

Kernels and Integration Cycles in Complex Langevin Simulations

Michael Mandl

with Michael Hansen, Dénes Sexty and Erhard Seiler

based on arXiv:2412.17137

SIGN25 - 23/01/2025

FWF Austrian
Science Fund



The sign problem in lattice QFT

The sign problem in lattice QFT

$$\langle \mathcal{O} \rangle = \int dx \mathcal{O}(x) \rho(x)$$

The sign problem in lattice QFT

$$\langle \mathcal{O} \rangle = \int dx \mathcal{O}(x) \rho(x)$$

- In Euclidean space, $\rho(x) \propto e^{-S_E(x)}$.

The sign problem in lattice QFT

$$\langle \mathcal{O} \rangle = \int dx \mathcal{O}(x) \rho(x)$$

- In Euclidean space, $\rho(x) \propto e^{-S_E(x)}$.
- $\rho(x)$ can be **complex**

The sign problem in lattice QFT

$$\langle \mathcal{O} \rangle = \int dx \mathcal{O}(x) \rho(x)$$

- In Euclidean space, $\rho(x) \propto e^{-S_E(x)}$.
- $\rho(x)$ can be **complex**:
 - QCD at non-zero density or with a θ term, real-time QFTs, etc.

The sign problem in lattice QFT

$$\langle \mathcal{O} \rangle = \int dx \mathcal{O}(x) \rho(x)$$

- In Euclidean space, $\rho(x) \propto e^{-S_E(x)}$.
- $\rho(x)$ can be **complex**:
 - QCD at non-zero density or with a θ term, real-time QFTs, etc.
 - Usual lattice approach (importance sampling) **not applicable**.

The sign problem in lattice QFT

- In Euclidean space
- $\rho(x)$ can be complex
- QCD at finite temperature, with a θ term, real-time QFTs, etc.
- Usual lattice approach (importance sampling) not applicable.

Possible solution: Complex Langevin

$$\langle \mathcal{O} \rangle = \int dx \mathcal{O}(x) \rho(x)$$

Basics of Stochastic Quantization

Basics of Stochastic Quantization

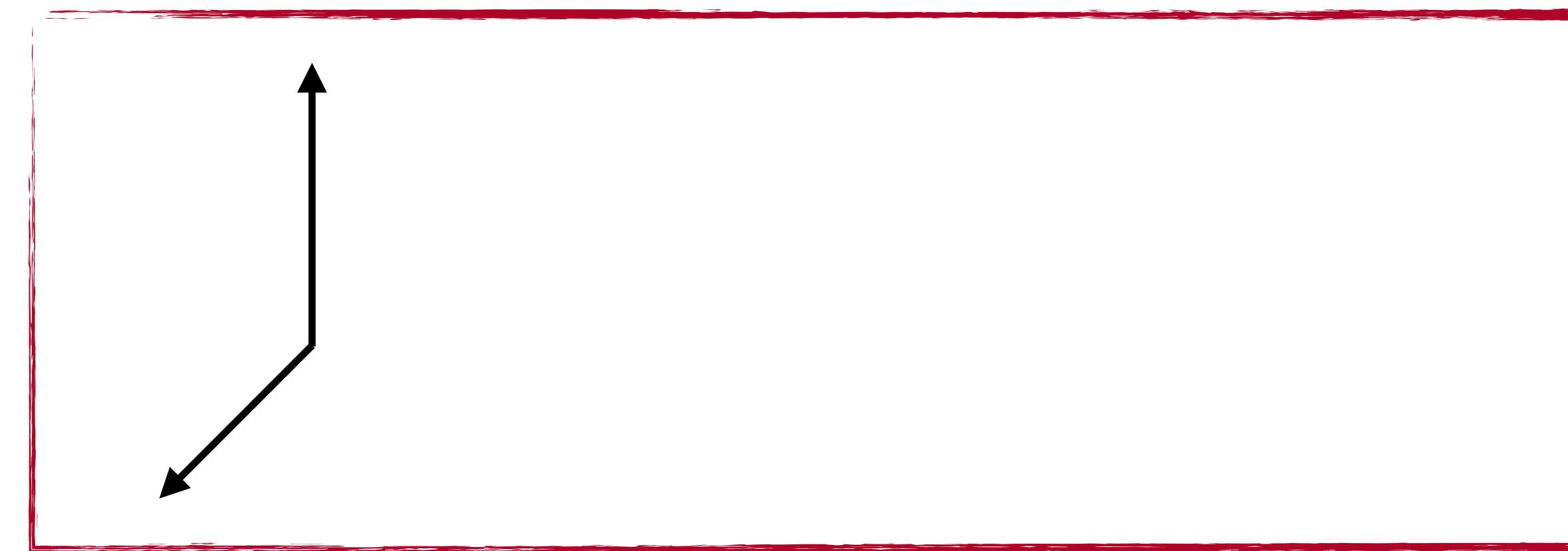
Parisi, Wu '81; Damgaard, Hüffel '87

- For Euclidean theory in d dimensions, introduce **fictitious time direction τ** .

Basics of Stochastic Quantization

Parisi, Wu '81; Damgaard, Hüffel '87

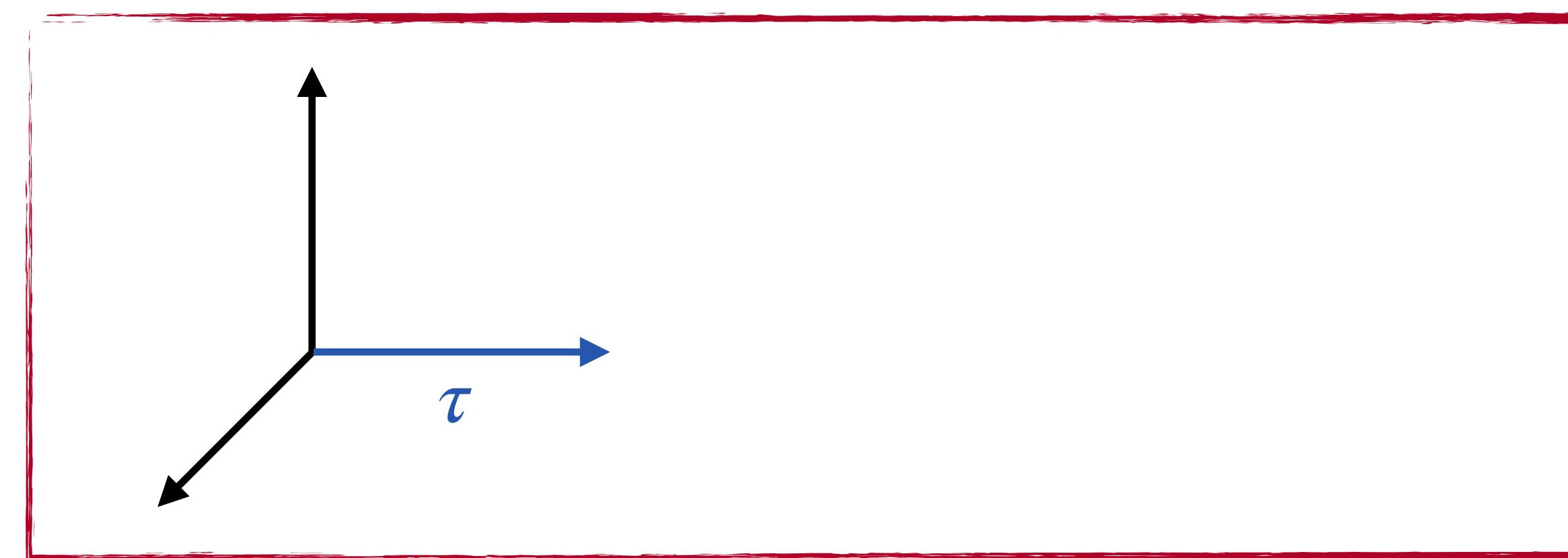
- For Euclidean theory in d dimensions, introduce **fictitious time direction τ** .



Basics of Stochastic Quantization

Parisi, Wu '81; Damgaard, Hüffel '87

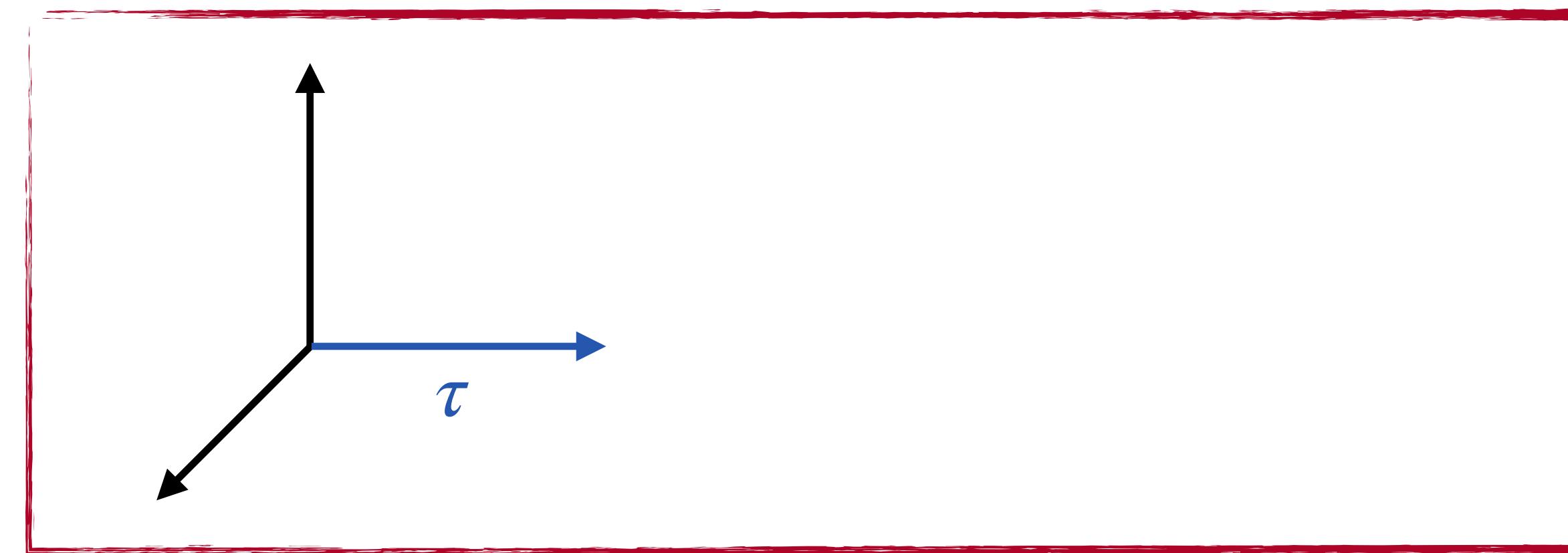
- For Euclidean theory in d dimensions, introduce **fictitious time direction τ** .



Basics of Stochastic Quantization

Parisi, Wu '81; Damgaard, Hüffel '87

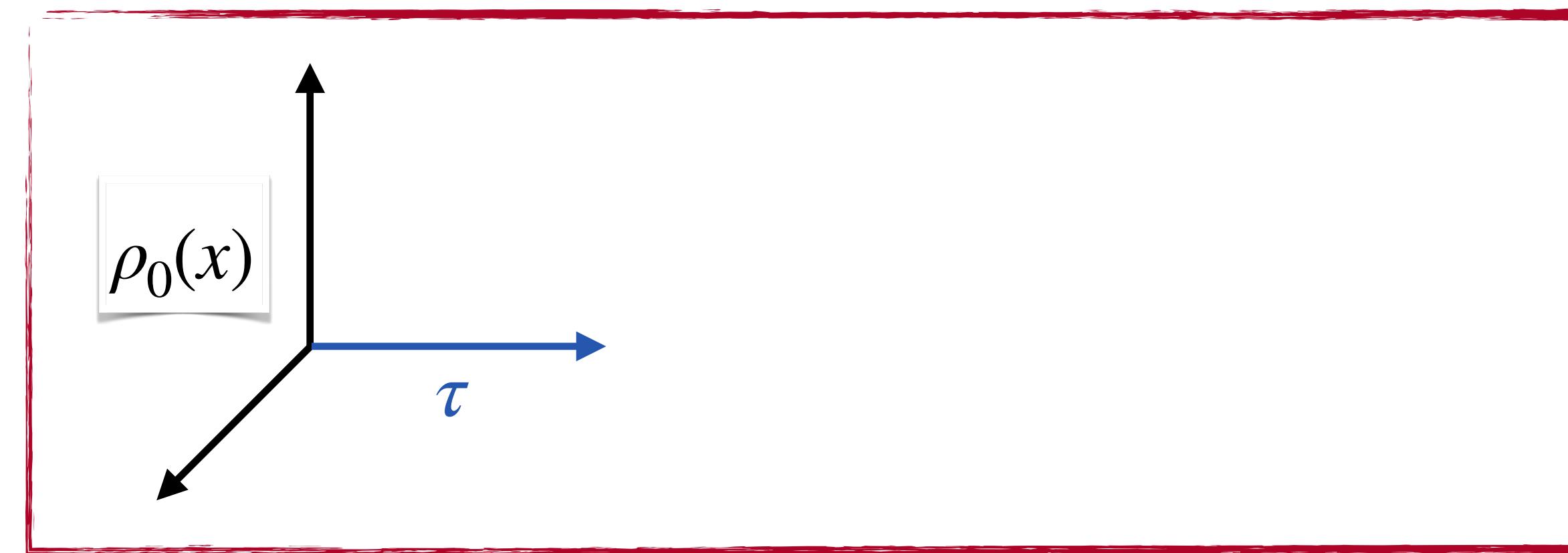
- For Euclidean theory in d dimensions, introduce **fictitious time direction τ** .
- Interpret theory as **statistical system** coupled to heat reservoir and **evolving in τ** .



Basics of Stochastic Quantization

Parisi, Wu '81; Damgaard, Hüffel '87

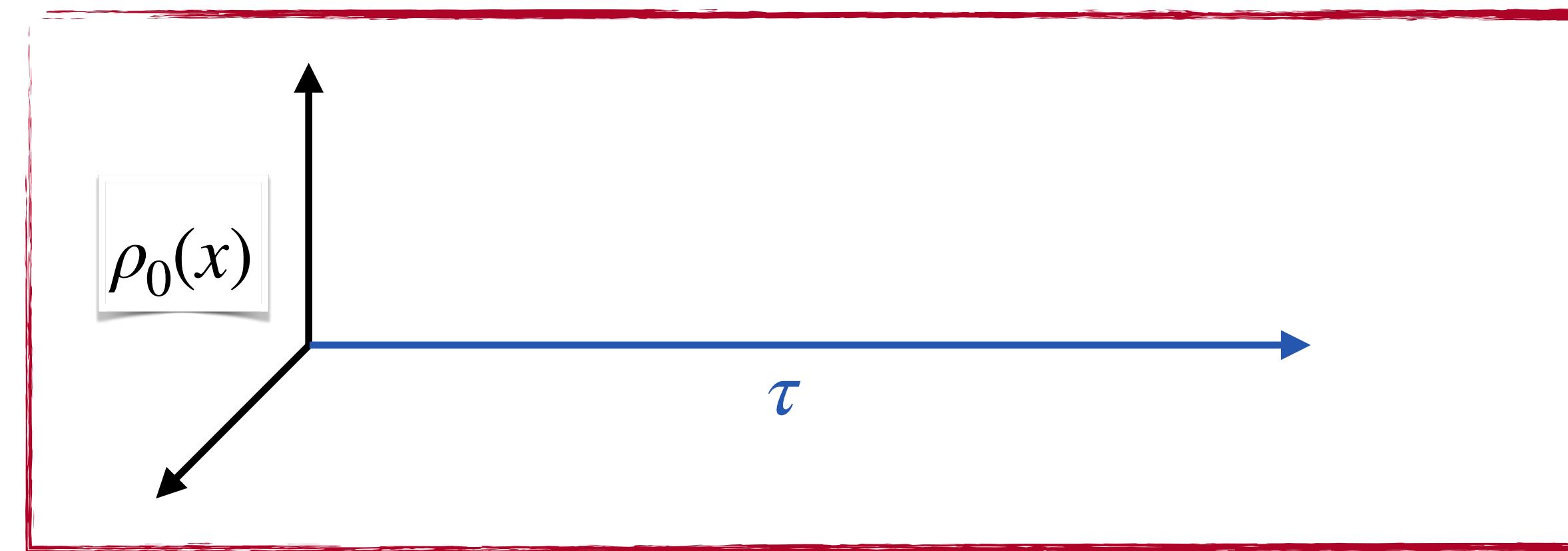
- For Euclidean theory in d dimensions, introduce **fictitious time direction τ** .
- Interpret theory as **statistical system** coupled to heat reservoir and **evolving in τ** .



Basics of Stochastic Quantization

Parisi, Wu '81; Damgaard, Hüffel '87

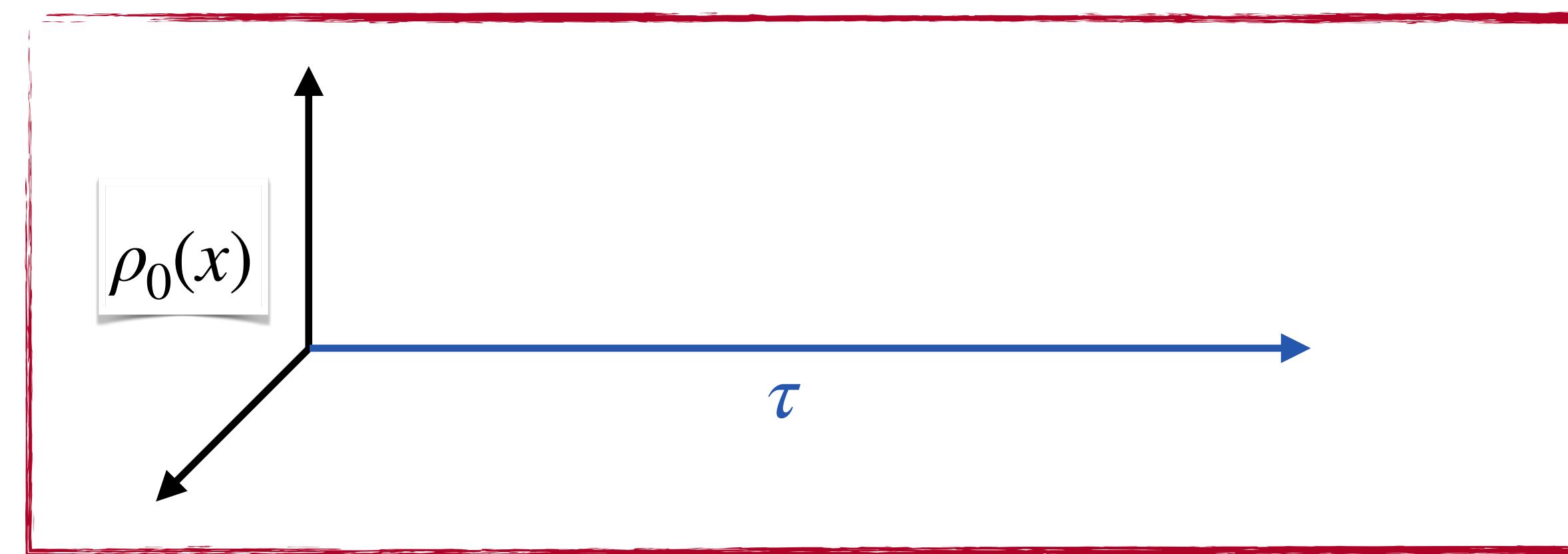
- For Euclidean theory in d dimensions, introduce **fictitious time direction τ** .
- Interpret theory as **statistical system** coupled to heat reservoir and **evolving in τ** .



Basics of Stochastic Quantization

Parisi, Wu '81; Damgaard, Hüffel '87

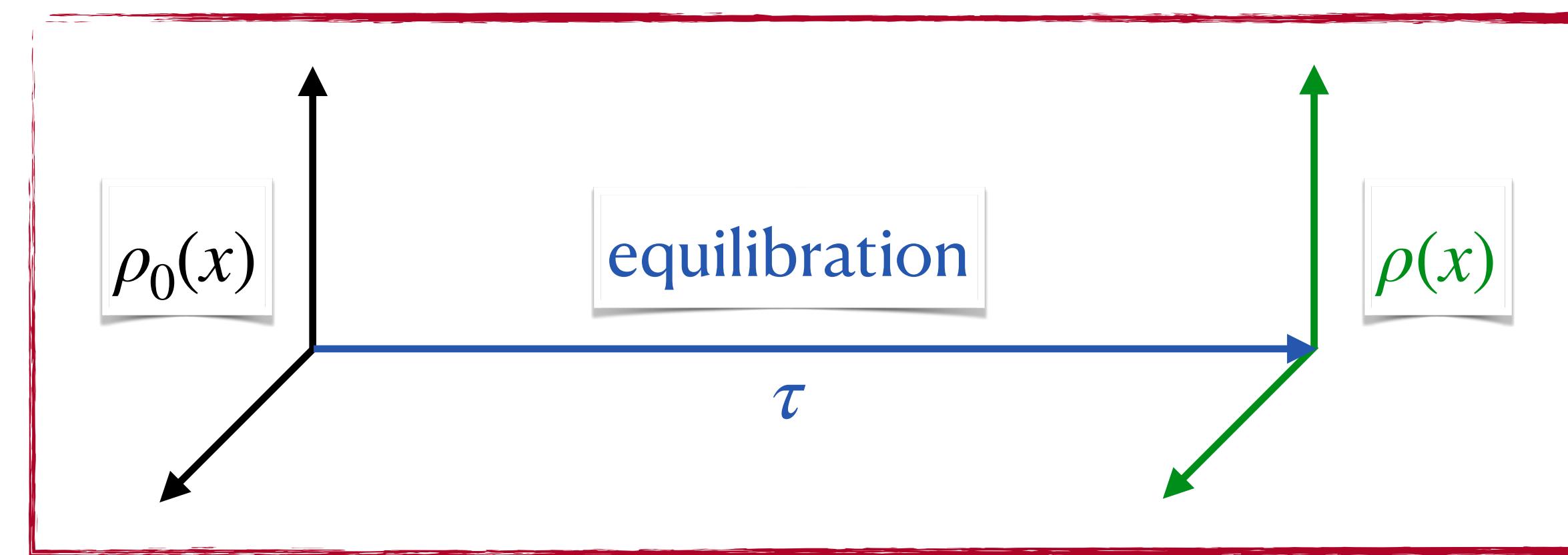
- For Euclidean theory in d dimensions, introduce **fictitious time direction τ** .
- Interpret theory as **statistical system** coupled to heat reservoir and **evolving in τ** .
- Obtain **target theory** $\rho(x) \propto e^{-S(x)}$ in **equilibrium limit $\tau \rightarrow \infty$** .



Basics of Stochastic Quantization

Parisi, Wu '81; Damgaard, Hüffel '87

- For Euclidean theory in d dimensions, introduce **fictitious time direction τ** .
- Interpret theory as **statistical system** coupled to heat reservoir and **evolving in τ** .
- Obtain **target theory** $\rho(x) \propto e^{-S(x)}$ in **equilibrium limit $\tau \rightarrow \infty$** .



Langevin and Fokker-Planck equations

Langevin and Fokker-Planck equations

Langevin equation

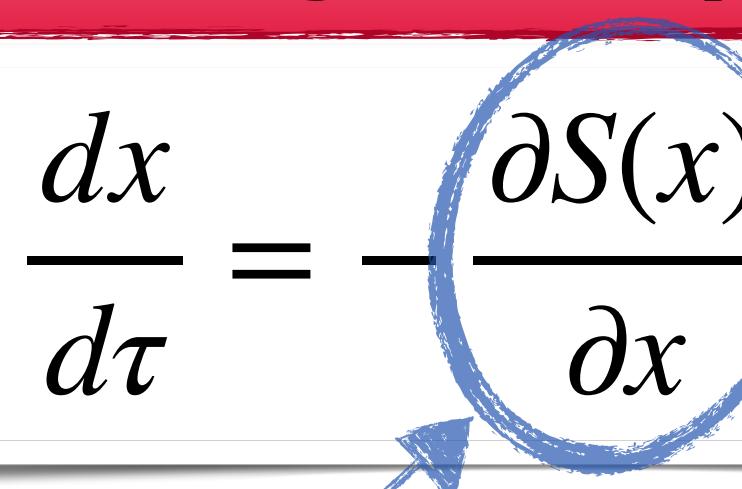
$$\frac{dx}{d\tau} = - \frac{\partial S(x)}{\partial x} + \eta(\tau)$$

Langevin and Fokker-Planck equations

Langevin equation

$$\frac{dx}{d\tau} = -\frac{\partial S(x)}{\partial x} + \eta(\tau)$$

drift term



Langevin and Fokker-Planck equations

Langevin equation

$$\frac{dx}{d\tau} = -\frac{\partial S(x)}{\partial x} + \eta(\tau)$$

drift term

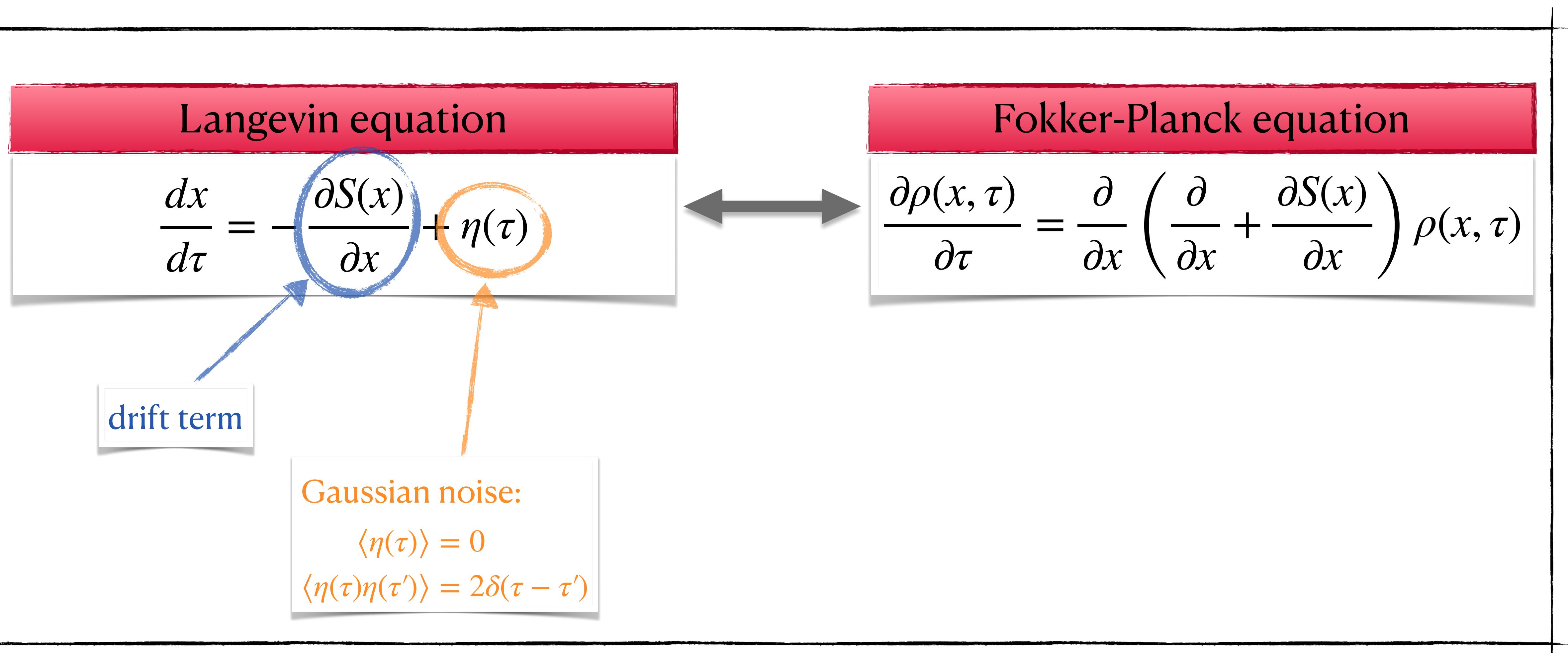
Gaussian noise:

$$\langle \eta(\tau) \rangle = 0$$

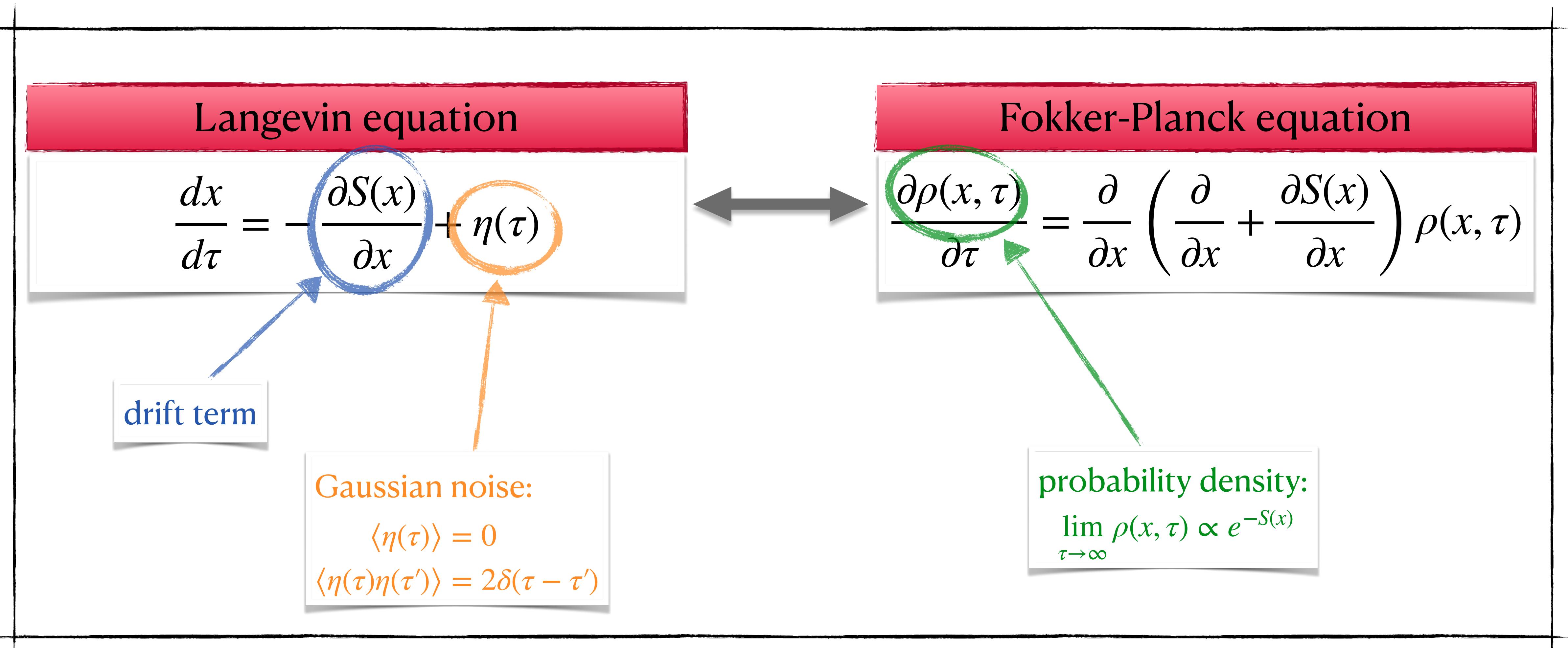
$$\langle \eta(\tau)\eta(\tau') \rangle = 2\delta(\tau - \tau')$$

The diagram illustrates the Langevin equation $\frac{dx}{d\tau} = -\frac{\partial S(x)}{\partial x} + \eta(\tau)$. A blue circle highlights the term $-\frac{\partial S(x)}{\partial x}$, which is labeled 'drift term' with a blue arrow pointing to it. An orange circle highlights the term $\eta(\tau)$, which is labeled 'Gaussian noise:' with an orange arrow pointing to it.

Langevin and Fokker-Planck equations



Langevin and Fokker-Planck equations



Langevin and Fokker-Planck equations

Langevin equation

$$\frac{dx}{d\tau} = -\frac{\partial S(x)}{\partial x} + \eta(\tau)$$

drift term

Fokker-Planck equation

$$\frac{\partial \rho(x, \tau)}{\partial \tau} = \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial S(x)}{\partial x} \right) \rho(x, \tau)$$

What if $S(x)$ is complex?

Gau

$$\langle \eta(\tau) \rangle = 0$$

$$\langle \eta(\tau) \eta(\tau') \rangle = 2\delta(\tau - \tau')$$

density:

$$\lim_{\tau \rightarrow \infty} \rho(x, \tau) \propto e^{-S(x)}$$

The complex Langevin equation

The complex Langevin equation

Klauder '83; Parisi '83

- Complexify $x \rightarrow z = x + iy$.

The complex Langevin equation

Klauder '83; Parisi '83

Complex Langevin equation

- Complexify $x \rightarrow z = x + iy$.

$$\frac{dz}{d\tau} = - \frac{\partial S(z)}{\partial z} + \eta(\tau)$$

The complex Langevin equation

Klauder '83; Parisi '83

Complex Langevin equation

$$\frac{dz}{d\tau} = - \frac{\partial S(z)}{\partial z} + \eta(\tau)$$

- Complexify $x \rightarrow z = x + iy$.
- \Rightarrow^* probability density $P(x, y, \tau)$.

The complex Langevin equation

Klauder '83; Parisi '83

Complex Langevin equation

$$\frac{dz}{d\tau} = - \frac{\partial S(z)}{\partial z} + \eta(\tau)$$

- Complexify $x \rightarrow z = x + iy$.
- \Rightarrow^* probability density $P(x, y, \tau)$.

- Does it obey

$$\lim_{\tau \rightarrow \infty} \int dx dy \mathcal{O}(x + iy) P(x, y, \tau) = \int dx \mathcal{O}(x) \rho(x) \quad ?$$

Complex Langevin simulation

Complex Langevin simulation

- Simulate the process

Discretized evolution equation

$$z_{n+1} = z_n - \varepsilon \frac{\partial S(z)}{\partial z} \Big|_{z=z_n} + \sqrt{\varepsilon} \eta_n$$

Complex Langevin simulation

- Simulate the process

Discretized evolution equation

$$z_{n+1} = z_n - \varepsilon \frac{\partial S(z)}{\partial z} \Big|_{z=z_n} + \sqrt{\varepsilon} \eta_n$$

ε : step size

Complex Langevin simulation

- Simulate the process

Discretized evolution equation

$$z_{n+1} = z_n - \varepsilon \frac{\partial S(z)}{\partial z} \Big|_{z=z_n} + \sqrt{\varepsilon} \eta_n$$

ε : step size

η_n : real Gaussian noise

Complex Langevin simulation

- Simulate the process

Discretized evolution equation

$$z_{n+1} = z_n - \varepsilon \frac{\partial S(z)}{\partial z} \Big|_{z=z_n} + \sqrt{\varepsilon} \eta_n$$

ε : step size

η_n : real Gaussian noise

- Generate configurations to produce equilibrium distribution for averaging.

Drawbacks and pitfalls

Drawbacks and pitfalls

Runaways

Drawbacks and pitfalls

Runaways

$$z \rightarrow z - \frac{\partial S(z)}{\partial z} \varepsilon + \sqrt{\varepsilon} \eta$$

Drawbacks and pitfalls

Runaways

$$z \rightarrow z - \frac{\partial S(z)}{\partial z} \varepsilon + \sqrt{\varepsilon} \eta$$

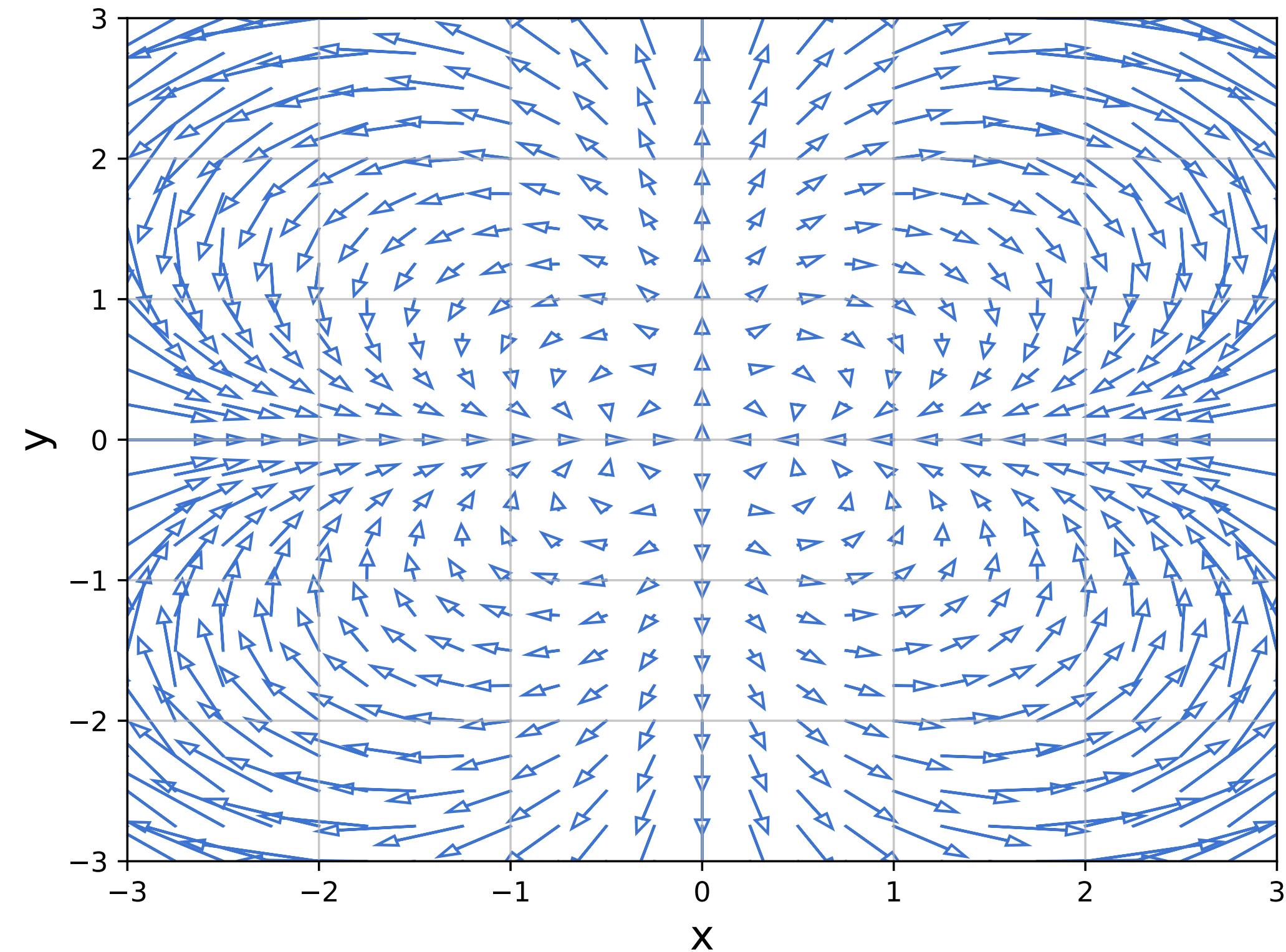
- Example: $S(z) = \frac{z^4}{4}$.

Drawbacks and pitfalls

Runaways

$$z \rightarrow z - \frac{\partial S(z)}{\partial z} \varepsilon + \sqrt{\varepsilon} \eta$$

- Example: $S(z) = \frac{z^4}{4}$.

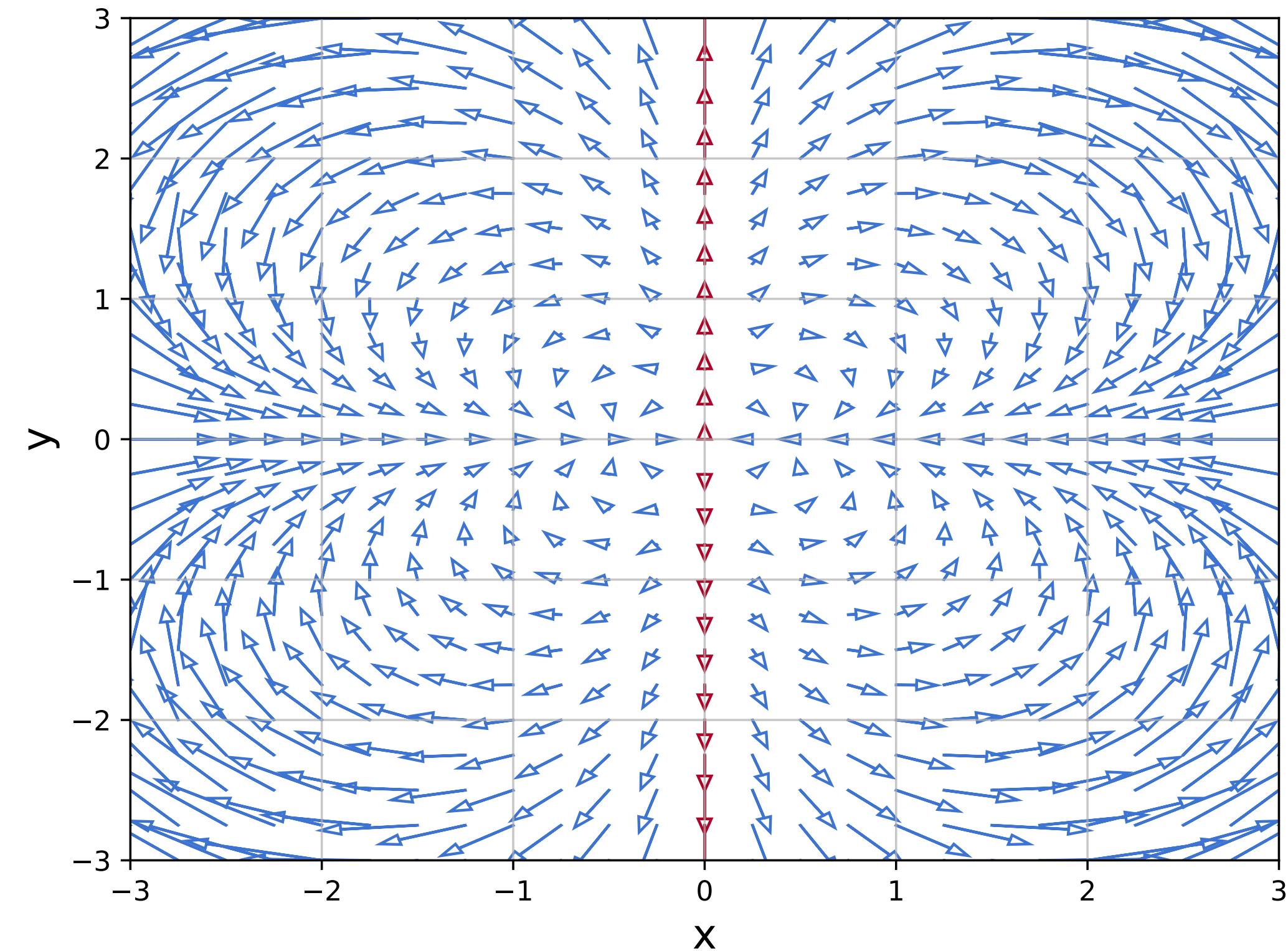


Drawbacks and pitfalls

Runaways

$$z \rightarrow z - \frac{\partial S(z)}{\partial z} \varepsilon + \sqrt{\varepsilon} \eta$$

- Example: $S(z) = \frac{z^4}{4}$.

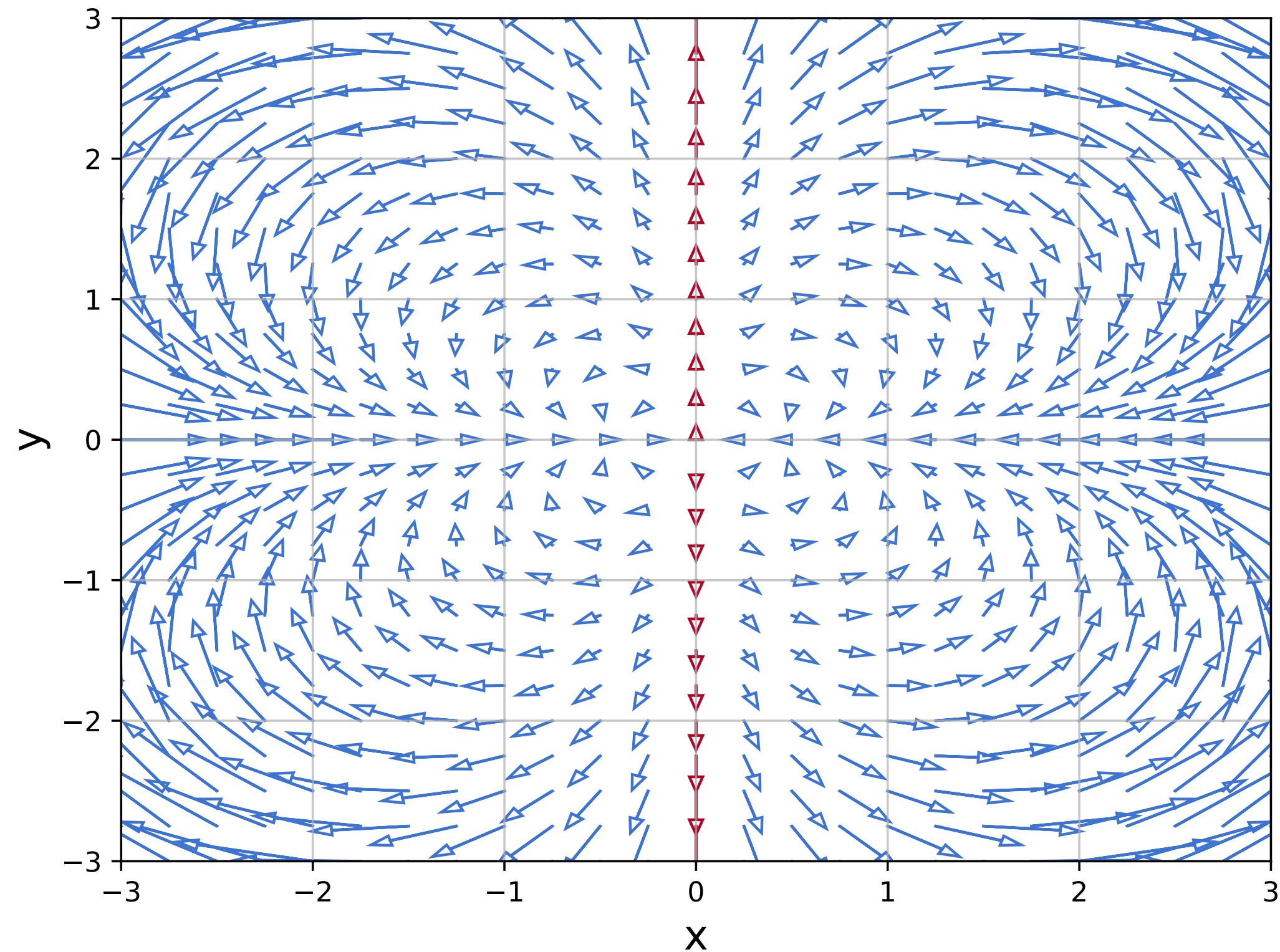


Drawbacks and pitfalls

Runaways

$$z \rightarrow z - \frac{\partial S(z)}{\partial z} \varepsilon + \sqrt{\varepsilon} \eta$$

- Example: $S(z) = \frac{z^4}{4}$.
- Complexification can introduce **runaway trajectories** leading to diverging simulation.



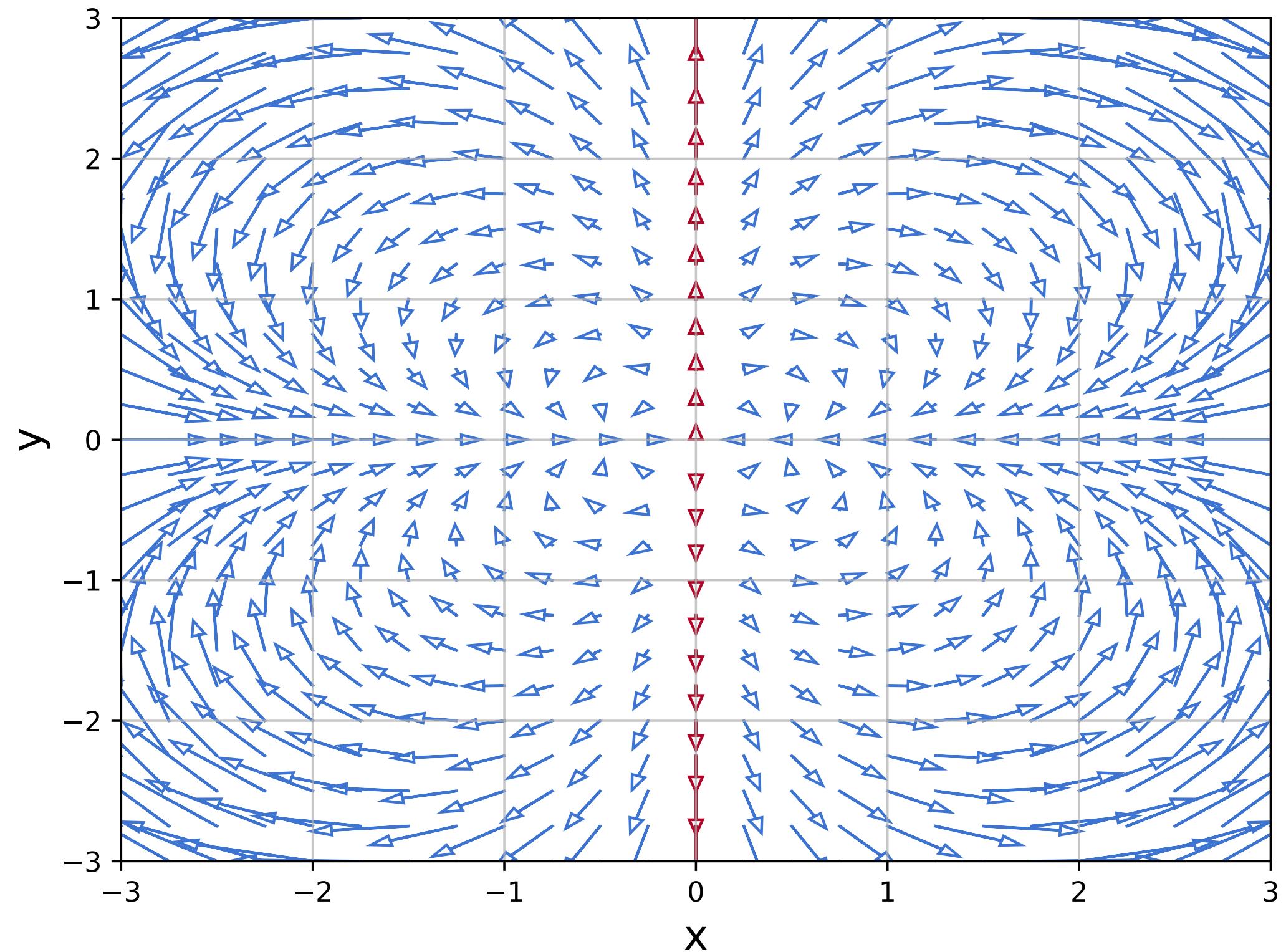
Drawbacks and pitfalls

Runaways

$$z \rightarrow z - \frac{\partial S(z)}{\partial z} \varepsilon + \sqrt{\varepsilon} \eta$$

- Example: $S(z) = \frac{z^4}{4}$.
- Complexification can introduce **runaway trajectories** leading to diverging simulation.
- Overcome via **adaptive step-size control**.

Aarts et al. '10



Drawbacks and pitfalls

Wrong convergence

Drawbacks and pitfalls

Wrong convergence

- Complex Langevin simulations can give **wrong results** despite **converging properly**.

Drawbacks and pitfalls

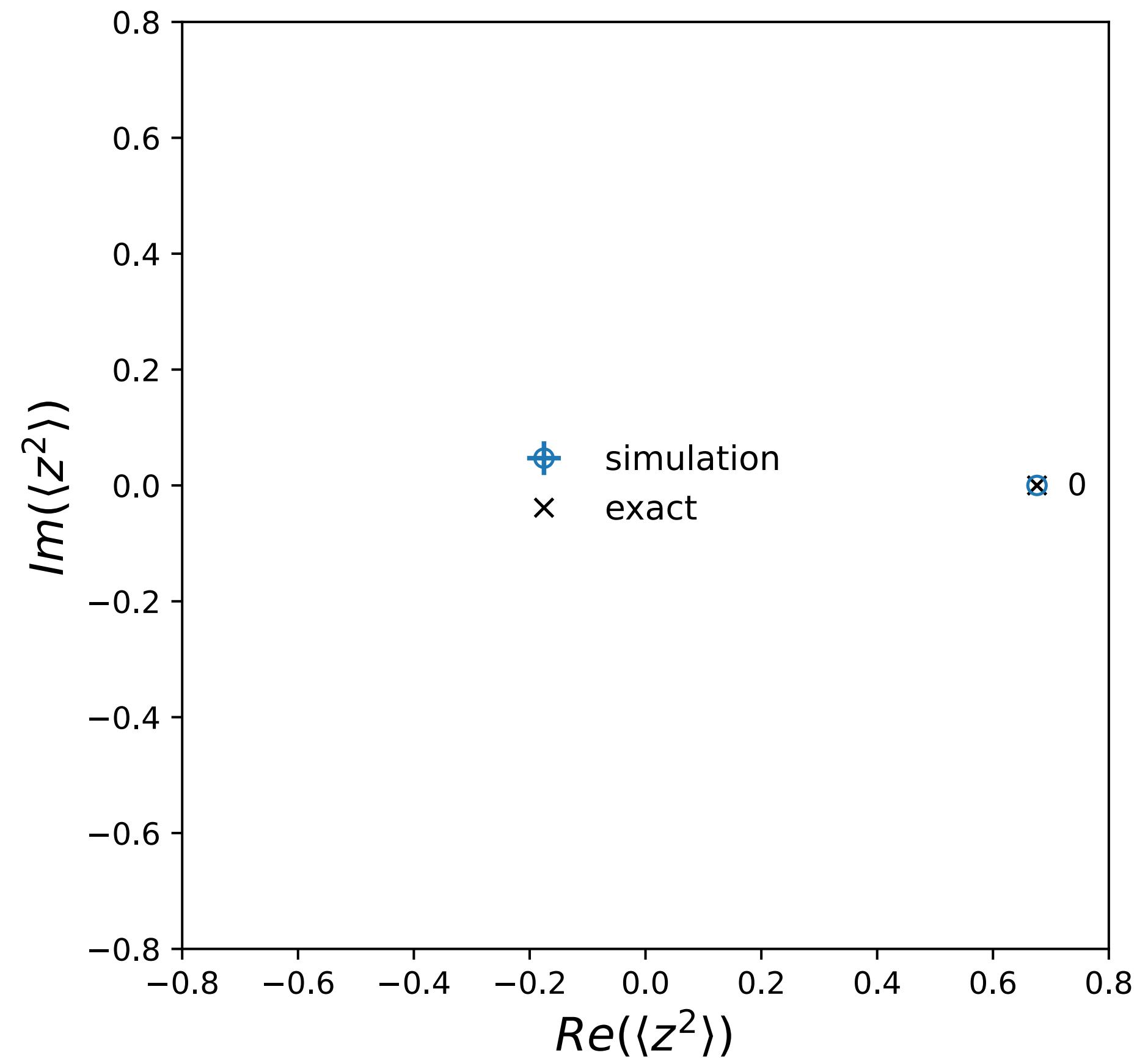
Wrong convergence

- Complex Langevin simulations can give **wrong results** despite **converging properly**.
- Example: $S(z) = \frac{\lambda}{4}z^4, \lambda = e^{\frac{i\pi l}{6}}$.

Drawbacks and pitfalls

Wrong convergence

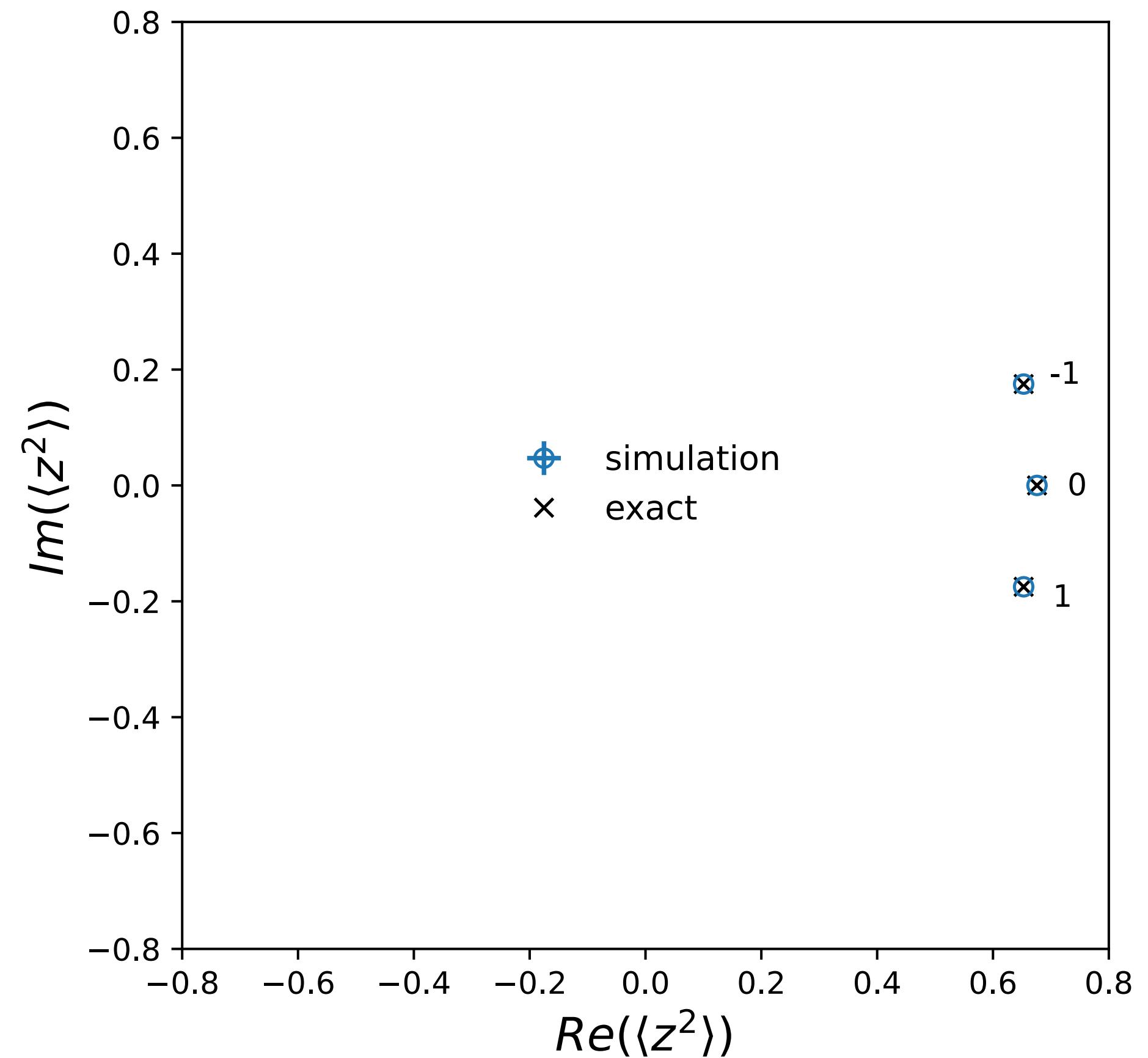
- Complex Langevin simulations can give **wrong results** despite **converging properly**.
- Example: $S(z) = \frac{\lambda}{4}z^4$, $\lambda = e^{\frac{i\pi l}{6}}$.



Drawbacks and pitfalls

Wrong convergence

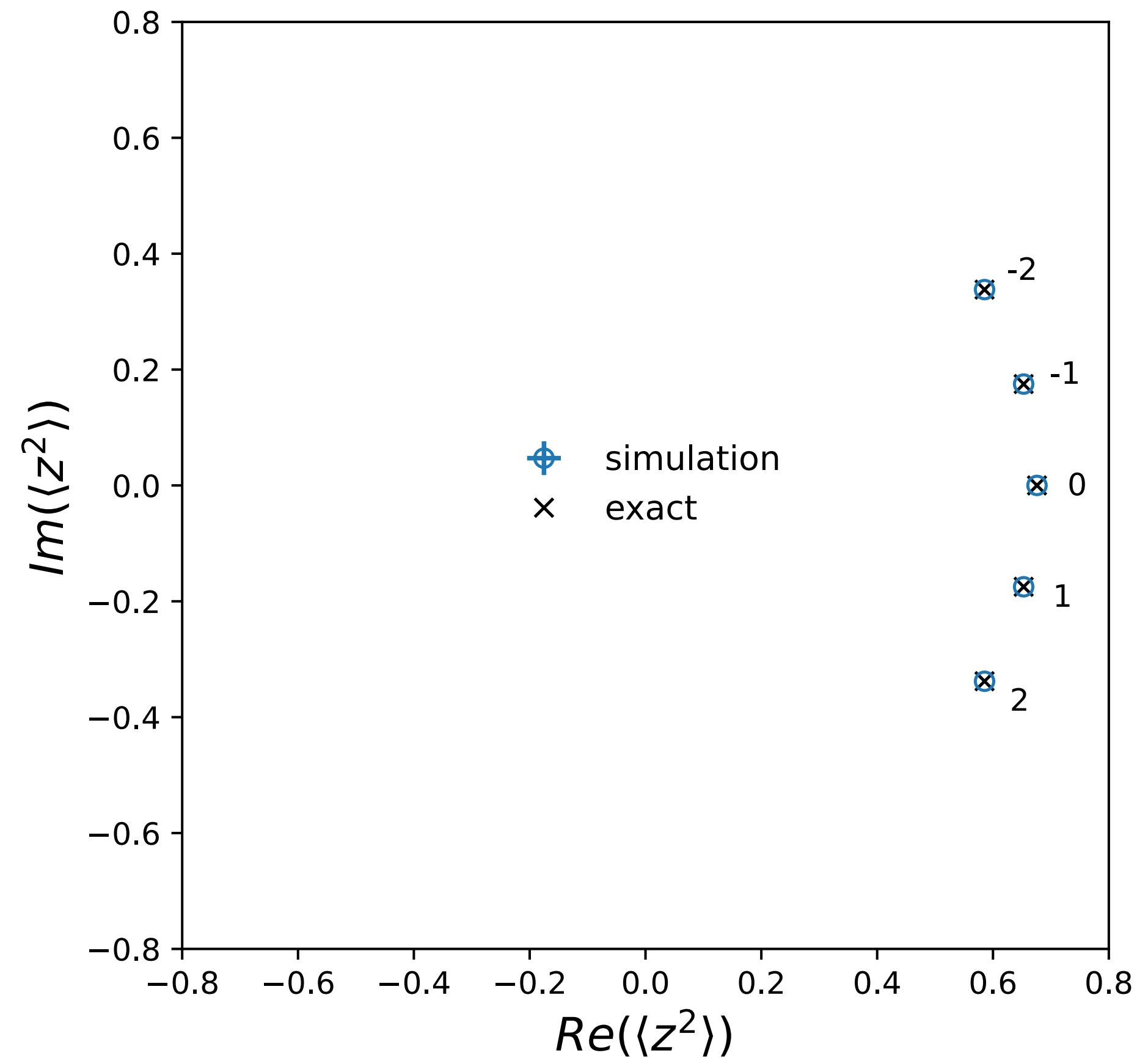
- Complex Langevin simulations can give **wrong results** despite **converging properly**.
- Example: $S(z) = \frac{\lambda}{4}z^4$, $\lambda = e^{\frac{i\pi l}{6}}$.



Drawbacks and pitfalls

Wrong convergence

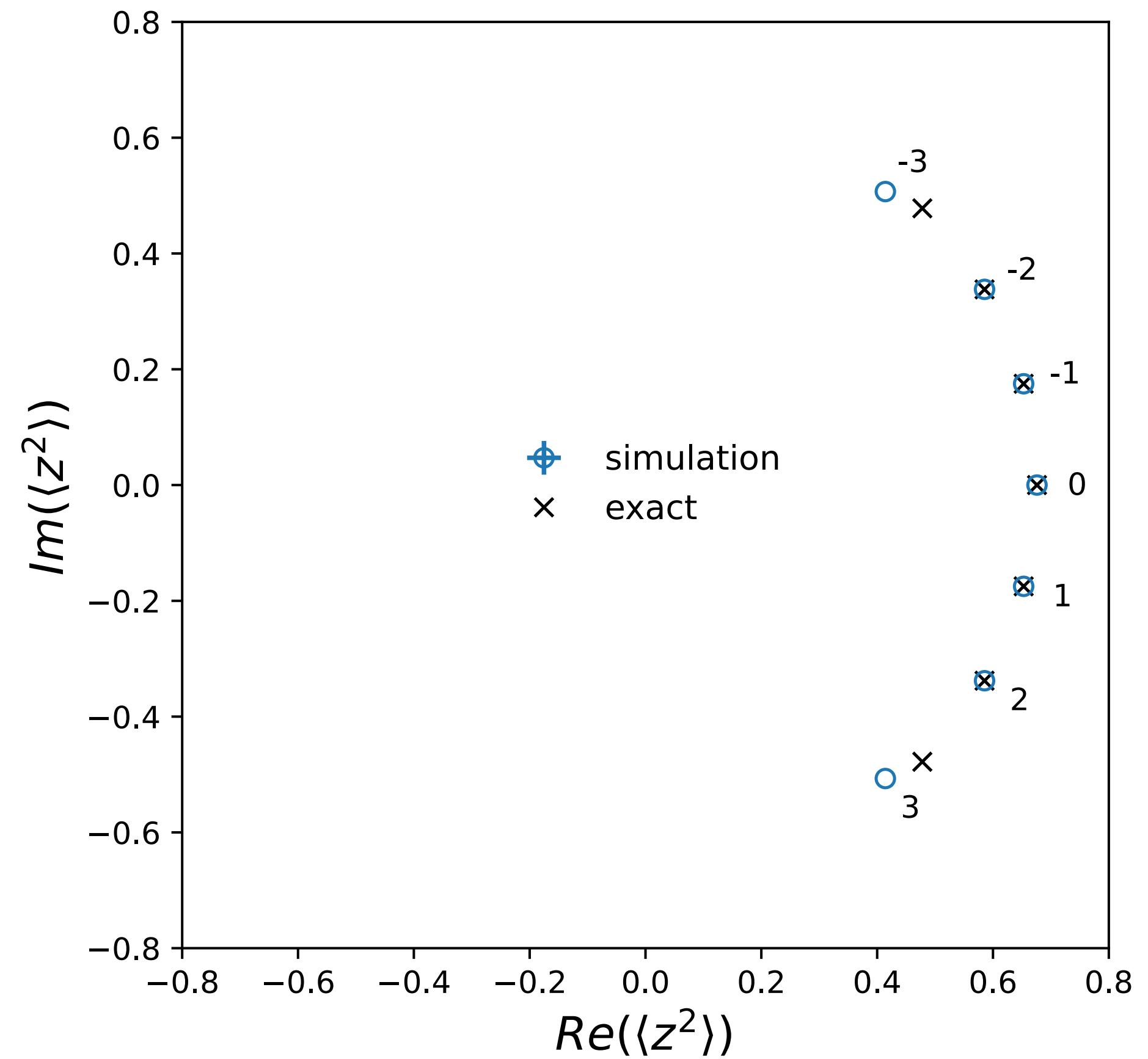
- Complex Langevin simulations can give **wrong results** despite **converging properly**.
- Example: $S(z) = \frac{\lambda}{4}z^4$, $\lambda = e^{\frac{i\pi l}{6}}$.



Drawbacks and pitfalls

Wrong convergence

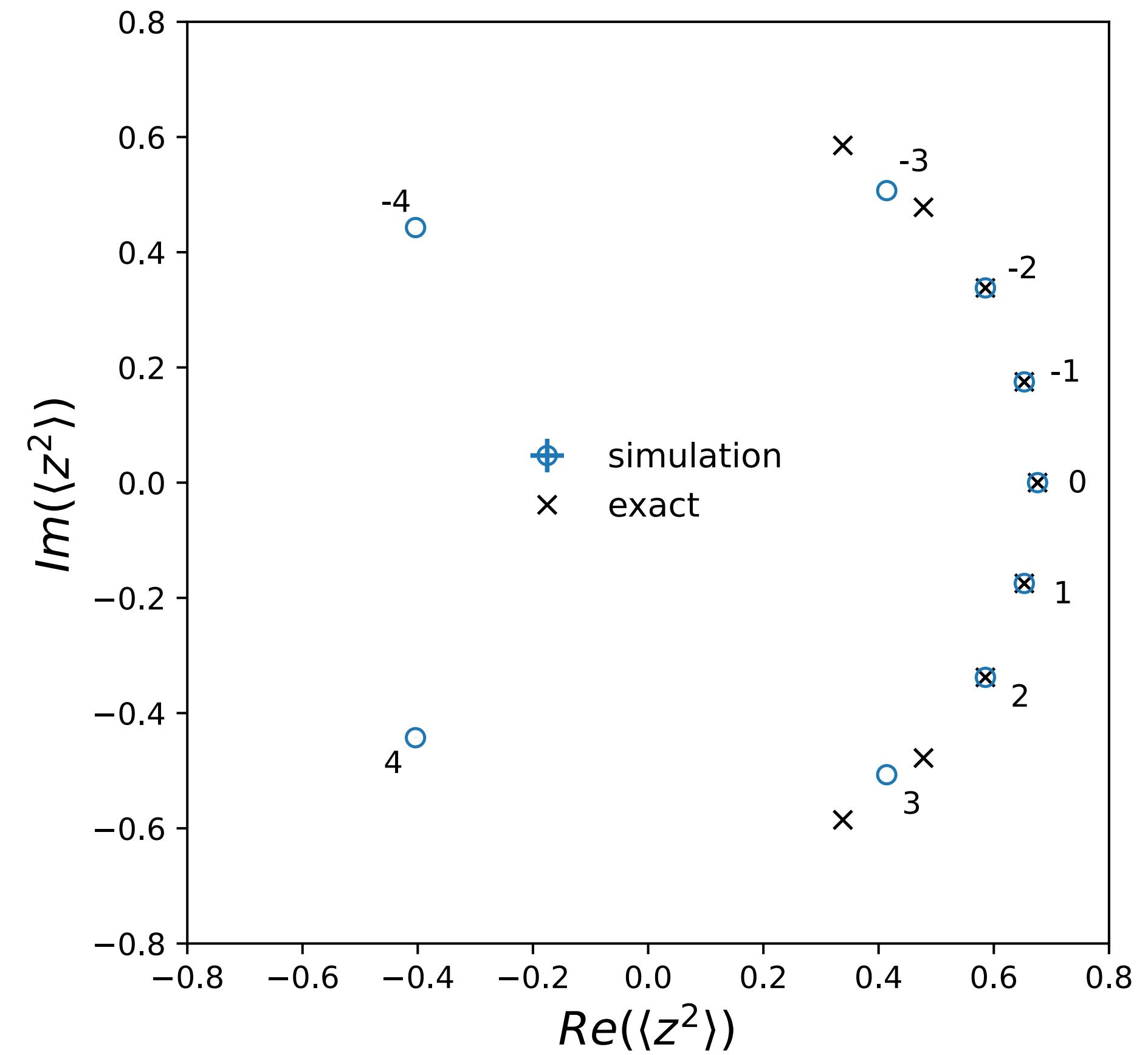
- Complex Langevin simulations can give **wrong results** despite **converging properly**.
- Example: $S(z) = \frac{\lambda}{4}z^4$, $\lambda = e^{\frac{i\pi l}{6}}$.



Drawbacks and pitfalls

Wrong convergence

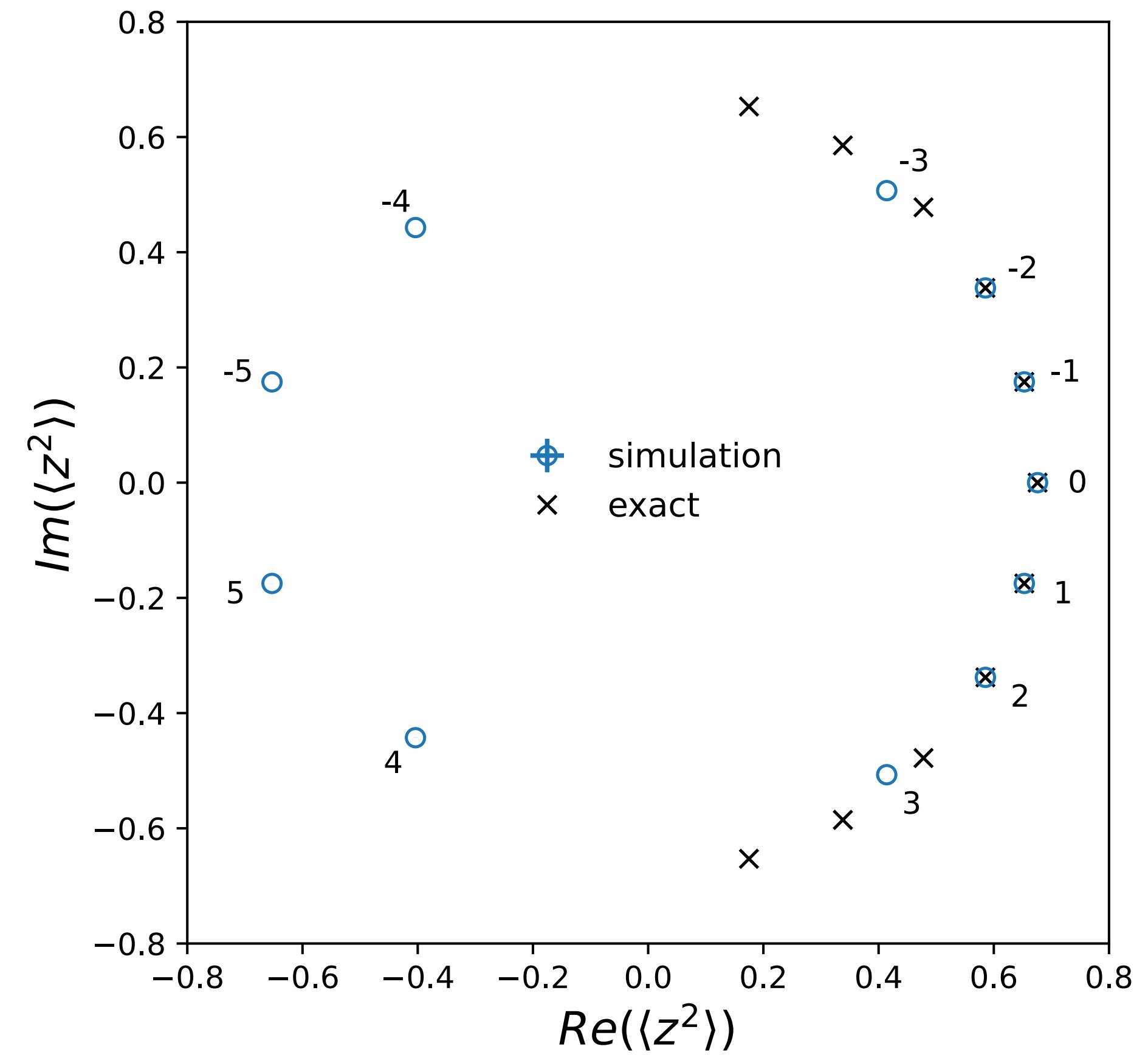
- Complex Langevin simulations can give **wrong results** despite **converging properly**.
- Example: $S(z) = \frac{\lambda}{4}z^4$, $\lambda = e^{\frac{i\pi l}{6}}$.



Drawbacks and pitfalls

Wrong convergence

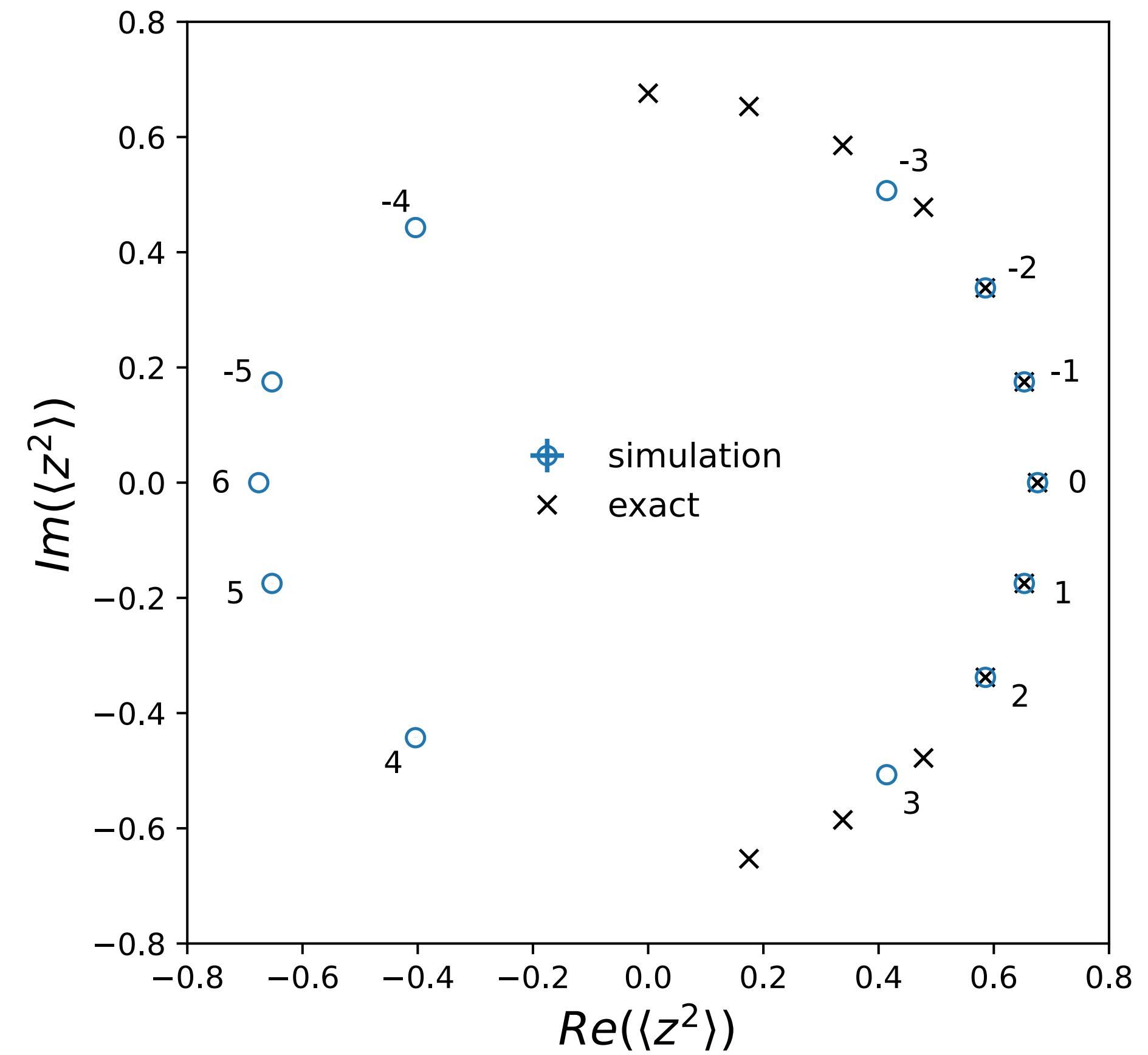
- Complex Langevin simulations can give **wrong results** despite **converging properly**.
- Example: $S(z) = \frac{\lambda}{4}z^4$, $\lambda = e^{\frac{i\pi l}{6}}$.



Drawbacks and pitfalls

Wrong convergence

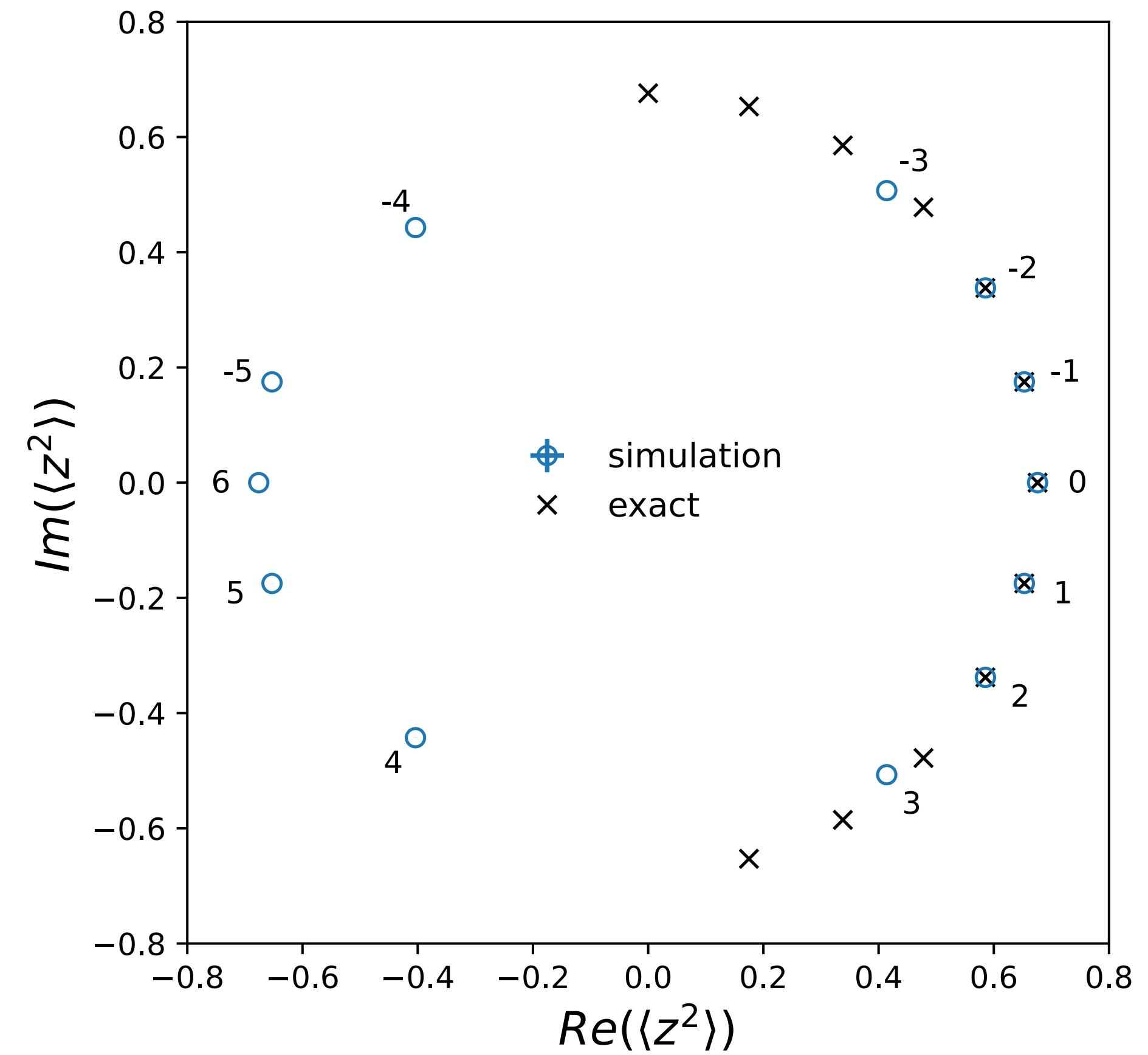
- Complex Langevin simulations can give **wrong results** despite **converging properly**.
- Example: $S(z) = \frac{\lambda}{4}z^4$, $\lambda = e^{\frac{i\pi l}{6}}$.



Drawbacks and pitfalls

Wrong convergence

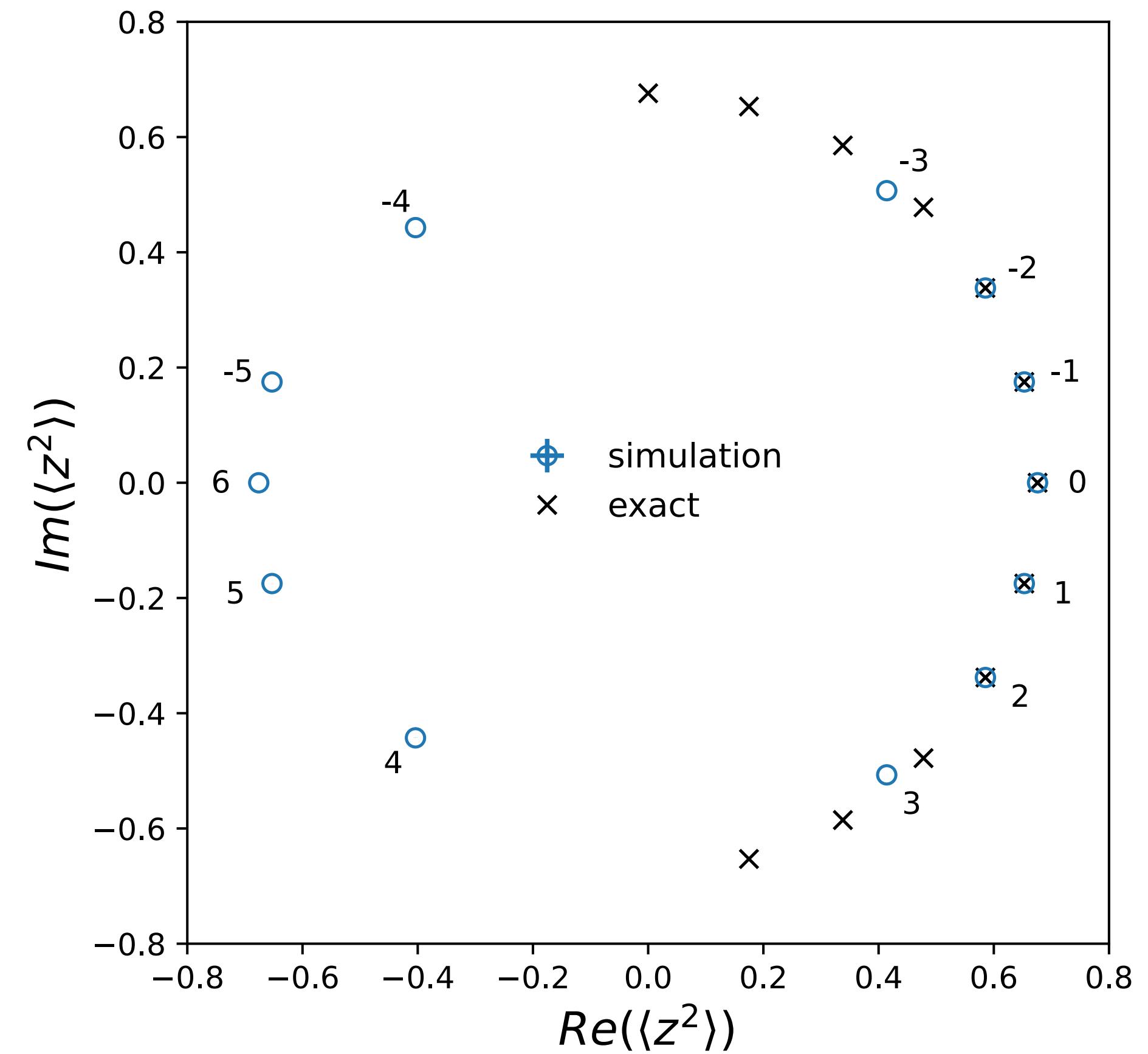
- Complex Langevin simulations can give **wrong results** despite **converging properly**.
- Example: $S(z) = \frac{\lambda}{4}z^4$, $\lambda = e^{\frac{i\pi l}{6}}$.
- Correct convergence only for $|l| \leq 2$.
Okamoto et al. '89



Drawbacks and pitfalls

Wrong convergence

- Complex Langevin simulations can give **wrong results** despite **converging properly**.
- Example: $S(z) = \frac{\lambda}{4}z^4$, $\lambda = e^{\frac{i\pi l}{6}}$.
- Correct convergence only for $|l| \leq 2$.
Okamoto et al. '89
- In general, **we do not know if results are correct**.



How to restore correct convergence?

How to restore correct convergence?

Parisi, Wu '81; Söderberg '88

- May introduce **kernel** into Langevin equation:

How to restore correct convergence?

Parisi, Wu '81; Söderberg '88

- May introduce **kernel** into Langevin equation:

Kernelled complex Langevin equation

$$\frac{dz}{d\tau} = -K(z) \frac{\partial S(z)}{\partial z} + \frac{\partial K(z)}{\partial z} + \sqrt{K(z)} \eta(\tau)$$

How to restore correct convergence?

Parisi, Wu '81; Söderberg '88

- May introduce **kernel** into Langevin equation:

Kernelled complex Langevin equation

$$\frac{dz}{d\tau} = -K(z) \frac{\partial S(z)}{\partial z} + \frac{\partial K(z)}{\partial z} + \sqrt{K(z)} \eta(\tau)$$

- For real dynamics: leaves **stationary solution** of Fokker-Planck equation **unchanged**.

How to restore correct convergence?

Parisi, Wu '81; Söderberg '88

- May introduce **kernel** into Langevin equation:

Kernelled complex Langevin equation

$$\frac{dz}{d\tau} = -K(z) \frac{\partial S(z)}{\partial z} + \frac{\partial K(z)}{\partial z} + \sqrt{K(z)} \eta(\tau)$$

- For real dynamics: leaves **stationary solution** of Fokker-Planck equation **unchanged**.
- Alters the probability distribution $P(x, y, \tau)$.

How to restore correct convergence?

Parisi, Wu '81; Söderberg '88

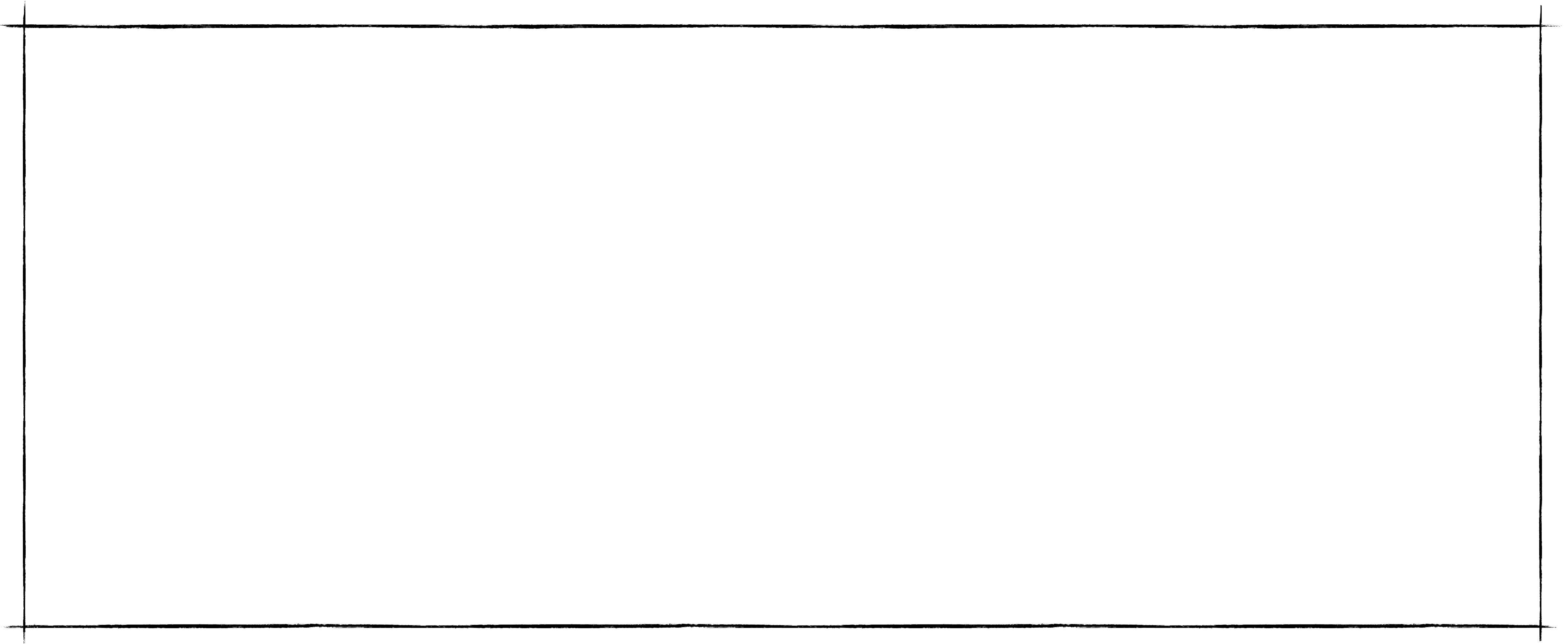
- May introduce **kernel** into Langevin equation:

Kernelled complex Langevin equation

$$\frac{dz}{d\tau} = -K(z) \frac{\partial S(z)}{\partial z} + \frac{\partial K(z)}{\partial z} + \sqrt{K(z)} \eta(\tau)$$

- For real dynamics: leaves **stationary solution** of Fokker-Planck equation **unchanged**.
- Alters the probability distribution $P(x, y, \tau)$.

Complex Langevin evolution with a kernel



Complex Langevin evolution with a kernel

$$z \rightarrow z - \varepsilon K \frac{\partial S(z)}{\partial z} + \sqrt{\varepsilon K} \eta$$

Complex Langevin evolution with a kernel

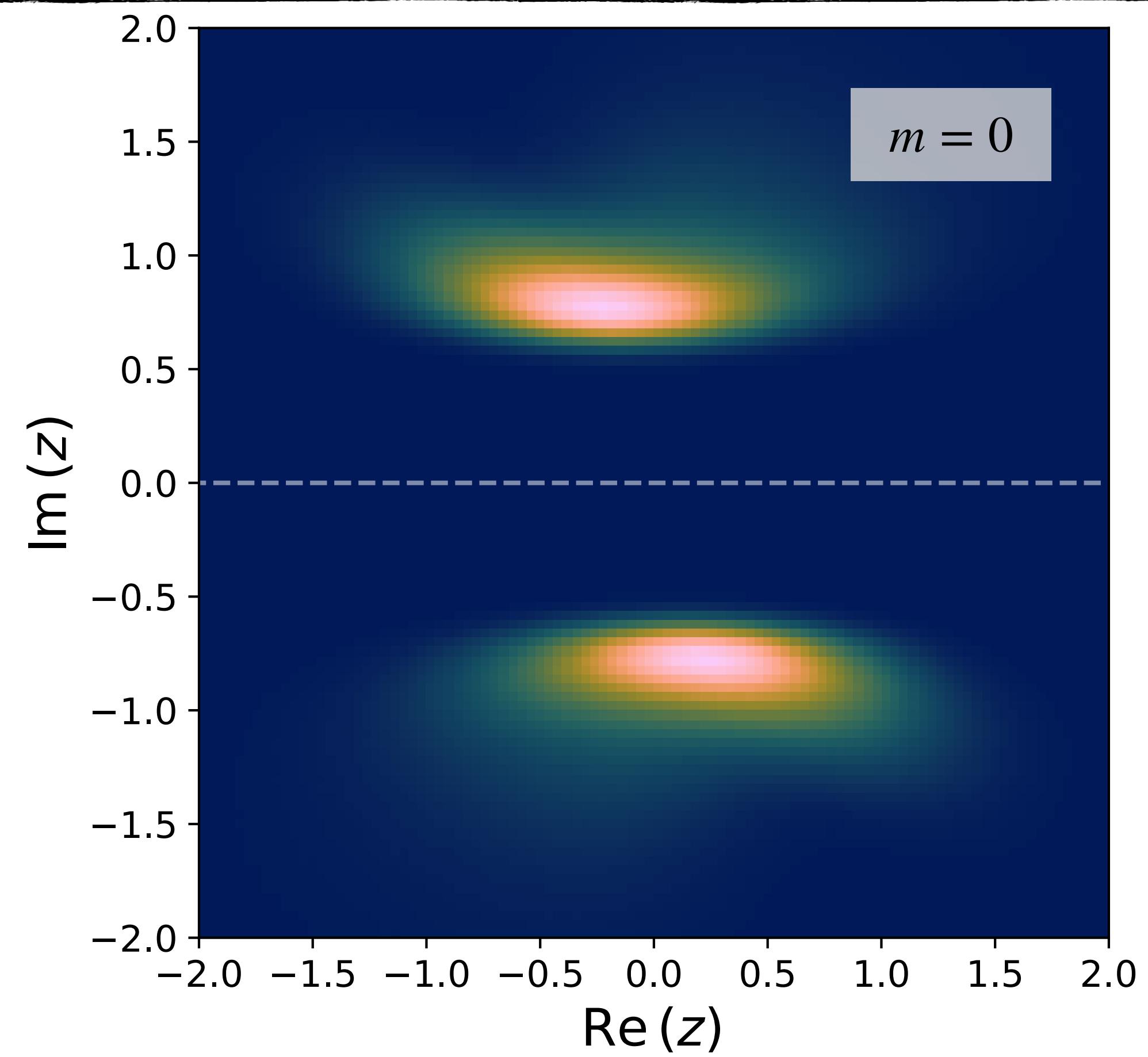
$$z \rightarrow z - \varepsilon K \frac{\partial S(z)}{\partial z} + \sqrt{\varepsilon K} \eta$$

- Example: $S(z) = \frac{\lambda}{4} z^4$, $\lambda = e^{\frac{5i\pi}{6}}$, $K = e^{-\frac{i\pi m}{24}}$.

Complex Langevin evolution with a kernel

$$z \rightarrow z - \varepsilon K \frac{\partial S(z)}{\partial z} + \sqrt{\varepsilon K} \eta$$

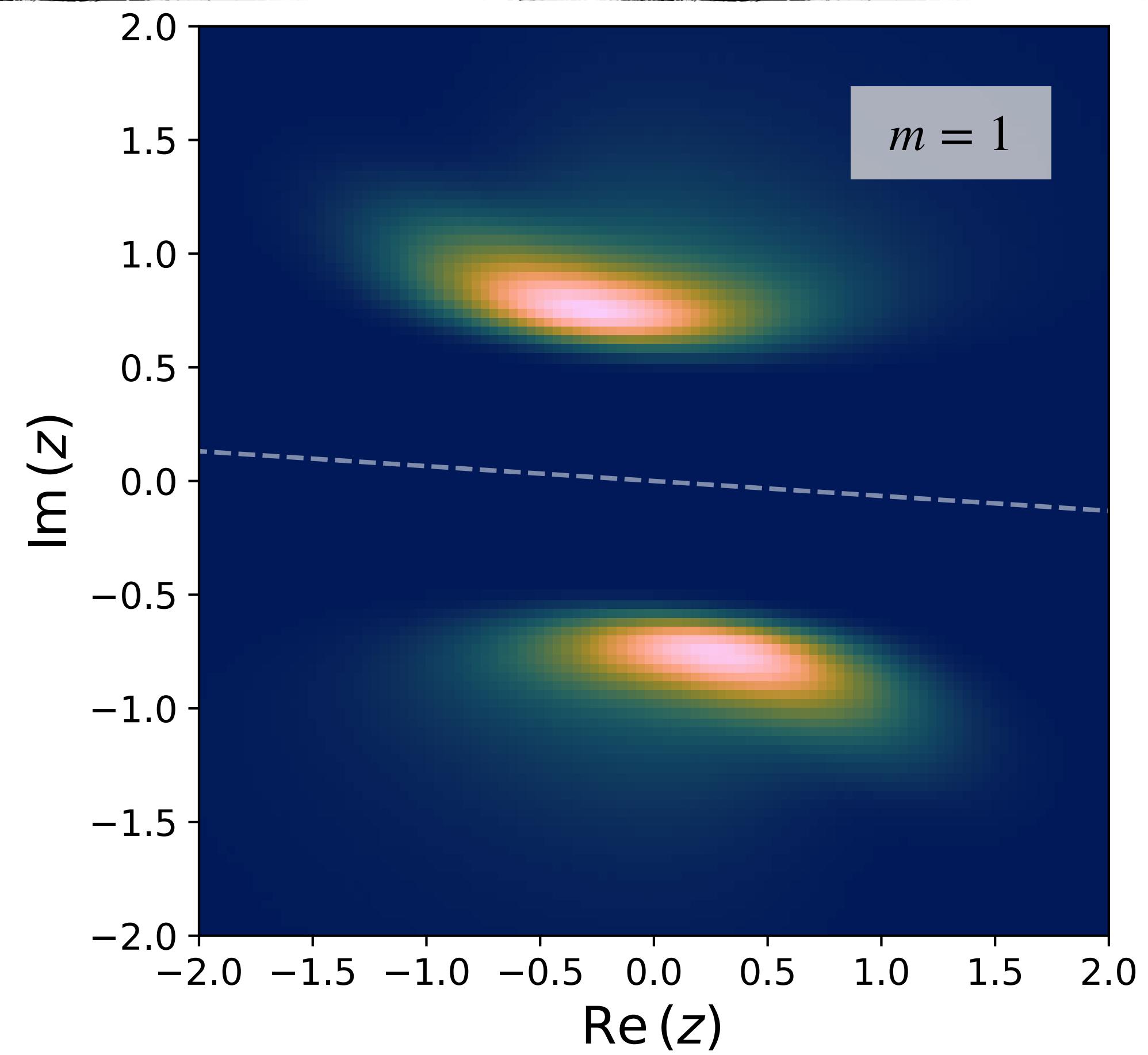
- Example: $S(z) = \frac{\lambda}{4} z^4$, $\lambda = e^{\frac{5i\pi}{6}}$, $K = e^{-\frac{i\pi m}{24}}$.



Complex Langevin evolution with a kernel

$$z \rightarrow z - \varepsilon K \frac{\partial S(z)}{\partial z} + \sqrt{\varepsilon K} \eta$$

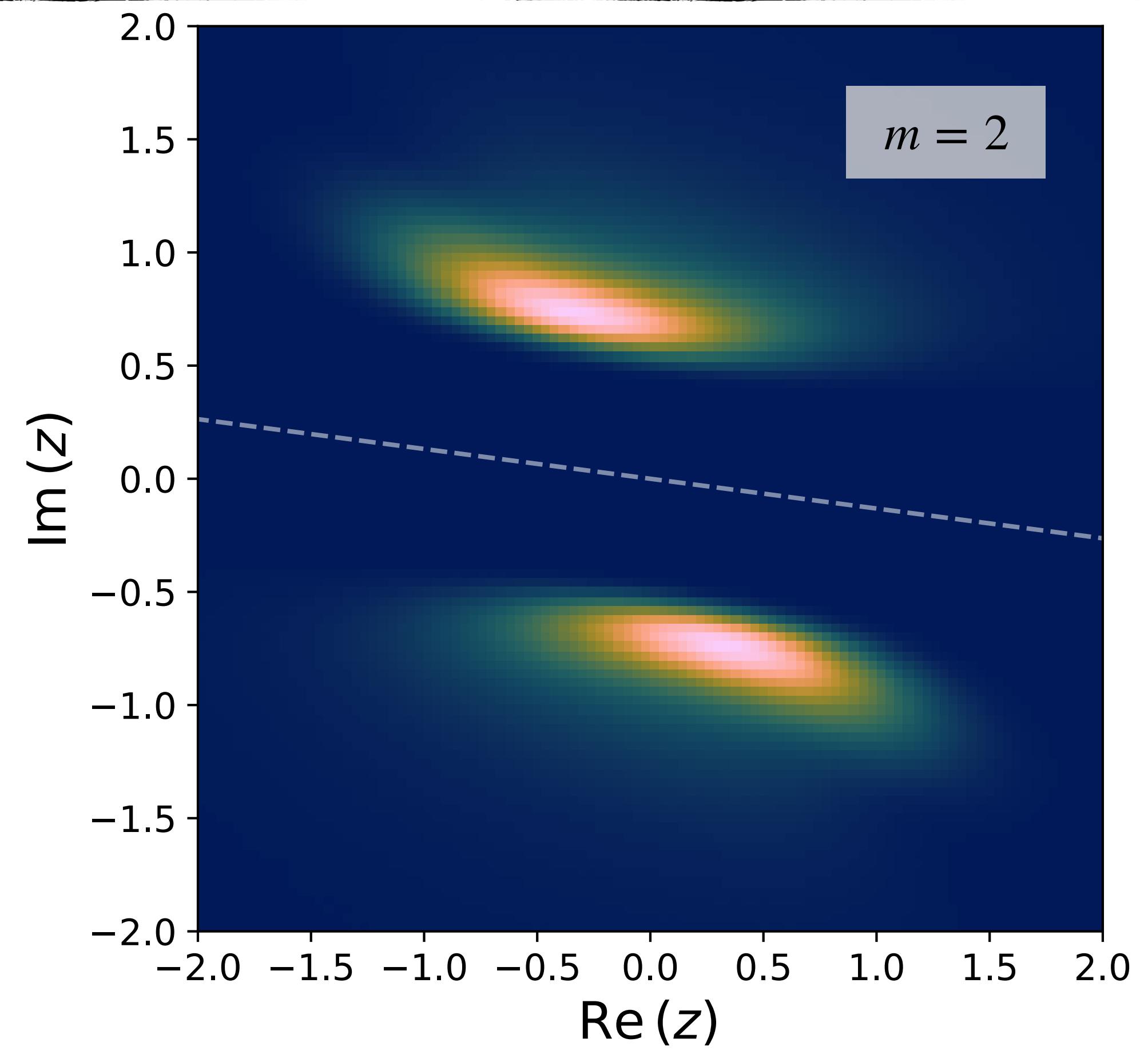
- Example: $S(z) = \frac{\lambda}{4} z^4$, $\lambda = e^{\frac{5i\pi}{6}}$, $K = e^{-\frac{i\pi m}{24}}$.



Complex Langevin evolution with a kernel

$$z \rightarrow z - \varepsilon K \frac{\partial S(z)}{\partial z} + \sqrt{\varepsilon K} \eta$$

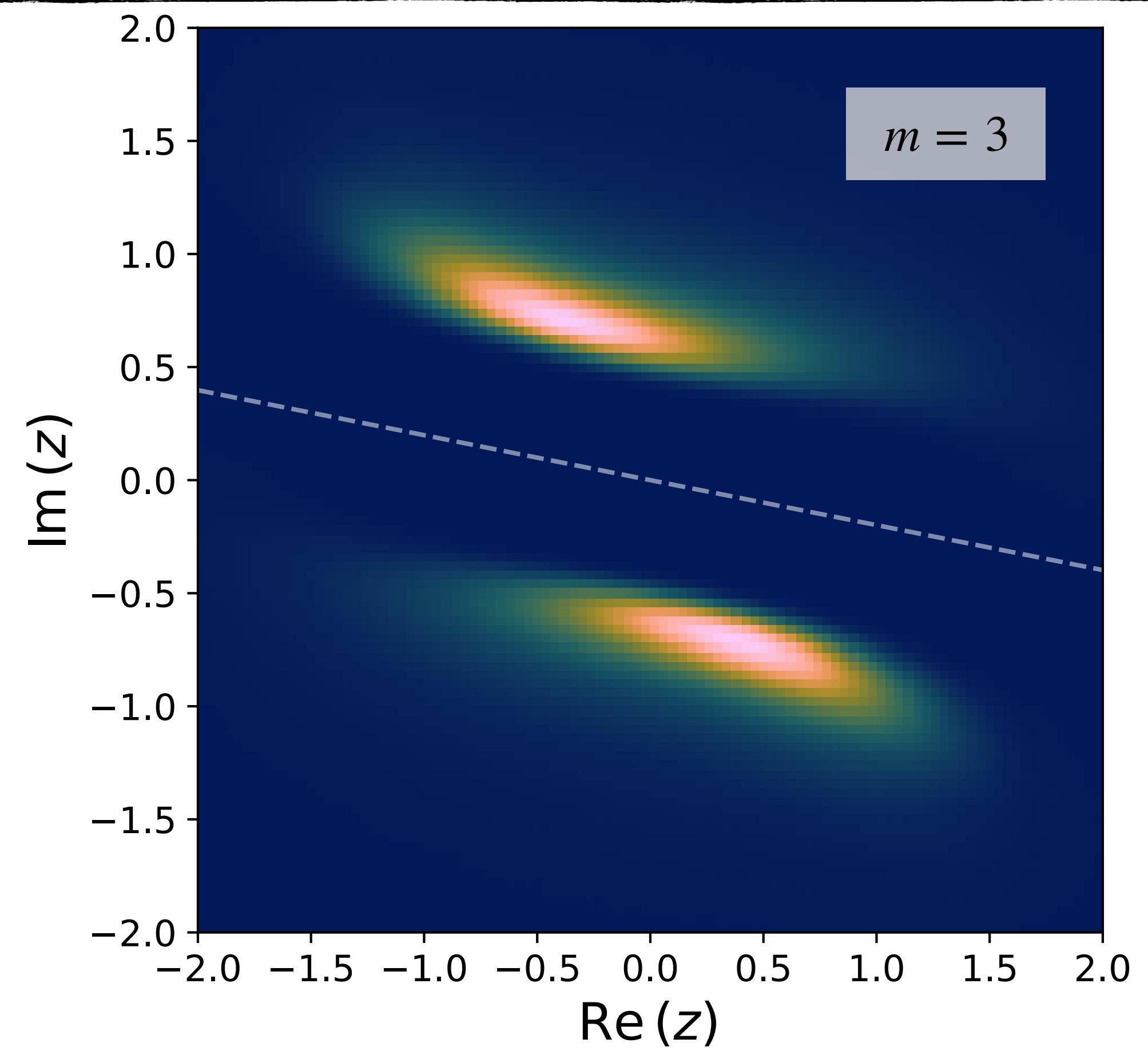
- Example: $S(z) = \frac{\lambda}{4} z^4$, $\lambda = e^{\frac{5i\pi}{6}}$, $K = e^{-\frac{i\pi m}{24}}$.



Complex Langevin evolution with a kernel

$$z \rightarrow z - \varepsilon K \frac{\partial S(z)}{\partial z} + \sqrt{\varepsilon K} \eta$$

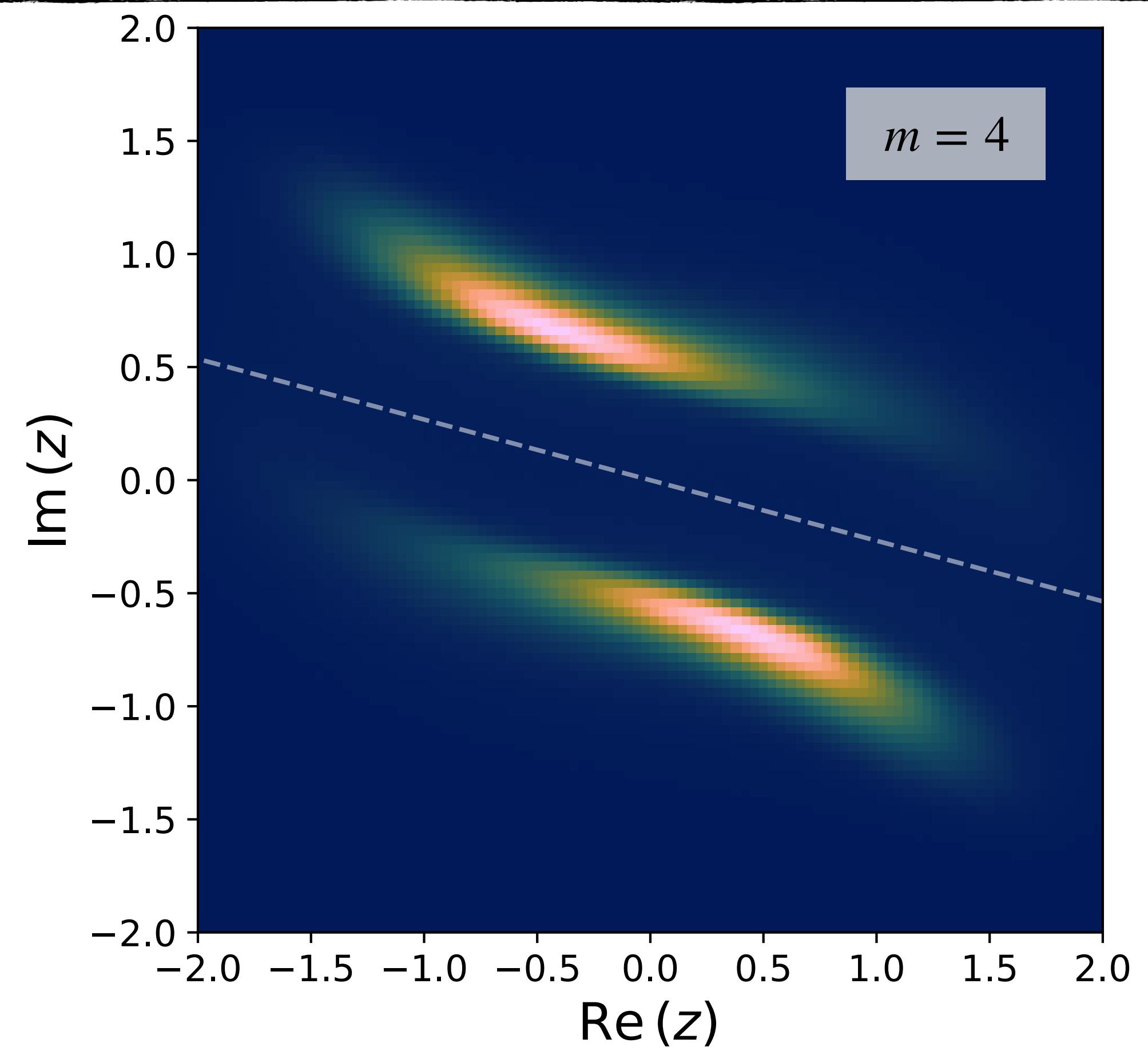
- Example: $S(z) = \frac{\lambda}{4}z^4$, $\lambda = e^{\frac{5i\pi}{6}}$, $K = e^{-\frac{i\pi m}{24}}$.



Complex Langevin evolution with a kernel

$$z \rightarrow z - \varepsilon K \frac{\partial S(z)}{\partial z} + \sqrt{\varepsilon K} \eta$$

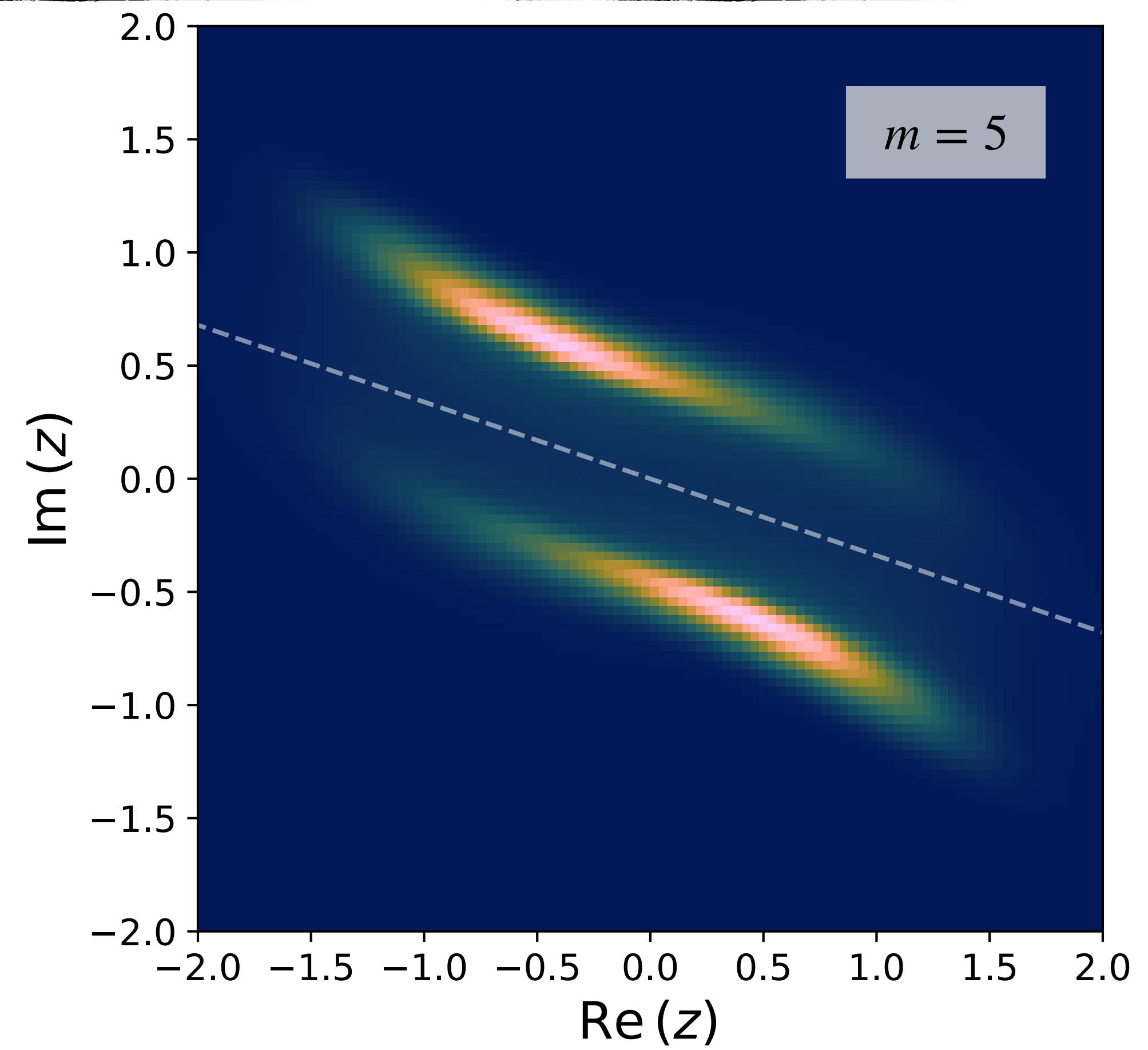
- Example: $S(z) = \frac{\lambda}{4} z^4$, $\lambda = e^{\frac{5i\pi}{6}}$, $K = e^{-\frac{i\pi m}{24}}$.



Complex Langevin evolution with a kernel

$$z \rightarrow z - \varepsilon K \frac{\partial S(z)}{\partial z} + \sqrt{\varepsilon K} \eta$$

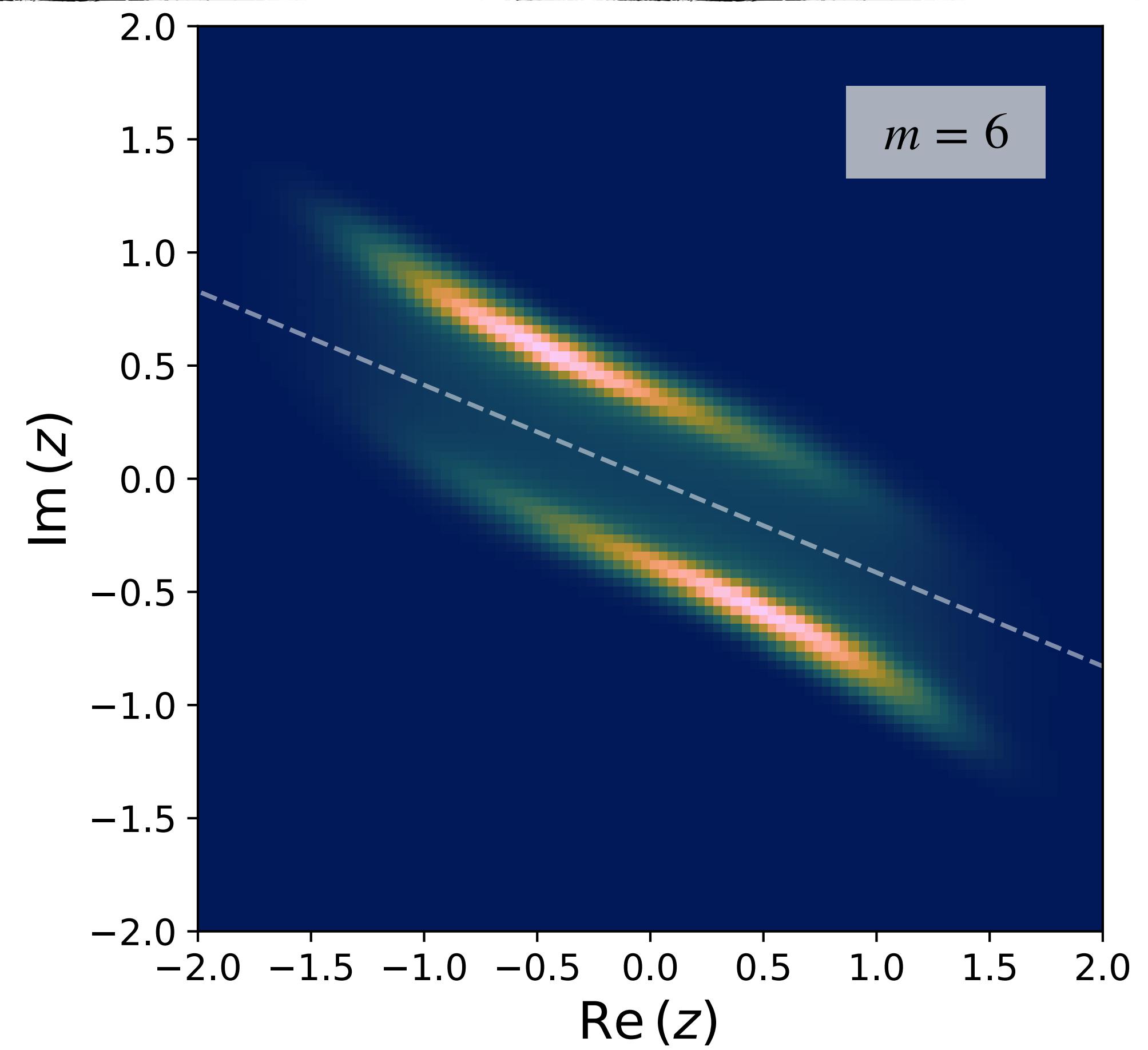
- Example: $S(z) = \frac{\lambda}{4} z^4$, $\lambda = e^{\frac{5i\pi}{6}}$, $K = e^{-\frac{i\pi m}{24}}$.



Complex Langevin evolution with a kernel

$$z \rightarrow z - \varepsilon K \frac{\partial S(z)}{\partial z} + \sqrt{\varepsilon K} \eta$$

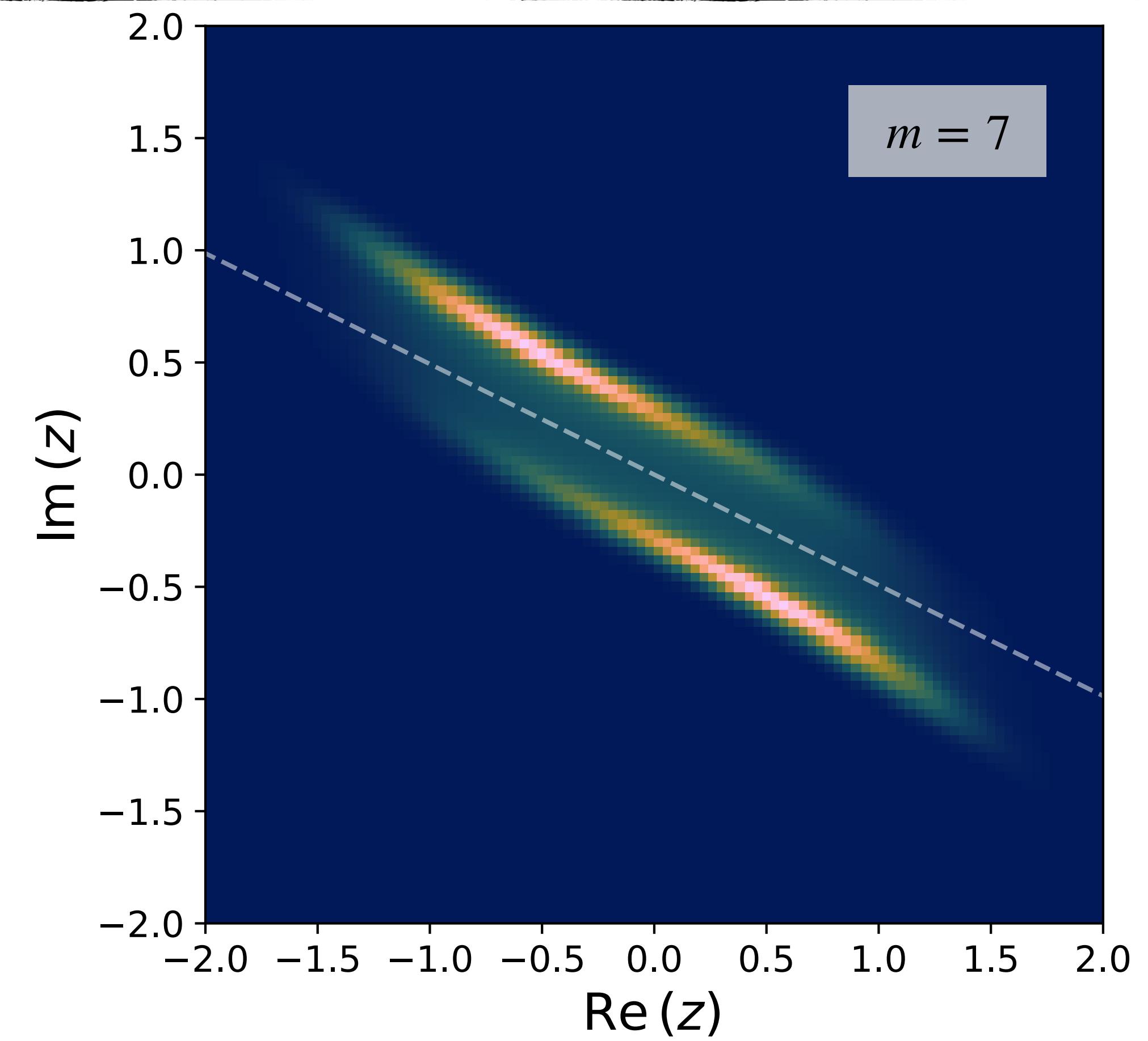
- Example: $S(z) = \frac{\lambda}{4} z^4$, $\lambda = e^{\frac{5i\pi}{6}}$, $K = e^{-\frac{i\pi m}{24}}$.



Complex Langevin evolution with a kernel

$$z \rightarrow z - \varepsilon K \frac{\partial S(z)}{\partial z} + \sqrt{\varepsilon K} \eta$$

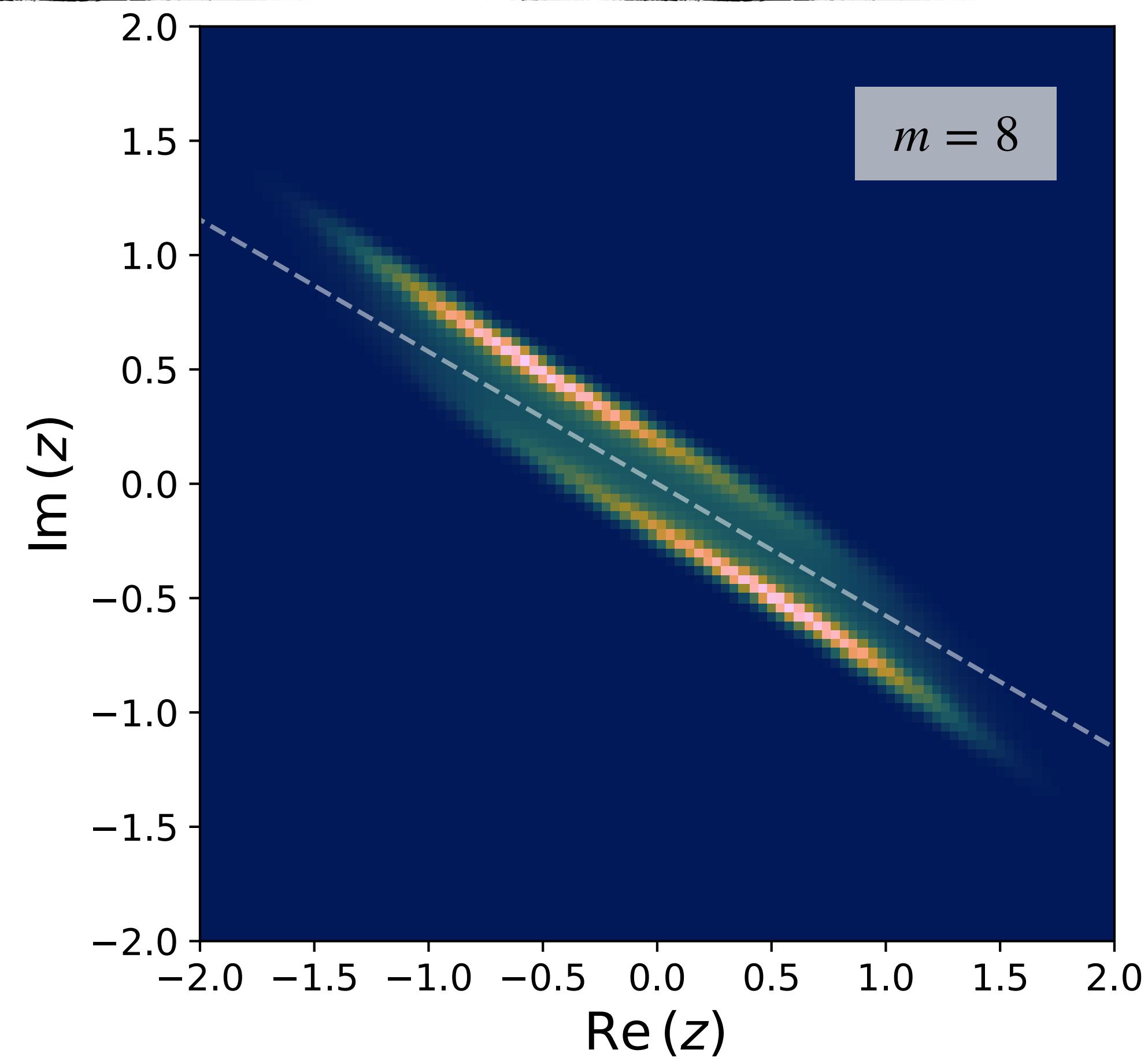
- Example: $S(z) = \frac{\lambda}{4} z^4$, $\lambda = e^{\frac{5i\pi}{6}}$, $K = e^{-\frac{i\pi m}{24}}$.



Complex Langevin evolution with a kernel

$$z \rightarrow z - \varepsilon K \frac{\partial S(z)}{\partial z} + \sqrt{\varepsilon K} \eta$$

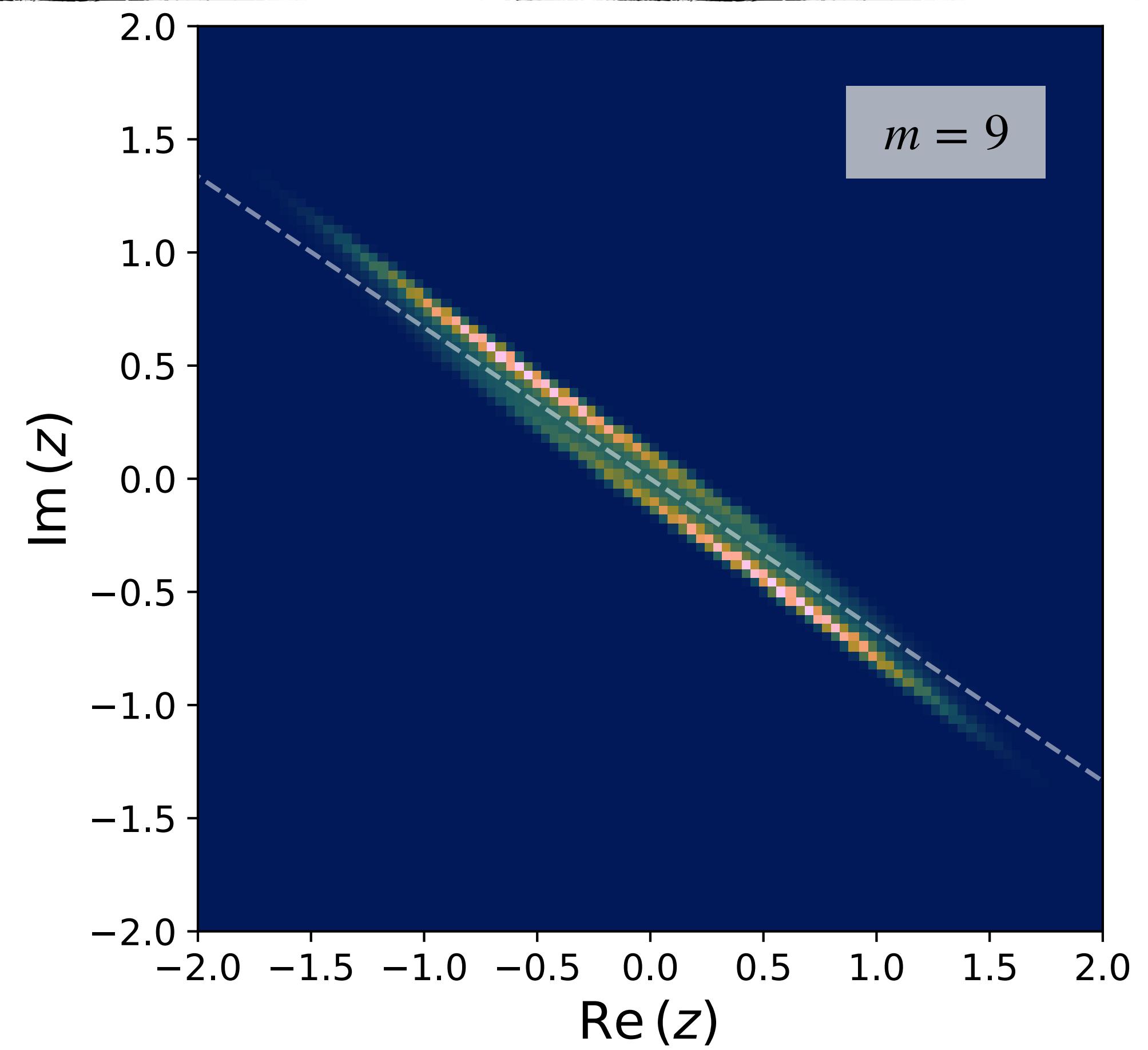
- Example: $S(z) = \frac{\lambda}{4} z^4$, $\lambda = e^{\frac{5i\pi}{6}}$, $K = e^{-\frac{i\pi m}{24}}$.



Complex Langevin evolution with a kernel

$$z \rightarrow z - \varepsilon K \frac{\partial S(z)}{\partial z} + \sqrt{\varepsilon K} \eta$$

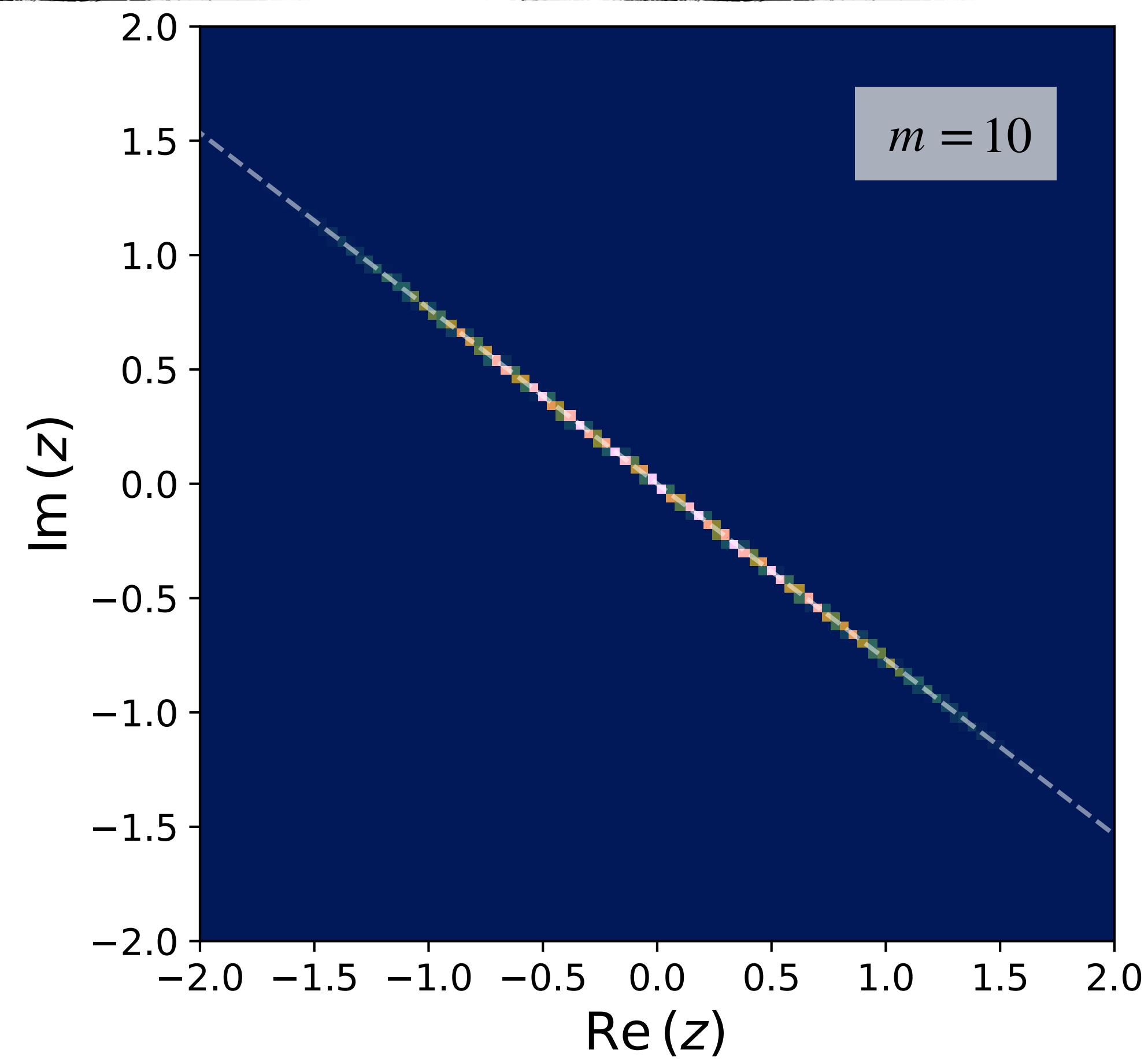
- Example: $S(z) = \frac{\lambda}{4}z^4$, $\lambda = e^{\frac{5i\pi}{6}}$, $K = e^{-\frac{i\pi m}{24}}$.



Complex Langevin evolution with a kernel

$$z \rightarrow z - \varepsilon K \frac{\partial S(z)}{\partial z} + \sqrt{\varepsilon K} \eta$$

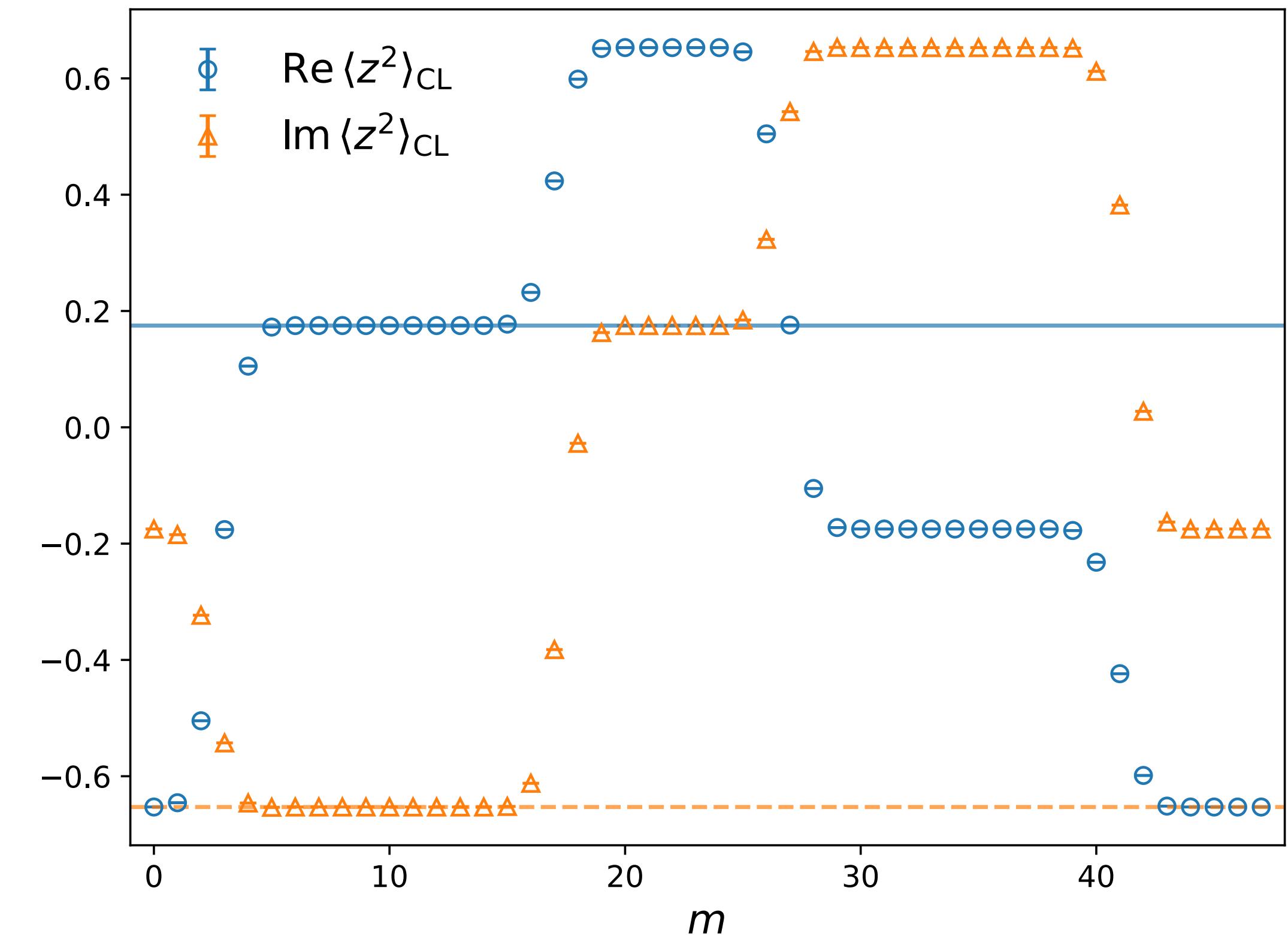
- Example: $S(z) = \frac{\lambda}{4}z^4$, $\lambda = e^{\frac{5i\pi}{6}}$, $K = e^{-\frac{i\pi m}{24}}$.



Complex Langevin evolution with a kernel

$$z \rightarrow z - \varepsilon K \frac{\partial S(z)}{\partial z} + \sqrt{\varepsilon K} \eta$$

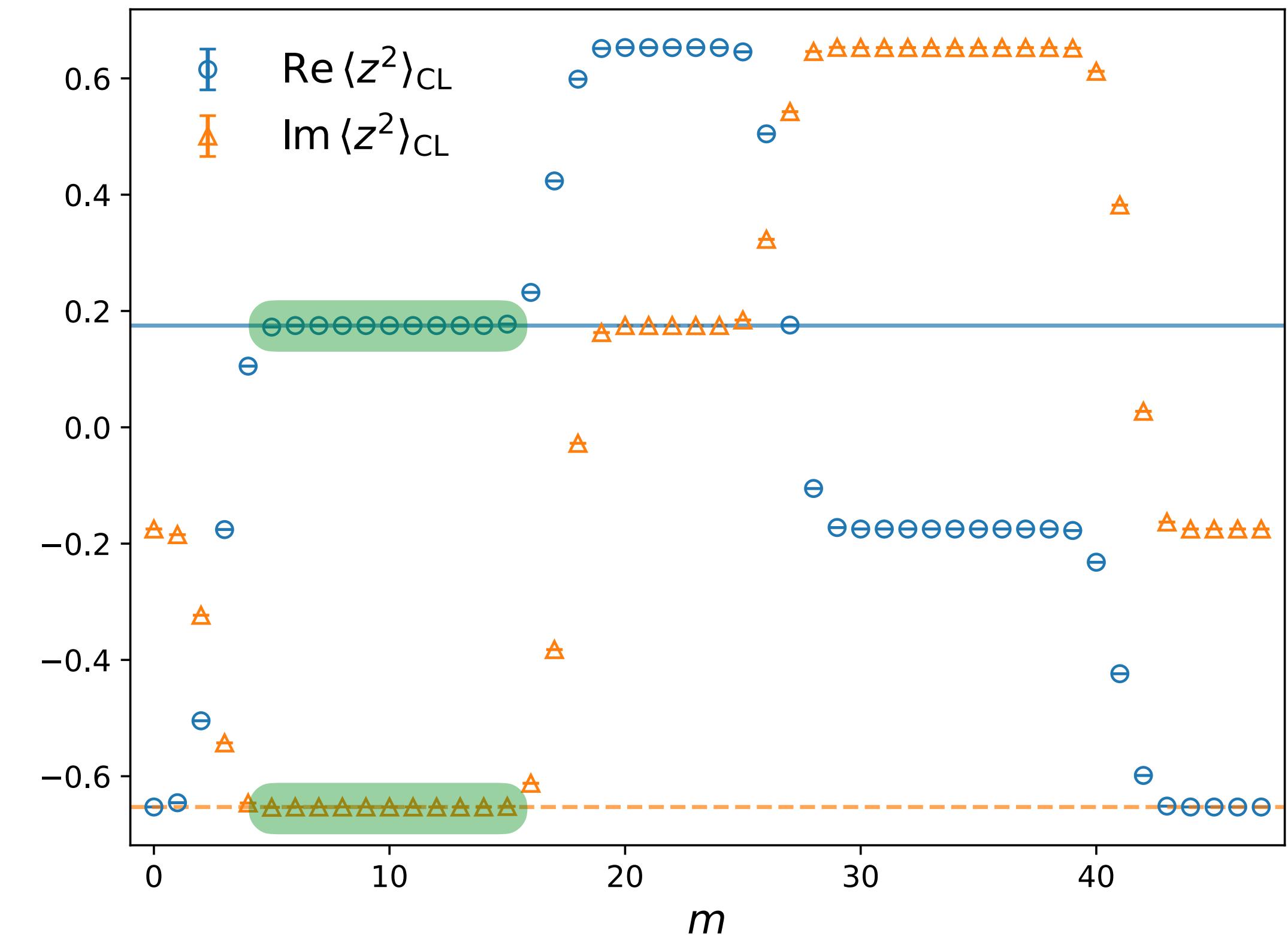
- Example: $S(z) = \frac{\lambda}{4}z^4$, $\lambda = e^{\frac{5i\pi}{6}}$, $K = e^{-\frac{i\pi m}{24}}$.



Complex Langevin evolution with a kernel

$$z \rightarrow z - \varepsilon K \frac{\partial S(z)}{\partial z} + \sqrt{\varepsilon K} \eta$$

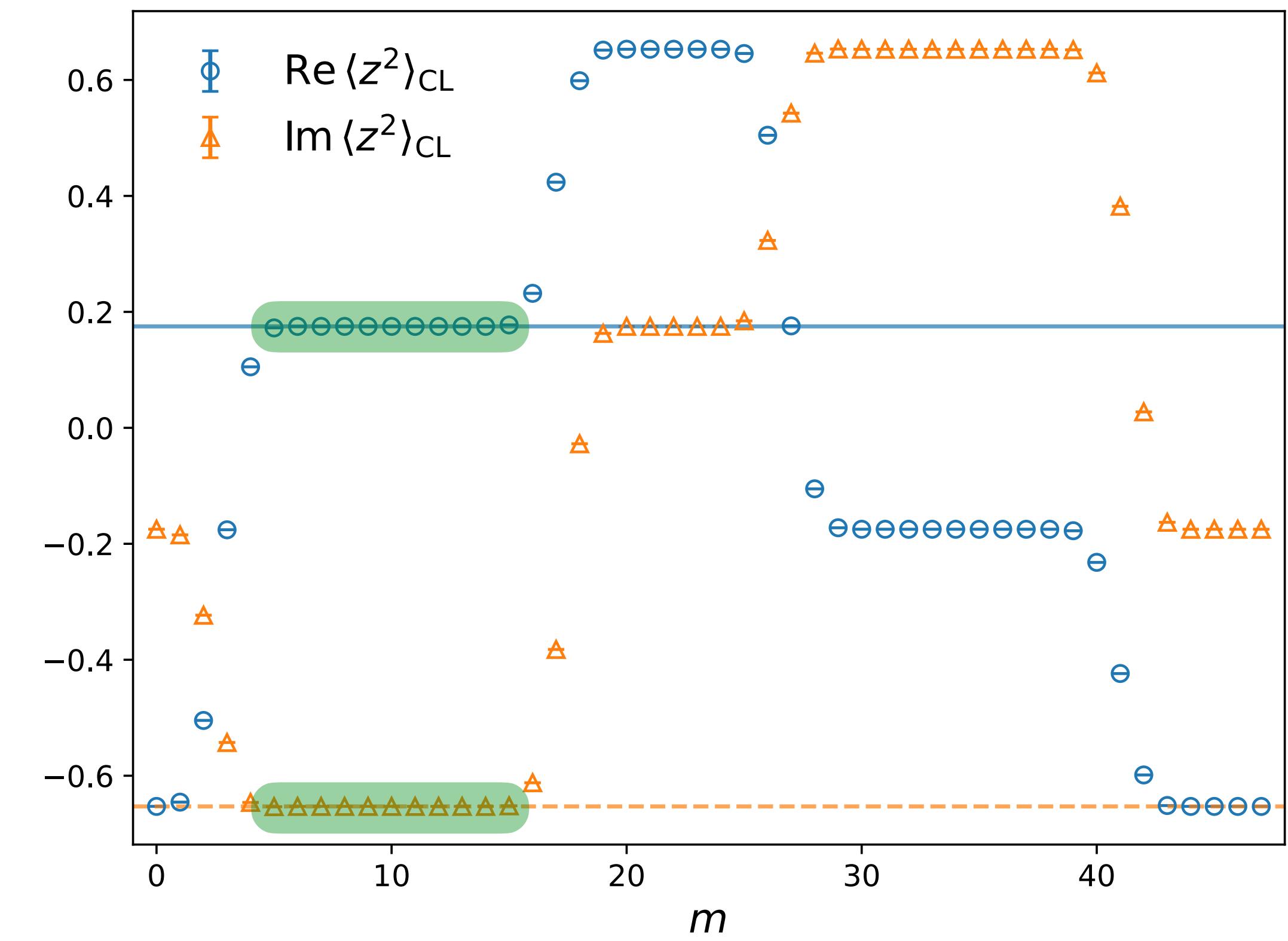
- Example: $S(z) = \frac{\lambda}{4}z^4$, $\lambda = e^{\frac{5i\pi}{6}}$, $K = e^{-\frac{i\pi m}{24}}$.



Complex Langevin evolution with a kernel

$$z \rightarrow z - \varepsilon K \frac{\partial S(z)}{\partial z} + \sqrt{\varepsilon K} \eta$$

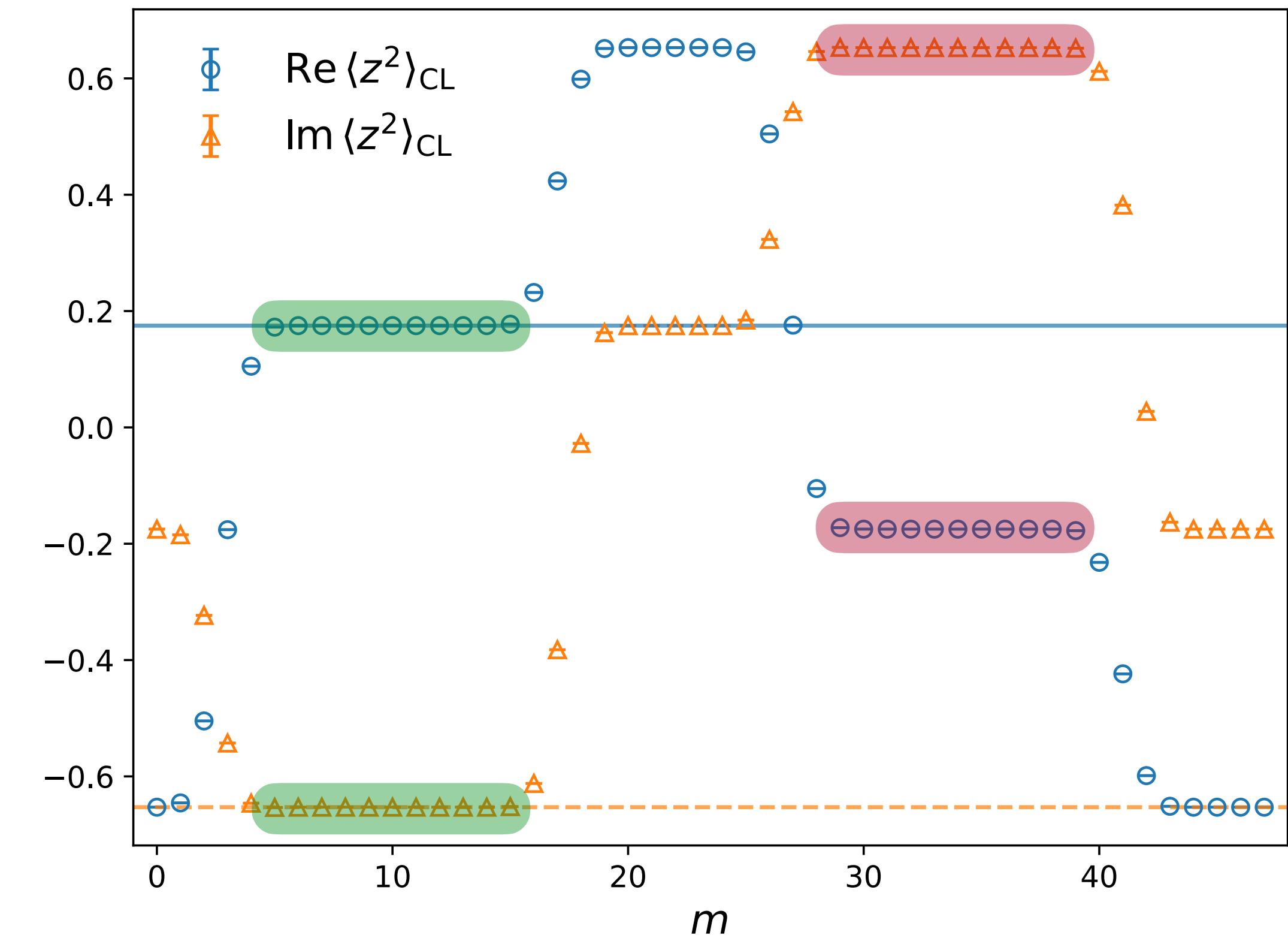
- Example: $S(z) = \frac{\lambda}{4}z^4$, $\lambda = e^{\frac{5i\pi}{6}}$, $K = e^{-\frac{i\pi m}{24}}$.
- Kernel can restore correct convergence.
Okamoto et al. '89



Complex Langevin evolution with a kernel

$$z \rightarrow z - \varepsilon K \frac{\partial S(z)}{\partial z} + \sqrt{\varepsilon K} \eta$$

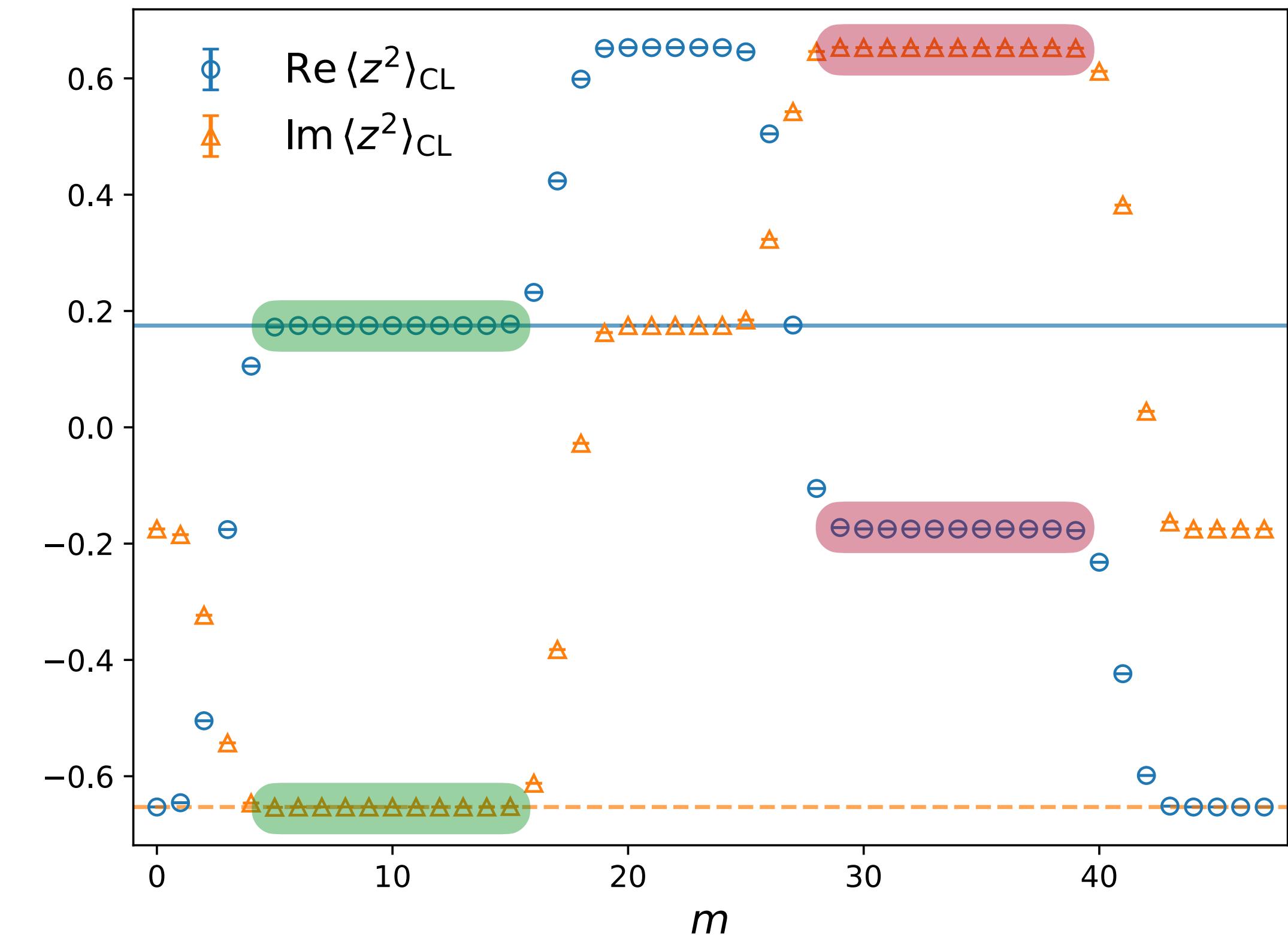
- Example: $S(z) = \frac{\lambda}{4}z^4$, $\lambda = e^{\frac{5i\pi}{6}}$, $K = e^{-\frac{i\pi m}{24}}$.
- Kernel can restore correct convergence.
Okamoto et al. '89



Complex Langevin evolution with a kernel

$$z \rightarrow z - \varepsilon K \frac{\partial S(z)}{\partial z} + \sqrt{\varepsilon K} \eta$$

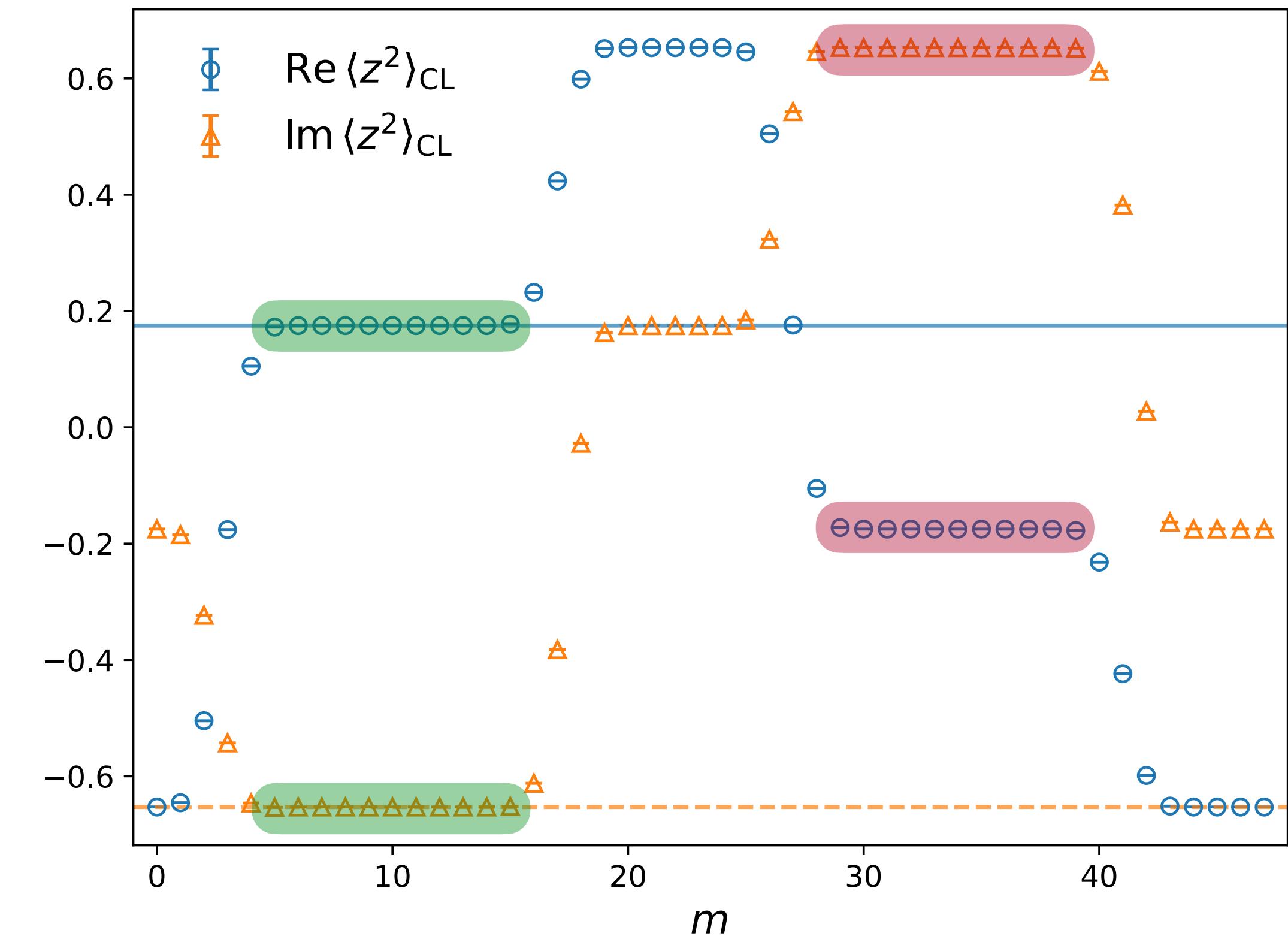
- Example: $S(z) = \frac{\lambda}{4}z^4$, $\lambda = e^{\frac{5i\pi}{6}}$, $K = e^{-\frac{i\pi m}{24}}$.
- Kernel can restore correct convergence.
Okamoto et al. '89



Complex Langevin evolution with a kernel

$$z \rightarrow z - \varepsilon K \frac{\partial S(z)}{\partial z} + \sqrt{\varepsilon K} \eta$$

- Example: $S(z) = \frac{\lambda}{4}z^4$, $\lambda = e^{\frac{5i\pi}{6}}$, $K = e^{-\frac{i\pi m}{24}}$.
- Kernel can restore correct convergence.
Okamoto et al. '89
- Want: Correctness criterion.



Boundary terms

Boundary terms

Aarts et al. '11; Scherzer et al. '19

- Formal argument for correctness relies on fast decay of $P\mathcal{O}$, such that one can integrate by parts without appearance of boundary terms.

Boundary terms

Aarts et al. '11; Scherzer et al. '19

- Formal argument for correctness relies on fast decay of $P\mathcal{O}$, such that one can integrate by parts without appearance of boundary terms.
- Can measure boundary terms

Boundary terms

Aarts et al. '11; Scherzer et al. '19

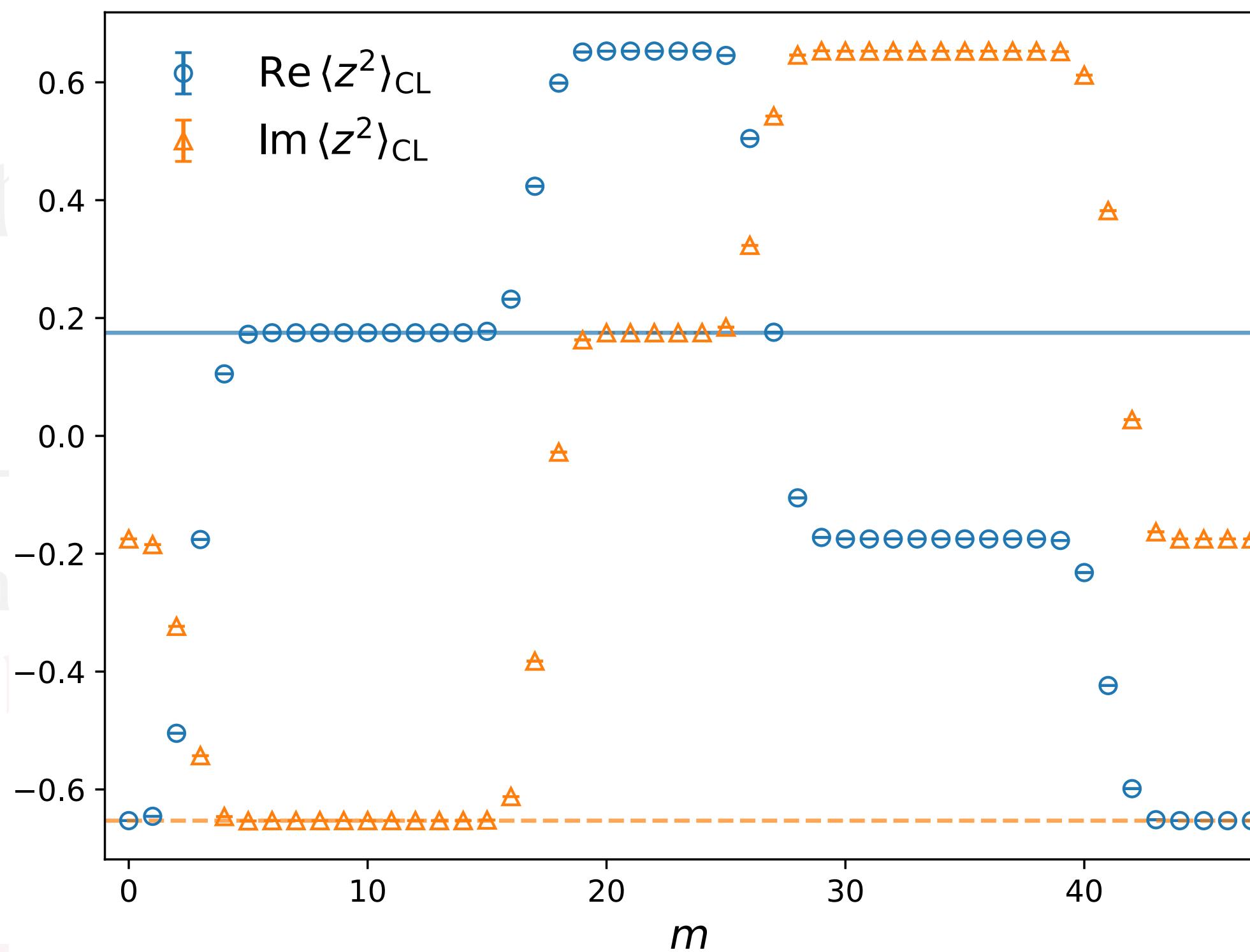
- Formal argument for correctness relies on fast decay of $P\mathcal{O}$, such that one can integrate by parts without appearance of boundary terms.
- Can measure boundary terms:

$$B_{\mathcal{O}(z)}(Y) = \left\langle \Theta(Y - |z|) L\mathcal{O}(z) \right\rangle$$

Boundary

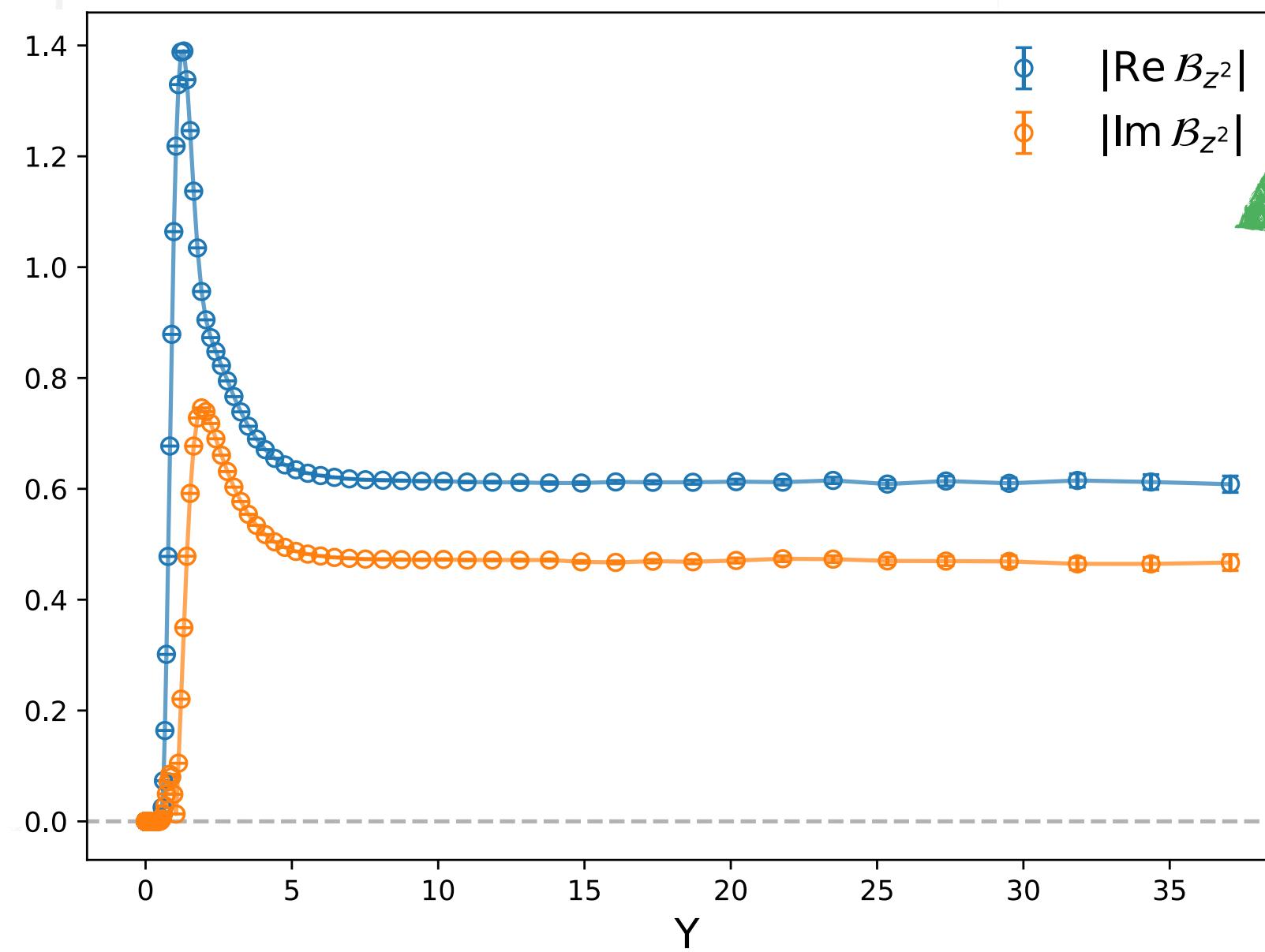
- Formal argument for correctness relies on integrate by parts without appearance of boundary terms
- Can measure boundary terms:

$$B_{\mathcal{O}(z)}(Y) = \left\langle \Theta(Y - |z|) L\mathcal{O}(z) \right\rangle$$

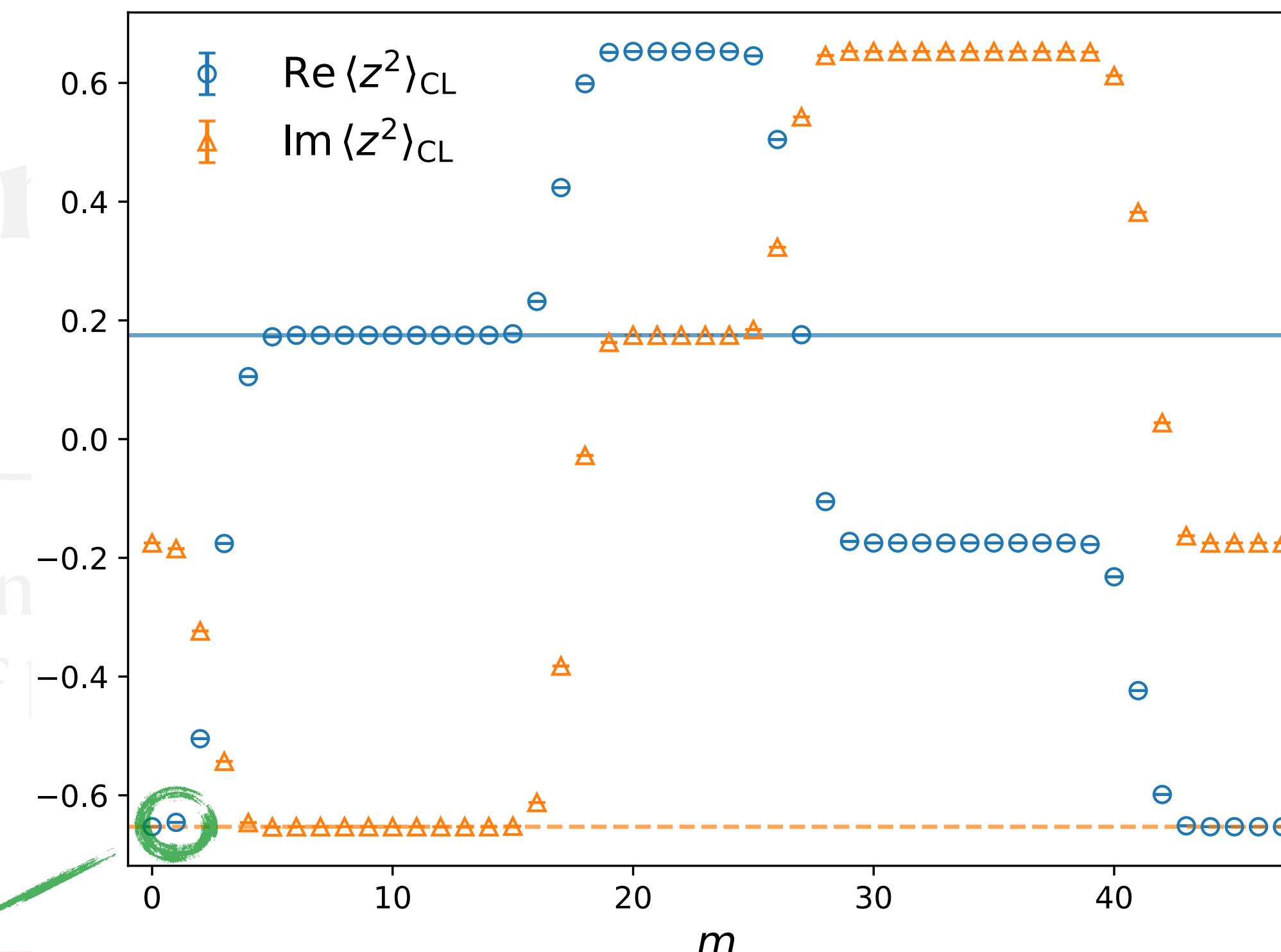


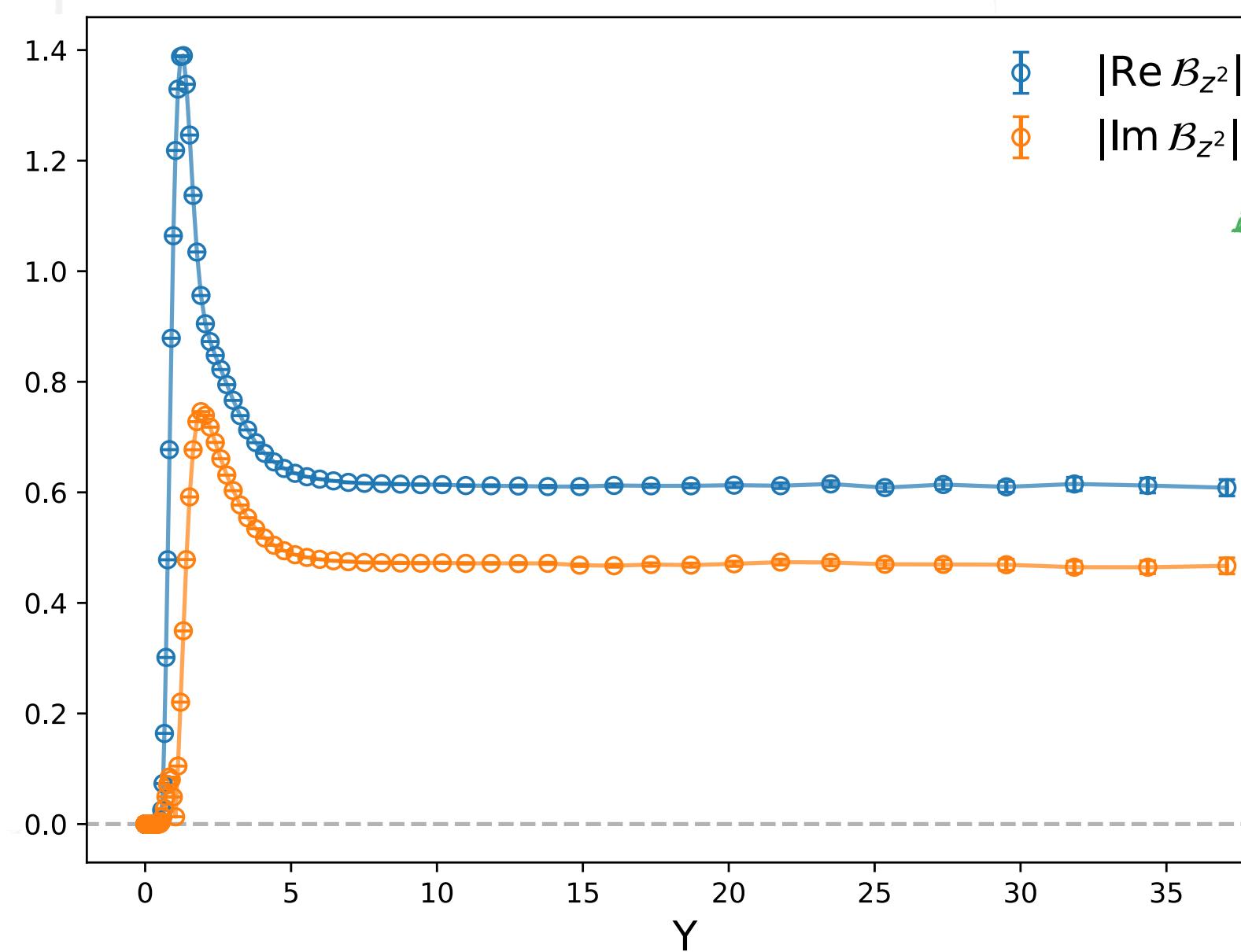
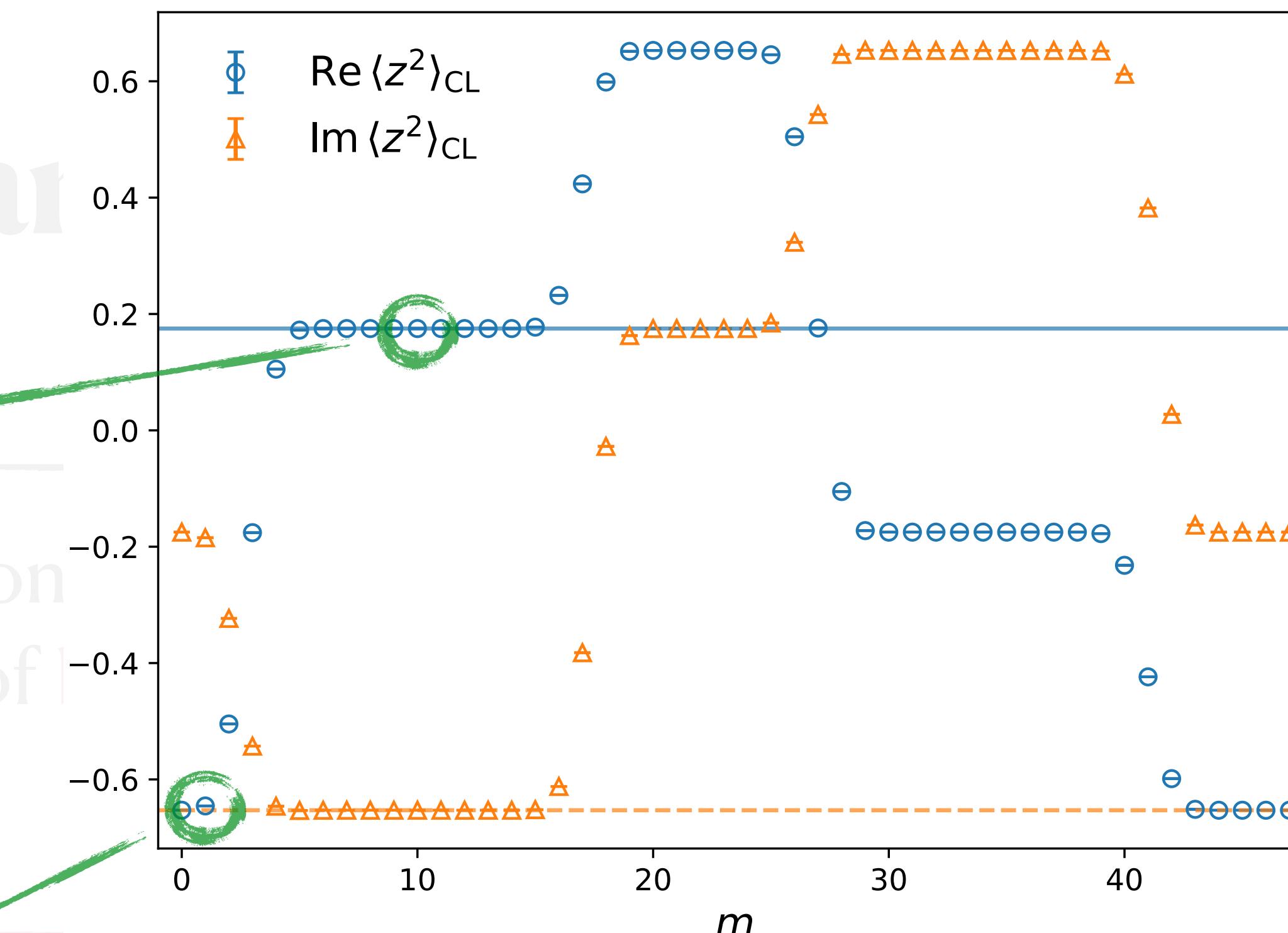
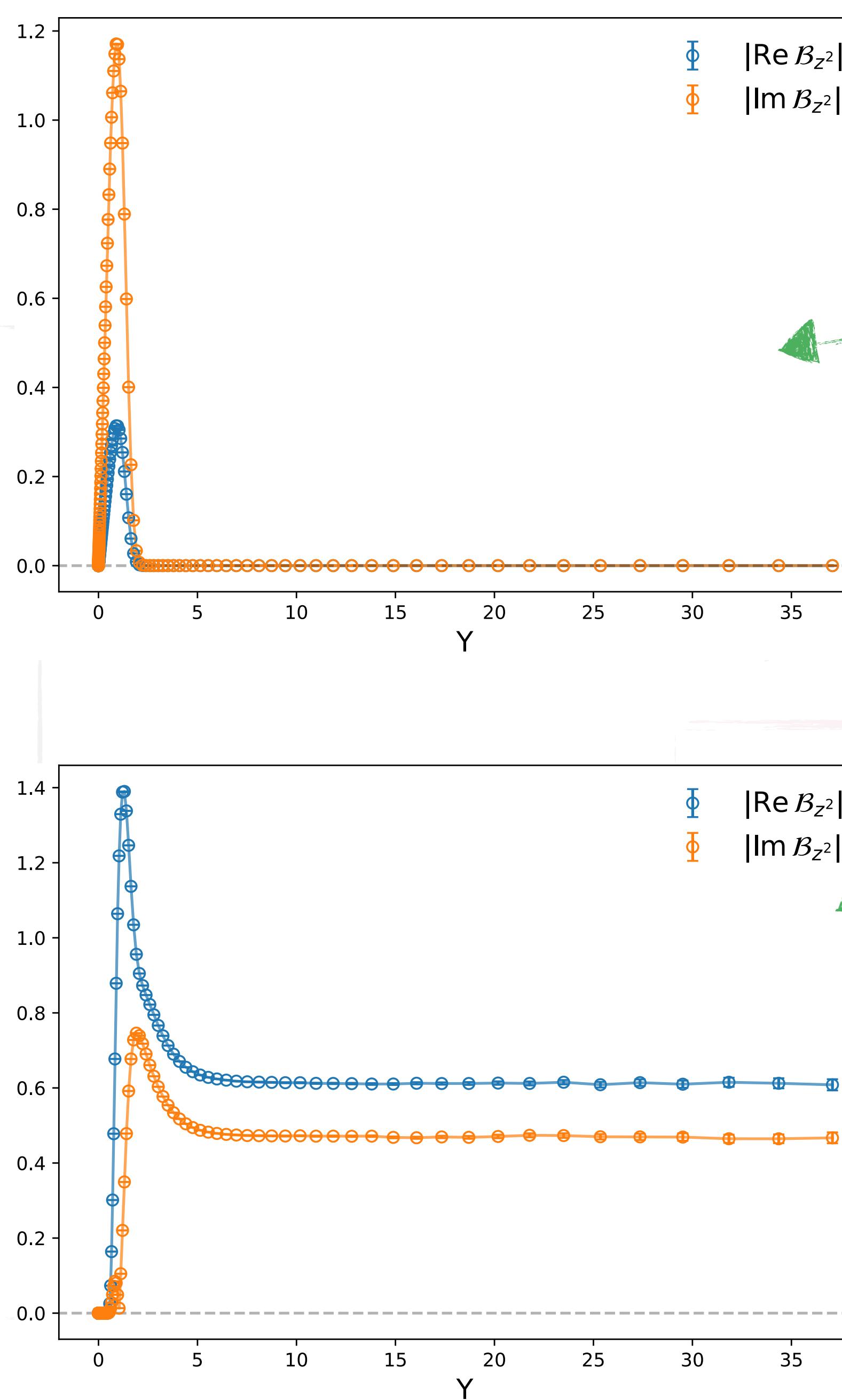
Boundary

- Formal argument for correctness relies on integrate by parts without appearance of boundary terms
- Can measure boundary terms:

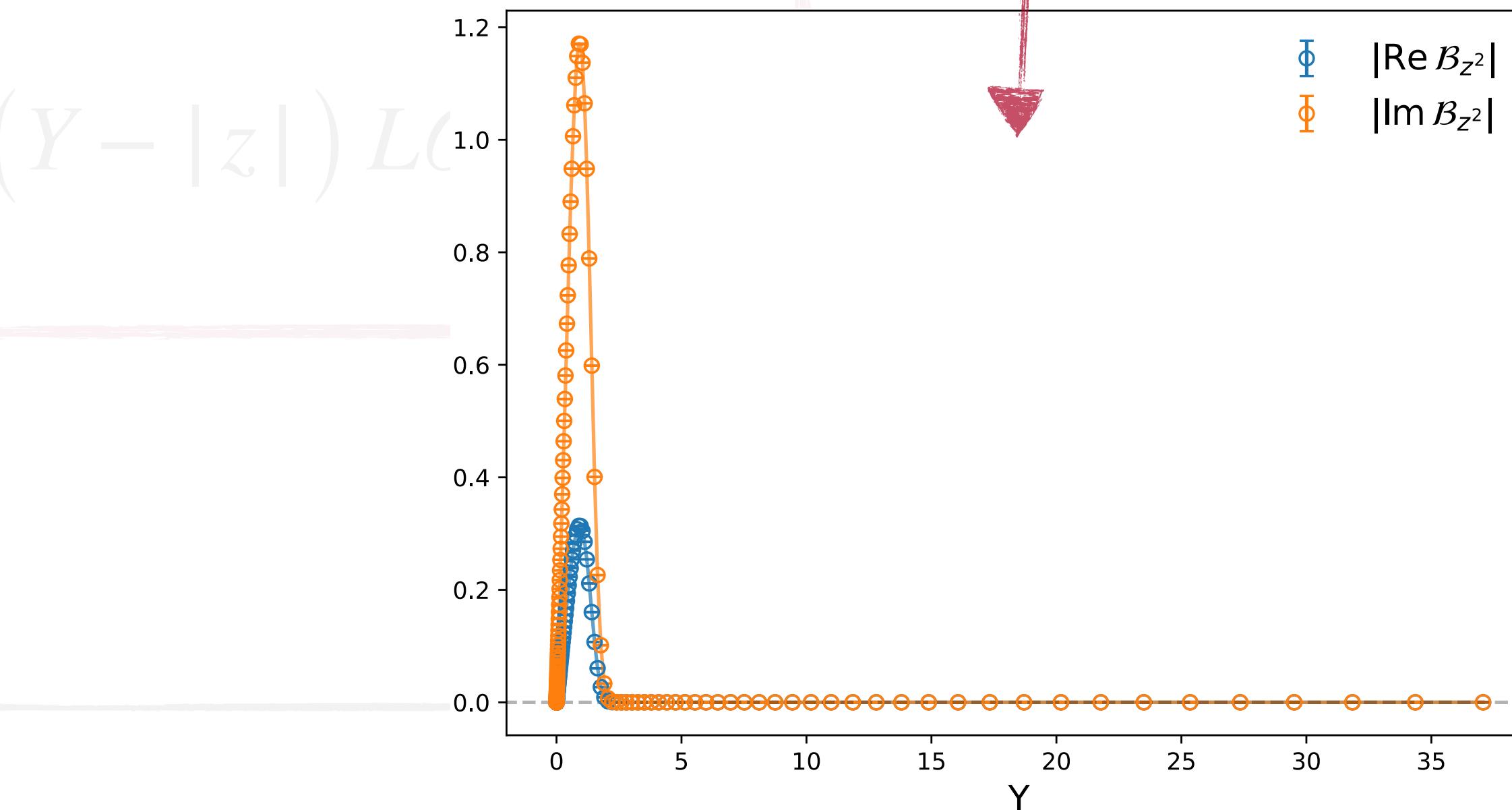
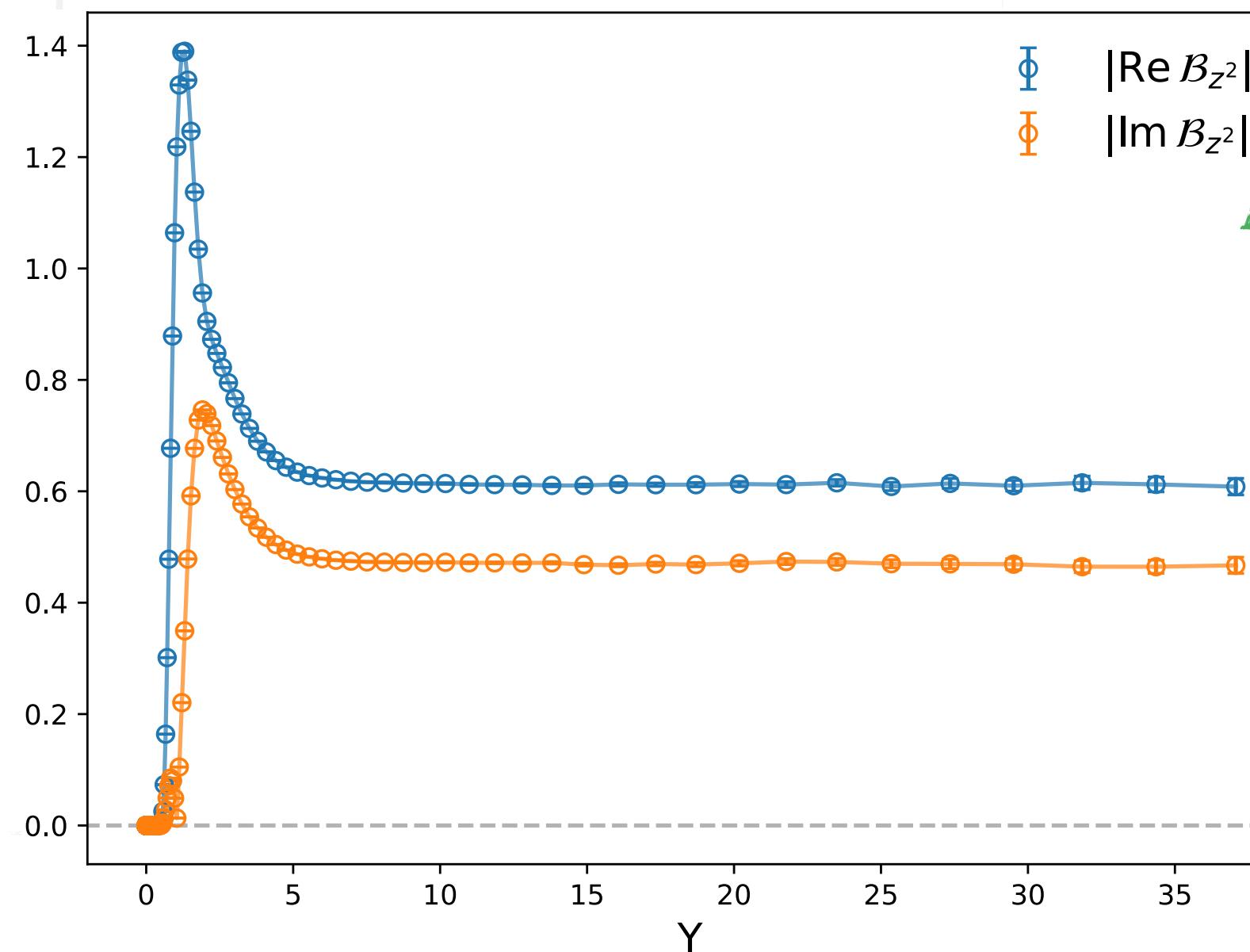
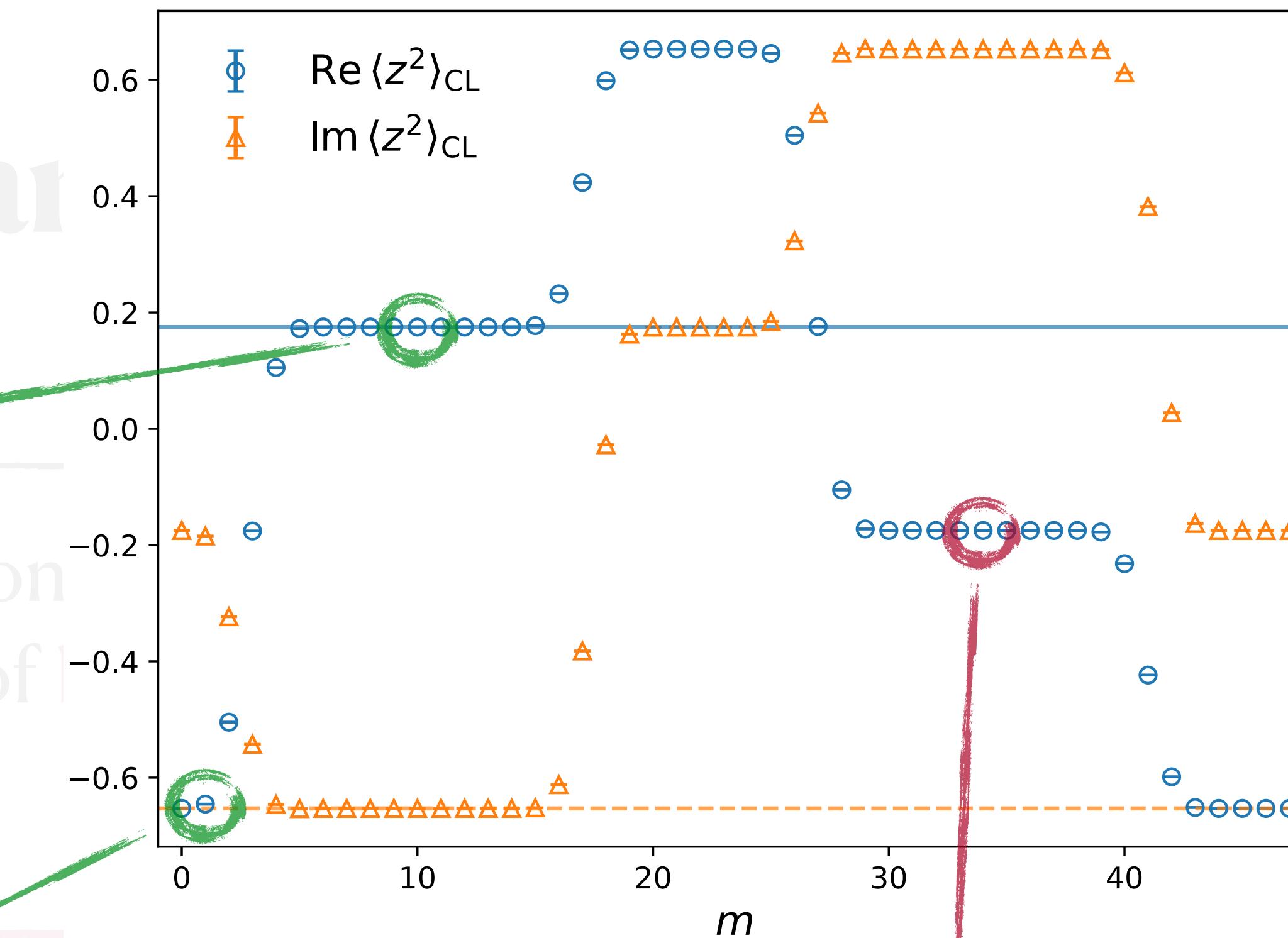
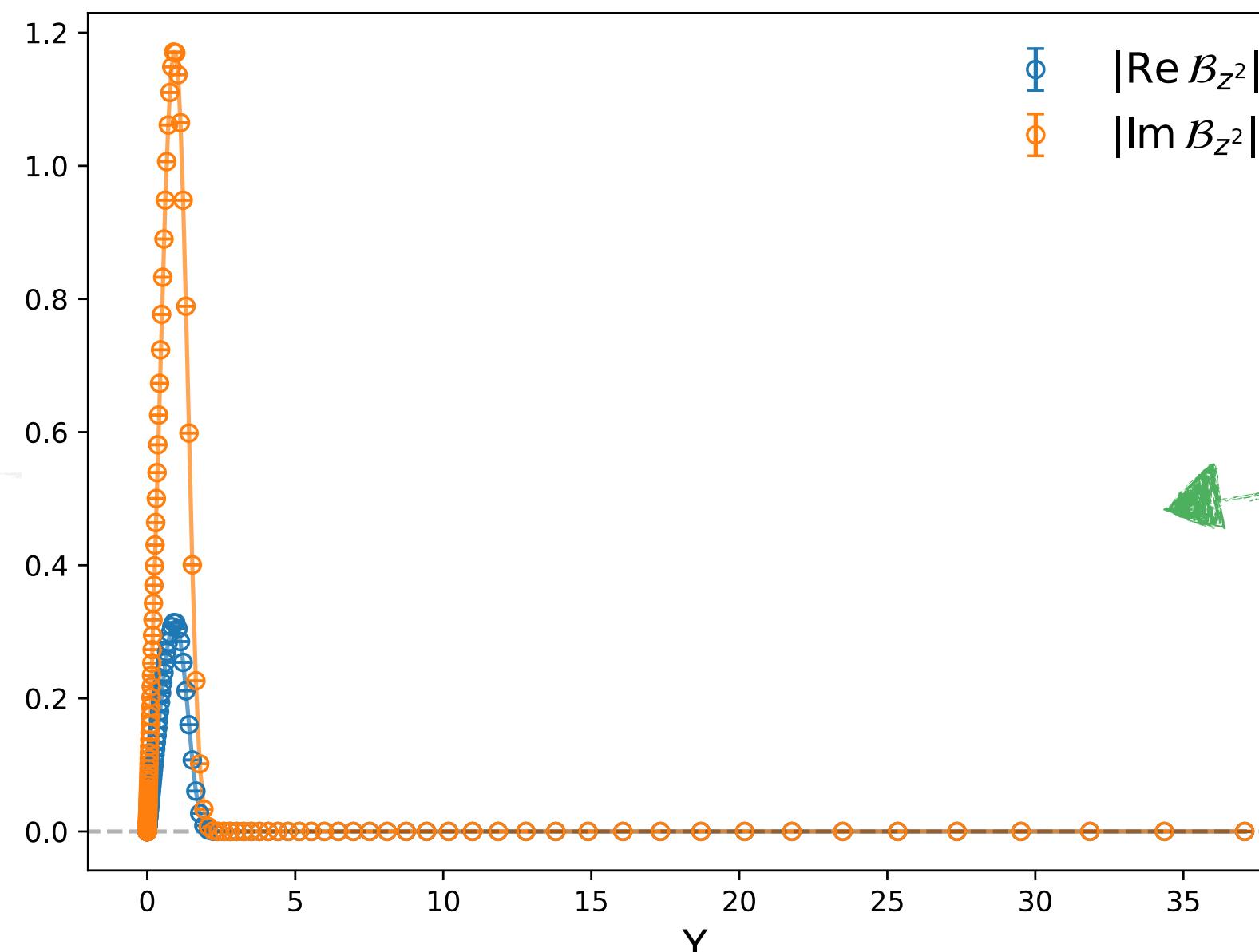


$$\mathcal{O}(Y) = \left\langle \Theta(Y - |z|) L \mathcal{O}(z) \right\rangle$$





$\mathcal{O}(z)(Y) = \left\langle \Theta(Y - |z|) L \mathcal{O}(z) \right\rangle$



Boundary terms

Aarts et al. '11; Scherzer et al. '19

- Formal argument for correctness relies on fast decay of $P\mathcal{O}$, such that one can integrate by parts without appearance of boundary terms.
- Can measure boundary terms:

$$B_{\mathcal{O}(z)}(Y) = \left\langle \Theta(Y - |z|) L\mathcal{O}(z) \right\rangle$$

Boundary terms

Aarts et al. '11; Scherzer et al. '19

- Formal argument for correctness relies on fast decay of $P\mathcal{O}$, such that one can integrate by parts without appearance of boundary terms.
- Can measure boundary terms:

$$B_{\mathcal{O}(z)}(Y) = \left\langle \Theta(Y - |z|) L\mathcal{O}(z) \right\rangle$$

- Can infer incorrect solutions from non-vanishing boundary terms.

Boundary terms

Aarts et al. '11; Scherzer et al. '19

- Formal argument for correctness relies on fast decay of $P\mathcal{O}$, such that one can integrate by parts without appearance of boundary terms.
- Can measure boundary terms:

$$B_{\mathcal{O}(z)}(Y) = \left\langle \Theta(Y - |z|) L\mathcal{O}(z) \right\rangle$$

- Can infer incorrect solutions from non-vanishing boundary terms.
- Cannot infer correct solutions from vanishing boundary terms.

Integration cycles

Witten '11

Integration cycles

Witten '11

- Integration paths connecting zeros of $\rho(z)$.

Integration cycles

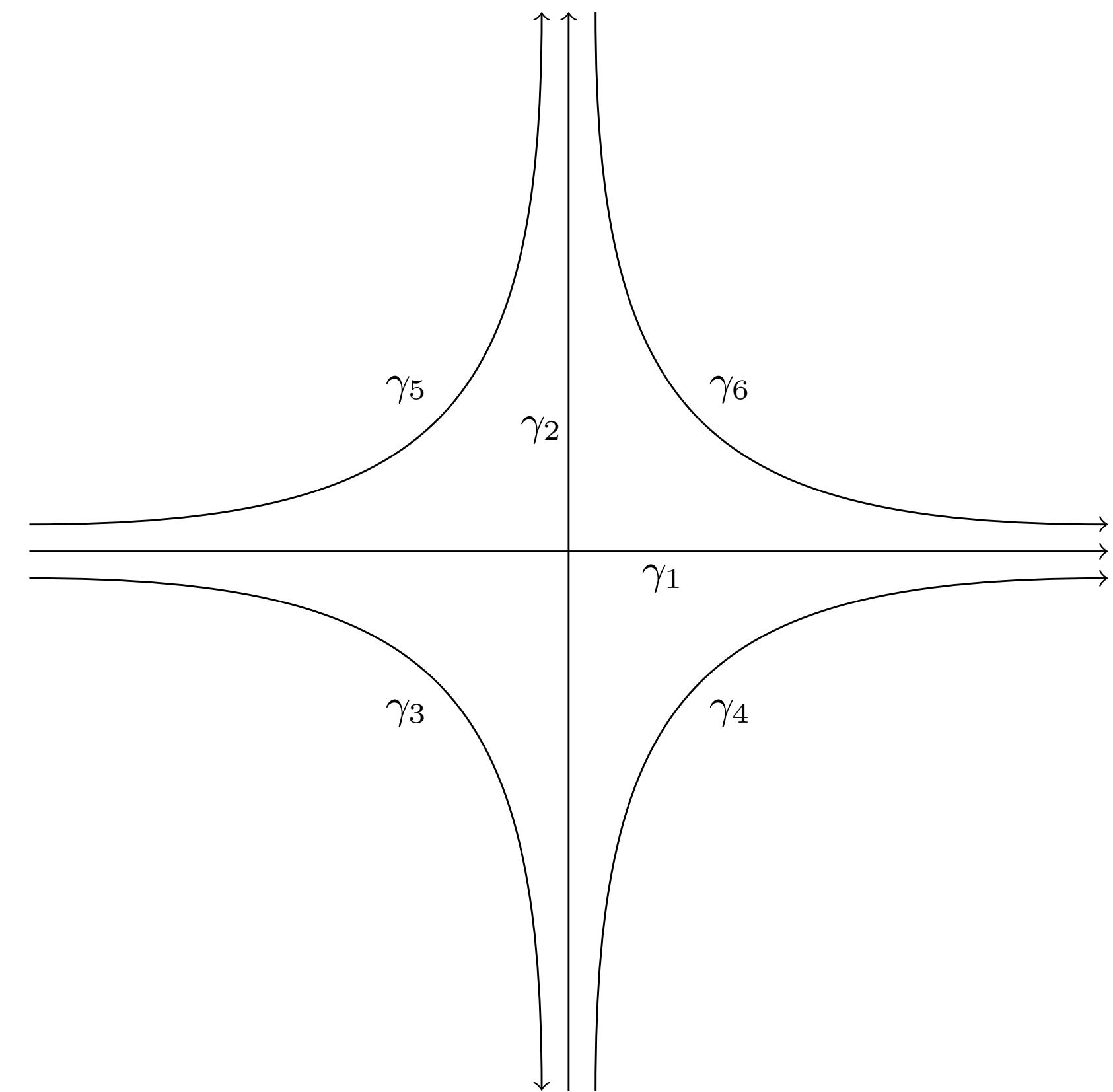
Witten '11

- Integration paths connecting **zeros** of $\rho(z)$.
- Example: $\rho(z) = e^{-\frac{z^4}{4}}$.

Integration cycles

Witten '11

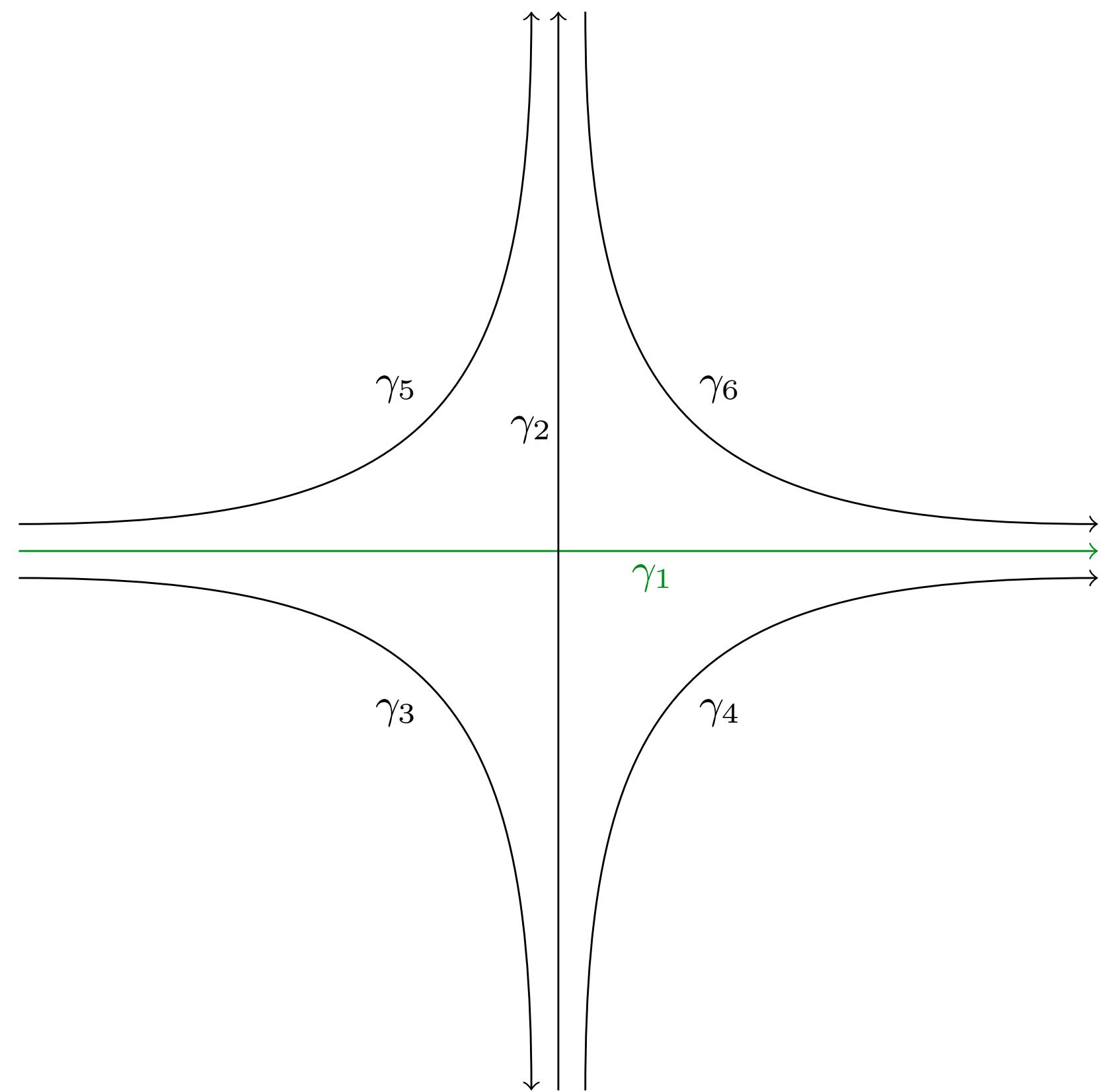
- Integration paths connecting **zeros** of $\rho(z)$.
- Example: $\rho(z) = e^{-\frac{z^4}{4}}$.



Integration cycles

Witten '11

- Integration paths connecting **zeros** of $\rho(z)$.
- Example: $\rho(z) = e^{-\frac{z^4}{4}}$.
- Three independent cycles, γ_1 is the **relevant** one.



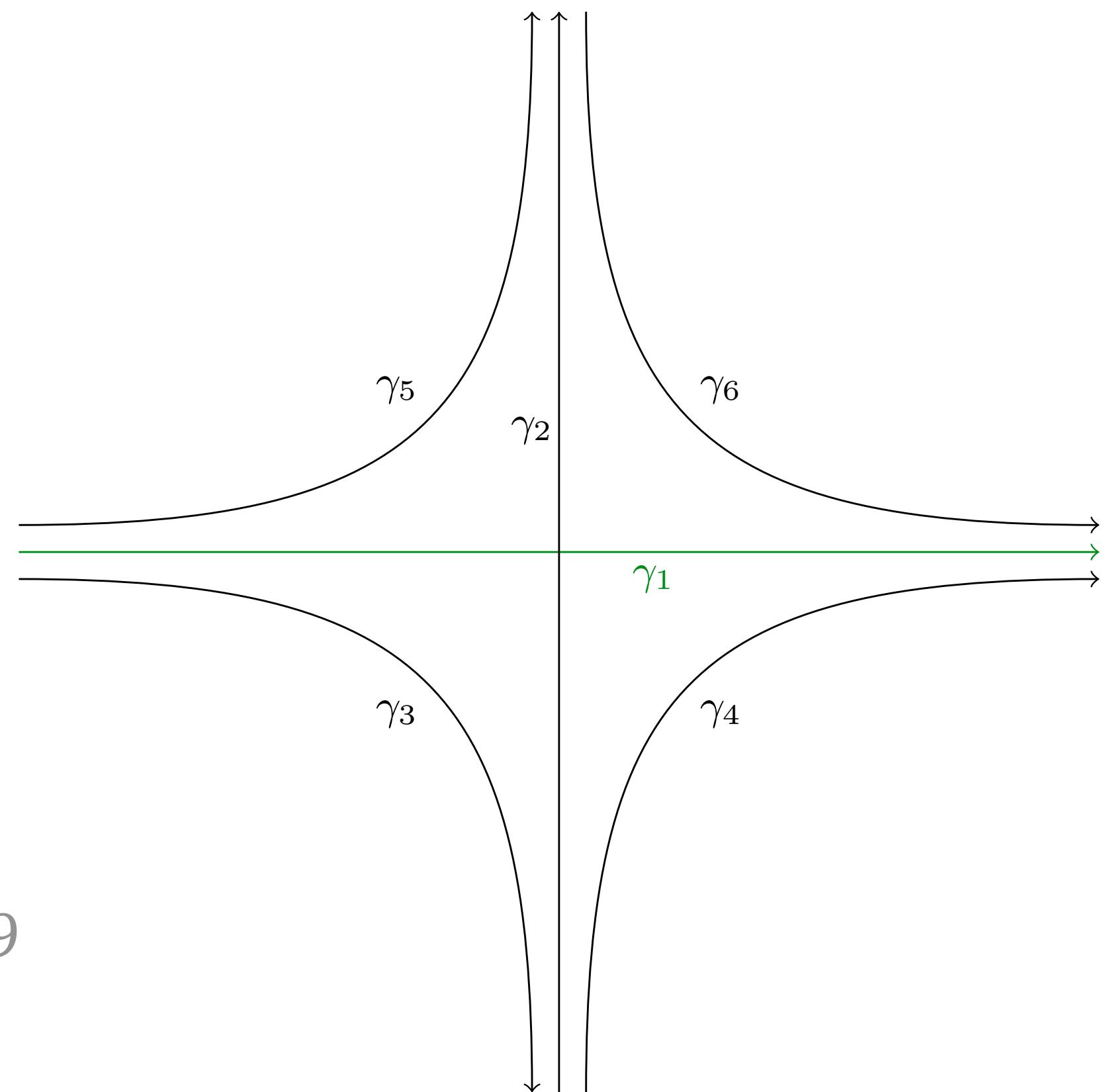
Integration cycles

Witten '11

- Integration paths connecting **zeros** of $\rho(z)$.
- Example: $\rho(z) = e^{-\frac{z^4}{4}}$.
- Three independent cycles, γ_1 is the **relevant** one.
- Vanishing boundary terms only imply that result is **linear combination** of integration cycles:

$$\langle \mathcal{O} \rangle_{\text{CL}} = \sum_{i=1}^3 a_i \langle \mathcal{O} \rangle_{\gamma_i}$$

Salcedo, Seiler '19



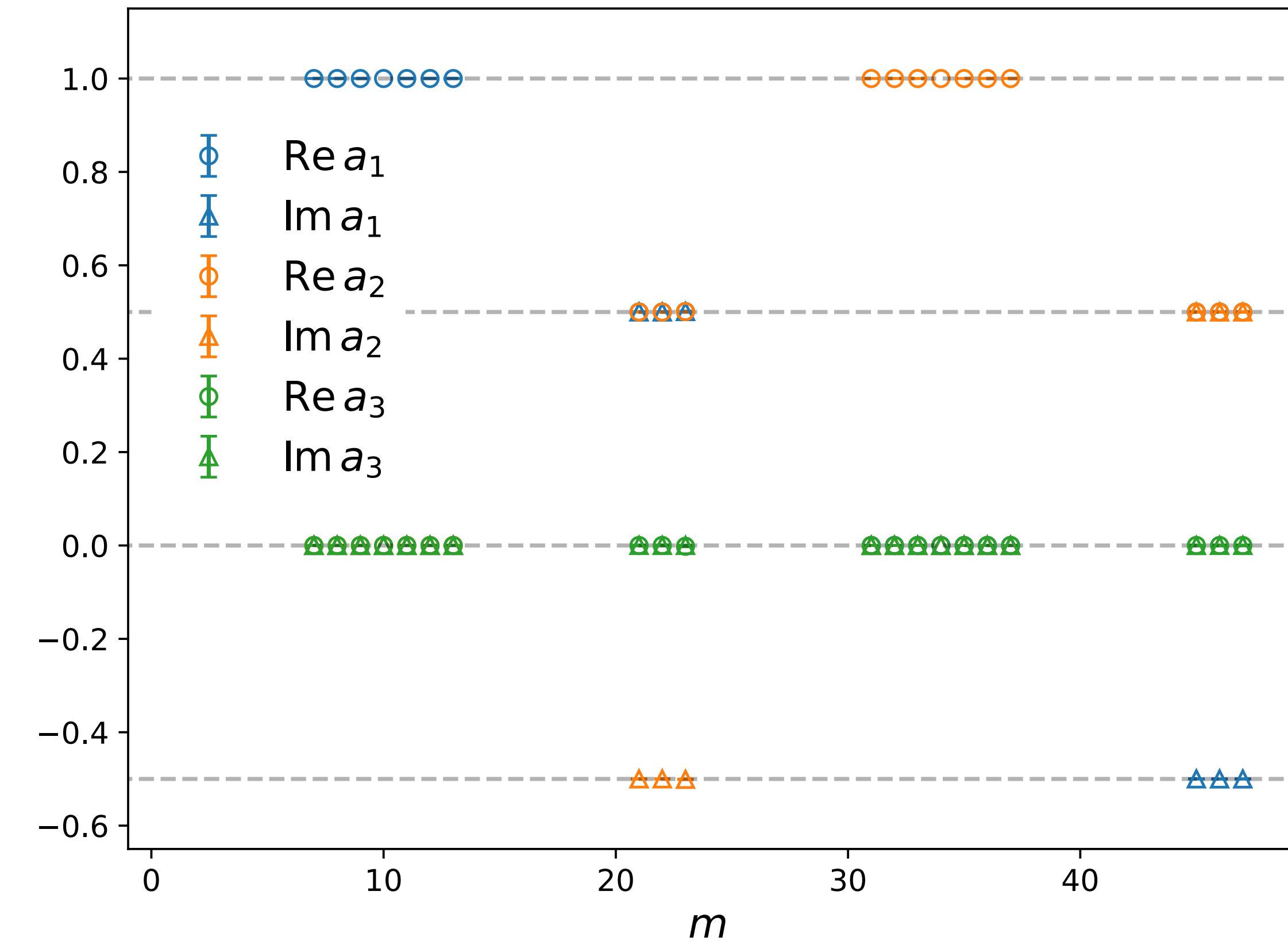
Kernel and integration cycles

Kernel and integration cycles

$$\langle \mathcal{O} \rangle_{\text{CL}} = \sum_{i=1}^3 a_i \langle \mathcal{O} \rangle_{\gamma_i}$$

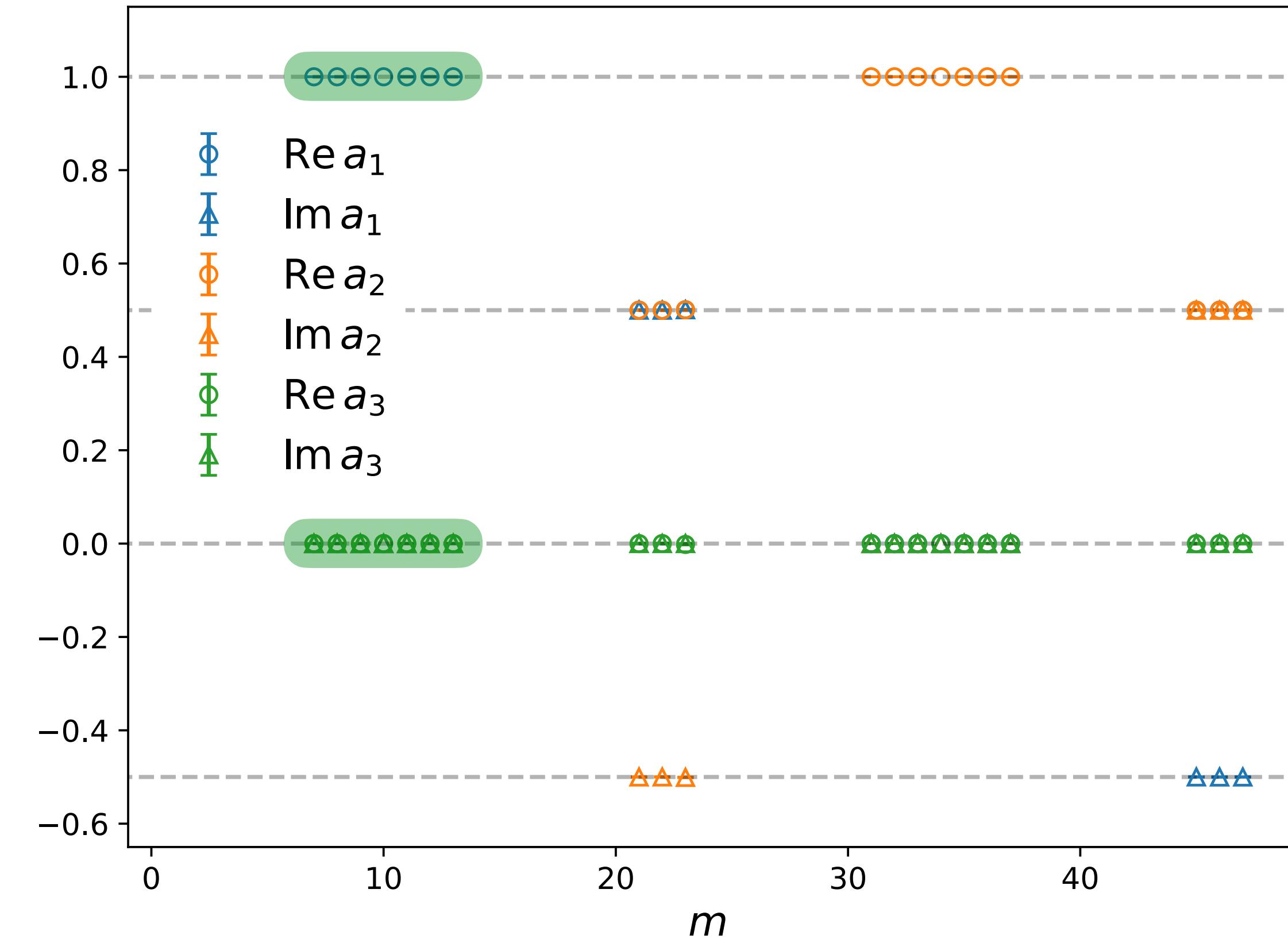
Kernel and integration cycles

$$\langle \mathcal{O} \rangle_{\text{CL}} = \sum_{i=1}^3 a_i \langle \mathcal{O} \rangle_{\gamma_i}$$



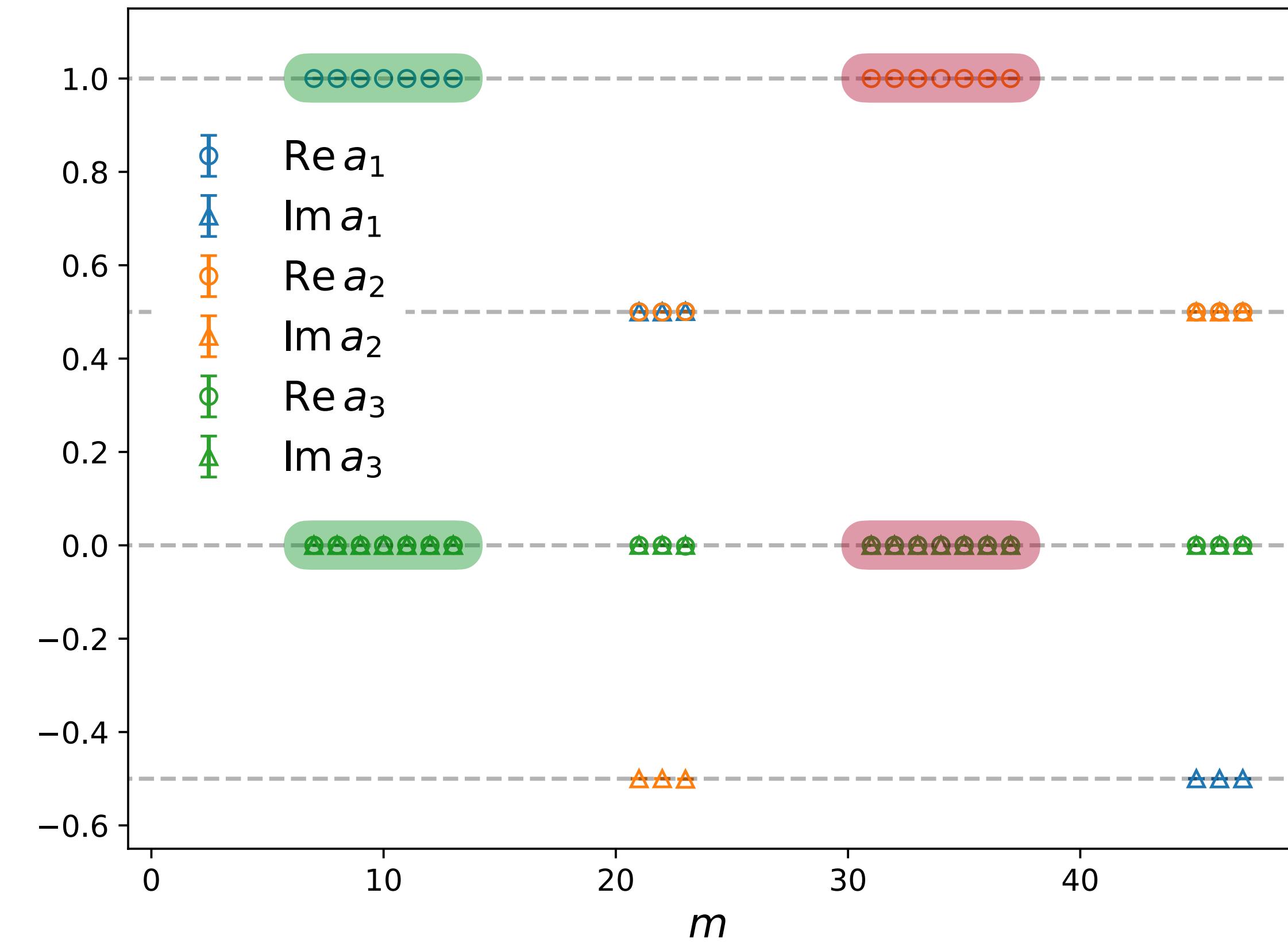
Kernel and integration cycles

$$\langle \mathcal{O} \rangle_{\text{CL}} = \sum_{i=1}^3 a_i \langle \mathcal{O} \rangle_{\gamma_i}$$



Kernel and integration cycles

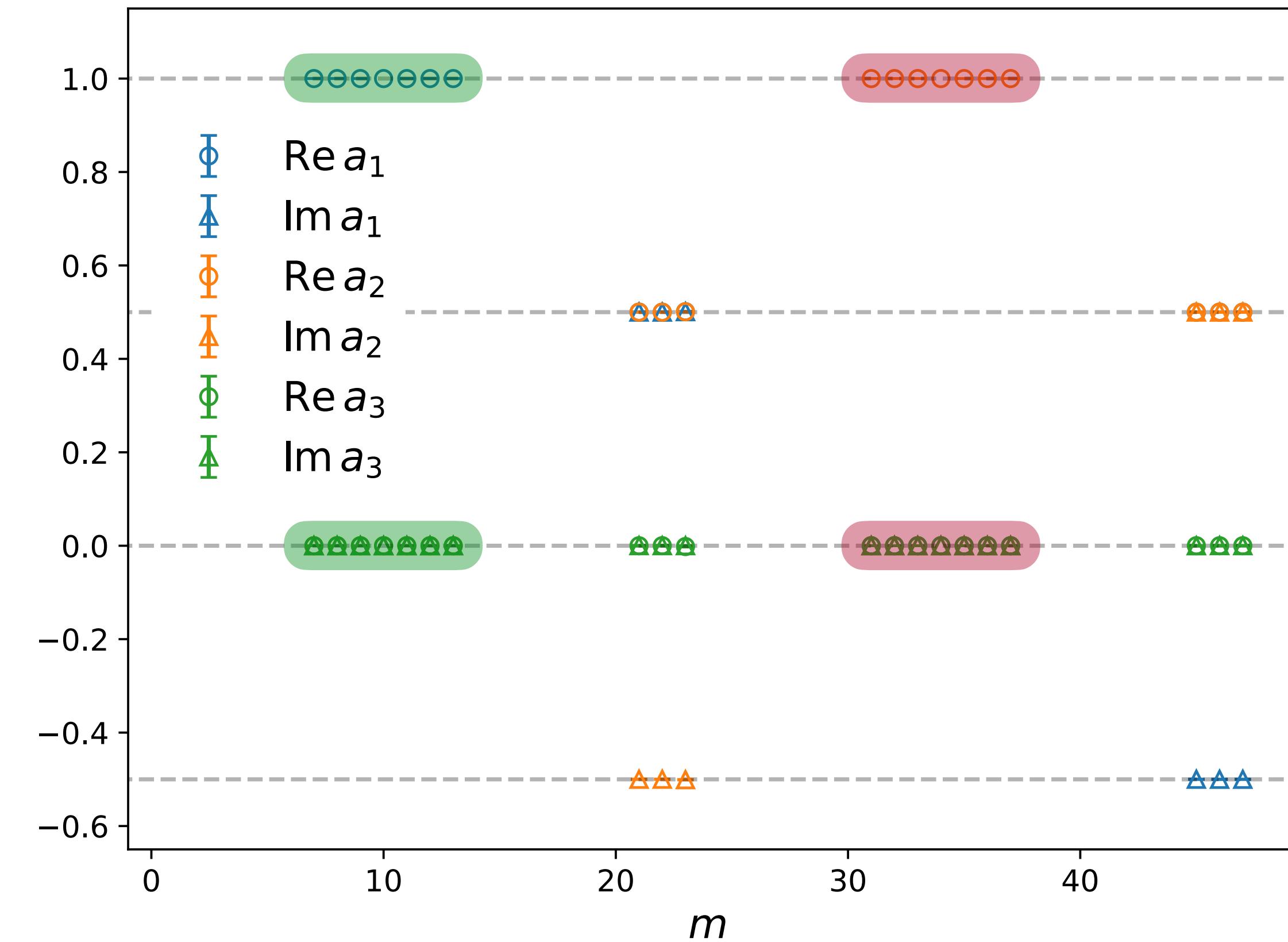
$$\langle \mathcal{O} \rangle_{\text{CL}} = \sum_{i=1}^3 a_i \langle \mathcal{O} \rangle_{\gamma_i}$$



Kernel and integration cycles

$$\langle \mathcal{O} \rangle_{\text{CL}} = \sum_{i=1}^3 a_i \langle \mathcal{O} \rangle_{\gamma_i}$$

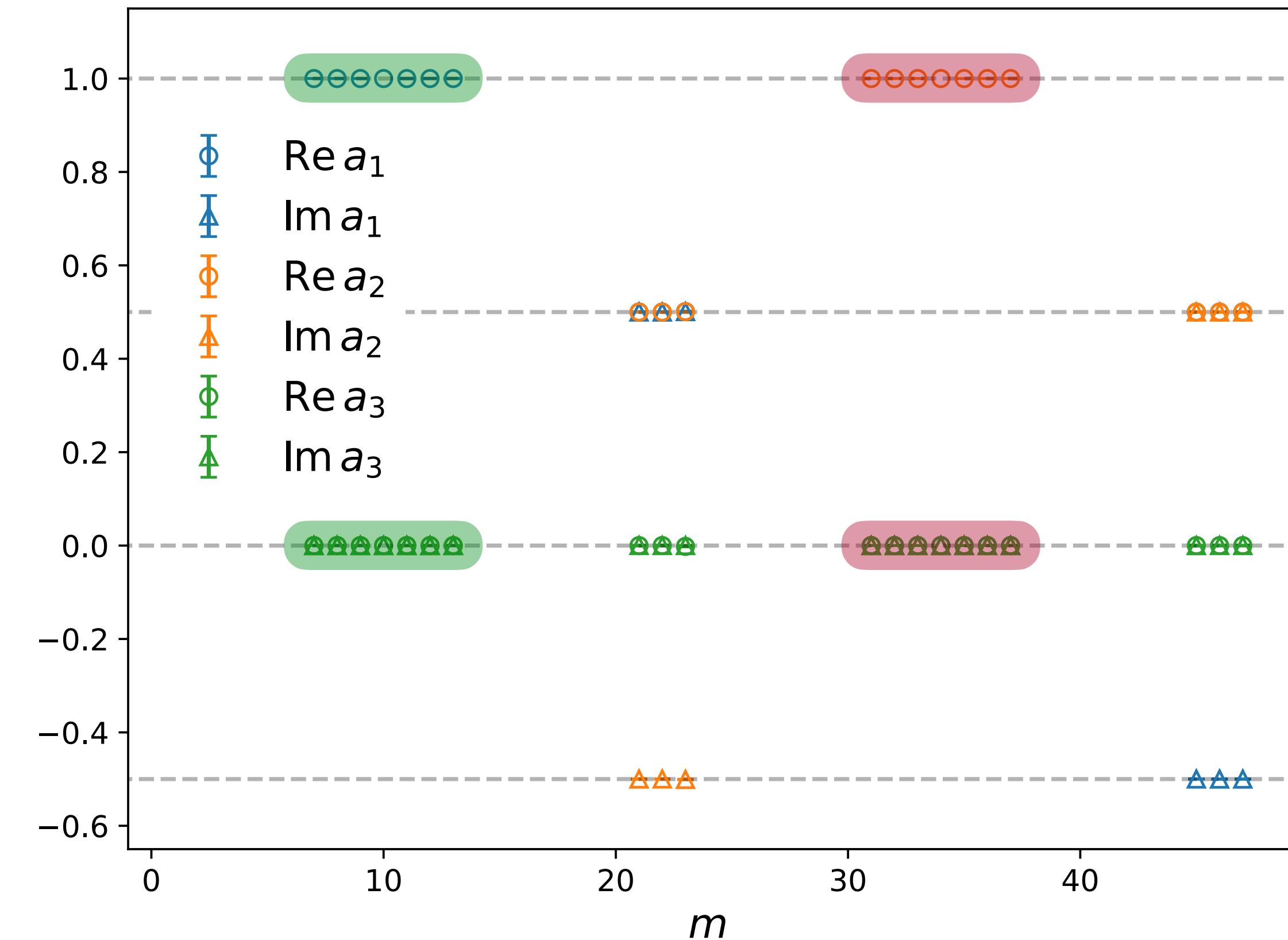
- Kernel can favor certain cycles.
Salcedo '93



Kernel and integration cycles

$$\langle \mathcal{O} \rangle_{\text{CL}} = \sum_{i=1}^3 a_i \langle \mathcal{O} \rangle_{\gamma_i}$$

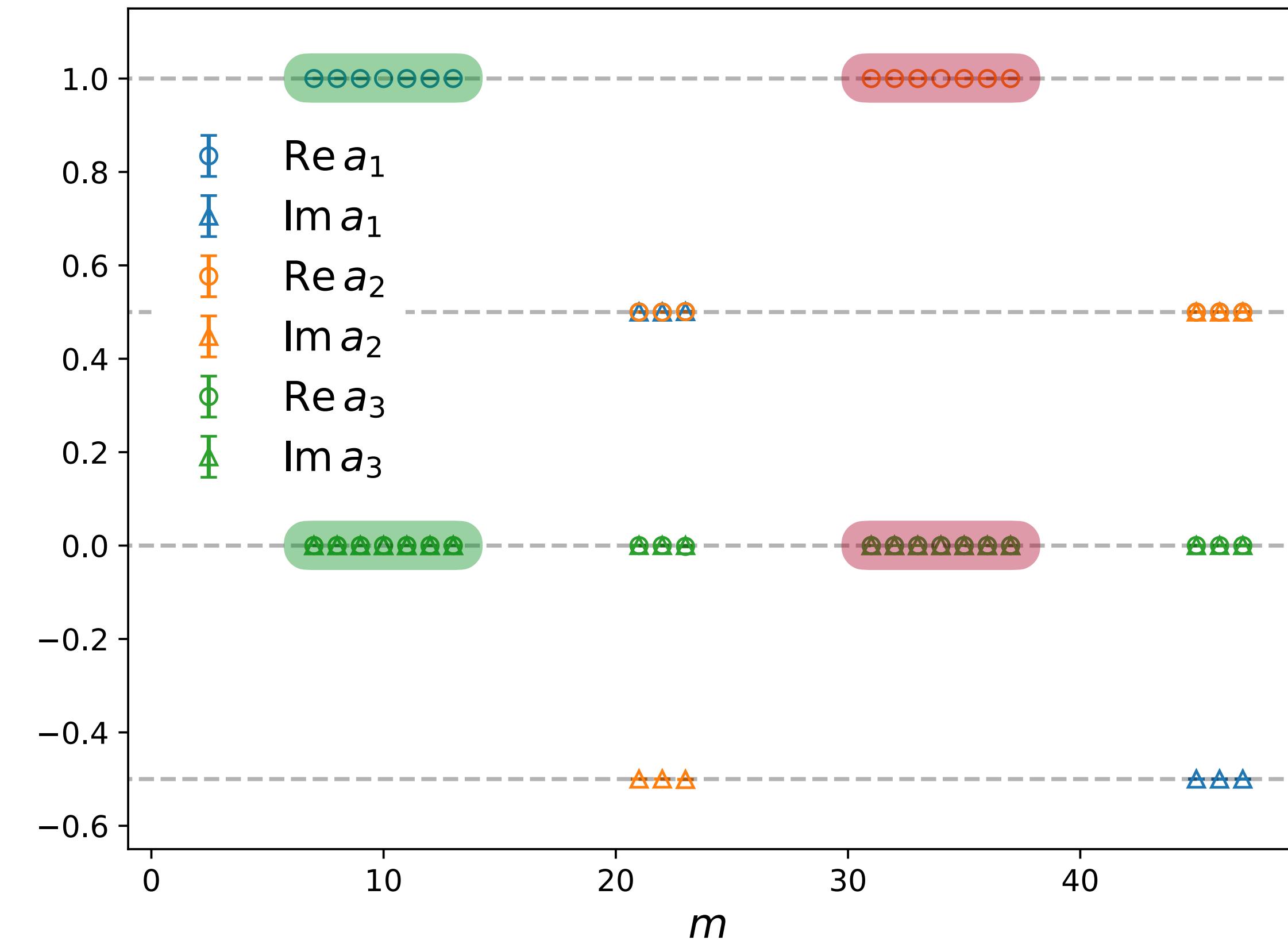
- Kernel can favor certain cycles.
Salcedo '93
- Fits are unreliable in the presence of boundary terms.



Kernel and integration cycles

$$\langle \mathcal{O} \rangle_{\text{CL}} = \sum_{i=1}^3 a_i \langle \mathcal{O} \rangle_{\gamma_i}$$

- Kernel can favor certain cycles.
Salcedo '93
- Fits are unreliable in the presence of boundary terms.
- Only proven for a single degree of freedom.



Higher dimensions

Higher dimensions

$$z_i \rightarrow z_i - \varepsilon K \frac{\partial S(z_1, z_2)}{\partial z_i} + \sqrt{\varepsilon K} \eta_i$$

Higher dimensions

$$z_i \rightarrow z_i - \varepsilon K \frac{\partial S(z_1, z_2)}{\partial z_i} + \sqrt{\varepsilon K} \eta_i$$

- Consider $S(z_1, z_2) = \frac{\lambda}{4}(z_1^2 + z_2^2)^2$.

Higher dimensions

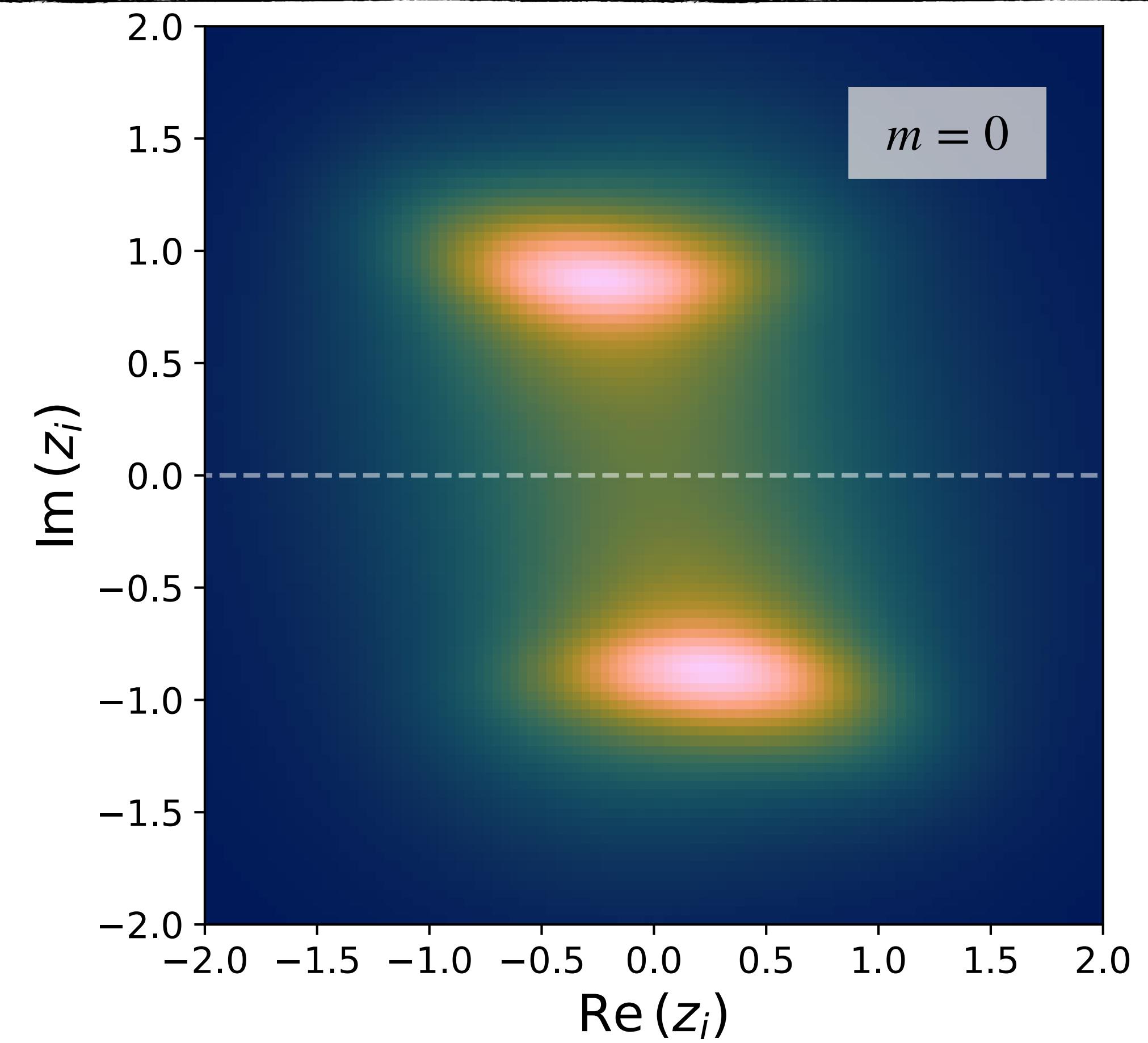
$$z_i \rightarrow z_i - \varepsilon \textcolor{orange}{K} \frac{\partial S(z_1, z_2)}{\partial z_i} + \sqrt{\varepsilon \textcolor{orange}{K}} \eta_i$$

- Consider $S(z_1, z_2) = \frac{\lambda}{4}(z_1^2 + z_2^2)^2$.
- Example: $\lambda = e^{\frac{5i\pi}{6}}$, $\textcolor{orange}{K} = e^{-\frac{i\pi m}{24}}$.

Higher dimensions

$$z_i \rightarrow z_i - \varepsilon K \frac{\partial S(z_1, z_2)}{\partial z_i} + \sqrt{\varepsilon K} \eta_i$$

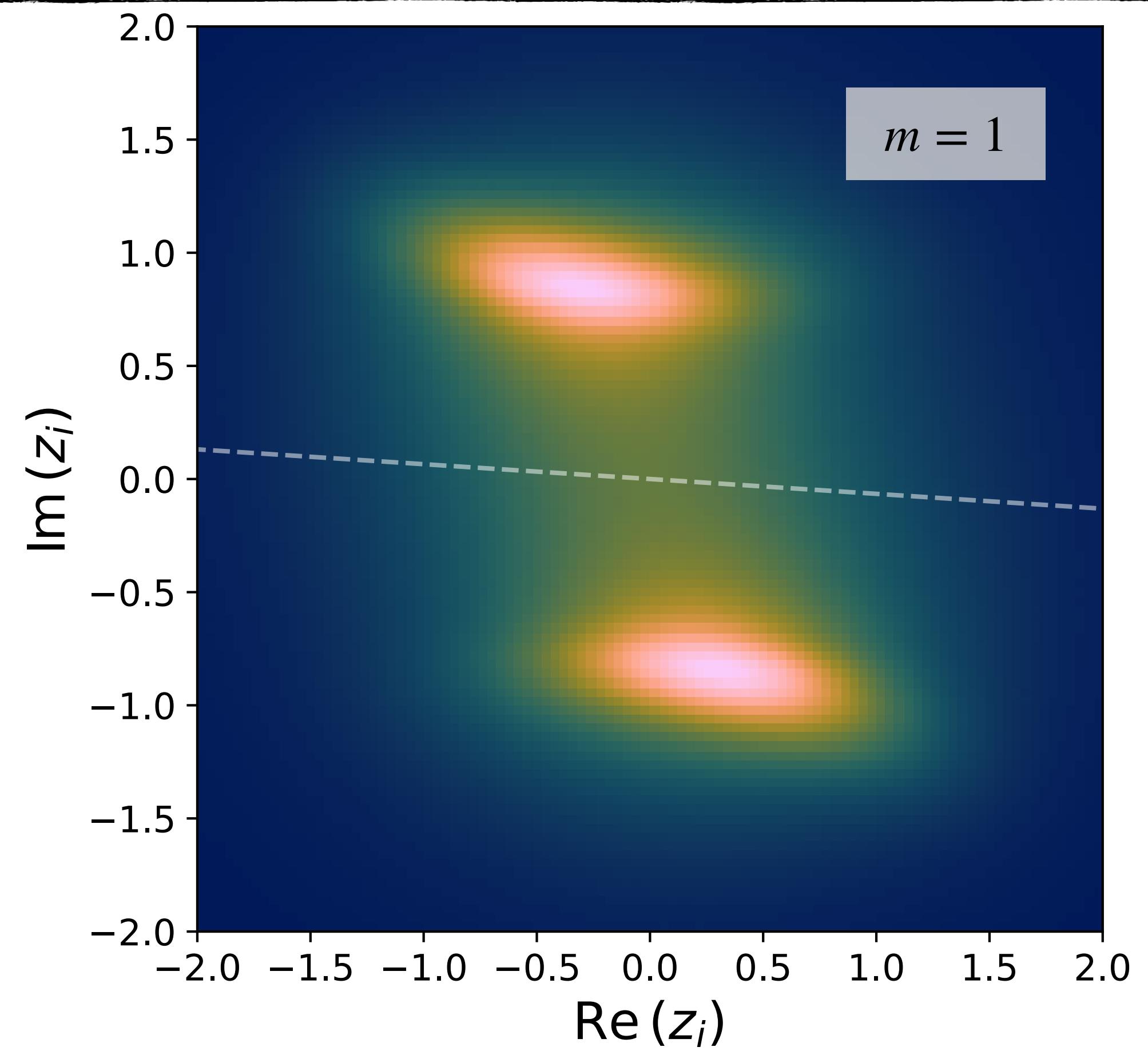
- Consider $S(z_1, z_2) = \frac{\lambda}{4}(z_1^2 + z_2^2)^2$.
- Example: $\lambda = e^{\frac{5i\pi}{6}}$, $K = e^{-\frac{i\pi m}{24}}$.



Higher dimensions

$$z_i \rightarrow z_i - \varepsilon K \frac{\partial S(z_1, z_2)}{\partial z_i} + \sqrt{\varepsilon K} \eta_i$$

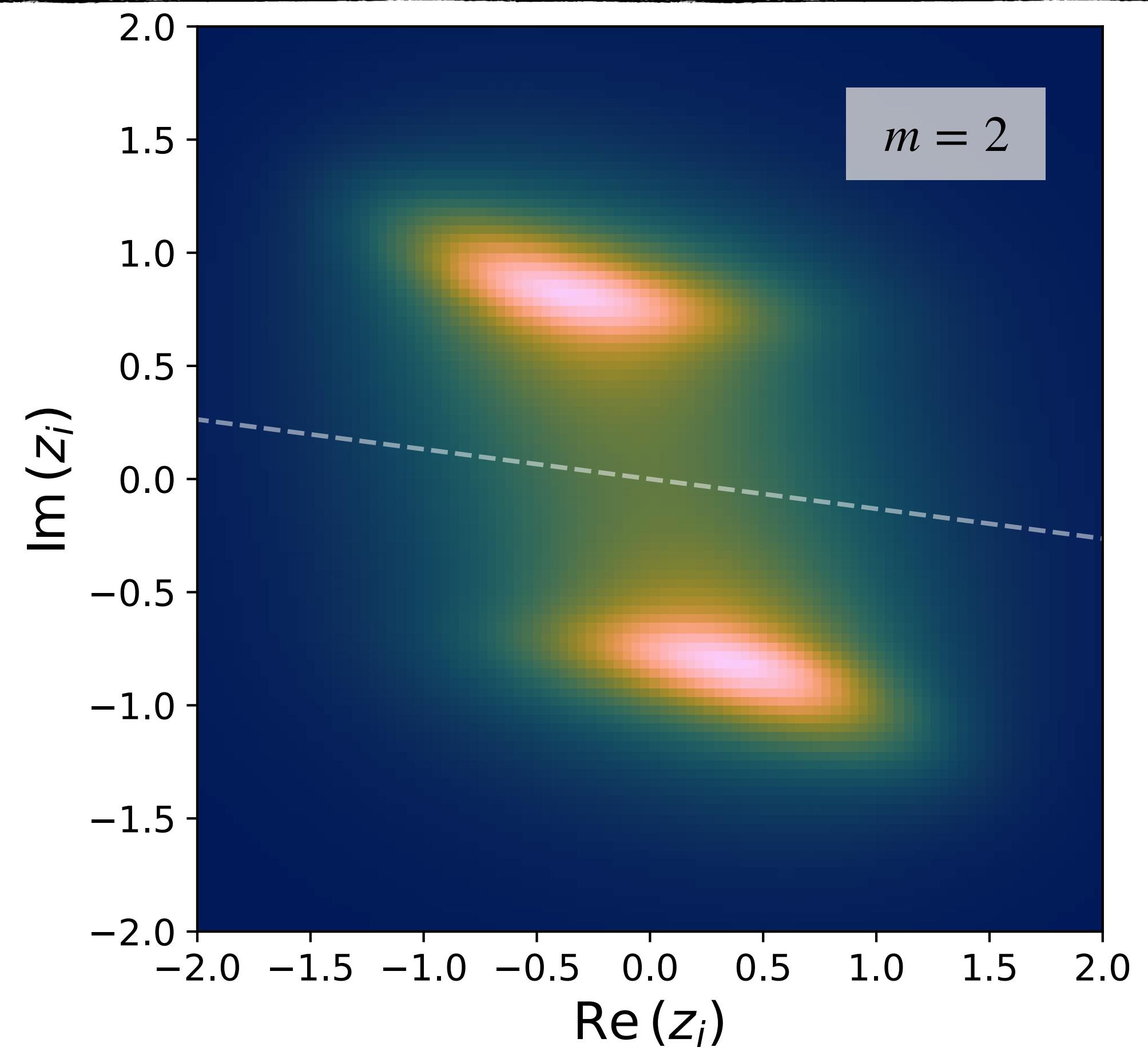
- Consider $S(z_1, z_2) = \frac{\lambda}{4}(z_1^2 + z_2^2)^2$.
- Example: $\lambda = e^{\frac{5i\pi}{6}}$, $K = e^{-\frac{i\pi m}{24}}$.



Higher dimensions

$$z_i \rightarrow z_i - \varepsilon K \frac{\partial S(z_1, z_2)}{\partial z_i} + \sqrt{\varepsilon K} \eta_i$$

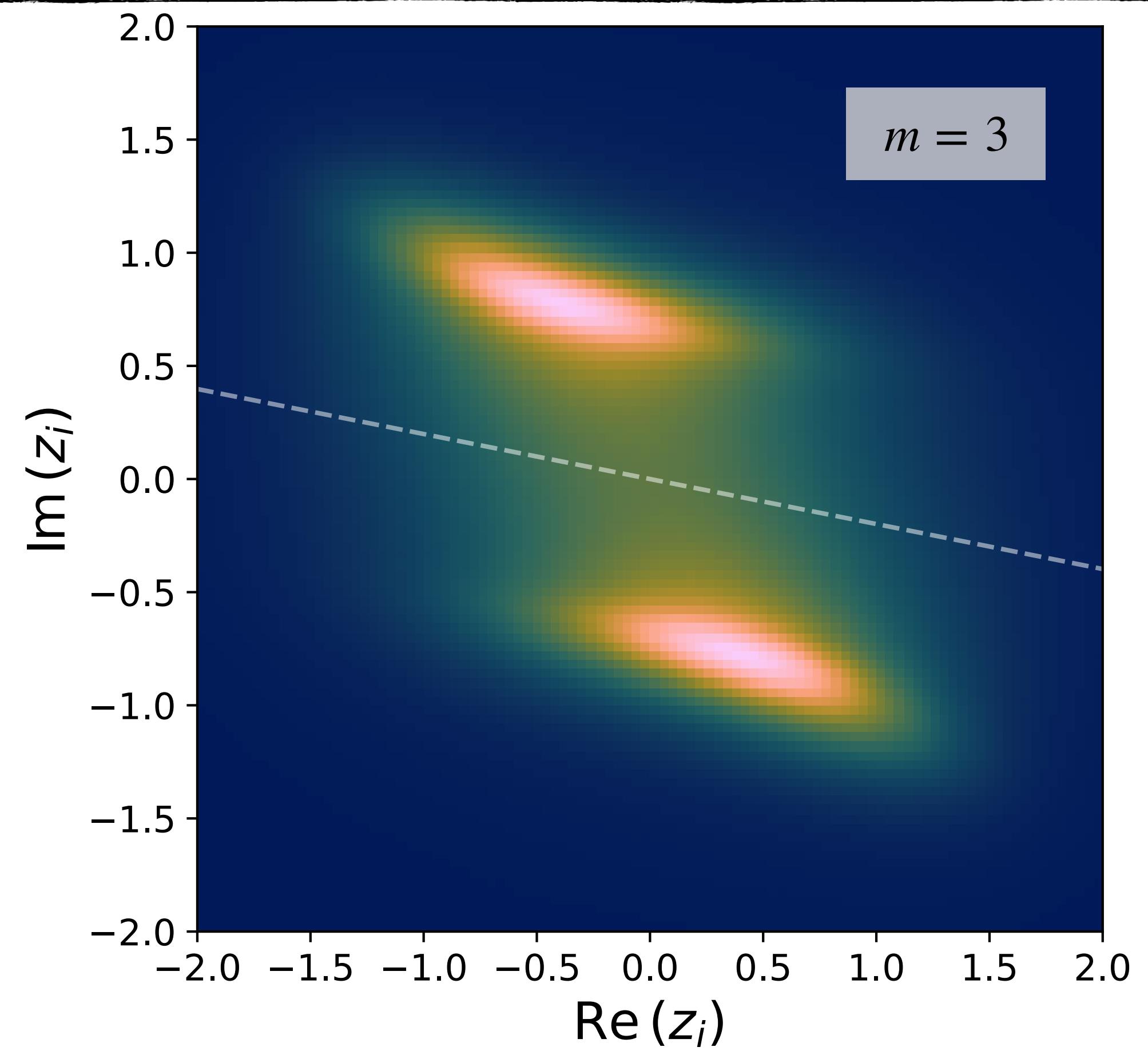
- Consider $S(z_1, z_2) = \frac{\lambda}{4}(z_1^2 + z_2^2)^2$.
- Example: $\lambda = e^{\frac{5i\pi}{6}}$, $K = e^{-\frac{i\pi m}{24}}$.



Higher dimensions

$$z_i \rightarrow z_i - \varepsilon K \frac{\partial S(z_1, z_2)}{\partial z_i} + \sqrt{\varepsilon K} \eta_i$$

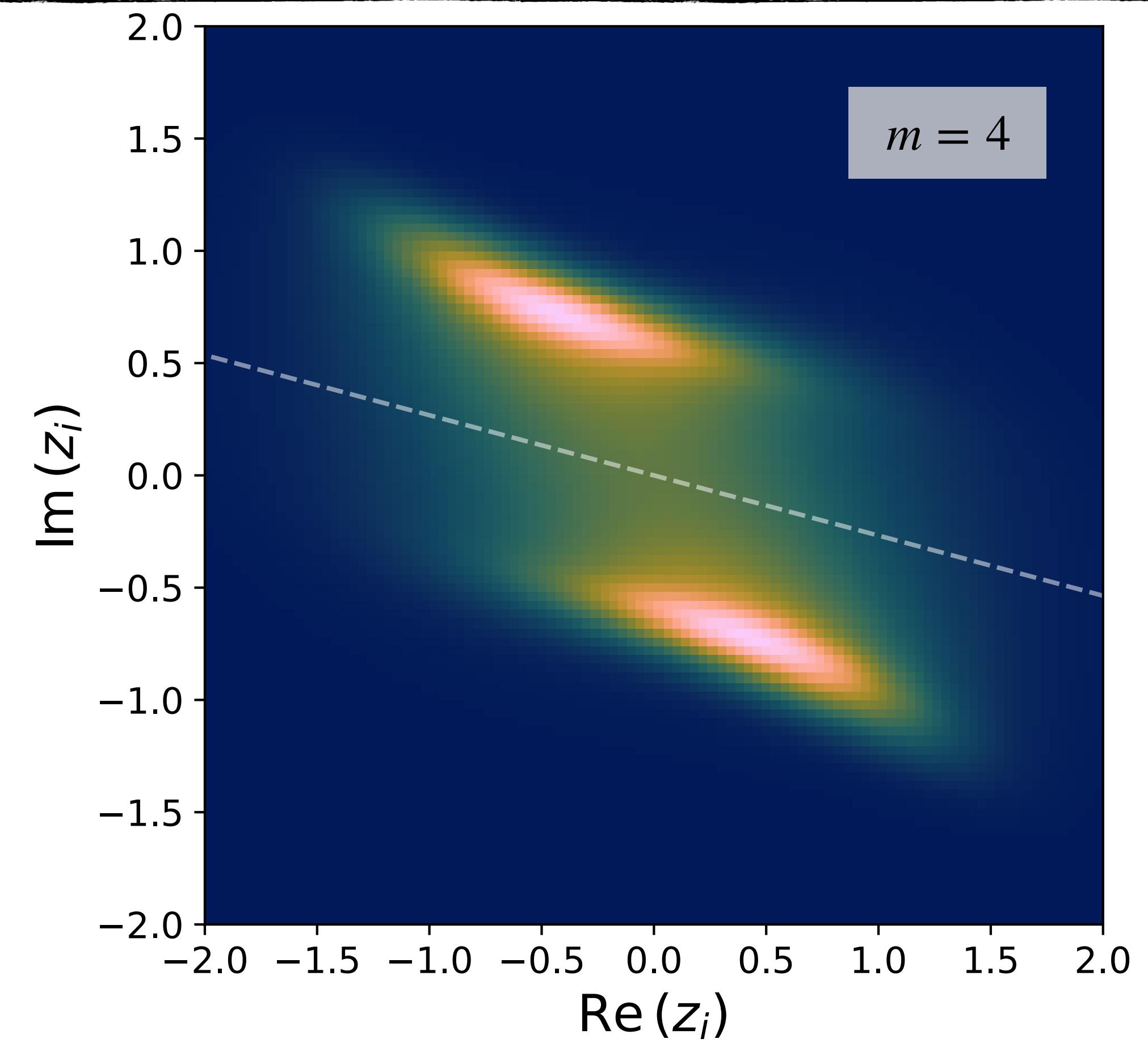
- Consider $S(z_1, z_2) = \frac{\lambda}{4}(z_1^2 + z_2^2)^2$.
- Example: $\lambda = e^{\frac{5i\pi}{6}}$, $K = e^{-\frac{i\pi m}{24}}$.



Higher dimensions

$$z_i \rightarrow z_i - \varepsilon K \frac{\partial S(z_1, z_2)}{\partial z_i} + \sqrt{\varepsilon K} \eta_i$$

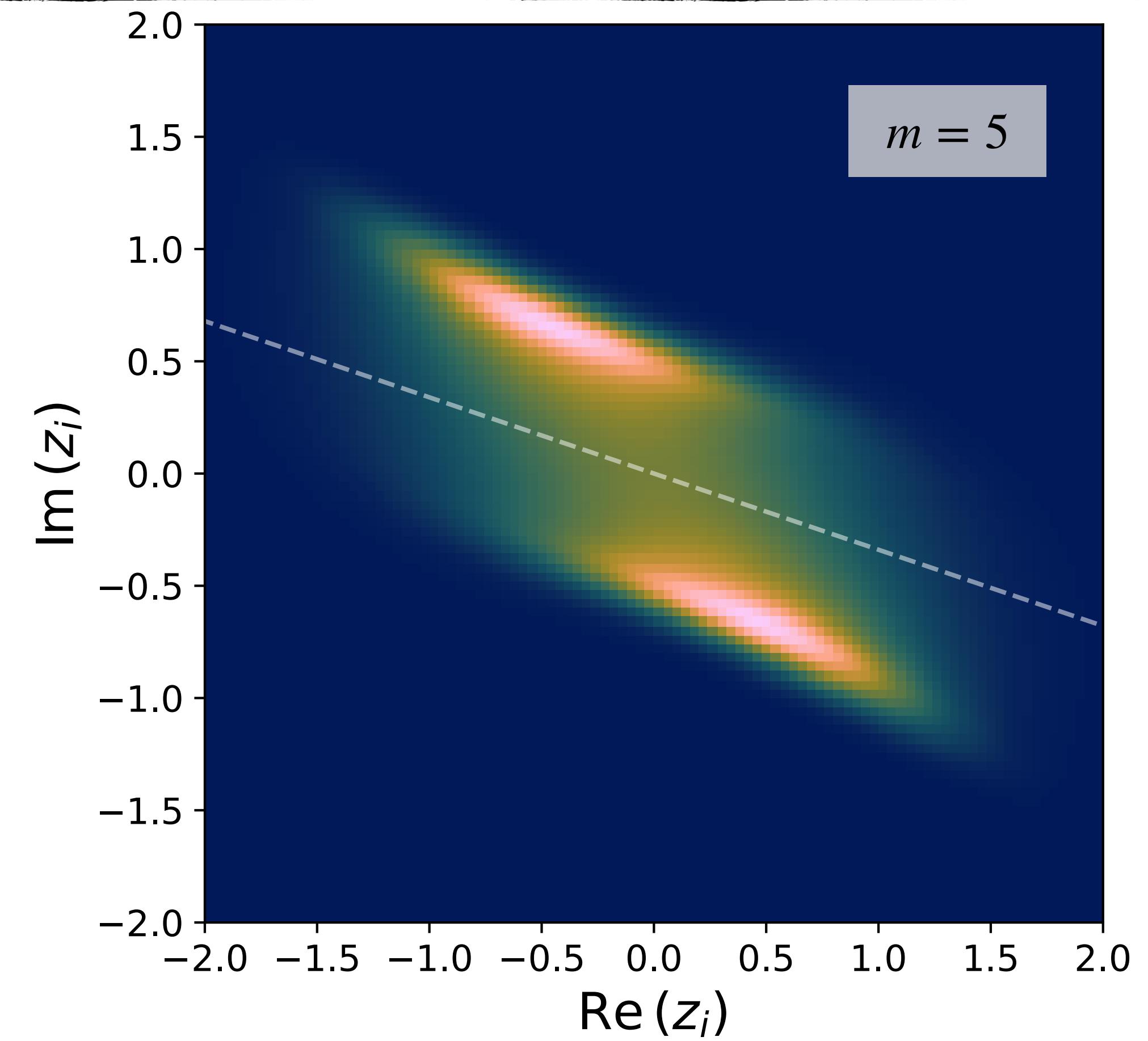
- Consider $S(z_1, z_2) = \frac{\lambda}{4}(z_1^2 + z_2^2)^2$.
- Example: $\lambda = e^{\frac{5i\pi}{6}}$, $K = e^{-\frac{i\pi m}{24}}$.



Higher dimensions

$$z_i \rightarrow z_i - \varepsilon K \frac{\partial S(z_1, z_2)}{\partial z_i} + \sqrt{\varepsilon K} \eta_i$$

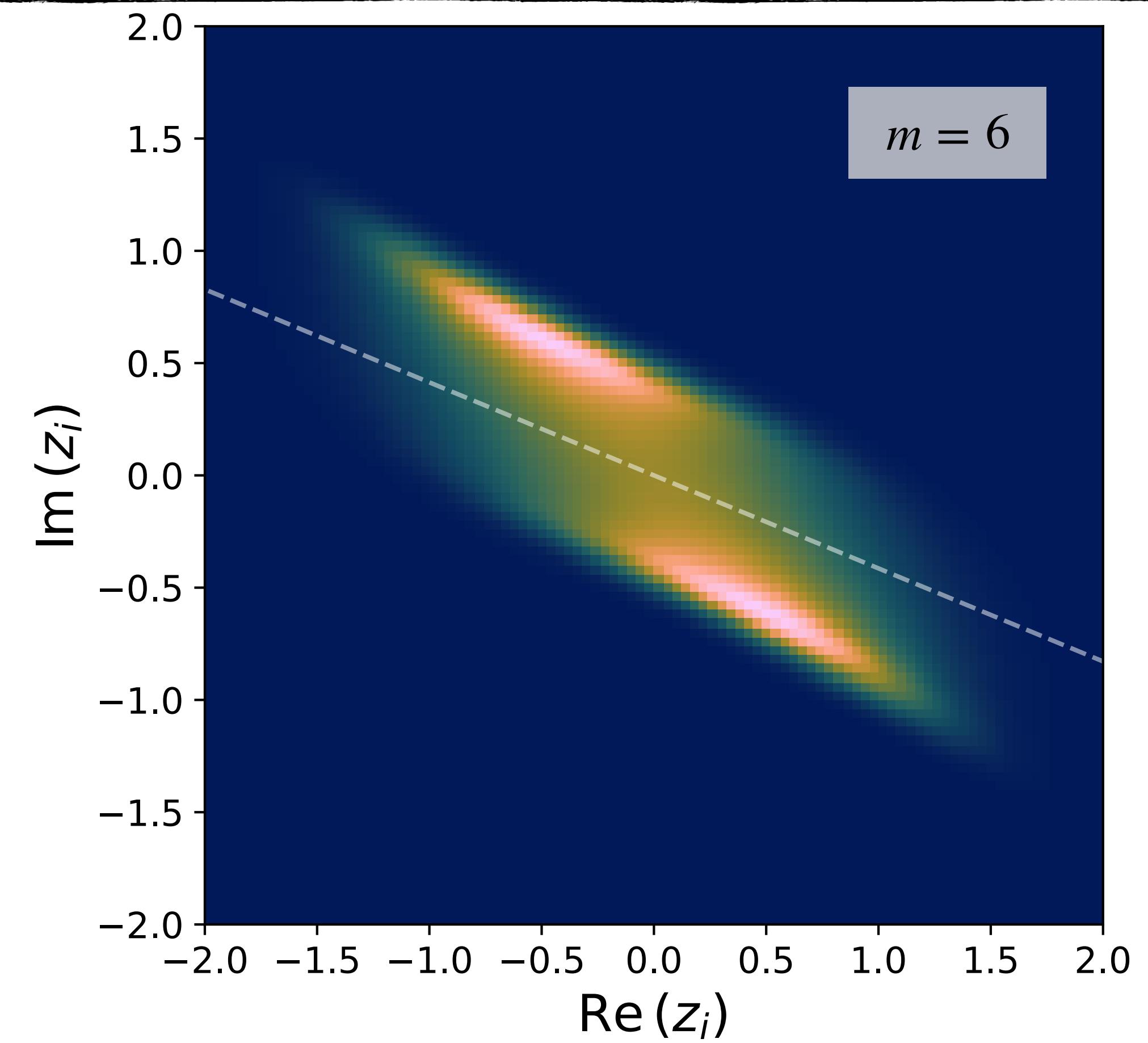
- Consider $S(z_1, z_2) = \frac{\lambda}{4}(z_1^2 + z_2^2)^2$.
- Example: $\lambda = e^{\frac{5i\pi}{6}}$, $K = e^{-\frac{i\pi m}{24}}$.



Higher dimensions

$$z_i \rightarrow z_i - \varepsilon K \frac{\partial S(z_1, z_2)}{\partial z_i} + \sqrt{\varepsilon K} \eta_i$$

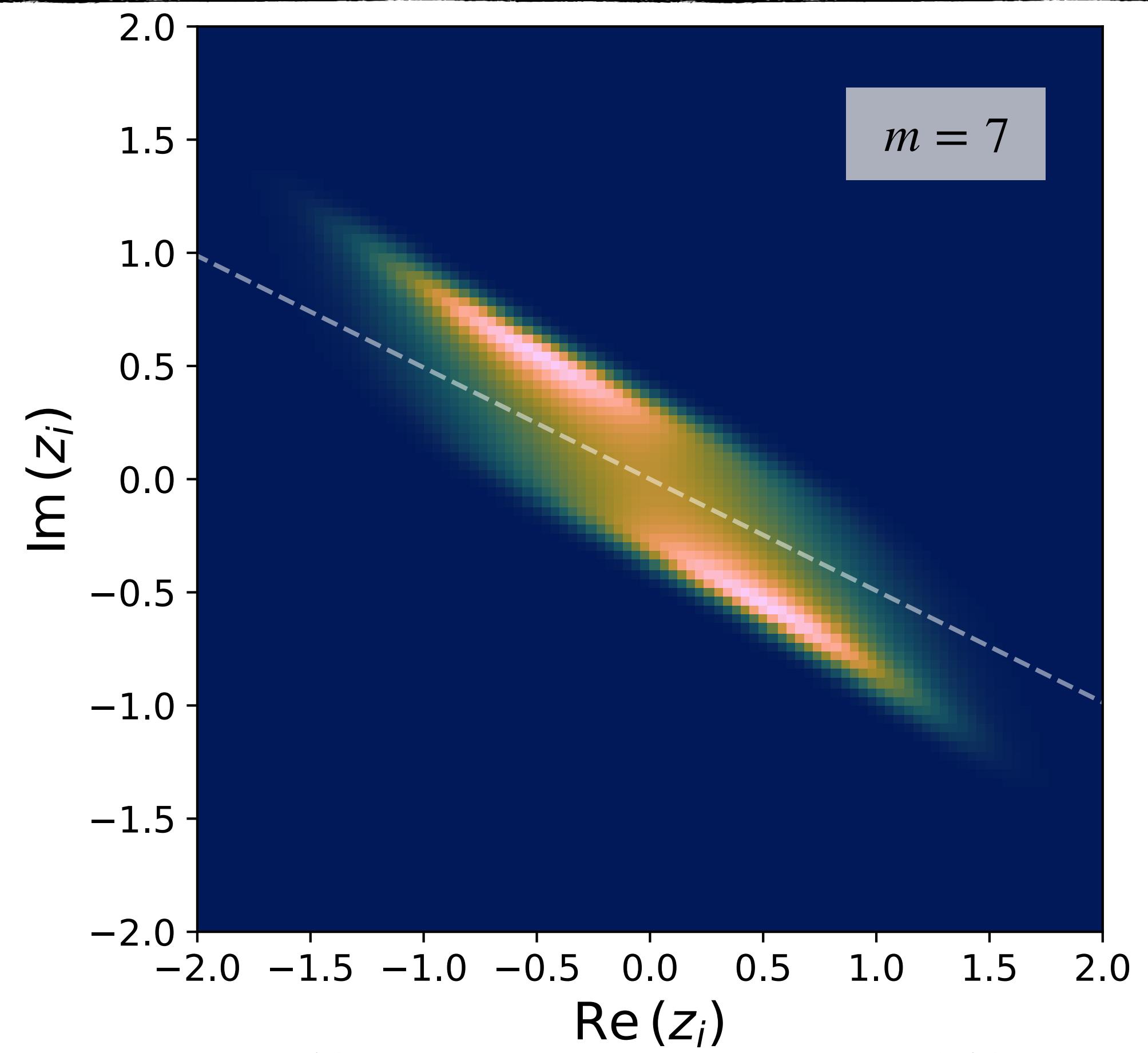
- Consider $S(z_1, z_2) = \frac{\lambda}{4}(z_1^2 + z_2^2)^2$.
- Example: $\lambda = e^{\frac{5i\pi}{6}}$, $K = e^{-\frac{i\pi m}{24}}$.



Higher dimensions

$$z_i \rightarrow z_i - \varepsilon K \frac{\partial S(z_1, z_2)}{\partial z_i} + \sqrt{\varepsilon K} \eta_i$$

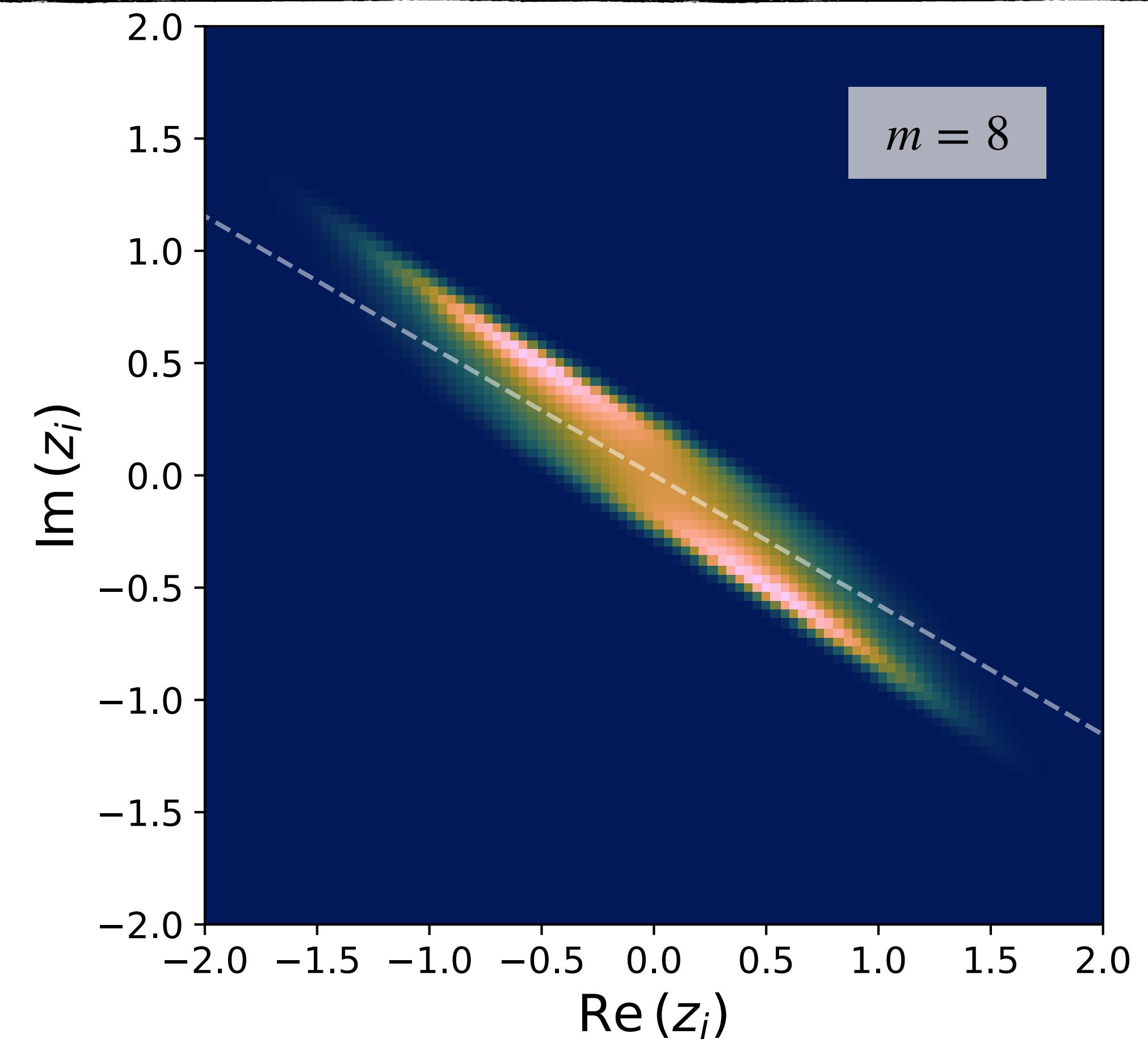
- Consider $S(z_1, z_2) = \frac{\lambda}{4}(z_1^2 + z_2^2)^2$.
- Example: $\lambda = e^{\frac{5i\pi}{6}}$, $K = e^{-\frac{i\pi m}{24}}$.



Higher dimensions

$$z_i \rightarrow z_i - \varepsilon K \frac{\partial S(z_1, z_2)}{\partial z_i} + \sqrt{\varepsilon K} \eta_i$$

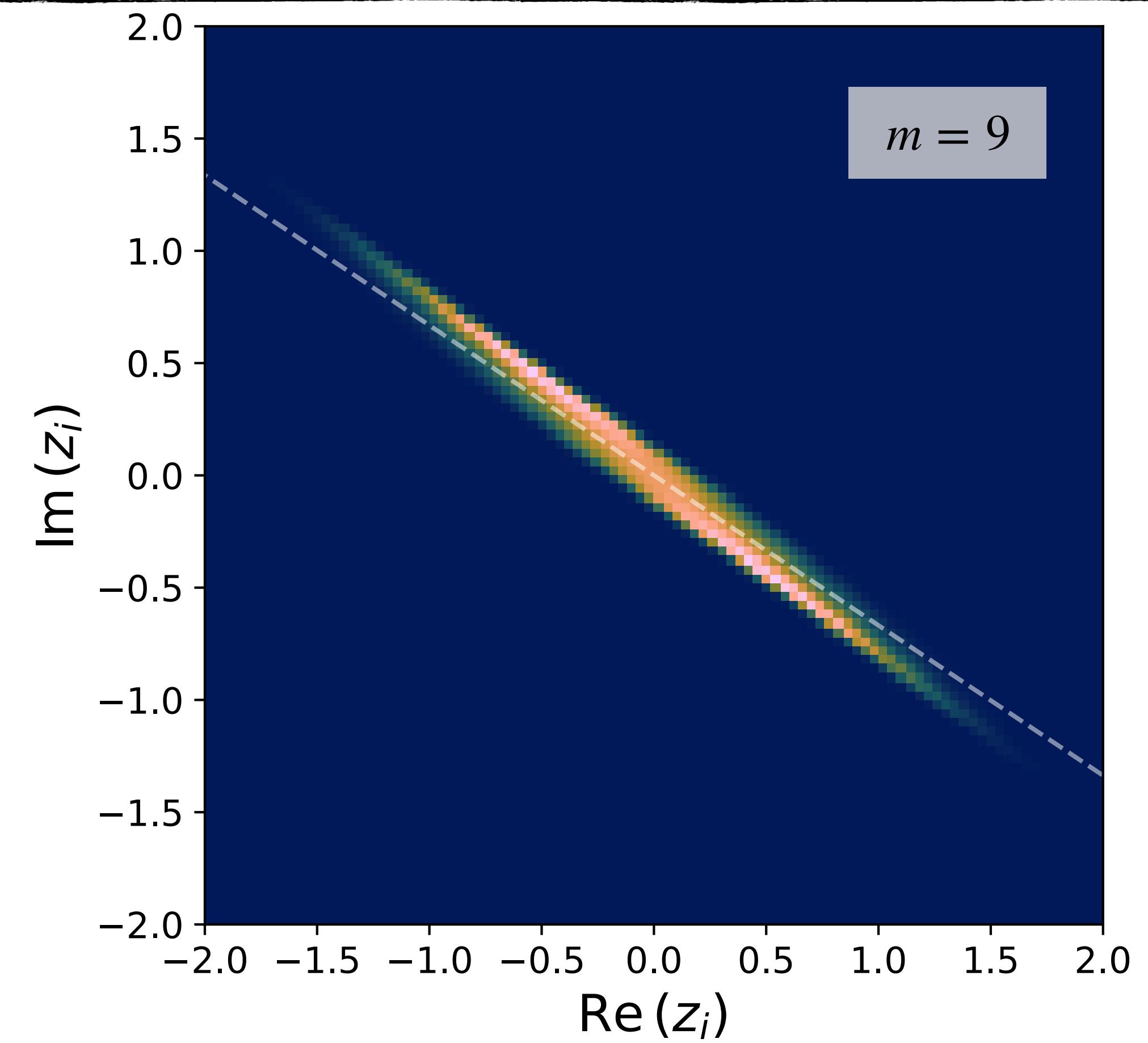
- Consider $S(z_1, z_2) = \frac{\lambda}{4}(z_1^2 + z_2^2)^2$.
- Example: $\lambda = e^{\frac{5i\pi}{6}}$, $K = e^{-\frac{i\pi m}{24}}$.



Higher dimensions

$$z_i \rightarrow z_i - \varepsilon K \frac{\partial S(z_1, z_2)}{\partial z_i} + \sqrt{\varepsilon K} \eta_i$$

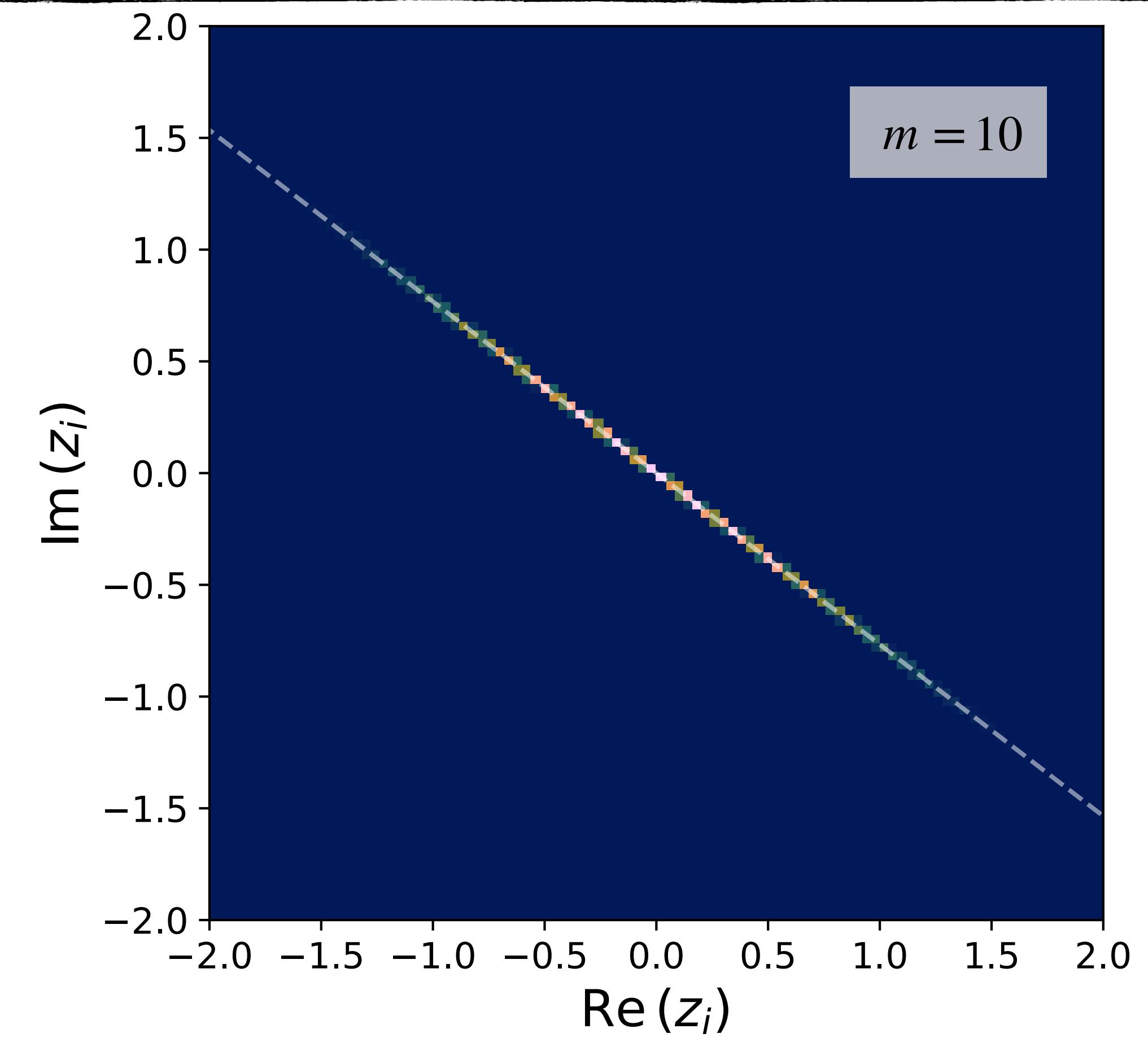
- Consider $S(z_1, z_2) = \frac{\lambda}{4}(z_1^2 + z_2^2)^2$.
- Example: $\lambda = e^{\frac{5i\pi}{6}}$, $K = e^{-\frac{i\pi m}{24}}$.



Higher dimensions

$$z_i \rightarrow z_i - \varepsilon K \frac{\partial S(z_1, z_2)}{\partial z_i} + \sqrt{\varepsilon K} \eta_i$$

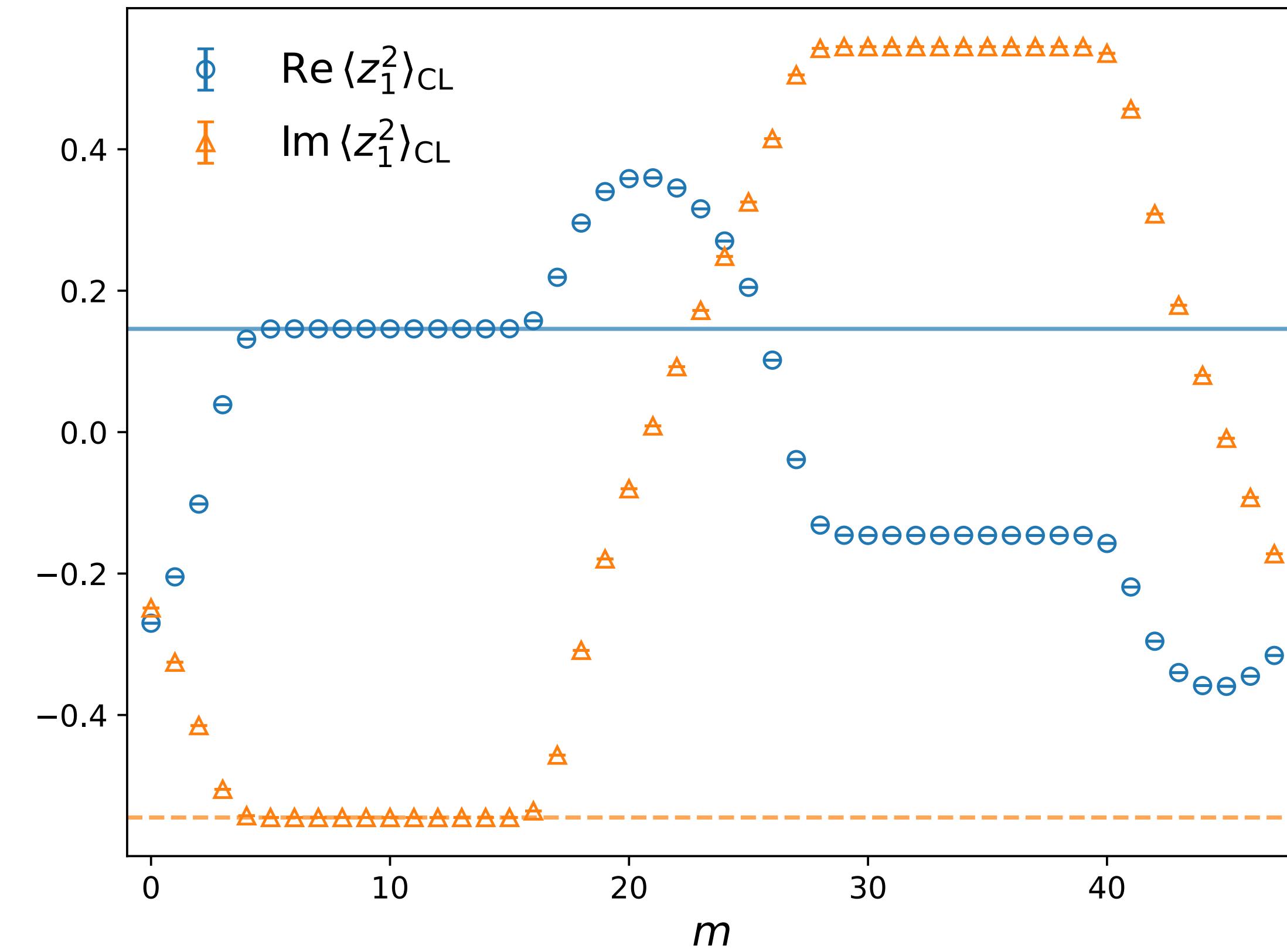
- Consider $S(z_1, z_2) = \frac{\lambda}{4}(z_1^2 + z_2^2)^2$.
- Example: $\lambda = e^{\frac{5i\pi}{6}}$, $K = e^{-\frac{i\pi m}{24}}$.



Higher dimensions

$$z_i \rightarrow z_i - \varepsilon K \frac{\partial S(z_1, z_2)}{\partial z_i} + \sqrt{\varepsilon K} \eta_i$$

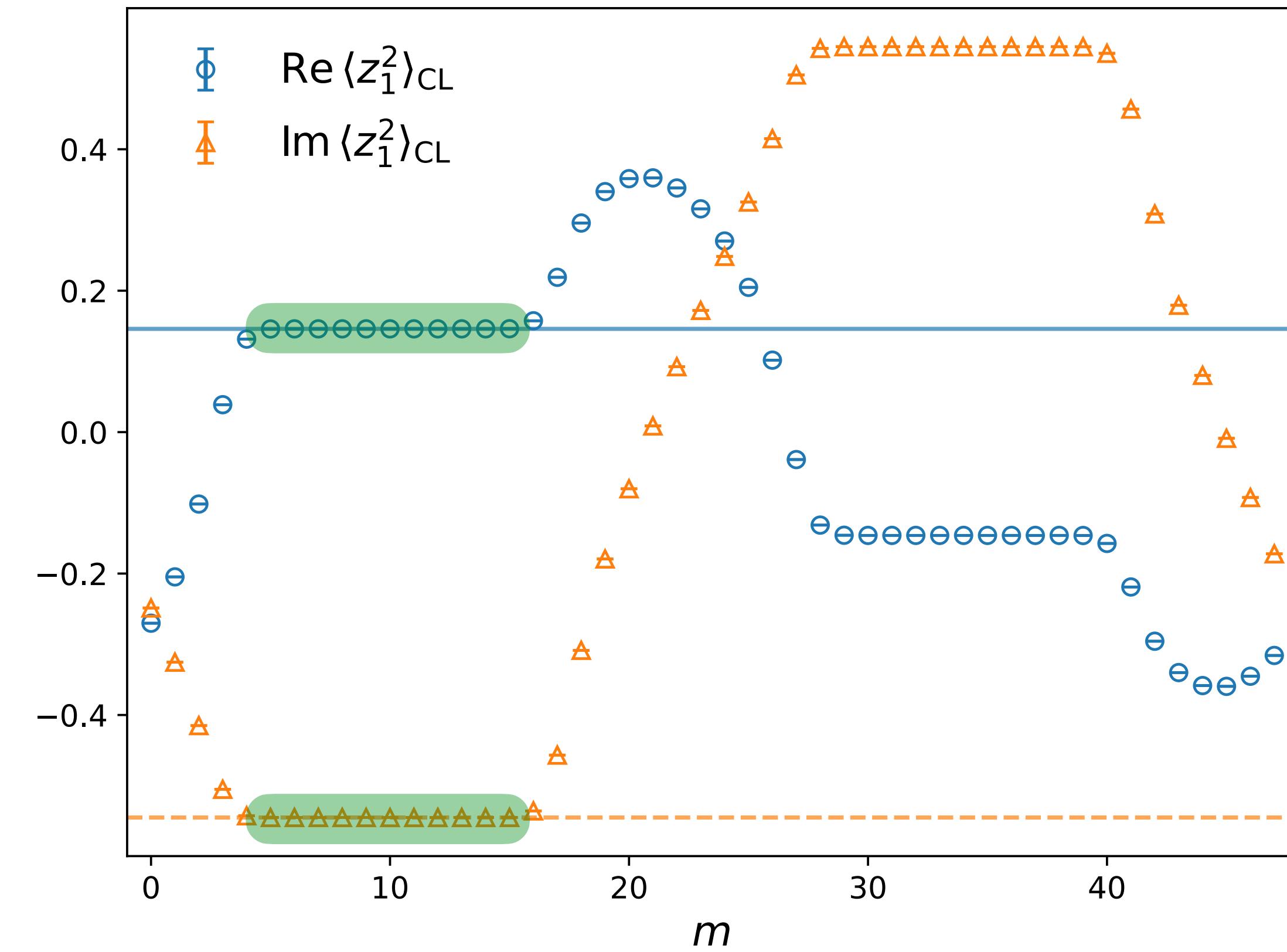
- Consider $S(z_1, z_2) = \frac{\lambda}{4}(z_1^2 + z_2^2)^2$.
- Example: $\lambda = e^{\frac{5i\pi}{6}}$, $K = e^{-\frac{i\pi m}{24}}$.



Higher dimensions

$$z_i \rightarrow z_i - \varepsilon K \frac{\partial S(z_1, z_2)}{\partial z_i} + \sqrt{\varepsilon K} \eta_i$$

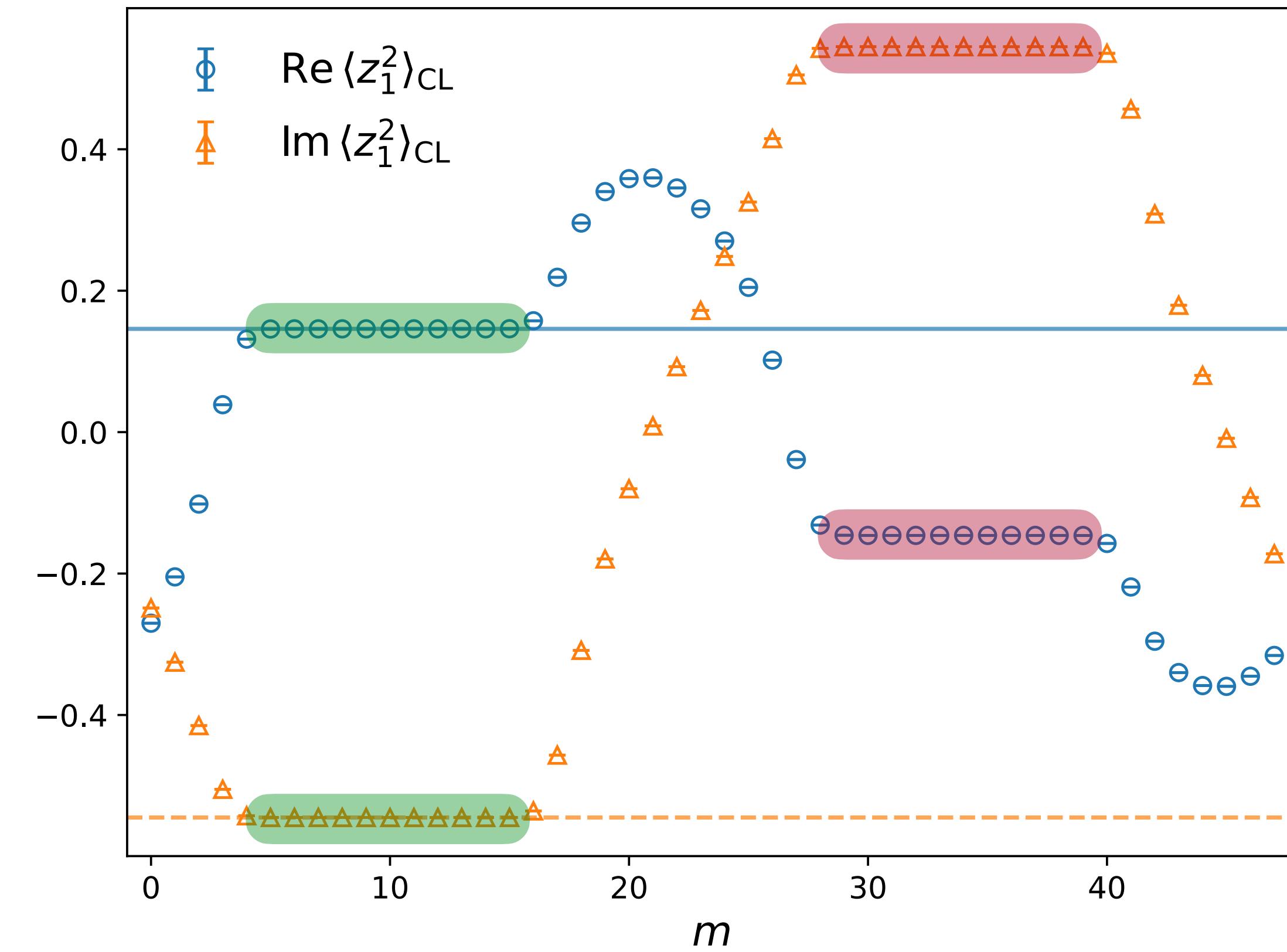
- Consider $S(z_1, z_2) = \frac{\lambda}{4}(z_1^2 + z_2^2)^2$.
- Example: $\lambda = e^{\frac{5i\pi}{6}}$, $K = e^{-\frac{i\pi m}{24}}$.



Higher dimensions

$$z_i \rightarrow z_i - \varepsilon K \frac{\partial S(z_1, z_2)}{\partial z_i} + \sqrt{\varepsilon K} \eta_i$$

- Consider $S(z_1, z_2) = \frac{\lambda}{4}(z_1^2 + z_2^2)^2$.
- Example: $\lambda = e^{\frac{5i\pi}{6}}$, $K = e^{-\frac{i\pi m}{24}}$.



Integration cycles in higher dimensions

Integration cycles in higher dimensions

- $S(z_1, z_2) = \frac{\lambda}{4}(z_1^2 + z_2^2)^2$.

Integration cycles in higher dimensions

- $S(z_1, z_2) = \frac{\lambda}{4}(z_1^2 + z_2^2)^2$.
- $e^{-S(z_1, z_2)}$ has 8 zeros but there are only 2 independent integration cycles.

Integration cycles in higher dimensions

- $S(z_1, z_2) = \frac{\lambda}{4}(z_1^2 + z_2^2)^2$.
- $e^{-S(z_1, z_2)}$ has 8 zeros but there are only 2 independent integration cycles.
- Check validity of

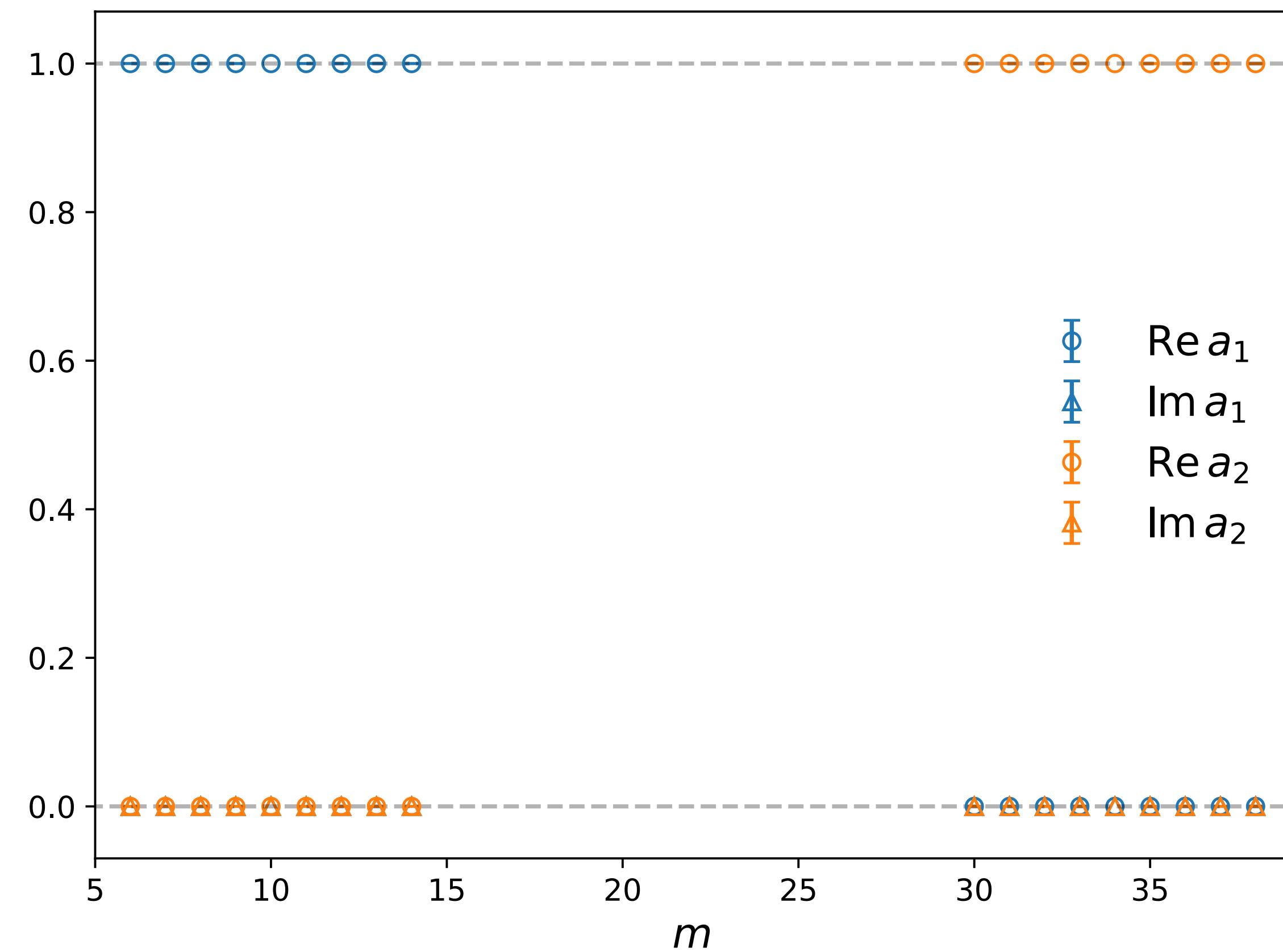
$$\langle \mathcal{O} \rangle_{\text{CL}} \stackrel{?}{=} a_1 \langle \mathcal{O} \rangle_{\gamma_1} + a_2 \langle \mathcal{O} \rangle_{\gamma_2}$$

Integration cycles in higher dimensions

- $S(z_1, z_2) = \frac{\lambda}{4}(z_1^2 + z_2^2)^2$.
 - $e^{-S(z_1, z_2)}$ has 8 zeros but there are only 2 independent integration cycles.
 - Check validity of
- $$\langle \mathcal{O} \rangle_{\text{CL}} \stackrel{?}{=} a_1 \langle \mathcal{O} \rangle_{\gamma_1} + a_2 \langle \mathcal{O} \rangle_{\gamma_2}$$
- Example: $\lambda = e^{\frac{5i\pi}{6}}$, $K = e^{-\frac{i\pi m}{24}}$.

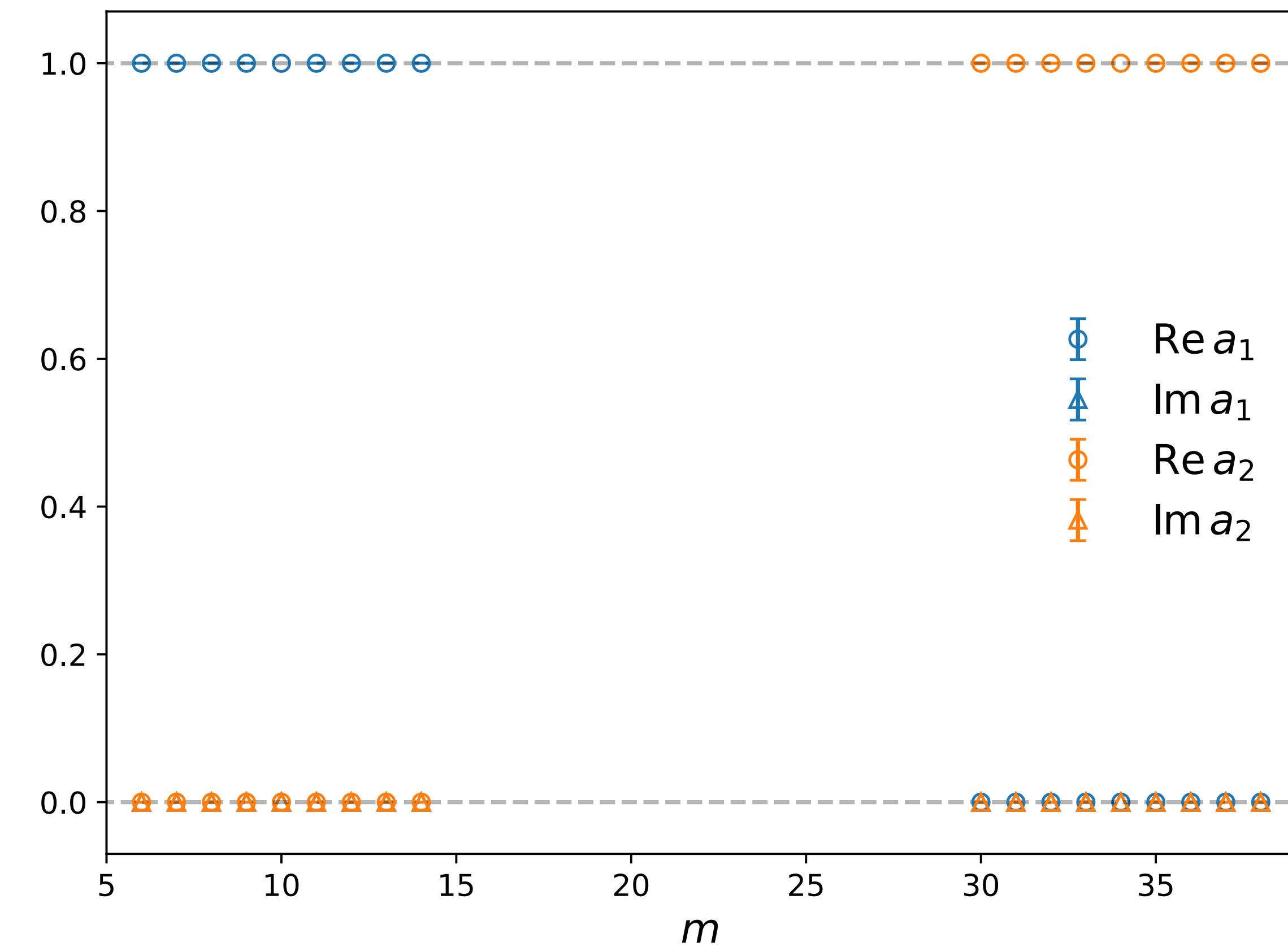
Integration cycles in higher dimensions

- $S(z_1, z_2) = \frac{\lambda}{4}(z_1^2 + z_2^2)^2$.
 - $e^{-S(z_1, z_2)}$ has 8 zeros but there are only 2 independent integration cycles.
 - Check validity of
- $$\langle \mathcal{O} \rangle_{\text{CL}} \stackrel{?}{=} a_1 \langle \mathcal{O} \rangle_{\gamma_1} + a_2 \langle \mathcal{O} \rangle_{\gamma_2}$$
- Example: $\lambda = e^{\frac{5i\pi}{6}}$, $K = e^{-\frac{i\pi m}{24}}$.



Integration cycles in higher dimensions

- $S(z_1, z_2) = \frac{\lambda}{4}(z_1^2 + z_2^2)^2$.
 - $e^{-S(z_1, z_2)}$ has 8 zeros but there are only 2 independent integration cycles.
 - Check validity of
- $\langle \mathcal{O} \rangle_{\text{CL}} \stackrel{?}{=} a_1 \langle \mathcal{O} \rangle_{\gamma_1} + a_2 \langle \mathcal{O} \rangle_{\gamma_2}$
- 
- Example: $\lambda = e^{\frac{5i\pi}{6}}$, $K = e^{-\frac{i\pi m}{24}}$.



Breaking $O(2)$ symmetry

Breaking $O(2)$ symmetry

- Consider more general interactions:

Breaking O(2) symmetry

- Consider more general interactions:

$$S(z_1, z_2) = \frac{\lambda}{4}(z_1^4 + z_2^4 + a z_1^2 z_2^2).$$

Breaking O(2) symmetry

- Consider more general interactions:

$$S(z_1, z_2) = \frac{\lambda}{4}(z_1^4 + z_2^4 + a z_1^2 z_2^2).$$

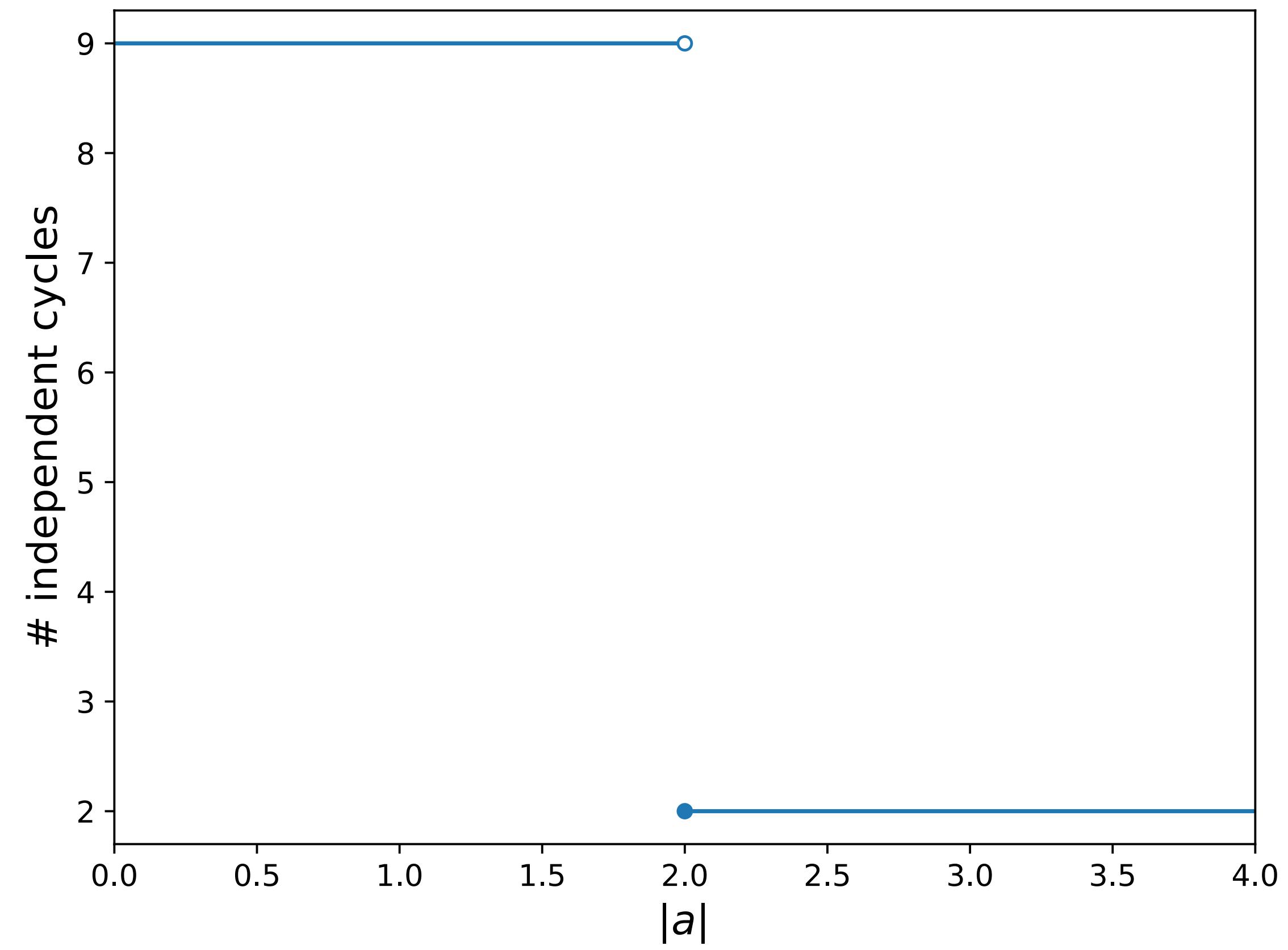
- Number of independent integration cycles depends on a .

Breaking O(2) symmetry

- Consider more general interactions:

$$S(z_1, z_2) = \frac{\lambda}{4}(z_1^4 + z_2^4 + a z_1^2 z_2^2).$$

- Number of independent integration cycles depends on a .



More general kernels

More general kernels

$$z_i \rightarrow z_i - \varepsilon K_i \frac{\partial S(z_1, z_2)}{\partial z_i} + \sqrt{\varepsilon K_i} \eta_i$$

More general kernels

$$z_i \rightarrow z_i - \varepsilon K_i \frac{\partial S(z_1, z_2)}{\partial z_i} + \sqrt{\varepsilon K_i} \eta_i$$

- $S(z_1, z_2) = \frac{\lambda}{4}(z_1^4 + z_2^4 + a z_1^2 z_2^2)$.

More general kernels

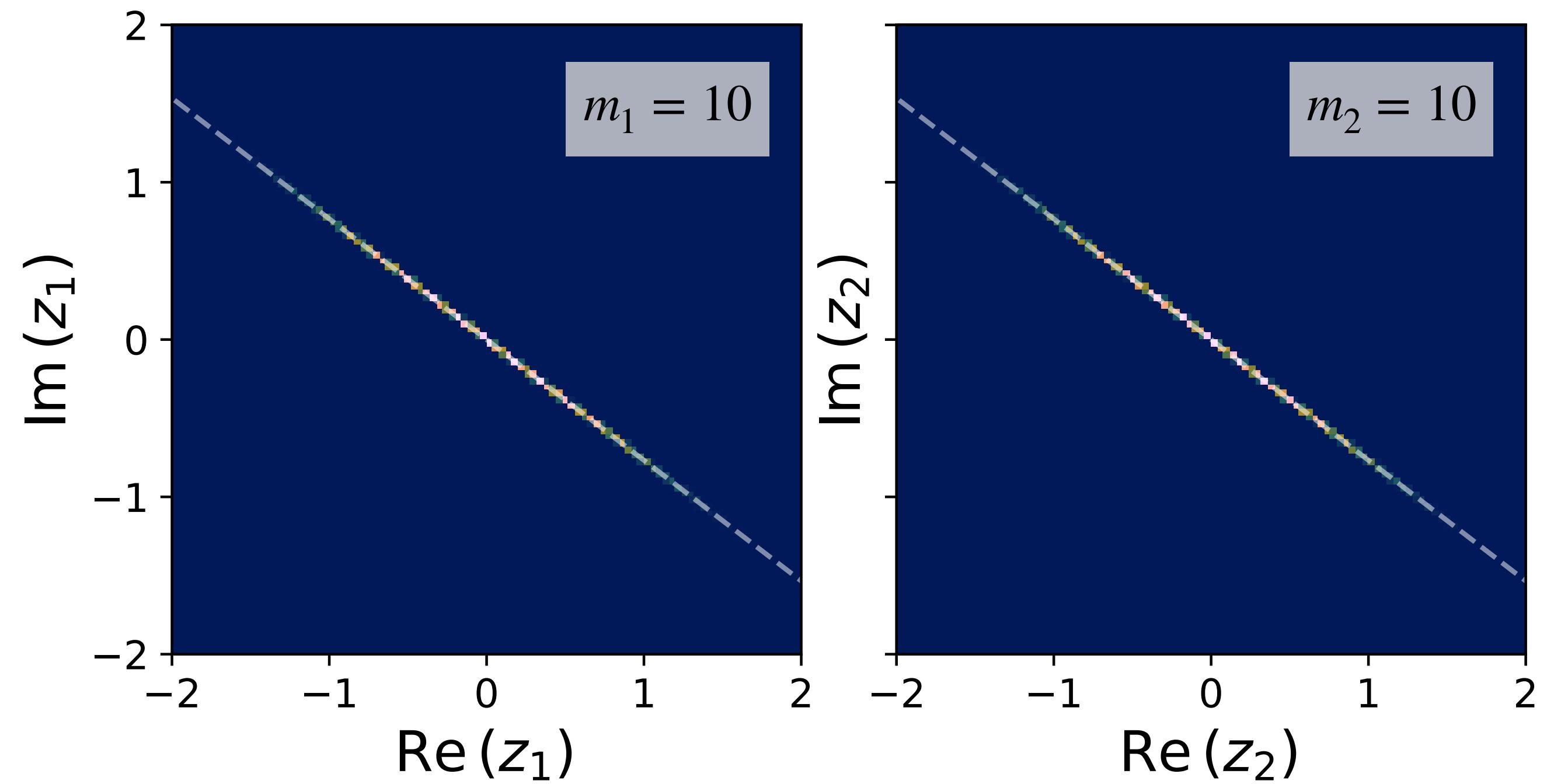
$$z_i \rightarrow z_i - \varepsilon K_i \frac{\partial S(z_1, z_2)}{\partial z_i} + \sqrt{\varepsilon K_i} \eta_i$$

- $S(z_1, z_2) = \frac{\lambda}{4}(z_1^4 + z_2^4 + a z_1^2 z_2^2)$.
- Example: $a = 1$, $\lambda = e^{\frac{5i\pi}{6}}$, $K_i = e^{-\frac{i\pi m_i}{24}}$.

More general kernels

$$z_i \rightarrow z_i - \varepsilon K_i \frac{\partial S(z_1, z_2)}{\partial z_i} + \sqrt{\varepsilon K_i} \eta_i$$

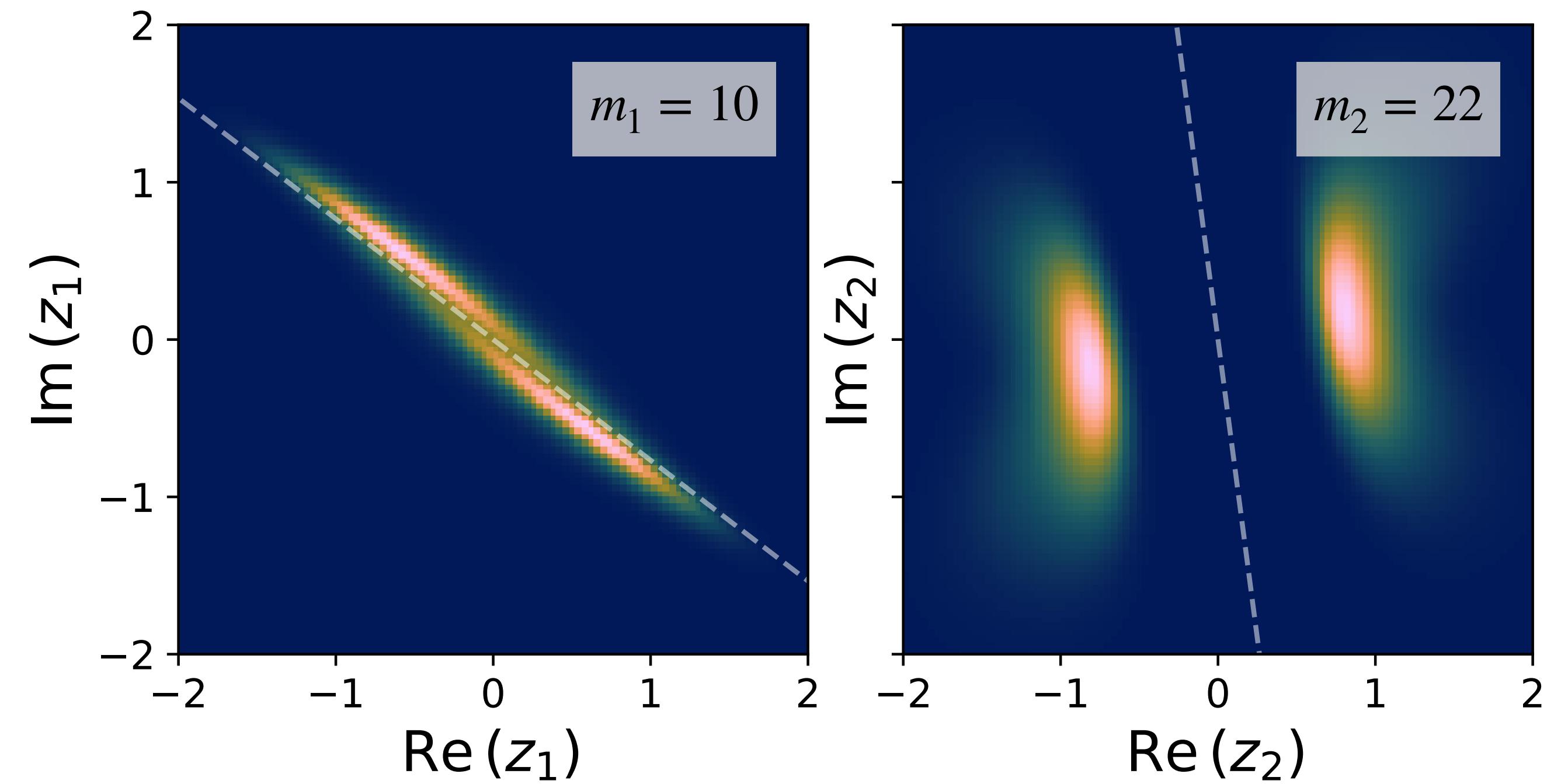
- $S(z_1, z_2) = \frac{\lambda}{4}(z_1^4 + z_2^4 + a z_1^2 z_2^2)$.
- Example: $a = 1, \lambda = e^{\frac{5i\pi}{6}}, K_i = e^{-\frac{i\pi m_i}{24}}$.



More general kernels

$$z_i \rightarrow z_i - \varepsilon K_i \frac{\partial S(z_1, z_2)}{\partial z_i} + \sqrt{\varepsilon K_i} \eta_i$$

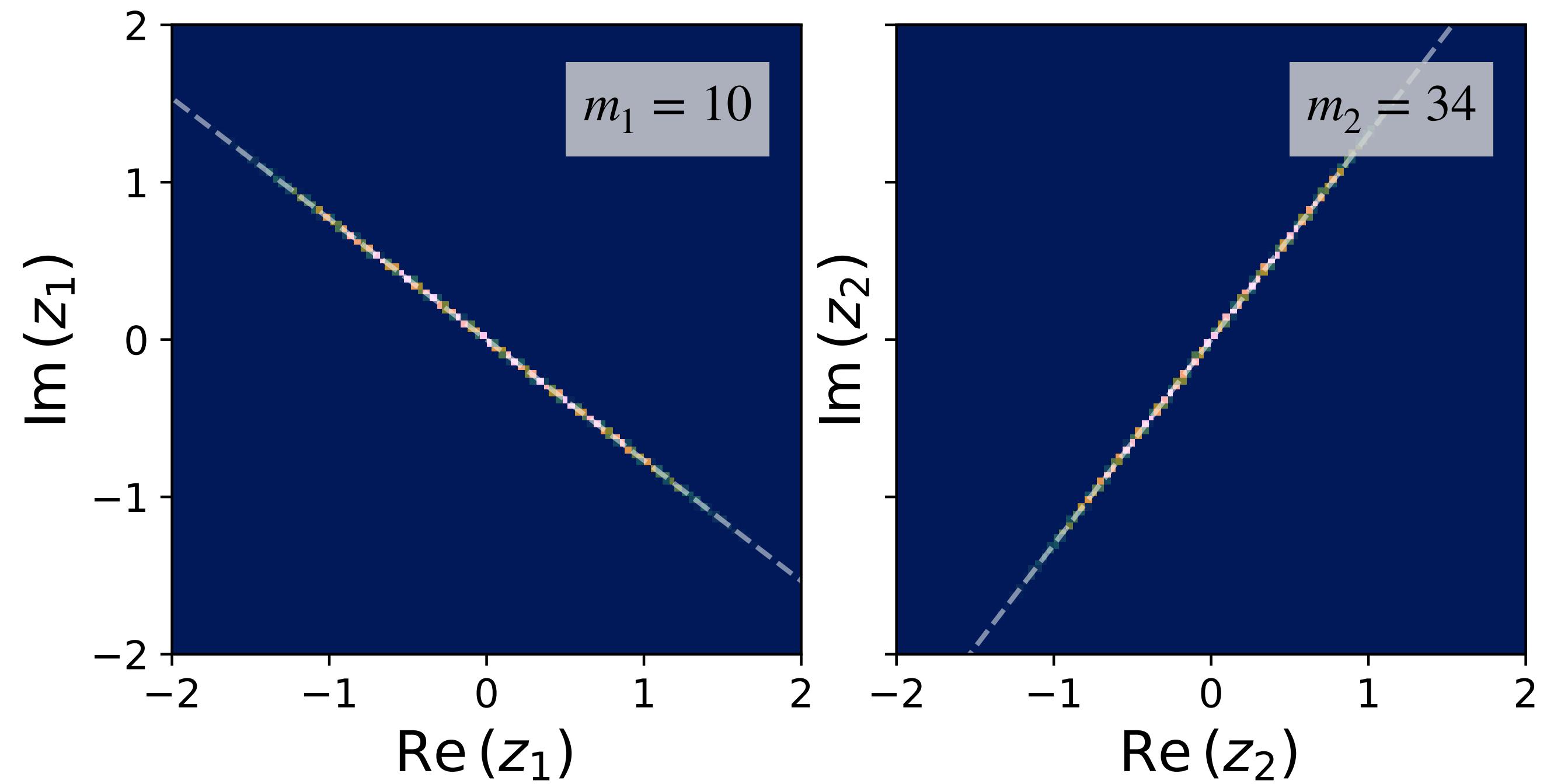
- $S(z_1, z_2) = \frac{\lambda}{4}(z_1^4 + z_2^4 + a z_1^2 z_2^2)$.
- Example: $a = 1, \lambda = e^{\frac{5i\pi}{6}}, K_i = e^{-\frac{i\pi m_i}{24}}$.



More general kernels

$$z_i \rightarrow z_i - \varepsilon K_i \frac{\partial S(z_1, z_2)}{\partial z_i} + \sqrt{\varepsilon K_i} \eta_i$$

- $S(z_1, z_2) = \frac{\lambda}{4}(z_1^4 + z_2^4 + a z_1^2 z_2^2)$.
- Example: $a = 1, \lambda = e^{\frac{5i\pi}{6}}, K_i = e^{-\frac{i\pi m_i}{24}}$.



Sampling different integration cycles

Sampling different integration cycles

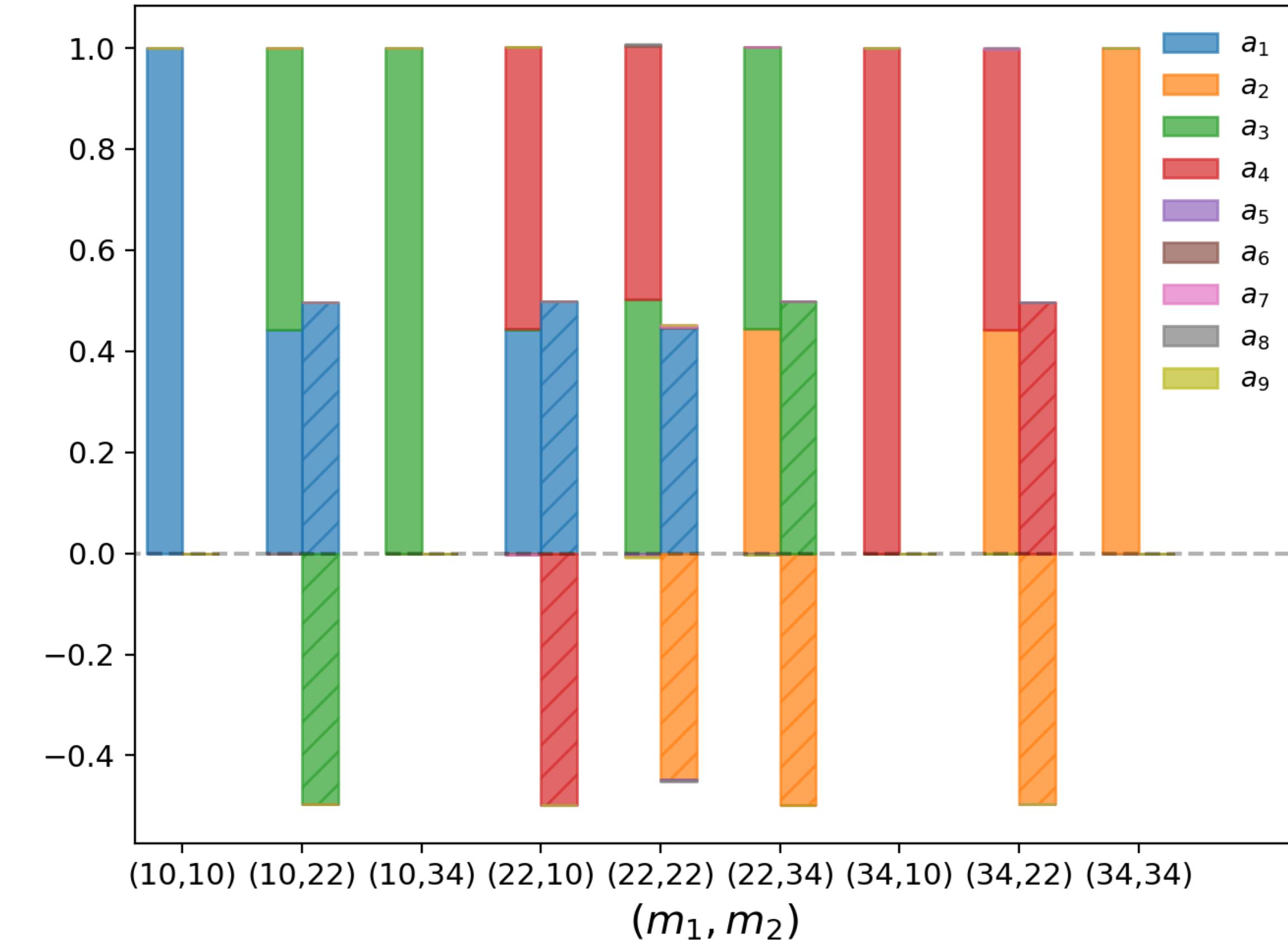
$$z_i \rightarrow z_i - \varepsilon K_i \frac{\partial S(z_1, z_2)}{\partial z_i} + \sqrt{\varepsilon K_i} \eta_i$$

- $S(z_1, z_2) = \frac{\lambda}{4}(z_1^4 + z_2^4 + a z_1^2 z_2^2)$.
- Example: $a = 0.5$, $\lambda = e^{\frac{5i\pi}{6}}$, $K_i = e^{-\frac{i\pi m_i}{24}}$.

Sampling different integration cycles

$$z_i \rightarrow z_i - \varepsilon K_i \frac{\partial S(z_1, z_2)}{\partial z_i} + \sqrt{\varepsilon K_i} \eta_i$$

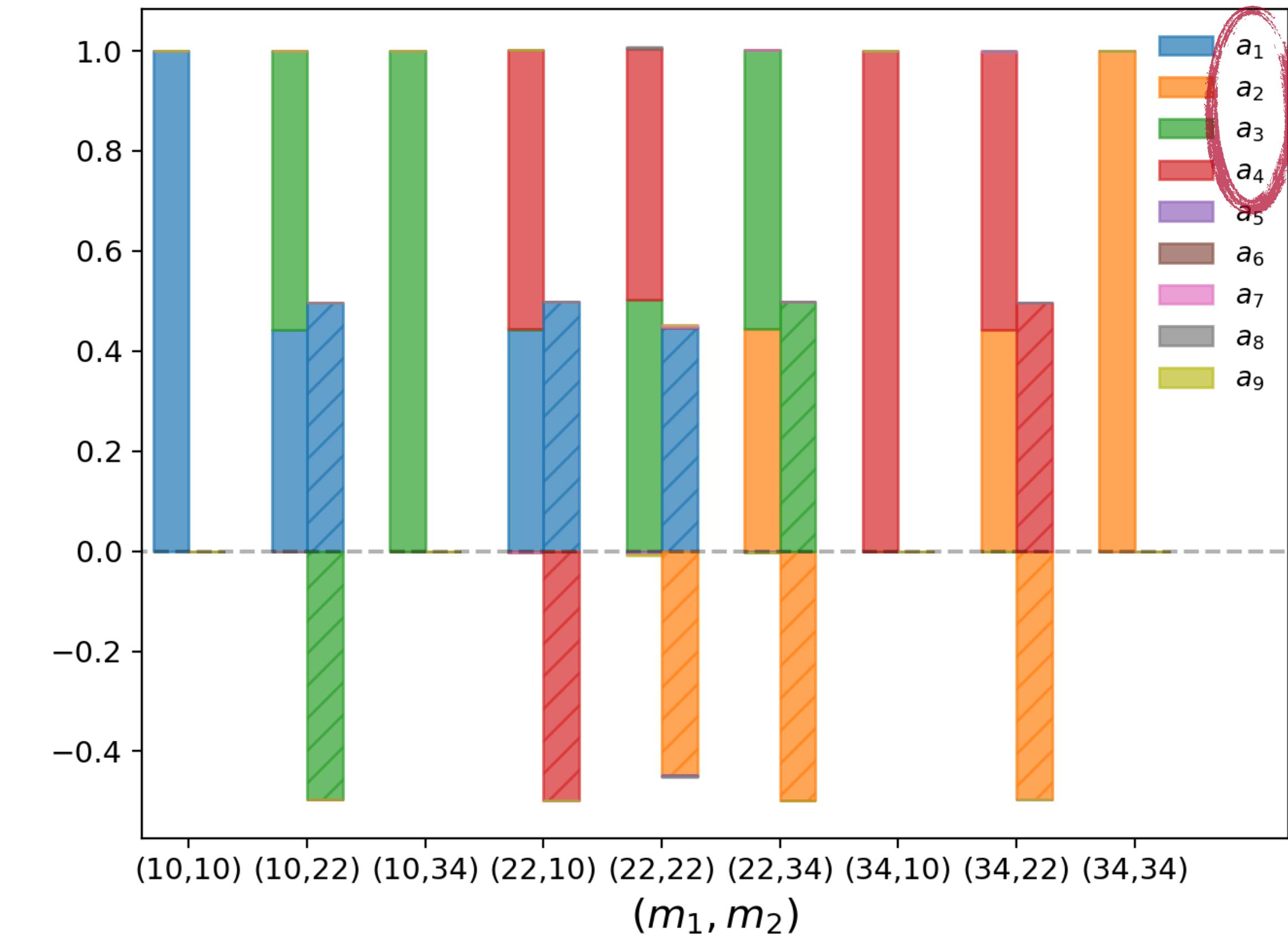
- $S(z_1, z_2) = \frac{\lambda}{4}(z_1^4 + z_2^4 + a z_1^2 z_2^2)$.
- Example: $a = 0.5$, $\lambda = e^{\frac{5i\pi}{6}}$, $K_i = e^{-\frac{i\pi m_i}{24}}$.



Sampling different integration cycles

$$z_i \rightarrow z_i - \varepsilon K_i \frac{\partial S(z_1, z_2)}{\partial z_i} + \sqrt{\varepsilon K_i} \eta_i$$

- $S(z_1, z_2) = \frac{\lambda}{4}(z_1^4 + z_2^4 + a z_1^2 z_2^2)$.
- Example: $a = 0.5$, $\lambda = e^{\frac{5i\pi}{6}}$, $K_i = e^{-\frac{i\pi m_i}{24}}$.



Conclusions & open questions

Conclusions & open questions

arXiv:2412.17137

- Evidence for validity of Salcedo-Seiler theorem beyond 1D.

Conclusions & open questions

arXiv:2412.17137

- Evidence for validity of Salcedo-Seiler theorem beyond 1D.
- Kernel can favor certain integration cycles.

Conclusions & open questions

arXiv:2412.17137

- Evidence for validity of Salcedo-Seiler theorem beyond 1D.
- Kernel can favor certain integration cycles.
- Complex Langevin can be extended to theories of physical interest.

Conclusions & open questions

arXiv:2412.17137

- Evidence for validity of Salcedo-Seiler theorem beyond 1D.
- Kernel can favor certain integration cycles.
- Complex Langevin can be extended to theories of physical interest.
- Also there, kernels are possible. But how to choose them?

Conclusions & open questions

arXiv:2412.17137

- Evidence for validity of Salcedo-Seiler theorem beyond 1D.
- Kernel can favor certain integration cycles.
- Complex Langevin can be extended to theories of physical interest.
- Also there, kernels are possible. But how to choose them?
- What about integration cycles in realistic theories?

Summary & Outlook

Summary & Outlook

- CL promising approach for systems with a complex-action problem.

Summary & Outlook

- CL promising approach for systems with a complex-action problem.
- Major drawbacks: Runaways (adaptive step size) and wrong convergence.

Summary & Outlook

- CL promising approach for systems with a complex-action problem.
- Major drawbacks: Runaways (adaptive step size) and wrong convergence.
- Wrong convergence can in principle be fixed by kernels.

Summary & Outlook

- CL promising approach for systems with a complex-action problem.
- Major drawbacks: Runaways (adaptive step size) and wrong convergence.
- Wrong convergence can in principle be fixed by kernels.
 - How to construct them?

Summary & Outlook

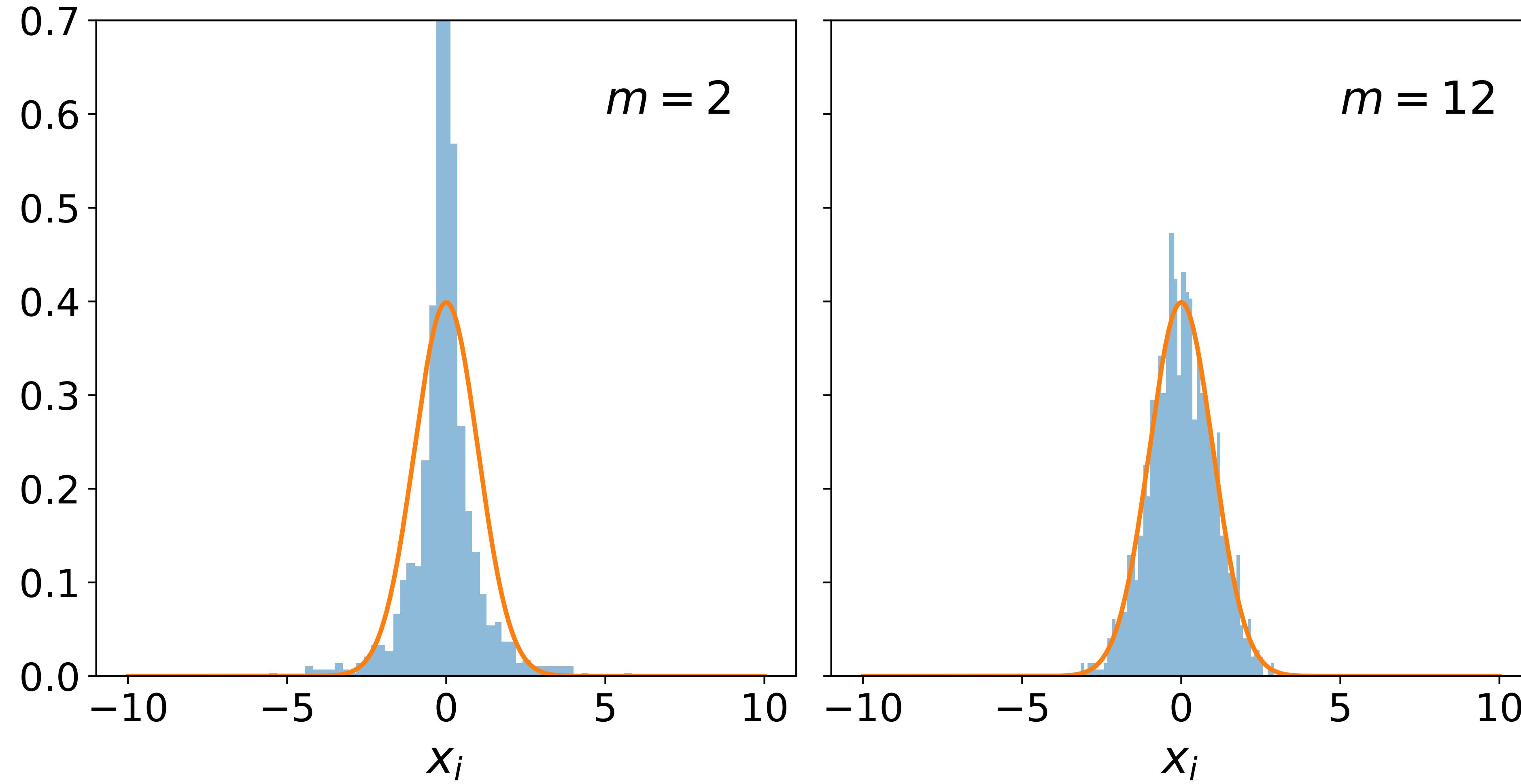
- CL promising approach for systems with a complex-action problem.
- Major drawbacks: Runaways (adaptive step size) and wrong convergence.
- Wrong convergence can in principle be fixed by kernels.
 - How to construct them?
 - How to verify convergence?

Summary & Outlook

- CL promising approach for systems with a complex-action problem.
- Major drawbacks: Runaways (adaptive step size) and wrong convergence.
- Wrong convergence can in principle be fixed by kernels.
 - How to construct them?
 - How to verify convergence?
- Outlook: Role of integration cycles in realistic theories?

Backup

Assessing the goodness of fits



Assessing the goodness of fits

