

# Centre vortices and gluon propagators in thermal lattice QCD with dynamical fermions

Chris Allton<sup>1</sup>, Ryan Bignell<sup>2</sup>, Derek Leinweber<sup>3</sup>, **Jackson Mickley**<sup>3</sup>, Benjamin Page<sup>1</sup>

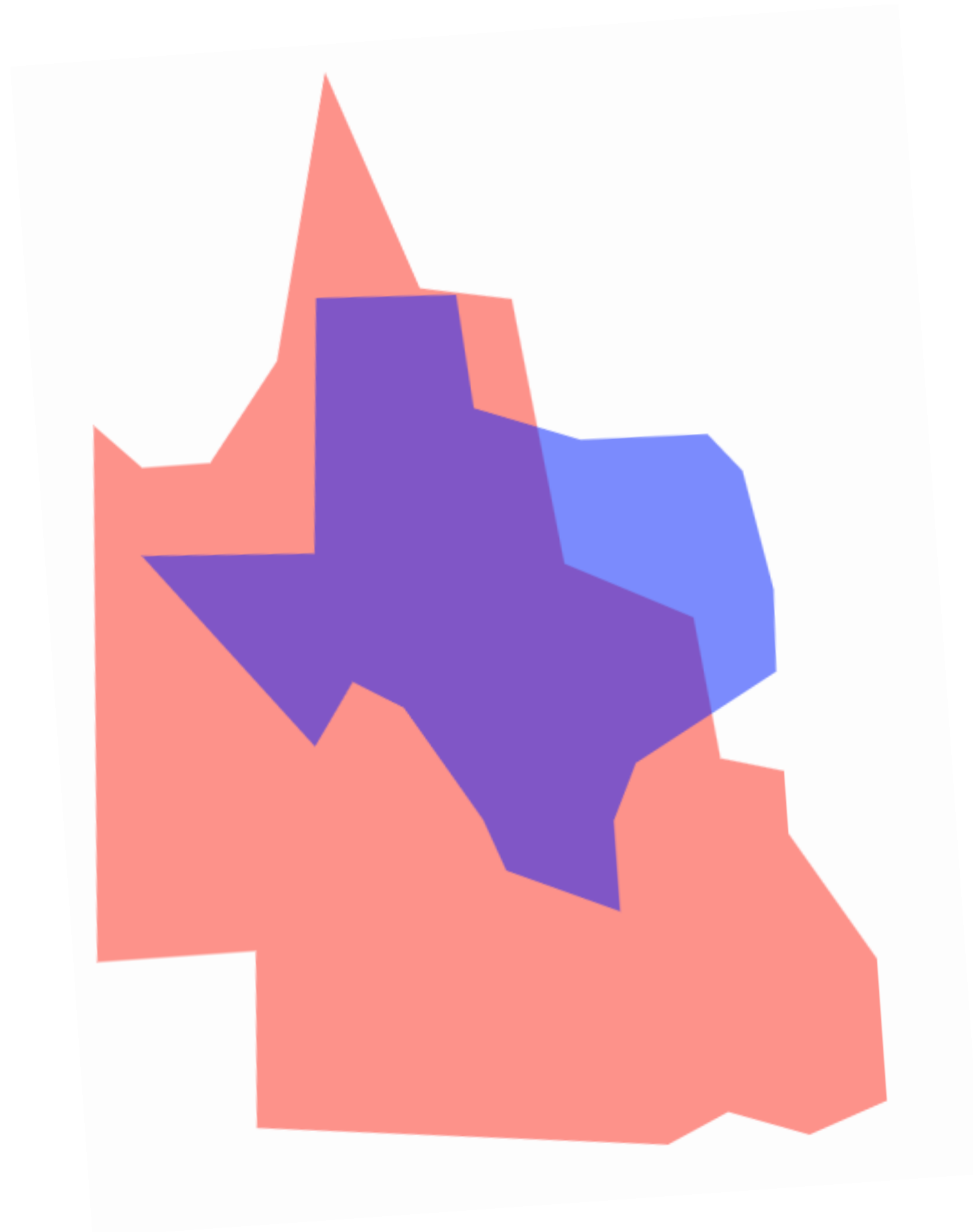
*(1) Swansea University, U.K.*

*(2) Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland*

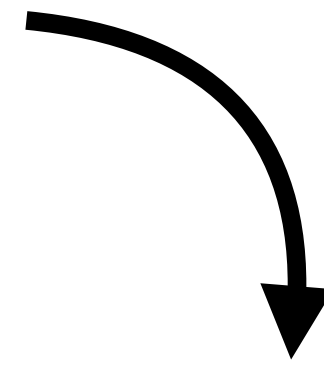
*(3) University of Adelaide, Australia*

*FASTSUM Collaboration*

# Scales



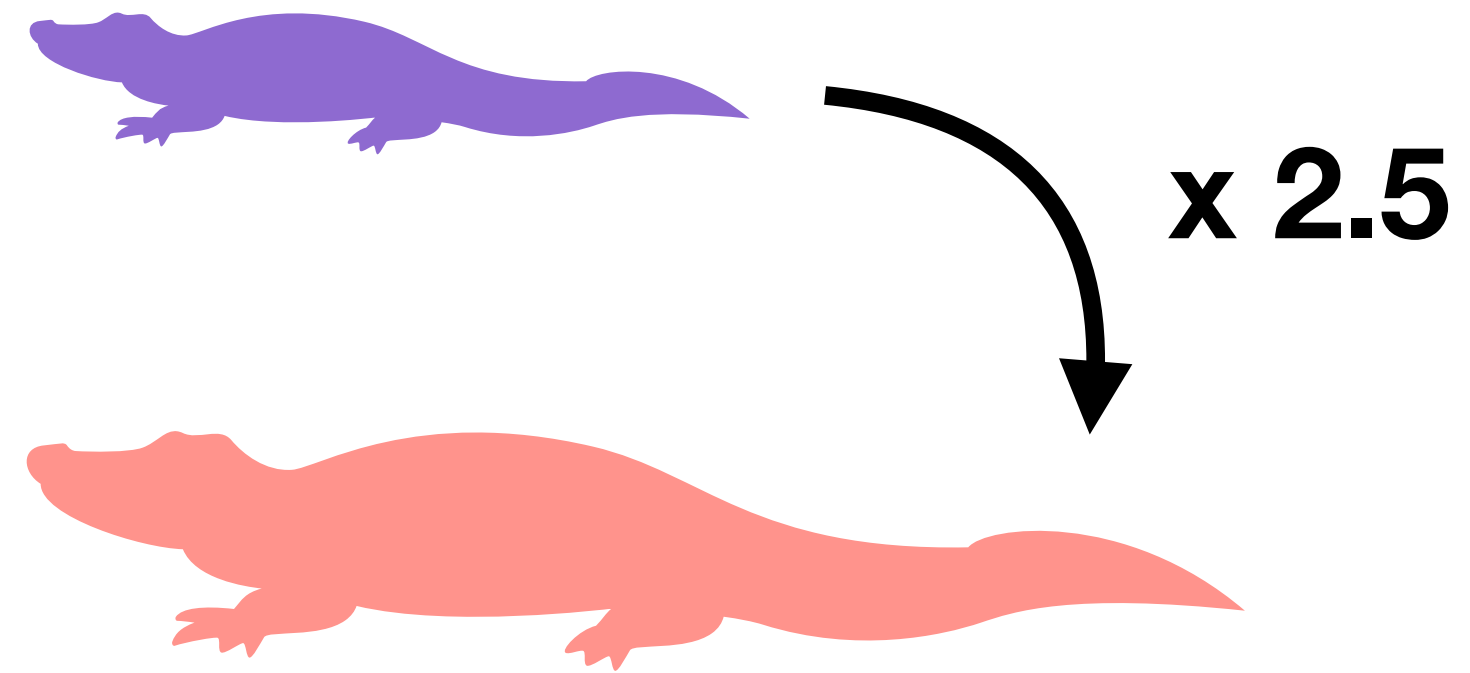
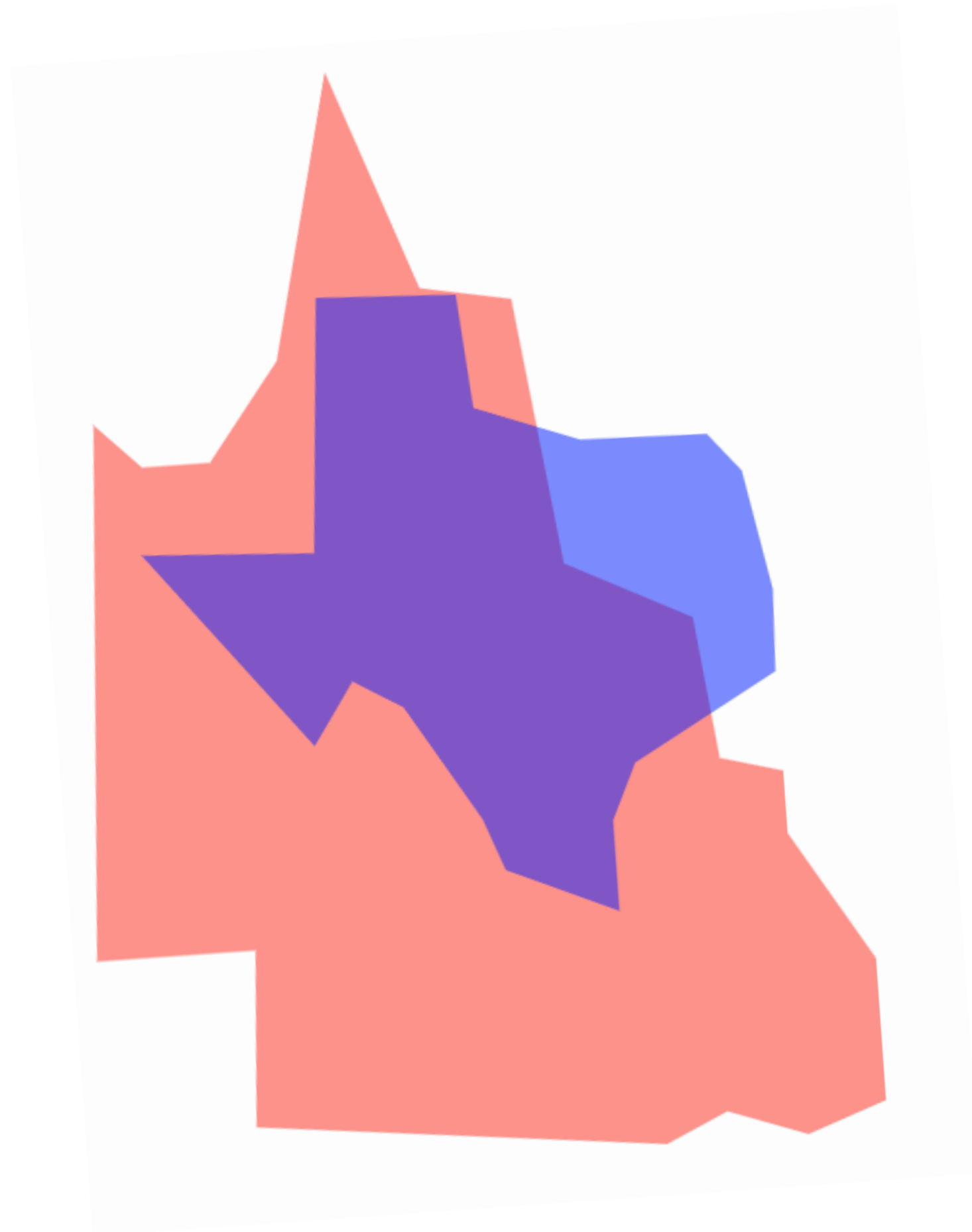
Texas



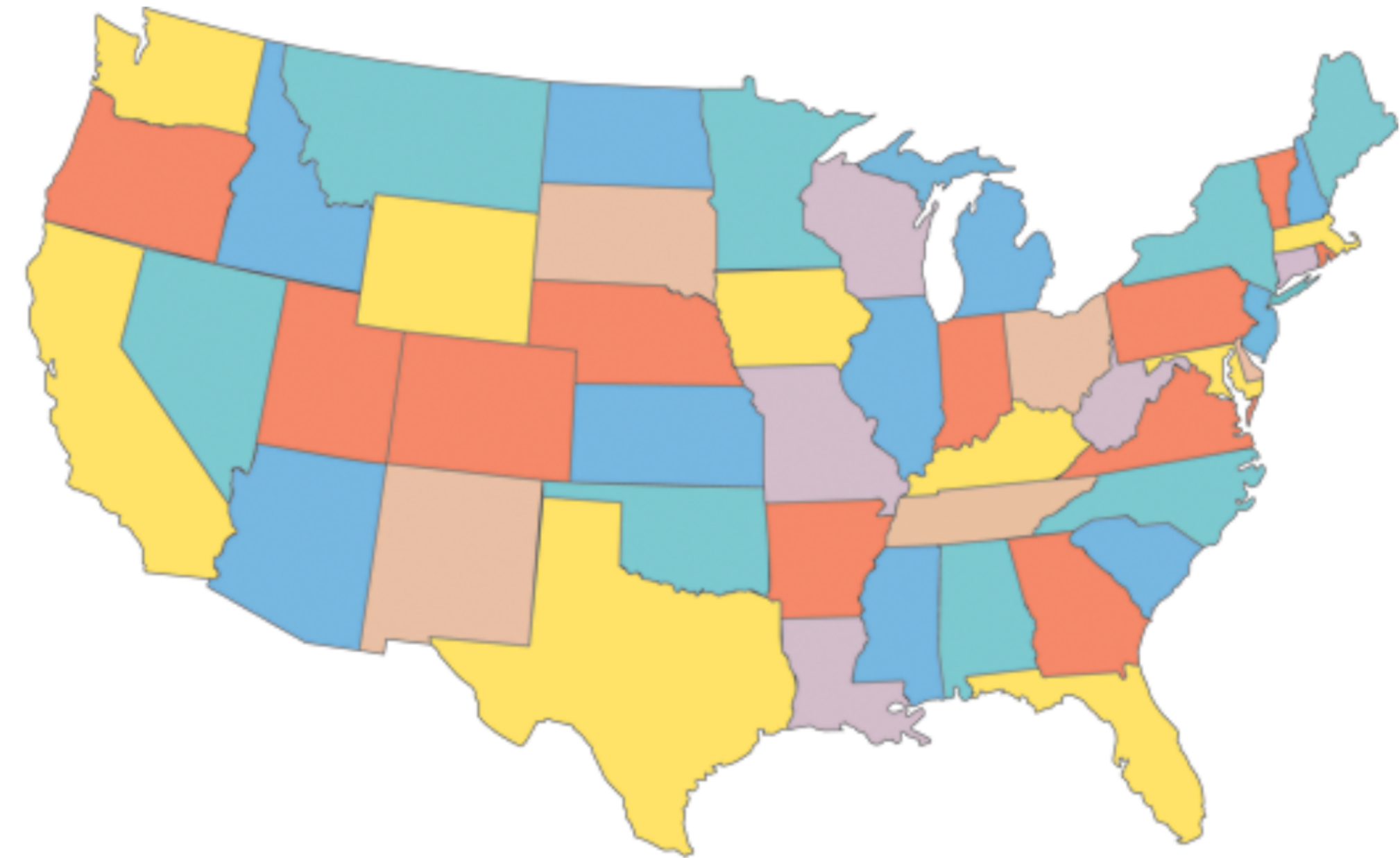
**x 2.5**

Queensland

# Scales



# Scales

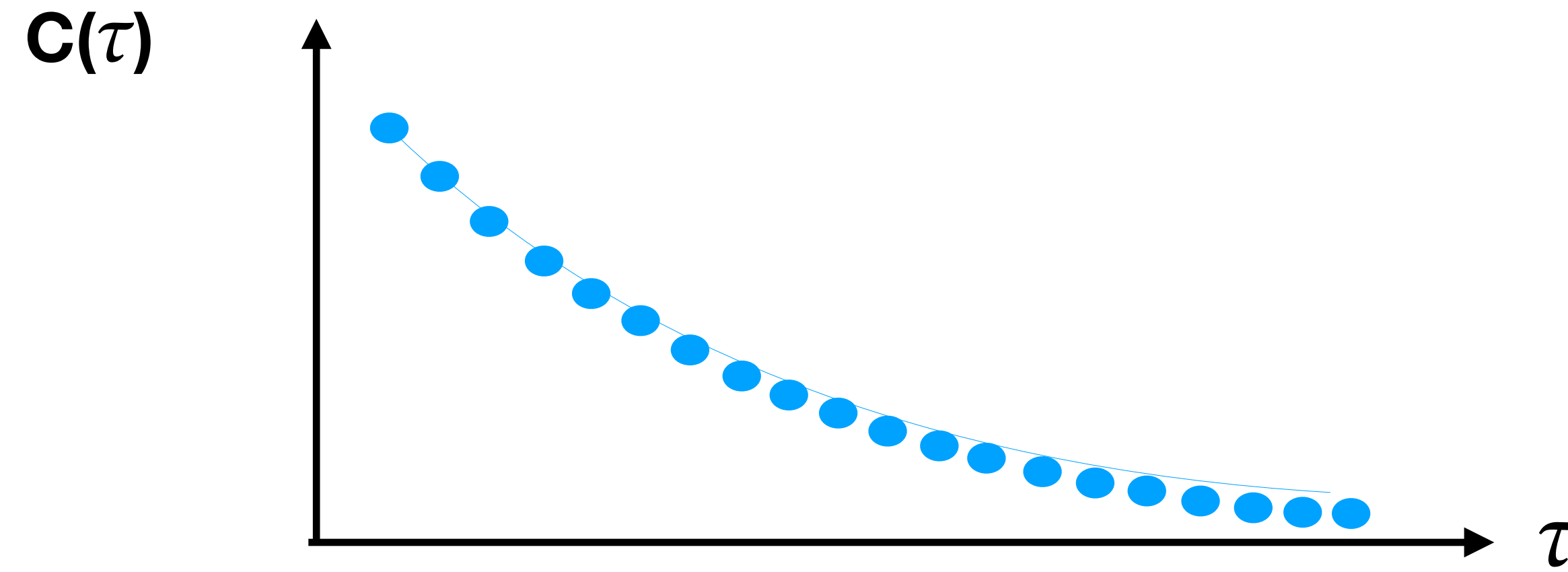
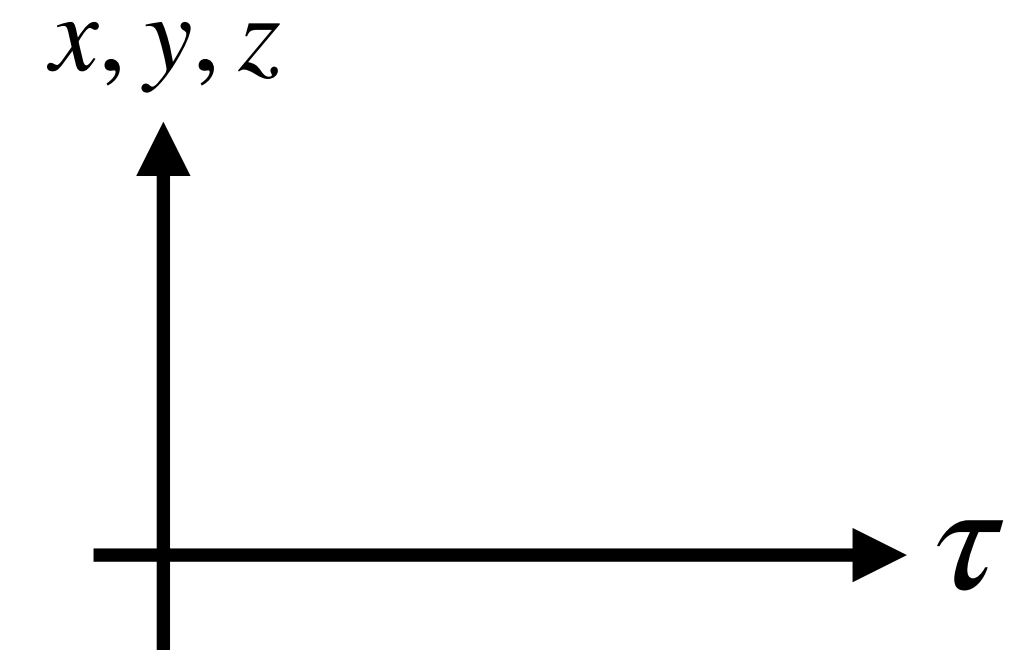
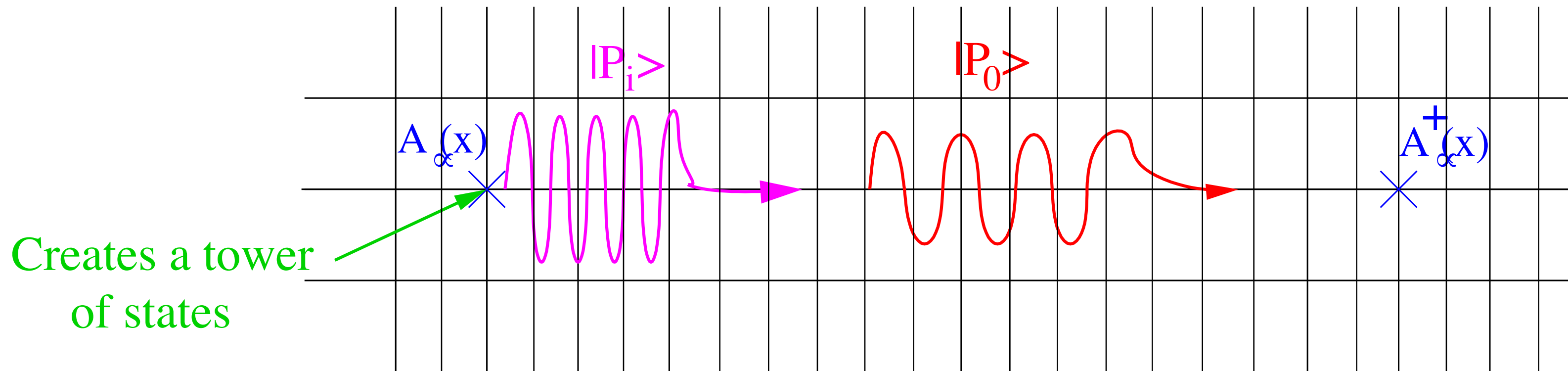




# Overview

- FASTSUM approach
  - Anisotropic
- Maximal Centre Gauge
  - Vortices [Faber, Greensite, Olejník Phys.Lett.B 474 \(2000\) 177](#)
- Measurements
  - Vortex & Branching Point Density
  - Cluster Extent
  - Correlations
- Transition(s) in QCD ?
  - Systematics

# FASTSUM Approach: *Anisotropic Lattice*



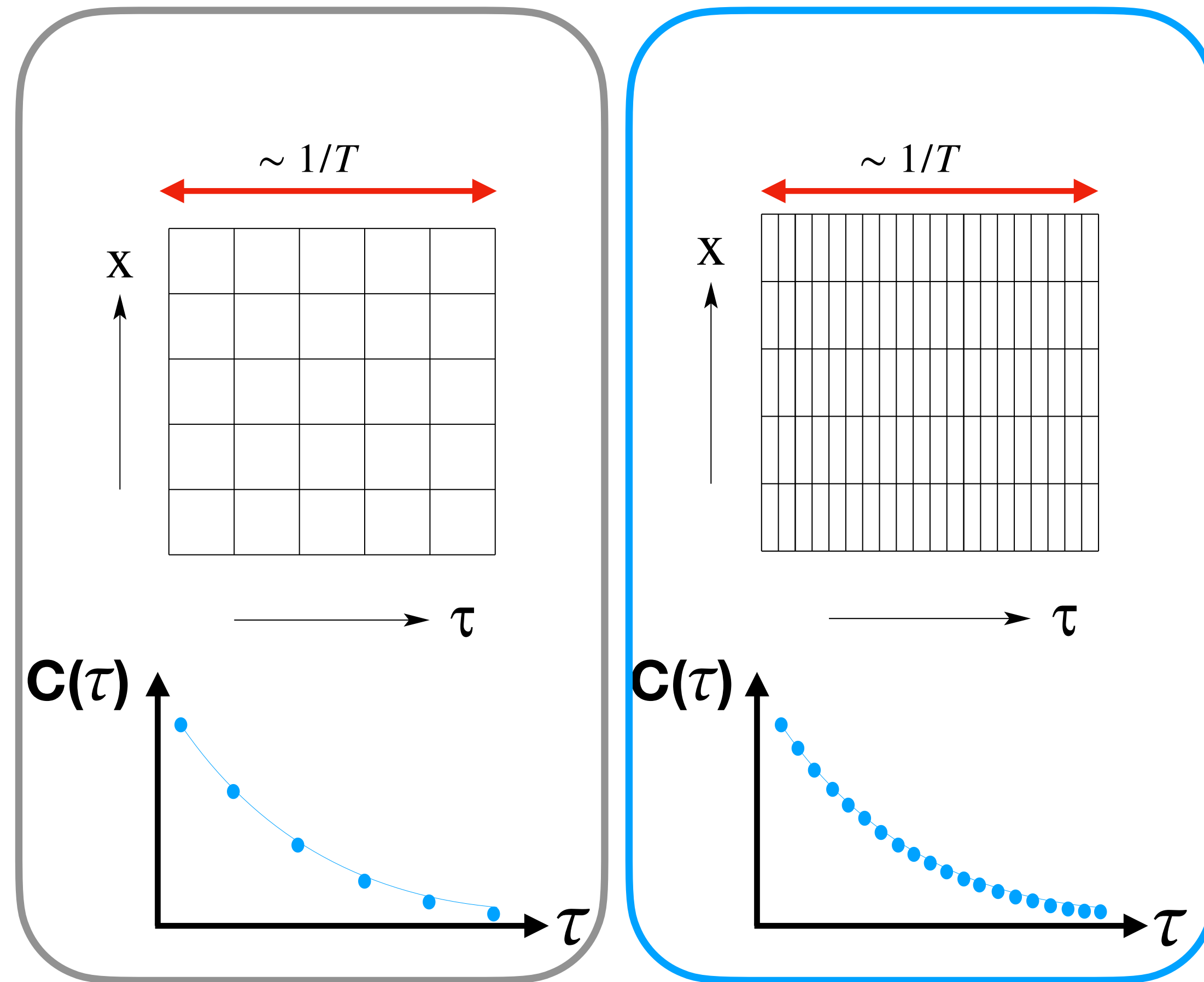
## Spectral Quantities:

- Bottomonium
- Charmed mesons
- Heavy Baryons
- Light Hadrons

Interquark potential

Conductivity

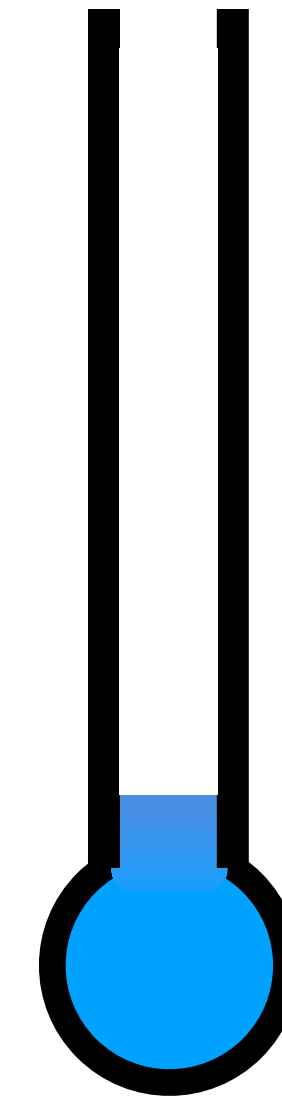
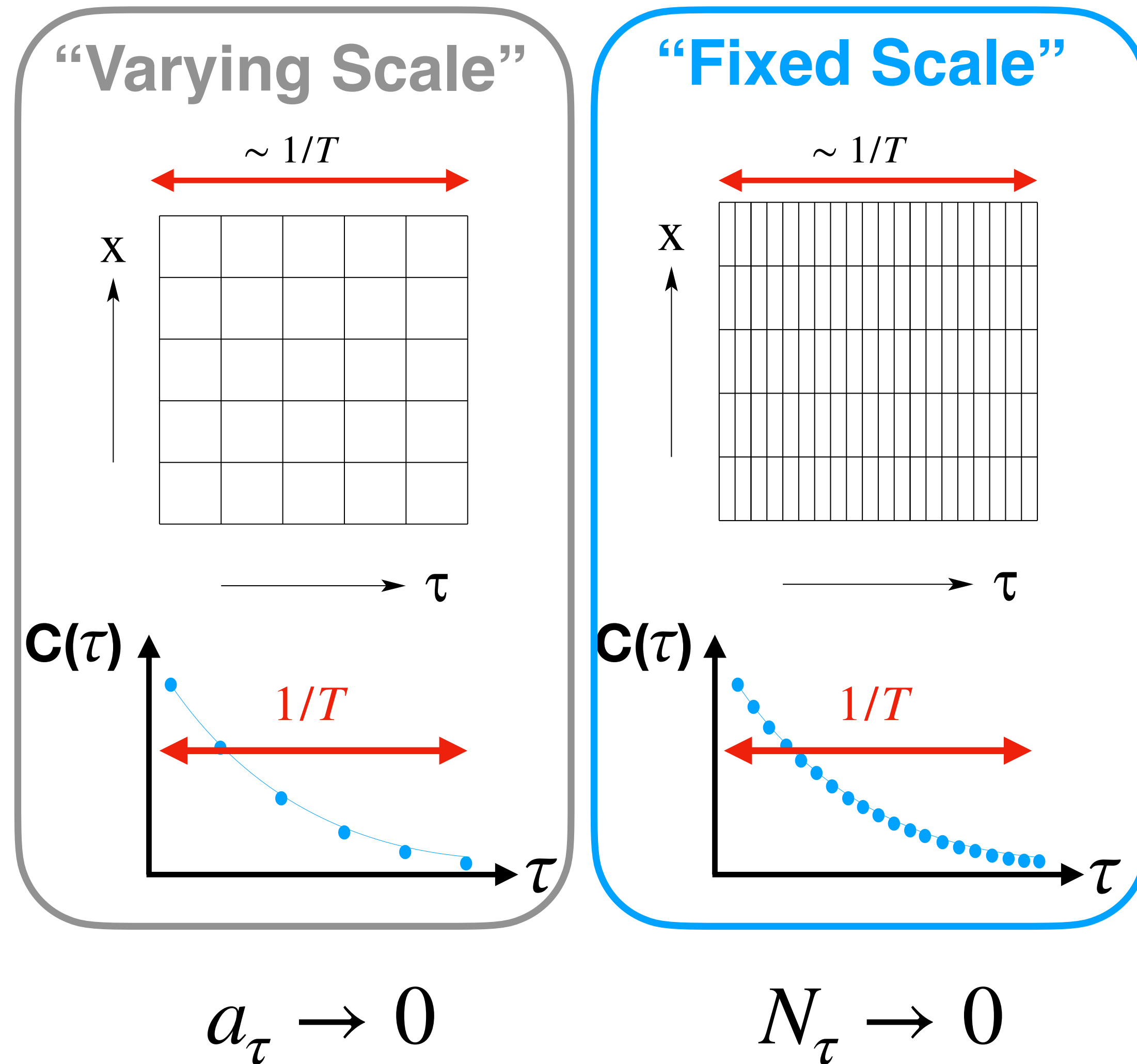
# FASTSUM Approach: *Anisotropic Lattice*



$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_i \langle i | e^{-HL_\tau} | i \rangle \\ &= \sum_i \langle i | e^{-H/T} | i \rangle \end{aligned}$$

$$T = \frac{1}{L_\tau} = \frac{1}{a_\tau N_\tau}$$

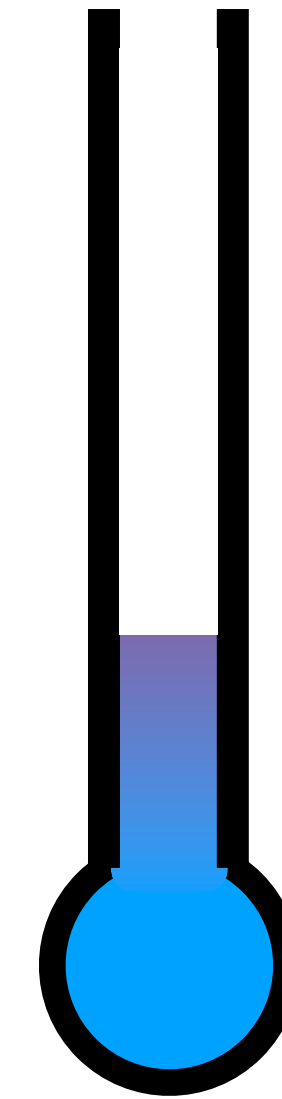
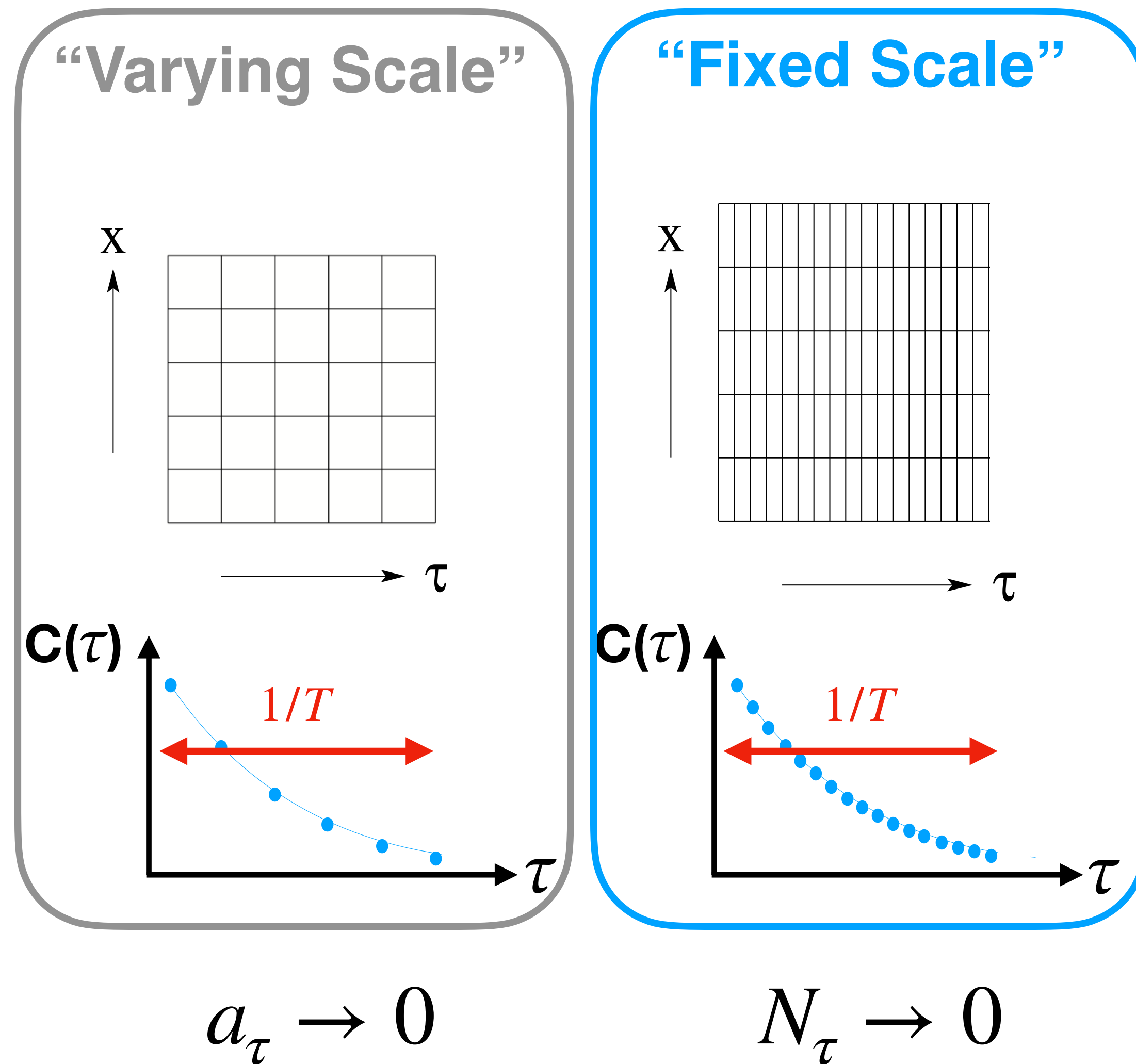
# FASTSUM Approach: *Anisotropic Lattice*



**Going  
hotter...**

$$T = \frac{1}{L_\tau} = \frac{1}{a_\tau N_\tau}$$

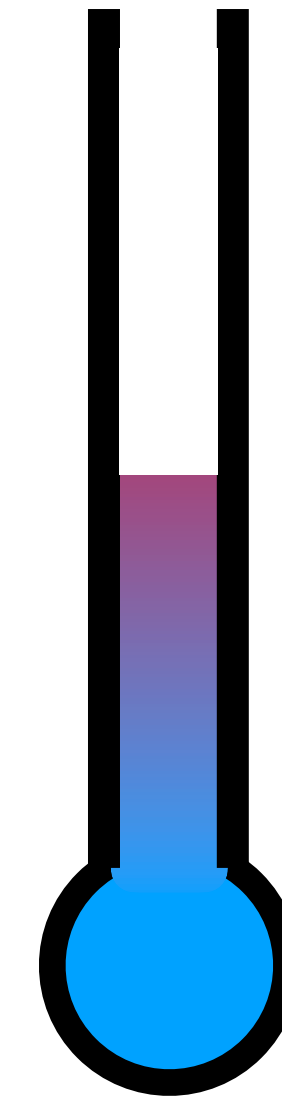
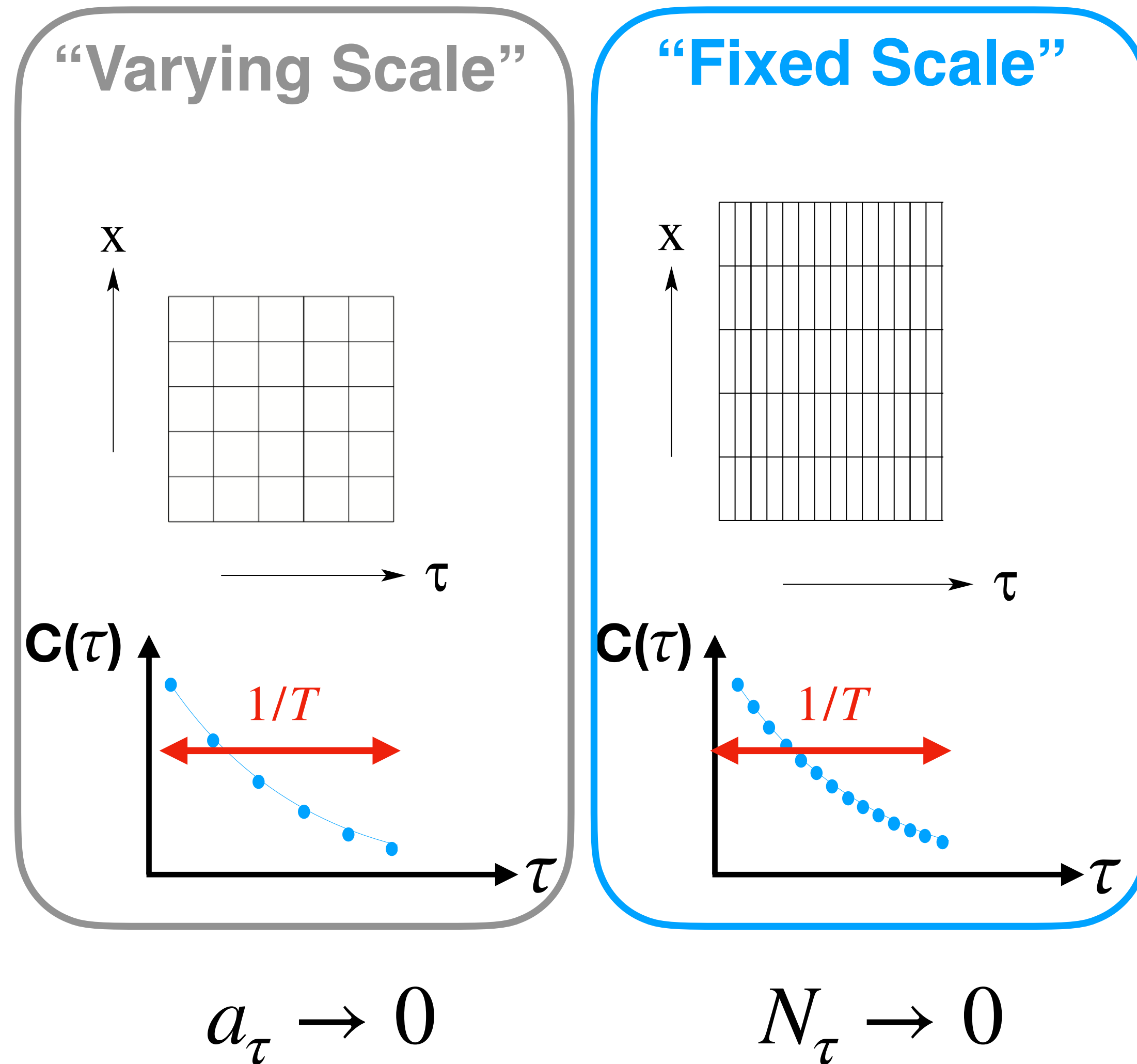
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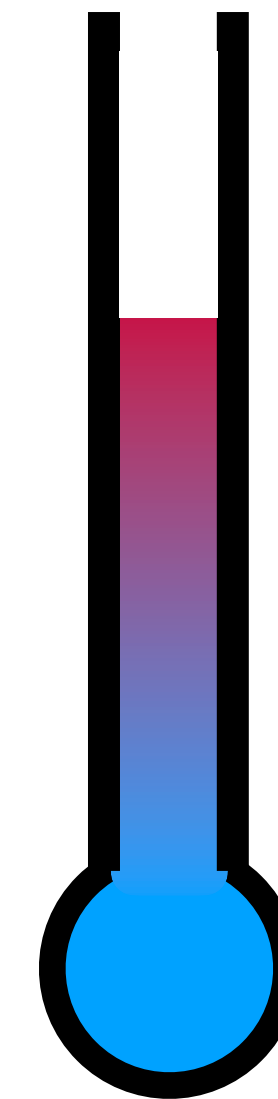
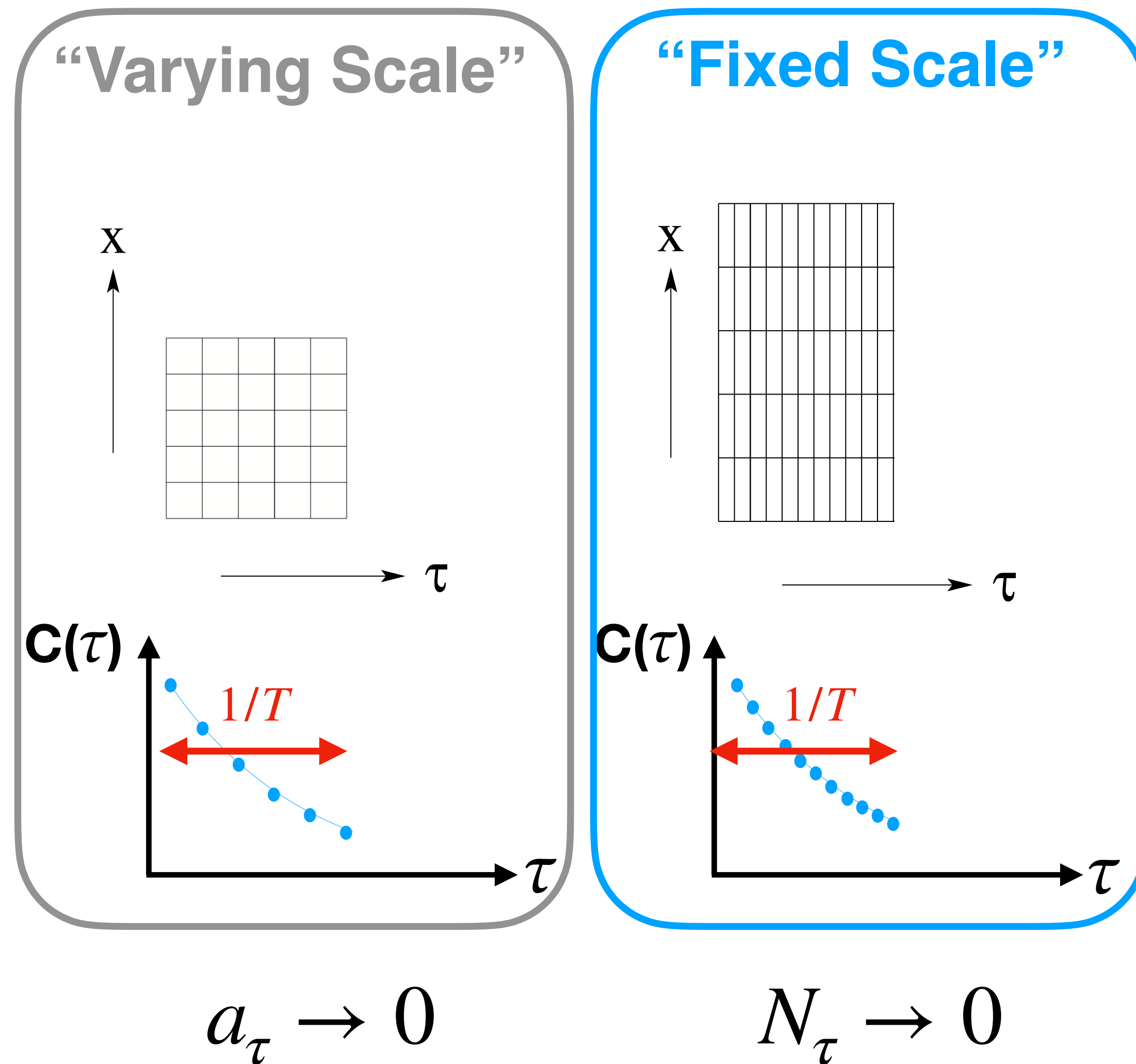
# FASTSUM Approach: *Anisotropic Lattice*



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# FASTSUM Approach: *Anisotropic Lattice*

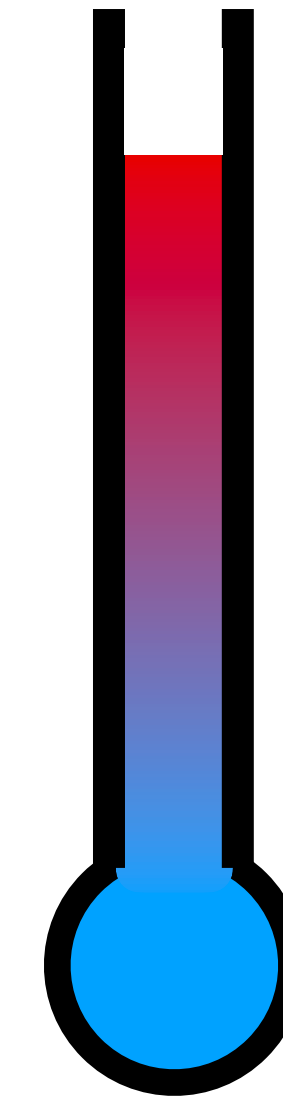
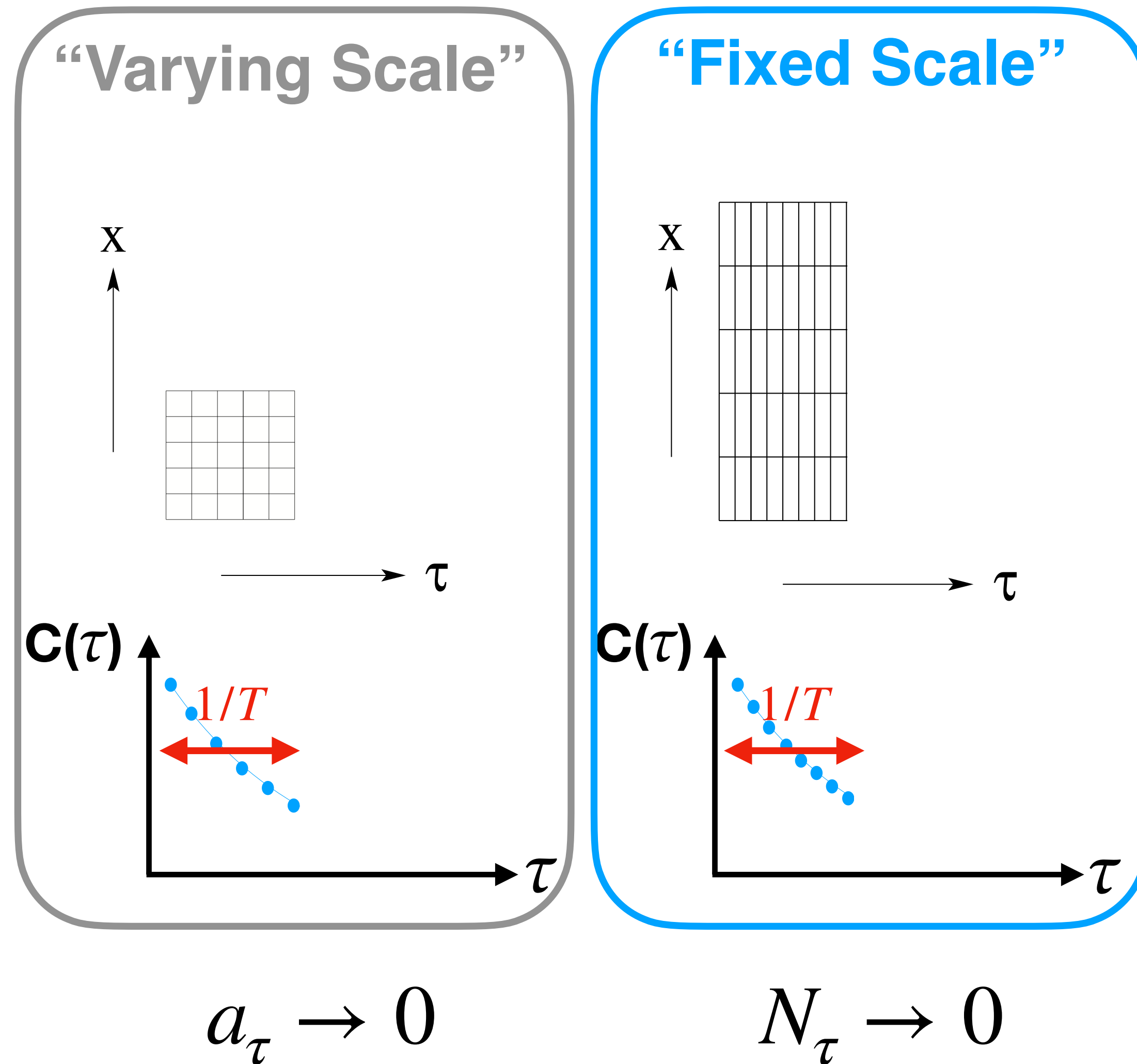


Going  
hotter...

$$T = \frac{1}{L_\tau} = \frac{1}{a_\tau N_\tau}$$



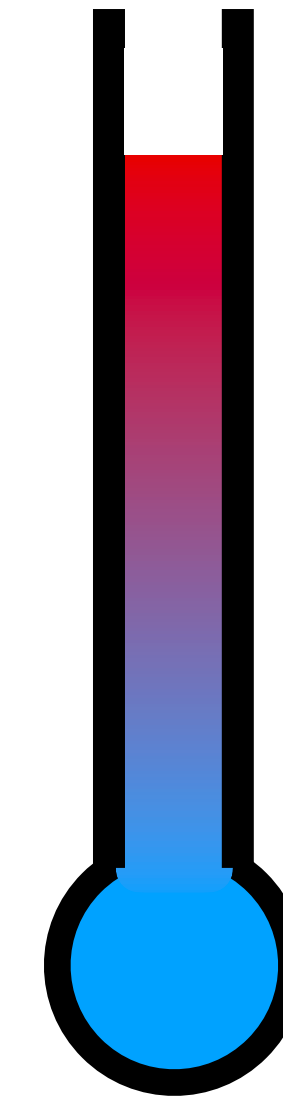
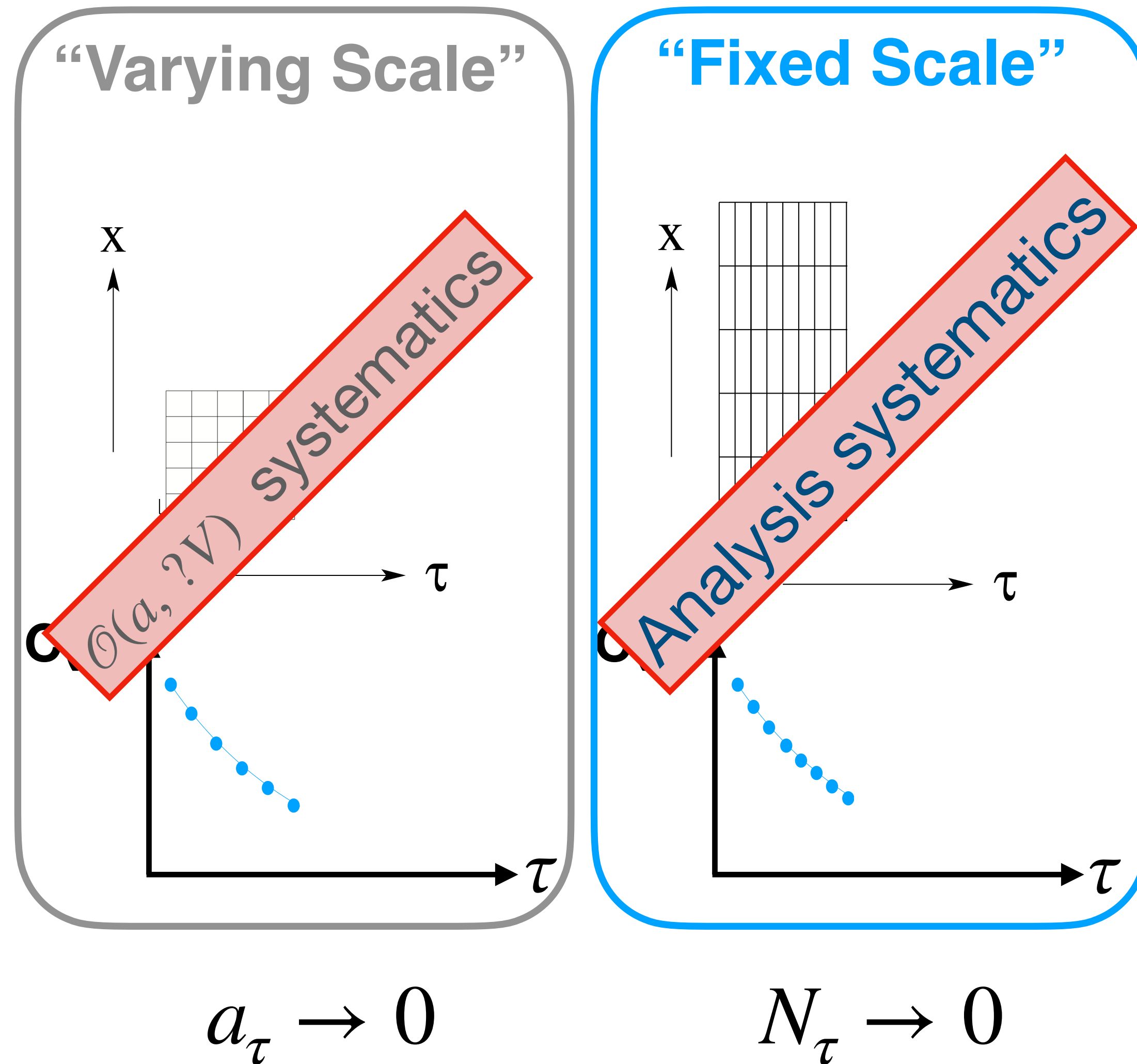
# FASTSUM Approach: *Anisotropic Lattice*



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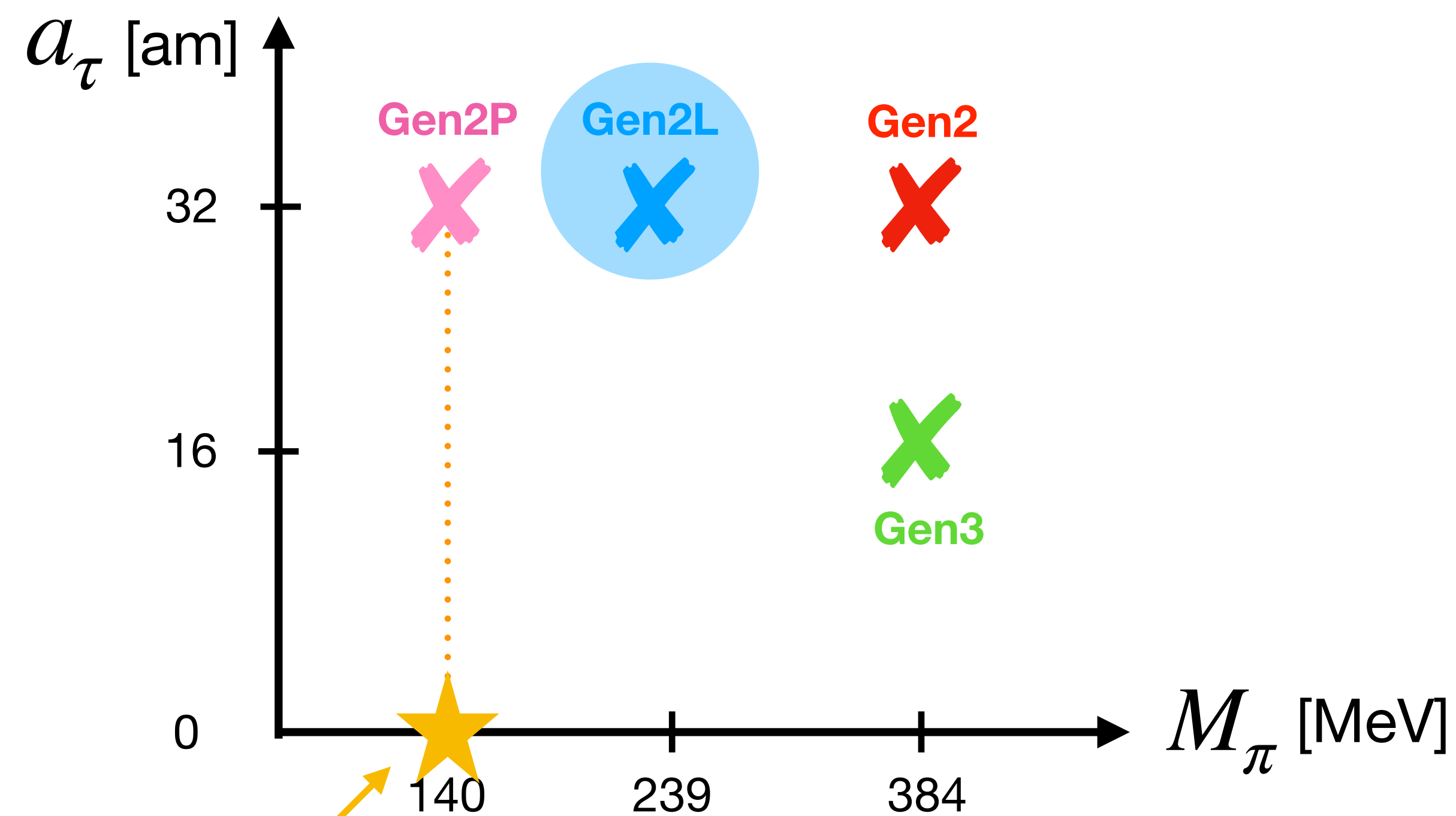
# FASTSUM Approach: *Anisotropic Lattice*



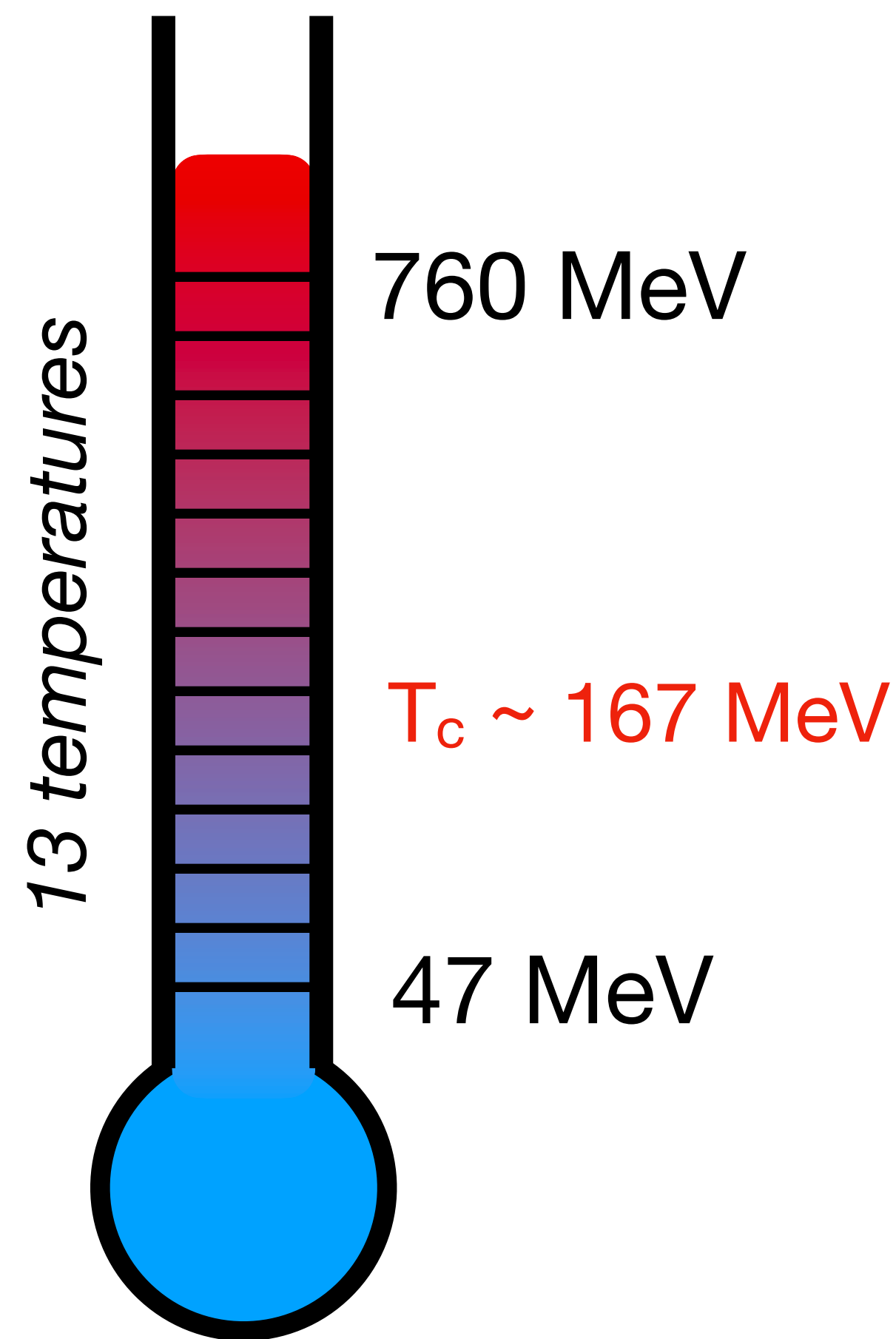
Going  
hotter...

$$T = \frac{1}{L_\tau} = \frac{1}{a_\tau N_\tau}$$

# FASTSUM Approach: Lattice Parameters



Nature



Generation 2L  
(2+1) flavour  
 $a_s \sim 0.112$  fm

**Gauge Action:**  
Anisotropic,  
Symanzik-improved

**Fermion Action:**  
Wilson-clover,  
tree-level tadpole,  
stout-smearred links

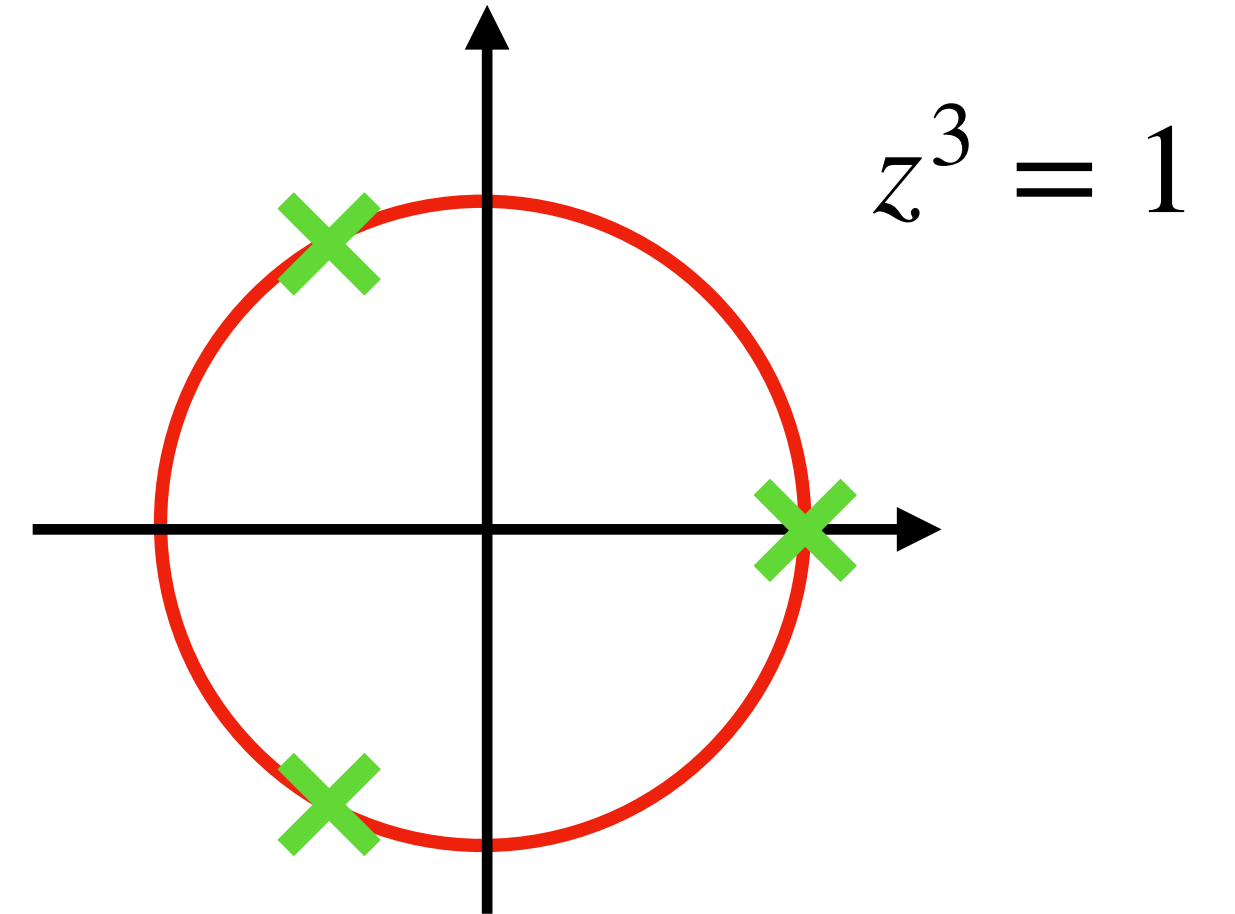
# Maximal Centre Gauge

Choose gauge transform  $\Omega$

s.t.  $U \longrightarrow \Omega U \Omega' \approx z V$  where  $z \in Z(3)$  i.e.  $z^3 = 1$

i.e.  $\approx e^{i2\pi/3 n} V$  where  $n = \{-1, 0, +1\}$

$V \sim$  Identity

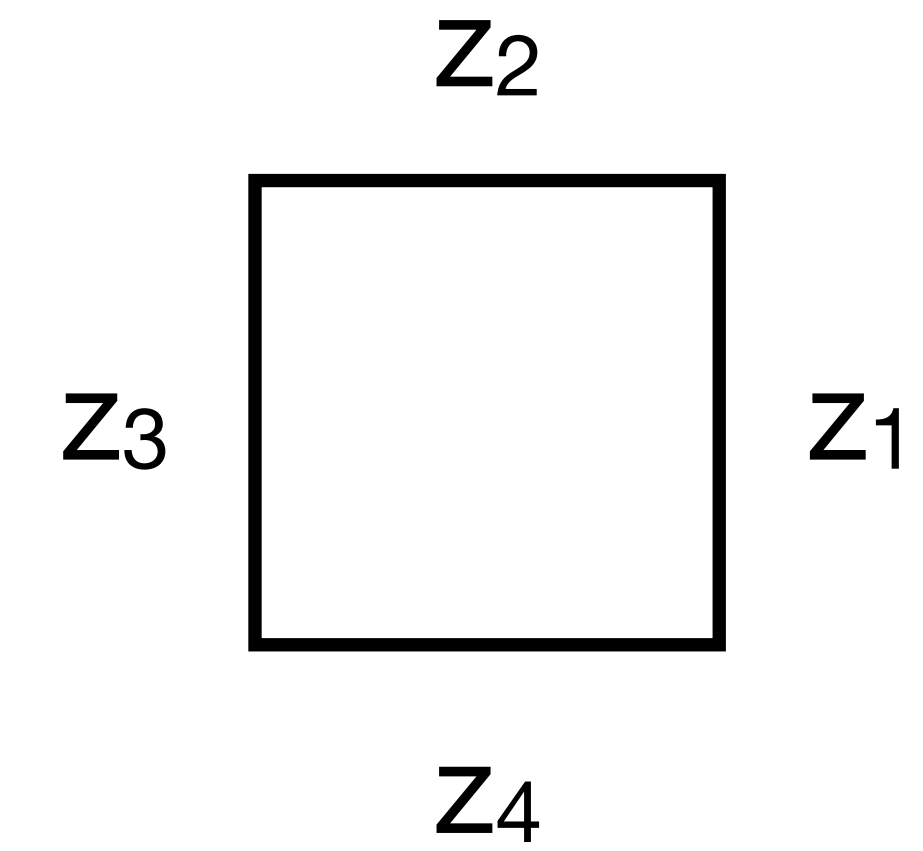


Non-pert                      “Perturbative”

Can factorise  $\Omega U \Omega = e^{i2\pi/3 n} V_{\text{pert}} = z V_{\text{pert}}$

Product around MCG Pla<sub>q</sub> =  $U_{\text{pla}q}^{MCG} = \prod_{i=1}^4 z_i \in Z(3)$

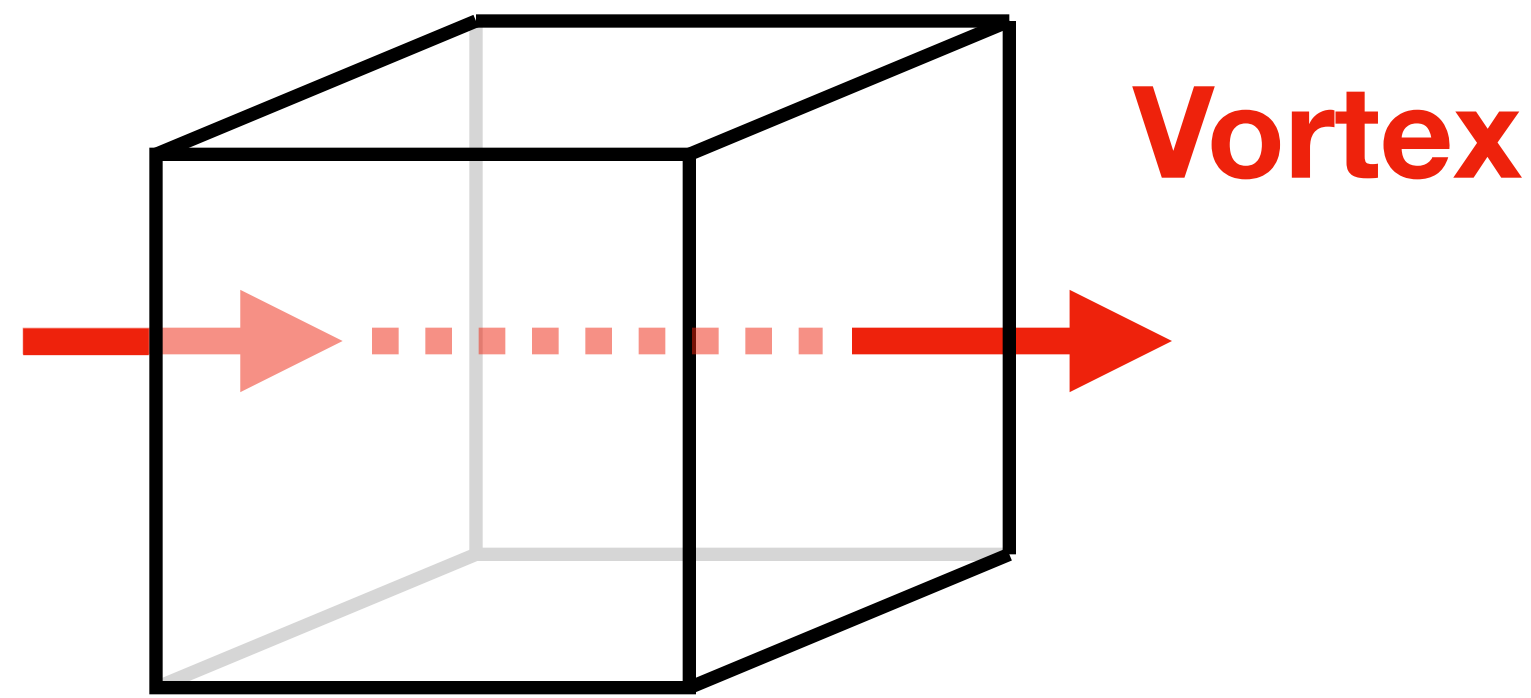
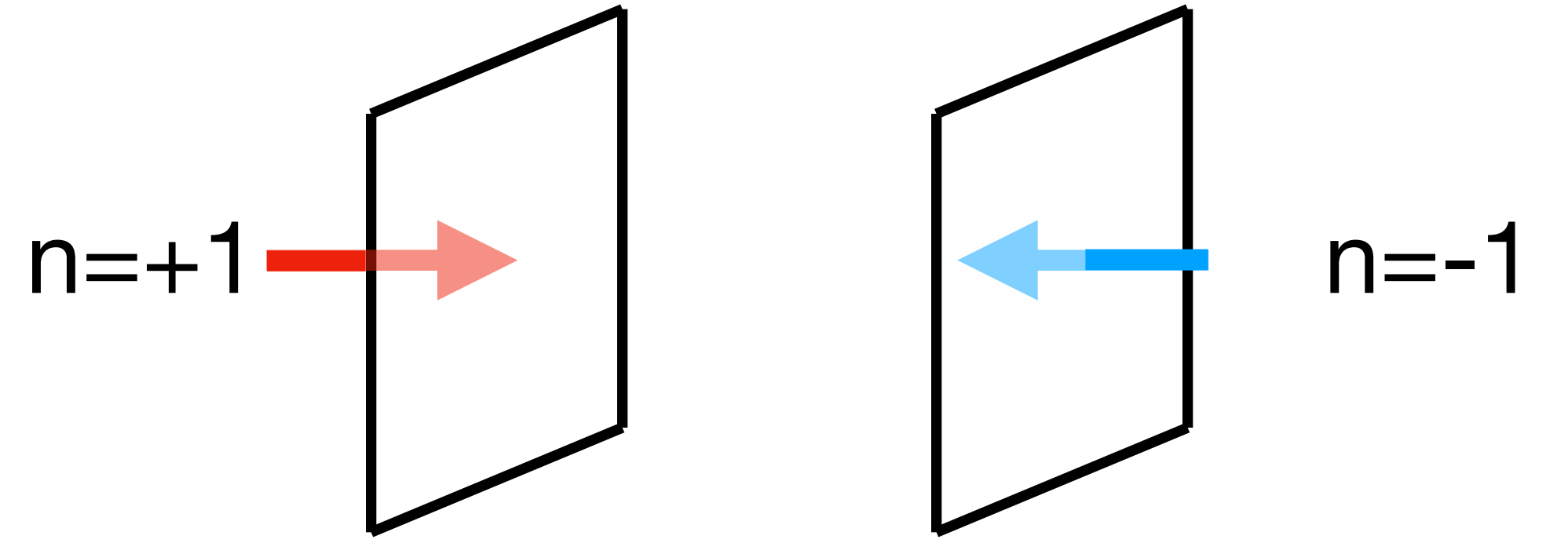
$\Rightarrow U_{\text{pla}q}^{MCG}$  either  $\begin{cases} e^{\pm i2\pi/3} & \text{“pierced”} \\ 1 & \text{not pierced} \end{cases}$



# Maximal Centre Gauge

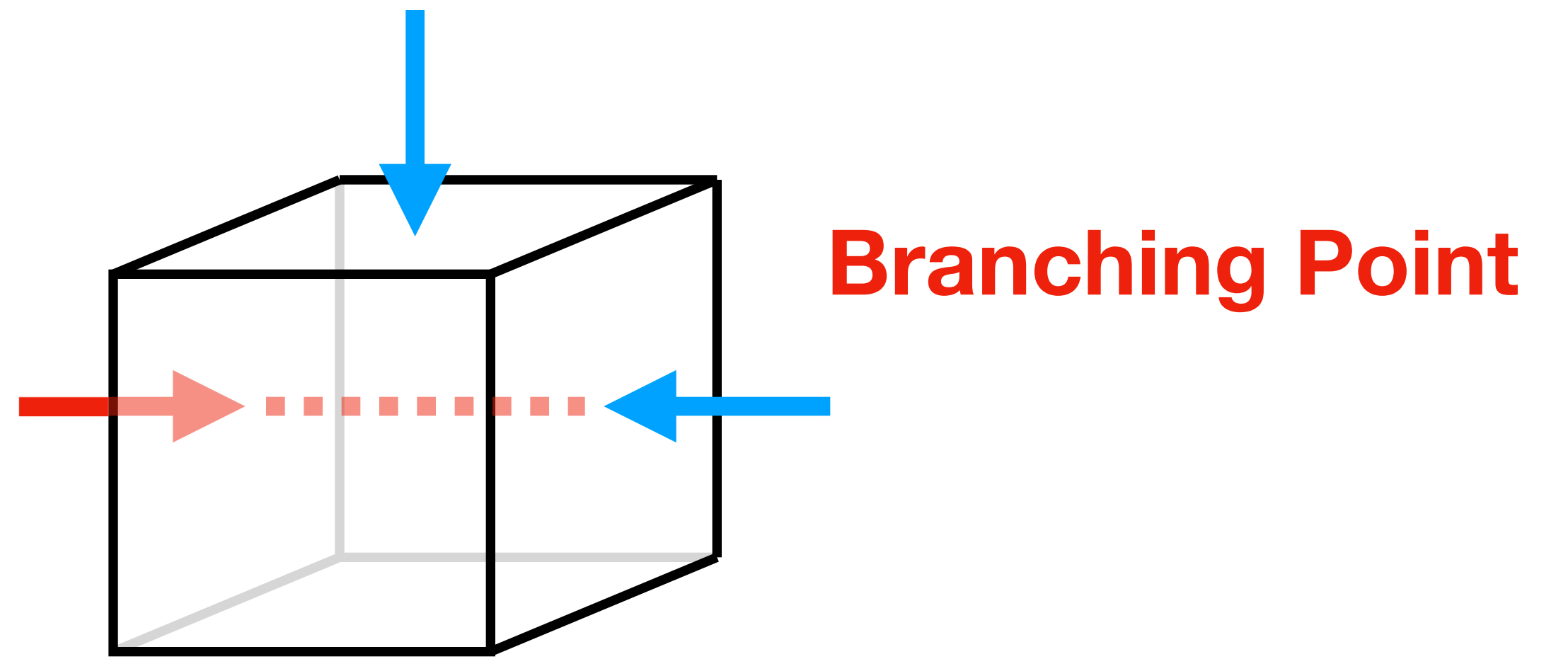
## Vortices, Flux & Branching Points

$U^{MCG}$  plaq either  $\begin{cases} e^{\pm i 2\pi/3} & \text{"pierced"} \\ 1 & \text{not pierced} \end{cases}$



$$N_{tot} = +1 - 1 = 0$$

$$\text{i.e. } e^{2\pi i/3} \times e^{-2\pi i/3} = 1$$



$$N_{tot} = +1 + 1 + 1 \text{ mod } 3 = 0$$

$$\text{i.e. } e^{2\pi i/3} \times e^{2\pi i/3} \times e^{2\pi i/3} = 1$$

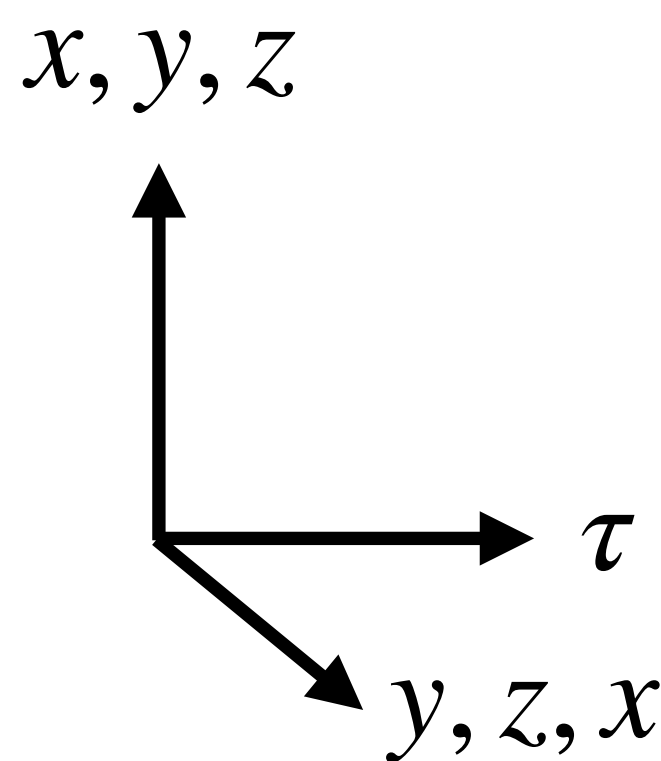
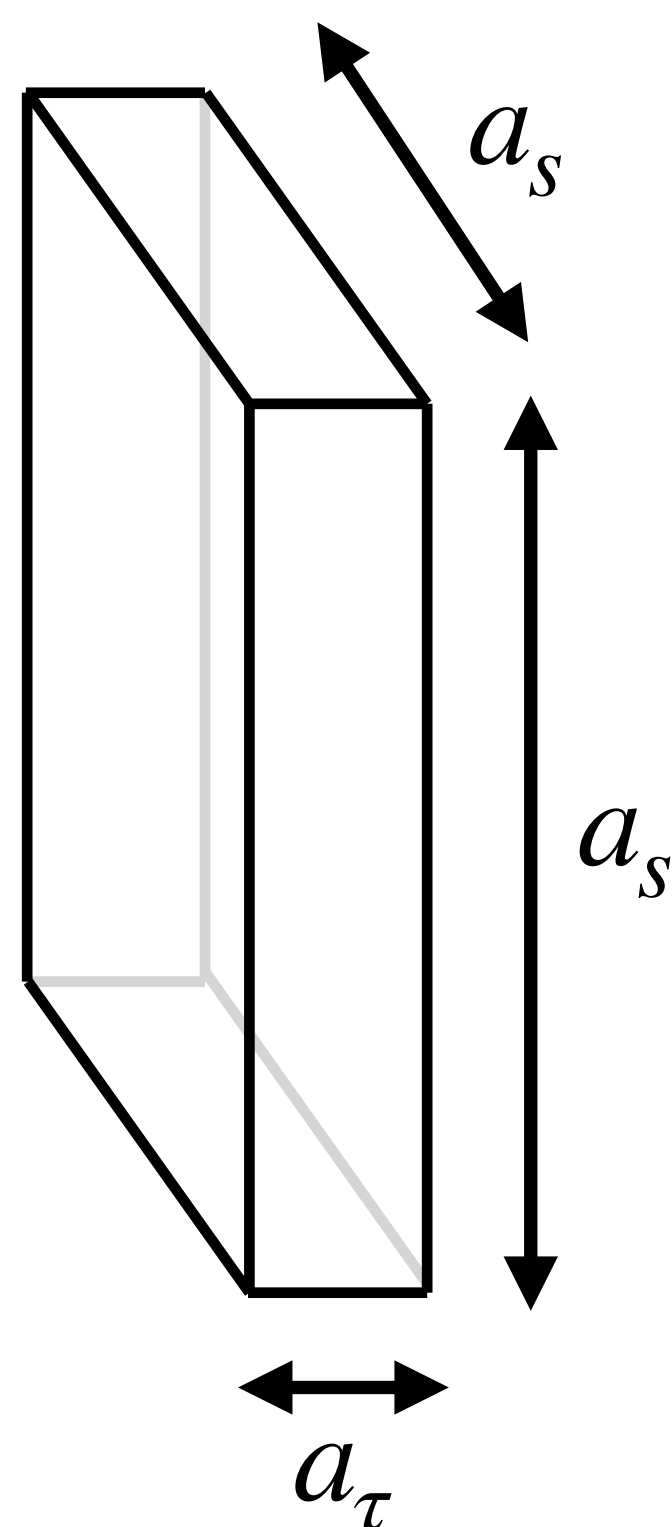
Conservation of Flux modulo 3

# Maximal Centre Gauge

## Anisotropic Lattices

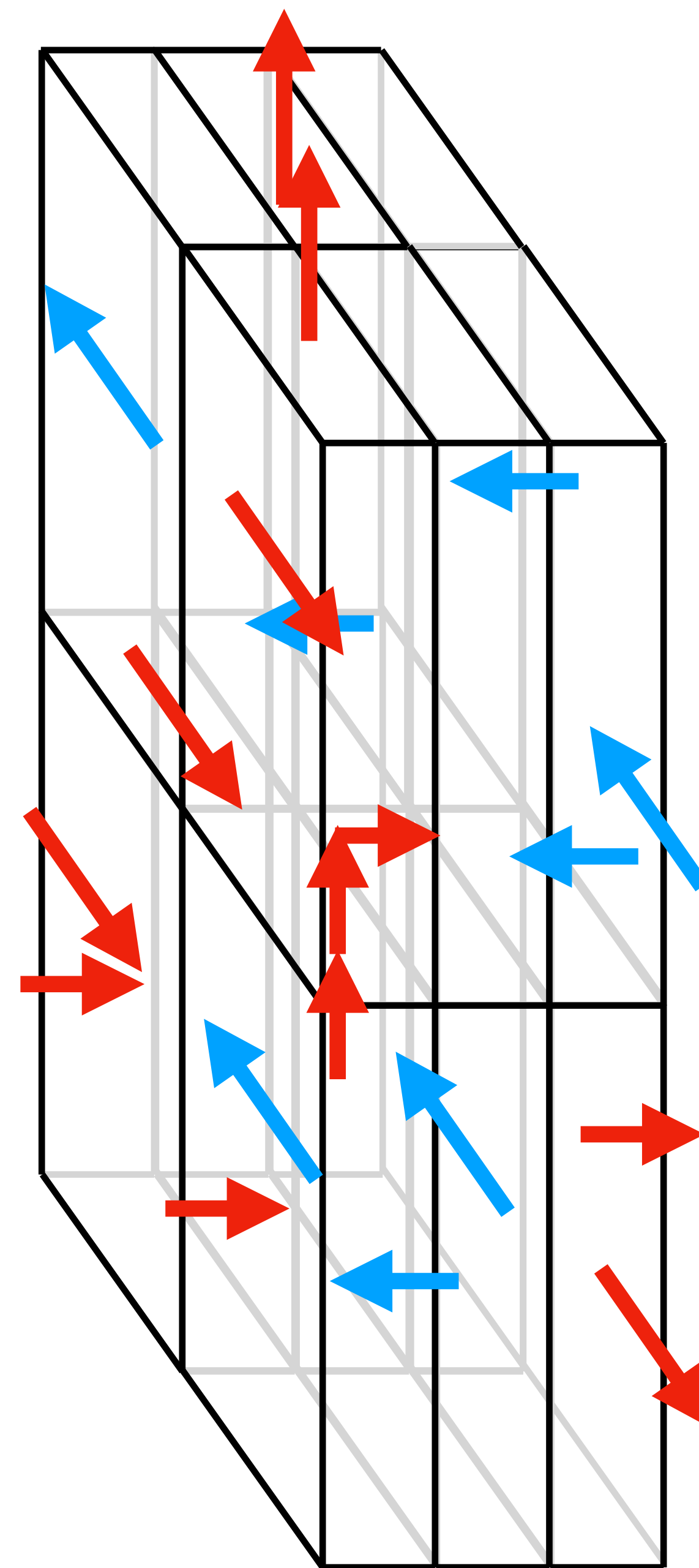
Reminder:  $a_\tau \ll a_s$

Fundamental 3-Vol:



Check:

No. of Vortices / Area is isotropic



# Gauge Fixing

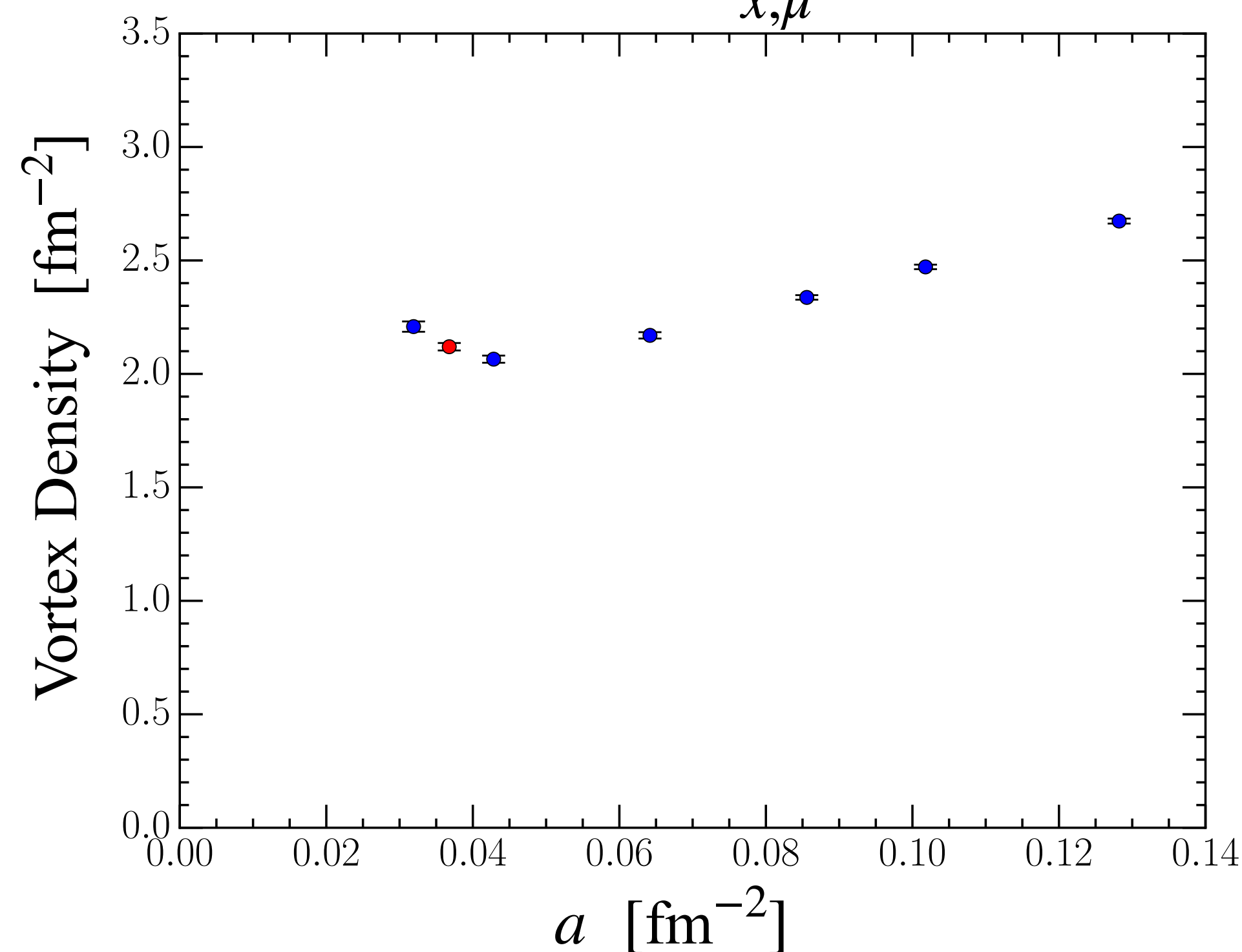
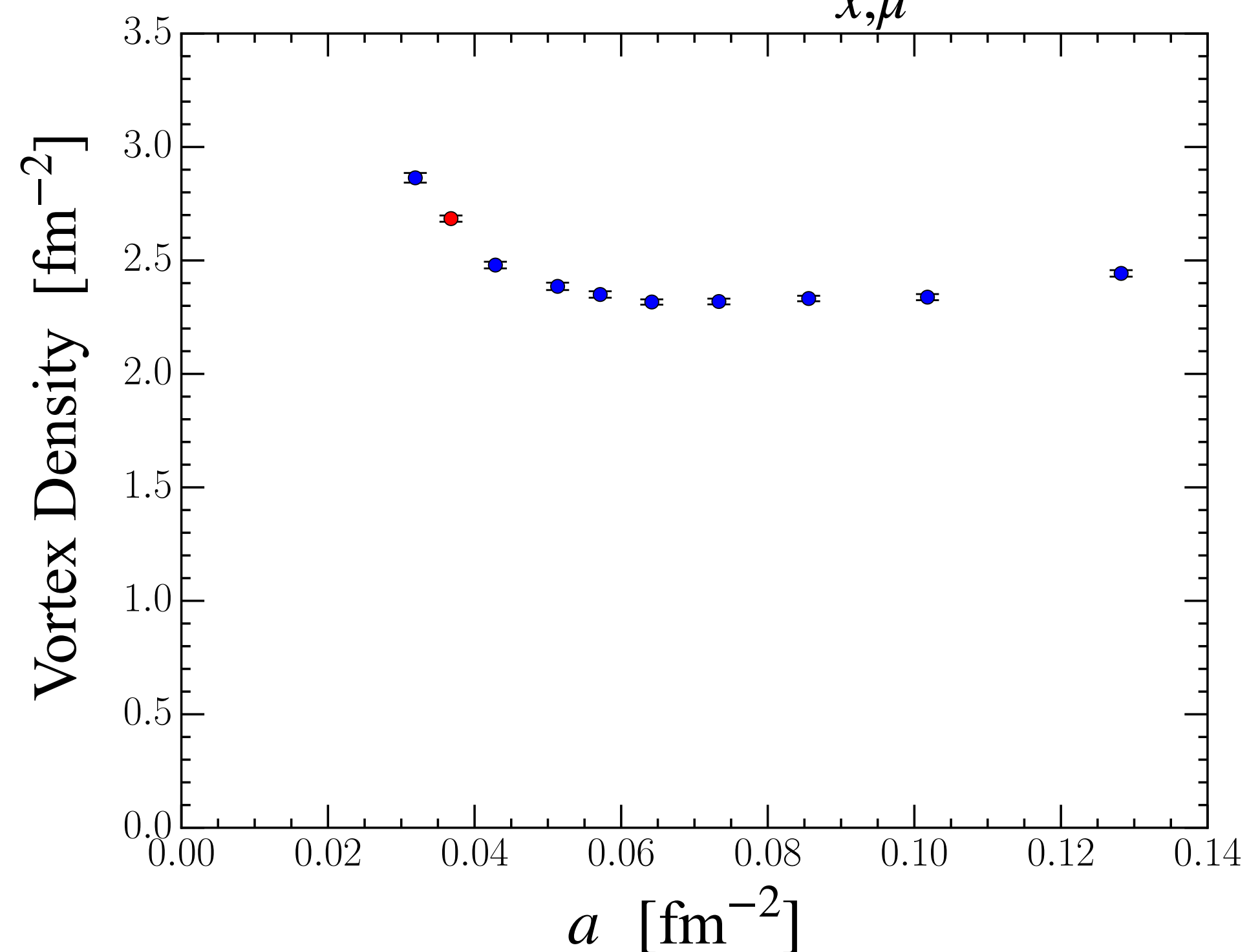
## Quenched Isotropic Scaling Plots

To fix to Maximal Centre Gauge, key idea is to maximise  $\sum_p |Tr U_p|$

Various functionals that can be used:

“Mesonic”  $\mathcal{F} = \sum_{x,\mu} |Tr U_\mu(x)|^2$

“Baryonic”  $\mathcal{F} = \sum_{x,\mu} Re\{Tr U_\mu(x)\}^3$





# Gauge Fixing

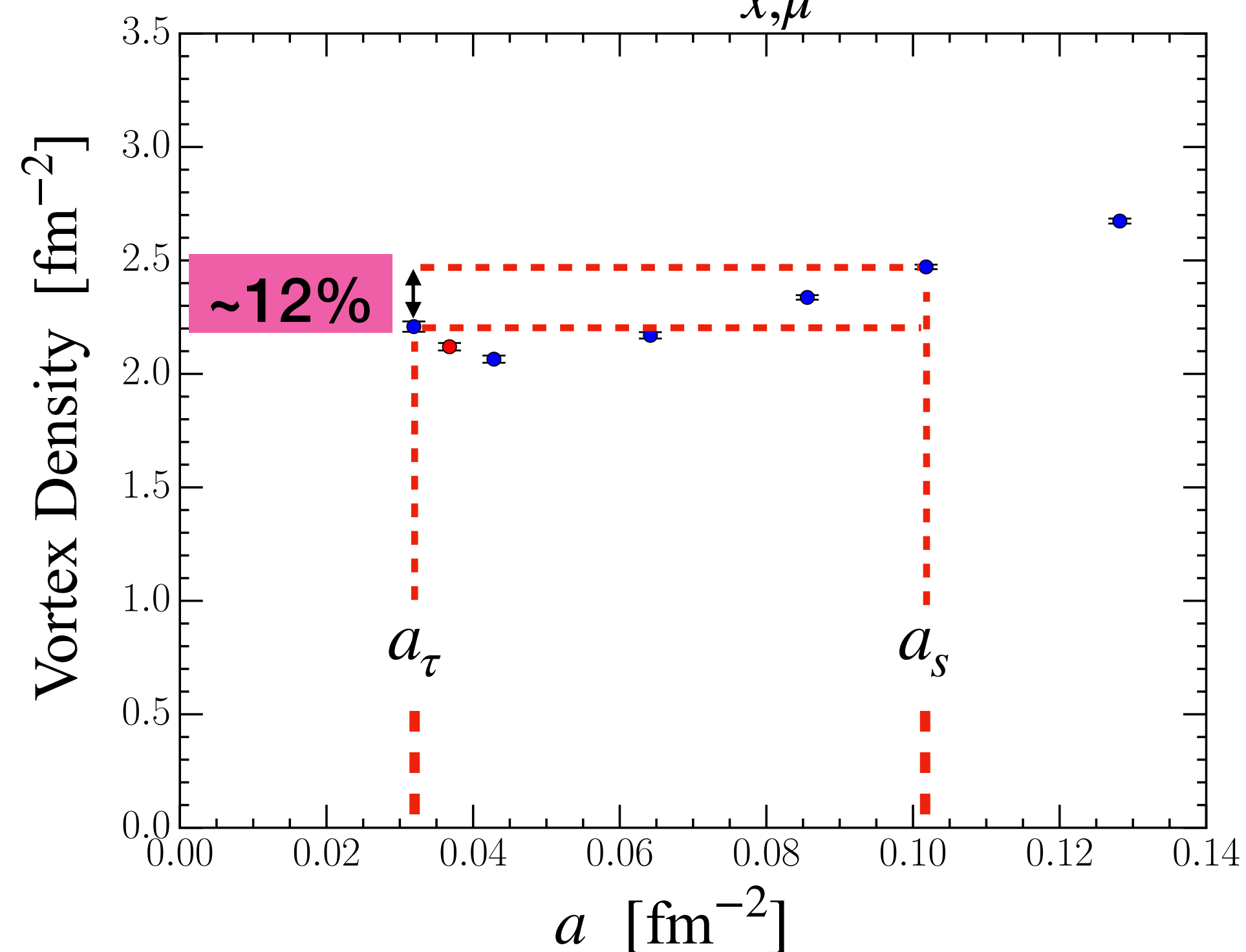
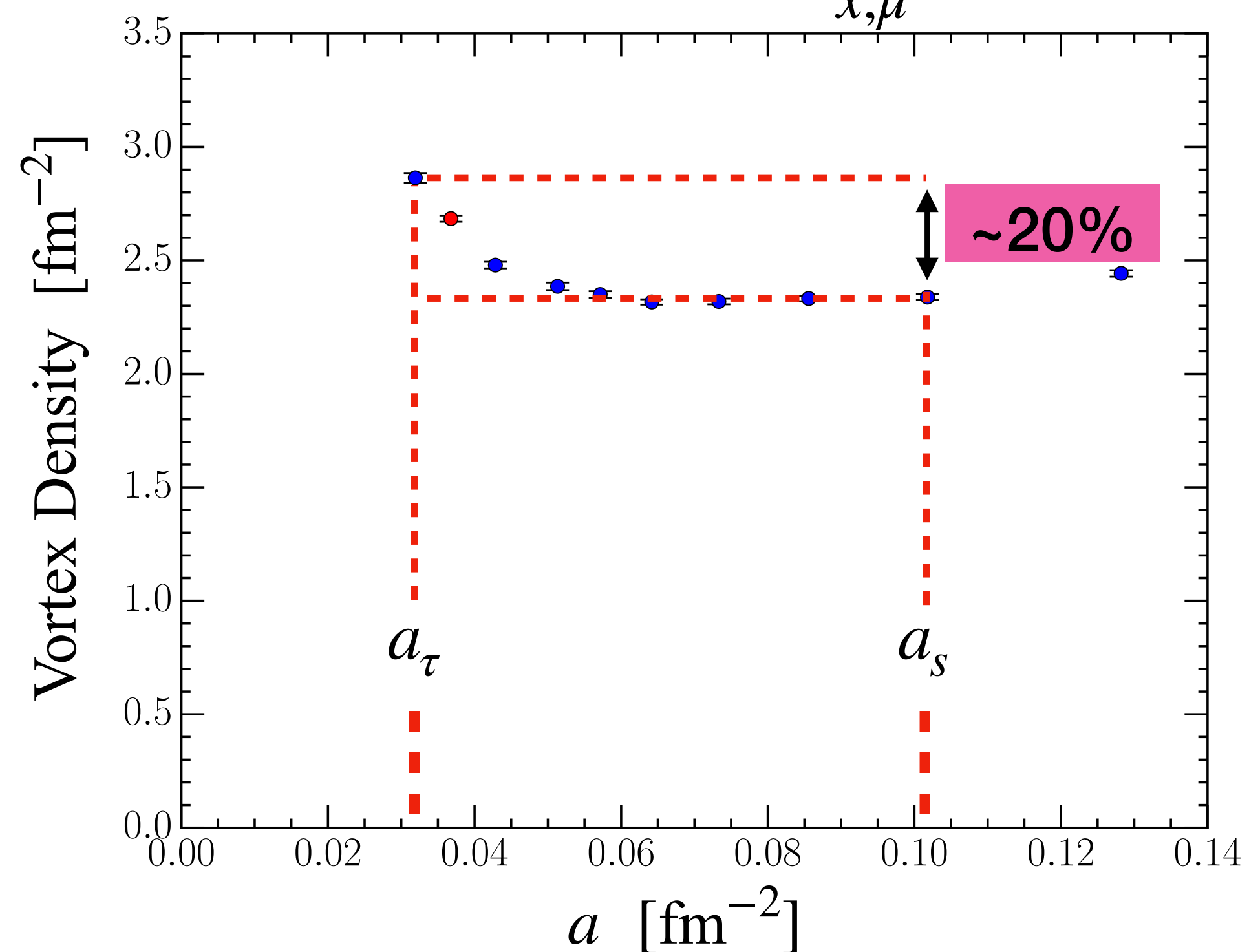
## Quenched Isotropic Scaling Plots

To fix to Maximal Centre Gauge, key idea is to maximise  $\sum_p |\text{Tr}U_p|$

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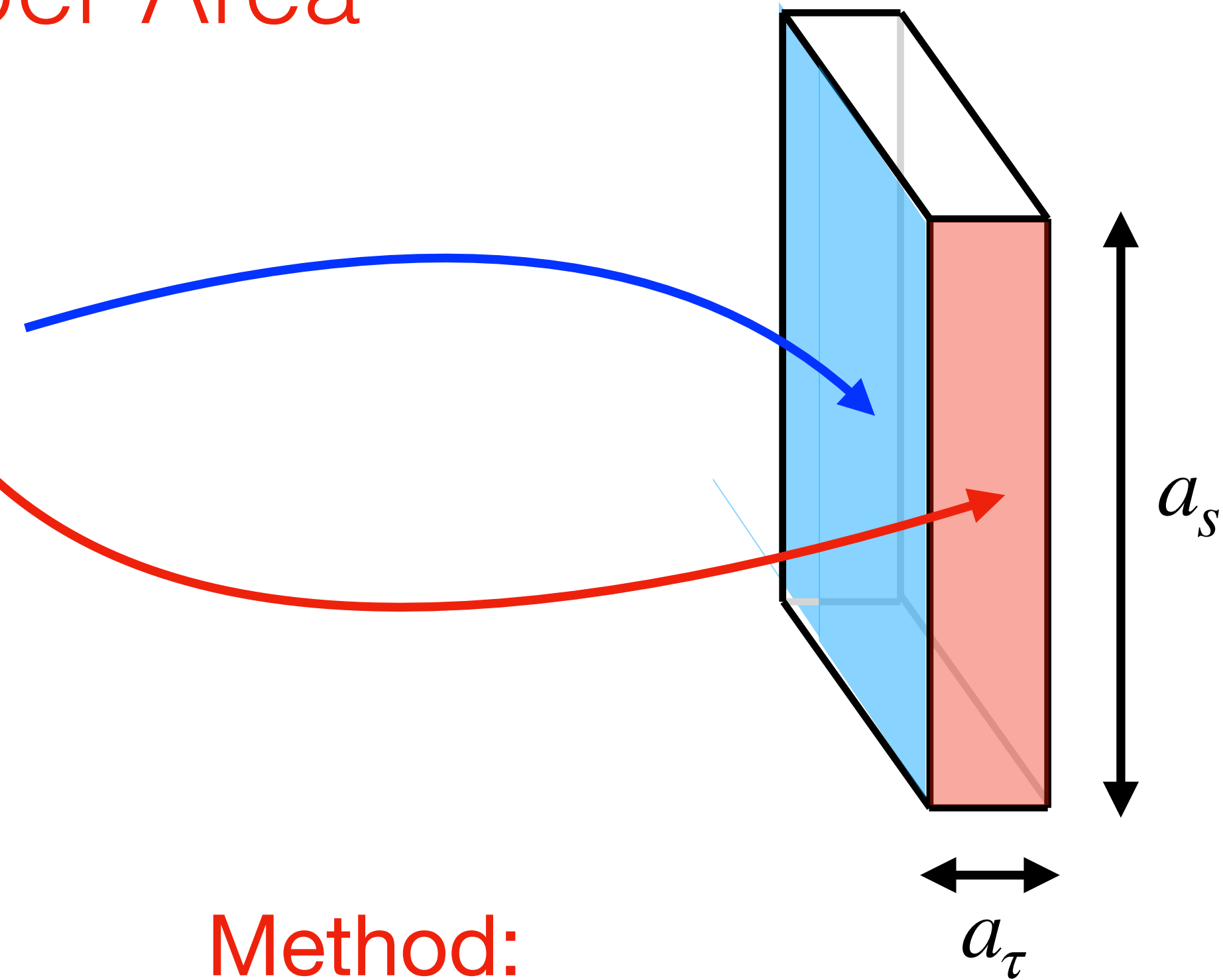
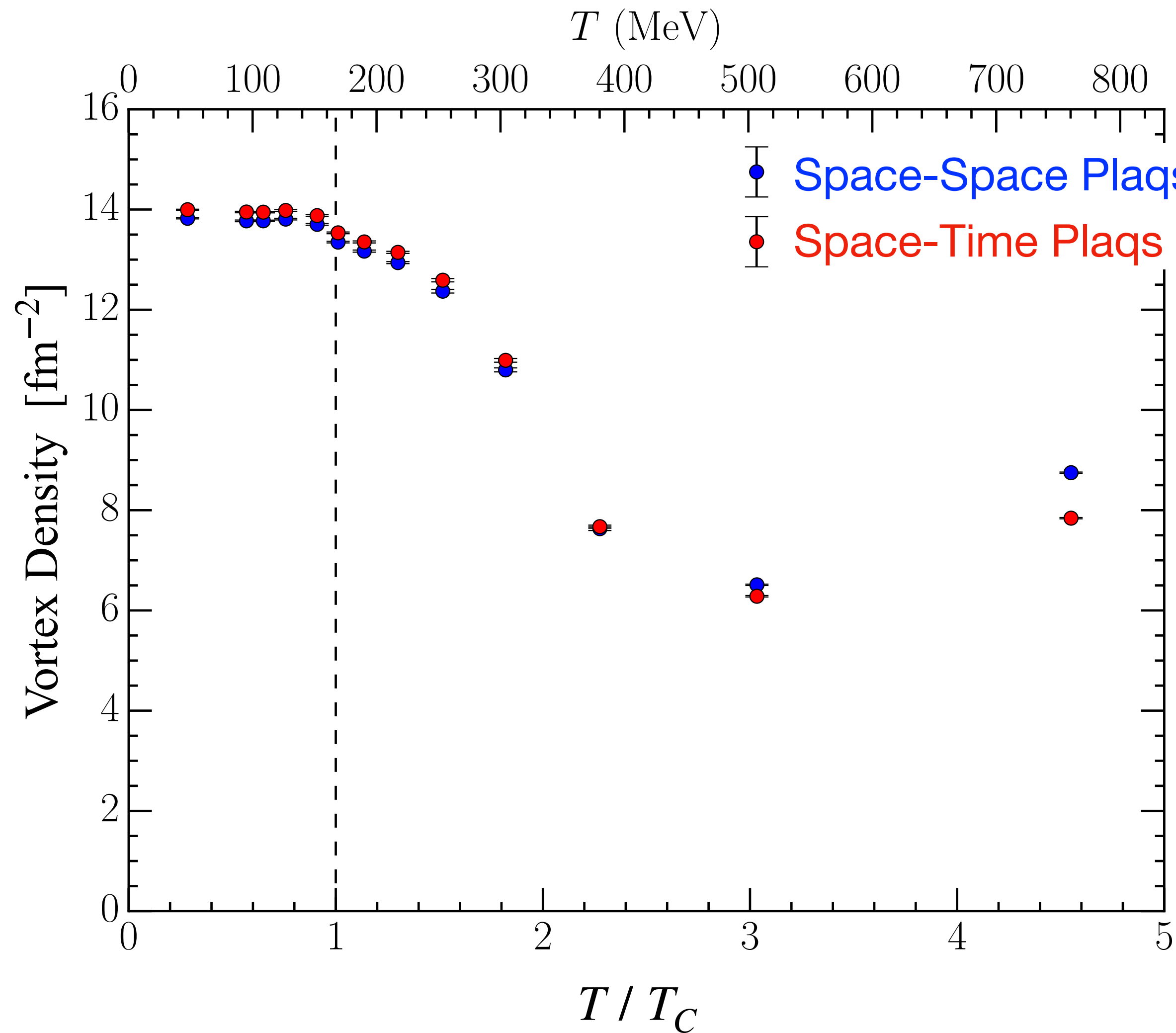
“Mesonic”  $\mathcal{F} = \sum_{x,\mu} |\text{Tr}U_\mu(x)|^2$

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# Vortex Density

Number per Area



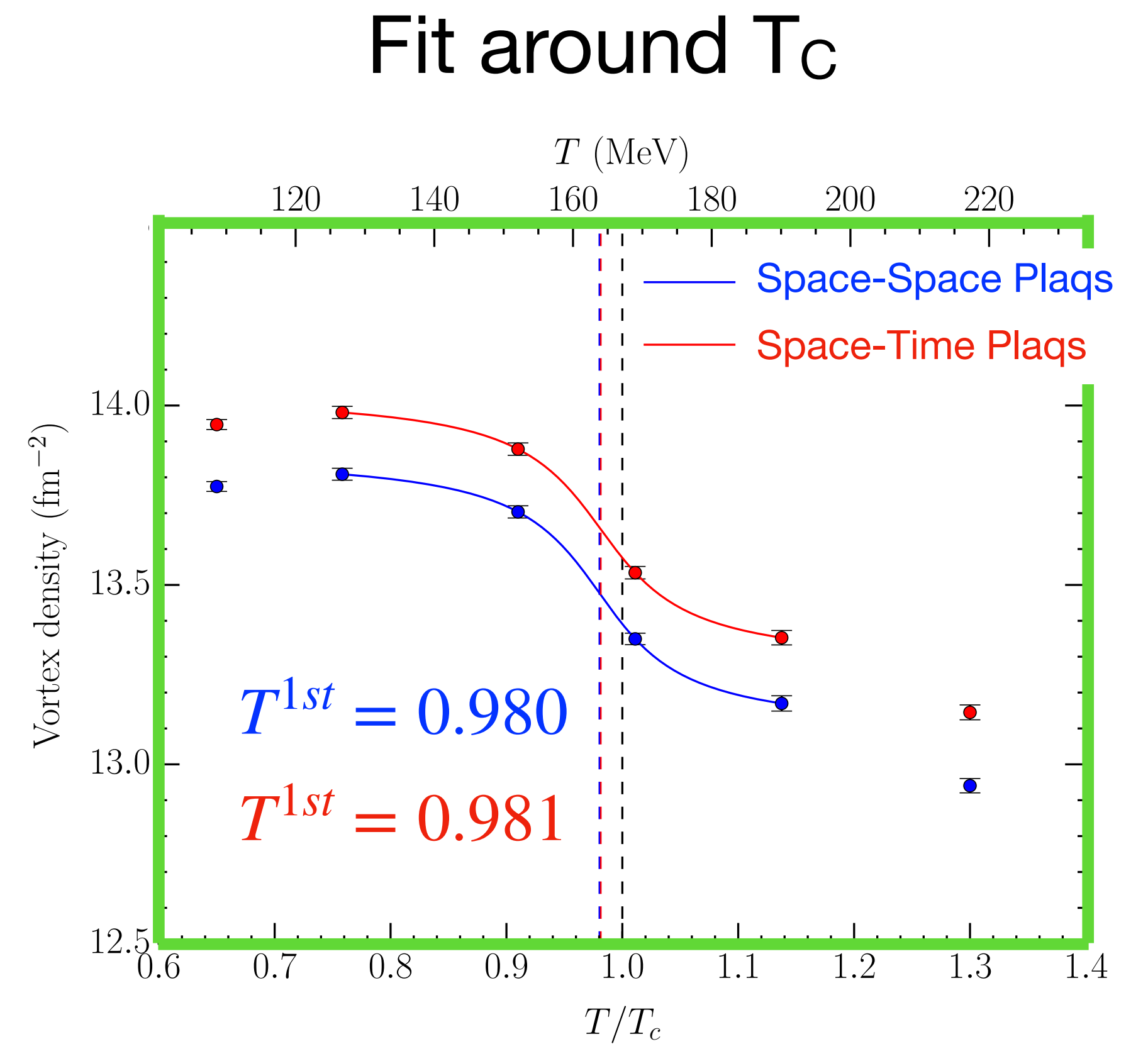
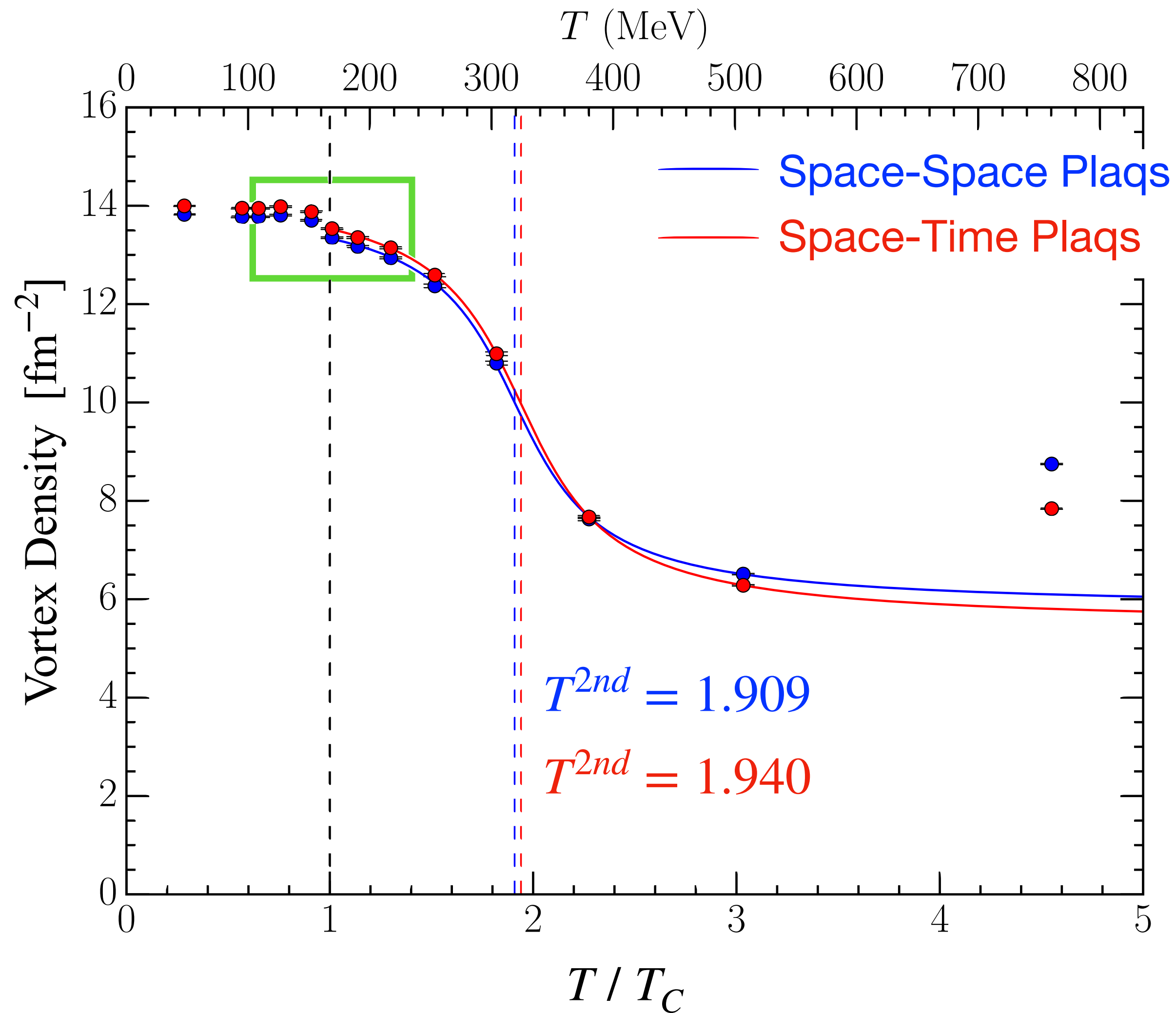
Method:

1. MCG with isotropic functional
2. MCG with anisotropic

$T_C$  from Chiral Condensate

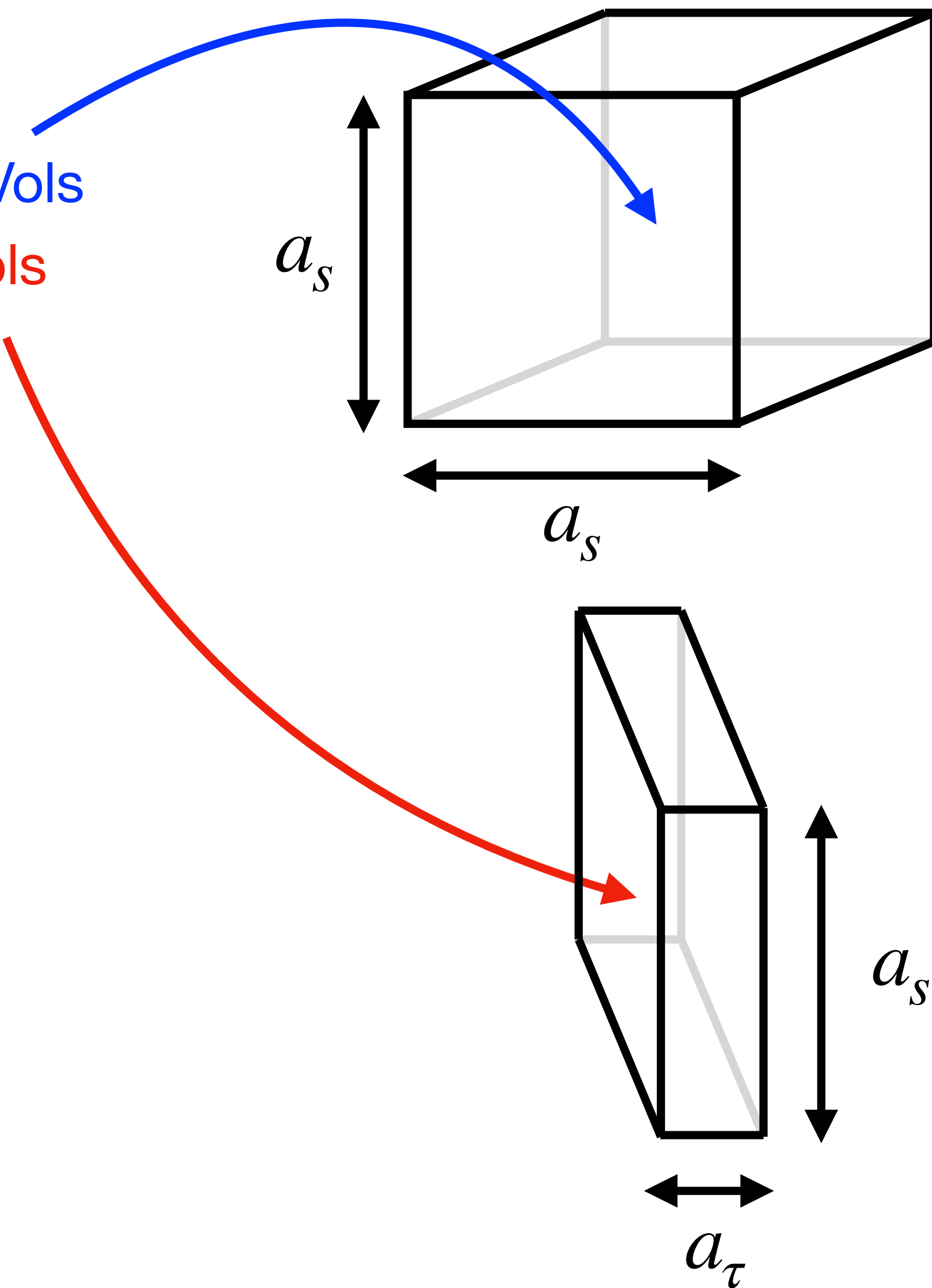
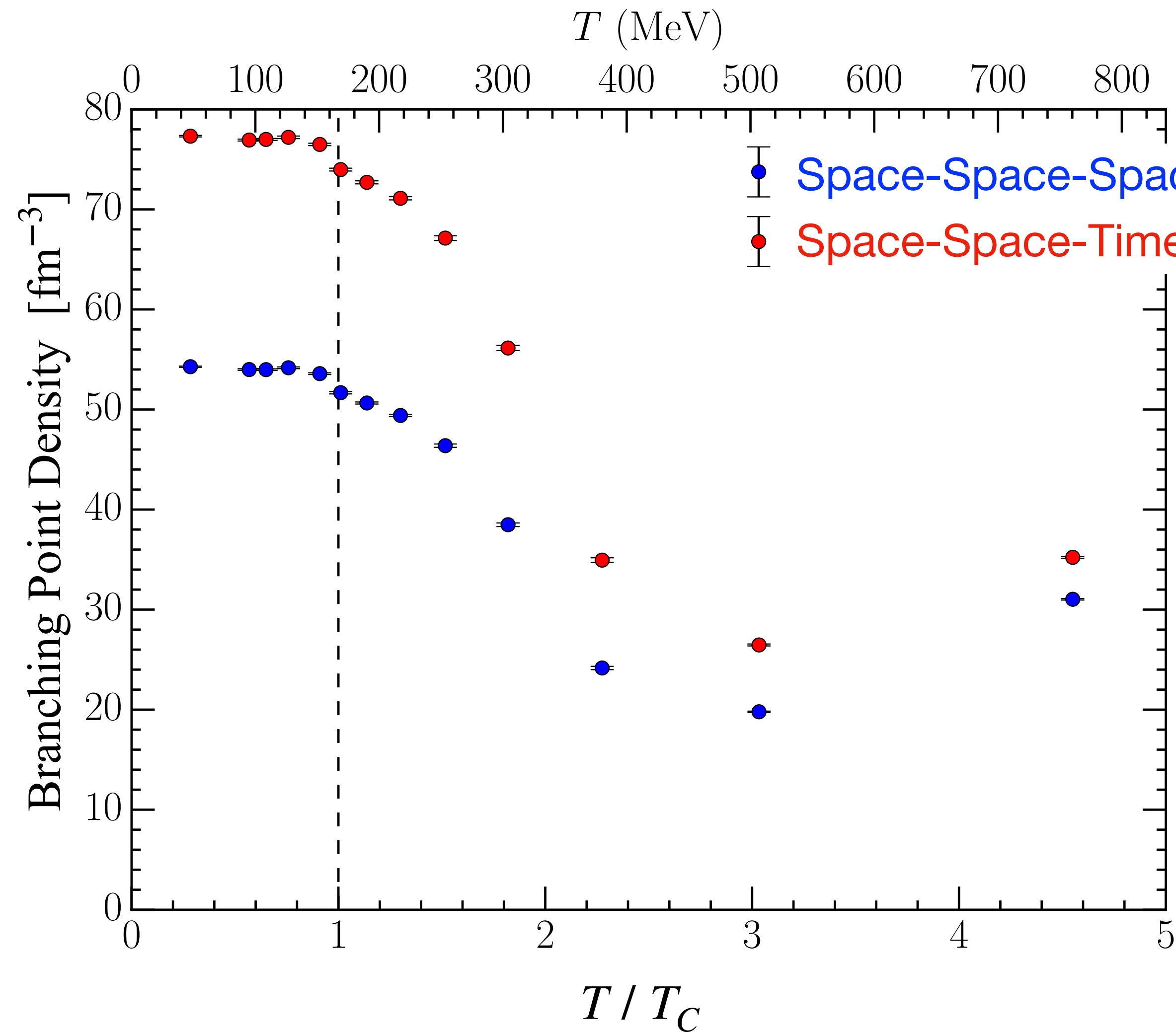
# Vortex Density

## Fits around transitions



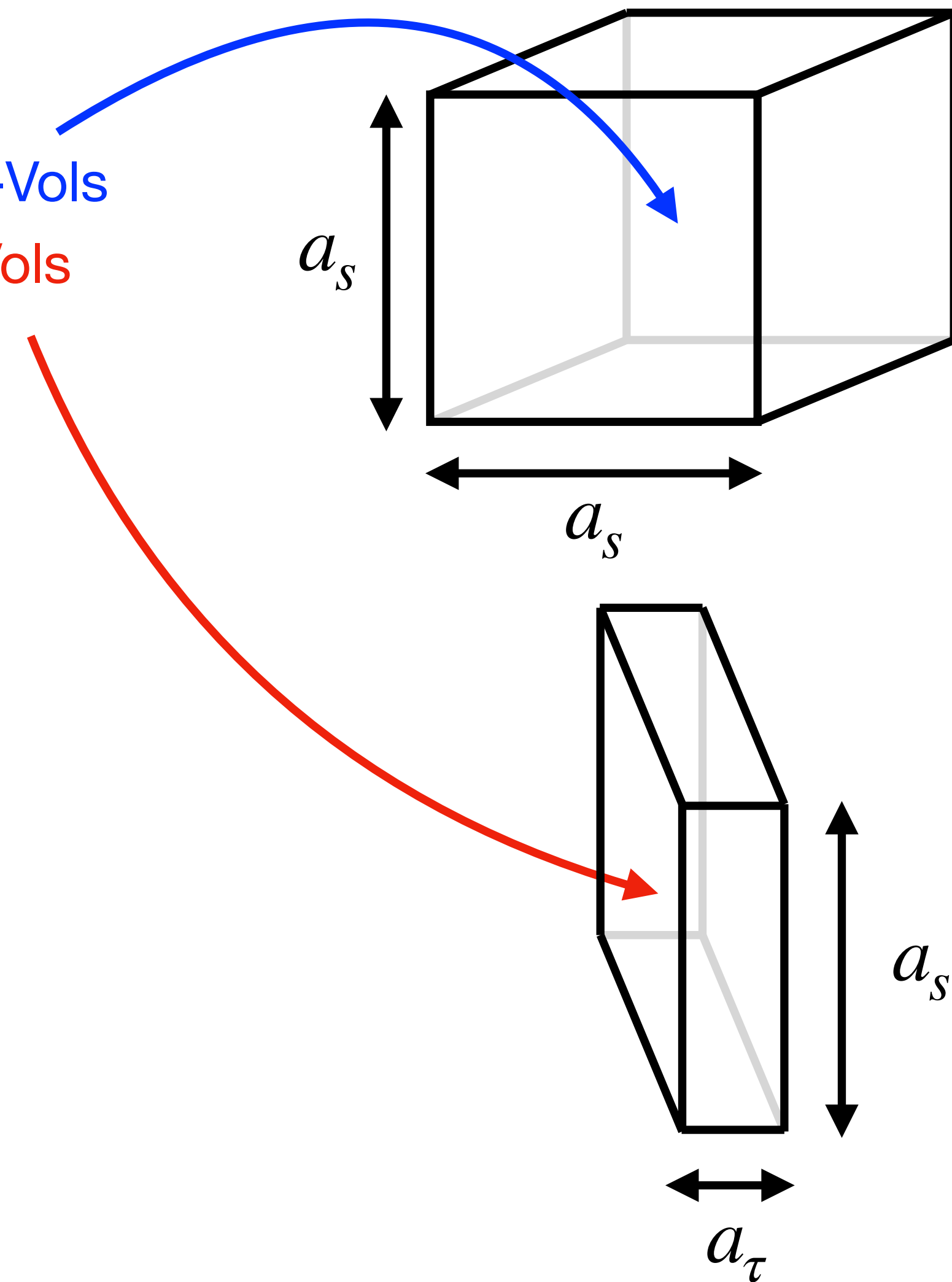
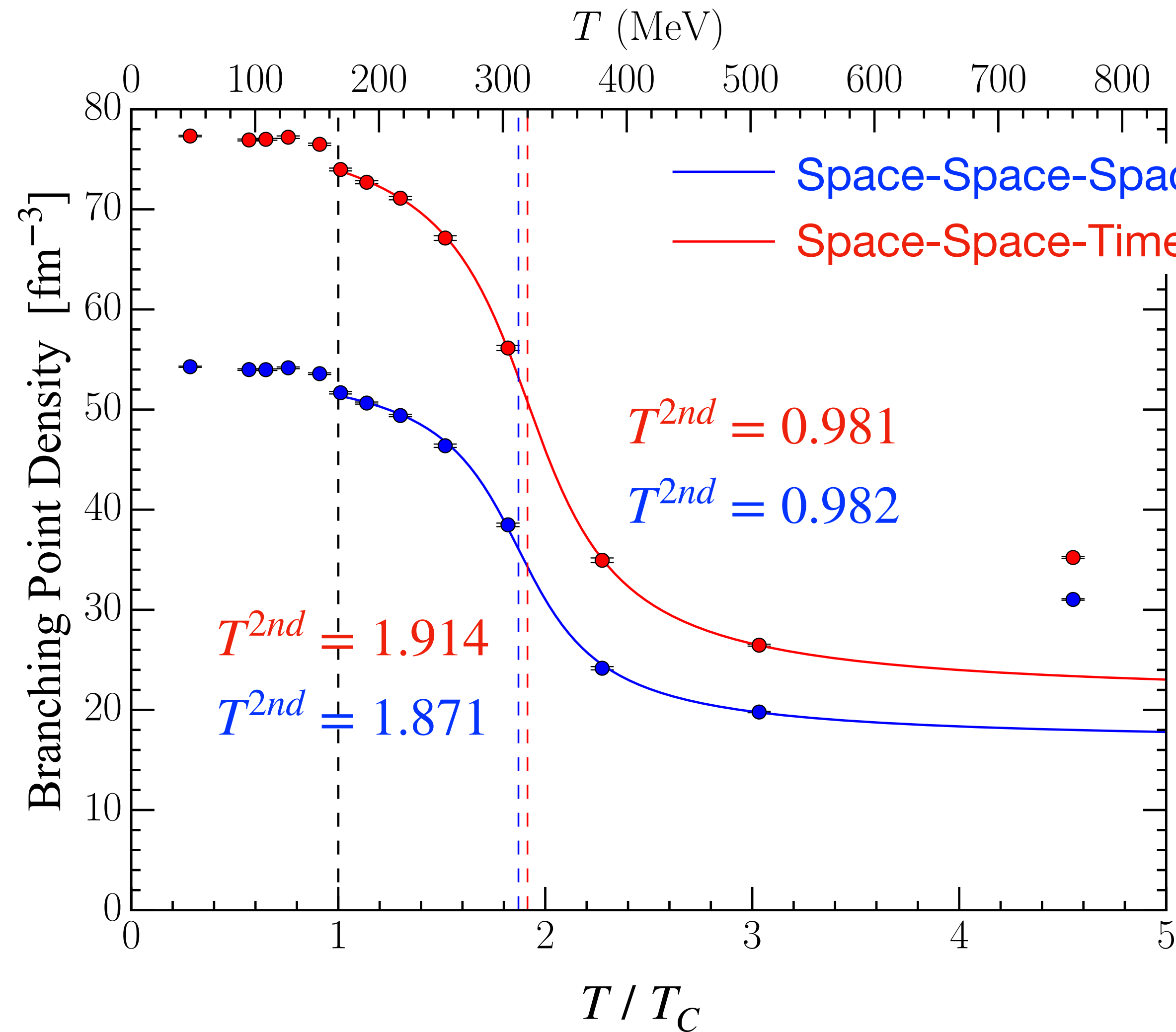
# Branching Point Density

Number per 3-Volume



# Branching Point Density

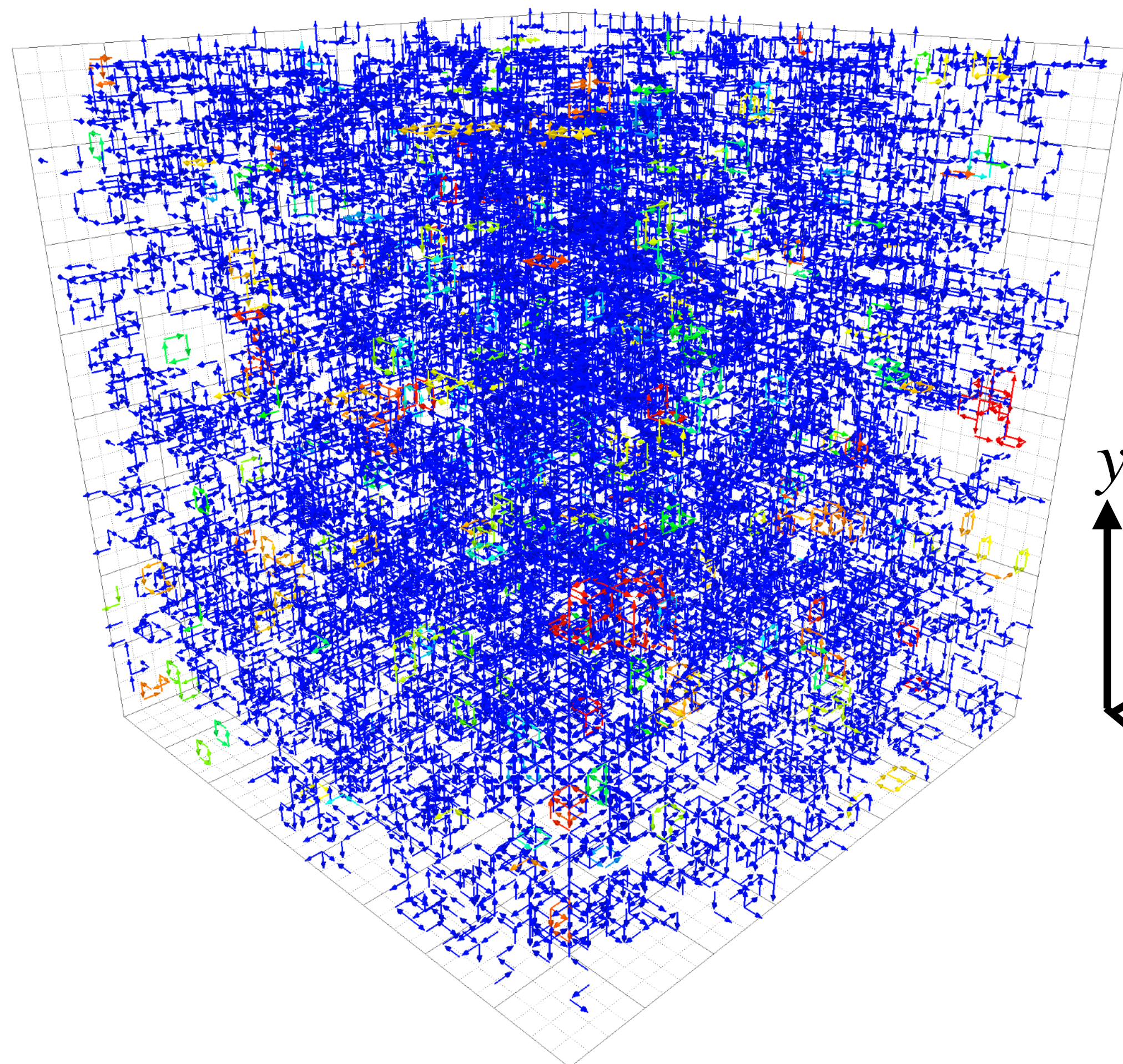
Number per 3-Volume



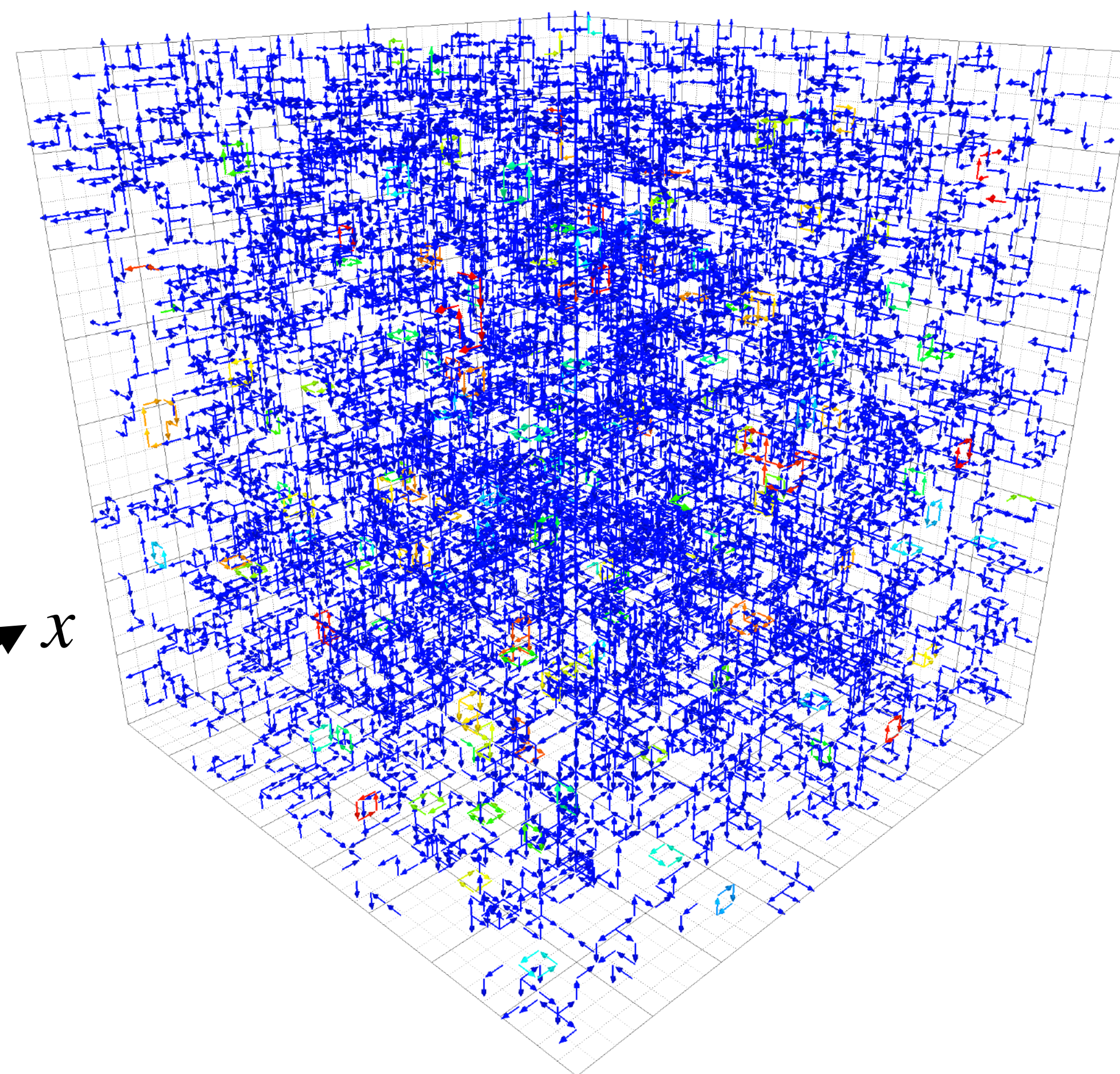
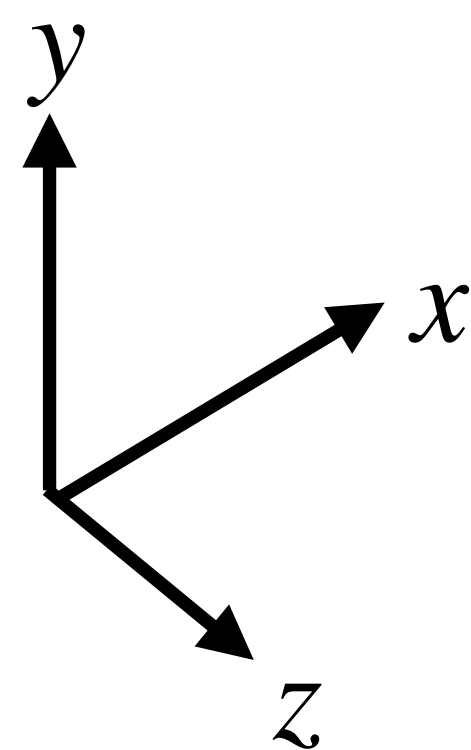


# Visualisation

## Space-Space-Space



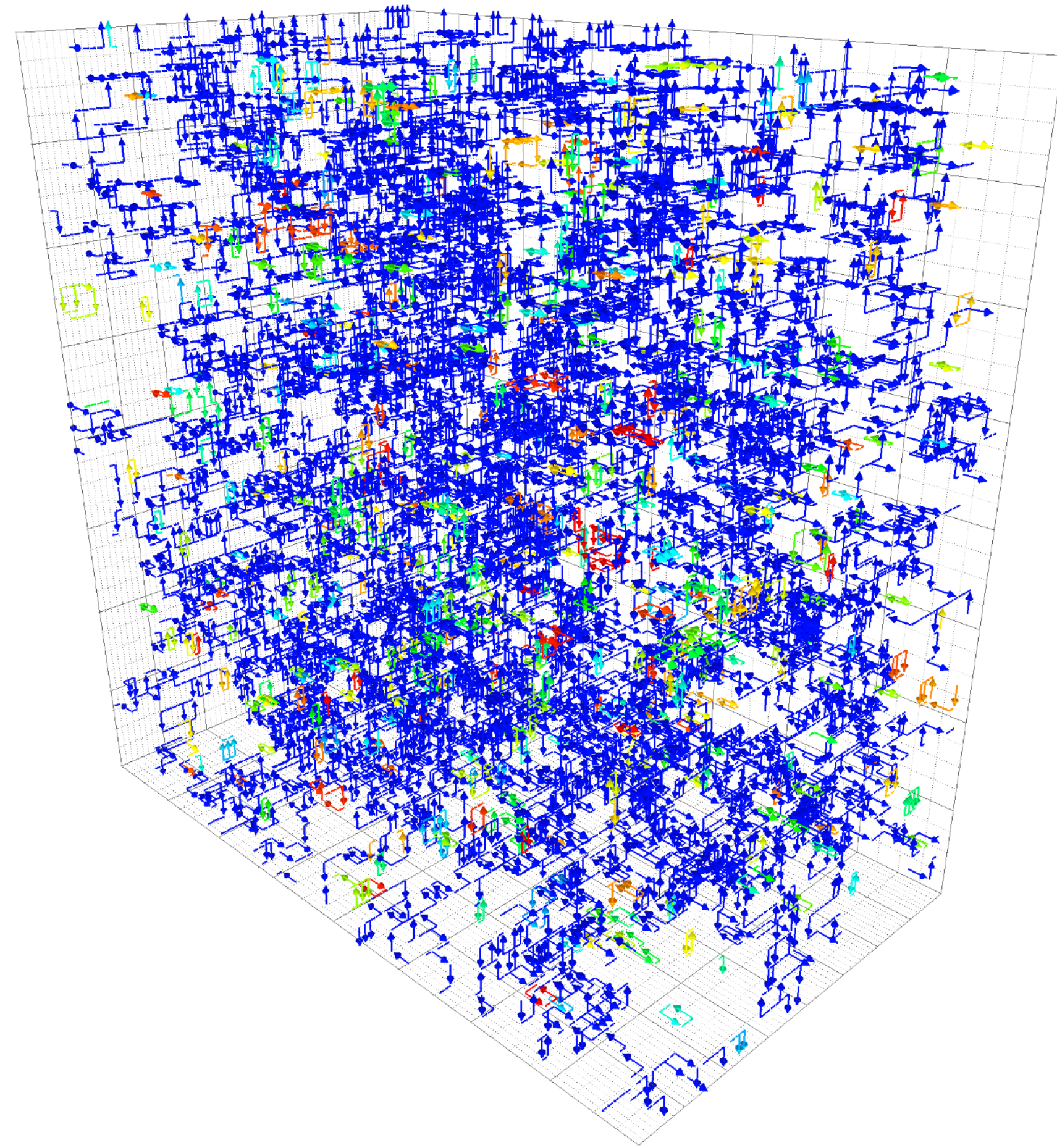
Nt=64 T=95MeV



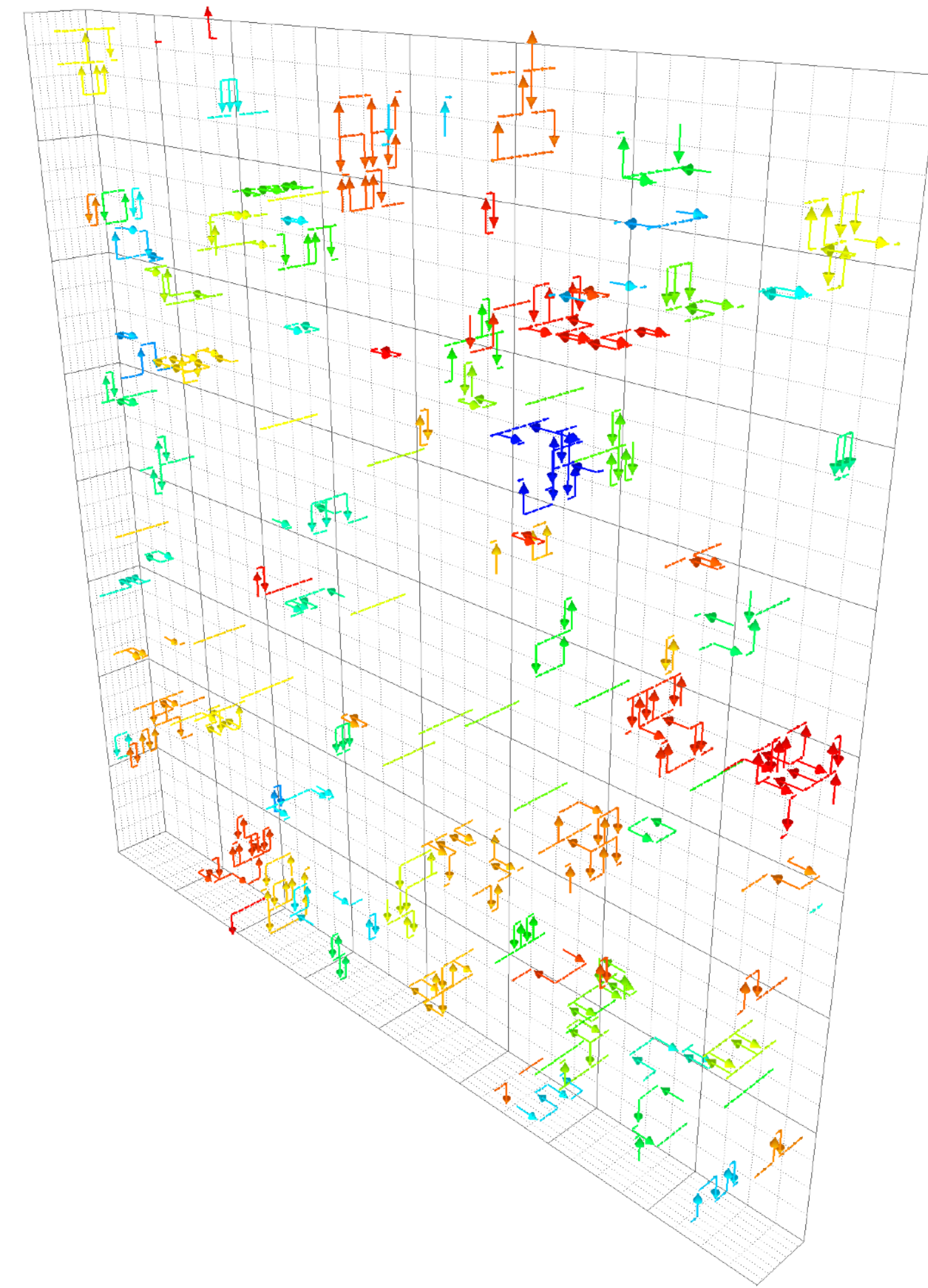
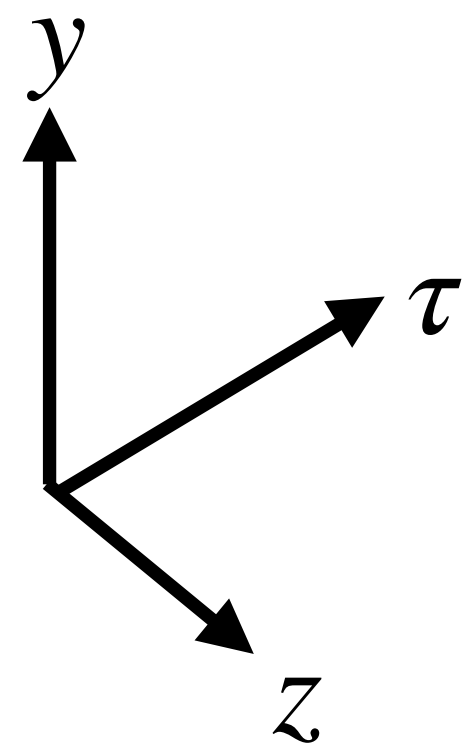
Nt=8 T=760MeV



# Visualisation Space-Space-Time



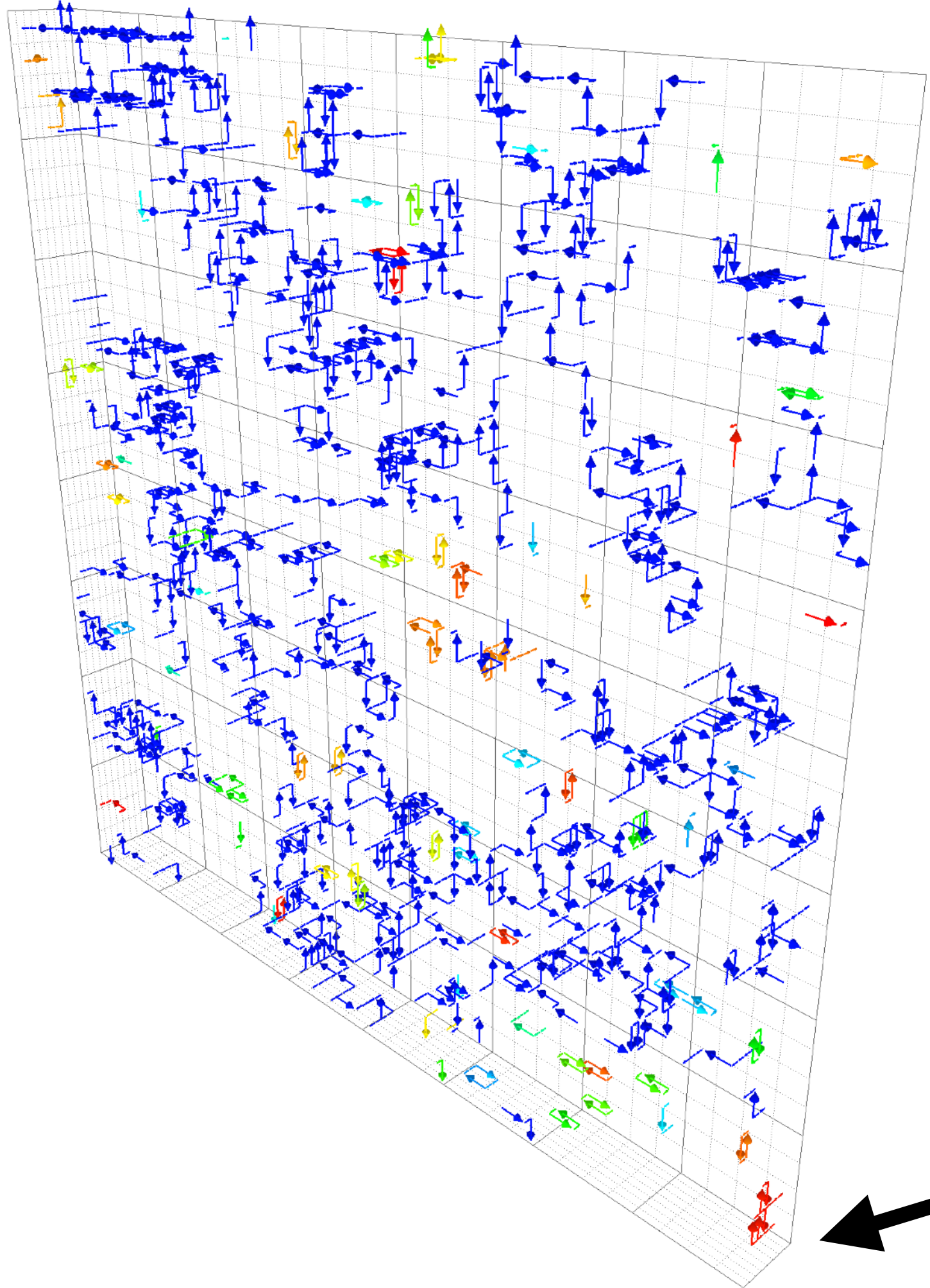
Nt=64 T=95MeV



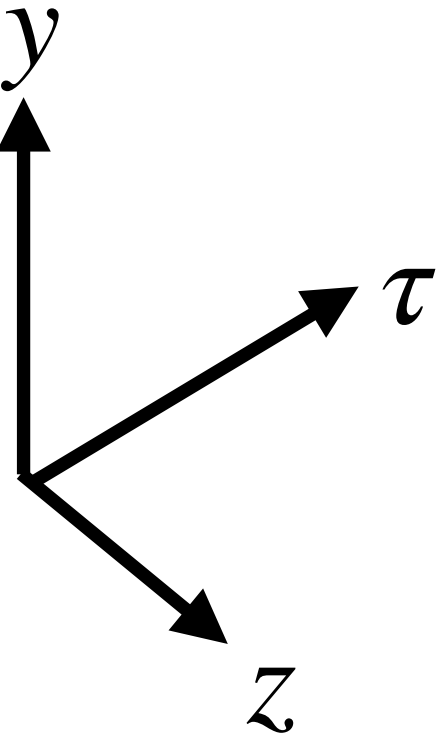
Nt=8 T=760MeV



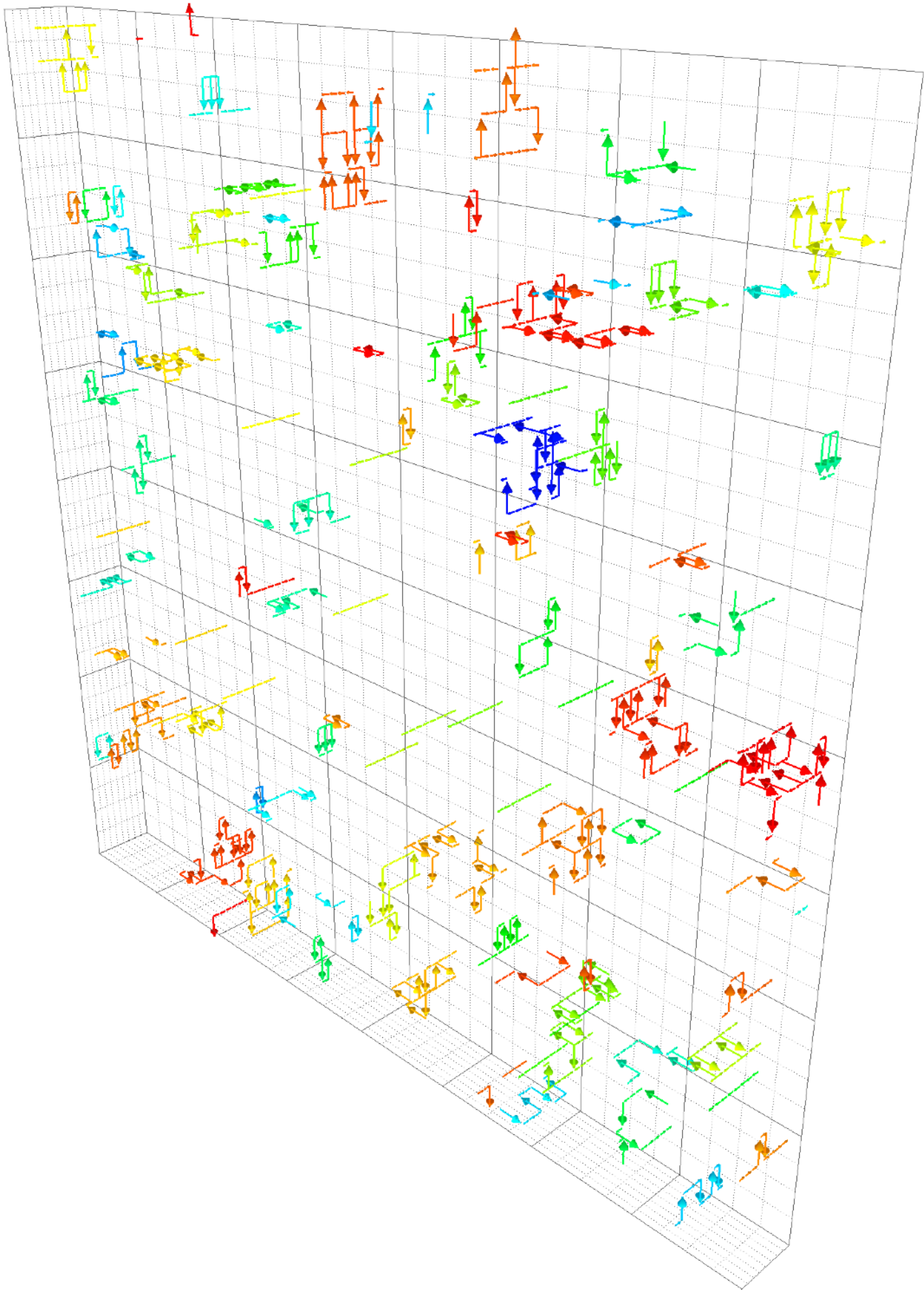
# Visualisation Space-Space-Time



Nt=64 T=95MeV



CROPPED  
to 8 timeslices



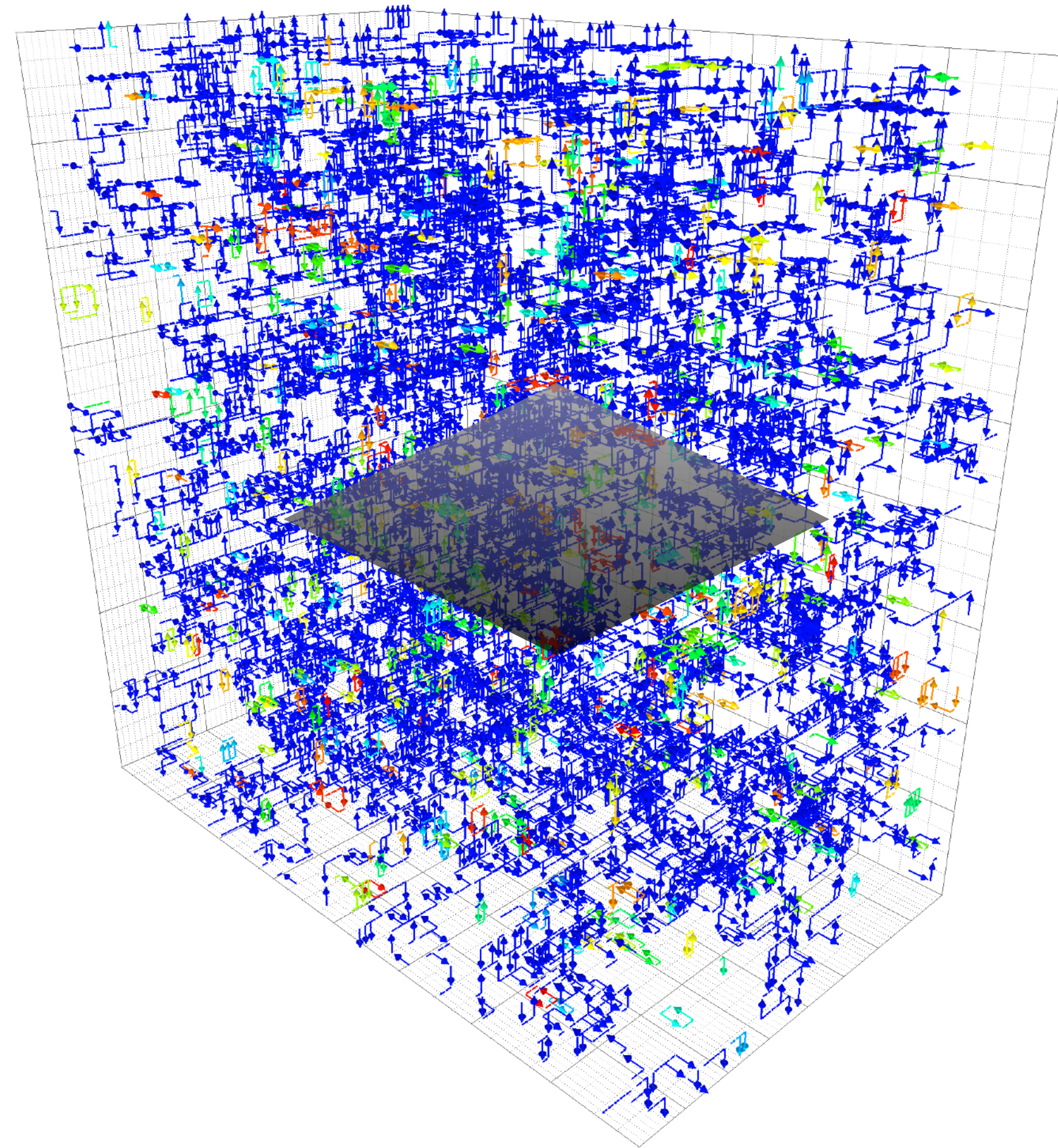
Nt=8 T=760MeV



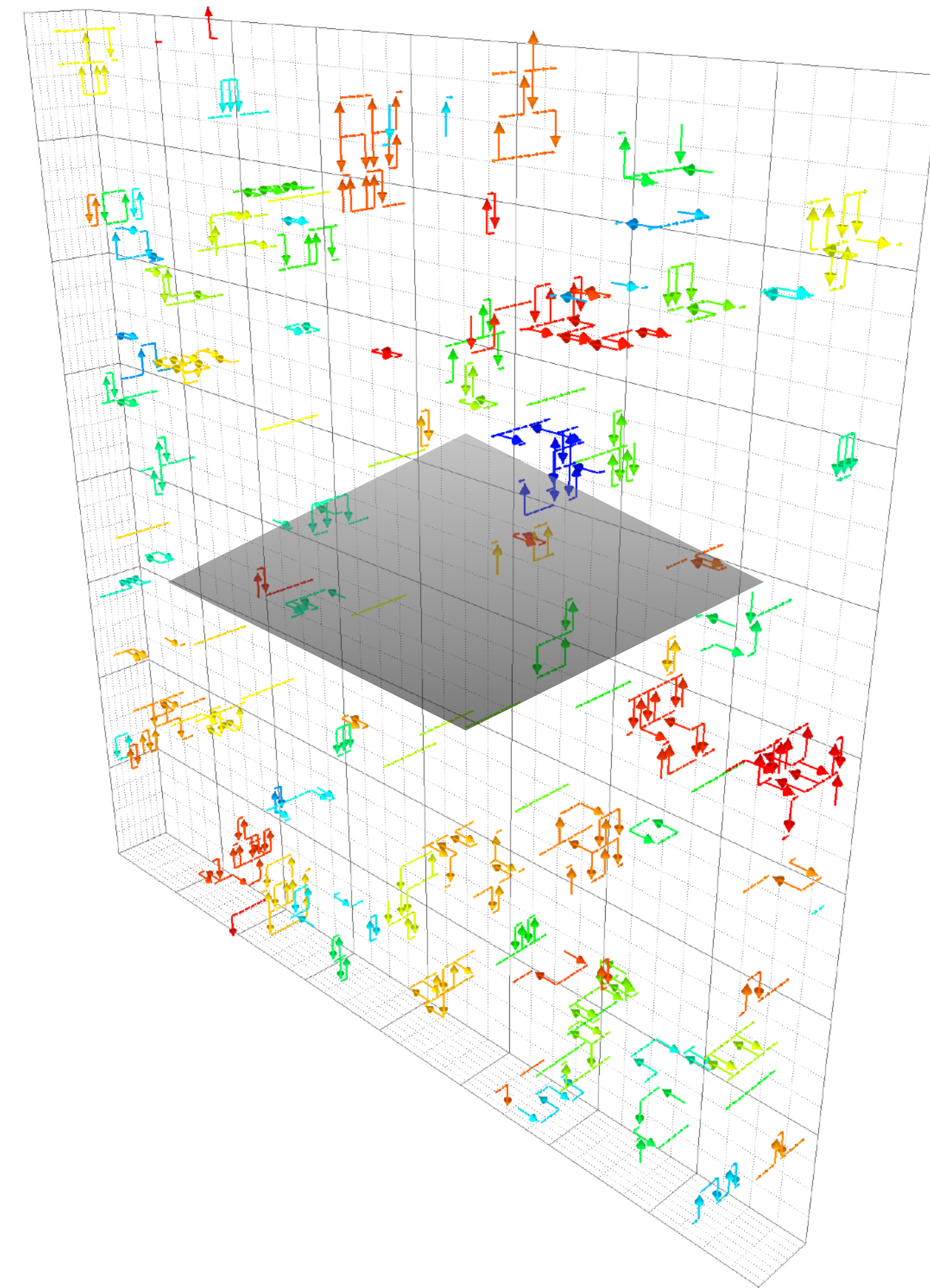
# Connection with Percolation and Area Law

Engelhardt, Langfeld, Reinhardt, Tennert Phys.Rev.D 61 (2000) 054504

Mickley, Kamleh, Leinweber 2405.10670



Nt=64 T=95MeV

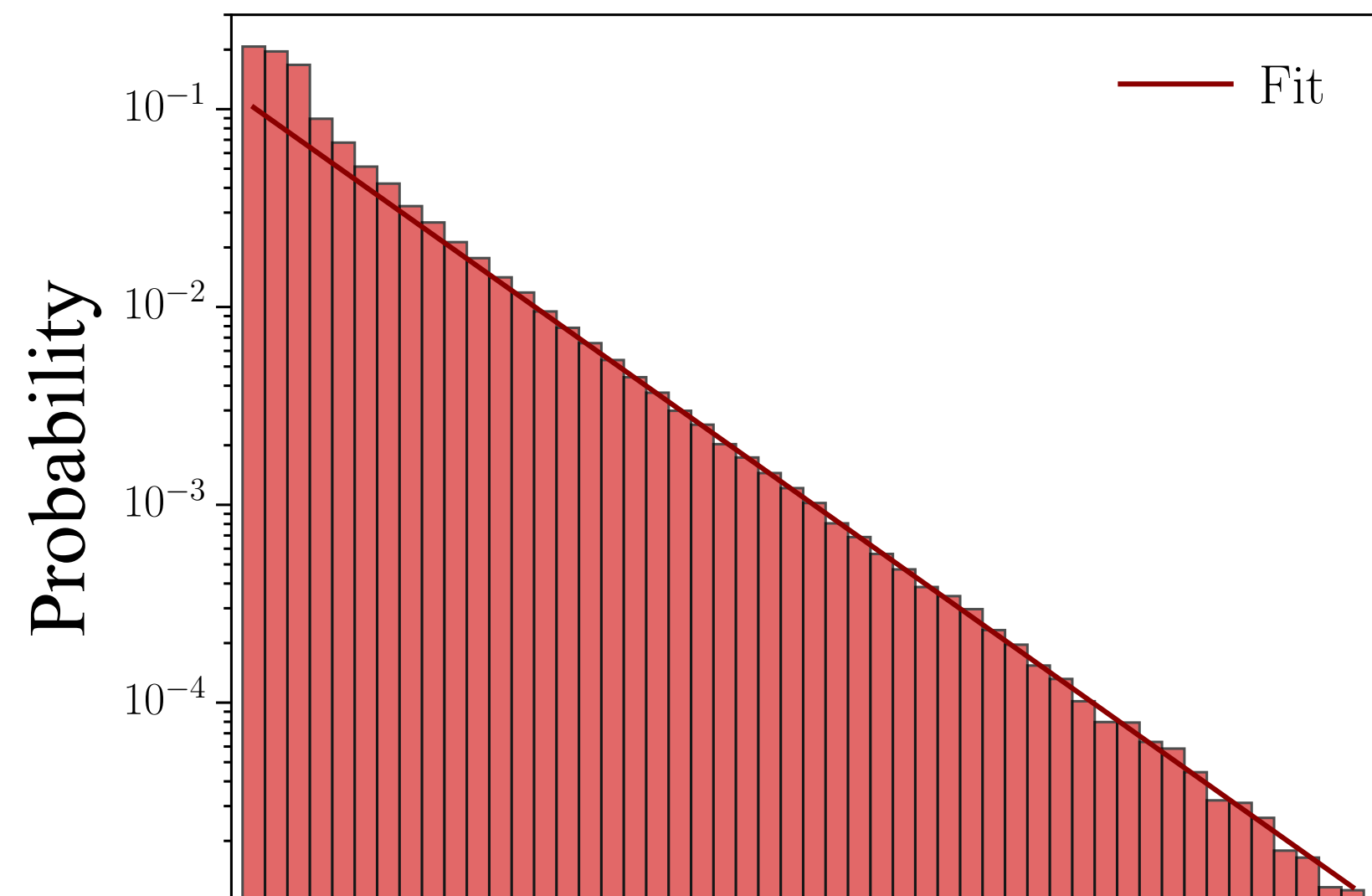


Nt=8 T=760MeV

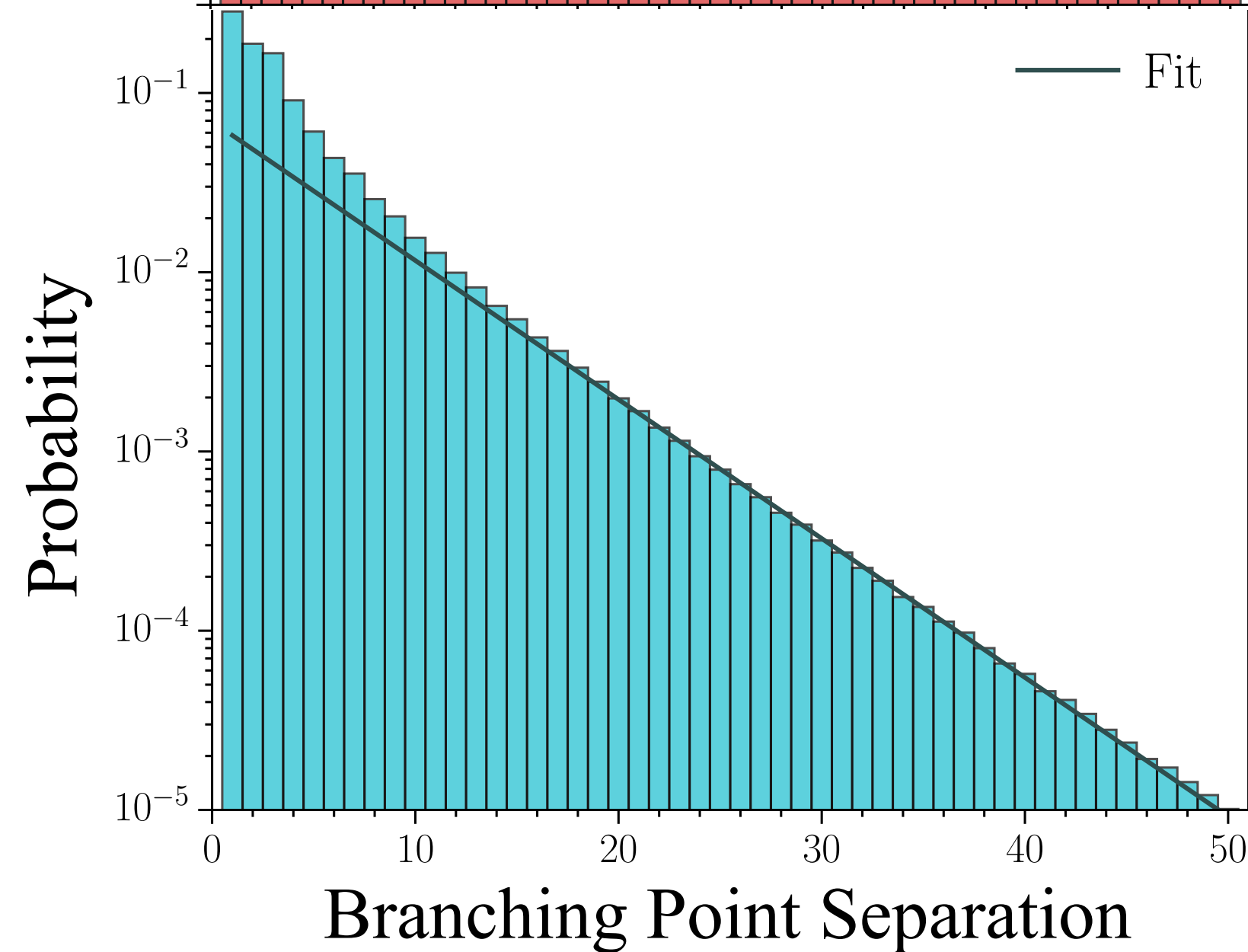


# Branching Probability

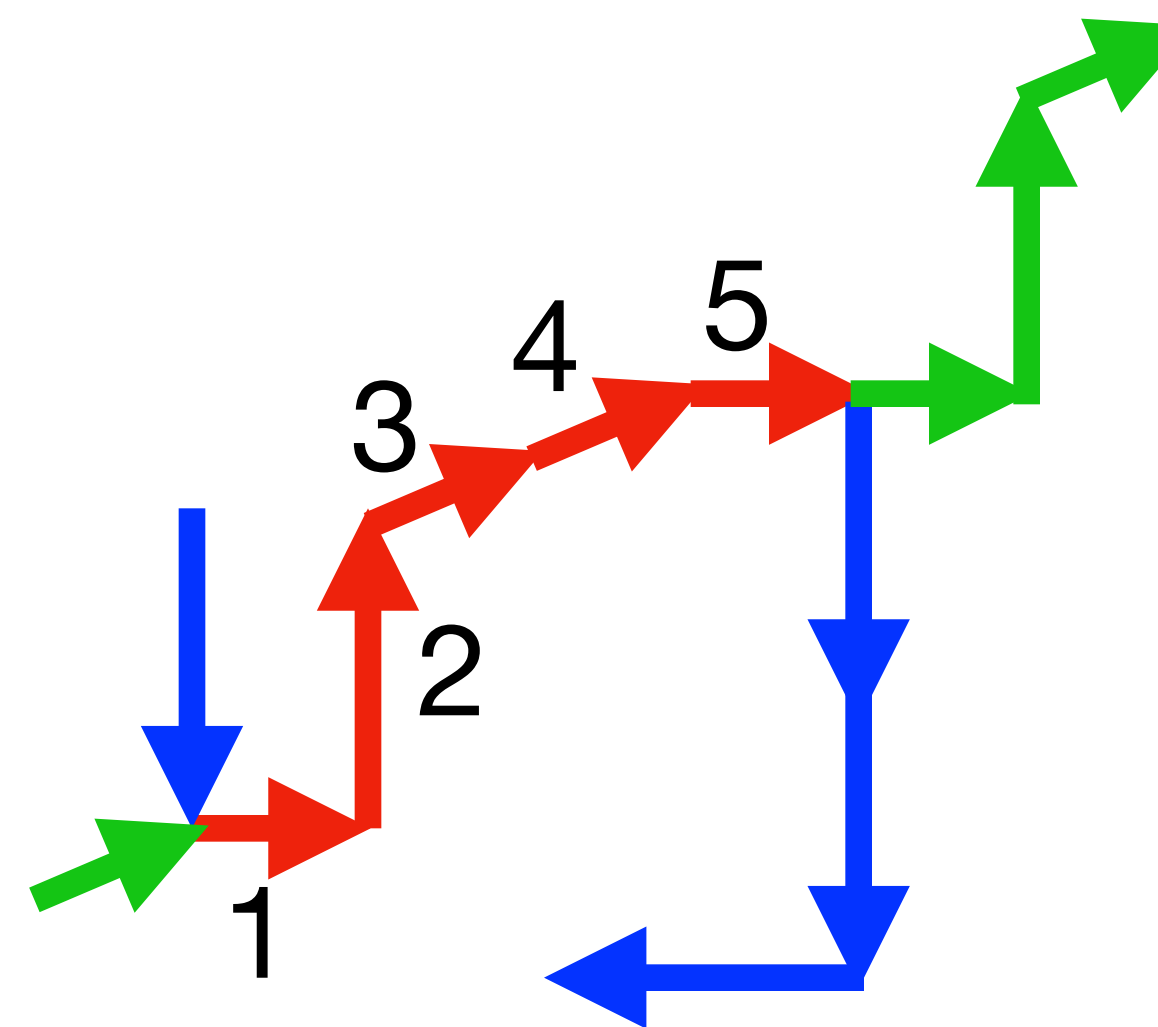
## Space-Space-Time



$Nt=8$   
 $T=760\text{MeV}$

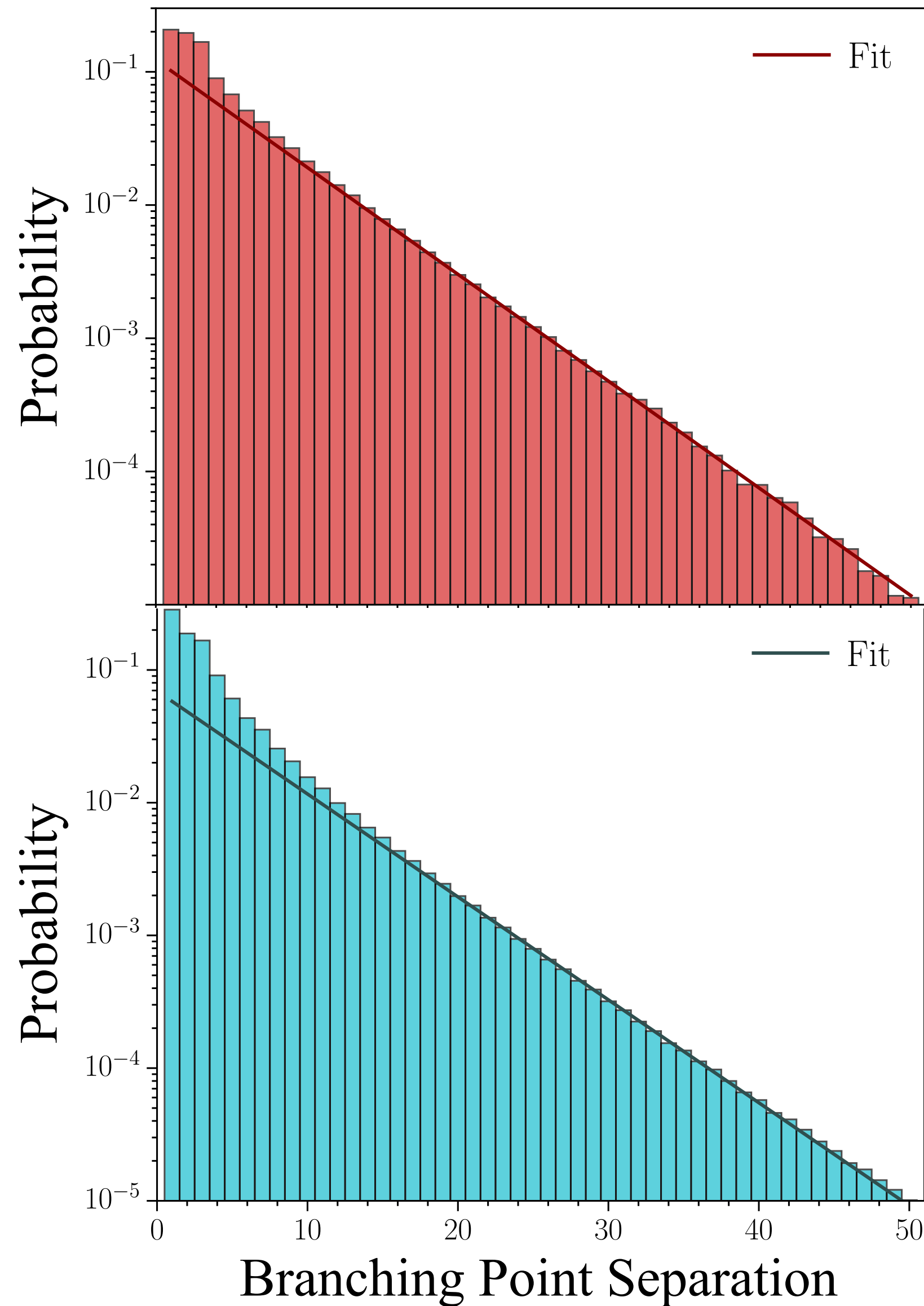


$Nt=64$   
 $T=95\text{MeV}$



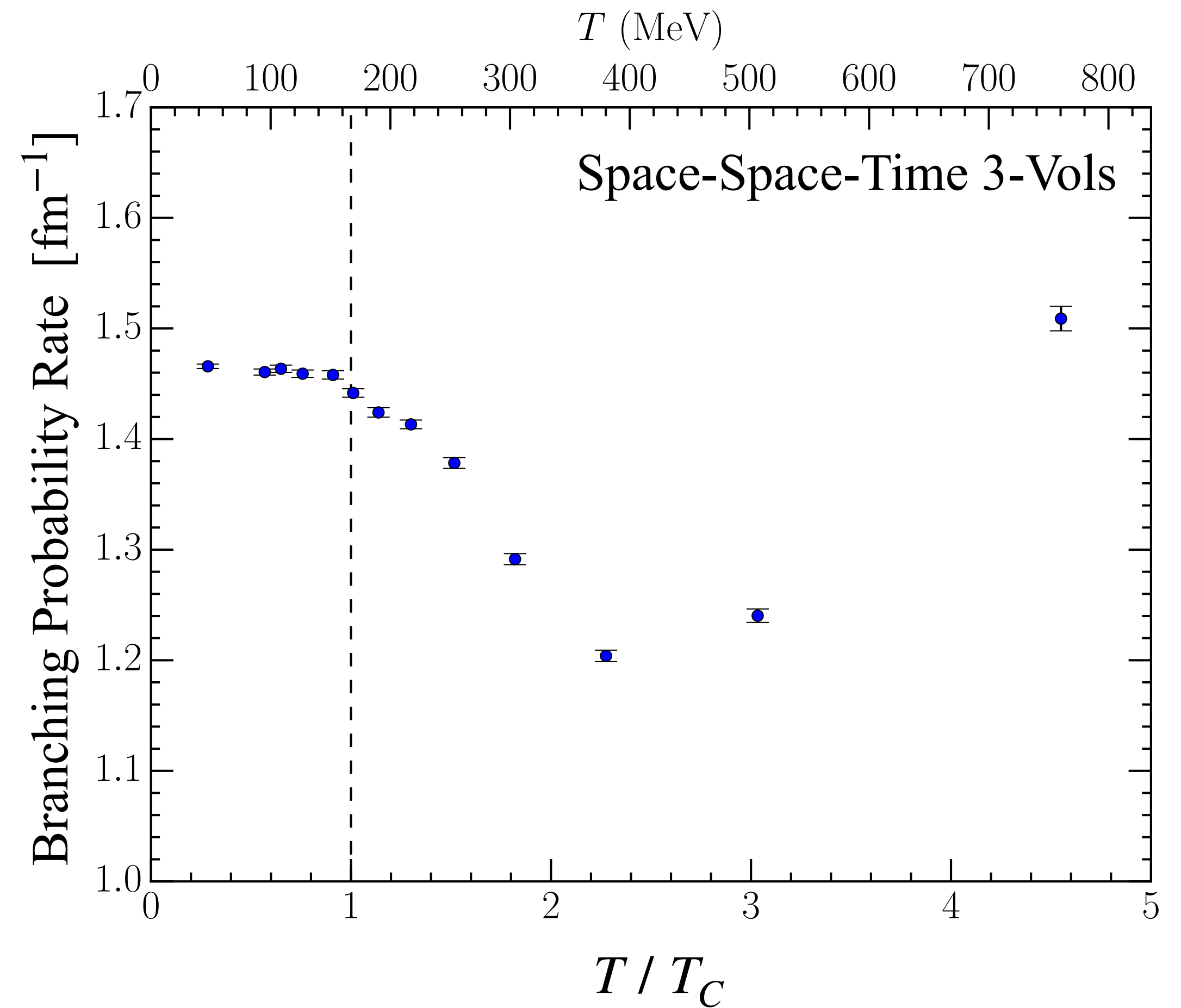
# Branching Probability and Rate

## Space-Space-Time



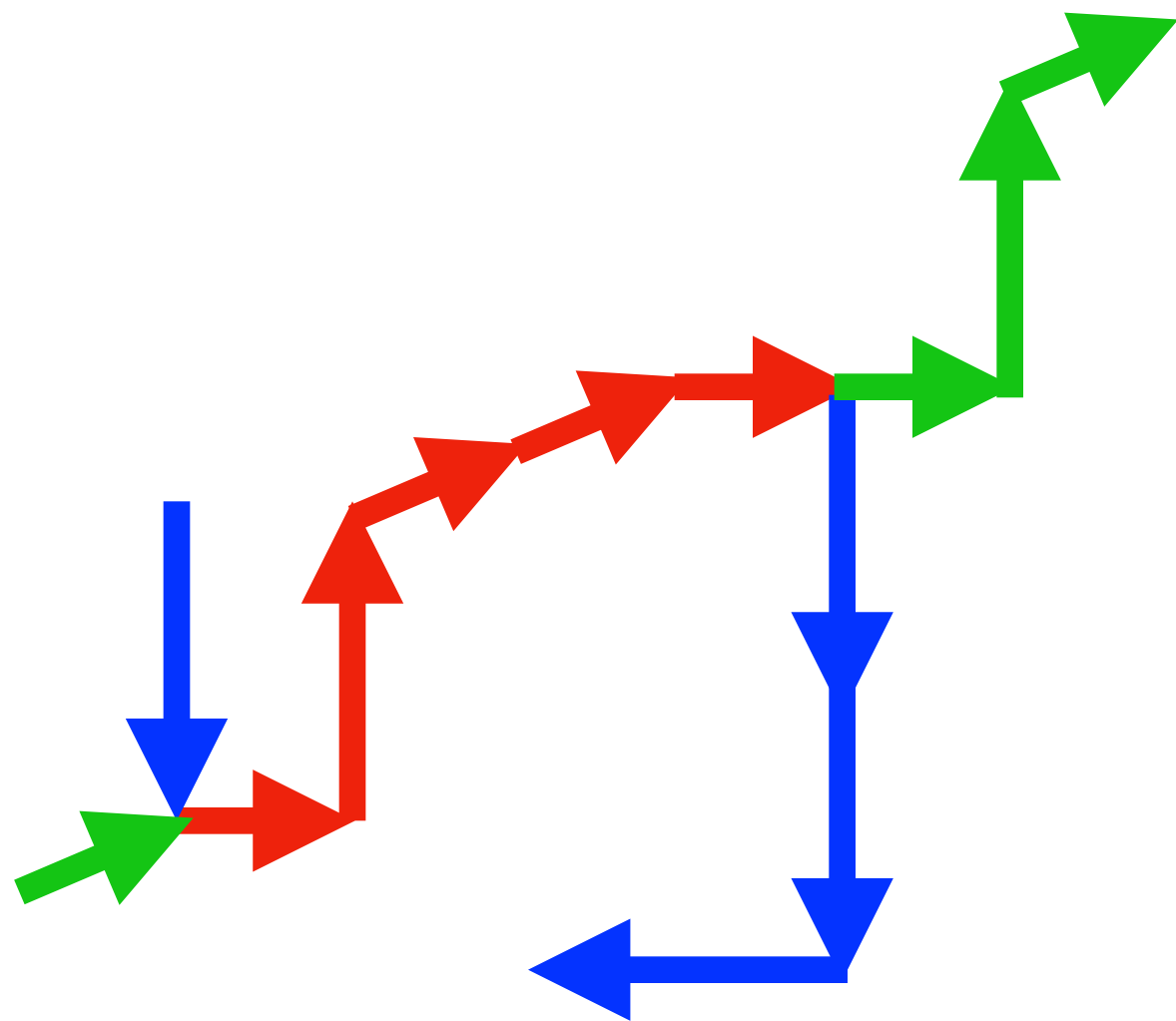
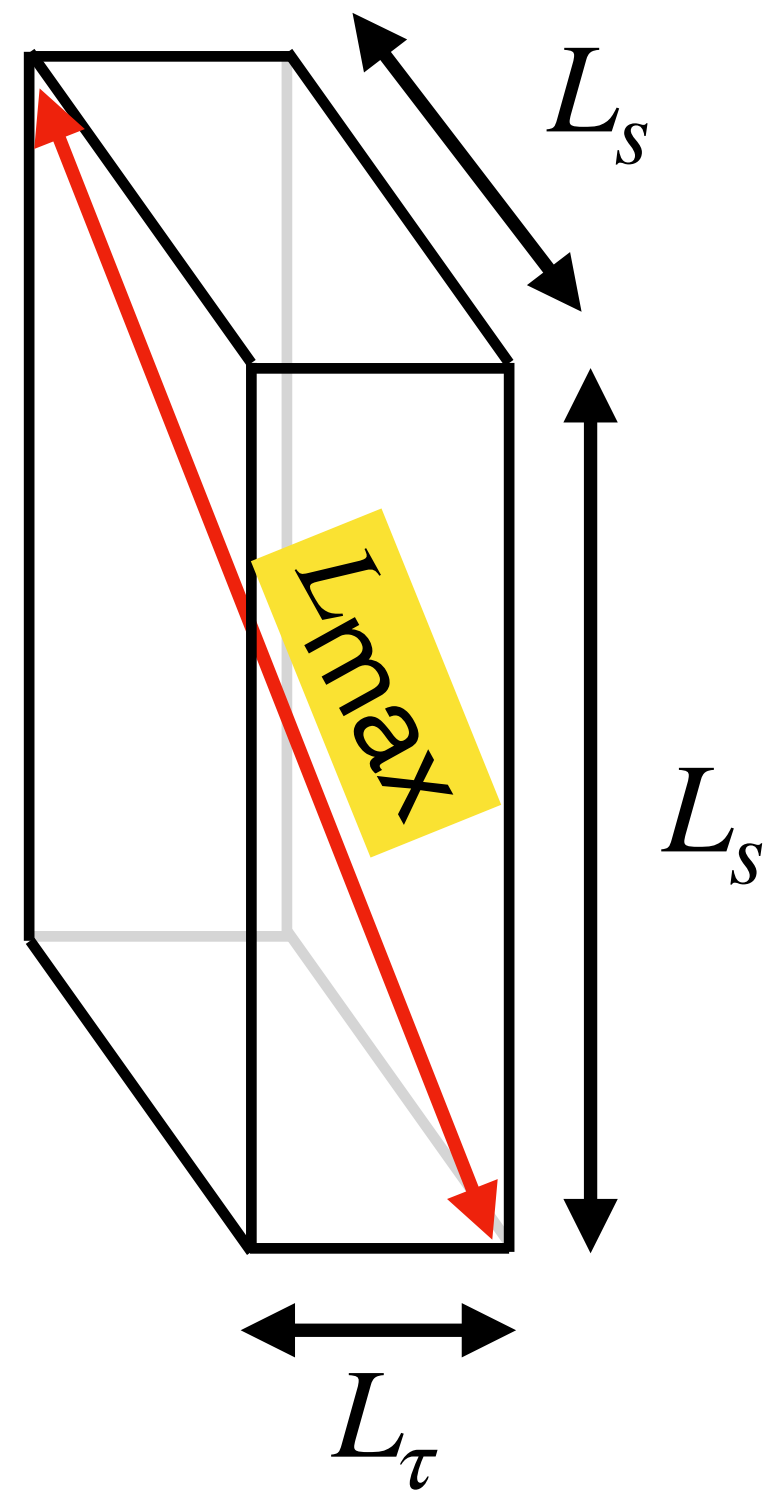
$Nt=8$   
 $T=760\text{MeV}$

$Nt=64$   
 $T=95\text{MeV}$



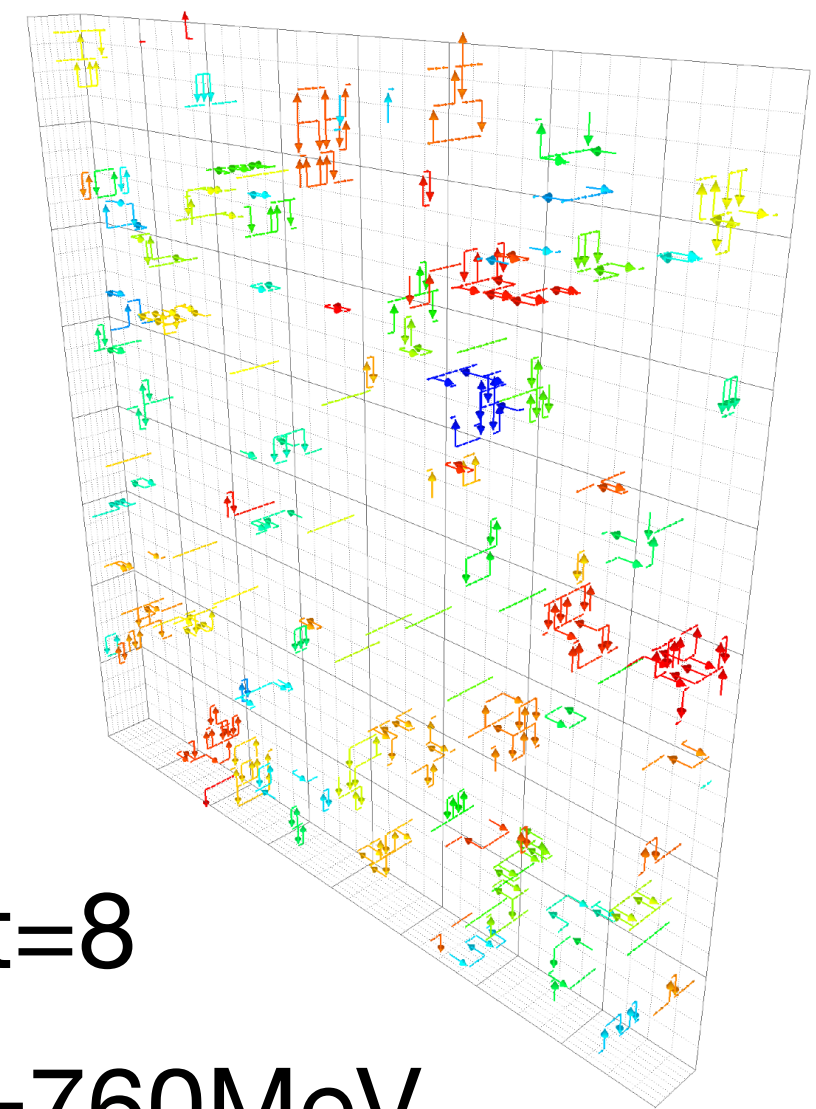
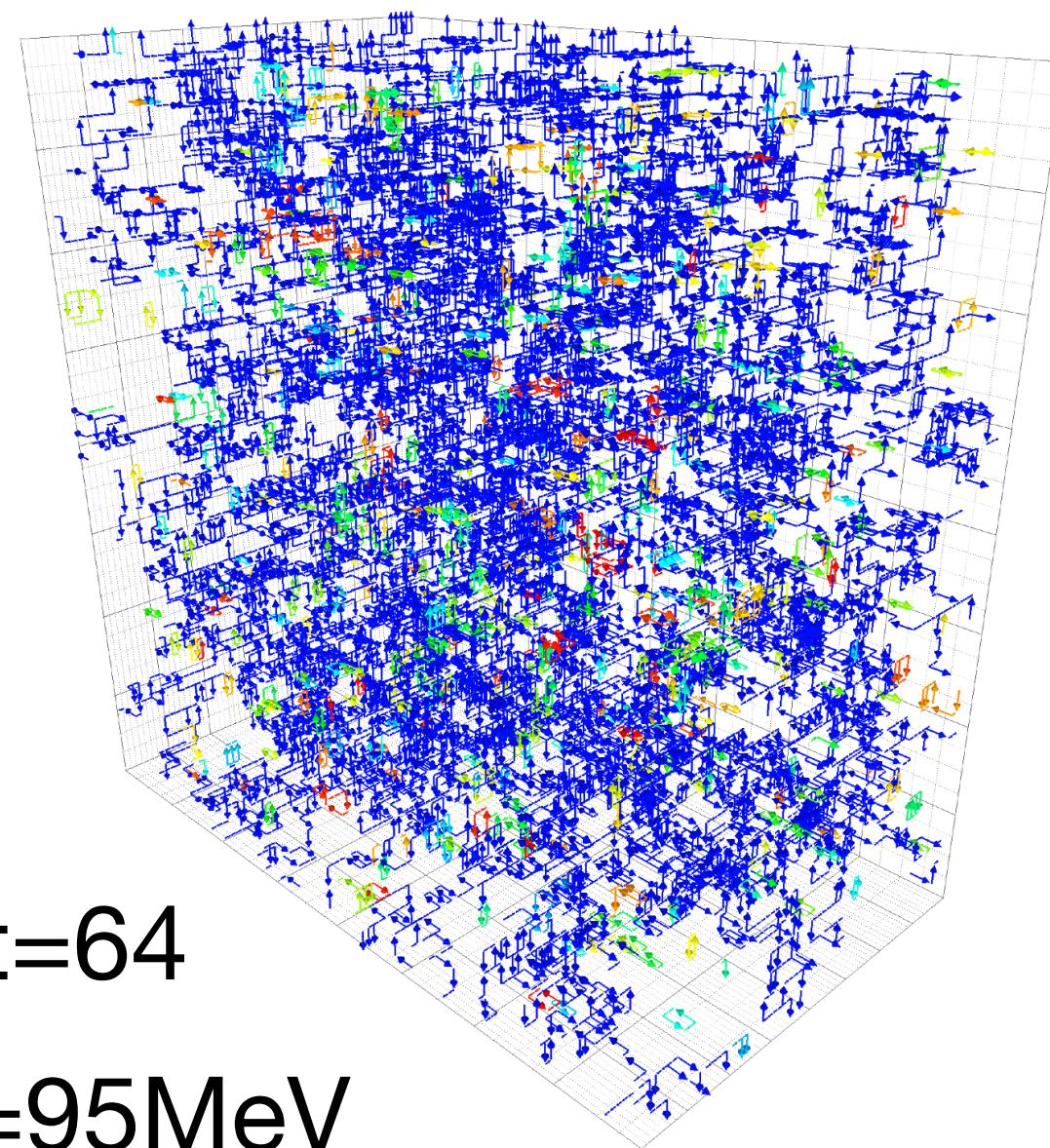
# Cluster Extent

## Space-Space-Time



Normalised  
Cluster  
Extent =  $\frac{\text{Cluster Extent}}{\frac{1}{2} L_{\max}}$

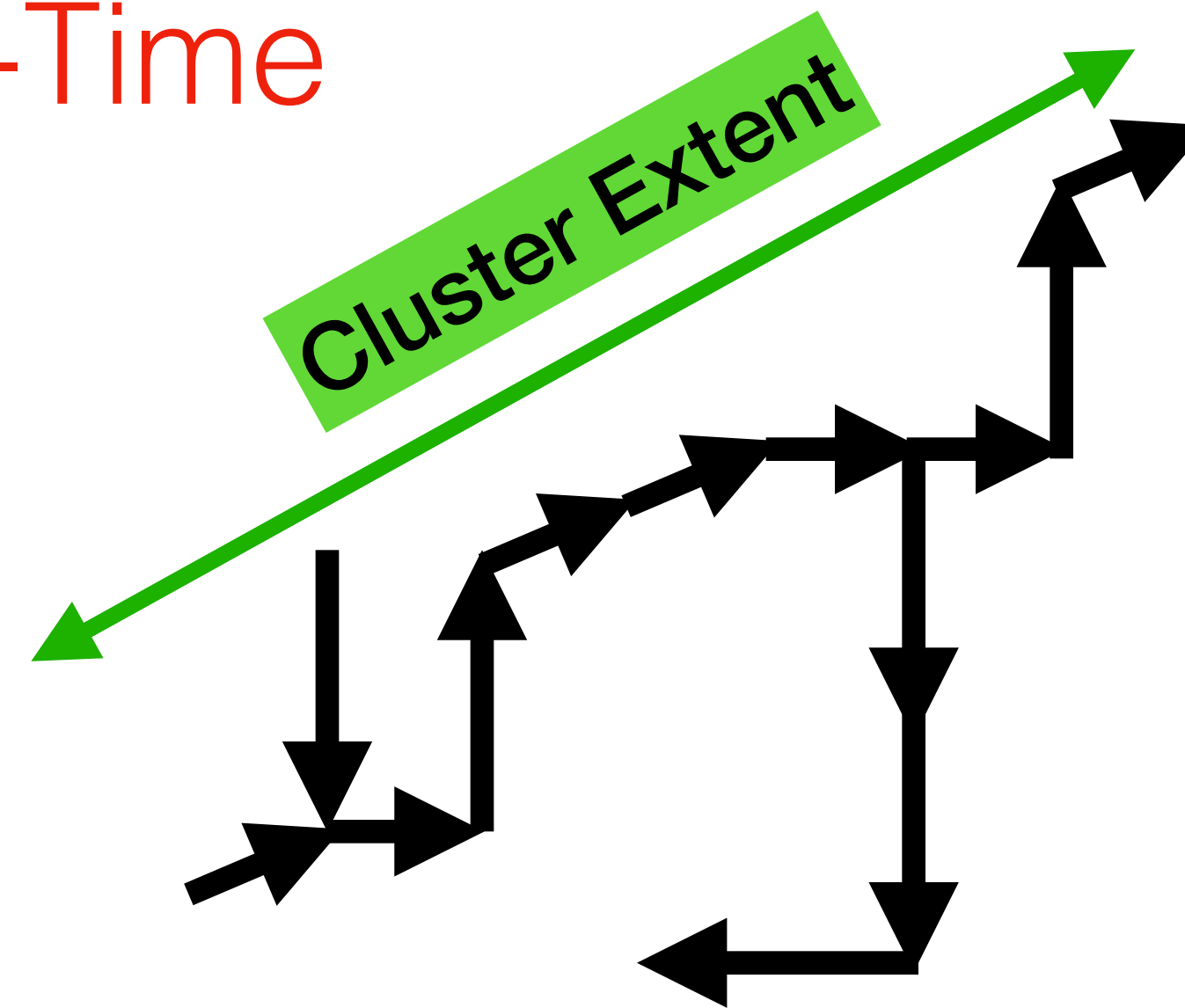
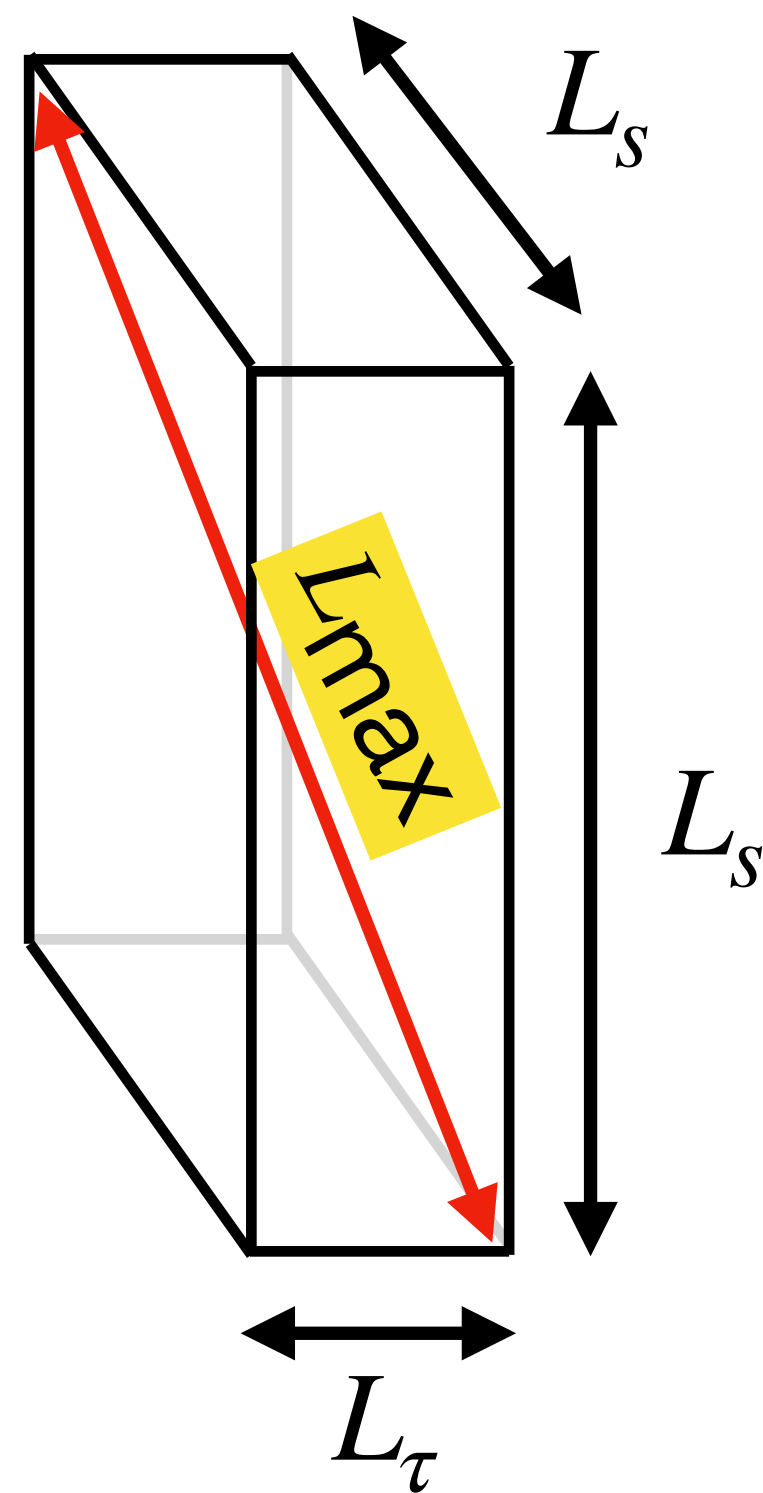
Periodic B.C.'s





# Cluster Extent

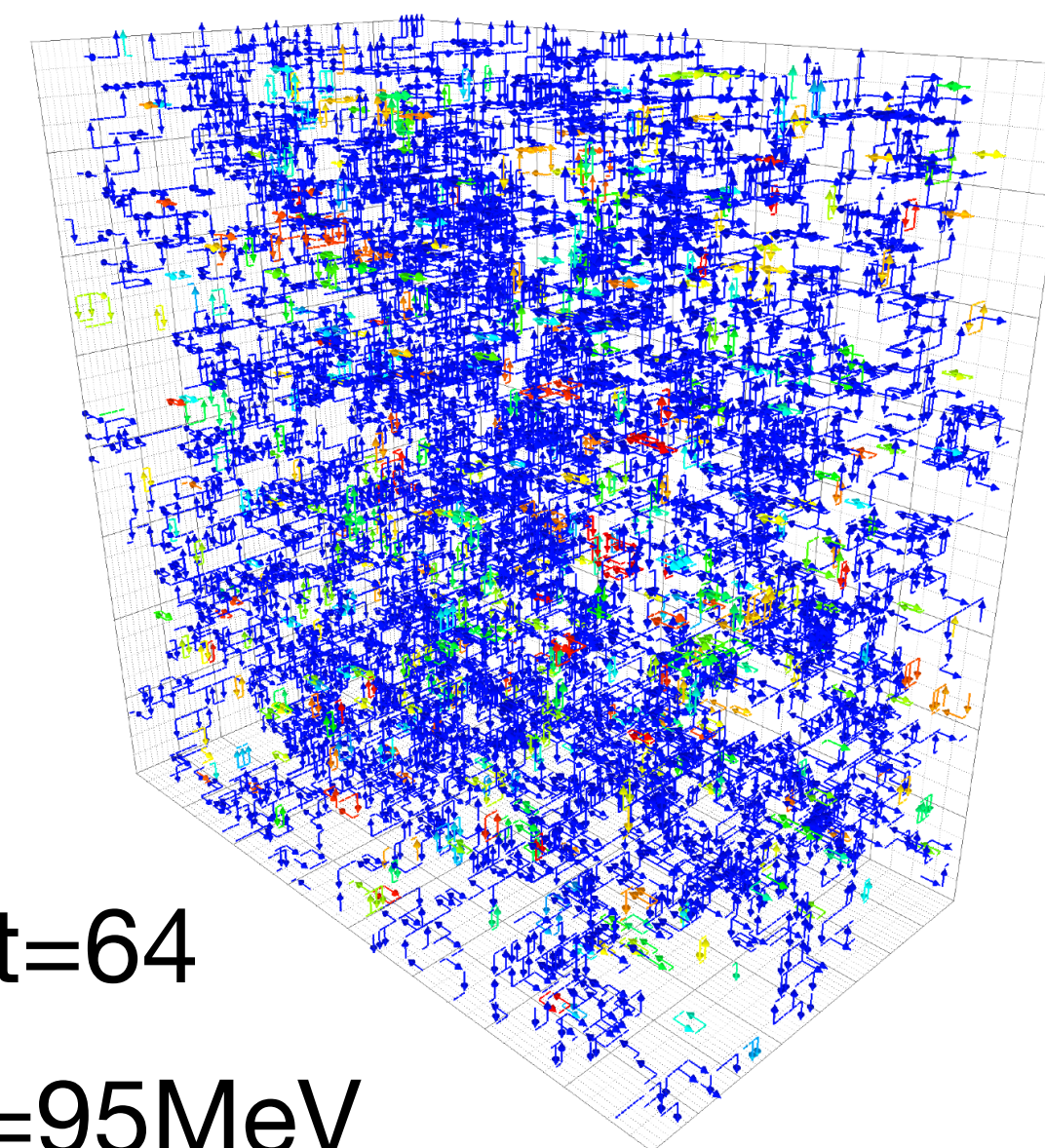
## Space-Space-Time



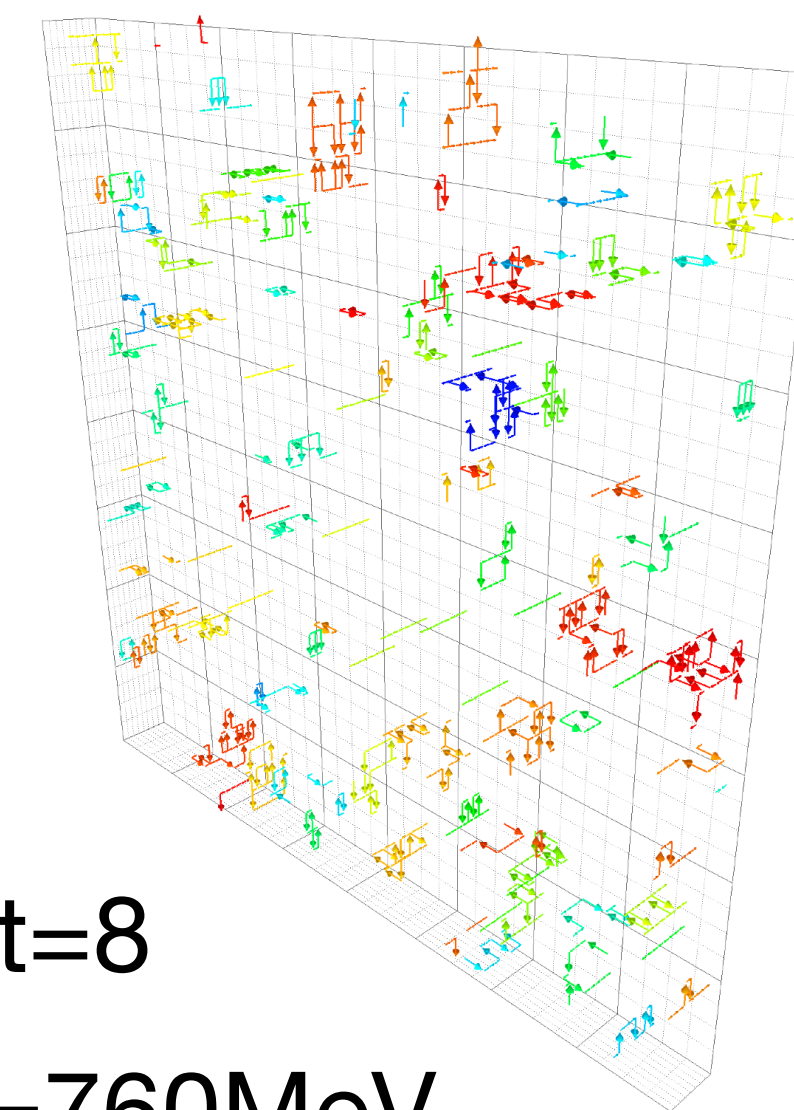
Normalised  
Cluster  
Extent =  $\frac{\text{Cluster Extent}}{\frac{1}{2} L_{\max}}$

Periodic B.C.'s

Nt=64  
T=95MeV

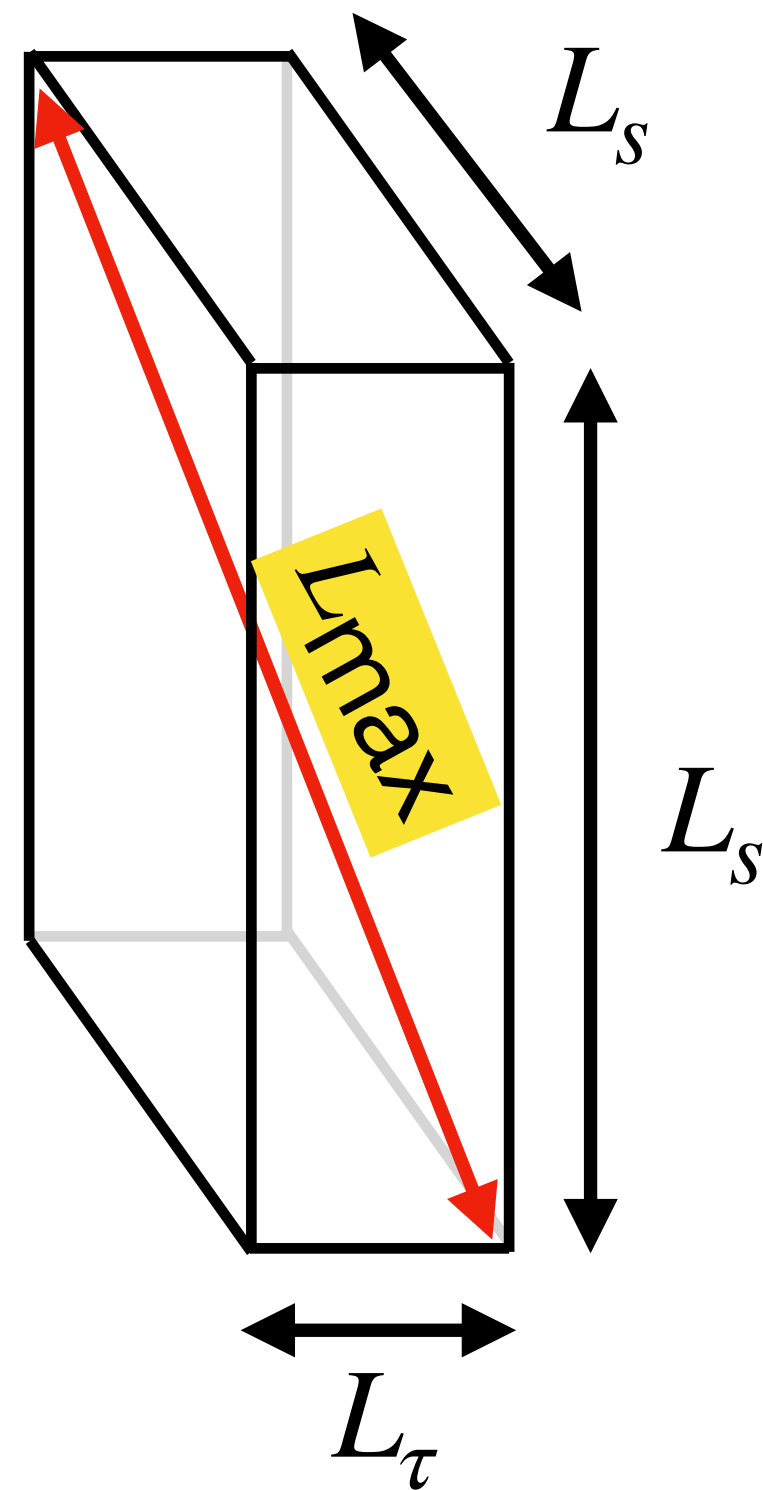


Nt=8  
T=760MeV



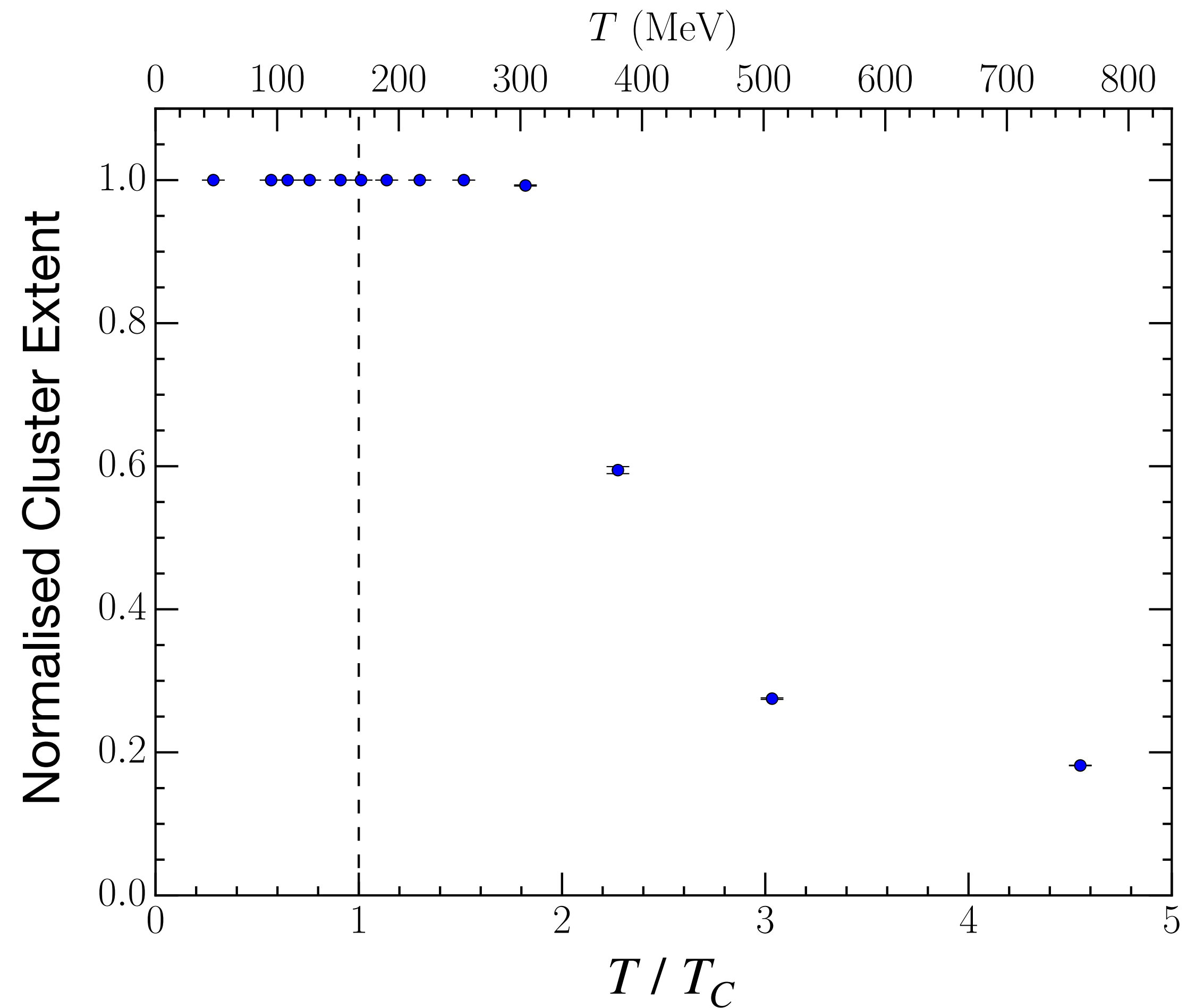
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## Space-Space-Time



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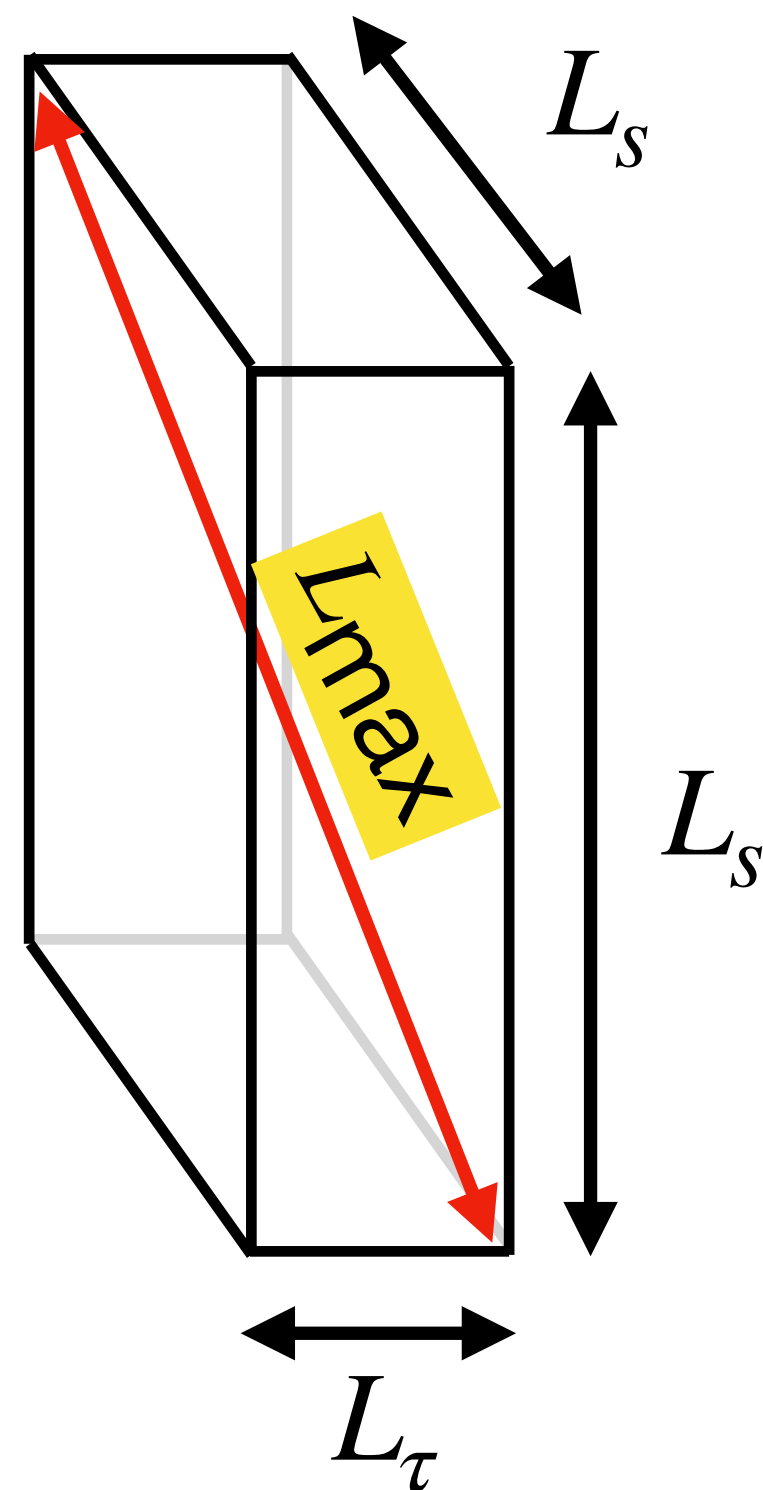
Periodic B.C.'s





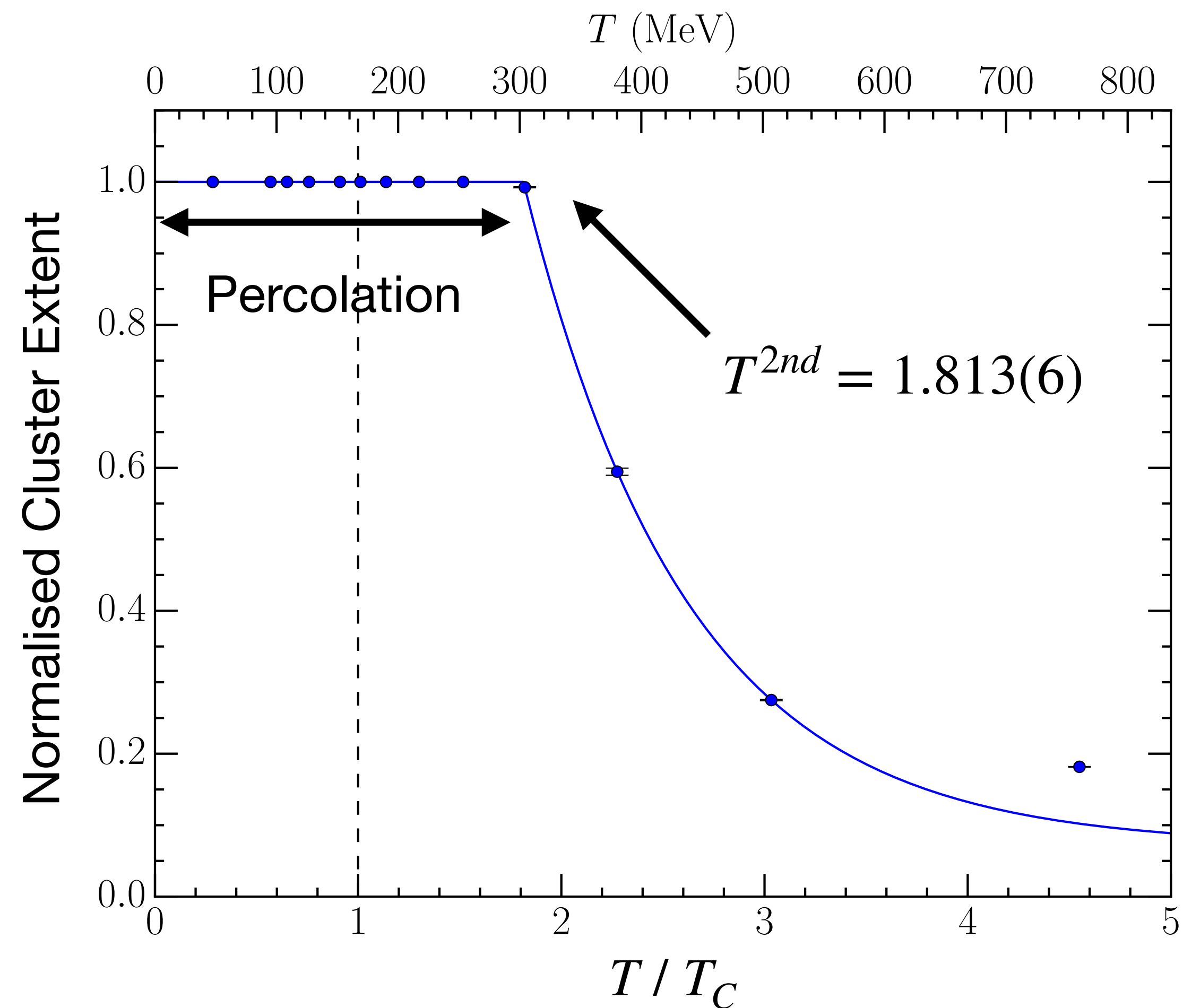
# Cluster Extent

## Space-Space-Time





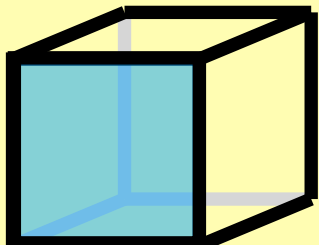
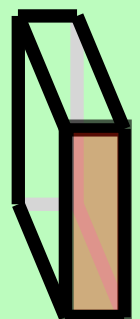
Normalised  
Cluster  
Extent =  $\frac{\text{Cluster Extent}}{\frac{1}{2} L_{max}}$

Periodic B.C.'s



Volume Effects to be Checked

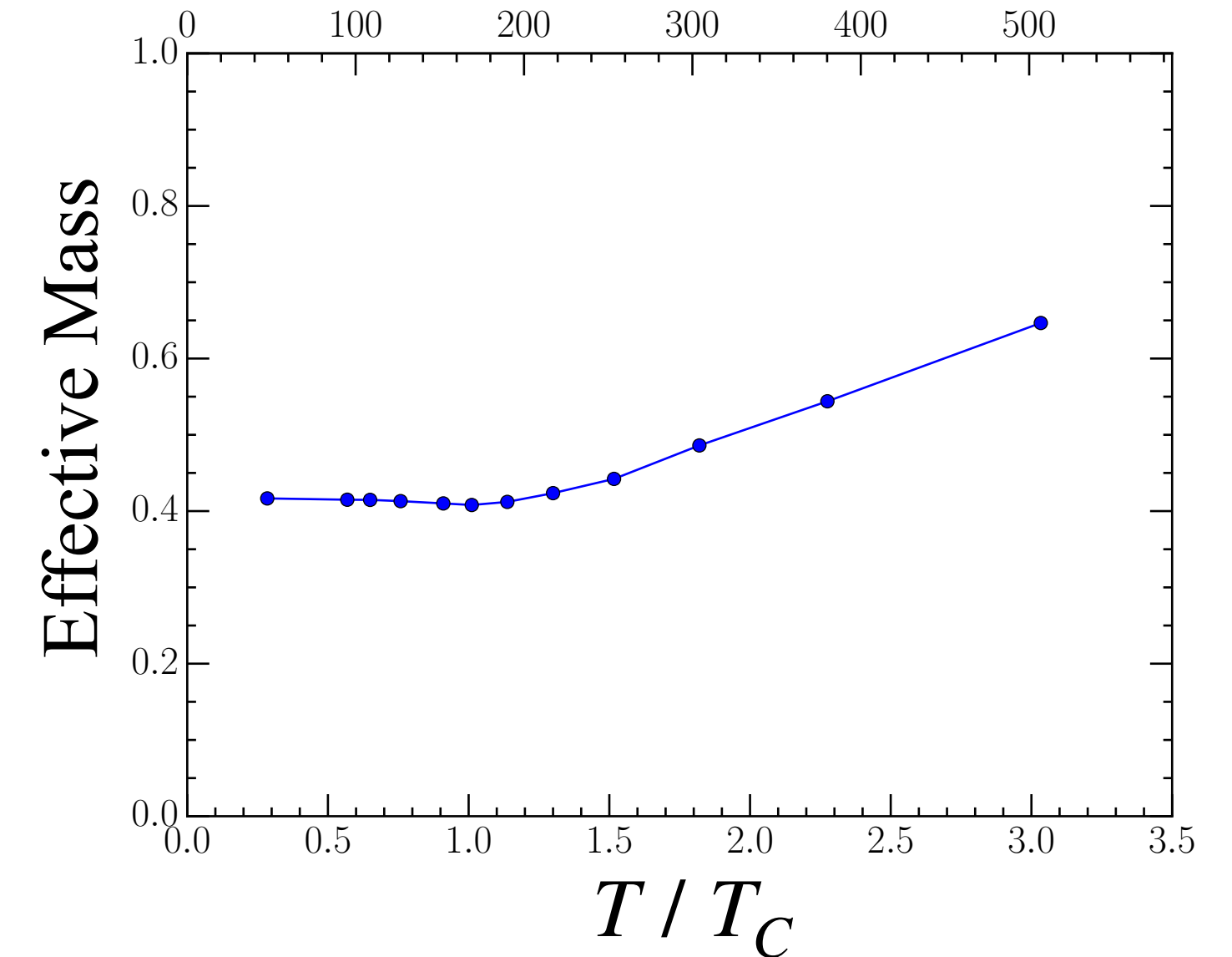
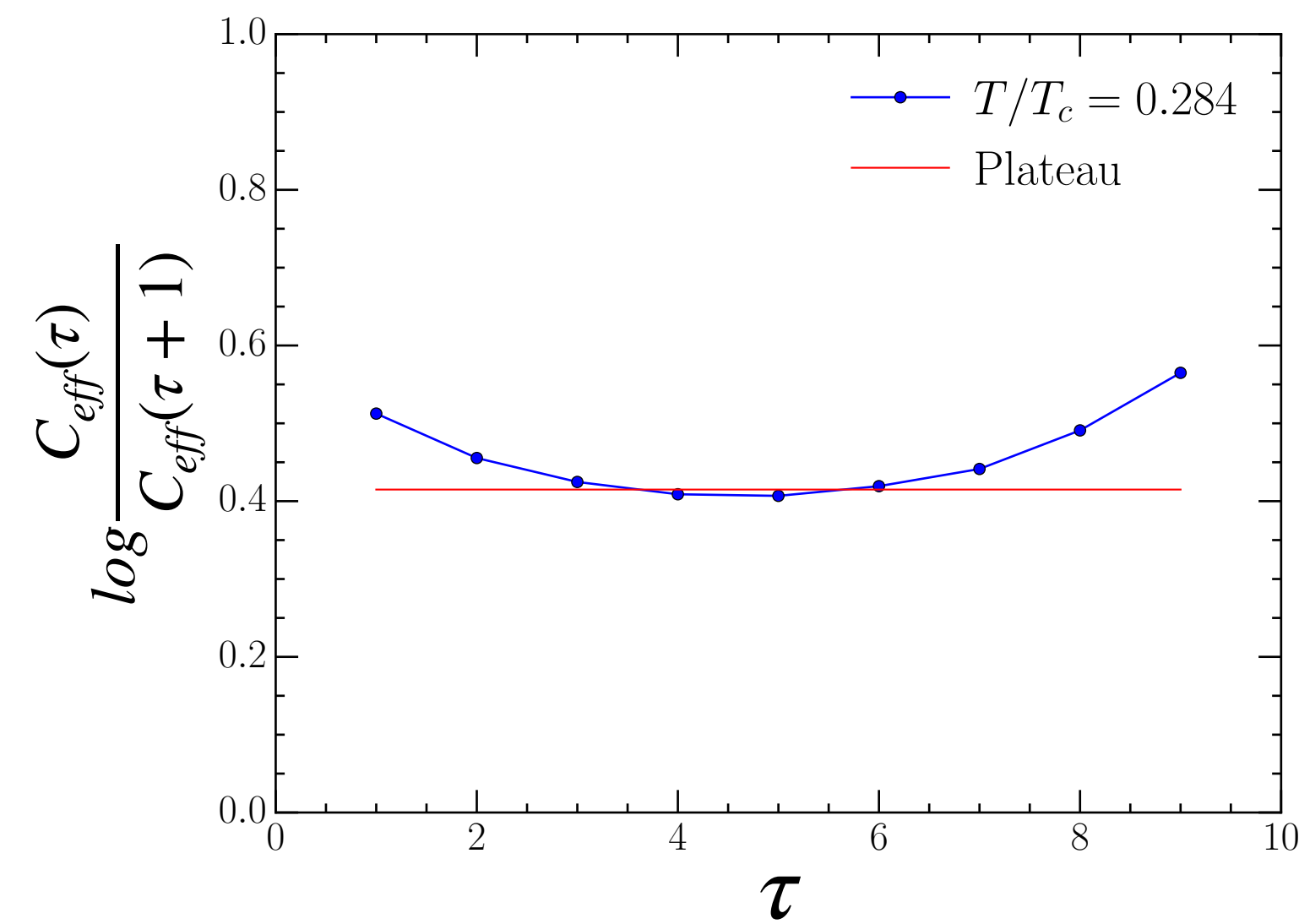
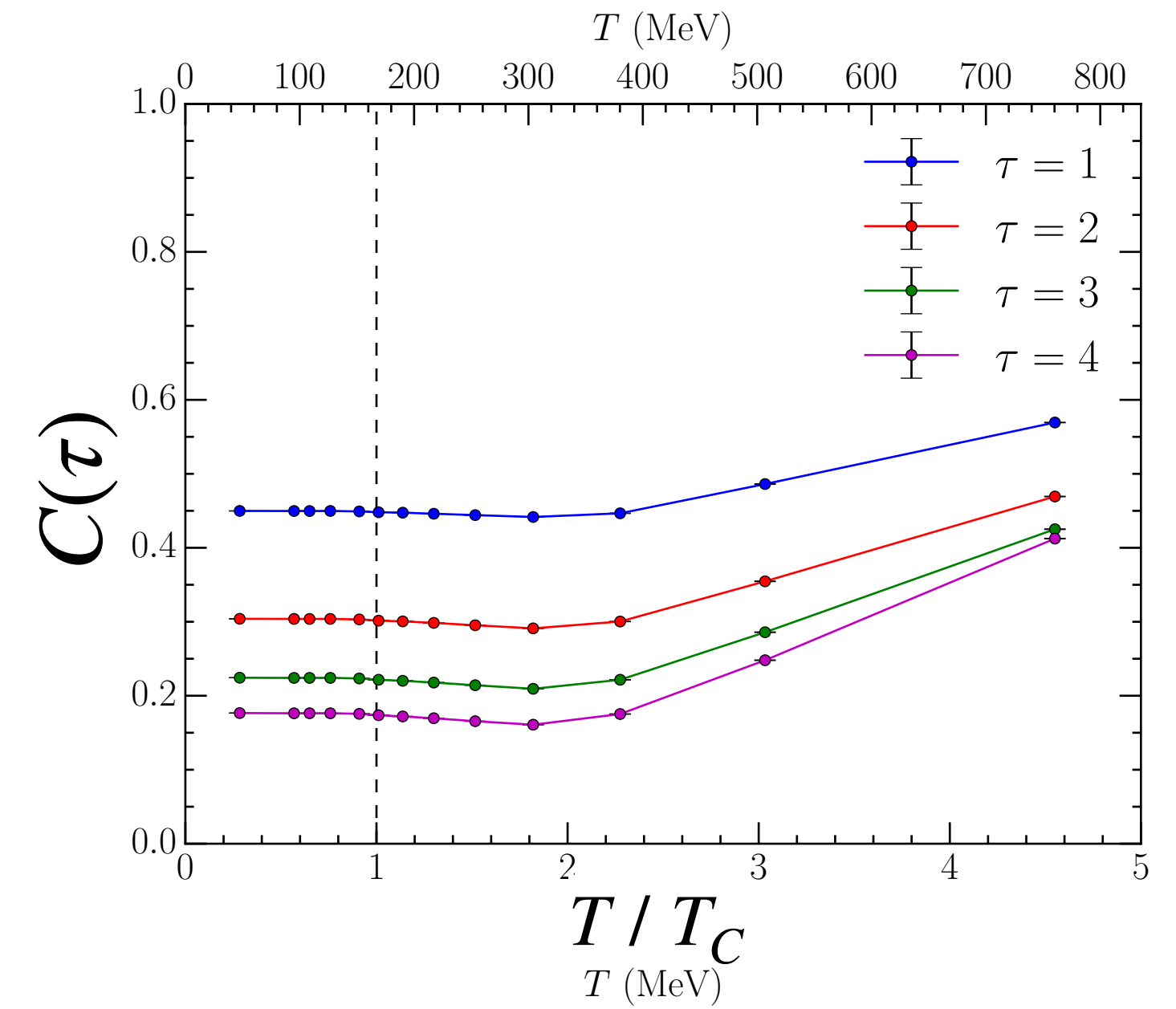
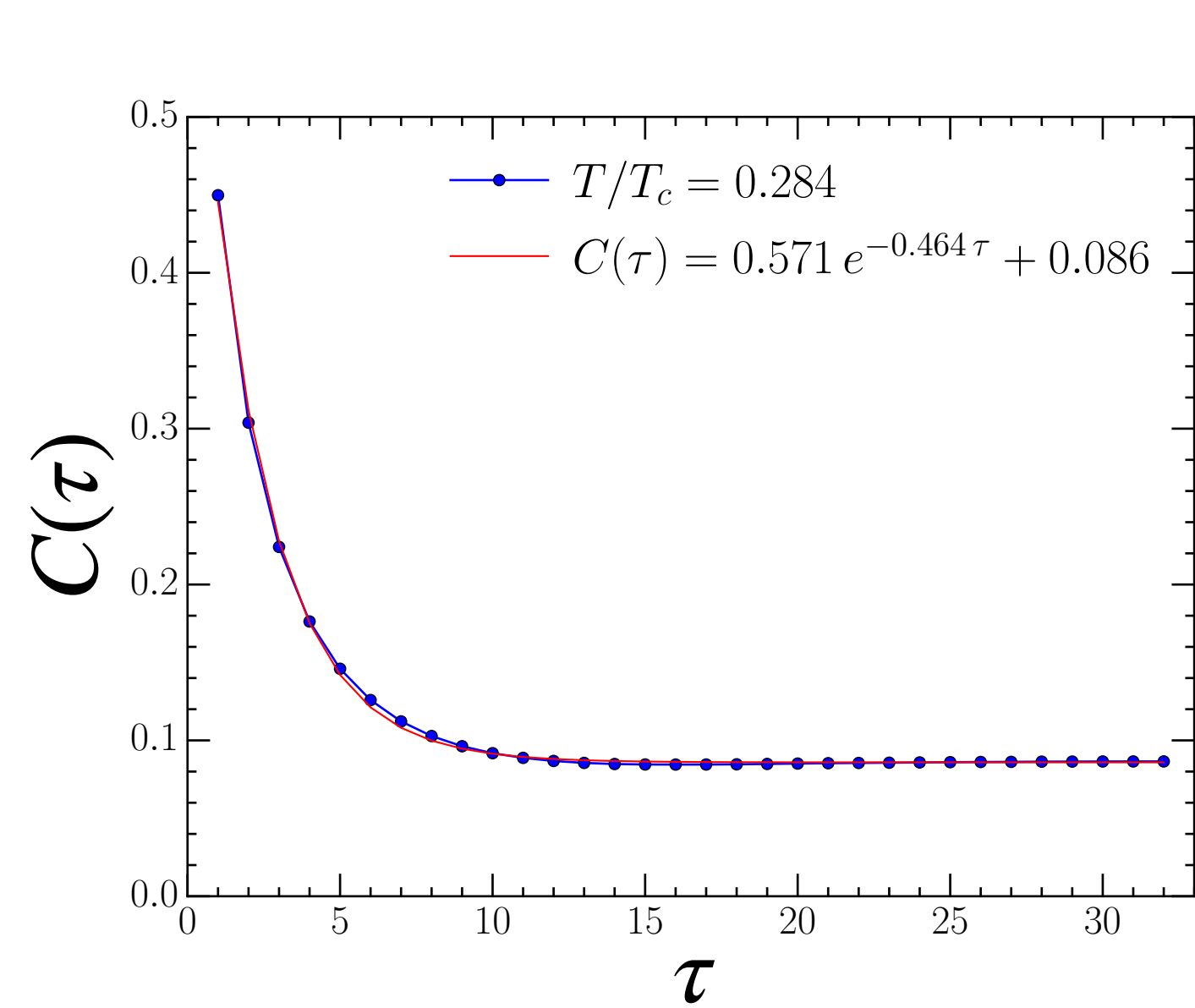
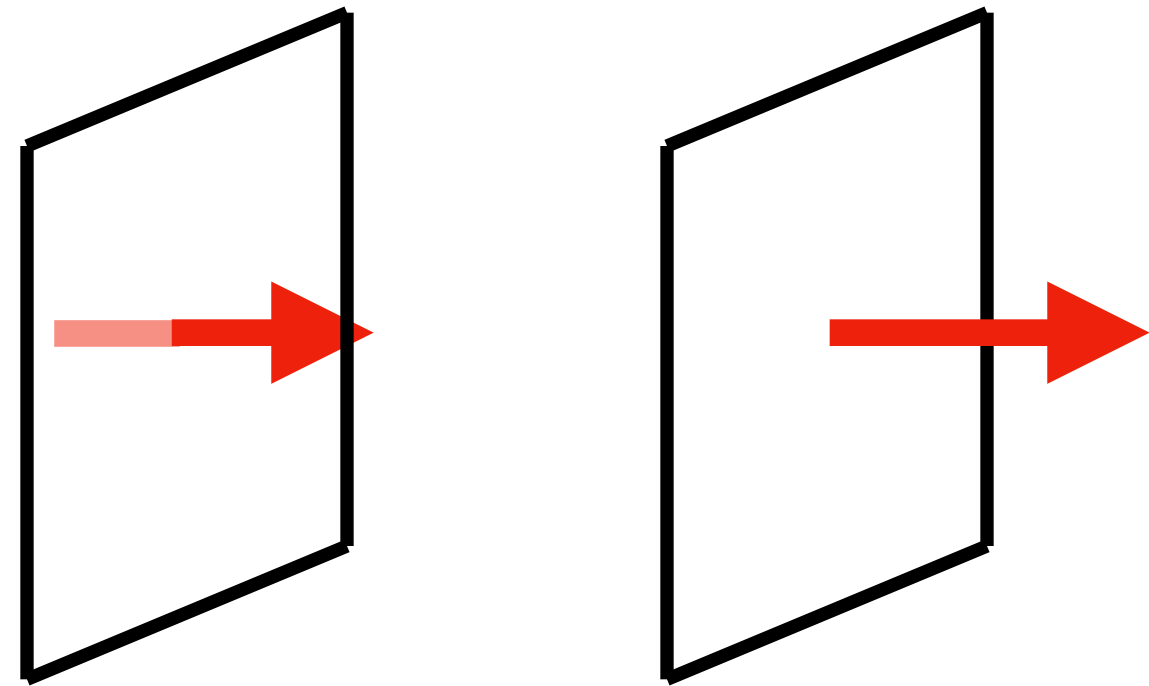
# Estimates of “Transition” Temperatures

	Vortex Density $[fm^{-2}]$		Branching Point Density $[fm^{-3}]$		Cluster Extent
	Space-Space Plaqs <i>(Plaqs with NO <math>t</math> dir'n)</i>	Space-Time Plaqs <i>(Plaqs with <math>t</math> dir'n)</i>	Space <sup>3</sup> 3-Vols <i>(3-Vol with NO <math>t</math> dir'n)</i>	Space <sup>2</sup> x Time 3-Vols <i>(3-Vol with <math>t</math> dir'n)</i>	
					—
$T^{(1st)} / T_C$	0.980	0.981	0.982	0.981	—
$T^{(2nd)} / T_C$	1.909	1.940	1.871	1.914	1.813(6)

$T_C$  from Chiral Condensate

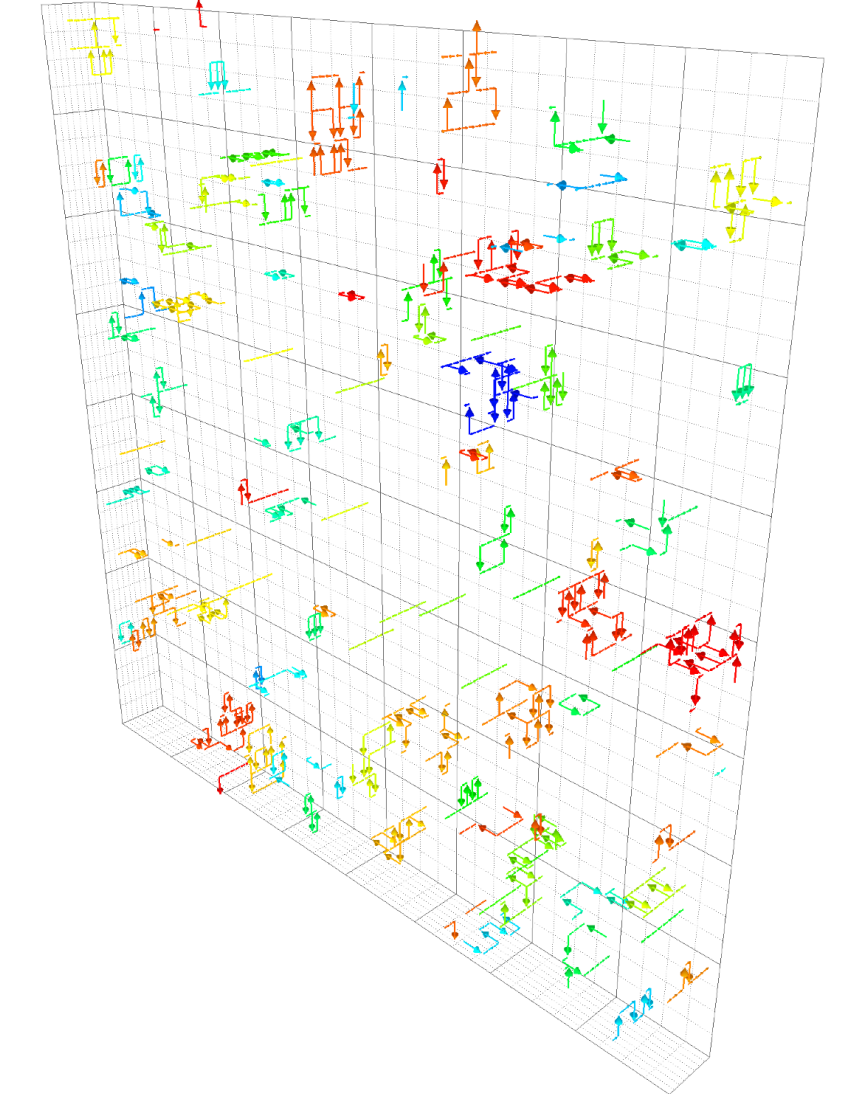
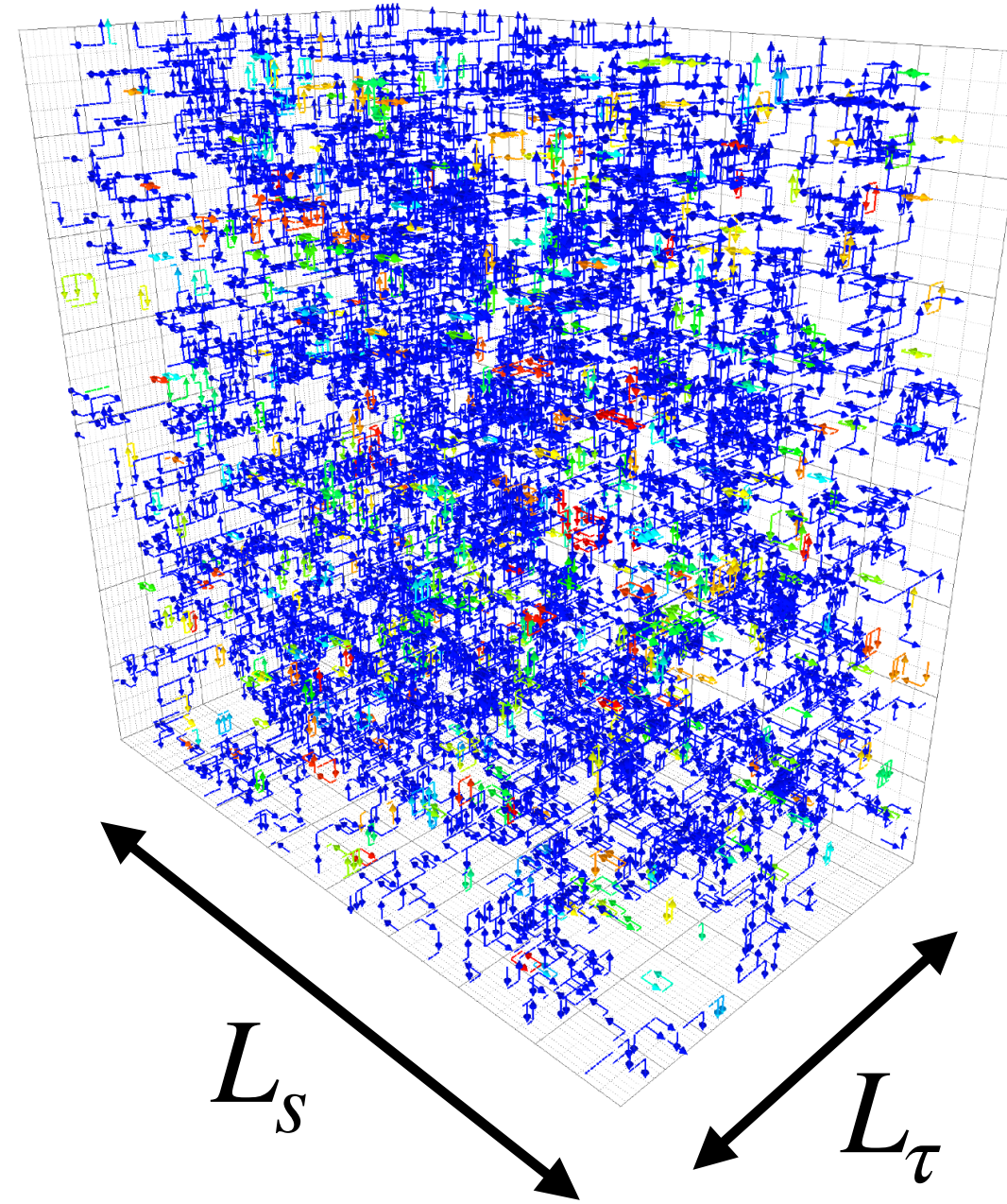
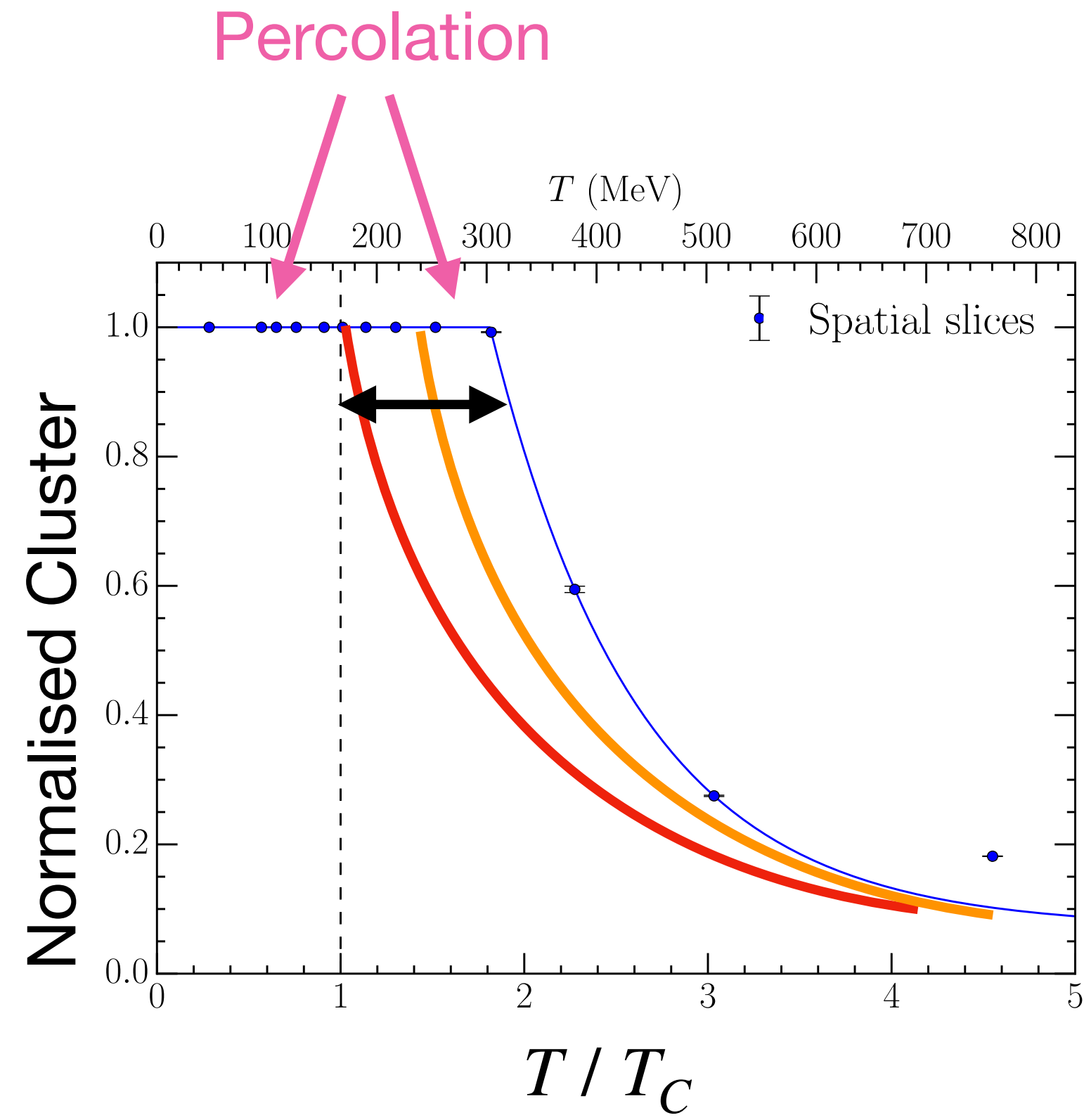
[FASTSUM Phys.Rev.D 105 \(2022\) 3, 034504](#)

# Temporal Vortex Correlators



# Systematics

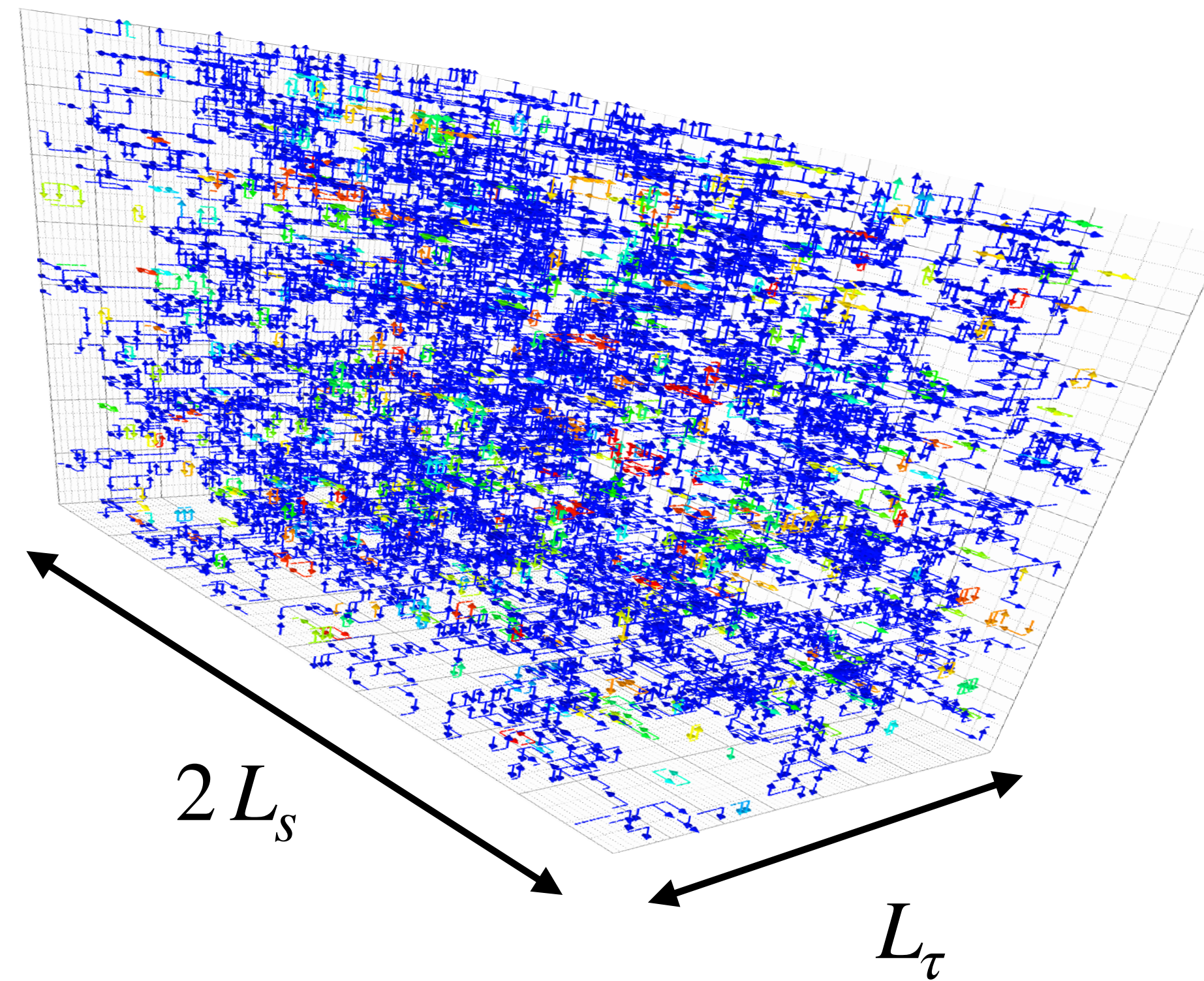
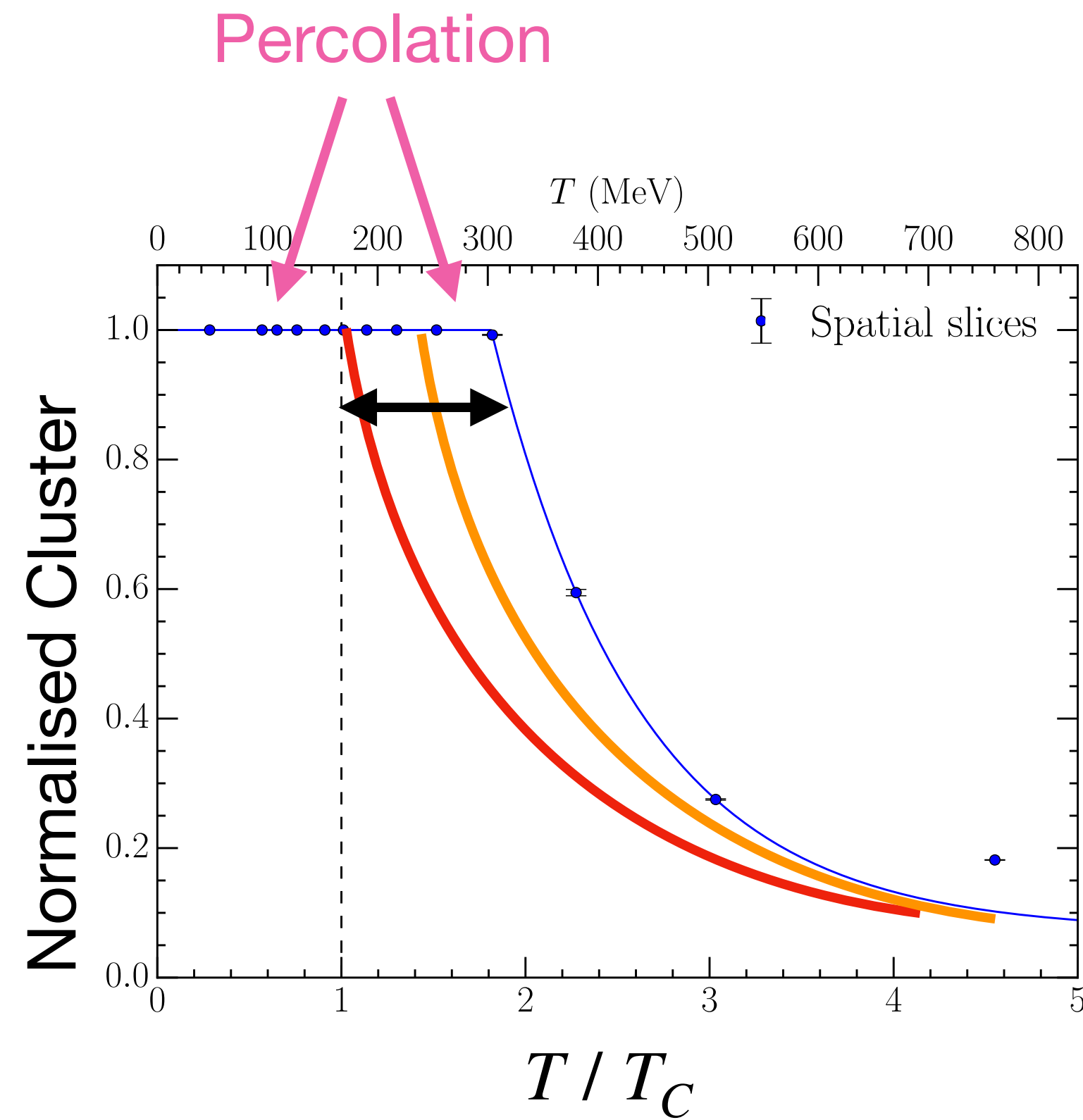
Is the Volume Large Enough?





# Systematics

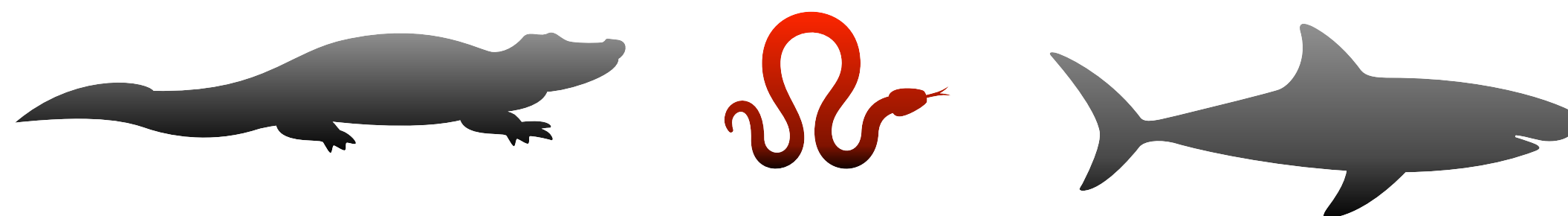
Is the Volume Large Enough?



Local Quantities:

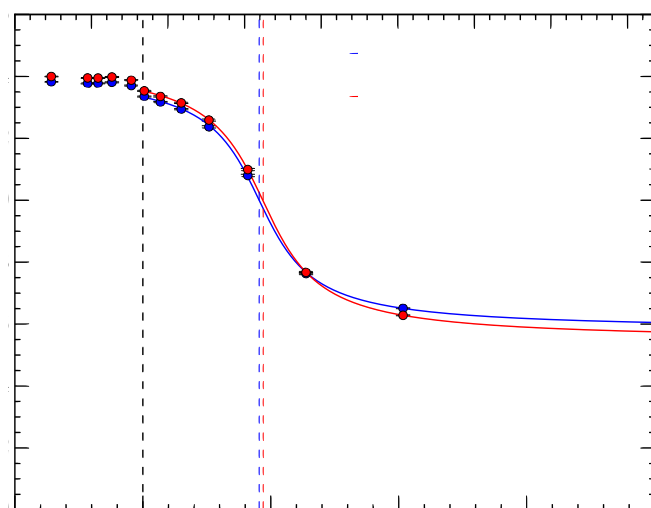
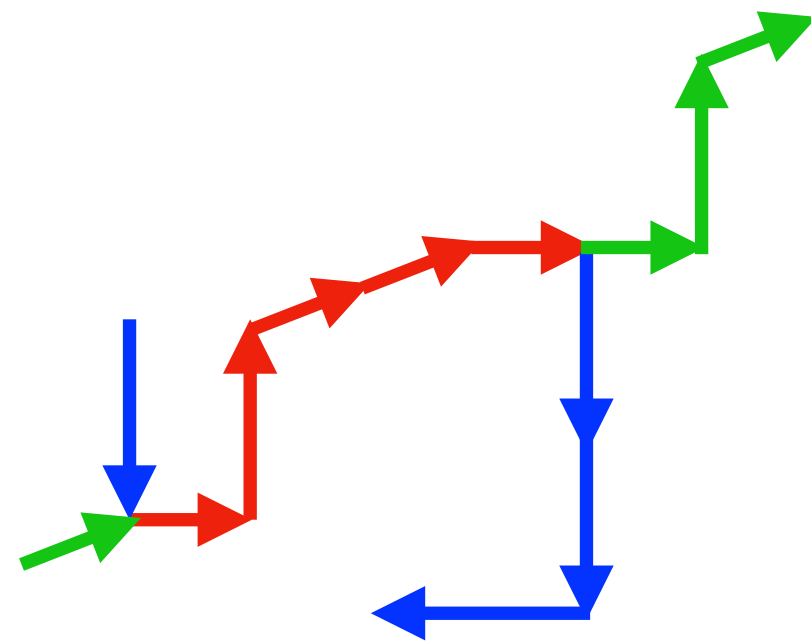
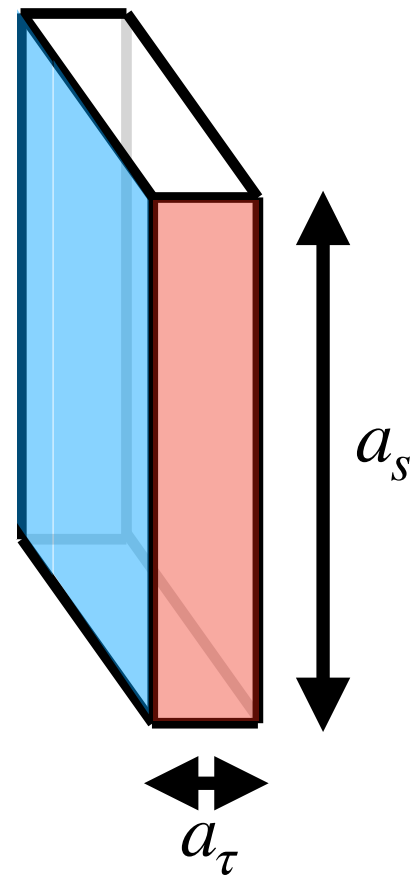
- Vortex Density
- Branching Pt Density
- Temporal Correlation

All show 2nd transition

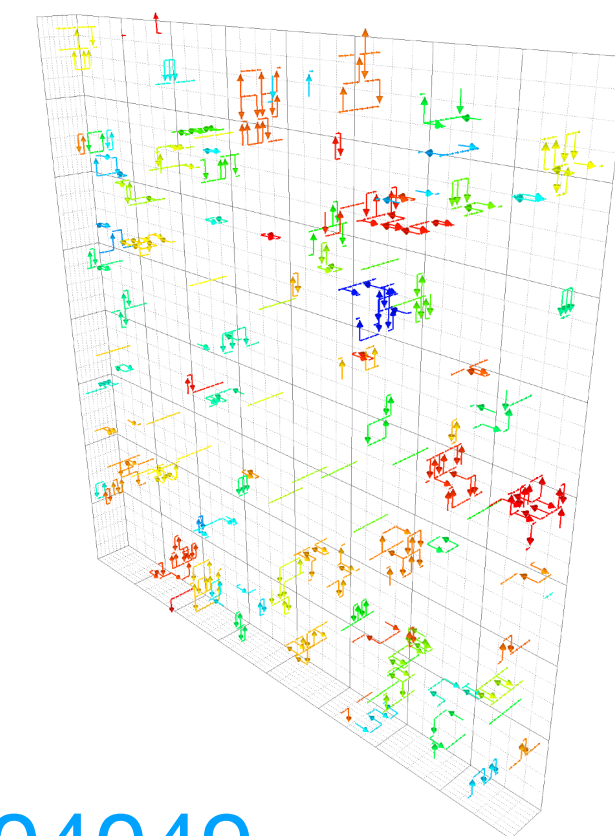
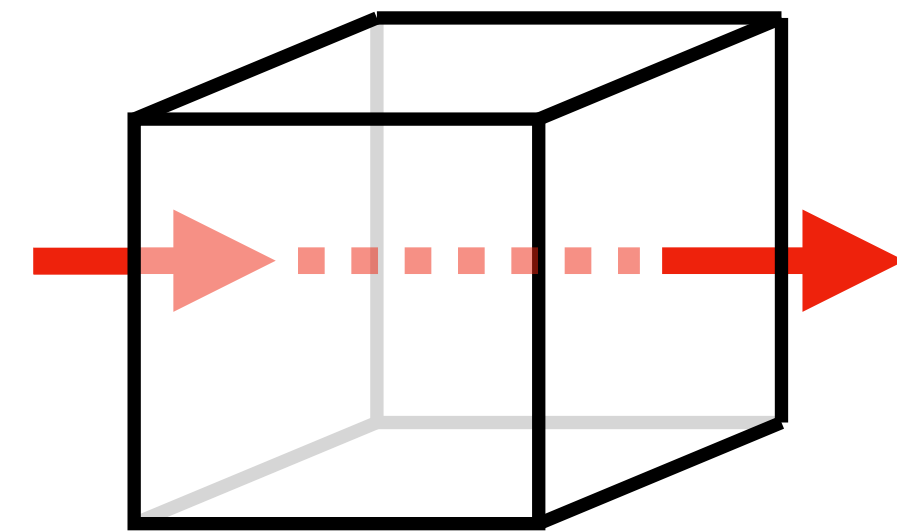




# Overview



- FASTSUM approach
  - Anisotropic
- Maximal Centre Gauge
  - Vortices
- Measurements
  - Vortex & Branching Point Density
  - Cluster Extent
  - Correlations
- Transition(s) in QCD ?
  - Recent Proposals of new QCD phase:



[Glozman, Prog.Part.Nucl.Phys. 131 \(2023\) 104049](#)

[Hanada, Ohata, Shimada, Watanabe PTEP 2024 \(2024\) 4, 041B02](#)

...



Back-Up Slide



# Generation 2L

$a_\tau$ [am]	$a_\tau^{-1}$ [GeV]	$\xi = a_s/a_\tau$	$a_s$ [fm]	$m_\pi$ [MeV]	$T_{pc}^{\psi\psi}$ [MeV]
32.46(7)	6.079(13)	3.453(6)	0.1121(3)	239(1)	167(2)(1)

Generation 2L, $32^3 \times N_\tau$										
$N_\tau$	128	64	56	48	40	36	32	28	24	20
$T$ [MeV]	47	95	109	127	152	169	190	217	253	304
$N_{\text{cfg}}$	1024	1041	1042	1123	1102	1119	1090	1031	1016	1030



$T_c \sim 167$  MeV

$a^{-1} = 6.079(13)$  GeV from HadSpec calculation of  $\Omega$  baryon,

D. J. Wilson, et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 123 (2019)