

Mass anomalous dimension of $SU(2)$ with $N_f = 8$ using the spectral density method

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$SU(2)$ with $N_f = 8$ is believed to have an infrared conformal fixed point. We use the spectral density method to evaluate the coupling constant dependence of the mass anomalous dimension for massless HEX smeared, clover improved Wilson fermions with Schrödinger functional boundary conditions.

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1. Introduction

Non-Abelian infrared-conformal gauge theories have been considered as models for physics beyond the Standard Model. In these models the anomalous dimension γ_m of the fermion operator $\bar{\psi}\psi$ plays an important role. The scaling of the spectral density of the massless Dirac operator is governed by the mass anomalous dimension [1]. The explicit calculation of the eigenvalue distribution is costly, but recent advances in applications of stochastic methods [2] have made the mode number [3] of the Dirac operator a viable quantity to determine the mass anomalous dimension from. The theory which we are studying is $SU(2)$ with $N_f = 8$ fermions in the fundamental representation, which lies within the conformal window [4].

The mode number of the Dirac operator,

$$v(\Lambda) = 2 \int_0^{\sqrt{\Lambda^2 - m^2}} \rho(\lambda) d\lambda, \quad (1.1)$$

where $\rho(\lambda)$ is the eigenvalue density of the Dirac operator, is known to follow a scaling behaviour¹ of

$$v(\Lambda) \simeq v_0(m) + C [\Lambda^2 - m^2]^{2/(1+\gamma_*)} \quad (1.2)$$

in some intermediate energy range between the infrared and the ultraviolet in the vicinity of the fixed point. Here γ_* is the mass anomalous dimension γ_m at the fixed point, $v_0(m)$ is an additive constant, C is a dimensionless constant, and m is the quark mass. The range where this power law behavior holds is not known *a priori*, and needs to be determined by trial and error.

The spectral density scaling method has been applied to various models before [5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16], but in the case of $SU(2)$ the coupling constant dependence of the mass anomalous dimension has not been investigated before.

The mass anomalous dimension can also be obtained by using the Schrödinger functional mass step scaling function [17]. In what follows we will compare results obtained using this method to results obtained using the spectral density method.

2. Mass step scaling

We simulate $SU(2)$ with $N_f = 8$ using HEX smeared [18], clover improved [19] Wilson fermions, using the same parameters as for the evaluation of the running coupling in [4]. We tune the hopping parameter to $\kappa = \kappa_c$ in order to have zero PCAC quark mass. We simulate the theory at seven different values of β corresponding to measured gauge couplings from $g_{GF}^2 = 0.55$ to $g_{GF}^2 = 9.49$ on a $V = 32^4$ lattice, where g_{GF}^2 is evaluated using the gradient flow step scaling method [4, 20].

For the evaluation of the mass anomalous dimension using the step scaling method, we set the spatial gauge links to unity at temporal boundaries:

$$U_i(\mathbf{x}, t = 0) = U_i(\mathbf{x}, t = L) = \mathbf{1}. \quad (2.1)$$

¹In lattice units.

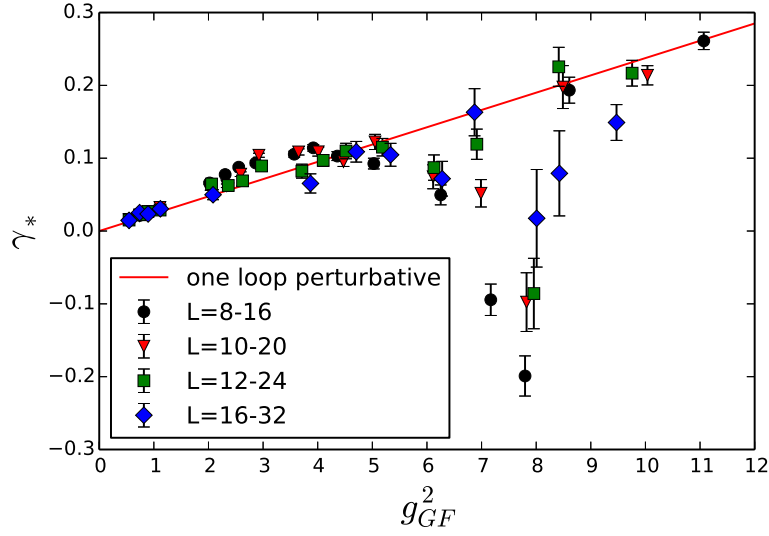


Figure 1: The mass anomalous dimension as a function of the gradient flow coupling constant obtained using the mass step scaling function. The different symbols correspond to different lattice size pairings. The results deviate from the perturbative one loop result at large coupling. The fixed point is at $g_{GF}^2 \sim 6$, and the results for larger couplings are not understood.

The mass anomalous dimension γ_m is measured from the running of the pseudoscalar density renormalization constant [17, 21]

$$Z_P(L) = \frac{\sqrt{3f_1}}{f_P(L/2)}, \quad (2.2)$$

where

$$f_P(t) = \frac{-a^6}{3L^6} \sum_{\mathbf{y}, \mathbf{z}} \langle P^a(\mathbf{x}, t) \bar{\zeta}(\mathbf{y}) \gamma_5 \frac{1}{2} \sigma^a \zeta(\mathbf{z}) \rangle, \quad (2.3)$$

$$f_1 = \frac{-a^{12}}{3L^{12}} \sum_{\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}, \mathbf{y}, \mathbf{z}} \langle \bar{\zeta}'(\mathbf{u}) \gamma_5 \frac{1}{2} \sigma^a \zeta'(\mathbf{v}) \bar{\zeta}(\mathbf{y}) \gamma_5 \frac{1}{2} \sigma^a \zeta(\mathbf{z}) \rangle. \quad (2.4)$$

Here $P^a(x) = \bar{\psi}(x) \gamma_5 \frac{1}{2} \sigma^a \psi(x)$, and ζ and ζ' are boundary quark sources at $t = 0$ and $t = L$ respectively. Now we can define the mass step scaling function as [17]

$$\Sigma_P(u, s, L/a) = \frac{Z_P(g_0, sL/a)}{Z_P(g_0, L/a)} \Big|_{g_{GF}^2(g_0, L/a)=u} \quad (2.5)$$

$$\sigma_P(u, s) = \lim_{a/L \rightarrow 0} \Sigma_P(u, s, L/a). \quad (2.6)$$

We choose $s = 2$ and find the continuum step scaling function σ_P by measuring Σ_P at $L/a = 8, 10, 12$ and 16 . The mass anomalous dimension can then be obtained from the mass step scaling function [21]. Denoting the function estimating the anomalous dimension $\gamma_m(u)$ by $\gamma_*(u)$, we have

$$\gamma_*(u) = -\frac{\log \sigma_P(u, s)}{\log s}. \quad (2.7)$$

Our preliminary results are shown in Fig. 1. The method gives results comparable to one loop perturbation theory predictions at small gauge coupling g_{GF}^2 , but deviates from the perturbative results at large coupling as the theory flows toward the fixed point at $g_{GF}^2 \sim 6$ [4].

3. Spectral density method

We calculate the mode number per unit volume of Eq. 1.1 by using

$$v(\Lambda) = \lim_{V \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{V} \langle \text{tr } \mathbb{P}(\Lambda) \rangle, \quad (3.1)$$

where the operator $\mathbb{P}(\Lambda)$ projects from the full eigenspace of $M = m^2 - \not{D}^2$ to the eigenspace of eigenvalues lower than Λ^2 , and the trace is calculated stochastically.

We use the lattices obtained from the step scaling analysis, and use between 12 to 20 well separated configurations for each value of the gauge coupling. We calculate the mode number for 100 values of Λ^2 ranging from 10^{-4} to 0.3.

We expected the two constants $v_0(m)$ and m^2 in Eq. 1.2 to be negligible since we have tuned the quark mass m_{PCAC} to zero and the additive constant $v_0(m)$ is related to the part of the spectrum that feels the effects of the nonzero mass. In principle the unknown renormalisation factor in $m = Z_A m_{PCAC}$ forbids simply setting these two constants to zero. In practice we observed the two constants to be negligible: in our analysis we used

$$v(\Lambda) \simeq C \Lambda^{4/(1+\gamma_*)} \quad (3.2)$$

and checked that the error relative to the form including all four parameters, Eq. 1.2, was $\mathcal{O}(10^{-3})$.

The fit range was determined by varying the lower and the upper limit of the fit range and observing the stability of the fit and the parameter values and their errors. As a cross reference we compared the value of γ_* obtained using the spectral density method for small couplings to the value obtained using the step scaling method in order to further assess whether the chosen fit range was good or not.

In Fig. 2 we present the mode number data we have calculated. It is apparent that the smaller coupling simulations suffer from finite size effects which manifest in the step-like structure of the mode number curve as $\Lambda \rightarrow 0$, but this disappears at couplings $g_{GF}^2 \geq 2.8$.

In Fig. 3 we plot the mode number divided by the fourth power of the eigenvalue scale as a function of the eigenvalue scale squared with the chosen fit range and the fit function of Eq. 3.2 shown overlaid in red. The curves are in the order of descending gauge coupling. It is clear that the chosen fit range for smaller coupling values, which appear as the lowest curves in the plot, goes into the step-like structure of the mode number curve, but it is a relatively good approximation of the average behaviour of the curve. When the data is presented in this way, we expect in our massless case that there is a region where the curves are linear, which is the correct window for the fit.

Our main result is shown in Fig. 4 where we plot the mass anomalous dimension γ_* obtained from fitting Eq. 3.2 to the data as a function of the gauge coupling g_{GF}^2 . In a similar fashion to the results obtained using the mass step scaling method shown in Fig. 1, the spectral density method seems to give results comparable with the one loop perturbative prediction for small gauge

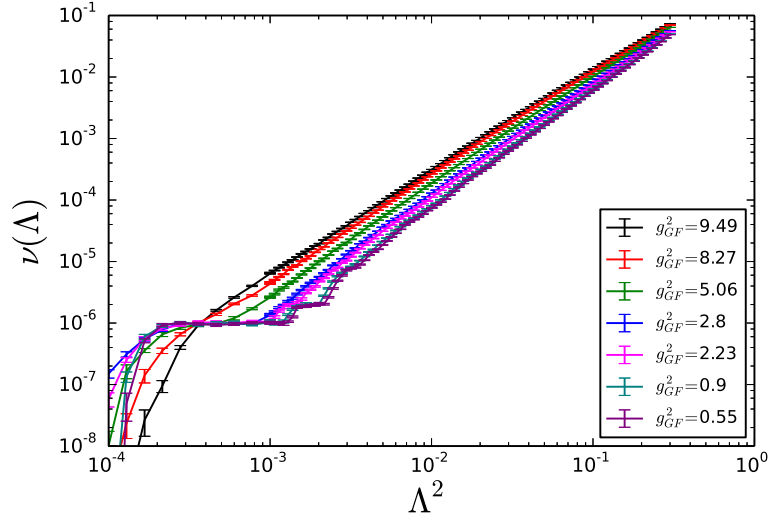


Figure 2: The mode number calculated for different gauge couplings on a $V = 32^4$ lattice.

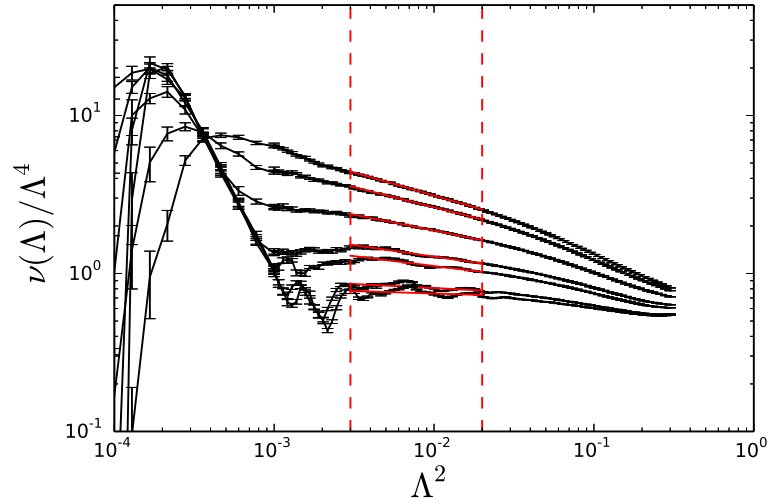


Figure 3: The mode number divided by Λ^4 as a function of Λ^2 . The fit function and the fit range are indicated by solid and dashed red lines respectively. The curves are in the order of descending gauge coupling.

coupling values. But whereas the mass step scaling method showed highly nontrivial behaviour in our simulations at gauge coupling values above $g_{GF}^2 \sim 6$, the spectral density method gives results that exhibit consistent behaviour with increasing coupling.

4. Conclusions

We have determined the mass anomalous dimension of $SU(2)$ gauge theory with eight Dirac fermions in the fundamental representation of the gauge group using the spectral density method.

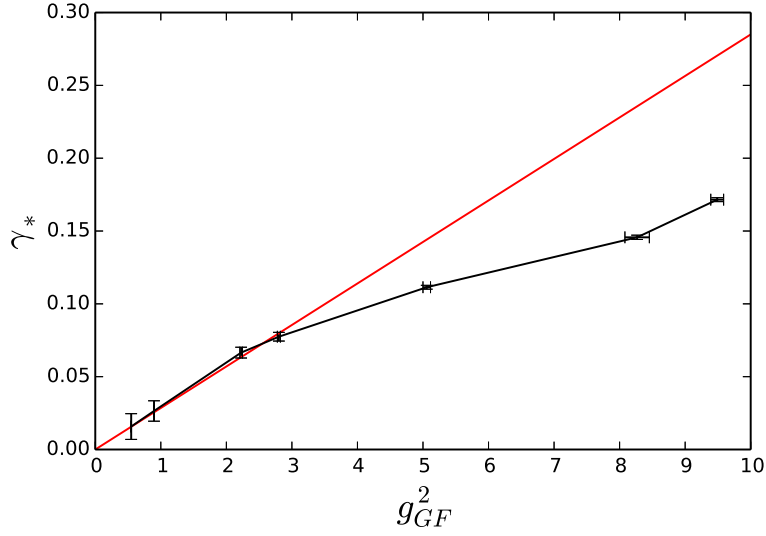


Figure 4: The value of γ_* obtained by fitting Eq. 3.2 to the data in Fig. 2 is shown with black points and the one loop perturbative result with a red line.

We have demonstrated that the method gives results compatible with perturbation theory and with nonperturbative mass step scaling method at weak coupling. As the coupling increases, the results were observed to deviate from the perturbative result.

A major source of error that is not easily quantifiable is the choice of the fit range where Eq. 3.2 (or Eq. 1.2) is used to describe the data. Our choice of the fit range was guided by our preliminary results using the mass step scaling method and requirements on the stability and quality of the fit. The results at small coupling suffer from sensitivity to the variation of the fit range, but this is not a problem at couplings where perturbation theory can be trusted as matching can be made reliably. However, when comparing with the results from the mass step scaling method, the fitting procedure would benefit from smaller lattice artefacts and well established setting of the fit ranges. The larger coupling results were largely insensitive to the choice of the fit range, and consequently it seems that the observed behaviour at large coupling is a genuine nonperturbative feature, and not an artefact due to fit uncertainties.

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Kobe, Japan. Parts of the simulation program have been derived from the MILC lattice simulation program [22].

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