

Superconductivity in Confining Models

João Paulo Sampaio Santos*, **Letícia Palhares** Departamento de Física Teórica - UERJ

July 11, 2025

Outline

- Introduction
- Confining Propagators
- SUC Model
- Analysis
- Concluding Remarks
- Acknowledgements

- The phenomenon was discovered in 1911 by *H. Kamerlingh Onnes.*
- In 1957, the BCS theory described the formation of Cooper pairs, providing a microscopic explanation for superconductivity.

$$\mathbf{k}_{1}+\mathbf{q},\sigma_{1}$$

$$\mathbf{k}_{2}-\mathbf{q},\sigma_{2}$$

$$\mathbf{k}_{1},\sigma_{1}$$

$$\mathbf{k}_{2},\sigma_{2}$$



(Annett, 2004)

(Onnes, 1911)

- The phenomenon was discovered in 1911 by *H. Kamerlingh Onnes.*
- In 1957, the BCS theory described the formation of Cooper pairs, providing a microscopic explanation for superconductivity.

$$\begin{cases} \epsilon = \sqrt{(k-\mu)^2 + \Delta^2} \\ \neg \Delta \neq 0 \\ \neg \Delta = 0 \end{cases}$$



- The phenomenon was discovered in 1911 by *H. Kamerlingh Onnes.*
- In 1957, the BCS theory described the formation of Cooper pairs, providing a microscopic explanation for superconductivity.



- **Color superconductivity (SUC)** is currently the most well-established theoretical framework for **superconductivity at high densities.**
- In this phase, *Cooper pairs* are formed by quarks, and the attractive interaction is mediated by *gluon exchange*.



(Alford; Schmitt; Rajagopal; Shäfer, 2008)



In this work, we investigate what happens when we replace the usual bosonic propagator with a confining one and study how this affects the superconducting gap.

Confining Propagators

Confining propagators

Faddeev-Popov Procedure

$$Z = \int [\mathcal{D}A] e^{-S_{YM}} = \int \int [\mathcal{D}U] [\mathcal{D}A] \Delta F \delta(F(A^U)) e^{-S_{YM}}$$

In covariant linear gauges, the **Faddeev-Popov procedure** (Faddeev & Popov,1967) introduces the Grassmann variables c and \bar{c} $M_{ab}(x,y) = -\partial_{\mu}D_{\mu}^{ab}\delta(x-y)$

$$Z = \int [\mathcal{D}A] |\det[-\partial_{\mu}D^{ab}_{\mu}\delta(x-y)] |\delta(\partial A - B)e^{-S_{YM}}$$

$$Z = \int [\mathcal{D}A] [\mathcal{D}c] [\mathcal{D}\bar{c}] \ e^{-S}, \quad S = S_{YM} + S_{gf} = S_{YM} + \int dx \left(\bar{c}^a M_{ab}(x,y)c^b - \frac{1}{2\alpha}(\partial_{\mu}A^a_{\mu})^2\right)$$

Confining propagators - Gribov Copies



(Guimarães, 2013)

Confining propagators - Gribov-Zwanziger (GZ)

By introducing a restriction on the integration domain of the fields in the action, it is possible to compute the *tree-level gluon propagator*, given by:

$$D^{ab}_{\mu\nu}(p) = \frac{p^2}{p^4 + m_A^4} P^{\perp}_{\mu\nu} \delta^{ab} \longrightarrow \frac{1}{2} \left[\frac{1}{p^2 + im_A^2} + \frac{1}{p^2 - im_A^2} \right] P^{\perp}_{\mu\nu} \delta^{ab}$$

where *mA* is the *Gribov mass parameter*. This propagator exhibits *complex-conjugate poles* (Gribov, 1978).

Confining propagators - Refined Gribov-Zwanziger (RGZ)



(Cucchieri and Mendes, 2007)

Confining propagators - Curci-Ferrari (CF)

$$S = \int_{x} \left\{ \frac{1}{4} F^{a}_{\mu\nu} F^{a}_{\mu\nu} + \partial_{\mu} \bar{c}^{a} D_{\mu} c^{a} + i h^{a} \partial_{\mu} A^{a}_{\mu} + \frac{1}{2} m^{2}_{A} A^{a}_{\mu} A^{a}_{\mu} \right\}$$



(Curci & Ferrari, 1976)

Confining propagators - Curci-Ferrari with runnings (CFr)



SUC can be described using field-theoretical methods based on a **Yukawa-type model** (Pisarski & Rischke, 1999; Schmitt, 2014).

$$\mathcal{L} = \overline{\psi}(i\gamma^{\mu}\partial_{\mu} + \gamma^{0}\mu - m_{\psi})\psi + \int_{y} \frac{1}{2} \left[\phi(x)\left(-\partial^{2} + \frac{m_{\phi}^{4}}{-\partial^{2}}\right)\delta(x-y)\phi(y)\right] - g\overline{\psi}\psi\phi$$

Applying a *Hubbard-Stratonovich transformation*

$$Z = Z_0(\phi) \int [\mathcal{D}\overline{\psi}] [\mathcal{D}\psi] e^S$$

with

$$S' = \int \left[\overline{\psi(x)} G_0^{-1}(x, y) \psi(y) + \frac{g^2}{2} \overline{\psi}(x) \psi(x) D(x, y) \overline{\psi}(y) \psi(y) \right]$$

The *charge conjugate Spinor* is defined as:

$$\begin{cases} \psi_c \equiv C \overline{\psi}^T \\ C = i \gamma^2 \gamma^0 \end{cases}$$

Mean field approximation

$$\begin{cases} \psi_c(x)\overline{\psi}(y) = \left\langle \psi_c(x)\overline{\psi}(y) \right\rangle - \left[\left\langle \psi_c(x)\overline{\psi}(y) \right\rangle - \psi_c(x)\overline{\psi}(y) \right] \\ \psi(y)\overline{\psi_c}(x) = \left\langle \psi(y)\overline{\psi_c}(x) \right\rangle - \left[\left\langle \psi(y)\overline{\psi_c}(x) \right\rangle - \psi(y)\overline{\psi_c}(x) \right] \end{cases}$$

$$Z = Z(\phi) \ Z_0 \ \int [\mathcal{D}\overline{\psi}][\mathcal{D}\psi]e^{S''}$$

$$S'' = \int_{x,y} \left\{ \overline{\psi}(x) G_0^{-1}(x,y) \psi(y) + \frac{1}{2} [\overline{\psi}_c(x) \Phi^+(x,y) \psi(y) + \overline{\psi}(x) \Phi^-(x,y) \psi_c(y)] \right\}$$

Gap Function



The functional can be written in terms of a new spinor basis in *Nambu-Gorkov space* (Nambu, 1960; Gorkov, 1958):

$$Z = \mathcal{N} \ Z(\phi) \ Z_o \ \int [\mathcal{D}\overline{\Psi}] [\mathcal{D}\Psi] \exp\left[\sum_{k>0} \overline{\Psi}(k) \frac{\mathbf{S}^{-1}(k)}{T} \Psi(k)\right]$$

$$\overline{\Psi} = \begin{pmatrix} \overline{\psi} & \overline{\psi_c} \end{pmatrix} \qquad \Psi = \begin{pmatrix} \psi \\ \psi_c \end{pmatrix} \qquad \mathbf{S}^{-1}(k) = \begin{pmatrix} [G_0^+(k)]^{-1} & \Phi^-(k) \\ \Phi^+(k) & [G_0^-(k)]^{-1} \end{pmatrix}$$





$$\Phi^{+}(x,y) = -g^{2}D(x,y)F^{+}(x,y) \implies \Phi^{+}(p) = -g^{2}\frac{T}{V}\sum_{k}D(p-k)F^{+}(k)$$

$$\Phi^{+}(p) = g^{2} \frac{T}{V} \sum_{k} D(p-k) G_{0}^{-} \Phi^{+} G^{+}$$



$$\Phi^+(x,y) = -g^2 D(x,y) F^+(x,y) \square$$

$$\Phi^{\pm}(k) = \Delta^{\pm}(k)\gamma^5$$

(Bailin & Love, 1984)

The bosonic propagator in the theory can be replaced by that of a confining scenario, such as the *Gribov propagator*. Therefore,

$$\begin{split} \Delta(p) &= \frac{g^2}{4} \int \frac{d^4k}{(2\pi)^4} \frac{1}{(p_4 - k_4)^2 + (\vec{p} - \vec{k})^2 - im_\phi^2} \frac{\Delta(k)}{k_4^2 + \epsilon_k^2} \\ &+ \frac{g^2}{4} \int \frac{d^4k}{(2\pi)^4} \frac{1}{(p_4 - k_4)^2 + (\vec{p} - \vec{k})^2 + im_\phi^2} \frac{\Delta(k)}{k_4^2 + \epsilon_k^2} \,, \end{split}$$

where, in low temperatures, (Shäfer & Wilczek, 2000):

$$T\sum_{k_0=i\omega_n} \to \int \frac{dk_0}{(2\pi)} \equiv \int \frac{idk_4}{(2\pi i)}$$

In the vicinity of the Fermi surface:

$$\Delta \cong \Delta(p_4)$$
 and $\vec{k} = \vec{k}_F + \vec{l}$ where, $|\vec{k}| \approx \mu + O(l)$
Therefore,

$$\begin{split} I_{\pm} &= \frac{g^2 \mu^2}{4} \int \frac{dk_4}{(2\pi)^4} \int_{-1}^1 d(\cos\theta) \int_0^\infty dl \int_0^{2\pi} d\phi \\ &\left\{ \frac{1}{[q_4^2 + 2\mu^2(1 - \cos\theta) \mp im_\phi^2]} \frac{\Delta(k_4)}{[k_4^2 + l^2 + \Delta^2(k_4)]} \right\} \end{split}$$

By applying the *large chemical potential approximations*, as in (Son, 1999) and (Shäfer & Wilczek, 2000);

$$\Delta(p_4) = \frac{g^2}{128\pi^2} \int \frac{dk_4 \Delta(k_4)}{\sqrt{k_4^2 + \Delta^2(k_4)}} \left\{ \log\left[\frac{(2\mu)^4}{(p_4 - k_4)^4 + m_\phi^4}\right] \right\}$$

Expanding term under $\frac{\Delta}{k_4} \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 + (\frac{\Delta}{k_4})^2}} \approx \frac{\Delta}{k_4} + O((\frac{\Delta}{k_4})^3)$ with $k_4 \gg \Delta$ it is possible to compute an *approximate gap expression* as done by (Son, 1999).

Introducing a logarithmic scale **x** and differentiating, we find:

$$\Delta''(x) = -\frac{g^2}{512\pi^2} \left\{ 1 + \left(\frac{m_{\phi}^4}{(2\mu)^4 e^{-x} - m_{\phi}^4}\right) \right\} \Delta(x)$$

approximate gap equation analogous to (Son, 1999).



ANALYSIS - GZ type



ANALYSIS - GZ type



ANALYSIS - RGZ type

ANALYSIS - RGZ type

ANALYSIS - CF type

ANALYSIS - CFr type

ANALYSIS - SUC Model

Remarks

- The *color superconductivity is sensitive to nonperturbative gluon mass.* This behavior remains valid across both moderate and very high chemical potentials.
- The *CFr* gap is larger than in the *RGZ* and *CF* cases due to the *strong running coupling effects in the infrared (IR) limit*.
- **For large chemical potentials**, we observe that the gap behaves as $\Delta \propto \mu$.
- The *presence of complex poles does not lead to unphysical results!* As a natural next step, we propose investigating an *Abelian gauge extension of the QCD-inspired model* [Santos, J.P.S., Palhares, L.F.P., and Dudal, D., in preparation].

Thank you !

Conselho Nacional de Desenvolvimento Científico e Tecnológico

Fundação Carlos Chagas Filho de Amparo à Pesquisa do Estado do Rio de Janeiro

Introduction - QCD & Confinement

• Asymptotic Freedom and Confinement

Perturbation theory is successful at high energies, where the strong coupling becomes small. However, at low energies, the coupling grows large, and **perturbative methods break down**.

The **Yang-Mills Theory** is a non-abelian gauge theory that describes the gluon sector in QCD.

n

$$S_{YM} = \int d^4 x \operatorname{Tr} F_{\mu\nu} F_{\mu\nu}$$

$$F_{\mu\nu} = \partial_{\mu} A_{\nu} - \partial_{\nu} A_{\mu} - ig[A_{\mu}, A_{\nu}] \quad , \quad A^U_{\mu} = U A_{\mu} U^{\dagger} - \frac{i}{g} (\partial_{\mu} U) U^{\dagger}$$

$$U = e^{-ig\omega^a T^a} \longrightarrow [T^a, T^b] = i f_{abc} T^c, \quad f^{abc} \in \Re$$

To quantize the gauge fields, the functional integral should select each configurations of equivalent fields just one time! To make this procedure we should use the **Faddeev-Popov procedure**

 $\int [\mathcal{D}U] \Delta F \delta(F(A^U)) = 1$

with
$$\delta(F(A^U)) = \Pi_x \Pi_a \delta(F^a(A^U_\mu(x))) , \qquad [\mathcal{D}U] \approx \Pi_x \Pi_a d\omega^a(x)$$
$$\Delta F = |\det M_{ab}(x, y)| , \qquad M_{ab}(x, y) = \frac{\delta F^a(A^U_\mu(x))}{\delta \omega^b(y)} \bigg|_{F(A^U) = 0}$$

However, using the Landau gauge $\partial_{\mu}A_{\mu} = 0$ making infinitesimals transformations

Gribov (GRIBOV, 1978) realized that there is a non trivial solution and, based on the **gauge orbit** concept, more than one field configuration is being counted!

Backup Slides

Teorias de calibre que apresentam **modos zero** não podem ser simplesmente quantizadas pela formulação das integrais de trajetória.

$$S_{YM} = \int d^4x F^a_{\mu\nu} F^a_{\mu\nu} = \int d^4x d^4y A^a_\mu (\partial^2 g_{\mu\nu} - \partial_\mu \partial_\nu) \delta(x - y) A^a_\nu$$

Dessa forma, para $A^a_\mu = k^a_\mu \Gamma$, o funcional fica mal definido!

$$(-k^2 g_{\mu\nu} + k_{\mu} k_{\nu}) k^{\mu} \Gamma = (-k^2 k_{\nu} + k_{\mu} k^{\mu} k_{\nu}) \Gamma = 0$$

- In gauge theories, given a gauge transformation, gauge fields present the possibility of a field configuration being counted more than once.
- To avoid this problem Gribov (GRIBOV, 1978) restricted the limit of integration of the fields in an integration region that would improve the problems of fixing the gauge, making the Faddeev-Popov operator only present positive eigenvalues. This region became known as the **Gribov region**.

Thus, Gribov, in the landau gauge, supposes a restriction, limiting the integration only in the **Gribov region** Ω

$$Z = \int [\mathcal{D}A] V(\Omega) \delta(\partial A) e^{-S_{YM}} \det[\partial_{\mu} D_{\mu}^{ab}]$$
$$\downarrow$$
$$Z = \int [\mathcal{D}A] \theta(1 - \sigma(0; A)) \delta(\partial A) e^{-S_{YM}} \det[\partial_{\mu} D_{\mu}^{ab}]$$

$$\left\langle \bar{c}^a(x)c^b(y) \right\rangle_c = \delta^{ab} \int \frac{d^4k}{(2\pi)^4} \frac{1}{k^2} \frac{1}{\left(1 - \frac{11g^2N}{48\pi^2} \log\frac{\Gamma^2}{k^2}\right)^{9/44}} e^{ik(x-y)}$$

Backup Slides

Relação entre o **Operador de F-P** e o **propagador do** *ghost*

$$\left\langle \bar{c}^a(x)c^b(y) \right\rangle_c = \delta^{ab} \int \frac{d^4k}{(2\pi)^4} \frac{1}{k^2} \frac{1}{\left(1 - \frac{11g^2N}{48\pi^2} \log \frac{\Gamma^2}{k^2}\right)^{9/44}} e^{ik(x-y)}$$

- Pólos: $k_1^2 = 0$ e $k_2^2 = \Gamma^2 \exp\left[-\frac{1}{g^2} \frac{48\pi^2}{11}N\right]$
- Singularidade em $k_1^2 = 0$
- Para altos valores de k^2 na região de Gribov se obtém os valores da T.P.

Como o fator de forma é decrescente

$$\sigma(k,A) \le \sigma(0,A) < 1$$

o operador de FP se restringe a somente autovalores positivos! Substituindo no funcional, com algumas aproximações, pode-se introduzir a **massa de Gribov** $\gamma^4 = \frac{\beta_0 N}{N^2 - 1} \frac{2}{dV} g^2$ e com isso o **propagador de Gribov-Zwanziger**, (VANDERSICKEL, 2011), fica:

Complete propagator of the theory

$$\mathbf{S}(k) = \begin{pmatrix} G^+ & F^- \\ F^+ & G^- \end{pmatrix} = - \begin{pmatrix} \langle \psi(x)\overline{\psi}(y) \rangle & \langle \psi(x)\overline{\psi}_c(y) \rangle \\ \langle \psi_c(x)\overline{\psi}(y) \rangle & \langle \psi_c(x)\overline{\psi}_c(y) \rangle \end{pmatrix}$$

Where
$$G^\pm\equiv\left([G_0^\pm]^{-1}-\varPhi^\mp G_0^\mp\varPhi^\pm
ight)^{-1}$$

 $F^\pm\equiv-G_0^\mp\varPhi^\pm G^\pm$

Differents models and gap equations: $\Rightarrow \begin{cases} \Delta = \Delta_0 = Cte \\ \Delta_{PI} = 1 \end{cases}$ $\Delta = G \int \frac{d^3k}{(2\pi)^3} \frac{\Delta}{2\epsilon_k} \tanh \frac{\epsilon_k}{2T}$ PL 1. (Point-like approx.) $\Delta_{CER}^{\prime\prime}(x) = -k_{CER}^2 \left\{ 1 + \left(\frac{\tau^2}{e^{-x} - \tau^2}\right) \right\} \Delta_{CER}(x) \Longrightarrow \begin{cases} \Delta(0) = 0 \text{ and } \Delta(x_0) = \Delta_0 \\ k_{CER}^2 = \frac{g^2}{128\pi^2} \end{cases}$ 2. CER (Real Scalar Field) $\Delta_{GZ}''(x) = -k_{GZ}^2 \left\{ 1 + \left(\frac{\tau^4}{e^{-x} - \tau^4}\right) \right\} \Delta_{GZ}(x) \quad \Longrightarrow \begin{cases} \Delta(0) = 0 \text{ and } \Delta(x_0) = \Delta_0 \\ k_{GZ}^2 = \frac{g^2}{512\pi^2} \end{cases}$ 3. GZ $\Delta''(x) = -k_{QCD}^2 \Delta(x) \qquad \Longrightarrow \begin{cases} \Delta(0) = 0 \ e \ \Delta'(x_0) = 0 \\ k_{QCD}^2 = \frac{g^2}{10-2} \end{cases}$ (Gribov-Zwanziger) QCD 4.

(Color Superconductivity)

BACKUP SLIDES Differents models and gap equations:

1. PL
$$\Delta = G \int \frac{d^3k}{(2\pi)^3} \frac{\Delta}{2\epsilon_k} \tanh \frac{\epsilon_k}{2T}$$

(Point-like approx.)

CER
$$\Delta(p_4) = \frac{g^2}{64\pi^2} \int \frac{dk_4 \Delta(k_4)}{\sqrt{k_4^2 + \Delta^2(k_4)}} \times \left\{ \log \left[1 + \frac{4\mu^2}{(p_4 - k_4)^2 + m_\phi^2} \right] \right\}$$

(Real Scalar Field)

2.

3.

4.

$$\Delta(p_4) = \frac{g^2}{128\pi^2} \int \frac{dk_4 \Delta(k_4)}{\sqrt{k_4^2 + \Delta^2(k_4)}} \times \left\{ \log \left[\frac{(2\mu)^4}{(p_4 - k_4)^4 + m_\phi^4} \right] \right\}$$

1

.

(Gribov-Zwanziger)

QCD
$$\Delta(p_4) = \frac{g^2}{18\pi^2} \int \left[\frac{dk_4 \Delta(k_4)}{\sqrt{k_4^2 + \Delta^2(k_4)}} \times \left\{ \log \left[\frac{\mu}{|p_4 - k_4|} \right] \right\}$$

(Color Superconductivity)

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{BACKUP SLIDES} \\ \Delta(p_4) &= \frac{g^2}{64\pi^2} \int \frac{dk_4 \Delta(k_4)}{\sqrt{k_4^2 + \Delta^2(k_4)}} \left\{ \log \left[1 + \frac{(2\mu)^2}{(p_4 - k_4)^2 + m(k_4)^2} \right] \right\} \end{aligned}$$

The bosonic propagator of the theory can be replaced by a propagator of a confining theory, such as the Gribov propagator.

Following some **approximations at the Fermi surface**:

$$\Delta\cong\Delta(p_4)$$
 and $\vec{k}=\vec{k}_F+\vec{l}$ where, $|\vec{k}|\approx\mu+O(l)$
Therefore,

$$I_{\pm} = \frac{g^2 \mu^2}{4} \int \frac{dk_4}{(2\pi)^4} \int_{-1}^1 d(\cos\theta) \int_0^\infty dl \int_0^{2\pi} d\phi \Big\{ \frac{1}{[q_4^2 + 2\mu^2(1 - \cos\theta) \mp im_\phi^2]} \frac{\Delta(k_4)}{[k_4^2 + l^2 + \Delta^2(k_4)]} \Big\}$$

The bosonic propagator of the theory can be replaced by a propagator of a confining theory, such as the Gribov propagator. Therefore

$$\begin{split} \Delta(p) &= -\frac{g^2}{2} \frac{T}{V} \frac{1}{2} \sum_k \frac{1}{(p_0 - k_0)^2 - (\vec{p} - \vec{k})^2 - im_\phi^2} \frac{\Delta(k)}{k_0^2 - \epsilon_k^2} \\ &- \frac{g^2}{2} \frac{T}{V} \frac{1}{2} \sum_k \frac{1}{(p_0 - k_0)^2 - (\vec{p} - \vec{k})^2 + im_\phi^2} \frac{\Delta(k)}{k_0^2 - \epsilon_k^2} \,. \end{split}$$

We will work with an integral in Euclidean space

$$T\sum_{k_0=i\omega_n} \to \int \frac{dk_0}{(2\pi)} \equiv \int \frac{idk_4}{(2\pi i)}$$

Introducing **logarithmic scales** for each region, then

$$x = \log\left(\frac{(2\mu)^4}{p_4^4 + m_\phi^4}\right) \quad y = \log\left(\frac{(2\mu)^4}{k_4^4 + m_\phi^4}\right) \quad y \Big|_{k_4=0} \equiv x_0 = \log\left(\frac{(2\mu)^4}{\lambda^4 + m_\phi^4}\right)$$

Considering $k_4 = [(2\mu)^4 e^{-y} - m_{\phi}^4]^{1/4}$ and $p_4 = [(2\mu)^4 e^{-x} - m_{\phi}^4]^{1/4}$, then

$$\Delta(x) = \frac{C}{4} \left\{ \left[x \int_x^{x_0} dy \Delta(y) \right] + \left[\int_0^x dy \Delta(y) y \right] + \left[x \int_x^{x_0} dy \Delta(y) \left(\frac{m_\phi}{k_4} \right)^4 \right] + \left[\int_0^x dy \Delta(y) y \left(\frac{m_\phi}{k_4} \right)^4 \right] \right\}$$

Parameters: $(\lambda/m)^2$ and $\tau = \frac{2\mu}{m}$

• Singularities

$$BACKUP SLIDES \Delta(p_4) = \frac{g^2}{128\pi^2} \int \frac{dk_4 \Delta(k_4)}{\sqrt{k_4^2 + \Delta^2(k_4)}} \times \left\{ \log \left[\frac{(2\mu)^4}{(p_4 - k_4)^4 + m_{\phi}^4} \right] \right\}$$

Data :

g = 3.43 $\mu = 400 MeV$

• Gluon propagator in a medium

$$D_{\mu\nu}(q) = \frac{P_{\mu\nu}^T}{q^2 - G} + \frac{P_{\mu\nu}^L}{q^2 - F} - \xi \frac{q_\mu q_\nu}{q^4}$$

G, and F are functions of the momentum and P are the projectors