## Lemaître Conference 2024



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## The Enigmatic gravitational partition function.

Monday 17 June 2024 15:00 (40 minutes)

Gibbons and Hawking's gravitational partition function remains enigmatic, despite nearly 50 years and much evidence that it indeed counts quantum states. I will discuss steps toward a better understanding of the topology of the paths, the (initially Lorentzian) contour of integration, the counted states, and why a semiclassical treatment can capture that count.

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