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Critical behavior near structural phase transitions

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SrTiO_3 and LaAlO_3 undergo structural phase transitions from a cubic structure to lower symmetry structures. These transitions can be affected by uniaxial stress. Following original work by Alex Mueller, I have worked on these transitions since 1973. Many details depend on whether the 3-component cubic problem is dominated by the isotropic or by the cubic fixed point. Most of the past literature assumed that the former dominates. Following discussions with Slava Rychkov, I realized that it is now believed that the latter wins. This talk will discuss the consequences of this change, and the experimental possibilities to test it.

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