



# A new non-renormalization theorem from UV/IR mixing

Steve Abel (IPPP)

STRING PHENO '24

Based on the following set of papers on NON-SUPERSYMMETRIC strings ...

- w/ Dienes and Nutricati — arXiv:2406.NNNNN
- w/ Dienes and Nutricati — *Phys.Rev.D* 107 (2023) 12, 126019 ; arXiv:2303.08534
- w/ Keith Dienes — *Phys.Rev.D* 104 (2021) 12, 126032; arXiv:2106.04622
- w/ Dienes+Mavroudi *Phys.Rev.D* 97 (2018) 12, 126017, arXiv: 1712.06894
- w/ Stewart, *Phys.Rev.D* 96 (2017) 10, 106013 arXiv:1701.06629
- Aaronson, SAA, Mavroudi, *Phys.Rev.D* 95, (2016) 106001, arXiv:1612.05742
- SAA JHEP 1611 (2016) 085, arXiv:1609.01311
- w/ Dienes+Mavroudi *Phys.Rev. D91*, (2015) 126014, arXiv:1502.03087

## Themes of this talk ...

**There is a whole raft of supertrace identities associated with large distance limits, a.k.a. dimensions that can decompactify, that has not been noticed before.**

**These are true for any closed string theory (or theory with modular invariance)**

**These identities seem to have profound implications: they forbid power law running! (Non-renormalisation theorem)**

**More generally an aspect of UV/IR mixing**

# Outline

- An old but remarkable super trace identity
- Higher dimensions
- Theories with higher dimensional limits
- No power-law running

**An old but remarkable  
supertrace identity**



**Only assumption of this talk: suppose as in closed string that finiteness is ensured by Modular Invariance ...**

The theory is defined by the modular invariant *string partition function*  $Z(\tau)$  where modular invariant: requires  $Z(\tau) = Z(\tau')$  where

$$\tau \rightarrow \tau' = \frac{a\tau + b}{c\tau + d}$$

In principle  $Z(\tau)$  holds all the information about the spectrum: also (theorem) in a 4D theory it can always be written

$$Z(\tau) = \frac{1}{\tau_2} \sum_{nm} a_{nm} q^n \bar{q}^m$$

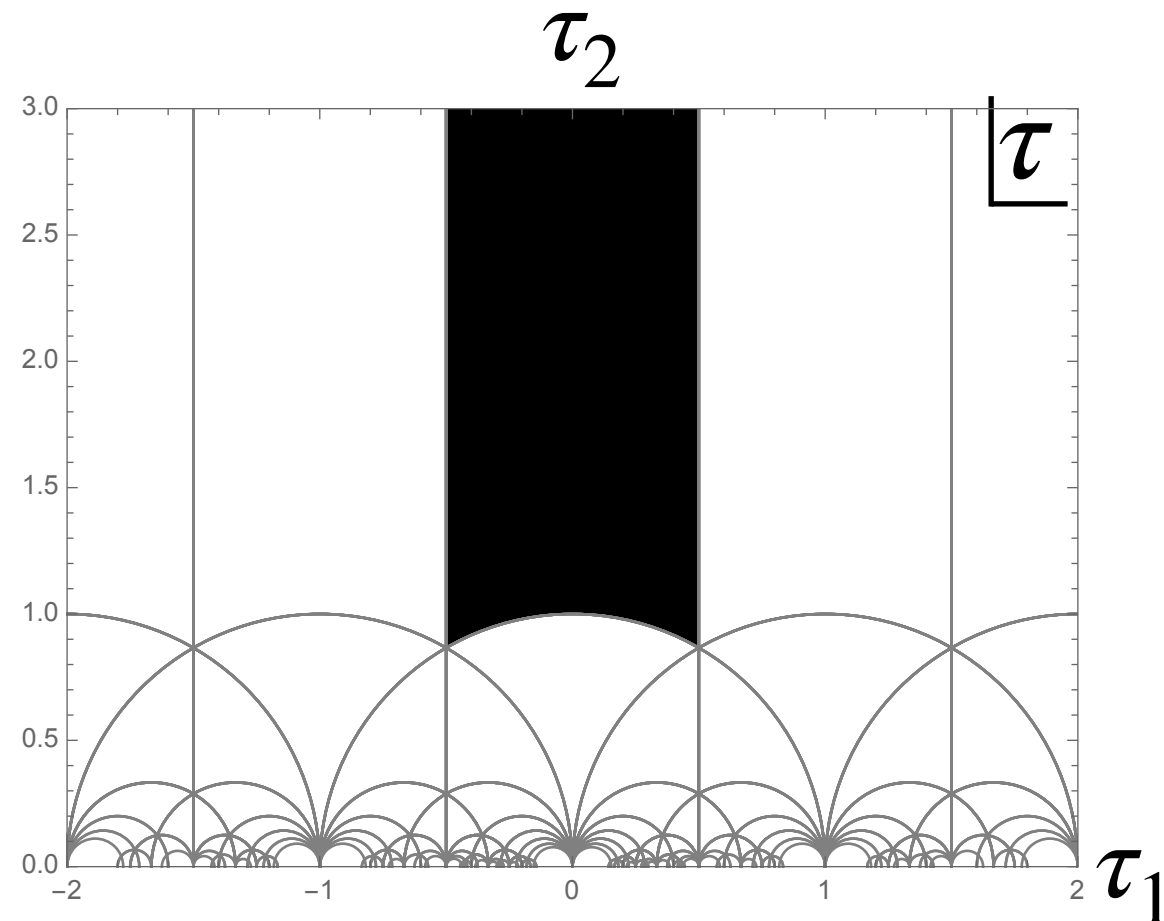
where  $q = e^{2\pi i\tau}$  and  $\tau = \tau_1 + i\tau_2$ . Think of this as the Fourier series of  $Z(\tau)$ .

**This symmetry mixes UV/IR maximally:**

**To see this in action let's consider vacuum energy in any such theory:**

$$\Lambda^{(4)} = -\frac{\mathcal{M}^4}{2} \int_{\mathcal{F}} \frac{d^2\tau}{\tau_2^2} Z(\tau)$$

This integral is *finite* because (as long as there are no physical tachyons)  $Z(\tau)$  dies at large  $\tau_2$  and  $\mathcal{F}$  does not contain the  $\tau_2 \rightarrow 0$  point



A bit of notation:

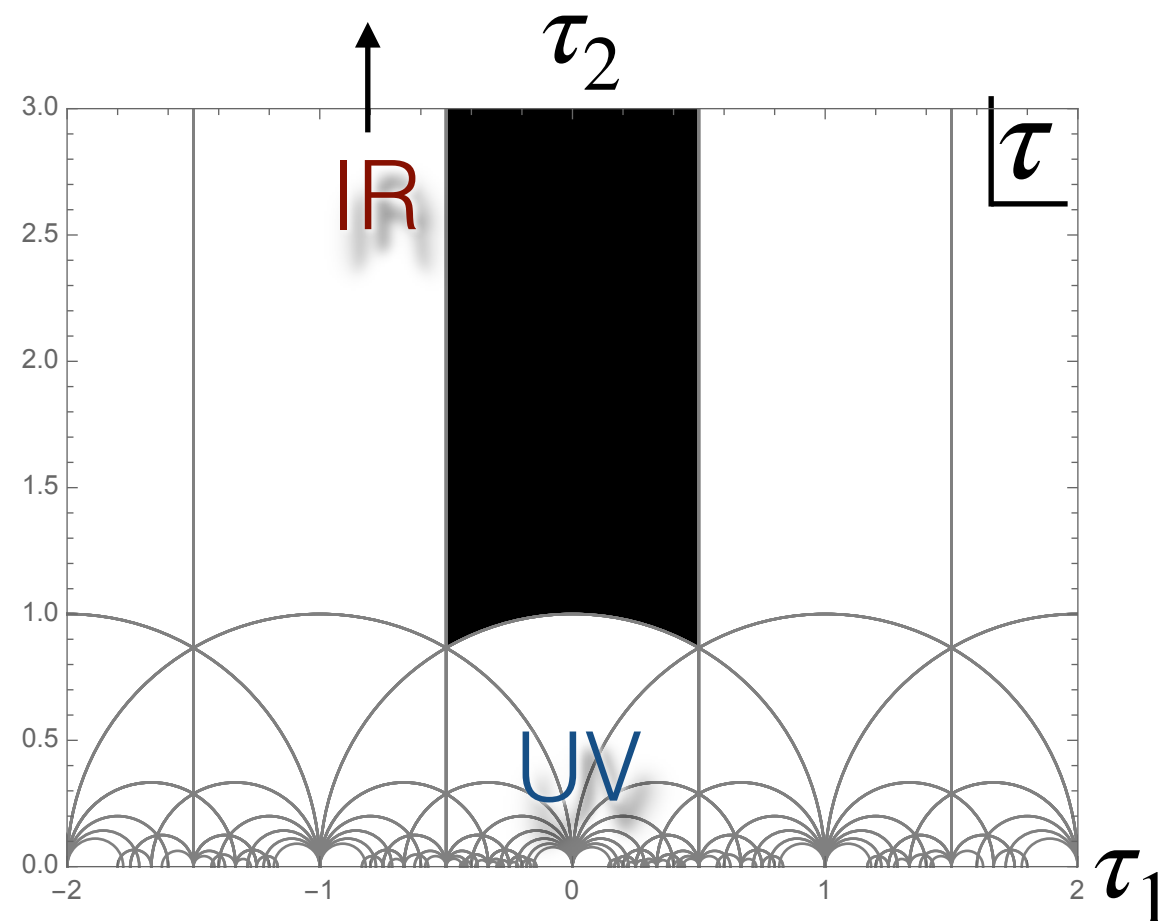
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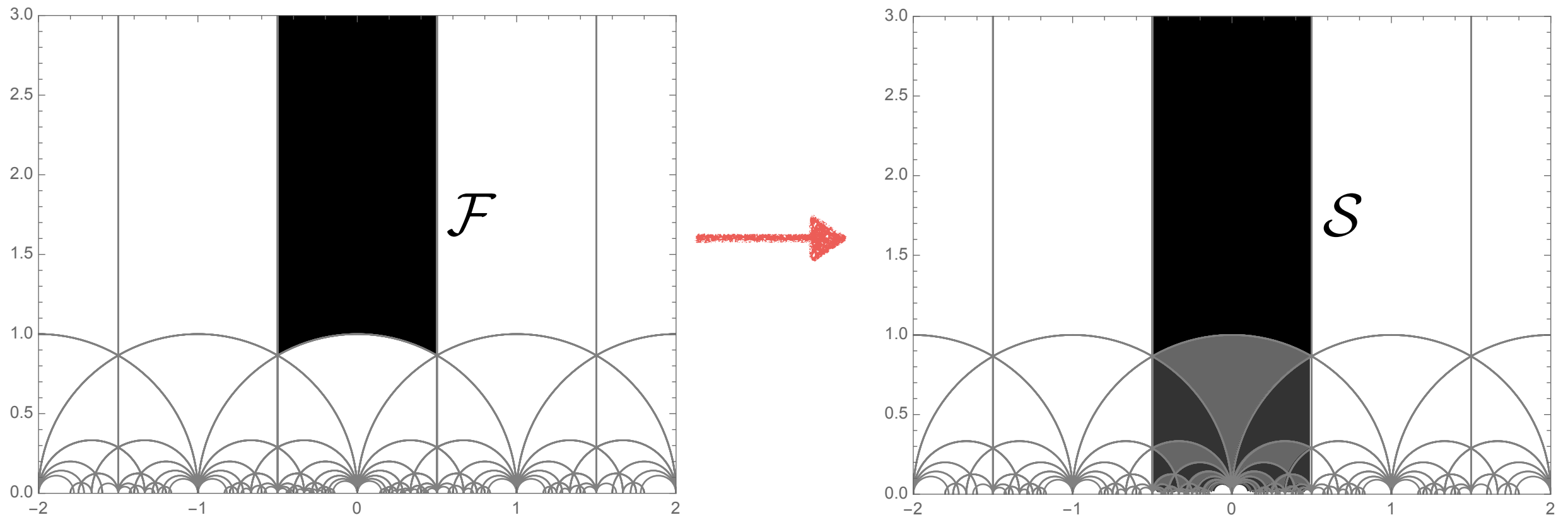
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**However:** a method due to Rankin and Selberg (1939/40) lets us write this finite integral in another way — namely in terms the nett density of **physical (level-matched) states** — given by (Fourier zero-mode) integral:

$$\begin{aligned}
 g(\tau_2) &= -\frac{\mathcal{M}^4}{2} \int_{-\frac{1}{2}}^{\frac{1}{2}} d\tau_1 Z(\tau) \\
 &= -\frac{\mathcal{M}^4}{2} \tau_2^{-1} \sum_{\text{states}} (-1)^F e^{-\pi\tau_2\alpha' M_{\text{state}}^2}
 \end{aligned}$$

RS use a transform to unfold  $\mathcal{F}$  to the critical strip  $\mathcal{S}$






Then using RS we see that ultimately the integral can be written as a limit ...

$$-\frac{\mathcal{M}^4}{2} \int_{\mathcal{F}} \frac{d^2\tau}{\tau_2^2} \mathbf{Z}(\tau, \bar{\tau}) = \frac{\pi}{3} \operatorname{Res}_{s=1} \int_0^\infty d\tau_2 \tau_2^{s-2} g(\tau_2)$$

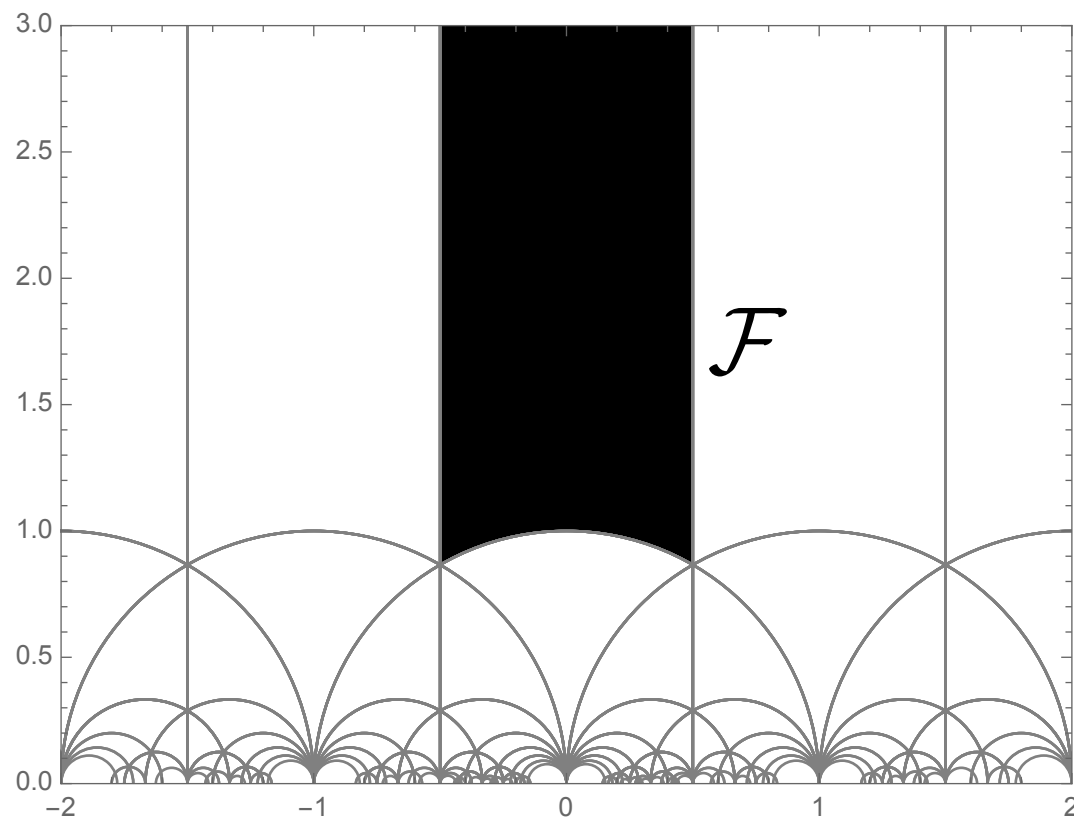
Inverse  
Mellin  
transform


$$= \frac{\pi}{3} \lim_{\tau_2 \rightarrow 0} g(\tau_2)$$

- Rankin, Selberg
  - Zagier (1981)
- In string theory: Kutasov, Seiberg; McClain, Roth, O'Brien, Tan; Dienes; Angelantonj, Florakis, Pioline, Rabinovici

## Let's pause for a minute to see (as physicists) why this is remarkable:

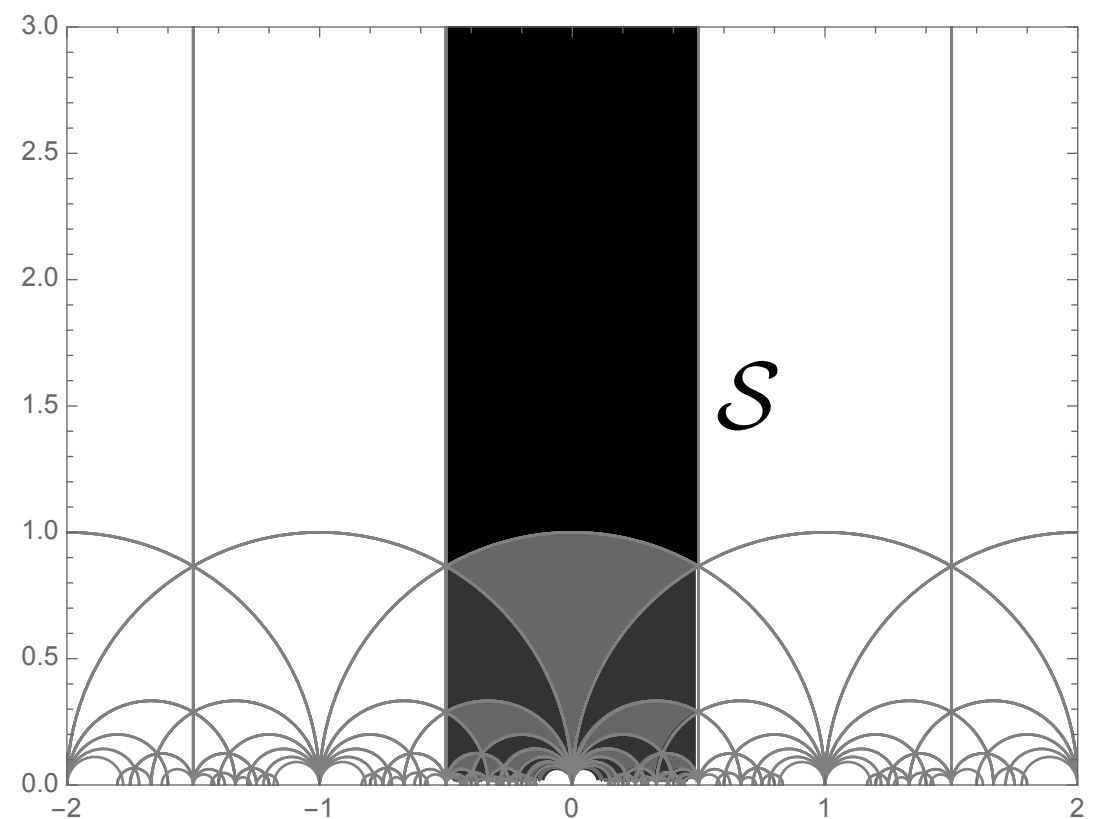
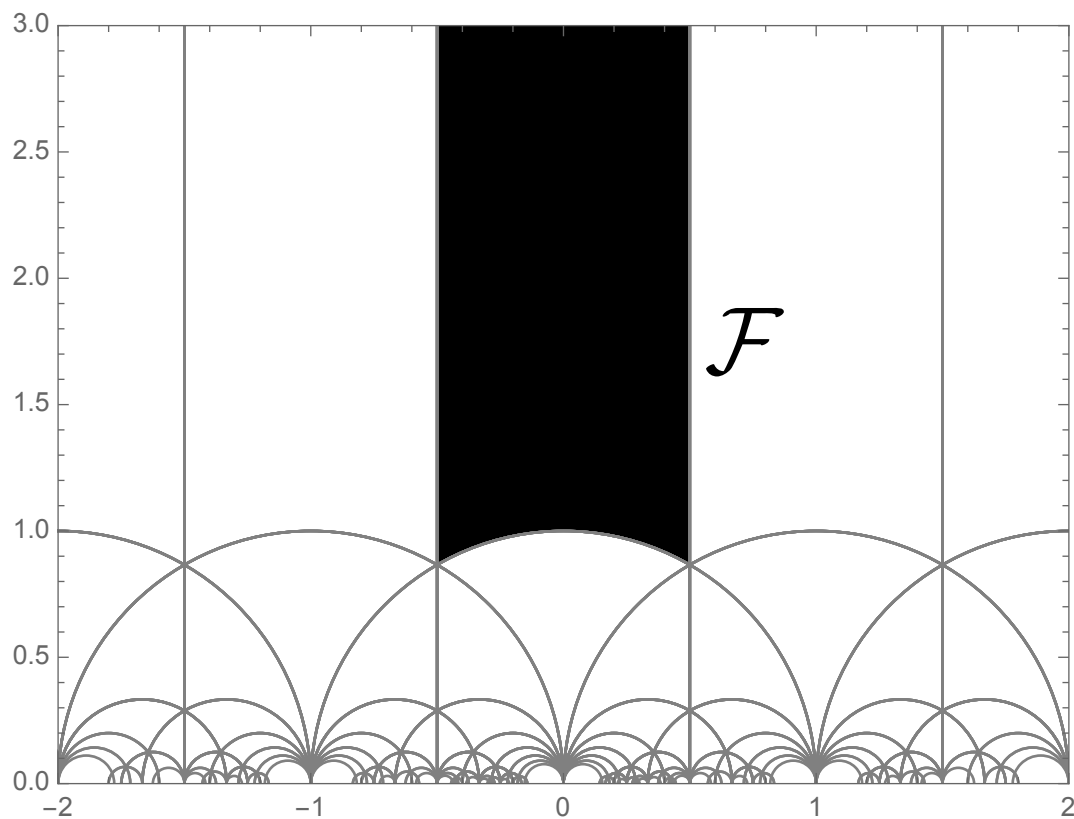
There is a clear mapping from  $\pi\alpha'\tau_2$  to the Schwinger parameter  $t$  when  $\tau_2 \geq 1$ : by naively integrating over the fundamental domain, we physicists see a result mimicking the EFT ...



$$\begin{aligned}\Lambda^{(4)} &\approx \int_1^\infty \frac{d\tau_2}{\tau_2^2} g(\tau_2) \\ &\approx -\frac{\mathcal{M}^4}{2} \int_1^\infty \frac{d\tau_2}{\tau_2^3} \sum_{\text{states}} (-1)^F e^{-\pi\tau_2\alpha' M_{\text{state}}^2}\end{aligned}$$

Let's pause for a minute to see (as physicists) why this is remarkable:

But according to RS this result is equal to a *very not EFT-like limit* - if anything it looks like a deep UV limit!!



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**This is the ultimate UV/IR mixing. But there is more ...**

Let's try and evaluate this RS limit:

$$\frac{\pi}{3} \lim_{\tau_2 \rightarrow 0} g(\tau_2) = -\frac{\mathcal{M}^4}{2} \lim_{\tau_2 \rightarrow 0} \sum_{\text{states}} (-1)^F \frac{1}{\tau_2} e^{-\pi \tau_2 \alpha' M_{\text{state}}^2}$$

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It looks like it diverges because of the  $1/\tau_2$  prefactor in  $Z(\tau_2)$  !!! ... *Unless* ...

$$\lim_{\tau_2 \rightarrow 0} \sum_{\text{states}} (-1)^F e^{-\pi\tau_2\alpha' M_{\text{states}}^2} = 0$$

Thus — if we define a *regulated supertrace* appropriate for infinite towers of states for any operator  $\mathcal{X}$ ,

$$\text{Str } \mathcal{X} = \lim_{\tau_2 \rightarrow 0} \sum_{\text{states}} (-1)^F \mathcal{X}_{\text{state}} e^{-\pi\tau_2\alpha' M_{\text{state}}^2} = 0$$

then here (where  $\mathcal{X} = \text{const}$ ) we see that any modular invariant 4D theory with a finite  $\Lambda$  obeys a super trace relation

$$\text{Str } \mathbf{1} = 0$$

Any tachyon-free modular invariant theory in 4D has  $\text{Str}(\mathbf{1}) = 0$  *even when no SUSY!*

- Dienes, Misaligned SUSY, 1994

Or to put it another way ... if we expand the density of states  $g(\tau_2)$  around  $\tau_2 = 0$  it generically would go like

$$g(\tau_2) = \frac{1}{\tau_2} \times (C_0 + C_1\tau_2 + C_2\tau_2^2 + \dots)$$

but a modular invariant theory must have  $C_0 = 0$  and must instead go like

$$g(\tau_2) = \frac{1}{\tau_2} \times (C_1\tau_2 + C_2\tau_2^2 + \dots)$$

(For the sake of argument I will assume an integer expansion but only the first non-zero term needs to be an integer)

**Thus we can get the answer, i.e.  $\Lambda = \pi C_1/3$ , by expanding the exponential around  $\tau_2$  and picking off the first term  $C_1$ :**

$$\Lambda^{(4)} = \frac{1}{24} \mathcal{M}^2 \text{STr} M^2$$

- Dienes, Misaligned SUSY, 1994
- Kutasov, Seiberg, 1994
- Dienes, Moshe, Myers 1995



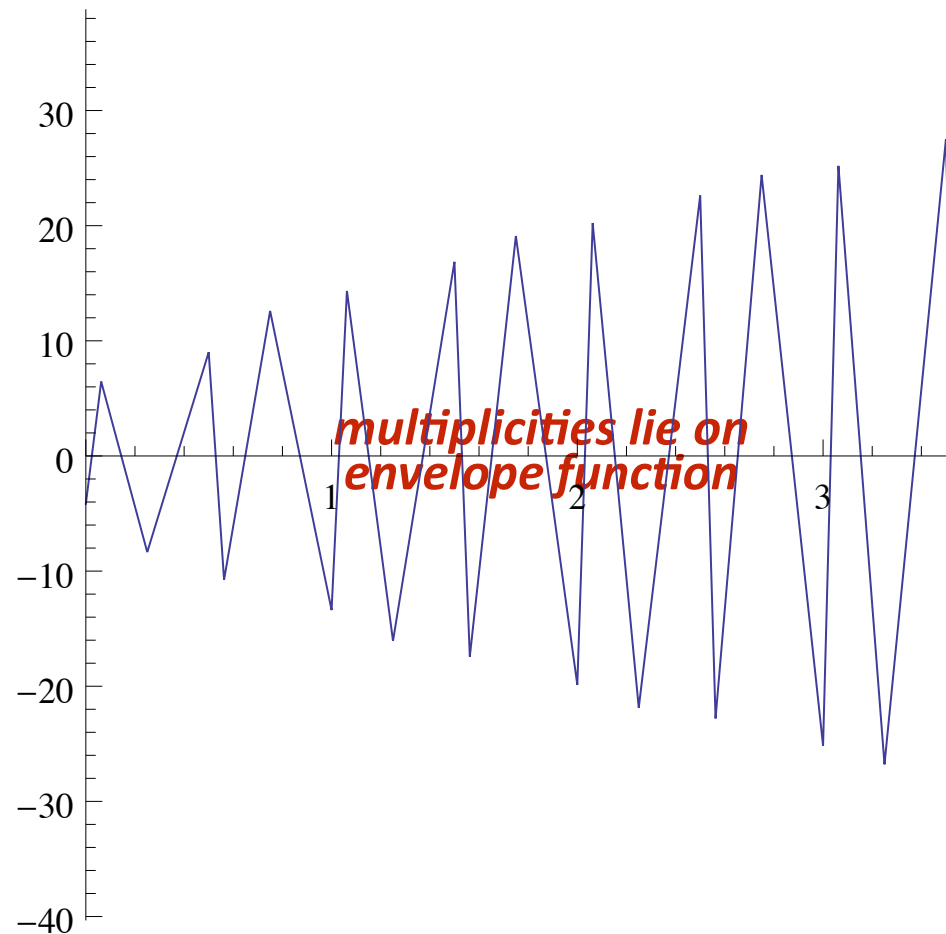
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This looks like the quadratically divergent term in field theory but this definitely is *not* a field theory object — this supertrace is over the *infinite* string tower of states!!

+/- Log[|a\_{nm}|]



- This crazy spectrum has finite  $\Lambda$  !!!

# Higher dimensions

In theories with  $D > 4$  space-time dimensions things get more constrained. The reason why is that the partition function takes the form

$$Z^{(D)}(\tau) = \tau_2^k \sum_{m,n} a_{mn} \bar{q}^m q^n$$

where  $k = 1 - D/2$ .

(We can see it has to go like this to give the Schwinger integral the right powers of  $t$ )

But now applying Rankin-Selberg we see that in a theory with  $D = 4 + \delta \dots$

$$g(\tau_2) = \frac{1}{\tau_2^{1+\delta/2}} \times (C'_0 + C'_1 \tau_2 + C'_2 \tau_2^2 + \dots)$$

$\implies$  we have  $C'_0, C'_1, \dots, C'_{\delta/2} = 0$

Thus in a theory with  $D = 4 + \delta$  expanding the expression for  $\Lambda^{(D)}$  we have

$$\text{Str}' M^k = 0$$

for all  $k < 2 + \delta$  and

$$\Lambda^{(4+\delta)} = (-1)^{\delta/2} \frac{\pi}{6(1 + \delta/2)!} \mathcal{M}^2 \text{Str}' M^{2+\delta}$$



In  $D = 4$  only the cosmological constant leads to a constraint, namely  $\text{Str}(\mathbf{1}) = 0$ . But in higher dimensions there are less trivial amplitudes that get constrained: let's now extend the discussion to more general  $\langle \mathcal{X} \rangle$ : ...

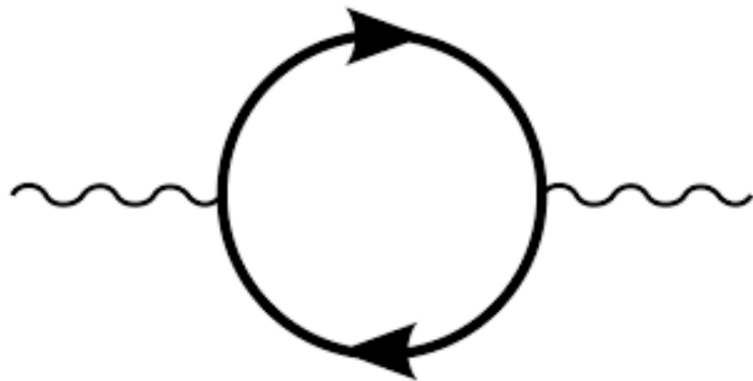
$$Z_{\mathcal{X}}^{(D)}(\tau) = \tau_2^k \sum_{n,m} a_{nm} \mathcal{X}_{nm} \bar{q}^m q^n$$

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The operator  $\mathcal{X}$  can be determined by modular completing the field theory operator. Thus for example vacuum polarisation ...



$$\mathcal{X} = \mathbb{X}_0 + \tau_2 \mathbb{X}_1 + \tau_2^2 \mathbb{X}_2$$

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \mathbb{X}_0 = 0 \\ \mathbb{X}_1 \equiv \frac{\xi}{2\pi} \left( \bar{Q}_H^2 - \frac{\bar{E}_2}{12} \right) \\ \mathbb{X}_2 \equiv -2 \left( \bar{Q}_H^2 - \frac{\bar{E}_2}{12} \right) Q_G^2 \end{array} \right.$$

↑
↑

Space-time helicity
Gauge charges

For example in a 6 dimensional theory we find a *constraint* plus a one - loop contribution to  $16\pi^2/g_G^2 = 16\pi^2/g_{\text{tree}}^2 + \Delta_G$  :

$$\text{Str}' \overline{Q}_H^2 - \frac{1}{12} \text{Str}'_E \mathbf{1} = 0$$

and ...

$$\Delta_G \approx \frac{\pi}{3} \times \left[ -2 \text{Str}' (Q_G^2 \overline{Q}_H^2) + \frac{1}{6} \text{Str}'_E Q_G^2 - \frac{\xi}{2\pi} \text{Str}' (\overline{Q}_H^2 \widetilde{M}^2) + \frac{\xi}{24\pi} \text{Str}'_E \widetilde{M}^2 \right]$$

where  $\widetilde{M}^2 \equiv \frac{M^2}{4\pi \mathcal{M}^2}$

# Theories with higher dimensional limits

***So the question is — what happens when a 4 dimensional theory has a decompactification limit to a higher dimensional theory?***

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Consider a toy factorisable example:

$$Z_{\mathcal{X}}^{(4)} = Z_{\mathcal{X}}^{(\text{base})} \cdot Z_{\text{KK/winding}}$$

where the “base” theory is the states without their KK and winding modes

$$Z_{\mathcal{X}}^{(\text{base})} = \tau_2^{-1} \sum'_{mn} a_{mn} \mathcal{X}_{mn} \bar{q}^m q^n$$

and  $Z_{\text{KK/winding}}$  are all the KK and winding mode factors of  $q, \bar{q}$ .

e.g. for  $\delta = 1$  it might be a simple circle factor of the form:

$$Z_{\text{KK/winding}} = \sum_{\tilde{m}, \tilde{n} \in \mathbb{Z}} \bar{q}^{(\tilde{m}/\tilde{R} - \tilde{n}/\tilde{R})^2/4} q^{(\tilde{m}\tilde{R} + \tilde{n})^2/4}$$



We can rearrange the contributions into modular invariant factors ...

$$Z_{\mathcal{X}}^{(4)} = \left( \tau_2^{-\delta/2} Z_{\mathcal{X}}^{(\text{base})} \right) \cdot \left( \tau_2^{\delta/2} Z_{\text{KK/winding}} \right)$$

By examining the product at large radius the KK/winding factor turns into a simple volume factor ...

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Putting the pieces together, at large volume we see that the 4D theory tends to the  $4 + \delta$  dimensional theory times a volume factor:

$$\lim_{V_\delta \rightarrow \infty} \left[ \frac{1}{\mathcal{M}^\delta V_\delta} Z_{\mathcal{X}}^{(4)} \right] = \tau_2^{-\delta/2} Z_{\mathcal{X}}^{(\text{base})} = Z_{\mathcal{X}}^{(4+\delta)}$$

***But at this point we notice a clash!*** ... we know  $Z_{\mathcal{X}}^{(4+\delta)}$  has to satisfy many more *constraints* than the four dimensional theory

The only way to resolve this clash and for *physics to be smooth* at infinite radius is for all the constraints to *already* be satisfied in the 4D theory ... it turns out this is independent of the compactification radius:

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For example  $16\pi^2 g_G^{-2} = 16\pi^2 g_{\text{tree}}^{-2} + \Delta_G$  in a theory with  $\delta = 2$  decompactification:

$$\text{Str}' \bar{Q}_H^2 - \frac{1}{12} \text{Str}'_E \mathbf{1} = 0$$

$$\Delta_G \approx \frac{\pi}{3} \tilde{V}_T \left[ -2 \text{Str}' (Q_G^2 \bar{Q}_H^2) + \frac{1}{6} \text{Str}'_E Q_G^2 - \frac{\xi}{2\pi} \text{Str}' (\bar{Q}_H^2 \widetilde{M}^2) + \frac{\xi}{24\pi} \text{Str}'_E \widetilde{M}^2 \right]$$

*Generally we can expect a theory that can decompactify to look like this:*

$$Z^{(4)} = \sum_{i=1}^N Z'_i \Theta_i$$

The  $i$  indicates a sum over different sectors ... each with a “base” contribution  $Z'_i$  multiplying KK/winding factors  $\Theta_i$  which turn into volumes at large radius.

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When  $\delta$  dimensions become large in some direction labelled  $\alpha$ , some the  $\Theta_i$  factors contribute to a modular invariant sum  $\Theta^{(\alpha)} = \sum c_i^{(\alpha)} \Theta_i$  yielding what we call the  **$T$ -volume** with the remaining contributions going exponentially fast to zero:

$$\widetilde{V}_T^{(\alpha)} \equiv \frac{3}{\pi} \int_{\mathcal{F}} \frac{d^2\tau}{\tau_2^2} \Theta^{(\alpha)} \sim \mathcal{M}^\delta V_\delta^{(\alpha)}$$

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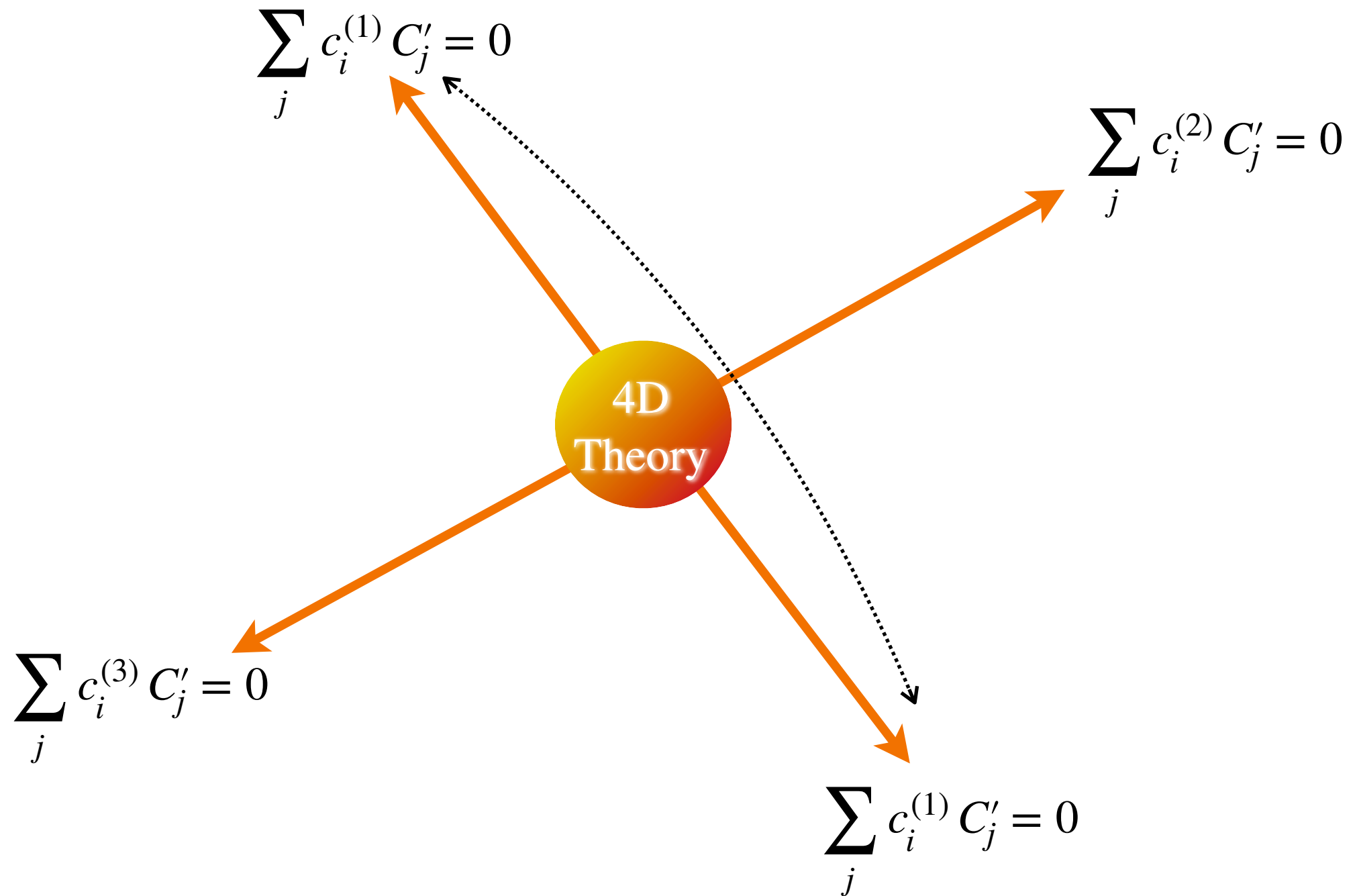
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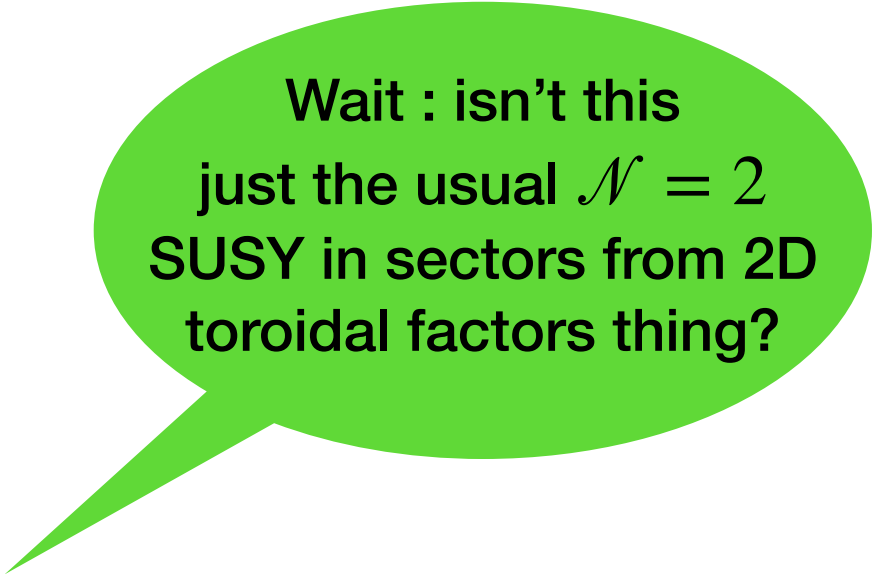
RS derived modular invariant volume

*So the cartoon looks like this ...*



Some of these endpoint theories related by T-duality transformations - but they all lead to a constraint that has to be satisfied in the 4D theory.





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Let me show you ...

**No power-law running**

*Why can we now expect a statement on power-law running?*

It helps to think of this from an equivalent extra-dimensional field theory view point -

To see how RG running *emerges* we can insert an energy scale  $\mu$  by putting a cut-off function  $\mathcal{G}(\mu, t)$  into the one-loop Schwinger integral (c.f. Polchinski/Wetterich Exact RG):

$$\langle \mathcal{X} \rangle_{\text{FT}}^{(4)}(\mu) = \int_{\Lambda^{-2}}^{\infty} \frac{dt}{t} Z_{\mathcal{X}}^{(\text{base})} Z_{\text{KK}} \mathcal{G}(\mu, t)$$



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In analogy with the string theory results we can always write

$$\begin{aligned} Z_{\mathcal{X}}^{(\text{base})} &= \frac{1}{t^2} (C'_0 + C'_1 t + C'_2 t^2 + \dots) \\ Z_{\mathcal{X}}^{(\text{base})} \cdot Z_{\text{KK}} &= \frac{1}{t^2} (C_0 + C_1 t + C_2 t^2 + \dots) \end{aligned}$$

So at energies far below the KK scale,  $\mu \ll 1/R$ , we can set  $Z_{\text{KK}} = 1$  and we get 4D running. e.g. the gauge coupling running is given by the log divergent term,  $C'_2$ , and we get

$$\Delta_G(\mu) \equiv \langle \mathcal{X} \rangle_{\text{FT}}^{(4)}(\mu) = C'_2 \log(\Lambda^2/\mu^2) + \text{const}$$

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But at energies high above the KK scale,  $\mu \gg 1/R$ , the factor  $Z_{\text{KK}}$  resums and we get...

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \mathcal{X} \rangle_{\text{FT}}^{(4)}(\mu) &= V_\delta \int_{\Lambda^{-2}}^{\mu^{-2}} \frac{dt}{t^{1+\delta/2}} Z_{\mathcal{X}}^{(\text{base})} \\ &= \frac{2}{\delta} V_\delta C'_2 (\Lambda^\delta - \mu^\delta) \end{aligned}$$

This  $\mu$ -dependence is our power-law running while  $\Lambda^\delta$  is absorbed into the RG scheme.

*The crux of the matter: in modular invariant theory:  $C'_2 = 0$  if  $\delta > 2$  !*

In other words there can be no  $\delta > 2$  power law running, and moreover there is no contribution to *any* running (even logarithmic) from the states in the theory associated with  $\delta > 2$  decompactification limits.

- The case of  $\delta = 2$  is more subtle: these *can* give logarithmic running below the KK scale.
- However it is easy to see that however we cut-off the integral *there can be no  $\delta = 2$  power-law running if there is no  $\delta > 2$  running (which as we just saw is unphysical).*

**Let's see an example: running in a theory with a  $\delta = 2$  decompactification limit**

**Modular invariant renormalisation:**

• SAA, Dienes, 2021

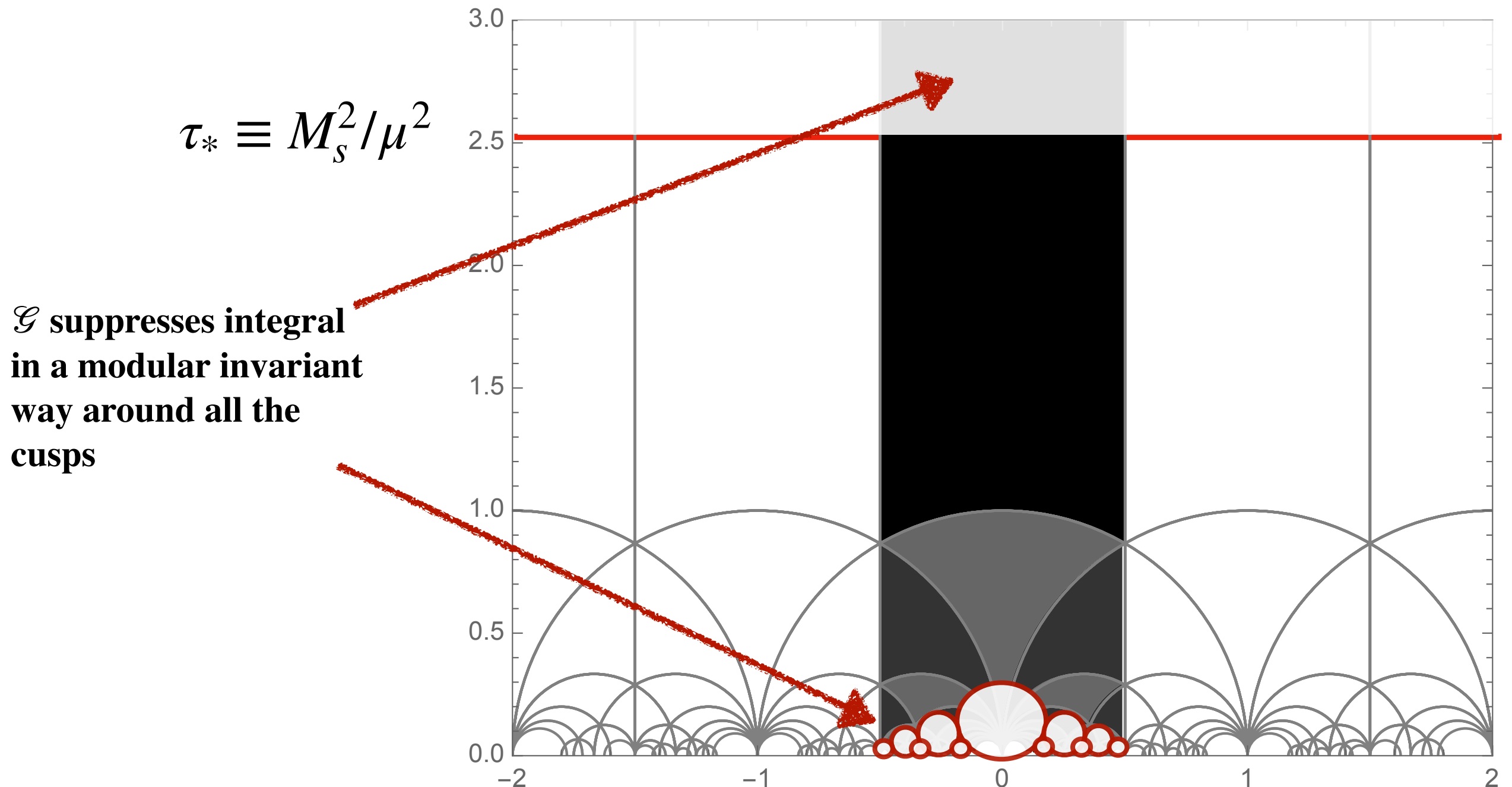
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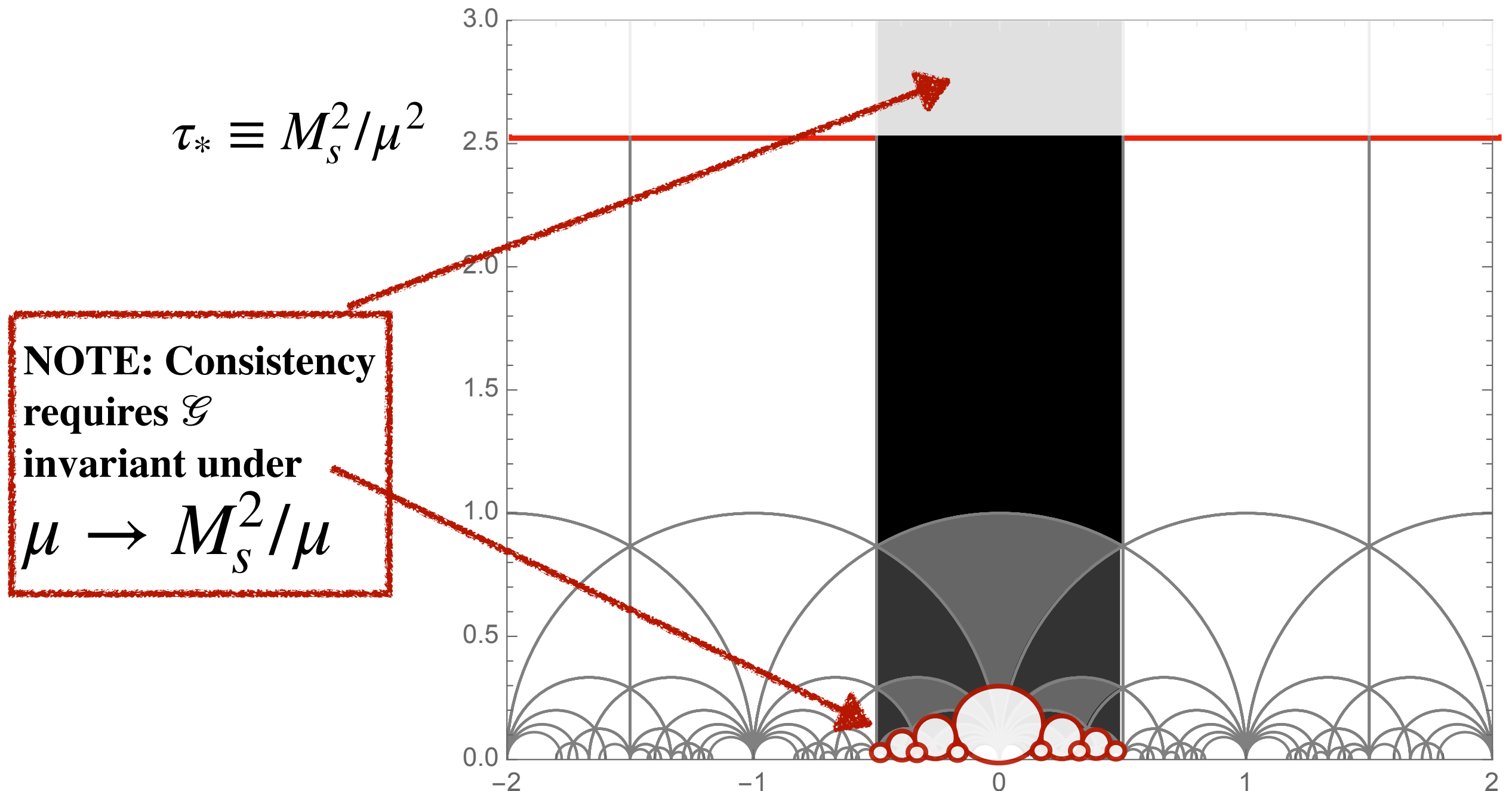


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Inserting such a regulator cut-off function with a 2-torus volume factor we can compare with the famous result of Dixon, Kaplunovsky and Louis, but recovering the entire energy dependence in Bessel functions ...

SAA, Dienes, Nutricati

$$\Delta_G = \frac{-1}{1+a^2\rho} \left\{ \log(cT_2U_2|\eta(T)\eta(U)|^4) + 2\log\sqrt{\rho a} \right. \\ \left. + \frac{8}{\rho-1} \sum_{\gamma,\gamma' \in \Gamma_\infty \setminus \Gamma} \left[ \tilde{\mathcal{K}}_0^{(0,1)} \left( \frac{2\pi}{a\sqrt{\gamma \cdot T_2\gamma' \cdot U_2}} \right) \right. \right. \\ \left. \left. - \frac{1}{\rho} \tilde{\mathcal{K}}_1^{(1,2)} \left( \frac{2\pi}{a\sqrt{\gamma \cdot T_2\gamma' \cdot U_2}} \right) \right] \right\},$$

where

$$\tilde{\mathcal{K}}_\nu^{(n,p)}(z, \rho) = \sum_{k,r=1}^{\infty} (krz)^n \left( K_\nu(krz/\rho) - \rho^p K_\nu(krz) \right)$$

$$c(\rho) \equiv 16\pi^2 \rho^{-\frac{\rho+1}{\rho-1}} e^{-2(\gamma+1)}$$

$$\mu = \sqrt{\rho a} M_s$$

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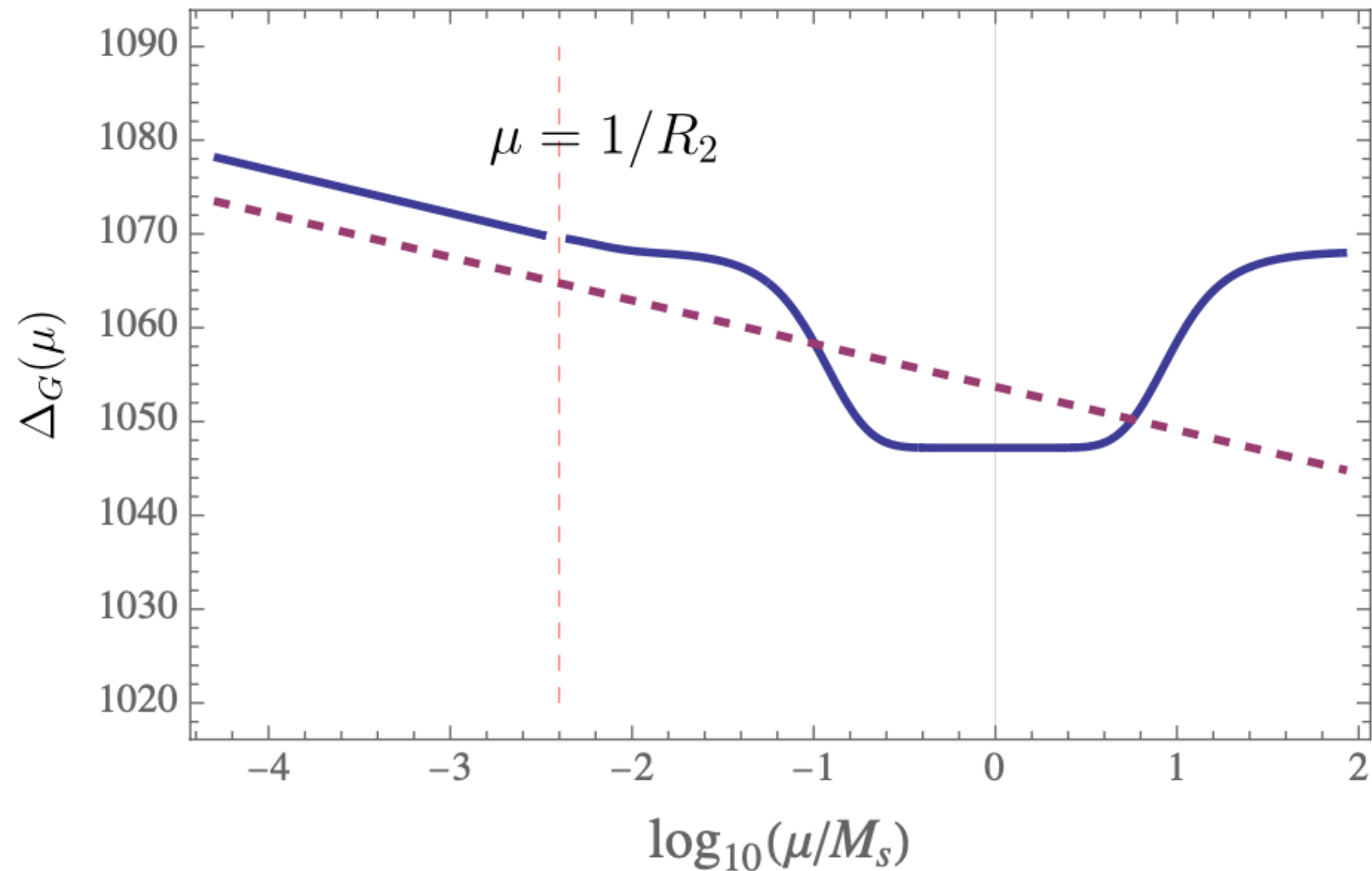
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Rectangular

torus:

$$T_2 = R_2 R_1 = 1000$$

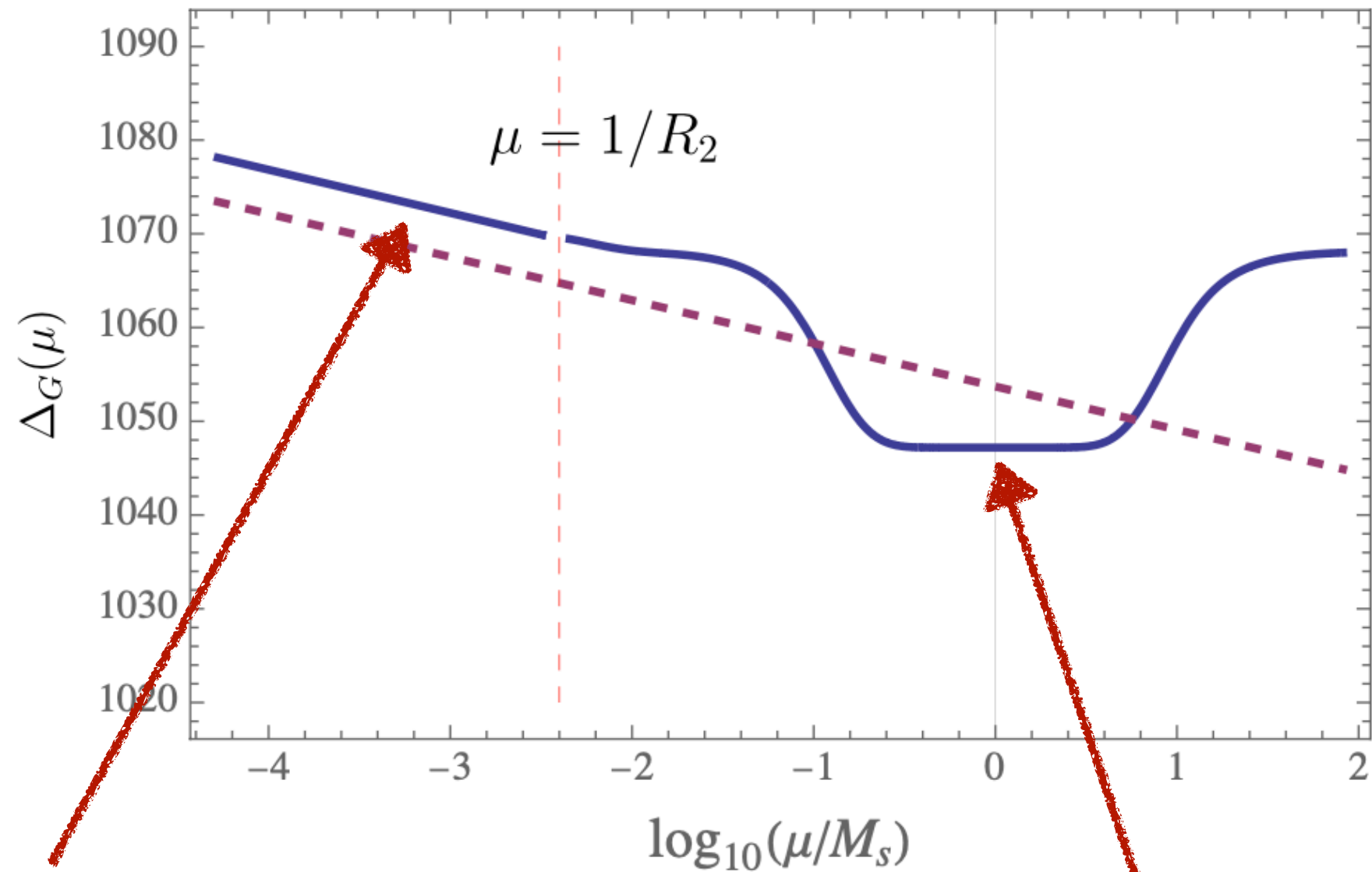
$$U_2 = R_2 / R_1 = 20$$



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Rectangular  
torus:  
 $T_2 = R_2 R_1 = 1000$   
 $U_2 = R_2 / R_1 = 20$



$$\Delta_G \approx \frac{\pi}{3} \left( M_s^2 R_1 R_2 + \frac{R_2}{R_1} \right) - 2 \log(\mu R_2)$$

$$\Delta_G \approx \frac{\pi}{3} M_s^2 R_1 R_2$$

# Conclusions

- Important role of supertraces in allowing an EFT emerge from any modular invariant theory.
- RS provides completely model agnostic understanding of this process
- Each decompactification limit lead to a set of supertrace constraints
- A form of non-renormalisation theorem which is satisfied due to modular invariance
- Phenomenological consequences - no power law running
- Removes “technical hierarchies”: i.e. all the heavy modes yield a constant piece that may be large but which is separated from light modes.
- Links/solutions to hierarchy problem?