Form Invariance, Topological Fluctuations and Mass Gap of Yang-Mills Theory

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#### How to solve Yang-Mills equation?

For SU(N) gauge field in Euclidean space, can we find a systematic way to solve the Yang-Mills equation

$$D_{\mu}F_{\mu\nu} = 0 \quad ? \tag{1}$$

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The general case is difficult. Let's further assume the gauge field  $A_{\mu}(x)$  is spherically symmetric, which also guarantees that  $A_{\mu}(x)$  must be finite except for the boundaries — origin  $(x^2 = 0)$  and infinity  $(x^2 = \infty)$ .

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Can we solve it?

#### Form invariance condition

One of Wightman's axioms on QFT:

$$(O^{-1})_{\mu}{}^{\nu} A_{\nu}(O x) = V^{-1} A_{\mu}(x) V + V^{-1} \partial_{\mu} V$$

A<sub>μ</sub>: a gauge field
 O: a Lorentz transformation
 V: a gauge transformation

For the flat spacetime, i.e., O has rigid parameters: **Theorem** 

$$(O^{-1})_{\mu}^{\nu} A_{\nu}(Ox) = V^{-1} A_{\mu}(x) V$$

where V has only rigid parameters.

C. H. Gu, Phys. Rept. 80, 251 (1981).

### SU(2) gauge field in the 3-dimensional Euclidean space

$$A_{\mu} = p(\tau) \left( U^{-1} \partial_{\mu} U \right) , \qquad (2$$

where  $\overline{\tau \equiv x_{\mu}x^{\mu}}$ , and U is an SU(2) group element.

$$U = \exp\left[T_a \psi^a(x)\right] = \exp\left[T_a \frac{\psi^a(x)}{|\psi(x)|} |\psi(x)|\right] = \exp\left[T_a \omega^a_{\ \mu} \hat{n}^{\mu} |\psi(x)|\right]$$
$$= \exp\left[T_a \omega^a_{\ \mu} \hat{n}^{\mu} \theta(\tau)\right], \qquad (3)$$

with

We  $\psi^a($ 

$$\hat{n}^{\mu} \equiv x^{\mu}/|x|$$
,  $\theta(\tau) \equiv |\psi(x)|$ ,  $T^{a} = \sigma^{a}/2i$ . (4) have defined a matrix  $\omega^{a}{}_{\mu}$  to connect the two unit vectors  $\hat{n}^{\mu}$  and  $x)/|\psi(x)|$  in different spaces. The Ansatz (2) must satisfy the form priance condition:

$$(O^{-1})_{\mu}^{\ \nu} A_{\nu}(Ox) = V^{-1} A_{\mu}(x) V$$

where O is a constant SO(3) group element, and V is a constant SU(2) group element.

#### Form invariance

In paper we proved that  $\omega$  is restricted to be a constant O(3) group element. If we assume that det  $\omega = 1$ , the Ansatz (2) becomes

$$A_{\mu} = p(\tau) \left( U^{-1} \partial_{\mu} U \right) , \quad U = \exp\left[ T_a \,\omega^a{}_{\mu} \,\hat{n}^{\mu} \theta(\tau) \right] , \qquad (5)$$

with a constant SO(3) group element  $\omega$ . With a proper choice of the generators  $T_a$ , we can write the matrix  $\omega$  as

$$\omega = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

and therefore

 $U = \exp\left[T_i \hat{n}^i \theta(\tau)\right]$ .

(6)

(7)

#### Boundary and topological charge

For the 3-dimensional Euclidean space, the appropriate topological term is the Chern-Simons term:

$$S_{CS} = \frac{ik}{4\pi} \int d^3x \operatorname{Tr}\left(A \wedge dA + \frac{2}{3}A \wedge A \wedge A\right) \,. \tag{8}$$

In general,  $S_{CS}$  takes values in  $\mathbb{R}/2\pi\mathbb{Z}$ . If we require that  $S_{CS}$  takes values in  $2\pi\mathbb{Z}$ , it will not affect the quantum Yang-Mills theory in the path integral.

$$S_{CS} = \frac{ik}{4\pi} \int d^3x \, \left(\frac{2}{3}p^3 - p^2\right) \operatorname{Tr}(U^{-1}dU) \wedge (U^{-1}dU) \wedge (U^{-1}dU) \,, \, (9)$$
  
which is essentially a Wess-Zumino term. We can define  
$$S_{CS} = 2\pi i k B \,, \qquad (10)$$

where B is the winding number.

#### Boundary and topological charge

$$B = rac{3}{2\pi^2} \sum_eta \left(rac{2}{3} p_eta^3 - p_eta^2
ight) \left( heta_eta - rac{1}{2} {
m sin} 2 heta_eta
ight) \int dS_eta\, \hat{n} \cdot \left(\partial_1 \hat{n} imes \partial_2 \hat{n}
ight),$$

where  $\beta$  denotes the singular points, for instance  $\tau=0$  and  $\tau=\infty$  in our case, and

$$\frac{1}{4\pi} \int dS \,\hat{n} \cdot (\partial_1 \hat{n} \times \partial_2 \hat{n}) = \pm 1 \,, \tag{11}$$

where the contributions from  $\tau = 0$  and  $\tau = \infty$  have an opposite sign due to the boundary orientation. Since *B* should also be an integer, the boundary values of *p* and  $\theta$  at the singular points will be constrained.

#### Boundary and topological charge

## We can list the possible boundary conditions

Winding number B	$p _{\tau=0}$	$p _{\tau=\infty}$	$\theta _{\tau=0}$	$\theta _{\tau=\infty}$
0	0	0	$\pi$	π
0	1/2	1/2	$\pi$	$\pi$
0	1	1	$\pi$	$\pi$

In sum, we have the ansatz

$$A_{\mu} = p(\tau) \left( U^{-1} \partial_{\mu} U \right) , \quad U = \exp \left[ T_i \, \hat{n}^i \theta(\tau) \right] , \qquad (12)$$

with the possible boundaries listed above.

#### **Classical solutions**

One can easily solve the Yang-Mills equation

$$D_{\mu} F_{\mu\nu} = 0 \,,$$

where we obtain  $\theta = \pi$  and



Figure: Spherically symmetric solutions to 3D Yang-Mills equation.

(13)

#### SU(2) gauge field in the 4-dimensional Euclidean space

$$A_{\mu} = p(\tau, x_4) \left( U^{-1} \partial_{\mu} U \right) , \quad U = \exp \left[ T_i \, \hat{n}^i \, \theta(\tau, x_4) \right] , \qquad (14)$$

where  $\tau \equiv x^{\mu}x_{\mu}$ , and  $\mu$  runs from 1 to 4, while *i* runs from 1 to 3. The functions  $p(\tau, x_4)$  and  $\theta(\tau, x_4)$  depend on both  $\tau$  and  $x_4$ , while  $\hat{n}^i$  is a unit vector depending only on  $x_1$ ,  $x_2$  and  $x_3$ :

$$\hat{n}^i \equiv \frac{x^i}{|x|}$$

where  $|x|^2 \equiv \sum_{i=1}^3 x^i x_i$ . The form invariance condition

$$(\Lambda^{-1})_{\mu}{}^{\nu}A_{\nu}(\Lambda x) = V^{-1}A_{\mu}(x)V$$

where  $\Lambda$  is an SO(4) Lorentz transformation and V is an SU(2) gauge transformation, both of which have parameters independent of x.

(15)

Let us consider a special case  $\mu = 4$   $(\Lambda^{-1}A(\Lambda x))^a_{\mu=4} T_a$  $=p' \left[ \hat{n}'_a(\partial_4 \theta') + \sin\theta'(\partial_4 \hat{n}'_a) \right] T_a - p' T_a \epsilon_{abc} (1 - \cos\theta') \frac{x^b}{|\Lambda x|} \frac{\frac{\varphi_c \sin|\varphi|}{|\varphi|}}{|\Lambda x|}.$ 

After a gauge transformation, it has the expression

$$V^{-1}A^a_{\mu=4}T_aV = p \left[\frac{\psi_a\psi_b}{|\psi|^2}(1-\cos|\psi|) + \delta_{ab}\cos|\psi| - \epsilon_{abc}\sin|\psi|\frac{\psi_c}{|\psi|}\right]T_b\hat{n}_a\partial_4\theta, \quad (16)$$

where

$$V = \exp\left(\psi^a T_a\right) \,, \tag{17}$$

### $p \ {\rm and} \ \theta$

By comparing the terms  $\sim \epsilon_{abc}$ , one obtains

$$\psi_c = \pm \varphi_c , \quad -(1 - \cos\theta') \frac{p'}{|\Lambda x|^2} = \pm \frac{p}{|x|} \partial_4 \theta .$$
 (18)

For the special case  $\Lambda=1$ 

$$-(1 - \cos \theta) \frac{1}{|x|^2} = \pm \frac{1}{|x|} \partial_4 \theta$$
  

$$\Rightarrow \quad \frac{1}{|x|} = \pm \partial_4 \cot\left(\frac{\theta}{2}\right)$$
  

$$\Rightarrow \quad \cot\left(\frac{\theta}{2}\right) = \pm \frac{x_4}{|x|} \pm f(|x|), \qquad (19)$$

where f is an arbitrary smooth function. In the paper, we proved that  $f=0.\ {\rm Thus},$ 

$$\cot\left(\frac{\theta}{2}\right) = \pm \frac{x_4}{|x|} \quad \text{and} \quad p = p(\tau).$$
(20)

#### Ansatz

We choose  $\cot{(\theta/2)} = x_4/|x|$  and the form invariant Ansatz  $A_\mu$  is given by

$$\begin{aligned} A_{\mu} &= p(\tau) \left[ \frac{x_4 - 2\left(T^a x_a\right)}{\sqrt{\tau}} \right] \partial_{\mu} \left[ \frac{x_4 + 2\left(T^b x_b\right)}{\sqrt{\tau}} \right] \\ &= 2 \frac{p(\tau)}{\tau} \eta_{a\mu\nu} x_{\nu} T^a \,, \end{aligned}$$

where  $\eta_{a\mu\nu}$  is the 't Hooft symbol

 $\eta_{i\mu\nu} = -\text{tr} \left( M_i M_{\mu\nu} \right) = -(M_i)_{mn} (M_{\mu\nu})_{nm} = 2(M_i)_{\mu\nu} = (\epsilon_{i\mu\nu4} + \delta_{i\mu}\delta_{\nu4} - \delta_{i\nu}\delta_{\mu4}) ,$  $\bar{\eta}_{i\mu\nu} = -\text{tr} \left( N_i M_{\mu\nu} \right) = -(N_i)_{mn} (M_{\mu\nu})_{nm} = 2(N_i)_{\mu\nu} = (\epsilon_{i\mu\nu4} - \delta_{i\mu}\delta_{\nu4} + \delta_{i\nu}\delta_{\mu4}) .$ (22)

(21)

Topological charge and boundary conditions

For the 4D Yang-Mills theory

$$k = -\frac{1}{16\pi^2} \int d^4x \,\mathrm{Tr} \left[ F^{\mu\nu}(*F_{\mu\nu}) \right] \tag{23}$$

is an integer-valued quantity. Hence, the integral becomes a surface integral, and only boundaries contribute to it.

$$k = -\frac{1}{8\pi^2} \oint_{S^3_\beta} d\Omega_\mu \,\epsilon^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} \left(\frac{2}{3}p^3 - p^2\right) \,\mathrm{Tr}\left[\left(U^{-1}\partial_\nu U\right) \left(U^{-1}\partial_\rho U\right) \left(U^{-1}\partial_\sigma U\right)\right]\,,\qquad(24)$$

where the surface  $S^3_\beta$  surrounds the singular point  $\beta$ , and the radius of the sphere can be taken to be very small. Hence, the factor  $\frac{2}{3}p^3 - p^2$  has a constant value  $(\frac{2}{3}p^3 - p^2)_\beta$  in the small sphere and can be brought outside the integration.

#### Topological charge and boundary conditions

We use  $x^{\mu}$  and  $\xi^{i}(x)$  (i = 1, 2, 3) to denote the spacetime coordinates and the group coordinates respectively. Using

$$\operatorname{Tr}\left[\left(U^{-1}\partial_{\nu}U\right)\left(U^{-1}\partial_{\rho}U\right)\left(U^{-1}\partial_{\sigma}U\right)\right] = \frac{\partial\xi^{i}}{\partial x^{\nu}}\frac{\partial\xi^{j}}{\partial x^{\rho}}\frac{\partial\xi^{k}}{\partial x^{\sigma}}\operatorname{Tr}\left[\left(U^{-1}\partial_{i}U\right)\left(U^{-1}\partial_{j}U\right)\left(U^{-1}\partial_{k}U\right)\right]$$
(25)

obtain

$$dk = \frac{3}{16\pi^2} \left(\frac{2}{3}p^3 - p^2\right)_{\beta} \,(\det e) \,d^3\xi\,,\tag{26}$$

where

$$U^{-1}\partial_i U = e_i^a(\xi) T_a \,, \tag{27}$$

and  $(\det e)d^3\xi$  is the Haar measure on the group manifold. For example

$$\frac{1}{16\pi^2} \int_{S^3_{|x| \to \infty}} (\det e) \, d^3 \xi = 1 \,. \tag{28}$$

### Ansatz

In sum, we have

$$A_{\mu} = 2 \frac{p(\tau)}{\tau} \eta_{a\mu\nu} x_{\nu} T^a \,,$$

with the possible boundary conditions listed as

Winding Number k	$p _{ au=0}$	$p _{ au=\infty}$		
0	0	0		
0	1/2	1/2		
0	1	1		
1	0	1		
-1	1	0		
Table: Boundary conditions in 4D.				

(29)

#### **Classical solutions**

## Obtain the solution

 $\begin{array}{ll} \circ & p = 1/2: & \text{Meron} \\ \circ & p = \frac{\tau}{\tau + c}: & \text{Instanton} \\ \circ & p = \frac{c}{\tau + c}: & \text{Anti-Instanton} \\ \circ & p = 1 \text{ and } p = 0: & \text{Pure gauge and zero} \end{array}$ 



Figure: Spherically symmetric solutions to 4D Yang-Mills equation.

#### **Classical solutions**

If we adopt a new coordinate introduced by the conformal transformation

$$=\frac{1}{2}\frac{\tau-c}{\tau+c},\qquad(30)$$

then all the classical solutions can be plotted in the new coordinate



Figure: Spherically symmetric solutions to 4D Yang-Mills equation.

## Discussion ...

 $A^a_\mu = c_1(\tau)\eta_{a\mu\nu}x_\nu + c_2(\tau)\bar{\eta}_{a\mu\nu}x_\nu$ 

(31)

#### Discussion ...

$$A^a_\mu = c_1(\tau)\eta_{a\mu\nu}x_\nu + c_2(\tau)\bar{\eta}_{a\mu\nu}x_\nu$$

• General case?

Subspace and sub-gauge-group space

$$(\Lambda^{-1})_{\mu}{}^{\nu}A_{\nu}(\Lambda x) = V^{-1}A_{\mu}(x)V$$

Lowest winding numbers

(31)

## **Topological Fluctuations**

## Take 3D Wu-Yang monopole solution as an example:



## **Topological modes:**

## Form invariance:

$$(O^{-1})_{\mu}{}^{\nu} A^{\text{top}}_{\nu}(O x) = V^{-1} A^{\text{top}}_{\mu}(x) V$$

Any configuration:

$$A^{\mathrm{top}}_{\mu}(p_0 + \widetilde{p}, \theta_0 + \overline{\theta})$$

 $\widetilde{p}\text{, }\widetilde{\theta}\text{: topological fluctuations}$ 

Effective lagrangian:

$$\frac{1}{4}F^{a}_{\mu\nu}F^{a}_{\mu\nu}\Big|_{\rm top} = \frac{1}{4}F^{a}_{\mu\nu}F^{a}_{\mu\nu}\Big|_{\rm cl} + 4\big|\partial_{\tau}\widetilde{\psi}\big|^{2} - \frac{1}{\tau^{2}}\big|\widetilde{\psi}\big|^{2} + \frac{1}{2\tau^{2}}\big|\widetilde{\psi}\big|^{4}, \quad (32)$$

## **Topological modes:**

## 4D:

$$A^{\rm top}_{\mu}(p_0+\widetilde{p})$$

## Effective lagrangian:

$$\frac{1}{4}F^{a}_{\mu\nu}F^{a}_{\mu\nu}\Big|_{\rm top} = \frac{1}{4}F^{a}_{\mu\nu}F^{a}_{\mu\nu}\Big|_{\rm cl} + 24\left[\left(\partial_{\tau}\widetilde{\phi}\right)^{2} - \frac{1}{2\tau^{2}}\left(\widetilde{\phi}\right)^{2} + \frac{1}{\tau^{2}}\left(\widetilde{\phi}\right)^{4}\right],\tag{33}$$

## Two problems?

#### Take 3D for example:

$$\frac{1}{4}F^{a}_{\mu\nu}F^{a}_{\mu\nu}\Big|_{\rm top} = \frac{1}{4}F^{a}_{\mu\nu}F^{a}_{\mu\nu}\Big|_{\rm cl} + \frac{1}{\tau}\big|\partial_{\mu}\widetilde{\psi}\big|^{2} - \frac{1}{\tau^{2}}\big|\widetilde{\psi}\big|^{2} + \frac{1}{2\tau^{2}}\big|\widetilde{\psi}\big|^{4}\,,\quad(34)$$

We encounter two problems:

 $\circ \ 1/ au \longrightarrow$  apparent divergent

$$\circ \ \widetilde{\psi} = \widetilde{\psi}(\tau)$$

## Topology

#### Topological boundary condition:

$$\widetilde{\psi}(\tau=0) \longrightarrow 0$$
, and  $\widetilde{\psi}(\tau=\infty) \longrightarrow 0$ . (35)

#### Because it's fluctuations

 $\widetilde{\psi} \longrightarrow$  translational invariant for most of the space except  $\tau = 0$  and  $\tau = \infty$ . (36)

#### Full theory & Effective theory

We would like to make the shift:

$$\widetilde{\psi}\left((x-x_0)^2\right) \longrightarrow \widetilde{\psi}(x^2)$$
. (37)

However, the topological fluctuations are constrained by the topological boundary conditions

$$\int d^3x \left(\frac{1}{\tau} |\partial_\mu \widetilde{\psi}|^2 - \frac{1}{\tau^2} |\widetilde{\psi}|^2 + \frac{1}{2\tau^2} |\widetilde{\psi}|^4\right)$$
$$= \left(\int_{\text{near } x_0} d^3x + \int_{\text{near } 0} d^3x + \int_{\text{else}} d^3x\right) \left(\frac{1}{\tau} |\partial_\mu \widetilde{\psi}|^2 - \frac{1}{\tau^2} |\widetilde{\psi}|^2 + \frac{1}{2\tau^2} |\widetilde{\psi}|^4\right), \quad (38)$$

#### Full theory & Effective theory

In sum, we have

$$\frac{1}{g^2} \int d^3x \left( \frac{1}{\tau} |\partial_\mu \widetilde{\psi}(x-x_0)|^2 - \frac{1}{\tau^2} |\widetilde{\psi}(x-x_0)|^2 + \frac{1}{2\tau^2} |\widetilde{\psi}(x-x_0)|^4 \right) \\
= \frac{1}{g^2} \int d^3x \left( \frac{1}{\tau} |\partial_\mu \widetilde{\psi}(x)|^2 - \frac{1}{\tau^2} |\widetilde{\psi}(x)|^2 + \frac{1}{2\tau^2} |\widetilde{\psi}(x)|^4 \right) \\
- \frac{1}{g^2} \int_{\text{near } x_0} d^3x \left( \frac{1}{\tau} |\partial_\mu \widetilde{\psi}(x)|^2 - \frac{1}{\tau^2} |\widetilde{\psi}(x)|^2 + \frac{1}{2\tau^2} |\widetilde{\psi}(x)|^4 \right), \quad (39)$$

The left-hand side of this equation is finite. The second term on the right-hand side is divergent and gives the difference of the integral (39) near  $x_0$  before and after the shift (38), hence it can be viewed as a counter-term, that cancels the divergence of the first term on the right-hand side.

## Effective theory

$$\begin{split} \langle S \rangle_{x_{0}} &= \frac{1}{g^{2}} \int \frac{d^{3}x_{0}}{V} \int d^{3}x \left[ \frac{1}{\tau} |\partial_{\mu}\tilde{\psi}(\tau)|^{2} + \frac{1}{2\tau^{2}} \left( |1 + \tilde{\psi}(\tau)|^{2} - 1 \right)^{2} \right] \\ &= \frac{1}{g^{2}} \int \frac{d^{3}x_{0}}{V} \int d^{3}x \left[ \frac{1}{\tau} |\partial_{\mu}\tilde{\psi}(\tau)|^{2} + \frac{1}{2\tau^{2}} \left( \tilde{\psi}^{\dagger}(\tau) + \tilde{\psi}(\tau) + |\tilde{\psi}(\tau)|^{2} \right)^{2} \right] \\ &= \frac{1}{g^{2}} \int \frac{d^{3}x_{0}}{V} \int d^{3}x \left[ \frac{1}{\tau} |\partial_{\mu}\tilde{\psi}(\tilde{\tau})|^{2} + \frac{1}{2\tau^{2}} \left( \tilde{\psi}^{\dagger}(\tilde{\tau}) + \tilde{\psi}(\tilde{\tau}) + |\tilde{\psi}(\tilde{\tau})|^{2} \right)^{2} \right] + (\text{counter}) \\ &= \frac{1}{g^{2}} \int_{\ell^{2}_{\text{top}}}^{L^{2}_{\text{top}}} \frac{2\pi\sqrt{\tau}\,d\tau}{V} \int d^{3}x \left[ \frac{1}{\tau} |\partial_{\mu}\tilde{\psi}(\tilde{\tau})|^{2} + \frac{1}{2\tau^{2}} \left( \tilde{\psi}^{\dagger}(\tilde{\tau}) + \tilde{\psi}(\tilde{\tau}) + |\tilde{\psi}(\tilde{\tau})|^{2} \right)^{2} \right] \\ &\approx \frac{3L_{\text{top}}}{g^{2}L^{3}} \int d^{3}x \left[ |\partial_{|x|}\tilde{\psi}(|x|)|^{2} + m^{2}_{3D}(|1 + \tilde{\psi}(|x|)|^{2} - 1)^{2} \right] \\ &= \frac{3L_{\text{top}}}{g^{2}L^{3}} \int d^{3}x \left[ |\partial_{|x|}\Psi(|x|)|^{2} + m^{2}_{3D}(|\Psi(|x|)|^{2} - 1)^{2} \right], \end{split}$$
(40)

where

$$m_{3D}^2 \equiv \frac{1}{2\ell_{\rm top}L_{\rm top}}$$

(41)

## Effective theory

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{eff}} \sim |\partial_{|x|} \Psi(|x|)|^2 + m_{3D}^2 (|\Psi(|x|)|^2 - 1)^2$$

Boundary condition:

$$|\Psi|(|x|=0) = |\Psi|(|x|=\infty) = 1.$$

EOM:

$$\partial_{|x|}^2 |\Psi| + rac{2}{|x|} \partial_{|x|} |\Psi| - 2 m_{3D}^2 \left( |\Psi|^2 - 1 \right) |\Psi| = 0 \,.$$

(42)

(43)

(44)

# Effective theory For 4D:

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{eff}} \sim \left(\partial_{|x|}q(|x|)\right)^2 + 4 m_{4D}^2 \left(q^2(|x|) - \frac{1}{4}\right)^2$$

where

$$m_{4D}^2 \equiv \frac{2\log(L_{\rm top}/\ell_{\rm top})}{L_{\rm top}^2} \,.$$
 (46)

Boundary condition:

$$q(|x|=0) = q(|x|=\infty) = \pm \frac{1}{2}$$

EOM:

$$2\,\Delta\,q - 16\,m_{4D}^2\,q\left(q^2 - \frac{1}{4}\right) = 0$$

with

$$\Delta q = \partial_{|x|}^2 q + \frac{3}{|x|} \partial_{|x|} q$$

(45)

(47)

## **Effective theory**

## In general for *D*-dimensions:

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{eff}} \sim \left(\partial_{|x|}u\right)^2 + \frac{1}{2}(u^2 - 1)^2$$
$$\Delta u - (|u|^2 - 1)u = 0$$
$$\Delta u = \partial_{|x|}^2 u + \frac{D - 1}{|x|}\partial_{|x|}u$$
$$\lim_{|x| \to 0} |u(x)| = \lim_{|x| \to \infty} |u(x)| = 1$$

(48)

#### Yang-Mills Mass Gap Problem

Mass gap  $\Delta$ : ('06 Jaffe, Witten) The Hamiltonian H has no spectrum in the interval  $(0, \Delta)$  for some  $\Delta > 0$ .

The mass gap problem of Yang-Mills theory: "Prove that for any compact simple gauge group G, a non-trivial quantum Yang-Mills theory exists on  $\mathbb{R}^4$  and has a mass gap  $\Delta > 0$ ."

#### Some Previous Attempts

- '77 Polyakov: (2+1)D Georgi-Glashow model has mass gap.
   In 4D YM instanton background cannot provide mass gap.
- Varying instanton profile can give glueballs mass gap at classical level.
  - ('84 Diakonov, Petrov)
- With some supersymmetries, e.g. Seiberg-Witten theory.
- 0 •••

## **Two-Point Correlation Function**

Consider the operator:

$$\epsilon \equiv \frac{1}{4} F^a_{\mu\nu} F^a_{\mu\nu}$$

3D:

$$\langle \epsilon(-\vec{d}) \, \epsilon(\vec{d}) \rangle_{\text{Lowest State}} \approx 16 \, C_1^4 \left( \frac{e^{-m_{3D} \, d}}{d} \right)$$

with

$$m_{3D}^2 \equiv \frac{1}{2\ell_{\rm top}L_{\rm top}}$$

4D:

$$\langle \epsilon(-\vec{d}) \, \epsilon(\vec{d}) \rangle_{\text{Lowest State}} \approx \frac{36 \, C_1^4 \, \pi^2}{m_{4D}^2 \, d^2} \, \left(\frac{e^{-m_{4D} \, d}}{d}\right)^8$$

with

$$m_{4D}^2 \equiv \frac{2\log(L_{\rm top}/\ell_{\rm top})}{L_{\rm top}^2}$$

(49)

### Nonlinear Schrödinger Equation

## In general for *D*-dimensions:

$$\Delta u - (|u|^2 - 1)u = 0$$
$$\Delta u = \partial_{|x|}^2 u + \frac{D - 1}{|x|} \partial_{|x|} u$$
$$\lim_{|x| \to 0} |u(x)| = \lim_{|x| \to \infty} |u(x)| = 1$$

#### Mass Gap of YM in Our Approach

Use the mass gap of 3D, 4D NLS ('15 Bao, Ruan) .  $\langle S \rangle_{x_0}$ : the effective action evaluated at the first excited state on the trivial vacuum background. Assume  $L \approx L_{top}$ .

 $\circ$  For the flat space  $\mathbb{R}^D$  (D=3,4) with finite size:

$$\langle S \rangle_{x_0} \propto \begin{cases} \frac{1}{g^2} \frac{1}{\sqrt{L_{\text{top}}\ell_{\text{top}}}}, & \text{for 3D}; \\ \frac{1}{g^2} \log\left(\frac{L_{\text{top}}}{\ell_{\text{top}}}\right), & \text{for 4D}. \end{cases}$$

• For the sphere  $S^D$  (D = 3, 4) with a radius R:

$$\langle S \rangle_{x_0} \propto \begin{cases} \frac{1}{g^2 R}, & \text{for } 3D; \\ \frac{1}{g^2} \log \left[ \cot \left( \frac{\theta_0}{2} \right) \right], & \text{for } 4D, \end{cases}$$

 $\theta_0$ : physical cutoff on  $\theta'$ 

## Exact Spetrum of 1D NLS - 1



## Exact Spetrum of 1D NLS - 2



38/48

## Discussion ...

- $\circ$  Mass gap = quantum effects
- Low-energy physics

## What's also in our paper



#### What's also in our paper

#### Start from different cores to probe the configuration space:







## Convention

The Lie algebra  $\mathfrak{so}(4)$  has the generators given by

$$(M_{\mu\nu})_{mn} \equiv \delta_{\mu m} \delta_{\nu n} - \delta_{\mu n} \delta_{\nu m} \,,$$

## satisfying

$$[M_{\mu\nu}, M_{\rho\sigma}] = \delta_{\nu\rho} M_{\mu\sigma} + \delta_{\mu\sigma} M_{\nu\rho} - \delta_{\mu\rho} M_{\nu\sigma} - \delta_{\nu\sigma} M_{\mu\rho} \,. \tag{51}$$

(50)

### Convention

Let us write down the generators in fundamental representations:

$$\begin{split} [J_{i}, J_{j}] &= -\epsilon_{ijk}J_{k}, \quad [K_{i}, K_{j}] = -\epsilon_{ijk}J_{k}, \quad [K_{i}, J_{j}] = -\epsilon_{ijk}K_{k}. \end{split} \tag{53}$$
Define
$$M_{i} &\equiv \frac{1}{2}(J_{i} + K_{i}), \quad N_{i} \equiv \frac{1}{2}(J_{i} - K_{i}). \tag{54}$$
The (anti-)commutation relations are given by
$$[M_{i}, M_{j}] &= -\epsilon_{ijk}M_{k}, \quad [N_{i}, N_{j}] = -\epsilon_{ijk}N_{k}, \quad [M_{i}, N_{j}] = 0, \tag{55}$$

$$\{M_{i}, M_{j}\} = -\frac{1}{2}\delta_{ij}, \quad \{N_{i}, N_{j}\} = -\frac{1}{2}\delta_{ij}. \tag{56}$$

## Fix p and $\theta$

## A general Lorentz transformation generated by $M_{i4}$ is given by

$$\begin{split} \Lambda_{\mu\nu} &= \left(e^{\varphi_{14}\,M_{14}+\varphi_{24}\,M_{24}+\varphi_{34}\,M_{34}}\right)_{\mu\nu} \\ &= \delta_{\mu\nu} + \frac{\varphi_{\mu}}{|\varphi|}\delta_{\nu4}\sin|\varphi| - \frac{\varphi_{\nu}}{|\varphi|}\delta_{\mu4}\sin|\varphi| - 2\frac{\varphi_{\mu}\varphi_{\nu}}{|\varphi|^2}\sin^2\left(\frac{|\varphi|}{2}\right) - 2\delta_{\mu4}\delta_{\nu4}\sin^2\left(\frac{|\varphi|}{2}\right) \,, \end{split}$$
where  $\varphi_{\mu} \equiv (\varphi_{i4}, \varphi_4 = 0)$  and  $|\varphi| \equiv \sqrt{(\varphi_{i4})^2}$ .
$$\Lambda^{-1}A_{\mu}(\Lambda x) = p\left(\tau, (\Lambda x)_4\right) \exp\left[-T_a\,\hat{n}'_a\,\theta\left(\tau, (\Lambda x)_4\right)\right] \frac{\partial}{\partial x^{\mu}}\exp\left[T_b\,\hat{n}'_b\,\theta\left(\tau, (\Lambda x)_4\right)\right] \,, \tag{57}$$
where  $\tau \equiv x^{\mu}x_{\mu}, \, \hat{n}'_i \equiv \frac{(\Lambda x)_i}{|\Lambda x|} \text{ and } |\Lambda x| \equiv \sqrt{(\Lambda x)_i\,(\Lambda x)_i}.$ 

#### **Digression: Antiferromagnet Model**

$$S[\vec{n}] = s \sum_{j=1}^{N} (-1)^{j} S_{WZ}[\vec{n}(j)] - \frac{Js^{2}}{2} \int_{0}^{T} dx_{0} \sum_{j=1}^{N} \left(\vec{n}(j, x_{0}) - \vec{n}(j+1, x_{0})\right)^{2}$$

split  $\vec{n}$  into slowly varying mode  $\vec{m}(j)$  + rapidly varying mode  $\vec{l}(j)$ :

$$\vec{n}(j) = \vec{m}(j) + (-1)^j a_0 \, l(j)$$

$$\vec{n}^2 = \vec{m}^2 = 1, \quad \vec{m} \cdot \vec{l} = 0$$

In the continuum limit:

$$\mathcal{L}(\vec{m},\vec{l}) = -2a_0 J s^2 \vec{l}^2 + s\vec{l} \cdot (\vec{m} \times \partial_0 \vec{m}) - \frac{a_0 J s^2}{2} (\partial_1 \vec{m})^2 + \frac{s}{2} \vec{m} \cdot (\partial_0 \vec{m} \times \partial_1 \vec{m})$$

Integrating out the rapidly varying mode  $\vec{l}$ :

$$\mathcal{L}(\vec{m}) = \frac{1}{2g} \left( \frac{1}{v_s} (\partial_0 \vec{m})^2 - v_s (\partial_1 \vec{m})^2 \right) + \frac{\theta}{8\pi} \epsilon_{\mu\nu} \vec{m} \cdot (\partial_\mu \vec{m} \times \partial_\nu \vec{m})$$