

A few thoughts/questions to keep in mind while reading the material for the week of April 11

This week the reading takes us into the ideas of string theory and the implications of those ideas for cosmology. What is string theory? Why are the features of string theory that make it potentially advantageous as a potential foundation for a theory of everything in the eyes of some physicists? If string theories are only well-behaved in 10 dimensions, why is it we don't see all those other dimensions? How are the physical characteristics of our universe tied in with the extra dimensions of string theory (conceptually)? What is the "string theory landscape" or the "cosmic landscape"? How does the bubble multiverse combined with the string theory landscape address the fact that the physical constants of our universe seem finely tuned?