

# The Polyakov loop correlator and the cyclic Wilson loop in perturbation theory and EFTs

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in collaboration with M. Berwein, N. Brambilla, P.  
Petreczky and A. Vairo  
ECT\*, April 4th 2013

# Outline

- Introduction to the thermodynamical free energies for  $QQ\bar{q}$  pairs
- The Polyakov loop correlator in perturbation theory and EFT
- The Cyclic Wilson loop and its renormalization

Brambilla JG Petreczky Vairo **PRD82** (2012)

Berwein Brambilla JG Vairo **JHEP1303** (2013)

# Thermodynamical free energies

# The Polyakov loop

- Polyakov loop in a **color representation**  $R$

$$L = P \exp \left( ig \int_0^\beta d\tau A^0(\tau, \mathbf{x}) \right) \quad \langle L_R \rangle \equiv \langle \tilde{\text{Tr}} L_R \rangle, \quad \tilde{\text{Tr}} \equiv \frac{\text{Tr}}{d(R)}$$

- Thermodynamic relation to the free energy of a (infinitely) heavy quark

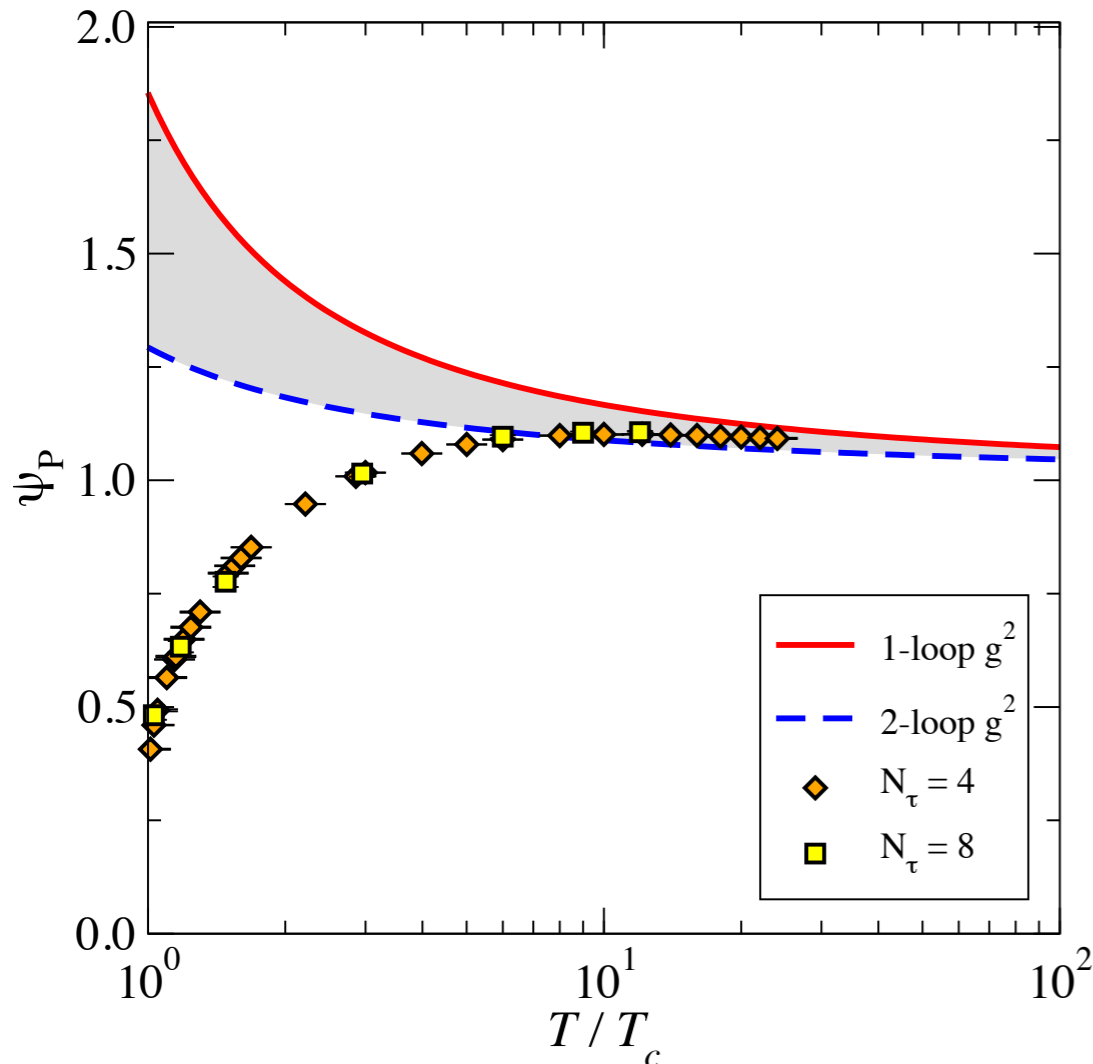
$$\langle L_F \rangle = e^{-F_Q/T}$$

McLerran Svetitsky **PRD24** 1981

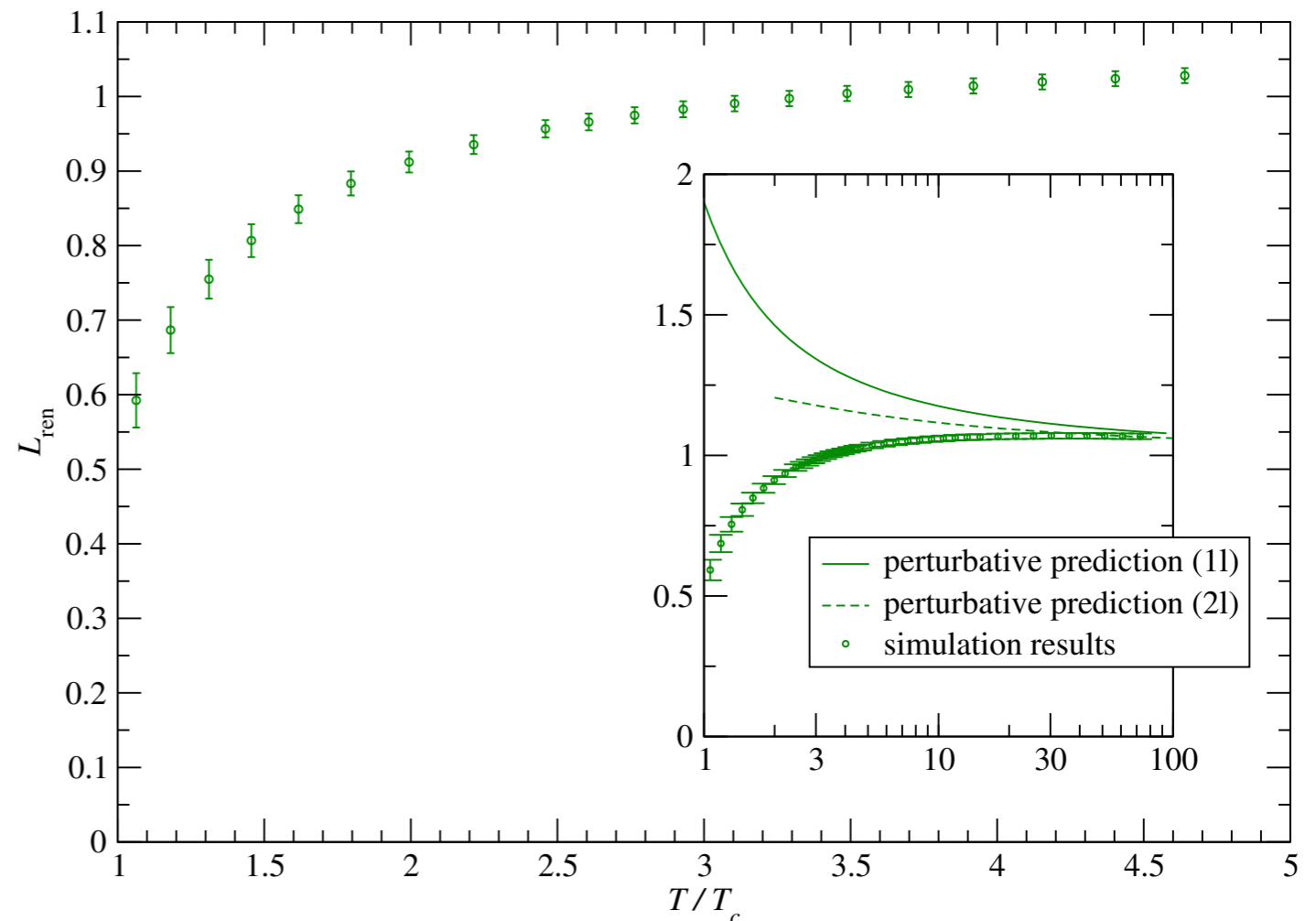
- Order parameter for the deconfinement phase transition.
- Extensively measured on the lattice

# The Polyakov loop

$N_f = 0$



SU(4), fundamental representation



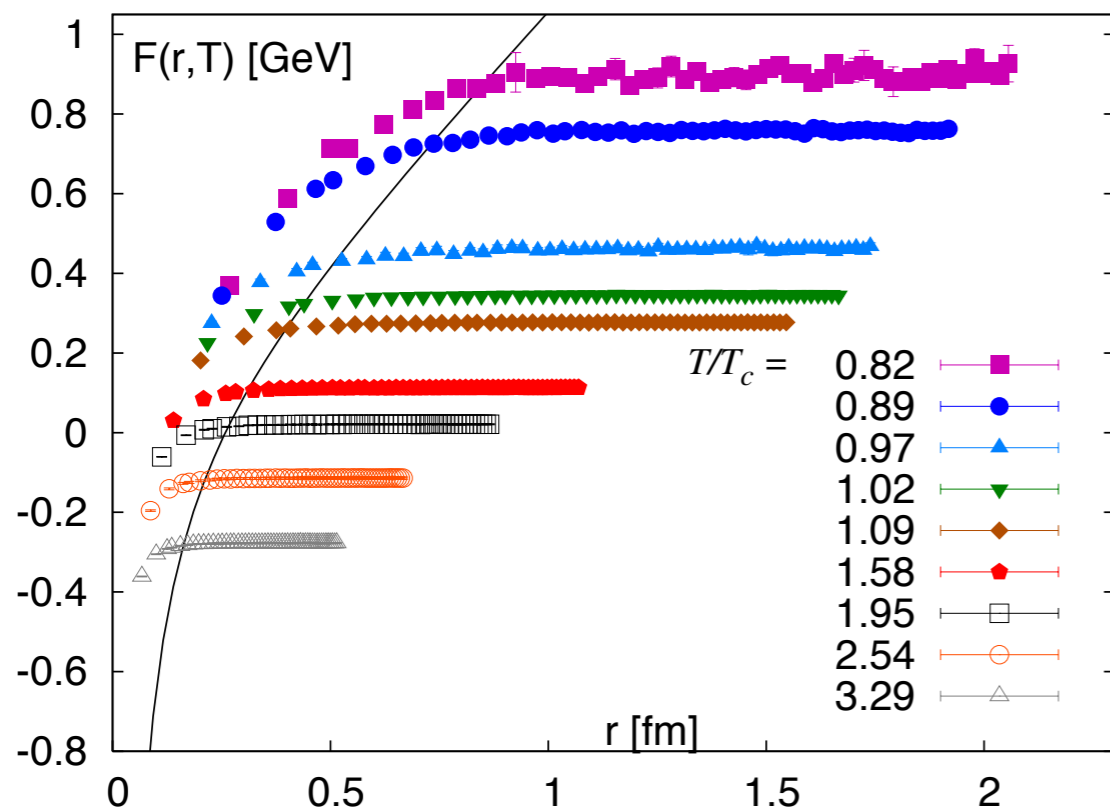
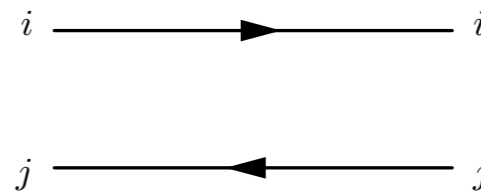
- Lattice: Gupta Hubner Kaczmarek **PRD77** (2008) (left), Mykkanen Panero Rummukainen **JHEP1205** (2012) (right, figure)  
pQCD: Burnier Laine Vepsalainen **JHEP1011** (2009, left fig.), Brambilla Petreczky JG Vairo **PRD82** (2010)

# The Polyakov loop correlator

- Correlator of two Polyakov loops: (difference in) free energy of a quark-antiquark pair

$$P_c \equiv \langle \text{Tr} L(\mathbf{x}) \text{Tr} L^\dagger(\mathbf{0}) \rangle$$

Gauge independent and well defined, but probes the octet sector as well



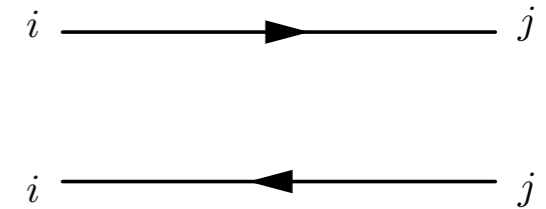
Petreczky 1001.5284

- Perturbation theory at short distances / EFT analysis  
Brambilla JG Petreczky Vairo **PRD82** (2010)
- Intermediate distances  $r \sim 1/m_D$   
Nadkarni **PRD33** (1986)
- Large distances  $r \gg 1/m_D$   
Braaten Nieto **PRL74** (1995)

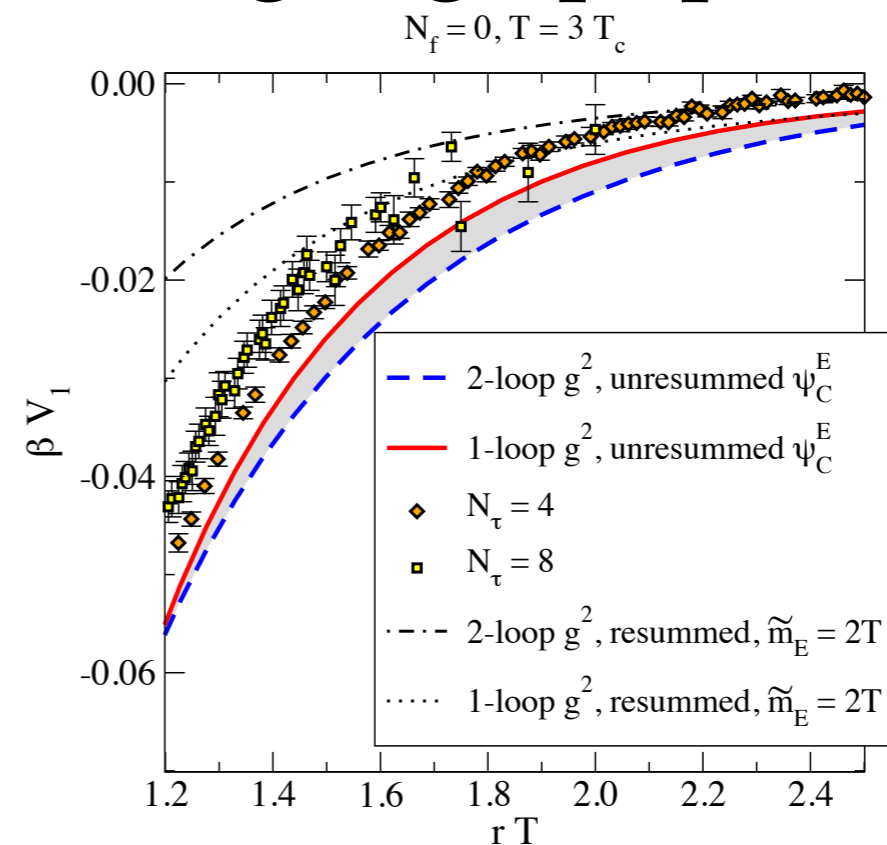
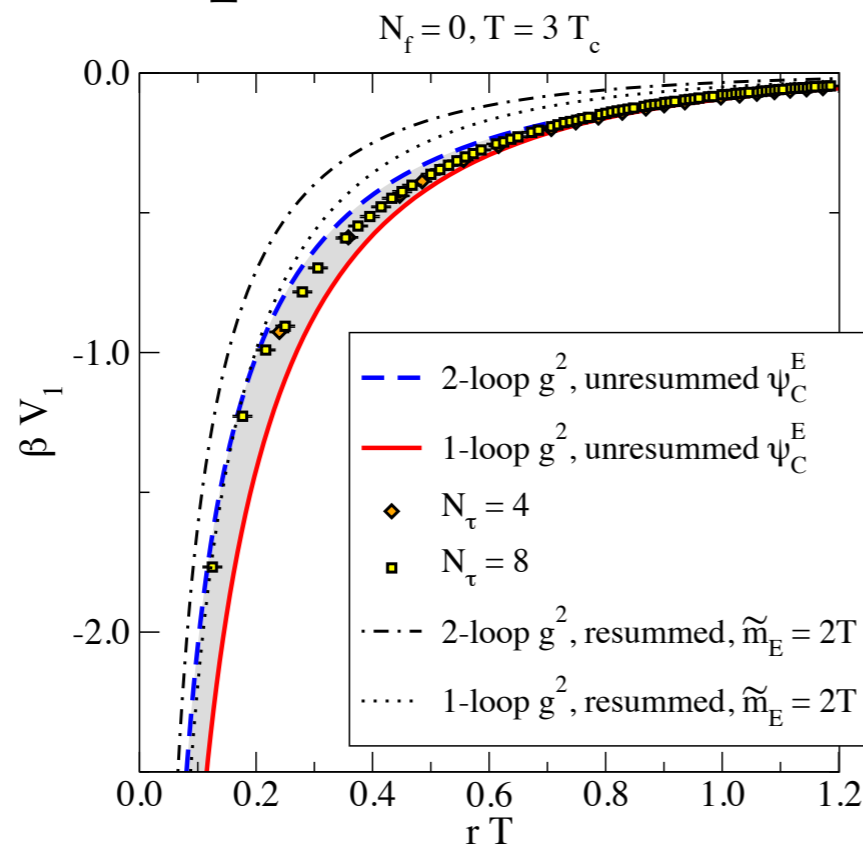
# The singlet free energy

- Defined as

$$\langle \text{Tr} L(\mathbf{x}) L^\dagger(\mathbf{0}) \rangle \quad L = P \exp \left( ig \int_0^\beta d\tau A^0(\tau, \mathbf{x}) \right)$$



Gauge dependent, Coulomb gauge popular



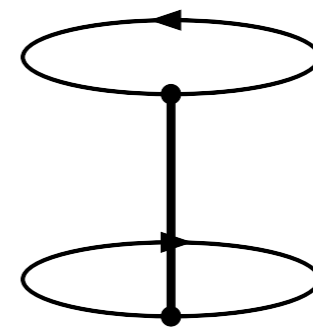
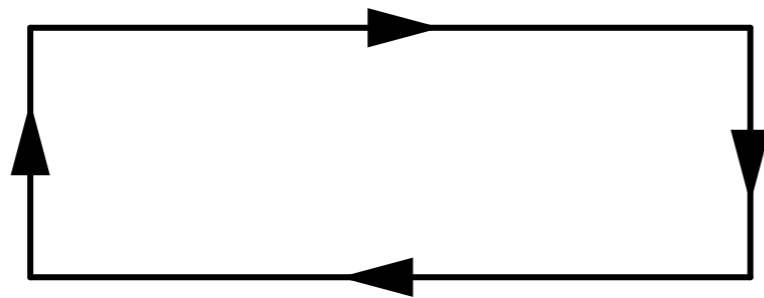
Perturbative: Burnier Laine Vepsäläinen **JHEP1001** (2010)

Lattice: Kaczmarek Karsch Petreczky Zantow **PLB243** (2002)

# The cyclic Wilson loop

- A gauge invariant completion of the singlet free energy

$$W_c \equiv \frac{1}{N_c} \langle \text{Tr} U(\tau = 0; \mathbf{0}, \mathbf{r}) L(\mathbf{r}) U^\dagger(\tau = 0; \mathbf{0}, \mathbf{r}) L^\dagger(\mathbf{0}) \rangle$$



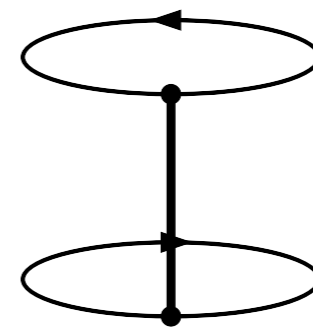
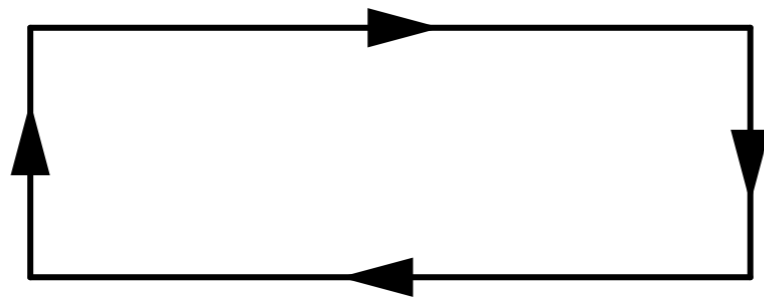
- It corresponds to two Polyakov lines connected by an adjoint spacelike Wilson line



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- It corresponds to two Polyakov lines connected by an adjoint spacelike Wilson line
- The restored gauge invariance comes at a price: no longer a simple QQbar free energy and additional divergences



# Motivation

- Understand the Polyakov loop correlator in terms of singlet and octet contributions in the EFT framework
- Renormalize the cyclic loop
- Future: program of comparison between perturbation theory and lattice for quarkonium-related quantities

# The Polyakov loop correlator

# Our perturbative calculation

- The correlator was computed by Nadkarni in 1986 up to order  $g^6$  within EQCD, i. e.  $1/r \sim m_D$   
Nadkarni **PRD33** (1986)

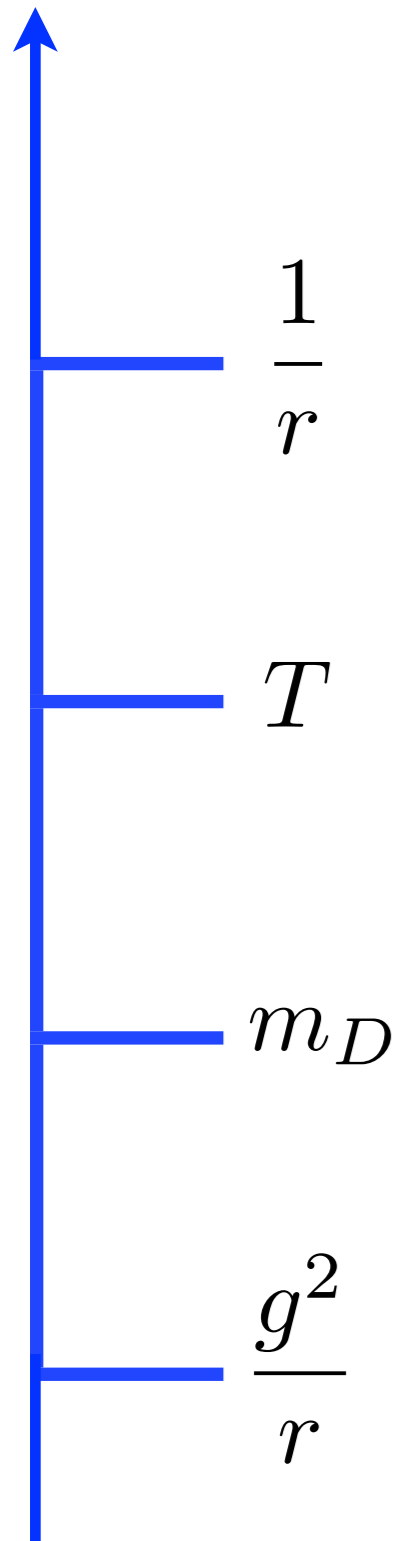

$$\frac{1}{r}$$

$$T$$

$$m_D$$

$$\frac{g^2}{r}$$

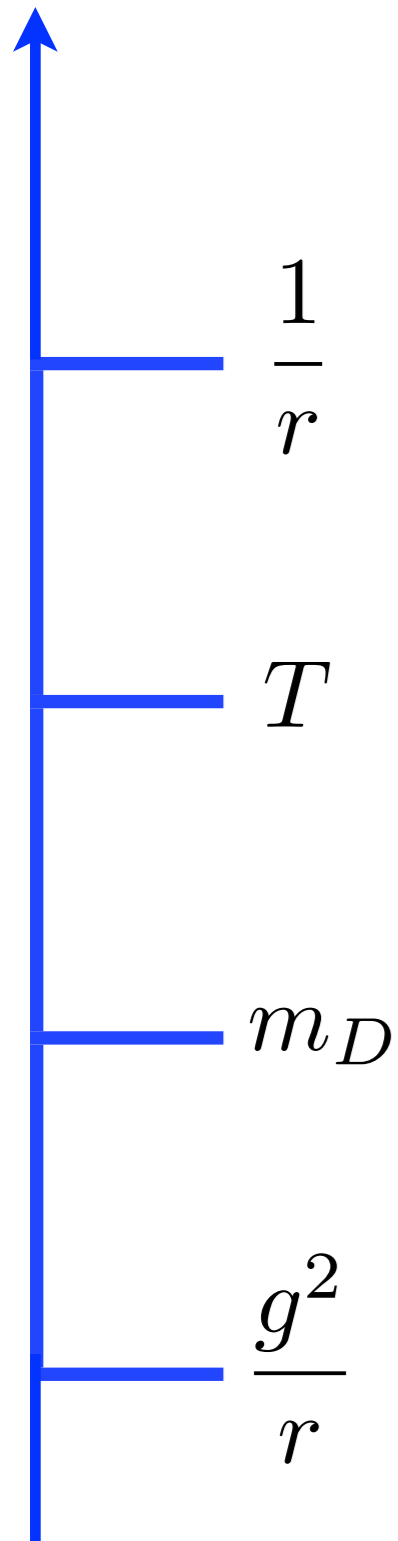
# Our perturbative calculation



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$$\frac{1}{r} \gg T \gg m_D \gg \frac{g^2}{r}$$

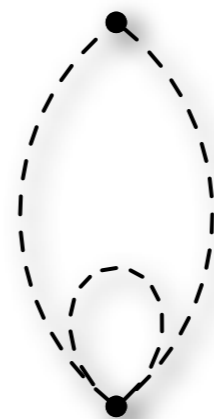
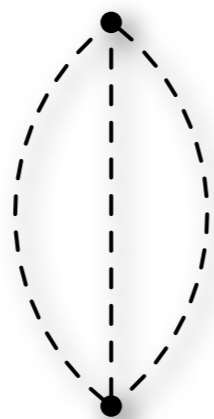
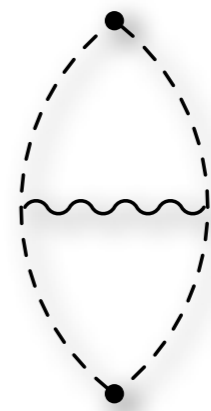
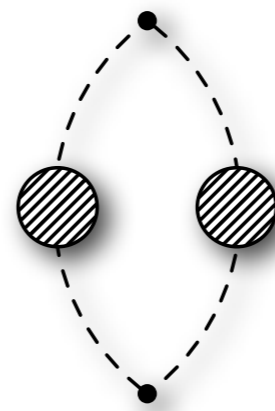
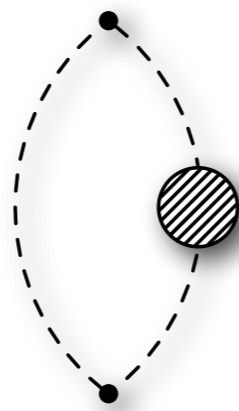
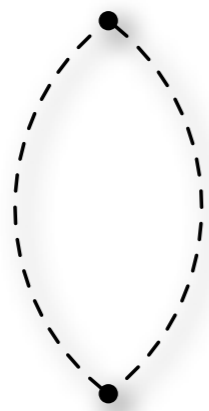
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- We performed instead our computation assuming this hierarchy:
$$\frac{1}{r} \gg T \gg m_D \gg \frac{g^2}{r}$$
- $rT$  is an additional expansion parameter, we included terms up to  $g^6(rT)^0$

# The perturbative result

- The hierarchy is implemented by separating the contribution of each momentum region by appropriate expansions and resummations in the integrals



# The perturbative result

- The hierarchy is implemented by separating the contribution of each momentum region by appropriate expansions and resummations in the integrals

$$P_c(r, T) \equiv C_{\text{PL}}(r, T) + L_F^2(T)$$

- Up to order  $g^6(rT)^0$  we have

$$C_{\text{PL}}(r, T) = \frac{N^2 - 1}{8N^2} \left\{ \frac{\alpha_s (1/r)^2}{(rT)^2} - 2 \frac{\alpha_s^2 m_D}{rT T} \right. \\ \left. + \frac{\alpha_s^3}{(rT)^3} \frac{N^2 - 2}{6N} + \frac{1}{2\pi} \frac{\alpha_s^3}{(rT)^2} \left( \frac{31}{9} C_A - \frac{10}{9} n_f + 2\gamma_E \beta_0 \right) \right. \\ \left. + \frac{\alpha_s^3}{rT} \left[ C_A \left( -2 \ln \frac{m_D^2}{T^2} + 2 - \frac{\pi^2}{4} \right) + 2n_f \ln 2 \right] \right. \\ \left. + \alpha_s^2 \frac{m_D^2}{T^2} - \frac{2}{9} \pi \alpha_s^3 C_A \right\} + \mathcal{O} \left( g^6(rT), \frac{g^7}{(rT)^2} \right)$$



# The EFT approach

- We proceed to create an EFT framework that
  - enables us to re-obtain the same results in terms of colour singlet and colour octet correlators
  - gives a more transparent interpretation of the previous result
- Obtained by integrating out  $1/r$ , the largest scale, yielding Euclidean potential non-relativistic QCD (pNRQCD)

# At the scale $1/r$

- In pNRQCD the Polyakov loop correlator is given by

$$C_{\text{PL}}(r, T) = \frac{1}{N^2} \left[ Z_s \langle S(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{0}, 1/T) S^\dagger(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{0}, 0) \rangle + Z_o \langle O^a(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{0}, 1/T) O^{a\dagger}(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{0}, 0) \rangle + \mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^3 (rT)^4) \right] - \langle L_F \rangle^2.$$

Higher-dimensional operators with more gauge fields are suppressed.

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- If we match to the previous determination of  $C_{\text{PL}}(r, T)$  we get

$$Z_s = Z_o = 1$$

$$\langle S(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{0}, 1/T) S^\dagger(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{0}, 0) \rangle|_{1/r} = e^{-V_s(r)/T}$$

$$\langle O^a(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{0}, 1/T) O^{a\dagger}(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{0}, 0) \rangle|_{1/r} = (N^2 - 1) e^{-V_o(r)/T}$$

which is coherent with the spectral decomposition  $P_c = \sum_n e^{-E_n/T}$

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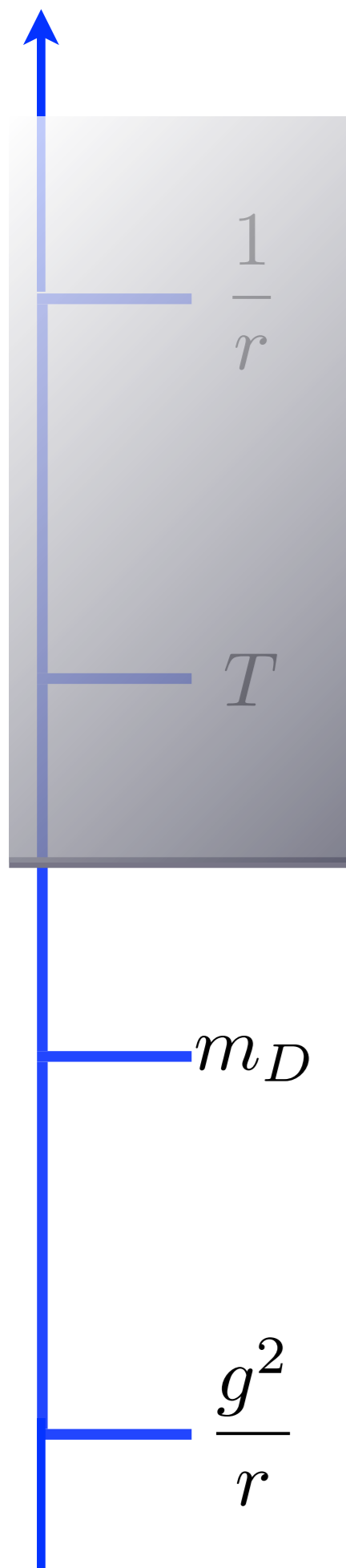
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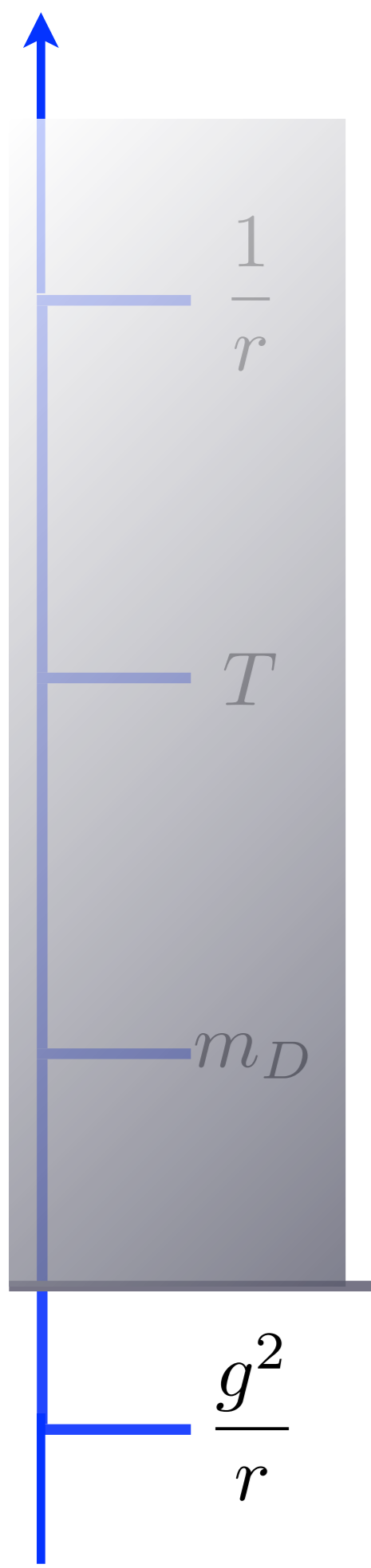
- If we instead assume the spectral decomposition, then the matching provides a non-trivial verification of the two-loop octet potential



## Integrating out the temperature

$$\langle S(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{0}, 1/T) S^\dagger(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{0}, 0) \rangle |_{1/r, T} = e^{-f_s(r, T)/T}$$

$$\langle O^a(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{0}, 1/T) O^{a\dagger}(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{0}, 0) \rangle |_{1/r, T} = (N^2 - 1) e^{-f_o(r, T)/T}$$

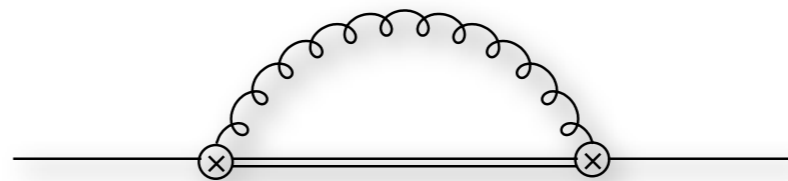


## Integrating out the Debye mass

$$\langle S(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{0}, 1/T) S^\dagger(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{0}, 0) \rangle|_{1/r, T, m_D} = e^{-f_s(r, T, m_D)/T}$$

$$\langle O^a(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{0}, 1/T) O^{a\dagger}(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{0}, 0) \rangle|_{1/r, T, m_D} = (N^2 - 1) e^{-f_o(r, T, m_D)/T}$$

- $f_s$  and  $f_o$  may be interpreted as singlet and octet free energies in pNRQCD
- They are obtained by evaluating loop diagrams in pNRQCD



# Integrating out $T$ and $m_D$

- For the singlet we have

$$\begin{aligned} f_s(r, T, m_D) &= V_s(r) \\ &+ \frac{2}{9} \pi N C_F \alpha_s^2 r T^2 \left[ 1 + \sum c_n^{\text{NS}} (rT)^{2n+2} \right] - \frac{\pi}{36} N^2 C_F \alpha_s^3 T \\ &- \left( \frac{3}{2} \zeta(3) C_F \frac{\alpha_s}{\pi} (r m_D)^2 T - \frac{2}{3} \zeta(3) N C_F \alpha_s^2 r^2 T^3 \right) \left[ 1 + \sum c_n^{\text{S}} (rT)^{2n+2} \right] \\ &+ C_F \frac{\alpha_s}{6} r^2 m_D^3 + T \mathcal{O} \left( g^6(rT), \frac{g^8}{rT} \right) \end{aligned}$$

# Integrating out $T$ and $m_D$

- For the octet

$$\begin{aligned}
 f_o(r, T, m_D) = & V_o(r) \\
 & - \frac{C_A \alpha_s}{2} m_D + \frac{1}{48} C_A^2 \alpha_s^2 \frac{m_D^2}{T} \\
 & - \frac{C_A \alpha_s^2}{2} T \left[ C_A \left( -\ln \frac{T^2}{m_D^2} + \frac{1}{2} \right) - n_f \ln 2 + b_1 g + b_2 g^2 + a \alpha_s \right] \\
 & - \frac{\pi}{9} \alpha_s^2 r T^2 \left[ 1 + \sum c_n^{\text{NS}} (rT)^{2n+2} \right] - \frac{\pi}{72} N \alpha_s^3 T \\
 & + \left( \frac{3}{4N} \zeta(3) \frac{\alpha_s}{\pi} (r m_D)^2 T - \frac{1}{3} \zeta(3) \alpha_s^2 r^2 T^3 \right) \left[ 1 + \sum c_n^{\text{S}} (rT)^{2n+2} \right] \\
 & - \frac{1}{N} \frac{\alpha_s}{12} r^2 m_D^3 + T \mathcal{O} \left( g^6(rT), \frac{g^8}{rT} \right)
 \end{aligned}$$



# Final results

- In the Polyakov loop correlator  $C_{\text{PL}}(r, T)$ , large cancellations occur between  $f_s, f_0$  and the (fundamental) Polyakov loop

$$\begin{aligned} \langle L_R \rangle &= 1 + \frac{C_R \alpha_s m_D}{2 T} + \frac{C_R \alpha_s^2}{2} \left[ C_A \left( \ln \frac{m_D^2}{T^2} + \frac{1}{2} \right) - n_f \ln 2 + a \alpha_s + b_1 g + b_2 g^2 \right] \\ &\quad + \left( 3C_R^2 - \frac{C_R C_A}{2} \right) \frac{\alpha_s^2}{24} \left( \frac{m_D}{T} \right)^2 + \mathcal{O}(g^7). \end{aligned}$$

- They lead to the previous result for  $C_{\text{PL}}(r, T)$  to order  $g^6(rT)^0$ .

# Comparison with the literature

- Recently the singlet static potential at finite temperature has been determined in a pNRQCD EFT framework in real-time.
- The real-time potential has real and imaginary parts. The singlet free energy  $f_s$  we have introduced does not agree completely with the real part of the real-time potential  $\text{Re}V_s(r)$  in the same hierarchy. The difference can be traced back to the different boundary conditions in the two cases, i.e. cyclic imaginary time vs. real large time.

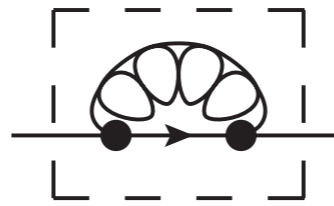
[Brambilla JG Petreczky Vairo PRD78 \(2008\)](#)

[Brambilla Escobedo JG Soto Vairo JHEP1009 \(2010\)](#)

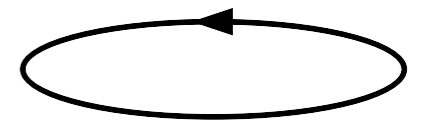
# The cyclic Wilson loop

# Renormalization of Wilson loops

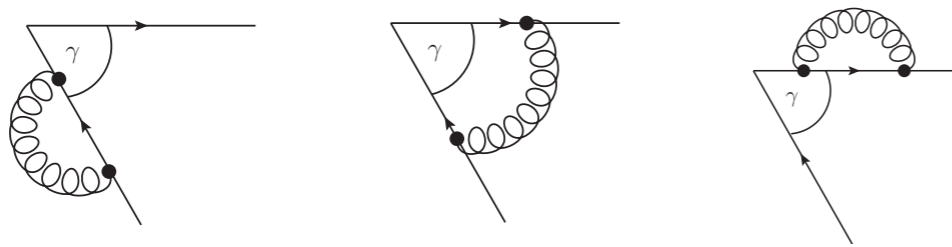
- All Wilson lines have a linear UV divergence proportional to their length:



⇒ A Wilson loop with a smooth, nonintersecting contour is finite in DR after charge renormalization



- Cusps in the contour introduce UV *cusp divergences*, renormalized multiplicatively through the *cusp anomalous dimension*, which only depends on the angle. Known in QCD to NLO



$$\frac{\alpha_s C_F}{2\pi\epsilon} (1 + (\pi - \gamma) \cot \gamma)$$

Polyakov **NPB84** (1980) Dotsenko Vergeles **NPB169** (1980) Brandt Neri Sato **PRD24** (1981) Korchemsky Radyushkin **NPB283** (1987)

# Taxonomy of Wilson loops

Loop	Divergence	Renormalization
Smooth, non-intersecting	linear	multiplicative
rectangular, non-cyclic	linear+cusp (log)	multiplicative

# The divergence in the cyclic loop

- Burnier Laine Vepsäläinen computed the loop for  $rT \sim 1$  in **JHEP1001**. After charge renormalization the result was still UV divergent at order  $g^4$

$$\begin{aligned} \ln\left(\frac{\psi_W(r)}{|\psi_P|^2}\right) &\approx \mathcal{G}_{\text{DR}}\left(\frac{1}{\epsilon}, \frac{\bar{\mu}}{T}, rT\right) \frac{C_F \exp(-m_E r)}{4\pi T r} - \frac{g^4 C_F N_c \exp(-2m_E r)}{(4\pi)^2 8T^2 r^2} \\ &+ \frac{g^4 C_F N_c}{(4\pi)^2} \left\{ \frac{2\text{Li}_2(e^{-2\pi T r}) + \text{Li}_2(e^{-4\pi T r})}{(2\pi T r)^2} \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \frac{1}{\pi T r} \int_1^\infty dx \left[ \frac{1}{x^2} \ln(1 - e^{-2\pi T r x}) + \left( \frac{1}{x^2} - \frac{1}{2x^4} \right) \ln(1 - e^{-4\pi T r x}) \right] \right\} \\ &+ \frac{g^4 C_F N_f}{(4\pi)^2} \left[ \frac{1}{2\pi T r} \int_1^\infty dx \left( \frac{1}{x^2} - \frac{1}{x^4} \right) \ln \frac{1 + e^{-2\pi T r x}}{1 - e^{-2\pi T r x}} \right] + \mathcal{O}(g^5). \end{aligned}$$

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$$\mathcal{G}_{\text{DR}}\left(\frac{1}{\epsilon}, \frac{\bar{\mu}}{T}, rT\right) \stackrel{m_E r \ll 1}{\approx} g^2 \left\{ 1 + \frac{g^2}{(4\pi)^2} \left[ 4N_c \left( \frac{1}{\epsilon} + \ln \frac{\bar{\mu}^2}{T^2} + \mathcal{O}(1) \right) \right] \right\}$$

# The divergence in the cyclic loop

- We perform a calculation for  $rT \ll 1$ , focusing only on the UV aspects and on the contribution from the scale  $1/r$ .

$$\begin{aligned} \ln W_c = & \frac{C_F \alpha_s}{rT} \left\{ 1 + \frac{\alpha_s}{4\pi} \left[ \left( \frac{31}{9} C_A - \frac{20}{9} T_F n_f \right) + \beta_0 (\ln \mu^2 r^2 + 2\gamma_E) \right] \right\} \\ & + \frac{4\pi C_F \alpha_s}{T} \int_k \frac{e^{ir \cdot \mathbf{k}} - 1}{(\mathbf{k}^2)^2} \left( -\Pi_{00 \text{ CG}}^{(T)}(0, \mathbf{k}) \right) + C_F C_A \alpha_s^2 \\ & + \frac{4C_F C_A \alpha_s^2}{T} \int_k \frac{e^{ir \cdot \mathbf{k}}}{\mathbf{k}^2} \left[ \frac{1}{\epsilon} + 1 + \gamma_E + \ln \pi + \ln \mu^2 r^2 \right] \\ & + \frac{2C_F C_A \alpha_s^2}{\pi} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n \zeta(2n)}{n(4n^2 - 1)} (rT)^{2n-1} \end{aligned}$$

The divergent terms agree. The divergence is UV and cannot be renormalized multiplicatively

# Taxonomy of Wilson loops

Loop	Divergence	Renormalization
Smooth, non-intersecting	linear	multiplicative
rectangular, non-cyclic	linear+cusp (log)	multiplicative
cyclic ( $W_c$ )	linear+??? (log)	???



# Origin of the divergence

- In Coulomb gauge the singlet free energy is finite

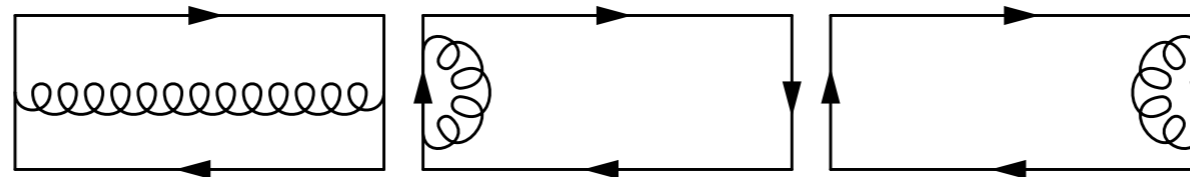
$$\ln \langle \text{Tr} L(\mathbf{r}) L^\dagger(\mathbf{0}) \rangle = \frac{C_F \alpha_s}{rT} \left\{ 1 + \frac{\alpha_s}{4\pi} \left[ \left( \frac{31}{9} C_A - \frac{20}{9} T_F n_f \right) + \beta_0 (\ln \mu^2 r^2 + 2\gamma_E) \right] \right\} \\ + \frac{4\pi C_F \alpha_s}{T} \int_k \frac{e^{i\mathbf{r}\cdot\mathbf{k}} - 1}{(\mathbf{k}^2)^2} \left( -\Pi_{00\text{CG}}^{(T)}(0, \mathbf{k}) \right)$$

# Origin of the divergence

- In Coulomb gauge the singlet free energy is finite

$$\ln \langle \text{Tr} L(\mathbf{r}) L^\dagger(\mathbf{0}) \rangle = \frac{C_F \alpha_s}{rT} \left\{ 1 + \frac{\alpha_s}{4\pi} \left[ \left( \frac{31}{9} C_A - \frac{20}{9} T_F n_f \right) + \beta_0 (\ln \mu^2 r^2 + 2\gamma_E) \right] \right\} \\ + \frac{4\pi C_F \alpha_s}{T} \int_k \frac{e^{i\mathbf{r}\cdot\mathbf{k}} - 1}{(\mathbf{k}^2)^2} \left( -\Pi_{00\text{CG}}^{(T)}(0, \mathbf{k}) \right)$$

- Add the strings: a lot of diagrams cancel because of cyclicity (all those where the two strings are connected on at least one side by the singlet component of a Polyakov line)



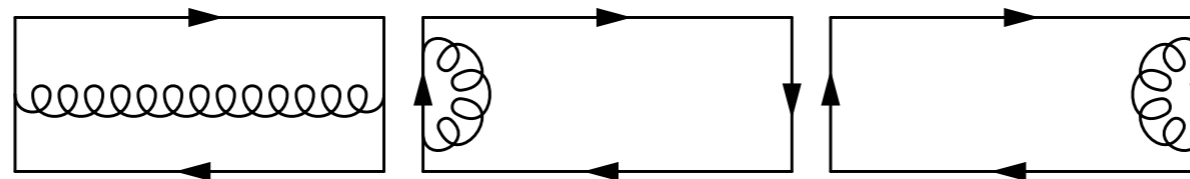
Scheme-independent cancellation

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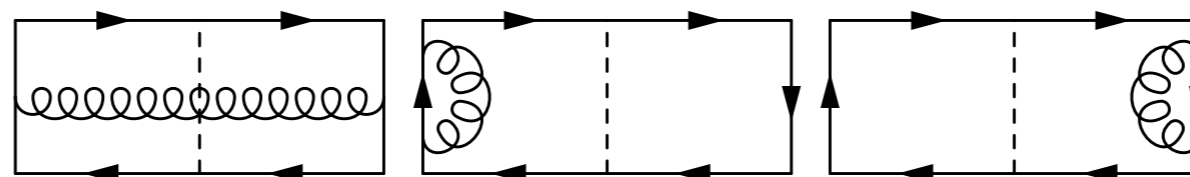
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Scheme-independent cancellation

- The divergence is then given by these diagrams



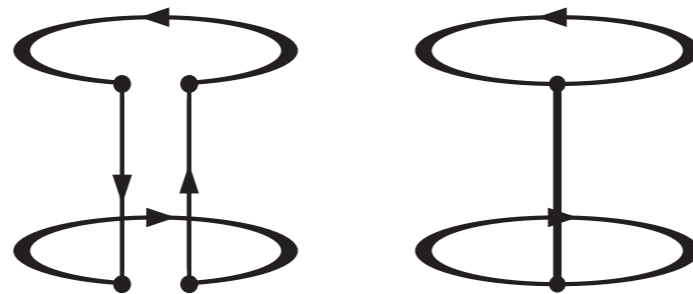
$$C_F^2 - C_F C_A / 2$$

$$C_F^2$$

$$C_F^2$$

# Renormalization

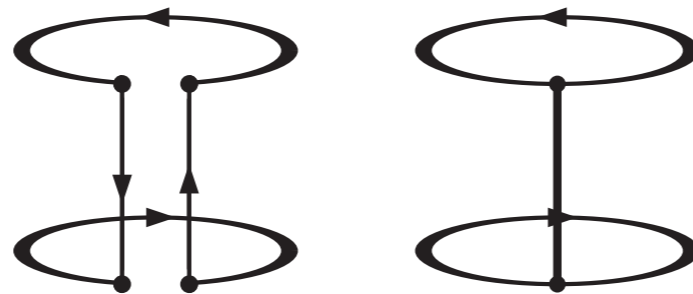
- The divergence is related to the cusp divergence, but not quite the same. Indeed, thinking cylindrically, the cyclic Wilson loop is topologically different from a regular one



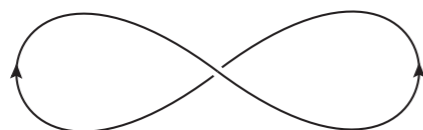
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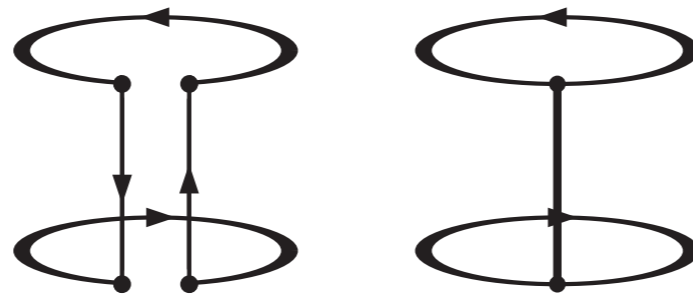


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- Wilson loops with intersections are renormalized in matrix form, by considering all possible choices of paths at the intersection

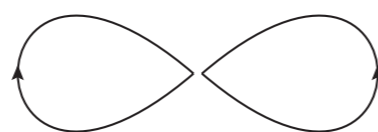
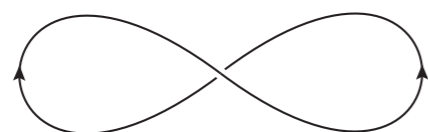


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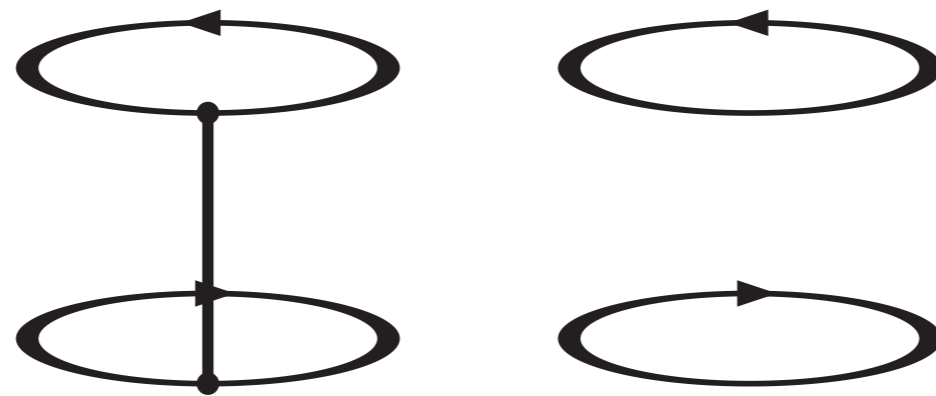
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$$W_R^i = Z^{ij}(\theta) W^j$$

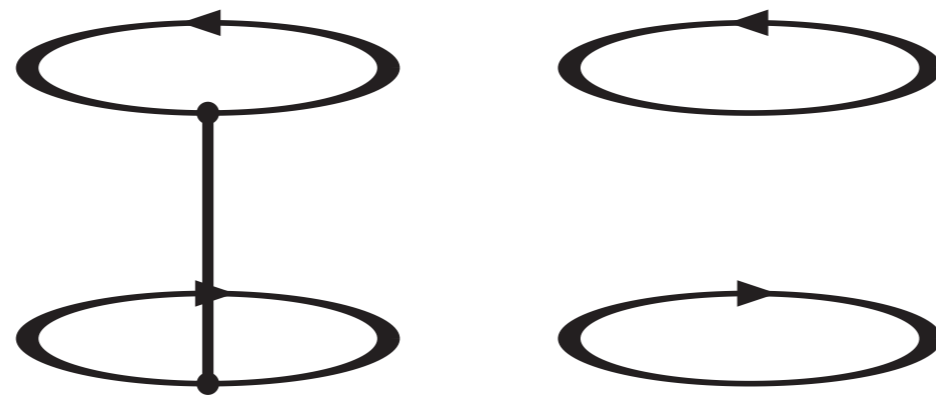
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- They are the cyclic loop ( $W_c$ ) and the correlator of two Polyakov loops ( $P_c$ ). The latter being finite, the renormalization matrix reads

$$\begin{pmatrix} W_c^R \\ P_c \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} Z & (1 - Z) \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} W_c \\ P_c \end{pmatrix}$$



# Intermediate summary

- We have obtained that the cyclic Wilson loop is not renormalized multiplicatively. Due to the periodic boundary conditions, it mixes with the Polyakov loop correlator under renormalization.

$$W_c^R = Z W_c + (1 - Z) P_c$$

- Alternatively, diagonalize the matrix  $\Rightarrow W_c - P_c$  is multiplicatively renormalizable
- This renormalization prescription is valid at weak and strong coupling

# Perturbative renormalization

- The renormalization equation gives

$$\begin{aligned} W_c^R &= ZW_c + (1 - Z)P_c \\ &= 1 + \frac{C_F\alpha_s}{rT} + \frac{C_F^2\alpha_s^2}{2r^2T^2} \\ &\quad + \frac{4\pi C_F\alpha_s}{T} \int_k \frac{e^{i\mathbf{r}\cdot\mathbf{k}}}{\mathbf{k}^2} \left( \frac{C_A\alpha_s}{\pi\epsilon} + Z_1\alpha_s + \dots \right) + \dots \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} P_c &= 1 + \mathcal{O}(g^3) \\ Z &\equiv 1 + Z_1\alpha_s + \dots \end{aligned}$$

- This implies

$$Z_1 = -\frac{C_A}{\pi} \left( \frac{1}{\epsilon} - \gamma_E + \ln 4\pi \right)$$

- The renormalization procedure has been tested successfully to order  $g^6$ , where  $P_c$  matters
- Accounting for the different geometries and signatures, it agrees with the result of [Korchenskaya Korchemsky NPB437 \(1995\)](#). Up to this order

$$Z_{1,2}^{\text{int}} = \frac{C_A}{2C_F} Z_{1,2}^{\text{cusp}}$$

# Non-perturbative renormalization

- Dealing directly with  $W_c$  is probably complicated.  $W_c - P_c$  instead is multiplicatively renormalizable
- It has linear divergences proportional to  $r$  and  $1/T$  and intersection log divergences
- Ratios like this should be cutoff-independent
$$\frac{(W_c - P_c)(r) (W_c - P_c)(2r_0 - r)}{(W_c - P_c)(r_0) (W_c - P_c)(r_0)}$$
another way of comparing PT and lattice
- First measurements of  $W_c$  in [Bazavov Petreczky](#)  
[1303.5500](#)

# Taxonomy of Wilson loops

Loop	Divergence	Renormalization
Smooth, non-intersecting	linear	multiplicative
rectangular, non-cyclic	linear+cusp (log)	multiplicative
cyclic ( $W_c$ )	linear +intersection (log)	mixing with $P_c$
$W_c - P_c$	linear+int. (log)	multiplicative

# Conclusions



- The Polyakov loop correlator  $P_c$ 
  - is a well defined, gauge invariant free energy
  - at short distances it can be expressed in an EFT framework
- The cyclic Wilson loop  $W_c$ 
  - mixes under renormalization with  $P_c$ . The difference is multiplicatively renormalizable
  - is then another well-defined and gauge-invariant operator. Comparisons with lattice are possible, as well as EFT framework