

Chronology Protection Conjecture in String Theory

M.S.Costa, C.H., J.Penedones, N.Sousa

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Topics

- Introduction to Closed Causal Curves (CCCs)

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- A stringy Chronology Protection Conjecture

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★ We cannot get rid of them just by requiring “good matter” (energy conditions);

★ Maybe we cannot create them:

Hawking (1992) considers quantum fields driving evolution in “quasi-static” process; shows 2-point correlators and $\langle \hat{T}_{\mu\nu} \rangle$ blow up along Closed Null Curve;

Hawking's proposal

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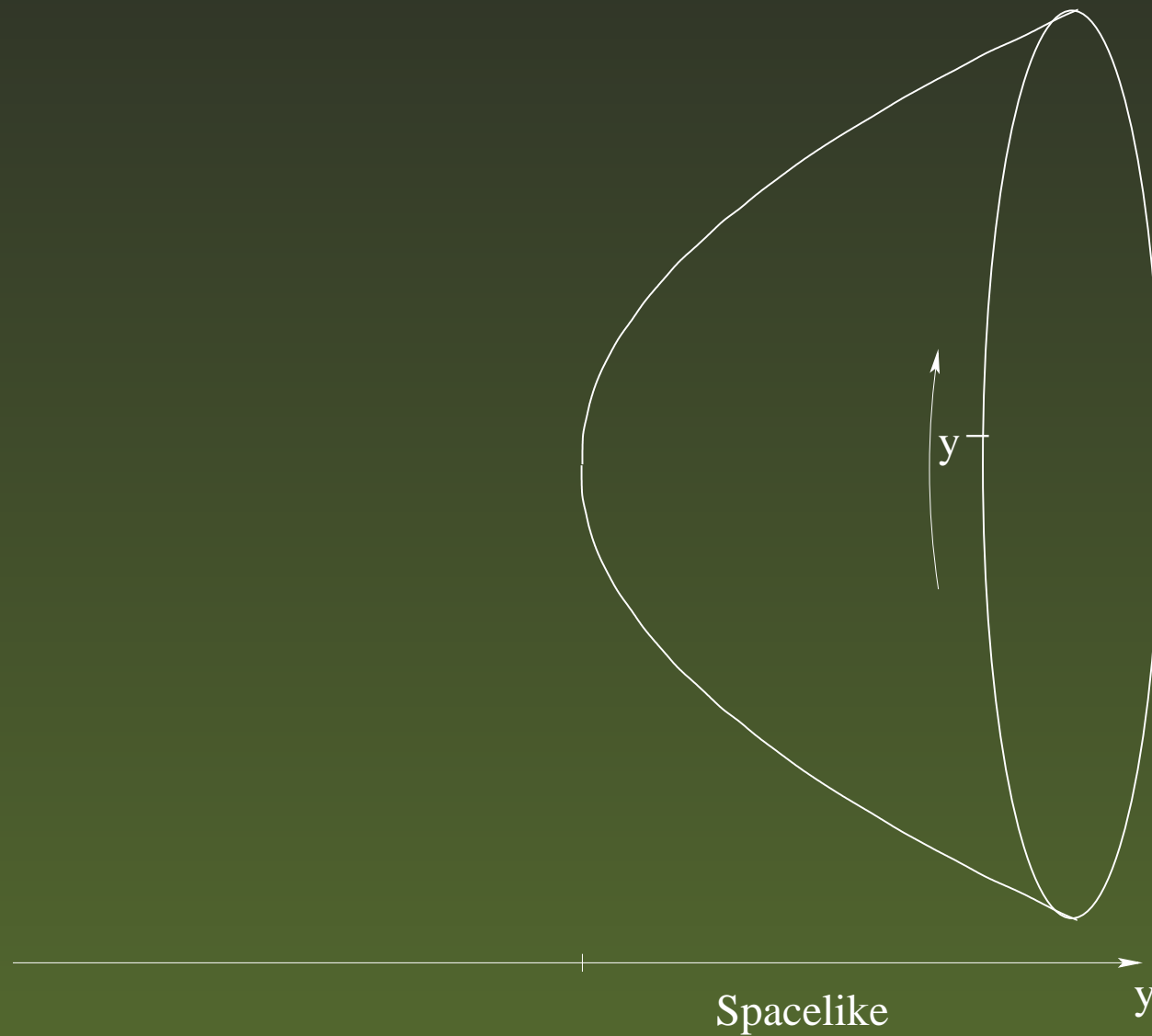
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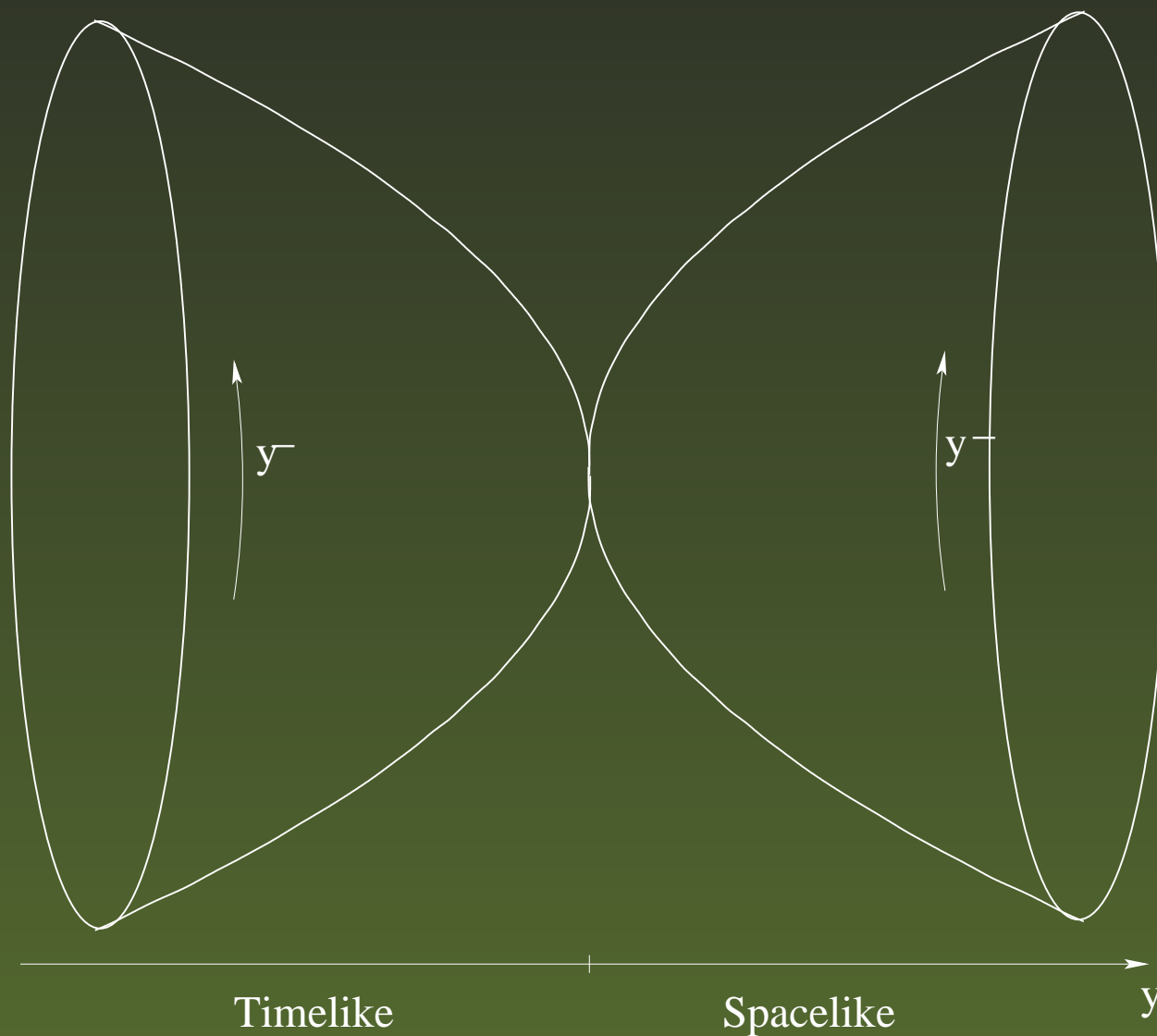
But String Theory provides a UV completion of GR with very different behaviour from ordinary QFT;

We will build a toy model with CCCs (O-plane orbifold), and suggest that string theory will not allow CCCs... but for a very different reason from Hawking's proposal:
it is an Infrared effect.

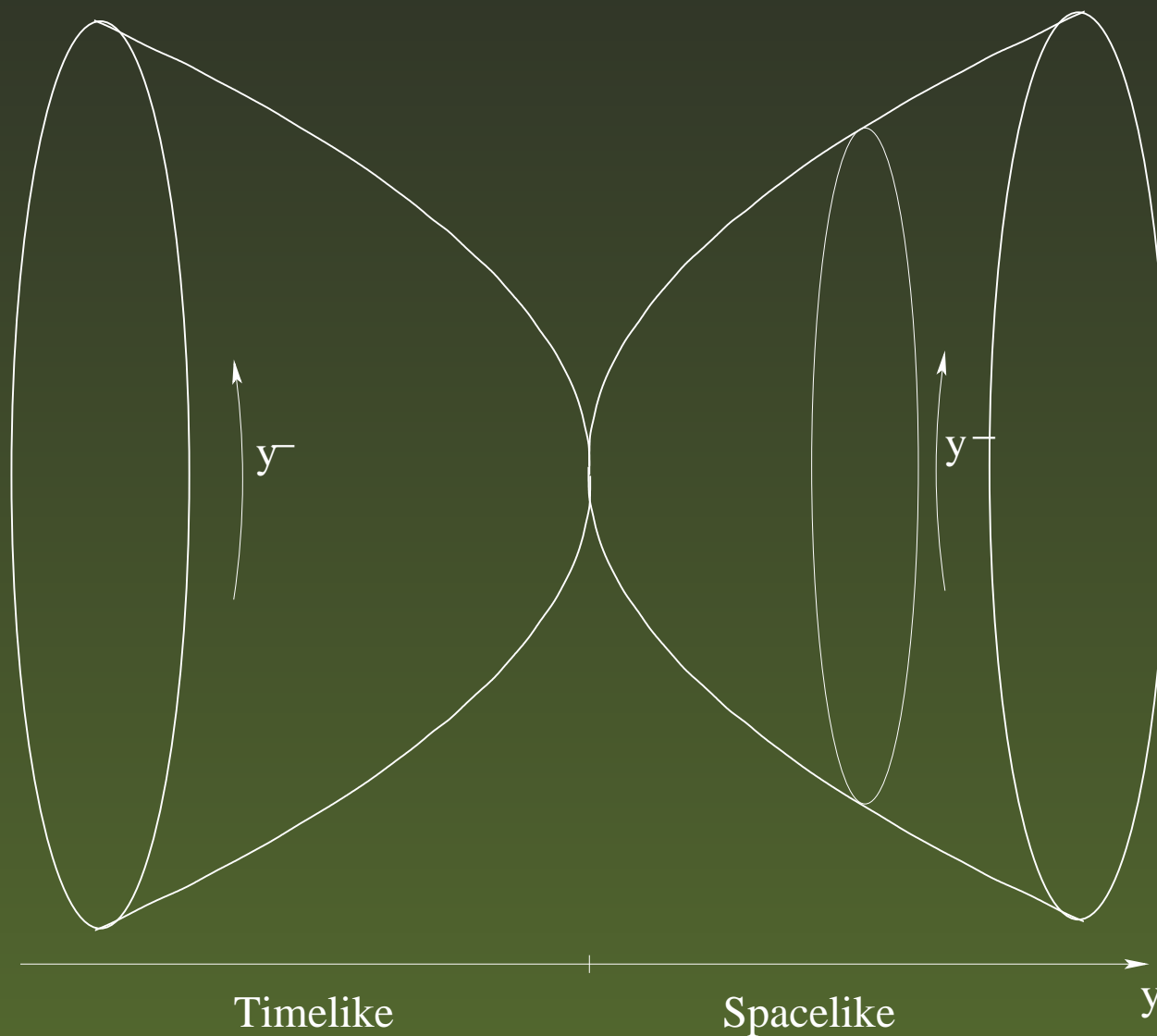
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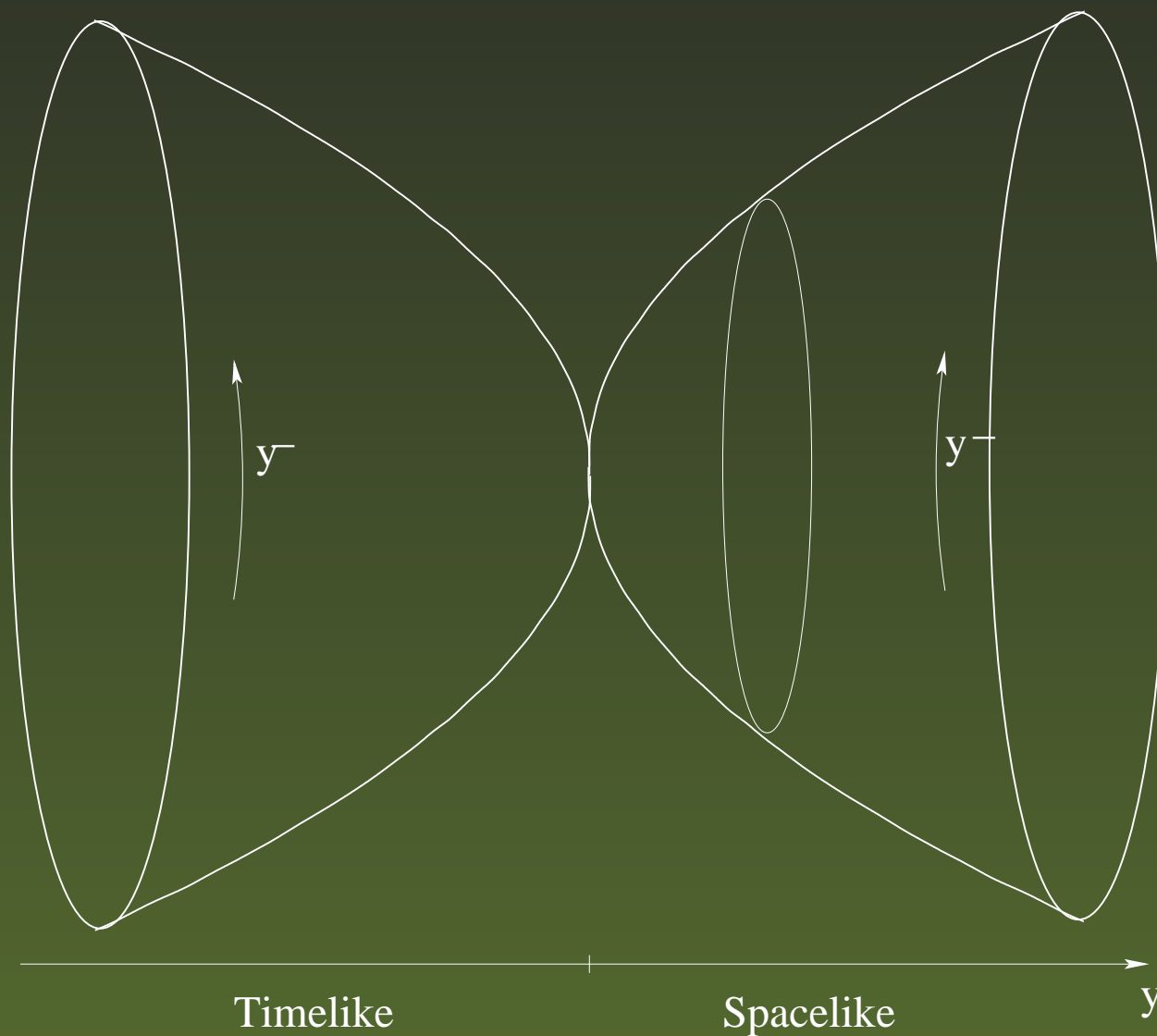
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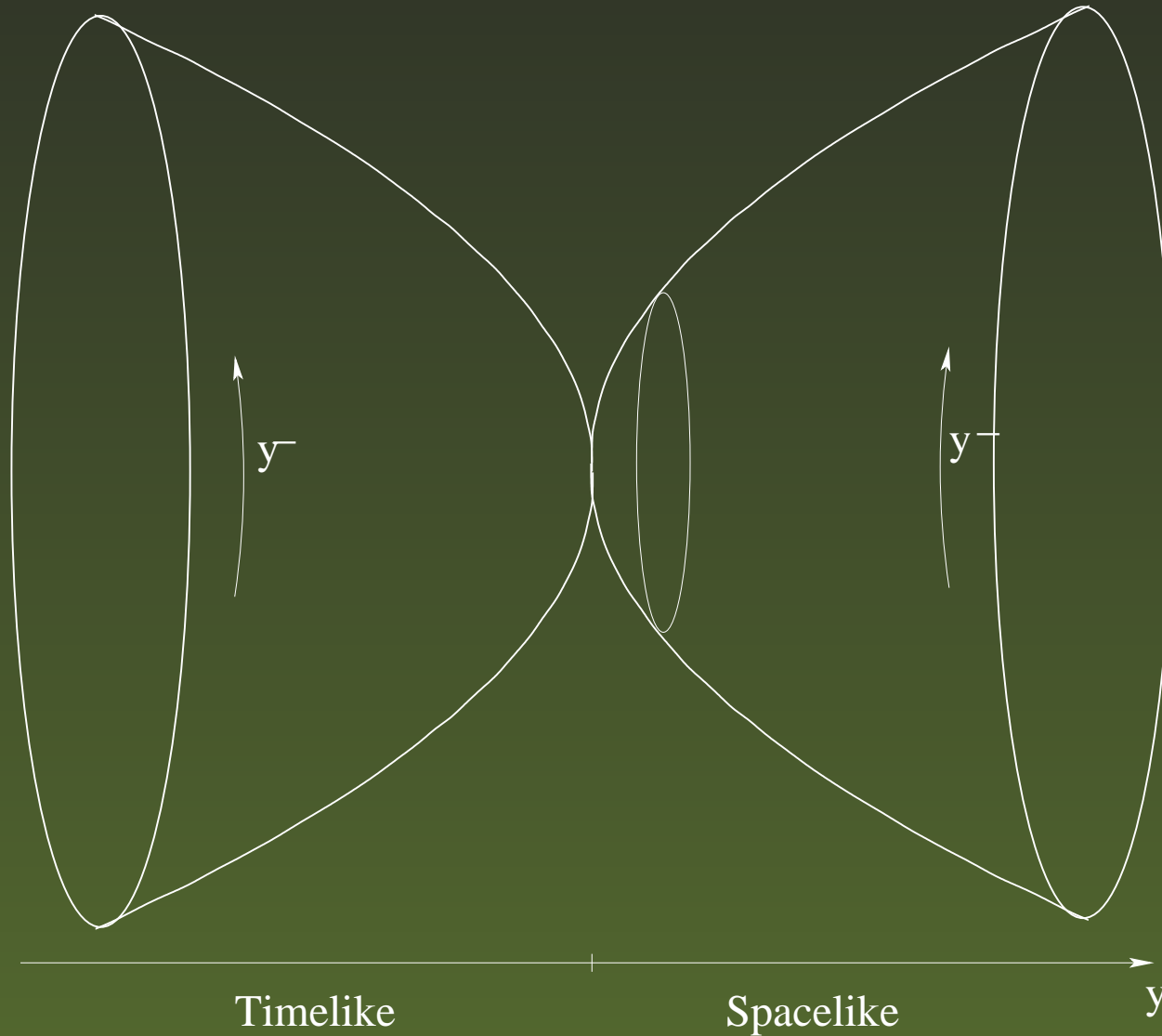
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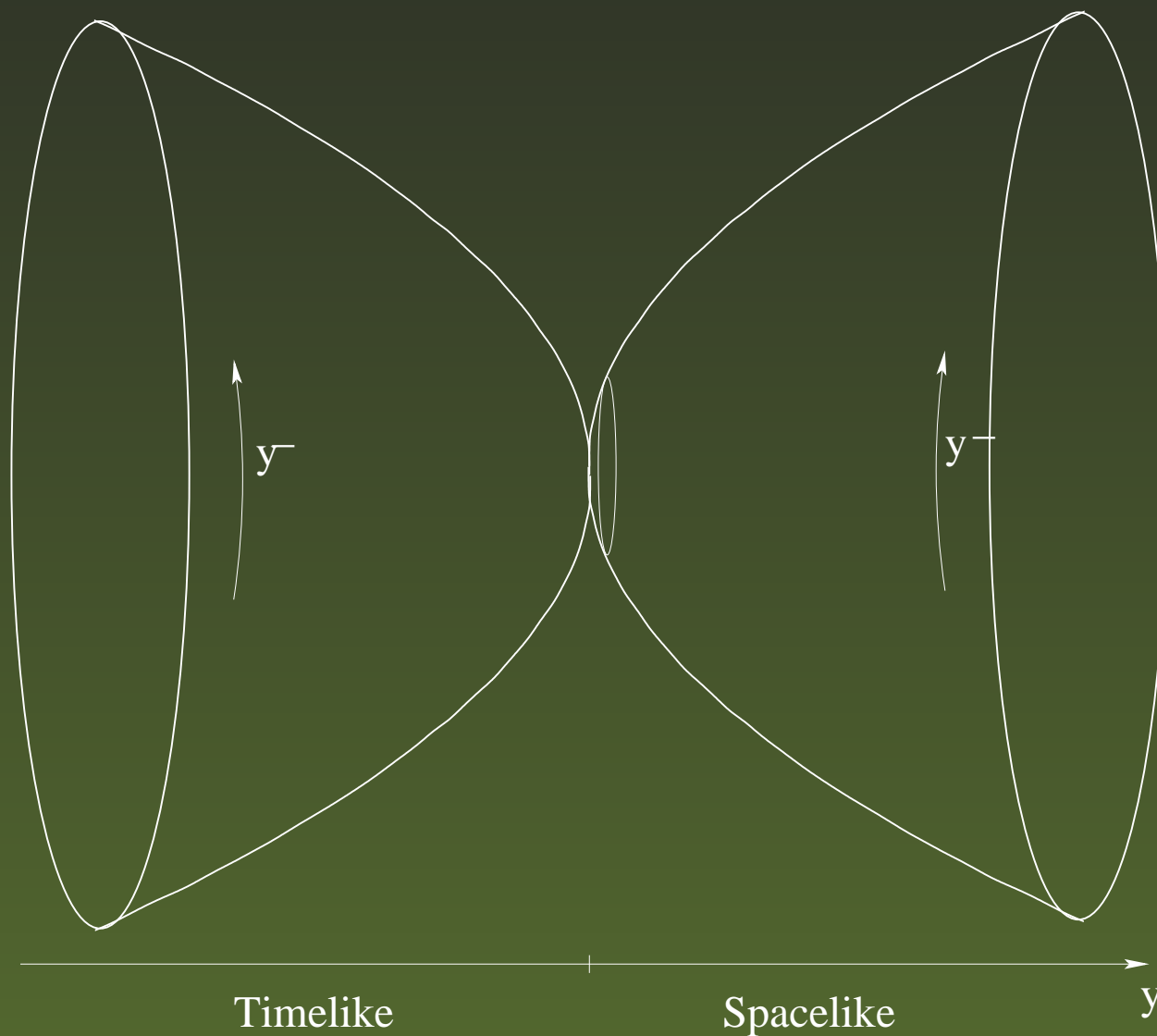
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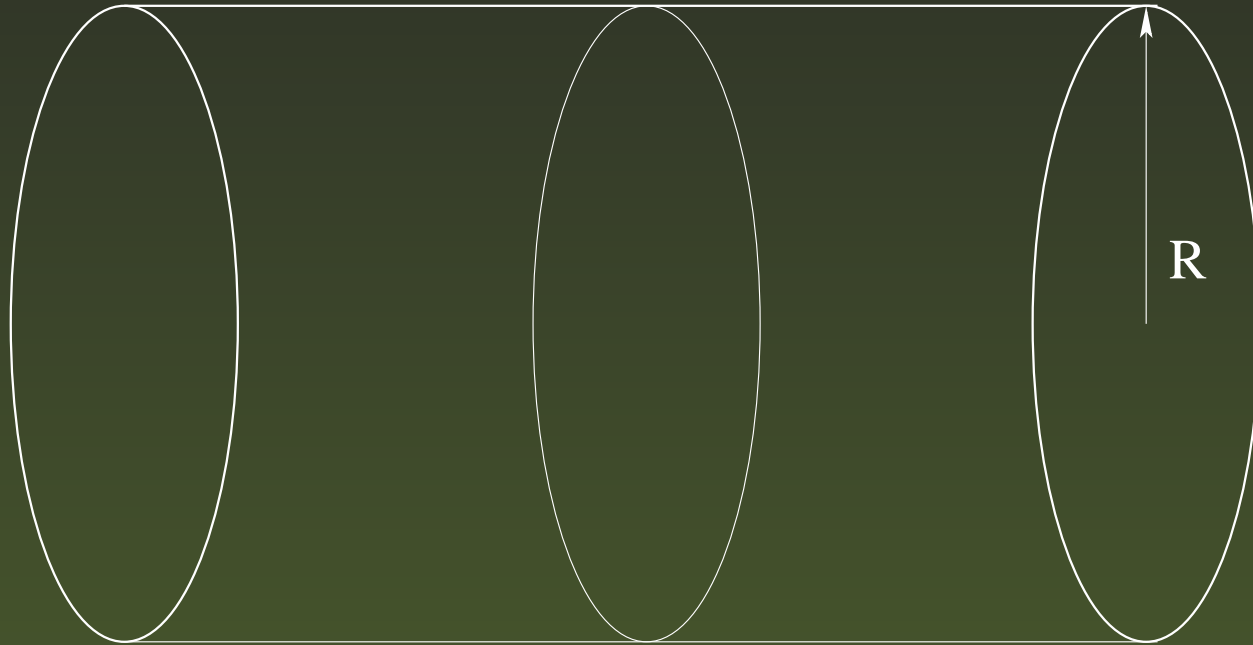
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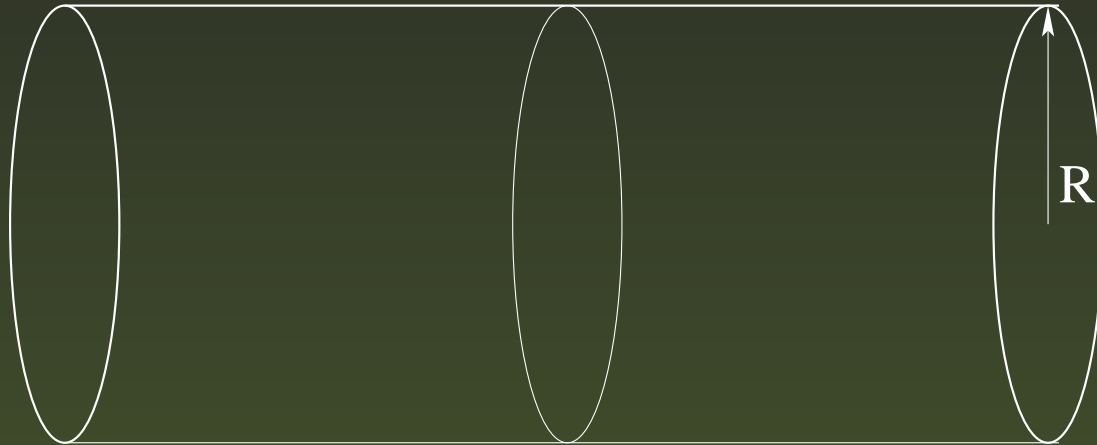
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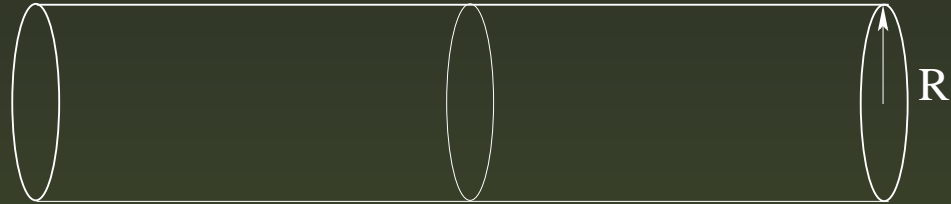
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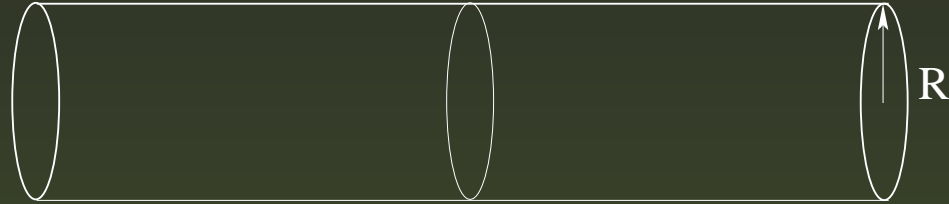
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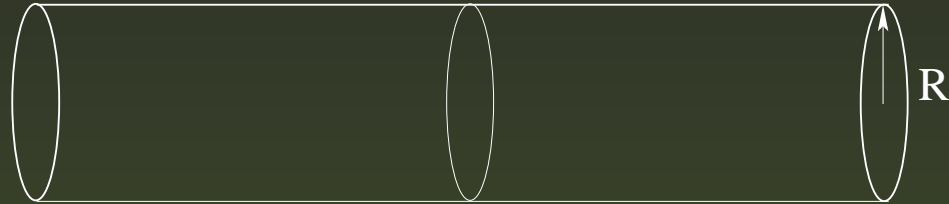


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It has been suggested that such winding tachyons could lead to topology changes (E.Silverstein and collaborators).

The O-plane orbifold

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$$\kappa = 2\pi i (RP_- + \Delta J)$$

where

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$$\vec{x} \equiv \begin{pmatrix} x^- \\ x \\ x^+ \end{pmatrix} \sim \begin{pmatrix} x^- + 2\pi R \\ x - 2\pi\Delta x^- - 2\pi^2 R\Delta \\ x^+ - 2\pi\Delta x + 2\pi^2\Delta^2 x^- + \frac{4}{3}\pi^3 R\Delta^2 \end{pmatrix}$$

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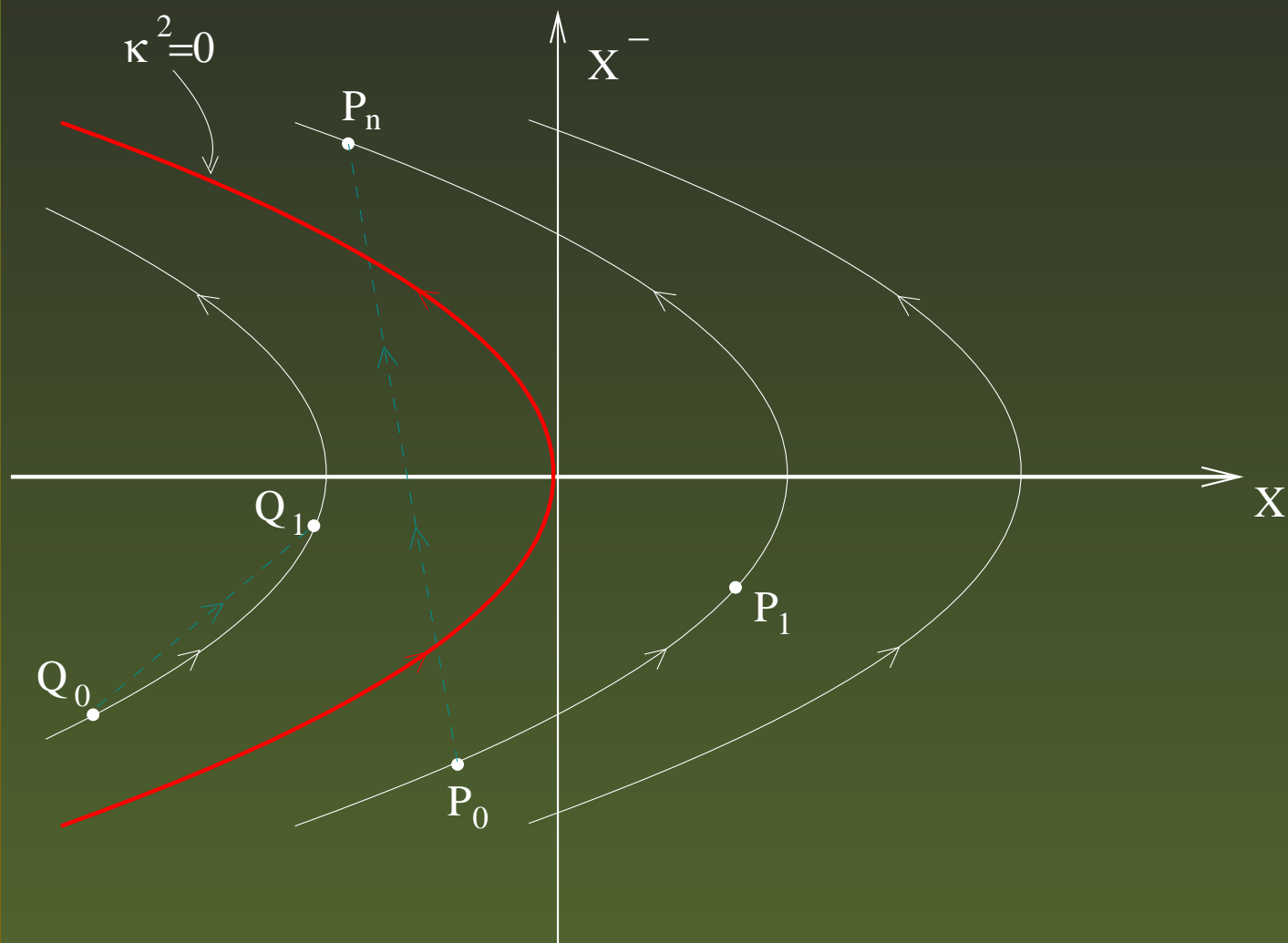
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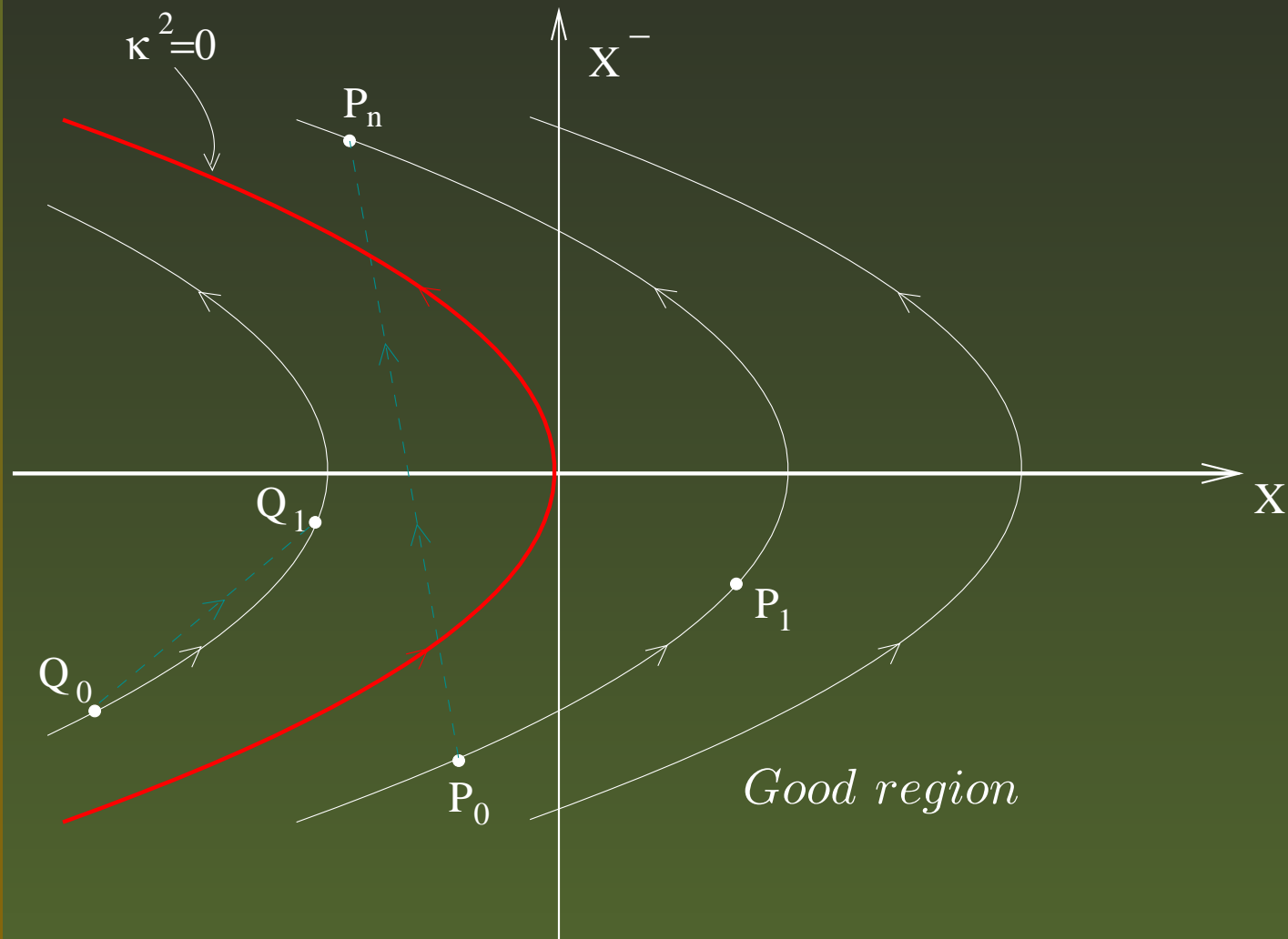
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$$\kappa \text{ is } \begin{cases} \textit{spacelike} \text{ for } y > 0 \\ \textit{null} \text{ for } y = 0 \\ \textit{timelike} \text{ for } y < 0 \end{cases}$$

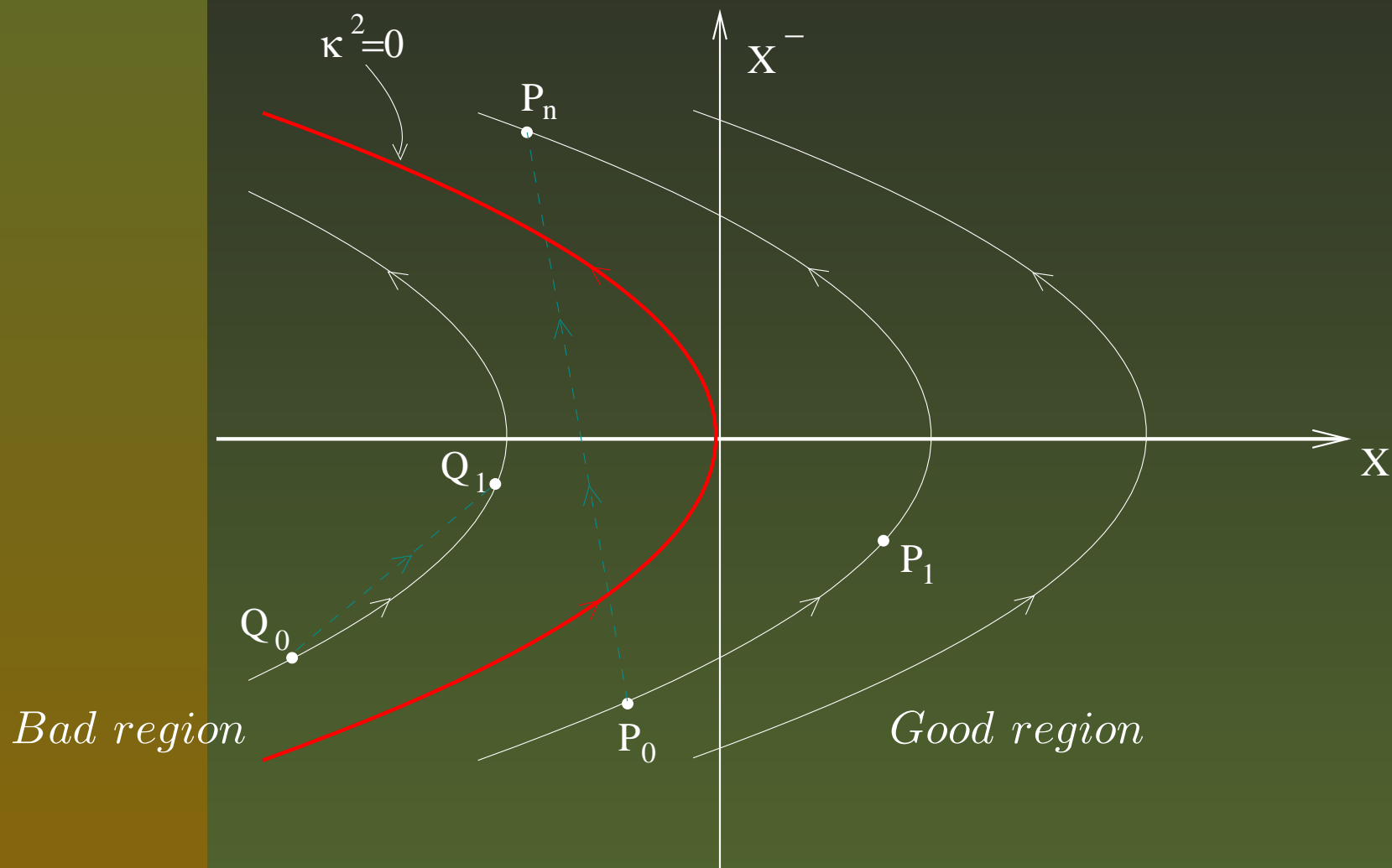
O-plane as a Parabolic orbifold



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Classical particle dynamics I

Hamiltonian for particle dynamics in y-coordinates

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- The Hamiltonian is a constant of motion $\mathcal{H} = q_\mu q^\mu = -M^2$.
- Mass-shell condition in terms of: the classical turning point y_0 , light-cone energy q_+ and Kaluza-Klein momentum q_-

$$M^2 = 2q_+ q_- + 2Eq_+^2 y_0$$

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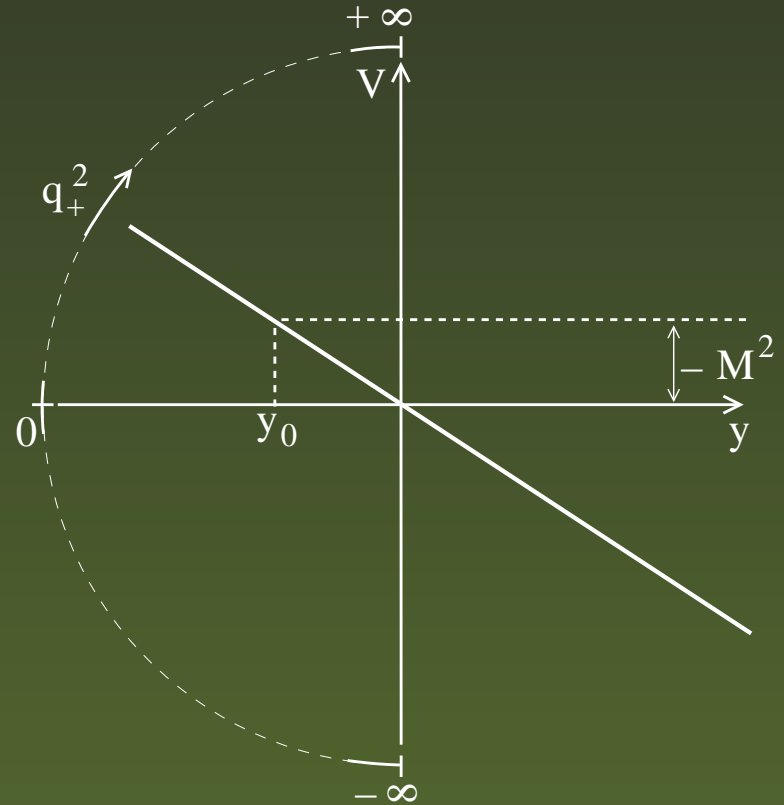
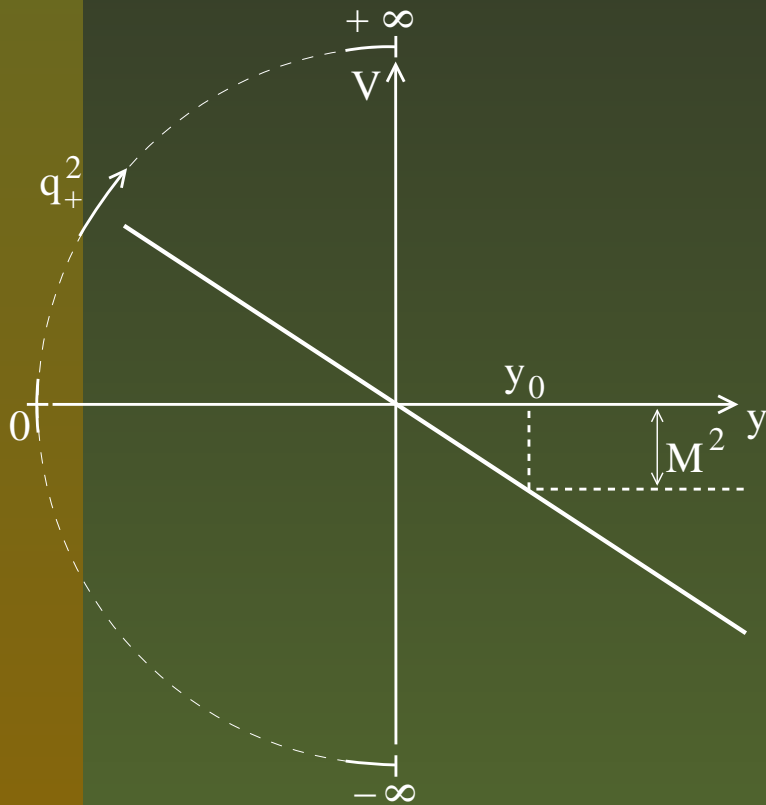
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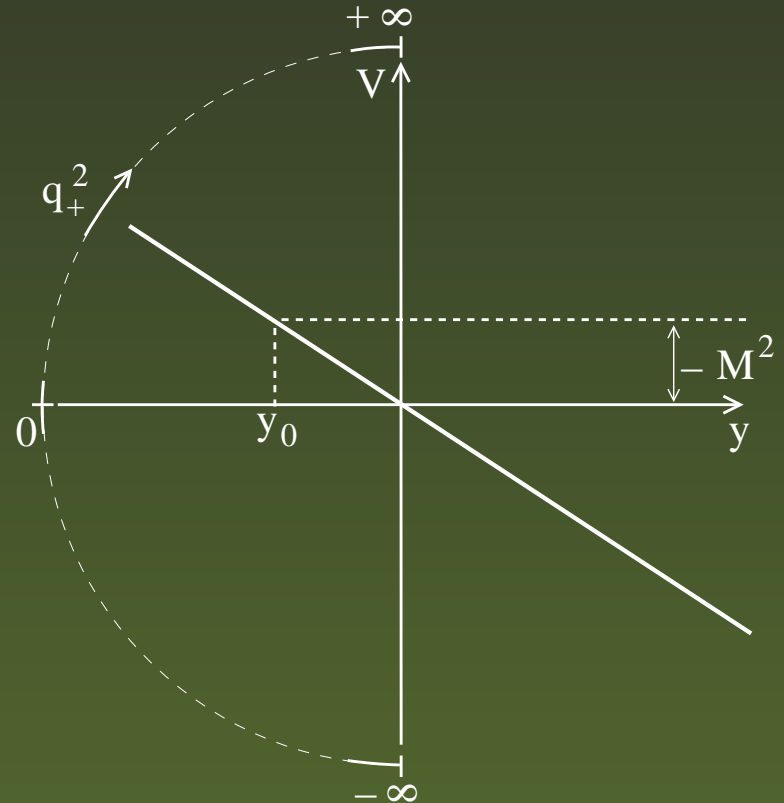
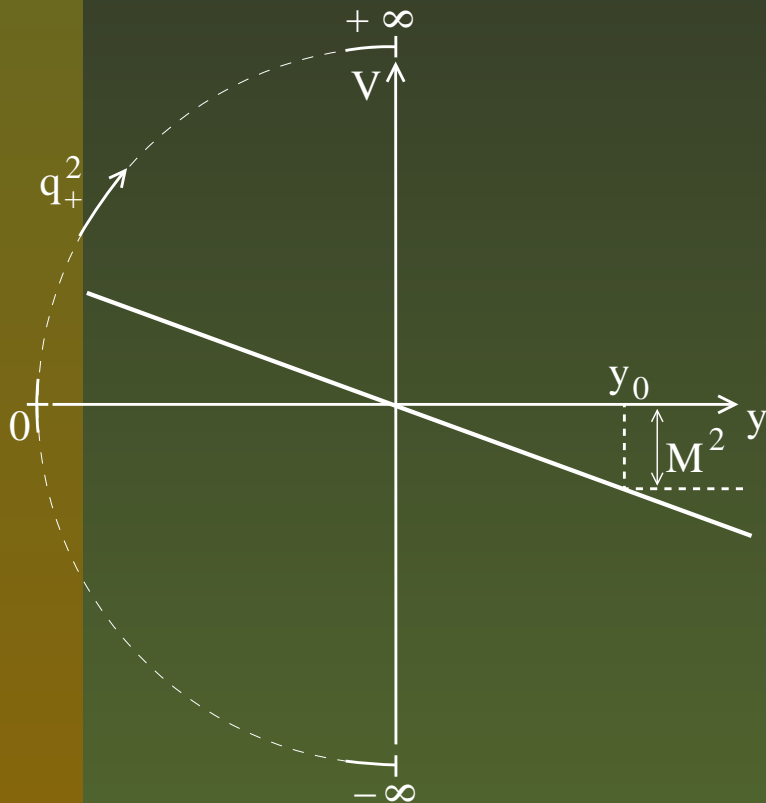
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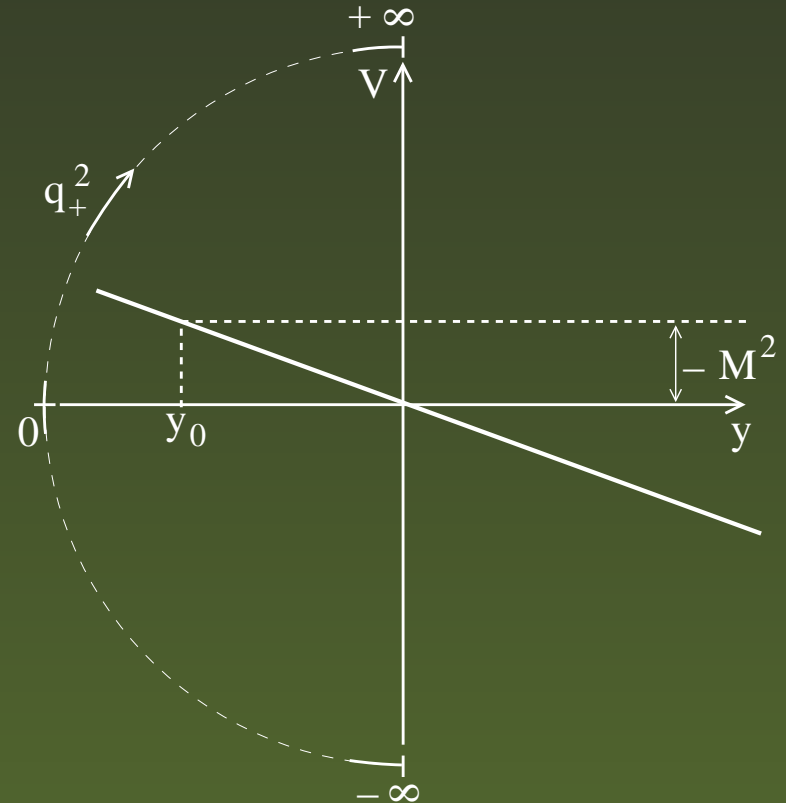
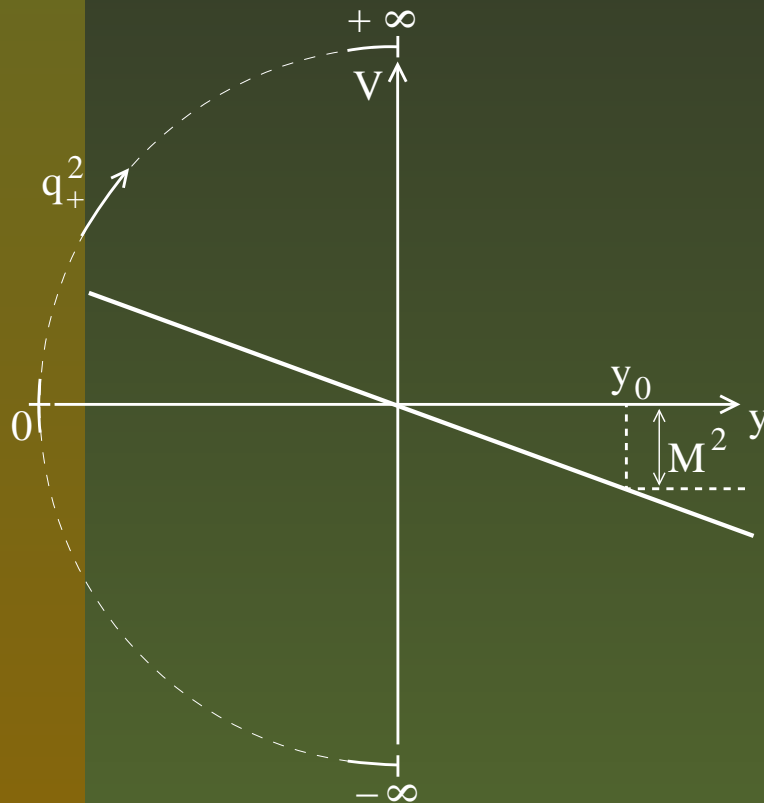
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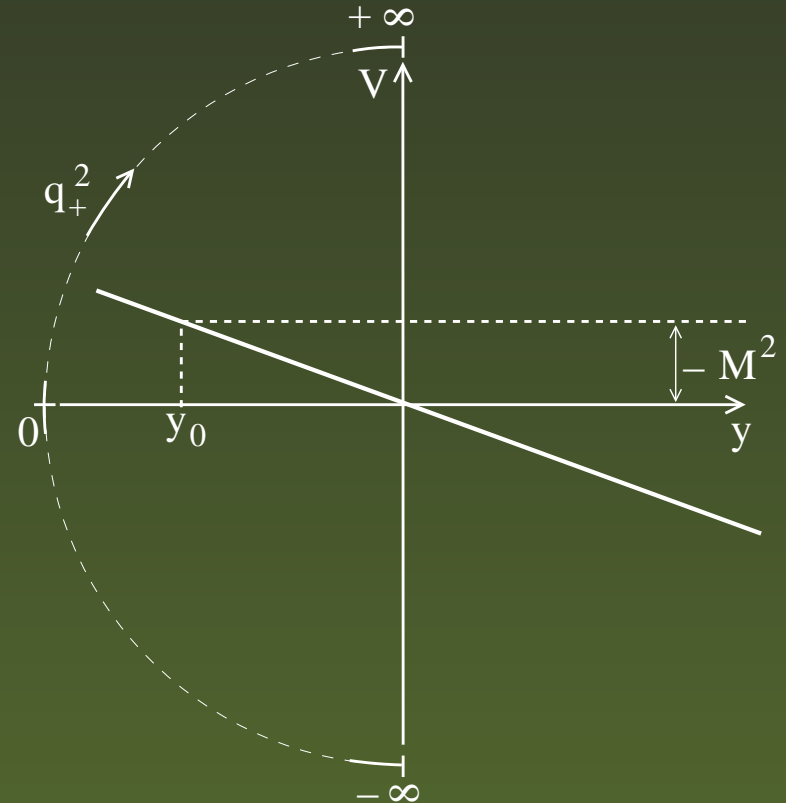
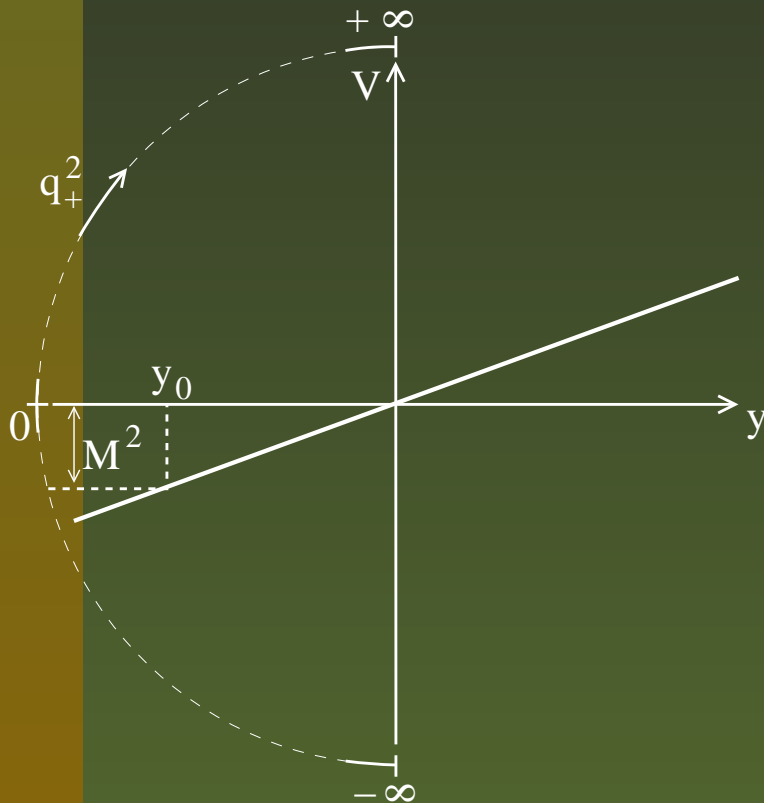
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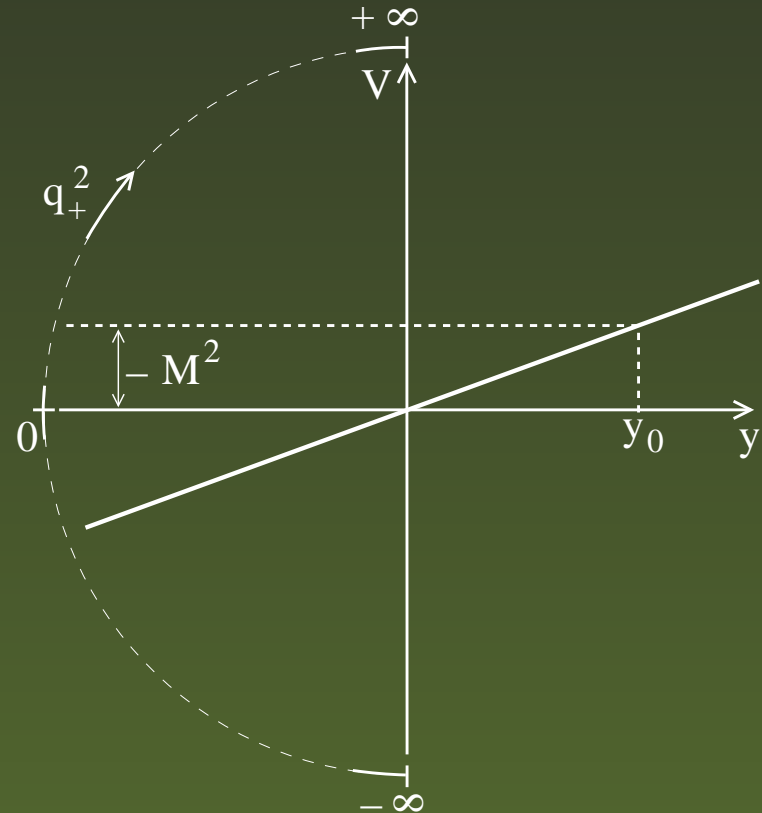
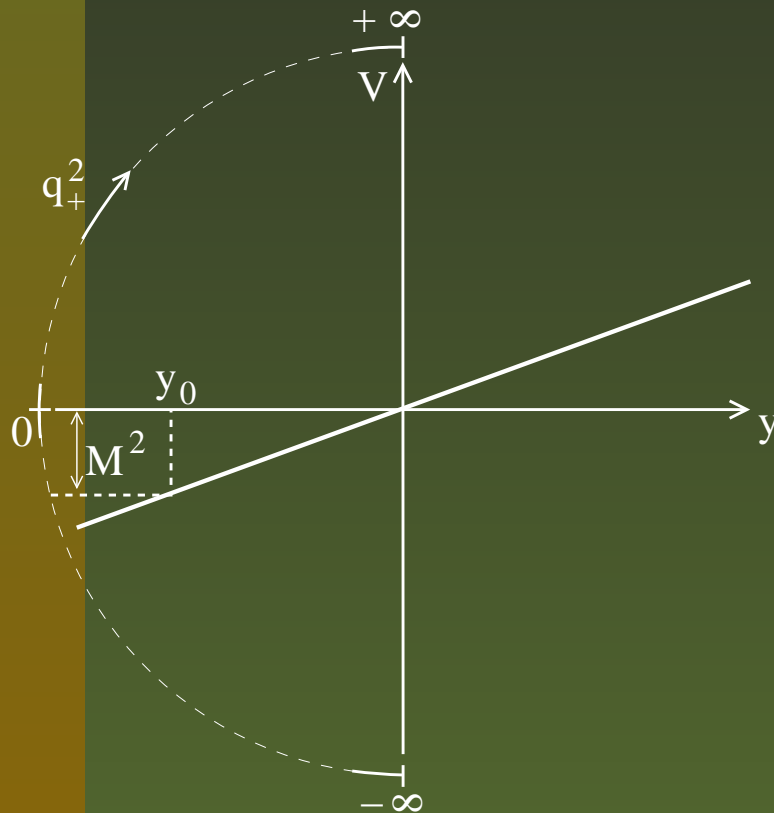
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Single particle wave functions I

The Klein-Gordon equation

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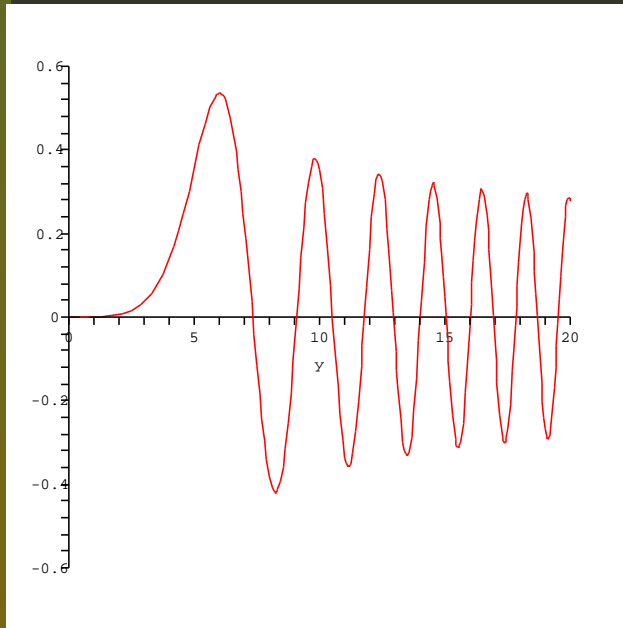
$$\left(-2\partial_+\partial_- - 2Ey\partial_+^2 + \partial_y^2 \right) \Phi = M^2 \Phi$$

is solved by

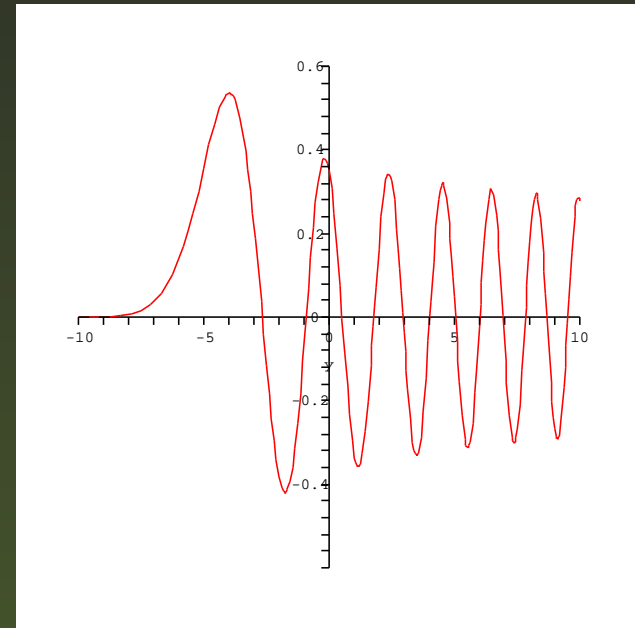
$$\Phi_{q_+, y_0, m}(\vec{y}) = \frac{|K(q_+)|^{1/3}}{\sqrt{2\pi R L_+ \rho(y_0, q_+)}} \text{Ai}(z) e^{i(q_+ y^+ + \frac{m}{R} y^-)}$$

- $\text{Ai}(z)$ are Airy functions;
- For normalisation we considered a “box” defined by $0 \leq y^+ \leq L_+$ and $-L/2 \leq y \leq L/2$;
- $q_- = m/R$ is the Kaluza-Klein momentum;
- $z^3 = K(y_0 - y)^3$ and $K(q_+) = 2Eq_+^2$.

Single particle wave functions II



$$M^2 > 0, q_+^2 > 0$$



$$M^2 < 0, q_+^2 > 0$$

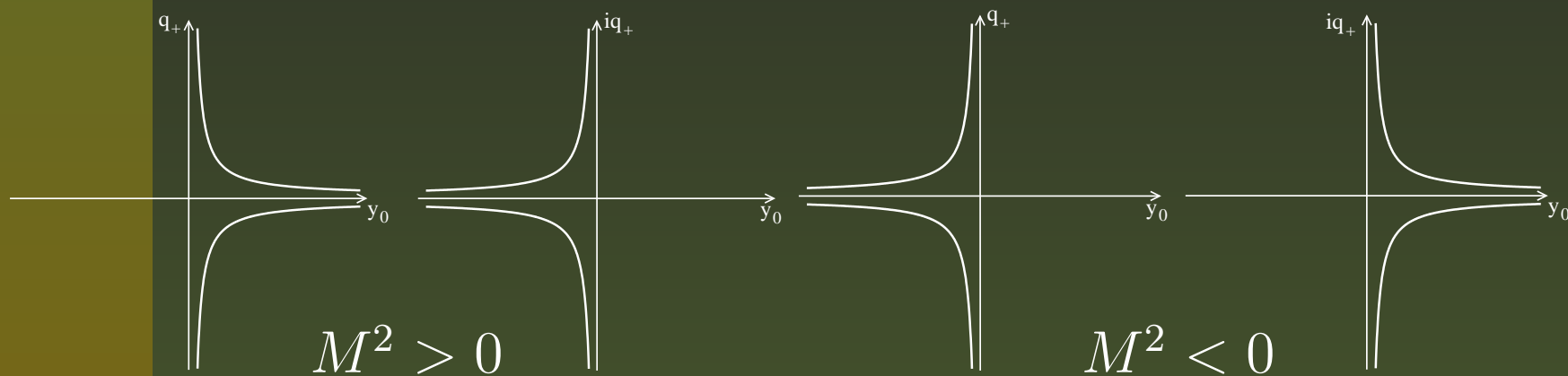
y_0 is where wave functions turn from oscillatory to evanescent.

Single particle wave functions: summary

Consider q_+ as a function of M^2 and y_0 , for $q_- = 0$: $q_+ = \pm \sqrt{\frac{M^2}{2Ey_0}}$

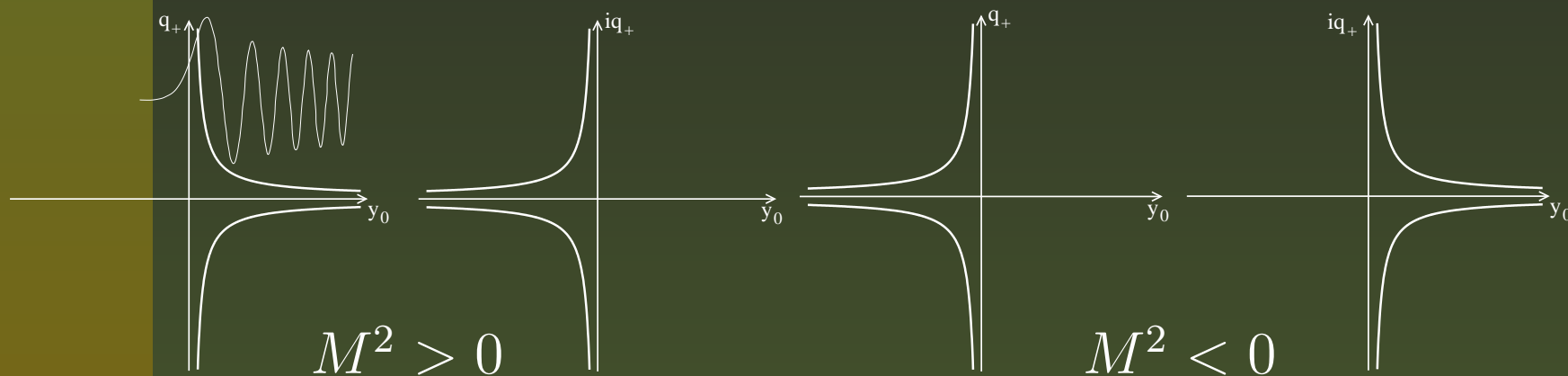
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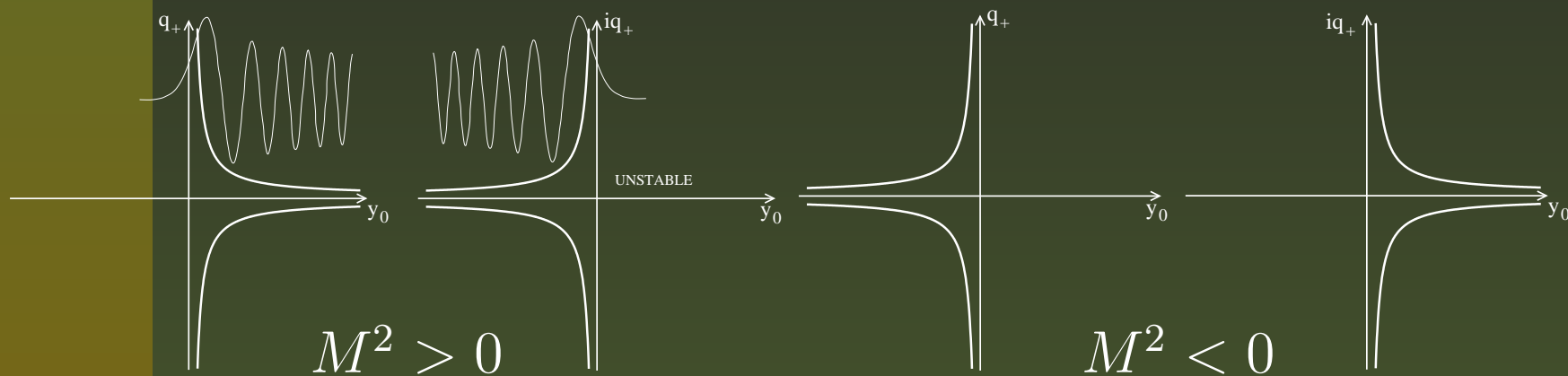
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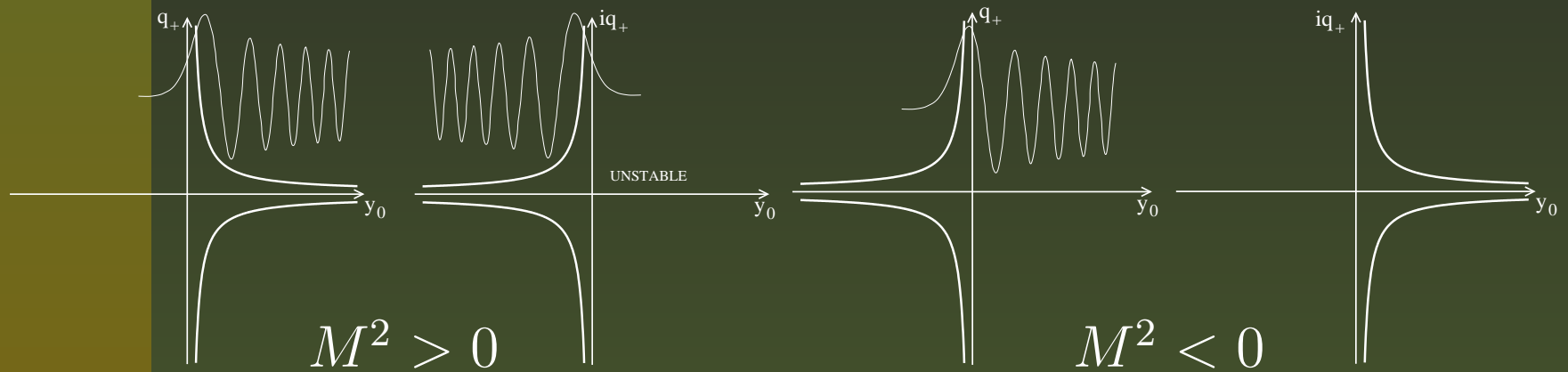
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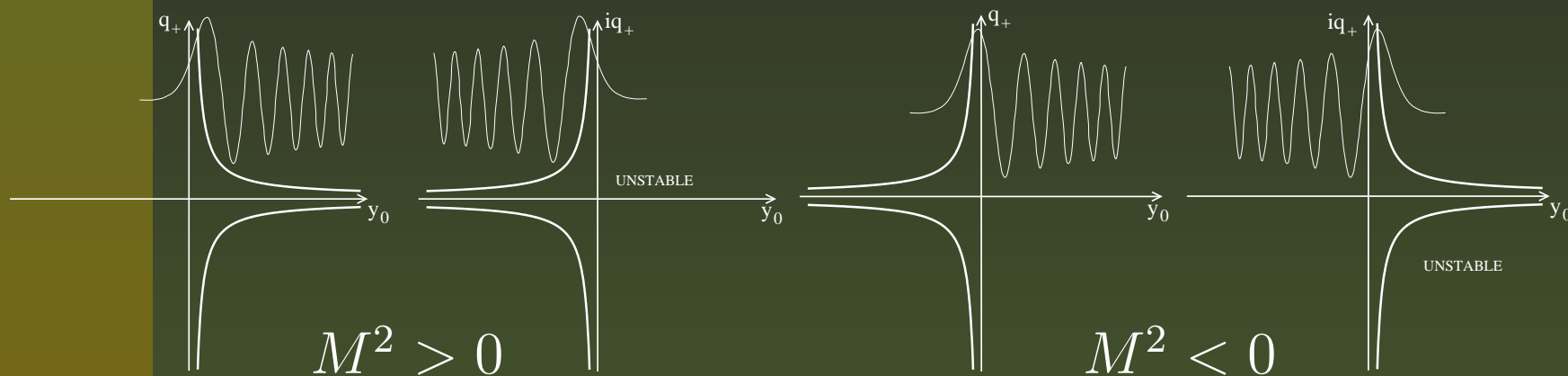
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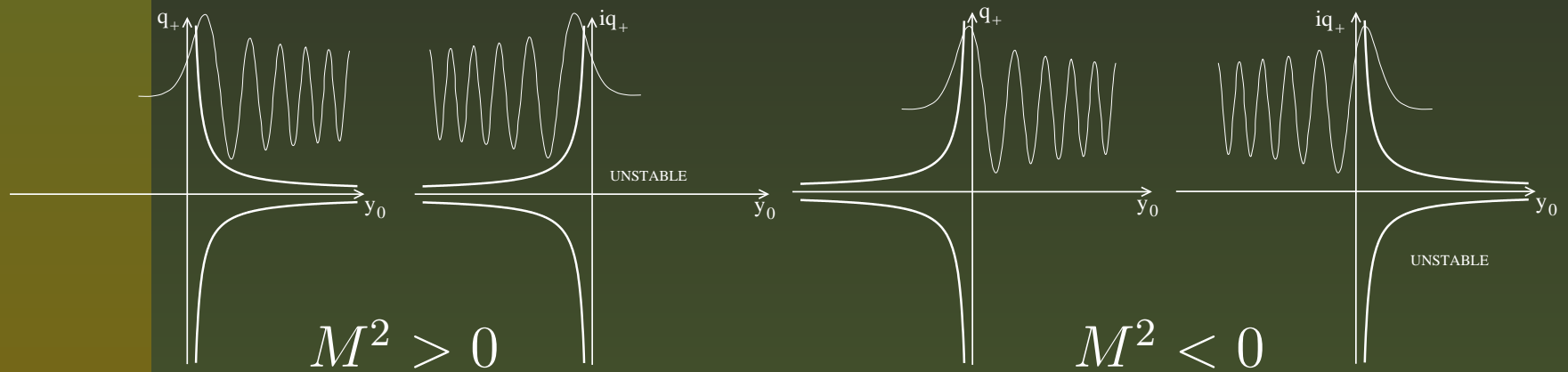
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Note: Tachyon ($M^2 < 0$) \neq Instability ($Im(q_+) \neq 0$); well known example Freedman-Breitenlohner bound in AdS .

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Hamiltonian for string dynamics

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$$M^2(y) \equiv -q_\mu q^\mu = \lambda + 2Ey \left(\frac{\omega R}{2} \right)^2$$

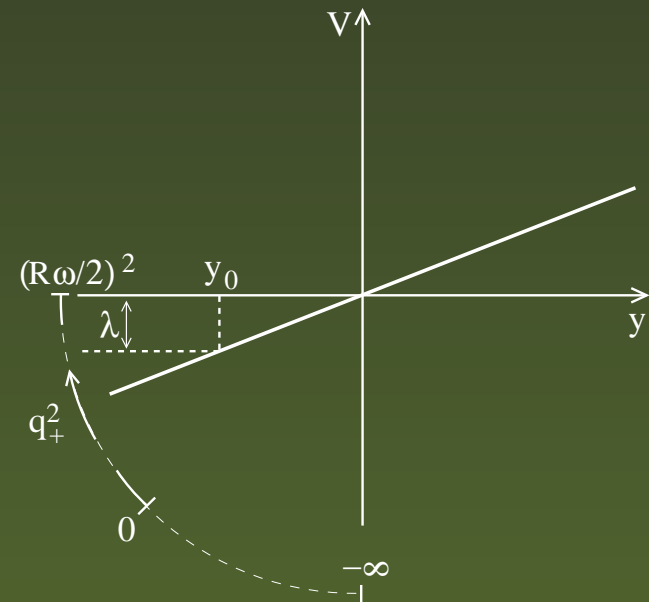
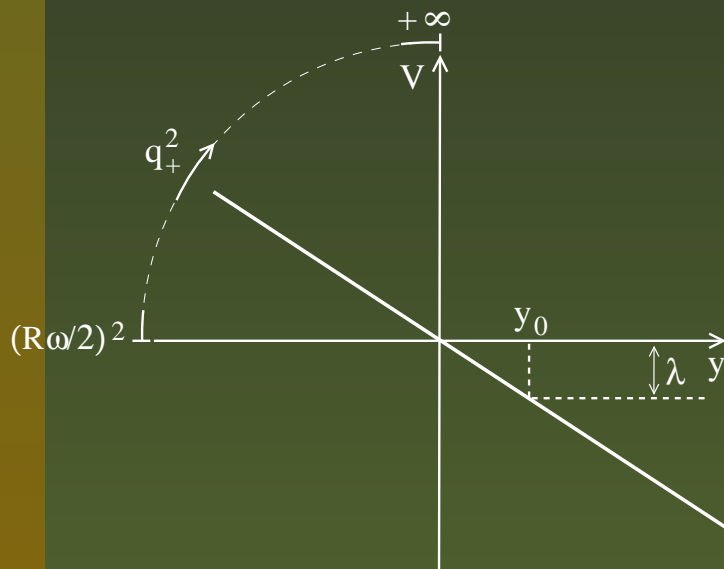
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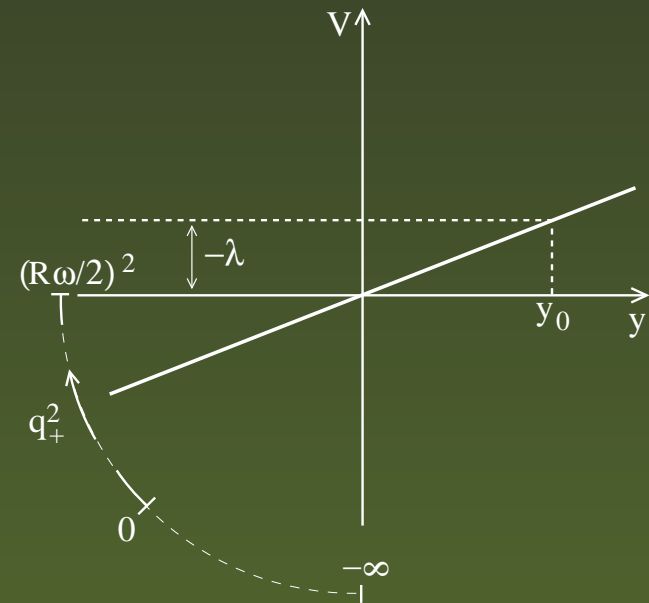
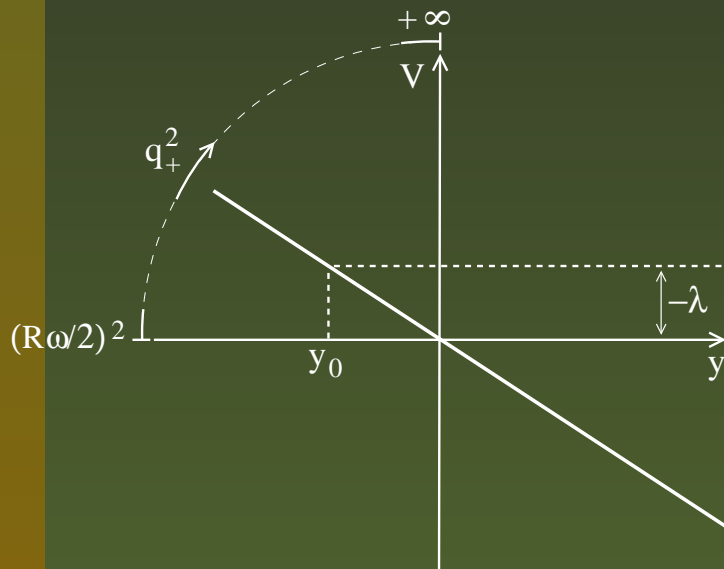
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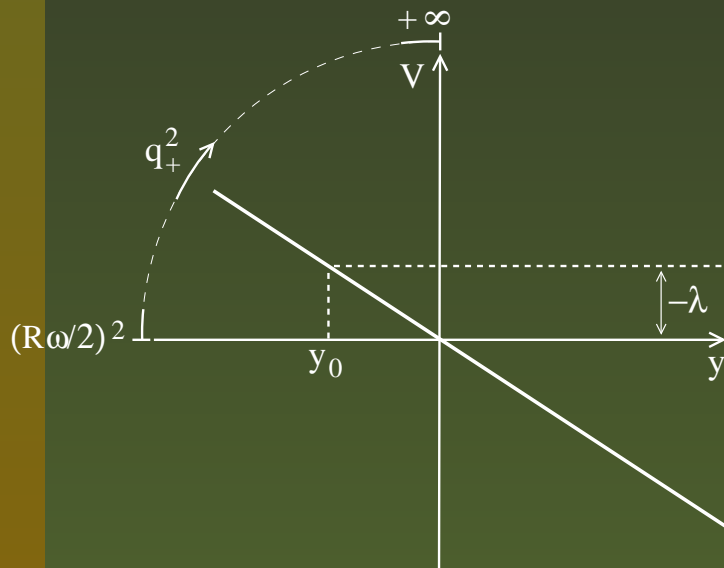
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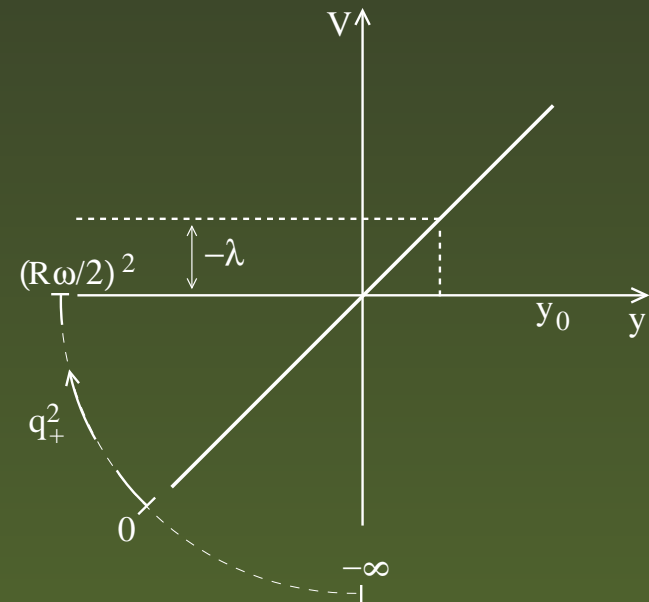
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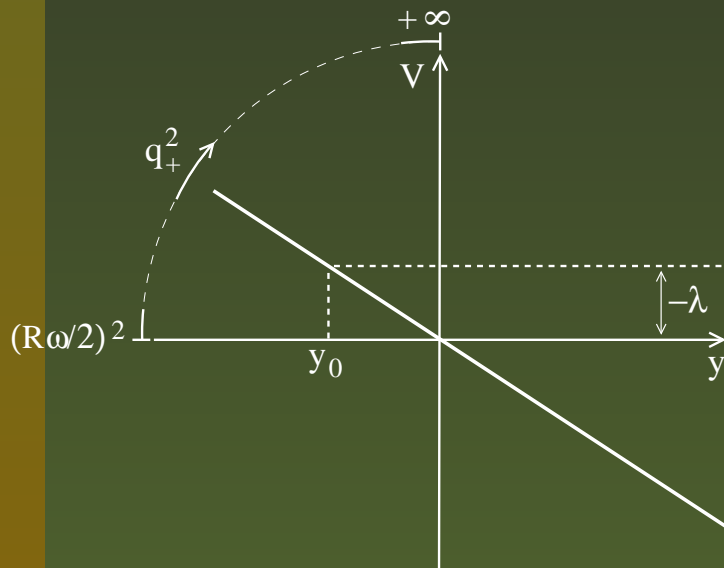
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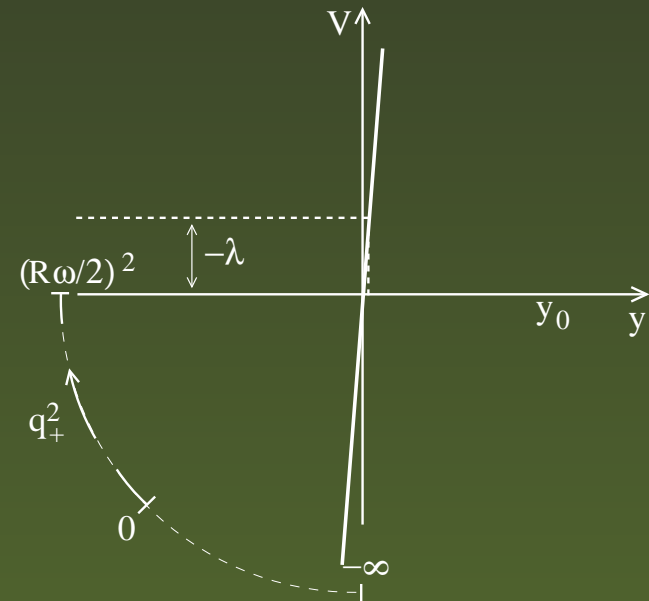
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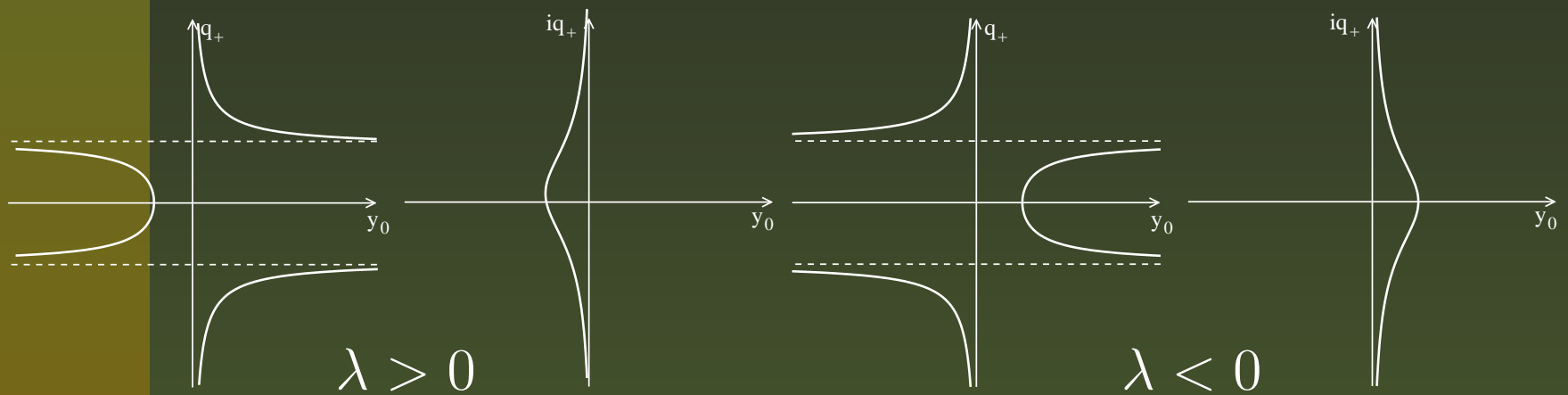


String wave functions

$$q_+ \text{ as function of } \lambda \text{ and } y_0, \text{ for } q_- = 0: q_+ = \pm \sqrt{\frac{\lambda}{2Ey_0} + \left(\frac{\omega R}{2}\right)^2}$$

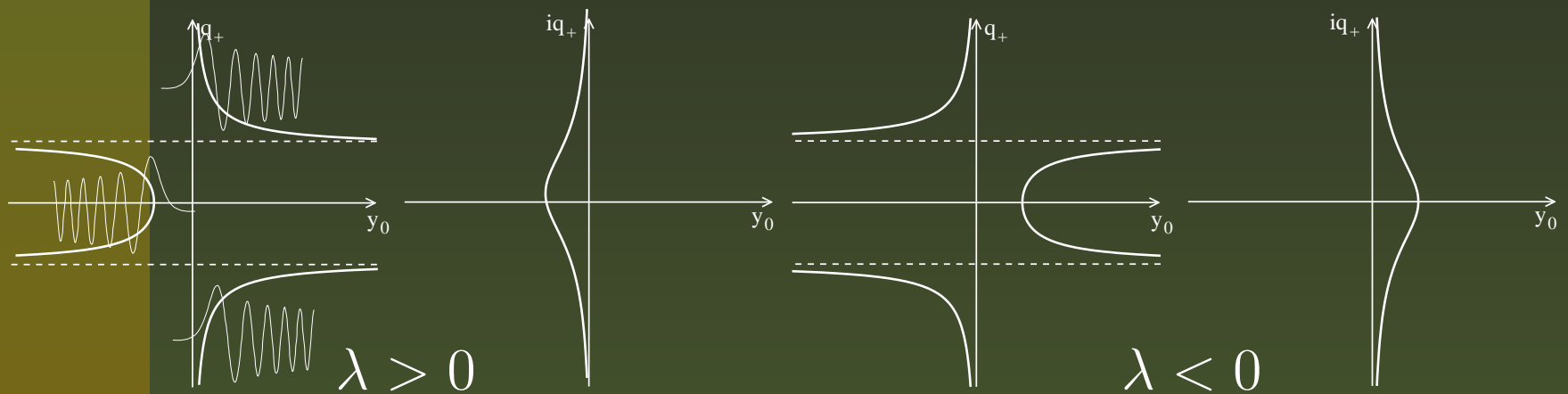
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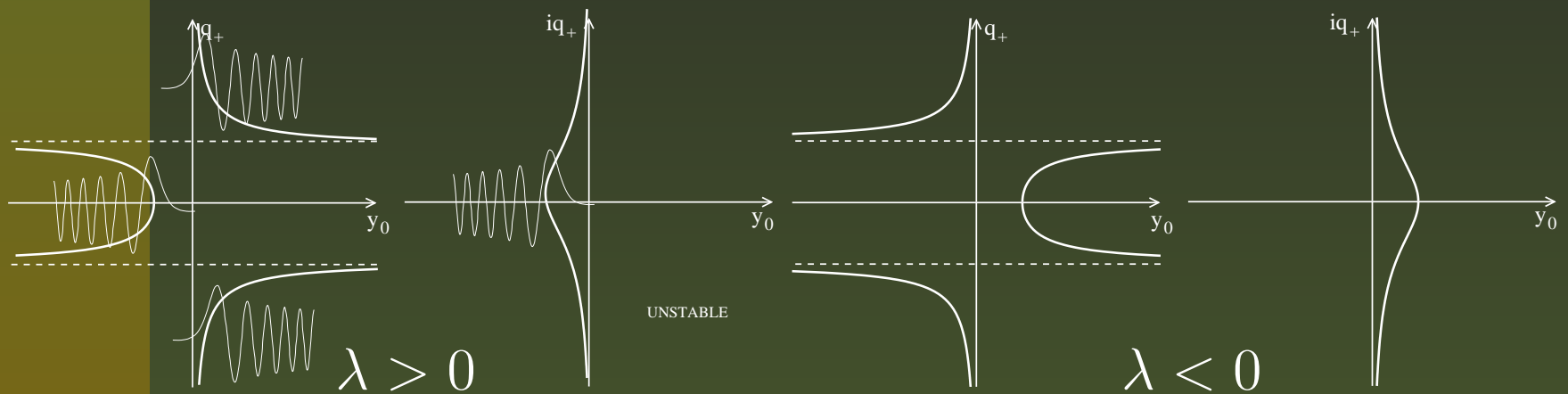
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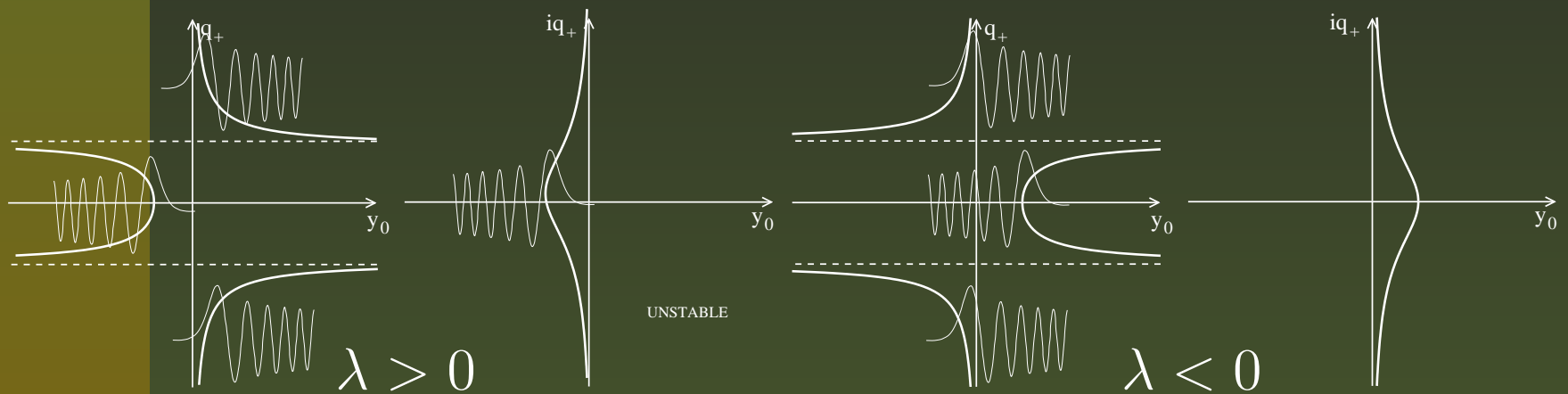
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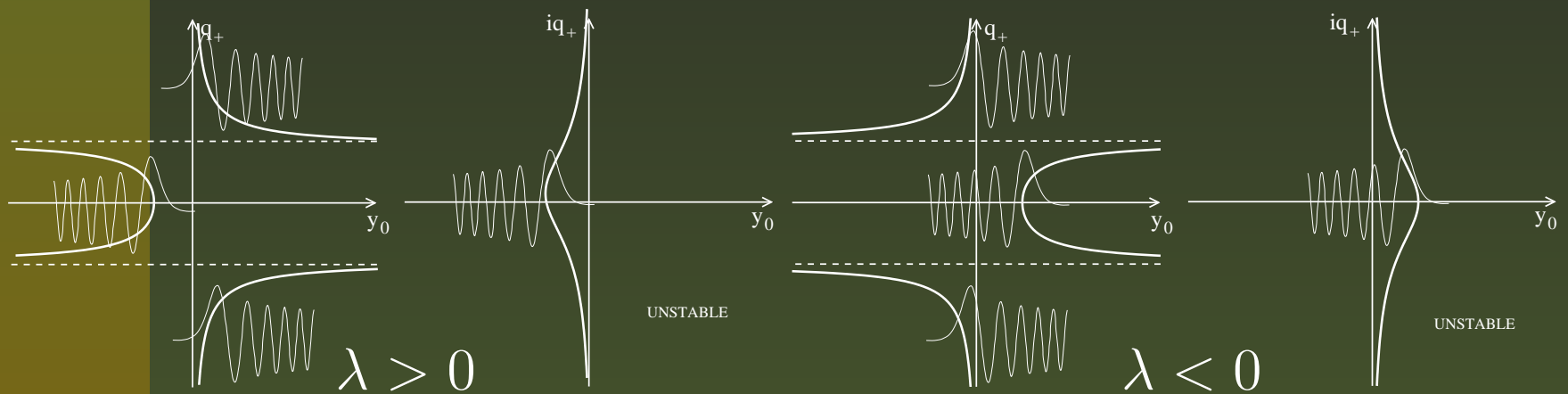
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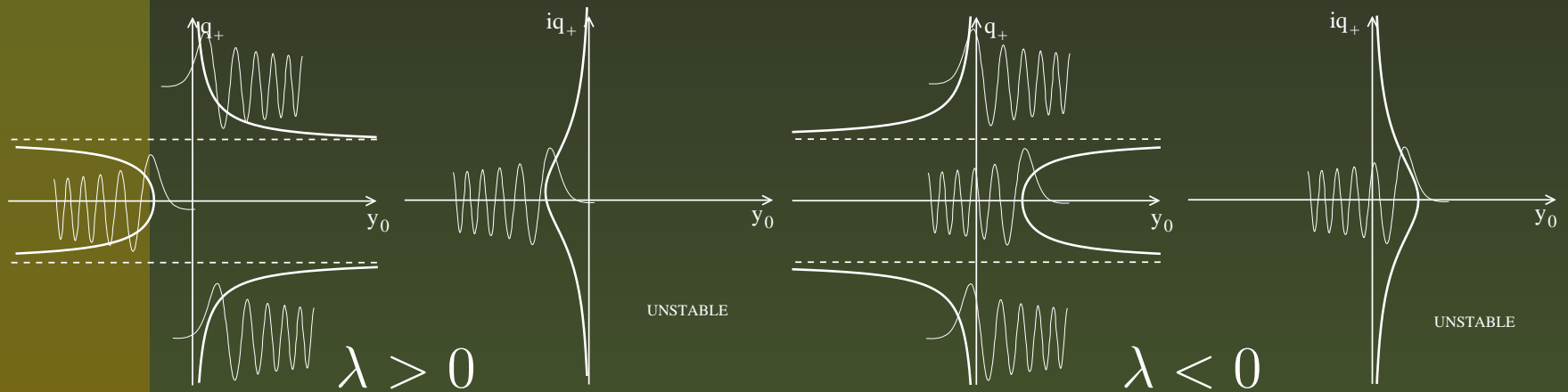
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Unstable tachyonic modes cannot penetrate the good region beyond a certain critical y .

Canonical Quantisation

Oscillators and zero modes decouple; so normal ordering is standard.
For bosonic string $L_0 = \tilde{L}_0 = 1$ on physical states; these satisfy

$$M^2(y) \equiv -q_\mu q^\mu = 2Ey \left(\frac{\omega R}{2} \right)^2 + N + \tilde{N} - 2$$

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The quantum numbers for the string centre of mass wave functions $\psi_{q_+, y_0, m}$ obey the on-shell relation

$$\lambda = -2 + N + \tilde{N} = 2q_+ q_- + 2Ey_0 \left(q_+^2 - \left(\frac{\omega R}{2} \right)^2 \right)$$

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Due to zero point energy (-2), both $\lambda > 0$ and $\lambda < 0$ are allowed.

Partition Function I

In the canonical formalism one takes the trace over the Hilbert space

$$Z = \int_{\mathcal{F}} \frac{d^2\tau}{\tau_2} \text{Tr} \left(q^{L_0-1} \bar{q}^{\tilde{L}_0-1} \right)$$

where $q = e^{2\pi i\tau}$ and $\tau = \tau_1 + i\tau_2$.

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- Choose the basis $|q_+, y_0, m\rangle$ to perform trace;
- Do analytic continuation: $q_+ \rightarrow iq_+$;
- Perform q_+ integral (well defined for $y_0 > 0$) to get in the integrand

$$\exp \left[-2\pi\tau_2 \left(-2 + n + \tilde{n} + \frac{m^2}{R^2(y_0)} + \frac{\omega^2 R^2(y_0)}{4} \right) \right]$$

where $R^2(y_0) = 2Ey_0R^2$ is the proper radius of compact direction.

Partition Function II - Infrared Divergences

For $y_0 > 0$, the condition

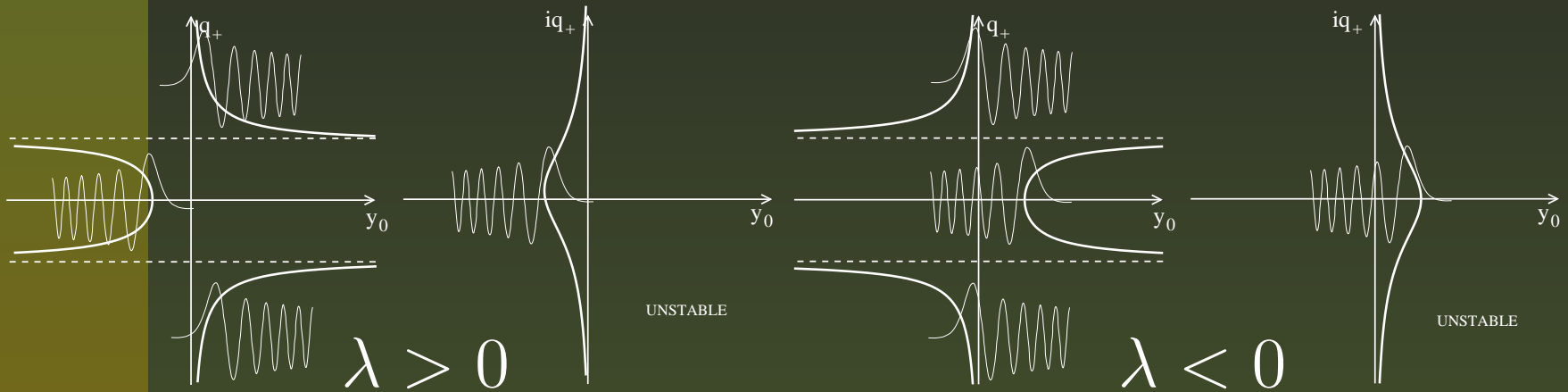
$$\lambda + \frac{m^2}{R^2(y_0)} + \frac{\omega^2 R^2(y_0)}{4} < 0$$

is the condition for solutions of the quadratic equation in q_+

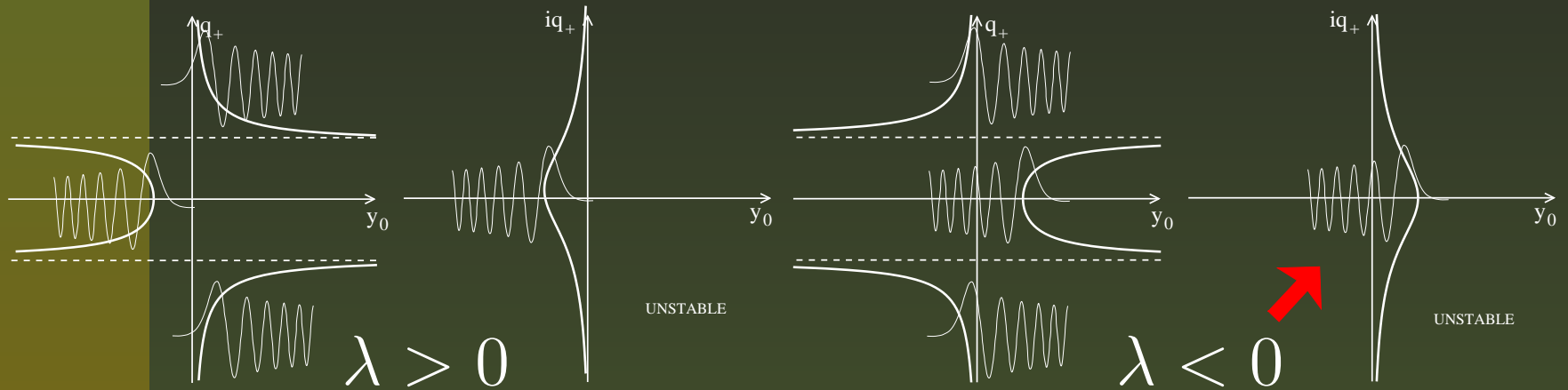
$$\lambda = 2q_+q_- + 2Ey_0 \left(q_+^2 - \left(\frac{\omega R}{2} \right)^2 \right)$$

to have an imaginary part, when $\lambda < 0$.

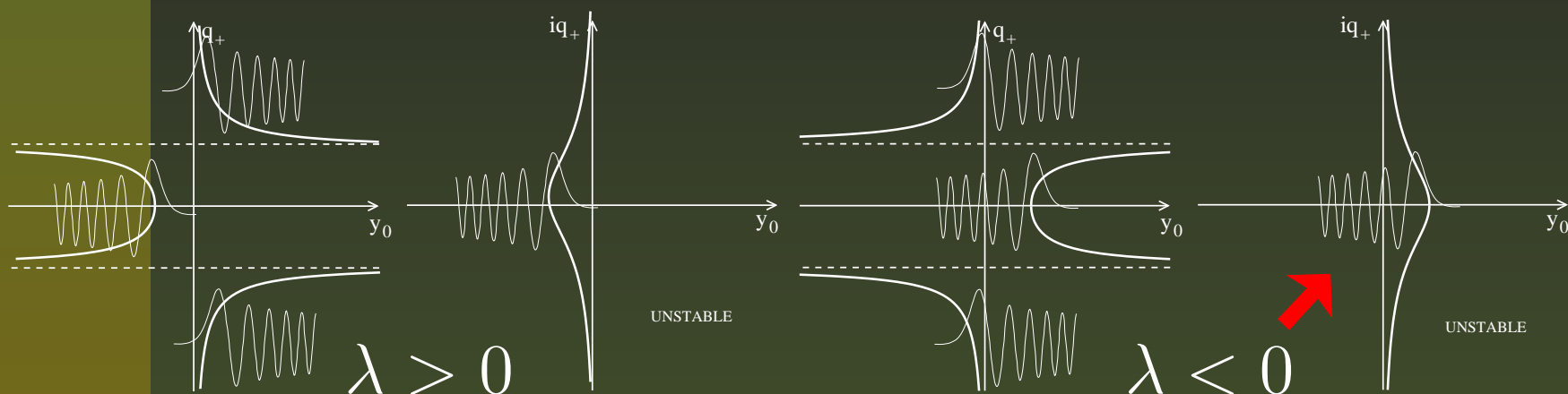
Partition Function III - States causing Infrared Divergences



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The state with $n = \tilde{n} = 0$ and $\omega = 1$ renders the partition function divergent for

$$y_0 < 4/(ER^2)$$

This is the state that condenses the furthest into the $y > 0$ region.

Partition Function IV - Hagedorn Divergence

The same behaviour can be seen from the large n behaviour of Z .

Partition Function IV - Hagedorn Divergence

The same behaviour can be seen from the large n behaviour of Z .

- Perform Wick rotation and Poisson re-sum the KK momentum.
- Perform the q_+ integral;
- Use integral representation of the measure;
- Replace the fundamental region \mathcal{F} by the strip;
- Expand the Dedekind eta function $\eta(\tau)$ in a Taylor series;
- Perform the τ_1 integration;

Partition Function V - Hagedorn Divergence

$$Z \propto \sum_{\omega'=1, n=0}^{\infty} d_n^2 \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dy \int_0^{\infty} \frac{d\tau_2}{\tau_2^{14}} \exp \left(-4\pi(n-1)\tau_2 - \frac{2\pi}{\tau_2} \frac{\omega'^2 R^2(y)}{4} \right)$$

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★ Hagedorn behaviour!

Superstring

NS \otimes NS sector: $\lambda = -1 + N + \tilde{N}$.

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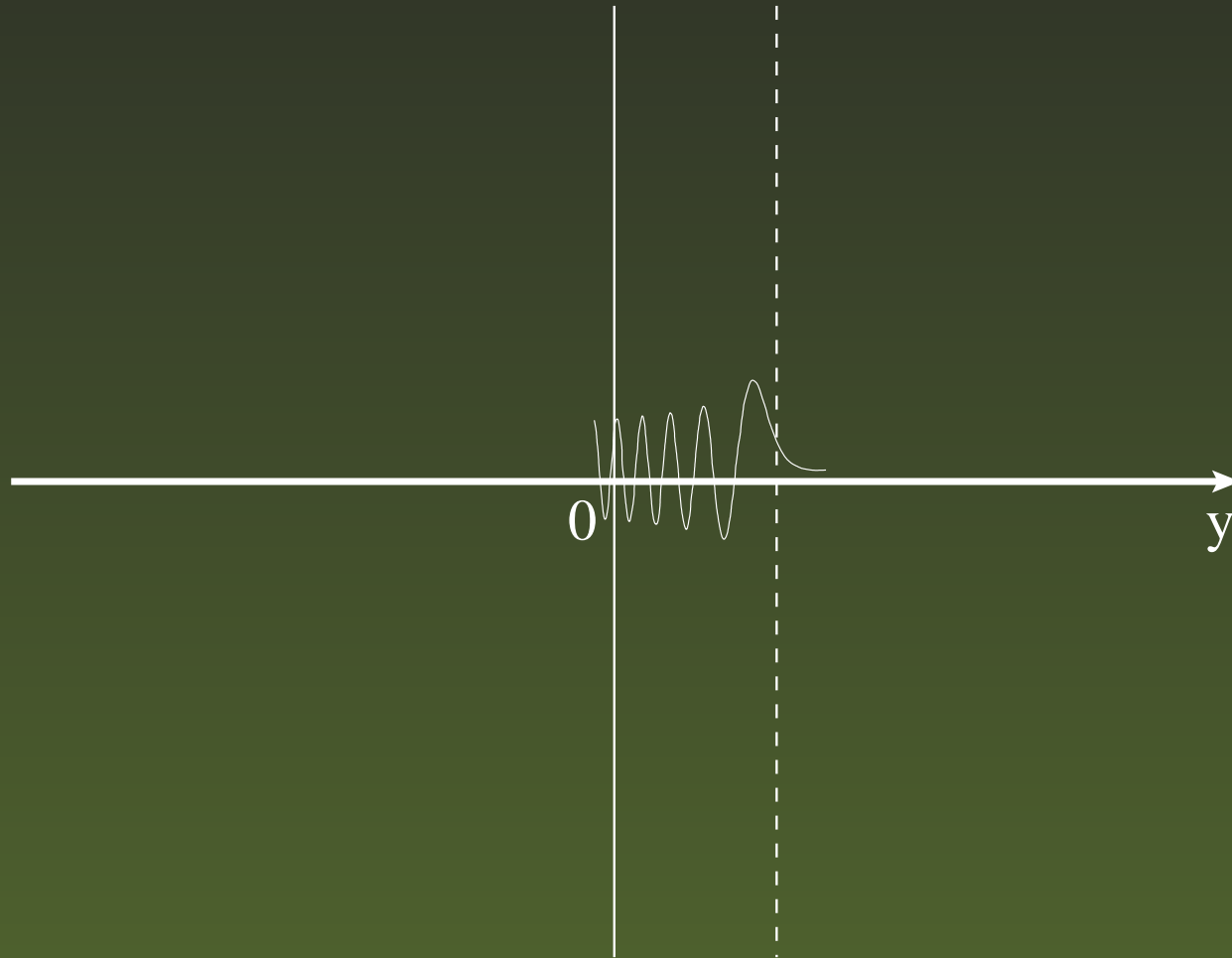
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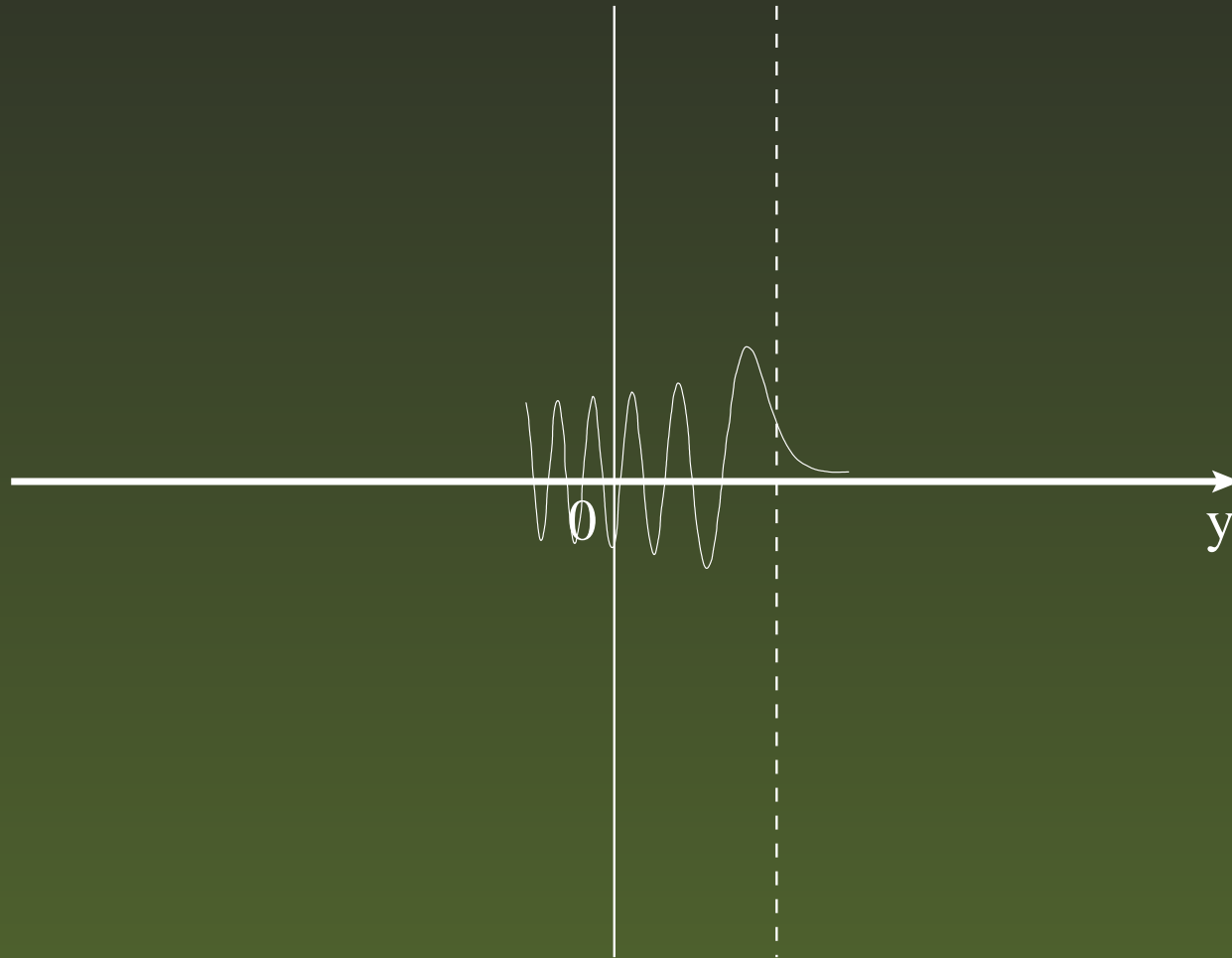
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- Supersymmetry breaking case (anti-periodic):
 - ★ Even ω have the usual supersymmetric GSO projection; odd ω have reversed GSO projection;
 - ★ Usual bosonic string tachyon absent;
 - ★ States with $\lambda = -1$ and odd ω penetrate good region to a maximum of $y = y_c = \frac{2}{ER^2}$ (for $\omega = \pm 1$).

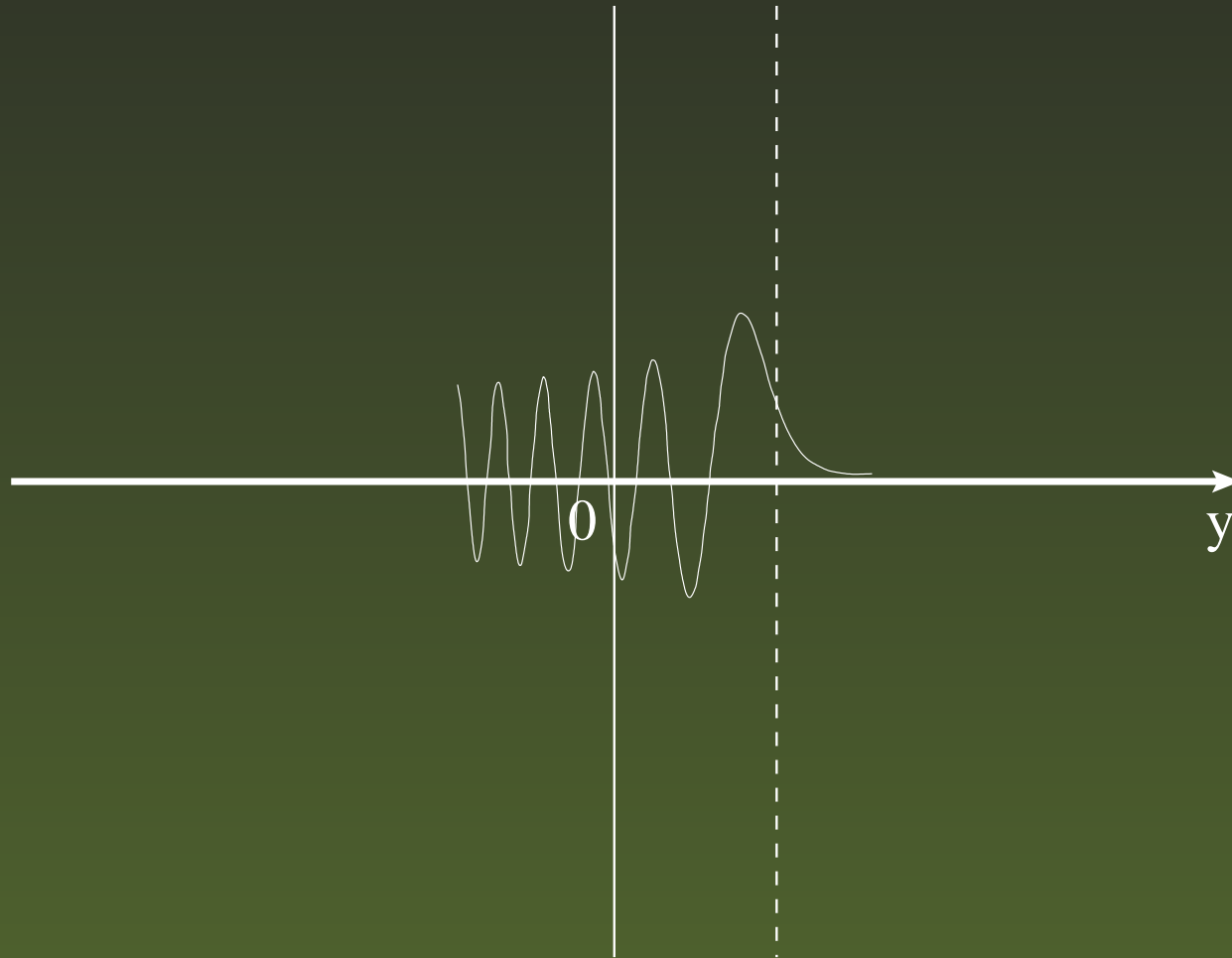
Growth of unstable modes



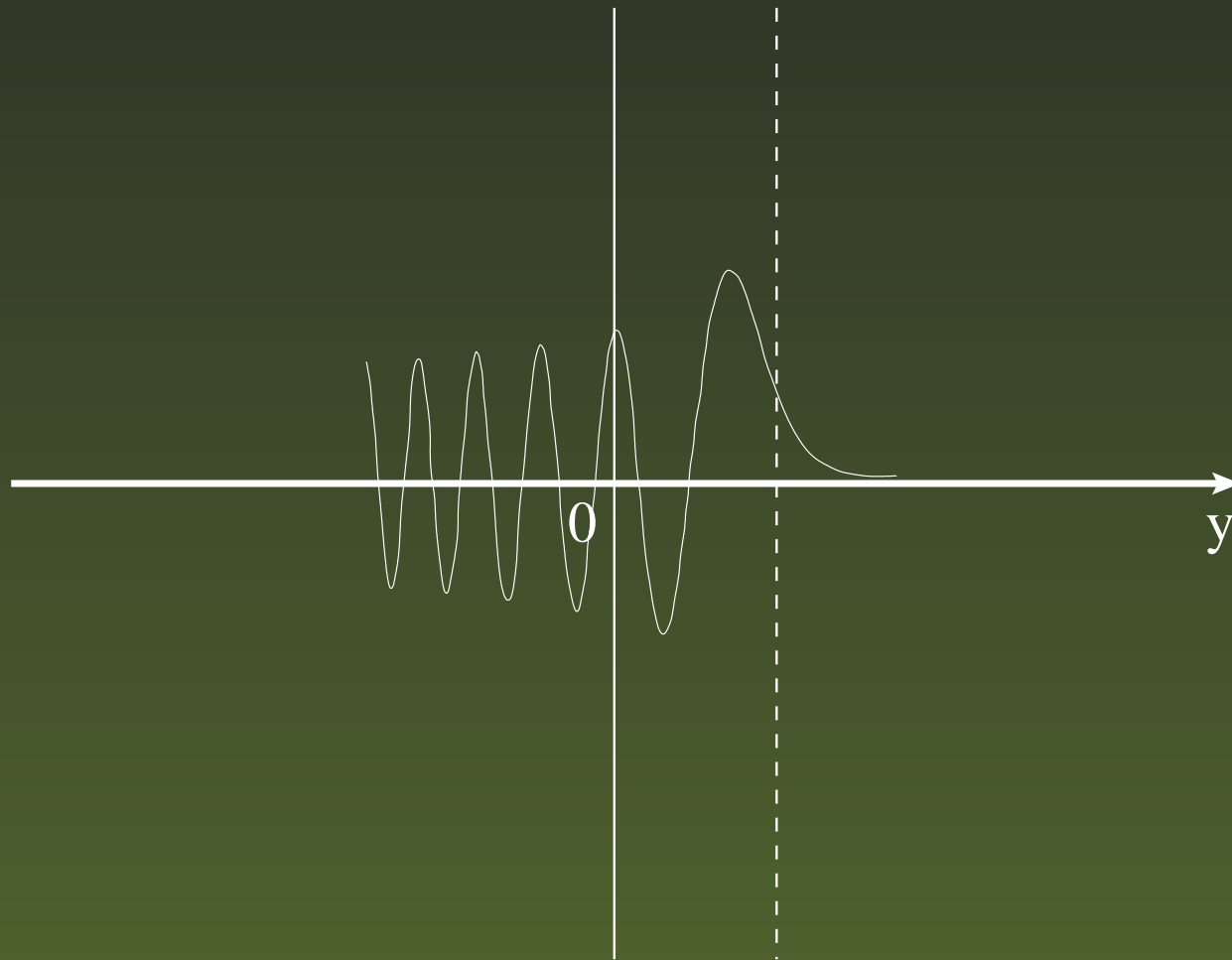
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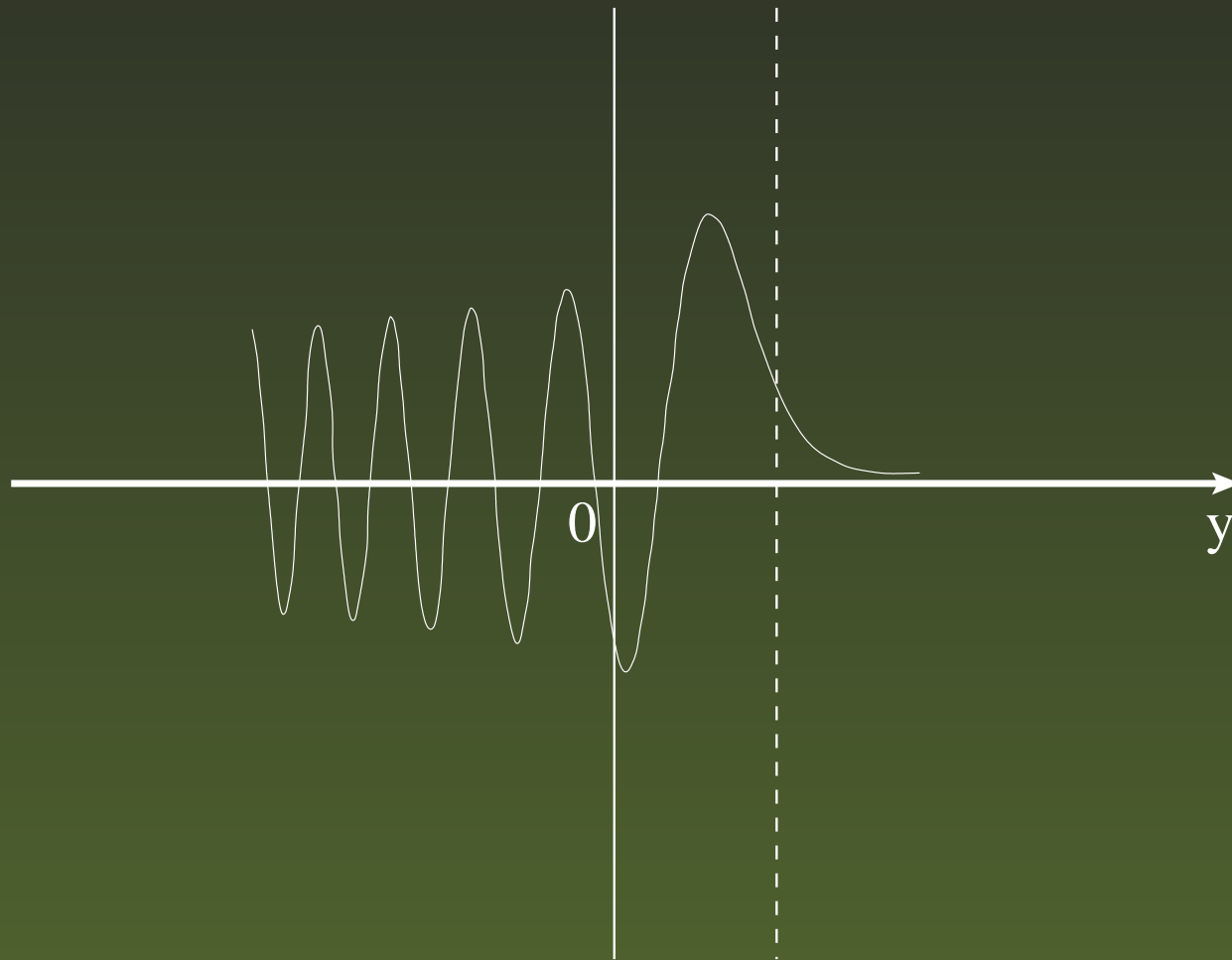
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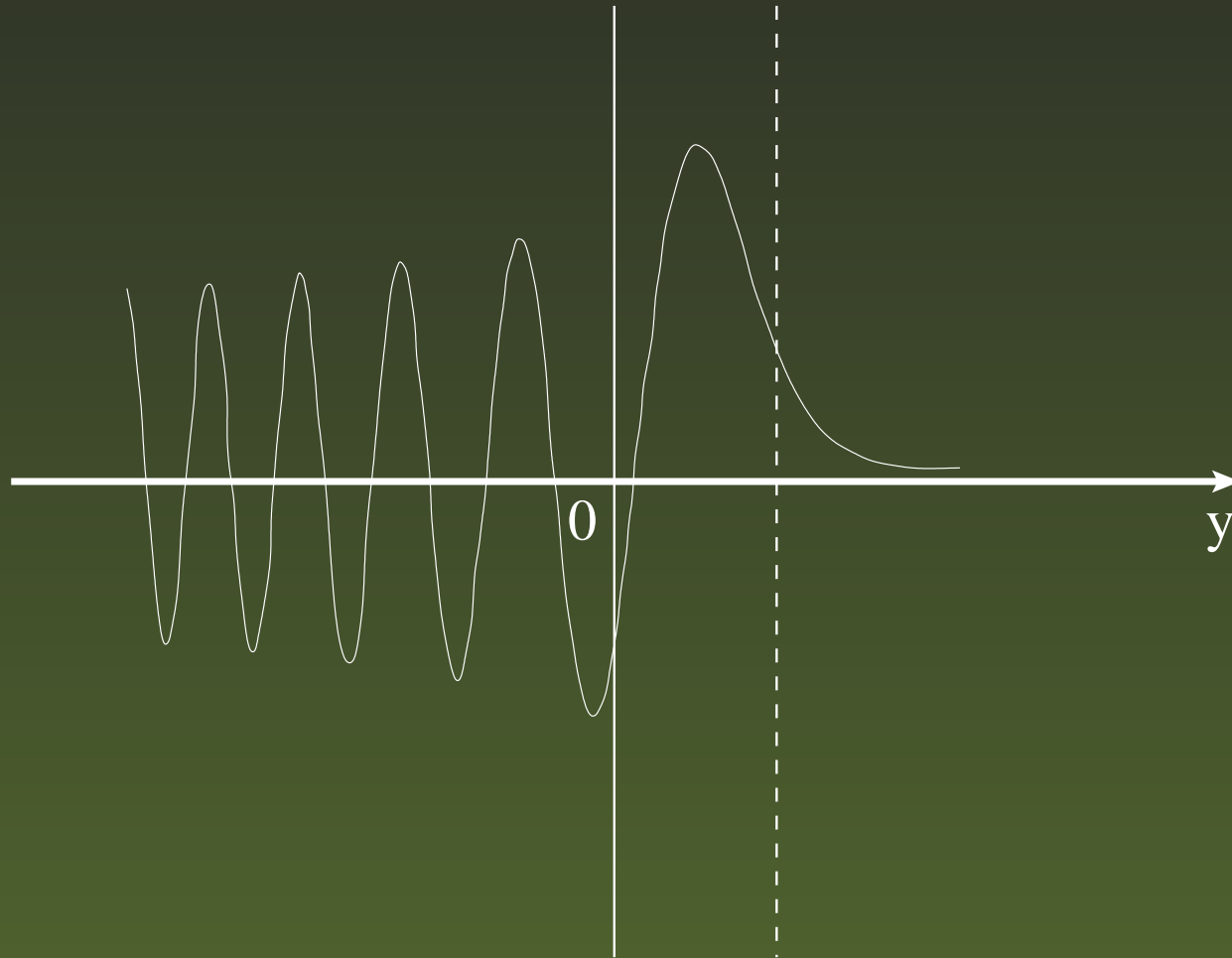
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Nice toy model but... How general?...End point?