

Contribution ID: 7

Type: not specified

Quantum corrections to holographic Wilson loops

Tuesday 21 August 2018 09:30 (45 minutes)

Area law for Wilson loops is one of the basic predictions of the AdS/CFT duality, valid at infinitely strong coupling. Going beyond the strict strong-coupling limit proved surprisingly difficult in this context, and quantum corrections had not been computed even for the simplest contours, such as the circular loop, until recently. I will describe the use of instanton calculus for Wilson loops in N=4 and N=2^{*} SYM theories with the aim to compare the results with the exact predictions of localization.

Summary

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