

Flavor Physics: A top-down approach

Saúl Ramos-Sánchez

Mexican Annual Meeting on Particles & Fields

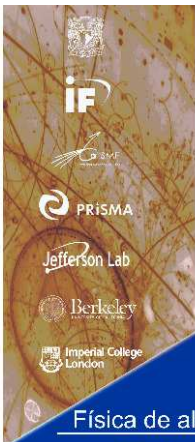
June 17, 2026

In collaboration with

H. Gordillo-Ruiz, M. Hernández-Segura, I. Portillo-Castillo, I. Zavala: 2509.22781

A. Baur, M.-C. Chen, V. Knapp-Pérez: 2409.02178

A. Baur, H.P. Nilles, A. Trautner, P. Vaudrevange: 2112.06940 & 2207.10677



¿Te interesa la física **teórica** de altas energías y estudias el último año de licenciatura o el primero de maestría?

Compite para hacer una estancia de investigación de dos meses durante el invierno del 2026 en el Imperial College London, UK, o en la U. California, Berkeley.

Fecha límite de recepción de solicitudes
30 de junio de 2026

Física de altas energías

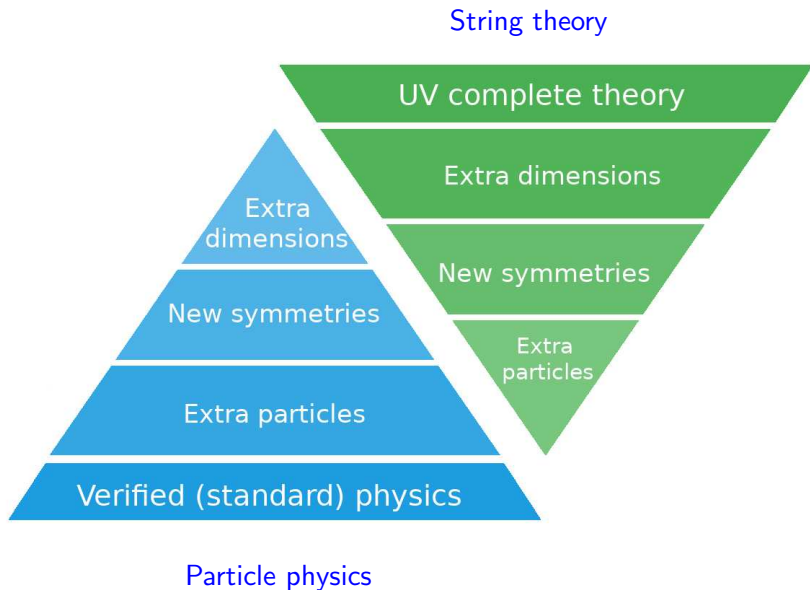
Estancias de Verano Teóricas 2026

Comité Organizador
Aurore Co ulto y
Manfred Klaus
Saúl Ramos-Sánchez
Genaro Toledo Sánchez

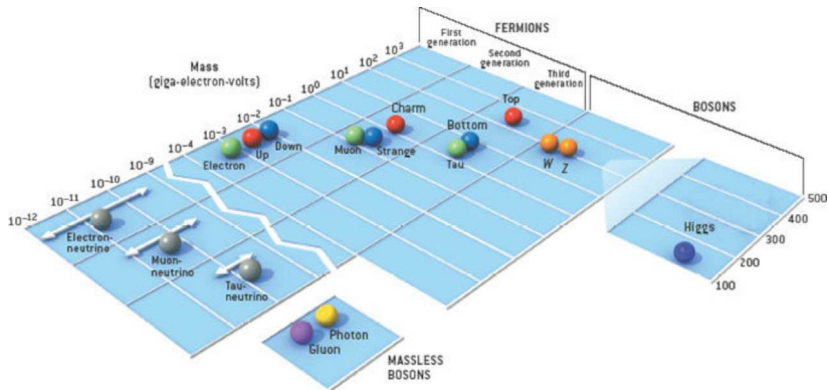
Invitan el Instituto de Física de la UNAM y la División de Partículas y Campos (DPyC) de la Sociedad Mexicana de Física.

Informes
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Top-down meets Bottom-up: two paths, the same goal



Bottom-up input: the standard model (SM)



$$\mathcal{G}_{SM} = SU(3)_c \times SU(2)_L \times U(1)_Y \iff \text{QCD} + \text{QED}$$

3 generations/flavors of quarks and leptons & Higgs

Need fixing 19–28 parameters

Some open questions

- We want/can explain $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{why three flavors} \\ \text{mass hierarchies of fermions} \\ \text{mix } \textit{textures} \text{ of quarks and leptons} \\ \text{neutrino nature and mass origin} \\ \text{dark matter nature and origin} \\ \text{clues on SUSY or its absence} \\ \dots \end{array} \right.$

Mix textures of quarks (CKM) and leptons (PMNS)

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0.9737 & 0.2243 & 0.0038 \\ 0.2210 & 0.9750 & 0.0411 \\ 0.0086 & 0.0415 & 1.010 \end{pmatrix}_{CKM}, \quad \begin{pmatrix} 0.829 & 0.539 & 0.147 \\ 0.493 & 0.584 & 0.645 \\ 0.262 & 0.607 & 0.75 \end{pmatrix}_{PMNS}$$

$$m_{u,c,t} \sim 2.16, 1273, 172570 \text{ MeV}$$

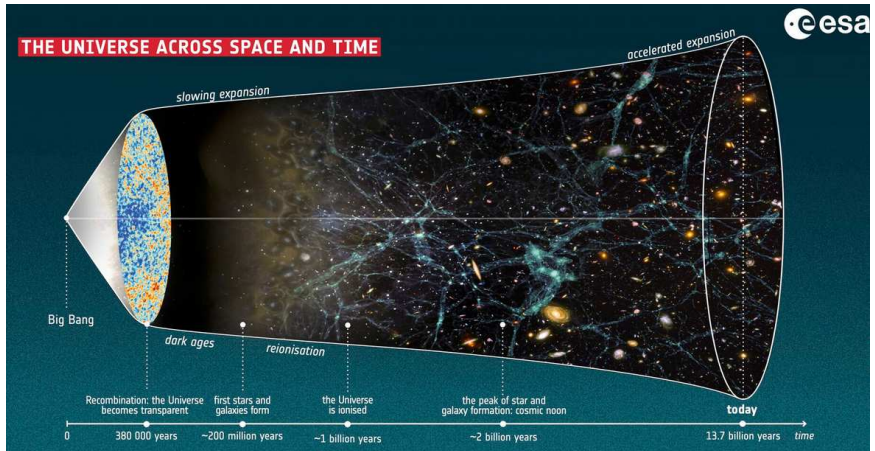
$$m_{d,s,b} \sim 4.70, 93.5, 4183 \text{ MeV}$$

$$\Delta m_{21}^2 = 7.49 \cdot 10^{-5}, \Delta m_{31(23)}^2 \approx 2.51 \cdot 10^{-3} \text{ eV}^2$$

$$m_{e,\mu,\tau} \sim 0.511, 105.66, 1776.93 \text{ MeV}$$

normal ordering

Questions in cosmology



Cosmology = relativity + cosmological principle + inflation ☺

68% dark energy (DE) + 27% dark matter (DM) + 5% SM

String



Theory

What is string theory?

1 String theory for Idealists

Unified quantum description of all interactions (quantum gravity)



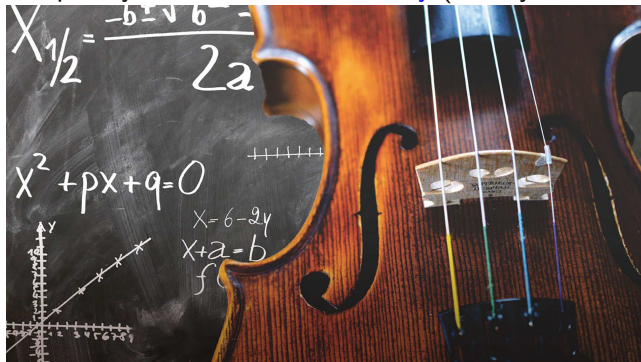
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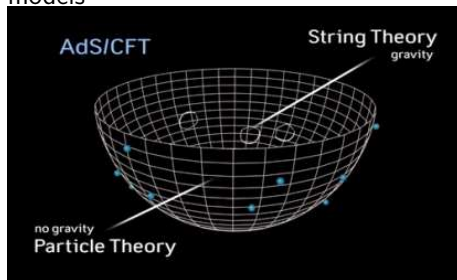
2 String theory for Aesthetes

Fertile arena to develop concepts and techniques of great elegance, complexity & mathematical beauty (CY, symmetries,...)



What is string theory?

- 1 String theory for Idealists
Unified quantum description of all interactions (quantum gravity)
- 2 String theory for Aesthetes
Fertile arena to develop concepts and techniques of great elegance, complexity & mathematical beauty (CY, symmetries,...)
- 3 String theory for Pragmatists & Agnostics
 - AdS/CFT: tool to grasp theories with strong coupling via gravitational models



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3 String theory for Pragmatists & Agnostics

- AdS/CFT: tool to grasp theories with **strong coupling** via gravitational models
- Theoretical structure with consistent **methods & models** to improve **particle physics & cosmology**

strings



**Puzzles in
particles and cosmology**



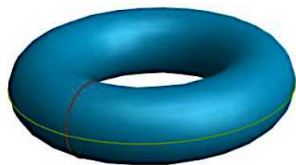
What structures does it provide?

Theoretical *structure* with consistent **tools** to solve physics problems of **particles and cosmology**:

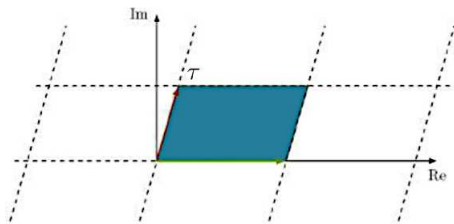
- SUSY
- 6 extra dimensions \rightarrow compactify on **toroidal** orbifolds
- \Rightarrow **symmetries and particles of SM**
- \Rightarrow **moduli**: fields describing sizes and shapes
- \Rightarrow **modular symmetries** $SL(2, \mathbb{Z})$ or $Sp(4, \mathbb{Z})$ and its quotients
- \Rightarrow **discrete symmetries** of flavor
- \Rightarrow **scalars and axions**
- \Rightarrow extra R and \mathcal{CP} symmetries

Warm-up: 2D $\mathbb{T}^2/\mathbb{Z}_3$ orbifolds

* Start with a \mathbb{T}^2



\cong

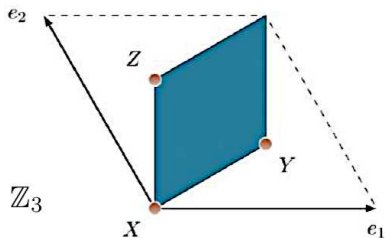


Two moduli: complex structure $U \longleftrightarrow$ shape $\rightarrow \Gamma_U = \text{SL}(2, \mathbb{Z})_U$

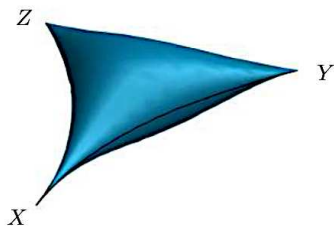
Kähler modulus $T \longleftrightarrow$ size $\rightarrow \Gamma_T = \text{SL}(2, \mathbb{Z})_T$

Warm-up: 2D $\mathbb{T}^2/\mathbb{Z}_3$ orbifolds

* Mod out a discrete \mathbb{Z}_3 symmetry generated by twist $\vartheta_{\mathbb{Z}_3} = e^{2\pi i/3}$



\cong

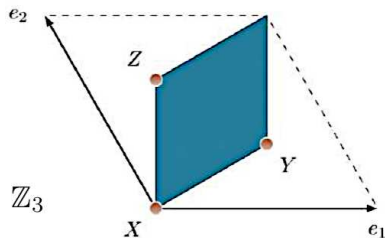


Two moduli: complex structure $U \rightarrow \langle U \rangle = e^{2\pi i/3} \Rightarrow \Gamma_U \rightarrow \text{“ } \mathbb{Z}_3 \text{ ”}$

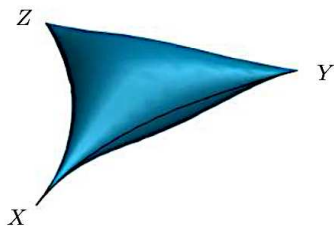
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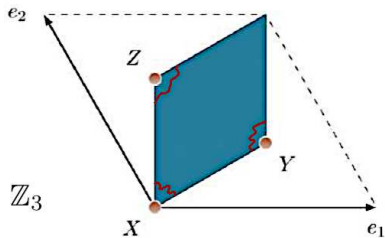
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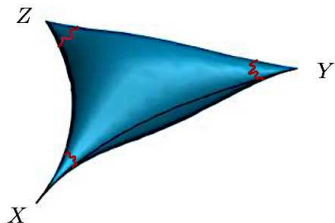
Only one $\text{SL}(2, \mathbb{Z})$ left unbroken!

Warm-up: 2D $\mathbb{T}^2/\mathbb{Z}_3$ orbifolds

* Consider **twisted** string states localized at singularities of $\vartheta_{\mathbb{Z}_3}^k$ sector

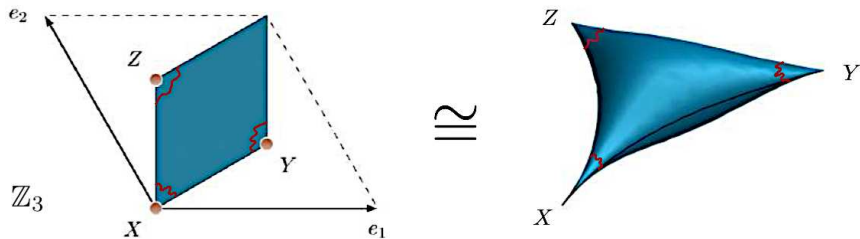


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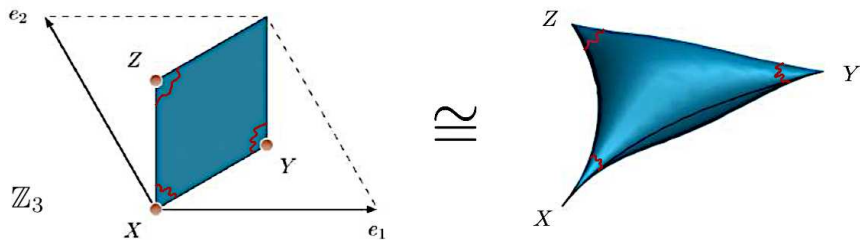


Strings perceive two kinds of trafo:

- G_{modular} = associated with $\text{SL}(2, \mathbb{Z}) \rightarrow T$ -dependent [Lauer, Mas, Nilles (1989)]
- $G_{\text{traditional}}$ = associated with localization [Kobayashi, Nilles, Plöger, Raby, Ratz (2006)]

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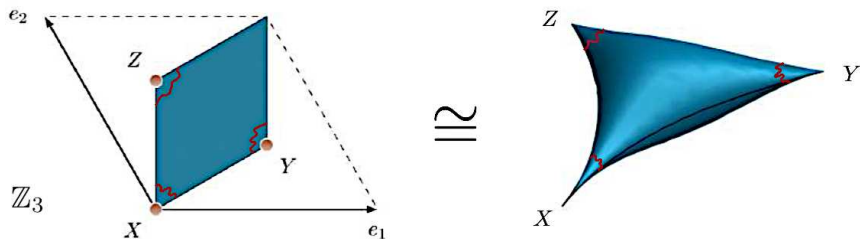
Strings perceive two kinds of **Flavor Symmetries** 😊:

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Eclectic flavor scheme: $G_{\text{modular}} \cup G_{\text{traditional}}$ 😊

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In $\mathbb{T}^2/\mathbb{Z}_3$: $T' \cup \Delta(54) \cong T' \times \Delta(27) \cong \text{GAP Id}[658, 533]$

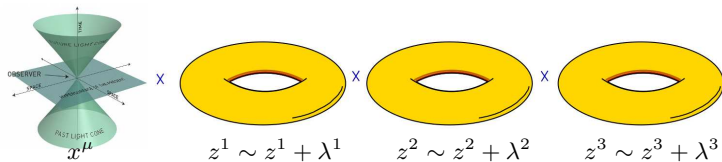
[Baur, Nilles, Trautner, Vaudrevange (2019); Nilles, SRS, Vaudrevange (2020)]

Orbifolding

6 extra dimensions

Toroidal heterotic orbifolds

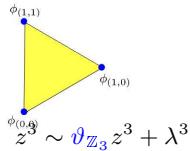
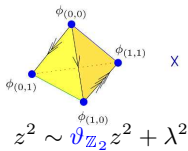
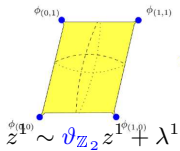
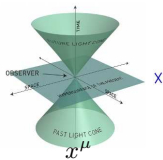
$$\mathbb{M}^4 \times \mathbb{T}^6$$



Toroidal heterotic orbifolds

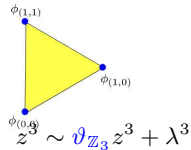
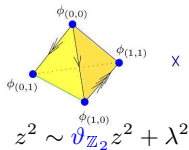
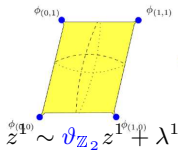
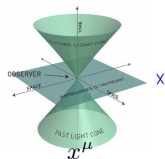
$$\mathbb{M}^4 \times \mathbb{T}^6 / \mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_3$$

← Abelian heterotic orbifold



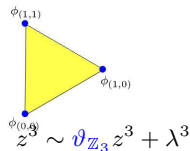
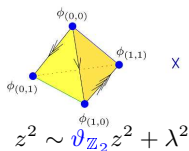
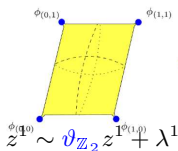
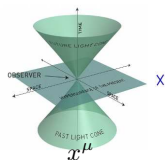
Toroidal heterotic orbifolds

$$\mathbb{M}^4 \times \mathbb{T}^6 / \mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_3 = \mathbb{M}^4 \times \mathbb{R}^6 / S \quad \text{with } S: \text{ space group}$$



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Advantages:

- Flat everywhere, but at fixed points
- Matter states: free in \mathbb{M}^4 , but localized at fixed points
- Fundamental forces from gauge symmetries

$$\mathcal{G}_{10D} \rightarrow \mathcal{G}_{4D} \quad \text{with} \quad \mathcal{G}_{4D} \cong \mathcal{G}_{SM} \text{ possible}$$

In heterotic strings: $\mathcal{G}_{10D} = E_8 \times E_8, SO(32), SO(16) \times SO(16)$

- Allows for grand unification schemes at $M_{GUT} \lesssim 10^{17}$ GeV
- Moduli of compact space controls Yukawa couplings
- (Scalar fields/moduli can serve as inflaton or dark matter,...)

What is an acceptable heterotic orbifold model?

Must inspect all \mathbb{R}^6/S with $S \supset \mathbb{Z}_N$ or $\mathbb{Z}_N \times \mathbb{Z}_M$, such that

- Gauge group $\mathcal{G}_{4D} = \text{SU}(3)_c \times \text{SU}(2)_L \times \text{U}(1)_Y \times \mathcal{G}_{\text{hidden}}$
- 3 families of quarks and leptons
- Some (at least two) Higgs fields (with SUSY)
- Anomaly free $\text{U}(1)_Y$
- Largest top mass: $m_t > m_{q_i, l_i, h}$
- Possible exotics are vectorlike, i.e. develop stringy masses
- SUSY broken due to hidden-sector dynamics
- Many right-handed neutrinos [Buchmüller, Hamaguchi, Lebedev, SRS, Ratz (2007)]

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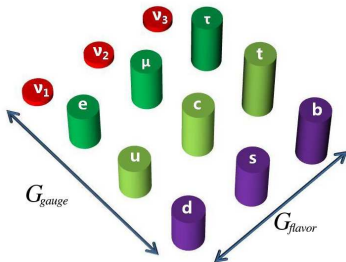
One can systematically find them! 😊

[Lebedev, Nilles, Raby, SRS, Ratz, Vaudrevanger, Wingerter (2006); Olguín-Trejo, Pérez-Martínez, SRS (2018)]

Details of flavor symmetries

Traditional + modular = *eclectic* symmetry

Traditional: discrete non-Abelian flavor symmetries $G_{\text{traditional}}$



Field multiplets transform as $\phi \rightarrow \underbrace{\rho_\phi(g)}_{\text{rep of } g} \phi, g \in G_{\text{trad}} = D_8, \Delta(54), \dots$

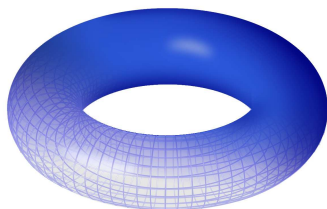
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Modular: Yukawa coupl. are modular forms $Y = Y(T)$

$Y(T) \rightarrow Y(\gamma T) = (cT+d)^{n_Y} \rho_Y(\gamma) Y(T), \gamma \in \Gamma = \text{SL}(2, \mathbb{Z}), \rho_Y \in \Gamma_N, \Gamma'_N$



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Similar field transformations: $\phi \rightarrow \underbrace{(cT + d)^{n_\phi}}_{\text{automorphy}} \rho_\phi(\gamma) \phi$

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- $\Gamma_N \cong S_3, A_4, S_4, A_5,$ or $\Gamma'_N \cong S_3, T', \text{SL}(2, 4), \text{SL}(2, 5)$

Traditional + modular = *eclectic* symmetry

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modular CP: \mathbb{Z}_2^{CP} symmetry: $T \rightarrow -\bar{T}$ & $\phi \rightarrow \phi^*$ ☺

A stringy model with realistic eclectic pheno

Baur, Nilles, SRS, Trautner, Vaudrevange: 2112.06940, 2207.10677

Explicit stringy model

- $\mathbb{T}^2/\mathbb{Z}_3$ sector with $\Delta(54) \cup T'$

& properties of fermions fixed by theory (not *ad hoc*):

Baur, Nilles, SRS, Trautner, Vaudrevange (2112.06940, 2207.10677)

	quarks and leptons						Higgs fields	
label	q	\bar{u}	\bar{d}	ℓ	\bar{e}	$\bar{\nu}$	H_u	H_d
$SU(3)_e$	3	$\bar{3}$	$\bar{3}$	1	1	1	1	1
$SU(2)_L$	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	2
$U(1)_Y$	1/6	-2/3	1/3	-1/2	1	0	1/2	-1/2
$\Delta(54)$	$\mathbf{3}_2$	$\mathbf{3}_2$	$\mathbf{3}_2$	$\mathbf{3}_2$	$\mathbf{3}_2$	$\mathbf{3}_2$	1	1
T'	$2' \oplus 1$	$2' \oplus 1$	$2' \oplus 1$	$2' \oplus 1$	$2' \oplus 1$	$2' \oplus 1$	1	1
n	-2/3	-2/3	-2/3	-2/3	-2/3	-2/3	0	0

Explicit stringy model

- $\mathbb{T}^2/\mathbb{Z}_3$ sector with $\Delta(54) \cup T'$

& properties of fermions fixed by theory (not *ad hoc*):

Baur, Nilles, SRS, Trautner, Vaudrevange (2112.06940, 2207.10677)

	quarks and leptons						Higgs fields	
label	q	\bar{u}	\bar{d}	ℓ	\bar{e}	$\bar{\nu}$	H_u	H_d
$SU(3)_c$	3	3	3	1	1	1	1	1
$SU(2)_L$	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	2
$U(1)_Y$	$1/6$	$-2/3$	$1/3$	$-1/2$	1	0	$1/2$	$-1/2$
$\Delta(54)$	3₂	3₂	3₂	3₂	3₂	3₂	1	1
T'	$2' \oplus 1$	$2' \oplus 1$	$2' \oplus 1$	$2' \oplus 1$	$2' \oplus 1$	$2' \oplus 1$	1	1
n	$-2/3$	$-2/3$	$-2/3$	$-2/3$	$-2/3$	$-2/3$	0	0

- flavons break the eclectic flavor symmetry

flavons								
φ_c	φ_u	φ_ν	ϕ^0	ϕ_M^0	ϕ_c^0	ϕ_u^0	ϕ_d^0	
1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3₂	3₂	3₂	1	1	1	1	1	1
$2' \oplus 1$	$2' \oplus 1$	$2' \oplus 1$	1	1	1	1	1	1
$-2/3$	$-2/3$	$-2/3$	0	0	0	0	0	0

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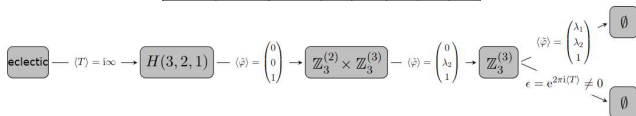
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0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3₂	3₂	3₂	1	1	1	1	1
$2' \oplus 1$	$2' \oplus 1$	$2' \oplus 1$	1	1	1	1	1
$-2/3$	$-2/3$	$-2/3$	0	0	0	0	0



Explicit stringy model

After

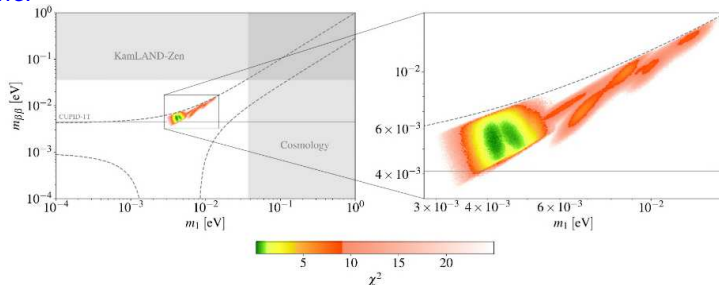
- computing the corresponding action: \mathcal{W}, K
- fixing **by hand** the VEV of the modulus ($\langle T \rangle \sim 3i$ “close” to $i\infty$), &
- computing the effective couplings among the particles (with 20 params)

Explicit stringy model

After

- computing the corresponding action: \mathcal{W}, K
- fixing **by hand** the VEV of the modulus ($\langle T \rangle \sim 3i$ “close” to $i\infty$), &
- computing the effective couplings among the particles (with 20 params)

Outcome:



Explicit stringy model

Outcome:

	parameter	best-fit value	observable	model best fit	exp. best fit	exp. 1σ interval	
superpotential	$\text{Im}(T)$	3.195	quark sector	m_u/m_c	0.00193	0.00193	0.00133 \rightarrow 0.00253
	$\text{Re}(T)$	0.02279		m_c/m_t	0.00280	0.00282	0.00270 \rightarrow 0.00294
	$\langle \tilde{\varphi}_{u,1} \rangle$	$2.0332 \cdot 10^{-4}$		m_d/m_s	0.0505	0.0505	0.0443 \rightarrow 0.0567
	$\langle \tilde{\vartheta}_{u,1} \rangle$	1.6481		m_b/m_b	0.0182	0.0182	0.0172 \rightarrow 0.0192
	$\langle \tilde{\varphi}_{u,2} \rangle$	$6.3011 \cdot 10^{-2}$		ϑ_{12} [deg]	13.03	13.03	12.98 \rightarrow 13.07
	$\langle \tilde{\vartheta}_{u,2} \rangle$	-1.5983	ϑ_{13} [deg]	0.200	0.200	0.193 \rightarrow 0.207	
	$\langle \tilde{\varphi}_{e,1} \rangle$	$-4.069 \cdot 10^{-5}$	ϑ_{23} [deg]	2.30	2.30	2.26 \rightarrow 2.34	
	$\langle \tilde{\varphi}_{e,2} \rangle$	$5.833 \cdot 10^{-2}$	δ_{CP}^3 [deg]	69.2	69.2	66.1 \rightarrow 72.3	
	$\langle \tilde{\varphi}_{\nu,1} \rangle$	$1.224 \cdot 10^{-3}$	m_e/m_μ	0.00473	0.00474	0.00470 \rightarrow 0.00478	
	$\langle \tilde{\varphi}_{\nu,2} \rangle$	-0.9857	m_μ/m_τ	0.0586	0.0586	0.0581 \rightarrow 0.0590	
Λ_ν [eV]	0.05629						
Kähler potential	α_1^u	-0.94917	lepton sector	$\sin^2 \theta_{12}$	0.303	0.304	0.292 \rightarrow 0.316
	α_2^u	0.0016906		$\sin^2 \theta_{13}$	0.0225	0.0225	0.0218 \rightarrow 0.0231
	α_3^u	0.31472		$\sin^2 \theta_{23}$	0.449	0.450	0.434 \rightarrow 0.469
	α_1^d	0.95067		δ_{CP}^d/π	1.28	1.28	1.14 \rightarrow 1.48
	α_2^d	0.0077533	η_1/π	0.029	-	-	
	α_3^d	0.30283	η_2/π	0.994	-	-	
	α_1^q	-0.96952	J_{CP}	-0.026	-0.026	-0.033 \rightarrow -0.016	
	α_2^q	-0.20501	J_{CP}^{max}	0.0335	0.0336	0.0329 \rightarrow 0.0341	
	α_3^q	0.041643	$\Delta m_{21}^2/10^{-5}$ [eV ²]	7.39	7.42	7.22 \rightarrow 7.63	
	(a)		$\Delta m_{31}^2/10^{-3}$ [eV ²]	2.521	2.510	2.483 \rightarrow 2.537	
			m_1 [eV]	0.0042	<0.037	-	
			m_2 [eV]	0.0095	-	-	
			m_3 [eV]	0.0504	-	-	
			$\sum_i m_i$ [eV]	0.0641	<0.120	-	
			$m_{\beta\beta}$ [eV]	0.0055	<0.036	-	
		m_β [eV]	0.0099	<0.8	-		
		χ^2	0.11				

Quintessence

Quintessence with flavor and strings

Gordillo-Ruiz, Hernández-Segura, Portillo-Castillo, SRS, Zavala: 2509.22781

Quintessence from strings



Quintessential model

- Two moduli: T & dilaton S
- Effective superpotential:

$$W(S, T) \sim \lambda_1 Y_1(T) + \lambda_2 Y_2(T) + \alpha_1(T) e^{-\beta_1 S} + \alpha_2(T) e^{-\beta_2 S}$$

$Y_1(T), Y_2(T), \alpha_1(T), \alpha_2(T)$: computable modular forms

- Kähler potential:

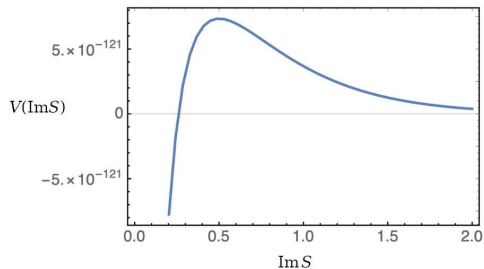
$$K(S, T) = -\log [S + \bar{S} - \chi \log(i\bar{T} - iT)] - \log(i\bar{T} - iT)$$

- \Rightarrow Scalar potential:

$$V(\text{Re } S, \text{Im } S, \text{Re } T, \text{Im } T) = e^K \left[K^{A\bar{B}} D_A W D_{\bar{B}} \bar{W} - 3|W|^2 \right]$$

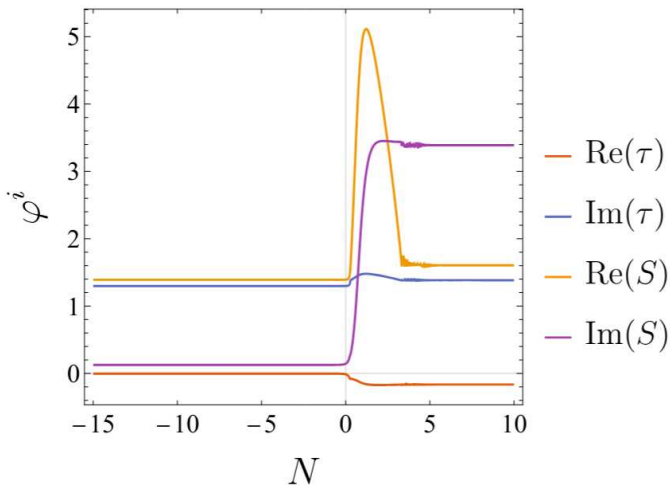
Quintessential model with axions

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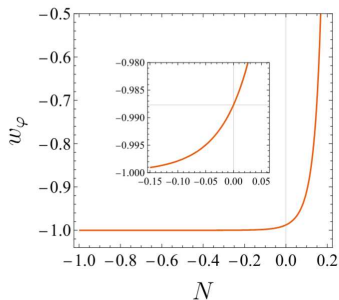
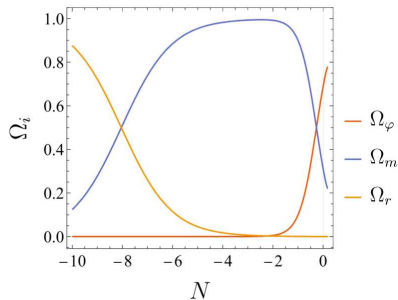


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$$\Omega_{\varphi,0} \sim 0.68, \Omega_{m,0} \sim 0.28, \Omega_{r,0} \sim 0, \quad w_{\varphi,0} \sim -0.99$$

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- BUT
 - Unsolved hyper-mega-ultra fine tuning of $\Lambda := \langle V \rangle$ 😞
 - Too light moduli masses 😞

To take home...

Summary

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- Top-down sheds light into **geometric origin of flavor symmetries**

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of quarks and leptons
- **Quintessence**: dynamic dark energy controlled by flavor symmetries

To conclude...

Thanks!

You wanna discuss more top-down?

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Dark matter with flavor and strings

Baur, Chen, Knapp-Pérez, SRS: 2409.02178

2) Flavored dark matter model

Inspired by our model with $\Gamma'_3 \cong T'$, propose:

	L	(E_1^c, E_2^c, E_3^c)	H_d	H_u	ϕ_3	$\phi_{1'}$	ζ_3	$\zeta_{1''}$	$Y(T)$
$SU(2)_L$	2	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	1
$U(1)_Y$	$-\frac{1}{2}$	1	$-\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	0	0	0	0	0
$\Gamma_3 \cong A_4$	3	$(\mathbf{1}, \mathbf{1}'', \mathbf{1}')$	1	1	3	1'	3	1''	3
k_i	1	0	-1	0	0	0	0	0	2
$U(1)_R$	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	2	0
\mathbb{Z}_2	0	0	0	0	0	-1	0	-1	0

Key: modular symmetry & flavons $\phi_3, \phi_{1'}$ + driving fields $\zeta_3, \zeta_{1''}$

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$U(1)_Y$	$-\frac{1}{2}$	1	$-\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	0	0	0	0	0
$\Gamma_3 \cong A_4$	3	$(\mathbf{1}, \mathbf{1}'', \mathbf{1}')$	1	1	3	$\mathbf{1}'$	3	$\mathbf{1}''$	3
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$U(1)_R$	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	2	0
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Aim at a model of

- lepton masses
- dark matter

2) Flavored dark matter model

- Effective action for leptons given by

$$\mathcal{W}_L = \frac{1}{\Lambda} H_u L H_u L Y(T) + \frac{\alpha_1}{\Lambda_\phi} E_1^c H_d (L\phi_3)_1 + \frac{\alpha_2}{\Lambda_\phi} E_2^c H_d (L\phi_3)_{1'} + \frac{\alpha_3}{\Lambda_\phi} E_3^c H_d (L\phi_3)_{1''}$$

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Tuned parameters: $\alpha_i, \Lambda, \Lambda_\phi, \langle\phi_3\rangle, \tan\beta$

observables	best-fit values
m_e/m_μ	0.00473 ± 0.00004
m_μ/m_τ	0.0450 ± 0.0007
y_τ	0.795 ± 0.012
$\Delta m_{21}^2/10^{-5} [\text{eV}^2]$	$7.41_{-0.20}^{+0.21}$
$\Delta m_{32}^2/10^{-3} [\text{eV}^2]$	$-2.487_{-0.024}^{+0.027}$
$\sin^2 \theta_{12}$	$0.307_{-0.011}^{+0.012}$
$\sin^2 \theta_{13}$	$0.02222_{-0.00057}^{+0.00069}$
$\sin^2 \theta_{23}$	$0.568_{-0.021}^{+0.016}$
δ_{CP}^ℓ/π	$1.52_{-0.15}^{+0.13}$

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DM = light combination of fermions from flavons & driving fields

→ modular-flavored dark matter

correct abundance Ω_{DM} only by *freeze-in* production

Stringy flavor does give DM too! 😊