# Lattice QCD static potentials of the meson-meson and tetraquark systems computed with both quenched and full QCD

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We revisit the static potential for the  $QQ\bar{Q}\bar{Q}$  system using SU(3) lattice simulations, studying both the color singlets' ground state and first excited state. We consider geometries where the two static quarks and the two antiquarks are at the corners of rectangles of different sizes. We analyze the transition between a tetraquark system and a two-meson system with a two by two correlator matrix. We compare the potentials computed with quenched QCD and with dynamical quarks. We also compare our simulations with the results of previous studies and analyze quantitatively fits of our results with *Ansätze* inspired in the string flip-flop model and in its possible color excitations.

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### I. INTRODUCTION

Our current understanding of strong interaction phenomenology, being the hadron spectrum or the form factors associated to transitions between hadrons, relies on the description of the quark and gluon interaction within quantum chromodynamics. Despite the efforts of several decades, the nonperturbative nature of QCD still ensconces several properties of its fundamental particles. Indeed, we still do not understand the confinement mechanism, which prevents the observation of free quarks and gluons in nature, and we still do not have a satisfactory answer why the experimentally [1] confirmed hadrons are composed of three valence quarks or a pair of a quark and antiquark.

QCD is a gauge theory and physical observables should be gauge invariant objects. Gauge invariance implies that only certain combinations of quarks and/or gluons can lead to observables particles. If one applies blindly such a simple rule, the observed hadrons are necessarily composite states involving multiquarks and multigluon configurations. There is *a priori* no reason why states with valence compositions other than mesons or baryons, called in general exotic states, should not be observed. Exotic states can be pure glue states (glueballs), multiquark states (tetraquark, pentaquarks, etc.) or hybrid states (mesons with a nonvanishing valence gluon content). Besides the hadron states compatible with the quark model, the particle data book [1] also reports candidates for the different types of exotic states; see, e.g., the reviews on pentaquarks and non- $q\bar{q}$  mesons. The masses of the experimental states listed as candidates to multiquark/gluon hadrons cover the full range of energies of the particle spectrum. In particular the exotics with the most observations are the tetraquarks.

Regarding the experimental observation of exotic tetraquarks, the quarkonium sector of double-heavy tetraquarks including a  $Q\bar{Q}$  pair is the most explored experimentally; see, e.g., the recent reviews [2-4]. In particular, the charged  $Z_c^{\pm}$  and  $Z_b^{\pm}$  are cryptoexotic, but technically they can be regarded as essentially exotic tetraquarks if we neglect  $c\bar{c}$ or  $b\bar{b}$  annihilation. There are two  $Z_{b}^{\pm}$  observed only by the BELLE Collaboration at KEK [5], slightly above the  $B\bar{B}^*$ and  $B^*\bar{B}^*$  thresholds, the  $Z_b(10610)^+$  and  $Z_b(10650)^+$ . Their nature is possibly different from the two  $Z_c(3940)^{\pm}$ and  $Z_c(4430)^{\pm}$ , whose mass is well above the DD threshold [6]. The  $Z_c^{\pm}$  has been observed with very high statistical significance and has received a series of experimental observations by the BELLE Collaboration [7,8], the Cleo-C Collaboration [9], the BESIII Collaboration [10– 14], and the LHCb Collaboration [15]. This family is possibly related to the closed-charm pentaquark recently observed at LHCb [16]. Notice that, using naïve resonant group method calculations, in 2008, some of us predicted [17] a partial decay width to  $\pi J/\psi$  of the  $Z_c(4430)^-$  consistent with the recently observed experimental value [15].

On the other hand, regarding lattice QCD simulations, the most promising exotic tetraquark sector is also doubleheavy, but it has a pair of heavy quarks QQ or antiquarks  $\bar{Q}\bar{Q}$ , and thus it differs from the quarkonium sector. Note that in lattice QCD, the study of exotics is presently even harder than in the laboratory, since the techniques and computer facilities necessary to study resonances with many decay channels remain to be developed. Simulations

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utilizing lattice QCD have searched for evidence of a large tetraquark component in the closed-charm  $Z_c(3940)^{-1}$ candidate but this resonance is well above threshold, and Refs. [18–21] concluded there is no robust lattice QCD evidence of a  $Z_c^{\pm}$  tetraquark resonance. Works using lattice QCD also have searched for the expected bound state in light-light-antiheavy-antiheavy channels [22,23]. Using dynamical quarks, the only heavy quark presently accessible to lattice QCD simulations is the charm quark. No evidence for bound states in this possible family of tetraquarks, say, for a  $ud\bar{c}\bar{c}$ , was found. Moreover the potentials between two mesons, each composed of a light quark and a static (or infinitely heavy) antiquark, have been computed in lattice QCD [24,25]. A static antiquark constitutes a good approximation to a spin-averaged  $\bar{b}$ bottom antiquark. The potential between the two lightstatic mesons can then be used, with the Born-Oppenheimer approximation [26], as a B - B potential, where the higher order  $1/m_b$  terms including the spintensor terms are neglected. From the potential of the channel with larger attraction, which occurs in the isospin = 0 and spin = 0 quark-quark system, the possible bound states of the heavy antiquarks have been investigated with quantum mechanics techniques. Recently, this approach indeed found evidence for a tetraquark  $ud\bar{b}\bar{b}$ bound state [27,28], while no bound states have been found for states where the heavy quarks are  $\bar{c} \bar{b}$  or  $\bar{c} \bar{c}$  (consistent with full lattice QCD computations [22,23]) or where the light quarks are  $\bar{s} \bar{s}$  or  $\bar{c} \bar{c}$  [27,29–33]. The  $\bar{b} \bar{b}$  probability density in the only binding channel has also been computed in Refs. [27,29–33].

The quark models for tetraquarks with the most sophisticated description of confinement are the string flip-flop models. Clearly, tetraquarks are always coupled to mesonmeson systems, and we must be able to address correctly the meson-meson interactions. The first quark models had confining two-body potentials proportional to the SU(3)color Casimir invariant  $\lambda_i \cdot \lambda_j V(r_{ij})$  suggested by the onegluon-exchange type of potential. However this would lead to an additional van der Waals potential  $V_{\text{Van der Waals}} =$  $\frac{V'(r)}{r} \times T$ , where T is a polarization tensor. The resulting van der Waals [34-39] force between mesons or baryons would be extremely large and this is clearly not compatible with observations. The string flip-flop potential for the mesonmeson interaction was developed in Refs. [40-43], to solve the problem of the van der Waals forces produced by the two-body confining potentials. The first considered string flip-flop potential was the one minimizing the energy of the possible two different meson-meson configurations, say,  $M_{13}M_{24}$  or  $M_{14}M_{23}$ . This removes the intermeson potential and thus solves the problem of the van der Waals force. An upgrade of the string flip-flop potential includes a third possible configuration [44], in the tetraquark channel, say,  $T_{12,34}$ , where the four constituents are linked by a connected string [45,46]. The three confining string

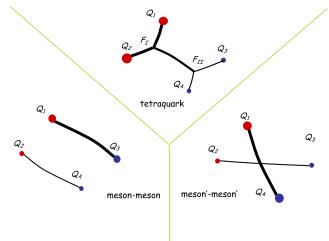


FIG. 1. The paradigm of the string flip-flop model, with three possible arrangements of quark colors in the ground state for a  $QQ\bar{Q}\bar{Q}$  color singlet system: meson-meson, tetraquark, and meson-meson.

configurations differ in the strings linking the quarks and antiquarks; this is illustrated in Fig. 1. When the diquarks qq and  $\bar{q}\bar{q}$  distances are small, the tetraquark configuration minimizes the string energy. When the quarkantiquark pairs  $q\bar{q}$  and  $q\bar{q}$  are close, the meson-meson configuration minimizes the string energy. With a triple string flip-flop potential, bound states below the threshold for hadronic coupled channels have been found [45–50]. On the other hand, the string flip-flop potentials allow fully unitarized studies of resonances [41,42,49–51]. Analytical calculations with a double flip-flop harmonic oscillator potential [51], using the resonating group method again with a double flip-flop confining harmonic oscillator potential [41,42], and with the triple string flip-flop potential [49,50] have already predicted resonances and bound states.

So far. the theoretical and experimental interpretations of the observed states that can possibly be exotics is not clear crystal and, certainly, a better understanding of the color force helps to elucidate our present view of the hadronic spectrum. For heavy quark systems its dynamics can be represented by a potential which, in general, is a function of the geometry of the hadrons, of the spin orientation of its components and of the quark flavors. In the limit of infinite quark mass one can compute the so-called static potential using first principle lattice QCD techniques via the evaluation of Wilson loops. The static potential provides an important input to the modeling of hadrons and it gives a simple realization of the confinement mechanism. Moreover it can be applied to study tetraquarks OOOO with two heavy quarks and two heavy antiquarks (see for instance a Dyson-Schwinger study in Ref. [52]) at the intersection of the two sectors most studied experimentally and theoretically.

The static potential has been computed using lattice QCD for mesons, tetraquarks, pentaquarks, and hybrid

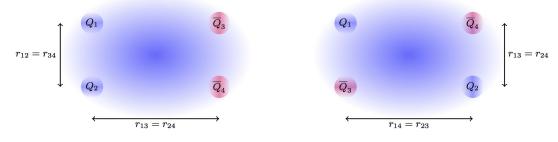


FIG. 2. Our two different planar geometries for the static tetraquark potential: the parallel geometry (left) and the antiparallel geometry (right) considered in our simulations.

systems; see [53–59]. For a quark and an antiquark system, the static potential  $V_{Q\bar{Q}}$  is a landmark calculation in lattice QCD and it is used to set the scale of the simulations.  $V_{Q\bar{Q}}$ has been computed both in the quenched theory and in full QCD with the lattice data being well described by a onegluon exchange potential (a Coulomb-like potential) at short distances and a linear rising function of the quark distances at large separations. The behavior at large interquark distances provides a nice explanation of the confinement mechanism. Moreover, for other hadronic systems and for large separations of its constituents a similar pattern of the corresponding static potentials has been observed in lattice simulations, i.e., a linear rising potential which, once more, is a simple realization of quark confinement.

In the current work we revisit the static potential for tetraquarks using lattice simulations. The static potential for tetraquarks was computed for the gauge group SU(3) and in the quenched approximation in [54–56]. The hybrid potential defined and measured in [58] can also be viewed as a particular limit of the tetraquark potential. Herein, of all the possible geometries for the  $QQ\bar{Q}\bar{Q}$  system we consider the case where quarks and antiquarks are at the corners of a rectangle (see Fig. 2), and we recompute the static potential of the system both in the quenched approximation and in full QCD. We focus our analysis in the comparison of the quenched and full QCD and also in the transition between a tetraquark system and a two-meson system. Thus we go beyond the triple string flip-flop paradigm of Fig. 1 and analyze, in the transition region, the mixing between the meson-meson and tetraquark string configurations. Moreover we explore not only the ground state but also the first excited state.

The current work is organized as follows. In Sec. II we discuss the possible color structures for a  $QQ\bar{Q}\bar{Q}$  system and introduce the  $Q\bar{Q}$  potentials used to compare the results of the static potentials for the tetraquark. In Sec. III we revisit the geometries used to compute the static potentials and discuss the expected configurations at large separations. In Sec. IV the method used to evaluate the static potentials is described. In Sec. V we report on the parameters used in the lattice simulations and how we set the scale of the simulations. The results for the static

tetraquark potential for the two geometries are described in Sec VI. In Sec. VII we resume and conclude. In the Appendix, the reader can find various tables with all our numerical results.

## II. THE COLOR STRUCTURE OF A $QQ\bar{Q}\bar{Q}$ SYSTEM

The color-spin-spatial wave function of a  $QQ\bar{Q} \bar{Q}$  system has multiple combinations, relevant for the computation of static potentials. In this section, we analyze the possible color wave functions associated with a tetraquark system.

The quarks belong to the fundamental 3 representation of SU(3), while antiquarks are in a  $\overline{3}$  representation of the group. The space built from the direct product  $3 \otimes 3 \otimes \overline{3} \otimes \overline{3}$  includes two independent color singlet states.

In a  $QQ\bar{Q}\bar{Q}$  system, quarks and antiquarks can combine into color singlet mesonlike states, leading naturally to the two-meson states,

$$|\mathbf{1}_{13}\mathbf{1}_{24}\rangle = \frac{1}{3}\delta_{ik}\delta_{jl}|Q_iQ_j\bar{Q}_k\bar{Q}_l\rangle,$$
  
$$|\mathbf{1}_{14}\mathbf{1}_{23}\rangle = \frac{1}{3}\delta_{il}\delta_{jk}|Q_iQ_j\bar{Q}_k\bar{Q}_l\rangle,$$
(1)

where only the color indices are written explicitly and  $\mathbf{1}_{ij}$  refers to the mesonlike color singlet state built combining quark *i* and antiquark *j*. The two color singlet states in Eq. (1) are not orthogonal to each other and a straightforward algebra gives

$$\langle \mathbf{1}_{13}\mathbf{1}_{24}|\mathbf{1}_{14}\mathbf{1}_{23}\rangle = \frac{1}{3}.$$
 (2)

Moreover, a quark and antiquark pair, besides a color singlet state, can also form a color octet state. With two color octets it is again possible to build a color singlet state. For the  $QQ\bar{Q}\bar{Q}$  system the color singlet states built from the octets read

$$|\mathbf{8}_{13}\mathbf{8}_{24}\rangle = \frac{1}{4\sqrt{2}}\lambda^{a}_{ik}\lambda^{a}_{jl}|Q_{i}Q_{j}\bar{Q}_{k}\bar{Q}_{l}\rangle,$$
$$|\mathbf{8}_{14}\mathbf{8}_{23}\rangle = \frac{1}{4\sqrt{2}}\lambda^{a}_{il}\lambda^{a}_{jk}|Q_{i}Q_{j}\bar{Q}_{k}\bar{Q}_{l}\rangle,$$
(3)

where the factors comply with the normalization condition,

$$\langle \mathbf{8}_{13}\mathbf{8}_{24} | \mathbf{8}_{13}\mathbf{8}_{24} \rangle = \langle \mathbf{8}_{14}\mathbf{8}_{23} | \mathbf{8}_{14}\mathbf{8}_{23} \rangle = 1.$$
 (4)

The color octet-octet states in Eq. (3) can be written in terms of the meson-meson states defined in Eq. (1),

$$|\mathbf{8}_{13}\mathbf{8}_{24}\rangle = \frac{3|\mathbf{1}_{14}\mathbf{1}_{23}\rangle - |\mathbf{1}_{13}\mathbf{1}_{24}\rangle}{2\sqrt{2}}, |\mathbf{8}_{14}\mathbf{8}_{23}\rangle = \frac{3|\mathbf{1}_{13}\mathbf{1}_{24}\rangle - |\mathbf{1}_{14}\mathbf{1}_{23}\rangle}{2\sqrt{2}}.$$
(5)

A simple calculation shows that the color octet states (3) are not orthogonal (in color space) to each other. However, each of the octet-octet states is orthogonal to the corresponding meson-meson state, i.e.,

The states in Eqs. (1) and (3) do not represent all the possible color singlet states that can be associated to a  $QQ\bar{Q}\bar{Q}$  system. We can also consider diquark-antidiquark configurations. For the group SU(3) it follows that  $\mathbf{3} \otimes \mathbf{3} = \mathbf{\bar{3}} \oplus \mathbf{6}, \ \mathbf{\bar{3}} \otimes \mathbf{\bar{3}} = \mathbf{3} \oplus \mathbf{\bar{6}}$  and the two color singlet states belong to the space spanned by  $\mathbf{3} \otimes \mathbf{\bar{3}}$  and  $\mathbf{6} \otimes \mathbf{\bar{6}}$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} |\mathbf{\bar{3}}_{12}\mathbf{\bar{3}}_{34}\rangle &= \frac{1}{2\sqrt{3}}\epsilon_{ijm}\epsilon_{klm}|Q_iQ_j\bar{Q}_k\bar{Q}_l\rangle\\ &= \sqrt{\frac{3}{4}}(|\mathbf{1}_{13}\mathbf{1}_{24}\rangle - |\mathbf{1}_{14}\mathbf{1}_{23}\rangle), \end{aligned}$$
(7)

$$|\mathbf{6}_{12}\bar{\mathbf{6}}_{34}\rangle = \sqrt{\frac{3}{8}}(|\mathbf{1}_{13}\mathbf{1}_{24}\rangle + |\mathbf{1}_{14}\mathbf{1}_{23}\rangle).$$
 (8)

The states in Eqs. (7) and (8) are orthogonal to each other in color space, i.e.,  $\langle \bar{\mathbf{3}}_{12} \mathbf{3}_{34} | \mathbf{6}_{12} \bar{\mathbf{6}}_{34} \rangle = 0$ . Furthermore, they are eigenstates of the exchange operators of quarks or antiquarks, and verify the following relations,

$$P_{12}|\mathbf{\bar{3}}_{12}\mathbf{3}_{34}\rangle = P_{34}|\mathbf{\bar{3}}_{12}\mathbf{3}_{34}\rangle = -|\mathbf{\bar{3}}_{12}\mathbf{3}_{34}\rangle,$$
  

$$P_{12}|\mathbf{6}_{12}\mathbf{\bar{6}}_{34}\rangle = P_{34}|\mathbf{6}_{12}\mathbf{\bar{6}}_{34}\rangle = +|\mathbf{6}_{12}\mathbf{\bar{6}}_{34}\rangle, \qquad (9)$$

where  $P_{ij}$  is the exchange operator of (anti)quark *i* with (anti)quark *j*. Equations (7) and (8) can be inverted, giving

$$|\mathbf{1}_{13}\mathbf{1}_{24}\rangle = \sqrt{\frac{2}{3}}|\mathbf{6}_{12}\bar{\mathbf{6}}_{34}\rangle + \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}|\mathbf{\bar{3}}_{12}\mathbf{3}_{34}\rangle,$$
  
$$|\mathbf{1}_{14}\mathbf{1}_{23}\rangle = \sqrt{\frac{2}{3}}|\mathbf{6}_{12}\bar{\mathbf{6}}_{34}\rangle - \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}|\mathbf{\bar{3}}_{12}\mathbf{3}_{34}\rangle, \qquad (10)$$

which shows that the meson-meson states of Eq. (1) are not eigenstates of the quark and of the antiquark exchange operators  $P_{12}$  and  $P_{34}$ .

The static potential V for a  $QQ\bar{Q}\bar{Q}$  system is a complicated object which may involve two-, three-, and four-body interactions. In general, V also depends on the allowed quantum numbers of the constituents of the multiquark state. The static potential should allow, when combined with quantum mechanics, for the ground states to be the ones of Fig. 1. For example, the static potential should allow for the formation of two-meson states when the quark-antiquark distances are small compared to the quark-quark and antiquark-antiquark distances, or possibly for the formation of a tetraquark at other particular distances.

As an approximate model to understand the results of the lattice simulations for the static potential in terms of overlaps with the various color singlets, one can consider the two-body potential given by the Casimir scaling,

$$V_{CS} = \sum_{i < j} C_{ij} V_M, \tag{11}$$

where  $V_M$  is the mesonic static  $Q\bar{Q}$  potential with  $C_{ij} = \frac{\lambda_i^a \cdot \lambda_j^a}{-16/3}$ , and compare the results of the simulations with the one of any of the color singlet states and the Casimir potential given by

$$V_{\Psi} = \langle \Psi | V_{CS} | \Psi \rangle. \tag{12}$$

Note, for a two-body system, the one-gluon exchange predicts a static potential proportional to  $\lambda_i^a \cdot \lambda_j^a$ .

The expectation values  $\langle \Psi | C_{ij} | \Psi \rangle$  for the possible color singlet states associated to the  $QQ\bar{Q}\bar{Q}\bar{Q}$  system are reported in Table I. These numbers are important to obtain a qualitative insight into the result of the simulations. For instance, if for a given state  $C_{ij} < 0$ , we do not expect that the lattice result would give us a strong attraction between the particles *i* and *j* and, therefore, one can expect significant deviations of the static potential relative to the potential  $V_{CS}$ associated to the corresponding color singlet state.

Moreover we consider as well the first excitation of the  $QQ\bar{Q}\bar{Q}$ , which also depends in the particular distances of

TABLE I. Normalized mean values of the Casimir invariant operators  $\langle \Psi | C_{ij} | \Psi \rangle$ . The indices *i* and *j* refer to the quarks and antiquarks.

$ \Psi angle$	<i>C</i> <sub>12</sub>	<i>C</i> <sub>13</sub>	$C_{14}$
$ 1_{13}1_{24}\rangle$	0	1	0
$ 8_{13}8_{24}\rangle$	1/4	-1/8	7/8
$ 1_{14}1_{23}\rangle$	0	0	1
$ 8_{14}8_{23}\rangle$	1/4	7/8	-1/8
$ \bar{3}_{12}3_{34}\rangle$	1/2	1/4	1/4
$ 6_{12}\mathbf{\bar{6}}_{34}\rangle$	-1/4	5/8	5/8

the system. Based in the orthogonality conditions and in a crude Casimir scaling where  $V_M$  would be a spatial independent potential, we would expect the pairs of color singlet states  $(|1_{13}1_{24}\rangle, |8_{13}8_{24}\rangle)$ ;  $(|1_{14}1_{23}\rangle, |8_{14}8_{23}\rangle)$ ; and  $(|\bar{3}_{12}3_{34}\rangle, |6_{13}\bar{6}_{24}\rangle)$  to form possible (ground state, first excited state) pairs. This already goes beyond the simple paradigm of Fig. 1.

Nevertheless, Eq. (11) is clearly an approximation, and our aim is to compute more rigorous potentials. Previous lattice studies [54–57] show that the static potential for a tetraquark system is not described entirely by a function proportional to this potential. An example of this kind of potential is the two-meson potential,

$$V_{33} = \langle \mathbf{1}_{13} \mathbf{1}_{24} | V_{CS} | \mathbf{1}_{13} \mathbf{1}_{24} \rangle,$$
  
=  $V_M(r_{13}) + V_M(r_{24}),$  (13)

which we expect to saturate the ground state when the quark-quark and antiquark-antiquark distances are large.

### **III. GEOMETRICAL SETUP**

We aim to measure the static potential for the  $QQ\bar{Q}\bar{Q}$ system but also to investigate the transition between the tetraquark and a two-meson state, and the transition between the two two-meson states. This computation within lattice QCD simulations requires choosing a particular geometrical setup of the quark system under investigation. In principle, one could choose any of the available geometrical configurations allowed by the hypercubic lattice. In order to study in detail the transitions between the different states, in the current work we opt for restricting our study to the case where the four particles are at the corners of a rectangle and look at two particular alignments. In the so-called parallel alignment [see Fig. 2 (left)], the two quarks (antiquarks) are at adjacent corners of the rectangle. In the antiparallel alignment [see Fig. 2 (right)], the quarks (antiquarks) are at the opposite corners of the rectangle.

### A. Parallel alignment of quarks

For this geometry, where the two quarks are at neighbor corners of the rectangle, we can describe the system via the intradiquark distances,

$$r_{12} = |\mathbf{x}_1 - \mathbf{x}_2| = |\mathbf{x}_3 - \mathbf{x}_4|, \tag{14}$$

and the interdiquark distances,

$$r_{13} = |\mathbf{x}_1 - \mathbf{x}_3| = |\mathbf{x}_2 - \mathbf{x}_4|.$$
(15)

Note that for both cases the second equality holds only due to the particular geometrical configuration considered.

If one assumes that quarks are confined within colorless states, this geometrical setup has two limits which allow us to study the transition between a tetraquark state and a twomeson system. Indeed, when  $r_{12} \ll r_{13}$  one expects the ground state of the  $QQ\bar{Q}\bar{Q}$  system to be that of a tetraquark, while for the opposite case, i.e., for  $r_{13} \ll r_{12}$ , one expects the system, i.e., its potential, to behave as a two-meson system.

For this geometrical setup, in the evaluation of the static potential we consider the basis of operators shown in Fig. 3. They are associated with a tetraquark operator (left in the figure) and a two-meson operator (right in the figure), the two ground state configurations expected for this particular geometry.

### **B.** Antiparallel alignment of quarks

For the antiparallel alignment of quarks described in Fig. 2 (right), we take as distance variables

$$r_{13} = |\mathbf{x}_1 - \mathbf{x}_3| = |\mathbf{x}_2 - \mathbf{x}_4|,$$
  

$$r_{14} = |\mathbf{x}_1 - \mathbf{x}_4| = |\mathbf{x}_2 - \mathbf{x}_3|,$$
(16)

where, again, the second equalities are valid due to the particular characteristics of the geometrical distribution of quarks and antiquarks.

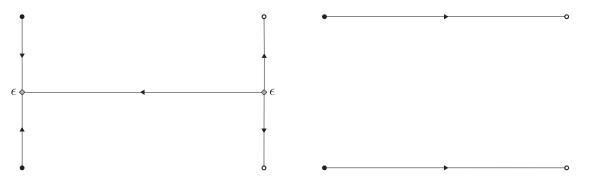


FIG. 3. The two spatial operators used in the computation of the static potential for the parallel alignment geometry, defined in Fig. 2 (left), where the quarks have indices 1, 2 and the antiquarks have indices 3, 4. The left operator  $\mathcal{O}_{YY}$  [where  $\epsilon$  stands for a Levi-Cività symbol (see text for details)] creates a  $|\bar{\mathbf{3}}_{12}\mathbf{3}_{34}\rangle$  state, while the right one creates a two-meson state.

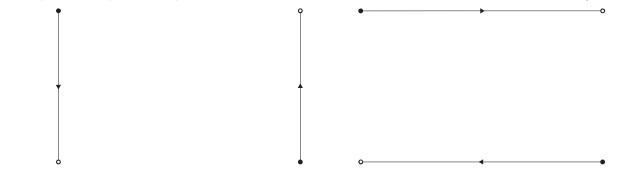


FIG. 4. The two spatial operators used in the computation of the static potential for the antiparallel alignment case, defined in Fig. 2 (right), where the quarks have indices 1, 2 and the antiquarks have indices 3, 4. Note that both Wilson lines describe two-meson operators.

For this geometrical setup, one expects the ground state of the system when  $r_{13} \ll r_{14}$  and  $r_{14} \ll r_{13}$  to be dominated by the two possible independent two-meson states. For the computation of the static potential we use the basis of operators shown in Fig. 4 that are associated with the two two-meson operators.

## IV. COMPUTING THE STATIC POTENTIAL

For the computation of the static potential, including the ground state and the first excited state, we rely on a basis of two operators  $O_i$  for each of the geometrical setups discussed in Sec. III. Defining the correlation matrix,

$$M_{ij} = \langle \mathcal{O}_i(0)^{\dagger} \mathcal{O}_j(t) \rangle$$
  
=  $\sum_n c_{in}^* c_{jn} e^{-V_n t}$ , (17)

where  $\langle \cdots \rangle$  stands for the vacuum expectation value,  $c_{\text{in}} = \langle n | \mathcal{O}_i | 0 \rangle$ , and  $| n \rangle$  are the eigenstates of the Hamiltonian of the system, the determination of the potential requires the knowledge of the solutions of the generalized eigenvalue problem:

$$M_{ij}(t)a_{j}(t) = \lambda_{k}(t)M_{ij}(t_{0})a_{j}(t).$$
(18)

In our calculation, we assume that the creation of an excited state out of the vacuum occurs at t = 0. From the generalized eigenvalues  $\lambda_k$ , the energy levels of system  $V_k$  can be estimated from the plateaus on the effective mass given by

$$M_{\text{eff}}(t) = \log \frac{\lambda_k(t)}{\lambda_k(t+1)}$$
$$= V_k + \mathcal{O}(e^{-(V_{k+1}-V_k)t}).$$
(19)

In practice, the effective mass plateaus are identified fitting to a constant both generalized eigenvalues. In this way, one is able to compute both the static potential for the ground state and the first excited state of the system. As described above, the basis of operators chosen to compute V depends on the geometry of the system and on the expected ground states. For the antiparallel alignment, we use two meson-meson operators, while for the parallel alignment a meson-meson operator and a diquark-antidiquark operator, i.e., a  $\bar{3}_{12}3_{34}$  color configuration, are used to compute the correlation matrix.

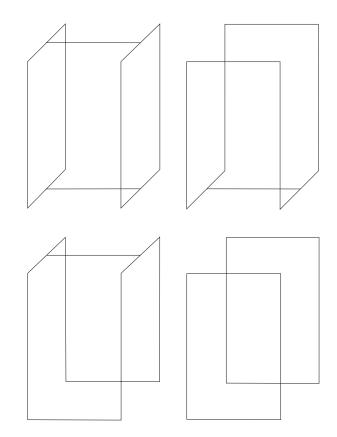


FIG. 5. Correlation matrix for the parallel alignment case. In the horizontal plane we represent the spatial operators and in the vertical direction we represent the temporal Wilson lines. Because we have two different spatial operators, defined in Fig. 3, the correlation matrix is a  $2 \times 2$  matrix.

In the case where the quarks are in the antiparallel alignment, the operators used to compute the potential are

$$\mathcal{O}_{13,24} = \frac{1}{3} Q_1^i L_{13}^{ij} \bar{Q}_3^j Q_2^k L_{24}^{kl} \bar{Q}_4^l,$$
  
$$\mathcal{O}_{14,23} = \frac{1}{3} Q_1^i L_{14}^{ij} \bar{Q}_4^j Q_2^k L_{23}^{kl} \bar{Q}_3^l,$$
 (20)

where L are Wilson lines connecting the quark. Its representation in terms of closed Wilson loops is given in Fig. 6. The corresponding correlation matrix reads

$$M = \begin{pmatrix} W_{13}W_{24} & \frac{1}{3}W_{1324} \\ \frac{1}{3}W_{1423} & W_{14}W_{23} \end{pmatrix},$$
(21)

where  $W_i$  are normalized mesonic Wilson loops  $W = \frac{1}{2} \operatorname{Tr}[U]$ .

On the other hand, for the parallel alignment the two operators we consider are

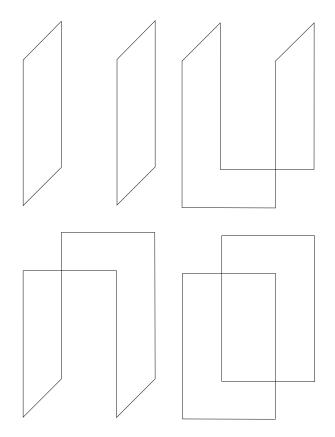


FIG. 6. Correlation matrix for the antiparallel alignment of quarks. In the horizontal plane we represent the spatial operators and in the vertical direction we represent the temporal Wilson lines. Because we have two different spatial operators, defined in Fig. 4, the correlation matrix is a  $2 \times 2$  matrix.

$$\mathcal{O}_{YY} = \frac{1}{2\sqrt{3}} Q_1^i Q_2^j \epsilon_{i'j'k} L_{1a}^{ii'} L_{2a}^{jj'} L_{ab}^{kk'} \epsilon_{k'l'm'} L_{b3}^{l'l} L_{b4}^{m'm} \bar{Q}_3^l \bar{Q}_4^m,$$
  
$$\mathcal{O}_{13,24} = \frac{1}{3} Q_1^i L_{13}^{ij} \bar{Q}_3^j Q_2^k L_{24}^{kl} \bar{Q}_4^l.$$
 (22)

The closed Wilson loops associated to  $\mathcal{O}_{YY}$  and  $\mathcal{O}_{13,24}$  are represented in Fig. 5 and the corresponding correlation matrix is given by

$$M = \begin{pmatrix} W_{YY} & \frac{1}{2\sqrt{3}}W_{YY,1324} \\ \frac{1}{2\sqrt{3}}W_{1324,YY} & W_{13}W_{24} \end{pmatrix}.$$
 (23)

## **V. LATTICE SETUP**

From the static potential we aim to understand the transition between possible configurations of a  $QQ\bar{Q}\bar{Q}$  system. Furthermore, we also want to glimpse any possible differences due to the quark dynamics. Therefore, for the computation of  $V_k$  we consider two different simulations.

Our quenched simulation uses an ensemble of 1199 configurations provided by the PtQCD Collaboration [60–62], generated using the Wilson action in a  $24^3 \times 48$  lattice for a value of  $\beta = 6.2$ . The quenched configurations were generated using GPUs and a combination of Cabbibo-Marinari, pseudoheatbath, and over-relaxation algorithms, and computed in the GPU servers of the PtQCD Collaboration.

Our full QCD simulation uses a Wilson fermion dynamical ensemble of 156 configurations generated in a  $24^3 \times 48$ lattice and a  $\beta = 5.6$ . In the dynamical ensemble we take  $\kappa = 0.15825$  for the hopping parameter, which corresponds to a pion mass of  $m_{\pi} = 383$  MeV. For Wilson fermions the deviations from continuum physics are of order  $\mathcal{O}(a)$  in the lattice spacing and, therefore, one can expect relatively large systematic errors. However, we expect the static potential as measured from the full QCD simulation away from the physical point to be more realistic when compared to the quenched simulation. The full QCD configuration generation has been performed in the Centaurus cluster [63] using the Chroma library [64]. The hybrid Monte Carlo integrator scheme has been tuned using the methods described in [65,66].

Then, with both the quenched and full QCD ensembles of configurations, we perform our correlation matrix computations at the PC cluster ANIMAL of the PtQCD Collaboration.

The Wilson loops at large Euclidean time are decaying exponential functions of the static potential times the Euclidean time and, therefore, for large Euclidean times the Wilson loops are dominated by the statistical noise of the Monte Carlo. A reliable measurement of the static potential requires techniques which reduce the contribution of the noise to the correlation functions used in the evaluation of V.

TABLE II. Fits of the static  $Q\bar{Q}$  meson potential (Wilson loop) in quenched QCD, for different intervals  $r \in [r_{\min}, r_{\max}]$ , to the Cornell potential model of Eq. (24).

r <sub>min</sub>	r <sub>max</sub>	$\chi^2/d.o.f.$	Ka	γ	$\sigma a^2$	a (fm)	$a^{-1}$ (GeV)
5	12	0.98	0.6406(21)	0.3078(77)	0.02490(14)	0.0681	2.898
6	12	0.62	0.6382(49)	0.2987(199)	0.02506(29)	0.0681	2.898
5	11	1.08	0.6409(21)	0.3085(75)	0.02488(14)	0.0681	2.898
6	11	0.79	0.6385(55)	0.2996(224)	0.02504(34)	0.0681	2.898

TABLE III. Fits of the static  $Q\bar{Q}$  meson potential (Wilson loop) in full QCD, for different intervals  $r \in [r_{\min}, r_{\max}]$ , to the Cornell potential model of Eq. (24).

r <sub>min</sub>	r <sub>max</sub>	$\chi^2$ /d.o.f.	Ka	γ	$\sigma a^2$	<i>a</i> (fm)	$a^{-1}$ (GeV)
3	12	0.43	0.2995(23)	0.3625(49)	0.03092(25)	0.0775	2.546
4	12	0.50	0.3005(84)	0.3654(270)	0.03085(64)	0.0775	2.546
5	12	0.43	0.2931(169)	0.3386(638)	0.03129(109)	0.0772	2.546
3	11	0.19	0.3017(42)	0.3666(117)	0.03065(33)	0.0773	2.553
4	11	0.04	0.3063(25)	0.3799(76)	0.03030(21)	0.0772	2.546
5	11	0.05	0.3042(58)	0.3728(204)	0.03044(40)	0.0772	2.546

The quality of the measurement of the effective masses depends strongly on the overlap with the ground state of the system. In order to improve the ground state overlap we applied 50 iterations of APE smearing [67] with w = 0.2to the spatial links in both configuration ensembles. Furthermore, for the quenched ensemble, to further improve the signal to noise ratio, we used the extended multihit technique [68]. This procedure generalizes the multihit as described in [69] by fixing the *n*th neighboring links instead of the first ones when performing the averages of the links. However, this technique has the inconvenience of changing the short distance behavior of the correlators and, therefore, one should not consider the points with  $r < r_{\min}$ . In previous studies with the multihit,  $r_{\min} = 2$ was sufficient, but in our study we consider  $r_{\min} = 4$ . For the dynamical configurations the multihit technique cannot be applied and, therefore, we resorted to hypercubic blocking [70] with the parameters  $\alpha_1 = 0.75$ ,  $\alpha_2 = 0.60$ , and  $\alpha_3 = 0.30$  to improve the signal to noise ratio.

For the conversion into physical units we first evaluate Wilson loops to access the ground state meson static potential on a single axis. In this calculation, we use a variational basis built using four different smearing levels to access the ground state meson static potential. The lattice data for the static meson potential are then fitted to the Cornell potential functional form,

$$V_M(r) = K - \frac{\gamma}{r} + \sigma r.$$
(24)

The fits for different fitting ranges are reported in Tables II and III for the quenched and the dynamical ensembles, respectively. The fits allow for the evaluation of the

physical scale associated to the two ensembles through the Sommer method [71]. Indeed, by demanding that

$$r_0^2 \frac{dV_M}{dr}(r_0) = 1.65,$$
(25)

where  $r_0 = 0.5$  fm, the lattice spacing *a* is measured and we present it in Tables II and III for various fitting ranges. The results show that *a* is fairly independent of the fitting intervals and, in the following, we take  $a \approx 0.0681$  fm for the quenched data ensemble and  $a \approx 0.0775$  fm for the dynamical data set. Our QCD lattice spacing is essentially similar to the one obtained with different techniques. It follows that the lattice volumes used in the simulation are  $(1.63 \text{ fm})^3 \times 3.27$  fm for the quenched case and  $(1.86 \text{ fm})^3 \times 3.72$  fm for the dynamical simulation. For completeness, in Fig. 7 we show the ground state meson potentials for the two ensembles in physical units.

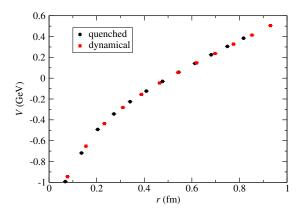


FIG. 7. Meson  $Q\bar{Q}$  static potential for the two sets of data. Both potentials are shifted by a constant, for V(r) to vanish at  $r_0 = 0.5$  fm.

## VI. RESULTS FOR THE STATIC $QQ\bar{Q}\bar{Q}$ POTENTIAL

In this section, we report on the results for the static potential with the two different geometries mentioned in Sec. III, and we apply fits with *Ansatz* bases in the string flip-flop potential and in the Casimir scaling.

In Fig. 8, as an example, we show effective mass plots for the pure gauge simulation (left) and full QCD simulation (right), and for the ground state (top) and first excited state (bottom), for a  $QQ\bar{Q}\bar{Q}$  system in the antiparallel geometry. The red curves are the results of fitting the lattice data to measure the static potential. See the Appendix for further details on the numerics. We consider the maximum number of points aligned in a horizontal line with acceptable  $\chi^2$ /d.o.f.. Because the noise reduction technique in the quenched simulation rejects the cases with source distances smaller than 4*a*, we end up by accepting a few more results in the full QCD case than in the quenched case.

## A. The antiparallel alignment

We start by analyzing the simpler case of the antiparallel geometry, where the meson-meson systems are expected to have lower energies than the tetraquark system. Our results are plotted in Figs. 9 and 10. Clearly there are two different trends for  $r_{13} < r_{14}$  and for  $r_{13} > r_{14}$  and a transition, with mixing, at the point  $r_{13} = r_{24}$ . Moreover we compare in detail our results with different *Ansätze*.

From the string flip-flop paradigm of Fig. 1 we expect the ground state of the system to be that of a two-meson system when the distance between a quark and an antiquark, i.e.,  $r_{13}$  or  $r_{14}$ , is much smaller than the quark-quark distance, i.e.,  $r_{12}$ . Then, for sufficiently small  $r_{13}$  and/or  $r_{14}$ the potential of the ground state of the  $QQ\bar{Q}\bar{Q}$  should reproduce the string flip-flop potential,

$$V_0 \simeq V_{ff} = \min[V_{MM}, V_{MM'}],$$
 (26)

where the two different meson-meson potentials are

$$V_{MM} = 2V_M(r_{13}),$$
  
 $V_{MM'} = 2V_M(r_{14}),$ 

and  $V_M$  is the ground state potential of a meson in Eq. (24). Previous lattice simulations [54–56] confirm that  $V_0$  is

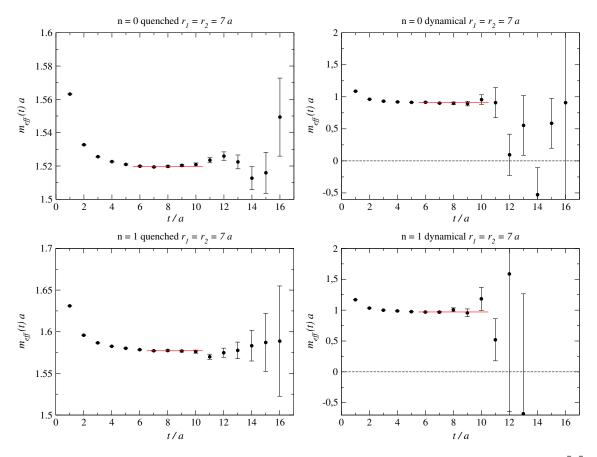


FIG. 8. Effective mass plots for the quenched simulation (left) and full QCD simulation (right), in the antiparallel  $QQ\bar{Q}\bar{Q}\bar{Q}$  geometry with distances  $r_1 = r_2 = 7a$ , for the ground state (top) and the first excited state (bottom). The red lines are the plateau fits which measure the static potential.

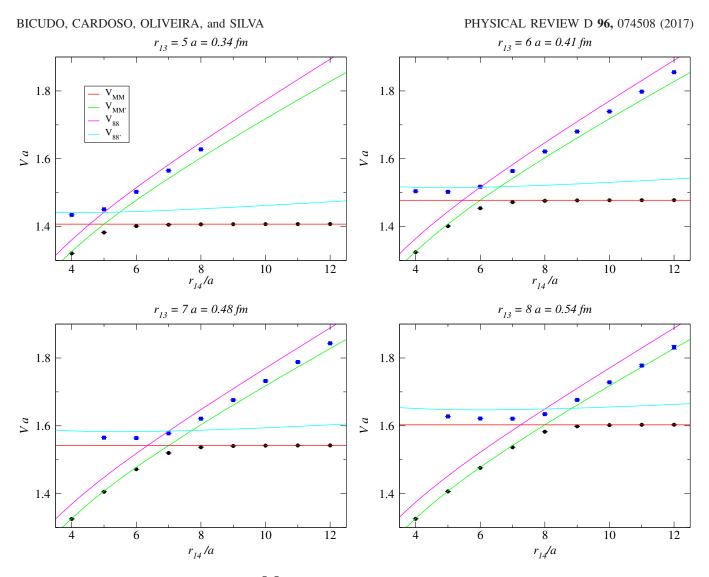


FIG. 9. Ground state and first excited state  $QQ\bar{Q}\bar{Q}$ , computed with the quenched ensemble, for the antiparallel alignment. Results are compared with both two-meson potential and octet-octet potentials.

compatible with such a result. Deviations from Eq. (26) are expected at intermediate distances together with a smooth transition from one picture to the other, i.e., from the two-meson state with valence content  $Q_1\bar{Q}_3$  and  $Q_2\bar{Q}_4$  to the two-meson state with valence content  $Q_1\bar{Q}_4$  and  $Q_2\bar{Q}_3$ .

On the other hand, for the excited state, we have two possible scenarios. From the string flip-flop, we would again expect, when the distance between a quark and an antiquark, i.e.,  $r_{13}$  or  $r_{14}$ , is much smaller than the quark-quark distance, i.e.,  $r_{12}$ , the system to be that of the next two-meson system,

$$V_1 \stackrel{?}{\simeq} \max\left[V_{MM}, V_{MM'}\right]. \tag{27}$$

However, given that the color wave functions of the twomeson states are not orthogonal [see Eq. (2) and Sec. II], the excited state is possibly not another mesonic state, but instead an octet state,

$$V_1 \stackrel{?}{\simeq} \max\left[V_{88}, V_{88'}\right],$$
 (28)

where we estimate the color octet potential assuming Casimir scaling, i.e., using the decomposition in Eq. (11) and the values reported in Table I,

$$V_{88} = \frac{1}{2} V_M \left( \sqrt{r_{13}^2 + r_{14}^2} \right) + \frac{7}{4} V_M(r_{14}) - \frac{1}{4} V_M(r_{13}),$$
  
$$V_{88'} = \frac{1}{2} V_M \left( \sqrt{r_{13}^2 + r_{14}^2} \right) + \frac{7}{4} V_M(r_{13}) - \frac{1}{4} V_M(r_{14}).$$
(29)

Thus we have two different simple Ansätze to interpret our results. The ground state potential  $V_0$  and the first excited state potential  $V_1$  for the quenched and dynamical

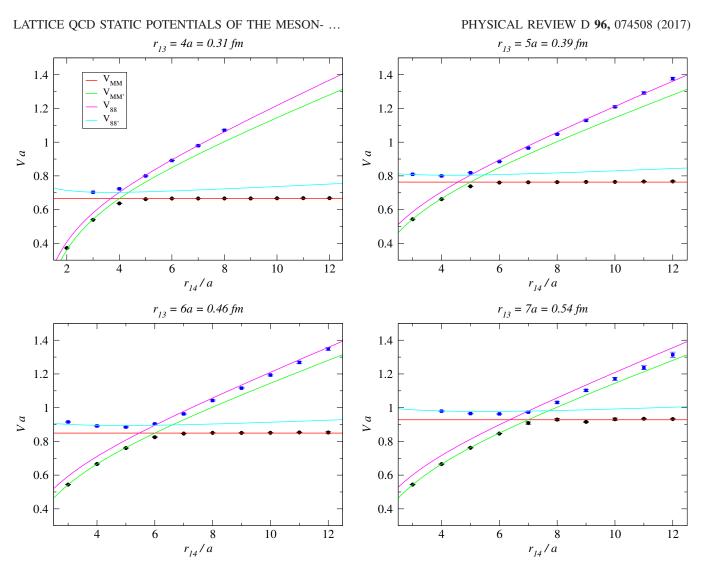


FIG. 10. The same as in Fig. 9 but for the dynamical ensemble.

ensembles are reported in Figs. 9 and 10, respectively, together with  $V_{MM}$ ,  $V_{MM'}$  and the octet potentials  $V_{88}$ ,  $V_{88'}$ .

As the figures show, the ground state static potential  $V_0$ as a function of  $r_{14}$  is compatible with two two-meson potentials for small and large values of  $r_{14}$ . Indeed, for all  $r_{13}$ , at small values of  $r_{14}$  the static potential is compatible with  $V_{MM}$ , while for large  $r_{14}$ ,  $V_0$  becomes compatible with  $V_{MM'}$ . We show in Table IV, Cornell fits for the quenched excited state, compatible with the formation of an adjoint string with  $\sigma = 9/4\sigma_{meson}$ . This is slightly above the value

TABLE IV. Fits of the quenched  $QQ\bar{Q}\bar{Q}$  antiparallel alignment excited state potential to a Cornell *Ansatz*.

$r_1$	$r_{\rm min}$	r <sub>max</sub>	$\chi^2/d.o.f.$	Са	γ	$\sigma a^2$	$\sigma/\sigma_{\rm meson}$
6	8	12	1.30	1.183(60)	0.14(30)	0.0570(30)	2.28(12)
	9	12	0.11	1.252(54)	0.50(28)	0.0537(26)	2.16(10)
7	8	12	1.00	1.124(77)	0.24(37)	0.0584(39)	2.35(16)
	9	12	0.03	1.218(32)	0.23(17)	0.0537(15)	2.16(6)

predicted by Ref. [72]. However, this fit is only performed for large  $r_2$  and intermediate  $r_1 = 6$  or  $r_1 = 7$ . At shorter distances the error bars are too large and we are not able to estimate the Coulomb term.

In the transition region  $r_{13} \sim r_{14}$  where also  $V_{MM} \sim V_{MM'}$ , deviations of  $V_0$  from  $V_{MM}$  or  $V_{MM'}$  can be seen. The difference between the ground state potential and the sum of the two-meson potentials in physical units is detailed in Fig. 11, and in particular the transition point  $r_{12} = r_{13}$  is analyzed in Fig. 12. The results for the quenched simulation are well described assuming an off-diagonal term  $\Delta$  in the correlation matrix, leading to the functional form,

$$V_0(r_{13}, r_{14}) = \frac{V_{MM} + V_{MM'}}{2} - \sqrt{\left(\frac{V_{MM} - V_{MM'}}{2}\right)^2 + \Delta^2},$$
(30)

where we may have either

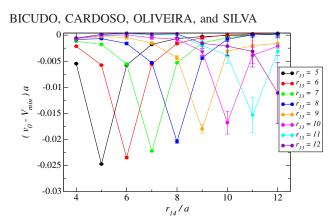


FIG. 11. Difference of the quenched ground state in the antiparallel  $QQ\bar{Q}\bar{Q}$  geometry from  $V_{\min} = \min(V_{13} + V_{24}, V_{14} + V_{23})$ . The maximum difference at  $r_{13} = r_{24}$  is due to the mixing between the tetraquark strings and the meson-meson strings.

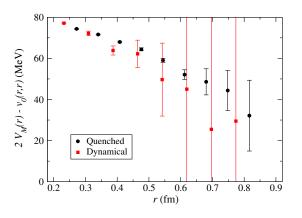


FIG. 12. The difference between the ground state energy  $V_0$  and  $V_{\min} = \min(V_{13} + V_{24}, V_{14} + V_{23})$  for  $r = r_{13} = r_{14}$  in the antiparallel  $QQ\bar{Q}\bar{Q}$  geometry. For a typical distance of 0.5 fm the difference is of the order of 60 MeV for both data sets. For r = 0.2 fm the difference increases to 80 MeV.

$$\Delta(r_1, r_2) = \frac{\Delta_0 e^{-\lambda(r_1 + r_2)}}{1 + c(r_1 - r_2)^2}$$
(31)

or

$$\Delta(r_1, r_2) = \frac{\Delta_0}{1 + c(r_1 - r_2)^2 + d(r_1 + r_2)^2}.$$
 (32)

Equation (30) interpolates between the two potentials in the flip-flop picture of a meson-meson.

The fits for the functional forms in Eqs. (31) and (32) are reported in Tables V and VI. In order to quantify the deviation from the two limits where the system behaves as a two-meson system, we recall that the fits give  $\Delta(0.5 \text{ fm}, 0.5 \text{ fm}) \approx 60 \text{ MeV}$ , a number to be compared with typical values for the meson potential which are of the order of GeV (see Fig. 7). This result shows that the

TABLE V. Fits of the quenched data antiparallel alignment ground state potential to the transition *Ansatz* of Eqs. (30) and (31).

r <sub>min</sub>	r <sub>max</sub>	$\chi^2/d.o.f.$	$\chi^2$ /d.o.f. $\Delta_0 a$		λα
5	11	1.02	0.0335(16)	0.1547(89)	0.0309(37)
5	12	1.15	0.0335(16)	0.1548(90)	0.0309(38)
6	11	0.75	0.0362(49)	0.1644(127)	0.0363(86)
6	12	0.79	0.0363(49)	0.1643(127)	0.0364(86)

TABLE VI. Fits of the quenched data antiparallel alignment ground state potential to the transition *Ansatz* of Eqs. (30) and (32).

$r_{\rm min}$	r <sub>max</sub>	$\chi^2/d.o.f.$	$\Delta_0 a$	$ca^2$	$da^2$
5	11	1.07	0.0285(10)	0.1934(144)	0.0016(3)
5	12	1.19	0.0285(10)	0.1938(147)	0.0016(3)
6	11	0.77	0.0294(33)	0.2275(330)	0.0018(7)
6	12	0.80	0.0295(33)	0.2278(332)	0.0018(7)

corrections due to  $\Delta$  to the flip-flop picture are small when the quarks and antiquarks are in an antiparallel geometry.

The full QCD simulation shows similar results to the quenched QCD simulation. However, the results for  $V_0$  for the full QCD configurations are not described by the same type of functional form given in Eq. (30) which reproduces the flip-flop potential at large distances. We found no window where the fits are stable and, therefore, conclude that the dynamical  $V_0$  is not reproduced by Eq. (30) with the deviations parametrized by either Eq. (31) or Eq. (32).

Regarding the excited state potential  $V_1$  there are clearly two different regimes for  $r_{13}$  very different from  $r_{14}$ , but we are not able to find an analytic form compatible with the lattice data, neither for the quenched simulations nor for the full QCD simulations. In both Figs. 9 and 10, it is clear that the static potential  $V_1$  lies between the functional forms of Eqs. (27) and (28). There are subtle differences between Figs. 9 and 10. In general, the full QCD case is closer to the octet expression of Eq. (28) than the quenched QCD case.

A fortiori, we are not able as well to find good Ansätze to fit  $V_1$  in the transition region. For a detailed view of the differences for the quenched simulation in this region, see Fig. 13.

This observed behavior for  $V_1$  can be understood in terms of adjoint strings. When the quark and antiquark inside the octets are close to each other, they can be seen externally as a gluon. Therefore, we have a single adjoint string with a tension of  $\sigma_A = \frac{9}{4}\sigma$ . On the other hand, when the quark and the antiquark are pulled apart, the adjoint string tends to split into two fundamental strings, with a total string tension of  $2\sigma$ . The splitting of the adjoint string gives a repulsive interaction between the quark-antiquark pairs that form octets in the excited state. This is qualitatively consistent with the behavior predicted by Casimir

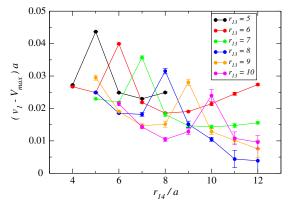


FIG. 13. Difference of the quenched first excited state in the antiparallel  $QQ\bar{Q}\bar{Q}$  geometry from  $V_{\text{max}} = \max(V_{13} + V_{24}, V_{14} + V_{23})$ . The maximum difference at  $r_{13} = r_{24}$  is due to the mixing between the two different meson-meson strings. Note there is also a significant difference at other distances for  $r_{12} = 6a$  and  $r_{12} = 7a$ .

scaling, where the potential for a quark and an antiquark in an octet corresponds to a repulsive interaction.

### 1. Mixing angle

For the antiparallel geometry and for the ground state potential the lattice results show that the tetraquark is essentially a two-meson state. Therefore, one can write the most general ket describing the ground state  $|u_0\rangle$  of a  $QQ\bar{Q}\bar{Q}$  system as a linear combination of the available colorless states:

$$u_{0}\rangle = \cos\theta |\mathbf{6}_{12}\bar{\mathbf{6}}_{34}\rangle + \sin\theta |\bar{\mathbf{3}}_{12}\mathbf{3}_{34}\rangle$$
$$= \sqrt{\frac{3}{4}} \left\{ \left( \frac{\cos\theta}{\sqrt{2}} + \sin\theta \right) |\mathbf{1}_{13}\mathbf{1}_{24}\rangle + \left( \frac{\cos\theta}{\sqrt{2}} - \sin\theta \right) |\mathbf{1}_{14}\mathbf{1}_{23}\rangle \right\}.$$
(33)

For a pure two-meson state, the mixing angle is either  $\theta = \theta_0$ , for  $|\mathbf{1}_{13}\mathbf{1}_{24}\rangle$ , or  $\theta = -\theta_0$ , for  $|\mathbf{1}_{14}\mathbf{1}_{23}\rangle$ , with  $\theta_0 = \tan^{-1}(1/\sqrt{2})$ . For the general case, the angle  $\theta$  can be estimated using the generalized eigenvectors obtained solving Eq. (18) with the following operators,

$$\mathcal{O}_{S} = \sqrt{\frac{3}{8}} (\mathcal{O}_{13,24} + \mathcal{O}_{14,23}),$$
  
$$\mathcal{O}_{A} = \sqrt{\frac{3}{4}} (\mathcal{O}_{13,24} - \mathcal{O}_{14,23}).$$
 (34)

The results for  $\theta$  for the quenched simulation can be seen in Fig. 14. From the lattice data one can estimate a typical length, or broadness, associated to the transition between the two two-meson states. In the region where  $|r_{13} - r_{14}| \lesssim d_{\text{trans}}$ , the transition occurs and the ground

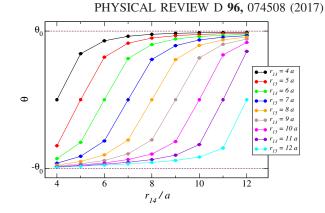


FIG. 14. Mixing angle  $\theta$  for different values of  $r_{13}$  and  $r_{14}$  for quenched data, antiparallel  $QQ\bar{Q}\bar{Q}$  geometry.

state is a mixing of the MM and MM' states. We estimate the typical transition length from

$$\left. d_{\text{trans}}^{-1} \sim \frac{d\theta(r_{13}, r_{14})}{dr_{14}} \right|_{r_{14}=r_{13}}.$$
 (35)

For the quenched data (see Fig. 14), the derivative stays within 0.36/a and 0.42/a and, therefore,  $d_{\text{trans}} \sim 0.16-0.19$  fm. For the dynamical simulation (see Fig. 15), the typical transition length is essentially the same and we find  $d_{\text{trans}} \sim 0.16-0.20$  fm.

The lattice data for the mixing angle give a vanishing angle for  $r_{13} = r_{14}$ . This means that the ground state for the antiparallel alignment is given only by  $|\mathbf{6}_{12}\mathbf{\bar{6}}_{34}\rangle$  and has no  $|\mathbf{\bar{3}}_{12}\mathbf{3}_{34}\rangle$  component.

The results reported in Figs. 14 and 15 show that, in general, a  $QQ\bar{Q}\bar{Q}$  system is in a mixture of two possible color meson states and it approaches meson states as the distance between the quark-antiquark pairs is much smaller than the distance between quarks or antiquarks.

#### **B.** The parallel alignment

For this particular geometry, the static potential was investigated with lattice methods in [54,56]. For the ground

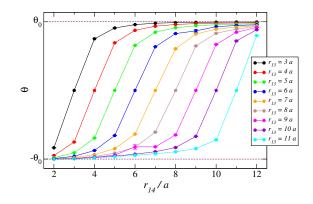


FIG. 15. Mixing angle  $\theta$  for different values of  $r_{13}$  and  $r_{14}$  for the full QCD simulation, antiparallel  $QQ\bar{Q}\bar{Q}$  geometry.

state and in the limit where  $r_{12} \ll r_{13}$ , the authors found that the lattice data are compatible with the double-Y (or butterfly) potential,

$$V_{YY} = 2K - \gamma \left( \frac{1}{2r_{12}} + \frac{1}{2r_{34}} + \frac{1}{4r_{13}} + \frac{1}{4r_{24}} + \frac{1}{4r_{14}} + \frac{1}{4r_{23}} \right) + \sigma L_{\min},$$
(36)

where  $\gamma$  and *K* are the estimates of the static meson potential and  $\sigma$  is the fundamental string tension. For the geometry described on the right-hand side of Fig. 2 and for  $r_{13} > r_{12}/\sqrt{3}$  the butterfly potential simplifies to

$$V_{YY} = 2K - \gamma \left( \frac{1}{r_{12}} + \frac{1}{2r_{13}} + \frac{1}{2\sqrt{r_{12}^2 + r_{13}^2}} \right) + \sigma(\sqrt{3}r_{12} + r_{13}).$$
(37)

Moreover, from the expression for the Casimir scaling potential given in (11) and using the results reported in Table I it is possible to define various types of potentials to be compared with the static potential computed from the lattice simulations.

The potential associated to the state where the quarks and antiquarks are in triplet states leads to the so-called tripletantitriplet or diquark-antidiquark potential,

$$V_{33} = \sum_{i < j} \langle \bar{\mathbf{3}}_{12} \mathbf{3}_{34} | C_{ij} | \bar{\mathbf{3}}_{12} \mathbf{3}_{34} \rangle V_M(r_{ij}), \qquad (38)$$

or in a form similar to (37),

$$V_{33} = 2K - \gamma \left( \frac{1}{r_{12}} + \frac{1}{2r_{13}} + \frac{1}{2\sqrt{r_{12}^2 + r_{13}^2}} \right) + \sigma \left( r_{12} + \frac{1}{2}r_{13} + \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{r_{12}^2 + r_{13}^2} \right).$$
(39)

Similarly, the antisextet-sextet potential is given by

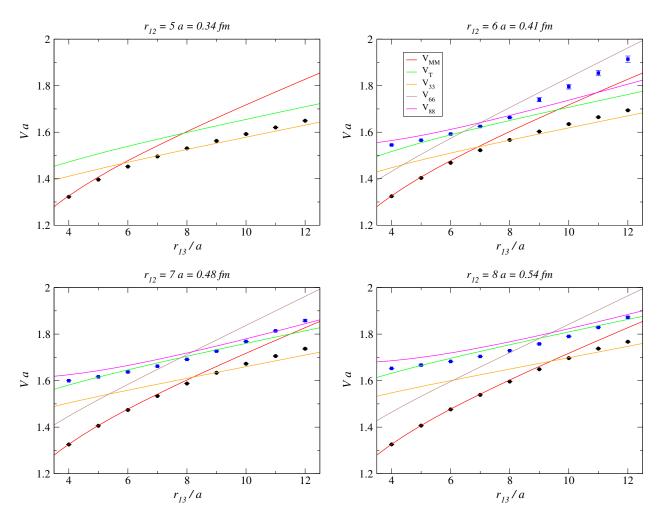


FIG. 16. Ground state (black dots) and first excited state (blue dots, where possible) quenched lattice estimation of the static potentials in the  $QQ\bar{Q}\bar{Q}$  parallel geometry. The figures also include fits with various potential models, namely, the two-meson potential; the double Y potential; and the Casimir antitriplet-triplet, sextet-antisextet, and octet-octet potentials.

$$V_{66} = \sum_{i < j} \langle \mathbf{6}_{12} \bar{\mathbf{6}}_{34} | C_{ij} | \mathbf{6}_{12} \bar{\mathbf{6}}_{34} \rangle V_M(r_{ij})$$
  
$$= \frac{5}{4} V_M(r_{13}) + \frac{5}{4} V_M\left(\sqrt{r_{12}^2 + r_{13}^2}\right) - \frac{1}{2} V_M(r_{12}), \qquad (40)$$

and the octet-octet potential reads

$$V_{88} = \frac{1}{2} V_M(r_{12}) - \frac{1}{4} V_M(r_{13}) + \frac{7}{4} V\left(\sqrt{r_{12}^2 + r_{13}^2}\right).$$
(41)

The lattice estimates for the ground state and first excited (whenever possible) potentials can be seen in Figs. 16 and 17 for the quenched and for the dynamical simulation, respectively. The data show that for large quark-antiquark distances, i.e., for large  $r_{13}$ , the static potentials are compatible with a linearly rising function of  $r_{13}$ . This result can be viewed as an indication that the fermions on a tetraquark system are confined particles.

For both the pure gauge and dynamical simulations and for small quark-antiquark distances, i.e., for small  $r_{13}$  and up to  $r_{13} \le r_{12}$ , the ground state potential reproduces that of a two-meson state  $V_{MM}$ . In this sense, one can claim that for sufficiently small quark-antiquark distances the ground state of a  $QQ\bar{Q}\bar{Q}$  system is a two-meson state. For the excited potential, the pure gauge results are among the double-Y potential (36) and the octet-octet potential (41). However, for the dynamical results, the static potential seems to be closer to  $V_{88}$  at smaller and large  $r_{13}$  and closer to  $V_{YY}$  as  $r_{13}$  approaches  $r_{12}$ .

On the other hand, for sufficiently large  $r_{13}$ , the ground state potential is essentially that of a diquark-antidiquark system  $V_{33}$  and the system enters its tetraquark phase. Indeed, the ground potential is given by  $2V_M$  for quarkantiquark distances up to  $r_{13} = r_{12}$  and is just above  $V_{YY}$ for distances  $r_{13} \ge r_{12} + 1$  in lattice units. These results suggest that, for this geometrical setup, the transition of a two-meson state towards a tetraquark state occurs at  $r_{13} \sim r_{12} + 1$  (in lattice units).

Regarding the dependence of  $V_0$  on  $r_{12}$ , the lattice data suggest that the potential increases with the quark-quark distance and favors a  $V_0 \sim V_{YY}$  for sufficiently large  $r_{12}$  as was also observed in [54,56].

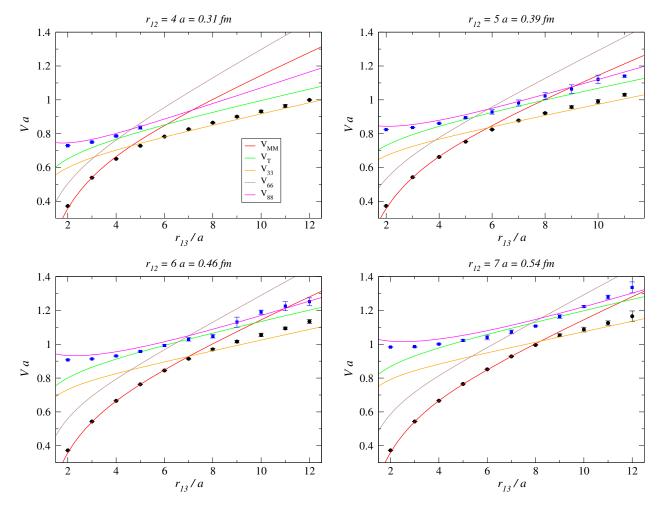


FIG. 17. Ground state (black dots) and first excited state (blue dots, where possible) full QCD lattice estimation of the static potentials in the  $QQ\bar{Q}\bar{Q}$  parallel geometry. The figures also include fits with various potential models, namely, the two-meson potential; the double Y potential; and the Casimir antitriplet-triplet, sextet-antisextet, and octet-octet potentials.

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For the quark models with four-body tetraquark potentials, in particular the string flip-flop potential illustrated in Fig. 1, it is very important to quantify the deviation of  $V_0$ from the  $V_{YY}$  Ansatz, and we have studied several Ansätze for this difference. Clearly  $V_0$  is more attractive than the tetraquark potential  $V_{YY}$  of Eq. (36) reported by previous authors, and this favors the existence of tetraquarks.

Adding a negative constant (attractive) to the double-Y potential is not sufficient for a good fit of the lattice data for any of the sets of configurations. Adding a correction to the double-Y potential which is linear in the quark-quark distance,

$$V_{YY}^{B} = V_{YY}(r_{12}, r_{34}) + \delta K + \delta \sigma_{12} r_{12}, \qquad (42)$$

describes quite well the dynamical simulation data and a fit gives  $\delta K = -0.12(3)\sqrt{\sigma}$ ,  $\delta\sigma_{12} = -0.34(5)\sigma$ , where  $\sigma$  is the fundamental string tension, for a  $\chi^2/d$ .o.f. = 0.46 (see the tables in the Appendix for details on the fits). The dynamical data for the deviations from  $V_{YY}$  are also compatible with a Coulomb-like correction

$$V_{YY}^C = V_{YY}(r_{12}, r_{34}) + \delta K + \frac{\delta \gamma_{12}}{r_{12}}, \qquad (43)$$

for  $\delta K = -0.67(4)\sqrt{\sigma}$ ,  $\delta \gamma_{12} = 0.22(3)$ , with a  $\chi^2/d.o.f. = 0.62$  (see the Appendix for details). Such a functional form is not compatible with the lattice data for the pure gauge case. A possible explanation could come from the difference in the statistics of both ensembles. Recall that the number of configurations for the pure gauge ensemble is about ten times larger than for the dynamical simulation and, therefore, the associated statistical errors are much smaller.

Regarding the first excited potential  $V_1$ , the data for the pure gauge and for the dynamical fermion simulation follow slightly different patterns. In the quenched simulation and for  $r_{13} < r_{12}$ , the potential is close to  $V_T$  and the behavior for larger values of  $r_{13}$  does not reproduce any of the potentials considered here. On the other hand, in the dynamical simulation  $V_1$  for small and large values of  $r_{13}$  is just below the data for the antisextet-sextet potential

$$V_{66} = \sum_{i < j} \langle \mathbf{6}_{12} \bar{\mathbf{6}}_{34} | C_{ij} | \mathbf{6}_{12} \bar{\mathbf{6}}_{34} \rangle V_M(r_{ij}), \qquad (44)$$

which, for this geometry, is given by

$$V_{66} = \frac{5}{4} V_M(r_{13}) + \frac{5}{4} V_M\left(\sqrt{r_{12}^2 + r_{13}^2}\right) - \frac{1}{2} V_M(r_{12}) \quad (45)$$

and, at intermediate distances where  $r_{13} \sim r_{12}$ , is compatible with the octet-octet potential,

$$V_{88} = \frac{1}{2} V_M(r_{12}) - \frac{1}{4} V_M(r_{13}) + \frac{7}{4} V\left(\sqrt{r_{12}^2 + r_{13}^2}\right).$$
(46)

Further, at very small distances the potential seems to flatten for full QCD and the data also suggest a flattening or a small repulsive core. Note that for the quenched simulation distances smaller than 4 are not accessible, and this short distance effect is not visible.

## VII. SUMMARY AND DISCUSSION

In this work the static potential for a  $QQ\bar{Q}\bar{Q}\bar{Q}$  system was investigated using both quenched and Wilson fermion full QCD simulations for two different geometric setups. The two geometries are designed to investigate sectors where dominantly meson-meson or tetraquark static potentials are expected. All our results are detailed in the Appendix, in Tables VII–XIV.

The simulations show that whenever one distance is much larger than the other, the ground state potential and the first excited state potential are compatible with a linearly rising function of the distance between constituents, suggesting that quarks and antiquarks are confined particles. For the distances studied, the quenched and full QCD results are qualitatively similar, and their subtle differences only become clearer when we compare the lattice data with *Ansätze* inspired from the string flip-flop potential and from Casimir scaling.

For the antiparallel geometry setup, the ground state potential  $V_0$  is approximately described by a sum of two two-meson potentials; i.e., it is compatible with the string flipflop type of potential. We take this result as an indication that the  $QQ\bar{Q}\bar{Q}$  wave function is given by a superposition of twomeson states and we compute the mixing angle as a function of the quark-antiquark distances that characterize such a quantum state. The mixing angle shows that the tetraquark system undergoes a transition from one of the meson states to the other configuration as the quark-antiquark distance increases, and the broadness of this transition has a typical length scale of 0.16-0.20 fm. Moreover, for the quenched simulation, we found an analytical expression which describes well the lattice ground state. The analytical expression is essentially a flip-flop type of potential with corrections, parametrized by  $\Delta(r_1, r_2)$ , which are typically  $\leq 10\%$  than the sum of two two-meson potentials.

Regarding the first excited potential  $V_1$  in the antiparallel geometry, the results show that for small enough quarkantiquark distances the potential is just below one of the possible octet-octet potentials and approaches a two-meson potential from above from large quark-antiquark distances. These results for the excited potential can be interpreted in terms of an excited state including a combination of mesonmeson and octet-octet states.

For the parallel geometry setup, the ground state potential  $V_0$  is compatible with a diquark-antidiquark potential for large quark-antiquark distances and a sum of twomeson potentials for small separations. Moreover, the lattice data for the full QCD simulation are compatible with a butterfly type of potential with corrections that we are able to parametrize. For the quenched simulation we found no analytical expressions that are able to describe the data, but the trend is the same.

The interpretation of the first excited potential  $V_1$  for the parallel geometry, in terms of possible color configurations, is not as compliant with models as in the antiparallel geometry. It seems that  $V_1$  for the full QCD simulation is just below the octet-octet from small quark-antiquark distances and approaches again the octet-octet potential for large distances. For the quenched simulation, the interpretation of  $V_1$  in terms of color components is not so clear, as the lattice data seem to point to a combination of different color potentials.

Importantly for quark models with four-body tetraquark potentials, in particular for the string flip-flop potential illustrated in Fig. 1, we obtain a ground state potential  $V_0$  more attractive, by a difference of -300 to -500 MeV, than the butterfly potential reported by previous authors [54–57], and this favors the existence of tetraquarks.

As an outlook, with more computational power, it would be interesting to measure the static  $QQ\bar{Q}\bar{Q}$  potentials for larger distances, utilizing larger lattices. It would also be interesting to explore more different geometries. Moreover it would also be possible to utilize a more complete set of operators. It would be interesting to utilize smeared spatial operators, with staplelike Wilson lines, or with ladderlike Wilson lines, to complete our operators in Figs. 3 and 4 with strait Wilson lines. This would increase the signal to noise ratio. It would also be possible, both in the parallel and antiparallel geometries, to utilize operators corresponding to all possible color singlet combinations, including the meson-meson operators and the diquark-antidiquark operators. The larger correlation matrix would produce eigenvectors combining several different operators, closer to the actual physical states. We leave this for future studies, with more efficient computers.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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## **APPENDIX: TABLES OF RESULTS**

<i>r</i> <sub>13</sub>	<i>r</i> <sub>14</sub>	$V_0$	$t_i - t_f$	$\chi^2_r$	<i>r</i> <sub>13</sub>	<i>r</i> <sub>14</sub>	$V_0$	$t_i - t_f$	$\chi^2_r$
4	4	1.3010(1)	9–16	0.94	7	7	1.51984(14)	6–10	0.52
	5	1.32119(8)	8-16	0.82		8	1.53675(17)	6-10	0.65
	6	1.32452(4)	5-16	0.62		9	1.54052(23)	6-16	0.48
	7	1.32547(5)	5-16	0.69		10	1.54154(31)	6-16	0.88
	8	1.32581(5)	5-16	0.53		11	1.54208(32)	6-16	1.06
	9	1.32594(5)	5-16	0.82		12	1.54220(36)	6-16	0.49
	10	1.32601(5)	5-16	0.76	8	8	1.58247(33)	6-16	0.96
	11	1.32608(6)	5-16	1.40		9	1.59850(38)	6-13	1.01
	12	1.32604(6)	5-10	0.85		10	1.60205(42)	6-16	0.38
5	5	1.38254(8)	5-11	0.92		11	1.60289(59)	6-16	1.09
	6	1.40149(9)	5-11	0.63		12	1.60232(13)	7-12	0.52
	7	1.40546(10)	5-16	0.70	9	9	1.64322(81)	6-16	1.02
	8	1.40657(11)	5-16	0.87		10	1.65809(101)	6-15	0.94
	9	1.40657(12)	5-16	1.13		11	1.65919(90)	7-16	0.76
	10	1.40716(12)	5-16	0.86		12	1.65961(95)	7-10	0.75
	11	1.40729(11)	5-16	0.64	10	10	1.70108(219)	7-16	1.00
	12	1.40729(12)	6-13	1.06		11	1.71397(156)	7-10	1.03
6	6	1.45412(15)	5-10	0.88		12	1.71573(183)	7-10	1.06
	7	1.47203(21)	5-16	1.00	11	11	1.75794(335)	7-10	1.26
	8	1.47596(26)	5-16	1.21		12	1.77037(216)	7-10	0.70
	9	1.47710(31)	5-16	1.34	12	12	1.81682(432)	7-10	0.74
	10	1.47760(31)	5-16	1.37					
	11	1.47783(31)	5-16	1.20					
	12	1.47763(13)	6–13	0.38					

TABLE VII. Data for the ground state potential in the antiparallel geometry for the pure gauge simulation. All values are in lattice units.

TABLE VIII. Data for the first excited state potential for the antiparallel geometry and for the pure gauge simulation. All values are in lattice units.

<i>r</i> <sub>13</sub>	<i>r</i> <sub>14</sub>	$V_1$	$t_i - t_f$	$\chi^2_r$	<i>r</i> <sub>13</sub>	<i>r</i> <sub>14</sub>	$V_1$	$t_i - t_f$	$\chi^2_r$
4	4	1.37342(8)	4–7	1.11	7	7	1.57714(10)	7–10	0.17
	5	1.43446(6)	4–6	0.41		8	1.62034(21)	7-16	0.23
	6	1.50427(8)	4–5	0.32		9	1.67517(27)	7-13	0.39
	7					10	1.73150(34)	7-13	0.26
	8					11	1.78729(32)	7-14	0.34
	9					12	1.84313(215)	7-15	0.23
	10				8	8	1.63344(67)	7-15	0.39
	11					9	1.67532(85)	7-14	0.48
	12					10	1.72029(29)	9-10	0.01
5	5	1.45092(12)	5-7	0.66		11	1.77764(267)	8-10	0.51
	6	1.50245(14)	5–7	0.57		12	1.83159(607)	8-15	0.51
	7	1.56502(18)	5-7	1.02	9	9	1.68826(48)	7-16	0.24
	8	1.62775(18)	5-6	0.40		10	1.72195(153)	9-11	0.20
	9					11	1.78195(74)	7-8	0.37
	10					12	1.83526(272)	7-12	0.57
	11				10	10	1.73977(76)	7-14	0.22
	12		· · · <u> </u>			11	1.78172(233)	7-12	0.72
6	6	1.51750(20)	6-14	1.12		12	1.83504(281)	7-14	0.41
	7	1.56389(24)	6-16	0.44	11	11	1.79142(126)	7-12	0.40
	8	1.62139(19)	6–8	0.64		12	1.83291(374)	7-12	0.49
	9	1.68025(11)	6–7	0.07	12	12	1.84085(34)	7-13	0.16
	10	1.73928(61)	6–7	1.03					
	11	1.79777(48)	5-6	0.79					
	12	1.85509(28)	5–6	0.17					

TABLE IX. Data for the ground state potential for the antiparallel geometry and for the full QCD simulation. All values are in lattice units.

<i>r</i> <sub>13</sub>	<i>r</i> <sub>14</sub>	$V_0$	$t_i - t_f$	$\chi^2_r$	<i>r</i> <sub>13</sub>	<i>r</i> <sub>14</sub>	$V_0$	$t_i - t_f$	$\chi^2_r$
3	3	0.5126(1)	6–10	0.07	6	6	0.8248(26)	6–8	0.62
	4	0.5397(2)	6-10	0.07		7	0.8464(12)	6–7	0.26
	5	0.5431(2)	6-10	0.24		8	0.8504(18)	6-8	0.79
	6	0.5438(1)	6-10	0.12		9	0.8503(25)	6-8	0.82
	7	0.5437(2)	6-10	0.07		10	0.8520(10)	6–7	0.18
	8	0.5438(2)	6-10	0.20		11	0.8531(18)	6-11	0.38
	9	0.5433(3)	6-10	0.34	7	7	0.9088(67)	6-10	0.60
	10	0.5434(3)	6-10	0.32		8	0.9293(72)	6-10	1.07
	11	0.5440(2)	6-10	0.39		9	0.9157(23)	7–8	0.12
4	4	0.6364(6)	6-10	0.50		10	0.9314(71)	6-8	1.12
	5	0.6620(3)	6-10	0.08		11	0.9342(10)	6-8	0.19
	6	0.6658(1)	6-10	0.02	8	8	0.9854(214)	6-12	0.83
	7	0.6654(9)	6-10	0.80		9	1.0023(159)	6-11	1.25
	8	0.6655(10)	6-10	0.66		10	1.0048(96)	6-10	0.70
	9	0.6654(9)	6-10	0.58		11	1.0004(82)	6-10	0.40
	10	0.6667(5)	6-10	0.32	9	9	1.0650(277)	6-10	1.01
	11	0.6677(4)	6-10	0.14		10	1.0734(178)	6-10	0.55
5	5	0.7382(9)	6–10	0.26		11	1.0805(26)	5-6	0.22
	6	0.7605(5)	6–10	0.29	10	10	1.1377(56)	5-6	0.64
	7	0.7621(14)	6-10	0.66		11	1.1491(18)	5-6	0.06
	8	0.7630(20)	6-10	1.09	11	11	1.1630(298)	6–9	0.14
	9	0.7642(11)	6–10	0.54			. ,		
	10	0.7643(8)	6–10	0.28					
	11	0.7664(16)	6–10	0.20					

TABLE X. Data for the first excited state potential for the antiparallel geometry and for the full QCD simulation. All values are in lattice units.

<i>r</i> <sub>13</sub>	<i>r</i> <sub>14</sub>	$V_1$	$t_i - t_f$	$\chi^2_r$	<i>r</i> <sub>13</sub>	<i>r</i> <sub>14</sub>	$V_1$	$t_i - t_f$	$\chi^2_r$
3	3	0.6039(2)	6–7	0.12	6	6	0.8988(38)	6-12	0.16
	4	0.7062(10)	6–7	0.91		7	0.9549(19)	6-15	0.69
	5	•••				8	1.0233(101)	6-10	1.26
	6					9	1.0933(184)	6-11	0.34
	7					10	1.1690(8)	6-10	0.10
	8					11	1.2341(136)	6–9	0.25
	9				7	7	0.9704(33)	6-10	0.67
	10					8	1.0235(96)	6-10	0.81
	11					9	1.0952(79)	6-10	0.34
4	4	0.7234(3)	6-10	0.19		10	1.1683(170)	6–9	1.26
	5	0.7990(8)	6-13	0.12		11	1.2274(408)	6–9	0.31
	6	0.8960(22)	6-12	0.78	8	8	1.0482(35)	6-12	0.42
	7	0.9974(47)	6–7	1.20		9	1.1122(9)	6-8	0.11
	8					10	1.1956(30)	6–9	0.42
	9					11	1.2612(89)	6–9	0.06
	10				9	9	1.1219(15)	6-10	0.13
	11					10	1.1852(360)	6–9	0.92
5	5	0.8160(12)	6-14	0.27		11	1.2526(507)	6-11	0.26
	6	0.8821(16)	6-12	0.27	10	10	1.1621(476)	6–9	0.79
	7	0.9617(25)	6-12	0.63		11	1.2069(751)	6–9	1.46
	8	1.0409(16)	6-12	0.63	11	11	1.2052(998)	6–9	1.30
	9	1.1287(136)	6–8	0.49					
	10	1.1992(362)	6–9	0.71					
	11	1.2929(606)	6–8	0.88					

TABLE XI. Data for the ground state potential for the parallel geometry and for the pure gauge simulation. All values are in lattice units.

<i>r</i> <sub>12</sub>	<i>r</i> <sub>13</sub>	$V_0$	$t_i - t_f$	$\chi^2_r$	<i>r</i> <sub>12</sub>	<i>r</i> <sub>13</sub>	$V_0$	$t_i - t_f$	$\chi^2_r$	<i>r</i> <sub>12</sub>	<i>r</i> <sub>13</sub>	$V_0$	$t_i - t_f$	$\chi^2_r$
4	4	1.31360(7)	9–16	0.90	7	4	1.32551(5)	7-16	0.64	10	4	1.32607(8)	7-14	1.09
	5	1.37514(19)	9–16	0.90		5	1.40571(11)	7-16	0.88		5	1.40713(10)	7-15	0.75
	6	1.41847(24)	9–14	0.78		6	1.47380(8)	7-16	0.18		6	1.47735(10)	6–16	0.23
	7	1.45346(28)	9–15	0.76		7	1.53399(6)	7-15	0.41		7	1.54129(20)	7-14	0.54
	8	1.48445(25)	9-15	0.28		8	1.57844(29)	7-15	1.10		8	1.60145(57)	7-15	0.99
	9	1.51359(33)	9-15	0.49		9	1.63355(32)	7-15	0.68		9	1.65887(79)	7-10	0.86
	10	1.54153(63)	9-12	0.49		10	1.67247(85)	7-14	0.66		10	1.71108(252)	8-10	1.37
	11	1.57062(87)	8-12	0.91		11	1.70545(208)	7-14	0.81		11	1.76163(373)	8-10	1.18
	12	1.59793(83)	8-12	0.84		12	1.73700(298)	7-13	1.03		12	1.81737(460)	7-13	0.67
5	4	1.32224(5)	5-16	0.38	8	4	1.32583(5)	6–16	0.67	11	4	1.32618(9)	8-12	1.02
	5	1.39610(12)	6–16	0.88		5	1.40657(8)	7–16	0.53		5	1.40724(10)	6–16	0.85
	6	1.45207(32)	8-16	1.07		6	1.47618(10)	7-16	0.34		6	1.47750(12)	6–16	0.19
	7	1.49576(37)	8-16	0.94		7	1.53861(10)	7-14	0.25		7	1.54185(33)	6–16	0.92
	8	1.53054(45)	9–13	1.10		8	1.59605(24)	7-12	0.18		8	1.60217(25)	7-10	0.32
	9	1.56251(81)	8-15	1.00		9	1.64883(59)	7-15	0.63		9	1.65978(75)	7-10	1.01
	10	1.59199(100)	8-15	1.05		10	1.69660(123)	7-14	0.89		10	1.71562(138)	7-10	0.98
	11	1.62032(89)	8-13	0.72		11	1.73760(192)	7-12	0.70		11	1.76992(238)	7-10	0.88
	12	1.64931(87)	7-15	0.46		12	1.76709(231)	8-12	0.21		12	1.82503(171)	7-15	0.67
6	4	1.32467(4)	5-16	0.39	9	4	1.32597(6)	6-15	0.85	12	4	1.32661(17)	10-16	0.85
	5	1.40329(12)	5-16	0.74		5	1.40698(9)	6–14	1.02		5	1.40731(12)	6–16	1.07
	6	1.46806(17)	6–16	0.49		6	1.47693(11)	6–14	0.17		6	1.47769(11)	6–14	0.26
	7	1.52250(34)	6–16	0.57		7	1.54083(22)	6–14	0.28		7	1.54211(33)	6–16	0.52
	8	1.56670(24)	7–16	0.32		8	1.59999(25)	7–16	0.72		8	1.60188(67)	7–16	1.11
	9	1.60289(89)	8-14	1.01		9	1.65665(13)	7-15	0.26		9	1.65957(131)	7–16	1.21
	10	1.63500(109)	8-11	0.58		10	1.70918(103)	7-14	0.84		10	1.71533(282)	7–16	1.08
	11	1.66453(89)	8-16	0.19		11	1.75771(215)	7-14	0.89		11	1.77108(299)	7-10	1.34
	12	1.69415(147)	8-15	0.74		12	1.80102(441)	7–15	0.93		12	1.82536(277)	7–13	0.42

TABLE XII. Data for the first excited state potential and for the parallel geometry for the pure gauge simulation. All values are in lattice units.

<i>r</i> <sub>12</sub>	<i>r</i> <sub>13</sub>	$V_0$	$t_i - t_f$	$\chi^2_r$	<i>r</i> <sub>12</sub>	<i>r</i> <sub>13</sub>	$V_0$	$t_i - t_f$	$\chi^2_r$	<i>r</i> <sub>12</sub>	<i>r</i> <sub>13</sub>	$V_0$	$t_i - t_f$	$\chi^2_r$
4	4				7	4	1.59960(18)	7-13	0.40	10	4	1.74590(101)	7–16	0.33
	5					5	1.61629(19)	7-14	0.39		5	1.75813(40)	7-16	0.32
	6					6	1.63726(37)	7-15	0.84		6	1.77430(162)	7–14	0.80
	7					7	1.66201(25)	7-12	0.39		7	1.79224(143)	7-13	0.54
	8					8	1.69130(104)	7-15	0.67		8	1.81258(123)	7-14	0.91
	9					9	1.72705(87)	7-10	0.91		9	1.83436(263)	7-15	0.91
	10					10	1.76824(107)	7-10	0.49		10	1.85436(263)	7-15	0.86
	11					11	1.81376(100)	7-14	0.75		11	1.87964(35)	7–16	0.63
	12					12	1.85802(299)	7-13	0.55		12	1.90681(118)	7-12	0.30
5	4	1.48851(16)	7-11	0.61	8	4	1.65264(44)	7-15	0.31	11	4	1.78291(307)	7-15	0.96
	5					5	1.66678(121)	6–16	0.76		5	1.79754(100)	7-14	1.27
	6					6	1.68246(25)	7–14	0.42		6	1.81565(156)	7-11	1.04
	7					7	1.70390(12)	7-15	0.38		7	1.83565(337)	7-14	0.70
	8					8	1.72841(33)	7-15	0.42		8	1.85526(365)	7-15	0.74
	9					9	1.75774(96)	7-15	0.65		9	1.87600(800)	7-15	0.60
	10					10	1.79002(155)	7-11	0.59		10	1.89616(84)	7-12	0.80
	11		• • •			11	1.82871(186)	7–13	0.40		11	1.91507(533)	7-12	0.84
	12		• • •			12	1.87212(329)	7–15	0.91		12	1.93991(618)	7–13	0.67
6	4	1.54514(37)	6–13	0.85	9	4	1.70183(27)	7-15	0.68	12	4	1.80257(107)	8-12	1.17
	5	1.56559(22)	7–14	0.59		5	1.71365(17)	7–16	0.17		5	1.83135(262)	7–14	0.46
	6	1.59216(34)	7–14	0.33		6	1.72868(41)	7-15	0.73		6	1.85330(267)	7-11	0.34
	7	1.62468(83)	7-15	0.89		7	1.74737(42)	7-15	0.36		7	1.87618(254)	7-13	0.39
	8					8	1.76888(84)	7-14	0.80		8	1.89751(246)	7-13	0.18
	9					9	1.79388(113)	7-14	0.86		9	1.91888(266)	7-13	0.27
	10					10	1.82044(154)	7-14	0.22		10	1.93594(431)	7–9	0.45
	11					11	1.85045(370)	7-14	0.51		11	1.95381(962)	7-15	0.89
	12	•••				12	1.88700(724)	7–14	0.94		12	1.97689(190)	7–13	0.45

TABLE XIII. Data for the ground state potential and for the parallel geometry and for the full QCD simulation. All values are in lattice units.

<i>r</i> <sub>12</sub>	<i>r</i> <sub>13</sub>	$V_0$	$t_i - t_f$	$\chi^2_r$	<i>r</i> <sub>12</sub>	<i>r</i> <sub>13</sub>	$V_0$	$t_i - t_f$	$\chi^2_r$	<i>r</i> <sub>12</sub>	<i>r</i> <sub>13</sub>	$V_0$	$t_i - t_f$	$\chi^2_r$
3	3	0.5280(4)	5-15	1.07	6	3	0.5432(3)	5-13	0.47	9	3	0.5435(3)	5-14	0.74
	4	0.6163(6)	7-16	0.29		4	0.6654(4)	5-10	0.29		4	0.6665(6)	5-15	0.59
	5	0.6718(11)	7-12	0.75		5	0.7630(6)	5-15	0.58		5	0.7661(13)	5-13	1.03
	6	0.7162(13)	7-12	0.29		6	0.8450(13)	5-13	0.87		6	0.8447(57)	7-13	1.01
	7	0.7553(14)	7-12	0.74		7	0.9143(27)	5-11	0.58		7	0.9331(30)	5-15	0.59
	8	0.7925(11)	7-10	0.09		8	0.9696(56)	5-15	0.92		8	1.0092(39)	5-11	0.66
	9	0.8259(34)	7-10	0.57		9	1.0157(75)	5-11	0.93		9	1.0813(52)	5 - 10	0.80
	10	0.8546(27)	7–9	0.59		10	1.0551(104)	5-13	1.05		10	1.1512(14)	5-6	0.12
	11	0.8882(27)	7–8	0.30		11	1.0939(77)	5 - 10	1.26		11	1.2129(148)	5–9	1.60
4	3	0.5396(2)	7–16	0.46	7	3	0.5434(3)	5–16	0.92	10	3	0.5433(4)	5–16	0.74
	4	0.6513(6)	7–16	0.43		4	0.6660(6)	5-13	0.64		4	0.6666(6)	5–16	1.07
	5	0.7283(15)	7–16	0.66		5	0.7652(9)	5-14	0.74		5	0.7658(16)	5–16	0.90
	6	0.7827(12)	6–16	0.91		6	0.8516(12)	5-13	0.76		6	0.8505(18)	6-12	0.46
	7	0.8264(16)	6–15	0.45		7	0.9281(17)	5 - 10	1.27		7	0.9237(53)	7–9	0.71
	8	08649(26)	6–14	0.39		8	0.9958(36)	5-8	1.07		8	1.0054(92)	6–15	0.74
	9	0.9006(38)	6–9	0.95		9	1.0531(84)	5-10	1.27		9	1.0766(164)	6-12	0.92
	10	0.9316(73)	6–14	0.79		10	1.0868(140)	6–11	0.76		10	1.0857(296)	7–9	0.47
_	11	0.9638(88)	6–16	0.80	_	11	1.1255(125)	6–10	1.22		11	1.2039(334)	6–9	0.72
5	3	0.5425(3)	5-16	0.42	8	3	0.5437(2)	5-15	0.46	11	3	0.5431(4)	5-14	0.80
	4	0.6622(6)	5–16	0.63		4	0.6666(5)	5-16	0.83		4	0.6665(5)	5-12	0.63
	5	0.7528(12)	6-11	0.72		5	0.7664(9)	5-13	1.18		5	0.7657(2)	6–14	0.47
	6	0.8244(13)	6-12	0.25		6	0.8534(14)	5-15	0.89		6	0.8531(11)	6–14	0.45
	7	0.8778(27)	6–16	0.38		7	0.9336(9)	5-10	0.40		7	0.9318(13)	6-11	0.42
	8	0.9214(48)	6–16	0.36		8	1.0065(29)	5-11	0.69		8	1.0040(63)	6-11	0.31
	9	0.9575(70)	6-11	0.94		9	1.0652(128)	6–10	1.20		9	1.0490(319)	7-10	1.18
	10	0.9905(123)	6–9	2.34		10	1.1188(330)	6-10	0.96		10	1.1035(584)	7–11	0.81
	11	1.0301(84)	6-11	1.09		11	1.1548(428)	6–10	0.96		11	1.2040(147)	6–8	0.52

TABLE XIV. Data for the first excited state potential for the parallel geometry and for the full QCD simulation. All values are in lattice units.

<i>r</i> <sub>12</sub>	<i>r</i> <sub>13</sub>	$V_1$	$t_i - t_f$	$\chi^2_r$	$r_{12}$	<i>r</i> <sub>13</sub>	$V_1$	$t_i - t_f$	$\chi^2_r$	$r_{12}$	<i>r</i> <sub>13</sub>	$V_1$	$t_i - t_f$	$\chi^2_r$
3	3	0.6637(29)	8-12	1.14	6	3	0.9136(16)	5-15	5-15	9	3	1.0911(229)	6-11	0.99
	4					4	0.9313(20)	5–9	0.42		4	1.1233(40)	5-10	0.52
	5					5	0.9575(33)	5-11	0.89		5	1.1457(79)	5-11	0.62
	6	0.6054(299)	10-15	1.05		6	0.9926(42)	5-12	1.30		6	1.1692(194)	5-11	1.22
	7	0.5737(83)	9–16	0.66		7	1.0292(103)	6–9	0.85		7	1.1897(286)	5-11	2.08
	8	0.5398(41)	9-11	0.37		8	1.0472(105)	7-10	0.23		8	1.2112(244)	5-10	1.29
	9	0.5420(79)	9-10	0.41		9	1.1304(298)	6-11	1.35		9	1.2476(130)	5-10	0.55
	10	0.5399(22)	8–9	0.08		10	1.1892(126)	6–7	0.72		10	1.2876(108)	5–9	0.76
	11	0.5491(149)	8–9	1.33		11	1.2250(268)	6-10	0.74		11	1.3220(308)	5–9	0.60
4	3	0.7502(4)	7-8	0.10	7	3	0.9855(32)	5-12	0.67	10	3	1.1340(108)	6-11	0.69
	4	0.7863(45)	7-12	1.16		4	1.0004(30)	5-12	0.75		4	1.1560(137)	6-10	0.81
	5	0.8363(94)	7-15	1.47		5	1.0226(55)	5-11	0.62		5	1.1748(75)	6–8	0.63
	6	0.8490(292)	8-13	1.49		6	1.0401(140)	6-11	1.00		6	1.1807(221)	6–7	1.41
	7	0.8468(298)	8-13	0.94		7	1.0727(113)	6–9	0.50		7	1.1899(578)	6-10	1.21
	8	0.8285(299)	8-13	0.59		8	1.1070(23)	6-11	0.45		8	1.2202(592)	6–9	1.17
	9	0.8141(492)	8-12	1.36		9	1.1638(102)	5–9	1.01		9	1.3152(104)	5-6	0.91
	10	0.7706(714)	8-12	1.22		10	1.2227(44)	5–9	0.66		10	1.3472(243)	5–9	0.48
	11	0.6894(1127)	8-14	1.42		11	1.2788(115)	5-7	0.62		11	1.3764(32)	5–9	0.18
5	3	0.8360(7)	5-8	0.40	8	3	1.0504(73)	5-11	1.20	11	3	1.1707(7)	6–7	0.001
	4	0.8614(13)	5-8	1.20		4	1.0642(30)	5-12	0.24		4	1.1916(188)	6–9	0.22
	5	0.8946(36)	6–9	0.89		5	1.0850(77)	5-10	0.75		5	1.2134(375)	6-10	1.01
	6	0.9284(129)	7-10	1.28		6	1.1121(60)	5-7	0.97		6	1.2265(479)	6-10	0.46
	7	0.9813(179)	7-12	0.66		7	1.1154(113)	6-12	1.12		7	1.2458(381)	6-10	0.18
	8	1.0230(200)	7-13	1.03		8	1.1610(141)	5-10	0.99		8	1.2981(96)	6–8	0.32
	9	1.0636(251)	7-12	0.94		9	1.1988(67)	5–9	0.87		9	1.3944(490)	5-10	0.84
	10	1.1215(245)	6–9	0.81		10	1.2453(48)	5-10	0.34		10	1.4238(236)	5-8	0.44
	11	1.1400(60)	6–7	0.12		11	1.2913(190)	5-12	0.81		11	1.4508(480)	5–9	0.40

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