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Elliptically Fibered CY Geometries and Emergent Hitchin Systems

I provide a brief overview of the way that Higgs bundles arise in string compactifications (particularly F-theory). Further, I will describe recent progress in describing the moduli spaces of singular Calabi-Yau manifolds and the surprising relationships only recently discovered between Calabi-Yau and Hitchin integrable systems, providing a kind of transition function to relate open and closed string degrees of freedom in F-theory.