

Configurational Temperature as a Diagnostic Tool for the 3D XY Model

Kutloano Nkojoana Anosh Joseph

School of Physics, University of the Witwatersrand
Mandelstam Institute for Theoretical Physics(MITP)

July 2026

Outline

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Chemical Potential
- 3 Configurational Temperature
- 4 Results: Action Density
- 5 Results: Configurational Temperature
- 6 Discussion
- 7 Conclusions

QCD Phase Diagram

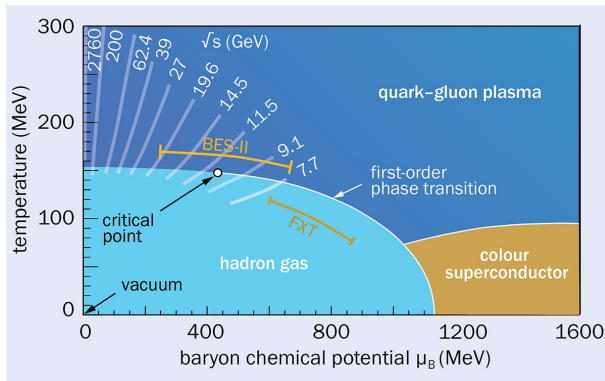


Figure: Conjectured QCD phase diagram

Possible to develop insight by studying the 3D XY Model

The 3D XY Model

- Hamiltonian of the 2+1-dimensional XY Model ($\vec{S} = (\cos(\phi), \sin(\phi))$)

$$H = -J \sum_{i \neq j} \vec{S}_i \cdot \vec{S}_j = -J \sum_x \sum_{\nu=0}^2 \cos(\phi_x - \phi_{x+\hat{\nu}})$$

- Euclidean action:

$$S_E = \frac{H}{k_B T} = -\frac{J}{k_B T} \sum_x \sum_{\nu=0}^2 \cos(\phi_x - \phi_{x+\hat{\nu}})$$

$$\beta = \frac{J}{k_B T}$$

Introducing a Chemical Potential

- A chemical potential can be introduced by modifying the temporal term, leading to the action

$$S_E = -\beta \sum_x \sum_{\nu=0}^2 \cos(\phi_x - \phi_{x+\hat{\nu}} - i\mu\delta_{\nu,0})$$

- Monte Carlo algorithms are based on

$$Z = \int [d\theta_x] e^{-S},$$

- When $\mu \neq 0$ the action becomes complex, they suffer from a sign problem.

Imaginary Chemical Potential

- Purely imaginary $\mu = i\mu_I$ (with μ_I real) makes the action real again:

$$S = -\beta \sum_x \sum_{\nu=0}^2 \cos(\phi_x - \phi_{x+\hat{\nu}} + \mu_I \delta_{\nu,0})$$

- Enables conventional importance sampling

Configurational Temperature Estimator

- General definition (canonical ensemble):

$$\hat{\beta} = \frac{\langle \nabla^2 S \rangle}{\langle |\vec{\nabla} S|^2 \rangle}$$

- Provides a powerful, independent consistency check for numerical simulations – especially valuable when standard diagnostics fail (e.g., complex Langevin).

Application to the XY Model

- Gradients and Laplacians:

$$\frac{\partial S}{\partial \phi_x} = \beta \sum_{\nu=0}^2 \left[\sin(\phi_x - \phi_{x+\hat{\nu}} - i\mu\delta_{\nu,0}) - \sin(\phi_{x-\hat{\nu}} - \phi_x - i\mu\delta_{\nu,0}) \right]$$

$$\frac{\partial^2 S}{\partial \phi_x^2} = \beta \sum_{\nu=0}^2 \left[\cos(\phi_x - \phi_{x+\hat{\nu}} - i\mu\delta_{\nu,0}) + \cos(\phi_{x-\hat{\nu}} - \phi_x - i\mu\delta_{\nu,0}) \right]$$

- Per-configuration averages:

$$g^2 = \frac{1}{\Omega} \sum_x (\partial_{\phi_x} S)^2, \quad H = \frac{1}{\Omega} \sum_x \partial_{\phi_x}^2 S$$

- Estimator: $\hat{\beta} = \frac{H}{g^2}$ and $\beta_M = \langle \hat{\beta} \rangle$.

Benchmark for simulations

- Worldline formalism gives:

$$f = -\frac{3}{4}\beta^2 - \frac{21}{64}\beta^4 + \mathcal{O}(\beta^6)$$

- The action density follows from

$$\frac{\langle S \rangle}{\Omega} = \frac{\partial f}{\partial \beta} = -\frac{3}{2}\beta^2 - \frac{21}{16}\beta^4 + \mathcal{O}(\beta^6)$$

- At $\mu = 0$:

$$\frac{\langle S \rangle}{\Omega} = \begin{cases} -0.0621 + \mathcal{O}(10^{-4}), & \beta = 0.2, \\ -0.1450 + \mathcal{O}(10^{-3}), & \beta = 0.3. \end{cases} \quad (1)$$

Action Density – Comparison with Strong-Coupling Expansion

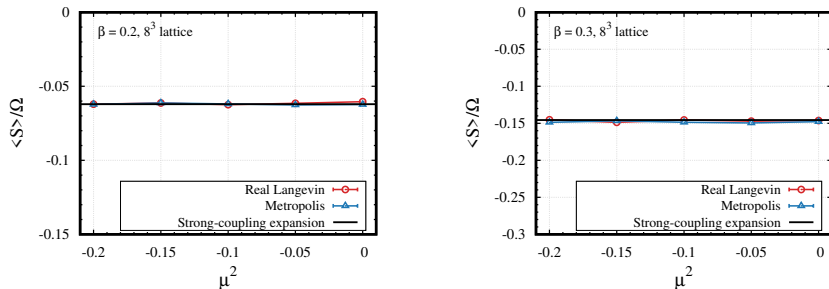
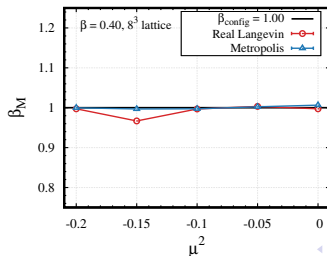
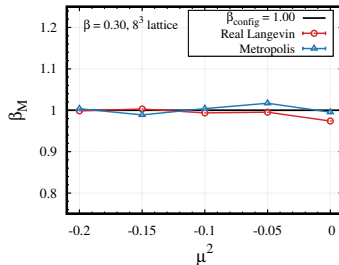
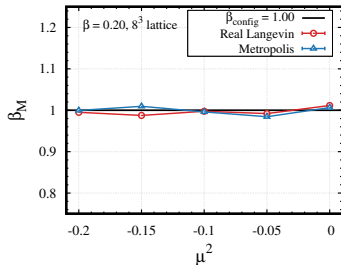


Figure: The action density $\langle S \rangle / \Omega$ as a function of μ^2 on an 8^3 lattice
Excellent agreement in the weak-coupling limit ($\beta \ll 1$)

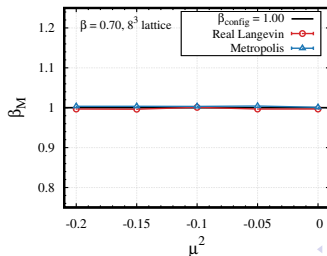
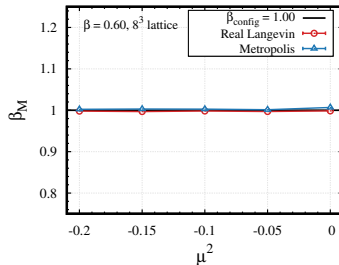
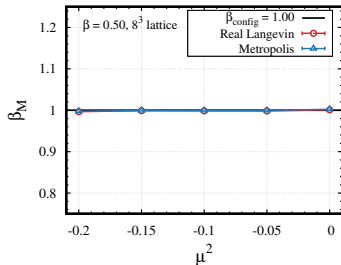
Configurational Temperature β_M vs μ^2

Weak coupling ($\beta = 0.2, 0.3, 0.4$)



Configurational Temperature β_M vs μ^2

Strong coupling ($\beta = 0.5, 0.6, 0.7$)



Systematic Effects

- **Finite-size effects**
- **Discretisation artifacts**
- **Autocorrelations**

Conclusions and Further Work

- The results give validity to the diagnostic tool
- Perform finite-size scaling to remove volume effects
- Implement in finer lattices
- Extend to real μ (complex Langevin) and use β_M to detect wrong convergence.
- Apply the same diagnostic to other lattice field theories (e.g., scalar QED, QCD at finite density).

References I



A. Roberge and N. Weiss, “Gauge Theories With Imaginary Chemical Potential and the Phases of QCD,” Nucl. Phys. B 275 (1986) 734.



G. Aarts and F. A. James, “On the convergence of complex Langevin dynamics: The three-dimensional XY model at finite chemical potential,” JHEP 08 (2010) 020, arXiv:1005.3468 [hep-lat].



A. Joseph and A. Kumar, “Thermodynamic Diagnostics for Complex Langevin Simulations: The Role of Configurational Temperature,” arXiv:2509.08287 [hep-lat].



N. S. Dhinda, A. Joseph, and V. Longia, “Gradient and Hessian-Based Temperature Estimator in Lattice Gauge Theories,” arXiv:2508.05595 [hep-lat].



P. Hasenfratz and F. Karsch, “Chemical Potential on the Lattice,” Phys. Lett. B 125 (1983) 308.



M. Campostrini et al., “Critical behavior of the three-dimensional XY universality class,” Phys. Rev. B 63 (2001) 214503, cond-mat/0010360.



D. Banerjee and S. Chandrasekharan, “Finite size effects in the presence of a chemical potential: A study in the classical non-linear $O(2)$ sigma model,” Phys. Rev. D 81 (2010) 125007, arXiv:1001.3648 [hep-lat].

Thank you!

Questions?

Roberge–Weiss Periodicity and Final-Time-Slice Formulation

- Naive discretisation can miss the RW transition.
- **Final-time-slice (fts) formulation:** field redefinition
 $\phi_{x,\tau} \rightarrow \phi'_{x,\tau} = \phi_{x,\tau} - \mu_I \tau$ (Shift the temporal phases)
- $\cos(\phi_{x,\tau} - \phi_{x,\tau+1} + \mu_I)$

$$S_{\text{fts}} = -\beta \sum_{x,\nu} \cos(\phi_x - \phi_{x+\hat{\nu}} - iN_\tau \mu \delta_{\tau,N_\tau} \delta_{\nu,0})$$

- Valid for arbitrary complex μ ; correctly reproduces RW transitions even at strong coupling.