

# Semi-Classical Yang-Mills with $n_f = 12$ at $T = 0$

Seth Grable

Department of Physics  
University of Colorado Boulder  
Cracow School of Theoretical Physics 63

# We want to solve Yang-Mills... What's Stopping us?

- We are all here for the same reason...

# We want to solve Yang-Mills... What's Stopping us?

- We are all here for the same reason...
- We love Poland!

# We want to solve Yang-Mills... What's Stopping us?

- We are all here for the same reason...
- We love Poland!



# We want to solve Yang-Mills... What's Stopping us?

- ... and we want to make progress in understanding confinement, and other nuclear-related phenomena, like neutron stars, early universe physics, and QGPs.

# We want to solve Yang-Mills... What's Stopping us?

- ... and we want to make progress in understanding confinement, and other nuclear-related phenomena, like neutron stars, early universe physics, and QGPs.
- Many wonderful and creative talks have been given so far ranging from seeing confinement through an empirical lens to understanding the QCD phase transition through: fluctuations and correlations, relativistic fluids, EoSs of neutron stars, clever lattice simulations, and so on.







# We want to solve Yang-Mills... What's Stopping us?

- ... and we want to make progress in understanding confinement, and other nuclear-related phenomena, like neutron stars, early universe physics, and QGPs.
- Many wonderful and creative talks have been given so far ranging from seeing confinement through an empirical lens to understanding the QCD phase transition through: fluctuations and correlations, relativistic fluids, EoSs of neutron stars, clever lattice simulations, and so on.
- It would be nice to understand these QCD phenomena analytically. So what's stopping us?
- 1) Expansion around the QCD couplings break down as we approach the critical point, and 2)  $SU(3)$  Yang-Mills is plagued with IR divergences (IR catastrophe - Polyakov 1975).

# We want to solve Yang-Mills... What's Stopping us?

- ... and we want to make progress in understanding confinement, and other nuclear-related phenomena, like neutron stars, early universe physics, and QGPs.
- Many wonderful and creative talks have been given so far ranging from seeing confinement through an empirical lens to understanding the QCD phase transition through: fluctuations and correlations, relativistic fluids, EoSs of neutron stars, clever lattice simulations, and so on.
- It would be nice to understand these QCD phenomena analytically. So what's stopping us?
- 1) Expansion around the QCD couplings break down as we approach the critical point, and 2)  $SU(3)$  Yang-Mills is plagued with IR divergences (IR catastrophe - Polyakov 1975).
- But wait...







# Large-N Propaganda

- What about Paul's Large-N propaganda?
- Mainly large-N models are exact for all couplings. The N in Large-N models provides an expansion parameter (Parisi 1975).
- Is there a large-N model for gauge theories that lets us get around problem 1)?
- No.



# Large-N Propaganda

- What about Paul's Large-N propaganda?
- Mainly large-N models are exact for all couplings. The N in Large-N models provides an expansion parameter (Parisi 1975).
- Is there a large-N model for gauge theories that lets us get around problem 1)?
- No.
- But there is something like it! Peskin and Schroeder call it "The Background Field Method" (Chapter 16.6 pg 533-541)
- Also found in Weinberg volume 2.



# Large-N Propaganda

- What about Paul's Large-N propaganda?
- Mainly large-N models are exact for all couplings. The N in Large-N models provides an expansion parameter (Parisi 1975).
- Is there a large-N model for gauge theories that lets us get around problem 1)?
- No.
- But there is something like it! Peskin and Schroeder call it "The Background Field Method" (Chapter 16.6 pg 533-541)
- Also found in Weinberg volume 2.
- Originally employed by Luetwyler- 1981, Dittrich-1979, and a few others.

# Large-N Propaganda

- What about Paul's Large-N propaganda?
- Mainly large-N models are exact for all couplings. The N in Large-N models provides an expansion parameter (Parisi 1975).
- Is there a large-N model for gauge theories that lets us get around problem 1)?
- No.
- But there is something like it! Peskin and Schroeder call it "The Background Field Method" (Chapter 16.6 pg 533-541)
- Also found in Weinberg volume 2.
- Originally employed by Luetwyler- 1981, Dittrich-1979, and a few others.
- Methods used were derived from Euler/Heisenberg-1936 and Swinger-1951 & 1954

# Background Field Models

- Why not so popular?...

# Background Field Models

- Why not so popular?...
- didn't offer any groundbreaking results during its debut,

# Background Field Models

- Why not so popular?...
- didn't offer any groundbreaking results during its debut,
- Analytic methods were limited and confusing.

# Background Field Models

- Why not so popular?...
- didn't offer any groundbreaking results during its debut,
- Analytic methods were limited and confusing.
- Lattice methods made considerable headway

# Background Field Models

- Why not so popular?...
- didn't offer any groundbreaking results during its debut,
- Analytic methods were limited and confusing.
- Lattice methods made considerable headway
- AdS/CFT has stolen the spotlight for the last 30 years,

# More Background on Backgrounds

- Background field models are simply a method of perturbing the gauge field itself



# More Background on Backgrounds

- Background field models are simply a method of perturbing the gauge field itself
- Yang-Mills Lagrangian

$$L = \frac{1}{4}(F_{\mu\nu}^a)^2 + \bar{\psi}(i\not{D})\psi. \quad (1)$$

# More Background on Backgrounds

- Background field models are simply a method of perturbing the gauge field itself
- Yang-Mills Lagrangian

$$L = \frac{1}{4}(F_{\mu\nu}^a)^2 + \bar{\psi}(i\not{D})\psi. \quad (1)$$

- with the associated covariant derivative and field strength tensor,

$$\begin{aligned} D_\mu &= \partial_\mu - iA_\mu^a t^a, \\ F_{\mu\nu}^a &= \partial_\mu A_\nu^a - \partial_\nu A_\mu^a + f^{abc} A_\mu^b A_\nu^c, \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

# More Background on Backgrounds

- Background field models are simply a method of perturbing the gauge field itself
- Yang-Mills Lagrangian

$$L = \frac{1}{4}(F_{\mu\nu}^a)^2 + \bar{\psi}(i\not{D})\psi. \quad (1)$$

- with the associated covariant derivative and field strength tensor,

$$\begin{aligned} D_\mu &= \partial_\mu - iA_\mu^a t^a, \\ F_{\mu\nu}^a &= \partial_\mu A_\nu^a - \partial_\nu A_\mu^a + f^{abc} A_\mu^b A_\nu^c, \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

- $A_\mu^a$  is split into a linear combination of a constant background field  $B_\mu^a$  and fluctuations  $a_\mu^a$

# More Background on Backgrounds

- Background field models are simply a method of perturbing the gauge field itself
- Yang-Mills Lagrangian

$$L = \frac{1}{4}(F_{\mu\nu}^a)^2 + \bar{\psi}(i\not{D})\psi. \quad (1)$$

- with the associated covariant derivative and field strength tensor,

$$\begin{aligned} D_\mu &= \partial_\mu - iA_\mu^a t^a, \\ F_{\mu\nu}^a &= \partial_\mu A_\nu^a - \partial_\nu A_\mu^a + f^{abc} A_\mu^b A_\nu^c, \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

- $A_\mu^a$  is split into a linear combination of a constant background field  $B_\mu^a$  and fluctuations  $a_\mu^a$
- $A_\mu^a \rightarrow B_\mu^a + a_\mu^a$

- Dropping terms linear in  $a_\mu^a$ , the gauge fixed Lagrangian is

$$L = \frac{1}{4}(F_{\mu\nu}^a)^2 + \frac{1}{2}a_\mu^a [ - (D^2)^{ac} g_{\mu\nu} - 2f^{abc} F_{\mu\nu}^b ] a_\nu^c + \bar{\psi} [ \not{D}^2 ] \psi + \bar{c}^a [ (D^2)^{ac} ] c^c. \quad (3)$$

where all operators and  $F_{\mu\nu}^a$  are now only functions of  $B_\mu^a$ .

- Dropping terms linear in  $a_\mu^a$ , the gauge fixed Lagrangian is

$$L = \frac{1}{4}(F_{\mu\nu}^a)^2 + \frac{1}{2}a_\mu^a [ - (D^2)^{ac} g_{\mu\nu} - 2f^{abc} F_{\mu\nu}^b ] a_\nu^c + \bar{\psi} [ \not{D}^2 ] \psi + \bar{c}^a [ (D^2)^{ac} ] c^c. \quad (3)$$

where all operators and  $F_{\mu\nu}^a$  are now only functions of  $B_\mu^a$ .

- This result comes from some non-obvious gauge fixing. See Peskin and Schroeder pg. 534.

- Dropping terms linear in  $a_\mu^a$ , the gauge fixed Lagrangian is

$$L = \frac{1}{4}(F_{\mu\nu}^a)^2 + \frac{1}{2}a_\mu^a [ - (D^2)^{ac} g_{\mu\nu} - 2f^{abc} F_{\mu\nu}^b ] a_\nu^c + \bar{\psi} [ \not{D}^2 ] \psi + \bar{c}^a [ (D^2)^{ac} ] c^c. \quad (3)$$

where all operators and  $F_{\mu\nu}^a$  are now only functions of  $B_\mu^a$ .

- This result comes from some non-obvious gauge fixing. See Peskin and Schroeder pg. 534.
- Leads to a partition functions for gauge theories which can be solved analytically (quadratic in all fields):

- Dropping terms linear in  $a_\mu^a$ , the gauge fixed Lagrangian is

$$L = \frac{1}{4}(F_{\mu\nu}^a)^2 + \frac{1}{2}a_\mu^a [ - (D^2)^{ac} g_{\mu\nu} - 2f^{abc} F_{\mu\nu}^b ] a_\nu^c + \bar{\psi} [ \not{D}^2 ] \psi + \bar{c}^a [ (D^2)^{ac} ] c^c. \quad (3)$$

where all operators and  $F_{\mu\nu}^a$  are now only functions of  $B_\mu^a$ .

- This result comes from some non-obvious gauge fixing. See Peskin and Schroeder pg. 534.
- Leads to a partition functions for gauge theories which can be solved analytically (quadratic in all fields):
- 

$$Z = \int dB_\mu^a e^{-[\int_x (\frac{1}{4} \bar{F}_{\mu\nu}^a)^2] - \frac{1}{2} \ln \det(\theta_{\text{Glue}}) + \frac{n_f}{2} \ln \det(\theta_{\text{Dirac}}) + \ln \det(\theta_{\text{Ghosts}})} \quad (4)$$



- Dropping terms linear in  $a_\mu^a$ , the gauge fixed Lagrangian is

$$L = \frac{1}{4}(F_{\mu\nu}^a)^2 + \frac{1}{2}a_\mu^a [ - (D^2)^{ac} g_{\mu\nu} - 2f^{abc} F_{\mu\nu}^b ] a_\nu^c + \bar{\psi} [ \not{D}^2 ] \psi + \bar{c}^a [ (D^2)^{ac} ] c^c. \quad (3)$$

where all operators and  $F_{\mu\nu}^a$  are now only functions of  $B_\mu^a$ .

- This result comes from some non-obvious gauge fixing. See Peskin and Schroeder pg. 534.
- Leads to a partition functions for gauge theories which can be solved analytically (quadratic in all fields):
- 

$$Z = \int dB_\mu^a e^{-[\int_x (\frac{1}{4} \bar{F}_{\mu\nu}^a)^2] - \frac{1}{2} \ln \det(\theta_{\text{Glue}}) + \frac{n_f}{2} \ln \det(\theta_{\text{Dirac}}) + \ln \det(\theta_{\text{Ghosts}})} \quad (4)$$

- These  $\theta$ 's are just the operators found in (3)

- I use

$$\ln \det(\theta) = -\frac{d}{ds} \zeta_\theta \Big|_{s=0} \quad (5)$$

where  $\zeta_\theta$  is the zeta-function of an operator

- I use

$$\ln \det(\theta) = -\left. \frac{d}{ds} \zeta_\theta \right|_{s=0} \quad (5)$$

where  $\zeta_\theta$  is the zeta-function of an operator

- 

$$\zeta_\theta = \frac{1}{\Gamma(s)} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{\lambda_n^s} = \int_0^\infty d\tau \tau^{s-1} K_\theta, \quad (6)$$

- I use

$$\ln \det(\theta) = -\left. \frac{d}{ds} \zeta_\theta \right|_{s=0} \quad (5)$$

where  $\zeta_\theta$  is the zeta-function of an operator

- 

$$\zeta_\theta = \frac{1}{\Gamma(s)} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{\lambda_n^s} = \int_0^\infty d\tau \tau^{s-1} K_\theta, \quad (6)$$

- and  $K_\theta$  is the heat kernels of the operator (Bertlmann Anomalies in QFT ch. 5)

$$K_\theta = \text{Tr}[e^{-\tau\theta}], \quad (7)$$

- The heat kernel is obtained by tracing out  $e^{-\tau\theta}$  which naturally leads to a partition function for each operator

$$\text{Tr}[e^{-\tau\theta}] = \int dx \langle x | [e^{-\tau\theta}] | x \rangle \quad (8)$$

- The heat kernel is obtained by tracing out  $e^{-\tau\theta}$  which naturally leads to a partition function for each operator

$$\text{Tr}[e^{-\tau\theta}] = \int dx \langle x | [e^{-\tau\theta}] | x \rangle \quad (8)$$

- 

$$\text{Tr}[e^{-\tau\theta}] = \int \mathcal{D}x \mathcal{D}p e^{-\int_0^\tau ds (\theta + ip\dot{x})}. \quad (9)$$

- The heat kernel is obtained by tracing out  $e^{-\tau\theta}$  which naturally leads to a partition function for each operator

$$\text{Tr}[e^{-\tau\theta}] = \int dx \langle x | [e^{-\tau\theta}] | x \rangle \quad (8)$$

- 

$$\text{Tr}[e^{-\tau\theta}] = \int \mathcal{D}x \mathcal{D}p e^{-\int_0^\tau ds (\theta + ip\dot{x})}. \quad (9)$$

- HW: find the heat kernels need for (3) for SU(3).

- Using all of this machinery the  $\lambda_8$  abelian sub-sector of  $SU(3)$  gives

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \frac{1}{\Gamma(s)} \int_0^\infty d\tau \tau^{s-1} \left( -\frac{1}{2} K_{\theta_{\text{Gluon}}} + \frac{n_f}{2} K_{\theta_{\text{Dirac}}} + K_{\theta_{\text{Ghosts}}} \right) \\
 &= \frac{3\text{Vol}}{16\pi^2} \frac{B^2}{\Gamma(s)} \int_0^\infty d\tau \tau^{s-1} \left[ 4\left(1 - \frac{d}{2}\right) + B^2 \left( \frac{3dn_f}{4} - 9d \right) \right. \\
 & \left. + \frac{dn_f}{2} \frac{1}{\sinh^2(B\tau)} + \frac{dn_f}{4} \frac{1}{\sinh^2\left(\frac{B\tau}{2}\right)} + 9 \left(1 - \frac{d}{2}\right) \frac{1}{\sinh^2\left(\frac{3B\tau}{2}\right)} \right] \quad (10)
 \end{aligned}$$



- Using all of this machinery the  $\lambda_8$  abelian sub-sector of  $SU(3)$  gives

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \frac{1}{\Gamma(s)} \int_0^\infty d\tau \tau^{s-1} \left( -\frac{1}{2} K_{\theta_{\text{Gluon}}} + \frac{n_f}{2} K_{\theta_{\text{Dirac}}} + K_{\theta_{\text{Ghosts}}} \right) \\
 &= \frac{3\text{Vol}}{16\pi^2} \frac{B^2}{\Gamma(s)} \int_0^\infty d\tau \tau^{s-1} \left[ 4\left(1 - \frac{d}{2}\right) + B^2 \left( \frac{3dn_f}{4} - 9d \right) \right. \\
 & \left. + \frac{dn_f}{2} \frac{1}{\sinh^2(B\tau)} + \frac{dn_f}{4} \frac{1}{\sinh^2\left(\frac{B\tau}{2}\right)} + 9 \left(1 - \frac{d}{2}\right) \frac{1}{\sinh^2\left(\frac{3B\tau}{2}\right)} \right] \quad (10)
 \end{aligned}$$

- For  $d = 4$  and  $n_f = 12$  this gives

$$-\frac{d}{ds} \zeta_{\theta_{\text{total}}} \Big|_{s=0} = -\frac{B^2 \text{Vol}}{16\pi^2} \left( 36 \log(A) + 3 \log\left(\frac{\mu^2}{B}\right) - 3 + \log\left(\frac{27}{4}\right) \right) \quad (11)$$

- Now  $Z$  can be calculated over the background field using a saddle point integral (large volume limit).



- Now  $Z$  can be calculated over the background field using a saddle point integral (large volume limit).
- From here a finite non-trivial solution to the gap equation can be found w.r.t  $B$
- A running coupling (w/ an associated beta function) gives a fully renormalized pressure.

- Now  $Z$  can be calculated over the background field using a saddle point integral (large volume limit).
- From here a finite non-trivial solution to the gap equation can be found w.r.t  $B$
- A running coupling (w/ an associated beta function) gives a fully renormalized pressure.
- Never mind all that. We want confinement! (or at least signatures of it at zero temp).

- Now  $Z$  can be calculated over the background field using a saddle point integral (large volume limit).

- Now  $Z$  can be calculated over the background field using a saddle point integral (large volume limit).
- From here a finite non-trivial solution to the gap equation can be found w.r.t  $B$

- Now  $Z$  can be calculated over the background field using a saddle point integral (large volume limit).
- From here a finite non-trivial solution to the gap equation can be found w.r.t  $B$
- A running coupling (w/ an associated beta function) gives a fully renormalized pressure.



- Now  $Z$  can be calculated over the background field using a saddle point integral (large volume limit).
- From here a finite non-trivial solution to the gap equation can be found w.r.t  $B$
- A running coupling (w/ an associated beta function) gives a fully renormalized pressure.
- Never mind all that. We want confinement! (or at least signatures of it at zero temp).

# Polyakov loop

- the Polyakov loop

$$\langle I \rangle = \lim_{\beta \rightarrow \infty} \text{Tr} \frac{1}{NZ} \int d\bar{B} e^{-\int_x S[\bar{B}]} \mathcal{P} e^{i \int_0^\beta \ell \bar{B}_0^a t^a} \quad (12)$$

is trivial because  $\bar{B}$  is constant.

# Polyakov loop

- the Polyakov loop

$$\langle I \rangle = \lim_{\beta \rightarrow \infty} \text{Tr} \frac{1}{NZ} \int d\bar{B} e^{-\int_x S[\bar{B}]} \mathcal{P} e^{i \int_0^\beta \ell \bar{B}_0^a t^a} \quad (12)$$

is trivial because  $\bar{B}$  is constant.

- 

$$\langle I \rangle = \lim_{\beta \rightarrow \infty} \text{Tr} e^{i \int_0^\beta \ell \bar{B}_0^a t^a} \quad (13)$$

# Polyakov loop

- the Polyakov loop

$$\langle I \rangle = \lim_{\beta \rightarrow \infty} \text{Tr} \frac{1}{NZ} \int d\bar{B} e^{-\int_x S[\bar{B}]} \mathcal{P} e^{i \int_0^\beta \ell \bar{B}_0^a t^a} \quad (12)$$

is trivial because  $\bar{B}$  is constant.

- 

$$\langle I \rangle = \lim_{\beta \rightarrow \infty} \text{Tr} e^{i \int_0^\beta \ell \bar{B}_0^a t^a} \quad (13)$$

- Notice we are just exponentiating a constant with some spatial dependence times the generators. Only  $\lambda_8$  gives a vanishing Polyakov loop in the  $\beta \rightarrow \infty$  limit.

# Polyakov loop

- the Polyakov loop

$$\langle I \rangle = \lim_{\beta \rightarrow \infty} \text{Tr} \frac{1}{NZ} \int d\bar{B} e^{-\int_x S[\bar{B}]} \mathcal{P} e^{i \int_0^\beta \ell \bar{B}_0^a t^a} \quad (12)$$

is trivial because  $\bar{B}$  is constant.

- 

$$\langle I \rangle = \lim_{\beta \rightarrow \infty} \text{Tr} e^{i \int_0^\beta \ell \bar{B}_0^a t^a} \quad (13)$$

- Notice we are just exponentiating a constant with some spatial dependence times the generators. Only  $\lambda_8$  gives a vanishing Polyakov loop in the  $\beta \rightarrow \infty$  limit.
- recall  $SU(3)$  is three copies of  $SU(2)$  embedded which overlap (in the adjoint representation) via  $\lambda_3$  and  $\lambda_8$ . These two diagonal generators can give all eigenvalues of  $SU(3)$ . Without them we have  $SU(2) \times SU(2) \times SU(2)$  which would not give a vanishing Polyakov loop for constant  $B$ .

- To be continued!

- To be continued!
- Thank you for listening!

- To be continued!
- Thank you for listening!
- Thank you to everyone who organized!



- To be continued!
- Thank you for listening!
- Thank you to everyone who organized!
- maybe dessert tonight?