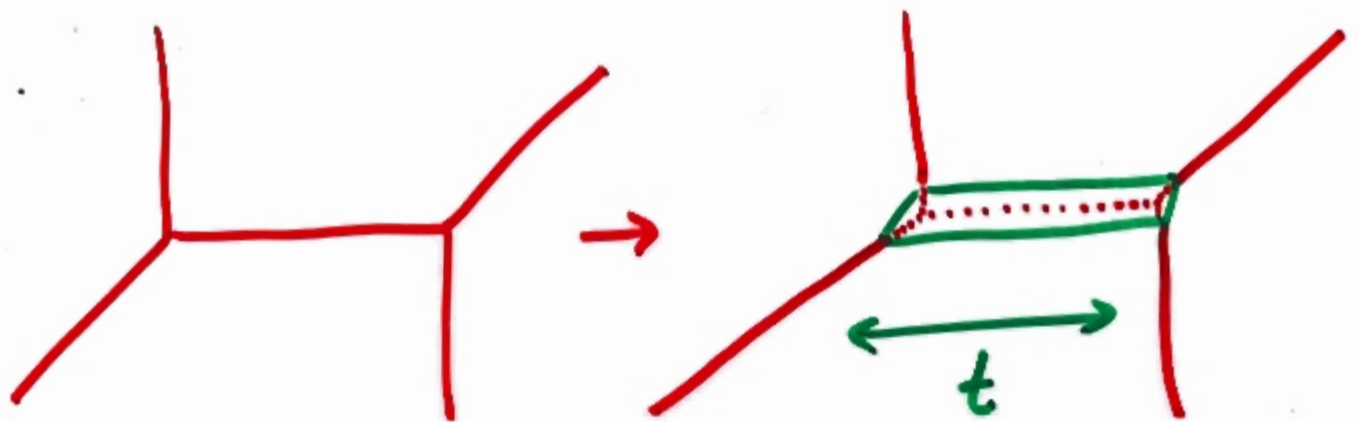
$\Rightarrow \Delta S = -\lambda \hat{V} \Rightarrow e^{\Delta S} = q^{\hat{V}} = q^N$   
 N: number of points deleted







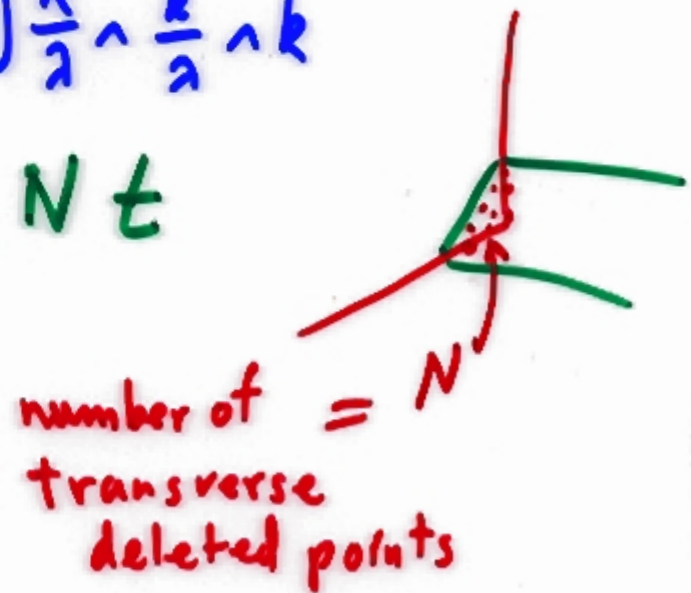
We can also blow up along curves:



Action cost:

$$\Delta \left[ \frac{1}{\lambda^2} \int k \wedge k \wedge k \right] = \int \frac{k}{\lambda} \wedge \frac{k}{\lambda} \wedge k$$

$$= N t$$



We can also have more complicated blowups:



$$Z_{\text{top}}^{\text{pert.}} = \sum_{(\pm)} q^{\mathbf{n}_0} e^{-t_i \mathbf{n}_2^i}$$

toric blowups  
 along points ( $\mathbf{n}_0$ )  
 + curves ( $\mathbf{n}_2^i$ )

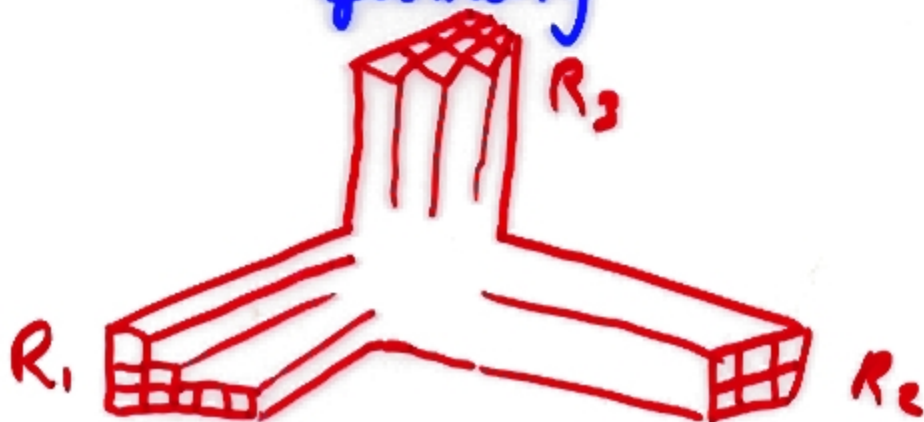
subject to  $\int k = m \lambda$

$C_2$   $\updownarrow$  Bohr-Sommerfeld  
 quantization

$$\frac{\int dp dq}{2\pi} = m \hbar$$

$$C_{R_1 R_2 R_3}(q) = \sum_{(\pm)} q^{\mathbf{n}_0}$$

blowup  
 of points in the  
 geometry

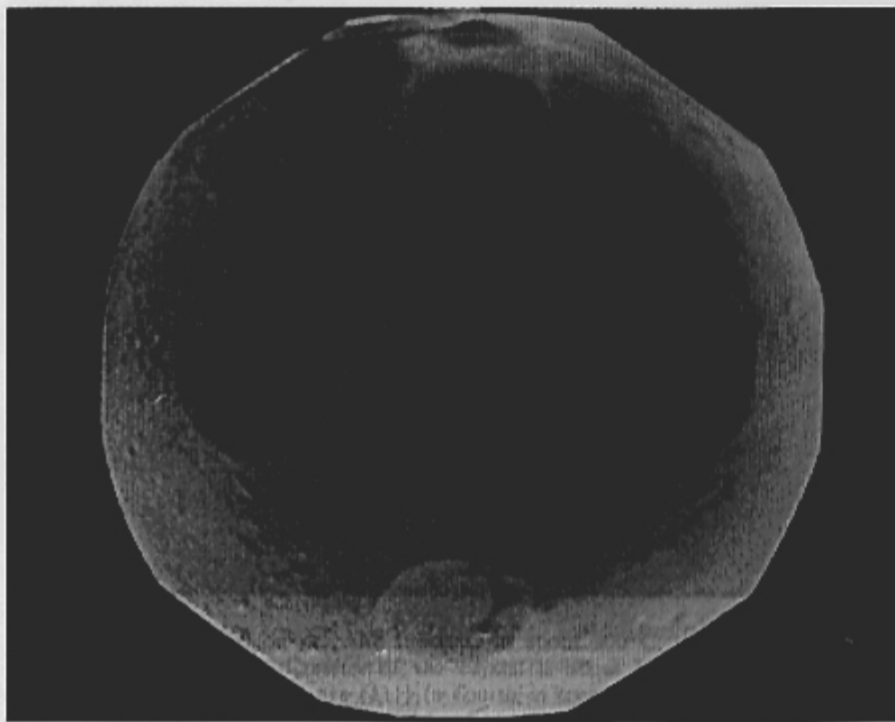
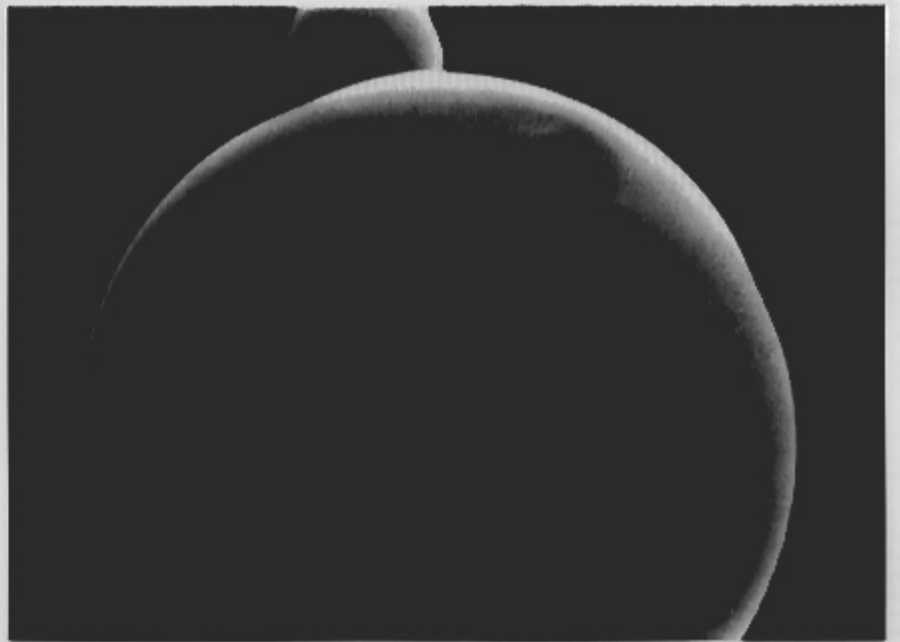
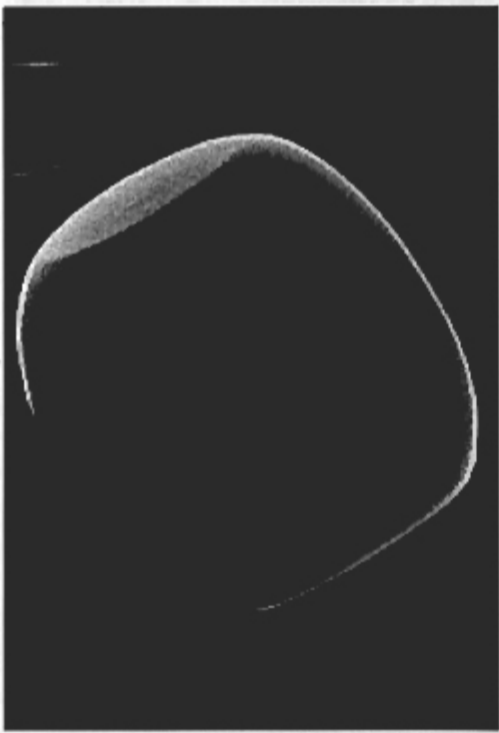


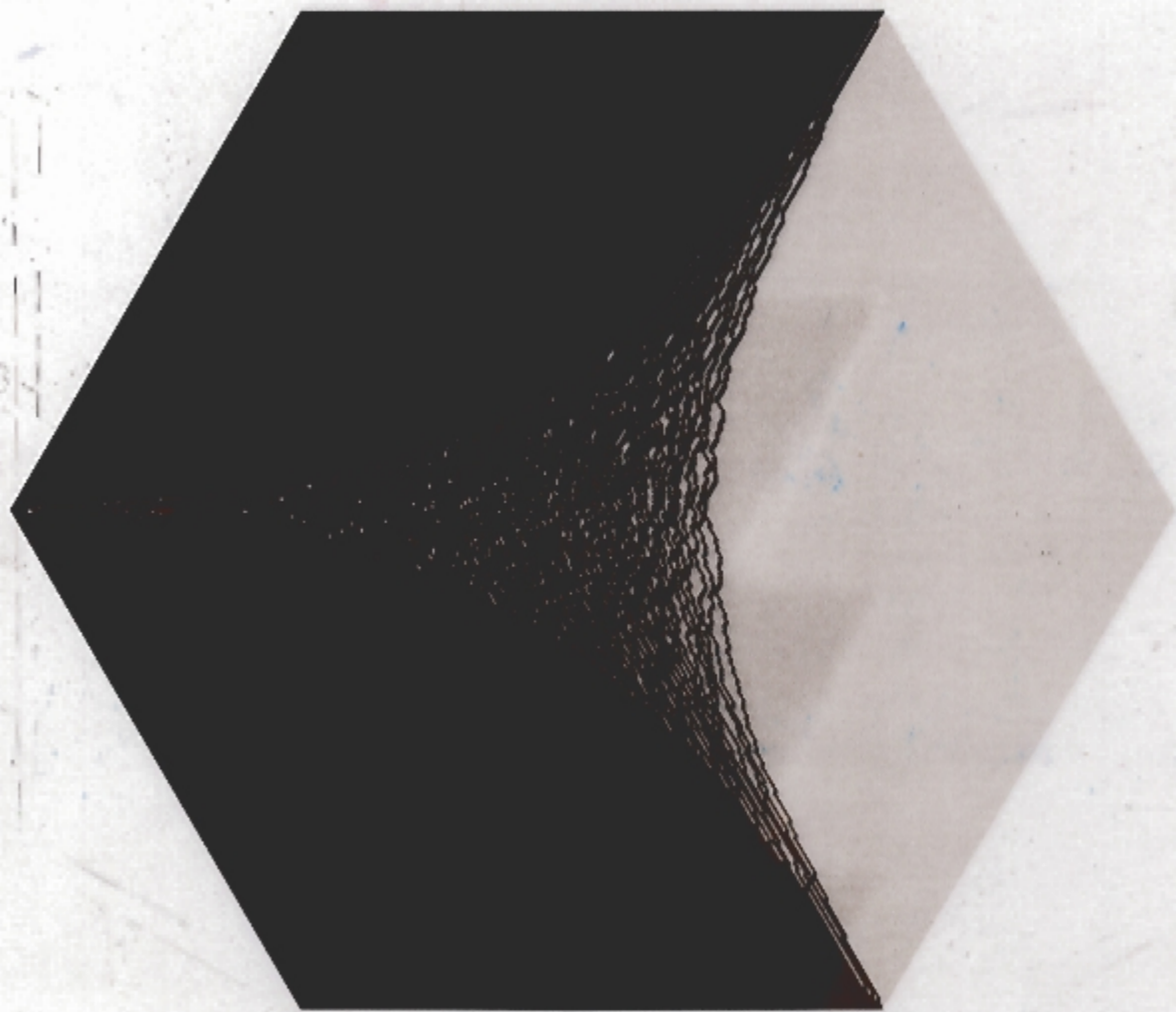
In the S-dual B-model

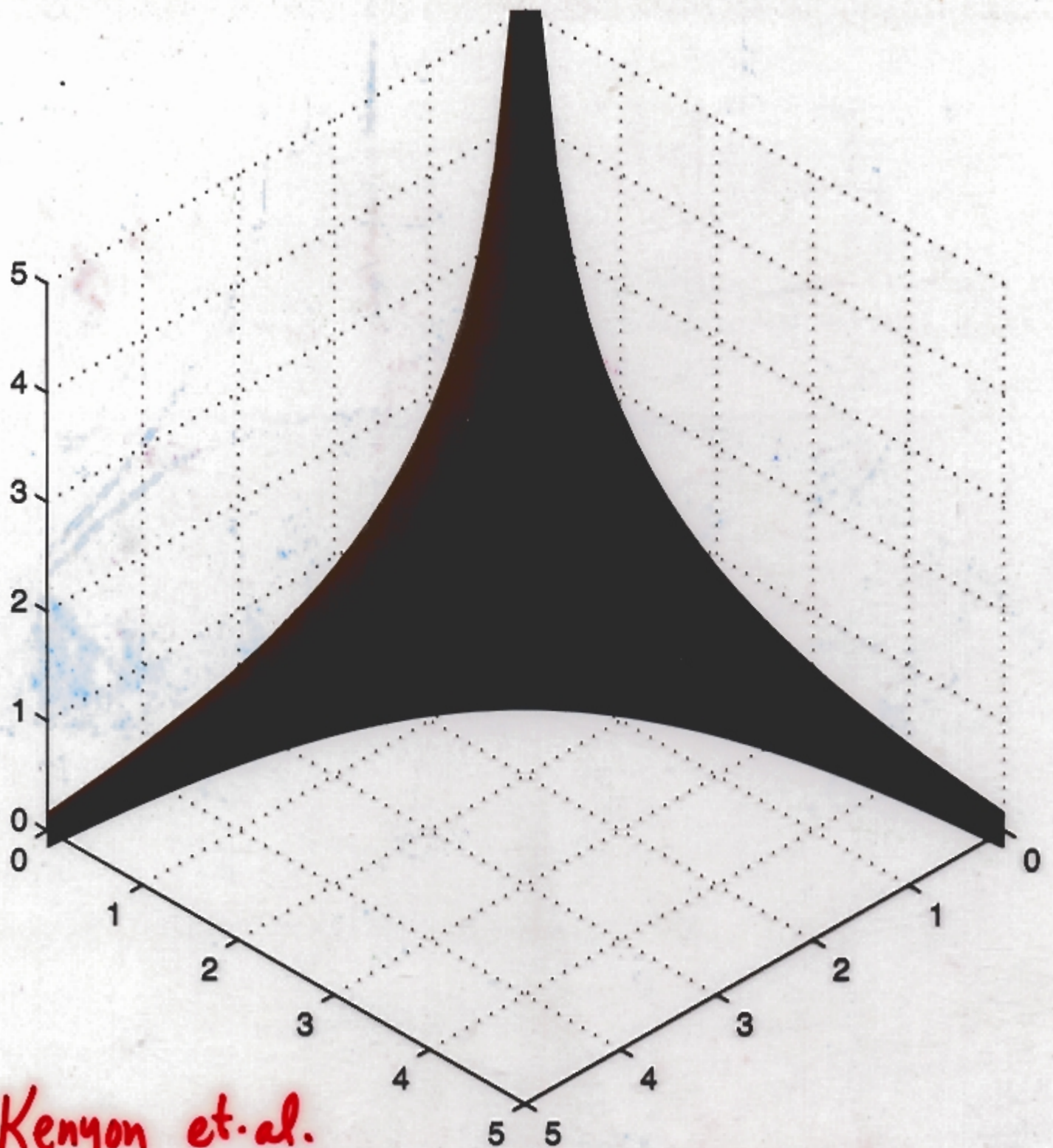
{ Blowup along points  $\leftrightarrow$   $D_{-1}$ -instanton  
Blowup along curves  $\leftrightarrow$  D1-brane  
instantons

"explains" quantization of  $k$ .

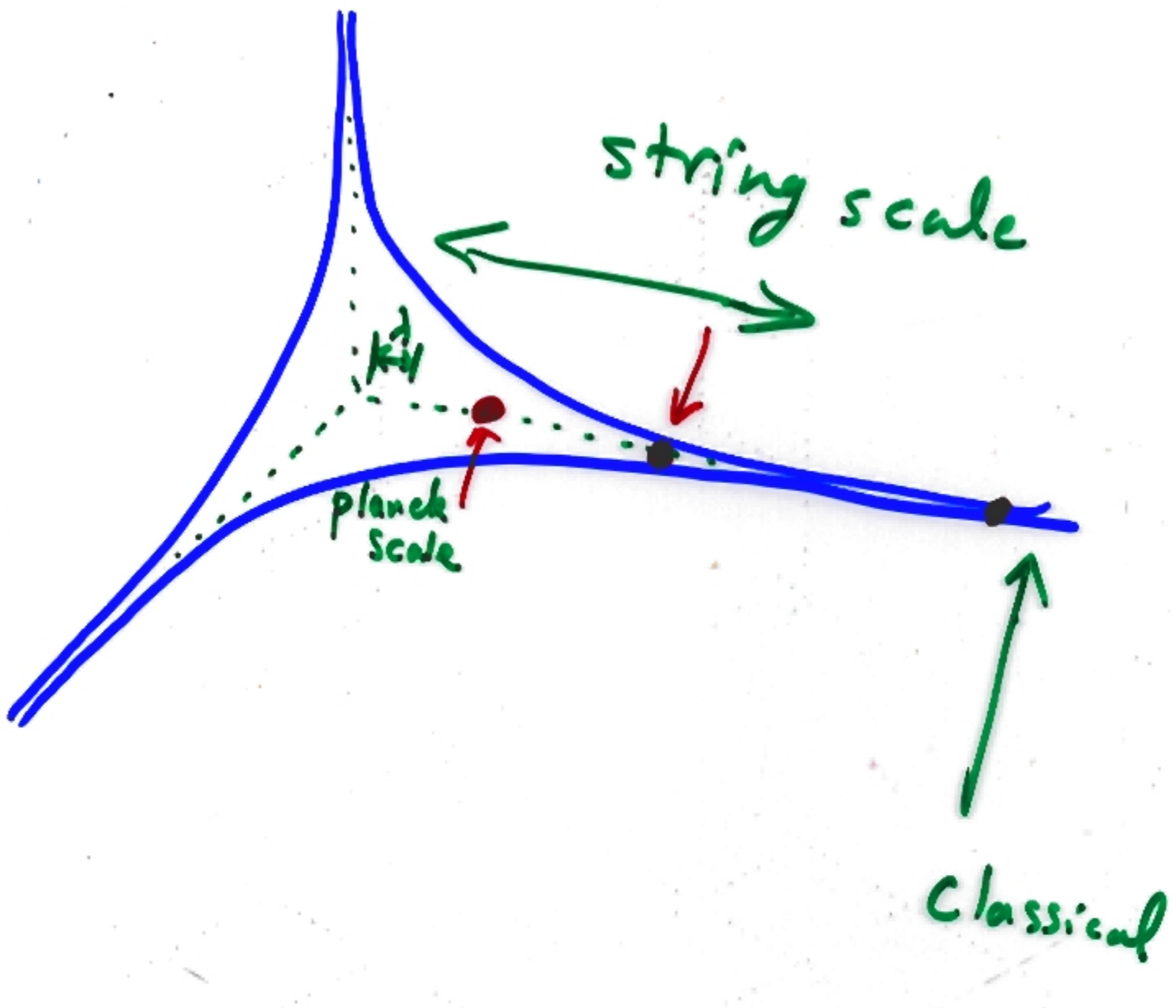








Kenyon et al.  
Okounkov, Reshetikhin



# Topological Strings

vs.

# Superstrings

Main link: [BCOV], [AGNT]

$$F_g(t) \rightarrow \int d^4x d^4\theta F_g(T) (W^2)^g$$

$W$ : graviphoton field

[ $F_0(T) \rightarrow$  prepotential for  $\mathcal{N}=2$  susy  $d=4$ ]

[open string version  $\sum F_{0,h} S^h \rightarrow$  superpot.  $\mathcal{N}=1, d=4$ ]

More interesting to give v.e.v. to  $W^2$

then  $\sum F_g(W^2)$  sums up all genus.

(BPS) Black hole



M-theory

IIA

CY

CY

x

x

$R^5$

$R^4$

M2 branes  
wrapping 2-cycles of  
CY ↔ Spinning B.H.

$D_0, D_2, P_4, D_6$   
branes  
wrap CY  
↔ Charged B.H.

# 5d Case

M:  $CY \times R^5$  [G.V.]

$SO(4) = \text{Rotation group} = SU_L(2) \times SU_R(2)$

$$\text{Tr} (-)^F q^{J_L^3} \exp(-t_i Q_i)$$

second quantized trace

charges of M2 brane

$$= \sum_{\text{top}}^{\text{pert}} (\lambda, t_i)$$

$$q = e^{-\lambda}$$

$t_i = \text{Kähler parameters}$

Note: This sum has the same structure as quantum foam

⇒ Quantum foam top. string  $\leftrightarrow$  5d B.h. degeneracies

# 4d Black Holes

mixed ensemble

$$Z_{BH, index} \equiv \sum_{n_0, n_2^i}^{(+)} \exp \left[ -2\pi^2 n_0 \left( \frac{1}{\lambda} + \frac{1}{\bar{\lambda}} \right) - \frac{\pi}{i} n_2^i \left( \frac{t^i}{\lambda} - \frac{\bar{t}^i}{\bar{\lambda}} \right) \right] \cdot \Omega(n_0, n_2^i, n_4^i, n_6)$$

fix magnetic charges  $n_4^i, n_6$   
 chemical potential for  $n_0, n_2^i$   
 electric charges

$$Z_{BH} = Z_{top}(t, \lambda) \bar{Z}_{top}(\bar{t}, \bar{\lambda})$$

$$n_6 = 2\pi i \left[ \frac{1}{\lambda} - \frac{1}{\bar{\lambda}} \right]$$

$$n_4^i = \frac{t^i}{\lambda} + \frac{\bar{t}^i}{\bar{\lambda}}$$

Attractor  
 mechanism  
 charge  $\leftrightarrow$  moduli  
 [FKS]

$$Z_{BH} = |Z_{top}|^2$$

should hold to all order in  
 $(n_4^i, n_6) \gg 1$

Defines

$\rightarrow$  there could be  $e^{-N}$  effects  $\rightarrow |Z_{top}|^2$



How to check this?

$$Z_{BH} = Z_{\text{Brane}}$$

↑  
microcanonical def'n of BH

$$Z_{\text{Brane}} \xrightarrow[\substack{\text{'t Hooft limit} \\ N \gg 1}]{|Z_{\text{top}}^{\text{pert}}|^2}$$

We will consider a case where

$$n_6 = 0 \quad (\lambda = \bar{\lambda}) \quad \swarrow \quad n_4 = \text{fixed} \quad \searrow \quad n_2, n_0 \text{ induced}$$

$(t = \frac{n_4 \lambda}{2} + i\theta)$

D4-brane wrapping 4-cycle

$$Z_{\text{Brane}} = \sum_{\substack{N=4 \\ d=4}}^{\text{top. twisted}}$$

[VW]

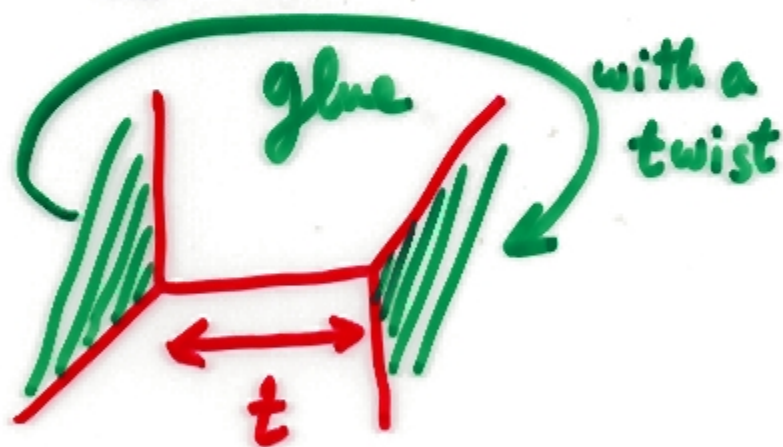
We then check if

$$Z_{\mathcal{N}=4}^{\text{top. twisted}} \rightarrow |Z_{\text{top. string}}^{\text{pert.}}|^2$$

We consider local CY geometry

$$\mathcal{L} \oplus \mathcal{L}^{-1} \downarrow \mathbb{T}^2$$

$\mathcal{L}$ :  $\theta$ -line bundle



$$Z_{\text{top. string}}^{\text{pert.}} = \sum_{\mathcal{R}} \exp\left(-\frac{\lambda}{2} \chi(\mathcal{R}) - |\mathcal{R}|t\right)$$

$\uparrow$  twisting                       $\uparrow$  propagator

consider  $N$  D4-branes  
 wrapped over  $C_4$ :  $\mathcal{L}^{-1}$   
 $\downarrow$   
 $T^2$

$$Z_{BH} = \sum_{C_4}^{N=4} \text{(chemical potential turned on)}$$

induces  $D_0$   $\updownarrow$  induces  $D_2$

$$\frac{1}{2\lambda} \int_{C_4} \text{tr} F \wedge F + \frac{t-\bar{t}}{\lambda} \int_{C_4} \text{tr} F \wedge \omega$$

where  $\int_{T^2} \omega = 1$

$$\int_{\text{fiber } \mathcal{L}^{-1}} F = \bar{\Phi}$$

reduces to  $N=1$ , reduces to  $(2,2)$  top. twisted on  $T^2$

$$\frac{1}{\lambda} \int_{T^2} \text{tr} F \wedge \phi + \frac{t-\bar{t}}{\lambda} \int_{T^2} \text{tr} \phi + \int_{T^2} \frac{1}{2} \text{tr} \phi^2$$

$$Z_{BH} = Z_{C_4}^{N=4} = Z_{T^2}^{(2,2)} = Z_{T^2}^{YM} \quad [W]$$

$$\rightarrow \frac{1}{\lambda} \int_{T^2} \text{Tr} \frac{F^2}{2} + \theta \text{Tr} F$$

large  $N$  limit studied

[G]  
[GT]  
!

$$Z_{T^2}^{YM} \sim |Z_{\text{chiral}}|^2$$

$$\begin{aligned} Z_{\text{chiral}} &= \sum_R \exp\left(-\frac{\lambda}{2} C_2(R) + i\theta |R|\right) \\ &= \sum_R \exp\left(-\frac{\lambda}{2} K(R) + \left(\frac{N\lambda}{2} + i\theta\right) |R|\right) \\ &= Z_{\text{top}}^{\text{pert}}\left(\lambda, \underbrace{t = \frac{N\lambda}{2} + i\theta}\right) \end{aligned}$$

exactly as predicted!

$$Z_{BH} = |Z_{\text{top}}^{\text{pert}}|^2$$

Note:

$N=4$  YM  
on  $C_4$   
(in confining phase  
 $N=1^*$ )

$\longleftrightarrow e^{-\frac{1}{T^2 \lambda} \int F^2}$

4D ensemble  
= path-integral

Lag.



Hamiltonian

$\lambda \rightarrow \frac{1}{\lambda}$  Olive-Montonen  
(+ large  $N$ )

$N=4$  YM on  $C_4$   
(in Higgs branch  
of  $N=1^*$ )

$\sum e^{-\frac{\lambda}{2} C_2(R)}$

5D ensemble  
? quantum  
foam

e.g.  $N=3 \rightarrow U(3)$

Lag  $\rightarrow Z_{BH}^{4D} = \frac{1}{6} [\theta^3(\lambda) - 3\theta(\frac{1}{2}\lambda)\theta(\frac{1}{2}\lambda) + 2\theta(\frac{1}{3}\lambda)]$

$\sum e^{-\frac{\lambda}{2} C_2(R)}$   
 $\leftarrow$  Hamiltonian

$= \frac{1}{6} [\theta^3(\lambda) - 3\theta(2\lambda)\theta(\lambda) + 2\theta(3\lambda)]$

The fact that

$Z_{BH}$  is not exactly  $|Z_{top}^{pert}|^2$

→ gives an interesting  
non-perturbative completion  
of top. string.

→ potentially interesting  
implications for  $AdS^2$  →

$Z_{top} \{ \square \} \bar{Z}_{top}$  under study