Contribution Title: DEFECTS AND SYMMETRIES

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Invited speaker: Topical session

YRS seminar: NO

The study of quantum systems with defects provides insights into symmetries and dualities of such systems. An interesting class of examples which is still under good mathematical control is provided by two-dimensional conformal field theories. I will explain how in these models, defects provide a unifying point of view on symmetries and order-disorder dualities, as well as on orbifolds and obstructions to orbifolding. In these applications it is crucial that one allows the defect lines to join and split so that they form entire defect networks.