

CENTER-SYMMETRIC LANDAU GAUGE MEETS THE LATTICE

Duifje Maria van Egmond

Phys. Rev. D 112 (2025) 1, 014512

In collaboration with Urko Reinosa, Matthieu Tissier, Julien Serreau,
Orlando Oliveira and Paulo Silva



IFT - UNESP
INSTITUTO DE FÍSICA TEÓRICA

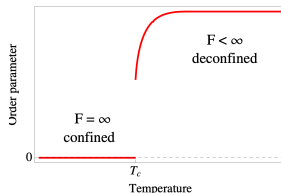


International Centre
for Theoretical Physics
South American Institute
for Fundamental Research

INTRODUCTION

- At some very high temperature T_c , hadrons become free quarks and gluons $\rightarrow$ **quark-gluon plasma**.
- An order parameter for this transition is the **Polyakov loop**:

$$\ell \sim \langle P e^{i \int_0^\beta d\tau A_0(\tau, x)} \rangle \sim e^{-\beta F}$$



- Under center symmetry, $\ell \rightarrow Z_N \ell$, so deconfinement is signaled by a broken center symmetry (in pure Yang-Mills).
- Confirmed by lattice data: second order transition for $SU(2)$, first order for $SU(3)$.

ENCODING OF THE TRANSITION

Polyakov loop:

$$\ell \sim \langle P e^{i \int_0^\beta d\tau A_0(\tau, x)} \rangle \sim e^{-\beta F}.$$

Because the Polyakov loop is related to A_0 , it is expected that the transition is encoded in (the tower of)

$$\langle A_0 \rangle, \langle A_0 A_0 \rangle, \dots, \langle A_0^n \rangle.$$

For the appropriate choice of gauge, can the transition be reflected in the lowest order correlators?

LANDAU GAUGE CORRELATOR

In principle:

- $\langle A \rangle$ is found by minimizing the effective action $\Gamma[A]$. It represents the state of the system . $\langle A_0 \rangle \rightarrow$ order parameter.
- The two-point correlator derives from the effective action

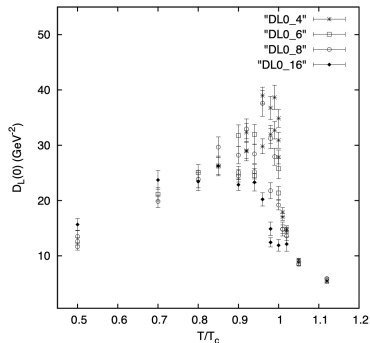
$$1 \left/ \frac{\partial^2 \Gamma}{\partial A^2} \right|_{A=\langle A \rangle} = \langle AA \rangle_c,$$

so for $SU(2)$, $\langle A_0 A_0 \rangle$ should diverge at T_c .

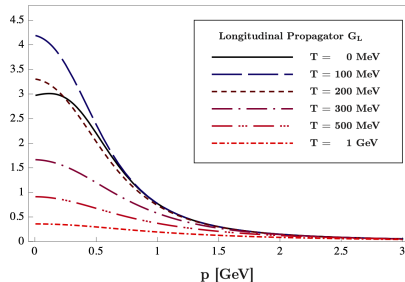
In practice:

- In the Landau gauge, $\partial_\mu A_\mu = 0$, then $\langle A_0 \rangle = 0$. $\rightarrow$ no order parameter.
- No evidence of divergence of $\langle A_0 A_0 \rangle$ was found on the (gauge-fixed) lattice or in the continuum.

$SU(2)$ LANDAU GAUGE CORRELATORS



Electric susceptibility (zero momentum longitudinal propagator)



Longitudinal gluon propagator

*T. Mendes and A. Cucchieri, PoS LATTICE2014, 183 (2015).

*L. Fister and J. M. Pawłowski, [arXiv:1112.5440 [hep-ph]](2012).

BACKGROUND FIELD GAUGES

- In the **Landau gauge** the effective action is not explicitly center-symmetric because $\Gamma[A] \neq \Gamma[A^U]$.
- Introducing a background field $\bar{A}$, the effective action is gauge-invariant $\Gamma_{\bar{A}}[A] = \Gamma_{\bar{A}^U}[A^U]$. Landau-deWitt gauge:

$$\bar{D}_\mu(A_\mu - \bar{A}_\mu) = 0, \text{ with } \bar{D}_\mu \equiv \partial_\mu - [\bar{A}_\mu, \cdot].$$

- We propose the **Center-symmetric Landau gauge**, which fixes $\bar{A} = \bar{A}_c$. Then $\Gamma_{\bar{A}_c}[A] = \Gamma_{\bar{A}_c}[A^{U^c}]$.

OUR SETUP

- We work in the Landau-deWitt gauge with a background field $\bar{A}_\mu$:

$$\bar{D}_\mu(A_\mu - \bar{A}_\mu) = 0, \text{ with } \bar{D}_\mu \equiv \partial_\mu - [\bar{A}_\mu, \cdot].$$

- We take $\bar{A}$ and $\langle A \rangle$ in the temporal direction, $\propto \delta_{\mu 0}$, and along the diagonal color directions (σ^3 for $SU(2)$, (λ^3, λ^8) for $SU(3)$), so that $\Gamma[A, \bar{A}] \propto V(A, \bar{A})$.
- The center-symmetric values for $\bar{A}$ and $\langle A \rangle$ are found by Weyl chambers. For example in $SU(2)$, $\langle A \rangle = \delta_{\mu 0} \frac{T}{g} r \frac{\sigma^3}{2}$ with $r \rightarrow 2\pi - r$, then $r_c = \pi$.
- We fix $\bar{A} = \bar{A}_c$: **Center-symmetric Landau gauge**.
Center-symmetric phase when $\langle A \rangle = A_c$, $\rightarrow$ **order parameter**.

CURCI-FERRARI MODEL

We have computed $\langle A \rangle$ and $\langle A(0, p)A(0, -p) \rangle$ up to first loop order in the finite temperature Curci-Ferrari model:

$$S = S_{YM} + S_{gf} + \int_{x, \tau} \frac{m^2}{2} (A_\mu^a - \bar{A}_\mu^a)^2$$

Several motivations:

- Perturbative gauge-fixed Yang-Mills **breaks down** at low energies (Landau pole, Gribov copies...), there is no analytical model for this region.
- A gluon mass term seems to dominate the (unknown) gauge-fixed action in the IR; decoupling behaviour on the lattice. CF could be an **effective model**.
- The CF model is renormalizable, avoids the Landau pole and lifts the degeneracy between Gribov copies. Perturbative window into non-perturbative region.

RESULTS - $T_c(\text{MeV})$

	Lattice	CF-CS, 1-lp ¹	FRG-BG ²	CF-BG, 1-lp ³	CF-BG, 2-lp ⁴
SU(2)	295	265	230	238	284
SU(3)	270	267	275	185	254

BG: Background effective action

CS: Centrosymmetric Landau gauge

.

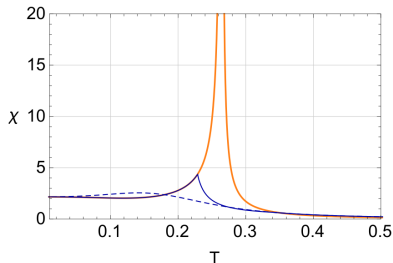
¹ DvE, U. Reinosa, J. Serreau and M. Tissier, *SciPost Phys.* **12**, 087 (2022)

² L. Fister and J. M. Pawłowski, *Phys.Rev.* D88 (2013) 045010

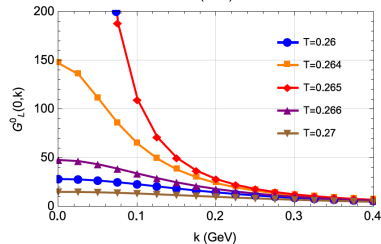
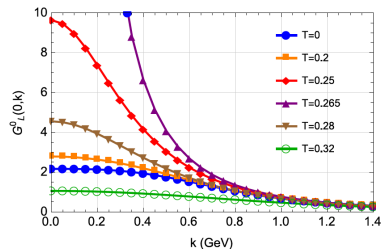
³ U. Reinosa, J. Serreau, M. Tissier and N. Wschebor, *Phys.Lett.* B742 (2015) 61-68.

⁴ U. Reinosa, J. Serreau, M. Tissier and N. Wschebor, *Phys.Rev.* D93 (2016) 105002. 

RESULTS: SU(2) GLUON PROPAGATOR



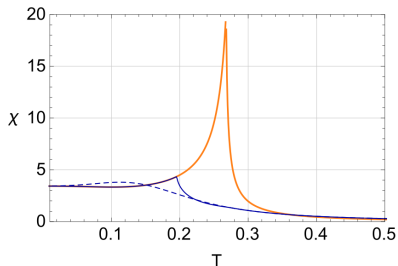
Landau gauge
Background field effective action
Centrosymmetric Landau gauge



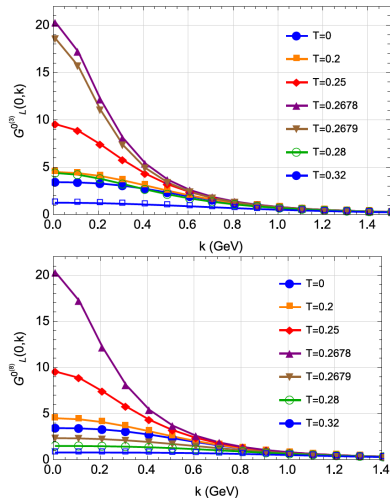
$m=0.68 \text{ GeV}$, $\mu=1 \text{ GeV}$, $g=7.5$

*DvE, U. Reinosa, J. Serreau and M. Tissier, SciPost Phys. 12, 087 (2022).

RESULTS: SU(3) GLUON PROPAGATOR



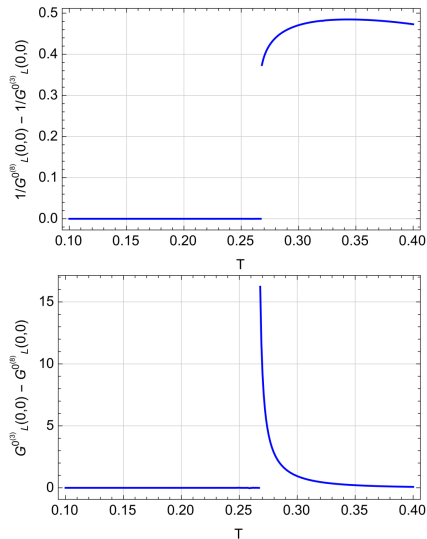
Landau gauge
Background field effective action
Centersymmetric Landau gauge



$m=0.54$ GeV, $\mu=1$ GeV, $g=4.9$

*DvE, U. Reinosa, J. Serreau and M. Tissier, SciPost Phys. 12, 087 (2022).

SU(3) PROPAGATOR DIFFERENCE



CS LANDAU GAUGE MEETS THE LATTICE

The center-symmetric Landau gauge can be implemented on the lattice by maximizing

$$F = \sum_{x,\mu} \text{Re Tr} \left[g_c^\dagger(\mu) U_\mu(x) \right]$$

with

$$g_c^\dagger(\mu) = e^{iaT\bar{r}_j t_j \delta_{\mu 4}} = e^{iag\bar{A}_{c,\mu} \delta_{\mu 4}}.$$

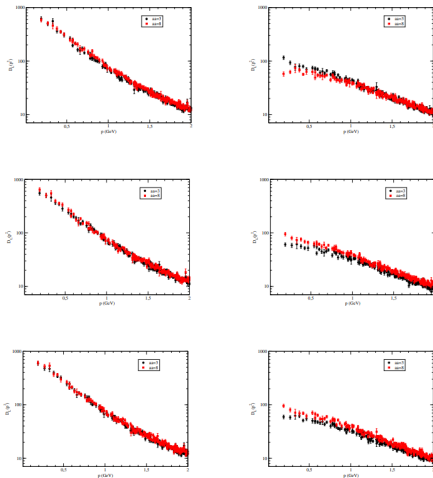
This is invariant under $U_\mu(n) \rightarrow \tilde{g}(n) U_\mu^\dagger(n) \tilde{g}^\dagger(n + \hat{\mu})$ with

$$\tilde{g}(n) = e^{i\pi \frac{\lambda_4}{2}} e^{i\pi \frac{\lambda_1}{2}} e^{-i \frac{n_4}{L_4} \pi \left(\lambda_3 + \frac{\lambda_8}{\sqrt{3}} \right)}$$

Here, a is lattice spacing and $aT = 1/L_t$.

CS LANDAU GAUGE MEETS THE LATTICE

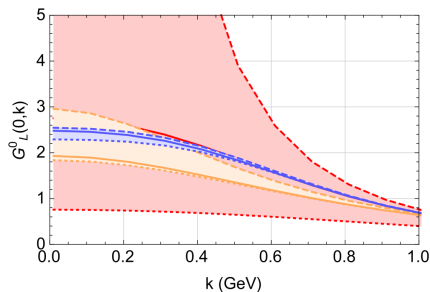
$64^3 \times L_t$ lattice volume with $T < T_c$ ($T = 243\text{MeV}, L_t = 8$) and $T > T_c$ ($T = 324\text{MeV}, L_t = 6$).



CONCLUSION AND OUTLOOK

- We have performed, for the first time, calculations of the gluon one-and two-point correlator in the center-symmetric Landau gauge.
- We find a good agreement with lattice data for T_c .
- For $SU(2)$, the deconfinement transition is signaled by a **divergence** of the longitudinal gluon propagator for $k \rightarrow 0$.
- For $SU(3)$, the difference between the propagators in the neutral color mode is an order parameter for the transition, and this has been confirmed by **lattice data**.
- Ideas for future works: transversal propagator, higher order correlation functions, $SU(2)$ on the lattice, $SU(2)$ on the lattice.

DISCUSSION

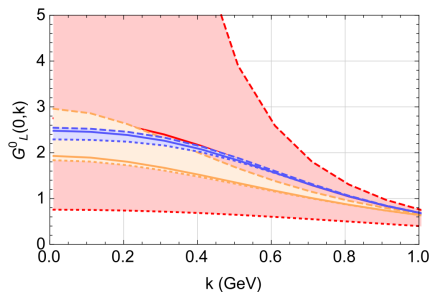


Landau gauge

Self-consistent Landau gauge

Center-symmetric Landau Gauge

DISCUSSION

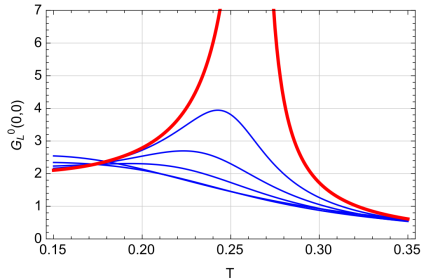


Landau gauge

Self-consistent Landau gauge

Center-symmetric Landau Gauge

DISCUSSION



DISCUSSION

