Overview of (Brazilian) Lattice QCD

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Abstract

The lattice formulation allows a first principles nonperturbative study of QCD via statistical mechanics methods, at the price of a very high computational investment

Today, lattice simulations have become a key input in precision tests of standard model phenomenology, including the determination of the muon g-2 factor. At the same time, some lesser explored features of the simulations allow the investigation of fundamental properties of QCD, such as the mechanism behind color confinement

We describe general aspects of the lattice formulation and current trends in the field. We also present some unconventional ideas to investigate confinement from infrared propagators on the lattice

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We describe general aspects of the lattice formulation and current trends in the field. We also present some unconventional ideas to investigate confinement from infrared propagators on the lattice

In particular, we discuss a way to “stretch” lattice sizes considerably, by taking advantage of Bloch’s theorem, from condensed-matter physics

General Aspects

Lattice gauge theories provide a nonperturbative way to investigate non-Abelian gauge theories, such as QCD

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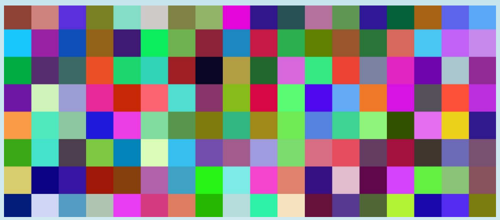

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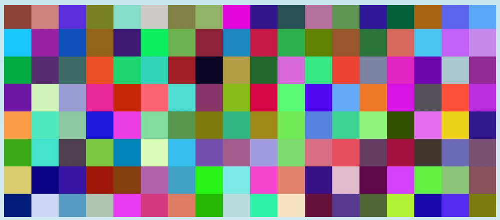

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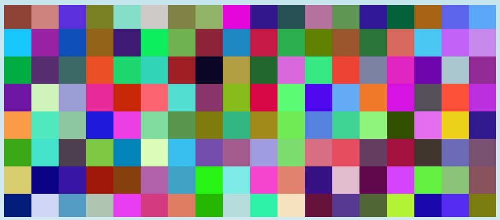

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First principles study of low-energy QCD properties (including confinement, chiral-symmetry breaking, dynamical mass generation). In this case, one of the challenges: Infrared limit requires large lattice volumes

Do We Really Need It? YES!

$$\mathcal{L}_{\rm QCD} \;=\; -\frac{1}{4}\,F^{a}_{\mu\nu}\,F^{\mu\nu}_{a} \;+\; \sum_{f=1}^{6} \bar{\psi}_{f,i}\left(i\,\gamma^{\mu}\,D^{ij}_{\mu} - m_f\,\delta_{ij}\right)\psi_{f,j}$$

$a = 1,\ldots,8$; $i = 1,\ldots,3$; T^{a}_{ij} = $SU(3)$ generators

$$F^{a}_{\mu\nu} \;\equiv\; \partial_{\mu}A^{a}_{\nu} - \partial_{\nu}A^{a}_{\mu} + g_0\,f_{abc}\,A^{b}_{\mu}\,A^{c}_{\nu}$$

$$D_{\mu} \;\equiv\; \partial_{\mu} - i\,g_0\,A^{a}_{\mu}\,T_a$$

Invariant under local gauge transformations $\Omega(x) = \exp\left[-ig_0\Lambda^{a}(x)T_a\right]$

$$A^{\Omega}_{\mu}(x) \;=\; \Omega(x)A_{\mu}(x)\Omega^{-1}(x) - \frac{i}{g_0}\left[\partial_{\mu}\Omega(x)\right]\Omega^{-1}(x)$$

$$\psi^{\Omega}_{f}(x) \;=\; \Omega(x)\psi_f(x)$$

Like QED, but gauge symmetry is $SU(3)$ instead of $U(1)$

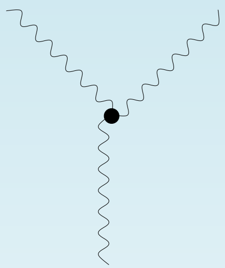
quarks (spin-1/2 fermions)	$\Leftrightarrow$	electrons
gluons (vector bosons) / color charge		photons / electric charge

Origin of Confinement in QCD

Note: contribution $F^a_{\mu\nu} \sim g_0 \, f^{abc} \, A^b_\mu \, A^c_\nu$ means that in addition to quadratic terms (propagators) and the usual vertex

$\mathcal{L}_{\bar{\psi}\psi A} = g_0 \, \bar{\psi} \, \gamma^\mu A_\mu \, \psi$ (quark-quark-gluon vertex)

Lagrangian contains terms with 3 and 4 gauge fields



$\mathcal{L}_{AAA} = g_0 \, f^{abc} \, A^\mu_a \, A^\nu_b \, \partial_\mu A^c_\nu \Rightarrow$ three-gluon vertex

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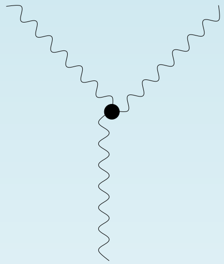

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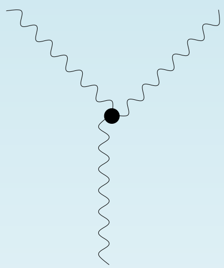

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$\Rightarrow$ Running coupling $\alpha_s(p)$ instead of $\alpha \approx 1/137$

Confinement vs. Aymptotic Freedom

- At high energies: deep inelastic scattering of electrons reveals proton made of partons: pointlike and free. In this limit $\alpha_s(p) \ll 1$ (asymptotic freedom) and QCD is perturbative

$$\alpha_s(p) = \frac{4\pi}{\beta_0 \log\left(p^2/\Lambda^2\right)} \left[1 - \frac{2\beta_1}{\beta_0^2} \frac{\log\left(\log\left(p^2/\Lambda^2\right)\right)}{\log\left(p^2/\Lambda^2\right)} + \ldots\right]$$

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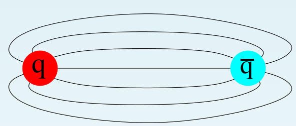
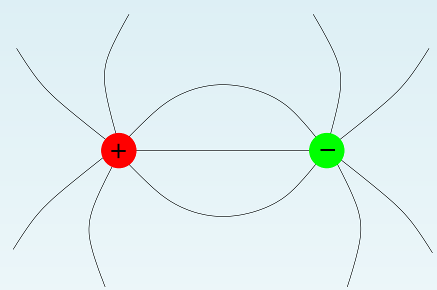
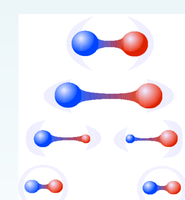
- At low energies: interaction gets stronger, $\alpha_s \approx 1$ and confinement occurs. Color field may form flux tubes





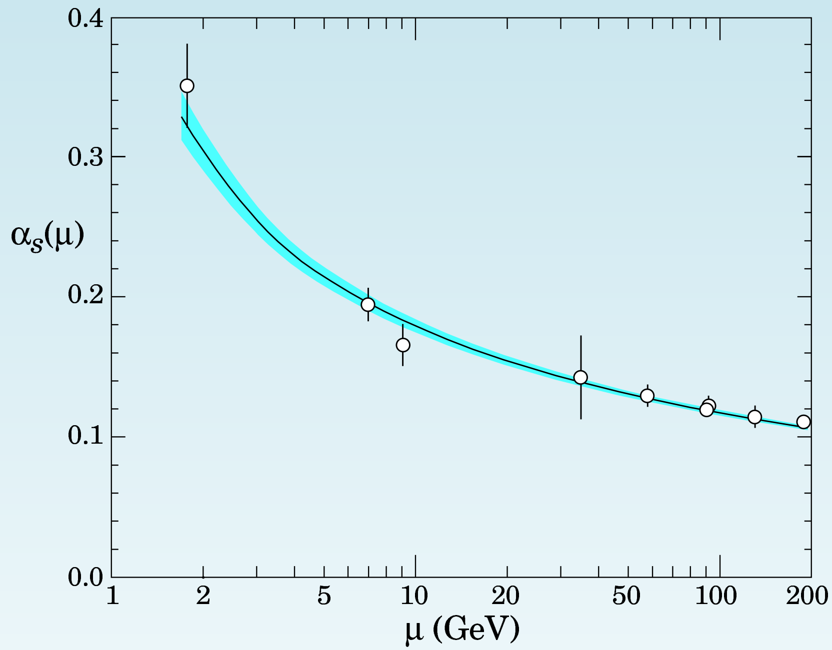
linear increase of inter-quark potential $\rightarrow$ string tension

At large distances $\rightarrow$ string breaks



How do we perform calculations?

Strength α_s of the interaction increases for larger r (smaller p) and vice-versa (asymptotic freedom). As a result, perturbation theory breaks down in the limit of small energies

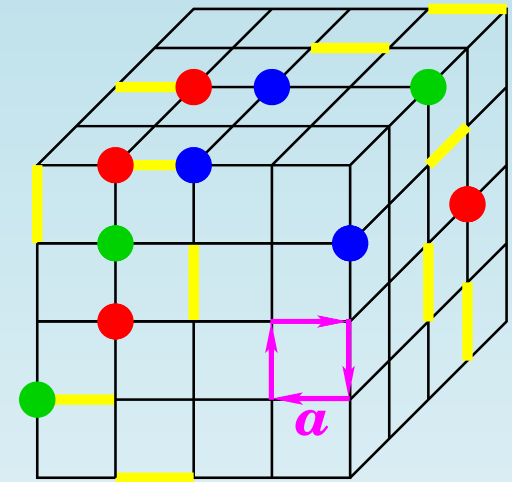


⇒ Calculations must not assume a small coupling, i.e. must be nonperturbative!

Lattice QCD Ingredients

Three ingredients

1. Quantization by path integrals $\Rightarrow$ sum over configurations with "weights" $e^{i\,S/\hbar}$
2. Euclidean formulation (analytic continuation to imaginary time) $\Rightarrow$ weight becomes $e^{-S/\hbar}$
3. Discrete space-time $\Rightarrow$ UV cut at momenta $p \lesssim 1/a \Rightarrow$ regularization



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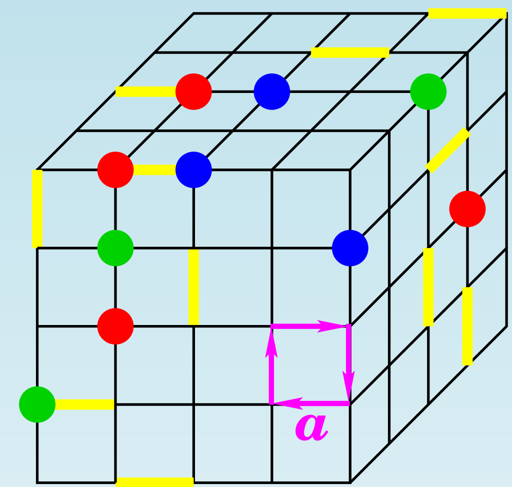

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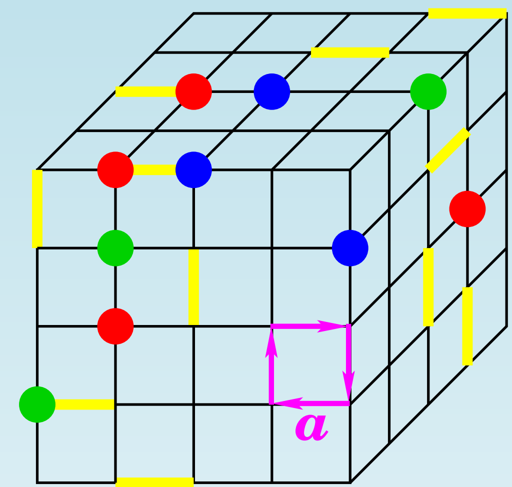

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The Wilson action

- is written for the gauge links $U_{x,\mu} \equiv e^{i g_0 a A^b_\mu(x) T_b}$
- reduces to the usual action for $a \to 0$
- is gauge-invariant

The Lattice Action

The Wilson action (1974)

$$S = -\frac{\beta}{3} \sum_{\Box} \mathrm{ReTr}\, U_{\Box}\,, \quad U_{x,\mu} \equiv e^{i g_0 a A_\mu^b(x) T_b}\,, \quad \beta = 6/{g_0}^2$$

- written in terms of oriented plaquettes formed by the link variables $U_{x,\mu}$, which are group elements
- under gauge transformations: $U_{x,\mu} \to g(x)\, U_{x,\mu}\, g^\dagger(x+\mu)$, where $g \in SU(3)$ $\Rightarrow$ closed loops are gauge-invariant quantities
- integration volume is finite: no need for gauge-fixing

At small β (i.e. strong coupling) we can perform an expansion analogous to the high-temperature expansion in statistical mechanics. At lowest order, the only surviving terms are represented by diagrams with “double” or “partner” links, i.e. the same link should appear in both orientations, since $\int dU\, U_{x,\mu} = 0$

Confinement and Area Law

Considering a rectangular loop with sides R and T (the Wilson loop) as our observable, the leading contribution to the observable's expectation value is obtained by "tiling" its inside with plaquettes, yielding the area law

$$\langle W(R,T)\rangle \;\sim\; \beta^{RT}$$

But this observable is related to the interquark potential for a static quark-antiquark pair

$$\langle W(R,T)\rangle \;=\; e^{-V(R)T}$$

We thus have $V(R) \sim \sigma R$, demonstrating confinement at strong coupling (small β)!

Problem: the physical limit is at large β...

(Numerical) Lattice QCD

Classical Statistical-Mechanics model with the partition function

$$Z \;=\; \int \mathcal{D}U \, e^{-S_g} \int \mathcal{D}\psi \, \mathcal{D}\overline{\psi} \;\; e^{-\int d^4x \; \overline{\psi}(x) \, K \, \psi(x)} \;=\; \int \mathcal{D}U \, e^{-S_g} \; \det K(U)$$

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Evaluate expectation values

$$\langle \mathcal{O} \rangle = \int \mathcal{D}U \, \mathcal{O}(U) \, P(U) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_i \mathcal{O}(U_i)$$

with the weight

$$P(U) = \frac{e^{-S_g(U)} \, \det K(U)}{Z}$$

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$\Rightarrow$ Monte Carlo simulation: sample representative configurations,
then compute O and take average

Lattice QCD Simulations

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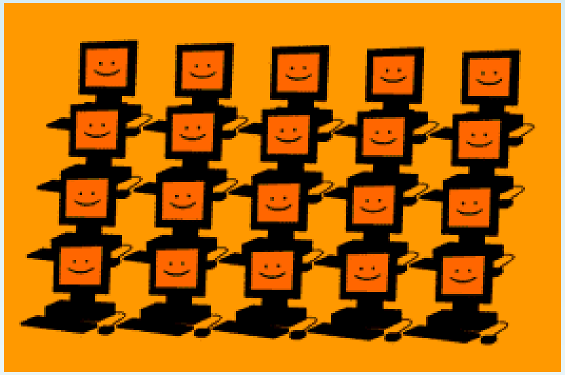
Monte Carlo methods

- pure gauge (quenched):
  Metropolis / Heat Bath $+$ Overrelaxation
- gauge $+$ dynamic quarks (full QCD):
  Hybrid Monte Carlo (HMC)



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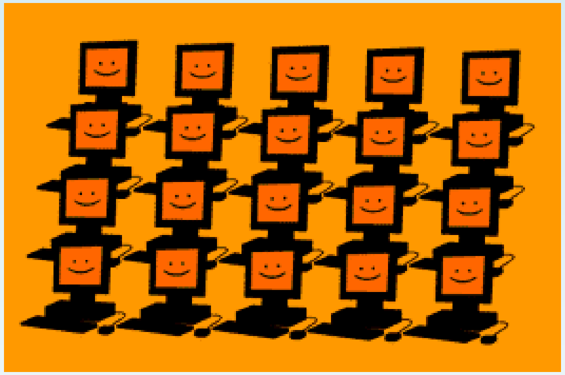

Note: $m = m_{\mathrm{latt}}/a$; as $a \to 0$ correlation length $\xi_{\mathrm{latt}} = 1/m_{\mathrm{latt}} \to \infty$

$\Rightarrow$ Continuum limit corresponds to critical point of the lattice theory

The Continuum Limit: how do I get there!?

Physics is obtained after 3 limits:

1) The Thermodynamic Limit ($V = N^d \to \infty$): need $N \to \infty$ to keep physical lengths $L = aN$ fixed. Need $N > \xi_{\rm latt}$, while $\xi_{\rm latt}(a)$ diverges!

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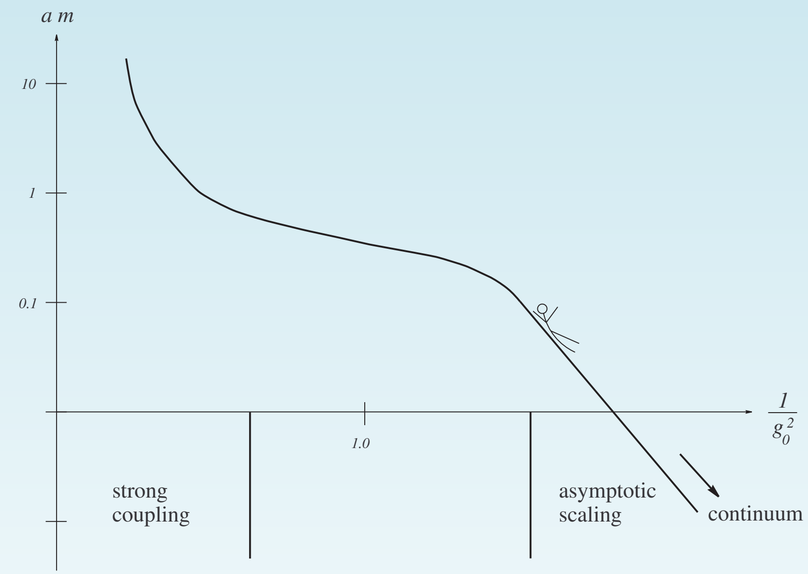
from renormalization group:

$\log(\xi_{\rm latt}) = \log(1/ma) \sim 1/g_0^2 \sim \beta$

thus continuum limit given by $g_0 \to 0$, $\beta \to \infty$ and $\xi_{\rm latt} \sim e^{\beta}$ (asymptotic scaling), i.e. $\xi = 1/m \sim a\, e^{\beta} \Rightarrow$ eliminate e^{β} computing mass ratios (scaling law) or fix a using an experimental input (renormalization)



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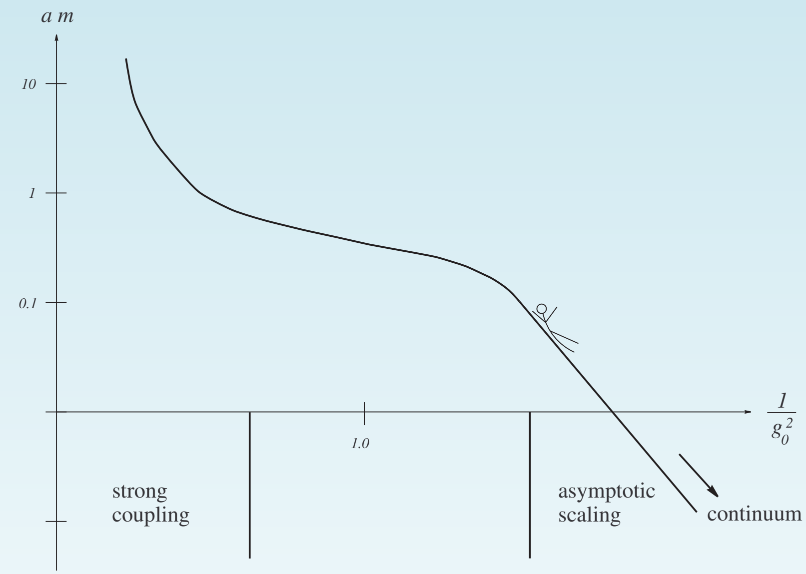

3) The Chiral Limit (small m_q): fit results to chiral perturbation theory predictions and extrapolate to physical masses

Quark Bound States from Lattice QCD

The recipe for lattice simulations:

1) Evolve gluon fields (link variables) in the Monte Carlo dynamics associated with the partition function

$$Z = \int \mathcal{D}U \, e^{-S_g} \int \mathcal{D}\psi \, \mathcal{D}\overline{\psi} \; e^{-\int d^4x \, \overline{\psi}(x) \, K \, \psi(x)} = \int \mathcal{D}U \, e^{-S_g} \, \det K(U)$$

(the quenched approximation corresponds to $\det K = 1$)

2) Obtain quark propagators from $\langle \psi \, \overline{\psi} \rangle = \langle K^{-1} \rangle$

3) Use the quark fields to build (Euclidean) correlators for the desired bound states $C(t) = \langle O(t) \, O(0) \rangle$, where $O(t) = \overline{\psi} \, \Gamma \, \psi$ and Γ is the appropriate Dirac matrix (e.g. $\Gamma = \gamma_5$ for pseudoscalar mesons)

4) Extract masses, etc. from $C(t) \to \sum_n |\langle 0|O|n\rangle|^2 \, e^{-E_n t} \Rightarrow$ at large t $m_{\text{eff}}(t) = \log[C(t)/C(t+1)]$ approaches a plateau

5) Translate results into physical units: $m = m_{\text{latt}}/a$, take $a \to 0$

A Few Remarks

⇒ Gauge action may be the Wilson action or an improved action (the same is valid for the fermion part)

⇒ "Valence" (considered for the inversion of K) and "sea" quarks (considered for the Monte Carlo dynamics) may not have the same masses ⇒ quenched/partially quenched approximations

⇒ Fermion operator K depends on the choice of lattice formulation for the fermions. Most common choices are

- Wilson fermions: break chiral symmetry at finite a
- Staggered (Kogut-Susskind) fermions: good chiral properties, but produce 4 flavors of quarks; fewer-flavor case obtained by taking roots of $\det K$

nowadays: chiral symmetry (at zero quark mass) and locality are satisfied by so-called chiral fermions

Modern-Day Lattice QCD

Precise determination of nucleon mass proves that interaction between quarks generates (almost all) mass of visible universe!

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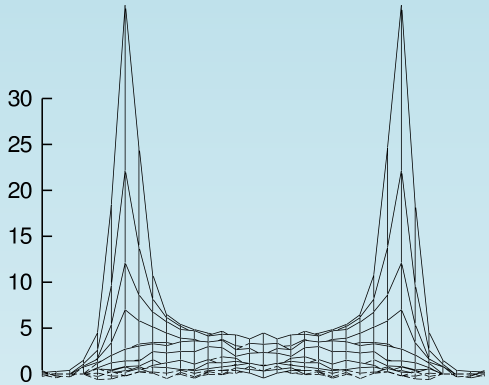
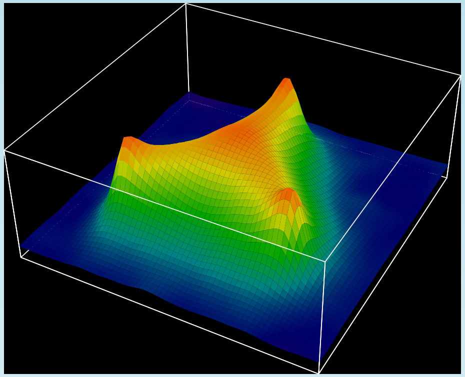
Extreme QCD: (equilibrium) phase diagram of QCD (T versus baryon chemical potential μ_B), equation of state, transport coefficients

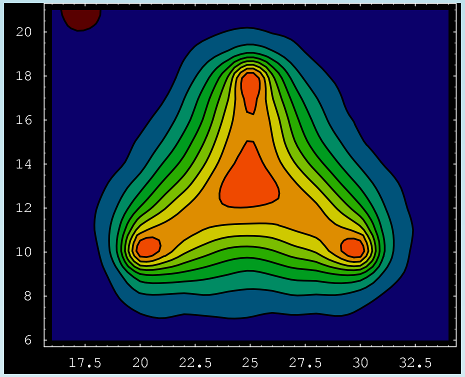
High-precision tests of the Standard Model are formidable technical and conceptual challenge; spectrum calculations provide confirmation of QCD as the theory of strong interactions $\Rightarrow$ first step towards understanding of fundamental QCD questions, e.g. confinement

Confinement from Simulations

May observe formation of flux tubes

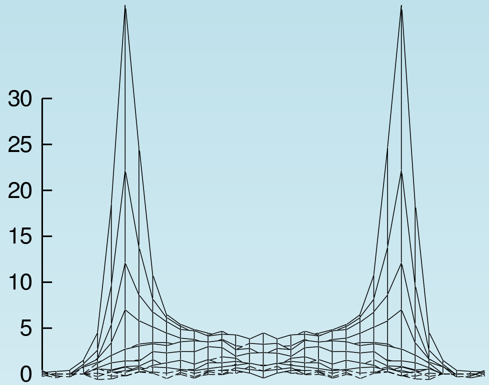


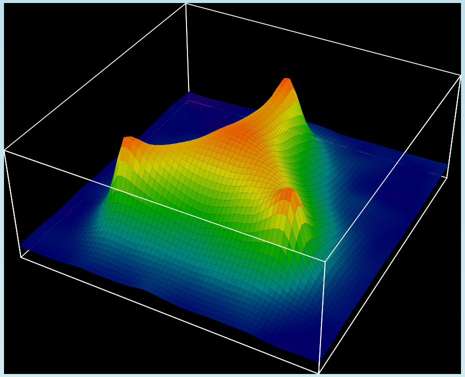


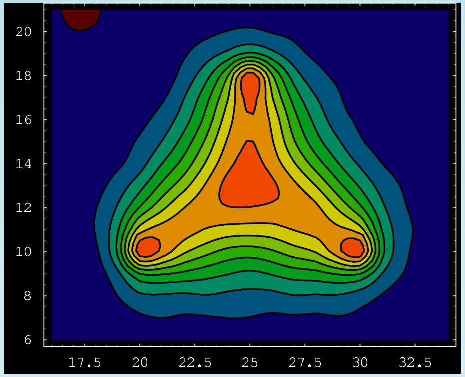


Confinement from Simulations

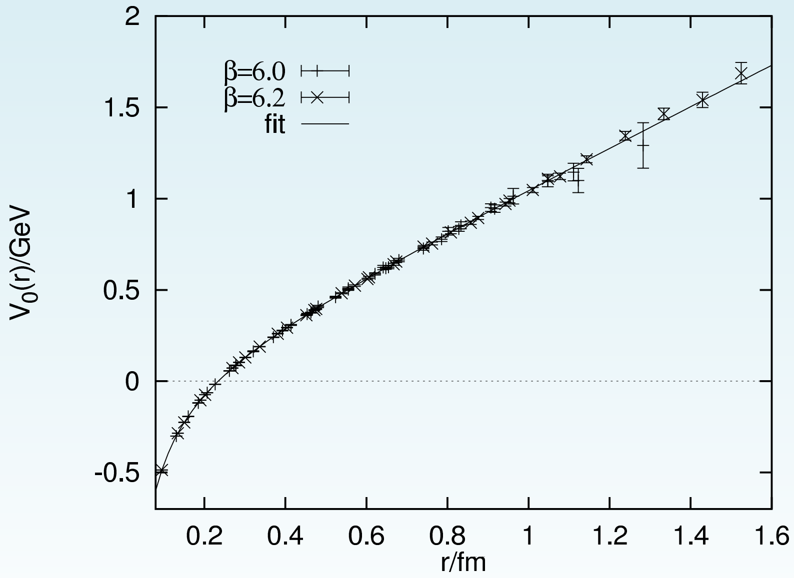
May observe formation of flux tubes

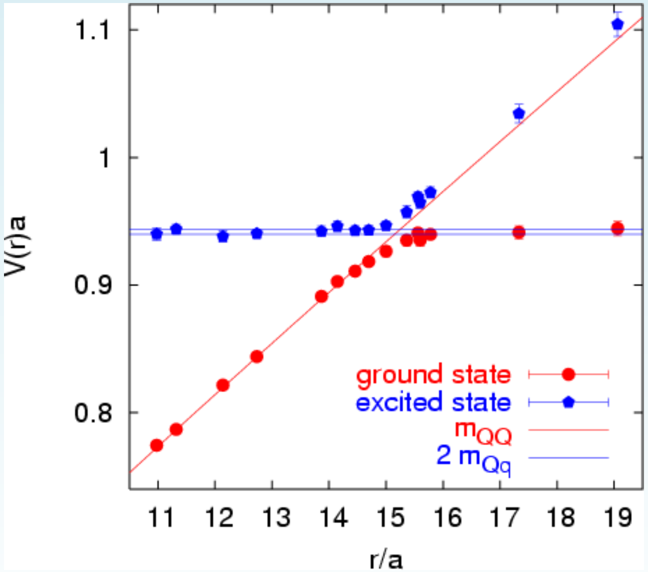






Linear Growth of potential between quarks, string breaking





Confinement: the Elephant in the Room

Do we understand confinement?

$\Rightarrow$ we know what it looks like,
but do we know what it is?

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Millenium Prize Problems (Clay Mathematics Institute, USA/UK)

> Yang-Mills and Mass Gap: Experiment and computer simulations suggest the existence of a mass gap in the solution to the quantum versions of the Yang-Mills equations. But no proof of this property is known.

Pathways to Confinement

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- Gribov-Zwanziger confinement scenario based on suppressed gluon propagator and enhanced ghost propagator in the infrared

GZ Scenario: Confinement by Ghost

Formulated for Landau gauge, predicts gluon propagator

$$D^{ab}_{\mu\nu}(p) = \sum_x e^{-2i\pi k\cdot x} \langle A^a_\mu(x)\, A^b_\nu(0)\rangle = \delta^{ab} \left(g_{\mu\nu} - \frac{p_\mu\, p_\nu}{p^2} \right) D(p^2)$$

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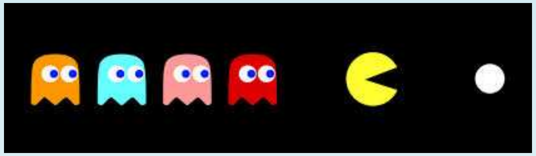

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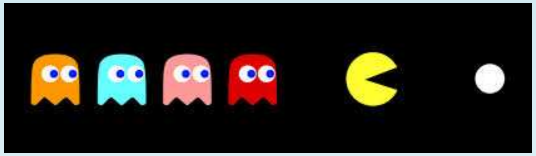

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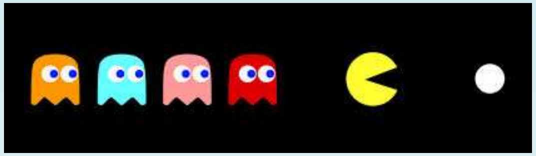

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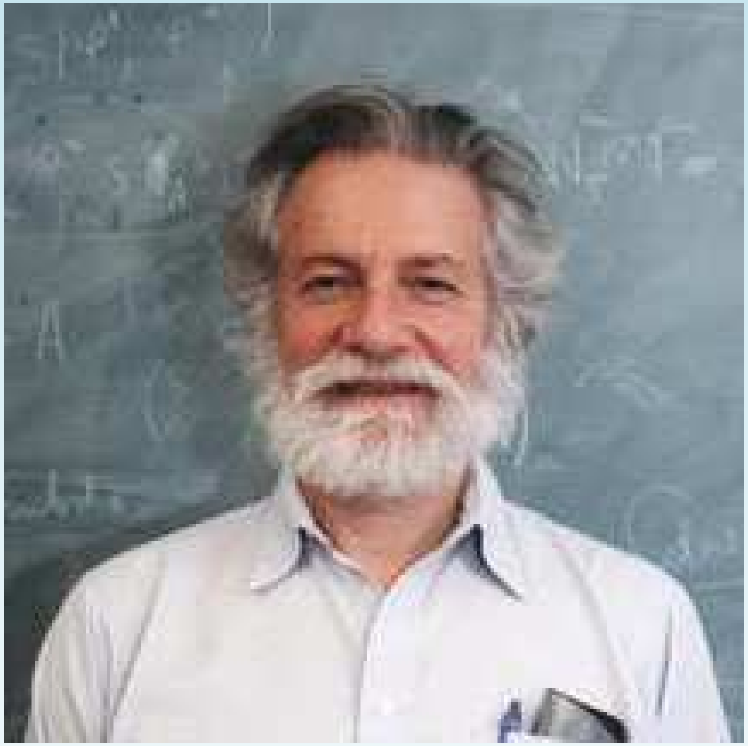
- Infinite volume favors configurations on the first Gribov horizon, where minimum nonzero eigenvalue λ_{min} of Faddeev-Popov operator $\mathcal{M}$ goes to zero
- In turn, $G(p)$ should be IR enhanced, introducing long-range effects, which are related to the color-confinement mechanism

Dan Zwanziger (1935–2024)

Wikipedia Daniel Zwanziger (20. Mai 1935 in New York City) ist ein US-amerikanischer theoretischer Physiker. Er befasst sich mit Quantenfeldtheorie, mathematischer Physik und Elementarteilchenphysik.



[Zwanziger *Local and renormizable action from the Gribov horizon*, Nucl. Phys. B, 1989]

[Vandersickel, Zwanziger *The Gribov problem and QCD dynamics*, Phys. Rep., 2012]

Gauge-Related Lattice Features

- Gauge action written in terms of oriented plaquettes formed by the link variables $U_{x,\mu}$, which are group elements

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- get FP matrix without considering ghost fields explicitly
- Lattice momenta given by $\hat{p}_\mu = 2\,\sin\left(\pi\, n_\mu / N\right)$ with $n_\mu = 0, 1, \ldots, N/2$ $\Leftrightarrow$ $p_{min} \sim 2\pi/(a\,N) = 2\pi/L$, $p_{max} = d/a$ in physical units

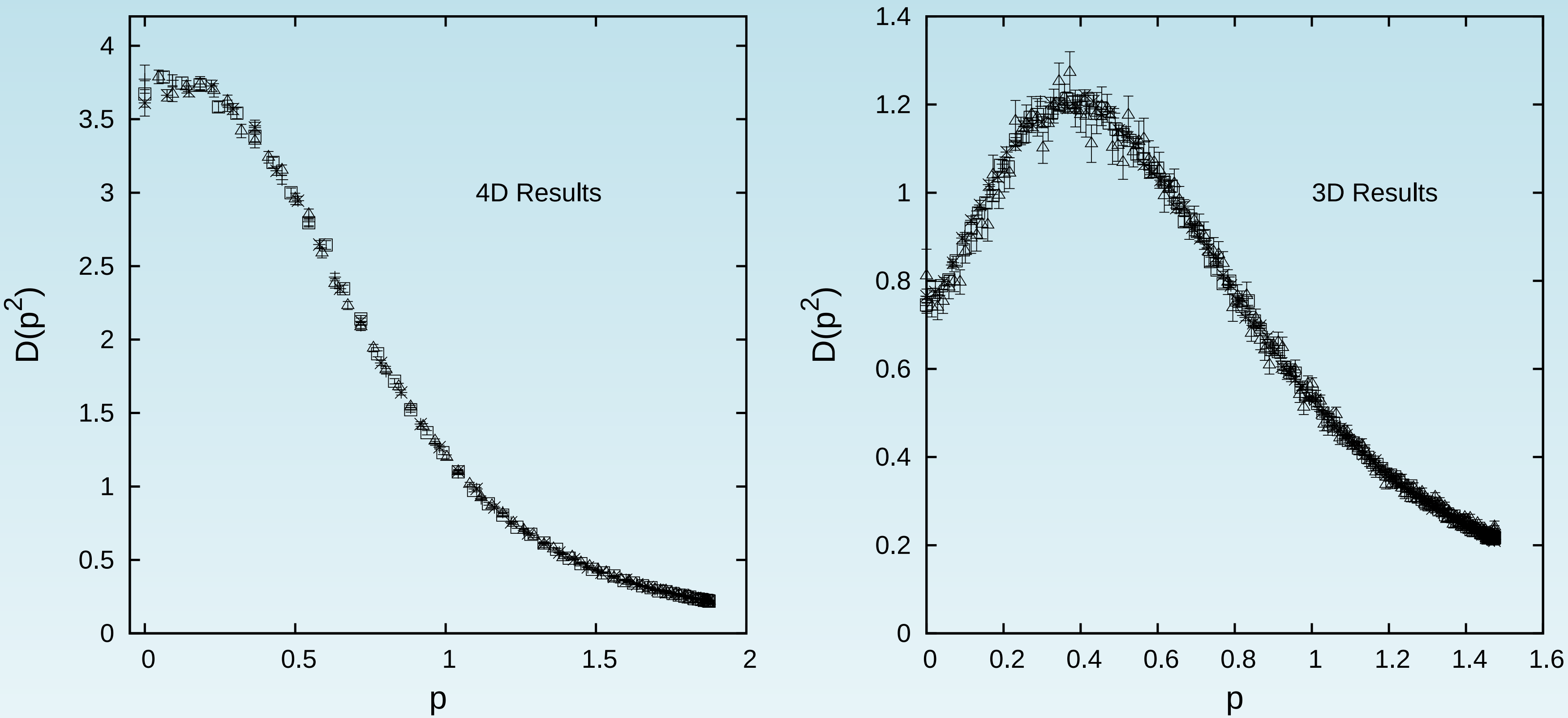
3-Step Code

```
main() {
/* set parameters: beta, number of configurations NC,
                   number of thermalization sweeps NT */
     read_parameters();
/* {U} is the link configuration */
     set_initial_configuration(U);
/* cycle over NC configurations */
     for (int c=0; c < NC; c++) {
          thermalize(U,beta,NT);
          gauge_fix(U,g);
          evaluate_propagators(U[g]);
     }
}
```

Algorithms: Heat-Bath and Micro-canonical (thermalization), overrelaxation and simulated annealing (gauge fixing), conjugate gradient and Fourier transform (propagators, etc.).

Gluon Propagator at "Infinite" Volume

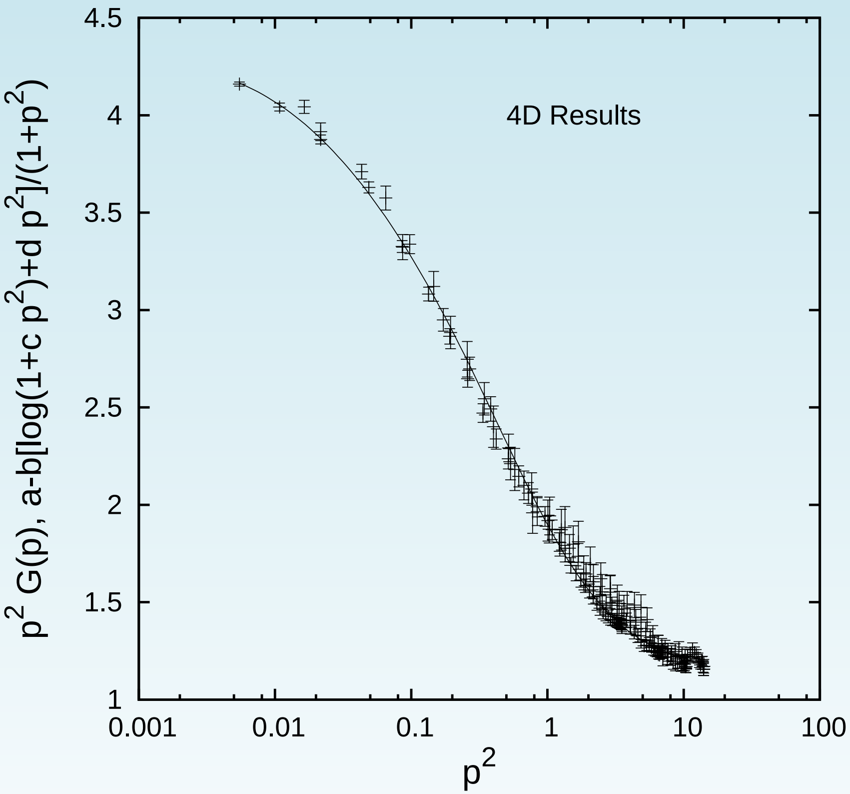
Attilio Cucchieri & T.M. (PRL, 2008)



Gluon propagator $D(k)$ as a function of the lattice momenta k (both in physical units) for the pure-$SU(2)$ case in $d = 4$ (left), considering volumes of up to 128^4 (lattice extent ~ 27 fm) and $d = 3$ (right), considering volumes of up to 320^3 (lattice extent ~ 85 fm)

Ghost Propagator Results

Fit of the ghost dressing function $p^2 G(p^2)$ as a function of p^2 (in GeV) for the 4d case ($\beta = 2.2$ with volume 80^4). We find that $p^2 G(p^2)$ is best fitted by the form $p^2 G(p^2) = a - b[\log(1 + cp^2) + dp^2]/(1 + p^2)$, with



$a = 4.32(2)$,

$b = 0.38(1)\, GeV^2$,

$c = 80(10)\, GeV^{-2}$,

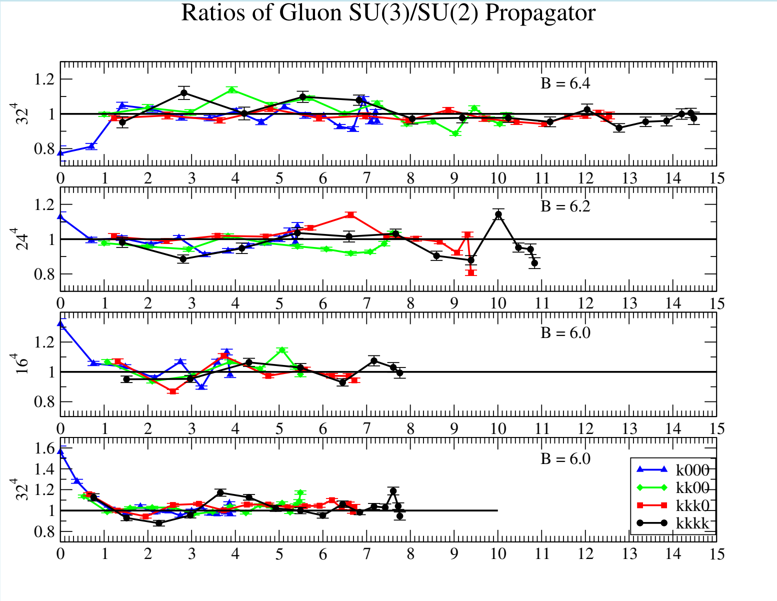
$d = 8.2(3)\, GeV^{-2}$.

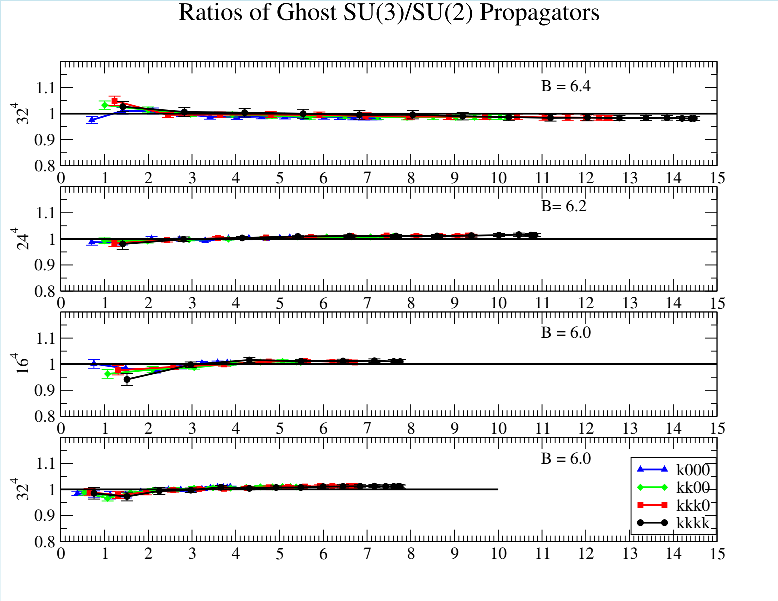
In IR limit $p^2 G(p^2) \sim a$.

Attilio Cucchieri & T.M. (PRD, 2008)

$SU(2)$ vs. $SU(3)$

A. Cucchieri, T.M., O. Oliveira & P.J. Silva (PRD, 2007)



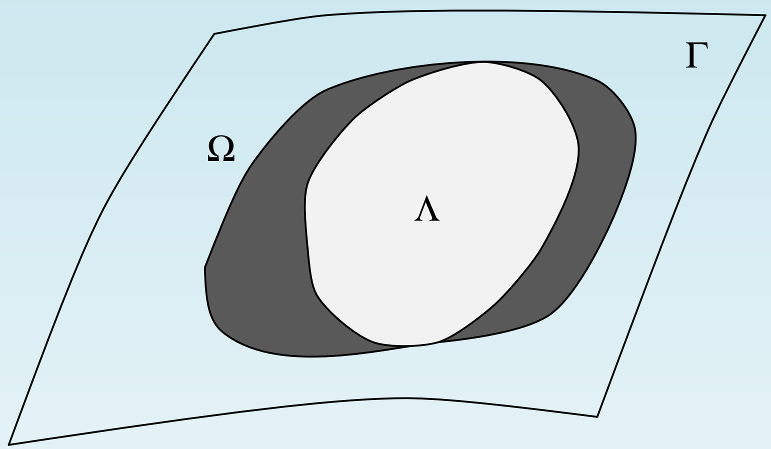


Ratio $SU(3)/SU(2)$ for the Landau-gauge gluon propagator.

Ratio $SU(3)/SU(2)$ for the Landau-gauge ghost propagator.

The Infinite-Volume Limit

As the infinite-volume limit is approached, the sampled configurations (inside Ω = region for which $\mathcal{M}$ is positive semi-definite) are closer and closer to the first Gribov horizon $\partial\Omega$



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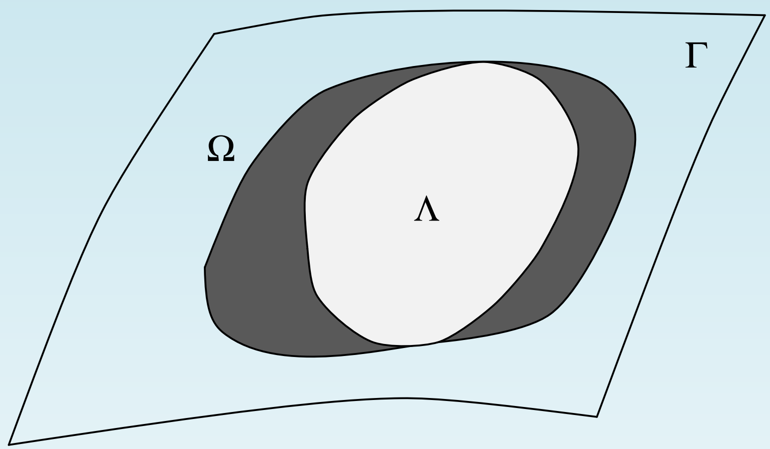

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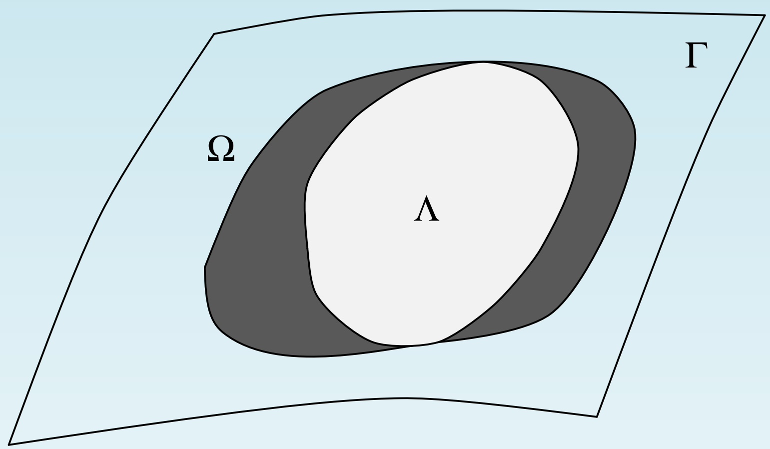

Can we learn more about the geometry of this region?

Lattice simulation produces thermalized gauge configurations, but we can also “visit” nearby configs and extract info from them!

Issues

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Get insight from features of the lattice simulations themselves:

1) Educated guess of infinite-volume-limit behavior

2) Explore Gribov horizon by visiting neighboring (unsampled) configurations, get info about $\lambda_{\rm min}$

3) Simulate on effectively large lattices by "faking" periodic crystal and invoking Bloch's theorem

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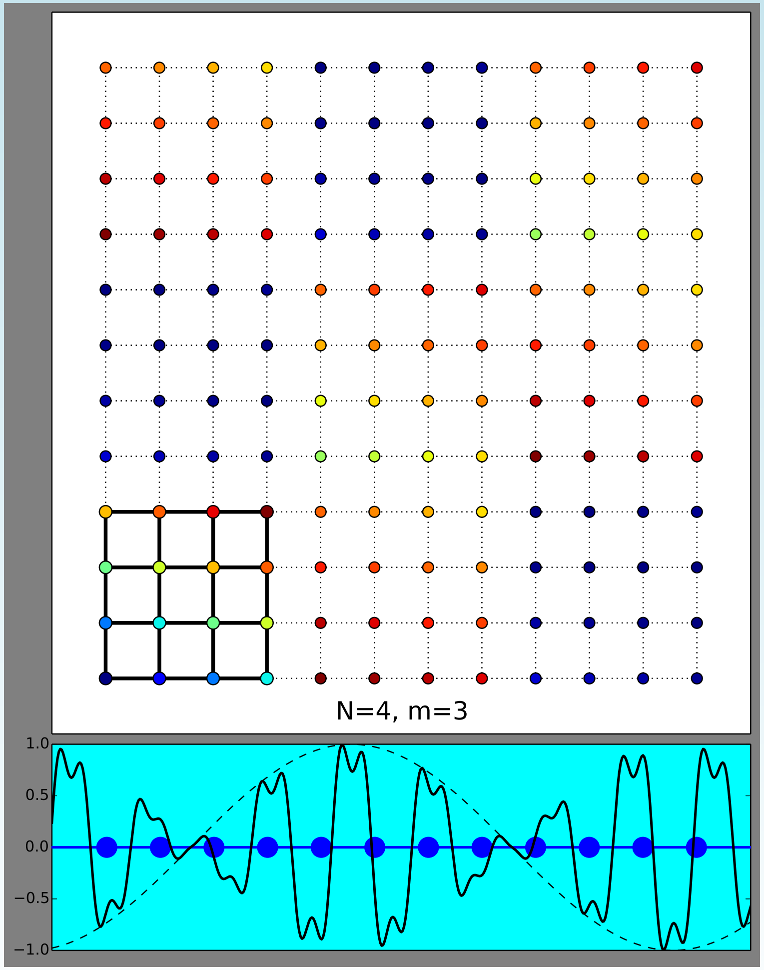
Also: Investigate the analytic structure of the propagators via “perturbative tecniques” (e.g. use rational approximants)

Large Lattices via Bloch's Theorem

Perform thermalization step on small lattice, then replicate it and use Bloch's theorem from condensed-matter physics to obtain gauge-fixing step for much larger lattice (A. Cucchieri, TM, PRL 2017)



Periodic (Crystal) Potential in QM

For ideal crystalline solid in d dimensions, consider electrostatic potential $U(\vec{r})$ with the periodicity of the Bravais lattice, i.e. $U(\vec{r}) = U(\vec{r} + \vec{R})$ for any vector $\vec{R} = n_\mu \vec{a}_\mu$

1. Choose eigenstates of $\mathcal{H}$ to be also eigenstates of $\mathcal{T}(\vec{R})$
2. Then eigenstates $\psi(\vec{r})$ can be written as Bloch waves

$$\psi_{\vec{k}}(\vec{r}) \;=\; \exp\left(i\vec{k}\cdot\vec{r}\right) h_{\vec{k}}(\vec{r}) \;,$$

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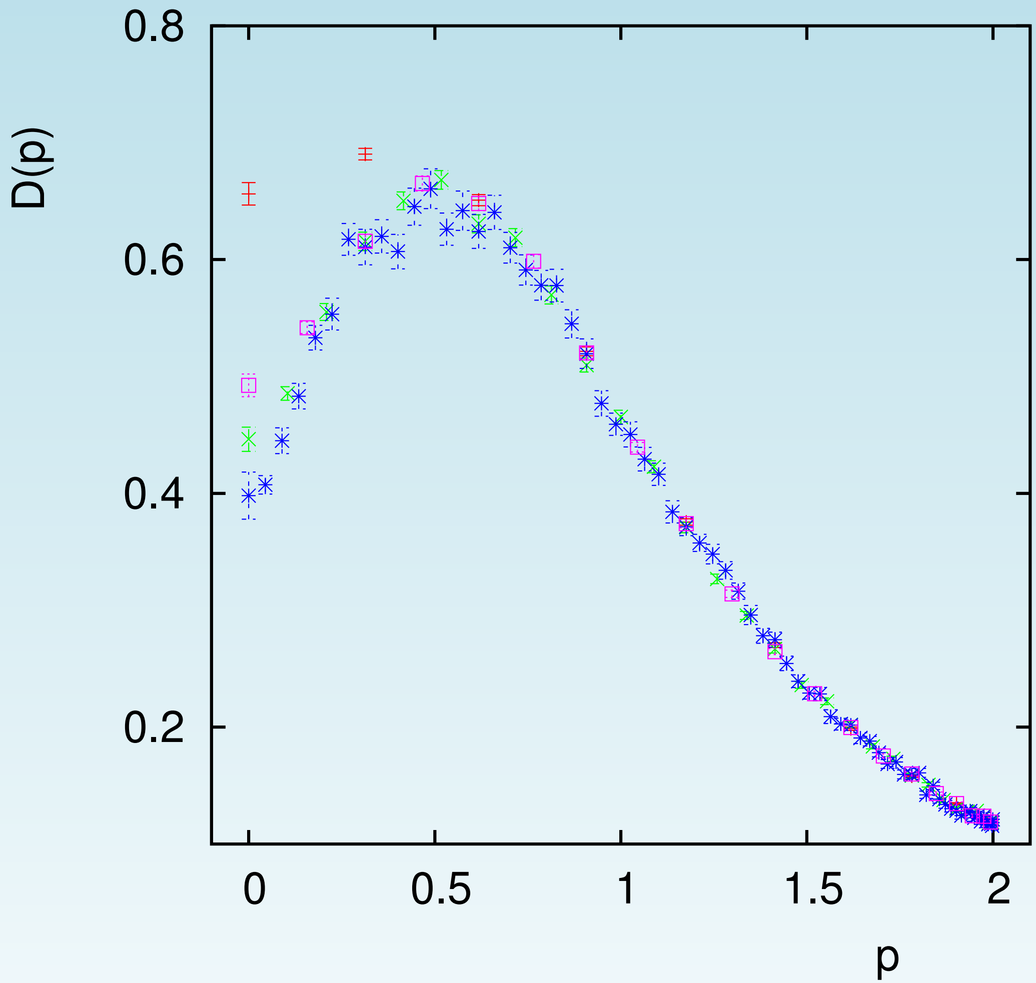
Idea: infinite-volume limit in LQCD as periodic-potential problem, simplified by analogy with Bloch's theorem

Gluon Propagator: Volume Effects



Gluon propagator vs. lattice momentum for $V = 20^3$, 40^3, 60^3 and 140^3

Lattice Landau Gauge

Landau gauge is imposed on the lattice by minimizing the functional

$$\mathcal{E}[U;g] \,=\, \Re\,\mathrm{Tr}\sum_{x,\mu}[\mathbb{1} - U_\mu^g(x)]$$

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Taking $g(x) = e^{i\tau\gamma(x)}$ with $\gamma(x) = \gamma^b(x)\,T_b \in \mathfrak{su}(N_c)$ fixed and $\tau \to 0$

$$\mathcal{E}[U; g] \,\approx\, \mathcal{E}[U; \mathbb{1}] \,+\, \tau\,\mathcal{E}'[U; \mathbb{1}](b, x)\,\gamma^b(x) + (\tau^2/2)\,\gamma^b(x)\,\mathcal{E}''[U; \mathbb{1}](b, x; c, y)\,\gamma^c(y)$$

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At any local minimum (stationary solution) we have $\mathcal{E}' = 0 \;\forall\, \gamma^b(x)$

$\Rightarrow\; \left(\nabla\cdot A^b\right)(x) = 0\;\forall\, x, b\,,$ where $A_\mu(\vec{x}) = \dfrac{1}{2\,i}\,\left[\,U_\mu(\vec{x}) - U^\dagger_\mu(\vec{x})\,\right]_{\mathrm{traceless}}$

Therefore, the (minimal) Landau gauge condition on the lattice reads

$$\left(\nabla\cdot A^b\right)(\vec{x}) = \sum_{\mu=1}^{d} A^b_\mu(\vec{x}) - A^b_\mu(\vec{x} - \hat{e}_\mu) = 0$$

Two-step Infinite-Volume Limit

Zwanziger suggests (NPB 1994) taking the infinite-volume limit in two steps

1) first, considering the $V \to +\infty$ limit for the gauge transformation $g(x)$

2) then, taking the same limit for the gluon field [i.e. the link variables $\{U_\mu(x)\}$]

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$\Rightarrow$ $g(x)$ sees "infinite" volume while the one for $U_\mu(x)$ is still finite

The Extended Lattice

Setup:

1. Consider a d-dimensional link configuration $\{U_\mu(\vec{x})\} \in$ SU(N_c), defined on a lattice Λ_x with volume $V = N^d$ and periodic boundary conditions (PBC)
2. Replicate this configuration m times along each direction, yielding an extended lattice Λ_z with volume $m^d V$ and PBC
3. Indicate the points of Λ_z with $\vec{z} = \vec{x} + \vec{y}N$, where $\vec{x} \in \Lambda_x$ and $\vec{y}$ is a point on the index lattice Λ_y
4. By construction, $\{U_\mu(\vec{z})\}$ in Λ_z is invariant under translations by N (in any direction)

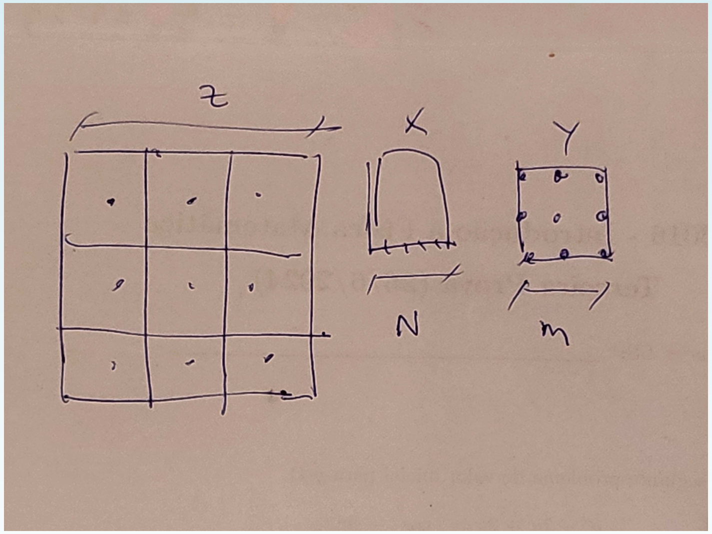
The Extended Gauge Transformation

Impose the minimal-Landau-gauge condition on Λ_z, i.e. consider the minimizing functional

$$\mathcal{E}_U[g] = -\frac{\Re \,\mathrm{Tr}}{d\, N_c\, m^d V} \sum_{\mu=1}^{d} \sum_{\vec{z} \in \Lambda_z} g(\vec{z})\, U_\mu(\vec{z})\, g(\vec{z} + \hat{e}_\mu)^\dagger$$

where $g(\vec{z})$ has periodicity mN, i.e. $g(\vec{z} + mN\hat{e}_\mu) = g(\vec{z})$ (PBC in Λ_z)

The two limits: first take $m \to +\infty$ and then $N \to +\infty$



Analogy with Bloch's Theorem

1. $\Lambda_y \Longleftrightarrow$ finite Bravais lattice with PBC
2. $\{U_\mu(\vec{z})\} \Longleftrightarrow$ periodic electrostatic potential $U(\vec{r})$

One can prove that:

- $g(\vec{z})$ can be written as $g(\vec{z}) = \exp\left(i\Theta_\mu \, z_\mu / N\right) h(\vec{z})$
- $h(\vec{z})$ has periodicity N, i.e. $h(\vec{z} + N\hat{e}_\mu) = h(\vec{z}) \;\Rightarrow\; h(\vec{x})$
- The matrices $\Theta_\mu = \tau^a \theta^a_\mu$ (with $a = 1, \ldots, N_c^2 - 1$) have eigenvalues $2\pi n_\mu / m$, with $n_\mu \in \mathcal{Z}$
- The matrices θ^a_μ are elements of a Cartan sub-algebra of the SU(N_c) Lie algebra

The New Minimizing Functional

Due to the expression for $g(\vec{z})$ and to the cyclicity of the trace, the minimizing functional becomes

$$\mathcal{E}_U[h, \Theta_\mu] \;=\; -\frac{\Re\,\mathrm{Tr}}{d\, N_c\, V} \sum_{\mu=1}^{d} e^{-i\Theta_\mu/N}\, Q_\mu \;,$$

$$Q_\mu \;=\; \sum_{\vec{x}\in\Lambda_x} h(\vec{x})\, U_\mu(\vec{x})\, h(\vec{x}+\hat{e}_\mu)^\dagger \;,$$

i.e. the numerical minimization is still carried out on the original lattice Λ_x

Numerical Simulations

In the SU(N_c) case:

1. generate a thermalized d-dimensional link configuration $U_\mu(x)$ with periodicity N, i.e. $V = N^d$ with PBC
2. minimize $\mathcal{E}_U[h, \Theta_\mu]$ with respect to $h(x)$ and Θ_μ using two alternating steps:
   a) the matrices Θ_μ are kept fixed and one updates the matrices $h(\vec{x})$ by sweeping through the lattice
   b) the matrices Q_μ are kept fixed and one minimizes $\mathcal{E}_U[h, \Theta_\mu]$ with respect to the matrices Θ_μ, belonging to the corresponding Cartan sub-algebra
3. evaluate the gluon propagator using the extended gauge-fixed link variables $U_\mu^{(g)}(\vec{z}) = g(\vec{z})\, U_\mu(\vec{z})\, g(\vec{z} + \hat{e}_\mu)^\dagger$

The SU(2) Case

In the $SU(2)$ case (one-dimensional Cartan sub-algebra) we can write

$$\Theta_\mu \equiv (v^\dagger \sigma_3 v)\alpha_\mu$$

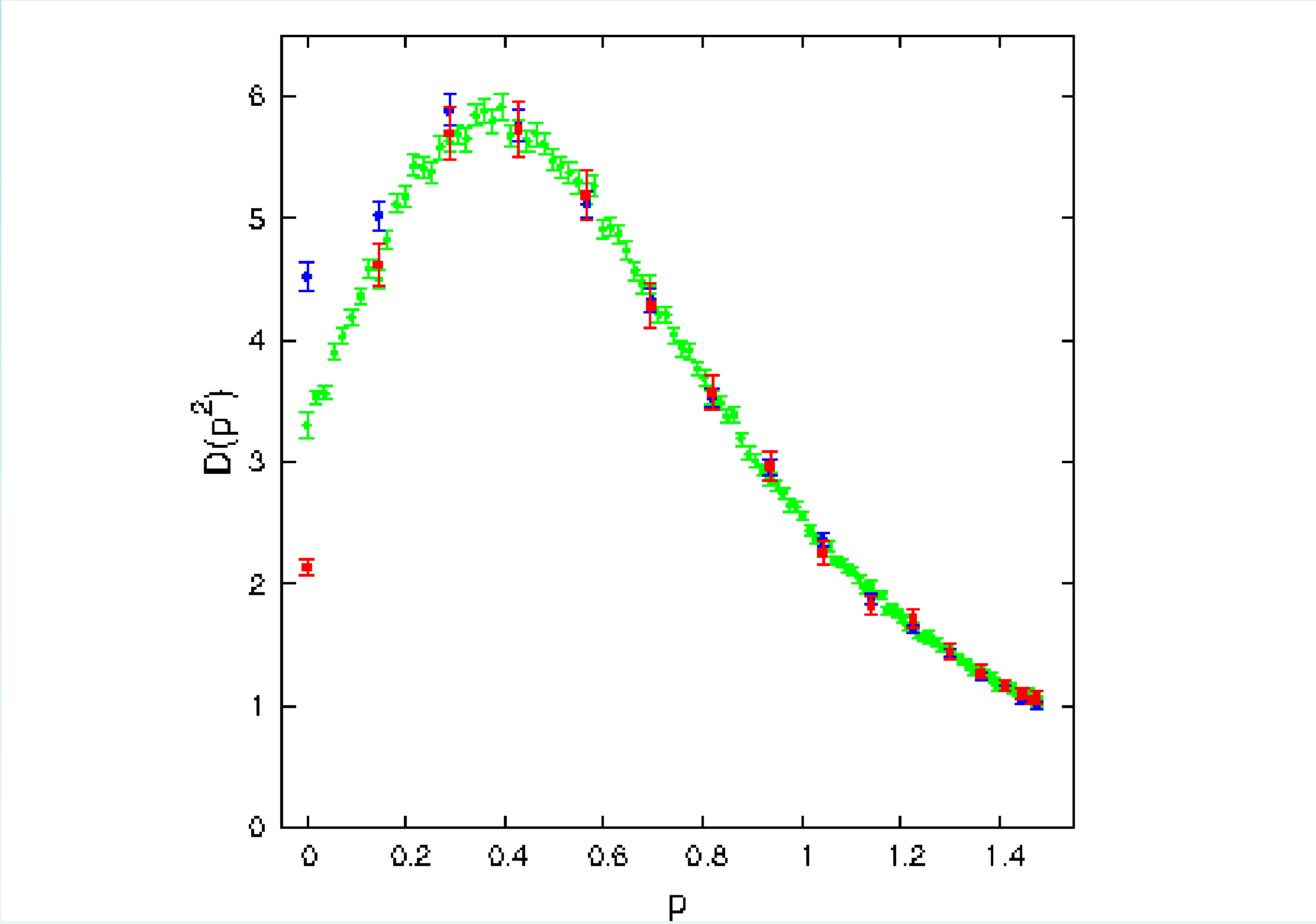
with $v \in$ SU(2) and eigenvalues $\pm\alpha_\mu = \pm 2\pi n_\mu / m$

Then, in the new minimizing functional

$$\exp\left(-i\Theta_\mu/N\right) \, = \, v^\dagger \, \exp[-2\pi i \sigma_3 n_\mu/(mN)] \, v$$

Also, the matrices Q_μ are proportional to SU(2) matrices

Results: $3D$ Gluon Propagator



The gluon propagator $D(p^2)$ as a function of the lattice momentum p at $\beta = 3.0$ for the Λ_x lattice volumes $V = 32^3$ ($+$) and 256^3 ($*$) and for the Λ_z lattice volume $V = 32^3 \times 8^3 = 256^3$ ($\Box$)

Back to the Minimizing Problem

As mentioned earlier, the minimizing problem is simplified as a consequence of $g(\vec{z}) = \exp\left(i\Theta_\mu z_\mu/N\right) h(\vec{x})$, since the solution for the extended-lattice problem is obtained from minimizing a similar functional on the small one

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For the gauge-transformed link variable $U_\mu^g(z)$ we have

$$U_\mu(g;\vec{z}) = e^{i\Theta_\nu z_\nu/N}\, U_\mu(h;\vec{x})\, e^{-i\Theta_\mu/N}\, e^{-i\Theta_\nu z_\nu/N}$$

$$= e^{i\Theta_\nu y_\nu}\left[e^{i\Theta_\nu x_\nu/N}\, U_\mu(h;\vec{x})\, e^{-i\Theta_\mu/N}\, e^{-i\Theta_\nu x_\nu/N}\right] e^{-i\Theta_\nu y_\nu}$$

where we used that $\vec{z} = \vec{x} + \vec{y}\vec{N}$

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Note that the central (local) part of the above expression is the same for all “cells” and that different domains (=cells) are related by a global “rotation” (determined by $\vec{y}$), applied to each cell

Gauge-Configuration Domains

The local part of $U^g_\mu(z)$ is gauge-fixed (i.e. transverse) but is no longer periodic, while the original gauge configuration $U_\mu(z)$ was periodic, but not transverse

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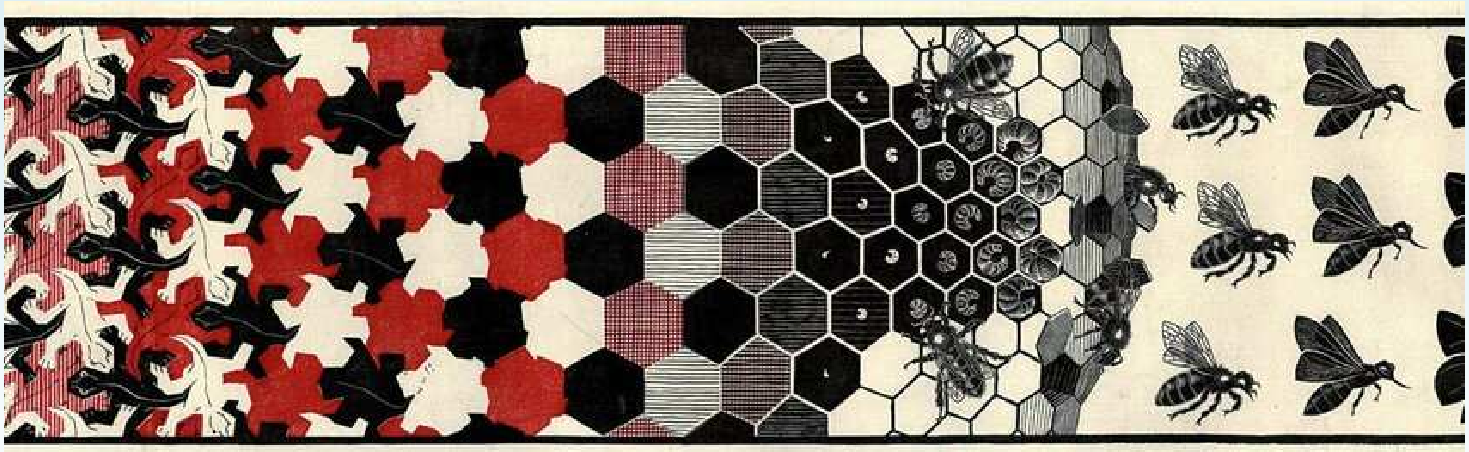
Gauge-field configurations within cells are rotated, transformed by global group elements defined by the cell index $\vec{y}$, in a manner reminiscent of Escher's work (Metamorphosis I, II, III), so that the full configuration on the extended lattice has the required $m \times N$ periodicity

A pattern of domains emerges!



Color Magnetization

One can define a (gluon-field) color magnetization

$$A_\mu^b \;=\; \frac{1}{N^d} \sum_{\vec{x}} A_\mu^b(\vec{x})$$

which is related to the gluon propagator at zero momentum as

$$D(0) \;=\; \frac{N^d}{d(N_c^2-1)} \sum_{b,\mu} \langle |A_\mu^b|^2 \rangle$$

Quantity $\mathcal{A} \;=\; \sum_{b,\mu} \langle |A_\mu^b| \rangle / d(N_c^2-1)$ considered by Zwanziger (in Landau gauge, this should vanish at least as fast as $1/N$).

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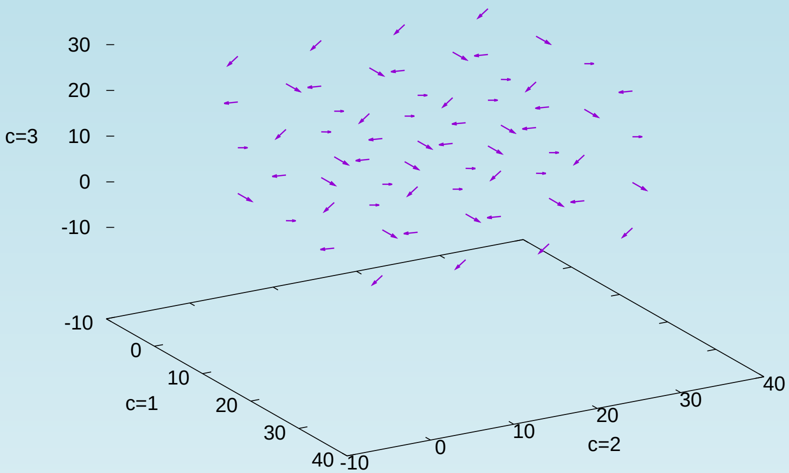
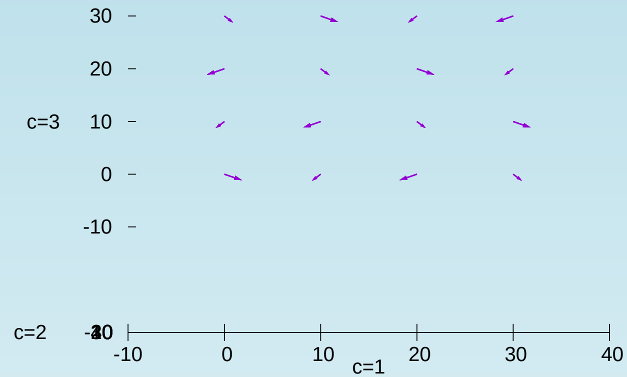
$\Rightarrow$ Let us look for the average color magnetization in each cell and try to relate it to the domains mentioned above

Average Cell Magnetization





Average color "magnetization" in each cell

$$M_{\mu}^{c}(\vec{y}) \,=\, \frac{1}{N^d} \sum_{\vec{x}} A_{\mu}^{c}(\vec{z})$$

for the pure-$SU(2)$ case and lattice volume $V = (60 \times 4)^3$

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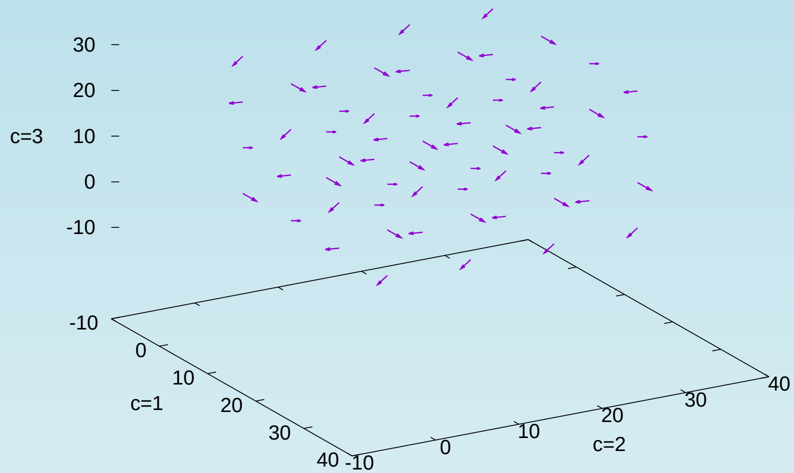

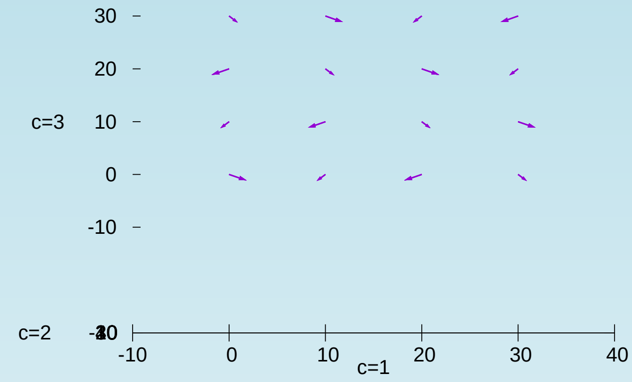

Average color “magnetization” in each cell

$$M^c_\mu(\vec{y}) \;=\; \frac{1}{N^d} \sum_{\vec{x}} A^c_\mu(\vec{z})$$

for the pure-$SU(2)$ case and lattice volume $V = (60 \times 4)^3$

A new type of domain wall?

Ongoing!

- Numerical results (in the gluon sector) obtained using large lattice volumes can also be obtained using small lattice volumes with extended gauge transformations
- From the physical point of view:
  1. the information encoded in a thermalized configuration does not depend much on the lattice volume V
  2. the properties of the Landau-gauge Green's functions are essentially set by the gauge-fixing procedure and the size of V matters!
- Limitation: the allowed momenta seem to be fixed by the lattice discretization on the original lattice Λ_x, no way to obtain "big-volume" momenta?
- Interesting properties regarding "magnetization" domains!

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Lattice simulations offer direct access to (representative) gauge-field configurations, with which first principles calculations are carried out, keeping errors (and extrapolations) under control

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It hasn't been easy, but we have managed to set up a LQCD group in Brazil, with expertise in computations of infrared propagators for studies related to the color confinement mechanism

Vem pra **REDE**