



Contribution ID: 178

Type: Talk

The effective Polyakov loop theory for finite temperature Yang-Mills theory and QCD

Monday, 23 June 2014 14:55 (20 minutes)

The effective Polyakov loop theory reproduces the main features of the Yang-Mills theory and QCD at finite temperature. A systematic derivation of the effective theory is a combined strong coupling and hopping parameter expansion. It includes a systematic ordering principle of the effective couplings. I will review this approach as well as results and possible applications. Furthermore, I will discuss how non-perturbative corrections to the couplings can be derived from simulations of the full theory.

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Session Classification: Nonzero temperature and Density

Track Classification: Nonzero Temperature and Density