

Contribution ID: **1262** compétition)

Type: Poster (Student, In Competition) / Affiche (Étudiant(e), inscrit à la

Scalar fields in a shell: the response of an Unruh-Dewitt detector inside, and what it means for us outside

Tuesday, 14 June 2016 19:04 (2 minutes)

We show that a particle detector can distinguish the interior of a hollow shell from at space for switching times much shorter than the light-crossing time of the shell, even though the local metrics are indistinguishable. This shows that a particle detector can read out information about the nonlocal structure of spacetime even when switched on for scales much shorter than the characteristic scale of the non-locality.

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Session Classification: DTP Poster Session with beer / Session d'affiches, avec bière DPT

Track Classification: Theoretical Physics / Physique théorique (DTP-DPT)