

From Configurations to Correlators

- Lect. 1 : The Anatomy of a Lattice Measurement
- Lect. 2 : Machine Learning in Measurements

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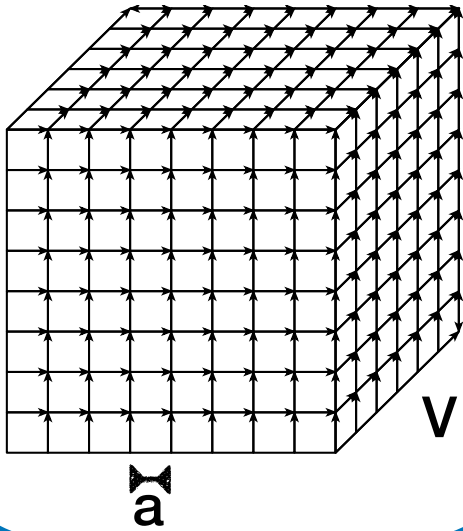
Satellite School on Lattice Gauge Theories,
Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, India

28th October, 2025

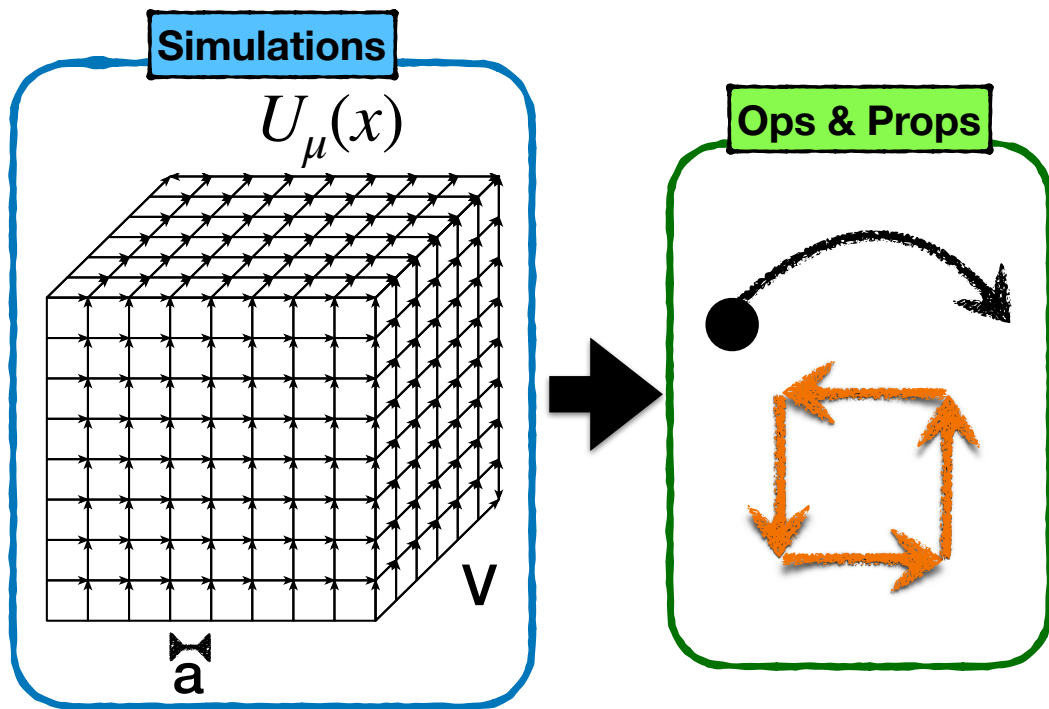
The Anatomy of a Lattice Measurement

Simulations

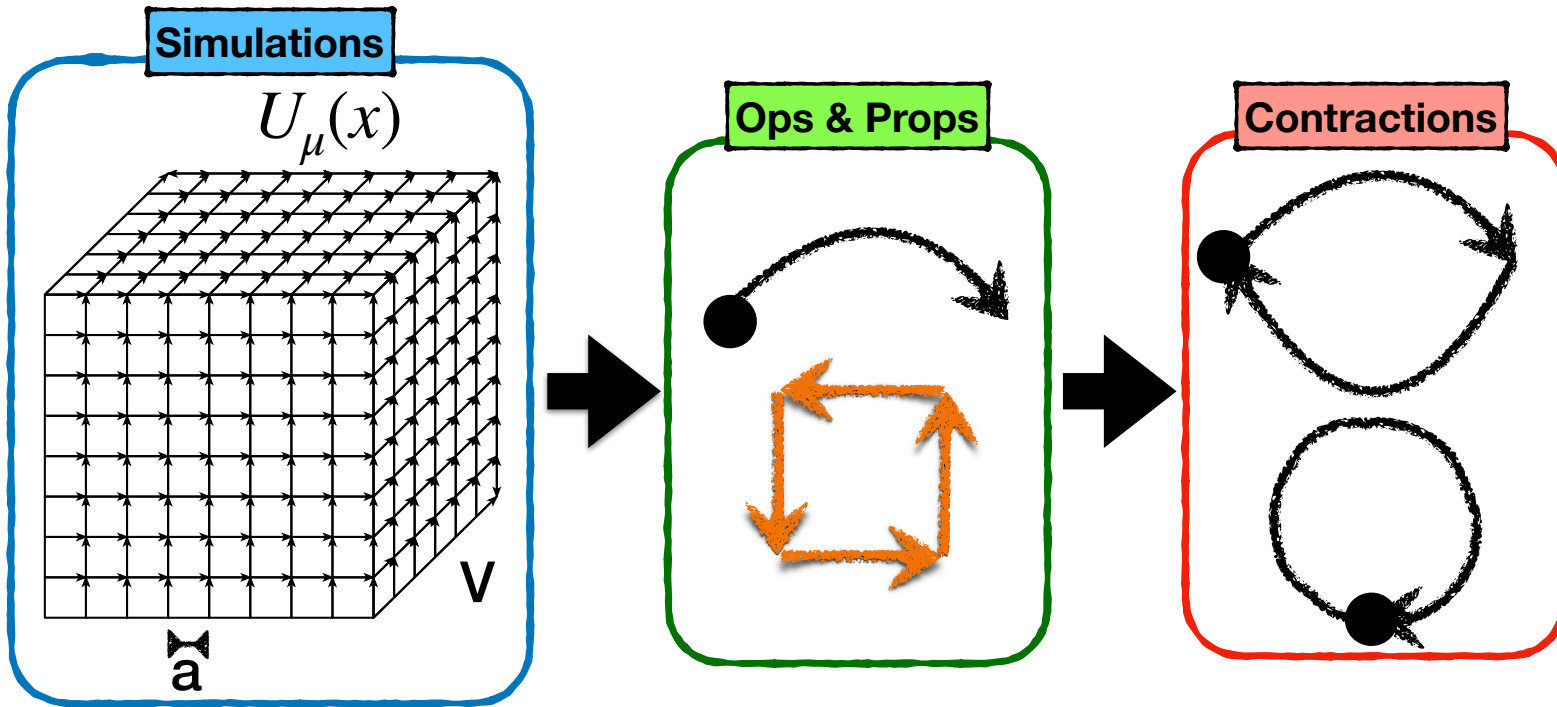
$$U_{\mu}(x)$$



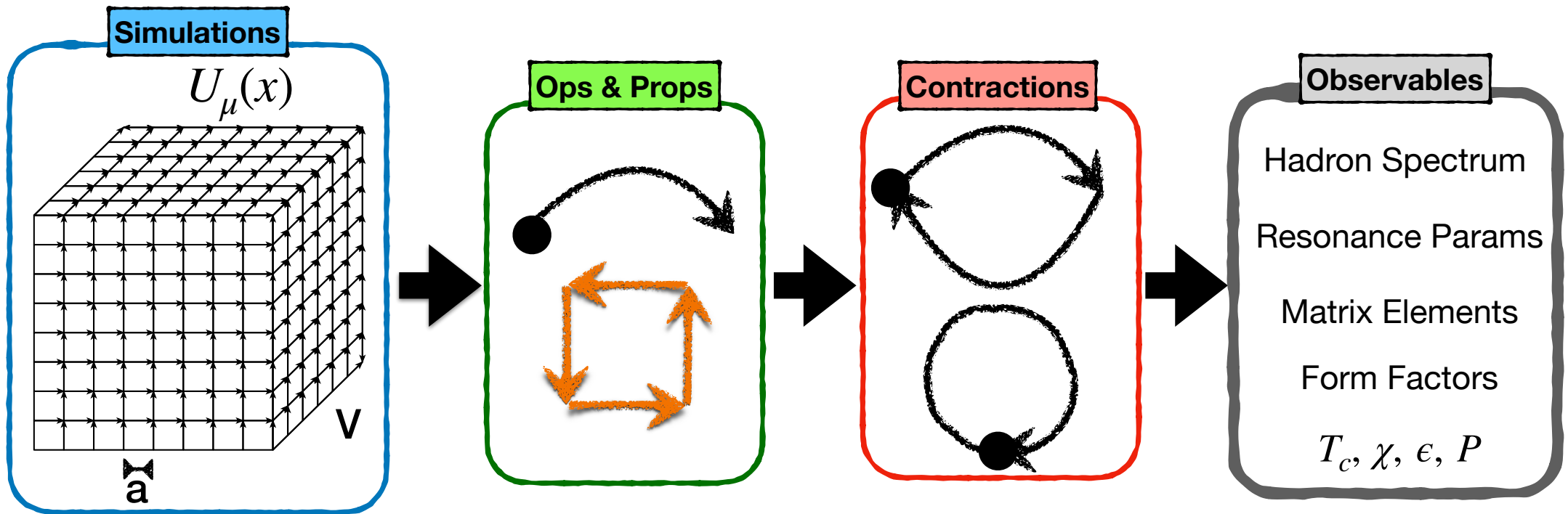
The Anatomy of a Lattice Measurement



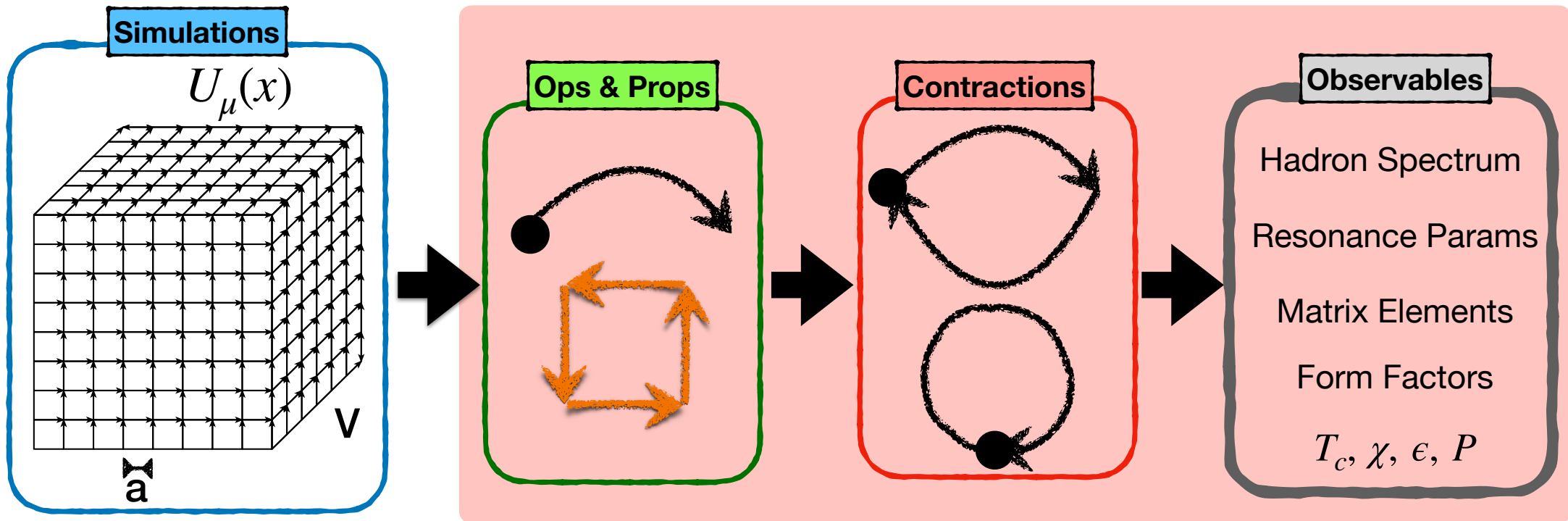
The Anatomy of a Lattice Measurement



The Anatomy of a Lattice Measurement



The Anatomy of a Lattice Measurement



$$\langle \mathcal{O} \rangle_{a,V,n_f} = \frac{1}{\mathcal{Z}} \int \mathbb{D}[U]^V \mathbb{D}[\psi\bar{\psi}]^{Vn_f} \mathcal{O}(U, \psi, \bar{\psi}) e^{-S(a; U, \psi, \bar{\psi})}$$

Simulation vs Measurement – Two Different Problems

Every ensemble $\rightarrow U^{(k+1)} = T[U^{(k)}]$, sampling probability $e^{-S[U]}$

$$\langle \mathcal{O} \rangle = \frac{1}{\mathcal{Z}} \int \mathbb{D}[U] \mathcal{O}[U] e^{-S[U]} \xrightarrow{\text{MCMC}} E[\mathcal{O}] = \frac{\sum_k \mathcal{O}[U^{(k)}]}{N_{\text{cfg}}}$$

Simulation vs Measurement – Two Different Problems

Every ensemble $\rightarrow U^{(k+1)} = T[U^{(k)}]$, sampling probability $e^{-S[U]}$

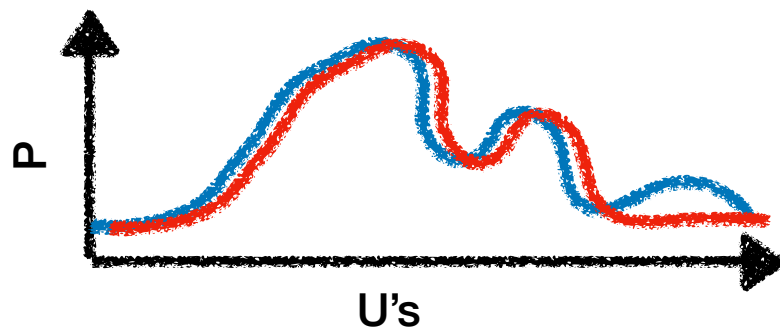
$$\langle \mathcal{O} \rangle = \frac{1}{\mathcal{L}} \int \mathbb{D}[U] \mathcal{O}[U] e^{-S[U]} \xrightarrow{\text{MCMC}} E[\mathcal{O}] = \frac{\sum_k \mathcal{O}[U^{(k)}]}{N_{\text{cfg}}}$$

$$\text{Var}[\mathcal{O}] = \tau_{\text{int}} \frac{2\sigma^2}{N}$$

Simulation vs Measurement – Two Different Problems

Every ensemble $\rightarrow U^{(k+1)} = T[U^{(k)}]$, sampling probability $e^{-S[U]}$

$$\langle \mathcal{O} \rangle = \frac{1}{\mathcal{L}} \int \mathbb{D}[U] \mathcal{O}[U] e^{-S[U]} \xrightarrow{\text{MCMC}} E[\mathcal{O}] = \frac{\sum_k \mathcal{O}[U^{(k)}]}{N_{\text{cfg}}}$$



$$\text{Var}[\mathcal{O}] = \tau_{\text{int}} \frac{2\sigma^2}{N}$$

The **probability measure** and the **observable definition** need **good overlap**.

Simulation vs Measurement – Two Different Problems

$$\langle \mathcal{O} \rangle = \frac{1}{\mathcal{Z}} \int \mathbb{D}[U] \mathcal{O}[U] e^{-S[U]}$$

The **probability measure** and the **observable definition** are **decoupled**.

Reweighting 😊

$$\langle \mathcal{O} \rangle_{\beta'} = \frac{\langle \mathcal{O}[U] w(U) \rangle_{\beta}}{\langle w(U) \rangle_{\beta}}, \quad w(U) = e^{-(S_{\beta'} - S_{\beta})}$$

Scan the neighborhood of parameter space of β .

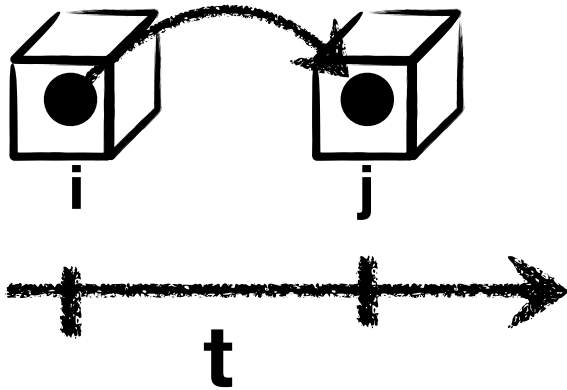
Sign Problem 😞

$$\langle \mathcal{O} \rangle = \frac{\langle \mathcal{O}[U] e^{i\phi[U]} \rangle_P}{\langle e^{i\phi[U]} \rangle_P}$$

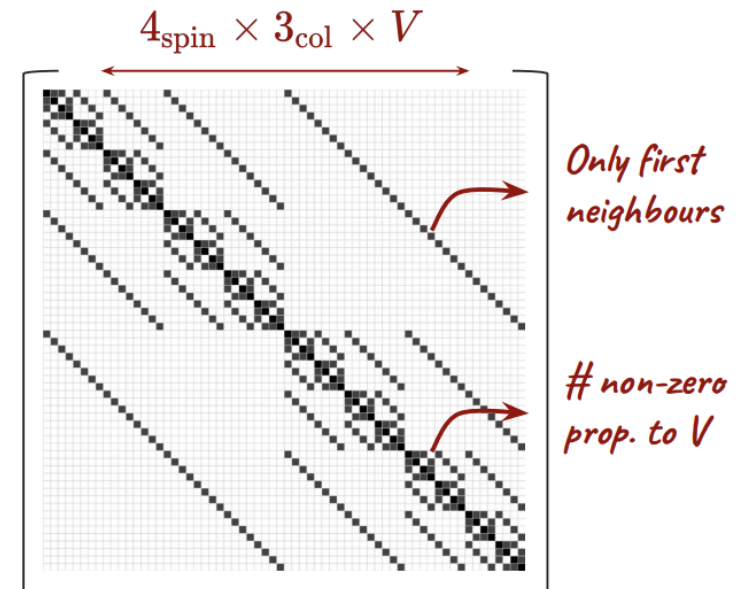
What the **Simulation** hands off to **Measurements** ?

$$\langle \mathcal{O} \rangle_{n_f} = \frac{1}{\mathcal{Z}} \int \mathbb{D}[U] \mathbb{D}[\psi \bar{\psi}] \mathcal{O}(U, \psi, \bar{\psi}) e^{-S(U, \psi, \bar{\psi})}$$

$$\underbrace{\langle \psi_j \bar{\psi}_i \rangle}_{n_f=1} = \frac{1}{\mathcal{Z}} \int [\mathbb{D}U] \underbrace{D_{ji}^{-1}[U]}_{\text{valence propagator}} \underbrace{\det D[U] e^{-S_{\text{YM}}[U]}}_{\text{sea weight}}$$



$$D \equiv \gamma^\mu \mathcal{D}_\mu[U] + m_f$$



What's the issue with D^{-1} ?

$$D \equiv \gamma^\mu \mathcal{D}_\mu[U] + m_f \implies D^{-1} \propto \frac{1}{m_f} \quad \text{[High Condition number } D^\dagger D]$$



- Solve $D x = b$
- Most **expensive** part, usually by iterative method (BiCGStab)

$$x_{k+1} = f(D, b, x_k) \text{ with } x_k \rightarrow x \text{ (true solution)}$$

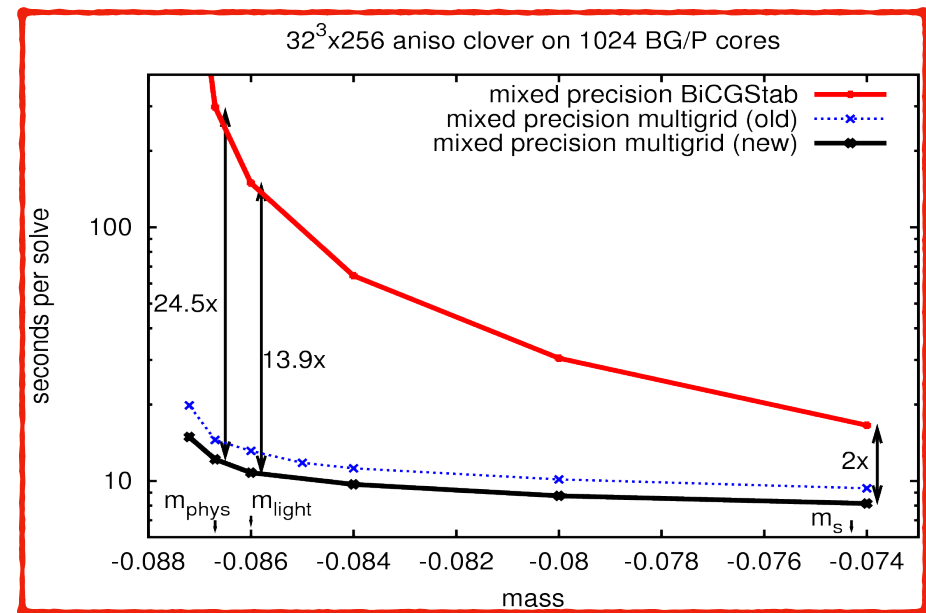
$$r_k = b - D x_k \text{ with } r_k \rightarrow 0$$

- Find a **preconditioner** M such that $M \approx D^{-1}$ s.t

$$(DM) v = b, \quad v = M^{-1}x \quad \text{[Low Condition number]}$$

- **Multigrid** approximates **low mode** and **high modes**.

$$D = \sum_n \lambda_n |n\rangle \langle n|$$

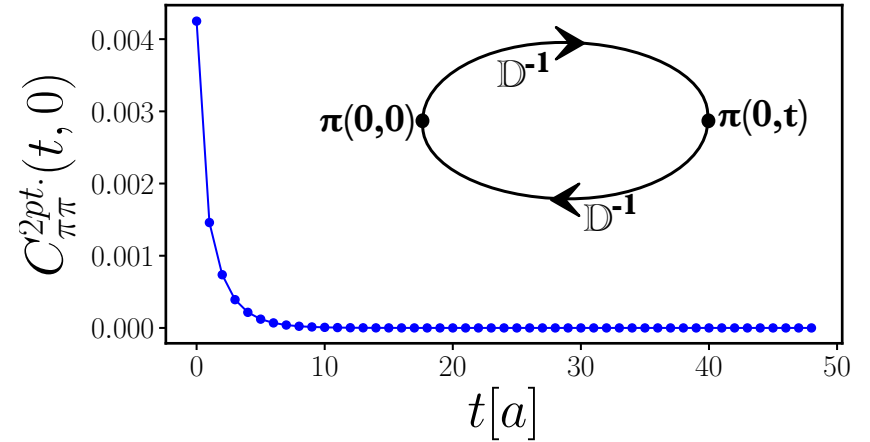


[Babich et al., 1011.2775]

What we **measure**?

Euclidean 2pt Correlation function

$$\begin{aligned}
 C_{ab}^{2pt.}(t) &\equiv \langle 0 | \mathcal{O}_b(t) \mathcal{O}_a^\dagger(0) | 0 \rangle \\
 &= \frac{\text{Tr}[e^{-(L_t-t)H} \mathcal{O}_b e^{-tH} \mathcal{O}_a^\dagger]}{\text{Tr}[e^{-L_t H}]} \quad t > 0 \\
 &= \sum_n \langle 0 | \mathcal{O}_b(0) | n, L \rangle \langle n, L | \mathcal{O}_a^\dagger(0) | 0 \rangle e^{-E_n t} \quad L_t \rightarrow \infty \\
 &= \sum_n Z_{b,n} Z_{a,n}^\dagger e^{-E_n t}
 \end{aligned}$$



Classification of Lattice Observables

- Quark Propagator based → (Mesons, Baryons, Form factors)
- Pure Gauge → (Wilson loops, Glueballs, Polyakov loop)
- Mixed/Hybrid → (hybrids, extended-light)
- Derived → (Scattering, Thermodynamics)

Propagator Based : Mesons

$$\mathcal{O}_{\text{meson}}(x) = \sum_{a, \alpha, \beta} \bar{q}_1(x)_{\alpha}^a \Gamma_{\alpha, \beta} q_2(x)_{\beta}^a$$

- **Flavor Structure:** Flavor quantum numbers by q_1 and q_2
- **Spin & Parity:** Γ matrix choice.
 - $\mathbb{1}$ is **scalar** ($J^P = 0^+$) : σ [Not sure]
 - γ_5 is **pseudoscalar** ($J^P = 0^-$) : π^{\pm}, π^0
 - γ_{μ} is **vector** ($J^P = 1^-$) : ρ, ω
 - $\gamma_{\mu}\gamma_5$ is **axial-vector** ($J^P = 1^+$) : a_1

$f_0(500)$	$J^{PC} = 0^{++}$
also known as σ ; was $f_0(600)$, $f_0(400-1200)$	
See the review on "Scalar Mesons below 1 GeV."	
Mass (T-Matrix Pole \sqrt{s}) = (400-550) - i(200-350) MeV	
Mass (Breit-Wigner) = 400 to 800 MeV	
Full width (Breit-Wigner) = 100 to 800 MeV	
$f_0(500)$ DECAY MODES	Fraction (Γ_i/Γ)
$\pi\pi$	seen
$\gamma\gamma$	seen

Propagator Based : Baryons

$$\mathcal{O}_{\text{baryon}}(x) = \epsilon_{abc} P_{\pm} \Gamma_A q_1(x)^a \left(q_2^T(x)^b \Gamma_B q_3(x)^c \right)$$

- **Spin Selection:**

$$J = \frac{1}{2} \rightarrow (\Gamma^A, \Gamma^B) = (\mathbb{1}, C\gamma_5), (\gamma_5, C), \text{ or } (\mathbb{1}, i\gamma_4 C\gamma_5)$$

$$J = \frac{3}{2} \rightarrow (\Gamma^A, \Gamma^B) = (\mathbb{1}, C\gamma_i)$$

- **Parity Selection:** $P_{\pm} = \frac{1}{2} (\mathbb{1} \pm \gamma_4)$

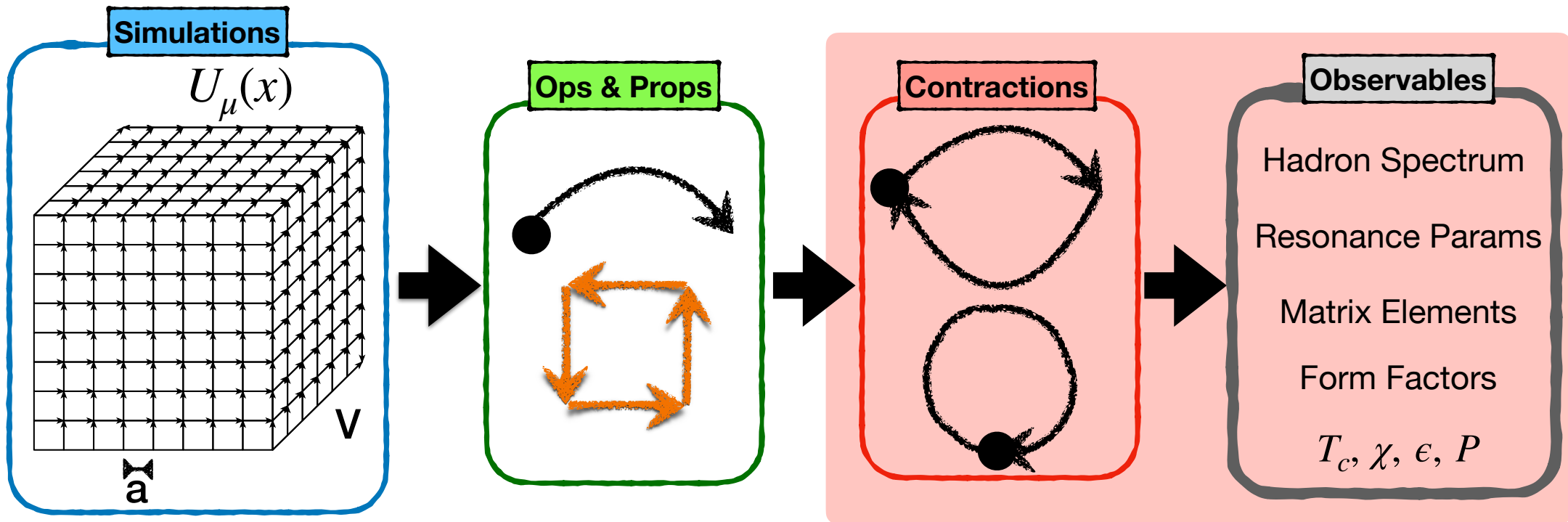
- **Charge Conjugation:** C is Charge Conjugation matrix. $C \equiv i\gamma_2\gamma_4$

- ϵ_{abc} ensures antisymmetry in the color indices.

Propagator Based : Baryons

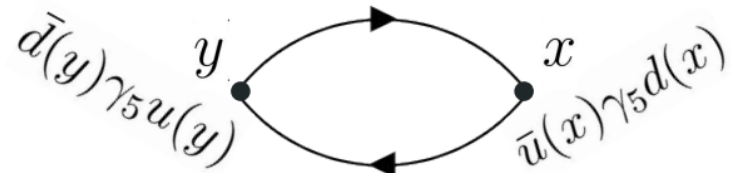
Baryon	Quark content	Interpolating field	I	I_z
p	uud	$\epsilon_{abc} (u_a^T C \gamma_5 d_b) u_c$	1/2	+1/2
n	udd	$\epsilon_{abc} (d_a^T C \gamma_5 u_b) d_c$	1/2	-1/2
Λ	uds	$\frac{1}{\sqrt{6}} \epsilon_{abc} [2 (u_a^T C \gamma_5 d_b) s_c + (u_a^T C \gamma_5 s_b) d_c - (d_a^T C \gamma_5 s_b) u_c]$	0	0
Σ^+	uus	$\epsilon_{abc} (u_a^T C \gamma_5 s_b) u_c$	1	+1
Σ^0	uds	$\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \epsilon_{abc} [(u_a^T C \gamma_5 s_b) d_c + (d_a^T C \gamma_5 s_b) u_c]$	1	0
Σ^-	dds	$\epsilon_{abc} (d_a^T C \gamma_5 s_b) d_c$	1	-1
Ξ^0	uss	$\epsilon_{abc} (s_a^T C \gamma_5 u_b) s_c$	1/2	+1/2
Ξ^-	dss	$\epsilon_{abc} (s_a^T C \gamma_5 d_b) s_c$	1/2	-1/2
Δ^{++}	uuu	$\epsilon_{abc} (u_a^T C \gamma_\mu u_b) u_c$	3/2	+3/2
Δ^+	uud	$\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \epsilon_{abc} [2 (u_a^T C \gamma_\mu d_b) u_c + (u_a^T C \gamma_\mu u_b) d_c]$	3/2	+1/2
Δ^0	udd	$\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \epsilon_{abc} [2 (d_a^T C \gamma_\mu u_b) d_c + (d_a^T C \gamma_\mu d_b) u_c]$	3/2	-1/2
Δ^-	ddd	$\epsilon_{abc} (d_a^T C \gamma_\mu d_b) d_c$	3/2	-3/2

The Anatomy of a Lattice **Measurement**



Wick Contractions: Structure of Correlators

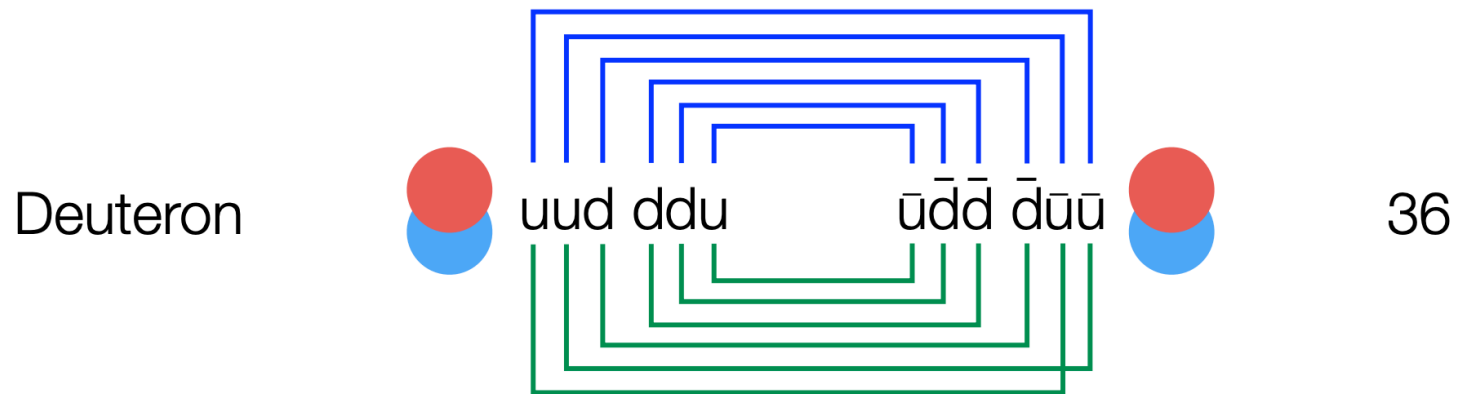
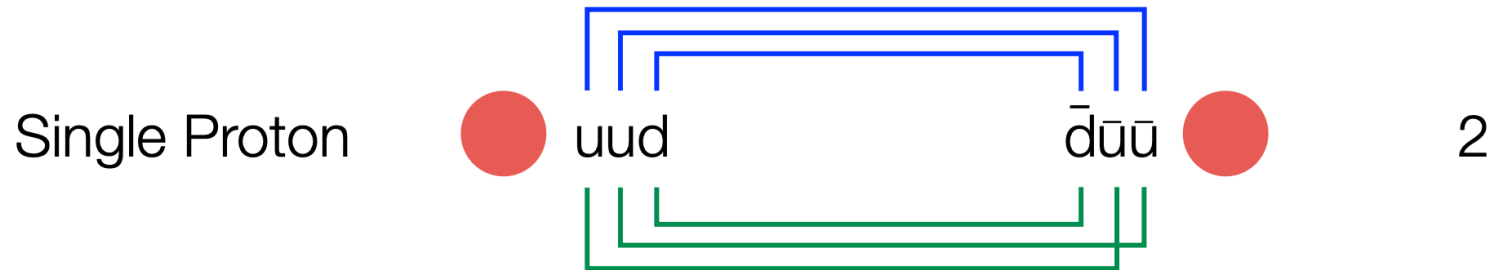
$$\left\langle \eta_{i_1} \bar{\eta}_{j_1} \cdots \eta_{i_n} \bar{\eta}_{j_n} \right\rangle_F = (-1)^n \sum_{P(1,2,\dots,n)} \text{sign}(P) (D^{-1})_{i_1 j_{P_1}} (D^{-1})_{i_2 j_{P_2}} \cdots (D^{-1})_{i_n j_{P_n}}$$



Lets' compute for a pion,





$$\left\langle \mathcal{O}_{\pi^+}(y) \mathcal{O}_{\pi^+}^\dagger(x) \right\rangle = \left\langle \bar{d}(y) \gamma_5 u(y) \bar{u}(x) \gamma_5 d(x) \right\rangle = -\text{Tr} \left[\gamma_5 D_d^{-1}(x; y) \gamma_5 D_u^{-1}(y; x) \right]$$

Wick Contractions Explosion: Obstacle



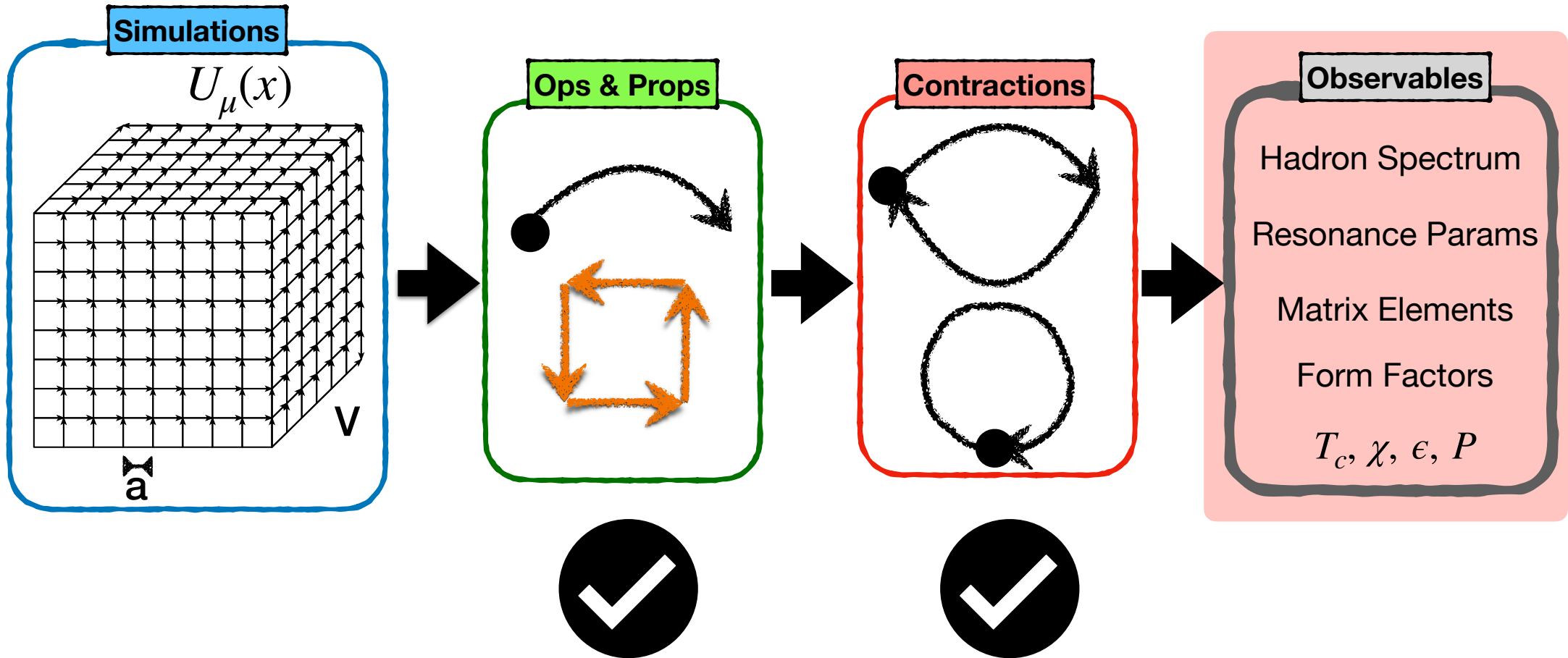
+ many more!

Wick Contractions Explosion: Obstacle

Single Proton	 uud	2
Deuteron	 uud ddu	36
Dineutron	 ddu ddu	48
AZ Nucleus		$\frac{u! \quad d!}{(A+Z)! (2A-Z)!}$

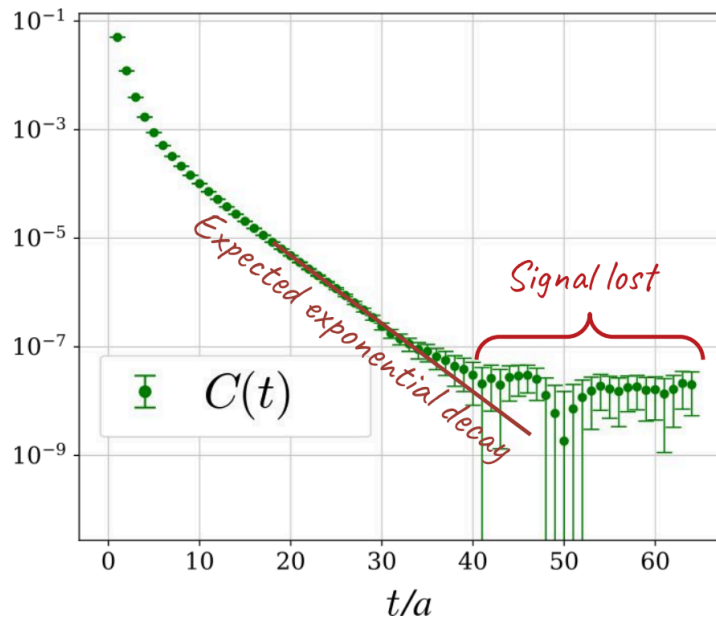
Nontrivial concern: writing correct Wick contractions!

The Anatomy of a Lattice Measurement



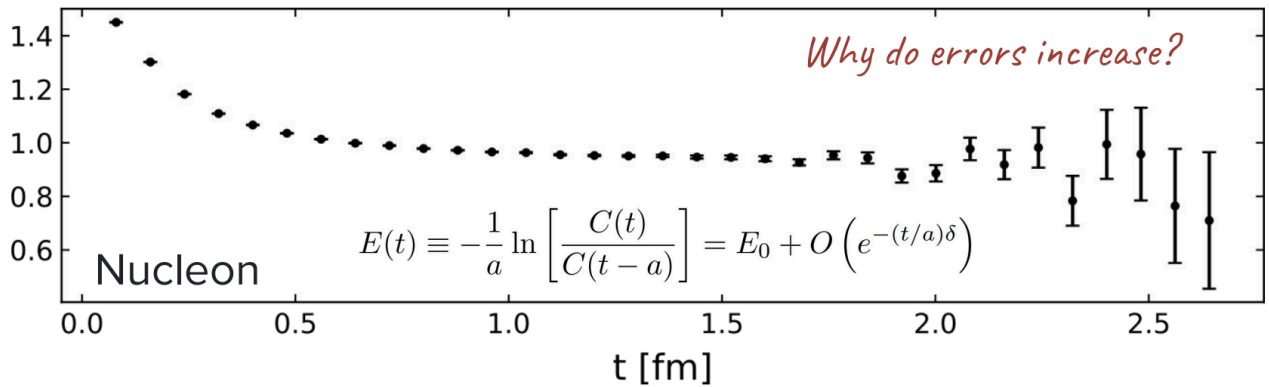
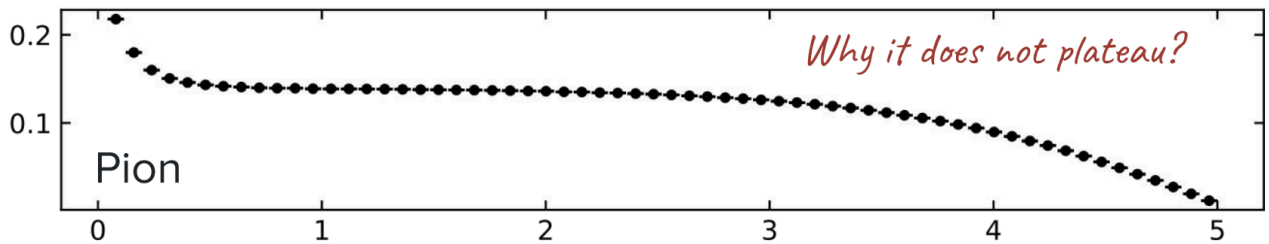
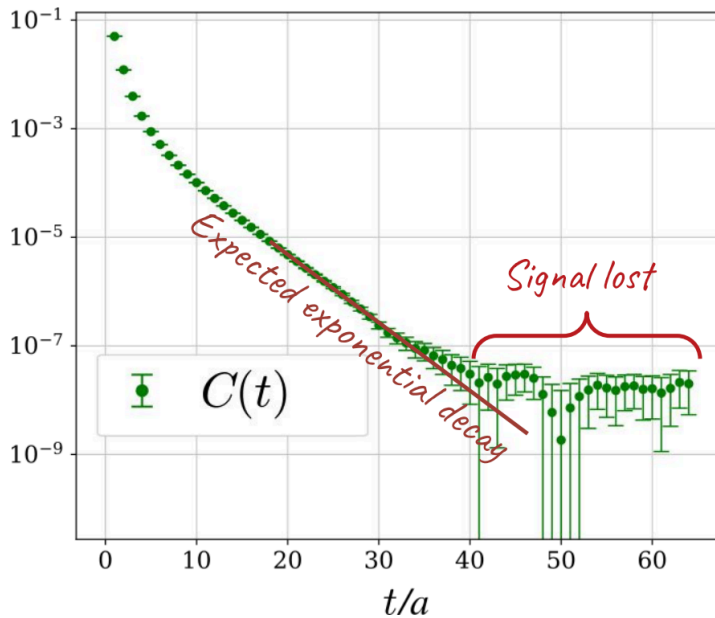
Extract energies from two-point functions

$$C_{\mathcal{O}}(t) = \sum_n |Z_{\mathcal{O},n}|^2 e^{-E_n t}$$



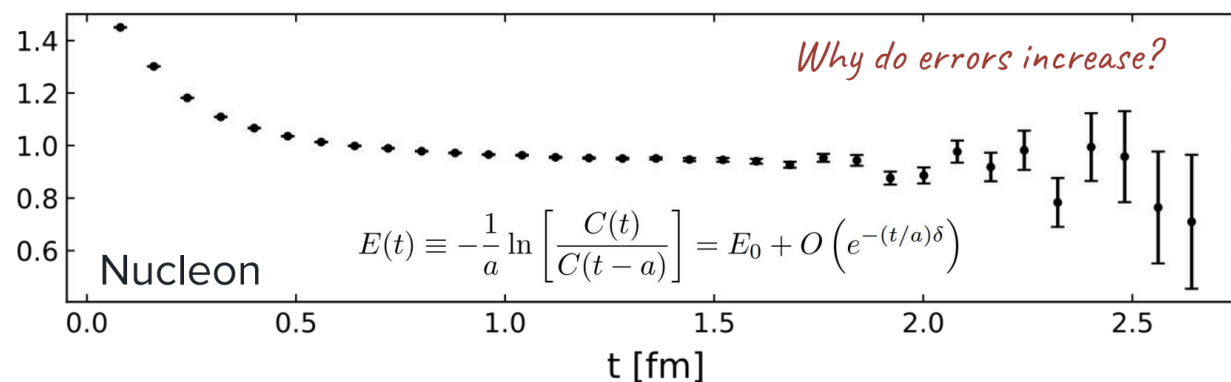
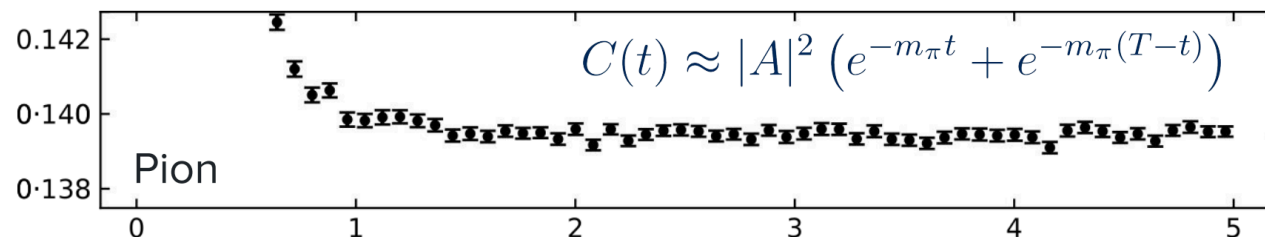
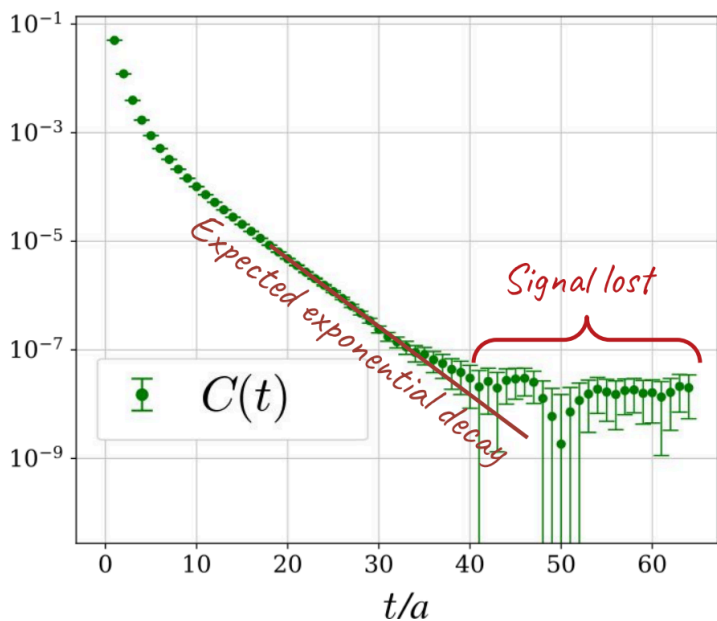
Extract energies from two-point functions

$$C_{\mathcal{O}}(t) = \sum_n |Z_{\mathcal{O},n}|^2 e^{-E_n t} \implies E(t) \equiv \frac{1}{a} \log \left[\frac{C_{\mathcal{O}}(t)}{C_{\mathcal{O}}(t-a)} \right] = E_0 + O(e^{-(t/a)\delta})$$



Extract energies from two-point functions

$$C_{\mathcal{O}}(t) = \sum_n |Z_{\mathcal{O},n}|^2 e^{-E_n t} \implies E(t) \equiv \frac{1}{a} \log \left[\frac{C_{\mathcal{O}}(t)}{C_{\mathcal{O}}(t-a)} \right] = E_0 + O(e^{-(t/a)\delta})$$



Signal-to-Noise in Euclidean Correlators

$$C(t) \equiv \langle 0 | \mathcal{O}(t) \mathcal{O}^\dagger(0) | 0 \rangle \quad [\text{Parisi-Lepage}]$$

$$\text{Var}[X] = E[X^2] - E[X]^2$$

$$\sigma_C^2(t) \equiv \langle 0 | \mathcal{O}(t) \mathcal{O}^\dagger(0) \mathcal{O}(t) \mathcal{O}^\dagger(0) | 0 \rangle - \langle 0 | \mathcal{O}(t) \mathcal{O}^\dagger(0) | 0 \rangle^2$$

$$\frac{\sigma_C(t)}{C(t)} = \sqrt{\frac{\langle 0 | \mathcal{O}(t) \mathcal{O}^\dagger(0) \mathcal{O}(t) \mathcal{O}^\dagger(0) | 0 \rangle}{\langle 0 | \mathcal{O}(t) \mathcal{O}^\dagger(0) | 0 \rangle^2} - 1}$$

$$\frac{\sigma_C(t)}{C(t)} \propto e^{t \left(E_{0,C} - \frac{1}{2} E_{0,C^2} \right)}$$

$$E_{0,C^2} \leq 2 E_{0,C}$$

$$t \gg 1 \approx \sqrt{\frac{|B|^2 e^{-t E_{0,C^2}}}{|A|^4 e^{-2t E_{0,C}}} - 1}$$

Signal-to-Noise in Euclidean Correlators tail

$$C(t) \equiv \langle 0 | \mathcal{O}(t) \mathcal{O}^\dagger(0) | 0 \rangle \quad [\text{Parisi.}] \quad [\text{Lepage,}]$$

$$\text{Var}[X] = E[X^2] - E[X]^2$$

$$\sigma_C^2(t) \equiv \langle 0 | \mathcal{O}(t) \mathcal{O}^\dagger(0) \mathcal{O}(t) \mathcal{O}^\dagger(0) | 0 \rangle - \langle 0 | \mathcal{O}(t) \mathcal{O}^\dagger(0) | 0 \rangle^2$$

$$\text{Pion: } \frac{\sigma_C(t)}{C(t)} \propto \text{const}$$

$$\text{Nucleon: } \frac{\sigma_C(t)}{C(t)} \propto e^{t(m_N - \frac{3}{2}m_\pi)}$$

$$\frac{\sigma_C(t)}{C(t)} \propto e^{t \left(E_{0,C} - \frac{1}{2} E_{0,C^2} \right)}$$

$$E_{0,C^2} \leq 2 E_{0,C}$$

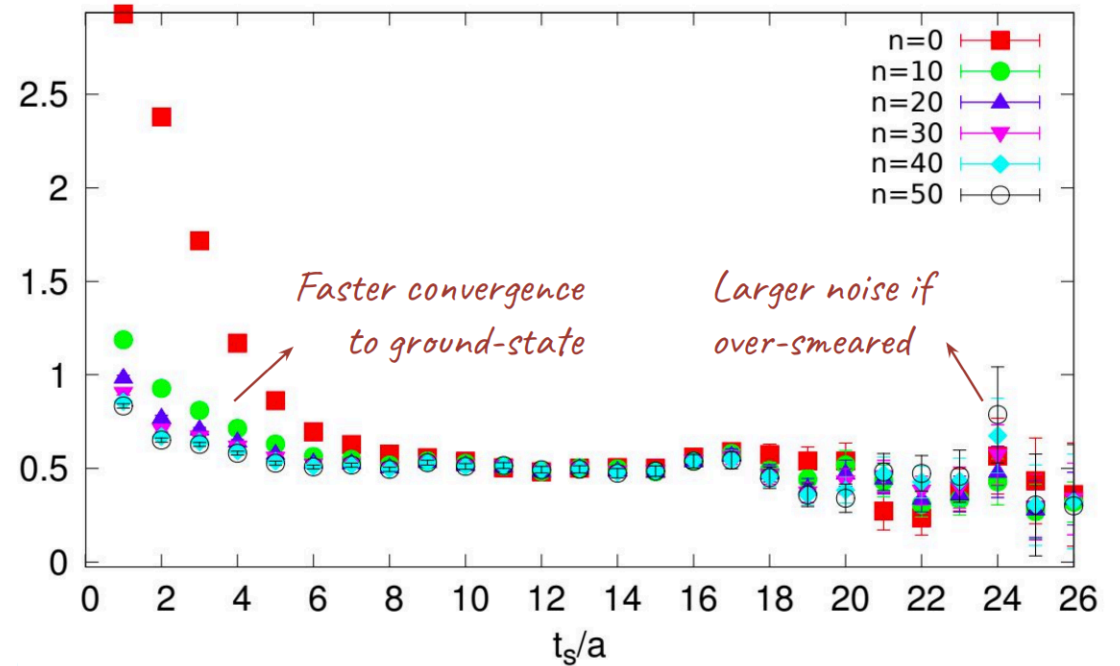
What can be done at early timeslices?

Smearing

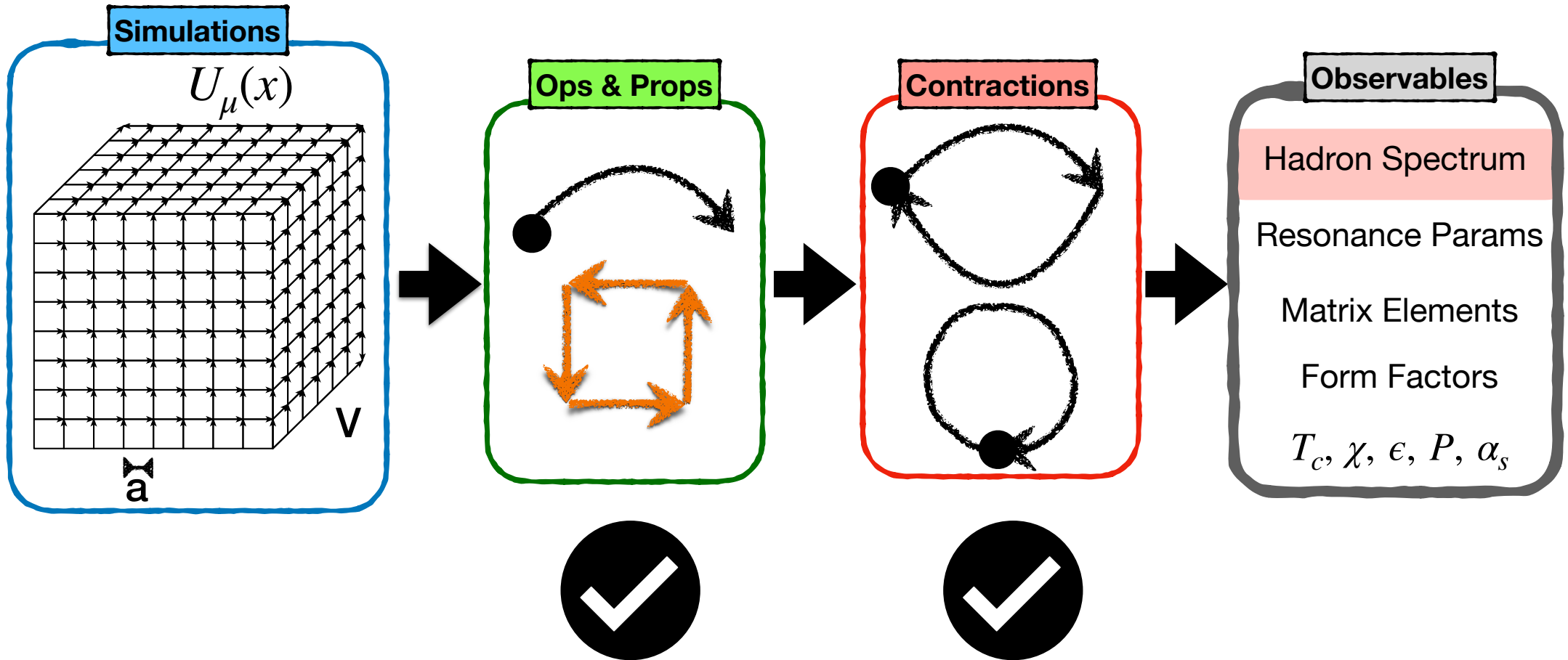
$$\begin{aligned}\tilde{\mathcal{O}}_{a\alpha}(\vec{x}, t) &= \sum_y S_{ab}(\vec{x}, \vec{y}) \mathcal{O}_{b\alpha}(\vec{y}, t) \\ &= \sum_y \left(\mathbb{1} + \alpha H(\vec{x}, \vec{y}; U(t)) \right)^n \mathcal{O}(\vec{y}, t)\end{aligned}$$

Needs tuning

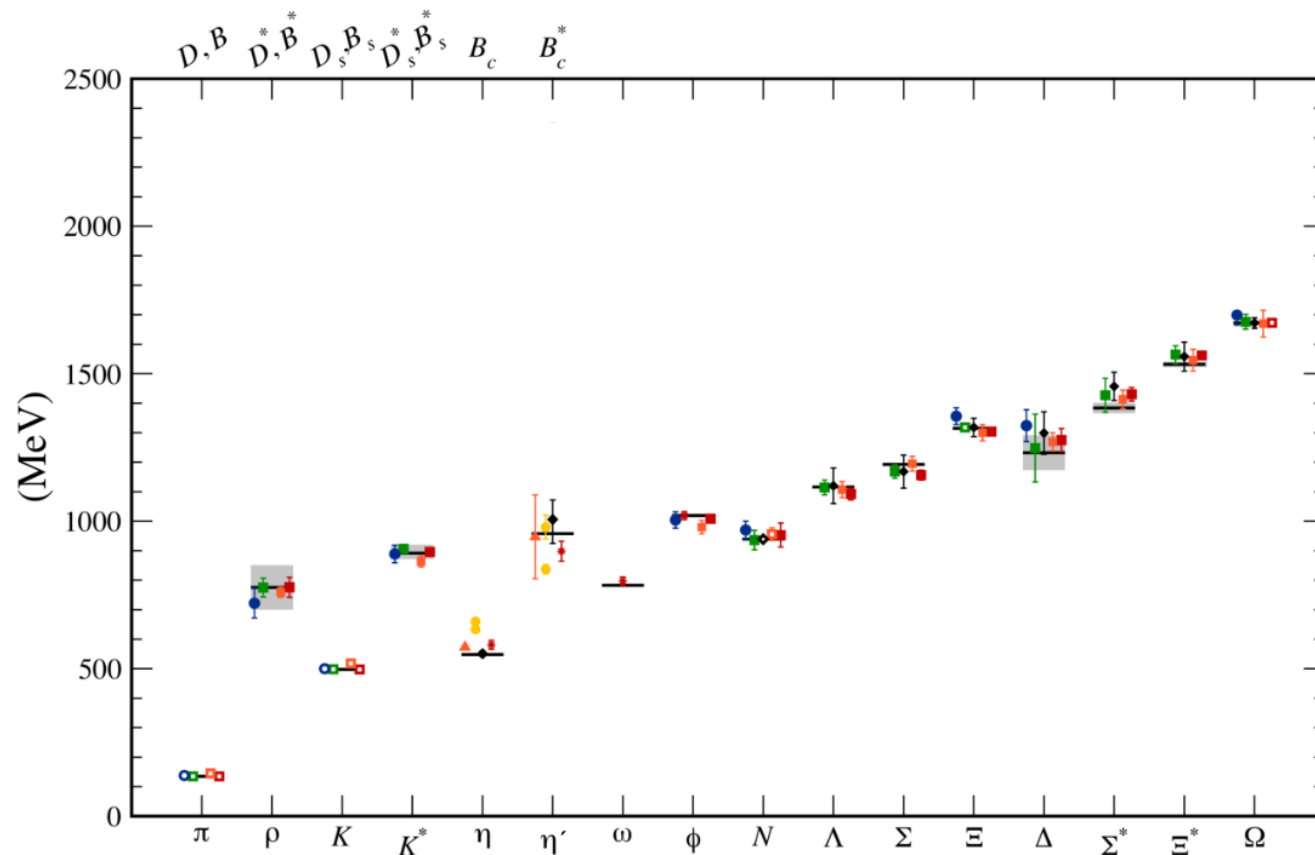
$$H(\vec{x}, \vec{y}; U(t)) = \sum_{k=1}^3 \left(U_k(\vec{x}, t) \delta_{\vec{x}, \vec{y} - \hat{k}} + U_k^\dagger(\vec{x} - \hat{k}, t) \delta_{\vec{x}, \vec{y} + \hat{k}} \right)$$



The Anatomy of a Lattice **Measurement**

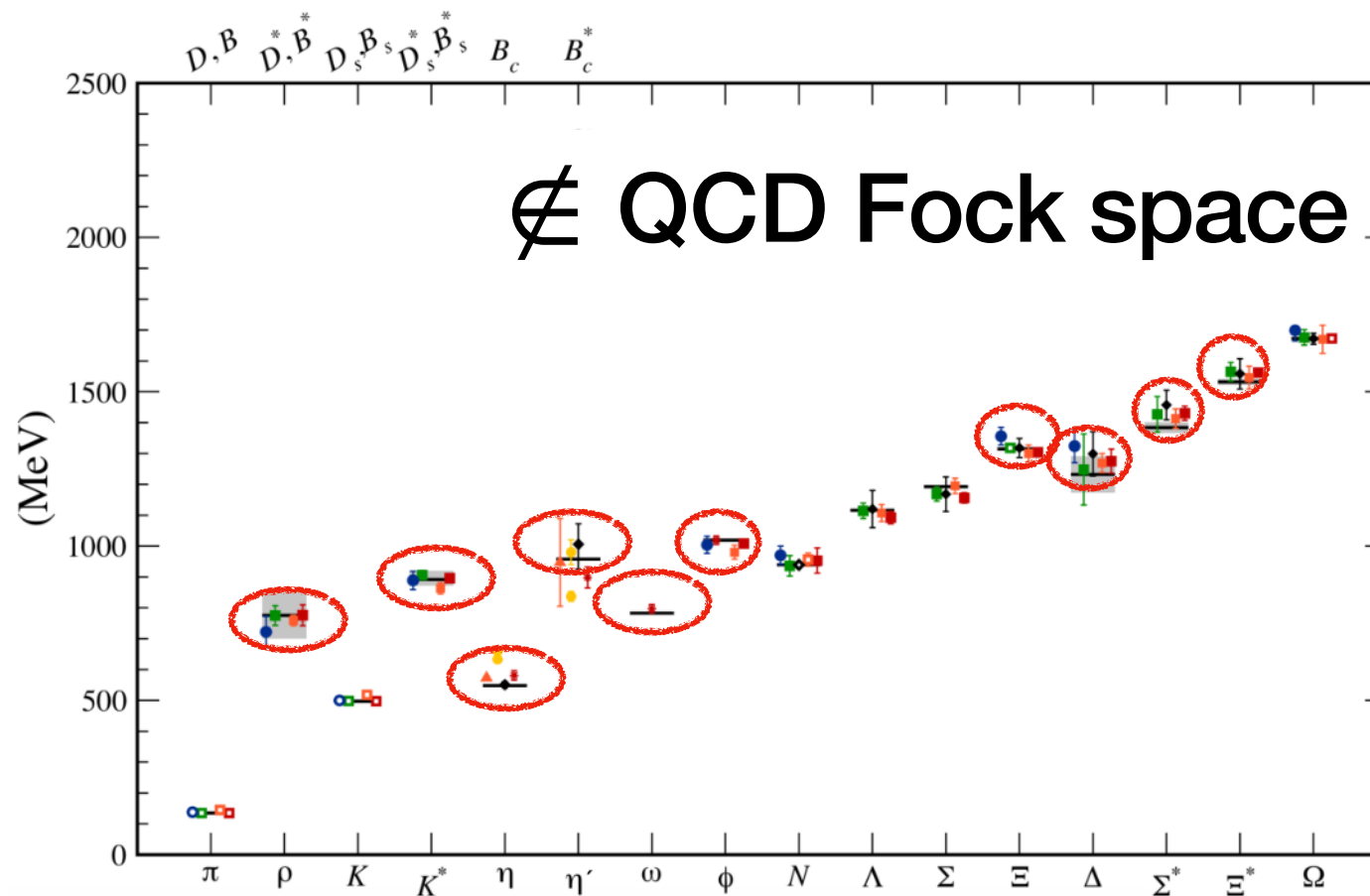


Are we done then?



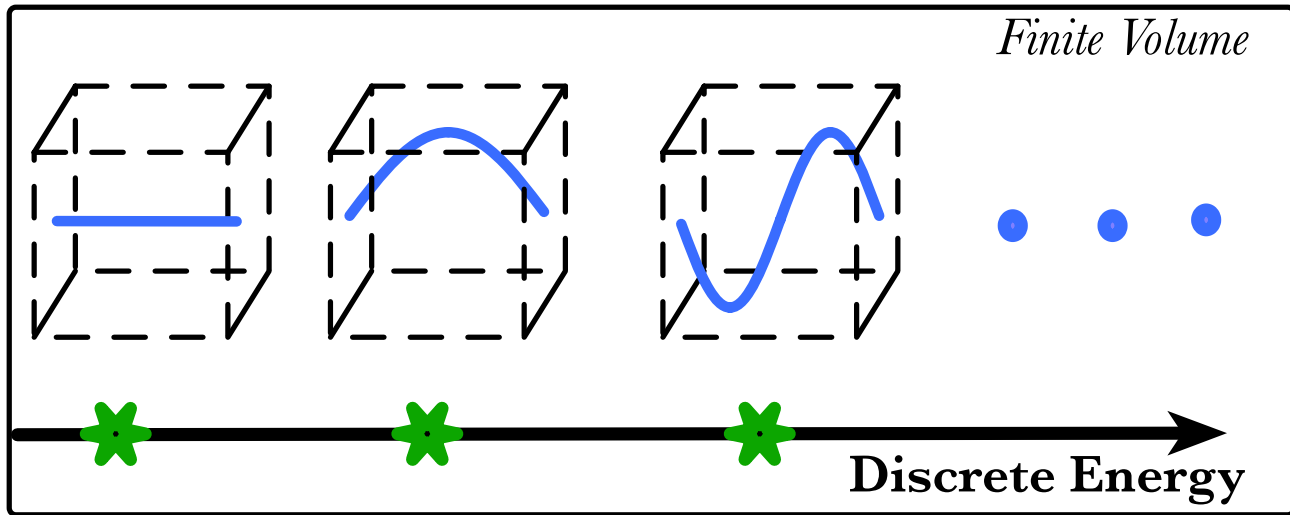
[PDG Review 2024], η, η' from HSC, RBC-UKQCD, Michael-Otnad-Urbach

Are we done then? 😞. NOT YET



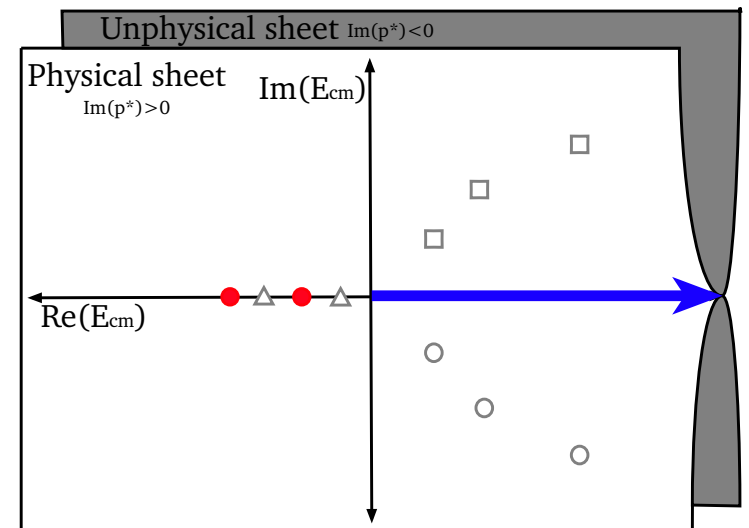
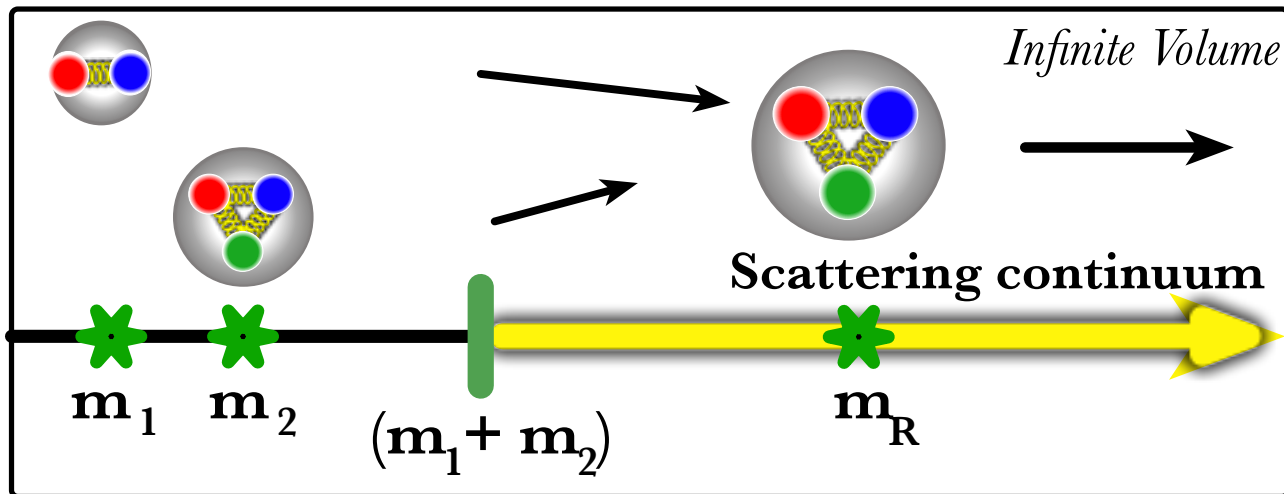
[PDG Review 2024], η, η' from HSC, RBC-UKQCD, Michael-Ottinad-Urbach

Scattering states on the lattice



Issues

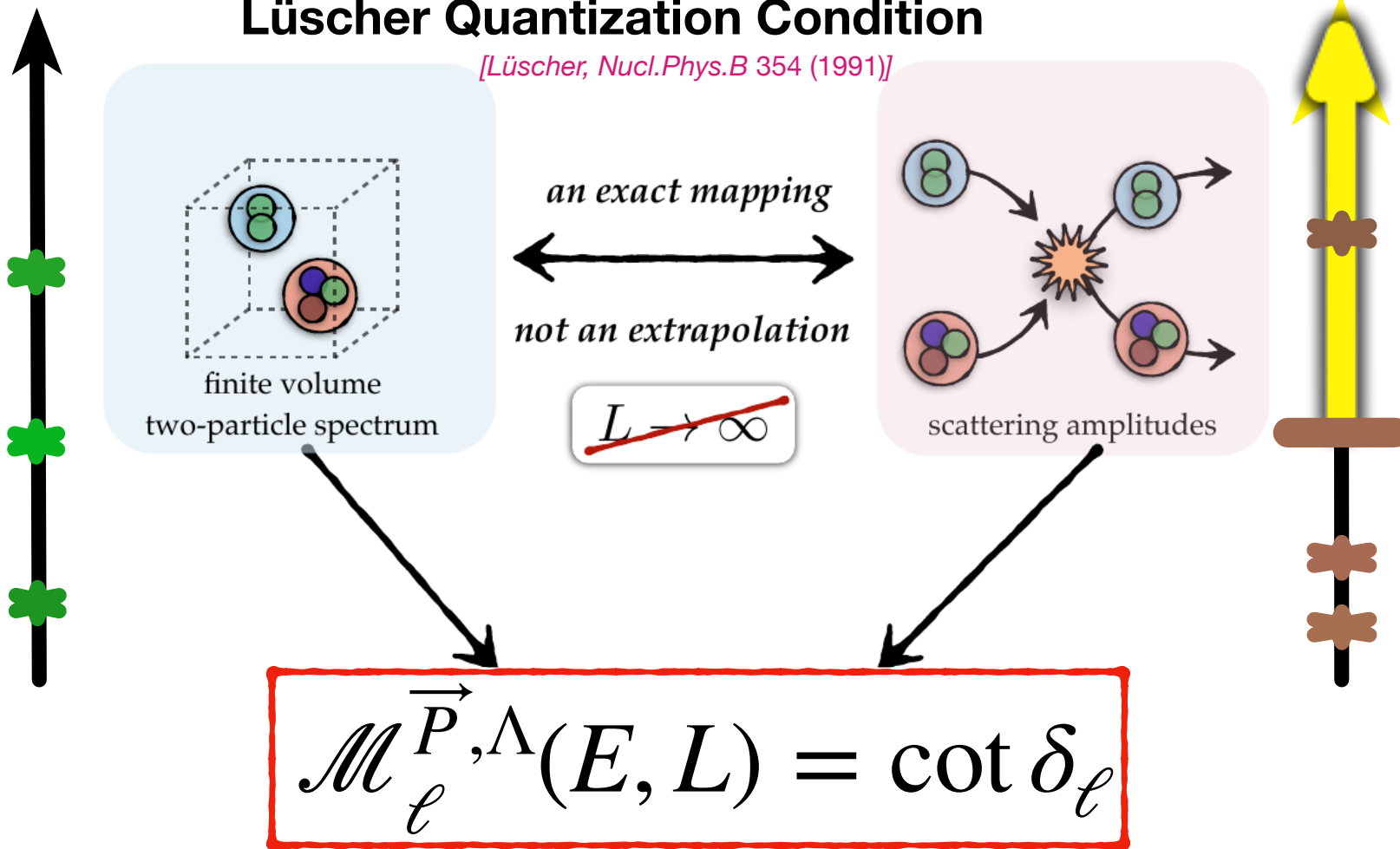
- No Continuum
- No cuts
- No Sheet structure
- No Poles



Elastic (“near” Threshold) Scattering states on the lattice

Lüscher Quantization Condition

[Lüscher, Nucl.Phys.B 354 (1991)]



Elastic (“near” Threshold) Scattering states on the lattice

Lüscher Quantization Condition

[Lüscher, Nucl.Phys.B 354 (1991)]

Assumptions

- Interaction range $< L$
- Two spin 0 particles only
- Elastic scattering
- Periodic box
- Upto Exponential corrections

$$\mathcal{M}_{\ell}^{\vec{P}, \Lambda}(E, L) = \cot \delta_{\ell}$$

Let's get into a real LQCD calculation..

Lattice Box : $32^3 \times 96$

L : 3.65 fm

a : 0.114 fm

$m_\pi L$: 5.86

Number of configurations: 1000

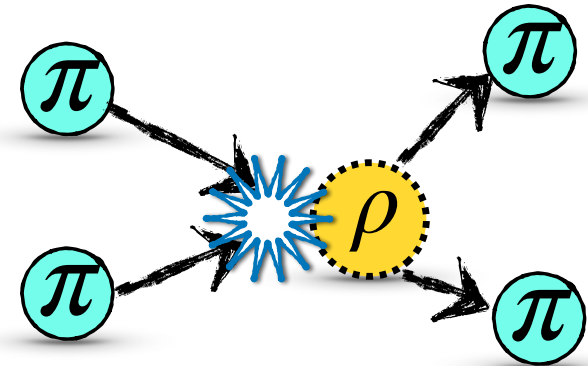
$m_\pi \sim 320$ MeV

Gauge Action: tree-level Symanzik action $\mathcal{O}(a^2)$

Fermion Action: Wilson clover $\mathcal{O}(a)$

Boundary: Periodic

$$I = 1, J^P = 1^+$$

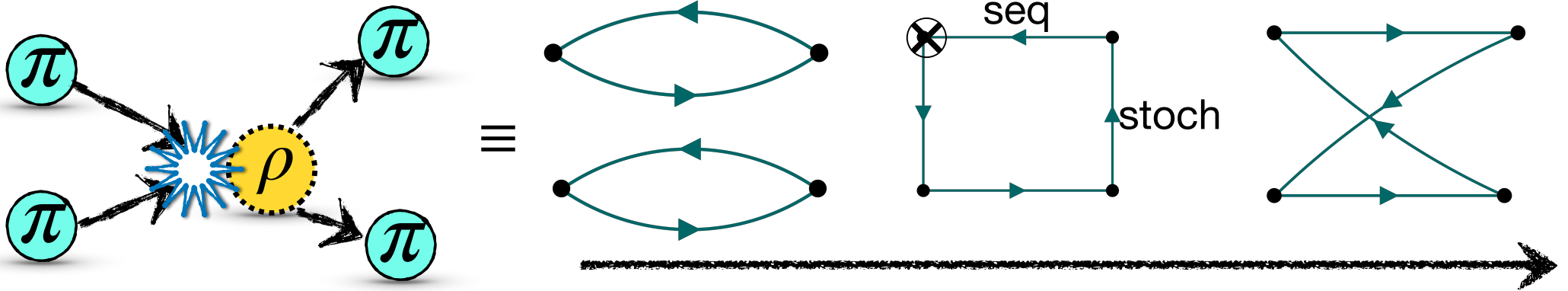


Energy Range to probe
using $\pi\pi$ Ops in $I = 1$

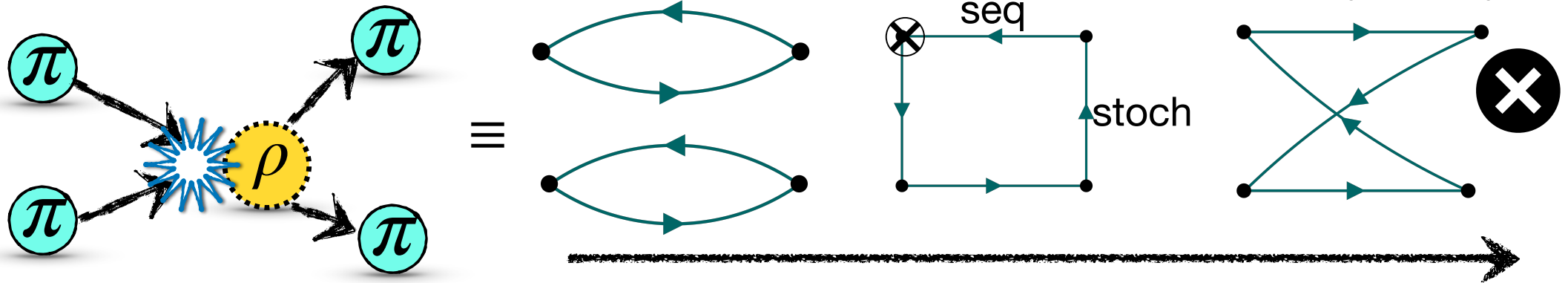
0.64 MeV

1.0 GeV

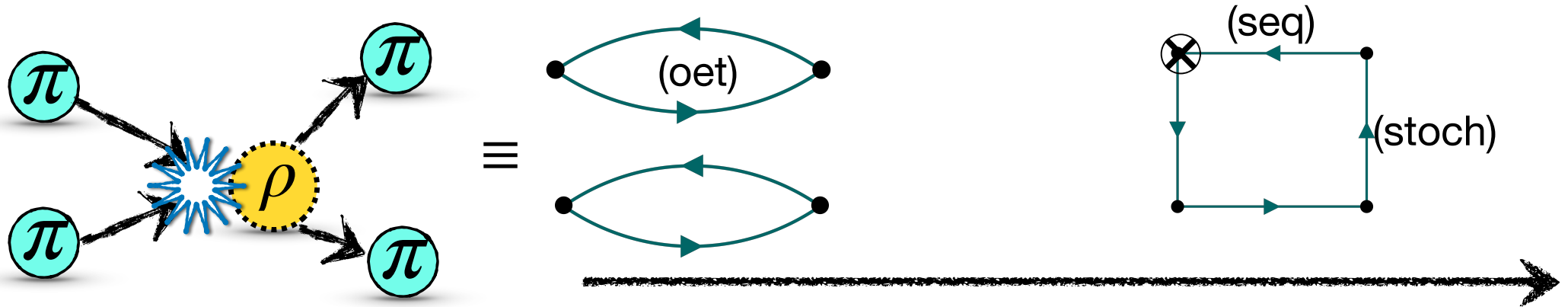
Ingredients for $n > 2$, n -point functions



Ingredients for $n > 2$, n -point functions



Ingredients for $n > 2$, n -point functions



⊗ Sequential Source/Propagators (seq): $(D^{-1} \Gamma_{i_2}(\vec{p}_{i_2}) D^{-1}) (x, y)_{\alpha, \beta}^{a, b}$

Stochastic Propagator (stoch): $\phi^r(x)_{\alpha}^a \eta^{r*}(t, \vec{y})_{\beta}^b = (D^{-1} \eta^r \eta^{r\dagger}) (x; t, \vec{y})_{\alpha, \beta}^{a, b}$

One-end trick (oet):

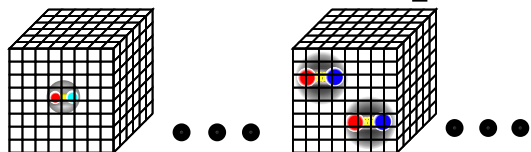
$$D_u^{-1} \Gamma_X D_d^{-1} \approx \phi \Gamma_X \gamma_5 \phi^{\dagger}$$

η^r stochastic timeslice source (“full time dilution”), $r = 1, \dots, N_{\text{samples}}$,
fixed set of source locations $\{y\}$

Hadron Spectrum with excited states

Motivated from
the scattering
Experiments

Multihadron Op.

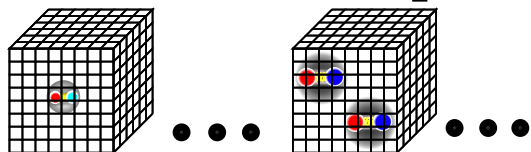


Same Quantum no.?

Hadron Spectrum with excited states

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Multihadron Op.

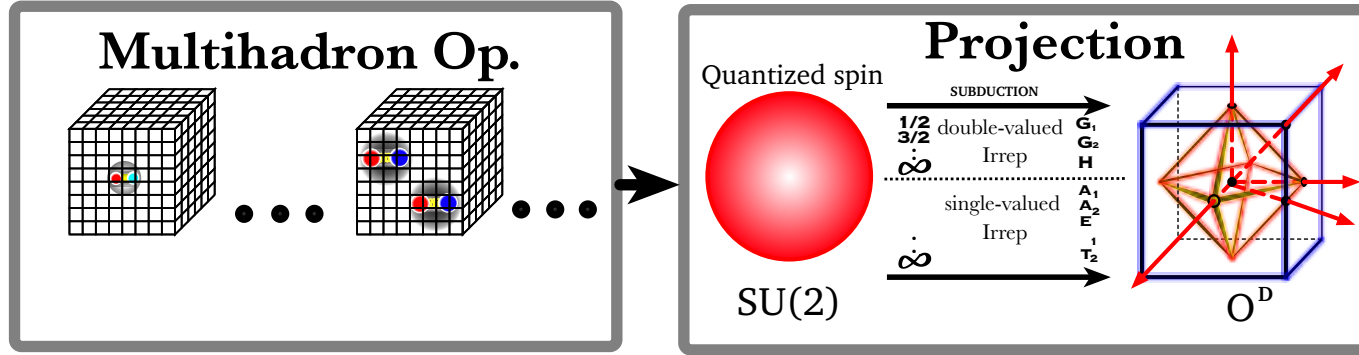


Same Quantum no.?

But the two hadrons can't move freely
on the lattice!

**Orbital Angular momentum
constrained!**

Hadron Spectrum with excited states



$\vec{P} \left[\frac{2\pi}{L} \right]$	Little Group	Irrep Λ	J
(0, 0, 0)	O_h	T_1^-	$1^-, 3^-, \dots$
(0, 0, 1)	$D_{4h} (\text{Dic}_4)$	$A_2^- (A_1)$	$1^-, 3^-, \dots$
(0, 0, 1)	$D_{4h} (\text{Dic}_4)$	$E^- (E)$	$1^-, 3^-, \dots$
(0, 1, 1)	$D_{2h} (\text{Dic}_2)$	$B_1^- (A_1)$	$1^-, 3^-, \dots$
(0, 1, 1)	$D_{2h} (\text{Dic}_2)$	$B_2^- (B_1)$	$1^-, 3^-, \dots$
(0, 1, 1)	$D_{2h} (\text{Dic}_2)$	$B_3^- (B_2)$	$1^-, 3^-, \dots$
(1, 1, 1)	$D_{3d} (\text{Dic}_3)$	$A_2^- (A_1)$	$1^-, 3^-, \dots$
(1, 1, 1)	$D_{3d} (\text{Dic}_3)$	$E^- (E)$	$1^-, 3^-, \dots$

[Johnson, *Phys.Lett.B* 114 (1982) 147-151]

$$O_{\bar{q}q}^{\Lambda, \vec{P}}(t) = \frac{\dim(\Lambda)}{N_{LG(\vec{P})}} \sum_{\hat{R} \in LG(\vec{P})} \chi_{\Lambda}(\hat{R}) \hat{R} O_{\bar{q}q}(t, \vec{P}),$$

$$O_{\pi\pi}^{\Lambda, \vec{P}}(t) = \frac{\dim(\Lambda)}{N_{LG(\vec{P})}} \sum_{\hat{R} \in LG(\vec{P})} \chi_{\Lambda}(\hat{R}) \left(\pi^+(t, \vec{P}/2 + \hat{R}\vec{p}) \pi^0(t, \vec{P}/2 - \hat{R}\vec{p}) - \pi^0(t, \vec{P}/2 + \hat{R}\vec{p}) \pi^+(t, \vec{P}/2 - \hat{R}\vec{p}) \right),$$

where

$$\vec{p} = \frac{\vec{P}}{2} + \frac{2\pi}{L} \vec{m}, \quad \vec{m} \in \mathbb{Z}^3.$$

Hadron Spectrum with excited states

**Motivated from
the scattering
Experiments**

$$\Omega \equiv \sum_i v_i^* \mathcal{O}_i$$

$$\langle 0 | \Omega(t) \Omega^\dagger(0) | 0 \rangle = \sum \left| \langle n | \Omega^\dagger(0) | 0 \rangle \right|^2 e^{-E_n t}$$

Hadron Spectrum with excited states

**Motivated from
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Minimize $\langle 0 | \Omega(t) \Omega^\dagger(0) | 0 \rangle = \sum_{i,j} v_i^* \langle 0 | \mathcal{O}_i(t) \mathcal{O}_j(0) | 0 \rangle v_j = \sum_{i,j} v_i^* C_{ij}(t) v_j$

$$\sum_{i,j} v_i^* \langle 0 | \mathcal{O}_i(t_0) \mathcal{O}_j(0) | 0 \rangle v_j = N \quad \text{Normalization condition}$$

Hadron Spectrum with excited states

**Motivated from
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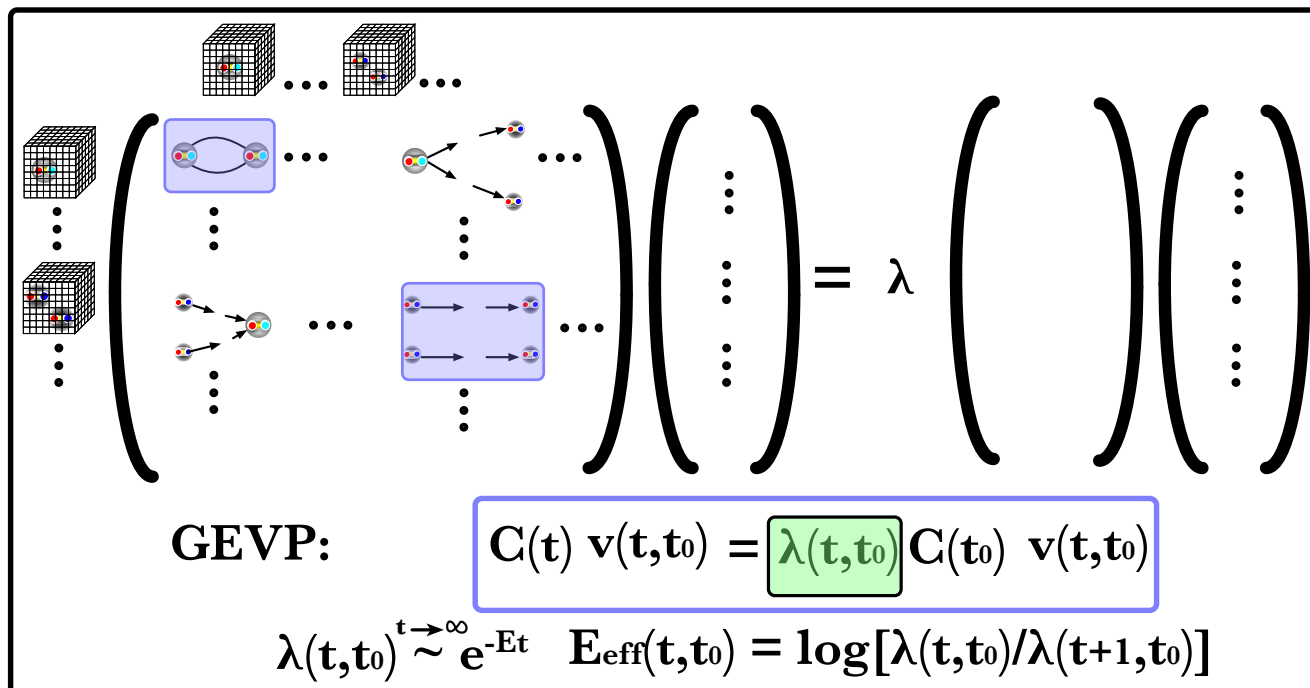
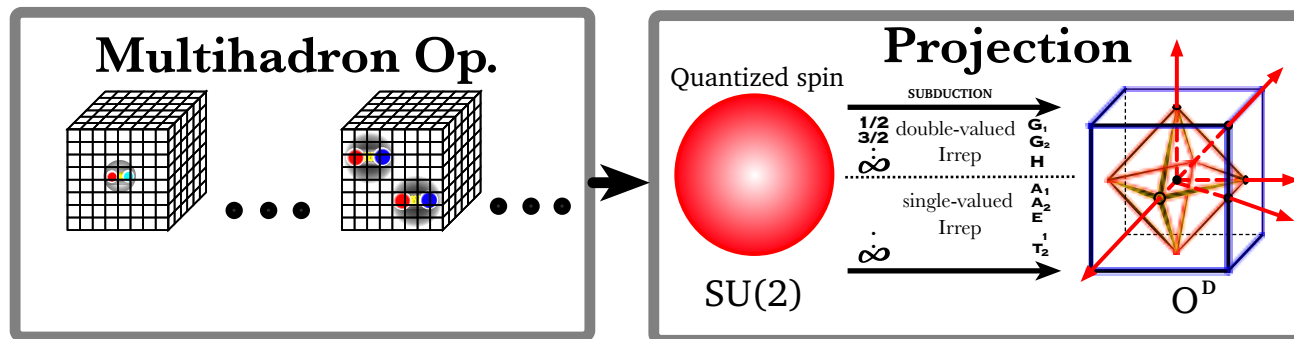
Minimize $\langle 0 | \Omega(t) \Omega^\dagger(0) | 0 \rangle = \sum_{i,j} v_i^* \langle 0 | \mathcal{O}_i(t) \mathcal{O}_j(0) | 0 \rangle v_j = \sum_{i,j} v_i^* C_{ij}(t) v_j$

$$\sum_{i,j} v_i^* \langle 0 | \mathcal{O}_i(t_0) \mathcal{O}_j(0) | 0 \rangle v_j = N \quad \text{Normalization condition}$$

Using Lagrange Multipliers

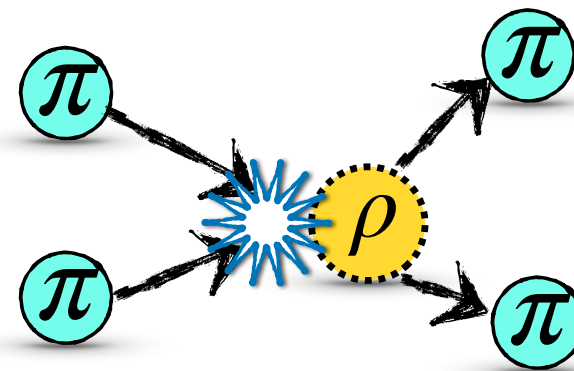
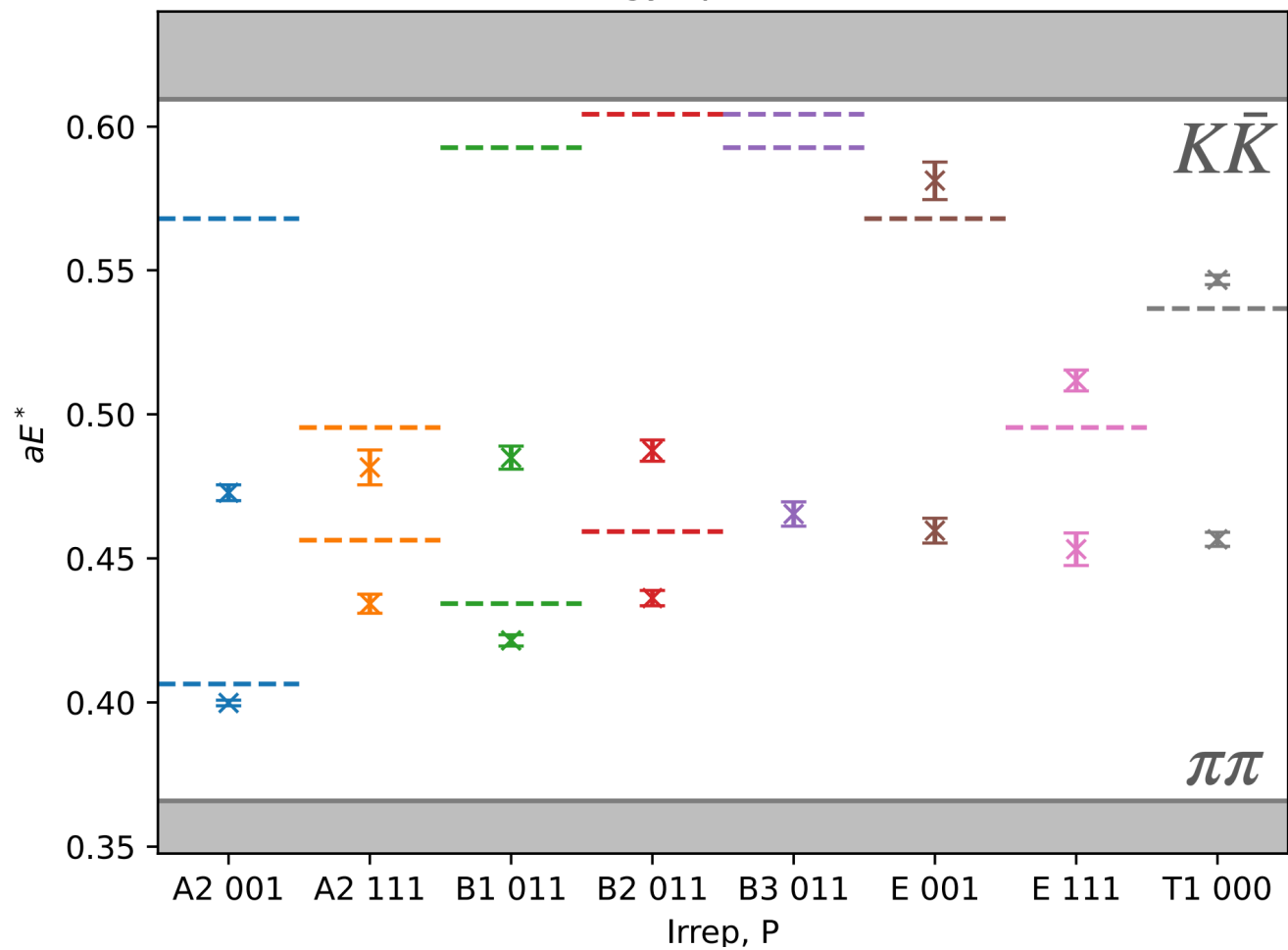
$$\Lambda(v_1, \dots, v_n, \dots, \lambda) = \sum_{i,j} v_i^* C_{ij}(t) v_j - \lambda \left[\sum_{i,j} v_i^* C_{ij}(t_0) v_j - N \right]$$

Hadron Spectrum with excited states

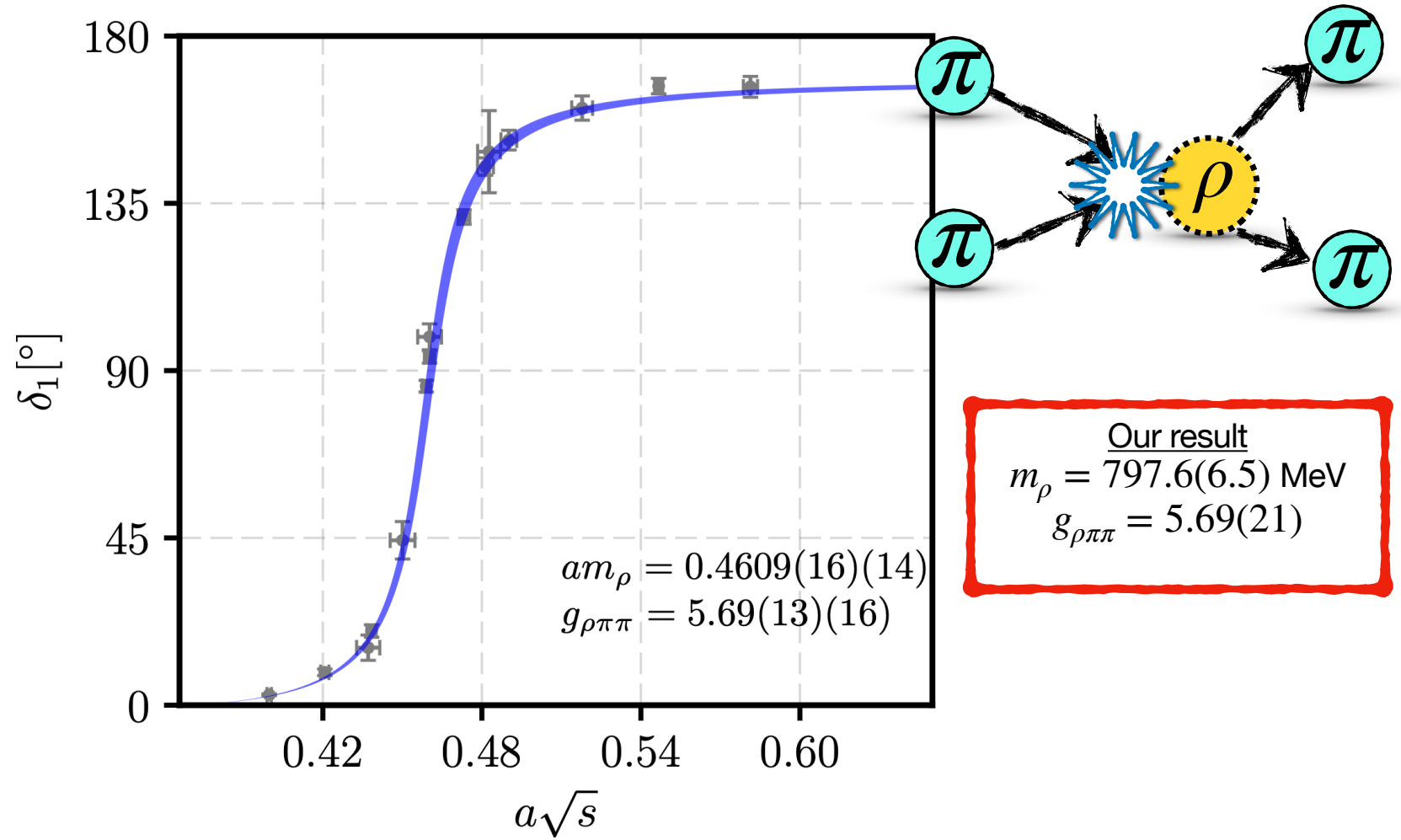


$\pi\pi$ Finite Volume Spectrum

Energy spectrum fit C13



$\pi\pi$ Phase Shift $I = 1$



The Anatomy of a Lattice Measurement

