

Title: Quantum fluctuations, gauge freedom and mesoscopic/macroscopic stability

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Motivated by the study of the problem of defect formation during the process of phase transition, we discuss [1], in the framework of quantum field theory, the formation of extended domains exhibiting in their fundamental states non-vanishing order parameters.

[1] E. Del Giudice and G. Vitiello, Phys. Rev. A 74 (2006) 022105