

# Effective theories with symmetric moduli spaces : the landscape and the swampland

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CEA / Saclay



Work in collaboration with

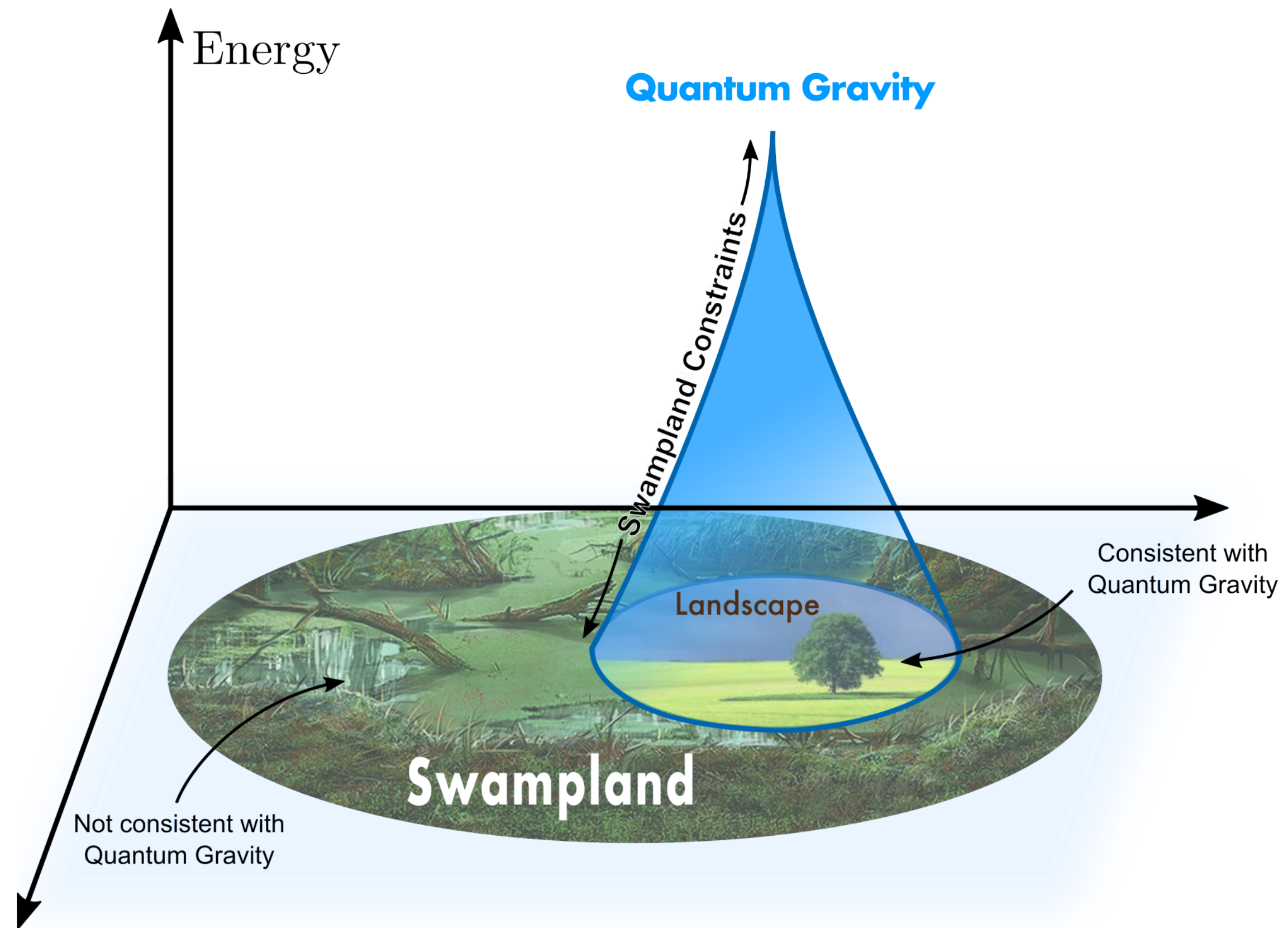
Stephanie Baines, Veronica Collazuol, Bernardo Fraiman, Daniel Waldram

arXiv: 2605.xxxx

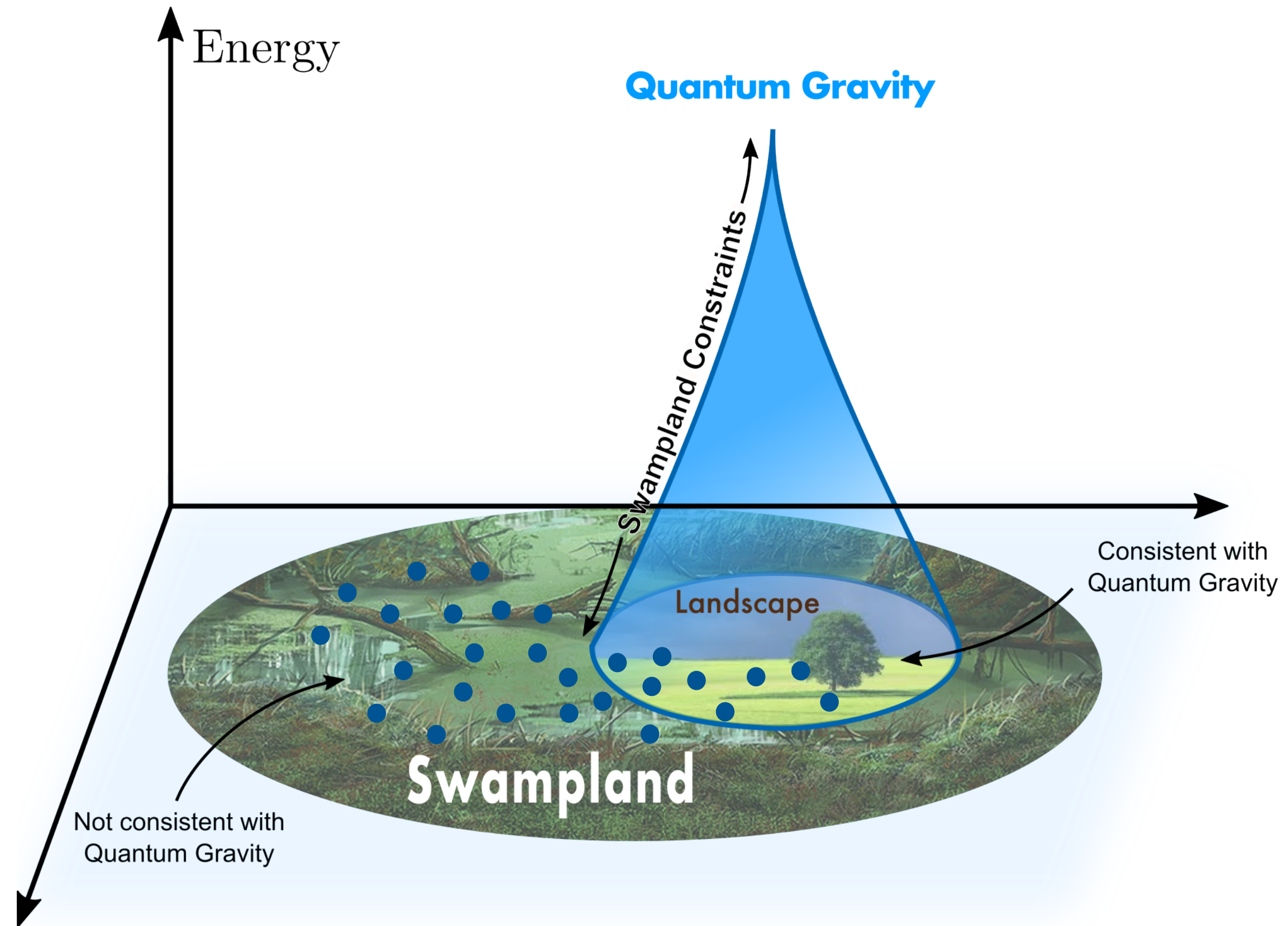
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Strings and Geometry — May, 2026

# Introduction and spoiler

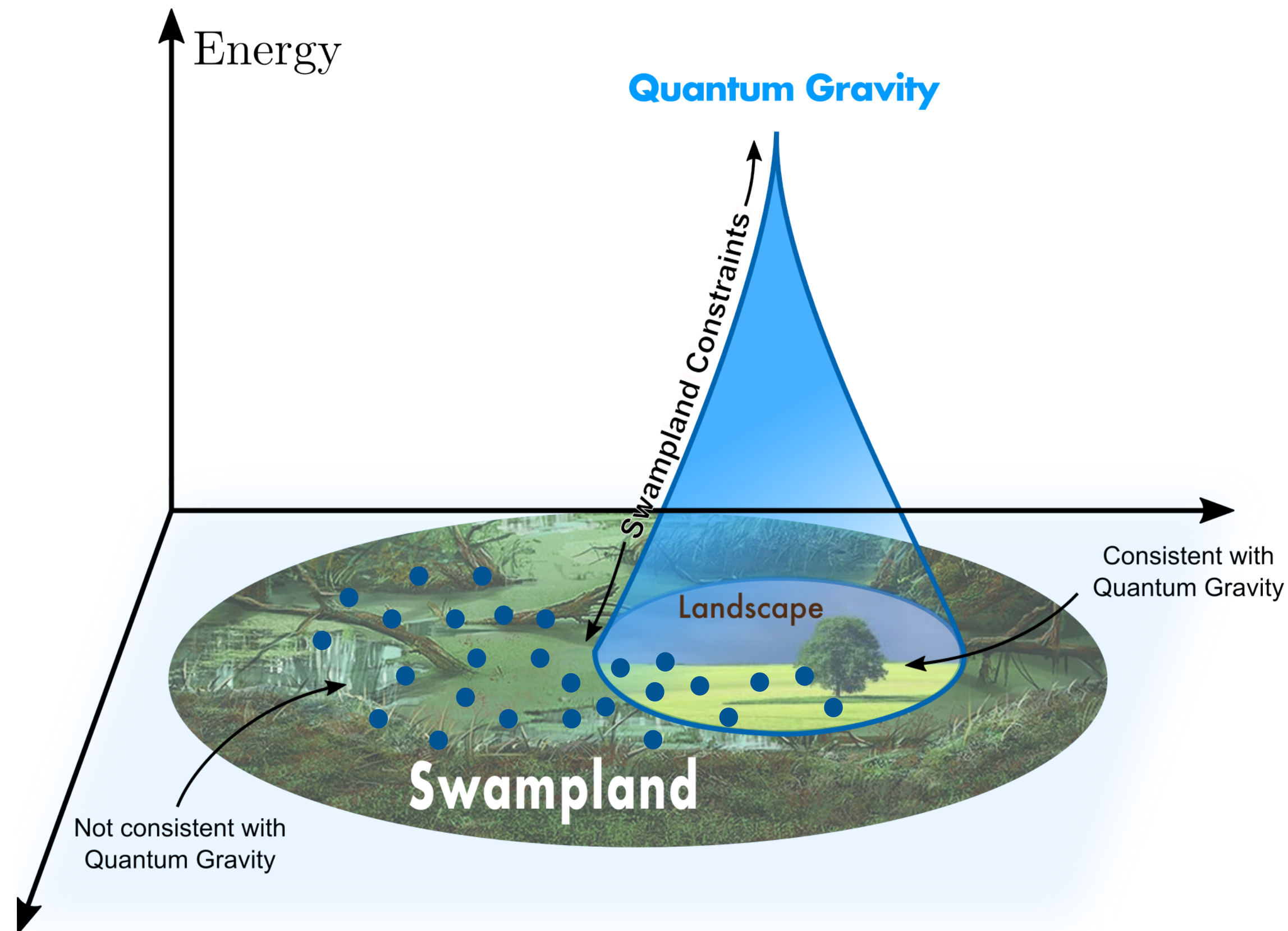


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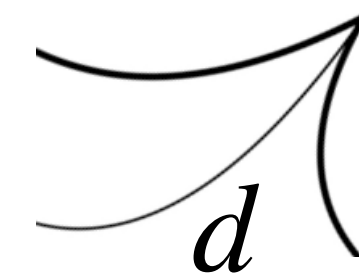
- Theories with symmetric moduli spaces

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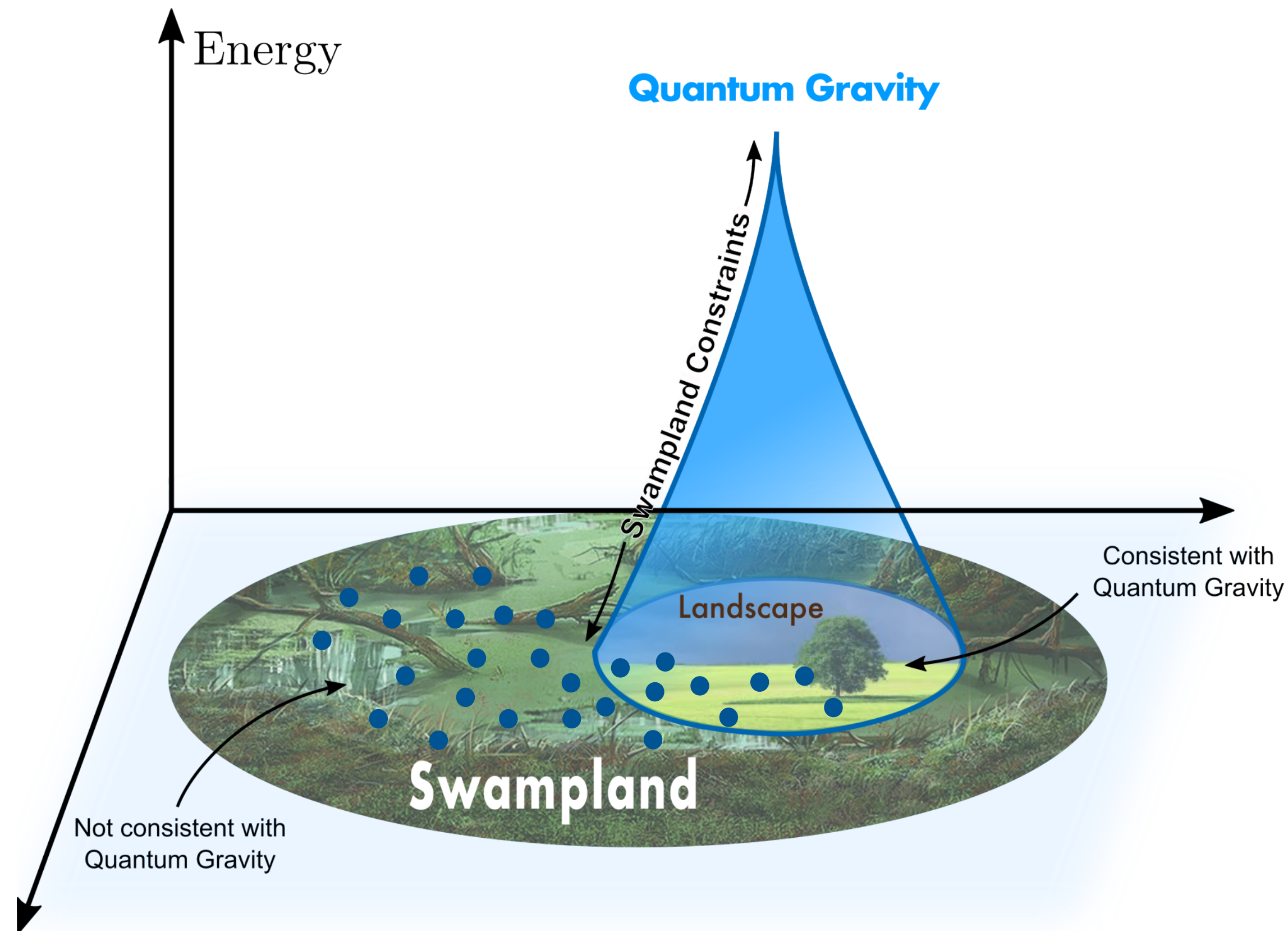
## Swampland Distance Conjecture

- $m \sim e^{-\alpha d} n$



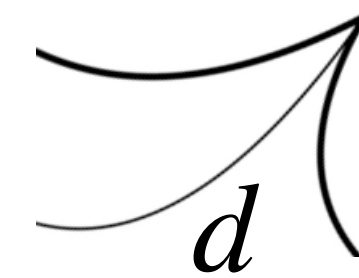
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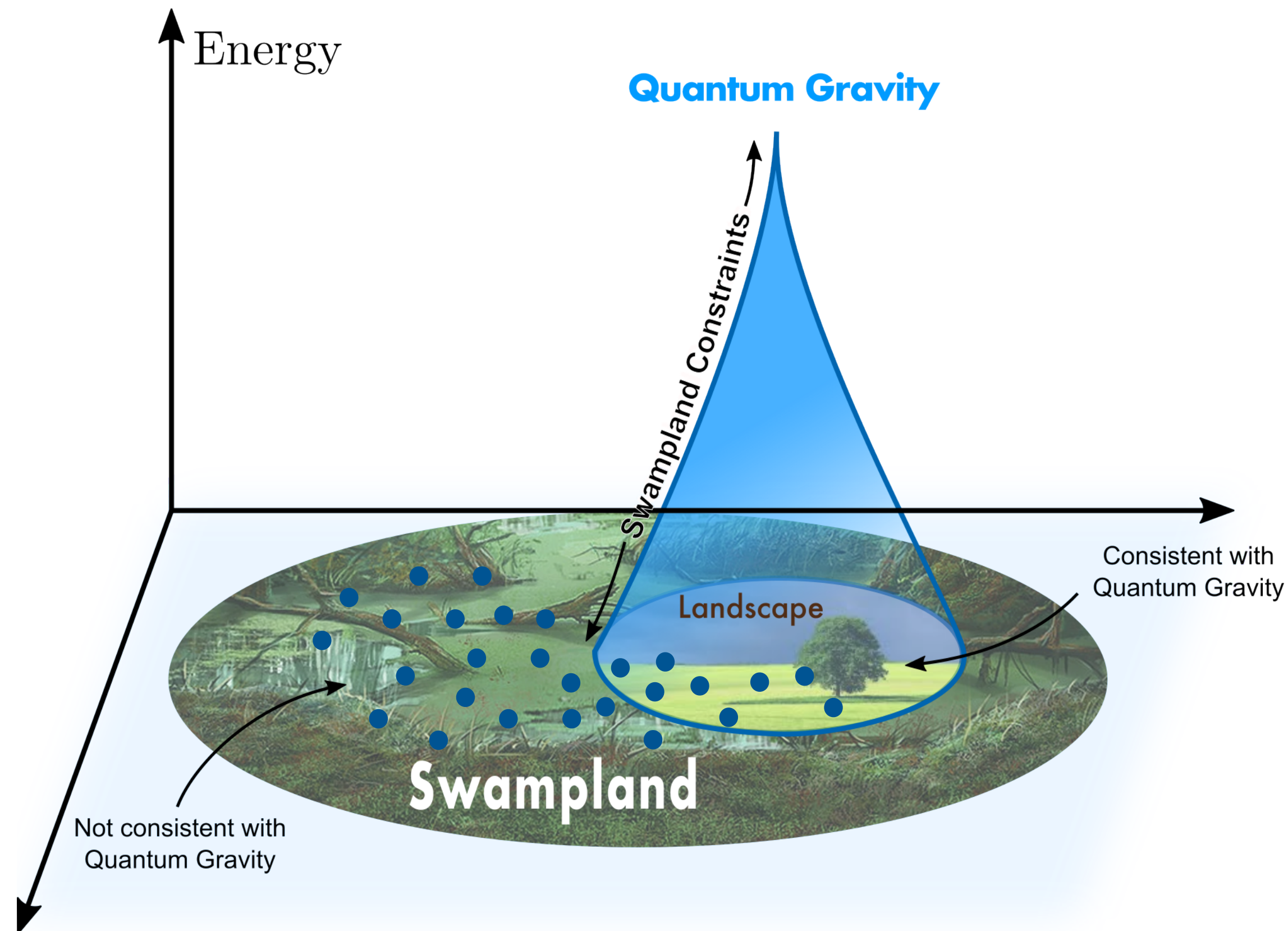
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Prove under mild assumptions

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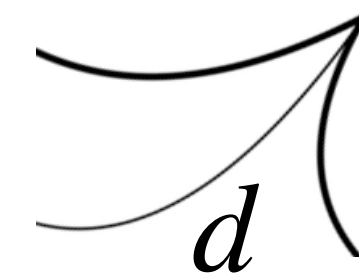
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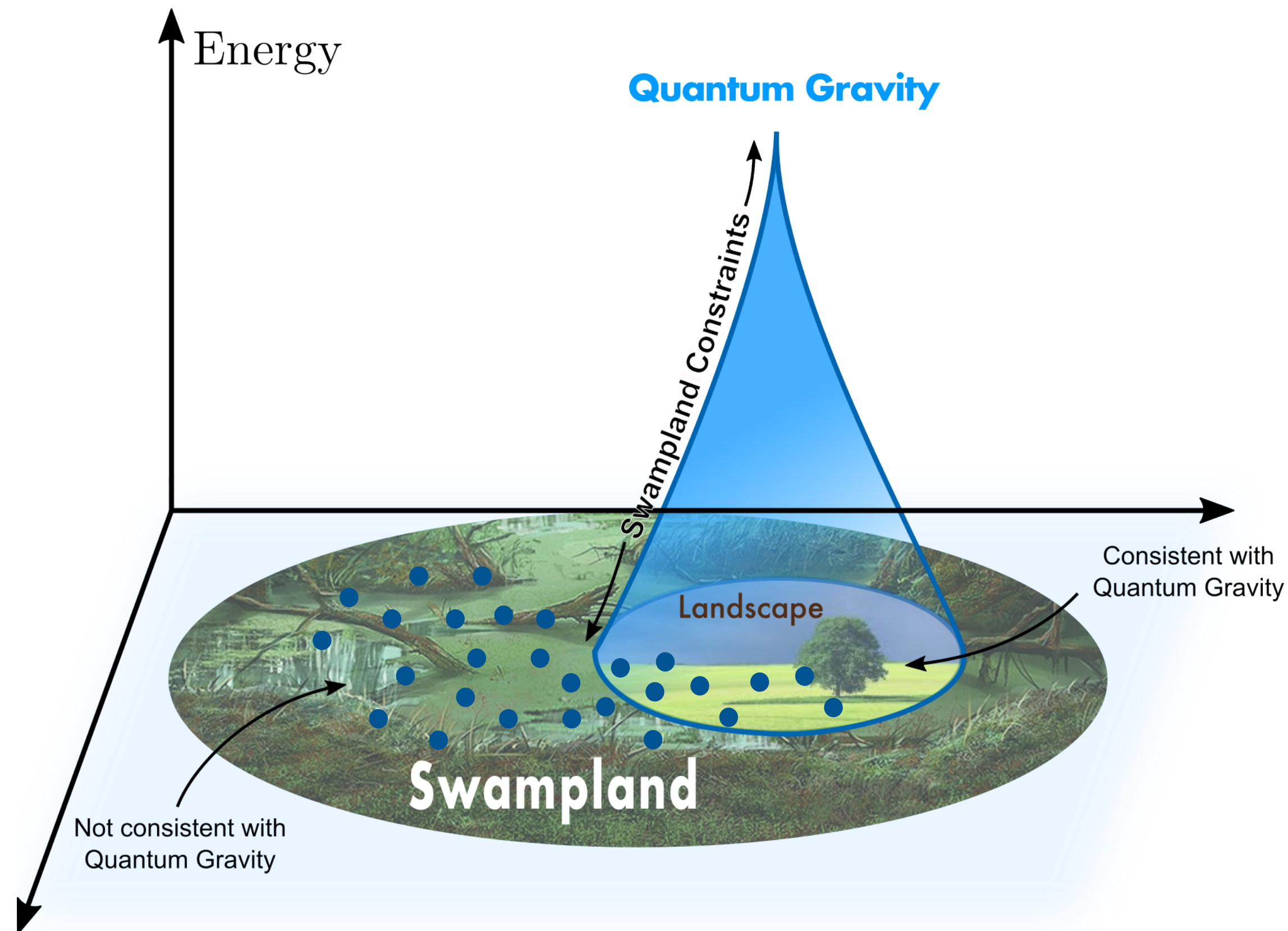


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“Emergent string conjecture rates”

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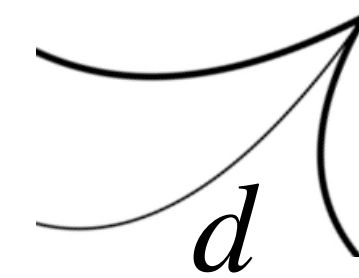
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Finite list of theories! (33)

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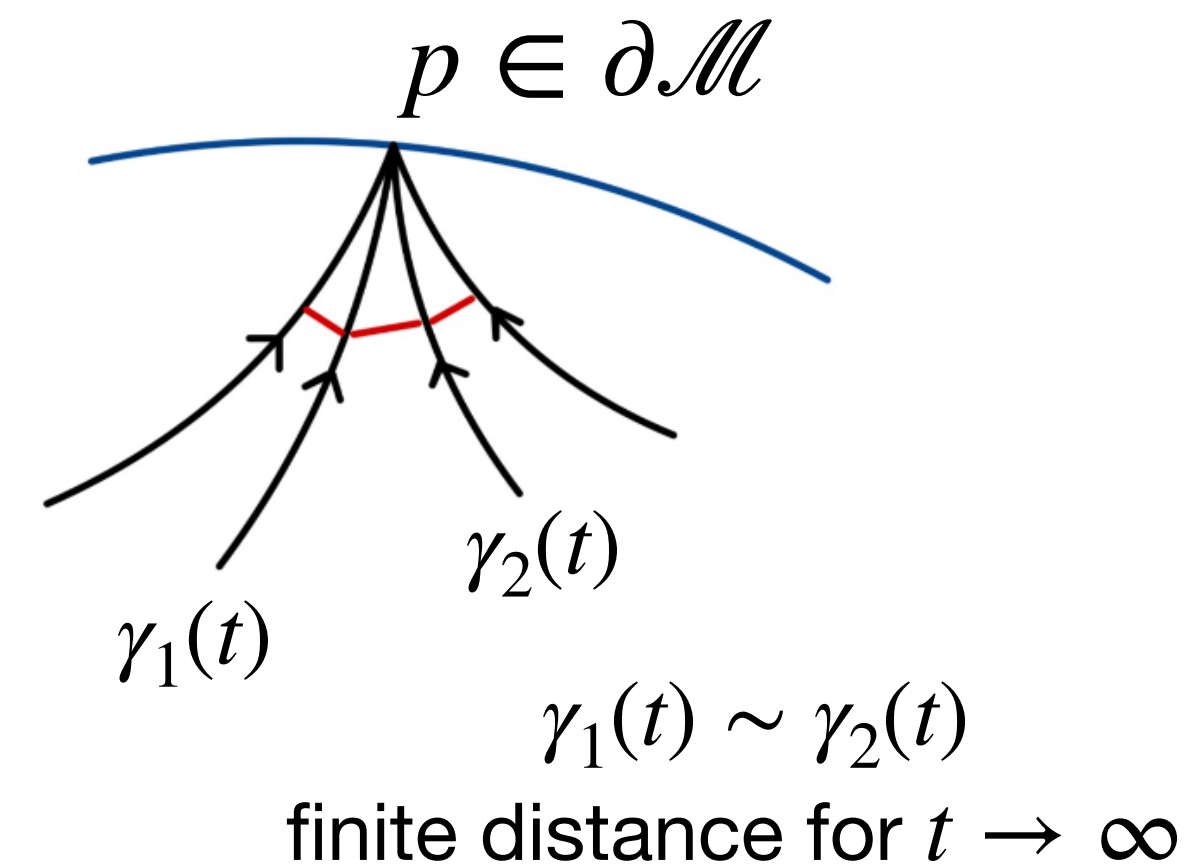
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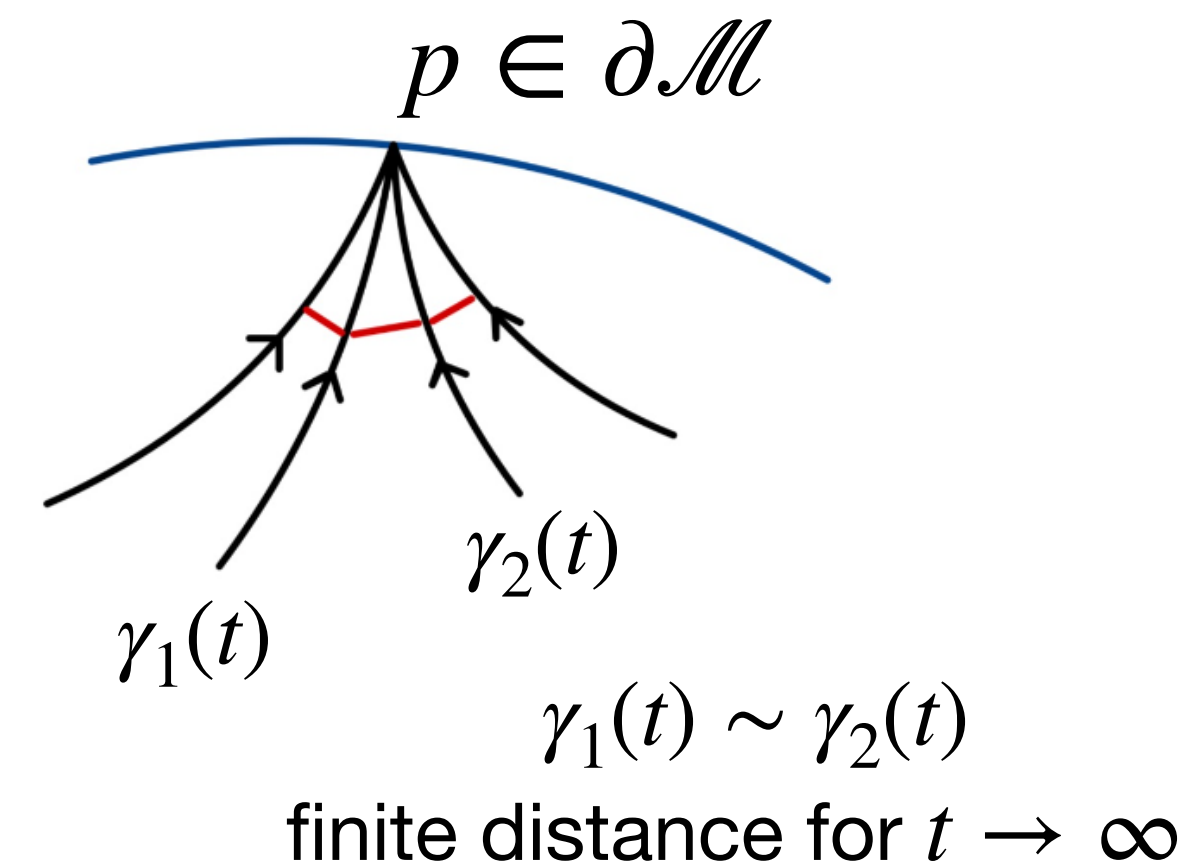
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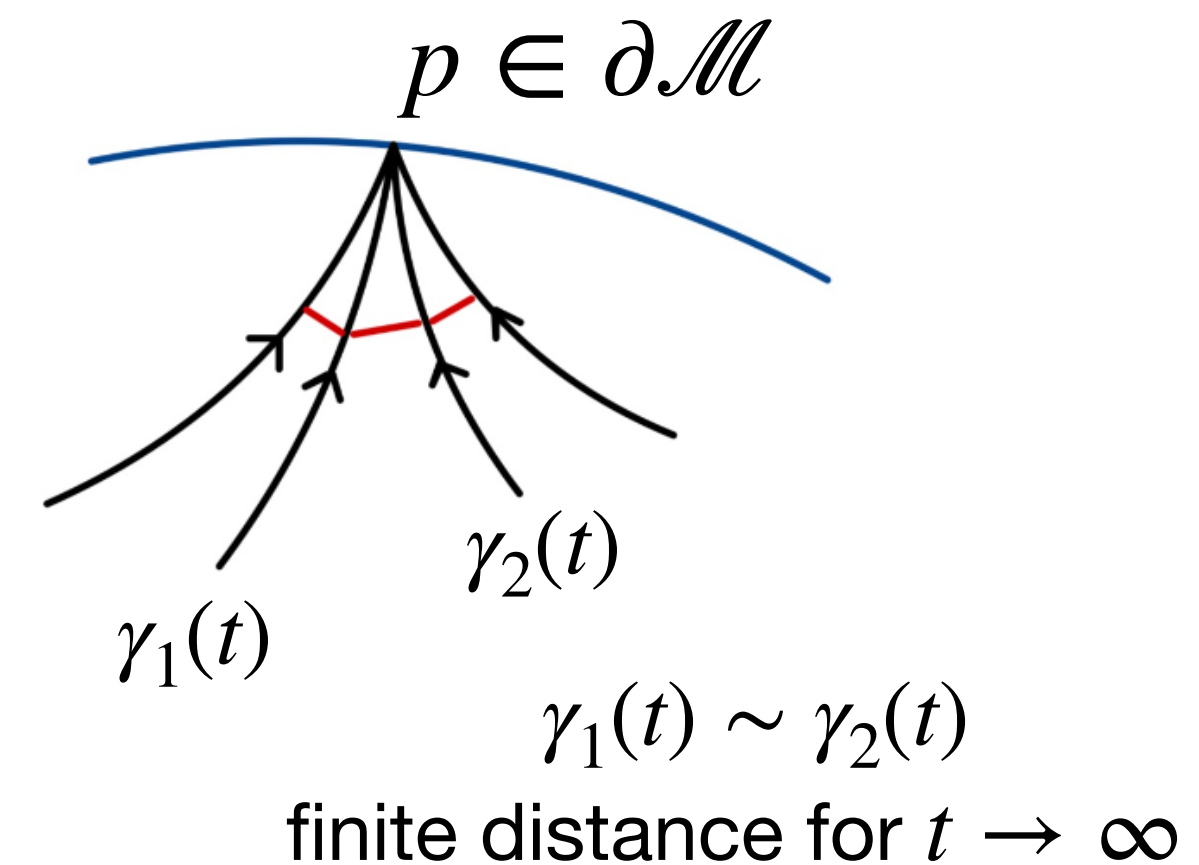
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Defined by parabolic subgroups  $P \subset G$  fixing the point

**The duality group  $\Gamma \Rightarrow$  locally symm spaces**

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Bonus: the spectrum transforms in  $\Gamma$  representations  $\Rightarrow$  extend to  $G$  representation

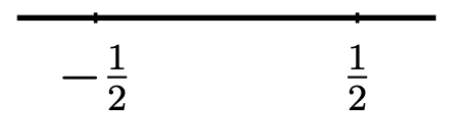
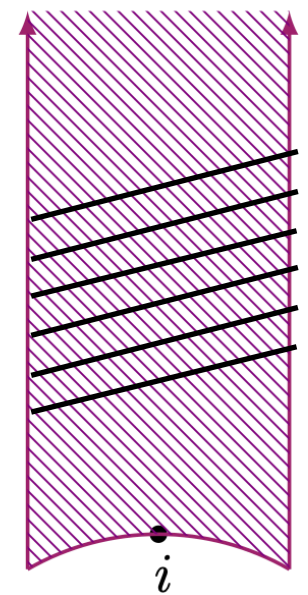
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- The relevant parabolic subgroups are rational,  $P(\mathbb{Q}) \Rightarrow$  e.g.  $B$ -field is rational
- Only these geodesics reach the boundary. The others have ergodic motion



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[Ooguri, Vafa '06]

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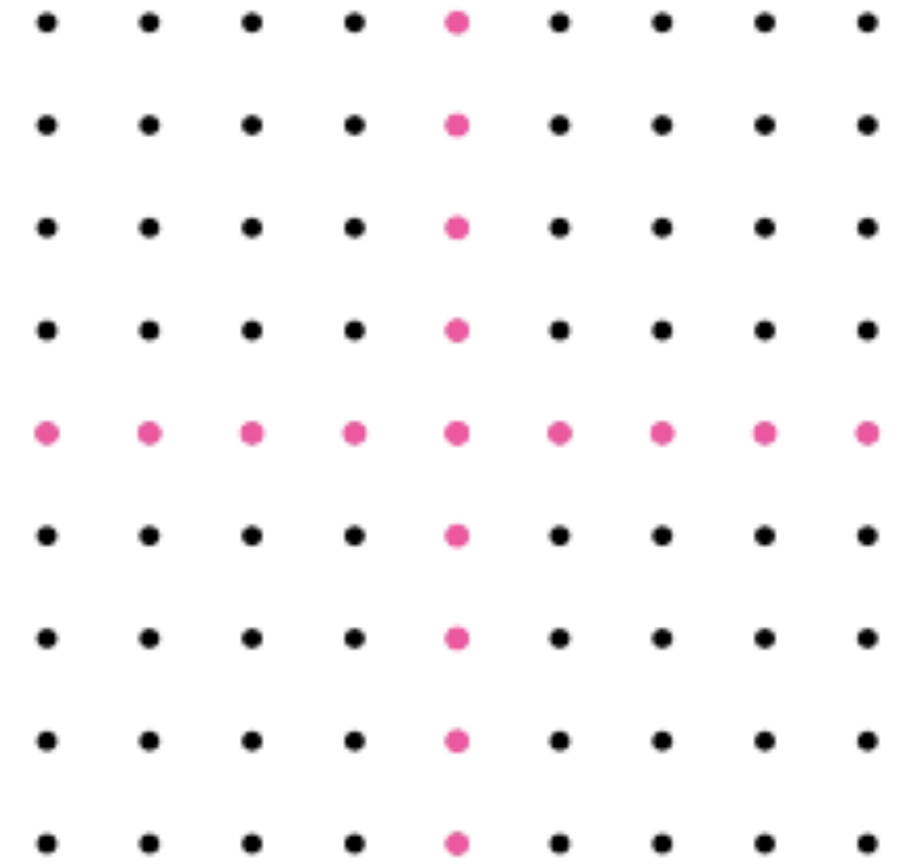
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**Spectrum** space of states in rep  $\rho$  of G

rep  $\rho$  acts on  $\mathbb{R}^N$   
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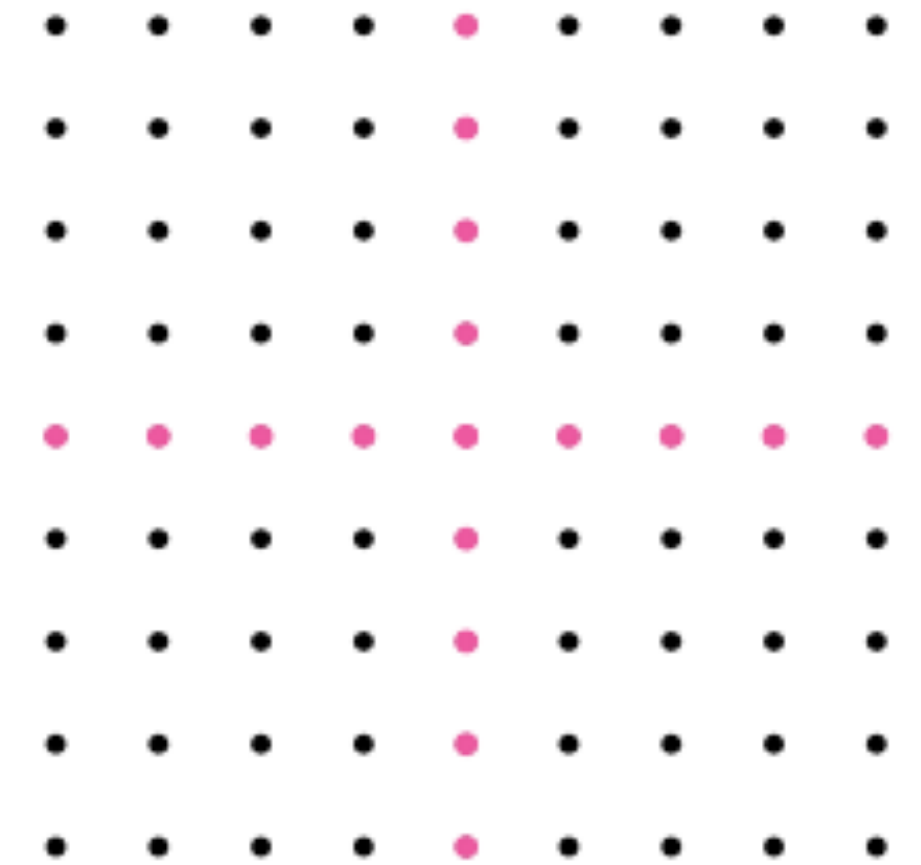
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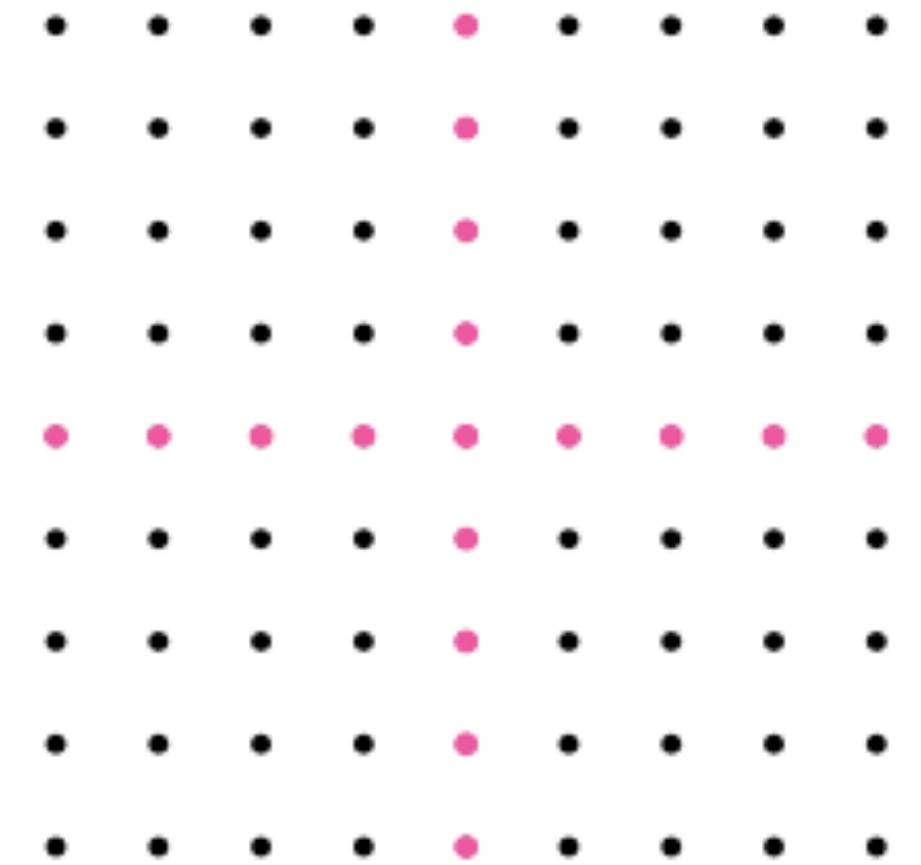
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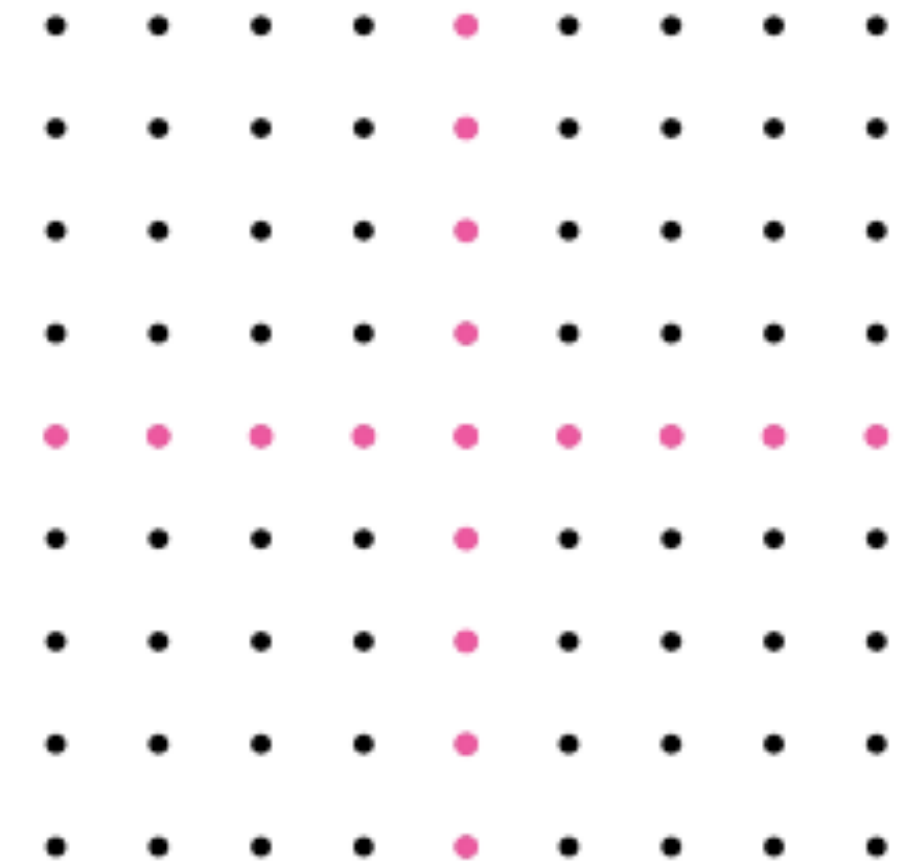
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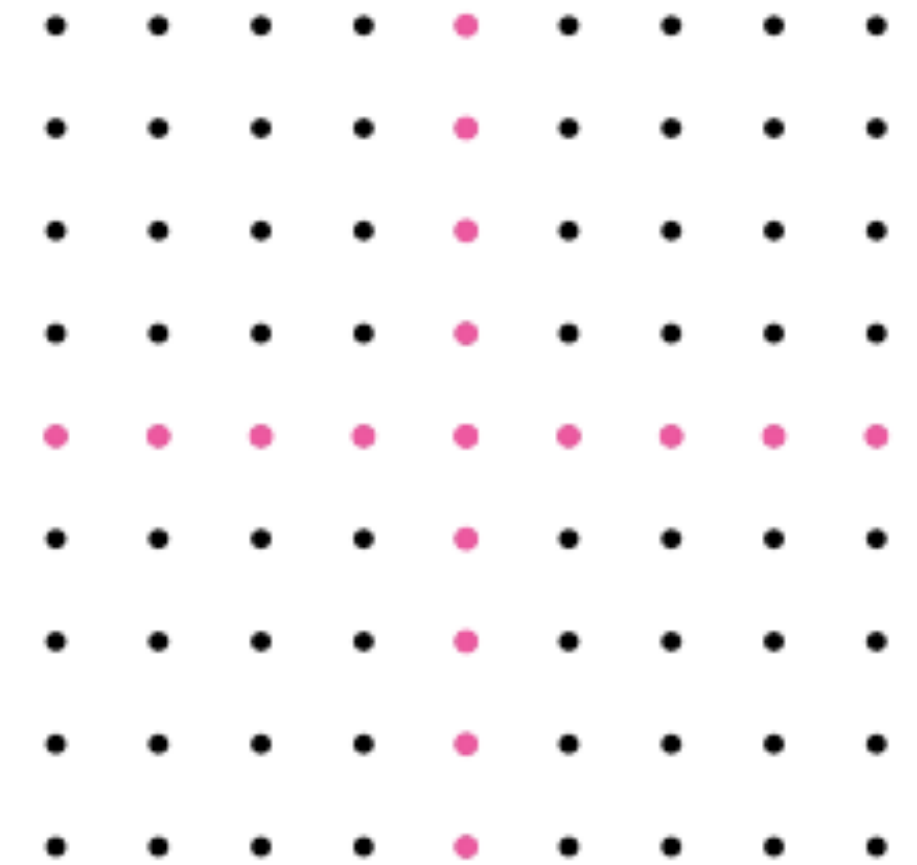
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assuming  $f$  analytic

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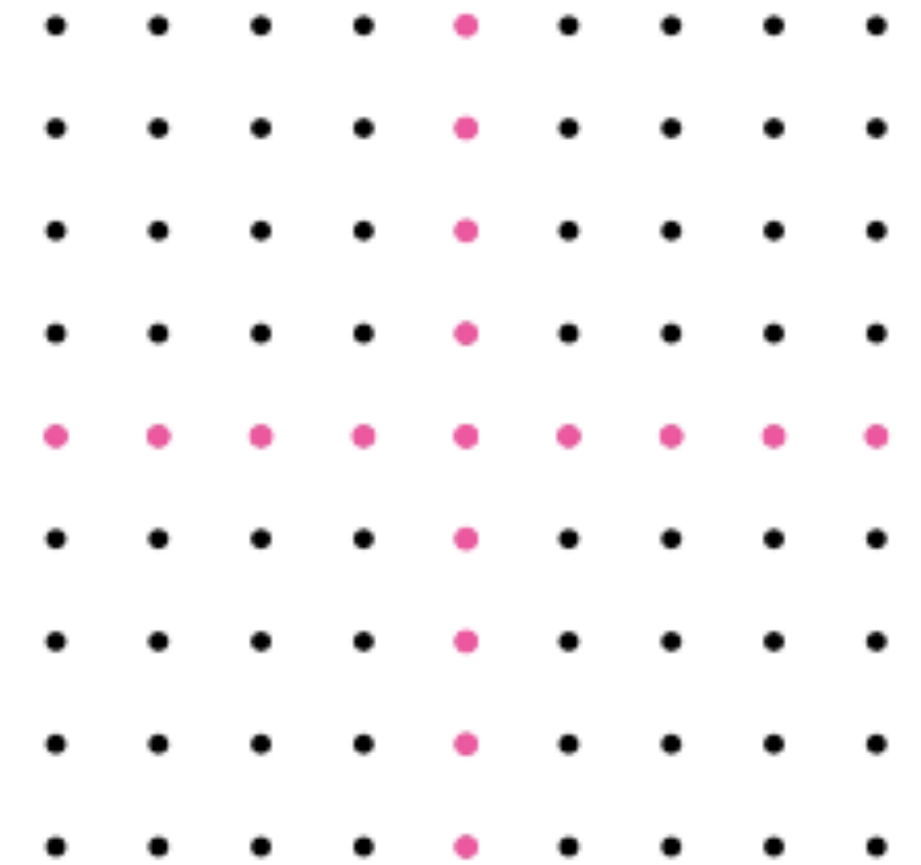
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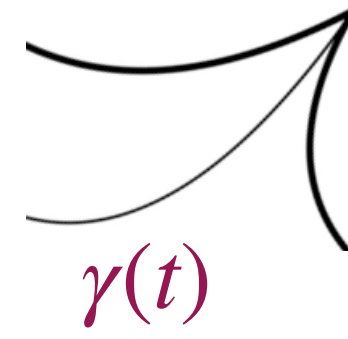
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# Mass

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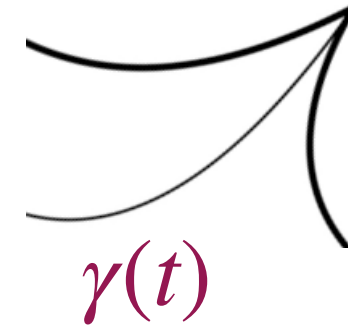


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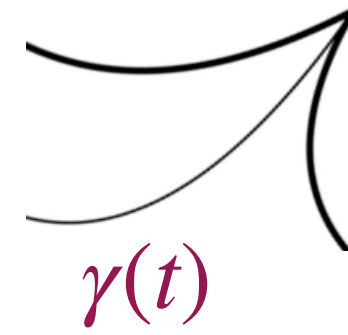


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$R_1(t)$

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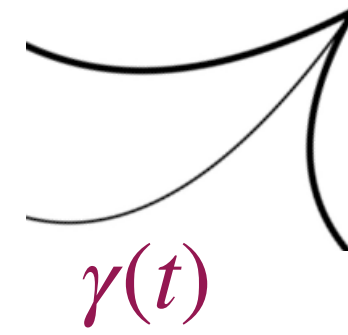


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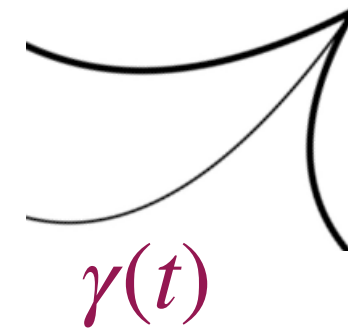
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e.g take

$$H = \text{diag}(-\lambda, 0, \dots, 0, \lambda, 0, \dots, 0) \quad \langle H, H \rangle = 1 \Rightarrow \lambda = 1$$

$$q_{\omega_*} = (n_1, 0, \dots, 0, 0, \dots, 0) \Rightarrow \omega_* = (1, 0, \dots, 0)$$

# Proof of Swampland distance conjecture

- Mass of the fastest-decaying states

$$m^2 = e^{-2t\langle\omega_*, H\rangle} q_{\omega_*}^2$$

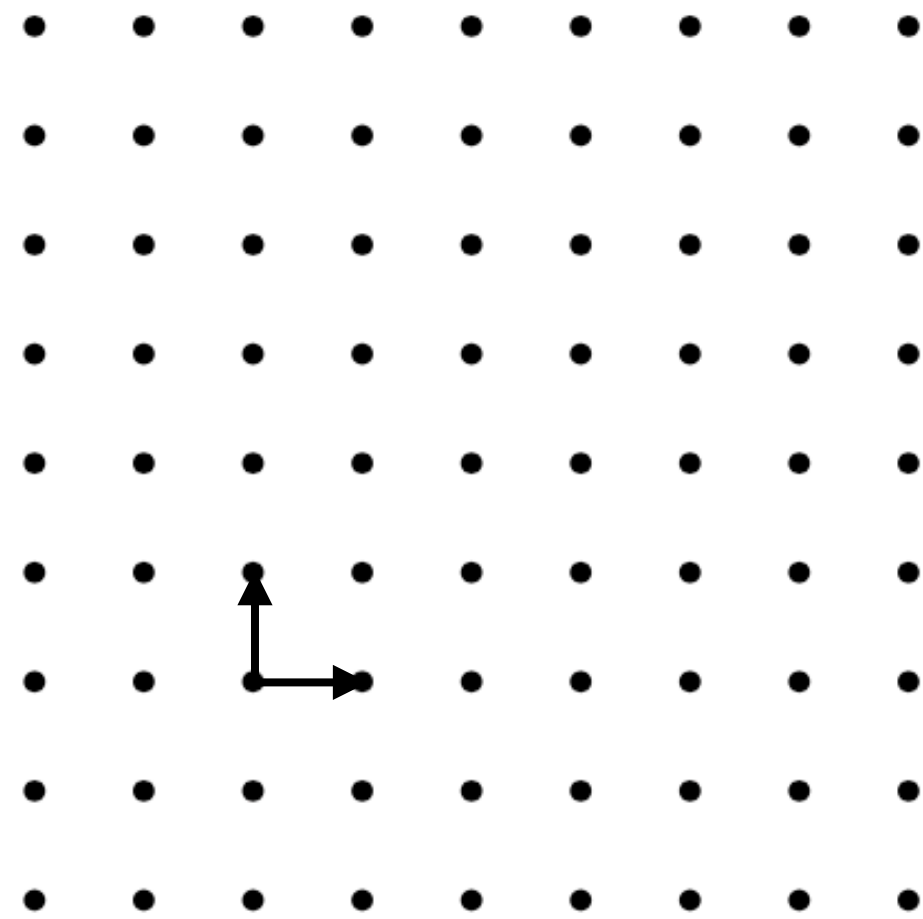
- A whole tower

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$$m^2 = e^{-2t\langle\omega_*, H\rangle} q_{\omega_*}^2$$

- A whole tower

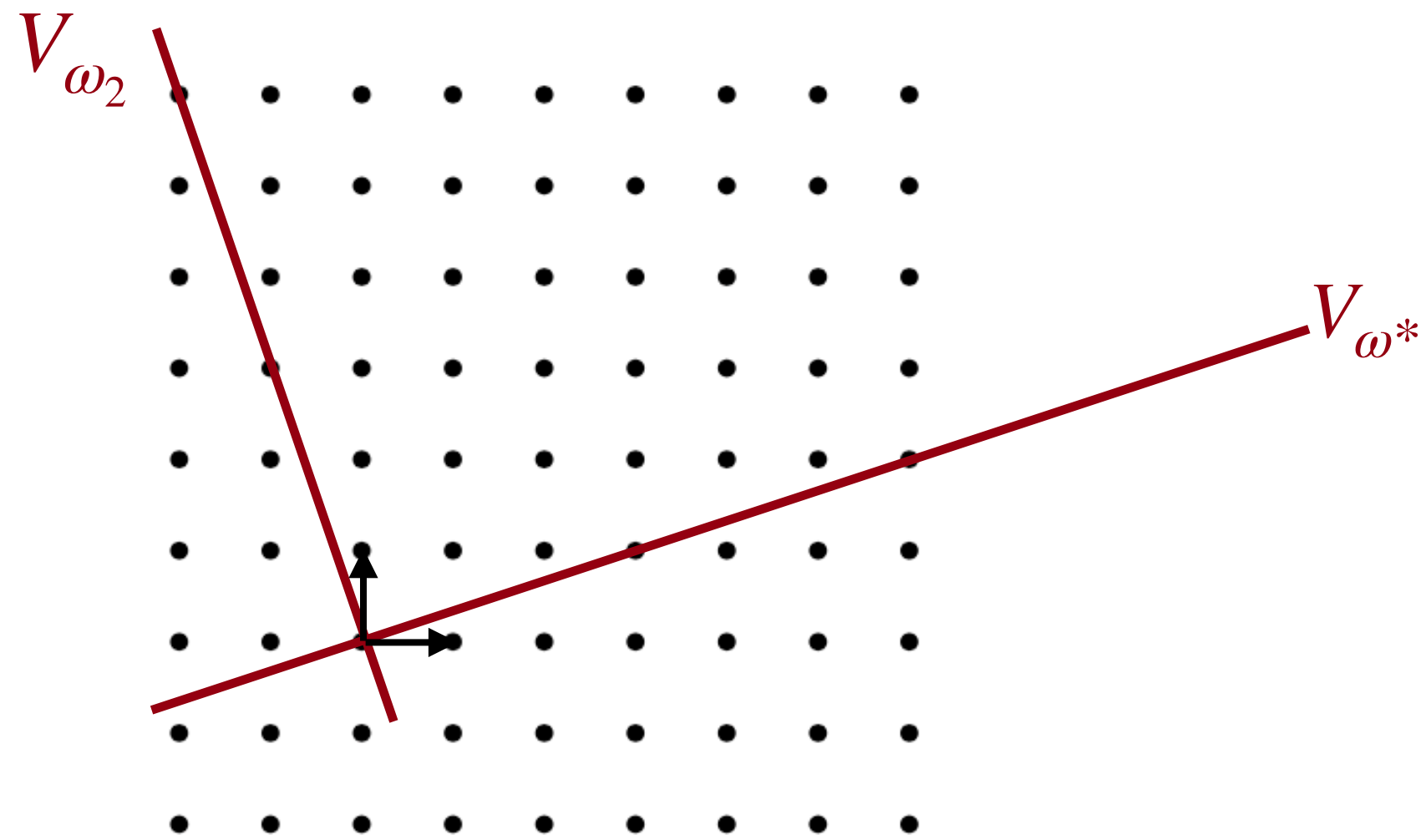


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Bc boundaries associated to rational parabolic subgroups

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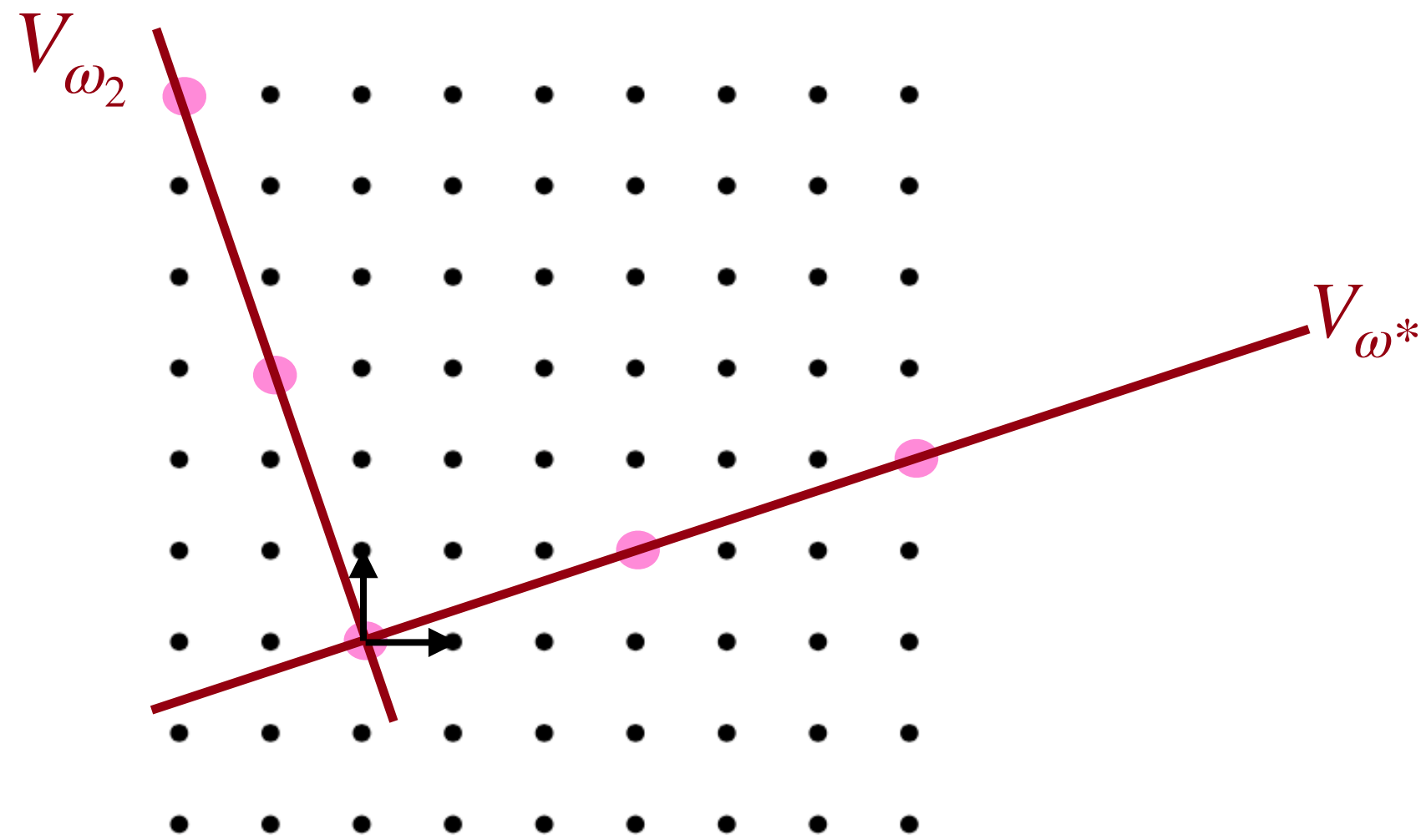
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 $\forall \omega$  in vertices of Weyl polytope

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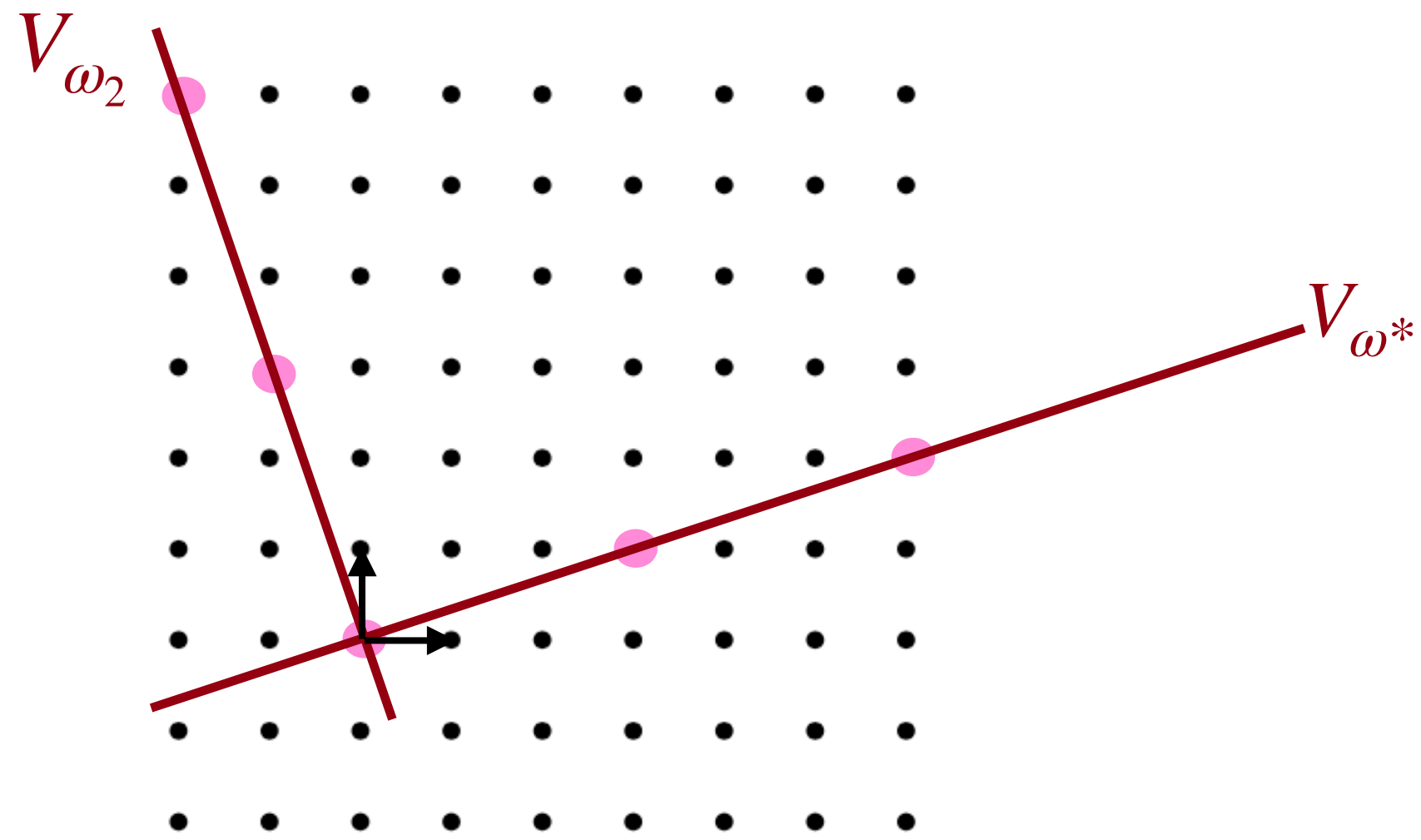
**infinite number of states becoming light**

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- Holds for any  $\infty$  distance limit

# Mass decay rates

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What moduli spaces satisfy the emergent string conjecture rates?

Convex hull formulation: Set of  $\alpha$  define a convex hull Calderon Infante, Uranga, Valenzuela 20

# Convex hull formulation for symmetric spaces

$$m^2 = \sum_{\omega} q_{\omega}^2 e^{-2\langle \omega, H \rangle t}$$

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E.g. **3** of SU(3)

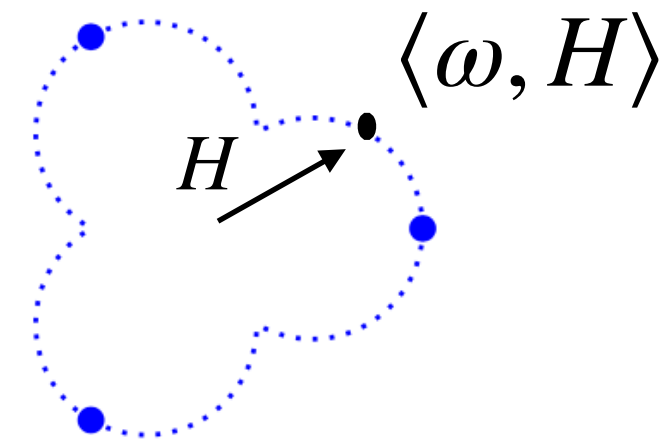
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$\alpha$  - Hull

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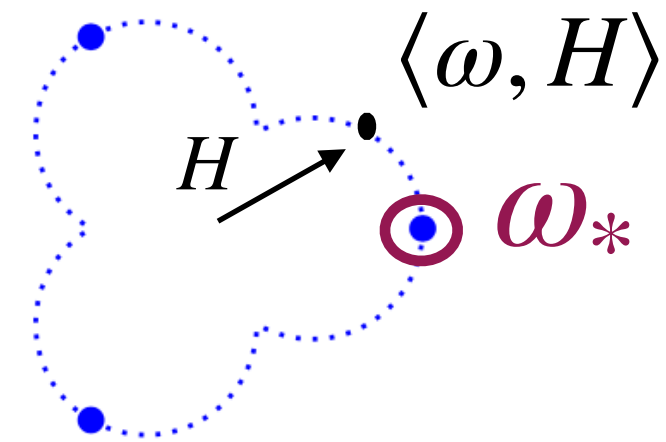
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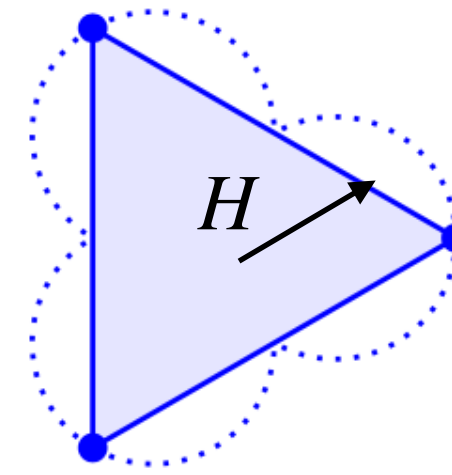
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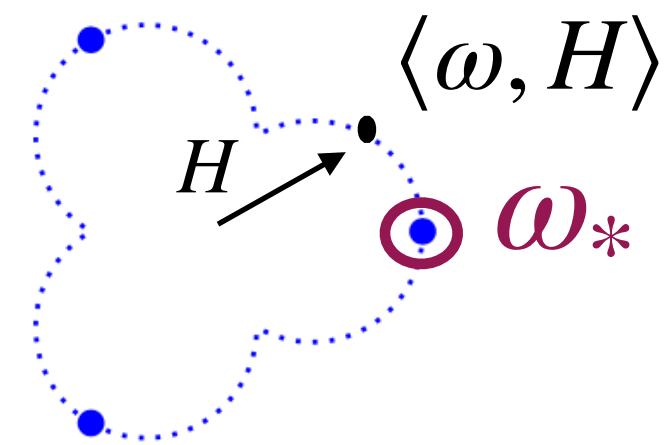
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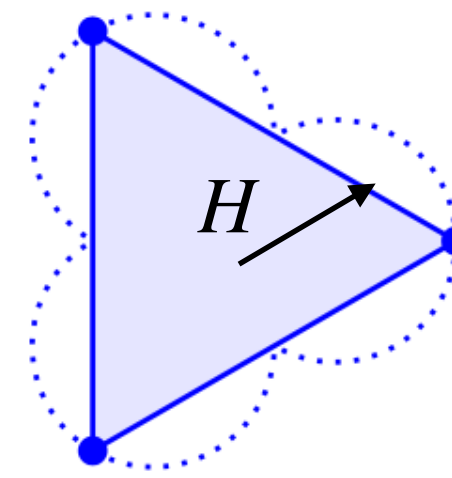
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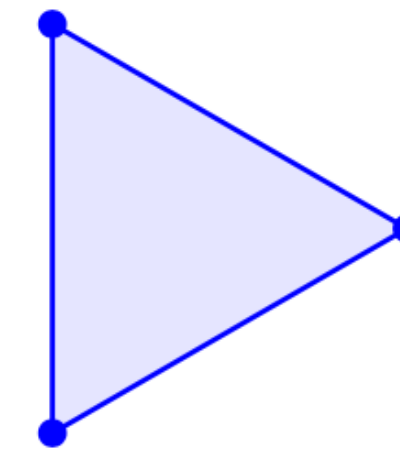


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Convex hull:  
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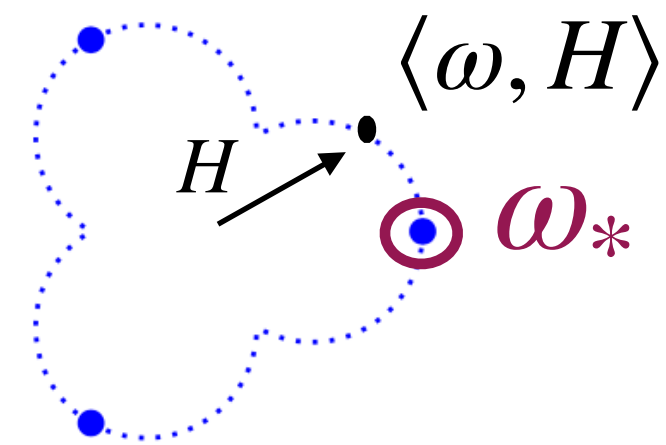
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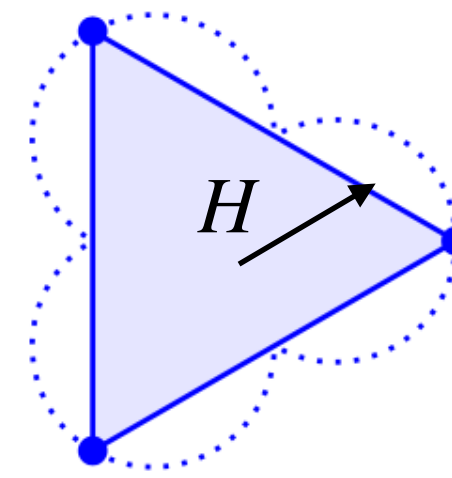
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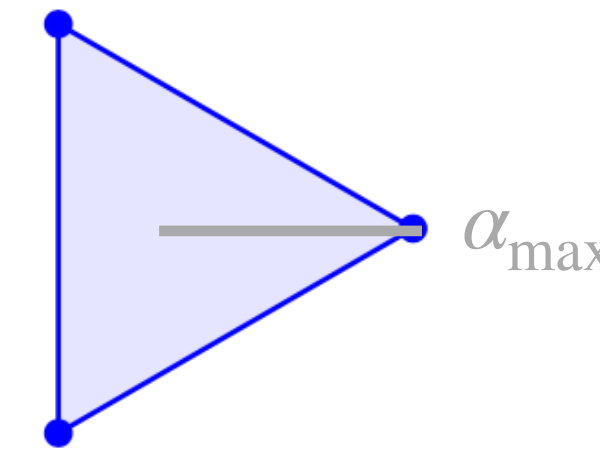


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• Extrema of  $\alpha(H)$ :

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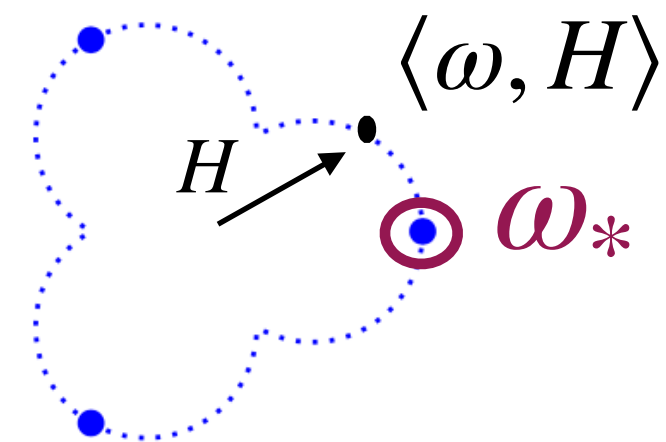
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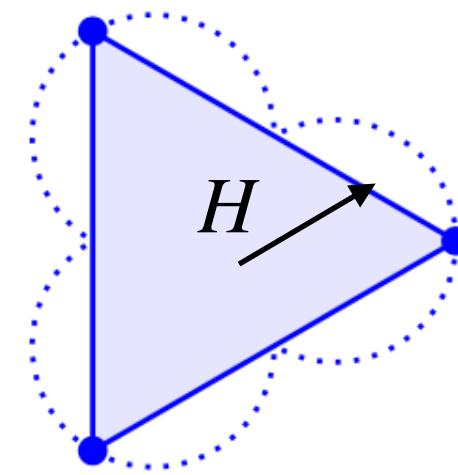
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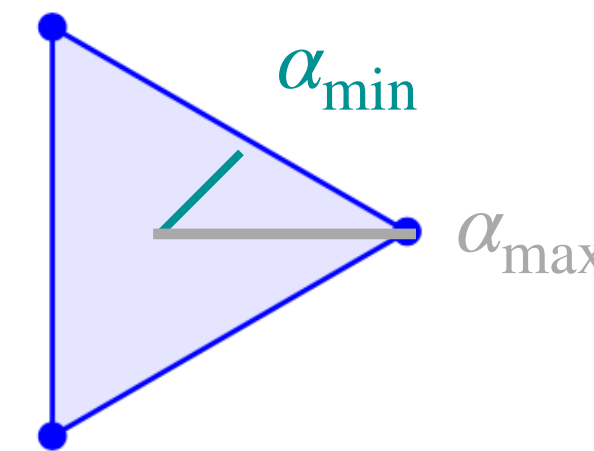


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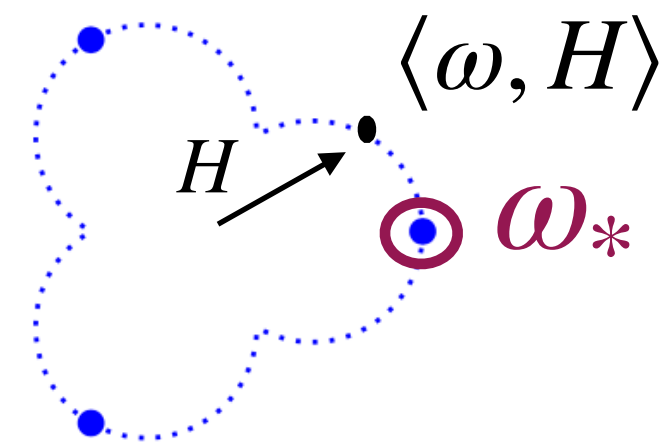
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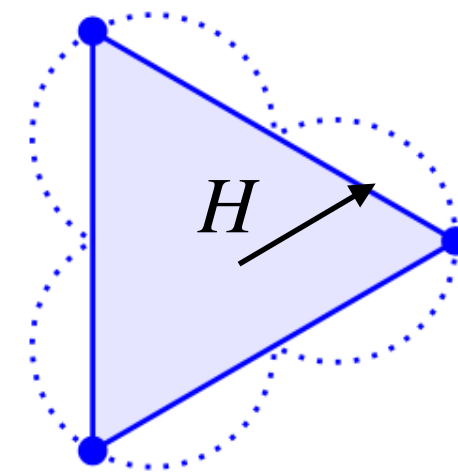
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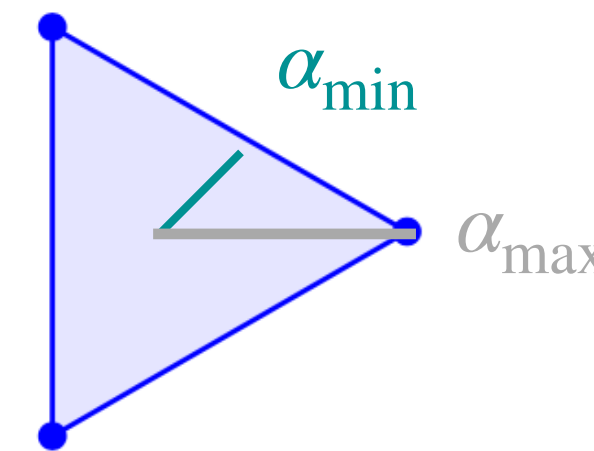


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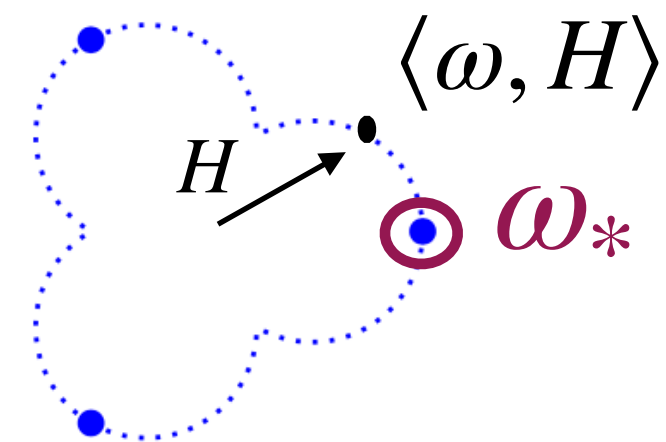
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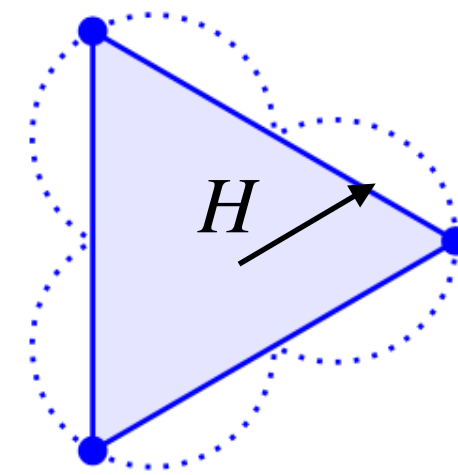
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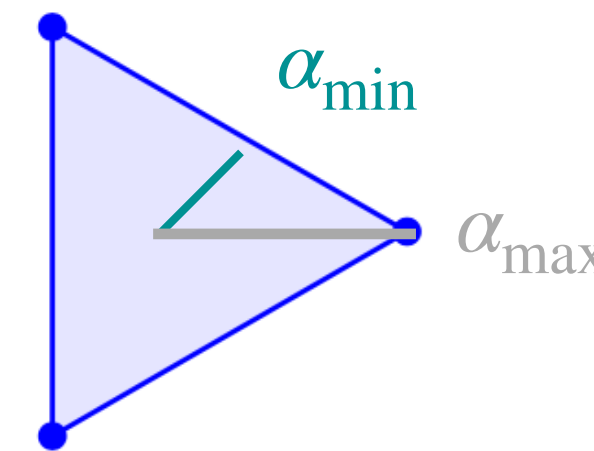


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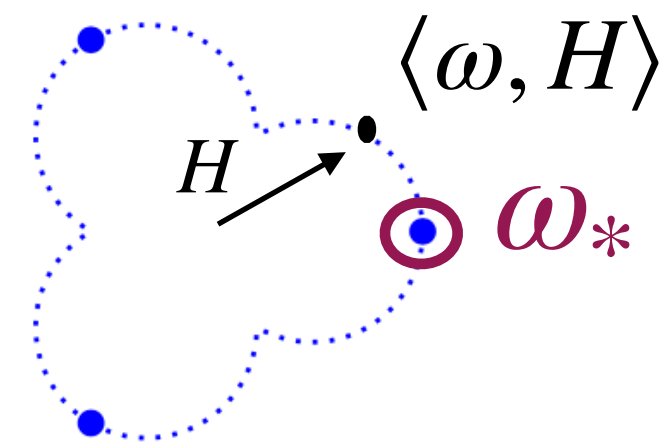
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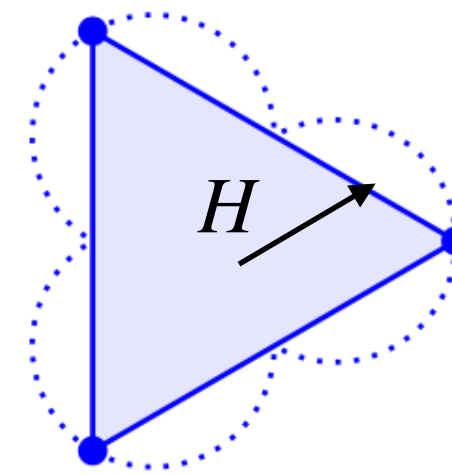
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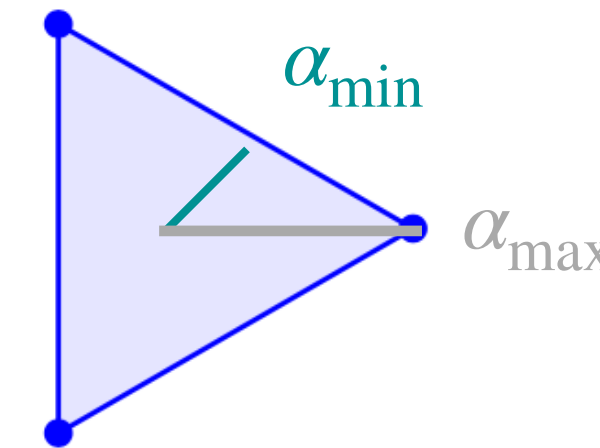


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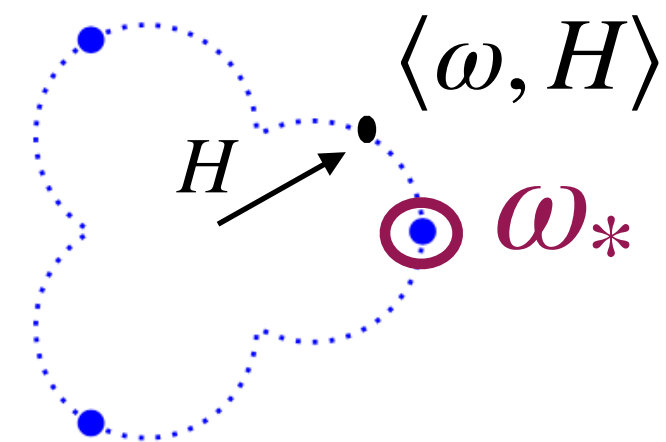
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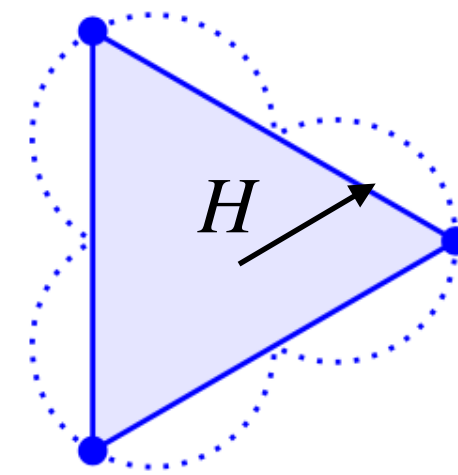
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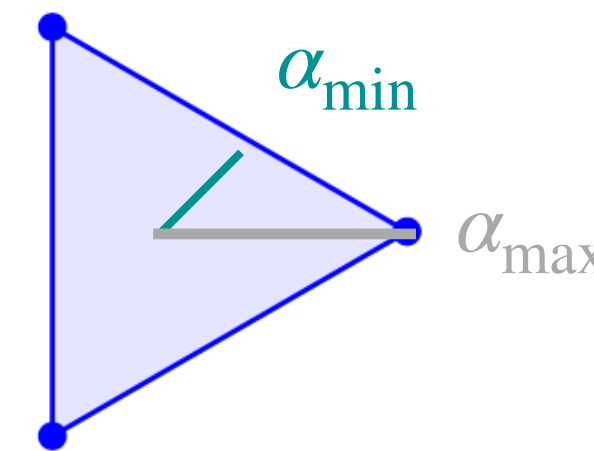


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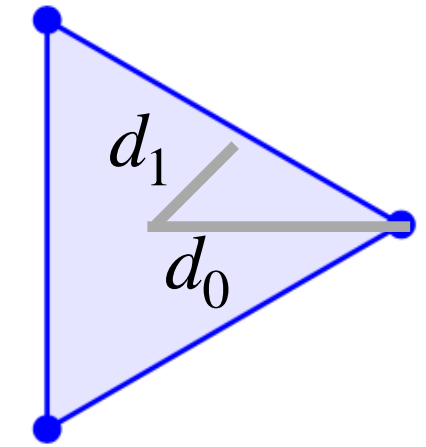
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# EFTs satisfying emergent string conjecture rates

- Set of eff theories in  $d$  dimensions

Such that

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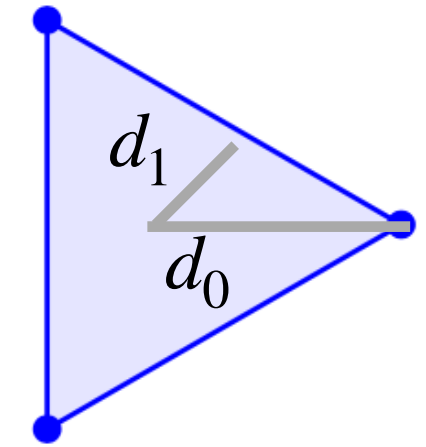


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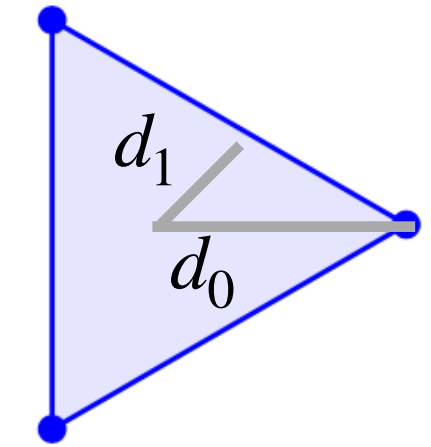


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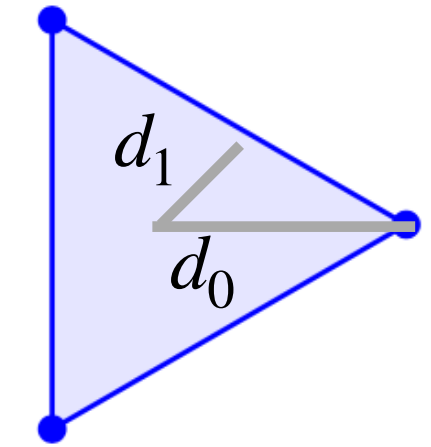
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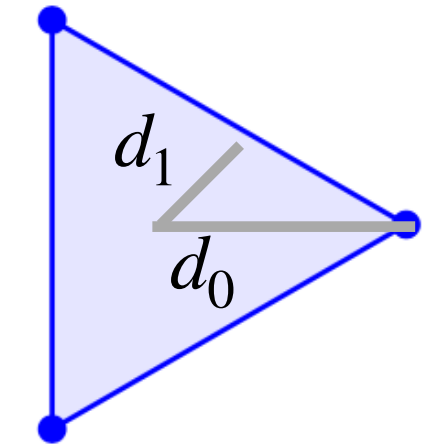
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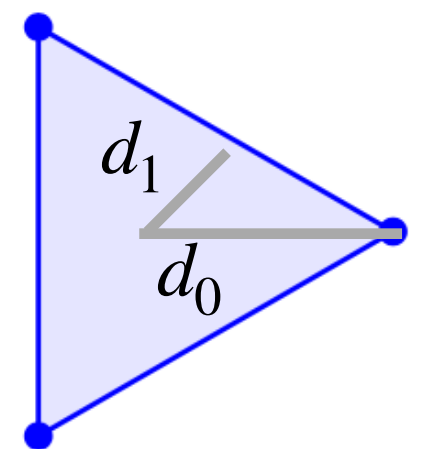


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facets: regular polytopes

# Facets

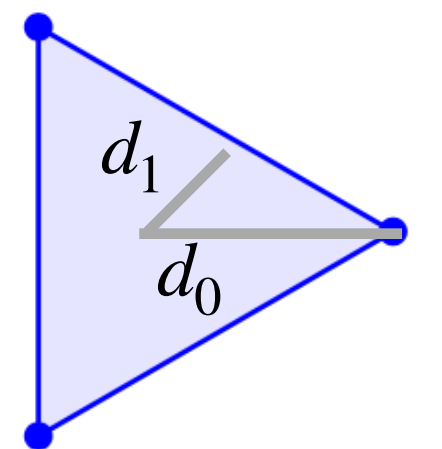
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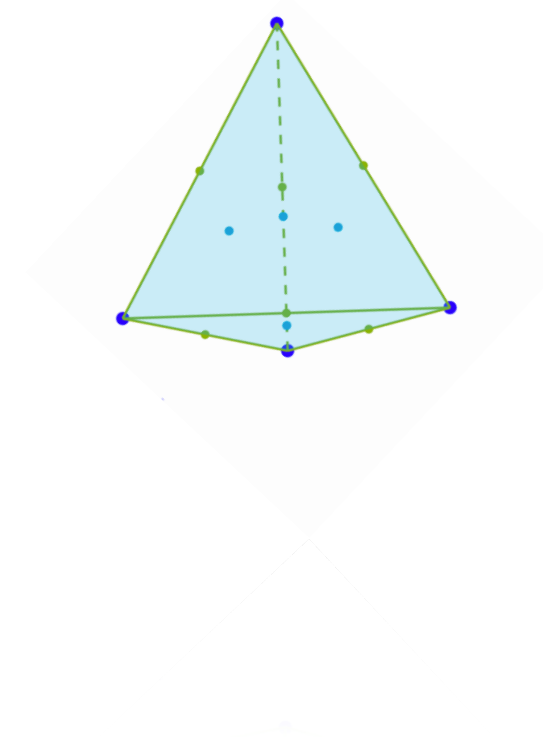
$$\Rightarrow d_n^2 - d_{n+1}^2 = \frac{1}{n} - \frac{1}{n+1}$$



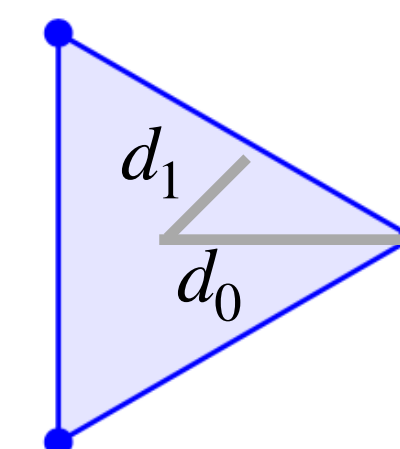
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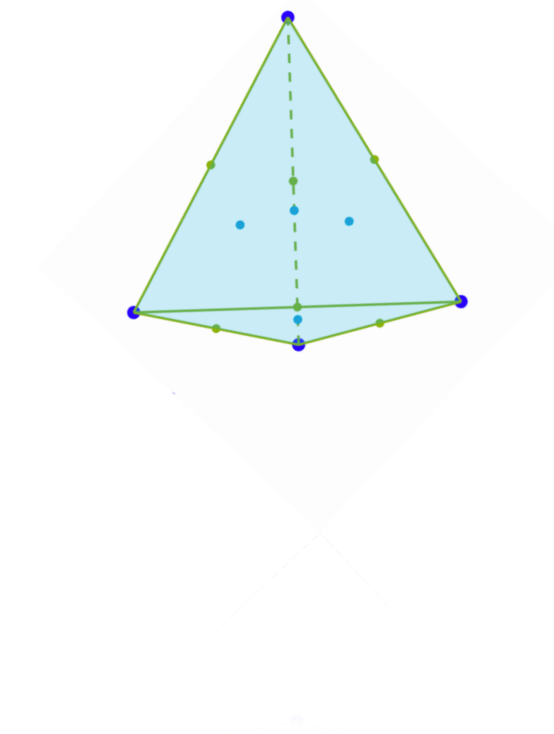
Simplex



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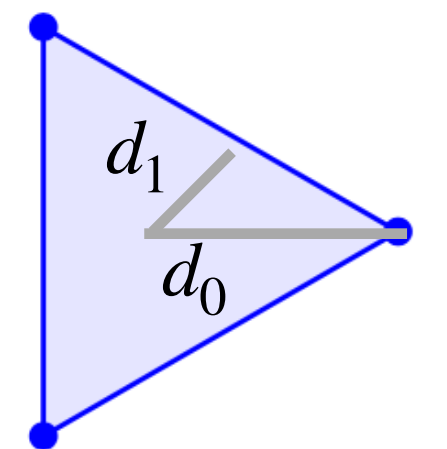
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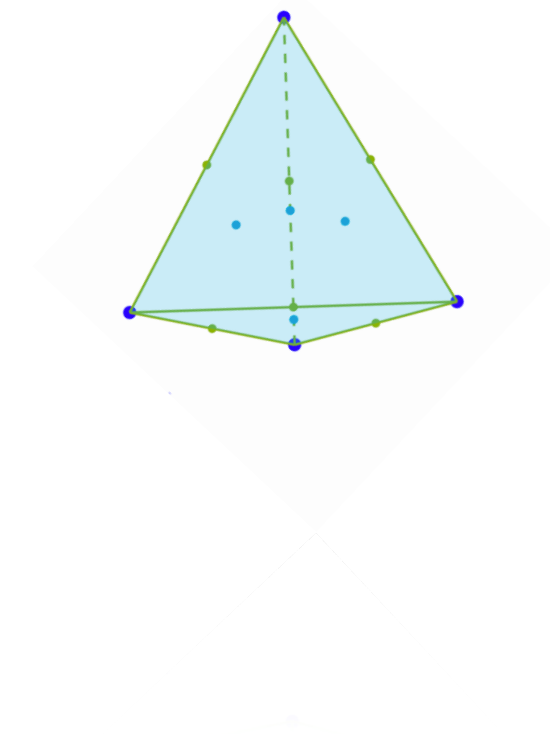
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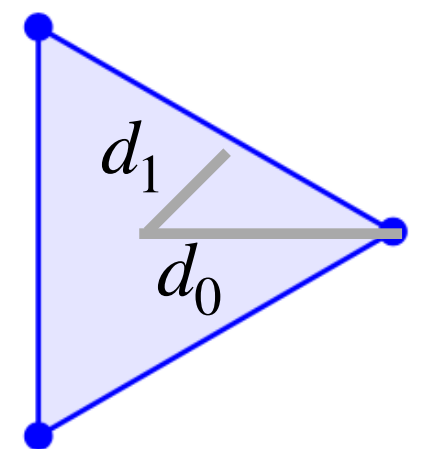
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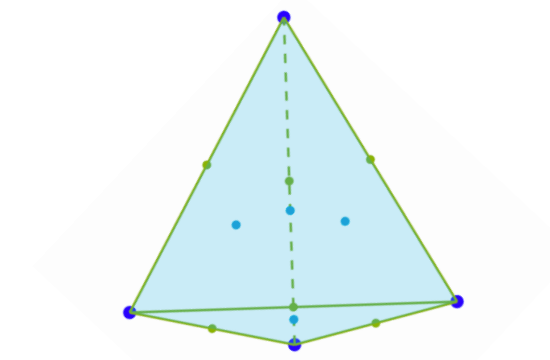
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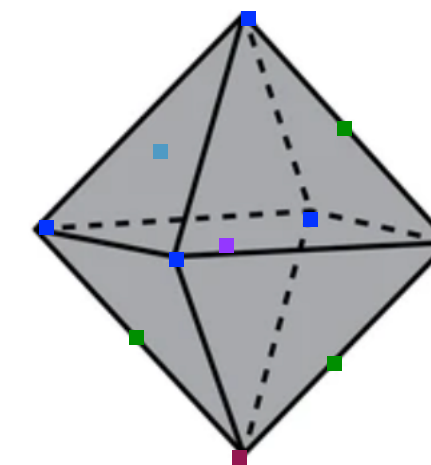


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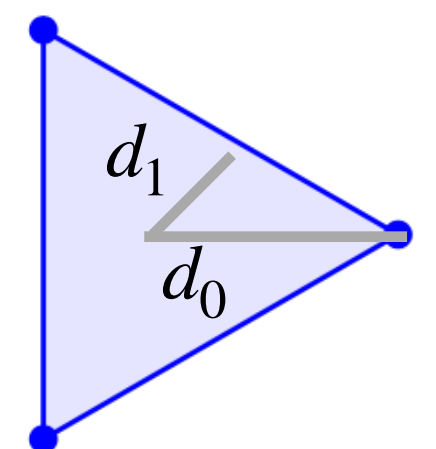
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Orthoplex

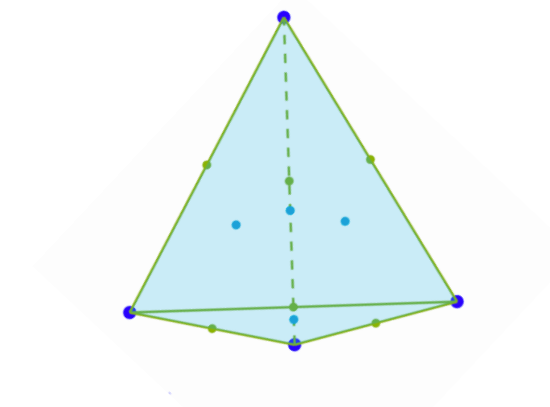
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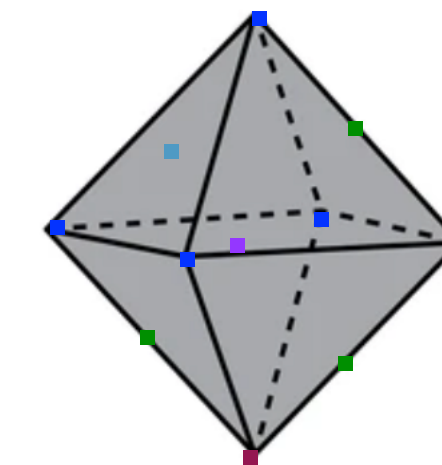


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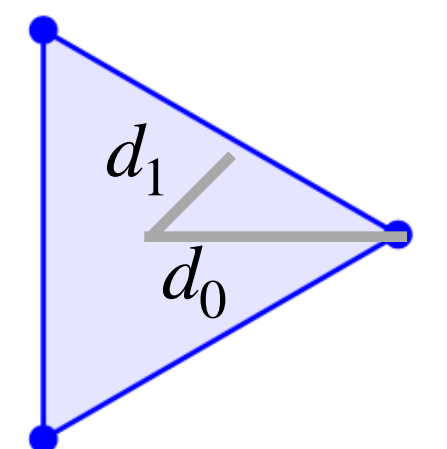
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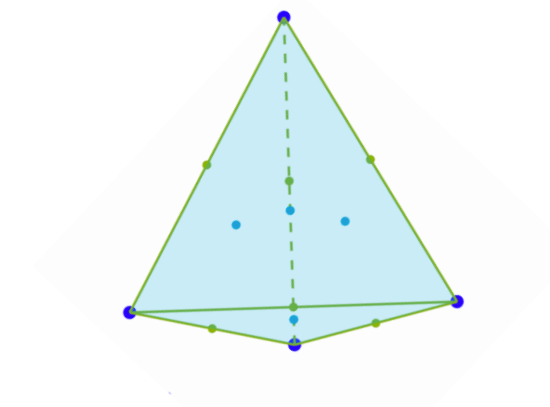
## Full polytope



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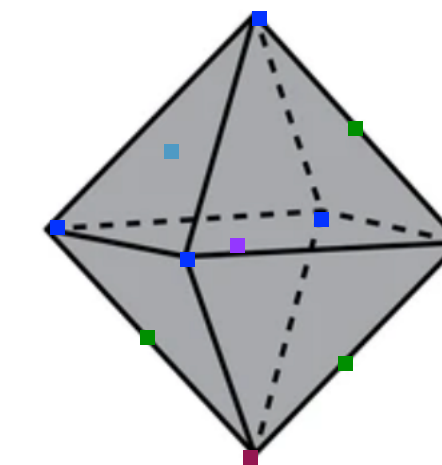


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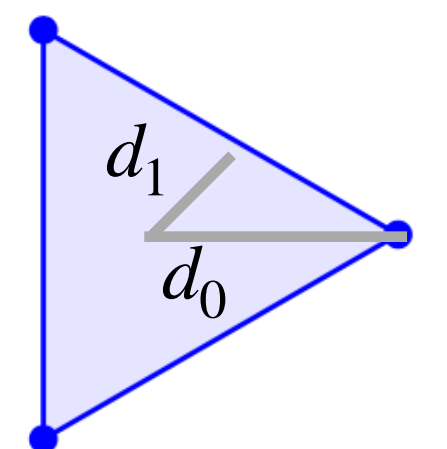


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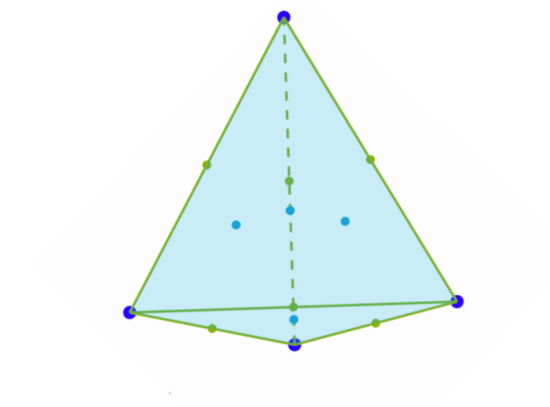
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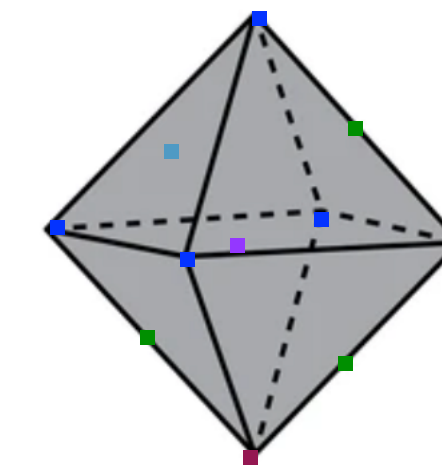


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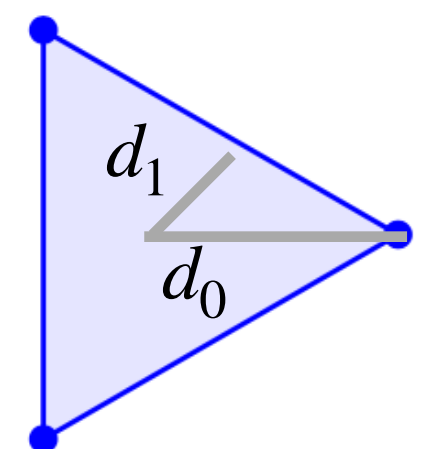


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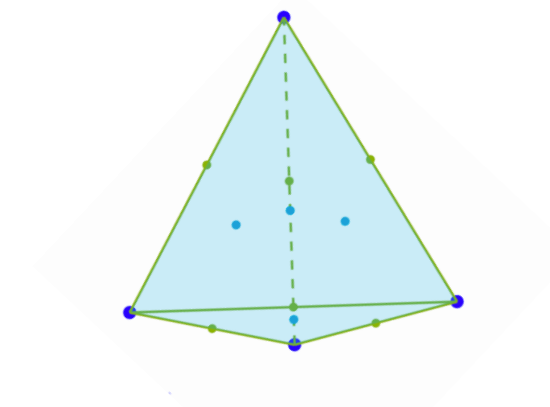
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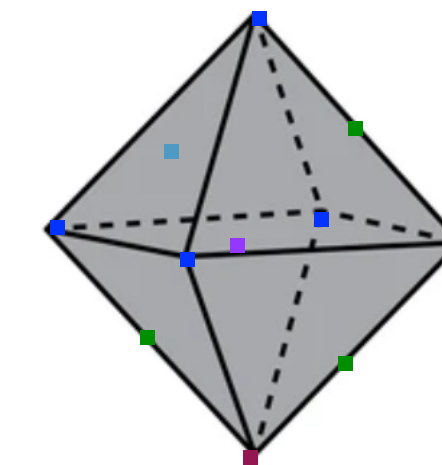


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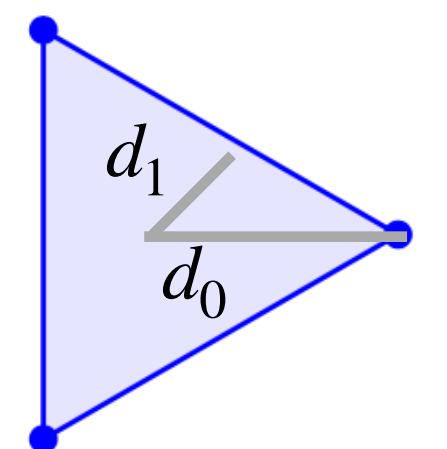
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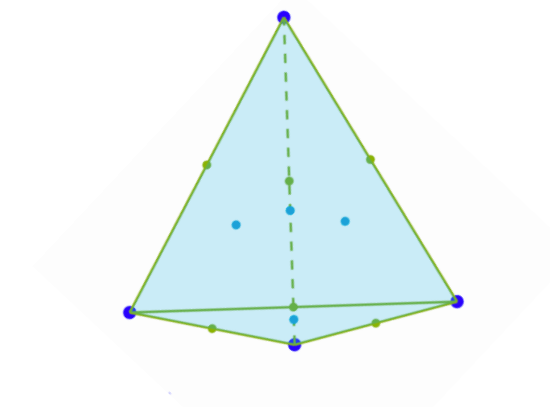
Finite list of polytopes, unique  $d$  for each



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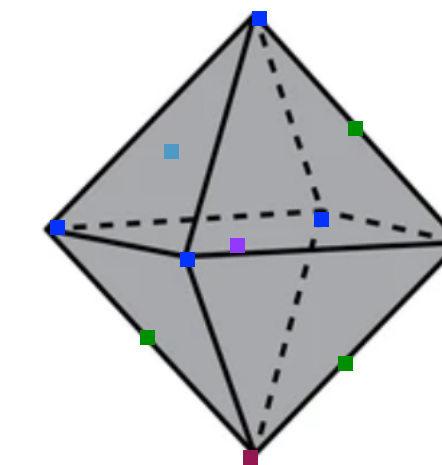


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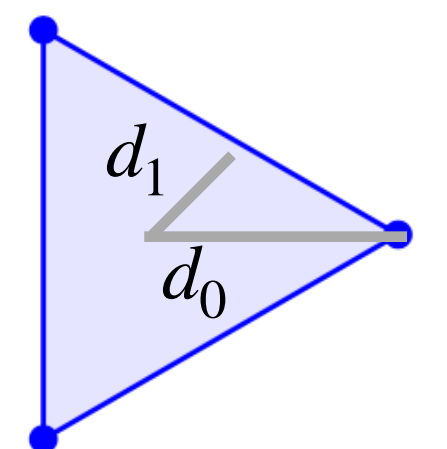
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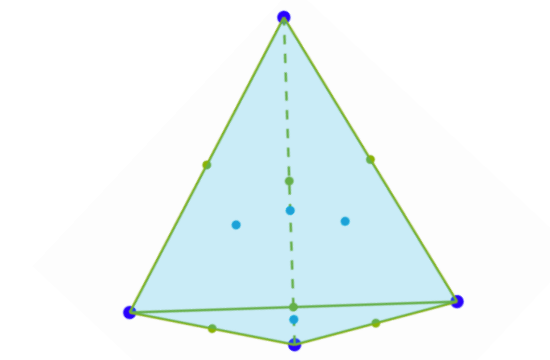
Rank 2 polytopes agree with [Etheredge, Heidenreich, Rudelius, Ruiz, Valenzuela '24]



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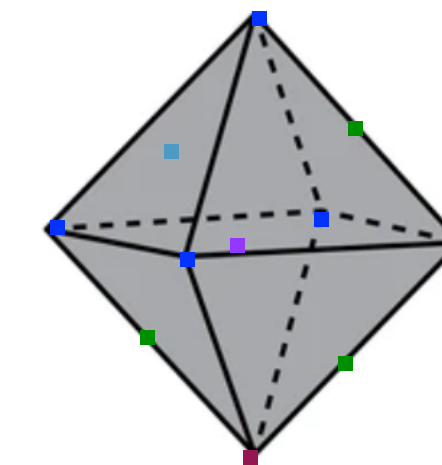


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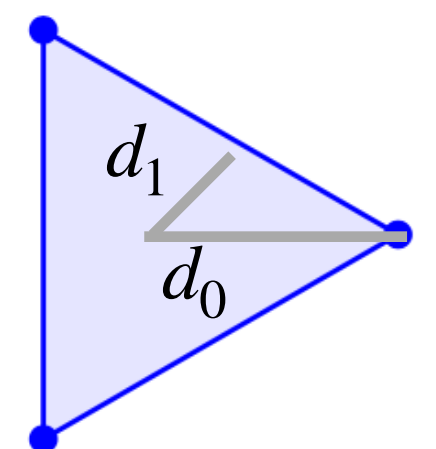
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Finite list of polytopes, unique  $d$  for each

Rank 2 polytopes agree with [Etheredge, Heidenreich, Rudelius, Ruiz, Valenzuela '24]

All realised at least by one symm mod. space EFT  $(G, \rho, d)$  !



# EFTs in the landscape



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Restrict to

- $G_a$  of split form  $(O(k, k))$



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- All vertices at same distance



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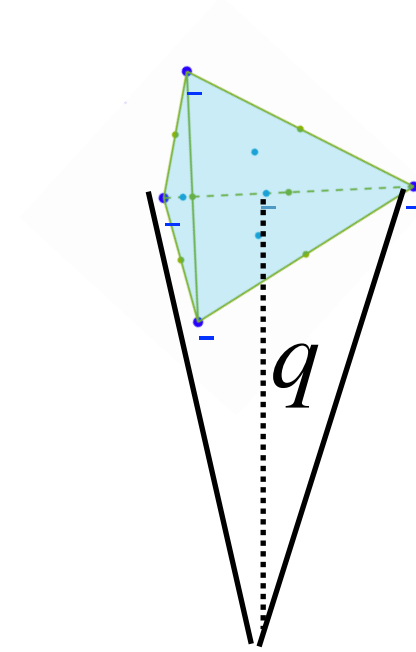
⇒ Particles in a **single irrep**  $\rho$  of  $G$ , with highest weight  $\lambda$



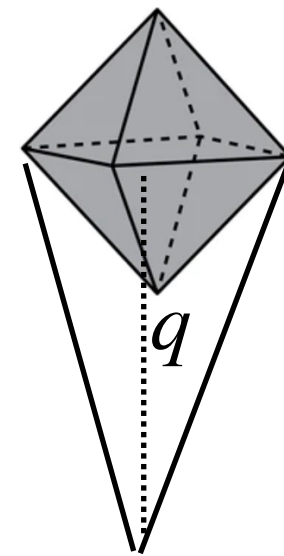
For  $G = G' \times \mathbb{R}$  (e.g.  $O(k, k) \times \mathbb{R}$  for NSNS dof in  $T^k$  compactifications)

$$\lambda = (\lambda', q)$$

highest weight



$$q = \sqrt{\frac{1}{d-2} + \frac{1}{k}}$$











$$q = \sqrt{\frac{1}{d-2}}$$



polytope	$\mathfrak{g}$	$\rho$	$q$	$d$
$\beta_k$	$\mathfrak{so}(k, k) \oplus \mathbb{R}$	$2k$	$\sqrt{\frac{1}{d-2}}$	$d$
	$\mathfrak{so}(k+1, k) \oplus \mathbb{R}$	$2k+1$		
	$\mathfrak{sp}_{2k} \oplus \mathbb{R}$	$2k$		
$\Delta_k$	$\mathfrak{sl}_k \oplus \mathbb{R}$	$k$	$\sqrt{\frac{1}{d-2} + \frac{1}{k}}$	$d$









For  $G$  semi-simple



$r$	polytope
1	
2	
	
	
	
3	
	
	
4	octacube
	tetroctahedric demipenteract
5	
6	$V_{27}$
7	$V_{56}$
8	$V_{240}$

For  $G$  semi-simple



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For  $G$  semi-simple



$r$	$\mathfrak{g}$	$d$	$\alpha_s$	$D_{\max}$	$\rho$	polytope	
1	$\mathfrak{sl}_2$	$d$	-	$d$	2	•—•	
	$\mathfrak{sl}_2$	$d$	-	$d+1$	2		
2	$\mathfrak{sl}_3$	3	-	5	8	⬡	
	$\mathfrak{g}_{2(2)}$				14		
	$\mathfrak{g}_{2(2)}$				7		
	$\mathfrak{so}(2, 2)$	3			(2, 2)	□	
	$\mathfrak{sp}_4$				4		
	$\mathfrak{sp}_4$				5		
$\mathfrak{sl}_3$	5			6	3	△	
$\mathfrak{sl}_2^{\oplus 2}$	4			6	(2, 2)	▭	
3	$\mathfrak{sl}_2^{\oplus 3}$	4			(2, 2, 2)	⊠	
	$\mathfrak{sp}_4 \oplus \mathfrak{sl}_2$				(5, 2)		
	$\mathfrak{sp}_4 \oplus \mathfrak{sl}_2$				(4, 2)		
	$\mathfrak{so}(4, 3)$				8		
	$\mathfrak{sp}_6$				14'		
	$\mathfrak{sp}_6$	3			6	14	⬡
$\mathfrak{so}(4, 3)$	21						
$\mathfrak{sl}_4$	15						
$\mathfrak{e}_{3(3)} \cong \mathfrak{sl}_2 \oplus \mathfrak{sl}_2$	8			11	(2, 3)	⬡	
4	$\mathfrak{so}(4, 4)$	3			6	octacube	
	$\mathfrak{so}(5, 4)$				28		
	$\mathfrak{sp}_8$				36		
	$\mathfrak{f}_{4(4)}$				27		
	$\mathfrak{f}_{4(4)}$				52		
	$\mathfrak{f}_{4(4)}$	26					
$\mathfrak{e}_{4(4)} \cong \mathfrak{sl}_5$	7			11	10	tetroctahedric	
5	$\mathfrak{e}_{5(5)} \cong \mathfrak{so}(5, 5)$	6			11	16	demipenteract
6	$\mathfrak{e}_{6(6)}$	5			11	27	$V_{27}$
7	$\mathfrak{e}_{7(7)}$	4			11	56	$V_{56}$
8	$\mathfrak{e}_{8(8)}$	3			11	248	$V_{240}$

For  $G$  semi-simple



Only 29 theories

$r$	$\mathfrak{g}$	$d$	$\alpha_s$	$D_{\max}$	$\rho$	polytope	
1	$\mathfrak{sl}_2$	$d$		$d$	2		
	$\mathfrak{sl}_2$	$d$	-	$d+1$	2		
2	$\mathfrak{sl}_3$	3	-	5	8		
	$\mathfrak{g}_{2(2)}$				14		
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	$\mathfrak{sp}_6$	3		6	14		
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For  $G$  semi-simple



Only 29 theories

$$D_{\max} \leq 11!$$

$r$	$\mathfrak{g}$	$d$	$\alpha_s$	$D_{\max}$	$\rho$	polytope	
1	$\mathfrak{sl}_2$	$d$		$d$	2	◻	
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# Very nice, finite, but...

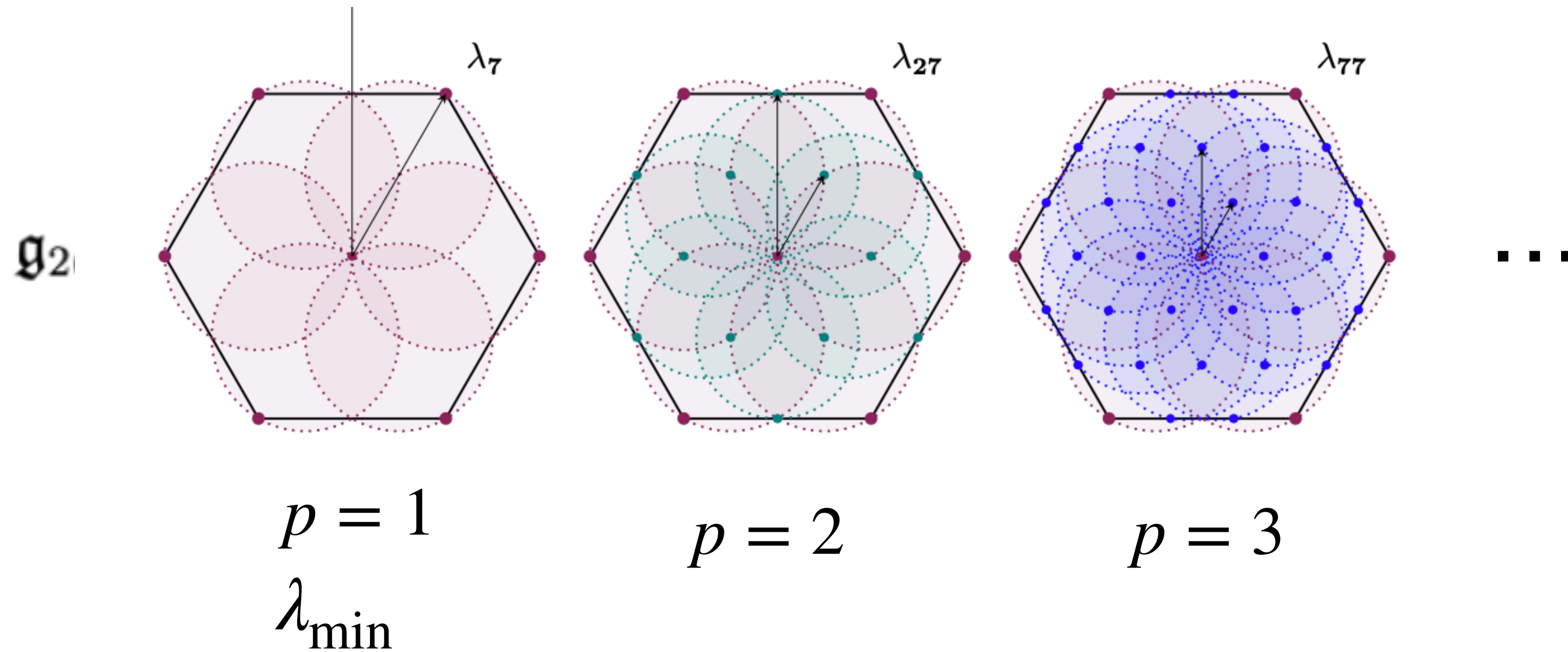
- A symmetry of the polytope

$$\lambda' = p \lambda \quad \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle' = \frac{1}{p^2} \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle \quad p \in \mathbb{N}$$

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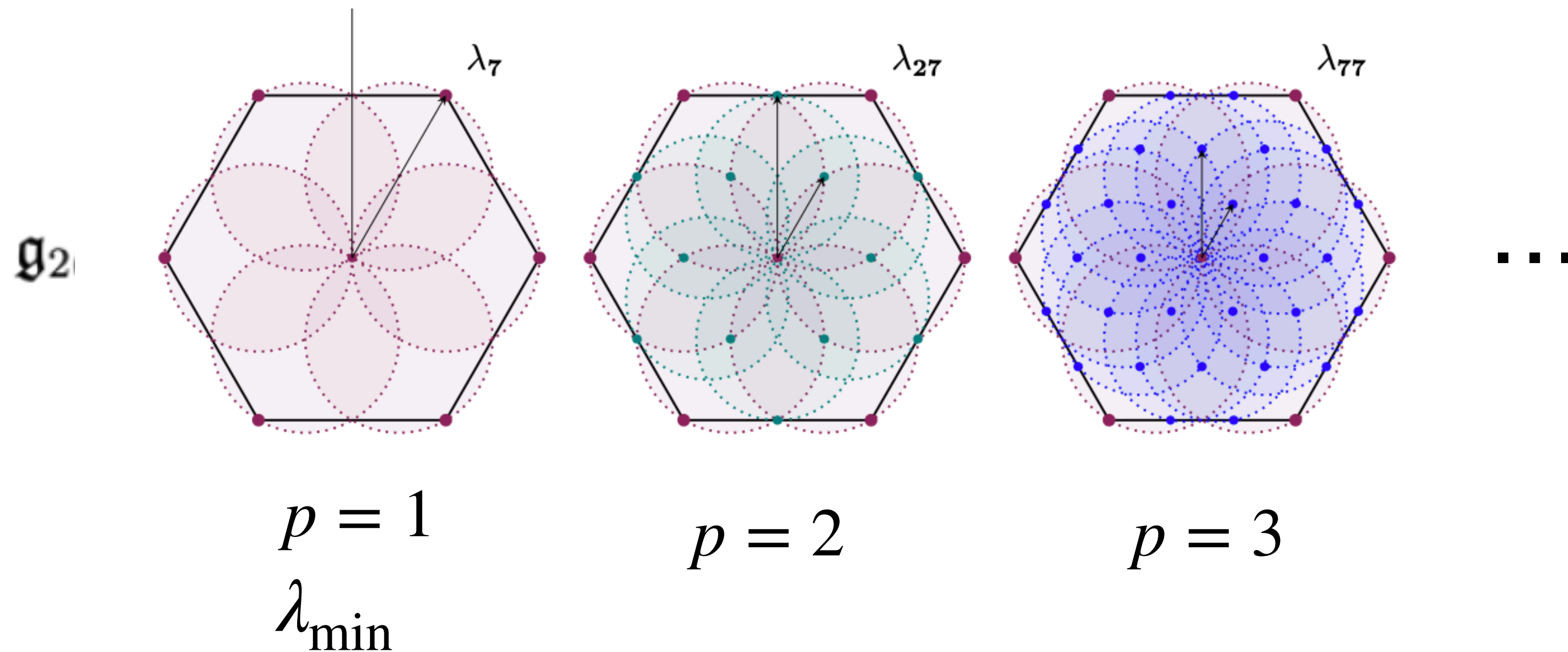
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- For each  $(G, \lambda, d)$  in the table there is an infinite family  $(G, p \lambda, d)$ !

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Moduli spaces inside moduli spaces  $G' \subset G$

(polytopes inside polytopes)

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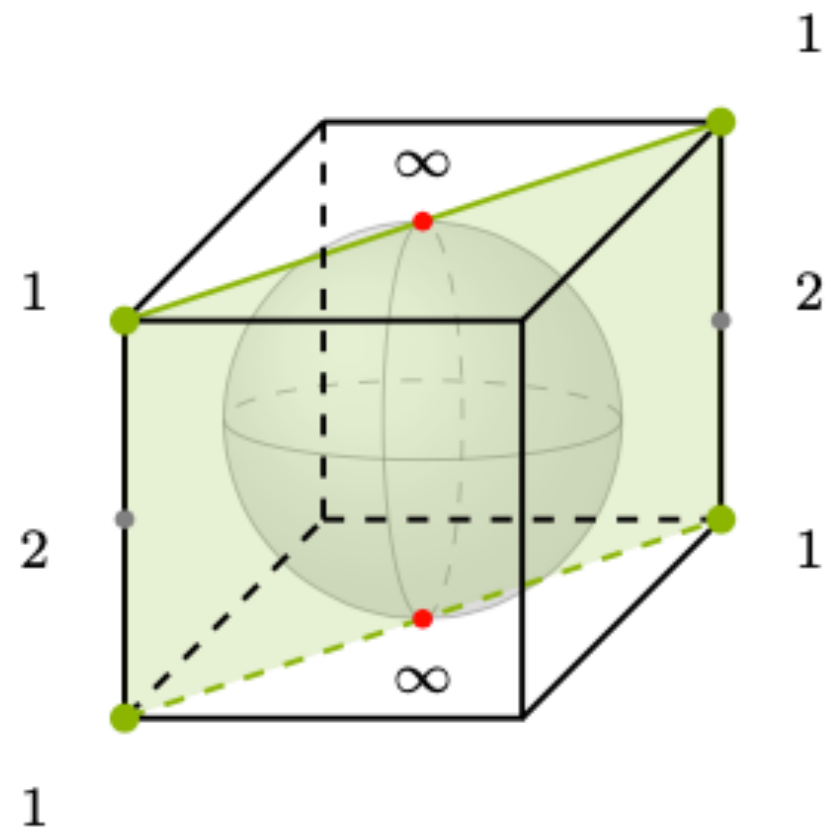
Two types of slices

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Two types of slices



passing through origin

$$d' = d$$

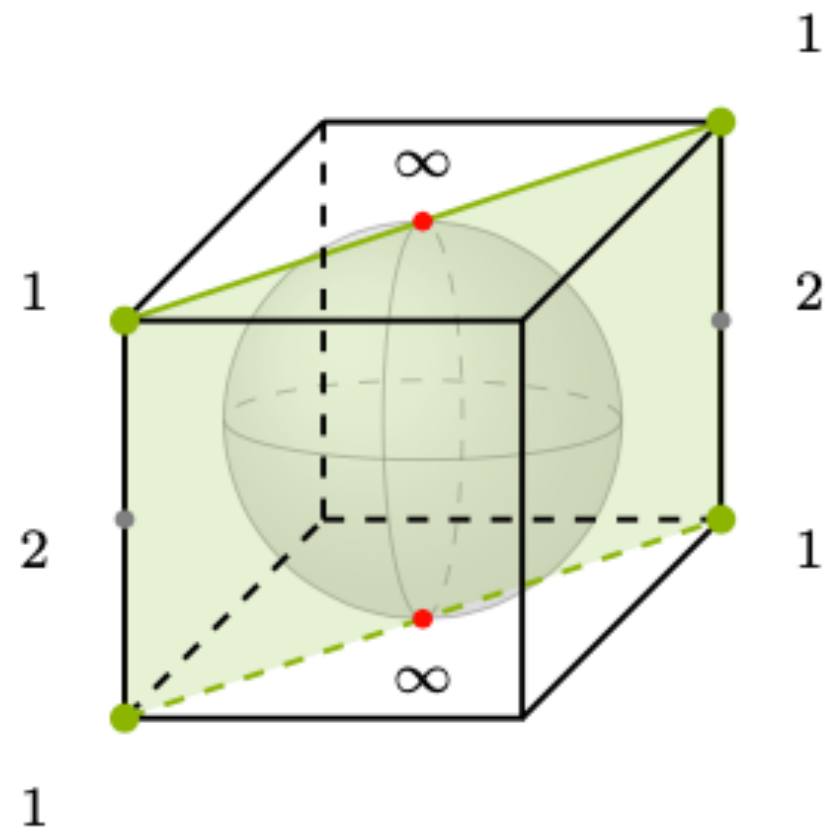
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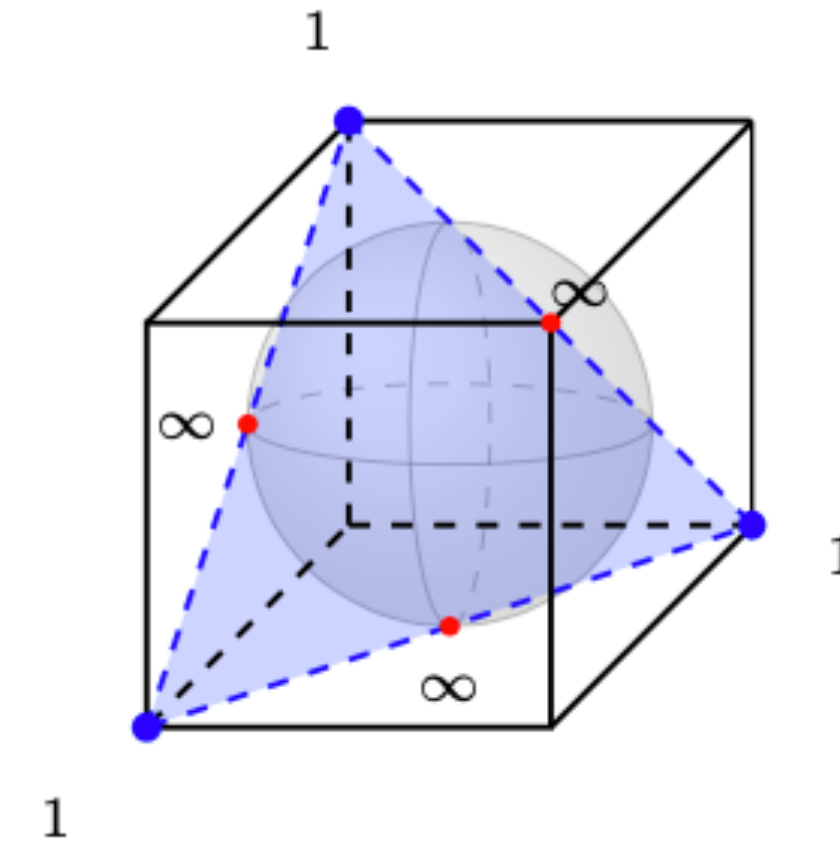
### Two types of slices



passing through origin

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orbifold



not passing through the origin,  $\perp$  to a weight  
decompactification

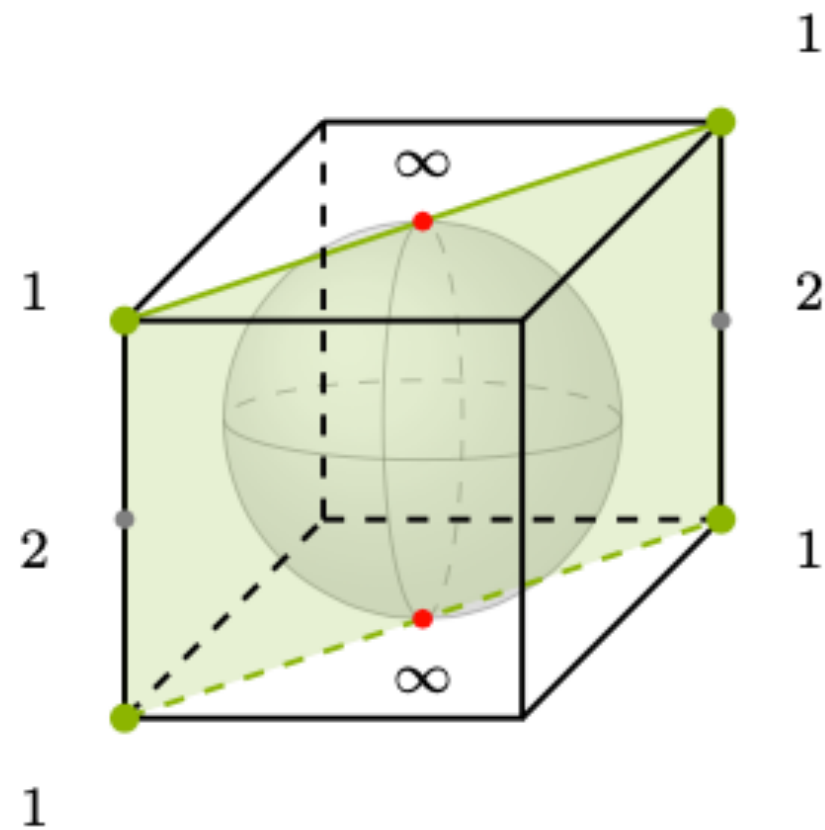
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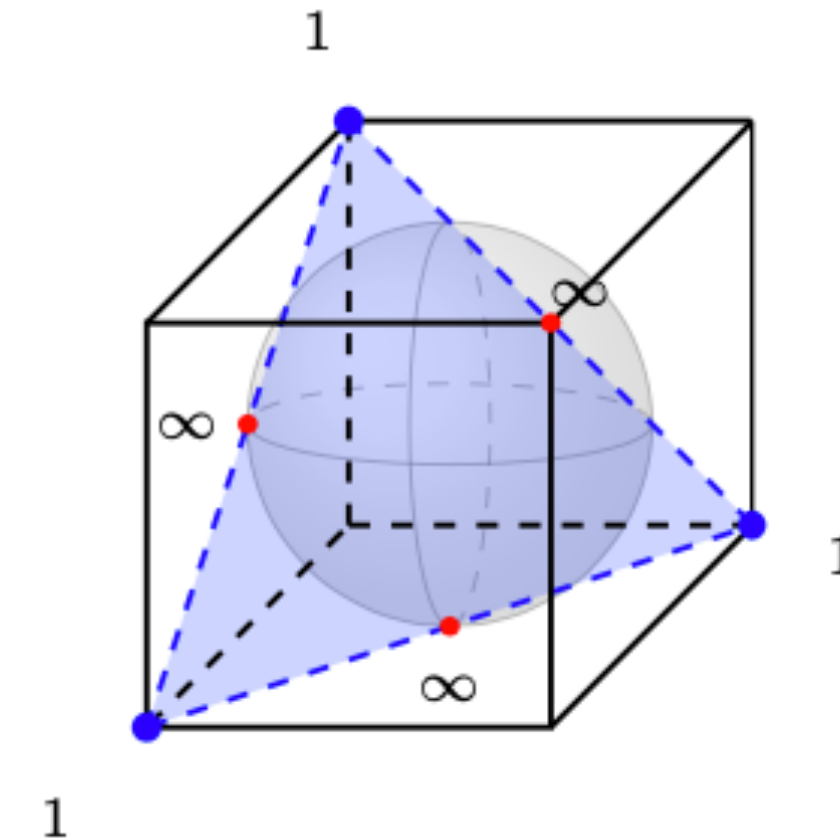


passing through origin

$$d' = d$$

orbifold

$$Sp(6), \mathbf{14}, d = 4$$



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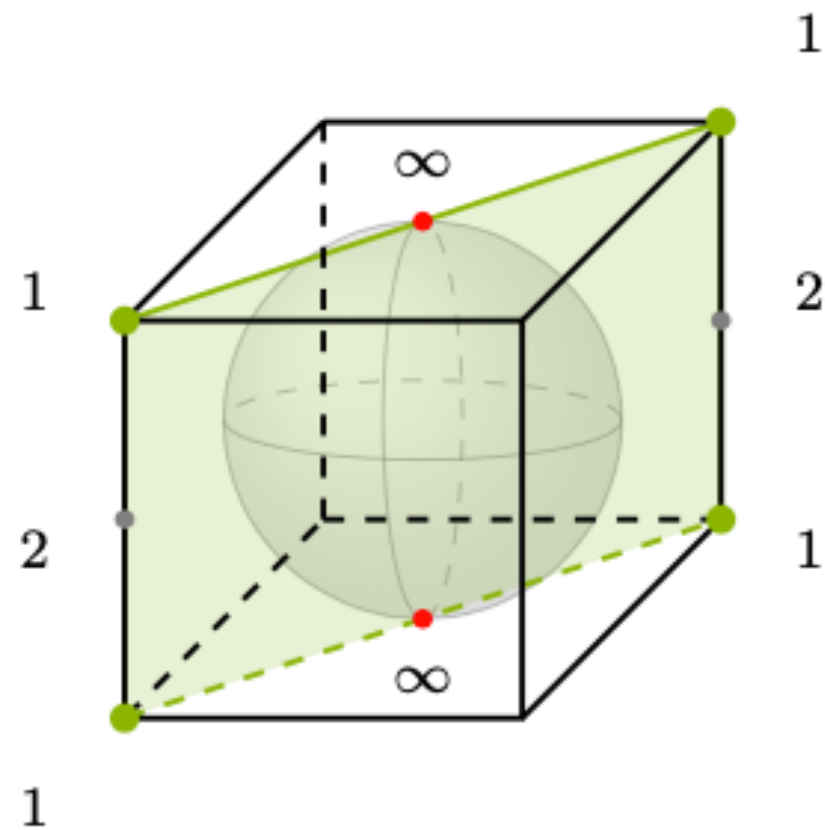
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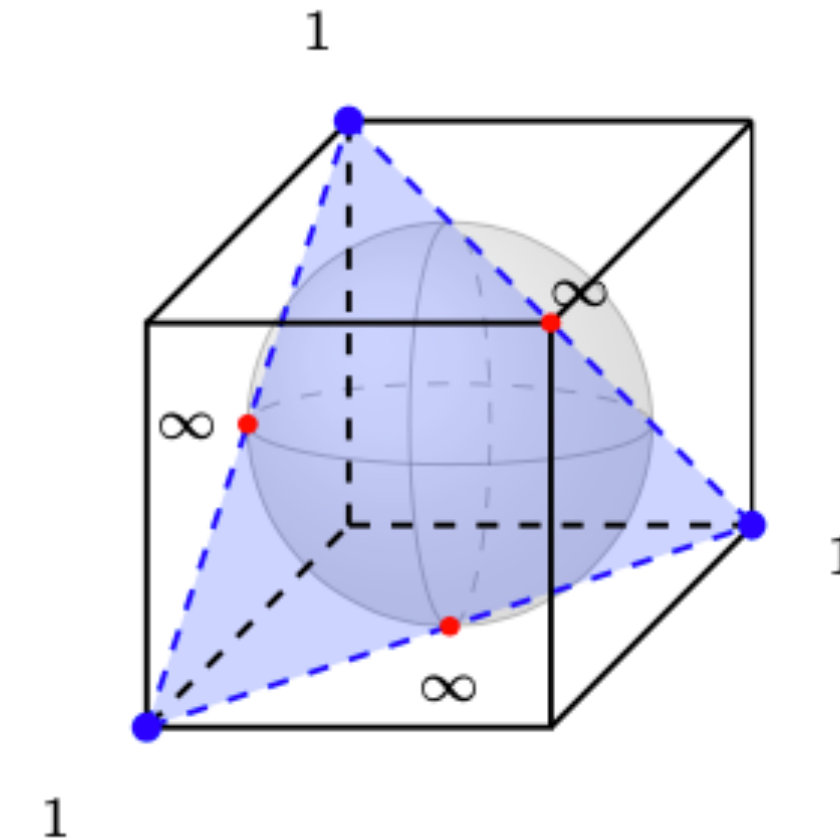
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$$d' = d$$

orbifold

$$SL(2) \times SL(2), (\mathbf{2}, \mathbf{2}), d = 4$$

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not passing through the origin,  $\perp$  to a weight  
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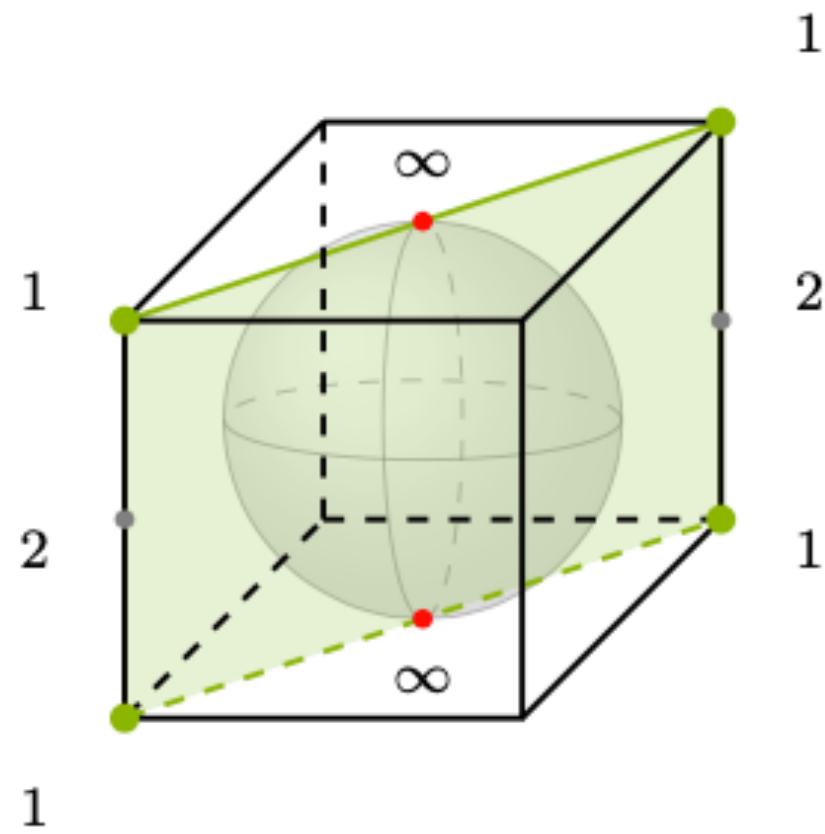
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# Are these theories related?

## Moduli spaces inside moduli spaces $G' \subset G$

(polytopes inside polytopes)

### Two types of slices



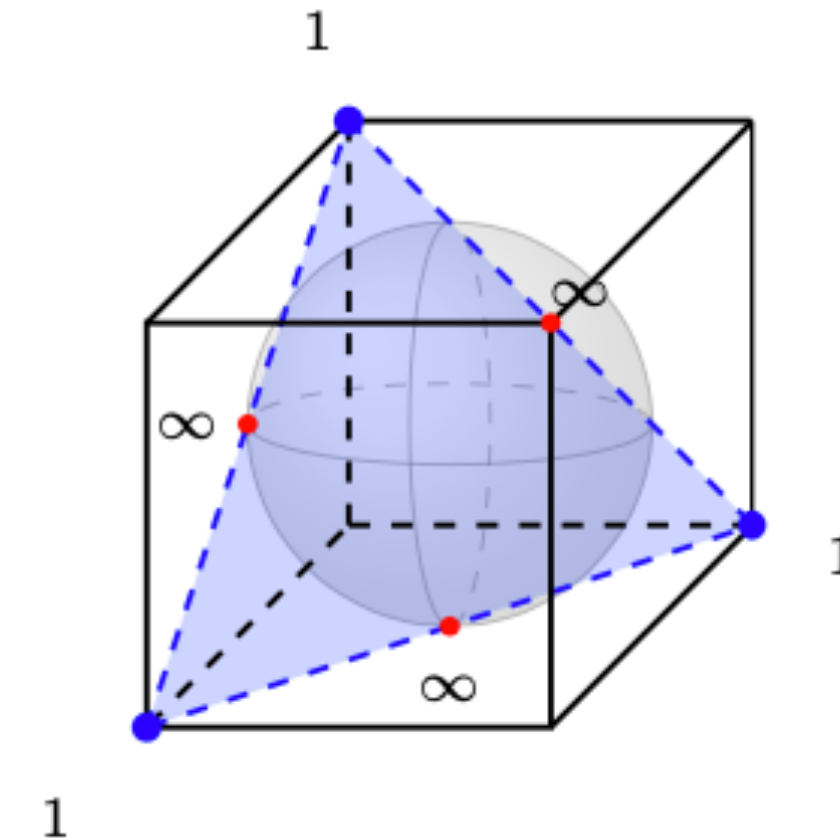
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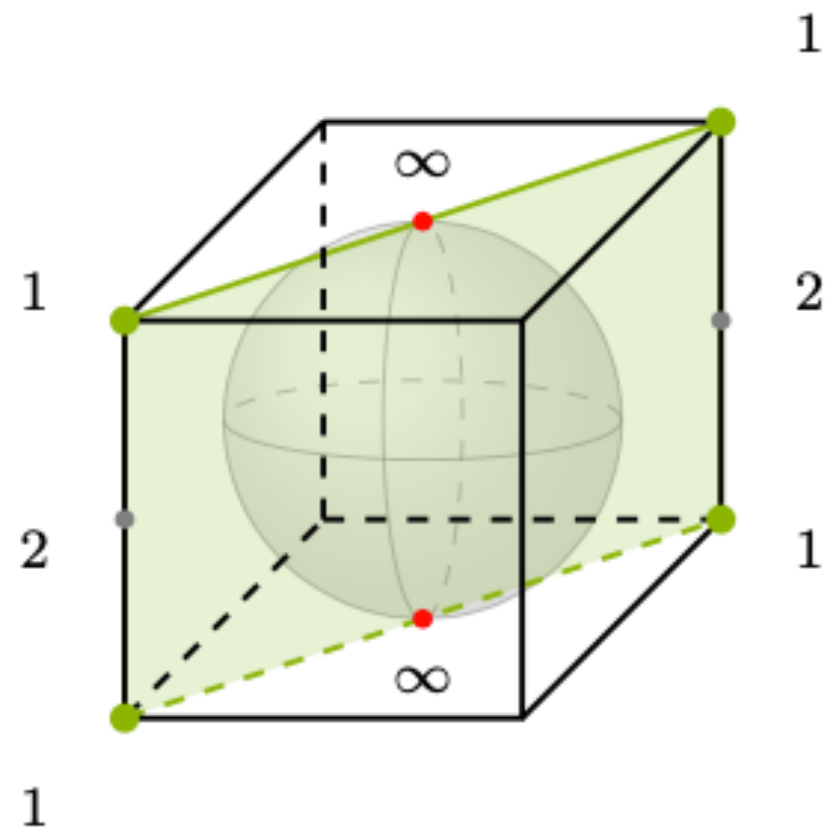
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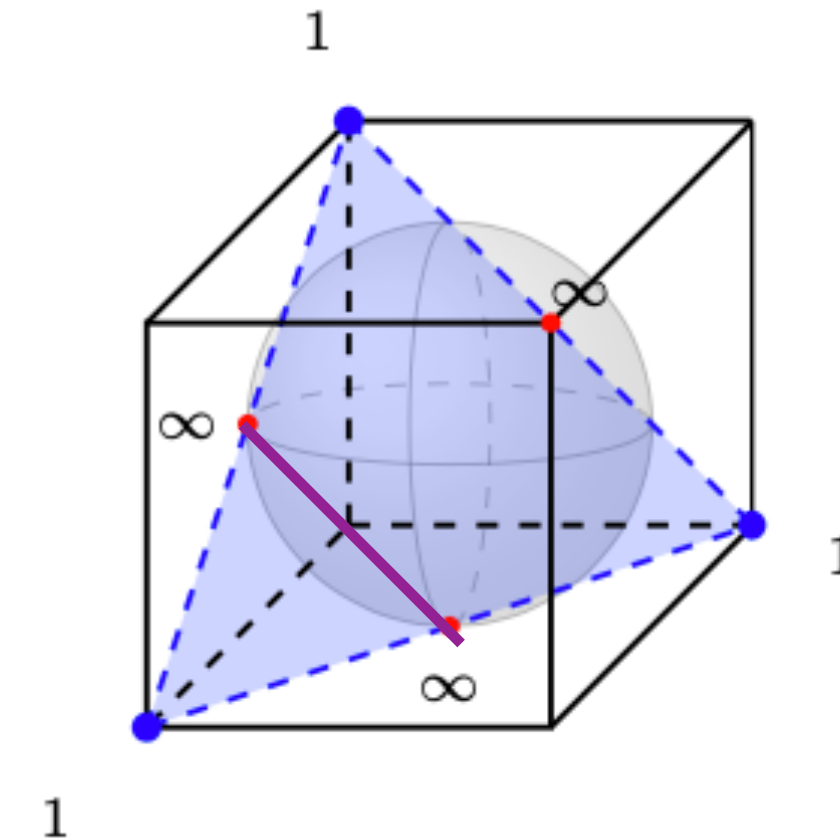
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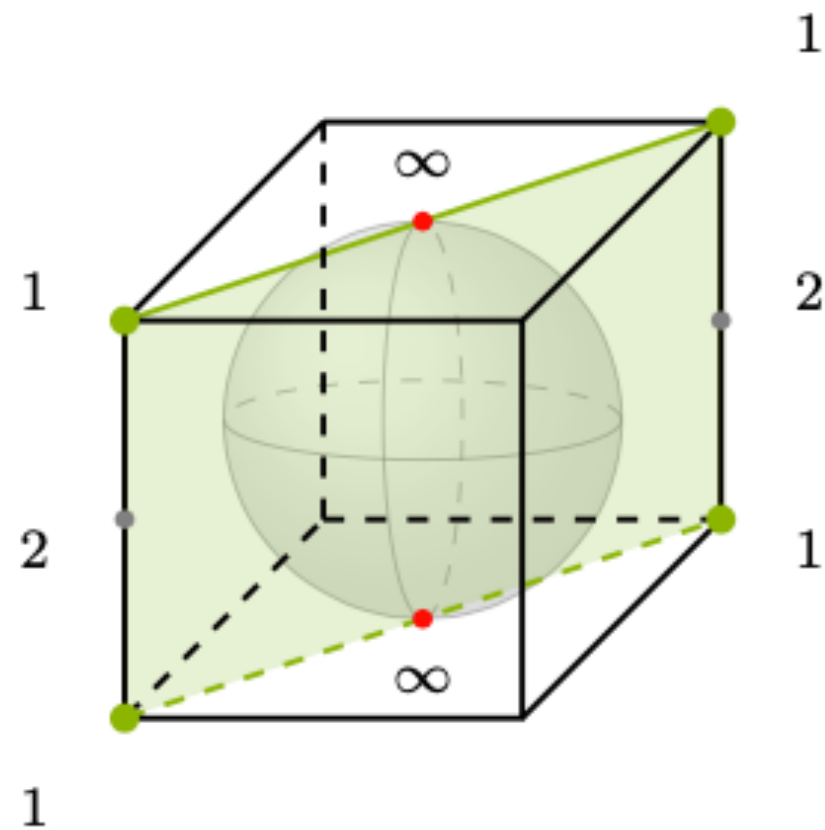
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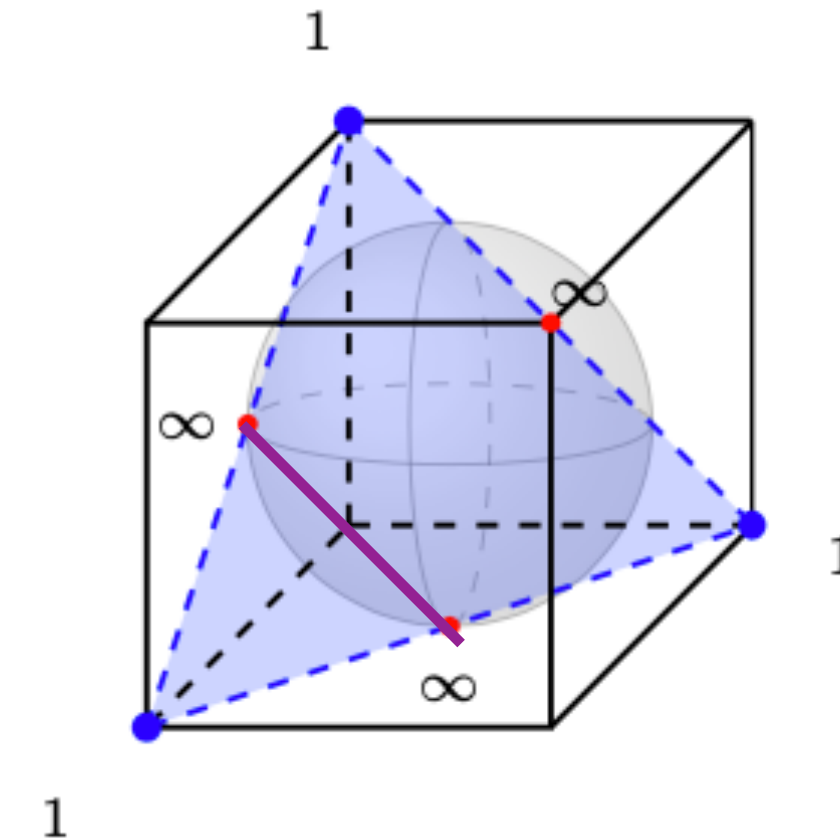
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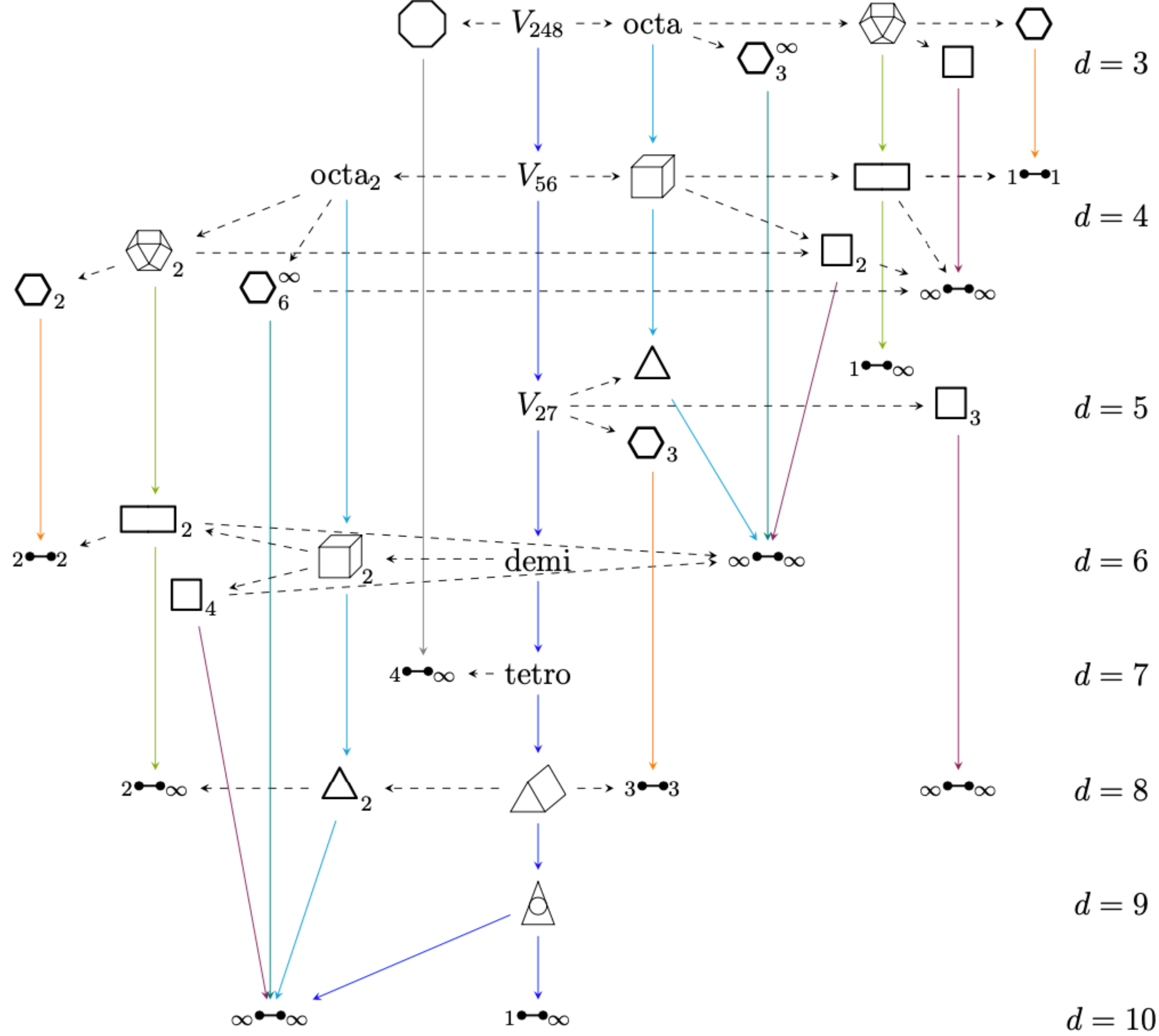
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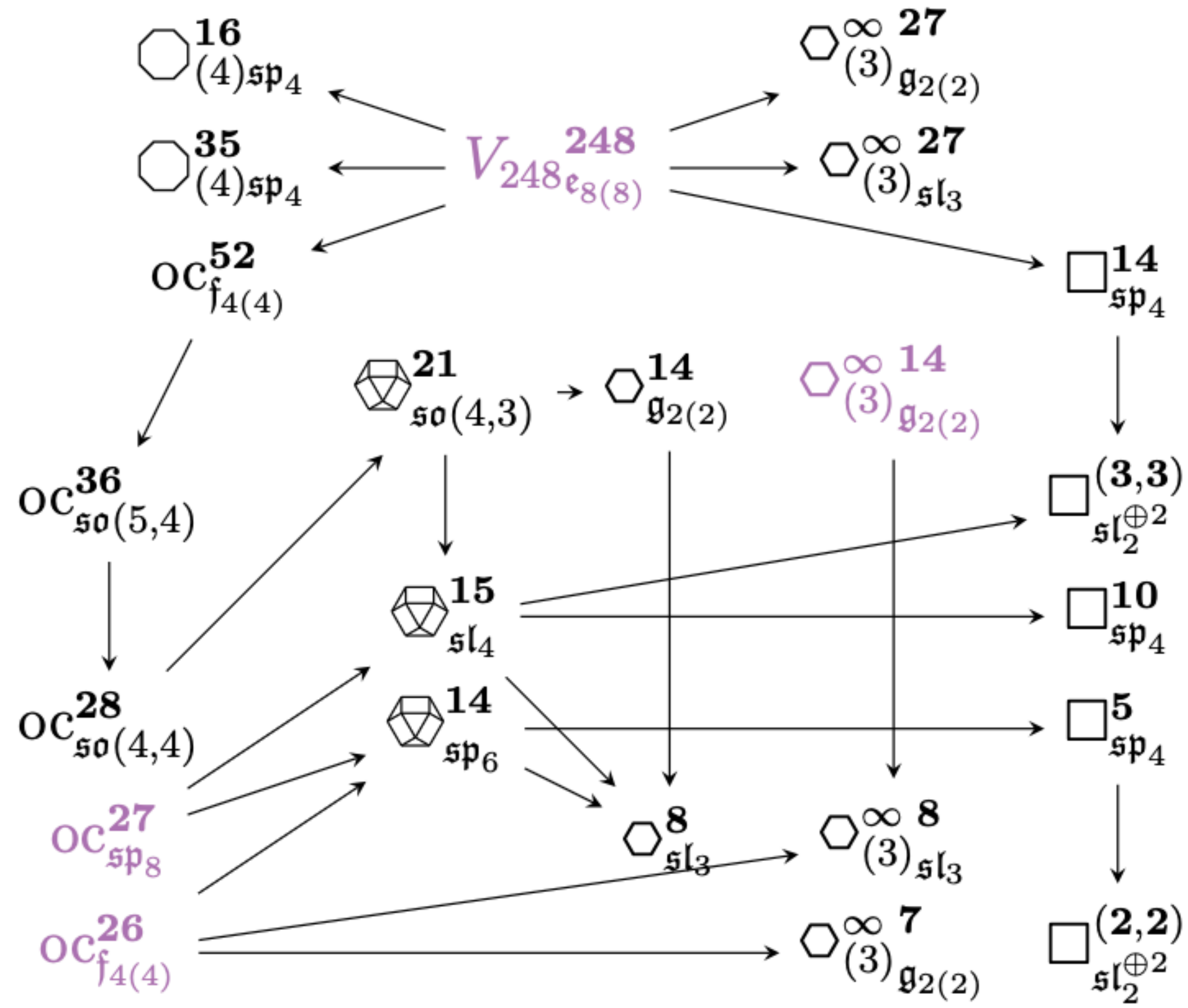
$$SL(3), \mathbf{3}, d = 5$$

$$SL(2), \mathbf{2}, d = 6 \quad \text{string island}$$

# Polytopes inside polytopes



# All moduli spaces and (min) rep of particles in $d = 3$



Seed

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(they are the Weyl polytope of an irrep)

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- Assuming split form  $(\mathfrak{o}(k,k))$

Full set of theories  $(G, \lambda, d)$

29 theories for semi-simple  $G$

Plus  $[sl_k, so(k, k), so(k + 1, k), sp_{2k}] \oplus \mathbb{R}$

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- Actually, every solution comes in a countably infinite series

of highest weight:  $(G, p\lambda, d) \quad \forall p \in \mathbb{N}$

some math or swampland argument  $\Rightarrow p = 1$  ??

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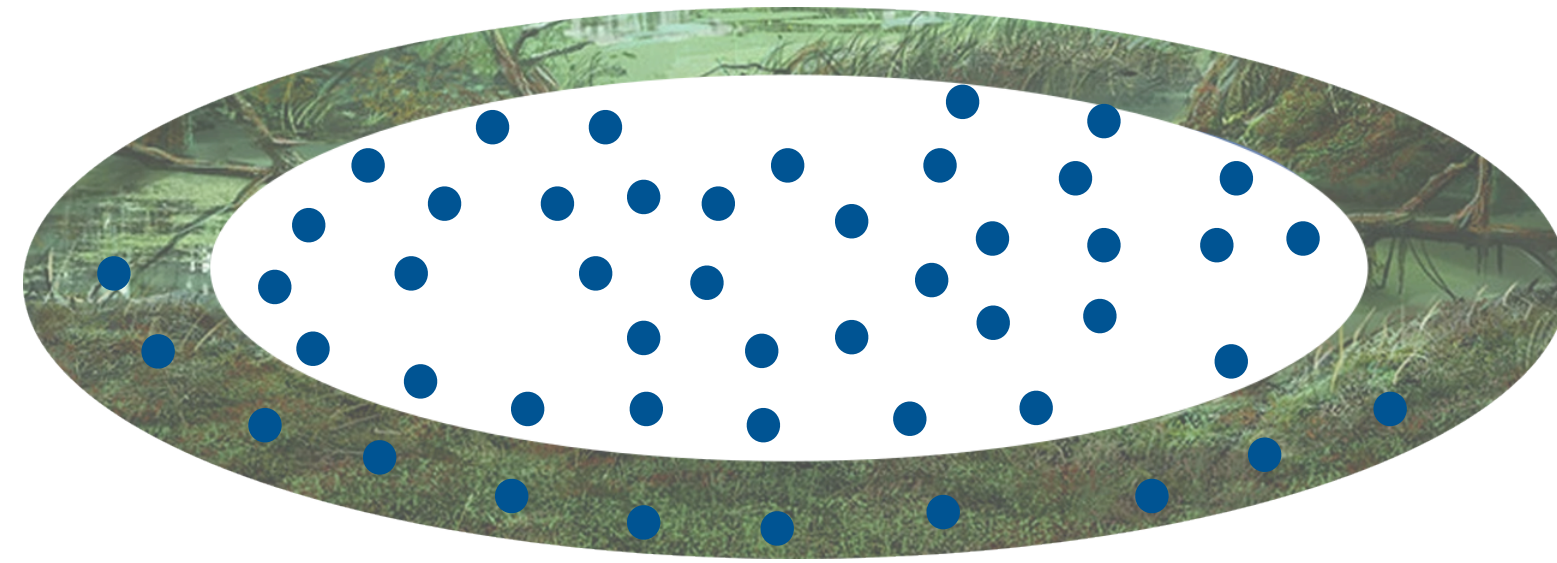
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- Three of the families do not come from  $E_8$

$$(Sp(8), 27, d = 3) \quad (F_4, 26, d = 3) \quad (G_2, 14, d = 3)_{n_v=3}$$

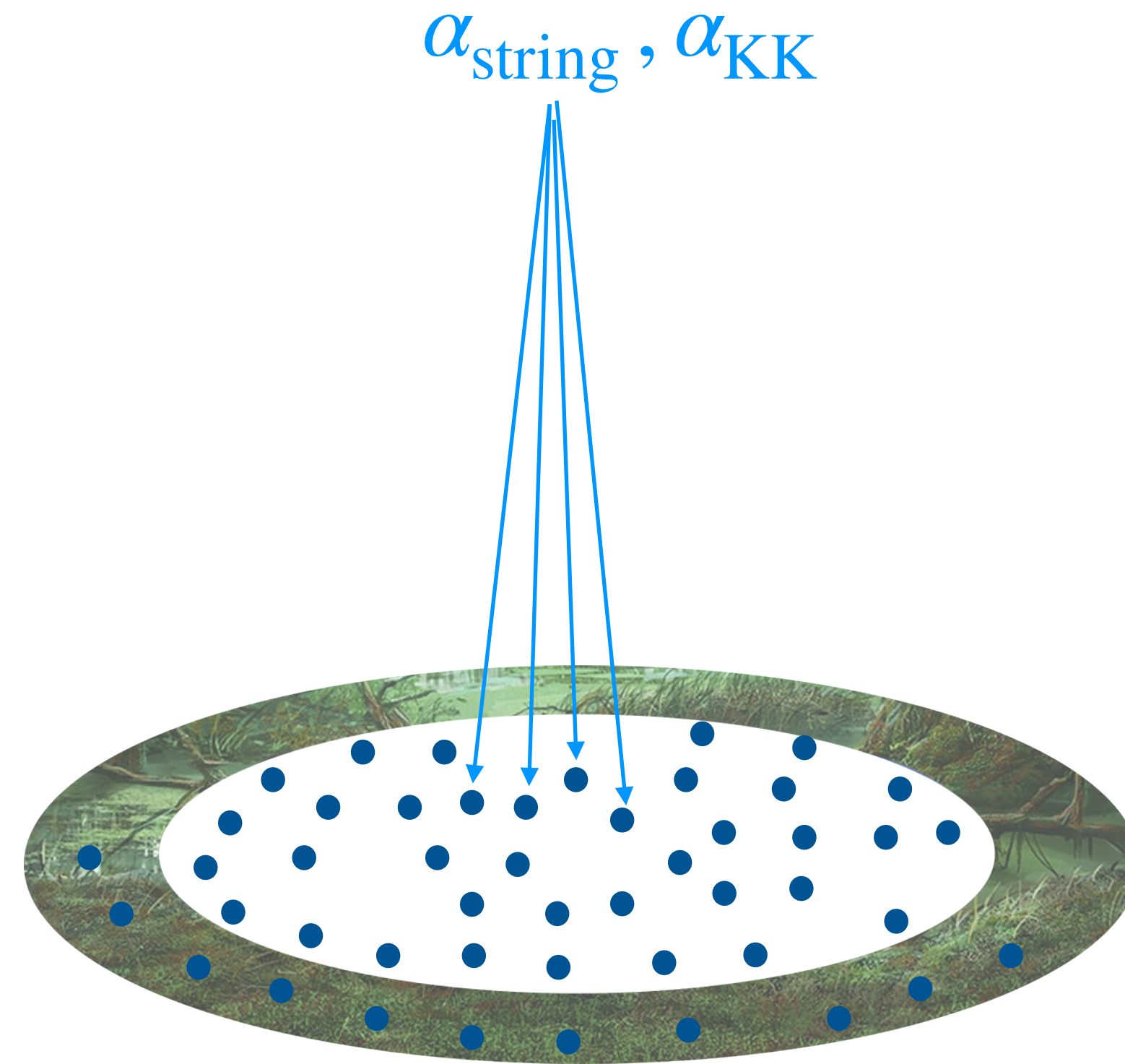
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$\alpha_{\text{string}}, \alpha_{\text{KK}}$



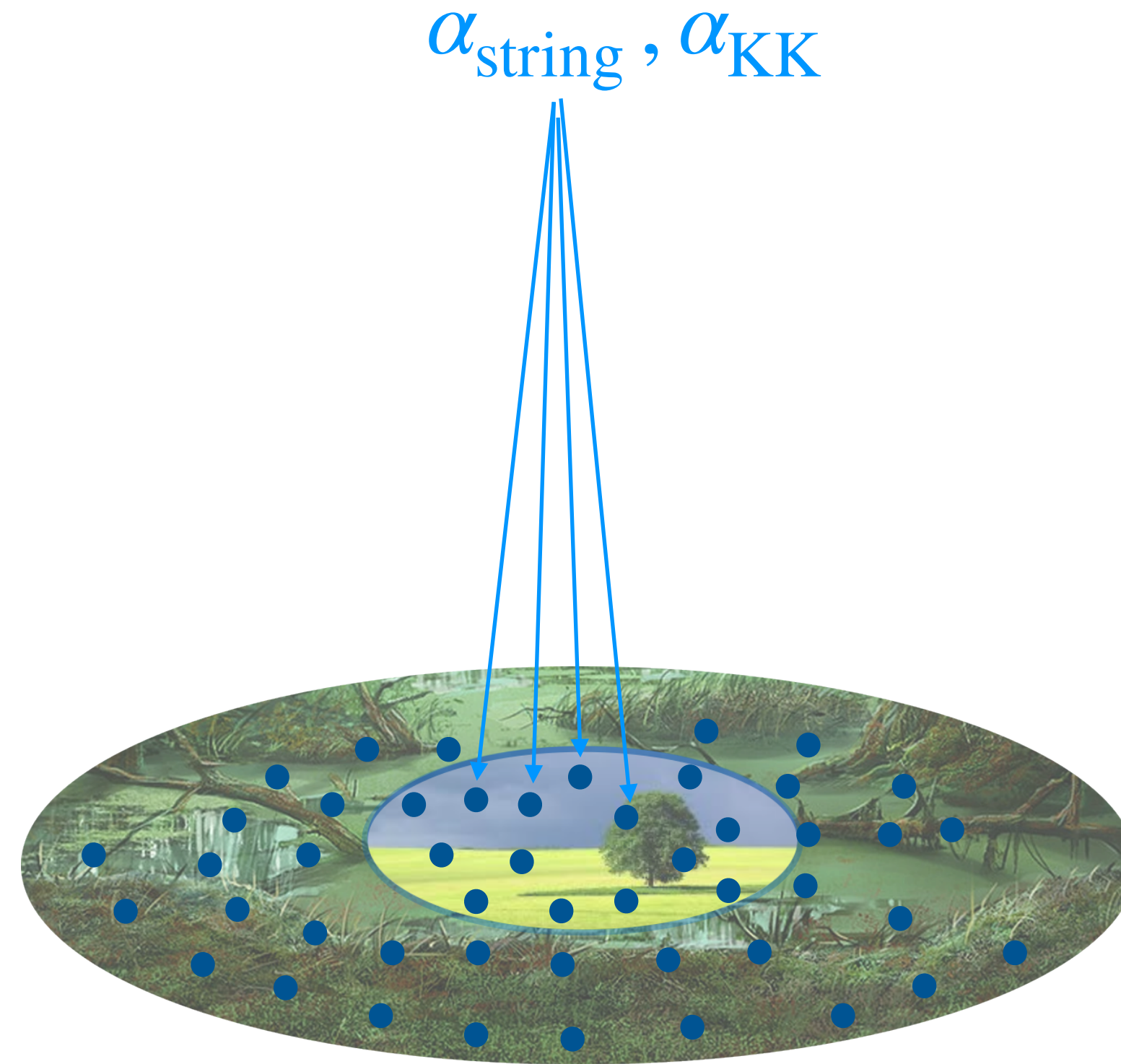
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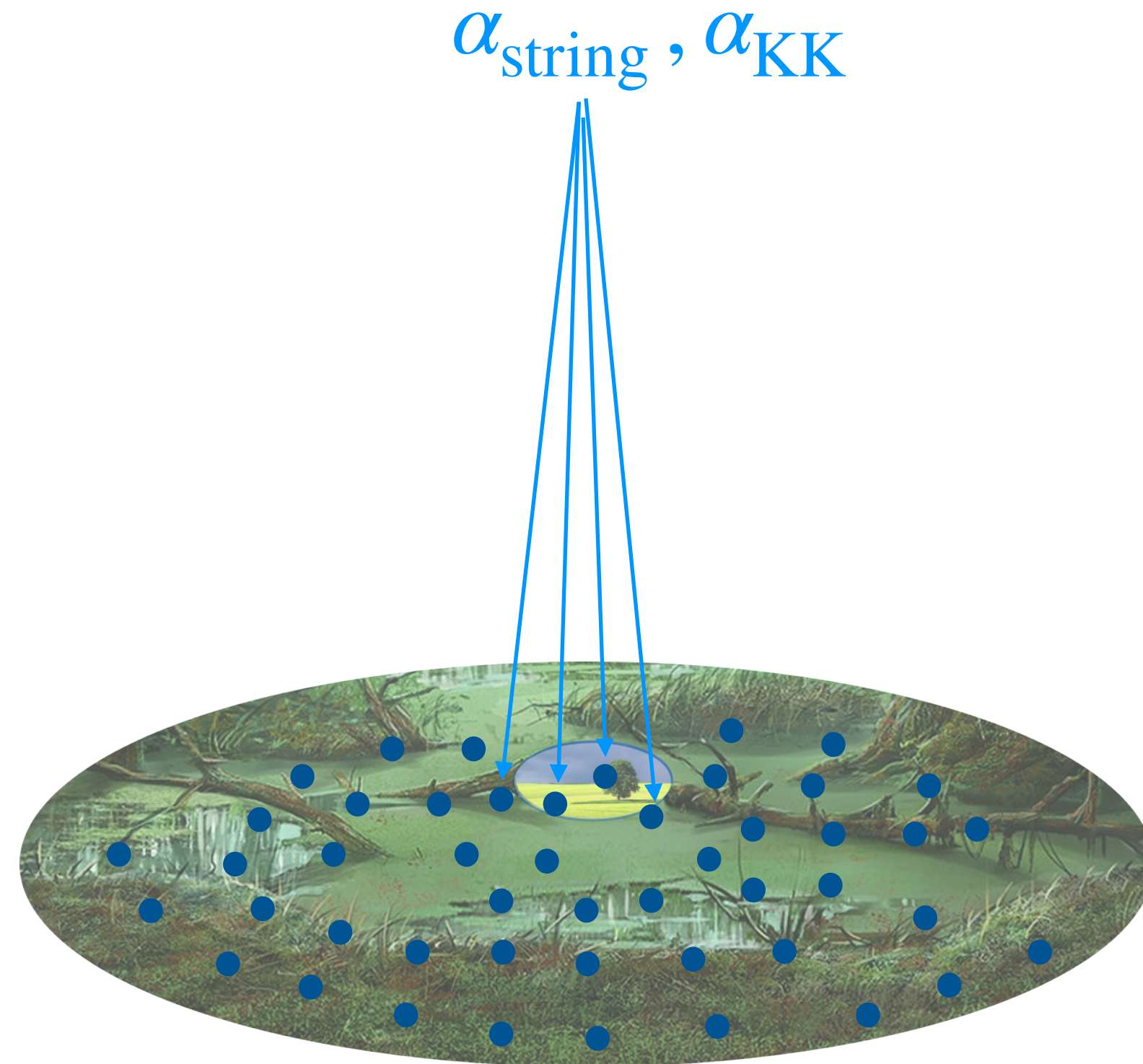


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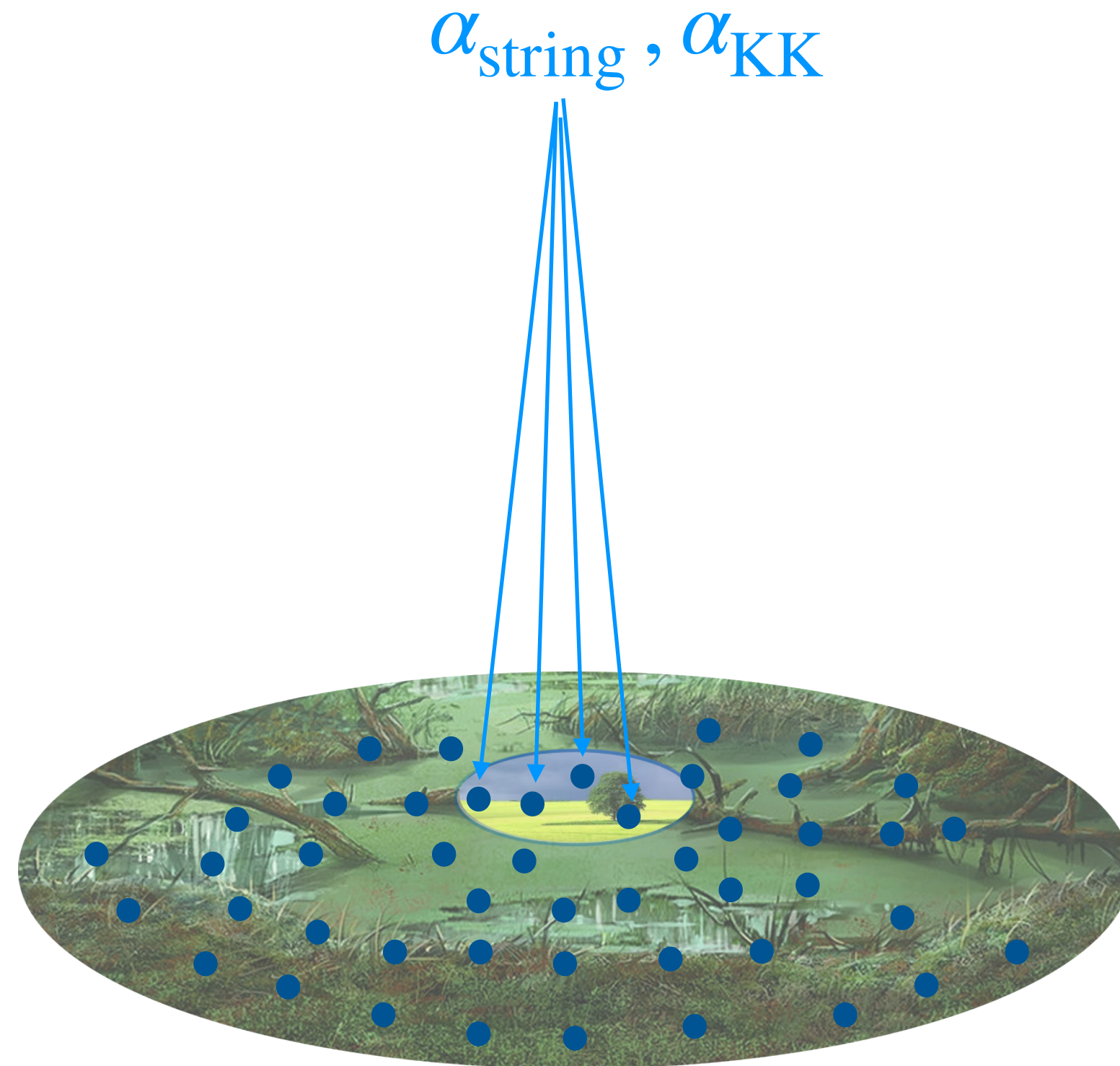
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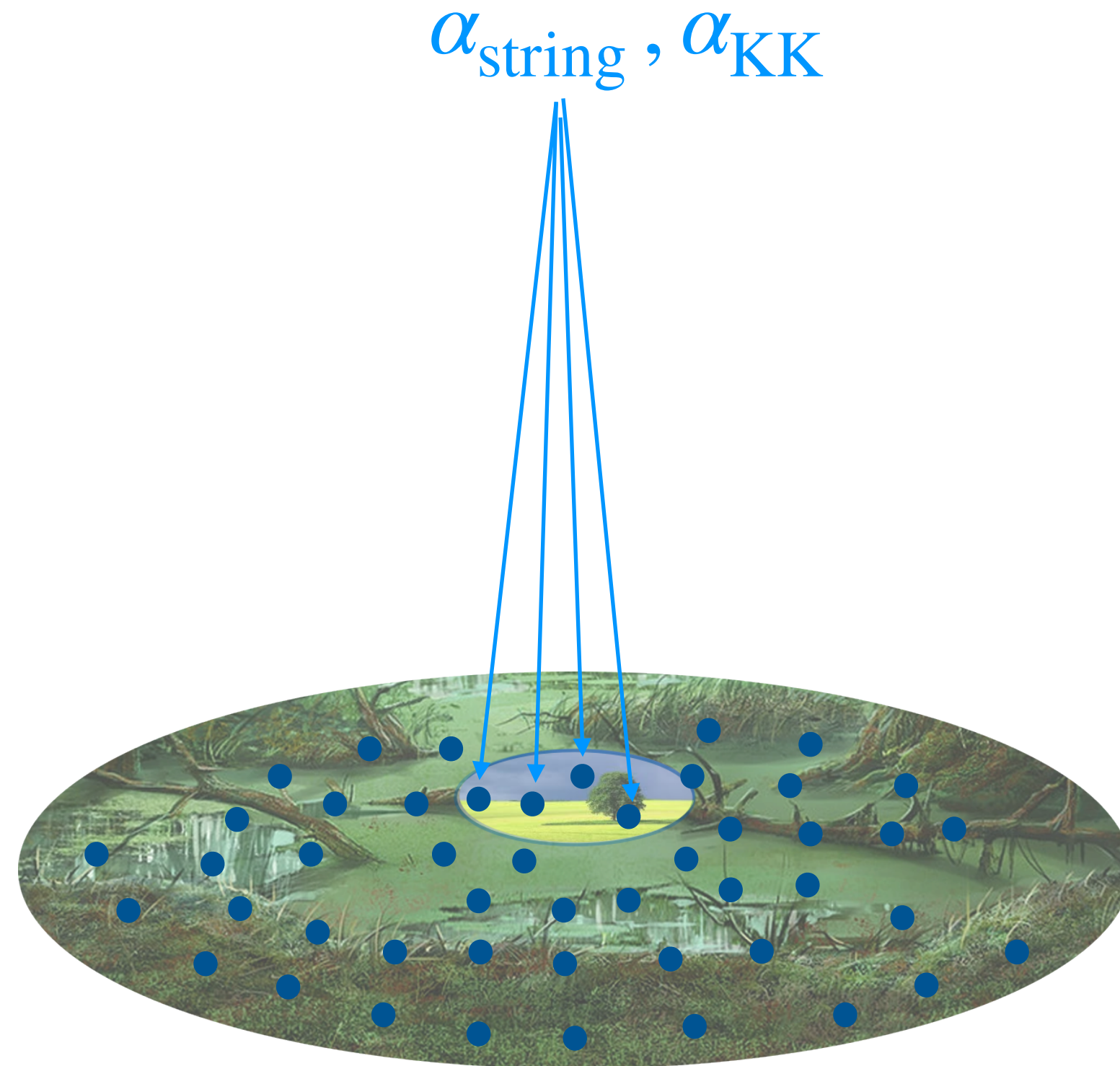
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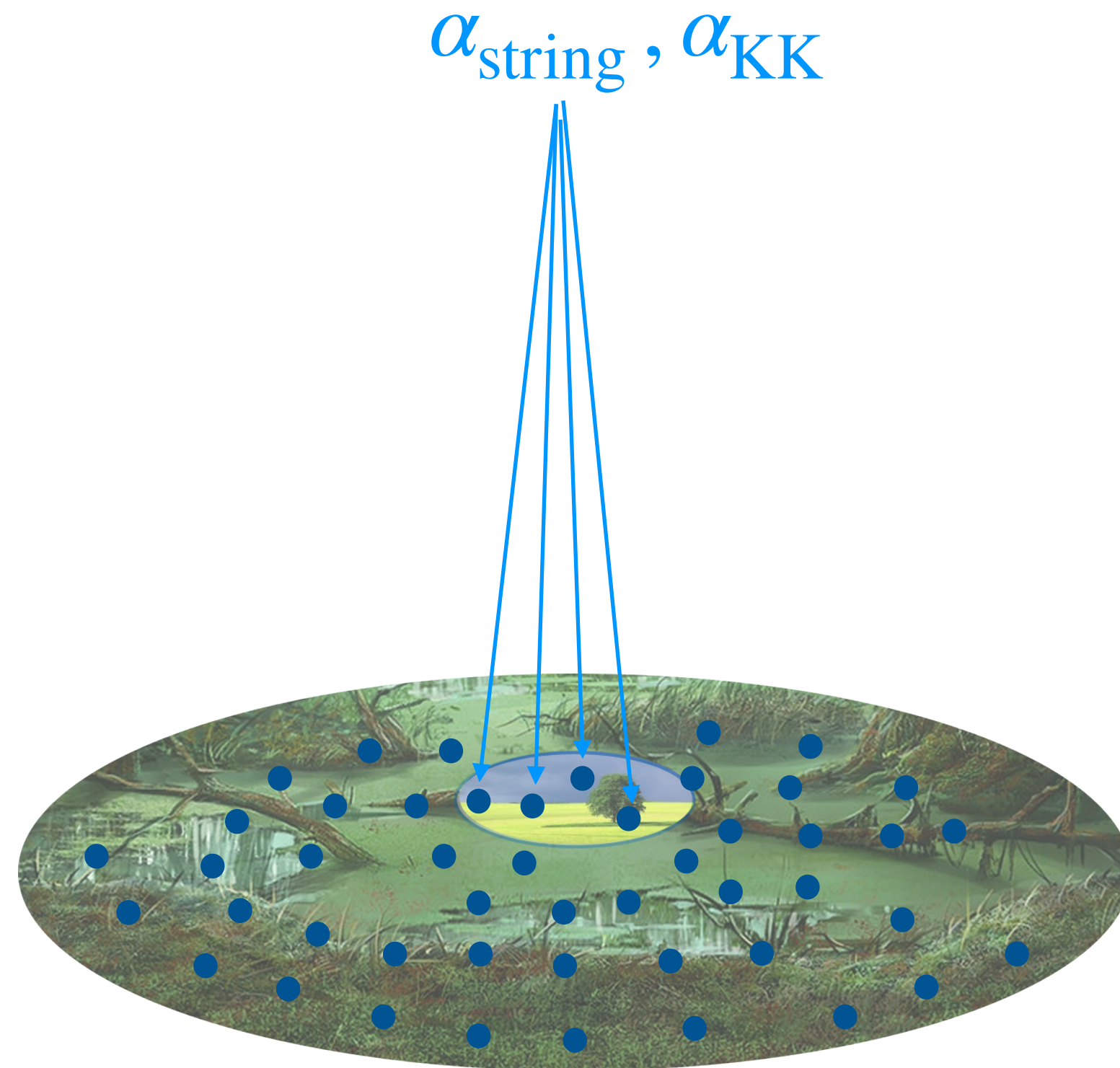


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?

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?

Thank you!

**Backup slides**

# A generalisation

$$d_n = \begin{cases} \alpha_{\text{string}} = \sqrt{\frac{1}{d-2}} & \text{co-dim 1 facet} \\ \alpha_{\text{KK},n} = \sqrt{\frac{1}{d-2} + \frac{1}{n}} & n = \text{dim of facet} + 1 \end{cases}$$

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co-dim 1 facet

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$$n = \text{dim of facet} + n_{\text{V}}$$

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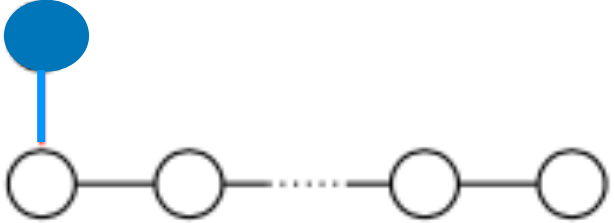
$$n = \text{dim of facet} + n_V \quad n_V > 1 \Rightarrow$$

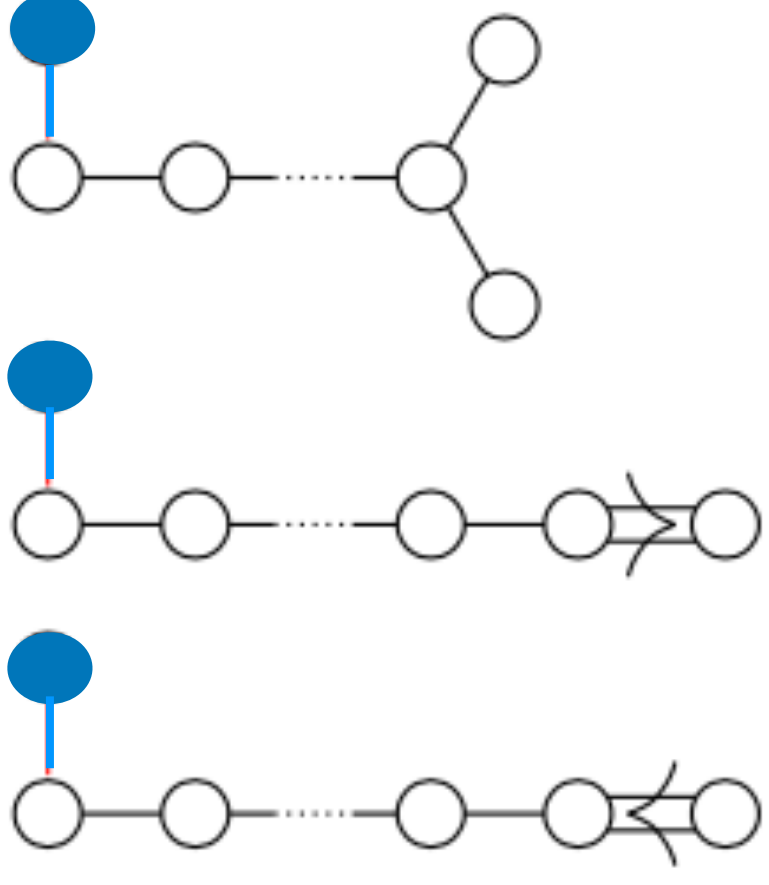
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$r$	$\mathfrak{g}$	$\frac{r_{\text{long}}}{\sqrt{2}} \times \lambda$	$d$	$n_V$	$D_{\text{max}}$	$\rho_{\text{min}}$	$ r_{\text{long}} ^2$	polytope
2	$\mathfrak{sl}_3$	$\sqrt{\frac{2}{3}}(1, 1)$	3	3	6	8	$\frac{4}{3}$	
	$\mathfrak{g}_{2(2)}$	$\sqrt{\frac{2}{3}}(0, 1)$				14	$\frac{4}{3}$	
	$\mathfrak{g}_{2(2)}$	$\sqrt{2}(1, 0)$				7	4	
3	$\mathfrak{sp}_4$	$\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(1, 1)$	3	4	11	16	1	
	$\mathfrak{sp}_4$	$\frac{1}{2}(2, 1)$				35	$\frac{1}{2}$	

# Can use $\lambda$ Extended Dynkin Diagrams

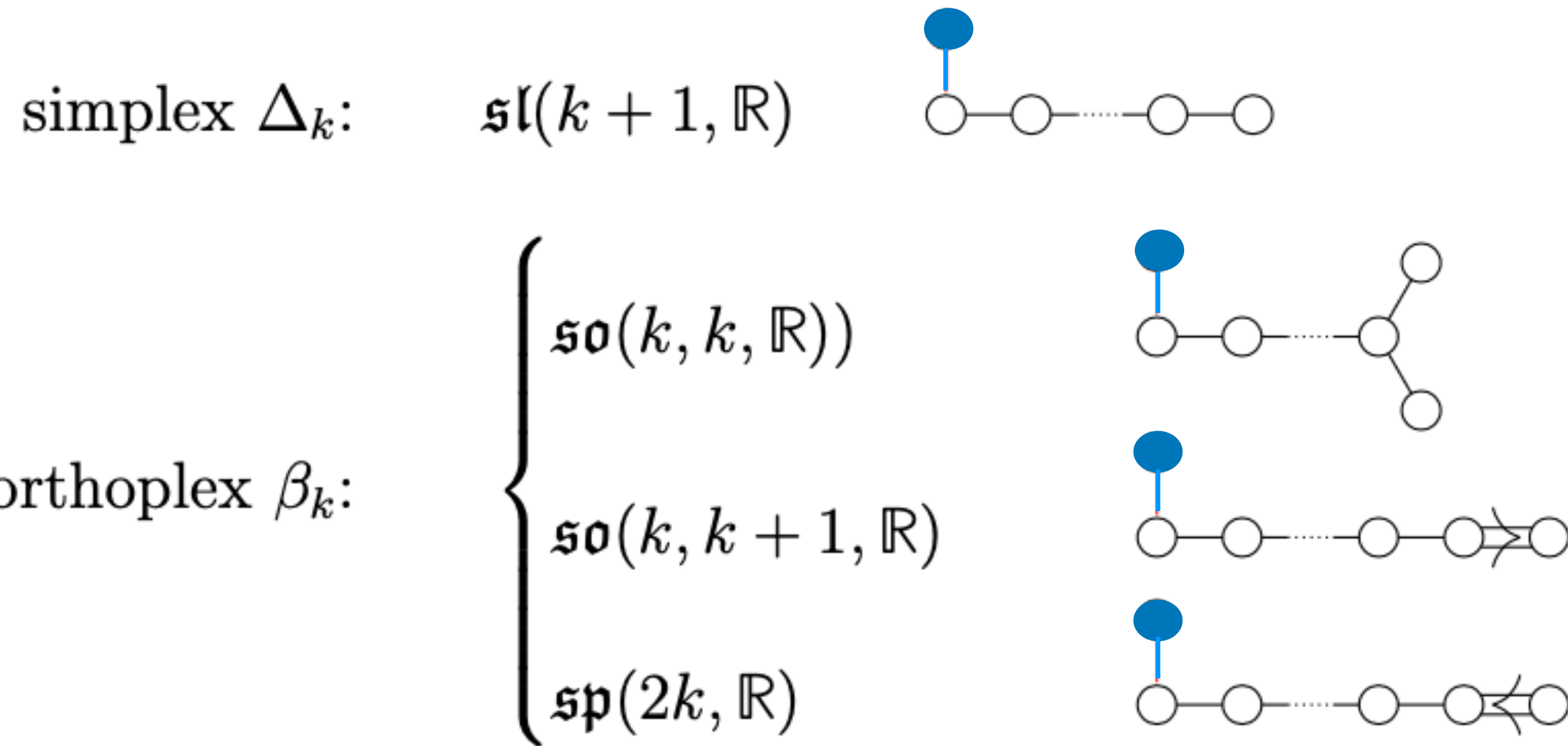
- Facets: simplices and orthoplexes

simplex  $\Delta_k$ :  $\mathfrak{sl}(k + 1, \mathbb{R})$  

orthoplex  $\beta_k$ :  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \mathfrak{so}(k, k, \mathbb{R}) \\ \mathfrak{so}(k, k + 1, \mathbb{R}) \\ \mathfrak{sp}(2k, \mathbb{R}) \end{array} \right.$  

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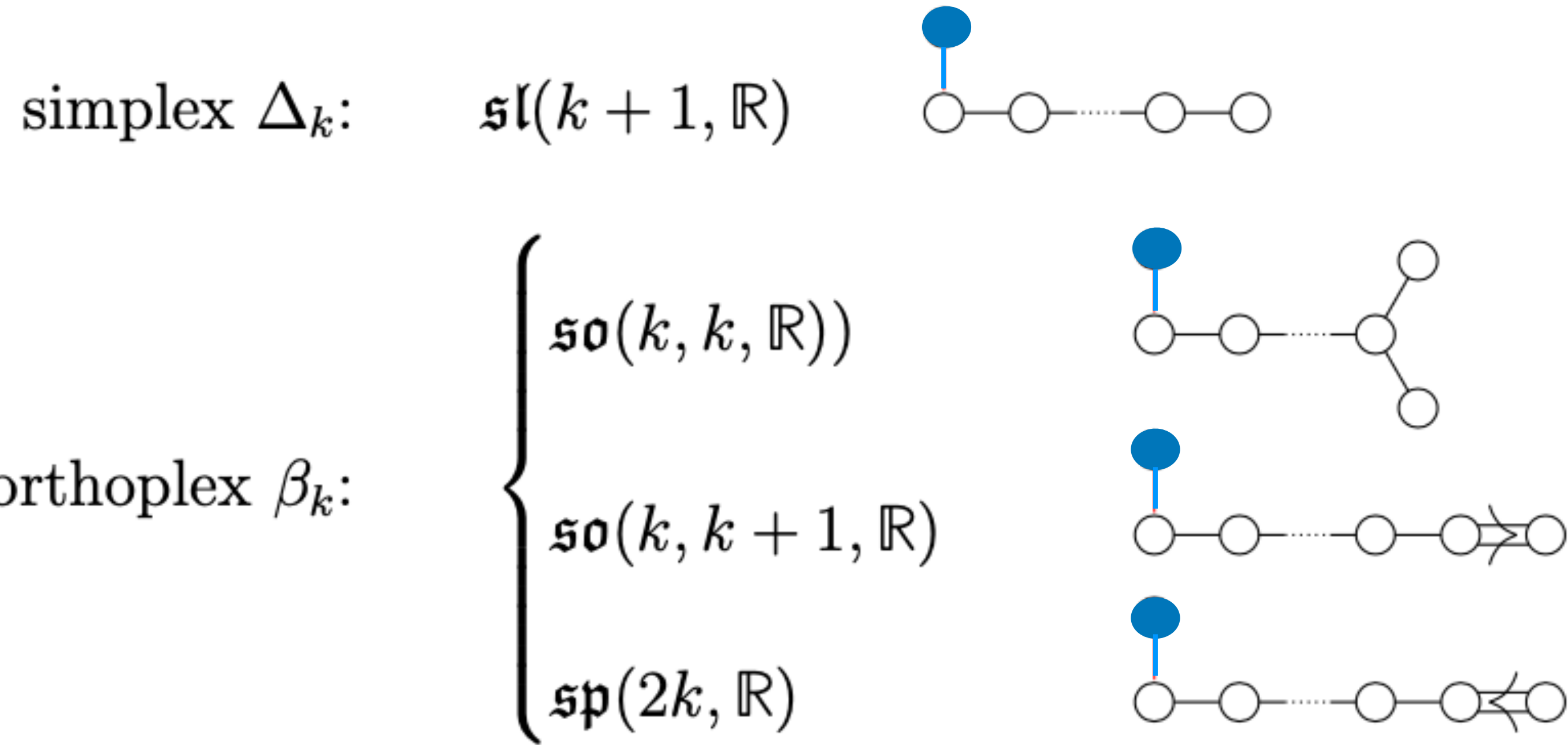
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- Full polytope

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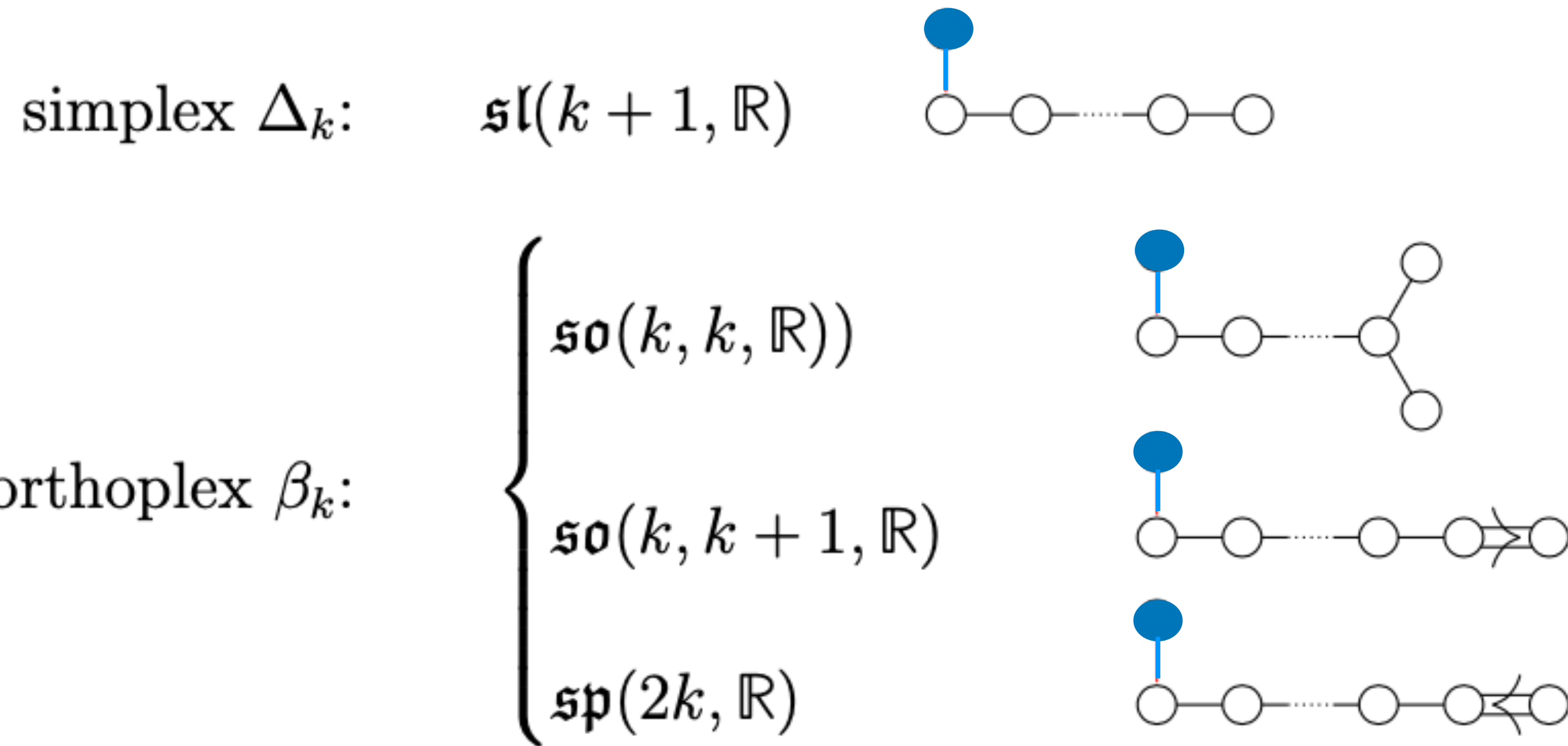


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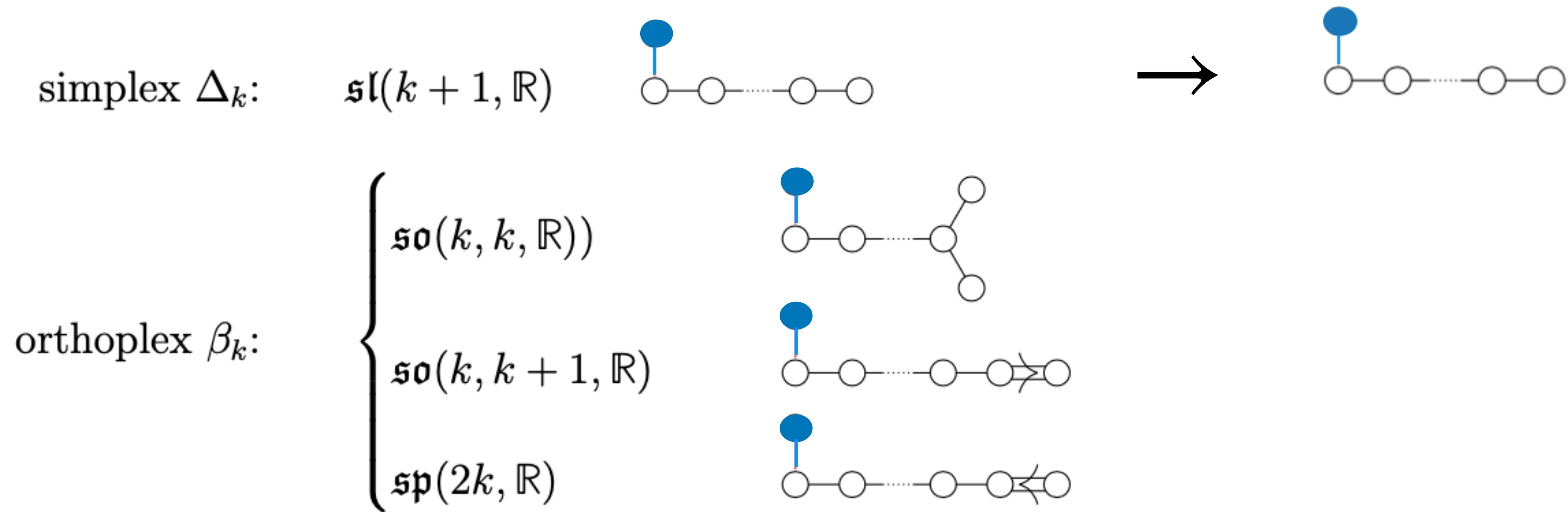


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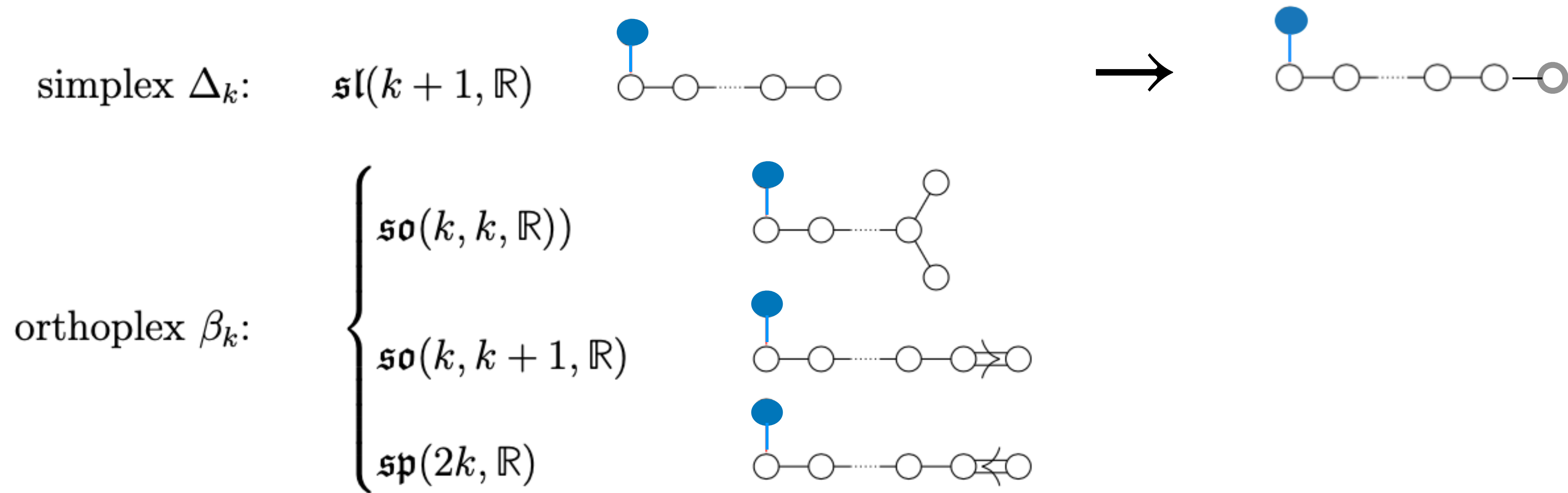


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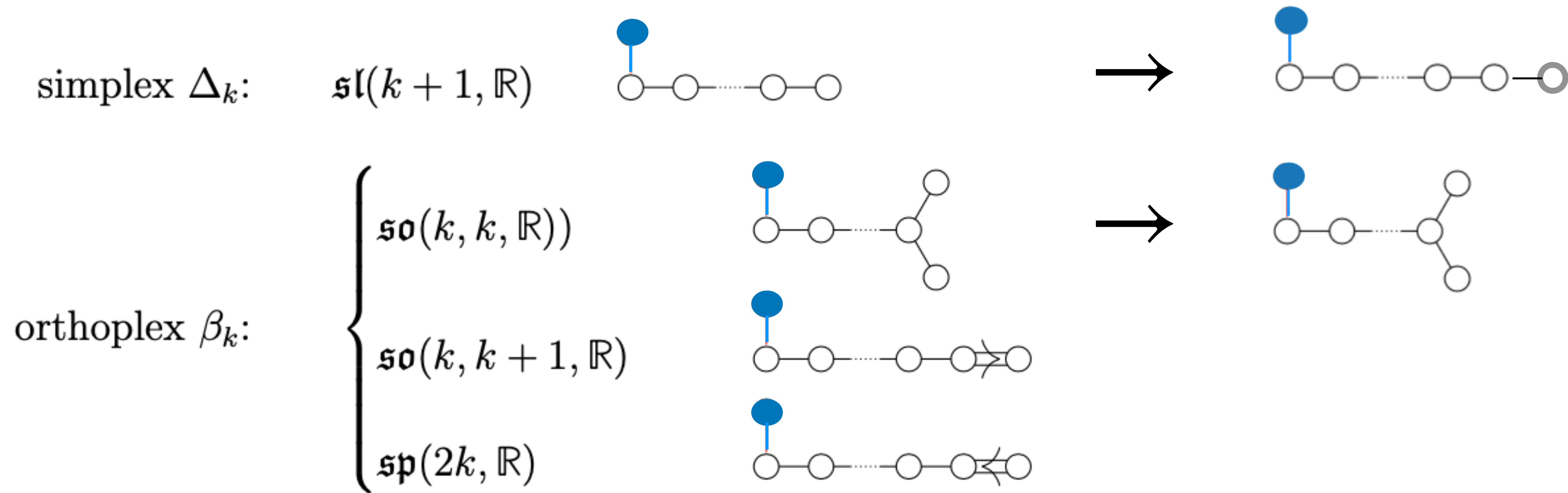


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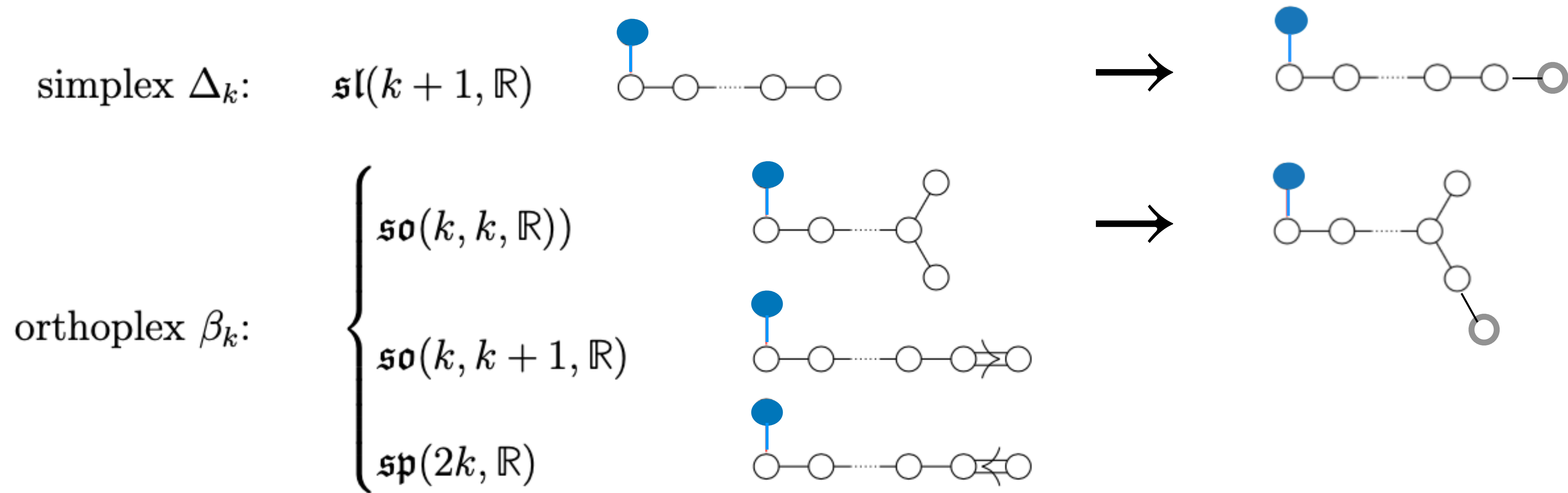


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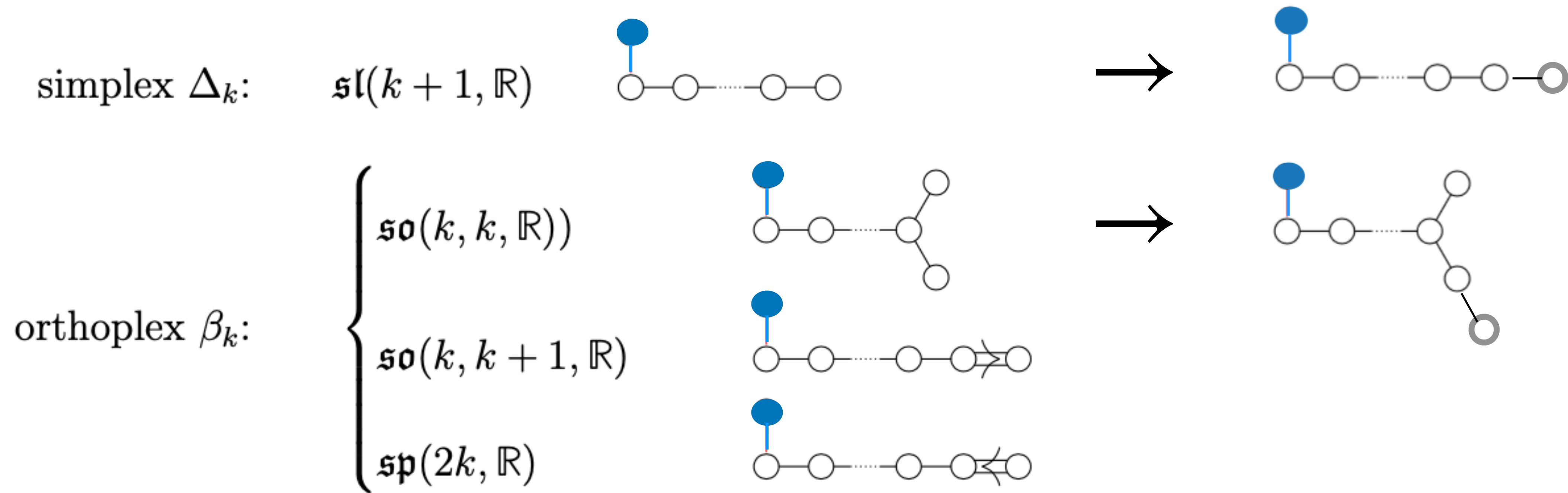


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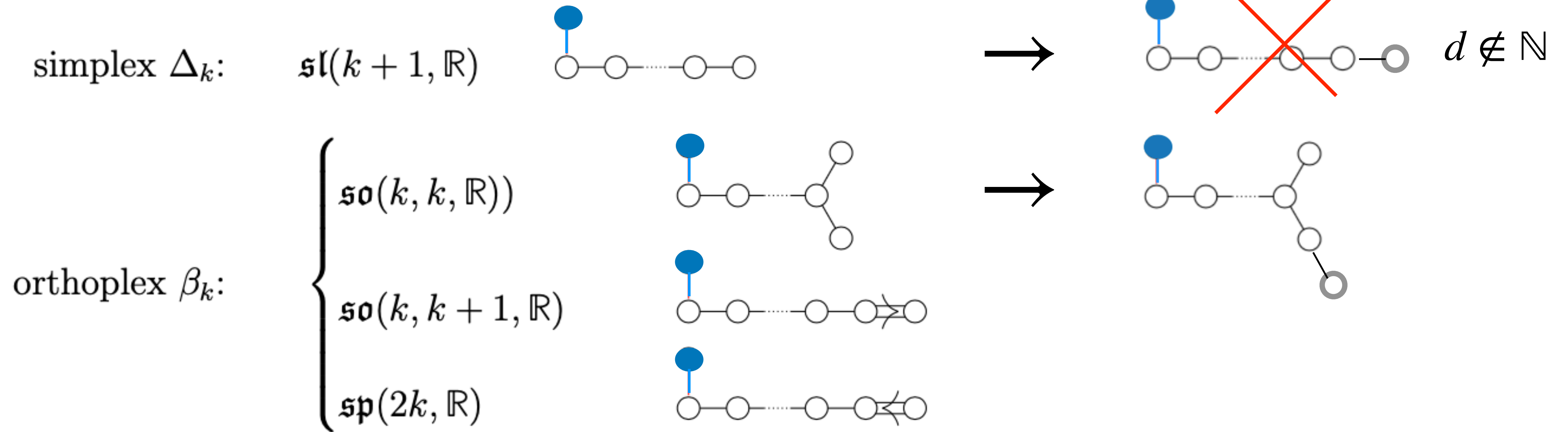
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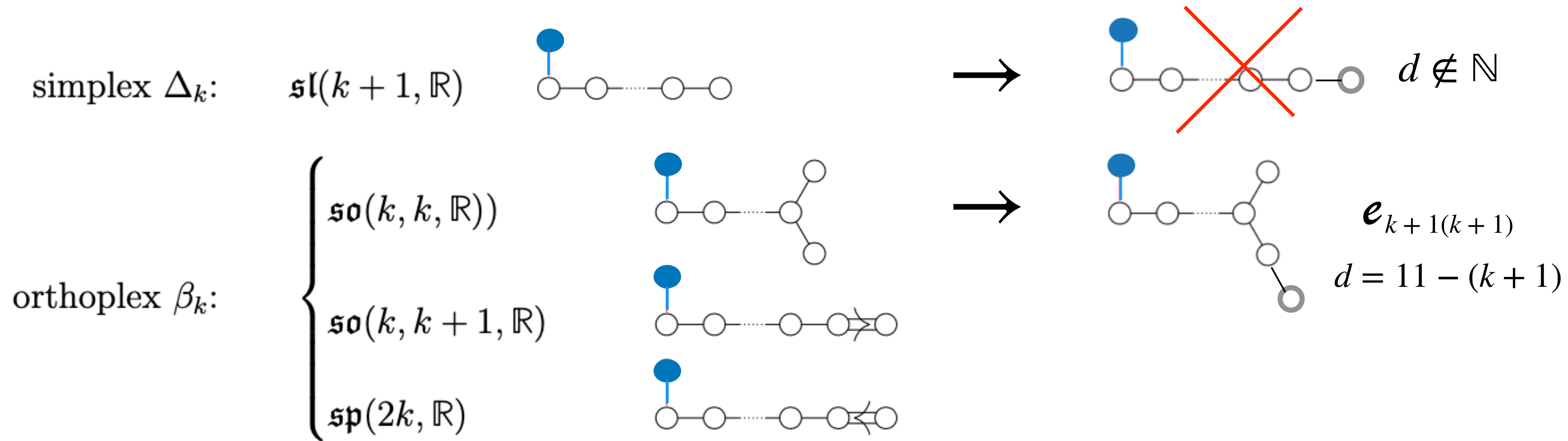
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