

Some applications of Renormalization Group  
Optimized perturbation (zero and finite  
temperatures)

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# Introduction/motivation

Approach: (unconventional) resummation of perturbative expansions

General: relevant both at  $T = 0$  or  $T \neq 0$  (and finite density)

•  $T = 0$ : gives estimates of chiral symmetry breaking **order parameters**:

$$F_\pi(m_q = 0)/\Lambda_{\overline{\text{MS}}}^{\text{QCD}}:$$

$$F_\pi \simeq 92.2 \text{ MeV} \rightarrow F_\pi(m_q = 0) \rightarrow \Lambda_{\overline{\text{MS}}}^{n_f=3} \rightarrow \alpha_S^{\overline{\text{MS}}}(\mu = m_Z).$$

$$N^3LO: F_\pi^{m_q=0}/\Lambda_{\overline{\text{MS}}}^{n_f=3} \simeq 0.25 \pm .01 \rightarrow \alpha_S(m_Z) \simeq 0.1174 \pm .001 \pm .001$$

(JLK, A.Neveu, '13)

(compares well with latest (2016)  $\alpha_S$  world average [PDG2016])

In this talk I illustrate  $\langle \bar{q}q \rangle$  RGPT determination at  $N^3LO$ :

$$\langle \bar{q}q \rangle_{m_q=0}^{1/3}(2 \text{ GeV}) \simeq -(0.84 \pm 0.01) \Lambda_{\overline{\text{MS}}} \quad (\text{JLK, A.Neveu, '15})$$

Note: **parameter free determination!**

NB: can also address gluon 'mass' determination in principle...

## More motivations (thermal context)

Complete QCD phase diagram far from being confirmed:

$T \neq 0, \mu = 0$  well-established from lattice: no sharp phase transition, continuous crossover at  $T_c \simeq 154 \pm 9$  MeV

Goal: more analytical approximations, ultimately in regions not much accessible on the lattice: large density (chemical potential) due to the (in)famous “sign problem”  
(i.e. complex Euclidian fermion determinant on the lattice)

- RGOPT considerably reduces the well-known problems of unstable +badly scale-dependent thermal perturbative expansions

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- ▶ 5.  $T \neq 0$ : scalar  $\phi^4$  model and non-linear  $\sigma$  model  
( $\sigma$  model: many similarities with QCD but simpler)
- ▶ 6. application to thermal QCD (pure glue)
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## 2. (Variationally) Optimized Perturbation (OPT)

Trick ( $T = 0$ ): add and subtract a mass, consider  $m\delta$  as interaction:

$$\mathcal{L}_{QCD}(g, m) \rightarrow \mathcal{L}_{QCD}(\delta g, m(1 - \delta)) \quad (\text{e.g. in QCD } g \equiv 4\pi\alpha_S)$$

where  $0 < \delta < 1$  interpolates between  $\mathcal{L}_{free}$  and *massless*  $\mathcal{L}_{int}$ ;

e.g. in QCD (quark) mass  $m_q \rightarrow m$ : *arbitrary trial parameter*

- Take any standard (renormalized) QCD pert. series, expand in  $\delta$  *after*:

$$m_q \rightarrow m(1 - \delta); \quad g \rightarrow \delta g$$

then take  $\delta \rightarrow 1$  (to recover *original massless* theory):

BUT a  $m$ -dependence remains at any finite  $\delta^k$ -order:

*fixed typically by stationarity prescription: optimization (OPT):*

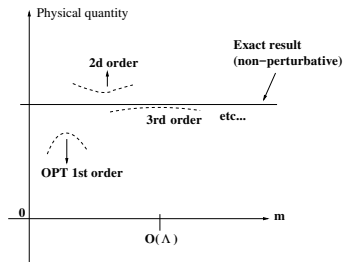
$$\frac{\partial}{\partial m}(\text{physical quantity}) = 0 \text{ for } m = \bar{m}_{opt}(\alpha_S) \neq 0:$$

- $T = 0$ : exhibits *dimensional transmutation*:  $\bar{m}_{opt}(g) \sim \mu e^{-const./g}$

- $T \neq 0$  similar idea: “screened perturbation” (SPT), or *resummed* “hard thermal loop (HTLpt)”, etc: *expand around a quasi-particle mass*.

*But does this 'cheap trick' always work? and why?*

# Expected behaviour (ideally)



But not quite what happens, except in simple models:

- Convergence proof of this procedure for  $D = 1$   $\phi^4$  oscillator (cancels large pert. order factorial divergences!) Guida et al '95

particular case of 'order-dependent mapping' Seznec, Zinn-Justin '79

- But QFT multi-loop calculations (specially  $T \neq 0$ ) (very) difficult:  
→ what about convergence? not much apparent

- Main pb at higher order: OPT:  $\partial_m(\dots) = 0$  has multi-solutions (some complex!), how to choose right one, if no nonperturbative "insight"??

### 3. RG compatible OPT ( $\equiv$ RG OPT)

Our main additional ingredient to OPT (JLK, A. Neveu '10):

Consider a *physical* quantity (i.e. perturbatively RG invariant)  
(for example, in thermal context, the pressure  $P(m, g, T)$ ):

in addition to OPT:  $\frac{\partial}{\partial m} P^{(k)}(m, g, \delta = 1)|_{m \equiv \tilde{m}} \equiv 0$ ,

Require ( $\delta$ -modified!) result at order  $\delta^k$  to satisfy a standard  
(perturbative) Renormalization Group (RG) equation:

$$\text{RG} \left( P^{(k)}(m, g, \delta = 1) \right) = 0$$

with standard RG operator ( $g = 4\pi\alpha_S$  for QCD):

$$\text{RG} \equiv \mu \frac{d}{d\mu} = \mu \frac{\partial}{\partial \mu} + \beta(g) \frac{\partial}{\partial g} - \gamma_m(g) m \frac{\partial}{\partial m}$$

$$\beta(g) \equiv -b_0 g^2 - b_1 g^3 + \dots, \quad \gamma_m(g) \equiv \gamma_0 g + \gamma_1 g^2 + \dots$$

→ Additional nontrivial constraint: contains a priori more consistent RG information than  $\partial_m P(m)$  optimization.

→ If combined with OPT, RG Eq. reduces to massless form:

$$\left[ \mu \frac{\partial}{\partial \mu} + \beta(g) \frac{\partial}{\partial g} \right] P^{(k)}(m, g, \delta = 1) = 0$$

Then using OPT AND RG completely fix  $m \equiv \bar{m}$  and  $g \equiv \bar{g}$ .

But  $\Lambda_{\overline{\text{MS}}}(g)$  satisfies by def.:

$[\mu \frac{\partial}{\partial \mu} + \beta(g) \frac{\partial}{\partial g}] \Lambda_{\overline{\text{MS}}} \equiv 0$  consistently at a given pert. order for  $\beta(g)$ .

Thus equivalent to:

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial m} \left( \frac{P^k(m, g, \delta = 1)}{\Lambda_{\overline{\text{MS}}}(g)} \right) = 0; \quad \frac{\partial}{\partial g} \left( \frac{P^k(m, g, \delta = 1)}{\Lambda_{\overline{\text{MS}}}(g)} \right) = 0 \text{ for } \bar{m}, \bar{g}$$

Optimal  $\bar{m}, \bar{g} = 4\pi\bar{\alpha}_S$  unphysical: final (physical) result from  $P(\bar{m}, \bar{g}, T)$

At  $T = 0$  reproduces at first order exact nonperturbative results in simpler models [e.g. Gross-Neveu model]



# OPT + RG = RGOPT main new features

- Standard OPT: embarrassing freedom (a priori) in interpolating form:

e.g. why not  $m \rightarrow m(1 - \delta)^a$ ?

Most previous works ( $T = 0$  or SPT, HTLpt,...( $T \neq 0$ ):

linear interpolation “add and subtract” ( $a = 1$ ) without deep justification

but generally (we have shown)  $a = 1$  spoils RG invariance!

- OPT, RG Eqs: many solutions at increasing  $\delta^k$ -orders

→ Our approach restores RG, +requires optimal solution to match perturbation (i.e. Asymptotic Freedom for QCD ( $T = 0$ )):

$$\alpha_S \rightarrow 0 \ (\mu \rightarrow \infty): \bar{g}(\mu) \sim \frac{1}{2b_0 \ln \frac{\mu}{\bar{m}}} + \dots, \bar{m} \sim \Lambda_{QCD}$$

→ At successive orders AF-compatible optimal solution (often unique) *only* appears for universal critical  $a$ :

$$m \rightarrow m(1 - \delta)^{\frac{\gamma_0}{b_0}} \quad (\text{in general } \frac{\gamma_0}{b_0} \neq 1)$$

→ Goes beyond simple “add and subtract” trick

+ It removes any spurious solutions incompatible with AF

– But does not always avoid complex solutions

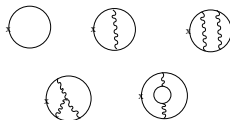
(if occur, possibly cured by renormalization scheme change)

#### 4. Application: $T = 0$ QCD quark condensate (JLK, A. Neveu '15)

$\langle \bar{q}q \rangle$ : chiral symmetry breaking order parameter:

$SU(n_f)_L \times SU(n_f)_R \rightarrow SU(n_f)_{L+R}$ ,  $n_f$  massless quarks. ( $n_f = 2, 3$ )

- Start from perturbative result, known to 3 loops (Chetyrkin et al '94; Chetyrkin + Maier '10)



$$m \langle \bar{q}q \rangle(m, g)_{\overline{\text{MS}}} = 3 \frac{m^4}{2\pi^2} \left[ \frac{1}{2} - L_m + \frac{g}{\pi^2} (L_m^2 - \frac{5}{6} L_m + \frac{5}{12}) \right. \\ \left. + (\frac{g}{16\pi^2})^2 [f_{30}(n_f) L_m^3 + f_{31}(n_f) L_m^2 + f_{32}(n_f) L_m + f_{33}(n_f)] \right], \quad (L_m \equiv \ln \frac{m}{\mu})$$

Important rk: this finite part (after mass + coupling renormalization) is not separately RG-invariant:

$$\mu \frac{d}{d\mu} m \langle \bar{q}q \rangle = \mathcal{O}(m^4) \equiv \text{vacuum energy anomalous dimension}$$

- Known generic RG feature (but often missed in literature): needs appropriate 'subtraction' terms (consistently RG-determined) to recover perturbative RG invariance

## First attempt: naive (direct) optimization of $m\langle\bar{q}q\rangle$ ?

NB works pretty well for  $F_\pi/\Lambda_{QCD}$ :

$$i\langle 0|TA_\mu^i(p)A_\nu^j(0)|0\rangle \equiv \delta^{ij}g_{\mu\nu}F_\pi^2(m=0); \quad A_\mu^i \equiv \bar{q}\gamma_\mu\gamma_5\frac{\tau_i}{2}q$$

(empirical convergence of RGOPT observed already at 2-loops)

- For  $m\langle\bar{q}q\rangle$ : One-loop order: no nontrivial OPT +RG solution...
- Higher orders (2- and 3-loops): gives right order of magnitude, but ambiguous results: plagued by large, unphysical, imaginary parts  
→ no conclusive stability/convergence trend (appears slow at best)
- Instabilities traced to strong sensitivity to regularization choice:

with naive cutoff the (dominant) one-loop quadratic divergence gives correct (negative) sign of  $\langle\bar{q}q\rangle$  (a pillar of the success of Nambu-Jona-Lasinio model!)

but (one-loop) sign flips in  $(D = 4 - \epsilon)$  dimensional regularization ( $\overline{MS}$ )

Yet important to keep benefits of  $\overline{MS}$ : high order QCD perturbative results available: crucial for stability/convergence check.

→ Like any other variational methods it is sensible to start from a suitable quantity to optimize: here the spectral density of the Dirac operator, intimately related to  $\langle\bar{q}q\rangle$ .

#### 4. $\langle \bar{q}q \rangle$ and Spectral density $\rho(\lambda)$

**Euclidean** Dirac operator:

$$i \not{D} u_n(x) = \lambda_n u_n(x); \quad \not{D} \equiv \not{D} + g \not{A};$$

$$\text{NB } i \not{D} (\gamma_5 u_n(x)) = -\lambda_n (\gamma_5 u_n(x))$$

$$\text{On a lattice: } \rho(\lambda) \equiv \frac{1}{V} \langle \sum_n \delta(\lambda - \lambda_n^{[A]}) \rangle_A$$

$V \rightarrow \infty$ : spectrum becomes dense, and

$$\langle \bar{q}q \rangle \equiv \frac{1}{V} \text{Tr} \frac{1}{m + \not{D}} \rightarrow \langle \bar{q}q \rangle_{V \rightarrow \infty}(m) \equiv -2m \int_0^\infty d\lambda \frac{\rho(\lambda)}{\lambda^2 + m^2}$$

$\rho(\lambda)$ : spectral density of the (**euclidean**) Dirac operator.

**Banks-Casher relation ('80)**:  $\langle \bar{q}q \rangle(m \rightarrow 0) \equiv -\pi \rho(0)$

(using e.g.  $\lim_{m \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{m - i\lambda} = i PV(\frac{1}{\lambda}) + \pi \delta(\lambda)$ )

'Washes out' large  $\lambda$  problems (e.g. quadratic UV divergences)

$$\text{Conversely: } -\rho(\lambda) = \frac{1}{2\pi} (\langle \bar{q}q \rangle(i\lambda + \epsilon) - \langle \bar{q}q \rangle(i\lambda - \epsilon))|_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0}$$

i.e.  $\rho(\lambda)$  **determined by discontinuities of  $\langle \bar{q}q \rangle(m)$  across imaginary axis.**

Perturbative expansion:  $\rightarrow \ln(m \rightarrow i\lambda)$  discontinuities

$\rightarrow$  **no contributions from divergence and non-log terms** (like anom. dim.)

# Adapting OPT and RG Eqs. to spectral density

- Perturbative logarithmic discontinuities simply from

$$\ln^n \left( \frac{m}{\mu} \right) \rightarrow \frac{1}{2i\pi} \left[ \left( \ln \frac{|\lambda|}{\mu} + i\frac{\pi}{2} \right)^n - \left( \ln \frac{|\lambda|}{\mu} - i\frac{\pi}{2} \right)^n \right] \quad (1)$$

i.e.  $\ln \left( \frac{m}{\mu} \right) \rightarrow 1/2$ ;  $\ln^2 \left( \frac{m}{\mu} \right) \rightarrow \ln \frac{|\lambda|}{\mu}$ ;  $\ln^3 \left( \frac{m}{\mu} \right) \rightarrow \frac{3}{2} \ln^2 \frac{|\lambda|}{\mu} - \frac{\pi^2}{8}$ ;  $\dots$

- Modified perturbation: intuitively  $\lambda$  plays the role of  $m$ , so:

$$\rho_{\text{pert}}(\lambda, g) \rightarrow \rho_{\text{opt}}(\lambda(1 - \delta)^{\frac{4}{3} \frac{\gamma_0}{2b_0}}, \delta g); \text{ expand in } \delta; \delta \rightarrow 1 \quad (2)$$

- OPT Eq.:  $\frac{\partial}{\partial \lambda} \rho_{\text{opt}}(g, \lambda) = 0$  for  $\lambda = \bar{\lambda}_{\text{opt}}(g) \neq 0$  (3)

- Using  $\frac{\partial}{\partial m} \frac{m}{\lambda^2 + m^2} = -\frac{\partial}{\partial \lambda} \frac{\lambda}{\lambda^2 + m^2}$ , one finds  $\rho(\lambda)$  obeys RG eq.:

$$\left[ \mu \frac{\partial}{\partial \mu} + \beta(g) \frac{\partial}{\partial g} - \gamma_m(g) \lambda \frac{\partial}{\partial \lambda} - \gamma_m(g) \right] \rho(g, \lambda) = 0 \quad (4)$$

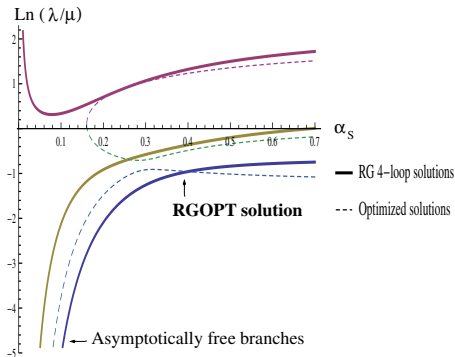
→ **RG OPT recipe**: -After (1), (2), solve (3), (4) for optimal  $\bar{\lambda}, \bar{g}$ ;  
then  $\rho(\bar{\lambda}, \bar{g}) \simeq \rho(0) \equiv -\langle \bar{q}q \rangle(m=0)/\pi$ .

## Example: RG and OPT $\rho(\lambda)$ solutions: up to 4-loops

NB  $\langle \bar{q}q \rangle_{pert}$  exactly known at present to 3-loop  $\alpha_S^2$  order.

But 1) RG properties determine next (4-loop)  $\alpha_S^3 \ln^p(m/\mu)$  coefficients,  
2) non-logarithmic terms do not contribute to  $\rho_{pert}(\lambda)$ :

→ we get  $\rho_{pert}(\lambda)$  exact to 4-loop!



## RGOPT 2,3,4-loop results for $\langle \bar{q}q \rangle$ ( $n_f = 2$ )

$\delta^k$ , RG order	$\ln \frac{\bar{\Lambda}}{\mu}$	$\bar{\alpha}_S$	$\frac{-\langle \bar{q}q \rangle^{1/3}}{\bar{\Lambda}_2}(\bar{\mu})$	$\frac{\bar{\mu}}{\bar{\Lambda}_2}$	$\frac{-\langle \bar{q}q \rangle^{1/3}_{RGI}}{\bar{\Lambda}_2}$
$\delta$ , RG 2-loop	-0.45	0.480	0.822	2.8	0.821
$\delta^2$ , RG 3-loop	-0.703	0.430	0.794	3.104	0.783
$\delta^3$ , RG 4-loop	-0.820	0.391	0.796	3.446	0.773

(and similarly behaving results for  $n_f = 3$ ).

NB:  $\langle \bar{q}q \rangle_{RGI} = \langle \bar{q}q \rangle(\mu) (2b_0 g)^{\frac{\gamma_0}{2b_0}} \left( 1 + \left( \frac{\gamma_1}{2b_0} - \frac{\gamma_0 b_1}{2b_0^2} \right) g + \dots \right)$

- stability/convergence exhibited;
- already realistic value at 2-loop order

RG Evolution to reference scale  $\mu = 2$  GeV:

$$-\langle \bar{q}q \rangle_{n_f=2}^{1/3}(2\text{GeV}) = (0.833_{(4-loop)} - 0.845_{(3-loop)})\bar{\Lambda}_2$$

→ Using most precise  $\bar{\Lambda}_2$  lattice result:  $\bar{\Lambda}_2 = 331 \pm 21$

(quark potential, Karbstein et al '14) finally gives:

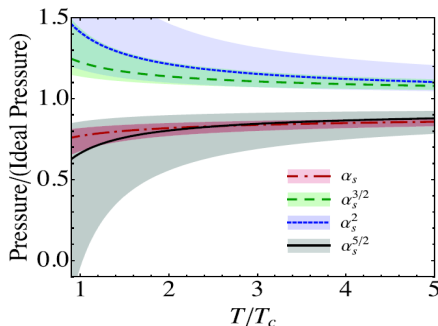
$$-\langle \bar{q}q \rangle_{n_f=2}^{1/3}(\text{rgopt}, 2\text{GeV}) \simeq 278 \pm 2(\text{rgopt}) \pm 18(\bar{\Lambda}_2) \text{ MeV}$$

- compares with latest lattice result (Engel et al '14):

$$-\langle \bar{q}q \rangle_{n_f=2}^{1/3}(\mu = 2\text{GeV}) = 261 \pm 6 \pm 8 \text{ MeV}$$

# Thermal perturbative expansion (QCD, $g\phi^4$ , ...)

known problem: poorly convergent and very scale-dependent (ordinary)  
perturbative expansions:



QCD (pure glue) pressure at successive (standard) perturbation orders  
shaded regions: scale-dependence for  $\pi T < \mu < 4\pi T$   
(illustration from Andersen, Strickland, Su '10)



# Problems of thermal perturbation (QCD but generic)

**Main culprit:** mix up of *hard*  $p \sim T$  and *soft*  $p \sim \alpha_S T$  modes.

Thermal 'Debye' screening mass  $m_D^2 \sim \alpha_S T^2$  gives IR cutoff,

BUT  $\Rightarrow$  **perturbative expansion in  $\sqrt{\alpha_S}$  in QCD**

$\rightarrow$  often advocated reason for slower convergence

Yet many interesting QGP physics features happen at not that large coupling  $\alpha_S(\sim 2\pi T_c) \sim .5$ , ( $\alpha_S(\sim 2\pi T_c) \sim 0.3$  for pure glue)

**Many efforts to improve this** (review e.g. Blaizot, Iancu, Rebhan '03):

Screened PT (SPT) (Karsch et al '97),  $\sim$  Hard Thermal Loop (HTL) resummation (Andersen, Braaten, Strickland '99); Functional RG, 2-particle irreducible (2PI) formalism (Blaizot, Iancu, Rebhan '01; Berges, Borsanyi, Reinosa, J. Serreau '05)

**RGOPT( $T \neq 0$ ): essentially treats thermal mass 'RG consistently':**

$\rightarrow$  **UV divergences induce its anomalous dimension.**

(NB some qualitative connections with recently advocated "massive scheme" approach (Blaizot, Wschebor '14)

## 5. RGOPT(thermal $\phi^4$ ) (JLK, M.B Pinto '15, '16)

• Start from 2-loop vacuum energy  $m \neq 0$ ,  $T \neq 0$  ( $\overline{\text{ms}}$  scheme):

$$(4\pi)^2 \mathcal{F}_0 = \mathcal{E}_0 - \frac{m^4}{8} (3 - 4 \ln \frac{m}{\mu}) - \frac{T^4}{2} J_0\left(\frac{m}{T}\right) \\ + \frac{1}{8} \left(\frac{g}{16\pi^2}\right) \left[ (1 - 2 \ln \frac{m}{\mu}) m^2 - T^2 J_1\left(\frac{m}{T}\right) \right]^2$$

$$J_0\left(\frac{m}{T}\right) \sim \int_0^\infty dp \frac{1}{\sqrt{p^2 + m^2}} \frac{1}{e^{\sqrt{p^2 + m^2}} - 1}; \quad \partial_x J_0(x) \equiv -2x J_1(x)$$

First step:  $\mathcal{E}_0$ : necessary *finite* vacuum energy subtraction:

$$\mathcal{E}_0(g, m) = -m^4 \left( \frac{s_0}{g} + s_1 + s_2 g + \dots \right)$$

( $T$ -independent, determined by requiring RG invariance:)

$$s_0 = \frac{1}{2(b_0 - 4\gamma_0)} = 8\pi^2; \quad s_1 = \frac{(b_1 - 4\gamma_1)}{8\gamma_0(b_0 - 4\gamma_0)} = -1, \dots$$

missed by SPT, or HTLpt (hot QCD): explains the important scale dependence observed in those approaches (more below)

Next: expand in  $\delta$ ,  $\delta \rightarrow 1$  after  $m^2 \rightarrow m^2(1 - \delta)^a$ ;  $g \rightarrow \delta g$

RG only consistent for  $a = 2\gamma_0/b_0$  ( $= 1/3$  for  $\phi^4$ : while  $a = 1$  in SPT)

Practical bonus: non-trivial mass gap  $\bar{m}(g, T)$  already at one-loop.

NB  $1/g$  in  $\mathcal{E}_0$  automatically cancels in (optimized) energy.

# One-loop RGOPT ( $\mathcal{O}(\delta^0)$ )

Exact OPT “thermal mass gap”  $\bar{m}$  self-consistent solution of

$$\bar{m}^2 = \frac{g}{2} \left[ b_0 \bar{m}^2 \left( \ln \frac{\bar{m}^2}{\mu^2} - 1 \right) + T^2 J_1 \left( \frac{\bar{m}}{T} \right) \right] \quad (\bar{m}^2(T=0) = \mu^2 e^{1+\frac{2}{b_0 g}})$$

or from simple quadratic Eq. for  $m/T \lesssim 1$  (sufficient for most purpose):

$$\left( \frac{1}{b_0 g} + \gamma_E + \ln \frac{\mu}{4\pi T} \right) \left( \frac{m}{T} \right)^2 + 2\pi \frac{m}{T} - 2 \frac{\pi^2}{3} = 0$$

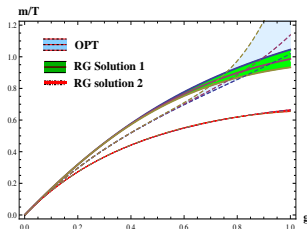
$$\frac{\bar{m}}{T} = \pi \frac{\sqrt{1 + \frac{2}{3} \left( \frac{1}{b_0 g} + L_T \right)} - 1}{\frac{1}{b_0 g} + L_T} \sim \pi \left( \frac{2}{3} \sqrt{b_0 g} - b_0 g + \frac{1}{2\sqrt{6}} (3 - 2L_T) (b_0 g)^{3/2} + \dots \right)$$

$$\frac{P}{P_0}(G) = 1 - \frac{5}{4}G - \frac{15}{2}G^2(G+1) + \frac{5}{3}\sqrt{6} \left[ G \left( 1 + \frac{3}{2}G \right) \right]^{3/2} + \dots$$

$$L_T \equiv \gamma_E + \ln \frac{\mu}{4\pi T}, \quad 1/G \equiv 1/(b_0 g(\mu)) + L_T; \quad P_0 = \pi^2 T^4/90$$

$\Rightarrow \bar{m}$ , and thus  $P(\bar{m})$  are explicitly exactly scale-invariant  
+ reproduces much simply exact (all orders) known large  $N$  results  
(Drummond et al '98)

# RGOPT mass and Pressure: two-loop order



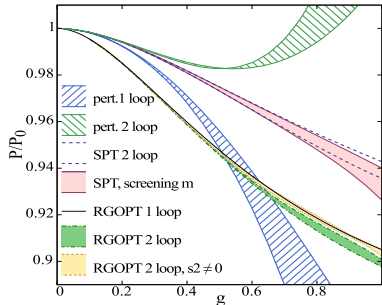
$(g(\mu)/24)^{1/2} \equiv g(\mu)$  with scale-dependence  $\pi T < \mu < 4\pi T$

At two-loops a remnant scale-dependence reappears from imperfectly matched running coupling  $\leftrightarrow$  mass and pressure:  
but moderate in  $P(g)$ , shown to be of higher (4-loop) order  $\mathcal{O}(g^3 \ln \mu)$ .

Generic: RGOPT at  $\mathcal{O}(g^k) \rightarrow \ln \mu$  appears at  $\mathcal{O}(g^{k+1})$  for any  $\bar{m}$ , but  $\bar{m}^2 \sim gT^2$ : so  $P \simeq \bar{m}^4/g + \dots$  has leading  $\mu$ -dependence at  $\mathcal{O}(g^{k+2})$ .

- Note intersection of RG and OPT solutions: can fix a 'nonperturbative'  $g(\mu \sim \alpha\pi T)$  (alternative to running coupling)
- The other RG solution with tiny scale-dependence (red) is driven by (spurious perturbative) UV fixed point: to be discarded.

# Two-loop RGOPT compared with standard PT and SPT



[JLK, M.B Pinto, PRL 116 (2016); PRD 92 (2015)]

Definite scale-dependence improvement (a factor  $\sim 3$ ) w.r.t. SPT [J.O. Andersen et al '01]

-Improvement should be more drastic at 3-loops, where SPT scale dependence increases rather strongly.

NB RGOPT pressure has a different slope at  $g \sim 0$ : not a problem:  $g$  not fixed at a physical scale (similar to e.g. large  $N$  different slope)

[Alternatively: solving OPT Eq. as  $\bar{g}(m)$ :  $P \equiv P(m)$ ; where  $m$  is arbitrary: now using *physical* (screening) mass  $P(m \rightarrow m_D(g))$ :

→ recover standard perturbative terms of  $P(g)$ ]

## Closer to QCD: $O(N)$ nonlinear $\sigma$ model (NLSM)

[G. Ferreri, JLK, M.B. Pinto, R.O Ramos, arXiv:1709...]

(1+1)D NLSM shares many properties with QCD: asymptotic freedom, mass gap. Also  $T \neq 0$  pressure, trace anomaly have QCD-similar shape

Other nonperturbative  $T \neq 0$  results available for comparison

(lattice [Giacosa et al '12],  $1/N$  expansion [Andersen et al '04], others)

$$\mathcal{L}_0 = \frac{1}{2}(\partial\pi_i)^2 + \frac{g(\pi_i\partial\pi_i)^2}{2(1-g\pi_i^2)} - \frac{m^2}{g}(1-g\pi_i^2)^{1/2}$$

two-loop pressure from:

• Advantage w.r.t. QCD: exact  $T$ -dependence at 2-loops:

$$P_{\text{pert.2loop}} = -\frac{(N-1)}{2} \left[ l_0(m, T) + \frac{(N-3)}{4} m^2 g l_1(m, T)^2 \right] + \mathcal{E}_0,$$

$$l_0(m, T) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \left( m^2 \left( 1 - \ln \frac{m}{\mu} \right) + 4 T^2 K_0 \left( \frac{m}{T} \right) \right)$$

$$K_0(x) = \int_0^\infty dz \ln \left( 1 - e^{-\sqrt{z^2+x^2}} \right), \quad l_1(m, T) = \partial l_0(m, T) / \partial m^2$$

## NLSM peculiarity: standard perturbative RG invariance

$\mathcal{E}_0$  in  $P_{2-loop}$ :  $\equiv \frac{m^2}{g}$  already there in Lagrangian!

If it would be ignored, reconstructed consistently by RG 'subtraction':

$$\mathcal{E}_0(g, m) = m^2 \left( \frac{s_0}{g} + s_1 + s_2 g + \dots \right)$$

$$s_0 = \frac{(N-1)}{4\pi(b_0 - 2\gamma_0)} = 1, \quad s_1 = (b_1 - 2\gamma_1) \frac{s_0}{2\gamma_0} = 0$$

A property not expected in any other models: consequence of NLSM renormalization with only two counterterms (coupling  $Z_g$  and field  $Z_\pi$ ):

$$Z_m = Z_g Z_\pi^{-1/2}$$

•RG consistency:  $m \rightarrow m(1 - \delta)^{\frac{\gamma_0}{b_0}}$ ,  $\frac{\gamma_0}{b_0} = (N-3)/(N-2)/2$  for NLSM

Other properties similar to  $\phi^4$ :

•Exact one-loop scale invariance

•Very moderate remnant scale dependence at 2-loops

•Also reproduces exact (all orders) known large  $N$  (LN) results

(Andersen et al '04)

# One-loop RGOPT for NLSM pressure

Exact  $T$ -dependent mass gap  $\bar{m}(g, T)$  from  $\partial_m P(m) = 0$ :

$$\ln \frac{\bar{m}}{\mu} = -\frac{1}{b_0 g(\mu)} - 2K_1\left(\frac{\bar{m}}{T}\right), \quad (b_0^{\text{nlsm}} = \frac{N-2}{2\pi})$$

more explicitly for  $T = 0$ :  $\bar{m} = \mu e^{-\frac{1}{b_0 g(\mu)}} = \Lambda_{\text{MS}}^{1-\text{loop}}$

and for  $T \gg m$ :

$$\frac{\bar{m}}{T} = \frac{\pi b_0 g}{1 - b_0 g L_T}, \quad (L_T \equiv \ln \frac{\mu e^{\gamma_E}}{4\pi T})$$

$$P_{1L, \text{exact}}^{\text{RGOPT}} = -\frac{(N-1)}{\pi} T^2 \left[ K_0(\bar{x}) + \frac{\bar{x}^2}{8} (1 + 4K_1(\bar{x})) \right], \quad (\bar{x} \equiv \bar{m}/T)$$

$$P_{1L}^{\text{RGOPT}}(T \gg m) \simeq 1 - \frac{3}{2} b_0 g \left( \frac{4\pi T}{e^{\gamma_E}} \right)$$

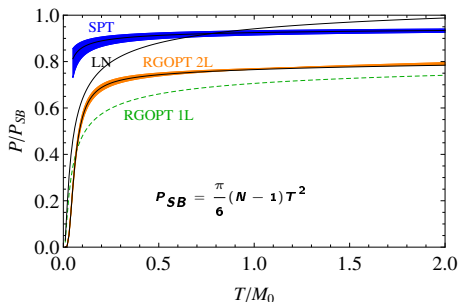
with one-loop running  $g^{-1}(\mu) = g^{-1}(M_0) + b_0 \ln \frac{\mu}{M_0}$

→ Remarkable property of RGOPT: running with  $T$  consistently included!  
(for standard perturbation, and SPT, HTLpt,  $\mu \sim 2\pi T$  put 'by hand'  
e.g. to get correct Stefan-Boltzmann limit)



# RGOPT NLSM mass and pressure: two-loops

$P/P_{SB}(N=4, g(M_0)=1)$  vs standard perturbation (PT), large N (LN), and SPT  $\equiv$  ignoring RG-induced subtraction;  $m^2 \rightarrow m^2(1-\delta)$ :

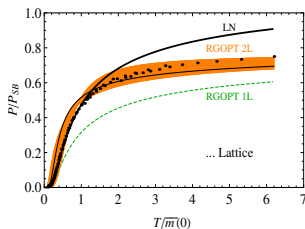


(shaded range: scale-dependence  $\pi T < \mu \equiv M < 4\pi T$ )

→ A moderate scale-dependence reappears, from unperfectly matched 2-loop standard running coupling.

# RGOPT(NLSM) vs lattice results

- NLSM  $T \neq 0$  lattice simulations: only done for  $N = 3$   
[E. Seel, D. Smith, S. Lottini, F. Giacosa '12]
- Comparison for large coupling:  $g(M_0) = 2\pi$
- Drawback: for such large coupling 2-loop RGOPT remnant scale dependence much more sizable.

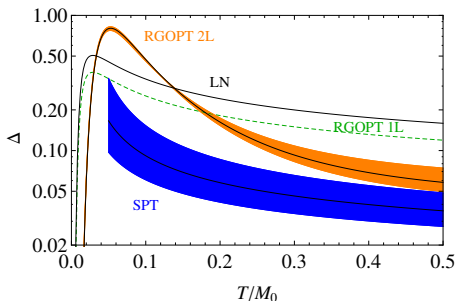


shaded regions: scale-dependence  $\pi T < \mu = M < 4\pi T$

However 2-loop good agreement is rather accidental for large  $g(M_0)$  (not genuine RGOPT prediction)

# NLSM interaction measure (trace anomaly)

$$(\text{normalized}) \quad T^2 \Delta_{2\text{D NLSM}} \equiv \mathcal{E} - P = S T - 2P \equiv T^3 \partial_T \left( \frac{P}{T^2} \right)$$



$N = 4, g(M_0) = 1$  (shaded regions: scale-dependence  $\pi T < \mu = M < 4\pi T$ )

- 2-loop  $\Delta_{\text{SPT}}$ : small, monotonic behaviour + sizeable scale dependence.

- RGOPT shape 'qualitatively' comparable to QCD, showing a peak (but no spontaneous sym breaking/phase transition in 2D NLSM (Mermin-Wagner-Coleman theorem): reflects broken conformal invariance (mass gap).

## 6. Thermal (pure glue) QCD: hard thermal loop (HTLpt)

QCD generalization of OPT = HTLpt [Andersen, Braaten, Strickland '99]:  
 same "OPT" trick operates on a gluon "mass" term [Braaten-Pisarski '90]:

$$\mathcal{L}_{QCD}(\text{gauge}) - \frac{m^2}{2} \text{Tr} \left[ G_{\mu\alpha} \langle \frac{y^\alpha y^\beta}{(y \cdot D)^2} \rangle_y G_{\beta}^\mu \right], \quad D^\mu = \partial^\mu - ig A^\mu, \quad y^\mu = (1, \mathbf{y})$$

(effective, gauge-invariant, but nonlocal Lagrangian):

describes screening mass  $m^2 \sim \alpha_S T^2$ , but also many more 'hard thermal loop' contributions [modifies vertices and gluon propagators]

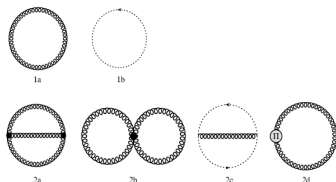
$$P_{1\text{-loop}}^{HTL, \text{exact}} = (N_c^2 - 1) \times \left\{ \frac{m^4}{64\pi^2} (C_g - \ln \frac{m}{\mu}) + \int_0^\infty \frac{d\omega}{(2\pi^3)} \frac{1}{e^{\frac{\omega}{T}} - 1} \int_\omega^\infty dk k^2 (2\phi_T - \phi_L) - \frac{T}{2\pi^2} \int_0^\infty dk k^2 \left[ 2 \ln(1 - e^{-\frac{\omega_T}{T}}) + \ln(1 - e^{-\frac{\omega_L}{T}}) \right] - \frac{\pi^2 T^4}{90} \right\}$$

where  $k^2 + m^2 \left[ 1 - \frac{\omega_L}{2k} \ln(\frac{\omega_L + k}{\omega_L - k}) \right] = 0$ ;  $f(\omega_T) = 0$ ;  $\phi_L, \phi_T$ : complicated.

• Exact 2-loop? daunting task...

→ Clearly more complicated than gluon mass in Curci-Ferrari model [e.g. RSTW approach discussed here '15 '16]

## More standard HTLpt results



HTLpt advantage: calculated up to 3-loops  $\alpha_S^2$  (NNLO)

[Andersen et al '99-'15] BUT only as  $m/T$  expansions

Drawback: HTLpt  $\equiv$  high- $T$  approximation (by definition)

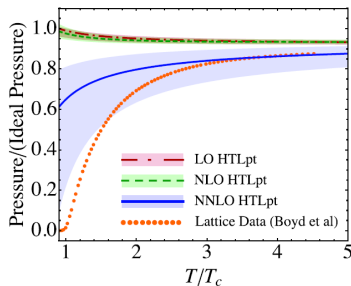
$$P_{1\text{-loop},\overline{\text{MS}}}^{HTLpt} = P_{\text{ideal}} \times \left[ 1 - \frac{15}{2} \hat{m}^2 + 30 \hat{m}^3 + \frac{45}{4} \hat{m}^4 \left( \ln \frac{\mu}{4\pi T} + \gamma_E - \frac{7}{2} + \frac{\pi^2}{3} \right) \right]$$

$$\hat{m} \equiv \frac{m}{2\pi T}$$

$$P_{\text{ideal}} = (N_c^2 - 1) \pi^2 \frac{T^4}{45}$$

## More standard HTLpt results

Pure glue up to NNLO 3-loops [Andersen, Strickland, Su '10]:



Reasonable agreement with lattice simulations (Boyd et al '96) at NNLO (3-loop), down to  $T \sim 2 - 3T_c$ , for low scale  $\mu \sim \pi T - 2\pi T$ .

Main issue of HTLpt however: odd increasing scale dependence at higher (NNLO) order

Moreover HTLpt (frequent) mass prescription  $\bar{m} \rightarrow m_D^{\text{pert}}(\alpha_S)$  [to avoid complex optimized solutions]: may miss more “nonperturbative” information.

# RGOPT adaptation of HTLpt = RGOHTL

Main RGOPT changes:

- Crucial RG invariance-restoring subtractions in Free energy (pressure):  
 $P_{HTLpt} \rightarrow P_{HTLpt} - m^4 \frac{s_0}{\alpha_S}$ : reflects its anomalous dimension.
- interpolate with  $m^2(1 - \delta)^{\frac{\gamma_0}{b_0}}$ , where gluon 'mass' anomalous dimension defined from its (available) counterterm.

RGOPT scale dependence should improve at higher orders, from RG invariance maintained at all stages:

from subtraction terms (prior to interpolation), and from interpolation restoring RG invariance.

- SPT, HTLpt, ... do not include these subtractions:  
yet scale dependence moderate up to 2-loops,  
because the (leading order) RG-unmatched term, of  $\mathcal{O}(m^4 \ln \mu)$ , is perturbatively formally like a (3-loop order)  $\alpha_S^2$  term:  $m^2 \sim \alpha_S T^2$ .

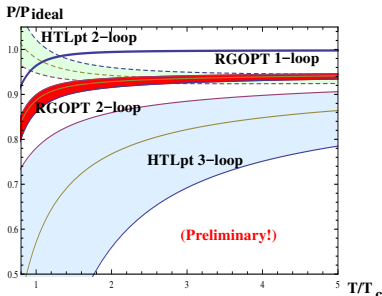
→ Explains why HTLpt scale dependence dramatically resurfaces at 3-loops!

# Preliminary RGO(HTL) results (1- and 2-loop, pure glue)

One-loop: exactly scale-invariant pressure (like for  $\phi^4$  and NLSM):

2-loops: a moderate scale-dependence reappears, similar to  $\phi^4$ , NLSM

case: a factor  $\sim 2$  improvement w.r.t. HTLpt 2-loops:



[JLK, M.B Pinto, to appear soon]

NB scale dependence should improve much at 3-loops, generically:

RGOPT at  $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_S^k) \rightarrow \bar{m}(\mu)$  appears at  $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_S^{k+1})$  for *any*  $\bar{m}$ , but  $\bar{m}^2 \sim \alpha_S T^2 \rightarrow P \simeq \bar{m}_G^4/\alpha_S + \dots$ : leading  $\mu$ -dependence at  $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_S^{k+2})$ .

- However low  $T \sim T_c$  genuine pressure shape needs determining higher order subtraction terms of  $\mathcal{O}(m^4 \alpha_S^2 \ln \mu)$ : new calculations of 3-loop HTL integrals (neglected in standard HTLpt as formally  $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_S^4)$ )



# (Very) preliminary RGO(HTL) approximate 3-loop results

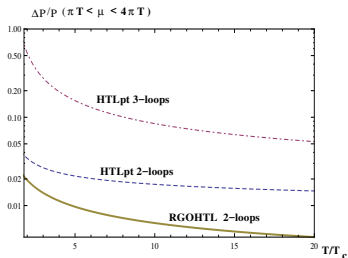
3-loops: exact missing  $m^4 \alpha_S^2$  terms need extra nontrivial calculations, but

$$P_{RGOHTL}^{3l} \sim$$

$$RGOPT(P_{HTLpt}^{2l}) + m^4 \alpha_S^2 (C_{30} \ln^3 \frac{\mu}{2\pi T} + C_{31} \ln^2 \frac{\mu}{2\pi T} + C_{32} \ln \frac{\mu}{2\pi T} + C_{33}):$$

leading logarithms (LL) and next-to-leading (NLL)  $C_{30}, C_{31}$  fully determined from lower orders from RG invariance

Within this LL, NLL approximation and in the  $T/T_c \gtrsim 2$  range where more trustable:



We assume/expect unknown terms will not spoil this improved scale dependence.

# Summary and Outlook

- OPT gives a simple procedure to resum perturbative expansions, using only perturbative information.
- Our RGOPT version includes 2 major differences w.r.t. previous OPT/SPT/HTLpt... approaches:
  - 1) OPT +/- or RG optimizations fix optimal  $\bar{m}$  and possibly  $\bar{g} = 4\pi\bar{\alpha}_S$
  - 2) Maintaining RG invariance uniquely fixes the basic interpolation  $m \rightarrow m(1 - \delta)^{\gamma_0/b_0}$ : discards spurious solutions and accelerates convergence.
- Applied to  $T \neq 0$ : exhibits improved stability + much improved scale dependence (with respect to standard PT, but also wrt SPT  $\sim$  HTLpt)
- Paves the way to extend such RG-compatible methods to full QCD thermodynamics, (work in progress, starting with  $T \neq 0$  pure gluodynamics) specially for exploring also finite density

## Backup: RGOPT in Gross-Neveu model

- $D = 2$   $O(2N)$  GN model shares many properties with QCD (asymptotic freedom, (discrete) chiral sym., mass gap,...)

$$\mathcal{L}_{GN} = \bar{\Psi} i \not{\partial} \Psi + \frac{g_0}{2N} (\sum_1^N \bar{\Psi} \Psi)^2 \text{ (massless)}$$

Standard mass-gap (massless, large  $N$  approx.):

$$\text{work out } V_{\text{eff}}(\sigma \sim \langle \bar{\Psi} \Psi \rangle) \sim \frac{\sigma^2}{2g} + \text{Tr} \ln(i \not{\partial} - \sigma);$$

$$\frac{\partial V_{\text{eff}}}{\partial \sigma} = 0: \quad \rightarrow \sigma \equiv M = \mu e^{-\frac{2\pi}{g}} \equiv \Lambda_{\overline{\text{MS}}}$$

- Mass gap also known exactly for any  $N$ :

$$\frac{M_{\text{exact}}(N)}{\Lambda_{\overline{\text{MS}}}} = \frac{(4e)^{\frac{1}{2N-2}}}{\Gamma[1 - \frac{1}{2N-2}]}$$

(From  $D = 2$  integrability: Bethe Ansatz) Forgacs et al '91

# Massive (large N) GN model

$M(m, g) \equiv m(1 + g \ln \frac{M}{\mu})^{-1}$ : Resummed mass ( $g/(2\pi) \rightarrow g$ )  
 $= m(1 - g \ln \frac{m}{\mu} + g^2(\ln \frac{m}{\mu} + \ln^2 \frac{m}{\mu}) + \dots)$  (pert. re-expanded)

- Only fully resummed  $M(m, g)$  gives right result, upon:

- identifying  $\Lambda \equiv \mu e^{-1/g}$ ;  $\rightarrow M(m, g) = \frac{m}{g \ln \frac{M}{\Lambda}} \equiv \frac{\hat{m}}{\ln \frac{M}{\Lambda}}$ ;

- taking reciprocal:  $\hat{m} = M \ln \frac{M}{\Lambda} \rightarrow M(\hat{m} \rightarrow 0) \sim \frac{\hat{m}}{\hat{m}/\Lambda + \mathcal{O}(\hat{m}^2)} = \Lambda$

never seen in standard perturbation:  $M_{\text{pert}}(m \rightarrow 0) \rightarrow 0!$

- Now (RG)OPT gives  $M = \Lambda$  at *first* (and any)  $\delta$ -order!  
(at any order, OPT sol.:  $\ln \frac{\bar{m}}{\mu} = -\frac{1}{\bar{g}}$ , RG sol.:  $\bar{g} = 1$ )

- At  $\delta^2$ -order (2-loop), RGOPT  $\sim 1 - 2\%$  from  $M_{\text{exact}}(\text{any } N)$

- Not specific to GN model: generalize to any model:

RG, OPT solutions at first (and all) orders:

$\ln \frac{\bar{m}}{\mu} = -\frac{\gamma_0}{2b_0}$ ;  $\bar{g} = \frac{1}{\gamma_0}$  correctly resums pure RG LL, NLL,... (as far as  $b_0, \gamma_0$  dependence concerned).