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Celebrando el centenario de la Relatividad General

Pulsars (pulsating radio sources) - an introduction to their physics

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Abstract

Pulsars, or pulsating radio sources, typically have magnetic fields $B \sim 10^8$ Tesla, density $\sim 10^{15}$ g/cc and $v \sim c$ (all at the same time) and spin rapidly ($P \sim 10^{-3}$ to 10 s) so have some extreme physics. They also are remarkably accurate 'clocks', so nature now allows us to test some aspects of General Relativity. In this talk I will introduce pulsars and describe some of their physics.