Mathematical Physics Faculty of Physics Boltzmanngasse 5 1090 Vienna, Austria



ΙΝΥΙΤΑΤΙΟΝ

as part of the Mathematical Physics Theory Seminar

to the talk by

Nathalie RIEGER

(Yale University)

on

"Where Time Begins: Causal Consequences of Signature Change"

Abstract:

The Hartle-Hawking "no-boundary" proposal redefines spacetime by offering a new way of thinking about the origin of the universe. Mathematically, this involves signature-type changing manifolds where a Riemannian region is smoothly joined to a Lorentzian region at the transition surface where time begins.

Motivated by the "no-boundary" proposal, I present a segment of a new framework for signature-changing manifolds, characterized by a degenerate yet smooth metric. Then I adapt some Lorentzian tools and results to the signature-type changing scenario, introducing new definitions that carry unforeseen causal implications. One such noteworthy consequence is the presence of time-reversing loops through each point on the locus of signature change.

Time: Tuesday, 17 June 2025, 2:00 p.m.

Location: Erwin-Schrödinger Lecture Hall, 1090 Vienna, Boltzmanngasse 5, 5th floor

sgd. S. Fredenhagen, M. Sperling