

The influence of centre vortices on the quark propagator in lattice QCD

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Centre Vortices

- Topological defect associated with centre group Z_3 of $SU(3)$
- Appear as surfaces of centre flux, loops $U(C)$ linked to the surface acquire a centre flux

$$U(C) \rightarrow zU(c) \quad (1)$$

with z a centre element

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Centre Vortices on the lattice

- Transform to Maximal Centre Gauge, where links are brought close to centre elements

$$Z_\mu = \exp \left[\frac{2\pi i}{3} m_\mu(x) \right] \mathbf{I}, \quad m_\mu(x) \in \{-1, 0, 1\} \quad (2)$$

- Require gauge transformation $\Omega(x)$ maximising overlap between gauge links and centre elements

$$\sum_{x,\mu} \text{Re Tr} [U_\mu^\Omega(x) Z_\mu^\dagger(x)] \rightarrow \text{Max} \quad (3)$$

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Centre Vortices on the Lattice

- Implemented through 'mesonic' centre gauge fixing condition

$$R_{mes} = \sum_{x,\mu} |\text{Tr } U_\mu(x)^\Omega|^2 \rightarrow \text{Max} \quad (4)$$

- Then we project onto Z_3

$$\frac{1}{3} \text{Tr } U_\mu^\Omega(x) = r_\mu(x) \exp(i\phi_\mu(x)) \quad (5)$$

So choose $m_\mu(x) \in \{-1, 0, 1\}$ closest to $\frac{3\phi_\mu(x)}{2\pi}$

- Then a plaquette is pierced by a centre vortex if

$$P_{\mu\nu} = Z_\mu Z_\nu(x + \mu) Z_\mu^\dagger(x + \nu) Z_\nu^\dagger(x) \quad (6)$$

$$= z\mathbf{1}, \quad z \neq 1 \quad (7)$$

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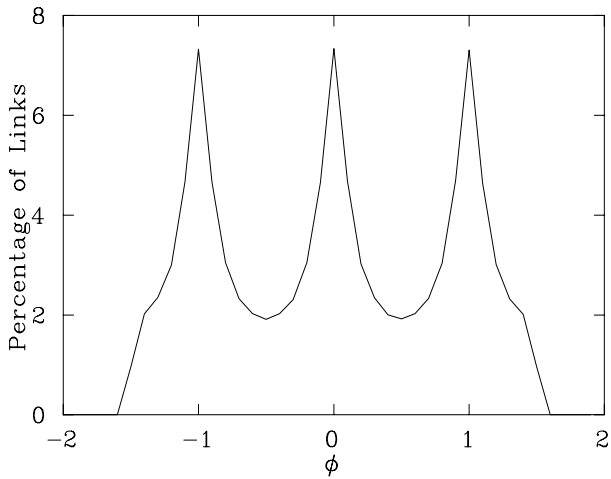
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Centre Vortices on the Lattice

- 3 sets of configurations:

- Untouched configurations $U_\mu(x)$
- Vortex only configurations $Z_\mu(x) = \exp \left[\frac{2\pi i}{3} m_\mu(x) \right]$
- Vortex Removed configurations $Z_\mu^\dagger(x) U_\mu^\Omega(x)$

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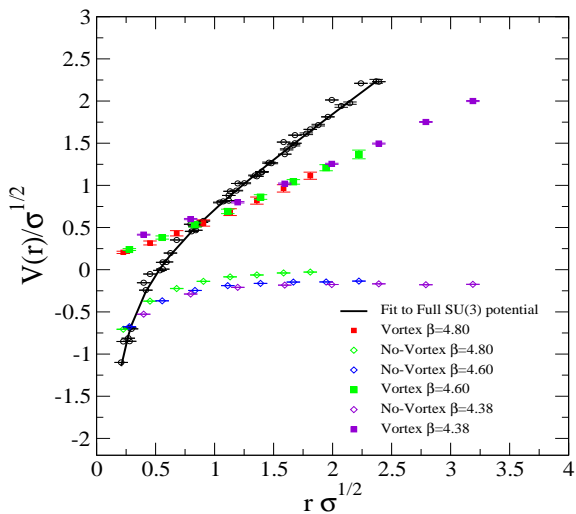
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Centre Vortices



From P. O. Bowman et. al., *Phys. Rev. D* **84**, 034501 (2011) [arXiv:1010.4624 [hep-lat]].

Dynamical Mass Generation

- Non-trivial topology gives rise to a non-zero topological charge, Q
- Intersections and writhing points of centre vortices associated with topological charge, centre of instanton-like objects
- Atiyah-Singer index theorem;

$$Q = n_+ - n_- \quad (9)$$

- Linked to dynamical chiral symmetry breaking and dynamical mass generation by Casher-Banks relation

$$\langle \bar{q}q \rangle = -\pi\rho(0) \text{ as } m_q \rightarrow 0 \quad (10)$$

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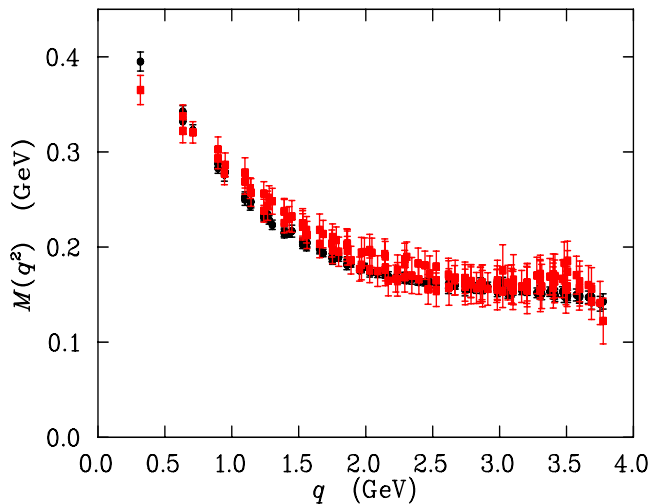
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Previous Studies



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Overlap Quark Propagator

- Operator with lattice-deformed version of chiral symmetry
- Allows us to write momentum-space propagator as

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Simulation Details

- 20 configurations using Lušcher-Weisz mean-field improved action
- $20 \times 20 \times 20 \times 40$ lattice with a spacing of 0.125 fm
- Spacial extent of 2.5 fm, temporal $5fm$

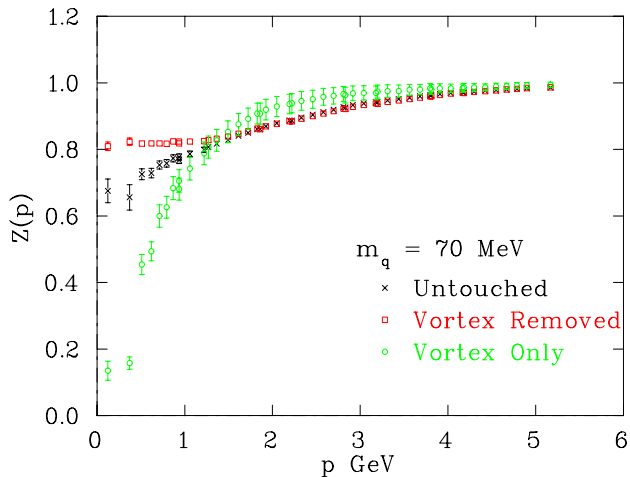
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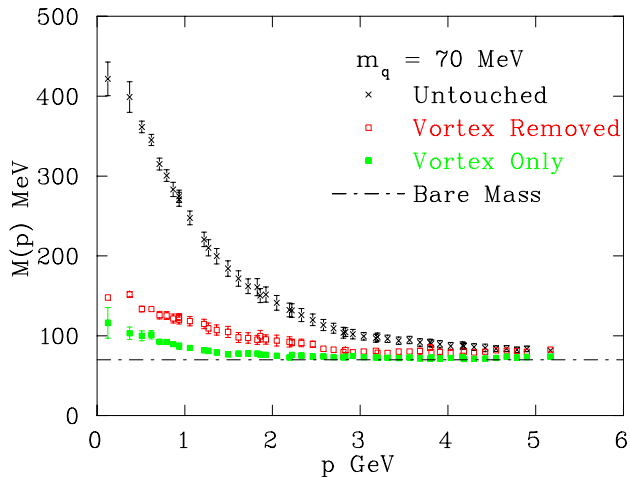
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Renormalization function



Mass function



Conclusion

- Removal of centre vortices removes instanton-like objects and dynamical mass generation
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