

# Conformal geometry in four variables and a deformation complex in five

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[ joint work with Katja Sagerschnig and Dennis The ]

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# Conformal geometry in four variables

and a deformation complex in ~~five~~ **cing**?

The de Rham complex in four (conformal) variables

$$0 \rightarrow \Lambda^0 \xrightarrow{d} \Lambda^1 \begin{cases} \nearrow \Lambda^2_+ \\ \searrow \Lambda^2_- \end{cases} \oplus \begin{cases} \nearrow \Lambda^3 \\ \searrow \Lambda^3 \end{cases} \rightarrow \Lambda^4 \rightarrow 0$$

$$\left. \begin{aligned} \Lambda^2_+ &= \{\omega \text{ s.t. } * \omega = +\omega\} \\ \Lambda^2_- &= \{\omega \text{ s.t. } * \omega = -\omega\} \end{aligned} \right\} \text{ in Riemannian or } \boxed{\text{neutral}} \text{ signature}$$

$$SO^\uparrow(2, 2) \xleftarrow{1:2} SL(2, \mathbb{R}) \times SL(2, \mathbb{R}) \quad \underline{\text{spinors}}$$

$$S(GL(2, \mathbb{R}) \times GL(2, \mathbb{R})) \quad \underline{\text{conformal spinors}}$$

# Conformal geometry: the flat model

$$M = \text{Gr}_2(\mathbb{R}^4) = \{\Pi \subset \mathbb{R}^4 \text{ s.t. } \dim \Pi = 2\}$$

$$= \text{SL}(4, \mathbb{R}) / \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} * & * & * & * \\ * & * & * & * \\ 0 & 0 & * & * \\ 0 & 0 & * & * \end{pmatrix} \right\} = G/P = \bullet \text{---} \times \text{---} \bullet$$

$$\text{S}(\text{GL}(2, \mathbb{R}) \times \text{GL}(2, \mathbb{R}))$$

$$T_{\Pi}M = \text{Hom}(\Pi, \mathbb{R}^4/\Pi) = \Pi^* \otimes \mathbb{R}^4/\Pi \sim S' \otimes S = \bullet \text{---} \times \text{---} \bullet \otimes \bullet \text{---} \times \text{---} \bullet$$

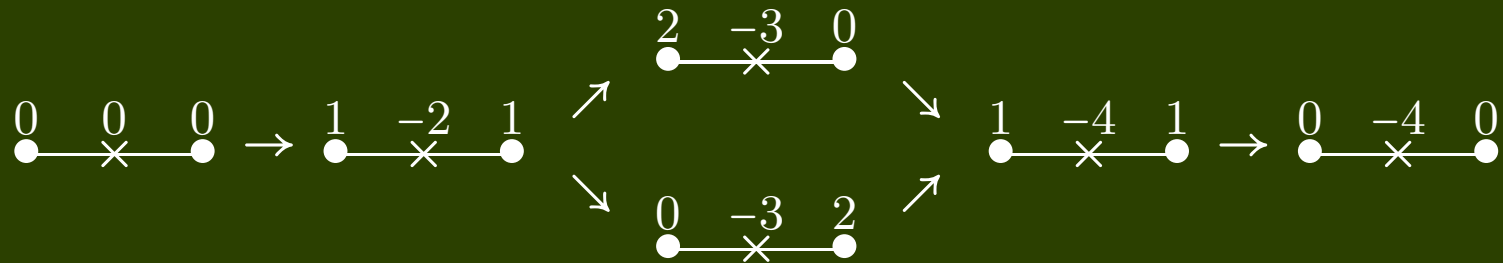
Dually,

spin bundles

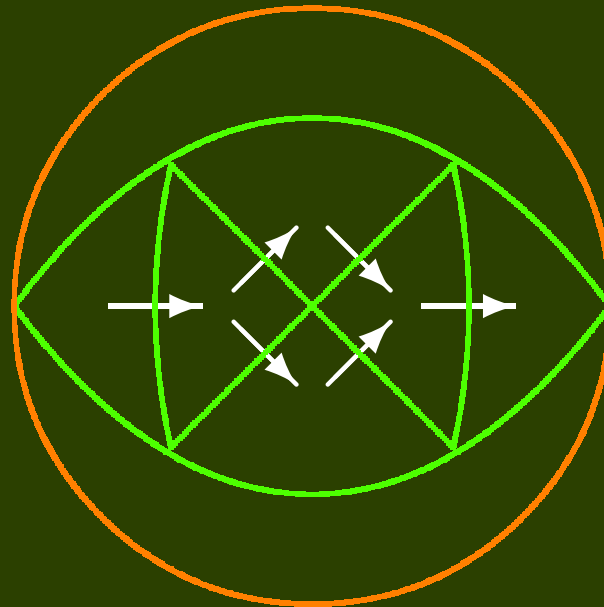
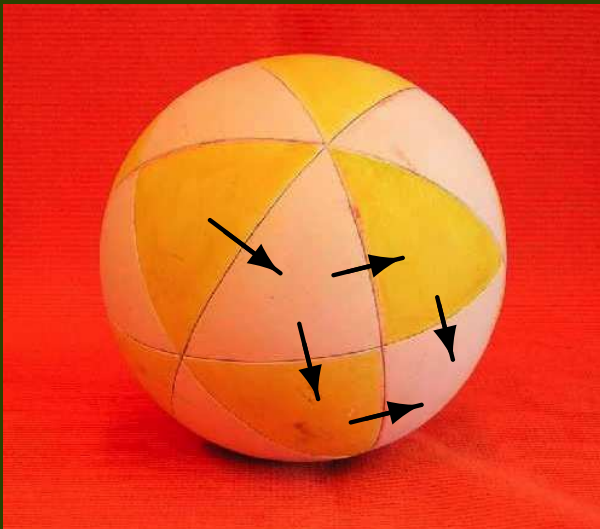
$$\Lambda_M^1 = S'^* \otimes S^* = \bullet \text{---} \times \text{---} \bullet \otimes \bullet \text{---} \times \text{---} \bullet = \bullet \text{---} \times \text{---} \bullet$$

$$\Lambda_M^2 = (\odot^2 S'^* \otimes \Lambda^2 S^*) \oplus (\Lambda^2 S'^* \otimes \odot^2 S^*) = \bullet \text{---} \times \text{---} \bullet \oplus \bullet \text{---} \times \text{---} \bullet = \Lambda_+^2 \oplus \Lambda_-^2$$

# de Rham revisited



Road map

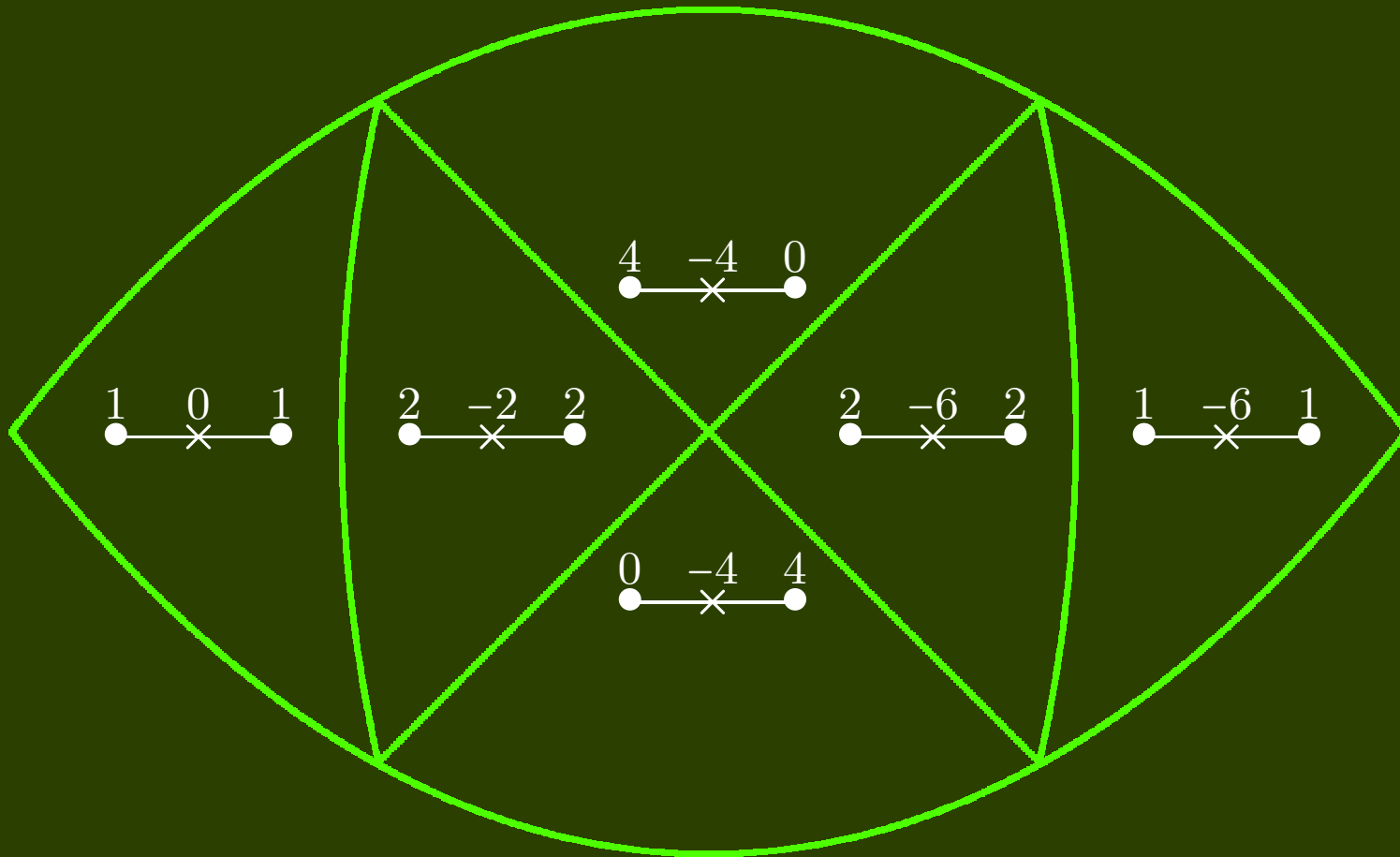


Can view as  
a lune on a sphere!

The countries are  
A3 Weyl chambers!

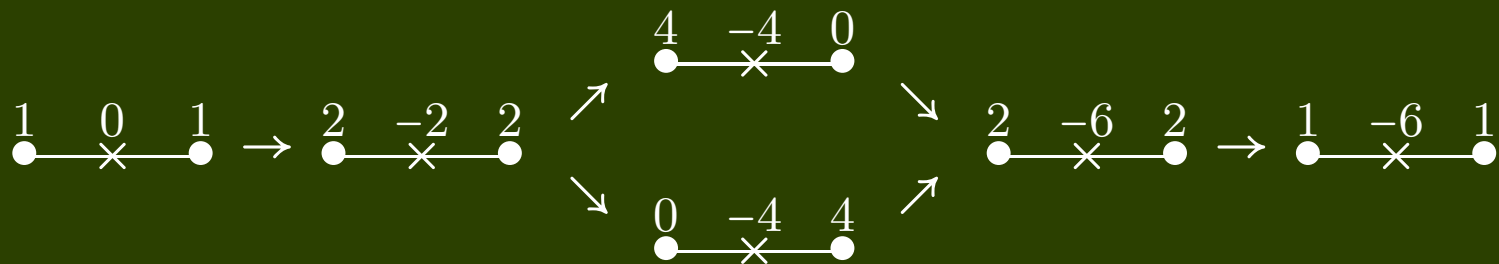
# Conformal deformation complex

Recall tangent bundle  $= S' \otimes S = \bullet \xrightarrow{1} \times \xrightarrow{0} \bullet \otimes \bullet \xrightarrow{0} \times \xrightarrow{1} \bullet = \bullet \xrightarrow{1} \times \xrightarrow{0} \bullet$



Affine action of the Weyl group of A3  $(\lambda \mapsto w(\lambda + \rho) - \rho)$

# Conformal deformation complex cont'd



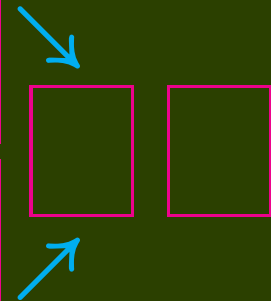
Curved version (deformation sequence)

Vector  
Fields  
 $X^a$

Conformal  
Perturbations  
 $g_{ab} + \epsilon h_{ab}$

Self-dual  
Weyl Curvature

Anti-self-dual  
Weyl Curvature



Conformal Killing operator

$$X^a \mapsto h_{ab} \equiv \nabla_{(a} X_{b)} - \text{trace}$$

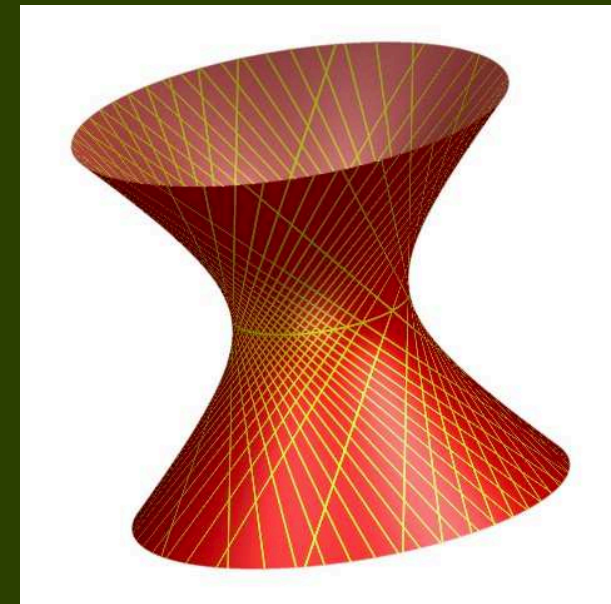
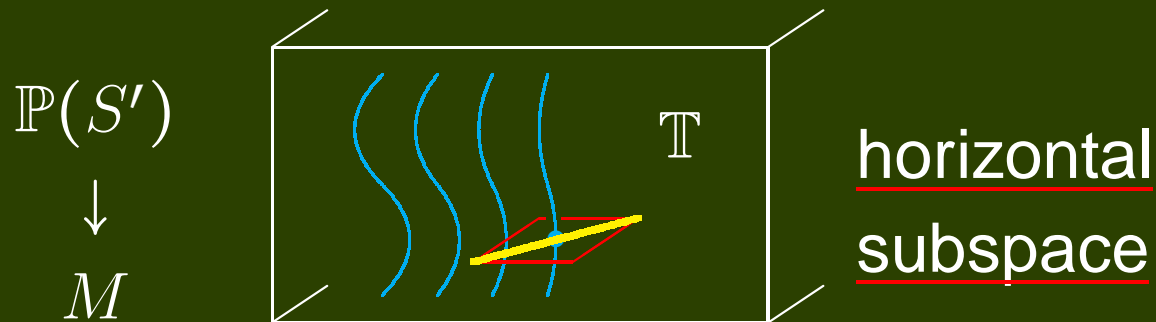
Second order!  
Bianchi/Bach

# Twistor construction

Recall  $\text{Spin}(2, 2) \cong \text{SL}(2, \mathbb{R}) \times \text{SL}(2, \mathbb{R}) \rightsquigarrow$  Spin bundles

$$TM = S' \otimes S \quad \text{null vectors} = \text{simple vectors}$$

Segre  $\mathbb{RP}_1 \times \mathbb{RP}_1 \hookrightarrow \mathbb{RP}_3$  nonsingular quadric as image



The blue lines and yellow planes are conformally invariant

$$\widehat{\nabla}_{AA'}\phi_{B'} = \nabla_{AA'}\phi_{B'} - \Upsilon_{AB'}\phi_{A'}$$

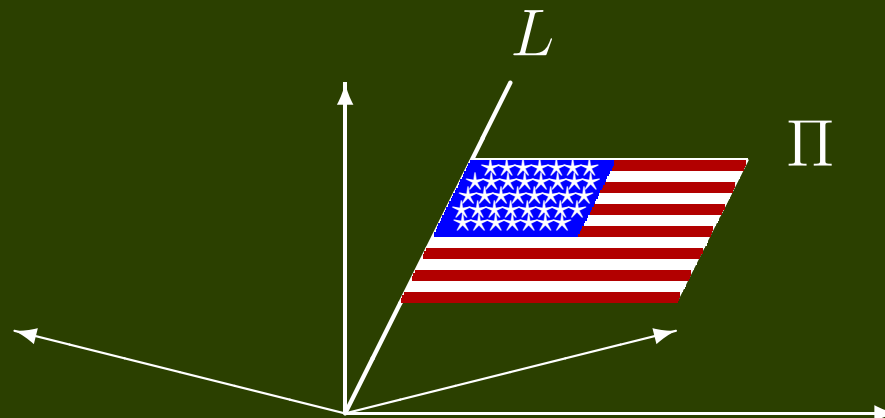
# Five variables geometry

There are two! Let  $\mathbb{T}$  be a 5-dimensional manifold.

- $\ell \oplus D \subset T\mathbb{T}$  s.t.  $[D, D] \subseteq \ell \oplus D$  and  $[\ell \oplus D, \ell \oplus D] = T\mathbb{T}$
- $D \subset T\mathbb{T}$  s.t.  $[D, [D, D]] = T\mathbb{T}$  (2, 3, 5) geometry

Flat models are generalised flag manifolds

- $\mathbb{F}_{1,2}(\mathbb{R}^4) = \{L \subset \Pi \subset \mathbb{R}^4 \text{ s.t. } \dim L = 1, \dim \Pi = 2\}$



- $G/P = G_2/P = \mathbb{R}P^2 \times \mathbb{R}P^1$



# An-Nurowski construction

$$\begin{array}{l}
 \text{Riemannian} \\
 \text{Surfaces}
 \end{array}
 \left.
 \begin{array}{l}
 (\Sigma_1, g_1) \\
 (\Sigma_2, g_2)
 \end{array}
 \right\} \rightsquigarrow M \equiv (\Sigma_1 \times \Sigma_2, g_1 \times -g_2)$$

$\Downarrow$   
 $\mathbb{T}(M)$   
 $\parallel$   
Configuration space  
 of  $\Sigma_1$  rolling on  $\Sigma_2$

- Twistor structure  $\ell \oplus D$  (five variables)
- Suppose  $[D, D] = \ell \oplus D$  (generic)
- Forget  $\ell$  but retain  $D$  (cinq variables)
- EG (Bryant) spheres of radii 1 and 3:  $G_2$ -flat
- (An-Nurowski) new  $G_2$ -flat examples rolling on a plane!

# Differential complexes in five variables

Parabolic subgroups of  $SL(4, \mathbb{R})$

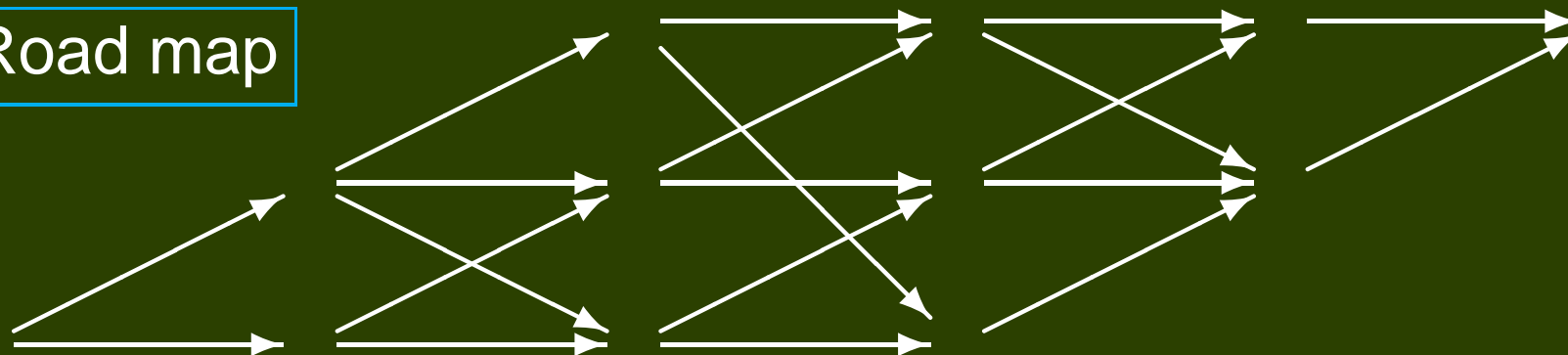
$\xleftrightarrow{1:1}$  lunes compatible with the A3 tiling of the sphere

$$\mathbb{F}_{1,2}(\mathbb{R}^4) = \times \text{---} \times \text{---} \bullet \leftrightarrow \text{a hemisphere}$$

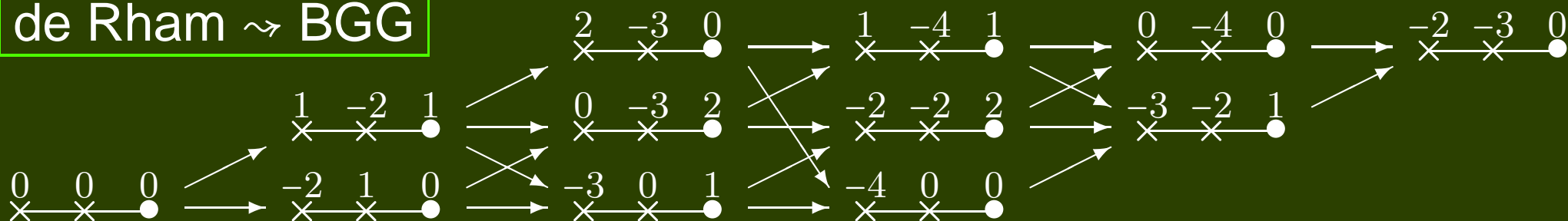


# Differential complexes cont'd

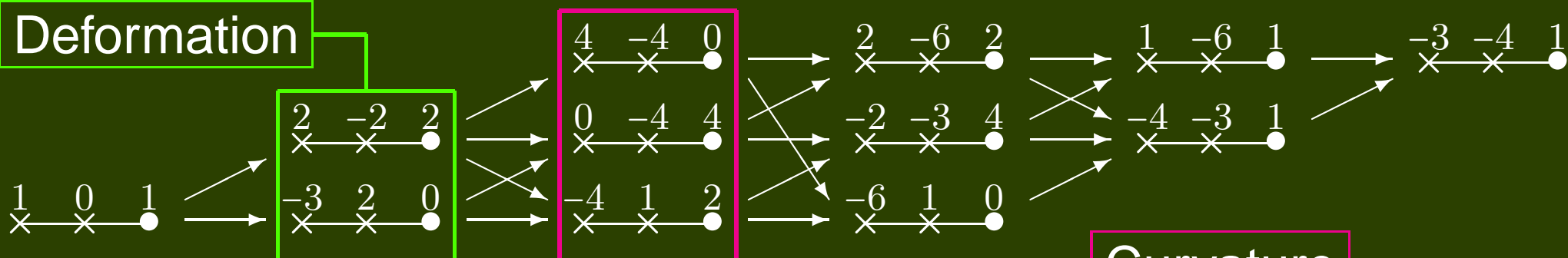
Road map



de Rham  $\rightsquigarrow$  BGG

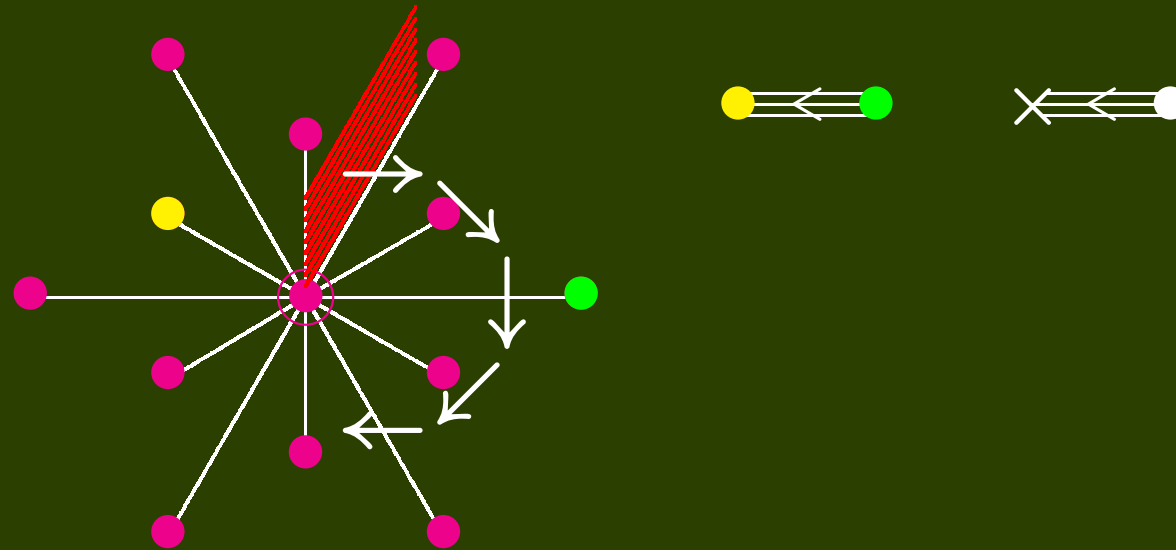


Deformation



Curvature

# G2 road map



$$\begin{matrix} 0 & 0 \\ \text{X} & \bullet \end{matrix} \xrightarrow{\nabla} \begin{matrix} -2 & 1 \\ \text{X} & \bullet \end{matrix} \xrightarrow{\nabla^3} \begin{matrix} -5 & 2 \\ \text{X} & \bullet \end{matrix} \xrightarrow{\nabla^2} \begin{matrix} -6 & 2 \\ \text{X} & \bullet \end{matrix} \xrightarrow{\nabla^3} \begin{matrix} -6 & 1 \\ \text{X} & \bullet \end{matrix} \xrightarrow{\nabla} \begin{matrix} -5 & 0 \\ \text{X} & \bullet \end{matrix}$$

$$\begin{matrix} 0 & 1 \\ \text{X} & \bullet \end{matrix} \xrightarrow{\nabla} \begin{matrix} -2 & 2 \\ \text{X} & \bullet \end{matrix} \xrightarrow{\nabla^6} \begin{matrix} -8 & 4 \\ \text{X} & \bullet \end{matrix} \xrightarrow{\nabla^2} \begin{matrix} -9 & 4 \\ \text{X} & \bullet \end{matrix} \xrightarrow{\nabla^6} \begin{matrix} -9 & 2 \\ \text{X} & \bullet \end{matrix} \xrightarrow{\nabla} \begin{matrix} -8 & 1 \\ \text{X} & \bullet \end{matrix}$$

Business end of  
a vector field

Deformation

Cartan  
curvature

# From $\times \xrightarrow{\quad} \times \xrightarrow{\quad} \bullet$ to $\times \xrightarrow{\quad} \times \xrightarrow{\quad} \bullet$

Recall  $\begin{matrix} 4 & -4 & 0 \\ \times & \times & \bullet \end{matrix}$  Obstruction to integrability of  $D$

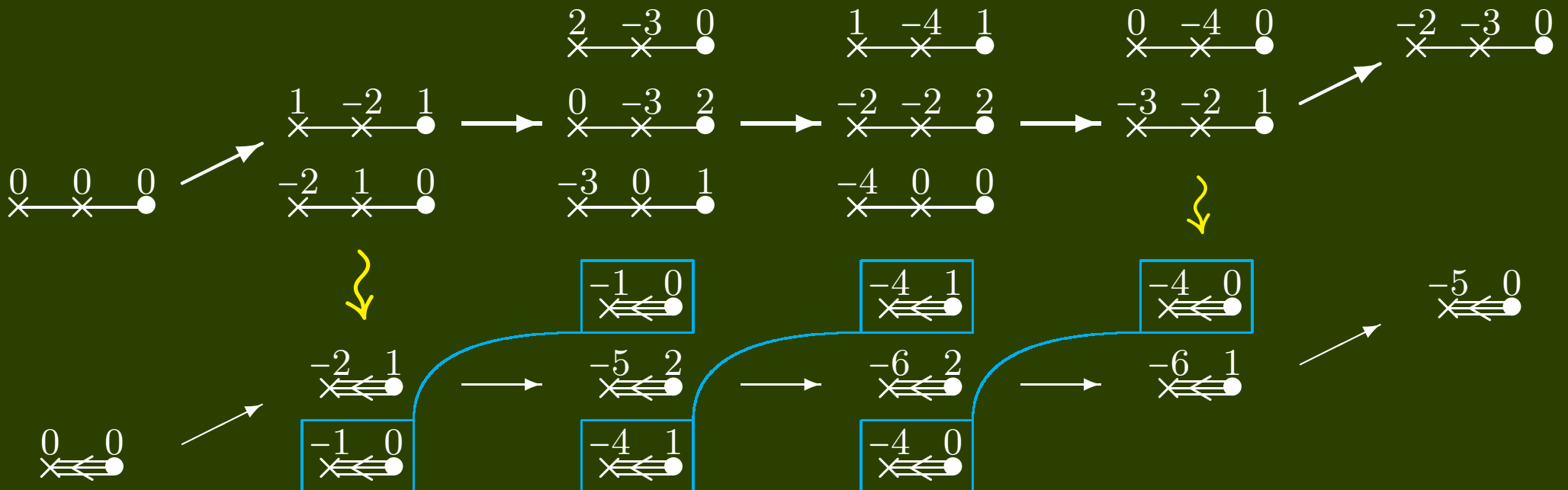
Curvature  $\begin{matrix} 0 & -4 & 4 \\ \times & \times & \bullet \end{matrix}$

$\begin{matrix} -4 & 1 & 2 \\ \times & \times & \bullet \end{matrix}$  Vanishes on  $\mathbb{T}(\bullet \xrightarrow{\quad} \times \xrightarrow{\quad} \bullet)$

$[D, D] = \ell \oplus D$  triggers collapse

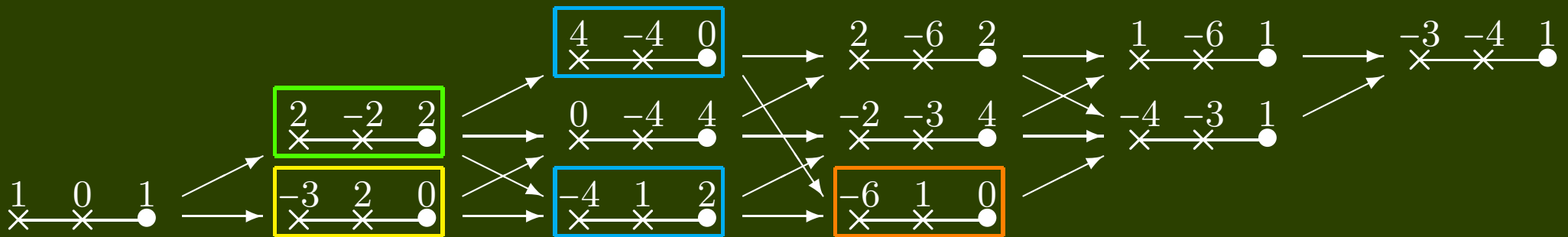
$\begin{matrix} 4 & -4 & 0 \\ \times & \times & \bullet \end{matrix} \rightsquigarrow \begin{matrix} 0 & 0 \\ \times \xrightarrow{\quad} \times \xrightarrow{\quad} \bullet \end{matrix}$

$\begin{matrix} a & b & c \\ \times & \times & \bullet \end{matrix} \rightsquigarrow \begin{matrix} a+b-c & c \\ \times \xrightarrow{\quad} \times \xrightarrow{\quad} \bullet \end{matrix}$

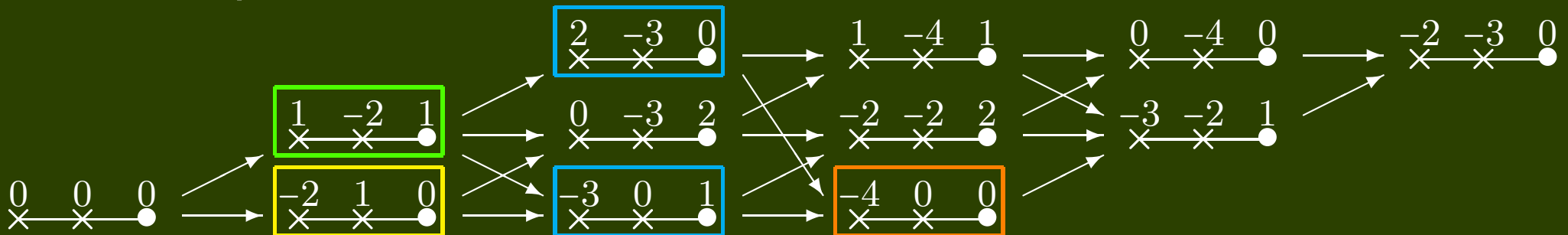


# Theorem

## Flat model



## Compare



Translate

There are (2,3,5) geometries that do not arise from a neutral signature conformal structure via the An-Nurowski twistor construction.

THANK YOU



HAPPY BIRTHDAY ROBERT!

