


Curriculum Vitæ

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Philipp M. Schicho



1. Personal information

name Dr. Philipp Maximilian Schicho
born in Graz, Austria, 01 October 1991
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2. Current position

09/2022 – today Postdoctoral researcher
Institute for Theoretical Physics, Goethe University Frankfurt
Advisors: L. Sagunski, J. Schaffner-Bielich

3. Employment history

05/2020 – 08/2022 Postdoctoral researcher
Helsinki Institute of Physics, University of Helsinki
Advisors: A. Vuorinen, K. Rummukainen
02/2017 – 04/2020 Doctor of Philosophy, PhD Physics (magna cum laude), 23/04/2020
AEC, Institute for Theoretical Physics, University of Bern
Advisor: M. Laine
Thesis: *Multi-loop investigations of strong interactions at high temperatures*, (cf. research output [4]).
10/2016 – 01/2017 Technical student
CERN, Accelerator and Beam Transfer, Beam Transfer Physics
Theoretical optimisation of slow extraction (cf. research output [6]).
Advisors: M.A. Fraser, M. Meddahi

- 06/2015 – 08/2015 Summer student
CERN, ABT, BTP
Thesis: *Optimising simulation times of SPS slow extraction using MAD-X*, (cf. re-
search output [5]).
- 07/2014 – 08/2014 Summer student (GPA 1.0/1.0)
HEPHY, Institute of High Energy Physics, Vienna
Advisor: R. Schöffbeck
Thesis: *Increasing the sensitivity of a search for supersymmetry in the single
lepton channel with the Transverse Mass M_{T2} (CMS)*, (cf. research output [1]).

4. Education

- 07/2017 École de physique des Houches
Effective Field Theory (EFT) in particle physics and cosmology
- 03/2017 Computer algebra and particle physics (CAPP) school, DESY, Hamburg
- 09/2014 – 11/2016 Master of Science, MSc Physics (GPA 5.5/6.0), 01/11/2016
ETH Zürich, Switzerland
Major: Theoretical high energy physics, lattice QCD, applied mathematics
Advisor: P. de Forcrand
Thesis: *Inhomogeneous condensation in quark-based QCD effective models via
wavelet pseudoparticles*, (cf. research output [3]).
- 07/2014 LAPP Annecy-le-Vieux, France
Summer School in Particle and Astroparticle physics
- 08/2013 Theoretical Physics Summer school, University of Utrecht, Netherlands
- 09/2011 – 08/2014 Bachelor of Science, BSc Physics (with distinction, GPA 1.1/1.0), 12/08/2014
Graz University of Technology, Austria
Advisors: H. G. Evertz, C. B. Lang
Thesis: *π - and ρ -Meson mass spectroscopy from Lattice QCD*, (cf. research out-
put [2]).
- 09/2002 – 05/2010 Österreichische Reifeprüfung, Matura (with distinction, GPA 1.0/1.0)
AHS BG/BRG Leibnitz, Austria
Major: Physics and geometry
Advisor: H. Scherz
Thesis: *Sonoluminescence – A bubble's enlightenment*. A theoretical and experi-
mental approach to the effect of Sonoluminescence.

5. Teaching activities

- 03/2022 *Phase transitions in the early universe* (exercises)
Galileo Galilei Institute for Theoretical Physics
Theoretical Aspects of Astroparticle Physics, Cosmology and Gravitation
- 2021 – MSc thesis supervisor,
Helsinki Institute of Physics, University of Helsinki
Sami Vihko, 06/2021 – 03/2022, co-supervised with A. Vuorinen
Thesis: *EFT methods and calculational techniques in imaginary time formalism of thermal QCD*.
- 2022 – BSc thesis supervisor,
Institute for Theoretical Physics, Goethe University Frankfurt
Rebecca Baumann, 10/2022 – co-supervised with L. Sagunski, D. Schmitt
- 2013 – Teaching assistant
Institute for Theoretical Physics, Goethe University Frankfurt
Astrophysics II
AEC, Institute for Theoretical Physics, University of Bern
Quantum theory I/II, the Standard Model, statistical mechanics, introduction to BSM physics, theoretical exercises
ETH Zürich, D-MATH/D-PHYS
Numerical mathematics I, Numerical methods, Physics I
Graz University of Technology, ITP/IEP
Theoretical mechanics, physics laboratory I/II

6. Outreach

- 11/2022 Event organisation, Goethe University Frankfurt
WOW Physics! (Women Of the World in Physics!)
- 09/2017 Public research display, University of Bern
Nacht der Forschung (NdF)

7. Research visits

- 12/2022 Kavli IPMU, Tokyo; G. White
- 09/2022 Jožef Stefan Institute, Ljubljana; M. Nemevšek
- 06/2022 SUBATECH, Nantes; J. Ghiglieri

10/2021 University of Basel; S. Antusch
 10/2021 University of Bern, AEC, Institute for Theoretical Physics; M. Laine
 08/2019 University of Helsinki, Helsinki Institute of Physics; A. Vuorinen, K. Rummukainen
 08/2018 Universidad del Bío-Bío, Grupo de Cosmología y Partículas Elementales; Y. Schröder

8. Professional services

03/2022– Referee
 American Physical Society’s journals: Phys. Rev. **D**, Phys. Rev. **L**
 Springer’s journals: Eur. Phys. J. **C**

9. Scientific research skills

Theoretical (Dimensionally reduced) effective field theories, thermal field theory, quantum field theory, Lattice QCD, simulations in physics, computer algebra techniques, general relativity, cosmology, string theory, conformal field theory, group theory
Computational C/C++, Python, Matlab, FORM, ROOT, FORTRAN 77, Unix, Linux, Mathematica, LaTeX, computer hardware, HTML, Office, CAD-Software

10. Prizes, awards, fellowships

2011 – 2014 Scholarship of excellence Graz University of Technology
 (EUR 800 scholarship p.a.)

11. Languages

German Mother-tongue
English Proficient C2, TOEFL 106/120 (2014), Cambridge ESOL B2 First FCE (2010)
Spanish Intermediate B1
Danish Elementary A2
French Beginner A1
Latin Very good (literal translation)

12. Major scientific achievements

Precision thermodynamics for cosmological phase transitions.

Invigorated by the first gravitational wave (GW) detections from binary mergers, I dedicated a large part of my first postdoc pushing the accuracy of the thermodynamics of cosmological phase transitions. In my first post-doctoral project, I assessed the theoretical uncertainties for cosmological phase transitions in [11]. The motivation for such a theoretical leap in precision was that leading-order (LO) calculations of thermodynamics are insufficient and render the GW spectrum ambiguous. An innocuous uncertainty at early stages has far-reaching effects in the beyond the Standard Model (BSM) – GW pipeline and put successful stochastic gravitational wave background (SGWB) observations at LISA at risk before they even begin.

The work in [11] established the current state-of-the-art precision for GW predictions. This level of precision was achieved by using methods of dimensionally reduced EFT to derive the Standard Model EFT (SMEFT) three-dimensional effective potential and its minimisation.

Development of automated 3d EFT framework for thermal field theories.

To improve the overall understanding of such EFT computations, we put forward a didactic review on the robust approach to thermal resummation as a combination between perturbative and non-perturbative techniques [10]. By inspecting the (dynamical) real singlet extension to the Standard Model, I computed novel contributions to the parameters of the dimensionally reduced EFT at next-to-leading order (NLO) which will be applicable for future non-perturbative lattice studies of the model. While, we demonstrated that two-loop contributions in the matching and effective potential are substantial [12] for robust predictions of the thermodynamic phase transition parameters, we also devised a minimal setup [17] that combines gauge invariance and resummation and supersedes a previous scheme.

In this context, I automated the evaluation and reduction of analytically challenging sum-integrals at non-zero temperature. The automation via the corresponding **Mathematica** package **DRalgo** [20], is now successfully applied not only in QCD but also in the **most accurate predictions of gravitational waves** from cosmological first-order phase transitions in generic BSM theories.

Gauge-invariant framework for nucleation at finite temperature.

Theoretical uncertainties when determining the finite-temperature nucleation rate of bubbles of the new stable vacuum are still substantial. Especially in the context of radiatively induced transitions, I resolved a long-standing problem related to the unphysical gauge-dependence of the bubble nucleation rate. By employing effective theories at the nucleation scale for the Abelian Higgs model, I demonstrated for the first time [15, 13] gauge invariance of the leading order (LO) perturbative contributions in radiatively induced transitions.

Research output list

If not specifically indicated otherwise, the following research list is in alphabetical order. In all subsequent research output, I contributed at the level of first or second author, conducted the computations, (co-)led the writing, and developed the main ideas of the project.

Journal articles

- [22] J. Österman, **P. Schicho**, and A. Vuorinen, *Integrating by parts at finite density*, (2023), [2304.05427].
- [21] L. Sagunski, **P. Schicho**, and D. Schmitt, *Supercool exit: Gravitational waves from QCD-triggered conformal symmetry breaking*, (2023), [2303.02450].
- [20] A. Ekstedt, **P. Schicho**, and T. V. I. Tenkanen, *DRalgo: A package for effective field theory approach for thermal phase transitions*, *Comput. Phys. Commun.* **288**, 108725 (2023), [2205.08815].
- [19] T. Gorda, A. Kurkela, J. Österman, R. Paatelainen, S. Säppi, **P. Schicho**, K. Seppänen, and A. Vuorinen, *Degenerate fermionic matter at N³LO: Quantum electrodynamics*, *Phys. Rev. D* **107**, L031501 (2023), [2204.11893].
- [18] T. Gorda, A. Kurkela, J. Österman, R. Paatelainen, S. Säppi, **P. Schicho**, K. Seppänen, and A. Vuorinen, *Soft photon propagation in a hot and dense medium to next-to-leading order*, *Phys. Rev. D* **107**, 036012 (2023), [2204.11279].
- [17] **P. Schicho**, T. V. I. Tenkanen, and G. White, *Combining thermal resummation and gauge invariance for electroweak phase transition*, *JHEP* **11**, 047 (2022), [2203.04284].
- [16] S. Biondini, **P. Schicho**, and T. V. I. Tenkanen, *Strong electroweak phase transition in t-channel simplified dark matter models*, *JCAP* **10**, 044 (2022), [2207.12207].
- [15] J. Hirvonen, J. Löfgren, M. J. Ramsey-Musolf, **P. Schicho**, and T. V. I. Tenkanen, *Computing the gauge-invariant bubble nucleation rate in finite temperature effective field theory*, *JHEP* **07**, 135 (2022), [2112.08912].
- [14] J. Ghiglieri, G. D. Moore, **P. Schicho**, and N. Schlusser, *The force-force-correlator in hot QCD perturbatively and from the lattice*, *JHEP* **02**, 58 (2022), [2112.01407].
- [13] J. Löfgren, M. J. Ramsey-Musolf, **P. Schicho**, and T. V. I. Tenkanen, *Nucleation at finite temperature: a gauge-invariant, perturbative framework*, (2021), [2112.05472].
- [12] L. Niemi, **P. Schicho**, and T. V. I. Tenkanen, *Singlet-assisted electroweak phase transition at two loops*, *Phys. Rev. D* **103**, 115035 (2021), [2103.07467].
- [11] D. Croon, O. Gould, **P. Schicho**, T. V. I. Tenkanen, and G. White, *Theoretical uncertainties for cosmological first-order phase transitions*, *JHEP* **04**, 055 (2021), [2009.10080].
- [10] **P. M. Schicho**, T. V. I. Tenkanen, and J. Österman, *Robust approach to thermal resummation: Standard Model meets a singlet*, *JHEP* **06**, 130 (2021), [2102.11145].

Seminar and contributed talks

- 05/05/2023 *Strong electroweak phase transition and simplified dark matter models*, contributed talk at Progress on Old and New Themes in cosmology (PONT) 2023, Avignon, France
- 25/01/2023 *Degenerate fermionic matter at N^3LO* , invited seminar talk at Gravitation and Cosmology seminar, Utrecht University, Netherlands
- 24/01/2023 *What can EFT tell us about the electroweak phase transition?*, seminar talk at CRC-TR211 meeting and Colloquium, Bielefeld University, Germany
- 08/11/2022 *EFT framework for cosmological phase transition thermodynamics*, seminar talk at the AstroCoffee, Goethe University, Frankfurt, Germany
- 13/10/2022 *Degenerate fermionic matter at N^3LO* , invited seminar talk (online) at S@INT seminar, INT, Seattle, USA
- 15/09/2022 *(Gauge independent) Bubble nucleation rate at finite temperature*, invited seminar talk at Jožef Stefan Institute, Ljubljana, Slovenia
- 24/08/2022 *Can EFT tell us if there was an electroweak phase transition?*, invited seminar talk at University of Graz, Graz, Austria
- 11/07/2022 *Soft light-cone observables from electrostatic QCD*, invited seminar talk (online) at the QCD theory seminar
- 07/07/2022 *Degenerate fermionic matter at N^3LO* , invited seminar talk at the Nuclear Physics Colloquium, Goethe University, Frankfurt, Germany
- 20/06/2022 *Jet dispersion in hot QCD from the lattice*, contributed talk at SEWM 2022, Paris, France
- 16/06/2022 *Can EFT tell us if there was an electroweak phase transition?*, invited seminar talk at SUBATECH, Nantes, France
- 31/05/2022 *Electroweak phase transition: Combining thermal resummation and gauge invariance*, invited seminar talk at NICPB, Tallinn University, Estonia
- 24/05/2022 *Combining thermal resummation and gauge invariance for electroweak phase transition*, invited seminar talk (online) at School of Physics and Astronomy, Monash University, Australia
- 06/04/2022 *(Non-)perturbative jet dispersion hot QCD*, contributed talk at Quark Matter 2022, Kraków, Poland
- 30/03/2022 *(Non-)perturbative jet dispersion hot QCD*, contributed talk at Mini workshop: Phase transitions in particle physics, Galileo Galilei Institute, Firenze, Italy
- 03/03/2022 *Effective theory approach to cosmological phase transitions*, invited seminar talk at Instituto de Astrofísica de Canarias, La Laguna, Spain

- 28/10/2021 *Gauge independent bubble nucleation rate at finite temperature*, invited seminar talk at University of Basel, Basel, Switzerland
- 19/10/2021 *Cosmological phase transition: Robust thermal resummation*, invited seminar talk at University of Bern, Bern, Switzerland
- 13/05/2021 *Cosmological phase transition: Robust thermal resummation*, invited seminar talk (online) at KIAS, Seoul, South Korea
- 29/03/2021 *Soft thermal contributions to 3-loop gauge coupling*, contributed parallel talk at FunQCD (online), Barcelona, Spain
- 25/11/2020 *How to be precise at the electroweak scale at finite-temperature*, invited seminar talk (online) at Kavli IPMU, Tokyo, Japan
- 13/08/2019 *3-Loop Gauge Coupling in Hot Yang-Mills*, invited seminar talk at Helsinki Institute of Physics, Helsinki, Finland
- 28/08/2018 *Fun with thermal dimension-six operators*, invited seminar talk at Universidad del Bío-Bío, Chillán, Chile
- 28/06/2018 *Fun with thermal dimension-six operators*, contributed parallel talk at SEWM 2018, Barcelona, Spain