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Fake supersymmetry with tadpole potentials

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The absence of supersymmetry in string theory usually leads to runaways, arising from nonvanishing dilaton tadpoles. The spacetime manifestation is a scalar potential, which might be a blessing in disguise for flux compactifications, even though it typically brings along singularities or instabilities.
In this talk, I will discuss a first-order formalism, already known in its most basic form as fake supersymmetry, that can replace supersymmetry as a vacuum-generating technique for non-supersymmetric ten-dimensional strings. This strategy suggests interesting conclusions on vacuum stability, employing a definition of energy inspired by the Witten-Nester approach.

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