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Approaching Conformality

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We discuss our results on the thermal phase transition in color $SU(3)$ QCD with a large number N_f of fundamental fermions using lattice gauge theory. We study the dependence of the critical temperature T_c of the transition and of the coupling at T_c on N_f . These results are used to investigate precursory effects of conformality associated with the emergence of a non-trivial fixed point at large N_f and to show how real quark gluon plasma is smoothly connected to a strongly coupled system at zero temperature.

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