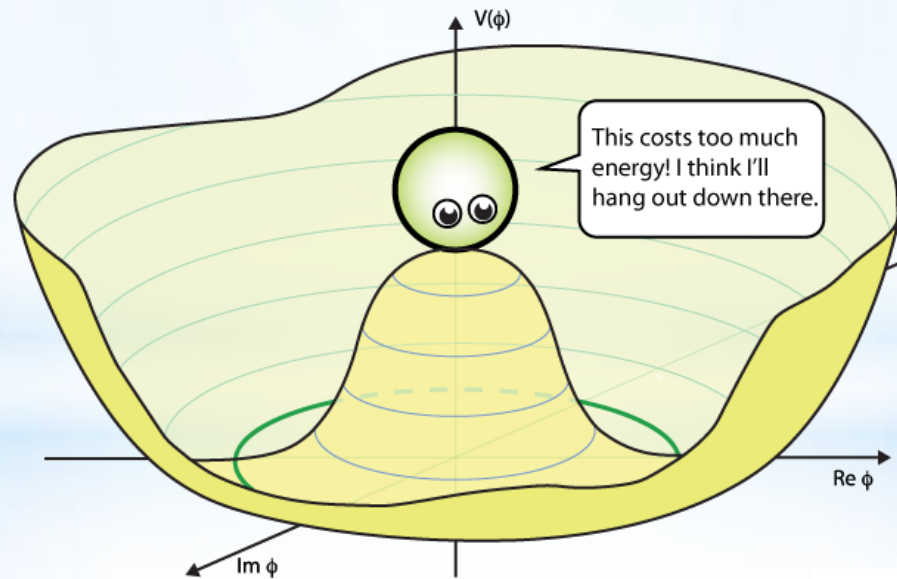


# Spontaneous chiral symmetry breaking and chiral magnetic effect in Weyl semimetals [1408.4573]



**Pavel Buividovich**  
(Uni Regensburg)

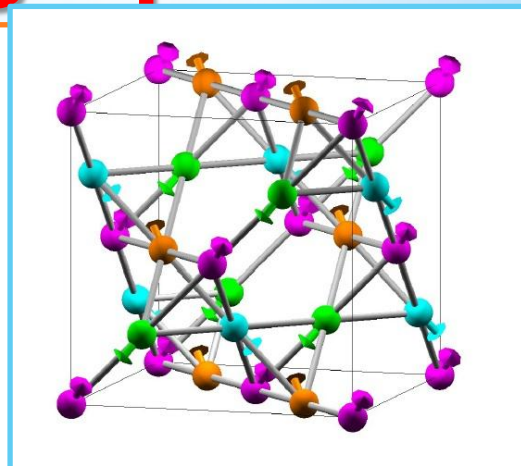
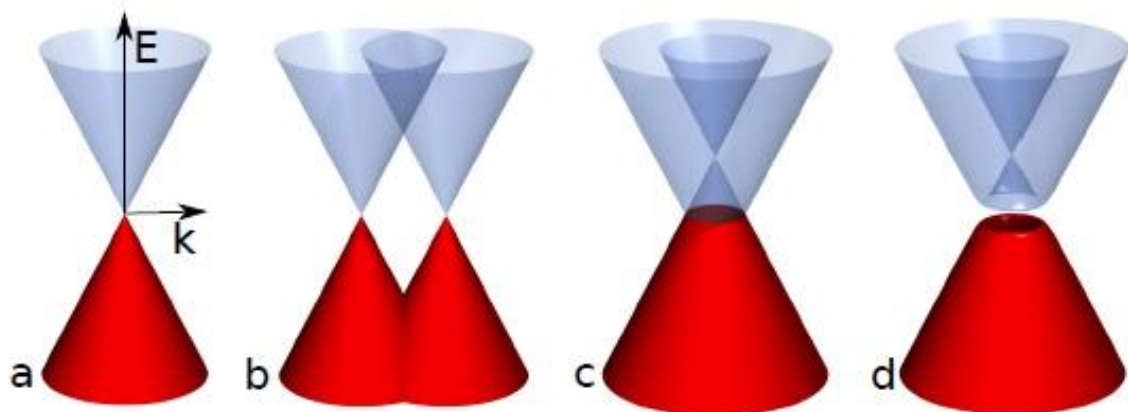
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**Confinement XI, 8-12 September 2014, St Petersburg**

# Weyl semimetals: 3D graphene



[Pyrochlore iridate]

- Take Dirac semi-metal/topological insulator
- Break Time reversal (e.g. magnetic doping)  $\delta H \sim \vec{b} \cdot \vec{\Sigma}$ ,  $\vec{\Sigma}$  is the spin operator
- Break Parity (e.g. chiral pumping)  $\delta H \sim \gamma_5 \mu_A$
- $\Rightarrow$  Weyl fermions split, Dirac point  $\Rightarrow$  Weyl points
- Broken  $\mathcal{T}$ : spatial shift, broken  $\mathcal{P}$ : energy shift

No mass term for Weyl fermions  $\rightarrow$

**Weyl points survive ChSB!!!**

# Anomalous (*P/T*-odd) transport

Momentum shift of Weyl points:  
Anomalous Hall Effect

$$\vec{j} = \frac{e^2}{2\pi^2} \vec{b} \times \vec{E}$$

Energy shift of Weyl points:  
Chiral Magnetic Effect

$$\vec{j} = \frac{e^2}{2\pi^2} \mu_A \vec{B}$$

Also: Chiral Vortical Effect, Axial Magnetic Effect...

Chiral Magnetic Conductivity and Kubo relations

$$\Pi_{ij}(\vec{k}) = \langle j_i(\vec{k}) j_j(-\vec{k}) \rangle = \frac{\delta^2 \mathcal{Z}}{\delta A_i(\vec{k}) \delta A_j(-\vec{k})}$$

$$\sigma_{CME} = \lim_{k_3 \rightarrow 0} \lim_{k_0 \rightarrow 0} \frac{i}{k_z} \Pi_{xy}(k_z)$$

~~MEM~~



Static correlators  $\rightarrow$  Ground-state transport!!!

# Anomalous transport and interactions

## Anomalous transport coefficients:

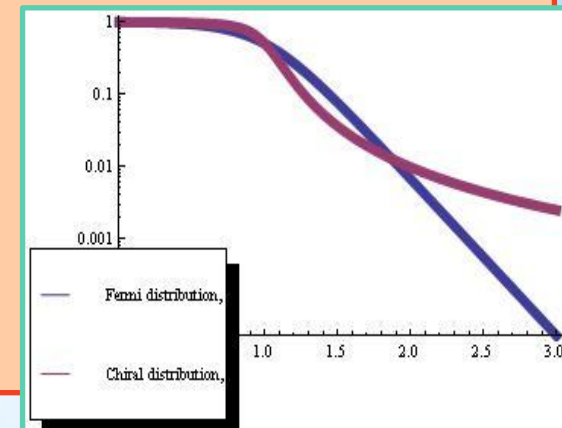
- Related to axial anomaly
- Do not receive corrections IF
  - Screening length finite [Jensen, Banerjee,...]
  - Well-defined Fermi-surface [Son, Stephanov...]
  - No Abelian gauge fields [Jensen, Kovtun...]

## In Weyl semimetals with $\mu_A$ / induced mass:

- No screening (massless Weyl fermions/Goldstones)
- Electric charges interact
- Non-Fermi-liquid [Buividovich'13]

$$\frac{1}{e^{\epsilon/T} + 1} \rightarrow \left( 1 + \frac{\epsilon}{\sqrt{\epsilon^2 + m^2}} \right)$$

$$\epsilon \gg T : e^{-\epsilon/T} \rightarrow m^2 / \epsilon^2$$

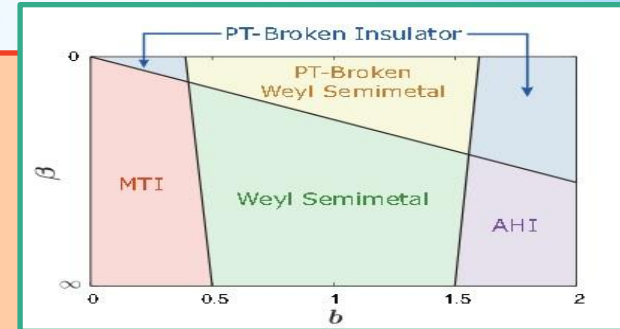




# Interacting Weyl semimetals

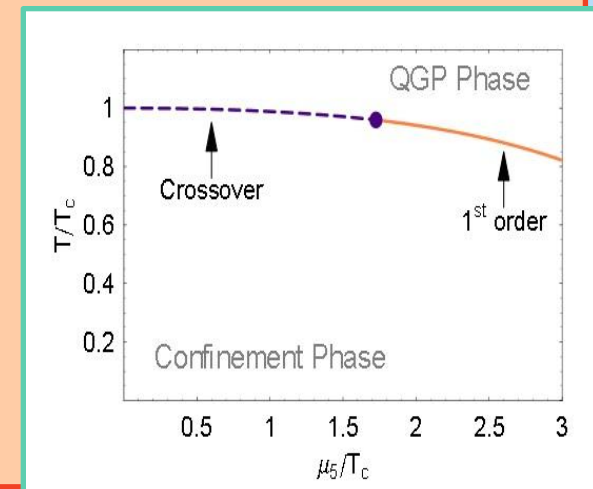
## Time-reversal breaking WSM:

- Axion strings [Wang, Zhang'13]
- RG analysis: Spatially modulated chiral condensate [Maciejko, Nandkishore'13]
- Spontaneous Parity Breaking [Sekine, Nomura'13]



Parity-breaking WSM: not so clean and not well studied... Only PNJL/ $\sigma$ -model QCD studies

- Chiral chemical potential  $\mu_A$ :
- $\vec{E} \cdot \vec{B}$   $\longrightarrow$  Dynamics!!!
- Circularly polarized laser
- ... *But also* decays dynamically [Akamatsu, Yamamoto,...]



[Fukushima, Ruggieri, Gatto'11]

# Interacting Weyl semimetals + $\mu_A$

## → Dynamical equilibrium / Slow decay

Simplest model of Weyl semimetal: One flavour of Wilson-Dirac fermions with zero mass (simple two-band model of  $Bi_2Se_3$ ,  $Bi_2Te_3$  and  $Sb_2Te_3$ )! For crystals, chiral lattice fermions would be a fantastic fine-tuning  $\Rightarrow$  Chiral symmetry only at low energies!

Inter-electron interactions:

$$H(\mathbf{k}) = \epsilon_0(\mathbf{k})I_{4 \times 4} + \begin{pmatrix} \mathcal{M}(\mathbf{k}) & A_1 k_z & 0 & A_2 k_- \\ A_1 k_z & -\mathcal{M}(\mathbf{k}) & A_2 k_- & 0 \\ 0 & A_2 k_+ & \mathcal{M}(\mathbf{k}) & -A_1 k_z \\ A_2 k_+ & 0 & -A_1 k_z & -\mathcal{M}(\mathbf{k}) \end{pmatrix} + o(k^2)$$

- Electrons move at  $v_F \ll c$
- In practice, only instantaneous Coulomb interactions are relevant
- $\Rightarrow$  Magnetic fields are zero, only time-like links are relevant
- Effective coupling constant  $\alpha \rightarrow \alpha \frac{c}{v_F} \sim 1 \Rightarrow$  Strongly coupled system

# Simple lattice model

## Lattice Dirac fermions with contact interactions

$$\hat{H} = \sum_{x,y,\alpha,\beta} \hat{\psi}_{x\alpha}^\dagger h_{x\alpha;y\beta}^{(0)} \psi_{y\beta} + V \sum_x \left( \sum_\alpha \hat{\psi}_{x\alpha}^\dagger \hat{\psi}_{x\alpha} - 2 \right)^2$$

Lattice Dirac Hamiltonian  $V > 0$ , like charges repel  
Suzuki-Trotter decomposition

$$e^{-\beta \hat{H}_0 - \beta \hat{H}_I} = e^{-\Delta\tau \hat{H}_0} e^{-\Delta\tau \hat{H}_I} e^{-\Delta\tau \hat{H}_0} e^{-\Delta\tau \hat{H}_I} \dots$$

## Hubbard-Stratonovich transformation

$$\begin{aligned} & \exp \left( -V \Delta\tau \hat{\psi}_\alpha^\dagger \hat{\psi}_\alpha \hat{\psi}_\beta^\dagger \hat{\psi}_\beta \right) \simeq \\ & \simeq \int d\Phi_{\alpha\beta} \exp \left( -\frac{\Delta\tau}{4V} \Phi_{\alpha\beta} \Phi_{\beta\alpha} - \Delta\tau \Phi_{\alpha\beta} \hat{\psi}_\alpha^\dagger \hat{\psi}_\beta \right) \end{aligned}$$

# A simple mean-field study

Taking everything together...

$$\mathcal{Z} = \int \mathcal{D}\Phi_{x\alpha\beta} \det(\partial_\tau - h^{(0)} - \Phi_x) \exp\left(-\frac{1}{4V} \int d\tau \sum_x \text{Tr} \Phi_x^2\right)$$

Partition function  
of free fermions with  
one-particle hamiltonian

Action of the  
Hubbard field  
Hermitian  
Traceless

$$h_{x\alpha;y\beta} = h_{x\alpha;y\beta}^{(0)} + \Phi_{x\alpha\beta}(\tau) \delta_{xy}$$

Mean-field approximation:

- Saddle-point approximation for  $\Phi$  integration
- Gaussian fluctuations around saddle point
- Exact in the limit  $N_f \rightarrow \infty$
- Nontrivial condensation channels  $\Phi_{x\alpha\beta} \sim \langle \hat{\psi}_{x\alpha}^\dagger \hat{\psi}_{x\beta} \rangle$

Absent in PNJL/ $\sigma$ -model studies!!!



# Mean-field approximation: static limit

Assuming  $T \rightarrow 0$  and

$$\Phi_{x\alpha\beta}(\tau) = \Phi_{x\alpha\beta}$$

$$\det(\partial_\tau - h) = \exp\left(-T^{-1} \sum_{\epsilon < 0} \epsilon\right)$$

Negative energy of Fermi sea

What can we add to  $h^{(0)}$  to lower the Fermi sea energy?

(BUT: Hubbard term suppresses any addition!)

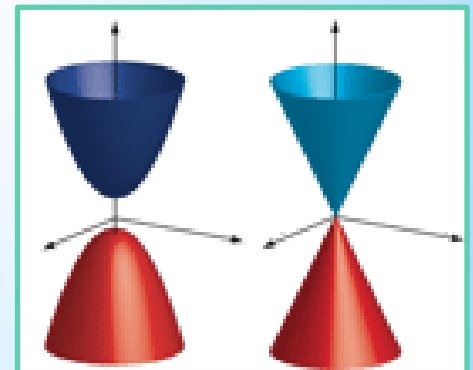
$$h^{(0)} \sim \begin{pmatrix} \sigma \cdot k & 0 \\ 0 & -\sigma \cdot k \end{pmatrix}$$

Example: Chiral Symmetry Breaking

$$\Phi_x = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & me^{i\theta} \\ me^{-i\theta} & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

To-be-Goldstone!

$$\epsilon(\vec{k}) = \pm |\vec{k}| \Rightarrow \epsilon(\vec{k}) = \pm \sqrt{\vec{k}^2 + m^2}$$



# Mean-field at nonzero $\mu_A$ (cutoff reg.)

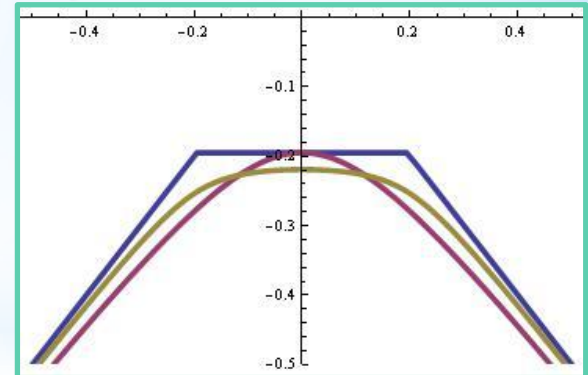
Possible homogeneous condensates (assume unbroken Lorentz symmetry)

$$\Phi_{x\alpha\beta} = \begin{pmatrix} \tilde{\mu}_A & m e^{i\theta} \\ m e^{-i\theta} & -\tilde{\mu}_A \end{pmatrix}$$

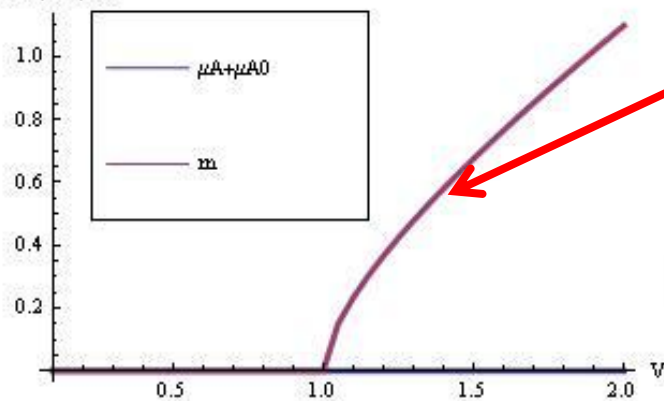
Spectrum at nonzero  $\mu_A$ :

$$\epsilon_s(\vec{k}) = \pm \sqrt{\left(|\vec{k}| \pm \mu_A\right)^2 + m^2}$$

The effect of  $\mu_A$  is similar to mass!!!



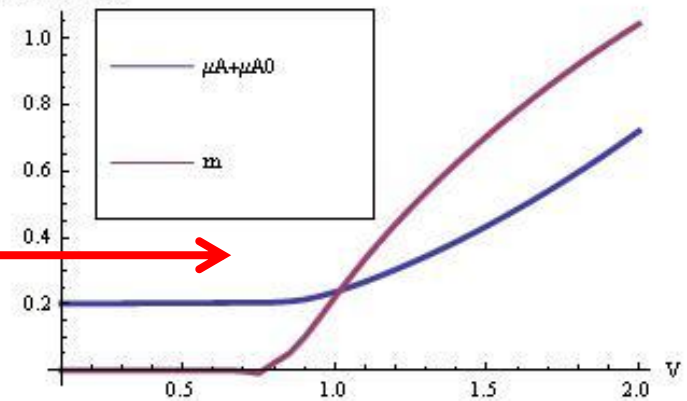
$\mu_A + \mu_{A0}, m$



$\mu_{A0} = 0$

$\mu_{A0} = 0.2$

$\mu_A + \mu_{A0}, m$



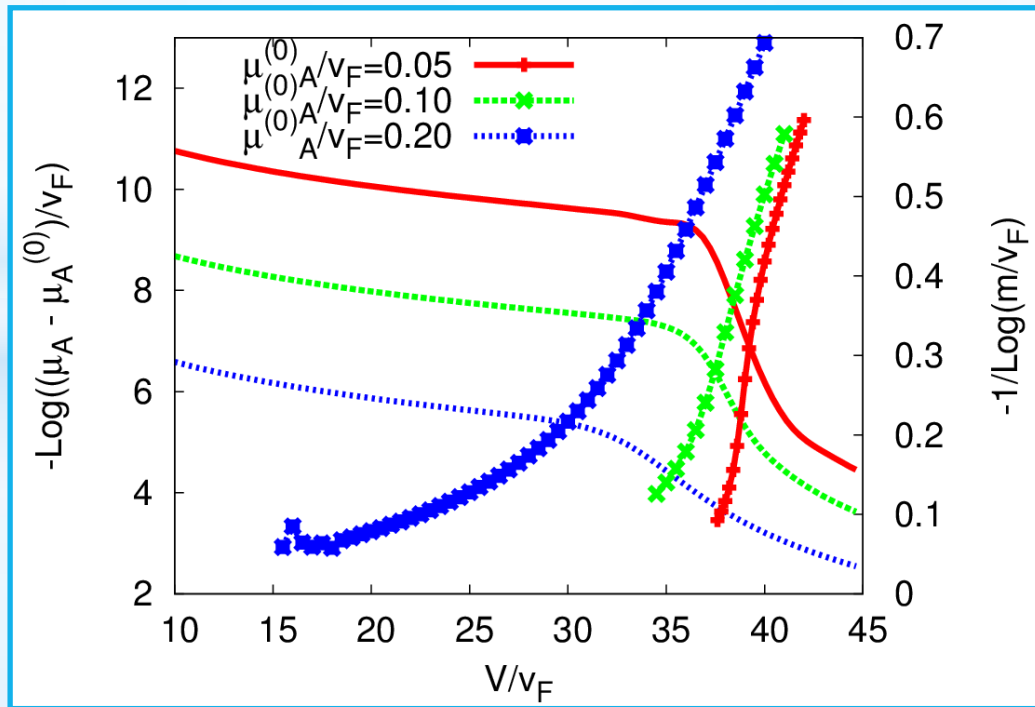
Anti-screening of  $\mu_A$ !!!

... but mass lowers the Fermi sea more efficiently

# Crossover vs. Miransky scaling

Miransky scaling:  $m \sim (V - V_c)^\alpha \exp(-A/|V - V_c|^\beta)$

- All derivatives are continuous at  $V_c$
- $1/\text{Log}(m)$  goes to zero at  $V_c$



This is not the case, we have just crossover

# Linear response and mean-field

$$\mathcal{Z}(A_\mu) \sim \exp(-S[\bar{\Phi}(A_\mu), A_\mu]) \quad \left. \frac{\partial S(\Phi, A_\mu)}{\partial \Phi} \right|_{\bar{\Phi}(A_\mu)} = 0$$

$$\begin{aligned} & \langle j_\mu(x) j_\nu(y) \rangle = \\ &= \mathcal{Z}^{-1}(A_\mu) \frac{\delta}{\delta A_\mu(x)} \frac{\delta}{\delta A_\nu(y)} \mathcal{Z}(A_\mu) \Big|_{A_\mu=0} = \\ &= - \frac{\delta^2 S(\bar{\Phi}(A_\mu), A_\mu)}{\delta A_\mu(x) \delta A_\nu(y)} \end{aligned}$$

$$\frac{\delta}{\delta A_\mu(x)} = \frac{\partial}{\partial A_\mu} + \frac{\partial \bar{\Phi}(A_\mu)}{\partial A_\mu} \frac{\partial}{\partial \bar{\Phi}} \quad G_{xA; zB}^\Phi \frac{\partial^2 S}{\partial \bar{\Phi}_{zB} \partial \bar{\Phi}_{yC}} = \delta_{xy} \delta_{AC}$$

$$\frac{\bar{\Phi}_{xA}(A_\mu)}{\partial A_{y\mu}} = - G_{xA; zB}^\Phi \frac{\partial^2 S}{\partial A_{y\mu} \partial \bar{\Phi}_{zB}}$$

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{\delta^2 S}{\delta A_{x\mu} \delta A_{y\nu}} \Big|_{\bar{\Phi}} = \frac{\partial^2 S}{\partial A_{x\mu} \partial A_{y\nu}} \Big|_{\bar{\Phi}} - \\ & - G_{zA; tB}^\Phi \frac{\partial^2 S}{\partial A_{x\mu} \partial \bar{\Phi}_{zA}} \frac{\partial^2 S}{\partial A_{y\nu} \partial \bar{\Phi}_{tB}} \Big|_{\bar{\Phi}} \end{aligned}$$

**External  
perturbation  
change  
the condensate**



# Linear response and the mean-field

$$S[\Phi, A_\mu] = -\log \det(\mathcal{D}(\Phi_x + A_\mu \gamma_\mu)) + \frac{1}{4V} \int d\tau \sum_x \text{Tr} \Phi_x^2$$

$$\Phi_{x\alpha\beta} = \Phi_{xA} \Gamma_{A\alpha\beta}$$

$$\Gamma_A = \left\{ 1, \gamma_5, \gamma_\mu, \gamma_5 \gamma_\mu, \frac{i}{2} [\gamma_\mu, \gamma_\nu] \right\}$$

$$\frac{\partial^2 S}{\partial A_{x\mu} \partial \Phi_{zA}} \equiv - \frac{\partial^2 \log \det(\mathcal{D}(\Phi_x))}{\partial \Phi_{xB=\gamma_\mu} \partial \Phi_{zA}}$$

$$\frac{\partial^2 S}{\partial \Phi_{xA} \partial \Phi_{yB}} \equiv - \frac{\partial^2 \log \det(\mathcal{D}(\Phi_x))}{\partial \Phi_{xA} \partial \Phi_{yB}} + \frac{1}{2V} \delta_{xy} \delta_{AB}$$

$$\frac{\delta^2 S}{\delta A_\mu \delta A_\nu} \sim - \sum_{A_\mu A_\nu}^f + \sum_{A_\mu B}^f \left( \frac{1}{\sum_f - \frac{1}{2V}} \right)_{BC} \sum_{CA_\nu}^f$$

$$\sum_{AB}^f = \frac{\partial^2}{\partial \Phi_A \partial \Phi_B} \log \det(\mathcal{D}(\Phi))$$

$\Phi_x$  can mimick any local term in the Dirac op.

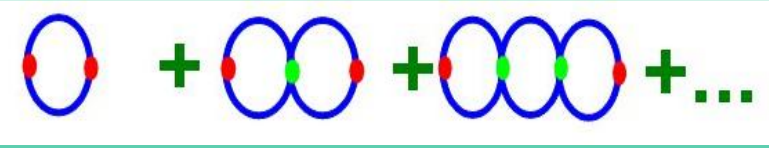
Screening of external perturbations

# CME and vector/pseudo-vector “mesons”

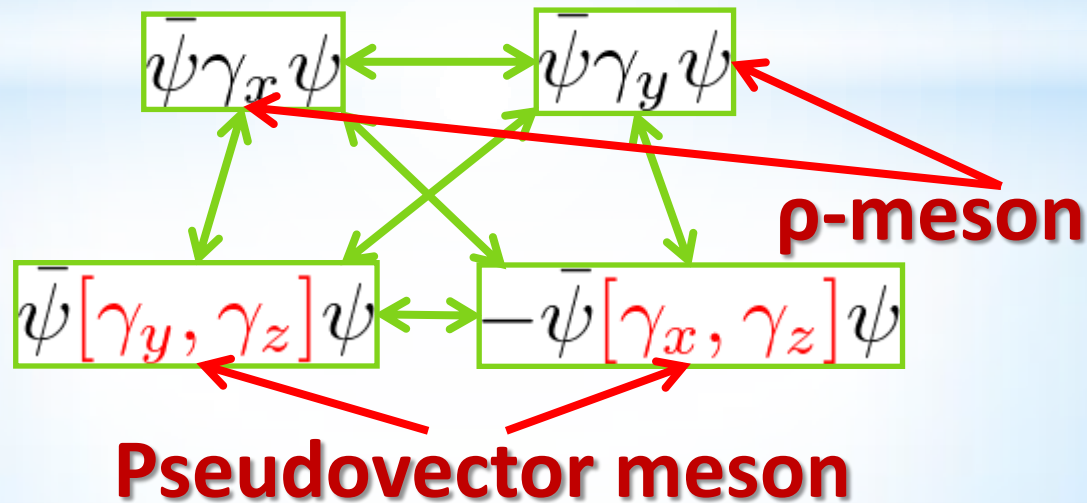
$$\frac{\delta^2 S}{\delta A_{x\mu} \delta A_{y\nu}} = \frac{1}{2V} \delta_{xy} \delta_{\mu\nu} + \frac{1}{4V^2} \left( \frac{\partial^2 S}{\partial \Phi_{xA} \partial \Phi_{yB}} \right)^{-1}_{A_{x\mu}; A_{y\nu}}$$

**CME response:**

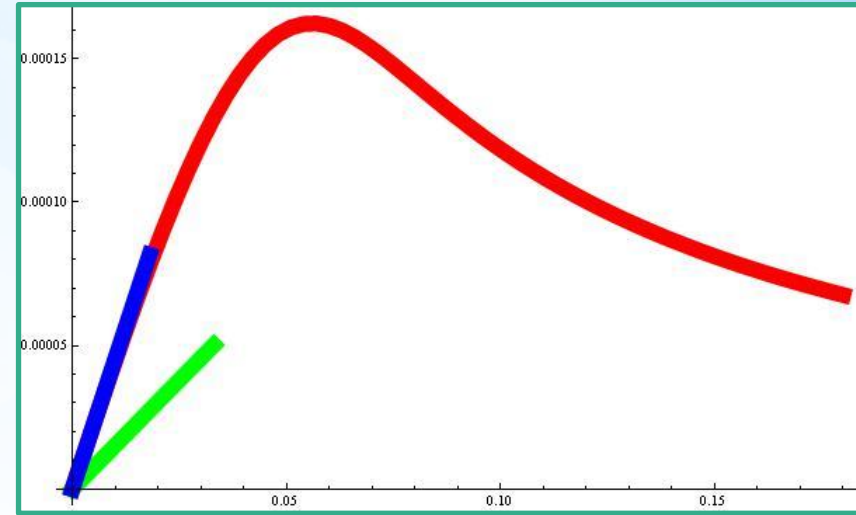
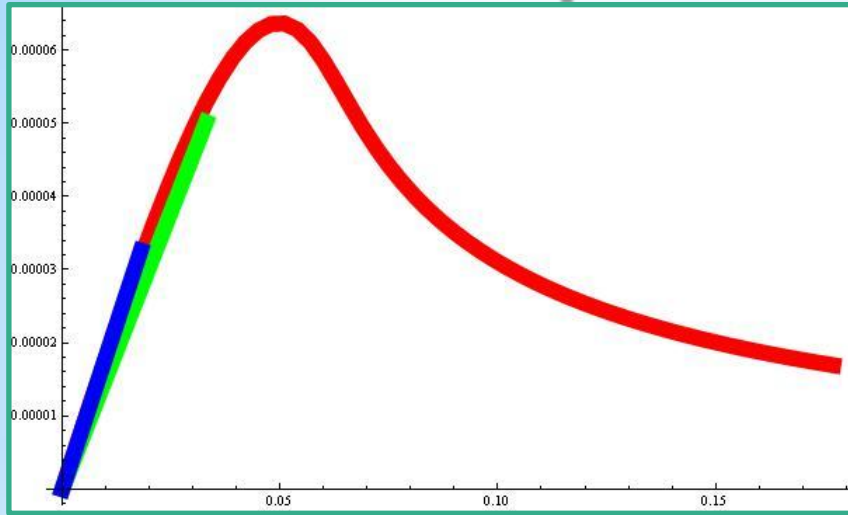
**Vector meson propagator**

$$\frac{1}{4V^2} \left( \Sigma_f - \frac{1}{2V} \right)^{-1}_{A_{x1}; A_{y2}} \Big|_{x-y \sim e_3}$$


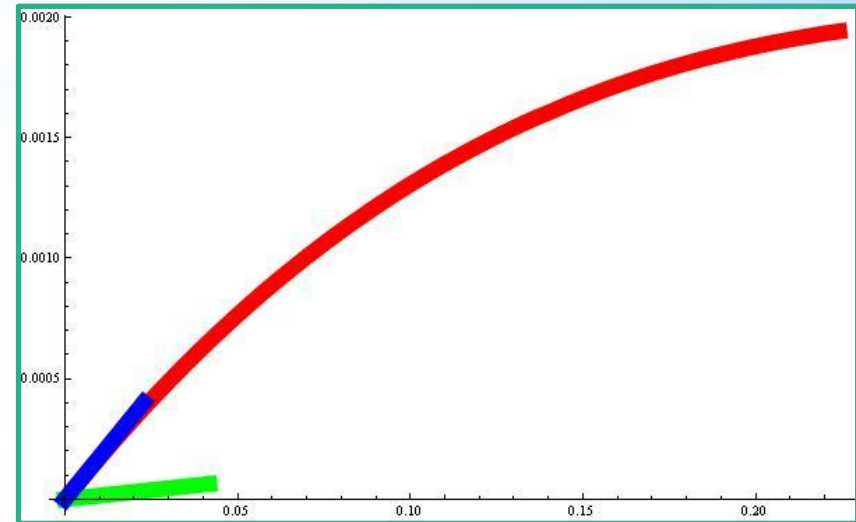
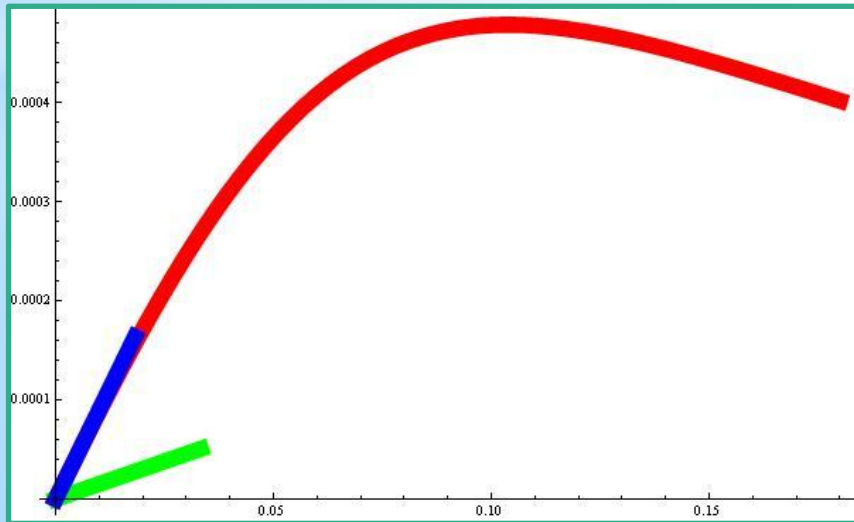
**Meson mixing with  $\mu_A$**



# CME response: explicit calculation



$V = 0.15 V_c$  “Covariant” currents!!!  $V = 0.70 V_c$

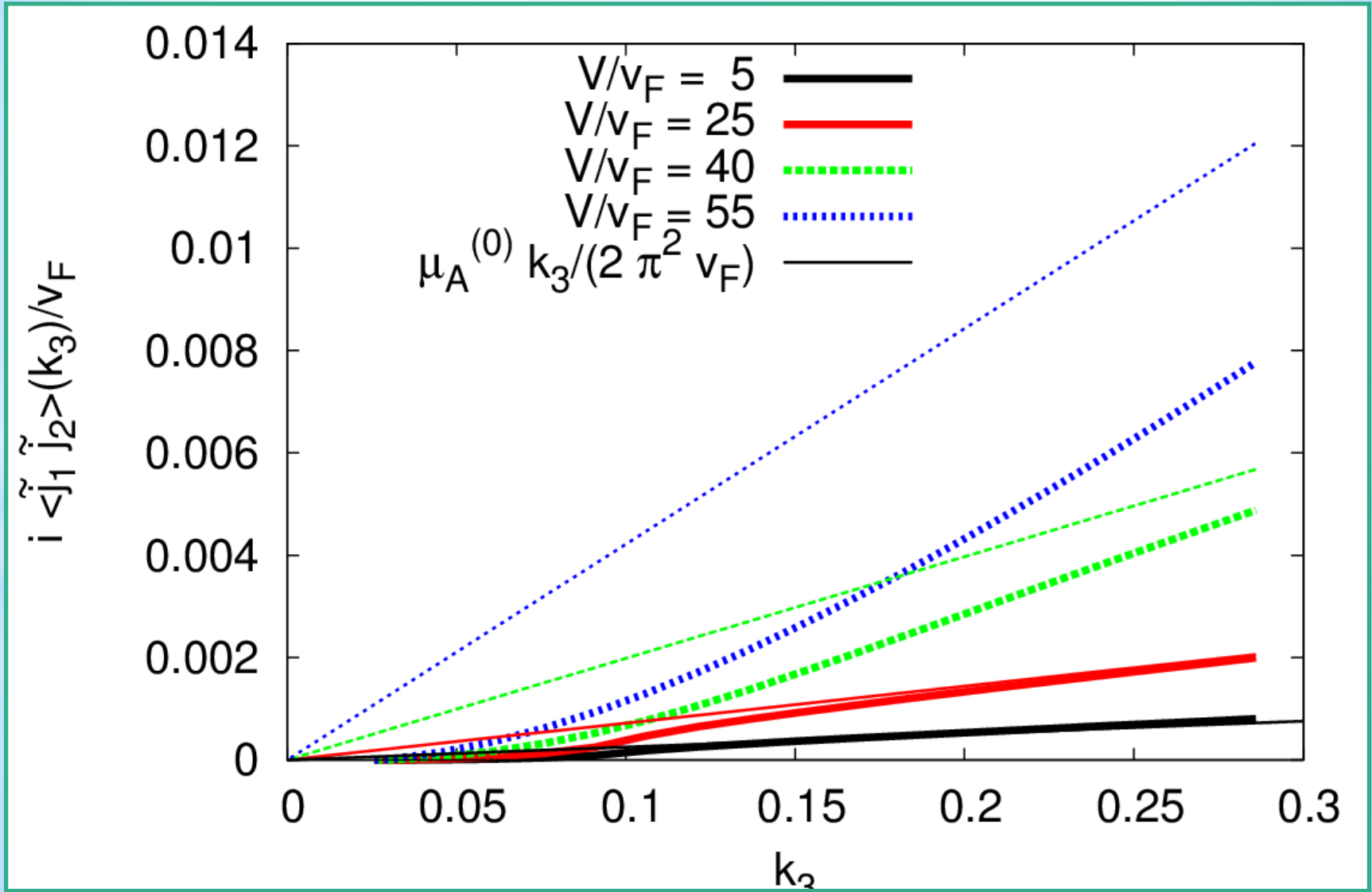


$V = V_c$

Green =  $\mu_A k / (2 \pi^2)$

$V = 1.30 V_c$

# CME response: explicit calculation



**“Conserved” currents!!!**

**Green =  $\mu_A k / (2 \pi^2)$**



# CME in the strong/weak coupling limits

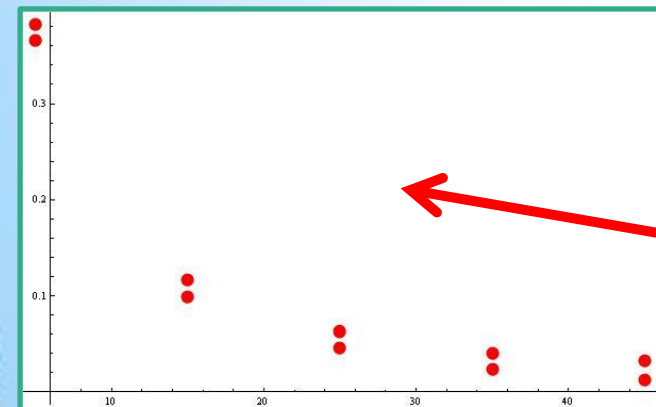
## Weak-coupling limit, small $\mu_A$

$$\frac{\delta^2 S}{\delta A_{x\mu} \delta A_{y\nu}} = \Sigma_{xy}^f(\mu_A) (1 + 4V \Sigma_{xx}^f) = \text{Diagram 1} + \text{Diagram 2} + \text{Diagram 3} + \dots$$

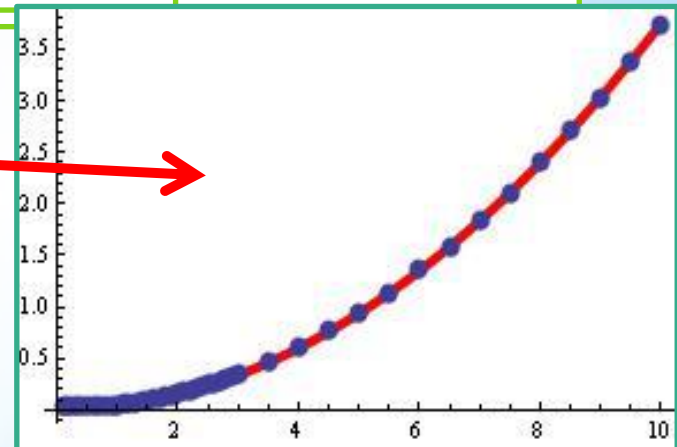
## Strong-coupling limit, small $\mu_A$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\delta^2 S}{\delta A_{x\mu} \delta A_{y\nu}} &= \frac{1}{4V^2} \left( \Pi(\mu_A = 0) + \frac{i\mu_A^R k_z}{2\pi^2} \epsilon_{xy} \right)_{xy}^{-1} = \\ &= \frac{1}{4V^2} \Pi^{-1}(\mu_A = 0)_{xx} \frac{i\mu_A^R k_z}{2\pi^2} \Pi^{-1}(\mu_A = 0)_{yy} \approx \\ &\approx \frac{V_c^2}{4m_\rho^2} \frac{i\mu_A k_z}{2\pi^2} \end{aligned}$$

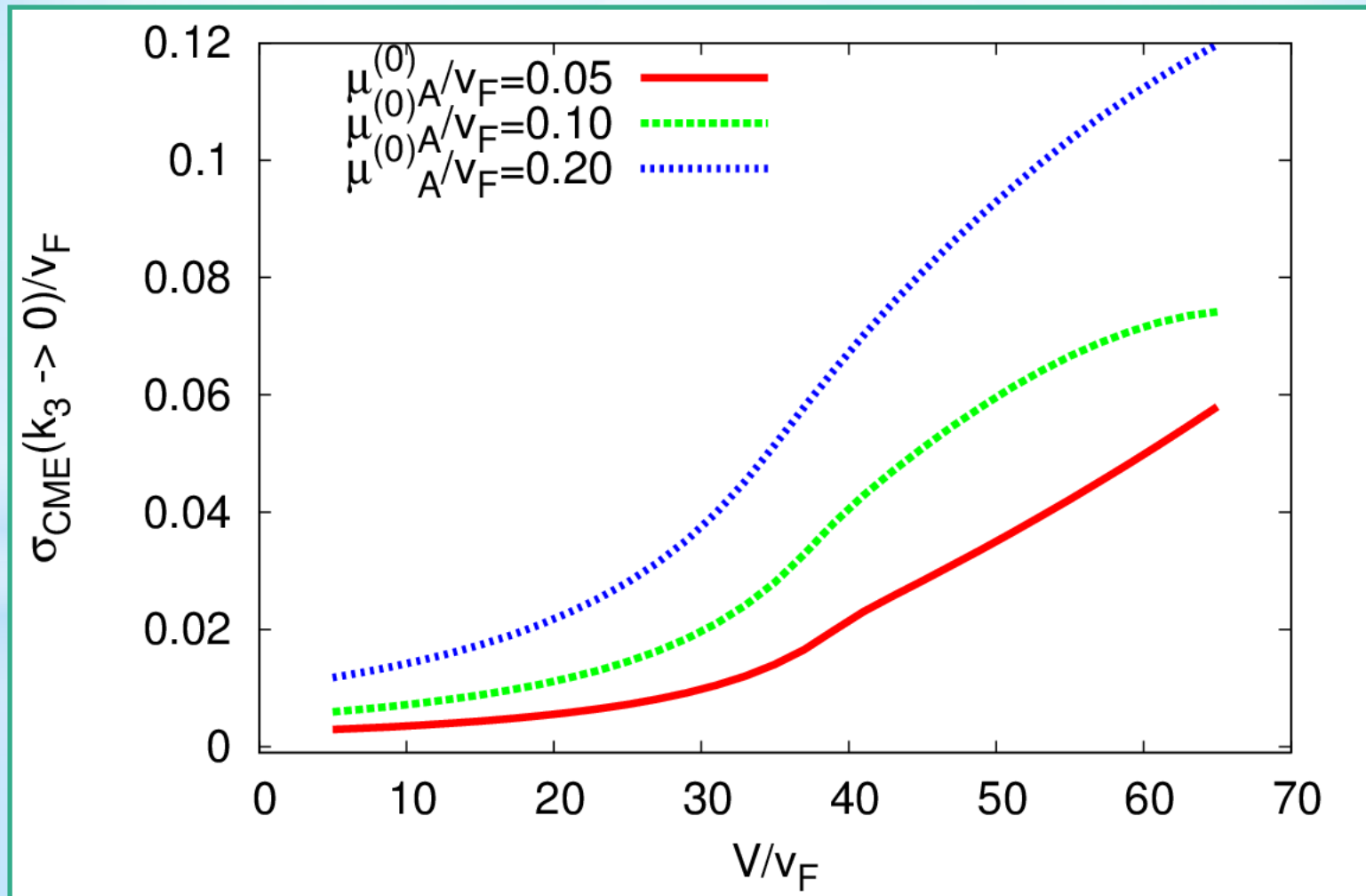
$$\mu_A \sim \mu_A^0 (V/V_c)^2 !!!$$



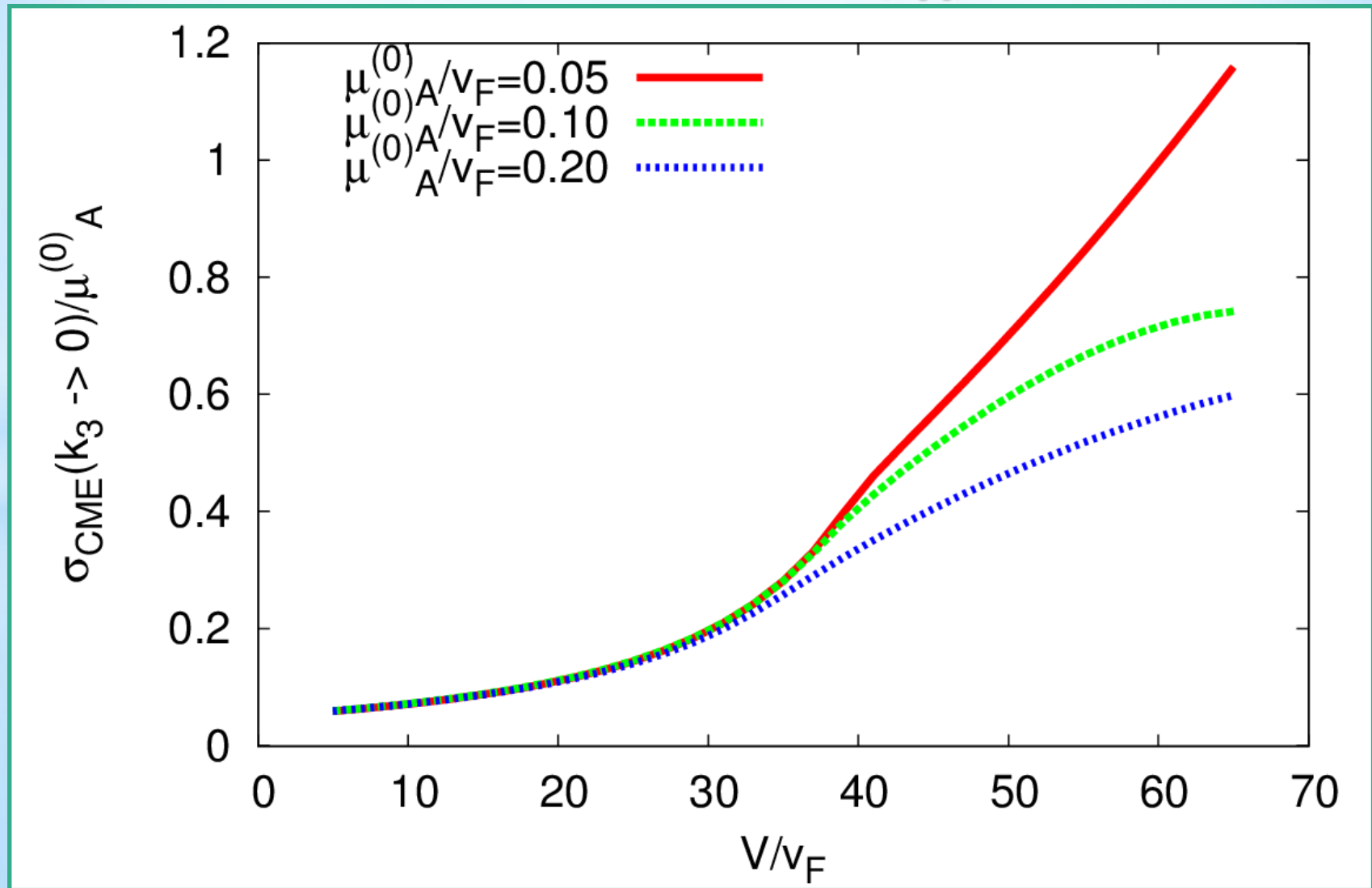
$\mu_A$  vs  $V$   
 $M_\rho$  vs  $V$



# Chiral magnetic conductivity vs. $V$



# Chiral magnetic conductivity vs. $V$ (rescaled by $\mu_A$ )



# Regularizing the problem

A lot of interesting questions for **numerics...**

- **Mean-field level: numerical minimization**
- **Monte-Carlo: first-principle answers**

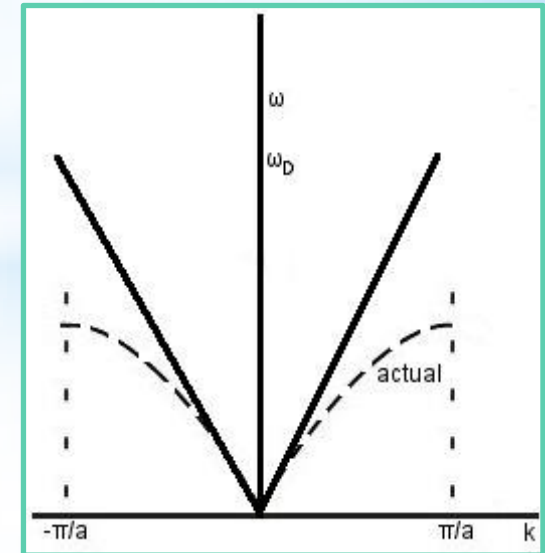
➔ **Consistent regularization of the problem?**

**Cutoff: no current conservation**

(and we need  $\langle j_\mu j_\nu \rangle \dots$ )

**Lattice: chirality is difficult...**

**BUT: in condmat fermions are never exactly chiral...**



**Consider Weyl semimetals = Wilson fermions  
(Complications: Aoki phase etc...)**

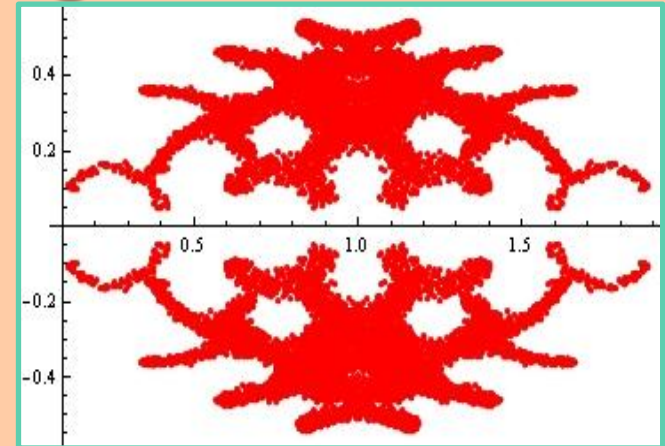


# Weyl semimetals + $\mu_A$ : no sign problem!

- One flavor of Wilson-Dirac fermions
- Instantaneous interactions (relevant for condmat)
- Time-reversal invariance: no magnetic interactions


## Kramers degeneracy in spectrum:

- Complex conjugate pairs
- Paired real eigenvalues
- External magnetic field causes sign problem!
- Determinant is always positive!!!
- Chiral chemical potential: still T-invariance!!!
- Simulations possible with Rational HMC



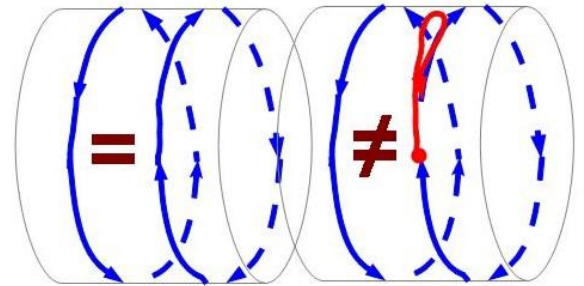
# Weyl semimetals: no sign problem!

Wilson-Dirac with chiral chemical potential:

- No chiral symmetry
- No unique way to introduce  $\mu_A$
-  Save as many symmetries as possible  
[Yamamoto'10]

$$\begin{aligned}
 [\mathcal{D}_w]_{\tau_1, \vec{x}_1; \tau_2, \vec{x}_2} &= \delta_{\tau_1, \tau_2} \delta_{\vec{x}_1, \vec{x}_2} - \\
 &- 2\kappa_\tau \delta_{\vec{x}_1, \vec{x}_2} \left( P_\tau^- \delta_{\tau_2, \tau_1 + \Delta\tau} e^{i\phi(\tau_1, \vec{x}_1)} + P_\tau^+ \delta_{\tau_2, \tau_1 - \Delta\tau} e^{-i\phi(\tau_2, \vec{x}_1)} \right) - \\
 &- 2\kappa_s \delta_{\tau_1, \tau_2} \sum_{i=1}^3 \left( P_i^- \delta_{\vec{x}_2, \vec{x}_1 + \vec{e}_i} + P_i^+ \delta_{\vec{x}_2, \vec{x}_1 - \vec{e}_i} \right)
 \end{aligned}$$

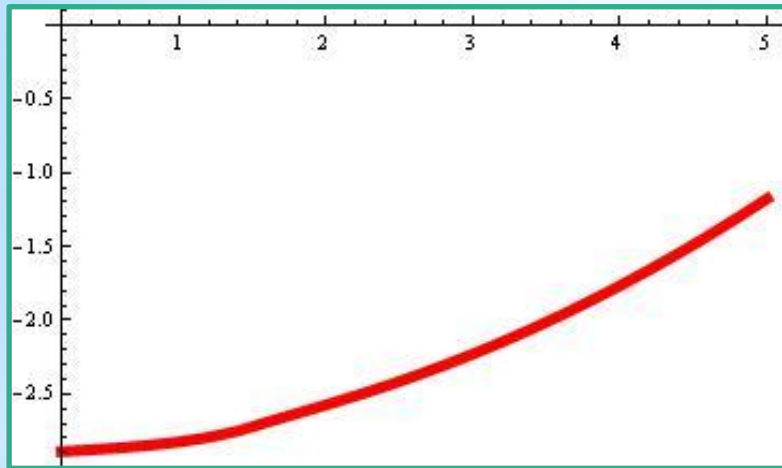
Counting Zitterbewegung,  
not worldline wrapping



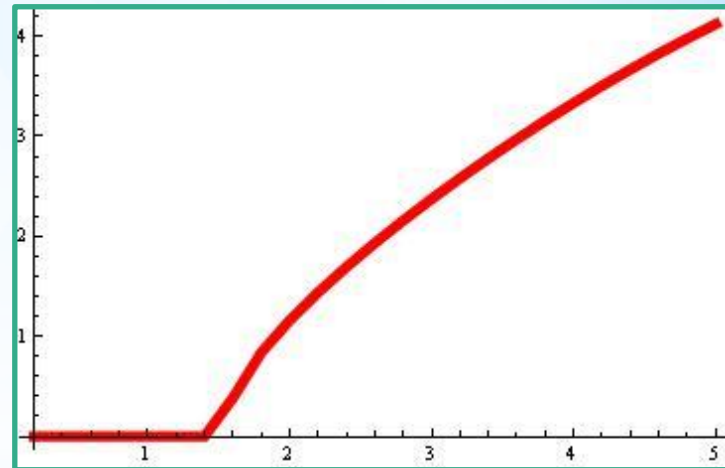
$$\begin{aligned}
 P_\tau^\pm(\mu_A) &= \frac{1 \pm \gamma_0 \cosh(\mu_A \Delta\tau)}{2} + \frac{\gamma_0 \gamma_5 \sinh(\mu_A \Delta\tau)}{2} \\
 P_\tau^+(\mu_A) P_\tau^-(\mu_A) &\neq 0, \quad P_\tau^+(\mu_A) P_\tau^+(\mu_A) = P_\tau^+(\mu_A)
 \end{aligned}$$

# Wilson-Dirac: mean-field

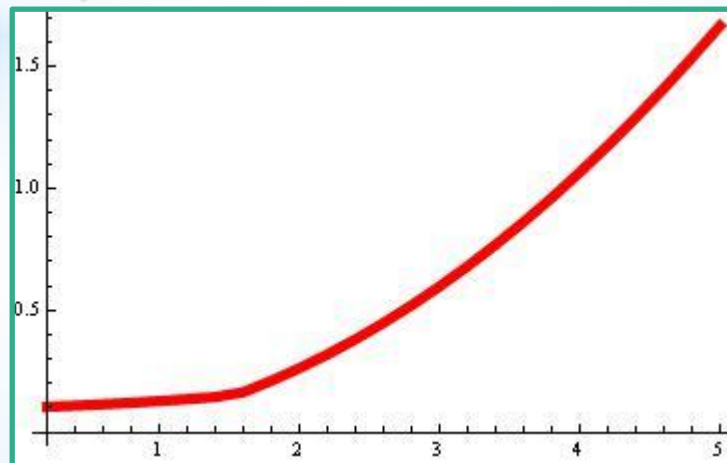
Rotations/Translations unbroken (???)



**Re(Eff. Mass) vs  $V$**



**Im(Eff. Mass) vs  $V$**



**$\mu_A$  vs  $V$**

# More chiral regularizations?

**Overlap Hamiltonian for  $h^{(0)}$  [Creutz, Horvath, Neuberger]**

$$h^{(0)} = \gamma_0 \left( 1 + \frac{\mathcal{D}_w^{(3D)}}{\sqrt{\mathcal{D}_w^{(3D)} \mathcal{D}_w^{(3D)\dagger}}} \right)$$
$$\mathcal{D}_w^{(3D)} = -\rho + \sum_{i=1}^3 \left( 2 \sin^2 \left( \frac{k_i}{2} \right) + i \gamma_i \sin(k_i) \right)$$

**Vacuum energy is still lowered by  $\mu_A$ !**

**Local charge density**  $\hat{q}_x = \hat{\psi}_{x\alpha}^\dagger \hat{\psi}_{x\alpha} - 2$

**not invariant under Lüscher transformations**

$$\delta_A O = (1 - \mathcal{D}_{ov}/2) \gamma_5 O + O \gamma_5 (1 - \mathcal{D}_{ov}/2)$$

**Only gauge-type interactions do not break chiral symmetry explicitly...**

**No sensible mean-field...**




# More chiral regularizations?

## Pauli-Villars regularization?

- x Not strictly chiral
- x No Hamiltonian formulation
- ✓ OK for chiral anomaly equation
- ✓ OK for CME [Ren'11, Buividovich'13]

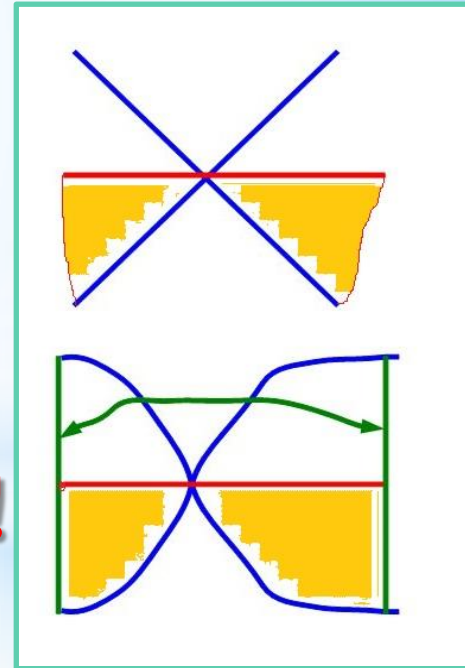
$$\det(\gamma_\mu \partial_\mu + \gamma_0 \gamma_5 \mu_A + m) \rightarrow \frac{\det(\gamma_\mu \partial_\mu + \gamma_0 \gamma_5 \mu_A + m)}{\det(\gamma_\mu \partial_\mu + \gamma_0 \gamma_5 \mu_A + M)}$$

Regulators also feel  $\mu_A$    
 $\mu_A$  now increases Dirac sea energy!!!  
(Just an explicit calculation...)

# More chiral regularizations?

Overlap fermions with  $\mu A$ ? [Buividovich'13]

- ✓ Strictly chiral
- x No Hamiltonian formulation
- x No contact-type interactions
- ✓ OK for chiral anomaly equation
- ✓ OK for CME [Buividovich'13]



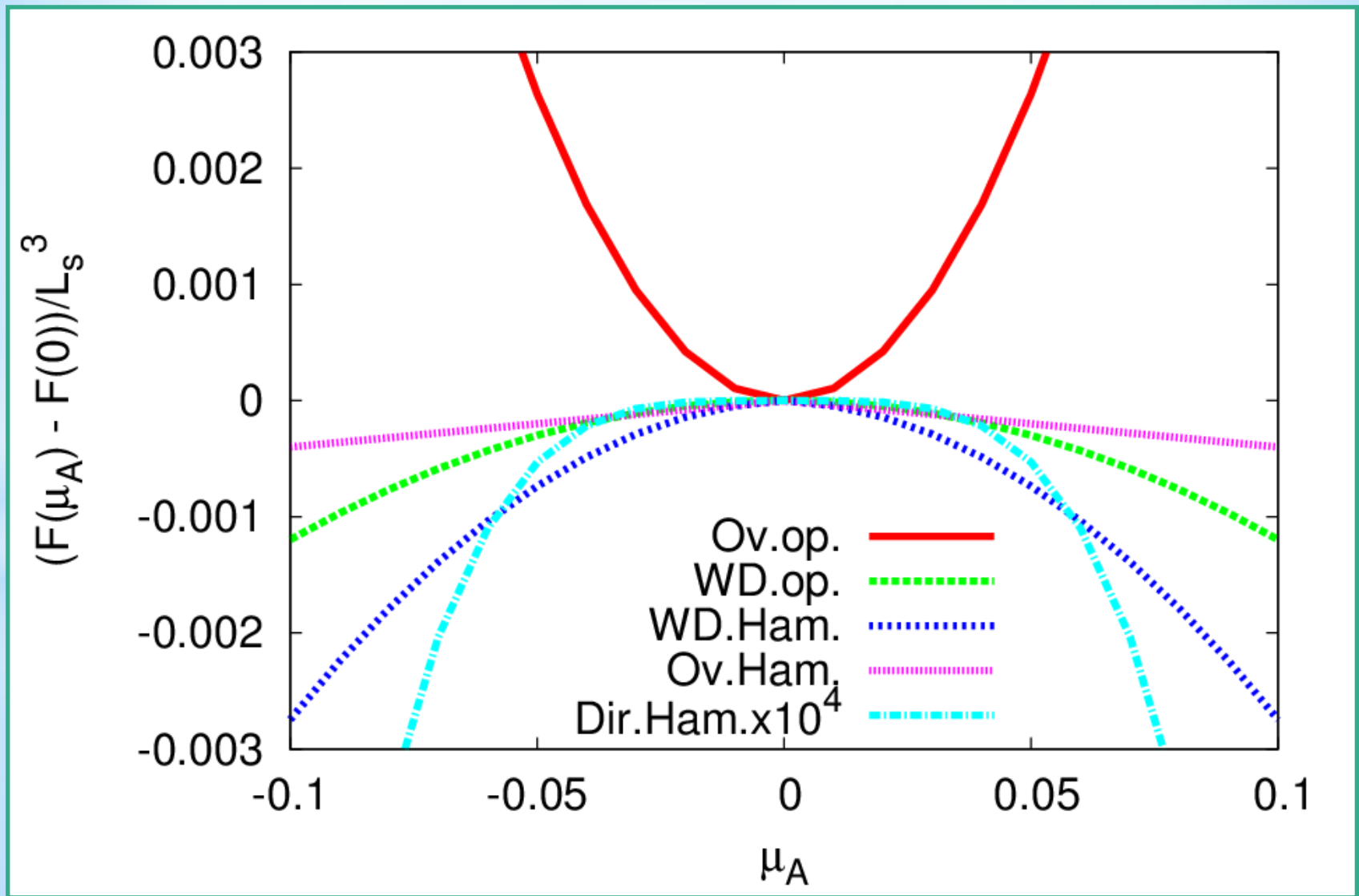
Again,  $\mu A$  increases vacuum energy!

Seemingly, TWO interpretations of  $\mu A$

- Dirac sea, finite number of levels (condmat)
- Infinite Dirac sea with regularization (QFT)

What is the physics of these interpretations???

# Vacuum energy vs $\mu_A$



# Conclusions

**Two scenarios for strongly coupled Dirac fermions with chiral imbalance:**

---

- **Condmat-like models with finite Dirac sea**
  - **ChSB enhances chirality imbalance**
  - **CME current carried by „vector mesons“**
  - **Enhancement of CME due to interactions**
- 
- **QFT-like models with regulated Dirac sea**
  - **ChSB suppresses chirality imbalance**
  - **Role of regulators not physically clear (so far)**
  - **New interesting instabilities possible**
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**Thank you for your attention!!!**

