

# Non-associative geometry in flux compactifications of string theory

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# Overview

Motivation

Non-commutative and non-associative algebras from deformations

Non-commutative and non-associative bundles from deformations

Work in progress/ outlook

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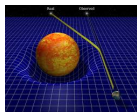
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## Light and the nature of space-time

Light follows the geodesics of space-time



Gravitational lensing



Massive objects curve space-time in their vicinity

What is the nature of quantum space-time?

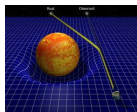
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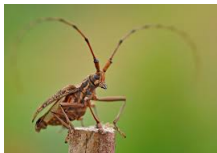


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# Motivation

Space-time on the quantum level



Closed strings probe or 'feel-out' space-time on the quantum level  
( $\sim 10^{-35} m$ )



Worksheet of closed string probing space-time

# Motivation

Flux compactifications of *closed* string theory

6 unobserved dimensions of strings' 10 dimensional target space are perhaps rolled up/  
compactified in

## Flux compactifications

- ▶ string vacua with  $p$ -form fluxes along the extra dimensions

# Motivation

Flux compactifications of *closed* string theory



$$X : \Sigma \longrightarrow M = \mathbb{R}^4 \times K_H$$

H-flux,  $H = d B$ , turned on in extra dimensions of string vacua  $K_H$



# Motivation

## Non-commutative and non-associative space-time geometry

geometric  $K_H \xrightarrow{\text{T-duality}} \text{"non - geometric"} K_R$

- ▶ closed strings propagating and winding in the  $R$ -flux background probe a non-commutative and non-associative space-time geometry (Blumenhagen, Plauschinn: 2010, Lüst: 2010)
- ▶ confirmed by explicit string and CFT calculations (Blumenhagen, Deser, Lüst, Plauschinn, Rennecke: 2011, Condeescu, Florakis, Lüst: 2012)

Constant trivector  $R$ -flux:  $R = \frac{1}{3!} R^{ijk} \partial_i \wedge \partial_j \wedge \partial_k$

Coordinate algebra probed by closed strings in  $R$ -flux compactification:

non-commutative  $[x^i, x^j] = \frac{i\ell_s^4}{3\hbar} R^{ijk} \partial_k$ ,  $[x^i, \partial_j] = i\hbar \delta^i_j$  and  $[\partial_i, \partial_j] = 0$

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Attempt to understand non-geometric space-time

- ▶ Kontsevich's deformation quantization of twisted Poisson manifolds provides explicit star product realizations of this non-associative geometry (Mylonas, Schupp, Szabo: 2012)
- ▶ If one replaces

$$x^i \cdot x^j \longmapsto x^i \star x^j$$

one recovers the “non-geometric” commutation relations and Jacobiator

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- ▶ For a particular choice of “classical algebra of symmetries”  $\mathfrak{g}$
- ▶ and “cochain twist”  $F \in U\mathfrak{g} \otimes U\mathfrak{g}$ , we obtain

star-product:  $\star = \mu \circ F^{-1}$

flip:  $\tau = F^{21} \circ \sigma \circ F^{-1}$      $x^i \star x^j = \tau \triangleright (x^j \star x^i)$

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# Motivation

Where these formulae come from...

★ and flip:

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 A_F \otimes A_F & \xrightarrow{\star} & A \\
 F^{-1} \downarrow & \nearrow \mu & \\
 A \otimes A & & 
 \end{array}$$

$$\star = \mu \circ F^{-1}$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 A_F \otimes A_F & \xrightarrow{\tau} & A_F \otimes A_F \\
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associator:

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 (A_F \otimes A_F) \otimes A_F & \xrightarrow{\phi_F} & A_F \otimes (A_F \otimes A_F) \\
 F^{-1} \otimes 1 \downarrow & & \uparrow 1 \otimes F \\
 (A \otimes A)_F \otimes A_F & & A_F \otimes (A \otimes A)_F \\
 (\Delta \otimes 1)(F^{-1}) \downarrow & & \uparrow (1 \otimes \Delta)(F) \\
 (A \otimes A) \otimes A & \xrightarrow{\phi} & A \otimes (A \otimes A)
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## Goal

**Goal** Mathematical development of a framework to describe a large class of non-commutative and non-associative geometries, including the non-geometric flux compactification above.

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Non-commutative and non-associative algebras from deformations

Non-commutative and non-associative bundles from deformations

Work in progress/ outlook

# Non-commutative and non-associative algebras from deformations

Gelfand-Naimark

## Israel Moiseevic Gelfand



*' I have mentioned the closeness between the style of mathematics and the style of classical music or poetry. I was happy to find the following four common features: first – beauty, second – simplicity, third – exactness, fourth – crazy ideas. The combination of these four things: beauty, exactness, simplicity and crazy ideas is just the heart of mathematics, the heart of classical music. '*

## Mark Aronovich Naimark



# Non-commutative and non-associative algebras from deformations

## Equivalence of algebra representation categories

We are interested in obtaining nc/ na spaces by deforming classical manifolds with a symmetry group action  $G$ .

Lem  $G$  a Lie group,  $U\mathfrak{g}$  the universal enveloping algebra of its associated Lie algebra  $\mathfrak{g}$ . Then there is a functor:

Gelfand-Naimark

$$G\text{-Man}^{\text{op}} \xrightarrow{C^\infty} U\mathfrak{g}\text{Alg}$$

“Manifolds may be analyzed by studying functions on them.”

Thm  $F$  a twist of  $U\mathfrak{g}$ . Then there is a functor:

Quantisation

$$U\mathfrak{g}\text{Alg} \xrightarrow[\simeq]{F} H\text{Alg}$$

“Algebras transforming under classical symmetries are twisted to nc/ na algebras transforming under quantum symmetries  $H$ .”

Remark Twist deformation quantisation is an equivalence of categories.

Application Recover MSS Algebra by choosing  $U\mathfrak{g}$ , a particular algebra  $A$  in  $U\mathfrak{g}\text{Alg}$  and twist  $F \in U\mathfrak{g} \otimes U\mathfrak{g}$ .



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## Example: “Moyal-Weyl” analogue of non-associative algebra

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# Overview

Motivation

Non-commutative and non-associative algebras from deformations

Non-commutative and non-associative bundles from deformations

Work in progress/ outlook

# Non-commutative and non-associative bundles from deformations

Serre-Swan

Jean-Pierre Albert Achille Serre



Richard Gordon Swan

# Non-commutative and non-associative bundles from deformations

## Equivalence of module representation categories

Given a nc/na space, we want to understand **all**  $H$ -equivariant vector bundles (e.g. tangent bundle, cotangent bundle) and operations between them

Lem  $M$  a manifold with  $G$ -action. Then there is a functor:

Serre-Swan

$$G\text{-VecBun}_M \xrightarrow{\Gamma^\infty} U_{\mathfrak{g}}_{C^\infty(M)}\text{-}\mathcal{M}_{C^\infty(M)}$$

"Vector bundles may be analysed by studying their modules of sections."

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"Modules of sections over classical algebras are twisted to nc/na modules of sections over quantum algebras."

Remark Twist deformation quantisation is an equivalence of categories

Application Applied to our non-geometric space, this gives us all  $H$ -equivariant vector bundles over the nc/na algebra describing the flux compactification.

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## Tensor fields and homomorphism bundles

- ▶ The representation category of any quasi-Hopf algebra is a closed braided monoidal category, which means that it has a tensor product, a braiding and internal homomorphisms.
- ▶ For the category  ${}^H_A\mathcal{M}_A$  of H-equivariant vb over  $A \in {}^H\text{Alg}$  we obtain:

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Physical relevance This gives standard operations on fields:

- 1 nc/na vector bundles can be tensored  $\otimes_A \rightsquigarrow$  tensor fields
- 2  $V \otimes_A W \xrightarrow{\tau_A} W \otimes_A V \rightsquigarrow$  allows us to define symmetric and anti-symmetric tensors
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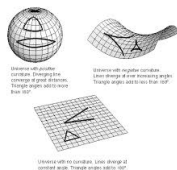
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Work in progress/ outlook

- ▶ Differential operators, connections, Riemannian geometry in  $H_A \mathcal{M}_A$
- ▶ Develop a gravity theory in  $H_A \mathcal{M}_A$  which is a candidate for a low-energy effective theory for non-geometric closed string theory



## Geometry on curved spaces

Thank you

