

December 1, 2010

Exam 5, Friday, *Review Sheet posted.*

Review Thursday, 5 – 6 PM, *ETC 2.108*

Last sky watch

Electronic Course Instructor Survey.

Astronomy in the News?

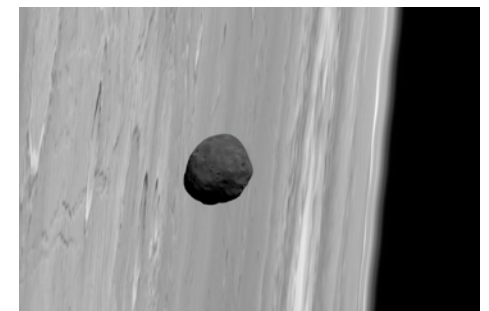
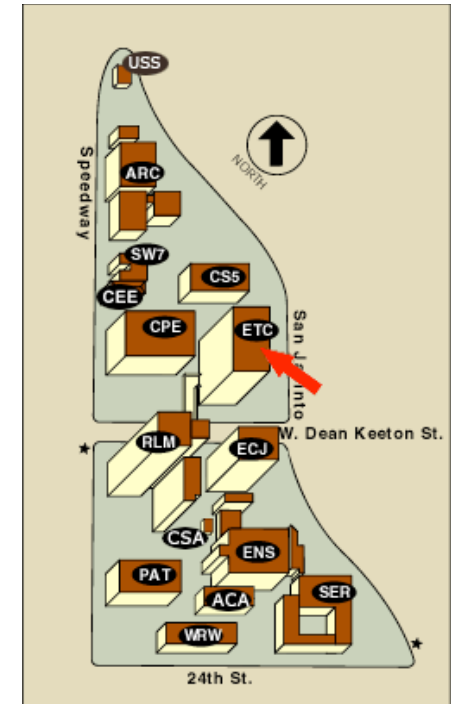
Tycho murdered with mercury poisoning? By Kepler?

Roger Penrose – “rings” in cosmic microwave background radiation might imply previous Big Bangs...

(Some skepticism warranted in both cases.)

NASA – big astrobiology announcement tomorrow

Pic of the Day – Mars moon Phobos



Goal:

To understand how string theory represents the current best candidate to be the needed theory of quantum gravity

New insight: (1999) - Can have *large extra dimensions* and gravity will still leak only a little into that extra dimension, still weaken very nearly as $1/r^2$.

Our 3D Universe could be a 3D brane in a large, extended, 4D bulk

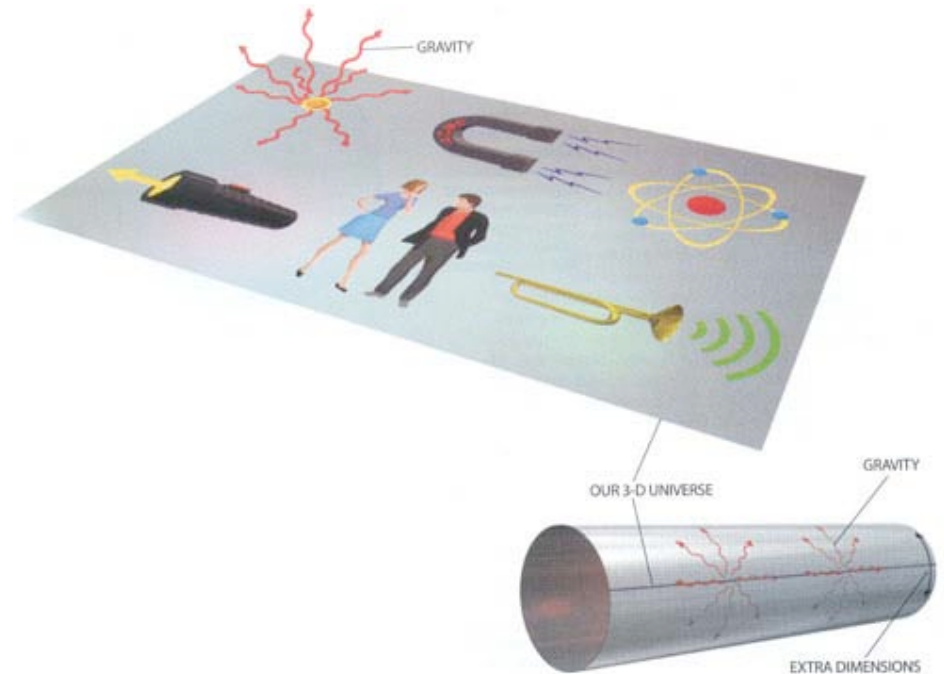
There could be a real, large (infinite), four-dimensional hyperspace in which our 3D Universe is embedded.

Plus tightly wrapped up dimensions.

In this picture, ordinary forces, electromagnetism, nuclear forces, correspond to “open” strings that have ends stuck on the 3D brane,

These strings cannot “go” into the 4D bulk, we cannot “see” the 4D bulk.

Balls on 2D brane, sound into 3D bulk



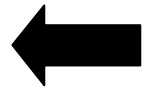
Gravity corresponds to closed loops of strings that are not stuck on the brane, they can float off into the bulk, but in a way that gravity still weakens very nearly like $1/r^2$.

One minute exam:

If gravity reached into the 5D space as easily as it penetrates our ordinary three-dimensional space, then it would get weaker with distance from the source as



$$1/(\text{distance})^2$$



$$1/(\text{distance})^3$$



$$1/(\text{distance})^4$$



Our 3D brane expands

One minute exam

In string theory, our Universe is pictured as a



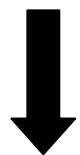
2 brane



3 brane



10 brane



3D bulk

Brane world cosmologies: exploring the theoretical possibility that our Universe is a 3D brane floating in a 4D bulk, with 6 wrapped-up dimensions, plus time

Example: Ekpyrotic Theory (Greek *ekpyrosis* = conflagration)

Two 3D branes collide in 4D bulk

hot, dense “Big Bang” but not infinite density

no singularity

different gravity waves than standard “inflation” theory - could be a test.

Brane world ideas:

Singularity in black holes, quantum foam \Rightarrow nested “loops” of strings?

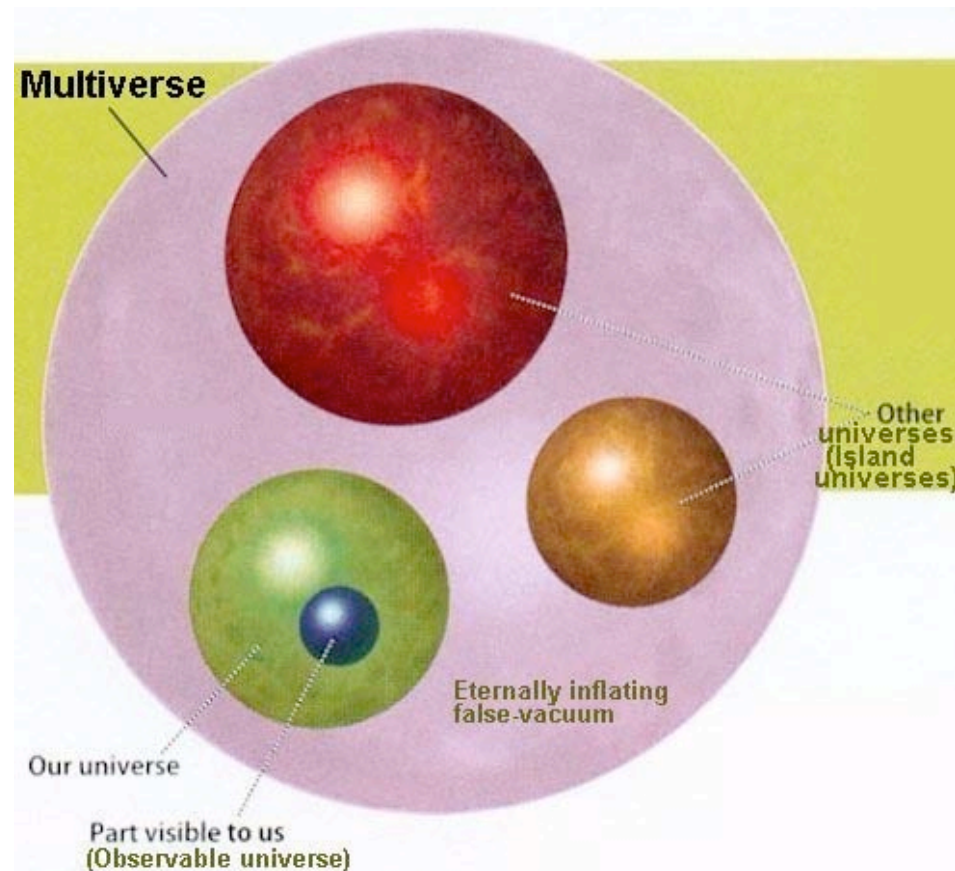
The 4D Bulk: is this where our Universe curves to when it curves, expands to when it expands - Maybe...

Bubble Universes: When a black hole forms a “singularity,” does a new Universe spring into existence “elsewhere” in 4D hyperspace?

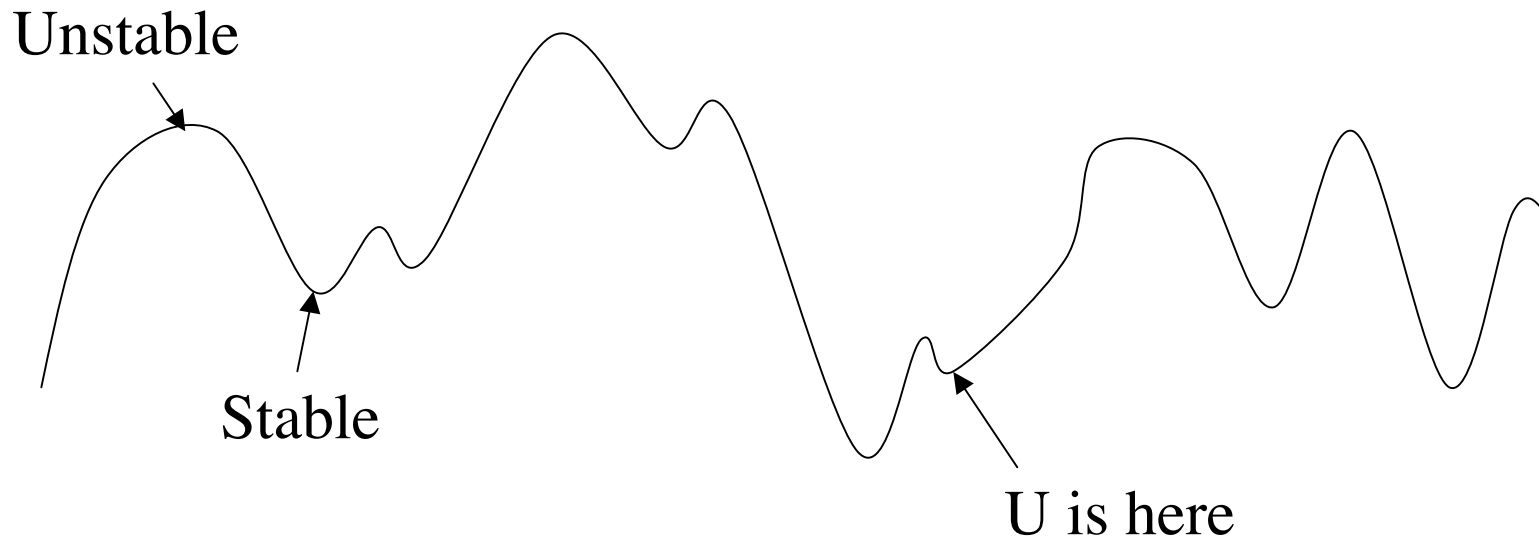
Is the Dark Energy that drives the acceleration of the Universe some manifestation of a “nearby” 3D Universe only a little distance away from our Universe in the 4D bulk?

More current ideas:

The Multiverse - the idea that there could be many 3D universes separated in hyperspace.

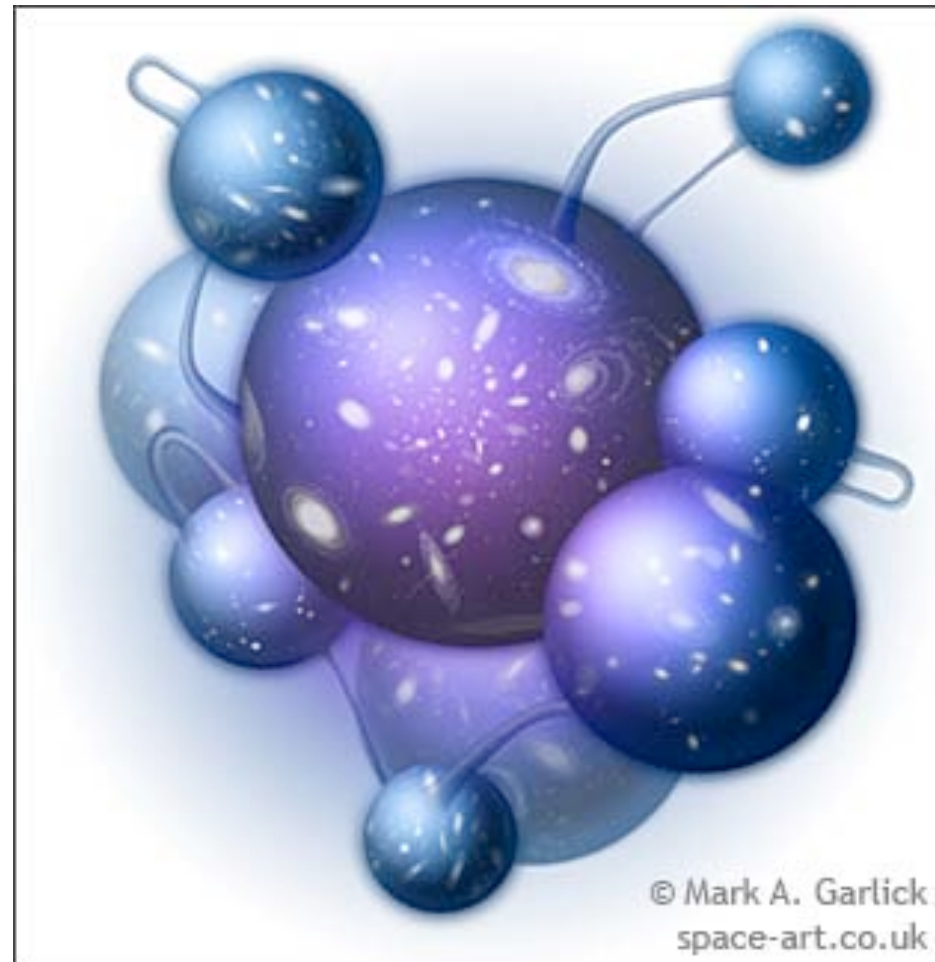


The String Landscape - current estimates are that string theory might provide 10^{500} different solutions, “universes,” each with a different set of values of the physical constants, speed of light, the gravitational constant, Planck’s constant that determines the size of quantum uncertainty, Einstein’s Cosmological Constant, masses and charges of particles. Only some universes could make stars, galaxies, and life.



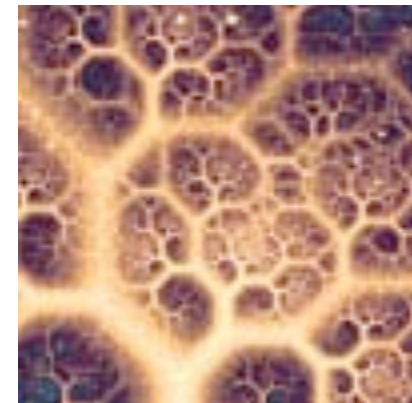
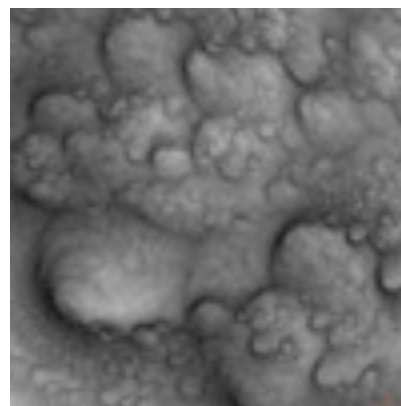
Bubble Universes - the individual universes created from the parameters of the String Landscape that populate the Multiverse.

One idea:
when a black hole forms a “singularity” in one universe, a new universe is born “elsewhere” in hyperspace.



Eternal Inflation - the notion that new bubble universes are constantly being born, “inflated” from the quantum foam or stringy space-time.

Chaotic Inflation - a variation on eternal inflation in which new bubble universes are constantly being born and the multiverse is fractal on large scales.



Derivation of the temperature of a black hole from string theory got exactly Hawking's answer.

But string theory is a quantum theory and exactly preserves information.

The implication is that Hawking was wrong that information is destroyed in a black hole.

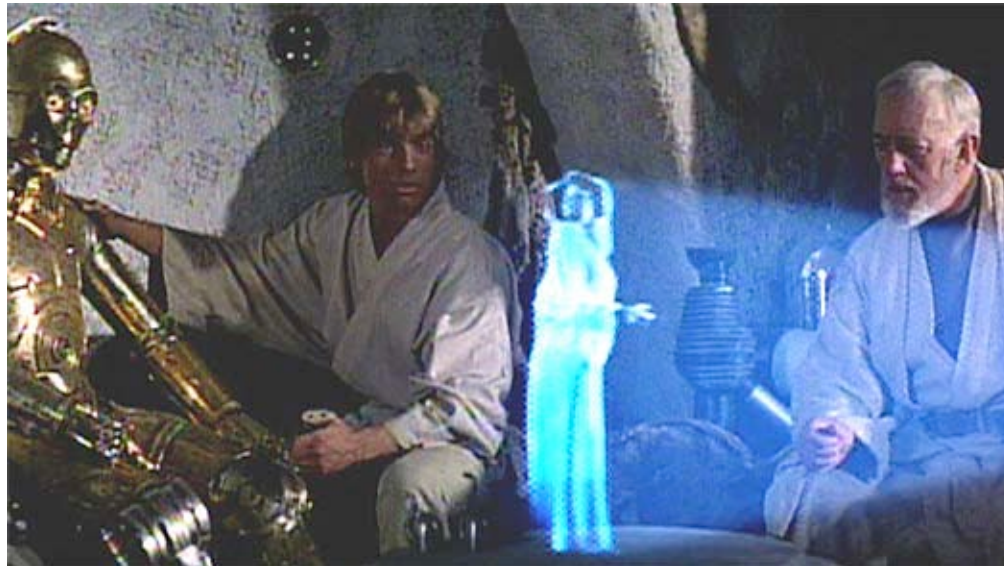
The information must be retained in string vibrations at the event horizon (not within the black hole).

Surfaces are the true repository of information, not volumes.

That led to the idea that we live in a Holographic Universe.

The Holographic Universe - the notion that the real information content is imprinted in quantum bits on the surface, the event horizon, of the observable universe (we are just 3D hologram projections from the 2D surface),

Closely related to the understanding that the information of what fell into a black hole is retained in string vibrations at the event horizon surface of a black hole.



The origin of space and time

In principle, a true “theory of everything” should tell us the nature of space and time.

String theory assumes the existence of 10 dimensional spaces and time, so the fundamental question of how and why space and time exist remains elusive.

Is this real, or just mathematical fantasy?

Must be able to test: Physicists are straining to devise such tests.

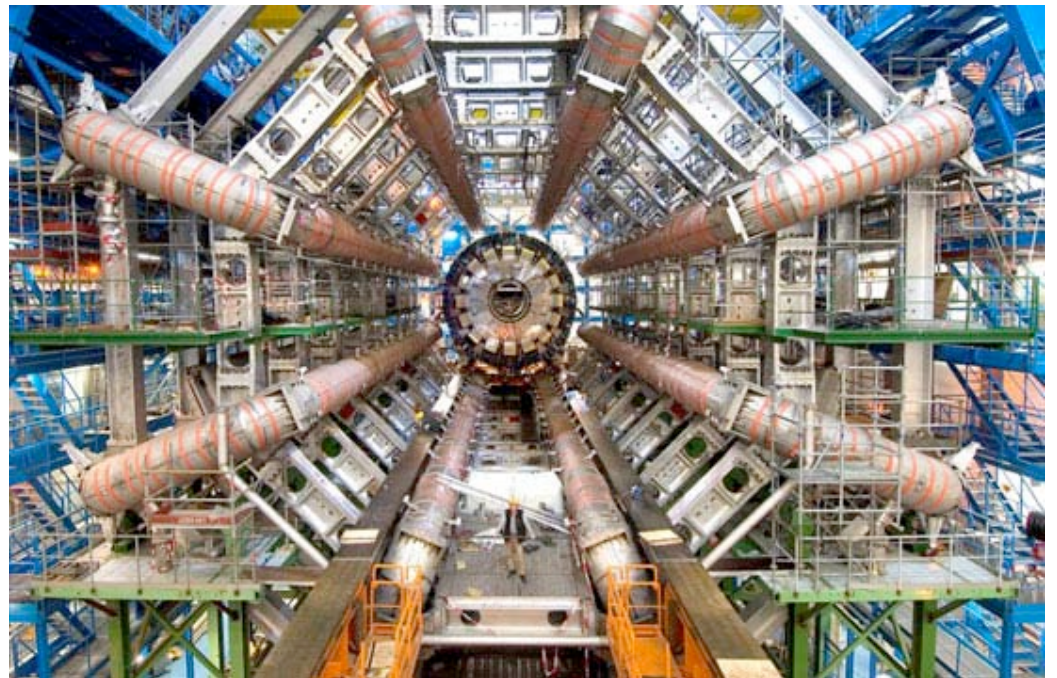
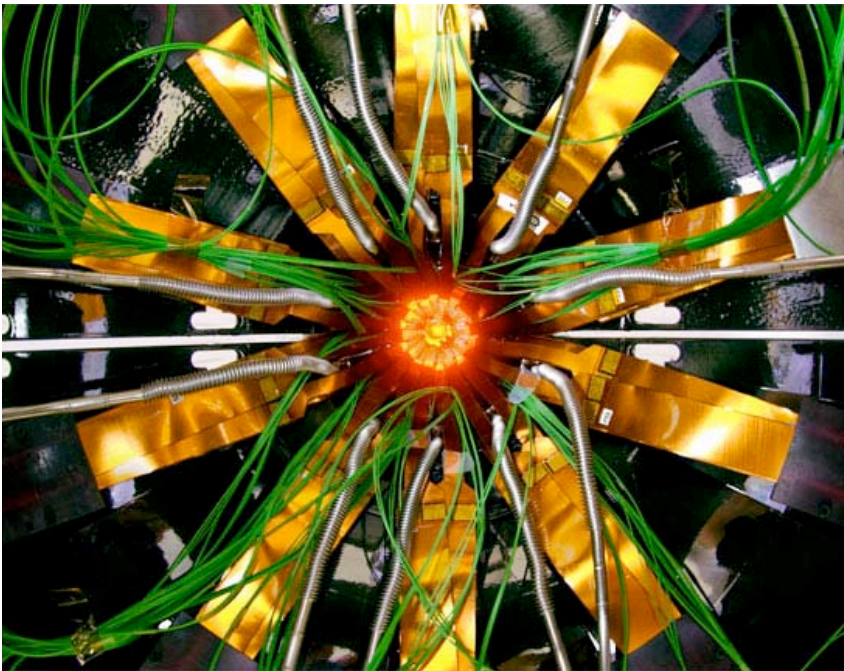
Does gravity behave a little differently than $1/r^2$, for instance like $1/r^{2.0001}$, that would be hint of higher dimensions?

Curved space near event horizons of black holes might be different than standard Einstein gravity - can that be measured with X-rays?

Interactions in particle accelerators could be different if some energy disappears into the 4D bulk.

The Large Hadron Collider (LHC) CERN, near Geneva, is beginning to operate in 2010. Strong expectation that evidence for new physics, confirming or denying string theory ideas, will be seen.

The New **Large Hadron Collider** at CERN in Switzerland may see the first hints of extra dimensions.



Take Away Message:

Hyperspace might be real...

Stay tuned!

(and remember to keep an eye on Betelgeuse!)