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The nature of spontaneous and dynamical gauge symmetry breaking

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The Elitzur theorem does not rule out the breaking of a global subgroup of a gauge group in some gauge, either spontaneously or dynamically. But it is known that such breaking occurs at different couplings in different gauges, and is not necessarily associated with a thermodynamic transition. In this talk I will outline a gauge invariant distinction between the unbroken and Higgs regions of a gauge-Higgs theory, based on the concept of custodial symmetry.

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