

*Curvature Functionals,*  
*Einstein Metrics, &*  
*the Geometry of 4-Manifolds*

Claude LeBrun  
Stony Brook University

Union Mathematical Conference  
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**Definition.** A Riemannian metric  $g$  is said to be Einstein if it has constant Ricci curvature

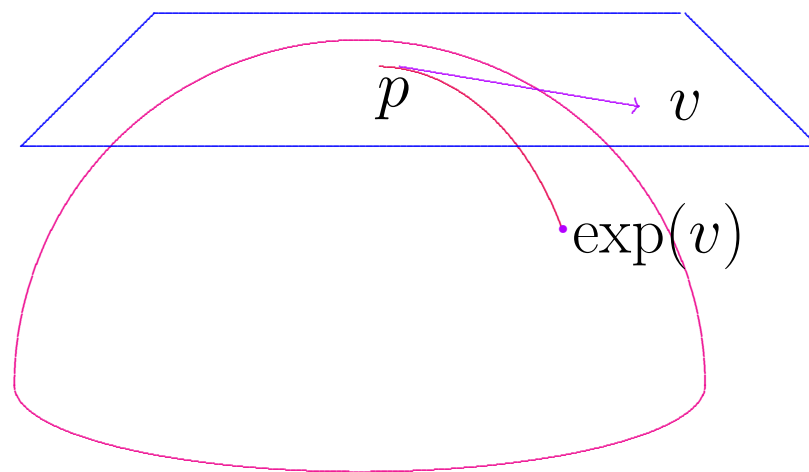
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$$r = \lambda g$$

for some constant  $\lambda \in \mathbb{R}$ .

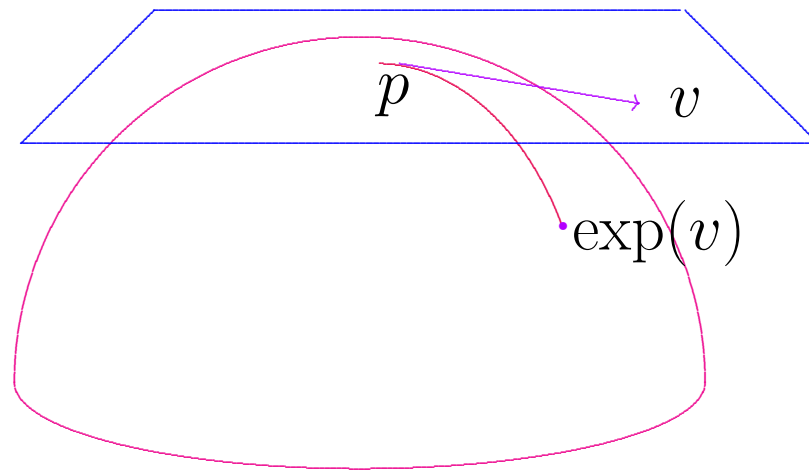
Ricci curvature measures

volume distortion by exponential map:



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In “geodesic normal coordinates”  
metric volume measure is

$$d\mu_g = \left[ 1 - \frac{1}{6} r_{jk} x^j x^k + O(|x|^3) \right] d\mu_{\text{Euclidean}},$$

where  $r$  is the *Ricci tensor*  $r_{jk} = \mathcal{R}^i_{jik}$ .

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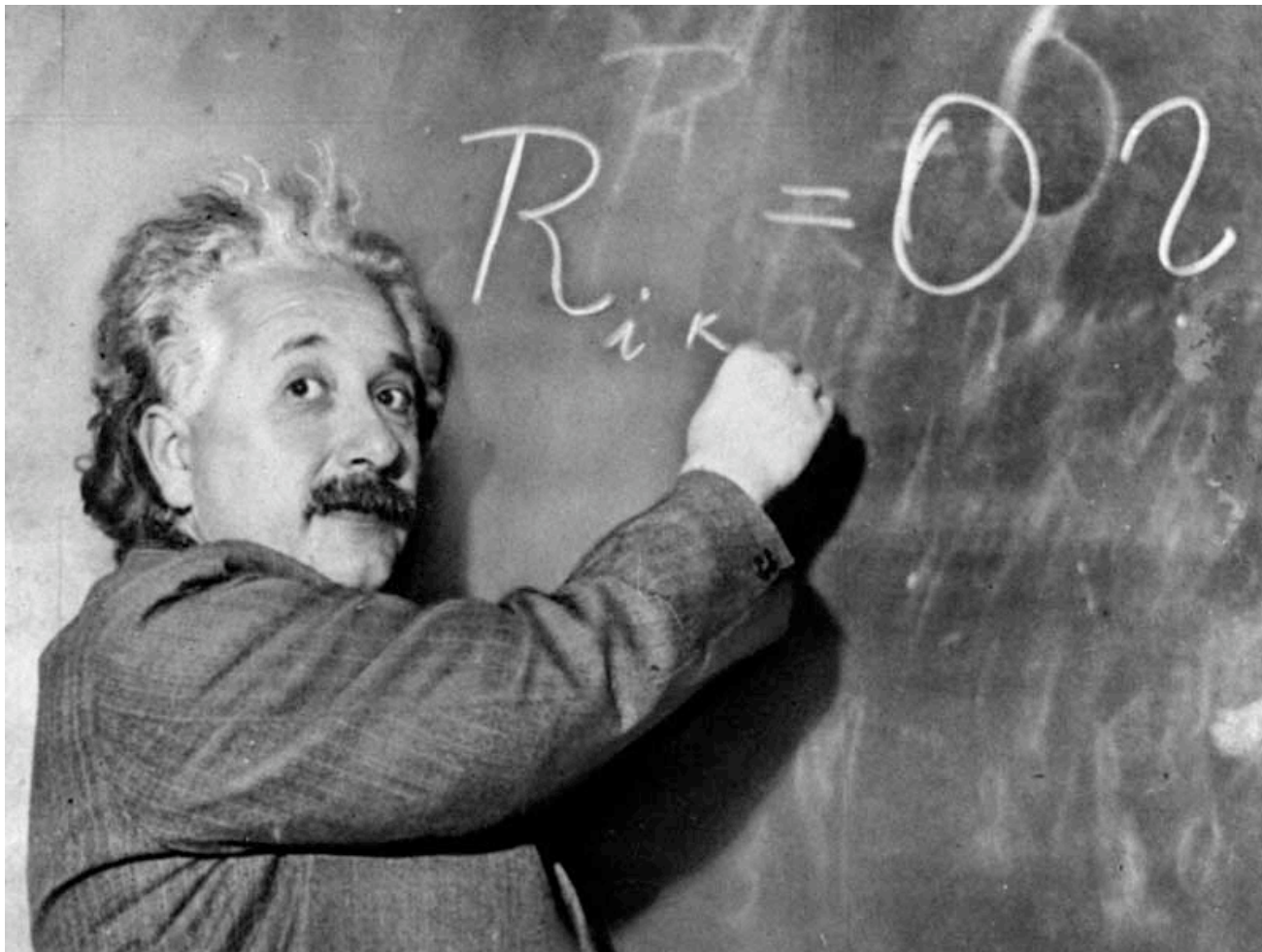
“... the greatest blunder of my life!”

— A. Einstein, to G. Gamow

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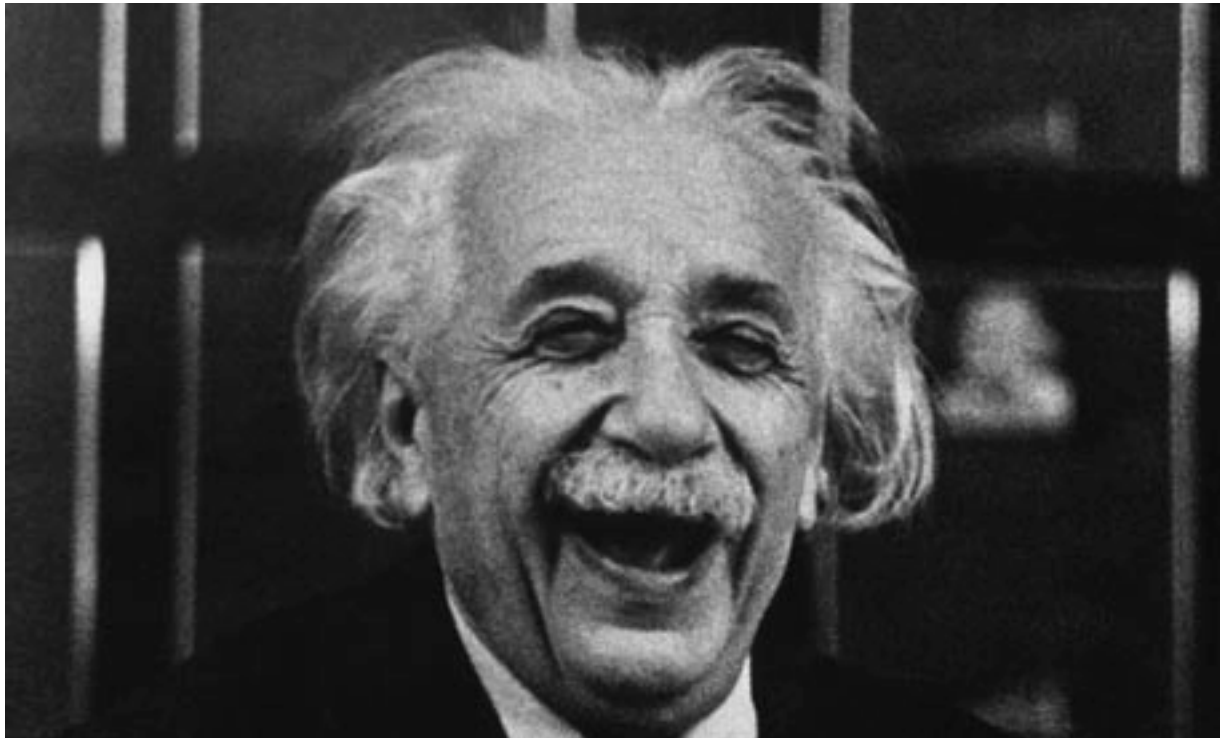
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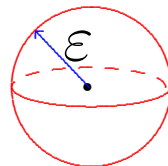
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$$\frac{\text{vol}_g(B_\varepsilon(p))}{c_n \varepsilon^n} = 1 - s \frac{\varepsilon^2}{6(n+2)} + O(\varepsilon^4)$$



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Try to find Einstein metrics by minimizing?

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is realized by an *Einstein* metric  $g_j$  with  $\lambda < 0$ .

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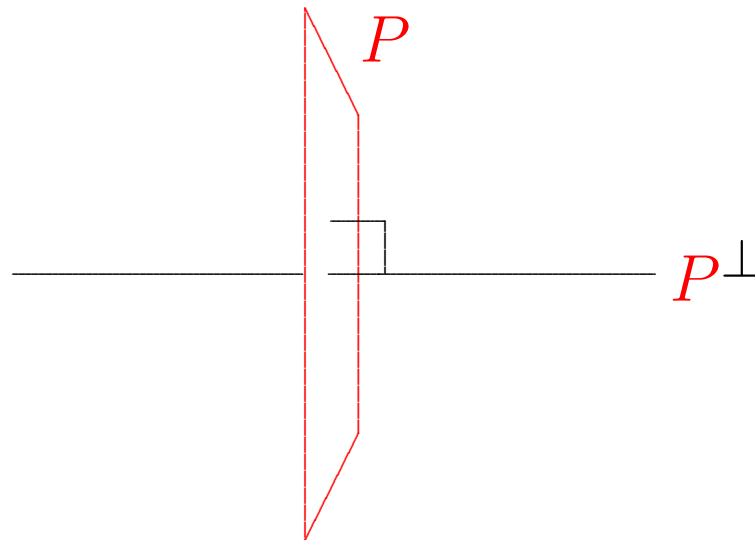
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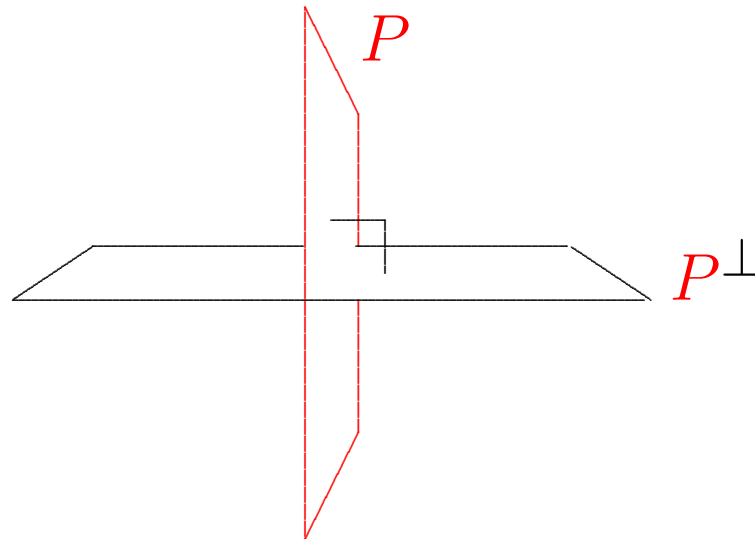
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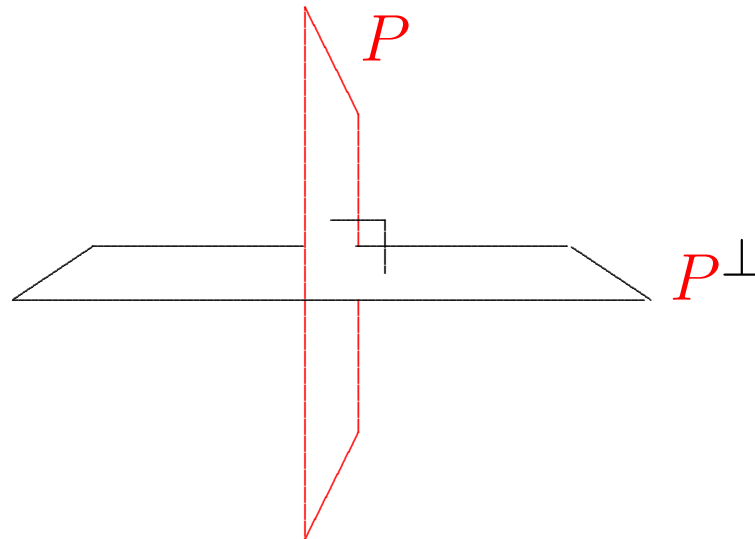
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**More Modest Question.** *If  $(M^4, J)$  is a compact complex surface, when does  $M^4$  admit an Einstein metric  $g$  (unrelated to  $J$ )?*



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Kähler if the 2-form

$$\omega = g(J\cdot, \cdot)$$

is closed:

$$d\omega = 0.$$

But we do not assume this!

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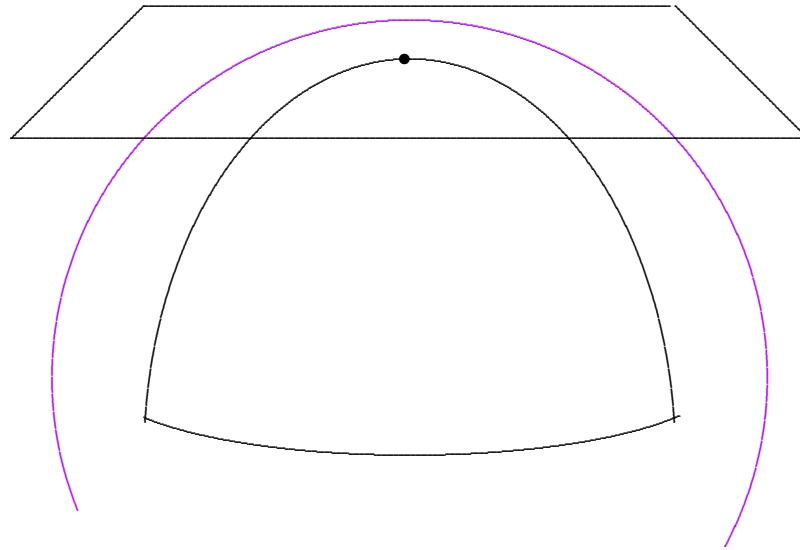
**Only two metrics arise in non-Kähler case!**

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holonomy

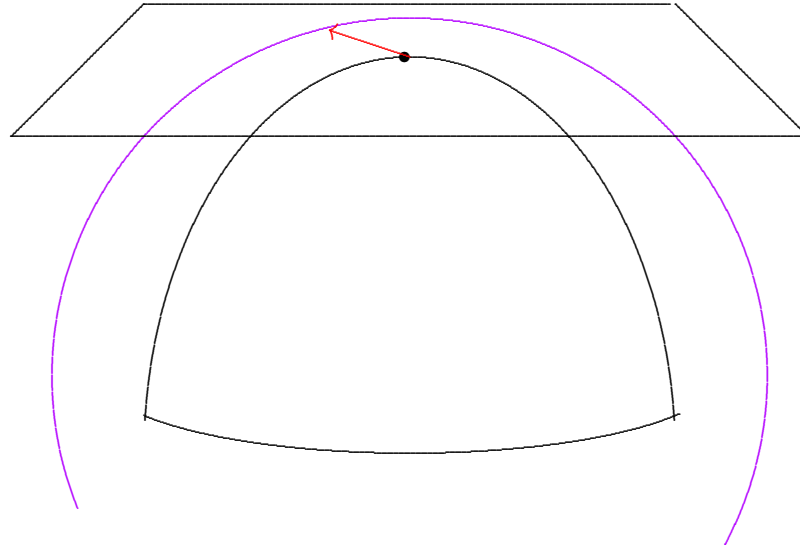
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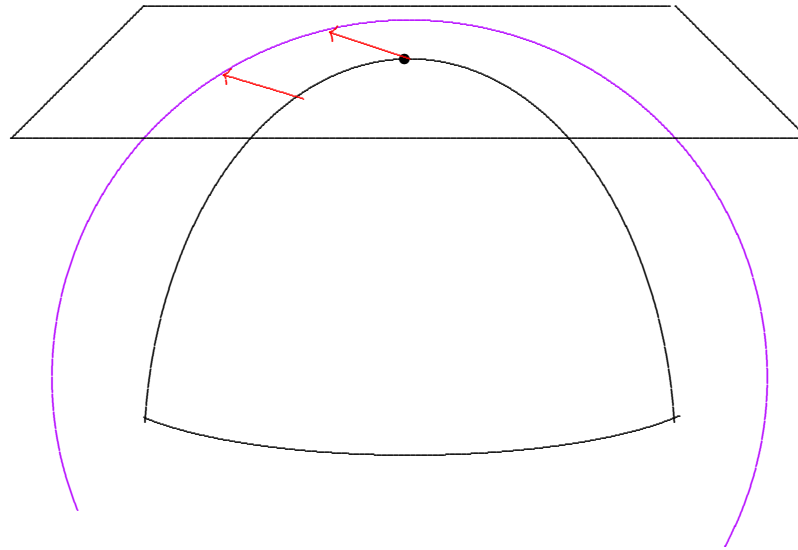
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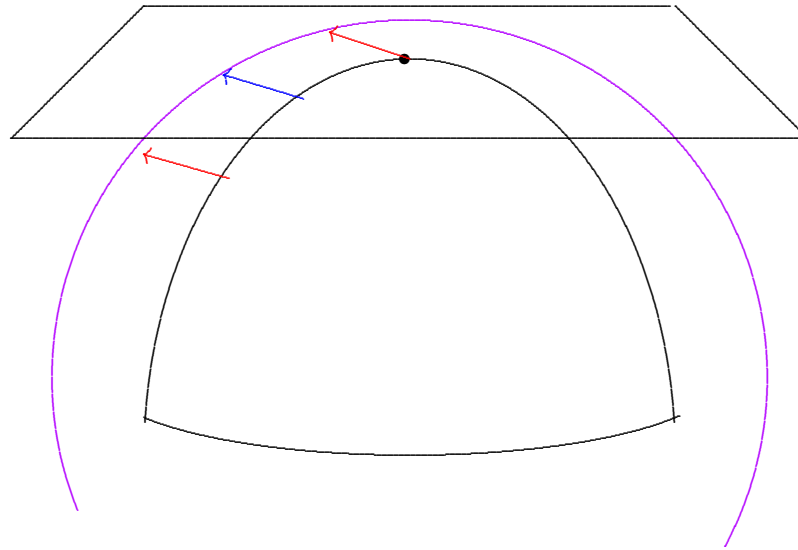
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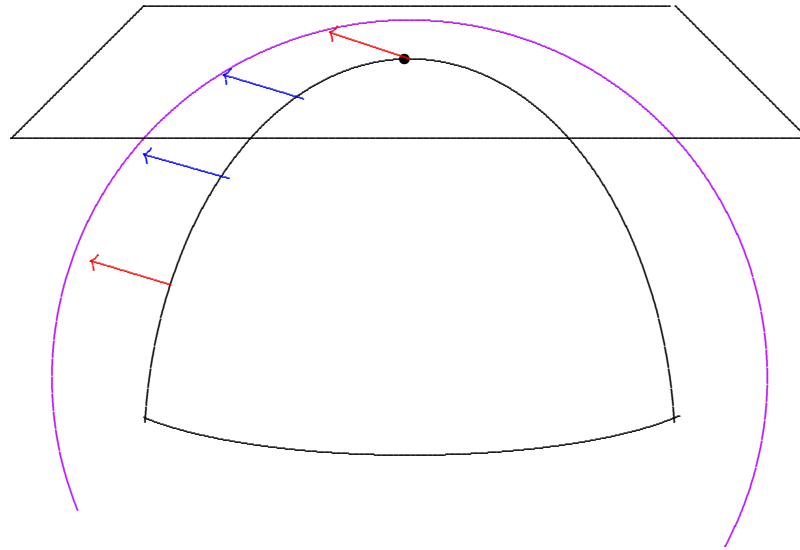
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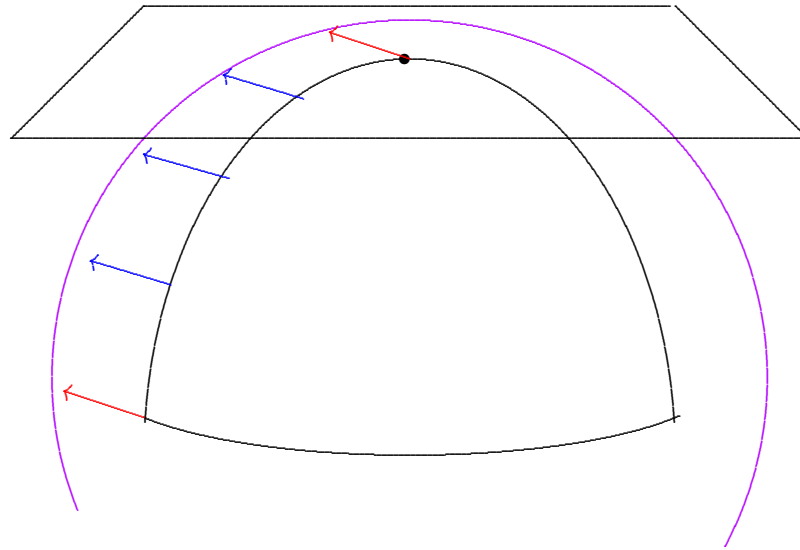
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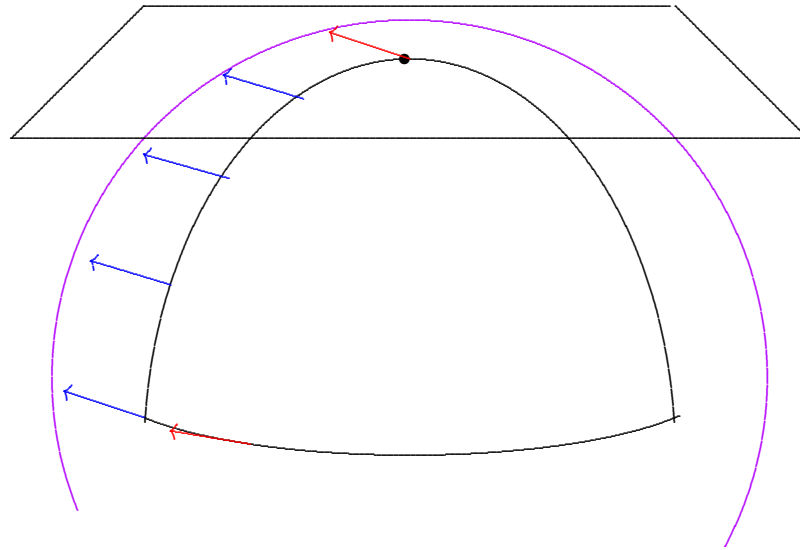
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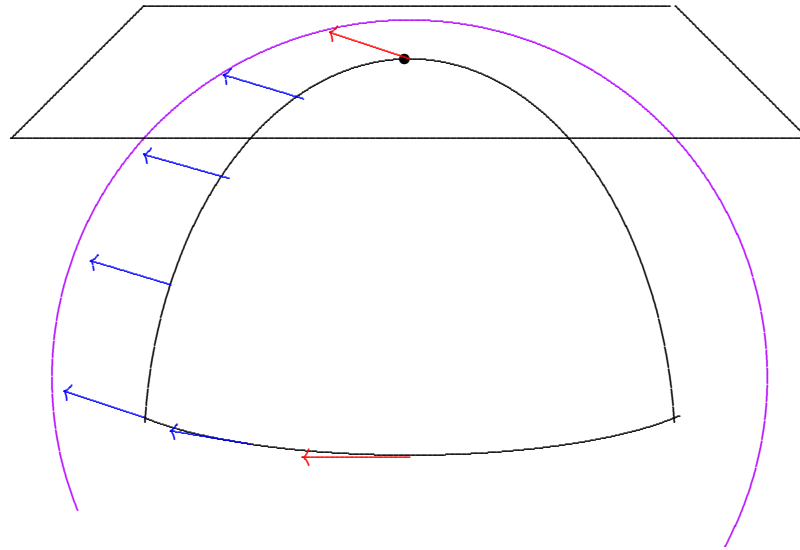
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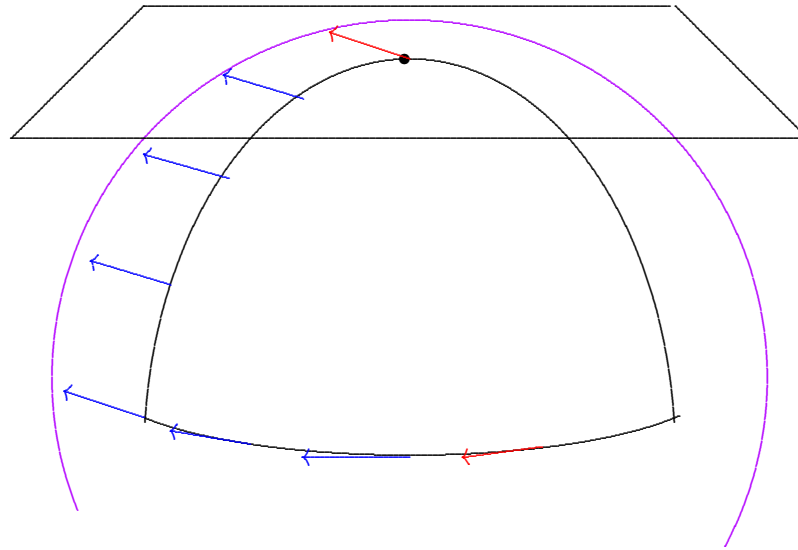
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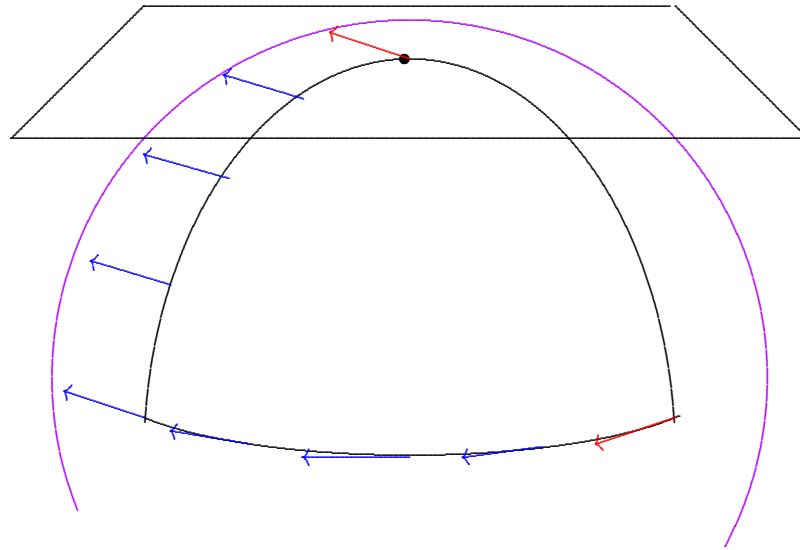
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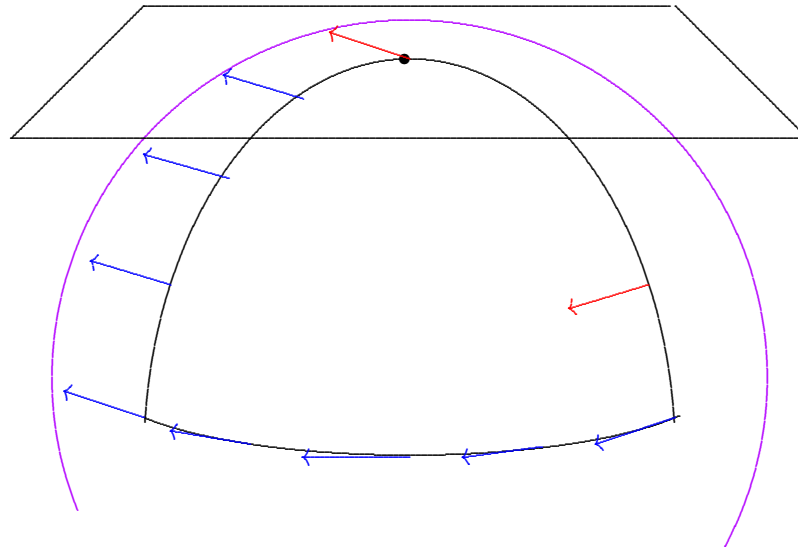
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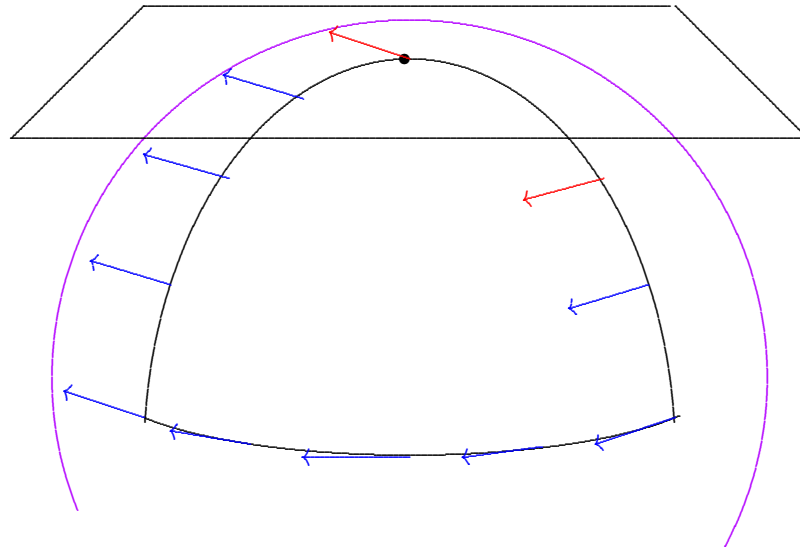
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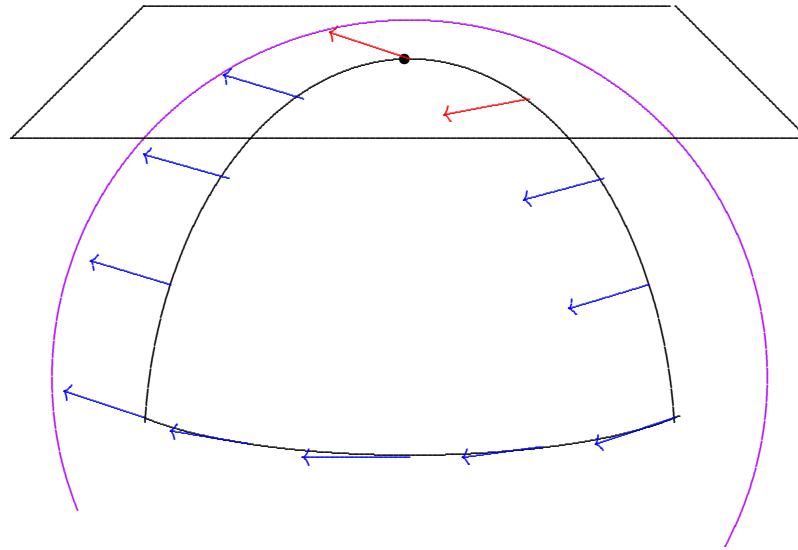
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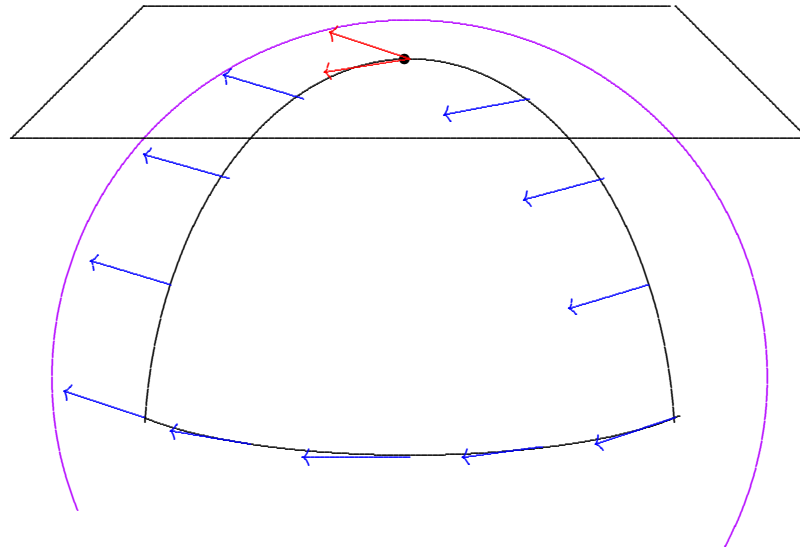
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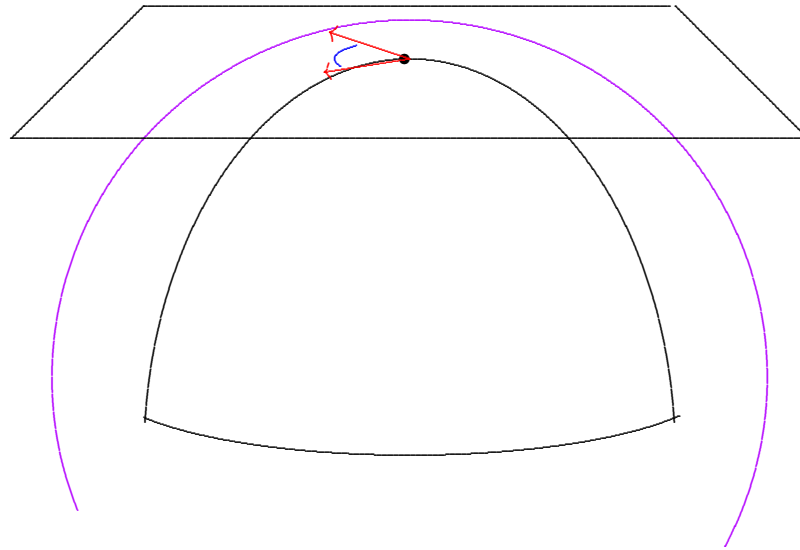
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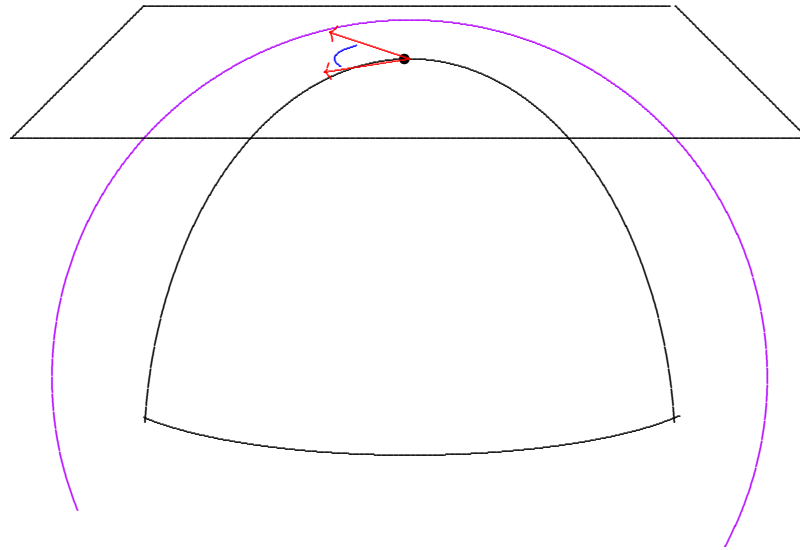
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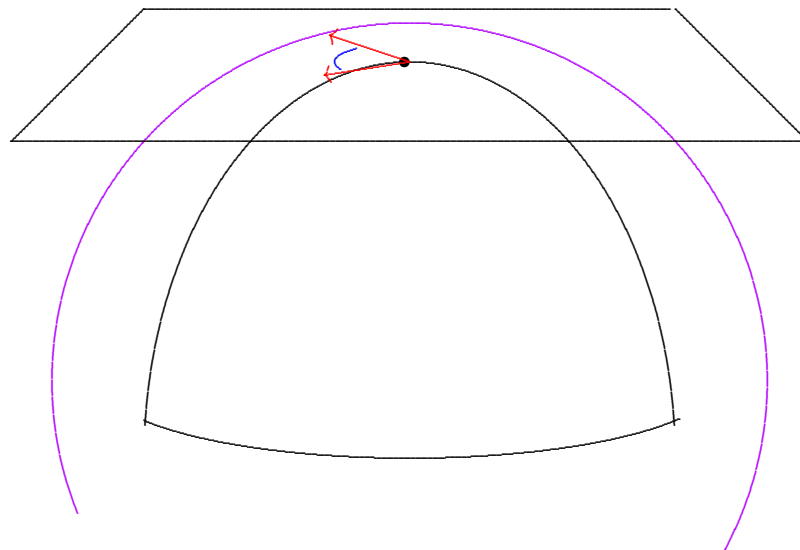
holonomy  $\subset \mathbf{O}(n)$



Kähler metrics:

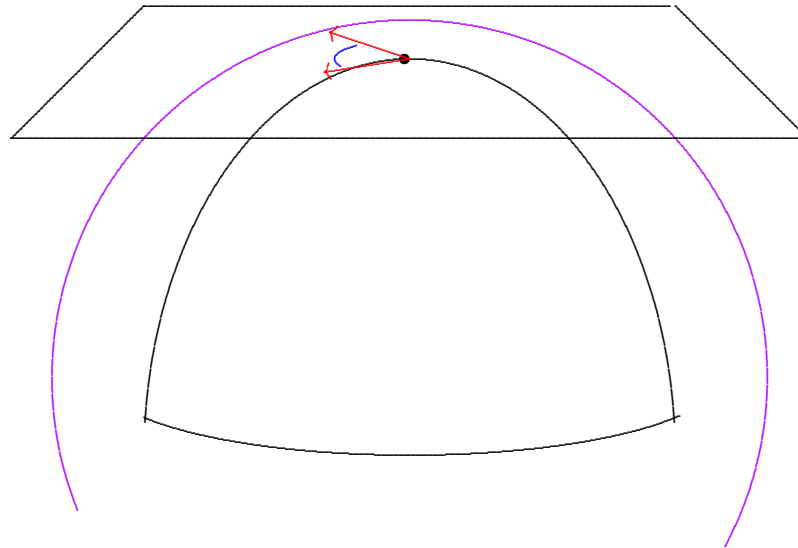
$(M^{2m}, g)$ :

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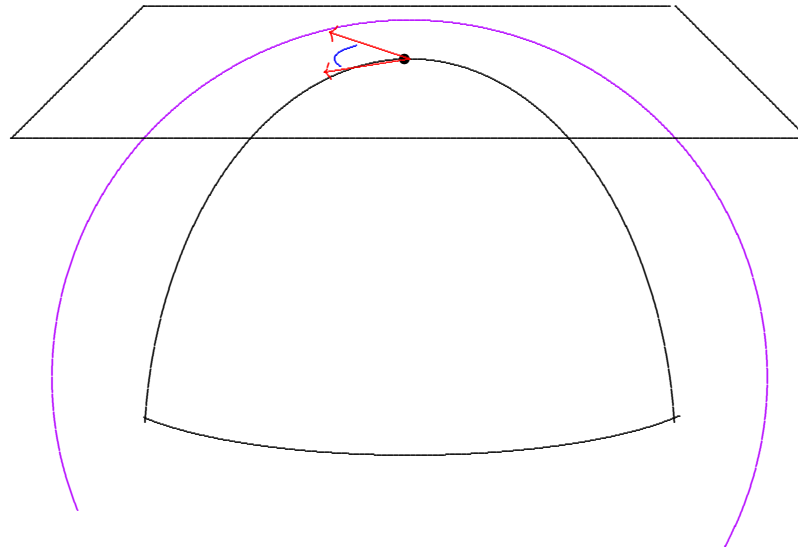
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In other words,

$$g = f\tilde{g}$$

$\exists$  Kähler metric  $\tilde{g}$ , smooth function  $f : M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^+$ .



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But  $S^3 \times S^3$  has no Kähler metric because  $H^2 = 0$ .

We've seen that it is interesting to consider

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But also natural and interesting to consider

$$g \longmapsto \int_M |r|_g^2 d\mu_g$$

or

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However, these are not independent!

$(M, g)$  compact oriented Riemannian.

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for Euler-characteristic  $\chi(M) = \sum_j (-1)^j b_j(M)$ .

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Here  $b_{\pm}(M) = \max \dim \text{subspaces} \subset H^2(M, \mathbb{R})$   
on which intersection pairing

$$\begin{aligned} H^2(M, \mathbb{R}) \times H^2(M, \mathbb{R}) &\longrightarrow \mathbb{R} \\ ([\varphi], [\psi]) &\longmapsto \int_M \varphi \wedge \psi \end{aligned}$$

is positive (resp. negative) definite.

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But independent for general Riemannian metrics.



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$\therefore$  Einstein metrics critical  $\forall$  quadratic functionals!

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**Natural Question.** *When does Einstein metric  $g$  on 4-manifold  $M$  minimize one or both of these functionals?*

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Minimizer in  $[g] \iff g$  is “Yamabe metric.”

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Key idea to to Witten '94.

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Non-linear version of Dirac equation,  
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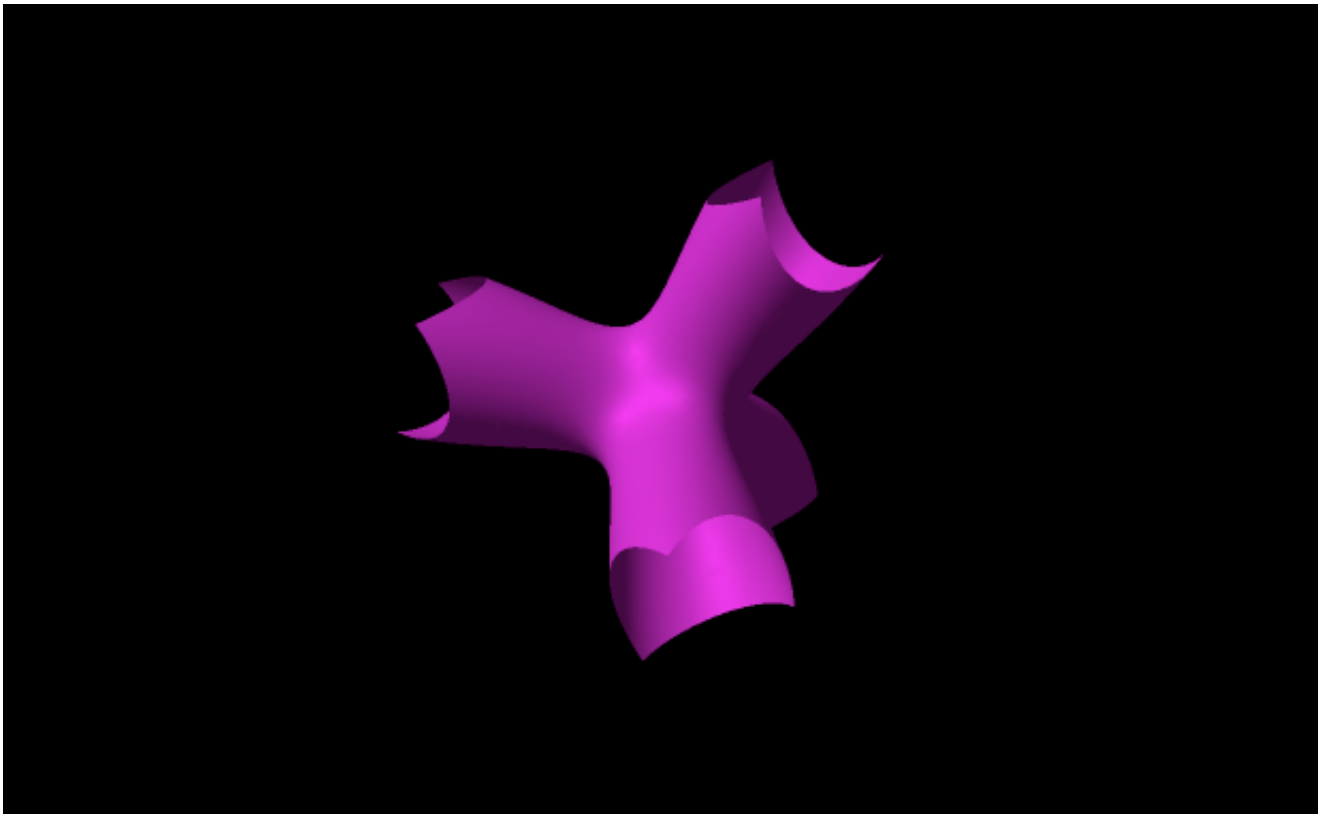


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Einstein metrics with  $\lambda > 0$  **never** minimize  $\int_M s^2 d\mu$ !



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$$Y([\tilde{g}]) > 0 \iff \exists s > 0 \text{ metrics in } [\tilde{g}].$$

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Proof 4-dimensional in details, but not philosophy.

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## Natural Questions.

- *What about Hermitian Einstein metrics?*
- *What about  $[\tilde{g}]$  with  $Y([\tilde{g}]) \leq 0$ ?*

Which complex surfaces admit

Einstein metrics with  $\lambda > 0$ ?



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## Del Pezzo surfaces:

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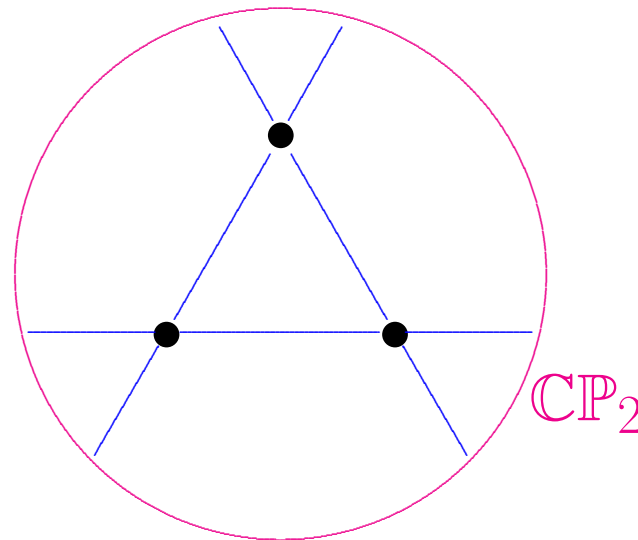
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Blow-up of  $\mathbb{C}P_2$  at  $k$  distinct points,  $0 \leq k \leq 8$ ,  
in general position, or  $\mathbb{C}P_1 \times \mathbb{C}P_1$ .



Blowing up:

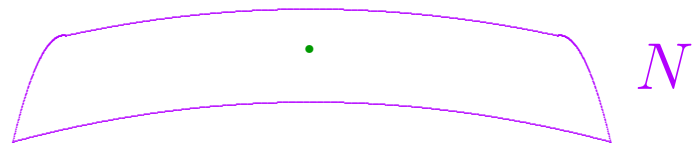
Blowing up:

If  $N$  is a complex surface,



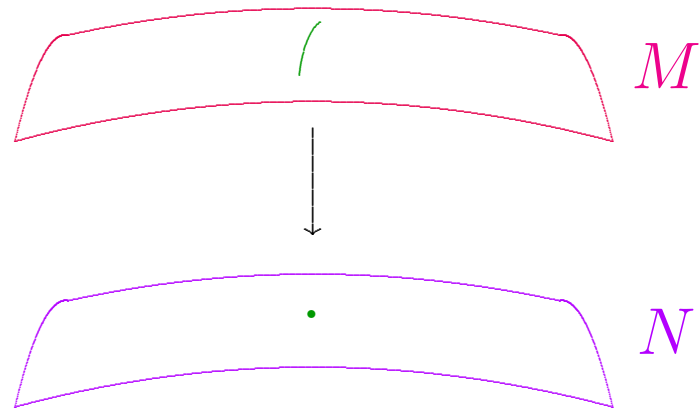
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with  $\mathbb{C}P_1$



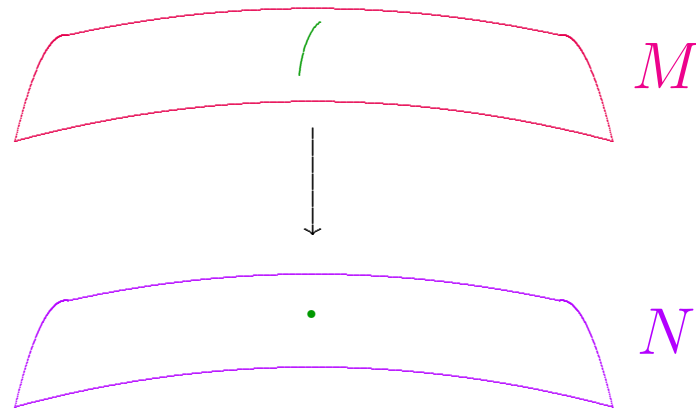


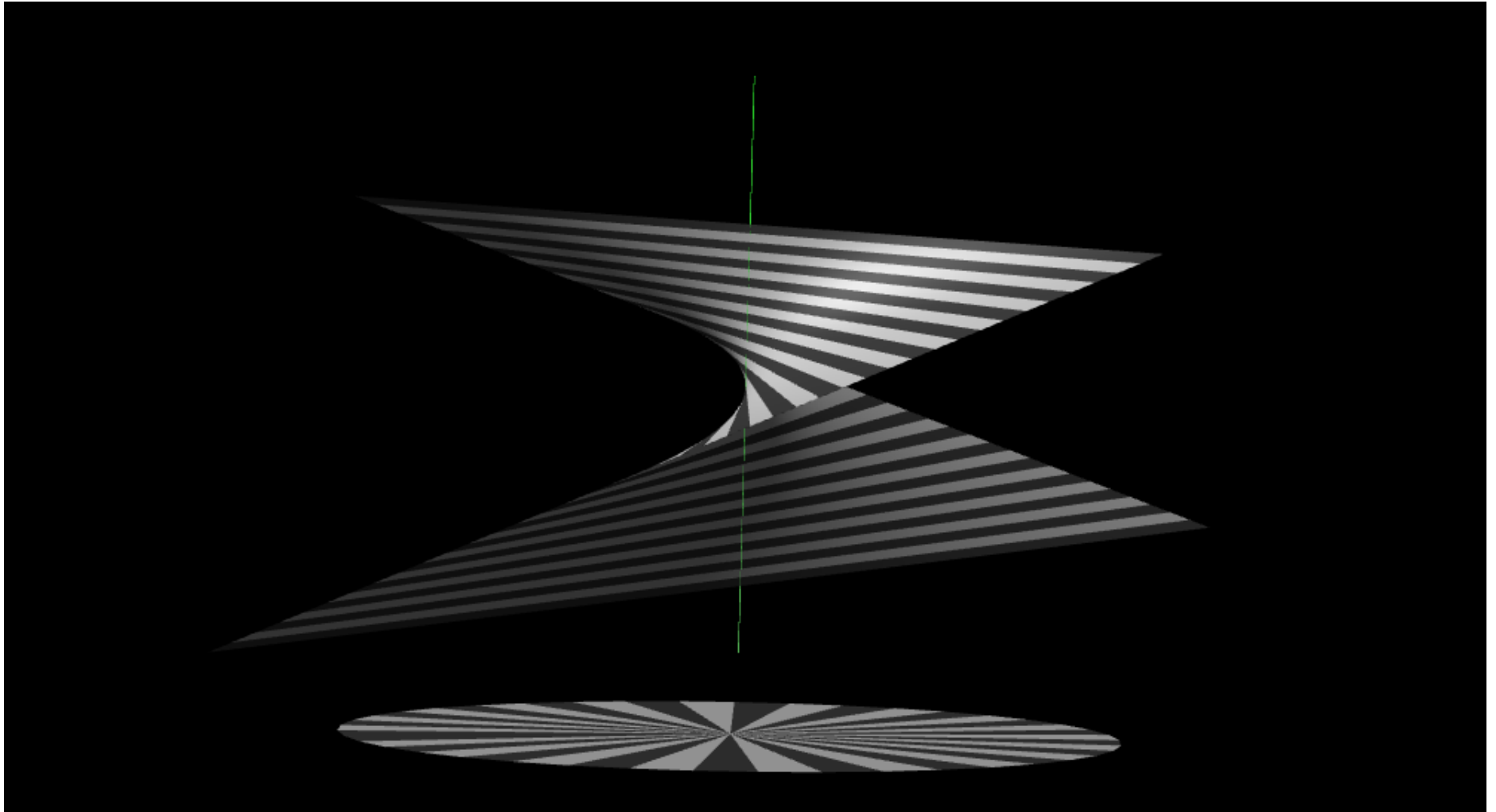
Blowing up:

If  $N$  is a complex surface, may replace  $p \in N$  with  $\mathbb{C}P_1$  to obtain **blow-up**

$$M \approx N \# \overline{\mathbb{C}P_2}$$

in which added  $\mathbb{C}P_1$  has normal bundle  $\mathcal{O}(-1)$ .



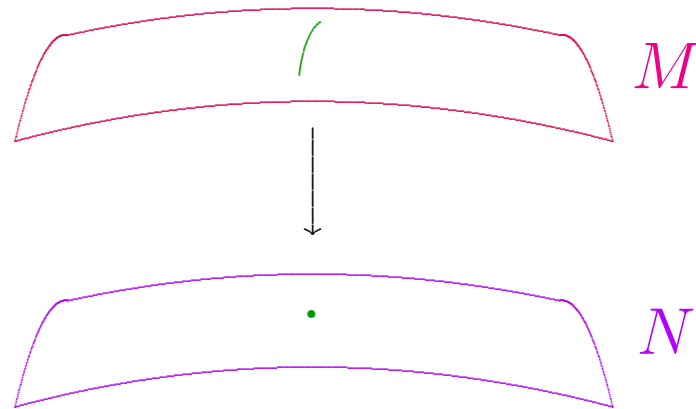


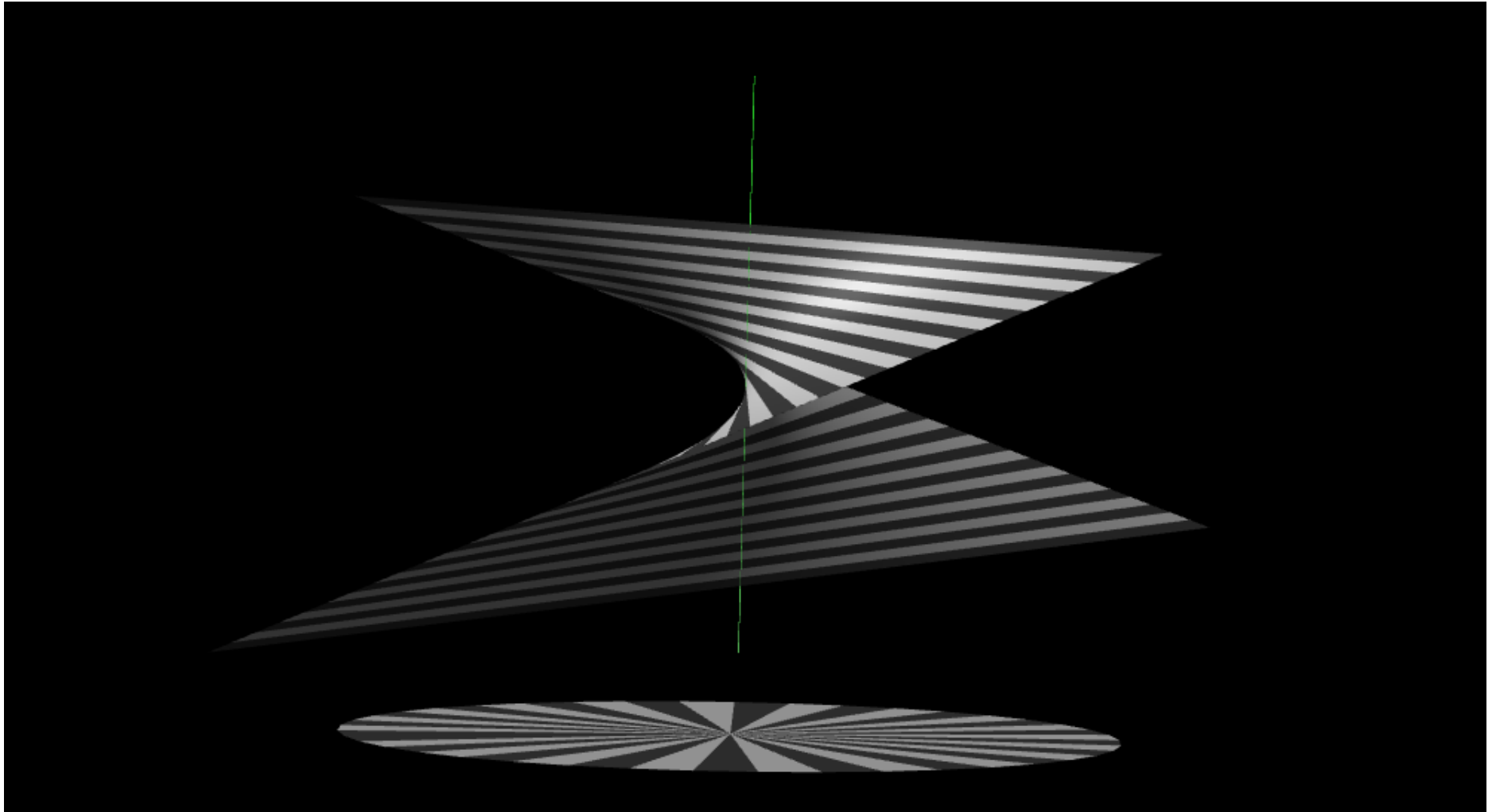
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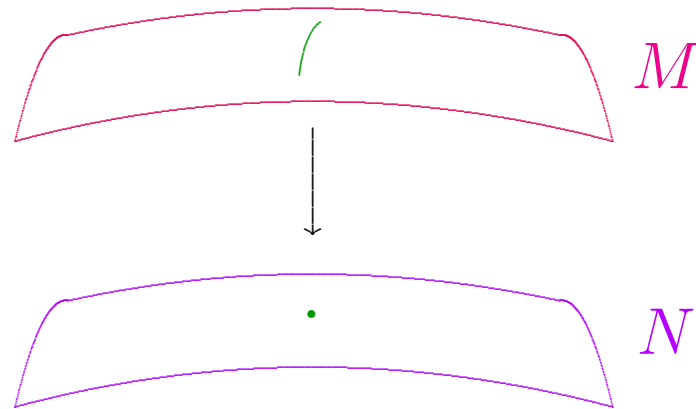


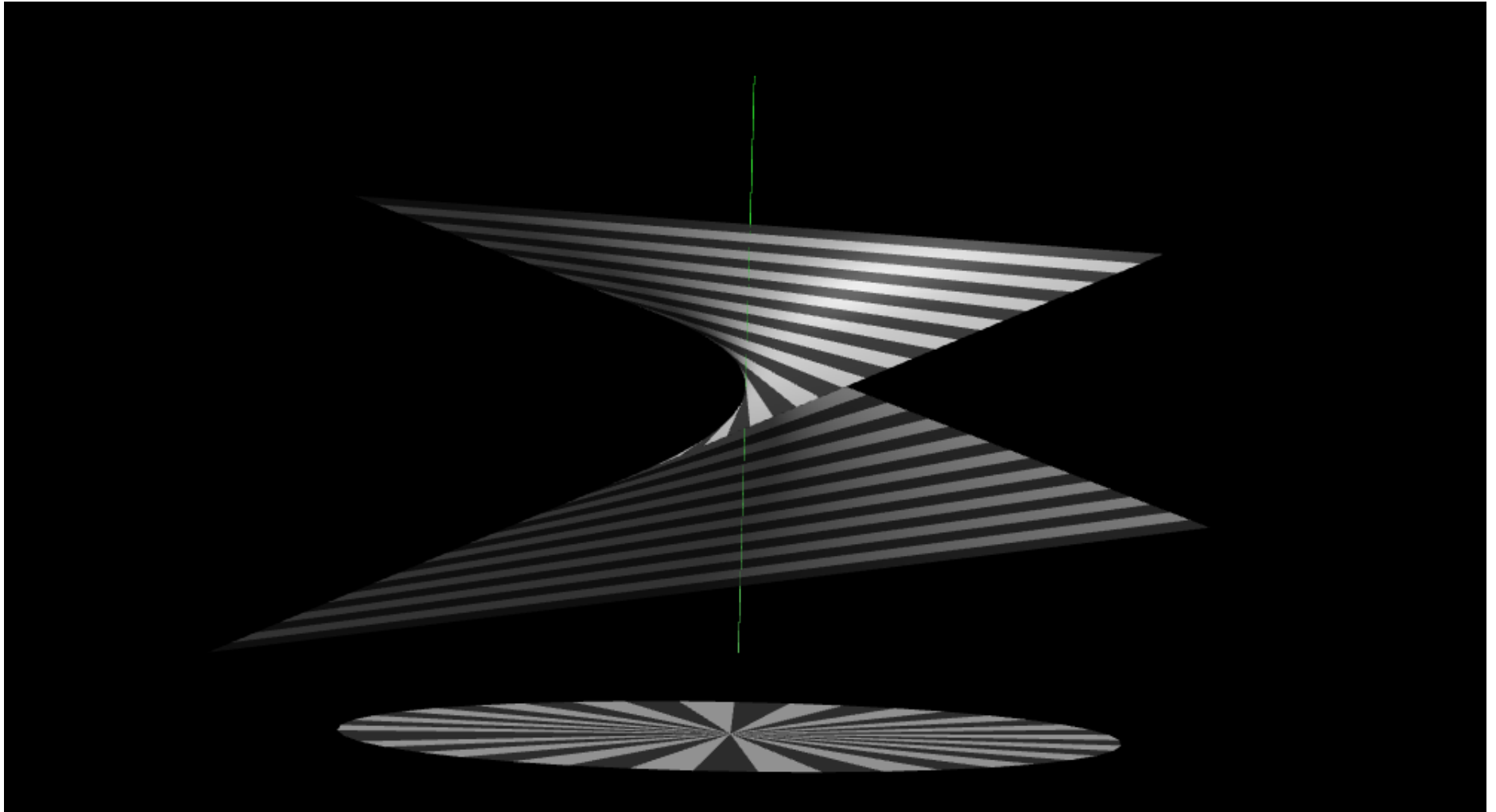
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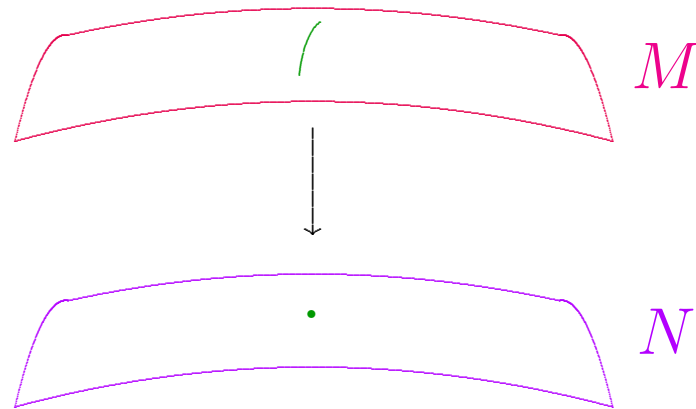


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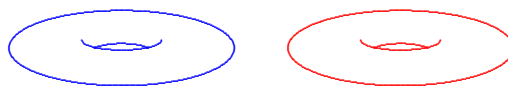


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Connected sum #:

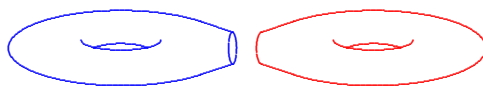


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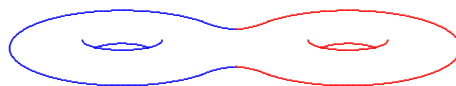


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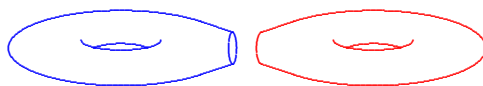


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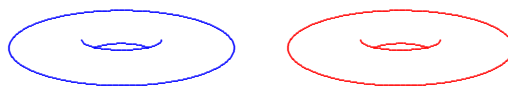


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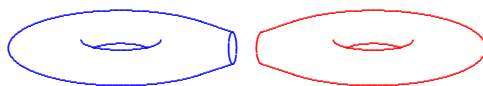


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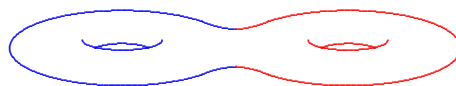


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**Theorem** (CLW '08). *Suppose that  $M$  is a smooth compact oriented 4-manifold which admits a complex structure  $J$ . Then  $M$  also admits an (unrelated) Einstein metric  $g$  with  $\lambda > 0$*

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Proof: Seiberg-Witten & Hitchin-Thorpe ineq.

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Proof also uses results of Taubes, McDuff, et al.

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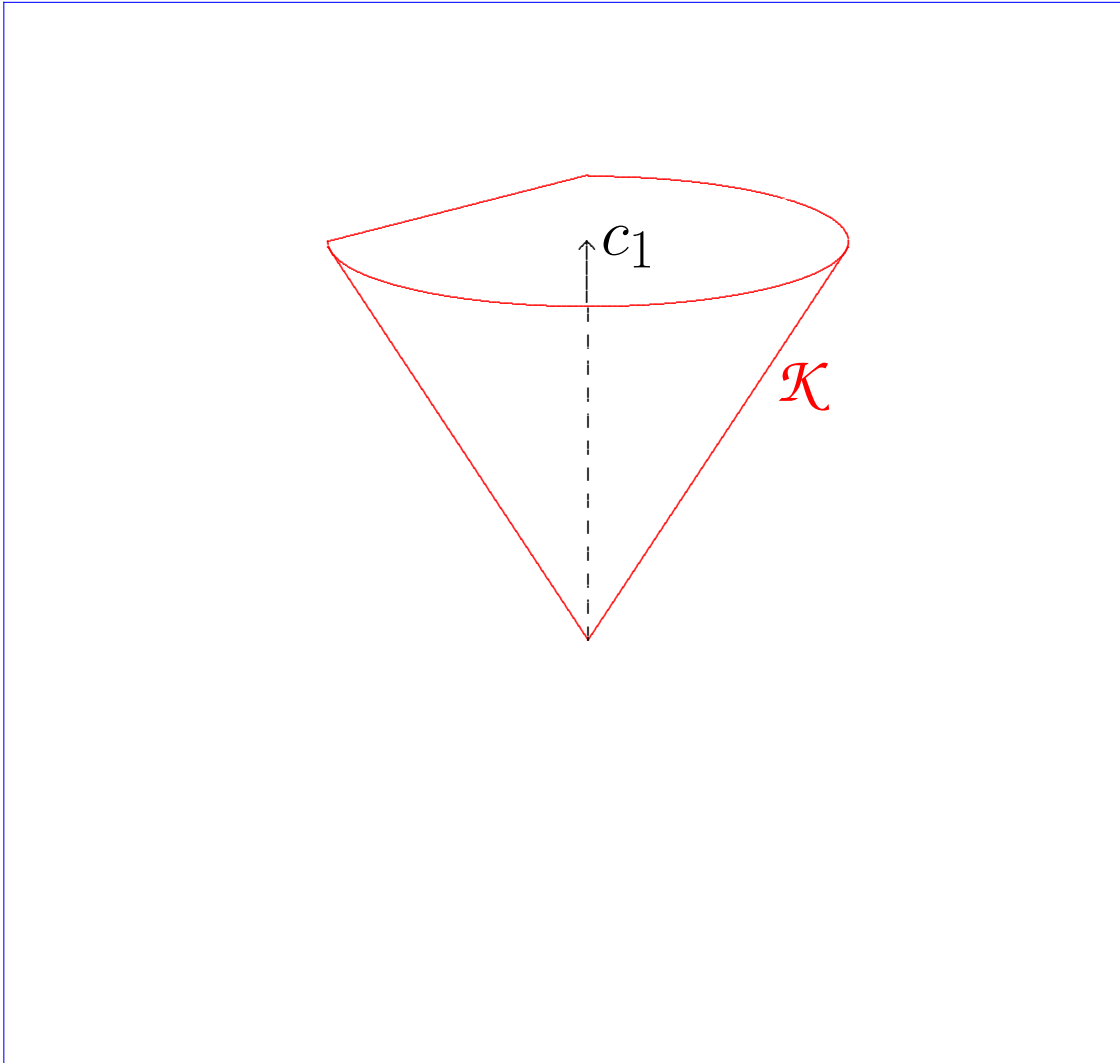
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Must understand critical points of

$$\mathcal{A}([\omega]) = \frac{(c_1 \cdot [\omega])^2}{[\omega]^2} + \frac{1}{32\pi^2} \|\mathcal{F}_{[\omega]}\|^2$$

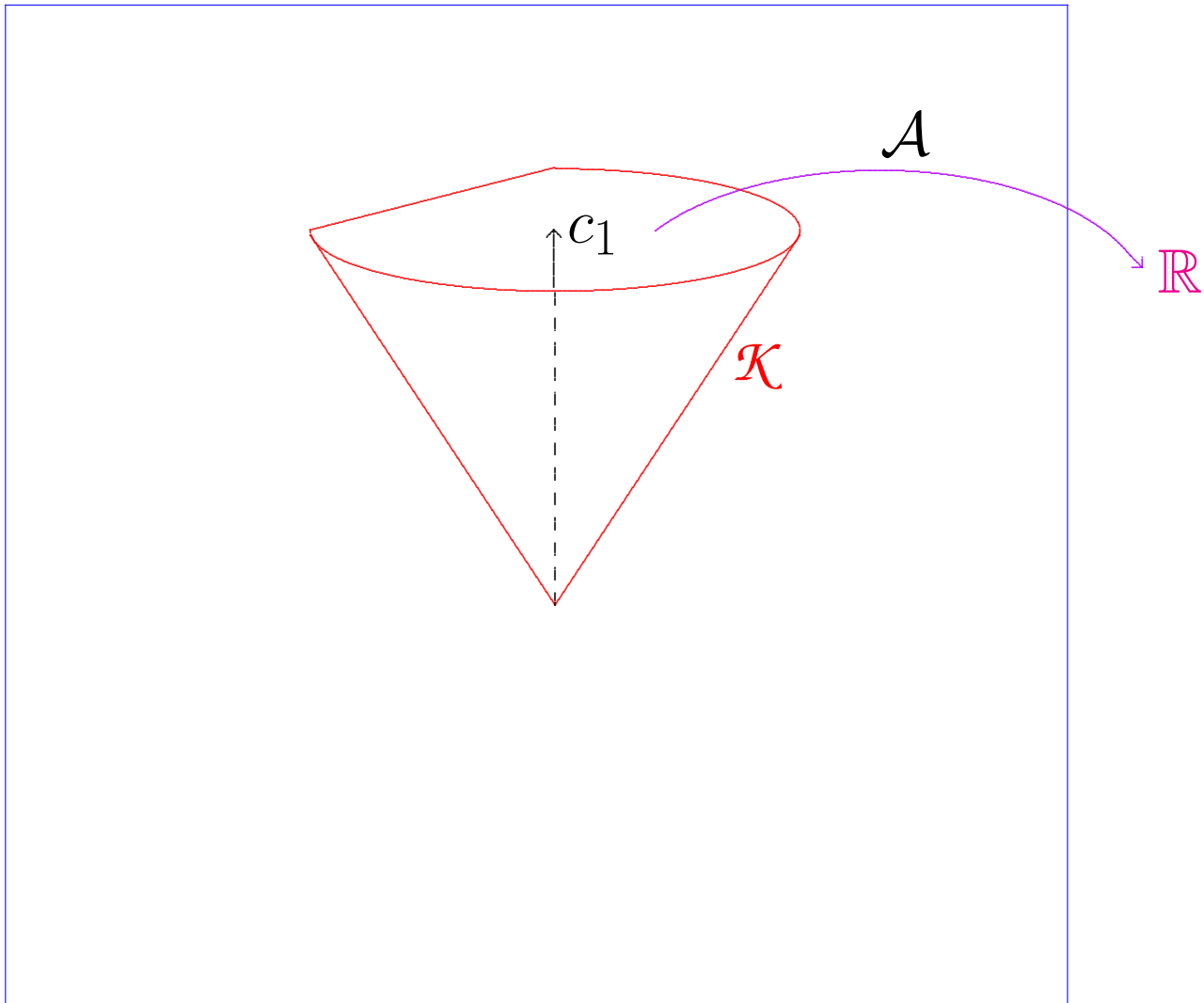
where  $\mathcal{F}$  is Futaki invariant.



$$\mathcal{K} \subset H^{1,1}(M, \mathbb{R}) = H^2(M, \mathbb{R})$$

( $M$  Del Pezzo)

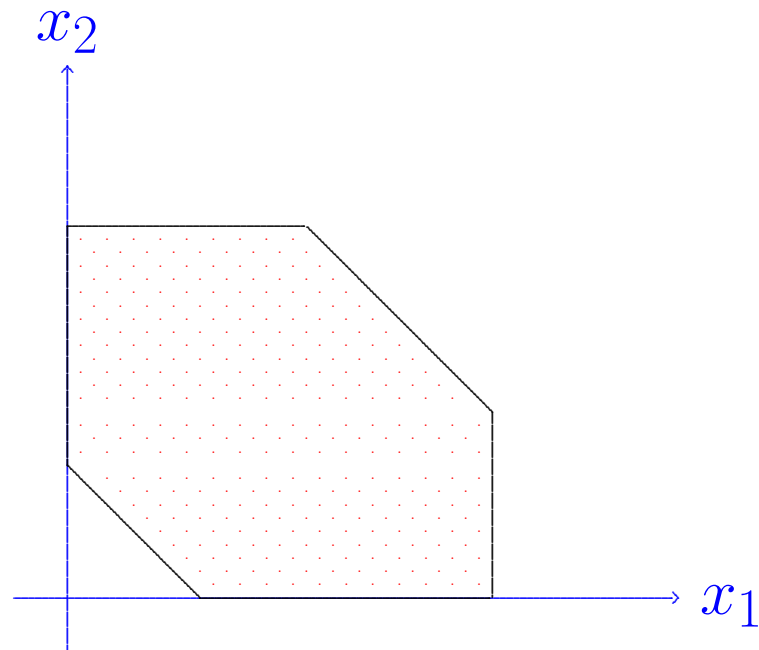




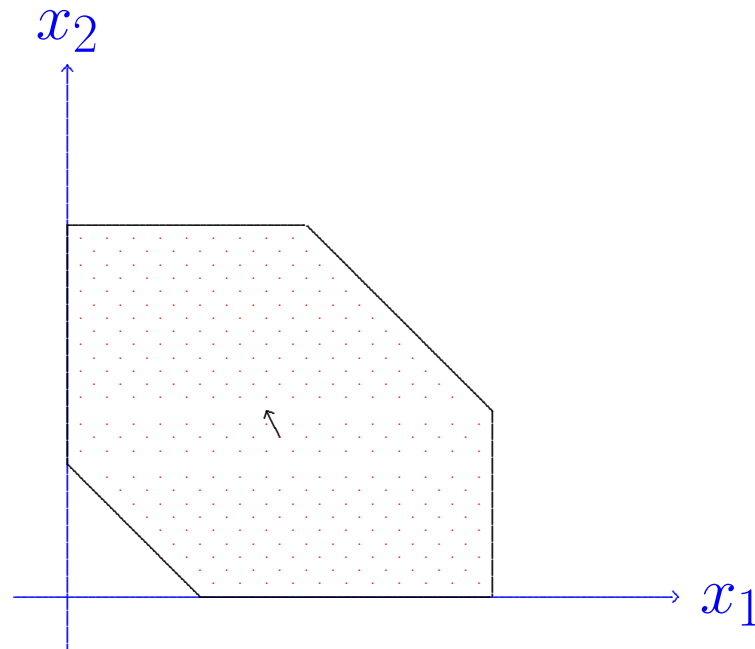
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The non-trivial cases are **toric**, and the action  $\mathcal{A}$  can be directly computed from moment polygon.



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$$\mathcal{A}([\omega]) = \frac{|\partial P|^2}{2} \left( \frac{1}{|P|} + \vec{\mathfrak{D}} \cdot \Pi^{-1} \vec{\mathfrak{D}} \right)$$

$\mathcal{A}$  is explicit rational function —

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but quite complicated!

$$\begin{aligned}
& 3[3 + 28\gamma + 96\gamma^2 + 168\gamma^3 + 164\gamma^4 + 80\gamma^5 + 16\gamma^6 + 16\beta^6(1 + \gamma)^4 + 16\alpha^6(1 + \beta + \gamma)^4 + 16\beta^5(5 + 24\gamma + 43\gamma^2 + 37\gamma^3 + 15\gamma^4 + 2\gamma^5) + 4\beta^4(41 + 228\gamma + 478\gamma^2 + 496\gamma^3 + 263\gamma^4 + \\
& 60\gamma^5 + 4\gamma^6) + 8\beta^3(21 + 135\gamma + 326\gamma^2 + 392\gamma^3 + 248\gamma^4 + 74\gamma^5 + 8\gamma^6) + 4\beta(7 + 58\gamma + 176\gamma^2 + 270\gamma^3 + 228\gamma^4 + 96\gamma^5 + 16\gamma^6) + 4\beta^2(24 + 176\gamma + 479\gamma^2 + 652\gamma^3 + 478\gamma^4 + \\
& 172\gamma^5 + 24\gamma^6) + 16\alpha^5(5 + 2\beta^5 + 24\gamma + 43\gamma^2 + 37\gamma^3 + 15\gamma^4 + 2\gamma^5 + \beta^4(15 + 14\gamma) + \beta^3(37 + 70\gamma + 30\gamma^2) + \beta^2(43 + 123\gamma + 108\gamma^2 + 30\gamma^3) + \beta(24 + 92\gamma + 123\gamma^2 + 70\gamma^3 + \\
& 14\gamma^4)) + 4\alpha^4(41 + 4\beta^6 + 228\gamma + 478\gamma^2 + 496\gamma^3 + 263\gamma^4 + 60\gamma^5 + 4\gamma^6 + \beta^5(60 + 56\gamma) + \beta^4(263 + 476\gamma + 196\gamma^2) + 8\beta^3(62 + 169\gamma + 139\gamma^2 + 35\gamma^3) + 2\beta^2(239 + 876\gamma + 1089\gamma^2 + \\
& 556\gamma^3 + 98\gamma^4) + 4\beta(57 + 263\gamma + 438\gamma^2 + 338\gamma^3 + 119\gamma^4 + 14\gamma^5)) + 8\alpha^3(21 + 135\gamma + 326\gamma^2 + 392\gamma^3 + 248\gamma^4 + 74\gamma^5 + 8\gamma^6 + 8\beta^6(1 + \gamma) + 2\beta^5(37 + 70\gamma + 30\gamma^2) + 4\beta^4(62 + \\
& 169\gamma + 139\gamma^2 + 35\gamma^3) + 4\beta^3(98 + 353\gamma + 428\gamma^2 + 210\gamma^3 + 35\gamma^4) + 2\beta^2(163 + 735\gamma + 1179\gamma^2 + 856\gamma^3 + 278\gamma^4 + 30\gamma^5) + \beta(135 + 736\gamma + 1470\gamma^2 + 1412\gamma^3 + 676\gamma^4 + 140\gamma^5 + \\
& 8\gamma^6)) + 4\alpha(7 + 58\gamma + 176\gamma^2 + 270\gamma^3 + 228\gamma^4 + 96\gamma^5 + 16\gamma^6 + 16\beta^6(1 + \gamma)^3 + 4\beta^5(24 + 92\gamma + 123\gamma^2 + 70\gamma^3 + 14\gamma^4) + 4\beta^4(57 + 263\gamma + 438\gamma^2 + 338\gamma^3 + 119\gamma^4 + 14\gamma^5) + \\
& 2\beta^3(135 + 736\gamma + 1470\gamma^2 + 1412\gamma^3 + 676\gamma^4 + 140\gamma^5 + 8\gamma^6) + 4\beta^2(44 + 278\gamma + 645\gamma^2 + 735\gamma^3 + 438\gamma^4 + 123\gamma^5 + 12\gamma^6) + 2\beta(29 + 210\gamma + 556\gamma^2 + 736\gamma^3 + 526\gamma^4 + 184\gamma^5 + \\
& 24\gamma^6)) + 4\alpha^2(24 + 176\gamma + 479\gamma^2 + 652\gamma^3 + 478\gamma^4 + 172\gamma^5 + 24\gamma^6 + 24\beta^6(1 + \gamma)^2 + 4\beta^5(43 + 123\gamma + 108\gamma^2 + 30\gamma^3) + 2\beta^4(239 + 876\gamma + 1089\gamma^2 + 556\gamma^3 + 98\gamma^4) + 4\beta^3(163 + \\
& 735\gamma + 1179\gamma^2 + 856\gamma^3 + 278\gamma^4 + 30\gamma^5) + 4\beta(44 + 278\gamma + 645\gamma^2 + 735\gamma^3 + 438\gamma^4 + 123\gamma^5 + 12\gamma^6) + \beta^2(479 + 2580\gamma + 5058\gamma^2 + 4716\gamma^3 + 2178\gamma^4 + 432\gamma^5 + 24\gamma^6))] / \\
& [1 + 10\gamma + 36\gamma^2 + 64\gamma^3 + 60\gamma^4 + 24\gamma^5 + 24\beta^5(1 + \gamma)^5 + 24\alpha^5(1 + \beta + \gamma)^5 + 12\beta^4(1 + \gamma)^2(5 + 20\gamma + 23\gamma^2 + 10\gamma^3) + 16\beta^3(4 + 28\gamma + 72\gamma^2 + 90\gamma^3 + 57\gamma^4 + 15\gamma^5) + \\
& 12\beta^2(3 + 24\gamma + 69\gamma^2 + 96\gamma^3 + 68\gamma^4 + 20\gamma^5) + 2\beta(5 + 45\gamma + 144\gamma^2 + 224\gamma^3 + 180\gamma^4 + 60\gamma^5) + 12\alpha^4(1 + \beta + \gamma)^2(5 + 20\gamma + 23\gamma^2 + 10\gamma^3 + 10\beta^3(1 + \gamma) + \beta^2(23 + 46\gamma + \\
& 16\gamma^2) + 2\beta(10 + 30\gamma + 23\gamma^2 + 5\gamma^3)) + 16\alpha^3(4 + 28\gamma + 72\gamma^2 + 90\gamma^3 + 57\gamma^4 + 15\gamma^5 + 15\beta^5(1 + \gamma)^2 + 3\beta^4(19 + 57\gamma + 50\gamma^2 + 13\gamma^3) + 3\beta^3(30 + 120\gamma + 155\gamma^2 + 78\gamma^3 + \\
& 13\gamma^4) + 3\beta^2(24 + 120\gamma + 206\gamma^2 + 155\gamma^3 + 50\gamma^4 + 5\gamma^5) + \beta(28 + 168\gamma + 360\gamma^2 + 360\gamma^3 + 171\gamma^4 + 30\gamma^5)) + 12\alpha^2(3 + 24\gamma + 69\gamma^2 + 96\gamma^3 + 68\gamma^4 + 20\gamma^5 + 20\beta^5(1 + \gamma)^3 + \\
& \beta^4(68 + 272\gamma + 366\gamma^2 + 200\gamma^3 + 36\gamma^4) + 4\beta^3(24 + 120\gamma + 206\gamma^2 + 155\gamma^3 + 50\gamma^4 + 5\gamma^5) + 2\beta(12 + 84\gamma + 207\gamma^2 + 240\gamma^3 + 136\gamma^4 + 30\gamma^5) + \beta^2(69 + 414\gamma + 864\gamma^2 + \\
& 824\gamma^3 + 366\gamma^4 + 60\gamma^5)) + 2\alpha(5 + 45\gamma + 144\gamma^2 + 224\gamma^3 + 180\gamma^4 + 60\gamma^5 + 60\beta^5(1 + \gamma)^4 + 12\beta^4(15 + 75\gamma + 136\gamma^2 + 114\gamma^3 + 43\gamma^4 + 5\gamma^5) + 12\beta^2(12 + 84\gamma + 207\gamma^2 + \\
& 240\gamma^3 + 136\gamma^4 + 30\gamma^5) + 8\beta^3(28 + 168\gamma + 360\gamma^2 + 360\gamma^3 + 171\gamma^4 + 30\gamma^5) + 3\beta(15 + 120\gamma + 336\gamma^2 + 448\gamma^3 + 300\gamma^4 + 80\gamma^5))]
\end{aligned}$$

**Theorem** (L '12). *Let  $g$  be Einstein, Hermitian metric on be a Del Pezzo surface  $(M^4, J)$ . Then  $[g]$  minimizes  $\int_M |W_+|^2 d\mu$  among all conformally Kähler metrics on  $(M^4, J)$ .*

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- most such classes have  $Y([g]) < 0$ .

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This recovers Gursky's inequality — but for a different open set of conformal classes!

**Theorem C.** *Let  $M$  be the underlying 4-manifold of a toric del Pezzo surface, and let  $g$  be Einstein, Hermitian metric on  $M$*



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Key inequality:

$$\int_M |W_+|^2 d\mu \geq \frac{4\pi^2}{3} \mathcal{A}([\omega]),$$

with equality only if  $[\tilde{g}]$  contains extremal Kähler metrics.

**Conjecture.** *If  $M^4$  admits an Einstein, Hermitian metric  $g$  with  $\lambda > 0$ , then  $[g]$  minimizes  $\int_M |W_+|^2 d\mu$  among all conformal classes on  $M$ .*

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Non-Kähler cases: eliminate toric condition?