



Contribution ID: 87

Type: Poster

Approaching the conformal window in SU(2) field theory: a systematic study of the spectrum for $N_f=2,4,6$, and 8.

Tuesday, July 26, 2016 8:00 PM (1 hour)

It is expected that SU(2) gauge theory with N_f fundamental fermions has an infrared fixed point when N_f is between ~ 6 and 10. We study the hadron spectrum and scale setting in SU(2) gauge field theory with $N_f = 2,4,6,8$ using hypercubic stout smeared Wilson-clover (HEX) action. The case $N_f = 2$ is QCD-like, $N_f = 6$ is close to the lower edge of the conformal window, and $N_f=8$ is inside the conformal window. We study the hadron spectrum and decay constants of these theories, and use the gradient flow approach to determine the length scales.

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Session Classification: Poster

Track Classification: Physics Beyond the Standard Model