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Gauge theory picture of an ordering transition in a dimer model

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We study a phase transition in a 3D lattice gauge theory, a “coarse-grained” version of a classical dimer model. Duality arguments indicate that the dimer lattice theory should be dual to a XY model coupled to a gauge field with geometric frustration, allowing to make connection with the recently introduced deconfined quantum criticality. The transition between a Coulomb phase with dipolar correlations and a long range ordered columnar phase is understood in terms of a Higgs mechanism. Monte Carlo simulations of the dual model are made to clarify the nature of the transition.