

Quantum anomaly: old and new



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Abstract:

The quantum anomaly of a symmetry is a basic feature of quantum field theories. It was originally discovered in the context of the decay of a neutral pion to two photons, and has had vast implications in high energy physics. More recently, it is recognized that it plays a crucial role in the understanding of topological phases in condensed matter systems. In this talk I will give a brief overview of these developments.