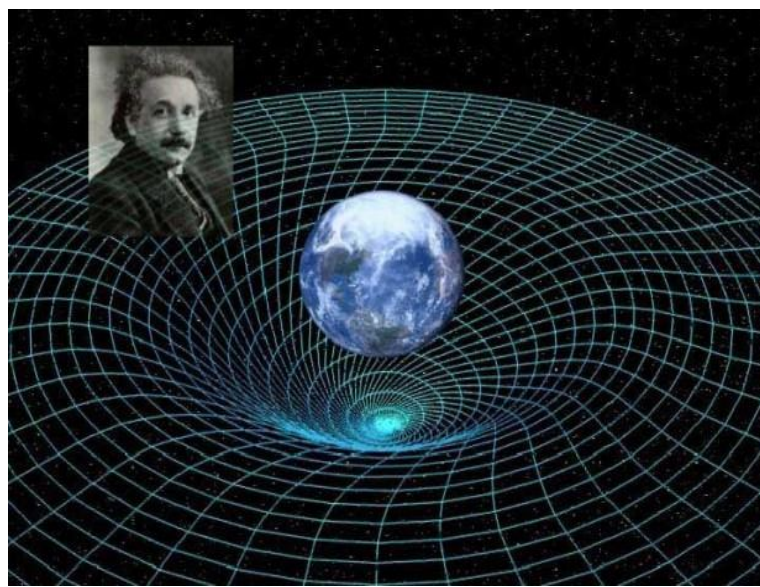


WIT Maths-Physics Seminar Series

One Hundred Years of the Cosmological Constant

Cormac O'Raifeartaigh FRAS



This seminar will present a brief history of the so-called ‘cosmological constant’, one of the outstanding enigmas of modern physics. Introduced to relativity by Einstein in 1917 in order to provide a consistent model of a static universe, the term was abandoned in the 1930s following the discovery of the expanding universe. In recent years, the term has made a dramatic comeback due to the discovery of an accelerated cosmic expansion. Current interpretations of the term will be discussed, from the concept of quintessence to the hypothesis of the quantum energy of the vacuum.

Room : F03

Date : Wednesday June 7th

Time : 4.15