

A Short Proof

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To one loop order, the QCD beta function can be integrated to give

$$r\Lambda_{(n_f)}^{q\bar{q}} = \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2b_0^{(n_f)}g_{q\bar{q}}^2}\right) \quad (1)$$

Converting to the \overline{MS} scheme using equation (16) of the paper gives

$$r\Lambda_{(n_f)}^{\overline{MS}} = \exp\left(\frac{t_{1(n_f)}^{q\bar{q}}}{2b_0^{(n_f)}}\right) \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2b_0^{(n_f)}g_{q\bar{q}}^2}\right) \quad (2)$$

Getting rid of the scale r by taking ratios, we find then that

$$\frac{\Lambda_{(2)}^{\overline{MS}}}{\Lambda_{(0)}^{\overline{MS}}} = \frac{\exp\left(\frac{t_{1(2)}^{q\bar{q}}}{2b_0^{(2)}}\right) \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2b_0^{(2)}g_{q\bar{q}}^2}\right)}{\exp\left(\frac{t_{1(0)}^{q\bar{q}}}{2b_0^{(0)}}\right) \exp\left(-\frac{1}{2b_0^{(0)}g_{q\bar{q}}^2}\right)} \quad (3)$$

As $g_{q\bar{q}} \rightarrow \infty$, the second exponentials in both the numerator and denominator quickly vanish, leaving the simple relation

$$\frac{\Lambda_{(2)}^{\overline{MS}}}{\Lambda_{(0)}^{\overline{MS}}} = \exp\left(\frac{t_{1(2)}^{q\bar{q}}}{2b_0^{(2)}} - \frac{t_{1(0)}^{q\bar{q}}}{2b_0^{(0)}}\right) \quad (4)$$

Equation (50) of the paper gives the value

$$t_{1(n_f)}^{q\bar{q}} = \frac{1}{(4\pi)^2} \left[\frac{4}{3}n_f \left(\gamma_E - \frac{1}{6} \right) - 22 \left(\gamma_E - \frac{35}{66} \right) \right] \quad (5)$$

so plugging this into equation 4 and using the usual beta function coefficients b_i , we find that the asymptotic value for $\Lambda_{(2)}^{\overline{MS}}/\Lambda_{(0)}^{\overline{MS}}$ is

$$\frac{\Lambda_{(2)}^{\overline{MS}}}{\Lambda_{(0)}^{\overline{MS}}} = 1.0544 \quad (6)$$

While I don't have an easy proof for why this should hold to higher loops, this at least shows that something fishy is going on with Figure 7 of the paper.