

# Field Theory on a Non-Commutative Plane

A non-perturbative study of 2d gauge theory and 3d scalar theory  
based on dimensional reduction

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# Abstract

In the recent years there is a surge of interest in quantum field theories on spaces with non-commutative coordinates. The potential applications of such models include string theory, particle phenomenology as well as solid state physics. We perform a non-perturbative study of such non-commutative field theories by the means of Monte Carlo simulations. In particular we consider a two dimensional pure  $U(1)$  gauge field theory and a three dimensional scalar field theory. To this end we map the corresponding lattice theories on dimensionally reduced models, which are formulated in terms of  $N \times N$  matrices.

The 2d gauge theory on the lattice is equivalent to the twisted Eguchi–Kawai model, which we simulated at  $N$  ranging from 25 to 515. We observe a clear large  $N$  scaling for the 1- and 2-point function of Wilson loops, as well as the 2-point function of Polyakov lines. The 2-point functions agree with a universal wave function renormalization. The large  $N$  double scaling limit corresponds to the continuum limit of non-commutative gauge theory, so the observed large  $N$  scaling demonstrates the non-perturbative renormalizability of this non-commutative field theory. The area law for the Wilson loops holds at small physical area as in commutative 2d planar gauge theory, but at large areas we find an oscillating behavior instead. In that regime the phase of the Wilson loop grows linearly with the area. This agrees with the Aharonov–Bohm effect in the presence of a constant magnetic field, identified with the inverse non-commutativity parameter.

Next we investigate the 3d  $\lambda\phi^4$  model with two non-commutative coordinates and explore its phase diagram. Our results agree with a conjecture by Gubser and Sondhi in  $d = 4$ , who predicted that the ordered regime splits into a uniform phase and a phase dominated by stripe patterns. We further present results for the correlators and the dispersion relation. In non-commutative field theory the Lorentz invariance is explicitly broken, which leads to a deformation of the dispersion relation. In one loop perturbation theory this deformation involves an additional infrared divergent term. Our data agree with this perturbative result.

We also confirm the recent observation by Ambjørn and Catterall that stripes occur even in  $d = 2$ , although they imply the spontaneous breaking of the translation symmetry.

## Keywords:

Non-Commutative Geometry, Matrix Models, Lattice Gauge Theory, Field Theories in Lower Dimensions



# Zusammenfassung

Quantenfeldtheorien, die auf Räumen mit nichtkommutierenden Koordinaten definiert sind, finden in den letzten Jahren zunehmend Interesse. Mögliche Anwendungen dieser Modelle gibt es unter anderem in der Stringtheorie, der Phänomenologie der Elementarteilchen und in der Festkörperphysik. In der vorliegenden Arbeit untersuchen wir nichtstörungstheoretisch solche nichtkommutativen Feldtheorien mit Hilfe von Monte-Carlo Simulationen. Wir betrachten eine zweidimensionale reine  $U(1)$  Eichfeldtheorie und eine dreidimensionale skalare Feldtheorie. Dazu bilden wir die entsprechenden Gittertheorien auf dimensional reduzierte Modelle ab, die mittels  $N \times N$  Matrizen formuliert sind.

Die 2d Eichtheorie auf dem Gitter ist äquivalent zum *twisted Eguchi-Kawai* Modell, das wir für  $N = 25$  bis 515 simulierten. Wir beobachteten ein deutliches Skalierungsverhalten der Ein- und Zweipunktfunktionen von Wilson-Schleifen sowie von Zweipunktfunktionen von Polyakov-Linien bei großen  $N$ . Die Zweipunktfunktionen stimmen mit einer universellen Wellenfunktionsrenormierung überein. Der Doppel-Skalierungslimes bei  $N \rightarrow \infty$  entspricht dem Kontinuumsimes in der nichtkommutativen Gittereichtheorie. Das beobachtete Skalierungsverhalten bei großen  $N$  zeigt die nichtstörungstheoretische Renormierbarkeit dieser nichtkommutativen Feldtheorie. Für kleine Flächen gilt das Flächengesetz der Wilson-Schleifen wie in der kommutativen 2d planaren Eichtheorie. Für große Flächen finden wir jedoch stattdessen ein oszillierendes Verhalten. In diesem Bereich wächst die Phase der Wilson-Schleifen linear mit der Fläche. Identifiziert man den Nichtkommutativitätsparameter mit einem inversen Magnetfeld, entspricht dies dem Aharonov-Bohm-Effekt.

Als nächstes untersuchen wir das 3d  $\lambda\phi^4$  Modell mit zwei nichtkommutierenden Dimensionen. Wir analysieren das Phasendiagramm. Unsere Ergebnisse stimmen mit einer Vermutung von Gubser und Sondhi in vier Dimensionen überein. Sie sagen vorher, daß sich der geordnete Bereich in eine uniforme und eine nichtuniforme Phase aufspaltet. Desweiteren zeigen wir Ergebnisse für Korrelatoren und der Dispersionsrelation. In der nichtkommutativen Feldtheorie ist die Lorentz-Symmetrie explizit gebrochen, was zu einer deformierten Dispersionsrelation führt. In der Ein-Schleifen Störungstheorie ergibt sich ein zusätzlicher infrarot divergenter Term. Unsere Daten bestätigen dieses störungstheoretische Ergebnis.

Wir bestätigen ebenso eine Beobachtung von Ambjørn und Catterall, daß eine nichtuniforme Phase auch in zwei Dimensionen existiert, obwohl dies eine spontane Brechung der Translationssymmetrie impliziert.

## Schlagwörter:

Nichtkommutative Geometrie, Matrixmodelle, Gittereichtheorie, Feldtheorie in niedrigen Dimensionen



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# 1 Introduction

The ideas of non-commutative space-time and field theories defined on such a structure started already in the year 1947. At this time the concept of renormalization was not yet well established and therefore ultraviolet divergences in quantum field theory still caused serious problems. To solve these problems or at least weaken them Snyder introduced the quantized space-time [1] (see also [2]).

The plan was to define quantum field theories on a space-time which is smeared out at very small length scales. This means that in addition to Heisenberg's uncertainty relation between coordinates and momenta there is a uncertainty between different coordinates.

As in the quantization of the classical phase space, space-time can be quantized by replacing the usual coordinates  $x_\mu$  by Hermitian operators  $\hat{x}_\mu$ , obeying the commutator relation

$$[\hat{x}_\mu, \hat{x}_\nu] = i\Theta_{\mu\nu}. \quad (1.1)$$

The non-commutativity tensor  $\Theta_{\mu\nu}$  is a real-valued antisymmetric  $d \times d$  matrix and  $d$  is the space-time dimension. Since the coordinate operators do not commute they cannot be diagonalized simultaneously and therefore induce the uncertainty relation

$$\Delta x_\mu \Delta x_\nu \geq \frac{1}{2} |\Theta_{\mu\nu}|. \quad (1.2)$$

This uncertainty implies a quantum structure of space-time and due to the lack of points in space-time it then represents an effective ultraviolet cut-off.

Much later, in 1996, it was shown by Filk [3] that in field theory on a non-commutative plane the divergences of commutative field theory still occur. In addition to those divergences the authors of Refs. [4, 5] found in 1999 that there is a mixing of ultraviolet and infrared divergences.

The concept of quantized space-time has not been followed further in the early days of quantum field theory, since the renormalization technique became more and more successful. It came up again first in the 80's, when Connes formulated the mathematically rigorous [6] framework of non-commutative geometry. In physical theories a non-commutative space-time first appeared in string theory, namely in the quantization of open strings [7]. In an constant magnetic background field the boundary conditions change and the zero momentum modes of the string do not commute anymore. Instead they obey a commutation relation of the type (1.1), where  $|\Theta_{\mu\nu}|$  is proportional to the inverse background field.

The zero momentum modes of an open string can be interpreted as the end points of the string, which are confined to a submanifold, i.e. a D-brane. The commutator

(1.1) implies a non-commutative geometry on the branes. Hence a quantized space-time appears naturally in string theory [8].

Another field of interest, where the non-commutativity of space-time could play an important role, is quantum gravity. It is an old belief that for a quantized theory of gravitation space-time has to change its nature on very small length scales. The synthesis of the principles of quantum mechanics and of classical general relativity leads to a space-time uncertainty [9, 10], which implies that any theory of quantum gravity will not be local in the conventional sense [11]. Such effects could be modeled by a non-commutative space-time.

Also in condensed matter physics the concept of non-commutative space-time is applied. The theory of electrons in a magnetic field projected to the lowest Landau level can be naturally described by a non-commutative field theory [12, 13, 14, 15, 16], where  $|\Theta_{\mu\nu}|$  is again proportional to the inverse magnetic field. These ideas are relevant for the quantum Hall effect. For the integer quantum Hall effect, a non-commutative treatment serves as an alternative description to standard condensed matter techniques. This is already remarkable, since it is the first application of non-commutativity geometry that provides phenomenological results. However, with these methods only the known results are reproduced; it does not provide new insight in the nature of the integer quantum Hall effect.

This may be different in the case of the *fractional* quantum Hall effect. That effect is not well understood from the theoretical point of view. Here a non-commutative field theory is considered by many researchers as the most promising candidate for a description.

One may also try to study the non-commutative analog of pure Yang-Mills theories or of QED and QCD. Such theories can be considered as an extended standard model and a study of them could allow for an experimental verification or falsification. Hence results from these extended theories may provide sensible tests of a quantized space-time.

The above described applications of non-commutative field theory suffer from the ultraviolet/infrared (UV/IR) mixing. This effect causes still severe problems in a perturbative treatment. Our goal is to study non-commutative field theories on a completely non-perturbative level.

This thesis represents the first non-perturbative study of non-commutative field theories. As usual when entering a new topic we studied toy models, which share important properties of the full theory. In this thesis we studied field theory in lower dimensions and we focused on basic properties of these theories. The results presented here are published in Refs. [17, 18, 19].

In a two dimensional gauge theory we address the problem of renormalizability. It is an interesting question whether this model can be renormalized non-perturbatively. In the three dimensional  $\lambda\phi^4$  theory we studied the effects of UV/IR mixing. Our main interest was here the phase diagram of this theory and the question if there is a phase with spontaneously broken translation invariance, as it had

been conjectured from analytic results. In addition we studied the dispersion relation in this theory, for which perturbation theory predicts a deformation due to the non-commutativity.

This thesis is organized as follows: in Chapter 2 we give an introduction to non-commutative field theory. We concentrate here on the main differences compared to commutative field theory. In a first Section we set up the non-commutative geometry on which we define a scalar field theory and a pure gauge theory (Sections 2.2 and 2.3, respectively). These are the theories studied in this thesis. In Section 2.4 we briefly comment on the extension to the non-commutative standard model. In addition to the motivation already given in the introduction we want to motivate the study of non-commutative space-time from this point of view.

Chapter 3 is dedicated to the lattice regularization. As we already mentioned in this introduction the non-commutativity of space-time does not cure the ultraviolet divergences, and therefore one still has to regularize the theory. To this end we will introduce a momentum cut-off via discretization of space-time.

In Chapter 4 and 5 we present the two models we investigated; a two dimensional non-commutative pure gauge theory and a three dimensional scalar field theory. The explicit construction of the lattice actions as well as the Monte Carlo results of our studies are presented in these Chapters. In Chapter 6 we show results on a two dimensional scalar theory, and in Chapter 7 we summarize our results and give an outlook. For the sake of continuity the details of the simulations are banned to Appendix A.

Note that throughout this thesis we always work in Euclidean space-time. We should mention here that in contrast to the commutative case, it is an open question if the Euclidean version of non-commutative field theory can be interpreted in the Minkowski world, since there is no equivalent of the Osterwalder-Schrader theorem [20]. However, in non-commutative field theory with a commuting time coordinate it is generally believed that this interpretation exists. For a discussion of Wick rotation and the related question of unitarity, see e.g. Refs. [21, 22, 23].



# Chapter 2

## Non-commutative field theory

In this Chapter we give an introduction to the concept of non-commutative space-time and field theories defined on it. We will work out the main differences to their commutative counterparts and discuss the additional problems that arise in such theories. For a general discussion of non-commutative space-time see for example Refs. [24, 11]. We follow here the discussion in Refs. [25, 26].

### 2.1 Non-commutative flat space-time

In this Section we discuss those features of non-commutative geometry, which are needed to define field theories on such a geometry. We will find two alternative formulations, in terms of Weyl operators and in terms of functions with a deformed multiplication.

#### 2.1.1 Weyl operators

Let us start with the commutative algebra of complex valued functions on  $d$  dimensional Euclidean space-time  $\mathbb{R}^d$ . An element of this algebra corresponds to a configuration of a scalar field, with pointwise addition and multiplication. We consider here functions of sufficiently rapid decrease at infinity, so that any function  $f(x)$  may be described by its Fourier transform

$$\tilde{f}(k) = \int d^d x e^{-i x_\mu k_\mu} f(x). \quad (2.1)$$

A non-commutative space-time can be defined by replacing the local coordinates  $x \in \mathbb{R}^d$  by Hermitian operators  $\hat{x}_\mu$  satisfying

$$[\hat{x}_\mu, \hat{x}_\nu] = i\Theta_{\mu\nu}. \quad (2.2)$$

The non-commutativity tensor  $\Theta_{\mu\nu}$  is antisymmetric with the dimension length squared and it can in general depend on space-time. Here we restrict ourselves to a constant non-commutativity tensor parametrized by the non-commutativity parameter  $\theta$

$$\Theta_{\mu\nu} = \theta \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \otimes \mathbb{1}_{d/2}. \quad (2.3)$$

We assume the space–time dimension  $d$  to be even. The  $\hat{x}_\mu$  generate a non-commutative and associative algebra of operators. Elements of this algebra, the Weyl operators  $W[f]$ , can be constructed by a formal Fourier transform involving the operators  $\hat{x}_\mu$  and the ordinary Fourier transform of  $f(x)$

$$W[f] = \int \frac{d^d k}{(2\pi)^d} \tilde{f}(k) e^{ik_\mu \hat{x}_\mu}. \quad (2.4)$$

Combining equations (2.1) and (2.4) we find an explicit map  $\Delta(x)$  between operators and fields

$$W[f] = \int d^d x f(x) \Delta(x) \quad \text{with} \quad \Delta(x) = \int \frac{d^d k}{(2\pi)^d} e^{ik_\mu \hat{x}_\mu} e^{-ik_\mu x_\mu}, \quad (2.5)$$

where  $\Delta(x)$  is a Hermitian operator that can be understood as a mixed basis for operators of fields.

We may define a linear and anti-Hermitian derivative  $\hat{\partial}_\mu$  on the algebra of Weyl operators by the commutator relations

$$[\hat{\partial}_\mu, \hat{x}_\nu] = \delta_{\mu\nu}, \quad [\hat{\partial}_\mu, \hat{\partial}_\nu] = ic_{\mu\nu}, \quad (2.6)$$

where  $c_{\mu\nu}$  is a real valued c-number. With this definition of the derivative one can show that

$$[\hat{\partial}_\mu, \Delta(x)] = -\partial_\mu \Delta(x). \quad (2.7)$$

Together with equation (2.5) and integration by parts one obtains that the derivative of Weyl operators is equal to the Weyl operator of the usual derivative of the functions

$$[\hat{\partial}_\mu, W[f]] = \int d^d x \partial_\mu f(x) \Delta(x) = W[\partial_\mu f]. \quad (2.8)$$

Any global translation  $x + v$  with  $v \in \mathbb{R}^d$  can be obtained with the unitary operators  $\exp(v_\mu \hat{\partial}_\mu)$

$$\Delta(x + v) = e^{v_\mu \hat{\partial}_\mu} \Delta(x) e^{-v_\nu \hat{\partial}_\nu}. \quad (2.9)$$

This follows directly from the commutator relation (2.7). This property implies that any trace  $\text{Tr} \Delta(x)$ , with  $\text{Tr}$  defined on the algebra of Weyl operators, is independent of  $x \in \mathbb{R}^d$ . Together with equation (2.7) it follows that the trace  $\text{Tr}$  is unambiguously given by an integration over space–time

$$\text{Tr} W[f] = \int d^d x f(x), \quad (2.10)$$

with the normalization  $\text{Tr} \Delta(x) = 1$ .

In Ref. [26] it is shown that if  $\Theta$  is invertible (which implies that the dimension  $d$  of space–time has to be even) the product of two operators  $\Delta$  at distinct points can be computed as follows

$$\Delta(x) \Delta(y) = \frac{1}{\pi^d \det \Theta} \int d^d z \Delta(z) e^{-2i(\Theta^{-1})_{\mu\nu}(x-z)_\mu(y-z)_\nu}. \quad (2.11)$$

Together with the normalization of the trace the operators  $\Delta(x)$  form an orthonormal set for  $x \in \mathbb{R}^d$ ,

$$\text{Tr}(\Delta(x)\Delta(y)) = \delta^d(x - y). \quad (2.12)$$

With this property of  $\Delta(x)$  we can define the inverse map to (2.5)

$$f(x) = \text{Tr}(W[f]\Delta(x)). \quad (2.13)$$

This one-to-one correspondence can be thought of as an analog of the operator-state correspondence in quantum mechanics.

### 2.1.2 The star-product

Let us now consider the product of two Weyl operators  $W[f]W[g]$  corresponding to the two functions  $f(x_1)$  and  $g(x_2)$ . We want to transform this product into the coordinate space representation with the help of the inverse map (2.13),

$$h(x) = \text{Tr}(W[f]W[g]\Delta(x)). \quad (2.14)$$

To achieve this we rewrite the product in terms of the map (2.5)

$$\begin{aligned} W[f]W[g] &= \int d^d x_1 \int d^d x_2 f(x_1)g(x_2)\Delta(x_1)\Delta(x_2) \\ &= \frac{1}{\pi^d \det \Theta} \int d^d x_1 \int d^d x_2 \int d^d x_3 \\ &\quad \times f(x_1)g(x_2)\Delta(x_3)e^{-2i(\Theta^{-1})_{\mu\nu}(x_1-x_3)_\mu(x_2-x_3)_\nu}, \end{aligned} \quad (2.15)$$

where in the second line equation (2.11) was used. Multiplying both sides with  $\Delta(x)$  from the right and taking the trace leads to

$$\begin{aligned} h(x) &= \text{Tr}(W[f]W[g]\Delta(x)) \\ &= \frac{1}{\pi^d \det \Theta} \int d^d x_1 \int d^d x_2 f(x_1)g(x_2)e^{-2i(\Theta^{-1})_{\mu\nu}(x_1-x)_\mu(x_2-x)_\nu} \\ &= f(x) \exp\left(\frac{i}{2}\overleftarrow{\partial}_\mu \Theta_{\mu\nu} \overrightarrow{\partial}_\nu\right) g(x) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} f(x) \star g(x), \end{aligned} \quad (2.16)$$

where we used the completeness relation (2.12). Using this product we obtain

$$W[f]W[g] = W[f \star g], \quad (2.17)$$

i.e. the product of Weyl operators is equal to the Weyl operator of the star-products of functions in coordinate space. With the star-product we can rewrite the commutation relation between space-time operators (2.2) in terms space-time coordinates

$$[x_\mu, x_\nu]_\star = x_\mu \star x_\nu - x_\nu \star x_\mu = i\Theta_{\mu\nu}. \quad (2.18)$$

The star-product is associative but non-commutative. For  $\Theta_{\mu\nu} = 0$  it reduces to the ordinary product of functions. It can be thought of as a deformation of the algebra of functions on  $\mathbb{R}^d$  to a non-commutative algebra, with the same elements

and addition law, but with a different multiplication law given by (2.16). Note that the commutator of a function  $f(x)$  with the coordinates  $x_\mu$  can be used to generate derivatives

$$x_\mu \star f(x) - f(x) \star x_\mu = i\Theta_{\mu\nu}\partial_\nu f(x). \quad (2.19)$$

Due to the cyclicity of the trace defined in equation (2.10) the integral

$$\text{Tr}(W[f_1]W[f_2]\dots W[f_n]) = \int d^d x f_1(x) \star f_2(x) \star \dots \star f_n(x) \quad (2.20)$$

is invariant under cyclic permutations of the functions  $f_i(x)$ . In particular the integral of the star-product of two functions is identical to the integral of the ordinary product of two functions

$$\int d^d x f_1(x) \star f_2(x) = \int d^d x f_1(x) f_2(x). \quad (2.21)$$

We have now two ways to encode non-commutative space-time:

- we can use ordinary products in the non-commutative  $C^*$ -algebra of Weyl operators,
- or we may deform the ordinary product of the commutative  $C^*$ -algebra of functions in  $\mathbb{R}^d$  to the non-commutative star-product.

### 2.1.3 The non-commutative torus

In this Subsection we briefly discuss the case when space-time is a  $d$ -dimensional torus  $\mathbb{T}^d$  instead of  $\mathbb{R}^d$ . For a more detailed discussion, see [25, 26].

Let us consider functions  $f(x)$  on a periodic torus

$$f(x + \Sigma_{\mu\nu} \hat{\mu}) = f(x) \quad \text{with} \quad \nu = 1, \dots, d. \quad (2.22)$$

$\hat{\mu}$  is the unit vector in the  $\mu$  direction and  $\Sigma_{\mu\nu}$  is the  $d \times d$  period matrix of the torus. Due to this periodicity the momenta  $k_\mu$  in (2.1) are discretized according to

$$k_\mu = 2\pi (\Sigma^{-1})_{\nu\mu} m_\nu \quad \text{with} \quad m_\nu \in \mathbb{Z}. \quad (2.23)$$

Using the discrete version of Fourier transform (2.1) we can define a mapping from fields to operators in the same way as we did in flat  $\mathbb{R}^d$ . The result is

$$\Delta(x) = \frac{1}{|\det \Sigma|} \sum_{\vec{m} \in \mathbb{Z}^d} \left( \prod_{\nu=1}^d (\hat{Z}_\nu)^{m_\nu} \right) e^{-\pi i \sum_{\nu < \rho} \tilde{\Theta}_{\nu\rho} m_\nu m_\rho} e^{-2\pi i (\Sigma^{-1})_{\nu\mu} m_\nu x_\mu}, \quad (2.24)$$

where we introduced the dimensionless non-commutativity tensor  $\tilde{\Theta}$

$$\tilde{\Theta}_{\rho\sigma} = 2\pi (\Sigma^{-1})_{\rho\mu} \Theta_{\mu\nu} (\Sigma^{-1})_{\sigma\nu} \quad (2.25)$$

and the operators  $\hat{Z}_\nu$

$$\hat{Z}_\nu = e^{2\pi i (\Sigma^{-1})_{\nu\mu} \hat{x}_\mu} \quad \text{with} \quad \hat{Z}_\mu \hat{Z}_\nu = e^{-2\pi i \tilde{\Theta}_{\mu\nu}} \hat{Z}_\nu \hat{Z}_\mu. \quad (2.26)$$

With this mapping we find the one-to-one correspondence (2.5) and (2.13) also on the non-commutative torus. These definitions will reappear in Section 3.1, where we discuss the discrete torus.

## 2.2 Non-commutative scalar field theory

Having defined the algebra of functions of non-commutative space-time we are able to define a scalar field theory on this geometry. At this point we make a change of notation and introduce the short-hand notation for Weyl operators  $W[f] \rightarrow \hat{f}$ .

### 2.2.1 Non-commutative scalar action

We start our discussion with the action of an Euclidean commutative  $\lambda\phi^4$  theory,

$$S[\phi] = \int d^d x \left( \frac{1}{2} \partial_\mu \phi(x) \partial_\mu \phi(x) + \frac{m^2}{2} \phi^2(x) + \frac{\lambda}{4} \phi^4(x) \right), \quad (2.27)$$

where  $\phi$  is a real valued scalar field and  $d$  is the dimension of space-time.

To transform an ordinary scalar field theory to a non-commutative field theory we can use one of the procedures described in the last Section. Either we may use the Weyl quantization via Hermitian operators  $\hat{\phi}$ , or we use the deformation of the product into the star-product (2.16).

The quantum field theory written in terms of Weyl operators  $\hat{\phi}$ , corresponding to a real scalar field  $\phi(x)$  on  $\mathbb{R}^d$ , reads

$$Z = \int d\hat{\phi} \exp(-S[\hat{\phi}]) \quad (2.28)$$

$$S[\hat{\phi}] = \text{Tr} \left( \frac{1}{2} [\hat{\partial}_\mu, \hat{\phi}]^2 + \frac{m^2}{2} \hat{\phi}^2 + \frac{\lambda}{4} \hat{\phi}^4 \right),$$

where the kinetic term is a direct consequence of equation (2.8) (it involves a sum over  $\mu$ ). The measure  $d\hat{\phi}$  is here the ordinary path integral measure for scalar fields  $\mathcal{D}\phi$ .

This theory may be formulated in coordinate space by applying the map (2.13) to the action (2.28) and using equation (2.17),

$$S[\phi] = \int d^d x \left[ \frac{1}{2} (\partial_\mu \phi(x))^2 + \frac{m^2}{2} \phi(x)^2 + \frac{\lambda}{4} \phi(x) \star \phi(x) \star \phi(x) \star \phi(x) \right]. \quad (2.29)$$

the kinetic term and the mass term do *not* contain the star-product, because of the property (2.21) of the star-product. As a consequence the commutative and the non-commutative theory coincide for free fields. The difference arises due to the self-interaction term

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Tr}(\hat{\phi}^4) &= \int d^d x \phi(x) \star \phi(x) \star \phi(x) \star \phi(x) \\ &= \int \left( \prod_{a=1}^4 \frac{d^d k^a}{(2\pi)^d} \right) (2\pi)^d \delta^d \left( \sum_{a=1}^4 k^a \right) \left( \prod_{a=1}^4 \tilde{\phi}(k^a) \right) V(k_1, k_2, k_3, k_4), \end{aligned} \quad (2.30)$$

with the interaction vertex  $V$  in momentum space

$$V(k_1, k_2, k_3, k_4) = e^{-\frac{i}{2} \Theta_{\mu\nu} \sum_{a<b} k_\mu^a k_\nu^b}. \quad (2.31)$$

This vertex contains a momentum dependent phase factor and it is therefore non-local.

### 2.2.2 UV/IR mixing

We discuss this important difference of non-commutative field theories compared to commutative theories at the example of one loop mass renormalization of the 4d  $\lambda\phi^4$  theory, given by equation (2.29). To this end we consider the one particle irreducible two-point function

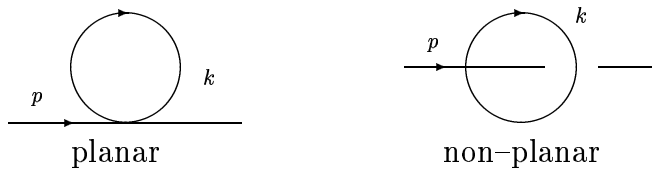
$$\Gamma(p) = \langle \tilde{\phi}(p)\tilde{\phi}(-p) \rangle = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \lambda^n \Gamma^{(n)}(p). \quad (2.32)$$

At lowest order the two-point function is given by  $\Gamma^{(0)}(p) = p^2 + m^2$ . The one loop contribution splits topologically into two parts, one planar and one non-planar diagram

$$\Gamma_{\text{p}}^{(1)} = \frac{1}{3} \int \frac{d^4 k}{(2\pi)^4} \frac{1}{k^2 + m^2}, \quad (2.33)$$

$$\Gamma_{\text{np}}^{(1)}(p) = \frac{1}{6} \int \frac{d^4 k}{(2\pi)^4} \frac{\exp(i k_{\mu} p_{\nu} \Theta_{\mu\nu})}{k^2 + m^2}. \quad (2.34)$$

In Refs. [3,4] it is shown that the contribution of planar diagrams to non-commutative perturbation theory is proportional to the commutative case (to all orders). Therefore the planar divergences may be absorbed into the bare parameters, if and only if the corresponding commutative theory is renormalizable. This already disproves the expectation that non-commutative quantum field theory would not require renormalization.



**Figure 2.1:** The planar and non-planar one loop contribution to two-point function (2.32).

In the case of the non-planar diagrams the situation is different. Rewriting the denominator in equation (2.34) in terms of a Schwinger parameter

$$\frac{1}{k^2 + m^2} = \int_0^{\infty} d\alpha e^{-\alpha(k^2 + m^2)}, \quad (2.35)$$

and introducing a momentum cut-off  $\Lambda$  by multiplying the resulting integrand in (2.34) with a Pauli-Villars regulator  $\exp(-1/(\Lambda^2\alpha))$ , leads in  $d$  dimensions to [26]

$$\Gamma_{\text{np}}^{(1)}(p) = \frac{m^{\frac{d-2}{2}}}{6(2\pi)^{d/2}} \left( \frac{4}{\Lambda^2} - p_{\mu} \Theta_{\mu\nu}^2 p_{\nu} \right)^{\frac{2-d}{4}} K_{\frac{d-2}{2}} \left( m \sqrt{\frac{4}{\Lambda^2} - p_{\mu} \Theta_{\mu\nu}^2 p_{\nu}} \right), \quad (2.36)$$

where  $K_n(x)$  is the irregular modified Bessel function of order  $n$ . In  $d = 4$  the leading divergences of equation (2.36) are given by

$$\Gamma_{\text{np}}^{(1)}(p) = \frac{1}{96\pi^2} \left( \Lambda_{\text{eff}}^2 - m^2 \log \left( \frac{\Lambda_{\text{eff}}^2}{m^2} \right) + O(1) \right). \quad (2.37)$$

Here we introduced the effective cut-off  $\Lambda_{\text{eff}}$  given by

$$\Lambda_{\text{eff}}^2 = \frac{1}{\frac{1}{\Lambda^2} - p_\mu \Theta_{\mu\nu}^2 p_\nu} = \frac{1}{\frac{1}{\Lambda^2} + \theta^2 p^2}. \quad (2.38)$$

The two-point function  $\Gamma_{\text{np}}^{(1)}$  remains finite in the limit  $\Lambda \rightarrow \infty$ , because it is effectively regulated by the non-commutative space-time. The complete one loop corrected propagator then reads

$$\Gamma(p) = p^2 + m^2 + 2\lambda\Gamma_{\text{np}}^{(1)}(0) + \lambda\Gamma_{\text{np}}^{(1)}(p) + O(\lambda^2), \quad (2.39)$$

where we used

$$\Gamma_{\text{p}}^{(1)} = 2\Gamma_{\text{np}}^{(1)}(p=0). \quad (2.40)$$

The UV limit ( $\Lambda \rightarrow \infty$ ) does not commute with the IR limit ( $p \rightarrow 0$ ) or with the limit  $\theta \rightarrow 0$ . At small momenta or small non-commutativity parameter the two-point function reads

$$\Gamma(p) \simeq p^2 + m^2 + 3\lambda\Gamma_{\text{np}}^{(1)}(0) + O(\lambda^2). \quad (2.41)$$

Taking now the UV limit leads to the standard mass renormalization of the  $\lambda\phi^4$  theory. Taking these limits vice versa, the effective cut-off is given by

$$\Lambda_{\text{eff}}^2 = \frac{1}{\theta^2 p^2} \quad (2.42)$$

and  $\Lambda_{\text{eff}}$  diverges — and therefore also  $\Gamma_{\text{np}}^{(1)}(p)$  — either in the limit <sup>1</sup>  $\theta \rightarrow 0$  or in the infrared limit when the incoming momentum  $p$  goes to zero. We may absorb the planar one loop contribution of  $\Gamma(p)$  by defining the renormalized mass through  $M_{\text{eff}}^2 = m^2 + 2\lambda\Gamma_{\text{np}}^{(1)}(0)$ . Removing the cut-off while keeping  $M_{\text{eff}}^2$  fixed, then leads to a finite  $\Gamma(p)$  for finite incoming momenta  $p$ . For zero momentum  $\Gamma(p)$  diverges and the divergence at one loop is given by

$$\Gamma(p) = p^2 + M_{\text{eff}}^2 + \xi \frac{\lambda}{\theta^2 p^2} + \text{subleading terms} \quad (2.43)$$

with  $\xi = \frac{1}{96\pi^2}$ . Here we see that a non-zero non-commutativity tensor  $\Theta_{\mu\nu}$  replaces the standard ultraviolet divergence with a singular infrared behavior. This mixing between high and low energy effects is called *UV/IR mixing*.

The long distance behavior of the spatial correlators is controlled by the pole in the upper half plane nearest to the real axis, as in the commutative case [11]. Due to the additional term in equation (2.43) the poles of the propagator are now at

$$p^2 = -\frac{M_{\text{eff}}^2}{2} \pm \frac{1}{2\theta} \sqrt{M_{\text{eff}}^4 \theta^2 - 4\lambda^2}. \quad (2.44)$$

---

<sup>1</sup>Note that the limit  $\theta \rightarrow 0$  in the non-commutative action (2.29) leads to the commutative action, since in this limit the star-product turns into the usual product. In the quantized theory, after the cut-off  $\Lambda$  is removed, the limit  $\theta \rightarrow 0$  does not lead to the commutative theory, as equation (2.43) shows.

In the weak coupling limit this pole is here at  $p = i\sqrt{\xi\lambda}/(M_{\text{eff}}\theta)$  and not at  $p = iM_{\text{eff}}$  as in the commutative case. This can be interpreted as a new mode with mass  $m_2 = \sqrt{\xi\lambda}/(M_{\text{eff}}\theta)$ . By definition  $m_2$  is much smaller than  $M_{\text{eff}}$  and therefore dominates the behavior of the spatial correlators. In the commutative theory these correlation functions decay exponentially if  $M_{\text{eff}} > 0$ . Here we obtain at small  $\lambda$  a power-like decay of the correlators, leading to the long range correlations [4]. At large  $\lambda$  the decay is again exponential, but now with a decay constant  $\propto \sqrt{\lambda}$ .

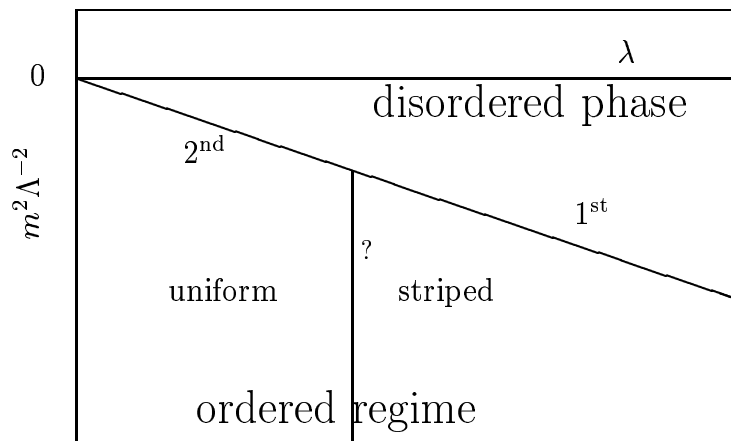
### 2.2.3 Phase structure of non-commutative $\lambda\phi^4$ theory

The UV/IR mixing is one of the most interesting properties of non-commutative field theory and has no counterpart in the commutative case. A number of new effects and also problems occur due to this term. In particular the phase diagram of the non-commutative  $\lambda\phi^4$  model is changed, which we want to discuss here.

The low momentum singularity of  $\Gamma(p)$ , discussed in the last Subsection, has a large impact on the phase diagram. Since a phase transition should involve the momenta that minimize  $\Gamma(p)$ , it is not likely that the low momentum modes will participate in a phase transition. If there is a phase transition at all it will be driven by non-zero momentum modes. Then the IR divergence leads to an oscillation in the sign of the correlator  $\langle\phi(0)\star\phi(x)\rangle$ , indicating a new type of ordered phase.

Gubser and Sondhi studied the phase diagram of 4d  $\lambda\phi^4$  theory [27] within the framework of a one loop self-consistent Hartree-Fock approximation [28]. We do not discuss their calculation, but summarize their results on the phase diagram.

At small non-commutativity parameter  $\theta$  they obtained an Ising type (second order) phase transition leading to an uniformly ordered phase with  $\langle\phi\rangle \neq 0$ . At sufficiently large  $\theta$  the minimum of  $\Gamma(p)$  is not at  $p = 0$ . The phase transition is now driven by modes  $p \neq 0$  and it is of first order. This leads to an ordered phase



**Figure 2.2:** The phase diagram of non-commutative 4d  $\lambda\phi^4$  theory conjectured by Gubser and Sondhi [27] in the  $m^2 - \lambda$  plane.

where the translation invariance is broken spontaneously. In this phase  $\langle\phi\rangle$  varies

in space, which implies the ground state to involve some non-uniform patterns like stripes. These patterns depend on the momentum mode which drives the phase transition. In Ref. [27] these results are summarized in a qualitative phase diagram in the  $m^2\Lambda^{-1}-\theta\Lambda^2$  plane, where  $\Lambda$  is a momentum cut-off.

In Section 2.2.1 we have seen that only the interaction term depends on the parameter  $\theta$ . Therefore increasing the coupling  $\lambda$  also amplifies effects of non-commutativity. According to Ref. [27] the phase diagram in the  $m^2\Lambda^{-1}-\lambda$  plane is then given by Figure 2.2.

A similar phase structure was conjectured in three dimensions. In two dimensions it was argued that a striped phase does not occur. Gubser and Sondhi worked with an action of the Brazovskiiian form [28], which is local. Hence the Mermin-Wagner theorem [29, 30, 31] applies, which states that spontaneous breakdown of a continuous symmetry is not possible in two dimensions. We come back to this point in Chapter 6.

In another approach renormalization group techniques were used to study the phase diagram of the  $\lambda\phi^4$  model [32]. Chen and Wu obtained in  $d = 4 - \epsilon$  a new IR stable fixed point, i.e. the non-commutative counterpart of the Wilson-Fisher fixed point. This fixed point is stable, and therefore a striped phase exists, when  $\theta > 12/\sqrt{\epsilon}$ . In contrast to the results in Ref. [27], this implies that in  $d = 4$  there is no striped phase. Since we studied the 3d model, we will not address this controversy in this thesis.

## 2.3 Non-commutative gauge theory

In this Section we extend our considerations to gauge theories defined on a non-commutative plane.

### 2.3.1 Star-gauge invariant action

To define a Yang-Mills theory on a non-commutative plane we have to generalize the map (2.5) in Section 2.1 to the algebra of  $n \times n$  matrix valued functions. Let  $A_\mu(x)$  be a Hermitian gauge field on  $\mathbb{R}^d$ , which corresponds to the unitary gauge group  $U(n)$ . We can introduce the Weyl operators corresponding to  $A_\mu(x)$  by taking the trace of the tensor product of  $\Delta(x)$  and the gauge field

$$\hat{A}_\mu = \int d^d x \Delta(x) \otimes A_\mu(x), \quad (2.45)$$

where  $\Delta(x)$  is defined in equation (2.5). Based on equation (2.8) a non-commutative version of the Yang-Mills action can be defined

$$S[\hat{A}] = -\frac{1}{4g^2} \text{Tr tr}_N \left( \left[ \hat{\partial}_\mu, \hat{A}_\nu \right] - \left[ \hat{\partial}_\nu, \hat{A}_\mu \right] - i \left[ \hat{A}_\mu, \hat{A}_\nu \right] \right)^2, \quad (2.46)$$

where the term in brackets is the operator analog of the field strength tensor. Here  $\text{Tr}$  is the operator trace (2.10) and  $\text{tr}_N$  denotes the trace in color space. This action

is invariant under transformations of the form

$$\hat{A}_\mu \rightarrow \hat{G} \hat{A}_\mu \hat{G}^\dagger - i\hat{G} \left[ \hat{\partial}_\mu, \hat{G} \right], \quad (2.47)$$

where  $\hat{G}$  is an arbitrary unitary element of the algebra of matrix valued operators, i. e.

$$\hat{G} \hat{G}^\dagger = \hat{G}^\dagger \hat{G} = \hat{\mathbb{1}} \otimes \mathbb{1}_n. \quad (2.48)$$

The symbol  $\hat{\mathbb{1}}$  is here the identity on the ordinary Weyl algebra and  $\mathbb{1}_n$  is a  $n \times n$  unit matrix.

To set up the action in coordinate space we can construct an inverse map of (2.45). By mapping the product of matrix valued Weyl operators to coordinate space, using this inverse map, again the star-product (2.16) appears. The Yang–Mills action in coordinate space then reads

$$S[A] = -\frac{1}{4g^2} \int d^d x \operatorname{tr}_N (F_{\mu\nu}(x) \star F_{\mu\nu}(x)), \quad (2.49)$$

where we introduced the non-commutative field strength tensor  $F_{\mu\nu}$  given by

$$F_{\mu\nu}(x) = \partial_\mu A_\nu(x) - \partial_\nu A_\mu(x) - i [A_\mu(x), A_\nu(x)]_\star. \quad (2.50)$$

The index ' $\star$ ' indicates that the products in this commutator are star-products. From equation (2.50) we see that already for the simple gauge group  $U(1)$  we have a Yang–Mills type structure. Therefore there exist three and four point gauge interactions and non-commutative  $U(1)$  theory is asymptotically free.

The invariance under unitary transformations in operator space translates here into an invariance of the action (2.49) under *star-gauge* transformations given by

$$A_\mu(x) \rightarrow G(x) \star A_\mu(x) \star G(x)^\dagger - iG(x) \star \partial_\mu G(x)^\dagger, \quad (2.51)$$

where  $G(x)$  is a *star-unitary* matrix field,

$$G(x) \star G(x)^\dagger = G(x)^\dagger \star G(x) = \mathbb{1}_n. \quad (2.52)$$

Equation (2.52) is equivalent to the unitarity condition (2.48).

So far we considered non-commutative  $U(n)$  theories which reduce to the ordinary  $U(n)$  theories in the limit  $\theta \rightarrow 0$  (on the classical level). In Ref. [33] it was shown that for other gauge groups like  $SU(n)$  this cannot be realized on non-commutative flat space.<sup>2</sup> The  $U(n)$  group is closed under the star-product; the product of two star-unitary matrix fields is again star-unitary. In contrast to  $U(n)$  the special unitary group  $SU(n)$  is not closed, since in general

$$\det(G) \star \det(H) \neq \det(G \star H). \quad (2.53)$$

The  $U(1)$  and the  $SU(n)$  sectors in the decomposition

$$U(n) = U(1) \otimes SU(n) / \mathbb{Z}_n \quad (2.54)$$

do not decouple in the non-commutative case, because the  $U(1)$  photon interacts with the  $SU(n)$  gluons [34].

<sup>2</sup>We refer to a constant non-commutativity tensor  $\Theta_{\mu\nu}$ .

### 2.3.2 Star-gauge invariant observables

To construct star-gauge invariant observables we consider an arbitrary oriented smooth contour  $C_v$  in space-time, which connects the points  $x$  and  $x + v$ . The holonomy of the gauge field over this contour is described by the non-commutative parallel transporter

$$\mathcal{U}(x; C_v) = \text{P exp}_\star \left( i \int_{C_v} d\xi_\mu A_\mu(x + \xi) \right), \quad (2.55)$$

where P indicates path ordering and  $\xi$  parameterizes the contour. The index ' $\star$ ' at the exponential function indicates that in the expansion of this function the star-product has to be used. The parallel transporter (2.55) is a  $n \times n$  star-unitary matrix field and transforms under the star-gauge transformation (2.51) like

$$\mathcal{U}(x; C_v) \rightarrow G(x) \star \mathcal{U}(x; C_v) \star G^\dagger(x + v). \quad (2.56)$$

A remarkable fact in non-commutative field theory is that space-time translations can be arranged by (star-) multiplication with plane waves

$$G(x + v) = e^{ik_\mu x_\mu} \star G(x) \star e^{-ik_\rho x_\rho} \quad \text{with} \quad k_\mu = (\Theta^{-1})_{\mu\nu} v_\nu, \quad (2.57)$$

where we assume  $\Theta$  to be invertible. That this equation holds can easily be shown by expanding the exponential functions and using equation (2.19). With the definition of the non-commutative parallel transporter and equation (2.57) we can associate a star-gauge invariant observable with any arbitrary contour  $C_v$  by

$$\mathcal{O}(C_v) = \int d^d x \text{tr}_N (\mathcal{U}(x; C_v) \star e^{ik_\mu x_\mu}). \quad (2.58)$$

It is straightforward to show the invariance under the star-gauge transformation (2.56) by using equation (2.57) and the cyclicity of the trace over the star-product.

In commutative gauge theory gauge invariant observables can only be constructed from closed loops. In contrast to that, equation (2.58) shows that in non-commutative gauge theory we can find star-gauge invariant observables associated with *open* contours. The vector  $k$  in equation (2.58) can be regarded as the total momentum of the open loop. This is again a manifestation of the UV/IR mixing phenomenon, discussed in Section 2.2.2. If we increase the momentum  $k_\mu$  in a given direction, the contour will extent in the other directions according to  $\Theta_{\mu\nu} k_\nu$ .

This completes our introduction to non-commutative field theories in the continuum. We showed how to define a scalar field theory and a pure gauge theory on a non-commutative plane, and we discussed the main differences compared to the commutative case. This sets up the framework for our numerical studies to be presented in Chapters 4 and 5. In the next Section we will discuss further properties and problems of non-commutative field theory.

## 2.4 Phenomenological implications of a quantized space–time

In this Section we present phenomenological consequences of a  $\theta$ -deformed space–time. To this end we discuss briefly some aspects of the non–commutative standard model.

### Gauge fields coupled to matter fields

To set up the non–commutative standard model we have to extend our considerations in Section 2.3 to the case where the gauge field couples to matter fields. We start from the action of a free Dirac field

$$S[\bar{\psi}, \psi] = \int d^d x \bar{\psi}(x) \star (\gamma_\mu \partial_\mu + m) \psi(x), \quad (2.59)$$

where we extended the commutative theory to a non–commutative theory by replacing the usual products of fields with star–products. The Grassmann valued fermionic fields are represented by  $\psi(x)$ . To obtain an action that is invariant under the star–gauge transformations

$$\psi(x) \rightarrow G(x) \star \psi(x) \quad \text{and} \quad \bar{\psi}(x) \rightarrow \bar{\psi}(x) \star G^\dagger(x), \quad (2.60)$$

with a star–unitary  $n \times n$  matrix field  $G(x)$ , we have to modify the kinetic term of the action (2.59). We follow here Ref. [35] and introduce, in analogy to the commutative case, the covariant derivative

$$D_\mu \psi(x) = \partial_\mu \psi(x) + ig A_\mu(x) \star \psi(x), \quad (2.61)$$

where  $A_\mu(x)$  is the gauge field that generates the unitary group  $U(n)$ . The derivative (2.61) is covariant under the star–gauge transformation (2.51),

$$D_\mu \rightarrow G(x) \star D_\mu \star G^\dagger(x). \quad (2.62)$$

Replacing the derivative in (2.59) by the covariant derivative leads to the star–gauge invariant fermion action

$$S_{\text{fermion}}[A, \bar{\psi}, \psi] = \int d^d x (\bar{\psi} \star [\gamma_\mu D_\mu + m] \psi). \quad (2.63)$$

The complete action is then given by the sum of the gauge action (2.49) and the fermion action (2.63)

$$S[A, \bar{\psi}, \psi] = S_{\text{YM}}[A] + S_{\text{fermion}}[A, \bar{\psi}, \psi]. \quad (2.64)$$

As we mentioned in the last Section, it was so far not possible to formulate a non–commutative field theory for the special unitary group  $SU(n)$ . The gauge group is restricted to  $U(n)$ , which is (for  $n > 1$ ) not a gauge group of the standard model. There are attempts to modify the space–time non–commutativity in order to take also  $SU(n)$  gauge groups into account [36,37], but this is an ongoing field of research. However, we may consider the star–unitary  $U(1)$  gauge field coupled to fermions as an extension of commutative QED.

### About renormalizability

The UV/IR mixing poses severe problems for the renormalization of perturbation theory, which are not overcome yet. For instance, scalar fields can become unstable — tachionic — due to IR effects as the non–commutativity is switched on. The attempts to renormalize perturbation theory include methods known from standard field theory [38], the application of Wilson’s renormalization group technique [39, 40, 41], controlling the IR divergences in the framework of supersymmetry [42, 43] and the Hartree–Fock method [27].

In spite of some plausibility arguments in favor of perturbative renormalizability, it is an open question if non–commutative quantum field theories do really have finite UV and IR limits. There are even claims that basic non–commutative field theories, like non–commutative QED, are not renormalizable [44].

### Violation of Lorentz symmetry

Since  $\Theta_{\mu\nu}$  carries Lorentz indices, two distinct types of Lorentz symmetries have to be considered [45]: the observers Lorentz transformation and the particle Lorentz transformation. The action (2.64) as well as the scalar action (2.29) are fully covariant under rotations or boosts of the observers reference frame, because  $\Theta_{\mu\nu}$  and the fields transform covariantly. This does not hold anymore in the case of rotations or boosts of a particle [46];  $\Theta_{\mu\nu}$  is unaffected by these transformations.<sup>3</sup>

The broken Lorentz symmetry implies a deformed dispersion relation, where the deformation depends on the theory under consideration. In the case of the non–commutative  $\lambda\phi^4$  theory the dispersion relation is given by the poles of the irreducible two–point function (2.43). We focus here on the case with two commuting and two non–commuting directions. The on–shell condition then reads

$$E(\vec{p})^2 \simeq \vec{p}^2 + P^2 + M_{\text{eff}}^2 + \xi \frac{\lambda}{\theta^2 \vec{p}^2}, \quad (2.65)$$

where  $\vec{p}$  is the momentum that corresponds to the non–commutative plane and  $P$  corresponds to the commutative space coordinate. We include here only the leading IR divergence in first order of  $\lambda$ ; in addition there is also a logarithmic divergence.

### Phenomenology of non–commutative space–time

The effects of non–commutativity on quantities that are measurable in experiment are studied intensively by many authors. These studies may be interpreted as an attempt to set stringent limits on the non–commutativity parameter  $\theta$ , or to suggest possibly measurable effects of non–commutative space–time. We will present here an incomplete list of current investigation in this field.

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<sup>3</sup>The non–commutativity tensor  $\Theta_{\mu\nu}$  plays the role of an inverse background field (see introduction). From this point of view the Lorentz symmetry breaking occurs very naturally. The symmetry would be restored in a formalism that transforms the particle fields as well as the background field.

*Deformed dispersion relation in gauge theories*

Also in gauge theories Lorentz symmetry is broken, which leads to a deformed dispersion relation and changes the particle propagation. This was studied for example in Refs. [47, 48]. There a dispersion relation for photons was obtained containing a  $1/\vec{p}^2$  term as in the scalar case. Based on one loop perturbation theory the authors of Ref. [47] obtained the photon dispersion relation

$$E(\vec{p})^2 = \vec{p}^2 + \zeta g^2 \frac{1}{\theta^2 \vec{p}^2}, \quad (2.66)$$

where they chose the time to be commutative. The coefficient  $\zeta$  depends on the number of bosonic and fermionic degrees of freedom present in the theory and  $g$  is the coupling constant.

This may give rise to experimental verification of quantized space-time. The non-linear term in  $E(\vec{p})^2$  leads to a vacuum dispersion of light, such that the speed of light depends on the wave length. In addition the dispersion depends on the polarization of the photons leading to birefringence.

The authors of Ref. [49] suggest to measure this deformation of the dispersion relation by so-called *time of arrival measurements*. In these measurements the time delay between photons with different wave length, emitted simultaneously up to a known precision, is measured. The delay will depend on the time the photons are traveling. This effect is (if existent at all) very small. Therefore the sources of the photons should be far distant to accumulate the delay to a measurable effect.

There are attempts by experimentalists to study this effect. Already in 1998 high precision measurements<sup>4</sup> of an energy dependent speed of light were performed [50]. However, up to a given sensitivity these measurements did *not* show any energy dependence.

Newer experiments might give more insight. For example the HESS project [51], just started to take data, has a higher sensitivity than in Ref. [50]. Besides other projects, this collaboration intend to make measurements related to the vacuum dispersion [52]. Another candidate for measuring such effects is GLAST [53], which is expected to start measurements by the year 2005.

*Threshold anomalies*

It is still an open question why high energy photons ( $E > 20\text{TeV}$ ) from far distant galaxies can be detected on earth [54]. Photons in this energy range traveling over galactic distances should interact with the cosmic microwave background, producing electron positron pairs

$$\gamma\gamma \rightarrow e^+e^-.$$

The threshold for this reaction is approximately  $E \approx 1\text{TeV}$  [55, 56] and it should make the observation of high energy photons very unlikely.

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<sup>4</sup>The accuracy in this measurements was  $\delta T/T \approx 10^{-12}$ , where  $\delta T$  is the time delay and  $T$  is the overall time.

A second threshold exist for cosmic high energy protons. There the interaction of the protons with the cosmic microwave background leads to

$$p + \gamma \rightarrow p + \pi .$$

The protons loose energy when producing pions and the threshold, i.e. the GZK threshold, for this process is at approximately  $E \approx 5 \times 10^{19}$  eV [57, 55] Therefore cosmic protons with higher energy should not be observed. However, cosmic proton rays have been detected beyond this limit [58].

In both cases non–commutative space–time could provide an explanation of these anomalies. The thresholds can be estimated kinematically using the momentum and energy conservation. In a Lorentz invariant theory the threshold momentum in the case of high energy protons is approximately [59]

$$p_{\text{threshold}} \approx \frac{m_p m_\pi + m_\pi^2}{4E_\gamma}, \quad (2.67)$$

where  $m_p$  and  $m_\pi$  are the masses of the proton and of the pion, respectively, and  $E_\gamma$  is the energy of the background photon that interacts with the proton. In a non–commutative space–time the dispersion relation is given by equation (2.66). Inserting the deformed dispersion relation into this computation leads to a  $\theta$  dependent threshold.

### *Bounds on $\theta$*

So far we discussed new effects and known problems that might be explained by non–vanishing  $\theta$ . Let us now address the limits on  $\theta$  set by existing experiments and the possibility of setting bounds on  $\theta$  in near future experiments.

The fact that in the aforementioned time of arrival measurements no energy dependence was measured, allows to set a *lower* limit on  $\theta$  (if we assume a non–zero  $\theta$  from the beginning). Note that here we find a lower limit, because the dispersion relation (2.66) implies that larger values of  $\theta$  correspond to a softer deformation of the standard dispersion.<sup>5</sup> On the other hand if one wants to solve the cosmic proton threshold anomaly within the framework of non–commutative field theory one finds an upper bound of  $\theta$ . According to Ref. [47] this leads to a rough estimation of the a parameter  $\theta$  in the range  $(10^4 \text{ TeV})^{-2} < \theta < (10 \text{ TeV})^{-2}$ .

More precise bounds on  $\theta$  could be obtained from accelerator physics. Since non–commutative QCD is not well formulated yet, these investigations are restricted to measurements described by QED. Hence one expects the most significant results from linear colliders.

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<sup>5</sup>The rather unexpected lower bound of  $\theta$  is related to the order of UV limit and commutative limit, as we discussed in Section 2.2.2. This lower bound can be understood in the sense that *if* there is a non–commutative space–time, then  $\theta$  has to be larger than a certain value. However, this does *not* exclude  $\theta = 0$ .

The idea is to compute for example cross sections for scattering processes from the standard model and from the non-commutative standard model [60].<sup>6</sup> This leads to different predictions for the two models, where both predictions depend of course on the center of mass energy  $\sqrt{s}$ . Measurements of these observables then may verify the non-commutative picture or set an upper bound on  $\theta$ . Measurements in existing colliders did not show any signal of non-commutative space-time. Therefore one is looking for search limits, which can be probed in future colliders (TESLA [64], NLC [65] and CLIC [66])  $\theta$ . For example, Ref. [67] reports search

process	search limit on $1/\sqrt{\theta}$ at $\sqrt{s} = 0.5 - 5$ TeV
pair production $\gamma\gamma \rightarrow e^- e^+$	500 – 2700 GeV
Compton scattering $e\gamma \rightarrow e\gamma$	1000 – 6500 GeV

**Table 2.1:** Sensitivity to measure effects of non-commutativity in future colliders.

limits for the processes listed in Table 2.4 on the basis of the design of these colliders. Further search limits can be found for example in Ref. [68]. For recent reviews concerning the activities in this field see for example Ref. [69, 70, 71].

Note that the theories, which the above presented results are based on, still suffer from IR divergences. They are obtained from one loop calculations. Higher orders in perturbation theory are not under control yet. It is still an open question if the non-commutative field theories are renormalizable in two or three loop calculations. The limits on  $\theta$  were obtained assuming that higher order correction will not change the results qualitatively. However, one cannot exclude dramatic changes coming from higher loop contributions.

## 2.5 Summary

Let us briefly summarize the effects of non-commutative space-time on field theories defined on it. We showed that introducing non-commutativity via the commutation relation (2.2) leads to a non-commutative and non-local product, i.e. the star-product. Field theories may be formulated on this geometry by replacing all products in the commutative theory by the star-product of the fields. This results in a non-local action. In a perturbative treatment one discovers a mixing of high and low energy effects. The UV/IR mixing causes serious problems in perturbative renormalization, since some of the UV divergences in commutative theories turn into IR divergences in the non-commutative model even in the massive case. We discussed this new effect in one loop perturbation theory. Already there the divergences at low momenta cause enormous problems. The difficulties increase when these loops are sub-loops of a higher order contributions.

In a  $\theta$ -deformed space-time the Lorentz symmetry is explicitly broken. This leads to unexpected particle propagation like a momentum dependent speed of light. These effects are the most likely candidates for experimental verifications.

<sup>6</sup>The calculations in non-commutative QED rely on the Feynman rules developed in Ref. [34, 61, 62, 63].

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In non-commutative gauge theories the gauge symmetry turns into a star-gauge symmetry. This allows us to construct star-gauge invariant observables that are associated with open Wilson loops. The open loops carry a momentum proportional to the separation between the endpoints. This is again a UV/IR mixing effect. In non-commutative QED the photons interact, which might again give rise for new measurable effects.

As an alternative to perturbation theory we are studying non-commutative field theories in the lattice approach [72]. This thesis has to be considered as the beginning of a long term project. At the end of this project we want of course to compute phenomenological quantities, but in the starting phase we will study field theory in lower dimensions in order to understand better the non-perturbative treatment.

However, already the study of these toy models gives insights into the four dimensional theory. Since also for these models there exist perturbative results, it is an interesting question if in a non-perturbative study new effects arise and how far perturbation theory can be confirmed.



# Chapter 3

## Lattice regularization

As we have seen in Section 2.2.2, introducing non-commutativity of space–time does not cure the ultraviolet divergences occurring in the commutative case. Therefore the field theories still have to be regularized, by introducing a momentum cut–off. In this Chapter we discuss the lattice regularization. For a more detailed discussion we refer to Refs. [73, 74, 25, 26, 75].

### 3.1 Discrete non–commutative space–time

On the cubic lattice the space–time points  $x_\mu$  are restricted to discrete values  $x_\mu \in a\mathbb{Z}$ , where  $a$  is the lattice spacing. Here momentum space is compact and the momenta  $k_\mu$  must be identified under the shift

$$k_\mu \rightarrow k_\mu + \frac{2\pi}{a}\delta_{\mu\nu} \quad \text{with} \quad \nu = 1, 2, \dots, d. \quad (3.1)$$

As in the continuum, non-commutativity comes into the game by replacing the ordinary coordinates  $x_\mu$  by Hermitian coordinate operators  $\hat{x}_\mu$ , which satisfy the commutator relation (2.2). As a consequence of equation (3.1), we can set up the operator identity

$$e^{i(k_\mu + \frac{2\pi}{a}\delta_{\mu\nu})\hat{x}_\mu} = e^{ik_\mu\hat{x}_\mu}. \quad (3.2)$$

By multiplying both sides of equation (3.2) with  $\exp(-ik_\rho\hat{x}_\rho)$  we find

$$\exp\left(\frac{2\pi i}{a}\hat{x}_\mu\delta_{\mu\rho}\right)\exp\left(\Theta_{\mu\nu}k_\nu\frac{\pi i}{a}\delta_{\mu\rho}\right) = \hat{\mathbb{1}} \quad \text{with} \quad \rho = 1, 2, \dots, d, \quad (3.3)$$

where  $\hat{\mathbb{1}}$  is again the identity of the algebra of Weyl operators. The usual constraint of lattice field theory that the discretization has to be compatible with the spectrum of the position operator leads to

$$e^{\frac{2\pi i}{a}\hat{x}_\mu} = \hat{\mathbb{1}} \quad \text{for} \quad \mu = 1, 2, \dots, d. \quad (3.4)$$

Moreover we find an additional constraint for the momenta

$$\Theta_{\mu\nu}k_\nu \in 2a\mathbb{Z} \quad \text{with} \quad \mu = 1, 2, \dots, d. \quad (3.5)$$

Combining this result with the periodicity in momentum space (3.1) implies that  $\Theta_{\mu\nu}\pi/a^2$  is an integer for all  $\mu, \nu$ , leading to a discrete momentum

$$k_\mu = 2\pi (\Sigma^{-1})_{\nu\mu} m_\nu \quad \text{with} \quad m_\nu \in \mathbb{Z}; \quad \nu = 1, \dots, d. \quad (3.6)$$

The periods  $\Sigma_{\mu\nu}$  are integer multiples of the lattice spacing  $a$  and the periodicity (3.1) can be expressed by the integers  $m_\nu$  via  $m_\nu \rightarrow m_\nu + \frac{1}{a}\Sigma_{\mu\nu}$ .

Due to the discrete momentum space the space–time coordinates  $x_\mu$  are restricted to a periodic lattice

$$x_\mu \rightarrow x_\mu + \Sigma_{\mu\nu} \quad \text{with} \quad \nu = 1, \dots, d. \quad (3.7)$$

Therefore the lattice regularization forces space–time to be compact. The discrete compactification is a non–perturbative manifestation of the UV/IR mixing effect; the perturbative manifestation was described in Section 2.2.2. For practical applications this means that systematic errors resulting from the finite lattice spacing are *always* entangled with finite volume errors.

The continuum limit  $a \rightarrow 0$  does not commute with the commutative limit  $|\Theta| \rightarrow 0$ . Taking first the continuum limit restores the infinite space–time  $\mathbb{R}^d$ , while taking first the commutative limit shrinks the space–time lattice to a single point as one infers from equation (3.5).

Due to the momentum discretization (3.6) we cannot use the unbounded operators  $\hat{x}_\mu$ . Instead we have to use the unitary coordinate operators  $\hat{Z}_\nu$ , which have been introduced in Section 2.1.3

$$\hat{Z}_\nu = e^{2\pi i (\Sigma^{-1})_{\nu\mu} \hat{x}_\mu}. \quad (3.8)$$

These operators generate the algebra of functions on a non–commutative torus <sup>1</sup>

$$\hat{Z}_\mu \hat{Z}_\nu = e^{-2\pi i \tilde{\Theta}_{\mu\nu}} \hat{Z}_\nu \hat{Z}_\mu, \quad (3.9)$$

where the dimensionless non–commutativity tensor is defined as

$$\tilde{\Theta}_{\rho\sigma} = 2\pi (\Sigma^{-1})_{\rho\mu} \Theta_{\mu\nu} (\Sigma^{-1})_{\sigma\nu}. \quad (3.10)$$

Moreover since we are dealing with a discrete torus, one should rather use the shift operator  $\hat{D}_\mu$

$$\hat{D}_\mu = e^{a\hat{\partial}_\mu}, \quad (3.11)$$

instead of the linear derivative  $\hat{\partial}_\mu$  (defined in (2.6)). This operator effects translations in units of the lattice spacing  $a$

$$\hat{D}_\mu \hat{Z}_\nu \hat{D}_\mu^\dagger = e^{2\pi i a (\Sigma^{-1})_{\nu\mu}} \hat{Z}_\nu. \quad (3.12)$$

The algebra defined in (3.9) and (3.12) replaces the algebra based on (2.2) and (2.6).

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<sup>1</sup>Note that in equation (3.9) and (3.12) *no* sum over  $\mu, \nu$  is taken.

Now we consider scalar functions  $f(x)$  on a non–commutative discrete torus, where we assume that these functions may be expressed by a discrete Fourier transformation of  $\tilde{f}(m)$ . Lattice Weyl operators are then defined by the formal Fourier transform

$$\hat{f} = \sum_m \tilde{f}(m) e^{2\pi i(\Sigma^{-1})_{\nu\mu} m_\nu \hat{x}_\mu}, \quad (3.13)$$

analogous to the continuum (2.4). The relation between the integer vector  $m$  and the momentum  $k$  is given by equation (3.6). Replacing  $\tilde{f}(m)$  in equation (3.13) by its Fourier transform and using equation (3.9) leads to an explicit map  $\Delta(x)$  between operators and fields

$$\Delta(x) = \frac{1}{|\det \frac{1}{a}\Sigma|} \sum_m \left( \prod_{\nu=1}^d (\hat{Z}_\nu)^{m_\nu} \right) e^{-\pi i \sum_{\nu < \rho} \tilde{\Theta}_{\nu\rho} m_\nu m_\rho} e^{-2\pi i(\Sigma^{-1})_{\nu\mu} m_\nu x_\mu}. \quad (3.14)$$

This map is the lattice analog of the continuum map (2.24). Here  $x$  is a point on the space–time lattice  $(a\mathbb{Z})^d$ . The map between fields and operators then reads

$$\hat{f} = \sum_x f(x) \Delta(x), \quad (3.15)$$

$$f(x) = \text{Tr} \left( \hat{f} \Delta(x) \right), \quad (3.16)$$

where the operator trace is uniquely given by

$$\text{Tr} \hat{f} = \sum_x f(x) \quad \text{and} \quad \text{Tr} \Delta(x) = 1 \quad \text{for all } x \in (a\mathbb{Z})^d. \quad (3.17)$$

The lattice version of the star–product (2.16) can be found by applying the inverse map (3.16) to the product of two Weyl operators  $\hat{f} \hat{g}$

$$f(x) \star g(x) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{Tr} \left( \hat{f} \hat{g} \Delta(x) \right) = \frac{1}{|\det \frac{1}{a}\Sigma|} \sum_{y,z} e^{-2i(\Theta^{-1})_{\mu\nu} y_\mu z_\nu} f(x+y) g(x+z). \quad (3.18)$$

As in the continuum we obtain two equivalent descriptions of non–commutative space–time; either we use Weyl–operators or functions on  $(a\mathbb{Z})^d$  with a deformed product.

## 3.2 Non–commutative field theory on the lattice

With the definitions of the last Section it is straightforward to construct field theories on a non–commutative lattice. In the case of a scalar theory we use the map (3.15) to define the operators  $\hat{\phi}$ . The action in terms of Weyl operators then reads

$$S[\hat{\phi}] = \text{Tr} \left( \frac{1}{2} \sum_\mu \left( \hat{D}_\mu \hat{\phi} \hat{D}_\mu^\dagger - \hat{\phi} \right)^2 + \frac{1}{2} \hat{\phi}^2 + \frac{1}{4} \hat{\phi}^4 \right), \quad (3.19)$$

where  $\hat{D}_\mu$  is the lattice shift operator defined in equation (3.11). Using the inverse map (3.16) leads to the lattice action of the field  $\phi(x)$

$$S[\phi] = \sum_x \left( \frac{1}{2} \sum_\mu (\phi(x+a\hat{\mu}) - \phi(x))^2 + \frac{m^2}{2} \phi^2(x) + \frac{\lambda}{4} \phi(x) \star \phi(x) \star \phi(x) \star \phi(x) \right), \quad (3.20)$$

where  $\hat{\mu}$  is the unit vector in the direction  $\mu$ . Since also the lattice version of the star-product is invariant under cyclic permutation, only the interaction term differs from the commutative case, as in the continuum.

To construct a non-commutative Yang–Mills theory on the lattice we need the non-commutative counterpart of the link variables  $U_\mu(x)$ . In order to preserve star-gauge invariance the link variables have to be star-unitary. This can be formally achieved by taking the parallel transporter defined in (2.55) between the lattice sites  $x$  and  $x + a\hat{\mu}$

$$U_\mu(x) = \text{P exp}_\star \left( i \int_x^{x+a\hat{\mu}} d\xi A_\mu(\xi) \right), \quad (3.21)$$

where  $A_\mu$  is a non-compact  $U(n)$  gauge field and  $\text{exp}_\star$  indicates that in the expansion of the exponential function the star-product has to be used.  $U_\mu$  is star-unitary and transforms under star-gauge transformations as

$$U_\mu(x) \rightarrow G(x) \star U_\mu(x) \star G^\dagger(x + a\hat{\mu}), \quad (3.22)$$

where  $G(x)$  is again a star-unitary matrix field introduced in equation (2.52). The corresponding Weyl operators are given by

$$\hat{U}_\mu = \sum_x \Delta(x) \otimes U_\mu(x). \quad (3.23)$$

The star-unitarity of the link variables  $U_\mu$  is now equivalent to unitarity of the Weyl operators.

The action of a non-commutative Yang–Mills theory can again be constructed with the use of the lattice shift operators (3.11) or with the star-product

$$\begin{aligned} S &= -\frac{1}{g^2} \sum_{\mu \neq \nu} \text{Tr tr}_N \left[ \hat{U}_\mu \left( \hat{D}_\mu \hat{U}_\nu \hat{D}_\mu^\dagger \right) \left( \hat{D}_\nu \hat{U}_\mu^\dagger \hat{D}_\nu^\dagger \right) \hat{U}_\nu^\dagger \right] \\ &= -\frac{1}{g^2} \sum_x \sum_{\mu \neq \nu} \text{tr}_N \left[ U_\mu(x) \star U_\nu(x + a\hat{\mu}) \star U_\mu^\dagger(x + a\hat{\nu}) \star U_\nu^\dagger(x) \right], \end{aligned} \quad (3.24)$$

where  $\text{tr}_N$  is the trace in the fundamental representation of the unitary group  $U(N)$ .

As in the continuum we find in coordinate space a simple recipe to construct a field theory on a non-commutative plane: replace all usual products in the commutative theory by star-products. In this spirit we now define star-gauge invariant observables in non-commutative lattice gauge theory, by replacing the products in the commutative Wilson lines  $\mathcal{U}(x, C_\nu)$  with star-products

$$\mathcal{U}(x, C_\nu) = U(x, \mu_1) \star U(x + \hat{\mu}_1, \mu_2) \star \dots \quad (3.25)$$

Here  $C_v$  is an arbitrary lattice contour with the displacement vector  $v$  between the two end point of the contour. In the commutative case the trace over these lines is gauge invariant if the lines are closed, either on the plane or over the boundary. This implies  $v = 0$  or  $v_\mu = \Sigma_{\mu\nu} n_\nu$ , respectively, where  $n_\nu \in \mathbb{Z}$  indicates how often the contour winds around the torus in the  $\nu$ -th direction.

On the non-commutative torus we can construct star-gauge invariant observables for any separation vector  $v$  by multiplication by plane waves

$$\mathcal{O}(C_v) = \sum_x \text{tr}_N \mathcal{U}(x, C_v) \star e^{ik_\mu x_\mu}, \quad (3.26)$$

where the relation between the momentum  $k$ , carried by the contour, and the separation vector  $v$  on the torus is given by

$$v_\mu = \Theta_{\mu\nu} k_\nu + \Sigma_{\mu\nu} n_\nu. \quad (3.27)$$

The fact that open loops carry a momentum proportional to the separation vector  $v$  again displays the UV/IR mixing.

### 3.3 Matrix model formulation

In the last Section we constructed a scalar and a pure gauge action on a non-commutative lattice in terms of Weyl operators and in terms of functions with a deformed product, i.e. the star-product. The latter allows for an intuitive extension from commutative field theories to their non-commutative counterparts and it may seem to be suitable for a direct simulation. However, from a practical point of view this formulation rises enormous problems for Monte Carlo simulations.

Already in the scalar case we have to implement the lattice version of the star-product, which involves a sum over the complete lattice for every product. This increases the needed computer time to an almost unreachable amount. In addition to this, in gauge theory we have to construct star-gauge invariant link variables  $U_\mu$ , which makes the simulation even more expensive. To avoid these problems we will use a finite dimensional representation of the operator description.

Here we are leaving the general discussion and restrict ourselves to the case that we studied numerically. This is a 2d non-commutative space or subspace with the period matrix given by

$$\Sigma_{\mu\nu} = Na\delta_{\mu\nu}, \quad (3.28)$$

where  $a$  is the lattice spacing on a hyper-cubic lattice and  $N$  is the number of lattice sites in each direction. Then the coordinate operator (3.8) and the dimensionless non-commutativity tensor (3.10) are given by

$$\hat{Z}_\mu = e^{2\pi i \hat{x}_\mu / aN} \quad \text{and} \quad \tilde{\Theta}_{\mu\nu} = \frac{2\pi \Theta_{\mu\nu}}{a^2 N^2}. \quad (3.29)$$

The quantization of momentum and the non-commutativity parameter  $\theta$  read

$$p_\mu = \frac{2\pi m_\mu}{aN} \quad \text{and} \quad \theta = \frac{1}{\pi} a^2 N. \quad (3.30)$$

The algebra (3.9) then simplifies to

$$\hat{Z}_\mu \hat{Z}_\nu = e^{-4\pi i \epsilon_{\mu\nu}/N} \hat{Z}_\nu \hat{Z}_\mu; \quad \hat{D}_\mu \hat{Z}_\nu \hat{D}_\mu^\dagger = e^{2\pi i \delta_{\mu\nu}/N} \hat{Z}_\nu, \quad (3.31)$$

where  $\epsilon_{\mu\nu}$  is the totally antisymmetric tensor.

The key step is now to replace the operators  $\hat{Z}_\mu$  and  $\hat{D}_\mu$  in the algebra (3.9) by  $N \times N$  matrices, satisfying the relations (3.31). For odd values of  $N$  there is a simple choice to achieve this, given by the so-called *twist eaters*  $\Gamma_\mu$ . In two dimensions this amounts to

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{D}_1 = \Gamma_1 = \delta_{i+1,j} \pmod N \quad \text{and} \quad \hat{D}_2 = \Gamma_2 = \mathcal{Z}_{12}^{*i-1} \delta_{i,j} \\ \hat{Z}_1 = (\Gamma_2)^{(N+1)/2} \quad \text{and} \quad \hat{Z}_2 = \left( \Gamma_1^\dagger \right)^{(N+1)/2}, \end{aligned} \quad (3.32)$$

where we introduced the *twist*  $\mathcal{Z}_{\mu\nu}$  in a way that will be useful in the next Section. Inserting (3.32) in (3.31) fixes the twist to

$$\mathcal{Z}_{12} = \mathcal{Z}_{21}^* = \exp(\pi i(N+1)/N). \quad (3.33)$$

The equations (3.32) are of course only one possible choice. For a general construction see for example Refs. [73, 25, 76].

With these definitions an explicit form of the star-product (3.18) is provided and the operator  $\Delta(x)$  becomes a  $N \times N$  matrix

$$\Delta(x) = \sum_{m_1, m_2=1}^N \hat{Z}_1^{m_1} \hat{Z}_2^{m_2} e^{-2\pi i m_1 m_2 / N} e^{-2\pi i m_\mu x_\mu / N}. \quad (3.34)$$

The map between the functions  $f(x)$  and the  $N \times N$  matrices  $\hat{f}$  in terms of  $\Delta(x)$  then reads

$$\hat{f} = \frac{1}{N^2} \sum_x f(x) \Delta(x); \quad f(x) = \frac{1}{N} \text{Tr} \left( \hat{f} \Delta(x) \right), \quad (3.35)$$

where the trace now refers to the  $N \times N$  matrices. If we insert  $\Delta(x)$  explicitly in the left equation of (3.35) we obtain the matrices  $J(m)$ . Since the Fourier transform of  $f(x)$  is given by

$$\tilde{f}(m) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_x f(x) e^{-2\pi i m_\mu x_\mu / N}, \quad (3.36)$$

the matrices  $J(m)$  read

$$J(m) = \hat{Z}_1^{m_1} \hat{Z}_2^{m_2} e^{-2\pi i m_1 m_2 / N} \quad (3.37)$$

and we obtain a map between Weyl operators and the Fourier transform  $\tilde{f}(m)$ .

$$\hat{f} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_m \tilde{f}(m) J(m) \quad \text{and} \quad \tilde{f}(m) = \frac{1}{N} \text{Tr} \left( \hat{f} J^\dagger(m) \right). \quad (3.38)$$

This completes the construction of a finite dimensional representation of field theory on a non-commutative lattice. In Chapter 4 and 5 we will construct explicitly the action of 2d Yang–Mills and 3d scalar field theory (with two non-commuting dimensions) in this representation.

# Chapter 4

## Numerical studies of non-commutative gauge theory

In this Chapter we present the results of our studies of 2d non-commutative  $U(1)$  gauge theory. As already discussed in the previous Chapter the lattice version of non-commutative gauge theory in coordinate space (3.24) is not immediately suitable for computer simulations. Therefore we make use of the finite dimensional representation introduced at the end of the last Section. The model we will arrive at is the *twisted Eguchi–Kawai model* (TEK). We start with a discussion of the origins of this model.

### 4.1 The twisted Eguchi–Kawai model

#### 4.1.1 History of the TEK

In 1982 Eguchi and Kawai conjectured that standard (commutative)  $U(N)$  and  $SU(N)$  lattice gauge theory *in the large  $N$  limit* is equivalent to their dimensional reduction to  $d = 0$  (one point) [77]. The link variables are replaced by  $U_\mu(x) \rightarrow U_\mu$ , and the partition function of the Eguchi–Kawai model (EK) simplifies to

$$Z = \int \prod_{\mu=1}^d dU_\mu e^{-S_{\text{EK}}[U]} \tag{4.1}$$
$$S_{\text{EK}}[U] = -\beta \sum_{\mu \neq \nu} \text{Tr} (U_\mu U_\nu U_\mu^\dagger U_\nu^\dagger) ,$$

where  $\mu, \nu = 1 \dots d$ . Eguchi and Kawai proved that in the large  $N$  limit both models have the same Schwinger–Dyson equations — and therefore the same Wilson loops — if the global  $U(1)^d$  symmetry of the phases is not spontaneously broken. In  $d = 2$  this symmetry is unbroken and the equivalence holds exactly, but in  $d > 2$  this is not the case anymore. There the equivalence holds only at strong coupling [78].

A way out of this restriction to two dimensions is using *twisted boundary conditions* rather than periodic ones [79]. It is known that the behavior of the partition

function at weak coupling differs significantly between twisted and periodic boundaries. Therefore one can expect that the  $U(1)^d$  symmetry breaking at weak coupling could be cured.

To obtain the twisted Eguchi–Kawai model one applies the transformation

$$U_\mu(x) \rightarrow U'_\mu(x) = \mathcal{Z}_\mu U_\mu(x), \quad \mathcal{Z}_\mu \in \mathbb{Z}_N \quad (4.2)$$

to the partition function with the standard Wilson gauge action [72]

$$Z = \int \mathcal{D}U \exp(-S[U]) \quad (4.3)$$

$$S[U] = -\beta \sum_{x, \mu \neq \nu} \text{Tr} (U_\mu(x) U_\nu(x + a\hat{\mu}) U_\mu^\dagger(x + a\hat{\nu}) U_\nu(x)^\dagger) .$$

The  $\mathcal{Z}_\mu$ 's can in general depend on space–time, but for the purpose here it is enough to keep just the dependence on the orientation. The integration measure is invariant under this transformation and the transformed action reads

$$S[U] = -\beta \sum_{x, \mu \neq \nu} \mathcal{Z}_{\mu\nu} \text{Tr} (U_\mu(x) U_\nu(x + a\hat{\mu}) U_\mu^\dagger(x + a\hat{\nu}) U_\nu(x)^\dagger) . \quad (4.4)$$

The twist  $\mathcal{Z}_{\mu\nu}$  is the product of the factors  $\mathcal{Z}_\mu$  at the boundary of the plaquette. It can be characterized by an integer valued anti-symmetric  $d \times d$  matrix  $n_{\mu\nu}$

$$\mathcal{Z}_{\mu\nu} = e^{2\pi i n_{\mu\nu}/N} = \mathcal{Z}_{\nu\mu}^* \quad \text{with} \quad n_{\mu\nu} \in \mathbb{Z} . \quad (4.5)$$

Neglecting the space–time dependence of the link variables  $U_\mu$  then defines the TEK action

$$S_{\text{TEK}}[U] = -\beta \sum_{\mu \neq \nu} \mathcal{Z}_{\mu\nu} \text{Tr} (U_\mu U_\nu U_\mu^\dagger U_\nu^\dagger) , \quad (4.6)$$

and a general Wilson loop spanned by  $I \times J$  plaquettes is given by

$$W_{\mu\nu}(I \times J) = \mathcal{Z}_{\mu\nu}^{IJ} \text{Tr} (U_\mu^I U_\nu^J U_\mu^{\dagger I} U_\nu^{\dagger J}) . \quad (4.7)$$

In Ref. [80] it is shown that with this action the equivalence between the TEK and commutative  $U(N)$  and  $SU(N)$  lattice gauge theory also holds in  $d > 2$ .

Here we are concerned with the 2d TEK. It seemed for a long time that adding a twist is not highly motivated in  $d = 2$ , since there even the ordinary EK model coincides with lattice gauge theory in the planar large  $N$  limit, which was solved analytically by Gross and Witten [81].

However, the situation changed suddenly due to a new interpretation of the TEK as an equivalent description of non-commutative gauge theory [82]. This equivalence was established by embedding the (dynamically generated) coordinates and momenta of the reduced model into matrices. These matrices can be mapped on functions, where the trace turns into an integral and the star products arise, so that one arrives at action (2.49). The construction of non-commutative  $U(n)$  gauge theories (for certain  $n \in \{1, 2, \dots\}$ ) works out in this way at  $N = \infty$ .<sup>1</sup> At finite  $N$  the conditions cannot be matched at the boundaries.

<sup>1</sup>Note that  $N$  is here the size of the matrices  $U_\mu$ , whereas  $n$  refers to the gauge group  $U(n)$ .

### 4.1.2 TEK at finite $N$

An interpretation of the TEK at finite  $N$  occurred when Refs. [73, 74, 25] pointed out that the twisted reduced model can be mapped exactly on a non-commutative  $U(n)$  lattice gauge theory<sup>2</sup> in general dimension and rank of the gauge group. Here we will describe the case of  $d = 2$  and the star-unitary gauge group  $U(1)$ .

To show the equivalence we will use the finite dimensional representation of a non-commutative geometry, developed in Section 3.3. The starting point is the action of 2d non-commutative lattice gauge theory in terms of operators (3.24)

$$S = -\beta \operatorname{Tr} \left[ \hat{U}_1 \left( \hat{D}_1 \hat{U}_2 \hat{D}_1^\dagger \right) \left( \hat{D}_2 \hat{U}_1^\dagger \hat{D}_2^\dagger \right) \hat{U}_2^\dagger \right]. \quad (4.8)$$

Inserting the finite dimensional representation (3.34) of the general shift operator  $\hat{D}_\mu$  leads to

$$S = -\beta \operatorname{Tr} \left[ \hat{U}_1 \left( \Gamma_1 \hat{U}_2 \Gamma_1^\dagger \right) \left( \Gamma_2 \hat{U}_1^\dagger \Gamma_2^\dagger \right) \hat{U}_2^\dagger \right]. \quad (4.9)$$

The twist eaters  $\Gamma_\mu$  obey the Weyl–t Hooft commutation relation

$$\Gamma_1 \Gamma_2 = \mathcal{Z}_{12}^* \Gamma_2 \Gamma_1. \quad (4.10)$$

The substitution  $\hat{U}_\mu \Gamma_\mu = V_\mu$  in equation (4.9) along with the commutation relation (4.10) for the inner  $\Gamma$ 's leads to the TEK action (4.6).

In this representation the twist reads  $\mathcal{Z}_{12} = \mathcal{Z}_{21}^* = \exp(\pi i(N+1)/N)$ . Comparing this with the twist needed for the TEK, where the exponent is given by  $2\pi i/N$  multiplied by some integer, we find that  $(N+1)/2 \in \mathbb{Z}$  has to be fulfilled. Therefore we have to use *odd* values of  $N$ .

Note that this interpretation of the TEK differs significantly from the original one. While in the original interpretation the space–time degrees of freedom become irrelevant in the large  $N$  limit, in the interpretation here the space–time degrees of freedom are *exactly* mapped onto matrix degrees of freedom already at finite  $N$ .

### 4.1.3 Continuum limits

The continuum limit  $a \rightarrow 0$  also requires the limit  $N \rightarrow \infty$ , where the order of these limits is important for the resulting continuum theory.

#### The planar limit

In the planar limit one first sends  $N \rightarrow \infty$ , keeping the lattice spacing  $a$  fixed, followed by the continuum limit  $a \rightarrow 0$  along with  $\beta \rightarrow \infty$  in a particular way dictated by the coupling constant renormalization. Equation (3.30) implies that in this limit  $\theta \rightarrow \infty$  and only planar diagrams remain. In  $d = 2$  there exists an exact solution of planar  $U(\infty)$  and  $SU(\infty)$  [81]: rectangular Wilson loops follow the area law

$$w(I \times J) = \exp(-\kappa(\beta)IJ), \quad (4.11)$$

<sup>2</sup>Remember that  $SU(n)$  gauge theories so far cannot be constructed on a non-commutative plane and therefore this equivalence exists only for  $U(n)$  gauge theories.

where  $w(I \times J)$  is the expectation value of the Wilson loops. The string tension  $\kappa(\beta)$  is given by

$$\kappa(\beta) = \begin{cases} -\ln \beta & \beta < \frac{1}{2} \\ -\ln \left(1 - \frac{1}{4\beta}\right) & \beta \geq \frac{1}{2} \end{cases} . \quad (4.12)$$

Equation (4.11) shows how the bare coupling has to be tuned as a function of  $a$  when one takes the continuum limit. In this case the scaling is exact if one identifies the lattice spacing  $a$  as

$$a = \sqrt{\kappa(\beta)} . \quad (4.13)$$

The equivalence between commutative  $U(N)$  and  $SU(N)$  theory and the TEK (and in two dimensions also EK) states that

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{N} \langle W_{12}(I \times J) \rangle = w(I \times J) . \quad (4.14)$$

This agreement was already shown in Ref. [77,83] and later on in Ref. [84] were finite  $N$  effects were studied.

### The double scaling limit

In the double scaling limit one takes the thermodynamic limit  $N \rightarrow \infty$  and the continuum limit  $a \rightarrow 0$  at the same time keeping  $Na^2 = \pi\theta$  fixed. Here we used the relation (3.30) between  $\theta$  and the lattice spacing. This leads to a finite non-commutativity parameter  $\theta$  in the continuum limit and one recovers non-commutative 2d  $U(1)$  theory in  $\mathbb{R}^d$ .

This is the continuum limit we studied.  $\beta$  has to be scaled as a function of the lattice spacing  $a$  in exactly the same way as in the planar theory. From equation (4.12) we read off  $\beta \propto a^{-2}$  at large  $\beta$ . Hence in  $d = 2$  we are going to search for a *double scaling limit* keeping the ratio  $N/\beta$  constant. The question of renormalizability of 2d non-commutative gauge theory at finite  $\theta$  can be answered by studying this large  $N$  limit of the TEK. If the observables converge to finite values, we can conclude that 2d lattice non-commutative gauge theory does have a finite continuum limit. Our results will be presented in the next Section.

## 4.2 2d non-commutative $U(1)$ theory

### 4.2.1 The model

We study the double scaling limit in two dimensional non-commutative  $U(1)$  lattice theory. The explicit action in terms of dimensionless quantities reads

$$S_{\text{TEK}}[U] = -N\beta \sum_{\mu \neq \nu} \mathcal{Z}_{\mu\nu} \text{Tr} (U_\mu U_\nu U_\mu^\dagger U_\nu^\dagger) , \quad (4.15)$$

with the twist given by (3.33). If not stated differently we set  $N/\beta = 32$ . For details of the simulation see Appendix A.2.

Our main interest in this model is whether a finite continuum limit exists or not. Thus we study the double scaling limit — as described in the previous Section — of various observables. If we find a large  $N$  scaling of these observables (at fixed  $N/\beta$ ) this corresponds to a finite continuum limit.

The observables we measure are constructed from Wilson loops spanned by  $I \times J$  plaquettes

$$W_{\mu\nu}(I \times J) = \mathcal{Z}_{\mu\nu}^{IJ} \text{Tr} (U_{\mu}^I U_{\nu}^J U_{\mu}^{\dagger I} U_{\nu}^{\dagger J}) \quad (4.16)$$

and from *open* Polyakov lines,

$$P_{\mu}(I) = \text{Tr} (U_{\mu}^I) \quad \text{and} \quad P_{-\mu}(I) = \text{Tr} (U_{-\mu}^{\dagger I}), \quad (4.17)$$

where  $I$  is the number of multiplied link variables and  $-\mu$  indicates the backward direction.

In Section 3.2 we showed that one can construct star-gauge invariant observables from general open lines. Here we restrict ourselves to straight lines which are *not* necessarily closed by the boundary.

### 4.2.2 Wilson loops and area law

First we study the expectation values of Wilson loops. The expectation value of open Polyakov lines is vanishing. In fact the expectation value of any open contour vanishes due to the  $U(1)^d$  symmetry of the TEK. But  $n$ -point functions of these contours are sensible observables.

In the EK model it was observed that square shaped Wilson loops converge faster to the known exact result than other rectangles with the same area [84]. Hence we also focus on square shaped Wilson loops, which corresponds to  $I = J$  in the definition (4.16). We define the normalized Wilson loop

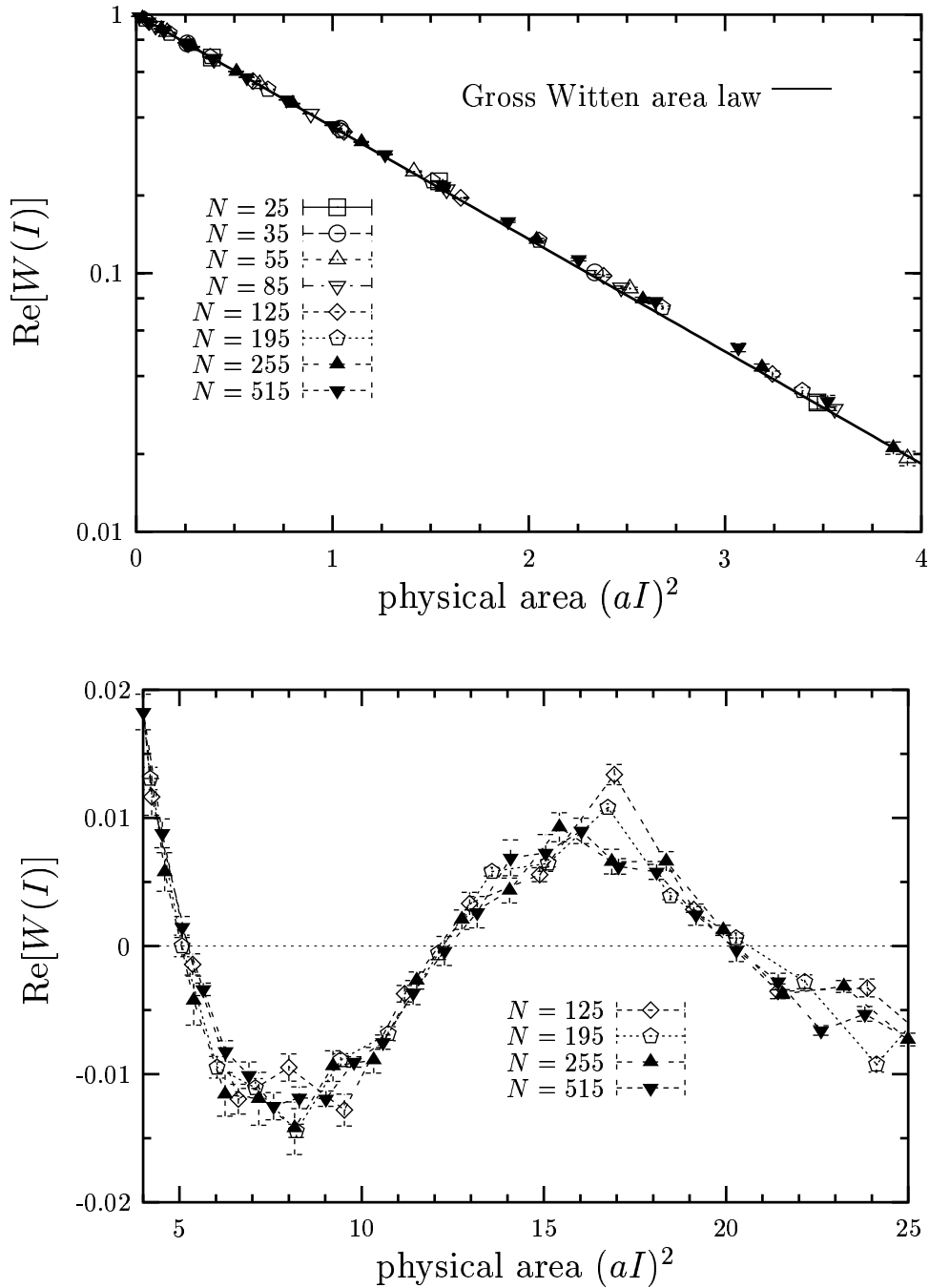
$$W(I) = \frac{1}{N} \langle W_{12}(I \times I) \rangle \in \mathbb{C}. \quad (4.18)$$

Due to the presence of the twist, there is no invariance under the transformation  $U_1 \rightarrow U_2, U_2 \rightarrow U_1$ . As a consequence  $W_{\mu\nu}$  is in general complex and  $W_{12} = W_{21}^*$ , hence the Wilson loop depends on the orientation. The real part represents the average over both orientations. Figure 4.1 shows the real part of the Wilson loops  $\text{Re}[W(I)]$  as a function of the physical loop area.

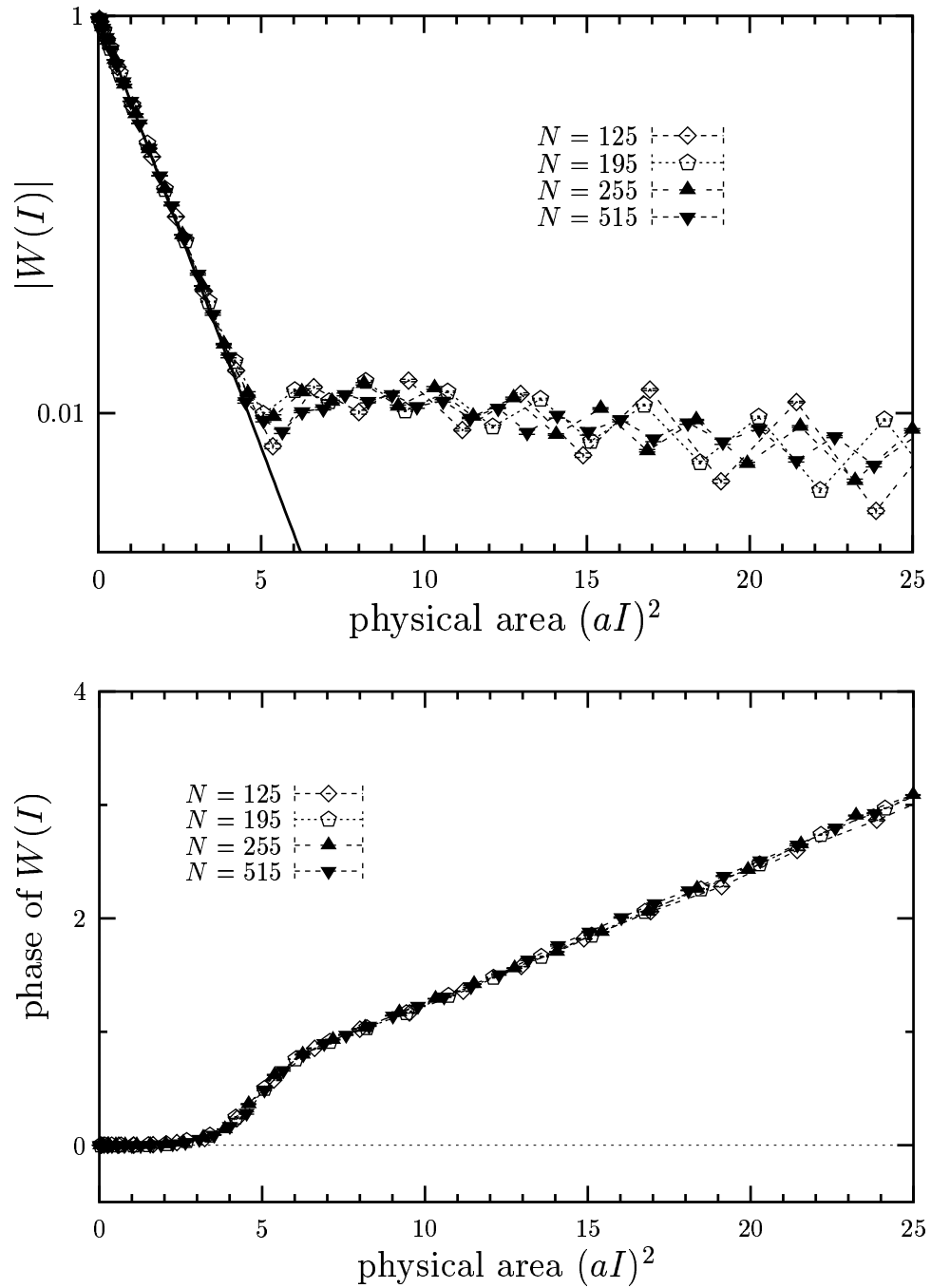
Large  $N$  scaling is clearly confirmed. At small up to moderate areas the Wilson loop follows the area law of planar lattice gauge theory given in Eq. (4.11), but at large areas it deviates and the real part oscillates around zero instead. This observation is consistent over a wide range of  $N$ . Remarkably, not even the absolute value decays monotonously; at large areas it seems to fluctuate around an approximately constant value. This is illustrated in Figure 4.2 (top).

Figure 4.2 (below) shows that beyond the Gross-Witten regime, the phase increases linearly in the area. Additional measurements at  $N/\beta = 16, 24, 48$ , corresponding to different values of  $\theta$ , are shown in Figure 4.3. They reveal that the phase  $\Phi$  of the Wilson loop  $W(I)$  is, in fact, given the simple relation

$$\Phi = \frac{\text{area}}{\theta}. \quad (4.19)$$



**Figure 4.1:** The real part of square shaped Wilson loops defined in Eq. (4.16) against the physical area. The plot at the top shows the Wilson loops for small areas, where the data follow the Gross-Witten area law (solid line). For large areas the real part of the Wilson loops deviate from this law and oscillates around zero instead.

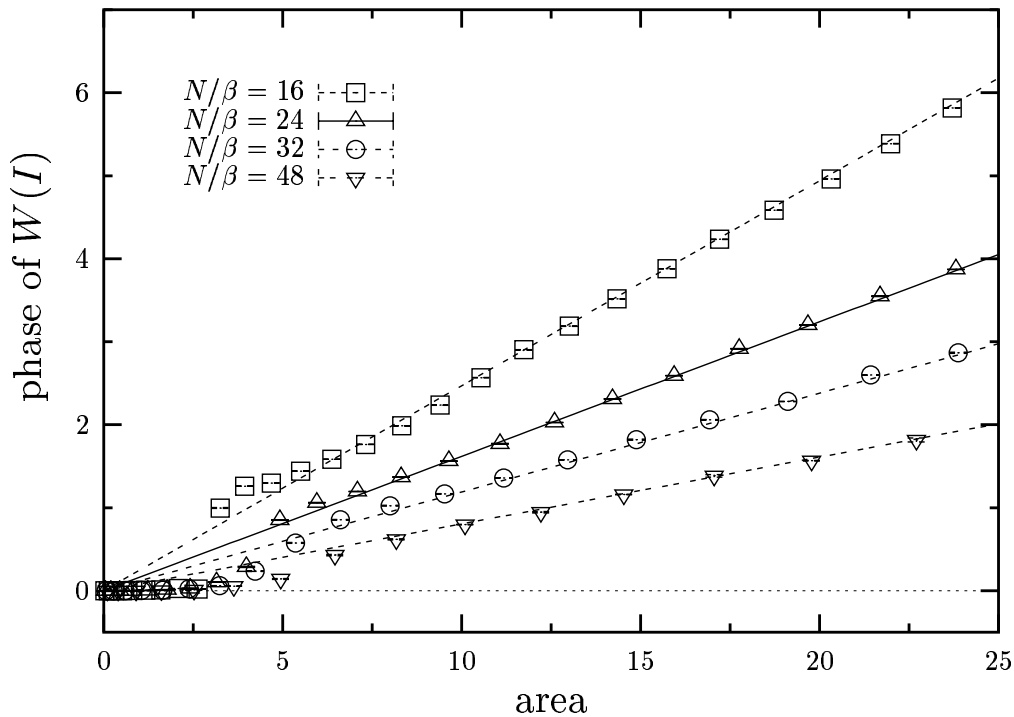


**Figure 4.2:** Wilson loops against the physical area in polar coordinates. The solid line in the plot at the top shows the Gross–Witten area law. The phase of the Wilson loops increases linearly in the area beyond the area law regime (bottom).

where the area is given by  $(aI)^2$ . This relation holds to a high accuracy at large areas  $(aI)^2 > O(\theta)$ , i.e. beyond the Gross–Witten regime. Relation (4.19) has been confirmed also for other (non-square) rectangular Wilson loops, which shows that the effect does not depend on the shape of the Wilson loops.<sup>3</sup> Indeed the formula (4.19) agrees with a Aharonov–Bohm effect in the presence of a constant magnetic field  $B = 1/\theta$  across the plane. This is reminiscent of the description of non-commutative gauge theory by Seiberg and Witten [8]. This interpretation is also known in solid state physics. Our numerical results seem to support a picture of this kind.

The observed large area behavior of the Wilson loops confirms that the continuum limit of non-commutative gauge theory is different from any ordinary gauge theory, hence we have found a new universality class. Since the non-locality in this model is of order  $\sqrt{\theta}$ , one might naively think that in the large area regime,  $\text{area} \gg \sqrt{\theta}$ , the effect of non-commutativity is invisible. The fact that we observe contrary can be understood as a manifestation of non-perturbative UV/IR mixing.

In the two dimensional model there is no perturbative UV/IR mixing, since there are no UV divergent diagrams in the commutative case. Here we found this mixing at a completely non-perturbative level.



**Figure 4.3:** The phase of Wilson loops against the physical area for different values of  $\theta$ . The phase increases linear in the area beyond the Gross–Witten regime for all  $\theta$ .

In the double scaling limit of the untwisted Eguchi–Kawai model, the expectation

<sup>3</sup>Note, however, that the expectation values of Wilson loops with the same area but with different shapes have in general different absolute values in the double scaling limit.

values of the Wilson loops is real, and it remains positive even at large areas [84]. This means that the two models, twisted and untwisted, yield qualitatively different double scaling limits, although they become identical in the planar large  $N$  limit.

### 4.2.3 2-point functions

Here we consider 2-point functions. Figure 4.4 (top) shows the connected Wilson loop 2-point function

$$G_2^W(I) = \langle W_{12}(I \times I)W_{21}(I \times I) \rangle - \langle W_{12}(I \times I) \rangle \langle W_{21}(I \times I) \rangle \in \mathbb{R}, \quad (4.20)$$

again plotted against the physical area, for  $I = 1 \dots N$ . In contrast to the Wilson loop itself,  $G_2^W(I)$  is a real quantity, since both orientations of the Wilson loop are involved.

In Figure 4.4 (below) we include a wave function renormalization factor

$$G_2^{(W)} \rightarrow \beta^{-0.6} G_2^W. \quad (4.21)$$

The exponent  $-0.6$  was found to be optimal for  $G_2^{(W)}$  to scale. Indeed it leads to a neat large  $N$  scaling over more than two orders of magnitude in the physical area.

Next we consider the Polyakov line

$$P_\mu(I) = \text{Tr} \left( U_\mu^I \right), \quad (4.22)$$

which is also  $U(N)$  invariant and therefore has an interpretation as a star gauge invariant observable in non-commutative gauge theory. Their momentum  $\vec{p}$  is related to the separation vector  $\vec{v}$  between the two ends of the line. In general the relation is given by  $v_\mu = \Theta_{\mu\nu} p_\nu$  modulo the periodicity of the torus, as discussed in Section (3.2). In the present case, the Polyakov line  $P_\mu(I)$  corresponds to a momentum mode with  $p_\nu = 2\pi\ell/(Na)$ , where the integer  $\ell$  is given by  $I/2$  and by  $(I+N)/2$  for even and odd  $I$ , respectively. In the following, we plot our results against the physical distance  $aI$  for even  $I = 2, \dots, N-1$ .

The phase symmetry<sup>4</sup> makes  $\langle P_\mu(I) \rangle$  vanish, but the connected  $n$ -point functions ( $n > 1$ ) of Polyakov lines are sensible observables. In Figure 4.5 we show the 2-point function<sup>5</sup>

$$G_2^P(I) = \langle P_\mu(I)P_{-\mu}(I) \rangle \in \mathbb{R}. \quad (4.23)$$

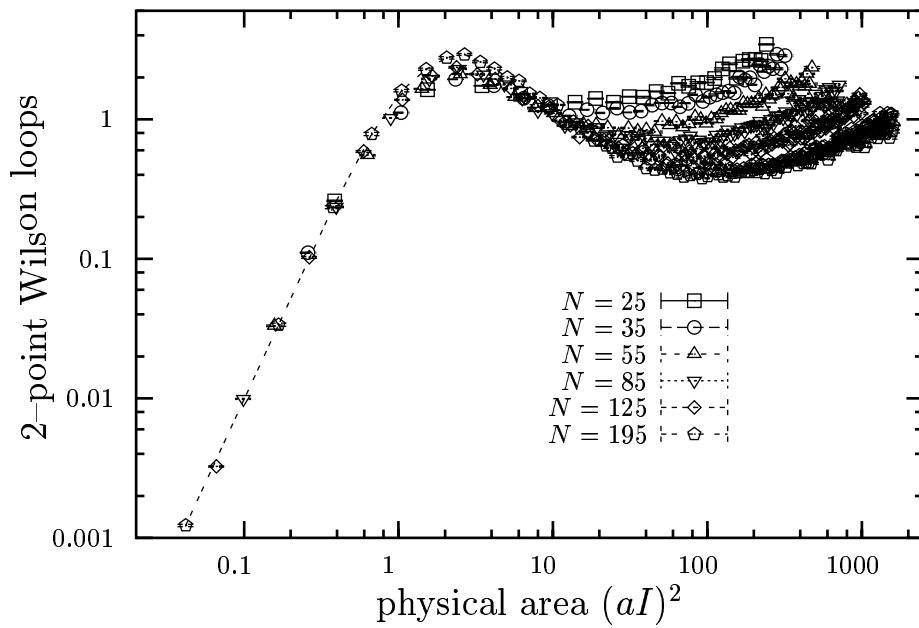
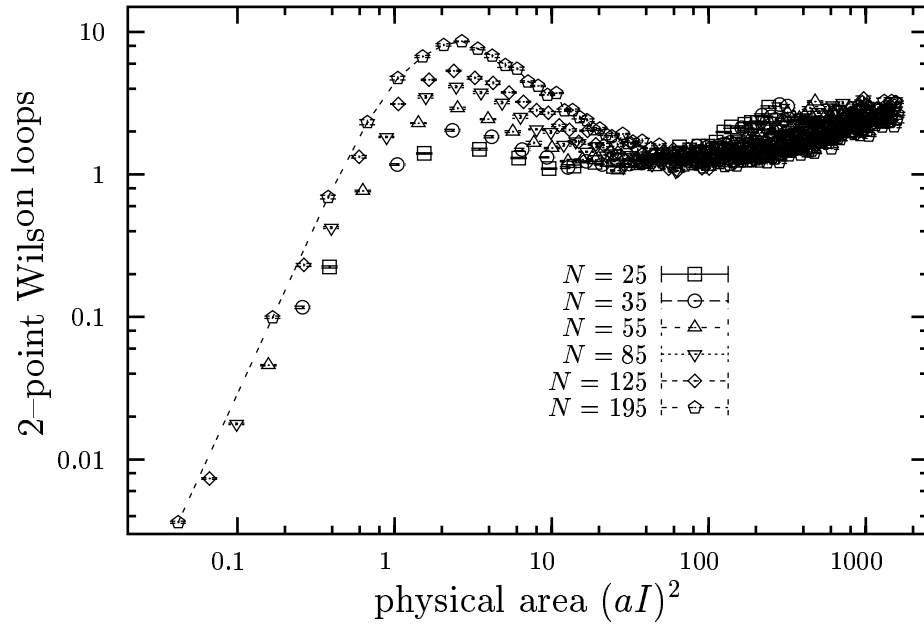
Note that there is no disconnected part in  $G_2^{(P)}$ . Again we insert the wave function renormalization which was optimal for the Wilson 2-point function

$$G_2^{(P)} \rightarrow \beta^{-0.6} G_2^P. \quad (4.24)$$

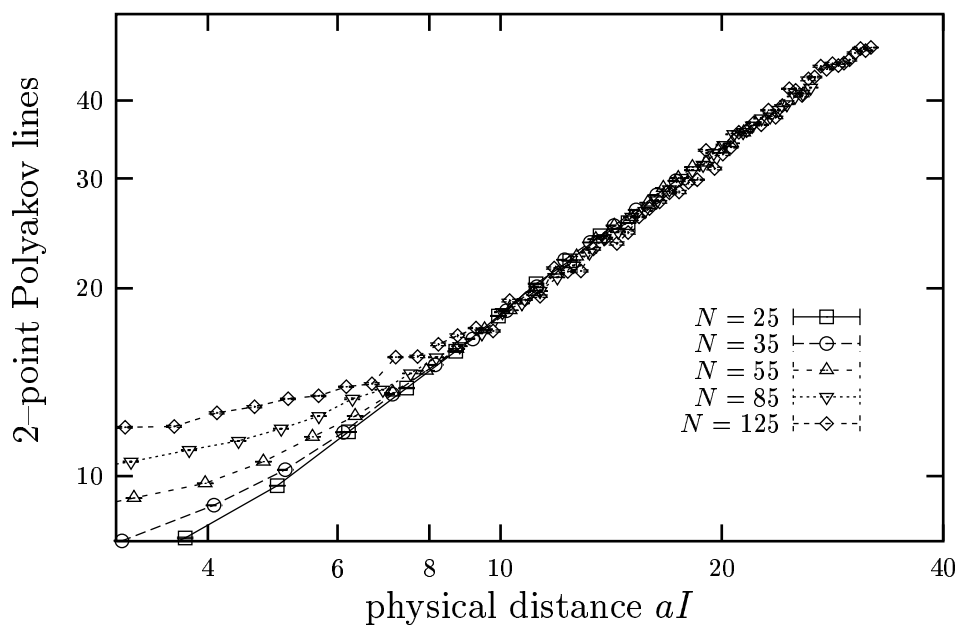
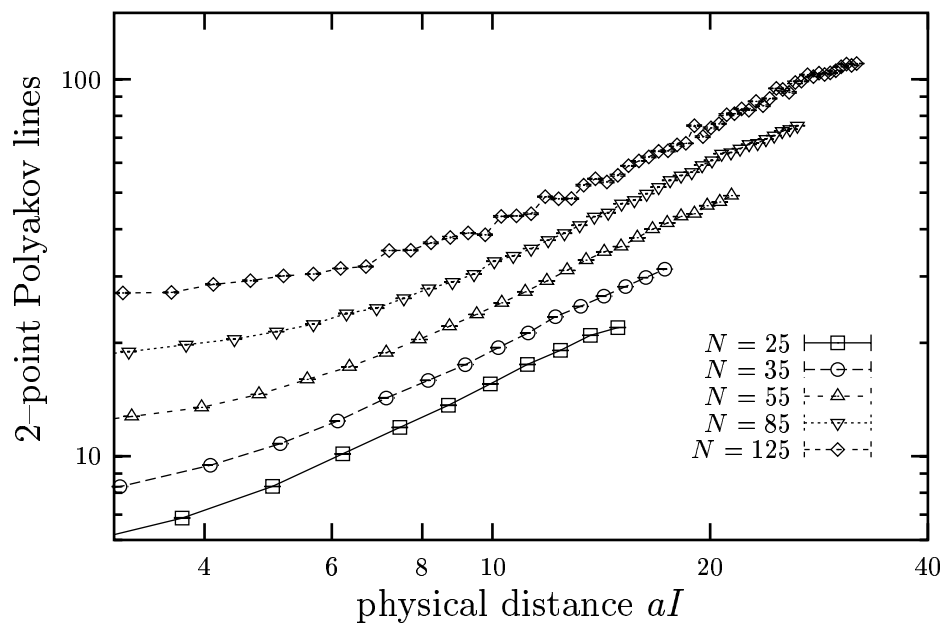
As a function of the physical length  $aI$ , the result is consistent with large  $N$  scal-

<sup>4</sup>In the terminology of non-commutative gauge theory, this corresponds to momentum conservation.

<sup>5</sup>The choice of the direction  $\mu$  is irrelevant. In practice we average over both possibilities in order to enhance the statistics.



**Figure 4.4:** Two-point functions of square shaped Wilson loops (4.20) against the physical area. The raw data at the top do not show any scaling behavior, but with a wave function renormalization  $G_2^W \rightarrow \beta^{-0.6} G_2^W$  there is a clear scaling regime (bottom).



**Figure 4.5:** Two-point functions of open Polyakov (4.23) against the physical area. The plot at the top shows that the raw data do not scale in  $N$ . Applying a wave function renormalization  $G_2^P \rightarrow \beta^{-0.6} G_2^P$  leads to large  $N$  scaling in a significant interval.

ing, as well as a *universal* wave function renormalization. A similar wave function renormalization was also observed in the EK model [84], where the optimal factor in relation (4.24) is modified to  $\beta^{-0.65}$ .

The large  $N$  scaling of the Wilson loops as well as the large  $N$  scaling of 2-point functions of Wilson loops and Polyakov lines, described in this Chapter, correspond to a finite continuum limit in 2d non-commutative  $U(1)$  gauge theory. This observation therefore demonstrates the renormalizability of 2d non-commutative  $U(1)$  theory.

# Chapter 5

## Numerical studies of the $\lambda\phi^4$ model

The second model we investigated is the 3d non-commutative  $\lambda\phi^4$  theory. In Section 2.2 we described the effects of the UV/IR mixing effect based on results of one loop calculations. We studied this model non-perturbatively and in this Chapter we present our results. For details of the simulations we refer to Appendix A.3.

### 5.1 Dimensionally reduced model

Since we are in odd dimensions we cannot apply directly the construction of non-commutative field theories as described in Chapter 2 and 3. There the anti-symmetric non-commutativity tensor  $\Theta$  had to be invertible. This restricts the dimension to be even.

In addition to this rather technical problem related to odd dimensions, a non-commutative time could give rise to unitarity problems [85,86]. Ref. [87] showed that field theories on a non-commutative space satisfy the generalized unitarity relations. If the time is also non-commutative this is not the case. Therefore we exclude the time direction from non-commutativity.<sup>1</sup>

Then the non-commutativity tensor  $\Theta$  is two dimensional and acts only in the 2d non-commutative subspace. The star-product defined in (2.16) then reads

$$\phi_1(x) \star \phi_2(x) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \phi_1(x) \exp\left(\frac{i}{2} \overleftarrow{\partial}_i \Theta_{ij} \overrightarrow{\partial}_j\right) \phi_2(x) \quad \text{with} \quad i, j = 1, 2, \quad (5.1)$$

and the lattice version of the star-product is analogous. Here  $\phi(x)$  means  $\phi(x_1, x_2, t)$ , where  $x_1, x_2$  satisfy the commutation relation (2.18) and  $t$  commutes with all coordinates.

The corresponding Weyl operators then also depend on the time  $\hat{\phi}(t)$  and the lattice action of this version of non-commutative  $\lambda\phi^4$  theory reads, in analogy to

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<sup>1</sup>In four dimensions the problem is often avoided by taking two commuting and two non-commuting directions.

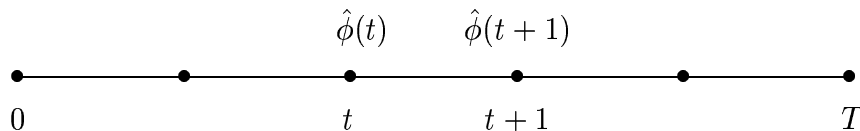
equation (3.19),

$$S[\hat{\phi}] = N\text{Tr} \sum_{t=1}^T \left[ \frac{1}{2} \sum_i \left( \hat{D}_i \hat{\phi}(t) \hat{D}_i^\dagger - \hat{\phi}(t) \right)^2 + \frac{1}{2} \left( \hat{\phi}(t+1) - \hat{\phi}(t) \right)^2 + \frac{m^2}{2} \hat{\phi}(t)^2 + \frac{\lambda}{4} \hat{\phi}(t)^4 \right], \quad (5.2)$$

where  $i = 1, 2$ . There are now two kinetic terms: the first one uses the shift operators (3.11) to perform spatial translations in units of the lattice spacing  $a$ . The second kinetic term is the square of the standard discrete derivative in time direction.

As in the TEK model we use here the finite dimensional representation (3.32). In this representation the Hermitian operators  $\hat{\phi}(t)$  turn into Hermitian matrices and the shift operators are replaced by the twist eaters  $\Gamma_i$ .

Effectively we are mapping here a non-commutative  $\lambda\phi^4$  lattice theory, defined on a three dimensional  $N^2T$  lattice, to a one dimensional lattice with  $T$  sites.



**Figure 5.1:** The dimensionally reduced lattice. The fields  $\phi(x_1, x_2, t)$  are mapped into Hermitian  $N \times N$  matrices  $\hat{\phi}(t)$ .

On each site there is a Hermitian  $N \times N$  matrix  $\hat{\phi}(t)$  representing the Hermitian operators, see Figure 5.1. We use periodic boundary conditions  $\hat{\phi}(T) = \hat{\phi}(0)$ . In our simulations we always set  $T = N$ .

The dimensionless parameters  $m^2$  and  $\lambda$  in the action (5.2) can be identified with physical parameters

$$m^2 = a^2 m_{\text{phys}}^2 = \frac{\pi \theta}{N} m_{\text{phys}}^2$$

$$\lambda = a \lambda_{\text{phys}} = \sqrt{\frac{\pi \theta}{N}} \lambda_{\text{phys}}. \quad (5.3)$$

Here we used the relation between the non-commutativity parameter  $\theta$  and the lattice spacing  $\theta = \frac{1}{\pi} a^2 N$  (3.30). With this identification the double scaling limit described in Subsection 4.1.3 leads to the non-commutative  $\lambda\phi^4$  model on  $\mathbb{R}^3$ . In this procedure the limits  $N \rightarrow \infty$  and  $a \rightarrow 0$  are taken such that  $a^2 N$  is kept constant, leading to a finite non-commutativity parameter.

Here we will not study the continuum limit and the question of renormalizability. Instead we study the phase diagram and the UV/IR mixing effects in the regularized theory.

In Section 2.2.2 we discussed this issue in  $d = 4$ . Since the results depend on the dimension, we repeat the considerations of Section 2.2.2 for the case of three dimensions.

We start with the non-planar one loop contribution to the irreducible two-point function in equation (2.44). In  $d = 3$  this term reads

$$\Gamma_{\text{np}}^{(1)}(p) = \frac{\sqrt{m}}{6(2\pi)^{3/2}} \left( \frac{4}{\Lambda^2} + \theta^2 \vec{p}^2 \right)^{-\frac{1}{4}} K_{\frac{1}{2}} \left( m \sqrt{\frac{4}{\Lambda^2} + \theta^2 \vec{p}^2} \right), \quad (5.4)$$

where  $\Lambda$  is again a momentum cut-off and  $p = (p_0, \vec{p})$ . Since we chose the time as commutative, only the spatial components  $\vec{p}$  of the momentum  $p$  appear here. Introducing the effective cut-off  $\Lambda_{\text{eff}}$  as in equation (2.38)

$$\Lambda_{\text{eff}}^2 = \frac{1}{\frac{1}{\Lambda^2} + \theta^2 \vec{p}^2}, \quad (5.5)$$

and evaluating the Bessel function  $K_{1/2}$  leads the one loop corrected two-point function

$$\Gamma(p) = p^2 + M_{\text{eff}}^2 + \xi \lambda \Lambda_{\text{eff}} e^{-\frac{m}{\Lambda_{\text{eff}}}} + O(\lambda^2), \quad (5.6)$$

with  $\xi = \frac{1}{6(2\pi)^{3/2}}$ . As in Ref. [4] we absorbed the planar contribution into the effective mass  $M_{\text{eff}}$ . After removing the cut-off  $\Lambda$  in equation (5.6) we obtain the leading IR divergence

$$\Gamma(p) = p^2 + M_{\text{eff}}^2 + \xi \frac{\lambda}{\theta |\vec{p}|}. \quad (5.7)$$

Again the two-point function is singular at zero momentum. However, here  $\Gamma(p)$  is not a function of  $p^2$ , which leads to a different IR behavior of the theory.

## 5.2 The phase diagram

As we discussed in Section 2.2.3 the phase diagram of the non-commutative 3d  $\lambda\phi^4$  theory is expected to differ significantly from the phase diagram in the commutative case. In this Section we present our Monte Carlo results for this phase diagram.

### 5.2.1 The order parameter

When studying a phase diagram one first has to identify a suitable *order parameter* that indicates the symmetry breaking. In the model here we expect an *Ising type phase*, where the discrete symmetry  $\phi(x) \rightarrow -\phi(x)$  is broken spontaneously. In addition we expect — for sufficiently large coupling  $\lambda$  — a *striped phase*, where the translation symmetry is broken spontaneously (see Section 2.2.3). Therefore we need an order parameter that is sensitive to both variants of symmetry breaking, to distinguish the two types of ordered phases.

The momentum dependent quantity

$$\bar{M}(\vec{m}) = \frac{1}{NT} \left| \sum_t \tilde{\phi}(\vec{m}, t) \right|, \quad (5.8)$$

turned out to be a good choice. The vector  $\vec{m}$  is the integer representation of the momenta introduced in equation (3.6). Here  $\tilde{\phi}(\vec{m}, t)$  is the spatial Fourier transform

of the field  $\phi(\vec{x}, t)$ , where only the non-commuting coordinates are transformed. The expectation value of  $\bar{M}(\vec{m})$  is zero in the disordered phase, where both symmetries under consideration are unbroken. In an Ising type or uniform phase only the expectation value of  $\bar{M}(\vec{0})$  is non-zero, since

$$\langle \bar{M}(\vec{0}) \rangle = \frac{1}{NT} \left\langle \left| \sum_t \tilde{\phi}(\vec{m} = \vec{0}, t) \right| \right\rangle = \left\langle \frac{1}{N^2T} \left| \sum_{t, \vec{x}} \phi(\vec{x}, t) \right| \right\rangle \quad (5.9)$$

is the standard order parameter of the spontaneous breakdown of the  $Z_2$  symmetry. A non-vanishing order parameter at  $\vec{m} \neq \vec{0}$  indicates a spontaneous breakdown of the translation symmetry and therefore it implies the striped or non-uniformly ordered phase.

Since we are simulating the dimensionally reduced model in terms of the matrices  $\hat{\phi}(t)$  we have to express this order parameter by these matrices. To this end we use the map defined in equation (3.38) and we obtain

$$\bar{M}(\vec{m}) = \frac{1}{NT} \left| \sum_t \tilde{\phi}(\vec{m}, t) \right| = \frac{1}{NT} \left| \text{Tr} \sum_t \hat{\phi}(t) J^\dagger(\vec{m}) \right|. \quad (5.10)$$

This order parameter detects the disordered as well as the uniformly ordered phase. In the striped phase there will arise problems when the pattern for different configurations are rotated. For example if there are stripes for one configuration parallel to the  $x_1$  and for another configuration parallel to the  $x_2$  there would be two different non-vanishing order parameters. This effect is related to the rotation symmetry, which is also broken spontaneously in the striped phase.<sup>2</sup> To avoid this problem we defined the rotation invariant order parameter as the expectation value of

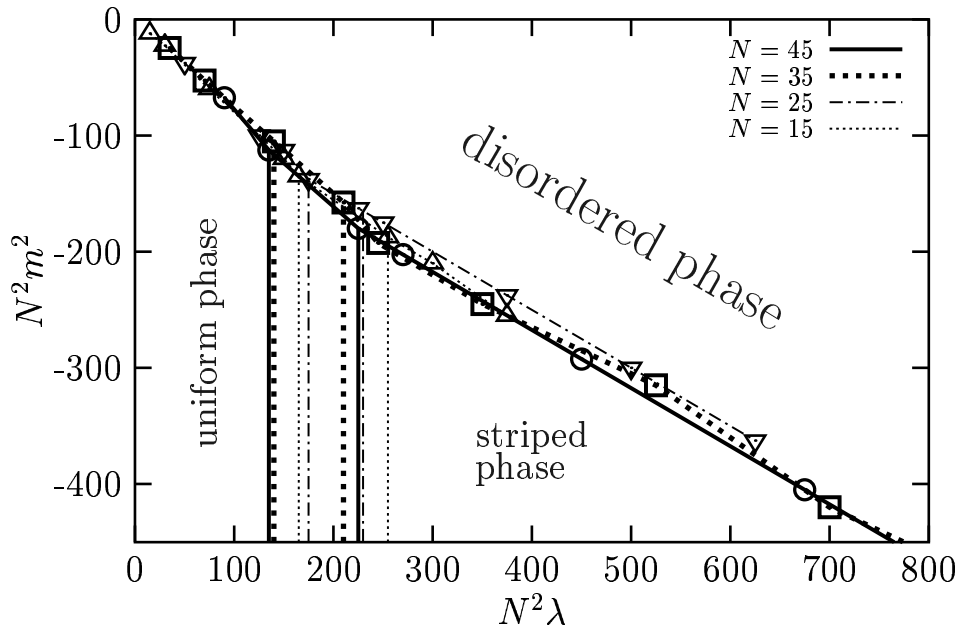
$$M(k) = \max_{|\vec{m}|=k} \bar{M}(\vec{m}). \quad (5.11)$$

This order parameter depends only on the absolute value of the momentum and therefore the above mentioned problem does not occur. Based on this order parameter we explored the phase diagram of the 3d  $\lambda\phi^4$  model.

## 5.2.2 Numerical results

With the algorithm described in Appendix A.3 we generated configurations at various values of  $N$ ,  $\lambda$  and  $m^2$  and measured the order parameter (5.11). The result is the phase diagram plotted in Figure 5.2. The points connected by lines display the phase transition between disordered phase and the ordered regime. The ordered regime clearly splits into a uniform and in a striped phase, where the transition region between these two phases is marked by two vertical lines for each value of  $N$ . For each  $N$  the left line represents the largest value of  $\lambda$  at which we are still

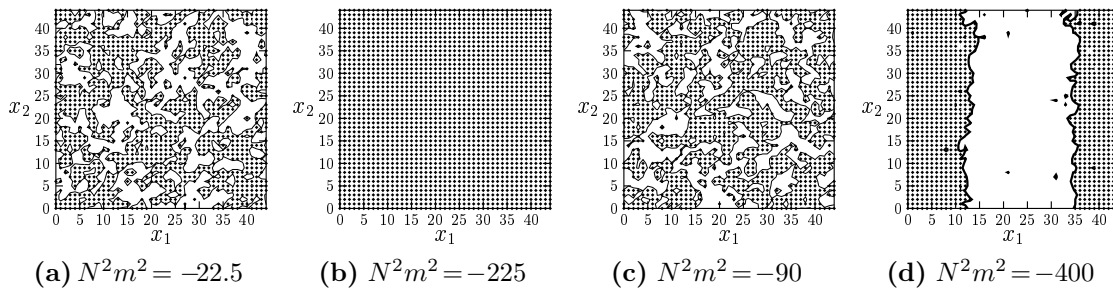
<sup>2</sup>Actually rotation symmetry is explicitly broken on the lattice. However, in the commutative case this symmetry is reduced to an invariance under rotations of  $\pi/2$ , which can be broken spontaneously in the non-commutative lattice theory.



**Figure 5.2:** The phase diagram of the non-commutative 3d  $\lambda\phi^4$  in the  $m^2 - \lambda$  plane.

in the uniform phase, and the right lines show the smallest value of  $\lambda$ , where we are already in the striped phase. Both transitions stabilize in  $N$  if we multiply the axes by  $N^2$ .

To illustrate the different phases we mapped the matrices  $\hat{\phi}(t)$  back to coordinate space ( $\phi(\vec{x}, t)$ ) using the map (3.34). We chose configurations in the four areas that can be distinguished. Some example snapshots of  $\phi(\vec{x}, t)$  are shown in Figure 5.3.



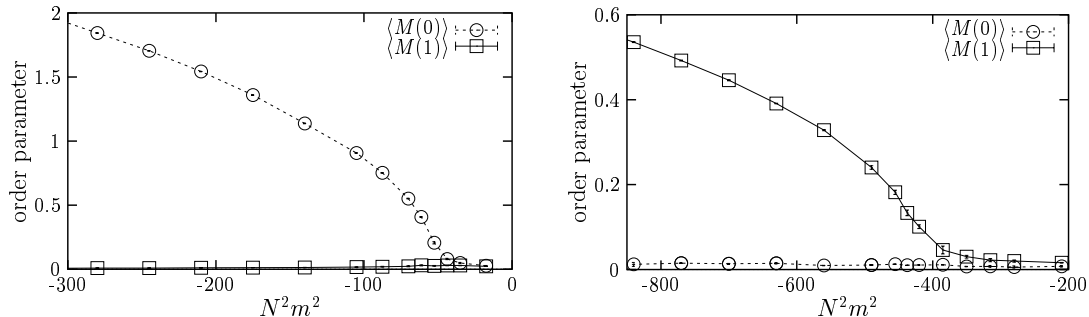
**Figure 5.3:** Snapshots of single configurations  $\phi(\vec{x}, t)$  at some time  $t$ , at  $N = 45$ ,  $N^2\lambda = 90$  (a,b) and  $N^2\lambda = 450$  (c,d).

The dotted areas indicate  $\phi(\vec{x}, t) > 0$  and in the blank areas  $\phi(\vec{x}, t)$  is negative. Figure 5.3(a) and 5.3(c) show  $\phi(\vec{x}, t)$  in the disordered phase. The positive and negative areas are spread all over as one expects in the disordered phase. Also in the uniformly ordered phase we find the expected behavior;  $\phi(\vec{x}, t)$  is either positive for all  $\vec{x}$  or negative for all  $\vec{x}$  (Figure 5.3(b)).

Figure 5.3(d) shows a typical pattern with two stripes. In the range of the parameters plotted in the phase diagram 5.2 we always found two stripes (in the non-uniformly ordered phase). They were either parallel to the  $x_1$  or to the  $x_2$  axis. We will discuss the number of stripes separately in the next Subsection. In the rest of

this Subsection we discuss the measurements that the phase diagram 5.2 is based on.

To localize the phase transitions we started simulations in the disordered phase. After we reached equilibrium we measured  $M(k)$ . Then we decreased slowly  $m^2$  towards the expected phase transition. Figure 5.4 shows two example measurements



**Figure 5.4:** The momentum dependent order parameter  $\langle M(k) \rangle$  against  $N^2 m^2$  at  $N = 35$ . On the left we fixed at  $N^2 \lambda = 70$ , which leads to the uniform phase and on the right we are at  $N^2 \lambda = 350$ , leading to the striped phase.

at  $N = 35$ . We plotted in both cases the order parameter at  $k = 0$  and  $k = 1$  against  $N^2 m^2$ . On the left we started in the disordered phase at  $N^2 \lambda = 70$ . Below a critical value of  $m^2$ , we see a clearly non-vanishing  $\langle M(k) \rangle$  at  $k = 0$ , while  $\langle M(1) \rangle$  is zero for all values of  $m^2$ . This indicates that we are entering the uniform phase. On the right we started in the disordered phase at  $N^2 \lambda = 350$ . Lowering  $m^2$  leads to a non-zero order parameter at  $k = 1$  and the standard order parameter  $\langle M(0) \rangle$  is zero. The fact that  $\langle M(1) \rangle \neq 0$  implies that the system is in the striped phase.

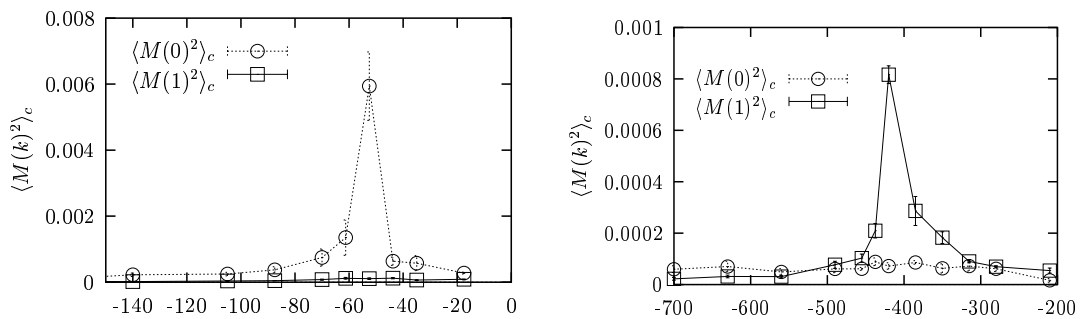
Measurements of this kind allowed us to separate the uniform phase from the striped phase.<sup>3</sup> Whenever we see a dominant order parameter with  $k \neq 0$  we are in the striped phase. Unfortunately we were not able to determine an accurate transition line between these phases. We obtained a transition region, in which it was not possible to identify the order of the system. Depending on the starting conditions (see Appendix A) we found indication for both phases. We come back to this point in Section 5.4.

From plots like shown in Figure 5.4 one can also identify the transition line between disordered phase and ordered regime, at least roughly. Whenever any order parameter becomes non-zero we hit the transition line. However, one can localize the transition more accurately by looking at the connected part of the two-point function of  $M(k)$ ,

$$\langle M(k)^2 \rangle_c = \langle M(k)^2 \rangle - \langle M(k) \rangle^2. \quad (5.12)$$

From statistical mechanics it is known that this two-point function has a peak at the phase transition. Figure 5.5 shows two examples of these measurements, where we used the same configurations as we did in Figure 5.4. This allowed us to determine the transition line between disordered phase and ordered regime to a high accuracy.

<sup>3</sup>A natural method to determine the transition line between uniform and striped phase is to start in the uniform phase and increase  $\lambda$  or vice versa. However, it turned out that the initial patterns remain stable when the transition region is crossed.



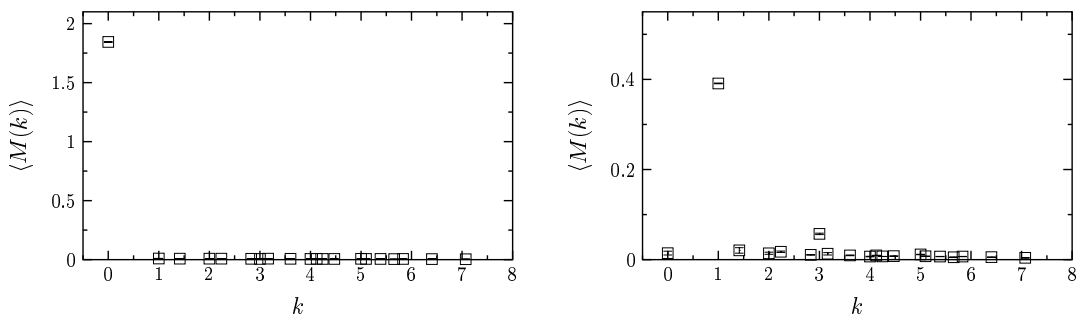
**Figure 5.5:** The connected two-point function of  $M(k)$  defined in equation (5.12) against  $N^2 m^2$  at  $N = 35$ . On the left at  $N^2 \lambda = 70$  and on the right at  $N^2 \lambda = 350$ .

### 5.2.3 The striped phase

In Figure 5.4 we have seen that the two types of ordered phases can be distinguished by the momentum  $k$  of the non-vanishing order parameter  $\langle M(k) \rangle$ . We showed the two possibilities  $k = 0, 1$ . It was left as an open question how  $\langle M(k) \rangle$  behaves for other values of  $k$ . This we want to discuss here.

In Figure 5.6 we plotted two examples of the order parameter against the momentum  $k$ , where in both cases we are clearly in the ordered regime. On the left the system is in the uniformly ordered phase. Only the standard order parameter is non-zero, for all other momenta the order parameter is zero. This defines the uniform phase.

The right plot in Figure 5.6 shows the system in the striped phase. There we see again a non-zero order parameter at  $k = 1$ . In addition we also see a signal for  $\langle M(3) \rangle$ . This may appear as an indication for an underlying multi-stripe structure,



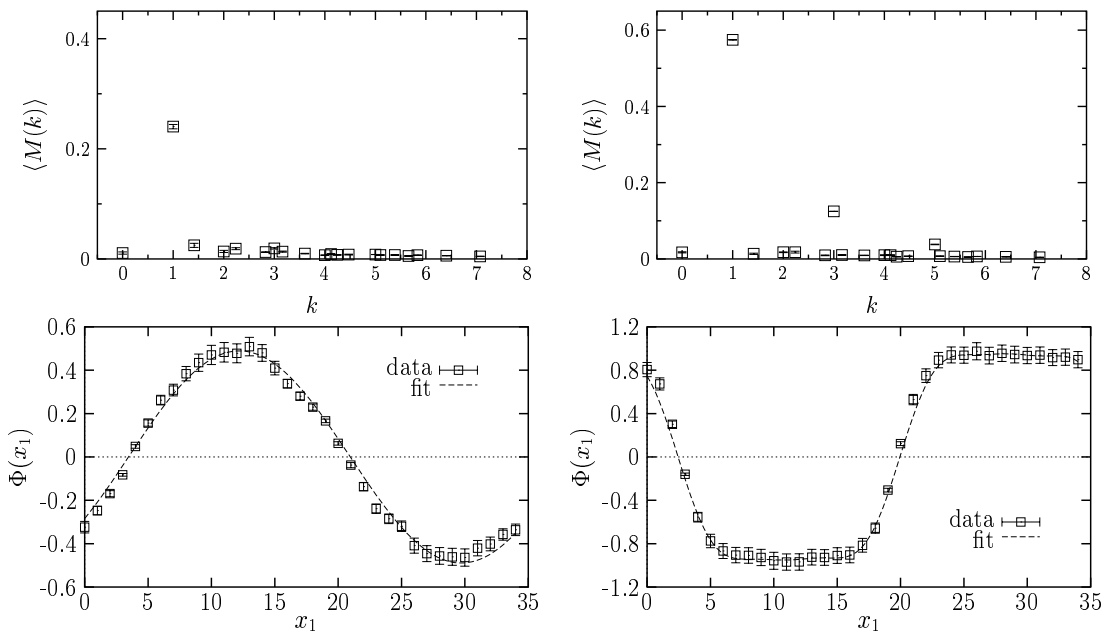
**Figure 5.6:** The momentum dependent order parameter  $\langle M(k) \rangle$  against  $k$  at  $N = 35$ . On the left in the uniform phase at  $N^2 \lambda = 70$  and  $N^2 m^2 = -210$ , and on the right in the striped phase at  $N^2 \lambda = 350$  and  $N^2 m^2 = -400$ .

which is not visible when we plot the sign of  $\phi(\vec{x}, t)$ , as we did in Figure 5.3. In fact this is not the case. To illustrate this we define the function

$$\Phi(x_1) = \frac{1}{NT} \sum_{x_2, t} \phi(x_1, x_2, t). \quad (5.13)$$

In this definition we assume that the stripes are parallel to the  $x_2$  axis. The function  $\Phi(x_1)$  averages  $\phi(\vec{x}, t)$  over  $x_2$  and  $t$  at  $x_1$ . If there is an additional structure<sup>4</sup> this

<sup>4</sup>Of course the method will not find all possible patterns, but we also looked for additional



**Figure 5.7:** The momentum dependent order parameter  $\langle M(k) \rangle$  against  $k$  at  $N = 35$  and  $\Phi(x_1)$  in the striped phase. On the left close to the phase transition at  $N^2\lambda = 350$  and  $N^2m^2 = -250$  and on the right at large negative values of  $m^2$  in the striped phase at  $N^2\lambda = 350$  and  $N^2m^2 = -620$ .

should be seen in the behavior of  $\Phi(x_1)$ . To examine this we first computed the order parameter from configurations close to the phase transition and from configurations at large negative values of  $m^2$ . The results are shown in Figure 5.7 (top). On the left the system is close to the phase transition and only  $\langle M(1) \rangle$  is non-zero. On the right, at large negative values of  $m^2$ , we see that also  $\langle M(3) \rangle$  and  $\langle M(5) \rangle$  are different from zero. It is evident that when  $m^2$  is further decreased,  $\langle M(k) \rangle$  will also be non-vanishing for larger (odd) momenta  $k$ .

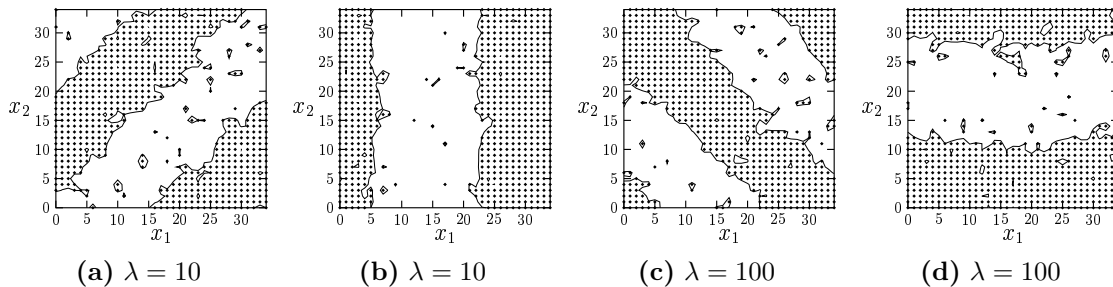
We computed  $\Phi(x_1)$  on one configurations in each of these regions, to study how the additional momentum modes influence this function. The results are plotted in Figure 5.7 (bottom). If there is only one non-vanishing mode of the field this corresponds to a pure **sine** behavior. This is clearly confirmed by the plot on the left. The dashed line is a fit of the data to a **sine** function.<sup>5</sup> On the right  $\Phi(x_1)$  is plotted in the case of various non-vanishing momentum modes. Here we see that these additional modes do *not* indicate a more complicated structure. It simply displays that deeply in the striped phase  $\Phi(x_1)$  is no more a pure **sine**, but the Fourier series involves higher momenta. As a fit function in this plot we used the first three odd terms in such an expansion, according to the three non-vanishing modes in Figure 5.7 (right, top), which fits the data perfectly. This result means for the structure of the field  $\phi(\vec{x}, t)$  that at large negative values of  $m^2$  the number of stripes does not change, but the field is here restricted to only two values. At  $m^2 \ll 0$  the kinetic term is negligible and the anti-ferromagnetic coupling dominates

structures in the other direction, which were not present.

<sup>5</sup>The function  $\Phi(x_1)$  is an average over  $x_2$  and  $t$ . The errors displayed in Figure 5.7 are computed with respect to this average with the binning method (see Appendix A.1).

the system.

As we mentioned above we obtained — in the range of the parameters shown in the phase diagram 5.2 — never more than two stripes. Analytically one expects not only two stripes, but also more complicated patterns [27]. The multi-stripe patterns should occur either on larger lattices or at larger non-commutativity parameter  $\theta$  or at larger coupling  $\lambda$ . In fact we obtain for increased  $\lambda$  also diagonal stripes.



**Figure 5.8:** Snapshots of single configurations  $\phi(\vec{x}, t)$  at a certain time  $t$ , at  $N = 35$ ,  $\lambda = 10$  and  $m^2 = -6$  (a,b) and at  $\lambda = 100$  and  $m^2 = -40$ . The different patterns at each values of the parameters correspond to different starting configuration.

Some example snapshots at  $N = 35$  are displayed in Figure 5.8. The different patterns shown here correspond to different starting configurations. We postpone the discussion of the vacuum until we have considered the dispersion relation.

## 5.3 Correlation functions

In this Section we present our results concerning the correlation functions. The main interest here is to study the dispersion relation, but also the behavior of two-point functions in position space.

### 5.3.1 Spatial correlators

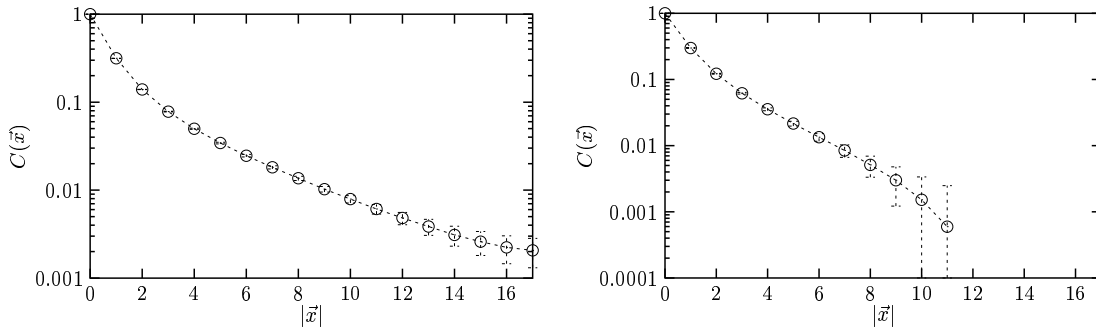
There are several predictions about the behavior of the correlation functions in coordinate space in the 4d  $\lambda\phi^4$  theory. It is expected from one loop perturbation theory that the decay of this correlator at small  $\lambda$  is not exponential [4]. For larger  $\lambda$  the exponential behavior is restored but now depending on the coupling instead of the mass. This refers to the disordered phase. In the non-uniformly ordered phase an oscillation of the correlator is expected. Here we are studying the behavior of these correlators in  $d = 3$ .

We are dealing here with one commuting and two non-commuting coordinates, namely the spatial coordinates. Since only the correlators in the non-commuting directions are expected to have an exotic behavior, we focus on spatial correlators.

To be explicit, we study the correlation function <sup>6</sup>

$$C(\vec{x}) = \frac{1}{N^2 T} \sum_{\vec{y}, t} \langle \phi(\vec{y}, t) \star \phi(\vec{y} + \vec{x}, t) \rangle. \quad (5.14)$$

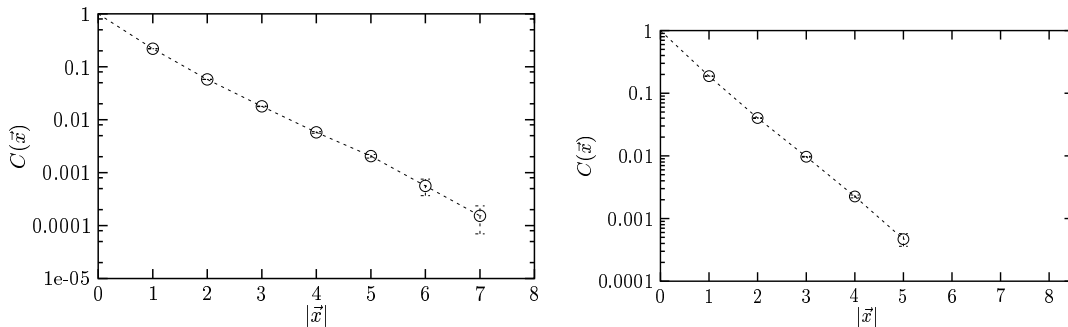
In Figure 5.9 the correlator (5.14) in the disordered phase at  $N = 35$  is shown. We measured the  $C(\vec{x})$  in one direction  $x_i$  keeping  $x$  fixed in the other direction. In Figure 5.9 we averaged over both directions. On the left we plotted the correlator (5.14) at  $\lambda = 0.06$  and on the right at  $\lambda = 0.6$ . The decay is clearly not exponential



**Figure 5.9:** The correlator (5.14) against  $|\vec{x}|$  in the disordered phase at  $N = 35$ . On the left the selfcoupling amounts to  $\lambda = 0.06$  and  $m^2 = -0.015$ . On the right the correlator is plotted at  $\lambda = 0.6$  and  $m^2 = -0.15$ .

at these values of the coupling.

In Figure 5.10 we show results at increased coupling. At moderately enlarged  $\lambda$  the decay appears almost exponential (on the left), and at very large coupling



**Figure 5.10:** The correlator (5.14) against  $|\vec{x}|$  in the disordered phase at  $N = 35$ . On the left we set  $\lambda = 2$  and  $m^2 = -0.3$  and on the right to  $\lambda = 10$  and  $m^2 = -2$ .

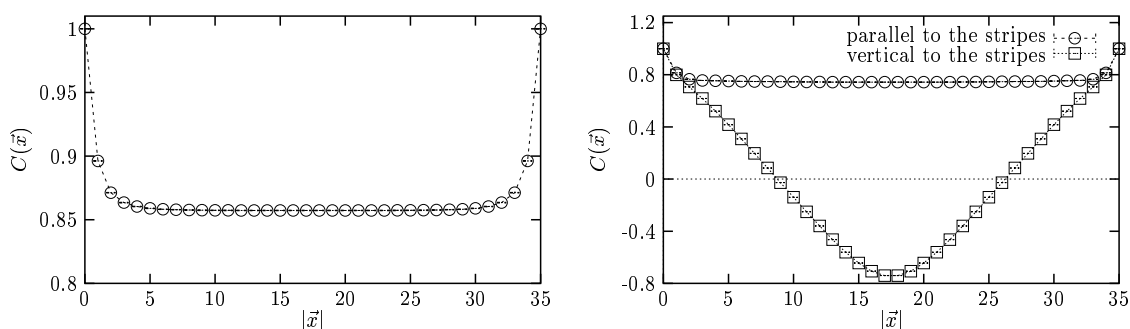
the exponential decay is restored (on the right). The non-exponential decay of the spatial correlators was a result obtained from perturbation theory in four dimension. Here we observed this behavior in the 3d model.

In the striped phase we have to take more care about the direction in which we measure the correlation function (5.14), since here we have patterns leading to a

<sup>6</sup>In practice we use the twist eaters (3.32), which are a finite dimensional representation of the shift operators (3.11) to compute this quantity. We discuss this issue here and in the following in coordinate space since then the quantities are intuitively readable.

dependence of the correlator on the direction. Therefore an analysis of the stripe pattern has to be done first. This is achieved by evaluating the order parameter  $\bar{M}(\vec{m})$  defined in equation (5.8). This order parameter depends also on the orientation of the condensed momentum mode and it is therefore not suitable for detecting the disordered – striped phase transition. However, here it is a perfect observable to detect the patterns. The momentum that maximizes  $\bar{M}(\vec{m})$  dominates the pattern in the striped phase. For example, a maximum at  $\vec{m} = (1, 0)$  indicates two stripes parallel to the  $x_2$  axis, and a maximum at  $\vec{m} = (1, 1)$  or at  $\vec{m} = (1, -1)$  indicates diagonal stripes.

We measured the correlation function parallel and vertical to the stripes separately. For completeness we plotted in Figure 5.11 on the left also an example of

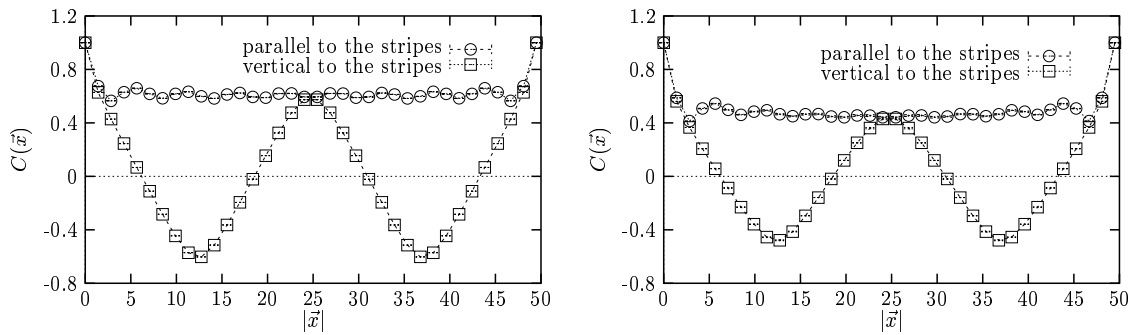


**Figure 5.11:** The correlator (5.14) against  $|\vec{x}|$  in the ordered regime at  $N = 35$ . On the left at  $\lambda = 0.06$  and  $m^2 = -0.1$  in the uniform phase and on the right at  $\lambda = 0.6$  and  $m^2 = -0.7$  in the non-uniform phase.

$C(\vec{x})$  in the uniform phase. In this phase we see a strong correlation as expected in a uniform phase. However, in the striped phase (on the right) at  $\lambda = 0.6$  the spatial correlator behaves differently in the two directions. At this value of  $\lambda$  we obtained two stripes parallel to one of the axis. Therefore we find in one direction (parallel to stripes) still a strong correlation. In the direction vertical to the stripes we see a strong anti-correlation. Since at this value of the coupling we have only two stripes, the correlator does not oscillate.

The situation changes if we increase the coupling further. In Figure 5.12  $C(\vec{x})$  is plotted at  $\lambda = 10$  and 100. In the last Section we showed already snapshots of  $\phi(\vec{x}, t)$  at these values of the coupling. We saw there that depending on the starting configuration we obtain qualitatively different patterns. This leads to a different behavior of the spatial correlator (5.14). Again we refer to Section 5.4 for a discussion. Here we show results for the different striped phases separately.

At these values of the coupling we find the maximum of  $\bar{M}(\vec{m})$  at  $\vec{m} = (1, 0)$  or at  $\vec{m} = (1, 1)$  corresponding to two stripes parallel to the  $x_2$ -axis or two diagonal stripes, respectively. In the first case the correlator  $C(\vec{x})$  behaves in the same way as in Figure 5.11 on the right. In the case of diagonal stripes we obtain a clear oscillation of the correlation function vertical to the stripes as shown in Figure 5.12. Parallel to the stripes  $C(\vec{x})$  is strongly correlated. Note that here the oscillations do not indicate more than two stripes.



**Figure 5.12:** The correlator (5.14) against  $|\vec{x}|$  in the striped phase at  $N = 35$ . On the left at  $\lambda = 10$  and  $m^2 = -4$  and on the right at  $\lambda = 100$  and  $m^2 = -40$ . The maximum of the order parameter is here at  $\vec{m} = (1, 1)$ .

### 5.3.2 Dispersion relation

In Section 2.4 we discussed the broken Lorentz symmetry and the corresponding deformation of the dispersion relation in non-commutative  $\lambda\phi^4$  theory, in the framework of perturbation theory.

In a Lorentz invariant theory the energy squared is linear in  $\vec{p}^2$  and the dispersion relation is given by

$$E(\vec{p})^2 = \vec{p}^2 + M_{\text{eff}}^2, \quad (5.15)$$

where  $M_{\text{eff}}$  is the effective mass. In the non-commutative case equation (5.6) implies a dispersion relation of the form

$$E(\vec{p})^2 = \vec{p}^2 + M_{\text{eff}}^2 + \xi \frac{\lambda}{|\theta\vec{p}|}, \quad (5.16)$$

where the last term is the leading one loop IR divergence.

Here we study the dispersion relation non-perturbatively. Since we do not consider renormalization aspects in this model, we are only interested in the momentum dependence of the energy. To this end we considered the two-point correlation function in time direction

$$G(\vec{m}, \tau) = \frac{1}{N^2 T} \sum_t \left\langle \text{Re} \left( \tilde{\phi}^*(\vec{m}, t) \tilde{\phi}(\vec{m}, t + \tau) \right) \right\rangle, \quad (5.17)$$

where  $\tilde{\phi}(\vec{m}, t)$  is again the spatial Fourier transform that we already used in the definition of the order parameter (5.8). On an infinite lattice  $G(\vec{m}, \tau)$  decays exponentially in  $\tau$ . Since we are on a finite lattice with periodic boundary conditions  $G(\vec{m}, \tau + T) = G(\vec{m}, \tau)$ , the correlator behaves like a **cosh** function,

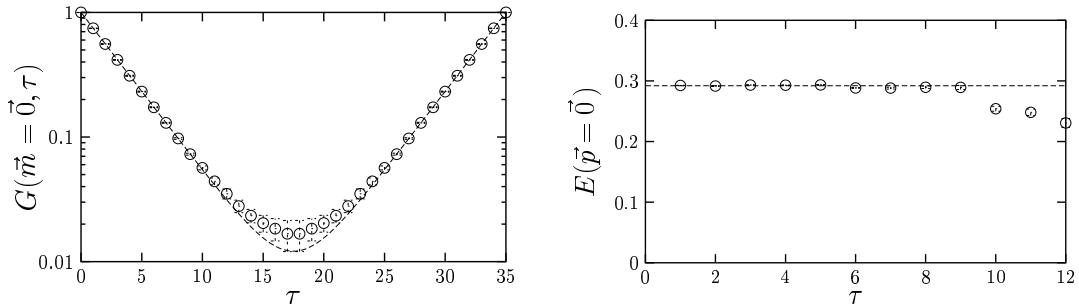
$$G(\vec{m}, \tau) \propto \left( e^{-E(\vec{p})\tau} + e^{-E(\vec{p})(T-\tau)} \right). \quad (5.18)$$

Here  $E(\vec{p})$  is the energy, where we rescaled the integer representation of the momenta  $\vec{m}$  to their physical value  $\vec{p}$

$$\vec{p} = \frac{2\pi}{N} \vec{m}. \quad (5.19)$$

The correlator  $G(\vec{m}, \tau)$  allows us to determine the momentum dependence of the energy, i.e. the dispersion relation, by studying its exponential decay. This can be

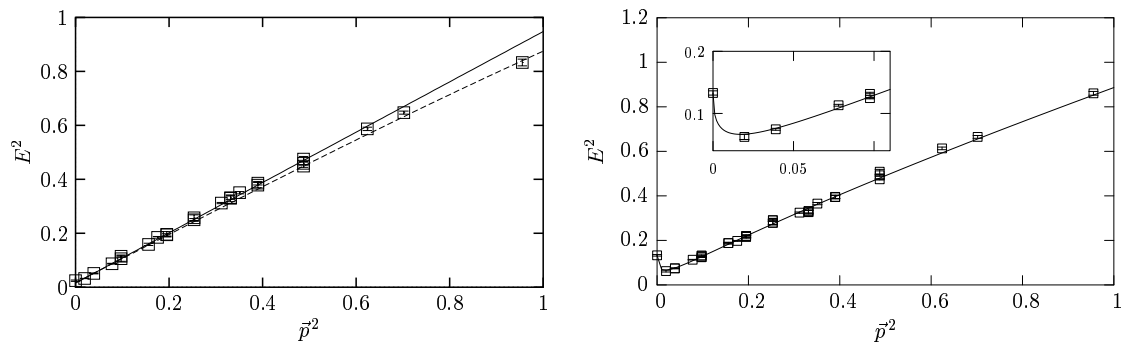
done either by fitting  $G(\vec{m}, \tau)$  to the function (5.18) or by studying the ratio of two subsequent values  $-\log[G(\vec{m}, \tau+1)/G(\vec{m}, \tau)]$ . With the first method we obtain  $E(\vec{p})$



**Figure 5.13:** Determination of the energy  $E(\vec{p})$ . On the left the data are fitted to the function (5.18) and on the right we show  $-\log[G(\vec{m}, \tau+1)/G(\vec{m}, \tau)]$ .

as a result of the fit, with the second method the energy is determined by a plateau. Results are shown in Figure 5.13. In this example the system is in the disordered phase and we computed  $G(\vec{m} = \vec{0}, \tau)$ . These measurements allow us to study the dispersion relation.

We evaluated configurations close to the disordered – uniform transition and close to disordered – stripe transition. On all configurations we measured  $E(\vec{p})$  with the methods described above, for various momenta  $\vec{p}$ . Two example results at  $N = 45$  are displayed in Figure 5.14. On the left  $E^2$  is linear in  $\vec{p}^2$  as one expects in a Lorentz invariant theory. The solid line in this plot is the result of a fit to the dispersion relation (5.15), where we used the effective mass  $M_{\text{eff}}$  as the only free parameter. Since we are on a finite lattice we see at larger momenta a deviation. Here the momentum dependence of the energy is  $E^2 \propto (2 \sin |\vec{p}|/2)^2$  (if Lorentz symmetry holds). A fit to this function is represented by the dashed line in Figure 5.14. This line fits the data very well. Since the energy minimum is at  $|\vec{p}| = 0$  at this value of  $\lambda$ , we end up in the uniform phase when we decrease  $m^2$ .



**Figure 5.14:** The energy  $E^2(\vec{p})$  in the disordered phase at  $N = 45$ , on the left at  $N^2\lambda = 70$  and  $N^2m^2 = -17.5$ , and on the right at  $N^2\lambda = 700$  and  $N^2m^2 = -280$ .

The situation is different for larger  $\lambda$ . This is shown in Figure 5.14 on the right. In the vicinity of  $|\vec{p}| = 0$  we see here a clear deviation from the dispersion relation (5.15), at large momenta the linear behavior is restored. The increased energy at

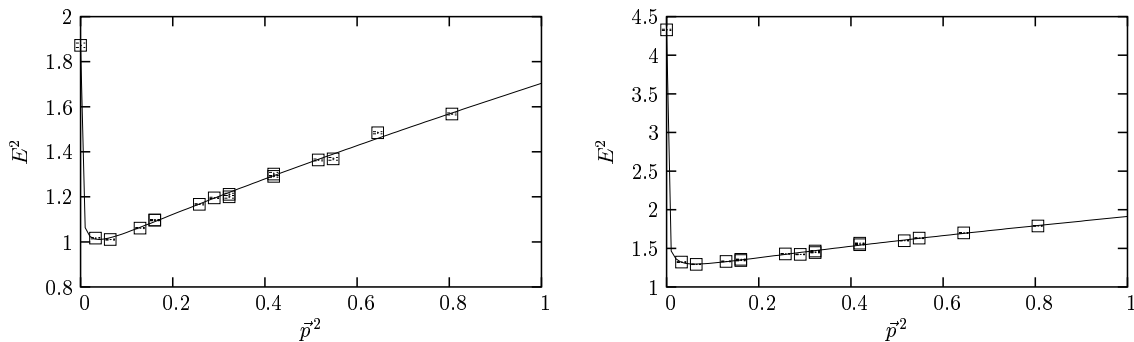
zero momentum is in full agreement with the perturbatively predicted IR divergence. Due to the discrete compactification (see Section 3.1) a finite lattice spacing serves also as an IR cut-off. Therefore we do not see a divergence. Since the cut-off influences the IR behavior we included an ad hoc cut-off  $\kappa$ , as a consequence of equation (2.38). We fitted the data to the function

$$E(p)^2 = p^2 + m^2 + \frac{a_1}{p + \kappa} + a_2(p + \kappa). \quad (5.20)$$

It turned out that the leading IR divergence in equation (5.16) does not describe the low momentum behavior sufficiently. Therefore we added a linear term <sup>7</sup> in  $p$  from the expansion of the exponential function in equation (5.6). The relative errors of the fit parameters are shown in Table 5.1. The errors of the parameters of the deformation are rather large, which is not surprising since we have only one data point displaying this effect.

However, the minimum of the energy is here clearly at the smallest non-vanishing momentum. This minimum implies that for decreased  $m^2$  the system will be in the striped phase and the vacuum pattern will have two stripes parallel to one of the axes. For  $|\vec{p}| = 0$  the energy increases again, which may indicate the IR divergence (at  $N \rightarrow \infty$ ).

Here we observe that at small  $\lambda$ , and equivalently for small  $\theta$ , the effects of UV/IR mixing are strongly suppressed and we restore the behavior of the commutative theory, including an Ising type phase transition. At larger  $\lambda$  the UV/IR mixing effects become dominant and the phase transition changes its nature. This is in qualitative agreement with the conjecture by Gubser and Sondhi [27].



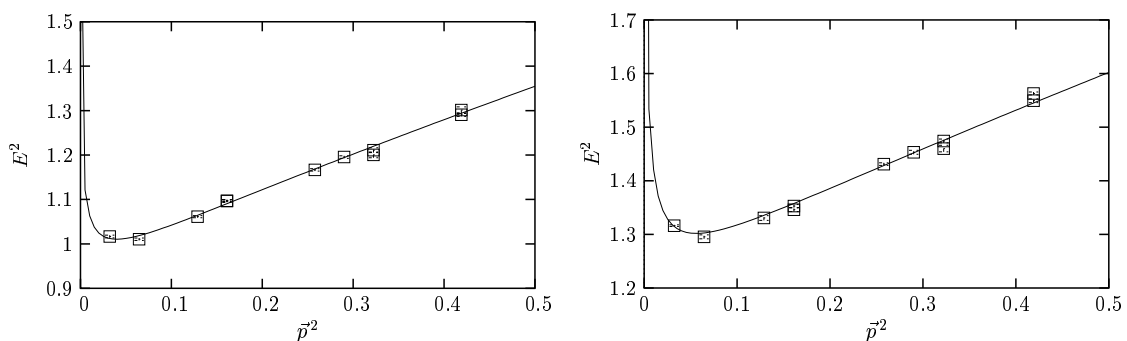
**Figure 5.15:** The energy  $E^2(\vec{p})$  in the disordered phase at  $N = 35$ . On the left we are at  $\lambda = 10$  and  $m^2 = -1$ , and on the right at  $\lambda = 100$  and  $m^2 = -10$ . The energy at  $\vec{p} = \vec{0}$  increases with  $\lambda$ .

For further increased  $\lambda$  one expects the minimum at larger momenta. In addition  $E(0)$  should increase with  $\lambda$ . Since at a slightly larger coupling the expected effect did not show up, we increased coupling drastically from  $\lambda = 0.6$  (the largest value at  $N = 35$  that is plotted in the phase diagram 5.2) to  $\lambda = 10$  and 100. The results are shown in Figure 5.15. We clearly see in these plots that  $E(0)$  increases with  $\lambda$ . We fitted the data again to the fit function (5.20). The results are the solid lines

<sup>7</sup>Adding more terms in the expansion does not change the results within the errors.

in Figures 5.15 and 5.16 and the relative errors of the fit parameters are shown in Table 5.1 in the last two lines. At these values of  $\lambda$  also the errors of the parameters describing the deformation of the dispersion relation are under control. The results of the fits are consistent with the *one loop* result of perturbation theory (5.16) over a wide range of  $\lambda$ . This is an unexpected result, since at these values of  $\lambda$  effects from higher order perturbation theory are expected. One might conclude here that there are no qualitatively new IR singularities from higher loop contributions. However, this needs confirmation on larger lattices.

To identify the minimum of the energy we plotted the dispersion relation in a smaller range (Figure 5.16). On the left, at  $\lambda = 10$ , the values of the energy at  $k = |\vec{m}| = 1$  and  $k = |\vec{m}| = \sqrt{2}$  are equal within the statistical errors. From our



**Figure 5.16:** The energy  $E^2(\vec{p})$  in the disordered phase at  $N = 35$ . On the left at  $\lambda = 10$  and  $m^2 = -1$ , at  $k = 1$  and  $k = \sqrt{2}$  the energy is equal within the statistical errors. On the right at  $\lambda = 100$  and  $m^2 = -10$ , the minimum of the energy is shifted from  $k = 1$  to  $k = \sqrt{2}$ .

data it is not possible to predict which of these momentum modes will condense for decreased  $m^2$ . On the right in Figure 5.16, at  $\lambda = 100$ , the minimum of the energy is clearly at the second smallest non-vanishing momentum, which corresponds to  $k = |\vec{m}| = \sqrt{2}$ . Therefore the pattern in the non-uniform phase will have two diagonal stripes.

parameter	$m^2$	$\kappa$	$a_1$	$a_2$
relative error in Figure 5.14 right	0.05	0.25	0.2	0.2
relative error in Figure 5.15 left	0.02	0.11	0.08	0.12
relative error in Figure 5.15 right	0.02	0.15	0.13	0.15

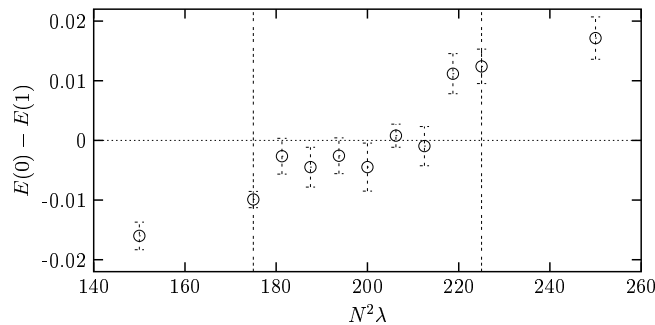
**Table 5.1:** The relative errors of the fit parameters.

## 5.4 The phase diagram revisited

As we have seen in Subsection 5.3.2, the investigation of the dispersion relation in the disordered phase provides information about the ordered regime. The mode that drives the phase transition, and therefore indicates the pattern of the ordered regime, is given by the momentum that minimizes the energy.

This might give more insight into the transition region between uniform and striped phase. The difference between the energy at  $\vec{m} = (0, 0)$  and at  $\vec{m} = (1, 0)$  indicates the type of ordering that will occur in the ordered regime. In the uniform phase this difference is negative and in the striped phase positive. Equal energies indicate the phase transition.

Since this is a small effect we performed high statistic<sup>8</sup> simulations at  $N = 25$  in the range of  $\lambda$ , which is marked as transition region in Figure 5.2. On these configurations we measured the energy gap  $E(0) - E(1)$ . The result is plotted in Figure



**Figure 5.17:** The difference  $E(0) - E(1)$  in the disordered phase at  $N = 25$  against  $N^2\lambda$ . The vertical lines mark the transition region between uniform and striped phase, which was determined by measurements of the order parameter.

5.17, where the region between vertical lines represent the aforementioned transition region. Outside this region and at its boundaries we clearly identify the uniform phase (left) and the striped phase (right). Inside the region the energy gap is zero within the errors with one exception close to the striped phase. With this method we cannot identify a transition line either. However, these measurements clarify why here the pattern depends on the starting configurations. If  $E(0)$  and  $E(1)$  are almost equal it is (numerically) not clear which mode drives the phase transitions. Since numerical studies always suffer from the finite accuracy of computer numbers, it is hardly possible to resolve these small effects. Therefore already for two slightly different configurations the system might end up in one case in the uniform phase and in the other case in the striped phase, both of which appear to be stable.

Regions where the minimum of the energy is difficult to identify are of course not restricted to the case discussed here. This occurs whenever the difference between the minimum of the energy and the next larger value of the energy is small compared to the absolute value of the energies. This is certainly the case when the minimum of the energy is changing with respect to the momentum. This obviously takes place in Figure 5.16 on the left. We also see this behavior at large  $\lambda$  as Figure 5.16 on

<sup>8</sup>To extract this information we used 20000 configurations.

the right shows. In the first case we face the same problem as in the uniform – non-uniform transition area, which does not allow us to determine the behavior in the ordered regime.

In the latter case the two lowest values of the energy are too close to resolve the correct pattern in the striped phase with our algorithm. However, from the analysis of the dispersion relation in the disordered phase we know that at  $N = 35$  and  $\lambda = 100$  the striped phase has  $(1, 1)$ -patterns. The additional  $(1, 0)$ -patterns in Figure 5.8 are only meta-stable.

It is evident that more complex pattern will occur at further increased  $\lambda$ . However, in the limit of strong coupling the kinetic term in the action (5.2) becomes irrelevant. In Monte Carlo studies this causes a dramatic increase of the simulations steps that are needed to achieve the equilibrium (see Appendix A).

Finally we comment on the orders of the phase transitions. We did not study this topic systematically, but we have some indications of which orders the transitions could be.

The phase transition between disordered and ordered phase seems to be most likely of second order. We assume that because we do not see any indication of hysteresis at this transition. This holds for both, the disordered – uniform and the disordered – non-uniform transition. To study the hysteresis we performed simulations starting from the disordered phase and by slowly decreasing  $m^2$  we entered the ordered regime. Once the system was clearly in the ordered regime we increased  $m^2$  slowly towards the disordered phase. On these configurations we measured the order parameter. In a first order phase transition the order parameter would be different on both way. Since this hysteresis did not show up we assume a second order phase transition.

We did not found a convincing indication of the order of the transition from the uniform to the striped phase. Here we obtained a transition region which prevents a prediction of the order.



# Chapter 6

## The 2d non-commutative scalar model

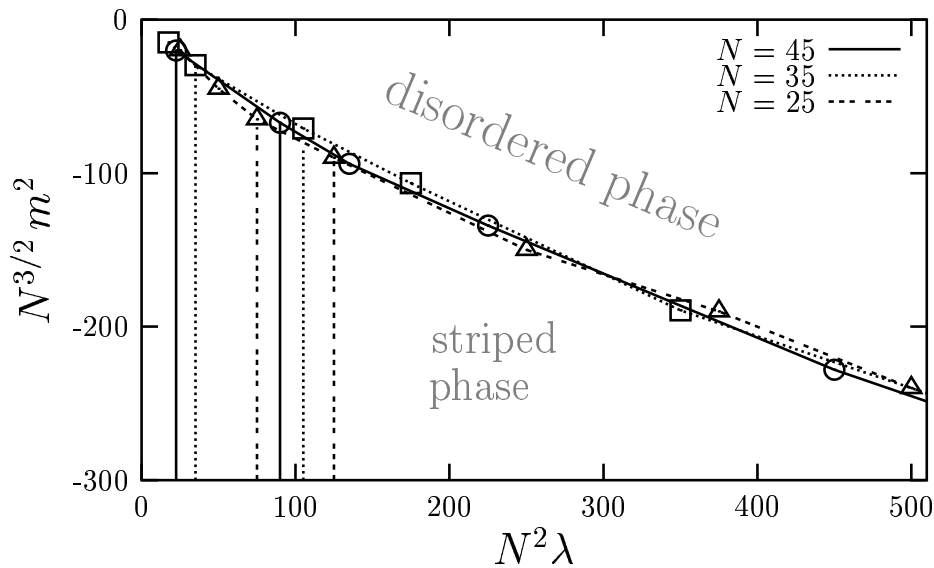
The occurrence of stripes in the ground state implies the spontaneous breakdown of translation invariance. The case  $d = 2$  is particularly interesting in this respect. Gubser and Sondhi argued based on an action of the Brazovskii form [28] and the Mermin–Wagner theorem [29,30,31] that stripes cannot be stable in  $d = 2$ . However, Ambjørn and Catterall pointed out that this theorem is not applicable, because here we deal with a non-local action as the star-product shows. In fact they did observe non-uniform patterns in their numerical results for non-commutative  $\lambda\phi^4$  model in  $d = 2$  [88], where the two coordinates obey the commutator relation (2.18). In general their results agree qualitatively with the results we got in  $d = 3$ . The only difference was that they obtained more complicated patterns than the two-stripe pattern at rather small coupling  $\lambda$ .

Inspired by their results we also studied the 2d version of the non-commutative  $\lambda\phi^4$  model. In two dimensions the action reads

$$S[\hat{\phi}] = N\text{Tr} \left[ \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\mu} \left( \hat{D}_{\mu} \hat{\phi} \hat{D}_{\mu}^{\dagger} - \hat{\phi} \right)^2 + \frac{m^2}{2} \hat{\phi}^2 + \frac{\lambda}{4} \hat{\phi}^4 \right], \quad (6.1)$$

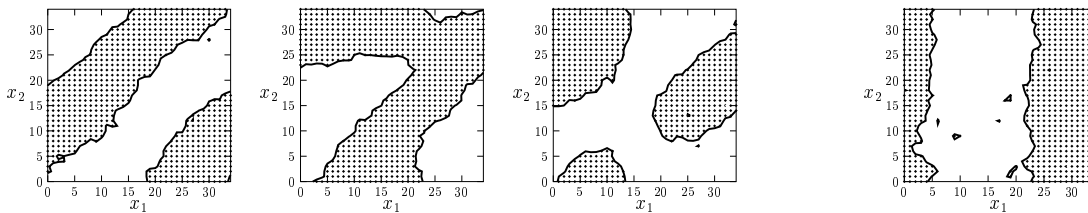
where we used the twist-eaters (3.32) as shift operators  $\hat{D}_{\mu}$ . We performed the similar measurements as we did in  $d = 3$  beginning with the phase diagram. Again we used the order parameter (5.11), but since we are in two dimensions there is no sum over the time  $t$ . The phase diagram we obtained is plotted in Figure 6.1. As in the 3d case the ordered regime is split into a uniform and into a striped phase in agreement with Ambjørn and Catterall. In this case it takes the factors  $N^{3/2}$  and  $N^2$  on the axes to stabilize the phase transitions in  $N$ .

We also analyzed the striped phase in the range of the parameters that are plotted in Figure 6.1. In this range we always obtained patterns with two stripes. Since Ambjørn and Catterall obtained multi-stripes already at these values of the coupling, we tried to understand the origins of these differences. According to Ref. [88] they used an algorithm that updates the complete matrix at once, in contrast to our algorithm where we updated pairs of matrix elements. Therefore we applied



**Abbildung 6.1:** The phase diagram of the non-commutative 2d  $\lambda\phi^4$  in the  $m^2 - \lambda$  plane.

the same algorithm (although it has thermalization and ergodicity problems see Section A.3) and indeed we also discovered other patterns than two stripes. Some example snapshots at  $N = 35$  are plotted in Figure 6.2. These patterns show up after approximately 500 simulation steps (starting from a random configuration) and survived about  $10^5$  further update steps. After increasing the number of update steps further to approximately  $10^6$  to  $10^7$  steps all patterns turn into the two stripe pattern (Figure 6.2 on the right) independent of the starting configuration.<sup>1</sup> We



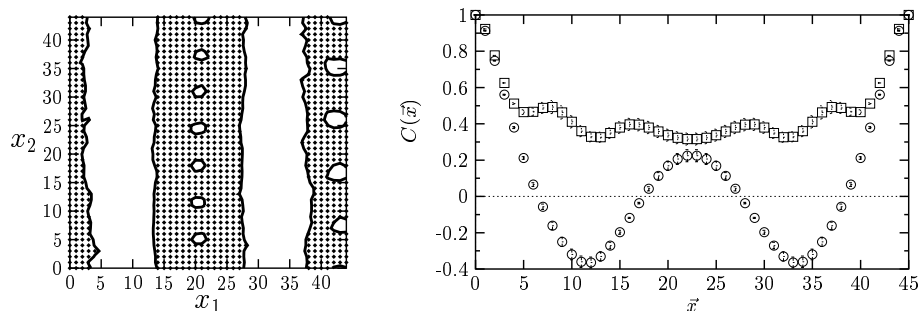
**Abbildung 6.2:** Meta-stable patterns at  $N = 35$  and  $N^2\lambda = 350$  in the striped phase. After a very long thermalization time all patterns turn into a two stripe pattern (on the right).

show here examples at  $N = 35$ , but the situation is the same at  $N = 45$ . However, the main result in Ref. [88] is of course the spontaneous breakdown of the translation invariance, and therefore the existence of a striped phase, which was not expected in two dimensions. In this point our results fully agree with those of Ambjørn and Catterall.

<sup>1</sup>In fact we faced the same problem in our study of the 3d model. In a first attempt we used the same algorithm as in Ref. [88] and we obtained multi stripes already at  $N = 35$ . Since we saw a dependence of the patterns on the starting configuration we improved the algorithm, which unmasked these patterns as meta-stable.

We also computed the spatial correlation function defined in equation (5.14). As in  $d = 3$  we obtained in the striped phase a strong correlation parallel to the stripes and a strong anti-correlation vertical to the stripes.

For very large coupling  $\lambda$  we finally obtained stable multi-stripe patterns. One example at  $N = 45$  is shown in Figure 6.3 on the left. For all starting configurations



**Figure 6.3:** An example snapshot of a configuration on the left and the correlator (5.14) against  $|\vec{x}|$  on the right in the striped phase at  $N = 45$  and  $N^2\lambda = 20000$ .

we arrive at the same pattern, which persists for an apparently unlimited number of update steps even for the improved algorithm (A.13).

The pattern in Figure 6.3 has *four* stripes where the stripes themselves have some substructure. On the right we plotted the correlation function in position space (5.14). The stripes show up as an oscillation around zero of this correlator perpendicular to the stripes. The substructure of the stripes leads to a slight oscillation of the correlator parallel to the stripes.



# Chapter 7

## Summary and conclusion

We investigated non-commutative field theories in lower dimensions non-perturbatively in the lattice approach. Since the non-local star-product arises also in the lattice formulation it is not suitable for a direct Monte Carlo investigation. Therefore we used a finite dimensional representation of the operator formulation of these field theories. This leads to dimensionally reduced models.

In non-commutative gauge theory the reduced model (reduced to  $d = 0$ ) is given by the twisted Eguchi Kawai model (TEK). Within this model we investigated the continuum limit of 2d non-commutative  $U(1)$  theory. In the TEK this limit corresponds to the large  $N$  double scaling limit. To this end we studied the double scaling limit of the 1-point function and the 2-point function of Wilson loops as well as the 2-point function of Polyakov lines.

The first conclusion from our simulation results is that we do observe a double scaling limit as  $N, \beta \rightarrow \infty$ . This corresponds to the continuum limit of the non-commutative  $U(1)$  gauge theory, which has therefore also finite observables. This observation demonstrates the non-perturbative renormalizability of 2d non-commutative  $U(1)$  gauge theory.

The Wilson loop follows an area law at small physical areas, and in this regime non-commutative gauge theory agrees with planar standard gauge theory. However, at larger areas the Wilson loop becomes complex and the real part (the mean values over both loop orientations) begins to oscillate around zero. The phase is proportional to the physical area enclosed by the Wilson loop, irrespectively of its shape, and the coefficient of proportionality is given by the inverse of the non-commutativity parameter  $\theta$ . This agrees with the Aharonov-Bohm effect in the presence of a constant magnetic background field

$$B = \frac{1}{\theta}.$$

Our results support this law, which is also a key element of the Seiberg and Witten description of non-commutative gauge theory [8]. Moreover, the same law also occurs in condensed matter physics: if one assumes a plane crossed by a constant magnetic flux, then the electrons in this plane can be projected to the lowest Landau level in a non-commutative space, where  $\theta = \hbar c/eB$  [12, 13, 14].

The behavior of the Wilson loop at large areas implies that we have found a qualitatively new universality class. At first sight, it may look surprising that the

non-commutativity — which introduces a short-ranged non-locality in the action — changes the IR behavior of the gauge theory completely. However, this effect does not appear unnatural in the presence of UV/IR mixing. It is remarkable that this mixing effect does not occur in the perturbative expansion of this model, hence our results for large Wilson loops reveal a purely non-perturbative UV/IR mixing.

For the connected Wilson loop 2-point function, as well as the 2-point function of the Polyakov line, we can confirm the large  $N$  scaling. These observables are in agreement with a universal wave function renormalization, which yields a factor  $\beta^{-0.6}$  for a connected 2-point function.

The second model we investigated was the 3d non-commutative  $\lambda\phi^4$  theory, with a commutative time coordinate and two non-commutative space directions. Again the lattice model is mapped to a dimensionally reduced model, where here the reduced model is one dimensional.

In this model we explored the phase diagram in the  $m^2 - \lambda$  plane. In the ordered phase (at strongly negative  $m^2$ ) we found at small values of  $\lambda$  a uniform order of the Ising type, as in the commutative case. At larger  $\lambda$  — which amplifies the non-commutative effects — we observed striped patterns. Up to moderate values of  $\lambda$  we obtained a pattern of two stripes parallel to the axes for  $N = 15 \dots 45$ . This corresponds to a minimum of the energy at the smallest non-zero lattice momentum. At very large  $\lambda$  (compared to the coupling at the uniform – non-uniform phase transition) also other patterns showed up, in agreement with the conjecture of Gubser and Sondhi. We observed the same behavior in  $d = 2$  (see Chapter 6). Also there we multiple stripes occurred first at rather large values of  $\lambda$ . The dominance of stripes implies the spontaneous breaking of translation symmetry, which is also possible in 2d since the action is non-local.

In the ordered regime, the spatial correlations are dictated by the dominant pattern: uniform as in the commutative case, or striped with strong correlations in the direction of the stripes and strong anti-correlation vertical to them. This agrees with the prediction in Ref. [27]. In the disordered phase the spatial correlators deviate at small  $\lambda$  from the exponential decay. At large  $\lambda$  the decay is again exponential as was predicted from one loop perturbation theory in Ref. [4].

The correlators in momentum space do decay exponentially in time for all momenta. This property allowed us to study the dispersion relation in the disordered phase: at small  $\lambda$  the dispersion relation behaves qualitatively like in the commutative case, but at large  $\lambda$  there appears a jump at  $|\vec{p}| = 0$  as a non-commutative effect. Here we observed the energy minimum at  $|\vec{p}| = \frac{2\pi}{N}$  for moderate  $\lambda$  and at very large  $\lambda$  the minimum is at  $|\vec{p}| = \sqrt{2} \frac{2\pi}{N}$ . The results agree qualitatively with the results obtained in perturbation theory. Also from non-perturbative studies we observed an IR divergent behavior with the predicted  $1/|\vec{p}|$  divergence. However, since we obtained rather large fitting errors in the parameters of the IR dominant term this needs further confirmation.

## Outlook

In this thesis we presented results of our first steps in the non-perturbative study of non-commutative field theory. The next steps can be divided into next, near future and future projects.

The next project is to study the 3d  $\lambda\phi^4$  model at larger values of  $N$ . We expect from these studies more insight into the stripe structure in the ordered regime as well as into the IR behavior of the theory. Since the smallest non-zero momentum is given by  $|\vec{p}| = \frac{2\pi}{N}$ , a study at larger  $N$  will resolve the interesting low momentum regime better. In addition we want to study the continuum limit and the related question of renormalizability.

The near future project is to study non-commutative field theory in larger dimensions, for example 4d  $\lambda\phi^4$  model or 3d gauge theory. Also a two or three dimensional  $\sigma$  model would be interesting to study. In addition there are plans to study models including fermions for example a non-commutative Gross-Neveu model.

In the long run we want to study models, which allow phenomenological predictions, like non-commutative pure gauge theory or non-commutative QED in  $d = 4$ .



# Acknowledgements

First of all I would like to thank Prof. Michael M"uller–Preu"sker and Dr. Wolfgang Bietenholz (HU Berlin) for their support and supervision during the last three years. They created a pleasurable and inspiring atmosphere.

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Since I used intensively the computers in both universities I should not forget to thank the computer administrators. These are Dr. Burkhard Bunk and Olf Epler (HU) as well as Jens Dreger and Carsten Urbach (FU). I apologize for the problems that I certainly caused.

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Finally I want to thank all my friends and relatives. To write this thesis took almost all my energy and there was not much time left for a private life. I want to mention here my parents and my sister, who encouraged me during the rare visits and especially my girlfriend Sabine Hoppe, who certainly suffered the most from my decision to enter science.



# Appendix A

## The numerical methods

In this appendix we discuss the details of the algorithms we used to simulate the non-commutative models. We start with some general comments on Monte Carlo simulations.

### A.1 Monte Carlo simulations

The idea of Monte Carlo (MC) simulations is to integrate approximately the infinite dimensional path integrals that appear in lattice formulation of any Euclidean field theory, with statistical methods.

Vacuum expectation values of some observables  $\mathcal{O}[U]$  are computed in the path integral approach by

$$\langle \mathcal{O} \rangle = \frac{1}{Z} \int DU \mathcal{O}[U] e^{-S[U]}, \quad (\text{A.1})$$

where  $S$  is the action. The action  $S$  may also depend on matter fields,<sup>1</sup> but for simplicity we restrict ourselves to gauge fields  $U_\mu(x) \in U(n)$ .  $Z$  is the partition function

$$Z = \int DU e^{-S[U]}. \quad (\text{A.2})$$

A set of gauge fields  $\{U\}_\alpha$ , one for each link on the lattice, is called a configuration. The idea of MC simulations is to generate as many configurations as possible via *importance sampling*. Importance sampling means that the configurations are generated according to the probability

$$W[U] = \frac{1}{Z} e^{-S[U]}. \quad (\text{A.3})$$

In addition to importance sampling a simulation algorithm has to fulfill the condition of ergodicity. This means that for any two configurations  $\{U\}_\alpha$  and  $\{U\}'_\alpha$  the probability for a transition from one configuration out of the other, within finite number of update steps, is non-zero.

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<sup>1</sup>In that case also the matter fields have to be integrated.

On each configuration the observable  $\mathcal{O}[U]$  is calculated and the result is the value  $\mathcal{O}_\alpha[U]$ . The expectation value (A.1) is then given by

$$\langle \mathcal{O} \rangle = \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{N} \sum_{\alpha=1}^N \mathcal{O}_\alpha[U]. \quad (\text{A.4})$$

In practice the number of configurations  $N$  is of course limited and therefore we get an approximation of the expectation value

$$\langle \mathcal{O} \rangle \approx \bar{\mathcal{O}} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{\alpha=1}^N \mathcal{O}_\alpha[U], \quad (\text{A.5})$$

with an associated statistical uncertainty. If the configurations are statistically independent this uncertainty reads

$$(\Delta \mathcal{O})^2 = \frac{\overline{\mathcal{O}^2} - \bar{\mathcal{O}}^2}{N - 1}, \quad (\text{A.6})$$

where  $\overline{\mathcal{O}^2}$  is the average of  $\mathcal{O}^2$ . In practical applications the configurations generated with a Monte Carlo simulation are always correlated and the error calculated with equation (A.6) is usually underestimated. This correlation in a sequence of configurations is called autocorrelation. For an infinitely large set of configurations the autocorrelation time is defined as

$$\tau_{\text{auto}} = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\tau=-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{\langle \mathcal{O}_\alpha \mathcal{O}_{\alpha+\tau} \rangle - \langle \mathcal{O}_\alpha \rangle \langle \mathcal{O}_{\alpha+\tau} \rangle}{\langle \mathcal{O}^2 \rangle - \langle \mathcal{O} \rangle^2}. \quad (\text{A.7})$$

There are several methods to take the autocorrelation time into account or to eliminate the effects of autocorrelation. Here we discuss only the methods that were used in this thesis.

### Error estimation

In our evaluation of the sets of observables  $\{\mathcal{O}_\alpha\}$  we used two types of error estimations: the *binning* method and the *jack-knife* method. Both methods are based on dividing the set of observables into a number  $n$  of subsets. In each subset the average is calculated according to equation (A.5), where the number of configurations  $N$  has to be replaced by the number of configurations in a subset. The result is a set of averages  $\tilde{\mathcal{O}}_i$ ,  $i = 1 \dots n$ .

Within the binning method one considers the averages  $\tilde{\mathcal{O}}_i$  as statistically independent and therefore the error is given by equation (A.6), where now the set of averages is used. The error calculated in this way varies with the number of bins  $n$ . In order not to underestimate the statistical error one should compute the errors for different values of  $n$  and take the largest error.

The jack-knife method uses the averages  $\tilde{\mathcal{O}}_i$  to construct  $n$  statistically independent subsets  $\hat{\mathcal{O}}_k$ ,  $k = 1 \dots n$  in the following way,

$$\hat{\mathcal{O}}_k = \frac{1}{n-1} \sum_{i \neq k} \tilde{\mathcal{O}}_i. \quad (\text{A.8})$$

Here  $\hat{\mathcal{O}}_k$  is the average of the  $\tilde{\mathcal{O}}_i$  omitting the subset  $\tilde{\mathcal{O}}_k$ . The error is now calculated according to equation (A.6), using  $\hat{\mathcal{O}}_k$  as subset. This method has the advantage that it allows to compute the error of quantities that consist of two or more expectation values like the connected part of 2-point functions.

### Steps of a Monte Carlo simulation

Before starting a simulation one has to perform tests of the algorithm. This is of course always important. Here it is indispensable, since in the case discussed there are no results available in the literature to compare qualitatively the obtained results. The test for each algorithm will be discussed at the end of the corresponding Section. After these tests the simulations can be started. Here we briefly summarize the main steps of a typical Monte Carlo simulation.

A Monte Carlo simulation consist of

1. choosing a starting configuration. This can be either a random configuration or the gauge field set to certain values.
2. performing update steps I: the first configurations are in general not distributed according to (A.3), since a random configurations is located anywhere in configuration space. Therefore one performs update steps till the system is in equilibrium. These steps are called thermalization steps.
3. performing update steps II: having reached the equilibrium a set of configurations is evaluated using equation (A.5). The evaluated configurations should be separated by the autocorrelation time.

## A.2 Details of the TEK Model simulation

For the TEK model we chose the *heat bath algorithm* [89]. In this method each link variable  $U_\mu$  is updated separately, while the others are fixed. A new link is suggested and it is accepted with the probability

$$P \propto \exp\left(-\tilde{S}[U]\right), \quad (\text{A.9})$$

where  $\tilde{S}[U]$  is the part of the action that depends on  $U_\mu$ . In other words, it is the sum over all plaquettes which involved  $U_\mu$ , times the coupling  $\beta$ . To enable this disentanglement the action has to be *linear* in the link variables.

In the form of equation (4.6), the action cannot be simulated with the heat bath algorithm because it is not linear in the matrices  $U_\mu$ . Following Ref. [90] we introduce an auxiliary field  $Q$ , which enters in a Gaussian form and linearizes the action in  $U_\mu$ ,

$$S_{\text{TEK}}[U, Q] = N\beta \sum_{\mu < \nu} \text{Tr} \left[ Q_{\mu\nu}^\dagger Q_{\mu\nu} - Q_{\mu\nu}^\dagger (t_{\mu\nu} U_\mu U_\nu + t_{\nu\mu} U_\nu U_\mu) - (t_{\mu\nu}^* U_\mu^\dagger U_\nu^\dagger + t_{\nu\mu}^* U_\nu^\dagger U_\mu^\dagger) Q_{\mu\nu} \right]. \quad (\text{A.10})$$

The auxiliary field  $Q$  consists of general complex  $N \times N$  matrices, and their integration reproduces the TEK action (4.6), if  $t_{\mu\nu} = \sqrt{\mathcal{Z}_{\mu\nu}}$ . The  $U_\mu$  matrices are updated in  $SU(2)$  subgroups in the spirit of Cabbibo and Marinari [91], and the update of  $Q_{\mu\nu}$  is done by generating Gaussian variables.

With this algorithm we generated configurations at various values of  $N$  keeping  $N/\beta$  fixed. Table A.1 shows the number of configurations we generated at each value of  $N$ . All configurations are separated by 50 update steps, which is more

$N$	25	35	55	85	125	195	255	515
# of configurations	9000	8400	20000	8000	3400	260	120	18

**Table A.1:** Overview of the statistics in our simulation of the TEK model.

than the autocorrelation time in these simulations (the maximum autocorrelation time measured was 40 update steps). We started the simulations with random configurations and it took approximately 100 update steps to reach equilibrium.

The errors of the Wilson loops (4.18) and the Polyakov lines (4.22) were computed with the binning method. To estimate the errors of the two-point functions of Wilson loops (4.20) we used the jack-knife method, since this quantity consists of two expectation values.

The simulations were performed on 10 Intel PCs with the operating system Linux. The PCs had a clock rate of 450 MHz. The generation of the configurations took approximately five month.

For the measurement of the observables we had to compute high powers of  $U_\mu$  matrices. Since they are not sparse matrices, in contrast to typical situations in lattice gauge theory, there is no simplified method to calculate these powers. One way to compute these powers is to evaluate the eigenvalues of the matrices first. All powers of the matrix are then just powers of the eigenvalues values. In this case one can use for example the conjugate gradient algorithm, which yields the eigenvalues up to a required precision. Unfortunately with this method we needed more matrix multiplications for a reasonable precision than with the direct multiplication.

Therefore we decided the use a slightly modified direct multiplication of the matrices. The aim of the modification was to use more than one computer to calculate the powers of a given matrix without wasting too much computer time.<sup>2</sup> Assume that we want to compute  $U_\mu^{100}$ . To accelerate the calculation we want to use five computers, where to first computes  $U_\mu^2$  to  $U_\mu^{20}$  the second  $U_\mu^{21}$  to  $U_\mu^{40}$  and so on. This is of course only faster than using one computer if we manage to calculate the starting power for each computer in a fast way.

For this we write the starting exponent in binary form. For example for the exponent 60

$$60 = 1 \times 2^5 + 1 \times 2^4 + 1 \times 2^3 + 1 \times 2^2 + 0 \times 2^1 + 0 \times 2^0. \quad (\text{A.11})$$

In the next step these different powers of  $U_\mu$  are computed by taking repeatedly the square of the matrix. In the above example these are 5 matrix multiplications.

<sup>2</sup>Note that we were not computing on a parallel machine.

The final result we get by multiplying the powers which have a non-vanishing coefficient, here 4 multiplications, which means that we computed  $U_\mu^{60}$  with 9 matrix multiplications.

After the starting power of  $U_\mu$  is generated the following powers are computed via direct multiplication. With this method it took approximately two months to evaluate the configurations in Table A.1.

### Tests of the algorithm

In this model there exists a very stringent test of the implementation of the algorithm, namely the planar limit discussed in Section 4.1.3. In this limit there is an exact solution in the large  $N$  limit [81]. We reproduced these results in the planar limit with our code, confirming the validity of our investigations. In fact the program we used was only slightly modified compared to Ref. [84]. There the planar limit of the TEK model was studied, though, with a different twist and with even  $N$ , also reproducing the analytic solution of the planar limit.

## A.3 Details of the $\lambda\phi^4$ model simulation

For the scalar model we chose the standard *Metropolis algorithm* [92]. The idea of this algorithm is to suggest a new configuration, and accept this configuration with the probability

$$P = \min(1, \exp(-(S_{\text{new}} - S_{\text{old}}))). \quad (\text{A.12})$$

If the action of the new configuration is smaller than the action of the old configuration it is accepted in any case, vice versa the new configuration is accepted with the probability  $\exp(-\Delta S)$ . The explicit update was performed by choosing an element of the Hermitian matrices  $\hat{\phi}(t)$  according to

$$\hat{\phi}_{ij}(t) \rightarrow \hat{\phi}'_{ij}(t) = \hat{\phi}_{ij}(t) + \varepsilon \eta \quad \text{and} \quad \hat{\phi}_{ij}(t) = \hat{\phi}_{ji}^*(t). \quad (\text{A.13})$$

Here  $\eta$  is a random complex number with  $\langle \eta \rangle = 0$  and  $\varepsilon \in \mathbb{R}^+$  is an overall scale of the suggested changes, which has to be fixed. For every pair of complex conjugated elements we perform the accept-reject step (A.12).

The parameter  $\varepsilon$  should be chosen in a way to get a reasonable acceptance rate. If the acceptance rate is close to 1, the generated configurations are strongly correlated. If it is close to zero hardly any configurations are generated. A reasonable value would be 0.5, so one might try to fix  $\varepsilon$  to a value providing this acceptance rate.

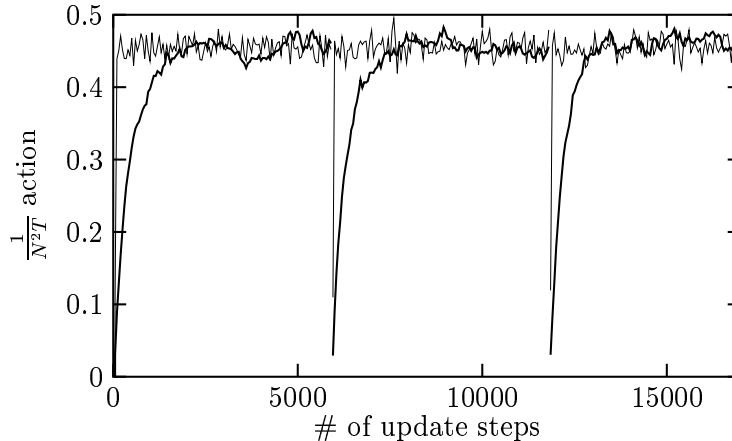
However, in this study we explore a phase diagram and the optimal value of  $\varepsilon$  might depend on the different phases or it changes close to the phase transition. Therefore we decided to implement a *dynamical* value  $\varepsilon$ : after updating the complete lattice we measure the acceptance rate. If the acceptance rate is above 0.6 we increase  $\varepsilon$  by  $\varepsilon/5$ , if the acceptance rate is below 0.3 we decrease  $\varepsilon$  by  $\varepsilon/5$ .<sup>3</sup>

We choose the real and the imaginary part of  $\hat{\phi}_{ij}$  from the interval  $[-0.5, 0.5]$  times  $\varepsilon$ . A reasonable starting value of  $\varepsilon$  is then  $\varepsilon = N^{-1/4}$ . In most cases  $\varepsilon$  stabilized after 3 – 10 update steps, depending on the coupling  $\lambda$ , at a value close to the

<sup>3</sup>Note that oscillations between two values of  $\varepsilon$  are excluded with this choice.

starting value. However, at very large values of the coupling  $\varepsilon$  stabilized at a rather small value one order of magnitude smaller than  $N^{-1/4}$ , see below.

The update of every independent matrix element of  $\hat{\phi}(t)$  is of course more expensive than updating each matrix  $\hat{\phi}(t)$  at once. However, it improves thermalization as well as ergodicity properties. In Figure A.1 we show the history of the action for three different starting configurations. For the history shown by the thin line we



**Figure A.1:** The action is plotted against the number of update steps close to the disordered – ordered phase transition. The solid line shows the result when updating one complete matrix  $\hat{\phi}(t)$  at once, the thin line shows the result when updating every independent matrix element separately.

used the update procedure (A.13) and the thick lines represent the result when we update each matrix at once. In both methods we used a dynamical parameter  $\varepsilon$ . First of all we see that the system thermalize much faster when updating the elements separately. This already compensates the additional computer time needed for this algorithm. We also see that with the procedure, where we update one matrix at once, the action fluctuates much less than with the update procedure (A.13). This means that we hardly proceed in configuration space and the configurations are strongly correlated.

The reason for this is that if we change a complete matrix the change of the action is rather large and we get a reasonable acceptance rate only if we decrease the overall factor  $\varepsilon$  to a tiny value. The configuration is hardly changed within an update step.

In practice we also measured  $\varepsilon$  as a technical parameter. It depends only slightly on  $m^2$ , but it strongly depends on the coupling  $\lambda$ . For very large couplings we have again an ergodicity problem. The values of  $\lambda$  discussed in Chapter 5 can be considered as the upper limit for the algorithm described here.

Besides the qualitative structure of the phase diagram, no details about the phases structure of this theory were known. As we expect a striped phase, with general patterns, we are possibly dealing in this phase with meta-stable states, which are usually difficult to identify.

Therefore we *always* started from six independent (random) starting configurations and initialized the random number generator differently, i. e. we made for any set of  $N, \lambda, m^2$  six independent simulations. This is of course much more expensive than starting only from one configuration, because we have to thermalize all six runs. It has several benefits, however. If there are meta-stable states, they certainly depend on the starting conditions. With different starting conditions we should therefore see, in that case, different vacua. This could indicate that we should apply more thermalization steps. On the other hand, if we thermalize the system further, this shows that the algorithm is not ergodic, and we are stuck in a subset of configuration space.

In fact, we saw these different meta-stable states, indicated by different patterns, at some stage of the simulations. At moderate values of  $\lambda$ , applying more thermalization steps all starting conditions lead to the same results. At very large  $\lambda$  this tunneling from meta-stable patterns to the stable pattern occurred only close to the ordered – disordered phase transition (see Section 5.4).

A second advantage is that it clarifies the error estimation. As discussed in the last Section, the number of bins influences the statistical error in the binning as well as in the jack-knife method. In our case there is a natural choice of bins. Since we generate six statistically independent sets of configurations, we also chose six bins for the error analysis.

Table A.2 shows the number of configurations we generated with the algorithm described above. The necessary statistics to study the phase diagram is relatively small; this is shown in the second row of table A.2. To compute the 2-point functions,

$N$		15	25	35	45
# of configurations	phase diagram	300	180	60	30
	2-point functions	10000	10000	5000	3000

**Table A.2:** Overview of the statistics in our simulation of the 3d  $\lambda\phi^4$  model.

especially those in momentum space, we needed significantly more configurations to obtain small statistical errors. At some values of the parameters we performed high statistic simulations where we doubled the number of configurations. The autocorrelation time in this simulation was in the range 10 – 90 update steps, depending on the observable and on the point in the phase diagram under consideration. Therefore we measured the observables from configurations separated by 100 update steps.

It took approximately 10 month on 30 PCs (with a clock rate in the range 450 – 1500 MHz) to generate the configurations in Table A.2. The evaluation of the configuration did not increase the overall needed computer time, since we did not need high powers of the  $N \times N$  matrices  $\hat{\phi}(t)$ . Most of the (usually expensive) matrix multiplications are in this evaluation multiplications with the constant twist eaters  $\Gamma_\mu$  (see Chapter 5). These multiplication can be performed by shifting or modifying the phases of matrix elements of  $\hat{\phi}$ , which is much faster than a direct multiplication.

### Tests of the algorithm

To test the algorithm is here more sophisticated than in the TEK model, since no exact solution is known in this case. Therefore we computed the expectation value of the action  $S$  in equation (5.2) to the first order in  $\lambda$ ,

$$\frac{1}{N^2T} \langle S \rangle = c_0(m) + \lambda c_1(m) + O(\lambda^2). \quad (\text{A.14})$$

For small  $\lambda$  our algorithm should reproduce this result. We give now a brief account on how the coefficients  $c_0$  and  $c_1$  were obtained [93].

To compute  $c_0$  we used the fact that the partition function is invariant under a change of variables  $\hat{\phi}_{ij}(t) \rightarrow (1 + \epsilon)\hat{\phi}_{ij}(t) = \hat{\phi}'_{ij}(t)$ . The integration measure  $\mathcal{D}\hat{\phi}$  and the action  $S[\hat{\phi}]|_{\lambda=0}$  transform under this shift like

$$\mathcal{D}\hat{\phi}' = (1 + \epsilon)^{N^2T} \mathcal{D}\hat{\phi} \quad \text{and} \quad S[\hat{\phi}'] = (1 + \epsilon)^2 S[\hat{\phi}], \quad (\text{A.15})$$

where the transformation of the action is only valid in first order in  $\lambda$ . Since the partition function is invariant under this transformation we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \int \mathcal{D}\hat{\phi} e^{-S[\hat{\phi}]} &= \int \mathcal{D}\hat{\phi}' e^{-S[\hat{\phi}']} \\ &= \int \mathcal{D}\hat{\phi} e^{-S[\hat{\phi}]} + \epsilon \left[ N^2T \int \mathcal{D}\hat{\phi} e^{-S[\hat{\phi}]} - 2 \int \mathcal{D}\hat{\phi} S[\hat{\phi}] e^{-S[\hat{\phi}]} \right] + O(\epsilon^2). \end{aligned} \quad (\text{A.16})$$

To satisfy this equation the term in square brackets has to vanish. This amounts to the condition

$$\frac{1}{N^2T} \langle S \rangle = 0.5 = c_0. \quad (\text{A.17})$$

Note that the result for  $c_0$  is independent of  $N, T$  and  $m^2$ .

For the determination of  $c_1$  we extend the above consideration to the interacting case  $\lambda \neq 0$ . This leads to the identity

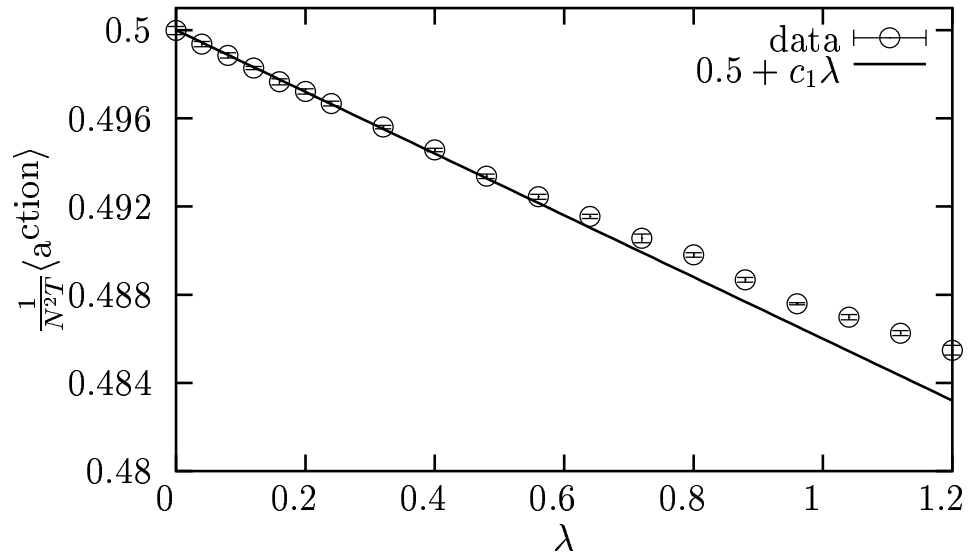
$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{N^2T} (\langle S_{\text{free}} \rangle + 2\langle S_{\text{interaction}} \rangle) &= 0.5 \\ \frac{1}{N^2T} (\langle S \rangle + \langle S_{\text{interaction}} \rangle) &= 0.5. \end{aligned} \quad (\text{A.18})$$

Therefore  $c_1$  is given by

$$c_1 = -\frac{1}{4NT} \left\langle \sum_t \text{Tr} \hat{\phi}(t)^4 \right\rangle. \quad (\text{A.19})$$

This expectation value can be calculated by transforming the partition function into momentum space, with the discrete Fourier transformation defined in equation (3.38) and using Wick's theorem to evaluate the resulting expectation value. The equation for the coefficient  $c_1$  is now given by a sum over momenta. The term that is summed over is very lengthy and complex, therefore we will not show the explicit result. However, for given parameters  $N, T$  and  $m^2$  it can be computed for example with the program `mathematica`.

To test if our algorithm provides this result, we computed the action at  $N = 25$  and  $m^2 = 1$ . The coefficient  $c_0$  is always given by  $c_0 = 0.5$ . For the chosen value of  $m^2 = 1$  we find  $c_1 = -0.0146$ . Figure A.3 clearly confirms that our program reproduces this result.



**Figure A.2:** The expectation value of the action against  $\lambda$ , at  $N = 25$  and  $m^2 = 1$ . The circles show the results of the simulation, the straight line is the expectation value action according to a first order expansion in  $\lambda$ .



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6. März 2003

# Lebenslauf

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## Publikationen

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W. Bietenholz, F. Hofheinz, and J. Nishimura. *Simulating Non-commutative Field Theory*. (2002), [hep-lat/0209021](#).

W. Bietenholz, F. Hofheinz, and J. Nishimura. *The Renormalizability of 2d Yang-Mills Theory on a Non-commutative Geometry*. JHEP 09, 009 (2002), [hep-th/0203151](#).

F. Hofheinz and A. Thimm. *Perfect Actions: Insights in the Lattice Fermion Problem*. Nucl. Phys. Proc. Suppl. 106, 736–738 (2002).

J. Ambjørn, K. N. Anagnostopoulos, W. Bietenholz, F. Hofheinz, and J. Nishimura. *On the Spontaneous Breakdown of Lorentz Symmetry in Matrix Models of Superstrings*. Phys. Rev. D65, 086001 (2002), [hep-th/0104260](#).

Frank Hofheinz  
6. März 2003

# Selbständigkeitserklärung

Hiermit erkläre ich, die vorliegende Arbeit selbständig ohne fremde Hilfe verfaßt zu haben und nur die angegebene Literatur und Hilfsmittel verwendet zu haben.

Frank Hofheinz  
6. März 2003