

6.5 Debye mass

For the loop diagrams we need $\Pi_{\mu\nu}^{ab}(k^0)$ at $k^0 = 0$ and $|\vec{k}| \ll T$. In fact, we may take the limit $\vec{k} \rightarrow 0$

In this limit

$$\Pi_3^{ab\mu\nu} = -\frac{g^2}{2} C_A \delta^{ab} \int_q \frac{1}{q^4} \left\{ (4d-2) q^\mu q^\nu + 2 \gamma^{\mu\nu} q^2 \right\}$$

rotational invariance \Rightarrow

$$\int_q \frac{q^\mu q^\nu}{q^4} = a \gamma^{\mu\nu} + b u^\mu u^\nu \quad (u = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ \vec{0} \end{pmatrix})$$

$$\text{contract with } \gamma_{\mu\nu} \Rightarrow (d+1)a + b = \int_q \frac{1}{q^2} \quad (*)$$

$$00\text{-component: } a + b = \int_q \frac{q_0^2}{q^4} \quad (**)$$

We had

$$\int_q \frac{1}{q^2} = \frac{T^2}{12}$$

Apply $T^2 \frac{d^2}{dT^2} = \frac{T}{2} \frac{d}{dT}$ on both sides \Rightarrow

$$\frac{T}{2} \frac{d}{dT} \left(T \sum_n \int \frac{d^d q}{(2\pi)^d} \frac{1}{(2\pi n T)^2 + \vec{q}^2} \right) = T \sum_n \int \frac{d^d q}{(2\pi)^d} \left\{ \frac{1}{2} \frac{1}{-q^2} - \frac{-q_0^2}{q^4} \right\}$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{T^2}{24} + \int_q \frac{q_0^2}{q^4} = \frac{T^2}{12} \Rightarrow \boxed{\int_q \frac{q_0^2}{q^4} = \frac{T^2}{24}}$$

$$(*) - (***) \Rightarrow d \cdot a = \int_q \left(\frac{1}{q^2} - \frac{q_0^2}{q^4} \right) = \frac{T^2}{12} \left(-1 - \frac{1}{2} \right) = -\frac{T^2}{8}$$

$$a = -\frac{T^2}{24}, \quad b = -a + \int_q \frac{q_0^2}{q^4} = T^2 \left(\frac{1}{24} + \frac{1}{24} \right) = \frac{T^2}{12}$$

$$\int_q \frac{q^\mu q^\nu}{q^4} = \frac{T^2}{24} (-\gamma^{\mu\nu} + 2 u^\mu u^\nu)$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \Pi_3^{ab\mu\nu} &= -\frac{1}{2} g^2 T^2 C_A \delta^{ab} \left\{ 10 \frac{1}{24} (-\gamma^{\mu\nu} + 2u^\mu u^\nu) - \frac{1}{12} 2\gamma^{\mu\nu} \right\} \\
 &= \frac{1}{12} \left\{ (-5-2)\gamma^{\mu\nu} + 10u^\mu u^\nu \right\} \\
 &= -\frac{g^2}{24} T^2 C_A \delta^{ab} (-7\gamma^{\mu\nu} + 10u^\mu u^\nu)
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \Pi_4^{ab\mu\nu} &= -g^2 C_A \delta^{ab} \gamma^{\mu\nu} d \underbrace{\Delta(0)}_{= \int_q \frac{1}{q^2} = \frac{T^2}{12}} = -\frac{g^2}{24} T^2 C_A \delta^{ab} 6\gamma^{\mu\nu} \\
 &= -\frac{g^2}{24} T^2 C_A \delta^{ab} 6\gamma^{\mu\nu}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\Pi_{gh}^{ab\mu\nu} = g^2 C_A \delta^{ab} \int_q \frac{q^\mu q^\nu}{q^4} = -\frac{g^2}{24} T^2 C_A \delta^{ab} (\gamma^{\mu\nu} - 2u^\mu u^\nu)$$

$$\Pi_{fermion}^{ab\mu\nu} = -\frac{g^2}{3} T^2 \underbrace{\text{tr}(T^a T^b)}_{= \frac{1}{2} \delta^{ab}} N_f u^\mu u^\nu = -\frac{g^2}{24} T^2 4N_f u^\mu u^\nu$$

\Rightarrow

$$\begin{aligned}
 \lim_{\vec{k} \rightarrow 0} \Pi^{ab\mu\nu}(0, \vec{k}) &= -\frac{g^2}{24} T^2 \delta^{ab} \left\{ C_A [(-7+6+1)\gamma^{\mu\nu} \right. \\
 &\quad \left. + (10-2)u^\mu u^\nu] + N_f 4u^\mu u^\nu \right\}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\lim_{\vec{k} \rightarrow 0} \Pi_{\mu\nu}^{ab}(0, \vec{k}) = -g^2 T^2 \delta^{ab} \left(\frac{C_A}{3} + \frac{N_F}{6} \right) u_\mu u_\nu$$

$$\lim_{\vec{k} \rightarrow 0} \Pi_{00}^{ab}(0, \vec{k}) = -\delta^{ab} m_D^2 \quad (*)$$

$$m_D^2 = g^2 T^2 \left(\frac{C_A}{3} + \frac{N_F}{6} \right) \quad \text{Debye mass}$$

$$\lim_{\vec{k} \rightarrow 0} \Pi_{m\nu}^{ab}(0, \vec{k}) = 0$$

Like in QED, only A_0 receives a thermal mass m_D .

The loop momenta q contributing to (*) are of order T , while in the tree diagrams $|\vec{k}|$ is of order $m_D \sim gT$.

Therefore (*) is called a hard thermal loop (HTL), while \vec{k} is called soft.

7 Dimensional reduction

We have seen that the IR-divergent and IR-sensitive contributions are due to momenta with $p^0 = 0$.

These come from the $\omega_n = 0$ Fourier modes of bosonic fields. These fields live in d dimensions, where $d \rightarrow 3$ in the end.

Thus the IR-sensitive contributions are determined by a 3-dimensional QFT.

Constructing this theory will allow us to make the IR resummation more systematic and transparent. But we start with a simple and interesting argument:

7.1 The Liddle problem

Consider the $\omega_n = 0$ sector of some thermal QFT with coupling constant g



Each additional loop comes with a factor g^2 and with a factor T from $T \int \frac{d^d k}{(2\pi)^d} \xrightarrow{\text{only } n=0} T \int d^d k$

[For scalars with interaction $\lambda \phi^4$, g^2 corresponds to 2λ .]

Thus it looks like the loop expansion parameter is $g^2 T$. But $g^2 T$ is not dimensionless.

Suppose the 3d QFT has a mass parameter m .

Then the expansion parameter is $\frac{g^2 T}{m}$.

For A_0^a in QCD this would be $m \sim g T$, $\frac{g^2 T}{m} \sim g$

[for the scalar field: $m \sim \sqrt{\lambda} T$, $\frac{\lambda T}{m} \sim \sqrt{\lambda}$]

For A_0 , and the scalar field the thermal mass is generated by "hard" momenta $|\vec{k}| \sim T$, through the hard thermal loops (HTL).

But what if there is no HTL, which is the case for \vec{A}^2 or an IR cutoff

Then a mass could be generated by the 3-d theory itself.


Then the only parameter is $g^2 T$. Then we must have

$$m \sim g^2 T$$

and the expansion parameter would be $\frac{g^2 T}{m} \sim 1$

Such contributions would not be perturbatively calculable.

How big would be their contribution to the pressure?

$P_{\text{non-pert.}} \sim$  $\sim g^2 T^2 m^2 \sim g^2 T^2 (g^2 T)^2 \Rightarrow$

to get the dimensions right

2 loops

$$P_{\text{non-perturbative}} \sim g^6 T^4$$