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【71】The disappearance of spacetime in quantum theories of gravity

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Using loop quantum gravity as an example, I will present how essential aspects of relativistic spacetime disappear in quantum gravity. The absence of spacetime in a fundamental theory of physics seems to undermine the conditions necessary for its empirical confirmation and thereby threatens what could be called its 'empirical coherence'. I will sketch how relativistic spacetime is thought to be recovered in loop quantum gravity, and how this averts the threat of empirical incoherence.

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