



*Gluon mass gap through the
Schwinger mechanism*

Dynamical mass generation in QCD

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{QCD}} = -\frac{1}{4}F_{\mu\nu}^a F^{a\mu\nu} + \bar{\psi}_f^i (i\gamma^\mu D_\mu - m_f)_{ij} \psi_f^j + \frac{1}{2\xi} (\partial^\mu A_\mu^a)^2 - \bar{c}^a \partial^\mu D_\mu^{ab} c^b$$

- At the level of the Lagrangian:
 - **Gluons** are massless;
 - **Quarks** have **current masses**, but **far smaller than the hadrons they constitute**
- Perturbation theory cannot generate mass at any finite order
- Vast majority of the observable mass is **generated by the nonperturbative QCD dynamics**.
- To study **dynamical mass generation**, we look at the behavior of the nonperturbative QCD Green's functions (propagators and vertices):

M. N. F. and J. Papavassiliou, *Particles* **6**, no.1, 312-363 (2023).
M. Ding, C. D. Roberts and S. M. Schmidt, *Particles* **6**, 57-120 (2023).
J. Papavassiliou, *Chin. Phys. C* **46**, no.11, 112001 (2022).

Mass generation leaves **distinctive signals in the infrared** momentum region of several Green's functions.

Gluon propagator and its mass gap

Gluon self-interaction can dynamically generate a mass gap.

J. M. Cornwall, Phys. Rev. D26, 1453 (1982).

Lattice QCD: The gluon propagator saturates at the origin.

A. Cucchieri and T. Mendes, PoS LATTICE2007, 297 (2007).

I. L. Bogolubsky, et al, Phys. Lett. B **676**, 69-73 (2009).

A. Cucchieri and T. Mendes, Phys. Rev. D **81**, 016005 (2010).

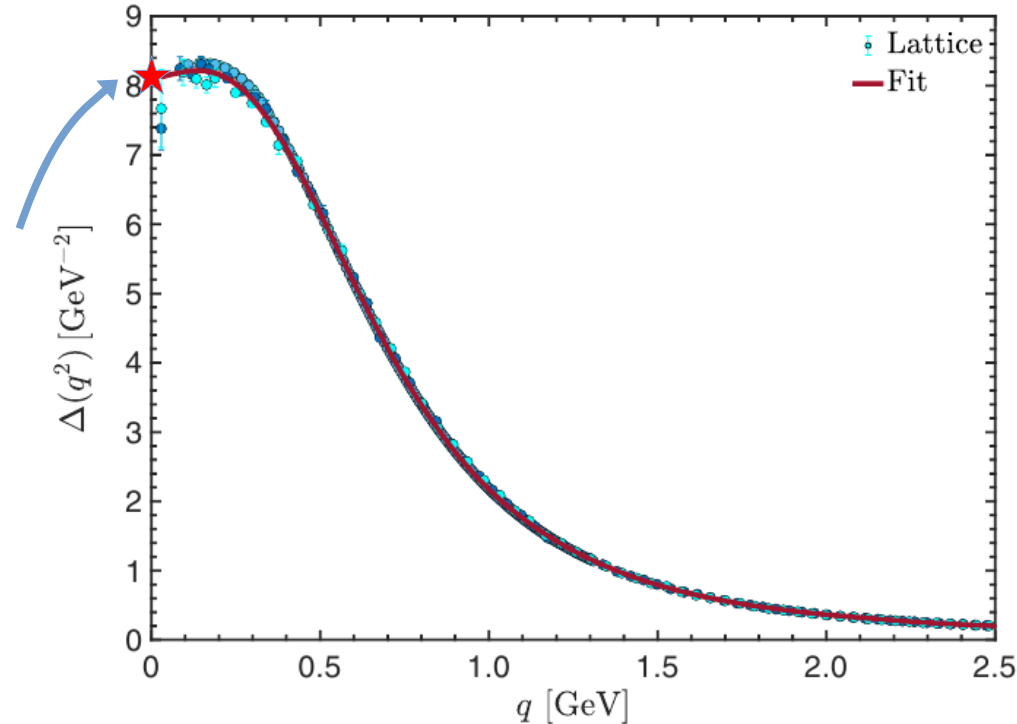
O. Oliveira and P. J. Silva, Phys. Rev. D **86**, 114513 (2012).

A. Ayala, A. Bashir, D. Binosi, M. Cristoforetti and J. Rodriguez-Quintero, Phys. Rev. D **86**, 074512 (2012)

D. Binosi, C. D. Roberts and J. Rodriguez-Quintero, Phys. Rev. D **95**, no.11, 114009 (2017).

A. C. Aguilar, C. O. Ambrósio, F. De Soto, M. N. F., B. M. Oliveira, J. Papavassiliou and J. Rodríguez-Quintero, Phys. Rev. D **104**, no.5, 054028 (2021).

- Unequivocal signal of gluon mass scale generation.
- All symmetries must be explicitly preserved.
- No associated mass term, $m^2 A^2$, in Lagrangian.

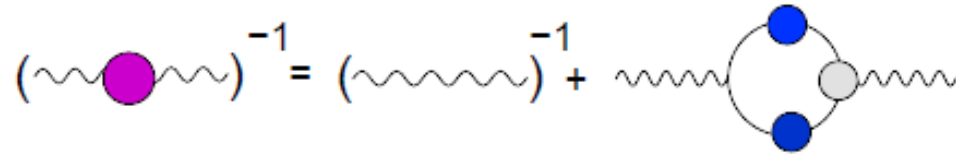


How can the gluon acquire a mass gap?

Schwinger mechanism

"A gauge boson may acquire mass, dynamically and without violating gauge symmetry if its vacuum polarization function develops a pole at zero momentum transfer." J. S. Schwinger, Phys. Rev. 125, 397 (1962); Phys. Rev. 128, 2425 (1962).

Schwinger-Dyson equation for gauge boson propagator


$$(\text{wavy line with pink circle})^{-1} = (\text{wavy line})^{-1} + \text{wavy line} \text{---} \text{loop of blue circles} \text{---} \text{grey circle} \text{---} \text{wavy line}$$



$$\Delta^{-1}(q^2) = q^2 [1 + \Pi(q^2)]$$

If, for some reason

$$\lim_{q \rightarrow 0} \Pi(q^2) = \frac{c}{q^2}, \quad c > 0$$



$$\Delta^{-1}(0) = c > 0$$

But how can the vacuum polarization acquire such a pole?

Vertex irregularities

From the gluon Schwinger-Dyson equation,

$$\Pi_{\mu\nu}(q) = \text{[Diagram 1]} + \text{[Diagram 2]} + \text{[Diagram 3]} + \text{[Diagram 4]} + \text{[Diagram 5]}$$

it has been shown in numerous works that:

Pole in the vacuum polarization hinges on the presence of vertex irregularities

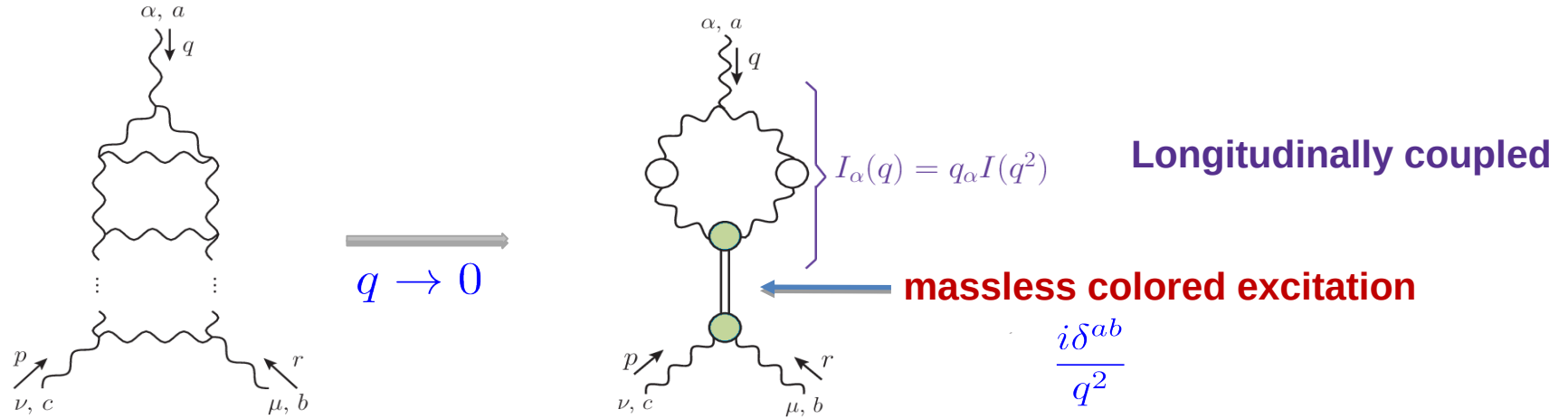
- A. C. Aguilar and J. Papavassiliou, JHEP **12**, 012 (2006).
- A. C. Aguilar, D. Ibanez, V. Mathieu, and J. Papavassiliou, Phys. Rev. D **85**, 014018 (2012).
- A. K. Cyrol, L. Fister, M. Mitter, J. M. Pawłowski, N. Strodthoff, Phys. Rev. D **94**, 054005 (2016).
- A. C. Aguilar, D. Binosi, C. T. Figueiredo and J. Papavassiliou, Phys. Rev. D **94**, no.4, 045002 (2016)
- G. Eichmann, J. M. Pawłowski and J. M. Silva, Phys. Rev. D **104**, no.11, 114016 (2021).

- Usual logarithmic divergences of perturbative QCD are not enough. Instead:

Vertices can develop poles at zero momentum through the formation of **massless bound states**.

Massless bound state formalism

If the interaction is sufficiently strong $\longrightarrow$ formation of **massless bound states**



Vertices of the theory acquire **longitudinally coupled poles at zero gluon momentum, e.g.:**

$$\Pi_{\alpha\mu\nu}(q, r, k) = \underbrace{\Gamma_{\alpha\mu\nu}(q, r, k)}_{\text{pole-free}} + \underbrace{\frac{q_\alpha}{q^2} g_{\mu\nu} 2(q \cdot r) \mathbb{C}(r^2)}_{\text{Schwinger pole}} + \dots$$

Residue functions

E. Eichten and F. Feinberg, Phys. Rev. D **10**, 3254-3279 (1974).

J. Smit, Phys. Rev. D **10**, 2473 (1974).

Mauricio N. Ferreira ... 02/09/24 ... "Gluon mass gap through the Schwinger mechanism"

A. C. Aguilar, D. Ibanez, V. Mathieu, and J. Papavassiliou, Phys. Rev. D **85**, 014018 (2012).

M. N. F. and J. Papavassiliou, Eur. Phys. J. C **84**, no.8, 835 (2024).

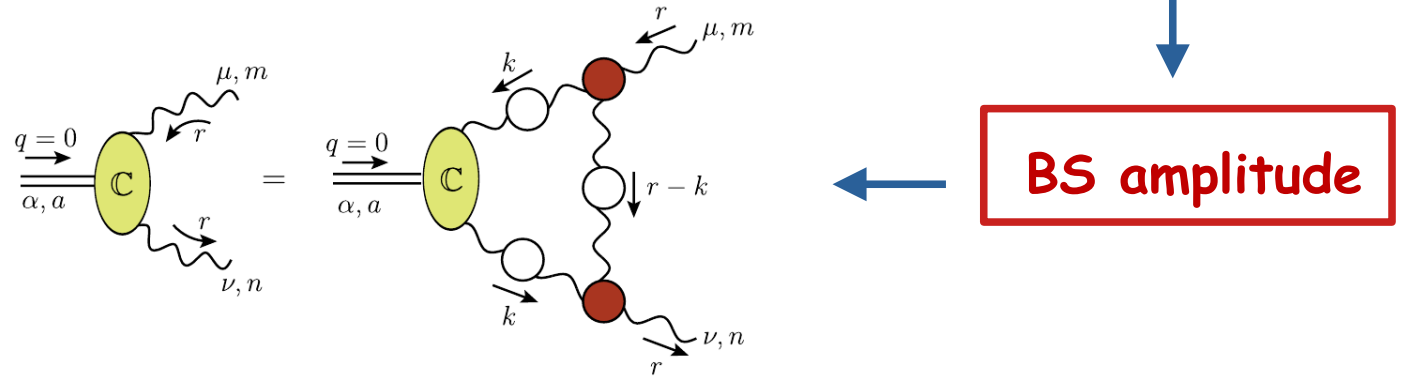
Bethe-Salpeter equation

The formation of a massless bound state is **dynamical and governed by a Bethe-Salpeter equation**.

Recalling:

$$\mathbb{I}_{\alpha\mu\nu}(q, r, k) = \Gamma_{\alpha\mu\nu}(q, r, k) + \frac{q_\alpha}{q^2} g_{\mu\nu} 2(q \cdot r) \mathbb{C}(r^2) + \dots$$

The function $\mathbb{C}(r^2)$ satisfies the equation



A. C. Aguilar, D. Ibanez, V. Mathieu and J. Papavassiliou, Phys. Rev. D 85, 014018 (2012).
 A. C. Aguilar, M. N. F. and J. Papavassiliou, Phys. Rev. D 105, no.1, 014030 (2022).

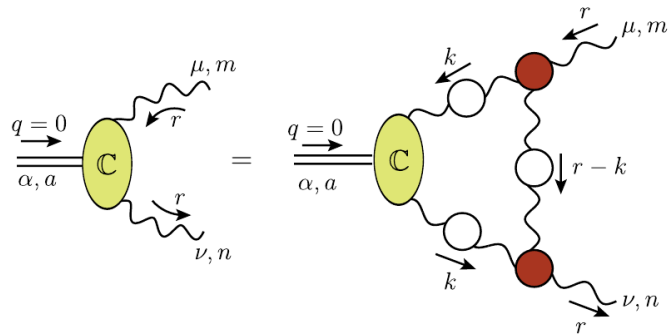
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Bethe-Salpeter equation

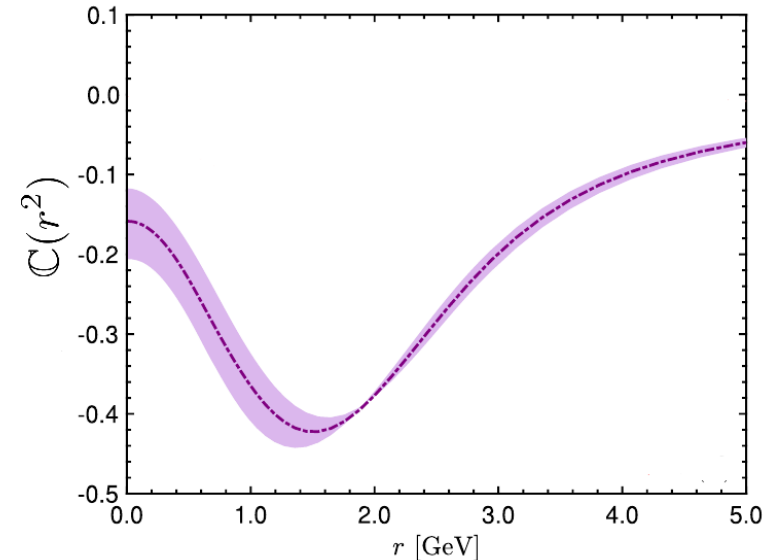
The Bethe-Salpeter equation admits **nontrivial solutions compatible with lattice ingredients** for the:

- Propagator;
- Vertex;
- and, value of the coupling
 $\alpha_s \approx 0.3 \text{ @ } \mu = 4.3 \text{ GeV}$

A. C. Aguilar, D. Ibanez, V. Mathieu and J. Papavassiliou, Phys. Rev. D 85, 014018 (2012).
D. Binosi and J. Papavassiliou, Phys. Rev. D 97, no.5, 054029 (2018).
A. C. Aguilar, D. Binosi, C. T. Figueiredo and J. Papavassiliou, Eur. Phys. J. C 78, no.3, 181 (2018).
M. N. F. and J. Papavassiliou, Eur. Phys. J. C **84**, no.8, 835 (2024).



BS amplitude

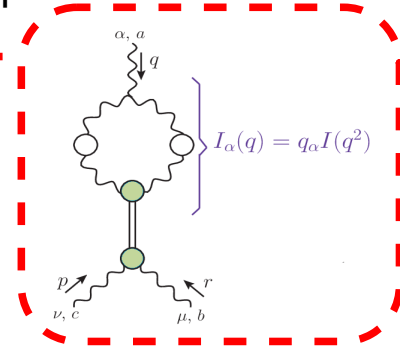


Massless bound state formalism

Massless poles in the three-gluon vertex lead to pole in the gluon vacuum polarization:

$$\Delta^{-1}(q^2) = q^2 + \mu, a \xrightarrow{q} \text{loop} \xrightarrow{q} \nu, b + \dots$$

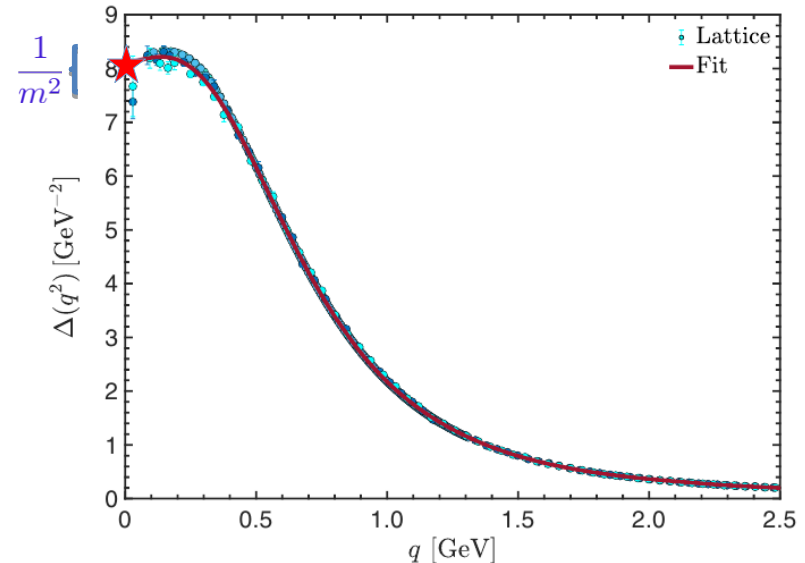
$q \rightarrow 0$



$$m^2 = \underbrace{\mu, a \xrightarrow{q} \text{loop}}_{I_\mu(q)} \underbrace{\frac{i}{q^2}}_{\text{propagator}} \underbrace{\text{loop} \xrightarrow{q} \nu, b}_{I_\nu(-q)}$$

After careful renormalization, agreement with lattice saturation value.

M. N. F. and J. Papavassiliou, Eur. Phys. J. C **84**, no.8, 835 (2024).



Schwinger poles in lattice results?

Now, the **lattice can also compute the three-gluon vertex**. Can we see longitudinal poles in it?

Unfortunately, no!

The Schwinger **poles are longitudinally coupled**

$$\Gamma_{\alpha\mu\nu}(q, r, k) = \underbrace{\Gamma_{\alpha\mu\nu}(q, r, k)}_{\text{pole-free}} + \underbrace{\frac{q_\alpha}{q^2} g_{\mu\nu} 2(q \cdot r) \mathbb{C}(r^2)}_{\text{Schwinger pole}} + \dots$$

But **lattice simulations only access transverse tensor structures**.



Lattice extracts the pole-free part of the vertex.

A. Athenodorou, D. Binosi, P. Boucaud, F. De Soto, J. Papavassiliou, J. Rodríguez-Quintero and S. Zafeiropoulos, Phys. Lett. B 761, 444-449 (2016).
A. C. Aguilar, F. De Soto, M. N. F., J. Papavassiliou and J. Rodríguez-Quintero, Phys. Lett. B 818, 136352 (2021).

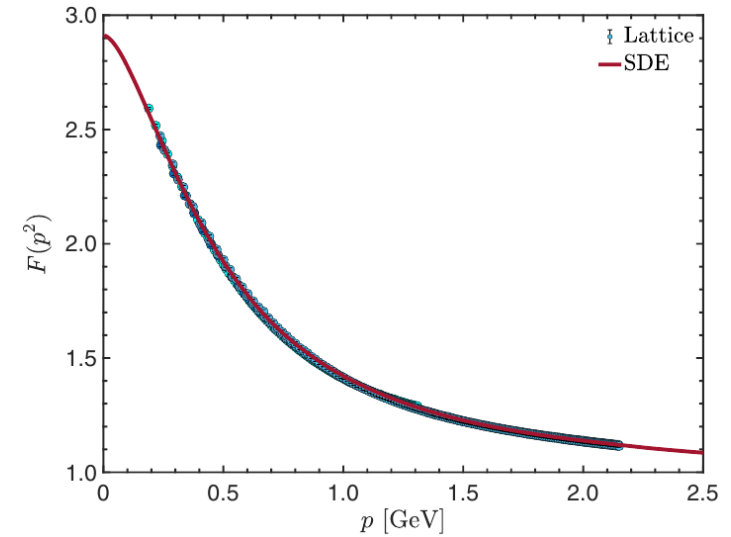
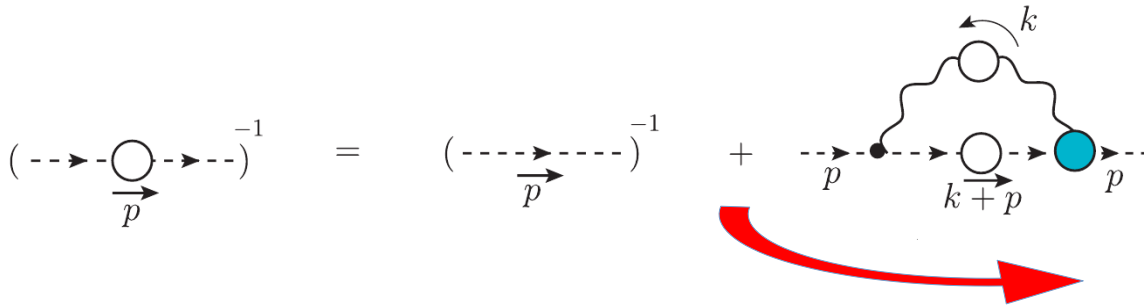
Indirect signals: Finite ghost dressing function

The generation of a gluon mass gap leaves distinctive imprints in other Green's functions. For example:

- The Schwinger mechanism leaves the **ghost propagator**, $D(q^2)$, **massless**.
- But its **dressing function**, $F(q^2)$, given by

$$D(q^2) = \frac{iF(q^2)}{q^2}$$

becomes IR finite.



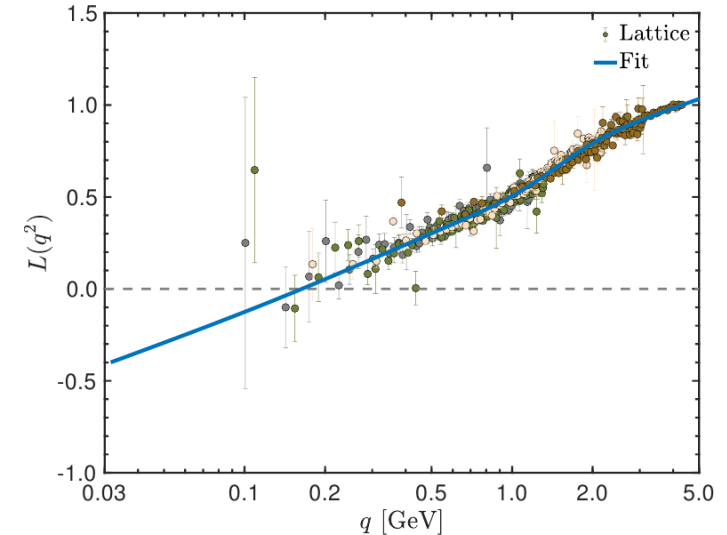
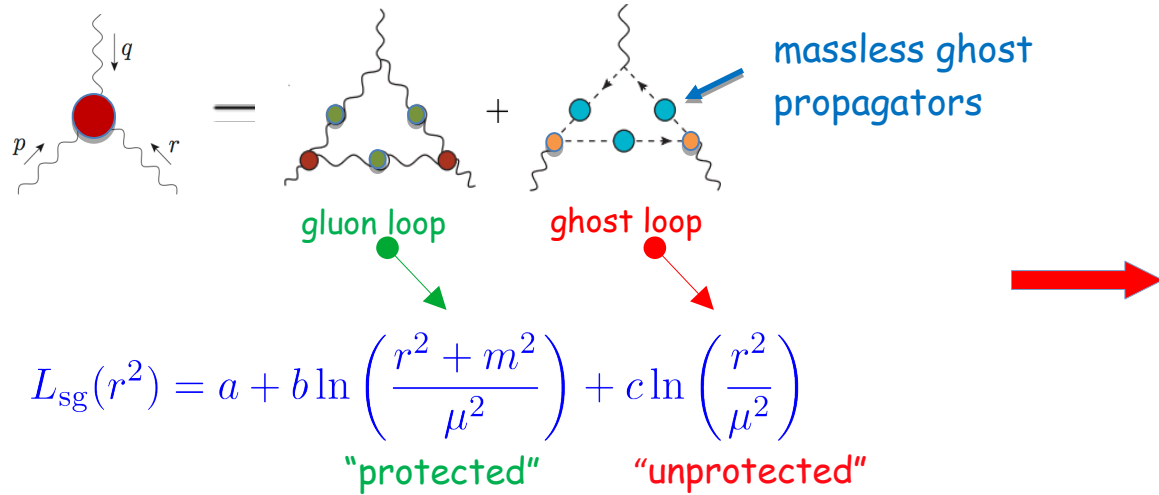
A. Cucchieri and T. Mendes, PoS **LATTICE2007**, 297 (2007).
 A. C. Aguilar, D. Binosi and J. Papavassiliou, Phys. Rev. D **78**, 025010 (2008).
 P. Boucaud, J. P. Leroy, A. Le Yaouanc, J. Micheli, O. Pene and J. Rodriguez-Quintero, JHEP **06**, 099 (2008).
 I. L. Bogolubsky, E. M. Ilgenfritz, M. Muller-Preussker and A. Sternbeck, Phys. Lett. B **676**, 69-73 (2009).
 A. K. Cyrol, L. Fister, M. Mitter, J. M. Pawłowski, N. Strodthoff, Phys. Rev. D **94**, 054005 (2016).
 M. Q. Huber, Phys. Rept. **879**, 1-92 (2020).

A. C. Aguilar, C. O. Ambrosio, F. De Soto, M. N. F., B. M. Oliveira, J. Papavassiliou, J. Rodriguez-Quintero, Phys. Rev. D **104** no.5, 054028, (2021).

Indirect signals: IR suppression and zero-crossing of the three-gluon vertex

Not all IR divergences are eliminated though, since ghosts remain massless.

Case in point, the three-gluon vertex displays a logarithmic divergence, due to ghost loops.



Causes **IR suppression and zero crossing** seen in multiple works (see also Pepe's talk).

- A. C. Aguilar, D. Binosi, D. Ibañez, J. Papavassiliou, Phys. Rev. D 89, no. 8, 085008 (2014).
- G. Eichmann, R. Williams, R. Alkofer, M. Vujanovic, Phys. Rev. D 89, 105014 (2014).
- A. G. Duarte, O. Oliveira and P. J. Silva, Phys. Rev. D 94, no.7, 074502 (2016).
- A. K. Cyrol, L. Fister, M. Mitter, J. M. Pawłowski, N. Strodthoff, Phys. Rev. D 94, 054005 (2016).
- R. Williams, C. S. Fischer, and W. Heupel, Phys. Rev. D 93, no. 3, 034026 (2016).
- M. Q. Huber, Phys. Rev. D 101, 114009 (2020).
- A. C. Aguilar, M. N. F., J. Papavassiliou and L. R. Santos, Eur. Phys. J. C **83**, no.6, 549 (2023).

A smoking gun signal?

Question:

Is there a smoking-gun signal of the massless bound state poles, which can be tested with lattice inputs?

Answer:

Yes, the displacement of the Ward identities satisfied by the vertices.

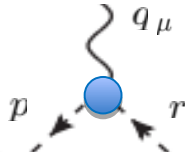
- The key observation is that the **Schwinger mechanism preserves the gauge symmetry**.
- If there is a massless bound state pole, the **propagators and pole-free parts of the vertices must change in shape to accommodate the pole contribution to the Ward identities**.

A. C. Aguilar, M. N. F. and J. Papavassiliou, Phys. Rev. D 105, no.1, 014030 (2022).

A. C. Aguilar, F. De Soto, M. N. F., J. Papavassiliou, F. Pinto-Gómez, C. D. Roberts and J. Rodríguez-Quintero, Phys. Lett. B **841**, 137906 (2023).

A toy example: scalar QED

Schwinger mechanism **off**

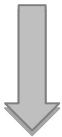


Ward-Takahashi identity

$$q^\mu \Gamma_\mu(q, r, p) = D^{-1}(p^2) - D^{-1}(r^2)$$

pole-free

$$\begin{matrix} q \rightarrow 0 \\ p \rightarrow -r \end{matrix}$$



Taylor expansion

Textbook Ward identity

$$\Gamma_\mu(0, r, -r) = \frac{\partial D^{-1}(r^2)}{\partial r^\mu}$$

Schwinger mechanism **on**

$$\mathbb{\Gamma}_\mu(q, r, p) = \underbrace{\Gamma_\mu(q, r, p)}_{\text{pole-free}} + \frac{q^\mu}{q^2} C(q, r, p)$$

The Ward-Takahashi identity does **not** change

$$\begin{aligned} q^\mu \mathbb{\Gamma}_\mu(q, r, p) &= q^\mu \Gamma_\mu(q, r, p) + C(q, r, p) \\ &= D^{-1}(p^2) - D^{-1}(r^2) \end{aligned}$$

$$q \rightarrow 0$$



Taylor expansion

Displaced Ward identity

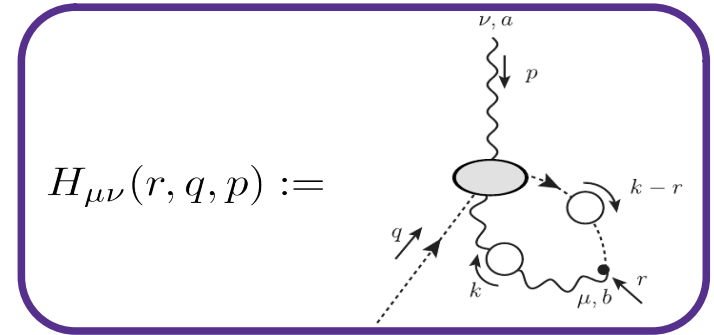
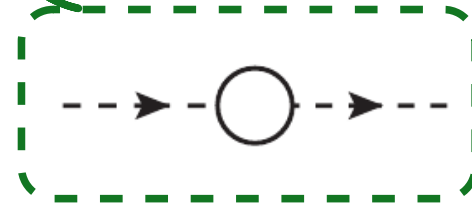
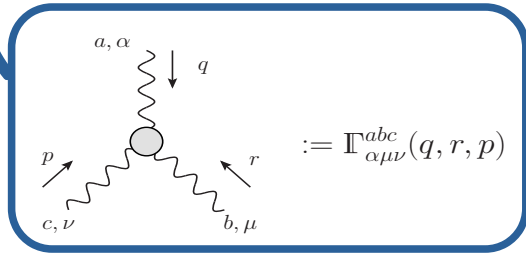
$$\underbrace{\Gamma_\mu(0, r, -r)}_{\text{pole-free}} = \frac{\partial D^{-1}(r^2)}{\partial r^\mu} - 2r_\mu \underbrace{\left[\frac{\partial C(q, r, p)}{\partial p^2} \right]_{q=0}}_{\mathbb{C}(r^2)}$$

Displacement = BS amplitude

Ward identity displacement in QCD

The **same idea applies to QCD**, just more complicated due to **non-Abelian Slavnov-Taylor identities**:

$$q^\alpha \mathbb{T}_{\alpha\mu\nu}(q, r, p) = F(q^2) [\Delta^{-1}(p^2) P_\nu^\sigma(p) H_{\sigma\mu}(p, q, r) - \Delta^{-1}(r^2) P_\mu^\sigma(r) H_{\sigma\nu}(r, q, p)]$$



Then, assume the three-gluon vertex has a massless bound state pole:

$$\mathbb{T}_{\alpha\mu\nu}(q, r, k) = \Gamma_{\alpha\mu\nu}(q, r, k) + \frac{q_\alpha}{q^2} g_{\mu\nu} 2(q \cdot r) \mathbb{C}(r^2) + \dots$$

And expand around $q = 0$

Ward identity displacement in QCD

$$q^\alpha \Pi_{\alpha\mu\nu}(q, r, p) = F(q^2) [\Delta^{-1}(p^2) P_\nu^\sigma(p) H_{\sigma\mu}(p, q, r) - \Delta^{-1}(r^2) P_\mu^\sigma(r) H_{\sigma\nu}(r, q, p)]$$

$q \rightarrow 0$  Isolate classical tensor structure

Ward identity

$$L_{\text{sg}}(r^2) = F(0) \left[\frac{\mathcal{W}(r^2)}{r^2} \Delta^{-1}(r^2) + \frac{\partial \Delta^{-1}(r^2)}{\partial r^2} \right] + \mathbb{C}(r^2)$$

 Displacement = BS amplitude

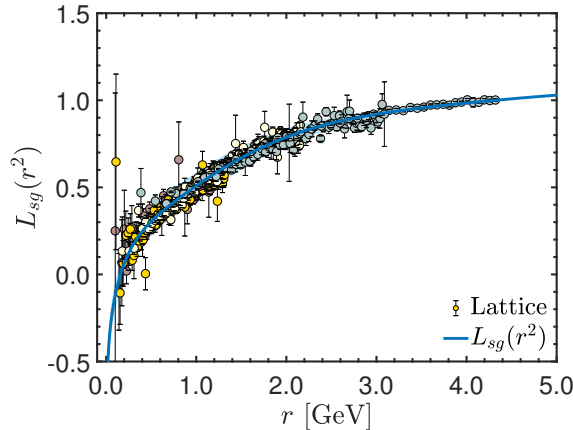
- ★ Ingredients can (mostly) be computed with lattice simulations.
- ★ Combine ingredients and determine if there is a nontrivial displacement.

Ward identity displacement in QCD

$$q^\alpha \mathbb{T}_{\alpha\mu\nu}(q, r, p) = F(q^2) [\Delta^{-1}(p^2) P_\nu^\sigma(p) H_{\sigma\mu}(p, q, r) - \Delta^{-1}(r^2) P_\mu^\sigma(r) H_{\sigma\nu}(r, q, p)]$$

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Soft-gluon form factor of the three-gluon vertex

$$P_{\mu}^{\mu'}(r) P_{\nu}^{\nu'}(r) \mathbb{T}_{\alpha\mu'\nu'}(0, r, -r) = 2L_{\text{sg}}(r^2) r_{\alpha} P_{\mu\nu}(r)$$

$$P_{\mu\nu}(q) := g_{\mu\nu} - q_{\mu} q_{\nu} / q^2$$

A. C. Aguilar, C. O. Ambrosio, F. De Soto, M.N. F., B. M. Oliveira, J. Papavassiliou and J. Rodriguez-Quintero, Phys. Rev. D 104 no.5, 054028, (2021).

Ward identity displacement in QCD

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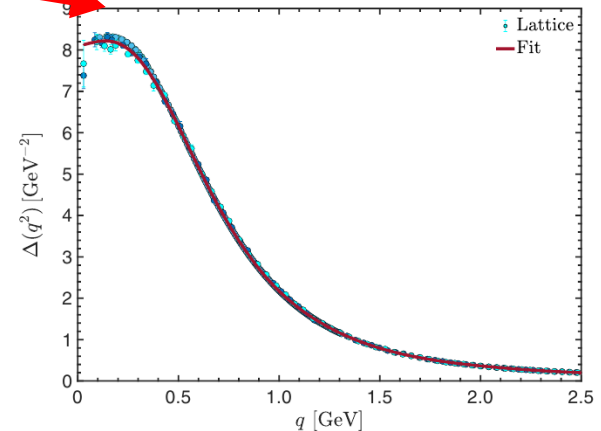
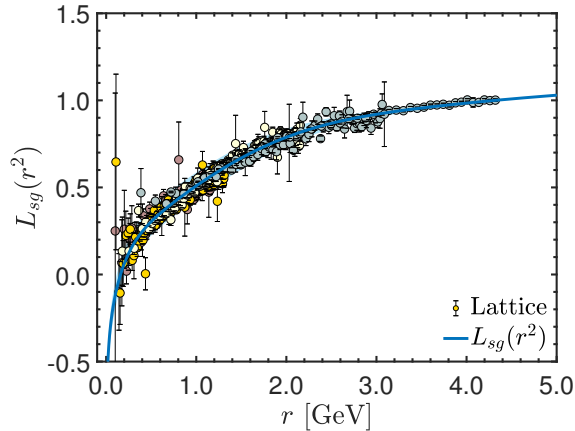
$q \rightarrow 0$



Isolate classical tensor structure

Ward identity

$$L_{sg}(r^2) = F(0) \left[\frac{\mathcal{W}(r^2)}{r^2} \Delta^{-1}(r^2) + \frac{\partial \Delta^{-1}(r^2)}{\partial r^2} \right] + \mathbb{C}(r^2)$$

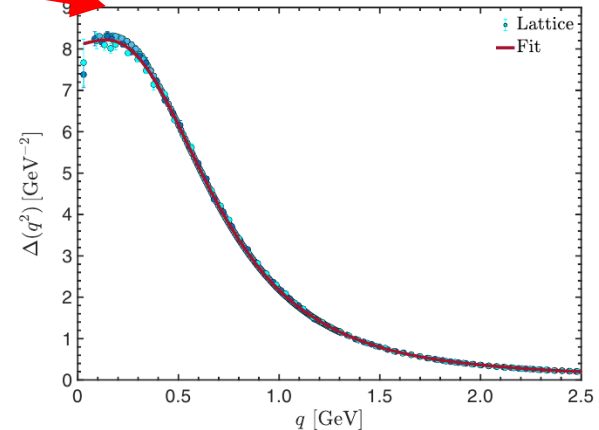
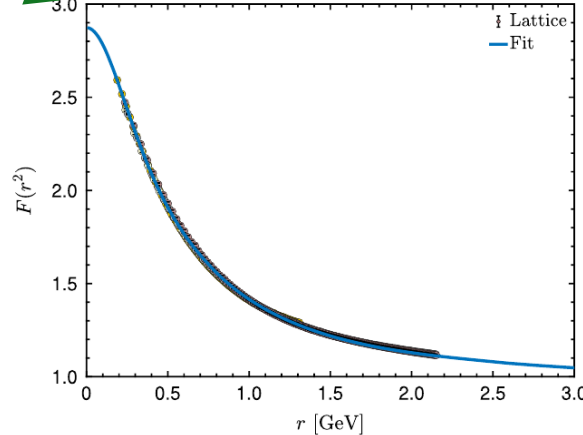
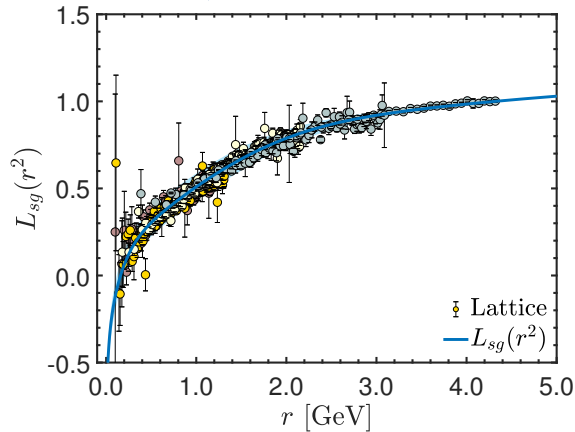


Ward identity displacement in QCD

$$q^\alpha \Pi_{\alpha\mu\nu}(q, r, p) = F(q^2) [\Delta^{-1}(p^2) P_\nu^\sigma(p) H_{\sigma\mu}(p, q, r) - \Delta^{-1}(r^2) P_\mu^\sigma(r) H_{\sigma\nu}(r, q, p)]$$

$q \rightarrow 0$  Isolate classical tensor structure
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$$L_{sg}(r^2) = F(0) \left[\frac{\mathcal{W}(r^2)}{r^2} \Delta^{-1}(r^2) + \frac{\partial \Delta^{-1}(r^2)}{\partial r^2} \right] + \mathbb{C}(r^2)$$



Ward identity displacement in QCD

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★ Only one ingredient not yet determined directly by lattice simulations.

Ward identity displacement in QCD

$$q^\alpha \mathbb{T}_{\alpha\mu\nu}(q, r, p) = F(q^2) [\Delta^{-1}(p^2) P_\nu^\sigma(p) H_{\sigma\mu}(p, q, r) - \Delta^{-1}(r^2) P_\mu^\sigma(r) H_{\sigma\nu}(r, q, p)]$$

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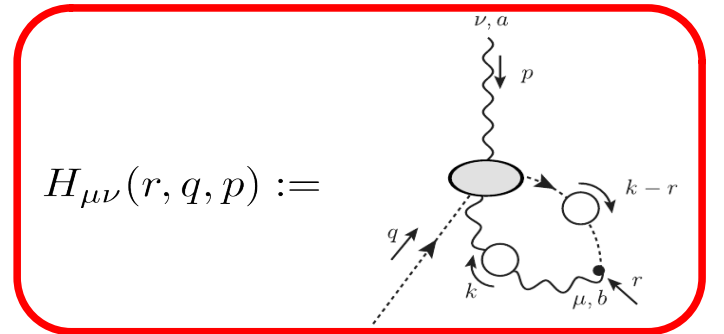
Partial derivative of the ghost-gluon kernel:

$$\mathcal{W}(r^2) = -\frac{1}{3} r^\alpha P^{\mu\nu}(r) \left[\frac{\partial H_{\nu\mu}(r, q, p)}{\partial q^\alpha} \right]_{q=0}$$

- In principle, computable on the lattice, but not currently available.**

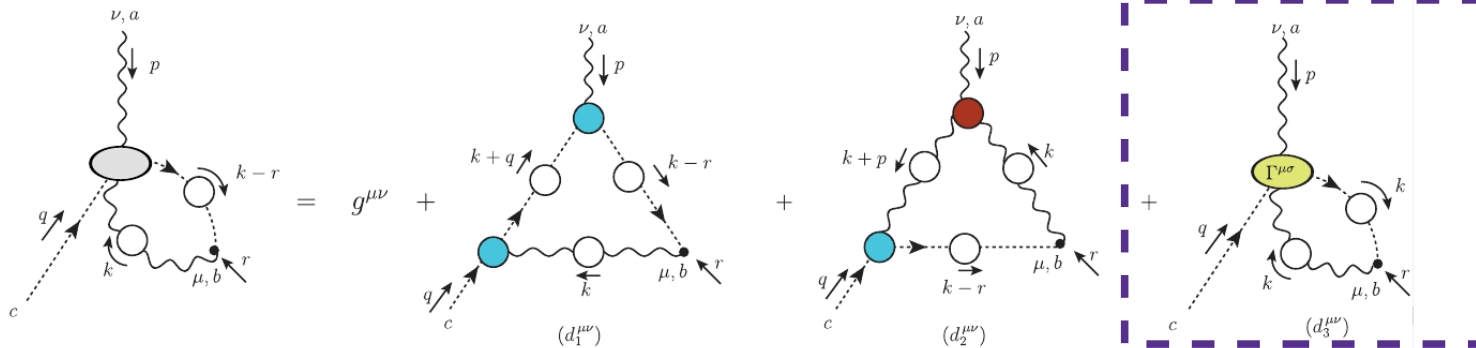
A. C. Aguilar, M. N. F. and J. Papavassiliou, Eur. Phys. J. C **81**, no.1, 54 (2021).

- Resort to a lattice-driven SDE analysis.**



Lattice driven Schwinger-Dyson calculation

The $\mathcal{W}(r^2)$ can be obtained from the Schwinger-Dyson equation for the **ghost-gluon scattering kernel**



A. C. Aguilar, M. N. F. and J. Papavassiliou, Phys. Rev. D **105**, no.1, 014030 (2022).

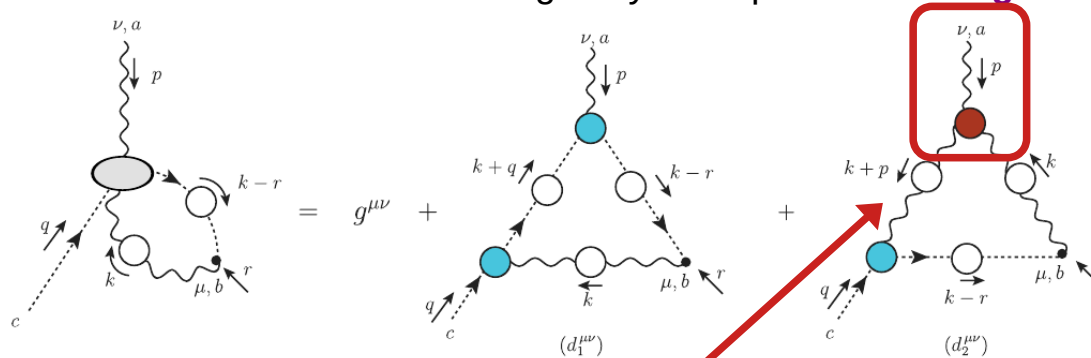
Depends on:

- 1) **Gluon and ghost propagators.**
- 2) **Four-point function probably subleading. Will be omitted.**

(2% effect). M. Q. Huber, Eur. Phys. J. C **77**, 733 (2017).

Lattice driven Schwinger-Dyson calculation

The $\mathcal{W}(r^2)$ can be obtained from the Schwinger-Dyson equation for the **ghost-gluon scattering kernel**



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Depends on:

- 1) **Gluon and ghost propagators.**
- 2) **Four-point function probably subleading. Will be omitted.**
- 3) **General kinematics three-gluon vertex.**

By now well-determined by continuum and lattice studies
(cf. Pepe's talk).

Displays "**planar degeneracy**", accurate approximation given by:

$$\overline{\Pi}_{\alpha\mu\nu}(q, r, p) \approx \overline{\Gamma}_{\alpha\mu\nu}^0(q, r, p) L_{\text{sg}}(s^2)$$

$$s^2 := (q^2 + r^2 + p^2)/2$$

G. Eichmann, R. Williams, R. Alkofer, M. Vujanovic, Phys. Rev. D **89**, 105014 (2014).

A. K. Cyrol, L. Fister, M. Mitter, J. M. Pawłowski, N. Strodthoff, Phys. Rev. D **94**, 054005 (2016).

M. Q. Huber, Phys. Rev. D **101**, 114009 (2020).

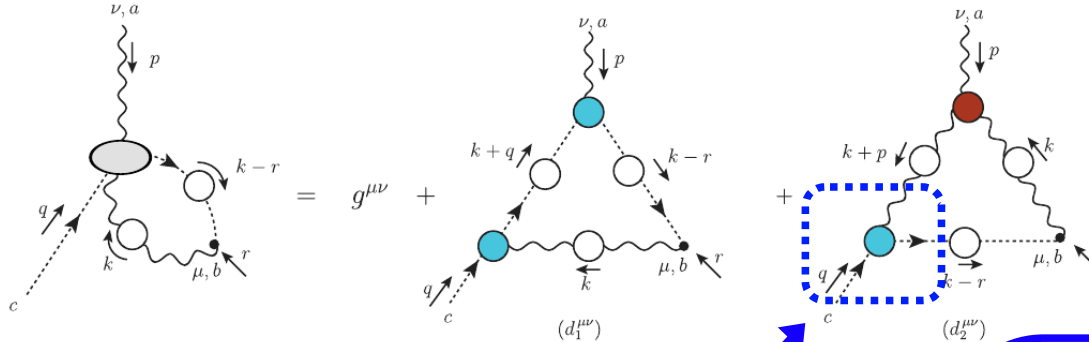
F. Pinto-Gómez, F. De Soto, M. N. F., J. Papavassiliou and J. Rodríguez-Quintero, Phys. Lett. B **838**, 137737 (2023).

A. C. Aguilar, M. N. F., J. Papavassiliou and L. R. Santos, Eur. Phys. J. C **83**, no.6, 549 (2023).

F. Pinto-Gómez, F. De Soto and J. Rodríguez-Quintero, Phys. Rev. D **110**, no.1, 014005 (2024).

Lattice driven Schwinger-Dyson calculation

The $\mathcal{W}(r^2)$ can be obtained from the Schwinger-Dyson equation for the **ghost-gluon scattering kernel**



A. C. Aguilar, M. N. F. and J. Papavassiliou, Phys. Rev. D **105**, no.1, 014030 (2022).

Depends on:

- 1) **Gluon and ghost propagators.**
- 2) **Four-point function probably subleading. Will be omitted.**
- 3) **General kinematics three-gluon vertex.**
- 4) **General kinematics ghost-gluon vertex;**

Determined self-consistently through same SDE plus STI:

$$\Pi_\nu(r, q, p) = r^\mu H_{\mu\nu}(r, q, p)$$

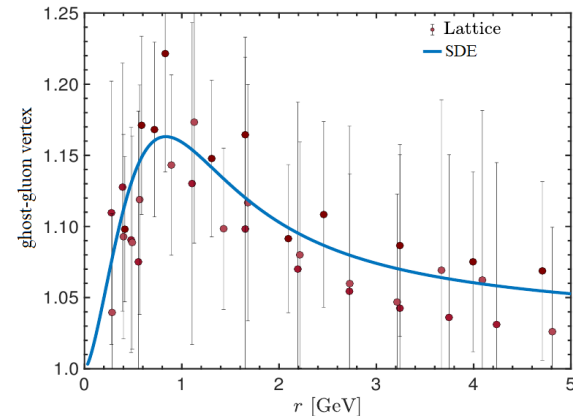
M. Q. Huber and L. von Smekal, JHEP 04, 149 (2013).

A. K. Cyrol, L. Fister, M. Mitter, et al. Phys. Rev. D 94, 054005 (2016).

A. C. Aguilar, C. O. Ambrósio, F. De Soto, M. N. F., et. al, Phys. Rev. D 104, no.5, 054028 (2021).

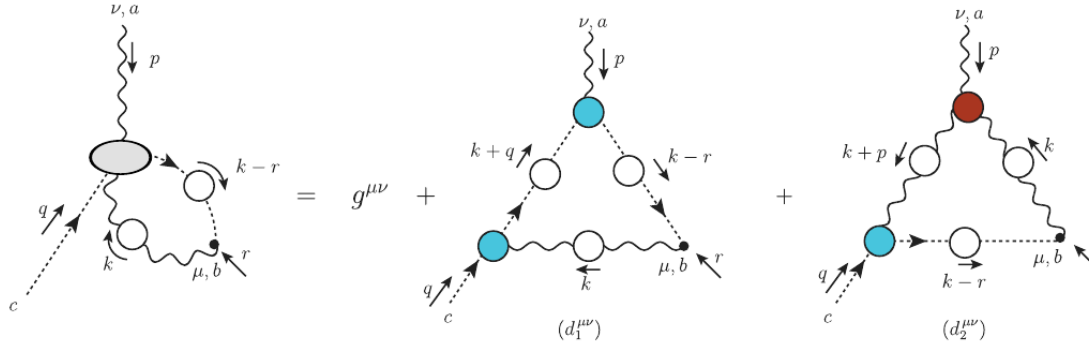
Reproduces available SU(3) lattice results:

E. -M. Ilgenfritz, M. Muller-Preussker, A. Sternbeck, et al. Braz. J. Phys. 37, 193 (2007).



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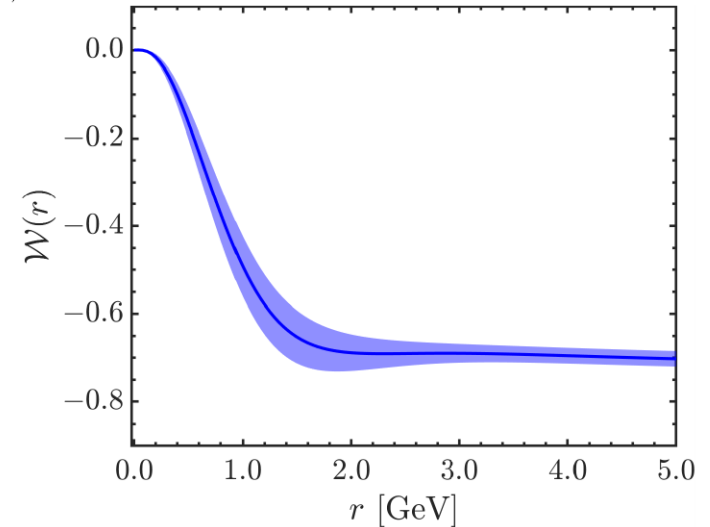
A. C. Aguilar, M. N. F. and J. Papavassiliou, Phys. Rev. D **105**, no.1, 014030 (2022).

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- 4) **General kinematics ghost-gluon vertex;**

With these ingredients at hand, we compute $\mathcal{W}(r^2)$

A. C. Aguilar, F. De Soto, M. N. F., J. Papavassiliou, F. Pinto-Gómez, C. D. Roberts and J. Rodríguez-Quintero, Phys. Lett. B **841**, 137906 (2023).

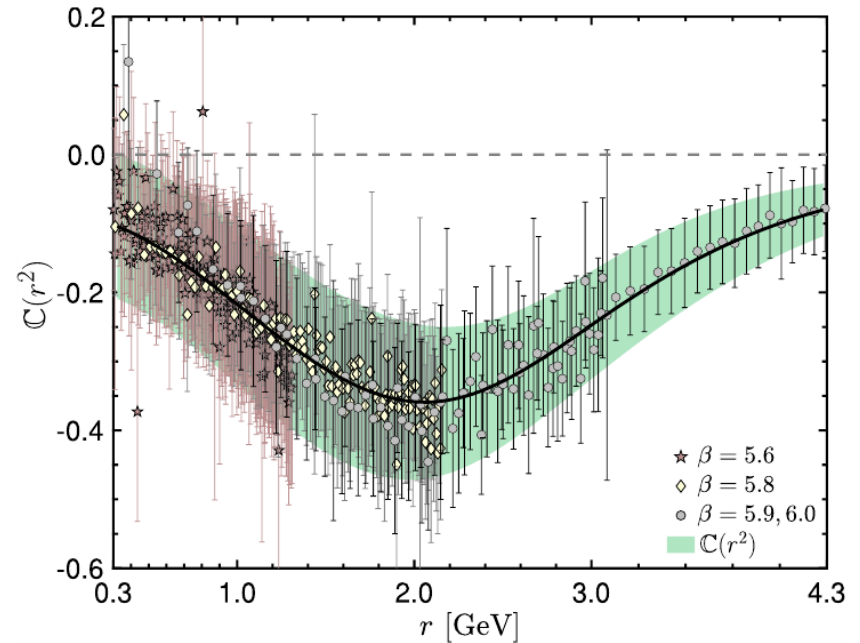
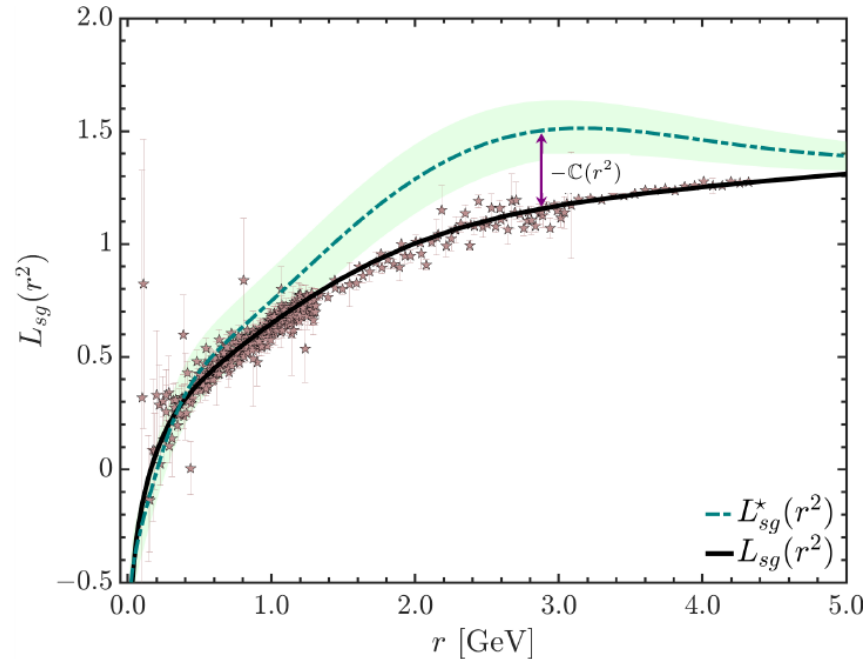


Results for $\mathbb{C}(r^2)$

With $\mathcal{W}(r^2)$ at hand, we can compute $L_{sg}^*(r^2)$ and determine $\mathbb{C}(r^2)$ as a **WI displacement**

$$L_{sg}^*(r^2) = F(0) \left[\frac{\mathcal{W}(r^2)}{r^2} \Delta^{-1}(r^2) + \frac{d\Delta^{-1}(r^2)}{dr^2} \right]$$

$$\mathbb{C}(r^2) = L_{sg}(r^2) - L_{sg}^*(r^2)$$



A. C. Aguilar, F. De Soto, M. N. F., J. Papavassiliou, F. Pinto-Gómez, C. D. Roberts and J. Rodríguez-Quintero, Phys. Lett. B **841**, 137906 (2023).

Maurício N. Ferreira ... 02/09/24 ... "Gluon mass gap through the Schwinger mechanism"

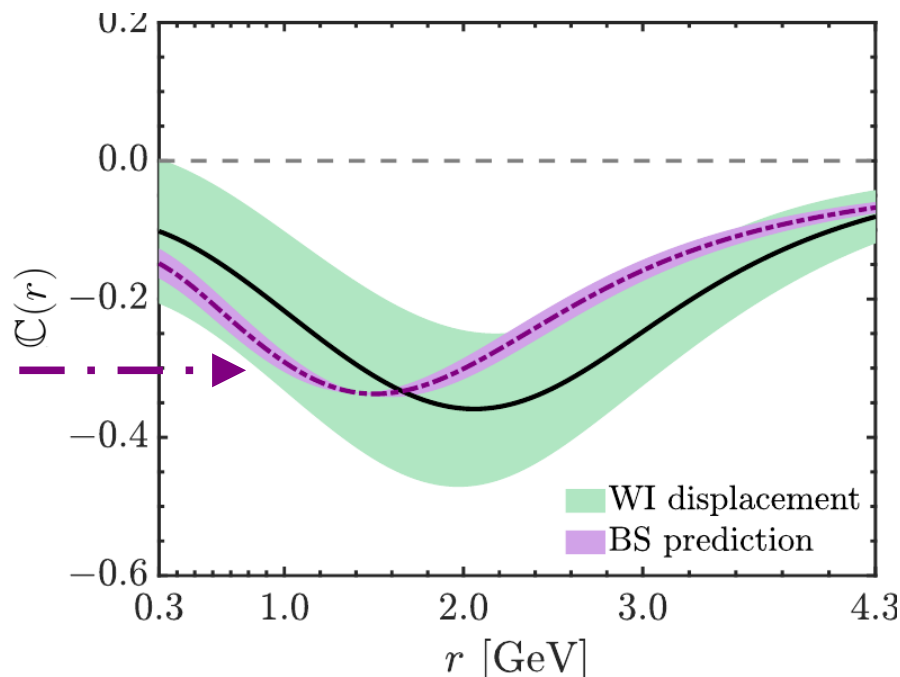
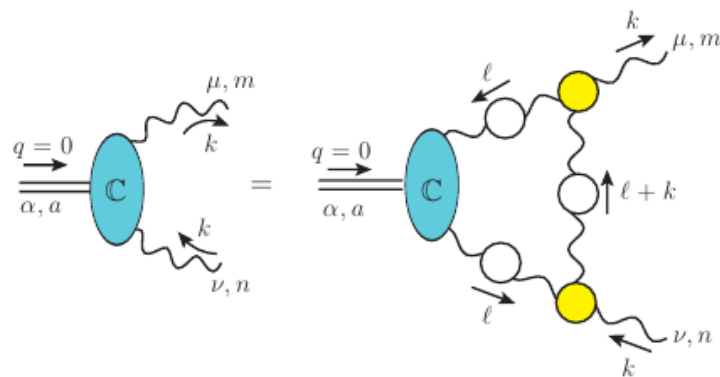
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- Moreover, we find good agreement with the BSE prediction.



A. C. Aguilar, M. N. F. and J. Papavassiliou, Phys. Rev. D 105, no.1, 014030 (2022).
M. N. F. and J. Papavassiliou, Particles 6, no.1, 312-363 (2023).

Conclusions

- **Gluon self-interactions** generate a **gluon mass gap** through the **Schwinger mechanism**, via the formation of **massless bound state poles** in the three-gluon vertex.
- **Explains saturation of the gluon propagator at the origin**, seen in lattice simulations.
- Leads to **displacement of the Ward identity**, whose amplitude coincides with **BS amplitude of the massless bound state**.
- The **occurrence of this displacement is confirmed**, by combining **lattice and Schwinger-Dyson results** for the propagators and vertices.
- **We obtain a clear displacement which agrees with the Bethe-Salpeter prediction.**
- **In the future**, understand role of **poles in other vertices** and **truncation error** in the analysis.

Backup slides

Massless bound state formalism

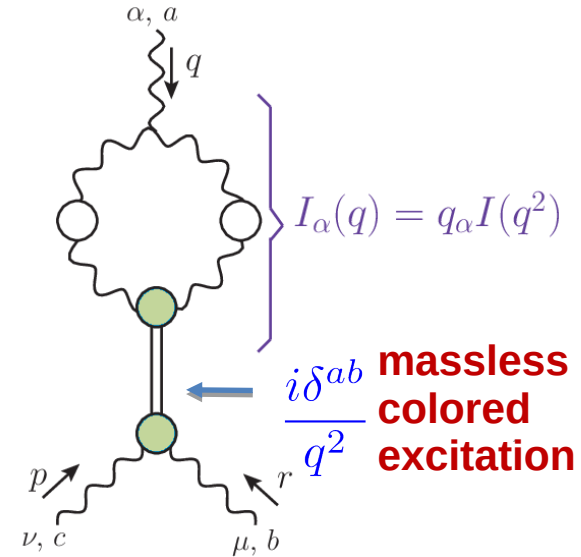
Important: These bound states are not *glueballs*!

Glueballs:

- Color singlets.
- Massive.
- Appear in the spectrum.

Schwinger mechanism poles:

- Colored states.
- Massless.
- Do not appear in the spectrum (would-be Goldstone boson, eaten to generate the gluon mass)



V. Mathieu, N. Kochelev and V. Vento,
Int. J. Mod. Phys. E 18, 1-49 (2009).

J. Smit, Phys. Rev. D **10**, 2473 (1974).
E. Eichten and F. Feinberg, Phys. Rev. D **10**, 3254-3279 (1974).
A. C. Aguilar, D. Ibanez, V. Mathieu, and J. Papavassiliou, Phys. Rev. D **85**, 014018 (2012).

Results for $\mathbb{C}(r^2)$

With $\mathcal{W}(r^2)$ at hand, we can compute $L_{sg}^*(r^2)$ and determine $\mathbb{C}(r^2)$ as a **WI displacement**

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$$\mathbb{C}(r^2) = L_{sg}(r^2) - L_{sg}^*(r^2)$$

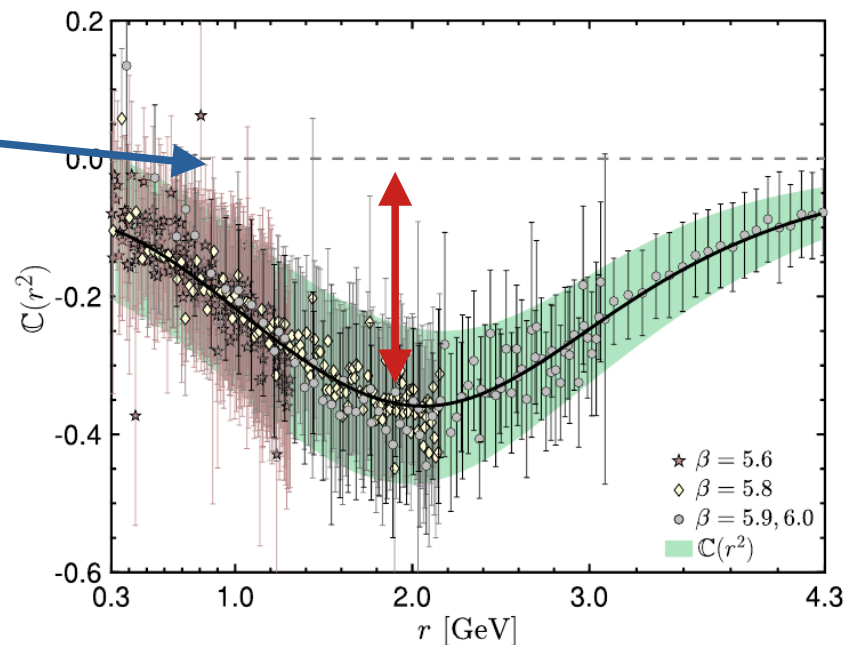
- $\mathbb{C}(r^2)$ obtained is clearly nonzero.
- Define the **null hypothesis**,

$$\mathbb{C}(r^2) = \mathbb{C}_0 := 0$$

p -value of null hypothesis is tiny:

$$P_{\mathbb{C}_0} = \int_{\chi^2=2630}^{\infty} \chi_{\text{PDF}}^2(515, x) dx = 7.3 \times 10^{-280}$$

- Even if the errors were doubled, the null hypothesis would still be discarded at the 5σ level.



Schwinger mechanism poles do not show in lattice results

A typical vertex form factor on the lattice is given by:

$$\mathcal{A}(q, r, p) = \frac{\Gamma_0^{\alpha' \mu' \nu'}(q, r, p) P_{\alpha' \alpha}(q) P_{\mu' \mu}(r) P_{\nu' \nu}(p) \mathbb{I}^{\alpha \mu \nu}(q, r, p)}{\Gamma_0^{\alpha' \mu' \nu'}(q, r, p) P_{\alpha' \alpha}(q) P_{\mu' \mu}(r) P_{\nu' \nu}(p) \Gamma_0^{\alpha \mu \nu}(q, r, p)}$$

with $P_{\mu\nu}(q) := g_{\mu\nu} - q_\mu q_\nu / q^2$

$$\mathbb{I}^{\alpha \mu \nu}(q, r, p) = \underbrace{\Gamma^{\alpha \mu \nu}(q, r, p)}_{\text{pole-free}} + \underbrace{V^{\alpha \mu \nu}(q, r, p)}_{\text{poles}}$$

Given that the poles are **longitudinally coupled**:

$$P_{\alpha\alpha'}(q) P_{\mu\mu'}(r) P_{\nu\nu'}(p) V^{\alpha\mu\nu}(q, r, p) = 0$$

$$\mathcal{A}(q, r, p) = \frac{\Gamma_0^{\alpha' \mu' \nu'}(q, r, p) P_{\alpha' \alpha}(q) P_{\mu' \mu}(r) P_{\nu' \nu}(p) \Gamma^{\alpha \mu \nu}(q, r, p)}{\Gamma_0^{\alpha' \mu' \nu'}(q, r, p) P_{\alpha' \alpha}(q) P_{\mu' \mu}(r) P_{\nu' \nu}(p) \Gamma_0^{\alpha \mu \nu}(q, r, p)}$$



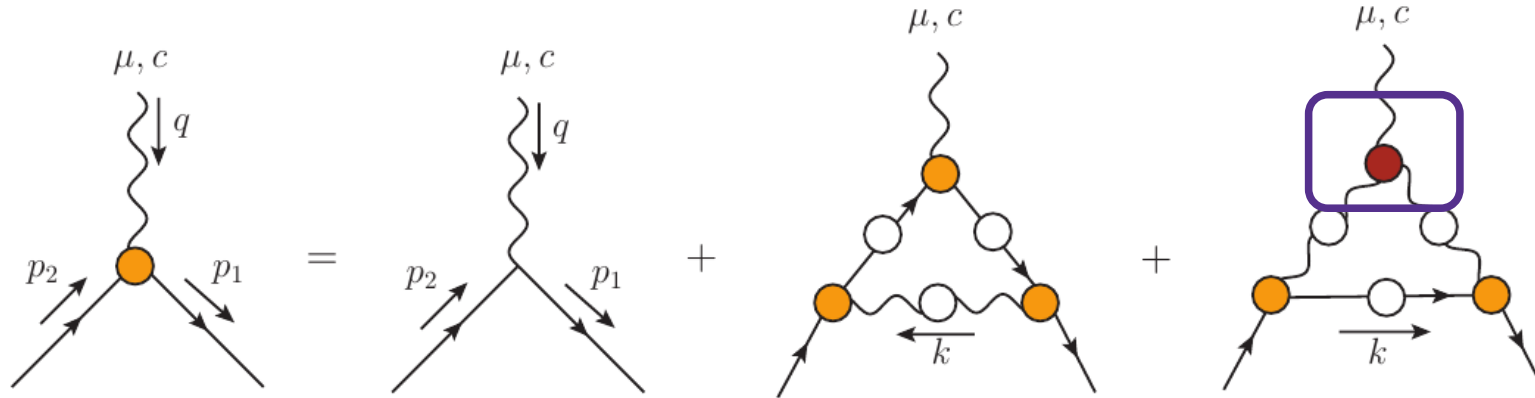
Lattice extracts the pole-free part of the vertex.



Poles in other vertices: including dynamical quarks

The Schwinger-Dyson equations couple vertices of different species and number of external legs.

- If a **longitudinally coupled pole** is generated **in the three-gluon vertex**, it tends to **spread out to other vertices as well**.
- In particular, the **quark-gluon vertex picks up a longitudinally coupled pole**:



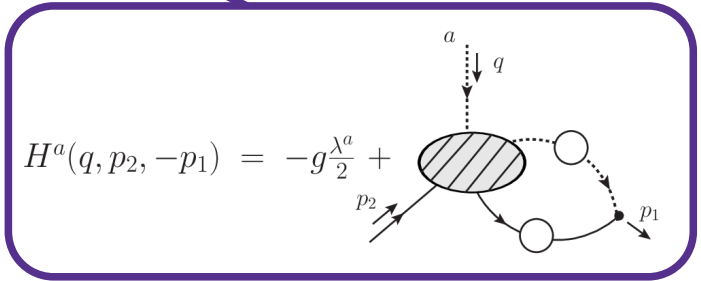
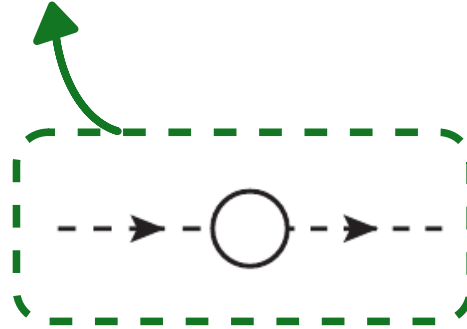
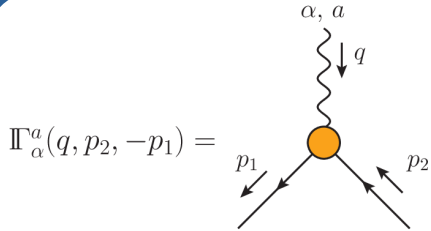
This allows additional tests of the Schwinger mechanism, and studying the role of dynamical quarks.

A. C. Aguilar, M. N. F., D. Ibáñez and J. Papavassiliou, Eur. Phys. J. C 83, no.10, 967 (2023).

Ward identity displacement of the quark-gluon vertex

The same idea of Ward identity displacement applies to the quark-gluon vertex. We start with the STI

$$q^\alpha \Pi_\alpha(q, p_2, -p_1) = F(q^2) [S^{-1}(p_1) H(q, p_2, -p_1) - \overline{H}(-q, p_1, -p_2) S^{-1}(p_2)]$$



Again, assume that the vertex has a massless bound state pole:

$$\Pi_\alpha(q, p_2, -p_1) = \Gamma_\alpha(q, p_2, -p_1) + \frac{q_\alpha}{q^2} \cancel{Q_3(p_2^2)} + \dots$$

And expand around $q = 0$

BS amplitude

Ward identity displacement of the quark-gluon vertex

$$q^\alpha \Pi_\alpha(q, p_2, -p_1) = F(q^2) [S^{-1}(p_1) H(q, p_2, -p_1) - \overline{H}(-q, p_1, -p_2) S^{-1}(p_2)]$$

$q \rightarrow 0$  Isolate classical tensor structure

Ward identity

A. C. Aguilar, D. Binosi, D. Ibañez and J. Papavassiliou, Phys. Rev. D **90**, no.6, 065027 (2014).

$$\lambda_1(p^2) = F(0) A(p^2) \left\{ [1 + 4p^2 K_4(p^2)] - 2K_1(p^2) \mathcal{M}(p^2) \right\} - Q_3(p^2)$$

$$\lambda_1^*(p^2)$$

 Displacement = BS amplitude

★ **Ingredients can be computed using lattice results.**

O. Oliveira, P. J. Silva, J. I. Skullerud and A. Sternbeck, Phys. Rev. D **99**, no.9, 094506 (2019).

A. Kizilersü, O. Oliveira, P. J. Silva, J. I. Skullerud and A. Sternbeck, Phys. Rev. D **103**, no.11, 114515 (2021).

★ **Combine ingredients and determine if there is a nontrivial displacement.**

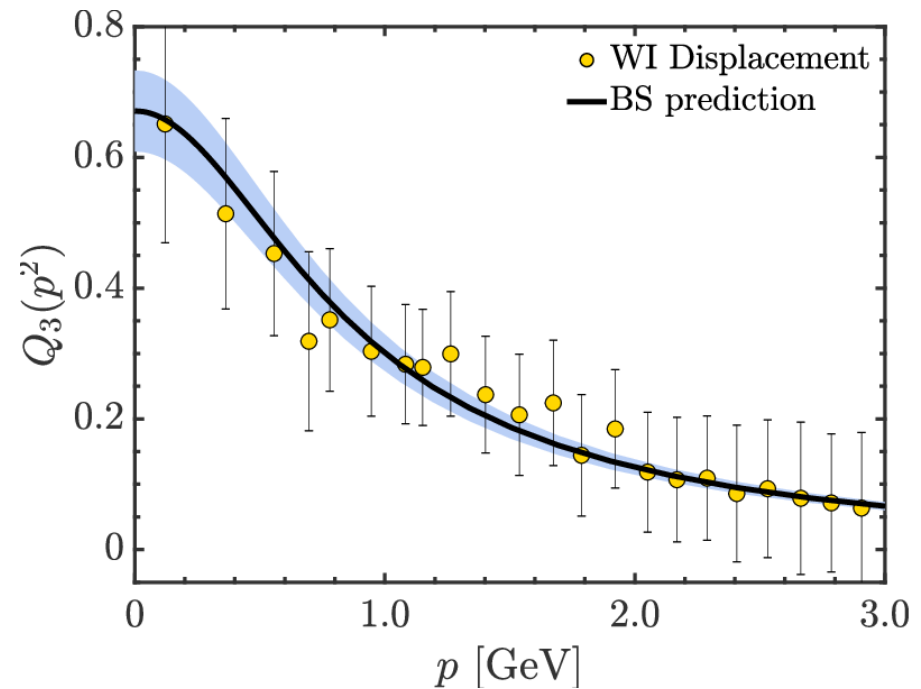
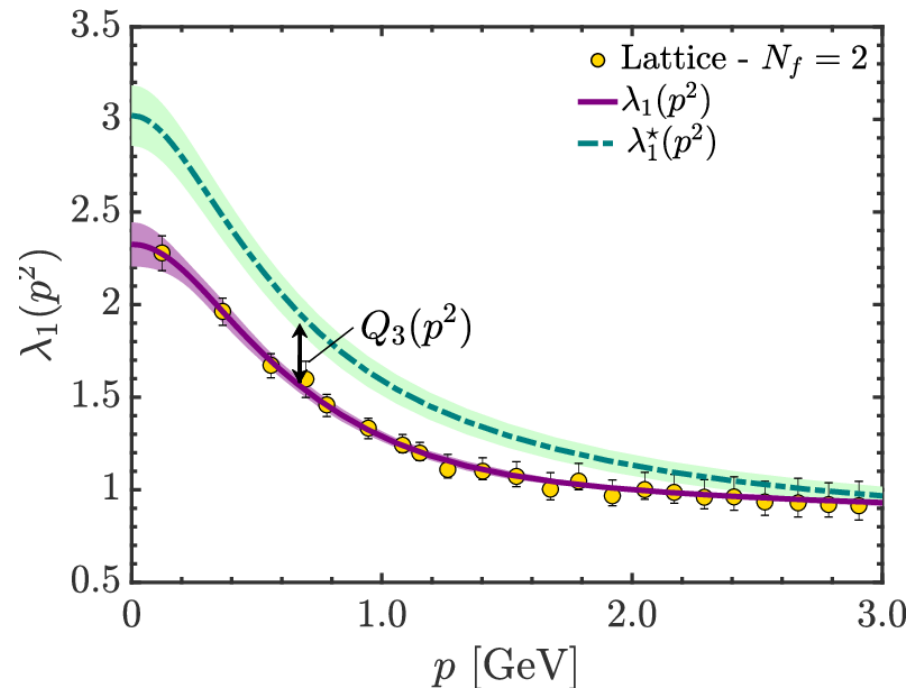
A. C. Aguilar, M. N. F., D. Ibañez and J. Papavassiliou, Eur. Phys. J. C **83**, no.10, 967 (2023).

Results for $Q_3(p^2)$

We are in position to compute $\lambda_1^*(p^2)$ and then obtain $Q_3(p^2)$ from the **WI displacement**

$$\lambda_1^*(p^2) = F(0)A(p^2) \left\{ \left[1 + 4p^2 K_4(p^2) \right] - 2K_1(p^2)\mathcal{M}(p^2) \right\}$$

$$Q_3(p^2) = \lambda_1^*(p^2) - \lambda_1(p^2)$$



A. C. Aguilar, M. N. F., D. Ibáñez and J. Papavassiliou, Eur. Phys. J. C 83, no.10, 967 (2023).

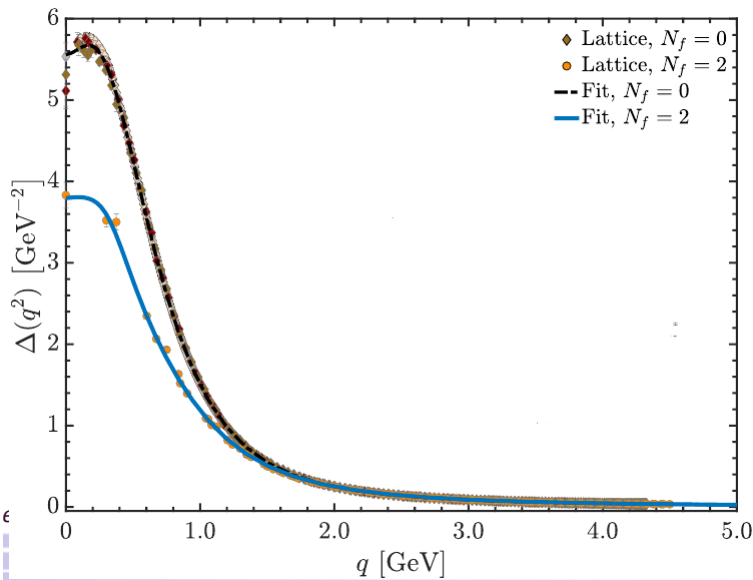
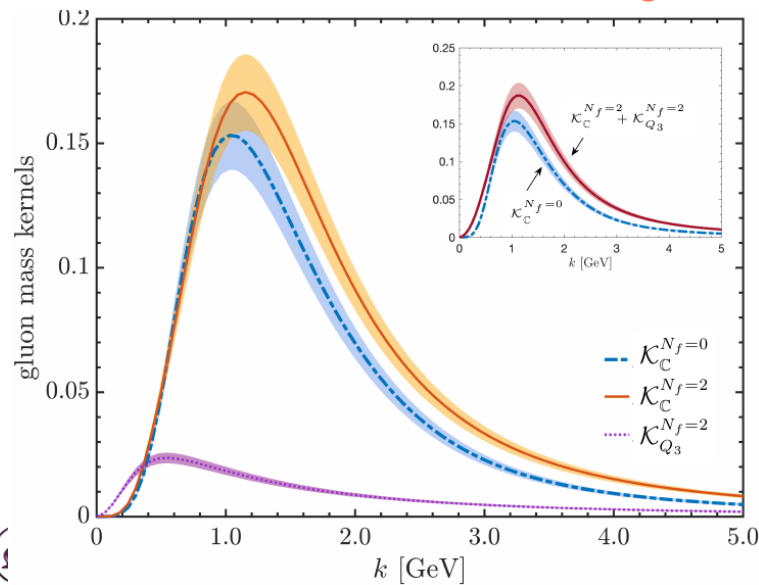
Gluon self-interaction is dominant in generation of gluon mass gap

From the gluon SDE:

$$\left(\text{gluon line with loop} \right)^{-1} = \left(\text{gluon line} \right)^{-1} + \text{gluon loop} + \text{quark loop} + \dots$$

one finds an expression for the mass gap in terms of $\mathbb{C}(p^2)$ and $Q_3(p^2)$:

$$m^2 = \int_0^\infty dy \underbrace{\mathcal{K}_{\mathbb{C}}^{N_f}(y)}_{\text{three-gluon}} + \int_0^\infty dy \underbrace{\mathcal{K}_{Q_3}^{N_f}(y)}_{\text{quark-gluon}}$$



- ✓ Unquenched gluon mass gap is larger, in agreement with lattice.
- ✓ Three-gluon is the biggest contribution.
- ✓ Gluon self-interaction drives the Schwinger mechanism in QCD.

Results for $Q_3(p^2)$

We are in position to compute $\lambda_1^*(p^2)$ and then obtain $Q_3(p^2)$ from the **WI displacement**

$$\lambda_1^*(p^2) = F(0)A(p^2) \{ [1 + 4p^2 K_4(p^2)] - 2K_1(p^2)\mathcal{M}(p^2) \}$$

$$Q_3(p^2) = \lambda_1^*(p^2) - \lambda_1(p^2)$$

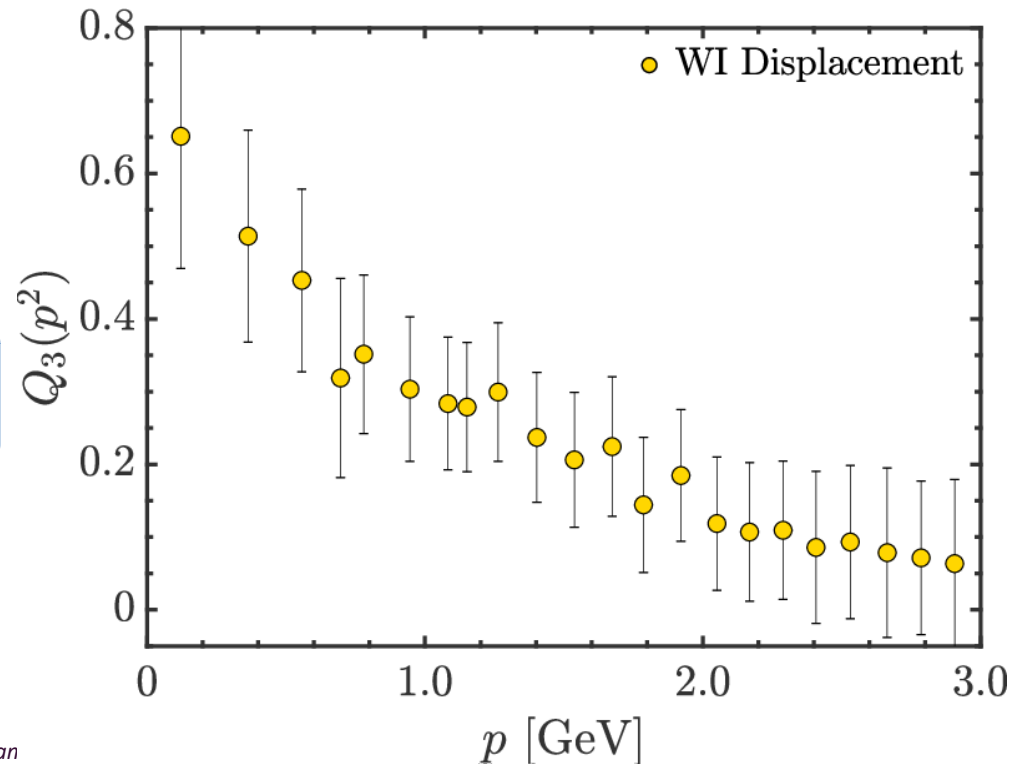
- $Q_3(p^2)$ obtained is clearly nonzero.
- Define the **null hypothesis**,

$$Q_3(p^2) = Q_3^0(p^2) := 0$$

p-value of null hypothesis is very small:

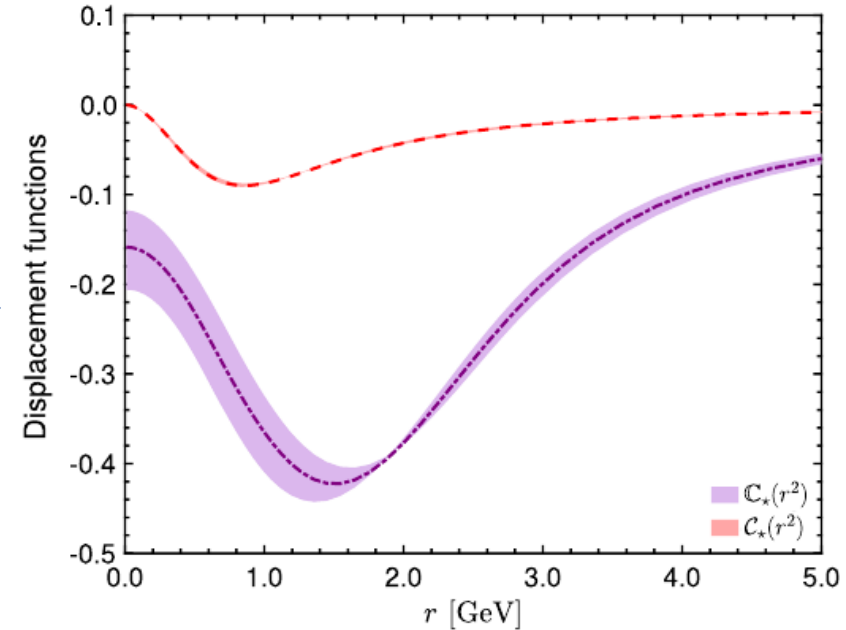
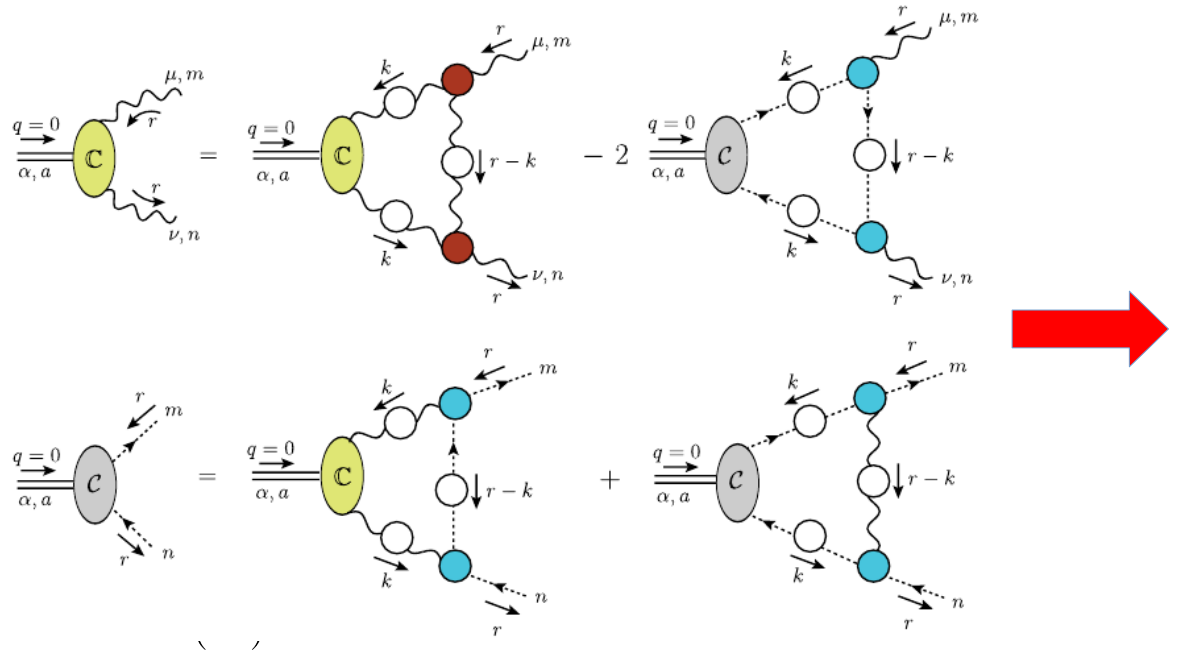
$$P_{Q_3^0} = \int_{\chi^2=119}^{\infty} \chi_{\text{PDF}}^2(18, x) dx = 6.5 \times 10^{-17}$$

- Excludes the null hypothesis at the 8σ level.



Pole of the ghost-gluon vertex

The Schwinger-Dyson equation for the displacement amplitude $\mathbb{C}(r^2)$ can be coupled to a pole also in **ghost-gluon vertex**



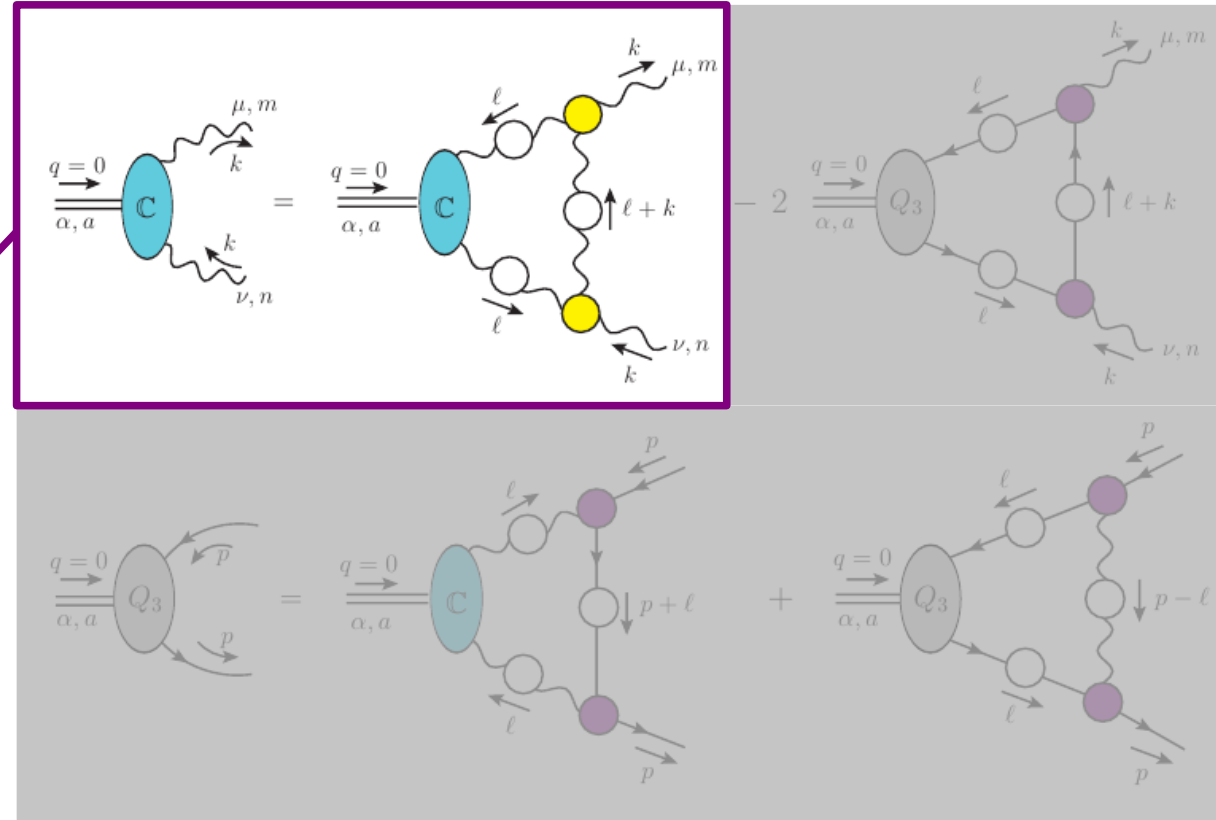
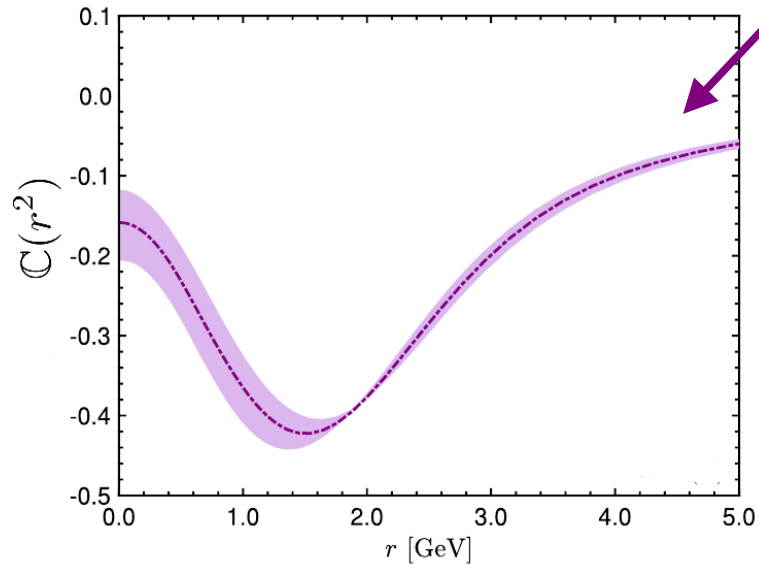
Effect on $\mathbb{C}(r^2)$ is negligible because ghost-gluon pole amplitude, $\mathcal{C}(r^2)$, is subleading.

A. C. Aguilar, et al, Eur. Phys. J. C **78**, no.3, 181 (2018).

A. C. Aguilar, M. N. F. and J. Papavassiliou, Phys. Rev. D **105**, no.1, 014030 (2022).

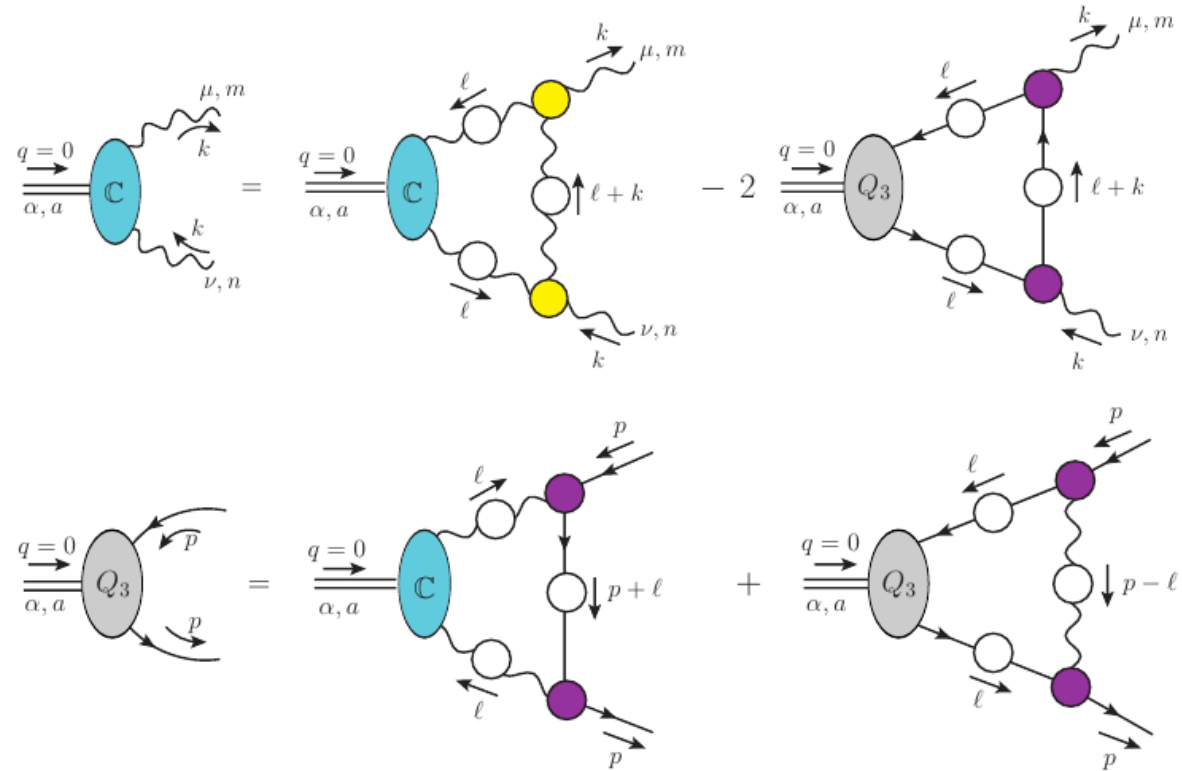
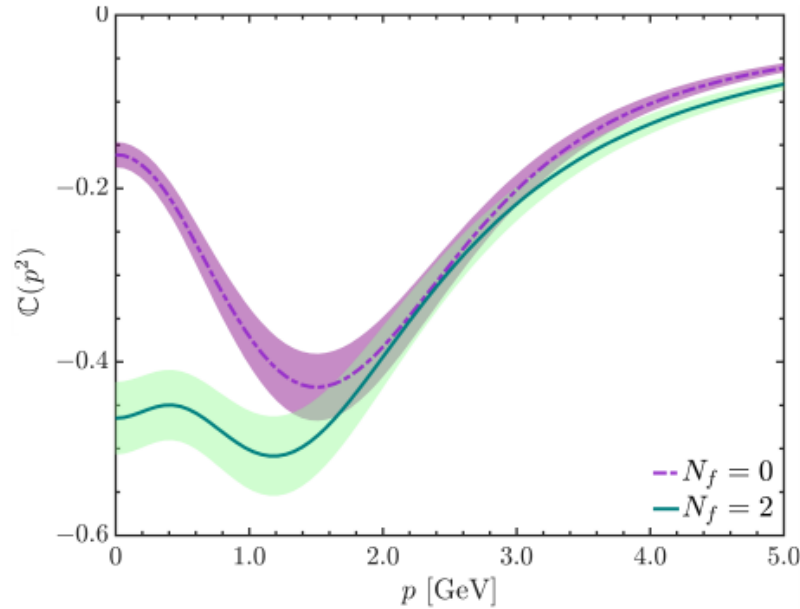
Schwinger mechanism with dynamical quarks

- The three-gluon pole BSE has solutions even if quarks are neglected.



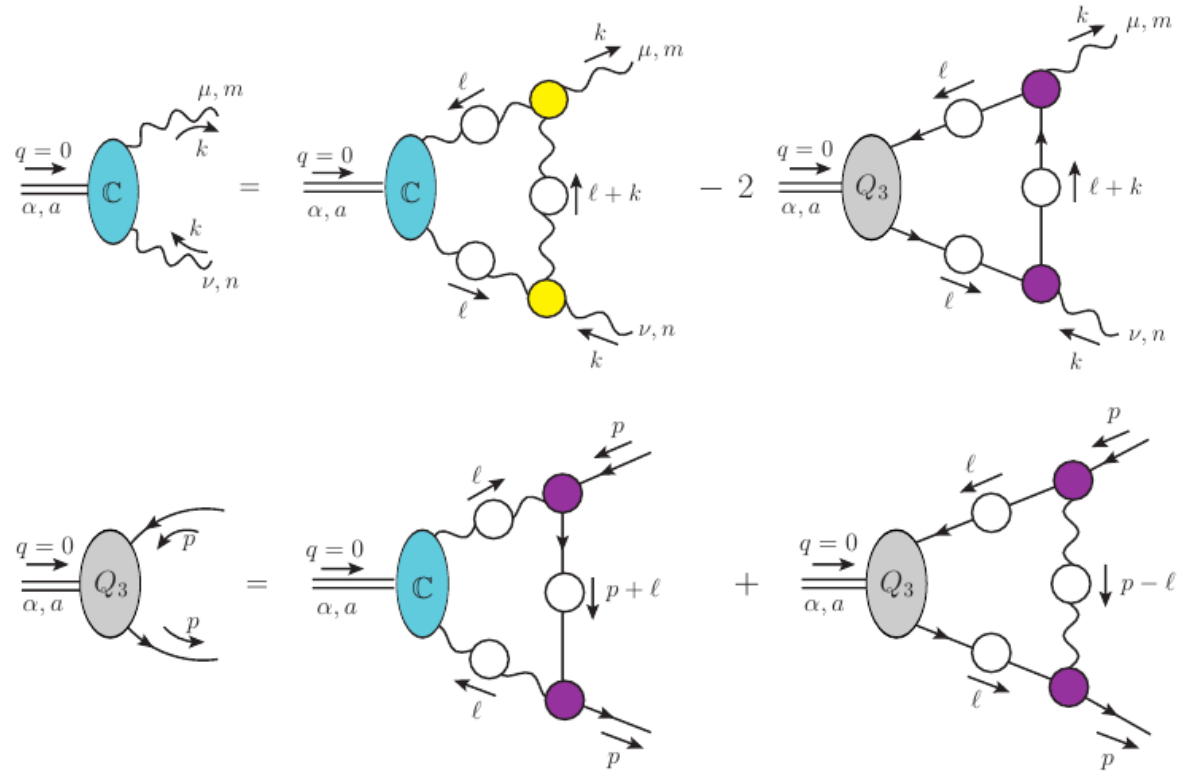
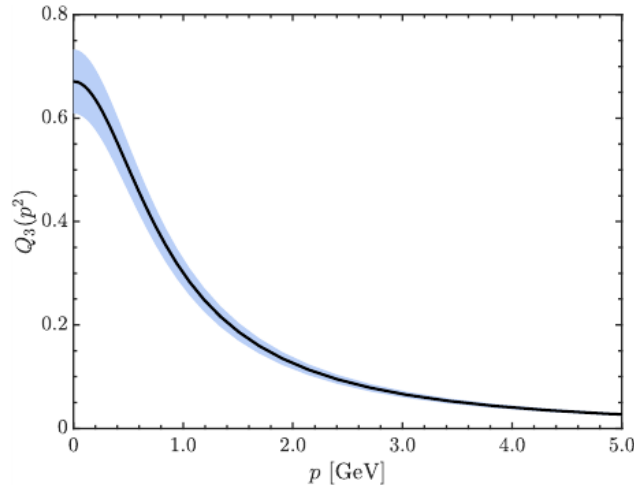
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- Turning on quarks, changes the three-gluon BSE amplitude only in the deep IR.



Schwinger mechanism with dynamical quarks

- The three-gluon pole BSE has solutions even if quarks are neglected.
- Turning on quarks, changes the three-gluon BSE amplitude only in the deep IR.
- But also generates a **pole in the quark-gluon vertex**, with amplitude $Q_3(p^2)$.

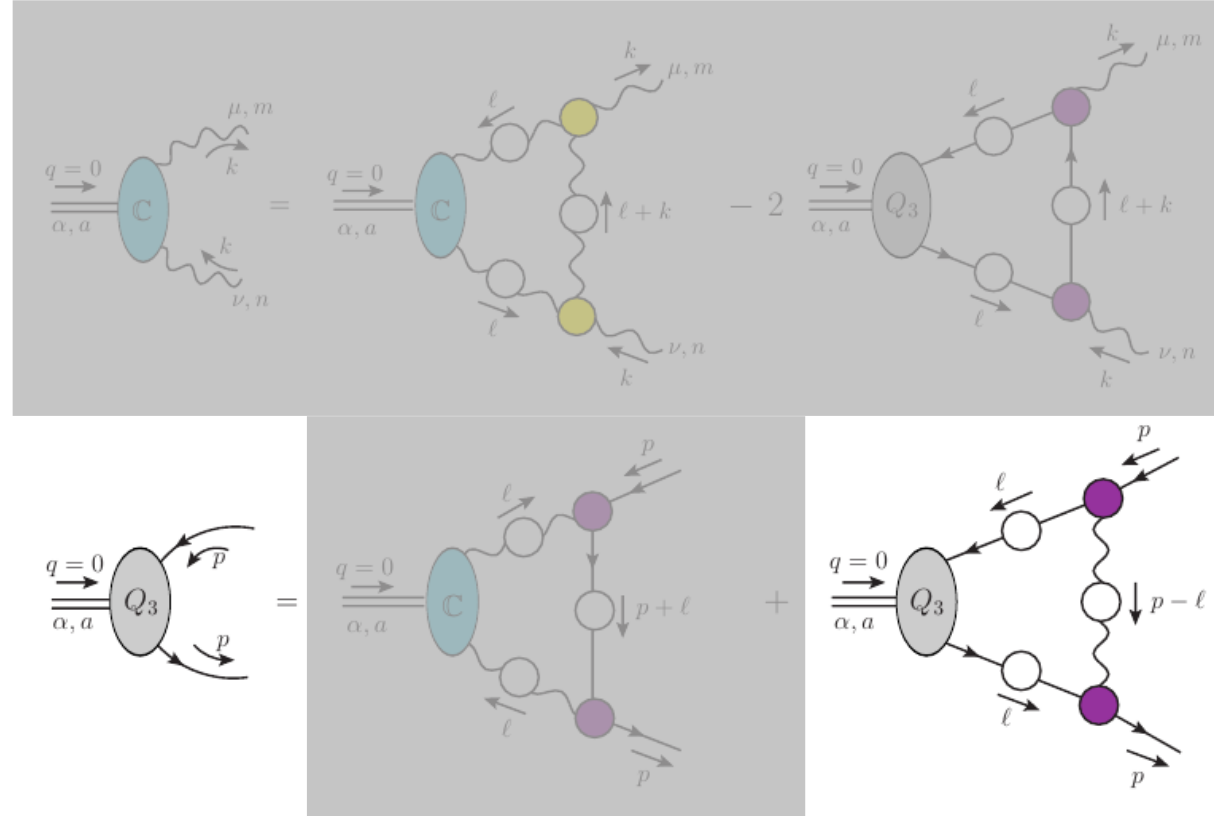


Gluon self-interaction is dominant in generation of gluon mass gap

- The three-gluon pole BSE has solutions even if quarks are neglected.
- Turning on quarks, changes the three-gluon BSE amplitude only in the deep IR.
- But also generates a **pole in the quark-gluon vertex**, with amplitude $Q_3(p^2)$.
- But turning off the three-gluon pole, no solution is found!



Gluon self-interaction drives gluon mass generation



Ward identity displacement of the quark-gluon vertex

$$q^\alpha \Pi_\alpha(q, p_2, -p_1) = F(q^2) [S^{-1}(p_1) H(q, p_2, -p_1) - \overline{H}(-q, p_1, -p_2) S^{-1}(p_2)]$$

$q \rightarrow 0$  Isolate classical tensor structure
Ward identity

$$\lambda_1(p^2) = F(0) A(p^2) \{ [1 + 4p^2 K_4(p^2)] - 2K_1(p^2) \mathcal{M}(p^2) \} - Q_3(p^2)$$

Partial derivative of the quark-ghost kernel

$$\left. \frac{\partial H(q, p, -q - p)}{\partial q^\mu} \right|_{q=0} = \gamma_\mu K_1(p^2) + 4p_\mu \not{p} K_2(p^2) + 2p_\mu K_3(p^2) + 2\tilde{\sigma}_{\mu\nu} p^\nu K_4(p^2)$$

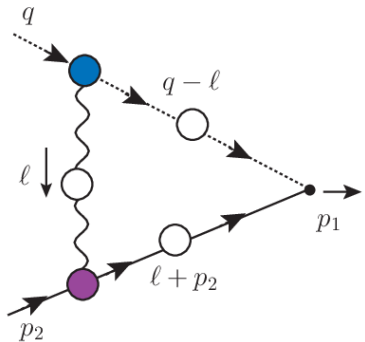
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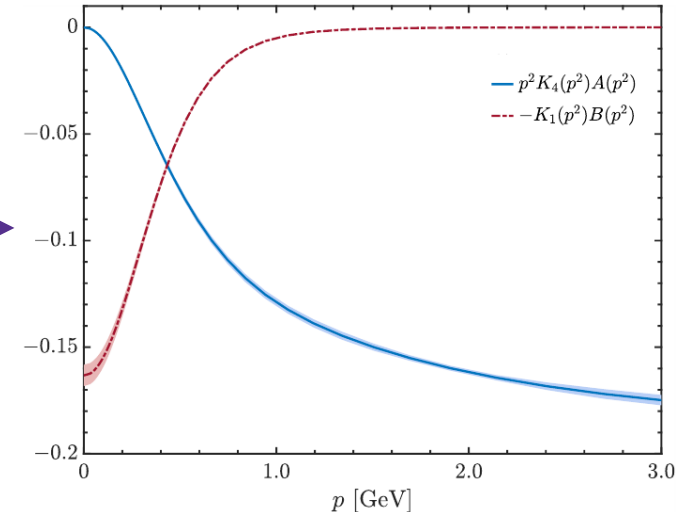
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Computed through a lattice driven Schwinger-Dyson analysis

$$H^a(q, p_2, -p_1) = -g \frac{\lambda^a}{2} +$$


$$+ \dots$$



Seagull cancellation

- The **gluon mass gap generation must occur without violating gauge symmetry**.
- Recalling the Schwinger-Dyson equation for the gluon propagator

$$\left(\text{wavy line from } a \text{ to } b \right)^{-1} = (\text{wavy line})^{-1} + \frac{1}{2} (a_1)_{\mu\nu} + \frac{1}{2} (a_2)_{\mu\nu} + (a_3)_{\mu\nu} + \frac{1}{6} (a_4)_{\mu\nu} + \frac{1}{2} (a_5)_{\mu\nu}$$

$$\Delta_{\mu\nu}(q) = -iP_{\mu\nu}(q)\Delta(q^2)$$

$$P_{\mu\nu}(q) := g_{\mu\nu} - \frac{q_\mu q_\nu}{q^2}$$

It can be shown that

Gauge symmetry + Regular vertices at $q^2 = 0 \implies \Delta^{-1}(0) = 0$

★ **The key to generate gluon mass gap is to have massless poles, longitudinally coupled to the gluon momenta, in the vertices of QCD.**

- A. C. Aguilar and J. Papavassiliou, JHEP **12**, 012 (2006).
 A. C. Aguilar, D. Ibanez, V. Mathieu and J. Papavassiliou, Phys. Rev. D **85**, 014018 (2012).
 A. C. Aguilar, D. Binosi, C. T. Figueiredo and J. Papavassiliou, Phys. Rev. D **94**, no.4, 045002 (2016).
 A. C. Aguilar, D. Binosi and J. Papavassiliou, Front. Phys. (Beijing) **11**, no.2, 111203 (2016).
 A. C. Aguilar, D. Binosi and J. Papavassiliou, Front. Phys. (Beijing) **11**, no.2, 111203 (2016).
 S. Eichmann, J. M. Pawłowski and J. M. Silva, Phys. Rev. D **104**, no.11, 114016 (2021).

Seagull cancellation

To understand **how gauge fields can become massive by the Schwinger mechanism**, let us first recall how gauge symmetry **usually** implies their masslessness.

A. C. Aguilar, D. Binosi, C. T. Figueiredo and J. Papavassiliou, Phys. Rev. D **94**, no.4, 045002 (2016).

A. C. Aguilar, D. Binosi and J. Papavassiliou, Front. Phys. (Beijing) **11**, no.2, 111203 (2016).

To this end, consider the **Schwinger-Dyson equation** for the scalar QED **photon propagator**

$$\Delta_{\mu\nu}(q) = -iP_{\mu\nu}(q)\Delta(q^2)$$

$$P_{\mu\nu}(q) := g_{\mu\nu} - \frac{q_\mu q_\nu}{q^2}$$

$$\Gamma_\nu(q, k, -q - k)$$

$$\mathcal{D}(k^2)$$

At $q = 0$, we obtain:

$$\Delta^{-1}(0) = \frac{2ie^2}{d} \int_k \mathcal{D}^2(k^2) k^\mu \Gamma_\mu(0, k, -k) - 2ie^2 \int_k \mathcal{D}(k^2)$$

Seagull cancellation

Now, **gauge symmetry** implies the **Ward identity**:

$$q^\mu \Gamma_\mu(q, r, p) = \mathcal{D}^{-1}(p^2) - \mathcal{D}^{-1}(r^2) \quad \xrightarrow{q=0}$$

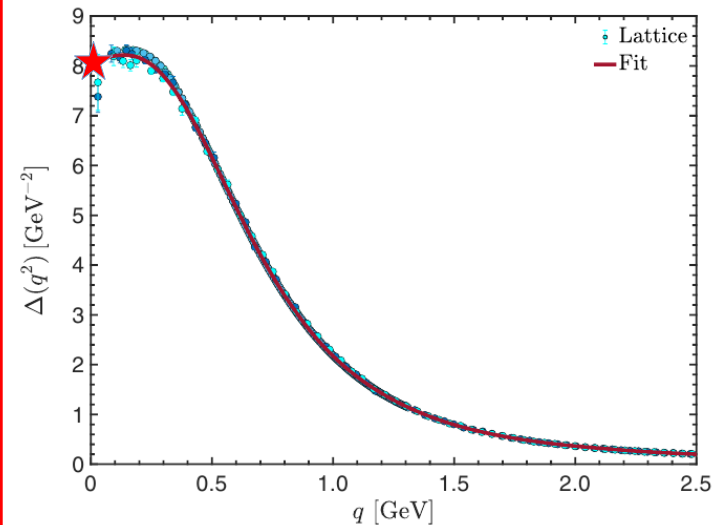
$$\Gamma_\mu(0, r, -r) = \frac{\partial \mathcal{D}^{-1}(r^2)}{\partial r^\mu}$$

$$\Delta^{-1}(0) = \frac{2ie^2}{d} \int_k \mathcal{D}^2(k^2) k^\mu \Gamma_\mu(0, k, -k) - 2ie^2 \int_k \mathcal{D}(k^2)$$

$$\Delta^{-1}(0) = -\frac{4ie^2}{d} \left[\int_k k^2 \frac{\partial \mathcal{D}^{-1}(k^2)}{\partial k^2} + \frac{d}{2} \int_k \mathcal{D}(k^2) \right] = 0$$

Seagull identity (integration by parts in d dimensions).

Then, how can we have saturation?



A. C. Aguilar and J. Papavassiliou, JHEP **12**, 012 (2006).

A. C. Aguilar, D. Binosi, C. T. Figueiredo and J. Papavassiliou, Phys. Rev. D **94**, no.4, 045002 (2016).

A. C. Aguilar, D. Binosi and J. Papavassiliou, Front. Phys. (Beijing) **11**, no.2, 111203 (2016).

Evading the seagull cancellation

Suppose the vertex has a **pole at $q=0$, coupled longitudinally to q** , i.e.

A. C. Aguilar and J. Papavassiliou, JHEP **12**, 012 (2006).
A. C. Aguilar, D. Binosi, C. T. Figueiredo and J. Papavassiliou, Phys. Rev. D **94**, no.4, 045002 (2016).

$$\Gamma_\mu(q, r, p) \rightarrow \Pi_\mu(q, r, p) = \boxed{\frac{q_\mu}{q^2} C(q, r, p)} + \Gamma_\mu(q, r, p)$$

Does not contribute explicitly to $\Delta(q^2)$ because it is longitudinal.

$$\Delta^{-1}(0) = \frac{2ie^2}{d} \int_k \mathcal{D}^2(k^2) k^\mu \Gamma_\mu(0, k, -k) - 2ie^2 \int_k \mathcal{D}(k^2)$$

However, now the regular part satisfies a “displaced” Ward identity:

A. C. Aguilar, M. N. F. and J. Papavassiliou, Phys. Rev. D **105**, no.1, 014030 (2022).

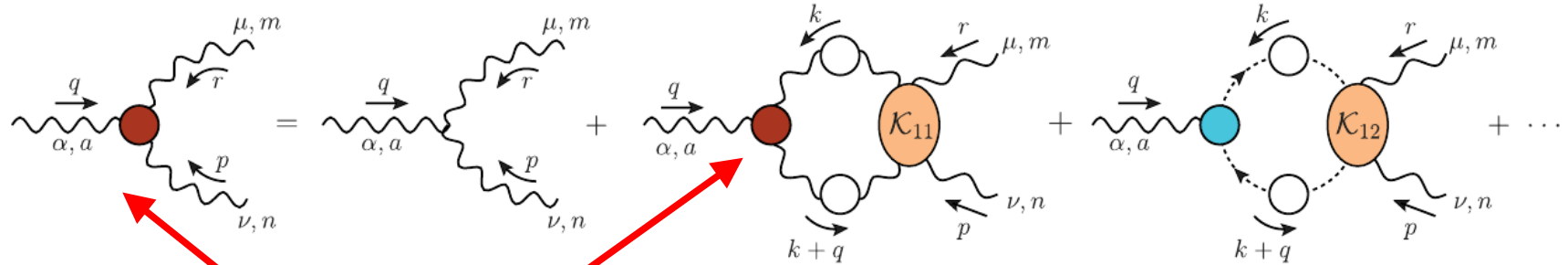
$$\Gamma_\mu(0, r, -r) = \frac{\partial \mathcal{D}^{-1}(k^2)}{\partial k^\mu} - 2r_\mu \mathcal{C}(r^2)$$

$$\mathcal{C}(r^2) := \left[\frac{\partial C(q, r, p)}{\partial p^2} \right]_{q=0} \quad \text{Displacement amplitude}$$

$$\Delta^{-1}(0) = -\frac{4ie^2}{d} \int_k k^2 \mathcal{D}^2(k^2) \mathcal{C}(k^2)$$

Derivation of the Schwinger pole Bethe-Salpeter equation

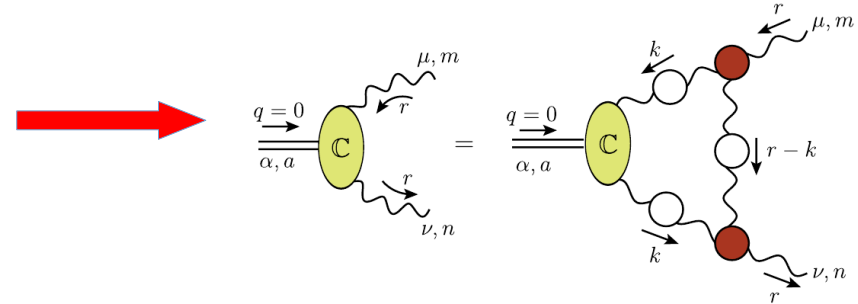
We start with the Schwinger-Dyson (or more generally nPI) equation for the vertex and assume the presence of a massless pole:



$$\Pi_{\alpha\mu\nu}(q, r, p) = \Gamma_{\alpha\mu\nu}(q, r, p) + \frac{q_\alpha}{q^2} g_{\mu\nu} C_1(q, r, p) + \dots$$

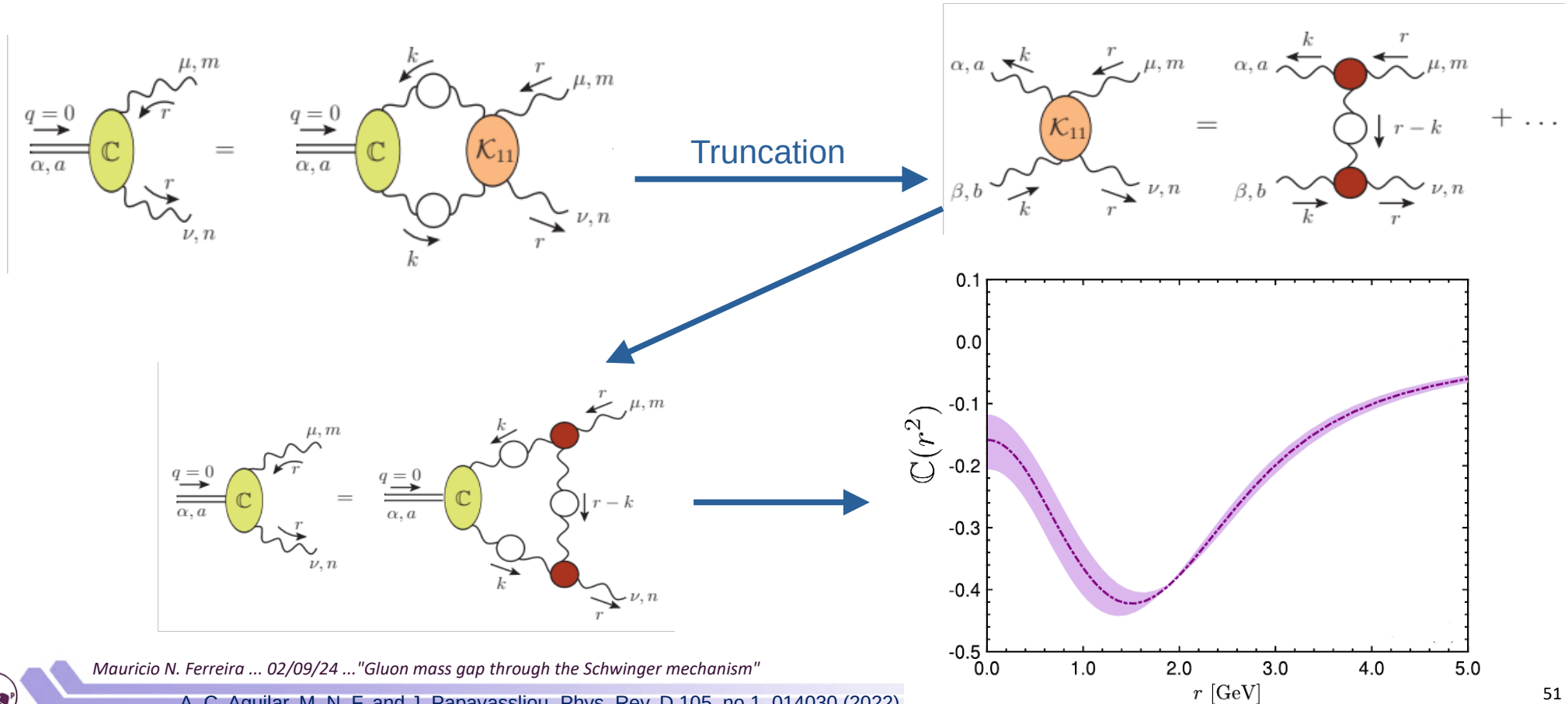
Now multiply by q^2 and take $q = 0$. Only terms containing poles remain:

- Inhomogeneous Schwinger-Dyson equation becomes a Homogeneous Bethe-Salpeter equation.



One-gluon exchange approximation

From the Bethe-Salpeter equation, we can



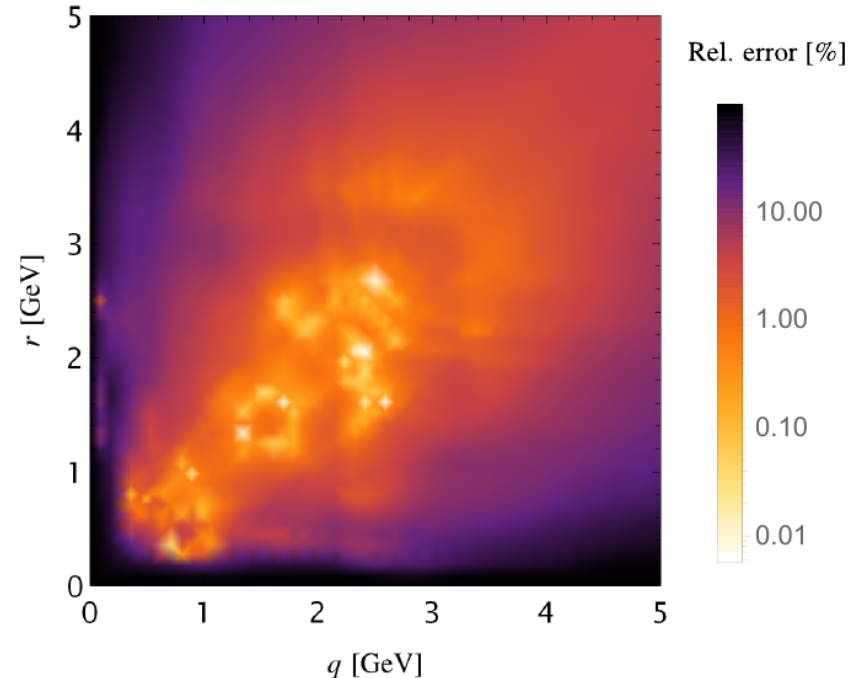
Method 2): Planar degeneracy

To quantify the accuracy of the approximation it is convenient to define

$$\bar{\mathcal{I}}_{\mathcal{W}}(q^2, r^2, p^2) := \frac{\bar{\mathcal{I}}_{\mathcal{W}}(q^2, r^2, p^2)}{\bar{\mathcal{I}}_{\mathcal{W}}^0(q^2, r^2, p^2)} \xrightarrow{\text{Planar degeneracy}} \bar{\mathcal{I}}_{\mathcal{W}}(q^2, r^2, p^2) \approx L_{\text{sg}}(s^2)$$

Then we can measure the relative difference between $L_{\text{sg}}(s^2)$ and $\bar{\mathcal{I}}_{\mathcal{W}}(q^2, r^2, p^2)$

- Approximation is accurate to within 1% near the diagonal.
- And within 10% for most of the kinematics.
- The measured error can then be propagated to the $\mathcal{W}(r^2)$



Results for $\mathcal{W}(r^2)$

We use the **planar degeneracy approximation** to obtain the **central curve**.

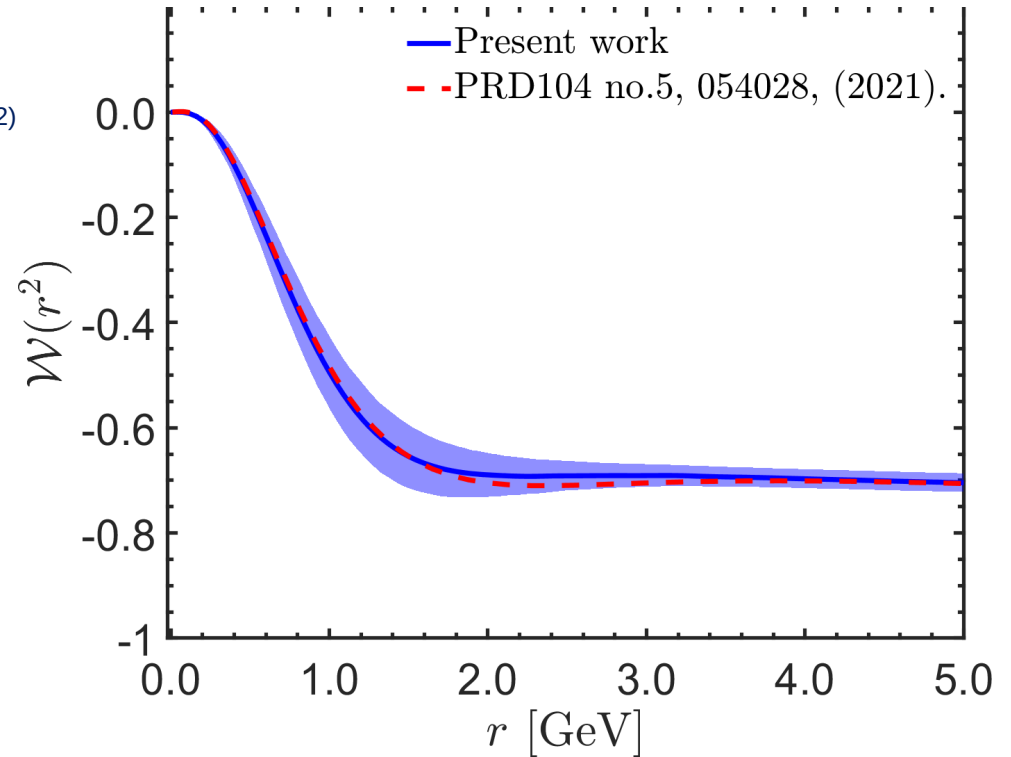
Errors are propagated from known error of the planar degeneracy approximation.

- **Result agrees well with previous calculation**

A. C. Aguilar, M. N. F. and J. Papavassiliou, Phys. Rev. D 105, no.1, 014030 (2022)

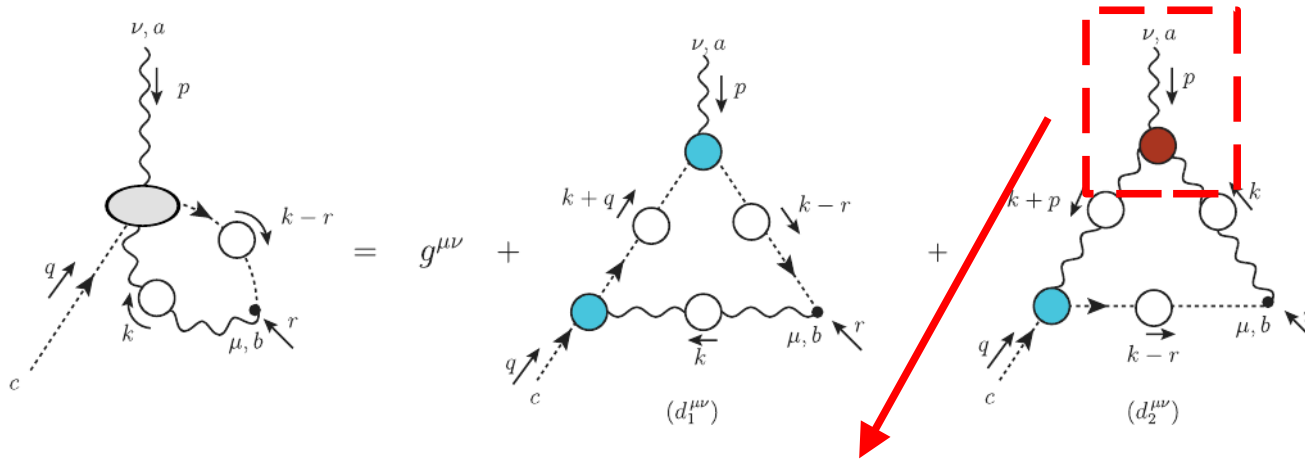
- Previous result employed a particular *Ansatz* for three-gluon vertex.
- **New result stringently constrained by lattice simulation of the three-gluon vertex.**

**Impact of three-gluon vertex
under control**



Truncation error

The full Schwinger-Dyson equation for $\mathcal{W}(r^2)$ is



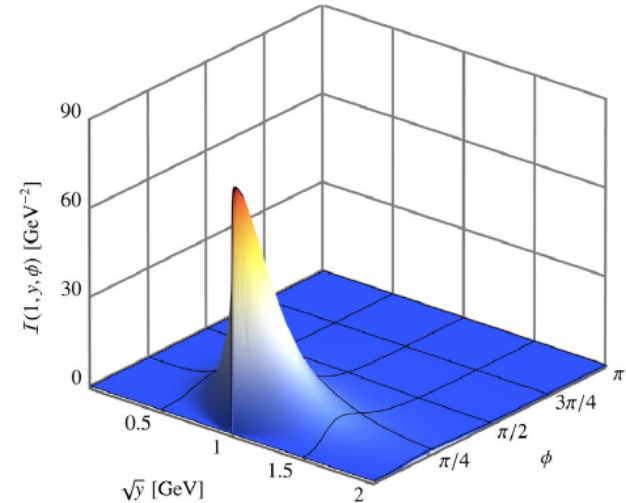
- Three-gluon vertex is a complicated object, with 14 tensor structures.

A. C. Aguilar, M. N. F., C. T. Figueiredo and J. Papavassiliou, Phys. Rev. D **99**, no.9, 094010 (2019).

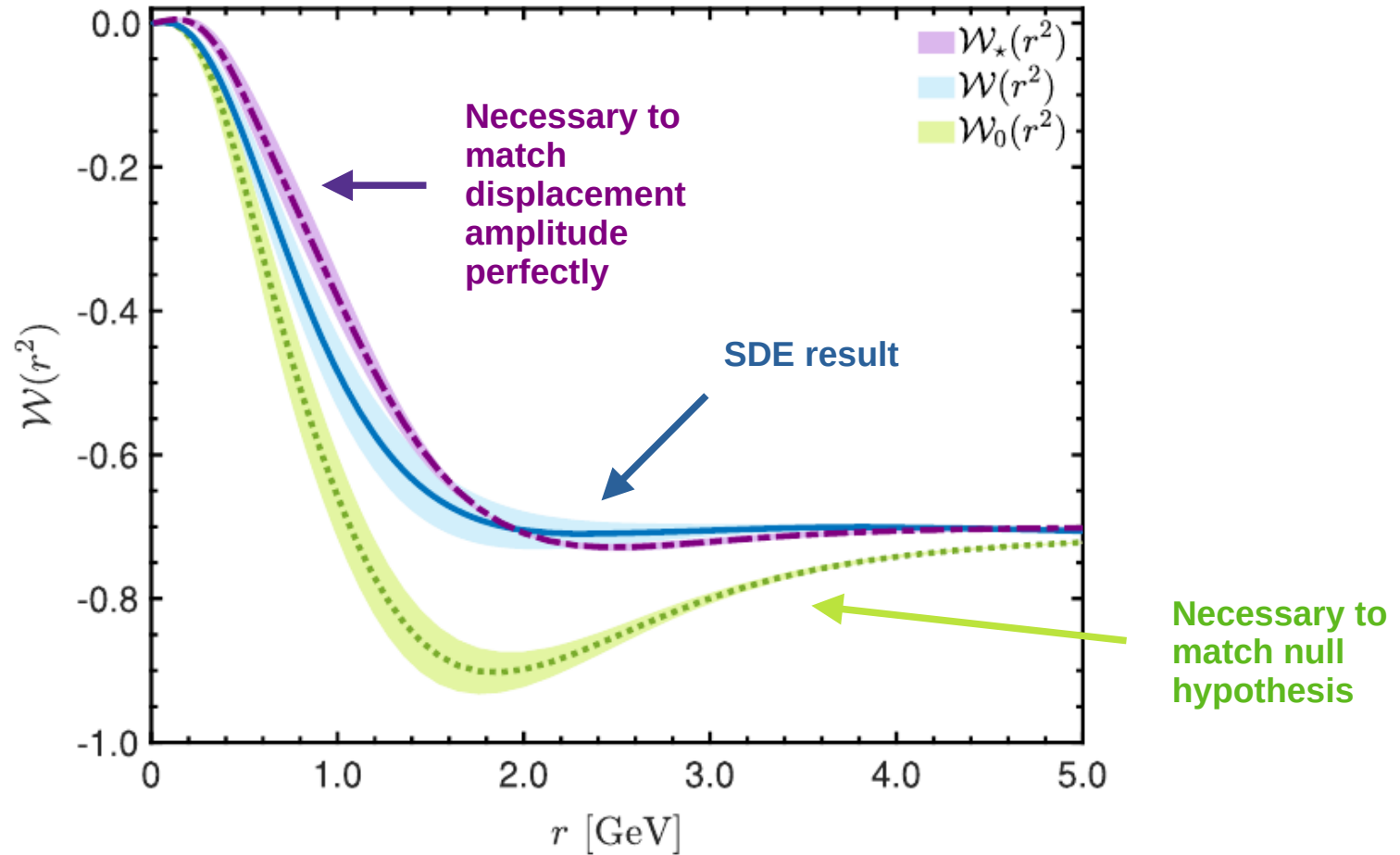
J. S. Ball and T. W. Chiu, Phys. Rev. D **22**, 2550 (1980). [erratum: Phys. Rev. D **23**, 3085 (1981)].

- But $\mathcal{W}(r^2)$ integrand is sharply peaked, and is sensitive only to the particular projection $L_{\text{sg}}(r^2)$ which is well determined by **lattice simulations**.

A. C. Aguilar, M. N. F. and J. Papavassiliou, Phys. Rev. D **105**, no.1, 014030 (2022).

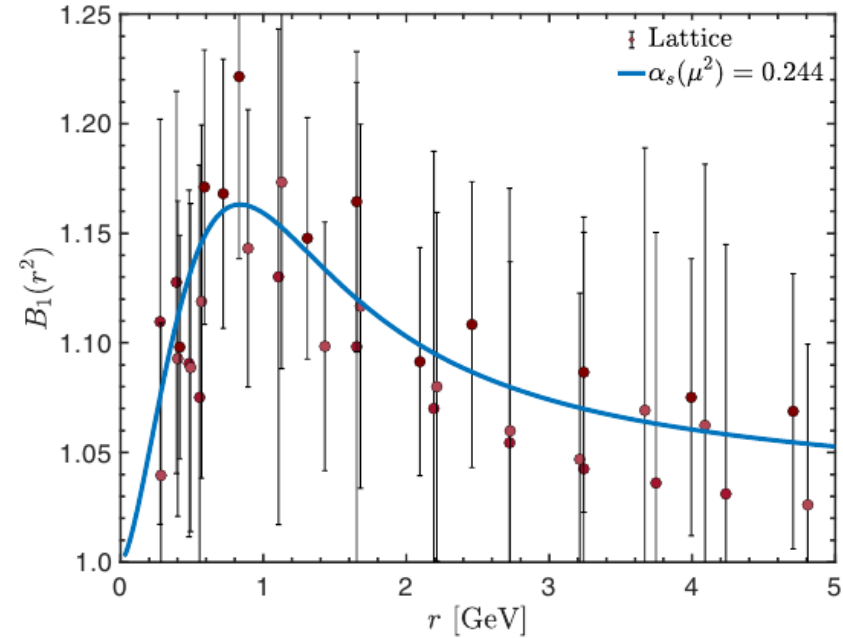
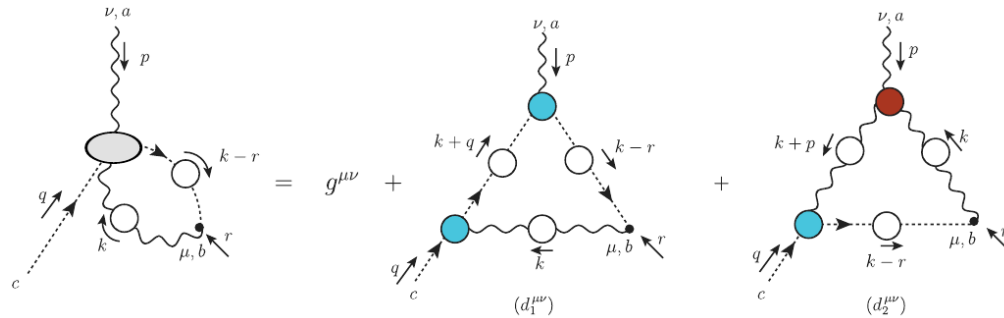


Truncation error



Truncation error

The same truncation used to determine $\mathcal{W}(r^2)$, reproduces the available lattice data for the ghost-gluon vertex:



A. C. Aguilar, M. N. F. and J. Papavassiliou, Phys. Rev. D **105**, no.1, 014030 (2022).

Maurício N. Ferreira ... 02/09/24 ... "Gluon mass gap through the Schwinger mechanism"
Lattice data from: A. C. Aguilar, et al Phys. Rev. D **104**, no.5, 054028 (2021).

Inputs

The parametrizations to lattice data used were of the form:

$$\Delta^{-1}(r^2) = r^2 \left[\frac{d}{1 + (r^2/\kappa^2)} \ln \left(\frac{r^2}{\mu^2} \right) + A^\delta(r^2) \right] + \nu^2 R(r^2),$$

$$F^{-1}(r^2) = A^\gamma(r^2) + R(r^2),$$

where

$$A(r^2) := 1 + \omega \ln \left(\frac{r^2 + \eta^2(r^2)}{\mu^2 + \eta^2(r^2)} \right),$$

$$\eta^2(r^2) = \frac{\eta_1^2}{1 + r^2/\eta_2^2},$$

$$R(r^2) = \frac{b_0 + b_1^2 r^2}{1 + (r^2/b_2^2) + (r^2/b_3^2)^2} - \frac{b_0 + b_1^2 \mu^2}{1 + (\mu^2/b_2^2) + (r^2/b_3^2)^2}.$$