

Kolloquium Mathematische Physik

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Relativistic hydrodynamics, heavy-ion collisions, dynamical black holes and resurgent series

The past 12 years has constituted the golden age for theoretical studies of relativistic hydrodynamics. The experimental motivation for these developments came from ultra-relativistic heavy-ion collision at RHIC and LHC accelerators in which the paradigm of strongly-interacting medium modelled hydrodynamically became the working horse for explaining the data. These experimental and phenomenological developments have come hand-in-hand with theoretical progress in understanding relativistic hydrodynamics as an effective description embedded in quantum field theory. In my colloquium I will review the line of thought based on AdS/CFT (holography), an approach to study strongly-coupled quantum field theories using gravitational techniques, focusing on understanding the limits of applicability of relativistic hydrodynamics in far-from-equilibrium quantum field theory. A beautiful spin-off of this analysis is understanding hydrodynamic gradient expansion as a part of a trans-series, which encodes, through resurgence, information about genuinely non-equilibrium excitations of a collective state of matter. Based on a series of works reviewed in arXiv:1610.02023 and arXiv:1707.02282, as well as some later / ongoing work.

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