The Infrared behaviour of the gluon propagator in SU(2) and SU(3) without lattice Gribov copies

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We present lattice results for the gluon propagator for SU(2) and SU(3) in the Laplacian gauge which avoids lattice Gribov copies. In SU(3) we compare with the most recent lattice calculation in Landau gauge and with various approximate solutions of the Dyson Schwinger equations (DSE).

**Introduction**

We first summarize the results obtained within the Landau gauge\textsuperscript{1}: By solving approximately the DSE, Mandelstam found an infrared enhanced gluon propagator of the form $D(q^2) \sim \frac{1}{q^4}$. Avoiding gauge copies, Gribov obtained $D(q^2) \sim \frac{q^2}{q^4 + m^2}$. Using the “pinch technique”, Cornwall\textsuperscript{2} obtained a solution which fulfills the Ward identities, allows a dynamical mass generation, and also predicts a finite value for $D(0) \equiv D(q^2 = 0)$ consistent with our data.

Early results for the gluon propagator obtained directly from Lattice QCD on small lattices\textsuperscript{4} were interpreted in terms of a massive scalar propagator. Results on larger lattices were accounted for by assuming a positive anomalous dimension\textsuperscript{5}: $D(q^2) \sim \frac{1}{q^2(1 + \alpha)} + m^2$. A recent, detailed study of the gluon propagator uses very large lattices\textsuperscript{6}. Since we want to compare our results with these, we follow closely their analysis and refer to Refs.\textsuperscript{6,7} for details.

In the Laplacian gauge, the longitudinal part of the gluon propagator does not vanish; the transverse scalar function $D(q^2)$ can be extracted from $D_{\mu\nu}(q)$ as

$$D(q^2) = \frac{1}{4} \left\{ \sum_{\mu} \sum_{a} D_{\mu\mu}^{aa}(q) \right\} - \frac{1}{4} \frac{F(q^2)}{q^2} ,$$

where $F(q^2)$ is determined by projecting the longitudinal part of $D_{\mu\nu}(q)$ using the symmetric tensor $q^\mu q^\nu$.

**Gauge Fixing Procedure**

Previous lattice studies all fixed to Landau gauge by using a local iterative maximization algorithm, which converges to any one of many local maxima (lattice Gribov copy), but fails to determine the global one. To overcome this problem, we use a different gauge condition, the Laplacian gauge\textsuperscript{3}, which is Lorentz-symmetric and gives a smooth gauge field like the Landau gauge, but which specifies the gauge unambiguously. We consider the maximization

\textsuperscript{*}Talk given by C. Alexandrou
of $Q = \text{Re} \sum_{x,\mu} \text{Tr} \left[ g(x)U_{\mu}(x)g^\dagger(x+\hat{\mu}) - g(x)g(x)^\dagger \right]$. If one relaxes the requirement that $g \in SU(N)$, maximizing $Q$ is equivalent to minimizing the quadratic form $\sum_{xy} f_x^2 \Delta_{xy} f_y$, with $\Delta(U)$ the covariant Laplacian. Using the $(N-1)$ lowest-lying eigenvectors $f_i(x)$ of $\Delta(U)$, one can fix the gauge uniquely by requiring $\forall x, f_i^*(x) \in \mathbb{R}, f_j^*(x) = 0, j = (i+1), \ldots, N$.

**Results**

In Fig.1 we show the transverse gluon propagator for SU(2) Yang-Mills theory in two different volumes; $m_0 \equiv \sqrt{D(0)-1}$ for the $16^4$ lattice. Changing the volume has little effect, in particular on $D(0)$. We observe similarly small volume effects in SU(3). This is strikingly different from Landau gauge, where Zwanziger has argued that $D(0)$ should vanish in the infinite lattice volume limit. This prediction is indeed consistent with recent lattice results in SU(2) at finite temperature. In contrast, in the Laplacian gauge, we find that $D(0)$ is finite and independent of the volume $V$ for $V$ larger than about $1/2 \text{fm}^4 \sim D(0)^2$. We find $D(0) = 58(2)$ in lattice units at $\beta = 6.0$, i.e. $D(0)^{-1/2} = 248(5)$ MeV (using $a^{-1} = 1.885$ GeV), corresponding to a length scale of about 0.8 fm.

In Fig.2 we compare results for the gluon propagator in SU(3) quenched QCD in Laplacian and Landau gauges. ($m_0 \equiv \sqrt{D(0)-1}$ in the Laplacian gauge). Scaling is checked on the $16^3 \times 32$ lattice for $\beta = 5.8$ and 6.0. Making a cylindrical cut in the momenta to minimize lattice artifacts, we find that scaling is very well satisfied for the Laplacian gauge, with both sets of data falling on a universal curve.

We fit to our data the same models as considered by Leinweber et al. in Landau gauge. Since we have observed scaling, we use our results at the
finer lattice spacing ($\beta = 6.0$) for the fits. Table 1 and Fig. 3 summarize the results of the fits to the various models. We find that Gribov–type models are excluded, whereas Cornwall’s model is clearly favored among all analytically motivated models. Model “A”\[1] which gives a better fit, is phenomenological, contains one more parameter, and misses $D(0)$ by 25%. One can then use the fit to Cornwall’s model to analytically continue to negative $q^2$ and determine the gluon pole mass. This is carried out in Ref.\[7].

In conclusion, we see significant modifications from Landau gauge in the infrared. In particular, we find that $D(0)$ obeys scaling, is finite, and volume independent for large enough volumes. We find support for Cornwall’s model which fits the momentum dependence of the propagator rather well, whereas models with infrared enhancement of the type $1/(q^2)^2$ or Gribov–type suppression are excluded.

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