The non-abelian X-ray transform

Gabriel Paternain (University of Cambridge)

I will describe the mathematics that underpins recent experiments designed to measure magnetic fields inside materials by shooting them with neutron beams from different directions, like in a CT scan.

The problem is packed with some beautiful geometry and analysis, where the star of the show is a matrix in SO(3) obtained by solving a suitable linear ODE along straight lines in the plane.