

PROGRESS ON CALORONS, CONTINUED

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The progress on calorons (finite temperature instantons) is sketched. In particular there is some interest for confining temperatures, where the holonomy (the asymptotic value of the Polyakov loop) is non-trivial. In the last section I give more recent results by others.

1. Introduction

This is what I said in a special talk¹ given at the Minneapolis workshop “Continuous Advances in QCD” in April, 1998:

Volodya Gribov was a lightning and thundering example of scientific integrity and honesty. The first time I heard him speak was at a meeting in Eger in August 1988. My first interactions with him stem from a visit to my friends here in Minneapolis in May of 1995. At that time I gave two talks, both on the global issue of gauge fixing and its applications to the dynamics in gauge theories. I did get to the end of those talks and had a few private discussions with Volodya. It is not that I believe to have convinced him this was the way to go - our results are furthermore only very modest. Later I learned² that he considered having a “picture” to be very important for approaching a problem. In February 1996 I managed to convince Volodya to come and present a colloquium Ehrenfestii, a visit none of us in Leiden and his wife Julia are likely to forget. With sadness we have to bear the loss of a great and unique physicist who relentlessly looked for the truth and forcefully reminded us that we have the duty to do the same.

Today I am happy I can repeat this, because it remains true, no matter how long ago this was said.

During the memorial in Budapest, called “Gribov75”, I decided to talk about “Cosmic Rays: a bridge between high schools and real research”. You can still find the slides at www.kfki.hu/~gribov75/programt.html. Alan

White remembered it and I would have loved to talk about this also at the “Gribov80” memorial, here in Trieste, but I couldn’t. Jan-Willem van Holten who is now an extraordinary Professor in Leiden has taken it over, so it is doing fine. For myself, I doubted if I could talk again, but it finally came back in time (I thank Dmitri Kharzeev who has convinced me to try at BNL, where I did give a talk on April 28). My condition is apparently now finally going up, instead of down, but Julia Nyíri knew this all the time and scheduled me for a talk on May 28. But I still was afraid, so the talk is similar to the one I gave at BNL, and also similar to the one I gave in Mainz on September 6, 2008 (which I have written up, arXiv:0901.2853).

2. The setting

There has been a revised interest in studying instantons at finite temperature T , so-called calorons,^{3,4} because new explicit solutions could be obtained where the Polyakov loop at spatial infinity (the so-called holonomy) is non-trivial. They reveal more clearly the monopole constituent nature of these calorons.⁵ Non-trivial holonomy is therefore expected to play a role in the confined phase (i.e. for $T < T_c$) where the trace of the Polyakov loop fluctuates around small values. The properties of instantons are therefore directly coupled to the order parameter for the deconfining phase transition.

At finite temperature A_0 plays in some sense the role of a Higgs field in the adjoint representation, which explains why magnetic monopoles occur as constituents of calorons. Since A_0 is not necessarily static it is better to consider the Polyakov loop as the analog of the Higgs field, $P(t, \vec{x}) = \text{Pexp} \left(\int_0^\beta A_0(t + s, \vec{x}) ds \right)$, which transforms under a periodic gauge transformation $g(x)$ to $g(x)P(x)g^{-1}(x)$, like an adjoint Higgs field. Here $\beta = 1/kT$ is the period in the imaginary time direction, under which the gauge field is assumed to be periodic. Finite action requires the Polyakov loop at spatial infinity to be constant. For $SU(n)$ gauge theory this gives $\mathcal{P}_\infty = \lim_{|\vec{x}| \rightarrow \infty} P(0, \vec{x}) = g^\dagger \exp(2\pi i \text{diag}(\mu_1, \mu_2, \dots, \mu_n))g$, where g brings \mathcal{P}_∞ to its diagonal form, with n eigenvalues being ordered according to $\sum_{i=1}^n \mu_i = 0$ and $\mu_1 \leq \mu_2 \leq \dots \leq \mu_n \leq \mu_{n+1} \equiv 1 + \mu_1$. In the algebraic gauge, where $A_0(x)$ is transformed to zero at spatial infinity, the gauge fields satisfy the boundary condition $A_\mu(t + \beta, \vec{x}) = \mathcal{P}_\infty A_\mu(t, \vec{x}) \mathcal{P}_\infty^{-1}$.

Caloron solutions are such that the total magnetic charge vanishes. A single caloron with topological charge one contains $n - 1$ monopoles with a unit magnetic charge in the i -th $U(1)$ subgroup, which are compensated by the n -th monopole of so-called type $(1, 1, \dots, 1)$, having a magnetic

charge in each of these subgroups.⁶ At topological charge k there are kn constituents, k monopoles of each of the n types. Monopoles of type j have a mass $8\pi^2\nu_j/\beta$, with $\nu_j \equiv \mu_{j+1} - \mu_j$. The sum rule $\sum_{j=1}^n \nu_j = 1$ guarantees the correct action, $8\pi^2k$.

Prior to their explicit construction, calorons with non-trivial holonomy were considered irrelevant,⁴ because the one-loop correction gives rise to an infinite action barrier. However, the infinity simply arises due to the integration over the finite energy density induced by the perturbative fluctuations in the background of a non-trivial Polyakov loop.⁷ The calculation of the non-perturbative contribution was performed in.⁸ When added to this perturbative contribution, with minima at center elements, these minima turn unstable for decreasing temperature right around the expected value of T_c . This lends some support to monopole constituents being the relevant degrees of freedom which drive the transition from a phase in which the center symmetry is broken at high temperatures to one in which the center symmetry is restored at low temperatures. Lattice studies, both using cooling⁹ and chiral fermion zero-modes¹⁰ as filters, have also conclusively confirmed that monopole constituents do dynamically occur in the confined phase.

3. Some Properties of Caloron Solutions

Using the classical scale invariance we can always arrange $\beta = 1$, as will be assumed throughout. A remarkably simple formula for the $SU(n)$ action density exists,⁶

$$\text{Tr} F_{\alpha\beta}^2(x) = \partial_\alpha^2 \partial_\beta^2 \log \psi(x), \quad \psi(x) = \frac{1}{2} \text{tr}(\mathcal{A}_n \cdots \mathcal{A}_1) - \cos(2\pi t),$$

$$\mathcal{A}_m \equiv \frac{1}{r_m} \begin{pmatrix} r_m & |\vec{\rho}_{m+1}| \\ 0 & r_{m+1} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \cosh(2\pi\nu_m r_m) & \sinh(2\pi\nu_m r_m) \\ \sinh(2\pi\nu_m r_m) & \cosh(2\pi\nu_m r_m) \end{pmatrix},$$

with $r_m \equiv |\vec{x} - \vec{y}_m|$ and $\vec{\rho}_m \equiv \vec{y}_m - \vec{y}_{m-1}$, where \vec{y}_m is the location of the m^{th} constituent monopole with a mass $8\pi^2\nu_m$. Note that the index m should be considered mod n , such that e.g. $r_{n+1} = r_1$ and $\vec{y}_{n+1} = \vec{y}_1$ (there is one exception, $\mu_{n+1} = 1 + \mu_1$). It is sufficient that only one constituent location is far separated from the others, to show that one can neglect the $\cos(2\pi t)$ term in $\psi(x)$, giving rise to a static action density in this limit.⁶

In Fig. 1 we show how for $SU(2)$ there are two lumps, except that the second lump is absent for trivial holonomy. Fig. 2 demonstrates for $SU(2)$ and $SU(3)$ that there are indeed n lumps (for $SU(n)$) which can be put anywhere. These lumps are constituent monopoles, where one of them has a winding in the temporal direction (which cannot be seen from the action density).

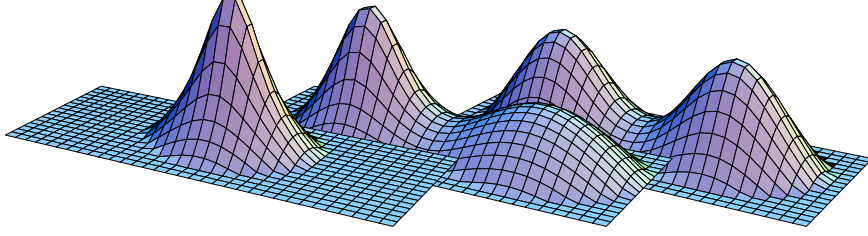


Fig. 1. Shown are three charge one SU(2) caloron profiles at $t = 0$ with $\beta = 1$ and $\rho = 1$. From left to right for $\mu_2 = -\mu_1 = 0$ ($\nu_1 = 0, \nu_2 = 1$), $\mu_2 = -\mu_1 = 0.125$ ($\nu_1 = 1/4, \nu_2 = 3/4$) and $\mu_2 = -\mu_1 = 0.25$ ($\nu_1 = \nu_2 = 1/2$) on equal logarithmic scales, cutoff below an action density of $1/(2e)$.

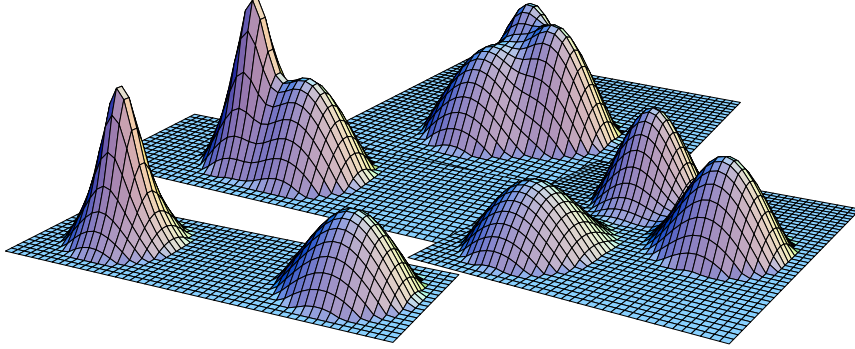


Fig. 2. On the left are shown two charge one SU(2) caloron profiles at $t = 0$ with $\beta = 1$ and $\mu_2 = -\mu_1 = 0.125$, for $\rho = 1.6$ (bottom) and 0.8 (top) on equal logarithmic scales, cutoff below an action density of $1/(2e^2)$. On the right are shown two charge one SU(3) caloron profiles at $t = 0$ and $(\nu_1, \nu_2, \nu_3) = (1/4, 7/20, 2/5)$, implemented by $(\mu_1, \mu_2, \mu_3) = (-17/60, -1/30, 19/60)$. The bottom configuration has the location of the lumps scaled by $8/3$. They are cutoff at $1/(2e)$.

3.1. Fermion Zero-Modes

An essential property of calorons is that the chiral fermion zero-modes are localized to constituents of a certain charge only. The latter depends on the choice of boundary condition for the fermions in the imaginary time direction (allowing for an arbitrary U(1) phase $\exp(2\pi iz)$).¹¹ This provides an important signature for the dynamical lattice studies, using chiral fermion zero-modes as a filter.¹⁰ To be precise, the zero-modes are localized to the monopoles of type m provided $\mu_m < z < \mu_{m+1}$. Denoting the zero-modes by $\hat{\Psi}_z(x)$, we can write $\hat{\Psi}_z^\dagger(x)\hat{\Psi}_z(x) = -(2\pi)^{-2}\partial_\mu^2 \hat{f}_x(z, z)$, where $\hat{f}_x(z, z')$ is a Green's function which for $z \in [\mu_m, \mu_{m+1}]$ satisfies $\hat{f}_z(z, z) = \pi \langle v_m(z) | \mathcal{A}_{m-1} \cdots \mathcal{A}_1 \mathcal{A}_n \cdots \mathcal{A}_m | w_m(z) \rangle / (r_m \psi)$, where the

spinors v_m and w_m are defined by $v_m^1(z) = -w_m^2(z) = \sinh(2\pi(z - \mu_m)r_m)$, and $v_m^2(z) = w_m^1(z) = \cosh(2\pi(z - \mu_m)r_m)$.

To obtain the finite temperature fermion zero-mode one puts $z = \frac{1}{2}$, whereas for the fermion zero-mode with periodic boundary conditions one takes $z = 0$. From this it is easily seen that in case of well separated constituents the zero-mode is localized only at \vec{y}_m for which $z \in [\mu_m, \mu_{m+1}]$. To be specific, in this limit $\hat{f}_x(z, z) = \pi \tanh(\pi r_m \nu_m)/r_m$ for SU(2), and more generally $\hat{f}_x(z, z) = 2\pi \sinh[2\pi(z - \mu_m)r_m] \sinh[2\pi(\mu_{m+1} - z)r_m]/(r_m \sinh[2\pi\nu_m r_m])$. We illustrate in Fig. 3 the localization of the fermion zero-modes for the case of SU(3).

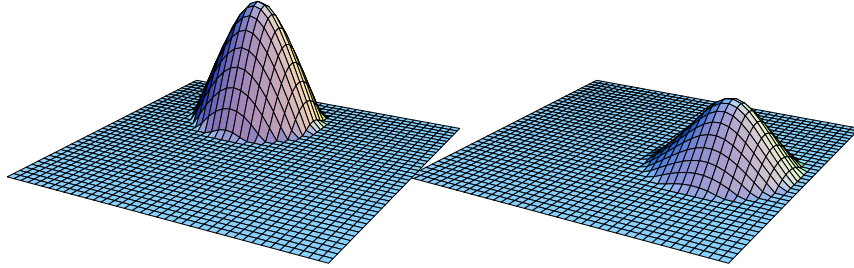


Fig. 3. For the SU(3) configuration in the lower right corner of Fig. 2 we have determined on the left the zero-mode density for fermions with anti-periodic boundary conditions in time and on the right for periodic boundary conditions. They are plotted at equal logarithmic scales, cut off below $1/e^5$.

3.2. Calorons of Higher Charge

We have been able to use a “mix” of the ADHM and Nahm formalism,¹² both in making powerful approximations, like in the far field limit (based on our ability to identify the exponentially rising and falling terms), and for finding exact solutions through solving the homogeneous Green’s function.¹³ We found axially symmetric solutions for arbitrary k , as well as for $k = 2$ two sets of non-trivial solutions for the matching conditions that interpolate between overlapping and well-separated constituents. For this task we could make use of an existing analytic result for charge-2 monopoles,¹⁴ adapting it to the case of calorons. An example is shown in Fig. 4.

4. More recent results

There are more recent lectures by Bruckmann¹⁵ and Diakonov.¹⁶ Also, Diakonov and Petrov made some progress on constructing the hyperKähler

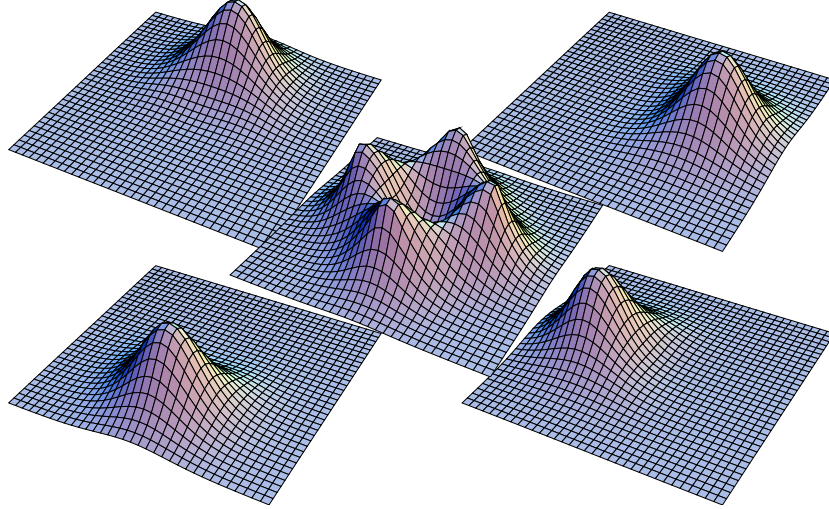


Fig. 4. In the middle is shown the action density in the plane of the constituents at $t = 0$ for an $SU(2)$ charge 2 caloron with $\text{tr } \mathcal{P}_\infty = 0$, where all constituents strongly overlap. On a scale enhanced by a factor $10\pi^2$ are shown the densities for the two zero-modes, using either periodic (left) or anti-periodic (right) boundary conditions in the time direction.

metric which approximates the metric for an arbitrary number of calorons. They claim that this already gives confinement.^{16,17} But some cautionary remarks can be made.¹⁸ Also multi-calorons were revisited,¹⁹ and the authors claim to have the full $SU(2)$ moduli space for $k = 2$.

The calorons have also adjoint fermionic zero-modes, and they are now known in analytical form.²⁰ Finally, Ünsal has published a paper concerning the mechanism of confinement in QCD-like theories,²¹ for example $SU(2)$ with $1 \leq n_f \leq 4$ adjoint Majorana fermions. He argues that there are BPS and \overline{KK} monopoles (precisely the constituents of the caloron), which have zero-modes under the adjoint fermions. They then make BPS- \overline{KK} bound states (instead of BPS-KK).

Acknowledgments

Thanks to everybody, and especially to Arkady and Nelly Vainshtein for a warm welcome. And the real person behind the Gribov memorials is of course Julia Nyíri, and to her I say “till Gribov85”. Also I would like to thank FOM for financial support.

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