

Tullio Levi Civita

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Biography

Born on 29 March 1873 into an Italian Jewish family in **Padua**, Tullio Levi-Civita was the son of Giacomo Levi-Civita, a lawyer and former senator. He graduated in 1892 from the **University of Padua Faculty of Mathematics**. In 1894 he earned a teaching diploma after which he was appointed to the **Faculty of Science** teacher's college in Pavia.

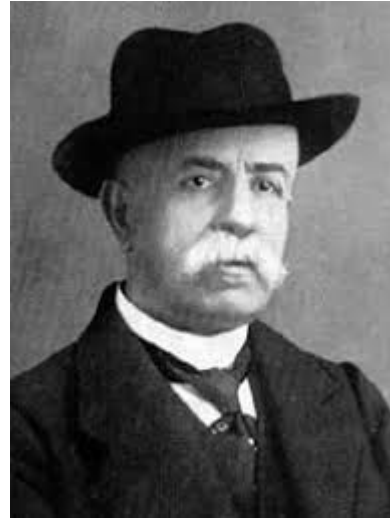


In 1898 he was appointed to the **Padua Chair of Rational Mechanics** where he met and, in 1914, married **Libera Trevisani**, one of his pupils. He remained in his position at Padua until 1918, when he was appointed to the **Chair of Higher Analysis** at the **University of Rome**; in another two years he was appointed to the **Chair of Mechanics** there.

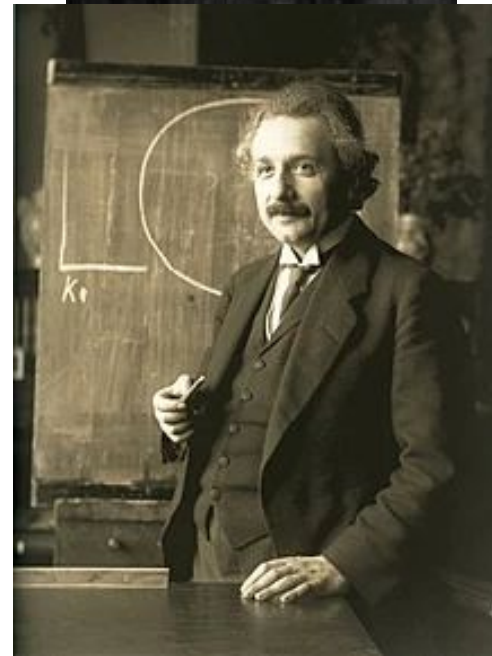


Work

In 1900 he and Ricci-Curbastro published the theory of tensors in “**Méthodes de calcul différentiel absolu et leurs applications**”, which Albert Einstein used as a resource to master the tensor calculus. Hermann Klaus Hugo Weyl took up the ideas of Levi-Civita in a theory of unification of gravitational and electromagnetic forces. Levi-Civita's work was of great importance in the development of the **theory of relativity**, producing a series of articles that elegantly deal with the problem of a static gravitational field.



Ricci Curbastro



Albert Einstein

The end of life of Tullio Levi Civita

In 1936, receiving an invitation from Einstein, Levi-Civita travelled to **Princeton**, United States and lived there with him for a year. But when the risk of war in Europe again rose, he returned to Italy. The 1938 race laws enacted by the **Italian Fascist government** deprived Levi-Civita of his professorship and of his membership of all scientific societies. Isolated from the scientific world, he died in his apartment in **Rome in 1941**.

