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PHYSICS COLLOQUIA

What is a symmetry in physics?

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Abstract: During the last decade or so the idea of “symmetry” in physics has undergone a remarkable evolution from the usual textbook definition — the group of transformations leaving the Lagrangian invariant, a definition that I will review — to a much broader formulation in terms of the “Symmetry TFT”, the embodiment of the symmetries of a theory in terms of an actual physical theory in one dimension higher. I will explain the motivation behind this generalisation, and discuss some consequences and applications of the new formalism.

April 23rd 2026, 14.00

Grassano Room