

Off-diagonal gluon mass generation and infrared Abelian dominance in the maximally Abelian gauge in lattice QCD

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We study effective mass generation of off-diagonal gluons and infrared Abelian dominance in the maximally Abelian (MA) gauge. Using SU(2) lattice QCD, we investigate the propagator and the effective mass of the gluon field in the MA gauge with $U(1)_3$ Landau gauge fixing. The Monte Carlo simulation is performed on the $12^3 \times 24$ lattice with $2.2 \leq \beta \leq 2.4$, and also on the 16^4 and 20^4 lattices with $2.3 \leq \beta \leq 2.4$. In the MA gauge, the diagonal gluon component A_μ^3 shows long-range propagation, and infrared Abelian dominance is found for the gluon propagator. In the MA gauge, the off-diagonal gluon component A_μ^\pm behaves as a massive vector boson with the effective mass $M_{\text{off}} = 1.2$ GeV in the region of $r \geq 0.2$ fm, and its propagation is limited within a short range. We conjecture that infrared Abelian dominance can be interpreted as infrared inactivity of the off-diagonal gluon due to its large mass generation induced by the MA gauge fixing. [S0556-2821(99)05223-6]

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I. INTRODUCTION

The quark-confinement mechanism is one of the most important subjects in nonperturbative QCD (NP-QCD) and in hadron physics. From a phenomenological point of view, quark confinement is characterized by the linear inter-quark potential $V(r) \sim \sigma r$ with the hadronic string tension $\sigma \approx 1$ GeV/fm, which is obtained from the Regge trajectories [1] of hadrons and also from the lattice QCD simulation [2]. This confining force arises from the one-dimensional squeezing of the gluonic flux between the quark and the antiquark, which is actually observed in the lattice QCD simulation [3].

On the quark-confinement mechanism, Nambu [4] first proposed the dual-superconductor picture in 1974 using the concept of electromagnetic duality [5] in the Maxwell equation and the analogy with the one-dimensional squeezing of the magnetic flux as the Abrikosov vortex in the type-II superconductor [6]. In the dual-superconductor picture, color-magnetic monopoles are assumed to condense, and then the color-electric flux between the quark and the antiquark is squeezed as a one-dimensional tube due to the dual Higgs mechanism [4,7,8].

The possibility of the appearance of monopoles in QCD was pointed out by 't Hooft in 1981 using the concept of the Abelian gauge fixing [9], which is defined by the diagonalization of a gauge-dependent variable as $\Phi[A_\mu(x)] \in su(N_c)$. In fact, the Abelian gauge fixing is a partial gauge fixing which remains the Abelian gauge degrees of freedom on the maximally torus subgroup $U(1)^{N_c-1} \subset SU(N_c)$. As a remarkable feature in the Abelian gauge, color-magnetic monopoles appear as the topological objects relating to the nontrivial homotopy group, $\Pi_2[SU(N_c)/U(1)^{N_c-1}] = Z_\infty^{N_c-1}$ [9–12].

Then, the quark-confinement mechanism can be physically interpreted with the dual Meissner effect in the Abelian dual Higgs theory [10,11,13–15] under the two assumptions

of Abelian dominance [9,10,14,16] and monopole condensation [17–19] in the Abelian gauge. Here, Abelian dominance first named by Ezawa and Iwazaki in 1982 [16] means that only the diagonal gluon component plays the dominant role for the NP-QCD phenomena like confinement. In the 1990's, the approximate relations of Abelian dominance for quark confinement [18,20–22] and chiral symmetry breaking [23,24] are numerically shown in the lattice QCD Monte Carlo simulation in the maximally Abelian (MA) gauge [18,20–26], which is a special Abelian gauge in the case of $N_c = 2$.

Abelian dominance is usually discussed on the role of the diagonal (Abelian) component of the gluon field. However, in terms of the off-diagonal gluon, Abelian dominance can be expressed that off-diagonal gluon components are inactive at the infrared scale of QCD and can be neglected for the argument of NP-QCD. Here, Abelian dominance as infrared inactivity of off-diagonal gluons may be interpreted with a large off-diagonal gluon mass. In this paper, we study the gluon propagator and the effective mass of off-diagonal gluons in the MA gauge, using the SU(2) lattice QCD Monte Carlo simulations.

II. INFRARED ABELIAN DOMINANCE AND MASS-GENERATION HYPOTHESIS ON OFF-DIAGONAL GLUONS IN THE MA GAUGE

In the maximally Abelian (MA) gauge, the non-Abelian gauge symmetry $SU(N_c)$ of QCD is reduced into the Abelian gauge symmetry $U(1)^{N_c-1}$, and accordingly diagonal gluons can be distinct from off-diagonal gluons. For instance, diagonal gluon components behave as neutral gauge fields like photons, and off-diagonal gluon components behave as charged matter fields on the residual Abelian gauge symmetry [9,10].

In the MA gauge, Abelian dominance for quark confinement and chiral-symmetry breaking has been shown as the approximate relation in the lattice QCD Monte Carlo simulations [18,20–24], and only diagonal gluons seem to be significant to the infrared QCD physics, which we call “infra-

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red Abelian dominance.” In this section, we consider infrared Abelian dominance and the off-diagonal gluon property in the MA gauge in the SU(2) QCD. In terms of the off-diagonal gluon, infrared Abelian dominance means that off-diagonal gluon components are inactive and their contribution can be neglected at the infrared scale of QCD in the MA gauge.

As a possible physical interpretation for infrared Abelian dominance, we conjecture that the effective mass of the off-diagonal gluon $A_\mu^\pm \equiv (1/\sqrt{2})(A_\mu^1 \pm iA_\mu^2)$ is induced in the MA gauge. If A_μ^\pm acquires a large effective mass M_{off} , the off-diagonal gluon propagation is limited within the short range as $r \leq M_{\text{off}}^{-1}$, since the massive particle is propagated within the inverse of its mass. Hence, in the mass-generation hypothesis of A_μ^\pm in the MA gauge, the massive off-diagonal gluons cannot mediate the long-range interaction and their direct contribution is expected to be negligible at the infrared scale, although there remains the indirect contribution of off-diagonal gluons through the coupling to the diagonal gluon. (This is similar to the negligible contribution of heavy mesons for the nuclear force at a large distance, where only light mesons as pions play the significant role.)

The mass-generation hypothesis on off-diagonal gluons in the MA gauge is formally expressed in QCD as follows. The QCD partition functional in the MA gauge is expressed as

$$Z_{\text{QCD}}^{\text{MA}} \equiv \int \mathcal{D}A_\mu \exp\{iS_{\text{QCD}}[A_\mu]\} \delta(\Phi_{\text{MA}}^\pm[A_\mu]) \Delta_{\text{FP}}[A_\mu], \quad (1)$$

where $\Delta_{\text{FP}}[A_\mu]$ denotes the Faddeev-Popov determinant [28]. Here, $\Phi_{\text{MA}}^\pm[A_\mu]$ denotes the off-diagonal component of $\Phi_{\text{MA}}[A_\mu] \equiv [\hat{D}_\mu, [\hat{D}^\mu, \tau^3]]$, which is diagonalized in the MA gauge [12,18,22], and therefore the MA gauge fixing is provided by $\delta(\Phi_{\text{MA}}^\pm[A_\mu])$. The mass-generation hypothesis of off-diagonal gluons A_μ^\pm is expressed as

$$Z_{\text{QCD}}^{\text{MA}} = \int \mathcal{D}A_\mu^3 \exp\{iS_{\text{Abel}}[A_\mu^3]\} \times \int \mathcal{D}A_\mu^\pm \exp\{iS_{\text{off}}^M[A_\mu^\pm]\} \mathcal{F}[A_\mu]. \quad (2)$$

Here, $S_{\text{off}}^M[A_\mu^\pm]$ denotes the $U(1)_3$ -invariant action of the off-diagonal gluon with the effective mass M_{off} as

$$S_{\text{off}}^M[A_\mu^\pm] \equiv \int d^4x \left\{ -\frac{1}{2} (D_\mu^{\text{Abel}} A_\nu^\pm - D_\nu^{\text{Abel}} A_\mu^\pm) \times (D_{\text{Abel}}^{\mu*} A_\nu^\pm - D_{\text{Abel}}^{\nu*} A_\mu^\pm) + M_{\text{off}}^2 A_\mu^\pm A_\nu^\pm \right\}, \quad (3)$$

with the $U(1)_3$ covariant derivative $D_\mu^{\text{Abel}} \equiv \partial_\mu + ieA_\mu^3$. Here, $S_{\text{Abel}}[A_\mu^3]$ is the effective action of the diagonal gluon component, and $\mathcal{F}[A_\mu]$ is a $U(1)_3$ -invariant smooth functional in comparison with $\exp\{iS_{\text{off}}^M[A_\mu^\pm]\}$ at least in the infrared region.

Since the massive off-diagonal gluons cannot carry the long-range interaction and would be inactive at the infrared

scale, it seems natural to expect that only diagonal gluons are propagated over the large distance and carry the long-range confining force in QCD. In fact, infrared Abelian dominance may be explained with the mass generation hypothesis of off-diagonal gluons. (This interpretation of infrared Abelian dominance may be similar to the dominant contribution of photons for the large-scale interaction in the Weinberg-Salam model, where only the massless photon field is propagated over the large distance and the massive weak bosons do not contribute to the large-range interaction.)

Since the effective mass M_{off} is closely related to the off-diagonal gluon propagation, especially on the interaction range, we study the gluon propagator in the MA gauge using the lattice QCD Monte Carlo simulation. In the following sections, we aim to estimate the effective mass of the off-diagonal gluon from the numerical result of the gluon propagator in the MA gauge [18,27].

III. MASSIVE VECTOR BOSON PROPAGATOR

In this section, we try to understand the behavior of the massive vector boson propagator in the Euclidean metric from a simple model, for the preparation of the analysis on the effective gluon mass in the MA gauge in the lattice QCD. We start from the Lagrangian of the free massive vector field A_μ with the mass $M \neq 0$ in the Proca formalism [29],

$$\mathcal{L} = \frac{1}{4} (\partial_\mu A_\nu - \partial_\nu A_\mu)^2 + \frac{1}{2} M^2 A_\mu A_\mu, \quad (4)$$

in the Euclidean metric. The propagator $\tilde{G}_{\mu\nu}(k; M)$ of the massive vector boson is given as

$$\tilde{G}_{\mu\nu}(k; M) \equiv \frac{1}{k^2 + M^2} \left(\delta_{\mu\nu} + \frac{k_\mu k_\nu}{M^2} \right) \quad (5)$$

in the momentum representation [30]. The Euclidean propagator $G_{\mu\nu}(x - y; M)$ in the coordinate space is obtained by performing the Fourier transformation as

$$G_{\mu\nu}(x - y; M) \equiv \langle A_\mu(x) A_\nu(y) \rangle = \int \frac{d^4k}{(2\pi)^4} e^{ik \cdot (x - y)} \tilde{G}_{\mu\nu}(k; M). \quad (6)$$

For the investigation of the interaction range, it is convenient to examine the scalar-type propagator $G_{\mu\mu}(r; M)$, since $G_{\mu\mu}(r; M)$ depends only on the Euclidean four-dimensional distance $r \equiv \sqrt{(x_\mu - y_\mu)^2}$. As shown in the Appendix, the scalar-type propagator $G_{\mu\mu}(r; M)$ can be expressed with the modified Bessel function $K_1(z)$ as

$$\begin{aligned}
G_{\mu\mu}(r;M) &= \langle A_\mu(x) A_\mu(y) \rangle = \int \frac{d^4 k}{(2\pi)^4} e^{ik \cdot (x-y)} \frac{1}{k^2 + M^2} \left(4 + \frac{k^2}{M^2} \right) \\
&= 3 \int \frac{d^4 k}{(2\pi)^4} e^{ik \cdot (x-y)} \frac{1}{k^2 + M^2} + \frac{1}{M^2} \delta^4(x-y) = \frac{3}{4\pi^2} \frac{M}{r} K_1(Mr) + \frac{1}{M^2} \delta^4(x-y).
\end{aligned} \tag{7}$$

In the infrared region with large Mr , Eq. (7) reduces to

$$G_{\mu\mu}(r;M) \simeq \frac{3\sqrt{M}}{2(2\pi)^{3/2}} \frac{e^{-Mr}}{r^{3/2}}, \tag{8}$$

using the asymptotic expansion

$$K_1(z) \simeq \left(\frac{\pi}{2z} \right)^{1/2} e^{-z} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{\Gamma(\frac{3}{2} + n)}{n! \Gamma(\frac{3}{2} - n)} \frac{1}{(2z)^n} \tag{9}$$

for large $\text{Re } z$. Here, the Yukawa-type damping factor e^{-Mr} expresses the short-range interaction in the coordinate space. Then, the mass M of the vector field $A_\mu(x)$ is estimated from the slope in the logarithmic plot of $(r^{3/2}/\sqrt{M})G_{\mu\mu}(r;M)$ as the function of r ,

$$\ln \left\{ \frac{r^{3/2}}{\sqrt{M}} G_{\mu\mu}(r;M) \right\} \simeq -Mr + \text{const.} \tag{10}$$

This approximation seems applicable for $Mr > 1$ from the numerical calculation [31].

For the massless free vector boson, the Euclidean scalar-type propagator in the Landau gauge is written as

$$G_{\mu\mu}(r) \equiv \frac{3}{4\pi^2} \frac{1}{r^2} \tag{11}$$

with the four-dimensional distance $r \equiv \sqrt{(x_\mu - y_\mu)^2}$. This exhibits the Coulomb-type interaction in the four-dimensional coordinate space.

IV. MAXIMALLY ABELIAN GAUGE FIXING

In this section, we review the maximally Abelian (MA) gauge, which seems the key concept for the study of the dual-superconductor picture from the lattice QCD [18,20–26]. In the Euclidean QCD, the MA gauge is defined by minimizing the global amount of the off-diagonal gluon,

$$R_{\text{off}} \equiv \int d^4 x \text{tr} \{ [\hat{D}_\mu, \vec{H}] [\hat{D}_\mu, \vec{H}]^\dagger \} = \frac{e^2}{2} \int d^4 x \sum_{\alpha=1}^{N_c^2 - N_c} |A_\mu^\alpha|^2, \tag{12}$$

by the $\text{SU}(N_c)$ gauge transformation [12,18,22,35]. Here, we have used the Cartan decomposition, $A_\mu(x) \equiv \vec{A}_\mu(x) \cdot \vec{H} + \sum_{\alpha=1}^{N_c^2 - N_c} A_\mu^\alpha(x) E^\alpha$ and the covariant derivative operator $\hat{D}_\mu \equiv \hat{\partial}_\mu + ieA_\mu$. In the MA gauge, the $\text{SU}(N_c)$ gauge symmetry is reduced into the $\text{U}(1)^{N_c-1}$ gauge symmetry with the

global Weyl symmetry [18,22,32–34], and the diagonal gluon component \vec{A}_μ behaves as the Abelian gauge field and the off-diagonal gluon component A_μ^α behaves as the charged matter field in terms of the residual $\text{U}(1)^{N_c-1}$ Abelian gauge symmetry. In the MA gauge, off-diagonal gluon components are forced to be as small as possible, and then the gluon field $A_\mu(x)$ mostly approaches the Abelian gauge field $\vec{A}_\mu(x) \cdot \vec{H}$ [22].

Since the covariant derivative operator $\hat{D}_\mu \equiv \hat{\partial}_\mu + ieA_\mu$ obeys the adjoint transformation $\hat{D}_\mu \rightarrow \Omega \hat{D}_\mu \Omega^\dagger$, it is convenient to describe R_{off} with \hat{D}_μ like Eq. (12), for the argument of the gauge transformation property of R_{off} . Using the infinitesimal gauge transformation, the local gauge-fixing condition in the MA gauge is obtained as

$$[\vec{H}, [\hat{D}_\mu, [\hat{D}_\mu, \vec{H}]]] = 0. \tag{13}$$

In particular for the $\text{SU}(2)$ QCD, this leads to $(i\partial_\mu \pm eA_\mu^3)A_\mu^\pm = 0$, or equivalently, the local variable $\Phi_{\text{MA}}[A_\mu(x)] \equiv [\hat{D}_\mu, [\hat{D}_\mu, \tau^3]]$ is diagonalized in the MA gauge.

In the $\text{SU}(2)$ lattice QCD, the system is described by the link variable $U_\mu(s) = \exp\{iaeA_\mu^a(s)(\tau^a/2)\} \in \text{SU}(2)$ with the lattice spacing a and the QCD gauge coupling constant e . The MA gauge is defined by maximizing

$$R_{\text{MA}} \equiv \sum_s^4 \sum_{\mu=1}^4 \text{tr} \{ U_\mu(s) \tau^3 U_\mu^\dagger(s) \tau^3 \} \tag{14}$$

using the $\text{SU}(2)$ gauge transformation. In the continuum limit $a \rightarrow 0$, maximizing R_{MA} leads to minimizing R_{off} in Eq. (12). Also in the lattice formalism, the MA gauge fixing is a partial gauge fixing on the coset space $\text{SU}(2)^{\text{local}} / [\text{U}(1)_3^{\text{local}} \times \text{Weyl}^{\text{global}}]$, and there remain the $\text{U}(1)_3$ -gauge symmetry and the global Weyl symmetry. According to the partial gauge fixing on $\text{SU}(2)/\text{U}(1)_3$, it is convenient to use the Cartan decomposition for the $\text{SU}(2)$ link variable as $U_\mu(s) \equiv M_\mu(s) u_\mu(s)$ with $u_\mu(s) \equiv e^{i\theta_\mu^3(s)\tau^3} \in \text{U}(1)_3$ and $M_\mu(s) \equiv e^{i\{\theta_\mu^1(s)\tau^1 + \theta_\mu^2(s)\tau^2\}} \in \text{SU}(2)/\text{U}(1)_3$. Here, the Abelian link variable $u_\mu(s)$, which is suggested to play the relevant role for confinement [18,20–22] in the MA gauge, obeys the residual $\text{U}(1)_3$ -gauge transformation,

$$u_\mu(s) \rightarrow \omega(s) u_\mu(s) \omega^\dagger(s + \hat{\mu}), \tag{15}$$

with the gauge function $\omega(s) \in \text{U}(1)_3$.

For the study of the gluon propagator $\langle A_\mu^a(x) A_\nu^b(y) \rangle$ ($a, b = 1, 2, 3$) in the MA gauge, the gluon field $A_\mu^a(x)$ itself is

to be defined as the dynamical variable by removing the residual $U(1)_3$ -gauge degrees of freedom. In order to extract the most continuous gluon configuration under the constraint of the MA gauge fixing, we take the $U(1)_3$ Landau gauge for the $U(1)_3$ -gauge degrees of freedom remaining in the MA gauge. The $U(1)_3$ Landau gauge is defined by maximizing

$$R_{U(1)L} \equiv \sum_s \sum_{\mu=1}^4 \text{tr}[u_\mu(s)] \quad (16)$$

using the $U(1)_3$ -gauge transformation (15) [18,27,34–37]. The maximizing condition for $R_{U(1)L}$ leads to the Landau gauge condition $\partial_\mu A_\mu^3 = 0$ in the continuum limit. By taking the $U(1)_3$ Landau gauge, all of the Abelian link variables $u_\mu(s)$ mostly approach unity, and the most continuous gluon configuration is realized under the MA gauge fixing condition.

V. GLUON PROPAGATORS AND OFF-DIAGONAL GLUON MASS IN THE MA GAUGE IN THE LATTICE QCD

A. Gluon propagators on lattices

In this subsection, we consider the extraction of the gluon propagator from the link variable $U_\mu(s)$ in the MA gauge with the $U(1)_3$ -Landau gauge fixing. To begin with, we extract the lattice gluon field $A_\mu^a(s)$ ($a=1,2,3$) from the link variable $U_\mu(s)$ obtained in the lattice QCD Monte Carlo simulation. In the $SU(2)$ lattice QCD, $U_\mu(s)$ relates to $A_\mu(s)$ as

$$\begin{aligned} U_\mu(s) &\equiv \mathcal{P} \exp \left(ie \int_s^{s+a\hat{\mu}} dx_\mu A_\mu^a(x) \frac{\tau^a}{2} \right) \\ &= \exp \left(iae \overline{A}_\mu^a(s) \frac{\tau^a}{2} \right) \\ & \quad (a=1,2,3) \quad (17) \end{aligned}$$

with a small lattice spacing a , the gauge coupling constant e and the pass-ordering operator \mathcal{P} . Here, $A_\mu^a(s)$ corresponds to the coarse-grained field of $A_\mu^a(x)$ on the link from s to $s+a\hat{\mu}$, and coincides with $A_\mu^a(s)$ approximately, when a is small enough [2]. In this paper, we regard $\overline{A}_\mu^a(s)$ as the approximate gluon field on the lattice. Here, the gluon field $A_\mu^a(s)$ is described as

$$\overline{A}_\mu^a = \frac{2}{ae} \frac{U_\mu^a}{\sqrt{\sum_{a=1}^3 (U_\mu^a)^2}} \arctan \frac{\sqrt{\sum_{a=1}^3 (U_\mu^a)^2}}{U_\mu^0} \quad (18)$$

by parametrizing $U_\mu(s)$ as $U_\mu \equiv U_\mu^0 + i\tau^a U_\mu^a$ ($U_\mu^0, U_\mu^a \in \mathbf{R}$; $a=1,2,3$), which satisfies the unitarity condition, $(U_\mu^0)^2 + (U_\mu^a)^2 = 1$. The gluon field $\overline{A}_\mu^a(s) \in \text{su}(2)$ is thus obtained from the link variable $U_\mu(s) \in \text{SU}(2)$ generated in the lattice QCD Monte Carlo simulation. For the simple notation, we express $\overline{A}_\mu^a(s)$ by $A_\mu^a(s)$ hereafter.

Next, we study the Euclidean gluon propagator $G_{\mu\nu}^{ab}(x-y) = \langle A_\mu^a(x) A_\nu^b(y) \rangle$ in the MA gauge with the $U(1)_3$ -Landau gauge. In this gauge, $U_\mu(s)$ is determined without the ambiguity on the local gauge transformation. In this paper, we study the Euclidean scalar-type propagator of the diagonal (neutral) gluon as

$$G_{\mu\mu}^{\text{Abel}}(r) \equiv \langle A_\mu^3(x) A_\mu^3(y) \rangle, \quad (19)$$

and that of the off-diagonal (charged) gluon as

$$\begin{aligned} G_{\mu\mu}^{\text{off}}(r) &\equiv \langle A_\mu^+(x) A_\mu^-(y) \rangle \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \{ \langle A_\mu^1(x) A_\mu^1(y) \rangle + \langle A_\mu^2(x) A_\mu^2(y) \rangle \} \quad (20) \end{aligned}$$

with the off-diagonal gluons $A_\mu^\pm(x) \equiv (1/\sqrt{2}) \{ A_\mu^1(x) \pm i A_\mu^2(x) \}$. These scalar-type propagators are expressed as the function of the four-dimensional Euclidean distance $r \equiv \sqrt{(x_\mu - y_\mu)^2}$. In $G_{\mu\mu}^{\text{off}}(r)$, the imaginary part $-(i/2) \{ \langle A_\mu^1(x) A_\mu^2(y) \rangle - \langle A_\mu^2(x) A_\mu^1(y) \rangle \}$ disappears automatically due to the symmetry as $\langle A_\mu^1(x) A_\mu^2(y) \rangle = \langle A_\mu^2(x) A_\mu^1(y) \rangle$.

B. Lattice QCD results for gluon propagators

Using the $SU(2)$ lattice QCD, we calculate the gluon propagator in the MA gauge with the $U(1)_3$ Landau gauge fixing. The Monte Carlo simulation is performed on the $12^3 \times 24$ lattice with $2.2 \leq \beta \leq 2.4$, and also on the 16^4 and 20^4 lattices with $2.3 \leq \beta \leq 2.4$. All measurements are done every 500 sweeps after a thermalization of 10,000 sweeps using the heat-bath algorithm. We prepare 100 gauge configurations at each β for the calculation.

The MA gauge fixing and the $U(1)_3$ Landau gauge fixing are performed by the iteration of the local maximization of R_{MA} and $R_{U(1)L}$, respectively, using the overrelaxation algorithm with the overrelaxation parameter $\omega = 1.7$ [38]. As the accuracy of the maximizing condition of R_{MA} and $R_{U(1)L}$, they are required to converge to 10^{-7} per sweep.

The physical scale unit is determined so as to reproduce the string tension as $\sigma = 0.89 \text{ GeV/fm} \approx (420 \text{ MeV})^2$ based on Refs. [39–43]. In Fig. 1 and Table I [39–43], we summarize the $SU(2)$ lattice QCD data for $\sqrt{\sigma}a$, the square root of the string tension in the lattice unit, as the function of β in the case of the pure gauge standard action. In the region of $2.2 \leq \beta \leq 2.4$, the lattice QCD data in Fig. 1 seem to lie on a straight line, and therefore we determine the values of $\sqrt{\sigma}a$ and the scale unit a at intermediate values of $\beta \in (2.2, 2.4)$ using the interior division.

The Euclidean scalar-type propagators $G_{\mu\mu}^{\text{Abel}}(r)$ and $G_{\mu\mu}^{\text{off}}(r)$ are measured as the two point functions of the gluon fields on $(\vec{x}, 0)$ and (\vec{x}, r) using Eqs. (19) and (20). While the temporal direction is fixed along the longest side in the $12^3 \times 24$ lattice, we measure the correlation in all four directions for the symmetric lattices (16^4 and 20^4) without fixing the temporal direction. We show in Fig. 2 the lattice QCD data for the diagonal gluon propagator $G_{\mu\mu}^{\text{Abel}}(r)$ and the off-diagonal gluon propagator $G_{\mu\mu}^{\text{off}}(r)$ in the MA gauge with the $U(1)_3$ Landau gauge fixing. Here, error is estimated with the

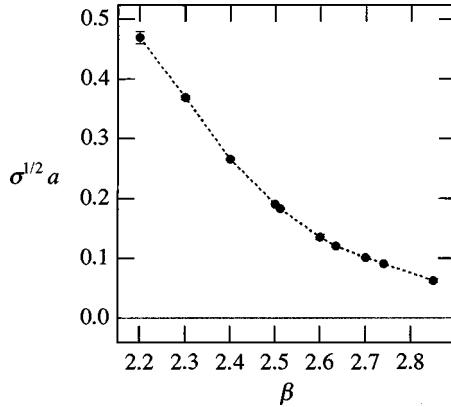


FIG. 1. The square root of the string tension in the lattice unit, $\sqrt{\sigma}a$, as the function of β in the SU(2) lattice QCD with the pure-gauge standard action, using the data in Refs. [38–42]. In the region of $2.2 \leq \beta \leq 2.4$, the lattice QCD data seem to lie on a straight line.

jackknife analysis [30]. In the MA gauge, $G_{\mu\mu}^{\text{Abel}}(r)$ and $G_{\mu\mu}^{\text{off}}(r)$ manifestly differ. The diagonal-gluon propagator $G_{\mu\mu}^{\text{Abel}}(r)$ takes a large value even at the long distance. In fact, the diagonal gluon A_μ^3 in the MA gauge propagates over the long distance. On the other hand, the off-diagonal gluon propagator $G_{\mu\mu}^{\text{off}}(r)$ rapidly decreases and is negligible for $r \gtrsim 0.4$ fm in comparison with $G_{\mu\mu}^{\text{Abel}}(r)$. Then, the off-diagonal gluon A_μ^\pm seems to propagate only within the short range as $r \lesssim 0.4$ fm. Thus, “infrared Abelian dominance” for the gluon propagator is found in the MA gauge.

Finally in this subsection, we briefly discuss the finite size effect on the gluon propagators, $G_{\mu\mu}^{\text{Abel}}$ and $G_{\mu\mu}^{\text{off}}$. As shown in Fig. 2, the shape of $G_{\mu\mu}^{\text{Abel}}$ slightly depends on the lattice parameters (β and the lattice size), although β dependence of $G_{\mu\mu}^{\text{Abel}}$ at $\beta \in [2.3, 2.4]$ seems to decrease for the 20^4 lattice. (See also Figs. 3 and 4.) Then, one should be careful about the finite-size effect for the detailed argument on the diagonal gluon propagator $G_{\mu\mu}^{\text{Abel}}$. On the other hand, the single curve approximately fits almost all the lattice data of $G_{\mu\mu}^{\text{off}}$.

TABLE I. The SU(2) lattice QCD data for $\sqrt{\sigma}a$, the square root of the string tension in the lattice unit, at various β for the pure-gauge standard action. These data are taken from Refs. [38–42]. N_s and N_τ denote the lattice size $N_s^3 \times N_\tau$. We add the physical length of a to reproduce $\sqrt{\sigma} = 0.89$ GeV/fm.

N_s	N_τ	β	$\sqrt{\sigma}a$	a (fm)
8	10	2.20	0.4690(100)	0.2233
10	10	2.30	0.3690(30)	0.1757
16	16	2.40	0.2660(20)	0.1267
32	32	2.50	0.1905(8)	0.0907
32	16	2.5115	0.1836(13)	0.0874
20	20	2.60	0.1360(40)	0.0648
48	64	2.635	0.1208(1)	0.0575
32	32	2.70	0.1015(10)	0.0483
32	32	2.74	0.0911(2)	0.0434
48	56	2.85	0.0630(30)	0.0300

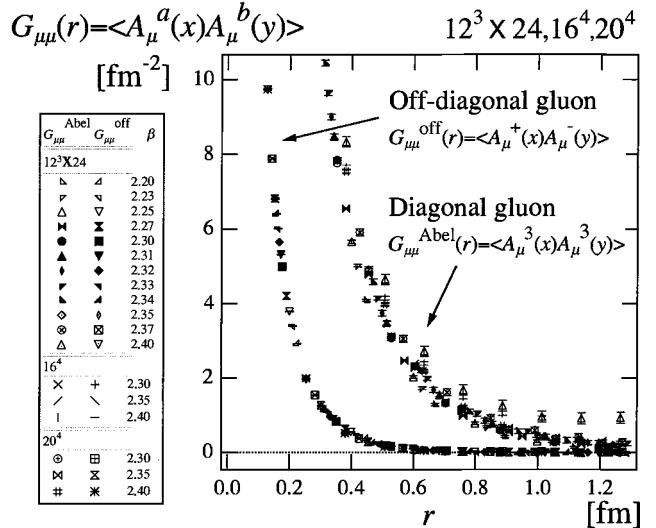


FIG. 2. The SU(2) lattice QCD results for the scalar-type gluon propagators $G_{\mu\mu}^{\text{Abel}}(r) \equiv \langle A_\mu^3(x)A_\mu^3(y) \rangle$ and $G_{\mu\mu}^{\text{off}}(r) \equiv \langle A_\mu^+(x)A_\mu^-(y) \rangle$ as the function of $r \equiv \sqrt{(x_\mu - y_\mu)^2}$ in the MA gauge with the $U(1)_3$ Landau gauge fixing in the physical unit. The Monte Carlo simulation is performed on the $12^3 \times 24$ lattice with $2.2 \leq \beta \leq 2.4$, and also on the 16^4 and 20^4 lattices with $2.3 \leq \beta \leq 2.4$. The diagonal-gluon propagator $G_{\mu\mu}^{\text{Abel}}(r)$ takes a large value even at the long distance. On the other hand, the off-diagonal gluon propagator $G_{\mu\mu}^{\text{off}}(r)$ rapidly decreases and is negligible for $r \gtrsim 0.4$ fm in comparison with $G_{\mu\mu}^{\text{Abel}}(r)$.

obtained from different lattices on β and the size. Therefore, the finite-size effect seems to be small on the off-diagonal gluon propagator $G_{\mu\mu}^{\text{off}}$ in the MA gauge. (See also Figs. 3–5.)

C. Estimation of the off-diagonal gluon mass in the MA gauge

In this subsection, we examine the hypothesis on effective mass generation of off-diagonal gluons in the MA gauge. To this end, we investigate the logarithm plot of $r^{3/2}G_{\mu\mu}^{\text{off}}(r)$ as the function of r , since the massive vector boson with the mass M behaves like $G_{\mu\mu}(r) \sim [\exp(-Mr)]/r^{3/2}$ for $Mr > 1$ [31] as was discussed in Sec. III.

In Fig. 3, we show the logarithmic plot of $r^{3/2}G_{\mu\mu}^{\text{off}}(r)$ and $r^{3/2}G_{\mu\mu}^{\text{Abel}}(r)$ as the function of the distance r in the MA gauge with the $U(1)_3$ Landau gauge fixing. As shown in Fig. 3, the logarithmic plot of $r^{3/2}G_{\mu\mu}^{\text{off}}(r)$ seems to decrease linearly in the region of $0.2 \text{ fm} \leq r \leq 1 \text{ fm}$. In fact, $G_{\mu\mu}^{\text{off}}(r)$ behaves as the Yukawa-type function

$$G_{\mu\mu}^{\text{off}}(r) \sim \frac{\exp(-M_{\text{off}}r)}{r^{3/2}} \quad (21)$$

for $0.2 \text{ fm} \leq r \leq 1 \text{ fm}$ in the MA gauge. From the linear slope on $r^{3/2}G_{\mu\mu}^{\text{off}}(r)$ in Fig. 3, the effective off-diagonal gluon mass M_{off} is roughly estimated as

$$M_{\text{off}} \approx 5 \text{ fm}^{-1} \approx 1 \text{ GeV}. \quad (22)$$

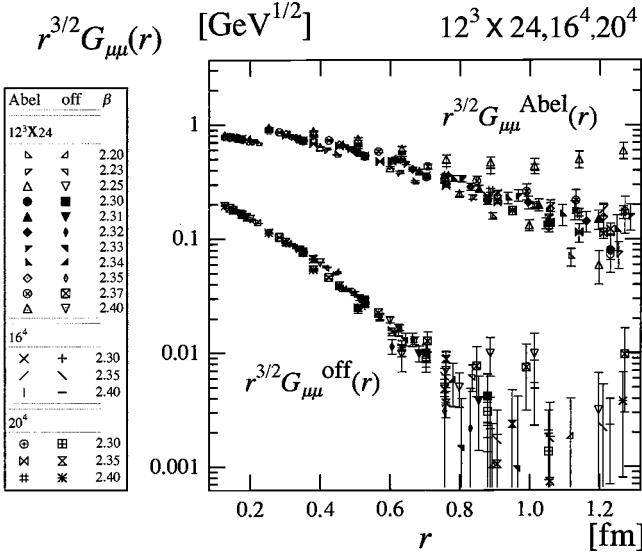


FIG. 3. The logarithmic plot of $r^{3/2}G_{\mu\mu}^{\text{off}}(r)$ and $r^{3/2}G_{\mu\mu}^{\text{Abel}}(r)$ as the function of the distance r in the MA gauge with the $U(1)_3$ Landau gauge fixing, using the $SU(2)$ lattice QCD with $12^3 \times 24$ ($2.2 \leq \beta \leq 2.4$), 16^4 and 20^4 ($2.3 \leq \beta \leq 2.4$). The off-diagonal gluon propagator behaves as the Yukawa-type function $G_{\mu\mu}^{\text{off}}(r) \sim [\exp(-M_{\text{off}}r)]/r^{3/2}$ with $M_{\text{off}} \approx 1$ GeV for $r \gtrsim 0.2$ fm. Therefore, the off-diagonal gluon seems to have a large mass $M_{\text{off}} \approx 1$ GeV in the MA gauge.

For more accurate estimation of the off-diagonal gluon mass M_{off} , we analyze the lattice data of $r^{3/2}G_{\mu\mu}^{\text{off}}(r)$ individually at each lattice with the same β and the lattice size, to separate the systematic error relating to the lattice parameters. We show the lattice data for $r^{3/2}G_{\mu\mu}^{\text{off}}(r)$ in Figs. 4(a), 4(b), and 4(c) corresponding to the lattice size, $12^3 \times 24$, 16^4 , and 20^4 , respectively. Using the least-squares method, we perform the linear fitting analysis for the logarithmic plot of $r^{3/2}G_{\mu\mu}^{\text{off}}(r)$ with the fitting range of $0.2 \text{ fm} \leq r \leq 1 \text{ fm}$.

We summarize in Table II the effective off-diagonal gluon mass M_{off} obtained from the slope analysis at each lattice (the lattice size and β) as well as χ^2 and the degrees of freedom, N_{DF} . The error of M_{off} is estimated with the jackknife analysis. Here, the two crude-lattice data with $12^3 \times 24$ and $\beta = 2.2, 2.23$ show extremely large values on χ^2/N_{DF} , which means the wrong fitting of these two data, and hence the errors listed are not credible for the two crude-lattice data. Except for these two wrong-fitting data, the lattice QCD data for the off-diagonal gluon mass in the MA gauge distribute around $M_{\text{off}} \approx 1.2$ GeV within about 0.1 GeV error.

We show in Fig. 5 the off-diagonal gluon mass M_{off} as the function of $1/V$, the inverse volume in the physical unit, to investigate the finite-size effect on M_{off} . In Fig. 5, we have dropped the two wrong-fitting data on the crude lattice with $12^3 \times 24$ and $\beta = 2.2, 2.23$. The systematic errors including the finite-size effect seem to be small for M_{off} .

Finally in this section, we discuss the relation between infrared Abelian dominance and the off-diagonal gluon mass $M_{\text{off}} \approx 1.2$ GeV, which is considered to be induced by the MA gauge fixing. Due to the large effective mass M_{off} , the

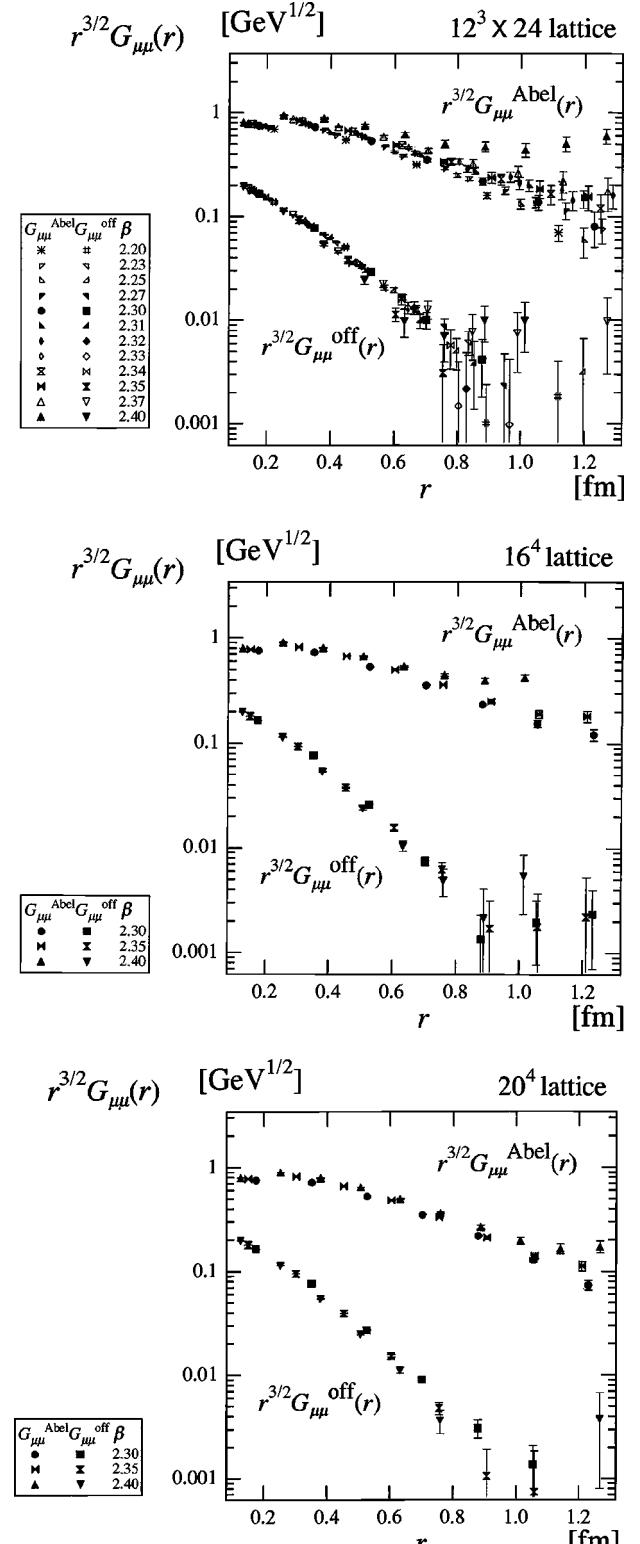


FIG. 4. The logarithmic plot of $r^{3/2}G_{\mu\mu}^{\text{off}}(r)$ and $r^{3/2}G_{\mu\mu}^{\text{Abel}}(r)$ in the $SU(2)$ lattice QCD with (a) $12^3 \times 24$ and $2.2 \leq \beta \leq 2.4$, (b) 16^4 and $2.3 \leq \beta \leq 2.4$, (c) 20^4 and $2.3 \leq \beta \leq 2.4$ in the MA gauge with the $U(1)_3$ Landau gauge fixing. The slope corresponds to the effective mass, and the effective off-diagonal gluon mass is estimated as $M_{\text{off}} \approx 1.2$ GeV for $r \gtrsim 0.2$ fm both on these lattices. The finite lattice-size effect seems to be small on the off-diagonal gluon propagator.

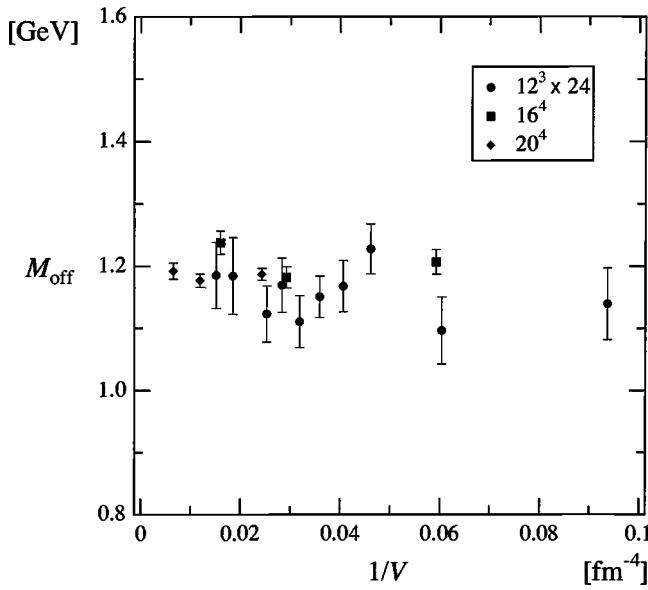


FIG. 5. The off-diagonal gluon mass M_{off} as the function of $1/V$, the inverse lattice volume in the physical unit. The off-diagonal gluon mass M_{off} is obtained from the slope analysis on the logarithmic plot of $r^{3/2}G_{\mu\mu}^{\text{off}}(r)$ at each lattice (β and the lattice size) with the fitting range of $0.2 \text{ fm} \leq r \leq 1 \text{ fm}$. In this figure, we drop the two wrong-fitting data on $12^3 \times 24$ with $\beta = 2.2$ and 2.23 , because these data show extremely large values on χ^2 (see Table II).

off-diagonal gluon propagation is restricted within about $M_{\text{off}}^{-1} \approx 0.2 \text{ fm}$ in the MA gauge. Therefore, at the infrared scale as $r \gg 0.2 \text{ fm}$, the off-diagonal gluons A_{μ}^{\pm} cannot mediate the long-range force, and only the diagonal gluon A_{μ}^3 can mediate the long-range interaction in the MA gauge. In fact, in the MA gauge, the off-diagonal gluon is expected to be inactive due to its large mass M_{off} in the infrared region in comparison with the diagonal gluon. Then, we conjecture that effective mass generation of the off-diagonal gluon in the MA gauge would be an essence of Abelian dominance in the infrared region.

VI. SUMMARY AND CONCLUDING REMARKS

In this paper, we have studied the gluon propagator and the off-diagonal gluon mass in the MA gauge with the $U(1)_3$ Landau gauge fixing using the $SU(2)$ lattice QCD. The Monte Carlo simulation is performed on the $12^3 \times 24$ lattice with $2.2 \leq \beta \leq 2.4$, and also on the 16^4 and 20^4 lattices with $2.3 \leq \beta \leq 2.4$. In the MA gauge, we have measured the Euclidean scalar-type propagators $G_{\mu\mu}(r)$ of the diagonal and the off-diagonal gluons, and have found infrared Abelian dominance for the gluon propagator. In the MA gauge, we have found that the off-diagonal gluon behaves as a massive vector boson with the effective mass $M_{\text{off}} \approx 1 \text{ GeV}$ for $r \geq 0.2 \text{ fm}$. At each lattice, we have estimated the effective off-diagonal gluon mass M_{off} from the linear fitting analysis of the logarithmic plot of $r^{3/2}G_{\mu\mu}^{\text{off}}(r)$. The off-diagonal gluon mass is estimated as $M_{\text{off}} \approx 1.2 \text{ GeV}$ with the error about 0.1 GeV . We have also checked the smallness of the finite-size effect for the off-diagonal gluon mass M_{off} in the

TABLE II. The effective off-diagonal gluon mass M_{off} obtained from the slope analysis on the logarithmic plot of $r^{3/2}G_{\mu\mu}^{\text{off}}(r)$ at each lattice (β and the lattice size) with the fitting range of $0.2 \text{ fm} \leq r \leq 1.0 \text{ fm}$. Here, χ^2 and the degrees of freedom, N_{DF} , are also listed. Except for the first two wrong-fitting data with large χ^2 , one finds $1.1 \text{ GeV} \leq M_{\text{off}} \leq 1.3 \text{ GeV}$.

Lattice size	β	M_{off}	χ^2/N_{DF}
$12^3 \times 24$	2.20	0.909(9)	21.8958/2
	2.23	0.921(9)	22.5831/2
	2.25	1.185(53)	0.2457/2
	2.27	1.184(61)	2.4423/2
	2.30	1.123(45)	0.2110/2
	2.31	1.170(44)	0.5786/2
	2.32	1.111(42)	0.5139/2
	2.33	1.151(33)	0.9888/3
	2.34	1.168(41)	0.6145/2
	2.35	1.228(40)	4.0086/2
16^4	2.37	1.096(54)	9.0845/4
	2.40	1.140(58)	11.9412/4
20^4	2.30	1.238(19)	4.0602/2
	2.35	1.182(17)	0.3777/3
	2.40	1.207(20)	2.2900/4
20^4	2.30	1.192(13)	1.0963/2
	2.35	1.177(11)	10.7148/3
	2.40	1.187(10)	6.4432/4

MA gauge, but still now, we have to consider the finite lattice-spacing effect and the Gribov copy effects [44–46] relating to the gauge fixing for more quantitative arguments.

From the behavior of the diagonal-gluon propagator $G_{\mu\mu}^{\text{Abel}}(r)$, the diagonal gluon seems to behave as a light or massless particle. However, for the detailed argument on $G_{\mu\mu}^{\text{Abel}}(r)$, one should consider the finite size effect more carefully, because the diagonal gluon may propagate over the long distance beyond the lattice size. On the other hand, the off-diagonal gluon propagation is limited within the short distance as $r \leq M_{\text{off}}^{-1} \approx 0.2 \text{ fm}$, and hence the finite size effect for $G_{\mu\mu}^{\text{off}}$ is expected to be small enough, when the lattice size is taken to be much larger than $M_{\text{off}}^{-1} \approx 0.2 \text{ fm}$. Such a tendency of the small finite-size effect on $G_{\mu\mu}^{\text{off}}$ has been checked using the lattice QCD simulation with the various volume.

Due to the large off-diagonal gluon mass as $M_{\text{off}} \approx 1.2 \text{ GeV}$, the off-diagonal gluon cannot mediate the interaction over the large distance as $r \gg M_{\text{off}}^{-1}$, and such an infrared inactivity of the off-diagonal gluon may lead infrared Abelian dominance in the MA gauge. Then, an essence of infrared Abelian dominance would be physically explained as generation of the off-diagonal gluon mass M_{off} induced by the MA gauge fixing. As an interesting conjecture, this off-diagonal gluon mass generation may provide general Abelian dominance for the long-distance physics in QCD in the MA gauge, similar to the infrared inactivity of the massive weak bosons in the Weinberg-Salam model.

Finally, we consider the criterion of the scale where Abe-

lian dominance would hold in the MA gauge. We conjecture that $M_{\text{off}}^{-1} \simeq 0.2$ fm would be regarded as the critical scale on Abelian dominance in the MA gauge. For the short distance as $r \lesssim M_{\text{off}}^{-1} \simeq 0.2$ fm, the effect of off-diagonal gluons becomes significant, and hence all the gluon components have to be considered even in the MA gauge. On the other hand, at the long distance as $r \gg M_{\text{off}}^{-1} \simeq 0.2$ fm, the off-diagonal gluon cannot mediate the interaction and would be negligible in comparison with the diagonal gluon, which may lead Abelian dominance in the MA gauge. In this way, Abelian dominance is expected to hold for the long-range physics as $r \gg M_{\text{off}}^{-1}$, and Abelian dominance would break at the short distance as $r \lesssim M_{\text{off}}^{-1}$ in QCD in the MA gauge.

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APPENDIX: FORMULA ON EUCLIDEAN PROPAGATOR

In this appendix, relating to Eqs. (7) and (11), we add several formulas on the vector boson propagator in the Euclidean metric. For the massive vector case, the scalar-type propagator $G_{\mu\mu}(r;M) \equiv \langle A_\mu(x)A_\mu(y) \rangle$ is expressed as

$$G_{\mu\mu}(r;M) = 3 \int \frac{d^4k}{(2\pi)^4} e^{ik \cdot (x-y)} \frac{1}{k^2 + M^2} + \frac{1}{M^2} \delta^4(x-y). \quad (\text{A1})$$

Since $G_{\mu\mu}(r;M)$ depends only on the four-dimensional distance $r \equiv \sqrt{(x_\mu - y_\mu)^2}$, one takes $x_\mu - y_\mu = (r, 0, 0, 0)$ without loss of generality for the calculation of $G_{\mu\mu}(r;M)$. Then, the integration in Eq. (A1) can be expressed with $K_1(z)$ as

$$\begin{aligned} \int \frac{d^4k}{(2\pi)^4} e^{ik \cdot (x-y)} \frac{1}{k^2 + M^2} &= \int \frac{d^3k}{(2\pi)^3} \left(\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{dk_0}{2\pi} e^{ik_0 r} \frac{1}{k_0^2 + \mathbf{k}^2 + M^2} \right) = \int \frac{d^3k}{(2\pi)^3} \frac{1}{2\sqrt{\mathbf{k}^2 + M^2}} e^{-\sqrt{\mathbf{k}^2 + M^2} r} \\ &= \frac{1}{4\pi^2} \int_0^{\infty} dk \frac{k^2}{\sqrt{k^2 + M^2}} e^{-\sqrt{k^2 + M^2} r} = \frac{1}{4\pi^2} \int_M^{\infty} dE e^{-Er} \sqrt{E^2 - M^2} = \frac{1}{4\pi^2} M^2 \int_1^{\infty} d\epsilon e^{-\epsilon Mr} \sqrt{\epsilon^2 - 1} \\ &= \frac{1}{4\pi^2} \frac{M}{r} K_1(Mr) \end{aligned} \quad (\text{A2})$$

with $E \equiv \sqrt{\mathbf{k}^2 + M^2}$ and $\epsilon \equiv E/M$. Here, we have used the integration formula for the modified Bessel function,

$$K_1(z) \equiv z \int_1^{\infty} dt e^{-zt} \sqrt{t^2 - 1} \quad (\Re z > 0). \quad (\text{A3})$$

Thus, the scalar-type propagator $G_{\mu\mu}(r;M)$ can be expressed as

$$G_{\mu\mu}(r;M) = \frac{3}{4\pi^2} \frac{M}{r} K_1(Mr) + \frac{1}{M^2} \delta^4(x-y). \quad (\text{A4})$$

For the massless vector case, we use the covariant Lagrangian in the Euclidean metric,

$$\mathcal{L} = \frac{1}{4} (\partial_\mu A_\nu - \partial_\nu A_\mu)^2 + \frac{1}{2\xi} (\partial_\mu A_\mu)^2 \quad (\text{A5})$$

with the gauge-fixing parameter ξ . The massless vector-boson propagator is obtained as

$$\tilde{G}_{\mu\nu}(k) \equiv \frac{1}{k^2} \left\{ \delta_{\mu\nu} + (\xi - 1) \frac{k_\mu k_\nu}{k^2} \right\} \quad (\text{A6})$$

in the momentum representation [30]. The scalar-type propagator $G_{\mu\mu}(x)$ in the coordinate space is written as

$$G_{\mu\mu}(r) \equiv \frac{3 + \xi}{4\pi^2} \frac{1}{r^2}, \quad (\text{A7})$$

which becomes Eq. (11) for the Landau gauge $\xi = 0$.

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