

From Running Gluon Mass to Chiral Symmetry Breaking

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1 Introduction

In recent years the non-perturbative computation of the two point correlation functions of pure Yang-Mills theory have attracted a lot of attention. For what concerns the Landau gauge gluon propagator, the subject of this communication, lattice QCD simulations, Schwinger-Dyson equations and non-perturbative quantization of Yang-Mills theories provide essentially the same results. Recent reviews can be found in [1]. In this sense, we can claim to have a fair description of this two point function over the entire range of momentum. Here we review the large volume lattice simulations performed by one of the authors, its interpretation in terms of modeling the gluon propagator and we describe how the infrared propagator can be incorporated into an effective field theory model which approximates QCD at low energies. This effective theory connects gluon confinement with a gluon mass m_g with chiral symmetry breaking. Further, the model predicts a particular simple relation between m_g and the light quark masses m_q , i.e. that m_q^2/m_g is constant. This relation is tested using the solutions of the Schwinger-Dyson equations and found to be valid in the low energy regime below the 10% accuracy level.

From the point of view of lattice simulations there are still some open questions. On the lattice, one numerically checks whether the selected Landau gauge configurations belong to the so-called Gribov region, which is the set of all transverse gauge connections with positive Faddeev-Popov operator. Within this set, one still finds Gribov copies, and it is not 100% well established if/how these additional copies influence the propagator in the (very deep) infrared region. However, previous simulations suggest that by choosing a different Gribov copy, the accompanying error lies typically within the statistical error of the propagator - see, for example, [2].

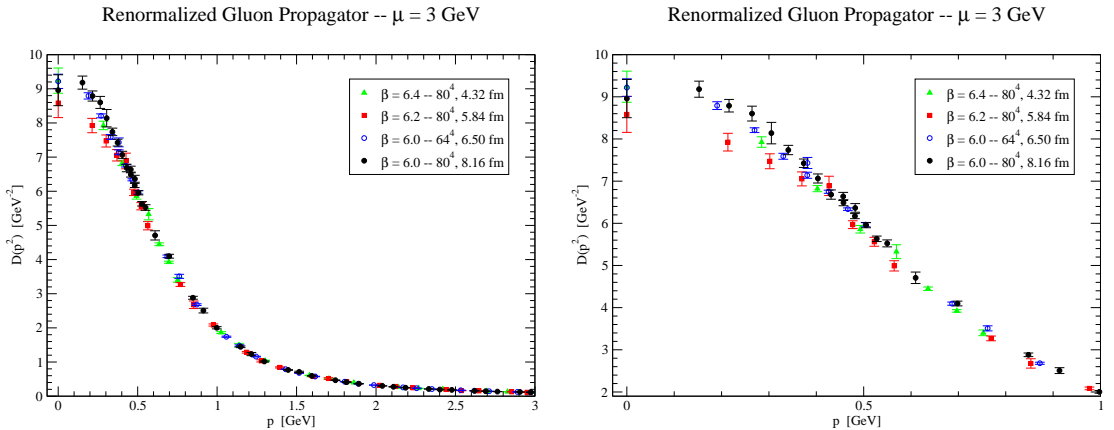


Figure 1: $D(p^2)$ for the largest volumes computed for each of the lattice spacings. The plot on the right shows $D(p^2)$ for the infrared region defined as $p < 1$ GeV.

2 The Quenched Lattice Gluon Propagator

In this section we report on the Landau gauge quenched lattice gluon propagator

$$D_{\mu\nu}^{ab}(p^2) = \delta^{ab} \left(\delta_{\mu\nu} - \frac{p_\mu p_\nu}{p^2} \right) D(p^2) \quad (1)$$

computed for large volumes $La > 3.5$ fm. The propagator has been computed previously for huge lattice volumes, for the SU(3) gauge group up to $La \approx 17$ fm [4] and for SU(2) up to $La \approx 27$ fm, but using $a \sim 0.2$ fm [3]. The non-perturbative physics scale being ~ 1 fm, it is important to check these results by performing simulations at smaller lattice spacings and evaluate the corresponding finite volume effects. Here we report the computation of the propagator for $a = 0.102$ fm ($\beta = 6.0$), $a = 0.0726$ fm ($\beta = 6.2$) and $a = 0.0544$ fm ($\beta = 6.4$) and for various volumes up to $La \approx 8.2$ fm. The results reported in this section are preliminary.

In Figure 1 we show the renormalized gluon propagator, computed with the different lattice spacings, for the largest physical volumes up to momenta $p = 3$ GeV and a zoom of the infrared region. For momenta above 1 GeV all data sets are, within errors, compatible. In the ultraviolet region, i.e. for p above ~ 2.8 GeV, all data sets are well described by the 1-loop inspired fit

$$D(p^2) = Z \frac{\left[\ln \frac{p^2}{\Lambda^2} \right]^{-\gamma}}{p^2}, \quad (2)$$

where $\gamma = 13/22$ is the gluon anomalous dimension. Indeed, for each set, the fits to (2)

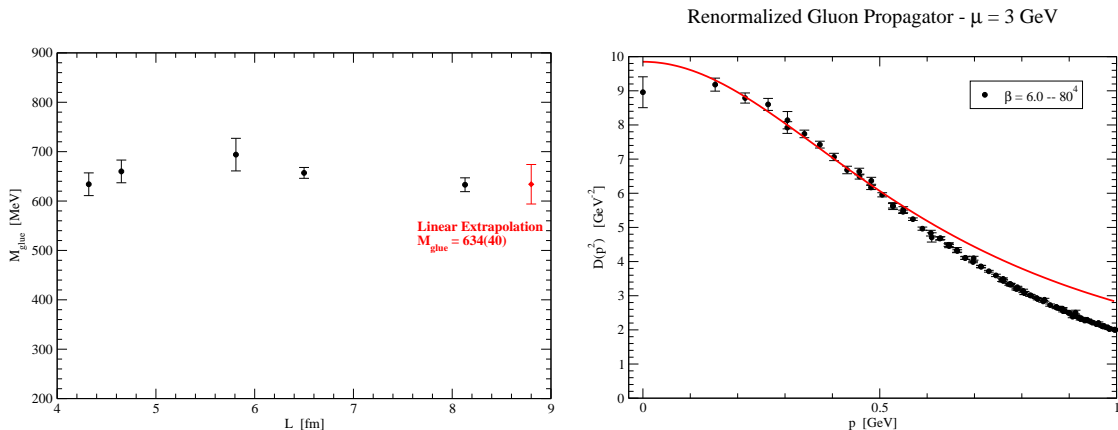


Figure 2: Gluon mass from the infrared propagator (left) computed assuming a simple pole. The point on the right is the extrapolated mass to infinite volume. The right plot illustrates a typical fit. Note that the simple pole overestimates $D(0)$.

β	La (fm)	$D(0)$ (GeV^{-2})
6.0	6.50	9.22(21)
6.0	8.16	8.96(45)
6.2	5.84	8.58(43)
6.4	4.32	9.24(37)

Table 1: $D(0)$ for the various simulations shown in Figure 1.

where used to renormalize the gluon propagator according to the MOM prescription

$$D_R(p^2) \Big|_{p^2=\mu^2} = \frac{1}{\mu^2}. \quad (3)$$

The renormalization procedure is described in detail in [2, 5]. Note, however, that in the present work, to renormalize, only the data for momenta above $p \sim 2.8$ GeV was included. In all the cases the $\chi^2/d.o.f. \sim 1$.

For the infrared region the data sets show finite volume and finite spacing effects. For example, the propagator computed using the simulation at $\beta = 6.2$, although having a smaller physical volume $(5.84 \text{ fm})^4$, is below all the remaining data sets. For $p = 0$, the large statistical error hides the differences between the various $D(0)$. For the various simulations reported here, the corresponding $D(0)$ are given in Table 1. This numbers should be compared with the large volume, $\beta = 5.7$, Wilson action SU(3) simulations performed by the Berlin-Moscow-Adelaide (BMA) group. Using the same definitions and setting the scale in the same way, i.e. from the string tension, the

BMA data reads $D(0) = 8.68(37), 8.09(36), 7.59(56), 7.17(31)$ and $7.53(19)$ GeV^{-2} for $La = 8.09, 11.76, 13.23, 14.70$ and 16.17 , respectively, given in fm.

Qualitatively, the propagators computed with the different values of β are similar. The $D(p^2)$ from the $\beta = 5.7$ simulations are below all the remaining data sets. This suggest that, in order to quote a continuum propagator, one should extrapolate the lattice propagators to the infinite volume. Recall that, in principle, the renormalization procedure removes all the lattice spacing dependence. The extrapolation is better achieved if one uses a theoretical motivated functional form to describe $D(0)$ and extrapolates its parameters to the infinite volume - see also [6, 7].

Let us assume that the infrared propagator is described by a simple mass pole

$$D(p^2) = \frac{Z}{p^2 + M^2}. \quad (4)$$

This functional form can only describe the propagator within a limited range of momenta. For example, a propagator described by (4) does not violate positivity. Violation of positivity is a well established property of the non-perturbative gluon propagator. Anyway, at minimum, a fit to (4) defines an interval range where one can approximate $D(p^2)$ by such a mass pole. The outcome of the fits as a function of the maximum range of momenta p_{max} are

β	La (fm)	p_{max} (MeV)	Z	M (MeV)	$\chi^2/d.o.f.$
6.0	6.50	504	4.12(10)	657(11)	1.3
6.0	8.16	505	3.95(12)	633(14)	1.2
6.2	5.84	522	4.35(30)	694(33)	1.2
6.4	4.32	493	3.82(20)	634(23)	0.7

It follows that the lattice propagator can be described by a pole mass up to $p \sim 500$ MeV with a gluon mass between 600 and 700 MeV. If one assumes that $M(V) = M_\infty + M_1/L$ and fit the lattice data, then the infinite volume extrapolated mass is $M_\infty = 634(40)$ MeV. The fit has a $\chi^2/d.o.f. = 1.4$. The data for the different M and the extrapolation can be seen in Figure 2. Note that the simple pole (4) overestimates $D(0)$, see right plot in Figure 2, and that is the reason why we do not provide the details of the extrapolation of Z and $D(0)$.

The lattice data can be described by a propagator of type (4) if Z and M are functions of momentum, i.e. for

$$D(p^2) = \frac{Z(p^2)}{p^2 + M^2(p^2)}. \quad (5)$$

A momentum dependent gluon mass together with a $Z(p^2)$ were investigated in [8], where the same functional forms were used to fit the decoupling solutions of the

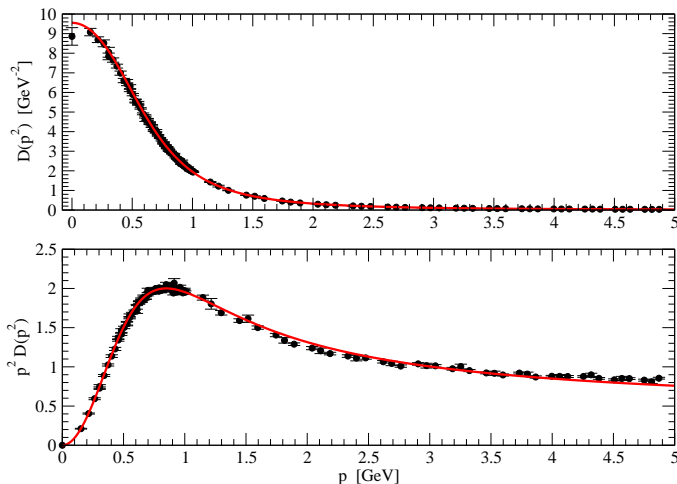


Figure 3: Gluon propagator and the fit to (5) using the definitions (6). Note that the functional form used here also overestimates $D(0)$.

β	La	$\frac{\chi^2}{d.o.f.}$	M^2	$M^2 + m^2$	λ^4	p_{max}
6.0	4.88	1.6	2.81(9)	0.62(3)	0.284(7)	1.2
6.0	6.50	1.1	2.66(6)	0.54(2)	0.288(5)	0.95
6.0	8.13	1.1	2.41(5)	0.47(2)	0.261(4)	1.6
6.2	3.49	1.1	2.5(1)	0.48(4)	0.28(1)	1.4
6.2	4.65	1.4	2.44(7)	0.48(3)	0.276(6)	1.5
6.2	5.81	1.2	2.3(1)	0.42(4)	0.273(9)	1.6

Table 2: Fits of the lattice data to tree level RGZ propagator. La is given in fm and the mass scales and higher momenta in the fitting p_{max} are given in power of GeV.

Schwinger-Dyson equations. According to this work the lattice data can be described by

$$Z(p^2) = \frac{z_0}{\left[\ln \frac{p^2 + r m_0^2}{\Lambda^2}\right]^\gamma} \quad \text{and} \quad M^2(p^2) = \frac{m_0^4}{p^2 + m_0^2} \quad (6)$$

up to momenta $p_{max} = 4.2$ GeV. The values of the fitted parameters for the largest physical volume are

$$z_0 = 1.189(20), \quad \Lambda = 1.842(39) \text{ GeV}, \quad r = 7.49(59) \quad \text{and} \quad m_0 = 671(9) \text{ MeV}.$$

The gluon data and the fit to (5) are reported in Figure 3. Note that, as in the case of simple pole mass, the fit overestimates $D(0)$.

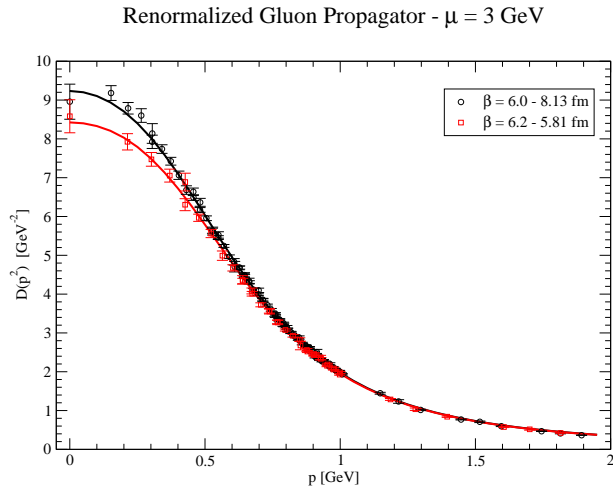


Figure 4: Gluon propagator and the fits to (7) for the largest lattice volumes. Note that the RGZ reproduces well all the lattice data points, including $D(0)$.

The refined Gribov-Zwanziger (RGZ) action is an improvement over the usual Faddeev-Popov quantization procedure for Yang-Mills theories, in the sense that it provides a better way to handle the problem of the Gribov copies by restricting the functional integration space to the so-called Gribov region. The RGZ action is renormalizable, in the perturbative sense, and introduces new auxiliary bosonic and fermionic fields. In what concerns the gluon propagator, the RGZ tree level propagator is given by

$$D(p^2) = \frac{p^2 + M^2}{p^4 + (M^2 + m^2)p^2 + 2g^2N\gamma^4 + M^2m^2}, \quad (7)$$

where M^2 is a mass scale related to the new auxiliary fields, m^2 is another mass scale related with the $\langle A^2 \rangle$ condensate and γ^4 is the Gribov parameter. γ^4 is not a free parameter but is fixed by the so-called horizon condition [9]. In the following we shall introduce the shorthand $\lambda^4 = 2g^2N\gamma^4 + M^2m^2$. The RGZ being a non-perturbative quantization for the Yang-Mills theories, one hopes that its tree level predictions provide a good description for the infrared. The propagator (7) can be rewritten as

$$D(p^2) = \frac{1}{p^2 + M^2(p^2)} \quad \text{with} \quad M^2(p^2) = m^2 + \frac{2g^2N\gamma^4}{p^2 + M^2}. \quad (8)$$

In this sense, the RGZ action predicts a momentum dependent effective gluon mass which is essentially the functional form analyzed previously, i.e. $M^2(p^2)$ given by equation (6). The tree level expression for $D(p^2)$ does not include the observed logarithmic corrections at high energies and, therefore, one expects (7) to deviate

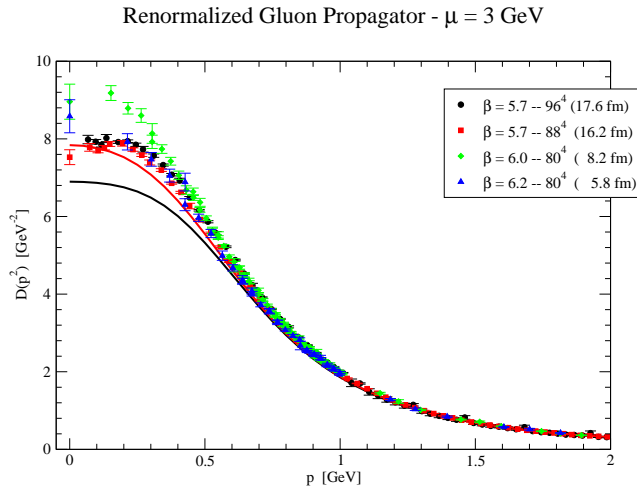


Figure 5: Gluon propagator and the fit to (7) using the linear extrapolated parameters. The red line was computed using the extrapolated $\beta = 6.2$ values, while the black line used the extrapolated $\beta = 6.0$ parameters.

from the lattice data in the ultraviolet region. In order to extrapolate to the infinite volume and to have an estimate of the error on this extrapolation, we fit the following two sets of data to (7): (i) 48^4 with $La = 4.88 \text{ fm}$, 64^4 with $La = 6.50 \text{ fm}$ and 80^4 with $La = 8.13 \text{ fm}$ for $\beta = 6.0$; (ii) 48^4 with $La = 3.49 \text{ fm}$, 64^4 with $La = 4.65 \text{ fm}$ and 80^4 with $La = 5.81 \text{ fm}$ for $\beta = 6.2$. The fits are summarized in Table 2. The lattice data and the fits for the largest physical volumes are reported in Figure 4. Note that the RGZ propagator reproduces well all the lattice data, including $D(0)$.

The infrared propagator can be extrapolated to the infinite volume if one assumes a linear dependence on $1/(La)$. The extrapolations give

β	$\frac{\chi^2}{d.o.f.}$	M^2	$\frac{\chi^2}{d.o.f.}$	$M^2 + m^2$	$\frac{\chi^2}{d.o.f.}$	λ^4
6.0	1.7	1.80(24)	0.3	0.247(35)	8.8	0.225(43)
6.2	0.4	2.06(18)	0.8	0.364(99)	0.0	0.2628(11)

and the corresponding zero momentum value is

$$D(0) = \begin{cases} 6.90(93) \text{ GeV}^{-2} & \text{from the } \beta = 6.0 \text{ data set,} \\ 7.84(69) \text{ GeV}^{-2} & \text{from the } \beta = 6.2 \text{ data set.} \end{cases} \quad (9)$$

In the computation of $D(0)$, given the poor quality of the linear extrapolation for λ^4 , we have used instead the fitted value from the largest physical volume. Figure 5 shows the lattice gluon propagator for the largest physical volumes computed using different lattice spacings and the extrapolated fits to (7) as described above.

In the RGZ propagator, the parameter m^2 is related to the $\langle A^2 \rangle$. If one uses the figures from the extrapolations it follows

$$\langle g^2 A^2 \rangle_{3 \text{ GeV}} = \begin{cases} 2.71(41) \text{ GeV}^2 & \text{from the } \beta = 6.0 \text{ data set,} \\ 3.21(48) \text{ GeV}^2 & \text{from the } \beta = 6.2 \text{ data set.} \end{cases} \quad (10)$$

or

$$\langle g^2 A^2 \rangle_{10 \text{ GeV}} = \begin{cases} 2.45(38) \text{ GeV}^2 & \text{from the } \beta = 6.0 \text{ data set,} \\ 2.90(43) \text{ GeV}^2 & \text{from the } \beta = 6.2 \text{ data set.} \end{cases} \quad (11)$$

The values are slightly below those reported in [5].

3 The Gluon Mass and Chiral Symmetry Breaking

A gluon mass term in the QCD action is forbidden by gauge invariance and, therefore, a gluon mass m_g has to be generated dynamically. A non-vanishing mass means that the gluon field is short ranged. We should be careful not to attribute a physical meaning to this “massive” gluon, given the already mentioned positivity violation, which is a indication of the unphysical (confined) nature of the gluon. Besides providing the screening of the gluon, one may ask if there are additional implications of having $m_g \neq 0$. In this section, we show that, within an effective field theory for low energy QCD, a gluon mass is connected with chiral symmetry breaking, i.e. the theory either has $m_g \neq 0$ and chiral symmetry is broken or chiral symmetry is restored and the gluon is a long range field. This section is based in the work [10].

In QCD the fundamental fields are associated with quarks and gluons. However, to describe the low energy regime of QCD other fields can be included to define an effective theory. Let us assume that the non-perturbative physics is mainly associated with the gluon sector. Pure Yang-Mills theory has multi-gluon configurations as bound states. The simplest of these bound states is a two gluon state. Given that the gluon belongs to the adjoint representation, the two gluon state can be decomposed according to $8 \otimes 8 = 1 \oplus 8 \oplus 8 \oplus 10 \oplus \overline{10} \oplus 27$. The lowest dimensional irrep is a singlet and can be identified with glueball states. The lightest glueball state has $J^{PC} = 0^{++}$ and a predicted mass of ~ 1.7 GeV [11]. Such a mass scale is well above the usual low energy mass scales, ~ 1 GeV or lower, and therefore, from the point of view of an effective theory, one expects the singlet to play a minor role. The next lower dimensional representations are the two 8 representations. They distinguish amongst themselves because one of them is symmetric under interchange of the gluons, while the other one is antisymmetric. Of the 8 irreps only the symmetric representation can generate a scalar field, which can be written as

$$\phi^a \propto d_{abc} F_{\mu\nu}^b F^{c\mu\nu}, \quad (12)$$

where $F_{\mu\nu}^a$ is the non-abelian Maxwell tensor. Of course, one can add to the above definition a quark contribution given by, for example, $\bar{q} t^a q$, where t^a are the generators of the fundamental representation. Adding the two terms enables to estimate the contribution of quarks and gluons to the effective field,

$$\phi^a \approx \frac{\langle F^2 \rangle}{\Lambda^3} + \frac{\langle \bar{q} q \rangle}{\Lambda^2}, \quad (13)$$

where $\Lambda \sim \Lambda_{QCD}$ is a non-perturbative mass scale. Plugging into this the gluon condensate $\alpha_s \langle F^2 \rangle = 0.04 \text{ GeV}^4$ and the light quark condensate $\langle \bar{q} q \rangle = (-270 \text{ MeV})^3$, it follows that the ratio gluon to quark content of ϕ^a is around 7.

Let us consider an effective theory which includes the gluon field A_μ , the quark fields q_f , where f is a flavor index, and an effective scalar field ϕ^a that belongs to the adjoint representation of the SU(3) color group. In the following we will assume that the non-perturbative physics is contained in ϕ^a . Furthermore, being an effective field theory, it should describe hadronic physics only in the low energy regime and it does not need to be renormalizable. The effective Lagrangian reads

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L} = & -\frac{1}{4} F_{\mu\nu}^a F^{a\mu\nu} + \sum_f \bar{q}_f \{i\gamma^\mu D_\mu - m_f\} q_f \\ & + \frac{1}{2} D^\mu \phi^a D_\mu \phi^a - V_{oct}(\phi^a \phi^a) + \mathcal{L}_{GF} + \mathcal{L}_{ghost} \\ & - G_4 \sum_f [\bar{q}_f t^a q] \phi^a \\ & - G_5 \sum_f [\bar{q}_f q] \phi^a \phi^a - F_1 \sum_f [\bar{q}_f q] d_{abc} \phi^b \phi^c \\ & - F_2 \sum_f [\bar{q}_f t^a \gamma^\mu q] D_\mu \phi^a - F_3 \sum_f [\bar{q}_f t^a \gamma^\mu D_\mu q] \phi^a + h.c. \end{aligned} \quad (14)$$

where $D_\mu = \partial_\mu + igT^a A_\mu$ is the covariant derivative, T^a the SU(3) generators, m_f the current quark mass associated with flavor f , V_{oct} the effective potential associated with the scalar field. \mathcal{L}_{GF} is the gauge fixing part of the Lagrangian and \mathcal{L}_{ghost} contains the ghost terms. The Lagrangian is gauge invariant, excepts for the \mathcal{L}_{GF} term. The effective gauge coupling constant g parameterizes residual interactions and it should be a small number, i.e. one expects the theory can be treated perturbatively. The new interactions with the scalar field, the terms proportional to G_4 , G_5 , F_1 , F_2 and F_3 , where written assuming flavor independence of strong interactions.

\mathcal{L} includes the QCD Lagrangian and verifies the usual soft-pion theorems of chiral symmetry at low energy. The new interactions introduce new vertices, not present in the original QCD Lagrangian, which contribute to quark processes. Note that the only new quark color singlet operator mimics the 3P_0 model describing OZI-allowed mesonic strong decays.

The ϕ^a kinetic term couples to a quadratic gluon term through the operator

$$\frac{1}{2}g^2\phi^c(T^aT^b)_{cd}\phi^dA_\mu^aA^{b\mu}. \quad (15)$$

If the scalar fields acquires a vacuum expectation value without breaking color symmetry, i.e.

$$\langle\phi^a\rangle=0 \quad \text{and} \quad \langle\phi^a\phi^b\rangle=v^2\delta^{ab}, \quad (16)$$

given that for the adjoint representation $tr(T^aT^b)=N_c\delta^{ab}$, the gluon mass reads

$$m_g^2=N_cg^2v^2, \quad (17)$$

where $N_c=3$. From the definition it follows that $\langle\phi^a\phi^b\rangle$, i.e. v^2 , and therefore the gluon mass is gauge invariant. The proof of gauge invariance follows from the transformation properties of ϕ^a .

In the same way, the operator $G_5[\bar{q}q]\phi^a\phi^a$ shifts the quark masses giving rise to a constituent quark mass

$$M_f=m_f-(N_c^2-1)G_5v^2=m_f-\frac{N_c^2-1}{N_c}\frac{G_5}{g^2}m_g^2. \quad (18)$$

For light quarks, the constituent quark mass is given by the quark self energy which, in the model, is linked with the gluon mass. Note, for our definitions, that G_5 is a negative number. If the constituent mass for the light quarks vanishes, chiral symmetry should be broken dynamically, whereby the relation $M_f\propto m_g^2$ in the effective model links chiral symmetry with a finite effective gluon mass.

The quark condensate $\langle\bar{q}q\rangle$, an order parameter for chiral symmetry breaking, can be computed in the model as a function of the constituent quark mass, the gluon mass and the theory cut-off - see [10] for details. Then, if one identifies the gluon mass with the mass measured from the lattice using a simple pole propagator, $m_g=634$ MeV, together with $M_f=330$ MeV and $\langle\bar{q}q\rangle=(-270\text{ MeV})^3$, one is able to estimate some of the theory parameters:

$$\bar{\omega}=879\text{ MeV}, \quad gv=366\text{ MeV} \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{G_5}{g^2}=-0.31\text{ GeV}^{-1},$$

where $\bar{\omega}$ is the theory's cut-off.

4 Testing a Model Prediction

The effective model relates the constituent quark mass M and the gluon mass m_g through equation (18). For a vanishing current mass, equation (18) predicts a constant value for the ratio M/m_g^2 , at least at tree level. This result can be tested looking

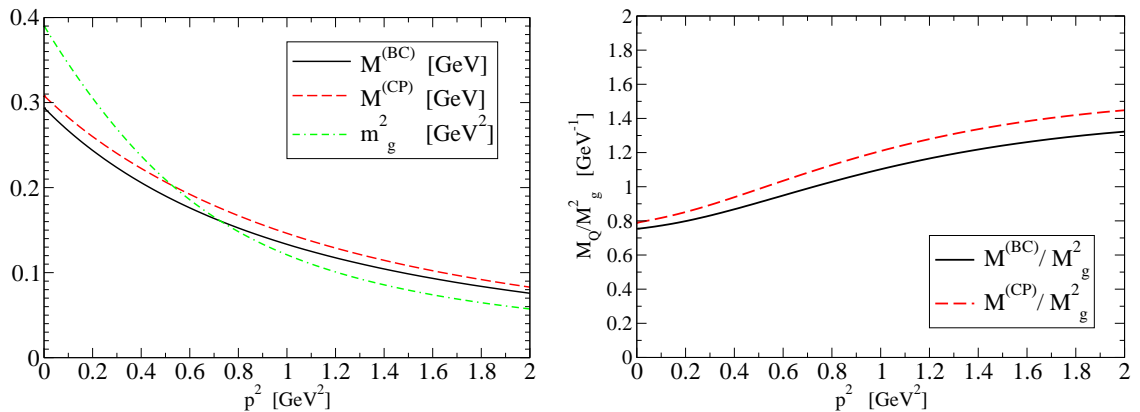


Figure 6: On the left hand side, the plot shows the quark masses from solving the fermionic SDE gap equation, using different ansätze for the quark-gluon vertex, and the squared gluon mass computed from quenched lattice simulations. Note that $M(p^2)$ depends slightly on the definition of the quark-gluon vertex. On the right hand side, the plot shows the ratio M/m_g^2 .

at the solutions of the Schwinger-Dyson equations. In the following we will use the results published in [12]. For the gluon and ghost propagators, the authors used the results of lattice QCD simulations and solved the gap equation for a massless fermion. The calculation does not take into account fermion loops and can be viewed as a quenched approximation.

In [12], the fermionic gap equation was solved for two different ansätze for the quark-gluon vertex, a non-Abelian improved version of the Ball-Chiu vertex and an improved version of the Curtis-Pennington vertex. The choice of vertex leads to slightly different quark mass. In order to distinguish, the results of the Ball-Chiu vertex will be referred as BC, while the results from using the Curtis-Pennington vertex will be referred as CP. Figure 6 shows M computed from the Schwinger-Dyson equations for the different vertex ansätze, together with m_g^2 , as a function of p^2 and, on the right hand side, the ratio M/m_g^2 . The plots show that M/m_g^2 increases slightly. If one looks at the maximal momentum range where the lattice gluon propagator can be fitted by a simple pole, i.e. if one compares the ratios up to momenta $p \sim 0.5$ GeV, then M/m_g^2 changes by less than 8%, relative to its zero momentum value, when using the BC quark-gluon vertex and less than 10% when using the CP vertex.

5 Results and Conclusions

We have currently a fair description of the gluon propagator over all momentum ranges. To extract the various parameters modeling the propagator, it would be

desirable to perform a high statistic and large volume simulation.

The results of lattice simulations and Schwinger-Dyson equations show that the gluon propagator behaves as a dynamically massive gauge boson in the infrared region, see also the discussion in [13] and references therein, and, the effective model sketched here, shows a connection between the gluon mass and chiral symmetry breaking. Comparing the tree level mass ratio prediction with the solutions of the Schwinger-Dyson equations we found good agreement in the low energy regime.

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