XVIth Quark Confinement and the Hadron Spectrum



Contribution ID: 195

Type: Oral

Superinsulators: the discovery of electric confinement in condensed matter systems

Wednesday 21 August 2024 14:00 (30 minutes)

Superinsulators are a new topological state of matter, predicted by our collaboration and experimentally observed in the critical vicinity of the superconductor-insulator transition (SIT). Superinsulators are dual to supercon- ductors and realise electric-magnetic (S) duality. In superinsulators, Cooper pairs are linearly bound by electric fields squeezed into strings (dual Meissner effect) by a monopole condensate (instantons plasma in (2+1) dimensions), in analogy to quarks in hadrons. Superinsulators realise, thus, the electric version of the dual superconductor mechanism proposed to explain confinement in QCD.

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Session Classification: Section A Focus Subsection

Track Classification: A*: VSC Focus Subsection