

# The (non-)perturbative nature of atoms and hadrons

Complutense University, Madrid, 13 October 2021

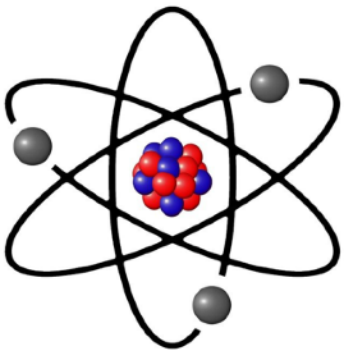
Paul Hoyer

University of Helsinki

I. Features of bound states

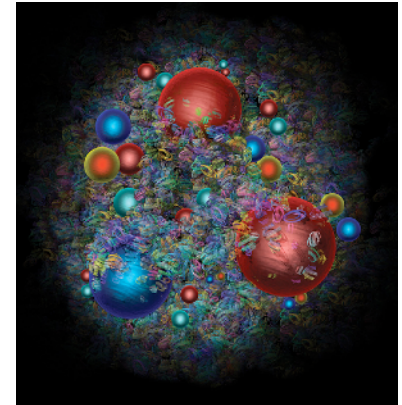
II. A method for all frames

III. Applications to hadrons



Atom

From QED to QCD



Nucleon

# THE STATE IS NOT ABOLISHED, IT WITHERS<sup>2</sup> AWAY: HOW QUANTUM FIELD THEORY BECAME A THEORY OF SCATTERING

Alexander S. Blum<sup>†</sup>

Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Boltzmannstraße 22, 14195  
Berlin, Germany

12th November 2020

Learning quantum field theory (QFT) for the first time, after first learning quantum mechanics (QM), one is (or maybe, rather, I was) struck by the change of emphasis: **The notion of the quantum state**, which plays such an essential role in QM, from the stationary states of the Bohr atom, over the Schrödinger equation to the interpretation debates over measurement and collapse, **seems to fade from view when doing QFT.**

2011.0598

# I. Features of bound states

# Atoms from the QED action

The Schrödinger equation is **postulated** in Introductory Quantum Mechanics.

In QFT it should be **derived** from  $S_{QED}$ . *C.f.:*  $\sqrt{M^2 + P^2} \simeq M + P^2/2M$

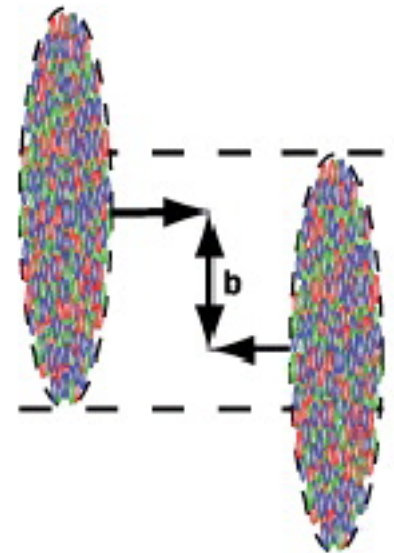
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(How) is the classical relativistic concept of contraction realised in QFT?



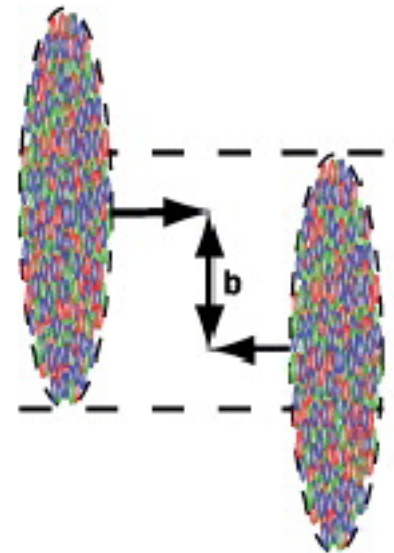
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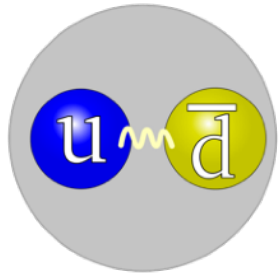
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**What is the wave function of Positronium in motion?**

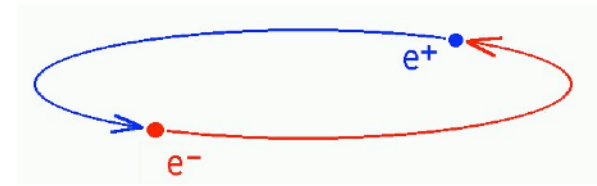
# The unbearable likeness of hadrons and atoms



QCD Meson

Hadrons are strongly bound

$$M_N \gg 2m_u + m_d$$

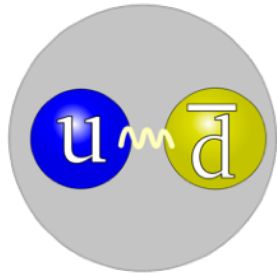


QED Positronium

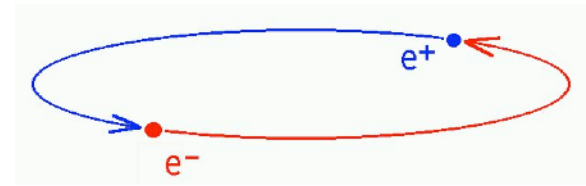
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# The unbearable likeness of hadrons and atoms



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QED Positronium

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Yet hadron quantum numbers reflect their valence quarks:

$$q\bar{q}, qqq \quad n^{2s+1} \ell_J$$

**Paradox:**

Hadrons are **strongly bound**, but their quantum numbers indicates **weak binding**.

Atoms are weakly bound

$$M_{Pos} = (2 - \frac{1}{4}\alpha^2)m_e$$

PDG

$n^{2s+1}\ell_J$	$J^{PC}$	$I = 1$ $u\bar{d}, \bar{u}d,$ $\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(d\bar{d} - u\bar{u})$	$I = \frac{1}{2}$ $u\bar{s}, d\bar{s};$ $\bar{d}s, \bar{u}s$	$I = 0$ $f'$	$I = 0$ $f$	$\theta_{quad}$ [°]	$\theta_{lin}$ [°]
$1^1S_0$	$0^{-+}$	$\pi$	$K$	$\eta$	$\eta'(958)$	-11.3	-24.5
$1^3S_1$	$1^{--}$	$\rho(770)$	$K^*(892)$	$\phi(1020)$	$\omega(782)$	39.2	36.5
$1^1P_1$	$1^{+-}$	$b_1(1235)$	$K_{1B}^\dagger$	$h_1(1415)$	$h_1(1170)$		
$1^3P_0$	$0^{++}$	$a_0(1450)$	$K_0^*(1430)$	$f_0(1710)$	$f_0(1370)$		
$1^3P_1$	$1^{++}$	$a_1(1260)$	$K_{1A}^\dagger$	$f_1(1420)$	$f_1(1285)$		
$1^3P_2$	$2^{++}$	$a_2(1320)$	$K_2^*(1430)$	$f_2'(1525)$	$f_2(1270)$	29.6	28.0
$1^1D_2$	$2^{-+}$	$\pi_2(1670)$	$K_2(1770)^\dagger$	$\eta_2(1870)$	$\eta_2(1645)$		
$1^3D_1$	$1^{--}$	$\rho(1700)$	$K^*(1680)^\ddagger$		$\omega(1650)$		
$1^3D_2$	$2^{--}$		$K_2(1820)^\dagger$				
$1^3D_3$	$3^{--}$	$\rho_3(1690)$	$K_3^*(1780)$	$\phi_3(1850)$	$\omega_3(1670)$	31.8	30.8
$1^3F_4$	$4^{++}$	$a_4(1970)$	$K_4^*(2045)$	$f_4(2300)$	$f_4(2050)$		
$1^3G_5$	$5^{--}$	$\rho_5(2350)$	$K_5^*(2380)$				
$2^1S_0$	$0^{-+}$	$\pi(1300)$	$K(1460)$	$\eta(1475)$	$\eta(1295)$		
$2^3S_1$	$1^{--}$	$\rho(1450)$	$K^*(1410)^\ddagger$	$\phi(1680)$	$\omega(1420)$		
$2^3P_1$	$1^{++}$	$a_1(1640)$					
$2^3P_2$	$2^{++}$	$a_2(1700)$	$K_2^*(1980)$	$f_2(1950)$	$f_2(1640)$		



# Strongly bound Positronium in QED<sub>2</sub> (D = 1+1)

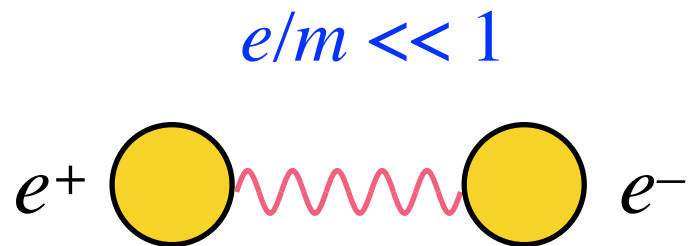
In QED<sub>2</sub> the spectrum can be determined both for weak ( $e/m \ll 1$ ) and strong ( $e/m \gg 1$ ) coupling

S. Coleman,  
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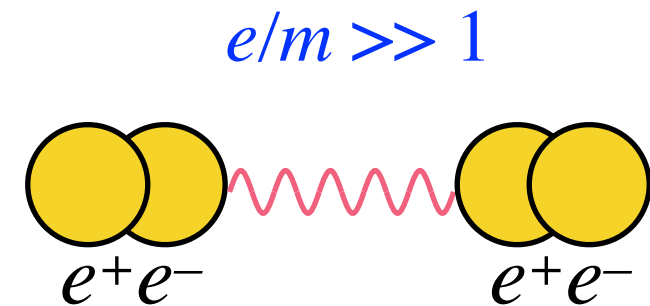
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Bound states of weakly  
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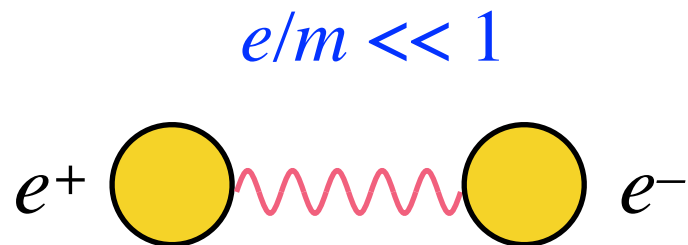


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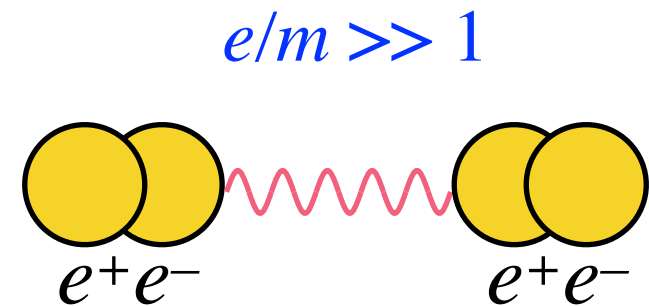
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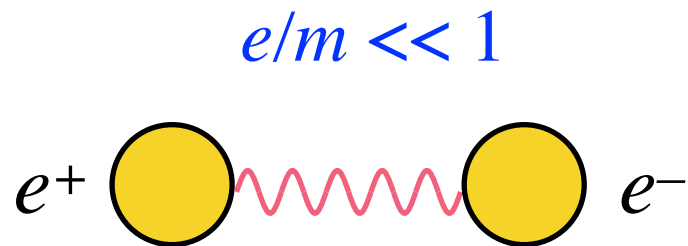
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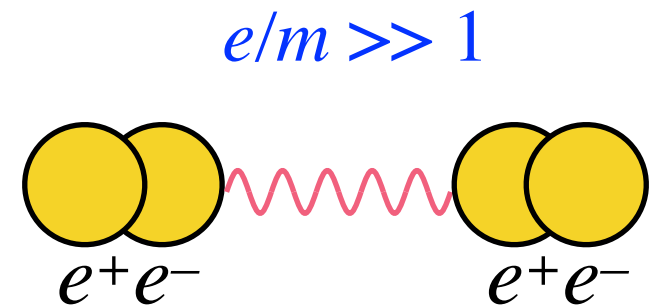
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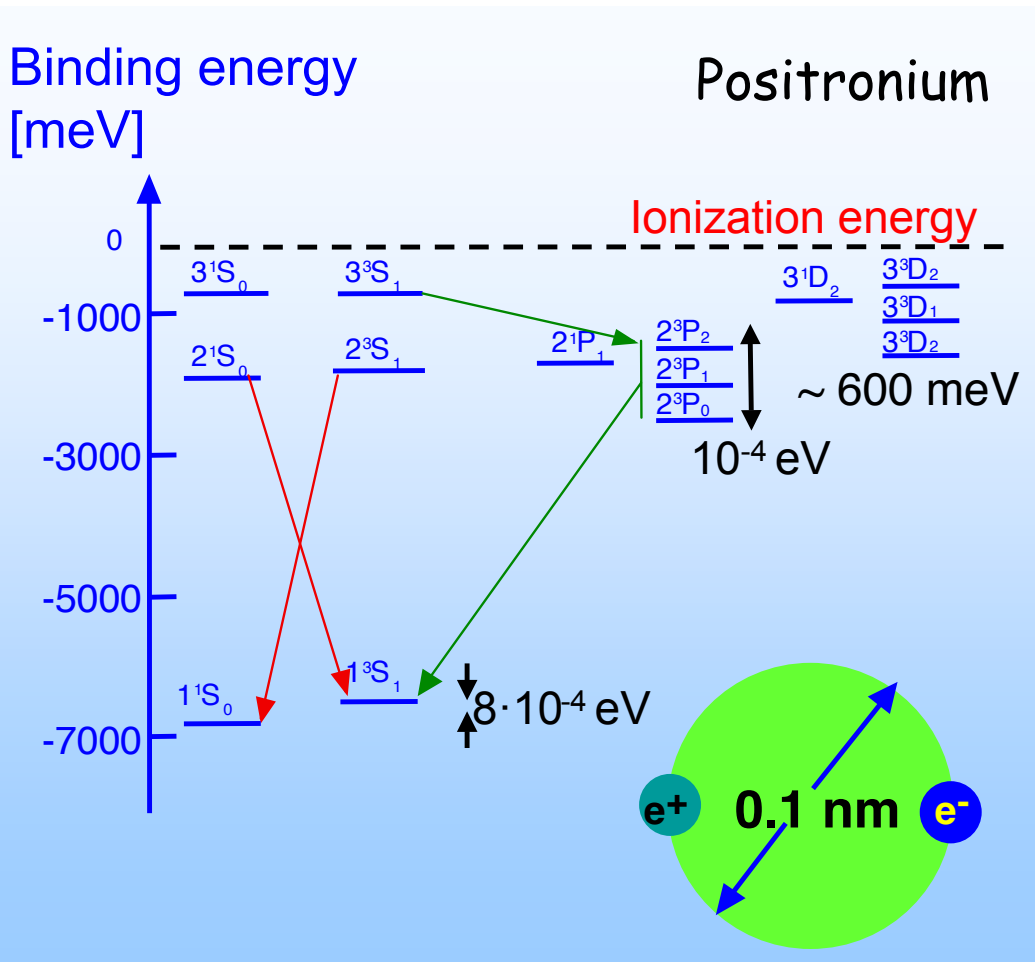


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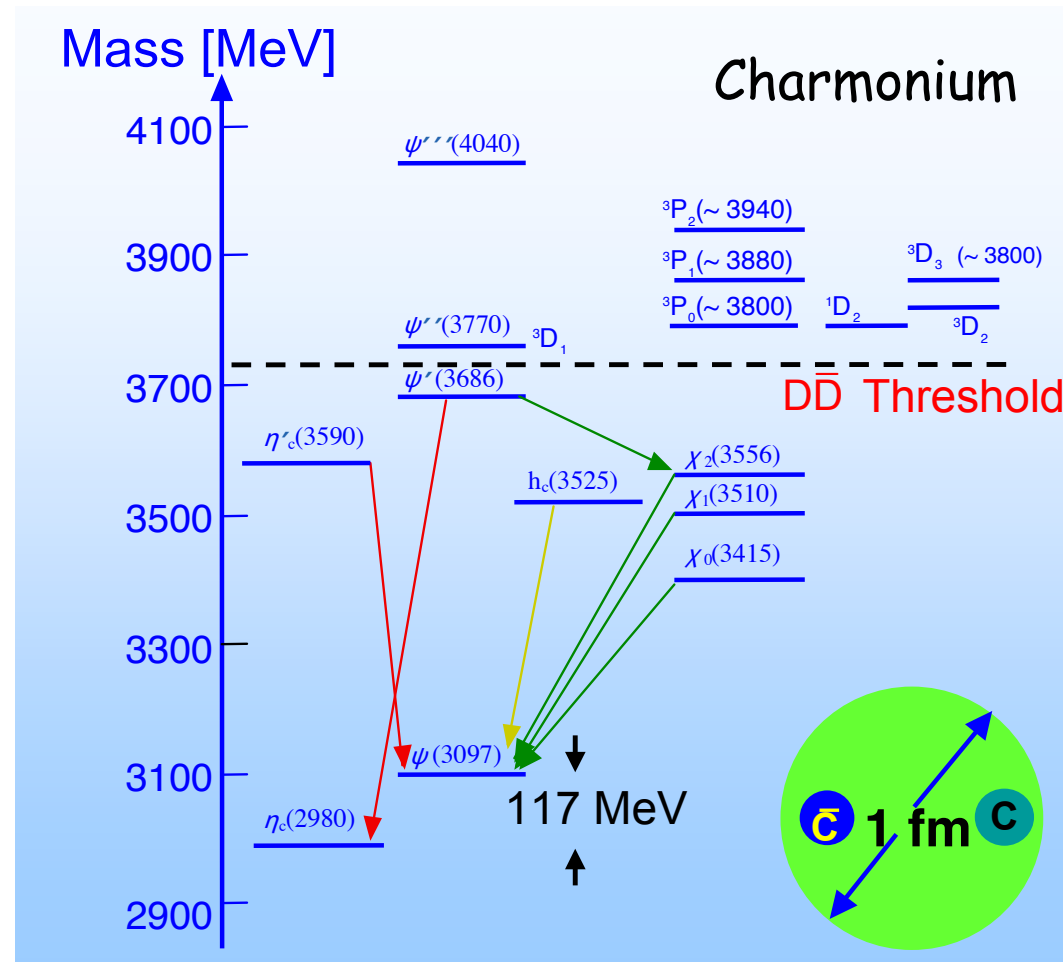
For  $e/m \rightarrow \infty$  QED<sub>2</sub> describes a non-interacting, pointlike boson field.

The hadron spectrum suggests weakly bound valence quarks, yet the binding energies are large, indicating strong coupling.

# Quarkonia are like atoms with confinement



$$V(r) = -\frac{\alpha}{r}$$

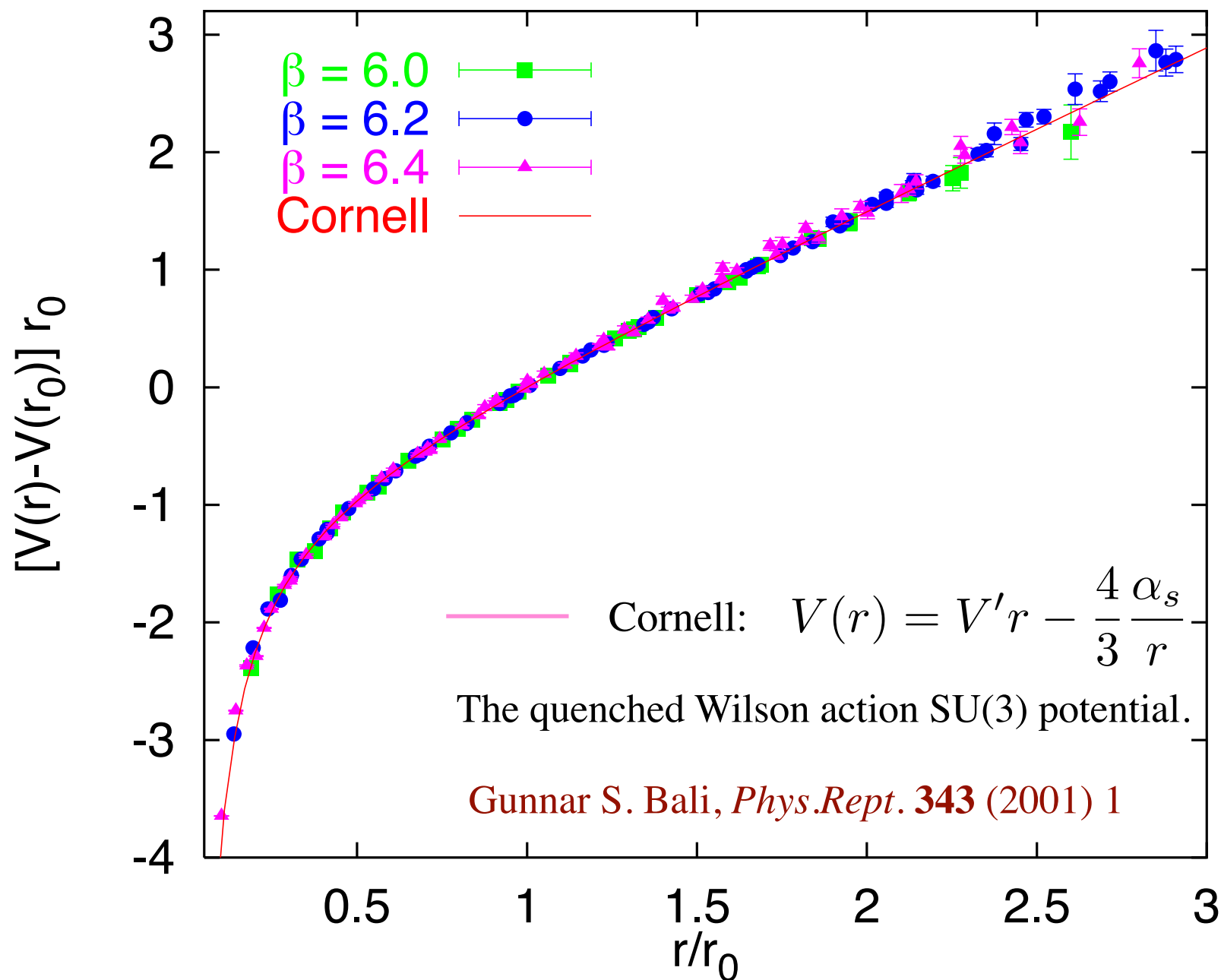


$$V(r) = V' r - \frac{4}{3} \frac{\alpha_s}{r} \quad (1980)$$

E. Eichten, S. Godfrey, H. Mahlke and J. L. Rosner,  
Rev. Mod. Phys. **80** (2008) 1161

“The  $J/\psi$  is the Hydrogen atom of QCD”

# Lattice QCD agrees with the Cornell potential



# Confinement with a classical potential

The Cornell potential with the Schrödinger equation

$$V(r) = V' r - \frac{4}{3} \frac{\alpha_s}{r} \quad \text{with} \quad V' \simeq 0.18 \text{ GeV}^2, \quad \alpha_s \simeq 0.39$$

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Consider the perturbative methods developed for QED atoms

**Example:** Hyperfine splitting in Positronium

G. S. Adkins,

Hyperfine Interact. **233** (2015) 59

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta\nu_{QED} = m_e\alpha^4 & \left\{ \frac{7}{12} - \frac{\alpha}{\pi} \left( \frac{8}{9} + \frac{\ln 2}{2} \right) \right. \\ & + \frac{\alpha^2}{\pi^2} \left[ -\frac{5}{24}\pi^2 \ln \alpha + \frac{1367}{648} - \frac{5197}{3456}\pi^2 + \left( \frac{221}{144}\pi^2 + \frac{1}{2} \right) \ln 2 - \frac{53}{32}\zeta(3) \right] \\ & \left. - \frac{7\alpha^3}{8\pi} \ln^2 \alpha + \frac{\alpha^3}{\pi} \ln \alpha \left( \frac{17}{3} \ln 2 - \frac{217}{90} \right) + \mathcal{O}(\alpha^3) \right\} = 203.39169(41) \text{ GHz} \end{aligned}$$

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Only the rest frame is considered.

## II. A method for all frames

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**Physics guides the proper choice of initial state.**

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Positronium  $|e^+e^- \rangle$  states have an instantaneous  $-\alpha/r$  potential.

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**Initial bound states** are simplified by an instantaneous potential

$\Rightarrow$  Coulomb ( $\nabla \cdot \mathbf{A}_L = 0$ ) or temporal ( $A^0 = 0$ ) gauge are preferable



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- Canonical quantisation straightforward (**unlike** in  $\nabla \cdot \mathbf{A} = 0$  gauge)

$$[E^i(t, \mathbf{x}), A^j(t, \mathbf{y})] = i\delta^{ij}\delta(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y})$$

- Time-independent gauge transformations are fixed by Gauss constraint

$$\frac{\delta S}{\delta A^0(t, \mathbf{x})} |phys\rangle = 0$$

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QED: 
$$\mathbf{E}_L(t, \mathbf{x}) |phys\rangle = -\nabla_x \int d\mathbf{y} \frac{e}{4\pi|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}|} \psi^\dagger \psi(t, \mathbf{y}) |phys\rangle$$

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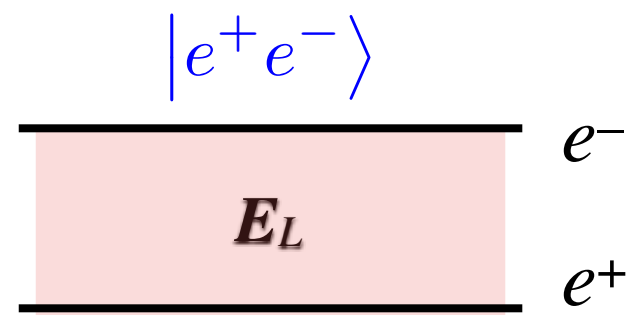
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$\mathcal{H}_V \equiv \frac{1}{2} \int d\mathbf{x} \mathbf{E}_L^2$  gives the potential energy. For  $|e^-(\mathbf{x}_1) e^+(\mathbf{x}_2)\rangle$ ,

$$\mathcal{H}_V \bar{\psi}_\alpha(\mathbf{x}_1) \psi_\beta(\mathbf{x}_2) |0\rangle = -\frac{\alpha}{|\mathbf{x}_1 - \mathbf{x}_2|} \bar{\psi}_\alpha(\mathbf{x}_1) \psi_\beta(\mathbf{x}_2) |0\rangle$$

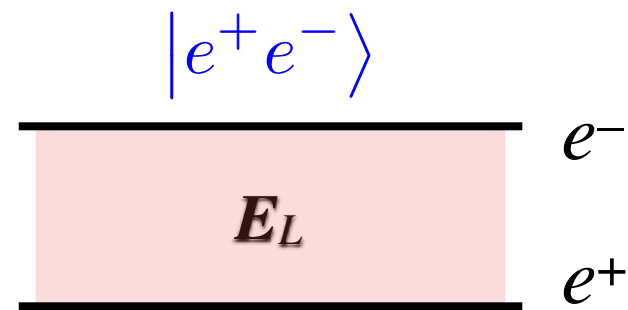
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The initial state is chosen to be the  $|e^+e^-\rangle$  Fock state, bound by the classical field  $\mathbf{E}_L$  of its constituents:

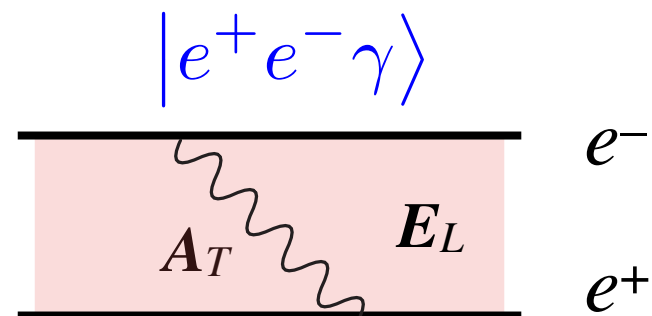


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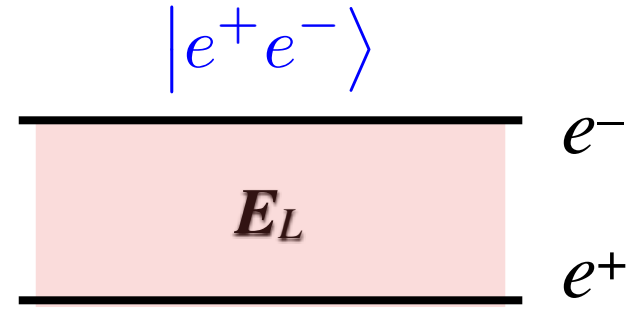


Higher order corrections given by states with **transverse photons and  $e^+e^-$  pairs**, as determined by  $H |e^+e^-\rangle$ , etc.

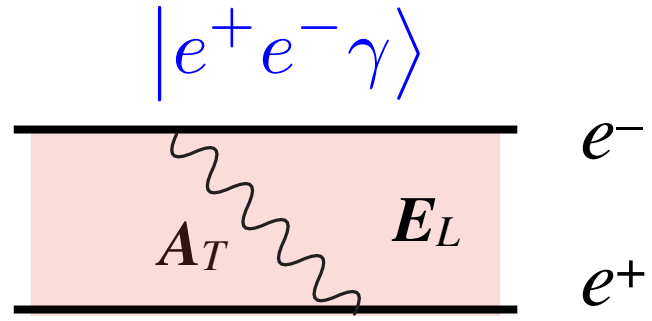


# Fock state expansion for Positronium in $A^0=0$ gauge

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Each Fock component of the bound state includes the instantaneous  $E_L$  field in  $H_V$ .

This Fock expansion is valid in any frame.

# Positronium in motion: Contraction

The binding energy in the rest frame ( $P = 0$ ) is  $E_b = -\alpha^2 m_e/4 + O(\alpha^4)$

At large momenta  $P$  the binding is  $\propto 1/P$  :

$$\Delta E(P) \equiv \sqrt{P^2 + (2m_e + E_b)^2} - \sqrt{P^2 + 4m_e^2} = \frac{2m_e E_b}{P} + \mathcal{O}(\alpha^4)$$



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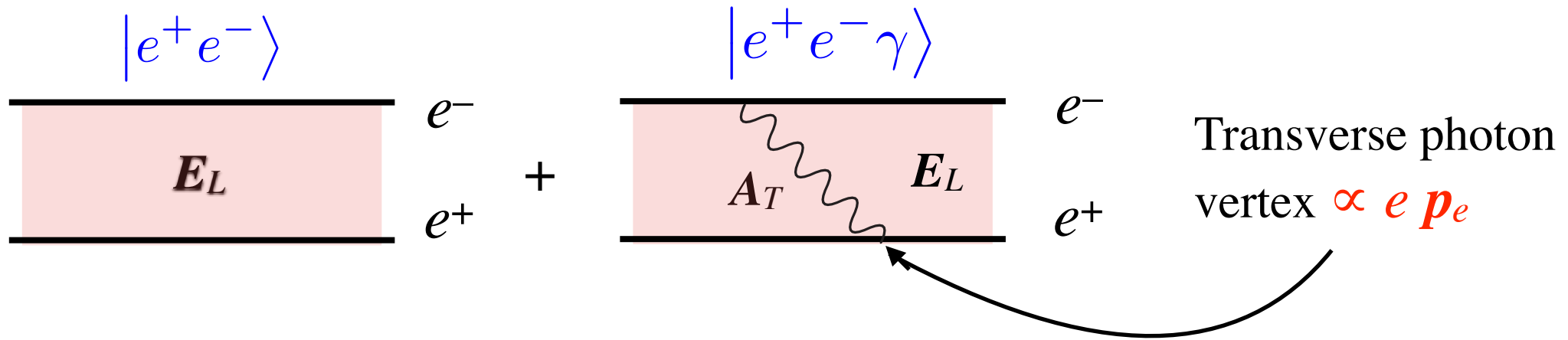
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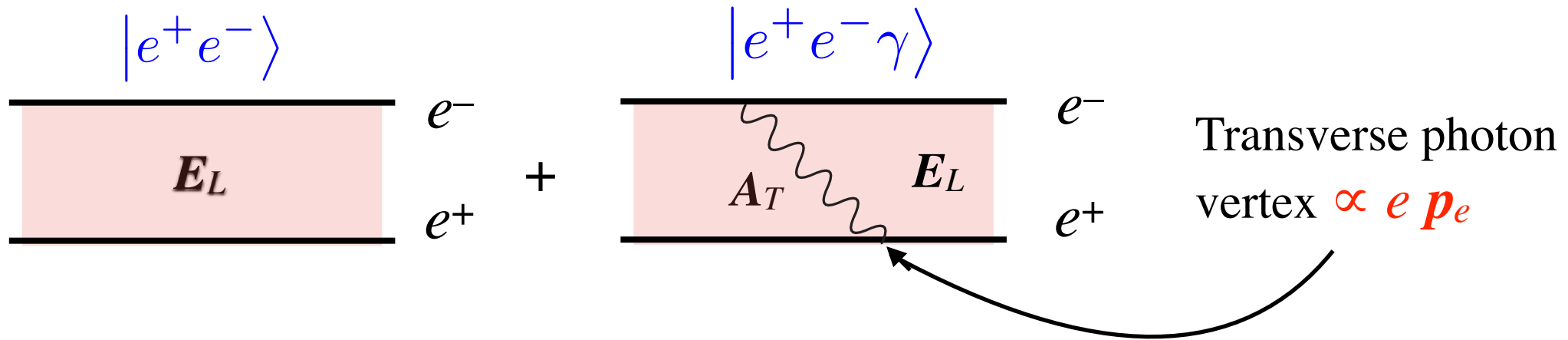
$v=.866c$   
 $\gamma=2$

There must be more than contraction going on!

# Positronium in motion: Fock expansion

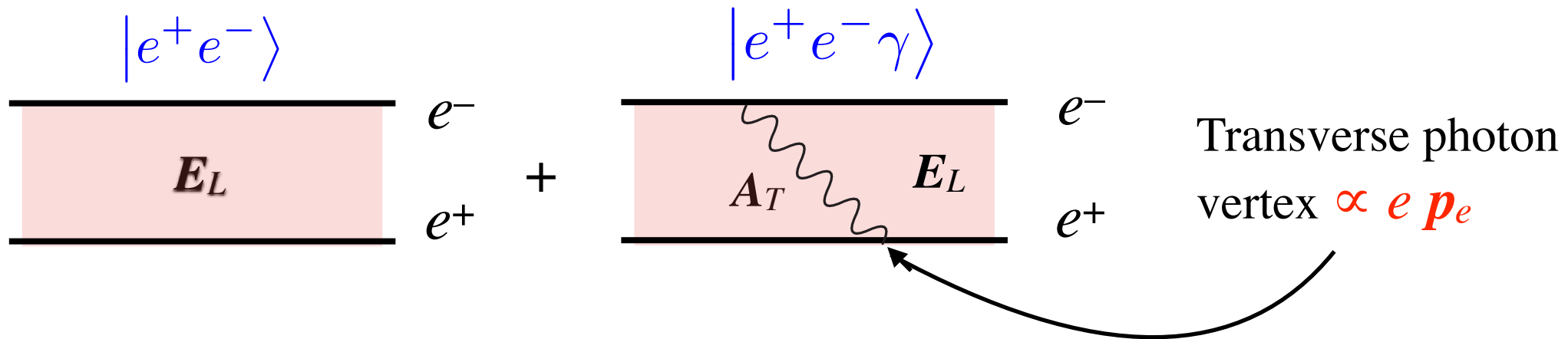


# Positronium in motion: Fock expansion



In the rest frame:  $\mathbf{p}_e \approx \alpha m_e$ : transverse photon contribution is  $O(\alpha^4)$

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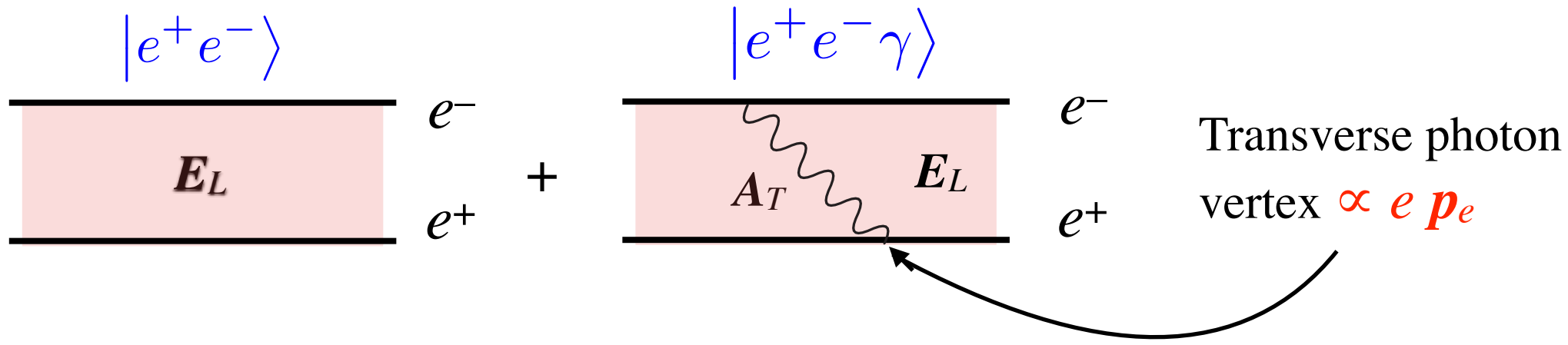
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M. Järvinen, Phys. Rev. **D71** (2005) 085006, PH 2101.06721

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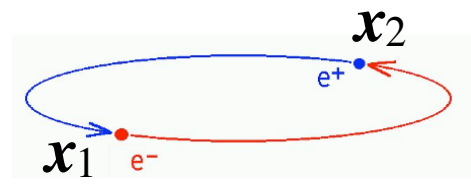
**QFT gets things right when it is treated correctly**

## III. Applications to hadrons

# The classical fields of QED and QCD differ

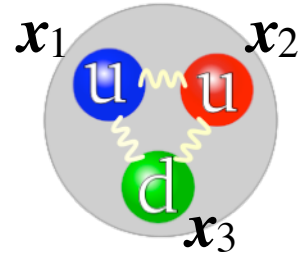
**Global gauge invariance** allows a classical gauge field for neutral atoms, but **not** a color octet gluon field for color singlet hadrons.

Positronium (QED)



$$\mathbf{E}_L(\mathbf{x}) = -\frac{e}{4\pi} \nabla_x \left( \frac{1}{|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_1|} - \frac{1}{|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_2|} \right)$$

Proton (QCD)



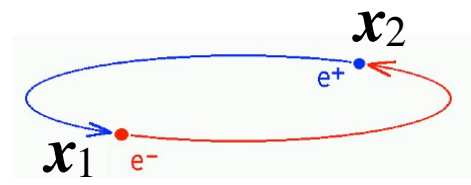
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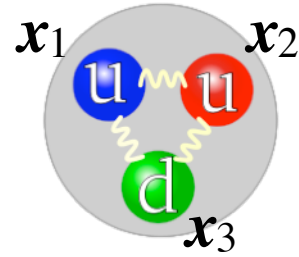
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There is a classical gluon field for each color component  $C$  of the proton

$$\mathbf{E}_L^a(\mathbf{x}, C) \neq 0$$

The blue quark is bound by the  $\mathbf{E}_L^a(\mathbf{x}, C)$  field of the red and green quarks.

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An external observer sees no field:  
The gluon field generated by a color singlet state **vanishes**.

$$\sum_C \mathbf{E}_L^a(\mathbf{x}, C) = 0$$

# Temporal gauge in QCD: $A_a^0 = 0$

Gauss' **gauge constraint** determines  $\mathbf{E}_{L,a}$  for all hadron Fock states:

$$\partial_i E_{L,a}^i(\mathbf{x}) |phys\rangle = g \left[ -f_{abc} A_b^i E_c^i + \psi^\dagger T^a \psi(\mathbf{x}) \right] |phys\rangle$$

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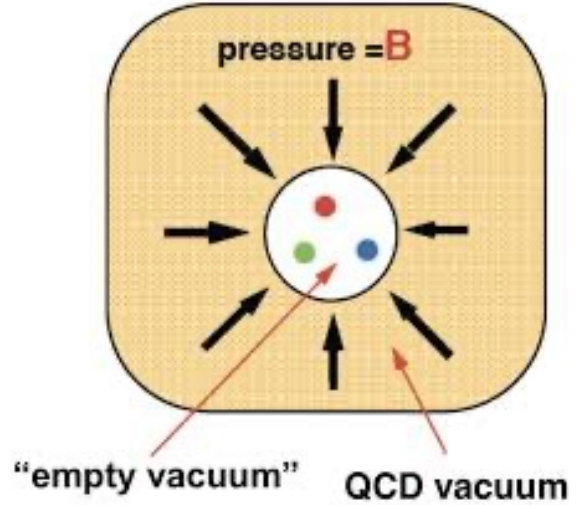
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“Bag model without a bag”

The potential energy  $\mathcal{H}_V \equiv \frac{1}{2} \int d\mathbf{x} \sum_a \mathbf{E}_L^a \cdot \mathbf{E}_L^a$

$$H_V = \int d\mathbf{y} d\mathbf{z} \left\{ \mathbf{y} \cdot \mathbf{z} \left[ \frac{1}{2} \kappa^2 \int d\mathbf{x} + g\kappa \right] + \frac{1}{2} \frac{\alpha_s}{|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{z}|} \right\} \mathcal{E}_a(\mathbf{y}) \mathcal{E}_a(\mathbf{z})$$

Recall:  $\mathcal{E}_a(\mathbf{y}) = -f_{abc} A_b^i E_c^i(\mathbf{y}) + \psi^\dagger T^a \psi(\mathbf{y})$

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Meson component:  $|q(\mathbf{x}_1) \bar{q}(\mathbf{x}_2)\rangle \equiv \sum_A \bar{\psi}^A(\mathbf{x}_1) \psi^A(\mathbf{x}_2) |0\rangle$

$$V_{q\bar{q}}(\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2) = \Lambda^2 |\mathbf{x}_1 - \mathbf{x}_2| - C_F \frac{\alpha_s}{|\mathbf{x}_1 - \mathbf{x}_2|}$$

Field energy density:

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This potential is valid also for relativistic  $q\bar{q}$  Fock states, in any frame

The linear potential is of  $\mathcal{O}(\alpha^0)$

# Baryon Fock state potential

Baryon:  $|q(\mathbf{x}_1)q(\mathbf{x}_2)q(\mathbf{x}_3)\rangle \equiv \sum_{A,B,C} \epsilon_{ABC} \psi_A^\dagger(\mathbf{x}_1) \psi_B^\dagger(\mathbf{x}_2) \psi_C^\dagger(\mathbf{x}_3) |0\rangle$

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$$V_{qqq}(\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2, \mathbf{x}_3) = \Lambda^2 d_{qqq}(\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2, \mathbf{x}_3) - \frac{2}{3} \alpha_s \left( \frac{1}{|\mathbf{x}_1 - \mathbf{x}_2|} + \frac{1}{|\mathbf{x}_2 - \mathbf{x}_3|} + \frac{1}{|\mathbf{x}_3 - \mathbf{x}_1|} \right)$$

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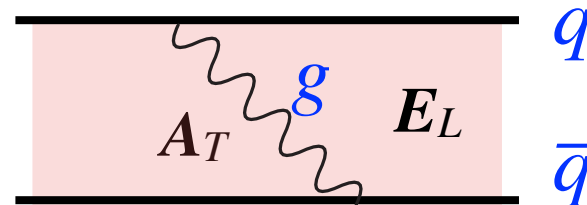
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For  $\mathbf{x}_2 = \mathbf{x}_3$  the baryon potential reduces to the meson one:

$$V_{qqq}(\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2, \mathbf{x}_2) = \Lambda^2 |\mathbf{x}_1 - \mathbf{x}_2| - \frac{4}{3} \frac{\alpha_s}{|\mathbf{x}_1 - \mathbf{x}_2|} = V_{q\bar{q}}(\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2)$$

# The $qg\bar{q}$ potential

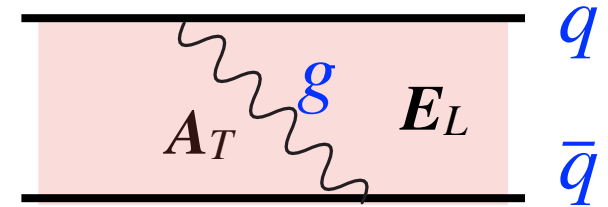
A  $q\bar{q}$  state, after the emission of a transverse gluon:



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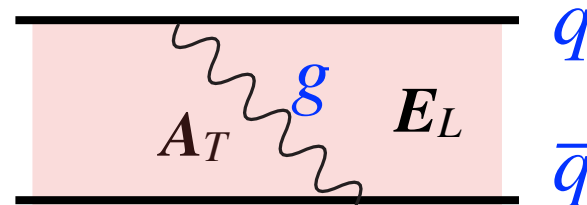
$$V_{qgq}^{(0)}(\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_g, \mathbf{x}_2) = \frac{\Lambda^2}{\sqrt{C_F}} d_{qgq}(\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_g, \mathbf{x}_2) \quad (\text{universal } \Lambda)$$

$$d_{qgq}(\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_g, \mathbf{x}_2) \equiv \sqrt{\frac{1}{4}(N - 2/N)(\mathbf{x}_1 - \mathbf{x}_2)^2 + N(\mathbf{x}_g - \frac{1}{2}\mathbf{x}_1 - \frac{1}{2}\mathbf{x}_2)^2}$$

$$V_{qgq}^{(1)}(\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_g, \mathbf{x}_2) = \frac{1}{2} \alpha_s \left[ \frac{1}{N} \frac{1}{|\mathbf{x}_1 - \mathbf{x}_2|} - N \left( \frac{1}{|\mathbf{x}_1 - \mathbf{x}_g|} + \frac{1}{|\mathbf{x}_2 - \mathbf{x}_g|} \right) \right]$$

# The $qg\bar{q}$ potential

A  $q\bar{q}$  state, after the emission of a transverse gluon:



$$|q(\mathbf{x}_1)g(\mathbf{x}_g)\bar{q}(\mathbf{x}_2)\rangle \equiv \sum_{A,B,b} \bar{\psi}_A(\mathbf{x}_1) A_b^j(\mathbf{x}_g) T_{AB}^b \psi_B(\mathbf{x}_2) |0\rangle$$

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When  $q$  and  $g$  coincide:

$$V_{qgq}^{(0)}(\mathbf{x}_1 = \mathbf{x}_g, \mathbf{x}_2) = \Lambda^2 |\mathbf{x}_1 - \mathbf{x}_2| = V_{q\bar{q}}^{(0)}$$

$$V_{qgq}^{(1)}(\mathbf{x}_1 = \mathbf{x}_g, \mathbf{x}_2) = V_{q\bar{q}}^{(1)}$$

# The gg potential

A “glueball” component:  $|g(\mathbf{x}_1)g(\mathbf{x}_2)\rangle \equiv \sum_a A_a^i(\mathbf{x}_1) A_a^j(\mathbf{x}_2) |0\rangle$

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This agrees with the  $qg\bar{q}$  potential where the quarks coincide:

$$V_{gg}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}_g) = V_{qg\bar{q}}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}_g, \mathbf{x})$$

It is straightforward to work out the instantaneous potential for any Fock state.

# $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^0)$ $q\bar{q}$ bound states

An  $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^0)$  meson state with  $\mathbf{P} = 0$  and wave function  $\Phi$ :

$$|M\rangle = \sum_{A,B;\alpha,\beta} \int d\mathbf{x}_1 d\mathbf{x}_2 \bar{\psi}_\alpha^A(t=0, \mathbf{x}_1) \delta^{AB} \Phi_{\alpha\beta}(\mathbf{x}_1 - \mathbf{x}_2) \psi_\beta^B(t=0, \mathbf{x}_2) |0\rangle$$

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The (rest frame) bound state condition  $H |M\rangle = M |M\rangle$  gives, at  $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^0)$

$$[i\gamma^0 \boldsymbol{\gamma} \cdot \vec{\nabla} + m\gamma^0] \Phi(\mathbf{x}) + \Phi(\mathbf{x}) [i\gamma^0 \boldsymbol{\gamma} \cdot \overleftarrow{\nabla} - m\gamma^0] = [M - V(|\mathbf{x}|)] \Phi(\mathbf{x})$$

where  $\mathbf{x} \equiv \mathbf{x}_1 - \mathbf{x}_2$  and  $V(|\mathbf{x}|) = V'|\mathbf{x}| = \Lambda^2|\mathbf{x}|$ .



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In the non-relativistic limit ( $m \gg \Lambda$ ) this reduces to the Schrödinger equation.

If we add the instantaneous gluon exchange potential:

$\Rightarrow$  The quarkonium phenomenology with the Cornell potential.

# Separation of radial and angular variables

$$i\nabla \cdot \{\gamma^0 \boldsymbol{\gamma}, \Phi(\mathbf{x})\} + m [\gamma^0, \Phi(\mathbf{x})] = [M - V(\mathbf{x})] \Phi(\mathbf{x})$$

Expanding the  $4 \times 4$  wave function  
in a basis of 16 Dirac structures  $\Gamma_i(\mathbf{x})$

$$\Phi(\mathbf{x}) = \sum_i \Gamma_i(\mathbf{x}) F_i(r) Y_{j\lambda}(\hat{\mathbf{x}})$$

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$$\begin{aligned}
 0^{-+} \text{ trajectory } [s=0, \ell=j] : & \quad -\eta_P = \eta_C = (-1)^j \quad \gamma_5, \gamma^0 \gamma_5, \gamma_5 \boldsymbol{\alpha} \cdot \mathbf{x}, \gamma_5 \boldsymbol{\alpha} \cdot \mathbf{x} \times \mathbf{L} \\
 0^{--} \text{ trajectory } [s=1, \ell=j] : & \quad \eta_P = \eta_C = -(-1)^j \quad \gamma^0 \gamma_5 \boldsymbol{\alpha} \cdot \mathbf{x}, \gamma^0 \gamma_5 \boldsymbol{\alpha} \cdot \mathbf{x} \times \mathbf{L}, \boldsymbol{\alpha} \cdot \mathbf{L}, \gamma^0 \boldsymbol{\alpha} \cdot \mathbf{L} \\
 0^{++} \text{ trajectory } [s=1, \ell=j \pm 1] : & \quad \eta_P = \eta_C = +(-1)^j \quad 1, \boldsymbol{\alpha} \cdot \mathbf{x}, \gamma^0 \boldsymbol{\alpha} \cdot \mathbf{x}, \boldsymbol{\alpha} \cdot \mathbf{x} \times \mathbf{L}, \gamma^0 \boldsymbol{\alpha} \cdot \mathbf{x} \times \mathbf{L}, \gamma^0 \gamma_5 \boldsymbol{\alpha} \cdot \mathbf{L} \\
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$\Rightarrow$  There are no solutions for quantum numbers that would be exotic in the quark model (despite the relativistic dynamics)

The BSE gives the radial equations for the  $F_i(r)$

(There are two coupled radial equations for the  $0^{++}$  trajectory)

## Example: $0^-$ trajectory wf's

$$\Phi_{-+}(\mathbf{x}) = \left[ \frac{2}{M-V} (i\boldsymbol{\alpha} \cdot \vec{\nabla} + m\gamma^0) + 1 \right] \gamma_5 F_1(r) Y_{j\lambda}(\hat{\mathbf{x}})$$

$$\eta_P = (-1)^{j+1}$$

$$\eta_C = (-1)^j$$

Radial equation:  $F_1'' + \left( \frac{2}{r} + \frac{V'}{M-V} \right) F_1' + \left[ \frac{1}{4}(M-V)^2 - m^2 - \frac{j(j+1)}{r^2} \right] F_1 = 0$

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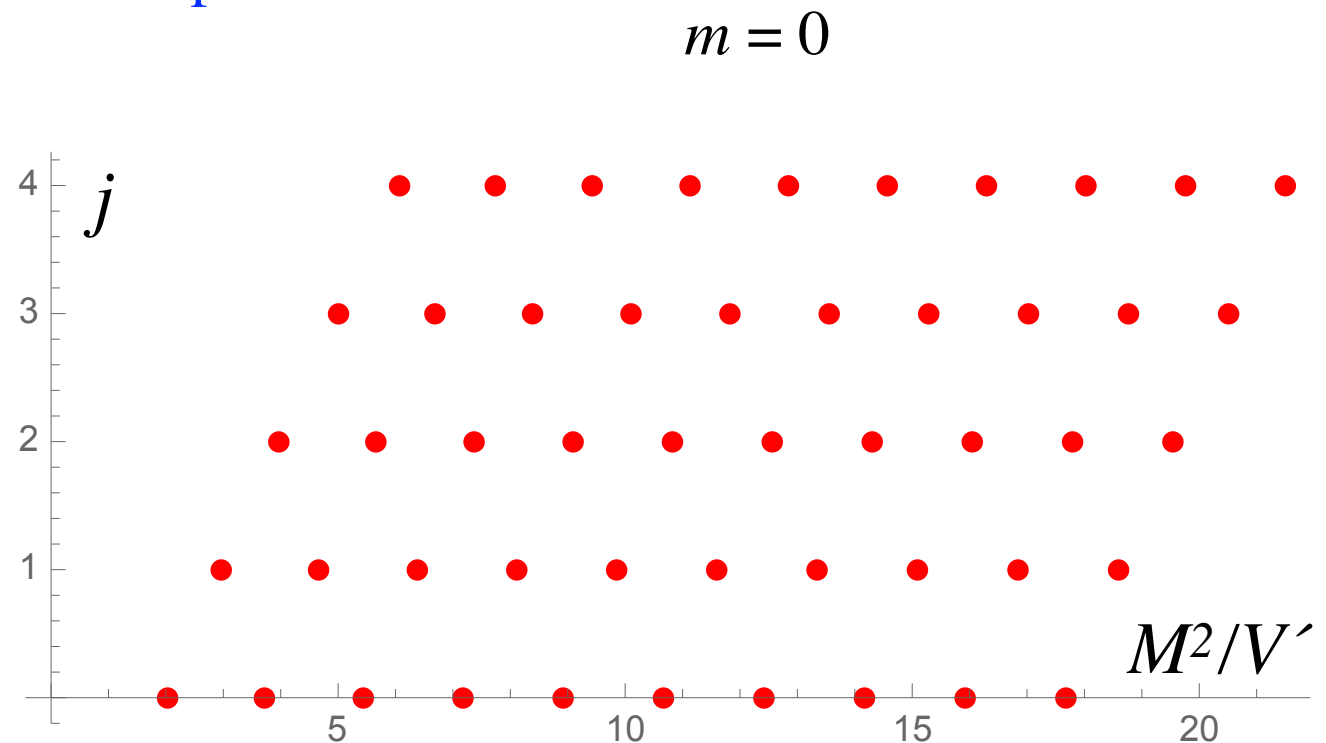
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Mass spectrum:

Linear Regge trajectories  
with daughters

Spectrum similar to  
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# Bound states in motion

An  $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^0)$   $q\bar{q}$  bound state with CM momentum  $\mathbf{P}$  may be expressed as

$$|M, \mathbf{P}\rangle = \int dx_1 dx_2 \bar{\psi}(t=0, x_1) e^{i\mathbf{P}\cdot(\mathbf{x}_1+\mathbf{x}_2)/2} \Phi^{(\mathbf{P})}(x_1 - x_2) \psi(t=0, x_2) |0\rangle$$



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$D=1+1$ : The  $P$ -dependence reduces to Lorentz contraction only at weak coupling.

$D=3+1$ : No contribution from transverse gluons at  $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^0)$

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**Brave new QCD world!**