

The diagram illustrates the definition of the Wilson loop operator  $U_\alpha$  in terms of a phase factor  $e^{iq\alpha}$ .

On the left, a vertical black line with an upward-pointing arrow is labeled  $\mathcal{O}_q$  at the top. A red ellipse is drawn around the middle of this line, with an arrow indicating a counter-clockwise direction. This entire structure is labeled  $U_\alpha$ .

In the center, there is an equals sign  $=$ .

On the right, a vertical black line with an upward-pointing arrow is also labeled  $\mathcal{O}_q$  at the top. A gray dot is placed on this line. This structure is labeled  $e^{iq\alpha}$ .

$$U_\alpha = e^{iq\alpha}$$