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Cold holographic matter and color symmetry breaking

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I will discuss a mechanism that describes the spontaneous breaking of the gauge (color) group in strongly coupled $N=4$ SYM coupled to charged fundamental matter. The system is holographically described by an intersection of D3 and D7 branes, with a global (baryonic) $U(1)$ charge on the worldvolume of the latter. Backreaction of the D7 branes and the baryonic charge on the geometry is crucial in this mechanism, since the IR geometry is responsible for the instability towards the breaking of the color group.

Presenter: TARRÍO, Javier

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