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Theta dependence of 4D $SU(N)$ gauge theories at finite temperature

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The dependence of 4D $SU(N)$ gauge theories on the topological theta term is investigated at finite temperature, and in particular in the large- N limit. General arguments and numerical analyses exploiting the lattice formulation show that it drastically changes across the deconfinement transition. The low- T phase is characterized by a large- N scaling with θ/N as relevant variable, while in the high- T phase the scaling variable is just θ and the free energy is essentially determined by the instanton-gas approximation.

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