



Naturalness and the hierarchy problem in historical-philosophical perspective.

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Tuesday, 18 October 2011, 16:00 h
Building 2a, Sem.R. 2

The “hierarchy problem” and the question of “naturalness” are seen as shortcomings of the otherwise eminently successful Standard Model of electroweak interactions. Although usually regarded as “aesthetic”, such criteria serve as main guidelines in the practice of theoretical model-building, and regarding them purely as expressions of abstract ideals of beauty or simplicity does not do justice to their multiform heuristic functions.

In my talk I shall discuss how these notions may be explored using an integrated historical-philosophical approach in which their origins are reconstructed with special attention to the motivation for introducing them in the first place and the transformation they went through in the last three decades.

- Coffee, tea and cookies will be served at 15:45h
- After the seminar there is a chance for private discussions with the speaker over soft drinks and pretzels

