# A Tower WGC from IR consistency

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# Outline

#### **The Weak Gravity Conjecture (WGC)**

Landscape and Swampland

The WGC (and CHC)

### **Infrared Consistency**



Relation to WGC

### WGC and dimensional reduction



The Lattice WGC

**Tower WGC** 

### **Summary & Outlook**

Observation: String Theory allows for enormous amount of different vacua ("Landscape")

- how to compactify, type/amount fluxes, how to put D-branes/localised objs...







[Vafa 0509212]



[Vafa 0509212]









**Criteria** to distinguish Swampland/Landscape?

Reviews: Brennan, Carta, Vafa 1711.00864 Vitv: Palti 1903.06239]

An effective field theory coupled to gravity:



ST: only scale=string scale, no free parameters

e.g. string coupling

$$g_s = e^{\phi}$$



IR: EFT parameters=field vevs

Reviews: Brennan, Carta, Vafa 1711.00864 Palti 1903.06239]

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IR: EFT parameters=field vevs

*Rencent findings* concern



**Distance conjecture** (new Physics from the boundaries

of moduli space)

[Ooguri, Palti, Shiu, Vafa 1810.05506]



(A)dS Conjecture(s)





**Brane-y constraints** 

[Kim, Shiu, Vafa 1905.08261]

An effective field theory coupled to gravity:



**No (exact) global symmetries** [Matt Reece ICTP lectures 2019]

true in ST: all global symmetries turn out to be gauged [Banks, Dixon '88]
 true in theories with asymptotically AdS (holography)

[Harlow, Ooguri 1810.05338]

Q: More generically, is this true with any QG completion?

A: BH Physics

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Q: More generically, is this true with any QG completion?

A: BH Physics



Rough arguments follow. Please bear with me!

#### No (exact) global symmetries

Suppose you have global symmetry (e.g.U(1)), and a particle charged under it (q)



Problems with infinite number of (semi-classically stable) charged remnants?



at lower energies we have to integrate out all these states: they contribute to renormalising Newton constant The problem is avoided if the symmetry is **gauged**:

charged BH solutions

$$ds^{2} = -f(r) dt^{2} + f(r)^{-1} dr^{2} + r^{2} d\Omega^{2}, \qquad f(r) = 1 - \frac{2M}{r} + \frac{2g^{2}Q^{2}}{r^{2}}$$

Extremality bound

 $M \geq \sqrt{2}gQM_P$  (Violation=naked singularities)



Below any given mass, there is a **finite** number of EBH's

$$N_{EBH} \sim \frac{M_0}{gM_p}$$

Maximum charge with  $M_0$ 

 $\neg \neg r$ 

Problem solved!

The problem is avoided if the symmetry is **gauged**:

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 $\neg \neg r$ 

$$N_{EBH} \sim \frac{M_0}{gM_p}$$

What about a gauge theory in the limit

For  $g \rightarrow 0$  the problem is **recovered**!

Extremality bound

$$M \ge \sqrt{2gQM_P} \rightarrow 0$$



Below any given mass, there is a **infinite** number of BH's

$$N_{EBH} \sim \frac{M_0}{gM_p} \to \infty$$

Basically, switching off the coupling g corresponds to approaching the **GLOBAL** symmetry with its issues...

If we insist in having an EFT with finite  $\,G_N\,$  and no naked singularities, Then it must be:

Impossible to take  $g \rightarrow 0$  ?

but this seems valid in ST...

OR

If we insist in having an EFT with finite  $\,G_N\,$  and no naked singularities, Then it must be:

Impossible to take  $g \rightarrow 0$  ?

but this seems valid in ST...

OR



Something off with our understanding of BHs

(indeed above reasonings use the semi-classical approximation)



In such a case, they do not contribute to catastrophic renormalisation of  $G_N$ 



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(Sub-extremal BH "decay" into EBH via radiation, but EBH's are stable, need another decay process)

 $g(Q_{\text{ext}} - q) \le (M_{\text{ext}} - m)/M_{\text{Pl}} \le gq \ge m/M_{\text{Pl}}$ 



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(Sub-extremal BH "decay" into EBH via radiation, but EBH's are stable, need another decay process)



→ require existence of a particle satisfying



#### The Weak Gravity Conjecture (WGC)

In any consistent EFT of gauge U(1) coupled to gravity There must exist a particle (m,q) with charge-mass ratio

In particular, it has to be true also for magnetic monopoles

$$m_{mag} \leq g_{mag} M_p \sim \frac{M_p}{g_{el}} \qquad \text{but we know} \qquad m_{mag} \sim \frac{1}{g_{el}^2} \qquad \text{ov cut-OFF}$$

The cutoff scale  $\Lambda$  of the effective theory is bounded from above approximately by the gauge coupling

 $\Lambda \lesssim g_{el} M_P$ 

 $z \equiv \frac{gqM_P}{2} \ge 1$ 

A posteriori, motivated by many examples in ST



#### WGC: The convex hull condition (CHC) In case we have **multiple U(1)'s**, obj can decay if their chargeto-mass ratio lies inside the convex hull (in the z-space) [Cheung, Remmen 1402.2287] (sub-)Extremal Black holes can decay if they lie inside the Convex Hull! $Z_{U(1)_2}$ $\vec{z_1} = (z_{11}, z_{12})$ Ex.: $U(1)^2$ , 2 particles $\vec{z_2} = (z_{21}, z_{22})$ $\vec{z}_2$ $Z_{U(1)_1}$ Convex Hull is the region of **Extremal Black Holes** instability: any Z inside, decays $z_{EBH} = 1$

# WGC: The convex hull condition (CHC) In case we have **multiple U(1)'s**, obj can decay if their chargeto-mass ratio lies inside the convex hull (in the z-space) [Cheung, Remmen 1402.2287] (sub-)Extremal Black holes can decay if they lie inside the Convex Hull! $Z_{U(1)_2}$ $\vec{z_1} = (z_{11}, z_{12})$ Ex.: $U(1)^2$ , 2 particles $\vec{z_2} = (z_{21}, z_{22})$ $\vec{z}_2$ $Z_{U(1)_{1}}$ **Extremal Black Holes** $z_{EBH} = 1$ There are no states which can discharge Black Holes in the red regions!

recent directions:

#### 1. how to evade WGC and realize axion inflation models

[De la Fuente et al '14, Bachlechner et al '15, Choi-Kim '15, Conlon-Krippendorf '16,...]

2. constraints on particle physics models (ex. neutrino masses)

[Ooguri-Vafa '16, Ibanez, MartinLozano-Valenzuela '17, Hamada-Shiu '17 ...]

3. better understanding & towards a proof of WGC

- lessons from string theory examples

[Brown et al '15, Heidenreich et al '15, Hebecker-Soler '17, Montero et al '17,...]

- use of AdS/CFT (holography)

[Nakayama-Nomura '15, Harlow '15, Benjamin et al '16, Montero et al '16, Montero '18,...]

#### - relation to positivity bounds

[Cheung-Remmen '14, Andriolo-Junghans-Noumi-Shiu '18, Hamada-Noumi-Shiu '18,...]

### **Positivity bounds (IR)**

An EFT with HO operators = 4-derivative corrections

Eg. 
$$\mathcal{L}_{1-loop} = \frac{M_P}{2}R - \frac{F^2}{4e^2} + CF^4 + \dots$$

is "IR consistent" i.e. respects:

causality

analyticity of S-matrix

if



[Adams, Arkani-Hamed, Dubovsky, Nicolis, Rattazzi 0602178]

### Causality - eg 3D

First, dualisation: 
$$\mathcal{L}_1 = \frac{M_3}{2}R - \frac{(\partial \phi)^2}{2} + 4C(\partial \phi)^4 \qquad F \sim *d\phi$$

We want to study the the speed of propagation of fluctuations  $\phi = \bar{\phi} + \varphi$  and require it is sub-luminal in any locally flat frame  $\eta_{ab}$ 

i.e., we require 
$$v \equiv \frac{k_0}{|\vec{k}|} < 1$$

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1)

Compute the corrected EOMs, locally go to Fourier space and obtain (background-dependent) dispersion relation

< 1

 $(\eta_{ab} + 16C \ \overline{\partial_a \phi \partial_b \phi}) \ k^a k^b = 0$  True for any bg choice

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2) Simplest choice of bg: constant EM field  $\overline{\partial_a \phi} = w_a = (w_0, \vec{w}) = const$ 

$$v = \frac{k_0}{|\vec{k}|} = 1 - 8C(w_0 - \vec{w} \cdot \hat{k})^2 \quad \longrightarrow \quad (C > 0)$$

### Analyticity - eg 3D

Consider 4-pts photon scatterings



In the forward limit  $\mathcal{M}(s,t) = 8C(s^2 + t^2 + u^2) \rightarrow \mathcal{M}(s) = 16Cs^2$  $t \rightarrow 0$ 

We can extract C from

#### Analyticity - 3D/4D

from

٠

Consider 4-pts photon scatterings





 $\mathcal{M}(s) = 16Cs^2$ 

 $16C = \oint_{\gamma} \frac{ds}{2\pi i} \frac{\mathcal{M}(s)}{s^3}$ 



#### Analyticity - 3D/4D

from

Consider 4-pts photon scatterings





$$16C = \oint_{\gamma} \frac{ds}{2\pi i} \frac{\mathcal{M}(s)}{s^3} = \left( \int_{-\infty}^{-s_0} + \int_{s_0}^{\infty} \right) \frac{ds}{2\pi i} \frac{\text{Disc}[\mathcal{M}(s)]}{s^3}$$
  
contour def  
+ **analyticity**  
+ Froissart bound  

$$\boxed{s_0} \qquad \boxed{s_0} \qquad \boxed{s_0} \qquad \boxed{s_0}$$

The S-matrix is **analytical** along the real axis  $|s| < s_0$ , up to the lowest energy where on-shell intermediate states are created (= red discontinuities)

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The S-matrix is **analytical** along the real axis  $|s| < s_0$ , up to the lowest energy where on-shell intermediate states are created (= red discontinuities)



[Cheung-Remmen '14]

#### YES!

Take 1-loop EFT obtained by integrating out charged matter



#### YES!



Setup (3d)

EFT multiple scalar/fermions charged under multiple U(1)'s

$$\Gamma = \int d^3x \sqrt{-g} \left[ \frac{M_3}{2} R - \frac{1}{4} \sum_i F_i^2 \right] + \Gamma_{s/f} + H.O.$$

$$\Gamma_{\rm s} = \int d^3x \sqrt{-g} \sum_a \left( -|D_\mu \phi_a|^2 - m_a^2 |\phi_a|^2 \right)$$
  
$$\Gamma_{\rm f} = \int d^3x \sqrt{-g} \sum_a \bar{\psi}_a (-\Gamma^\mu D_\mu - m_a) \psi_a$$

$$H.O. = \sum_{ijkl} c_{ijkl} (F_i \cdot F_j) (F_k \cdot F_l) \qquad \begin{array}{l} \text{UV-Physics dof} \\ \text{(kept generic/unknown)} \end{array}$$

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$$H.O. = \sum_{ijkl} c_{ijkl} (F_i \cdot F_j) (F_k \cdot F_l)$$

#### UV-Physics dof (kept generic/unknown)

"Elephant in the room"...

Nonetheless, there is a **regime** where we can extract interesting results!



**Setup** (3d)

Integrating out matter, we obtain

$$\min(m_{a}) \qquad \Gamma_{1} = \int d^{3}x \sqrt{-g} \left[ \frac{M_{3}}{2}R - \frac{1}{4} \sum_{i,j} \delta_{ij}F_{i} \cdot F_{j} + \sum_{i,j,k,l} C_{ijkl}(F_{i} \cdot F_{j})(F_{k} \cdot F_{l}) \right]$$

$$C_{ijkl}^{s} = c_{ijkl} + \sum_{a} \frac{1}{1920\pi |m_{a}|M_{3}^{2}} \left[ \frac{7}{8} z_{ai} z_{aj} z_{ak} z_{al} + \frac{3}{2} z_{ai} z_{aj} \delta_{kl} - z_{ai} z_{ak} \delta_{jl} + \frac{1}{2} \delta_{ij} \delta_{kl} + \delta_{ik} \delta_{jl} \right]$$

$$C_{ijkl}^{f} = c_{ijkl} + \sum_{a} \frac{1}{1920\pi |m_{a}|M_{3}^{2}} \left[ z_{ai} z_{aj} z_{ak} z_{al} + z_{ai} z_{aj} \delta_{kl} - \frac{3}{2} z_{ai} z_{ak} \delta_{jl} - \frac{1}{2} \delta_{ij} \delta_{kl} + \frac{3}{2} \delta_{ik} \delta_{jl} \right]$$

$$Q_{g} \qquad Q_{g} \qquad Q_{g$$

- **single particle**, charged under **single U(1)** 

$$C > 0 \begin{cases} \text{scalar:} \quad z^2 \left( z^2 + \frac{4}{7} \right) + \mathcal{O}_s(z^0) > 0 \\ \\ \text{fermion:} \quad z^2 \left( z^2 - \frac{1}{2} \right) + \mathcal{O}_f(z^0) > 0 \end{cases}$$

- **single particle**, charged under **single U(1)** 

$$C > 0 \begin{cases} \text{scalar:} \quad z^2 \left( z^2 + \frac{4}{7} \right) + \mathcal{O}_s(z^0) > 0 & \longrightarrow & \text{trivial} \\ \\ \text{fermion:} \quad z^2 \left( z^2 - \frac{1}{2} \right) + \mathcal{O}_f(z^0) > 0 & \longrightarrow & z > \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \\ & \text{WGC!} \end{cases}$$

$$\mathcal{O}(z^{0}) \sim \underbrace{\operatorname{form}^{\mathsf{In the regime where } \mathcal{O}(z^{0}) \text{ is negligible}}_{\mathsf{In the regime where } \mathcal{O}(z^{0}) \sim \bullet 0$$

- more particles, multiple U(1)'s:



Several positivity conditions on

 $C_{ijkl}$ 

In some details:

 $\sum C_{(ij)(kl)} u_i v_j u_k v_l \ge 0$ ijkl

to be satisfied for **any** unit vector u, v

- more particles, multiple U(1)'s:



Several positivity conditions on

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In some details:

$$\sum_{ijkl} C_{(ij)(kl)} u_i v_j u_k v_l \ge 0$$

to be satisfied for **any** unit vector u, v

E.g. with  $U(1)^2$  i=1,2

 $HO = C_{1111}(\partial\phi_1)^4 + C_{2222}(\partial\phi_2)^4 + C_{1212}(\partial\phi_1 \cdot \partial\phi_2)^2 + C_{1122}(\partial\phi_1)^2(\partial\phi_2)^2$ 

if we take 
$$u_i = v_i = \delta_i^{1(2)} \longrightarrow C_{1111} \ge 0 \ (C_{2222} \ge 0)$$

- more particles, multiple U(1)'s:



Several positivity conditions on

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In some details:

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$$\text{if we take} \quad u_i = \delta_i^1, \quad v_i = \delta_i^2 \quad \longrightarrow \quad C_{1212} \ge 0 \\ \end{array}$$

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if we take 
$$u_i = \frac{\delta_i^1 + \delta_i^2}{\sqrt{2}}$$
  $v_i = \frac{\delta_i^1 - \delta_i^2}{\sqrt{2}} \longrightarrow C_{1111} + C_{2222} - 2C_{1122} \ge 0$ 

etc...

- more particles, multiple U(1)'s:



Several positivity conditions on

 $C_{ijkl}$ 

Strongest positivity conditions are given by mixed scatterings



Presence of **bifundamentals** is crucial for IR consistency

# A stronger CHC (3d/4d)





Is the WGC **consistent** under dimensional reduction ? [B. Heidenreich, M. Reece, T. Rudelius 1509.06374]

**D** dim: 1 particle, single U(1)  $z_0 \ge 1$  WGC  $\checkmark$ 

 $S^1_{(r)} \downarrow$ 

**D-1** dim: KK tower, U(1)xU(1)<sub>KK</sub> WGC (CHC)? **NOT** always! (problem  $r \rightarrow 0$  limit)

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 $S^1_{(r)}$ 

![](_page_54_Figure_4.jpeg)

![](_page_54_Figure_5.jpeg)

For any value of  $z_0$  there is some  $r_{min}$  below which the CHC is NOT satisfied!

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**D-1** dim: KK tower, U(1)xU(1)<sub>KK</sub> WGC (CHC) ? **NOT** always! (problem  $r \to 0$  limit)

Solutions ?

• Theory has a cut-off 
$$\Lambda \leq \frac{1}{r_{min}}$$
 OR  
• Theory has more particles, all satisfying  $z \geq 1$ 

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**D** dim: 1 particle, single U(1)  $z_0 \ge 1$  WGC  $\checkmark$ 

 $S^1_{(r)}$ 

**D-1** dim: KK tower, U(1)xU(1)<sub>KK</sub> WGC (CHC) ? **NOT** always! (problem  $r \to 0$  limit)

Solution:

![](_page_56_Picture_6.jpeg)

A super-extremal particle z > 1 should exist for every charge in the charge lattice

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**D** dim: 1 particle, single U(1)  $z_0 \ge 1$  WGC  $\checkmark$ 

 $S^1_{(r)}$ 

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Solution:

Lattice WGC

A super-extremal particle z > 1 should exist for every charge in the charge lattice

Can we see this by using **positivity bounds**?

4D EFT Einstein-Maxwell + single scalar/fermion (m,q)  $\longrightarrow$  3D:

Theory of KK states charged under  $U(1)^2=U(1)xU(1)_{KK}$ 

$$\vec{Z}_{(n)} = (z_F, z_{KK}) = \left(\frac{q}{\sqrt{m^2 + n^2/r^2}}, \frac{n}{\sqrt{m^2 r^2 + n^2}}\right)$$

In the small radius limit

- the lowest mode (n=0):  $(z_F, z_{KK}) = (q/m, 0)$ 

- KK modes (n≠0):  $(z_F, z_{KK}) \sim (0, 1)$ 

Absence of bifundamentals

![](_page_58_Picture_7.jpeg)

How to recover IR consistency?

![](_page_59_Picture_1.jpeg)

![](_page_59_Picture_2.jpeg)

**Tower-WGC\*** 

Replace the 4D field with a **tower** of 4D fields  $\Phi_l$  charged under U(1) with masses and charges  $(m_l, q_l)$  s.t. **bifundamental** contributions (at any r) saves IR cons.

(\*in absence of fermions)

![](_page_60_Figure_3.jpeg)

4D particles

Replace the 4D field with a **tower** of 4D fields  $\Phi_l$  charged under U(1) with masses and charges  $(m_l, q_l)$  s.t. **bifundamental** contributions (at any r) saves IR cons.

(\*in absence of fermions)

Tower-WGC\*

![](_page_61_Figure_2.jpeg)

there may be bifundamentals at small radii: IR-OK

Many other possibilities...(check case-by-case)

Tower-WGC

Replace the 4D field with a **tower** of 4D fields  $\Phi_l$  charged under U(1) with masses and charges  $(m_l, q_l)$  s.t. bifundamental contributions (at any r) saves IR cons.

Conditions:

![](_page_62_Figure_3.jpeg)

- There must exist particles with mass near the cut-off  $m_l \lesssim \Lambda$
- Such particles must have  $z_l \gtrsim \mathcal{O}(1)$
- In case the lightest particle has mass  $m \ll r^{-1}, \Lambda$  then the number of particles in the tower is *at least* of order  $(mr)^{-1}$

# - TWGC is weaker than the LWGC

no counterexample + reminiscent of swampland distance conjecture!!!

# **Summary & Outlook**

Important "take-away's"

![](_page_63_Picture_2.jpeg)

#### Swampland/Landscape:

- Not all good-looking EFT's can be UV-completed in a theory of QG (as String Theory)

- pheno/cosmo model building: better check the EFT you are using is not in the Swampland

# Swampland criteria: SDC, WGC, etc...

#### Weak Gravity Conjecture:

- EFT U(1) coupled to gravity requires existence of super-extremal particle (or CHC for multiple U(1)'s)

#### **IR consistency:**

- Causality, analyticity and unitarity constrain effective interactions

### **Summary & Outlook**

Results & future directions

![](_page_64_Picture_2.jpeg)

#### **Relation IR consistency-WGC?**

- clear connection when **UV contribution** to the EFT in a certain regime. Possibly, compute UV contributions and check...

- existence of **bifundamentals** is crucial in case of multiple U(1)'s:

# in general: yields a stronger CHC

# under KK reduction: implies the necessity of a tower of particles in the parent D-dimensional theory **(TWGC)** 

**# TWGC** is weaker than LWGC and agrees with literature

- Extension of IR consistency arguments to check axionic version of WGC (*in progress w/ Huang, Noumi, Ooguri, Shiu*)
- Relation to SDC, *Emergence*...?

![](_page_65_Picture_0.jpeg)

#### Multiple U(1)'s in 3d (similarly in 4d)

The 1-loop  $U(1)^{N}$ +gravity EFT is obtained by integrating out matter fields in

$$\begin{split} \Gamma &= \int d^3x \sqrt{-g} \bigg[ \frac{M_3}{2} R - \frac{1}{4} \sum_i F_i^2 \bigg] + \Gamma_{s/f} + H.O. \\ &H.O. \sim \mathcal{O}(R^2) + \mathcal{O}(RF^2) + \mathcal{O}(F^4) \end{split}$$

via the heat kernel method...

One obtains the following HO 4-derivatives ops (to be added to H.O.)

![](_page_66_Figure_5.jpeg)

### Multiple U(1)'s in 3d (similarly in 4d)

Eventually, by field redefinitions, we can recast all the HO operators as

![](_page_67_Figure_2.jpeg)

So finally one has:

$$\Gamma_{1} = \int d^{3}x \sqrt{-g} \left[ \frac{M_{3}}{2}R - \frac{1}{4} \sum_{i,j} \delta_{ij}F_{i} \cdot F_{j} + \sum_{i,j,k,l} C_{ijkl} (F_{i} \cdot F_{j}) (F_{k} \cdot F_{l}) \right]$$

$$C_{ijkl}^{s} = c_{ijkl} + \sum_{a} \frac{1}{1920\pi |m_{a}| M_{3}^{2}} \left[ \frac{7}{8} z_{ai} z_{aj} z_{ak} z_{al} + \frac{3}{2} z_{ai} z_{aj} \delta_{kl} - z_{ai} z_{ak} \delta_{jl} + \frac{1}{2} \delta_{ij} \delta_{kl} + \delta_{ik} \delta_{jl} \right]$$

$$C_{ijkl}^{f} = c_{ijkl} + \sum_{a} \frac{1}{1920\pi |m_{a}| M_{3}^{2}} \left[ z_{ai} z_{aj} z_{ak} z_{al} + z_{ai} z_{aj} \delta_{kl} - \frac{3}{2} z_{ai} z_{ak} \delta_{jl} - \frac{1}{2} \delta_{ij} \delta_{kl} + \frac{3}{2} \delta_{ik} \delta_{jl} \right]$$

### Multiple U(1)'s in 3d (similarly in 4d)

#### Validity of 4-derivatives 1-loop expansion

![](_page_68_Figure_2.jpeg)