



Contribution ID: 259

Type: Oral presentation

String breaking in $N_f=2+1$ QCD

Wednesday, 28 July 2021 14:15 (15 minutes)

We extend our study of the static potential in $N_f=2+1$ QCD to determine its quark mass dependence. We use a set of CLS (Coordinated Lattice Simulations) ensembles at a lattice spacing $a=0.064$ fm along a chiral trajectory of constant sum of the bare quark masses. The pion masses range from $m_\pi=420$ MeV at the symmetric point down to $m_\pi=200$ MeV. We use a model to parametrize the lowest three static potentials in the region where string breaking occurs due to formation of a pair of static-light or static-strange mesons. We find that the model works very well at all quark masses analyzed and discuss the dependence of its parameters as the quark mass is varied.

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Session Classification: Hadron Spectroscopy and Interactions

Track Classification: Hadron Spectroscopy and Interactions