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The QCD sign problem: subtleties with the infinite volume limit

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The sign problem in QCD is important since it inhibits our ability to use numerical lattice gauge theory methods to describe many significant problems including QCD matter at nonzero baryon chemical potential. In this talk, the sign problem is explored for QCD with a theta term—a more straightforward problem than the case of the chemical potential. Various subtle effects arise in the infinite volume limit which at first brush seem highly counter intuitive. This talk will elucidate these effects.

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