

# Fitting fermion masses in F-theory

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**Based on:**

Carta, F.M., Zoccarato

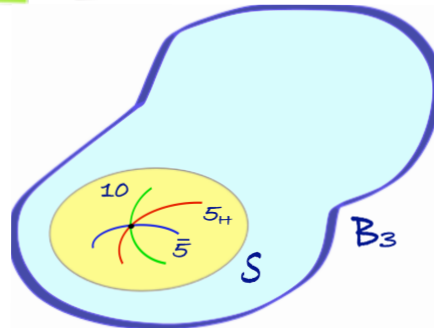
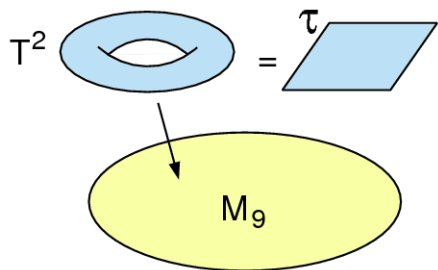
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and

F.M., Regalado, Zoccarato

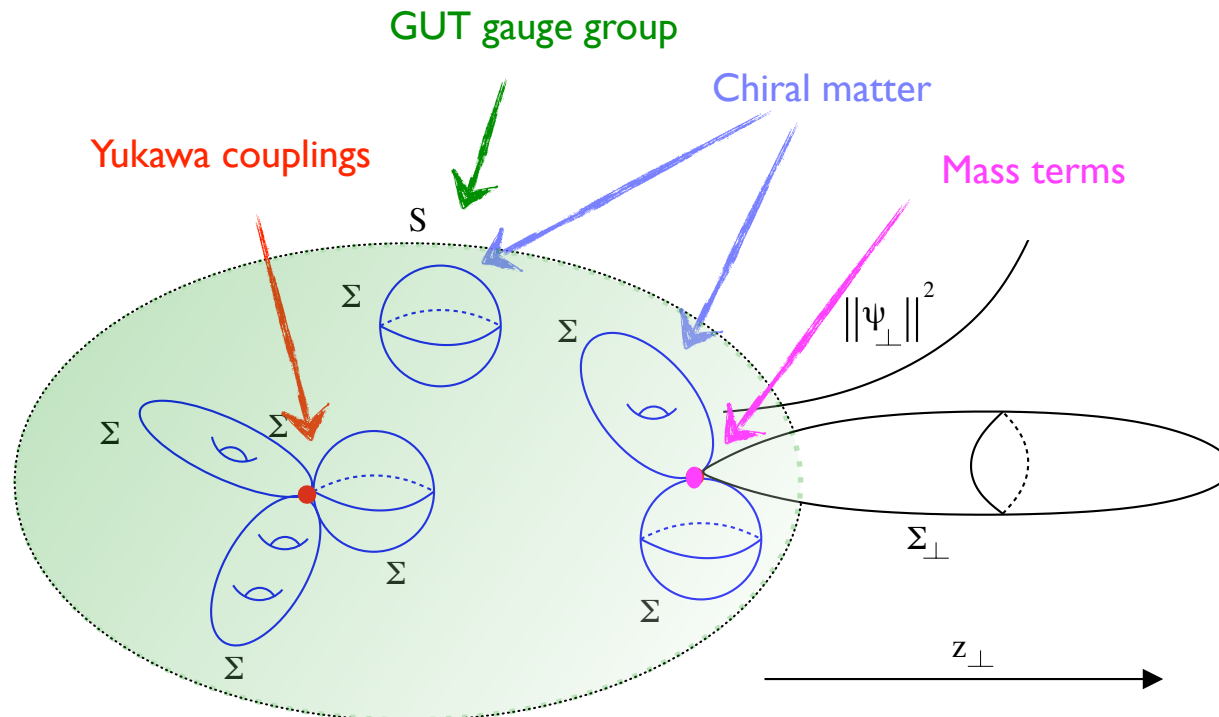
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# F-theory at 12



# Key promises of F-theory GUTs

- Gauge coupling unification
- Realistic Yukawa couplings  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \blacklozenge \text{ Tree level top Yukawa (b.t. type II)} \\ \blacklozenge \text{ Local computation (b.t. heterotic)} \end{array} \right.$
- Doublet-triplet splitting via hypercharge flux



# Key promises of F-theory GUTs

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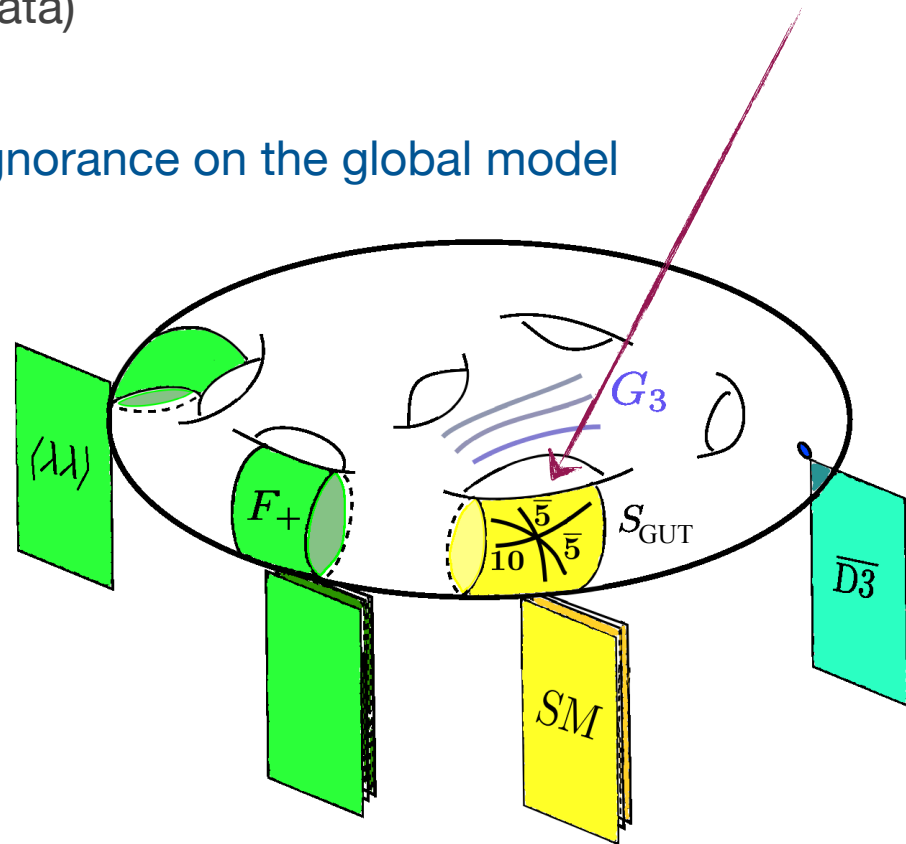
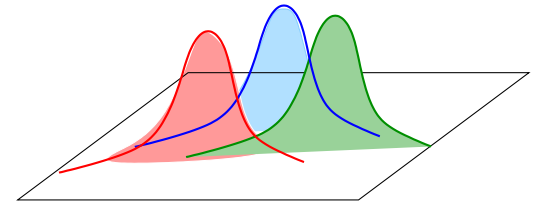
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- Doublet-triplet splitting via hypercharge flux

In addition:

- $\blacklozenge$  Good control over complex geometry
- $\blacklozenge$  Moduli stabilisation well developed

# Key features of Yukawa couplings

- Computed via dim. red. of a 8d gauge theory on  $S_{\text{GUT}}$
- Depend on **ultra-local data** around some points in  $S_{\text{GUT}}$  (holomorphic Yukawas on fewer data)
- Such local data parametrise our **ignorance on the global model**

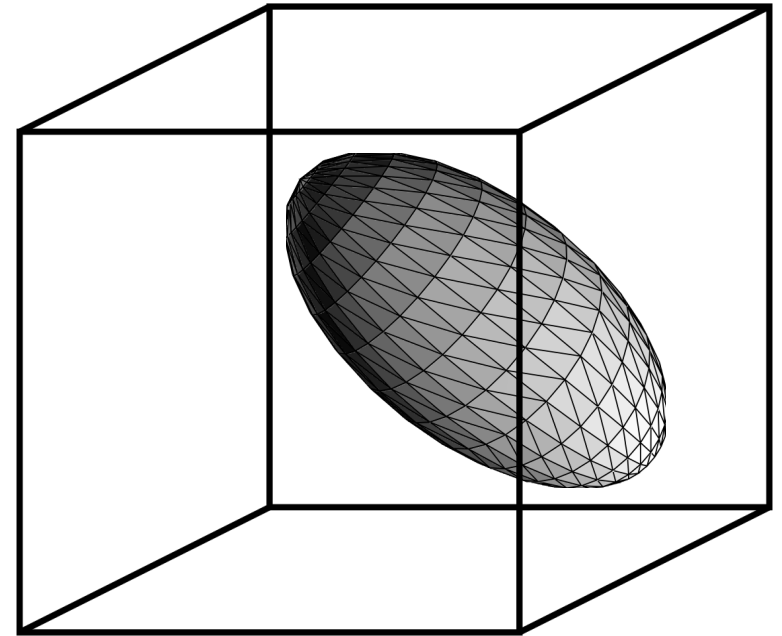


# Key features of Yukawa couplings

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## Questions:

How easy is it to get realistic Yukawas in terms of local parameters?



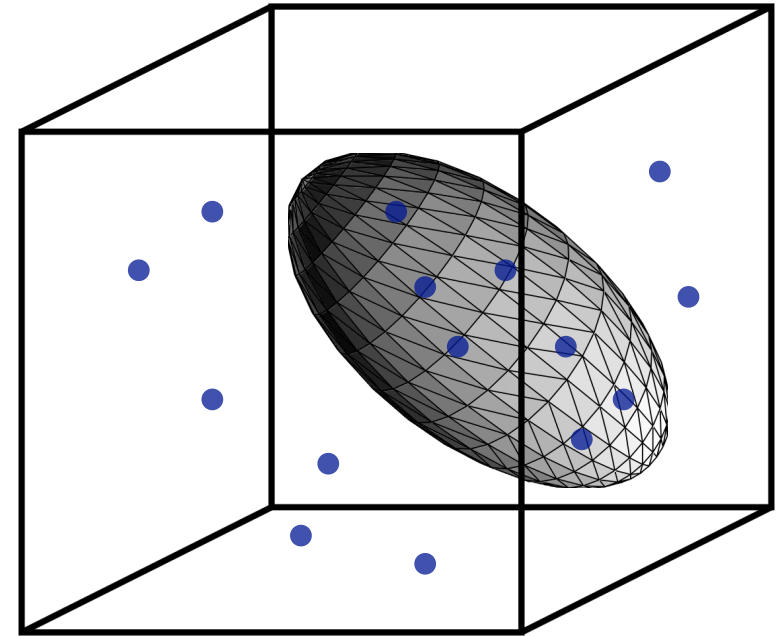
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## Questions:

How easy is it to get realistic Yukawas in terms of local parameters?

How generic are realistic Yukawas in the Landscape?





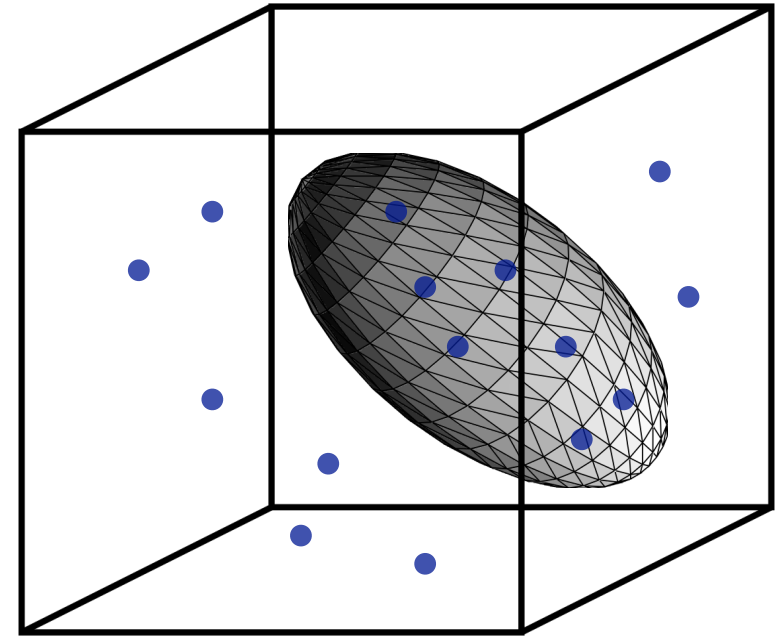
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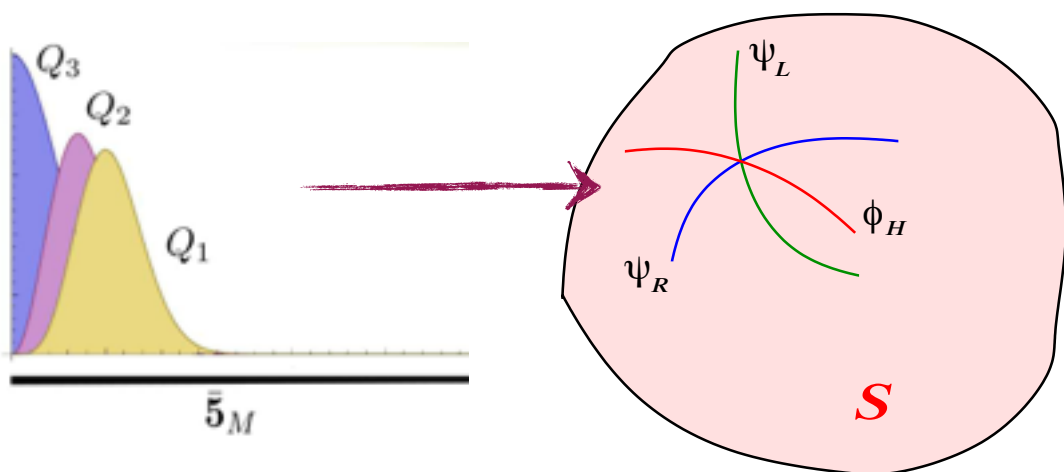
But generating a **wide region of local data** with realistic Yukawas is not as easy as it may seem...

First step: robust mechanism for **family hierarchies**

# Rank one Yukawas

- F-theory comes with a **mechanism** to have **one quark/lepton family** much **heavier** than the other two
  - ◆ We may host several families of chiral fermions in a single matter curve by means of a worldvolume flux threading it
  - ◆ Holomorphic Yukawas independent of this flux. Their maximal rank only depends on the curves intersections

*Cecotti, Cheng, Heckman, Vafa '09*



Single triple  
intersection



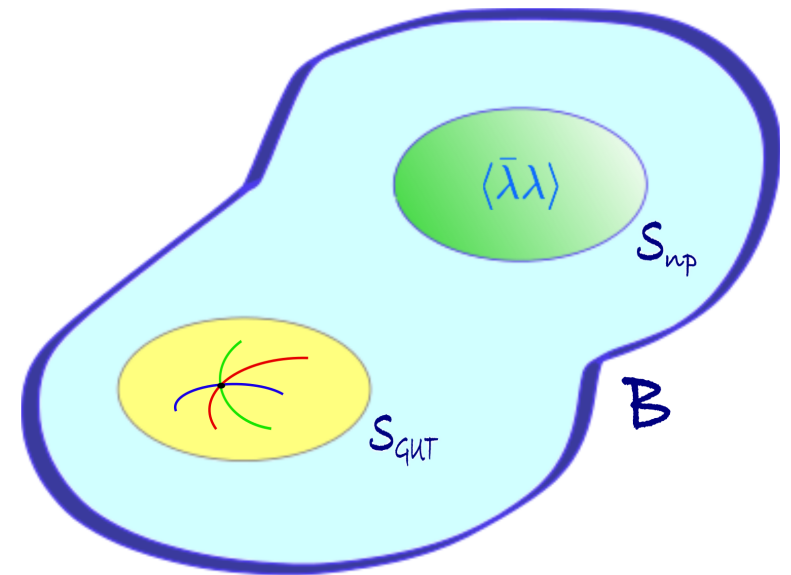
rank one  
Yukawas

# Adding non-perturbative effects

- Non-perturbative effects like **E3-brane instantons** will increase the rank of the Yukawa matrix while maintaining the family **mass hierarchy**
- In the case of **plain D3-instantons** we have

$$W_7 = W_7^{\text{tree}} + W^{\text{np}}$$

*F.M. & Martucci '09*



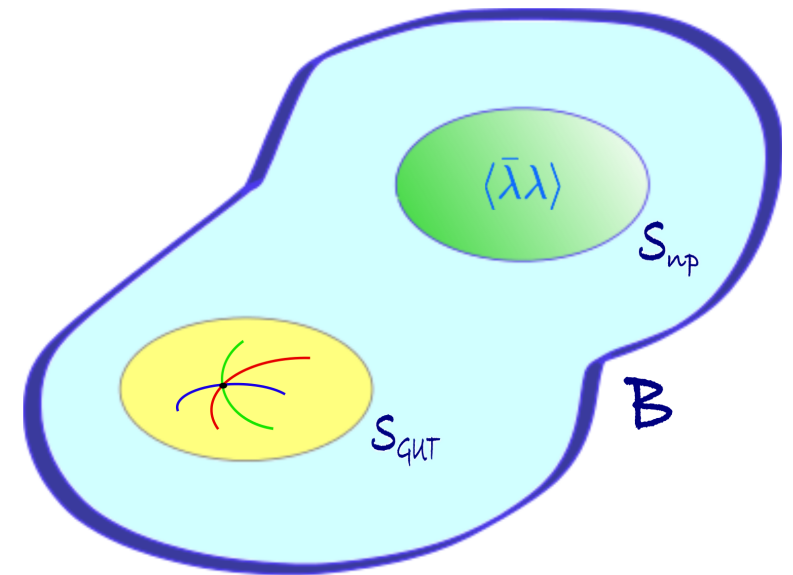
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*F.M. & Martucci '09*

$$W_7 = W_7^{\text{tree}} + W^{\text{np}}$$

$$W_7 = \int_S \text{Tr} (F \wedge \Phi) + \frac{\epsilon}{2} \int_S \theta_0 \text{Tr} (F \wedge F)$$



$$W^{\text{np}} = m_*^4 \epsilon \left[ \int_S \theta_0 \text{Tr} F^2 + \int_S \theta_1 \text{Tr} (\Phi_{xy} F^2) + \int_S \theta_2 \text{STr} (\Phi_{xy}^2 F^2) + \dots \right]$$

# Adding non-perturbative effects

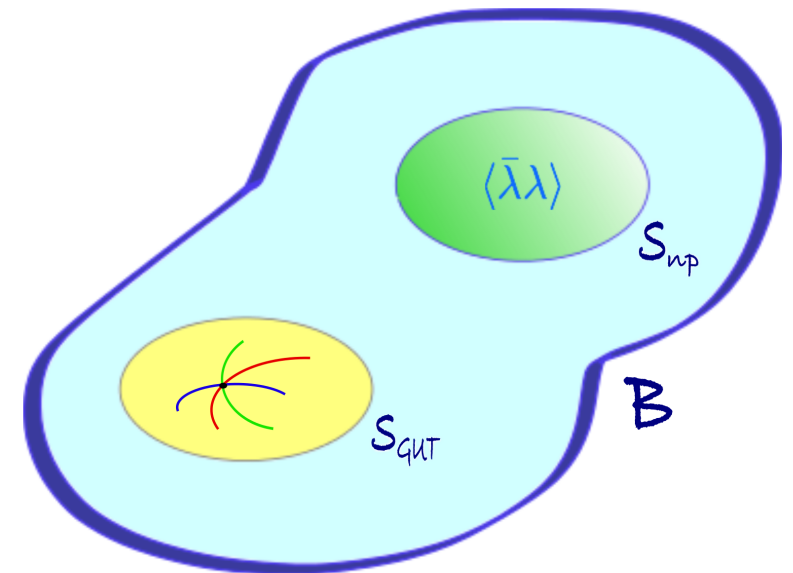
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Similar effect not known for fluxed  
D3/M5-brane instantons

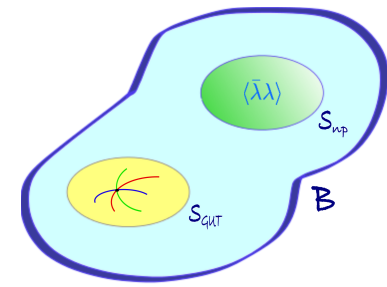
*F.M. & Martucci '09*



*Grimm et al. '11*

*Martucci & Weigand '15*

# Adding non-perturbative effects



- The expression

$$W_7 = \int_S \text{Tr} (F \wedge \Phi) + \frac{\epsilon}{2} \int_S \theta_0 \text{Tr} (F \wedge F)$$

allows to carry the computation of np-corrected Yukawas at the local level

- Holomorphic **Yukawas** can also be computed via a residue formula. They **depend on  $\epsilon$  and  $\theta_0$**  but not on worldvolume fluxes.
- Physical **Yukawas** are computed by solving for the MSSM fields internal wavefunctions and performing **local dim. red.** in the deformed theory.

◆ **SO(12)** enhancement (down-type Yukawas)

*Font, Ibáñez, F.M., Regalado '12*

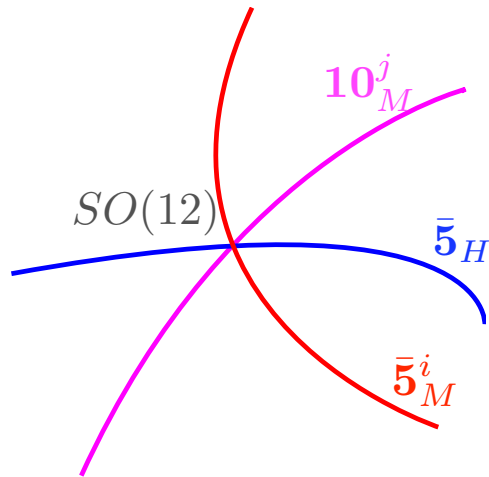
◆ **E<sub>6</sub>** enhancement (up-type Yukawas)

*Font, F.M., Regalado, Zoccarato '13*

# Down and Up-type Yukawas

Down-type

$$Y_D^{ij} : \bar{\mathbf{5}}_H \bar{\mathbf{5}}_M^i \mathbf{10}_M^j$$



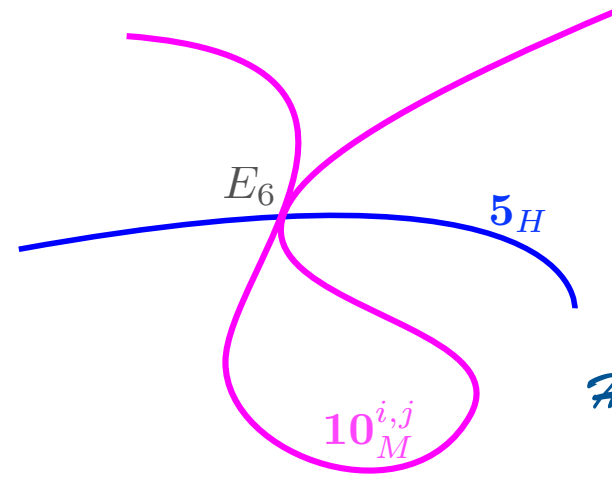
Intersecting branes,  $[\langle \Phi \rangle, \langle \bar{\Phi} \rangle] = 0$

$$\langle \Phi \rangle \sim \begin{pmatrix} -x & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & y & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & x - y \end{pmatrix} dx \wedge dy$$

$$\omega \wedge F = 0$$

Up-type

$$Y_U^{ij} : \mathbf{5}_H \mathbf{10}_M^i \mathbf{10}_M^j$$



T-branes,  $[\langle \Phi \rangle, \langle \bar{\Phi} \rangle] \neq 0$

$$\langle \Phi \rangle \sim \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ x & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & y \end{pmatrix} dx \wedge dy$$

$$\omega \wedge F + \frac{1}{2}[\Phi, \bar{\Phi}] = 0$$

*Hayashi et al. '09*  
*Cecotti et al. '10*

# Local model data

*holomorphic*

- ◆  $\langle \Phi \rangle$  contains the 7-brane intersection angles:  $\mu, m$
- ◆ Non-perturbative effect encoded in  $\epsilon, \theta_0$

*physical*

- ◆  $\langle F \rangle$  generates **chirality** and **family replication** at matter curves, enters via flux densities:  $N_i, M_j$
- ◆  $\langle F_Y \rangle$  breaks  $G_{\text{GUT}} \rightarrow G_{\text{MSSM}}$ , enters via densities  $N_Y, \tilde{N}_Y$

Example: SU(5)

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 5_{H_u} \times 10 \times 10 & \xrightarrow{F_Y} & \lambda_u^{ij} Q^i U^j H_u \\
 \bar{5}_{H_d} \times \bar{5} \times 10 & & \lambda_d^{ij} Q^i D^j H_d + \lambda_l^{ij} L^i E^j H_d
 \end{array}$$

The presence of  $\langle F \rangle$  also **localises wavefunctions** along matter curves and allows an **ultra-local computation** of Yukawa couplings

**Not all** of these **parameters** will be **independent** in a global model



# General results

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- Assuming  $\theta_0 = i(\theta_{00} + x \theta_x + y \theta_y)$  one obtains, at the holomorphic level

$$\frac{Y^{\text{hol}}}{Y_{33}^{\text{hol}}} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon) \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon^2)$$

and so a family hierarchy  $(1, \epsilon, \epsilon^2)$ , still independent of worldvolume fluxes

- At the physical level the normalisation factors depend on family and hypercharge

$$Y_{\text{phys}}^{ij} = \gamma_i \gamma_j \gamma_H Y_{\text{hol}}^{ij}$$

$$\gamma_i^{-2} \propto \int dy e^{-\pi|F||y|^2} |f^i(y)|^2$$

- Higher hypercharge  $\Rightarrow$  thinner wavefunction  $\Rightarrow$  larger quotients

$$\gamma_i \propto \left( \frac{\pi}{\sqrt{2}} |F|, \sqrt{\pi} |F|^{1/2}, 1 \right)$$

$$\frac{m_\mu}{m_\tau} \simeq 3.3 \frac{m_s}{m_b} \quad \text{for} \quad \frac{N_Y}{N} \simeq 1.8$$

$$F = N + M_y$$

# Unifying Yukawas

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- Remarkably, local data are quite similar in both cases. We obtain **realistic Yukawas** for the third and second generation (including large  $Y_t$ ) by taking
  - ◆ Small intersection angles  $O(0.1)$
  - ◆ Not so small flux densities  $O(0.1)$ - $O(0.5)$
  - ◆  $\epsilon \sim 10^{-4}$
- This suggests that both **Yukawa points could be very close** to each other (even coincident) within  $S_{GUT} \rightarrow$  **enhancement to  $E_7$  or  $E_8$**

Also motivated by CKM matrix, neutrino sector and computability of all relevant GUT couplings

*Heckman, Tavanfar, Vafa '09*  
*Palti '12*

# The $E_8$ story

*F.M., Regalado, Zoccarato '15*

- The goal is to build a local model where **all Yukawas** arise from a single patch of  $S_{GUT}$ , **described by  $E_8$  symmetry** and assuming
  - ◆ **SU(5) GUTs:**  $E_8 \rightarrow SU(5)_{GUT} \times SU(5)_{\perp}$
  - ◆ Reconstructible **T-branes**
  - ◆ More than two 5-curves
  - ◆ **Rank one Yukawas at tree-level**
  - ◆ **Hierarchy (1,  $\epsilon$ ,  $\epsilon^2$ )** for charged fermions after np effects

All these requirements are imposed at the **holomorphic level**

# $E_8$ T-brane models

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- We classify local models in terms of the **T-brane structure** of  $\Phi \subset \mathfrak{su}(5)_\perp$   
We look at its **block diagonal decomposition** in the fund. representation

◆ 4+1 or  $\mathbb{Z}_4$  model → only two matter curves



◆ 3+2 or  $\mathbb{Z}_3 \times \mathbb{Z}_2$  models → down-type hierarchy  $(1, \epsilon^2, \epsilon^2)$



◆ 2+2+1 or  $\mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_2$  models → one good option



The **options** depend on which **matter curves**  
host the SM fermions

# The $E_8$ model

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- We take the following **8d Higgs profile**

$$\langle \Phi_{xy} \rangle = \lambda_1 Q_1 + \lambda_2 Q_2 + m(E_1^+ + mx E_1^-) + \tilde{m}(E_2^+ + \tilde{m}y E_2^-)$$

$$\Phi_5 = \begin{pmatrix} \lambda_1 & m & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ m^2 x & \lambda_1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \lambda_2 & \tilde{m} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \tilde{m}^2 y & \lambda_2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -2(\lambda_1 + \lambda_2) \end{pmatrix} \quad \begin{aligned} \lambda_1 &= \mu_1^2(ax - y) \\ \lambda_2 &= \mu_2^2(bx - y) + \kappa \end{aligned}$$

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**Matter curves:**

$$10_a : \lambda_1^2 - m^3 x = 0, \quad 10_b : \lambda_2^2 - \tilde{m}^3 y = 0, \quad 10_c : \lambda_1 + \lambda_2 = 0$$

$$5_a : \lambda_1 = 0, \quad 5_b : \lambda_2 = 0, \quad 5_c : (\lambda_1 + 2\lambda_2)^2 - m^3 x = 0,$$

$$5_d : (2\lambda_1 + \lambda_2)^2 - \tilde{m}^3 y = 0, \quad 5_e : (\lambda_1 + \lambda_2)^4 - 2(\lambda_1 + \lambda_2)^2(m^3 x + \tilde{m}^3 y) + (m^3 x - \tilde{m}^3 y)^2 = 0$$

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Model A:  $\bar{5}_M = 5_c$

Model B:  $\bar{5}_M = 5_b$

# Model A vs. Model B

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coupling with singlet

$$W \supset \lambda H_u L S$$

$$W \supset \lambda H_u H_d S$$

Dirac neutrino masses if  $S = N_R$

coupling with vector pairs in  $5_e$

$$W \supset \frac{\tilde{S}^2}{\Lambda} H_u H_d$$

effective  $\mu$ -term



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Model A  
more suggestive

# Computing physical Yukawas

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- We take **model A** and for simplicity set **a=b=1** in  $\begin{cases} \lambda_1 = \mu_1^2(ax - y) \\ \lambda_2 = \mu_2^2(bx - y) + \kappa \end{cases}$
- We **add worldvolume fluxes** to localise wavefunctions around Yukawa point
- The eigenvalues for the **physical Yukawas** read

$$\begin{aligned}
 Y_t &= \frac{\pi^2 \gamma_U \gamma_{10,3}^Q \gamma_{10,3}^U}{2\rho_m \rho_\mu}, & Y_c &= \tilde{\epsilon} \frac{\pi^2 \gamma_U \gamma_{10,2}^Q \gamma_{10,2}^U}{4\rho_m \rho_\mu^2}, & Y_u &= \mathcal{O}(\tilde{\epsilon}^2) \\
 Y_b &= \frac{\pi^2 \gamma_D \gamma_{10,3}^Q \gamma_{5,3}^D}{2d\rho_m \rho_\mu}, & Y_s &= \tilde{\epsilon} \frac{\pi^2 \gamma_D \gamma_{10,2}^Q \gamma_{5,2}^D}{4d^2 \rho_m \rho_\mu^2}, & Y_d &= \mathcal{O}(\tilde{\epsilon}^2) \\
 Y_\tau &= \frac{\pi^2 \gamma_D \gamma_{10,3}^E \gamma_{5,3}^L}{2d\rho_m \rho_\mu}, & Y_\mu &= \tilde{\epsilon} \frac{\pi^2 \gamma_D \gamma_{10,2}^E \gamma_{5,2}^L}{4d^2 \rho_m \rho_\mu^2}, & Y_e &= \mathcal{O}(\tilde{\epsilon}^2)
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 \end{aligned}$$

**Holomorphic parameters**  $\tilde{\epsilon} = \epsilon(\theta_x + b\theta_y), \quad \rho_m = \frac{m^2}{m_*^2}, \quad \rho_\mu = \frac{\mu_1^2}{m_*^2}, \quad d = \frac{\mu_2^2}{\mu_1^2}$

**Flux densities** enter the norm factors  $\gamma$ 's in a complicated way

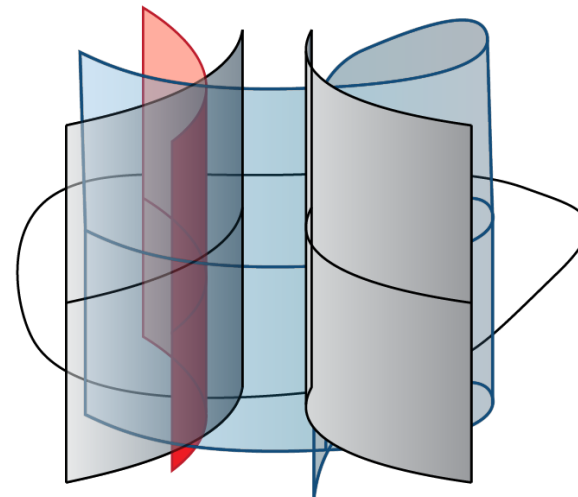
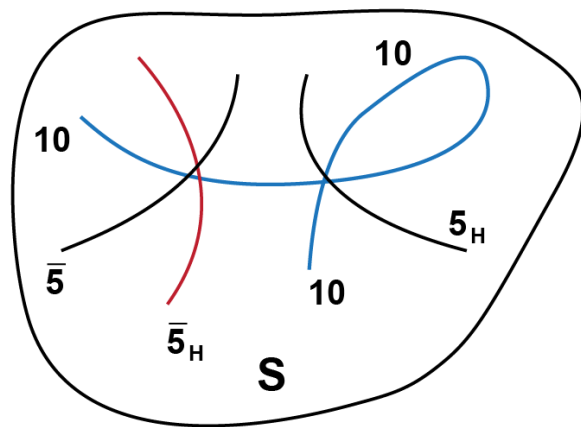
$$c, N_1, N_2, M_1, M_2, N_Y, \tilde{N}_Y$$

# CKM matrix

- Switching on the **parameter  $\kappa$**  in we **separate** the Yukawa points  **$p_{\text{up}}$  and  $p_{\text{down}}$**  and induce a source of family mixing

$$\begin{cases} \lambda_1 = \mu_1^2(ax - y) \\ \lambda_2 = \mu_2^2(bx - y) + \kappa \end{cases}$$

comparing  $V_{tb}$  with the experimental value sets the **separation of points**  $\sim R_{\text{GUT}}/100$



*Taken from Aparicio et al. '12*

# Fitting $E_8$ Yukawas

- Putting all together one is able to **fit** charged fermion masses for the **3<sup>rd</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> families** at the GUT scale assuming an **MSSM scheme**

$\tan\beta$	10	38	50
$m_d/m_s$	$5.1 \pm 0.7 \times 10^{-2}$	$5.1 \pm 0.7 \times 10^{-2}$	$5.1 \pm 0.7 \times 10^{-2}$
$m_s/m_b$	$1.9 \pm 0.2 \times 10^{-2}$	$1.7 \pm 0.2 \times 10^{-2}$	$1.6 \pm 0.2 \times 10^{-2}$
$m_e/m_\mu$	$4.8 \pm 0.2 \times 10^{-3}$	$4.8 \pm 0.2 \times 10^{-3}$	$4.8 \pm 0.2 \times 10^{-3}$
$m_\mu/m_\tau$	$5.9 \pm 0.2 \times 10^{-2}$	$5.4 \pm 0.2 \times 10^{-2}$	$5.0 \pm 0.2 \times 10^{-2}$
$m_b/m_\tau$	$0.73 \pm 0.03$	$0.73 \pm 0.03$	$0.73 \pm 0.04$
$Y_\tau$	$0.070 \pm 0.003$	$0.32 \pm 0.02$	$0.51 \pm 0.04$
$Y_b$	$0.051 \pm 0.002$	$0.23 \pm 0.01$	$0.37 \pm 0.02$
$Y_t$	$0.48 \pm 0.02$	$0.49 \pm 0.02$	$0.51 \pm 0.04$

*Ross & Serina '07*

# Fitting $E_8$ Yukawas

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- Putting all together one is able to **fit** charged fermion masses for the **3<sup>rd</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> families** at the GUT scale assuming an **MSSM scheme**

**HOWEVER**

- **No large region** of parameters reproduces such realistic values for the choices made
- This is partly because local flux densities need to satisfy certain **inequalities** to induce the appropriate **local chirality** in matter curves
- In particular these inequalities are **incompatible with vanishing** local chirality for **Higgs triplets** when we set  $a=b$

# The $E_7$ story

*Carla, F.M., Zoccarato '15*

- The case of  $E_7$  has less possibilities since  $\mathfrak{g}_\perp = \mathfrak{su}(3) \oplus \mathfrak{u}(1)$

◆  $\Phi_3$  diagonal  $\rightarrow$  no T-brane



◆  $\Phi_3$  2+1 block diagonal  $\rightarrow$  promising  $(1, \epsilon, \epsilon^2)$  hierarchy



◆  $\Phi_3$  single block  $\rightarrow$  vanishing up-type Yukawas



Again we have **different options** when assigning the SM fermions to matter curves

# The $E_7$ model

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- We take the following **8d Higgs profile**

$$\langle \Phi_{xy} \rangle = \lambda_1 Q_1 + \lambda_2 Q_2 + m(E_1^+ + mx E_1^-) \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \lambda_1 = \mu_1^2(ax - y) \\ \lambda_2 = \mu_2^2(bx - y) + \kappa \end{array} \right.$$

**Matter curves:**

$$\mathbf{10}_a : \lambda_1^2 - m^3 \mathbf{x} = 0, \quad \mathbf{10}_b : \lambda_1 - \lambda_2 = 0$$

$$\mathbf{5}_a : \lambda_1 = 0, \quad \mathbf{5}_b : \lambda_1 + \lambda_2 = 0, \quad \mathbf{5}_c : \lambda_2^2 - m^3 \mathbf{x} = 0$$



# The $E_7$ model

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- We take the following 8d Higgs profile

$$\langle \Phi_{xy} \rangle = \lambda_1 Q_1 + \lambda_2 Q_2 + m(E_1^+ + mx E_1^-) \quad \begin{cases} \lambda_1 = \mu_1^2(ax - y) \\ \lambda_2 = \mu_2^2(bx - y) + \kappa \end{cases}$$

Matter curves:

$$10_a : \lambda_1^2 - m^3 x = 0, \quad 10_b : \lambda_1 - \lambda_2 = 0$$

$$5_a : \lambda_1 = 0, \quad 5_b : \lambda_1 + \lambda_2 = 0, \quad 5_c : \lambda_2^2 - m^3 x = 0$$

Model A:  $\bar{5}_M = 5_c$

Model B:  $\bar{5}_M = 5_b$

# The $E_8$ model

- We take the following 8d Higgs profile

$$\langle \Phi_{xy} \rangle = \lambda_1 Q_1 + \lambda_2 Q_2 + m(E_1^+ + mx E_1^-) + \tilde{m}(E_2^+ + \tilde{m}y E_2^-)$$

$$\Phi_5 = \begin{pmatrix} \lambda_1 & m & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ m^2 x & \lambda_1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \lambda_2 & \tilde{m} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \tilde{m}^2 y & \lambda_2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -2(\lambda_1 + \lambda_2) \end{pmatrix} \quad \begin{aligned} \lambda_1 &= \mu_1^2(ax - y) \\ \lambda_2 &= \mu_2^2(bx - y) + \kappa \end{aligned}$$

Matter curves:

$$10_a : \lambda_1^2 - m^3 x = 0, \quad 10_b : \lambda_2^2 - \tilde{m}^3 y = 0, \quad 10_c : \lambda_1 + \lambda_2 = 0$$

$$5_a : \lambda_1 = 0, \quad 5_b : \lambda_2 = 0, \quad 5_c : (\lambda_1 + 2\lambda_2)^2 - m^3 x = 0,$$

$$5_d : (2\lambda_1 + \lambda_2)^2 - \tilde{m}^3 y = 0, \quad 5_e : (\lambda_1 + \lambda_2)^4 - 2(\lambda_1 + \lambda_2)^2(m^3 x + \tilde{m}^3 y) + (m^3 x - \tilde{m}^3 y)^2 = 0$$

Model A:  $\bar{5}_M = 5_c$

Model B:  $\bar{5}_M = 5_b$

# The $E_7$ model

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- We take the following 8d Higgs profile

$$\langle \Phi_{xy} \rangle = \lambda_1 Q_1 + \lambda_2 Q_2 + m(E_1^+ + mx E_1^-) \quad \begin{cases} \lambda_1 = \mu_1^2(ax - y) \\ \lambda_2 = \mu_2^2(bx - y) + \kappa \end{cases}$$

Matter curves:

$$10_a : \lambda_1^2 - m^3 x = 0, \quad 10_b : \lambda_1 - \lambda_2 = 0$$

$$5_a : \lambda_1 = 0, \quad 5_b : \lambda_1 + \lambda_2 = 0, \quad 5_c : \lambda_2^2 - m^3 x = 0$$

Model A:  $\bar{5}_M = 5_c$

Model B:  $\bar{5}_M = 5_b$

But now there is no criterion regarding the neutrino sector.

We analyse both models on equal footing

# Fitting E<sub>7</sub> Yukawas

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- We apply the **same analysis** made for E<sub>8</sub> to these E<sub>7</sub> models, computing the physical Yukawas for the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> families for models A and B
- We open **new regions in parameter space** by allowing **arbitrary a, b**. The latter allows to maintain **vanishing local chirality for Higgs triplets** (locally we have vector-like triplets)
- Both models have a **complicated dependence on worldvolume flux densities** through the normalisation factors  $\gamma$ , but:

- ◆ For **Model A**, ratios of mass ratios have simpler expressions

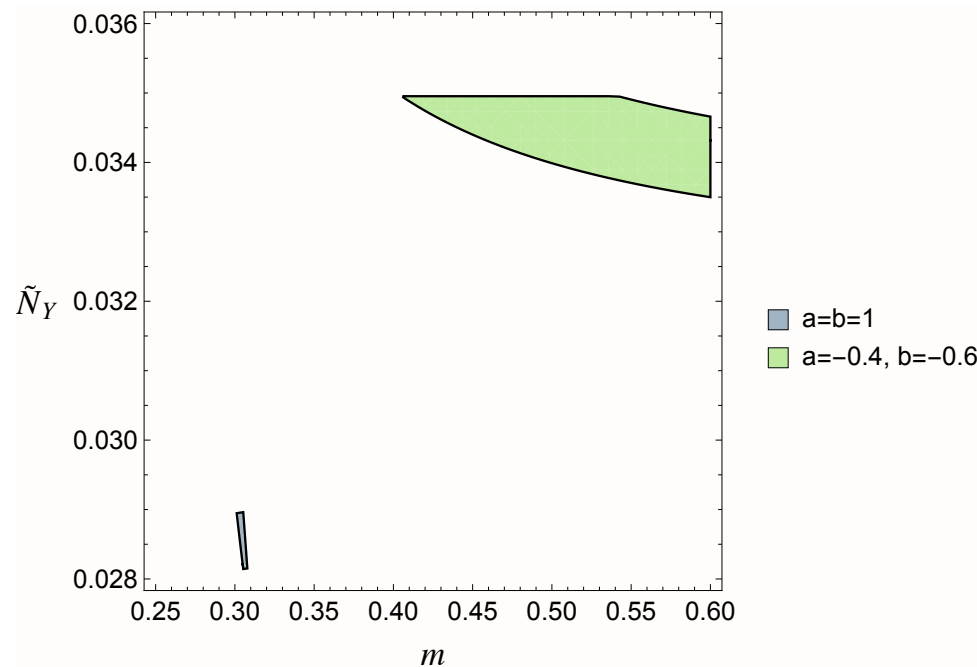
$$\frac{m_\mu/m_\tau}{m_s/m_b} = \sqrt{\frac{(x-1)(y-\frac{1}{2})}{(x-\frac{1}{6})(y-\frac{1}{3})}}, \quad x = -\frac{M_1}{\tilde{N}_Y}, \quad y = -\frac{M_2}{\tilde{N}_Y}$$

- ◆ For **Model B** this is not true, and we cannot satisfy for fluxes that induce the appropriate local chirality

$$\frac{m_\mu/m_\tau}{m_s/m_b} = 3.3 \pm 1$$

# Fitting $E_7$ Yukawas

- **Model A** displays **large regions** in local **parameter space** where we achieve
  - ◆ Appropriate local chirality (vanishing for Higgs triplets)
  - ◆ Realistic fermion masses
- **Compared to previous  $E_8$  analysis**



*Bonus: more diluted fluxes!!*

typical value:  
 $\tan \beta \sim 10-20$

# Fitting $E_7$ and $E_8$ Yukawas

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- **Model A** displays **large regions** in local **parameter space** where we achieve
  - ◆ Appropriate local chirality (vanishing for Higgs triplets)
  - ◆ Realistic fermion masses
- In fact, the **structure of Yukawa couplings** is **identical to the  $E_8$  model** discussed previously, despite the more complicated T-brane structure of the latter → we scan over the **same Yukawa values**
- More precisely Models A and B correspond to each other in both cases. So in the  $E_8$  case **Model A is selected for phenomenological** reasons even ignoring the neutrino sector and the generation of a  $\mu$ -term.

# Conclusions

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- Precise computation of **Yukawa couplings** is so far limited to **ultra-local computation** via dimensional reduction of the 7-brane **8d gauge theory**
- Such ultra-local models **depend on many parameters** which may or may not be independent or even realisable in a global completion
- Even so, **reproducing realistic fermion masses and mixing is hard** to achieve. Such fitting becomes simpler **family hierarchies** are naturally generated by some mechanism. We have explored the **scenario**  $[(1, \epsilon, \epsilon^2)]$  of rank one Yukawas + non-perturbative effects, in which T-branes are key ingredient.
- This proposal **leads naturally to models of  $E_7$  or  $E_8$  enhancement**. We have analysed both of them and appropriate fitting of fermion masses have led us to a **unique structure of matter curves** in both cases.
- How this structure may be embedded in a **global completion** remains so far a **challenge**, hopefully to be overcome before F-theory turns 30.