The Koide Angle as a Conformal Dimension: G_2 Geometry, $\mathrm{SU}(3)_3$ WZW Theory, and Fermion Mass Structure

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March 2026

Abstract

The charged lepton masses satisfy the Koide relation $Q = 2/3$ and are parametrized by a single Brannen phase $\delta_{\mathrm{exp}} = 0.22222(5) \approx 2/9$. We prove that this parametrization is the exact eigenvalue structure of a democratic element of the exceptional Jordan algebra $J_3(\mathbb{O})$, with $\cos(3\delta) = -\varphi(V)$ where φ is the G_2 3-form. From the Sumino $\mathrm{SU}(3)_F$ family gauge symmetry, we derive $Q = 2/3$ (equivalent to the quantum dimension $d_\square = 2$ of $\mathrm{SU}(3)_3$ WZW) and the amplitude $A = \sqrt{2}$ (proven).

The phase $\delta = 2/9$ – formerly an open conjecture – is now conditionally derived from WZW braiding: the antisymmetric braiding label in $\mathrm{SU}(N)_N$ satisfies $|h(\Lambda^2\square) - 2h(\square)|/h(\square) = 2/(N-1)$, which equals unity if and only if $N = 3$. The same braiding structure gives the down-quark phase $\delta_d = 1/9$ from the symmetric channel, and a conjectured quantization relation yields $\delta_u = 2/39$. All six Brannen parameters (Q, δ) for leptons, down quarks, and up quarks are functions of $N = 3$ alone, predicting $m_c = 617$ MeV (0.2σ), $m_s = 93.1$ MeV (0.04σ), and four additional mass ratios within 1.1σ. Twenty distinct algebraic conditions select $N = 3$; the neutrino extension is decisively falsified. One hundred and eight alternative approaches are cataloged.

Keywords: Koide formula, octonions, G_2 holonomy, exceptional Jordan algebra, Casimir invariants, WZW conformal field theory, neutrino masses, quark masses

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1 Introduction

The Koide formula [1] relates the charged lepton masses through

$$Q \equiv \frac{m_e + m_\mu + m_\tau}{\left(\sqrt{m_e} + \sqrt{m_\mu} + \sqrt{m_\tau}\right)^2} = 0.666661 \approx \frac{2}{3}, \tag{1}$$

an agreement at the 10^{-5} level using PDG 2024 values [4]. In the Brannen parametrization [2, 3],

$$\sqrt{m_k} = \mu\big(1 + \sqrt{2}\cos(\delta + 2\pi k/3)\big), \quad k = 0, 1, 2, \tag{2}$$

the $\mathbb{Z}_3$-symmetric structure enforces $Q = 2/3$ identically for any δ, while the single phase δ controls the entire mass hierarchy: $m_\mu/m_e \approx 207$ and $m_\tau/m_\mu \approx 16.8$.

The experimental value $\delta_{\text{exp}} = 0.22222(5)$ is remarkably close to $2/9 = 0.22222\ldots$, suggesting an algebraic origin. This paper shows that 2/9 arises independently in multiple mathematical constructions and investigates whether the identification $\delta = 2/9$ can be given a structural explanation. The value 2/9 appears simultaneously as:

0. The exact eigenvalue structure of a democratic $J_3(\mathbb{O})$ element, with $\cos(3\delta) = -\varphi(V)$ (Theorem 2.4);
1. A geometric ratio from the Hessian of the G_2 3-form on $\mathrm{Gr}(3, \mathbb{R}^6)$ (Theorem 3.6);
2. The Casimir quotient $C_2(\bar{3})/C_2(\mathrm{Sym}^3 3)$ in $\mathrm{SU}(3) \subset G_2$ (Observation 3.7);
3. The conformal dimension $h_\square = C_2(\square)/(k + h^\vee)$ of $\mathrm{SU}(3)_3$ WZW theory (Theorem 4.1);
4. The crossing phase $\Delta h \times 2/3$ in $\mathrm{SU}(3)_3$ conformal blocks (Theorem 4.10).

A Bridge Proposition (Proposition 5.1) shows that constructions 1 and 3 coincide if and only if $N = 3$, providing a structural explanation for the agreement rather than a numerical coincidence. The identification $\delta_{\text{phys}} = h_\square = 2/9$ is now a conditional theorem (Theorem 12.7): if the Brannen phase is identified with the braiding label, then the antisymmetric braiding eigenvalue gives: $|h(\Lambda^2\square) - 2h(\square)| = [2/(N-1)]h(\square) = h(\square)$ uniquely at $N = 3$.

Crucially, we prove that the Brannen parametrization is not merely empirical: it is the exact eigenvalue structure of a democratic element of the exceptional Jordan algebra $J_3(\mathbb{O})$, with the Brannen phase δ identically equal to the angle of the G_2 3-form on the generation 3-plane (Theorem 2.4). The connection to $J_3(\mathbb{O})$ provides a natural algebraic home for the democratic mass matrix ansatz [19, 20, 21]. Related approaches to fermion mass hierarchies via the exceptional Jordan algebra and octonionic geometry have been developed independently [27, 29, 30]. Only in $J_3(\mathbb{O})$ does the non-associativity of the octonions introduce the 3-form φ as an additional degree of freedom—and it is this degree of freedom that becomes the Brannen phase δ.

We prove six structural obstructions that sharply constrain the class of viable dynamical mechanisms, collectively characterizing δ as a quantity whose origin must be non-perturbative, CP-violating, and topological—consistent with the Chern–Simons interpretation developed in Section 7.

The paper is organized as follows: §2 establishes the mathematical framework including the $J_3(\mathbb{O})$ spectral theorem and the WZW number; §3 derives the geometric ratio 2/9;

§4 develops the CFT structure including Q decomposition and KZ–circulant incompatibility; §5 proves the Hessian–WZW Bridge; §6 proves generation selection with twenty conditions; §7 establishes structural obstructions; §8 proves spectral selection; §11 confronts the neutrino extension with data; §12 extends to the quark sector; §14 discusses the results including G_2 orbifold analysis.

2 Mathematical Framework

2.1 Octonions, G_2, and the exceptional Jordan algebra

The octonions $\mathbb{O}$ are the unique 8-dimensional normed division algebra. Their automorphism group $G_2 = \mathrm{Aut}(\mathbb{O})$ is a 14-dimensional exceptional Lie group acting on $\mathrm{Im}(\mathbb{O}) \cong \mathbb{R}^7$. G_2 preserves the associative 3-form [8]

$$\varphi = e^{123} + e^{145} + e^{167} + e^{246} - e^{257} - e^{347} + e^{356}, \tag{3}$$

where $\{e_1, \dots, e_7\}$ is the standard basis of $\mathrm{Im}(\mathbb{O})$ and $e^{ijk} = e^i \wedge e^j \wedge e^k$. For unit imaginary octonions u, v, w, one has $\mathrm{Re}(u \cdot v \cdot w) = -\varphi(u, v, w)$.

Three-generation fermion mass matrices embed naturally in the exceptional Jordan algebra $J_3(\mathbb{O})$, the 27-dimensional algebra of 3×3 Hermitian octonionic matrices [6, 7]. An element $X \in J_3(\mathbb{O})$ has determinant

$$\det(X) = x_1 x_2 x_3 - \sum_k x_k |a_k|^2 + 2\,\mathrm{Re}(a_1 a_2 a_3), \tag{4}$$

where the triple product $\mathrm{Re}(a_1 a_2 a_3)$ is the non-associative term controlled by G_2. Writing $a_k = r_k u_k$ with $u_k \in \mathrm{Im}(\mathbb{O})$ unit, this becomes $-r_1 r_2 r_3\, \varphi(u_1, u_2, u_3)$.

2.2 SU(3) embedding and the 3-form decomposition

The stabilizer of a unit imaginary octonion under G_2 is SU(3). Under this embedding $\mathrm{SU}(3) \subset G_2$, the fundamental representation decomposes as $\mathbf{7} \to \mathbf{1} \oplus \mathbf{3} \oplus \bar{\mathbf{3}}$, and G_2's 3-form splits as $\varphi = \mathrm{Re}(\Omega) + \omega \wedge e^7$, where $\Omega = dz_1 \wedge dz_2 \wedge dz_3$ is the holomorphic volume form and ω the Kähler form on $\mathbb{R}^6 \cong \mathbb{C}^3$. Restricting to $\mathbb{R}^6 \perp e_7$:

$$\varphi|_{\mathbb{R}^6} = \mathrm{Re}(\Omega) = e^{123} - e^{156} + e^{246} - e^{345}. \tag{5}$$

2.3 Brannen parametrization and $Q = 2/3$

The parametrization (2) is a special case of the generalized form $\sqrt{m_k} = \mu(\psi + \sqrt{2}\,\varepsilon \cos(\delta + 2\pi k/3))$. The $\mathbb{Z}_3$ identities yield

$$Q = \frac{1}{3} + \frac{\varepsilon^2}{3\psi^2}, \tag{6}$$

so $Q = 2/3$ if and only if $\varepsilon = \psi$ (Koide normalization).

Remark 2.1 (Weight projection). The weights of $\Box$ of SU(3) lie at the vertices of an equilateral triangle in the Cartan subalgebra $\mathfrak{h}$. Projecting onto a unit direction $\hat{n}(\delta)$ gives $\langle w_k, \hat{n} \rangle = \cos(\delta + 2\pi k/3)$. Thus δ is the orientation of flavor symmetry breaking in the Cartan plane.

2.4 $\mathrm{SU}(3)_3$ WZW model

The SU(3) WZW model at level $k = 3$ has central charge $c = 4$, dual Coxeter number $h^\vee = 3$, and 10 integrable representations [13]. The choice $k = 3$ arises from the Sumino mechanism [5]: integrating out three lepton generations generates $k_{\text{eff}} = 3$ (see §14.8). The conformal dimension is

$$h(R) = \frac{C_2(R)}{k + h^\vee}. \tag{7}$$

For $\Box = (1,0)$: $C_2(\Box) = 4/3$ and $h_\Box = 2/9$. The quantum dimension is $d_\Box = \sin(\pi/2)/\sin(\pi/6) = 2$.

Theorem 2.2 (WZW Brannen formula). *With general amplitude A: $\sqrt{m_k} = \mu(1 + A\cos(\delta + 2\pi k/3))$, the Koide quotient is*

$$Q = \frac{1}{3} + \frac{A^2}{6}. \tag{8}$$

Consequently $Q = 2/3$ iff $A^2 = 2 = d_\Box(\mathrm{SU}(3)_3)$, motivating the WZW Brannen formula

$$\sqrt{m_k} = \mu\Big(1 + \sqrt{d_\Box}\cos\big(h_\Box + 2\pi k/3\big)\Big). \tag{9}$$

Proof. The $\mathbb{Z}_3$ sum rules give $\sum_k m_k = \mu^2(3 + 3A^2/2)$ and $(\sum_k \sqrt{m_k})^2 = 9\mu^2$. Their ratio gives (8). $\Box$

Remark 2.3. $Q = 2/3$ forces $A = \sqrt{2}$, which forces $d_\Box = 2$, which (by Proposition 6.5) forces $N = 3$. The WZW Brannen formula encodes both the Koide quotient and the generation number through WZW data of a single model.

2.5 The $J_3(\mathbb{O})$ spectral theorem

Theorem 2.4 ($J_3(\mathbb{O})$ spectral theorem). *Let $X \in J_3(\mathbb{O})$ be a democratic element:*

$$X = \begin{pmatrix} \psi & \bar{a}_3 & a_2 \\ a_3 & \psi & \bar{a}_1 \\ \bar{a}_2 & a_1 & \psi \end{pmatrix}, \quad |a_1| = |a_2| = |a_3| = r, \tag{10}$$

with $a_k = r\,u_k$ for unit imaginary octonions u_k. Let $V = \mathrm{span}(u_1, u_2, u_3) \in \mathrm{Gr}(3, \mathrm{Im}\,\mathbb{O})$. Then:

(a) The characteristic polynomial reduces to $s^3 - 3s + 2\varphi(V) = 0$, $s = (\lambda - \psi)/r$.

(b) The eigenvalues are $\lambda_k = \psi + 2r\cos(\delta + 2\pi k/3)$ where $\cos(3\delta) = -\varphi(V)$.

(c) Under Koide normalization $r = \psi/\sqrt{2}$: $\lambda_k = \psi(1 + \sqrt{2}\cos(\delta + 2\pi k/3))$, identically the Brannen parametrization.

Proof. Step 1. Using (4) with $x_i = \psi$, $|a_k| = r$, $\mathrm{Re}(a_1a_2a_3) = -r^3\varphi(V)$: $\det(X) = \psi^3 - 3\psi r^2 - 2r^3\varphi(V)$. The trace is 3ψ and $S_2 = 3\psi^2 - 3r^2$. Under $\lambda = \psi + rs$, the characteristic equation reduces to $s^3 - 3s + 2\varphi(V) = 0$.

Step 2. Substituting $s = 2\cos\alpha$: $2\cos(3\alpha) + 2\varphi(V) = 0$, so $\cos(3\alpha) = -\varphi(V) \equiv \cos(3\delta)$.

Step 3. Setting $r = \psi/\sqrt{2}$ gives $\lambda_k = \psi(1 + \sqrt{2}\cos(\delta + 2\pi k/3))$. $\Box$

Remark 2.5 (Interpretation). The Brannen parametrization is the exact eigenvalue structure of a democratic $J_3(\mathbb{O})$ element. The phase δ is determined by $\cos(3\delta) = -\varphi(V)$. Positivity requires $\delta < \pi/12$; for $\delta = 2/9$, $\varphi(V) = -\cos(2/3) \approx -0.786 < -1/\sqrt{2}$, confirming the physical generation 3-plane lies in the anti-associative region.

Corollary 2.6. *If the lepton mass matrix corresponds to a democratic $J_3(\mathbb{O})$ element with Koide normalization, then the mass ratios are determined by a single geometric datum: $\varphi(V)$, via $\cos(3\delta) = -\varphi(V)$.*

Remark 2.7 (Non-associativity as mass splitting origin). For associative Jordan algebras $J_3(\mathbb{R})$, $J_3(\mathbb{C})$, $J_3(\mathbb{H})$, the democratic case gives degenerate eigenvalues—no mass hierarchy. Only for $J_3(\mathbb{O})$ does non-associativity introduce the independent invariant $\varphi(u_1, u_2, u_3)$ that becomes δ.

Remark 2.8 (Relation to the Todorov–Dubois-Violette framework). The automorphism group of $J_3(\mathbb{O})$ is the exceptional Lie group F_4. By the Borel–de Siebenthal classification, F_4 has exactly two maximal connected subgroups of maximal rank [28, 29]:

$$F_4 \supset \frac{\mathrm{SU}(3)_c \times \mathrm{SU}(3)_F}{\mathbb{Z}_3}\,, \qquad F_4 \supset \mathrm{Spin}(9)\,. \tag{11}$$

Their intersection in F_4 is precisely the Standard Model gauge group $S(\mathrm{U}(2) \times \mathrm{U}(3))$ [27]. The $\mathrm{SU}(3)_F$ factor in (11) is the family gauge symmetry of Sumino [5]: it is not an ad hoc choice but the *unique* flavour symmetry consistent with $F_4 = \mathrm{Aut}(J_3(\mathbb{O}))$ and the lepton–quark splitting. The $\mathbb{Z}_3$ quotient identifies the centre of $\mathrm{SU}(3)_c$ with the centre of $\mathrm{SU}(3)_F$; physically, this means the colour $\mathbb{Z}_3$ coincides with the family $\mathbb{Z}_3$, providing a structural reason why the effective Chern–Simons level $k_{\text{eff}} = N_{\text{color}} = 3$ in the Sumino mechanism (§14.8). The chain $\mathrm{SU}(3)_F \subset G_2 \subset F_4$ connects the G_2 3-form φ (controlling δ via Theorem 2.4) to the full automorphism structure of $J_3(\mathbb{O})$.

Proposition 2.9 (Colour projection and the lepton–quark interference)**.** *Under the embedding* $\mathrm{SU}(3)_c \subset G_2$ *with* $\mathrm{Im}(\mathbb{O}) = \mathbf{1} \oplus \mathbf{3} \oplus \bar{\mathbf{3}}$ *(singulet e_7, triplet $\{e_1, e_2, e_3\}$), the democratic element $X \in J_3(\mathbb{O})$ decomposes as $X \mapsto (B, A, A^\dagger)$ where:*

$$B = \psi I + iY\,, \quad Y_{jk} = -r\cos\alpha_\ell\,\varepsilon_{jk\ell}\,, \tag{12}$$

is a Hermitian matrix with purely imaginary *off-diagonals (Y real antisymmetric), and*

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} r\sin\alpha_1\,\mathbf{n}_1 & r\sin\alpha_2\,\mathbf{n}_2 & r\sin\alpha_3\,\mathbf{n}_3 \end{bmatrix} \in M_{3\times 3}(\mathbb{C})\,, \tag{13}$$

with $\mathbf{n}_k \in \mathbb{C}^3$ unit vectors in the colour space. The cubic invariant satisfies

$$\det(X) = \det(B) + 2\,\mathrm{Re}\det(A) - \mathrm{Tr}(ABA^\dagger)\,. \tag{14}$$

Proof. Each off-diagonal octonion decomposes as $a_k = z_k \oplus q_k$ under $\mathbb{O} = \mathbb{C} \oplus \mathbb{C}^3$, with $z_k = ir\cos\alpha_k$ (purely imaginary) and $q_k = r\sin\alpha_k\,\mathbf{n}_k$. The matrix B collects the diagonal entries ψ and the $\mathbb{C}$-components z_k; the matrix A collects the $\mathbb{C}^3$-components q_k. The identity (14) follows from the octonionic multiplication rule $\mathrm{Re}(a_1a_2a_3) = \mathrm{Re}(z_1z_2z_3) - \mathrm{Re}(z_1\mathbf{q}_2^\dagger\mathbf{q}_3 + \mathrm{cyc}) + \mathrm{Re}\det[\mathbf{q}_1, \mathbf{q}_2, \mathbf{q}_3]$, verified computationally. $\square$

Theorem 2.10 (Koide phase as lepton–quark interference)**.** *The colour-singlet projection B has eigenvalues $\{\psi, \psi + \Delta, \psi - \Delta\}$ with $\Delta = r\sqrt{\sum_k \cos^2\alpha_k}$, giving a Brannen phase*

$\delta_B = \pi/6$ *(independent of* α_k*). Since* $\pi/6 > \pi/12$*, the projection* B *alone produces a* negative *mass eigenvalue.*

The physical Brannen phase $\delta = 2/9$ *of the full element* X *arises from the interference between* $\det(B)$*,* $\det(A)$*, and* $\mathrm{Tr}(ABA^\dagger)$ *in* (14)*. Specifically,* $\delta \neq \delta_B$ *requires* $A \neq 0$*: the off-diagonal octonionic components (corresponding to quarks in the trinification decomposition) must be nonzero for the observed phase to arise.*

Proof. The matrix $B = \psi I + iY$ with Y real antisymmetric has eigenvalues $\{\psi, \psi \pm \|Y\|\}$ (since 3×3 real antisymmetric matrices have eigenvalues $\{0, \pm i\|Y\|\}$, and iY is Hermitian). In the Brannen parametrization, one eigenvalue $= \psi$ forces $\cos(\delta_B + 2\pi k_0/3) = 0$, giving $\delta_B = \pi/6$ (the unique value in $(0, \pi/3)$). Since $\pi/6 \approx 0.524 > \pi/12 \approx 0.262$, the minimum $\theta_k < 0$: verified numerically ($\theta_1 = -0.225$).

For $A = 0$ ($\alpha_k = 0$): $X = B$, so $\delta = \pi/6$. For $A \neq 0$: the interference terms in (14) modify the eigenvalue structure of X relative to B, shifting δ from $\pi/6$ toward $2/9$. □

Remark 2.11 (Physical interpretation: $\delta = 2/9$ as a unification signature). Theorem 2.10 reveals that the Koide formula is not an intrinsic property of the lepton sector. In isolation ($A = 0$), the lepton mass matrix B has $\delta_B = \pi/6$, which gives a negative mass—an unphysical spectrum. The physical value $\delta = 2/9$ *requires* the simultaneous existence of coloured fermions ($A \neq 0$). The Brannen phase is therefore an *emergent* consequence of lepton–quark unification in $J_3(\mathbb{O})$, not a standalone lepton phenomenon.

Moreover, $\delta = 2/9$ requires $u_1 \neq u_2 \neq u_3$ (since $\varphi(u, u, u) = 0$ for identical vectors). These *same* distinct octonionic directions generate $V_{\mathrm{CKM}} \neq \mathbf{1}$ (Remark 12.5). The Koide phase $\delta = 2/9$ and the nontrivial CKM are therefore *inseparable consequences* of the same geometric structure: the orientation of the generation 3-plane $V = \mathrm{span}(u_1, u_2, u_3)$ in $\mathrm{Im}(\mathbb{O})$.

2.6 The WZW number

Definition 2.12 (WZW number)**.** For a representation R of $\mathrm{SU}(N)_k$, define

$$z_R = \sqrt{d_R} \cdot e^{ih_R}, \tag{15}$$

where d_R is the quantum dimension and $h_R = C_2(R)/(k + h^\vee)$ the conformal dimension. For □ of $\mathrm{SU}(3)_3$: $z_\square = \sqrt{2}\, e^{i \cdot 2/9}$.

Theorem 2.13 (Circulant mass formula)**.** *The WZW Brannen formula* (9) *is equivalent to*

$$\frac{\sqrt{M}}{\mu} = I + \frac{z}{2} P + \frac{\bar{z}}{2} P^\dagger, \tag{16}$$

where P *is the* 3×3 *cyclic permutation matrix* $P_{ij} = \delta_{i, j+1 \bmod 3}$ *and* $z = z_\square$*.*

Proof. The eigenvalues of P are $\omega^k = e^{2\pi i k/3}$. Writing $z = |z| e^{i\delta}$: $\sqrt{m_k}/\mu = 1 + \mathrm{Re}(z\omega^k) = 1 + |z| \cos(\delta + 2\pi k/3)$. With $|z| = \sqrt{2}$ and $\delta = h_\square$, this is the Brannen form. The circulant structure makes $S_3 \to \mathbb{Z}_3$ breaking manifest. □

Proposition 2.14 (Cube identity)**.** $z_\square^3 = d_\square^{3/2}\, e^{iQ}$*. Equivalently,* $|z_\square^3| = 2\sqrt{2}$ *and* $\arg(z_\square^3) = 3h_\square = 2/3 = Q$*.*

Proof. $z^3 = (\sqrt{d})^3 e^{3ih} = d^{3/2}\, e^{3ih}$. Since $3h_\square = 2/3 = Q$, $\arg(z^3) = Q$. □

Remark 2.15 (Self-consistency reformulation). The cube identity transforms $\delta = h_\square$ into $\arg(z^3) = Q$, replacing an independent parameter identification with an internal consistency constraint of the WZW data.

Remark 2.16 (Connection to $J_3(\mathbb{O})$). In the democratic basis, $(\sqrt{M})_{01} = (\mu/\sqrt{2})\, e^{i\delta}$. The WZW number encodes the off-diagonal flavon phase: $\arg(z_\square) = \delta = \arg(\sqrt{M})_{01} = \arg(\Phi_{01})$ (see §14.7).

3 The Hessian Ratio $2/9$

3.1 Setup

Let $\mathbb{R}^6 \subset \mathbb{R}^7$ be the subspace orthogonal to e_7. For an oriented 3-plane $W \in \mathrm{Gr}(3, \mathbb{R}^6)$ with frame (v_1, v_2, v_3), define [16]

$$f(W) = \frac{\varphi(v_1, v_2, v_3)}{\mathrm{vol}(v_1, v_2, v_3)}, \quad \mathrm{vol} = \sqrt{\det G}, \quad G_{ij} = \langle v_i, v_j \rangle. \tag{17}$$

The democratic point $V_0 = \mathrm{span}(e_1, e_2, e_3)$ has $f(V_0) = \varphi(e_1, e_2, e_3) = 1 \equiv \varphi_0$.

3.2 Perturbation expansion

The tangent space $T_{V_0}\mathrm{Gr}(3, \mathbb{R}^6) \cong \mathrm{Hom}(V_0, V_0^\perp) \cong M_3(\mathbb{R})$ parametrizes deformations $v_i(\varepsilon) = w_i + \varepsilon \sum_k A_{ik} u_k$, where $w_i = e_i$, $u_k = e_{k+3}$.

Lemma 3.1 (Levi-Civita). *At V_0: (a) $\varphi(w_i, w_j, u_k) = 0$ for all i, j, k; (b) $\varphi(w_k, u_a, u_b) = -\varphi_0\, \varepsilon_{kab}$.*

Proof. Since $\varphi|_{\mathbb{R}^6} = \mathrm{Re}(\Omega)$ with $\Omega = dz_1 \wedge dz_2 \wedge dz_3$, only terms with an even number of u-type indices survive. Part (a): one u-index, so zero. Part (b): direct evaluation against (5). Both verified computationally for all 27 index combinations. $\square$

Lemma 3.2 (Gram matrix). *$G_{ij}(\varepsilon) = \delta_{ij} + \varepsilon^2 (AA^T)_{ij}$, so $\mathrm{vol}(\varepsilon) = 1 + \frac{\varepsilon^2}{2}\|A\|^2 + O(\varepsilon^4)$.*

Lemma 3.3 (Numerator). *$\varphi(v_1(\varepsilon), v_2(\varepsilon), v_3(\varepsilon)) = \varphi_0 + \varepsilon^2 N_2(A) + O(\varepsilon^3)$ with*

$$N_2(A) = \frac{\varphi_0}{2}\big(\mathrm{Tr}(A^2) - (\mathrm{Tr}\, A)^2\big). \tag{18}$$

Proof. The $O(\varepsilon)$ terms vanish by Lemma 3.1(a). The $O(\varepsilon^2)$ terms collect contributions where two frame vectors are perturbed. By Lemma 3.1(b) and $\sum_k \varepsilon_{kij}\varepsilon_{kab} = \delta_{ia}\delta_{jb} - \delta_{ib}\delta_{ja}$, one obtains (18). $\square$

3.3 The Hessian formula

Theorem 3.4 (Hessian). *The Hessian of $f = \varphi/\mathrm{vol}$ on $\mathrm{Gr}(3, \mathbb{R}^6)$ at V_0 is*

$$H_f(A) = -\varphi_0\big((\mathrm{Tr}\, A)^2 + 2\|A_{\mathrm{anti}}\|^2\big), \tag{19}$$

where $A_{\mathrm{anti}} = \frac{1}{2}(A - A^T)$.

Proof. Combining Lemmas 3.2–3.3: $f(\varepsilon) = \varphi_0 + \varepsilon^2(N_2 - \varphi_0\|A\|^2/2) + O(\varepsilon^4)$. Decomposing $A = S + \Lambda$ into symmetric and antisymmetric parts: $\mathrm{Tr}(A^2) = \|S\|^2 - \|\Lambda\|^2$ and $\mathrm{Tr}(AA^T) = \|S\|^2 + \|\Lambda\|^2$. Hence $\mathrm{Tr}(A^2) - \mathrm{Tr}(AA^T) = -2\|\Lambda\|^2$, giving (19). $\square$

Corollary 3.5 (Eigenvalue decomposition)**.** *Under* SO(3), $M_3(\mathbb{R}) = \mathrm{Sym}^2_0(\mathbb{R}^3) \oplus \Lambda^2(\mathbb{R}^3) \oplus \mathbb{R} \cdot I$ *with:*

Subspace	*dim*	*Eigenvalue*	*Interpretation*
$\mathrm{Sym}^2_0(\mathbb{R}^3)$	*5*	0	*SO(3) orbit (flat)*
$\Lambda^2(\mathbb{R}^3)$	*3*	$-2\varphi_0$	*mass splitting*
$\mathbb{R} \cdot I$	*1*	$-3\varphi_0$	*trace/scale*

3.4 The geometric ratio

Theorem 3.6 (Main geometric result)**.** *The ratio of the mass-splitting eigenvalue to the normalized Laplacian is*

$$\delta_{\mathrm{geom}} = \frac{|\lambda_{\Lambda^2}|}{|\Delta f/\varphi_0|} = \frac{2}{9}. \tag{20}$$

Proof. From Corollary 3.5: $\Delta f/\varphi_0 = 5 \times 0 + 3 \times (-2) + 1 \times (-3) = -9$. Therefore $\delta_{\mathrm{geom}} = 2/9$. ☐

Observation 3.7 (Casimir coincidence)**.** The geometric ratio 2/9 coincides with $C_2(\bar{3})/C_2(\mathrm{Sym}^3 3) = (4/3)/6 = 2/9$. More generally, $C_2(\mathrm{fund}_N)/C_2(\mathrm{Sym}^N N) = (N+1)/(2N^2)$, which equals 2/9 only for $N = 3$.

Remark 3.8. The Hessian trace on Λ^2 satisfies $|\mathrm{Tr}(H_f|_{\Lambda^2})|/\varphi_0 = 6 = C_2(\mathrm{Sym}^3 3)$. The factor of 2 in $\lambda_{\Lambda^2} = -2\varphi_0$ arises from the antisymmetrizer $\delta_{ia}\delta_{jb} - \delta_{ib}\delta_{ja}$. This also appears in the Casimir formula via $C_2(\mathrm{Sym}^N N) = 2 \dim \Lambda^2(\mathbb{R}^N)$ (Proposition 6.3), providing a suggestive—but not rigorously proven—link.

Remark 3.9. The decomposition $M_3(\mathbb{R}) = \mathrm{Sym}^2_0 \oplus \Lambda^2 \oplus \mathbb{R} \cdot I$ is an SO(3) decomposition. Relating the SO(3) Hessian eigenvalues to SU(3) Casimir values requires additional structure not provided here.

Confrontation with experiment. Using PDG 2024 pole masses for m_e and m_μ [4], and the HFLAV 2025 world average $m_\tau = 1776.96 \pm 0.09$ MeV [23] (which includes the Belle II measurement [24]):

$$\delta_{\mathrm{exp}} = 0.22223, \quad \delta_{\mathrm{pred}} = \frac{2}{9} = 0.22222\ldots \tag{21}$$

The deviation $|\Delta\delta|/\delta = 0.001\%$ is well within 1σ of the m_τ uncertainty. Setting $\delta = 2/9$ and fixing μ from m_μ:

Observable	Prediction ($\delta = 2/9$)	Data (HFLAV 2025)	Deviation
δ	0.22222…	0.22223	0.001%
m_τ	1776.97 MeV	1776.96 ± 0.09 MeV	0.08σ
m_e	0.510994 MeV	0.510999 MeV	0.001%

The m_τ prediction agrees at 0.08σ with the HFLAV average, improved from 0.9σ with the PDG 2024 value (1776.86 ± 0.12 MeV). The trend of improved measurements has moved *toward* the prediction.

4 Conformal Field Theory Structure

4.1 The Master Identity

Theorem 4.1 (Master Identity)**.** *For* SU(N) *at level* $k = N$*,*

$$C_2(\mathrm{Sym}^N\Box) = k + h^\vee \iff N = 3. \tag{22}$$

Proof. $C_2(\mathrm{Sym}^N\Box) = N(N-1)$ by direct computation. Setting $k = N$: $k + h^\vee = 2N$. The equation $N(N-1) = 2N$ reduces to $N = 3$. □

Corollary 4.2 (Universal Casimir–conformal identity)**.** *At* $N = 3$*, for every integrable representation* R *of* $\mathrm{SU}(3)_3$*:*

$$\frac{C_2(R)}{C_2(\mathrm{Sym}^3 3)} = \frac{C_2(R)}{k + h^\vee} = h(R). \tag{23}$$

R	*Dynkin*	$C_2(R)$	$C_2(R)/6$	$h(R)$
$\Box$	$(1,0)$	$4/3$	$2/9$	$2/9$
$\bar{\Box}$	$(0,1)$	$4/3$	$2/9$	$2/9$
adj	$(1,1)$	3	$1/2$	$1/2$
$\mathrm{Sym}^2\Box$	$(2,0)$	$10/3$	$5/9$	$5/9$
$\mathrm{Sym}^3\Box$	$(3,0)$	6	1	1

4.2 Simple current structure

Proposition 4.3 (Simple current)**.** $\mathrm{Sym}^3(\Box) = (3,0)$ *of* $\mathrm{SU}(3)_3$ *is a* $\mathbb{Z}_3$ *simple current:* $d_{(3,0)} = 1$*,* $h_{(3,0)} = 1$*, generating the* $\mathbb{Z}_3$ *center via fusion:* $(3,0) \otimes (3,0) = (0,3)$*,* $(3,0) \otimes (0,3) = (0,0)$*.*

Proof. The quantum dimension $d_{(3,0)} = S_{(3,0),(0,0)}/S_{(0,0),(0,0)} = 1$ from the Kac–Peterson S-matrix [13]. Since $d = 1$, it is a simple current. Fusion verified via the Verlinde formula. □

Proposition 4.4 (Perturbative blindness)**.** *The simple current deformation by* $(3,0)$ *has* β*-function* $\beta_n = 0$ *unless* $n \equiv 0 \pmod 3$*, with leading correction at* $O(\lambda^3)$*. The deformation acts non-perturbatively on local correlators, explaining the geometric Blindness Theorem 7.1 from the CFT perspective.*

Remark 4.5 (Democratic deformation). The trilinear decomposition $\Box^{\otimes 3} = \mathrm{Sym}^3(\Box) \oplus \mathbf{8} \oplus \mathbf{8} \oplus \mathbf{1}$ shows why Sym^3 is blind to δ: its Clebsch–Gordan coefficients are generation-democratic. Mass splitting arises from the adjoint $\mathbf{8}$ channel ($h = 1/2$, relevant), which discriminates between generations via the d-symbol.

4.3 Q decomposition and OPE structure

Proposition 4.6 (Q decomposition)**.** *The Koide quotient decomposes as*

$$Q = \frac{1}{N} + \frac{d_\Box}{2N}, \tag{24}$$

where $1/N$ *is the democratic contribution (equal masses) and* $d_\Box/(2N)$ *the splitting contribution. For* $N = 3$*:* $Q = 1/3 + 1/3 = 2/3$*.*

Proof. From Theorem 2.2: $Q = 1/3 + A^2/6$ with $A^2 = d_\Box$. For general N at $k = N$: the democratic term is $1/N$ and the splitting term involves $d_\Box = 1/\sin(\pi/(2N))$. $\Box$

Proposition 4.7 (OPE deficit). *The OPE deficit $\Delta h_{\text{OPE}} = h_{\text{Sym}^2\Box} - 2h_\Box$ satisfies*

$$\frac{d_\Box}{2N} - \Delta h_{\text{OPE}} = h_\Box \iff N = 3. \tag{25}$$

Proof. For $\text{SU}(N)_N$: $C_2(\text{Sym}^2) = (N+2)(N-1)/N$, so $h_{\text{Sym}^2} = (N+2)(N-1)/(2N^2)$. Then $\Delta h = (N-1)/(2N^2)$. The condition becomes $1/(2N\sin(\pi/(2N))) - (N-1)/(2N^2) = (N^2-1)/(4N^2)$. For $N = 3$: $\Delta h = 1/9$; $d_\Box/(2N) = 1/3$; $1/3 - 1/9 = 2/9 = h_\Box$. Verified numerically as unique for $N = 2, \ldots, 20$. $\Box$

Remark 4.8 (OPE interpretation). The deficit $\Delta h = 1/9$ measures the anomalous dimension of the leading $\Box \times \Box$ fusion channel. That $h_\Box = d_\Box/(2N) - \Delta h$ provides a 13th $N = 3$ condition.

Proposition 4.9 (Dimensional coincidence). *Define $\delta_{\text{OPE}}(N) = d_\Box(\text{SU}(N)_N)/(2N) - (h_{\text{Sym}^2\Box} - 2h_\Box)$. Then $\delta_{\text{OPE}}(N) = h_\Box(\text{SU}(N)_N)$ if and only if $N = 3$.*

4.4 Crossing–Casimir coincidence

Consider the four-point function $\langle \Box\,\Box\,\bar{\Box}\,\bar{\Box} \rangle$ in $\text{SU}(3)_3$. The s-channel conformal blocks from $\Box \otimes \Box = \bar{\Box} \oplus \text{Sym}^2(\Box)$ are:

$$F_{\bar{\Box}}(z) \sim z^{-2/9}(1 + \cdots), \quad F_{\text{Sym}^2}(z) \sim z^{1/9}(1 + \cdots). \tag{26}$$

The exponent difference $h_{\text{Sym}^2} - h_{\bar{\Box}} = 1/3$ encodes mass-splitting information. At the $\mathbb{Z}_3$-symmetric crossing point $z = \omega = e^{2\pi i/3}$, define

$$\delta_X \equiv (h_{\text{Sym}^2} - h_\Box) \times \frac{2}{N}. \tag{27}$$

Theorem 4.10 (Crossing–Casimir coincidence). *The three quantities*

$$\delta_C = \frac{C_2(\Box)}{C_2(\text{Sym}^N\Box)} = \frac{N+1}{2N^2}, \tag{28}$$

$$\delta_X = \frac{(N-1)(N+3)}{2N^3}, \tag{29}$$

$$h(\Box) = \frac{N^2-1}{4N^2} \tag{30}$$

all equal $2/9$ simultaneously if and only if $N = 3$.

Proof. Pairwise equalities: $\delta_C = h(\Box)$: $(N+1)/(2N^2) = (N^2-1)/(4N^2)$ gives $N - 1 = 2$, so $N = 3$. $\delta_C = \delta_X$: yields $N = 3$. $\delta_X = h(\Box)$: $(N-3)(N+2) = 0$, giving $N = 3$. Two independent quadratics, each uniquely selecting $N = 3$. $\Box$

4.5 Knizhnik–Zamolodchikov exponent

The KZ equation [17] governs holomorphic dependence of WZW correlators:

$$\partial_{z_i}\Psi = \frac{1}{k+h^\vee}\sum_{j\neq i}\frac{\Omega_{ij}}{z_i - z_j}\Psi, \tag{31}$$

where $\Omega_{ij} = \sum_a T_i^a \otimes T_j^a$ is the Casimir exchange operator.

Theorem 4.11 (KZ singlet exponent). *The KZ equation for $\square \times \bar{\square}$ has local exponents $\alpha_1 = -C_2(\square)/(k+h^\vee) = -h_\square$ and $\alpha_{\text{adj}} = 1/(2N(k+N))$. For $\mathrm{SU}(3)_3$: $\alpha_1 = -2/9$ and $\alpha_{\text{adj}} = 1/36$.*

Proof. The Casimir exchange on $\square \otimes \bar{\square} = \mathbf{1} \oplus \text{adj}$ has eigenvalues $\Omega|_{\mathbf{1}} = -C_2(\square)$ and $\Omega|_{\text{adj}} = 1/(2N)$. Multiplying by $\kappa = 1/(k+h^\vee)$ gives the result. □

Corollary 4.12. *The singlet-channel propagator behaves as $G_1(z,w) \propto (z-w)^{-h_\square}$. Writing $z - w = re^{i\phi}$: $G_1 \propto r^{-h_\square}e^{-ih_\square\phi}$.*

Remark 4.13. If the compactification geometry arranges $\phi = 1$ radian between adjacent generation fixed points, the propagator phase is $-h_\square = -2/9$, matching the Brannen angle. The conjecture $\delta = h_\square$ translates into: $\arg(\Delta z_{\text{internal}}) = 1$ radian. On the $\mathbb{Z}_3$-symmetric sphere with $z_k = \omega^k$, one gets $\arg((1-\omega)^{-h_\square}) = \pi/27 \neq 2/9$, verifying that KZ cannot produce $\delta = h_\square$ on standard symmetric configurations (Kill #63).

4.6 KZ–circulant incompatibility

Proposition 4.14 (KZ–circulant obstruction). *The KZ equation determines the modulus of inter-generation correlators: $|G_1(z,w)| \propto |z-w|^{-h_\square}$, but is structurally incompatible with the circulant form* (16). *The KZ equation produces power-law decay, while the circulant requires a phase* $\arg(z_\square) = h_\square$ *in the permutation channel.*

Proof. The KZ propagator $G_1 \propto (z-w)^{-h_\square}$ determines $|(\sqrt{M})_{ij}| \propto r^{-h_\square}$ from Casimir exchange, while the phase $\delta = h_\square$ is conjectured to arise from C-field data (see Remark 14.3 for the scope of this identification). The two structures—power-law modulus from KZ and phase from compactification data—are complementary, not redundant. □

Remark 4.15 (Modulus/phase separation). This structural separation clarifies Kill #63: KZ governs the modulus, not the phase. The Brannen phase is the Yukawa coupling phase: $\delta = \arg(\sqrt{M})_{01}$; its identification with a C-field period in M-theory is a conjecture motivated by the diagonal-limit result (Proposition 14.1) and the Froggatt–Nielsen mechanism (§14.7), not a theorem.

Remark 4.16 (Refined conjecture). The conjecture $\delta = h_\square$ decomposes into:

1. **Modulus:** $|(\sqrt{M})_{ij}|/\mu = 1/\sqrt{2}$, i.e., $A = \sqrt{2} = \sqrt{d_\square}$. Equivalent to $Q = 2/3$ (Theorem 2.2). *Proven.*

2. **Phase:** $\arg(\sqrt{M})_{01} = h_\square = 2/9$. In the Froggatt–Nielsen framework (§14.7), $M \propto \Phi^2$ where Φ is the flavon. The identification $\delta = h_\square$ was the central conjecture (W), now conditionally derived (Theorem 12.7); in M-theory, it would correspond to a relation between the flavon phase and the C-field period $\int_{\Sigma_{01}} C_3$, but this link is conjectural (see Remark 14.3). *Conjectured; conditional motivation in* §14.7.

Observation 4.17 (KZ–circulant as mechanism constraint)**.** The KZ–circulant incompatibility constitutes a fourth structural obstruction: any mechanism deriving $\delta = h_\square$ must operate on the *phase* of the Yukawa coupling (compactification datum), not its modulus (KZ/dynamical datum).

5 The Hessian–WZW Bridge

Proposition 5.1 (Hessian–WZW Bridge)**.** *The geometric ratio* $\delta_{\rm geom} = |\lambda_{\Lambda^2}|/|\Delta f/\varphi_0| = 2/9$ *is rigorously computed from the Hessian of the* G_2 *3-form (Theorem 3.6). Writing the ratio formally as* $\delta_{\rm geom}(N) = 2/N^2$*—where the numerator* 2 *from the antisymmetrizer is valid for all* N *and the denominator* N^2 *tracks the Laplacian scaling—and comparing with* $h_\square = (N^2-1)/(4N^2)$*, the uniqueness condition*

$$\delta_{\rm geom}(N) = h_\square(\mathrm{SU}(N)_N) \iff N = 3 \tag{32}$$

is verified by direct computation.

Proof. The cross-ratios are:

$$\frac{|\lambda_{\Lambda^2}/\varphi_0|}{C_2(\square)} = \frac{4N}{N^2-1}, \qquad \frac{|\Delta f/\varphi_0|}{k+h^\vee} = \frac{N}{2}. \tag{33}$$

For $\delta_{\rm geom} = h_\square$: $4N/(N^2-1) = N/2$, giving $N^2 - 1 = 8$, i.e., $N = 3$. At $N = 3$, both cross-ratios equal $3/2$.

N	$\lvert\lambda\rvert/C_2$	$N/2$	Equal?	$\delta_{\rm geom}$	$h_\square$	Match?
2	2.667	1.000	×	0.5000	0.1875	×
3	1.500	1.500	✓	0.2222	0.2222	✓
4	1.067	2.000	×	0.1250	0.2344	×
5	0.833	2.500	×	0.0800	0.2400	×

□

Remark 5.2. The condition $4N/(N^2-1) = N/2$ requires $C_2(\square) \times N/2$ to match the antisymmetrizer coefficient 2. Geometrically: for $N = 3$, the Casimir of the fundamental times $N/2$ precisely matches the Hessian curvature.

Remark 5.3. The bridge condition $N^2 - 1 = 8$ is equivalent to $\dim \Lambda^2(\mathbb{R}^N) = N$ (Proposition 6.2), reflecting that Λ^2 has the same dimension as the fundamental only at $N = 3$.

Remark 5.4 (Absence of 2π). Both $\delta_{\rm geom}$ and $h_\square$ are ratios of dimensionless quantities—a curvature ratio and a Casimir ratio. Neither involves 2π. This is why the bridge works without normalization mismatches.

Proposition 5.5 (Monodromy–Casimir matching)**.** *In* $\mathrm{SU}(N)_N$ *WZW theory, the simple current monodromy charge* $Q_J(\square) = 1/N$ *satisfies*

$$\frac{2}{N} = \frac{C_2(\square)}{C_2(\mathrm{Sym}^2\square) - C_2(\square)} \iff N = 3. \tag{34}$$

Proof. The RHS equals $(N+1)/(N+3)$. Setting $2/N = (N+1)/(N+3)$: $N^2 - N - 6 = (N-3)(N+2) = 0$, giving $N = 3$. □

Remark 5.6. For $N = 3$: $2Q_J(\square) = 2/3 = Q$, connecting simple current monodromy to the Koide quotient—only at $N = 3$.

6 Generation Selection

Twenty distinct mathematical conditions select $N = 3$:

Theorem 6.1 (Generation selection)**.** *The following conditions each have a unique solution $N = 3$ among positive integers $N \geq 2$:*

1. $\dim \Lambda^2(\mathbb{R}^N) = N$ *(Proposition 6.2);*
2. $h(\mathrm{Sym}^N\square) = 1$ *in* $\mathrm{SU}(N)_N$ *(marginality; Theorem 6.4);*
3. G_2 *exists in dimension* $2N + 1$ *(*$G_2 \subset \mathrm{SO}(7)$*, unique for* $N = 3$*);*
4. $C_2(\mathrm{Sym}^N\square) = k + h^\vee$ *(Master Identity; Theorem 4.1);*
5. $\delta_C = h(\square)$ *(Casimir = conformal dim; Theorem 4.10);*
6. $\delta_C = \delta_X$ *(Casimir = crossing phase; Theorem 4.10);*
7. $C_2(\mathrm{fund}_N)/C_2(\mathrm{Sym}^N N) = 2/9$ *(uniquely for* $N = 3$*; Observation 3.7);*
8. $d_\square(\mathrm{SU}(N)_N) \in \mathbb{Q}$ *(quantum dimension rational; Proposition 6.5);*
9. $|\lambda_{\Lambda^2}|/\varphi_0 = d_\square$ *(Hessian eigenvalue = quantum dimension; Proposition 6.6);*
10. $\delta_{\mathrm{geom}} = h_\square$ *(Hessian–WZW Bridge; Proposition 5.1);*
11. $2Q_J(\square) = C_2(\square)/[C_2(\mathrm{Sym}^2\square) - C_2(\square)]$ *(monodromy–Casimir; Proposition 5.5);*
12. $e_2(\sigma^*) = h_\square$ *(alcove–conformal coincidence; Theorem 6.14);*
13. $d_\square/(2N) - \Delta h_{\mathrm{OPE}} = h_\square$ *(OPE–dimensional; Proposition 4.7);*
14. *OPE deficit selects* $N = 3$ *(Proposition 4.9);*
15. $\sigma_{(N-1)/N} = h_\square$ *(holonomy–conformal; Theorem 6.9);*
16. *Phase exclusion:* $\sigma_{1/3} = 1/9$ *fails (Proposition 6.10);*
17. *Cartan index* $j = N - 1$ *forced algebraically (Remark 6.11);*
18. T^c *self-consistency:* $c\,(h_\square - c/24) = h_\square$ *in* $\mathrm{SU}(N)_N$ *(Theorem 8.7; selects* $N \in \{2, 3\}$*, with* $N = 2$ *excluded by mass positivity);*
19. $h_\square = \mathrm{cs}_{\mathrm{geom}} \times C_2(\square)/h^\vee$ *(topological factorization; Proposition 6.7).*
20. $F_4 = \mathrm{Aut}(J_3(\mathbb{O}))$ *admits* $\mathrm{SU}(3) \times \mathrm{SU}(3)/\mathbb{Z}_3$ *as maximal connected subgroup (*F_4 *existence; Killing–Cartan classification, Remark 2.8).*

Proposition 6.2. $\dim \Lambda^2(\mathbb{R}^N) = \binom{N}{2} = N$ *if and only if* $N = 3$.

Proof. $N(N-1)/2 = N$ implies $N - 1 = 2$, hence $N = 3$. □

Proposition 6.3 (Structural identity)**.** *For all* $N \geq 2$*:* $C_2(\mathrm{Sym}^N N) = N(N-1) = 2\dim\Lambda^2(\mathbb{R}^N)$.

Proof. $C_2(\mathrm{Sym}^k(N)) = k(N+k)(N-1)/(2N)$ [15]. At $k = N$: $C_2 = N(N-1)$. □

Theorem 6.4 (Marginality). *In* $\mathrm{SU}(N)$ *at level* $k = N$, $h(\mathrm{Sym}^N\square) = (N-1)/2$. *Marginality* $h = 1$ *gives* $N = 3$ *uniquely.*

Proof. $h = C_2(\mathrm{Sym}^N\square)/(k+h^\vee) = N(N-1)/(2N) = (N-1)/2$. Setting $= 1$: $N = 3$. $\square$

Proposition 6.5 (Quantum rationality). $d_\square(\mathrm{SU}(N)_N) \in \mathbb{Q}$ *if and only if* $N = 3$ *(among* $N \geq 2$*), where* $d_\square = 2$.

Proof. $d_\square = 1/\sin(\pi/(2N))$. By Niven's theorem [18]: $\sin(\pi/(2N)) \in \mathbb{Q}$ requires $\sin(\pi/(2N)) = 1/2$, giving $N = 3$. $\square$

Proposition 6.6 (Hessian–quantum bridge). $|\lambda_{\Lambda^2}|/\varphi_0 = d_\square(\mathrm{SU}(N)_N)$ *if and only if* $N = 3$.

Proof. $|\lambda_{\Lambda^2}|/\varphi_0 = 2$. By Proposition 6.5, $d_\square = 2$ only at $N = 3$. $\square$

Proposition 6.7 (Topological Factorization). *Let* $\mathrm{cs}_{\mathrm{geom}} = \eta/2$ *be the geometric Chern–Simons invariant of the center* ω*-connection on* $L(N,1) = S^3/\mathbb{Z}_N$*, computed via the APS* η*-invariant. Then*

$$h_\square = \mathrm{cs}_{\mathrm{geom}} \times \frac{C_2(\square)}{h^\vee} \iff N = 3\,. \tag{35}$$

Proof. The η-invariant of the *Dirac operator coupled to the center gauge connection* ωI on $L(N,1)$ is $\eta_{\mathrm{Dirac}} = \sum_{j=1}^{N-1} \cot(\pi j/N)\sin(2\pi j/N)$. Using $\cot(x)\sin(2x) = 2\cos^2(x) = 1 + \cos(2x)$: $\eta_{\mathrm{Dirac}} = (N-1) + \sum_{j=1}^{N-1}\cos(2\pi j/N) = (N-1) + (-1) = N-2$. Therefore $\mathrm{cs}_{\mathrm{geom}} = (N-2)/2$. Numerically verified for $N = 2,\ldots,7$: $\eta_{\mathrm{Dirac}} = 0,1,2,3,4,5$.

Distinction: this $\eta_{\mathrm{Dirac}} = N-2$ is for the Dirac operator with a specific gauge connection. The η-invariant of the *signature operator* on $L(N,1)$ is a different quantity: $|\eta_{\mathrm{sign}}(L(N,1))| = (N-1)(N-2)/(3N)$ (Dedekind sum, sign depending on orientation convention), which also equals $2/9$ at $N = 3$. Both invariants select $N = 3$ but through distinct mechanisms.

With $\mathrm{cs}_{\mathrm{geom}} = (N-2)/2$ and $C_2(\square)/h^\vee = (N^2-1)/(2N^2)$: the product is $(N-2)(N^2-1)/(4N^2)$. Equality with $h_\square = (N^2-1)/(4N^2)$ requires $N-2 = 1$, hence $N = 3$. $\square$

Remark 6.8. This is the first $N = 3$ condition connecting a *geometric* topological invariant (cs of $L(N,1)$, computed via APS) to an *algebraic* representation-theoretic quantity ($C_2/h^\vee$). The previous eighteen conditions are purely algebraic, combinatorial, or transcendental.

6.1 Holonomy–conformal selection

Theorem 6.9 (Holonomy–conformal selection). *Let* A_{central} *be the central flat* $\mathrm{SU}(N)$ *connection on the lens space* $L(N,1) = S^3/\mathbb{Z}_N$*, with holonomy* $\mathrm{diag}(\omega,\omega^2,\ldots,\omega^{N-1})$ *where* $\omega = e^{2\pi i/N}$*. The holonomy parameters are* $\sigma_j = j/N$ *for* $j = 1,\ldots,N-1$*. Then*

$$\frac{\sigma_{N-1}}{N} = h_\square(\mathrm{SU}(N)_N) \iff N = 3. \tag{36}$$

Proof. $\sigma_{N-1}/N = (N-1)/N^2$. Setting equal to $h_\square = (N^2-1)/(4N^2)$: for $N \geq 2$, divide by $(N-1)/N^2$: $1 = (N+1)/4$, giving $N = 3$. At $N = 3$: $\sigma_2/3 = 2/9 = h_\square$. $\square$

Proposition 6.10 (Phase exclusion). *For* $\mathrm{SU}(3)_3$, $\sigma_{1/3} = 1/9$ *is excluded by: (1) algebraic:* $1/9 \neq 2/9 = h_\square$*; (2) empirical (Kill #68):* $\delta = 1/9$ *predicts* $m_\mu/m_e \approx 39.7$ *versus observed* 206.8 *(*$> 100\sigma$*).*

Remark 6.11. The selection of $j = N - 1$ (not $j = 1$) is algebraically forced by the holonomy–conformal identity, not empirically chosen.

Remark 6.12 (Holonomic derivation). Theorem 6.9 provides a conditional motivation for $\delta = 2/9$: if (H1) the relevant gauge connection is flat, (H2) the CS level is $k = N_{\text{gen}}$, (H3) the holonomy is central ($\mathbb{Z}_N$), and (H4) the Brannen phase equals a holonomy parameter divided by N, then $\delta = \sigma_{2/3} = 2/9$ is uniquely selected.

6.2 Alcove–conformal coincidence

Remark 6.13 (Weyl alcove geometry). The holonomy parameters $\sigma = (\sigma_1, \ldots, \sigma_{N-1})$ parametrize the Weyl alcove—the fundamental domain for the affine Weyl group. The $\mathbb{Z}_N$-symmetric centroid is $\sigma^* = (1/N, 2/N, \ldots, (N-1)/N)$.

Theorem 6.14 (Alcove–conformal coincidence)**.** *Let* $\sigma^* = (1/N, 2/N, \ldots, (N-1)/N)$ *be the* $\mathbb{Z}_N$*-symmetric centroid. The second elementary symmetric polynomial satisfies*

$$e_2(\sigma^*) = h_\square(\mathrm{SU}(N)_N) \iff N = 3. \tag{37}$$

Proof. $e_2(\sigma^*) = \sum_{i<j} ij/N^2$. Using $\sum_{i<j} ij = \frac{1}{2}[(\sum i)^2 - \sum i^2]$ with $\sum_{i=1}^{N-1} i = N(N-1)/2$ and $\sum_{i=1}^{N-1} i^2 = (N-1)N(2N-1)/6$:

$$e_2(\sigma^*) = \frac{(N-1)(3N^2 - 7N + 2)}{24N}.$$

Setting equal to $h_\square = (N-1)(N+1)/(4N^2)$ and dividing by $(N-1)$: cross-multiplying gives $3N^3 - 7N^2 - 4N - 6 = 0$, which factors as $(N-3)(3N^2+2N+2) = 0$. The quadratic has discriminant $4 - 24 = -20 < 0$, so $N = 3$ is the unique real solution. For $N = 3$: $e_2(1/3, 2/3) = 2/9 = h_\square$. ☐

Remark 6.15 (Three-way coincidence). At $N = 3$: $\sigma_2/3 = e_2(\sigma^*) = h_\square = 2/9$—a holonomy parameter, a symmetric function on the alcove, and a conformal dimension, all coinciding uniquely at $N = 3$.

6.3 Reduction theorem

Theorem 6.16 (Reduction of $N = 3$ conditions)**.** *Among integers* $N \geq 2$*, conditions (i) Master Identity, (ii) exact marginality, (iii)* $\dim \Lambda^2 = N$*, (iv) Casimir ratio* $= 2/9$*, (v) rational quantum dimension, (vi) Hessian–quantum bridge, (vii) Hessian–WZW bridge, (viii) monodromy–Casimir matching are all equivalent and unified by the single equation* $\sin(\pi/(2N)) = 1/(N-1)$*, with unique solution* $N = 3$*. The existence of* G_2 *provides the geometric context as a third, independent input.*

Proof. Conditions (i)–(iv), (vii)–(viii) are polynomial in N; all factor with root $N = 3$. Conditions (v)–(vi) are transcendental: $d_\square = 1/\sin(\pi/(2N))$, and Niven's theorem forces $N = 3$. The unified equation $\sin(\pi/(2N)) = 1/(N-1)$ connects both classes. ☐

6.4 Self-consistency loop

Proposition 6.17 (Self-consistency selects $N = 3$)**.** *Given* $Q = 2/3$ *(empirical) and the Sumino* $\mathrm{SU}(N)_F$ *family gauge symmetry with* $A^2 = d_\square$ *(WZW identification), the equation* $A^2(N) = d_\square(N)$ *has a unique solution* $N = 3$*.*

Proof. The Koide quotient in the generalized $\mathbb{Z}_N$ Brannen parametrization gives $Q = 1/N + A^2/(2N)$. For $Q = 2/3$: $A^2 = 2N(2/3 - 1/N) = 4N/3 - 2$. The quantum dimension is $d_\square(\mathrm{SU}(N)_N) = 1/\sin(\pi/(2N))$. Setting $4N/3 - 2 = 1/\sin(\pi/(2N))$: since the left side is linear in N while the right is transcendental, we verify numerically that equality holds only at $N = 3$, where $A^2 = 2 = 1/\sin(\pi/6) = d_\square$. The uniqueness follows from Niven's theorem: $d_\square \in \mathbb{Q}$ forces $\sin(\pi/(2N)) = 1/2$, hence $N = 3$. □

Remark 6.18 (Bootstrap does not select δ). The self-consistency loop $Q = 2/3 \to A^2 = d_\square \to N = 3 \to k_{\text{eff}} = 3$ uniquely determines the number of generations but is trivially closed for *any* δ once $N = 3$ is fixed. The Brannen phase is invisible to this argument: it selects the WZW model $\mathrm{SU}(3)_3$ but not the vacuum within it.

6.5 Chern–Simons Wilson loop identity

Observation 6.19 (CS Wilson loop reproduces Q)**.** In $\mathrm{SU}(3)_3$ Chern–Simons theory on T^2, quantized in the representation basis $\{|\lambda\rangle\}$ with S-matrix $S_{\lambda\alpha}$ diagonalizing the B-cycle holonomy, the fundamental Wilson loop expectation value in the $|\square\rangle$ state is

$$\langle\square|W_\square(B)|\square\rangle \;=\; \sum_\alpha |S_{\square,\alpha}|^2\,\chi_\square(\alpha) \;=\; \frac{d_\square}{N} \;=\; \frac{2}{3} \;=\; Q.$$

More generally, $\langle\lambda|W_\square|\lambda\rangle = d_\lambda/N$ for all states. The holonomy distribution in $|\square\rangle$ is *uniform*: $|S_{\square,\alpha}|^2 = 1/9$ for all nine non-adjoint flat connections, with $|S_{\square,\mathrm{adj}}|^2 = 0$. No particular holonomy value σ_0 is singled out (Kill #80).

Remark 6.20 (Relation to $Q = 1/3 + d_\square/6$). The identity $\langle W_\square\rangle_\square = d_\square/N = 2/3 = Q$ is the CS restatement of Theorem 2.2: the Koide quotient equals the normalized quantum dimension. This provides no new dynamical information—the CS path integral averages uniformly over all flat connections in the $|\square\rangle$ sector, reproducing Q as a representation-theoretic identity rather than selecting a specific vacuum.

7 Structural Obstructions

7.1 Calibrated blindness

Theorem 7.1 (Blindness)**.** *On the Brannen orbit* (2) *with $\varepsilon = \psi$ (Koide normalization), the elementary symmetric polynomials satisfy:*

$$e_1(\delta) = \theta_1 + \theta_2 + \theta_3 = 3\psi, \tag{38}$$

$$e_2(\delta) = \sum_{j<k} \theta_j\theta_k = 3\psi^2 - \tfrac{3}{2}\varepsilon^2, \tag{39}$$

$$e_3(\delta) = \theta_1\theta_2\theta_3 = \psi^3 - \tfrac{3}{2}\psi\varepsilon^2 + \tfrac{\varepsilon^3}{\sqrt{2}}\cos(3\delta). \tag{40}$$

In particular, e_1 and e_2 are independent of δ, and e_3 depends on δ only through $\cos(3\delta)$.

Proof. Using $\sum_k c_k = 0$, $\sum_{j<k} c_j c_k = -3/4$, and $\prod_k c_k = \frac{1}{4}\cos(3\delta)$, where $c_k = \cos(\delta + 2\pi k/3)$. □

Corollary 7.2. *The calibration function* $f = \varphi/\mathrm{vol}$ *on* $\mathrm{Gr}(3, \mathbb{R}^6)$*, restricted to the diagonal torus, evaluates to* $f = \cos(\theta_1 + \theta_2 + \theta_3)$*, independent of* δ *on the Brannen orbit. Every functional depending only on* e_1 *and* e_2 *is blind to* δ*. The determinant* e_3 *is the unique* S_3*-invariant that sees* δ*.*

Remark 7.3 (Scope). The blindness is exact on the Brannen orbit. It does not preclude mechanisms coupling to deformations off the orbit—the full Hessian analysis of §3 operates on the tangent space to $\mathrm{Gr}(3, \mathbb{R}^6)$, extending beyond the orbit.

7.2 CP and transcendence obstructions

Proposition 7.4 (CP obstruction)**.** *Any* $\mathbb{Z}_3$*-symmetric, CP-conserving potential on the Brannen orbit has critical points satisfying either* $\sin(3\delta) = 0$ *or* $\cos(3\delta) \in \mathbb{Q}$*. Since* $\cos(2/3)$ *is transcendental,* $\delta = 2/9$ *cannot be a critical point.*

Proof. $\mathbb{Z}_3$ symmetry forces $V(\delta) = \sum_{n\geq 0} a_n \cos(3n\delta)$. Differentiating and factoring via Chebyshev: $V'(\delta) = -\sin(3\delta) \sum_{n\geq 1} 3n\, a_n U_{n-1}(\cos 3\delta)$. Roots require $\sin(3\delta) = 0$ or $\cos(3\delta)$ algebraic. □

Remark 7.5. This requires CP violation in the flavor sector—physically natural, since the SM already has CP violation through the CKM phase.

Proposition 7.6 (Transcendence)**.** $\cos(2/3)$ *is transcendental.*

Proof. The exponents $\alpha_1 = 2i/3$, $\alpha_2 = -2i/3$, $\alpha_3 = 0$ are distinct algebraic numbers. By the Lindemann–Weierstrass theorem, the exponentials e^{α_1}, e^{α_2}, $e^{\alpha_3} = 1$ are linearly independent over the algebraic closure $\overline{\mathbb{Q}}$. Now $\cos(2/3) = \frac{1}{2}(e^{2i/3} + e^{-2i/3})$. If $\cos(2/3)$ were algebraic, then $e^{2i/3} + e^{-2i/3} - 2\cos(2/3) \cdot 1 = 0$ would be a nontrivial $\overline{\mathbb{Q}}$-linear relation among e^{α_1}, e^{α_2}, e^{α_3}, contradicting Lindemann–Weierstrass. (Note: while the sum of two transcendental numbers can be algebraic in general, the $\overline{\mathbb{Q}}$-linear independence provided by Lindemann–Weierstrass excludes this possibility here.) □

Remark 7.7. Since RCFT data are algebraic (cyclotomic for WZW models [14]), no RCFT mechanism can produce $\cos(2/3)$ exactly. However, the Spectral Selection Theorem bypasses this: it identifies $\delta = h_\square$ directly as a conformal dimension (rational), with the transcendental $\cos(2/3)$ arising as a consequence.

7.3 Gauge boson blindness

Theorem 7.8 (Gauge boson blindness)**.** *The family gauge boson masses* $M_F^2(a, b) \propto (\sigma_a - \sigma_b)^2$ *are independent of* δ *on the Brannen* $\mathbb{Z}_3$ *orbit.*

Proof. On the $\mathbb{Z}_3$-symmetric orbit, the holonomy eigenvalues are $\sigma_k = \delta + 2\pi k/3$ for $k = 0, 1, 2$. The gauge boson masses are proportional to the squared differences:

$$\sigma_a - \sigma_b = \frac{2\pi(a-b)}{3},$$

which is independent of δ for all $a \neq b$. □

Remark 7.9. Combined with the calibrated Blindness Theorem 7.1, this establishes that δ is invisible to both the metric sector *and* the gauge sector at the perturbative level. Only $e_3 = \det(\sqrt{M}/\mu)$ sees δ, through its dependence on $\cos(3\delta)$. In particular, the one-loop Coleman–Weinberg potential from family gauge boson loops is δ-independent on the Brannen orbit.

7.4 Logarithmic transcendence evasion

Theorem 7.10 (Power sum exactness)**.** *On the Brannen orbit* $\theta_k = 1+\sqrt{2}\cos(\delta+2\pi k/3)$*:*

$$\sum_{k=0}^{2} \theta_k^4 = \frac{51}{2} + 6\sqrt{2}\cos(3\delta). \tag{41}$$

In particular, this expression contains no $\cos(6\delta)$ *harmonic.*

Proof. Write $c_k = \cos(\delta + 2\pi k/3)$. Expanding $(1+\sqrt{2}c_k)^4$ and using the $\mathbb{Z}_3$ sum rules $\sum c_k = 0$, $\sum c_k^2 = 3/2$, $\sum c_k^3 = (3/4)\cos(3\delta)$, and $\sum c_k^4 = 9/8$ (the last from $\cos^4 x = 3/8 + (1/2)\cos 2x + (1/8)\cos 4x$ with $\mathbb{Z}_3$ cancellation of the $\cos 2x$ and $\cos 4x$ sums):

$$\begin{aligned}\sum \theta_k^4 &= 3 + 4\sqrt{2}\cdot 0 + 12\cdot \tfrac{3}{2} + 8\sqrt{2}\cdot \tfrac{3}{4}\cos(3\delta) + 4\cdot \tfrac{9}{8} \\ &= 3 + 18 + 6\sqrt{2}\cos(3\delta) + \tfrac{9}{2} = \tfrac{51}{2} + 6\sqrt{2}\cos(3\delta).\end{aligned}$$ □

Corollary 7.11 (Logarithmic origin of $\cos(6\delta)$)**.** *In the Coleman–Weinberg effective potential* $V_{\mathrm{CW}}(\delta) \propto \sum_k \theta_k^4[\ln\theta_k^2 - C]$*, the* δ*-dependent part is*

$$V_{\mathrm{CW}}(\delta) = \left[a_3^{(\ln)} - 6\sqrt{2}\,C\right]\cos(3\delta) + a_6^{(\ln)}\cos(6\delta) + O(\cos(9\delta)), \tag{42}$$

where $a_3^{(\ln)} \approx 20.84$ *and* $a_6^{(\ln)} \approx -0.086$ *are the Fourier coefficients of* $\sum \theta_k^4 \ln\theta_k^2$*. The* $\cos(6\delta)$ *harmonic arises* exclusively *from the logarithm, with* $|a_3/a_6| \approx 240$*.*

Remark 7.12 (Transcendence evasion)*.* This result identifies the unique mechanism class evading the transcendence obstruction (Proposition 7.6). Algebraic potentials can only produce critical points with $\cos(3\delta) \in \overline{\mathbb{Q}}$, excluding $\cos(2/3)$. But loop-generated potentials with *logarithms* naturally produce transcendental critical points. The $\cos(6\delta)$ harmonic—required for a Branch 2 critical point at $\delta \neq 0, \pi/3$—can only arise from the transcendental part of the CW potential.

However, numerically $a_6^{(\ln)} < 0$, which yields a *maximum* at $\delta = 2/9$, not a minimum (Kill #78). The correct sign $a_6 > 0$ would require additional non-perturbative contributions to the effective potential.

7.5 Factored potential structure

Proposition 7.13 (Factored critical-point equation)**.** *For the two-harmonic effective potential*

$$V(\sigma,\theta) = -\kappa_1\cos(3\sigma+\theta) - \kappa_2\cos(6\sigma+2\theta), \tag{43}$$

the critical-point equation factors as

$$V'(\sigma) = \sin(3\sigma+\theta)\left[3\kappa_1 + 12\kappa_2\cos(3\sigma+\theta)\right] = 0, \tag{44}$$

yielding two branches:

- Branch 1 *(high symmetry):* $\sin(3\sigma+\theta) = 0$*, giving* $\sigma = (n\pi - \theta)/3$*;*
- Branch 2 *(symmetry-breaking):* $\cos(3\sigma+\theta) = -\kappa_1/(4\kappa_2)$*, giving*

$$\sigma = \frac{1}{3}\left[\arccos\left(-\kappa_1/(4\kappa_2)\right) - \theta\right]. \tag{45}$$

On Branch 2 at $\sigma = 2/9$: the ratio $\kappa_2/\kappa_1 = -1/(4\cos(3\sigma+\theta))$ connects to the G_2 3-form via $\cos(3\delta) = -\varphi(V)$ (Theorem 2.4).

Proof. Using $\sin(6\sigma+2\theta) = 2\sin(3\sigma+\theta)\cos(3\sigma+\theta)$, the derivative $V' = 3\kappa_1 \sin(3\sigma+\theta) + 6\kappa_2 \cdot 2\sin(3\sigma+\theta)\cos(3\sigma+\theta)$ factors as stated. ☐

Remark 7.14 (Local but not global minimum at $\delta = 2/9$). At $\theta = \pi$ (Witten flux quantization, $n = 0$) and Branch 2 with $\sigma = 2/9$, the two-harmonic potential $V = \cos(3\sigma) - r\cos(6\sigma)$ with $r = 1/(4\cos(2/3)) \approx 0.318$ satisfies

$$V''(2/9) = \frac{9\sin^2(2/3)}{\cos(2/3)} \approx 4.38 > 0 \quad \text{(local minimum)}.$$

However, the *global* minimum is at $\sigma = \pi/3$ (Branch 1), corresponding to $\delta = 0$ (no mass splitting), with $V(\pi/3) \approx -1.32$ versus $V(2/9) \approx 0.71$ (Kill #77). The Coleman–Weinberg potential, with $a_6^{(\ln)} < 0$, gives $V''(2/9) < 0$ at general θ, making $\delta = 2/9$ a maximum (Kill #78). For the physical vacuum to be at $\delta = 2/9$ requires either (i) additional contributions raising the Branch 1 energy above Branch 2, or (ii) a mechanism that directly identifies $\delta = h_\Box$ without potential minimization, as in Theorem 8.14.

7.6 Characterization of viable mechanisms

Observation 7.15 (Obstructions as mechanism characterization)**.** The six obstructions collectively identify the type of mechanism that can produce $\delta = 2/9$:

The **Blindness Theorem** eliminates metric/calibrated mechanisms on the Brannen orbit. The **gauge boson blindness** (Theorem 7.8) extends this to the gauge sector: perturbative gauge loops are δ-independent. The **CP obstruction** eliminates $\mathbb{Z}_3$-symmetric, CP-conserving potentials. The **transcendence obstruction** eliminates algebraic/RCFT identifications of $\cos(3\delta)$. The **logarithmic evasion** (Corollary 7.11) identifies loop potentials with transcendental functions as the unique class evading transcendence, but the monopole-instanton potential selects $\delta = 2/9$ only as a local minimum with the global minimum at $\delta = 0$ (Remark 7.14). The **KZ–circulant incompatibility** (Observation 4.17) eliminates dynamical (KZ) mechanisms for the phase.

These constraints point toward a mechanism that is (i) non-perturbative, (ii) CP-violating, (iii) identifies δ directly rather than through $\cos(3\delta)$, and (iv) depends on global compactification data, not local dynamics. The WZW identification $\delta = h_\Box = 2/9$ satisfies requirements (i)–(iii); requirement (iv) is consistent with the no-go local theorem (the resolution parameter is a global modulus). Whether the mechanism is topological (C-field period) or metric (resolution parameter fixing $\varphi(V)$) remains open (see Remark 14.3).

8 Spectral Selection Theorem

Theorem 8.1 (Spectral selection)**.** *Let R be an integrable representation of $\mathrm{SU}(3)_3$ with conformal dimension $h(R)$. Define the Brannen eigenvalues $\theta_k(h) = 1 + \sqrt{2}\cos(h(R) + 2\pi k/3)$. Then $\theta_k > 0$ for all k if and only if $h < \pi/12$. Among the six distinct conformal dimensions $\{0, 2/9, 1/2, 5/9, 8/9, 1\}$, the unique non-trivial value satisfying $h < \pi/12$ is*

$$h_\Box = \frac{2}{9} \approx 0.2222 < \frac{\pi}{12} \approx 0.2618. \tag{46}$$

Proof. The minimum eigenvalue occurs at $k = 1$: $\theta_{\min} = 1 + \sqrt{2}\cos(\delta + 2\pi/3)$. Setting $\theta_{\min} = 0$: $\delta_{\text{crit}} = \pi/12$. Since $2/9 < \pi/12$ (equivalent to $8/3 < \pi$, true) and $1/2 > \pi/12$ (equivalent to $6 > \pi$, true), the fundamental is the unique non-trivial survivor.

R	$h(R)$	$h < \pi/12$?
$\mathbf{1}$	0	✓ (trivial)
$\mathbf{3}, \bar{\mathbf{3}}$	2/9	✓
$\mathbf{8}$	1/2	×
$\mathbf{6}, \bar{\mathbf{6}}$	5/9	×
$\mathbf{15}, \overline{\mathbf{15}}$	8/9	×
$\mathbf{10}, \overline{\mathbf{10}}$	1	×

$\square$

Corollary 8.2 (Extended selection)**.** *The positivity constraint extends beyond the level-3 integrables: for* any *irreducible representation R of* SU(3)*, positive Brannen eigenvalues require the Casimir ratio $C_2(R)/C_2(\mathrm{Sym}^3\square) < \pi/12$, equivalently $C_2(R) < \pi/2 \approx 1.571$. Since $C_2(\square) = 4/3 < \pi/2 < 3 = C_2(\mathrm{adj})$, the fundamental is the unique non-trivial survivor among all representations. (For integrable representations, $C_2(R)/C_2(\mathrm{Sym}^3\square) = h(R)$ by Corollary 4.2; for non-integrables, $C_2(R)/6$ is a formal Casimir ratio, not a conformal dimension.)*

Remark 8.3 (Bypassing all obstructions). The identification $\delta = h(R)$ bypasses: (1) calibrated blindness (no calibrated 3-form used); (2) CP obstruction (no $\mathbb{Z}_3$-symmetric potential involved); (3) transcendence ($\delta = 2/9$ is rational; $\cos(2/3)$ appears only as consequence).

Remark 8.4 (The relation $3\delta = Q$). With $\delta = h_\square = 2/9$: $3\delta = 2/3 = Q$. More generally, $Nh_\square = C_2(\square)/2$ equals 2/3 uniquely at $N = 3$.

Proposition 8.5 (Power sum identity)**.** *The second power sum $p_2 = \sum_k s_k^2 = 6 = C_2(\mathrm{Sym}^3\square)$. These coincide because $N(N-1) = 2N$ iff $N = 3$.*

Remark 8.6 (Chern–Simons interpretation). In an SU(3) CS theory at level $k = 3$, the CS invariant of a flat connection in representation R equals $h(R)$ mod 1. The identification $\delta = \mathrm{CS}(A)$ for a flat connection in the fundamental gives $\delta = h_\square = 2/9$ directly, without passing through a potential $V(\cos 3\delta)$. Crucially, CS is non-perturbative, intrinsically CP-violating, and rational—exactly the three properties required.

8.1 Modular selection: the T^c identity

The Spectral Selection Theorem identifies $h_\square = 2/9$ through mass positivity. We now establish a second, independent selection mechanism from the modular structure of the WZW theory.

Theorem 8.7 (T^c spectral selection)**.** *Let $c = k\dim G/(k + h^\vee) = (N^2-1)/2$ be the central charge of $\mathrm{SU}(N)_N$. The equation*

$$(c-1)\,h = \frac{c^2}{24} \tag{47}$$

has a unique non-trivial solution $h = h_\square = 2/9$ *among the conformal dimensions of* $\mathrm{SU}(3)_3$. *The identity* (47) *holds for* $h = h_\square$ *of* $\mathrm{SU}(N)_N$ *if and only if* $N \in \{2, 3\}$*:*

$$(c-1)\,h_\square = \frac{c^2}{24} \iff N^4 - 13N^2 + 36 = (N^2-4)(N^2-9) = 0. \tag{48}$$

Proof. For $\mathrm{SU}(3)_3$: $c = 4$, and (47) reads $3h = 2/3$, uniquely solved by $h = 2/9$ among $\{0, 2/9, 1/2, 5/9, 8/9, 1\}$. For general N: substituting $c = (N^2-1)/2$ and $h_\square = (N^2-1)/(4N^2)$ into (47) gives $(N^2-3)(N^2-1)/(8N^2) = (N^2-1)^2/96$. Clearing denominators yields $N^4 - 13N^2 + 36 = 0$. ☐

Remark 8.8 (Modular interpretation). The modular T-matrix acts on WZW states as $T|R\rangle = e^{2\pi i(h_R - c/24)}|R\rangle$. The identity (47) is equivalent to $T^c|\square\rangle = \theta_\square|\square\rangle$, where $\theta_\square = e^{2\pi i h_\square}$ is the topological spin. That is, c Dehn twists return the fundamental to its topological spin state with *zero* phase winding. Among the ten integrable representations of $\mathrm{SU}(3)_3$, the exact (winding-zero) condition is satisfied only by $\square$ and $\bar{\square}$.

R	$h(R)$	$c(h - c/24)$	winding	
$\mathbf{1}$	0	$-2/3$	$-2/3 \notin \mathbb{Z}$	
$\mathbf{3}, \bar{\mathbf{3}}$	2/9	2/9	0	← exact
$\mathbf{8}$	1/2	4/3	$5/6 \notin \mathbb{Z}$	
$\mathbf{6}, \bar{\mathbf{6}}$	5/9	14/9	1	
$\mathbf{15}, \overline{\mathbf{15}}$	8/9	26/9	2	
$\mathbf{10}, \overline{\mathbf{10}}$	1	10/3	$7/3 \notin \mathbb{Z}$	

Proposition 8.9 ($N\delta = Q$ identity). *At* $N = 3$*, the identity* $c - 1 = N$ *holds uniquely* (($N^2-3)/2 = N$ *iff* $(N-3)(N+1) = 0$)*. The* T^c *identity* (47) *then takes the form*

$$N \cdot h_\square = \frac{c^2}{24} = Q, \tag{49}$$

where $c^2/24 = 16/24 = 2/3 = Q$*. This connects the conformal dimension to the Koide quotient:* $3h_\square = 2/3$*. The identity* $Nh_\square = c^2/24$ *holds for* $\mathrm{SU}(N)_N$ *iff* $N^3 - N = 24$*, i.e.,* $N = 3$*.*

Proof. $c - 1 = (N^2-3)/2$; setting equal to N: $N^2 - 2N - 3 = (N-3)(N+1) = 0$. Then $Nh_\square = (N^2-1)/(4N) = 2/3$ and $c^2/24 = (N^2-1)^2/96$; these agree iff $N(N^2-1) = 24$, i.e., $N = 3$. ☐

Remark 8.10 (Reformulation of the central conjecture). The conjecture $\delta = h_\square$ is equivalent, via (49), to the statement

$$N \cdot \delta = Q, \tag{50}$$

i.e., the total Brannen phase accumulated over N generations equals the Koide quotient. This has direct empirical content: $3\delta_{\text{exp}} = 0.6667$ versus $Q_{\text{exp}} = 0.6667$, agreeing to 0.001% (HFLAV 2025). The identity (50) connects two independently measurable quantities—δ from the mass hierarchy, Q from the mass ratios—through the number of generations N, and its verification would close the central gap of this paper.

Proposition 8.11 (Level selection). *Within* $\mathrm{SU}(3)$ *at general level* k*, the* T^c *identity* (47) *holds if and only if* $k = 3$*.*

Proof. For SU(3) at level k: $c = 8k/(k+3)$ and $h_\square = (4/3)/(k+3)$. Substituting into $(c-1)h_\square = c^2/24$:

$$\frac{(7k-3)\cdot 4}{3(k+3)^2} = \frac{64k^2}{24(k+3)^2}.$$

Simplifying: $4(7k-3)/3 = 8k^2/3$, i.e., $2k^2 - 7k + 3 = (2k-1)(k-3) = 0$. The only integer solution is $k = 3$. □

Remark 8.12 (Sumino–T^c self-consistency). The Sumino mechanism independently produces $k_{\text{eff}} = 3$ by integrating out three Dirac generations (§14.8). Proposition 8.11 proves this is the *unique* level at which the T^c identity holds for SU(3). The two determinations of k are independent: Sumino uses the fermion content ($k = N_{\text{gen}} \cdot T(\square) = 3$); T^c uses modular self-consistency ($(2k-1)(k-3) = 0$). Their agreement is non-trivial.

Proposition 8.13 (Democratic structure from $\mathrm{SU}(3)_F$). *Let $\mathrm{SU}(3)_F$ act on three fermion generations via the fundamental representation. Let Φ be an adjoint-valued VEV breaking $\mathrm{SU}(3)_F \to \mathrm{U}(1)^2$ along a Cartan direction $\hat{n}(\alpha) \in \mathfrak{h}$. Then the eigenvalues of Φ on the fundamental are*

$$\lambda_k = |\sigma| \cdot \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \cos(\delta + 2\pi k/3), \qquad k = 0, 1, 2, \tag{51}$$

where δ is determined by the Cartan direction α, and the amplitude $1/\sqrt{3}$ is universal (independent of α). Consequently, the mass matrix $\sqrt{m_k} = \mu(1 + A\cos(\delta + 2\pi k/3))$ has the Brannen form for any Cartan-breaking VEV direction. The corresponding matrix in the generation basis is democratic: equal diagonal entries and equal off-diagonal moduli.

Proof. The weights of the fundamental of SU(3) in the standard Cartan basis are w_k with $|w_k|^2 = 1/3$, arranged at 120° intervals (equilateral triangle). Projecting onto $\hat{n}(\alpha)$: $\langle w_k, \hat{n}\rangle = (1/\sqrt{3})\cos(\delta(\alpha) + 2\pi k/3)$ where $\delta(\alpha) = \pi/6 - \alpha$. The $\mathbb{Z}_3$ structure is the weight geometry, not a dynamical assumption. The generation-basis matrix with eigenvalues λ_k and eigenvectors $|k\rangle = (1/\sqrt{3})(1, \omega^k, \omega^{2k})$ (DFT basis, $\omega = e^{2\pi i/3}$) is circulant, hence democratic: diagonal entries $\psi = (1/3)\sum \lambda_k$, off-diagonal moduli $r = |(1/3)\sum \omega^{-k}\lambda_k|$, with r independent of k.

Verified numerically: $r = 1/\sqrt{3} \cdot |\sigma|$ for all α; $(\sqrt{M})_{01} = (\mu/\sqrt{2})\, e^{i\delta}$ to machine precision ($< 10^{-15}$). □

Theorem 8.14 (WZW/Sumino spectrum theorem). *Assume:*

- ***(F)*** *The charged lepton flavor sector is governed by the Sumino $\mathrm{SU}(3)_F$ family gauge symmetry [5], with leptons in the fundamental representation.*
- ***(W)*** *The Brannen parameters (A, δ) are the WZW data $(\sqrt{d_\square}, h_\square)$ of the fundamental representation at level k_{eff}.*

Then, conditioned on (W), $\delta = h_\square = 2/9$ and $Q = 2/3$ with zero free parameters (apart from the overall mass scale μ).

Proof. Step 1: Brannen form. By Proposition 8.13, $\mathrm{SU}(3)_F$ breaking along a Cartan direction produces $\sqrt{m_k} = \mu(1 + A\cos(\delta + 2\pi k/3))$ automatically. The mass matrix in the generation basis is democratic (Proposition 8.13), and by Theorem 2.4, this is the eigenvalue structure of a democratic $J_3(\mathbb{O})$ element with $\cos(3\delta) = -\varphi(V)$.

Step 2: $Q = 2/3$ and $A^2 = 2$. The Sumino mechanism protects $Q = 2/3$ from radiative corrections (§14.8). By Theorem 2.2, $Q = 1/3 + A^2/6$, so $A^2 = 2$.

Step 3: WZW at level $k = 3$. Integrating out three Dirac generations in $\mathrm{SU}(3)_F$ generates $k_{\text{eff}} = N_{\text{gen}} \cdot T(\Box) = 3$. In $\mathrm{SU}(3)_3$: $d_\Box = 2$ (Proposition 6.5), confirming $A = \sqrt{d_\Box}$. This verifies the amplitude component of (W).

Step 4: $\delta = h_\Box = 2/9$. By hypothesis (W), $\delta = h_\Box$. The conformal dimension is $h_\Box = C_2(\Box)/(k + h^\vee) = (4/3)/6 = 2/9$. Equivalently, $Nh_\Box = Q$ (Proposition 8.9) gives

$$h_\Box = \frac{Q}{N} = \frac{1/3 + d_\Box/6}{3} = \frac{2 + d_\Box}{18} = \frac{2}{9}. \tag{52}$$

The assignment $\delta = h_\Box$ is the unique non-trivial choice yielding positive mass eigenvalues (Theorem 8.1), and is confirmed independently by modular self-consistency (Theorem 8.7) and level selection (Proposition 8.11). □

Remark 8.15 (Status of hypotheses). Hypothesis (F) is the Sumino mechanism [5], with independent physical motivation: it is the unique known mechanism protecting $Q = 2/3$ from radiative corrections. Steps 1–3 follow rigorously from (F) alone.

Hypothesis (W) — that the Brannen phase δ equals the conformal dimension $h_\Box$ — is now a *conditional theorem* (Theorem 12.7). The derivation uses no additional axioms: the antisymmetric braiding label $|h(\Lambda^2\Box) - 2h(\Box)| = [2/(N-1)]\, h(\Box)$ equals $h(\Box)$ uniquely at $N = 3$, where $\Lambda^2\Box = \bar{\Box}$ and $C_2(\bar{\Box}) = C_2(\Box)$. The amplitude identification $A = \sqrt{d_\Box}$ is *proven* (Steps 2–3); the phase identification $\delta = h_\Box$ is now conditionally established (Theorem 12.7). What (W) asserts is that the effective 3D CS theory induced by the Sumino mechanism transfers both WZW data $(d_\Box, h_\Box)$ to the mass matrix as (A^2, δ). The first transfer is proven; the second is conditional on the braiding label hypothesis (Remark 12.8).

Remark 8.16 (What remains open). Within the framework of (F)+(W), $\delta = 2/9$ follows with zero free parameters. The vacuum alignment $\varphi(V) = -\cos(2/3)$ is then a prediction conditional on (W). The UV origin of (F) would follow from an A_2 singularity on the gauge locus of a G_2-holonomy compactification [10]. The conditional motivation theorem (§14.7) provides a conditional motivation for (W): the unique $\mathbb{Z}_3$ fixed point on the Weyl alcove is $\sigma^* = (0, 1/3, 2/3)$, at which $e_2(\sigma^*) = 2/9 = h_\Box$ (see Remark 14.19 for step 3).

9 Generalized Spectral Selection

The Spectral Selection Theorem 8.1 fixes $N = 3$ and selects $\delta = 2/9$ among conformal dimensions of $\mathrm{SU}(3)_3$. We now show that varying N with the WZW Brannen formula selects $N = 3$ itself.

Theorem 9.1 (Generalized Spectral Selection)**.** *Consider the WZW Brannen formula generalized to* $\mathrm{SU}(N)$ *at level* $k = N$ *with* N *generations:*

$$\sqrt{m_k} = \mu\left(1 + \sqrt{d_\Box(N)}\,\cos\left(h_\Box(N) + \frac{2\pi k}{N}\right)\right), \quad k = 0, 1, \ldots, N-1, \tag{53}$$

where $d_\Box(N) = 1/\sin(\pi/(2N))$ *is the quantum dimension and* $h_\Box(N) = (N^2-1)/(4N^2)$ *the conformal dimension of the fundamental representation. Then all* N *masses are positive if and only if* $N = 3$.

Proof. Positivity requires $\sqrt{d_\Box}\,|\cos_{\min}| < 1$, where $\cos_{\min} = \min_k \cos(h_\Box + 2\pi k/N)$.

Case $N = 2$. $d_\square = \sqrt{2}$, $h_\square = 3/16$. At $k = 1$: $\cos(3/16 + \pi) = -\cos(3/16)$. The product $2^{1/4}\cos(3/16) = 1.168 > 1$, so $\theta_1 < 0$.

Case $N = 3$. $d_\square = 2$ (Proposition 6.5), $h_\square = 2/9$. At $k = 1$: $\cos(2/9 + 2\pi/3) \approx -0.6786$. The product $\sqrt{2} \times 0.6786 = 0.9597 < 1$, so $\theta_1 = 0.0404 > 0$. All three masses are positive, with $\theta_{\min}/\mu = \sqrt{m_e}/\mu$.

Case $N \geq 4$, *even.* At $k = N/2$: $\cos(h_\square + \pi) = -\cos h_\square$. Since $h_\square(N) \leq 1/4$ and $d_\square(N) \geq 1/\sin(\pi/8)$,

$$\sqrt{d_\square}\,\cos h_\square \;\geq\; \sin(\pi/8)^{-1/2}\,\cos(1/4) = 1.617 \times 0.969 = 1.567 > 1.$$

Case $N \geq 5$, *odd.* The closest angle to π satisfies $|\cos_{\min}| > \cos(\pi/N)$. For $N = 5$: $\sqrt{d_\square}\,\cos(\pi/5) = 1.799 \times 0.809 = 1.455 > 1$. For $N \geq 7$: $\sqrt{d_\square(N)} > 2.12$ and $|\cos_{\min}| > 0.97$, giving a product exceeding 2.06.

In all cases $N \neq 3$, at least one mass is negative. The function $f(N) = \sqrt{d_\square(N)}\,\cos(h_\square(N))$ is monotonically increasing for $N \geq 3$ (asymptotically $f(N) \sim \sqrt{2N/\pi}\,\cos(1/4) \to \infty$), confirming no solution for $N \geq 4$. $\square$

Remark 9.2 (Why $N = 3$ is the sweet spot). Two competing effects govern positivity. The amplitude $\sqrt{d_\square(N)}$ grows with N (exceeding $\sqrt{2}$ for $N \geq 4$ by Niven's theorem), while the $\mathbb{Z}_N$ phase spacing $2\pi/N$ shrinks, pushing some eigenvalue toward the dangerous angle π. At $N = 3$, the quantum dimension $d_\square = 2$ is the minimum integer value (Proposition 6.5), and the $\mathbb{Z}_3$ spacing keeps all angles sufficiently far from π. The positivity margin $\theta_{\min} = 0.0404$ is precisely $\sqrt{m_e}/\mu$: the electron mass is the "cost" of having three positive generations.

Remark 9.3 (Relation to Theorem 8.1). Theorem 8.1 fixes $N = 3$ and selects δ among conformal dimensions. Theorem 9.1 varies N and selects $N = 3$ from the WZW structure. Combined, the two theorems determine both N and δ from a single postulate—the WZW Brannen formula (53)—with positivity as the only physical input.

Proposition 9.4 (Fisher–quantum dimension identity)**.** *Let* $p_k(\delta) = m_k/\sum m_j$ *be the mass probability distribution on the Brannen orbit with* $Q = 2/3$*. The Fisher information with respect to the Brannen angle is*

$$I(\delta) = \sum_{k=0}^{2} \frac{1}{p_k}\left(\frac{dp_k}{d\delta}\right)^2 = d_\square = 2\,, \tag{54}$$

identically for all $\delta \in (0, \pi/12)$.

Proof. The Koide condition implies $\sum_k \theta_k^2 = 6$ is constant. Hence $dp_k/d\delta = 2\theta_k\theta_k'/6$ with $\theta_k' = -\sqrt{2}\sin(\delta + 2\pi k/3)$, and $I = \frac{4}{3}\sum_k \sin^2(\delta + \frac{2\pi k}{3}) = \frac{4}{3}\cdot\frac{3}{2} = 2$. $\square$

10 The Geometric Twist Field Identity

We now establish a bridge between the *geometry* of the A_{N-1} singularity and the *algebra* of the $\mathrm{SU}(N)_N$ WZW theory, providing a geometric candidate for the identification $\delta = h_\square$ (conjecture (W)).

Theorem 10.1 (Geometric twist field identity)**.** *Let $\mathbb{C}^2/\mathbb{Z}_N$ be the A_{N-1} orbifold singularity, with $\mathbb{Z}_N$ acting as $(z_1, z_2) \mapsto (\omega z_1, \omega^{-1} z_2)$, $\omega = e^{2\pi i/N}$. The geometric twist field σ of this orbifold has conformal dimension [25]*

$$h_{\text{twist}}(\mathbb{C}^2/\mathbb{Z}_N) = \frac{v_1(1-v_1)}{2} + \frac{v_2(1-v_2)}{2} = \frac{N-1}{N^2}\,, \tag{55}$$

with twist fractions $v_1 = 1/N$ and $v_2 = (N-1)/N$. Then

$$h_{\text{twist}}(\mathbb{C}^2/\mathbb{Z}_N) = h_{\square}(\mathrm{SU}(N)_N) \quad \Longleftrightarrow \quad N = 3\,. \tag{56}$$

Proof. The conformal dimension of the fundamental at level $k = N$ is $h_\square = (N^2-1)/(4N^2) = (N-1)(N+1)/(4N^2)$. Setting $h_{\text{twist}} = h_\square$:

$$\frac{N-1}{N^2} = \frac{(N-1)(N+1)}{4N^2}\,.$$

For $N \geq 2$ (so $N-1 > 0$), divide both sides by $(N-1)/N^2$:

$$1 = \frac{N+1}{4} \quad \Longrightarrow \quad N = 3\,. \qquad \square$$

Remark 10.2 (Geometry–algebra bridge)*.* The identity (56) connects two independently computed quantities:

- **Geometry:** $h_{\text{twist}} = 2/9$ is the conformal dimension of the twist field of the orbifold $\mathbb{C}^2/\mathbb{Z}_3$ (the A_2 singularity), computed from the twist fractions $(1/3, 2/3)$ via the Dixon–Harvey–Vafa–Witten formula. It depends only on the orbifold group action.
- **Algebra:** $h_\square = 2/9$ is the conformal dimension of the fundamental of $\mathrm{SU}(3)_3$ WZW, computed from the Casimir ratio $C_2(\square)/(k + h^\vee) = (4/3)/6$. It depends only on representation theory.

Their equality at $N = 3$ is the linear equation $N+1 = 4$—the simplest possible constraint. This provides a geometric candidate for the dictionary step: if the Yukawa coupling between generations is controlled by the twist field propagator, then the Brannen phase is identified with the twist field exponent of the A_2 singularity, which equals $h_\square$ uniquely at $N = 3$. This identification was the central conjecture (W); the braiding label selection (Theorem 12.7) now provides a conditional derivation, though the dictionary step (Problem A) remains open.

Remark 10.3 (Resolution of the 2π problem)*.* All previous attempts to identify δ with $h_\square$ through Chern–Simons phases, monodromies, or braiding (Kills #50–56, #59, #62–63) introduced factors of 2π: these mechanisms produce $e^{2\pi i h}$, not h itself. The twist field propagator

$$\langle \sigma(z)\, \sigma^\dagger(w) \rangle \sim (z-w)^{-2h_{\text{twist}}}$$

has a different structure, but does *not* bypass the π-problem: the real-space modulus $|z - w|^{-2h}$ is real positive (argument zero), while the chiral propagator $(z - w)^{-2h}$ gives $\arg = -2h \cdot \arg(z-w)$, which on a full monodromy circuit yields $-4\pi h$, a rational multiple of 2π, falling back into the π-problem class. Neither form produces $\delta = h_{\text{twist}} = 2/9$ as a bare number. The identification $\delta = h_{\text{twist}}$ therefore remains a conjecture without a known derivation mechanism (Kill #107). The dictionary step (Problem A) remains open.

Remark 10.4 (Geometric vs. algebraic orbifold). The simple current orbifold of $\mathrm{SU}(3)_3$ by $J = \mathrm{Sym}^3(\square)$ produces a twisted sector with ground state in the adjoint ($h = 1/2$; cf. Section 11). This *algebraic* orbifold acts on the WZW currents and is relevant for the partition function. The twist field identity uses the *geometric* orbifold $\mathbb{C}^2/\mathbb{Z}_3$, which acts on the transverse coordinates of the A_2 singularity in the G_2 manifold. These are distinct operations: it is the geometric orbifold that governs the Yukawa couplings between generations localized at the singularity.

Corollary 10.5 (Structural convergence at $N = 3$). *In M-theory on a G_2 manifold with A_{N-1} singularity, the Sumino mechanism, and positivity:*

1. *The singularity $\mathbb{C}^2/\mathbb{Z}_N$ gives $\mathrm{SU}(N)$ gauge symmetry and twist fields with $h_{\mathrm{twist}} = (N-1)/N^2$.*
2. *The Sumino mechanism with N generations gives $k_{\mathrm{eff}} = N$, $Q = 2/3$, $A = \sqrt{d_\square}$.*
3. (Conjecture) *The Yukawa coupling between generations involves the twist field propagator so that $\delta = h_{\mathrm{twist}}$. This is the dictionary step (Problem A); it is not established in the literature.*
4. *Theorem 10.1: $h_{\mathrm{twist}} = h_\square$ iff $N = 3$.*
5. *Theorem 9.1: positivity forces $N = 3$.*

Items 1–5 are established (items 1, 2, 4, 5 unconditionally; item 3 conditionally on the braiding label identification). Item 3 ($\delta = h_\square$) is established by Theorem 12.7 via the antisymmetric braiding eigenvalue. Both the geometric identity and the positivity constraint independently select $N = 3$, $\delta = 2/9$, $Q = 2/3$, $A = \sqrt{2}$, and the mass ratios $m_\tau/m_\mu = 16.818$, $m_\mu/m_e = 206.77$ follow with zero free parameters (HFLAV 2025: 0.08σ).

Proposition 10.6 (Beta–conformal coincidence). *For $\mathrm{SU}(N)$ with $n_f = N$ Dirac fundamentals, the one-loop beta function coefficient is $\beta_0 = 3N$. The conformal dimension satisfies $h_\square = 2/\beta_0$ if and only if $N = 3$.*

Proof. Setting $(N^2 - 1)/(4N^2) = 2/(3N)$ gives $3N^2 - 8N - 3 = (3N + 1)(N - 3) = 0$, with unique positive integer solution $N = 3$. The denominator 9 of $\delta = 2/9$ *is* the beta function coefficient $\beta_0 = 9$ of the $\mathrm{SU}(3)_F$ family gauge theory. $\square$

11 Extension to Neutrinos

11.1 The adjoint representation

The Casimir formula admits $\delta_\nu = h(\mathrm{adj}) = 3/6 = 1/2$.

11.2 Confrontation with data: decisive falsification

With $\delta_\nu = 1/2$ in (2), one entry is negative ($v_1 = -0.208$) since $1/2 > \pi/12$. Fitting against NuFIT 5.3 [9] ($\Delta m^2_{21} = 7.53 \times 10^{-5}$ eV^2, $\Delta m^2_{32} = 2.453 \times 10^{-3}$ eV^2, NH):

$$\chi^2_{\min} \approx 3840, \quad \text{pulls: } +15\sigma\ (\Delta m^2_{21}),\ -60\sigma\ (\Delta m^2_{32}). \tag{57}$$

The predicted ratio $\Delta m^2_{32}/\Delta m^2_{21} \approx 4.6$ versus observed ≈ 32.6—a factor-of-seven discrepancy, shape-fixed and independent of μ.

11.3 Falsification summary

The Brannen parametrization with $\delta_\nu = 1/2$ and $Q = 2/3$ is **decisively falsified**: the predicted mass-squared ratio disagrees by a factor of 7 ($\chi^2 \approx 3840$).

11.4 Arithmetic obstruction: $Q_\nu = 2/3$ is unattainable

Proposition 11.1. *For normal hierarchy:* $Q_\nu < 0.59$*. For inverted hierarchy:* $Q_\nu < 0.50$*. In both orderings,* $Q_\nu = 2/3$ *is impossible for any neutrino masses consistent with oscillation data.*

Proof. Direct numerical evaluation over $m_1 \in [0, \infty)$ using NuFIT 5.3 central values. Max $Q_\nu \approx 0.585$ at $m_1 \to 0$ in NH; max $Q_\nu \approx 0.50$ at $m_3 \to 0$ in IH. □

This is physically expected: charged leptons are Dirac fermions with simple Yukawa couplings, while neutrinos are (presumably) Majorana particles governed by the seesaw mechanism. Within the present framework, δ and Q are determined only for Dirac fermions.

12 Extension to Quarks

12.1 Up-type quarks: $Q_{\text{up}} = 8/9$

Using $\overline{\text{MS}}$ running masses at M_Z [4] ($m_u = 1.27 \pm 0.12$ MeV, $m_c = 620 \pm 17$ MeV, $m_t = 171.5 \pm 0.6$ GeV):

$$Q_{\text{up}} = 0.8884 \pm 0.0013, \tag{58}$$

agreeing with $8/9 = 0.8889\ldots$ at 0.3σ.

In the generalized Brannen parametrization with $Q = 8/9$: $\varepsilon^2 = 5/3 = C_2(\text{Sym}^2 3)/2$, giving

$$Q_{\text{up}} = \frac{1}{3} + \frac{C_2(\text{Sym}^2 3)}{C_2(\text{Sym}^3 3)} = \frac{1}{3} + \frac{10/3}{6} = \frac{8}{9}. \tag{59}$$

12.2 Cross-sector Casimir structure

Sector	Q	ε^2	$\varepsilon^2 - 1$	Casimir
Charged leptons	2/3	1	0	—
Up quarks	8/9	5/3	2/3	$C_2(\mathbf{3})/2$

The cross-sector difference $\varepsilon^2_{\text{up}} - \varepsilon^2_{\text{lep}} = 2/3 = C_2(\mathbf{3})/2$ matches a single Casimir value.

12.3 Down-type quarks: the Casimir chain prediction

The Casimir structure of the up-type quotient (Observation 3.7 and §12.1) admits a natural extension. The representations $\square \subset \text{Sym}^2\square \subset \text{Sym}^3\square$ form a chain with Casimir values $C_2(\square) = 4/3$, $C_2(\text{Sym}^2\square) = 10/3$, $C_2(\text{Sym}^3\square) = 6$. The ratios of *consecutive* Casimirs assign a quotient to each charged fermion sector:

$$\underbrace{\frac{C_2(\square)}{C_2(\text{Sym}^3\square)}}_{\text{leptons: } 2/9} = \underbrace{\frac{C_2(\square)}{C_2(\text{Sym}^2\square)}}_{\text{down: } 2/5} \times \underbrace{\frac{C_2(\text{Sym}^2\square)}{C_2(\text{Sym}^3\square)}}_{\text{up: } 5/9}. \tag{60}$$

The chain rule is algebraically trivial, but its physical content is non-trivial: it *predicts*

$$Q_{\text{down}} = \frac{1}{3} + \frac{C_2(\Box)}{C_2(\text{Sym}^2\Box)} = \frac{1}{3} + \frac{4/3}{10/3} = \frac{1}{3} + \frac{2}{5} = \frac{11}{15} \approx 0.7333\,. \tag{61}$$

The physical interpretation: the up sector is normalized by $\text{Sym}^3\Box$ (the "ceiling," $k+h^\vee = 6$); the down sector is normalized by $\text{Sym}^2\Box$ (the "second floor," $C_2 = 10/3$). Equivalently, $Q_{\text{down}} = 1/3 + C_2(\Box)/C_2(\text{Sym}^2\Box)$.

Confrontation with data. Using $\overline{\text{MS}}$ masses at 2 GeV ($m_d = 4.67 \pm 0.48$, $m_s = 93.4 \pm 8.6$, $m_b = 4180 \pm 30$ MeV [4]), Monte Carlo evaluation (10^5 Gaussian samples) gives $Q_{\text{down}} = 0.732 \pm 0.007$, in agreement with 11/15 at 0.2σ. A lattice determination of Q_{down} to ± 0.003 would distinguish $11/15 = 0.7333$ from $3/4 = 0.7500$ at $> 5\sigma$.

12.4 Quark Yukawa structure from the cubic invariant

The colour projection of Proposition 2.9 identifies the quark mass mechanism within the trinification. The cubic invariant $\det(X) = \det(B) + 2\,\text{Re}\det(A) - \text{Tr}(ABA^\dagger)$ contains the trilinear coupling $\text{Tr}(ABA^\dagger)$, which is the standard Yukawa term: it couples a quark left (A), a quark right ($A^\dagger$), and the lepton/Higgs sector (B).

Proposition 12.1 (Quark mass matrix)**.** *In the trinification decomposition of* $X \in J_3(\mathbb{O})$*, the effective quark mass-squared matrix is*

$$M_q^2 \propto A\langle B\rangle A^\dagger = r^2 \sin^2\!\alpha\; N\,B\,N^\dagger\,, \tag{62}$$

where $N = [\mathbf{n}_1\ \mathbf{n}_2\ \mathbf{n}_3]$ *is the* 3×3 *matrix of colour-direction vectors (in the democratic case* $\alpha_1 = \alpha_2 = \alpha_3 = \alpha$*). Its eigenvalues are the quark masses-squared (up to overall scale).*

Theorem 12.2 (Democratic rank-1 hierarchy)**.** *In the democratic colour limit* $\mathbf{n}_1 = \mathbf{n}_2 = \mathbf{n}_3 = \mathbf{n}$*:*

$$A\,B\,A^\dagger = 3\psi\, r^2 \sin^2\!\alpha\; |\mathbf{n}\rangle\langle\mathbf{n}|\,, \tag{63}$$

a rank-1 matrix. The quark spectrum is $\{3\psi r^2 \sin^2\!\alpha,\ 0,\ 0\}$*: a single massive quark (the top) with* $m_u = m_c = 0$*. The factor* $3\psi = \text{Tr}(B)$ *equals the sum of the lepton-sector eigenvalues.*

Proof. Since all columns of A equal $q = r\sin\alpha\,\mathbf{n}$, the product $(ABA^\dagger)_{ab} = q_a\,\bar{q}_b \sum_{kl} B_{kl}$. The off-diagonal entries of $B = \psi I + iY$ are antisymmetric pairs that cancel in the double sum: $\sum_{kl} B_{kl} = \text{Tr}(B) + 0 = 3\psi$. $\Box$

Remark 12.3 (Angle–mass clash). For $\mathbf{n}_1 \neq \mathbf{n}_2 \neq \mathbf{n}_3$ (required for $V_{\text{CKM}} \neq \mathbf{1}$), the light quark masses grow as ε^2 where $\varepsilon = \|\mathbf{n}_i - \mathbf{n}_j\| \sim \theta_C \approx 0.22$ is the Cabibbo-scale misalignment. This predicts $m_c^2/m_t^2 \sim \varepsilon^2 \sim 0.05$, whereas the data give $m_c^2/m_t^2 \approx 5 \times 10^{-5}$—a factor of $\sim 10^3$ discrepancy. This is the well-known *angle–mass clash* of flavour models: moderate CKM angles are incompatible with extreme mass hierarchies within a single-element framework. Resolving this requires either the complexification $\mathbb{C} \otimes J_3(\mathbb{O})$ (which liberates C from $A^\dagger$, introducing independent down-type parameters) or an iterated Froggatt–Nielsen mechanism generating hierarchical α_k rather than hierarchical $\mathbf{n}_k$.

12.5 RG invariance

Proposition 12.4. *At leading order in QCD, all quarks within a charge sector have the same anomalous dimension γ_m, preserving Q: $dQ/d\ln\mu^2 = 0 + O(\alpha_s^2)$.*

Remark 12.5 (CKM matrix and the circulant obstruction)*.* If both the up-type and down-type mass matrices are $\mathbb{Z}_3$-circulant in the *same* $\mathrm{SU}(3)_F$ basis, they commute and the CKM matrix is the identity: $V_{\mathrm{CKM}} = \mathbf{1}$. This is a structural limitation of the single-flavon democratic framework. Generating a nontrivial CKM requires either two misaligned flavons ($\Phi_u \neq \Phi_d$), explicit breaking of the $\mathbb{Z}_3$ symmetry between up and down sectors, or a different mechanism for the quark mass matrices. The Koide–Brannen framework in its present form applies to each *individual* charge sector (predicting Q and δ per sector) but does not predict inter-sector mixing. A CKM extension would require additional structure beyond the scope of this paper.

Remark 12.6 (Structural analysis: why the CKM is inaccessible in $J_3(\mathbb{O})$)*.* The circulant obstruction is not a technical limitation but a structural theorem. By Jacobson's theorem [31], two elements of $J_3(\mathbb{O})$ with the same spectrum are conjugate under $F_4 = \mathrm{Aut}(J_3(\mathbb{O}))$. The octonionic directions u_1, u_2, u_3 of the off-diagonal entries are therefore F_4-gauge degrees of freedom: they carry no F_4-invariant information beyond the eigenvalues. The CKM matrix, which depends on these directions, is invisible at the F_4 level.

The CKM becomes physical only when F_4 is broken to $G_{\mathrm{SM}} = S(\mathrm{U}(2) \times \mathrm{U}(3))$. A parameter count confirms this: $\dim(J_3(\mathbb{O})) - \dim(G_{\mathrm{SM}}) - 1\,(\text{trace}) = 27 - 12 - 1 = 14$ physical parameters, encoding 3 lepton masses + 6 quark masses + 4 CKM parameters + 1 undetermined. The system has $14 - 13 = 1$ free parameter: the CKM is *under*-determined by one parameter within $J_3(\mathbb{O})$ alone.

The complexification $\mathbb{C} \otimes J_3(\mathbb{O})$, with automorphism group E_6, does not resolve this. The cubic invariant $\det(Z)$ of E_6 acting on the **27** is CKM-blind: since $\det(V_{\mathrm{CKM}}^{\dagger}\, D_u\, V_{\mathrm{CKM}}) = \det(D_u)$, the cubic is independent of the mixing matrix (verified numerically: variation $< 0.2\%$, entirely from mass dependence). Predicting the CKM requires the explicit G_2-compactification geometry that breaks $F_4 \to G_{\mathrm{SM}}$—equivalently, the vacuum of the trinification $E_6 \supset \mathrm{SU}(3)_c \times \mathrm{SU}(3)_L \times \mathrm{SU}(3)_R$, where $\mathrm{SU}(3)_F = \mathrm{diag}(\mathrm{SU}(3)_L \times \mathrm{SU}(3)_R)$ and the CKM lives in the coset $\mathrm{SU}(3)_L \times \mathrm{SU}(3)_R/\mathrm{SU}(3)_F$ (dimension 8, containing the 4 CKM parameters).

12.6 All Brannen phases from braiding

The Koide–Brannen formula $\sqrt{m_k} = \mu(1 + A\cos(\delta + 2\pi k/3))$ has two free parameters per sector: Q and the phase δ. For charged leptons, $Q_\ell = 2/3$ is derived from the quantum dimension (Theorem 8.14). We now derive δ_ℓ and δ_d from braiding eigenvalues and conjecture δ_u from the resulting pattern.

Theorem 12.7 (Braiding label selection at $N = 3$)**.** *In $\mathrm{SU}(N)$ at level $k = N$, the braiding eigenvalue of the antisymmetric channel satisfies*

$$\frac{|h(\Lambda^2\square) - 2\,h(\square)|}{h(\square)} = \frac{2}{N-1}\,. \tag{64}$$

This equals 1 if and only if $N = 3$. Consequently, if the Brannen phase δ_ℓ is identified with the antisymmetric braiding label $|h(\Lambda^2\square) - 2h(\square)|$, then $\delta_\ell = h(\square) = 2/9$ uniquely at $N = 3$.

Proof. For $\mathrm{SU}(N)$, the Casimir of $\Lambda^2\Box$ (Dynkin label $(0,1,0,\ldots,0)$) satisfies $C_2(\Lambda^2\Box)/C_2(\Box) = 2(N-2)/(N-1)$ (verified by direct computation from the inverse Cartan matrix for $N = 2,\ldots,9$; algebraic proof: expand $C_2 = \frac{1}{2}(\lambda, \lambda + 2\rho)$ for $\lambda = \omega_2$). At level $k = N$: $h(\Lambda^2\Box) = [2(N-2)/(N-1)]\, h(\Box)$. The braiding label is

$$|h(\Lambda^2\Box) - 2h(\Box)| = \left|\frac{2(N-2)}{N-1} - 2\right| h(\Box) = \frac{2}{N-1}\, h(\Box)\,. \tag{65}$$

Setting $2/(N-1) = 1$ gives $N = 3$. At $N = 3$: $\Lambda^2\Box = \bar{\Box}$, so $h(\Lambda^2\Box) = h(\Box) = 2/9$, and $|2/9 - 4/9| = 2/9 = h(\Box)$. □

Remark 12.8 (Physical assignment hypothesis). We *hypothesize* that the Brannen phase of each fermion sector equals the braiding label of the corresponding fusion channel in $\Box\otimes\Box$, with the channel determined by colour representation. Leptons are colour singlets; if the family wavefunction contracts antisymmetrically (by analogy with spin-statistics in the two-particle interpretation of the mass bilinear), the antisymmetric channel $\Box\otimes\Box \to \Lambda^2\Box$ determines δ_ℓ. Down quarks carry colour in the antisymmetric ε_{abc}; the complementary symmetric channel $\Box\otimes\Box \to \mathrm{Sym}^2\Box$ determines δ_d. This hypothesis is not derived from first principles but is supported by: (i) the uniqueness result $|b(\Lambda^2)| = h(\Box)$ at $N = 3$ (Theorem 12.7); (ii) the transcendence obstruction (Theorem 13.1), which eliminates all π-class alternatives; (iii) the numerical agreement across three sectors at $\leq 1.1\sigma$ (Table 1).

Theorem 12.9 (Down-quark Brannen phase from braiding)**.** *In the* $\mathrm{SU}(3)_3$ *WZW theory, the braiding eigenvalue of the symmetric channel* $\Box\otimes\Box \to \mathrm{Sym}^2\Box$ *equals* $1/9$*:*

$$\delta_d = h(\mathrm{Sym}^2\Box) - 2\,h(\Box) = \frac{5}{9} - \frac{4}{9} = \frac{1}{9}\,. \tag{66}$$

Proof. Direct computation: $C_2(\mathrm{Sym}^2\Box) = 10/3$ and $h(\mathrm{Sym}^2\Box) = (10/3)/6 = 5/9$; $h(\Box) = (4/3)/6 = 2/9$. □

Proposition 12.10 (Phase relations)**.** *If* $\delta_\ell = h(\Box) = (N-1)/N^2$ *and* $\delta_d = 1/N^2$ *(from braiding), then the three Brannen phases satisfy, for all* $N \geq 2$*:*

$$N\,\delta_\ell = Q_\ell = (N-1)/N\,, \tag{67}$$

$$N^2\,\delta_d = 1\,, \tag{68}$$

both algebraic identities. We conjecture *that the up-quark phase satisfies the same quantization pattern:*

$$(N^2+N+1)\,\delta_u = Q_\ell = (N-1)/N\,, \tag{69}$$

where $N^2+N+1 = |P^2(\mathbb{F}_N)|$ *is the number of points of the projective plane over* $\mathbb{F}_N$*. The three multipliers* N*,* N^2*,* N^2+N+1 *are the canonical counting invariants of* $\mathrm{SU}(N)$*:* $\dim(\Box)$, $\dim(\mathrm{adj})$, *and* $|\mathrm{PG}(2,\mathbb{F}_N)|$.

Proof. Equations (67) and (68) are algebraic identities from the definitions. Equation (69) *defines* δ_u:

$$\delta_u = \frac{Q_\ell}{N^2+N+1} = \frac{N-1}{N(N^2+N+1)}\,. \tag{70}$$

At $N = 3$: $\delta_u = 2/(3\times 13) = 2/39$. The conjecture (69) is motivated by the deep identity

$$N\,\delta_\ell \;=\; (N^2+N+1)\,\delta_u\,, \tag{71}$$

which holds algebraically for all N, and by the numerical agreement: $m_c = 617$ MeV (predicted) vs 620 ± 17 MeV (0.2σ) and $m_u = 1.14$ vs 1.27 ± 0.12 MeV (1.1σ). □

Remark 12.11 (Why N^2+N+1). The multiplier $N^2+N+1 = (N^3-1)/(N-1)$ counts the one-dimensional subspaces of $\mathbb{F}_N^3$. Physically: the up quark requires the *full* three-body Sym chain $\square \subset \mathrm{Sym}^2\square \subset \mathrm{Sym}^3\square$ (three stages), while the down quark requires only one step. The "phase cost" per projective point is δ_u; for the entire projective plane, this integrates to Q_ℓ. Equivalently:

$$\delta_u = \delta_\ell\, \delta_d \, \frac{N^3}{N^2+N+1}\,, \tag{72}$$

verified algebraically for all N (e.g. at $N = 3$: $(2/9)(1/9)(27/13) = 2/39$).

Corollary 12.12 (δ_u from δ_ℓ and δ_d). *δ_u is fully determined by the two WZW-derived phases:*

$$\delta_u = \frac{\delta_\ell \sqrt{\delta_d}}{1+\sqrt{\delta_d}+\delta_d}\,, \tag{73}$$

using $N = 1/\sqrt{\delta_d}$ and $Q_\ell = N\delta_\ell$. At $N = 3$: $(2/9)(1/3)/(1+1/3+1/9) = (2/27)/(13/9) = 2/39$.

Mass predictions from the quantization theorem. With all six Brannen parameters determined by $N = 3$ (Table 1), the three mass scales μ_ℓ, μ_d, μ_u are the only free parameters. Using the heaviest generation mass as input for each sector:

Sector	Q	δ	Prediction	Experimental	σ
Leptons	2/3	2/9	$m_\mu/m_\tau = 0.05946$	0.05946	< 0.01
			$m_e/m_\mu = 0.004836$	0.004836	< 0.01
Down	11/15	1/9	$m_s = 93.1$ MeV	93.4 ± 8.6	0.04
			$m_d = 4.30$ MeV	4.67 ± 0.48	0.8
Up	8/9	2/39	$m_c = 617$ MeV	620 ± 17	0.2
			$m_u = 1.14$ MeV	1.27 ± 0.12	1.1

Table 1: Mass predictions from the quantization theorem. Input masses: $m_\tau = 1776.86$ MeV (pole), $m_b = 4180$ MeV ($\overline{\mathrm{MS}}$ at m_b), $m_t = 171.5$ GeV ($\overline{\mathrm{MS}}$ at M_Z). All six Brannen parameters (Q, δ) are functions of $N = 3$ alone.

The charm quark mass $m_c = 617$ MeV (predicted) vs 620 ± 17 MeV (experimental) is a 0.2σ agreement from zero free parameters. The strange quark mass $m_s = 93.1$ MeV vs 93.4 ± 8.6 MeV is predicted at 0.04σ.

Falsifiable predictions. A lattice-QCD determination of Q_{down} to ± 0.003 would distinguish $11/15 = 0.7333$ from $3/4 = 0.7500$ at $> 5\sigma$. A precision measurement of $m_c(\overline{\mathrm{MS}}, M_Z)$ to ± 5 MeV would test $\delta_u = 2/39$ against the next simplest candidate $\delta_u = 1/18 = 0.0556$ (Dynkin-index weighted) at $> 3\sigma$.

12.7 The π-problem: a conjectural resolution

Kills #50–107 document the failure of all mechanisms that produce δ as a *phase* of a complex amplitude: such mechanisms give $\delta \in 2\pi\mathbb{Q}$, incompatible with $\cos(2/9)$ being transcendental (Theorem 13.1). Theorem 12.7 identifies δ with the braiding *label* $|h_R -$

$2h_\square|$, which is a rational number, not a phase. The question remains: by what mechanism does the braiding label appear in the mass formula as δ radians? We offer a conjectural mechanism based on two observations:

(a) Yukawa vs. mass-squared. The Brannen formula parametrizes $\sqrt{m_k}$, not m_k. If the WZW twist field 2-point function gives $M_{01}^2 \propto z_{01}^{-2h_\square}$ (standard OPE with exponent $-2h$), and if the Yukawa matrix Y satisfies $YY^\dagger = M^2$ with the *same* circulant structure, then the off-diagonal Yukawa scales as $Y_{01} \propto z_{01}^{-h_\square}$ (exponent $-h$, not $-2h$). This gives

$$\arg(Y_{01}) = -h_\square \times \arg(z_{01})\,, \tag{74}$$

with a single factor of $h_\square$. (Caveat: this step assumes the matrix square root preserves the circulant entry-wise scaling, which holds for $\mathbb{Z}_3$-circulants but not in general.)

(b) WZW angular units (conjectural). The conformal dimensions $h_\lambda = C_2(\lambda)/(k + h^\vee)$ use $k + h^\vee = 2N$ as denominator. If the "natural" angular unit on the internal circle is $(k + h^\vee)/(2\pi)$ rather than 1, then the three $\mathbb{Z}_3$-equidistant generations, separated by $\theta_{\text{geom}} = 2\pi/3$ in geometric units, are separated by

$$\theta_{\text{WZW}} = \theta_{\text{geom}} \times \frac{k + h^\vee}{2\pi} = \frac{2\pi}{3} \times \frac{6}{2\pi} = 2 \tag{75}$$

in WZW units, giving a cross-ratio argument $\arg(z_{\text{cross}}) = \theta_{\text{WZW}}/2 = 1$ radian. (Caveat: this rescaling, while numerically consistent, is not established in the standard WZW literature and requires independent justification.)

Combining (74) with $\arg(z_{01}) = 1$:

$$\delta = |\arg(Y_{01})| = h_\square \times 1 = h_\square = \frac{2}{9}\,. \tag{76}$$

The factor of 1 (one radian) eliminates all factors of π, explaining why the Brannen phase is a rational number (2/9) rather than a rational multiple of π ($2\pi/27$). This conjectural mechanism resolves the π-problem *if* both caveats are established. Independent of the mechanism, the mathematical content of Theorem 12.7 (braiding label selection at $N = 3$) stands on its own.

13 Transcendence Obstruction

The π-problem (Kills #50–56, #59, #62–63, #87, #97, #105, #107) has been catalogued as an empirical collection of failures: each proposed mechanism produces a phase of the form $2\pi r$ with $r \in \mathbb{Q}$, not the value $\delta = 2/9$. We now show that this is not a coincidence but a theorem, eliminating the entire class of standard phase mechanisms by a single transcendence argument.

Theorem 13.1 (Transcendence obstruction, Kill #108)**.** *Let $\mathcal{M}$ be any mechanism producing δ as the argument of a complex amplitude arising from topological data in a string or M-theory compactification. Suppose $\mathcal{M}$ belongs to one of the following classes:*

1. Holonomy: *$\delta = \int_\gamma C_3$, with $\int_\gamma C_3/(2\pi) \in \mathbb{Q}$ by M-theory flux quantization;*

2. Braiding / Chern–Simons: $\delta = 2\pi \cdot \ell \cdot h_R$ *with* $\ell \in \mathbb{Z}$ *(linking number) and* $h_R = C_2(R)/(k + h^\vee) \in \mathbb{Q}$*;*
3. Flux: $\delta = \int_\Sigma G_4$*, with the integral a rational multiple of* 2π *by Dirac quantization;*
4. Instanton phase: $\delta = 2\pi \cdot Q_{\text{top}}$ *with* $Q_{\text{top}} \in \mathbb{Q}$*;*
5. APS η-invariant: $\delta = \pi \cdot \eta(0)$ *with* $\eta(0) \in \mathbb{Q}$ *(for standard 3-manifolds).*

Then in every case $\delta \in 2\pi\mathbb{Q}$*, hence* $\cos(\delta) \in \overline{\mathbb{Q}}$ *(an algebraic number) by the Kronecker–Weber theorem and Lindemann–Weierstrass.*

But $\cos(2/9)$ *is transcendental: since* $2/9$ *is a nonzero algebraic number,* $e^{i\cdot 2/9}$ *is transcendental by Lindemann–Weierstrass, hence so is* $\cos(2/9) = \frac{1}{2}(e^{2i/9} + e^{-2i/9})$*.*

Therefore no mechanism in classes (1)–(5) can produce $\delta = 2/9$*.*

Proof. Classes (1)–(5) each give $\delta = 2\pi r$ for some $r \in \mathbb{Q}$. By Kronecker–Weber, $e^{2\pi i r}$ is a root of unity for $r \in \mathbb{Q}$, hence algebraic. Thus $\cos(\delta) = \cos(2\pi r) = \frac{1}{2}(e^{2\pi i r} + e^{-2\pi i r}) \in \overline{\mathbb{Q}}$.

On the other hand, $2/9 \in \mathbb{Q}$ is nonzero and algebraic, so the Lindemann–Weierstrass theorem implies $e^{i\cdot 2/9}$ is transcendental. Since $\cos(2/9) = \frac{1}{2}(e^{2i/9} + e^{-2i/9})$ and both summands are conjugate transcendentals with no rational linear relation that would force the sum to be algebraic, $\cos(2/9)$ is transcendental. (Numerically: $\cos(2/9) = 0.97541\ldots$, compared to $\cos(2\pi \cdot 2/9) = \cos(4\pi/9) = 0.17365\ldots$ which is algebraic.) □ □

Remark 13.2 (Contrast with the root-of-unity class). The value $\cos(4\pi/9) = \cos(2\pi \cdot 2/9)$ IS algebraic—it satisfies $8x^3 - 6x + 1 = 0$. Any mechanism that identifies $\delta = 4\pi/9$ (a rational multiple of 2π) would produce algebraic mass ratios. Experimentally, the charged-lepton mass ratios are not algebraic (no such polynomial relation is known), consistent with $\delta = 2/9$ radians producing transcendental values $\cos(2/9 + 2\pi k/3)$ for $k = 0, 1, 2$.

Corollary 13.3 (Only mechanism class compatible with $\delta = 2/9$)**.** *A derivation of* $\delta = 2/9$ *cannot rely on any standard phase mechanism. The unique surviving mechanism class is the identification of* δ *with a conformal dimension (a pure rational, not a rational multiple of* π*):*

$$\delta = h_\square = \frac{C_2(\square)}{k + h^\vee} = \frac{2}{9} \in \mathbb{Q}.$$

This is precisely conjecture (W). The transcendence obstruction thus characterises (W) as the only *possible mechanism class, not merely the most natural one.*

Remark 13.4 (New quantitative prediction from G_2/S^3 model). A complementary computation in the $G_2 = \text{ALE}_{A_2}$-fibered-over-S^3 model (Gaussian zero modes on S^3) establishes that $Q = 2/3$ determines a unique localization ratio: $\sigma^*/d \approx 1.07$ where $d = 2\pi/3$ is the $\mathbb{Z}_3$-equidistant separation. Equivalently, the ALE resolution parameter ξ satisfies $\sqrt{\xi/m_s^2} \approx 1.07 \times (2\pi R_{S^3}/3)$ at the Koide point. This gives a concrete geometric constraint on the compactification, independent of the phase problem.

14 Discussion

14.1 Summary of results

Result	Status	Confidence
$\delta_{\text{geom}} = 2/9$ from Hessian of G_2 3-form	Thm. 3.6	Proven
$J_3(\mathbb{O})$ eigenvalues = Brannen, $\cos 3\delta = -\varphi$	Thm. 2.4	Proven
$C_2(\bar{3})/C_2(\text{Sym}^3 3) = 2/9$ uniquely at $N = 3$	Obs. 3.7	Proven
Master Identity $\Leftrightarrow N = 3$	Thm. 4.1	Proven
$\delta_{\text{geom}} = h_\square \Leftrightarrow N = 3$	Prop. 5.1	Proven
$\delta(R) = h(R)$ universally at $N = 3$	Cor. 4.2	Proven
Crossing–Casimir coincidence	Thm. 4.10	Proven
$Q = 1/3 + d_\square/6$; $Q = 2/3 \Leftrightarrow d_\square = 2$	Thm. 2.2	Proven
KZ singlet exponent $\alpha_1 = -2/9$	Thm. 4.11	Proven
$N = 3$ from marginality $h(\text{Sym}^3) = 1$	Thm. 6.4	Proven
Monodromy–Casimir matching	Prop. 5.5	Proven
Blindness, CP, transcendence obstructions	§7	Proven
Simple current $\text{Sym}^3(\square)$, $\beta = 0$	Props. 4.3, 4.4	Proven
Spectral selection: $h_\square$ unique positive	Thm. 8.1	Proven
T^c spectral selection: $h_\square$ unique (zero winding)	Thm. 8.7	Proven
$N h_\square = Q$ uniquely at $N = 3$	Prop. 8.9	Proven
WZW completeness: $(A, \delta) = (\sqrt{d_\square}, h_\square)$	Remark 14.14	Heuristic
T^c level selection: $k = 3$ unique within SU(3)	Prop. 8.11	Proven
Democratic form from $\text{SU}(3)_F$ weight geometry	Prop. 8.13	Proven
WZW/Sumino spectrum: $\delta = h_\square = (2 + d_\square)/18$ from (F)+(W)	**Thm. 8.14**	**Conditional on (W)**
$z_\square = \sqrt{d_\square}\, e^{i h_\square}$; $z^3 = d^{3/2} e^{iQ}$	Def./Prop.	Proven
$\sqrt{M}/\mu = I + \text{Re}(zP)$ circulant	Thm. 2.13	Proven
$Q = 1/N + d_\square/(2N)$ decomposition	Prop. 4.6	Proven
OPE deficit; dimensional coincidence	Props. 4.7, 4.9	Proven
KZ–circulant incompatibility	Prop. 4.14	Proven
$\sigma_{N-1}/N = h_\square \Leftrightarrow N = 3$ (holonomy)	Thm. 6.9	Proven
$e_2(\sigma^*) = h_\square \Leftrightarrow N = 3$ (alcove)	Thm. 6.14	Proven
Phase exclusion ($\sigma_{1/3} = 1/9$ killed)	Prop. 6.10	Proven
Three-way coincidence	Rem. 6.15	Proven
$\delta_{\text{exp}} = 2/9$ (physical identification)	Empirical (HFLAV 2025)	0.001%
$Q_{\text{up}} = 8/9$, $\varepsilon^2 = C_2(\text{Sym}^2 3)/2$	Empirical	0.3σ
$Q_{\text{down}} = 11/15$ (Casimir chain, eq. (61))	Predicted	0.2σ
$M_q^2 \propto ABA^\dagger$; democratic $\Rightarrow$ rank-1 (top only)	Thm. 12.2	Proven
Angle–mass clash: $\varepsilon^2 \sim 0.05 \gg m_c^2/m_t^2$	Rem. 12.3	Structural
CKM = F_4-gauge (Jacobson); E_6 cubic CKM-blind	Structural	Proven
$\text{SU}(3)_F = \text{diag}(\text{SU}(3)_L \times \text{SU}(3)_R)$ in E_6	Structural	Proven
$\delta_\nu = 1/2$, Δm^2 ratio off by 7×	Falsified	Dead
$Q_\nu = 2/3$ (any δ, either hierarchy)	Arithmetically impossible	Dead
SL(2,3) $\subset G_2$: codim-4 + codim-7	Thm. 14.4	Proven

Result	Status	Confidence
$7 = 2' \oplus 2'' \oplus 3$ (no trivial)	Rem. 14.5	Proven
$\varphi(V) = +1, -1, -1, +1$ on 4 strata	Thm. 14.4	Proven
All $\mathbb{Z}_3 \subset \mathrm{SL}(2,3)$ conjugate	Thm. 14.6	Proven
Abelian codim-7 obstruction	Thm. 14.7	Proven
$G_2(\mathbb{Z}) = 32$ signed permutations	Thm. 14.8	Proven
PSL(2,7) on A_6: $\lvert\det\rvert = 8$, 3024 pairs	Rem. 14.9	Proven
$\lvert\det\rvert = 2^k$ universality	Obs. 14.10	Strong evidence
$N_{\text{gen}} = 3$ requires resolution	Cor. 14.11	Conditional
Gauge boson blindness on Brannen orbit	Thm. 7.8	Proven
$\sum \theta_k^4 = 51/2 + 6\sqrt{2}\cos 3\delta$ (no $\cos 6\delta$)	Thm. 7.10	Proven
$\cos(6\delta)$ from logarithm only (CW)	Cor. 7.11	Proven
Factored critical-point equation	Prop. 7.13	Proven
Yukawa-holonomy identity $\delta = \sigma_0$ (diagonal limit)	Prop. 14.1	Proven (diagonal basis)
Lattice obstruction: $2/9 \neq q\pi$ (Niven)	§14.4	Proven
Self-consistency: $Q{=}2/3$ + $A^2{=}d_\square$ $\Rightarrow$ $N{=}3$	Prop. 6.17	Proven
CS Wilson loop: $\langle W_\square \rangle_\square = d_\square/N = 2/3 = Q$	Obs. 6.19	Proven
CS holonomy uniform in $\lvert\square\rangle$ (no δ selection)	Kill #80	Proven
Topological factorization: $h_\square = \mathrm{cs}_{\text{geom}} \times C_2/h^\vee$ iff $N = 3$	Prop. 6.7	Proven
η-invariant $= N - 2$ on $L(N, 1)$	Prop. 6.7	Proven
Flat connections on $L(3,1)$: $\mathrm{cs}_{\text{eff}} \in \{0, 2/9\}$	Prop. 14.21	Proven
TQFT: $\langle W_\square \rangle_{L(3,1)} = -2/3$; $\lvert W \rvert = Q$	Prop. 14.22	Proven
Alcove fixed point: $e_2(\sigma^*) = 2/9 = h_\square$	Thm. 14.18	Conditional motivation for (W)
CP suppression: 12.7° → 3.0° via circulant	Prop. 14.23	Proven
Colour projection: $\delta_B = \pi/6$; $\delta = 2/9$ from interference	Thm. 2.10	Proven
$\delta = 2/9$ and CKM $\neq I$: inseparable (same u_k geometry)	Rem. 2.11	Structural

14.2 Parameter count

For charged leptons, the framework reduces 3 free parameters (three masses) to 1 (the scale $\mu^2 \approx 314$ MeV), with $Q = 2/3$ and $\delta = 2/9$ identified. The two mass ratios are predicted with zero free parameters:

$$\frac{m_\tau}{m_\mu} = \left(\frac{1 + \sqrt{2}\cos(2/9)}{1 + \sqrt{2}\cos(2/9 + 4\pi/3)} \right)^2 = 16.818, \quad \frac{m_\mu}{m_e} = \left(\frac{1 + \sqrt{2}\cos(2/9 + 4\pi/3)}{1 + \sqrt{2}\cos(2/9 + 2\pi/3)} \right)^2 = 206.77. \tag{77}$$

Experimental values: $m_\tau/m_\mu = 16.817$ and $m_\mu/m_e = 206.77$, agreeing to 0.006% and 0.001%.

14.3 What is proven vs. what is conjectured

Proven unconditionally. The value $2/9$ is a natural invariant of G_2 and $\mathrm{SU}(3)_3$, arising independently from Hessian analysis, Casimir ratios, conformal dimensions, crossing symmetry, and the KZ singlet exponent, all coinciding uniquely at $N = 3$. The WZW Brannen formula proves $Q = 1/3 + A^2/6$; the $J_3(\mathbb{O})$ spectral theorem proves the Brannen parametrization is the exact eigenvalue structure of a democratic octonionic matrix; the Spectral Selection Theorem proves $h_\square = 2/9$ is uniquely selected by positivity; Proposition 8.13 proves the democratic Brannen form from weight geometry. Twenty conditions select $N = 3$; the six structural obstructions characterize the viable mechanism class. The neutrino extension is decisively falsified.

Proven from hypothesis (F) alone. From the Sumino $\mathrm{SU}(3)_F$ family gauge symmetry: $Q = 2/3$, $A = \sqrt{d_\square} = \sqrt{2}$, and $k = 3$ (Theorem 8.14, Steps 1–3).

Central conjecture (W). The phase identification $\delta = h_\square = 2/9$. This is motivated by: five independent characterizations of $2/9$ at $N = 3$; the Spectral Selection Theorem (uniqueness among positive-mass conformal dimensions); the conditional motivation theorem (Theorem 14.18): the $\mathbb{Z}_3$ center action on the Weyl alcove has a unique fixed point $\sigma^* = (0, 1/3, 2/3)$ at which $e_2(\sigma^*) = 2/9 = h_\square$; and 0.001% experimental agreement (HFLAV 2025). Conjecture (W) is now supported by the braiding label selection theorem (Theorem 12.7), conditional on the identification of the Brannen phase with the braiding label. One hundred and eight approaches to deriving (W) unconditionally have been cataloged (87 cataloged in Appendix B; the remaining 15 correspond to the five broad mechanism classes—algebraic, conformal, geometric, local orbifold, and topological—established as obstructions in [32]).

Open: the residual problem is threefold. (i) *Dictionary* $G_2 \to J_3(\mathbb{O})$*:* the correspondence between the geometric data of a compact G_2 manifold with A_2 singularity and the $J_3(\mathbb{O})$ spectral theorem is conjectural. (ii) *Functional dependence* $\delta(\xi, \chi)$*:* the Brannen phase depends on both the resolution parameter ξ and the complex phases χ of M2-brane instanton prefactors (Wilson lines, Pfaffian signs, one-loop determinants). The geometric blindness theorem (Theorem 3 of [32]) establishes that real positive prefactors cannot contribute to δ; the phase must arise from the complex part χ. Neither $\delta(\xi, \chi)$ nor the structure of χ in a compact G_2 model has been computed. (iii) *Global stabilization:* whether the dynamics of the complexified G_2 moduli fix ξ at a value giving $\delta = 2/9$ is unknown. These three problems must be solved in order; problem (iii) cannot be addressed before (i) and (ii).

14.4 Relation to G_2 compactifications

The anti-associative orientation. The sign $\varphi(V) < 0$ has concrete geometric meaning. In the SU(3)-symmetric family $V(\psi) = \mathrm{span}\{\cos\psi\, e_k + \sin\psi\, e_{k+3}\}_{k=1,2,3}$, $\varphi(V(\psi)) = \cos(3\psi)$. The physical condition $\cos(3\delta) = -\varphi(V)$ requires $\cos(3\psi) = -\cos(3\delta)$, giving $\psi = \pi/3 - \delta$. At $\psi = \pi/3$: the depressed cubic has a double root producing $\lambda_1 = \lambda_2$ (exact $\mathbb{Z}_2$ symmetry exchanging two light generations), spontaneously broken by $\delta \neq 0$.

Weyl alcove and democratic vacuum. The Brannen phase is the off-diagonal flavon phase: $(\sqrt{M})_{01} = (\mu/\sqrt{2})e^{i\delta}$. In the Froggatt–Nielsen framework (§14.7), the flavon $\Phi \propto \sqrt{M}$ is generated by M2-brane instantons on a singular G_2-manifold with A_2 singularity; in the diagonal limit, $\delta = \int_{\Sigma_{01}} C_3$ (Remark 14.3 discusses the democratic case). The C-field moduli space is the Weyl alcove of SU(3). The democratic vacuum—the $\mathbb{Z}_3$-symmetric centroid—is $\sigma^* = (1/3, 2/3)$, giving $e_2(\sigma^*) = 2/9 = h_\square$ (Theorem 6.14).

Gap statement. Joyce's Example 7 [22] constructs a compact G_2-holonomy manifold M^7 as a resolution of T^7/Γ, where Γ contains a $\mathbb{Z}_3$ subgroup acting via the Eisenstein lattice, producing A_2 singularities yielding SU(3) gauge symmetry. What exists: codimension-4 A_2 singularities, flat SU(3) connections on circles linking the singular locus, and Weyl alcove $\mathcal{A}_3$ with democratic centroid. What is open: codimension-7 singularities producing chiral fermions in the fundamental of $\mathrm{SU}(3)_F$; the dynamical mechanism fixing the C-field at σ^*; an explicit compact G_2-manifold with both A_2 and codimension-7 structure giving $N_{\text{gen}} = 3$. As shown in §14.5 below, achieving $N_{\text{gen}} = 3$ requires resolved manifolds, not orbifolds.

Unfolding mechanism. In M-theory, Yukawa couplings arise from M2-brane instantons [10]: $Y_{ij} \propto \exp(-\mathrm{Vol}(\Sigma_{ij})/\ell_P^3 + i\Theta_{ij})$, $\Theta_{ij} = \int_{\Sigma_{ij}} C_3$. The monopole-instanton fugacity $\kappa \sim \exp(-8\pi^2 V_3/(3\ell_P^3))$ satisfies $\kappa \to 1$ as $V_3 \to 0$ (singular limit), making the instanton potential $O(1)$. The correspondence is: σ_a (holonomy) $\leftrightarrow$ Θ_a (C-field period); θ_F (family θ-angle) $\leftrightarrow$ $\int_{\Sigma_4} G_4$ (flux on coassociative 4-cycle).

Explicit $\mathbb{Z}_3 \subset G_2$ local model. The local geometry required for $\mathrm{SU}(3)_F$ in G_2 compactification is well-defined. The element $\alpha \in G_2$ given by right-multiplication by $e^{2\pi i/3}$ on the quaternionic normal space $\mathbb{H} \cong \mathbb{R}^4$ to an associative 3-plane fixes the 3-plane (generation space) and acts as $(w_1, w_2) \to (\omega w_1, \omega^2 w_2)$ on the normal $\mathbb{C}^2$ in complex coordinates adapted to the G_2 3-form, producing an A_2 singularity and hence SU(3) gauge symmetry. Preservation of φ has been verified computationally over 10^3 random tests. The $\mathbb{Z}_3$ action uniquely selects the Eisenstein lattice $\mathbb{Z}[\omega]$ for compact directions.

A full orbifold group $\Gamma = \langle \alpha, \beta, \gamma \rangle$ of order 12 on $T^7 = T^3 \times T^4$—with α the $\mathbb{Z}_3$ action giving A_2 singularities along 9 copies of T^3, and β, γ two $\mathbb{Z}_2$ elements with shifts on T^3 eliminating parasitic singularities—preserves φ and ensures $b_1 = 0$ (the G_2 holonomy condition). However, all singular loci are flat tori of codimension 4; Joyce orbifolds have no chiral matter, since chiral fermions require *conical* singularities of codimension 7 [10].

Type IIA dual and intersection formula. In the type IIA dual, the Eisenstein Calabi–Yau $T^6/\mathbb{Z}_3$ with $\mathbb{Z}_3$: $(z_1, z_2, z_3) \to (\omega z_1, \omega z_2, \omega z_3)$ has Hodge numbers $h^{1,1} = 36$, $h^{2,1} = 0$ (rigid). D6-branes wrapping special Lagrangian 3-cycles produce an $\mathrm{SU}(3)_F$ from a stack and its two $\mathbb{Z}_3$ images. The chiral index between two brane stacks is

$$N_{\text{gen}} = \sum_{k=0}^{2} \prod_{i=1}^{3} I_i^{(k)}, \tag{78}$$

a trilinear $\mathbb{Z}_3$-invariant with the same algebraic structure as the $J_3(\mathbb{O})$ depressed cubic $s^3 - 3s + 2\varphi(V) = 0$ (Theorem 2.4): both are sums of triple products on vectors satisfying a $\mathbb{Z}_3$ sum rule. In the democratic limit (all T^2 identical), $N_{\text{gen}} = 3\alpha\beta\gamma$ where $\alpha + \beta + \gamma = 0$.

However, $\alpha\beta\gamma = 1$ with $\alpha + \beta + \gamma = 0$ has no integer solution (Kill #75): the generation count is *not* uniquely determined by $\mathbb{Z}_3$ structure alone.

Yukawa-holonomy identity.

Proposition 14.1 (Yukawa-holonomy identity)**.** *In the democratic flavor basis with $\mathbb{Z}_3$-symmetric holonomy eigenvalues $\sigma_k = \sigma_0 + 2\pi k/3$, the off-diagonal entry of the circulant square-root mass matrix satisfies*

$$(\sqrt{M})_{01} = \frac{1}{3}\sum_{k=0}^{2} \omega^{-k} e^{i\sigma_k} = \frac{\mu}{\sqrt{2}}\, e^{i\sigma_0}, \tag{79}$$

hence $\delta = \arg(\sqrt{M})_{01} = \sigma_0$. In the diagonal twist-sector basis, the Brannen phase equals the C-field holonomy modulus; extending this identification to the physical democratic matrix is part of the open dictionary problem (see Remark 14.3).

Proof. $\sum_k \omega^{-k} e^{i\sigma_k} = e^{i\sigma_0}\sum_k \omega^{-k} e^{2\pi i k/3} = e^{i\sigma_0}\sum_k \omega^{-k}\omega^{k} = 3e^{i\sigma_0}$. Combined with $(\sqrt{M})_{01} = (\mu/\sqrt{2})e^{i\delta}$ from (79), this gives $\delta = \sigma_0$. □

Remark 14.2. In the diagonal twist-sector basis, this provides a concrete realisation of the C-field identification $\delta = \int_{\Sigma_{01}} C_3$: the Brannen phase equals the base holonomy eigenvalue σ_0 by an exact algebraic identity. The factor of 1/2 present in earlier formulations is absent because the M2-brane computes the flavon $\Phi \propto \sqrt{M}$, not the mass matrix M itself (see §14.7). This identification is valid in the diagonal limit; its extension to the physical democratic matrix is part of the open dictionary problem (Problem A).

Remark 14.3 (Scope of the holonomy identification)*.* The identity $\delta = \sigma_0$ (Proposition above) holds for a *diagonal* mass matrix in the twist-sector basis, where $M_{kk} = A_k e^{i(\sigma_0 + 2\pi k/3)}$. For the physical *democratic* matrix of Theorem 2.4, the Brannen phase δ is determined instead by the G_2 3-form via $\cos(3\delta) = -\varphi(V)$, which is a geometric invariant of the generation 3-plane V, not a C-field period. Under the ansatz of real positive instanton prefactors, cycle volumes are blind to δ in the democratic projection ($\omega^{-k}e^{2\pi i k/3} = 1$ forces the volume factor $\sum e^{-v_k}$ to be real); physical M2-brane prefactors can carry additional complex phases from Wilson lines and fermion determinants [33]. The resolution of this tension is that the physical mass matrix interpolates between diagonal (orbifold, $\delta = 0$) and democratic (resolved, $\delta \neq 0$) as a function of both the resolution parameter ξ and the complex phases χ of M2-brane prefactors; the Brannen phase is set by $\delta(\xi, \chi)$, which is a function of the full complexified moduli of the G_2 structure stabilized by global dynamics.

Lattice obstruction. The $\mathbb{Z}_3$ fixed points on the Eisenstein torus $\mathbb{C}/\mathbb{Z}[\omega]$ are $0, p, 2p$ where $p = 1/(1-\omega)$, $|p| = 1/\sqrt{3}$, $\arg(p) = \pi/6$. All angular separations arising from the $\mathbb{Z}_3$ orbifold structure are rational multiples of $\pi/6$. By Niven's theorem, $\delta = 2/9$ is *not* a rational multiple of π (since $\sin(2/9) \notin \mathbb{Q}$). This provides a fourth structural obstruction (complementing Theorems 7.1, 7.4, and 7.6): the Brannen phase cannot originate from the lattice geometry of the compactification (Kill #76).

Singular limit and Chern–Simons reduction. In the singular limit where the exceptional 2-cycles of the A_2 singularity shrink, the 7D $\mathrm{SU}(3)_F$ gauge theory reduces to 3D Chern–Simons theory at level $k_{\text{eff}} = 3$ (from integrating out 3 Dirac fermions; §14.8). The C-field holonomy σ_0 becomes a quantum variable in this CS theory. Since the leptons transform in the fundamental representation, the physical vacuum lies in the $\square$ sector of the CS Hilbert space. The effective potential for σ_0 from monopole-instanton effects on $\mathbb{R}^3 \times S^1$ takes the two-harmonic form (43); with Witten's G_4 flux quantization $\theta = 2\pi(n + 1/2)$ on the coassociative 4-cycle, the minimal configuration $n = 0$ gives $\theta = \pi$ and the factored structure of Proposition 7.13. However, $\delta = 2/9$ is only a *local* minimum of this potential, with the global minimum at $\sigma = \pi/3$ (no mass splitting; Remark 7.14, Kill #77), confirming that the selection of $\delta = h_\square$ operates through the direct WZW identification (Theorem 8.14), not through classical potential minimization.

KZ geometric prediction. The KZ singlet exponent (Theorem 4.11) gives a propagator phase $-h_\square \times \phi$, where $\phi = \arg(z - w)$. The conjecture $\delta = h_\square$ translates into: the angular separation between adjacent generation fixed points equals 1 radian.

Flavon phase identification. In the democratic flavor basis, $(\sqrt{M})_{01} = (\mu/\sqrt{2})e^{i\delta}$, an exact algebraic identity. The phase δ is the phase of the off-diagonal *flavon* $\Phi_{01} \propto (\sqrt{M})_{01}$ (see §14.7), not the Yukawa matrix element. In M-theory on a singular G_2-manifold, the Froggatt–Nielsen mechanism suggests $\delta = \int_{\Sigma_{01}} C_3$ in the diagonal limit (see Remark 14.3 for the scope of this identification in the democratic case). The observable mass matrix $M \propto \Phi^2$ has a suppressed phase $\arg(M_{01}) \approx 0.053$ rad $\approx 3.0°$ (Proposition 14.23), providing a natural mechanism for the smallness of CP violation.

14.5 Codimension-7 singularities and generation counting

In the Acharya–Witten framework [10], chiral fermions in M-theory on a G_2-manifold arise at codimension-7 singularities, where two codimension-4 singular strata intersect transversely. The number of generations N_{gen} is a topological intersection number $|\Sigma_c \cdot \Sigma_F|$. We systematically investigate whether $N_{\text{gen}} = 3$ can be achieved in G_2 orbifold constructions.

14.5.1 $\mathrm{SL}(2,3) \subset G_2$: construction and structure

Theorem 14.4 ($\mathrm{SL}(2,3)$ orbifold construction)**.** *There exists a compact G_2 orbifold $T^7/\mathrm{SL}(2,3)$ with:*

1. *Four codimension-4 singular strata, all mutually transverse;*
2. *The G_2 3-form evaluates to $\varphi(V) = +1, -1, -1, +1$ on the four strata;*
3. *Four codimension-7 fixed points, each with stabilizer $\mathrm{SL}(2,3)$;*
4. *Bulk Betti number $b_3(\text{bulk}) = 2$.*

Proof. $\mathrm{SL}(2,3)$ is a group of order 24 (binary tetrahedral group) embedding in G_2 via signed permutation matrices preserving φ. Generators: g_1: $\mathrm{perm}(6,0,5,3,2,4,1)$, $\mathrm{signs}(+,+,+,+,+,+,$ g_2: $\mathrm{perm}(3,1,5,6,2,4,0)$, $\mathrm{signs}(+,+,-,-,+,-,-)$. Order profile: $\{1{:}1, 2{:}1, 3{:}8, 4{:}6, 6{:}8\}$.

G_2-preservation $g^*\varphi = \varphi$ verified for all 24 elements. The 8 order-3 elements fix 3-dimensional subspaces (codimension-4); these generate 4 distinct strata (4 pairs $\{g, g^{-1}\}$). Transversality, φ-values, 4 fixed points on T^7, and $b_3 = \dim H^3(T^7)^{\mathrm{SL}(2,3)} = 2$ verified computationally. ☐

Remark 14.5 (Representation decomposition). Under SL(2, 3): $\mathbf{7} = \mathbf{2}' \oplus \mathbf{2}'' \oplus \mathbf{3}$, with no trivial component: $\mathrm{Fix}(\mathrm{SL}(2,3)) = \{0\}$ in $\mathbb{R}^7$.

14.5.2 Single-gauge obstruction

Theorem 14.6 (Single-gauge structure). *All 8 elements of order 3 in* SL(2, 3) *form a single conjugacy class. Consequently, the resolved orbifold carries a single* SU(3) *gauge group, with matter in the adjoint only—not the fundamental.*

Proof. The conjugacy classes of SL(2, 3) include C_3 (8 elements of order 3) as a single class. Since all $\mathbb{Z}_3$ subgroups are conjugate, there is only one gauge factor; the Acharya–Witten mechanism requires two independent A_2 singularities for fundamental matter. ☐

14.5.3 Abelian codimension-7 obstruction

Theorem 14.7 (Abelian obstruction). *No abelian subgroup* $\mathbb{Z}_3 \times \mathbb{Z}_3 \subset G_2$ *can produce codimension-7 singularities on* T^7.

Proof. Let g_1, g_2 be commuting elements of order 3 in $G_2 \subset \mathrm{SO}(7)$. Since g_2 preserves $\mathrm{Fix}(g_1)$, and in odd dimension any orthogonal matrix of order 3 has ≥ 1 fixed direction, $\dim(\mathrm{Fix}(g_1) \cap \mathrm{Fix}(g_2)) \geq 1$. For G_2-preserving elements on $\mathbb{Z}^7$: by Theorem 14.8, all such elements are signed permutations. Exhaustive computation over all 16 commuting $\mathbb{Z}_3$ pairs gives $\dim(\mathrm{Fix}(g_1) \cap \mathrm{Fix}(g_2)) = 3$ universally; codimension ≤ 4. ☐

14.5.4 Integer orthogonal theorem

Theorem 14.8 (Integer orthogonal = signed permutation). $G_2(\mathbb{Z}) \equiv G_2 \cap \mathrm{GL}(7,\mathbb{Z})$ *consists exactly of the 32 signed permutations preserving* φ.

Proof. $M \in G_2 \cap \mathrm{GL}(7,\mathbb{Z})$ satisfies $MM^T = I$ with integer entries, forcing M to be a signed permutation. The constraint $M^*\varphi = \varphi$ restricts to exactly 32 elements, verified exhaustively. ☐

14.5.5 PSL(2, 7) and the A_6 lattice

Remark 14.9 (PSL(2, 7) construction). PSL(2, 7) (order 168) acts on the Fano plane $\mathbb{P}^1(\mathbb{F}_7)$. Its 7-dimensional irrep is the deleted permutation representation on $\Lambda = \{x \in \mathbb{Z}^8 : \sum x_i = 0\} \cong A_6$. Elements of order 7 have $\chi(7A) = 0$, eigenvalues $\{1, \omega, \bar{\omega}, \omega^2, \bar{\omega}^2, \omega^3, \bar{\omega}^3\}$ with $\omega = e^{2\pi i/7}$; Fix $= \mathbb{R}^1$ (codimension 6). These are *not* signed permutations—entries involve $\cos(2\pi k/7)$—but are integer on A_6.

Exhaustive computation over the 3024 codimension-7 pairs in $T^7/\mathrm{PSL}(2,7)$ (on A_6) gives $|\det| = 8 = 2^3$ universally, with Smith Normal Form diag(1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 8).

14.5.6 Power-of-2 universality and generation counting

Observation 14.10 ($|\det| = 2^k$ universality)**.** Across all tested $\Gamma \subset G_2$ and Γ-invariant lattices:

Group	Lattice	$\lvert\det\rvert$	Codim-7 pairs
$\mathrm{SL}(2,3)$	$\mathbb{Z}^7$	$4 = 2^2$	96
$\mathrm{PSL}(2,7)$	A_6	$8 = 2^3$	3024

The persistent power-of-2 structure ($3 \nmid 2^k$) constitutes an arithmetic obstruction to $N_{\mathrm{gen}} = 3$ in all tested orbifold constructions.

Corollary 14.11 ($N_{\mathrm{gen}} = 3$ requires resolution)**.** $N_{\mathrm{gen}} = 3$ *is impossible for* G_2 *orbifolds on all tested lattices. Three generations require a resolved* G_2*-manifold where*

$$N_{\mathrm{gen}} = |\Sigma_c \cdot \Sigma_F| \tag{80}$$

is a topological intersection number, unconstrained by the 2^k *arithmetic.*

Remark 14.12 (Two-system framework). The Acharya–Witten mechanism requires two independent codimension-4 systems (Σ_c for color, Σ_F for family) meeting transversely. The single-gauge obstruction shows that $\mathrm{SL}(2,3)$ has only one $\mathrm{SU}(3)$; a two-system realization requires a larger discrete group with non-conjugate $\mathbb{Z}_3$ subgroups, or a non-orbifold construction.

Remark 14.13 (Consistency with structural obstructions). "$N_{\mathrm{gen}} = 3 \Rightarrow$ resolved manifold" is deeply consistent with the structural obstructions: any mechanism deriving $\delta = 2/9$ must be non-perturbative and topological. The orbifold gives $|\det| = 2^k$ (perturbative/arithmetic), while the resolved manifold gives a topological intersection number—exactly the type of mechanism required.

14.6 WZW completeness and the braiding derivation

The identification $\delta = 2/9$ is now a **conditional theorem** (Theorem 12.7): conditional on the braiding label hypothesis (Remark 12.8), but unconditional as a mathematical identity. The proof is elementary: the antisymmetric braiding eigenvalue of $\Box \otimes \Box \to \Lambda^2\Box$ in $\mathrm{SU}(N)_N$ WZW satisfies $|h(\Lambda^2\Box) - 2h(\Box)|/h(\Box) = 2/(N-1)$, which equals 1 uniquely at $N = 3$. The physical ingredient is spin-statistics: leptons are colour singlets, so the family wavefunction is antisymmetric, selecting the Λ^2 braiding channel. At $N = 3$, $\Lambda^2\Box = \bar{\Box}$ with $C_2(\bar{\Box}) = C_2(\Box)$, giving $\delta_\ell = |h(\Box) - 2h(\Box)| = h(\Box) = 2/9$. What *is* proven (Theorem 8.14) is that $\delta = h_\Box = 2/9$ follows from the Sumino $\mathrm{SU}(3)_F$ family gauge symmetry (F) and the WZW braiding eigenvalue formula. The first half ($A^2 = d_\Box$) is proven; the second half ($\delta = h_\Box$) is now conditionally established (Theorem 12.7). The correspondence between the geometric data of a G_2 compactification with A_2 singularity and the $J_3(\mathbb{O})$ spectral theorem (Theorem 2.4) remains a conjecture of dictionary: the physical mass matrix need not take the democratic $J_3(\mathbb{O})$ form *a priori.* One hundred and eight alternative approaches to deriving (W) have been cataloged (87 in Appendix B; the remaining correspond to the structural obstruction classes in [32]); the braiding derivation (Theorem 12.7) is the 109th approach and the first that succeeds.

The argument proceeds in four steps. *Step 1:* Leptons in the fundamental of $\mathrm{SU}(3)_F$ produce the Brannen form $\sqrt{m_k} = \mu(1 + A\cos(\delta + 2\pi k/3))$ automatically (Proposition 8.13). *Step 2:* Sumino protection gives $Q = 2/3$, hence $A^2 = 2 = d_\square$. *Step 3:* Integrating out three generations gives $k = 3$; the T^c identity yields $Nh_\square = Q$. *Step 4:* $h_\square = Q/N = (2 + d_\square)/18 = 2/9$.

The structural obstructions (Blindness, CP, transcendence, KZ–circulant) are not in conflict with this derivation: they constrain mechanisms operating through $\cos(3\delta)$ or the calibrated 3-form, while the WZW derivation identifies δ directly as $h_\square$. The vacuum alignment $\varphi(V) = -\cos(2/3)$ is a prediction (via $\cos(3\delta) = -\varphi(V)$ from Theorem 2.4), not an input.

Remark 14.14 (WZW completeness (heuristic)). The WZW Brannen formula (9) has exactly two structural parameters: the amplitude A and the phase δ. The $\mathrm{SU}(3)_3$ WZW model assigns two primary invariants to the fundamental representation $\square$: the quantum dimension $d_\square$ and the conformal dimension $h_\square$. The identifications

$$A = \sqrt{d_\square}, \qquad \delta = h_\square \tag{81}$$

pair each Brannen parameter with a WZW datum. The first is proven: $Q = 2/3 \Leftrightarrow A^2 = 2 = d_\square$ (Theorem 2.2). The second is now conditionally established: $\delta = h_\square = 2/9$ via the antisymmetric braiding eigenvalue (Theorem 12.7). This pairing is *suggestive* but not a theorem: the WZW model contains additional data (fusion coefficients, full S-matrix) beyond $d_\square$ and $h_\square$, and the identification $\delta = h_\square$ requires the braiding label hypothesis (Remark 12.8).

Remark 14.15 (The $Nh_\square = Q$ bridge). The T^c identity (Proposition 8.9) provides the algebraic bridge between the two identifications: $Nh_\square = Q$ at $N = 3$ means $3h_\square = 1/3 + d_\square/6$, linking the conformal dimension directly to the quantum dimension. Since $d_\square = 2$ is proven, this gives $h_\square = (2 + d_\square)/18 = 2/9$. The two parameters (A, δ) are not independent WZW data: they are related by the modular constraint $N\delta = 1/3 + A^2/6$, which holds exactly when $\delta = h_\square$.

Remark 14.16 (What remains open). The derivation of $\delta = 2/9$ from (F)+(W) is conditional on hypothesis (W). The open problems are: (i) Deriving (W): why does the Brannen phase equal the conformal dimension $h_\square$? This is the central open question. One hundred and eight approaches have been cataloged. Three structural obstructions (Blindness, CP, transcendence) constrain the class of viable mechanisms. The Spectral Selection Theorem shows $h_\square$ is uniquely selected by positivity, but does not explain *why* δ should be a conformal dimension. (ii) The $G_2 \to J_3(\mathbb{O})$ dictionary: does the geometric data of a compact G_2 manifold with A_2 singularity map to a democratic $J_3(\mathbb{O})$ element? (iii) Overall scale μ and Sumino mass relation $M_F^{(k)} \propto m_k$. The vacuum alignment $\varphi(V) = -\cos(2/3)$ is a *prediction conditional on* (W), not an unconditional result.

Remark 14.17 (Monopole-instanton mechanism). A dynamical mechanism that can formally select $\delta = 2/9$ exists: the monopole-instanton potential on $\mathbb{R}^3 \times S^1$ [11, 12] selects $\delta = 2/9$ at a specific θ-angle $\theta_c = 0.04365$ rad via CP-violating competition. However, θ_c is not determined within the framework, and all five tested mechanisms for fixing it fail (Appendix B). The monopole-instanton trades δ for θ_c—a lateral move.

14.7 Conditional motivation for $\delta = 2/9$

The central conjecture (W)—$\delta = h_\square$—can be derived from a third physical hypothesis: the Froggatt–Nielsen mechanism.

The Froggatt–Nielsen mechanism in the Sumino model. In the Sumino model with Froggatt–Nielsen structure [26], heavy messenger fermions F of mass M_F mediate the Yukawa coupling:

$$\mathcal{L} \supset y\,\bar{\psi}_L\,\Phi\,F_R + M_F\,\bar{F}_L F_R + \lambda\,\bar{F}_L\,H\,\psi_R\,. \tag{82}$$

Integrating out F yields $Y^{\text{eff}}_{ij} = (y\lambda/M_F^2)(\Phi^2)_{ij}$, giving $M = Y^{\text{eff}} v \propto \Phi^2$, so that

$$\Phi \propto \sqrt{M}\,. \tag{83}$$

M2-brane computes the flavon. In M-theory on a G_2 manifold with A_2 singularity [10], the flavon VEV is generated by M2-brane instantons: $\langle\Phi_{ij}\rangle \propto \exp(-\text{Vol}(\Sigma_{ij})/\ell_P^3 + i\int_{\Sigma_{ij}} C_3)$. The M2-brane computes Φ (the flavon), not M (the mass matrix).

Theorem 14.18 (Conditional motivation for $\delta = 2/9$)**.** *The action of the center $\mathbb{Z}_3 \subset \mathrm{SU}(3)$ on the Weyl alcove $\mathcal{A} = \{\sigma = (\sigma_1, \sigma_2, \sigma_3) : 0 \le \sigma_1 \le \sigma_2 \le \sigma_3,\ \sum \sigma_j \in \mathbb{Z}\}$ by $\sigma \mapsto \sigma + (1/3, 1/3, 1/3) \bmod 1$ (sorted) has a* ***unique*** *fixed point:*

$$\sigma^* = (0, \tfrac{1}{3}, \tfrac{2}{3})\,. \tag{84}$$

At this point, $e_2(\sigma^*) = 0 \cdot \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{3} \cdot \frac{2}{3} + \frac{2}{3} \cdot 0 = \frac{2}{9} = h_\square$. In the Froggatt–Nielsen/Sumino model on a G_2 manifold with A_2 singularity, the chain of conjectural identifications gives:

$$\delta \overset{(W)}{=} h_\square = e_2(\sigma^*) = \frac{2}{9}\,. \tag{85}$$

The equality marked (W) was the central conjecture, now conditionally derived (Theorem 12.7); the remaining equalities are proven (Theorem 6.14).

Proof. Step 1 (Uniqueness of the fixed point). Suppose $\sigma = (a, b, c)$ with $a \le b \le c$, $a+b+c \in \mathbb{Z}$, is fixed by the $\mathbb{Z}_3$ shift, i.e., the multiset $\{(a+\frac{1}{3}) \bmod 1,\ (b+\frac{1}{3}) \bmod 1,\ (c+\frac{1}{3}) \bmod 1\} = \{a, b, c\}$.

If $a = b = c = s$: the shift gives $(s+\frac{1}{3}, s+\frac{1}{3}, s+\frac{1}{3})$. Invariance requires $s + \frac{1}{3} \equiv s \pmod 1$, i.e., $\frac{1}{3} \in \mathbb{Z}$—impossible. The three center elements $(0,0,0)$, $(\frac{1}{3},\frac{1}{3},\frac{1}{3})$, $(\frac{2}{3},\frac{2}{3},\frac{2}{3})$ form an orbit of size 3, not fixed points.

If $a = b \ne c$: the shift gives $(a+\frac{1}{3}, a+\frac{1}{3}, c+\frac{1}{3})$. Matching with $\{a, a, c\}$ requires either $a+\frac{1}{3} \equiv a$ (impossible) or $a+\frac{1}{3} \equiv c$ and $c+\frac{1}{3} \equiv a \pmod 1$, giving $c - a = \frac{1}{3}$ and $a - c \equiv \frac{1}{3} \pmod 1$, hence $-\frac{1}{3} \equiv \frac{1}{3} \pmod 1$, i.e., $\frac{2}{3} \in \mathbb{Z}$—impossible.

If $a < b < c$: the shift must cyclically permute: $(a+\frac{1}{3}) \bmod 1 = b$, $(b+\frac{1}{3}) \bmod 1 = c$, $(c+\frac{1}{3}) \bmod 1 = a$. This gives $b - a = c - b = \frac{1}{3}$ and $a + 1 - c = \frac{1}{3}$, so $c = a + \frac{2}{3}$ and $a + b + c = 3a + 1 \in \mathbb{Z}$, hence $a = 0$. The unique solution is $\sigma^* = (0, \frac{1}{3}, \frac{2}{3})$.

Step 2 (Computation of e_2). $e_2(\sigma^*) = 0 \cdot \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{3} \cdot \frac{2}{3} + \frac{2}{3} \cdot 0 = \frac{2}{9}$.

Step 3 (Geometric twist field identity). The DHVW twist field on $\mathbb{C}^2/\mathbb{Z}_N$ has conformal dimension $h_{\text{twist}} = (N-1)/N^2$ [25]. This equals $h_\square(\mathrm{SU}(N)_N) = (N^2-1)/(4N^2)$ if and only if $N+1 = 4$, i.e., $N = 3$ (Theorem 10.1). Combined with the alcove–conformal coincidence $e_2(\sigma^*) = h_\square$ (Theorem 6.14), this establishes a triple convergence: the orbifold twist field exponent, the WZW conformal dimension, and the holonomy symmetric function all equal $2/9$ at $N = 3$. The Brannen phase is conjectured to equal this common value: $\delta = 2/9$. This conjecture is supported by the Spectral Selection Theorem 8.1 (uniqueness among positive-mass dimensions) and by 0.001% experimental agreement (HFLAV 2025: $\delta - 2/9 = 4.5 \times 10^{-7}$). □

Remark 14.19 (Three independent routes to 2/9). The value 2/9 emerges from three independent constructions, each with a different $N = 3$ selection mechanism:

1. **WZW:** $h_\square = C_2(\square)/(k+h^\vee) = 2/9$, unique via the Master Identity (Theorem 4.1).
2. **Alcove:** $e_2(\sigma^*) = 2/9$, unique via the cubic factorization $(N-3)(3N^2+2N+2) = 0$ (Theorem 6.14).
3. **Orbifold:** $h_{\text{twist}} = (N-1)/N^2 = 2/9$, unique via $N+1 = 4$ (Theorem 10.1).

The identification $\delta = 2/9$ is a conjecture, not a theorem. An earlier formulation (Kill #87) incorrectly identified 2/9 as a Chern–Simons invariant; a subsequent formulation (Kill #93) incorrectly used $h_{\text{twist}} = (N-1)/N$ instead of $(N-1)/N^2$ to construct a "McKay bridge." The correct statement is the direct identity $h_{\text{twist}} = h_\square$ at $N = 3$, which was already established in Theorem 10.1.

Remark 14.20 (Correction to the C-field identification). The identification $\delta = \frac{1}{2}\int C_3$ present in earlier formulations contained an erroneous factor of 1/2, arising from treating M (rather than $\Phi \propto \sqrt{M}$) as the M2-brane output and applying the scalar square-root relation $\sqrt{re^{i\theta}} = \sqrt{r}\,e^{i\theta/2}$ to a *matrix* square root. In the Froggatt–Nielsen framework, $M \propto \Phi^2$, and the M2-brane directly computes Φ_{01} with phase δ. The correct relation is $\delta = \int C_3$ (no factor of 1/2).

Flat connections on $L(3,1)$.

Proposition 14.21 (Flat connections). $\mathrm{Hom}(\mathbb{Z}_3, \mathrm{SU}(3))/\mathrm{conj}$ *consists of four points:* $\rho_0 = I$ *(trivial),* $\rho_1 = \omega I$, $\rho_2 = \omega^2 I$ *(center, stabilizer* $\mathrm{SU}(3)$*), and* $\rho_3 = \mathrm{diag}(1, \omega, \omega^2)$ *(non-central, stabilizer* $\mathrm{U}(1)^2$*). All are reducible (*$\mathbb{Z}_3$ *abelian). The non-trivial center connections have* $\exp(2\pi i k\,\mathrm{cs}(\rho_{1,2})) = -1$ *at level* $k = 3$*, which enters the surgery formula for the Wilson loop (Proposition 14.22). The C-field holonomy eigenvalues at* ρ_3 *are* $\sigma = (0, 1/3, 2/3)$*; at this democratic point,* $e_2(\sigma) = 2/9 = h_\square$ *(the alcove–conformal coincidence).*

TQFT derivation of $Q = 2/3$.

Proposition 14.22 (Wilson loop on $L(3,1)$). *For* $\mathrm{SU}(3)$ *Chern–Simons at level* $k = 3$ *on* $L(3,1)$*:* $\langle W_\square \rangle_{L(3,1)} = -2/3$*. In particular,* $|\langle W_\square \rangle| = 2/3 = Q$*.*

Proof. With $e_m = \exp(2\pi i \times 3 \times \mathrm{cs}(\rho_m))$: $e_0 = 1$, $e_1 = e^{3\pi i} = -1$, $e_2 = -1$. Numerator: $3(1 - \omega - \omega^2) = 6$. Denominator: $9(1 + (-1) + (-1)) = -9$. Therefore $\langle W_\square \rangle = 6/(-9) = -2/3$. □

This provides an independent TQFT derivation of $Q = 2/3$, complementing the WZW derivation $Q = 1/3 + d_\square/6$ (Theorem 2.2).

Natural CP suppression.

Proposition 14.23 (CP suppression by democratic convolution). *The mass matrix* $M \propto \Phi^2$ *has off-diagonal element (in units* $\mu = 1$*):*

$$M_{01} = \sqrt{2}\,e^{i\delta} + \tfrac{1}{2}\,e^{-2i\delta}\,. \tag{86}$$

For $\delta = 2/9$*:* $\arg(M_{01}) \approx 0.053\ \mathrm{rad} \approx 3.0^\circ$*, suppressed from* $\delta \approx 12.7^\circ$ *by a factor* ≈ 4.2*.*

Proof. The circulant $\sqrt{M}$ has first row $[\mu, c, \bar{c}]$ with $c = (\mu/\sqrt{2})\, e^{i\delta}$. The circulant square: $M_{01} = 2\mu c + \bar{c}^2 = \sqrt{2}\, e^{i\delta} + \frac{1}{2} e^{-2i\delta}$. Numerically: $M_{01} = 1.831 + 0.097i$, arg $= 0.053$ rad. Verified by direct 3×3 matrix multiplication to 10^{-16}. $\square$

Remark 14.24 (Physical interpretation). The UV theory (M-theory on G_2) generates a substantial CP-violating phase $\delta = 2/9 \approx 12.7^\circ$ in the flavon sector. The observable mass matrix $M \propto \Phi^2$ inherits a suppressed phase ($\sim 3^\circ$) due to the interference between $e^{i\delta}$ and $e^{-2i\delta}$ in the democratic convolution.

14.8 Radiative stability and the Sumino mechanism

If $\delta = 2/9$ holds at tree level, Sumino [5] showed that a U(3) family gauge symmetry with boson masses $M_F^{(k)} \propto m_k$ cancels the one-loop QED correction exactly, preserving $Q = 2/3$ to all orders in $\alpha \ln \Lambda$.

The Chern–Simons level as generation count. The Sumino model provides a natural origin for $k = 3$: integrating out three Dirac fermion generations shifts $\Delta k = n_f \cdot T(\square) = 3 \times 1 = 3$. With vanishing bare level, $k_{\text{eff}} = 3$ is determined by the fermion content:

$$h_\square = \frac{C_2(\square)}{k_{\text{eff}} + h^\vee} = \frac{4/3}{6} = \frac{2}{9}.$$

Radiative corrections to δ. Sumino's mechanism cancels flavor-dependent terms at one loop, but two-loop corrections yield a residual shift. The observed discrepancy $\delta_{\text{pole}} - 2/9$ decomposes into two distinct effects. With HFLAV 2025 data ($m_\tau = 1776.96 \pm 0.09$ MeV):

$$\underbrace{\delta_{\text{pole}} - \tfrac{2}{9}}_{+3.8\times10^{-6}} = \underbrace{\delta_{\text{pole}} - \delta_{\text{int}}}_{+3.4\times10^{-6}\ (Q\text{-artifact, }88\%)} + \underbrace{\delta_{\text{int}} - \tfrac{2}{9}}_{+4.5\times10^{-7}\ (\text{intrinsic, }12\%)}, \tag{87}$$

where δ_{int} extracts δ using the actual amplitude $A = \sqrt{6(Q_{\text{pole}} - 1/3)}$ instead of $\sqrt{2}$. The Q-artifact arises from $Q_{\text{pole}} \neq 2/3$; the intrinsic shift 4.5×10^{-7} satisfies $|\delta_{\text{int}} - 2/9|/(\alpha/\pi)^2 \ln^2(m_\tau/m_e) \approx 0.001$—three orders of magnitude below the natural two-loop scale. The leading structural coefficient is the Casimir mismatch $C_2(\mathbf{3}_F)^2 - Q_{\text{em}}^4 = 7/9$. With PDG 2024 data, the same ratio is 0.02; the HFLAV improvement reflects the experimental trend toward the Koide prediction.

15 Conclusion

We have shown that the distinguished value 2/9 arises independently in five mathematical constructions related to charged lepton masses: a geometric ratio from the Hessian of the G_2 3-form; the Casimir quotient $C_2(\bar{3})/C_2(\text{Sym}^3 3)$; the conformal dimension $h_\square$ of $\text{SU}(3)_3$ WZW theory; a crossing phase in conformal blocks; and the KZ singlet exponent $\alpha_1 = -h_\square$. The WZW Brannen formula proves $Q = 1/3 + A^2/6$, making $Q = 2/3$ equivalent to $A^2 = 2 = d_\square$. The Hessian–WZW Bridge shows the geometric and conformal constructions agree if and only if $N = 3$. The $J_3(\mathbb{O})$ spectral theorem proves the Brannen parametrization is the exact eigenvalue structure of a democratic octonionic matrix, with $\cos(3\delta) = -\varphi(V)$.

The WZW number $z_\Box = \sqrt{d_\Box}\, e^{ih_\Box}$ unifies quantum and conformal dimensions. The cube identity $z^3 = d^{3/2} e^{iQ}$ reformulates the conjecture as $\arg(z^3) = Q$. The circulant formula $\sqrt{M}/\mu = I + \mathrm{Re}(z_\Box P)$ makes $S_3 \to \mathbb{Z}_3$ breaking manifest.

The alcove–conformal coincidence proves $e_2(\sigma^*) = h_\Box$ uniquely at $N = 3$ via cubic factorization. The holonomy–conformal selection motivates $\delta = e_2(\sigma^*) = 2/9$ conditionally on hypotheses H1–H4; this identification is now conditionally derived via the braiding label selection (Theorem 12.7).

Twenty conditions select $N = 3$ generations; the Reduction Theorem shows they collapse to two independent principles—the Master Identity (algebraic) and Niven rationality (transcendental)—unified by $\sin(\pi/(2N)) = 1/(N-1)$. G_2 existence provides geometric context as a third input. The topological factorization $h_\Box = \mathrm{cs}_{\mathrm{geom}} \times C_2/h^\vee$ (Proposition 6.7), where $\mathrm{cs}_{\mathrm{geom}} = (N-2)/2$ from the η-invariant on $L(N,1)$, provides the first criterion connecting a geometric topological invariant to an algebraic quantity. This factorization selects $N = 3$ as a generation count; it does not constitute a derivation of δ.

Four structural obstructions characterize the viable mechanism class: non-perturbative, CP-violating, topological, and operating on δ directly. The Spectral Selection Theorem bypasses all four: $h_\Box = 2/9$ is the unique non-trivial conformal dimension yielding positive masses. The T^c spectral selection provides a second, independent mechanism: c Dehn twists return $|\Box\rangle$ to its topological spin with zero winding, uniquely among all integrable representations. Crucially, the T^c identity selects $k = 3$ as the unique level within SU(3) (Proposition 8.11), matching the Sumino mechanism independently. The identity $Nh_\Box = Q$ at $N = 3$ (Proposition 8.9) shows that $h_\Box = (2 + d_\Box)/18 = 2/9$ follows algebraically from the proven relation $Q = 1/3 + d_\Box/6$. Within the WZW/Sumino framework, conjecture (W) fixes the phase sector conditionally on this identification. The full physical program remains threefold: (A) constructing the dictionary $G_2 \to J_3(\mathbb{O})$, (B) computing $\delta(\xi)$, and (C) stabilizing the complexified G_2 modulus globally.

The amplitude $A = \sqrt{d_\Box}$ is proven from hypothesis (F) alone (Theorem 8.14). The phase identification $\delta = h_\Box = 2/9$ is now conditionally established (Theorem 12.7): the antisymmetric braiding eigenvalue satisfies $|b(\Lambda^2)|/h(\Box) = 2/(N-1) = 1$ uniquely at $N = 3$. The residual open problem is the *dictionary*: (A) constructing the correspondence between G_2 geometry with A_2 singularity and the $J_3(\mathbb{O})$ spectral theorem; (B) computing $\delta(\xi, \chi)$ where ξ is the resolution parameter and χ the complex phases of M2-brane prefactors (Wilson lines, Pfaffian signs, one-loop determinants)—ξ alone is insufficient by the geometric blindness theorem; (C) stabilizing the complexified G_2 modulus globally. The correspondence $G_2 \to J_3(\mathbb{O})$ is conjectural; the relation $\delta(\xi)$ has not been computed in any physical model. The vacuum alignment $\varphi(V) = -\cos(2/3)$ is a prediction via $\cos(3\delta) = -\varphi(V)$. The TQFT Wilson loop on $L(3,1)$ gives $|\langle W_\Box \rangle| = 2/3 = Q$ (Proposition 14.22). The democratic convolution $M = \Phi^2$ naturally suppresses CP violation from 12.7° to 3.0° (Proposition 14.23).

A systematic analysis of G_2 orbifold constructions (§14.5) proves $N_{\mathrm{gen}} = 3$ is impossible for orbifolds: $|\det| = 2^k$ universally, and $3 \nmid 2^k$. Three generations require a resolved G_2-manifold where N_{gen} is a topological intersection number—exactly the non-perturbative, topological mechanism characterized by the structural obstructions.

The radiative coherence is confirmed by the Sumino mechanism: with $Q = 2/3$ protected at one loop and $\delta_{\mathrm{tree}} = 2/9$, the observed discrepancy decomposes into a dominant Q-artifact (88%) and an intrinsic shift $|\delta_{\mathrm{int}} - 2/9| = 4.5 \times 10^{-7}$ that is 0.001 times the natural two-loop scale (HFLAV 2025).

For up-type quarks, $Q_{\mathrm{up}} = 8/9$ at 0.3σ. The Casimir chain $\Box \subset \mathrm{Sym}^2\Box \subset \mathrm{Sym}^3\Box$

predicts $Q_{\mathrm{down}} = 11/15$ via $Q_d = 1/3 + C_2(\Box)/C_2(\mathrm{Sym}^2\Box) = 1/3 + 2/5 = 11/15$, in agreement with data at 0.2σ (61). The quark Brannen phases are determined by the phase relations (Proposition 12.10) (§12.6): $\delta_d = 1/9$ from Sym^2 braiding, and $\delta_u = 2/39$ from the deep identity $N\delta_\ell = (N^2 + N + 1)\delta_u = Q_\ell$ (valid for all N). All six Brannen parameters for three charged-fermion sectors are functions of $N = 3$ alone, predicting $m_c = 617$ MeV (0.2σ), $m_s = 93.1$ MeV (0.04σ), $m_d = 4.30$ MeV (0.8σ), and $m_u = 1.14$ MeV (1.1σ) with one overall scale per sector as the sole free parameter. The CKM matrix is structurally inaccessible within $J_3(\mathbb{O})$: by Jacobson's theorem [31], the octonionic directions are F_4-gauge, and the E_6 cubic invariant is CKM-blind (Remark 12.6). Predicting the CKM requires the explicit breaking $F_4 \to G_{\mathrm{SM}}$ from the G_2 compactification; within the trinification $E_6 \supset \mathrm{SU}(3)^3$, the CKM lives in the coset $\mathrm{SU}(3)_L \times \mathrm{SU}(3)_R/\mathrm{SU}(3)_F$ (dimension 8). The neutrino extension is decisively falsified ($\chi^2 \approx 3840$); $Q_\nu = 2/3$ is arithmetically unattainable. One hundred and eight falsified approaches are cataloged (87 in Appendix B; the remaining correspond to the structural obstruction classes in [32] and additional kills established during this work).

The Generalized Spectral Selection Theorem 9.1 shows that the WZW Brannen formula (53) for $\mathrm{SU}(N)$ at level $k = N$ gives all-positive masses if and only if $N = 3$. This derives the number of generations from positivity alone, without assuming $N = 3$ a priori. The Geometric Twist Field Theorem 10.1 establishes that the twist field exponent of the A_2 singularity $\mathbb{C}^2/\mathbb{Z}_3$ equals $h_\Box(\mathrm{SU}(3)_3)$, and this equality holds uniquely at $N = 3$ (the linear equation $N+1 = 4$). The identification $\delta = h_{\mathrm{twist}}$ was proposed as a route bypassing the 2π problem, but this proposal fails: the real-space propagator $|z - w|^{-2h}$ has argument zero (no phase), while the chiral propagator $(z-w)^{-2h}$ gives $\arg = -2h \cdot \arg(z-w)$, falling back into the π-problem class on any monodromy circuit (Kill #107). The correct derivation of $\delta = 2/9$ comes not from the twist field propagator but from the *braiding eigenvalue* of the antisymmetric channel (Theorem 12.7): the braiding label $h_R - 2h_\Box$ is a rational number (not a phase), evading the transcendence obstruction. The Fisher information identity $I(\delta) = d_\Box = 2$ (Proposition 9.4) connects the statistical geometry of the mass distribution to the quantum dimension, providing an information-theoretic interpretation of $A = \sqrt{2}$. The beta–conformal coincidence $h_\Box = 2/\beta_0$ (Proposition 10.6) identifies the denominator 9 of $\delta = 2/9$ with the one-loop beta function coefficient of $\mathrm{SU}(3)_F$.

Falsifiable predictions.

1. $m_\tau/m_\mu = 16.818$ and $m_\mu/m_e = 206.77$ with zero free parameters. Current agreement: 0.004% and 0.001% (HFLAV 2025).
2. $m_\tau = 1776.97 \pm 0.11$ MeV. HFLAV 2025: 1776.96 ± 0.09 MeV (0.08σ). A measurement to ± 0.05 MeV provides a 2σ test.
3. $Q_{\mathrm{up}}(M_Z) = 8/9$ to be tested with improved m_c and m_u from lattice QCD.
4. No fourth generation ($N = 3$ uniquely selected; Generalized SST).
5. CP-violating phase in the mass matrix: $\arg(M_{01}) \approx 3.0^\circ$, suppressed from $\delta \approx 12.7^\circ$ by the democratic circulant convolution (Proposition 14.23).
6. $Q_{\mathrm{down}} = 11/15 \approx 0.7333$ from the Casimir chain (60). Current: 0.732 ± 0.007 (0.2σ). Testable with improved m_d, m_s from lattice QCD; a determination to ± 0.003 distinguishes 11/15 from 3/4 at $> 5\sigma$.

7. $m_c(\overline{\text{MS}}, M_Z) = 617$ MeV from $\delta_u = 2/39$ and $Q_u = 8/9$. Current: 620 ± 17 MeV (0.2σ). A determination to ± 5 MeV tests $\delta_u = 2/39$ against $1/18$ at $> 3\sigma$.

8. $m_s(\overline{\text{MS}}, m_b) = 93.1$ MeV from $\delta_d = 1/9$ and $Q_d = 11/15$. Current: 93.4 ± 8.6 MeV (0.04σ).

9. $m_u(\overline{\text{MS}}, M_Z) = 1.14$ MeV. Current: 1.27 ± 0.12 MeV (1.1σ).

A Numerical Verification

All analytic results verified by independent numerical computation (Python/NumPy/SciPy).

3-form and Lemma 3.1. Equation (5) and both parts verified for all 27 index combinations. Max error: 0.

Numerator N_2. Formula (18) tested on 100 random matrices. Max error: 1.8×10^{-15}.

Hessian formula. Equation (19) tested against finite-difference computation. Max relative error: 3×10^{-6}.

Eigenvalue spectrum. Full 9×9 Hessian by finite differences: 0^5 ($\max |\cdot| < 10^{-7}$), $(-2.000000)^3$, $(-3.000000)^1$.

Casimir values. $C_2(\text{Sym}^3 3) = 6$ by explicit construction. $C_2(\bar{3}) = 4/3$.

Bridge (Proposition 5.1). Agreement $\delta_{\text{geom}} = h_\square$ verified only at $N = 3$.

Brannen phase.
$delta_{\text{exp}} = 0.22223$, $\delta_{\text{pred}} = 2/9 = 0.22222\ldots$, $|$
$Delta\delta|/\delta = 0.001\%$.

$J_3(\mathbb{O})$ spectral theorem. Eigenvalues $(2.3794, 0.5802, 0.0403)$ match Brannen to 4.4×10^{-16}.

Quantum dimensions. All 10 computed: $d_{(1,0)} = 2$ exactly. Fusion $(3,0) \otimes (3,0) = (0,3)$ verified via Verlinde formula.

Democratic structure (Proposition 8.13). For 100 random Cartan directions $\alpha \in [0, 2\pi)$: weight projections $\langle w_k, \hat{n}(\alpha) \rangle$ match $r \cos(\delta(\alpha) + 2\pi k/3)$ with $r = 1/\sqrt{3}$ to $< 10^{-15}$. Circulant matrix has equal diagonals and equal off-diagonal moduli for all α. $(\sqrt{M})_{01} = (\mu/\sqrt{2})\, e^{i\delta}$ verified to machine precision.

Level selection (Proposition 8.11). T^c identity $(c-1)h_\square = c^2/24$ tested for SU(3) at $k = 1, \ldots, 12$: holds only at $k = 3$. Algebraic: $2k^2 - 7k + 3 = (2k-1)(k-3) = 0$.

WZW/Sumino spectrum (Theorem 8.14). With $d_\square = 2$ and $N = 3$: $h_\square = (2 + d_\square)/18 = 4/18 = 2/9$. Predicted spectrum from hypotheses (F)+(W) (scale from m_μ): $m_\tau = 1776.97$ MeV (0.08σ, HFLAV 2025), $m_e = 0.510994$ MeV (0.001%).

Master Identity. $C_2(\mathrm{Sym}^N N) = k + h^\vee$ verified only at $N = 3$.

Crossing–Casimir. All three $= 2/9$ only at $N = 3$, for $N = 2, \ldots, 8$.

KZ singlet exponent. $\alpha_1 = -2/9$, $\alpha_{\mathrm{adj}} = 1/36$. On $\mathbb{Z}_3$ sphere: $\arg((1 - \omega)^{-2/9}) = \pi/27 \neq 2/9$.

WZW number. $|z^3| = 2\sqrt{2}$, $\arg(z^3) = 2/3 = Q$. Verified $< 10^{-15}$.

Circulant. Eigenvalues of $I + \mathrm{Re}(zP)$ match Brannen to $< 10^{-15}$.

Q **decomposition.** $1/3 + 2/6 = 2/3$. ✓

OPE deficit. $\Delta h = 1/9$; $1/3 - 1/9 = 2/9 = h_\square$. ✓

Holonomy–conformal. $\sigma_{2/3} = 2/9 = h_\square$ at $N = 3$; $N = 2, 4, 5$ fail.

Alcove–conformal. $e_2(1/3, 2/3) = 2/9$. Cubic $(N - 3)(3N^2 + 2N + 2)$; discriminant -20. ✓

Phase exclusion. $\delta = 1/9$: $m_\mu/m_e \approx 39.7$ vs 206.8 ($> 100\sigma$); $1/9 \neq 2/9$.

Neutrinos. $\chi^2_{\min} \approx 3840$. Shape ratio 4.59 vs observed 32.6. Max $Q_\nu = 0.585$ (NH), 0.498 (IH).

Quarks. $Q_{\mathrm{up}} = 0.8884 \pm 0.0013$, $|Q - 8/9| = 0.3\sigma$.

$\mathrm{SL}(2,3)$ **orbifold.** Order 24; all 24 elements G_2-preserving. 4 codim-4 strata with $\varphi(V) = +1, -1, -1, +1$. 4 codim-7 fixed points. $b_3 = 2$. $\mathbf{7} = \mathbf{2}' \oplus \mathbf{2}'' \oplus \mathbf{3}$; $\langle \chi_7, \chi_1 \rangle = 0$. All 8 order-3 in single class C_3. All 16 abelian $\mathbb{Z}_3$ pairs: $\dim(\cap) = 3$.

Determinant universality. $\mathrm{SL}(2,3)/\mathbb{Z}^7$: 96 pairs, $|\det| = 4$, Smith $= \mathrm{diag}(1,1,1,1,1,2,2)$. $\mathrm{PSL}(2,7)/A_6$: 3024 pairs, $|\det| = 8$, Smith $= \mathrm{diag}(1,1,1,1,1,1,8)$.

η**-invariant (Proposition 6.7).** $\eta = N-2$ verified for $N = 2, \ldots, 7$: values $0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5$. Analytic: $\sum \cot(\pi j/N) \sin(2\pi j/N) = \sum(1 + \cos(2\pi j/N)) = N - 2$.

Topological Factorization. $\mathrm{cs} \times C_2/h^\vee = h_\square$ only at $N = 3$ ($= 2/9$). For $N = 2, 4, 5, 6, 7$: products $0, 0.469, 0.720, 0.972, 1.225$, all $\neq h_\square$.

Wilson loop on $L(3,1)$ **(Proposition 14.22).** $\langle W_\square \rangle = 6/(-9) = -2/3$. $|\langle W_\square \rangle| = 2/3 = Q$. ✓

M_{01} circulant (Proposition 14.23). $M_{01} = \sqrt{2}\,e^{i\delta} + \frac{1}{2}e^{-2i\delta} = 1.831 + 0.097i$. arg $=$ 0.053 rad $= 3.0°$. Verified by direct 3×3 matrix multiplication; agreement 2×10^{-16}. CP suppression factor: $0.053/0.222 = 0.24$.

B Catalog of Falsified Approaches

#	Approach	Obstruction	Result
Geometric/variational (37)			
1	Calibration $f = \mathrm{Re}(\Omega)/\mathrm{vol}$	Blindness	f indep. of δ
2	G_2 associative calibration	Blindness	Cubic vertex $= 0$
3	Heat kernel on SU(3)/SO(3)	High symmetry	Min at $\pi/6$
4	Coleman–Weinberg 1-loop	Blindness	Leading at $\pi/6$
CFT/algebraic (4)			
5	RCFT S-matrix identification	Transcendence	Produces $\pi/9$
6	Zamolodchikov c-theorem	Numerics	Ratio 1.14 vs 5.34
7	Mass formulas in $\mathrm{SU}(3)_3$	Transcendence	All 5 fail
8	Brieskorn sphere $\Sigma(2, 3, 7)$	Topology	2 flat connections
9	$m_k \sim e^{-\alpha S_{\mathrm{CS}}}$	Numerics	No fit
10	Bohr–Sommerfeld	Tautology	$c(h - c/24) = 2/9$ is input
Potential minimization			
11	Casimir energy, 4D $\mathbb{Z}_3$ twist	CP	Min at $\delta = 0$
12	Casimir energy, 2D	CP	Min at $\pi/3$
13	GPY adjoint potential	CP	Min at $\delta = 0$
14	GPY + bosonic fundamentals	CP	Min at $0, \pi/6, \pi/3$
15	GPY + fermionic fundamentals	CP	Min at 0 for all N_f
16	SM consistency ($\det Y_e$)	None	$\det Y_e$ unconstrained
17	Quark-sector Koide	Numerics	$Q_{\mathrm{up}} = 0.888 \neq 2/3$
18	Ray–Singer torsion on S^1	CP	High-symmetry extrema
19	Spectral ζ on SU(3)/SO(3)	CP	Same as heat kernel
θ-angle mechanisms			
20	Monopole-instanton, natural θ	No match	No natural θ gives 2/9
21	Axion relaxation of θ	Min structure	Relaxes to $\pi/6$
22	θ = CS of Brannen config	Independence	CS indep. of δ
23	Fractional $\theta = 2\pi p/(3q)$	Numerics	No small (p, q) match
24	Self-consistent $\theta(\delta)$	Non-convergence	Fixed pt at 1.27
Variational/information-theoretic			
25	Riemannian volume	Numerics	No extremum at 2/9
26	Shannon entropy	Numerics	No extremum at 2/9
27	Rényi entropy	Numerics	No extremum at 2/9
28	Fisher information	Numerics	No extremum at 2/9
29	Purity functional	Numerics	No extremum at 2/9
30	Spectral zeta $\zeta_s(\delta)$	Numerics	No extremum at 2/9
31	Generalized Koide Q_s	Numerics	No extremum at 2/9
32	RG fixed point analysis	Numerics	No fixed pt at 2/9
33	Modular T-invariance	Selection	$\delta \in \{0, 1/3, 2/3\}$
34	Character evaluation $\mathbb{Z}_3$		Brannen $\neq$ character
Post-spectral theorem			

#	Approach	Obstruction	Result
35	Hessian–CFT bridge via adj in $10 \otimes 10$	Quantum trunc.	Fusion truncates
36	$\det(X)/\psi^3$ as selection	Transcendence	$\partial_\delta \det = 0$ only at $0, \pi/3$
37	$J_3(\mathbb{O})$ invariant ratios	Transcendence	Not algebraic at $2/9$
38	Shannon entropy of mass dist.	Numerics	No extremum
39	Spectral–Hessian self-consistency	Circularity	Ratio $\neq$ displacement
40	$\mathrm{Gr}(3, \mathbb{R}^7)$ via $\omega \wedge e^7$	Orthogonality	$\omega(e_i, e_j) = 0$
41	Hessian flatness $\Leftrightarrow$ marginality	No link	Independent structures
42	Modular forms $\Gamma(3)$	No prediction	3 free couplings
43	Adjoint VEV direction in Cartan	CP	$V(\xi) \propto \cos(3\xi)$
44	Complex Yukawa phase	Wrong form	$\lvert Y\rvert^2 \neq$ Brannen
45	Conformal bootstrap	Circular	Uses $h_\square$
46	't Hooft anomaly matching	Topological	Independent of δ
47	M2-brane instanton, single modulus	Overconstrained	Forces $\zeta = 0$
48	Flux quantization $\theta_c = 2\pi/144$	Numerics	$\delta_{\min} = 0.2221$
49	Anomaly-generated θ_F in Sumino	Wrong scale	Cancels with quarks
Topological/CS identification			
50	CS phase $\Theta = 2\pi h_\square$: $\delta = \Theta$	2π mismatch	$\Theta = 4\pi/9 \neq 2/9$
51	Holonomy quantization $H_A = 2\pi h_\square$	Same	Holonomy phase
52	M-theory C_3 period as angle	Same	2π persists
53	Partition function $Z(\tau) \sim e^{2\pi i h}$	Same	Phase $\neq$ number
54	$\delta = \Theta/(2\pi)$: rescale	Unphysical	$\sqrt{m_1} < 0$
55	Hessian flatness $\Leftrightarrow$ CFT marginality	No link	Independent
56	$\delta = 4\pi/9$ in Brannen	Unphysical	$\theta_1 < 0$
57	Vacuum alignment principle	Not a derivation	Restates conjecture
Perturbative CFT/CS mechanisms			
58	$\mathrm{Tr}(\Phi^4) = \mathrm{const}$ in WZW	Quantum trunc.	Fusion truncates quartic
59	Braiding phase $\lvert R_1\rvert/(2\pi)$	2π mismatch	$= e^{2\pi i h}$, not h
60	Fusion matrix eigenvalue	Algebraic	Cyclotomic
61	Verlinde formula ratio	Algebraic	$S_{\lambda\mu}/S_{00}$ algebraic
62	Modular T-matrix diagonal	2π mismatch	$T = e^{2\pi i(h - c/24)}$
63	KZ exponent on $\mathbb{Z}_3$ sphere/torus	Geometry	$\arg((1-\omega)^{-h}) \neq h$
Sessions 1–24 additions			
64	Monopole-instanton θ_F fix (5 mech.)	Lateral	θ_c undetermined
65	Orbifold codim-7 from Joyce Ex. 7	Codim arithmetic	G_2-involutions all codim-4
66	Phase id $\delta = \pi\sigma_{1/3} = \pi/9$	Positivity	$\theta_1 < 0$
67	Phase id $\delta = \pi\sigma_{2/3} = 2\pi/9$	Positivity	$\theta_1 < 0$
68	Number id $\delta = \sigma_{1/3} = 1/9$	Empirical + algebraic	$m_\mu/m_e \approx 39.7$
69	CW on z-plane ($c_B/c_F < 1$)	Numerics	Min at $\delta \to 0$
70	CW on z-plane (Sumino DOF)	Numerics	$\delta_{\min} \approx 0.252$
71	Abelian codim-7 ($\mathbb{Z}_3 \times \mathbb{Z}_3 \subset G_2$)	Geometry	$\dim(\cap) = 3$
72	Single-system $N_{\mathrm{gen}} = 3$	Arithmetic	$\lvert\det\rvert = 2^k$ universal
Session 26 additions			
73	9-instanton potential $\cos(9\Theta)$	Wrong extremum	Min at $\pi/9 \neq 2/9$; max at $\delta = 2/9$
74	Wilson loop framing $f = c = 4$	Parameter displacement	$f = 4$ has no geometric justification
G_2 compactification and potential analysis			
75	Democratic N_{gen} on Eisenstein CY_3	Arithmetic	$\alpha\beta\gamma = 1$, $\alpha + \beta + \gamma = 0$: no integer
76	δ from $\mathbb{Z}_3$ fixed-point geometry	Niven	All angles $\propto \pi/6$; $2/9 \neq q\pi$

#	Approach	Obstruction	Result
77	Two-harmonic monopole at $\theta = \pi$	Not global min	$V''(2/9) > 0$ local min, but global m
78	CW potential alone	Wrong sign	$a_6^{(\ln)} = -0.086 < 0$; $\|a_3/a_6\| \approx 240$
79	Combined monopole + CW	Parameter fitting	3 params for 1 datum = pure fit
Quantum CS (1)			
80	CS holonomy quantization on T^2	Uniform distribution	$\|S_{\square,\alpha}\|^2 = 1/9$ for all non-adj α; no s
Gap closure analysis (6)			
81	Transgression $\int C_3 = \mathrm{cs}_{\mathrm{geom}} = 1/2$	Wrong value	$1/2 > \pi/12$; negative mass (Kill #8
82	$\delta = \arg(M_{01})$ (Yukawa phase)	Wrong observable	$\arg(M_{01}) = 0.053 \neq 2/9$; M2-brane
83	$\delta = \frac{1}{2}\int C_3$ (scalar $\sqrt{\ }$)	Wrong math	Matrix $\sqrt{\ } \neq$ scalar $\sqrt{\ }$; factor 1/2
84	FN linear ($Y \propto \Phi$)	Wrong model	Gives $\Phi \propto M$, not $\sqrt{M}$; $\arg(\Phi_{01}) =$
85	$\mathrm{cs}_{\mathrm{geom}} = 1/2$ for all N	Wrong η	$\eta = N-2$, not $N-1$; cs = 0 for N
86	Topological factorization selects $N = 2$	Wrong η	Uses $\eta = N-1$; correct $\eta = N-2$
87	$\mathrm{cs}(L(3,1)) = 2/9$	Wrong CS	$\mathrm{cs}(\rho_3) = 1/36 \neq 2/9$; value is $e_2(\sigma^*)$

Total: 87 falsified approaches in this appendix; 108 as of March 2026 including [32] (15 mechanism classes) and the following additional kills established during this work: Kill #103 ($\mathbb{Z}_3$-equivariant prefactors force $\delta = \theta$, proven by geometric sum $\sum_k \omega^{kq} = 3\delta_{q,0}$); Kill #104 (M2 worldvolume WZW is quiver $U(k)^3$, not $\mathrm{SU}(k)_k$); Kill #105 (CS braiding phase in M-theory conventions gives $e^{4\pi i/9}$, arg $= 4\pi/9 \neq 2/9$); Kill #106 (Hitchin flow / G2 metric calibration computes fiber 3-plane with $\varphi \in [0.8, 1]$, not the generation 3-plane); Kill #107 (direct twist-field propagator route: real-space $|z-w|^{-2h}$ gives arg = 0; chiral $(z-w)^{-2h}$ gives arg $= -2h \cdot \arg(z-w)$, monodromy $= -4\pi h$, π-problem class); Kill #108 (transcendence obstruction theorem, see §13).

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