Swampland, field distances and emergence

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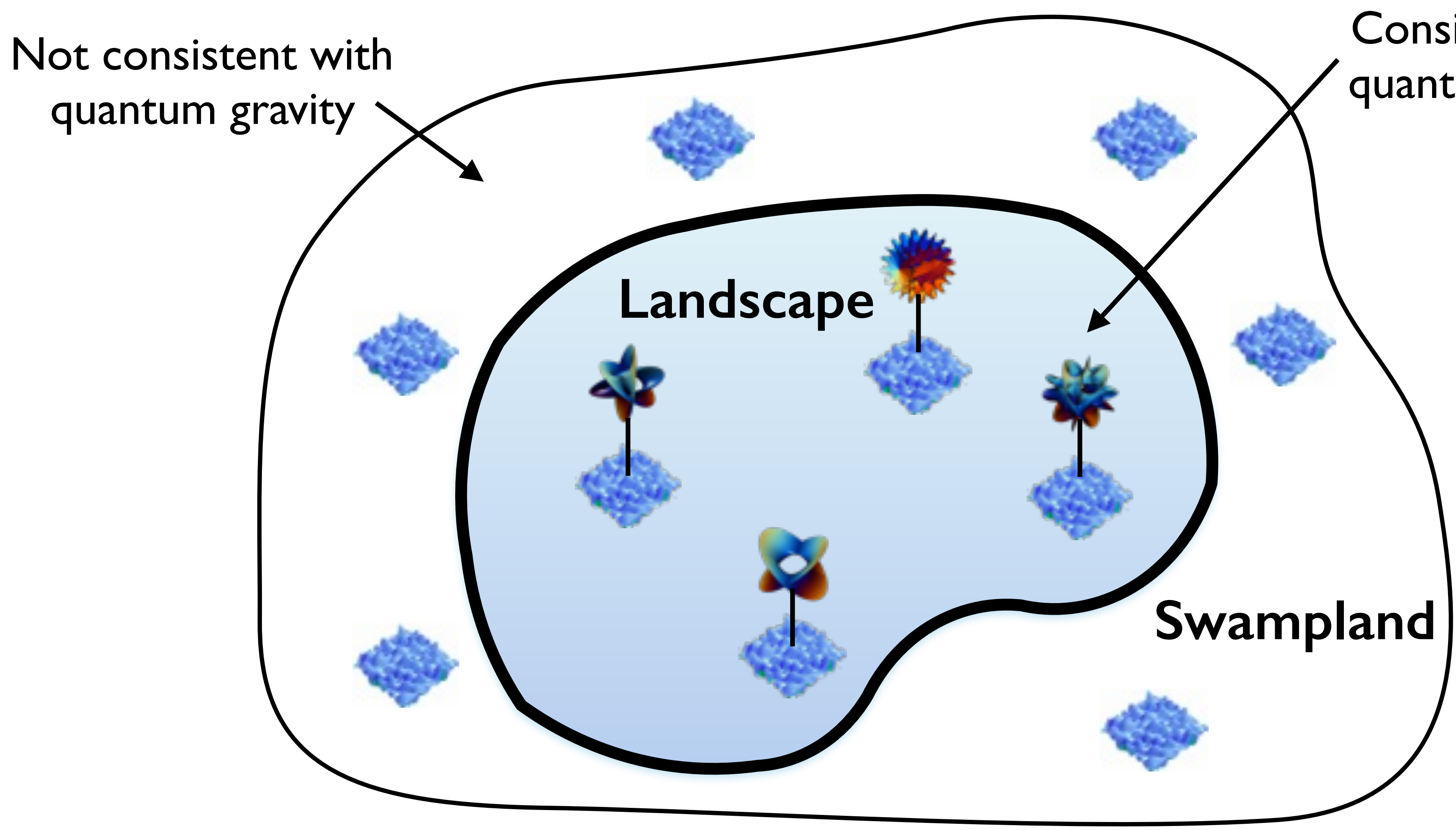
Grimm, Palti, IV [arXiv:1802.08264 [hep-th]]

Ringberg Castle, 2018

Swampland:

Apparently consistent (anomaly-free) quantum effective field theories that cannot be UV embedded in quantum gravity
(they cannot arise from string theory)



[Vafa'06]
[Ooguri-Vafa'06]

What are the constraints that an effective theory must satisfy to be consistent with quantum gravity?

What distinguishes the landscape from the swampland?

Quantum Gravity Conjectures

Motivated by observing recurrent features of the string landscape
as well as black hole physics

- Absence of global symmetries [Banks-Dixon'88] [Horowitz,Strominger,Seiberg…]
- Completeness hypothesis [Polchinski.'03]
- Weak Gravity Conjecture [Arkani-Hamed et al.'06]
- Swampland Distance Conjecture [Ooguri-Vafa'06]
- No stable non-susy AdS vacua [Ooguri-Vafa'16]
- No deSitter vacuum?

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} Large field inflation

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$\}$ Large field inflation

They can have significant implications in low energy physics!

- UV sensitive effective theories
- Naturalness issues

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Very important to gather more evidence to prove (or disprove) them
⟶ doable task

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Weak Gravity Conjecture and Swampland Distance Conjecture $\Big\}$ Large field inflation

Very important to gather more evidence to prove (or disprove) them
$\longrightarrow$ doable task

Swampland Distance Conjecture

- Definition and implications
- Test in the complex structure moduli space of Type IIB CY compactifications
- General insights

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Swampland Distance Conjecture [Ooguri-Vafa'06]

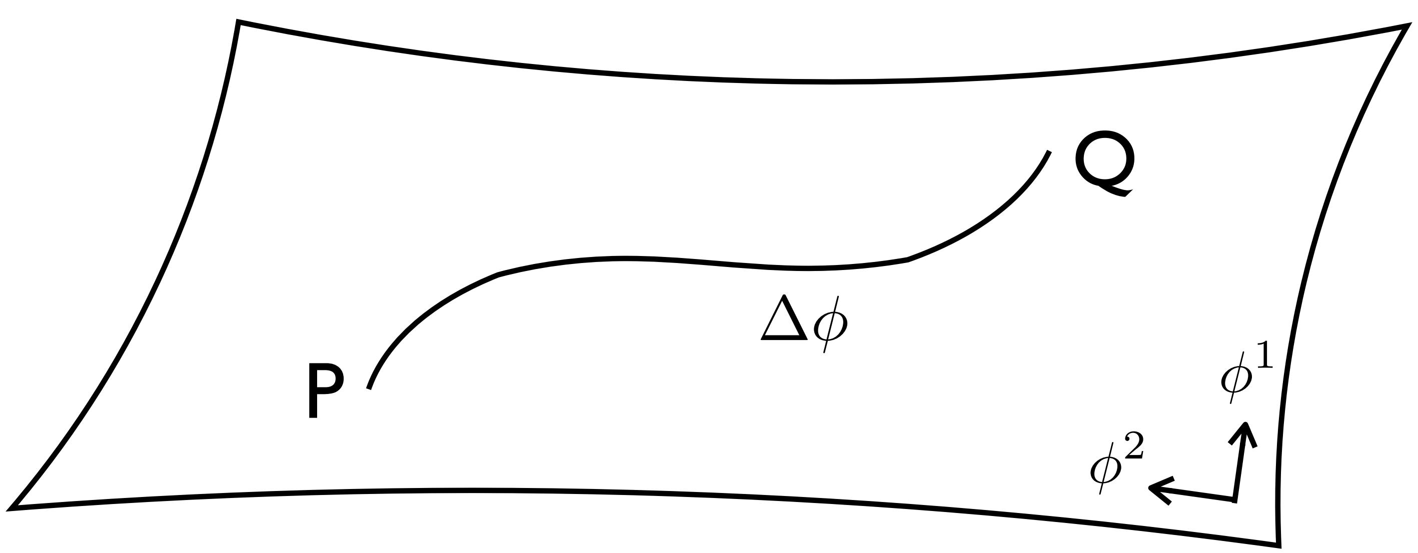
An effective theory is valid only for a finite scalar field variation $\Delta\phi$

because an infinite tower of states become exponentially light

$m \sim m_0 e^{-\lambda\Delta\phi}$ when $\Delta\phi \to \infty$

Consider the moduli space of an effective theory:

$\mathcal{L} = g_{ij}(\phi)\partial\phi^i\partial\phi^j$ → scalar manifold



$\Delta\phi =$ geodesic distance between P and Q

$m(P) \lesssim m(Q)e^{-\lambda\Delta\phi}$

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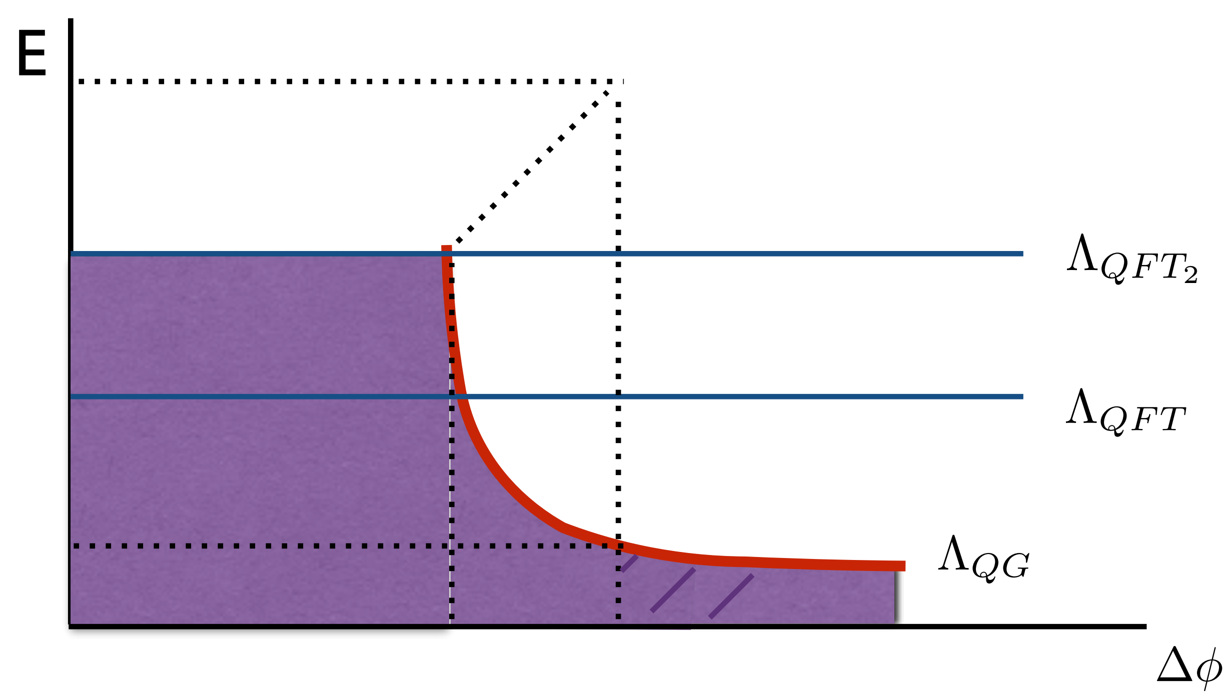
because an infinite tower of states become exponentially light

$$m \sim m_0 e^{-\lambda\Delta\phi} \quad \text{when} \quad \Delta\phi \to \infty$$

This signals the breakdown of the effective theory:

$$\Lambda_{\text{cut-off}} \sim \Lambda_0 \, \exp(-\lambda\Delta\phi)$$



Swampland Distance Conjecture

It gives an upper bound on the scalar field range
described by any effective field theory with finite cut-off

$$\Delta\phi \lesssim \frac{1}{\lambda} \log\left(\frac{M_p}{\Lambda}\right)$$

Phenomenological implications:

- **Large field inflation**
- **Cosmological relaxation of the EW scale**

Swampland Distance Conjecture

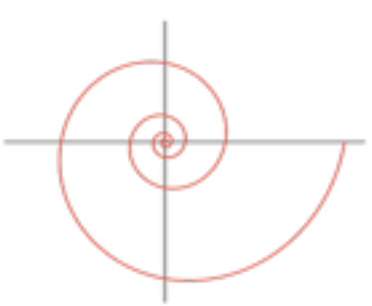
It gives an upper bound on the scalar field range described by any effective field theory with finite cut-off

$$\Delta\phi \lesssim \frac{1}{\lambda} \log\left(\frac{M_p}{\Lambda}\right)$$

- Refined SDC → $\lambda \sim 1 \;\; \rightarrow \;\; \Delta\phi \lesssim \mathcal{O}(1) M_p$ [Klaewer,Palti'16]

- It works for non-geodesic trajectories (also for axion monodromy upon taking into account back-reaction on kinetic term) [Baume,Palti'16]

Caveats! How much does λ depend on the trajectory?
Can mass hierarchies help? [I.V.,'16]



(so far examples compatible with the Refined SDC)

[Blumenhagen,I.V.,Wolf'17] [Blumenhagen et al.'18]

Swampland Distance Conjecture

Evidence: based on particular examples in string theory compactifications

[Ooguri,Vafa'06] [Baume,Palti'16] [I.V.,'16] [Bielleman,Ibanez,Pedro,I.V.,Wieck'16] [Blumenhagen,I.V.,Wolf'17] [Hebecker,Henkenjohann,Witkowski'17] [Cicoli,Ciupke,Mayhrofer,Shukla'18][Blumenhagen et al.'18]

- Model-independent understanding missing…
- Very little is known about the tower of particles…
- What is the underlying QG obstruction?

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[Grimm,Palti,IV.'18]

Focus: Complex structure moduli space of IIB CY_3 compactifications

(4d N=2 string theory moduli space preserving special Kahler geometry)

→ natural testing ground for QG

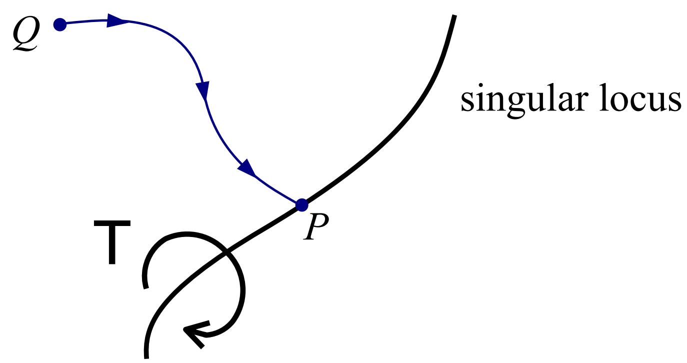
Aim: Prove the conjecture for any infinite distance path!

Swampland Distance Conjecture

- Definition and implications
- Test in the complex structure moduli space of Type IIB CY compactifications
- General insights

Complex structure moduli space of IIB CY compactifications

Prime example of a field space capturing information about 'quantum gravity'



Infinite geodesic distances can occur only if approaching a singularity

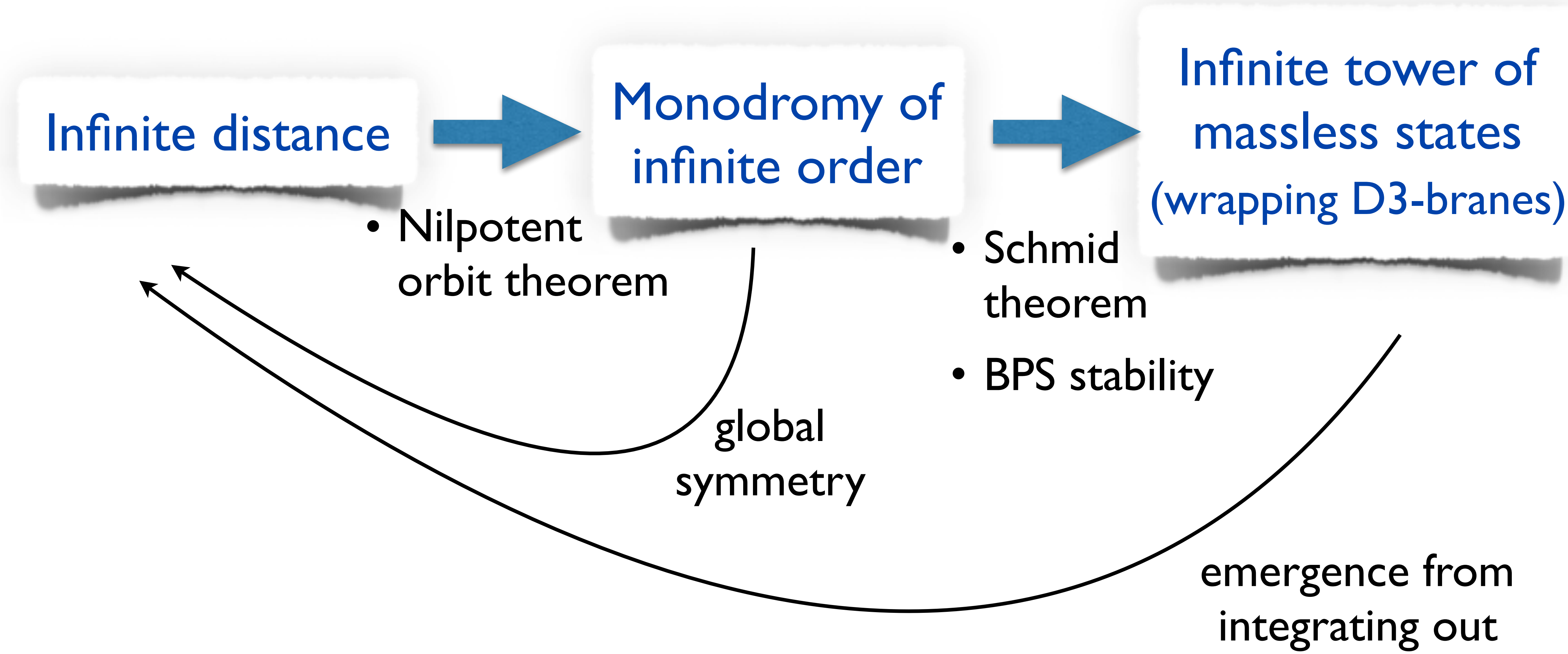
Two types:

- Infinite distance singularities: any trajectory approaching P has infinite length
- Finite distance singularities: at least one trajectory approaching P has finite length

Massless BPS states (wrapping D3-branes) arise at the singularities

Candidates for SDC tower!

Aim: Identify infinite tower of exponentially massless BPS states at any infinite distance singularity



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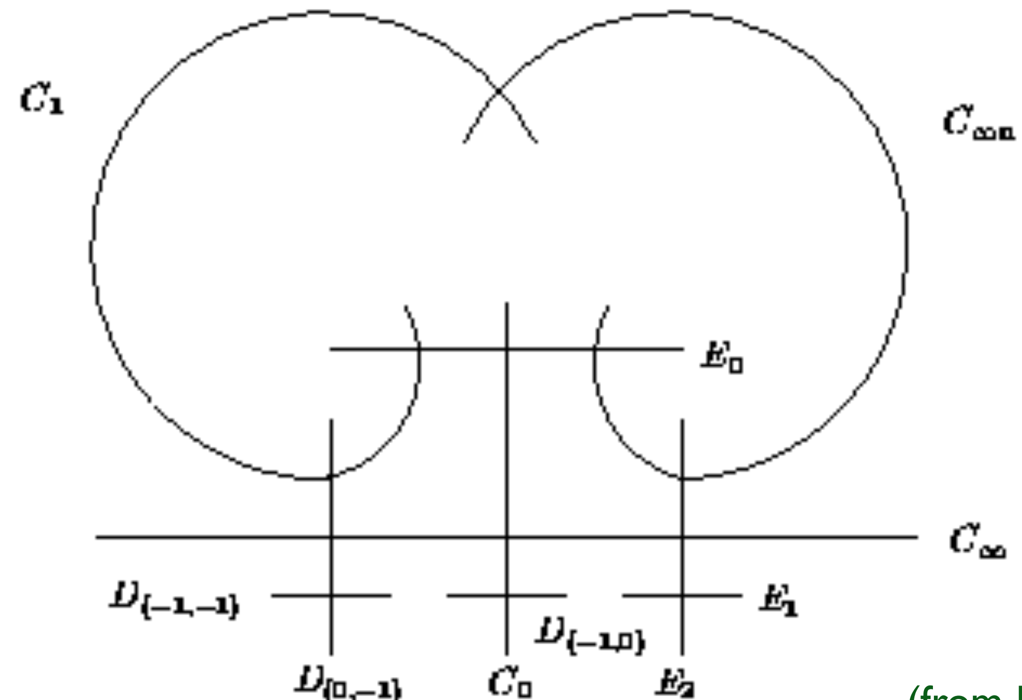


(from [Candelas et al,'93])

[Grimm,Palti,IV.'18]

Analysis valid for any CY ✓

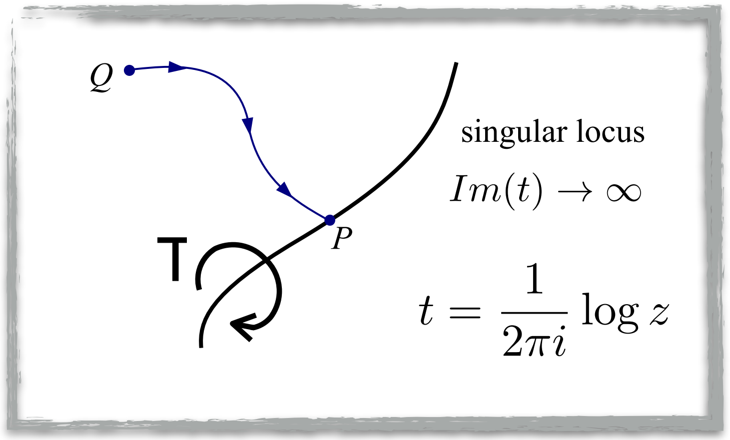
Focus on points belonging to a single singular divisor ✓

Nilpotent orbit theorem

- Distances given by: $d_\gamma(P,Q) = \int_\gamma \sqrt{g_{IJ}\dot{x}^I\dot{x}^J}ds$

$$g_{I\bar{J}} = \partial_{z^I}\partial_{\bar{z}^J}K$$

$$K = -\log\left(-i^D\int_{Y_D}\Omega\wedge\bar{\Omega}\right)$$



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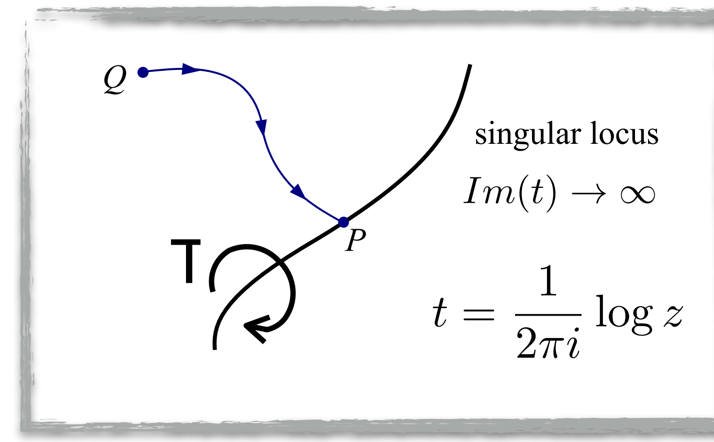
- Periods of the (D,0)-form: $\Pi^{\mathcal{I}} = \int_{\Gamma_{\mathcal{I}}}\Omega$

transform under monodromy $\Pi(e^{2\pi i z}) = T\cdot\Pi(z)$

(remnant of higher dimensional gauge symmetries)



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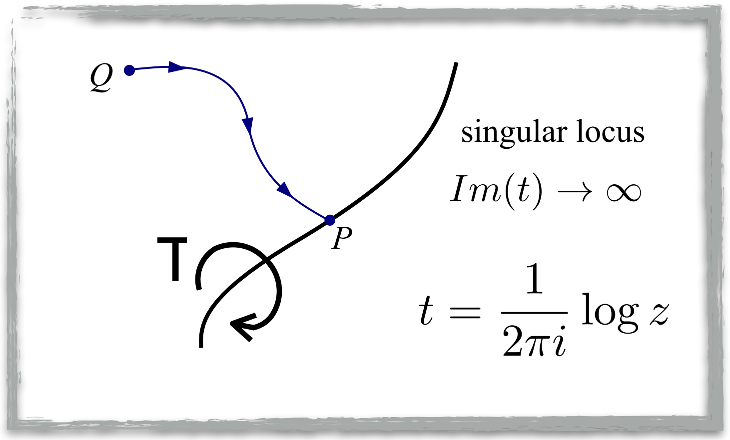

- Define nilpotent matrix $N = \log T$ (only non-zero if monodromy T is of infinite order)

$(\text{no } k \text{ s.t. } T^k = T)$

Nilpotent orbit theorem

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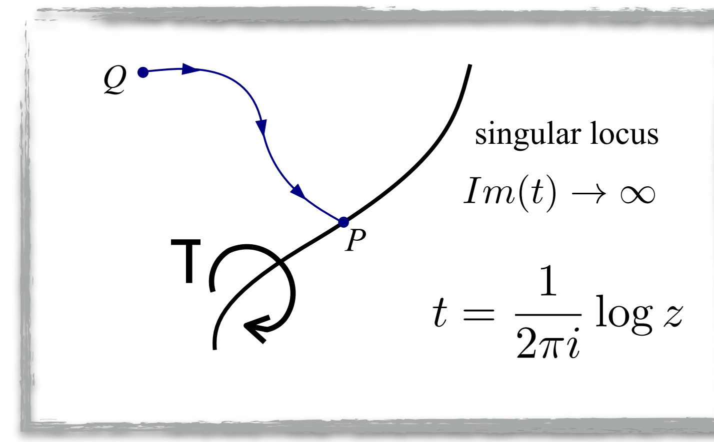

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Nilpotent orbit theorem: [Schmid'73]

$$\Pi(t,\eta) = \exp(tN)\, a_0(\eta) \; + \; \mathcal{O}(e^{2\pi i t},\eta)$$

$$\Rightarrow \quad g_{t\bar{t}} = \frac{d}{\mathrm{Im}(t)^2} + \ldots$$

It gives local expression for the periods near singular locus!

$$\Pi(t,\eta) = (1 + tN + \cdots + t^d N^d) a_0(\eta) + \mathcal{O}(e^{2\pi i t,\eta})$$

Infinite distances - Infinite states

1) Infinite distances only if monodromy is of infinite order

Theorem: P is at infinite distance $\Longleftrightarrow$ $Na_0 \neq 0$

[Wang'97, Lee'16]

$$d_\gamma(P,Q) = \sqrt{d}\,\log(\mathrm{Im}\,t)|_Q^P \to \infty$$

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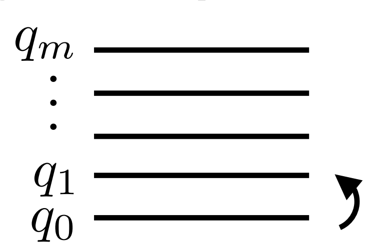
2) Monodromy can be used to populate an infinite orbit of BPS states

Mass given by central charge: $Z = e^K q \cdot \Pi$ $\qquad q = (q_e^I, q_I^m)$



$$q_m = T^m q \qquad m \in \mathbb{Z}$$

If T is of infinite order $\Longrightarrow$ Starting with one state, we generate infinitely many!

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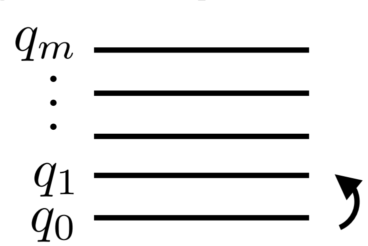

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If T is of infinite order $\Rightarrow$ Starting with one state, we generate infinitely many!

3) Universal local form of the metric gives the exponential mass behaviour

$$Z = \frac{1}{t^{d/2}} \sum_{j=1}^{d} (q \cdot N^j a_0) t^j + \mathcal{O}(e^{2\pi i t}) \Rightarrow \frac{M_q(P)}{M_q(Q)} \simeq \exp\left(-\frac{1}{\sqrt{2d}} d_\gamma(P,Q)\right)$$

Massless: $q^T N^j a_0 = 0\,, \quad j \geq d/2$

Infinite distances - Infinite states

Infinite massless monodromy orbit at the singularity

→

Infinite tower of states becoming exponentially light
Swampland Distance Conjecture ✓

Swampland Distance Conjecture (SDC) is reduced to prove the existence of an infinite massless monodromy orbit at the singularity

$$\exists\, q \quad \text{s.t.} \quad q^T N^j a_0 = 0\,, \quad j \geq d/2 \quad \text{(Massless)}$$

$$Nq \neq 0 \quad \text{(Infinite orbit)}$$

Tool: mathematical machinery of mixed hodge structure

(introduce finer split of cohomology at the singularity adapted to N)

[Deligne][Schmid][Cattani,Kaplan,Schmid] [Kerr,Pearlstein,Robles'17]

(Subtleties regarding stability of BPS states: need to mod out states with $q^T N^j a_0 = 0\,,\ \forall j$)

BPS states and stability

How many BPS states are when approaching singularity?

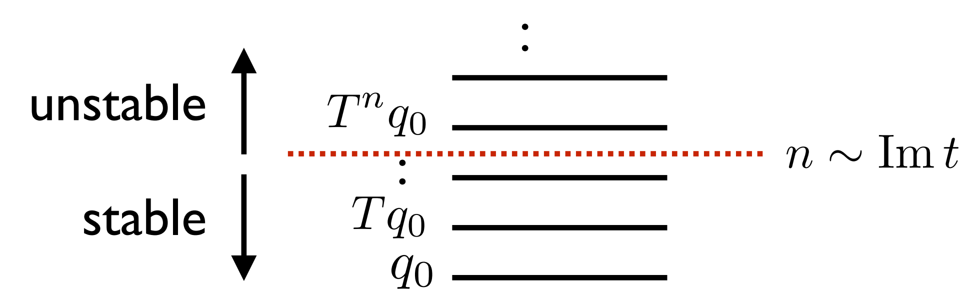
Do they cross a wall of marginal stability upon circling the monodromy locus?

Consider: $\mathbf{q}_C = \mathbf{q}_B + \mathbf{q}_{\bar{A}}$ → $M_{\mathbf{q}_C} \leq M_{\mathbf{q}_B} + M_{\mathbf{q}_{\bar{A}}}$

Wall of marginal stability: $\varphi(B) - \varphi(A) = 1$ with $\varphi(A) = \frac{1}{\pi} \mathrm{Im} \log Z_{\mathbf{q}_A}$

Upon circling the monodromy locus n times:

$$\varphi_{\mathrm{I}} \to \varphi_{\mathrm{I}} - \frac{n}{\pi \mathrm{Im}\, t} + \mathcal{O}\left(\frac{1}{(\mathrm{Im}\ t)^2}\right)$$



Charge states $\mathbf{q} = T^n \mathbf{q}_0$ with $n \ll \mathrm{Im}\, t$ are stable (grade does not change)

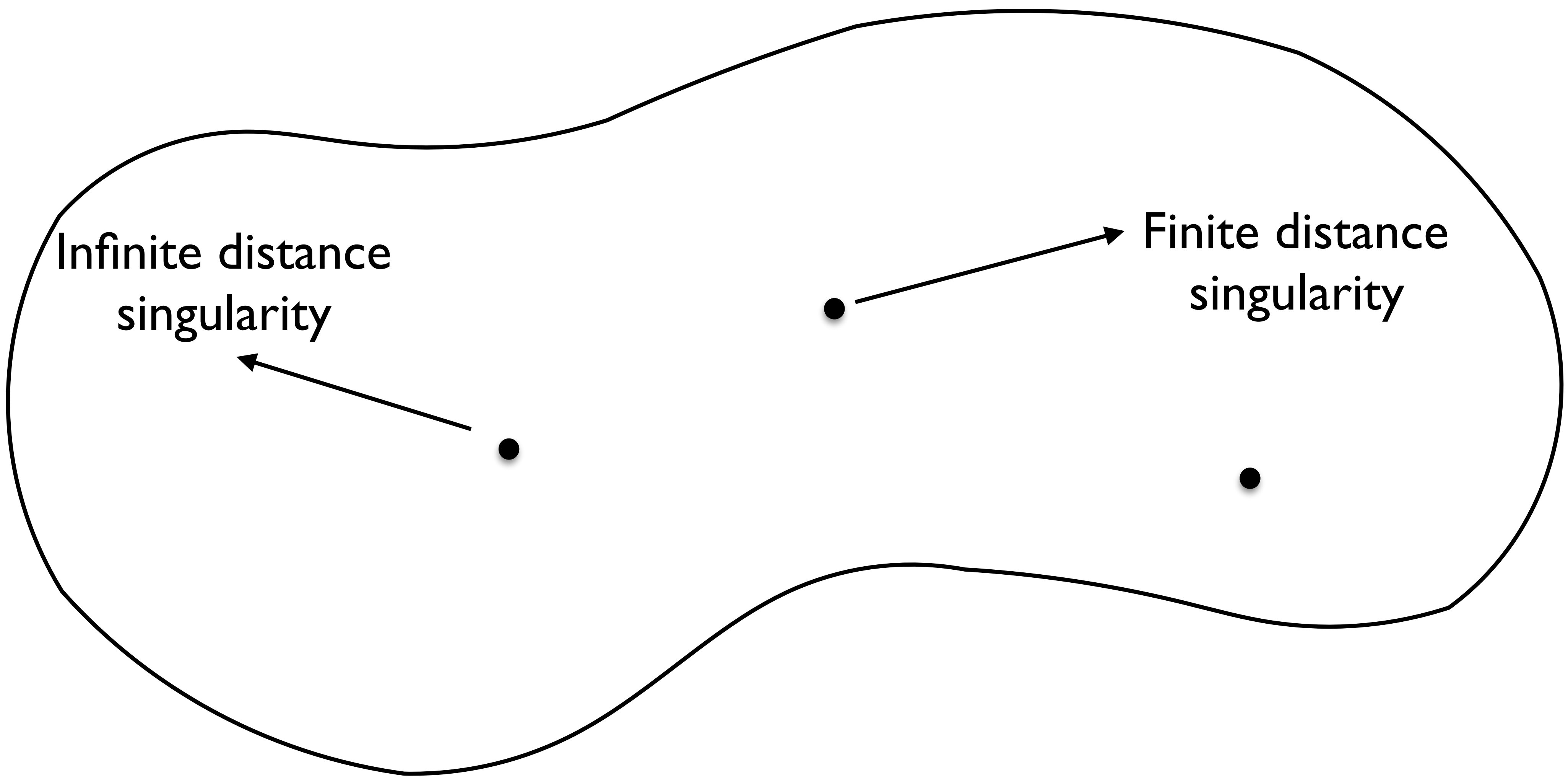
(states higher up in the tower are unstable)

Number of BPS states: $n \sim \mathrm{Im}(t) \sim e^{d_\gamma(P,Q)}$

(grows when approaching the singularity and diverges there)

SDC vs EFT validity

Moduli space of a string compactification:



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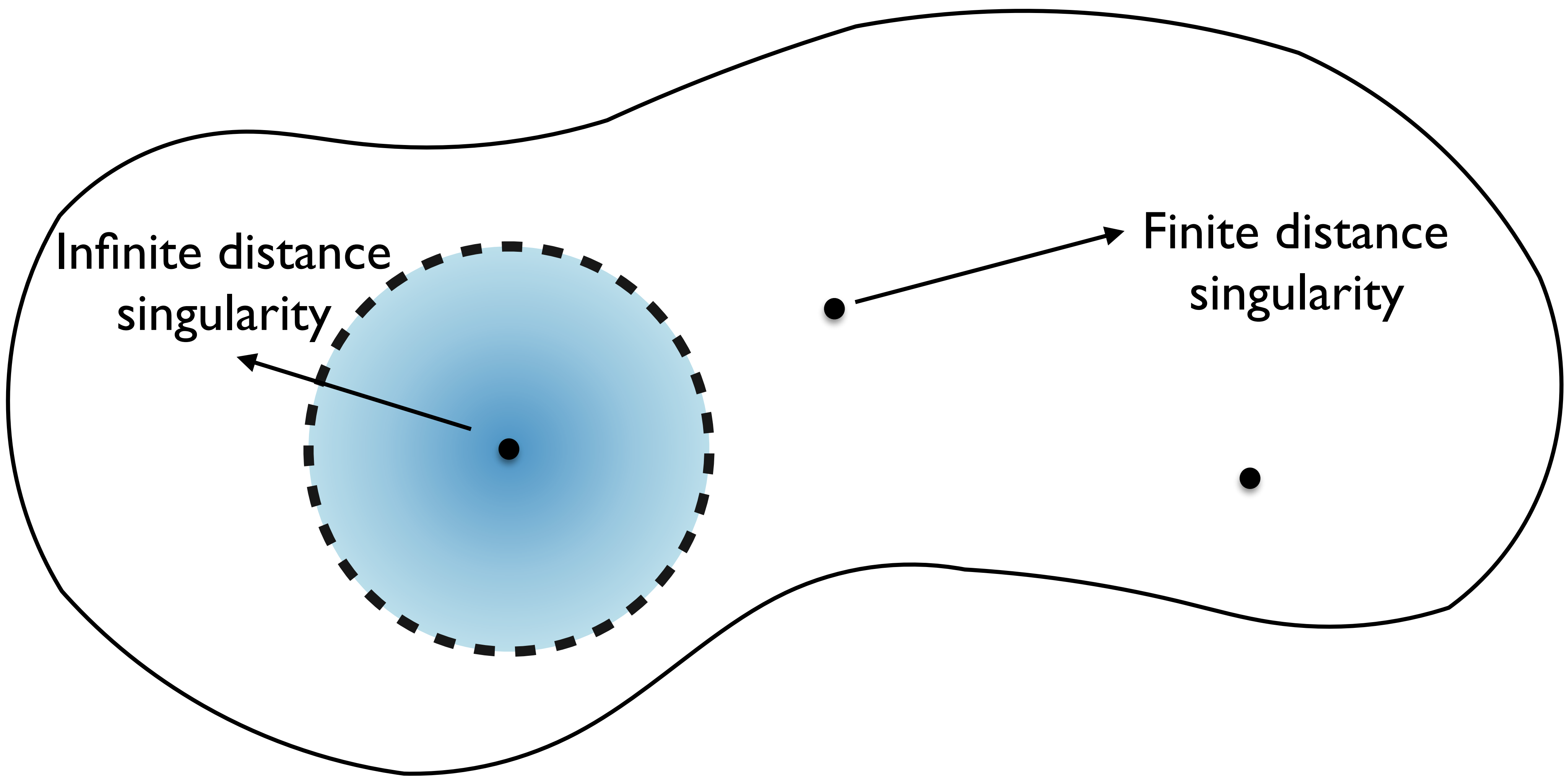

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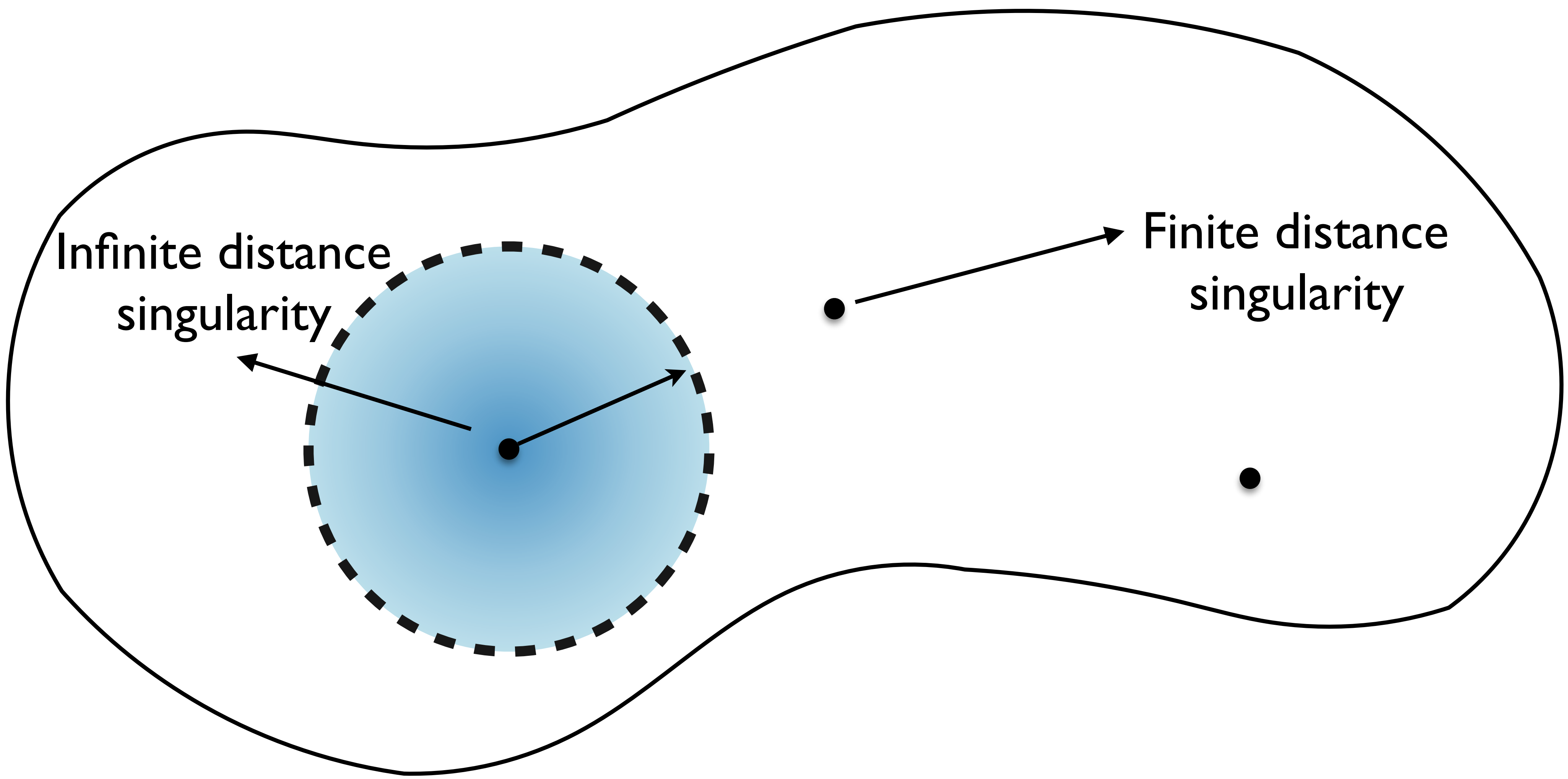

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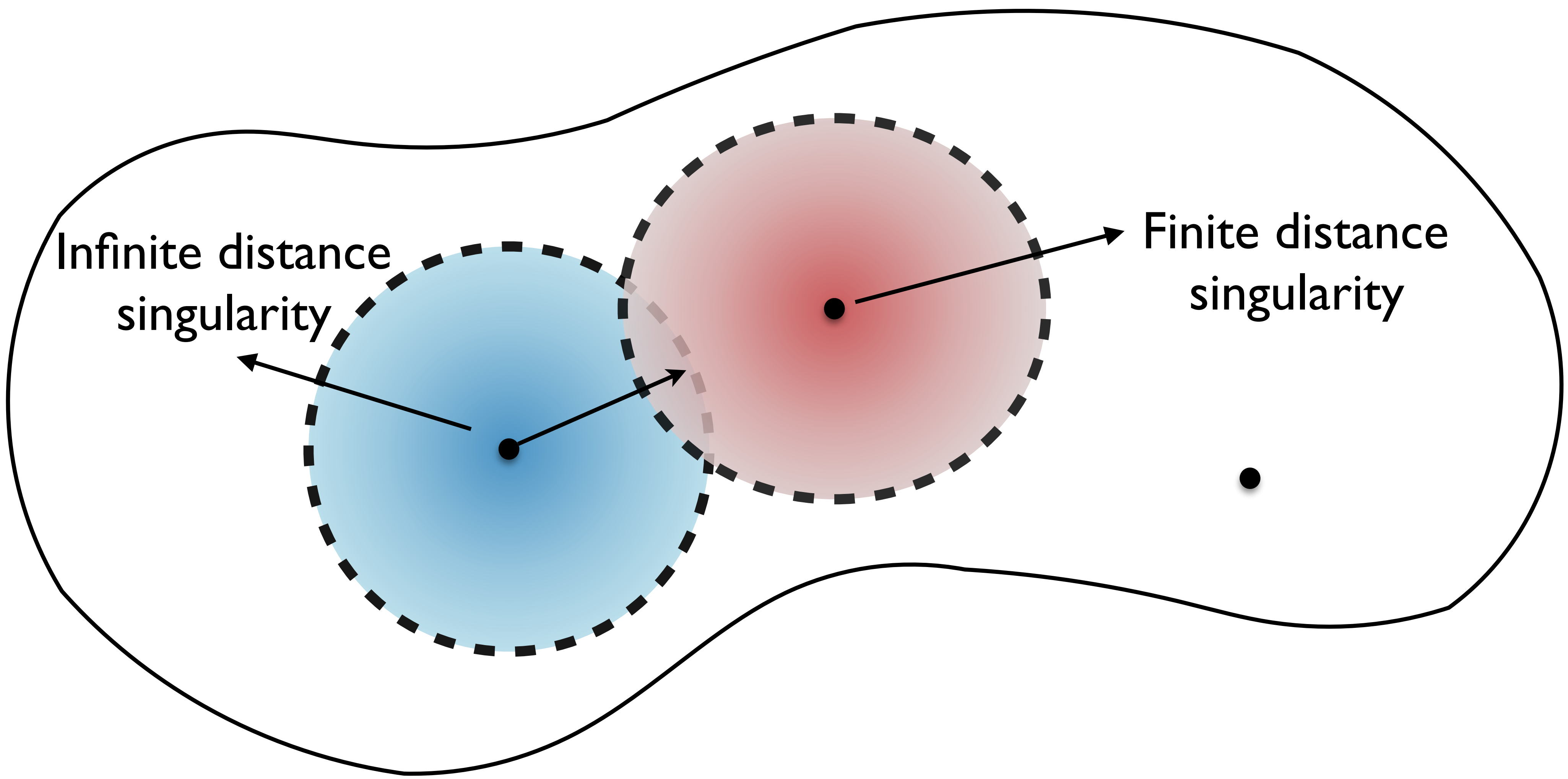

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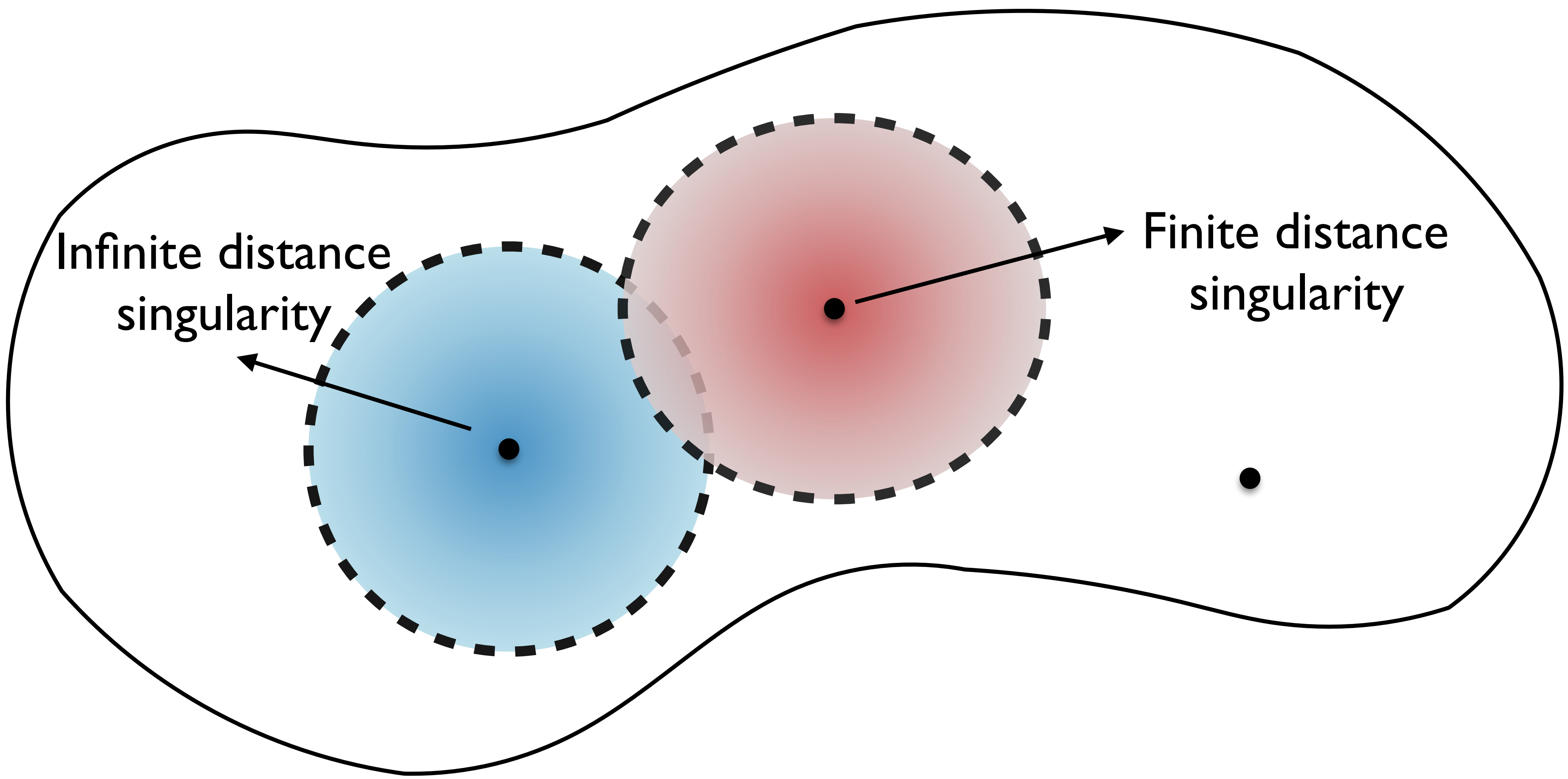

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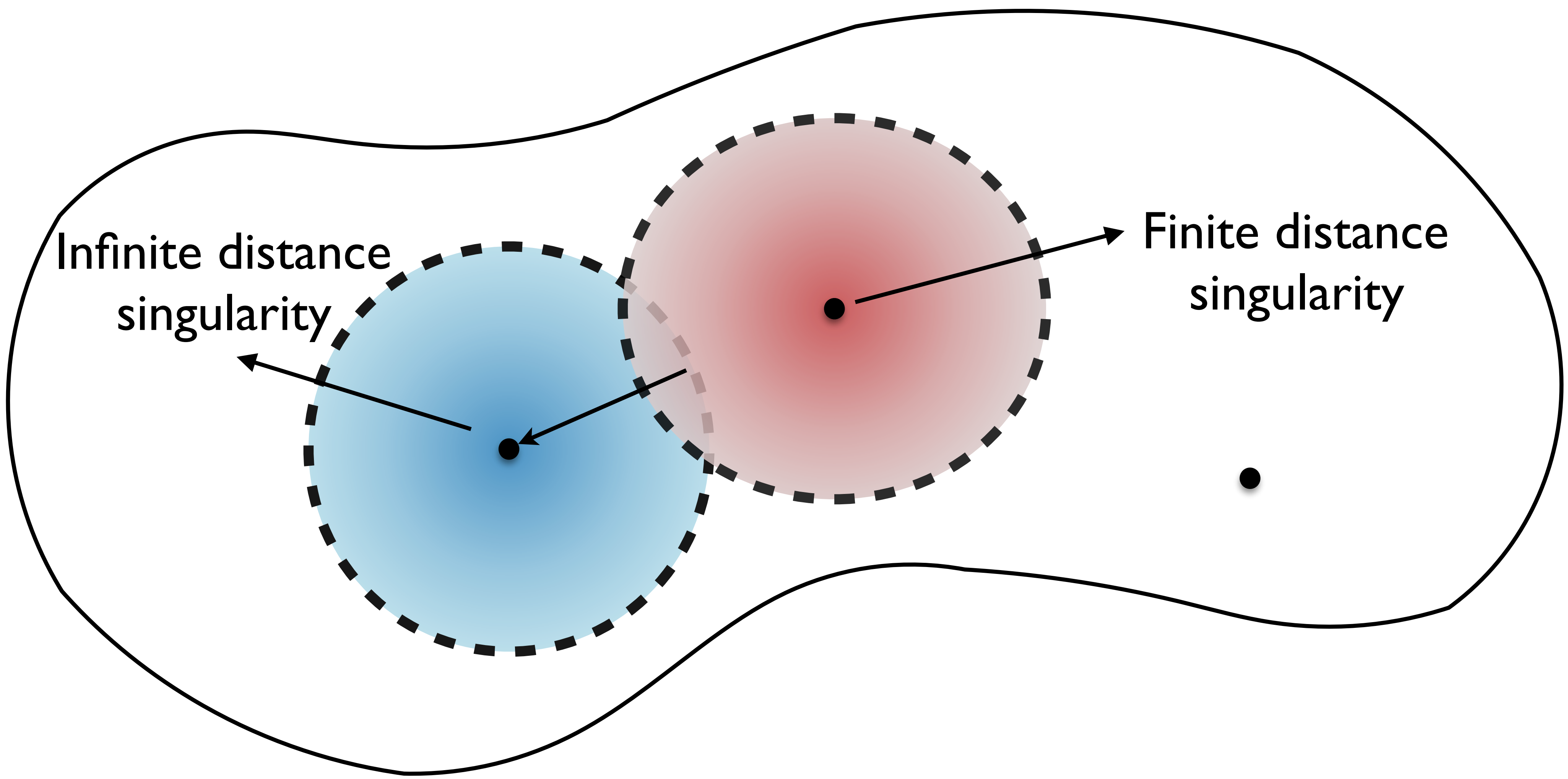

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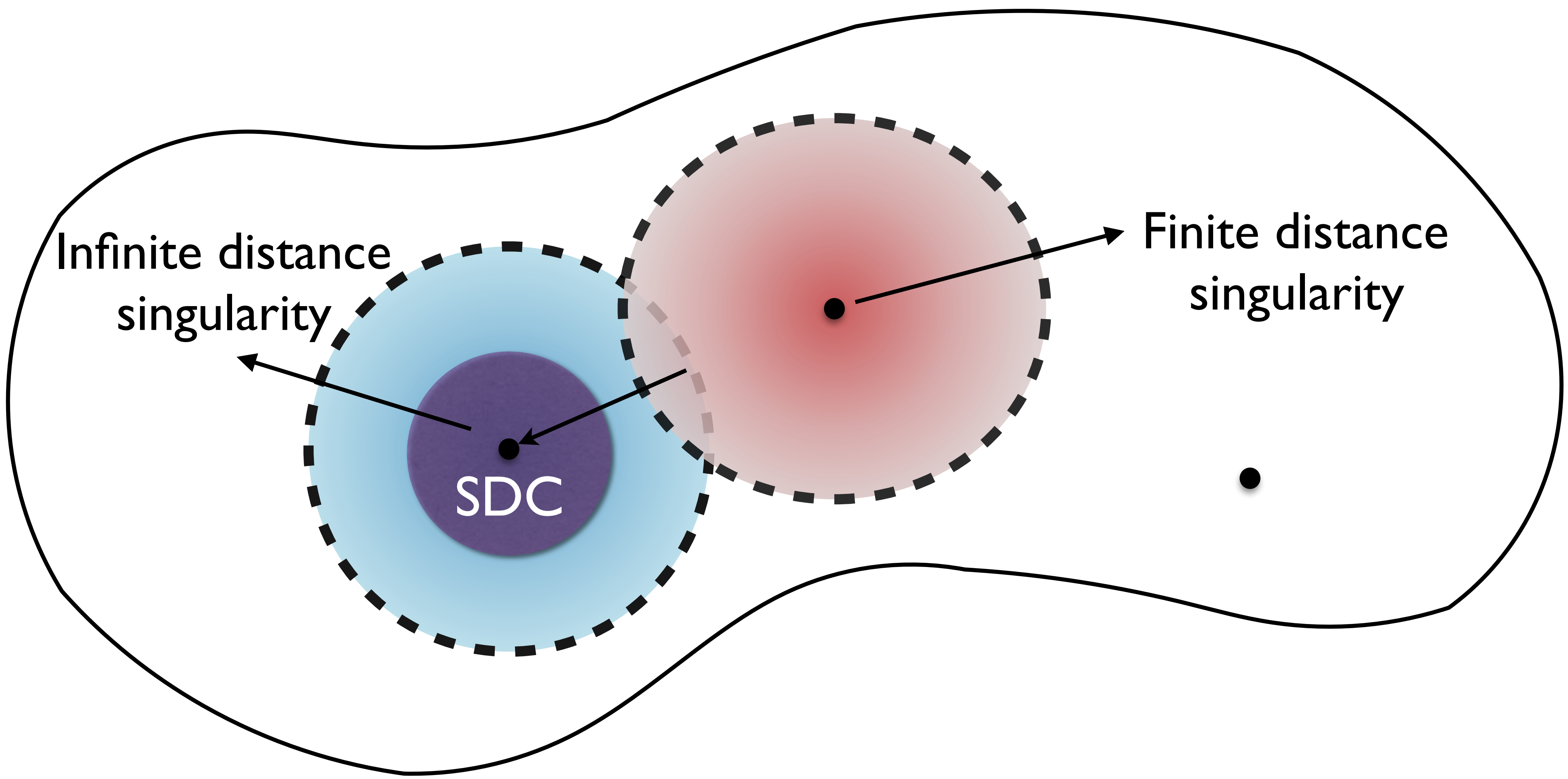

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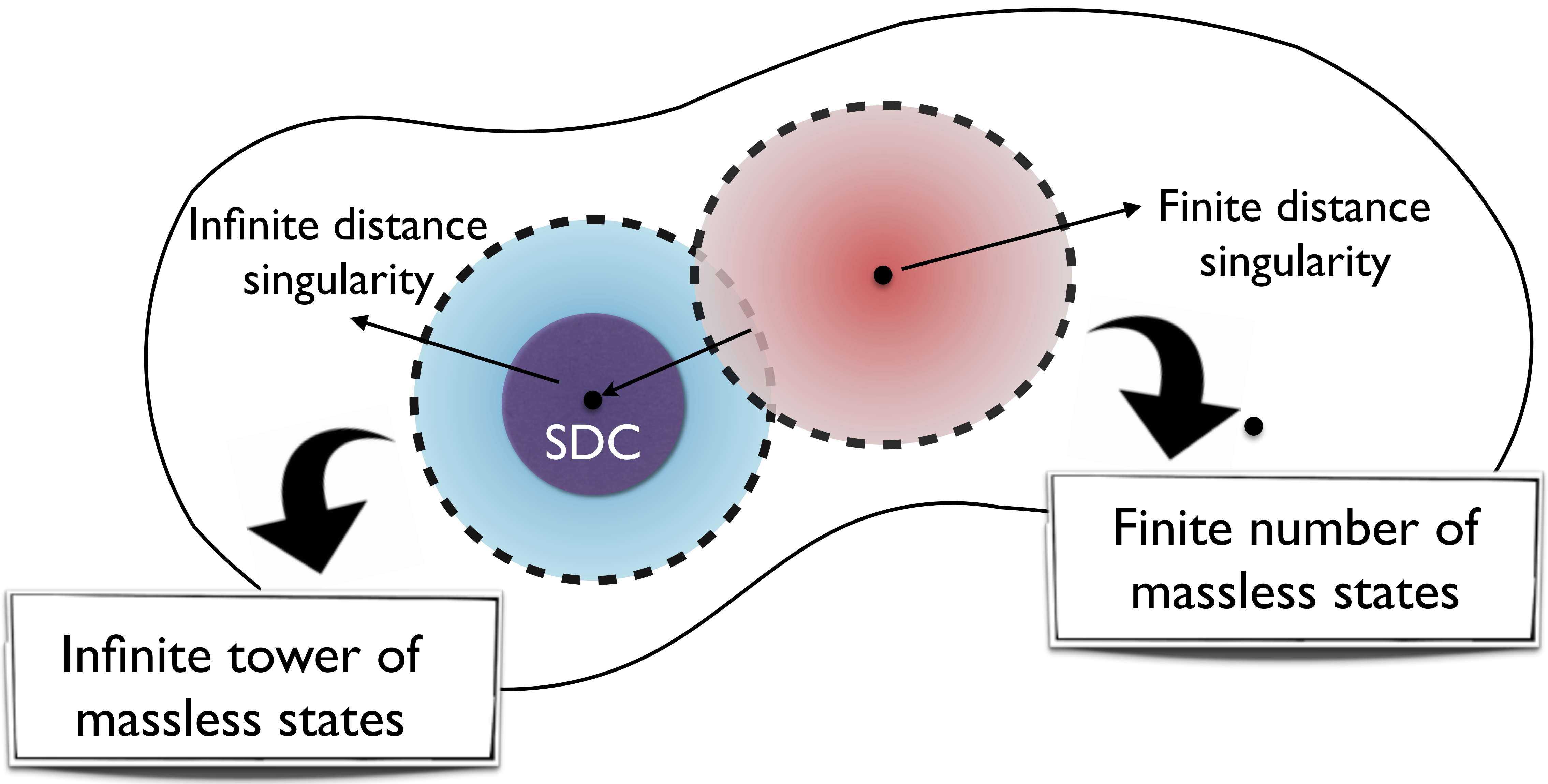

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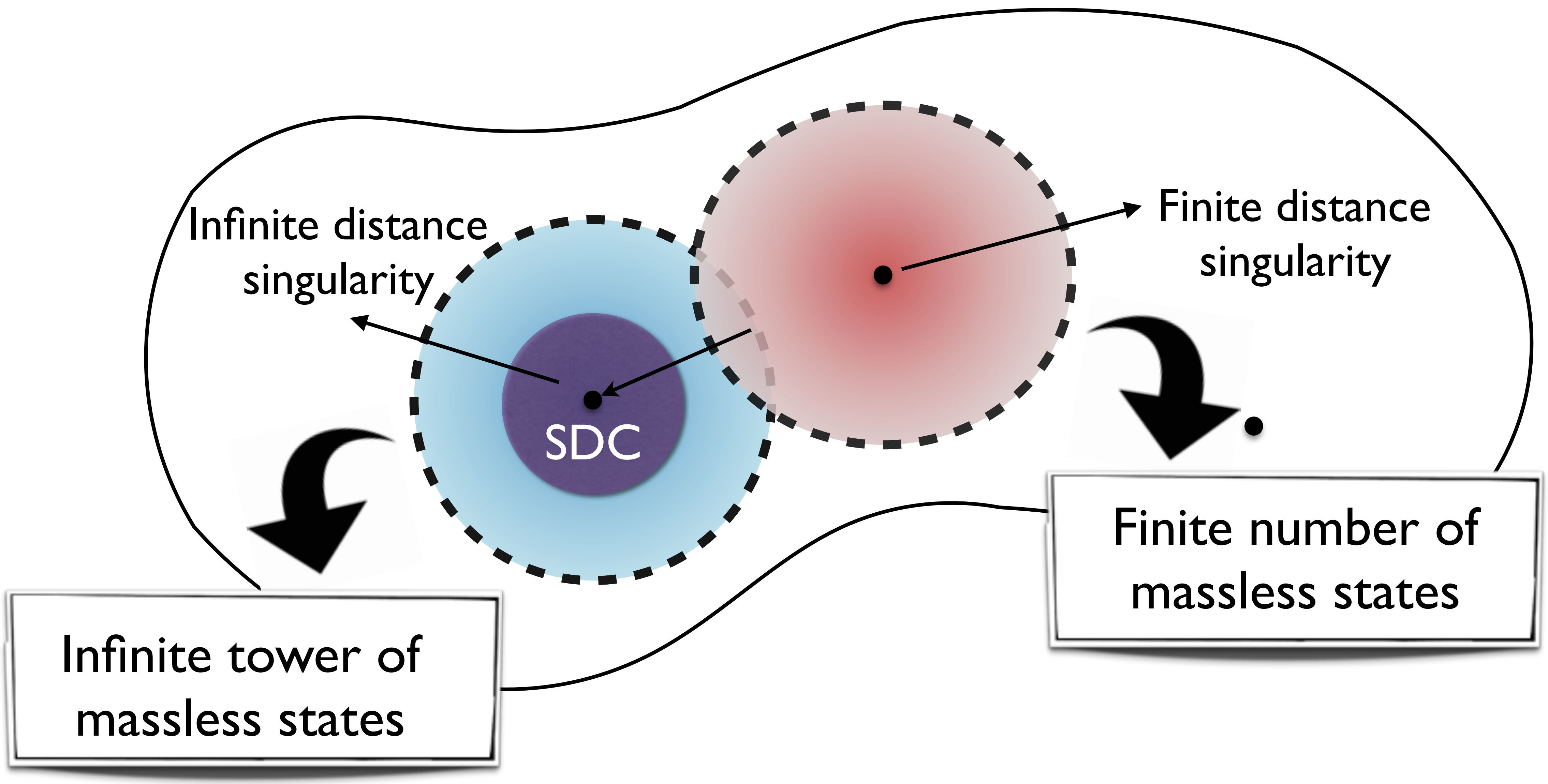


Quantum gravity cut-off goes to zero: drastic change of the EFT (dual theory)

Swampland Distance Conjecture

- Definition and implications
- Test in the complex structure moduli space of Type IIB CY compactifications
- General insights

Global symmetries

SDC as a quantum gravity obstruction to restore a global continuous axionic shift symmetry at the singular point

$$K = -\log[\,p_d(\mathrm{Im}\,t) + \mathcal{O}(e^{2\pi i t})\,]$$

At infinite distance singularities: $\mathrm{Re}\,t \to \mathrm{Re}\,t\, +\, c, \quad c \in \mathbb{R}$ when $\mathrm{Im}\,t \to \infty$

$\mathrm{Re}\,t$ = axion with decay constant $f^2 = g_{t\bar{t}} \to 0$

(also, gauge coupling of dual 2-form gauge field goes to zero)

$\longrightarrow$ analogous to WGC

Global symmetries

SDC = Magnetic Scalar WGC

- Magnetic version:

WGC: $\Lambda < g M_p$ If $g \to 0$ global symmetry is restored

How small can the gauge coupling be?

SDC: $\Lambda \sim M_p \exp(-\lambda \Delta\phi)$ If $\Delta\phi \to \infty$ global symmetry is restored

How large can the field variation be?

- Electric version:

$$\underbrace{g^{ij}\,(\partial_i m)\,(\partial_j m)}_{\text{charge}}\,M_p^2 \geq \underbrace{m^2}_{\text{mass}}$$

→ satisfied for long distance if mass is exponential in ϕ [Palti'17]

Emergence from integrating out the states

These moduli spaces are 'quantum in nature' → geometry incorporates information about integrating out BPS states

Conifold singularity: log-divergence of gauge coupling from integrating out a single BPS D3-state
[Strominger'95]

Similar computation at infinite distance singularities! [Grimm,Palti,IV.'18]

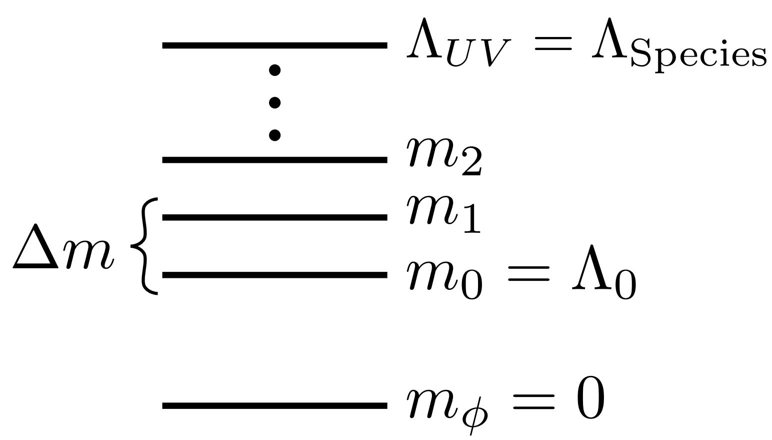
One-loop corrections from integrating out the tower of BPS states
→ matches geometric result (generates the log. infinite distance)

At infinite distance singularities:

$$g_{t\bar{t}} = \frac{d}{\mathrm{Im}(t)^2} + \dots$$

$$d_\gamma(P,Q) = \int_Q^P \sqrt{g_{t\bar{t}}}|dt| \sim \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}\log(\mathrm{Im}\, t)|_Q^P$$

Emergence from integrating out the states



- Original theory:

$$\mathcal{L} = \underbrace{\frac{1}{2}\left(\partial\phi\right)^2}_{\text{light field}} + \sum_{i=1}^{S}\left[\frac{1}{2}\left(\partial h_i\right)^2 + \underbrace{\frac{1}{2}m_i\left(\phi\right)^2 h_i^2}_{\text{tower of massive fields}}\right]$$

tower of massive fields $\longrightarrow$ integrate them out!

$$m_k = m_0 + k\Delta m$$

- We have to integrate out the tower of particles up to the UV cut-off of the original theory!

UV cut-off = Species bound

$$\Lambda_{UV} = \frac{M_p}{\sqrt{S}}$$ [Dvali'07]

$\hookrightarrow$ number of fields below Λ_{UV}

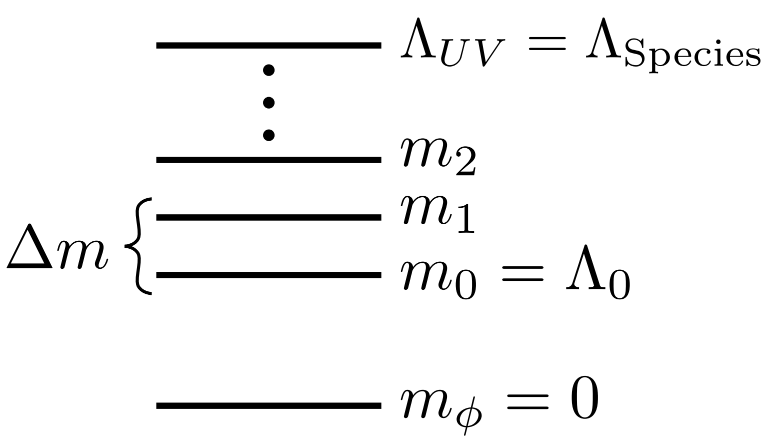
$$\left.\begin{array}{l} S = \dfrac{\Lambda_{UV}}{\Delta m(\phi)} \\ \Delta m(\phi) \sim \phi^{-d/2} \end{array}\right\} \Rightarrow \quad \Lambda_{UV}(\phi) \sim \Delta m(\phi)^{1/3} \sim \phi^{-d/6}$$

Field dependent UV cut-off!

At the singularity: $S \to \infty \Rightarrow \Lambda_{UV} \to 0$

(growth of S matches with stability of BPS states!)

Emergence from integrating out the states



- Original theory:

$$\mathcal{L} = \underbrace{\frac{1}{2}\left(\partial\phi\right)^2}_{\text{light field}} + \sum_{i=1}^{S}\left[\frac{1}{2}\left(\partial h_i\right)^2 + \underbrace{\frac{1}{2}m_i\left(\phi\right)^2 h_i^2}_{\text{tower of massive fields}}\right] \longrightarrow \text{integrate them out!}$$

$$m_k = m_0 + k\Delta m$$

- Quantum correction to the field metric $\longrightarrow$ matches geometric result

$$\delta g_{\phi\phi} \propto \sum_{k=1}^{S}(\partial_\phi m_k)^2 \sim \frac{d}{\phi^2} \quad \Rightarrow \quad d(\phi_1,\phi_2) \sim \sqrt{d}\,\log\left(\frac{\phi_2}{\phi_1}\right)$$

- Quantum correction to the gauge kinetic function $\longrightarrow$ matches geometric result

$$g_{YM}^2 \sim \phi^{-n} \sim m_0^{2n}$$

- UV cut-off decreases exponentially fast in the proper field distance $\Lambda \sim M_p\, e^{-\lambda\, d(\phi_1,\phi_2)}$

$\longrightarrow$ effective theory completely breaks down SDC! ✓

Emergence from integrating out the states

Infinite distance and weak coupling emerge from integrating out an infinite tower of states!

Can this be a general feature for any moduli space?

$$\text{Infinite distance} \;\underset{\text{Emergence ?}}{\overset{\text{SDC}}{\rightleftarrows}}\; \text{Infinite states}$$

(specific structure)

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Comments:

$m(\phi)$ does not matter much as long as $S(\phi) \neq const.$ and diverges consistently with species bound of a $\underbrace{\text{tower of particles}}_{\text{different species}}$ with

$$\frac{\partial_\phi m}{m} \gtrsim \mathcal{O}\left(\frac{1}{\phi}\right) \quad \text{when} \quad \phi \to \infty$$

(see also [Heidenreich,Reece,Rudelius'18])

Emergence from integrating out the states

Infinite distance and weak coupling emerge from integrating out an infinite tower of states!

Can this be a general feature for any moduli space?

This limits correspond to restoring a continuous global symmetry, so global symmetries would also be emergent from integrating out infinitely many states!

(emergence is continuous)

$$\Lambda_{UV} = \frac{M_p}{\sqrt{S}} \longrightarrow 0 \quad \text{when} \quad S \to \infty \quad \text{unless} \quad M_p \to \infty$$

Global symmetries only possible if gravity decouples

Summary

Swampland Distance Conjecture:

Upper bound on the scalar field range: Implications for inflation!

✓ Test in the complex structure moduli space of CY IIB compactifications

- Infinite order monodromy as generator of the infinite tower
- Emergence of infinite field distance and global symmetry

→ Generalizations:

- Our results are valid for any CY (model-independent)

  (but only for infinite distance points that belong to a single singular divisor)

- Other moduli spaces?

Summary

- Consistency with quantum gravity implies constraints on low energy physics.

  Knowledge of Swampland is essential for UV sensitive theories and might also be important for naturalness issues.

- Very important to gather more evidence to prove or disprove the conjectures

  → doable and exciting task!

Summary

- Consistency with quantum gravity implies constraints on low energy physics.

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  → doable and exciting task!

Thank you!

back-up slides

Infinite tower of states

Tool: mathematical machinery of mixed hodge structure

Problem: 'Normal' Hodge decomposition no longer useful when approaching a singularity $H^3(Y_3,\mathbb{C}) = H^{3,0}\oplus H^{2,1}\oplus H^{1,2}\oplus H^{0,3}$

Idea: Introduce finer split of cohomology at the singularity adapted to this 'limiting' Hodge decomposition $$h^{p,3-p} = \sum_q \dim I^{p,q}$$

$$H^{3,0} \to \quad \{I^{3,3}\ ,\ I^{3,2}\ ,\ I^{3,1}\ ,\ I^{3,0}\}$$

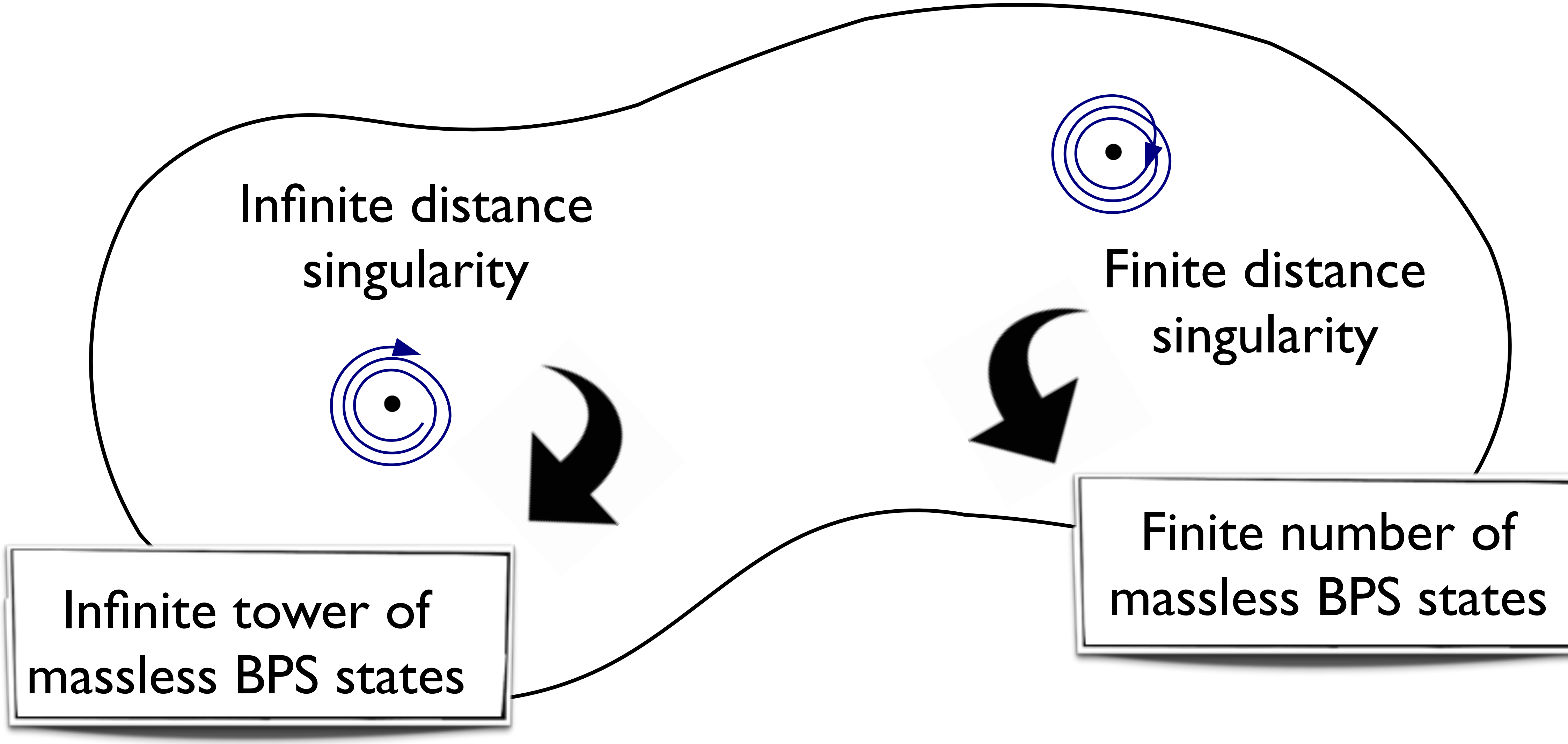
[Deligne][Schmid][Cattani,Kaplan,Schmid]
[Kerr,Pearlstein,Robles'17]

The subspaces capture non-trivial information about the nilpotent monodromy operator, $NI^{p,q} \subset I^{p-1,q-1}$

For a CY: $\mathbf{a}_0 \in I^{3,d}\ , \quad d = 0,1,2,3$

Systematic analysis in the complex structure moduli space of Type IIB Calabi-Yau string compactifications

[Grimm,Palti,IV.'18]



Key ingredient:

Monodromy transformation → Field distance

Monodromy transformation → Monodromy orbit of states