

DISCRETE 2014: Fourth Symposium on Prospects in the Physics of Discrete Symmetries



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History of Electroweak Symmetry Breaking

Thursday, 4 December 2014 12:30 (45 minutes)

In this talk, I will recall the history of the development of the unified electroweak theory, incorporating the symmetry-breaking Higgs mechanism, as I saw it from my standpoint as a member of Abdus Salam's group at Imperial College. I will start by describing the state of physics in the years after the Second World War, explain how the goal of a unified gauge theory of weak and electromagnetic interactions emerged, the obstacles encountered, in particular the Goldstone theorem, and how they were overcome, followed by a brief account of more recent history, culminating in the historic discovery of the Higgs boson in 2012.

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