Radiative corrections in the Refined Gribov-Zwanziger framework and its coupling to matter







- Antônio D. Pereira
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- "The complex structure of strong interactions in Euclidean and Minkowski space" ECT*
 - **Trento**, **26/05/25**





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1. Introduction

- Yang-Mills theories/QCD become strongly coupled at large distances
- Computing observables in the IR requires sophisticated non-perturbative methods and/or effective models
- From a continuum quantum-field theoretic perspective, gauge-fixing is necessary in order to compute correlation functions
- **Observables are encoded in gauge-invariant correlation functions [See Giovani's talk today!] Correlation functions of elementary fields are the seeds for the extraction of observables**
- \bullet
- However, the underlying assumptions of the traditional gauge-fixing procedure (Faddeev-Popov) do not hold at strong coupling
- It does not select one representative for each gauge orbit (gauge-fixing needs to be fixed!) The existence of several configurations living on the same gauge orbit and satisfying the same gauge fixing condition is the (in)famous Gribov problem





1. Introduction

- issue how to include matter is debatable [there is a fork in the road]

• This talk:

- **A. I will briefly review the RGZ framework**
- C. Debate on how matter can be consistently included
- **RGZ-matter systems**
- E. Collect concluding remarks

Taking into account the existence of such configurations might play an important role in the IR This has been (partially) addressed by Gribov and Zwanziger and, later on, refined by Dudal, Gracey, Sorella, Vandersickel and Verschelde [(Refined) Gribov-Zwanziger (RGZ) setup] However, explicit computations of loop corrections within this scenario are still scarce and the

B. Present recent results on radiative corrections to two-point functions in RGZ

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Warning: This talk is totally Euclidean!

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No time!

Our starting point is the four-dimensional Euclidean Yang-Mills action and SU(N) as gauge group

$$S_{\rm YM} = \frac{1}{4} \int d^d x \ F^a_{\mu\nu} F^a_{\mu\nu}$$
$$a = 1, \dots, N^2 - 1$$
$$[T^a, T^b] = i f^{abc} T^c$$
$$F^a_{\mu\nu} = \partial_\mu A^a_\nu - \partial_\nu A^a_\mu + g f^{abc} A^b_\mu A^c_\nu$$
$$structure constant$$

The action S_{YM} is invariant under $(A')^{a}_{\mu}T^{a} = U(A^{a}_{\mu}T^{a})U^{\dagger} + \frac{i}{g}U\partial_{\mu}U^{\dagger}$ $U = \exp(-ig\alpha^{a}T^{a}) \in SU(N)$

For infinitesimal α^a ,

$$A_{\mu}^{'a} \approx A_{\mu}^{a} - D_{\mu}^{ab} \alpha^{b}$$

$$D^{ab}_{\mu} = \delta^{ab} \partial_{\mu} - g f^{abc} A^{c}_{\mu}$$

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Formal Quantization



We should restrict the functional integration to the moduli space. Formally, it is defined by



The Faddeev-Popov procedure aims at tracing global sections on the wild field space slicing each gauge orbit once

In practice, one chooses a condition that must be satisfied by the gauge field, namely,

 $F^a[A] = 0$

Common choices are: $\partial_{\mu}A^{a}_{\mu} = 0$, $\partial_{i}A^{a}_{i} = 0$, $\partial_{\mu}A^{a}_{\mu} = \alpha b^{a}$,...



 $F_2[A]$



Faddeev-Popov procedure: Systematics

$$\delta(f(x)) = \sum_{i=1}^{n} \frac{\delta(x - x_i)}{|f'(x_i)|} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \int dx \, \delta(f(x)) =$$



Toy version:

 $\{x_i\}$ are zeros of f(x). We assume that f'(x) exists and does not vanish at $\{x_i\}$



Let us assume that f(x) has just one root and its derivative is positive. Hence

$$\int \mathrm{d}x \,\delta(f(x)) = 1$$

Faddeev-Popov procedure: Systematics

"Real-life" version:

The Faddeev-Popov procedure is the functional generalization of the toy example retaining its key assumptions. The resulting gauge-fixed path integral is

$$\mathscr{Z}_{\rm YM} = \int [\mathscr{D}A] \det \left(\frac{\delta F[A^U]}{\delta \alpha^a} \Big|_{\alpha=0} \right) \delta[F[A]] \, e^{-S_{\rm YM}[A]}$$

The assumptions in the toy model version can be translated as: the gauge condition picks one representative *per* gauge orbit (one root) and the determinant is positive.

The expression above can be nicely written in terms of auxiliary fields that lift the determinant and delta-functional to the Boltzmann factor and generate a gauge-fixed Yang-Mills action



Faddeev-Popov procedure: Systematics

$$\mathscr{Z}_{\rm YM} = \int [\mathscr{D}A][\mathscr{D}\bar{c}][\mathscr{D}c][\mathscr{D}b] \ e^{-S_{\rm FP}[A,\bar{c},c,b]}$$

$$S_{\rm FP}[A,\bar{c},c,b] = S_{\rm YM} + \int d^d x \left(b^a F^a[A] + \bar{c}^a \mathcal{M}^{ab} c \right)$$

The (\bar{c}^a, c^b) are the so-called Faddeev-Popov ghosts and b^a is the Nakanishi-Lautrup field. The gauge-fixed action provides an incredibly efficient tool to perform computations in the UV

However...

$$\partial_{\mu}A^{a}_{\mu} = 0$$

 $\partial_{\mu}A^{'a}_{\mu} = 0$

$$A^{'a}_{\mu} = A^a_{\mu} - D^{ab}_{\mu} \zeta^b$$

implies

$$-\partial_{\mu}D_{\mu}^{ab}\zeta^{b}=0$$





They exist!

[Gribov 1978; Singer 1978]



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Received 13 January 1978

It is shown that the fixing of the divergence of the potential in non-Abelian theories does not fix its gauge. The ambiguity in the definition of the potential leads to the fact that, when integrating over the fields in the functional integral, it is apparently enough for us to restrict ourselves to the potentials for which the Faddeev-Popov determinants are positive. This limitation on the integration range over the potentials cancels the infrared singularity of perturbation theory and results in a linear increase of the charge interaction at large distances.

NPB 139 (1978) 1-19

Perturbatively

$$-\partial_{\mu}D^{ab}_{\mu}\zeta^{b} = -\partial^{2}\zeta^{a} + gf^{abc}A^{c}_{\mu}\partial_{\mu}\zeta^{b}$$

the first term dominates and the FP operator does not develop zero modes

This is in agreement with the success of perturbative computations using the FP procedure

It also reinforces that the Gribov problem becomes relevant at the strongly-coupled regime

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Infinitesimal copies are linked to normalizable zero modes of the FP operator

One way of dealing with them is to restrict the functional integral to a region where the FP operator does not develop zero modes (it is positive)

Remarkably, in the Landau gauge, such a region exists and it features highly non-trivial geometrical properties

This region is known as the Gribov region and it is bounded. Its boundary is known as the **Gribov horizon.**



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[Dell'Antonio and Zwanziger 1991]

$$\mathscr{Z}_{\text{GZ}} = \int_{\Omega} [\mathscr{D}A] [\mathscr{D}\bar{c}] [\mathscr{D}c] [\mathscr{D}b] \ \mathrm{e}^{-S_{\text{FP}}[A,\bar{c},c,b]}$$

The restriction to Ω can be worked out and it effectively engenders a non-local modification to the FP action



$$S_{\text{GZ}}[A, \bar{c}, c, b] = S_{\text{FP}}[A, \bar{c}, c, b] - \gamma^4 H(A)$$





$$H(A) = g^2 \int_{x,y} f^{abc} A^b_{\mu}(x) \left[\mathcal{M}^{-1} \right]^{ad}(x,y) f^{dec} A^e_{\mu}(y)$$

Horizon Function

Non-local due to the inverse of the FP operator

 γ is a mass-like parameter - Gribov parameter

This parameter is not free but fixed by a gap equation

$$\langle H(A) \rangle = dV(N^2 - 1)$$

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Remarkably, the Horizon function can be localized

$$\Sigma_{\text{GZ}}[A, \bar{c}, c, b] = S_{\text{FP}}[A, \bar{c}, c, b] + S_H$$

$$S_{H} = \int_{x} \left(\bar{\varphi}_{\mu}^{ab} \mathscr{M}^{ac}(A) \varphi_{\mu}^{cb} - \bar{\omega}_{\mu}^{ab} \mathscr{M}^{ac}(A) \omega_{\mu}^{cb} \right) + ig\gamma^{2} \int_{x} f^{abc} A_{\mu}^{a} \left(\varphi + \bar{\varphi} \right)_{\mu}^{bc}$$

[Zwanziger 1989]

$$\mathscr{Z}_{\text{GZ}} = \int [\mathscr{D}\mu]_{\text{GZ}} e^{-\Sigma_{\text{GZ}}[A,\bar{c},c,b] + d\gamma^4 (N^2 - 1)V}$$

 $[\mathcal{D}\mu]_{\text{GZ}} = [\mathcal{D}A][\mathcal{D}\bar{c}][\mathcal{D}c][\mathcal{D}b][\mathcal{D}\bar{\phi}][\mathcal{D}\phi][\mathcal{D}\bar{\omega}][\mathcal{D}\omega]$





The local action Σ_{GZ} is renormalizable and effectively eliminates infinitesimal Gribov copies

However, it has IR instabilities - Stabilizing (refining) condensates are introduced: Refined GZ

[Dudal, Gracey, Sorella, Vandersickel and Verschelde 2008]

$$S_{\rm RGZ} = S_{\rm GZ} + S_{\rm cond}$$

$$S_{\text{cond}} = \int_{x} \left[\frac{m^2}{2} A^a_\mu A^a_\mu + M^2 \left(\bar{\varphi}^{ab}_\mu \varphi^{ab}_\mu - \bar{\omega}^{ab}_\mu \omega^{ab}_\mu \right) \right]$$

The mass parameters m^2 and M^2 are not free but fixed by their own gap equations

[Dudal, Felix, Palhares, Rondeau, Sorella, Vandersickel, Vercauteren]







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The tree-level gluon propagator in the RGZ setup is



At vanishing condensate masses (GZ): Scaling behavior



Solving the corresponding gap equations: Too difficult for quantitative precision

Strategy: Using the mass-like parameters to fit the tree-level propagator to lattice data

The functional form of the propagator fits very well lattice data in the IR



[Dudal, Oliveira and Vandersickel 2010]

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Non-perturbatively-informed tree-level propagator!



[Dudal, Oliveira and Vandersickel 2010]

What happens if one-loop corrections are added to the tree-level expression?

This is not a trivial task due to the proliferation of diagrams arising from the extra fields in the RGZ

Inspired by the success of the Curci-Ferrari model, it is expected that one-loop corrections will not spoil the good agreement achieved at tree level

Recently, the one-loop computation was performed at fixed coupling and the result compared to lattice data

[de Brito and AP 2024]

[Lattice data: Cucchieri and Mendes; Duarte, Oliveira and Silva]



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Complex conjugate poles

 $p_{\pm}^2|_{SU(2)} \approx -0.184 \pm 0.667 i \,\mathrm{GeV}^2$ $p_{\pm}^2|_{SU(3)} \approx -0.404 \pm 0.332i \,\mathrm{GeV}^2$

In our setup, the ghost propagator was a "prediction". However, our procedure needs optimization [Work in Progress]

[de Brito and AP 2024] [Lattice data: Cucchieri and Mendes; Duarte, Oliveira and Silva]

It's not always rainbows and butterflies...

The RGZ action is not invariant under BRST transformations

BRST is a powerful tool and particularly important for gauge-parameter dependence

The RGZ was formulated in the Landau gauge. What about linear covariant gauges with a free gauge parameter?

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BRST is a powerful tool and particularly important for gauge-parameter dependence

The RGZ was formulated in the Landau gauge. What about linear covariant gauges with a free gauge parameter?

$$A_{\mu}^{h} = \left(\delta_{\mu\nu} - \frac{\partial_{\mu}\partial_{\nu}}{\partial^{2}}\right)\chi_{\nu}$$
$$\chi_{\nu} = A_{\nu} - ig\left[\frac{1}{\partial^{2}}\partial A, A_{\nu}\right] + \frac{ig}{2}\left[\frac{1}{\partial^{2}}\partial A, \partial_{\nu}\frac{1}{\partial^{2}}\partial A\right] + e^{ig}$$

 $sA^h_\mu = 0$

BRST-invariant reformulation of the Horizon function

$$H(A^{h}) = g^{2} \int_{x,y} f^{abc} A^{h,b}_{\mu}(x) \left[\mathcal{M}^{-1}(A^{h}) \right]^{ad}(x,y) f^{dec} A^{h,e}_{\mu}(y)$$

The Gribov parameter couples to a BRSTclosed term: it is *not* akin to a gauge parameter

$$a^h \to A_\mu$$

$$A^{h}_{\mu} = \left(\delta_{\mu\nu} - \frac{\partial_{\mu}\partial_{\nu}}{\partial^{2}}\right)\chi_{\nu}$$
$$\chi_{\nu} = A_{\nu} - ig\left[\frac{1}{\partial^{2}}\partial A, A_{\nu}\right] + \frac{ig}{2}\left[\frac{1}{\partial^{2}}\partial A, \partial_{\nu}\frac{1}{\partial^{2}}\partial A\right] + \mathcal{O}(A^{3})$$

 $sA_{\mu}^{h} = 0$

BRST-invariant reformulation of the Horizon function

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The Gribov parameter couples to a BRSTclosed term: it is *not* akin to a gauge parameter The same happens with the refining mass-like parameters

The gauge-invariant *dressed* field A_{μ}^{n}

can be localized by means of a **Stuckelberg-like field**

The BRST-invariant RGZ action is local but non-polynomial. Yet, it is renormalizable

[Capri, Fiorentini, AP, Sorella 2017]

Correlation functions of gauge fields and FP ghosts are equivalent in the **BRST-invariant and the standard RGZ frameworks**

The elimination of (infinitesimal) Gribov copies affects, directly, only the gauge sector

The RGZ introduces non-perturbative information to the tree-level gluon propagator

If matter is minimally coupled to the gauge fields, the tree-level matter propagator is the perturbative one

Should matter be introduced with a non-perturbative structure that mimics the gauge sector?

Or should the non-perturbative information be introduced via gauge loops?

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A non-perturbative coupling was proposed

[Dudal, Guimaraes, Palhares, Sorella 2013] [Capri, Guimaraes, Justo, Palhares, Sorella 2014] [Capri, Fiorentini, AP, Sorella 2017]

For a given matter field $F^{i}(x)$:

$$\mathcal{H}_F = g^2 \int_{x,y} (T^a)^{ij} F^i(x) \left[\mathcal{M}^{-1} \right]^{ab} (x,y) (T^b)^{jk} F^k(y)$$

This corresponds to a Horizon-like term for the matter fields

This is what we shall call a *non-perturbative* coupling between matter and the RGZ

Mass-like parameters are needed and should be fixed by appropriate gap equations

As a concrete example: Scalar fields in the adjoint representation

$$S_{\phi RGZ}^{nm} = S_{RGZ} + S_{\phi}^{nm}$$

$$S_{\phi}^{nm} = \int_{x} \left[\frac{1}{2} (D_{\mu}^{ab} \phi^{b}) (D_{\mu}^{ac} \phi^{c}) + \frac{m_{\phi}^{2}}{2} \phi^{a} \phi^{a} + \frac{\lambda}{4!} (\phi^{a} \phi^{c}) \right]$$

$$+ \int_{x} \left(\bar{\zeta}^{ab} \mathcal{M}^{ac}(A) \zeta^{cb} - \bar{\theta}^{ab} \mathcal{M}^{ac}(A) \theta^{cb} \right) + ig\sigma^{2} \int_{x}$$

$$+M_{\phi}^{2}\int_{x}\left(\bar{\zeta}^{ab}\zeta^{ab}-\bar{\theta}^{ab}\theta^{ab}\right)$$

 $f^{abc}\phi^a(\bar{\zeta}+\zeta)^{bc}$

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The tree-level scalar-field propagator is

$$\langle \phi^{a}(p)\phi^{b}(-p)\rangle = \delta^{ab} \frac{p^{2} + M_{\phi}^{2}}{(p^{2} + m_{\phi}^{2})(p^{2} + M_{\phi}^{2}) + 2Ng^{2}}$$

[Capri, Guimaraes, Justo, Palhares, Sorella 2014]

Using the mass-like parameters to fit lattice data, the tree-level expression provides a quite good description of the scalar-field propagator

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[Capri, Guimaraes, Justo, Palhares, Sorella 2014]

[Lattice data: Maas]

Back to minimal coupling

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Compute one-loop corrections to the scalarfield propagator arising from its coupling to the **RGZ dynamics**

[de Brito, de Fabritiis, AP 2023]

Use the values for the mass-like parameters of the RGZ from the tree-level fitting of the (quenched) gluon propagator

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The computation is performed at fixed coupling

<u>γ</u>2

Despite the large set of Feynman rules and mixings in the RGZ, the scalar propagator at one-loop order is obtained directly from the inversion of the 1PI two-point function

$$\left<\phi^a(p)\phi^b(-p)\right> = \delta^{ab} \mathcal{D}_\phi(p^2)$$

$$\mathcal{D}_{\phi}(p^2) = \left(\Gamma^{(2)}_{\phi\phi}(p^2)\right)^{-1}$$

4. Going beyond pure YM-RGZ [de Brito, de Fabritiis, AP 2023] [Lattice data: Maas (scalar sector); Cucchieri and Mendes (quenched gluon propagator)]

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If we fit g as well, the results are considerably improved

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Within our setup, we were not able to identify positivity violation conclusively

[de Brito, de Fabritiis, AP 2023] [Lattice data: Maas (scalar sector); Cucchieri and Mendes (quenched gluon propagator)]

For RGZ-Scalar systems:

The scalar-field propagator can be well described by minimal and non-perturbative matter coupling

The non-perturbative coupling has the advantage (or rather drawback) of introducing new parameters that are independent of those in the gluon propagator

Fitting the scalar-field propagator is a completely independent procedure

Further investigation within this scheme is necessary

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[Work in Progress]

What about quarks?

The non-perturbative matter coupling gives rise to

$$S_{\psi RGZ}^{nm} = S_{RGZ} + S_{\psi}^{nm}$$

$$S_{\psi}^{\text{nm}} = \int_{x} \sum_{f=1}^{N_f} \left[\bar{\psi}_f^i \gamma_{\mu} D_{\mu}^{ij} \psi_f^j - m_{\psi}^f \bar{\psi}_f^i \psi_f^i \right]$$

$$+ \int_{x} \sum_{f=1}^{N_f} \mu_{\psi,f}^2 \left(\bar{\lambda}_f^{ai} \lambda_f^{ai} + \bar{\theta}_f^{ai} \theta_f^{ai} \right)$$

 $M_f^{3/2}\left(\bar{\lambda}_f^{ai}(T^a)^{ij}\psi_f^j + \bar{\psi}_f^{ai}(T^a)^{ij}\lambda_f^j\right)$

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Standard minimally coupled Dirac action

Localization of the Horizon-like function for the matter sector

 $M_f^{3/2}\left(\bar{\lambda}_f^{ai}(T^a)^{ij}\psi_f^j + \bar{\psi}_f^{ai}(T^a)^{ij}\lambda_f^j\right)$

Condensates of the auxiliary localizing fields

What about quarks?

The non-perturbative matter coupling gives rise to

$$S_{\psi RGZ}^{nm} = S_{RGZ} + S_{\psi}^{nm}$$

The tree-level quark propagator for degenerate $N_f = 2$ is

$$S(p) = Z(p) \frac{i\gamma_{\mu}p_{\mu} - A(p)}{p^2 + A^2(p)}$$

[Capri, Guimaraes, Justo, Palhares, Sorella 2014]

$$Z(p) = 1 \qquad A(p) = \frac{g^2 M^3}{p^2 + \mu_{\psi}^2} + m_{\psi}$$

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Non-trivial momentum-dependence on the mass function already at tree-level

This mass function captures a non-trivial chiral limit.

Minimally coupled quarks

$$S_{\psi \text{RGZ}} = S_{\text{RGZ}} + S_{\psi}$$

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Compute one-loop corrections to the quark propagator arising from its coupling to the RGZ dynamics

[de Brito, de Fabritiis, AP 2025]

Fit the mass-parameters as well as the coupling using the unquenched gluon propagator at one-loop order

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Fit the mass-parameters as well as the coupling using the unquenched gluon propagator at one-loop order

A toy-running for the coupling is used, namely,

$$g^{2}(p) = \frac{g_{0}^{2}}{1 + \frac{g_{0}^{2}}{16\pi^{2}} \left(\frac{11}{3}N_{c} - \frac{2}{3}N_{f}\right) \log\left(\frac{p^{2} + \Lambda^{2}}{\Lambda^{2}}\right)}$$

Λ stands for a IR cutoff to circumvent the perturbative Landau pole

[de Brito, de Fabritiis, AP 2025]

[Lattice data: Sternbeck, Maltman, Muller-Preussker and von Smekal]

Unquenched gluon propagator at oneloop order from RGZ minimally coupled to quarks

[de Brito, de Fabritiis, AP 2025] [Lattice data: Oliveira, Silva, Skullerud and Sternbeck]

5

Quark mass function at one-loop order: The mass-parameters from the RGZ are fixed by the gluon propagator

$$m_{\psi} = 37 \,\mathrm{MeV}$$
 $M_{\pi} = 422 \,\mathrm{MeV}$

No extra parameter is introduced. This is a "prediction".

In the present treatment, chiral-symmetry breaking effects are *not* captured by the one-loop (or any finite order) correction -One should perform such analysis away from the chiral limit

[de Brito, de Fabritiis, AP 2025] [Lattice data: Oliveira, Silva, Skullerud and Sternbeck]

$$m_{\psi} = 37 \,\mathrm{MeV}$$
 $M_{\pi} = 422 \,\mathrm{MeV}$

The quark dressing function is not even in qualitative agreement with the lattice data in the IR

This is very similar to what happens in the **Curci-Ferrari model. In fact, we checked** that in the limit $\gamma \rightarrow 0$, our results coincide with Curci-Ferrari results at one-loop order

[Pelaez, Tisser and Wschebor 2014]

Two-loop computations are needed to improve the results (as it was shown in the Curci-Ferrari case) - Challenging task in the RGZ

Chiral-symmetry breaking effects require some sort "beyond"-perturbative treatment.

There are several ways to tackle this problem, but there are no results in the context of the RGZ coupled to matter in a minimal way

The results here presented can be viewed as an encouragement that the elimination of Gribov copies in the gauge sector is sufficient to transfer the "necessary" IR effects to the matter sector via gluon and localizing auxiliary fields loops.

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The results here presented can be viewed as an encouragement that the elimination of Gribov copies in the gauge sector is sufficient to transfer the "necessary" IR effects to the matter sector via gluon and localizing auxiliary fields loops.

Since the Curci-Ferrari model can be viewed as a minimalistic approach to mimic the removal of Gribov copies, the results here presented should be, at least, in qualitative agreement with such a model. They are indeed.

It is important to emphasize that the Curci-Ferrari model is a particular case of the present setup in which the Gribov parameter γ is set to zero

RGZ expressions for the propagators at one-loop are much more complicated than the CF ones. This makes the fitting procedure much more involved.

The non-perturbative matter coupling can be cast in a BRST-invariant framework by dressing the matter fields

5. Conclusions

The Gribov problem is around for almost 50 years

So far, we have managed to understand how to partially deal with it for computationally advantageous gauges

It is unclear if its resolution will give any new physical information in YM theories

We have evidence for its relevance in the IR for correlation functions involving gauge fields and FP ghosts

There exists a local and renormalizable framework, the RGZ, that effectively removes infinitesimal Gribov copies and takes into account the formation of condensates

Its original formulation in the Landau gauge has been extended to an entire new class of gauges thanks to a BRST-invariant formulation of the RGZ

5. Conclusions

What happens if loop corrections are introduced? This requires a systematic investigation and we have presented some recent contributions in this direction

See also [Mintz, Palhares, AP, Sorella 2018] [Barrios, Guimaraes, Mintz, Palhares, Pelaez 2024]

Should the matter sector also be non-perturbatively-informed or the gluon (and auxiliary) fields) loops will take care of the IR behavior of matter fields?

We have found evidence supporting the minimal-coupling prescription

However, the non-perturbative RGZ-matter coupling should be investigated further as well. Even if it is not a necessary ingredient, it can be an efficient effective description of matter

A lot of work to be done. Cross-fertilization with functional methods would be fantastic!

The RGZ provides a non-perturbatively-informed tree-level structure

Obrigado