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String Theory in Greater Paris

Rencontres Théoriciennes
“Supergravité, théorie des cordes et théorie M”

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Exploring confinement in Anti-de Sitter space

Anti-de Sitter space acts as an infra-red cutoff for asymptotically free theories, allowing interpolation between a weakly-coupled small-sized regime and a strongly-coupled flat-space regime. I will discuss this interpolation in the context of Yang-Mills theories in AdS from the perspective of boundary conformal theories and its implications for the confinement/deconfinement transition. We find indications that at the transition a singlet scalar operator becomes marginal, destabilizing the deconfined phase existing at a small size and leading to a confined phase that smoothly connects to flat space.

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