QCD lecture 4

October 29, 2025

Quark self - energy

$$\frac{p}{ig\gamma^{\mu}T_{\alpha\sigma}^{a}} \frac{p}{ig\gamma^{\nu}T_{\tau\beta}^{a}} = \Sigma(p)$$

$$4 \to d = 4 - 2\varepsilon$$

$$\Sigma(p) = -g^{2}\mu^{4-d}C_{F}\delta_{\alpha\beta} \int \frac{d^{d}k}{(2\pi)^{d}} \frac{\gamma^{\mu}(p+k+m)\gamma_{\mu}}{[(p+k)^{2}-m^{2}]k^{2}}$$

We want to keep the same dimensionality of Σ and g in any number of physical dimensions. We therefore introduce a dimensionfull parameter μ to correct for this.

We will extend Dirac algebra by simply using $g_{\mu\nu}g^{\mu\nu}=d$ It can be shown that we can treat Dirac bispinors as 4-dimensional.

Dimensional regularization preserves gauge invarince, but has problems in theories with y_5 . This is not the case of QCD.

In the following we shall keep m = 0.

Integrals

$$\Sigma(p) = 2(1 - \varepsilon) g^{2} \mu^{2\varepsilon} C_{F} \delta_{\alpha\beta} \int \frac{d^{d}k}{(2\pi)^{d}} \frac{\not p + \not k}{(p + k)^{2} k^{2}}$$
$$= 2(1 - \varepsilon) g^{2} \mu^{2\varepsilon} C_{F} \delta_{\alpha\beta} \left[\not p I + \gamma_{\mu} I^{\mu} \right]$$

Define two integrals

$$\{I, I^{\mu}\} = \int \frac{d^d k}{(2\pi)^d} \frac{1}{(p+k)^2 k^2} \{1, k^{\mu}\}$$

Result:

$$\{I, I^{\mu}\} = i \frac{1}{2^4 \pi^2} \left(\frac{4\pi e^{-\gamma}}{-p^2} \right)^{\varepsilon} \left\{ 1, -\frac{1}{2} p^{\mu} \right\} (1 + 2\varepsilon) \frac{1}{\varepsilon}$$

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$$= 2(1 - \varepsilon) g^2 \mu^{2\varepsilon} C_F \delta_{\alpha\beta} \left[\not p I + \gamma_\mu I^\mu \right]$$

 p^2 and μ^2 combine into a dimensionless ratio

$$g \to g \, \mu^{\varepsilon}$$

 $g o g \, \mu^{arepsilon}$ both integrals are proportional to p

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$$\Sigma(p) = i C_F \delta_{\alpha\beta} \frac{g^2}{2^4 \pi^2} \left(\frac{\mu^2 4 \pi e^{-\gamma}}{-p^2} \right)^{\varepsilon} \not p (1 - \varepsilon) (1 + 2\varepsilon) \frac{1}{\varepsilon}$$

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Quark self -energy

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$$= i \not p C_F \delta_{\alpha\beta} \frac{\alpha_s}{4\pi} \left(\frac{\bar{\mu}^2}{-p^2} \right)^{\varepsilon} \left(\frac{1}{\varepsilon} + 1 \right)$$

we have defined:

$$\alpha_s = \frac{g^2}{4\pi} \qquad \bar{\mu}^2 = \mu^2 4\pi e^{-\gamma}$$

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remark:

$$\left(\frac{\bar{\mu}^2}{-p^2}\right)^{\varepsilon} \frac{1}{\varepsilon} = \left(\frac{\mu^2}{-p^2}\right)^{\varepsilon} \exp\left(\varepsilon \log\left(4\pi e^{-\gamma}\right)\right) \frac{1}{\varepsilon} = \left(\frac{\mu^2}{-p^2}\right)^{\varepsilon} \left[\frac{1}{\varepsilon} + \log\left(4\pi e^{-\gamma}\right)\right]$$

this defines the MS-bar renormalization scheme

Full quark propagator

Renormalization

$$= \frac{i}{p} \left(1 - \frac{\alpha_s}{4\pi} C_F \left(\frac{\bar{\mu}^2}{-p^2} \right)^{\varepsilon} \left(\frac{1}{\varepsilon} + 1 \right) \right)$$

Practical renormalization: remove only poles (MS: minimal subtraction)

$$S_F^R(p) = \frac{i}{\not p} \left(1 - \frac{\alpha_s}{4\pi} C_F \left(\frac{\bar{\mu}^2}{-p^2} \right)^{\varepsilon} \left(\frac{1}{\varepsilon} + 1 \right) + \frac{\alpha_s}{4\pi} C_F \frac{1}{\varepsilon} \right)$$
$$= \frac{i}{\not p} \left(1 + \frac{\alpha_s}{4\pi} C_F \left(\ln \left(\frac{-p^2}{\bar{\mu}^2} \right) - 1 \right) \right)$$

The same effect can be obtained by multiplication of the "bare" propagator by the renormalization constant:

$$Z_2 S_F^R = S_F$$

where

$$Z_2 = 1 - \frac{\alpha_s}{4\pi} C_F \frac{1}{\varepsilon} + \mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^2)$$

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 inverse of Z_2 $rac{1}{Z_2} \simeq 1 + rac{lpha_s}{4\pi} C_F rac{1}{arepsilon}$

Indeed

inverse of
$$Z_2$$
 $\frac{1}{Z_2} \simeq 1 + \frac{\alpha_s}{4\pi} C_F \frac{1}{\epsilon}$

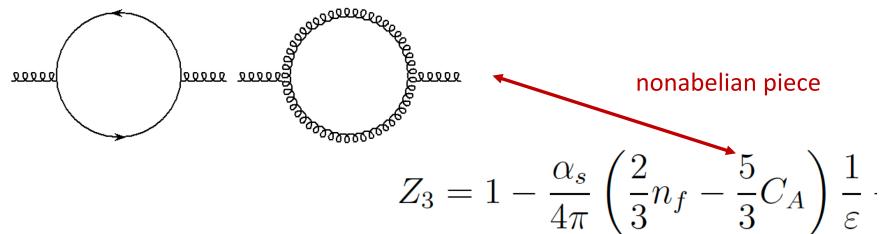
$$S_F^R = \frac{i}{p} \left(1 + \frac{\alpha_s}{4\pi} C_F \frac{1}{\varepsilon} \right) \left(1 - \frac{\alpha_s}{4\pi} C_F \left(\frac{1}{\varepsilon} - \ln \left(\frac{-p^2}{\bar{\mu}^2} \right) + 1 \right) \right)$$

$$= \frac{i}{p} \left(1 + \frac{\alpha_s}{4\pi} C_F \left(\ln \left(\frac{-p^2}{\bar{\mu}^2} \right) - 1 \right) \right).$$

In QFT propagator is defined as:

$$S_F(x-y) = \left\langle 0 \left| T(\psi(x)\bar{\psi}(y)) \right| 0 \right\rangle$$

Therefore multiplicative renormalization can be achieved by multipying fermion (quark) fields by $\sqrt{Z_2}$. Analogously we will renormalize gluon self-energy, and this will lead to the multiplicative renormalization of the gluon fields.



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Write the QCD lagrangian in terms of the *bare* fields in $d = 4 - 2\varepsilon$ dims. where everything is finite and we have canonical commutation rules.

$$\mathcal{L} = \bar{\psi}_{(0)} \left(i \rlap{/}D - m_{(0)} \right) \psi_{(0)} - \frac{1}{4} F^{a \, \mu \nu}_{(0)} F^a_{(0) \mu \nu}$$
 Here

$$D_{\mu}\psi_{(0)} = \left(\partial_{\mu} + ig_{(0)}T^{a}A_{\mu}^{a(0)}\right)$$

$$\mathcal{L} = \bar{\psi}_{(0)} \left(i \not \! D - m_{(0)} \right) \psi_{(0)} - \frac{1}{4} F^{a \mu \nu}_{(0)} F^{a}_{(0)\mu \nu}$$

Define renormalized fields:

$$\sqrt{Z_2}\psi = \psi_{(0)}, \ \sqrt{Z_3}A^a_\mu = A^{a(0)}_\mu, \ \text{etc.}$$

Note that when ε goes to zero bare fields and ren. constants are infinite.

Rewrite Lagrangian in terms of renormalized fields:

$$\mathcal{L} = Z_{2}\bar{\psi} (i\partial \!\!\!/ - m_{(0)}) \psi - Z_{2}\sqrt{Z_{3}}g_{(0)}\bar{\psi}T^{a}A^{a}\psi
- \frac{Z_{3}}{4} (\partial_{\mu}A^{a}_{\nu} - \partial_{\nu}A^{a}_{\mu})^{2} + \frac{Z_{3}^{3/2}g_{(0)}}{2} (\partial_{\mu}A^{a}_{\nu} - \partial_{\nu}A^{a}_{\mu}) f^{abc}A^{b}_{\mu}A^{c}_{\nu}
- \frac{Z_{3}^{2}g_{(0)}^{2}}{4} (f^{abc}A^{b}_{\mu}A^{c}_{\nu})^{2} + \dots$$

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Rewrite Lagrangian in terms of renormalized fields:

$$\mathcal{L} = Z_2 \bar{\psi} \left(i \partial \!\!\!/ - m_{(0)} \right) \psi - Z_2 \sqrt{Z_3} g_{(0)} \bar{\psi} T^a A^a \psi$$

$$- \frac{Z_3}{4} \left(\partial_\mu A^a_\nu - \partial_\nu A^a_\mu \right)^2 + \frac{Z_3^{3/2} g_{(0)}}{2} \left(\partial_\mu A^a_\nu - \partial_\nu A^a_\mu \right) f^{abc} A^b_\mu A^c_\nu$$

$$- \frac{Z_3^2 g_{(0)}^2}{4} \left(f^{abc} A^b_\mu A^c_\nu \right)^2 + \dots \text{We will modify it by adding counterterms}$$

Renormalized lagrangian

We construct the renormalized lagrangian by adding counterterms

finite, renormalized 4-dim.
$$\mathcal{L}_{R} = \bar{\psi} i \partial \!\!\!/ \psi + (Z_{2} - 1) \bar{\psi} i \partial \!\!\!/ \psi \qquad \qquad \text{coupling constant}$$

$$- g \mu^{\varepsilon} \bar{\psi} T^{a} A^{a} \psi - \left(Z_{2} \sqrt{Z_{3}} g_{(0)} - g \mu^{\varepsilon} \right) \bar{\psi} T^{a} A^{a} \psi + \dots$$

This lagrangian is properly normalized.

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This lagrangian is properly normalized.

Counterterms remove singularities in loops, which allows to remove regularization. If we need only a finite number of counterterms to remove singularities in $1/\varepsilon$ to all orders of perturbation theory, then theory is renormalizable. Gauge theories are renormalizable.

$$\underbrace{\left(Z_2\sqrt{Z_3}g_{(0)} - g\mu^{\varepsilon}\right)}_{\sim \alpha_s \frac{1}{\varepsilon}}$$

This equation has solution of the form

$$g_{(0)} = g\mu^{\varepsilon} \left(1 + g^2 \frac{\tilde{\beta}}{\varepsilon} + \dots \right)$$

because in the lowest order bare and renormalized *g* should be the same in 4 dims.

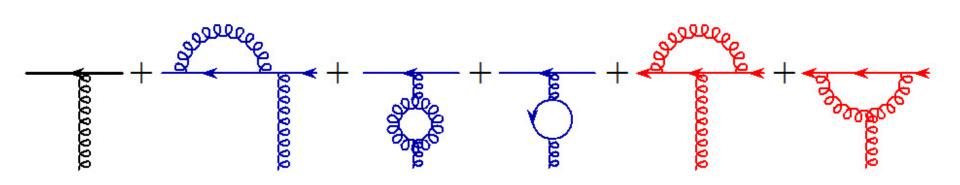
$$\left(Z_2\sqrt{Z_3}g_{(0)}-g\mu^{\varepsilon}\right)$$

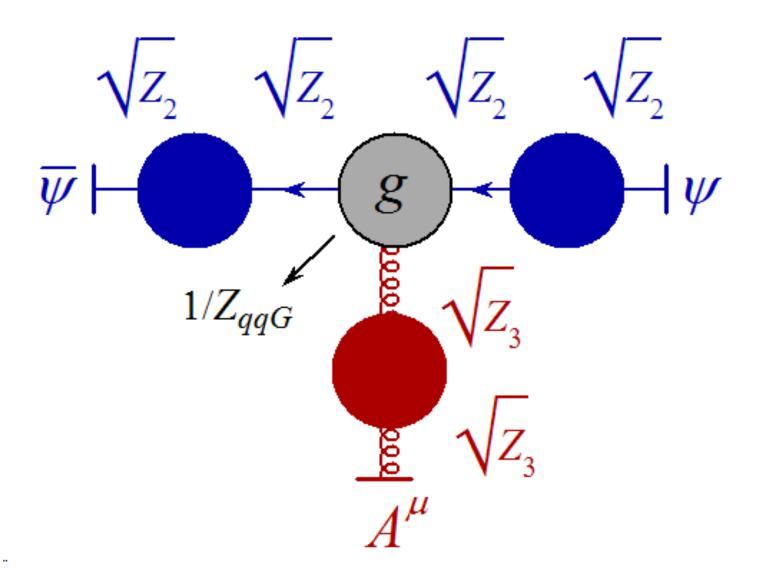
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We need, however more terms:





$$\left(\frac{Z_2\sqrt{Z_3}}{Z_{Gqq}}g_{(0)} - g\mu^{\varepsilon}\right)$$

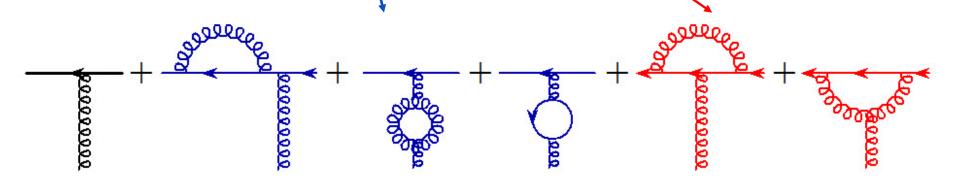
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$$\sim \alpha_s \frac{1}{\varepsilon}$$

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Full result:

$$g_{(0)} = g\mu^{\varepsilon} \left(1 - \frac{\alpha_s}{4\pi} \left(\frac{11}{6} C_A - \frac{1}{3} n_f \right) \frac{1}{\varepsilon} + \dots \right)$$

At this order this is gauge invariant.

$$\alpha_s = \frac{g^2}{4\pi}$$

$$g_{(0)} = g\mu^{\varepsilon} \left(1 - \frac{\alpha_s}{4\pi} \left(\frac{11}{6} C_A - \frac{1}{3} n_f \right) \frac{1}{\varepsilon} + \dots \right)$$

Bare coupling constant should not depend on μ . This can be achieved only if:

$$g = g(\mu)$$

Hence we have the following equation:

$$0 = \frac{d}{d \ln \mu^2} g_{(0)}(\mu, g(\mu), \varepsilon) = \frac{\partial g_{(0)}}{\partial \ln \mu^2} + \frac{\partial g_{(0)}}{\partial g} \frac{dg(\mu)}{d \ln \mu^2}$$
$$\frac{dg(\mu)}{d \ln \mu^2} = -\frac{\partial g_{(0)}/\partial \ln \mu^2}{\partial g_{(0)}/\partial g}$$

$$g_{(0)} = g\mu^{\varepsilon} \left(1 - \frac{\alpha_s}{4\pi} \left(\frac{11}{6}C_A - \frac{1}{3}n_f\right) \frac{1}{\varepsilon} + \ldots\right)$$
 First calculate
$$\frac{\partial g_{(0)}}{\partial \ln \mu^2}$$

We have
$$\mu^{\varepsilon}=\exp\left(\frac{1}{2}\varepsilon\ln\mu^{2}\right)$$
 and $\frac{d}{d\ln\mu^{2}}\mu^{\varepsilon}=\frac{1}{2}\varepsilon\mu^{\varepsilon}$

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$$\frac{dg(\mu)}{d\ln \mu^2} = -\frac{\partial g_{(0)}/\partial \ln \mu^2}{\partial g_{(0)}/\partial g}$$

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$$\frac{dg(\mu)}{d\ln \mu^2} = -\frac{1}{2}\varepsilon \frac{g_{(0)}}{\partial g_{(0)}/\partial g} \qquad \text{We need a pole part only}$$

We usually work with

$$a_s(\mu) = \frac{g^2(\mu)}{16\pi^2} = \frac{\alpha_s(\mu)}{4\pi}$$

which gives

$$\frac{da_s(\mu)}{d\ln\mu^2} = \frac{2g(\mu)}{16\pi^2} \frac{dg(\mu)}{d\ln\mu^2} = -\frac{g(\mu)}{16\pi^2} \varepsilon \frac{g_{(0)}}{\partial g_{(0)}/\partial g} \Big|_{\varepsilon=0}^{==0} \beta(a_s)$$

beta function

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which gives

$$\begin{split} \frac{da_s(\mu)}{d\ln\mu^2} &= \frac{2g(\mu)}{16\pi^2} \frac{dg(\mu)}{d\ln\mu^2} = -\frac{g(\mu)}{16\pi^2} \varepsilon \frac{g_{(0)}}{\partial g_{(0)}/\partial g} \Big|_{\varepsilon=0}^{=} \beta(a_s) \\ \text{remember} \\ &= -\frac{g}{16\pi^2} \varepsilon \frac{g\mu^\varepsilon \left(1 - \frac{\alpha_s}{4\pi} \left(\frac{11}{6}C_A - \frac{1}{3}n_f\right)\frac{1}{\varepsilon}\right)}{\mu^\varepsilon \left(1 - \frac{3\alpha_s}{4\pi} \left(\frac{11}{6}C_A - \frac{1}{3}n_f\right)\frac{1}{\varepsilon}\right)} \end{split}$$

$$g_{(0)} = g\mu^{\varepsilon} \left(1 - \frac{\alpha_s}{4\pi} \left(\frac{11}{6} C_A - \frac{1}{3} n_f \right) \frac{1}{\varepsilon} + \dots \right)$$

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$$\stackrel{\text{remember}}{g \, a_s \, \sim \, g^3} = -\frac{g}{16\pi^2} \varepsilon \frac{g\mu^\varepsilon \left(1 - \frac{\alpha_s}{4\pi} \left(\frac{11}{6}C_A - \frac{1}{3}n_f\right)\frac{1}{\varepsilon}\right)}{\mu^\varepsilon \left(1 - \frac{3\alpha_s}{4\pi} \left(\frac{11}{6}C_A - \frac{1}{3}n_f\right)\frac{1}{\varepsilon}\right)}$$

$$= -a_s \varepsilon \frac{\left(1 - \frac{3\alpha_s}{4\pi} \left(\frac{11}{6}C_A - \frac{1}{3}n_f\right)\frac{1}{\varepsilon}\right) + \frac{2\alpha_s}{4\pi} \left(\frac{11}{6}C_A - \frac{1}{3}n_f\right)\frac{1}{\varepsilon}}{1 - \frac{3\alpha_s}{4\pi} \left(\frac{11}{6}C_A - \frac{1}{2}n_f\right)\frac{1}{\varepsilon}}$$

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$$a_s(\mu) = \frac{g^2(\mu)}{16\pi^2} = \frac{\alpha_s(\mu)}{4\pi}$$

which gives

$$\frac{da_s(\mu)}{d\ln\mu^2} = \frac{2g(\mu)}{16\pi^2} \frac{dg(\mu)}{d\ln\mu^2} = -\frac{g(\mu)}{16\pi^2} \varepsilon \frac{g_{(0)}}{\partial g_{(0)}/\partial g} \Big|_{\varepsilon=0}^{=} \beta(a_s)$$

$$= -\frac{g}{16\pi^2} \varepsilon \frac{g\mu^{\varepsilon} \left(1 - \frac{\alpha_s}{4\pi} \left(\frac{11}{6}C_A - \frac{1}{3}n_f\right)\frac{1}{\varepsilon}\right)}{\mu^{\varepsilon} \left(1 - \frac{3\alpha_s}{4\pi} \left(\frac{11}{6}C_A - \frac{1}{3}n_f\right)\frac{1}{\varepsilon}\right)}$$

$$= \frac{3\alpha_s}{16\pi^2} \left(\frac{11}{6}C_A - \frac{1}{3}n_f\right)\frac{1}{\varepsilon}$$

$$= -a_s \varepsilon \frac{\left(1 - \frac{3\alpha_s}{4\pi} \left(\frac{11}{6}C_A - \frac{1}{3}n_f\right) \frac{1}{\varepsilon}\right) + \frac{2\alpha_s}{4\pi} \left(\frac{11}{6}C_A - \frac{1}{3}n_f\right) \frac{1}{\varepsilon}}{1 - \frac{3\alpha_s}{4\pi} \left(\frac{11}{6}C_A - \frac{1}{3}n_f\right) \frac{1}{\varepsilon}}$$

$$= -a_s \varepsilon - a_s^2 \left(\frac{11}{3} C_A - \frac{2}{3} n_f \right) + \dots$$
 perturbative expansion in α_s

QCD beta function

$$\beta(a_s) = -a_s^2 \left(\frac{11}{3}C_A - \frac{2}{3}n_f\right) + \dots$$

Renormalization group equation (RGE):

$$\frac{da_s}{d\ln\mu^2} = \beta(a_s)$$

Generally
$$\beta(a_s) = -\beta_0 a_s^2 - \beta_1 a_s^3 + \dots$$

Solving RGE

$$\frac{da_s}{d\ln\mu^2} = \beta(a_s)$$

$$\ln \frac{\mu^2}{\mu_0^2} = \int_{a_s(\mu_0)}^{a_s(\mu)} \frac{da_s}{\beta(a_s)}$$

Solving RGE one loop approximation

$$\frac{da_s}{d\ln\mu^2} = \beta(a_s) = -\beta_0 a_s^2$$

$$\ln \frac{\mu^2}{\mu_0^2} = \int_{a_s(\mu_0)}^{a_s(\mu)} \frac{da_s}{\beta(a_s)} = \frac{1}{\beta_0} \left(\frac{1}{a_s(\mu)} - \frac{1}{a_s(\mu_0)} \right)$$

Solving RGE one loop approximation

$$\frac{da_s}{d\ln\mu^2} = \beta(a_s) = -\beta_0 a_s^2$$

$$\ln \frac{\mu^2}{\mu_0^2} = \int_{a_s(\mu_0)}^{a_s(\mu)} \frac{da_s}{\beta(a_s)} = \frac{1}{\beta_0} \left(\frac{1}{a_s(\mu)} - \frac{1}{a_s(\mu_0)} \right)$$

Rewrite last equation in the following form:

$$\frac{1}{a_s(\mu)} - \beta_0 \ln \mu^2 = \frac{1}{a_s(\mu_0)} - \beta_0 \ln \mu_0^2 = -\beta_0 \ln \Lambda_{\text{QCD}}^2$$

This equation says that both sides are constant as functions of μ or $\mu_{0.}$ This constant is encoded in Λ_{QCD} , which has to be taken from experiment.

We can either write the asymptotic solution

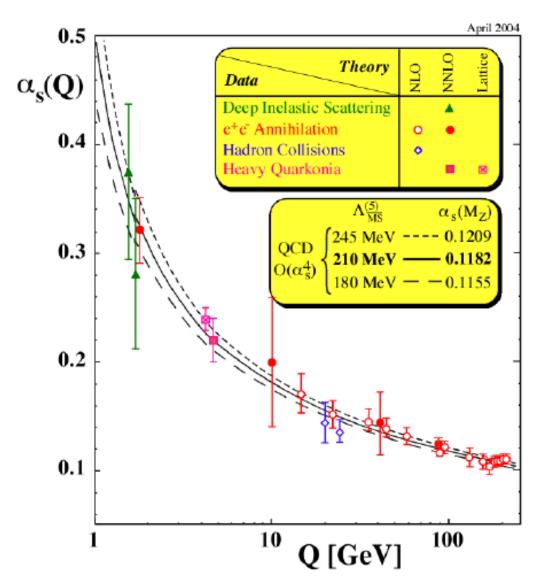
$$a_s(\mu) = \frac{1}{\beta_0 \ln \frac{\mu^2}{\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}^2}}$$

or an equation relating the couplings at two different scales:

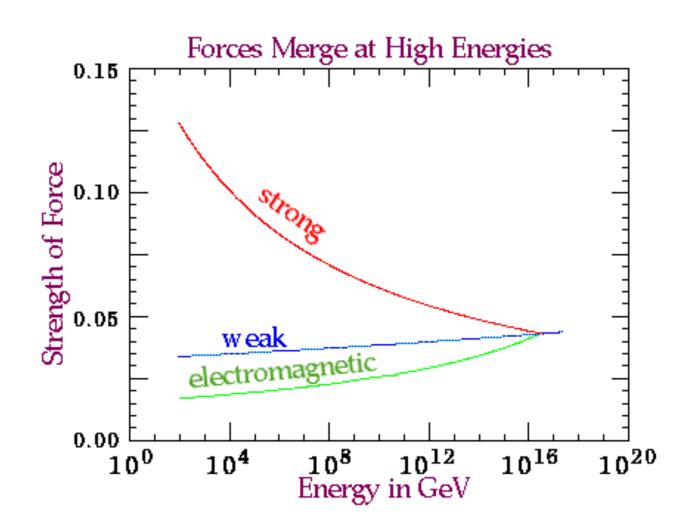
$$a_s(\mu) = \frac{a_s(\mu_0)}{1 + \beta_0 a_s(\mu_0) \ln(\mu^2/\mu_0^2)}$$

For negative β_0 there is a problem (in QED: Landau pole).

In QCD $a_s(\mu \to \infty) \to 0$ This is called asymptotic freedom. This is why we can apply pert. theory even though the coupling is not a'prori small. This also explains why the parton model works.



Grand Uninified Theory ? (GUT)



Consequences of running

In a typical QCD calculation we can choose μ^2 at will, and a typical choice is that μ^2 corresponds to the large momentum transfer present in a given process. See for example the quark propagator (although it is not an observable):

$$S_F^R = \frac{i}{p} \left(1 + \frac{\alpha(\mu^2)}{4\pi} C_F \left(\ln \left(\frac{-p^2}{\bar{\mu}^2} \right) - 1 \right) \right)$$

Choice:

$$\bar{\mu}^2 \sim -p^2 \text{ (provided } -p^2 \gg \Lambda_{\text{QCD}}^2)$$

nullifies large logarithm.

One might be worried that the change of scale changes the numerical value of the quark propagator in plain contradiction with the RG invariance. One should, however, keep in mind that RG invariance concerns *full theory*, and here we are dealing with one loop approximation only. In two, three *etc*. loop calculations sensitivity to the choice of scale is significantly reduced.

Renormalization: summary

- Ultraviolet infinities appear in loop diagrams
- Regularization, usefull method: dimensional regularization
- Renormalization constants: fields, couplings, masses
- Relations between renormalization constants

$$\frac{Z_2\sqrt{Z_3}}{Z_{Gag}} = \frac{Z_3^{3/2}}{Z_{GGG}}$$

- Counterterms (finite # theory is renormalizable)
- Dimensional transmutation: Λ_{OCD}
- Running couplings and masses
- Asymptotic freedom
- Scale choice may minimize h.o. correctors
- Only full theory is scale invariant

Historical remarks

David Gross, David Politzer and Frank Wilczek received the Nobel Prize in 2004 for:

the discovery of asymptotic freedom in the theory of the strong interaction

However, they were not the first ones to compute beta function in nonabelian gauge theories

Asymptotic freedom)

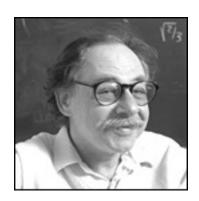
1973: Gross & Wilczek w Princeton oraz Politzer (student Colemana, który był na sabattical w Princeton) na Harvardzie

wyliczyli funkcję beta dla teorii Yanga-Millsa

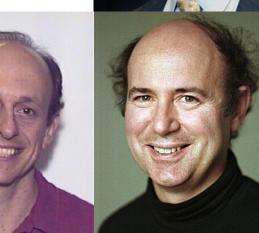
Gross:

For me the discovery of asymptotic freedom was totally unexpected. Like an atheist who has just received a message from a burning bush, I became an immediate true believer. Field theory wasn't wrong—instead scaling must be explained

by an asymptotically free gauge theory



Nobel 2004



Asymptotic freedom (prehistory)

$$b_1 = -\left[\frac{11}{6}C_A - \frac{2}{3}\sum_R n_R T_R\right]$$

1965 Mikhail Terentyev & Vlasimir Vanyashin (ITEP)
 błąd: 11× 2 = 22, ich wynik = 21

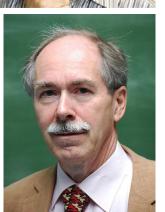
Ваняшин В С, Терентьев М В ЖЭТФ 48 565 (1965) [Vanyashin V S, Terentyev M V Sov. Phys. JETP 21 375 (1965)]

 1969 Iosif Khripovich (Nowosybirsk) (cechowanie Coulomba)

Хриплович И Б ЯФ 10 410 (1969) [Khriplovich I B Sov. J. Nucl. Phys. 10 235 (1970)]

 1972 Gerald 't Hooft konferencja w Marsylii, dyskusja po referacie Kurta Symanzika

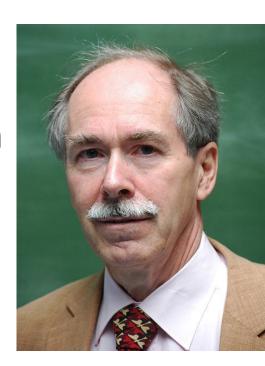




YM renormalization with spotaneous symmetry breaking



1971: 't Hooft, student Veltmana przeprowadza dowód w oparciu metodę całek funkcjonalnych Feynmana



Konsystentny opis oddziaływań elektrosłabych w ramach teorii pola. Nagrody Nobla: 1979 – Glashow, Salam, Weinberg

1999 – 't Hooft, Veltman

2013 – Higgs, Englert