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# Confirming the action of the Schwinger mechanism in **QCD**

Arlene Cristina Aguilar  
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Based on:

A. C. A., M. N. Ferreira and J. Papavassiliou, Phys. Rev. D105, 014030 (2022)

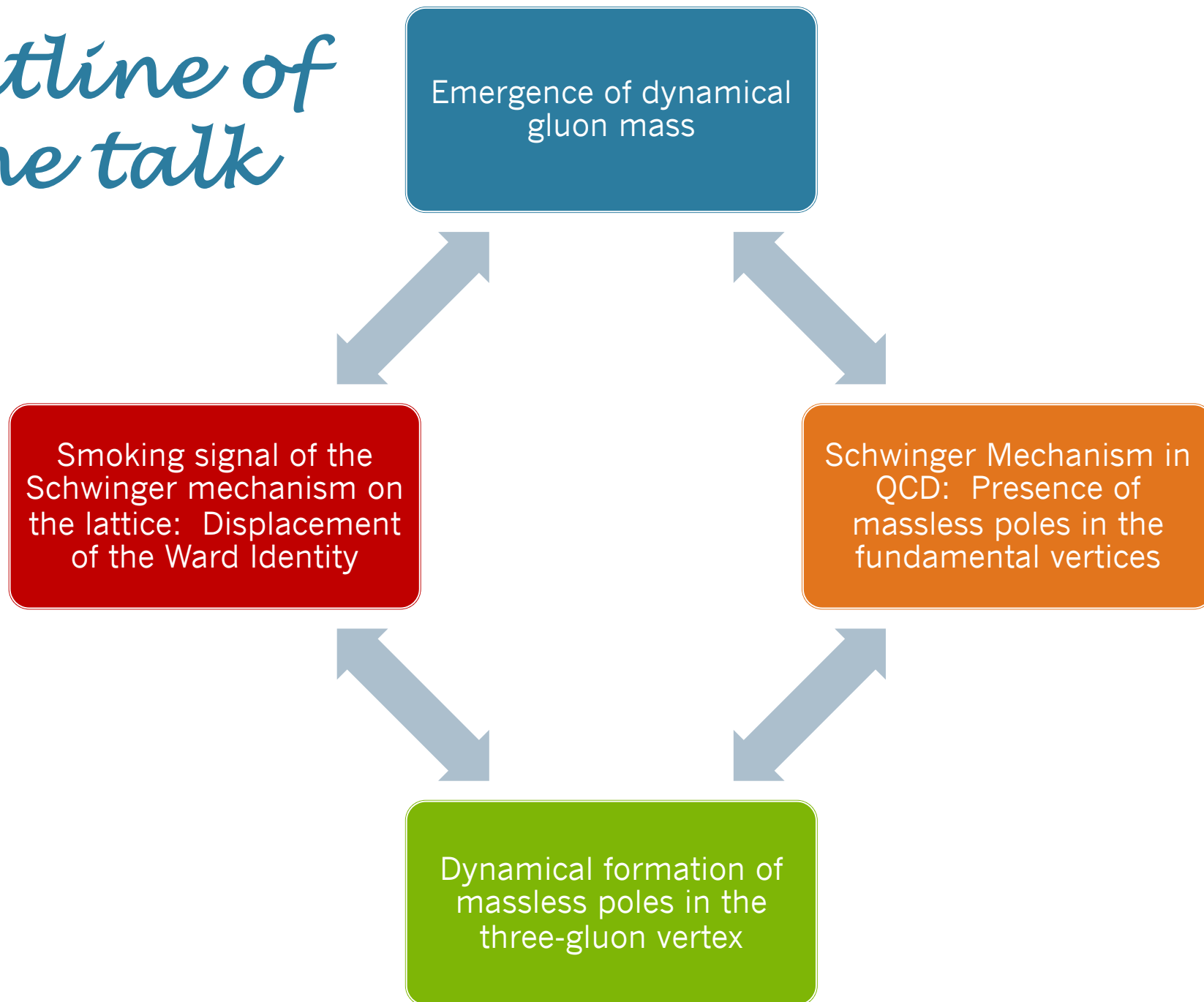
A.C.A., F. De Soto, M. N. Ferreira, J. Papavassiliou, F. Pinto-Gómez, C. D. Roberts, J. Rodríguez-Quintero, Phys. Lett. B 841 (2023) 137906

Supported by:



Light Cone, September 18-22, 2023, CBPF, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

# Outline of the talk



# QCD Lagrangian

- The gauge fields (gluons) are massless at the level **QCD** Lagrangian

$$\mathcal{L}_{QCD} = -\frac{1}{4}G_a^{\mu\nu}G_{\mu\nu}^a + \underbrace{\frac{1}{2\xi}(\partial^\mu A_\mu^a)^2}_{\text{Gauge fixing}} - \underbrace{\bar{c}^a(\partial^\mu D_\mu^{ac})c^c}_{\text{Ghost}} + \mathcal{L}_{quarks}$$

- Gluonic field strength tensor

$$G_{\mu\nu}^a = \partial_\mu A_\nu^a - \partial_\nu A_\mu^a - gf^{abc}A_\mu^b A_\nu^c$$

- Covariant derivative in adjoint  $D_\mu^{ab} = \partial_\mu \delta^{ac} + gf^{amb}A_\mu^m$

- A mass term ( $m^2 A_\mu^2$ ) for the gluon is forbidden by gauge and BRST symmetry



- Properly regularized perturbation theory cannot generate a gluon mass at any finite order.

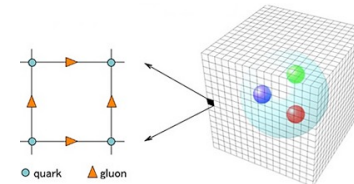
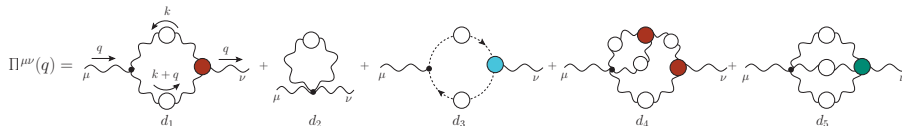
$$\int \frac{d^d k}{k^2} = 0$$

*However, gluon self-interactions can generate a nonperturbative dynamical mass.*

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

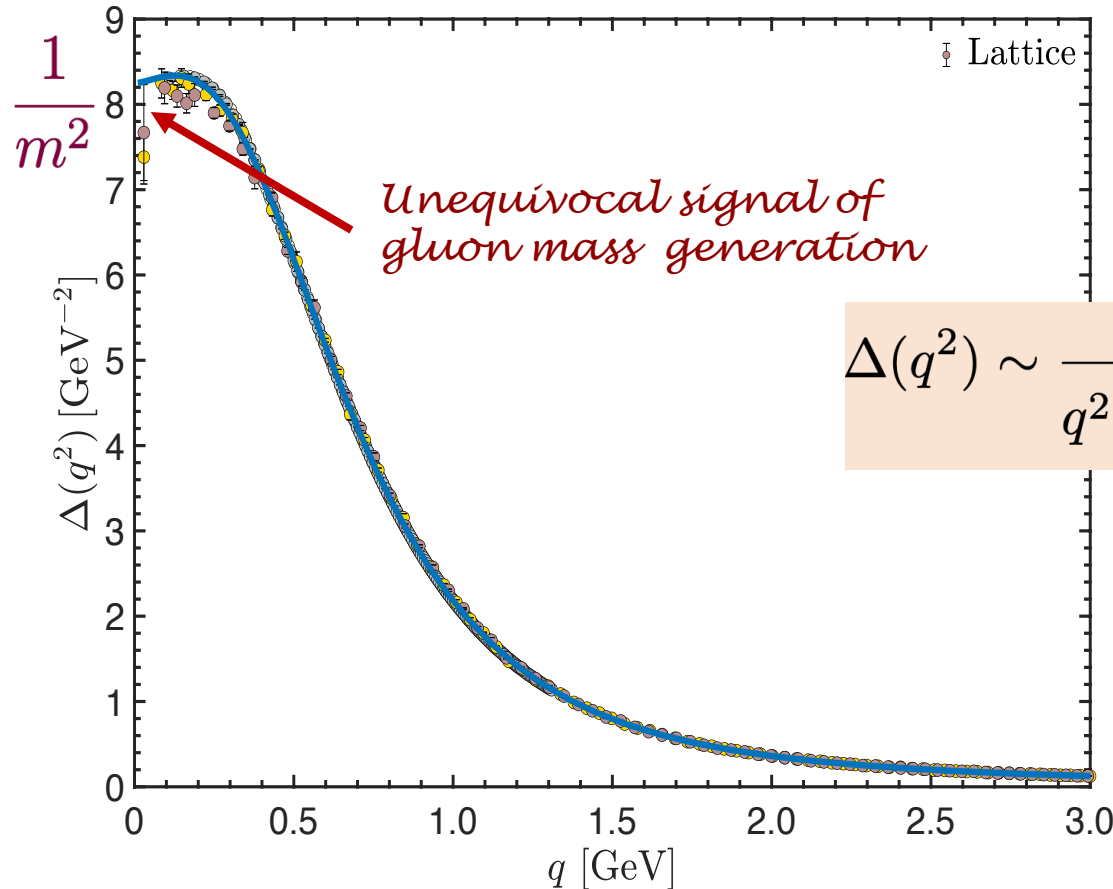
- First sign of emergence of a gluon mass appears in the *gluon propagator*.
- J.M. Cornwall proposed in 82 that the gluon propagator is finite at the origin.

Nonperturbative methods are required  
(e.g. Schwinger-Dyson equations and lattice)



The gluon propagator (in Landau gauge)

$$\Delta^{\mu\nu}(q) = \left[ g^{\mu\nu} - \frac{q^\mu q^\nu}{q^2} \right] \Delta(q^2)$$



$$\Delta(q^2) \sim \frac{1}{q^2 + m^2 + q^2 c \ln \left( \frac{q^2 + m^2}{\Lambda^2} \right) + \dots}$$

↓  $q^2 = 0$

$$\Delta(0)^{-1} = m^2$$

I.L.Bogolubsky, et al , PoS **LAT2007**, 290 (2007)  
 A.Cucchieri and T.Mendes, PoS **LAT2007**, 297 (2007)  
 O.Oliveira and P.J.Silva, PoS **QCD-TNT09**, 033 (2009)

- *Dynamical mass generation is an emergent phenomena, it must be explained without modifying the Lagrangian*

*Question 1: How can one generate a gluon mass (saturation of the gluon propagator at zero momentum) without breaking the gauge symmetry?*

Emergence of dynamical  
gluon mass

*Introduce massless poles  
in the fundamental  
vertices to trigger the  
Schwinger Mechanism*

Smoking signal of the  
Schwinger mechanism on  
the lattice: Displacement  
of the Ward Identity

Dynamical formation of  
massless poles in the  
three-gluon vertex

# Schwinger Mechanism

J. S. Schwinger, Phys. Rev.125, 397 (1962);  
Phys.Rev.128, 2425 (1962).



## *Gauge invariance and mass*

A gauge boson may acquire a mass, even if the gauge symmetry forbids a mass term at the level of the fundamental Lagrangian, provided that its vacuum polarization function develops a pole at zero momentum transfer.



# Schwinger Mechanism

- Schwinger-Dyson Equation for the gauge boson

$\Pi(q^2) \leftarrow$  Vacuum polarization

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

- If the vacuum polarization has a pole in  $q^2 = 0$  with positive residue  $m^2$ , i.e.

$$\Pi(q^2) = \frac{m^2}{q^2} \quad \leftarrow \text{Massless poles}$$

- Then

$$\Delta^{-1}(q^2) = q^2 \left[ 1 + \frac{m^2}{q^2} \right] = q^2 + m^2 \quad \xrightarrow{q^2 \rightarrow 0} \quad \Delta^{-1}(0) = m^2$$

*Dynamical mass generation requires the emergence of massless poles in the vacuum polarization  $\rightarrow$  coming from the vertices (nonperturbative origin)*

# Vertices with massless poles in QCD

- To trigger the Schwinger mechanism, we need the presence of massless poles in the full three gluon vertex

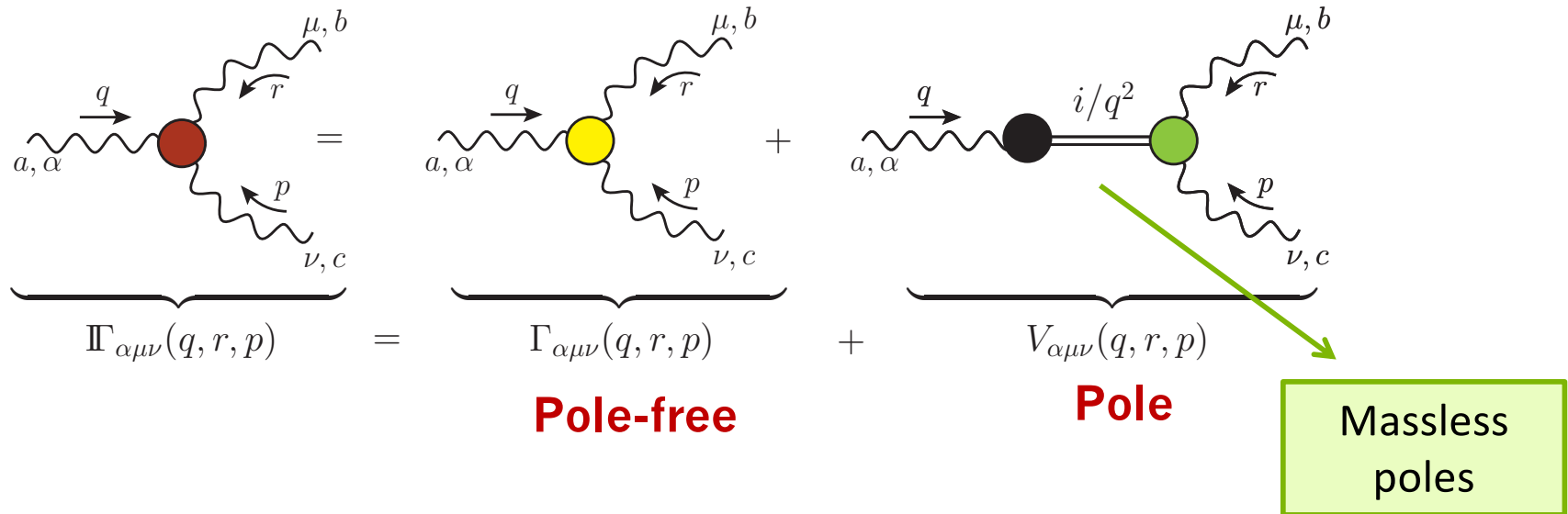
The diagram shows the decomposition of the full three-gluon vertex  $\Pi_{\alpha\mu\nu}(q, r, p)$  into a pole-free part  $\Gamma_{\alpha\mu\nu}(q, r, p)$  and a part with a massless pole  $V_{\alpha\mu\nu}(q, r, p)$ . The full vertex is represented by a red circle. The pole-free part is represented by a yellow circle. The pole part is represented by a black circle connected to a green circle by a double line, with a factor of  $i/q^2$  on the double line. The external momenta and indices are labeled as  $q, a, \alpha$ ,  $r, \mu, b$ , and  $p, \nu, c$ .

$$\underbrace{\text{Diagram with red circle}}_{\Pi_{\alpha\mu\nu}(q, r, p)} = \underbrace{\text{Diagram with yellow circle}}_{\Gamma_{\alpha\mu\nu}(q, r, p)} + \underbrace{\text{Diagram with black and green circles}}_{V_{\alpha\mu\nu}(q, r, p)}$$

**Pole-free**

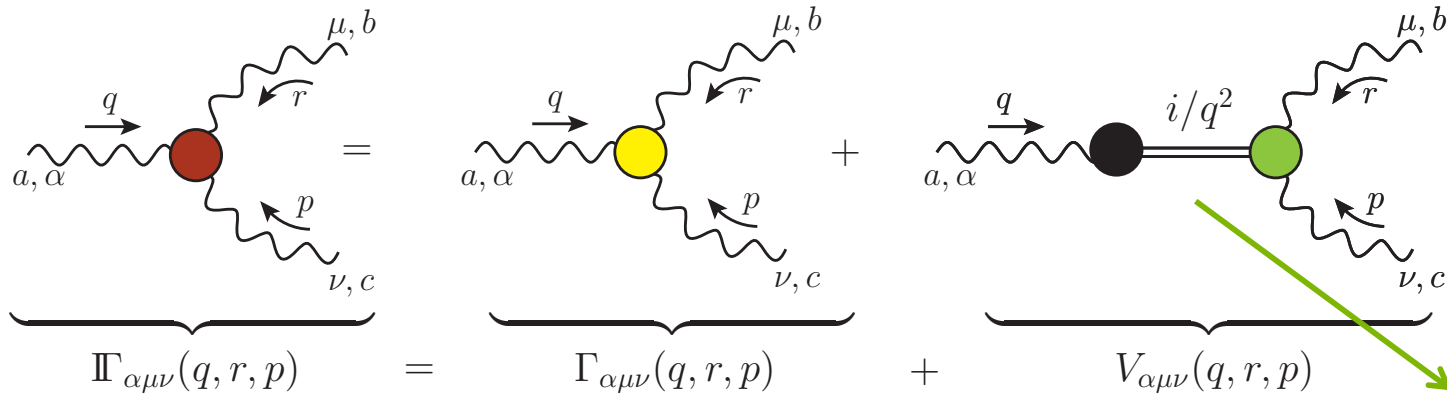
# Vertices with massless poles in QCD

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# Vertices with massless poles in QCD

- To trigger the Schwinger mechanism, we need the presence of massless poles in the full three gluon vertex



**Pole-free**

**Pole**

Massless poles

$$\begin{aligned}
 V_{\alpha\mu\nu}(q, r, p) &= \frac{q_\alpha}{q^2} C_{\mu\nu}(q, r, p) \\
 &= \frac{q_\alpha}{q^2} [C_1 g_{\mu\nu} + \dots]
 \end{aligned}$$

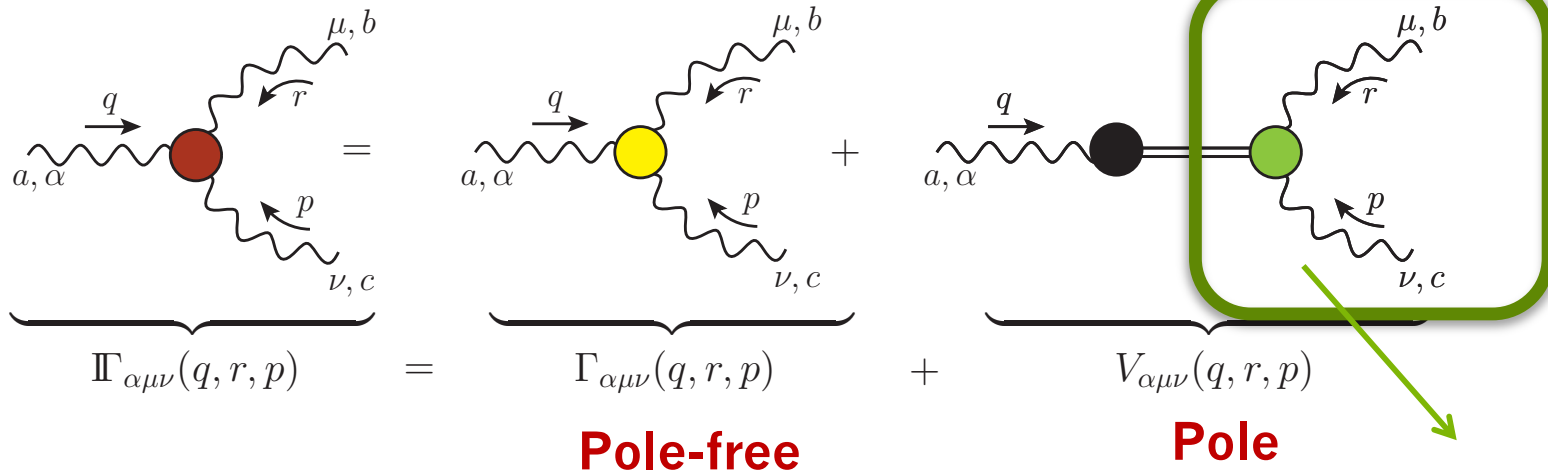
$$P_{\alpha'}^\alpha(q) P_{\mu'}^\mu(r) P_{\nu'}^\nu(p) V_{\alpha\mu\nu}(q, r, p) = 0 \quad \rightarrow$$

Longitudinally coupled  
Drops out when embedded in a S-matrix element and also in transversely projected Green's functions

$$P_{\mu\nu}(q) = \left[ g_{\mu\nu} - \frac{q_\mu q_\nu}{q^2} \right]$$

# Vertices with massless poles in QCD

- To trigger the Schwinger mechanism, we need the presence of massless poles in the full three gluon vertex



$$\begin{aligned}
 V_{\alpha\mu\nu}(q, r, p) &= \frac{q_\alpha}{q^2} C_{\mu\nu}(q, r, p) \\
 &= \frac{q_\alpha}{q^2} [C_1 g_{\mu\nu} + \dots]
 \end{aligned}$$

BSE amplitude  
gluon-gluon massless scalar

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

Longitudinally coupled  
Drops out when embedded in a S-matrix element and also in transversely projected Green's functions

$$P_{\mu\nu}(q) = \left[ g_{\mu\nu} - \frac{q_\mu q_\nu}{q^2} \right]$$

*Question 2: How the QCD dynamics generates the massless poles which appear in the fundamental vertices?*

Emergence of dynamical gluon mass



Smoking signal of the Schwinger mechanism on the lattice: Displacement of the Ward Identity

Schwinger Mechanism in QCD: Presence of massless poles in the fundamental vertices

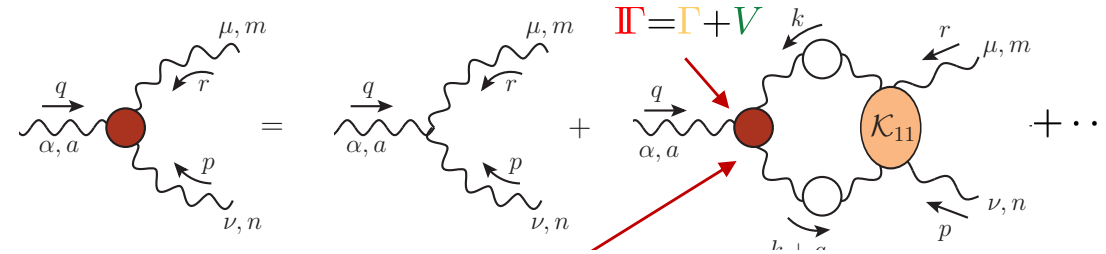


*The **QCD** interaction should have enough strength to generate them. Bethe-Salpeter equation governs their formation*

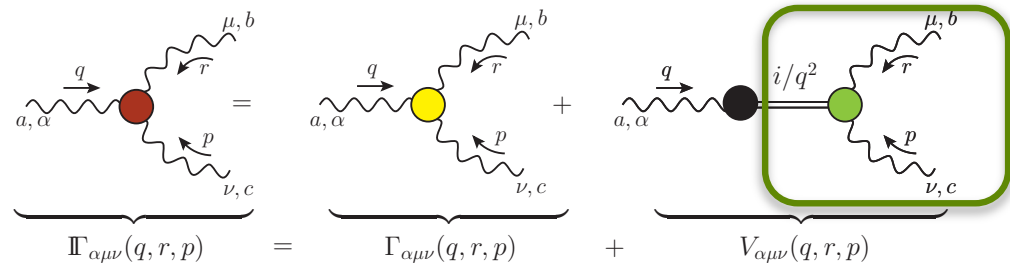
# Dynamical equation for the massless pole

Equation for the full vertex

$$\mathbb{\Gamma}_\mu(q, r, p)$$



Substitute:



Take the limit

$$q \rightarrow 0$$

We obtain the BSE for the massless pole!

$$\lim_{q \rightarrow 0} C_1(q, r, p) = 2(q \cdot r) \left[ \frac{\partial C_1(q, r, p)}{\partial p^2} \right]_{q=0} + \mathcal{O}(q^2)$$

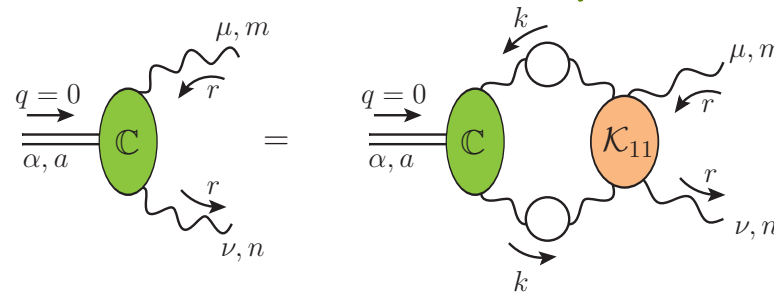
$$V_{\alpha\mu\nu}(q, r, p) = \frac{q_\alpha}{q^2} [C_1 g_{\mu\nu} \dots]$$

Bose symmetry

$$C_1(q, r, p) = -C_1(q, p, r)$$

$$C_1(0, r, -r) = 0$$

$C(q^2)$  Residue function

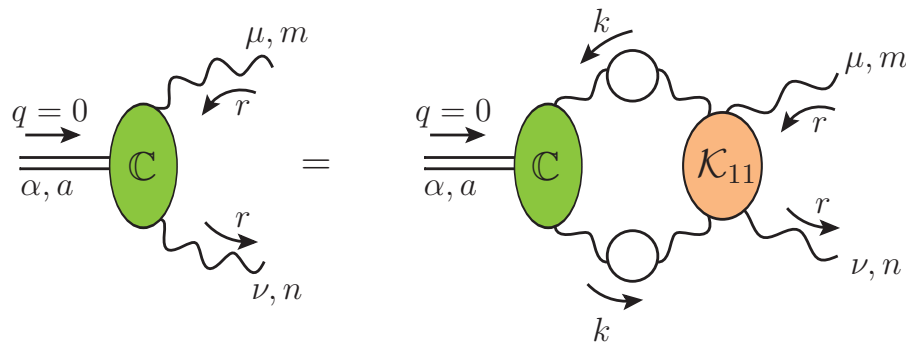


$$C(r^2) = -\alpha_s \int_k C(k^2) \Delta^2(k) \mathcal{K}_{11}(k, r)$$

*BSE describing the dynamical formation of massless pole*

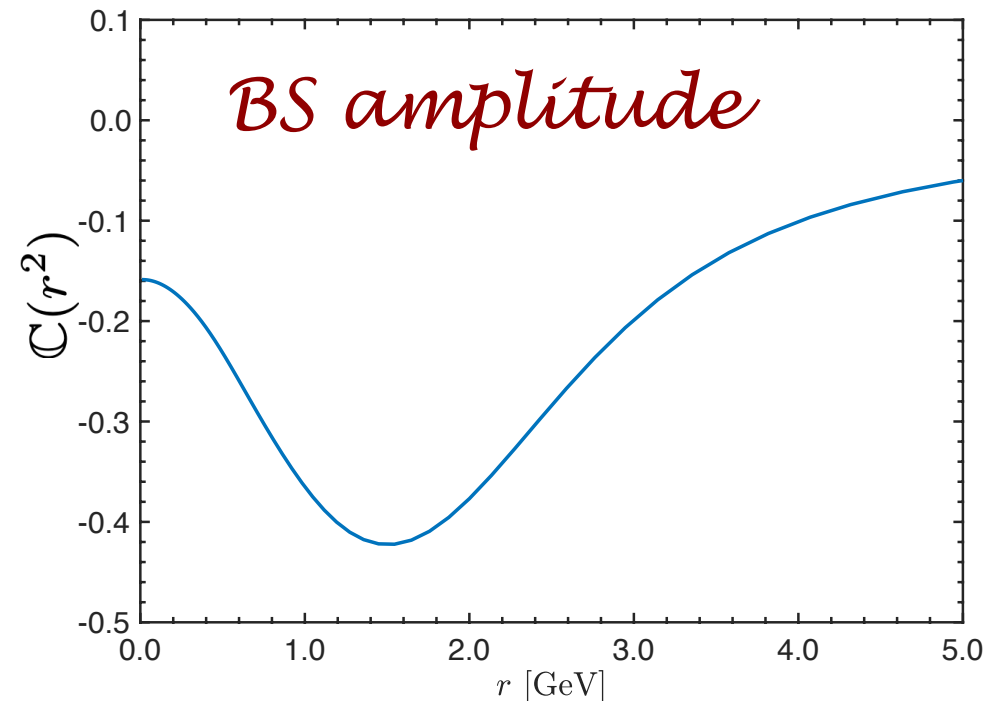


# Dynamical BSE for the massless pole



$$\mathbb{C}(r^2) = -\alpha_s \int_k \mathbb{C}(k^2) \Delta^2(k) \mathcal{K}_{11}(k, r)$$

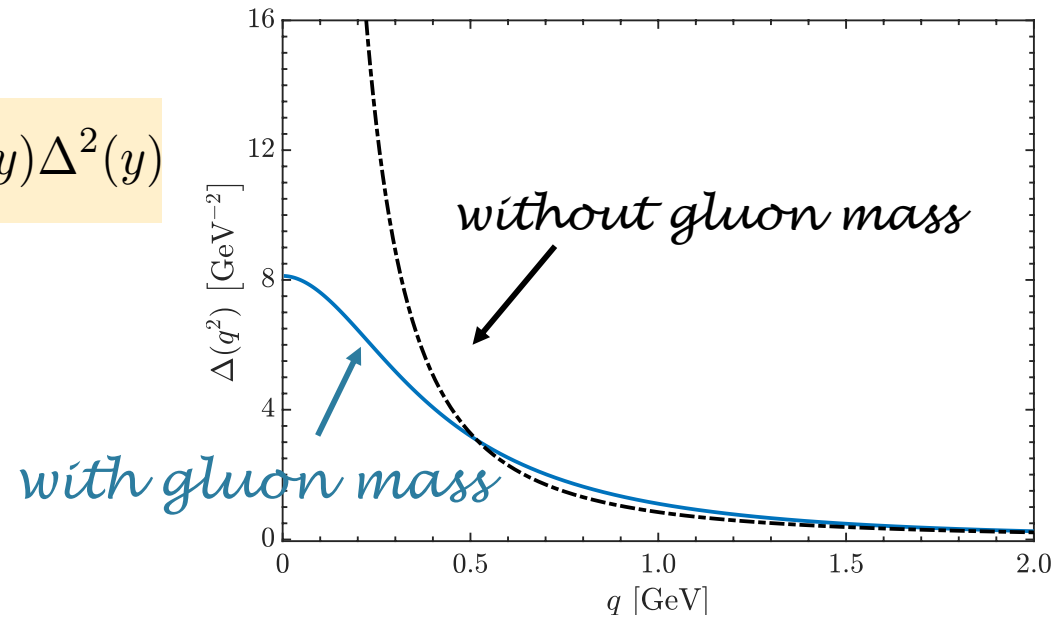
- *Eigenvalue problem*
- Solution when  $\alpha_s \approx 0.3$   
@  $\mu = 4.3 \text{ GeV}$



A.C.A, D.Binosi, C.T.Figueiredo and J.Papavassiliou,  
Eur. Phys. J. C78 (2018) no.3, 181

- The BS amplitude  $\mathbb{C}(r^2)$  is directly connected with the gluon mass!

$$\Delta^{-1}(0) = m^2 = -\frac{3C_A\alpha_s}{8\pi} \int_0^\infty dy y^2 \mathbb{C}(y) \Delta^2(y)$$



- Gluon propagator acquires a mass – due to presence of the massless poles!!! (self-stabilizing effect).

*The theory solves its infrared problems*

*Question 3: Is there a way to confirm that the action of the Schwinger Mechanism in QCD using the lattice results?*

Emergence of  
dynamical gluon mass

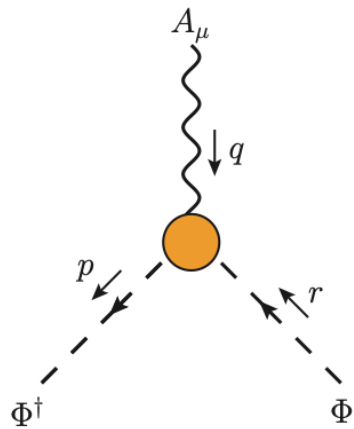
*Smoking signal of the  
Schwinger mechanism on  
the lattice:  
Displacement of the Ward  
Identity*

Schwinger Mechanism  
in QCD: Presence of  
massless poles in the  
fundamental vertices

Dynamical formation  
of massless poles in  
the three-gluon vertex

- The Ward identities undergo *a finite displacement* with respect to the result found in the absence of the Schwinger Mechanism.
- The quantity that determines this effect is  $\mathbb{C}(q^2)$
- Let's see how the *signal of the displacement of the Ward identity* emerges in a simple context: Scalar QED.

### Scalar QED



$$\Gamma^\mu(q, r, -p)$$

### Ward-Takahashi identity

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

Full scalar propagator

# Schwinger mechanism off

(without the presence of poles)

## Ward-Takahashi identity

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

$$\begin{array}{l} q \rightarrow 0 \\ p \rightarrow r \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{c} \downarrow \\ \text{Taylor expansion} \end{array}$$

## Ward identity

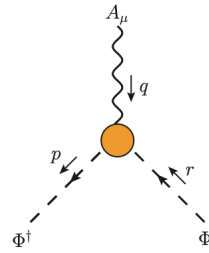
$$\Gamma_\mu(0, r, -r) = \frac{\mathcal{D}^{-1}(r^2)}{\partial r^\mu}$$

Tensorial decomposition  
(Soft photon limit)

$$\Gamma^\mu(0, r, -r) = L_{sg}^*(r^2) r^\mu$$

$$L_{sg}^*(r^2) = 2 \frac{\partial \mathcal{D}^{-1}(r^2)}{\partial r^2}$$

## Scalar QED



# Schwinger mechanism off

(without the presence of poles)

## Ward Takahashi identity

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

$q \rightarrow 0$   
 $p \rightarrow r$  Taylor expansion

## Ward identity

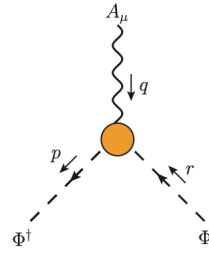
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Tensorial decomposition  
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$$\Gamma^\mu(0, r, -r) = L_{sg}^*(r^2) r^\mu$$

$$L_{sg}^*(r^2) = 2 \frac{\partial \mathcal{D}^{-1}(r^2)}{\partial r^2}$$

### Scalar QED



# Schwinger mechanism on

(with the presence of poles)

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

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

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

$q \rightarrow 0$   
 $p \rightarrow r$  Taylor expansion

## Ward identity

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

Tensorial decomposition

$$\Gamma^\mu(0, r, -r) = L_{sg}(r^2) r^\mu$$

$$L_{sg}(r^2) = 2 \frac{\partial \mathcal{D}^{-1}(r^2)}{\partial r^2} - \underbrace{2\mathbb{C}(r^2)}_{\text{displacement}}$$

$L_{sg}^*(r^2)$  ← displacement

# Displacement of the WI of the three-gluon vertex

- Now, let us apply the same procedure to the three gluon vertex which satisfies the Slavnov-Taylor identity

$$q^\alpha \Gamma_{\alpha\mu\nu}(q, r, p) + C_1(q, r, p)g_{\mu\nu} = F(q^2) [\Delta^{-1}(p^2)P_\nu^\sigma(p)H_{\sigma\mu}(p, q, r) - \Delta^{-1}(r^2)P_\mu^\sigma(r)H_{\sigma\nu}(r, q, p)]$$

$q \rightarrow 0$   
 $p \rightarrow r$

 Taylor expansion

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

*Lattice*

*Computed  
with inputs  
from the  
lattice*

*displacement*

*It is the BS  
amplitude!*

where

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



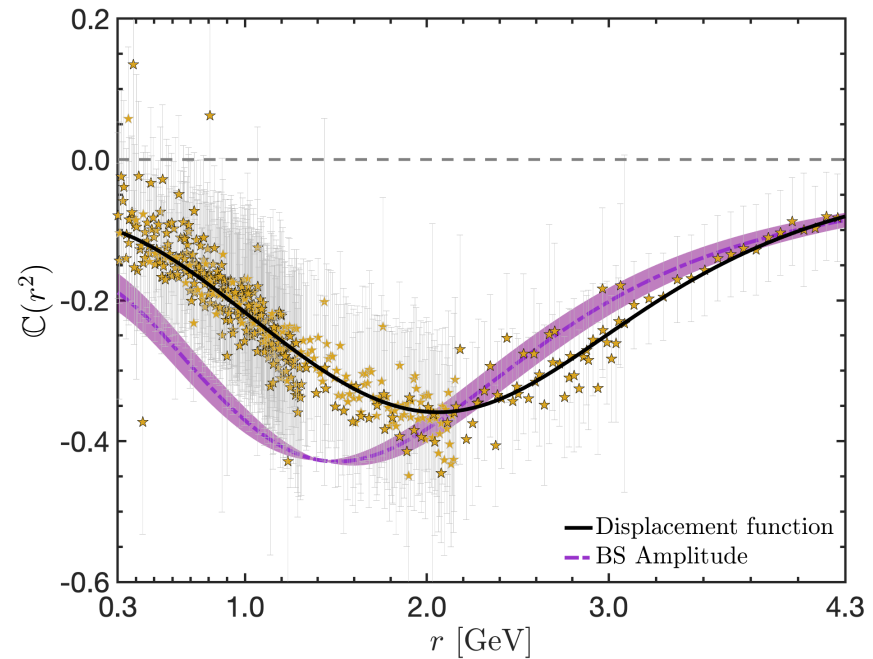
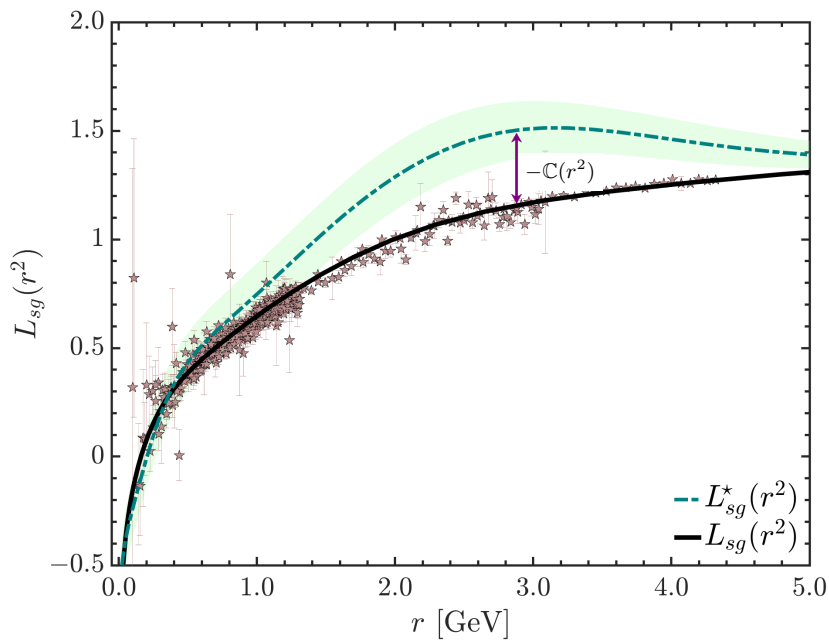
$$L_{sg}(r^2) = L_{sg}^*(r^2) + \mathbb{C}(r^2)$$

Lattice

Computed with inputs from the lattice

displacement

It is the BS amplitude!



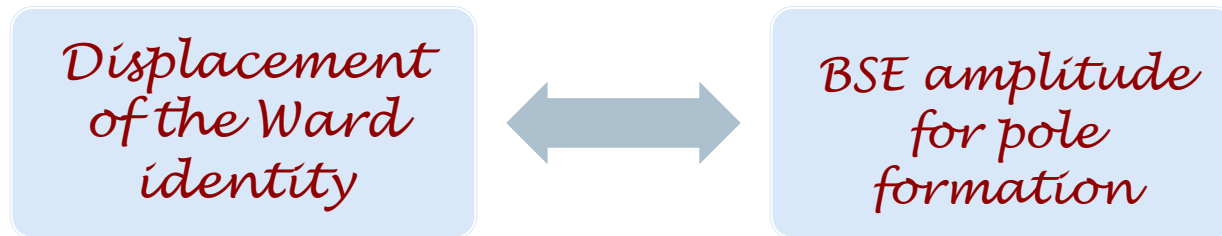
A.C.A., D. Binosi, C.T. Figueiredo and J.Papavassiliou, Phys. Rev. D 94, no.4, 045002 (2016);

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

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

# Conclusions

- The apparent simplicity of the QCD Lagrangian conceals an enormous wealth of dynamical patterns, giving rise to a vast array of complex *emergent phenomena*.
- Gluon self-interactions generate a *dynamical mass scale* in the gauge sector of QCD.
- Dynamics and symmetry are tightly intertwined:



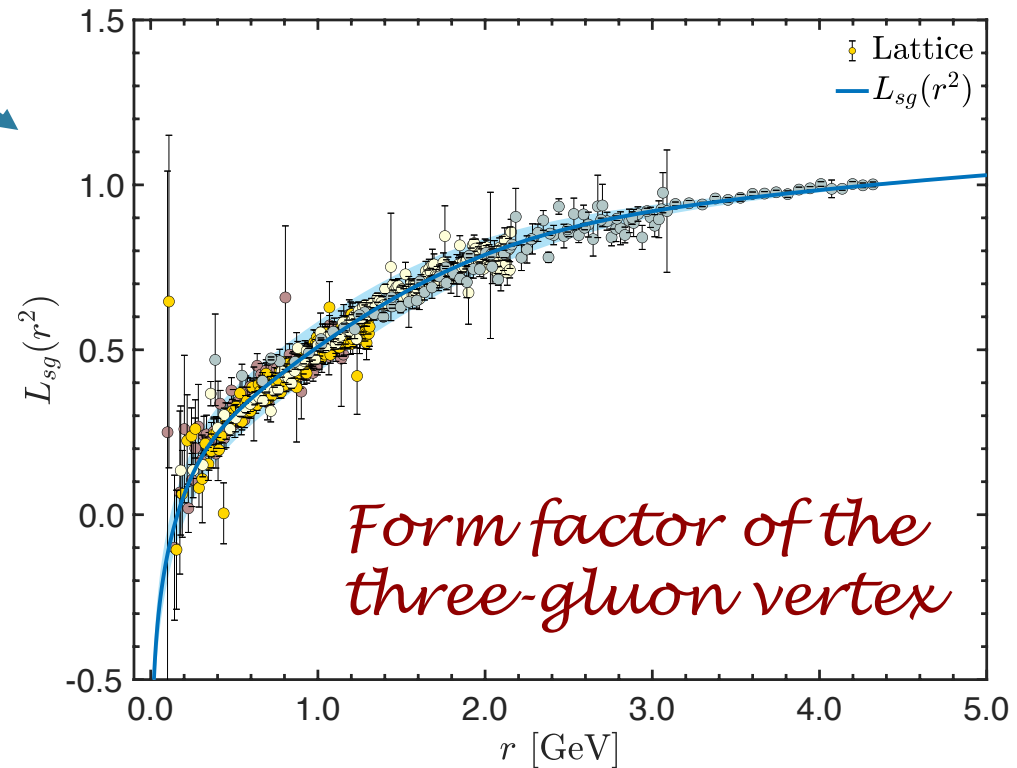
- *Smoking gun signal* corroborates the action of the *Schwinger mechanism* in QCD and the *emergence of a dynamical gluon mass*.

- Backup

# Displacement of the WI of the three-gluon vertex

$$\underbrace{\mathbb{C}(r^2)}_{\text{displacement}} = \boxed{L_{sg}(r^2)} - F(0) \left\{ \frac{\mathcal{W}(r^2)}{r^2} \Delta^{-1}(r^2) + \left[ \frac{d\Delta^{-1}(r^2)}{dr^2} \right] \right\},$$

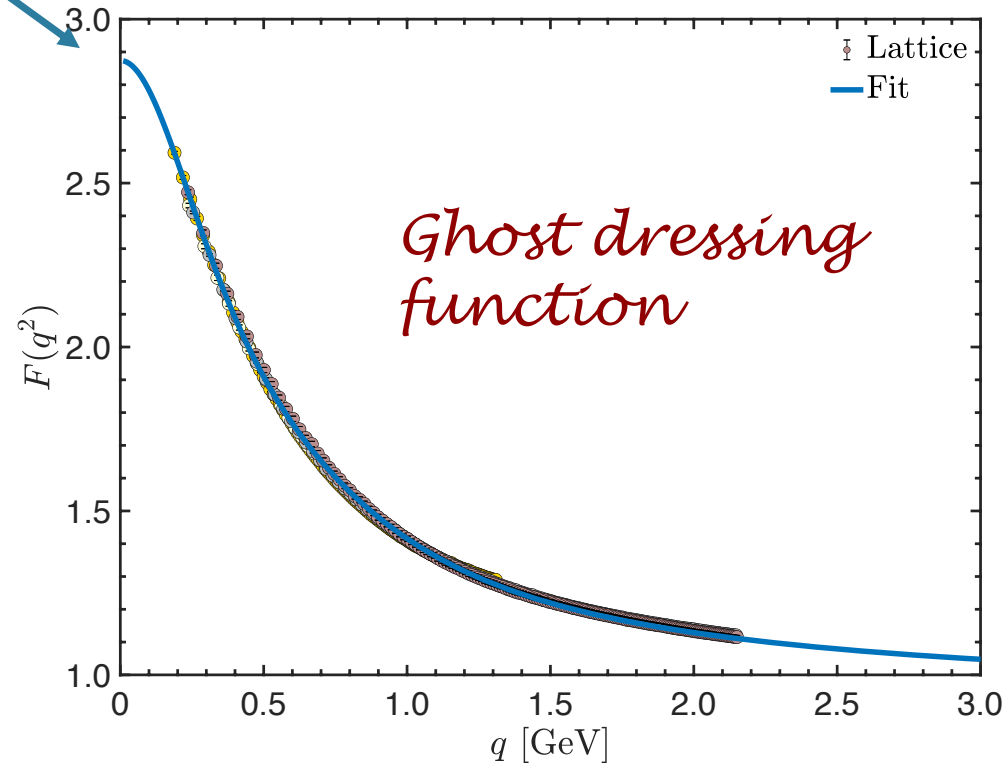
*displacement*



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*displacement*



$$D(q^2) = \frac{F(q^2)}{q^2} \quad \text{Ghost propagator}$$

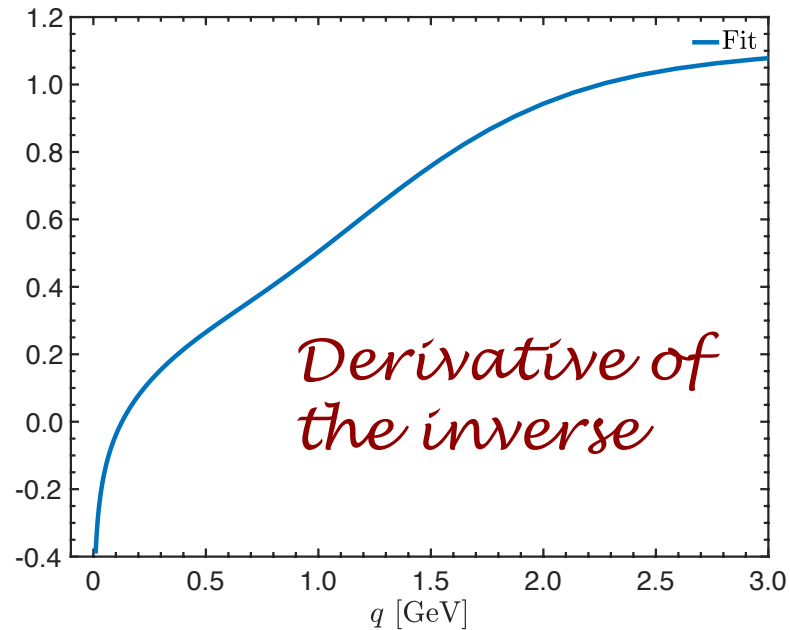
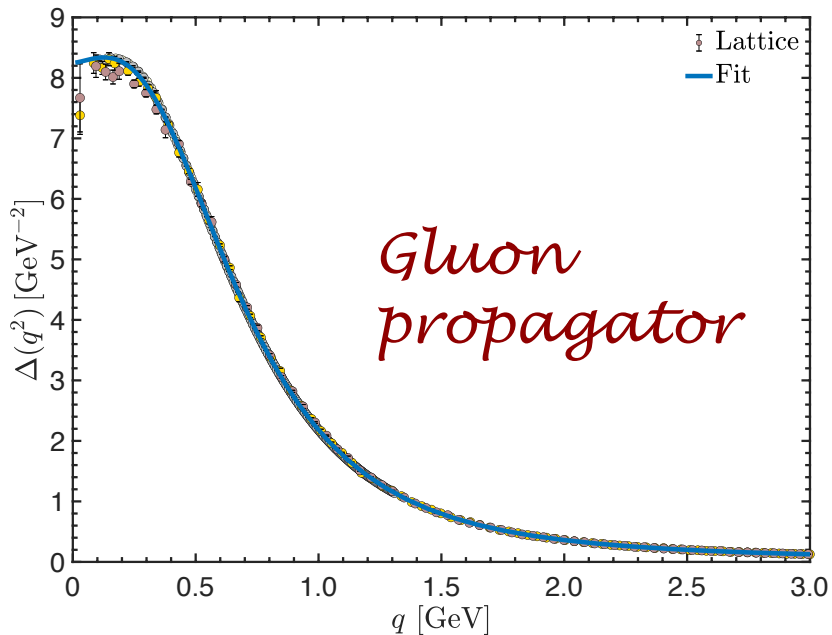
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 Phys. Rev. D 104 no.5, 054028, (2021)

# Displacement of the WI of the three-gluon vertex

$$\underbrace{C(r^2)}_{\text{displacement}} = L_{sg}(r^2) - F(0) \left\{ \frac{\mathcal{W}(r^2)}{r^2} \Delta^{-1}(r^2) + \left[ \frac{d\Delta^{-1}(r^2)}{dr^2} \right] \right\},$$

*displacement*



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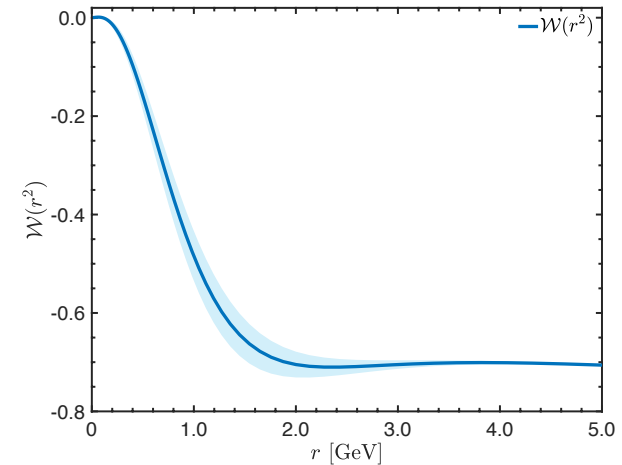
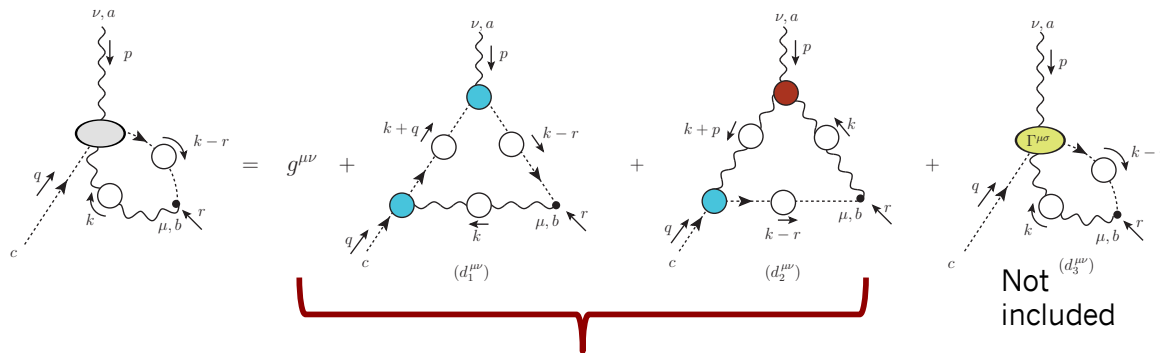
# Displacement of the WI of the three-gluon vertex

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*displacement*

*partial derivative of the ghost-gluon kernel*

- No lattice results for  $\mathcal{W}(r^2)$
- Computed from its own SDE using lattice inputs



The result is dominated by a particular projection of the three-gluon vertex, evaluated on the lattice

$$\begin{aligned} \overline{\Pi}_{\alpha\mu\nu}(q, r, p) &= P_{\alpha'\alpha}(q) P_{\mu'\mu}(r) P_{\nu'\nu}(p) L_{sg}(s^2) \\ &\times \left[ (q-r)^{\nu'} g^{\mu'\alpha'} + (r-p)^{\alpha'} g^{\mu'\nu'} + (p-q)^{\mu'} g^{\nu'\alpha'} \right] \end{aligned}$$

# Model-independent determination of the displacement function

- The lattice is “blind” to specific dynamical mechanisms

