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Few-body physics: getting more effective

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Over the last twenty years, the language of universality, the renormalisation group, and effective field theory has become central to few-body physics. The original application of these ideas to strongly-interacting, nonrelativistic particles was to nuclear forces, where they have led to improved descriptions of few-nucleon systems and better understanding of the role of three-body forces. Since then they have been realised most dramatically in systems of ultracold atoms. In this talk, I discuss some recent developments in applications to nuclear forces, hadronic molecules, clustering in nuclei, and atomic systems. I also look at some of the questions that remain open, particularly in the context of nuclear reactions.

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