

The gluino condensate of large- N SUSY Yang–Mills

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We present the first lattice determination of the SUSY $SU(N)$ Yang–Mills gluino condensate at large N . We exploit large- N twisted volume reduction, and present two determinations based on the Banks–Casher relation and on a Gell–Mann–Oakes–Renner-like formula, both giving perfectly compatible results. By expressing the lattice results in the Novikov–Shifman–Vainshtein–Zakharov scheme, we are able for the first time to compare lattice and analytical computations, resolving a 40-year-long debate about the actual value and N -dependence of the gluino condensate.

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1. Introduction

The $\mathcal{N} = 1$ supersymmetric (SUSY) $SU(N)$ Yang–Mills theory consists of a bosonic particle, the gluon, and its fermionic super-partner, the gluino. These particles are described in terms of a $SU(N)$ gauge field coupled to 1 massless adjoint Majorana field. The SUSY Yang–Mills (SYM) action enjoys a global $U(1)_V \otimes U(1)_A$ flavor chiral symmetry. At the quantum level, the vector symmetry is exactly realized à la Wigner–Weyl, while the axial sub-group is anomalously and spontaneously broken with the following pattern:

$$U(1)_A \xrightarrow{\text{Anomaly}} \mathbb{Z}_{2N} \xrightarrow{\text{Spontaneous}} \mathbb{Z}_2. \quad (1)$$

The theory is thus expected to be characterized by a non-vanishing gluino condensate $\langle \text{Tr} \lambda^2 \rangle$ due to the spontaneous breaking of the residual discrete \mathbb{Z}_{2N} symmetry.

The gluino condensate can be calculated exactly using analytic methods [1–4]. However, its actual value is the subject of a debate [5]. Two instanton-based calculations performed, respectively, in the Strong-Coupling (SC) [1–3] and in the Weak-Coupling (WC) [4] regimes yielded the following for the Renormalization-Group-Invariant (RGI) condensate:

$$\Sigma_{\text{RGI}} \equiv \frac{1}{(4\pi)^2 b_0 N} |\langle \text{Tr} \lambda^2 \rangle| = \begin{cases} 2e \Lambda_{\text{NSVZ}}^3 / N & (\text{SC}), \\ \Lambda_{\text{NSVZ}}^3 & (\text{WC}). \end{cases} \quad (2)$$

Here Λ_{NSVZ} is the dynamically-generated scale of SYM computed in the Novikov–Shifman–Vainshtein–Zakharov (NSVZ) scheme [1, 6]. Adopting the standard QCD convention (see [7] to trivially map it to the SUSY one), it reads:

$$\Lambda_{\text{NSVZ}}^3 = \frac{\mu^3}{b_0 \lambda_t^{(\text{NSVZ})}(\mu)} \exp\left(\frac{-8\pi^2}{\lambda_t^{(\text{NSVZ})}(\mu)}\right), \quad (3)$$

with $\lambda_t^{(\text{NSVZ})}(\mu)$ the renormalized 't Hooft coupling in the NSVZ scheme, and $b_0 = 3/(4\pi)^2$ the first universal coefficient of the SYM β -function. Recently, an alternative calculation of the gluino condensate, based on the use of fractional instantons [8–10] has been carried out in [11], based on ideas put forward in [12–15]. The authors found $\Sigma_{\text{RGI}} = 2\Lambda_{\text{NSVZ}}^3$ for gauge group $SU(2)$ and argue that $2 \rightarrow N$ for $SU(N)$, thus yielding yet another result.

This proceeding reports on the main results of our paper [16], where we performed the first non-perturbative first-principles calculation of the gluino condensate of large- N SYM theory via numerical Monte Carlo simulations of the lattice-discretized theory. Despite impressive recent progress in lattice simulations of SUSY theories [17–23], the lattice literature on this topic is quite limited [20, 21, 24, 25], and our paper presents the first comparison between numerical and analytical results.

We here anticipate that our value and N -dependence for the gluino condensate agree with the WC prediction. After the publication of our paper [16], the new study [26] from the same authors of [11] appeared, reporting a value and N -dependence for $\Sigma_{\text{RGI}}/\Lambda_{\text{NSVZ}}^3$ in agreement with ours.

2. From the lattice to the NSVZ scheme

To compare numerical and analytical results, we must compute two quantities: the RGI gluino condensate Σ_{RGI} and the SUSY scale Λ_{NSVZ} . We review their definition in the following.

2.1 The dynamically-generated scale

The Λ -parameter is a scheme-dependent quantity defined as the integration constant of the Callan–Symanzik equation for the renormalized 't Hooft coupling $\lambda_t^{(s)}$, expressed via the β -function:

$$\beta_s \left(\lambda_t^{(s)} \right) = \frac{d \lambda_t^{(s)}(\mu)}{d \log(\mu^2)}, \quad (4)$$

$$\Lambda_s = \mu \left[b_0 \lambda_t^{(s)}(\mu) \right]^{\frac{-b_1}{2b_0^2}} \exp \left(\frac{-1}{2b_0 \lambda_t^{(s)}(\mu)} \right) \exp \left[- \int_0^{\lambda_t^{(s)}(\mu)} dx \left(\frac{1}{2\beta_s(x)} + \frac{1}{2b_0 x^2} - \frac{b_1}{2b_0^2 x} \right) \right], \quad (5)$$

with $b_0 = 3/(4\pi)^2$, $b_1 = 6/(4\pi)^4$ the first two universal (i.e., scheme-independent) coefficients in the perturbative expansion of the β -function. In the NSVZ scheme, the exact β -function

$$\beta_{\text{NSVZ}} \left(\lambda_t^{(\text{NSVZ})} \right) = - \frac{b_0 \lambda_t^{(\text{NSVZ})^2}}{1 - \frac{b_1}{b_0} \lambda_t^{(\text{NSVZ})}} \quad (6)$$

yields the exact expression for Λ_{NSVZ} in Eq. (3).

2.2 The RGI gluino condensate

The Callan–Symanzik equation for the renormalized gluino mass $m_R^{(s)}$, expressed via the anomalous dimension τ -function, also features a *scheme-independent* integration constant:

$$\tau_s \left(\lambda_t^{(s)} \right) = \frac{d \log \left(m_R^{(s)}(\mu) \right)}{d \log(\mu)}. \quad (7)$$

$$m_{\text{RGI}} = \tilde{\mathcal{A}} m_R^{(s)}(\mu) \left[2b_0 \lambda_t^{(s)}(\mu) \right]^{-\frac{d_0}{2b_0}} \exp \left[- \int_0^{\lambda_t^{(s)}(\mu)} dx \left(\frac{\tau_s(x)}{2\beta_s(x)} - \frac{1}{x} \right) \right], \quad (8)$$

with $d_0 = 2b_0$ the first universal (i.e., scheme-independent) coefficient of the perturbative expansion of the τ -function, and $\tilde{\mathcal{A}}$ an arbitrary numerical constant. In the NSVZ scheme, also the τ -function is known exactly [27]:

$$\frac{\tau_{\text{NSVZ}}(x)}{2\beta_{\text{NSVZ}}(x)} = \frac{1}{x(1 - b_1 x/b_0)}. \quad (9)$$

Since the product $\Sigma_R^{(s)}(\mu) m_R^{(s)}(\mu)$ is RGI—with $\Sigma_R^{(s)}(\mu)$ the usual scheme-/scale-dependent fermion condensate—the RGI gluino condensate can be easily defined as [28, 29]:

$$\Sigma_{\text{RGI}} = \mathcal{A} \Sigma_R^{(s)}(\mu) \left[2b_0 \lambda_t^{(s)}(\mu) \right]^{\frac{d_0}{2b_0}} \exp \left[\int_0^{\lambda_t^{(s)}(\mu)} dx \left(\frac{\tau_s(x)}{2\beta_s(x)} - \frac{1}{x} \right) \right]. \quad (10)$$

Once the exact β and τ functions of the NSVZ scheme are inserted in Eq. (10), the arbitrary constant \mathcal{A} must be chosen as $\mathcal{A} = \frac{8\pi^2}{9N^2}$ in order for Eq. (10) to reproduce the known exact expression for the RGI condensate in Eq. (2) in terms of $\Sigma_R^{(\text{NSVZ})}(\mu)$ [6, 30]:

$$\Sigma_{\text{RGI}} = \frac{1}{(4\pi)^2 b_0 N} |\langle \text{Tr} \lambda^2 \rangle|, \quad |\langle \text{Tr} \lambda^2 \rangle| = \frac{\lambda_t^{(\text{NSVZ})}(\mu)}{N \left[1 - \lambda_t^{(\text{NSVZ})}(\mu)/(8\pi^2) \right]} \Sigma_R^{(\text{NSVZ})}(\mu). \quad (11)$$

3. Lattice setup

Our large- N calculation exploits large- N twisted volume reduction. By virtue of the well-known dynamical equivalence between space-time and color degrees of freedom unveiled in the pioneering paper of Eguchi and Kawai [31], it is possible to simulate $4d$ large- N gauge theories as a matrix model which can be interpreted as standard lattice gauge theory defined on a reduced one-point space-time lattice with twisted boundary conditions [32–34].

Reduced models have been extensively used in the last decade to study several large- N gauge theories [35–38], including also theories with dynamical adjoint fermions [39, 40]. This enabled in Ref. [41] the study of large- N SYM on the lattice using twisted volume reduction and the lattice techniques developed by the DESY–Jena–Regensburg–Münster collaboration, see Refs. [17–19]. More precisely, in Ref. [41] we generated several gauge configurations for a few values of inverse bare 't Hooft coupling $b = 1/\lambda_L$ and N according the following setup.

- Simulations are performed using a dynamical massive gluino, discretized using Wilson fermions. The gluino mass is controlled via the Wilson hopping parameter κ .
- The mild sign problem introduced by the non-positivity of the Pfaffian of the lattice Wilson–Dirac operator is bypassed via sign-quenched simulations. Since no occurrence of negative signs of $\text{Pf}(CD_w)$ was observed in [41], no reweighting was needed.
- The lattice regularization and the non-zero gluino mass explicitly break SUSY. According to the Kaplan–Curci–Veneziano prescription, the SUSY-restoration limit is achieved as the joint continuum and chiral (massless gluino) limit [42, 43].
- The massless gluino limit is obtained requiring a vanishing mass for the “adjoint pion”. This is an unphysical particle which is introduced by supplementing SYM with a quenched valence gluino. This approach can be rigorously justified within the theoretical framework of Partially Quenched Chiral Perturbation Theory [44].

The gluino condensate is computed adopting two different methods:

- Banks–Casher (BC) formula [45].

$$\frac{\Sigma_R^{(s)}(\mu)}{2\pi} = \lim_{\lambda \rightarrow 0} \lim_{m_R \rightarrow 0} \lim_{V \rightarrow \infty} \left[\rho_R^{(s)}(\mu) \right] (\lambda_R, m_R). \quad (12)$$

Here ρ_R stands for the spectral density of eigenmodes $i\lambda_R + m_R$ of the massive Dirac operator.

- Gell-Mann–Oakes–Renner (GMOR) relation [44].

$$m_\pi^2 = 2 \frac{\Sigma_R^{(s)}(\mu)}{F_\pi^2} m_R^{(s)}(\mu). \quad (13)$$

This relation involves the non-singlet adjoint pion mass m_π and its decay constant F_π .

4. Results

In this section we summarize the main results of Ref. [16], obtained for $b = 0.340, 0.345, 0.350$ and $N = 169, 289, 361$, using the gauge ensembles generated in Ref. [41]. Scale setting was performed in [41] using gradient flow through the standard reference scale $\sqrt{8t_0}$.

4.1 The Λ -parameter in the NSVZ scheme

We computed the Λ -parameter using 2-loop asymptotic scaling, and the 3 improved couplings introduced earlier (here a_χ denotes the lattice spacing extrapolated towards the massless gluino limit):

$$\sqrt{8t_0}\Lambda_{\text{NSVZ}} = \lim_{a_\chi \rightarrow 0} \frac{\Lambda_{\text{NSVZ}}}{\Lambda_{\overline{\text{MS}}}} \frac{\Lambda_{\overline{\text{MS}}}}{\Lambda_s} \frac{\sqrt{8t_0}}{a_\chi} \exp \left\{ -f \left(\lambda_t^{(s)} \right) \right\}, \quad (14)$$

$$f(x) = \frac{1}{2b_0} \left[\frac{1}{x} + \frac{b_1}{b_0} \log(b_0 x) \right].$$

where $\Lambda_{\text{NSVZ}}/\Lambda_{\overline{\text{MS}}} = e^{-1/18}$ [54].

The 3 improved couplings yield results in very good agreement, as shown in Fig. 1. We quote the following final result, obtained imposing a common continuum limit for the 3 different determinations:

$$\sqrt{8t_0}\Lambda_{\text{NSVZ}} = 0.376(25), \quad \sqrt{8t_0}\Lambda_{\overline{\text{MS}}} = 0.397(26). \quad (15)$$

4.2 The gluino condensate from the BC relation

The gluino condensate is obtained from the BC formula via the Giusti–Lüscher method [38, 46–50].

- We solved numerically $(\gamma_5 D_w[U]) u_\lambda = \lambda u_\lambda$ for the first $O(100)$ eigenvalues.
- Counting the number of modes below a certain threshold M we obtained the mode number $\langle \nu(M, m) \rangle = \langle \#\{|\lambda| \leq M\} \rangle$.
- The gluino condensate is obtained via (here $V = a^4$ with a the lattice spacing):

$$\Sigma_R = \frac{\pi}{4V} \sqrt{1 - \frac{m_R^2}{M_R^2}} s_R, \quad s_R \equiv \frac{d \langle \nu_R(M_R) \rangle}{dM_R}, \quad (16)$$

with s_R the slope of $\langle \nu_R \rangle$ obtained from a linear fit close to $M_R = m_R$.

- Renormalization: $\langle \nu_R \rangle = \langle \nu \rangle$, $M_R = M/Z_p$, $m_R = m/Z_s^{(0)} = r_m m/Z_s$, $r_m \equiv Z_s/Z_s^{(0)}$, where Z_s and Z_p are the non-singlet scalar/pseudo-scalar renormalization constants, while $Z_s^{(0)}$ is the singlet scalar renormalization constant.¹

¹In our original paper [16] we overlooked that $r_m = 1 + O(\lambda^2)$ on the lattice due to explicit chiral symmetry breaking of Wilson fermions. We correct it here, with negligible impact on final results, and no change in the conclusions.

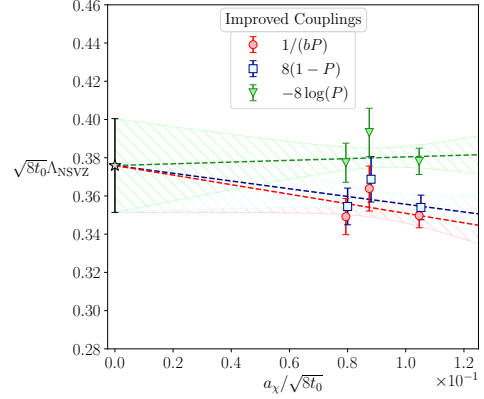


Figure 1: Extrapolation of Λ_{NSVZ} towards the SUSY limit. Figure taken from [16].

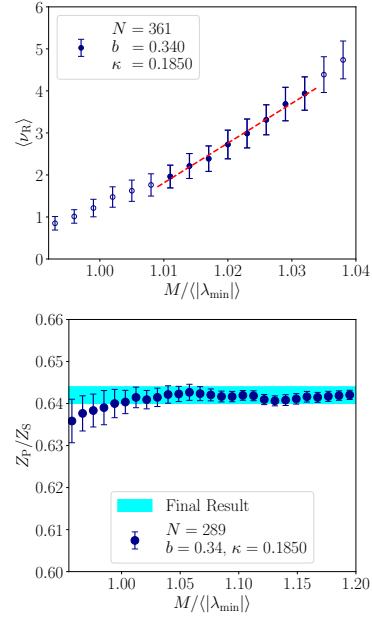


Figure 2: Top panel: example of the linear fit to the mode number to extract the slope. Bottom panel: example of calculation of the ratio of non-singlet pseudoscalar and scalar renormalization constants. Figures taken from [16].

On the lattice we can compute the following quantities:

- The slope $s \equiv \frac{d\langle v \rangle}{dM}$ of the mode number as a function of the bare threshold M obtained from a linear fit close to $M = \langle |\lambda_{\min}| \rangle \simeq m$, see Fig. 2 (top panel).
- The RGI ratio of non-singlet renormalization constants Z_P/Z_S using the following ratio of spectral sums [46–49], see Fig. 2 (bottom panel):

$$\left(\frac{Z_P}{Z_S}\right)^2 = \frac{\langle s_P(M) \rangle}{\langle v(M) \rangle} \quad s_P(M) \equiv \sum_{|\lambda|, |\lambda'| \leq M} \left| u_\lambda^\dagger \gamma_5 u_{\lambda'} \right|^2. \quad (17)$$

- Bare subtracted gluino mass: $am = 1/(2\kappa) - 1/(2\kappa_{\text{crit}}) = am_R Z_S^{(0)} = am_R Z_S / r_m$.

Combining these quantities we obtain:

$$\frac{\Sigma_R}{Z_S} = \frac{Z_P}{Z_S} \frac{\pi}{4V} \sqrt{1 - \left(\frac{Z_P}{Z_S} \frac{m}{M} r_m\right)^2} s. \quad (18)$$

Since we do not have non-perturbative estimates of the scheme-/scale-dependent constant Z_S and of the RGI ratio $r_m = Z_S/Z_S^{(0)}$, we relied on 2-loop perturbation theory to compute them in the $\overline{\text{MS}}$ scheme [51]:

$$Z_S^{(\overline{\text{MS}})} \left(\mu = \frac{1}{a}, \lambda_L \right) = 1 - \frac{12.9524103(1)}{(4\pi)^2} \lambda_L - \frac{60.68(10)}{(4\pi)^4} \lambda_L^2 + \mathcal{O}(\lambda_L^3) \quad (19)$$

$$Z_S^{(0)(\overline{\text{MS}})} \left(\mu = \frac{1}{a}, \lambda_L \right) = Z_S^{(\overline{\text{MS}})} \left(\mu = \frac{1}{a}, \lambda_L \right) - \frac{107.76(1)}{(4\pi)^4} \lambda_L^2 + \mathcal{O}(\lambda_L^3). \quad (20)$$

In these expressions, in order to accelerate the convergence of perturbation theory, we used the 1-loop perturbative expression of the lattice bare coupling in terms of improved couplings:

$$\lambda_L = \lambda_t^{(s)} - 2b_0 \left(\lambda_t^{(s)} \right)^2 \log(\Lambda_s/\Lambda_L), \quad (21)$$

with $\lambda_t^{(i)} = 1/(bP)$, $\lambda_t^{(E)} = 8(1-P)$, $\lambda_t^{(E')} = -8 \log(P)$, and P the expectation value of the plaquette. The ratio of Λ -parameters is given by [52, 53]:

$$\frac{\Lambda_L}{\Lambda_I} = \frac{\Lambda_L}{\Lambda_{\overline{\text{MS}}}} \times 2.7373, \quad \frac{\Lambda_L}{\Lambda_E} = \frac{\Lambda_L}{\Lambda_{\overline{\text{MS}}}} \times 29.005, \quad \frac{\Lambda_L}{\Lambda_{E'}} = \frac{\Lambda_L}{\Lambda_{\overline{\text{MS}}}} \times 5.600, \quad \frac{\Lambda_{\overline{\text{MS}}}}{\Lambda_L} = 73.467. \quad (22)$$

4.3 The gluino condensate from the GMOR equation

Using standard techniques, in [41] we computed the pion mass m_π from the exponential time decay of the temporal pion-pion correlator, the pion decay constant,

$$\frac{F_\pi}{NZ_A} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}Nm_\pi} \langle 0 | A_4(x=0) | \pi(\vec{p}=0) \rangle, \quad (23)$$

and the PCAC (Partially Conserved Axial Current) gluino mass, related to the renormalized one by:

$$m_{\text{PCAC}} = \frac{Z_P}{Z_A} m_R. \quad (24)$$

Combining these quantities, and the ones computed before, one has:

$$\frac{F_\pi}{N} = \frac{F_\pi}{NZ_A} \frac{m}{m_{\text{PCAC}}} \frac{Z_P}{Z_S} r_m, \quad \frac{\Sigma_R}{Z_S} = \frac{1}{2} F_\pi^2 \frac{m_\pi^2}{m} \frac{1}{r_m}. \quad (25)$$

4.4 Converting the renormalized condensate into the RGI one

In the previous subsections we described how we computed the scheme-/scale-dependent renormalized chiral condensate $\Sigma_R^{(s)}(\mu)$ in the $\overline{\text{MS}}$ scheme at the lattice scale $\mu = 1/a$, with a the lattice spacing. In order to compare our results with the analytic ones, we need to convert it into an RGI quantity. To this end, we rely again on 2-loop perturbation theory as follows:

$$\Sigma_{\text{RGI}} = \mathcal{A} 2b_0 \lambda_t^{(\overline{\text{MS}})}(a\mu = 1) \left[1 + \frac{d_1^{(\overline{\text{MS}})} - 2b_1}{2b_0} \lambda_t^{(\overline{\text{MS}})}(a\mu = 1) \right] \Sigma_R^{(\overline{\text{MS}})}(a\mu = 1), \quad \mathcal{A} = 8\pi^2/(9N^2), \quad (26)$$

with $d_1^{(\overline{\text{MS}})} = 32/(4\pi)^4$ [55], and where the renormalized coupling in the $\overline{\text{MS}}$ scheme at the scale $\mu = 1/a$ was computed in 2-loop perturbation theory as follows:

$$2b_0 \lambda_t^{(\overline{\text{MS}})}(a\mu = 1) = -\frac{1}{\log(a\Lambda_{\overline{\text{MS}}})} - \frac{b_1}{2b_0^2} \frac{\log[-2\log(a\Lambda_{\overline{\text{MS}}})]}{\log^2(a\Lambda_{\overline{\text{MS}}})}. \quad (27)$$

The product $a\Lambda_{\overline{\text{MS}}}$ was practically computed as $a\Lambda_{\overline{\text{MS}}} = (a/\sqrt{8t_0}) \times \sqrt{8t_0}\Lambda_{\overline{\text{MS}}}$, with $\sqrt{8t_0}\Lambda_{\overline{\text{MS}}}$ the quantity in Eq. (15).

4.5 The N -dependence of the gluino condensate

We are now ready to compute the RGI gluino condensate from the BC and the GMOR relations in units of Λ_{NSVZ}^3 . Note that Eq. (25) was computed using the value of F_π extrapolated towards the SUSY limit (via a joint chiral/continuum extrapolation), cf. Fig. 3 (left panel): $\frac{F_\pi}{N\Lambda_{\text{NSVZ}}} = 0.101(15)$. All our determinations of Σ_{RGI} are shown in Fig. 3 (central/right panels). Given the displayed N -dependence, our numerical results rule out all but the Weak Coupling (WC) calculation, cf. Eq. (2).

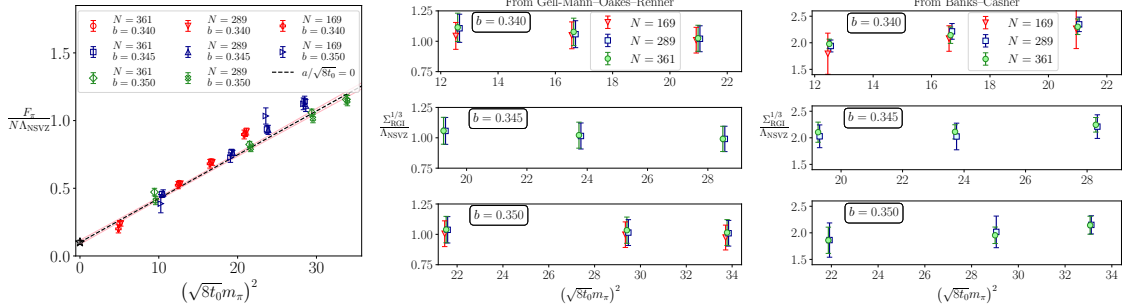


Figure 3: Left panel: calculation of F_π/N in the SUSY limit. Central and right panels: collection of our results for the third root of the RGI condensate in units of the SUSY scale in the NSVZ scheme Λ_{NSVZ} obtained with the GMOR and the BC formulas respectively. Figures adapted from [16].

5. Conclusions: the RGI gluino condensate in the SUSY limit

We extrapolate our results for $\Sigma_{\text{RGI}}^{1/3}/\Lambda_{\text{NSVZ}}$ towards the SUSY limit performing a joint chiral-continuum extrapolation as follows:

$$\left(\frac{\Sigma_{\text{RGI}}^{1/3}}{\Lambda_{\text{NSVZ}}} \right) (a, m_\pi) = \frac{\Sigma_{\text{RGI}}^{1/3}}{\Lambda_{\text{NSVZ}}} + c_1 \frac{a}{\sqrt{8t_0}} + c_2 (8t_0 m_\pi^2). \quad (28)$$

The SUSY-limit extrapolations, shown in Fig. 4, yield:

$$\frac{\Sigma_{\text{RGI}}}{\Lambda_{\text{NSVZ}}^3} = [1.34(18)_{\text{stat}}(13)_{\text{syst}}]^3 \quad (29)$$

$$= 2.39(97)_{\text{stat}}(72)_{\text{syst}}, \quad (\text{BC}).$$

$$\frac{\Sigma_{\text{RGI}}}{\Lambda_{\text{NSVZ}}^3} = [1.21(08)_{\text{stat}}(12)_{\text{syst}}]^3 \quad (30)$$

$$= 1.77(35)_{\text{stat}}(53)_{\text{syst}}, \quad (\text{GMOR}).$$

In the SUSY limit the two determinations from the GMOR and BC relations give agreeing results. Both are compatible with the WC instanton calculation:

$$\frac{\Sigma_{\text{RGI}}}{\Lambda_{\text{NSVZ}}^3} = 1, \quad (\text{exact NSVZ analytic WC result}). \quad (31)$$

We quote the GMOR determination as our final lattice result, as this is the most precise one:

$$\frac{\Sigma_{\text{RGI}}}{\Lambda_{\text{NSVZ}}^3} = 1.77(35)_{\text{stat}}(53)_{\text{syst}} = 1.77(65), \quad (\text{final lattice result}). \quad (32)$$

We stress that we added a conservative 30% systematic error to our final extrapolations to take into account the perturbative renormalization we employed. This is the dominant source of uncertainty.

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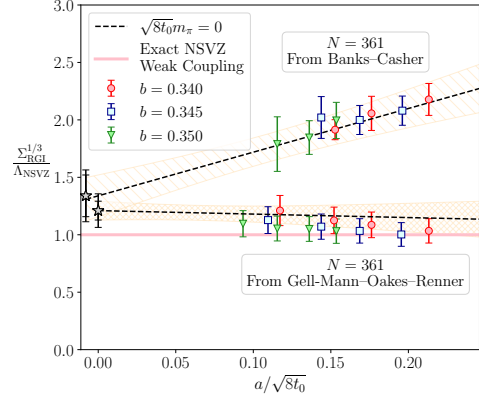


Figure 4: Extrapolation towards the SUSY limit of the RGI gluino condensate determined from the BC and the GMOR formulas for the largest value of N explored. Figure adapted from [16].

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