

Unitary Fermions on the Lattice

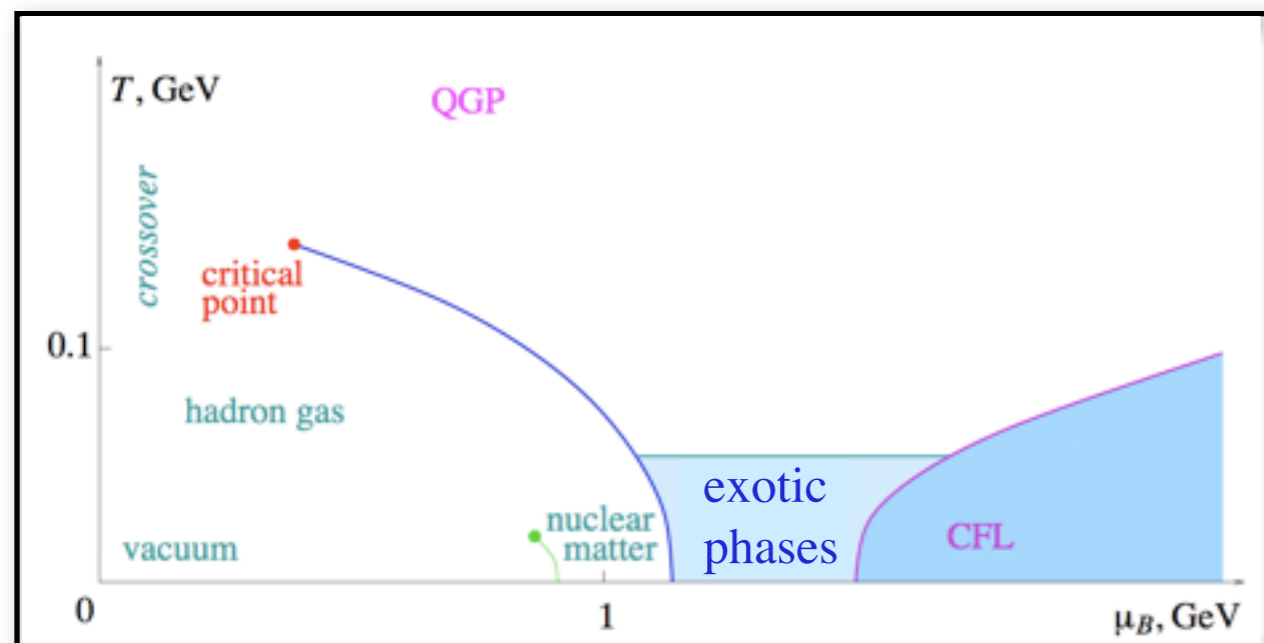
With: Michael Endres, Jong-Wan Lee, Amy Nicholson

Major outstanding problem in LGT: QCD at finite fermion number

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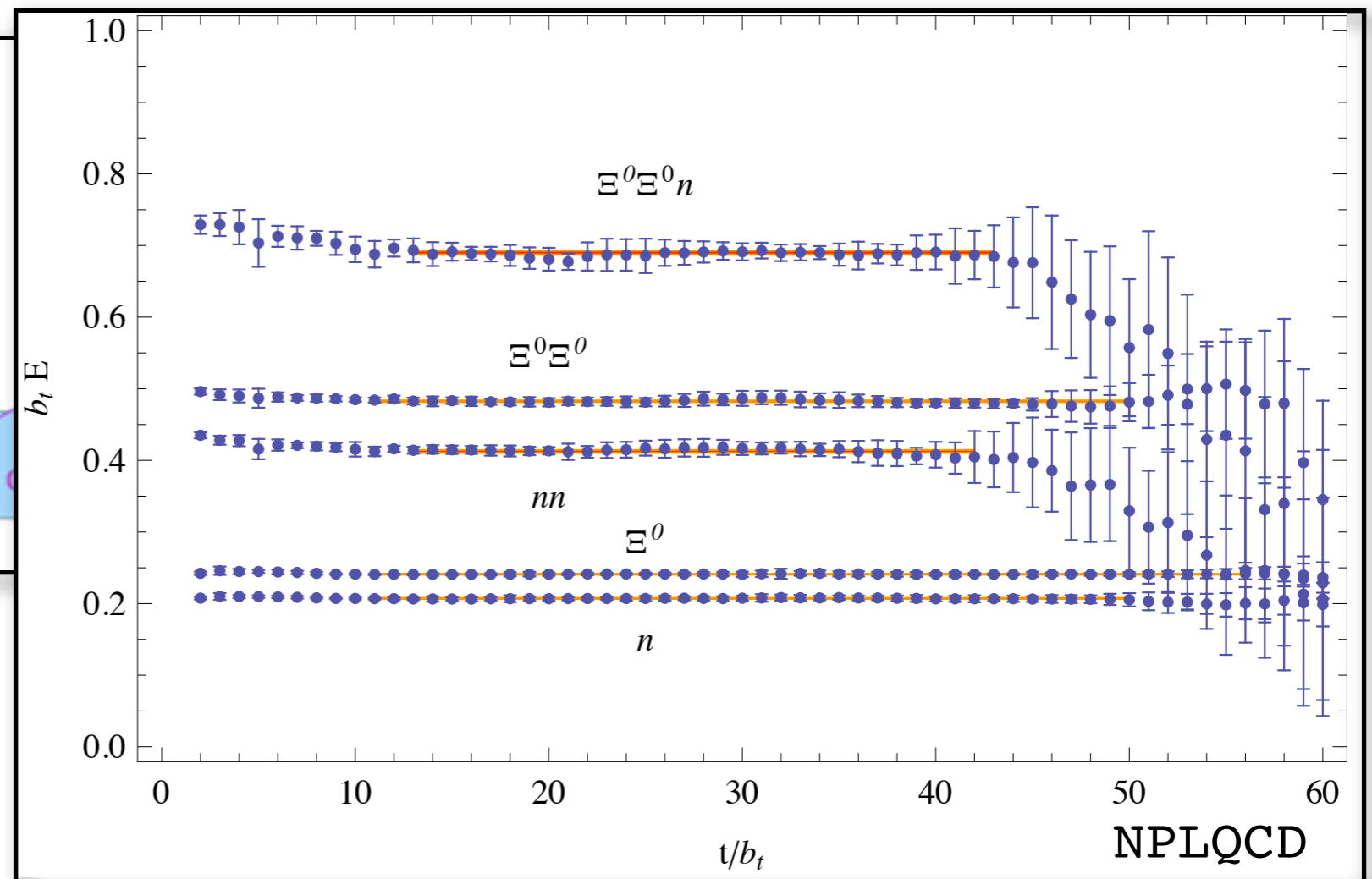
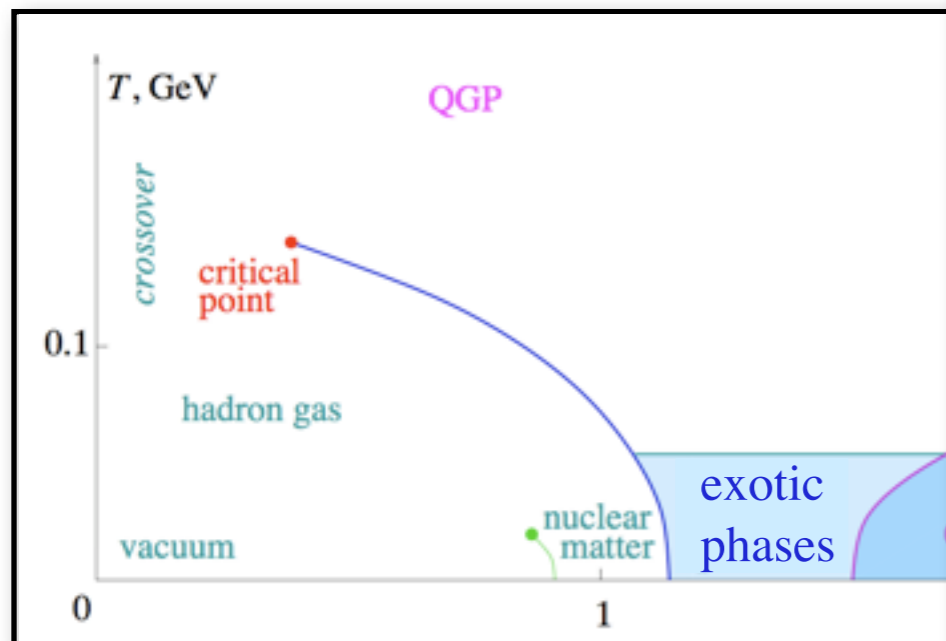
Major outstanding problem in LGT: QCD at finite fermion number



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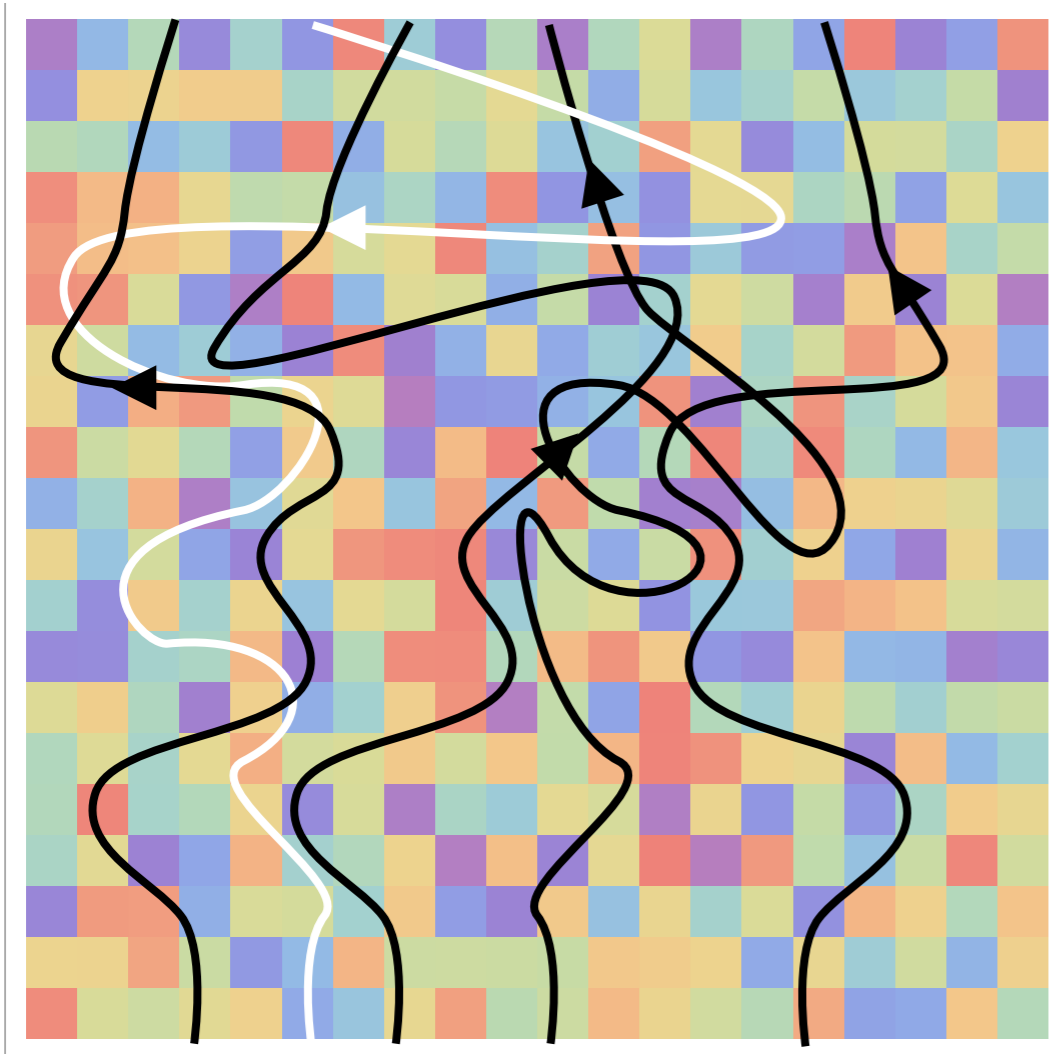
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Major outstanding problem in LGT: QCD at finite fermion number



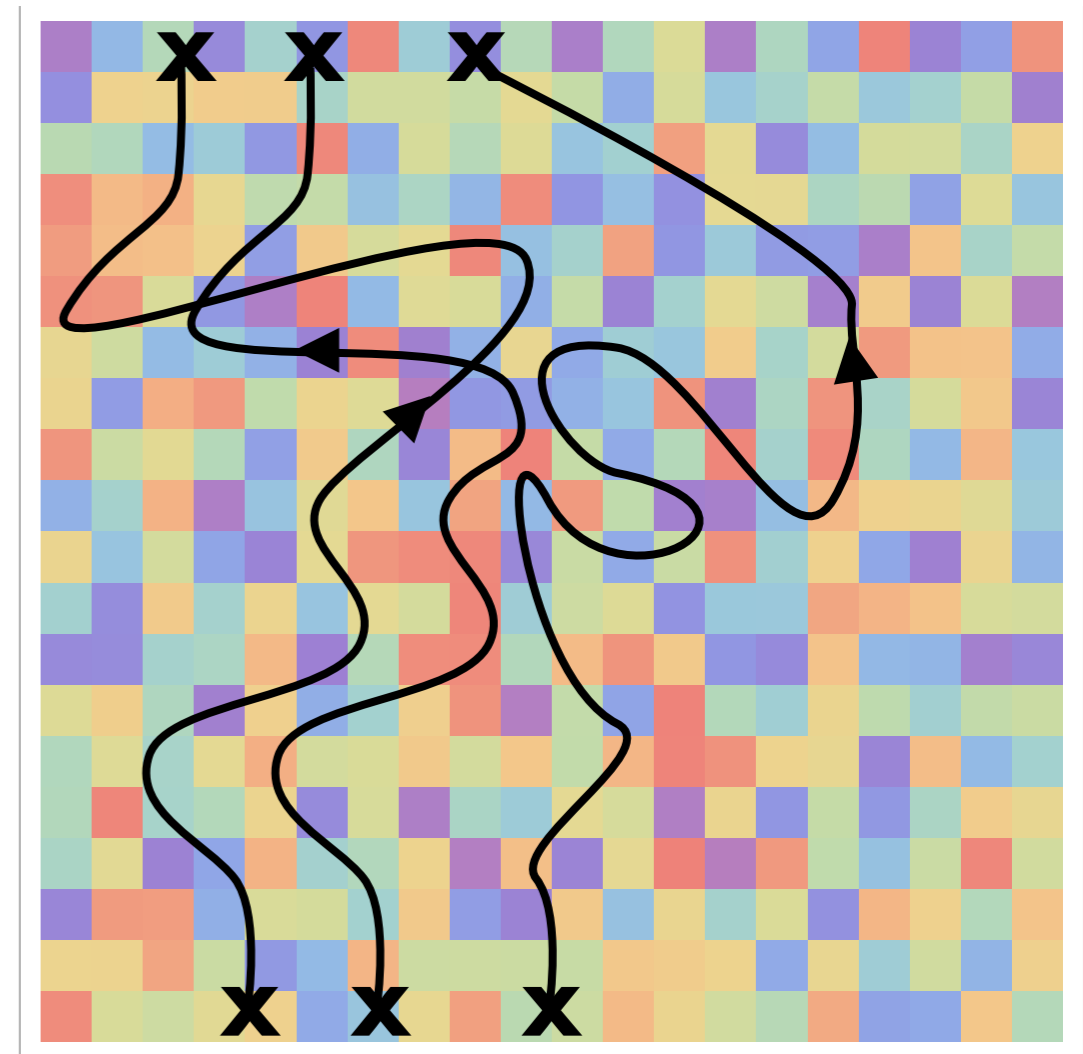
What is the sign problem?

Sign Problem



Grand canonical: exponentially difficult in volume V

Signal/Noise Problem



Canonical: exponentially bad S/N in Euclidian time t

S/N \sim sign problem:

In background gauge field, quarks don't know about each other.

Is the quark in a pion?

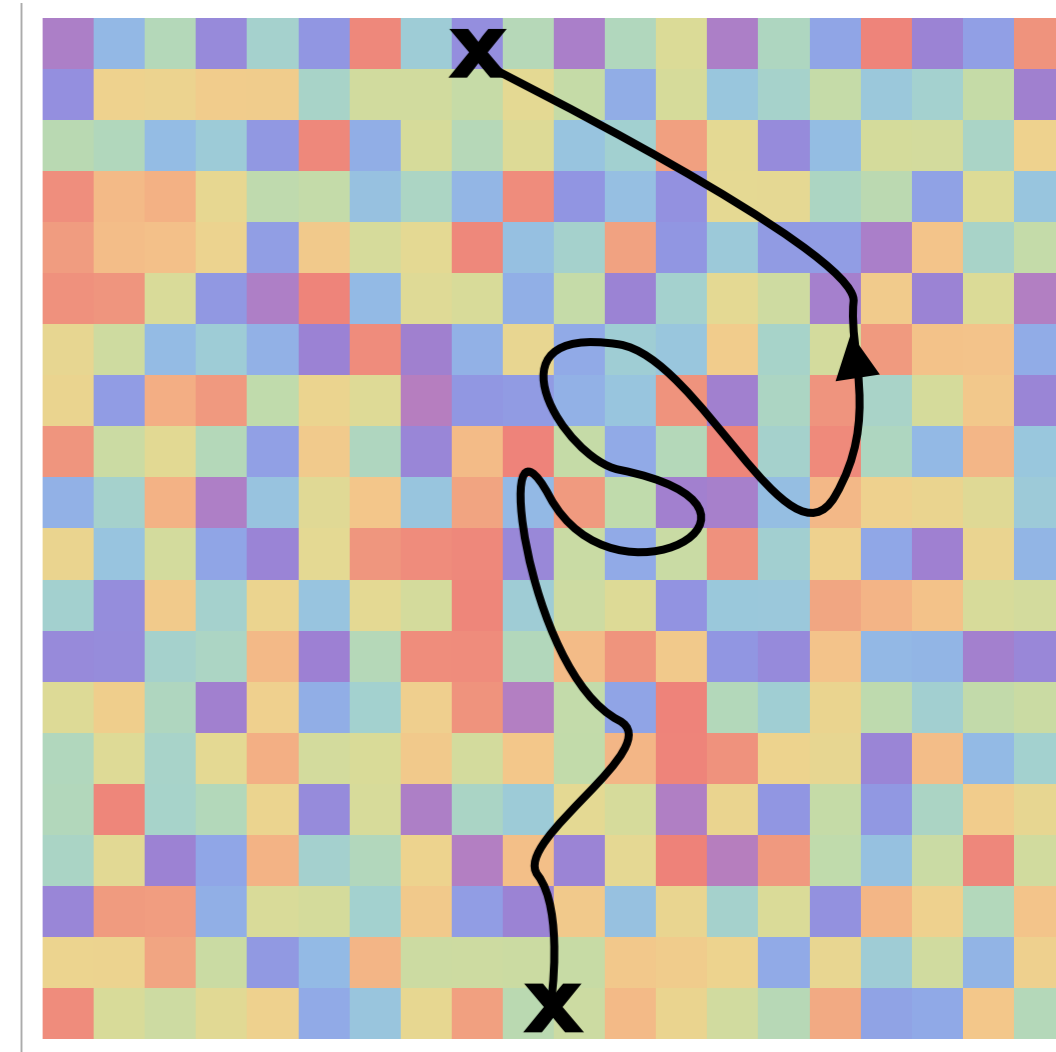
\Rightarrow big correlation after long time

Is the quark in a baryon?

\Rightarrow exponentially smaller correlation

(quarks "weigh more" in a baryon)

What is a quark to do??



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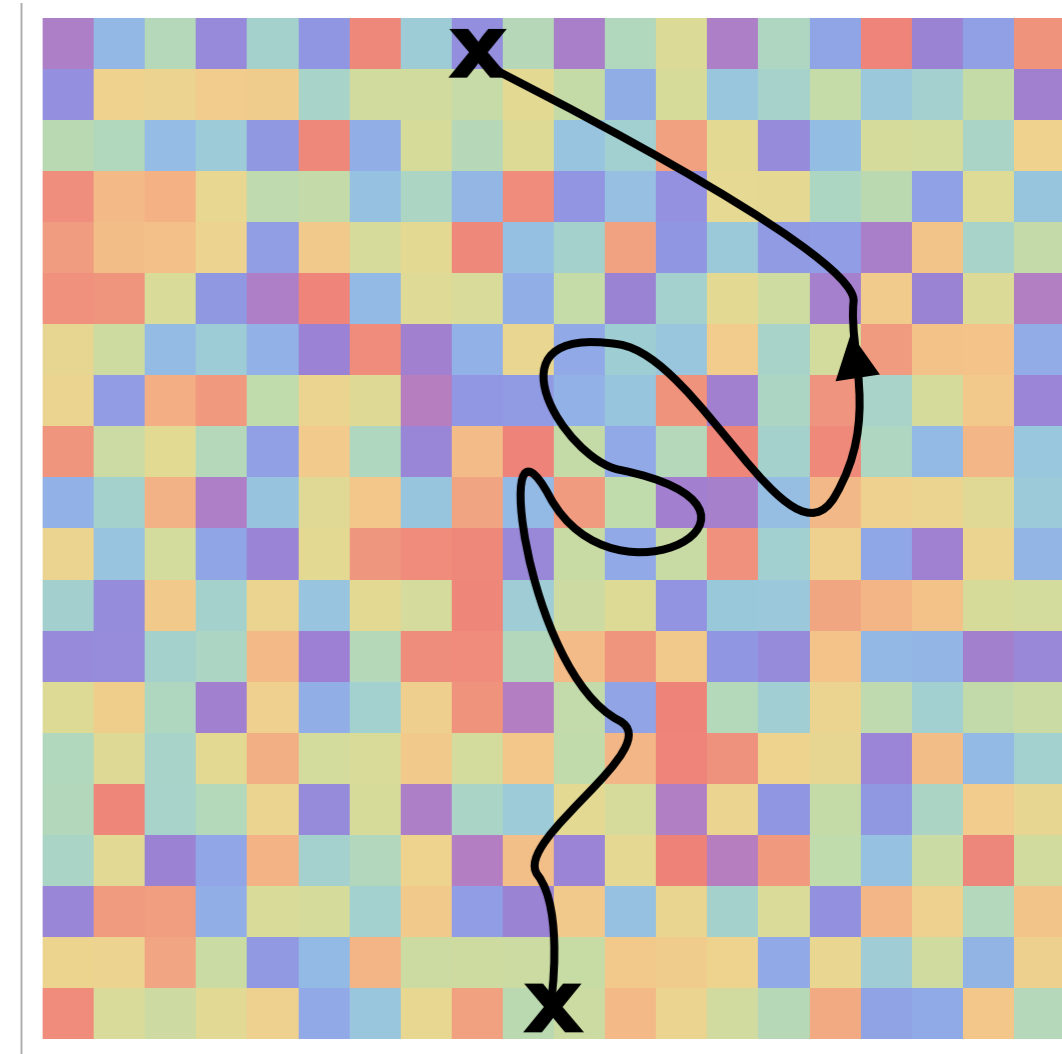
What is a quark to do??

How lattice QCD solves this problem:

- Every quark has long correlation in a background gauge field

$$“M_q” \sim M_\pi/2$$

- If the quark is in a baryon, **EXPONENTIAL CANCELLATIONS** when averaging gauge fields (since $M_B > 3 M_\pi/2$)

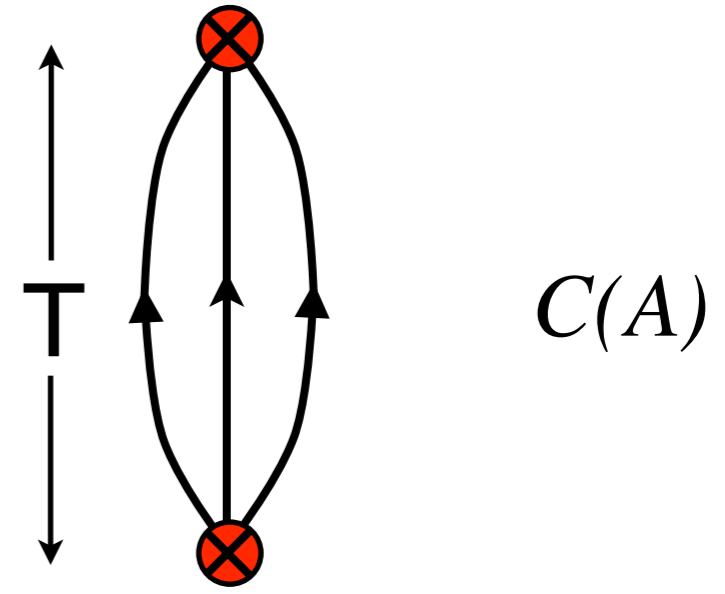


Lepage argument for the signal/noise problem

e.g: measuring the nucleon mass in LQCD:

$$\langle C \rangle = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{\{A\}} C(A) \propto e^{-M T} + \dots$$

nucleon:
lightest 3q state

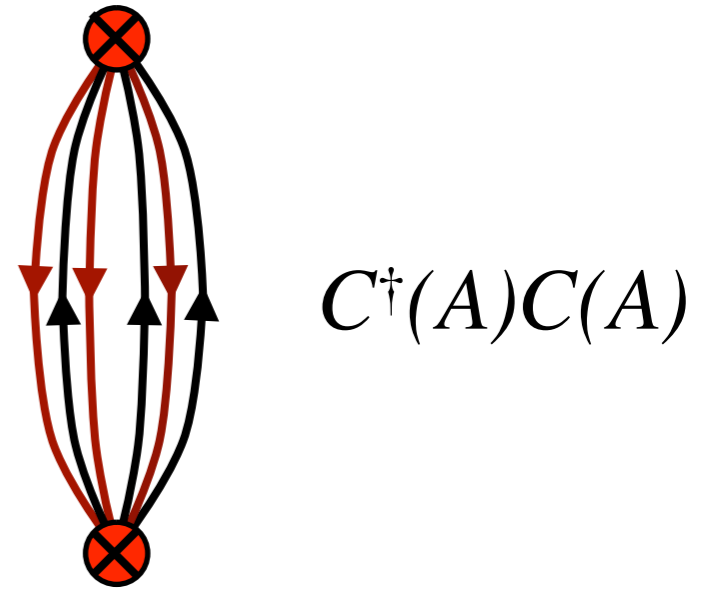


Dispersion in measurement:

$$\sigma = \langle C^\dagger C \rangle = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{\{A\}} C^\dagger(A) C(A) \propto e^{-3m_\pi T} + \dots$$

3 anti-quarks
3 quarks

3π : lightest 3q+ 3q* state



$$\frac{\text{signal}}{\text{noise}} \propto \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} e^{-(M - \frac{3}{2}m_\pi) T}$$

Basically same picture, with caveats:
“N”? Gaussian distribution?

Important to investigate

- systems with many fermions
 - ▶ are usual correlator measurements feasible?
 - ▶ choice of sources?

- systems with signal to noise problems
 - ▶ multi-fermion
 - ▶ disconnected diagrams

QCD too hard for playing around: find a simpler nontrivial system to investigate

A physically interesting multi-fermion system that is more tractable: “Unitary Fermions”

Nonrelativistic scattering from a short range interaction:

$$\mathcal{A} = \frac{4\pi}{M} \frac{1}{p \cot \delta - ip}$$

$$p \cot \delta = -\frac{1}{a} + \frac{1}{2}r_0 p^2 + O(p^4)$$

$$p = \sqrt{ME}$$

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effective
range

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effective
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“unitary” fermions: $p \cot \delta = 0$

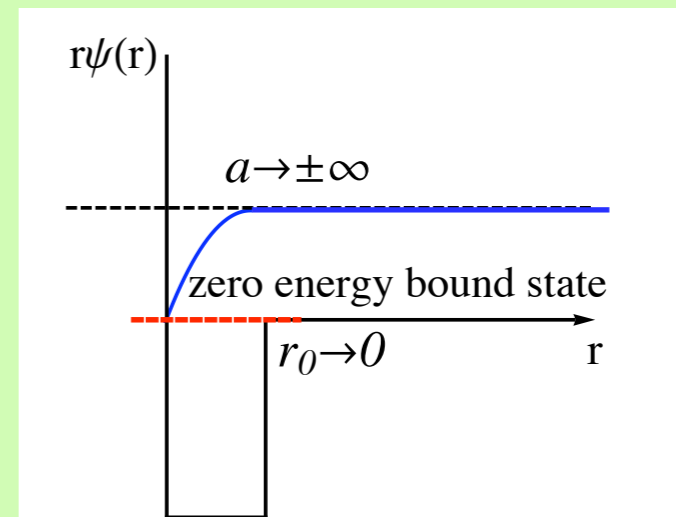
$$\delta = 90^\circ$$

$$a = \infty$$

$$r_0 = 0 \dots$$

A strongly-coupled conformal system

Zero-range potential
Zero-energy bound state

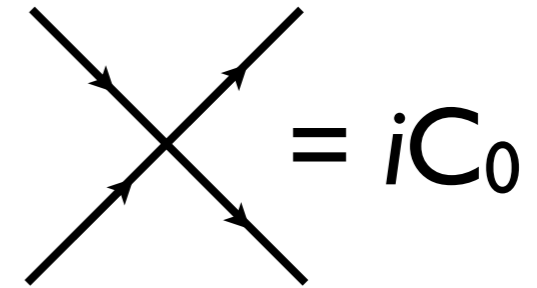


Effective theory:

D.K., M. Savage, M. Wise (1998)

Fermion scattering at very low energy; leading interaction:

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{EFT}} = \frac{C_0}{4} N^\dagger N N^\dagger N + \dots$$

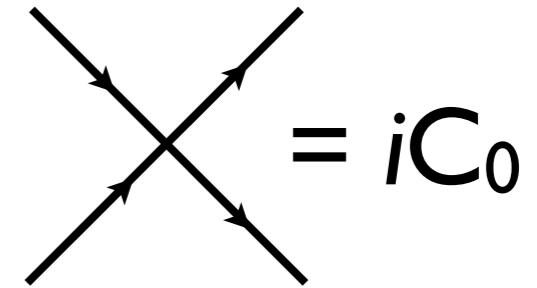


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Renormalization group: C_0 scales with UV cutoff μ :

$$\hat{C}_0 \equiv -\frac{M\mu}{4\pi} C_0 = \frac{\mu}{\mu + \frac{1}{a}} \quad \hat{\beta} = \mu \frac{\partial \hat{C}_0}{\partial \mu} = -\hat{C}_0 (\hat{C}_0 - 1)$$

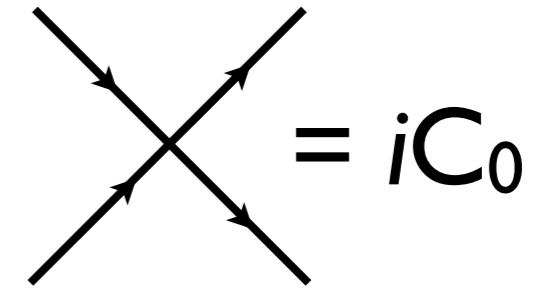
← Scattering length

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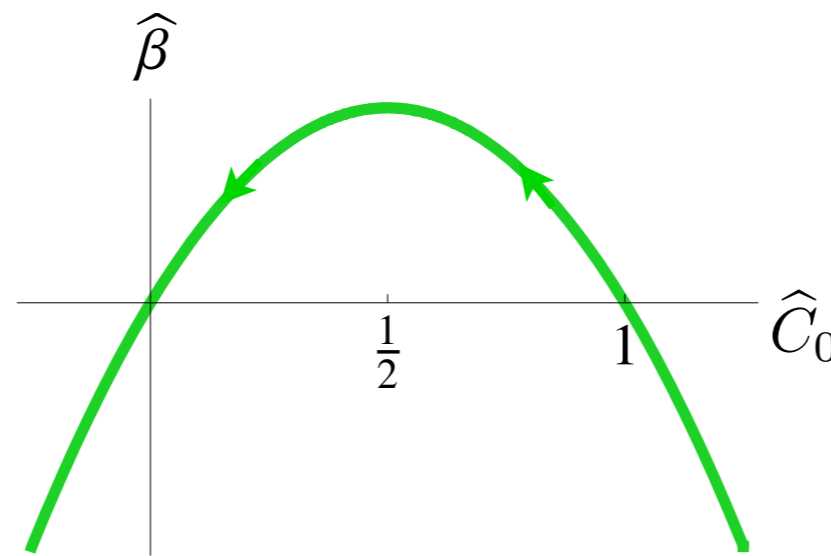
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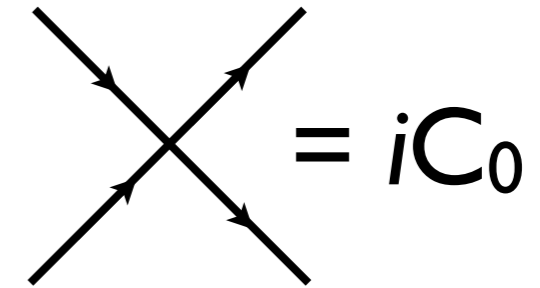


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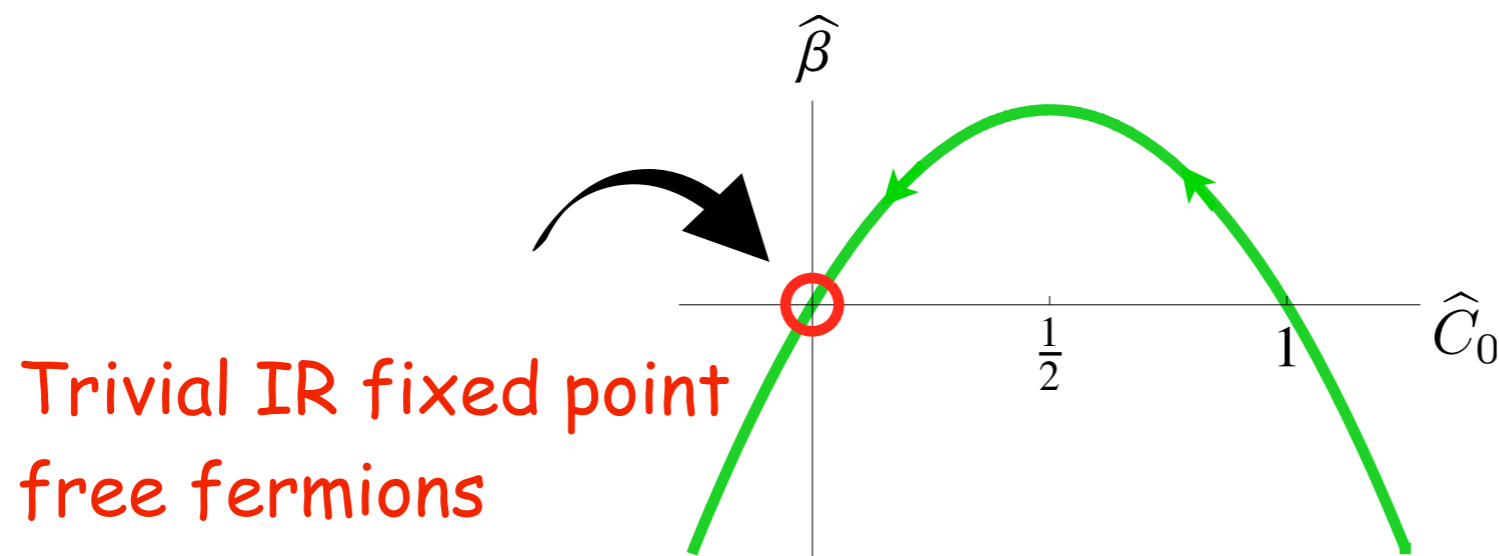
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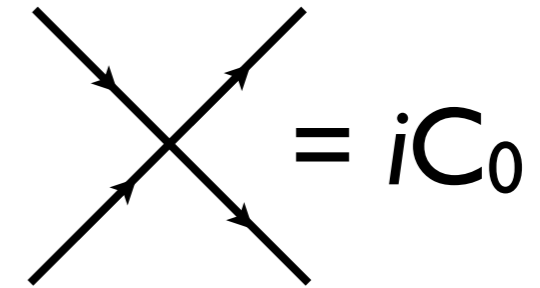


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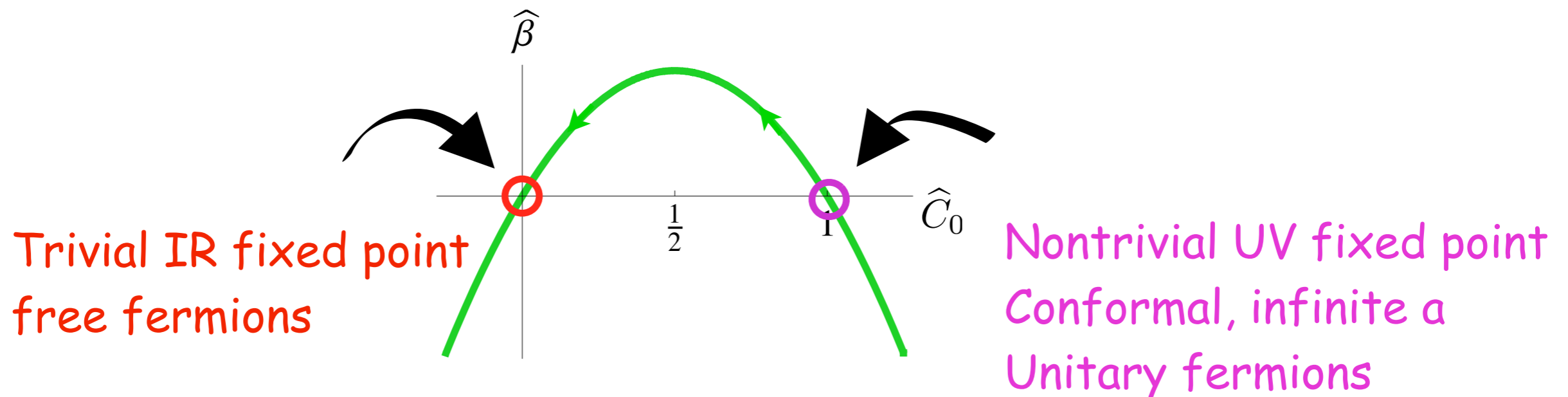
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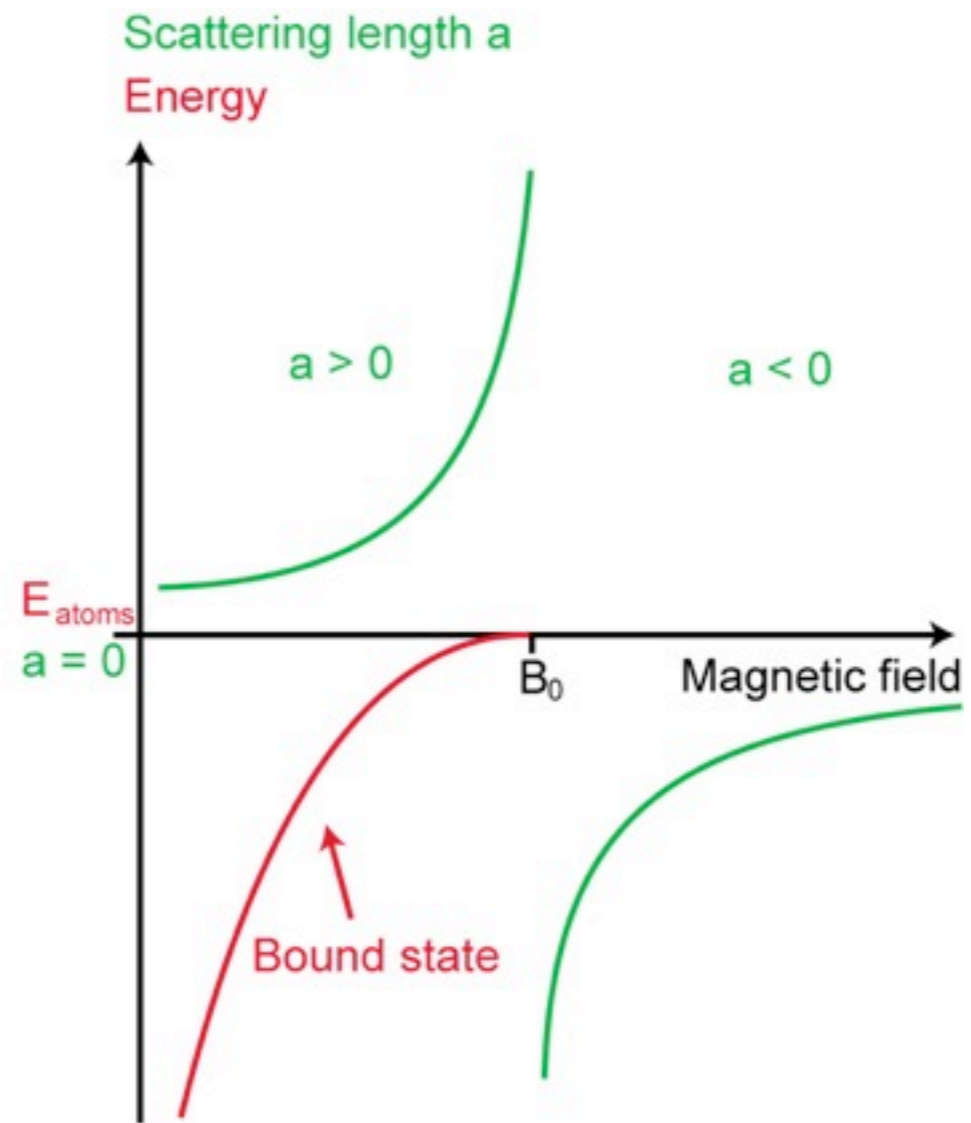
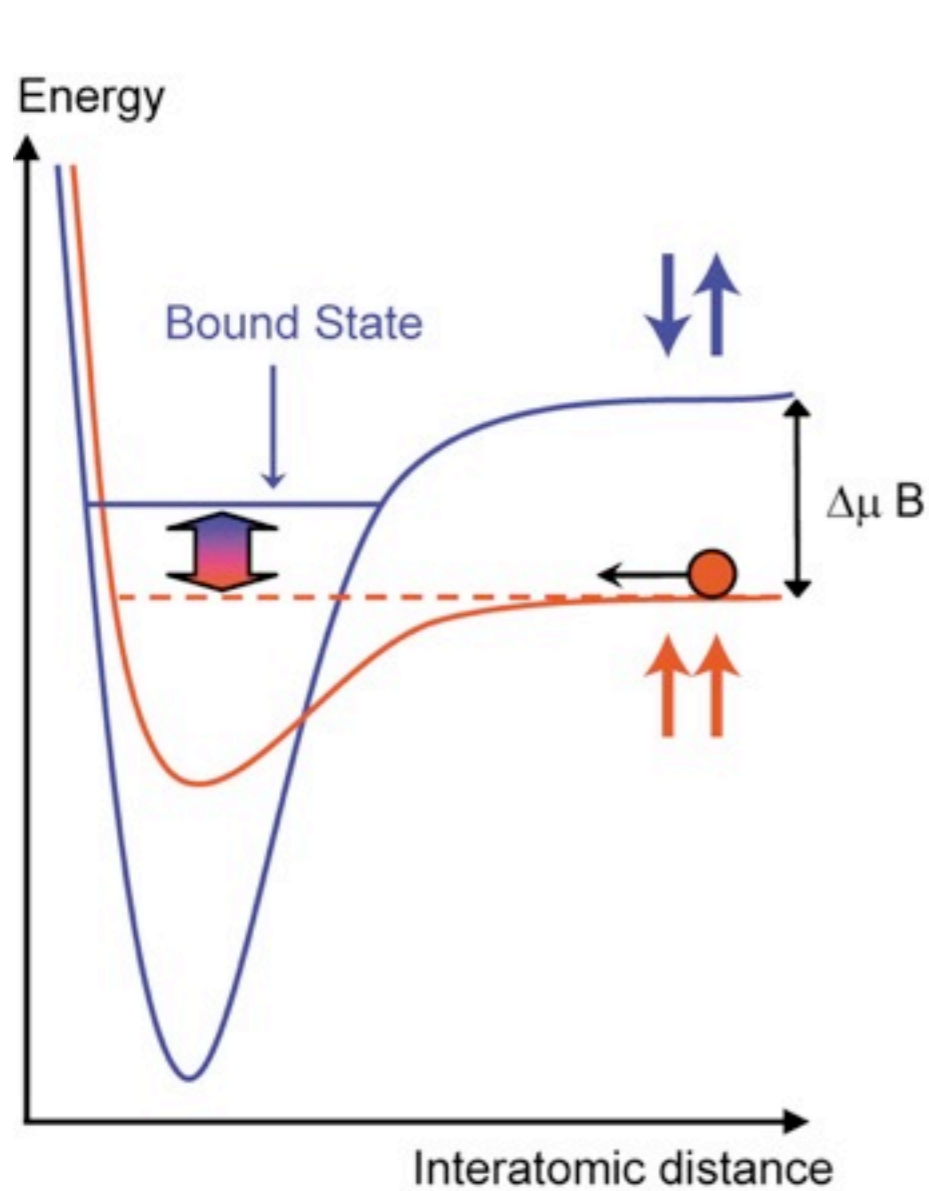
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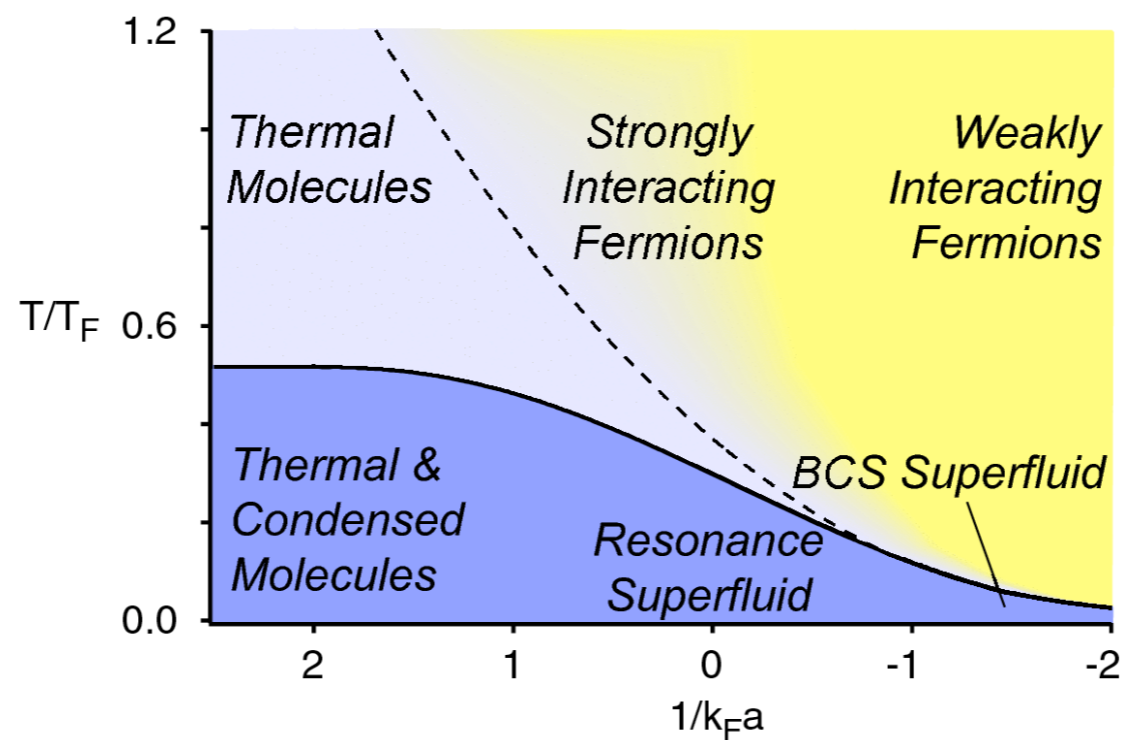
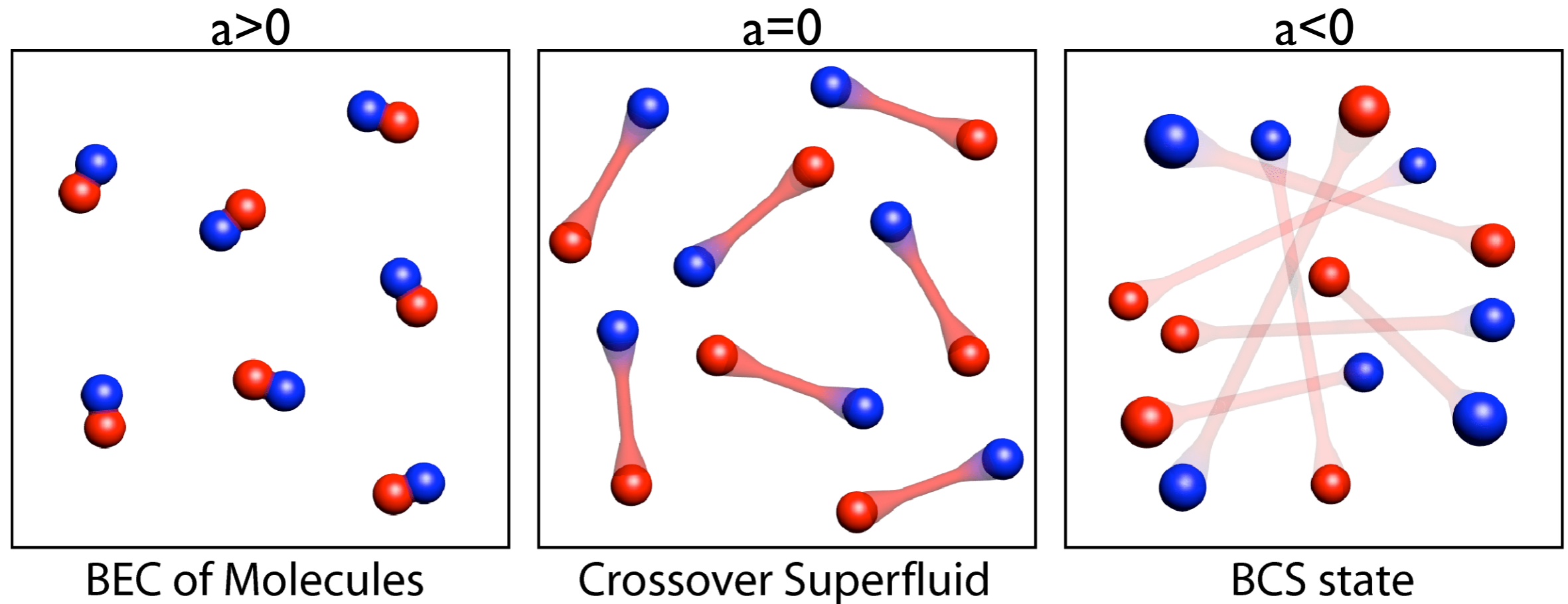
Can study universal properties of unitary fermions experimentally with trapped atoms (JILA, MIT, Innsbruck)



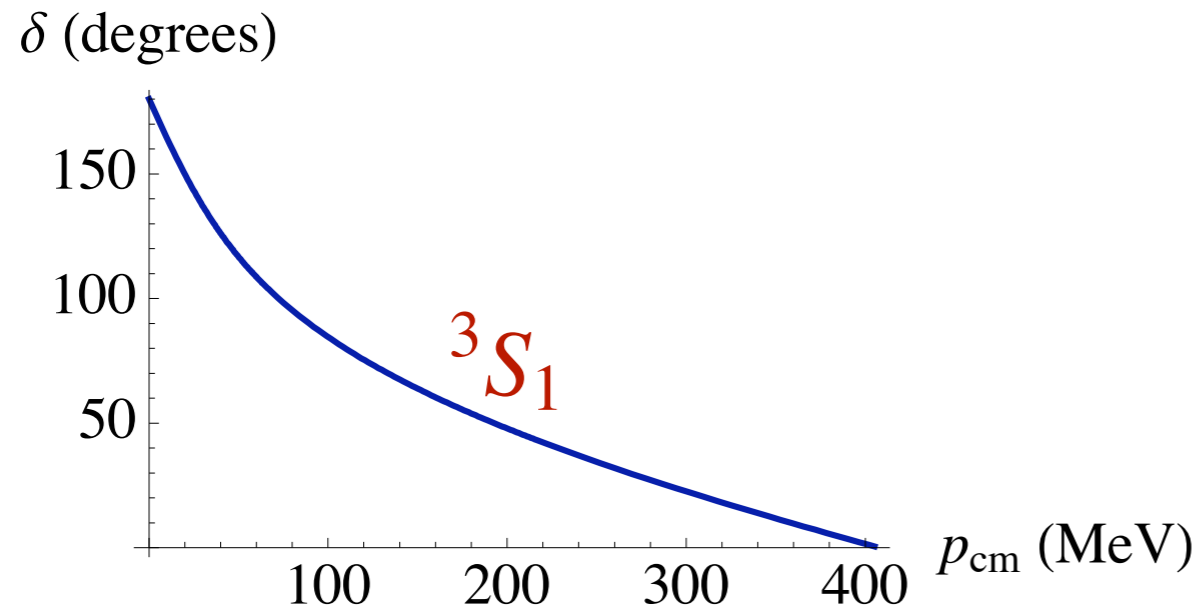
From: Ketterle Lab web page

Feshbach resonance with trapped atoms: tune to unitarity

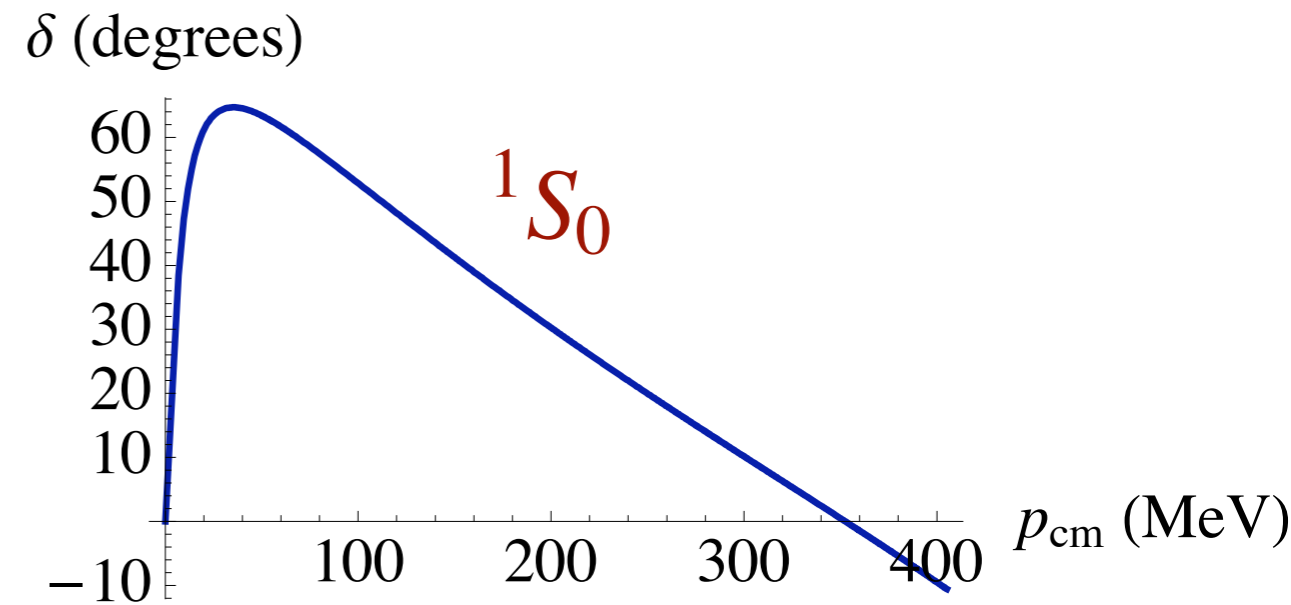
Many-body physics:



Nucleons are pretty close to being unitary fermions



$$a_{^3S_1} = \frac{1}{45 \text{ MeV}}$$



$$a_{^1S_0} = -\frac{1}{8 \text{ MeV}}$$

Compare with pion Compton wavelength:

$$\lambda = \frac{1}{m_\pi} = \frac{1}{140 \text{ MeV}}$$

What is interesting to measure on the lattice?

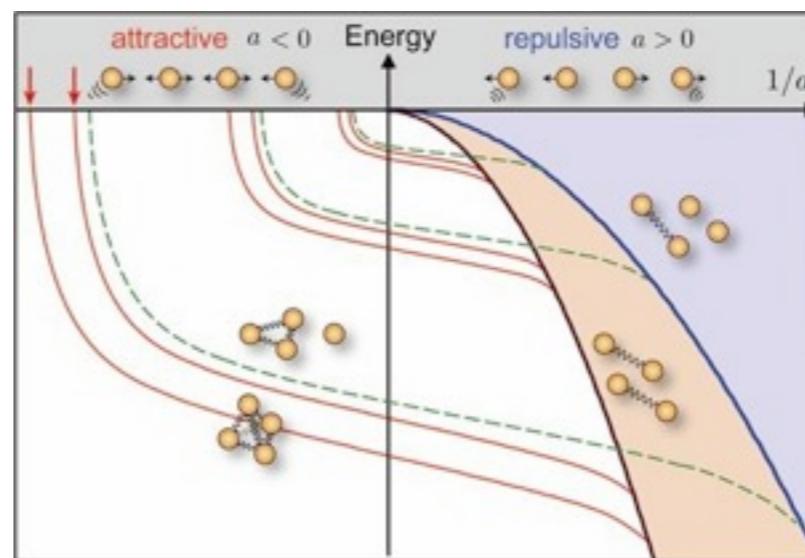
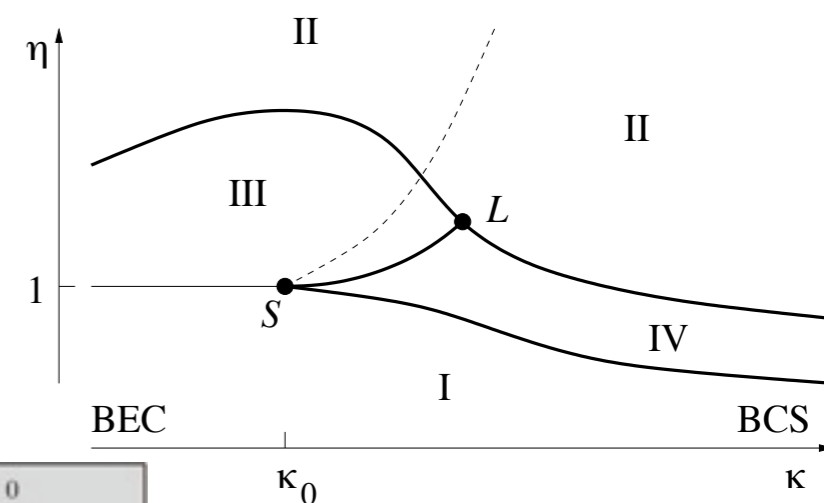
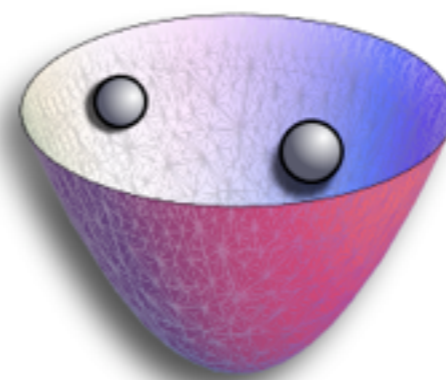
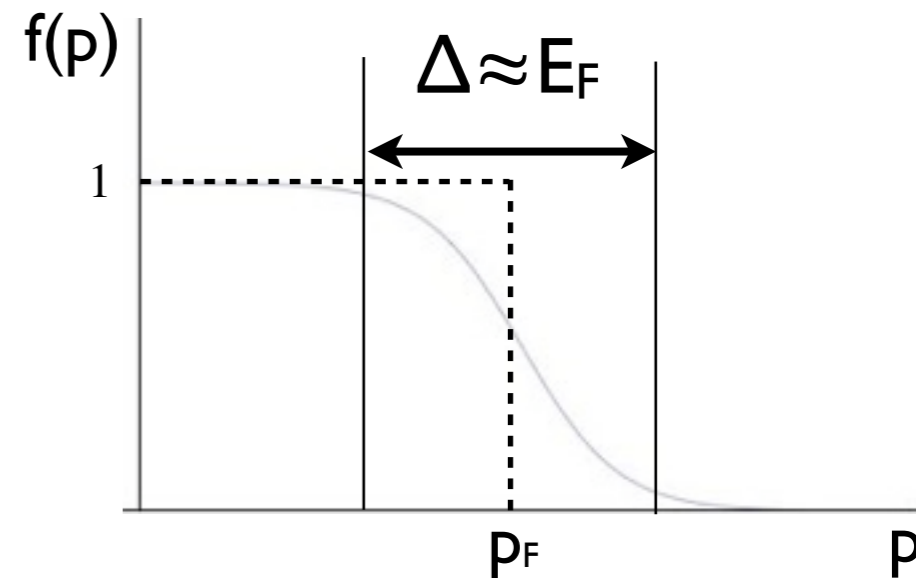
1. Bertsch parameter: as $N \rightarrow \infty$, $E_{\text{unitary}}/E_{\text{free}} = \xi$

2. Pairing gap Δ

3. Energies of $(N_{\uparrow}, N_{\downarrow})$ fermions in a harmonic trap
yield operator anomalous dimensions (!)

4. Phases at $N_{\uparrow} \neq N_{\downarrow}$

5. More than two species of fermions (Efimov states)



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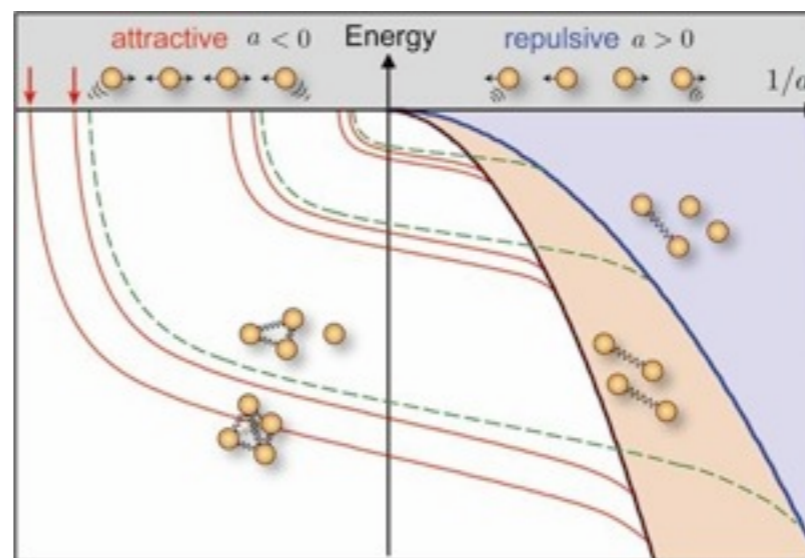
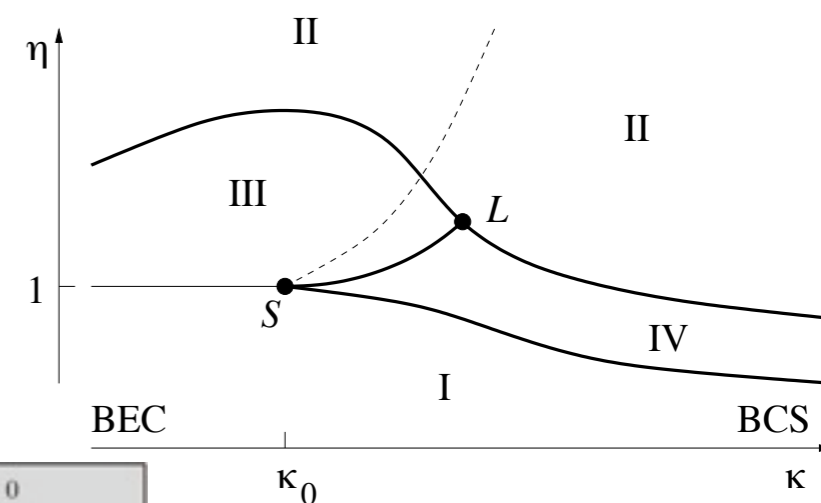
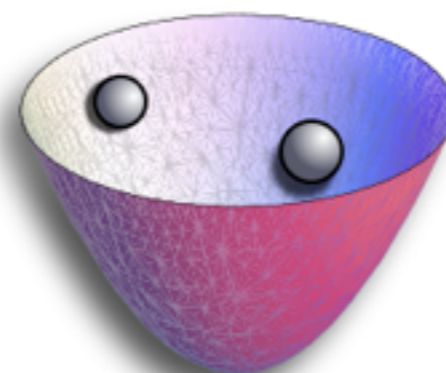
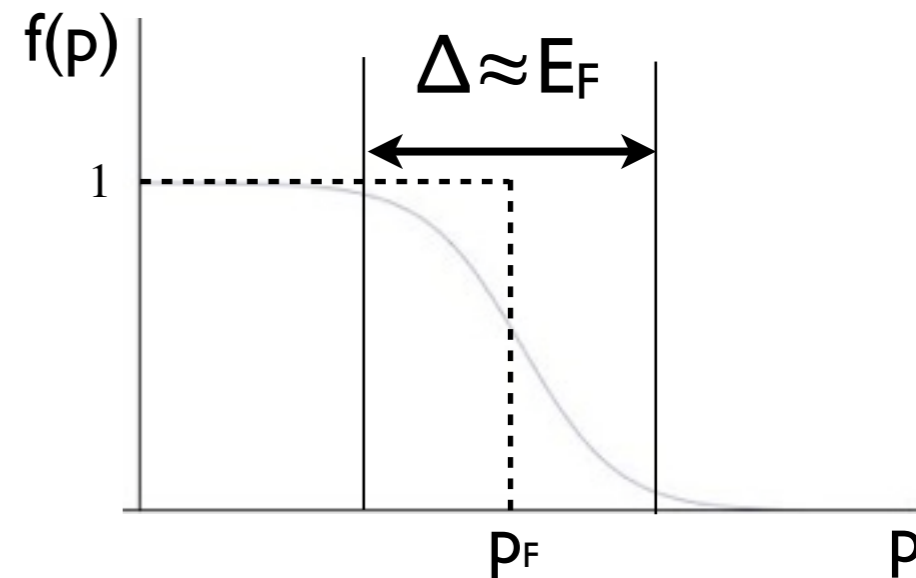
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Attractive pairing: multi-fermion system more like pions than baryons in QCD - no obvious sign or signal/noise problem

Goal: high accuracy calculations at large fermion number

To achieve high precision:

- Formulate theory so that quenched theory is exact
 - ▶ no closed fermion loops containing interactions
 - ▶ rules out grand canonical; work at fixed fermion #
- No bosonic action (compute fermion propagators in random background scalar field)
- Use highly improved fermion propagators
- Unusual statistical analysis for creating mass plots?
- Nontrivial construction of sources

Work in progress: expect 1-2% accuracy for g.s. energy for up to ~ 100 fermions on $16^3 \times 64$ lattice

Basic formulation (Chen & Kaplan, 2003):

$$\mathcal{L} = \bar{\psi} \left(\partial_\tau - \frac{\nabla^2}{2M} \right) \psi + C_0 (\bar{\psi} \psi)^2$$

C_0 tuned to give infinite scattering length (*defines continuum limit*)

Interaction included by random Z_2 auxiliary field

$$\mathcal{L} \rightarrow \bar{\psi} \underbrace{\left(\partial_\tau - \frac{\nabla^2}{2M} + \sqrt{C_0} \phi \right)}_{K(\phi)} \psi$$

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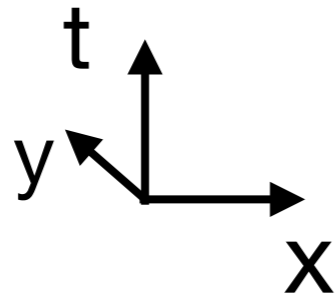
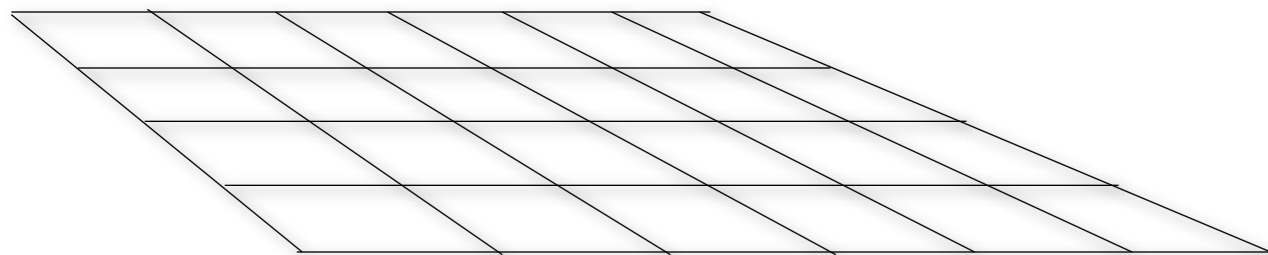
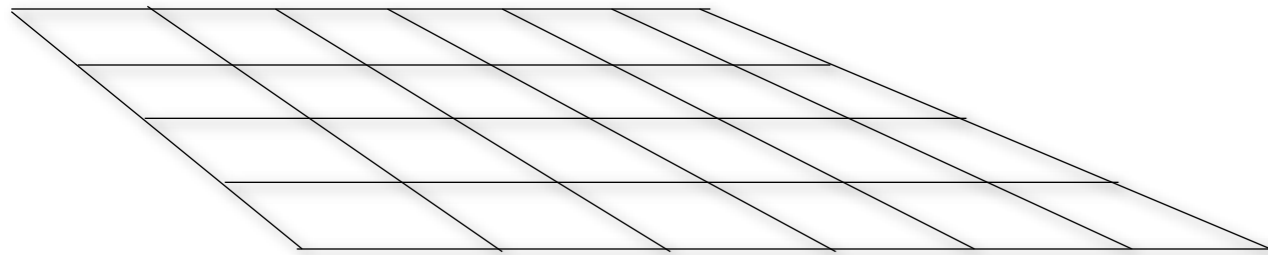
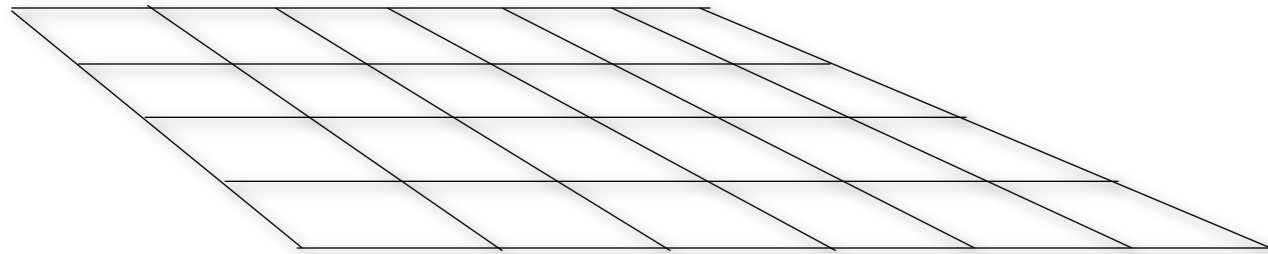
$$K(\phi)_{\tau\tau'} = \begin{pmatrix} D & X(0) & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & D & X(1) & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & D & X(2) & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & D & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & X(T-1) \\ \cancel{-X(T)}^0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & D \end{pmatrix}$$

Open B.C.

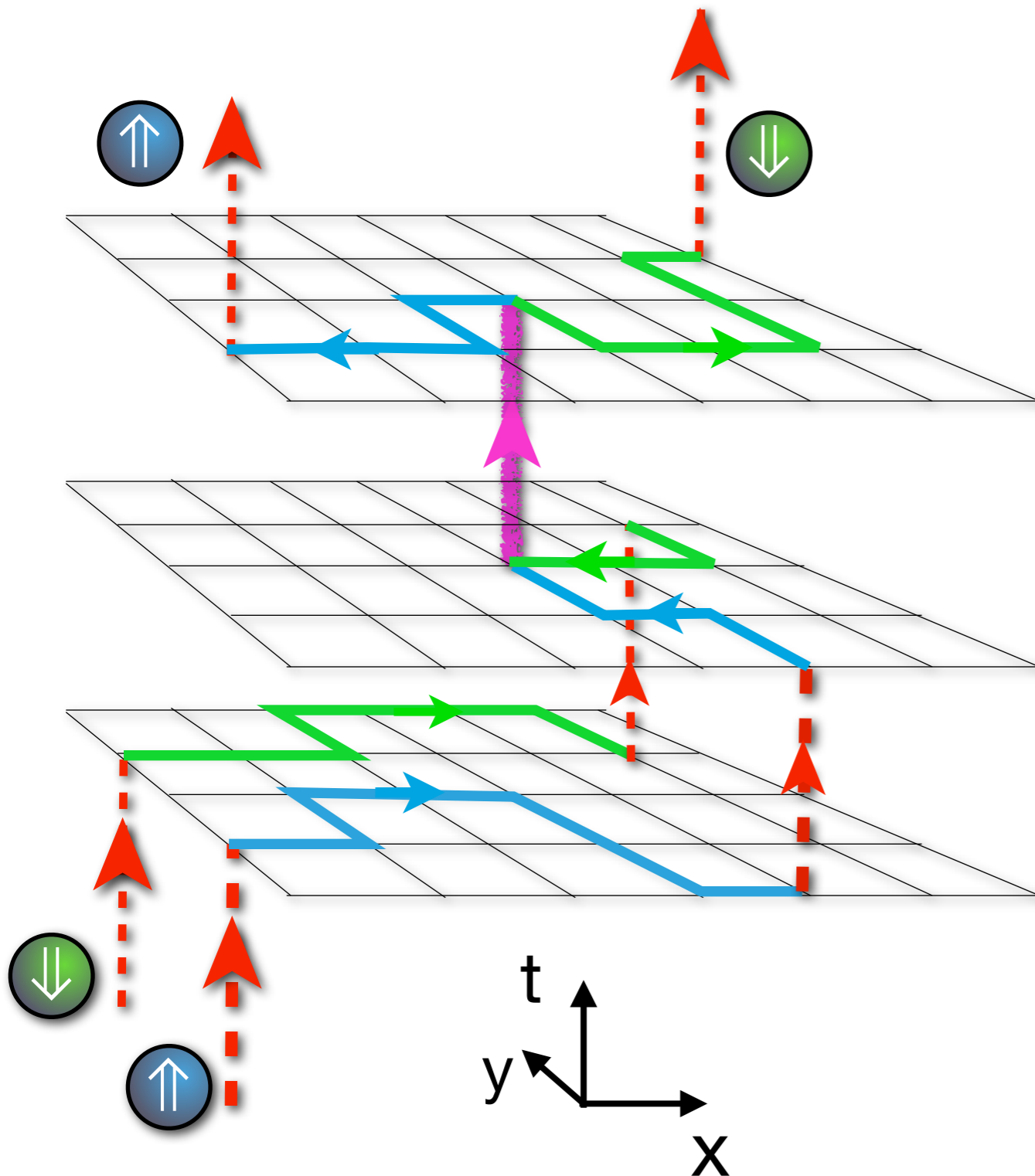
$$D = 1 - \frac{\nabla^2}{2M}, \quad X = 1 - \sqrt{C_0} \phi(\mathbf{x}, t)$$

- ★ Fermions propagate only forward in time
 - ★ Interactions only on time links
 - ★ Open B.C. (incompatible w. grand canonical)
- } Det[K(φ)] is independent of φ
Quenched = exact

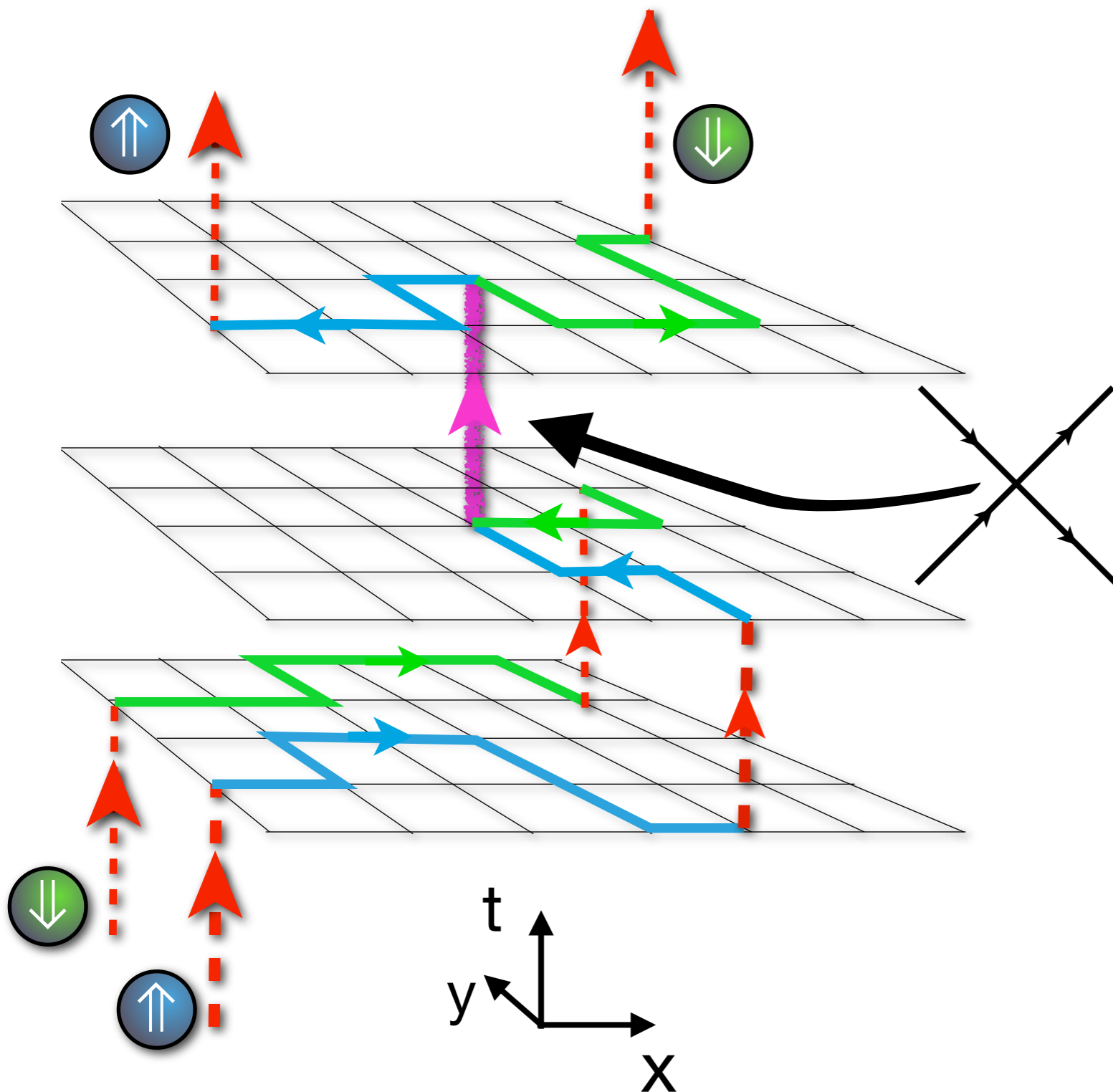
All one does: compute fermion propagators in background φ



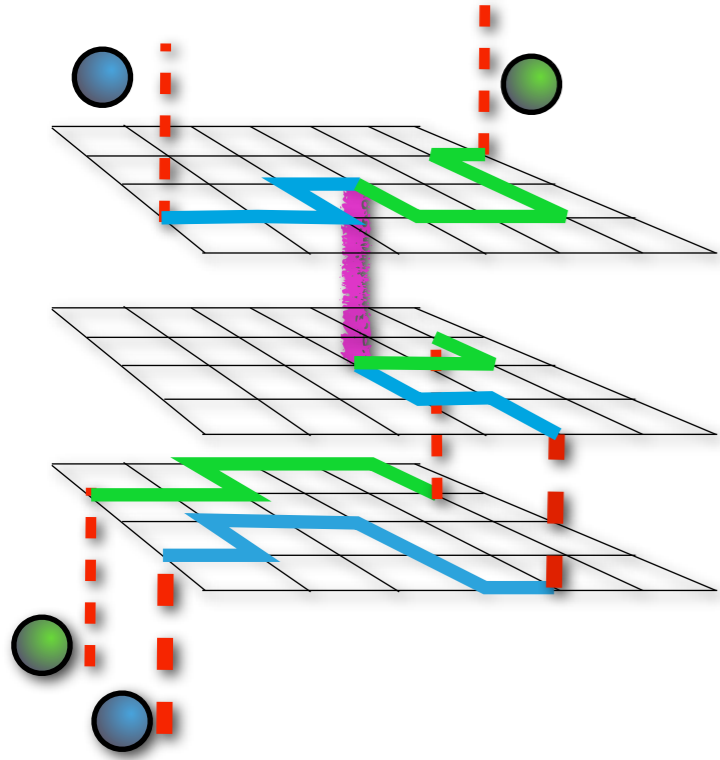
All one does: compute fermion propagators in background φ



All one does: compute fermion propagators in background φ



- Free propagation on spatial slices
- Only forward propagation in time
- Local particle interactions only on time-like links
- No closed fermion loops with interactions = no nontrivial determinant



$$K(\phi)_{\tau\tau'} = \begin{pmatrix} D & X(0) & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & D & X(1) & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & D & X(2) & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & D & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & X(T-1) \\ \overset{0}{\leftarrow} X(T) & 0 & 0 & 0 & \dots & D \end{pmatrix}$$

Single-particle correlator:

$$C_1(\tau, 0) = K^{-1}(\tau, 0) = D^{-1} X(\tau - 1) D^{-1} X(\tau - 2) \dots X(0) D^{-1}$$

$$= D^{-1/2} [T_1(\tau - 1) T_1(\tau - 2) \dots T_1(0)] D^{-1/2}$$

$$T_1 = D^{-1/2} X D^{-1/2} \quad \text{1-particle transfer matrix}$$

$$\text{N-particle transfer matrix: } T_N = (\otimes T_1)^N$$

Toward a more perfect fermion action (fermion propagator):

I. 1-particle physics: Improve kinetic energy ∇^2

Free particle: $T_1 = D^{-1} = (1 - \nabla^2 / (2M))^{-1}$

Define ∇ to attain perfect action for $p < \Lambda$:

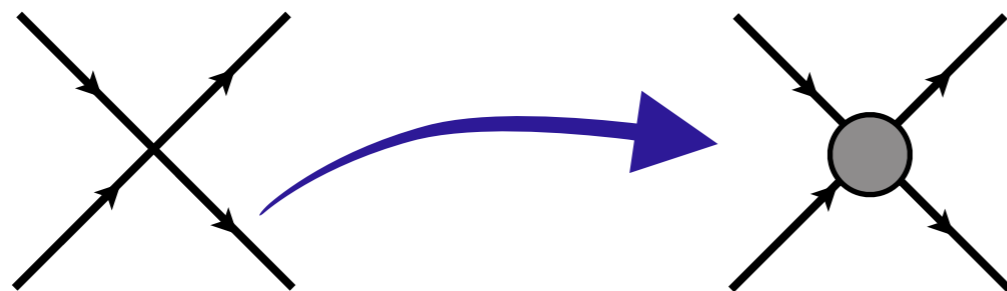
$$D^{-1} = \begin{cases} e^{-p^2/2M} & p < \Lambda \\ 0 & p \geq \Lambda \end{cases}$$

In practice, take $\Lambda = \pi$ in lattice units

more perfect fermion action continued:

II. 2-particle physics: improving interaction

Tuning C_0 to infinite scattering length still leaves nonzero $p \cot \delta$...need to tune away effective range, etc.

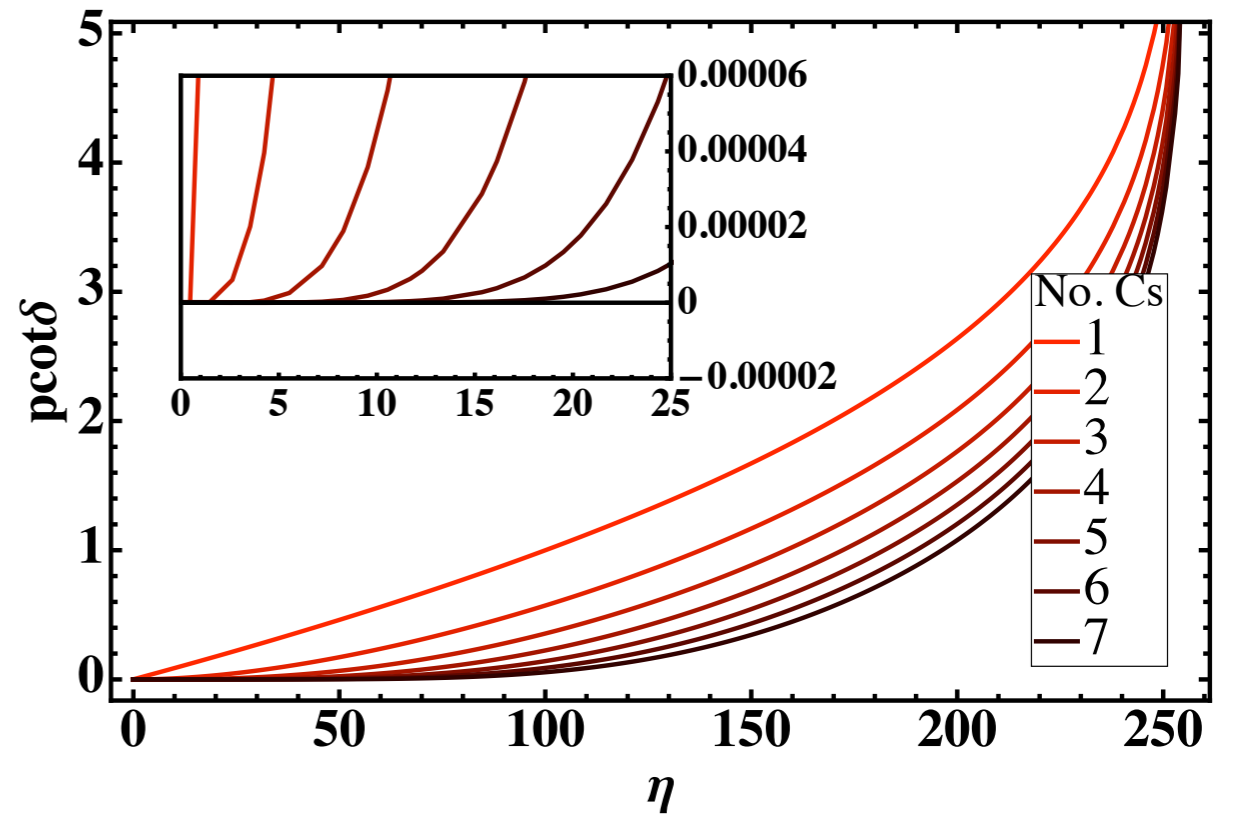
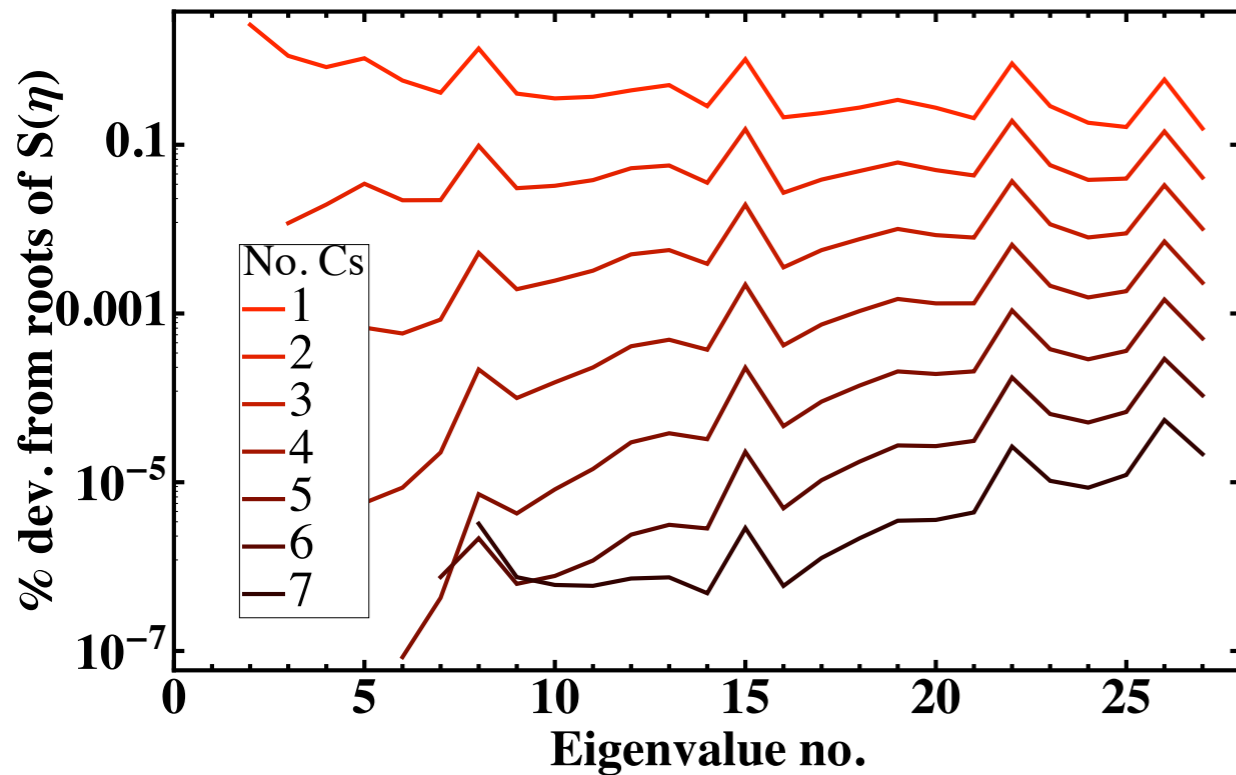


Momentum dependent contact interaction

$$X = 1 - \sqrt{C_0} \phi \quad \Rightarrow \quad X = 1 - \sqrt{C(p^2)} \phi$$

Tuning method:

- i. Expand coupling C in set of operators:
$$C(p^2) = \sum_{n=1}^N C_n \mathcal{O}_n(p^2)$$
- ii. Fit C_n to match first N energy eigenvalues for continuum box L , $p \cot \delta = 0$ (Lüscher formula)



$$\eta = \left(\frac{pL}{2\pi} \right)^2$$

$(p \cot \delta)$ very small after tuning, even for large momenta.

Procedure: *Time evolution of single particle wave functions on random background configurations*

For each configuration:

Initialize N sources at time zero ψ_i^{source} ($i = 1, \dots, N$)

For each source:

Compute $\psi_i(0) = D^{-1}\psi_i^{source}$

For each time slice τ thereafter:

Generate random auxiliary fields at time slice

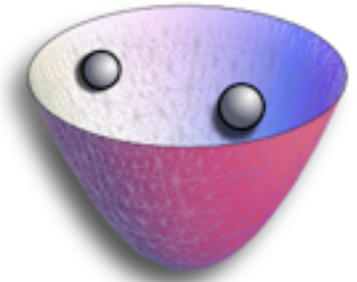
Compute $\psi_i(\tau) = D^{-1}X(\tau)\psi_i(\tau - 1)$ using FFTs

Project propagators onto single/multi-particle sinks

Perform contractions (e.g. Slater determinants) (Michael Endres)

How good is our method? How large are discretization & finite volume errors?

Benchmark for $N \leq 6$ fermions in harmonic trap
(accurate Schrödinger eq. calculations)



N	This Work	Comparison	% Deviation
3	4.253(2)(4)	4.2727[*]	0.5
4	5.058(1)(1)	5.028(20)[†]	0.6
5	7.513(3)(2)	7.457(10)[‡]	0.8
6	8.338(4)(5)	8.357(10)[‡]	0.2

*F. Werner and Y. Castin, Phys. Rev. Lett. **97**. 150401 (2006)

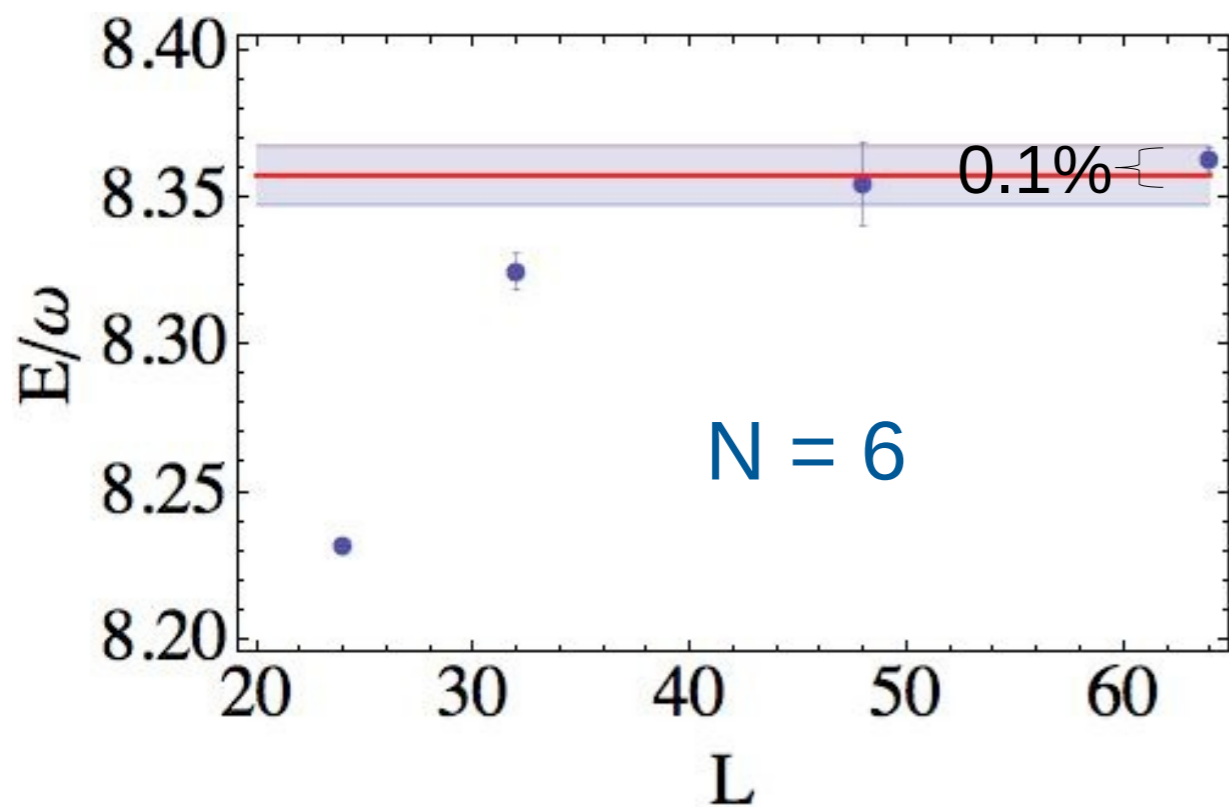
†D. Blume, J. von Stecher, and C. Greene, Phys. Rev. Lett. **99**. 233201 (2007)

‡D. Blume, private communication

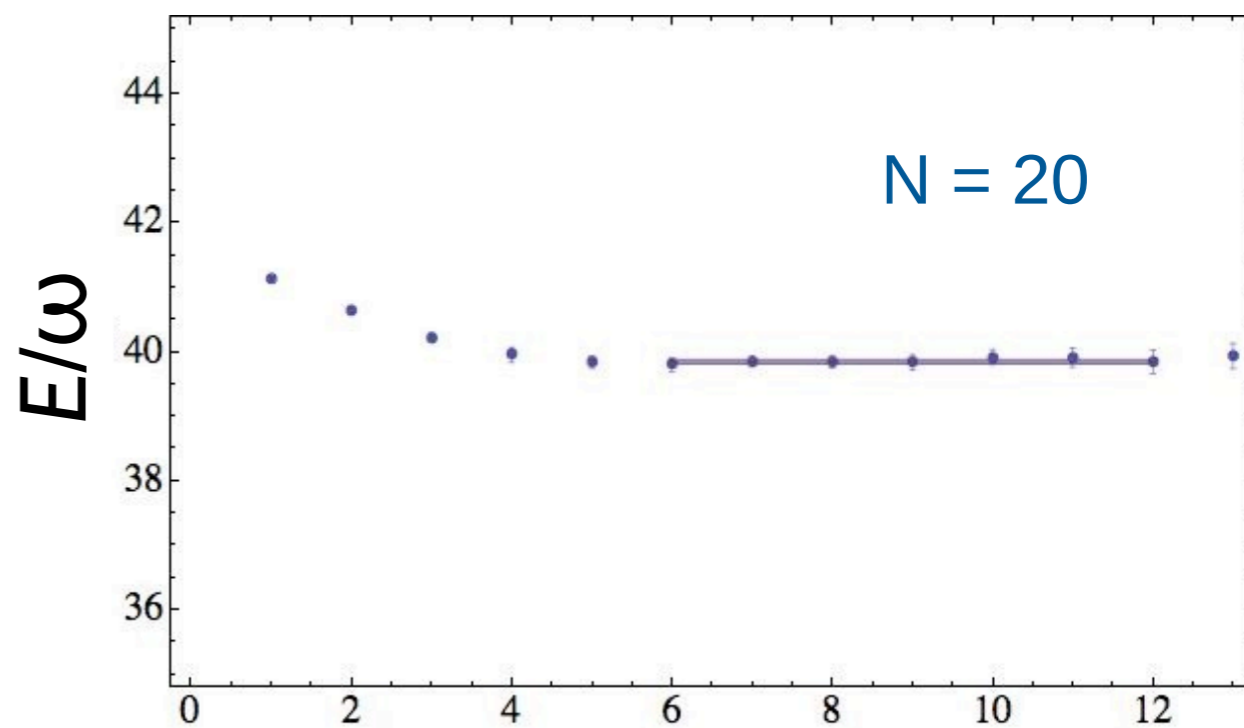
PRELIMINARY

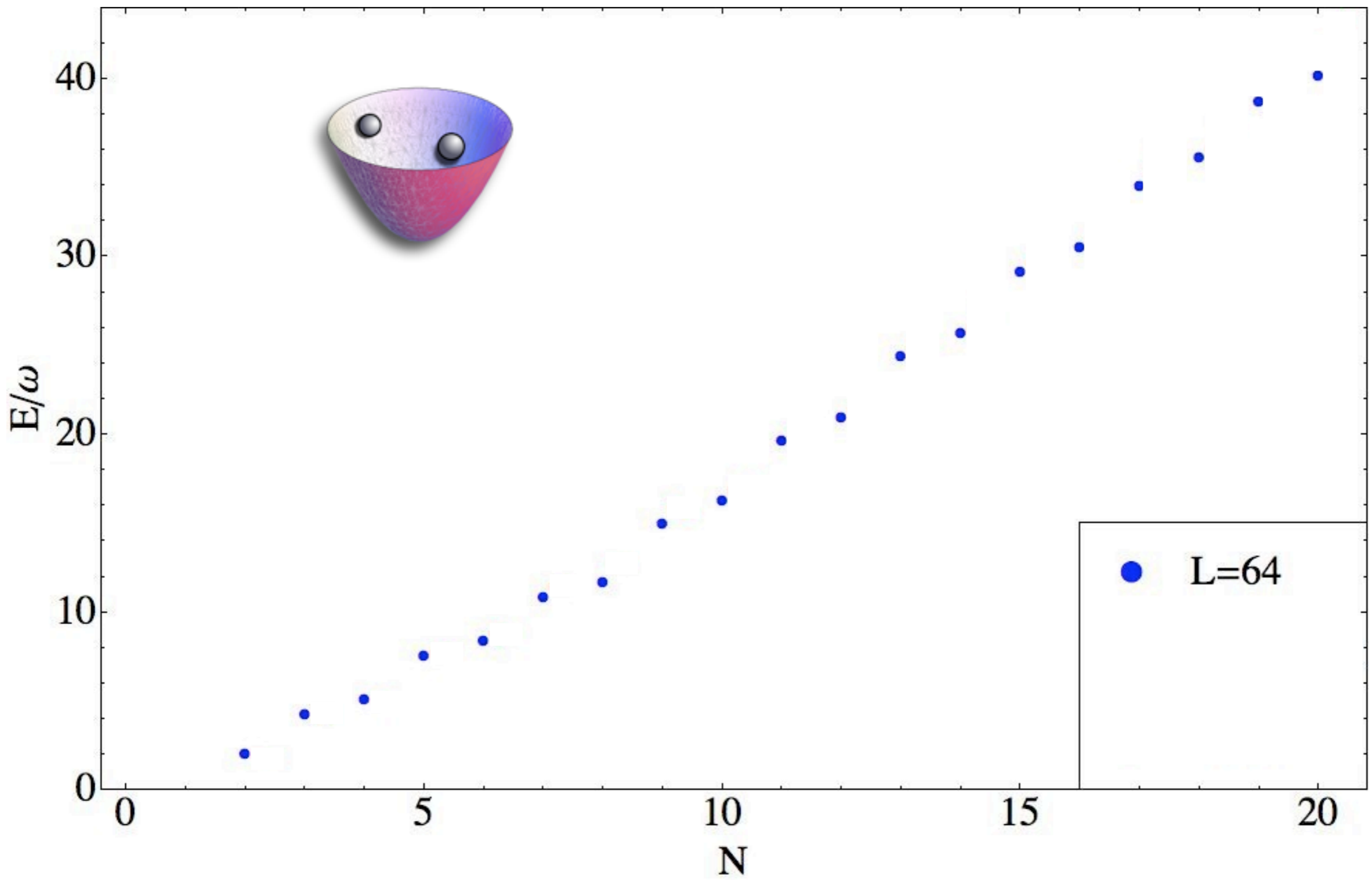
Finite volume errors

— D. Blume, private communication

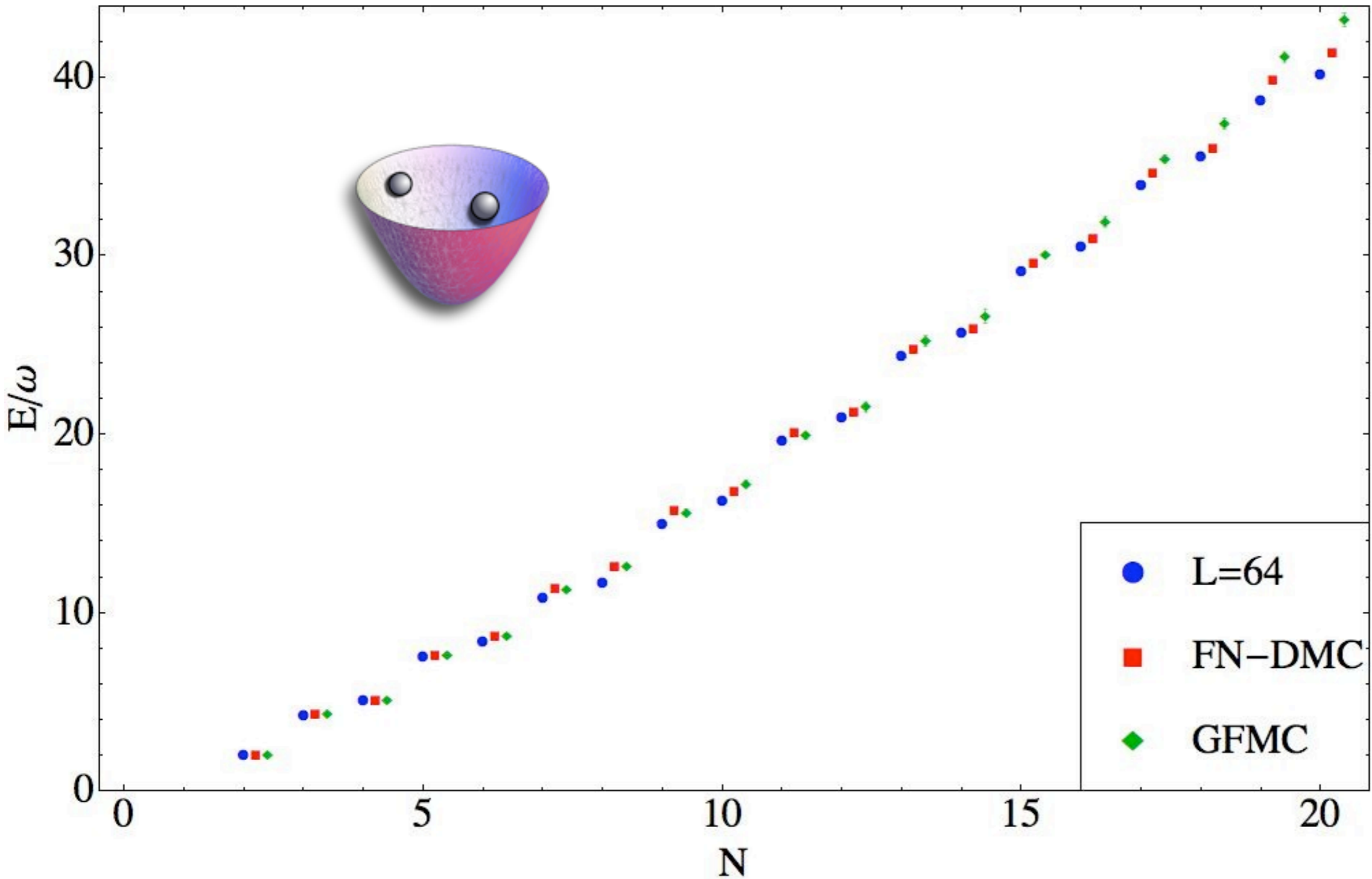


Larger N





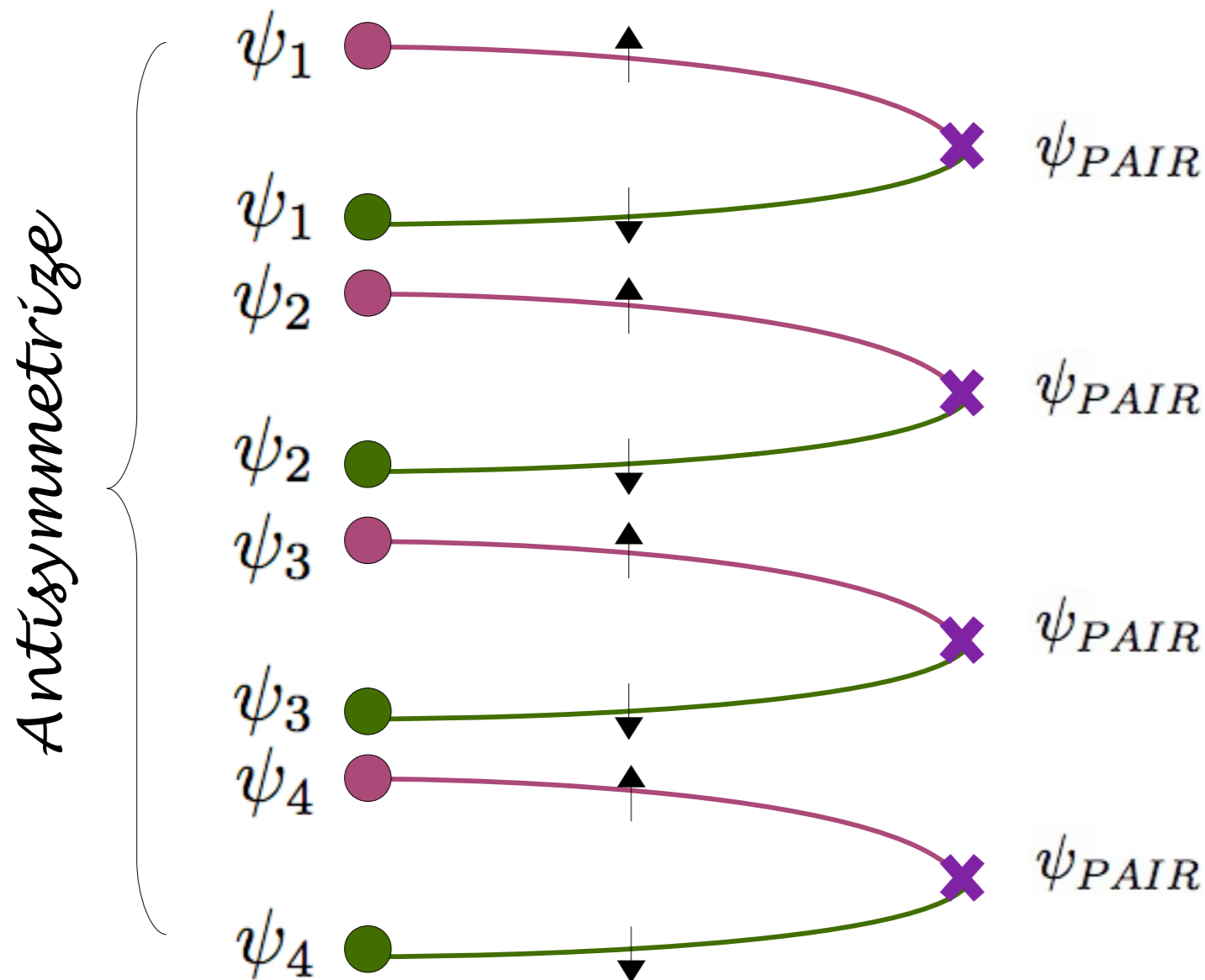
Comparison with earlier Monte Carlo calculations



■ FN-DMC: D. Blume, J. von Stecher, Chris H. Greene, arXiv:0708.2734

◆ GFMC: S. Y. Chang and G. F. Bertsch, arXiv:physics/0703190

This accuracy is not possible with Slater determinant sources:
 need to build pairing correlations into source



$$\psi_{PAIR} \propto \frac{e^{-(x^2+y^2)/(2L_0^2)}}{|x-y|}$$

Exact ground state wave function for 2 unitary fermions in SHO

$$C_N(\tau) = \begin{vmatrix} \langle \psi_{PAIR} | (\mathcal{T})^\tau | \psi_1 \psi_1 \rangle & \langle \psi_{PAIR} | (\mathcal{T})^\tau | \psi_1 \psi_2 \rangle & \cdots & \langle \psi_{PAIR} | (\mathcal{T})^\tau | \psi_1 \psi_{N/2} \rangle \\ \langle \psi_{PAIR} | (\mathcal{T})^\tau | \psi_2 \psi_1 \rangle & \langle \psi_{PAIR} | (\mathcal{T})^\tau | \psi_2 \psi_2 \rangle & \cdots & \langle \psi_{PAIR} | (\mathcal{T})^\tau | \psi_2 \psi_{N/2} \rangle \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \langle \psi_{PAIR} | (\mathcal{T})^\tau | \psi_{N/2} \psi_1 \rangle & \langle \psi_{PAIR} | (\mathcal{T})^\tau | \psi_{N/2} \psi_2 \rangle & \cdots & \langle \psi_{PAIR} | (\mathcal{T})^\tau | \psi_{N/2} \psi_{N/2} \rangle \end{vmatrix}$$

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Get nonsense if one does not build correlations into source!

Results from creating an antisymmetrized product of free fermions:

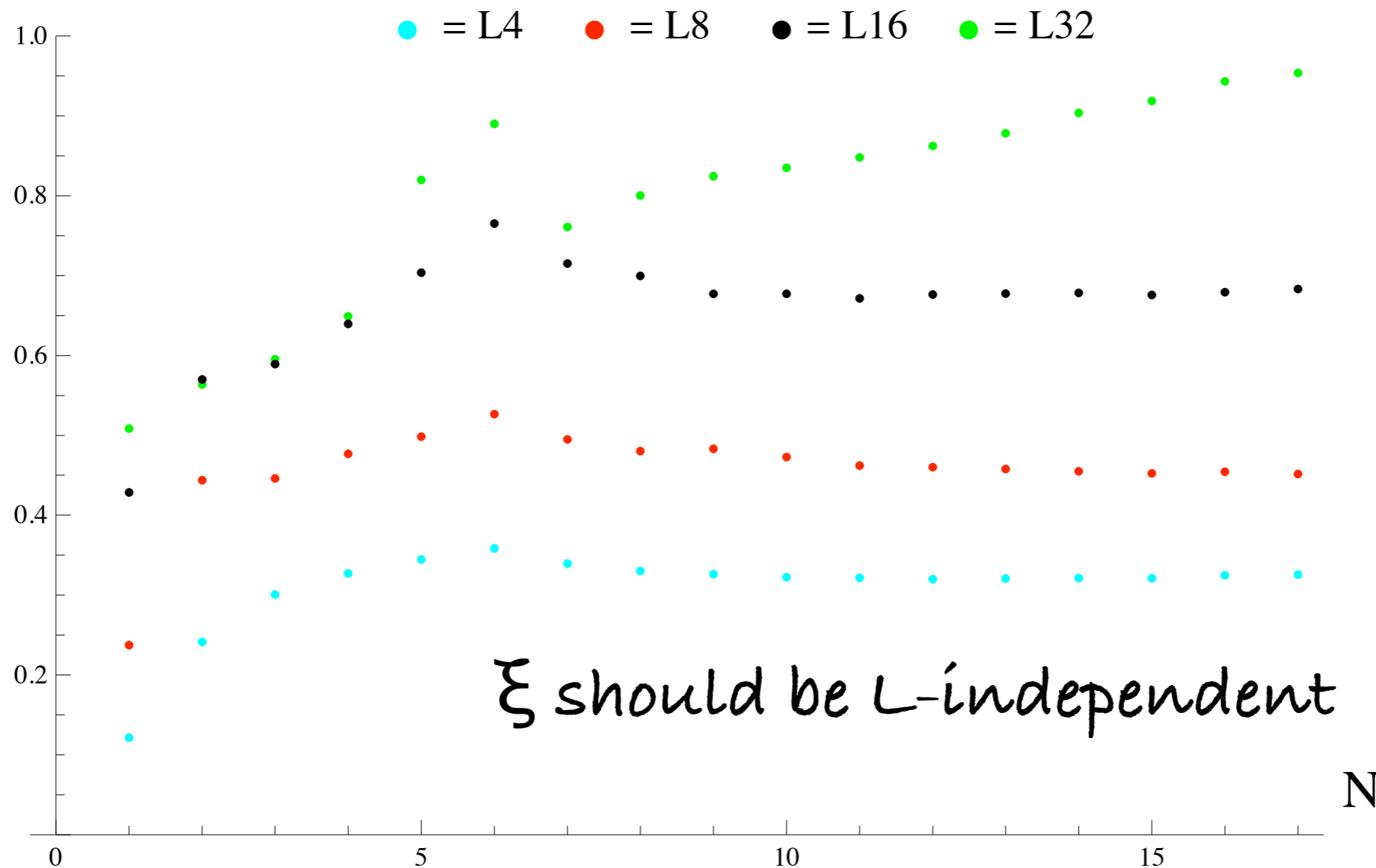
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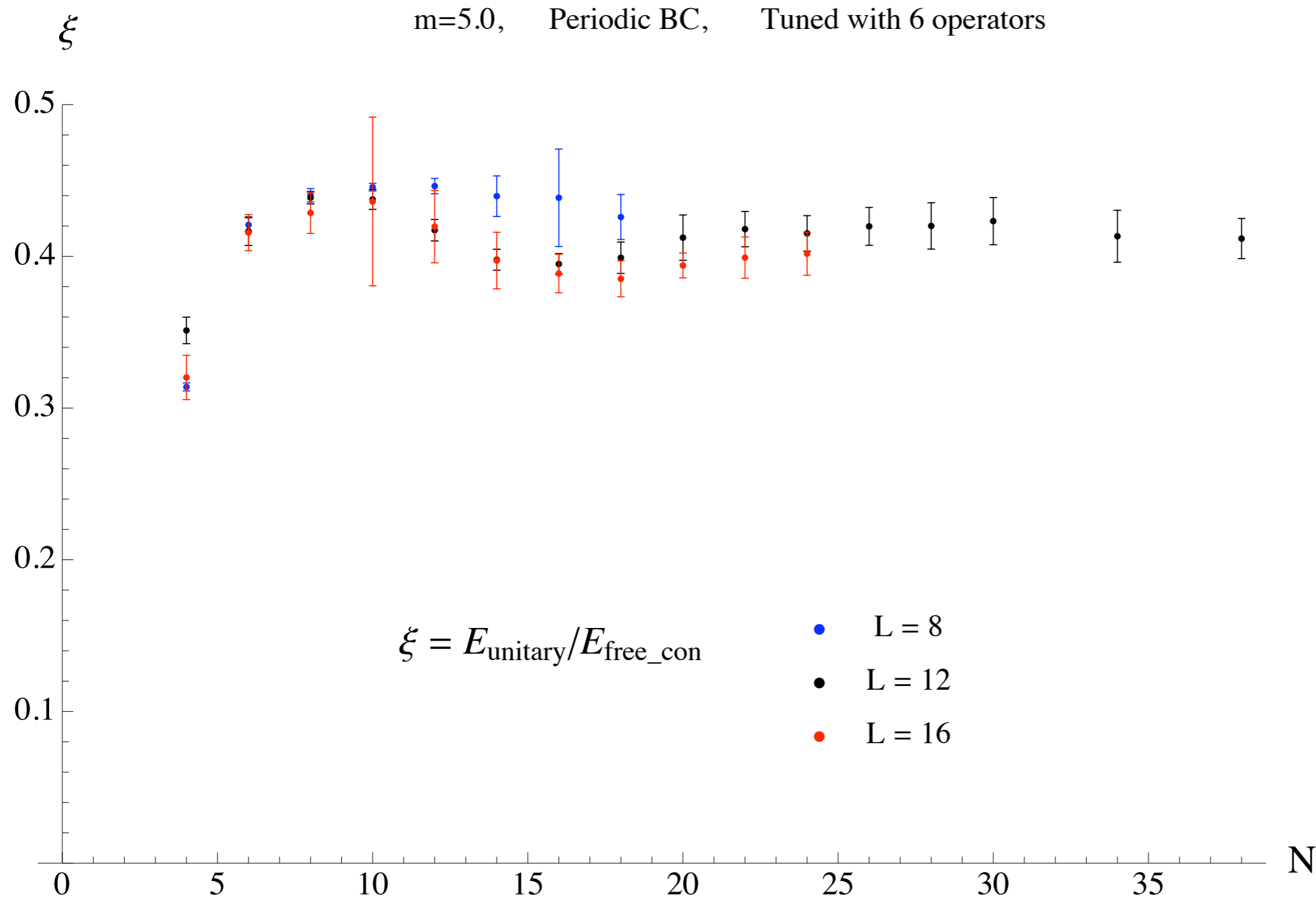
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With pairing correlations built into source, no significant volume dependence for ξ



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What do we see? A significant but not disastrous S/N
problem due to non-Gaussian distribution of
correlators

Plot of the distribution of the 4-particle correlator $C_4(t)$ in an ensemble of 10^5 random φ fields for $t=1, \dots, 64$

Movie doesn't
reproduce in
pdf...see [Colist.mov](#)

Very long tail; gets worse with time.

Plot of the distribution of the log of the 4-particle correlator $C_4(t)$ in an ensemble of random φ fields for $t=1,\dots,64$

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Red = Gaussian fit... very good!

Conclusion: correlators obey **Log-Normal** distribution. Why??

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Caveat: am now discussing 1-week-old ideas!

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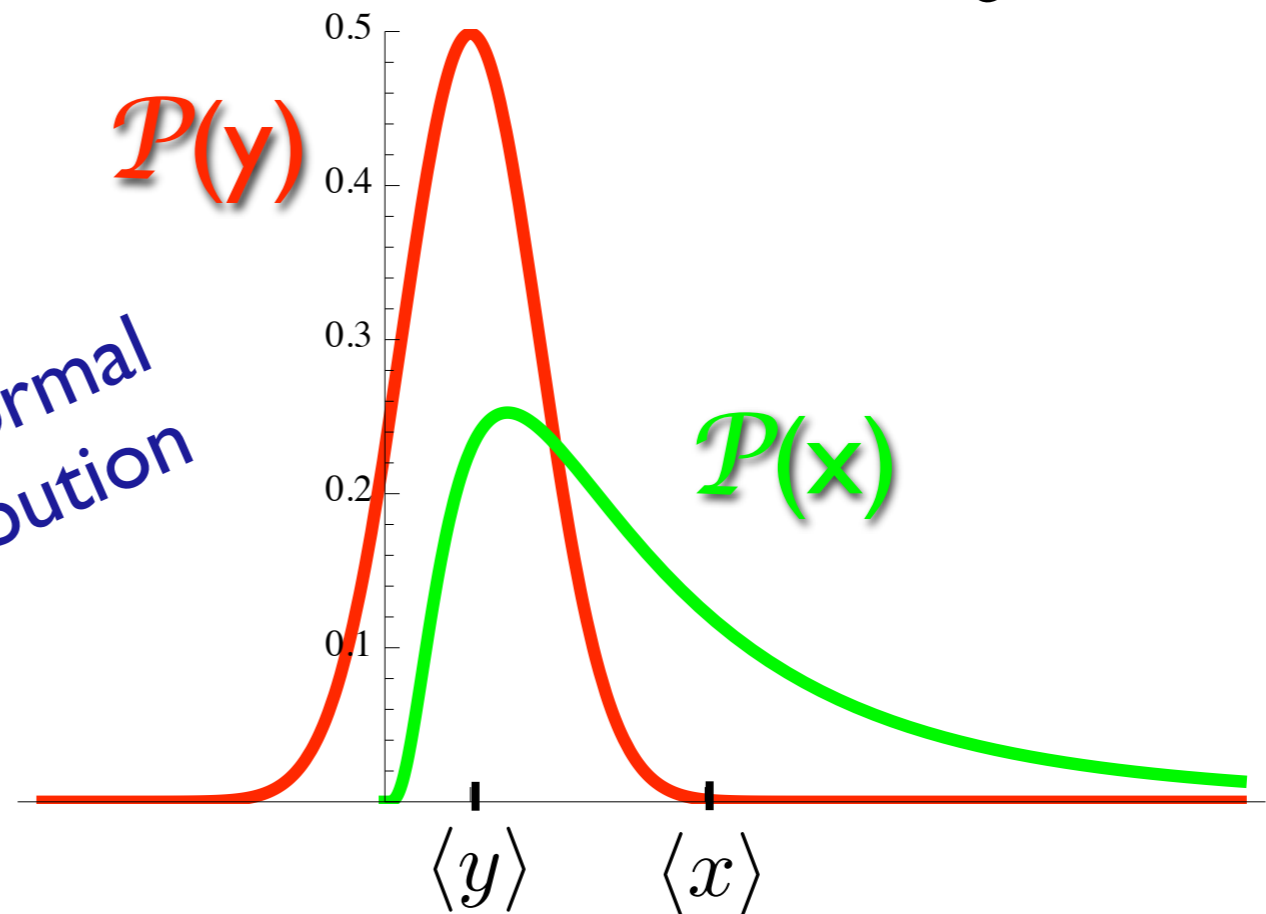
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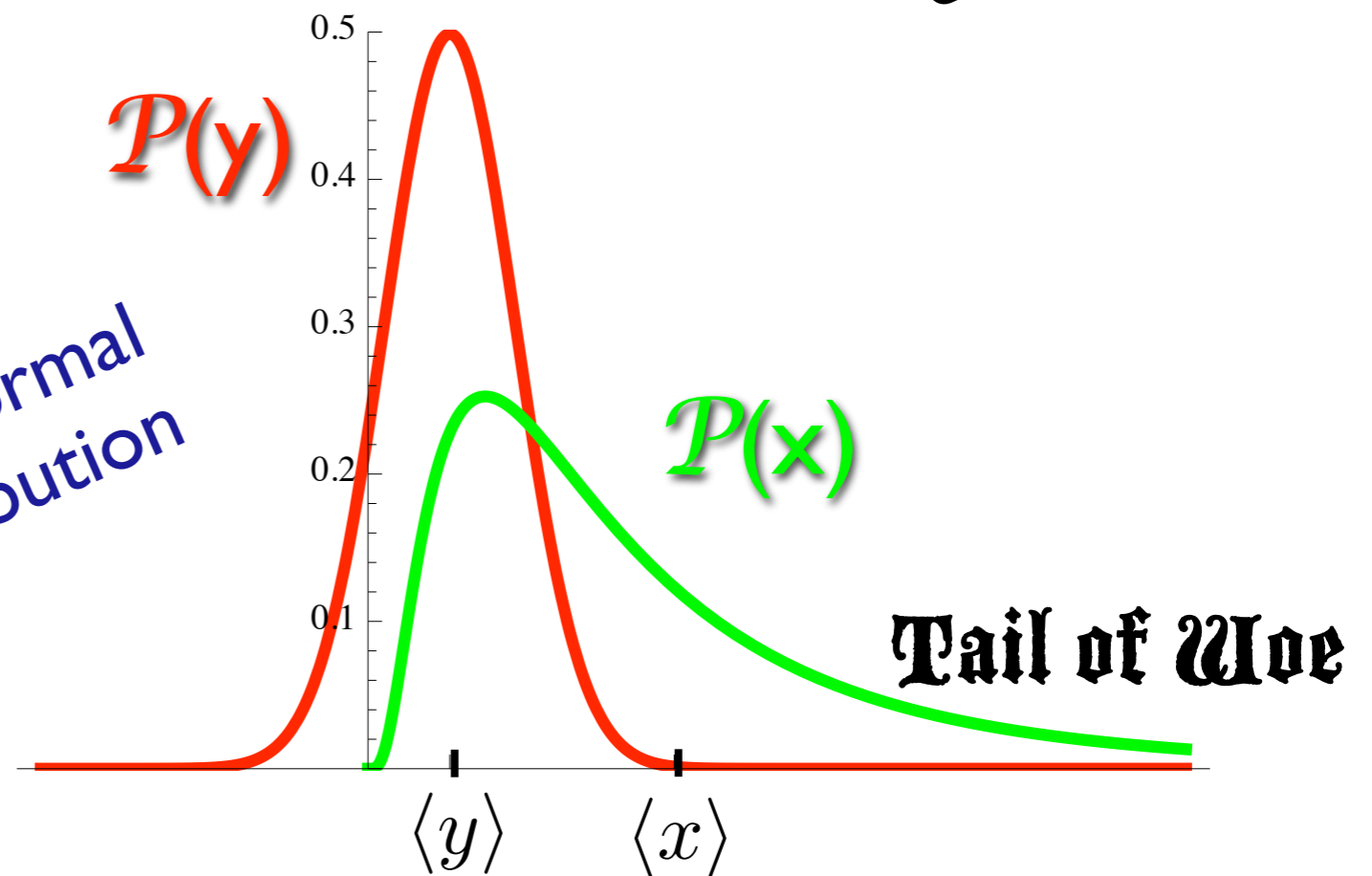
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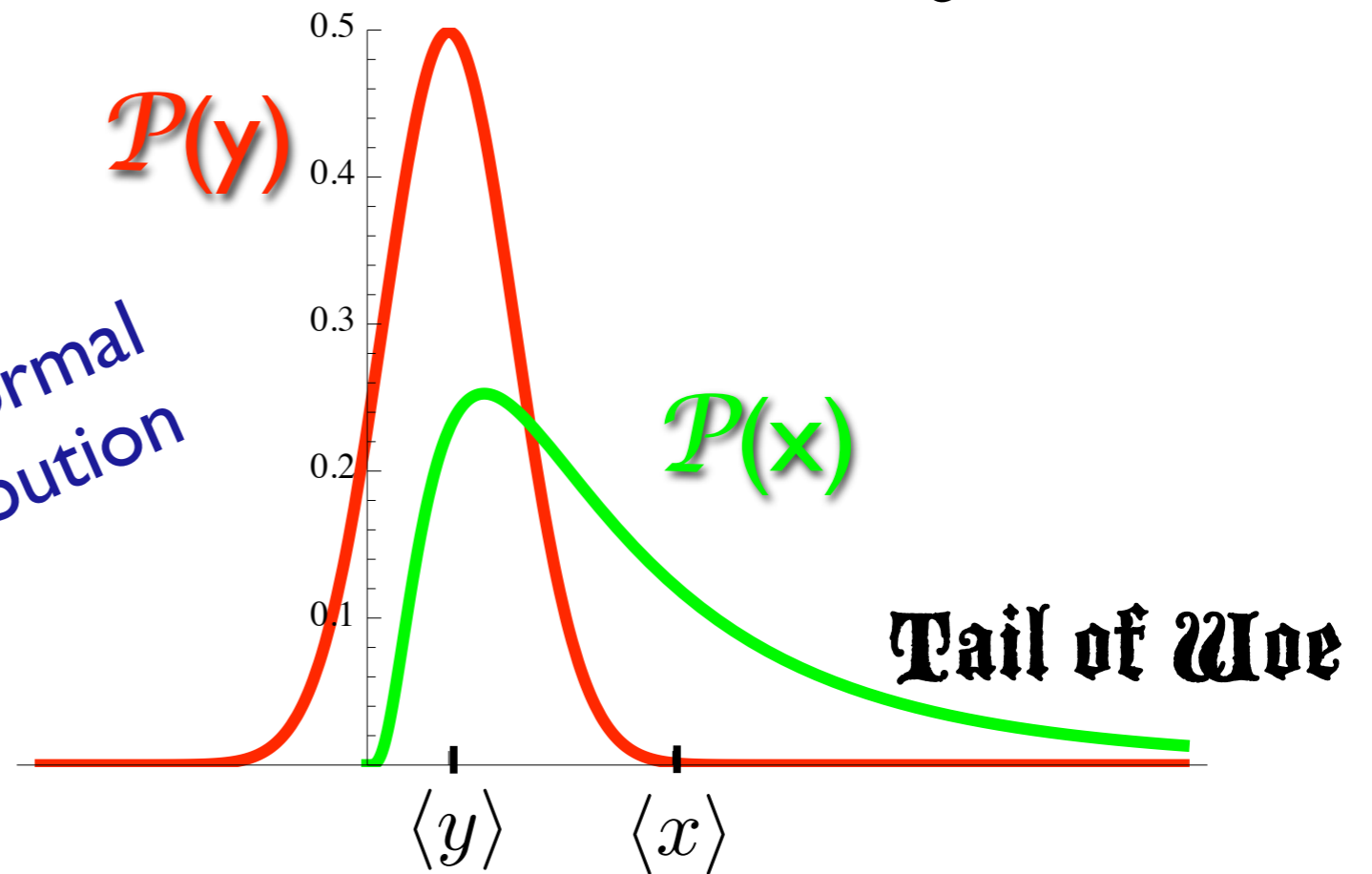
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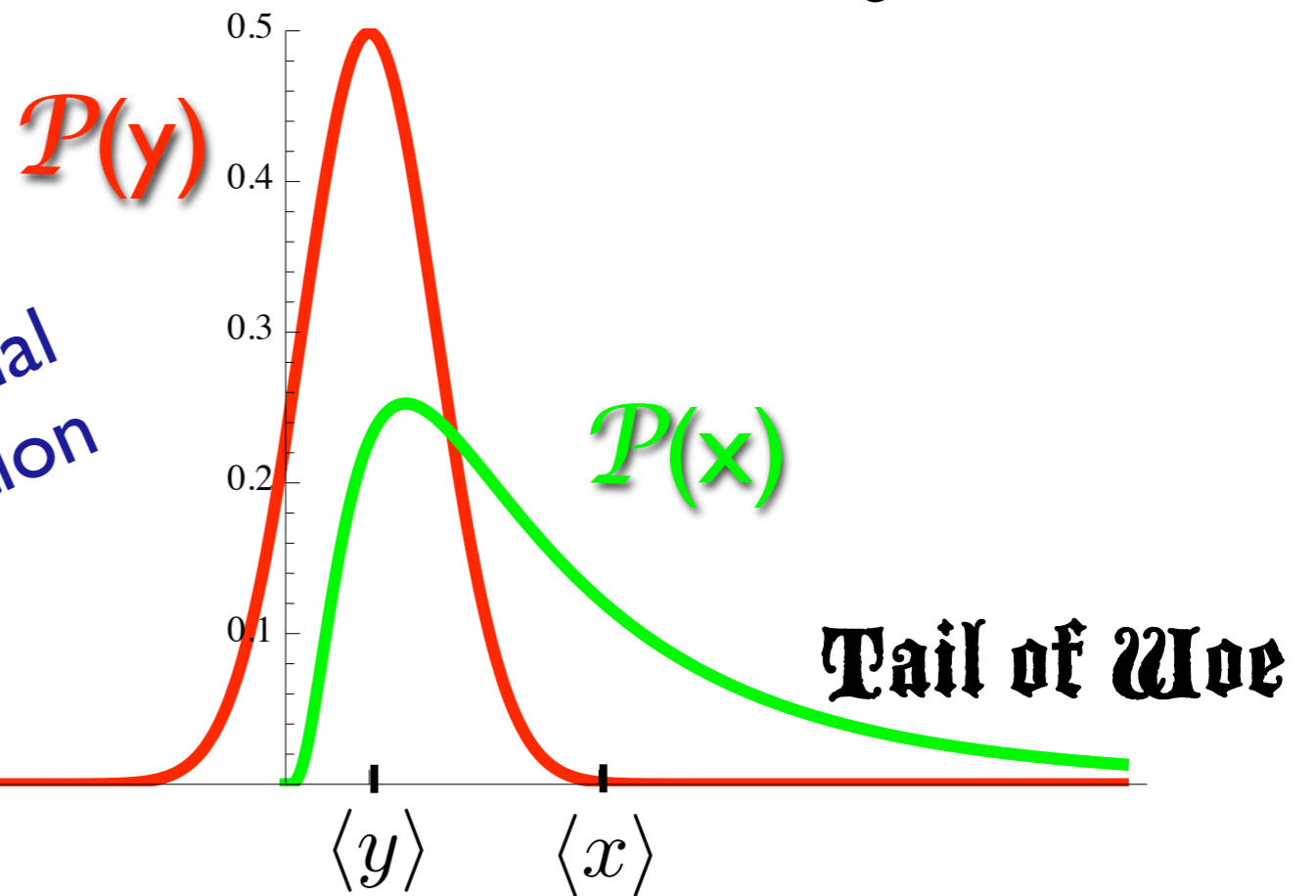
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$$\langle x \rangle = e^{\mu^2 + \sigma^2/2}$$

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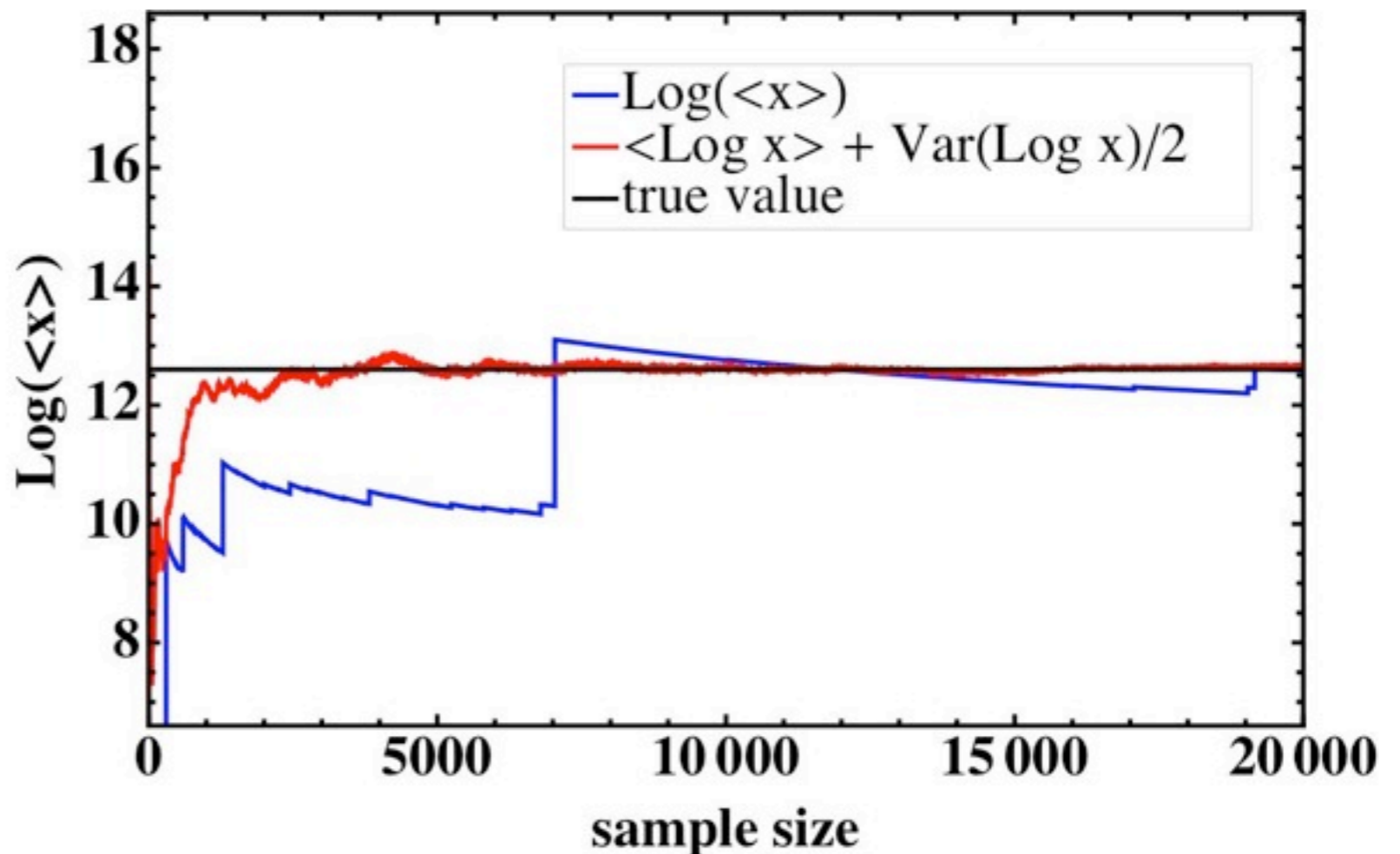
Construct

In our case: $x = \text{correlator} = \prod_i T(\phi_i)$

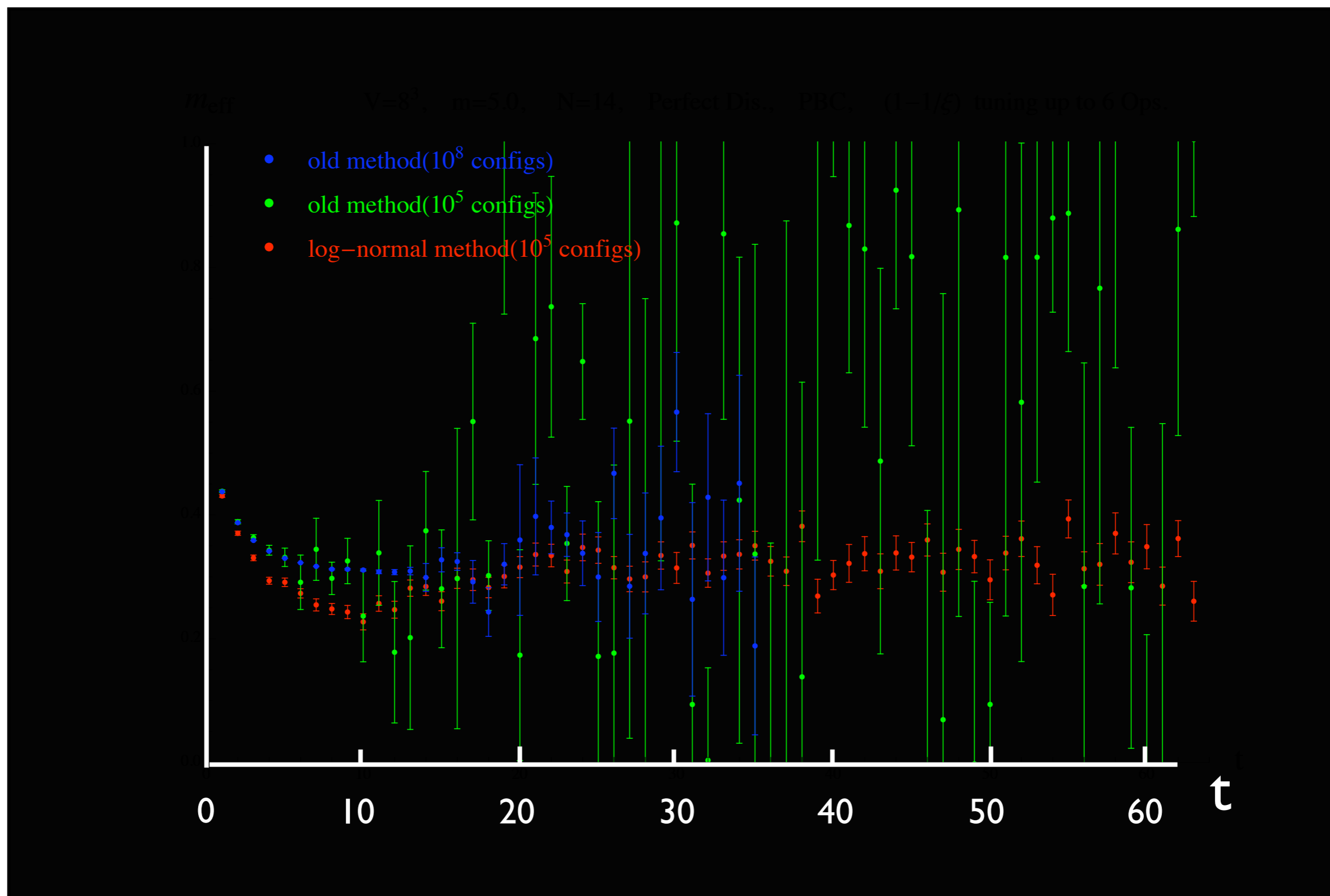
Need to compute: $E = -\frac{1}{t} \ln \langle x \rangle$

Avoid distribution tail by computing $\langle \ln x \rangle$, $\langle \ln^2 x \rangle$
then constructing E.

Sampling a variable with
a log-normal distribution



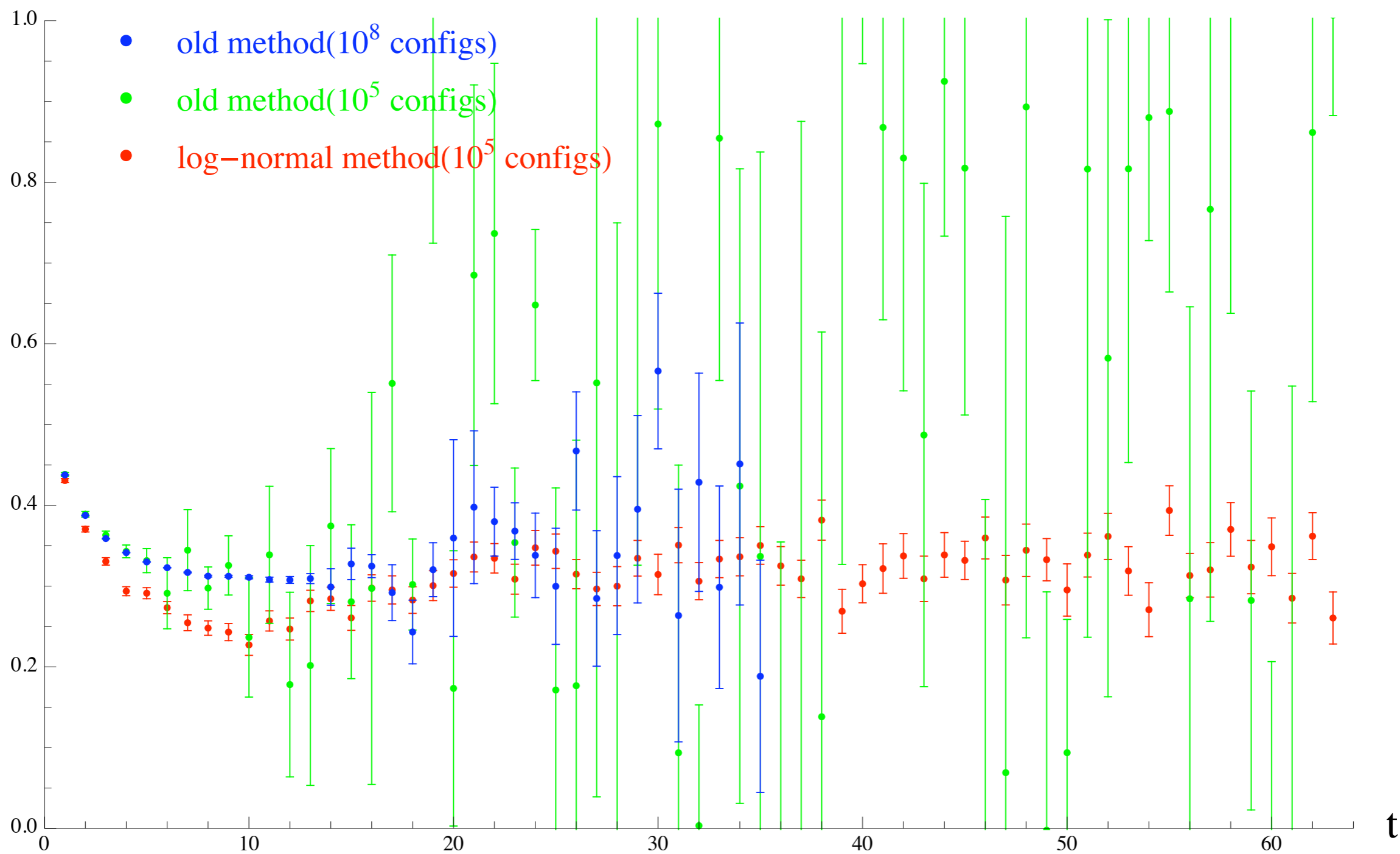
Effective mass plot, $N=14$ fermions, $8^3 \times 64$




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m_{eff}

$V=8^3$, $m=5.0$, $N=14$, Perfect Dis., PBC, $(1-1/\xi)$ tuning up to 6 Ops.



Conclusions:

- We are on track to achieve 1% measurements for an physically interesting system with up to ~ 100 fermions
- Interested in extending to non-unitary fermions: lattice EFT for nuclei?
- Learned some lessons:
 - ▶ With large number of particles, very difficult to find a ground state you don't already understand!
 - ▶ In noisy systems, it pays to examine the raw probability distribution! 

wild speculation of the week

Other noisy systems: Perhaps a single hadron correlator C , sampling many “uncorrelated-enough” gauge links, is driven to a fixed-point, non-Gaussian probability distribution $\mathcal{P}^*(C)$ with long tail, such as Log-Normal distribution we are finding

Perhaps can determine the few parameters describing $\mathcal{P}^*(C)$ and hence $\langle C \rangle$ without having to sample tail??

Baryons? Glueballs? Disconnected diagrams?

