

Final Technical Report

DOE Award Number

DE-SC0014136

Award Recipient

Regents of the University of Michigan
Ann Arbor, MI

Project Title

High Energy Theory Workshops and Visitors at the Michigan Center for Theoretical
Physics FY17

Principal Investigator

Aaron T. Pierce
email: atpierce@umich.edu
Phone Number: 734-763-5270

Report date

August 4, 2017

Period Covered

August 1, 2016 – July 31, 2017

Report: High energy Theory Workshops and Visitors at the Michigan Center for Theoretical Physics FY17

This award partially supported two activities:

- Beyond the Standard Model 2016
- The 5th MCTP Spring Symposium: Foundations of String Cosmology

Funds were primarily used to support external participants

The Michigan Center for Theoretical Physics (MCTP) hosted the 5-day workshop “Beyond the Standard Model 2016” last Fall on the University of Michigan campus. The bulk of the talks took place from October 10-12, with some participants remaining for the rest of the week to discuss on-going physics. The primary local organizers were Aaron Pierce and James Wells. Roni Harnik and Nausheen Shah (Wayne State) served as an external organizers.

We had 23 invited external speakers, of which 14 were junior researchers, either at the postdoc level or recently appointed assistant professors. This made for a vibrant atmosphere with lots of interactions and discussions. In post-workshop surveys, participants commented on the “nice balance” of material with “lots of interesting and constructive discussions.” Most indicated that it was among the best workshops attended recently. All respondents indicated that the workshop might lead to new projects or collaborations. Talks covered a range of topics including solutions to the strong CP problem, Dark Matter, and Higgs boson phenomenology. Slides are available for many of the workshop’s talks at

<https://sites.google.com/a/umich.edu/beyond-the-standard-model/workshop-itinerary>

The Michigan Center for Theoretical Physics (MCTP) hosted the 7-day “5th MCTP Symposium: Foundations of String Cosmology” this Spring on the University of Michigan campus. The bulk of the talks took place from April 20-23, with some participants remaining for the rest of the week to discuss on-going physics. The primary local organizer was Finn Larsen, with assistance from Katie Freese and Jeff McMahon. Liam McAllister (Cornell) served as an external organizer. We had 26 invited external speakers, some from Europe. In addition to talks and unscheduled time, the workshop had dedicated discussion periods for subjects of interest including: Axion Monodromy, the Weak Gravity Conjecture and Vacuum Transitions. Responses in a post-workshop survey ranked the workshop as “certainly one of the best” attended in the last several years. Nearly 90% of respondents indicated that the workshop could results in new projects or collaborations.

Slides are available for many of the workshop’s talks at

<https://sites.google.com/a/umich.edu/the-5th-mctp-spring-symposium/workshop-itinerary>