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Five decades of the Weyl anomaly

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The Weyl invariance under conformal rescaling of the metric tensor, displayed by classical massless fields interacting with gravity, no longer survives in the quantum theory. Since the 1970s this Weyl anomaly has found a variety of applications in quantum gravity, black hole physics, inflationary cosmology, string/M theory, conformal field theory, quantum information theory and statistical mechanics.

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