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Z_N symmetry and Confinement-Deconfinement transition in SU(N)+Higgs theory.

We study Z_N symmetry in SU(N)+Higgs theories. The Z_N symmetry can act only on the gauge fields, the action is not invariant. This leads to explicit breaking of Z_N symmetry. However, we find that the strength of the explicit breaking depends on the parameters of the theory, vanishing in parts of the symmetric phase. According to conventional expectations the symmetry is restored only in the pure gauge limit. We argue that the symmetry restoration is due to enhancement of the phase space in the continuum limit i.e. when the temporal lattice sites are larger.

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