University of Heidelberg Structures Cluster of Excellence

Dr. rer. nat. David Maibach

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Education & Position

08/2025 - present	University of Heidelberg, Heidelberg, Germany Postdoctoral Researcher at the Institute for Theoretical Physics
10/2021 - 07/2025	University of Heidelberg, Heidelberg, Germany PhD student in Theoretical Physics Thesis: Across the Horizon: On Gravitational Wave Flux Laws and Tests of Gravity (Summa Cum Laude) Supervisor: Prof. Lavinia Heisenberg
02/2019 - 06/2021	Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH Zurich), Zurich, Switzerland Master of Science in Physics (with distinction) Thesis: 21cm signatures of Cosmic (super-)strings Supervisor: Prof. Robert Brandenberger
10/2015 - 10/2018	Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, Karlsruhe, Germany Bachelor of Science in Physics (with distinction) Thesis: Baryogenesis in singlet extensions of the standard model Supervisor: Prof. Milada M. Mühlleitner
10/2014 - 04/2018	Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, Karlsruhe, Germany Bachelor of Science in Industrial Engineering and Management Thesis: How intraday hedging affects option returns Supervisor: Prof. Marliese Uhrig-Homburg

Grants & Awards

2024	Exploratory Project - Modelling Dark Matter with Cold Atoms, Structures Cluster of Excellence (~154.000 Euros)
2023	Exploratory Project - Exploring Structure Formation through Gravitational Waves, Structures Cluster of Excellence (~154.000 Euros)
2022 - 2023	Travel Grant, Structures Cluster of Excellence (~10.000 Euros)
02/2019 - 02/2021	Full scholarship of the German Academic Exchange Service DAAD (~35.000 Euros)

Talks & Visits

05/2025	LISA Community Call, online (Invited Speaker)
02/2025	Black Hole Mimickers: From Theory to Observation, Princeton Center for Theoretical Science, Princeton University (Speaker)
07/2024	15th International LISA Symposium, University of Dublin (Speaker)
06/2024	Academic Visit at ETH Zurich (Group of Prof. Defenu)
04/2024	SXS Collaboration Webinar, online (Invited Speaker)
11/2023	Short-Term Visitor, California Institute of Technology (Group of Prof. Vallisneri)
11/2023	CMB Constellation Seminar, KIPAC, Stanford (Speaker)
11/2023	INPA Seminar, LBNL, University of California, Berkeley (Invited speaker)

10-12/2023 Long-Term Visitor, KITP, University of California, Santa

Barbara

07/2023 Quantum Gravity 2023 Conference, University of Nijmegen

(Invited speaker)

09/2022, 07/2022 Academic Visit at ETH Zurich (Group of Prof. Heisenberg)

Peer-reviewed publications

02/2025 Signatures of Quantum Gravity in Gravitational Wave Memory

N. Deppe, L. Heisenberg, H. Inchauspé, L. E. Kidder, **D. Maibach**, et

al. (Phys.Rev.D 112 (2025), 024016, arXiv:2502.20584)

[project lead, main author overall]

10/2024 Echos from Beyond: Detecting Gravitational Wave Quantum

Imprints with LISA

N. Deppe, L. Heisenberg, H. Inchauspé, L. E. Kidder, **D. Maibach**, et

al. (Phys.Rev.D 111 (2025), 124035, arXiv:2411.05645)

[project lead, main author overall]

02/2024 Testing gravitational waveforms in full General Relativity

F. D'Ambrosio, F. Gozzini, L. Heisenberg, H. Inchauspé, D. Maibach,

J. Zosso

(JCAP 02 (2025) 060, arXiv:2402.19397)

[project lead, personal contribution: analysis and discussion]

02/2024 Observing Kinematic Anisotropies of the Stochastic

Background with LISA

L. Heisenberg, H. Inchauspé, **D. Maibach** (JCAP 01 (2025) 044, arXiv:2401.14849) [personal contribution: co-author overall]

09/2023 Searching for Topological Dark Matter in LIGO data

L. Heisenberg, D. Maibach, D. Veske

(Phys.Rev.D 110 (2024) 5, 055037, arXiv:2309.05093)

[personal contribution: co-author overall]

07/2021 Extracting the signal of cosmic string wakes from 21-cm

observations

D.Maibach, R. Brandenberger, D. Crichton, A. Refregier (Phys.Rev.D 104 (2021), 123535, arXiv:2107.07289)

[personal contribution: main author overall]

Non-reviewed or in preparation

01/2022 Gravitational Waves in Full, Non-Linear General Relativity

F. D'Ambrosio, S. Fell, L. Heisenberg, D. Maibach, S. Zentarra, J.

Zosso

(arXiv:2201.11634, Review)

[project lead, personal contribution: main author of chapters 5-8 &

exercises]

PhD thesis and related work

05/2025 Across the Horizon: On Gravitational Wave Flux Laws and

Tests of Gravity

D. Maibach

(PhD thesis, arXiv:2506.06783)

-/2025 Covariant Phase Space Approach Beyond General Relativity

D. Maibach, J. Zosso (ongoing project)

[project lead, personal contribution: main author]

Workshops & Schools

11/2023	Out-of-equilibrium Dynamics and Quantum Information of Many-body Systems with Long-range Interactions, KITP, University of California - Santa Barbara (Workshop)
09/2023	Advanced School of Asymptotically Flat Spacetime and Celestial Holography, University of Warsaw (School)
08/2023	YRC Workshop on Turbulence and Chaos, University of Heidelberg (Workshop)
05/2023	Dark Matter and Stars Conference, University of Lisbon (Conference)
09/2022	Gravity at Prague Summer School, University of Prague (School)
08/2022	YRC Workshop on Renormalization Group, University of Heidelberg (Workshop)
05/2022	String, Gravity and Cosmology Student Conference, University of Amsterdam (Conference)

Outreach

01/2025	Intellectual Pottery, Blog & Podcast (Host, https://intellectual-pottery.com/ [website under construction])
06/2024	Minds of Science Podcast (Exploring life in academia in bringing research to a digestible level) (Co-Host, https://mindsofscience.eu/ [website under construction])
04/2022/23/24	Girls' Day, organized by the University of Heidelberg (Co-Organizer)
07/2023	Speaker for "Academic lunch break", organized by the STRUCTURES Excellence Cluster Topic: Fractal dimensions and their appearance in nature

Teaching & Experience

01/2025 - present	Reviewer for Progress in Physics
02/2024 - present	IOP Trusted Reviewer
10/2023	51st Graduate Days, Heidelberg Graduate School for Physics (Organizer)
09/2023 - present	LISA Cosmology Working Group Member, LISA Consortium
07/2023	STRUCTURES Cluster of Excellence, STRUCTURES Days (Organizer)
02/2023 - present	Spokesperson for the Young Researcher Convent (YRC) of the STRUCTURES Excellence Cluster
2022/23	Joint Cosmology Seminar at the Institute for Theoretical Physics, University Heidelberg (Organizer)
2019 - 2023	Teaching assistant at ETH Zurich and University of Heidelberg (General Relativity, Theoretical Physics III - Electrodynamics)

skills

Language	German: English: Spanish:	native language fluent (Toefl iBT certificate [2019]: 112/120) entry level	
IT	Python, Wolfram Mathematica		
Interests	Surfing, Martial Arts, Programming, Natural Science		