How to get a Very Small Cosmological Constant

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Happy Birthday to Professor Yu-Ping Kuang

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Hong Kong University of Science and Technology



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How to get a Very Small Λ

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 10^{500} possible solutions with different Λ values. Pressing Question The Stringy Mechanism

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This talk is based on work with Yoske Sumitomo :

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arXiv:1204.5177 (JCAP 1208\ (2012)\ 032) and arXiv:1209.5086
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Applied to : Large Volume Flux Compactification Scenario in Type IIB String Theory

in particular : M. Rummel and A. Westphal, arXiv:1107.2115

Also : A. Aazami and R. Easther, hep-th/0512102;
X. Chen, G. Shiu, Y. Sumitomo and S.-H.H. Tye, arXiv:1112.3338;
T. Bachlechner, D. Marsh, L. McAllister and T. Wrase, arXiv:1207.2763.

Basic Idea The Large Volume Scenario in Type IIB String Theory Multi-Complex Structure Moduli Summary 10^{500} possible solutions with different Λ values. Pressing Question The Stringy Mechanism

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Background

 There is very strong evidence that we are living in a de-Sitter vacuum with a very small positive cosmological constant Λ,

$$\Lambda \sim +10^{-122} M_P^4$$

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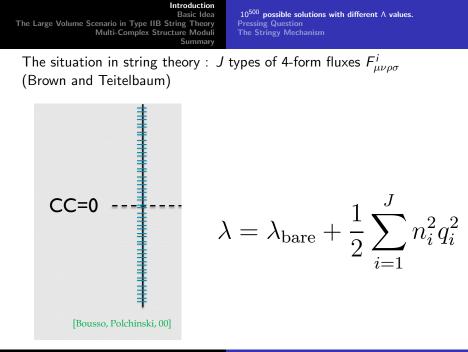
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- There is strong evidence that our universe has gone through an inflationary period, when the vacuum energy is below the Planck scale but much higher than the TeV scale.
- Given the scale of the underlying theory, how the observed value emerges ?
 E.g., String theory has string scale M_S, so it must generate both M_P and Λ from M_S.



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Pressing Question

String theory may have 10^{500} possible solutions. Surely many will have Λ at about the right value.

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Why nature picks such a very small positive Λ ?

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Why nature picks such a very small positive Λ ?

- We present a possible Stringy Mechanism why a very small Λ may be preferred.
- We use a simple but non-trivial model to illustrate the main idea.
- The key points can be understood with little knowledge about string theory.
- The key idea may be applied to other hierarchy problems.

Basic Idea The Large Volume Scenario in Type IIB String Theory Multi-Complex Structure Moduli Summary 10^{500} possible solutions with different Λ values. Pressing Question The Stringy Mechanism

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Applied to String Theory

Consider a string model with a set of moduli {u_i}. Treat all parameters {a_j} in the model as random variables with some probability distributions.

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- Consider a string model with a set of moduli {u_i}. Treat all parameters {a_j} in the model as random variables with some probability distributions.
- In the SUGRA approximation, solve V(a_j, u_i) for the meta-stable vacuum, so all {u_i} are determined in terms of {a_j}. Determine Λ(a_j) = V_{min}(a_j) in terms of {a_j}.

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- As we shall see in examples, $P(\Lambda)$ tends to peak at $\Lambda = 0$.

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Basic property P(z) of $z = x_1x_2$ and $z = x_1x_2x_3$ Non-interacting case: e.g., Sum of terms

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This peaking behavior of $P(\Lambda)$ at $\Lambda = 0$ is quiet generic.

The Basic Idea is very simple :

It is based on the properties of the probability distribution of functions of random variables.

Does Λ has the right functional form ? Do the random parameters have the right range and distribution ?

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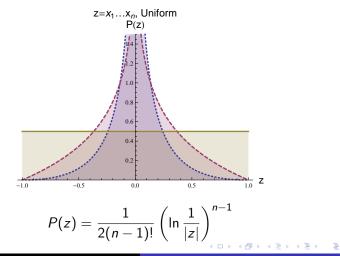
Does Λ has the right functional form ? Do the random parameters have the right range and distribution ?

An example :

Consider a set of random variables x_i (i = 1, 2, ..., n). Let the probability distribution of each x_i be uniform in the range [-1, +1]. What is the probability distribution of their product z ?

Basic property P(z) of $z = x_1x_2$ and $z = x_1x_2x_3$ Non-interacting case: e.g., Sum of terms

Probability distribution of $z = x_1x_2$ and $z = x_1x_2x_3$



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$z = x_1 x_2$

Let x_j to have a uniform distribution $P(x_j) = 1$ between 0 and 1. What is the probability distribution P(z) of the product $z = x_1x_2$?

$$P(z) = \int_0^1 dx_1 \int_0^1 dx_2 \, \delta(x_1 x_2 - z) = \int_z^1 dx_1 \frac{1}{x_1} = \ln\left(\frac{1}{z}\right)$$

for $0 \le z \le 1$.

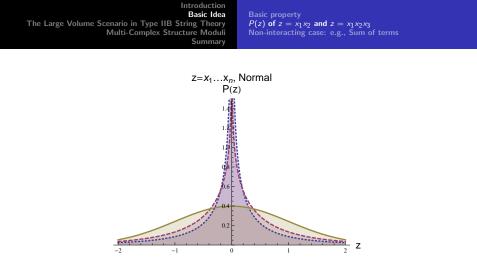


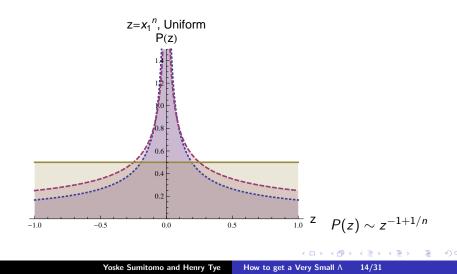
Figure: The product distribution P(z) is for $z = x_1$ (solid brown curve for normal distribution), $z = x_1x_2$ (red dashed curve), and $z = x_1x_2x_3$ (blue dotted curve), respectively. In general, the curves are given by the Meijer-G function.

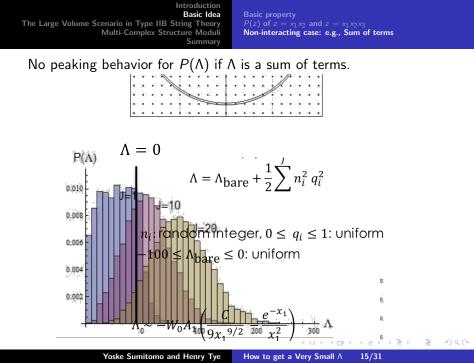
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Introduction Basic Idea

The Large Volume Scenario in Type IIB String Theory Multi-Complex Structure Moduli Summary Basic property P(z) of $z = x_1x_2$ and $z = x_1x_2x_3$ Non-interacting case: e.g., Sum of terms

Probability distribution
$$P(z)$$
 for $z = x_1^n$





Typical Manifolds Studied

$$\chi(M) = 2(h^{1,1} - h^{2,1})$$

Manifold	$N_{K}=h^{1,1}$	$N_{cs} = h^{2,1}$	χ
$\mathcal{P}^{4}_{[1,1,1,6,9]}$	2	272	-540
\mathcal{F}_{11}	3	111	-216
\mathcal{F}_{18}	5	89	-168
$\mathcal{CP}^{4}_{[1,1,1,1,1]}$	1	$\mathcal{O}(100)$	$\mathcal{O}(-200)$

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$$\begin{split} V = & e^{K} \left(K^{I\bar{J}} D_{I} W D_{\bar{J}} \bar{W} - 3 |W|^{2} \right), \\ & K = & -2 \ln(\mathcal{V} + \hat{\xi}/2) - \ln(S + \bar{S}) - \sum_{j} \ln(U_{j} + \bar{U}_{j}) \\ & \mathcal{V} = & VoI/\alpha'^{3} = \gamma_{1} (T_{1} + \bar{T}_{1})^{3/2} - \sum_{i=2} \gamma_{i} (T_{i} + \bar{T}_{i})^{3/2}, \\ & \hat{\xi} = & -\frac{\zeta(3)\chi(M)}{4\sqrt{2}(2\pi)^{3}} \left(\frac{S + \bar{S}}{2}\right)^{3/2}, \\ & W = & W_{0}(U_{i}, S) + \sum_{i=1}^{N_{K}} A_{i}e^{-a_{i}T_{i}}, \\ & W_{0}(U_{i}, S) = & c_{1} + \sum_{j} b_{j}U_{j} - s(c_{2} + \sum_{j} d_{j}U_{j}) \end{split}$$



 Consider the above simplified Large Volume Scenario (LVS) in Type II B string theory.

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Approach

- Consider the above simplified Large Volume Scenario (LVS) in Type II B string theory.
- ▶ Introduce the dilation *S*, $N_K = h^{1,1}$ number of Kähler moduli T_k , and $N_{cs} = h^{2,1}$ number of complex structure moduli U_i .

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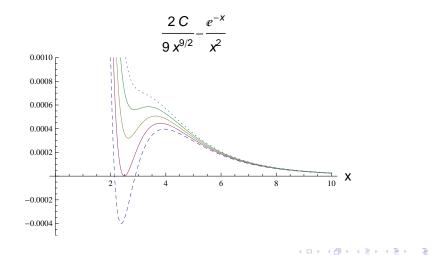
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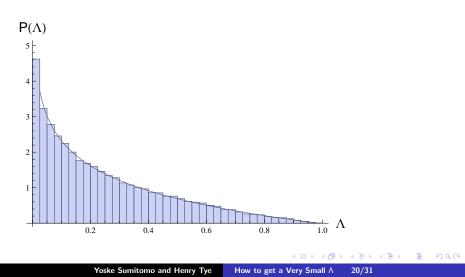
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- All parameters introduced are treated as random variables with some probability distributions.
- ▶ Find the supersymmetric solution w₀ = W₀|_{min} of W₀ for the complex structure moduli and insert this w₀ into V to stabilize the Kähler moduli.
- ► The functional form of Λ = V_{min} (and w₀ = W₀|_{min}) in terms of the parameters are non-trivial.

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The form of V(x) with $W_0A_1 \leq 0$



$P(\Lambda) \propto { m ln} \left(1/|\Lambda| ight)$ at $\Lambda \sim 0$



Supersymmetric Solution Probability Distribution $P(w_0)$ $P(\Lambda)$ as a function of $h^{2,1} = N$

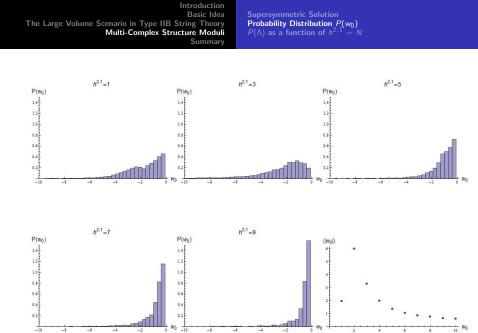
$$D_S W_0 = \partial_S W_0 + K_S W_0 = 0, \qquad D_i W_0 = 0$$
$$W_0(u_i, s) = c_1 + \sum_j b_j u_j - s(c_2 + \sum_j d_j u_j)$$

Solution :

$$(N_{cs} - 2)\frac{c_1 + sc_2}{c_1 - sc_2} = \sum_{i=1}^{N_{cs}} \frac{b_i + sd_i}{b_i - sd_i}$$
$$w_0 = W_0|_{\min} = \frac{2(c_1 + sc_2)\Pi_1^n(b_i - sd_i)}{\sum_i (b_i + sd_i)\Pi_{j \neq i}(b_j - sd_j)}$$

Then insert w_0 into the V for the Kähler moduli and solve :

$$\Lambda = \frac{e^{-5/2}}{9} \left(\frac{2}{5}\right)^2 \frac{-w_0 a_1^3 A_1}{\gamma_1^2} \left(x_m - \frac{5}{2}\right)$$
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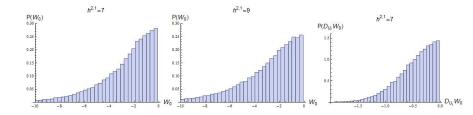
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Supersymmetric Solution

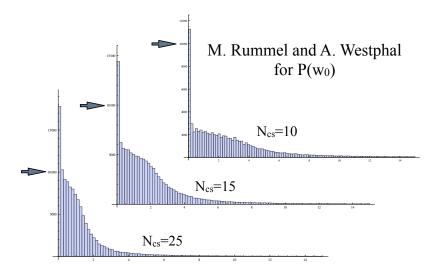
Probability Distribution $P(w_0)$

If $P(W_0)$ and $P(D_iW_0)$ are truly independent :



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Supersymmetric Solution **Probability Distribution** $P(w_0)$ $P(\Lambda)$ as a function of $h^{2,1} = N$



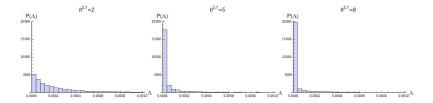
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Supersymmetric Solution Probability Distribution $P(w_0)$ $P(\Lambda)$ as a function of $h^{2,1} = N$

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$P(\Lambda)$ as a function of $h^{2,1}$

Imposing the conditions $V_{barrier} \leq 1$, s > 1 and $u_i \geq 0$, for meta-stable vacua :



 $P(\Lambda)$ is sharply peaked at $\Lambda = 0$ but with a long tail. So $<\Lambda >$ may not be a good measure of what is going on.

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So $< \Lambda >$ may not be a good measure of what is going on.

Suppose there are 10^6 data points at $\Lambda = 10^{-100}$ and 1 data point at $\Lambda = 1$.

The likely value is $\Lambda = 10^{-100}$ even though $< \Lambda > \simeq 10^{-6}$.

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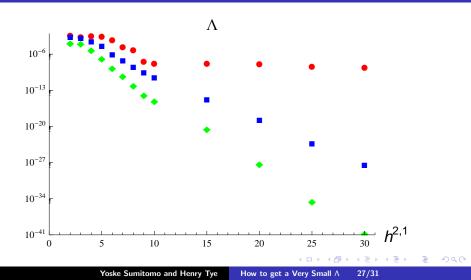
So we ask : what is the cut-off $\Lambda_{Y\%}$ if $\int_0^{\Lambda_{Y\%}} P(\Lambda) d\Lambda = Y\%$? That is, there is a Y% chance that $\Lambda \leq \Lambda_{Y\%}$.

In the above example, $\Lambda_{99\%} = \Lambda_{10\%} = 10^{-100}$.

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Supersymmetric Solution Probability Distribution $P(w_0)$ $P(\Lambda)$ as a function of $h^{2,1} = N$

Likely value of Λ as a function of $h^{2,1}$



Supersymmetric Solution Probability Distribution $P(w_0)$ $P(\Lambda)$ as a function of $h^{2,1} = N$

$<\Lambda>$ versus $\Lambda_{10\%}$

There is a Y% probability that $\Lambda_{Y\%} \ge \Lambda \ge 0$.

At
$$h^{2,1} = 10$$
,
 $< \Lambda > \sim 10^{-8}$ while $\Lambda_{80\%} \sim 10^{-10}$ and $\Lambda_{10\%} \sim 10^{-19}$
At $h^{2,1} = 30$,
 $< \Lambda > \sim 10^{-9}$ while $\Lambda_{80\%} \sim 10^{-29}$ and $\Lambda_{10\%} \sim 10^{-41}$

That is, for 30 complex structure moduli, there is a 10% chance that Λ is smaller than 10^{-41} .

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For
$$h^{2,1} > 5$$
, $\Lambda_{50\%} \sim 10^{-h^{2,1}}$

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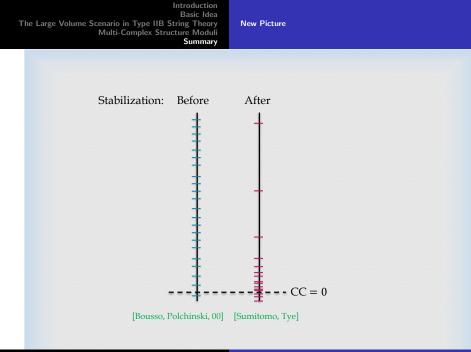
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- At high vacuum energies, no meta-stable vacua (because most extrema are unstable)
- At very low vacuum energies, meta-stable vacua begin to appear

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New Picture

Summary and Remarks

- At high vacuum energies, no stable vacua (because most extrema are unstable)
- At very low vacuum energies, meta-stable vacua begin to appear

Many technical questions to be further studied :

- What is the back-reaction due to SUSY breaking ?
- What about higher (α' and loop) corrections ?
- How about the cosmological light moduli problem ?

The picture is very encouraging: many directions to be explored.

One can apply this statistical property to other hierarchy problems.

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