

The Unreasonable Effectiveness of Quantum Theory in Mathematics

Prof. Robbert Dijkgraaf
(Director, Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton)



Photo by Gabi Porter, IAS

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The physical concepts of quantum theory, in particular of quantum gravity and string theory, have proven to be extremely powerful in addressing deep problems in pure mathematics, from knot invariants to algebraic geometry. Is there such a thing as “quantum mathematics”? Should we add Feynman diagrams, strings, branes and black holes to the language of mathematics?

