

Generalized complex geometry and topological sigma models

work in collaboration with

Stephano Chiantese (HU Berlin)

and Claus Jeschek (MPI)

(hep-th/0408169)

Florian Gmeiner

flo@mppmu.mpg.de

MPI für Physik, München

Plan

- Introduction

Plan

- Introduction
- Topological sigma models

Plan

- Introduction
- Topological sigma models
- Generalized complex geometry

Plan

- Introduction
- Topological sigma models
- Generalized complex geometry
- Generalized topological sigma models

Plan

- Introduction
- Topological sigma models
- Generalized complex geometry
- Generalized topological sigma models
- Mirror symmetry

Plan

- Introduction
- Topological sigma models
- Generalized complex geometry
- Generalized topological sigma models
- Mirror symmetry
- Conclusions and Outlook

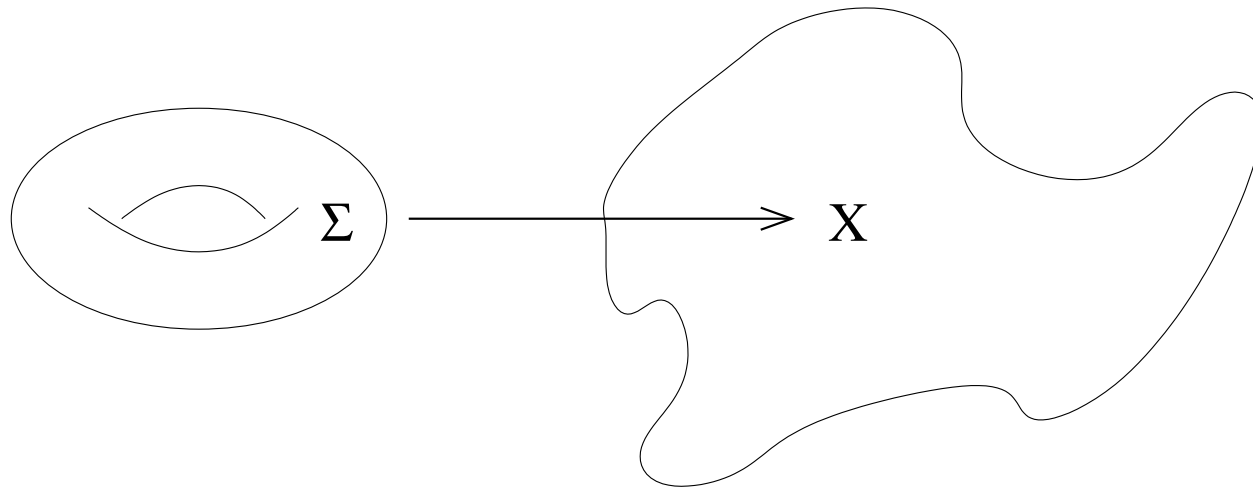
Introduction

What is string theory all about?

Introduction

What is string theory all about?

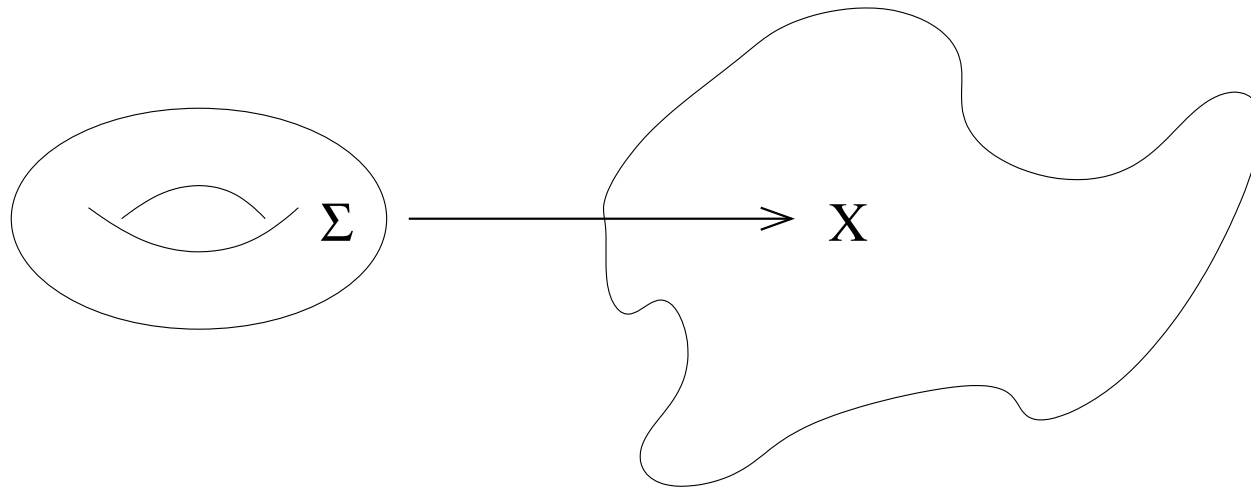
A theory of maps $\phi : \Sigma \rightarrow X$ from the 2d **worldsheet** to the 10d **target space**.



Introduction

What is string theory all about?

A theory of maps $\phi : \Sigma \rightarrow X$ from the 2d **worldsheet** to the 10d **target space**.



We take $X = \mathbb{R}^{1,3} \times M^6$.

Sigma models

- Polyakov action

$$\int D\phi Dg e^{\int_{\Sigma} |\partial\phi|^2}.$$

Sigma models

- Polyakov action

$$\int D\phi Dg e^{\int_{\Sigma} |\partial\phi|^2}.$$

- \rightsquigarrow integration over **maps** and **metrics** on Σ .

Sigma models

- Polyakov action

$$\int D\phi Dg e^{\int_{\Sigma} |\partial\phi|^2}.$$

- \rightsquigarrow integration over **maps** and **metrics** on Σ .
- integration only over ϕ gives the **sigma model**.

Sigma models

- Polyakov action

$$\int D\phi Dg e^{\int_{\Sigma} |\partial\phi|^2}.$$

- \rightsquigarrow integration over **maps** and **metrics** on Σ .
- integration only over ϕ gives the **sigma model**.
- supersymmetric models \rightsquigarrow make ϕ a superfield containing worldsheet bosons and left- and right-moving fermions.

Sigma models

- **Observation:** SUSY on the worldsheet constrains target space geometry.

^a(2,2) because we want no loop corrections on the worldsheet

Sigma models

- **Observation:** SUSY on the worldsheet constrains target space geometry.
- **Question:** What is the most general target space geometry for an $\mathcal{N} = (2, 2)$ sigma model?

(2,2) because we want no loop corrections on the worldsheet

Sigma models

- **Observation:** SUSY on the worldsheet constrains target space geometry.
- **Question:** What is the most general target space geometry for an $\mathcal{N} = (2, 2)$ sigma model?
- **Answer:** bi-Hermitian geometry with data (I_+, I_-, g, H) .

(2,2) because we want no loop corrections on the worldsheet

Sigma models

- **Observation:** SUSY on the worldsheet constrains target space geometry.
- **Question:** What is the most general target space geometry for an $\mathcal{N} = (2, 2)$ sigma model?
- **Answer:** bi-Hermitian geometry with data (I_+, I_-, g, H) .
- I_{\pm} : two complex structures ($I_{\pm}^2 = -1$) for the left- and right-moving fermions.

(2,2) because we want no loop corrections on the worldsheet

Sigma models

- **Observation:** SUSY on the worldsheet constrains target space geometry.
- **Question:** What is the most general target space geometry for an $\mathcal{N} = (2, 2)$ sigma model?
- **Answer:** bi-Hermitian geometry with data (I_+, I_-, g, H) .
- I_{\pm} : two complex structures ($I_{\pm}^2 = -1$) for the left- and right-moving fermions.
- g : Riemannian metric on the target space, Hermitian with respect to I_{\pm} .

(2,2) because we want no loop corrections on the worldsheet

Sigma models

- **Observation:** SUSY on the worldsheet constrains target space geometry.
- **Question:** What is the most general target space geometry for an $\mathcal{N} = (2, 2)$ sigma model?
- **Answer:** bi-Hermitian geometry with data (I_+, I_-, g, H) .
- I_{\pm} : two complex structures ($I_{\pm}^2 = -1$) for the left- and right-moving fermions.
- g : Riemannian metric on the target space, Hermitian with respect to I_{\pm} .
- H : 3-form field strength of a 2-form field B .

(2,2) because we want no loop corrections on the worldsheet

Topological sigma models

- on the worldsheet we have two conserved supercurrents and a $U(1)$ R-symmetry current.

Topological sigma models

- on the worldsheet we have two conserved supercurrents and a $U(1)$ R-symmetry current.
- **Idea:** Use the R-symmetry current to *twist* the model to get a **topological theory**.

Topological sigma models

- on the worldsheet we have two conserved supercurrents and a $U(1)$ R-symmetry current.
- **Idea:** Use the R-symmetry current to *twist* the model to get a **topological theory**.
- \rightsquigarrow some of the fermions become **worldsheet singlets**.
 \rightsquigarrow the theory becomes background independent.

Topological sigma models

- on the worldsheet we have two conserved supercurrents and a $U(1)$ R-symmetry current.
- **Idea:** Use the R-symmetry current to *twist* the model to get a **topological theory**.
- \rightsquigarrow some of the fermions become **worldsheet singlets**.
- \rightsquigarrow the theory becomes background independent.
- \rightsquigarrow **less information**.
(in the same way as the de Rham complex $\Omega^*(X)$ contains more information than its cohomology $H^*(X)$)

Topological sigma models

- on the worldsheet we have two conserved supercurrents and a $U(1)$ R-symmetry current.
- **Idea:** Use the R-symmetry current to *twist* the model to get a **topological theory**.
- \rightsquigarrow some of the fermions become **worldsheet singlets**.
- \rightsquigarrow the theory becomes background independent.
- \rightsquigarrow **less information**.
(in the same way as the de Rham complex $\Omega^*(X)$ contains more information than its cohomology $H^*(X)$)
- but

Topological sigma models

- on the worldsheet we have two conserved supercurrents and a $U(1)$ R-symmetry current.
- **Idea:** Use the R-symmetry current to *twist* the model to get a **topological theory**.
- \rightsquigarrow some of the fermions become **worldsheet singlets**.
- \rightsquigarrow the theory becomes background independent.
- \rightsquigarrow **less information**.
(in the same way as the de Rham complex $\Omega^*(X)$ contains more information than its cohomology $H^*(X)$)
- but computing physical observables can be reduced to geometrical questions.

Topological sigma models

Before the twist: WS fermions ψ_{\pm} , which can be split into (anti-)holomorphic components w.r.t. I_{\pm}

$$\mathcal{P}_+\psi_+, \bar{\mathcal{P}}_+\psi_+, \mathcal{P}_-\psi_-, \bar{\mathcal{P}}_-\psi_-,$$

where $\mathcal{P}_{\pm} = \frac{1}{2}(1 - iI_{\pm})$, $\bar{\mathcal{P}}_{\pm} = \frac{1}{2}(1 + iI_{\pm})$.

Topological sigma models

Before the twist: WS fermions ψ_{\pm} , which can be split into (anti-)holomorphic components w.r.t. I_{\pm}

$$\mathcal{P}_+\psi_+, \bar{\mathcal{P}}_+\psi_+, \mathcal{P}_-\psi_-, \bar{\mathcal{P}}_-\psi_-,$$

where $\mathcal{P}_{\pm} = \frac{1}{2}(1 - iI_{\pm})$, $\bar{\mathcal{P}}_{\pm} = \frac{1}{2}(1 + iI_{\pm})$.

This corresponds to a splitting of the (complexified) tangent bundle of the target space

$$TM_{\mathbb{C}} = TM_+^{1,0} \oplus TM_+^{0,1} \oplus TM_-^{1,0} \oplus TM_-^{0,1}.$$

Topological sigma models

Twist: Mix the fermionic spin with the vectorial/axial $U(1)$ current to get the topological A/B model.

Topological sigma models

Twist: Mix the fermionic spin with the vectorial/axial $U(1)$ current to get the topological A/B model.

$q_{V/A}$: vectorial/axial charge, J : spin before the twist, $J_{A/B}$: spin after the twist = $J + q_{V/A}/2$.

	q_V	q_A	J	J_A	J_B
$\mathcal{P}_+\psi_+$	-1	-1	$-\frac{1}{2}$	-1	-1
$\overline{\mathcal{P}}_+\psi_+$	+1	+1	$-\frac{1}{2}$	0	0
$\mathcal{P}_-\psi_-$	-1	+1	$+\frac{1}{2}$	0	+1
$\overline{\mathcal{P}}_-\psi_-$	+1	-1	$+\frac{1}{2}$	+1	0

Topological sigma models

After the twist: Scalar fermions

- A model: $\bar{\mathcal{P}}_+ \psi_+$ and $\mathcal{P}_- \psi_-$,

which are sections of $TM_+^{0,1}$ and $TM_-^{1,0}$.

Topological sigma models

After the twist: Scalar fermions

- A model: $\bar{\mathcal{P}}_+\psi_+$ and $\mathcal{P}_-\psi_-$,
which are sections of $TM_+^{0,1}$ and $TM_-^{1,0}$.
- B model: $\bar{\mathcal{P}}_+\psi_+$ and $\bar{\mathcal{P}}_-\psi_-$,
which are sections of $TM_+^{0,1}$ and $TM_-^{0,1}$.

Topological sigma models

After the twist: Scalar fermions

- A model: $\bar{\mathcal{P}}_+\psi_+$ and $\mathcal{P}_-\psi_-$,
which are sections of $TM_+^{0,1}$ and $TM_-^{1,0}$.
- B model: $\bar{\mathcal{P}}_+\psi_+$ and $\bar{\mathcal{P}}_-\psi_-$,
which are sections of $TM_+^{0,1}$ and $TM_-^{0,1}$.

Standard approach: Identify I_{\pm} and combine the fields into sections of TM (A model) or $TM^{0,1}$ (B model). The A/B model depends only on the Kähler/complex structure moduli of the theory.

Topological sigma models

After the twist: Scalar fermions

- A model: $\bar{\mathcal{P}}_+\psi_+$ and $\mathcal{P}_-\psi_-$,

which are sections of $TM_+^{0,1}$ and $TM_-^{1,0}$.

- B model: $\bar{\mathcal{P}}_+\psi_+$ and $\bar{\mathcal{P}}_-\psi_-$,

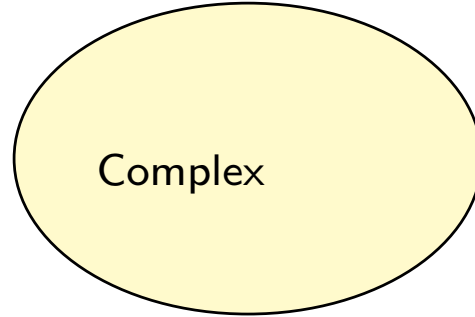
which are sections of $TM_+^{0,1}$ and $TM_-^{0,1}$.

Standard approach: Identify I_{\pm} and combine the fields into sections of TM (A model) or $TM^{0,1}$ (B model). The A/B model depends only on the Kähler/complex structure moduli of the theory.

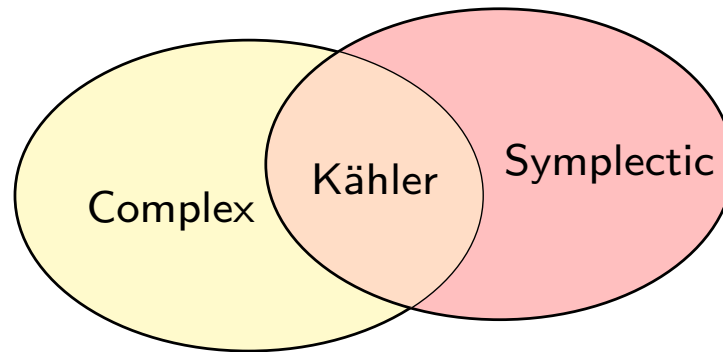
Note: A and B model are related by $I_- \leftrightarrow -I_-$.

Generalized complex geometry

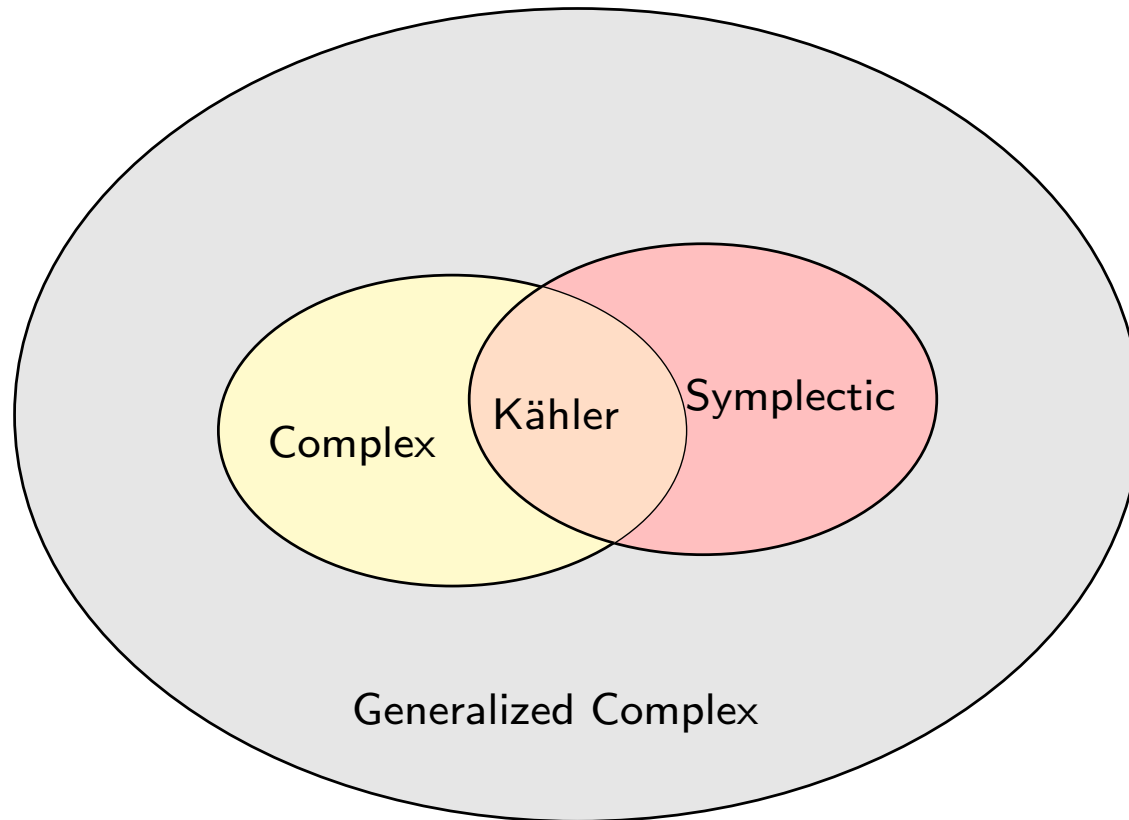
Generalized complex geometry



Generalized complex geometry



Generalized complex geometry



Generalized complex geometry

Main idea: Consider not only the tangent bundle of a manifold, but the combination with the co-tangent bundle:

Generalized complex geometry

Main idea: Consider not only the tangent bundle of a manifold, but the combination with the co-tangent bundle:

	Standard	Generalized
	TM	$TM \oplus TM^*$
Elements	X	$X + \xi$
Structure group	$GL(2d)$	$O(2d, 2d)$
With compl. str.	$U(d)$	$U(d, d)$
With metric	$O(2d)$	$O(2d) \times O(2d)$

Generalized complex geometry

Main idea: Consider not only the tangent bundle of a manifold, but the combination with the co-tangent bundle:

	Standard	Generalized
	TM	$TM \oplus TM^*$
Elements	X	$X + \xi$
Structure group	$GL(2d)$	$O(2d, 2d)$
With compl. str.	$U(d)$	$U(d, d)$
With metric	$O(2d)$	$O(2d) \times O(2d)$

\exists a natural inner product on $T \oplus T^*$ given by

$$\langle X + \xi, Y + \eta \rangle = \frac{1}{2}(\xi(X) + \eta(Y))$$

Generalized complex structures

- Generalized complex geometry interpolates between **symplectic** and **complex** geometry.

Generalized complex structures

- Generalized complex geometry interpolates between **symplectic** and **complex** geometry.
- **Complex structure:**

$$J : TM \rightarrow TM, \quad J^2 = -1,$$

Symplectic structure:

$$\omega : TM \rightarrow TM^*, \quad \omega^* = -\omega.$$

Generalized complex structures

- Generalized complex geometry interpolates between **symplectic** and **complex** geometry.
- **Complex structure:**

$$J : TM \rightarrow TM, \quad J^2 = -1,$$

Symplectic structure:

$$\omega : TM \rightarrow TM^*, \quad \omega^* = -\omega.$$

- A **Generalized complex structure** (GCS) \mathcal{J} can be defined as an endomorphism on $TM \oplus TM^*$, which satisfies

$$\mathcal{J}^2 = -1 \quad \text{and} \quad \mathcal{J}^* = -\mathcal{J}.$$

Generalized Kähler geometry

Notation: Write an element of $T \oplus T^*$ as a vector $\begin{pmatrix} X \\ \xi \end{pmatrix}$.

Generalized Kähler geometry

Notation: Write an element of $T \oplus T^*$ as a vector $\begin{pmatrix} X \\ \xi \end{pmatrix}$.

$$\mathcal{J}_J = \begin{pmatrix} -J & 0 \\ 0 & J^* \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad \mathcal{J}_\omega = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -\omega^{-1} \\ \omega & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

Limiting cases reproducing standard complex and symplectic structures.

Generalized Kähler geometry

Notation: Write an element of $T \oplus T^*$ as a vector $\begin{pmatrix} X \\ \xi \end{pmatrix}$.

$$\mathcal{J}_J = \begin{pmatrix} -J & 0 \\ 0 & J^* \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad \mathcal{J}_\omega = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -\omega^{-1} \\ \omega & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

Limiting cases reproducing standard complex and symplectic structures.

Introduce an **additional metric** G ($G^2 = 1$) on $TM \oplus TM^*$ which commutes with \mathcal{J}

Generalized Kähler geometry

Notation: Write an element of $T \oplus T^*$ as a vector $\begin{pmatrix} X \\ \xi \end{pmatrix}$.

$$\mathcal{J}_J = \begin{pmatrix} -J & 0 \\ 0 & J^* \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad \mathcal{J}_\omega = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -\omega^{-1} \\ \omega & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

Limiting cases reproducing standard complex and symplectic structures.

Introduce an **additional metric** G ($G^2 = 1$) on $TM \oplus TM^*$ which commutes with \mathcal{J}

\rightsquigarrow **another GCS** given by $G\mathcal{J}$.

Generalized Kähler geometry

Notation: Write an element of $T \oplus T^*$ as a vector $\begin{pmatrix} X \\ \xi \end{pmatrix}$.

$$\mathcal{J}_J = \begin{pmatrix} -J & 0 \\ 0 & J^* \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad \mathcal{J}_\omega = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -\omega^{-1} \\ \omega & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

Limiting cases reproducing standard complex and symplectic structures.

Introduce an **additional metric** G ($G^2 = 1$) on $TM \oplus TM^*$ which commutes with \mathcal{J}

\rightsquigarrow **another GCS** given by $G\mathcal{J}$.

From a standard Kähler structure (g, J, ω) we get $\mathcal{J}_J, \mathcal{J}_\omega$ and

$$G = -\mathcal{J}_J \mathcal{J}_\omega.$$

Generalized topological sigma models

Define a generalized Kähler structure by

$$\mathcal{J}_{1/2} = \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} I_+ \pm I_- & -(\omega_+^{-1} \mp \omega_-^{-1}) \\ \omega_+ \mp \omega_- & -(I_+^T \pm I_-^T) \end{pmatrix}.$$

The data of a bi-Hermitian geometry can be reconstructed using $\omega_{\pm} = gI_{\pm}$.

Generalized topological sigma models

Define a generalized Kähler structure by

$$\mathcal{J}_{1/2} = \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} I_+ \pm I_- & -(\omega_+^{-1} \mp \omega_-^{-1}) \\ \omega_+ \mp \omega_- & -(I_+^T \pm I_-^T) \end{pmatrix}.$$

The data of a bi-Hermitian geometry can be reconstructed using $\omega_{\pm} = gI_{\pm}$.

\rightsquigarrow We can describe the target space of the top. sigma models with a GKS.

Generalized B/A model:

$$\Psi_{1/2} := \frac{1}{2}(1 + i\mathcal{J}_{1/2}) \begin{pmatrix} \psi_+ + \psi_- \\ g(\psi_+ - \psi_-) \end{pmatrix}.$$

Generalized topological sigma models

- **Question:** How to get the usual top. sigma models from the generalized ones?

Generalized topological sigma models

- **Question:** How to get the usual top. sigma models from the generalized ones?
- **Answer:** From the generalized A or B model we get *both*. E.g. from the gen. B model we get the old B model by taking $I_+ = I_-$ and the old A model by $I_+ = -I_-$.

$$\mathcal{J}_1 = \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} I_+ + I_- & -(\omega_+^{-1} - \omega_-^{-1}) \\ \omega_+ - \omega_- & -(I_+^T + I_-^T) \end{pmatrix} \begin{array}{l} \xrightarrow{B} \\ \xrightarrow{A} \end{array} \begin{array}{l} \begin{pmatrix} I & 0 \\ 0 & -I^T \end{pmatrix} \\ \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \omega^{-1} \\ \omega & 0 \end{pmatrix} \end{array}$$

Mirror symmetry

- Mirror symmetry relates the top. A model on a manifold X to the top. B model on a (dual) manifold Y .

Mirror symmetry

- Mirror symmetry relates the top. A model on a manifold X to the top. B model on a (dual) manifold Y .
- Realization in the generalized setup:

$$\mathcal{I}_1 \longleftrightarrow \mathcal{I}_2,$$

exchanges generalized A and B model.

Mirror symmetry

- Mirror symmetry relates the top. A model on a manifold X to the top. B model on a (dual) manifold Y .
- Realization in the generalized setup:

$$\mathcal{J}_1 \longleftrightarrow \mathcal{J}_2,$$

exchanges generalized A and B model.

- In the limit of $I_+ = I_-$ this exchanges the old A and B model.

Mirror symmetry

- Mirror symmetry relates the top. A model on a manifold X to the top. B model on a (dual) manifold Y .
- Realization in the generalized setup:

$$\mathcal{J}_1 \longleftrightarrow \mathcal{J}_2,$$

exchanges generalized A and B model.

- In the limit of $I_+ = I_-$ this exchanges the old A and B model.
- Kähler and complex structure moduli are exchanged.

Conclusions and Outlook

- Generalized complex geometry seems to be a nice framework to describe $\mathcal{N} = (2, 2)$ topological sigma models.

Conclusions and Outlook

- Generalized complex geometry seems to be a nice framework to describe $\mathcal{N} = (2, 2)$ topological sigma models.
- Mirror symmetry relating A and B models can be understood from a geometrical point of view.

Conclusions and Outlook

- Generalized complex geometry seems to be a nice framework to describe $\mathcal{N} = (2, 2)$ topological sigma models.
- Mirror symmetry relating A and B models can be understood from a geometrical point of view.
- Is it possible to construct explicit examples of generalized complex manifolds?

Conclusions and Outlook

- Generalized complex geometry seems to be a nice framework to describe $\mathcal{N} = (2, 2)$ topological sigma models.
- Mirror symmetry relating A and B models can be understood from a geometrical point of view.
- Is it possible to construct explicit examples of generalized complex manifolds?
- What about the relation to "physical" string theory? Can we embed the setup to type IIA/B?

Conclusions and Outlook

- Generalized complex geometry seems to be a nice framework to describe $\mathcal{N} = (2, 2)$ topological sigma models.
- Mirror symmetry relating A and B models can be understood from a geometrical point of view.
- Is it possible to construct explicit examples of generalized complex manifolds?
- What about the relation to "physical" string theory? Can we embed the setup to type IIA/B?
- What about lifts to M-theory (G2 manifolds)?

Conclusions and Outlook

- Generalized complex geometry seems to be a nice framework to describe $\mathcal{N} = (2, 2)$ topological sigma models.
- Mirror symmetry relating A and B models can be understood from a geometrical point of view.
- Is it possible to construct explicit examples of generalized complex manifolds?
- What about the relation to "physical" string theory? Can we embed the setup to type IIA/B?
- What about lifts to M-theory (G2 manifolds)?
- Can we construct new types of topological branes using this framework?