

Contents

1	The path integral on the lattice	1
1.1	Hilbert space and propagation in Euclidean time	2
1.1.1	Hilbert spaces	2
1.1.2	Remarks on Hilbert spaces in particle physics	3
1.1.3	Euclidean correlators	4
1.2	The path integral for a quantum mechanical system	7
1.3	The path integral for a scalar field theory	10
1.3.1	The Klein–Gordon field	10
1.3.2	Lattice regularization of the Klein–Gordon Hamiltonian	11
1.3.3	The Euclidean time transporter for the free case	14
1.3.4	Treating the interaction term with the Trotter formula .	15
1.3.5	Path integral representation for the partition function .	16
1.3.6	Including operators in the path integral	17
1.4	Quantization with the path integral	19
1.4.1	Different discretizations of the Euclidean action	19
1.4.2	The path integral as a quantization prescription	20
1.4.3	The relation to statistical mechanics	22
	References	23
2	QCD on the lattice – a first look	25
2.1	The QCD action in the continuum	25
2.1.1	Quark and gluon fields	26
2.1.2	The fermionic part of the QCD action	26
2.1.3	Gauge invariance of the fermion action	28
2.1.4	The gluon action	29
2.1.5	Color components of the gauge field	30
2.2	Naive discretization of fermions	32
2.2.1	Discretization of free fermions	32
2.2.2	Introduction of the gauge fields as link variables	33
2.2.3	Relating the link variables to the continuum gauge fields	34
2.3	The Wilson gauge action	36

2.3.1	Gauge-invariant objects built with link variables.....	36
2.3.2	The gauge action	37
2.4	Formal expression for the QCD lattice path integral	39
2.4.1	The QCD lattice path integral	39
	References	41
3	Pure gauge theory on the lattice.....	43
3.1	Haar measure	44
3.1.1	Gauge field measure and gauge invariance	44
3.1.2	Group integration measure	45
3.1.3	A few integrals for SU(3)	46
3.2	Gauge invariance and gauge fixing	49
3.2.1	Maximal trees	49
3.2.2	Other gauges	51
3.2.3	Gauge invariance of observables	53
3.3	Wilson and Polyakov loops	54
3.3.1	Definition of the Wilson loop	54
3.3.2	Temporal gauge	55
3.3.3	Physical interpretation of the Wilson loop	55
3.3.4	Wilson line and the quark-antiquark pair.....	57
3.3.5	Polyakov loop	57
3.4	The static quark potential	58
3.4.1	Strong coupling expansion of the Wilson loop	59
3.4.2	The Coulomb part of the static quark potential	62
3.4.3	Physical implications of the static QCD potential.....	63
3.5	Setting the scale with the static potential	63
3.5.1	Discussion of numerical data for the static potential ..	64
3.5.2	The Sommer parameter and the lattice spacing.....	65
3.5.3	Renormalization group and the running coupling	67
3.5.4	The true continuum limit.....	69
3.6	Lattice gauge theory with other gauge groups	69
	References	70
4	Numerical simulation of pure gauge theory	73
4.1	The Monte Carlo method.....	74
4.1.1	Simple sampling and importance sampling	74
4.1.2	Markov chains	75
4.1.3	Metropolis algorithm – general idea	78
4.1.4	Metropolis algorithm for Wilson's gauge action	79
4.2	Implementation of Monte Carlo algorithms for SU(3)	80
4.2.1	Representation of the link variables	81
4.2.2	Boundary conditions	82
4.2.3	Generating a candidate link for the Metropolis update ..	83
4.2.4	A few remarks on random numbers	84
4.3	More Monte Carlo algorithms	84

4.3.1	The heat bath algorithm	85
4.3.2	Overrelaxation	88
4.4	Running the simulation	89
4.4.1	Initialization	91
4.4.2	Equilibration updates	91
4.4.3	Evaluation of the observables	92
4.5	Analyzing the data	93
4.5.1	Statistical analysis for uncorrelated data	93
4.5.2	Autocorrelation	94
4.5.3	Techniques for smaller data sets	96
4.5.4	Some numerical exercises	98
	References	100
5	Fermions on the lattice	103
5.1	Fermi statistics and Grassmann numbers	103
5.1.1	Some new notation	103
5.1.2	Fermi statistics	104
5.1.3	Grassmann numbers and derivatives	105
5.1.4	Integrals over Grassmann numbers	106
5.1.5	Gaussian integrals with Grassmann numbers	108
5.1.6	Wick's theorem	109
5.2	Fermion doubling and Wilson's fermion action	110
5.2.1	The Dirac operator on the lattice	110
5.2.2	The doubling problem	111
5.2.3	Wilson fermions	112
5.3	Fermion lines and hopping expansion	114
5.3.1	Hopping expansion of the quark propagator	114
5.3.2	Hopping expansion for the fermion determinant	117
5.4	Discrete symmetries of the Wilson action	117
5.4.1	Charge conjugation	117
5.4.2	Parity and Euclidean reflections	119
5.4.3	γ_5 -hermiticity	121
	References	121
6	Hadron spectroscopy	123
6.1	Hadron interpolators and correlators	123
6.1.1	Meson interpolators	124
6.1.2	Meson correlators	127
6.1.3	Interpolators and correlators for baryons	129
6.1.4	Momentum projection	131
6.1.5	Final formula for hadron correlators	132
6.1.6	The quenched approximation	133
6.2	Strategy of the calculation	135
6.2.1	The need for quark sources	135
6.2.2	Point source or extended source?	136

6.2.3	Extended sources	137
6.2.4	Calculation of the quark propagator	138
6.2.5	Exceptional configurations	141
6.2.6	Smoothing of gauge configurations	142
6.3	Extracting hadron masses	143
6.3.1	Effective mass curves	144
6.3.2	Fitting the correlators	146
6.3.3	The calculation of excited states	147
6.4	Finalizing the results for the hadron masses	150
6.4.1	Discussion of some raw data	150
6.4.2	Setting the scale and the quark mass parameters	151
6.4.3	Various extrapolations	152
6.4.4	Some quenched results	154
References	155
7	Chiral symmetry on the lattice	157
7.1	Chiral symmetry in continuum QCD	157
7.1.1	Chiral symmetry for a single flavor	157
7.1.2	Several flavors	159
7.1.3	Spontaneous breaking of chiral symmetry	160
7.2	Chiral symmetry and the lattice	162
7.2.1	Wilson fermions and the Nielsen–Niromiya theorem	162
7.2.2	The Ginsparg–Wilson equation	163
7.2.3	Chiral symmetry on the lattice	164
7.3	Consequences of the Ginsparg–Wilson equation	166
7.3.1	Spectrum of the Dirac operator	166
7.3.2	Index theorem	168
7.3.3	The axial anomaly	170
7.3.4	The chiral condensate	172
7.3.5	The Banks–Casher relation	175
7.4	The overlap operator	177
7.4.1	Definition of the overlap operator	177
7.4.2	Locality properties of chiral Dirac operators	178
7.4.3	Numerical evaluation of the overlap operator	179
References	183
8	Dynamical fermions	185
8.1	The many faces of the fermion determinant	185
8.1.1	The fermion determinant as observable	186
8.1.2	The fermion determinant as a weight factor	186
8.1.3	Pseudofermions	187
8.1.4	Effective fermion action	188
8.1.5	First steps toward updating with fermions	189
8.2	Hybrid Monte Carlo	190
8.2.1	Molecular dynamics leapfrog evolution	191

8.2.2	Completing with an accept–reject step	194
8.2.3	Implementing HMC for gauge fields and fermions	195
8.3	Other algorithmic ideas	199
8.3.1	The R-algorithm	199
8.3.2	Partial updates	200
8.3.3	Polynomial and rational HMC	200
8.3.4	Multi-pseudofermions and UV-filtering	201
8.3.5	Further developments	202
8.4	Other techniques using pseudofermions	203
8.5	The coupling-mass phase diagram	205
8.5.1	Continuum limit and phase transitions	205
8.5.2	The phase diagram for Wilson fermions	206
8.5.3	Ginsparg–Wilson fermions	208
8.6	Full QCD calculations	209
	References	210
9	Symanzik improvement and RG actions	213
9.1	The Symanzik improvement program	214
9.1.1	A toy example	214
9.1.2	The framework for improving lattice QCD	215
9.1.3	Improvement of interpolators	218
9.1.4	Determination of improvement coefficients	219
9.2	Lattice actions for free fermions from RG transformations	221
9.2.1	Integrating out the fields over hypercubes	222
9.2.2	The blocked lattice Dirac operator	223
9.2.3	Properties of the blocked action	226
9.3	Real space renormalization group for QCD	227
9.3.1	Blocking full QCD	228
9.3.2	The RG flow of the couplings	231
9.3.3	Saddle point analysis of the RG equation	232
9.3.4	Solving the RG equations	233
9.4	Mapping continuum symmetries onto the lattice	236
9.4.1	The generating functional and its symmetries	236
9.4.2	Identification of the corresponding lattice symmetries . .	238
	References	241
10	More about lattice fermions	243
10.1	Staggered fermions	243
10.1.1	The staggered transformation	243
10.1.2	Tastes of staggered fermions	245
10.1.3	Developments and open questions	248
10.2	Domain wall fermions	249
10.2.1	Formulation of lattice QCD with domain wall fermions .	250
10.2.2	The 5D theory and its equivalence to 4D chiral fermions	252

10.3	Twisted mass fermions	253
10.3.1	The basic formulation of twisted mass QCD	254
10.3.2	The relation between twisted and conventional QCD	256
10.3.3	$\mathcal{O}(a)$ improvement at maximal twist	258
10.4	Effective theories for heavy quarks	260
10.4.1	The need for an effective theory	260
10.4.2	Lattice action for heavy quarks	261
10.4.3	General framework and expansion coefficients	263
	References	264
11	Hadron structure	267
11.1	Low-energy parameters	267
11.1.1	Operator definitions	268
11.1.2	Ward identities	270
11.1.3	Naive currents and conserved currents on the lattice	274
11.1.4	Low-energy parameters from correlation functions	278
11.2	Renormalization	279
11.2.1	Why do we need renormalization?	279
11.2.2	Renormalization with the Rome–Southampton method	281
11.3	Hadronic decays and scattering	284
11.3.1	Threshold region	284
11.3.2	Beyond the threshold region	287
11.4	Matrix elements	289
11.4.1	Pion form factor	290
11.4.2	Weak matrix elements	294
11.4.3	OPE expansion and effective weak Hamiltonian	295
	References	297
12	Temperature and chemical potential	301
12.1	Introduction of temperature	301
12.1.1	Analysis of pure gauge theory	303
12.1.2	Switching on dynamical fermions	307
12.1.3	Properties of QCD in the deconfinement phase	310
12.2	Introduction of the chemical potential	312
12.2.1	The chemical potential on the lattice	312
12.2.2	The QCD phase diagram in the (T, μ) space	317
12.3	Chemical potential: Monte Carlo techniques	318
12.3.1	Reweighting	319
12.3.2	Series expansion	321
12.3.3	Imaginary μ	321
12.3.4	Canonical partition functions	322
	References	323

A Appendix	327
A.1 The Lie groups $SU(N)$	327
A.1.1 Basic properties	327
A.1.2 Lie algebra	327
A.1.3 Generators for $SU(2)$ and $SU(3)$	329
A.1.4 Derivatives of group elements	329
A.2 Gamma matrices	330
A.3 Fourier transformation on the lattice	332
A.4 Wilson's formulation of lattice QCD	333
A.5 A few formulas for matrix algebra	334
References	336
Index	337