

Physics with Costas: exploring the string landscape

I. Antoniadis

LPTHE, CNRS/Sorbonne University, Paris

and

HEP Research Unit, Faculty of Science, Chulalongkorn University



The poster for the ENS Summer Institute 2024 features a background image of the main building of the École Normale Supérieure in Paris, with a fountain in the foreground. The text is overlaid on the image.

ENS Summer Institute 2024
June 20th – 28th École Normale Supérieure
Paris & Collège de France

Confirmed Speakers:
Jan de Boer (Utrecht)
Laura Donnay (ISIS4)
Matthias Engelhardt (MIT)
Tony Cheng-Li (Johns Hopkins)
Edward Hardy (Liverpool)
Sean Hartwell (Cambridge)
Hong Liu (MIT)
Annalisa Madsen (Perimeter)
Thomas Matterns (Cornell U.)
Shrawan Minwalla (Texas I.)
Miguel Montero (UAM)
Sakura Schaefer-Nameki (Oxford)
Eric Verhagen (UdA)

“Topics in Quantum Gravity”
20, 21 June @ Collège de France

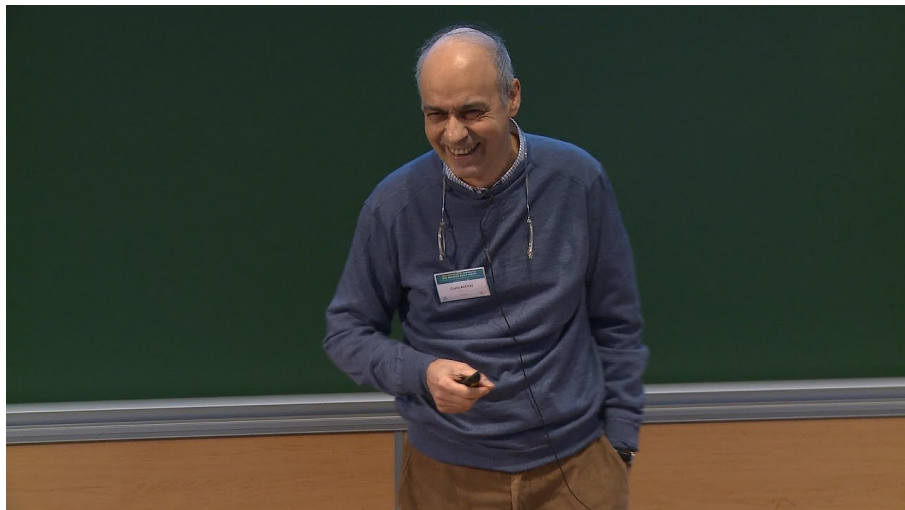
Celebration of Costas Bachas
26 June @ Ecole Normale

Organizing Committee:
Raffaele Tito D’Agnolo
Marc Henneaux
Francesco Mori
Miguel Paulos
Boris Pioline
Kalliope Pevzner
Giuseppe Policastro

Logos at the bottom include: LPENS, ENS, PSL, Collège de France, Sciences Université Paris Cité, and the European Union flag.

©A. Tasson/AdobeStock

The road together started in 1984 at SLAC



Working with Costas

1984-86: SLAC - SLAC

1986-87: SLAC - CERN

1987-88: CPHT - CERN

1988-90: CERN - CPHT

1990-98: CPHT - CPHT ← build string group

1998-00: ENS - CPHT & CERN

Working with Costas: 1990-98 CPHT

joint efforts to build an active group on string theory

PhD students: Marios Petropoulos, Pierre Vanhove, Cyrille Fabre,
Karim Benakli, Boris Pioline, Hervé Partouche

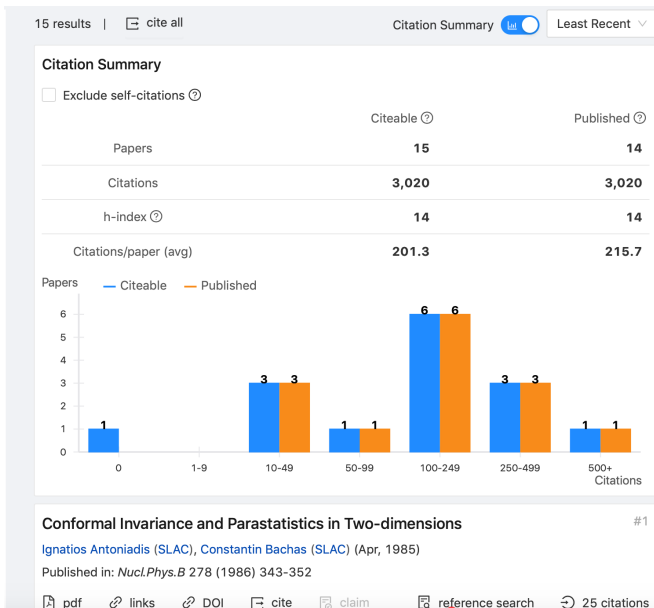
European Networks

- “String Theories and their Phenomenological Applications” 1992-96
EP, U Athens, ICTP, UA Madrid, Oxford, SISSA
- “Physics Beyond the Standard Model” 1996-00
EP, U Lisbon, UA Madrid, U Munich, Oxford, U Thessaloniki, U Valencia,
INFN Padova + Pisa, SISSA, CNRS LPTENS + LPTHE, CERN

Postdocs/Marie-Curie fellowships (institutional + individual)

Ioannis Rizos, Niels Obers, Nick Tzamis, Alberto Zaffaroni, Katrin Foerger,
Carlo Angelantonj, Fawad Hassan, Adi Armoni, Damiano Anselmi

Summary of joint publications



Construction of 4d strings

SLAC - Berkeley collaboration

Supersymmetry Among Free Fermions and Superstrings

#2

[Ignatios Antoniadis](#) (SLAC), [Constantin Bachas](#) (SLAC), [C. Kounnas](#) (UC, Berkeley and LBL, Berkeley), [Paul Windey](#) (UC, Berkeley and LBL, Berkeley) (Sep, 1985)

Published in: *Phys.Lett.B* 171 (1986) 51-56


 pdf  links  DOI  cite  claim  reference search  239 citations

Four-Dimensional Superstrings

#3

[Ignatios Antoniadis](#) (CERN), [C.P. Bachas](#) (Ecole Polytechnique), [C. Kounnas](#) (LBL, Berkeley) (Dec, 1986)

Published in: *Nucl.Phys.B* 289 (1987) 87


 DOI  cite  claim  reference search  896 citations

4-D Fermionic Superstrings with Arbitrary Twists

#4

[Ignatios Antoniadis](#) (CERN), [C. Bachas](#) (Ecole Polytechnique) (Jun, 1987)

Published in: *Nucl.Phys.B* 298 (1988) 586-612

 DOI  cite  claim  reference search  352 citations

Construction of 4d strings

Basic idea:

describe the compactification space by a (S)CFT of free 2d fermions

Heterotic string $c = (6 + 3, 22) \Rightarrow 18$ L-moving and 44 R-moving
with non-linear supersymmetry $SU(2)^6$

Parameters:

boundary conditions around the 2 cycles of the world-sheet torus

\Rightarrow Hamiltonian and fermion number projection

Constraints: one-loop modular invariance and 2-loop factorisation

\Rightarrow sum over several sectors of boundary conditions

Set of rules for constructing chiral models with interesting phenomenology

$N = 1$ SUSY, 3 generations, exact α' -calculability of effective SUGRA,

$SO(10)$ underlying structure: flipped $SU(5)$, Pati-Salam, Standard Model

SLAC - CERN collaboration

Higgs Phenomenon in String Theories

#5

[Ignatios Antoniadis \(CERN\)](#), [C. Bachas \(Ecole Polytechnique\)](#), [C. Kounnas \(UC, Berkeley and LBL, Berkeley\)](#) (Oct, 1987)

Published in: *Phys.Lett.B* 200 (1988) 297-304

 DOI  cite  claim

 reference search  48 citations

On Supersymmetry Breaking in Superstrings

#6

[Ignatios Antoniadis \(CERN\)](#), [Constantin Bachas \(SLAC\)](#), [David C. Lewellen \(SLAC\)](#), [T.N. Tomaras \(Ecole Normale Superieure\)](#) (Mar, 1988)

Published in: *Phys.Lett.B* 207 (1988) 441-446

 pdf  links  DOI  cite  claim

 reference search  136 citations

The first example of the swampland distance conjecture

Theorem:

if a light gravitino (or gaugino) present in the string spectrum

$$M_{3/2} \ll M_P$$

$\Rightarrow \exists$ a tower of states with the same quantum numbers and masses

$$M_k = (2Nk + 1)M_{3/2}; \quad k = 1, 2, \dots; \quad N \text{ integer (not too large)}$$

Proof:

2D free-fermionic constructions $\Rightarrow N \lesssim 10$

2D bosonic lattices $\Rightarrow N \lesssim 10^3$

\Rightarrow compactification scale $m = \lambda_{3/2}^{-1} M_{3/2}$ with $\lambda_{3/2} = 1/2N$

String cosmological solutions

CERN - Ecole Polytechnique collaboration

Cosmological String Theories and Discrete Inflation

#7

Ignatios Antoniadis (CERN), C. Bachas (CERN), John R. Ellis (CERN), Dimitri V. Nanopoulos (Wisconsin U., Madison) (May, 1988)

Published in: *Phys.Lett.B* 211 (1988) 393-399

 DOI

 cite

 claim

 reference search

 316 citations

An Expanding Universe in String Theory

#8

Ignatios Antoniadis (Ecole Polytechnique), C. Bachas (Ecole Polytechnique), John R. Ellis (CERN), Dimitri V. Nanopoulos (Texas A-M) (Nov, 1988)

Published in: *Nucl.Phys.B* 328 (1989) 117-139

 DOI

 cite

 claim

 reference search

 329 citations

STRINGS IN AN EXPANDING UNIVERSE

#9

Ignatios Antoniadis (Ecole Polytechnique and CERN), C. Bachas (Ecole Polytechnique) (Jun, 1989)

Published in: *Conf.Proc.C* 8903131 (1989) 391-402 • Contribution to: [Strings 89, Trieste Conference on Recent Developments in Conformal Field Theories](#)

Linear Dilaton background

Exact string solution: string frame dilaton linear in time and metric flat

$$\Phi = -2QX^0 \quad ; \quad G_{\mu\nu} = \eta_{\mu\nu}$$

The 3-space can also be a sphere of radius \sqrt{k} ($SU(2)_k$ WZW model)

exact CFT with central charge $c = 4 - 12Q^2 - \frac{6}{k+2} + d_I$ \leftarrow internal space

\Rightarrow Einstein frame: linearly expanding universe

$$ds^2 = -dt^2 + t^2 \left[\frac{dr^2}{1 - \kappa r^2} + r^2(d\theta^2 + \sin^2 \theta d\phi^2) \right] \quad \kappa^{-1} = 2Q^2 k$$

$$\Phi = -2 \ln(Qt) \quad ; \quad a = 2Q^2 \sqrt{\kappa} t \quad \leftarrow \text{axion}$$

$c = 10$ (superstring) $\Rightarrow d_I > 6$ (critical dimension > 10) !

Other string vacua

Gauged Supergravity Vacua in String Theory

#10

[Ignatios Antoniadis](#) (Ecole Polytechnique), [C. Bachas](#) (CERN), [A. Sagnotti](#) (Rome U., Tor Vergata and INFN, Rome) (Oct, 1989)

Published in: *Phys.Lett.B* 235 (1990) 255-260

[DOI](#)

[cite](#)

[claim](#)

[reference search](#)

[67 citations](#)

$\mathcal{N} = 2$ Superliouville and Noncritical Strings

#11

[Ignatios Antoniadis](#) (Ecole Polytechnique), [C. Bachas](#) (CERN), [C. Kounnas](#) (Ecole Normale Superieure) (Mar, 1990)

Published in: *Phys.Lett.B* 242 (1990) 185-190

[DOI](#)

[cite](#)

[claim](#)

[reference search](#)

[21 citations](#)

Ecole Polytechnique collaboration

Aspects of type I - type II - heterotic triality in four-dimensions

#13

[Ignatios Antoniadis](#) (Ecole Polytechnique and CERN), [C. Bachas](#) (Ecole Polytechnique), [C. Fabre](#) (Ecole Polytechnique), [H. Partouche](#) (Ecole Polytechnique), [T.R. Taylor](#) (CERN and Northeastern U.) (Jul, 1996)

Published in: *Nucl.Phys.B* 489 (1997) 160-178 • e-Print: [hep-th/9608012](#) [hep-th]

 pdf  DOI  cite  claim  reference search  134 citations

Branes and the gauge hierarchy

#14

[Ignatios Antoniadis](#) (Ecole Polytechnique), [Constantin Bachas](#) (Ecole Normale Supérieure) (Dec, 1998)

Published in: *Phys.Lett.B* 450 (1999) 83-91 • e-Print: [hep-th/9812093](#) [hep-th]


 pdf  DOI  cite  claim  reference search  157 citations

Gauge couplings in four-dimensional type I string orbifolds

#15

[Ignatios Antoniadis](#) (Ecole Polytechnique), [C. Bachas](#) (Ecole Normale Supérieure), [E. Dudas](#) (Orsay, LPT) (Jun, 1999)

Published in: *Nucl.Phys.B* 560 (1999) 93-134 • e-Print: [hep-th/9906039](#) [hep-th]

 pdf  DOI  cite  claim  reference search  169 citations

UV sensitivity on D-branes

localised couplings + closed string propagation in $d \leq 2$

Effective propagation of massless bulk states in $d \leq 2 \Rightarrow$ IR divergences

$d = 1$: linear, $d = 2$: logarithmic

\Rightarrow corrections to (brane) localised couplings

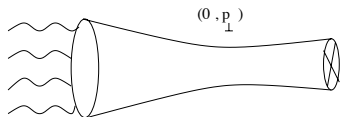
depending on the size of the bulk due to local closed string tadpoles

e.g. log running of the 4d gauge coupling

linear dilaton dependence on the 11th dim of M-theory

UV sensitivity on D-branes: local tadpoles in (a), (b)

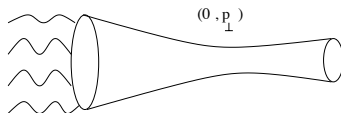
decompactification limit in the presence of branes



(a)

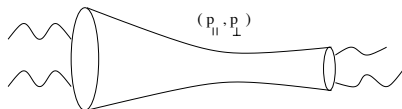
$$\mathcal{A} \sim \frac{1}{V_{\perp}} \sum_{|\vec{p}_{\perp}| < M_s} \frac{1}{p_{\perp}^2} F(\vec{p}_{\perp})$$

$$V_{\perp} = R^d \quad \vec{p}_{\perp} = \vec{n}/R$$



(b)

$$R \gg l_s \Rightarrow$$



(c)

$$\mathcal{A} \sim \begin{cases} \mathcal{O}(R) & \text{for } d=1 \\ \mathcal{O}(\log R) & \text{for } d=2 \\ \text{finite} & \text{for } d > 2 \end{cases}$$

local tadpoles: $F(\vec{p}_{\perp}) \sim \left(2^{5-d} \prod_{i=1}^d (1 + (-)^{n_i}) - 2 \sum_{a=1}^{16} \cos(\vec{p}_{\perp} \vec{y}_a) \right)$ [23]

Huge number of 4D string ground states with $N \leq 1$ SUSY

with all closed string moduli stabilised in terms of discrete fluxes

all physical couplings of the EFT fixed in terms of the moduli

Validity of the framework: weak string coupling and large volume

Identify physically relevant vacua:

need an extra input of guiding principle

Not all effective field theories can consistently coupled to gravity

- anomaly cancellation is not sufficient
- consistent ultraviolet completion can bring non-trivial constraints

those which do not, form the 'swampland'

criteria \Rightarrow conjectures

supported by arguments based on string theory and black-hole physics

Some well established examples:

- No exact global symmetries in Nature
- Weak Gravity Conjecture: gravity is the weakest force

\Rightarrow minimal non-trivial charge: $q \geq m$ in Planck units $8\pi G = \kappa^2 = 1$

Arkani-Hamed, Motl, Nicolis, Vafa '06

Distance/duality conjecture

At large distance in field space $\phi \Rightarrow$ tower of exponentially light states
 $m \sim e^{-\alpha\phi}$ with $\alpha \sim \mathcal{O}(1)$ parameter in Planck units

- provides a weakly coupled dual description up to the species scale

$$M_* = M_P / \sqrt{N} \quad \text{Dvali '07}$$

- tower can be either

- 1 a Kaluza-Klein tower (decompactification of d extra dimensions)

$$M_* = M_P^{(4+d)} = (m^d M_P^2)^{1/(d+2)} \quad ; \quad m \sim 1/R, \quad \phi = \ln R$$

- 2 a tower of string excitations

$$M_* = m \sim \text{the associated string scale} = g_s M_P \quad ; \quad \phi = -\ln g_s$$

emergent string conjecture

Lee-Lerche-Weigand '19

smallness of physical scales : large distance corner of landscape?

Examples of small parameters

Scales of dark energy and supersymmetry breaking

Recent proposal: dark dimension at the micron scale with $M_* \sim 10^9$ GeV

Montero-Vafa-Valenzuela '22

⇒ interesting phenomenology

neutrino masses, dark matter, cosmology, SUSY breaking

3 candidates of dark matter:

- 5D primordial black holes in the mass range $10^{15} - 10^{21}$ g
with Schwarzschild radius in the range $10^{-4} - 10^{-2}$ μm

Anchordoqui-I.A.-Lust '22

- KK-gravitons of decreasing mass due to internal decays (dynamical DM)
from \sim MeV at matter/radiation equality to \sim 50 keV today

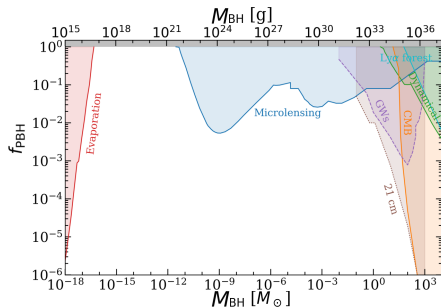
Gonzalo-Montero-Obied-Vafa '22

- ultralight radion as a fuzzy dark matter

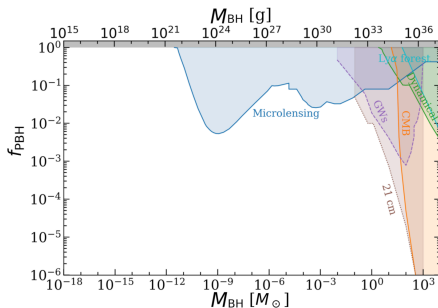
Anchordoqui-I.A.-Lust '23

Primordial Black Holes as Dark Matter

4d PBH



5d PBH



5D BHs live longer than 4D BHs of the same mass

Dark Dimension Radion stabilization and inflation

If 4d inflation occurs with fixed DD radius \Rightarrow

$$\text{(Higuchi bound)} \quad H_I \lesssim m \sim \text{eV}$$

Interesting possibility: the extra dimension expands with time

$R_0 \sim 1/M_*$ to $R \sim \mu\text{m}$ requires ~ 40 efolds! Anchordoqui-I.A.-Lust '22

$$\begin{aligned} ds_5^2 &= a_5^2(-d\tau^2 + d\vec{x}^2 + R_0^2 dy^2) \quad R_0 : \text{initial size prior to inflation} \\ &= \frac{ds_4^2}{R} + R^2 dy^2 \quad ; \quad ds_4^2 = a^2(-d\tau^2 + d\vec{x}^2) \quad \Rightarrow \quad a^2 = R^3 \end{aligned}$$

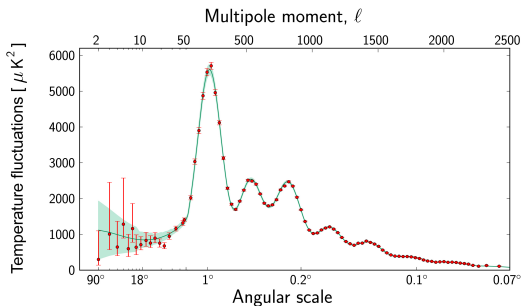
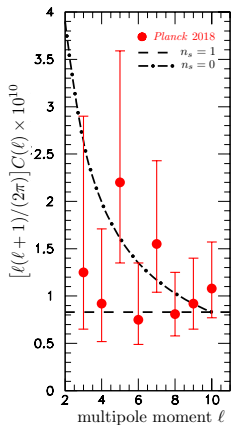
After 5d inflation of $N = 40$ -efolds \Rightarrow 60 e-folds in 4d with $a = e^{3N/2}$

Large extra dimensions from inflation in higher dimensions

Anchordoqui-IA '23

Large extra dimensions from higher dim inflation

- connect the weakness of gravity to the size of the observable universe
- scale invariant density fluctuations from 5D inflation
- radion stabilization



Happy Retirement Costa

Have a new productive career ahead

Without duties and obligations

Welcome to the club!