

$\Lambda_{\overline{\text{MS}}}$ from the static potential for $N_f = 2$

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Motivation

- Λ (or $\Lambda_{\overline{\text{MS}}}$) defines the scale for dimensionful perturbative results (analogous to the lattice spacing a for lattice results).
- Λ (or $\Lambda_{\overline{\text{MS}}}$) could in principle be determined by
 - performing an experiment, which can be calculated reliably by means of perturbation theory (i.e. an experiment at high energies),
 - identifying the experimental and the perturbative result,
 - solving for Λ (or $\Lambda_{\overline{\text{MS}}}$).
- Alternatively, one can replace the experiment by a lattice computation of an observable, which can also be calculated reliably by means of perturbation theory (e.g. the static potential $V_{Q\bar{Q}}(r)$, i.e. the potential of a static quark antiquark pair separated by a distance r).

Outline

- Perturbation theory for $V_{Q\bar{Q}}$.
- Setting the scale via $\Lambda_{\overline{\text{MS}}}$.
- Validity of perturbation theory.
- Lattice computation of $V_{Q\bar{Q}}$.
- $\Lambda_{\overline{\text{MS}}}$ fits.
- Quark mass extrapolation.
- Continuum extrapolation.
- Conclusions.

Perturbation theory for $V_{Q\bar{Q}}$ (1)

- Perturbative expansion of the physical coupling constant α ($\alpha = g^2/4\pi$) at momentum p in terms of α at momentum q (valid for $\alpha(p), \alpha(q) \ll 1$):

$$\alpha(p) = \alpha(q) - \# \alpha(q)^2 \ln(p^2/q^2) + \mathcal{O}(\alpha(q)^3) \quad (1)$$

(expansion known up to $\mathcal{O}(\alpha(q)^5)$).

- Momentum space static potential (delocalized static quarks interacting via gluon exchange, etc. with momentum q):

$$\tilde{V}_{Q\bar{Q}}(p, \alpha(p)) = -\frac{16\pi}{3p^2} \left(\alpha(p) + \# \alpha(p)^2 + \mathcal{O}(\alpha(p)^3) \right)$$

(expansion known up to $\mathcal{O}(\alpha(p)^4)$, i.e. NNNLO).

[C. Anzai, Y. Kiyo and Y. Sumino, Phys. Rev. Lett. **104**, 112003 (2010) [arXiv:0911.4335 [hep-ph]]]

[A. V. Smirnov, V. A. Smirnov and M. Steinhauser, Phys. Rev. Lett. **104**, 112002 (2010) [arXiv:0911.4742 [hep-ph]]]

Perturbation theory for $V_{Q\bar{Q}}$ (2)

- Fourier transformation yields the position space static potential (localized static quarks, separation r , interacting via gluon exchange, etc. with arbitrary momenta):

- Express $\alpha(p)$ in $\tilde{V}_{Q\bar{Q}}(p, \alpha(p))$ in terms of $\alpha(\mu)$ (μ is an arbitrary scale) by means of eq. (1):

$$\tilde{V}_{Q\bar{Q}}(p, \alpha(p)) \rightarrow \tilde{V}_{Q\bar{Q}}(p, \mu, \alpha(\mu)).$$

- Perform the Fourier transformation:

$$\hat{V}_{Q\bar{Q}}(r, \mu, \alpha(\mu)) = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^3} \int d^3p e^{i\mathbf{p}\mathbf{r}} \tilde{V}_{Q\bar{Q}}(p, \mu, \alpha(\mu)).$$

- Get rid of μ and $\alpha(\mu)$ by expressing $\alpha(\mu)$ in $\hat{V}_{Q\bar{Q}}(r, \mu, \alpha(\mu))$ in terms of $\alpha(1/r)$ by means of eq. (1):

$$\hat{V}_{Q\bar{Q}}(r, \alpha(1/r)) = -\frac{4\pi}{3r} \left(\alpha(1/r) + \#\alpha(1/r)^2 + \mathcal{O}(\alpha(1/r)^3) \right).$$

Perturbation theory for $V_{Q\bar{Q}}$ (3)

- However, Fourier transform $\hat{V}_{Q\bar{Q}}(r, \alpha(1/r))$ of a perturbative expansion of $\tilde{V}_{Q\bar{Q}}(p, \alpha(p))$ is physically questionable/meaningless, because of integrating over all momenta p :

– As an illustration consider e.g.

$$\tilde{V}_{Q\bar{Q}}(p, \alpha(p)) = -\frac{16\pi\alpha(p)}{3p^2} + \dots$$

$$\alpha(p) = \alpha(\mu) - \# \alpha(\mu)^2 \ln(p^2/\mu^2) + \dots,$$

which is obviously valid only for small $\alpha(p)$ and $\alpha(\mu)$, i.e. large p and μ , and for $p^2/\mu^2 \approx 1$.

Perturbation theory for $V_{Q\bar{Q}}$ (4)

- Remove the error introduced by Fourier transforming a perturbative expansion of the static potential by means of a technique called “renormalon subtraction”:

[M. Beneke, Phys. Rept. **317**, 1 (1999) [arXiv:hep-ph/9807443]]

[A. Pineda, JHEP **0106**, 022 (2001) [arXiv:hep-ph/0105008]]

[A. Pineda, J. Phys. G **29**, 371 (2003) [arXiv:hep-ph/0208031]]

- Replace

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{V}_{Q\bar{Q}}(r, \alpha(1/r)) &\rightarrow \\ \rightarrow V_{Q\bar{Q}}(r, \alpha(1/r), \rho, \alpha(\rho)) &= \hat{V}_{Q\bar{Q}}(r, \alpha(1/r)) - V_{Q\bar{Q}}^{\text{ren}}(\rho, \alpha(\rho)),\end{aligned}$$

where

$$V_{Q\bar{Q}}^{\text{ren}}(\rho, \alpha(\rho)) = \rho \left(\# \alpha(\rho)^2 + \# \alpha(\rho)^3 + \dots \right).$$

- Renormalon subtraction introduces a new scale ρ .
- No renormalon subtraction at $\mathcal{O}(\alpha)$, i.e. LO.

Perturbation theory for $V_{Q\bar{Q}}$ (5)

- $V_{Q\bar{Q}}(r, \alpha(1/r), \rho, \alpha(\rho))$ depends on “two coupling constants”.
- To obtain a result, which depends on a “single coupling constant” only, one can again use

$$\alpha(1/r) = \alpha(\rho) - \# \alpha(\rho)^2 \ln(1/r^2 \rho^2) + \mathcal{O}(\alpha(\rho)^3).$$

- Final result:

$$\begin{aligned} V_{Q\bar{Q}}(r, \rho, \alpha(\rho)) &= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \alpha(\rho)^n f_n(r, \rho) = \\ &= -\alpha(\rho) \frac{4}{3r} + \alpha(\rho)^2 \left(-\frac{2.04\dots + 2.05\dots \ln(r\rho)}{r} \right) + \mathcal{O}(\alpha(\rho)^3) + V_0. \end{aligned}$$

- The renormalon scale is chosen according to $1/\rho = (r_{\min} + r_{\max})/2$, where $r_{\min} \leq r \leq r_{\max}$ is the region, where the perturbative static potential will be fitted to the lattice static potential.

Perturbation theory for $V_{Q\bar{Q}}$ (6)

- Potential NRQCD (pNRQCD):

[A. Pineda and J. Soto, Nucl. Phys. Proc. Suppl. **64**, 428 (1998) [arXiv:hep-ph/9707481]]

[N. Brambilla, A. Pineda, J. Soto and A. Vairo, Nucl. Phys. B **566**, 275 (2000)

[arXiv:hep-ph/9907240]]

[N. Brambilla, A. Vairo, X. Garcia i Tormo and J. Soto, Phys. Rev. D **80**, 034016 (2009) [arXiv:0906.1390

[hep-ph]]]

- Effective field theory for QCD, specifically designed for bound states of heavy quarks.
- Allows renormalization group improvement, i.e. summation of a specific class of logarithms (NNLO \rightarrow NNLL, NNNLO \rightarrow NNNLL).
- At NNNLL a new unknown constant appears.
- At the moment we investigate, whether it is advantageous with respect to a $\Lambda_{\overline{\text{MS}}}$ determination to use the leading logarithmic orders NNLL and NNNLL.

Perturbation theory for $V_{Q\bar{Q}}$ (7)

- Summary of perturbative orders at our disposal:
 - Leading order (LO), i.e. $\mathcal{O}(\alpha(\rho))$.
 - Leading order (NLO), i.e. $\mathcal{O}(\alpha(\rho)^2)$.
 - Leading order (NNLO), i.e. $\mathcal{O}(\alpha(\rho)^3)$.
 - Leading order (NNLL), i.e. $\mathcal{O}(\alpha(\rho)^3)$ and logarithmic contributions.
 - Leading order (NNNLO), i.e. $\mathcal{O}(\alpha(\rho)^4)$.
 - Leading order (NNNLL), i.e. $\mathcal{O}(\alpha(\rho)^4)$ and logarithmic contributions, but an additional unknown constant.

Setting the scale via $\Lambda_{\overline{\text{MS}}}$

- $\Lambda = \Lambda_{\overline{\text{MS}}}$ at 1-loop:

– Resummed 1-loop relation between $\alpha(q)$ and $\alpha(\rho)$:

$$\alpha(q) = \frac{\alpha(\rho)}{1 + \alpha(\rho)\beta_0 \ln(q^2/\rho^2)/4\pi}, \quad \beta_0 = 29/3.$$

– Define Λ via $\alpha(\Lambda) = \infty$; consequently

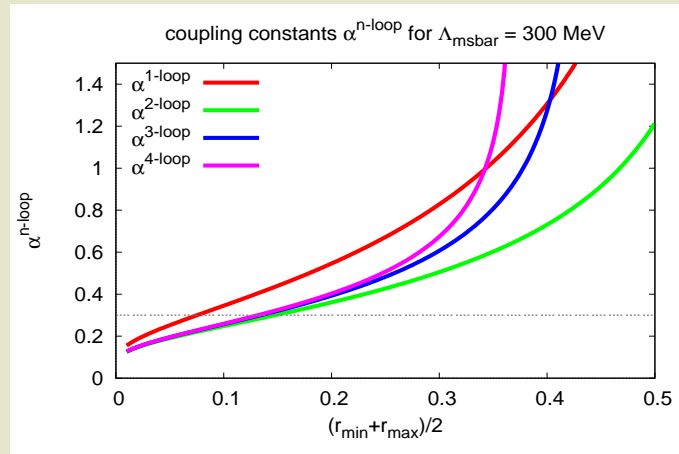
$$\Lambda = \rho e^{-2\pi/\alpha(\rho)\beta_0} \leftrightarrow \alpha(\rho) = \frac{2\pi}{\beta_0 \ln(\rho/\Lambda)}.$$

– Λ independent from ρ .

- Definition can be generalized to n -loop ... however, lengthy.
- 3-loop, 4-loop, ...: Λ depends on the renormalization scheme, i.e. $\Lambda \rightarrow \Lambda_{\overline{\text{MS}}}$.

Validity of perturbation theory

- 1-loop, 2-loop, 3-loop and 4-loop result for α as functions of $1/\rho = (r_{\min} + r_{\max})/2$ for $\Lambda_{\overline{\text{MS}}} = 300 \text{ MeV}$.



- Perturbation theory expected to be valid up to $r \lesssim 0.25 \text{ fm}$.

Lattice computation of $V_{Q\bar{Q}}$

- $N_f = 2$, $\beta = 4.20$, $L^3 \times T = 24^3 \times 48$, $\mu = 0.0020$ (21 gauge configurations)
→ $a = 0.051$ fm, $L = 1.23$ fm, $m_{\text{PS}} \approx 284$ MeV.
- The static potential is computed from Wilson loops:

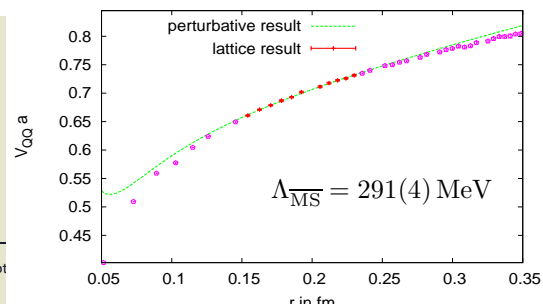
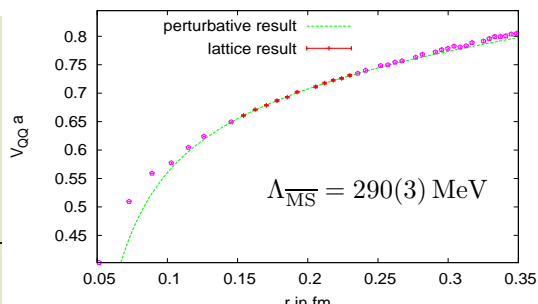
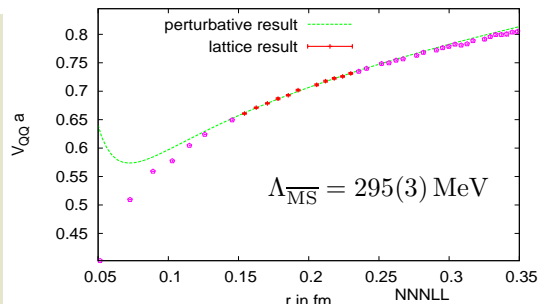
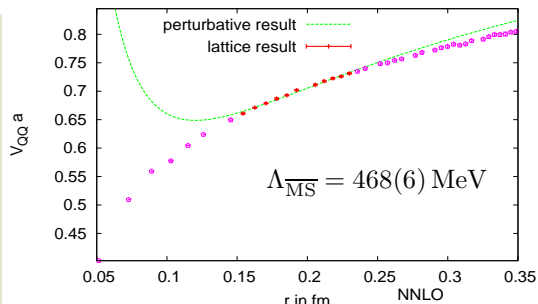
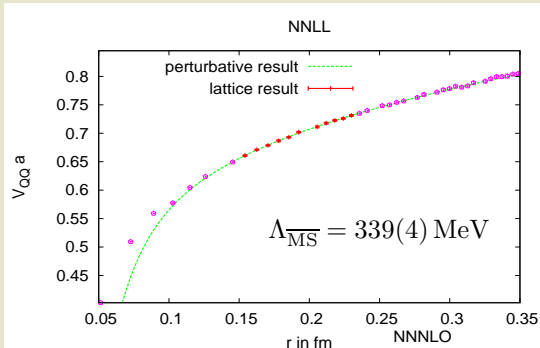
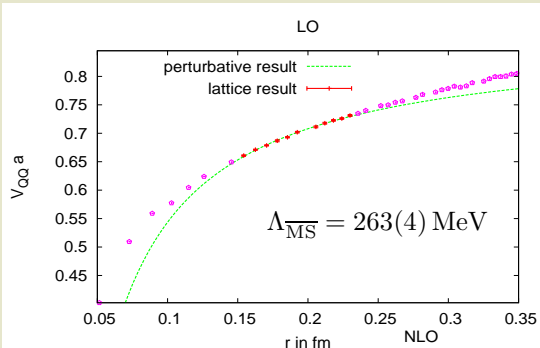
$$V_{Q\bar{Q}}(r) = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{a} \ln \left(\frac{W(r, t)}{W(r, t+1)} \right).$$

- APE smearing of spatial links to increase the ground state overlap.
- No HYP smearing of temporal links (UV fluctuations are important for the static potential at small $Q\bar{Q}$ separations).
- Off-axis Wilson loops to increase the resolution of the static potential.

$\Lambda_{\overline{\text{MS}}}$ fits (1)

- Perform an uncorrelated χ^2 -minimizing fit of the perturbative static potentials to the lattice results, fitting range $[r_{\min}, r_{\max}]$:
 - r_{\min} restricted by lattice results.
 - r_{\max} restricted by perturbative results.
 - In the following: $[r_{\min}, r_{\max}] = [0.15 \text{ fm}, 0.23 \text{ fm}]$.
 - Results for $\Lambda_{\overline{\text{MS}}}$ are rather stable with respect to a moderate variation of the fitting range: $r_{\min} \in \{0.12 \text{ fm}, 0.15 \text{ fm}\}$, $r_{\max} \in \{0.23 \text{ fm}, 0.26 \text{ fm}\}$.
- NNNLL contains a new unknown constant K_2 , which cannot reliably be determined by a fit; we use the value $K_2 = -1.25/r_0$.
[\[N. Brambilla, X. Garcia i Tormo, J. Soto and A. Vairo, arXiv:1006.2066 \[hep-ph\].](#)

$\Lambda_{\overline{\text{MS}}}$ fits (2)



$\Lambda_{\overline{\text{MS}}}$ fits (3)

- Summary of fitting results:

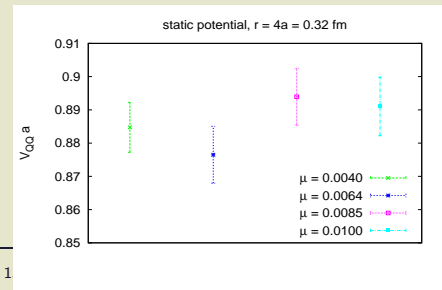
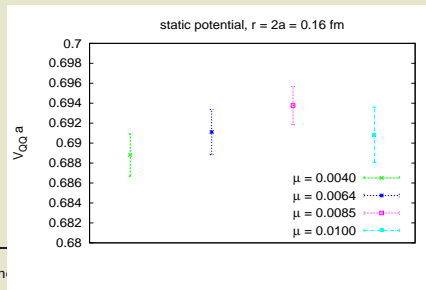
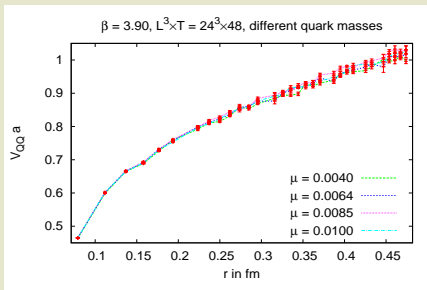
order	$\Lambda_{\overline{\text{MS}}}$ in MeV	χ^2/dof	$\alpha^{1\text{-loop}}$	$\alpha^{2\text{-loop}}$	$\alpha^{3\text{-loop}}$	$\alpha^{4\text{-loop}}$
LO	263(4)	1.02	0.48	0.32	0.35	0.35
NLO	468(6)	2.50	0.83	0.51	0.61	0.68
NNLO	290(3)	0.39	0.52	0.35	0.37	0.38
NNLL	339(4)	0.34	0.59	0.38	0.42	0.44
NNNLO	295(3)	0.51	0.52	0.35	0.38	0.39
NNNLL	291(4)	0.53	0.52	0.35	0.37	0.38

- Preliminary estimate: $\Lambda_{\overline{\text{MS}}} = 290 \text{ MeV} \dots 330 \text{ MeV}$.
- In agreement with the $N_f = 2$ ETMC $\Lambda_{\overline{\text{MS}}}$ from the ghost-gluon running QCD coupling constant: $\Lambda_{\overline{\text{MS}}}^{\text{ghost-gluon}} = 330(23)(22)_{-33} \text{ MeV}$ (massless quarks) and/or $\Lambda_{\overline{\text{MS}}}^{\text{ghost-gluon}} = 294(10) \text{ MeV}$ (massive quarks).

[B. Blossier, Ph. Boucaud, F. De soto, V. Morenas, M. Gravina, O. Pene and J. Rodriguez-Quintero [ETM Collaboration], Phys. Rev. D **82**, 034510 (2010) [arXiv:1005.5290 [hep-lat]].

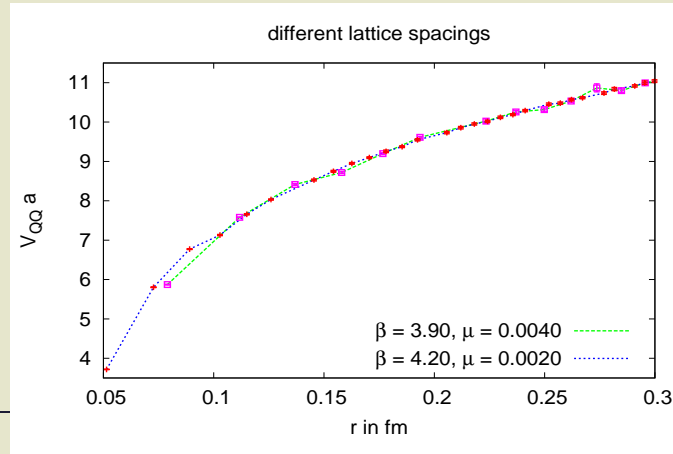
Quark mass extrapolation

- Perturbation theory for the static potential is for $m_u = m_d = 0$, while lattice computations are performed at $m_u = m_d \neq 0$
→ extrapolation needed.
- $N_f = 2$, $\beta = 3.90$, $L^3 \times T = 24^3 \times 48$,
 $\mu \in \{0.0040, 0.0064, 0.0085, 0.0100\}$ (21 gauge configurations)
→ $a = 0.079$ fm, $L = 1.90$ fm, $m_{\text{PS}} = 340$ MeV ... 525 MeV:
 - At this level of statistical accuracy there is no indication of a quark mass dependence of the static potential.
 - Determining $\Lambda_{\overline{\text{MS}}}$ at these four different quark mass values is not possible, because of the rather coarse lattice spacing ($\beta = 4.05$ might help).



Continuum extrapolation

- $N_f = 2$, $\beta = 3.90$, $L^3 \times T = 24^3 \times 48$, $\mu = 0.0040$ (21 gauge configurations)
→ $a = 0.079$ fm, $L = 1.90$ fm, $m_{\text{PS}} = 340$ MeV
and
 $N_f = 2$, $\beta = 4.20$, $L^3 \times T = 24^3 \times 48$, $\mu = 0.0020$ (21 gauge configurations)
→ $a = 0.051$ fm, $L = 1.23$ fm, $m_{\text{PS}} \approx 284$ MeV:
 - Lattice discretization effects seem to be mild in the relevant region
 $0.12 \text{ fm} \lesssim r \lesssim 0.26 \text{ fm}$.



Conclusions

- Reliably extracting $N_f = 2$ $\Lambda_{\overline{\text{MS}}}$ by means of the static potential from ETMC gauge configurations seems to be feasible.
- Preliminary estimate: $\Lambda_{\overline{\text{MS}}} = 290 \text{ MeV} \dots 330 \text{ MeV}$.
- At the moment the error of $\Lambda_{\overline{\text{MS}}}$ is dominated by systematic differences between different perturbative orders
→ simulations at lattice spacing $a < 0.051 \text{ fm}$ might help ($N_f = 2$, $\beta = 4.35$, $L^3 \times T = 32 \times 64$ will be available soon).
- A more thorough quark mass and continuum investigation/extrapolation is necessary ($\beta = 4.05$ might help).
- A finite volume investigation/extrapolation is needed ($\beta = 4.20$, $L^3 \times T = 48^3 \times 96$ might help).