

Urs Schreiber

(New York University, Abu Dhabi & Czech Academy of Science, Prague)

**Equivariant super homotopy theory**

talk at

*Geometry in Modal Homotopy Type Theory*

Pittsburgh 2019

based on joint work with

H. Sati, V. Braunack-Mayer, J. Huerta, D. Fiorenza, F. Wellen

Motivation.

Part I.  
Super homotopy theory

Part II.  
Orbifold cohomology

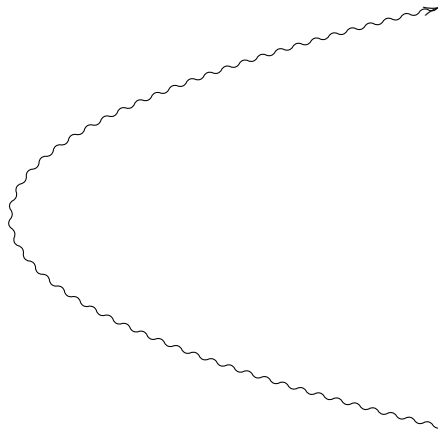
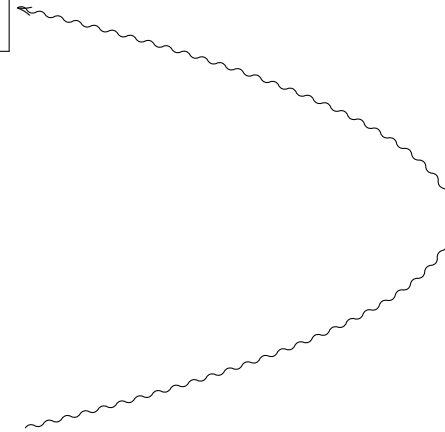
# Motivation

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# Analytic detours and Synthetic promises

foundations of  
physics

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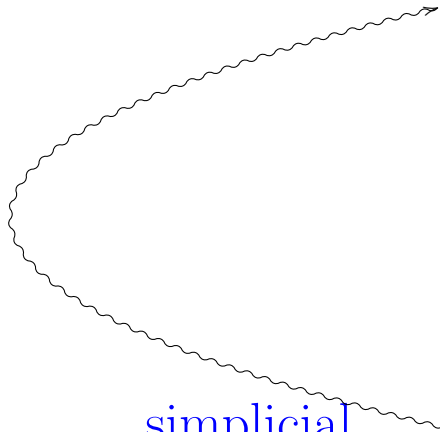
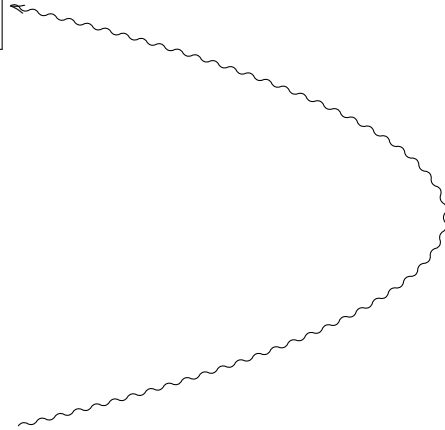
set theory/  
type theory

foundations of  
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simplicial  
sets

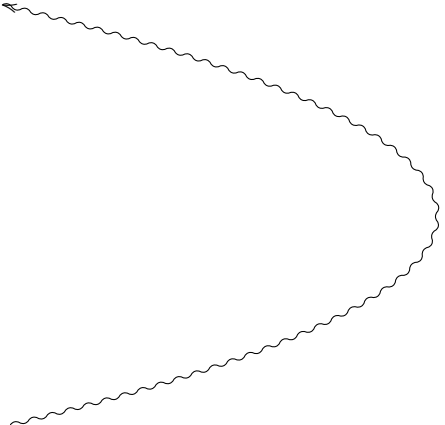
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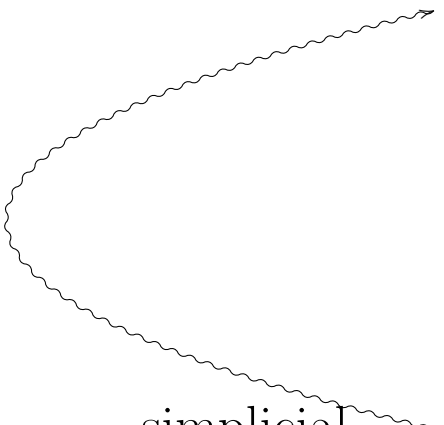
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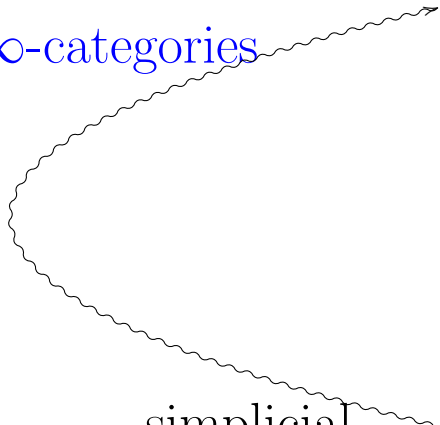
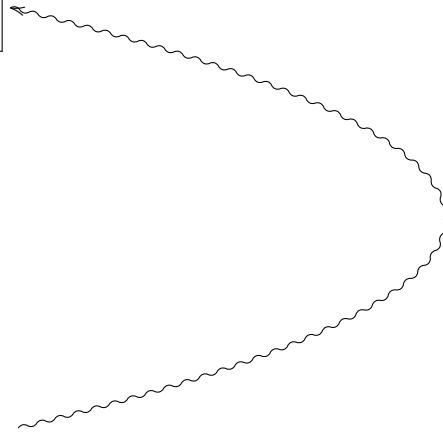
zoo of models  
for  $\infty$ -categories

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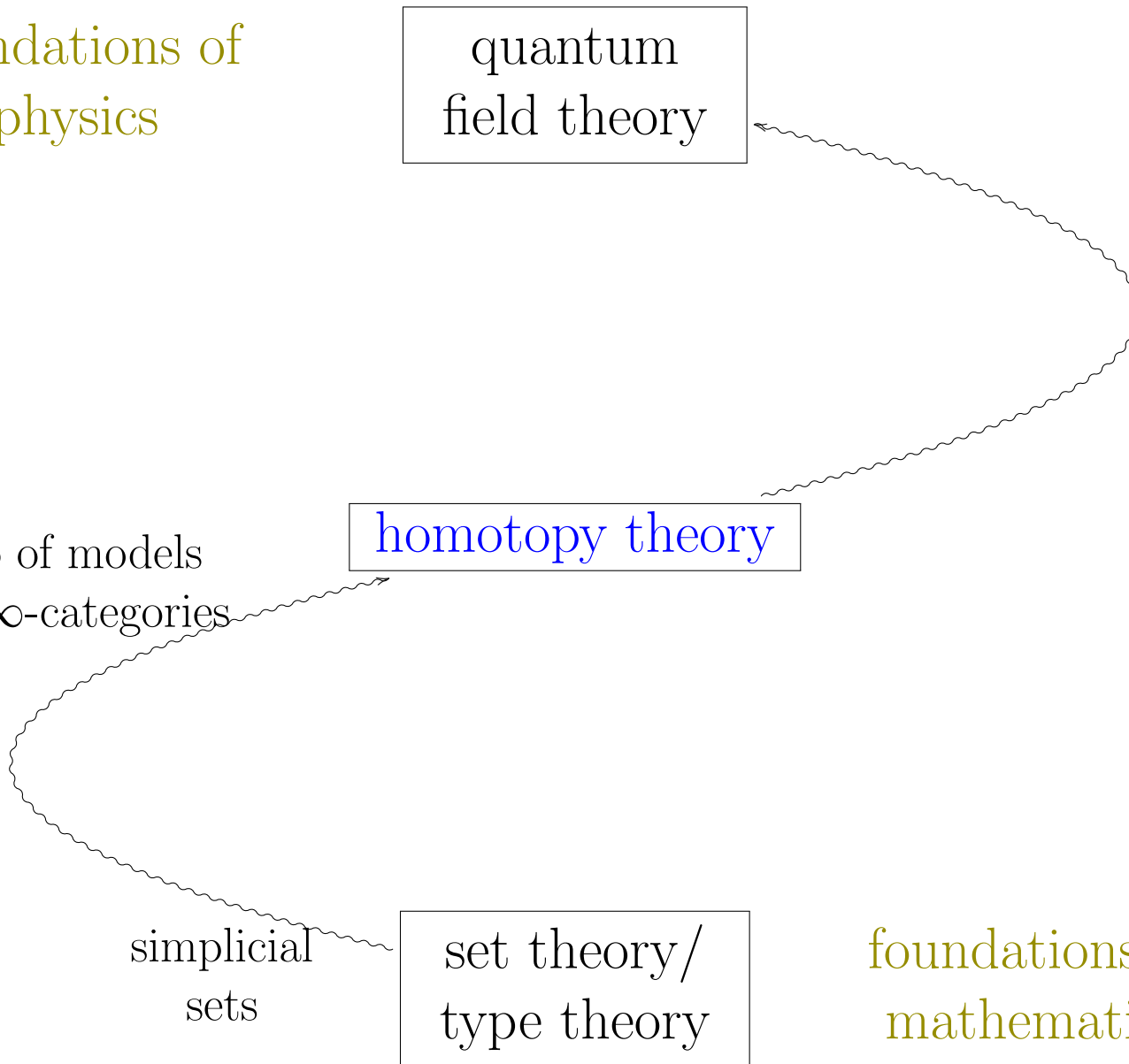
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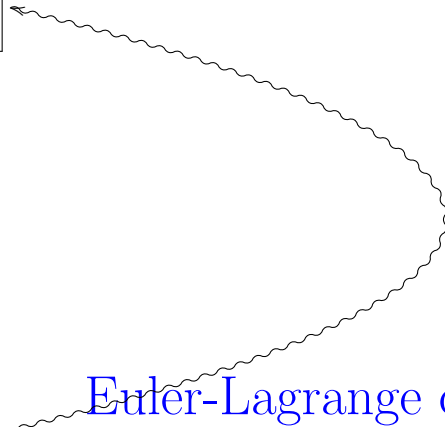




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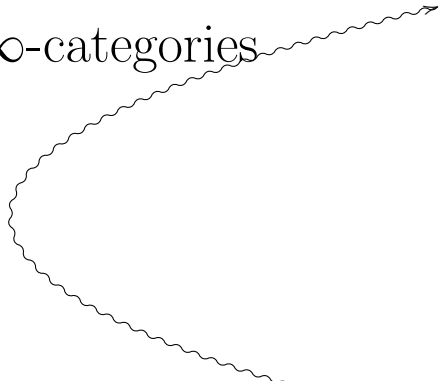


Euler-Lagrange complexes  
on jet bundles

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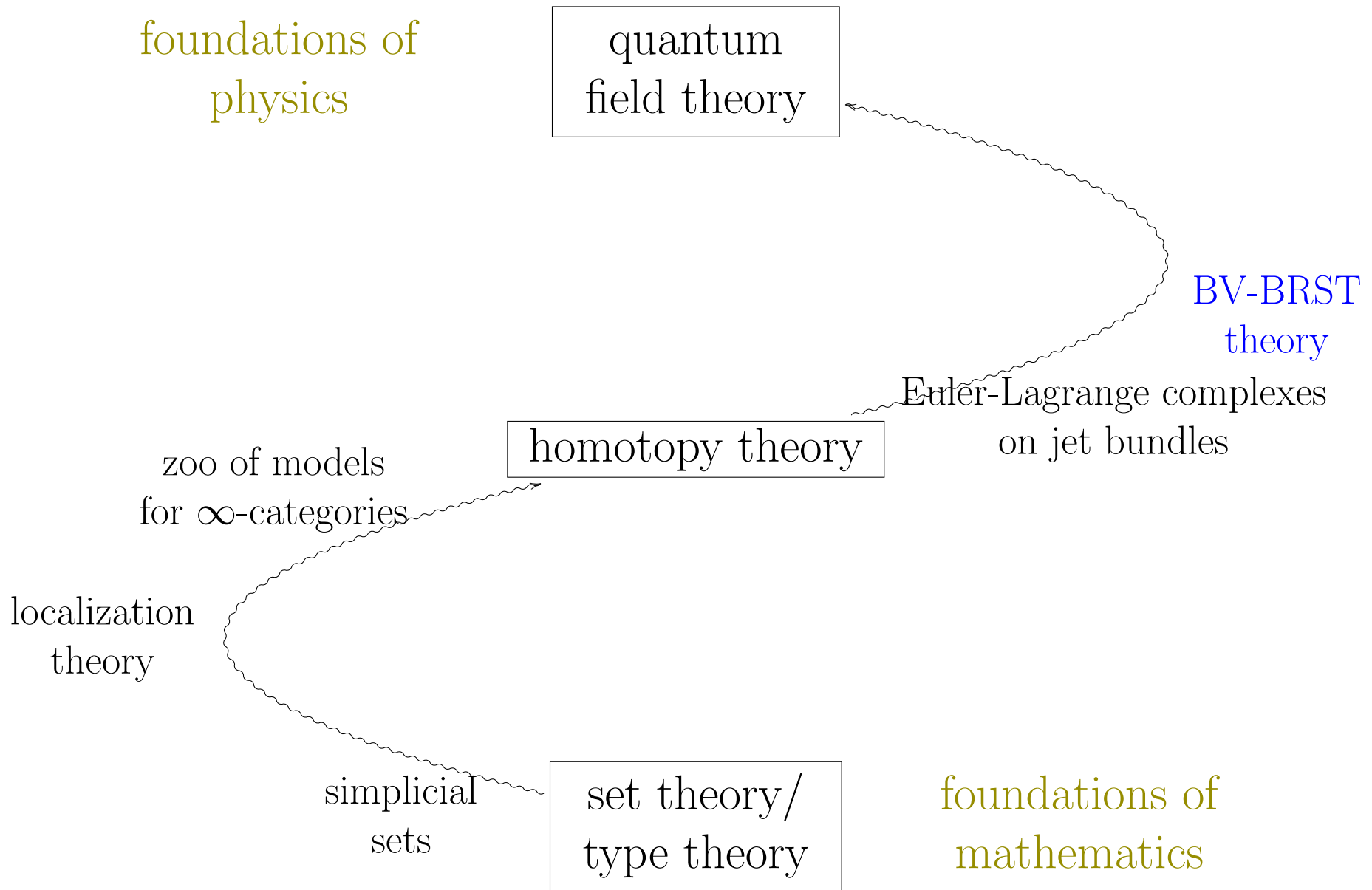


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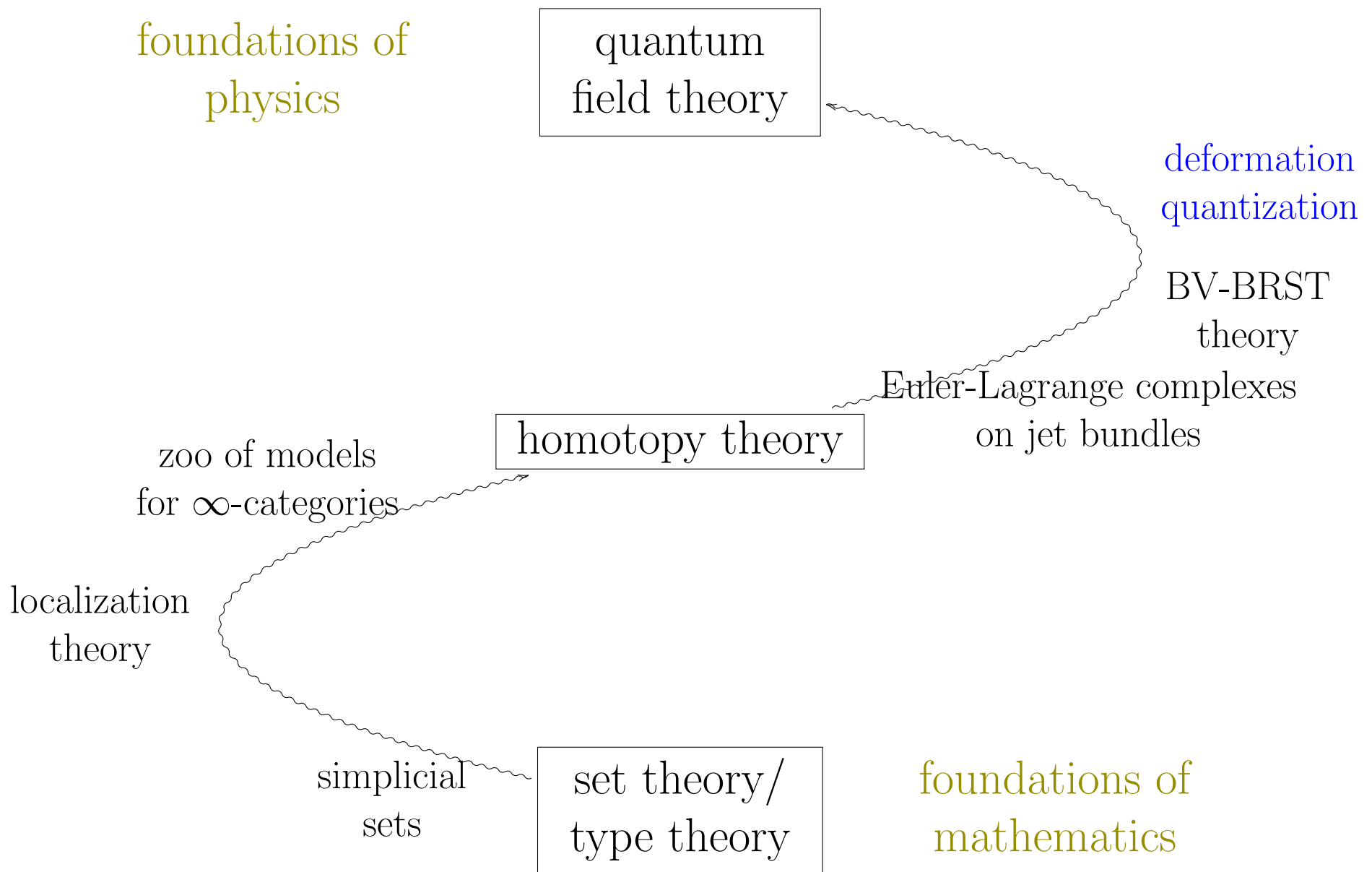
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# Analytic detours and Synthetic promises



# Analytic detours and Synthetic promises



# Analytic detours and Synthetic promises

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zoo of hacks for  
nonperturbative effects

deformation  
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for detailed exposition see:

[geometry+of+physics+-+perturbative+quantum+field+theory](#)

zoo of models  
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homotopy theory

localization  
theory

for detailed exposition see:

[ncatlab.org/nlab/show/geometry+of+physics+-+categories+and+toposes](http://ncatlab.org/nlab/show/geometry+of+physics+-+categories+and+toposes)

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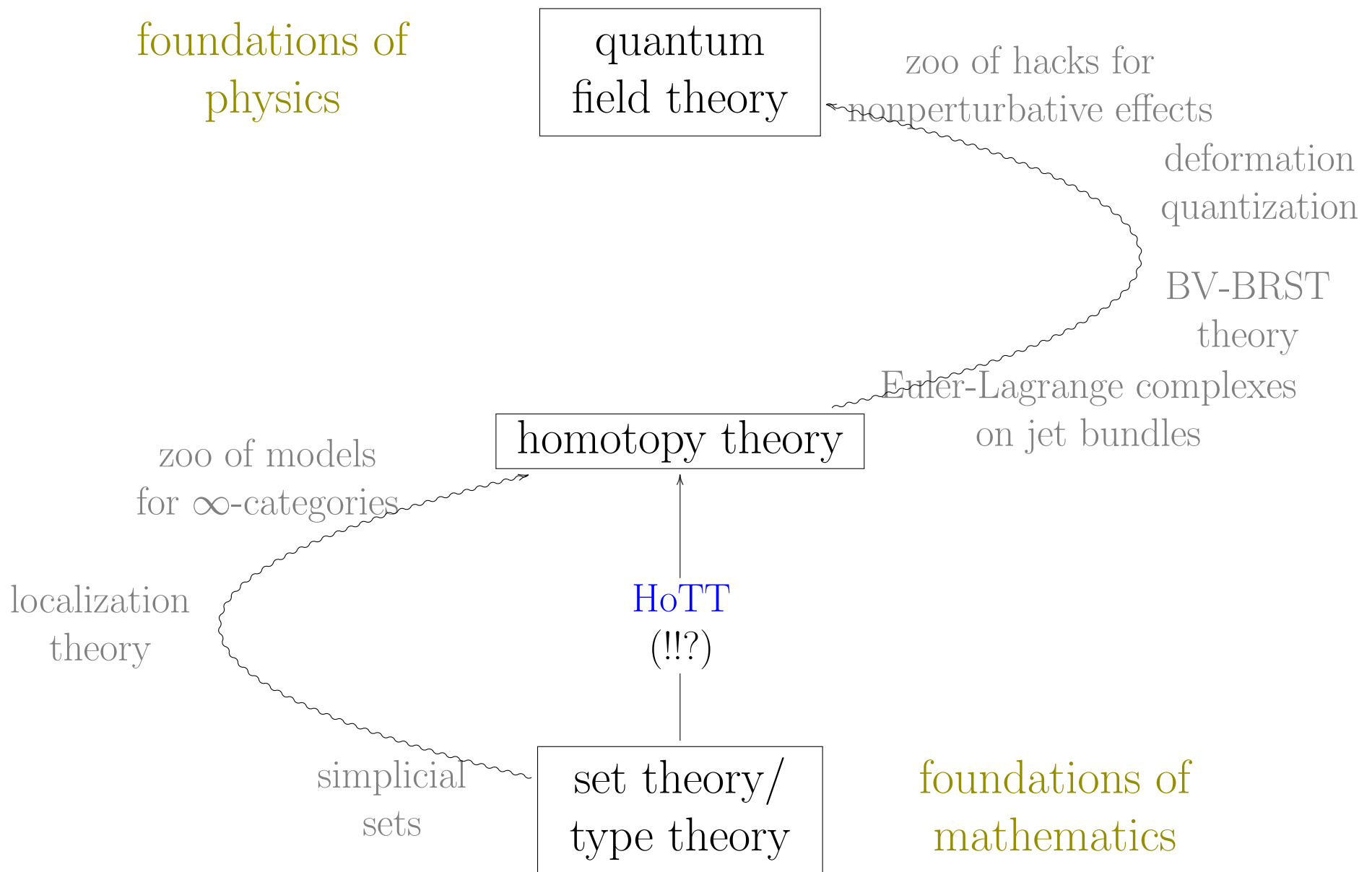
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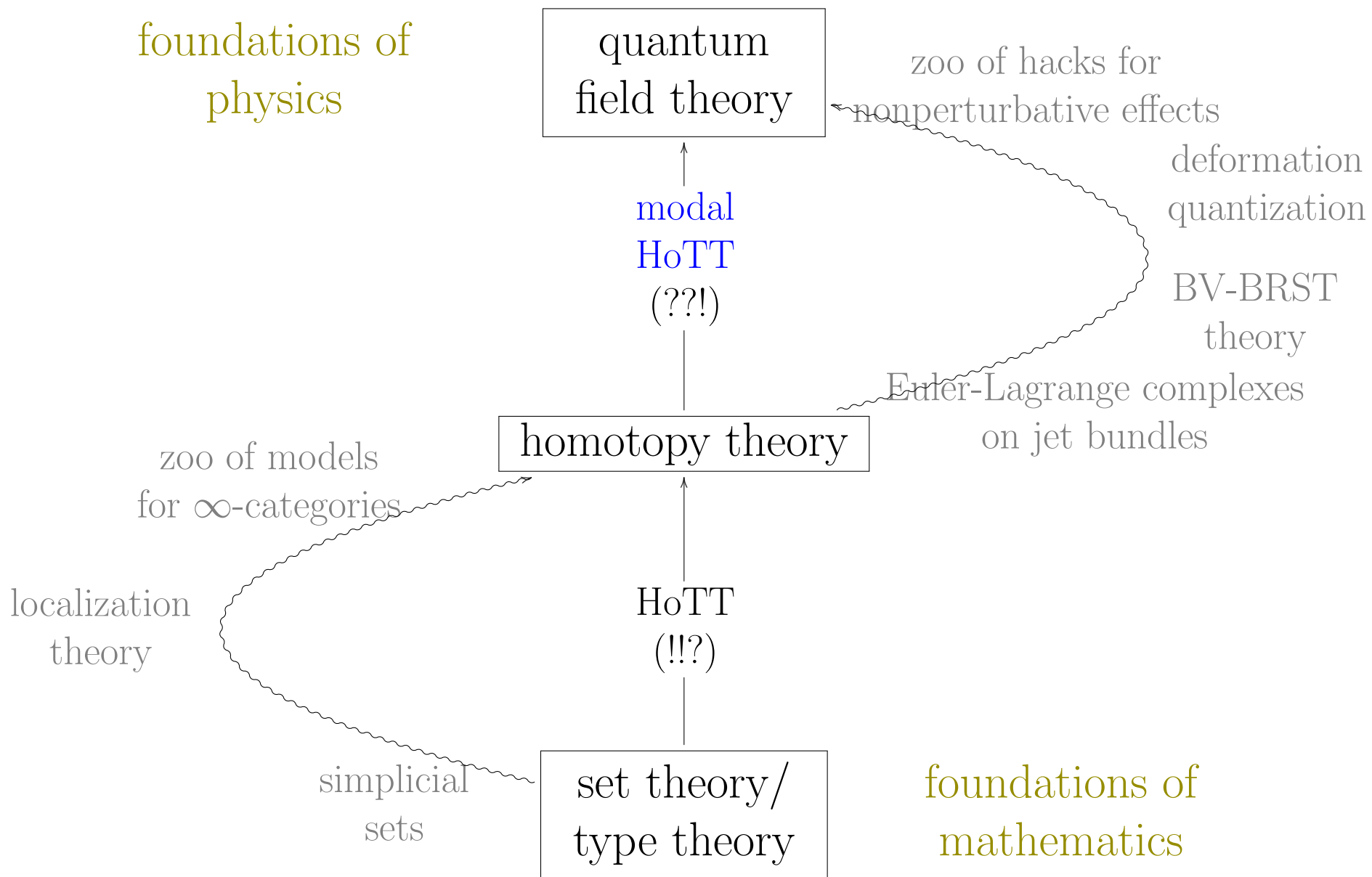
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# Analytic detours and Synthetic promises



# Analytic detours and Synthetic promises





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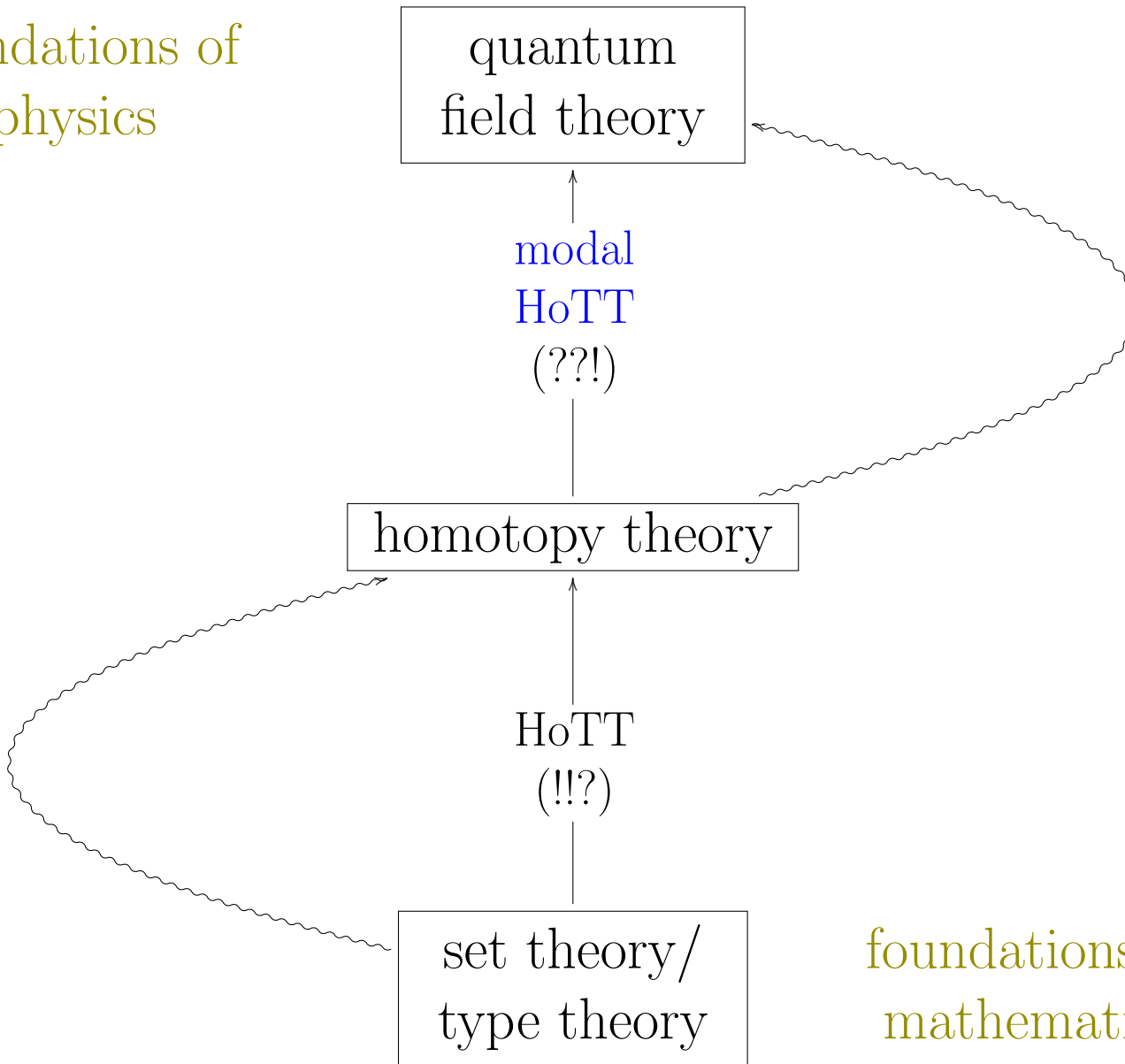
modal  
HoTT  
(??!)

homotopy theory

HoTT  
(!!?)

set theory/  
type theory

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mathematics



# Part I.

## Equivariant super homotopy theory

1. Super homotopy theory and the Atom of Superspace  
Rational
2. Super homotopy theory and the fundamental super  $p$ -Branes

**Super homotopy theory**  
and the Atom of Superspace

[back to Part I](#)

**physics**

**mathematics**

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gauge principle

homotopy theory

& Pauli exclusion

super-geometry

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=

**super homotopy theory**

for detailed exposition see:

[ncatlab.org/nlab/show/geometry+of+physics+-+supergeometry](http://ncatlab.org/nlab/show/geometry+of+physics+-+supergeometry)

## The sites of super homotopy theory

---

1.  $\text{CartSp}$  – cartesian spaces
2.  $\text{FormalCartSp}$  – formal cartesian spaces
3.  $\text{SuperFormalCartSp}$  – super formal cartesian spaces

# The sites of super homotopy theory

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1.  $\mathbf{CartSp}$  – cartesian spaces
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$$\mathbf{CartSp} := \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{objects: } \mathbb{R}^n\text{-s for } n \in \mathbb{N} \\ \text{morphisms: } \mathbb{R}^{n_1} \xrightarrow[\text{smooth}]{f} \mathbb{R}^{n_2} \\ \text{coverings: } \text{good open covers} \end{array} \right\}$$

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---

**Fact (“Milnor’s exercise”):**

Sending Cartesian spaces

to their  $\mathbb{R}$ -algebras of smooth real-valued functions

is fully faithful:

$$C^\infty(-) : \mathbf{CartSp} \hookrightarrow \mathbf{CommAlg}_{\mathbb{R}}^{\text{op}}$$

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$$\text{FormalCartSp} := \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{objects: } \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{D}\text{-s} \\ C^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{D}) := C^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n) \otimes_{\mathbb{R}} \left( \mathbb{R} \oplus_{\text{nilpotent ideal}}^{\text{fin dim}} \right) \\ \text{morphisms: } C^\infty(\mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{D}) \xleftarrow[\text{alg. homom.}]{f^*} C^\infty(\mathbb{R}^{n'} \times \mathbb{D}') \\ \text{coverings: } \text{good open covers} \times \text{id}_{\mathbb{D}} \end{array} \right\}$$

---

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e.g.

super Cartesian space  $\mathbb{R}^{D|N}$  defined by

$$C^\infty(\mathbb{R}^{D|N}) := C^\infty(\mathbb{R}^D) \otimes_{\mathbb{R}} \mathbb{R}[\{\theta^\alpha\}_{\alpha=1}^N] / (\theta^\alpha \theta^\beta = -\theta^\beta \theta^\alpha)$$

---

**Fact (“Milnor’s exercise”):**

Sending Cartesian spaces

to their  $\mathbb{R}$ -algebras of smooth real-valued functions

is fully faithful:

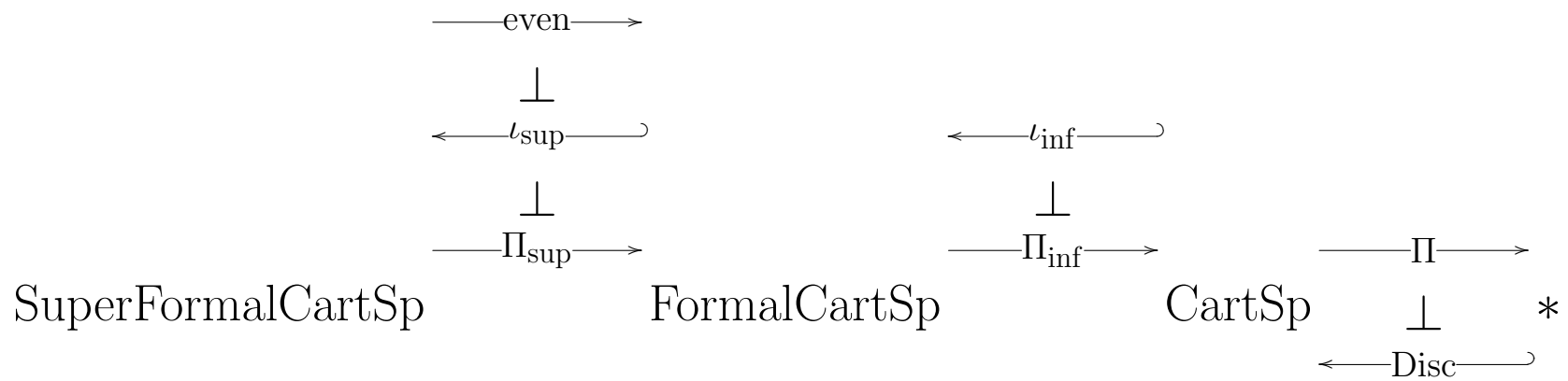
$$C^\infty(-) : \text{CartSp} \hookrightarrow \text{CommAlg}_{\mathbb{R}}^{\text{op}} \hookrightarrow \text{SuperCommAlg}_{\mathbb{R}}^{\text{op}}$$

# The sites of super homotopy theory

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## Adjunctions

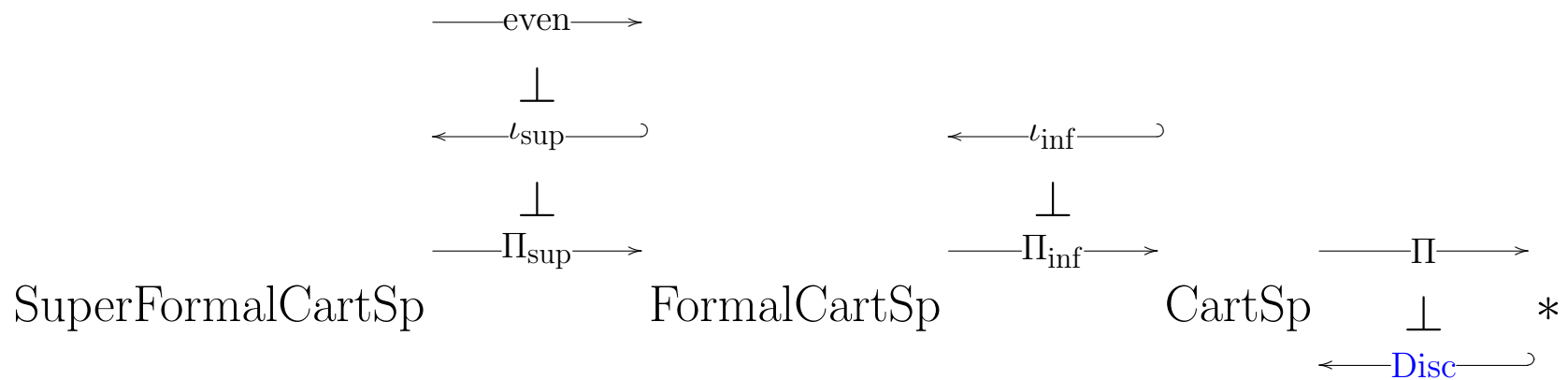


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## Adjunctions



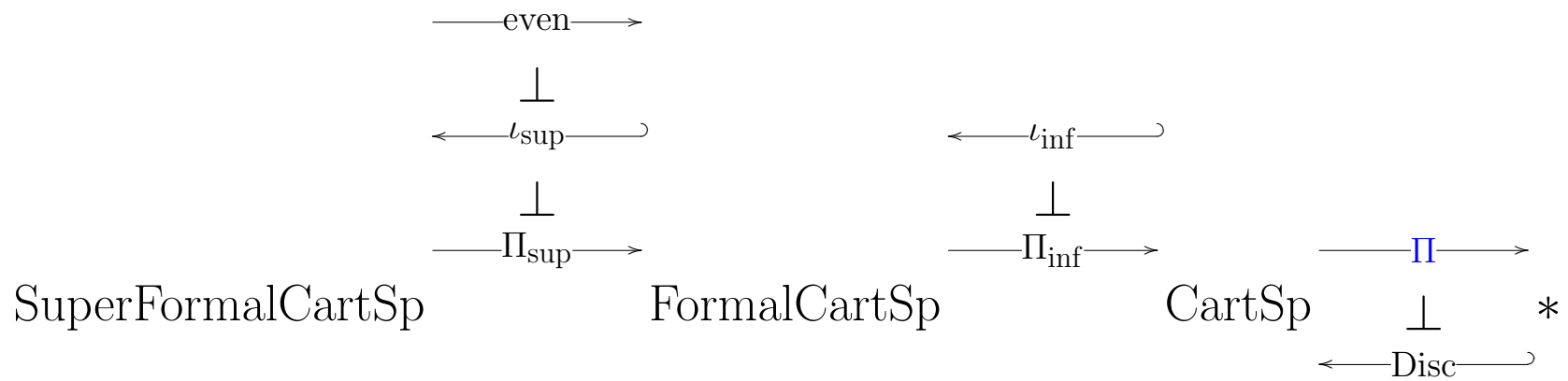
Include point as  $\mathbb{R}^0$ .

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## Adjunctions



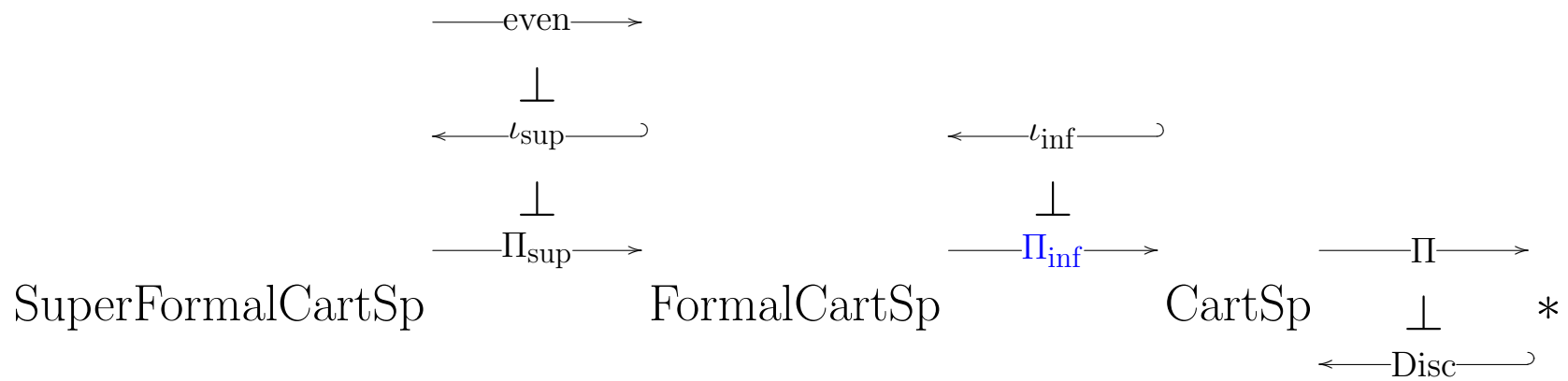
Contract  $\mathbb{R}^n$  to point.

# The sites of super homotopy theory

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## Adjunctions



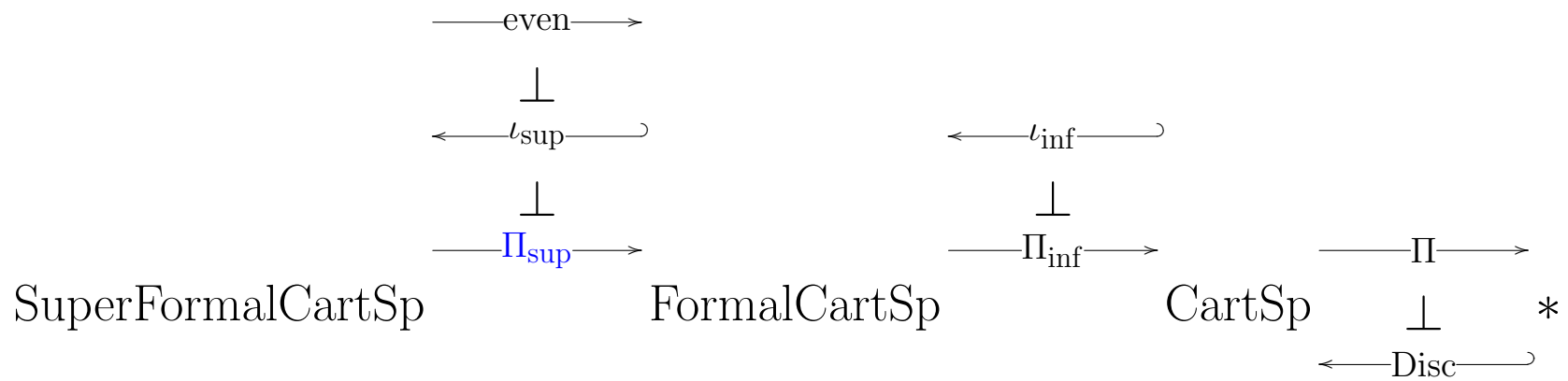
Contract  $\mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{D}$  to  $\mathbb{R}^n$ .

# The sites of super homotopy theory

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## Adjunctions



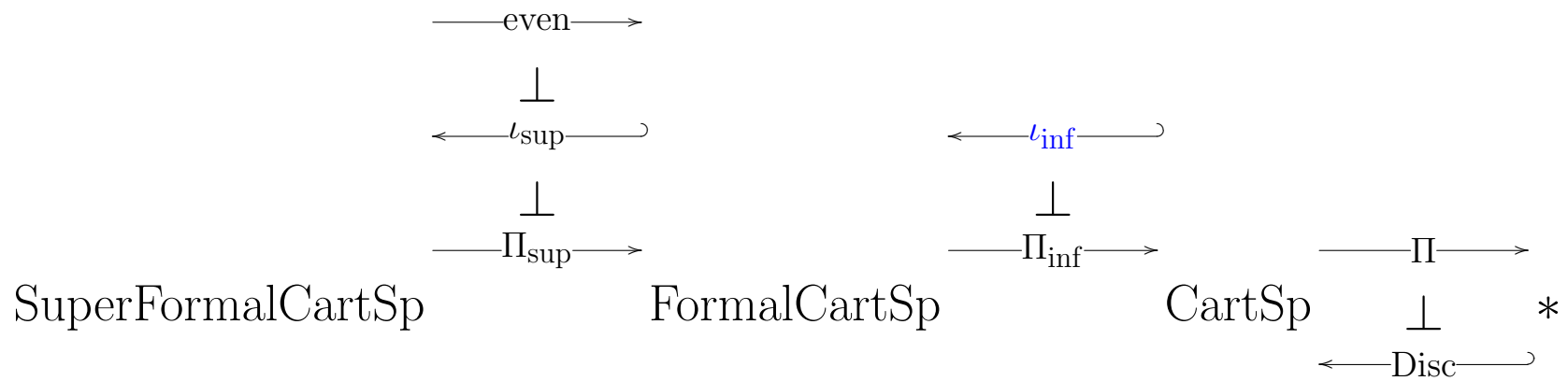
Contract  $\mathbb{R}^{D|N}$  to  $\mathbb{R}^D$ .

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## Adjunctions



Include  $\mathbb{R}^n$  as  $\mathbb{R}^n$ .

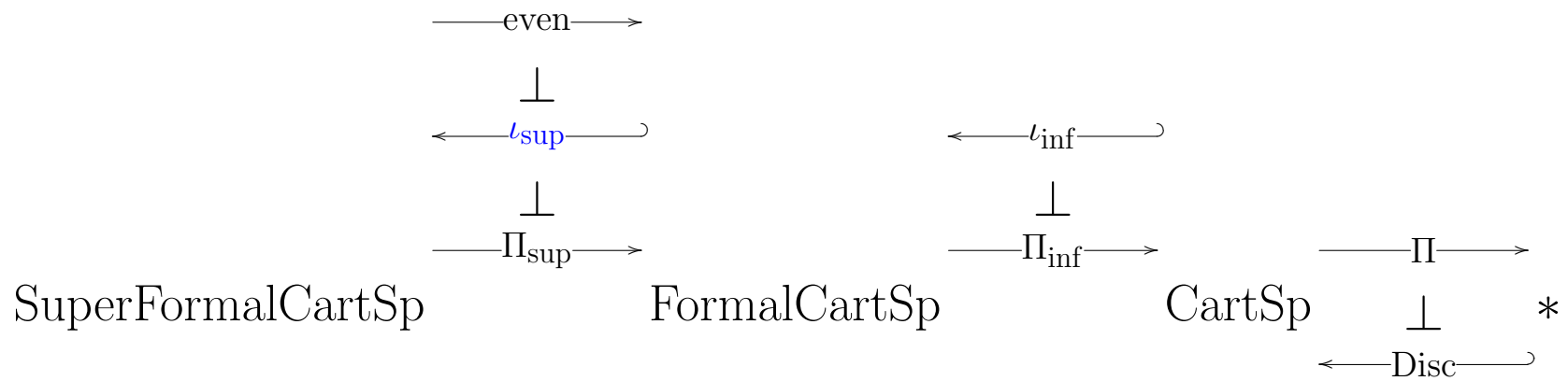


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## Adjunctions



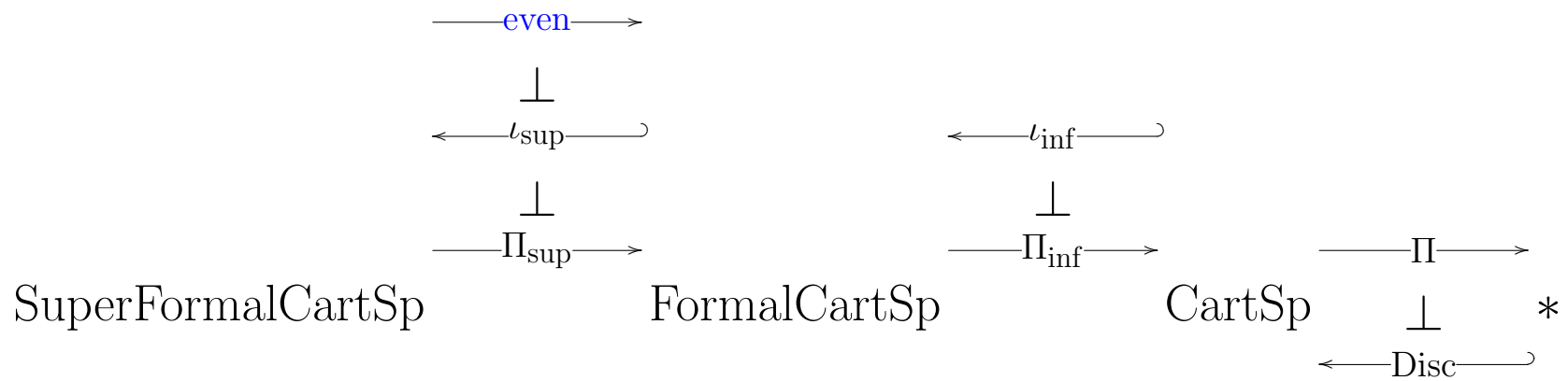
Include  $\mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{D}$  as  $\mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{D}$ .

# The sites of super homotopy theory

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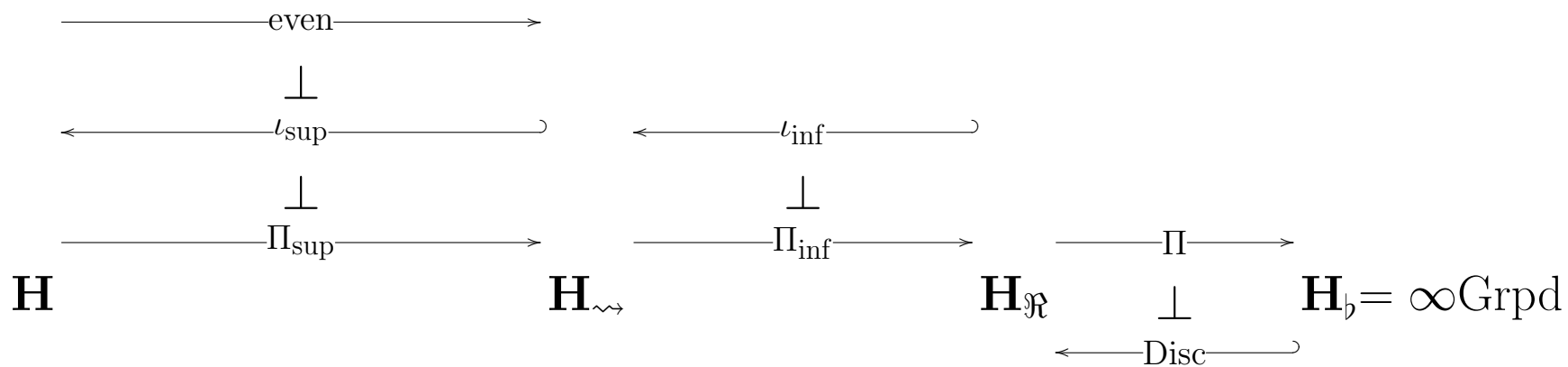
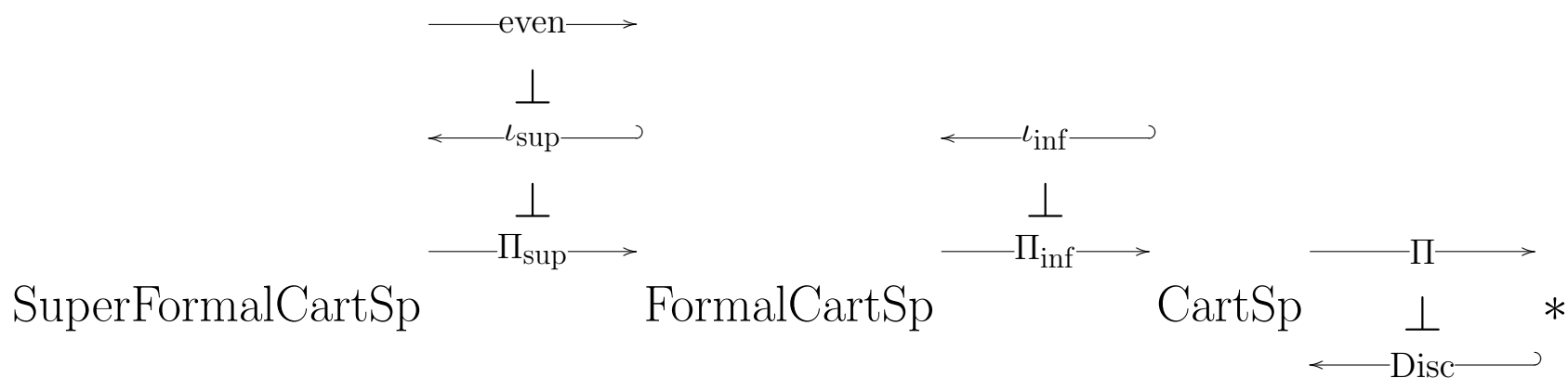
Send  $\mathbb{R}^{0|2}$  to  $\mathbb{D}^1(1)$ .

# The toposes of super homotopy theory

---

1.  $\mathbf{H}_{\mathfrak{R}} := \text{Sh}_{\infty}(\text{CartSp})$  – smooth  $\infty$ -groupoids
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## Adjunctions

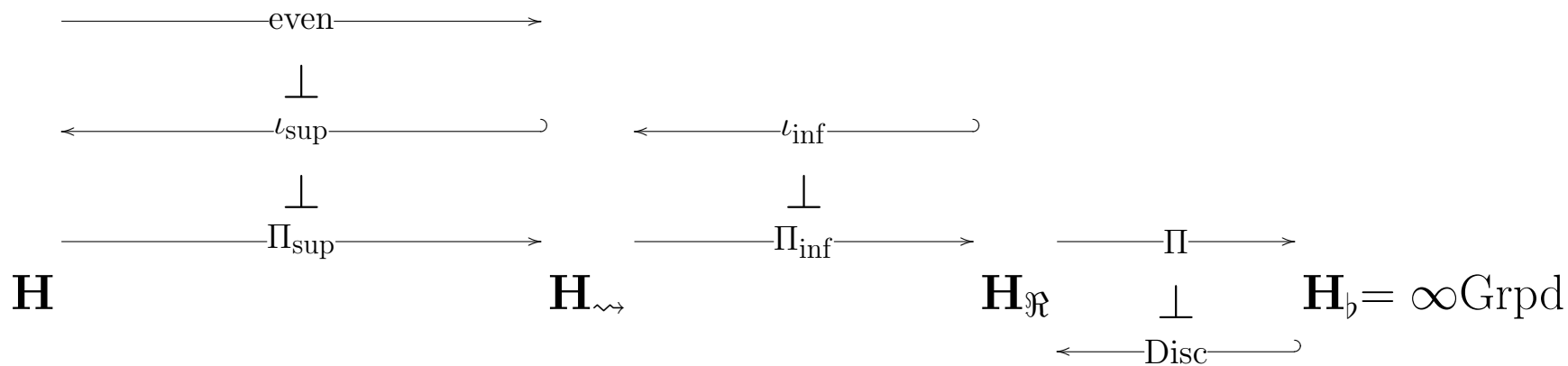
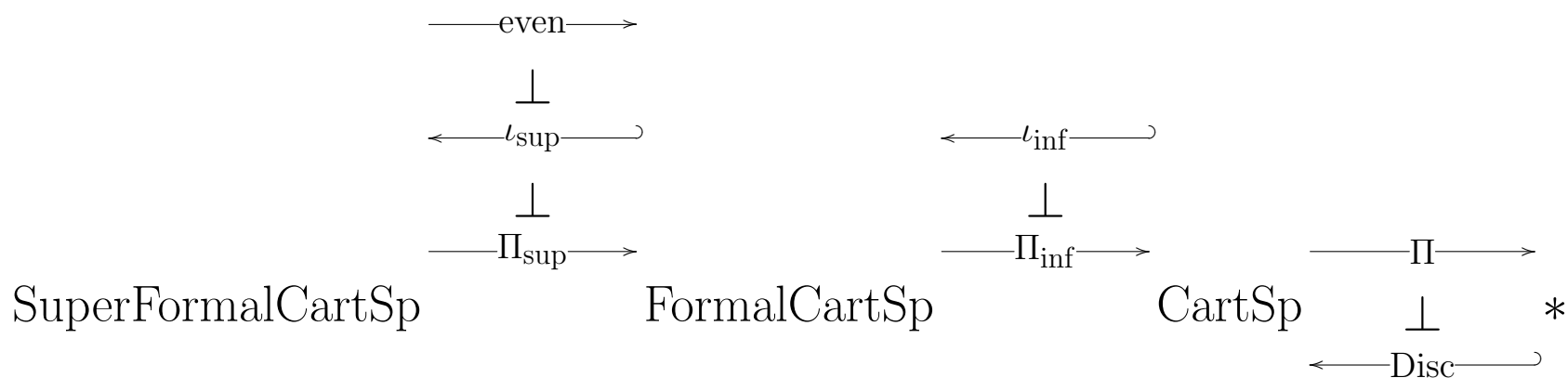


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## Adjunctions by Kan extension

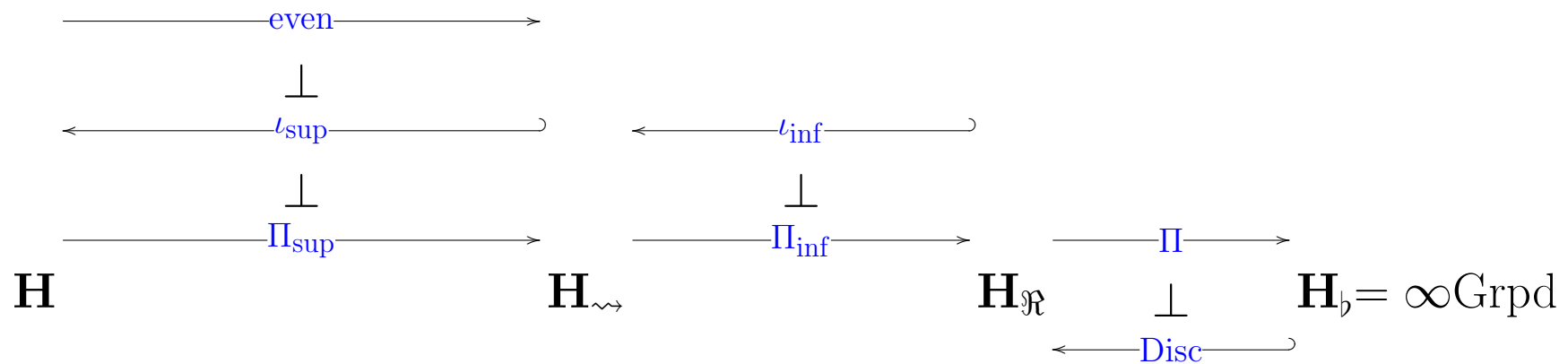


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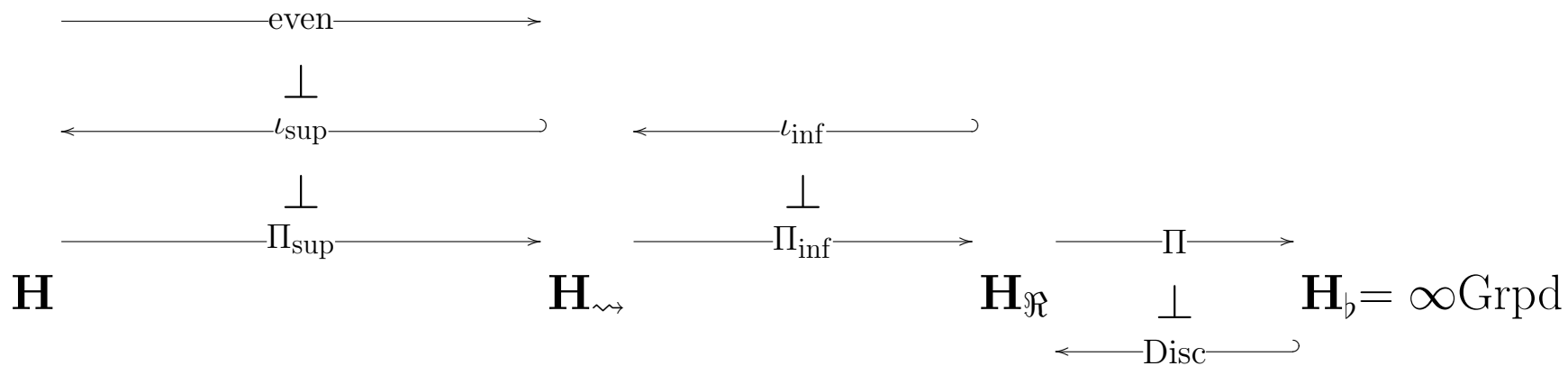


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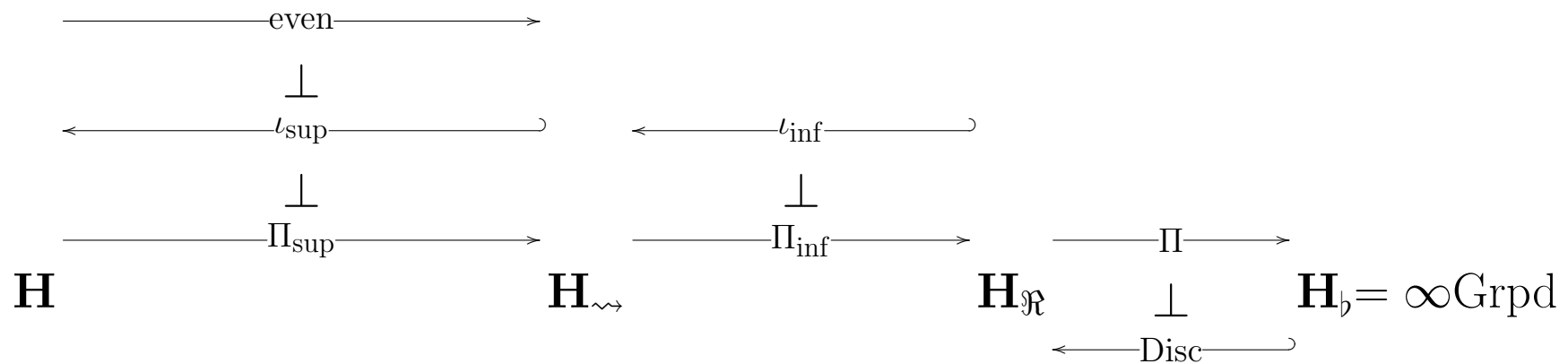


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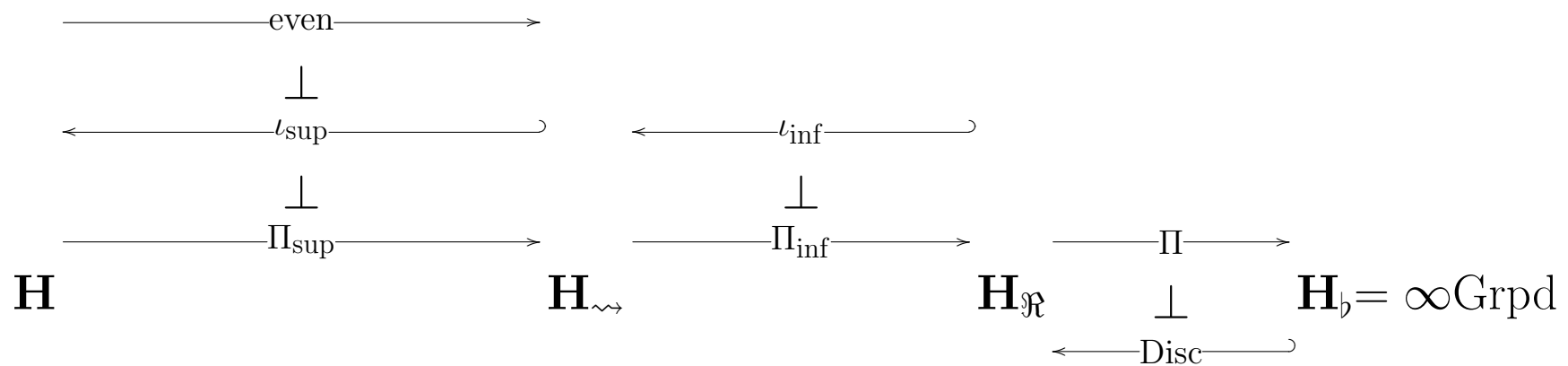


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## Adjunctions by **Kan extension**



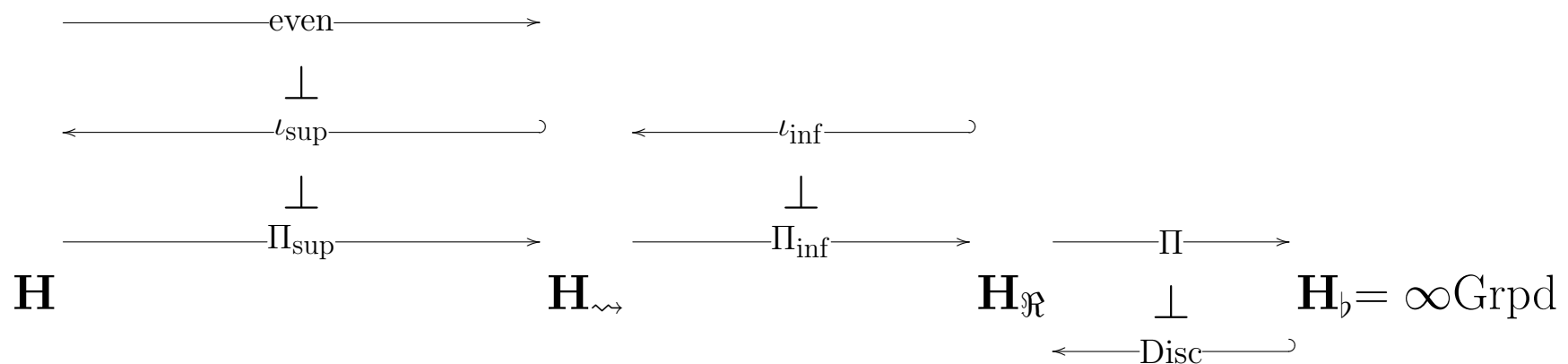


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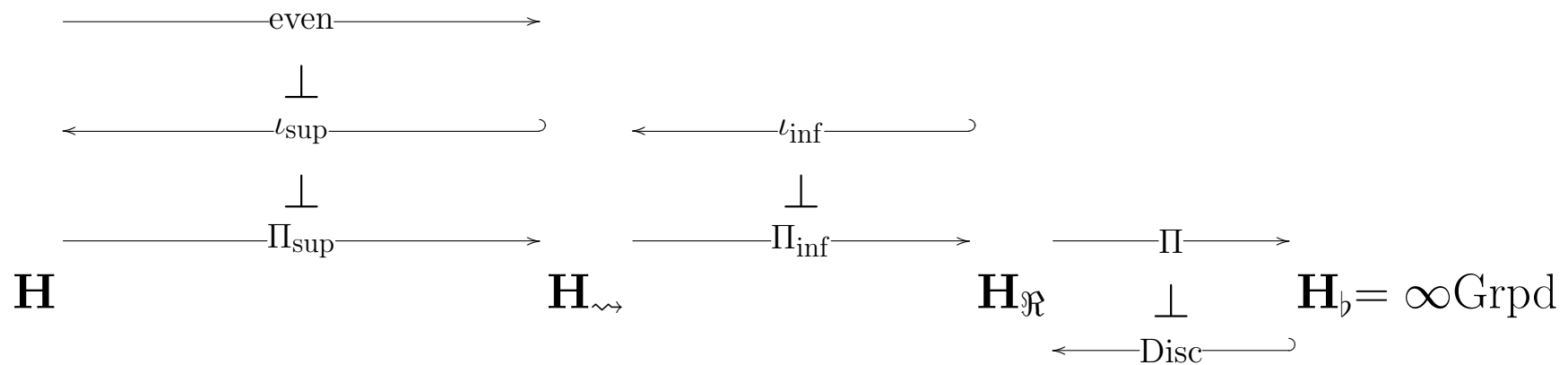


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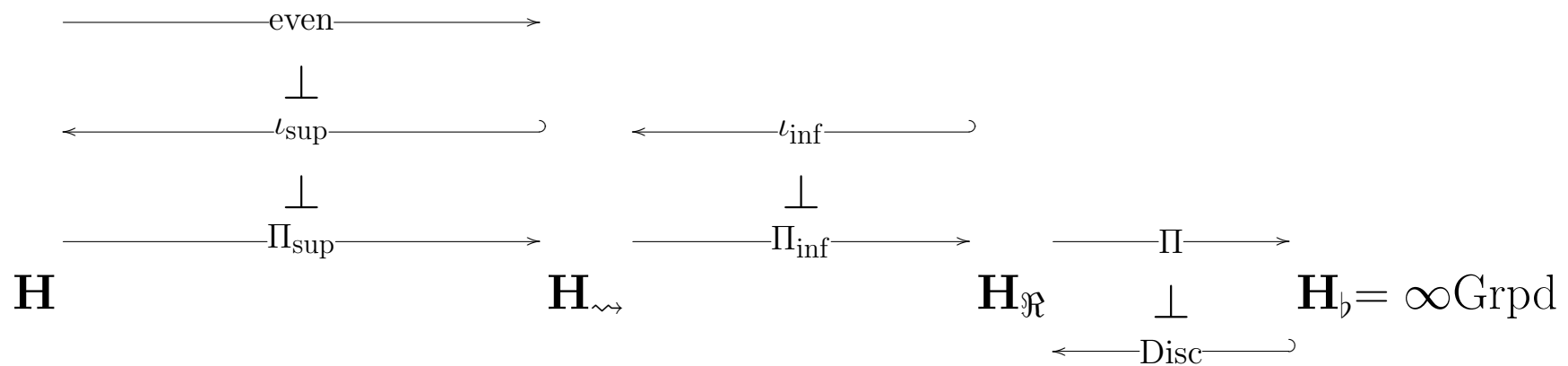


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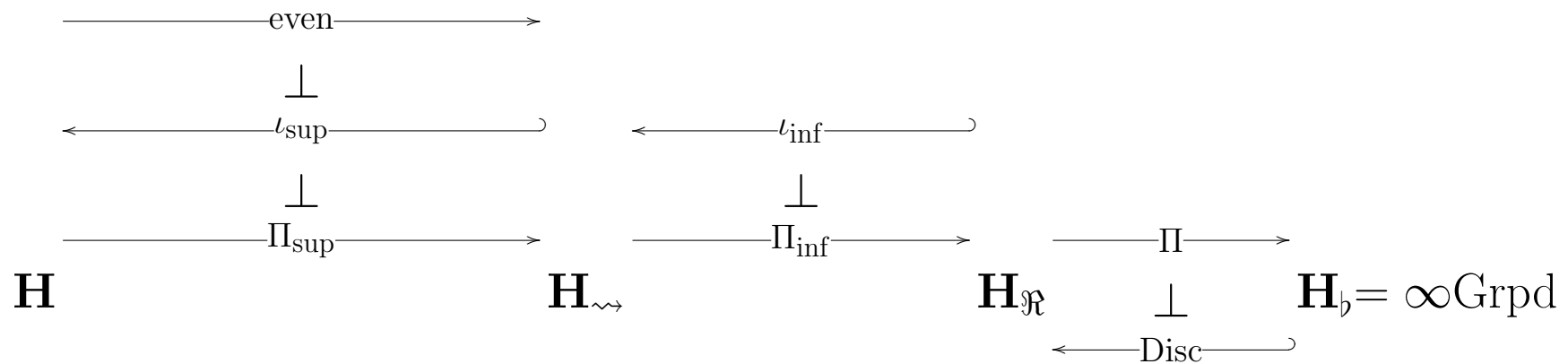


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- 

## Adjunctions by Kan extension

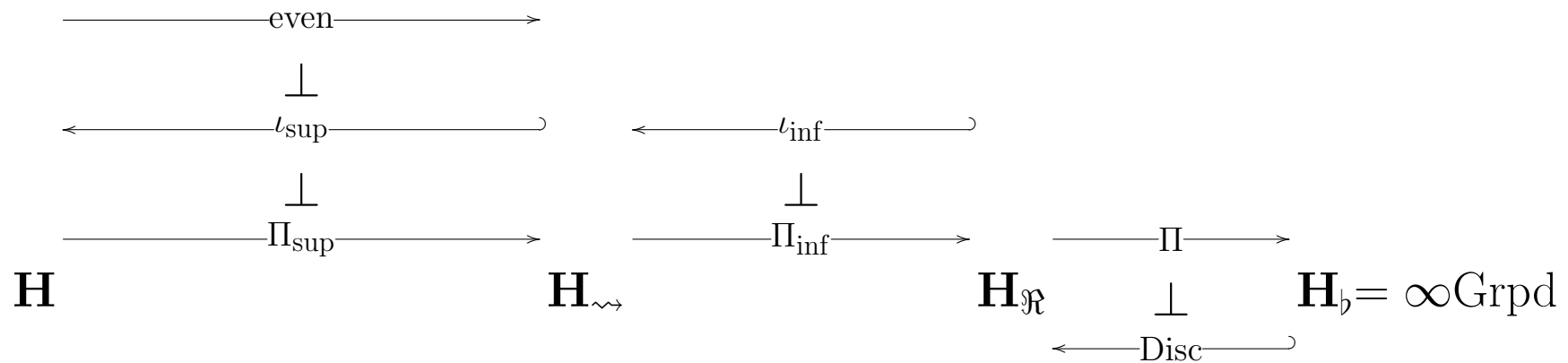


# The toposes of super homotopy theory

---

1.  $\mathbf{H}_{\mathfrak{R}} := \text{Sh}_{\infty}(\text{CartSp})$  – smooth  $\infty$ -groupoids
  2.  $\mathbf{H}_{\rightsquigarrow} := \text{Sh}_{\infty}(\text{FormalCartSp})$  – formal smooth  $\infty$ -groupoids
  3.  $\mathbf{H} := \text{Sh}_{\infty}(\text{SuperFormalCartSp})$  – super formal smooth  $\infty$ -groupoids
- 

## Adjunctions by Kan extension

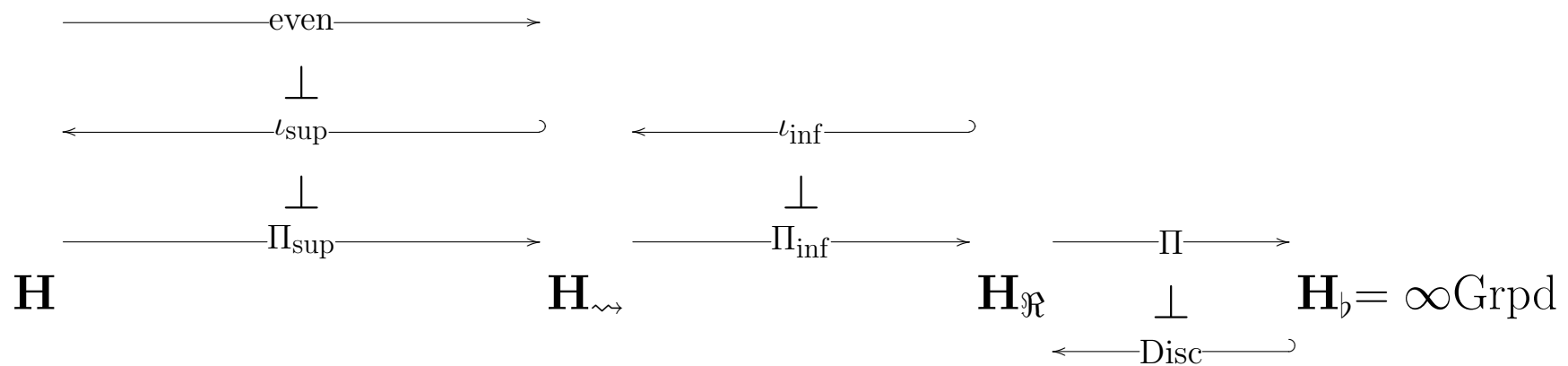


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- 

## Adjunctions by Kan extension

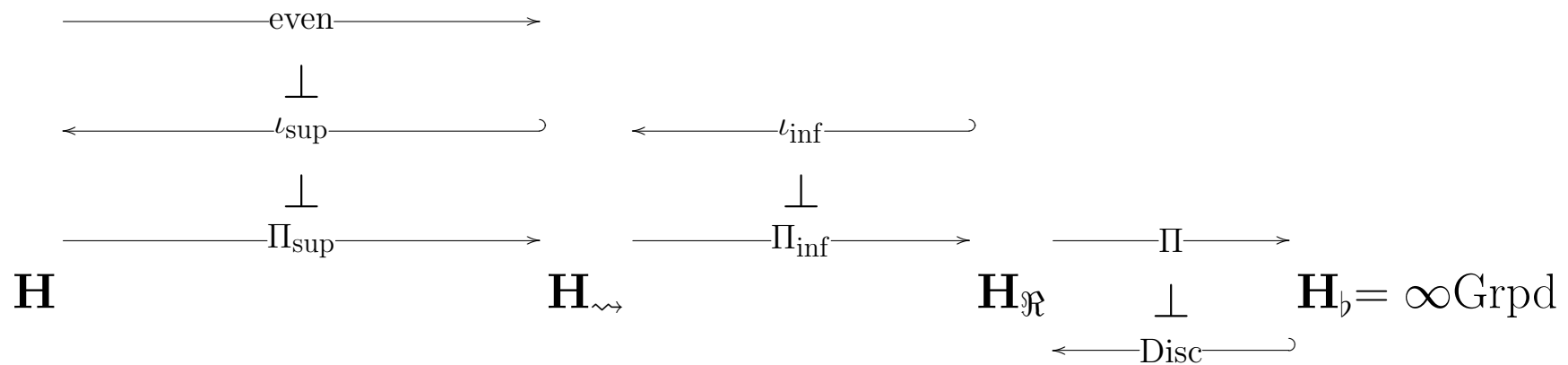


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- 

## Adjunctions by Kan extension

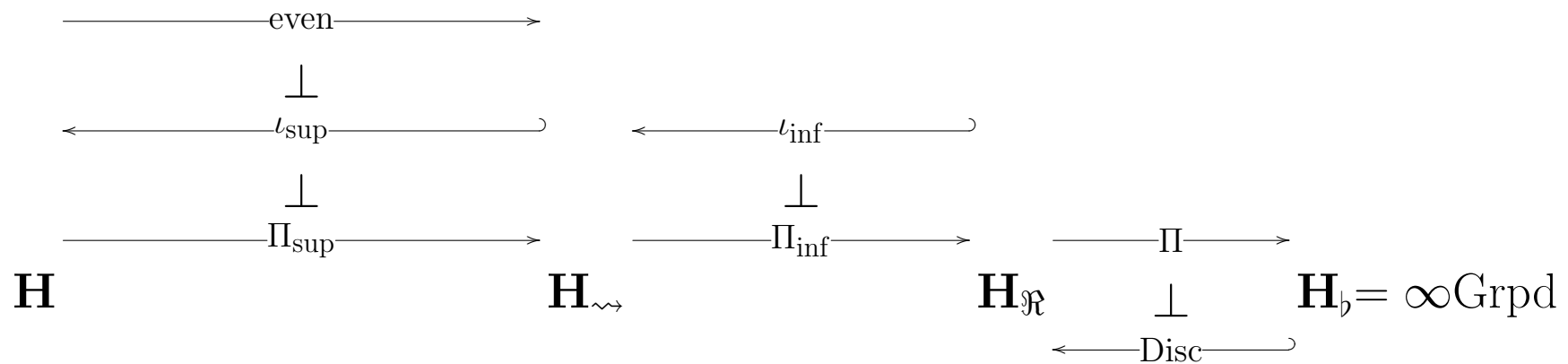


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- 

## Adjunctions by Kan extension



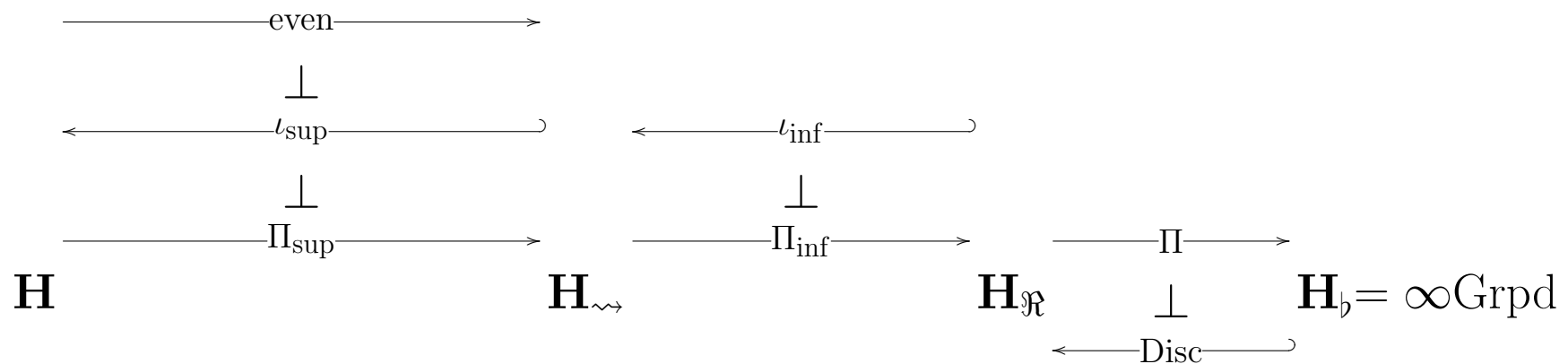


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- 

## Adjunctions by Kan extension

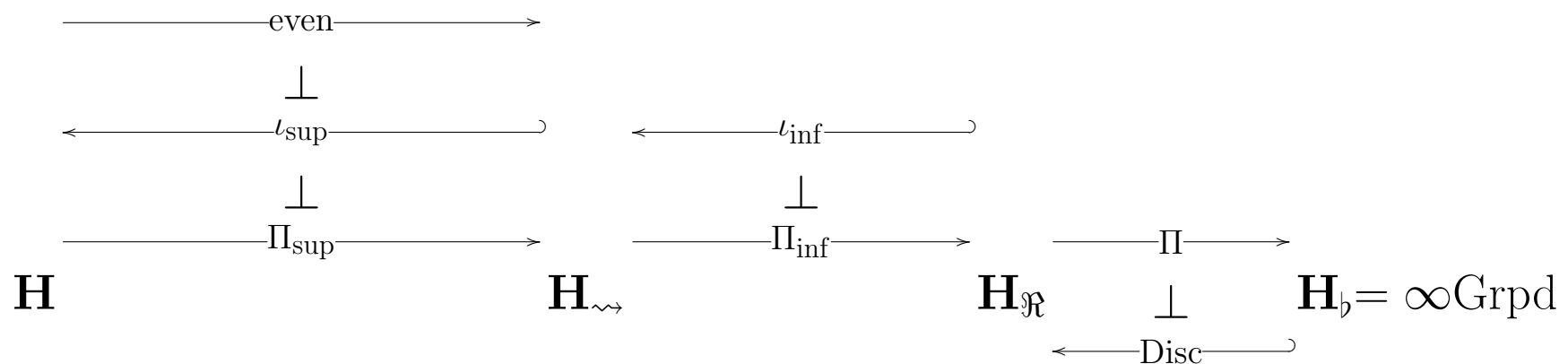


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- 

## Adjunctions by Kan extension

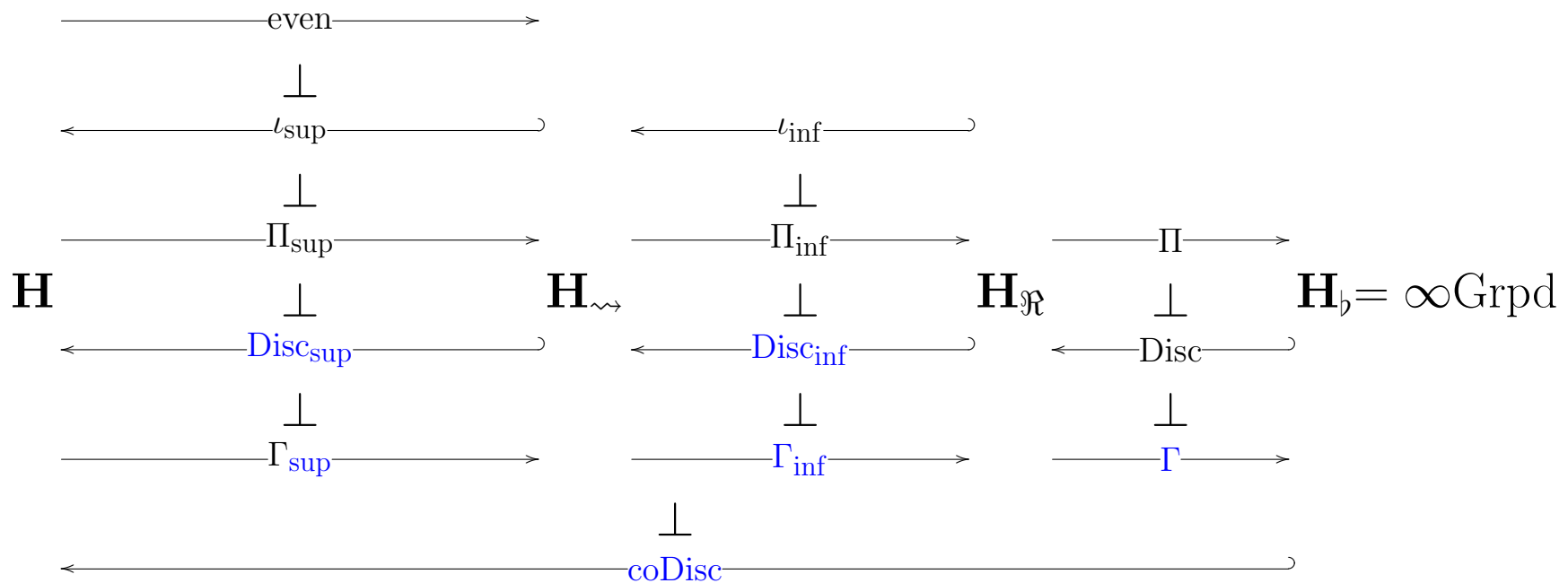


# The toposes of super homotopy theory

---

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- 

## Adjunctions by Kan extension

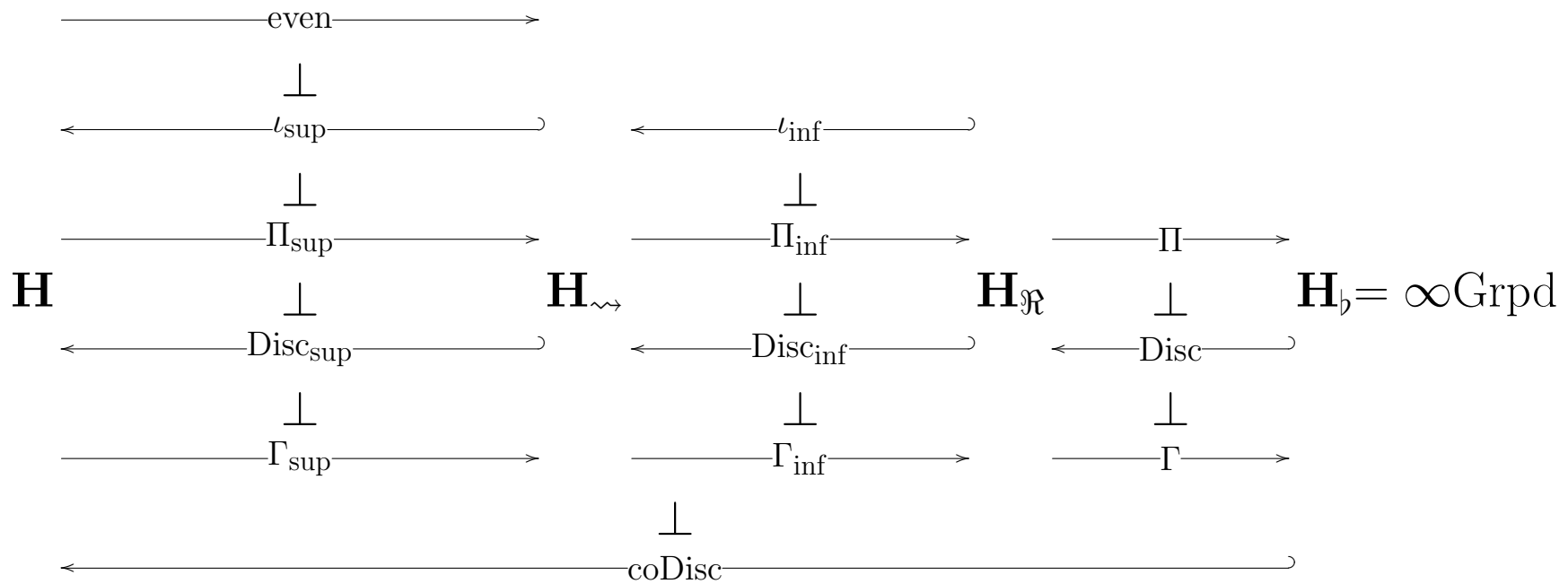


# The toposes of super homotopy theory

---

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- 

## Adjunctions by Kan extension



# The Modalities of Super homotopy theory

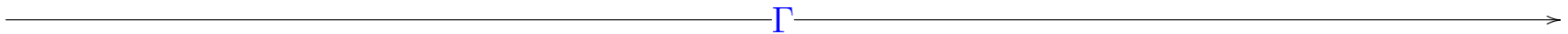
---



The **terminal functor** factors into a system of dualities = adjunctions.

supergeometric  
 $\infty$ -groupoids

$\mathcal{H}$

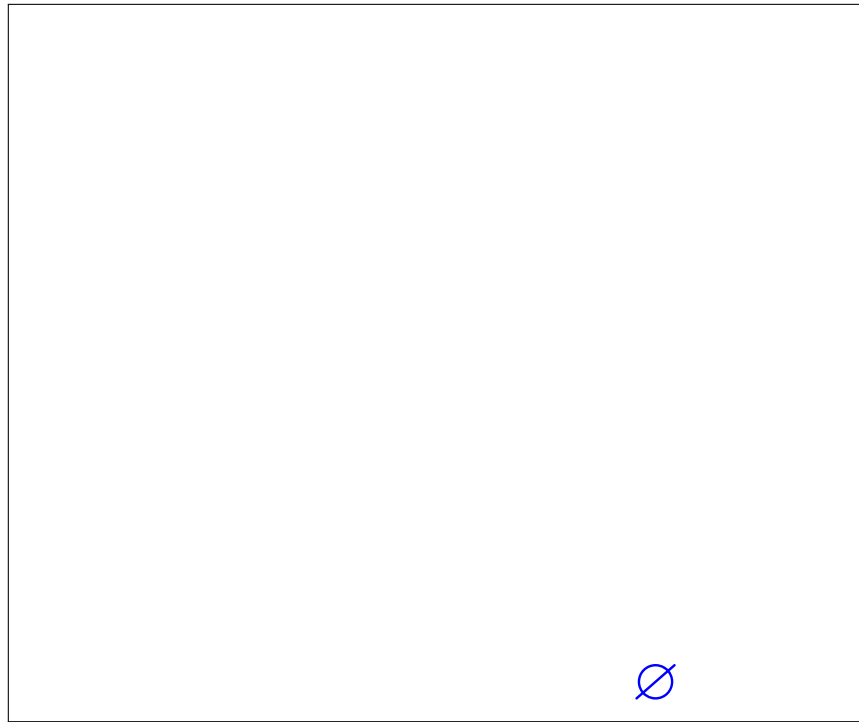


$\Gamma$

\*

# The Modalities of Super homotopy theory

---

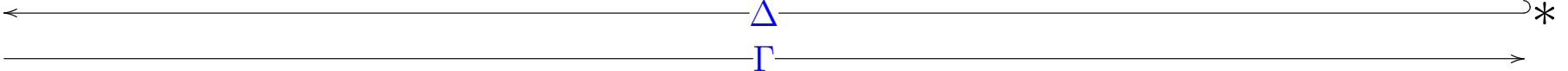


*nothing*

The terminal functor factors into a system of dualities = adjunctions.

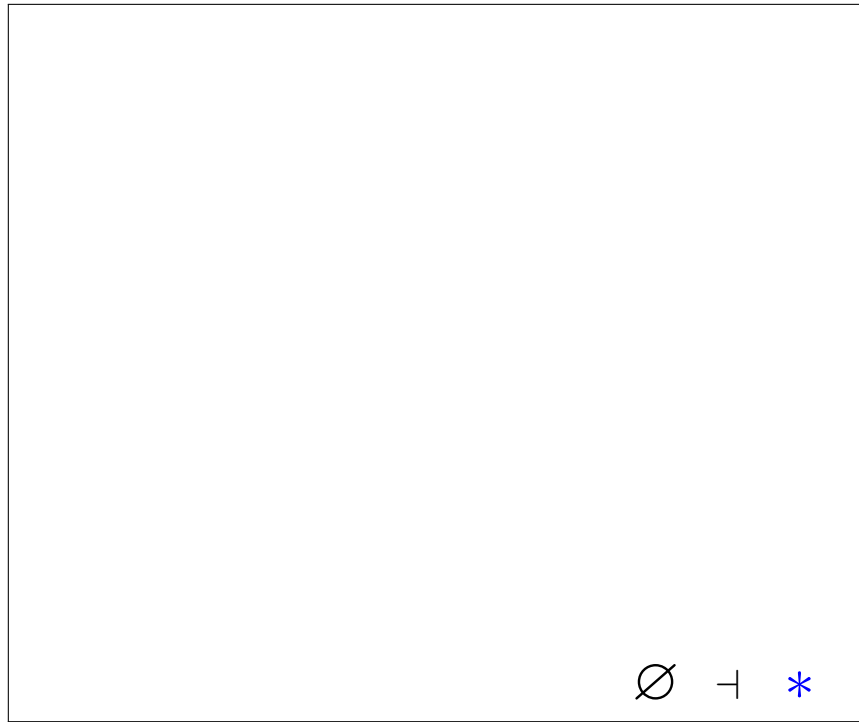
supergeometric  
 $\infty$ -groupoids

$\mathbf{H}$



# The Modalities of Super homotopy theory

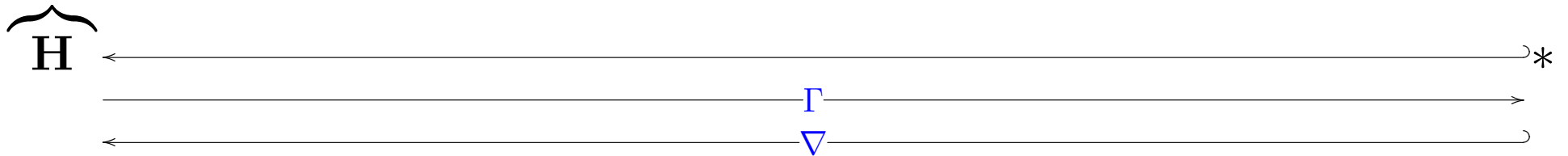
---



*pure being*

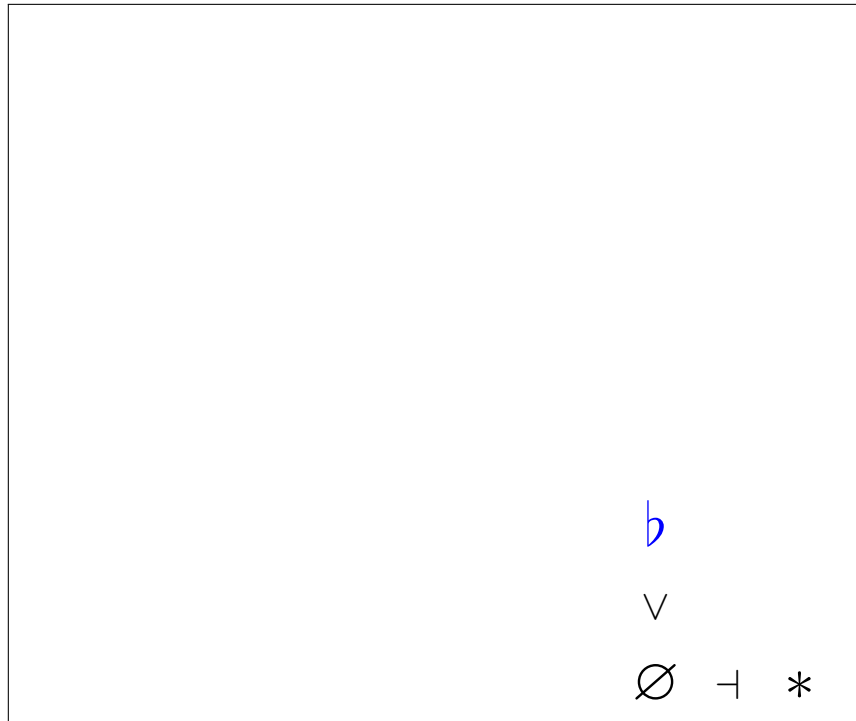
The terminal functor factors into a system of dualities = adjunctions.

supergeometric  
 $\infty$ -groupoids



# The Modalities of Super homotopy theory

---



*discrete*

$\mathfrak{b}$   
 $\vee$   
 $\emptyset \dashv *$

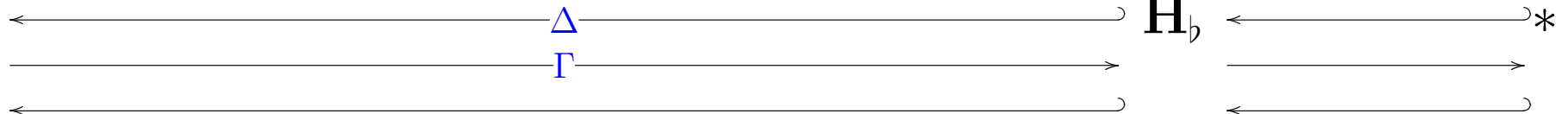
The terminal functor factors into a system of dualities = adjunctions.

supergeometric  
 $\infty$ -groupoids

$\mathfrak{H}$

geometrically discrete  
 $\infty$ -groupoids

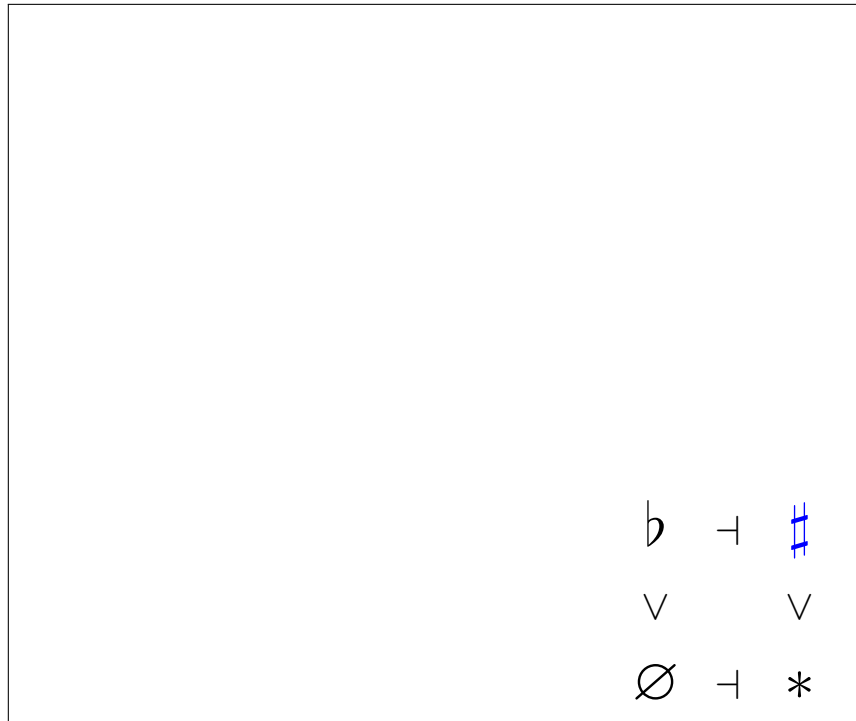
$\mathfrak{H}_{\mathfrak{b}}$





# The Modalities of Super homotopy theory

---



*continuous*

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 \mathfrak{b} & \dashv & \# \\
 \vee & & \vee \\
 \emptyset & \dashv & *
 \end{array}$$

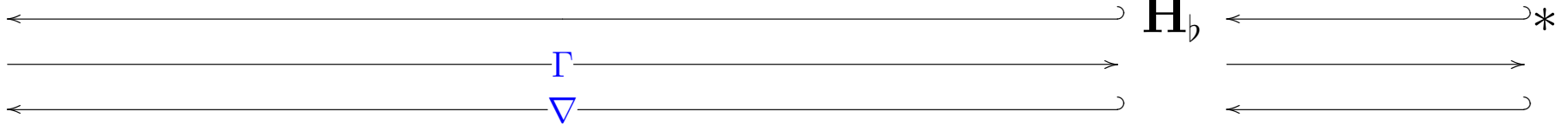
The terminal functor factors into a system of dualities = adjunctions.

supergeometric  
 $\infty$ -groupoids

$\mathfrak{H}$

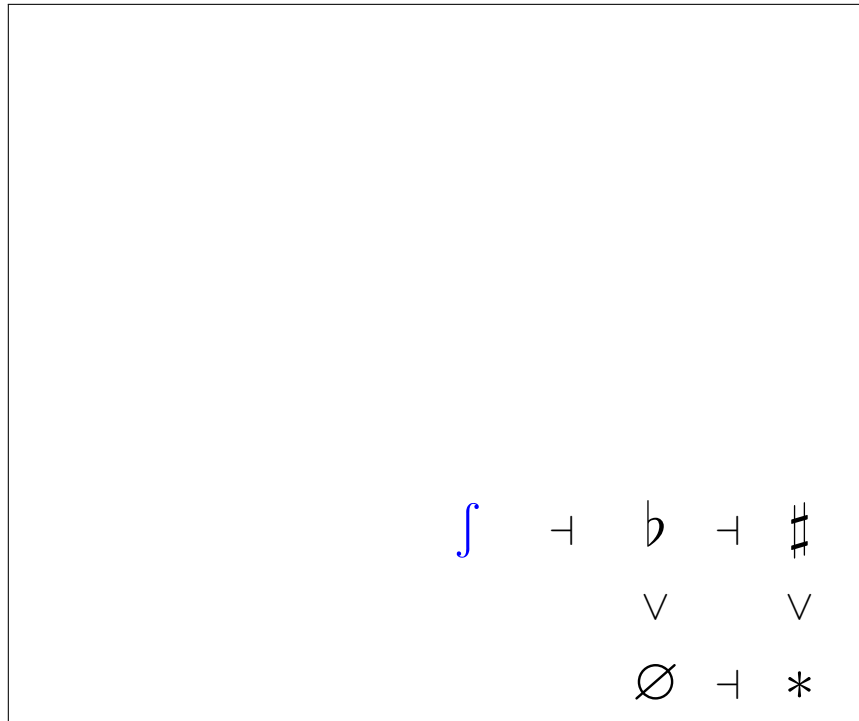
geometrically discrete  
 $\infty$ -groupoids

$\mathfrak{H}_{\mathfrak{b}}$



# The Modalities of Super homotopy theory

---



*shaped*

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 \int & \dashv & \mathfrak{b} & \dashv & \sharp \\
 & & \vee & & \vee \\
 & & \emptyset & \dashv & *
 \end{array}$$

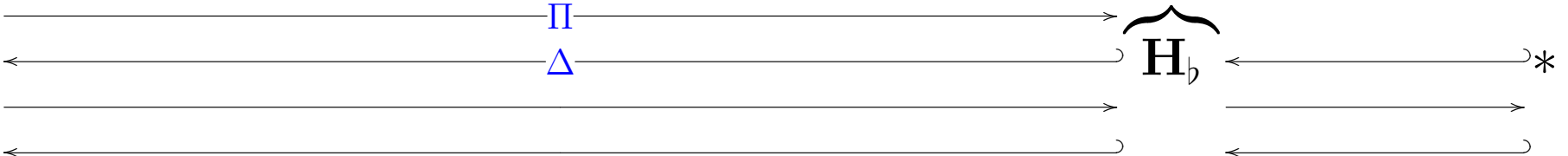
The terminal functor factors into a system of dualities = adjunctions.

supergeometric  
 $\infty$ -groupoids

$\mathbf{H}$

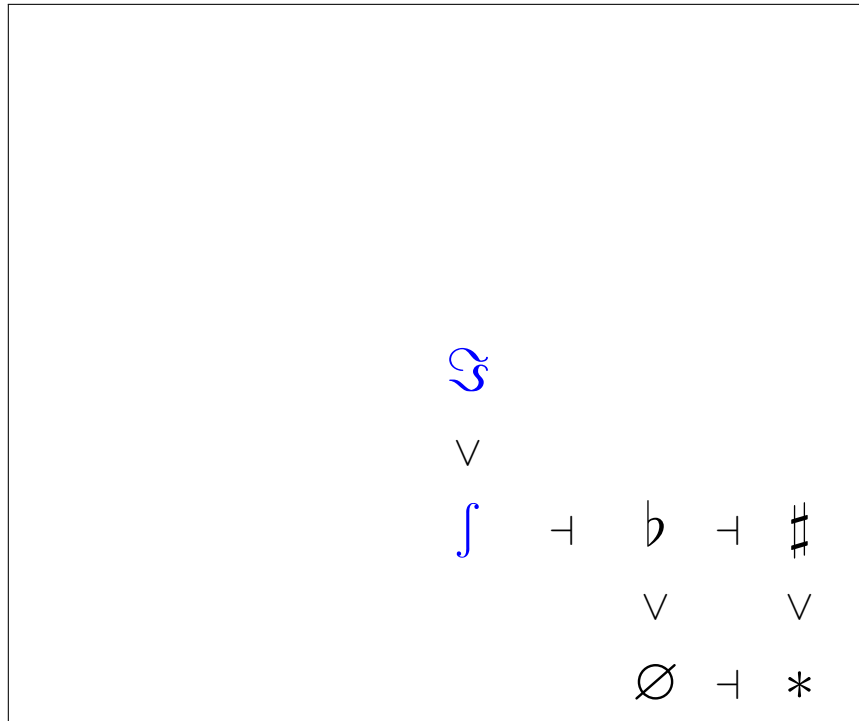
geometrically discrete  
 $\infty$ -groupoids

$\mathbf{H}_b$



# The Modalities of Super homotopy theory

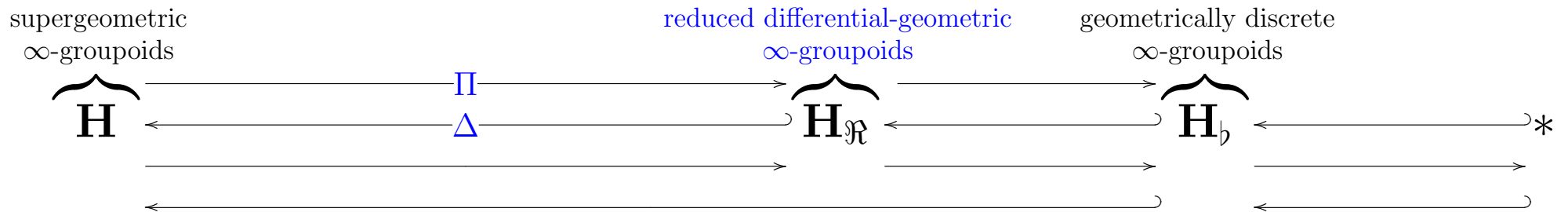
---



*infinitesimally shaped*

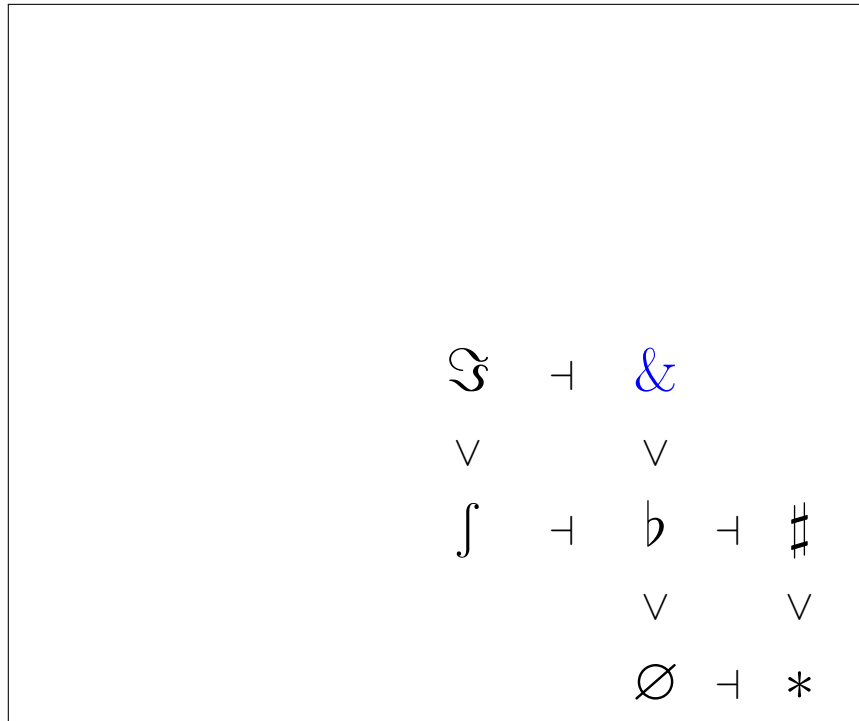
$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 \mathfrak{S} & & & & & & \\
 \vee & & & & & & \\
 \int & \dashv & \flat & \dashv & \sharp & & \\
 & & \vee & & \vee & & \\
 & & \emptyset & \dashv & * & & 
 \end{array}$$

The terminal functor factors into a system of dualities = adjunctions.



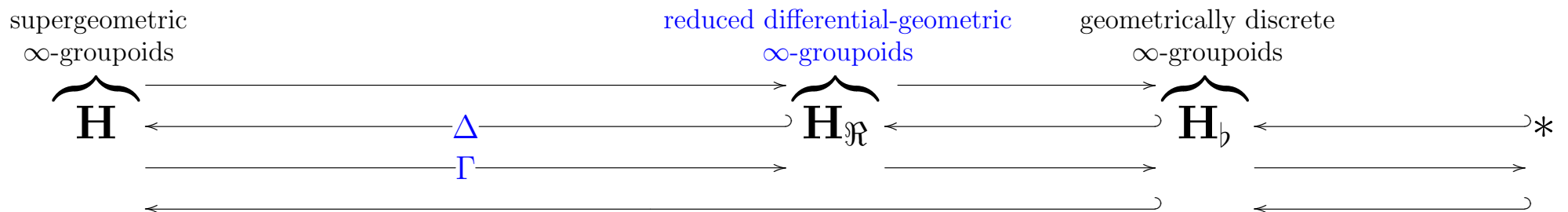
# The Modalities of Super homotopy theory

---



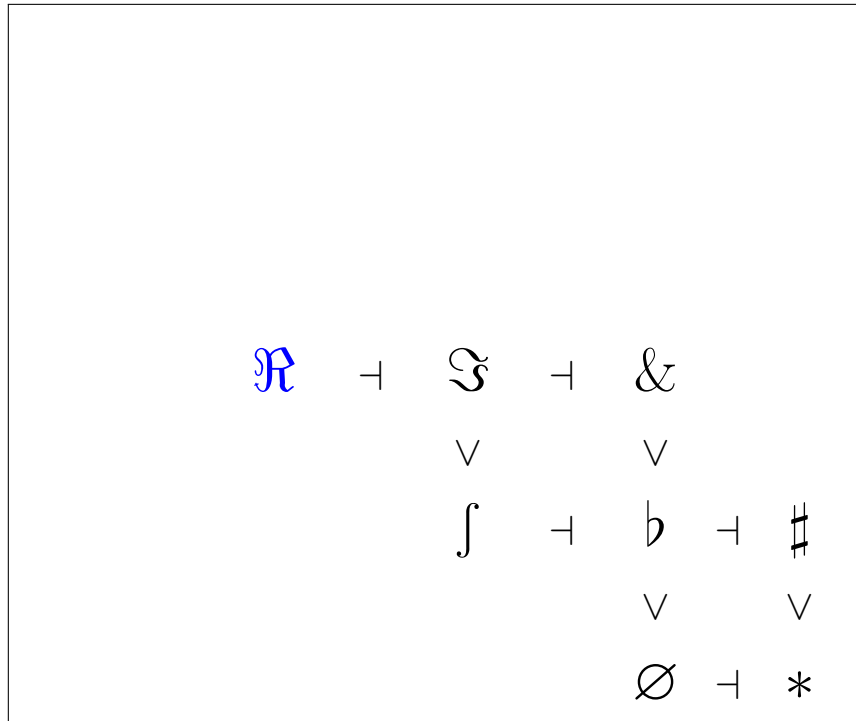
*infinitesimally discrete*

The terminal functor factors into a system of dualities = adjunctions.



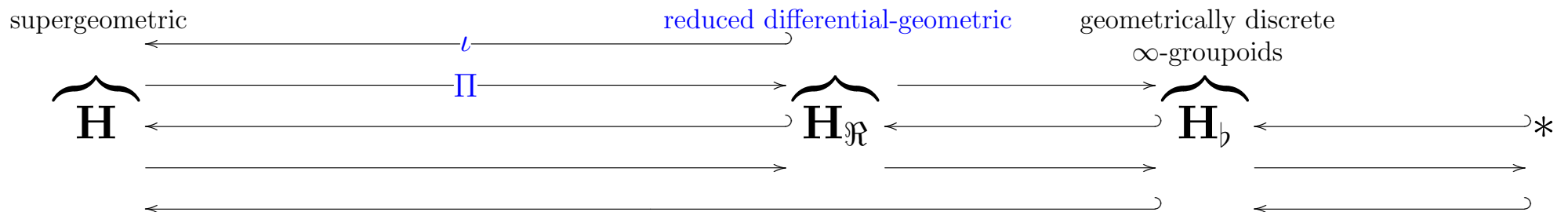
# The Modalities of Super homotopy theory

---



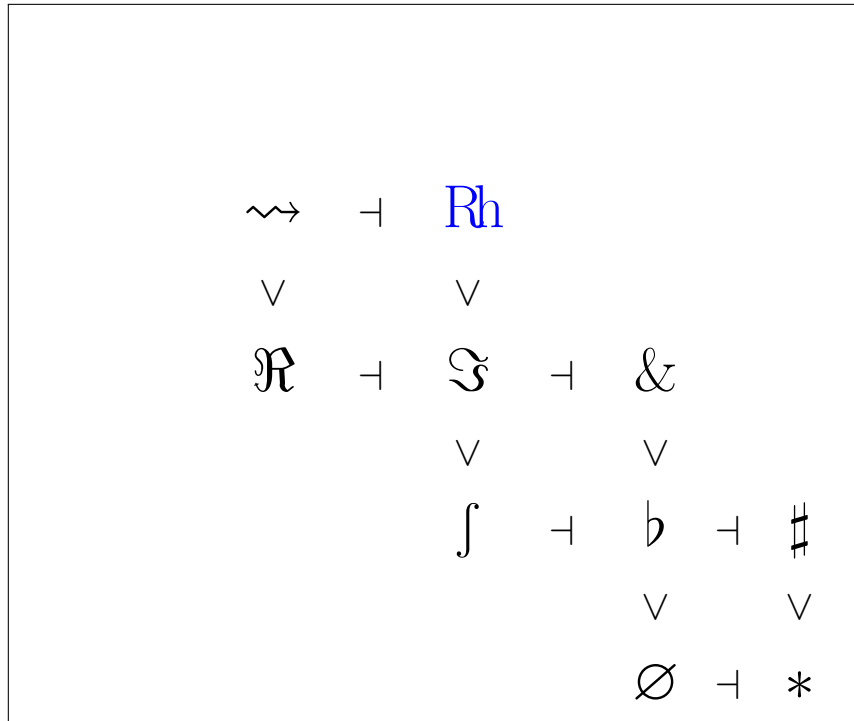
*reduced*

The terminal functor factors into a system of dualities = adjunctions.



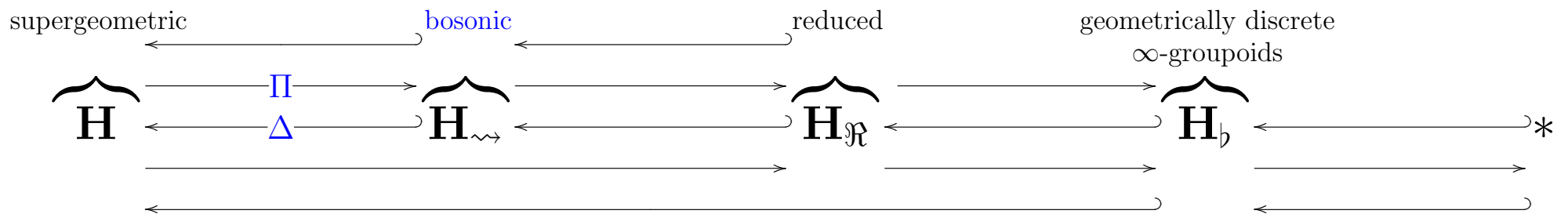


# The Modalities of Super homotopy theory

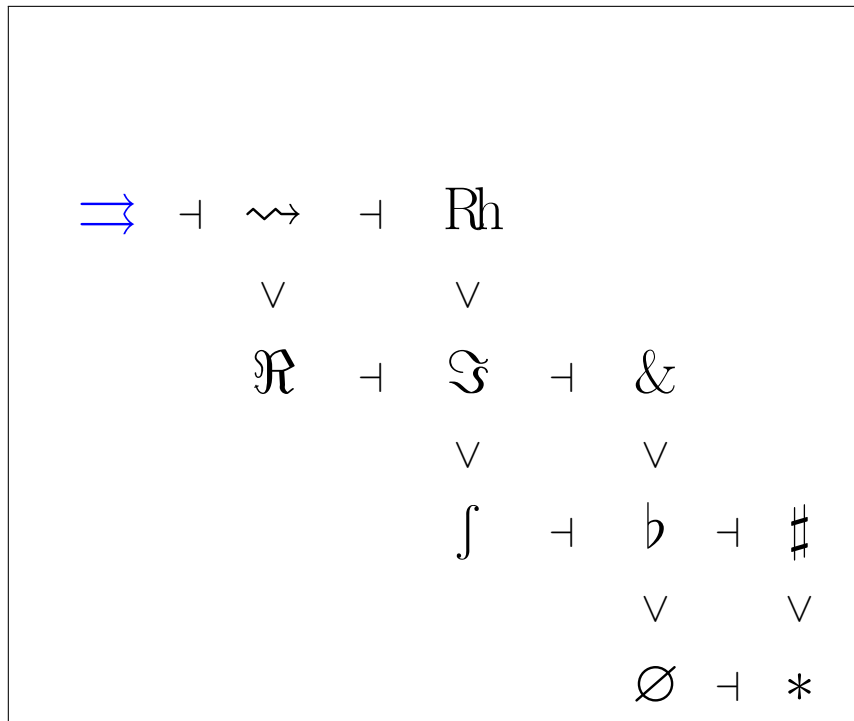


*rheonomic*

The terminal functor factors into a system of dualities = adjunctions.

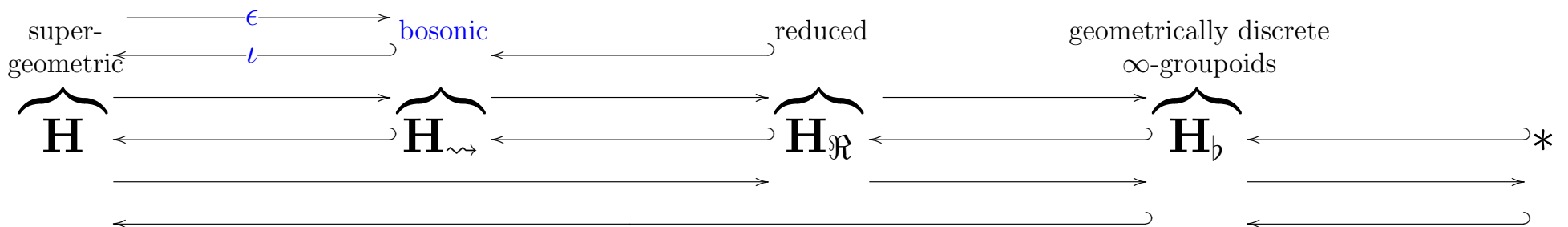


# The Modalities of Super homotopy theory



*even*

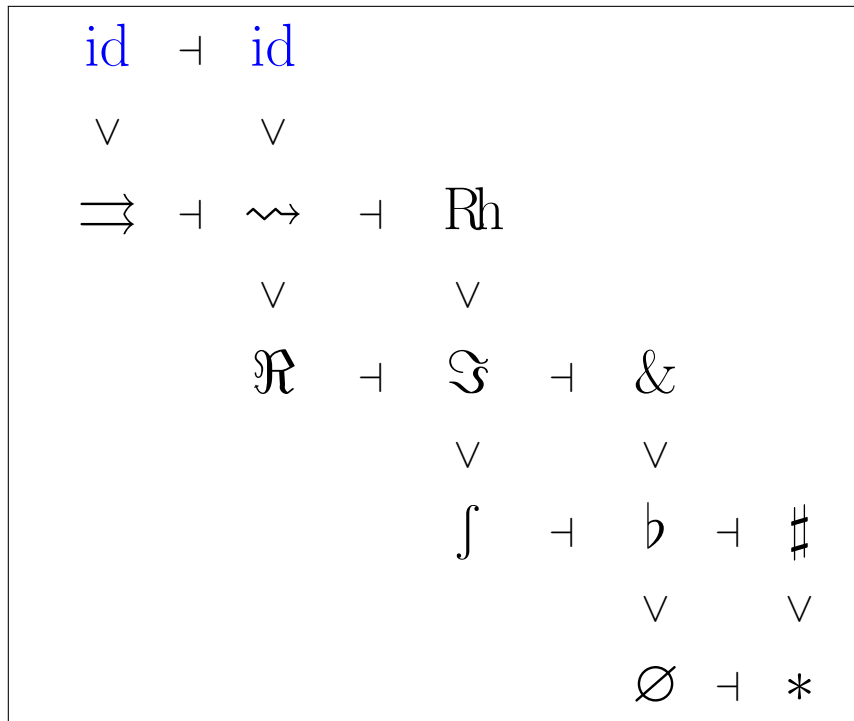
The terminal functor factors into a system of dualities = adjunctions.





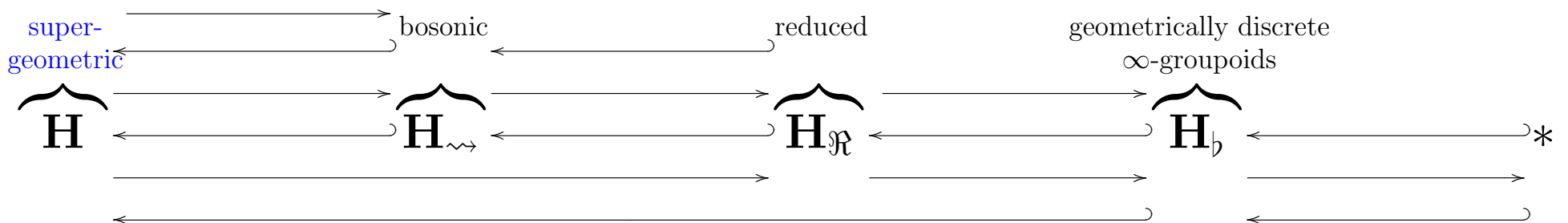
# The Modalities of Super homotopy theory

---

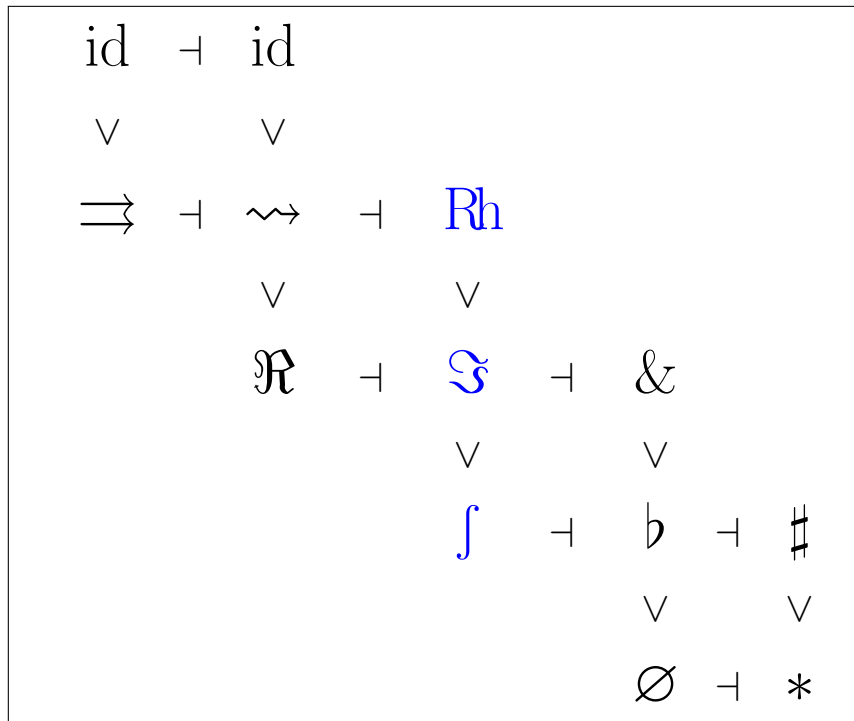


*super-geometric*

The terminal functor factors into a system of dualities = adjunctions.

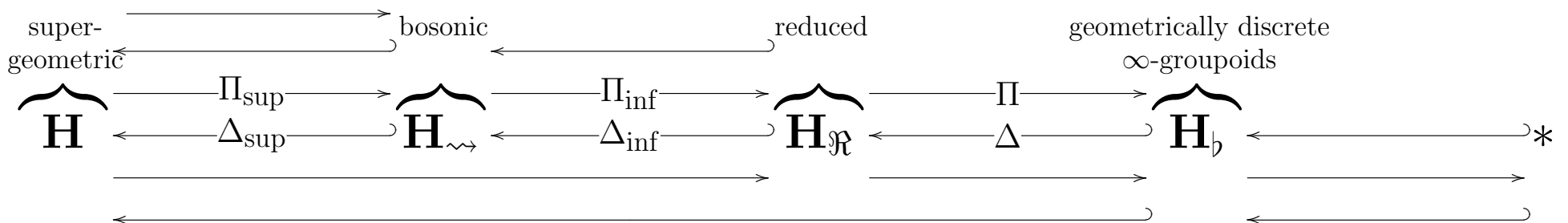


# The Modalities of Super homotopy theory

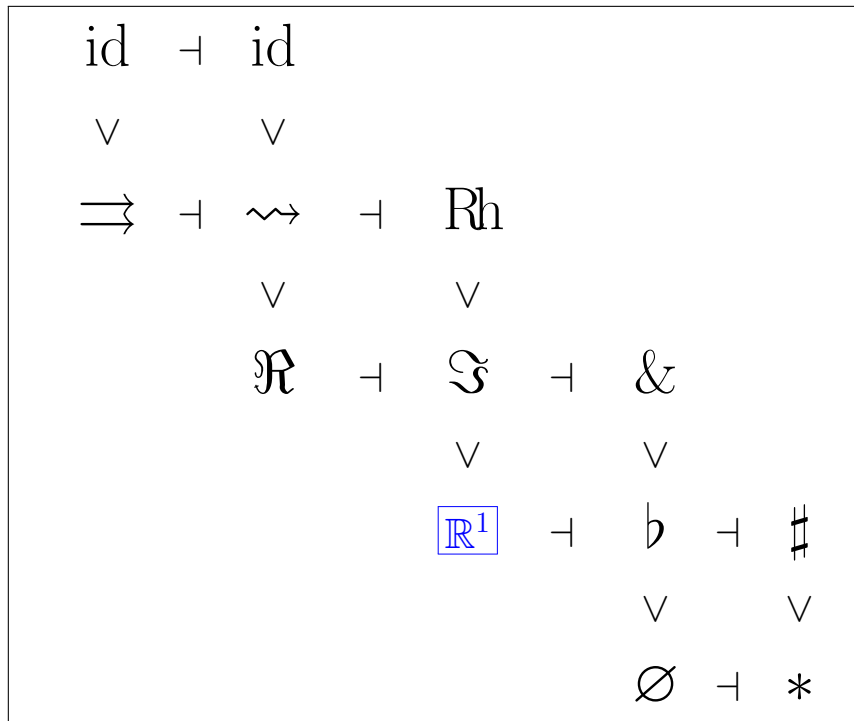


$\mathbb{A}^1$ -local

The central modalities are motivic  $\mathbb{A}^1$ -localizations.

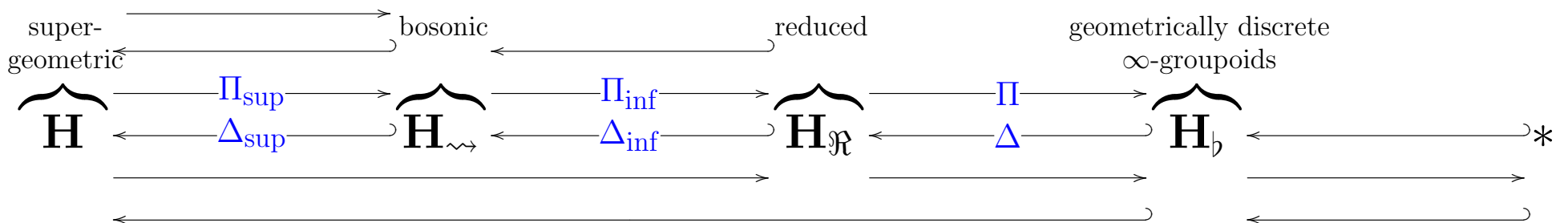


# The Modalities of Super homotopy theory



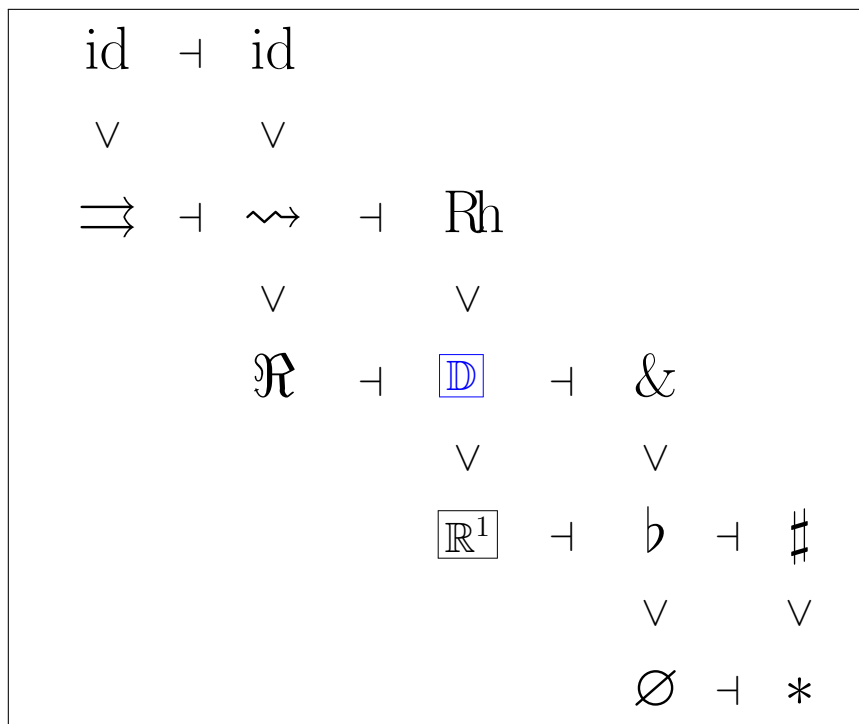
*continuum-local*

The central modalities are motivic  $\mathbb{A}^1$ -localizations.



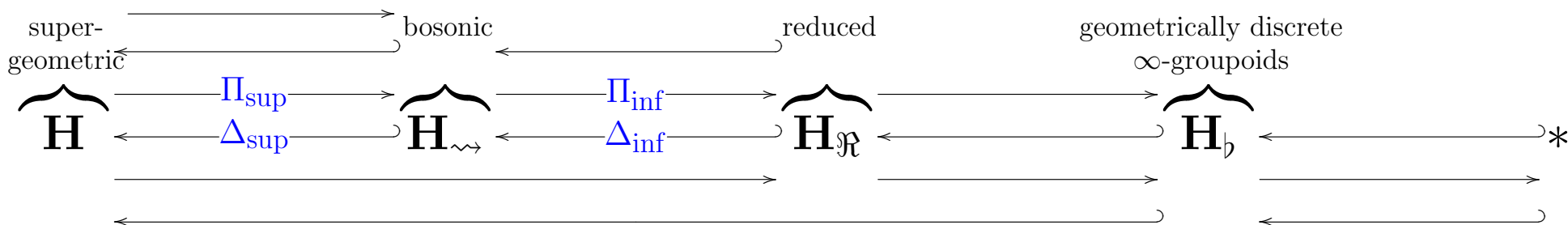
# The Modalities of Super homotopy theory

---

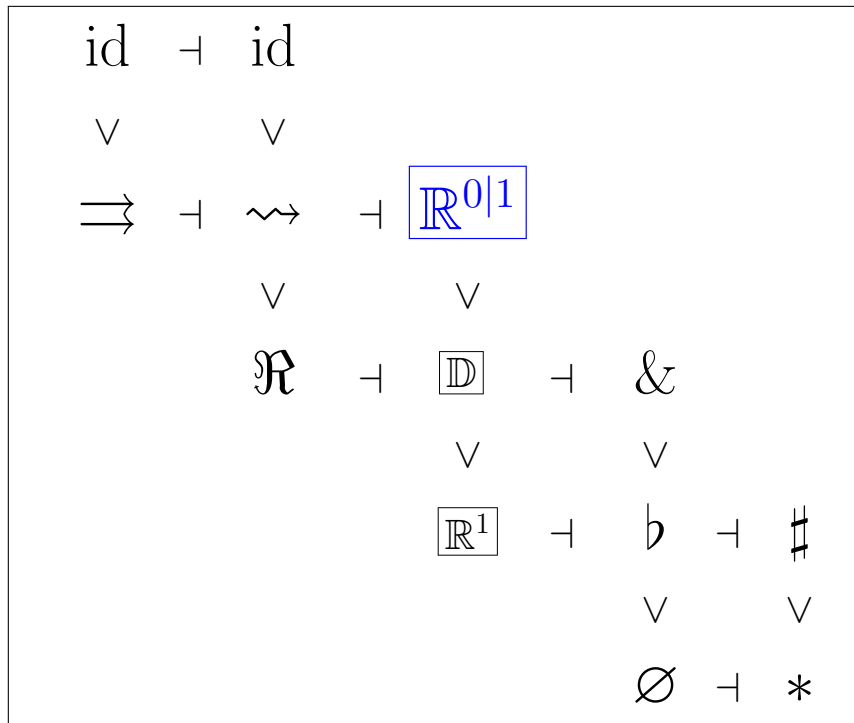


*infinitum-local*

The central modalities are motivic  $\mathbb{A}^1$ -localizations.

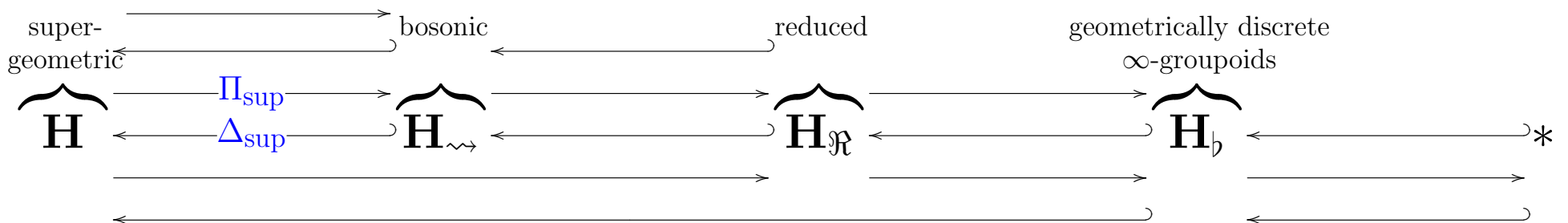


# The Modalities of Super homotopy theory



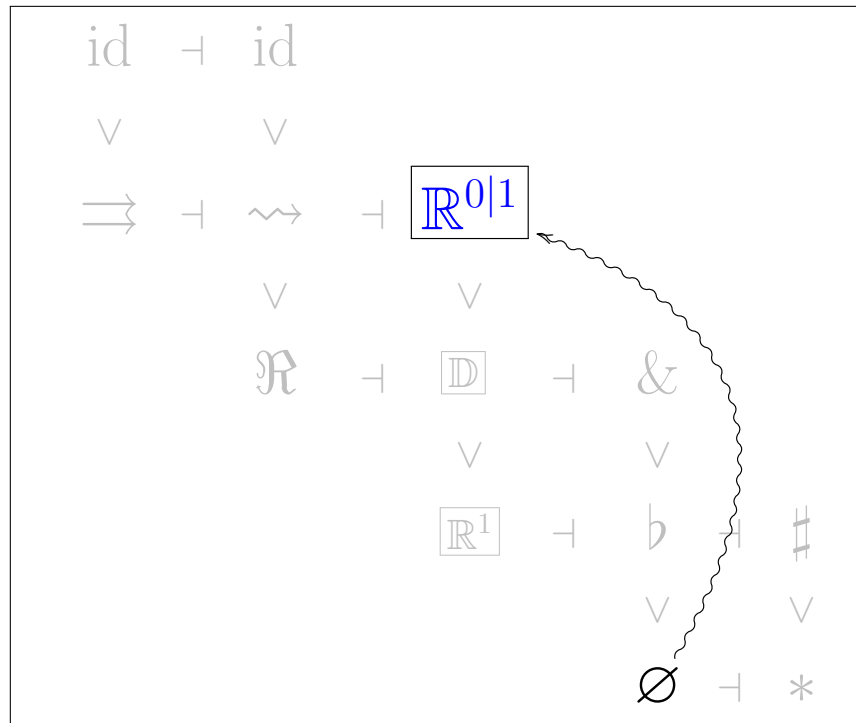
*superpoint-local*

The central modalities are motivic  $\mathbb{A}^1$ -localizations.



# The Modalities of Super homotopy theory

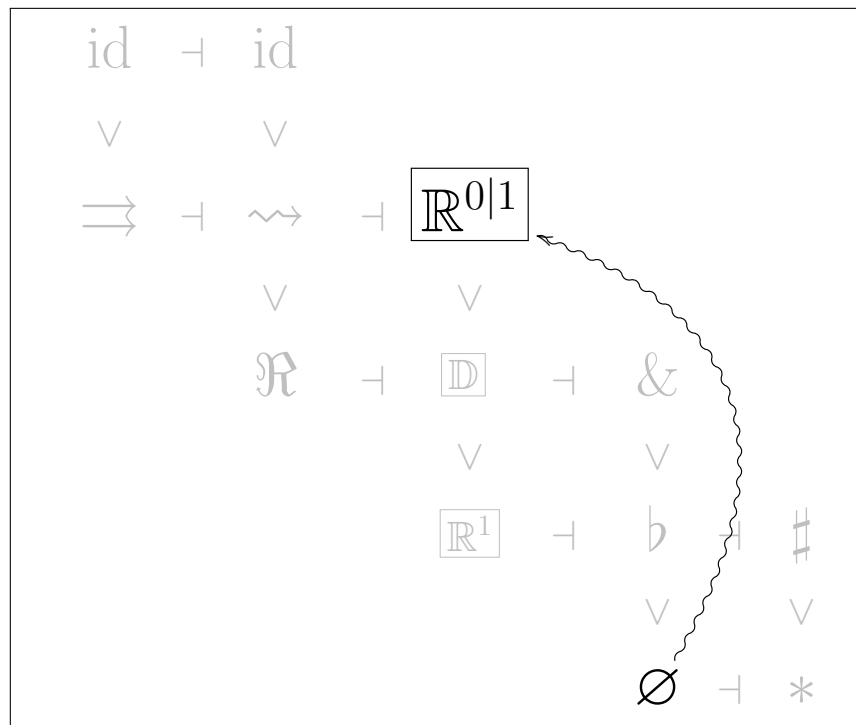
---



$\Rightarrow$  emergence of Atom of Superspace from \nothing

# The Modalities of Super homotopy theory

---



$\Rightarrow$  emergence of Atom of Superspace from \text{nothing}

now [apply the microscope of homotopy theory](#)

to discover what emerges, in turn, out of the superpoint...

**Rational**  
**Super homotopy theory**  
and the fundamental super  $p$ -Branes

[back to Part I](#)

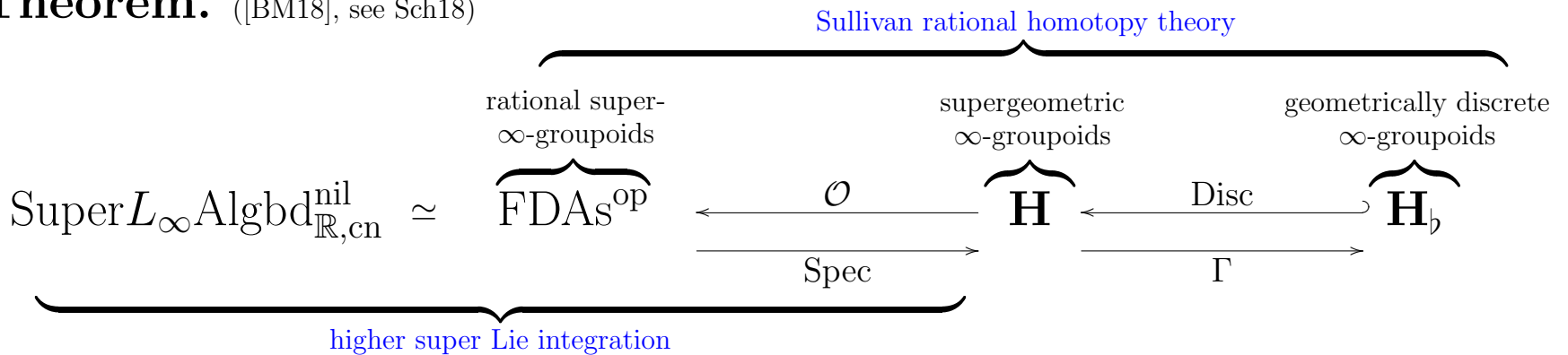


# Higher super Lie theory and Rational homotopy

$\left. \begin{array}{l} \text{infinitesimal} \\ \text{rational} \end{array} \right\}$  approximation of super-homotopy by  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{higher Lie integration} \\ \text{Sullivan construction} \end{array} \right.$

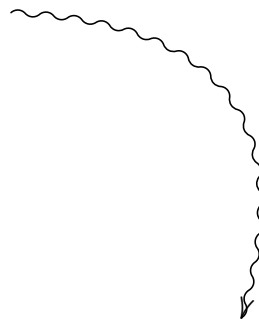
**Definition.**  $\underbrace{\text{FDAs}}_{\substack{\text{terminology} \\ \text{common in} \\ \text{supergravity} \\ ([?]})}} := \underbrace{\text{dgcSuperAlg}_{\mathbb{R},\text{cn}}}_{\substack{\infty\text{-category of} \\ \text{differential} \\ \text{graded-commutative} \\ \text{superalgebras}}} \xleftarrow[\simeq]{\text{CE}} \underbrace{\left(\text{Super}L_\infty\text{Algbd}_{\mathbb{R},\text{cn}}^{\text{nil}}\right)^{\text{op}}}_{\substack{\infty\text{-category of} \\ \text{nilpotent} \\ \text{super } L_\infty\text{-algebroids}}}$

**Theorem.** ([BM18], see Sch18)



# Universal central invariant super- $L_\infty$ extensions of $\mathbb{R}^{0|1}$ : Brane bouquet

the Atom of Superspace



$\mathbb{R}^{0|1}$

# Universal central invariant super- $L_\infty$ extensions of $\mathbb{R}^{0|1}$ : Brane bouquet

$\mathbb{R}^{0|1}$

Type I

# Universal central invariant super- $L_\infty$ extensions of $\mathbb{R}^{0|1}$ : Brane bouquet

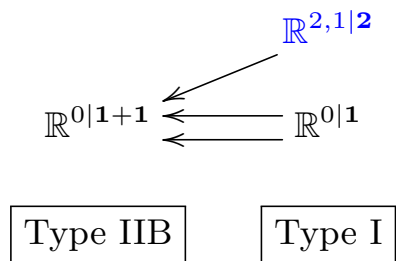
$$\mathbb{R}^{0|1+1} \leftarrow \leftarrow \mathbb{R}^{0|1}$$

Type IIB

Type I

# Universal central invariant super- $L_\infty$ extensions of $\mathbb{R}^{0|1}$ : Brane bouquet

[HS17]



universal central extension: 3d super-Minkowski spacetime

# Universal central invariant super- $L_\infty$ extensions of $\mathbb{R}^{0|1}$ : Brane bouquet

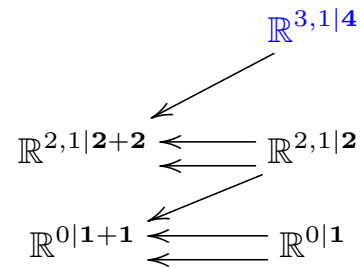
[HS17]

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathbb{R}^{2,1|2+2} & \longleftarrow & \mathbb{R}^{2,1|2} \\ & \longleftarrow & \\ \mathbb{R}^{0|1+1} & \longleftarrow & \mathbb{R}^{0|1} \end{array}$$

Type IIB

Type I

# Universal central invariant super- $L_\infty$ extensions of $\mathbb{R}^{0|1}$ : Brane bouquet



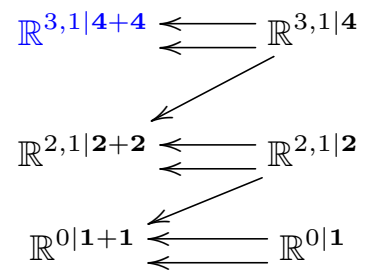
[HS17]

Type IIB

Type I

universal invariant central extension: 4d super-Minkowski spacetime

# Universal central invariant super- $L_\infty$ extensions of $\mathbb{R}^{0|1}$ : Brane bouquet



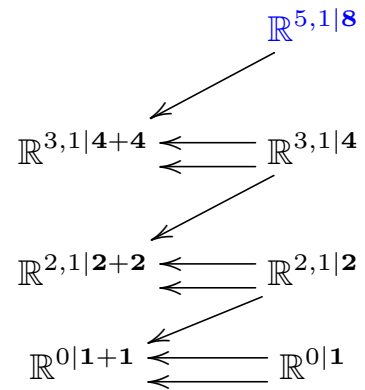
[HS17]

Type IIB

Type I



# Universal central invariant super- $L_\infty$ extensions of $\mathbb{R}^{0|1}$ : Brane bouquet

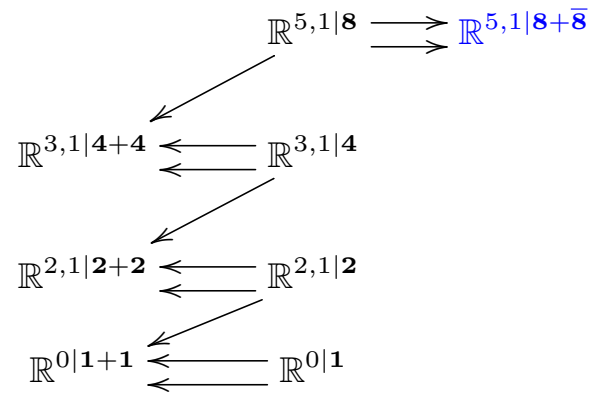


[HS17]

Type IIB

Type I

# Universal central invariant super- $L_\infty$ extensions of $\mathbb{R}^{0|1}$ : Brane bouquet



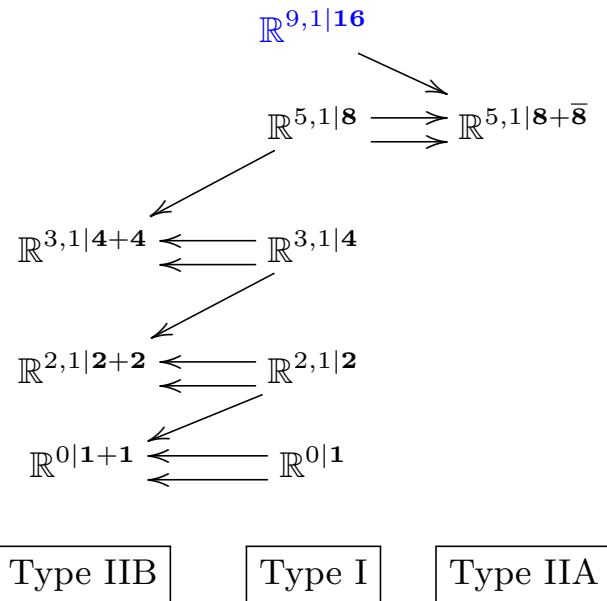
[HS17]

Type IIB

Type I

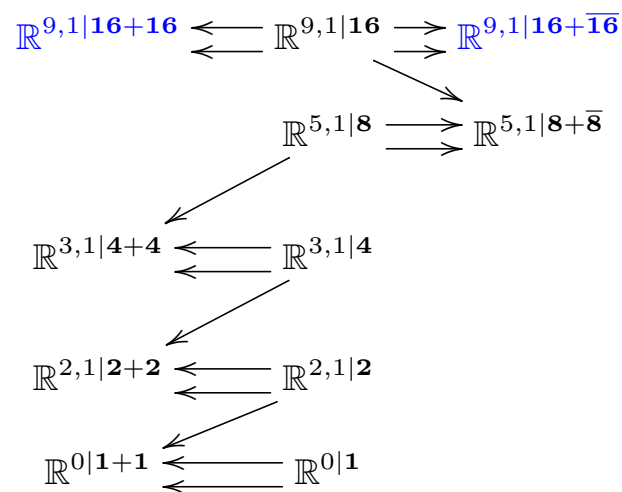
Type IIA

# Universal central invariant super- $L_\infty$ extensions of $\mathbb{R}^{0|1}$ : Brane bouquet



[HS17]

# Universal central invariant super- $L_\infty$ extensions of $\mathbb{R}^{0|1}$ : Brane bouquet



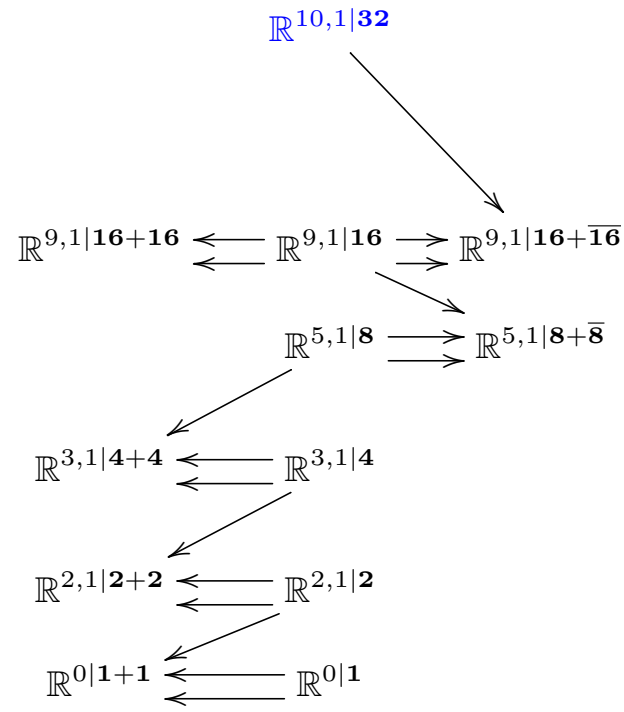
[HS17]

Type IIB

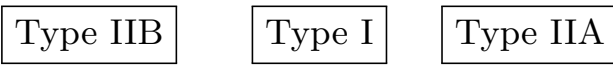
Type I

Type IIA

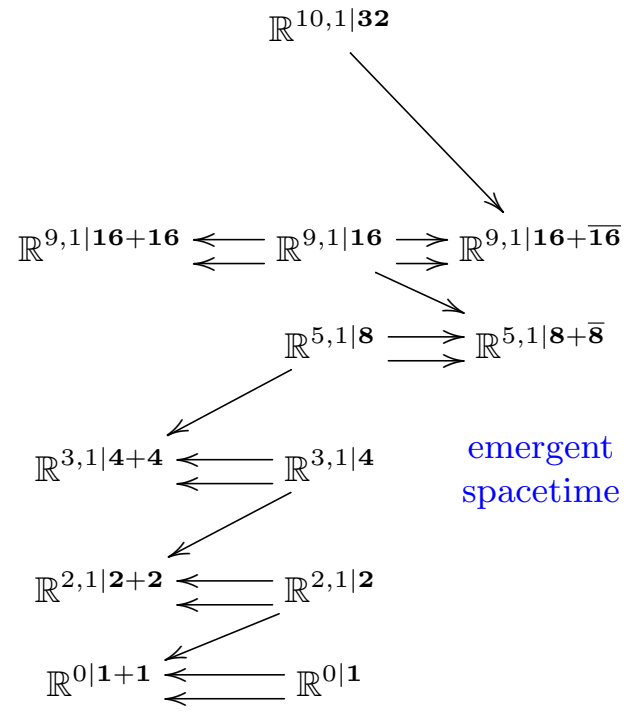
# Universal central invariant super- $L_\infty$ extensions of $\mathbb{R}^{0|1}$ : Brane bouquet



[HS17]

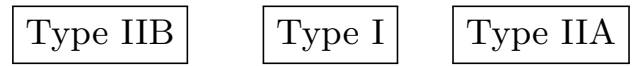


# Universal central invariant super- $L_\infty$ extensions of $\mathbb{R}^{0|1}$ : Brane bouquet

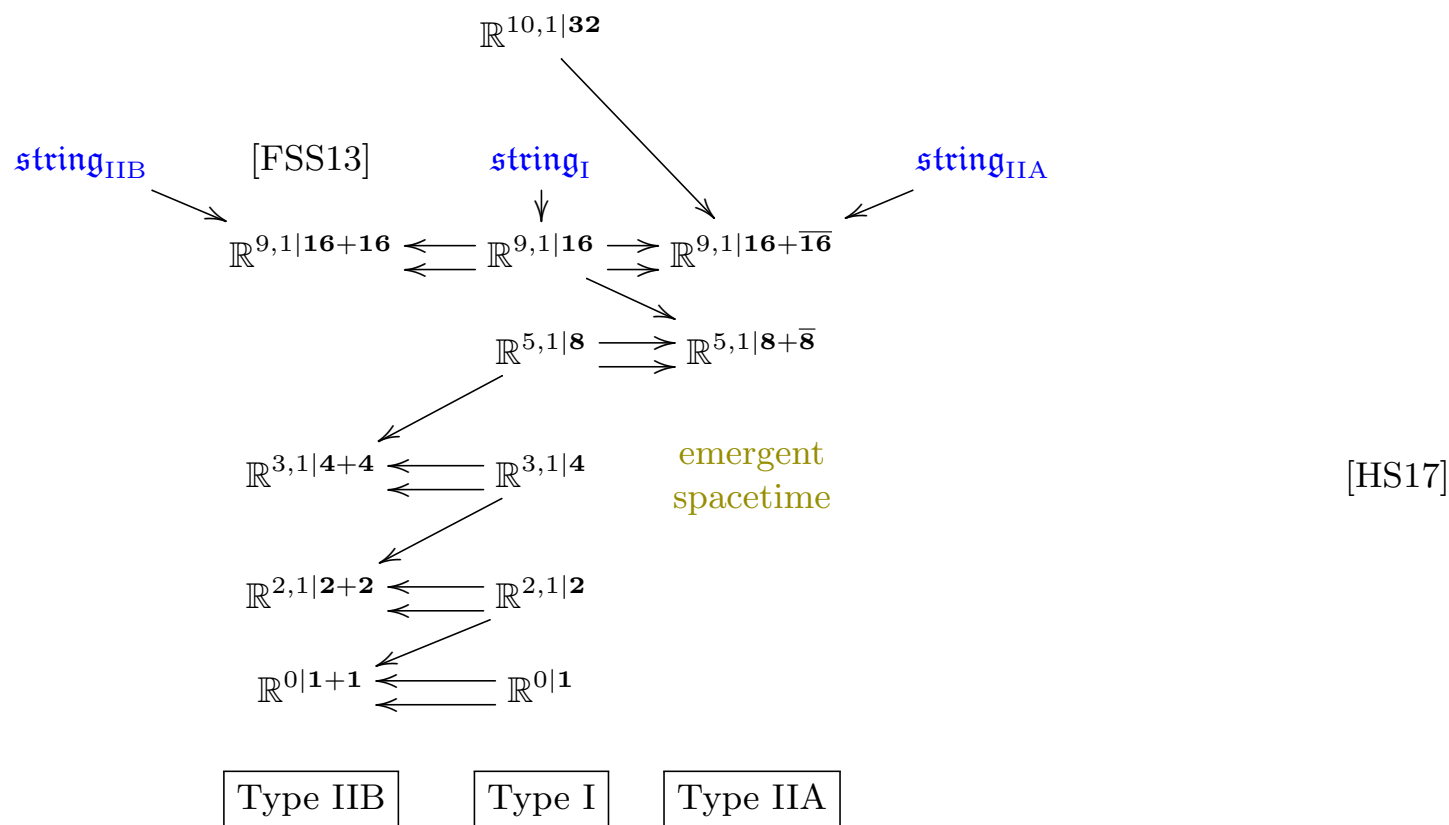


emergent  
spacetime

[HS17]

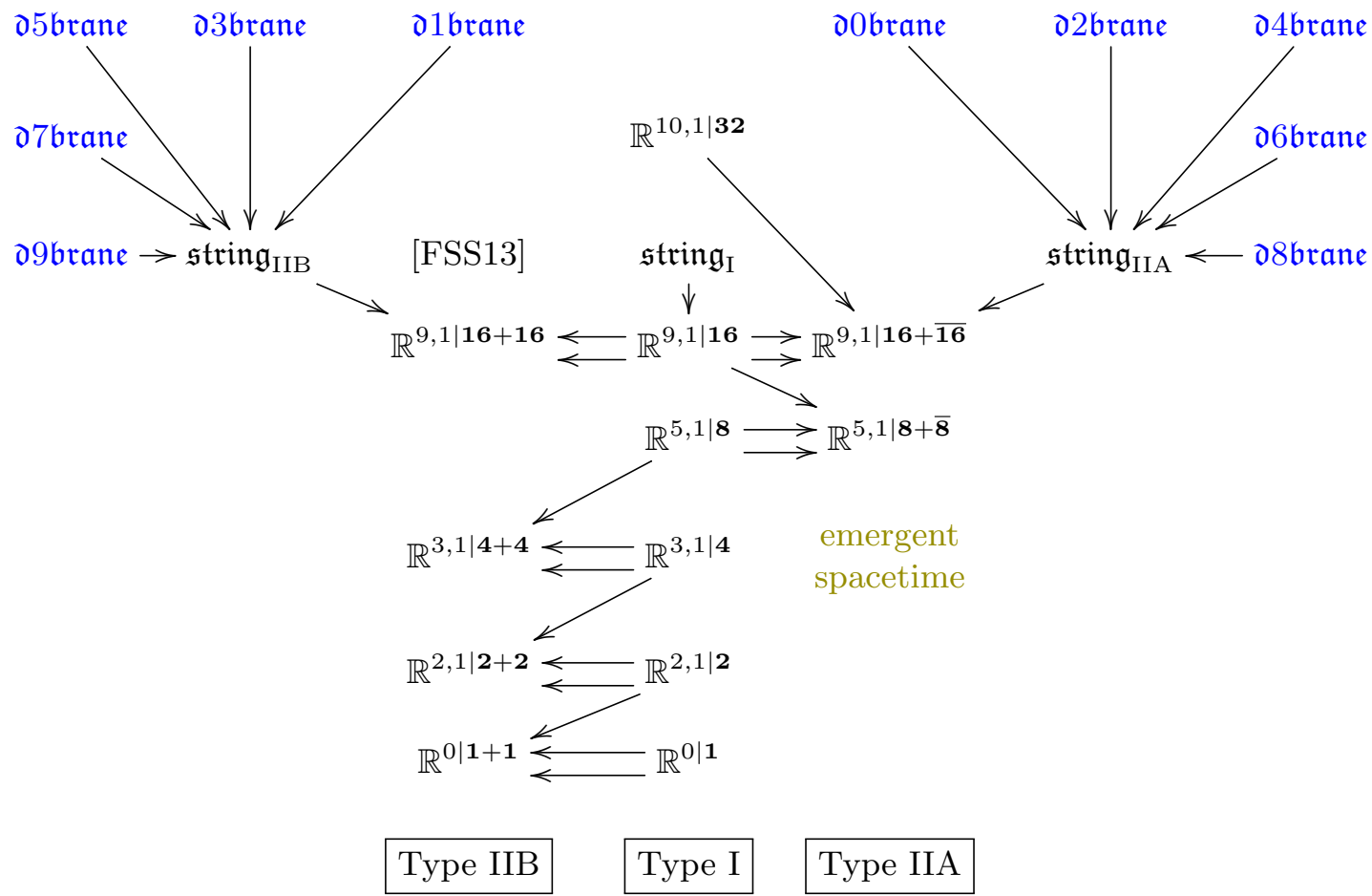


# Universal central invariant super- $L_\infty$ extensions of $\mathbb{R}^{0|1}$ : Brane bouquet



universal *higher* central invariant extension: stringy extended super-spacetimes

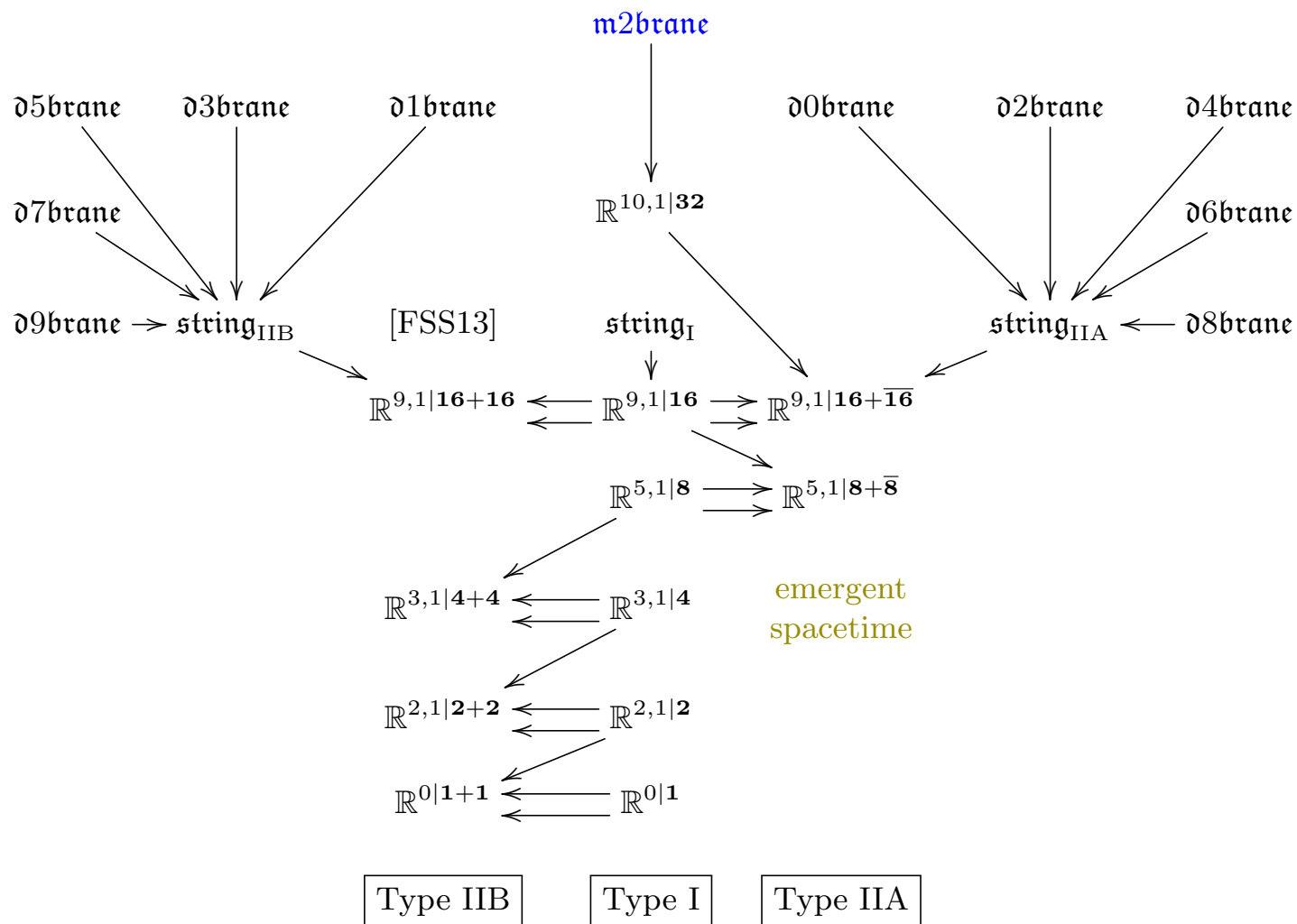
# Universal central invariant super- $L_\infty$ extensions of $\mathbb{R}^{0|1}$ : Brane bouquet



[HS17]

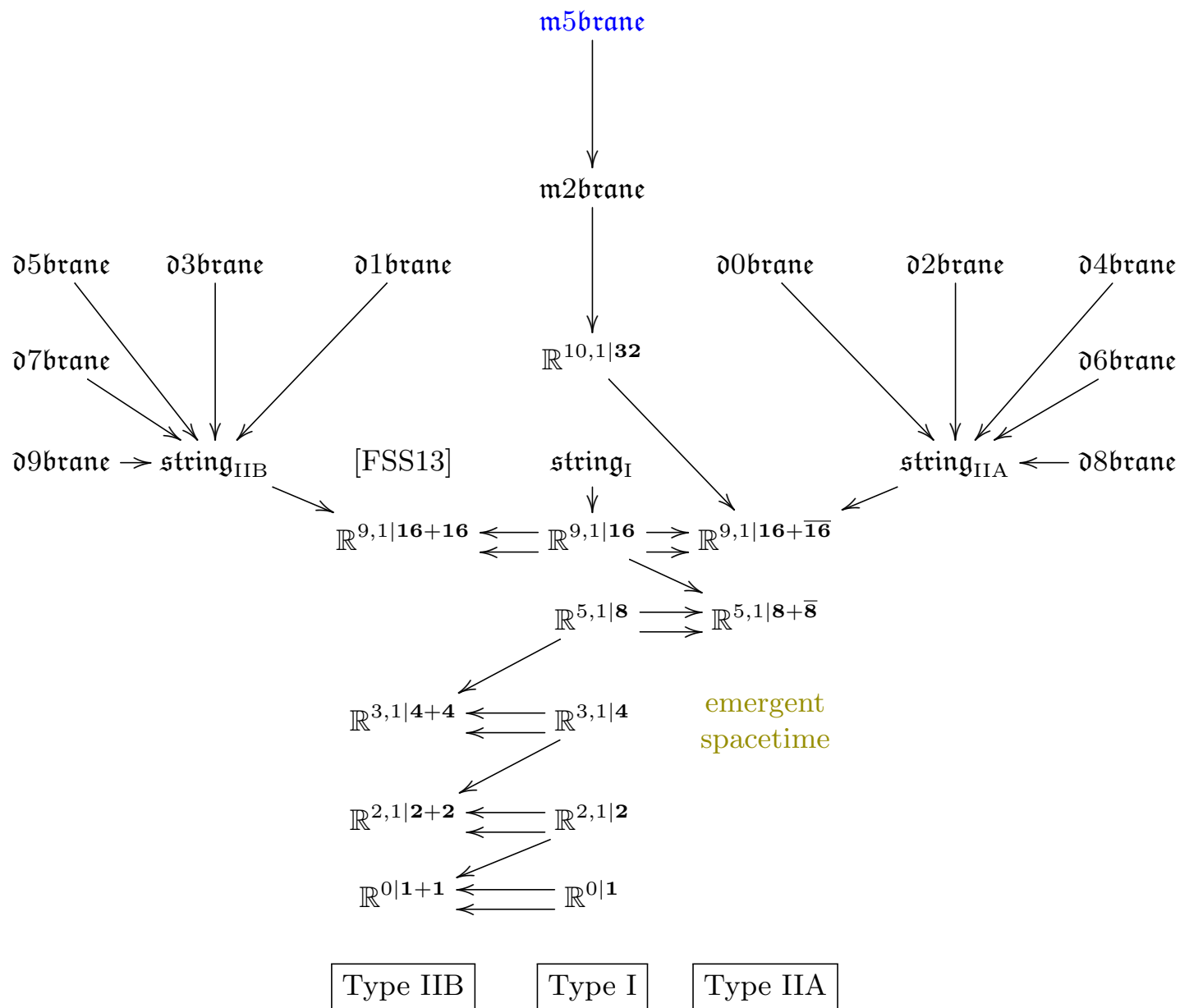


# Universal central invariant super- $L_\infty$ extensions of $\mathbb{R}^{0|1}$ : Brane bouquet



# Universal central invariant super- $L_\infty$ extensions of $\mathbb{R}^{0|1}$ : Brane bouquet

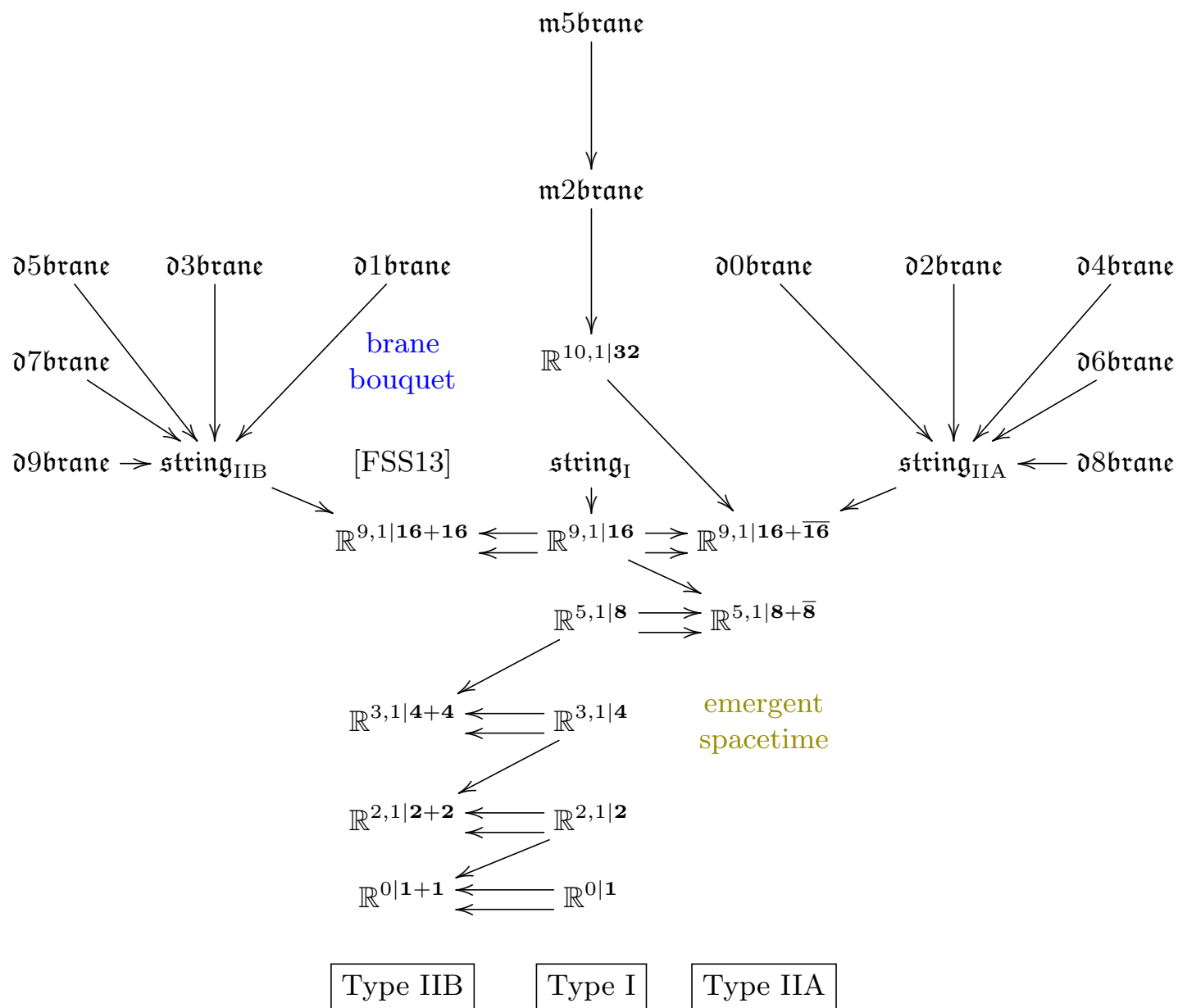
[FSS15]



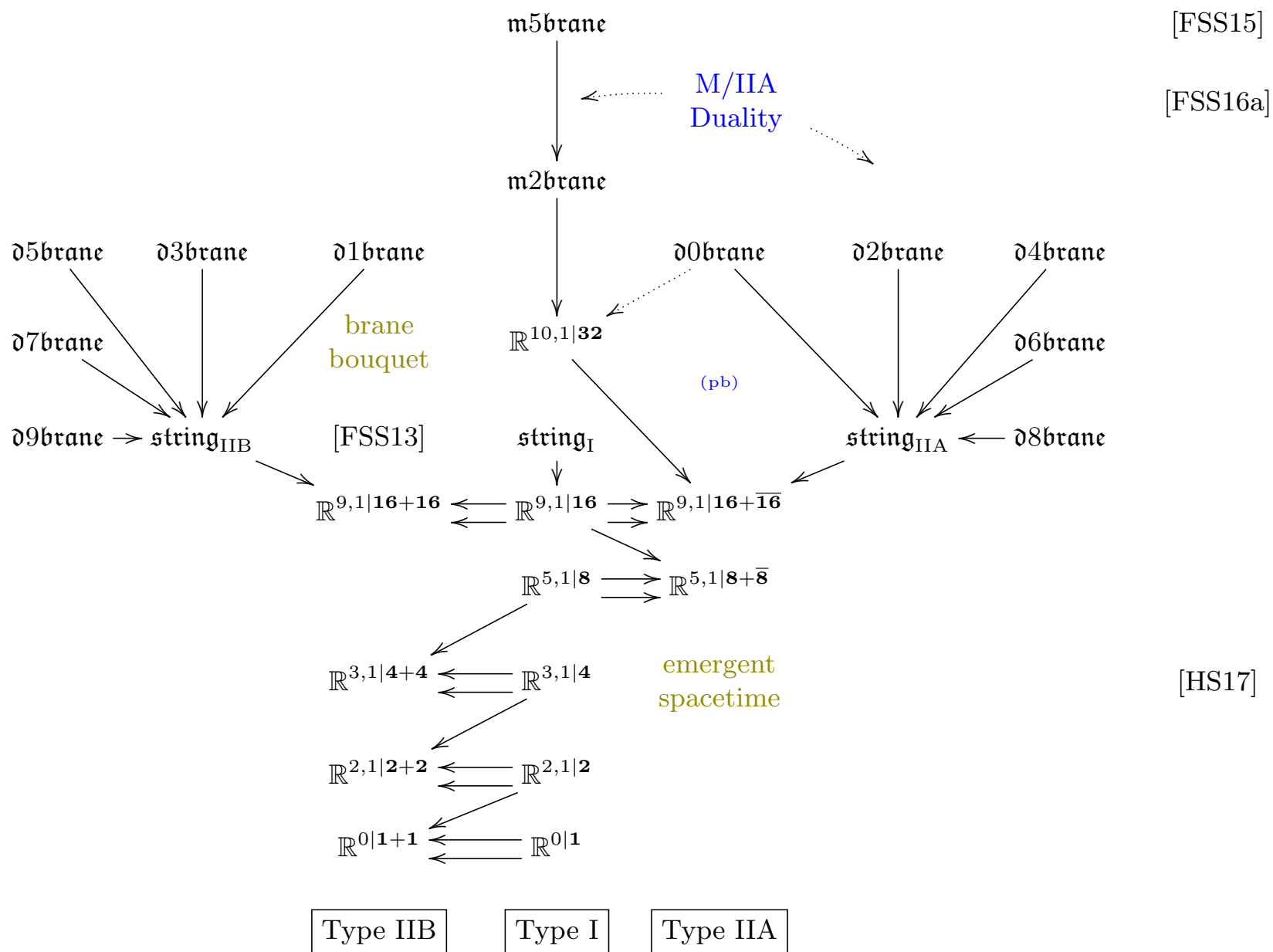
[HS17]

# Universal central invariant super- $L_\infty$ extensions of $\mathbb{R}^{0|1}$ : Brane bouquet

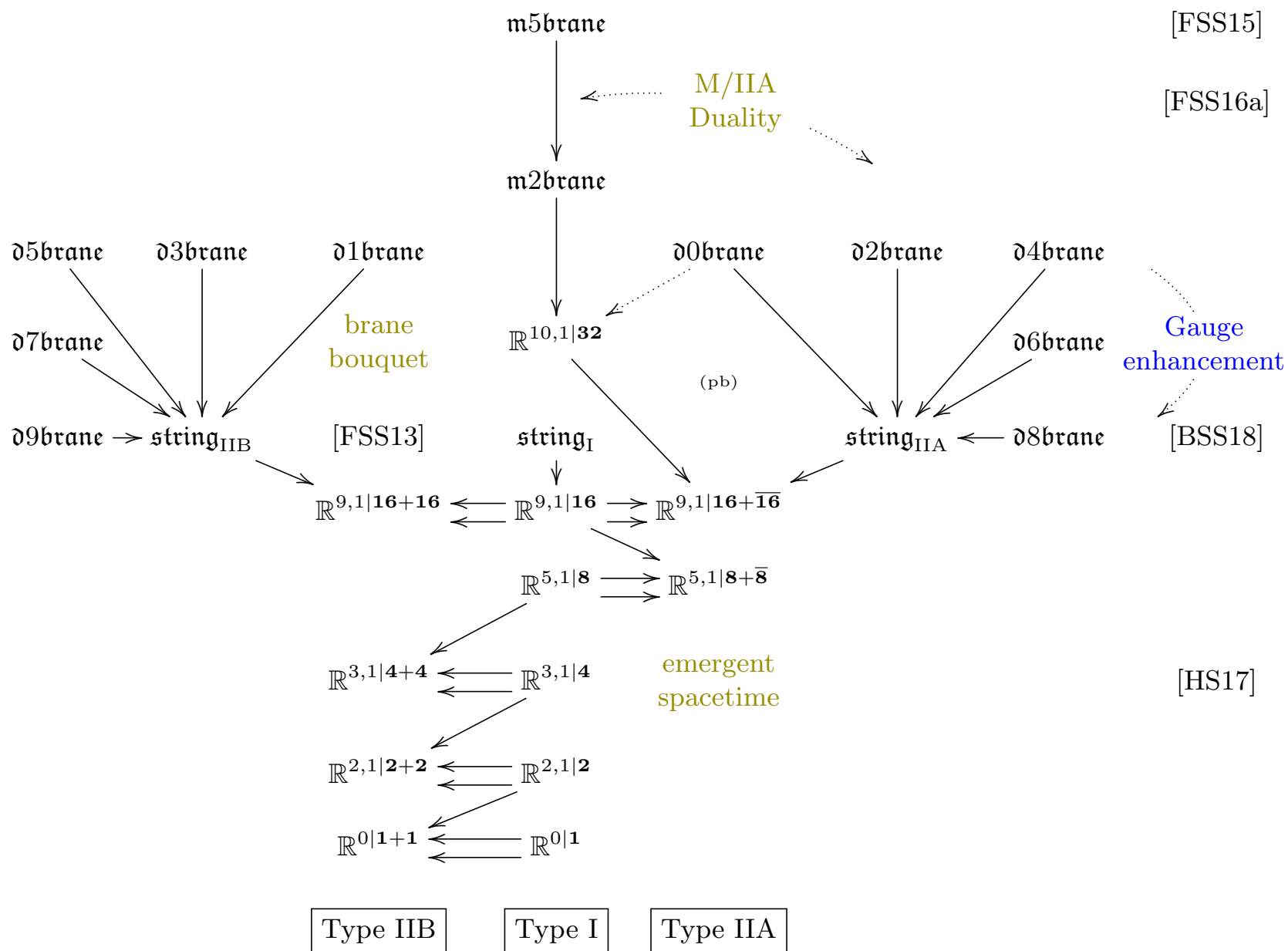
[FSS15]



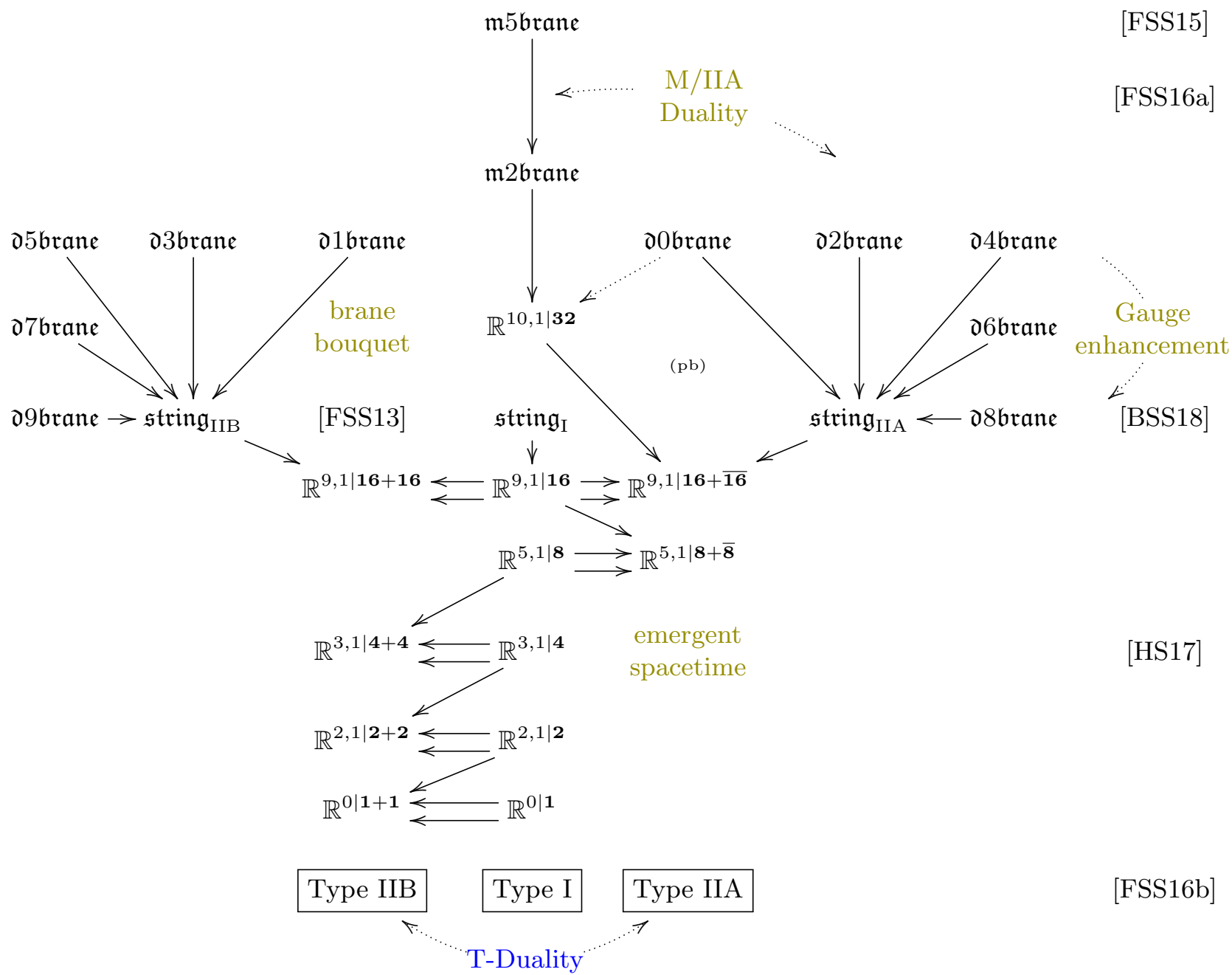
# Universal central invariant super- $L_\infty$ extensions of $\mathbb{R}^{0|1}$ : Brane bouquet



# Universal central invariant super- $L_\infty$ extensions of $\mathbb{R}^{0|1}$ : Brane bouquet



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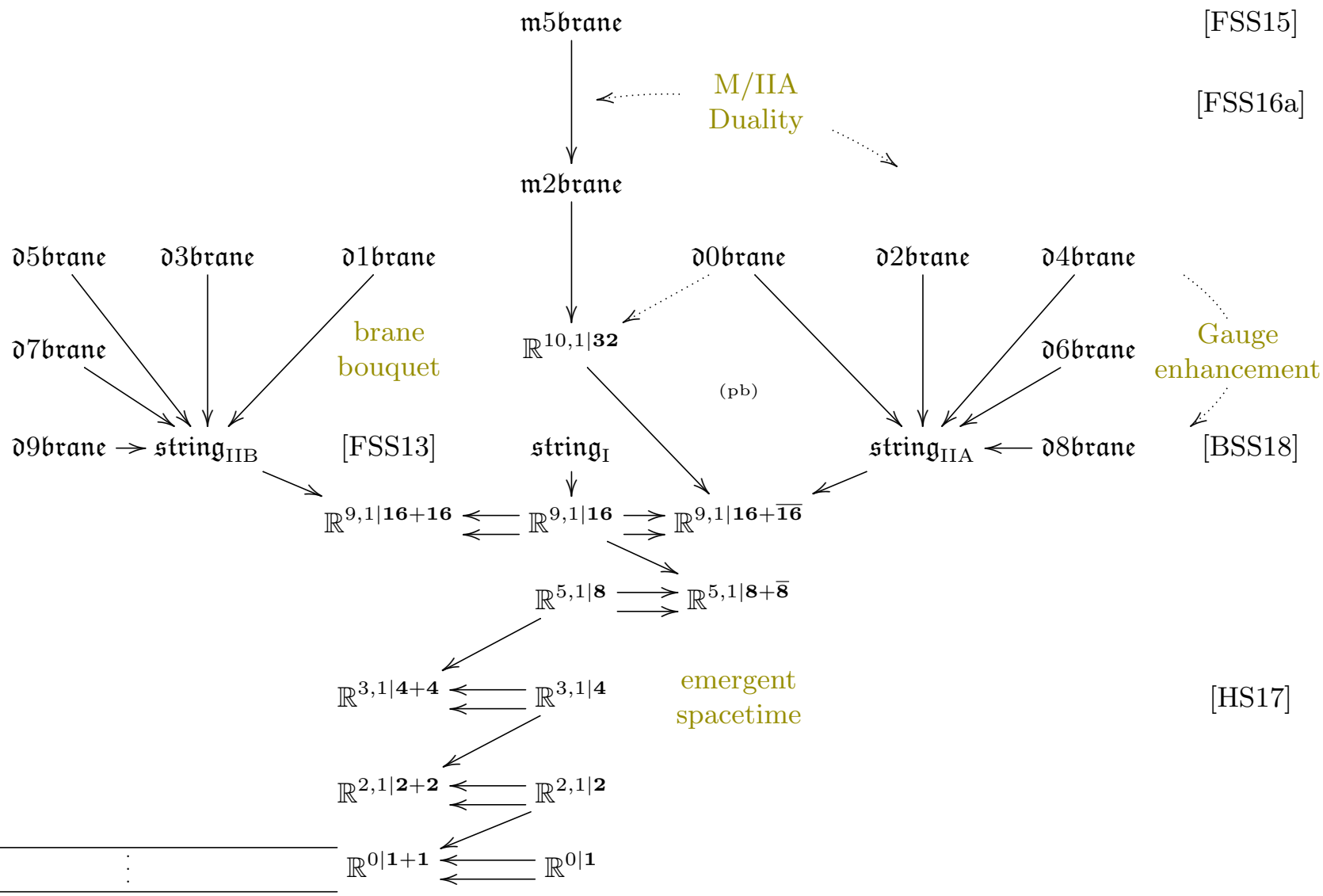


# Universal central invariant super- $L_\infty$ extensions of $\mathbb{R}^{0|1}$ : Brane bouquet

[FSS18]

[FSS15]

[FSS16a]



Exceptional

Type IIB

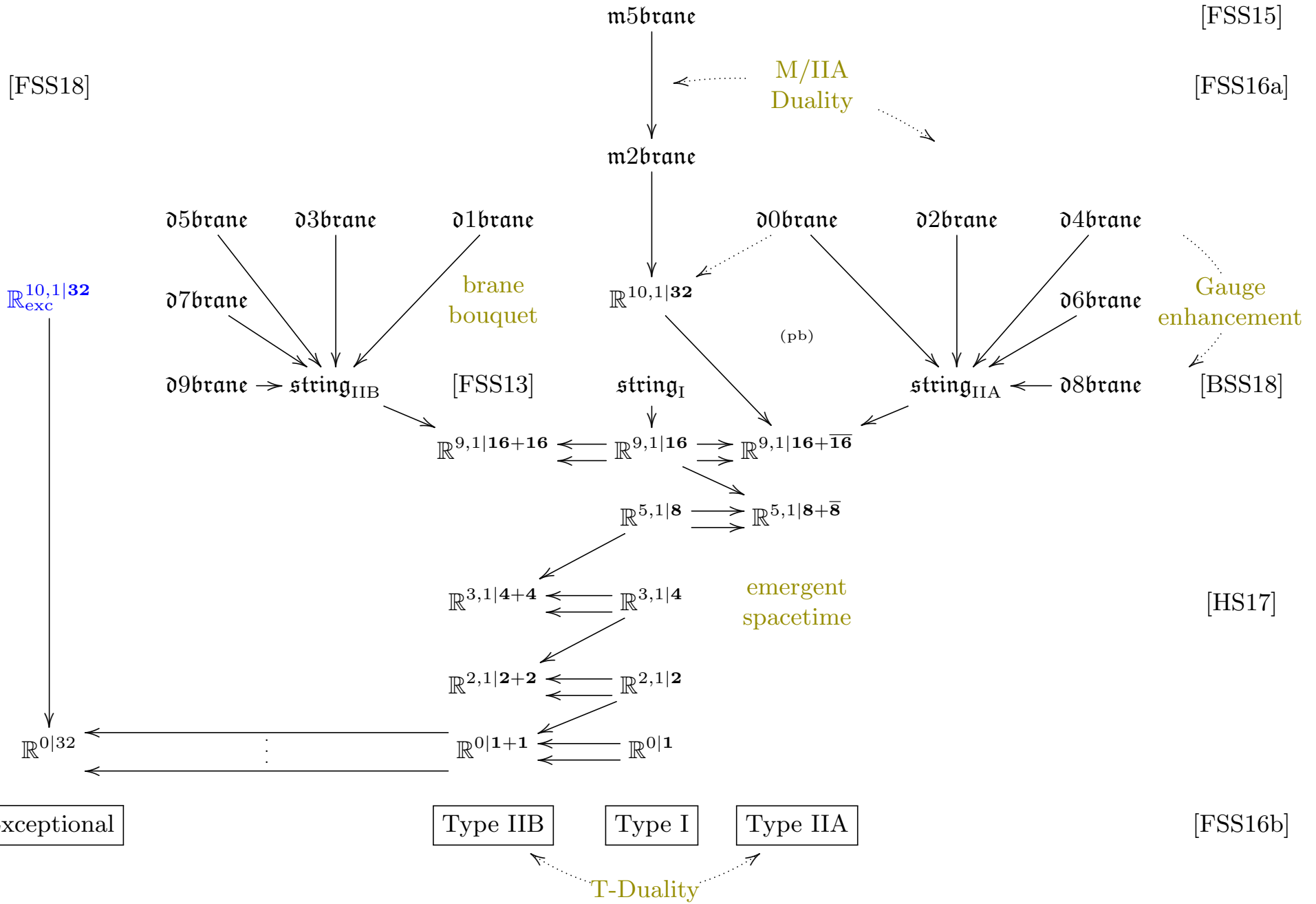
Type I

Type IIA

[FSS16b]

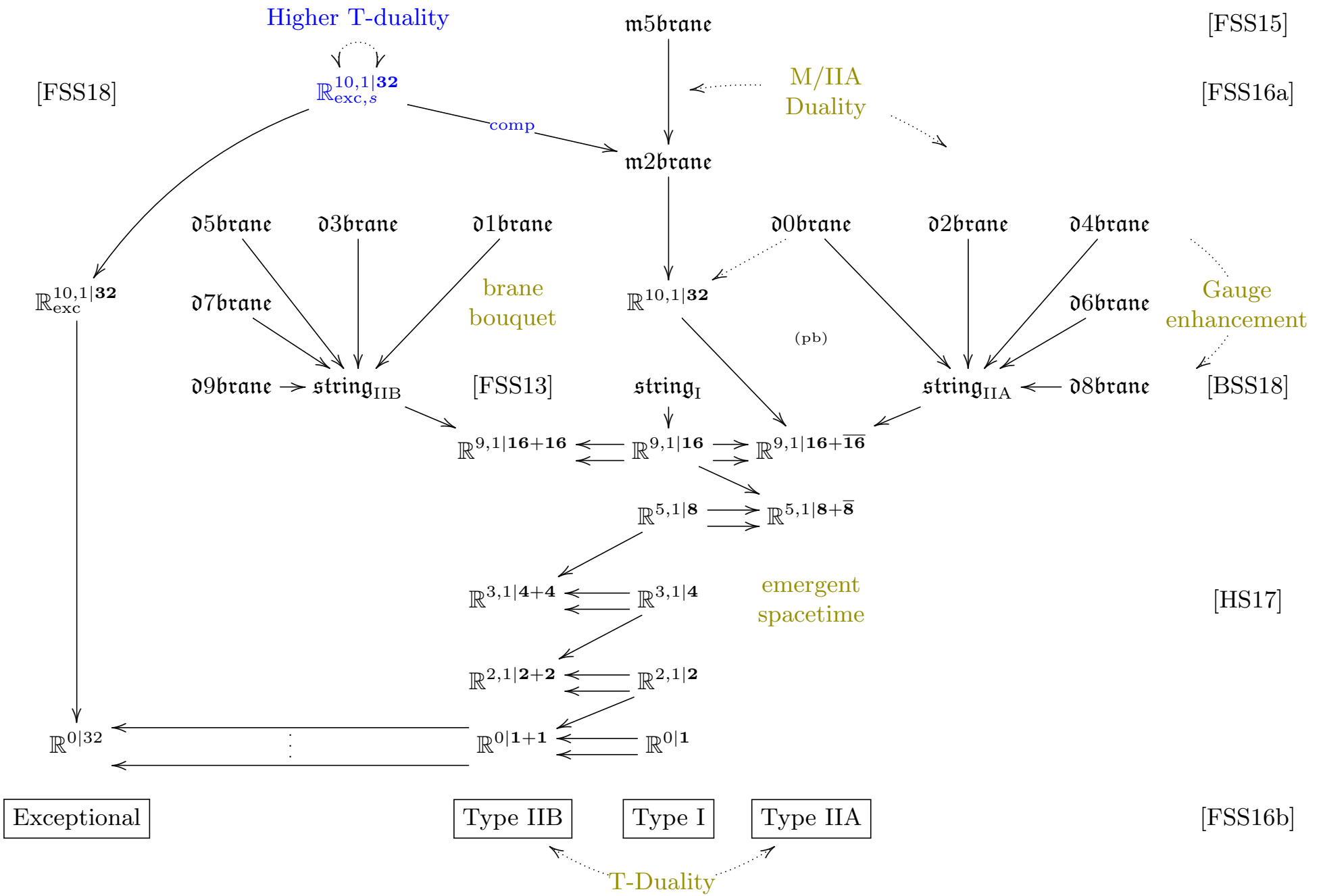
T-Duality

# Universal central invariant super- $L_\infty$ extensions of $\mathbb{R}^{0|1}$ : Brane bouquet

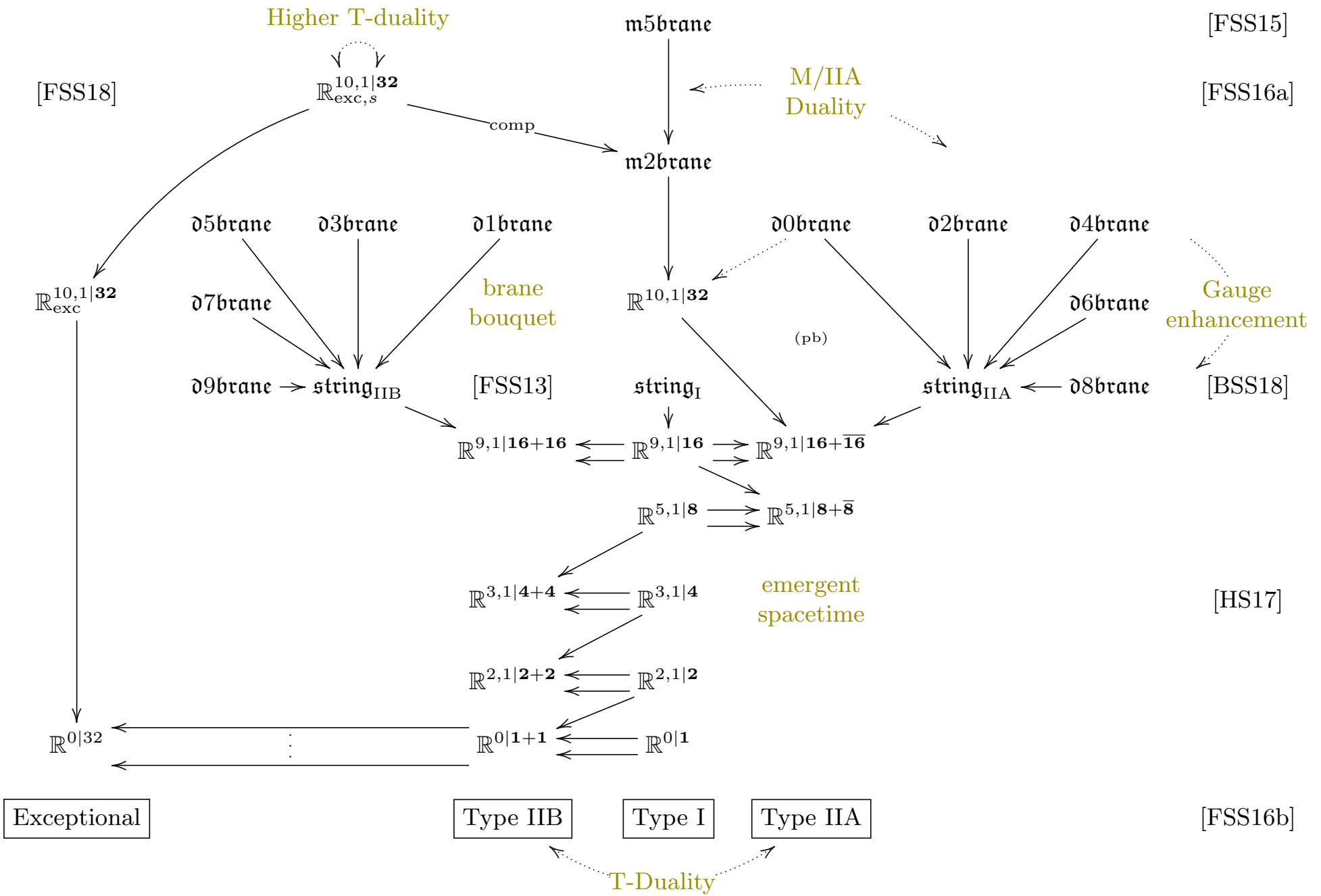




# Universal central invariant super- $L_\infty$ extensions of $\mathbb{R}^{0|1}$ : Brane bouquet

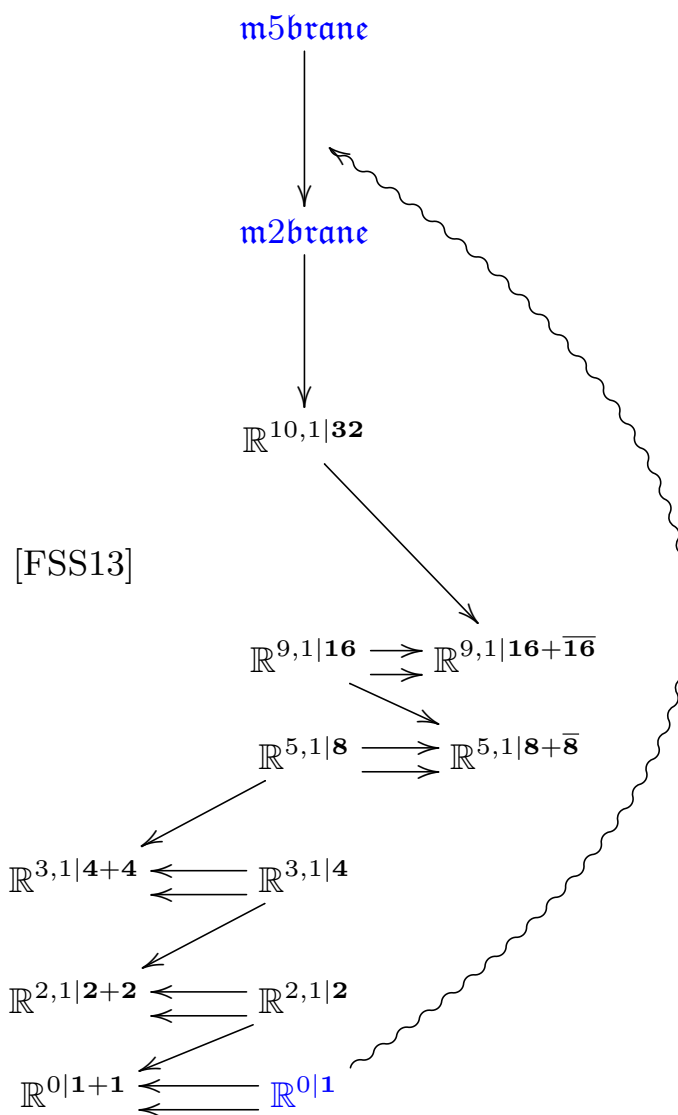


# Universal central invariant super- $L_\infty$ extensions of $\mathbb{R}^{0|1}$ : Brane bouquet



# Universal central invariant super- $L_\infty$ extensions of $\mathbb{R}^{0|1}$ : Brane bouquet

[FSS15]



[FSS13]

[HS17]

---

emergence of fundamental M-branes from the Atom of Superspace

# Universal central invariant super- $L_\infty$ extensions of $\mathbb{R}^{0|1}$ : Brane bouquet

[FSS15]

m5brane



m2brane



$\mathbb{R}^{10,1|32}$

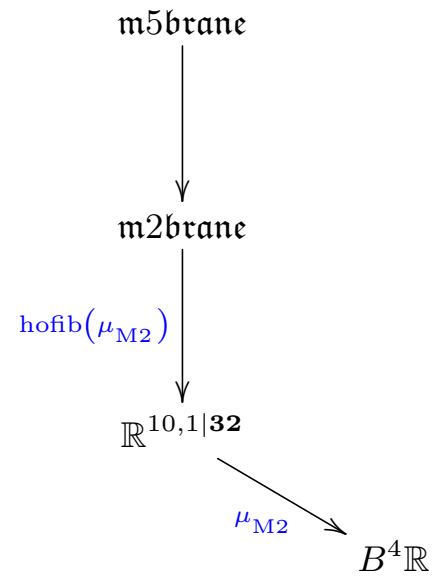
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zoom in on the fundamental M-brane super-extensions

# The fundamental M2/M5-brane cocycle

---

[FSS15]

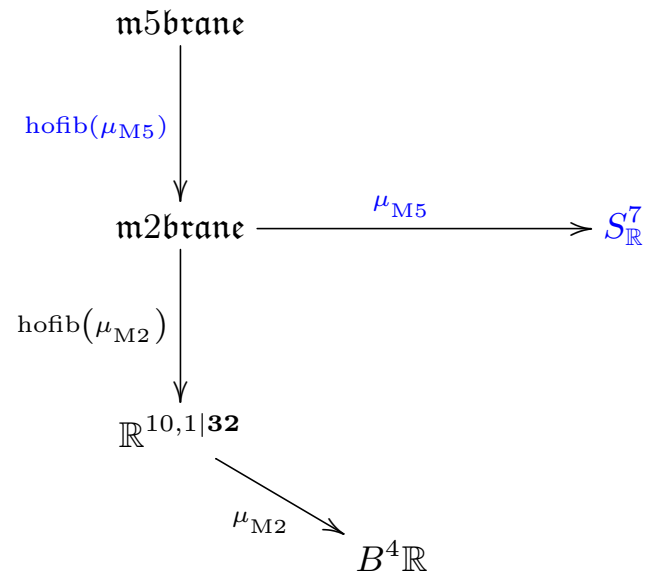


$$\mu_{M2} = dL_{M2}^{WZW} = \frac{i}{2} (\bar{\psi} \Gamma_{a_1 a_2} \psi) \wedge e^{a_1} \wedge e^{a_2}$$

the [WZW-curvature](#) of the Green-Schwarz-type sigma-model [super-membrane](#)

# The fundamental M2/M5-brane cocycle

[FSS15]

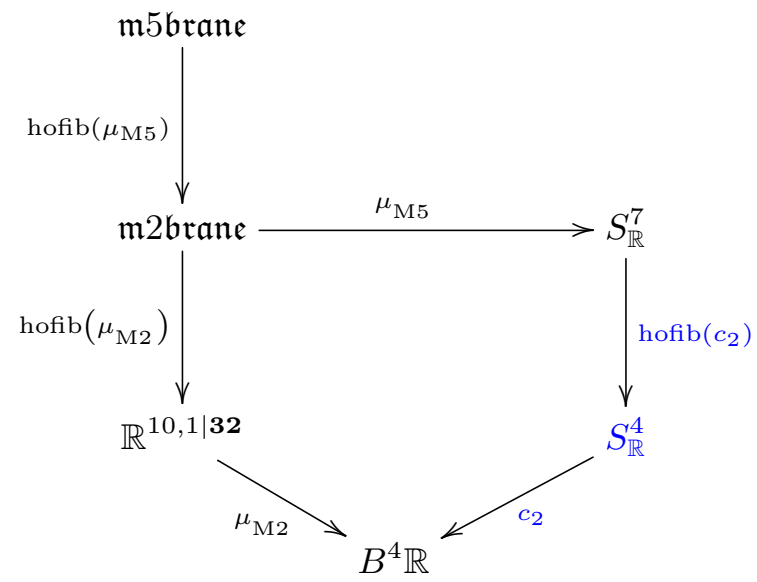


$$\mu_{M5} = dL_{M5}^{\text{WZW}} = \frac{1}{5!} (\bar{\psi} \Gamma_{a_1 \dots a_5} \psi) \wedge e^{a_1} \wedge \dots \wedge e^{a_5} + c_3 \wedge \frac{i}{2} (\bar{\psi} \Gamma_{a_1 a_2} \psi) \wedge e^{a_1} \wedge e^{a_2}$$

the [WZW-curvature](#) of the Green-Schwarz-type sigma-model [super-fivebrane](#)

# The fundamental M2/M5-brane cocycle

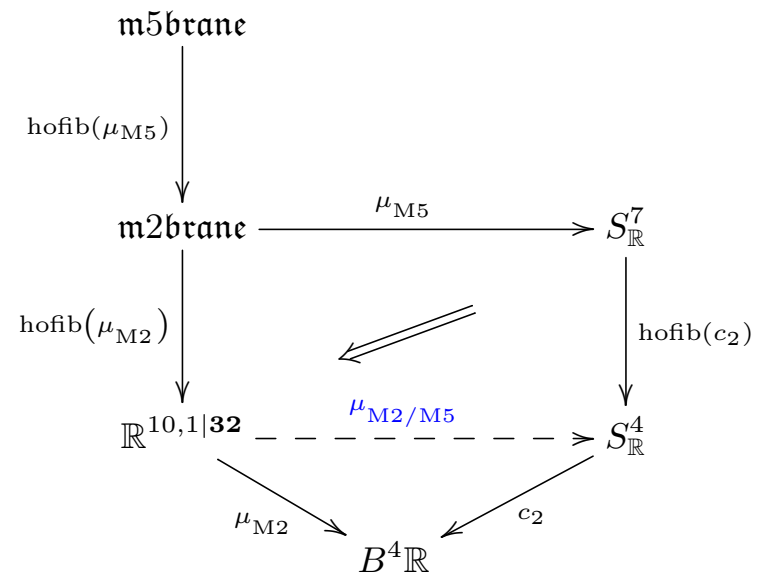
[FSS15]



the [quaternionic Hopf fibration](#) (in rational homotopy theory)

# The fundamental M2/M5-brane cocycle

[FSS15]



the unified M2/M5-cocycle



# The fundamental M2/M5-brane cocycle

---

[FSS15]

$$\mathbb{R}^{10,1|\mathbf{32}} \xrightarrow{\mu_{\text{M2/M5}}} S_{\mathbb{R}}^4$$

the unified M2/M5-cocycle is in rational Cohomotopy in degree 4

# The fundamental M2/M5-brane cocycle

---

[FSS15]

$$\mathbb{R}^{10,1|\mathbf{32}} \xrightarrow{\mu_{\text{M2/M5}}} S_{\mathbb{R}}^4$$

$$\frac{i}{2} (\bar{\psi} \Gamma_{a_1 a_2} \psi) \wedge e^{a_1} \wedge e^{a_2} \longleftarrow G_4$$

$$\frac{1}{5!} (\bar{\psi} \Gamma_{a_1 \dots a_5} \psi) \wedge e^{a_1} \dots e^{a_5} \longleftarrow G_7$$

$$\text{Sullivan model: } \mathcal{O}(S_{\mathbb{R}}^4) \simeq \mathbb{R}[G_4, G_7] / \left( \begin{array}{l} dG_4 = 0 \\ dG_7 = -\frac{1}{2} G_4 \wedge G_4 \end{array} \right)$$

= 11d supergravity equations of motion of the  $C$ -field ([Sati13, Sect. 2.5])

# The fundamental M2/M5-brane cocycle

---

[FSS15]

$$\mathbb{R}^{10,1|\mathbf{32}} \xrightarrow{\mu_{\text{M2/M5}}} S_{\mathbb{R}}^4$$

the unified M2/M5-cocycle

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathbb{R}^{10,1|\mathbf{32}} & \xrightarrow{\mu_{\text{M2/M5}}} & S_{\mathbb{R}}^4 \\ & \downarrow \text{double dimensional reduction \& gauge enhancement} & \\ \mathbb{R}^{9,1|\mathbf{16}+\overline{\mathbf{16}}} & \xrightarrow{\mu_{F1/D2p}} & \text{ku} // B^2\mathbb{R} \end{array}$$

D-brane charge in twisted K-theory, rationally  
[BSS18]

## The rational conclusion.

---

In  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{infinitesimal} \\ \text{rational} \end{array} \right\}$  approximation

brane charge quantization follows from first principles

and reveals this situation:

<b>brane species</b>	<b>cohomology theory of charge quantization</b>
D-branes	twisted K-theory
M-branes	Cohomotopy in degree 4

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brane charge quantization follows from first principles  
and reveals this situation:

brane species	cohomology theory of charge quantization
D-branes	twisted K-theory
M-branes	Cohomotopy in degree 4

---

Lift beyond  $\left\{ \begin{array}{c} \text{infinitesimal} \\ \text{rational} \end{array} \right\}$  approximation is not unique

but one lift of rational Cohomotopy is *minimal* (in number of cells):  
actual Cohomotopy represented by the actual 4-sphere

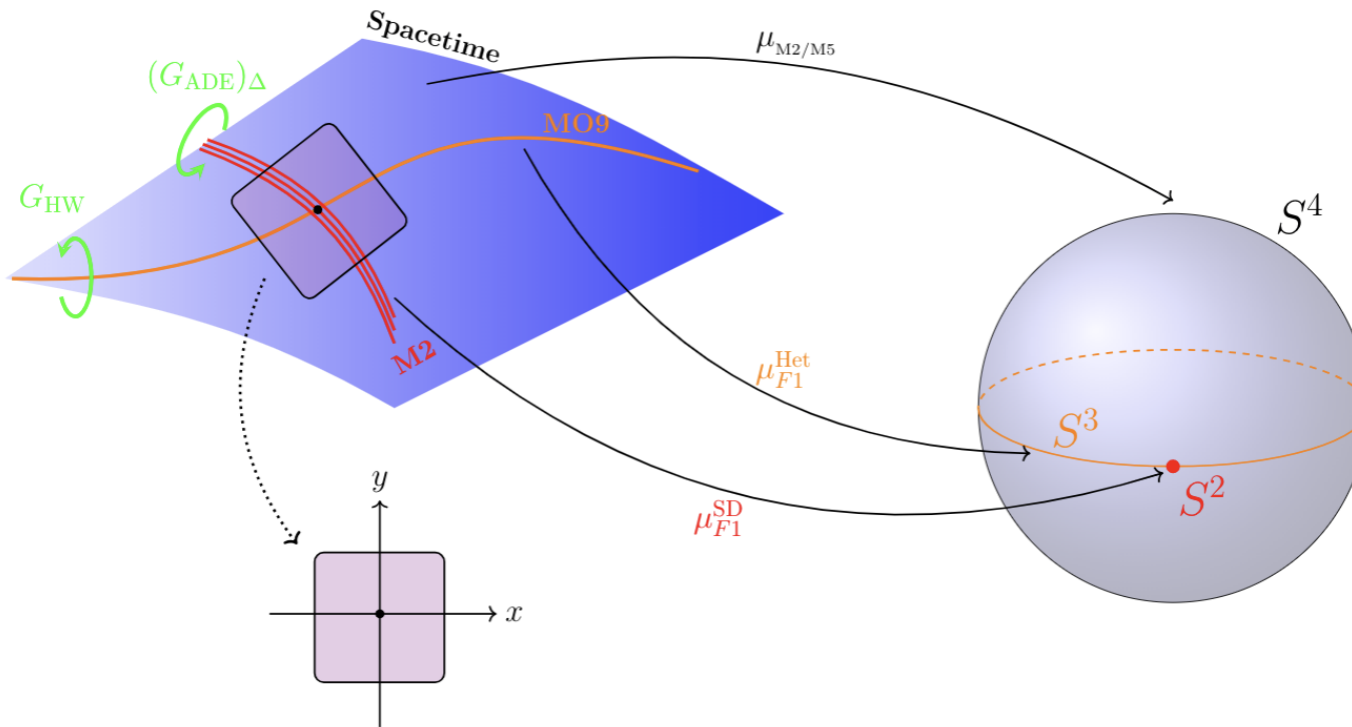
$$\begin{array}{ccc} & & S^4 \\ & \nearrow \text{cocycle in} & \downarrow \text{rationalization} \\ & \text{actual Cohomotopy} & \\ X & \xrightarrow{\text{cocycle in}} & S^4_{\mathbb{R}} \\ & \text{rational cohomotopy} & \end{array}$$

# Towards microscopic M-theory

## 1. Construct

differential equivariant Cohomotopy  $\widehat{S}_\gamma^4$   
of 11d super-orbifold spacetimes  $\mathcal{X}$

## 2. lifting super-tangent-space-wise the fundamental M2/M5-brane cocycle.



## 3. Compare the resulting observables on M-brane charge quantized supergravity field moduli with expected limiting corners of M-theory

## Part II.

# Orbifold cohomology

Global equivariant

1. Super homotopy theory and the  $C$ -field at singularities
2. Super Cartan geometry and 11d orbifold supergravity



**Global equivariant  
Super homotopy theory**  
and the  $C$ -field at singularities

[back to Part I](#)

*orbifolded*



**Global equivariant  
Super homotopy theory**  
and the  $C$ -field at singularities

# The idea of global equivariant homotopy theory

---

What is an orbifold, really?

---

detailed exposition in  
[ncatlab.org/nlab/show/orbifold+cohomology](http://ncatlab.org/nlab/show/orbifold+cohomology)

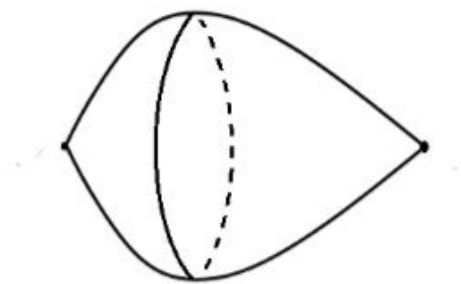
# The idea of global equivariant homotopy theory

---

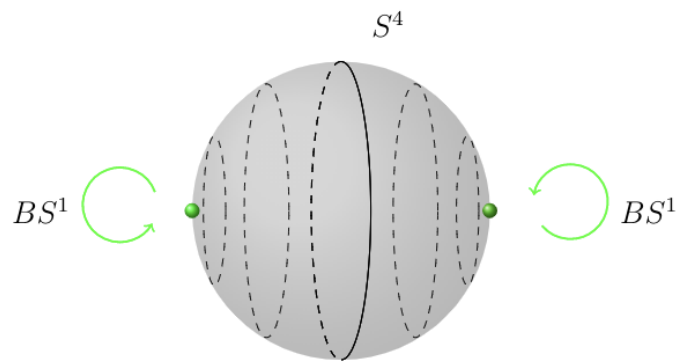
What is an orbifold, really?

Two opposite dual views on orbifold singularities  $X \curvearrowright G$ :

non-smooth singular points



smooth but stacky quotients



orbifold singularity

$\mathbb{B}G$

$\int_{\text{orb}}$

$\flat_{\text{orb}}$

opposite extreme  
aspects of orbifold singularities

non-smooth  
singular point

$* = */G$

smooth  
stacky quotient

$\mathbb{B}G = * // G$

# The site of global equivariant homotopy theory

---

$$\text{Singularities} := \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{objects:} \quad \text{groupoids } \mathbb{B}G := \left\{ \overset{g}{\curvearrowright} * \mid g \in G \right\} \\ \text{for finite groups } G \\ \\ \text{morphisms:} \quad \text{groupoids of functors} \\ \mathbb{B}G \longrightarrow \mathbb{B}G' \\ \\ \text{coverings:} \quad \text{identity functors} \end{array} \right\}$$

Elsewhere known as the “global orbit category”

but better thought of as the  $\infty$ -category  
of models for orbifold singularities.

# The toposes of global equivariant homotopy theory

---

call the base topos

$$\mathbf{H}_U := \mathrm{Sh}_\infty(\mathrm{SuperFormalCartSp})$$

set

$$\mathbf{H} := \mathrm{Sh}_\infty(\mathrm{Singularities}, \mathbf{H}_U)$$

---

## Adjunctions

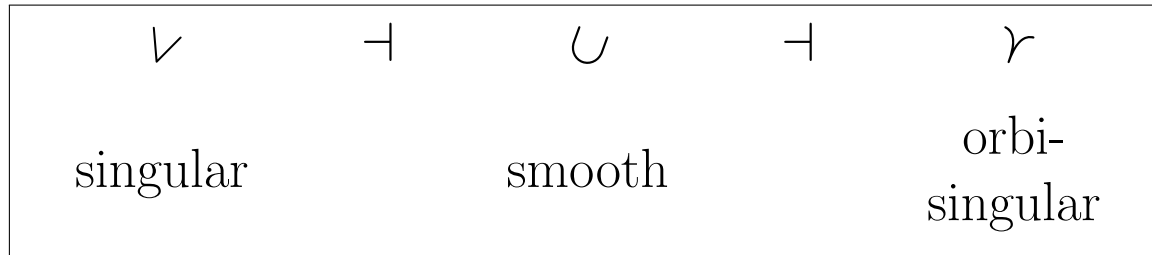
$$\begin{array}{ccc} & \xrightarrow{\quad \Pi_{\mathrm{orb}} \quad} & \\ & \perp & \\ & \xleftarrow{\quad \mathrm{Disc}_{\mathrm{orb}} \quad} & \\ \mathbf{H} & & \mathbf{H}_U \\ & \xrightarrow{\quad \Gamma_{\mathrm{orb}} \quad} & \\ & \perp & \\ & \xleftarrow{\quad \mathrm{coDisc}_{\mathrm{orb}} \quad} & \end{array}$$

---

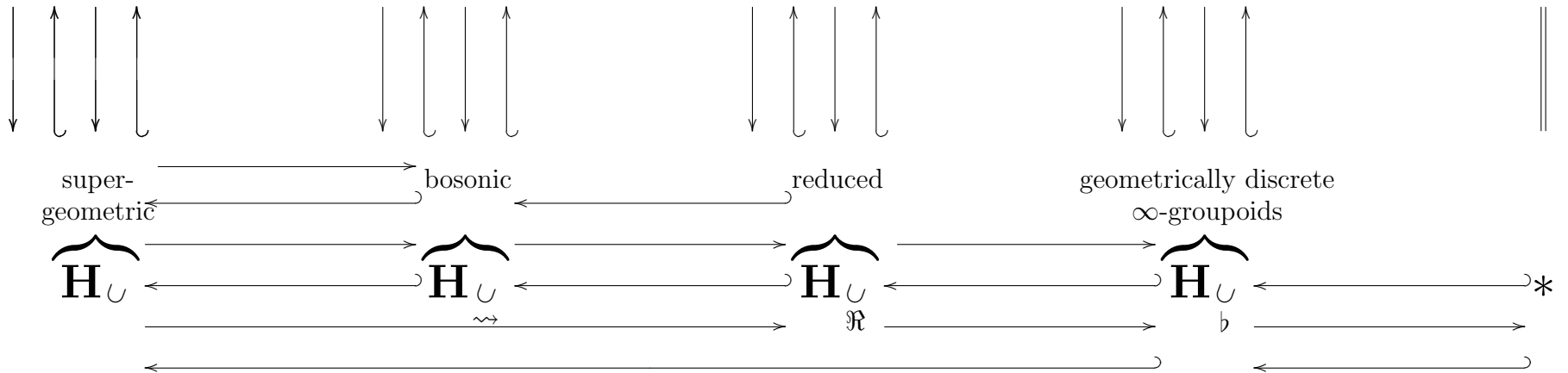
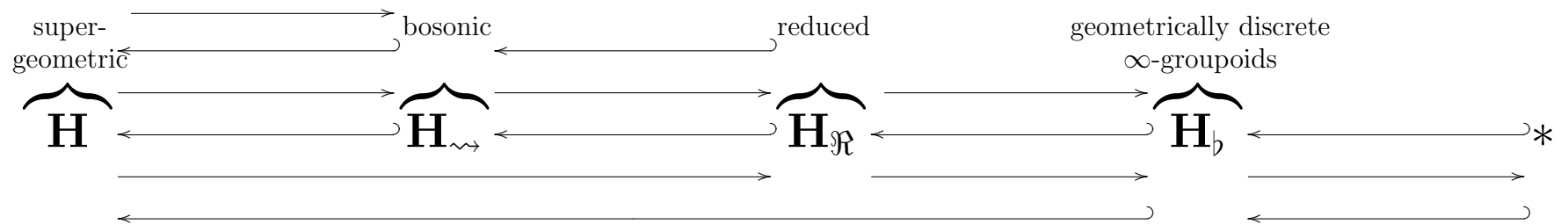
Cohesion of global equivariant homotopy theory

highlighted by C. Rezk, *Global homotopy theory and cohesion* (2014)

# The modalities of global equivariant homotopy theory

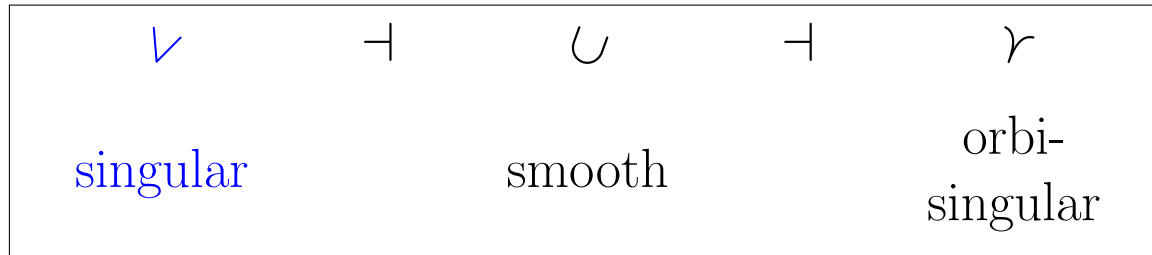


possibly singular/orbifolded

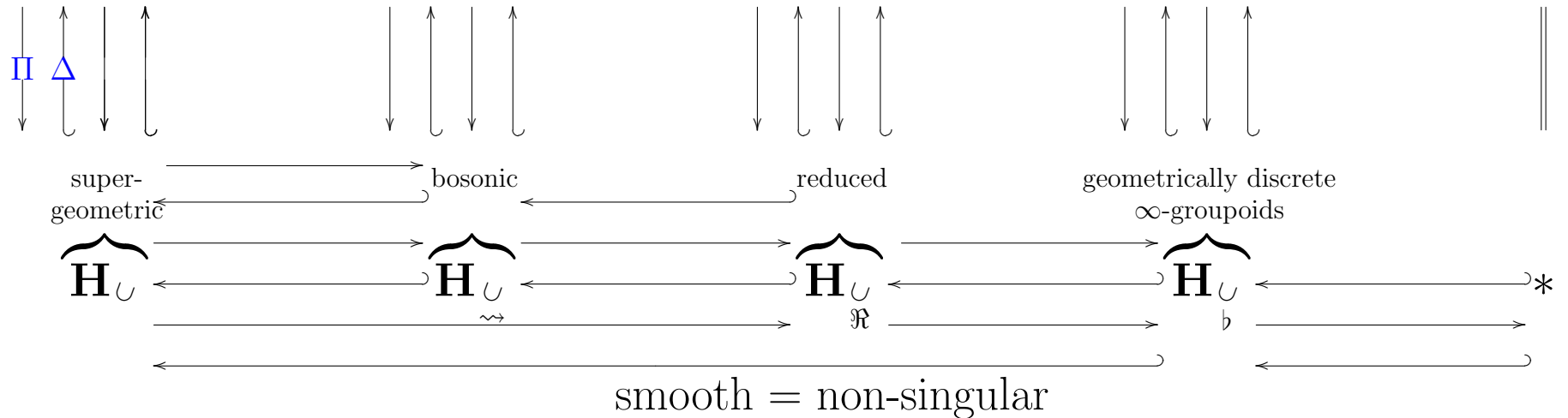
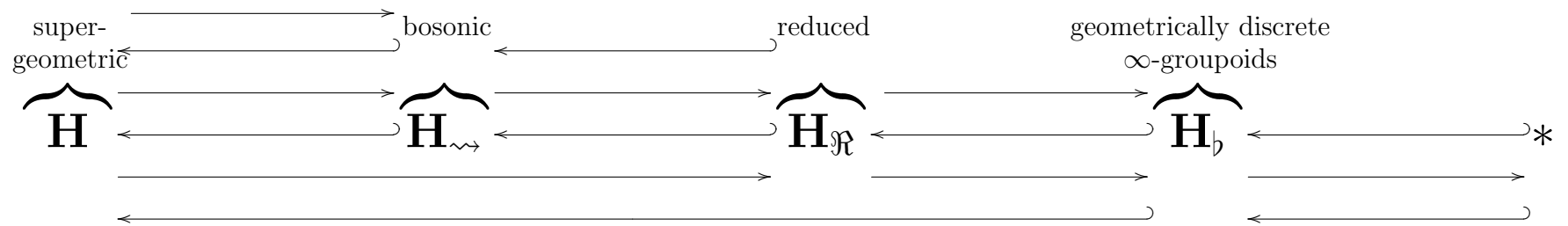


smooth = non-singular

# The modalities of global equivariant homotopy theory

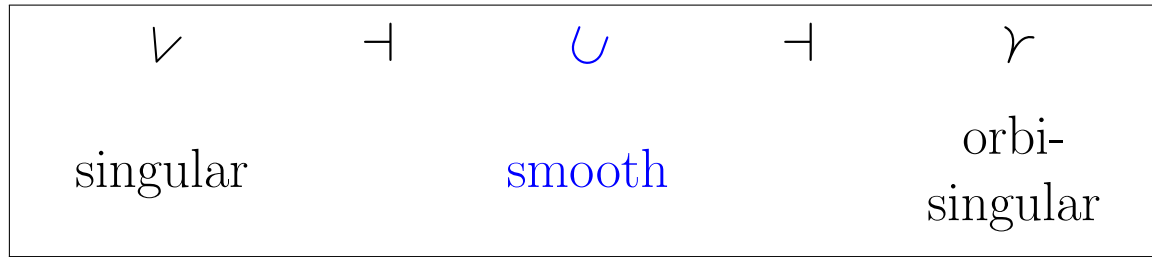


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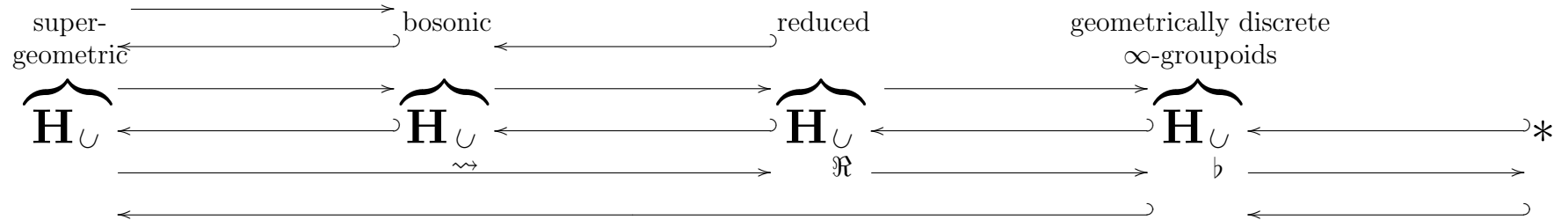
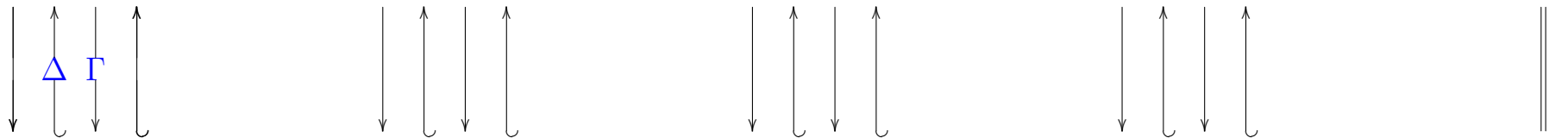
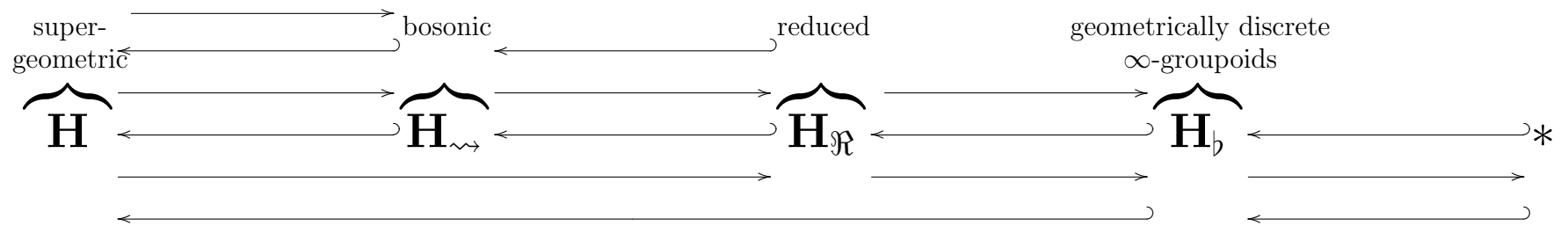




# The modalities of global equivariant homotopy theory

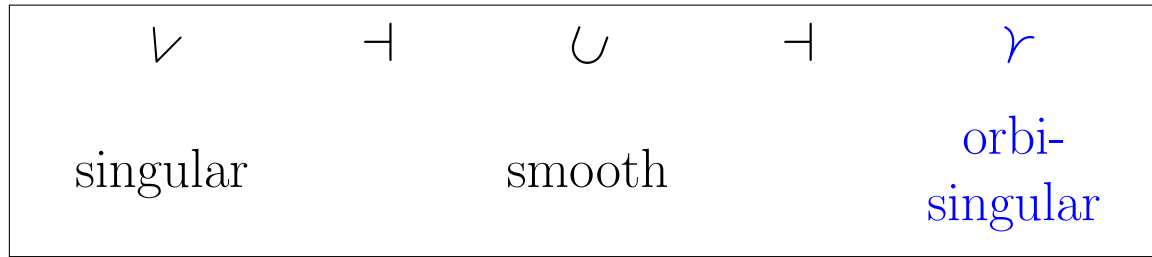


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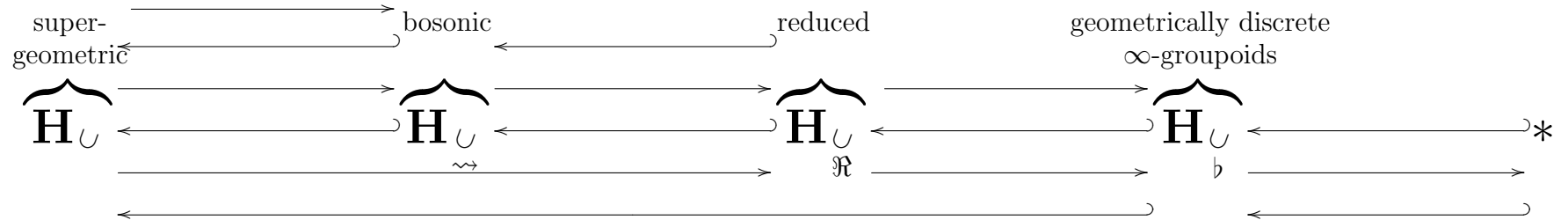
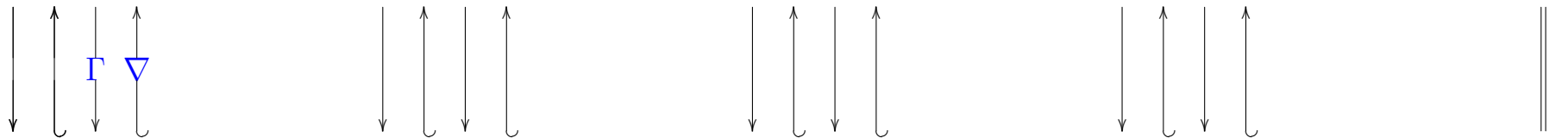
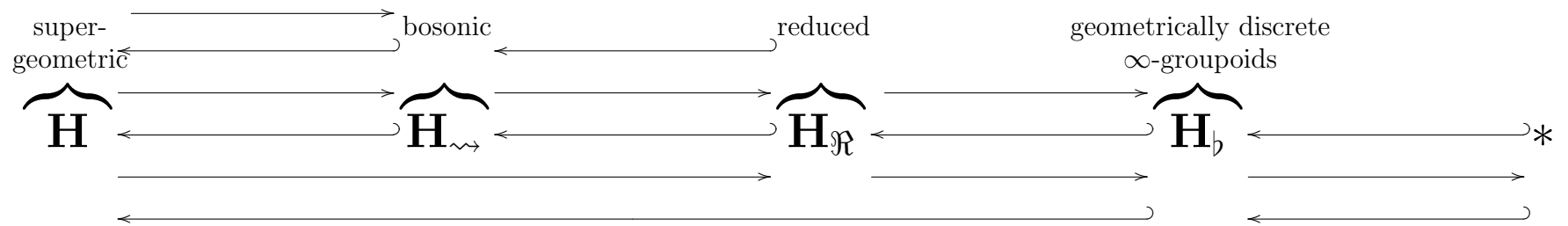


smooth = non-singular

# The modalities of global equivariant homotopy theory



possibly singular/orbifolded



smooth = non-singular

# Super-Orbifolds ([Wellen17, Sch13])

---

Let  $\underbrace{V}_{\substack{\text{tangent} \\ \text{space} \\ \text{model}}}$ ,  $\underbrace{G}_{\substack{\text{generic} \\ \text{singularity} \\ \text{type}}}$   $\in \text{Grp}(\mathbf{H})$  be group objects.

---

**Definition.** A  $G$ -orbi  $V$ -fold is

- an object  $\mathcal{X} \in \mathbf{H}/\mathbf{B}G_\gamma$

which is

1. 0-truncated:  $\tau_0(\mathcal{X}) \simeq \mathcal{X}$
2. orbi-singular:  $\gamma(\mathcal{X}) \simeq \mathcal{X}$

3. a  $V$ -fold: there exists a  $V$ -atlas

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & U & \\ p_V \swarrow & & \searrow p_X \\ V & & \mathcal{X}_\cup \end{array}$$

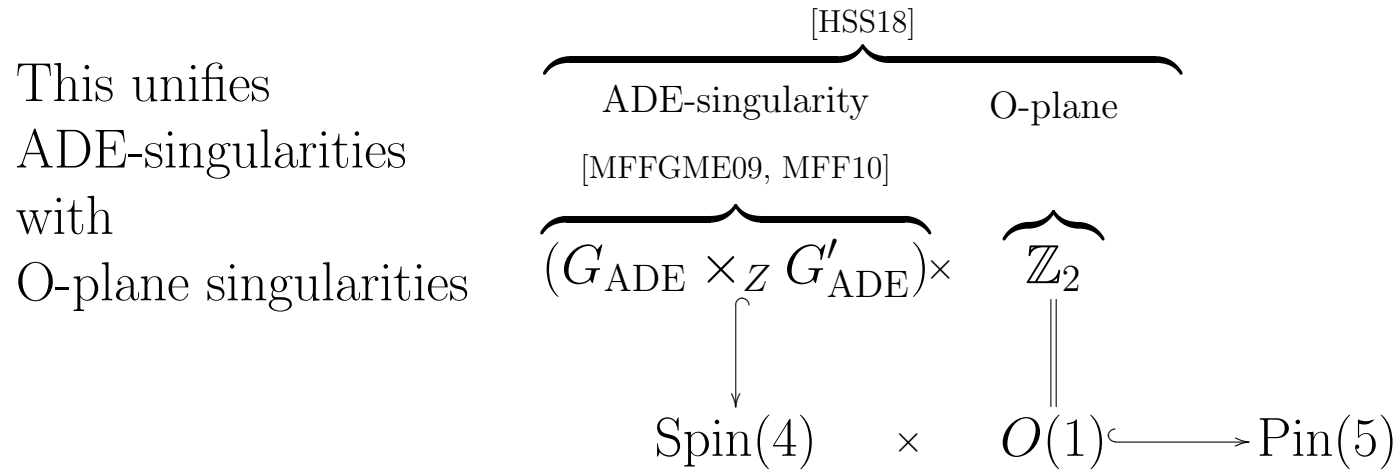
- (a)  $p_X$  is a covering:  $(\tau_{-1})_{/X}(p_X) \simeq *$
- (b)  $p_X$  is a local diffeomorphism:  $\mathfrak{S}_{/X}(p_X) \simeq p_X$
- (c)  $p_V$  is a local diffeomorphism:  $\mathfrak{S}_{/V}(p_V) \simeq p_V$

# The global equivariant 4-sphere

---

In the following  $G := \mathfrak{b}\text{Pin}(5)$   
the unoriented spin group in 5d, regarded as geometrically discrete.

---



Write  $\mathbf{S}^4 \in \text{SmoothManifolds}$  for the smooth 4-sphere.

$\hookrightarrow \mathbf{H}$

with  $S^4 := \int \mathbf{S}^4 \in \infty\text{Groupoids}$  its shape.

Then

$\mathbf{S}_r^4 := \int_r (\mathbf{S}^4 // \mathfrak{b}\text{Pin}(5))$  is a  $\mathfrak{b}\text{Pin}(5)$ -orbi  $\mathbb{R}^4$ -fold  
 $\in \mathbf{H}/\mathbf{B}\mathfrak{b}\text{Pin}(5)$

$S_r^4 := \int_r (\mathbf{S}^4 // \text{Pin}(5)^{\mathfrak{b}})$  is its shape orbi-space

# Equivariant Cohomotpy of Super-orbifolds

---

Let

$$\mathbb{R}^{10,1|\mathbf{32}} \in \text{Grp}(\mathbf{H}) \quad D = 11, \mathcal{N} = 1 \text{ translational supersymmetry}$$

$$\mathcal{X} \in \mathbf{H}/\mathfrak{rb}\mathbf{BPin}(5) \quad \text{a } \mathfrak{b}\mathbf{Pin}(5)\text{-orbi } \mathbb{R}^{10,1|\mathbf{32}}\text{-fold.}$$

## Definition.

The cocycle space of *equivariant Cohomotopy* of  $\mathcal{X}$  is

$$\mathbf{H}/\mathfrak{rb}\mathbf{BPin}(5) \left( \mathcal{X}, S_r^4 \right) = \left\{ \begin{array}{ccc} & \begin{array}{c} \text{cocycle in} \\ \text{equivariant Cohomotopy} \end{array} & \\ \mathcal{X} & \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{\text{dashed}} \\ \swarrow \text{double} \\ \searrow \end{array} & S_r^4 \\ & \mathfrak{rb}\mathbf{BPin}(5) & \end{array} \right\}$$

and so the cohomology set is

$$H \left( \mathcal{X}, S_r^4 \right) := \pi_0 \left( \mathbf{H}/\mathfrak{rb}\mathbf{BPin}(5) \right) \left( \mathcal{X}, S_r^4 \right)$$

# Super Cartan geometry

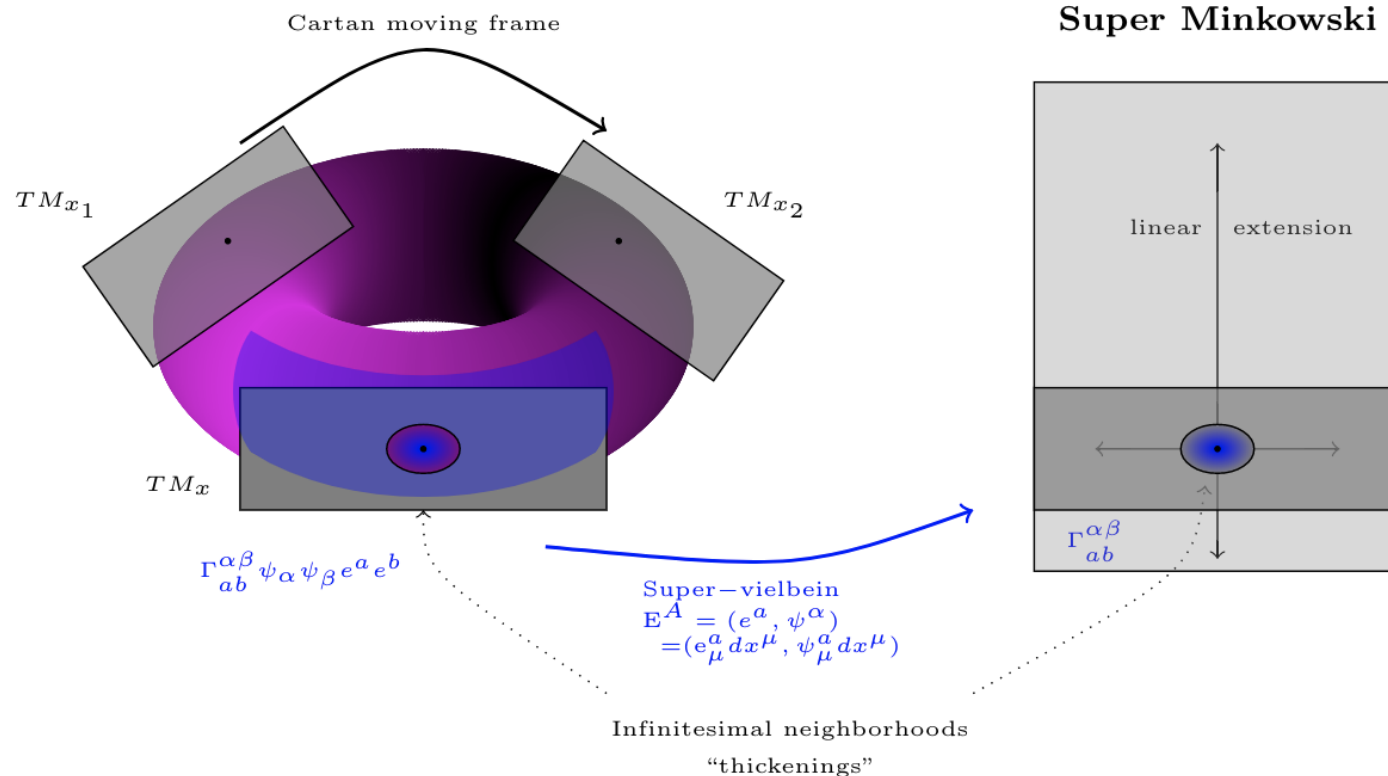
## and 11d orbifold supergravity

[back to Part I](#)

# Cartan geometry formalizes Einstein principle of equivalence

*Spacetime is locally equivalent to Minkowski spacetime, namely in the infinitesimal neighbourhood of every point*

We now generalize this from manifolds to super-orbifolds...



# $G$ -Structures on orbi $V$ -folds ([Wellen17, Sch13])

---

**Def.:** infinitesimal disk around origin:  $\mathbb{D}^V := V \times_{\mathfrak{S}(V)} \{e\} \hookrightarrow V$

---

**Prop.:** every orbi  $V$ -fold  $\mathcal{X}$  carries its canonical  $V$ -frame bundle  $\mathcal{X}_\cup \xrightarrow{\text{frame}} \mathbf{BAut}(\mathbb{D}^V)$

---

**Def.:** for  $G \xrightarrow{\text{homom.}} \mathbf{Aut}(\mathbb{D}^V)$  a  $G$ -structure is a lift ( $E$  is the *vielbein*)

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 \mathcal{X}_\cup & \overset{\text{frame}}{\dashrightarrow} & \mathbf{BG} \\
 & \swarrow \text{frame} \quad \nwarrow E & \\
 & \mathbf{BAut}(\mathbb{D}^V) &
 \end{array}$$


---

**Prop.:**  $V$  itself carries canonical  $G$ -structure given by left translation

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 V & \overset{\text{frame}}{\dashrightarrow} & \mathbf{BG} \\
 & \swarrow \text{frame} \quad \nwarrow E_{\text{li}} & \\
 & \mathbf{BAut}(\mathbb{D}^V) &
 \end{array}$$


---

**Def.:** a  $G$ -structure is *torsion-free and flat* if it coincides with this canonical one on each infinitesimal disk  $E|_{\mathbb{D}_x^V} \simeq (E_{\text{li}})|_{\mathbb{D}_e^V}$



## 11d Supergravity from Super homotopy theory

---

Consider now  $V = \mathbb{R}^{10,1|32}$  and  $\mathcal{X}$  an orbi  $\mathbb{R}^{10,1|32}$ -fold.

**Claim:**

$$G := \mathbf{Aut}_{\text{Grp}}^{\rightsquigarrow}(\mathbb{R}^{10,1|32}) \quad \simeq \quad \text{Spin}(10, 1)$$

---

$$\begin{aligned} G\text{-structure on } \mathcal{X} &\simeq \text{super-vielbein on } \mathcal{X} \\ &\simeq \text{metric/field of gravity} \end{aligned}$$

---

$$\begin{aligned} G\text{-structure is torsion-free:} &\Leftrightarrow \text{super-torsion on } \mathcal{X} \text{ vanishes} \\ &\Leftrightarrow \mathcal{X} \text{ is solution to 11d supergravity} \\ &\quad \begin{array}{l} \text{[CaLe93]} \\ \text{[How97]} \end{array} \text{ with vanishing bosonic flux} \end{aligned}$$

---

$$G\text{-structure is flat:} \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad \mathcal{X} \text{ is a "flat" super-orbifold solution to 11d supergravity}$$

# 11d Supergravity from Super homotopy theory

---

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[CaLe93]  
[How97]

---

$$G\text{-structure is flat:} \quad \Leftrightarrow \mathcal{X} \text{ is a "flat" super-orbifold solution to 11d supergravity}$$

$\Rightarrow$  all  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{curvature} \\ \& G_4\text{-flux} \end{array} \right\}$  hence all  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{higher curvature corrections} \\ \& \text{flux quantization} \end{array} \right\}$   
 crammed into orbifold singularities  
 and thus *taken care of by the equivariance*  
 of charge quantization in differential equivariant Cohomotopy

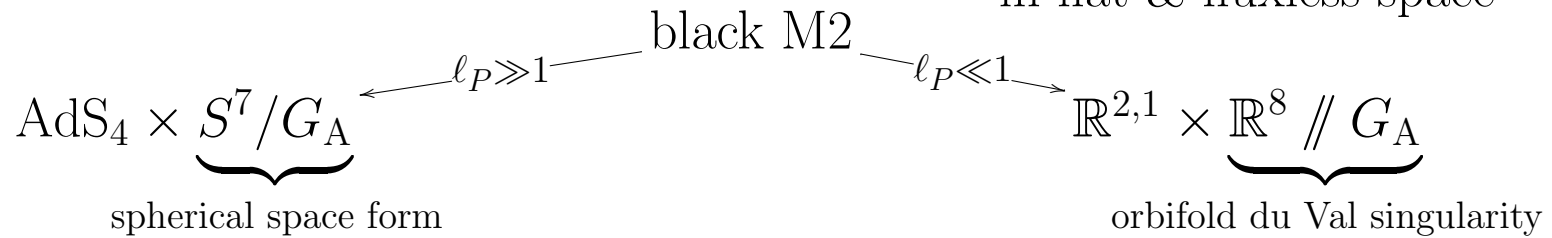
# Flat & fluxless except at curvature- & flux- singularities

---

Plausibility check:

Black M2/M5-brane solutions to SuGra interpolate ([AFFHS98]) between:

Planck-scale curved throat  $\xleftrightarrow{\text{near/far horizon geometry}}$  orbifold-singularity  
in flat & fluxless space



*inconsistent:*

Planck-scale throat ( $\ell_P \gg 1$ )

spurious in SuGra ( $\ell_P \ll 1$ )

(evaded only by

macroscopic  $N \gg 1$ )

*consistent:*

all Planck-scale geometry

crammed into orbi-singularity

(necessary for

microscopic  $N = 1$ )

---

Hence, indeed, a consistent & complete picture:

1. is flat & fluxless away from singularities,
2. has hidden degrees of freedom inside the singularities.

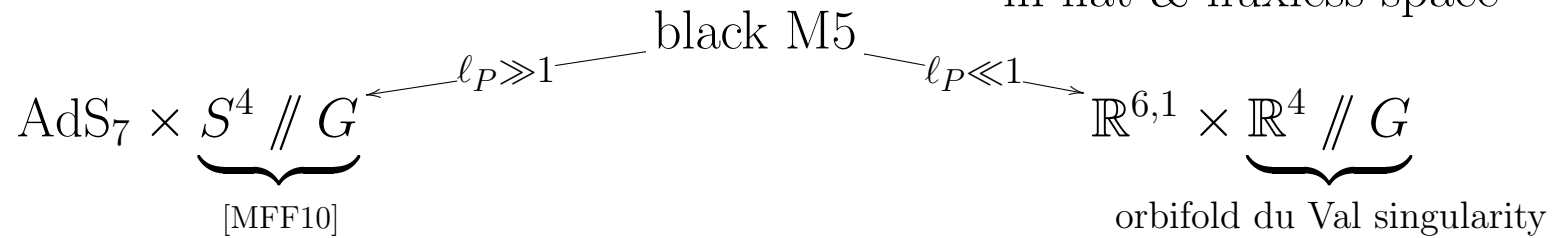
# Flat & fluxless except at curvature- & flux- singularities

---

Plausibility check:

Black M2/M5-brane solutions to SuGra interpolate ([AFFHS98]) between:

Planck-scale curved throat  $\xleftrightarrow{\text{near/far horizon geometry}}$  orbifold-singularity  
in flat & fluxless space



*inconsistent:*

Planck-scale throat ( $\ell_P \gg 1$ )

spurious in SuGra ( $\ell_P \ll 1$ )

(evaded only by

macroscopic  $N \gg 1$ )

*consistent:*

all Planck-scale geometry

crammed into orbi-singularity

(necessary for

microscopic  $N = 1$ )

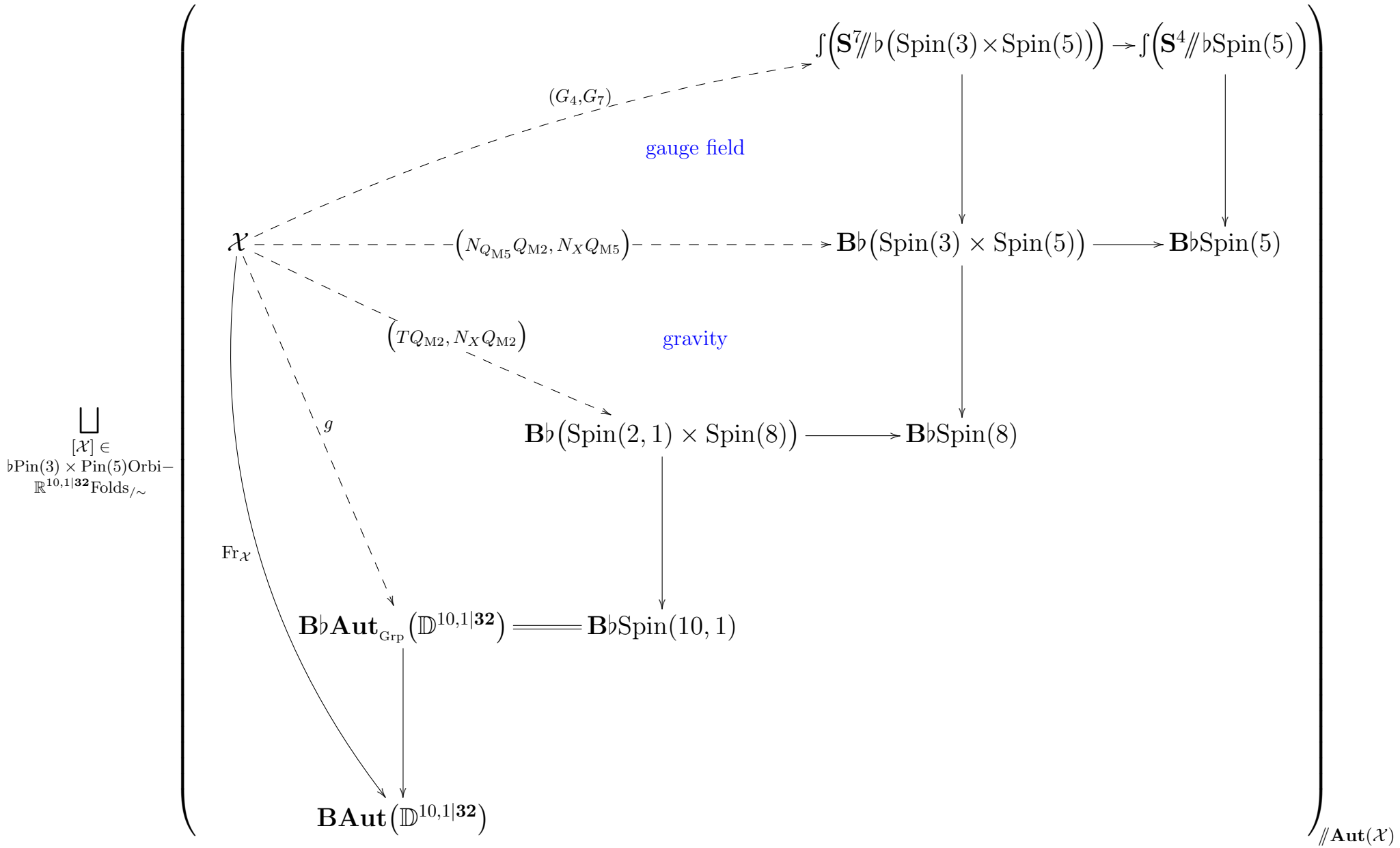
---

Hence, indeed, a consistent & complete picture:

1. is flat & fluxless away from singularities,
2. has hidden degrees of freedom inside the singularities.

In conclusion, in super homotopy theory emerges:

CovariantPhaseSpace :=



MotiveOfObservables :=  $\sum_{\text{bPin}(3) \times \text{bPin}(5)}^{\infty} (\text{CovariantPhaseSpace})$

In conclusion, in super homotopy theory emerges:

---

This is the core ingredients of what is known as

*M-theory on Spin(7)-manifolds with space-filling M2-branes*

	Pin(2,1)	Pin(3)	Pin(5)
$\mathbb{R}^{10,1} \simeq$	$\widehat{\mathbb{R}^{2,1}}$	$\oplus \widehat{\mathbb{R}^3}$	$\oplus \widehat{\mathbb{R}^5}$
M5	$\times$	$\times$	—
M2	$\times$	—	—

T-dual to

*F-theory on elliptically fibered 8-manifolds with space-filling D3-branes*  
(whose near-horizon geometry is  $\text{AdS}_5 \times S^5$ )

This happens to be

the phenomenologically relevant sector of type II string theory.

In conclusion, in super homotopy theory emerges:

---

**Theorem (Fiorenza-Sati-S.):**

*The C-field charge quantized in twisted Cohomotopy this way, implies cancellation of M-theory anomalies:*

1) M5-brane anomaly counterterm:

$$\begin{array}{l}
 G_4 \in Z^4(X, \mathbb{Q}) \\
 G_7 \in C^7(X, \mathbb{Q})
 \end{array}
 \quad \text{such that} \quad
 \begin{array}{l}
 dG_4 = 0 \\
 dG_7 = -\frac{1}{2}G_4 \wedge G_4 + \underbrace{\frac{1}{8}p_2(N_X Q_{M5})}_{\text{[Witten 96b, (5.7)]}}
 \end{array}$$

2) Half-integrally shifted C-field flux quantization

$$\underbrace{[G_4] + \left[ \frac{1}{4}p_1(N_X Q_{M5}) \right]}_{\text{[Witten 96a, 2.1 and 2.2]}} \in H^4(X, \mathbb{Z})$$

3) M-theoretic tadpole cancellation:

$$\underbrace{dG_7 = \frac{1}{2}\chi(TX) = \frac{1}{4}(p_2(TX) - \frac{1}{4}p_1(TX)^2)}_{\text{[Sethi-Vafa-Witten 96] [Witten 96a, 3]}}$$

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