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Phenomenology of discrete symmetries

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Discrete symmetries play a crucial role in physics beyond the Standard Model. Focusing on supersymmetric models which aim at explaining the family structure of quarks and leptons, I first discuss how Abelian discrete symmetries such as e.g. R-parity can emerge from an underlying U(1) family symmetry. Non-Abelian discrete family symmetries are motivated by the observation of large and very peculiar mixing angles in the neutrino sector. I review their implementation in supersymmetric models and briefly comment on the implications arising from the measurement of a non-zero reactor neutrino mixing angle.

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