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Effective strings in QED₃

In this blackboard talk I will review the formalism of effective string theory and its generic predictions, and why it breaks down in theories like QED₃ (in UV completions that lead to confinement), for which the mass gap is well below the scale of the confining string tension. A similar breakdown appears for solitonic strings. I will then describe an alternative method to perform computations in such theories, and the results for some properties of strings in QED₃ that differ from standard effective string theory. Based on 2412.01313 written in collaboration with Barel and Sheaffer.

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