

Asymmetric credit

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While Zeeya Merali provides a most interesting article on "unparticles" (26 January, p 32), many physicists will be taken aback by the statement that Howard Georgi "pioneered supersymmetry, a theory he proposed in 1981 with Savas Dimopoulos at Stanford University". Most particle physicists agree that the theory of supersymmetry was originally proposed in the late 1960s by Soviet theorists Yu Gol'fand and Evgenii Likhtman and developed by Julius Wess and Bruno Zumino in 1973. Indeed, simple models of supersymmetry breaking, such as the O'Raifeartaigh model, had already emerged by 1975.

Perhaps Merali meant that the first realistic supersymmetric version of the standard model of particle physics was proposed in 1981 by Georgi and Dimopoulos.



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