

Unification or Unity? Discreteness and Continuity

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Abstract. The most fundamental components upon which most physical laws are built include space & time, particle & wave, inertia & gravity, mass & charge and electricity & magnetism. Newton, building on the work of Copernicus, Kepler and Galileo, *unified* the study of terrestrial laws and celestial laws; Maxwell *unified* the study of electricity and magnetism; Minkowski *united* space and time; Einstein, building on the work of Michelson, Lorentz, Poincare and Planck, *unified* observations about acceleration and gravity. The three unifications advanced century-long observations into theories which themselves have passed the test of time. Unities of the Minkowski space-time type, however, reveal the main reason that attempts at ‘grand unification’ and a ‘theory of everything’ generally fail.