

# Philippe @ Saclay (and elsewhere), the early years



*J.-B. Zuber*

LPTHE, Sorbonne Université

A trajectory in physics ?

A trajectory in physics ?

≈ 170 publications  
2 books

A trajectory in physics



## A trajectory in physics



*Me faire, par des feux successifs de salpêtre,  
Lancer dans les prés bleus où les astres vont paître !*

[Edmond Rostand. *Cyrano de Bergerac*]

## A trajectory in physics



*Me faire, par des feux successifs de salpêtre,  
Lancer dans les prés bleus où les astres vont paître !*

[Edmond Rostand. *Cyrano de Bergerac*]

*Make me, by successive fires of saltpeter*

*Launch into the blue meadows where the stars go to graze!*

[Google Translate]

## A trajectory in physics



Preparation. . .

1982–1985:  = **École Polytechnique** (“major” = Valedictorian) !





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Preparation...

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1985–1988 Corps des Mines

Preparation...

1982–1985:  = **École Polytechnique** (“major” = Valedictorian) !

1985-1988 Corps des Mines

...and its duties ...

**en même temps** (at the same time) Licence de Mathématiques (1983) ;

DEA (master) in Solid State Physics (1987)

(needless to say, all with highest honors)

1986 : joins our (conformal) group in Saclay : Claude Itzykson, Bertrand Duplantier, Vincent Pasquier, Hubert Saleur, JBZ + Andrea Cappelli, and Ivan Kostov

1986–1989 : **Saclay**: 10 papers on CFT with H. Saleur and JBZ or alone; modular invariance, Coulomb gas picture, Ising correlators on a torus

*Journal of Statistical Physics, Vol. 49, Nos. 1/2, 1987*

## **Relations between the Coulomb Gas Picture and Conformal Invariance of Two-Dimensional Critical Models**

**P. di Francesco,<sup>1</sup> H. Saleur,<sup>1</sup> and J. B. Zuber<sup>1</sup>**

*Received March 27, 1987*



(Les Houches summer 1988)

PDF, HS and JBZ on top of the Prarion (alt. 1969 m)

1988 : new project (following **Ivan Kostov's** steps...):  
search of **SU(3)** analogues of Dynkin diagrams...

Nuclear Physics B338 (1990) 602–646  
North-Holland

**SU( $N$ ) LATTICE INTEGRABLE MODELS ASSOCIATED WITH GRAPHS**

P. Di FRANCESCO\* and J.-B. ZUBER\*\*

*Service de Physique Théorique de Saclay\*\*\*, F-91191 Gif-sur-Yvette Cedex, France*

Received 27 June 1989  
(Revised 3 November 1989)

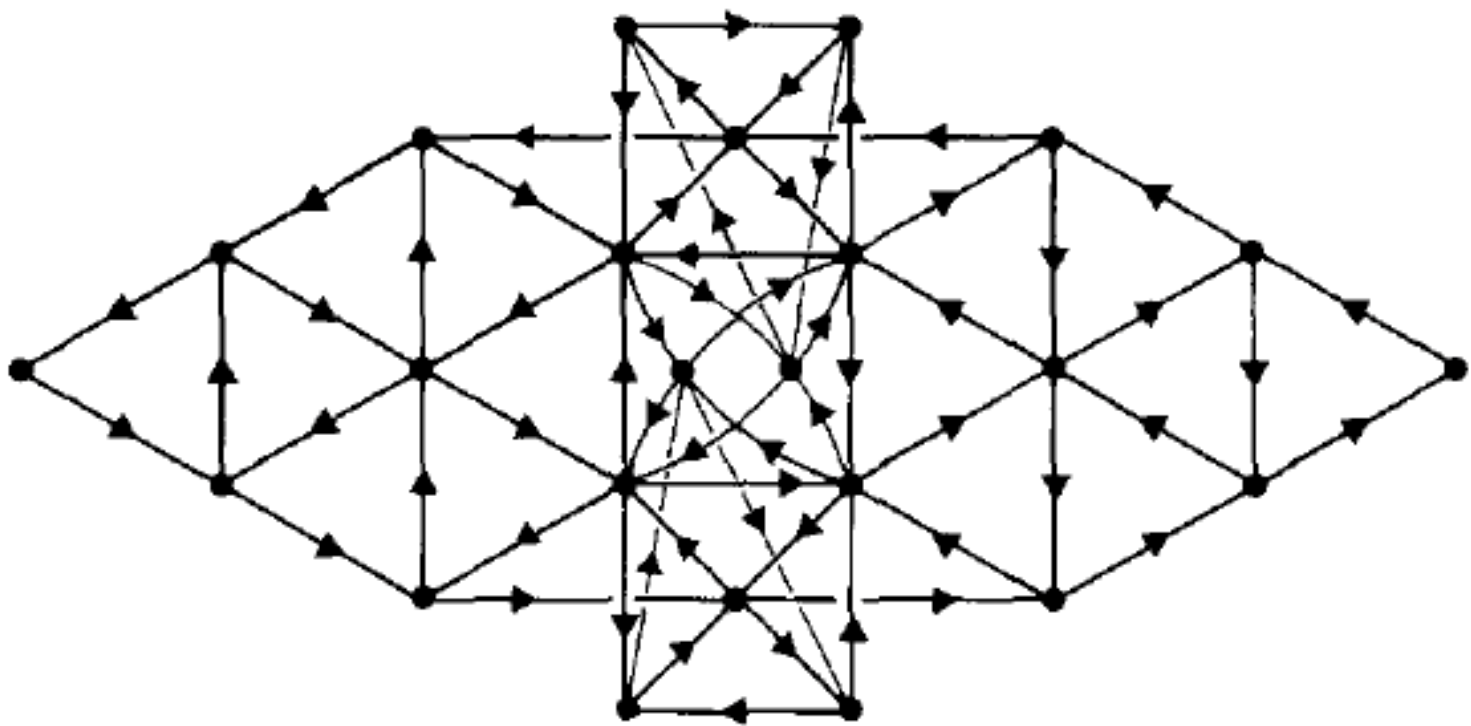


Fig. 20. The graph  $\mathcal{E}^{(24)}$ .

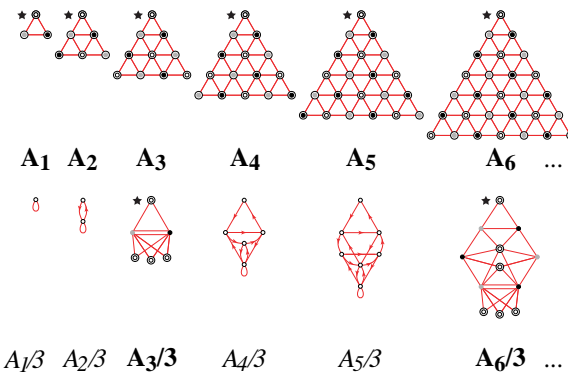
$$\widehat{su}(3)_{21} \subset (\widehat{E}_7)_1$$



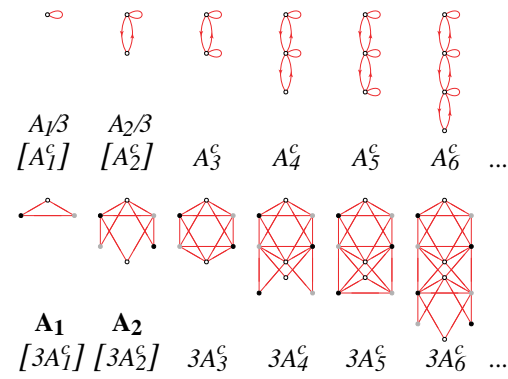
... a program completed ten years later by **A. Ocneanu**

### SU(3)<sub>k</sub>

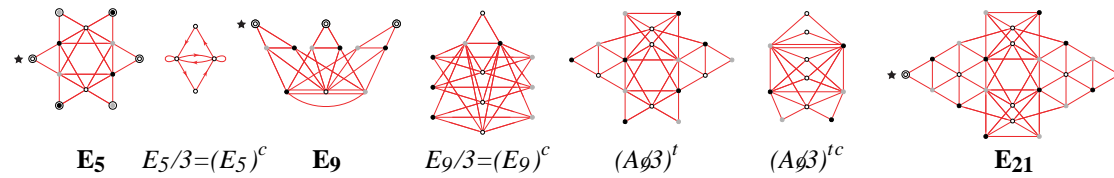
#### Orbifold series



#### Conjugate orbifold series



#### Exceptionals



1989: PhD

1989-1991 [Princeton](#)

1989: PhD

1989-1991 **Princeton** : matrix models , [D. Kutasov, J. Distler]

Computing correlation functions in quantum gravity coupled to  $c \leq 1$  CFT's: an important check of the matrix/KdV approach

Nuclear Physics B342 (1990) 589–624  
North-Holland

### **UNITARY MINIMAL MODELS COUPLED TO 2D QUANTUM GRAVITY**

P. DI FRANCESCO\* and D. KUTASOV\*\*

*Joseph Henry Laboratories, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ 08544, USA*

Received 4 April 1990

Volume 261, number 4

PHYSICS LETTERS B

6 June 1991

### **Correlation functions in 2D string theory**

**P. Di Francesco and D. Kutasov**

*Joseph Henry Laboratories, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ 08544, USA*

Received 28 February 1991

1990: [Santa Barbara](#): W-algebras etc , [Claude Itzykson and JBZ]

1991-1992 [Saclay](#): Singular vectors,

[Michel Bauer, CI, JBZ], [ Pierre Mathieu and David Sénéchal]

1992: Matrix integrals à la Kontsevitch, [C. Itzykson (and partly JBZ)]

1992-1993: Fusion potentials etc, [Frédéric Lesage and JBZ]

1994: Elliptic genus in  $N = 2$  SCFT, [Ofer Aharony and Shimon Yankielowicz]

1994: Laughlin's wave function, . . . , [M. Gaudin, C.Itzykson and F. Lesage]

1995: Quantum intersection rings, [C.I.]

1990: Santa Barbara: W-algebras etc , [Claude Itzykson and JBZ]  
1991-1992 Saclay: Singular vectors,  
[Michel Bauer, CI, JBZ], [ Pierre Mathieu and David Sénéchal]  
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1994: Elliptic genus in  $N = 2$  SCFT, [Ofer Aharony and Shimon Yankielowicz]  
1994: Laughlin's wave function, . . . , [M. Gaudin, C.Itzykson and F. Lesage]  
1995: Quantum intersection rings, [C.I.]

in total ~ 30 papers on CFT's, matrix integrals, etc, culminating with two pedagogical texts:

1995 : 2D Quantum Gravity and Matrix Models, Physics Reports, [Paul Ginsparg and Jean Zinn-Justin]  
1996 : "Big Yellow Book" [ Pierre Mathieu and David Sénéchal]

# PHYSICS REPORTS

A Review Section of Physics Letters

## 2D GRAVITY AND RANDOM MATRICES

P. DI FRANCESCO, P. GINSPIRG, J. ZINN-JUSTIN

Volume 254    Numbers 1 & 2

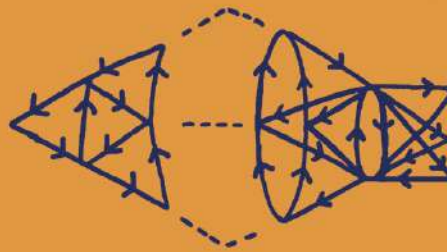
March 1995

PRPLCM 254(1 & 2) 1-133 (1995)

NORTH-HOLLAND

Philippe Di Francesco  
Pierre Mathieu  
David Sénéchal

# Conformal Field Theory



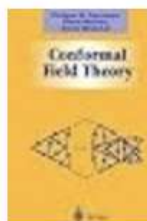
 Springer

(“Big Yellow Book”)

## PHILIPPE DI FRANCESCO'S BOOKS

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Average rating: 4.4 · 25 ratings · 1 review · 4 distinct works



### **Conformal Field Theory**

by Philippe Di Francesco, Pierre Mathieu, David Sénéchal

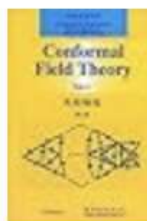
★★★★★ 4.33 avg rating — 21 ratings — published 1996 — 7 editions



### **The Oxford Handbook of Random Matrix Theory (Oxford Handbooks)**

by Gernot Akemann (editor), Jinho Baik, Philippe Di Francesco

★★★★★ 4.75 avg rating — 4 ratings — published 2011 — 5 editions



### **共形场论(第1卷)**

★★★★★ 0.00 avg rating — 0 ratings



et en même temps ...

with Cirano De Dominicis,

INSTITUTE OF PHYSICS PUBLISHING

JOURNAL OF PHYSICS A: MATHEMATICAL AND GENERAL

J. Phys. A: Math. Gen. **36** (2003) 10955–10959

PII: S0305-4470(03)63258-0

**An exact solution for Parisi equations with R steps of RSB, Free energy and fluctuations**

C De Dominicis and P Di Francesco

with Jean-Yves Ollitrault et al,

**Systematic procedure for analyzing cumulants at any order**

Di Francesco, P., Guilbaud, M., Luzum, M. & Ollitrault, J. Y., Apr 24 2017, In: Physical Review C. 95, 4, 044911.

with Fedor Smirnov,

**OPE for XXX**

Di Francesco, P. & Smirnov, F., Jul 1 2018, In: Reviews in Mathematical Physics. 30, 6, 1840006.

your curiosity extends to bird watching



The dark year(s)  
courage and resilience. . .

The dark year(s)  
courage and resilience. . .



For all that, your energy, your curiosity,  
your courage, your achievements,

with friendship and admiration



**Congratulations !!**

**and many happy returns  
and many more years of good work!**