



# Towards baryon-number violation in nuclei from lattice QCD

Michael Wagman

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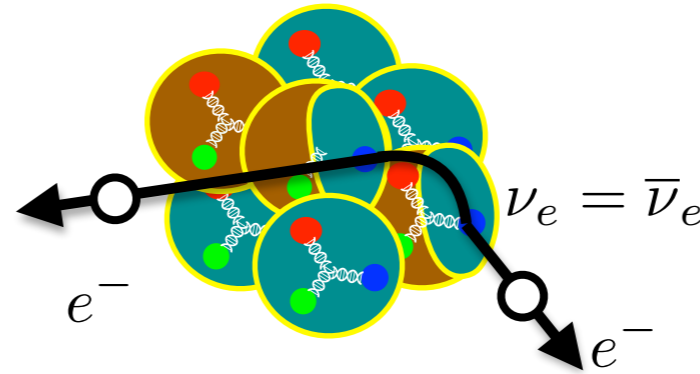


# B-L Violation

BSM sources of  $B-L$  violation could explain matter-antimatter asymmetry

Dim 5: **B-L violating**,  $L$  violating  
Majorana neutrino mass

$$\mathcal{L}_5 \sim \left( \frac{1}{\Lambda_{BSM}} \right) (H^T \ell^*) (\bar{\ell} H)$$



**Double- $\beta$  decay**

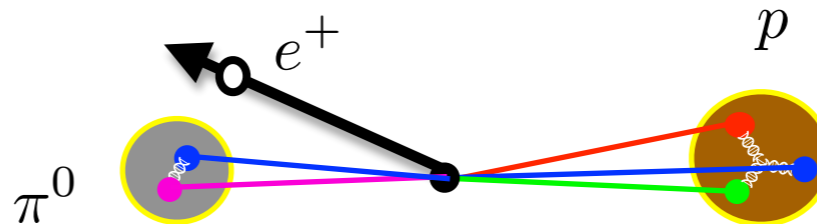
$$\Lambda_{BSM} \gtrsim 10^{10} \text{ GeV}$$



Leptogenesis

Dim 6: **B-L conserving**,  $B$  violating  
proton decay operators

$$\mathcal{L}_6 \sim \left( \frac{1}{\Lambda_{BSM}^2} \right) uude + \dots$$



**Proton decay**

$$\Lambda_{BSM} \gtrsim 10^{16} \text{ GeV}$$

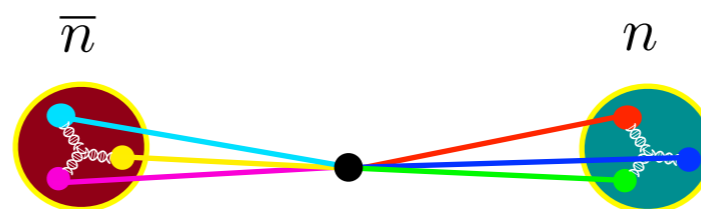


Sphaleron  
washout (?)

*See talk by Julian Heeck this morning*

Dim 9: **B-L violating**,  $B$  violating  
Majorana neutron mass

$$\mathcal{L}_9 \sim \left( \frac{1}{\Lambda_{BSM}^5} \right) uddudd + \dots$$



**Neutron-antineutron  
oscillations**

$$\Lambda_{BSM} \gtrsim 10^5 \text{ GeV}$$



Post-sphaleron  
baryogenesis

# Neutron-Antineutron Oscillations

$n\bar{n}$  oscillation phenomenology similar to meson, neutrino oscillations

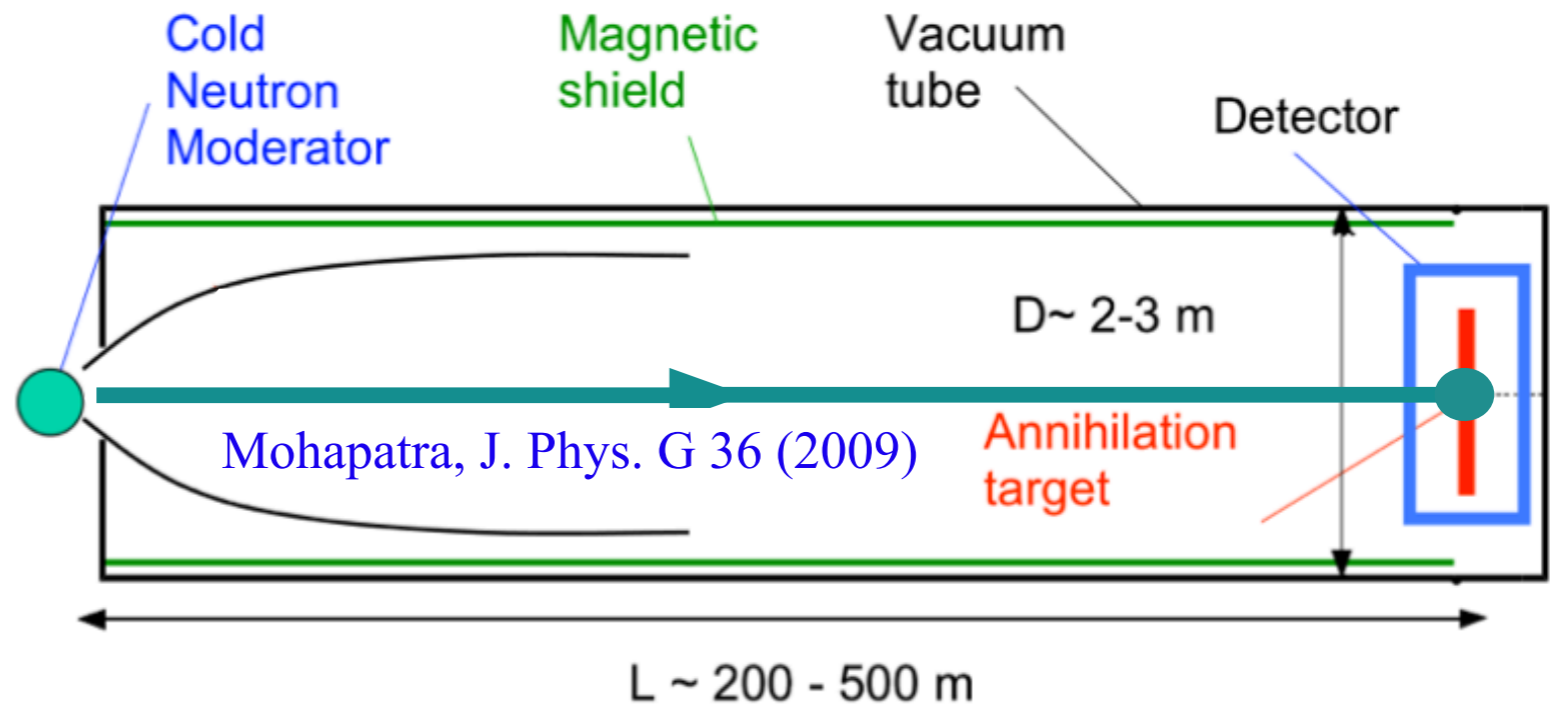
$$\mathcal{P}_{n\bar{n}} = \sin^2(t/\tau_{n\bar{n}})e^{-\Gamma_n t} \quad \tau_{n\bar{n}}^{-1} = \langle \bar{n} | H_9 | n \rangle$$

In order to turn experimental constraints into BSM physics constraints, we need theory predictions of  $\tau_{n\bar{n}}$  including QCD strong interaction effects

**Institut Laue-Langevin (ILL)**

$$\tau_{n\bar{n}} > 0.89 \times 10^8 \text{ s}$$

Baldo-Ceolin et al, Zeitschrift für Physik C Particles and Fields (1994)



Future experiments at the European Spallation Source could increase sensitivity to  $\tau_{n\bar{n}}$  by an order of magnitude

Addazi et al, J. Phys. G. 48 (2021)

*See talk by John Womersley up next!*

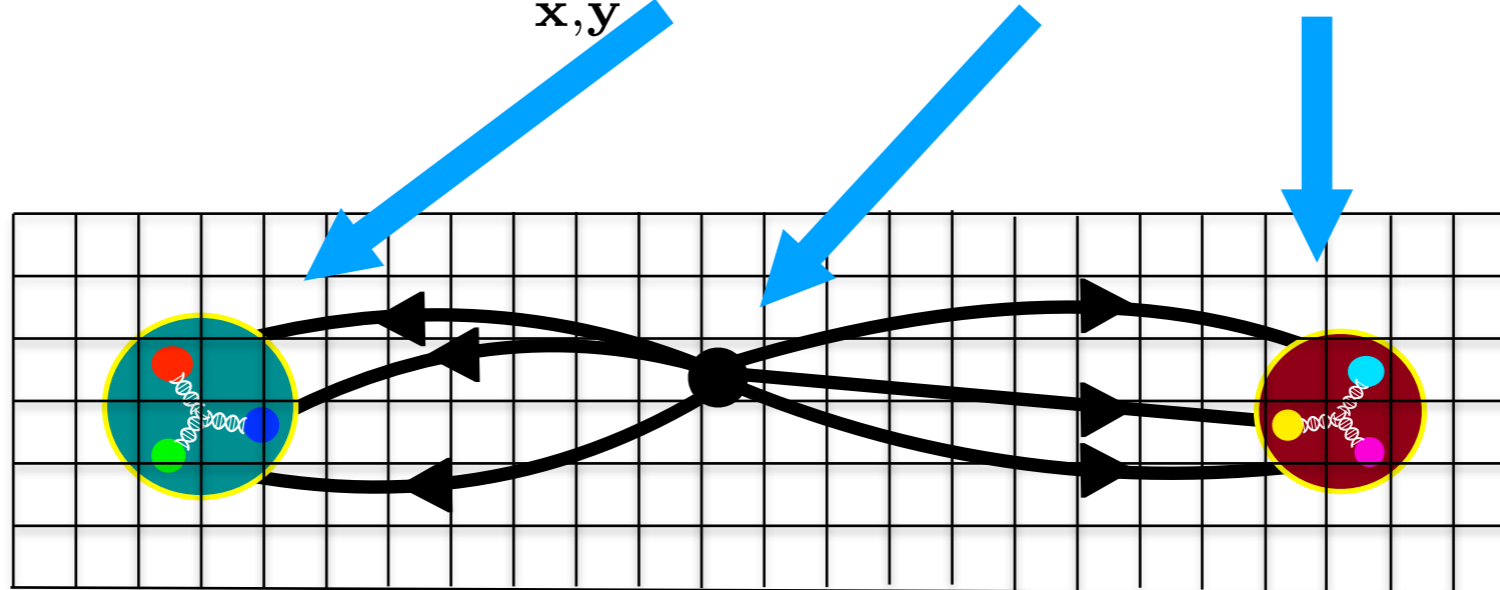
# $n\bar{n}$ and LQCD

High-scale new physics can be parametrized in SM EFT:

$$\mathcal{L}_9 = \frac{1}{\Lambda_{BSM}^5} \sum_I C_I^{\overline{MS}}(\Lambda_{BSM}) Q_I^{\overline{MS}}(\Lambda_{BSM}) \leftarrow \text{Complete basis of six-quark operators}$$

Three-point correlation functions involving  $Q_I$  computable in LQCD

$$G_I^{n\bar{n}}(t, \tau) = \int \mathcal{D}\bar{q}\mathcal{D}q\mathcal{D}U e^{-S_{QCD}} \sum_{\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}} n(\mathbf{x}, t - \tau) Q_I^\dagger(0) n(\mathbf{y}, -\tau)$$



Rinaldi, Sryitsyn, MW et al, PRL 122 (2019); PRD 99 (2019)

Ratio of  $n\bar{n}$  and neutron correlation functions gives matrix elements plus excited state effects that can be studied by e.g. two-state fits

# Neutron-Antineutron Oscillations

Rinaldi, Sryitsyn, MW et al, PRL 122 (2019)

LQCD calculations performed with

- ✓ ~physical quark masses
- ✓ nonperturbative renormalization
- ✗ 1 lattice spacing / volume

FV ChEFT: Bijens and Kofoed, Eur Phys J C (2017)

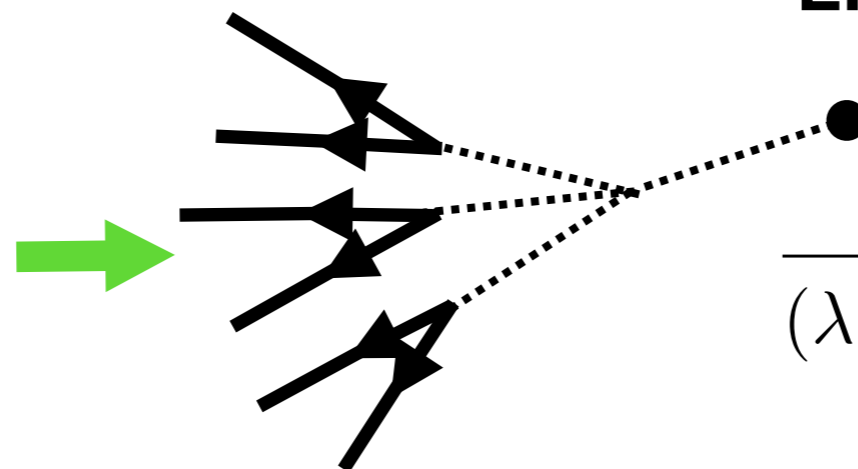
	$\mathcal{M}_I^{\overline{\text{MS}}}(700 \text{ TeV}) [10^{-5} \text{ GeV}^6]$
$Q_1$	-26(7)
$Q_2$	144(26)
$Q_3$	-47(11)
$Q_5$	-0.23(10)

## Standard Model EFT:

$$\tau_{n-\bar{n}}^{-1} = \frac{10^{-9} \text{ s}^{-1}}{(700 \text{ TeV})^{-5}} |4.2(1.1)\hat{C}_1^{\overline{\text{MS}}}(\mu) - 8.6(1.5)\hat{C}_2^{\overline{\text{MS}}}(\mu) + 4.5(1.1)\hat{C}_3^{\overline{\text{MS}}}(\mu) + 0.096(43)\hat{C}_5^{\overline{\text{MS}}}(\mu)|_{\mu=2 \text{ GeV}}$$

ILL:

$$\tau_{n\bar{n}} > 0.89 \times 10^8 \text{ s}$$



LR-symmetric example:

$$\frac{\Lambda_{BSM}}{(\lambda f^3 \tilde{v}_{B-L})^{1/5}} > 390 \pm 22 \text{ TeV}$$

# Experimental Implications

Rinaldi, Sryitsyn, MW et al, PRL 122 (2019)

Rao, Shrock, Nucl. Phys. B 232 (1984)

	$\mathcal{M}_I^{\overline{\text{MS}}}(700 \text{ TeV}) [10^{-5} \text{ GeV}^6]$	MIT Bag $\times$ RG $[10^{-5} \text{ GeV}^6]$
$Q_1$	$-26(7)$	$-6.4, -5.2$
$Q_2$	$144(26)$	$16, 19$
$Q_3$	$-47(11)$	$-9.1, -7.6$
$Q_5$	$-0.23(10)$	$-0.28, 0.15$

For fixed BSM parameters, QCD predicts experimental sensitivity is **25 - 64 times higher** than predicted using MIT bag model

$$N_{events} \propto \tau_{n\bar{n}}^{-2} \approx \left( \sum_{I=1}^3 \hat{C}_I^{\overline{\text{MS}}}(\Lambda_{BSM}) \mathcal{M}_I^{\overline{\text{MS}}}(\Lambda_{BSM}) \right)^2$$

For  $SU(2)_L \times SU(2)_R \times SU(4)_C$  example, lower bound on BSM couplings from ILL **390 TeV** instead of **290 TeV**

# $B$ violation in nuclei

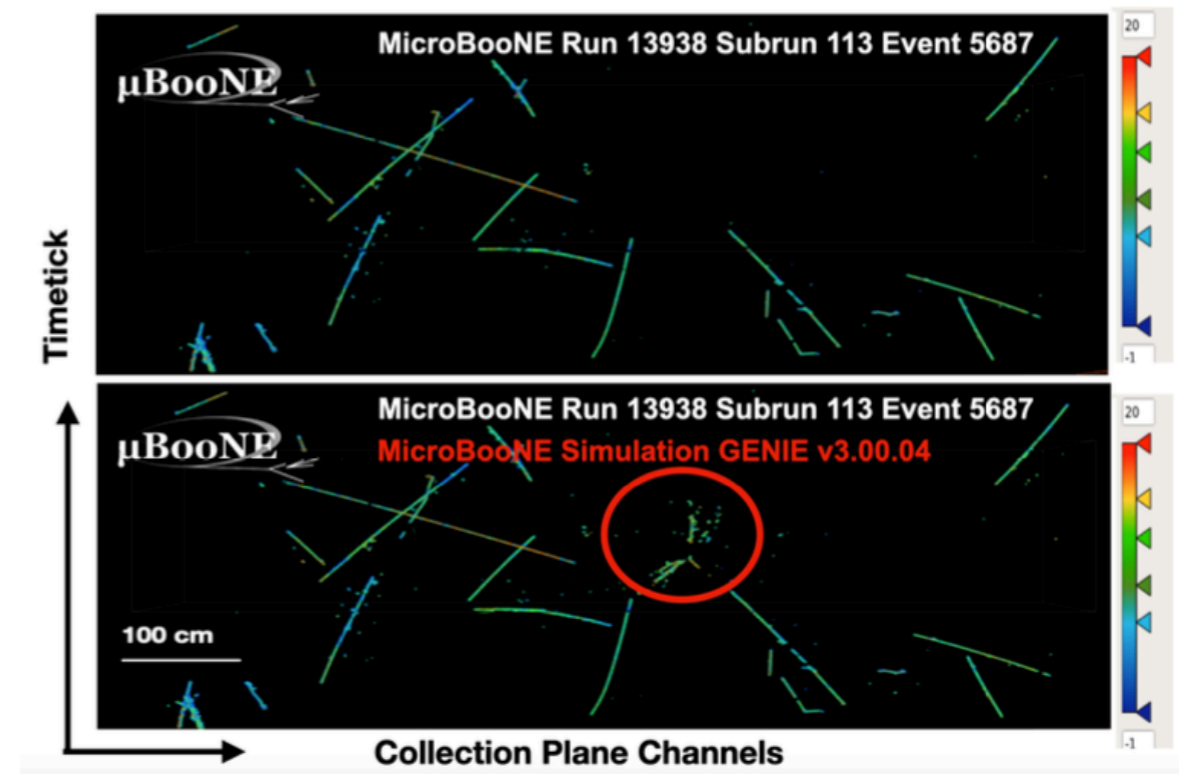
Future large-volume detectors such as DUNE and Hyper-Kamiokande will provide new discoveries or limits of intranuclear neutron-antineutron oscillations ( $n\bar{n}$ )

Getting from experiments involving nuclei to constraints on BSM requires theory:

- Nuclear models (error bars?)
- Direct LQCD calculations (computation?)
- **LQCD informed hadronic and nuclear effective theories**

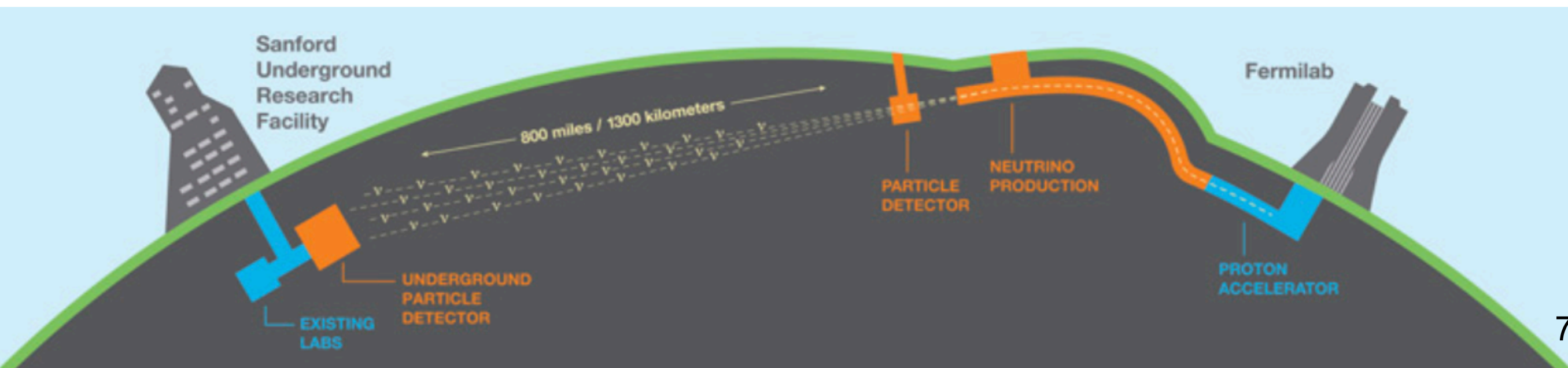
## Intranuclear $n\bar{n}$ simulation

Abratenko et al [MicroBooNE] JINST 19 (2024)



See talk by Josh Barrow

DUNE



# $n\bar{n}$ in nuclei

Deuteron lifetime related to  $\tau_{n\bar{n}}$  in chiral EFT

....but results sensitive to choice of power counting

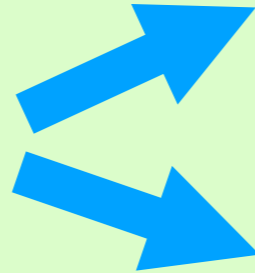
*See talk by Bira van Kolck yesterday*

SNO constraint:

$$\Gamma_d^{-1} > 1.18 \times 10^{31} \text{ years}$$

*Aharmin et al [SNO], PRD 96 (2017)*

KSW



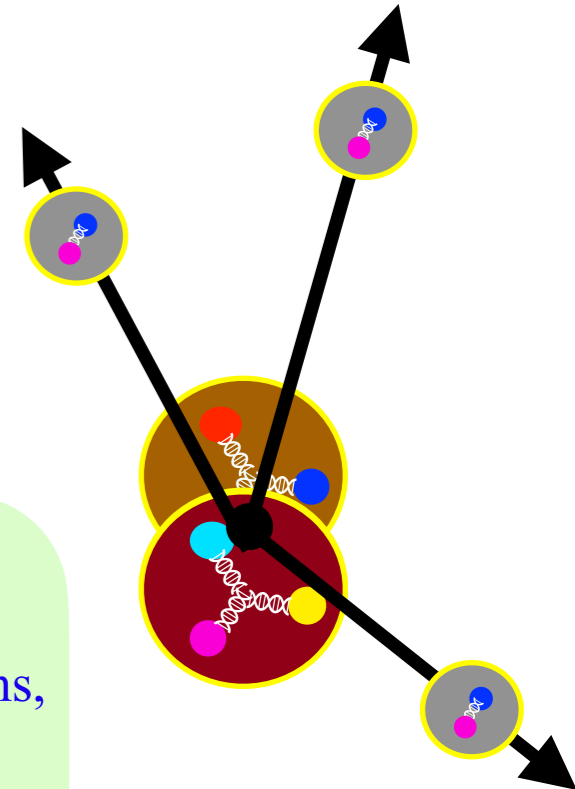
$$\tau_{n\bar{n}} > 1.6 \times 10^8 \text{ s}$$

*Oosterhof, Long, de Vries, Timmermans, van Kolck, PRL 122 (2019)*

Weinberg

$$\tau_{n\bar{n}} > 2.6 \times 10^8 \text{ s}$$

*Haidenbauer and Meißner, Chinese Physics C 44 (2020)*



Oxygen lifetime provides stronger but more uncertain constraints

Super K constraint

$$\Gamma_{O_{16}}^{-1} > 3.6 \times 10^{32} \text{ years}$$

*Abe et al [Super K], PRD 103 (2021)*

$$\tau_{n\bar{n}} \gtrsim 4.7 \times 10^8 \text{ s}$$

State-of-the-art optical potentials:

*Friedman, Gal, PRD 78 (2008)*

*See talk by Linyan Wan*



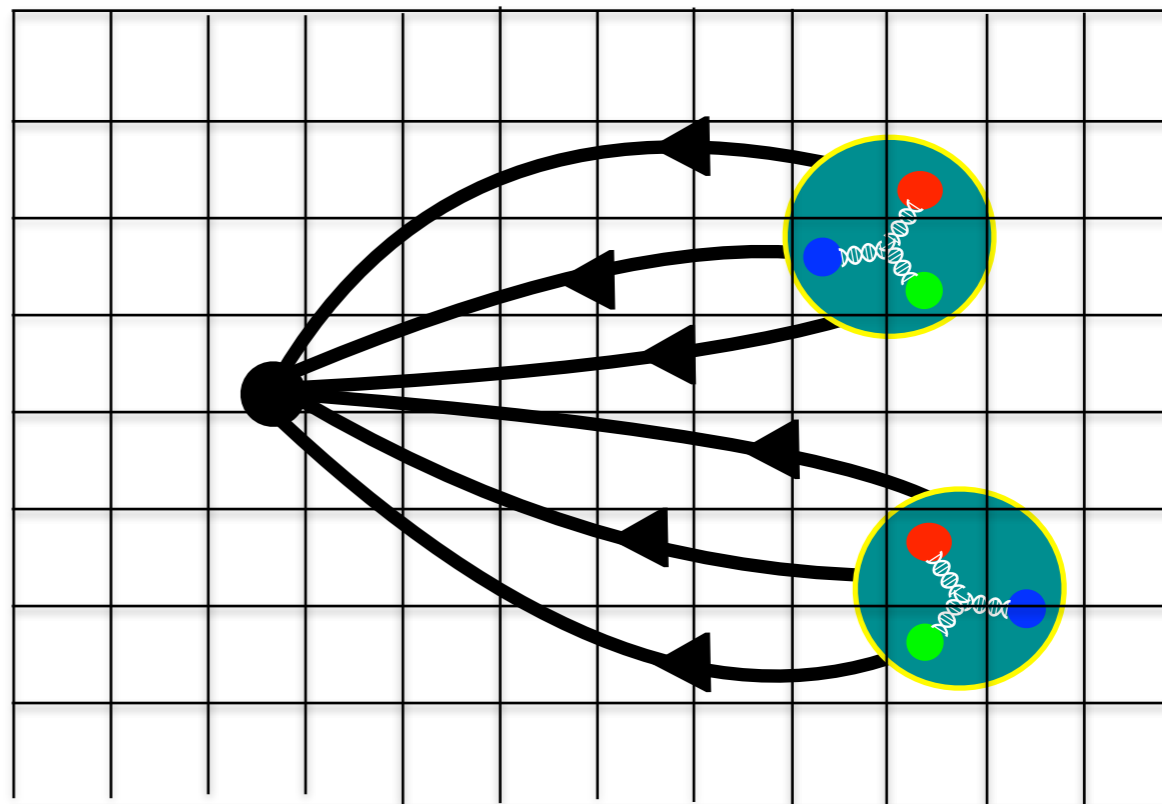
# Dineutron decay with LQCD

Future argon lifetime constraints from DUNE will be even more challenging to analyze — can LQCD help benchmark the two-nucleon sector?

Simplest possible lattice QCD calculation of  $n\bar{n}$  in multi-nucleon system:

$$\langle Q_I(t)nn^\dagger(0) \rangle =$$

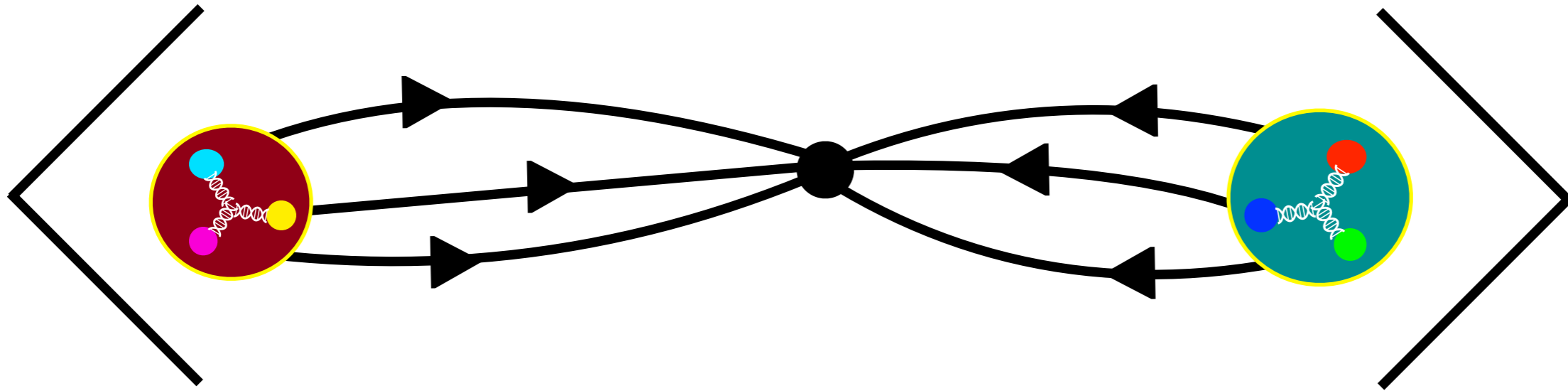
Dineutron decay matrix element can be extracted from LQCD two-point function



$$\langle Q_I(t)nn^\dagger(0) \rangle \sim \sum_J \langle 0|Q_J|nn \rangle Z_{JI} + \dots$$

Nonperturbative QCD matrix element contains info to constrain unknown NLO+EFT couplings that may have sizable impact even on deuterium

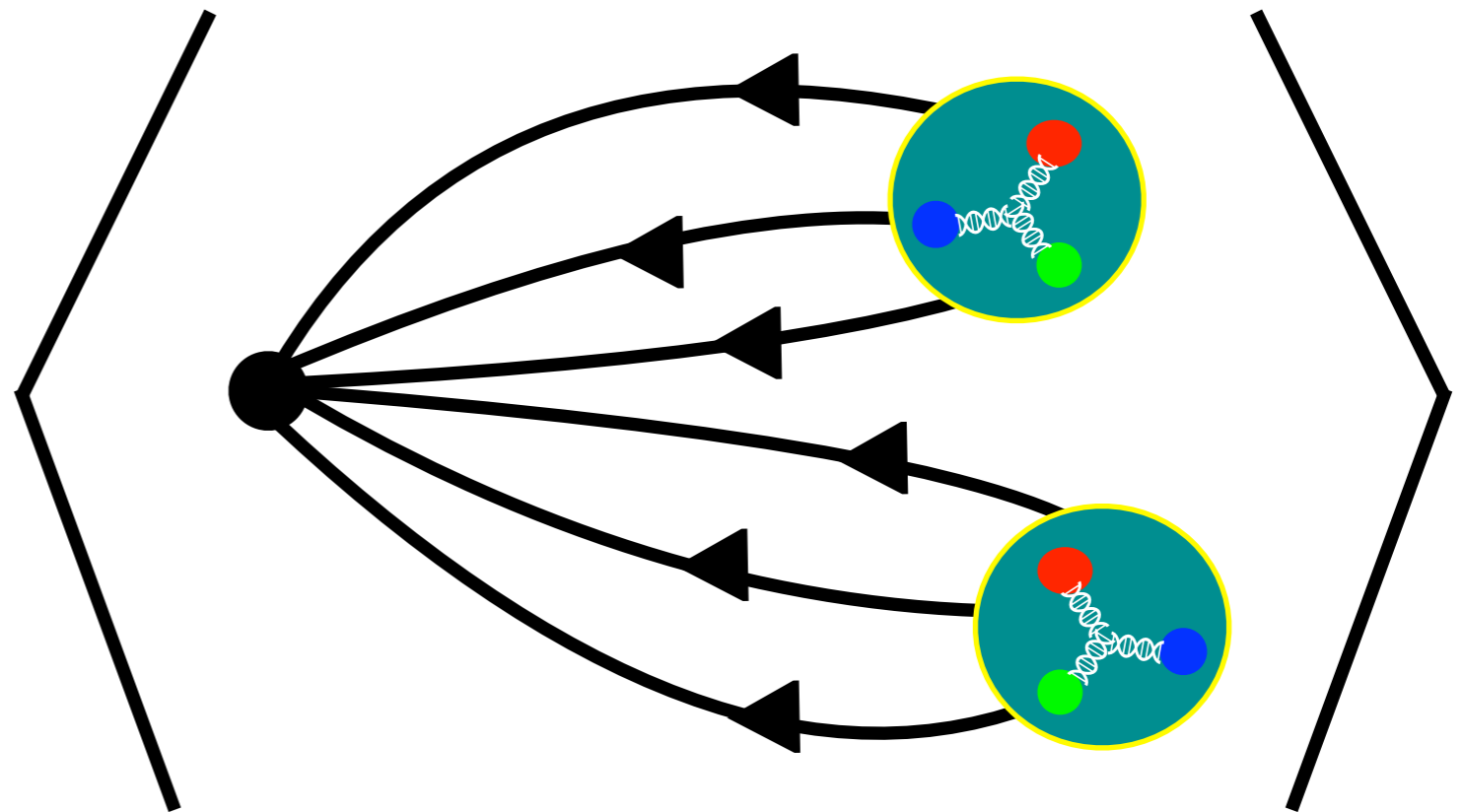
# $n\bar{n}$ and crossing symmetry



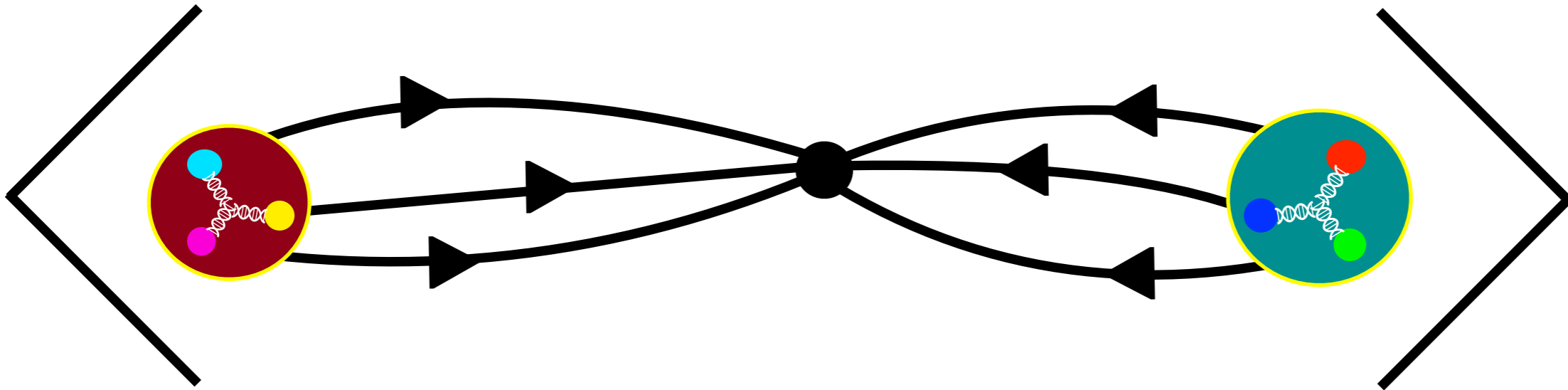
?

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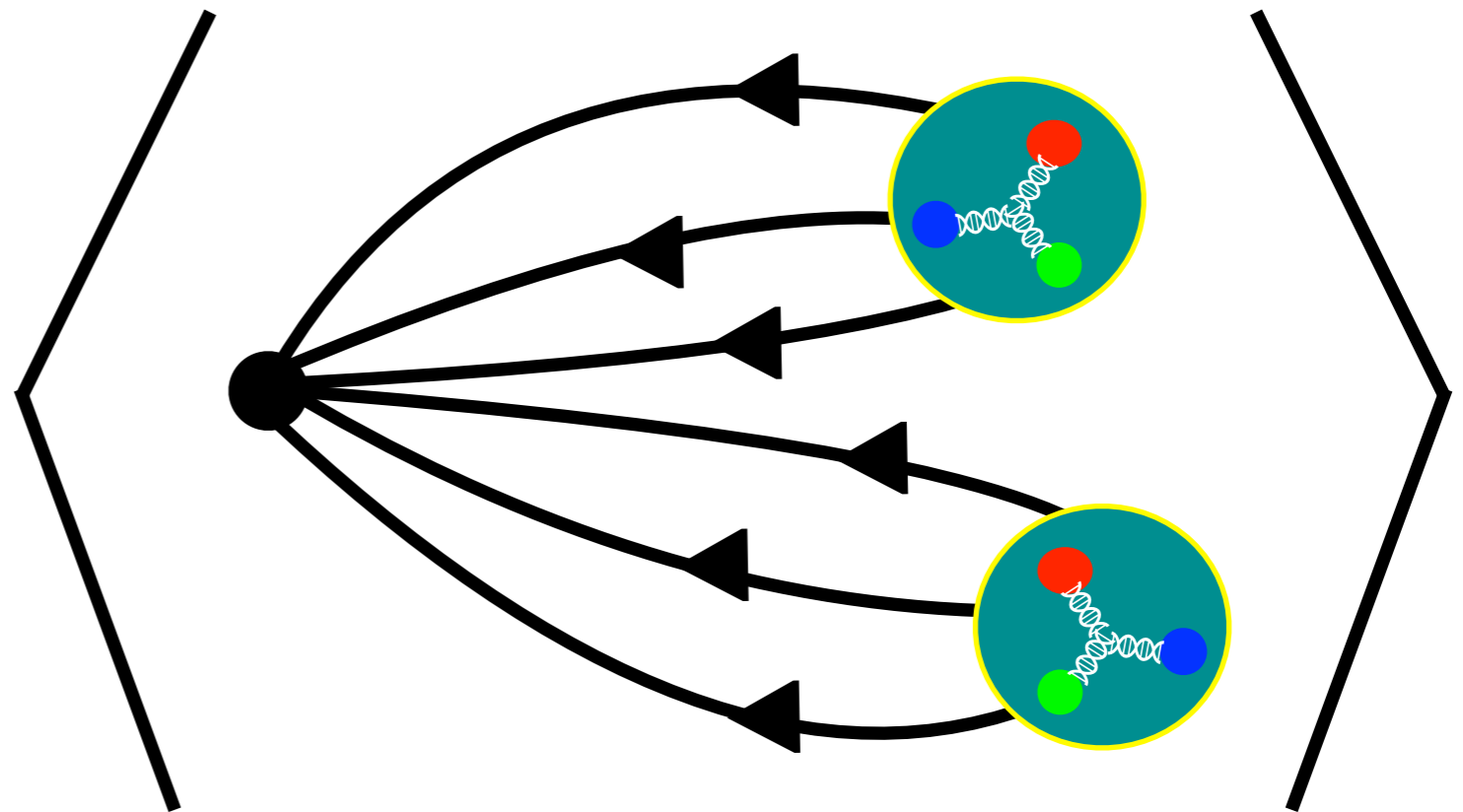
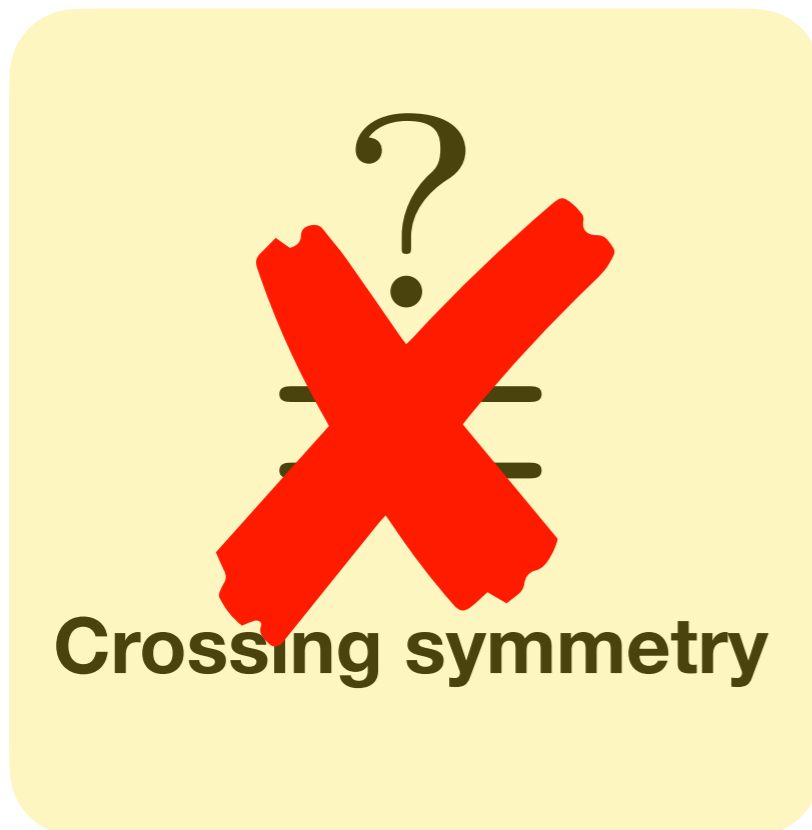
**Crossing symmetry**



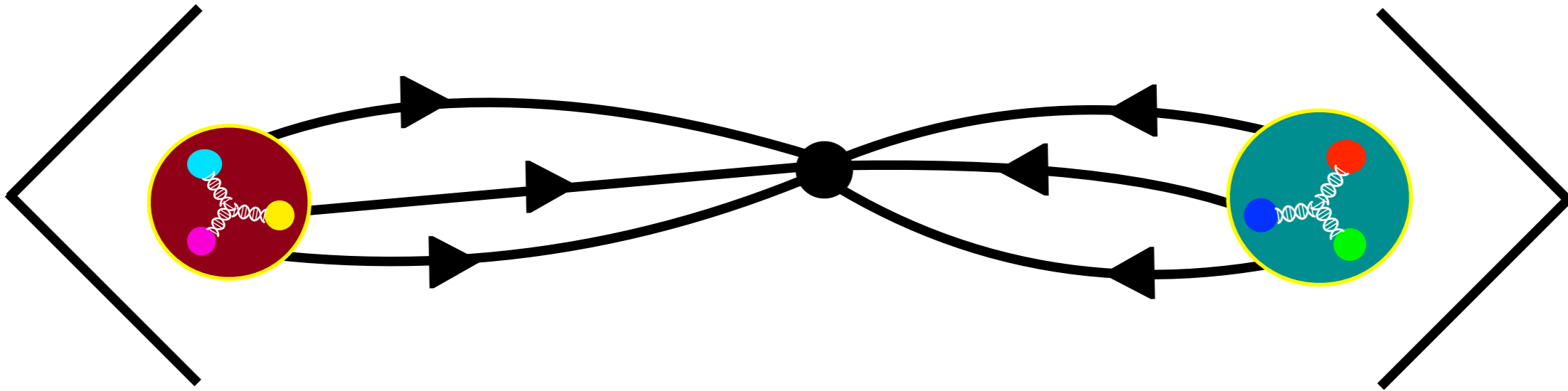
# $n\bar{n}$ and crossing symmetry



Crossing valid for scattering amplitudes not matrix elements

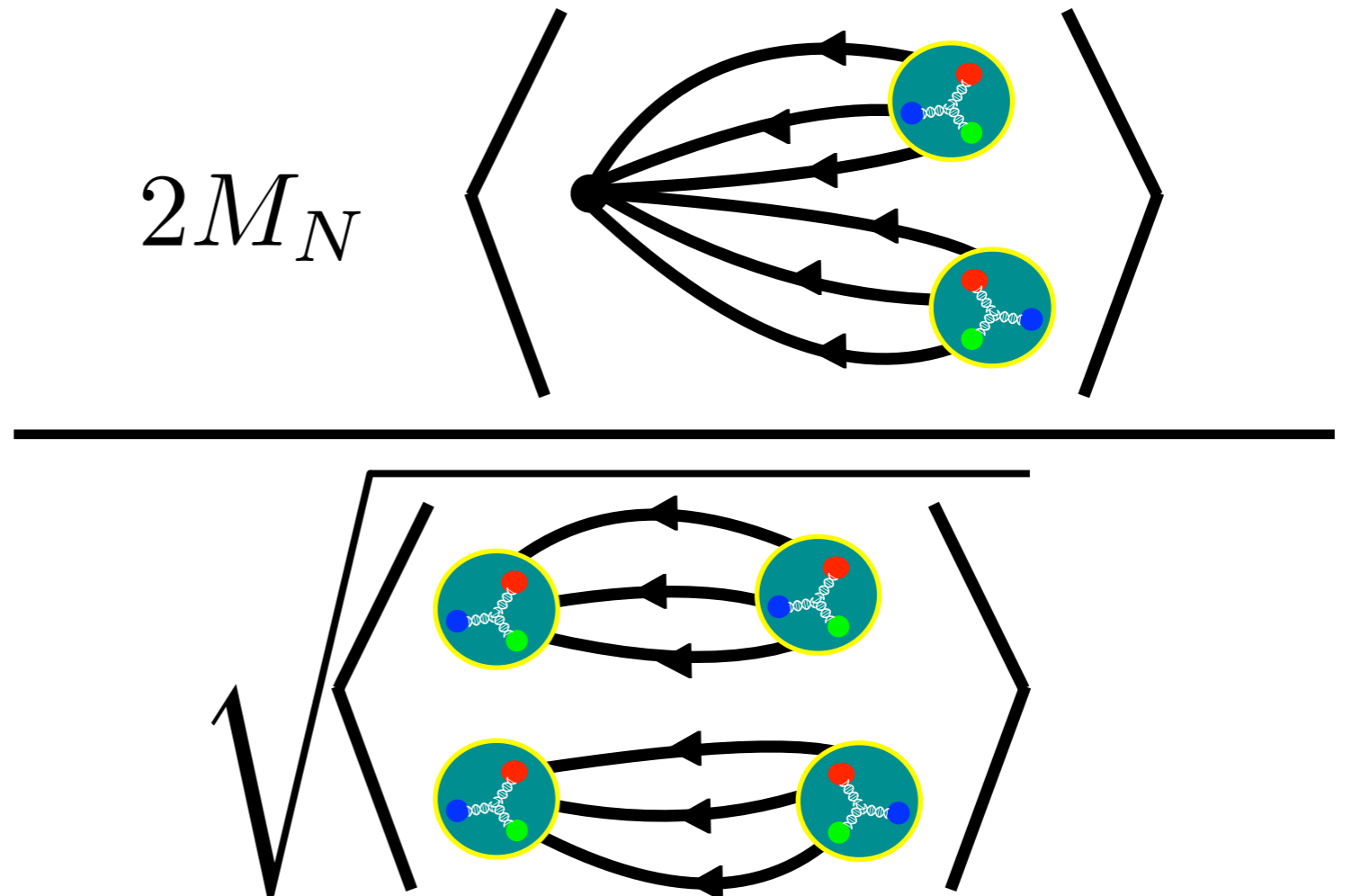


# $n\bar{n}$ and crossing symmetry

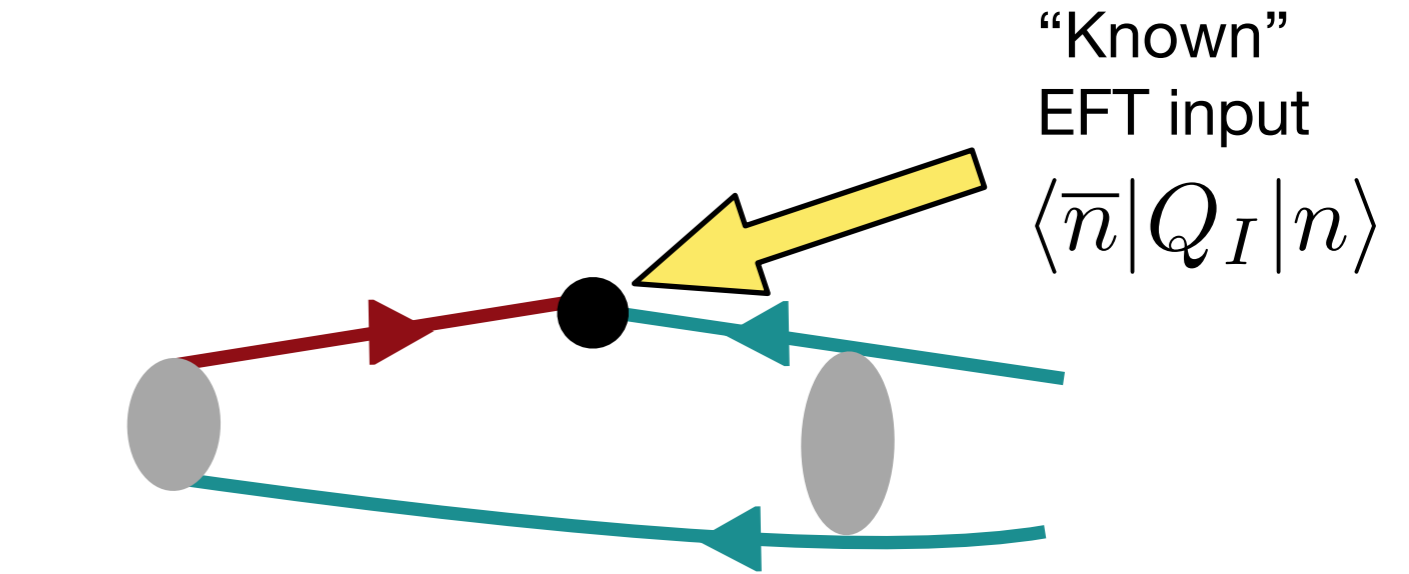
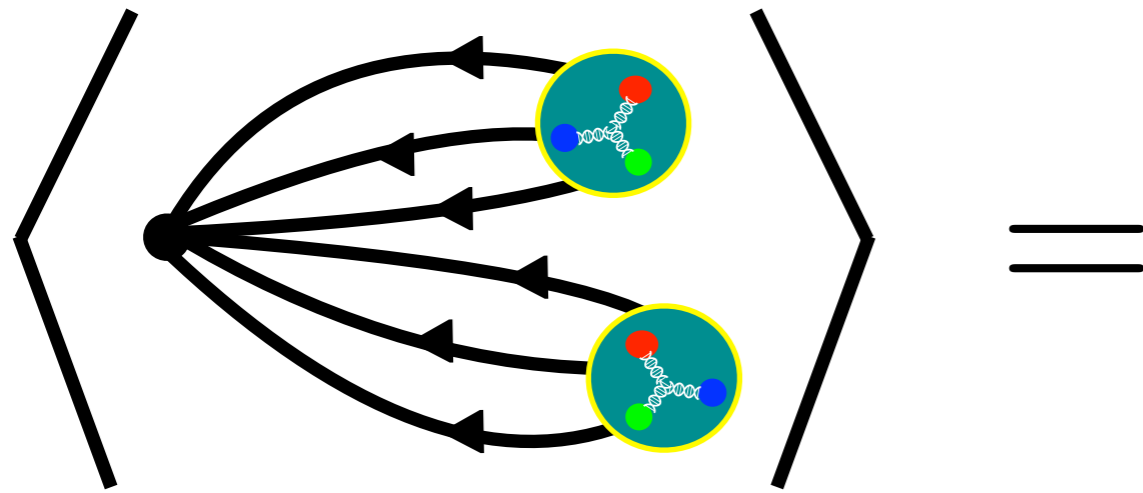


Crossing valid for scattering amplitudes not matrix elements

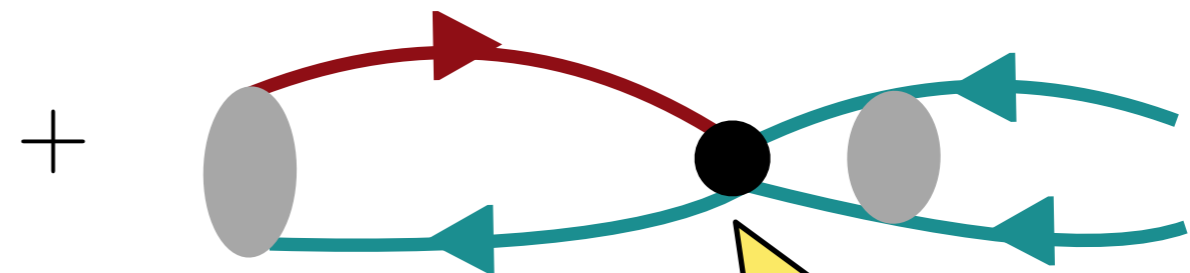
$=$   
 $=$   
Crossing symmetry



# Towards $n\bar{n}$ in nuclei






Dineutron decay matrix elements can be matched to nuclear EFTs to constrain higher-order LECs



+ ...

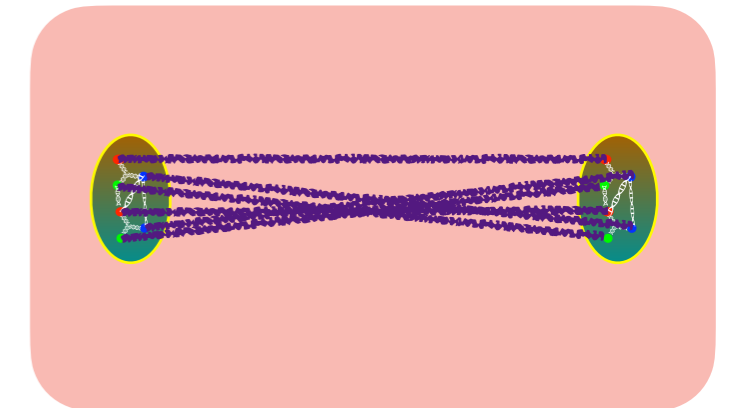
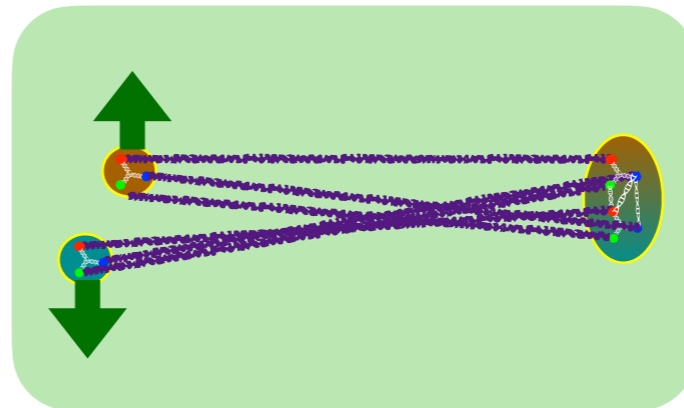
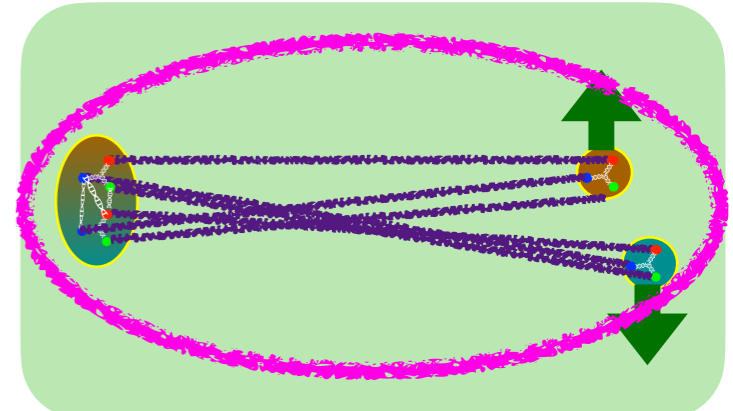
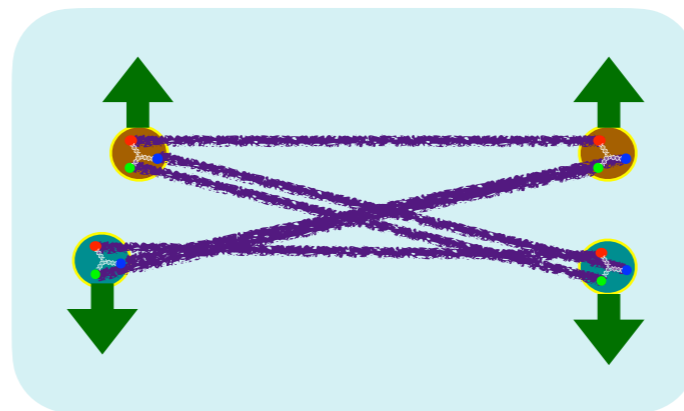
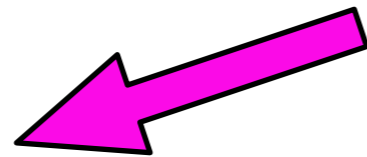
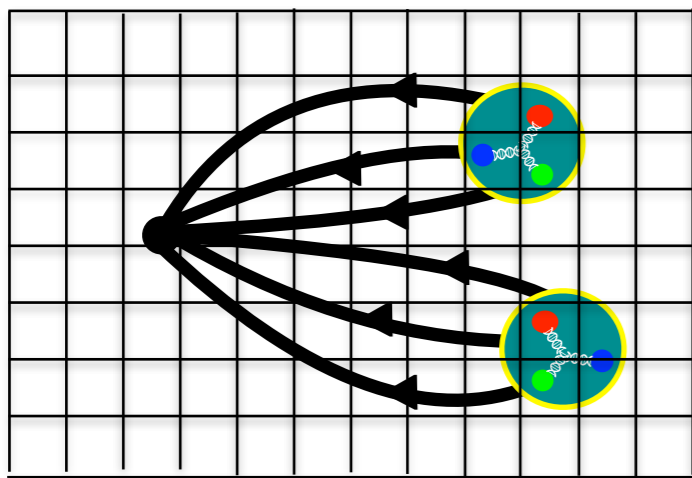
Unknown EFT input  
 $\langle n\bar{n} | Q_I | nn \rangle$   
 ~ NLO input discussed in  
 Oosterhof et al, PRL 122 (2019)

**Nuclear EFT**

-  Nucleon propagator
-  Antinucleon propagator
-  Strong interactions (resummed)

# LQCD and $n\bar{n}$ in nuclei

LQCD calculations can use the same codes (and some data) as  $NN$  spectroscopy calculations using correlator matrices



Correlator topology corresponds to “hexaquark” - “dibaryon” off-diagonal element of correlator matrix

[Amarasinghe, MW et al \[NPLQCD\], PRD 107 \(2023\)](#)

[MW, PoS LATTICE2021](#)

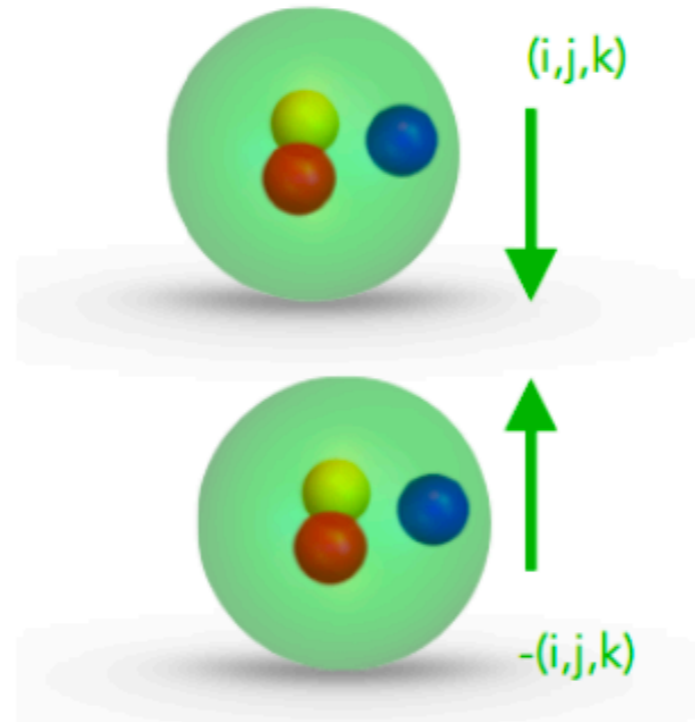
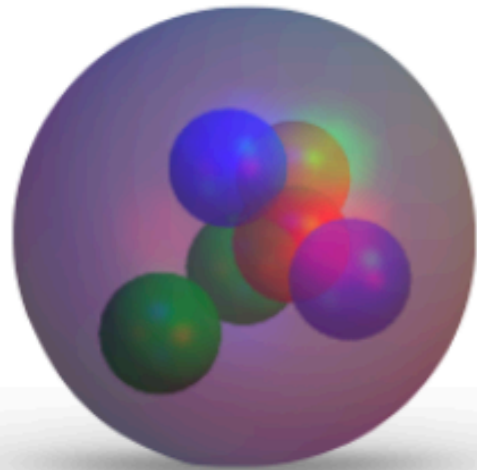
[Nicholson et al, PoS LATTICE2021](#)

[Detmold, Perry, MW et al \[NPLQCD\], arXiv:2404.12039](#)

# *nn* wavefunction catalog

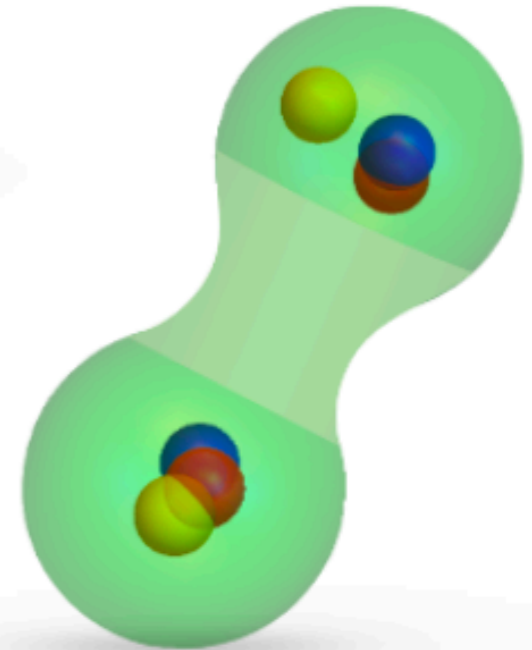
Detmold, Perry, MW et al [NPLQCD], arXiv:2404.12039

- Complete bases of local hexaquark operators with deuteron and dineutron quantum numbers



- Plane-wave dibaryon operators including all spinor components\*

- Exponentially correlated quasi-local operators including all spinor components\*



\*previous study used only the Dirac basis upper components arising in nonrelativistic quark models

# Constructing a hexaquark basis

Hexaquark construction simplified by introducing “diquarks”

$$\mathcal{D}_{\Gamma, F}^{ab}(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} q^{aT}(x) \mathcal{C} \Gamma i \tau_2 F q^b(x)$$

Dirac spinor matrix

SU(2) isospin flavor matrix

$$\mathcal{H}^K(x) = \mathcal{H}_{\Gamma_1, F_1; \Gamma_2, F_2; \Gamma_3, F_3}^{C_1 C_2 C_3}(x)$$

$$= T_{abcdef}^{C_1 C_2 C_3} \mathcal{D}_{\Gamma_1, F_1}^{ab}(x) \mathcal{D}_{\Gamma_2, F_2}^{cd}(x) \mathcal{D}_{\Gamma_3, F_3}^{ef}(x)$$

Color state is product of three symmetric ( $\mathbf{6}$ ) or antisymmetric ( $\bar{\mathbf{3}}$ ) diquarks

$$(\mathbf{3} \otimes \mathbf{3}) \otimes (\mathbf{3} \otimes \mathbf{3}) \otimes (\mathbf{3} \otimes \mathbf{3}) = (\mathbf{6} \oplus \bar{\mathbf{3}}) \otimes (\mathbf{6} \oplus \bar{\mathbf{3}}) \otimes (\mathbf{6} \oplus \bar{\mathbf{3}})$$



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Five ways to form singlets from diquark products

$$\bar{\mathbf{3}} \otimes \bar{\mathbf{3}} \otimes \bar{\mathbf{3}}, \quad \bar{\mathbf{3}} \otimes \bar{\mathbf{3}} \otimes \mathbf{6}, \quad \bar{\mathbf{3}} \otimes \mathbf{6} \otimes \bar{\mathbf{3}}, \quad \mathbf{6} \otimes \bar{\mathbf{3}} \otimes \bar{\mathbf{3}}, \quad \mathbf{6} \otimes \mathbf{6} \otimes \mathbf{6}$$

Five linearly independent color-singlet 6 index tensors [Rao and Shrock, Phys. Lett. B 116 \(1982\)](#)

$$\begin{aligned} T_{abcdef}^{AAA} &= \epsilon_{abe} \epsilon_{cdf} - \epsilon_{abf} \epsilon_{cde}, & T_{abcdef}^{ASA} &= \epsilon_{abc} \epsilon_{efd} + \epsilon_{abd} \epsilon_{efc}, & T_{abcdef}^{SSS} &= \epsilon_{ace} \epsilon_{bdf} + \epsilon_{acf} \epsilon_{bde} \\ T_{abcdef}^{AAS} &= \epsilon_{abe} \epsilon_{cdf} + \epsilon_{abf} \epsilon_{cde}, & T_{abcdef}^{SAA} &= \epsilon_{efa} \epsilon_{cdb} + \epsilon_{efb} \epsilon_{cda}, & &+ \epsilon_{bce} \epsilon_{adf} + \epsilon_{bcf} \epsilon_{ade} \end{aligned}$$

# A complete hexaquark basis

$$\mathcal{H}^K(x) = \mathcal{H}_{\Gamma_1, F_1; \Gamma_2, F_2; \Gamma_3, F_3}^{C_1 C_2 C_3}(x) = T_{abcdef}^{C_1 C_2 C_3} \mathcal{D}_{\Gamma_1, F_1}^{ab}(x) \mathcal{D}_{\Gamma_2, F_2}^{cd}(x) \mathcal{D}_{\Gamma_3, F_3}^{ef}(x)$$

Combined spin-color-flavor Fierz identities complicate identification of linearly independent 6-quark operators

Rao and Shrock, Phys. Lett. B 116 (1982)

Buchoff and MW, PRD 93 (2016)

Out of  $5 \times 32 \times 9 = 1400$  color-spin-flavor operator products with dineutron quantum numbers, only **16** are linearly independent after accounting for quark antisymmetry

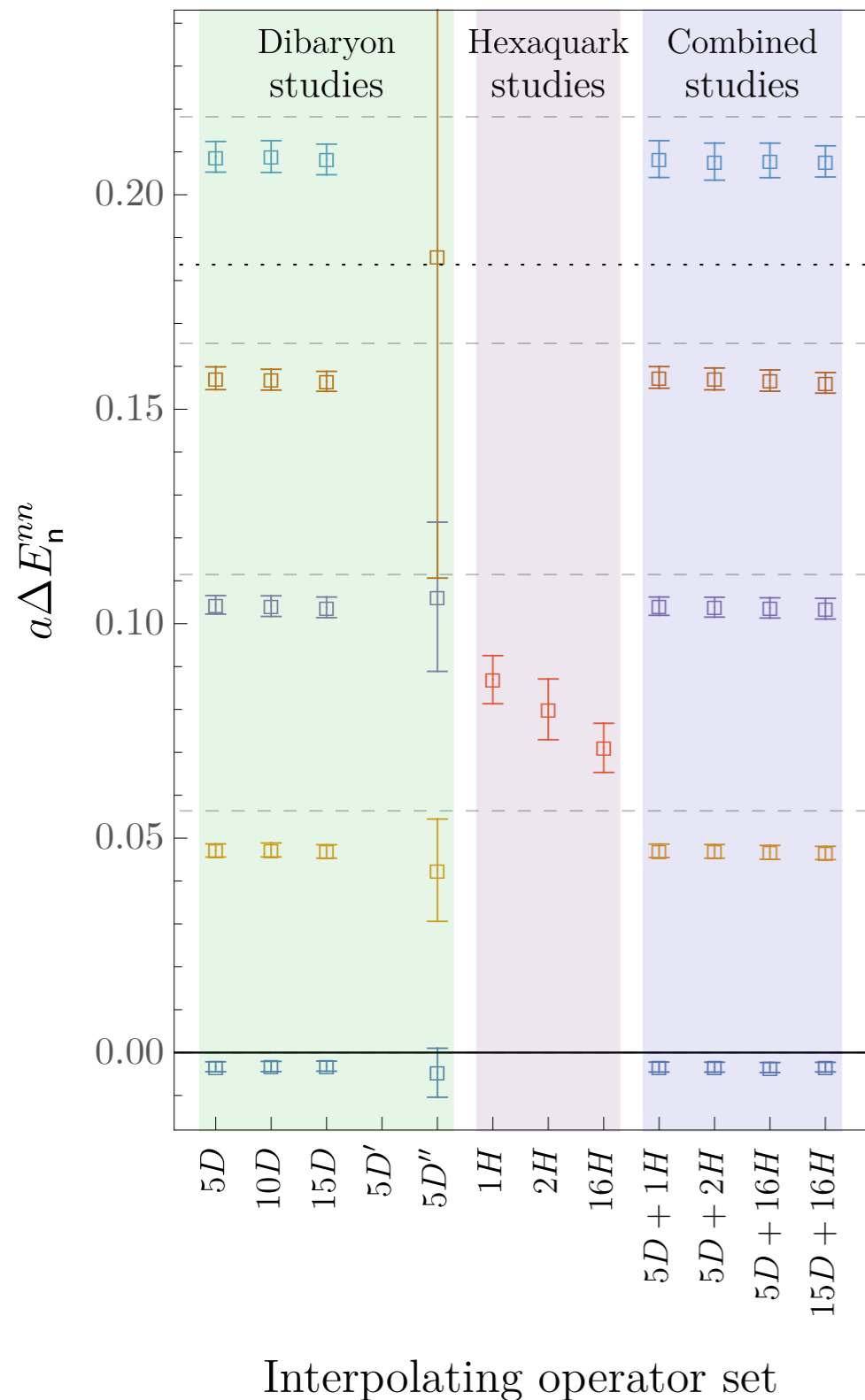
Detmold, Perry, MW et al [NPLQCD], arXiv:2404.12039

$K$	Color	Spin	Flavor	$K$	Color	Spin	Flavor
1	AAA	$\gamma_4 \quad \gamma_5 P_+ \quad 1$	$\tau \ 1 \ 1$	9	SAA	$\gamma_5 P_- \quad \gamma_5 P_+ \quad \gamma_5 P_+$	$\tau \ 1 \ 1$
2	AAA	$\gamma_4 \quad \gamma_5 P_- \quad 1$	$\tau \ 1 \ 1$	10	SAA	$\gamma_5 P_- \quad \gamma_5 P_- \quad \gamma_5 P_+$	$\tau \ 1 \ 1$
3	SAA	$\gamma_5 P_+ \quad \gamma_5 P_+ \quad \gamma_5 P_+$	$\tau \ 1 \ 1$	11	SAA	$\gamma_5 P_- \quad \gamma_5 P_- \quad \gamma_5 P_-$	$\tau \ 1 \ 1$
4	SAA	$\gamma_5 P_+ \quad \gamma_5 P_- \quad \gamma_5 P_+$	$\tau \ 1 \ 1$	12	SAA	$\gamma_5 P_- \quad 1 \quad 1$	$\tau \ 1 \ 1$
5	SAA	$\gamma_5 P_+ \quad \gamma_5 P_- \quad \gamma_5 P_-$	$\tau \ 1 \ 1$	13	SAA	$\gamma_5 P_- \quad \gamma_4 \quad \gamma_4$	$\tau' \tau \ \tau'$
6	SAA	$\gamma_5 P_+ \quad 1 \quad 1$	$\tau \ 1 \ 1$	14	SAA	$\gamma_5 P_- \quad \gamma_4 \quad \gamma_4$	$\tau \ \tau' \ \tau'$
7	SAA	$\gamma_5 P_+ \quad \gamma_4 \quad \gamma_4$	$\tau' \tau \ \tau'$	15	SSS	$\gamma_5 P_+ \quad \gamma_5 P_- \quad \gamma_5 P_+$	$\tau \ \tau' \ \tau'$
8	SAA	$\gamma_5 P_+ \quad \gamma_4 \quad \gamma_4$	$\tau \ \tau' \ \tau'$	16	SSS	$\gamma_5 P_+ \quad \gamma_5 P_- \quad \gamma_5 P_-$	$\tau' \tau \ \tau'$

One operator (#3) is a product of color-singlet baryons, all others involve “hidden color” states not describable by color-singlet products

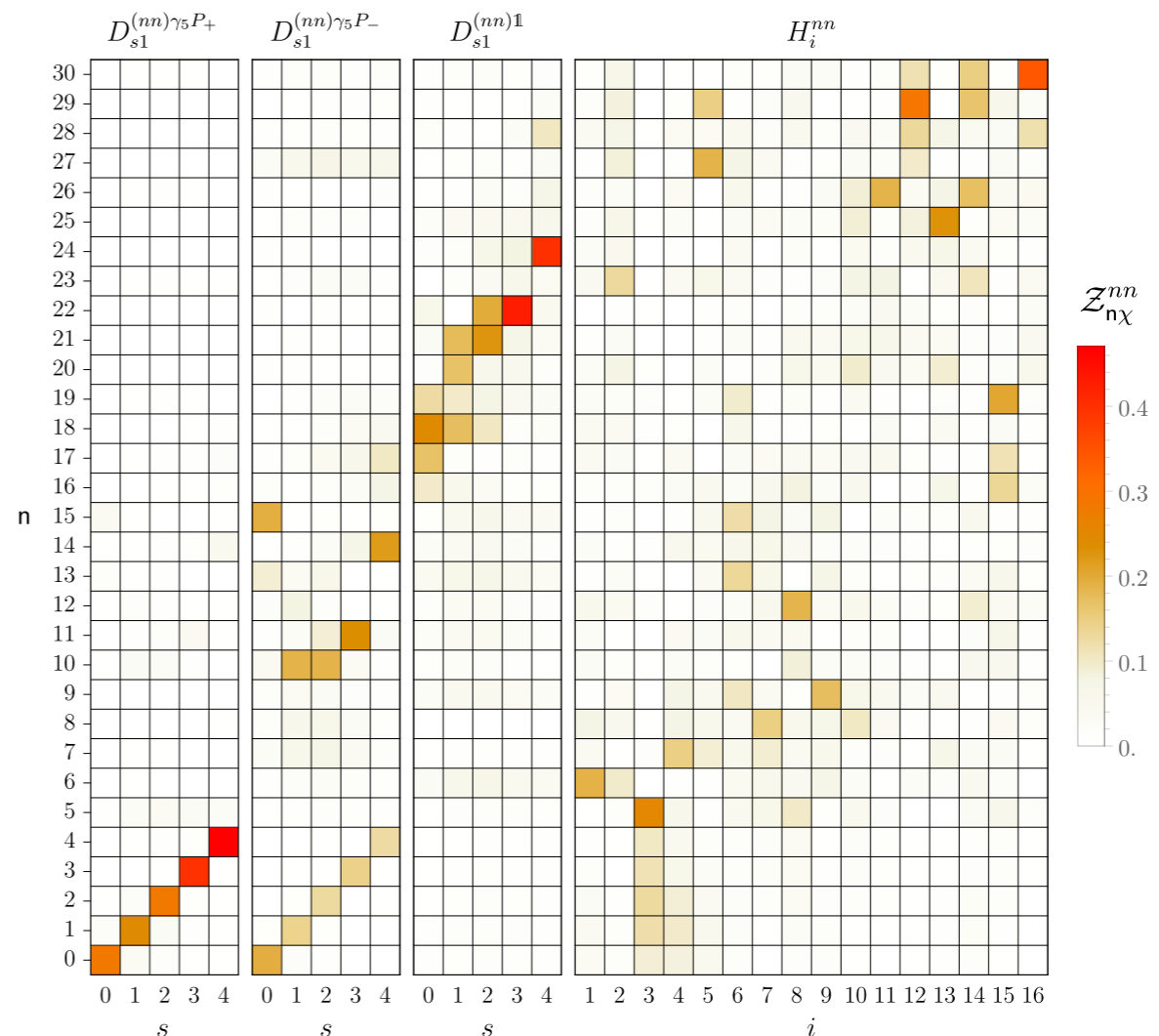
Harvey, Nucl. Phys. A 352 (1981)

# Hidden-color $nn$ states



Hidden-color hexaquark and lower-spin-component dibaryon operators do not significantly affect low-energy spectrum

- Hidden-color hexaquarks overlap predominantly with particular excited states that may have novel structure



# LQCD $nn$ decay results

Overlap factors encode ground- and excited-state dineutron decay matrix elements of interest

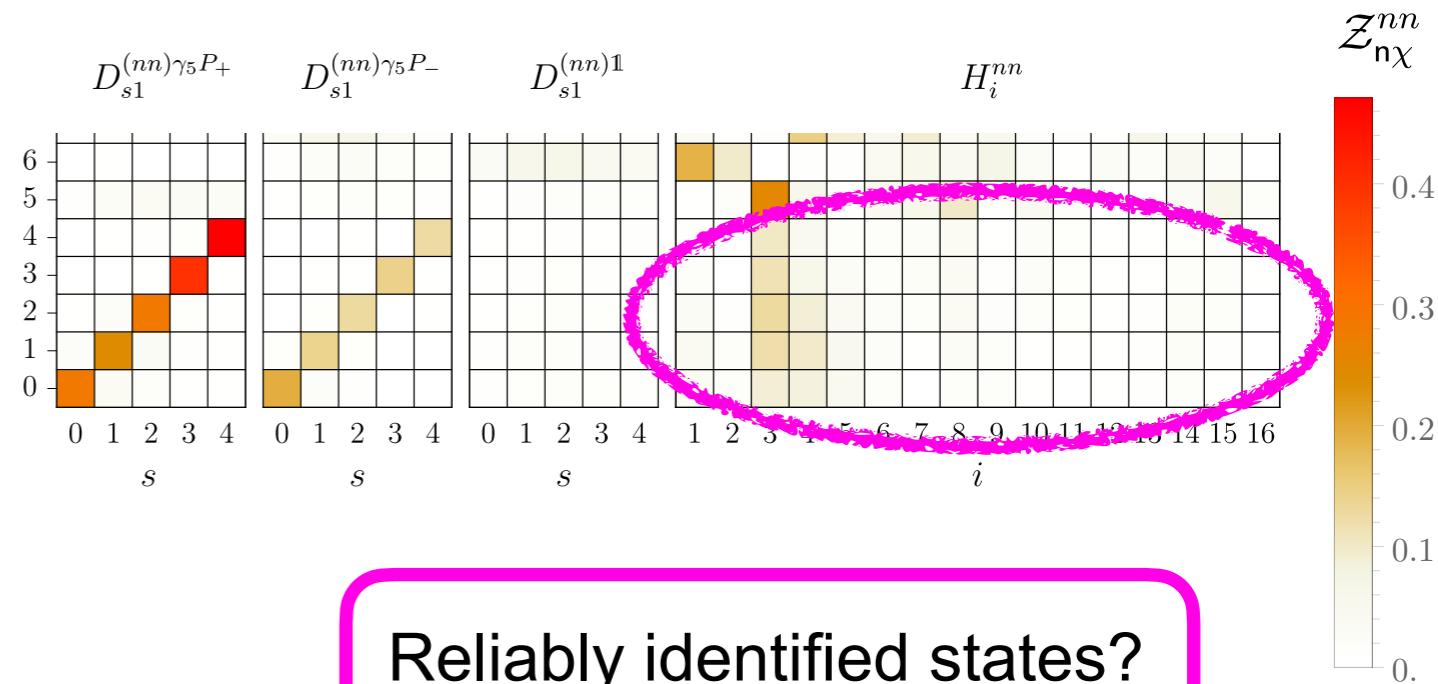
Detmold, Perry, MW et al [NPLQCD], arXiv:2404.12039

$$\mathcal{Z}_{nH_i^{nn}} = \langle 0 | H_i^{nn} | nn, \mathbf{n} \rangle$$

$$= \sum_J \langle 0 | Q_J | nn, \mathbf{n} \rangle C_{Ji}$$



Known change-of-basis matrix



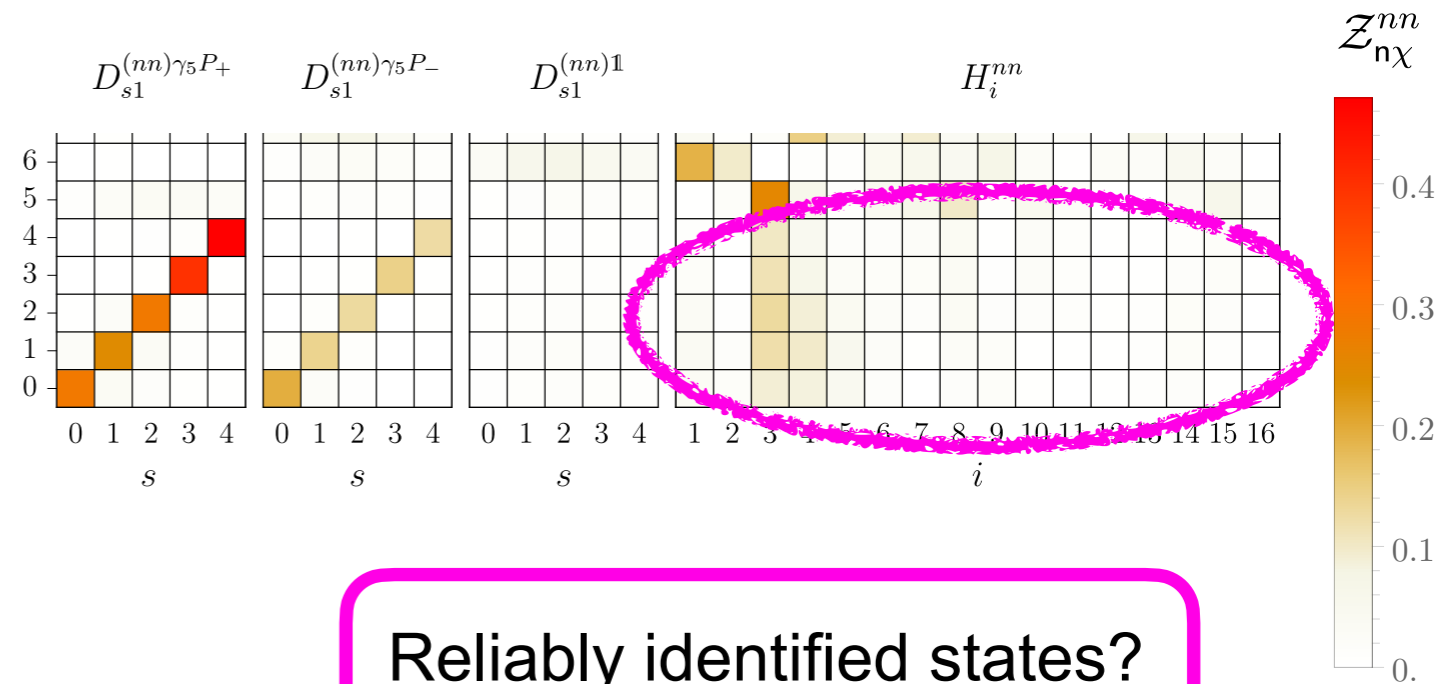
# LQCD $nn$ decay results

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$$\begin{aligned} Z_{nH_i^{nn}} &= \langle 0 | H_i^{nn} | nn, n \rangle \\ &= \sum_J \langle 0 | Q_J | nn, n \rangle C_{Ji} \end{aligned}$$

Known change-of-basis matrix

Detmold, Perry, MW et al [NPLQCD], arXiv:2404.12039



Reliably identified states?

## Qualitative lessons

- Strong energy (i.e. state  $n$ ) dependence of  $\langle 0 | H_i^{nn} | nn, n \rangle$  suggests nuclear matrix elements sensitive to neutron (pair) distribution inside nucleus

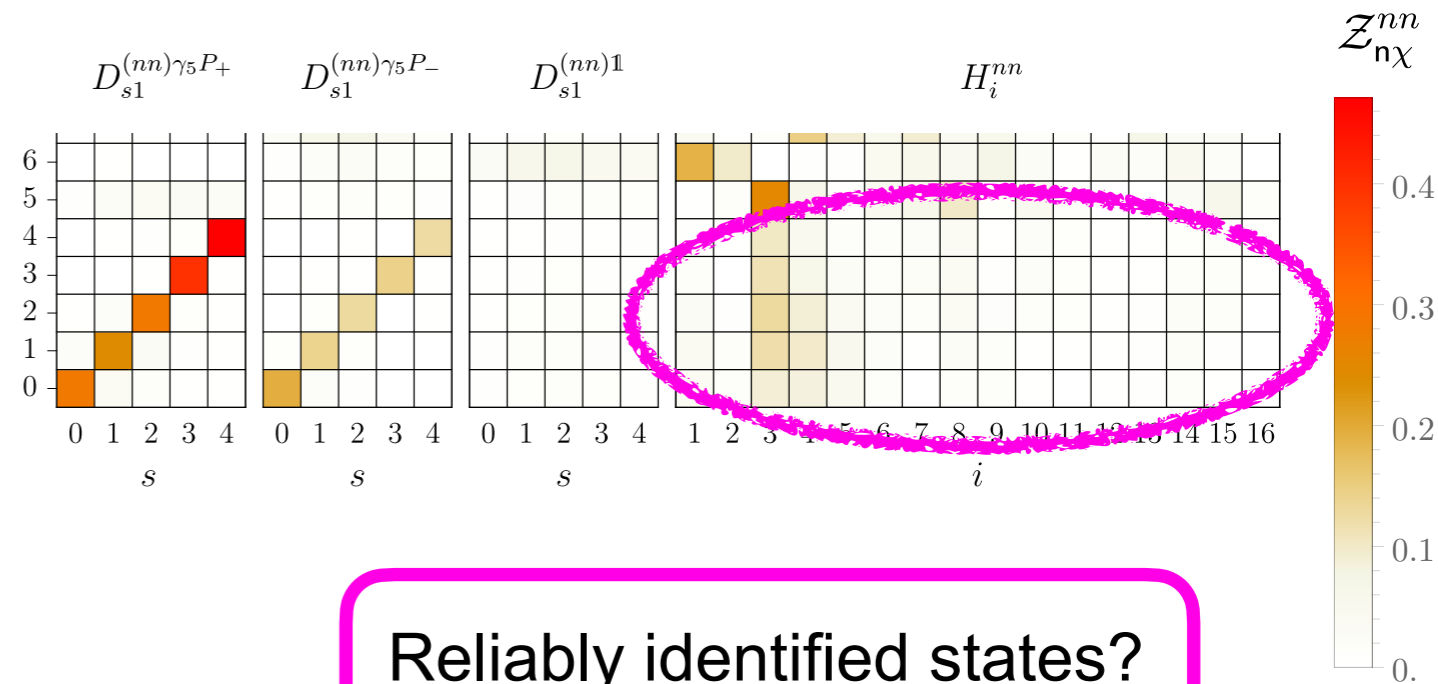
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$$\begin{aligned} Z_{nH_i^{nn}} &= \langle 0 | H_i^{nn} | nn, n \rangle \\ &= \sum_J \langle 0 | Q_J | nn, n \rangle C_{Ji} \end{aligned}$$

Known change-of-basis matrix

Detmold, Perry, MW et al [NPLQCD], arXiv:2404.12039



Reliably identified states?

## Qualitative lessons

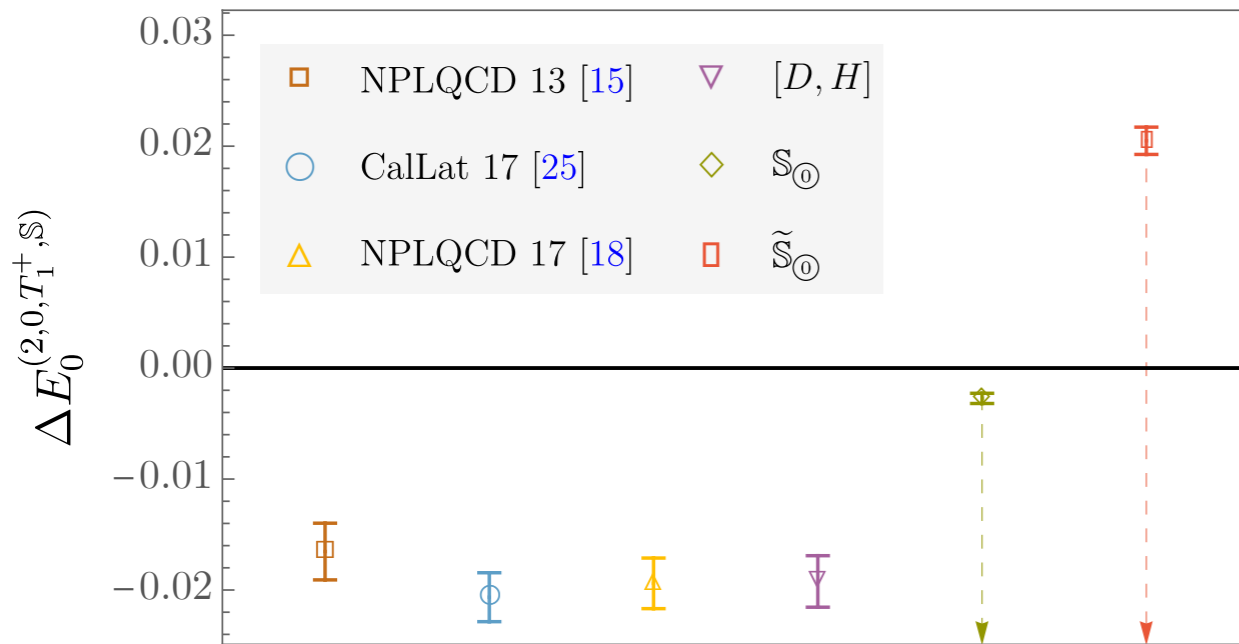
- Strong energy (i.e. state  $n$ ) dependence of  $\langle 0 | H_i^{nn} | nn, n \rangle$  suggests nuclear matrix elements sensitive to neutron (pair) distribution inside nucleus

## Quantitative challenges remain

- Nonperturbative renormalization complicated (need NPR for this action, smeared- vs point-like)
- Challenging to estimate systematic uncertainties associated with state identification...

# Variational bounds

✓ **Variational upper bounds** obtained using different interpolating operator sets are consistent



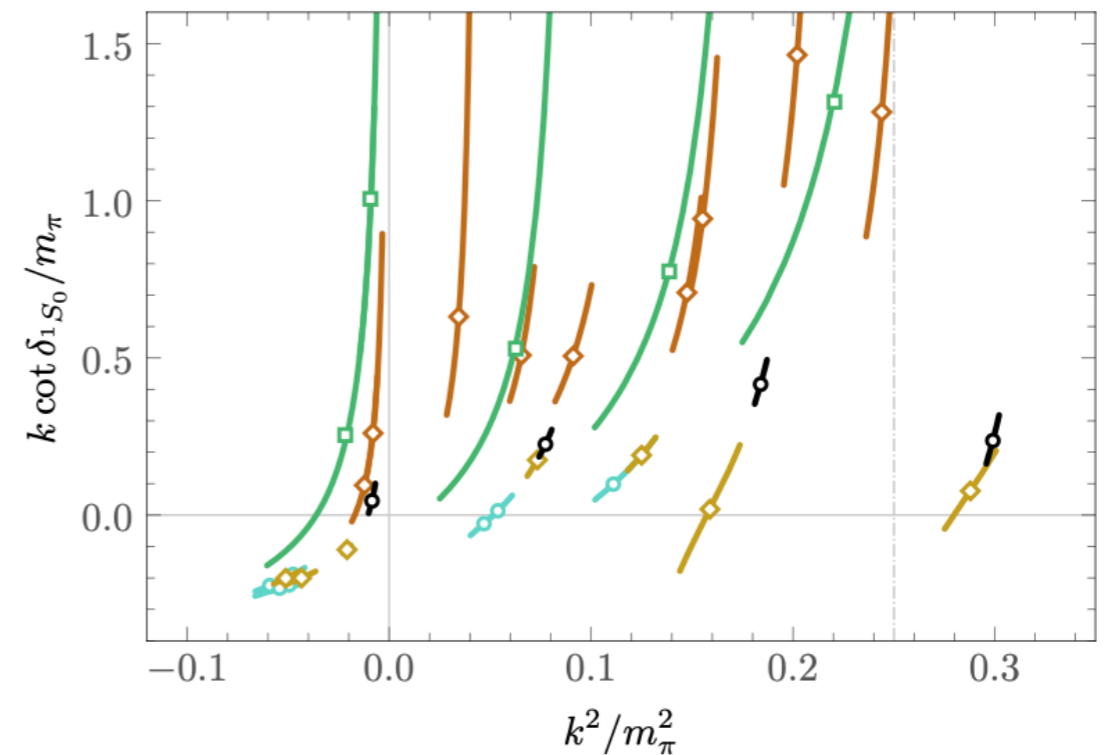
Ground-state energy **estimates** using different interpolating-operator sets show large discrepancies



Phase shifts obtained using asymmetric vs variational energy estimates suggest qualitatively different physics (bound vs unbound)

Amarasinghe, MW et al [NPLQCD], PRD 107 (2023)

○ This work    ◇ Hörz *et al.* 21 [28]    □ Francis *et al.* 19 [26]  
 ○ NPLQCD 17 [18]    ◇ CalLat 17 [25]



Results by different groups using similar interpolating operators show good consistency

**Can we get more robust  
constraints than one-sided  
variational bounds?**



**Yes**

# (Block) Lanczos for Lattice QCD

MW, arXiv:2406.20009

Hackett, MW, arXiv:2407.21777

Hackett, MW, arXiv:2412.04444

**Cornelius Lanczos**



**Daniel Hackett**



# Transfer-matrix eigenvalues

Lattice theories do not have continuous time translation symmetry defining Hamiltonian

$$\mathcal{O}(t) = e^{-Ht} \mathcal{O} e^{Ht} \quad \times$$

Discrete time translation symmetry enables definition of transfer matrix  $T$

$$\mathcal{O}(ka) = T^k \mathcal{O} (T^{-1})^k \quad \checkmark$$

Energy spectrum = - ln ( spectrum of eigenvalues of  $T$  )

$$T |n\rangle = |n\rangle \lambda_n \quad E_n = - \ln \lambda_n$$

Correlation functions are matrix elements of powers of  $T$

$$C(t) \equiv \langle \psi(t) \psi^\dagger(0) \rangle = \langle \psi | T^{t/a} | \psi \rangle + \dots$$

# The power-iteration algorithm

Start with an arbitrary normalized initial state:

$$|b_1\rangle = |\psi\rangle / |\psi|$$

Iteration step:

$$|p_{k+1}\rangle = T|b_k\rangle$$

$$|b_{k+1}\rangle = |p_{k+1}\rangle / |p_{k+1}|$$

Convergence:

$$|b_k\rangle \propto T^{k-1}|\psi\rangle = e^{-(k-1)\alpha E_0} |\psi\rangle Z_0 + O(e^{-k\delta})$$

# The power-iteration algorithm

Start with an arbitrary normalized initial state:

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Convergence:

$$|b_k\rangle \propto T^{k-1}|\psi\rangle = e^{-(k-1)aE_0}|\psi\rangle Z_0 + O(e^{-k\delta})$$

Energies from power-iteration eigenvalues:

$$\begin{aligned} -\ln\langle b_k|T|b_k\rangle &= -\ln\left[\frac{\langle\psi|T^{2k-1}|\psi\rangle}{\langle\psi|T^{2k-2}|\psi\rangle}\right] = aE_0 + O(e^{-k\delta}) \\ &= -\ln\left[\frac{C((2k-1)a)}{C((2k-2)a)}\right] = aE^{\text{eff}}(t/a = 2k-1) \end{aligned}$$

Standard effective mass = “apply power-iteration algorithm to the transfer matrix”

# Lanczos = Krylov + Rayleigh-Ritz

Start with an arbitrary normalized initial state:  $|v_1\rangle = |\psi\rangle/|\psi| = |\psi\rangle/\sqrt{C(0)}$

Iteration step:  $|v_{j+1}\rangle\beta_{j+1} = (T - \alpha_j)|v_j\rangle - \beta_j|v_{j-1}\rangle$

Where  $\alpha_j = \langle v_j|T|v_j\rangle$   $\beta_j = \langle v_{j-1}|T|v_j\rangle$

Lanczos (1950)

See Parlett, "The Symmetric Eigenvalue Problem" (1980)

- Lanczos vectors form orthonormal basis for Krylov space

$$\mathcal{K}^{(m)} = \text{span}\{|v_1\rangle, |v_2\rangle, \dots, |v_m\rangle\}$$

$$\langle v_i|v_j\rangle = \delta_{ij}$$

- Krylov-space approximation to  $T$  directly computable

$$T_{ij}^{(m)} = \langle v_i|T|v_j\rangle = \delta_{ij}\alpha_j + \delta_{i(j-1)}\beta_j + \delta_{i(j+1)}\beta_{j+1}$$

  
*Novel features  
not present in  
power iteration*

**Krylov space ~ span of data ~ computationally accessible part of Hilbert space**

# Optimal estimators given fixed data

Krylov-space approximation to  $T$  directly computed in Lanczos algorithm

- It's eigenvalues provide “best” Krylov-space approximations to  $T$  eigenvalues

$$T_{ij}^{(m)} = \langle v_i | T | v_j \rangle = \begin{pmatrix} \alpha_1 & \beta_2 & & & & & 0 \\ \beta_2 & \alpha_2 & \beta_3 & & & & \\ & \beta_3 & \alpha_3 & \ddots & & & \\ & & \ddots & \ddots & & & \\ & & & \beta_{m-1} & \alpha_{m-1} & \beta_m & \\ 0 & & & \beta_{m-1} & \alpha_{m-1} & \beta_m & \alpha_m \end{pmatrix}_{ij}$$

Diagonalize the Krylov-space transfer matrix:

$$T_{ij}^{(m)} = \sum_k \omega_{ik}^{(m)} \lambda_k^{(m)} (\omega^{-1})_{kj}^{(m)}$$

“Ritz vectors” = corresponding approximate eigenstates

$$|y_k^{(m)}\rangle = \sum_j |v_j\rangle \omega_{jk}^{(m)}$$

“Ritz values” = optimal Krylov-space approximation to  $T$  eigenvalues

$$\lambda_k^{(m)} = \langle y_k^{(m)} | T | y_k^{(m)} \rangle$$

# Lanczos without Lanczos vectors

**Problem:** In LQCD, we don't have direct access to infinite-dimensional Hilbert space vectors



# Lanczos without Lanczos vectors

**Problem:** In LQCD, we don't have direct access to infinite-dimensional Hilbert space vectors

**Solution:** Compute the matrix elements  $T_{ij}^{(m)}$  directly from correlation functions via recursion relations:

MW, arXiv:2406.20009

$$\alpha_1 = \langle v_1 | T | v_1 \rangle = \frac{C(1a)}{C(0)} \quad \beta_1 = 0$$

Recursive Lanczos iteration:

$$A_j^k = \langle v_j | T^k | v_j \rangle \quad B_j^k = \langle v_{j-1} | T^k | v_j \rangle$$

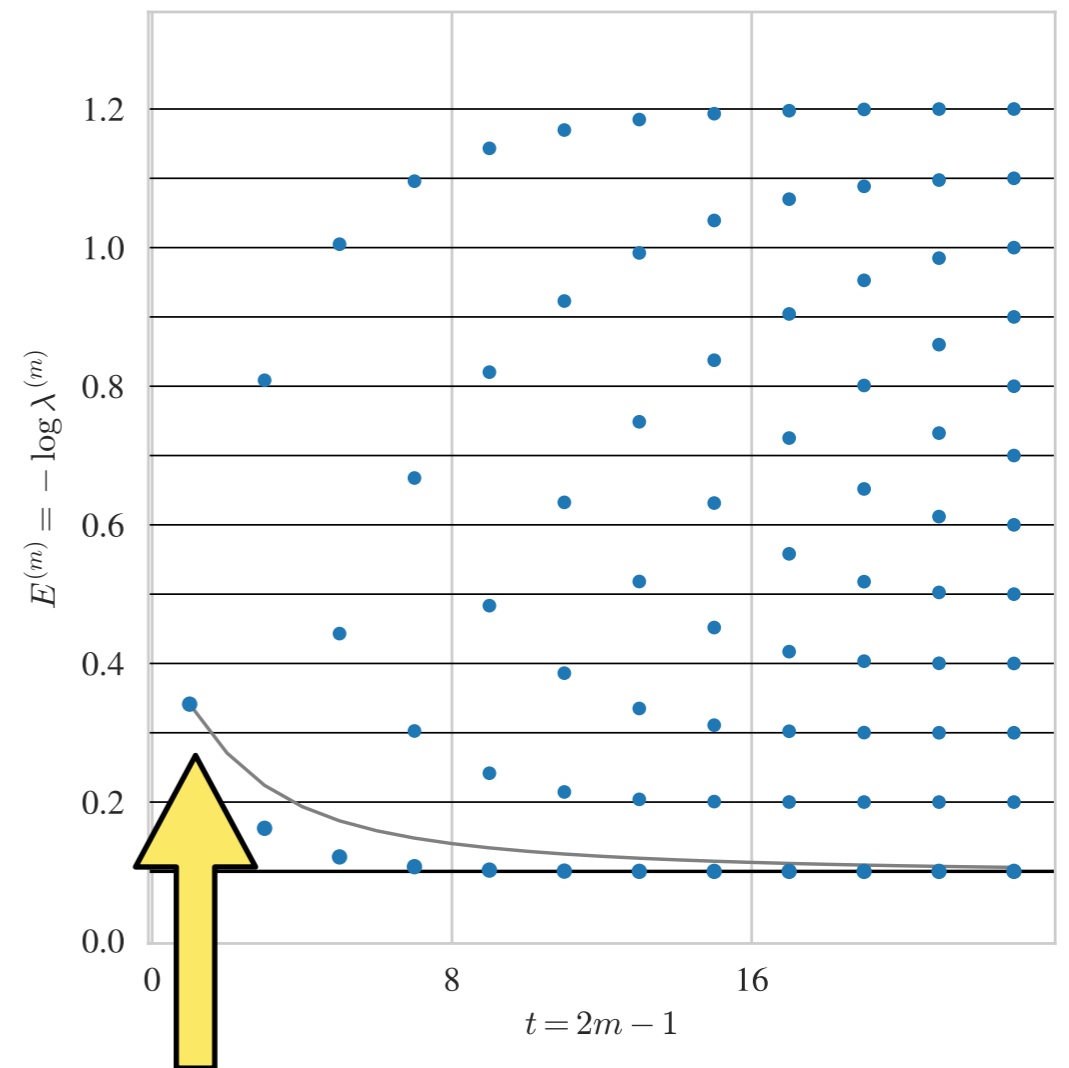
$$\beta_{j+1} = \sqrt{A_j^2 - \alpha_j^2 - \beta_j^2}$$

$$B_{j+1}^k = \frac{1}{\beta_{j+1}} [A_j^{k+1} - \alpha_j A_j^k - \beta_j B_j^k]$$

...

Ritz values reproduce spectrum of 12-state toy model exactly after 12 steps:

$$C(t) = \sum_{n=1}^{12} \frac{1}{2(0.1n)} e^{-0.1nt}$$



Lanczos equals power iteration after  $m = 1$  step, converges faster for  $m > 1$

# Residual bounds

- Lanczos approximation error after finite number of iterations directly computable:

$$\min_{\lambda \in \{\lambda_n\}} |\lambda_0^{(m)} - \lambda| \leq |\beta_{m+1} \omega_{m0}^{(m)}|$$

Eigenvectors of  $T^{(m)}$

Matrix element  $T_{m(m+1)}^{(m)}$

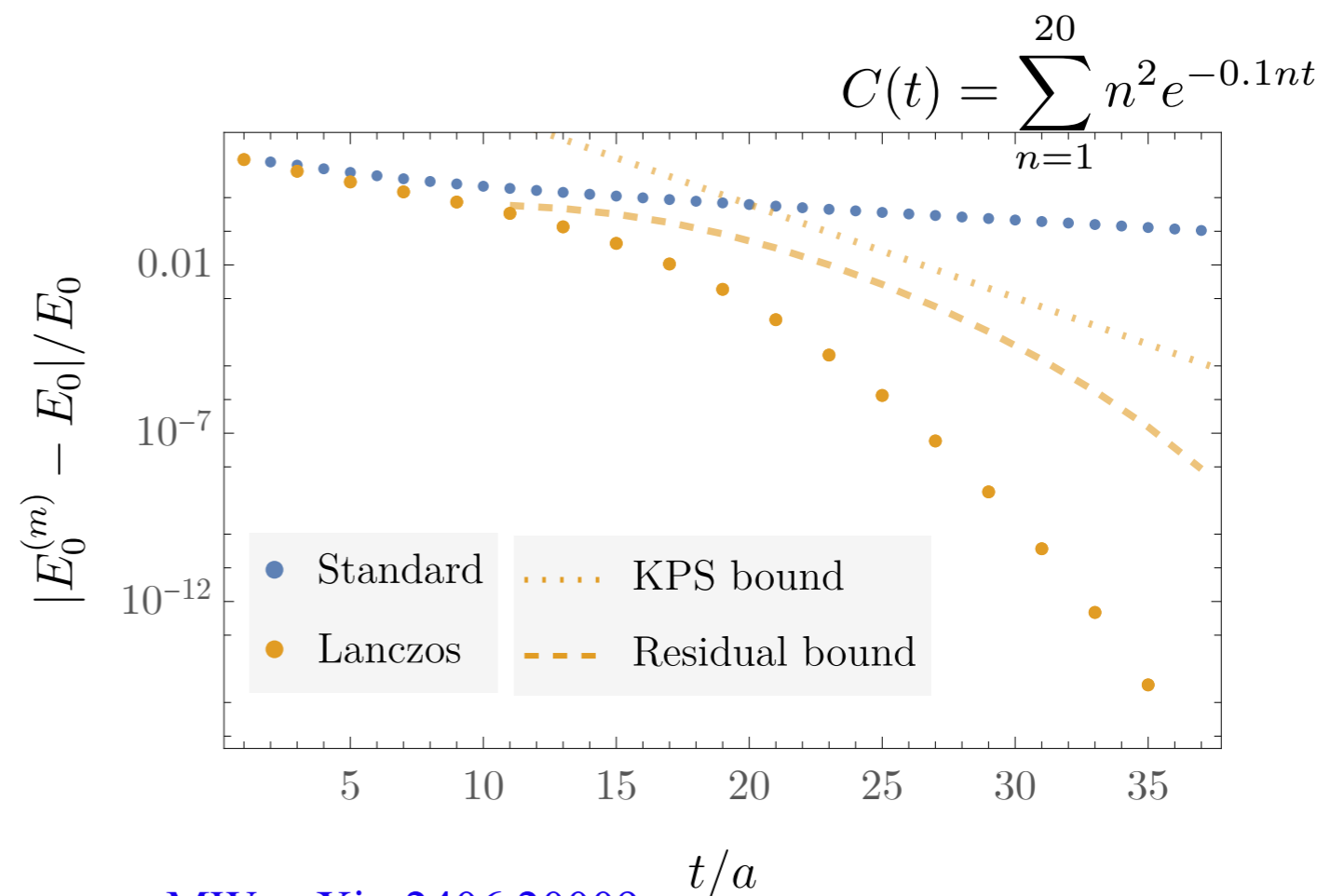
See Parlett, *The Symmetric Eigenvalue Problem* (1980)

## Rigorous quantification of excited-state effects!

Mock data tests demonstrate

- Lanczos converges exponentially faster than power iteration / effective mass
- Residual bound provides valid two-sided bound on errors from excited-state effects

**Note: residual bound is on distance to closest eigenvalue, not e.g. “true ground state”**



# Spurious eigenvalues

Decades of research on how roundoff affects Lanczos has led to an understanding of the “Lanczos phenomenon”

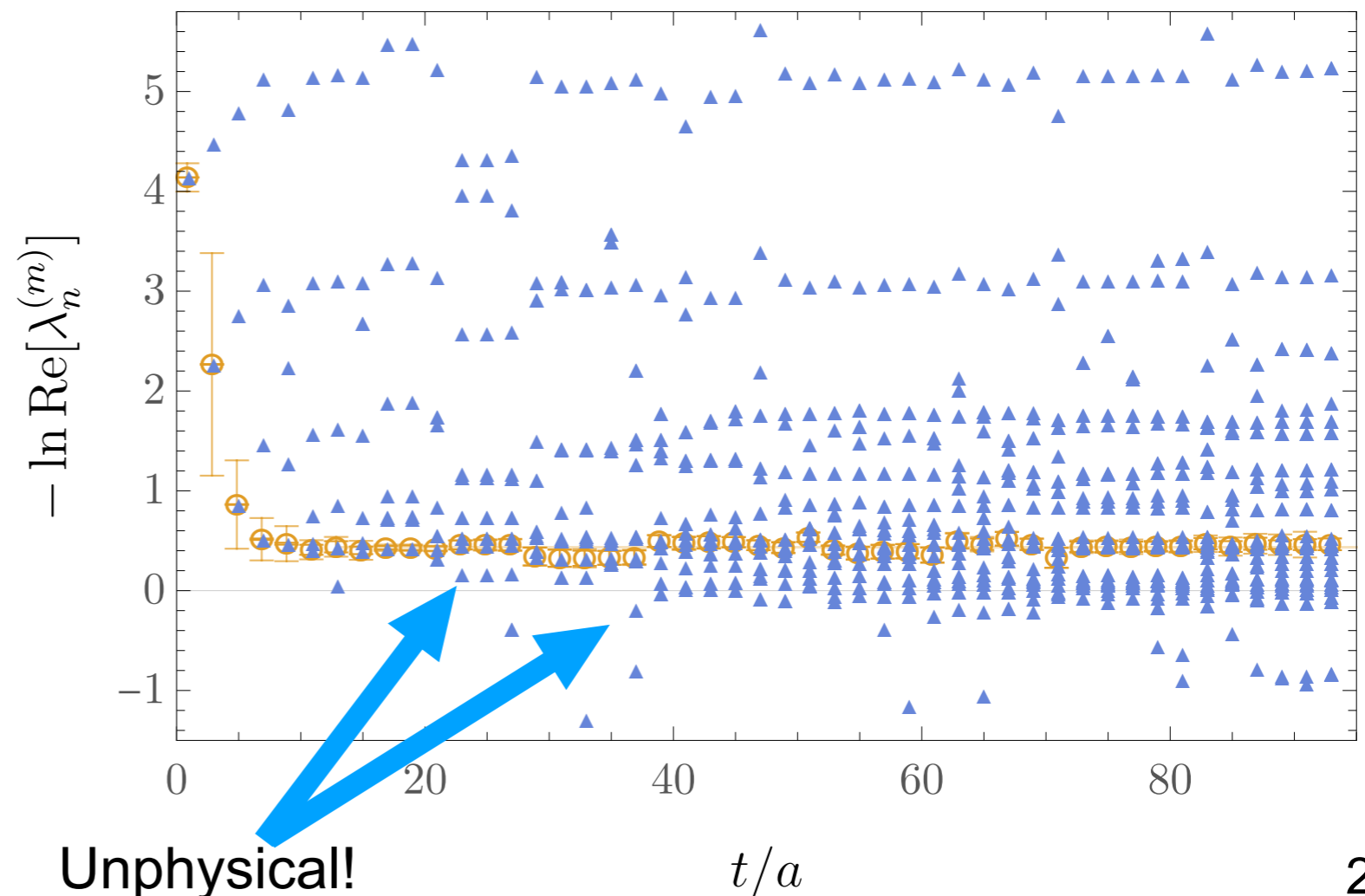
- Roundoff leads to  $O(1)$  errors in some “spurious” Ritz values that do not converge
- Remaining “non-spurious” Ritz values still accurate, converge to eigenvalues

Statistical noise leads to unphysical Ritz values:

- Most Ritz values complex even though transfer matrix eigenvalues real + positive
- Taking real parts at face value would give ground-state energy violating QCD inequality  $M_N > m_\pi$

MW, arXiv:2406.20009

Proton all Ritz values



# The physics of noise

Krylov space can be decomposed into sectors based off Ritz properties

$$T^{(m)} = \sum_{k \in \bar{\mathcal{S}}} \lambda_k^{(m)} |y_k^{(m)}\rangle \langle y_k^{(m)}| + \sum_{k \in \mathcal{S}} \lambda_k^{(m)} |y_k^{L(m)}\rangle \langle y_k^{R(m)}|$$

Non-spurious
Spurious

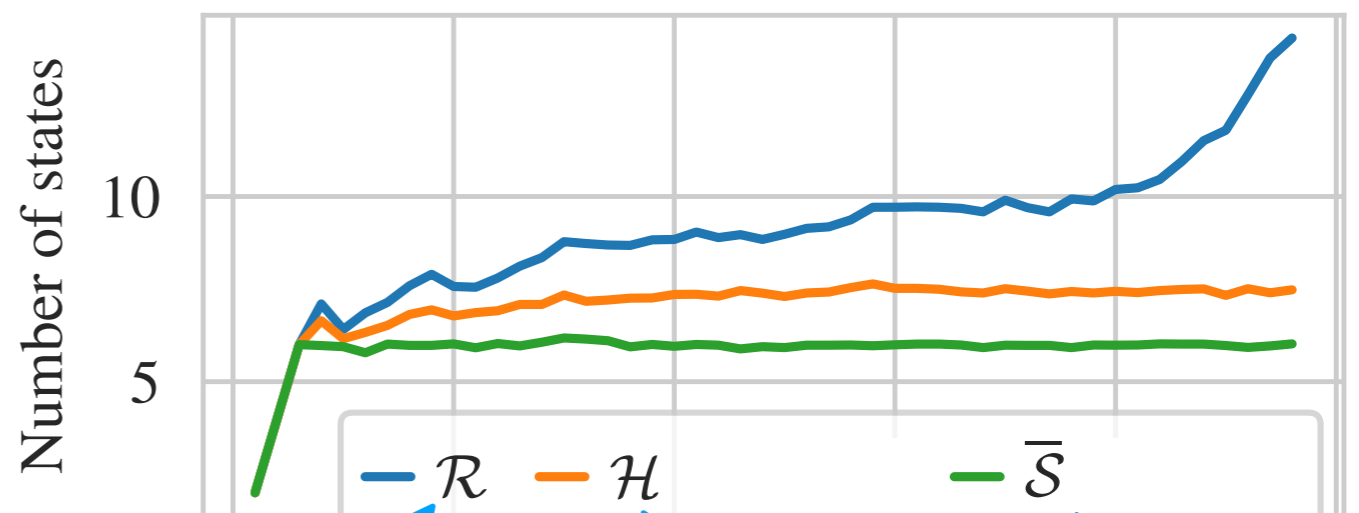
Further classification of spurious states possible:

- Non-spurious  $\subset$  Hermitian subspace  $\subset$  Real Ritz values

Unphysical states (e.g. with complex norms) needed to describe data that is non-convex in the presence of noise

States with non-zero initial-state overlap (“correct quantum numbers”) are unaffected by spurious state filtering, can be interpreted physically

Hackett, MW, arXiv:2412.04444



Real Ritz values

Hermitian subspace

Non-spurious subspace

# The ZCW test

Roundoff (and noise) leads to errors in orthogonalization, artificially extend Krylov space in spurious directions [Paige \(1971\)](#) [Parlett and Scott \(1979\)](#)

- Motivates “Cullum-Willoughby test”: spurious directions should only depend on numerical artifacts and be independent of initial vector  
[Cullum and Willoughby, Journal of Computational Physics 44, 329 \(1981\)](#)

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[Cullum and Willoughby, Journal of Computational Physics 44, 329 \(1981\)](#)

Physically: independence of initial vector ~ zero overlap with source  
~ wrong quantum numbers

## ZCW test for spuriously small overlaps

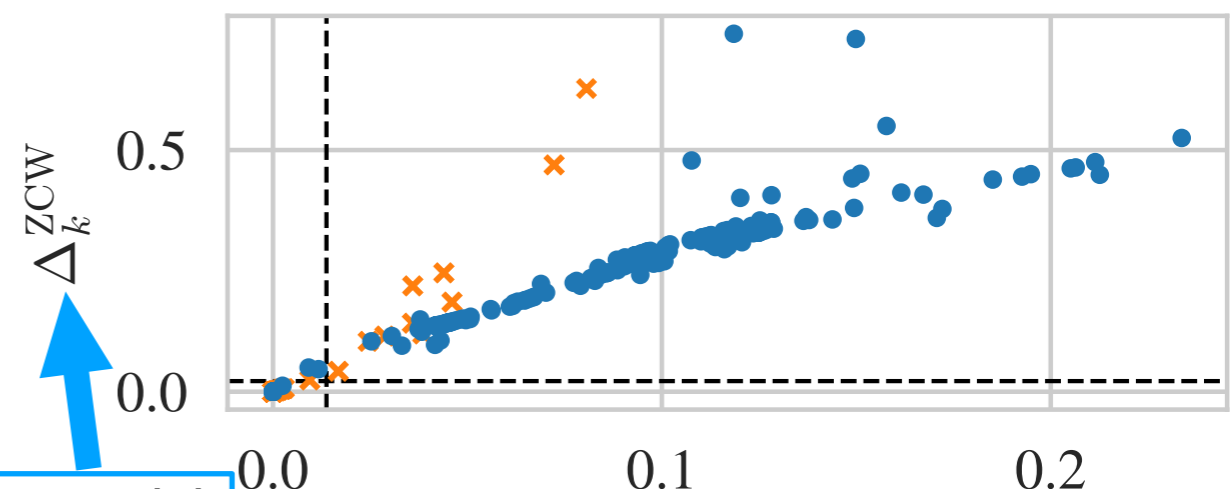
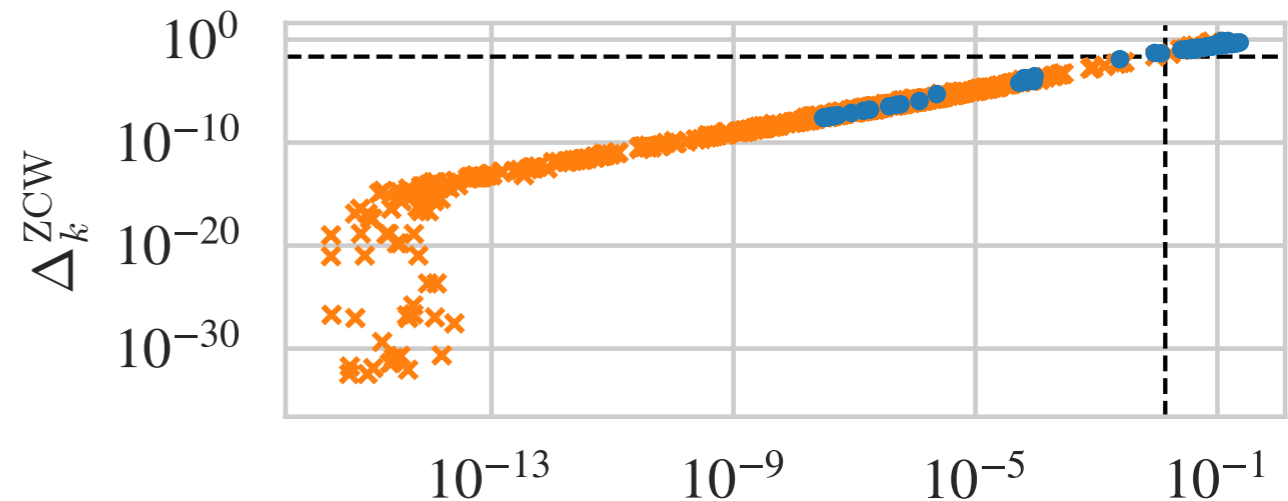
[Hackett, MW, arXiv:2412.04444](#)

$$\Delta_k^{\text{ZCW}(m)} = \left| \frac{Z_k^{R(m)*} Z_k^{L(m)}}{C(0)} \right| < \epsilon^{\text{ZCW}}$$

Eigenvalue-eigenvector identity\* can be used to prove equivalence of CW and ZCW tests for small  $\epsilon^{\text{ZCW}} \sim \epsilon^{\text{CW}}$

Size of overlaps on last iteration where all Ritz values obey all physical constraints sets natural scale for  $\epsilon^{\text{ZCW}}$

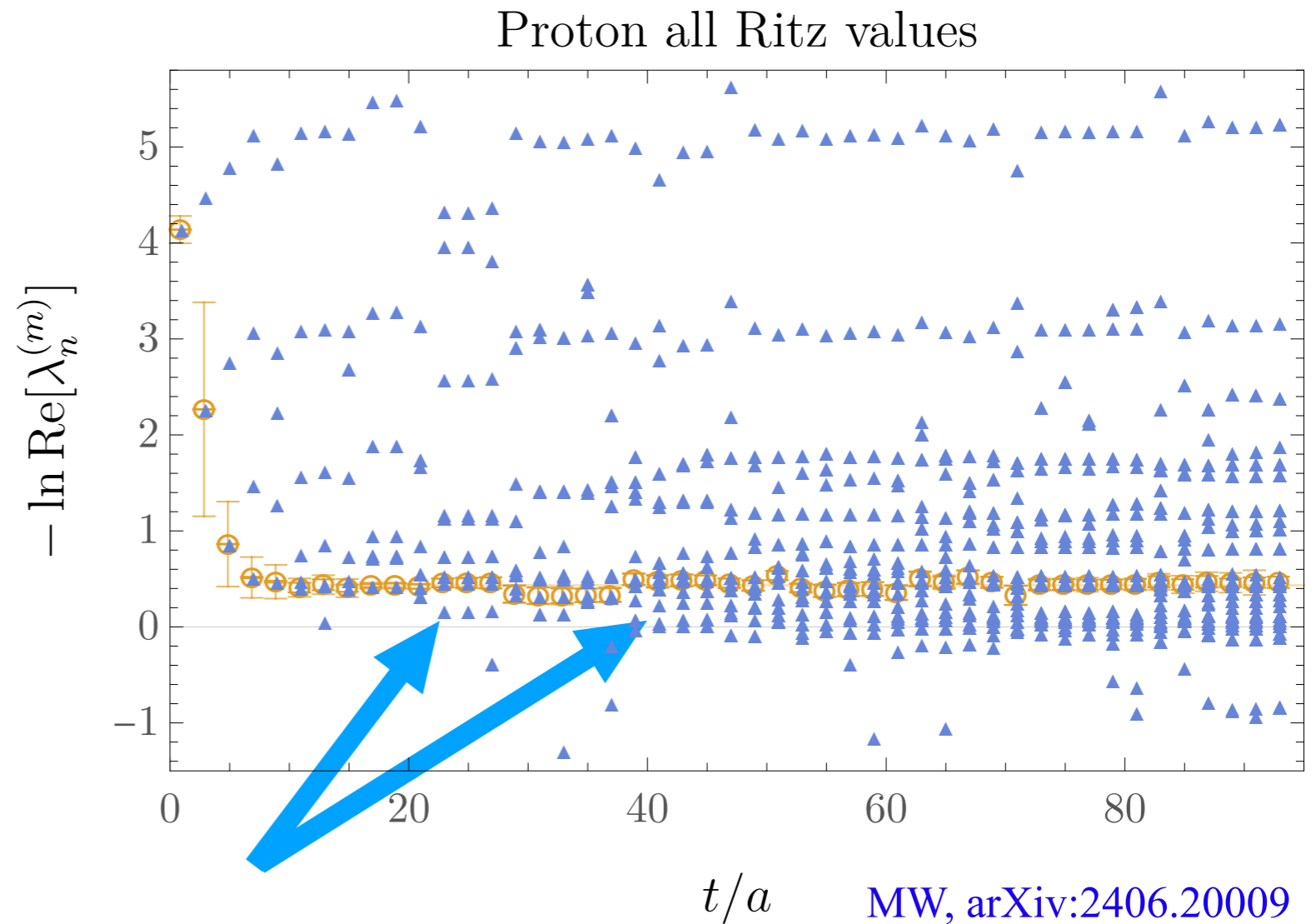
\* See Denton, Parke, Tao, and Zhang, *Bull. Am. Math Soc.* 59, 31 (2022)



Always vanish together

# Non-spurious energies are accurate

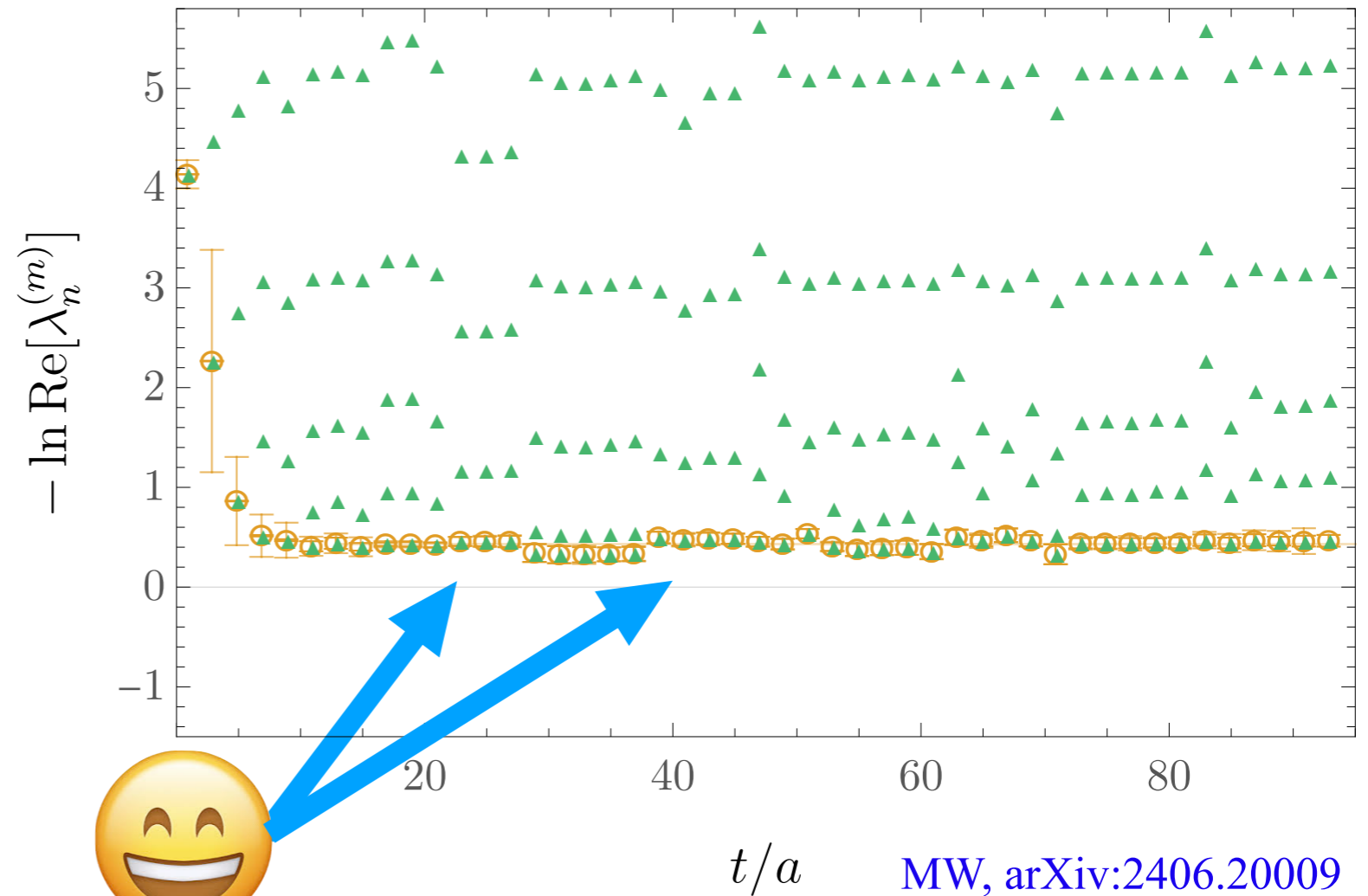
All obviously unphysical proton eigenvalues removed by “spurious-state filtering” using the CW or ZCW test



# Non-spurious energies are accurate

Proton non-spurious Ritz values

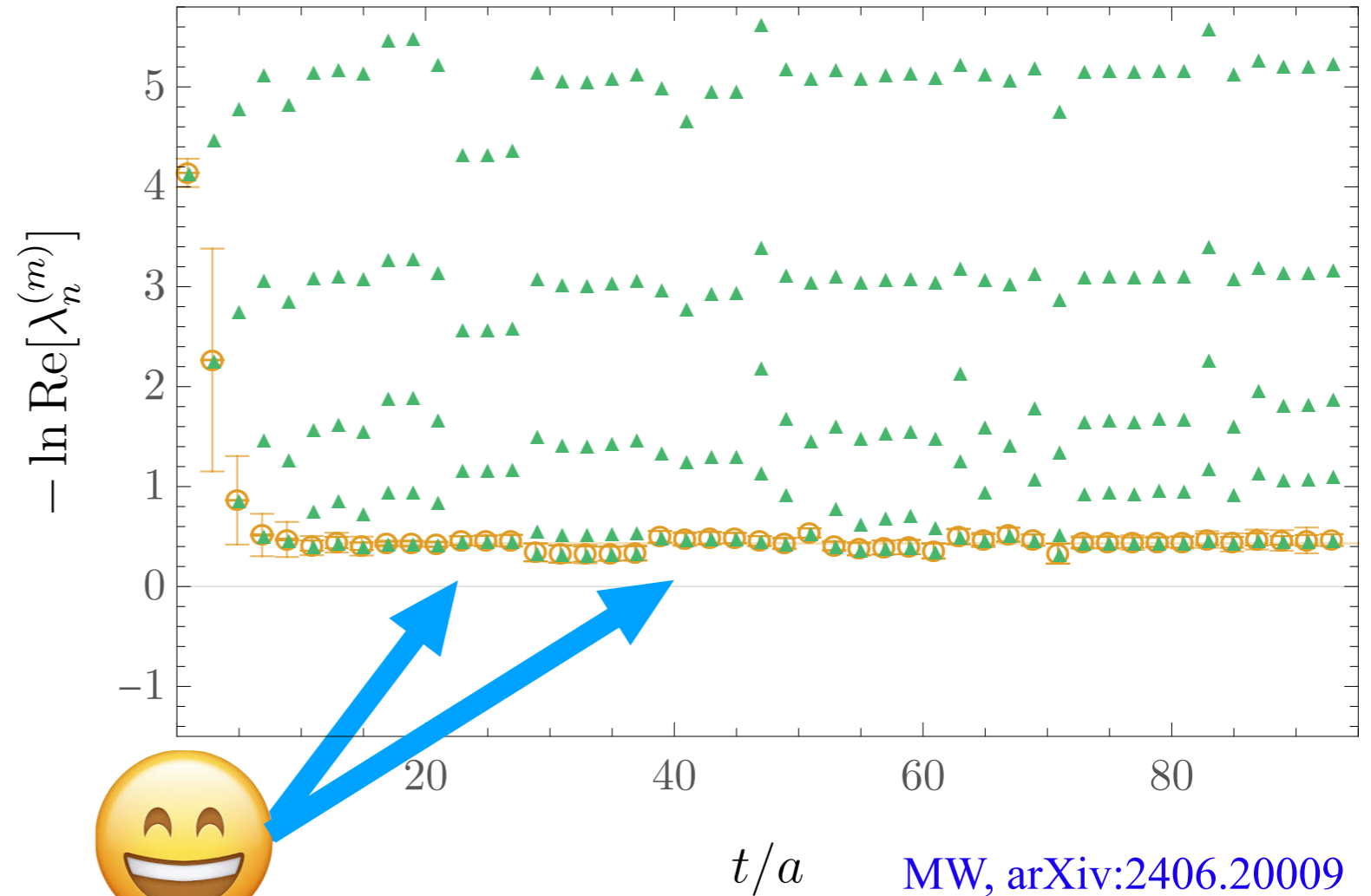
All obviously unphysical proton eigenvalues removed by “spurious-state filtering” using the CW or ZCW test





# Non-spurious energies are accurate

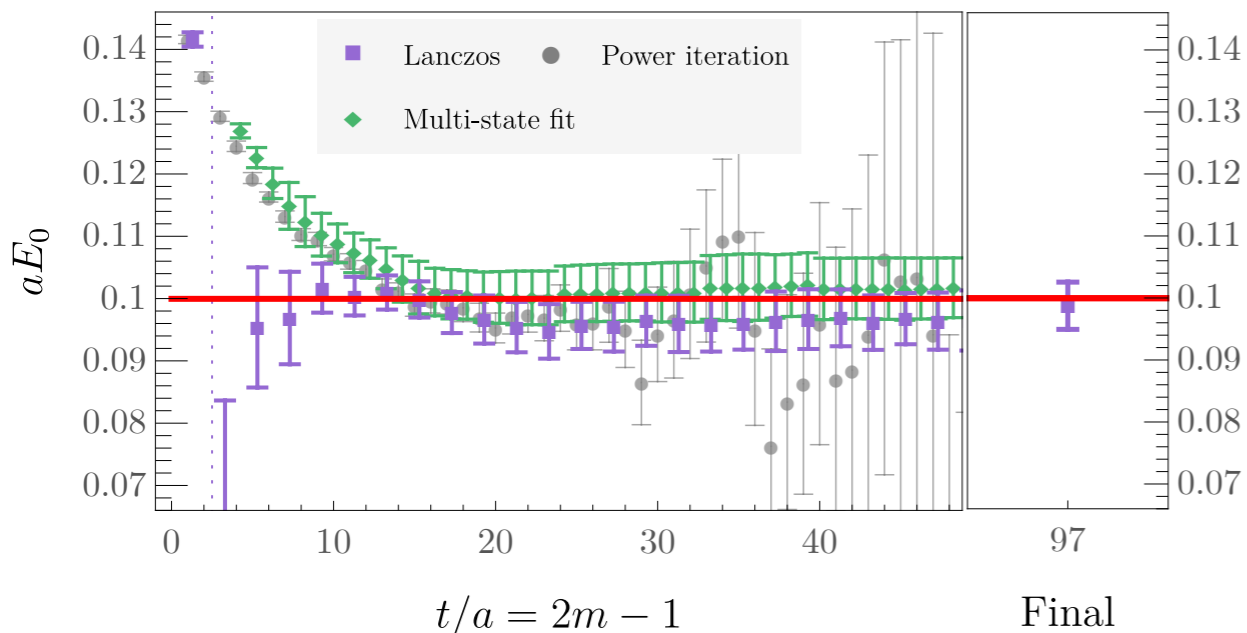
Proton non-spurious Ritz values



MW, arXiv:2406.20009

All obviously unphysical proton eigenvalues removed by “spurious-state filtering” using the CW or ZCW test

Free scalar boson mass

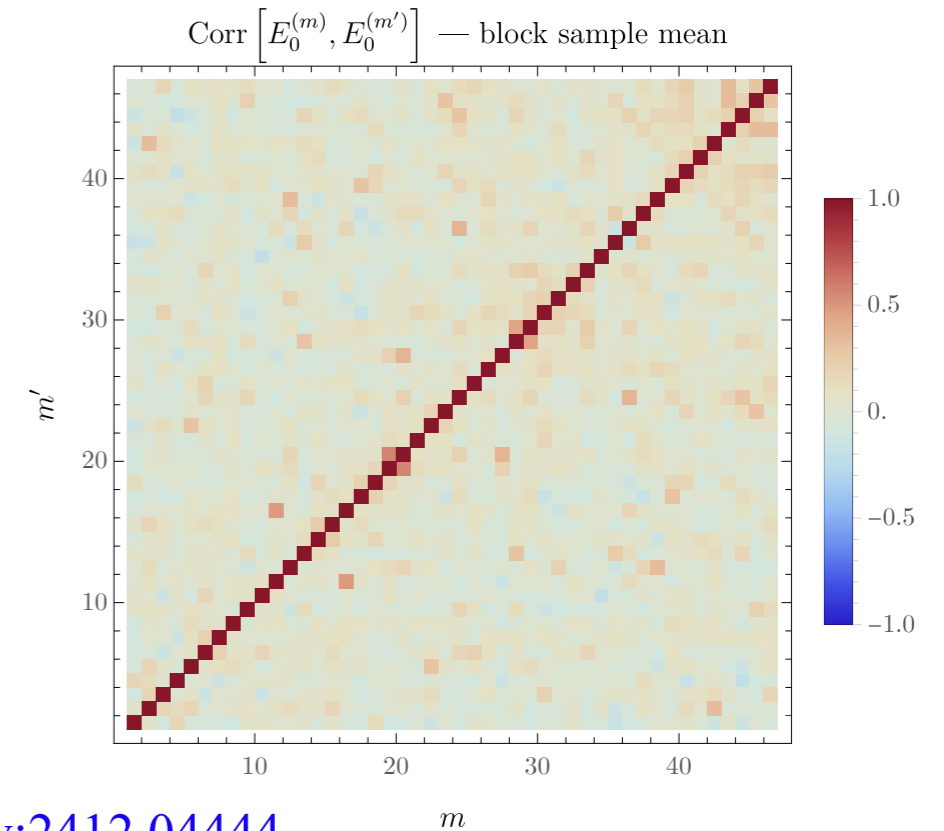


Defining  $\lambda_0^{(m)}$  as the largest “non-spurious” Ritz value leads to accurate ground-state energy determinations in solvable models (e.g. free scalar field)

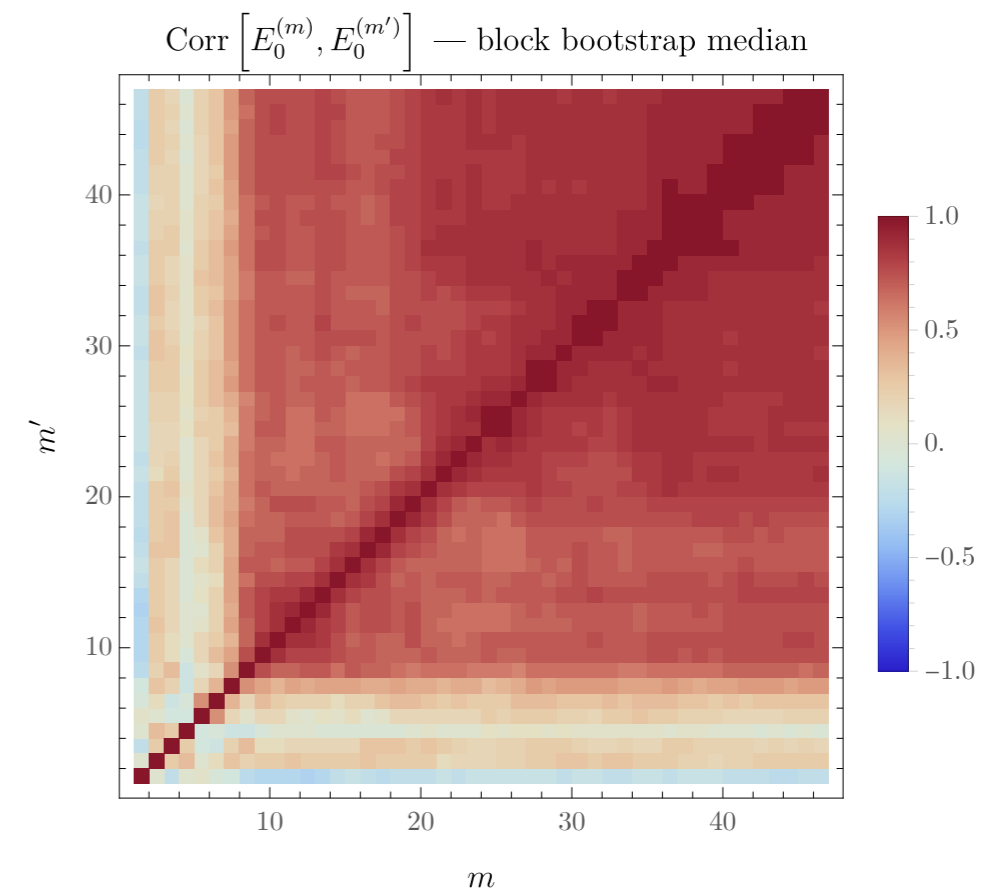
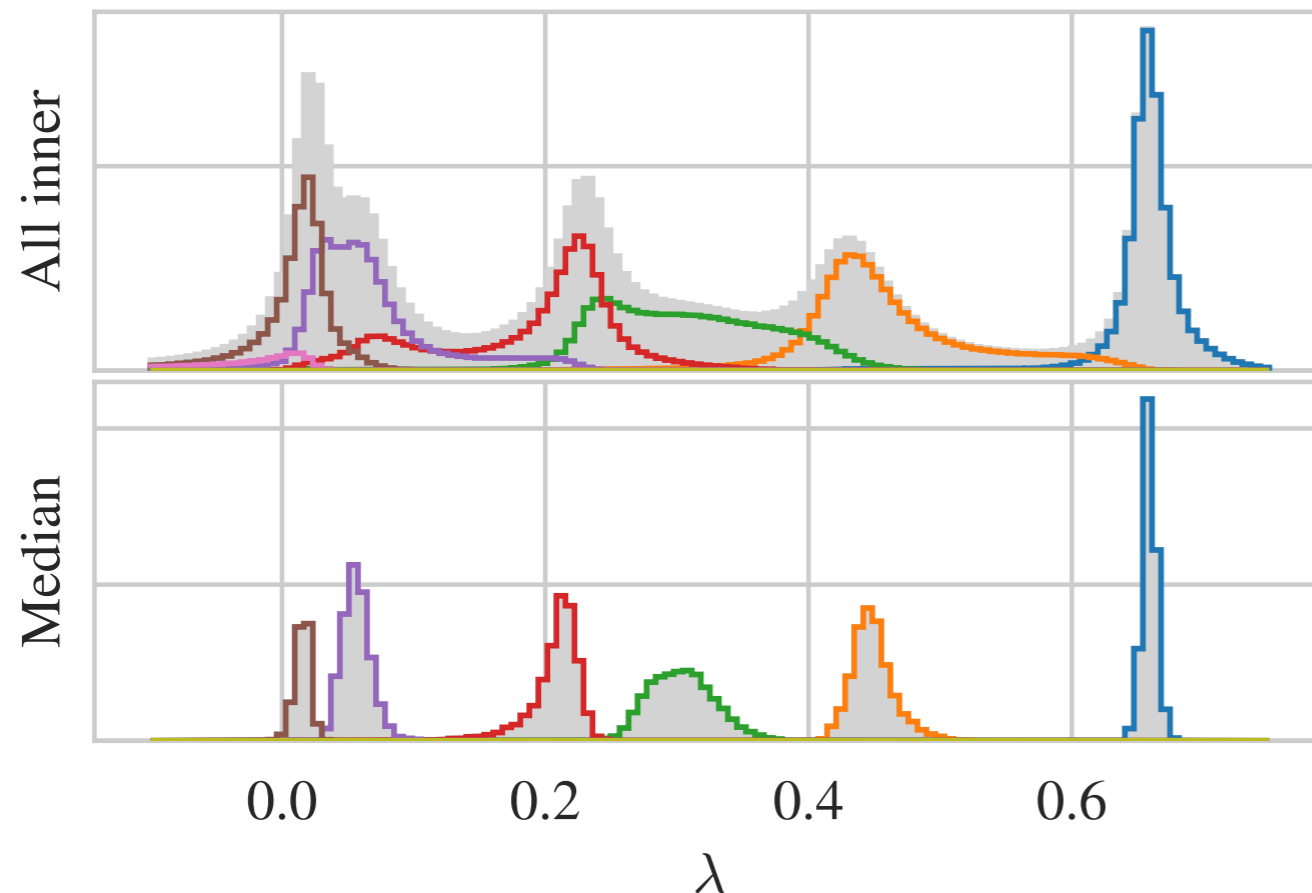
# No fitting needed

Spurious state filtering isn't perfect — outlier robust estimators can be both more precise + accurate

- Use bootstrap median as estimator, compute uncertainties with nested bootstrap
- Large correlations appear for large  $m$  with bootstrap median, washed out in sample mean
- Energy distributions closer to Gaussian for bootstrap median



Hackett, MW, arXiv:2412.04444



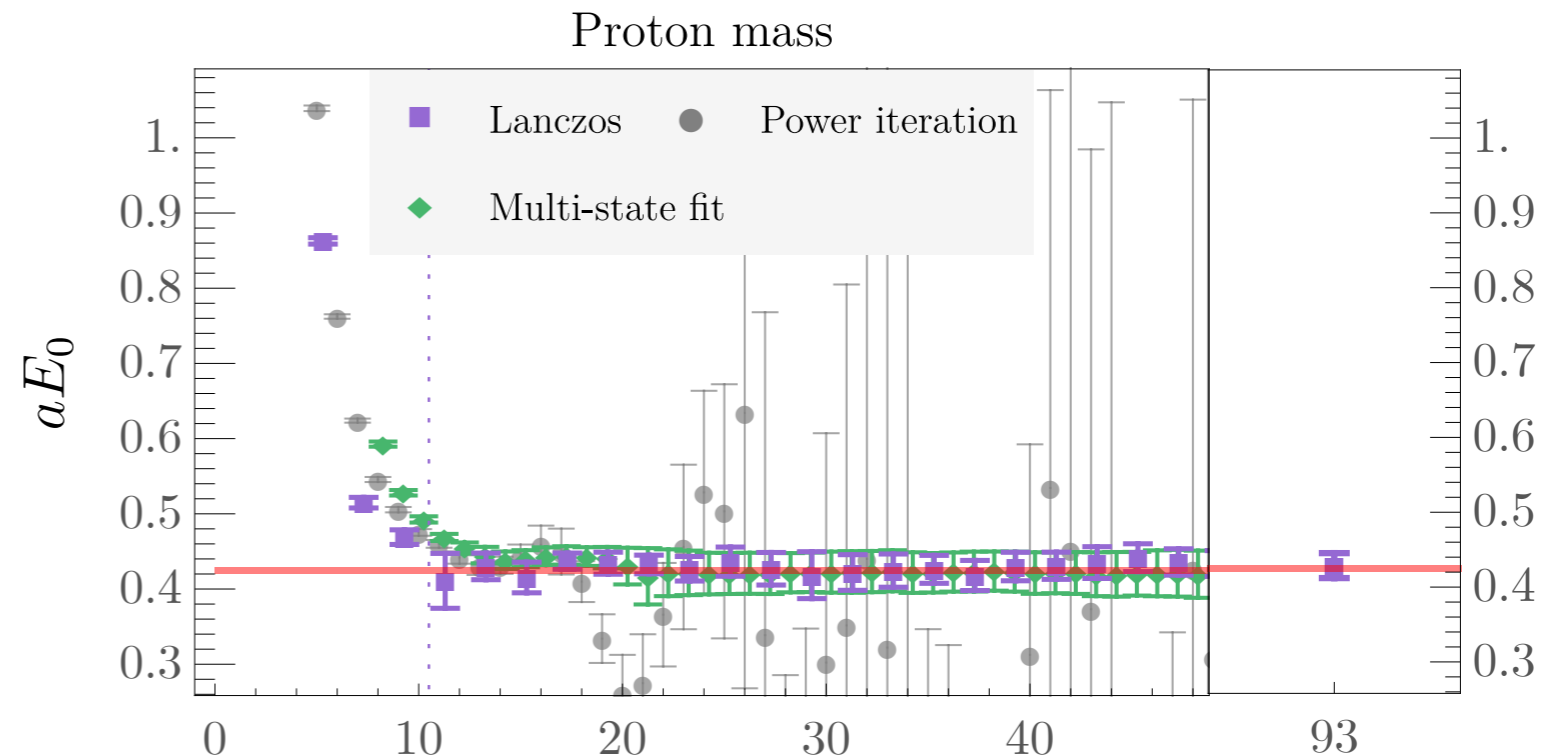
# Asymptotically constant SNR

Bootstrap median estimators provide comparable uncertainties to multi-state fits with  $t_{\max} = 2m - 1$

Given large correlations at large  $m$ , sufficient to define energy estimator from final iteration

Variance saturates to constant value for large  $m$ , comparable to saturation of multi-state fit results

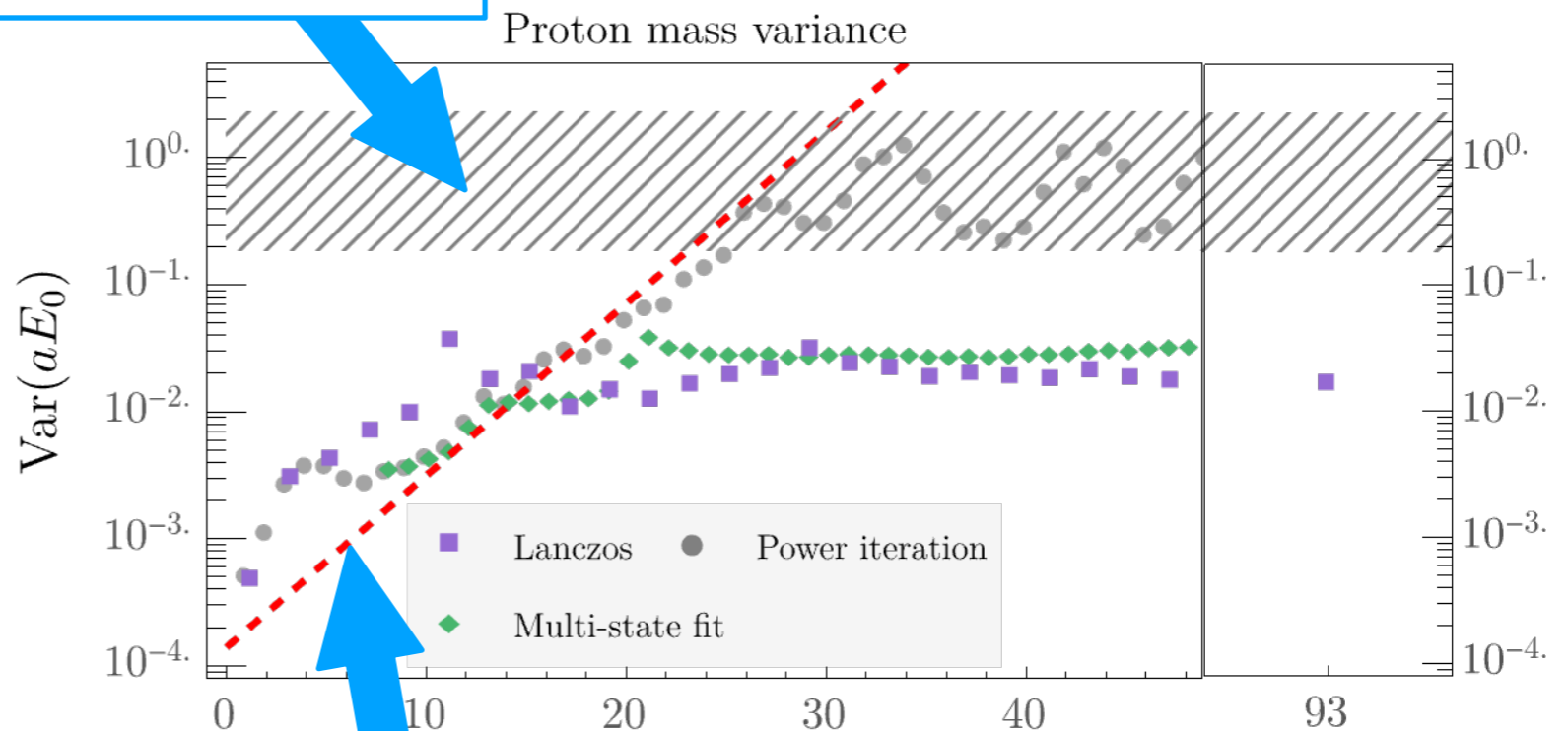
- Contrasts with power-iteration / effective mass, which exponentially approaches 0 SNR



Systematic bias due to  $O(1)$  phase fluctuations

$t/a = 2m - 1$

Final

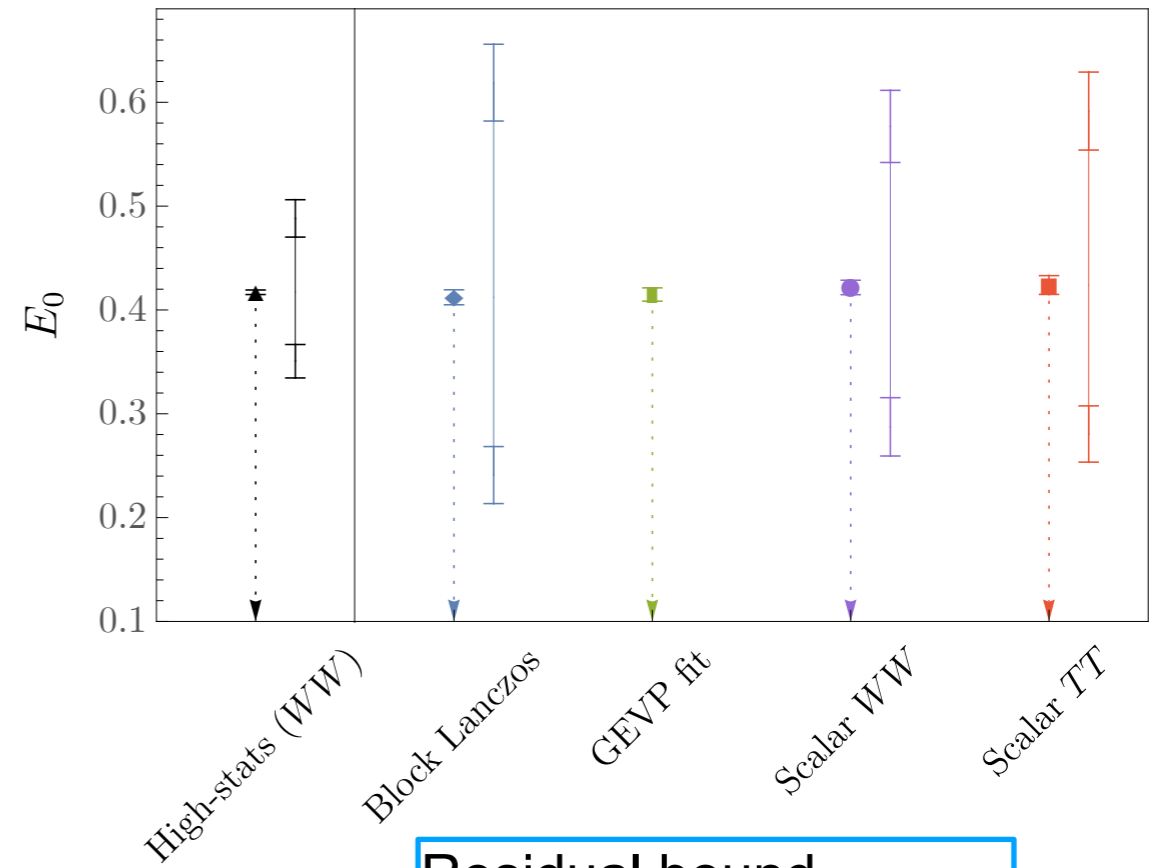
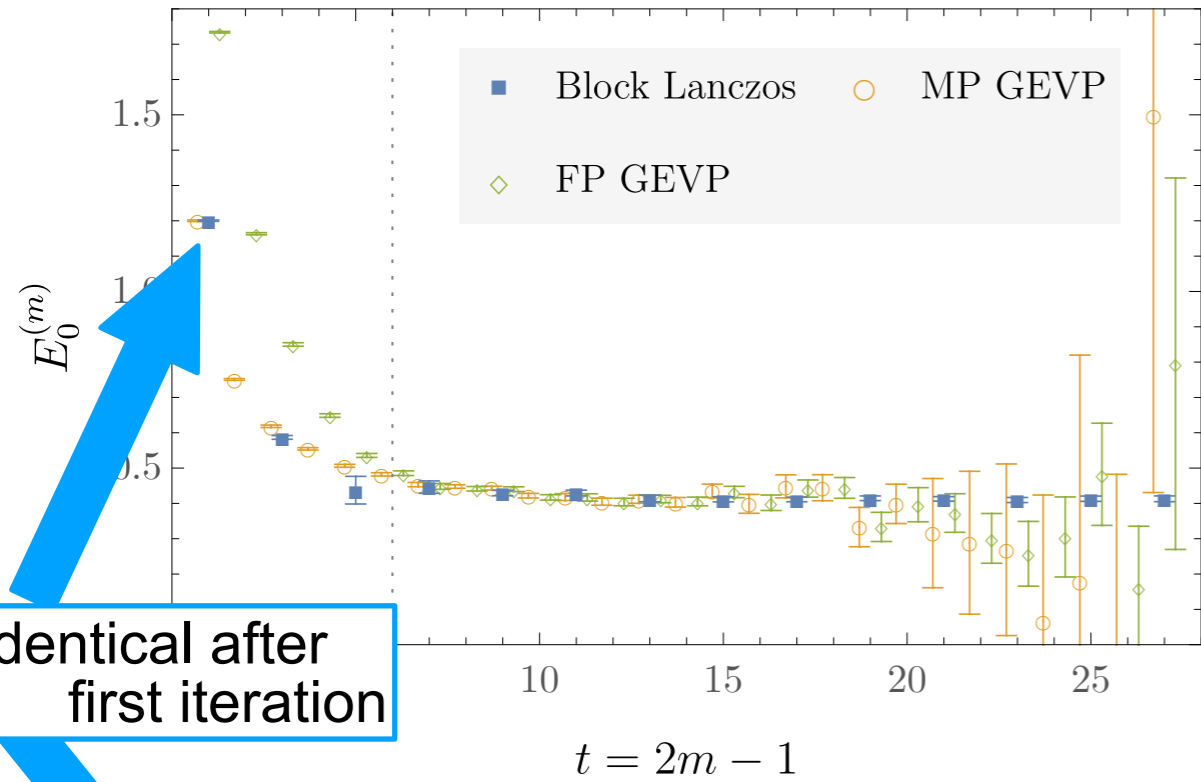


Parisi-Lepage

$t/a = 2m - 1$

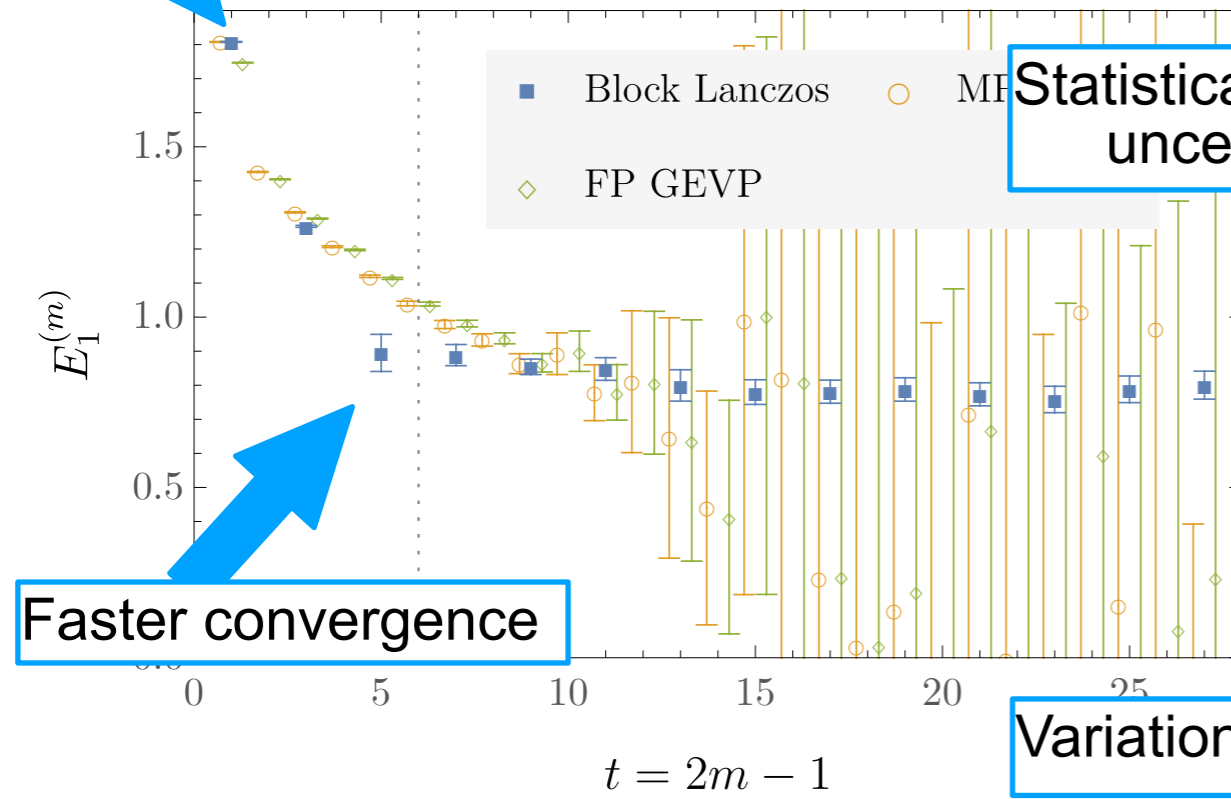
Final

# Block Lanczos and GEVP: Es



Identical after first iteration

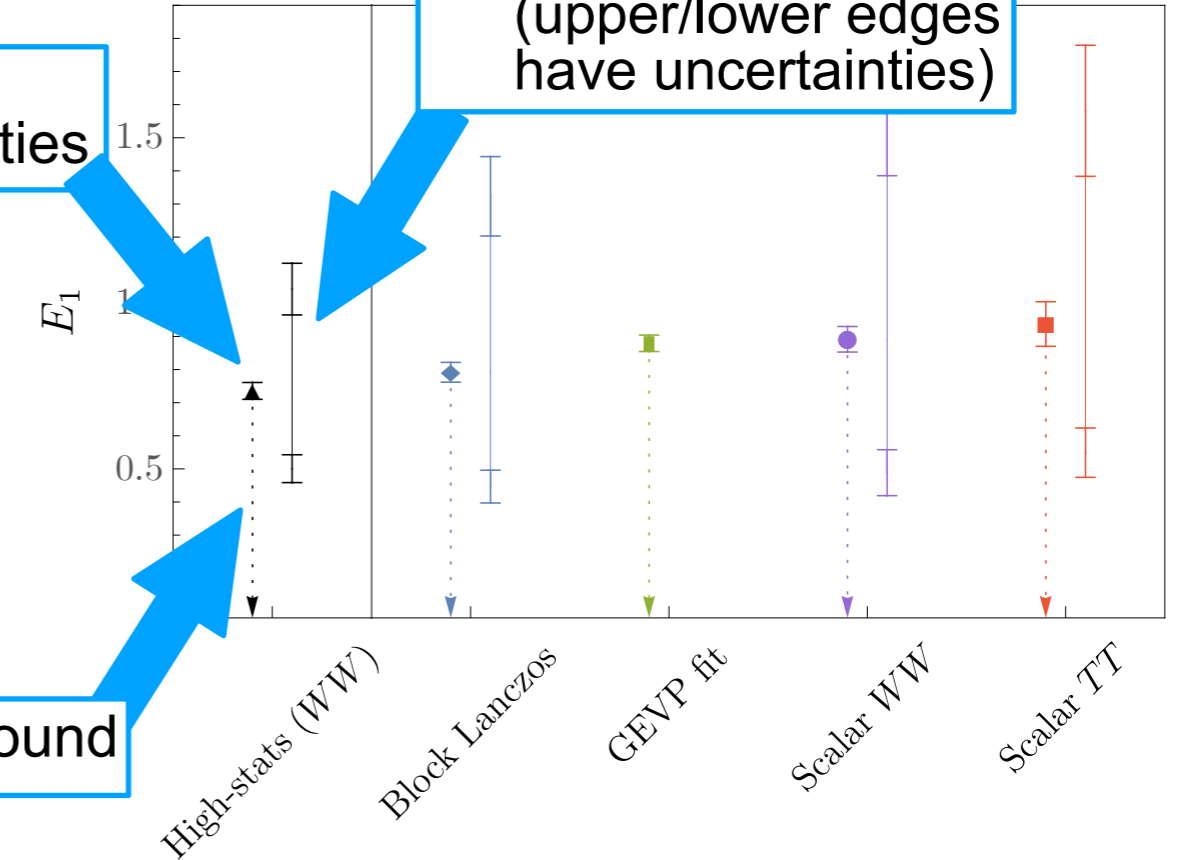
Residual bound (upper/lower edges have uncertainties)



Statistical uncertainties

Faster convergence

Variational bound

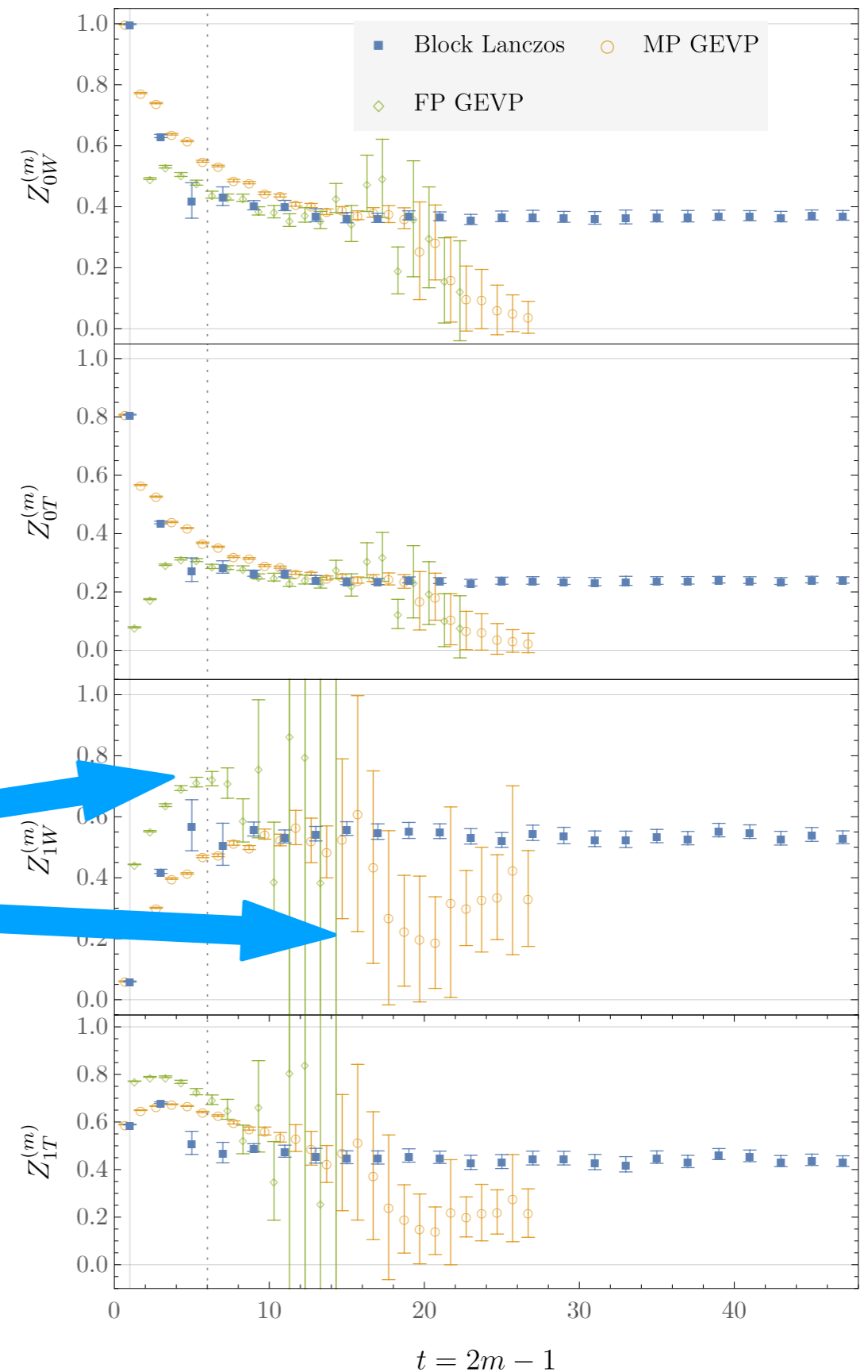


# Block Lanczos and GEVP: Zs

Block Lanczos provides unambiguous signals for ground- and excited-state overlap factors

- Consistent with GEVP when the latter achieves reliable plateaus
- More robust signals for noisy excited-state observables

Deceptive pseudo-plateau?



# Block Lanczos and GEVP: Zs

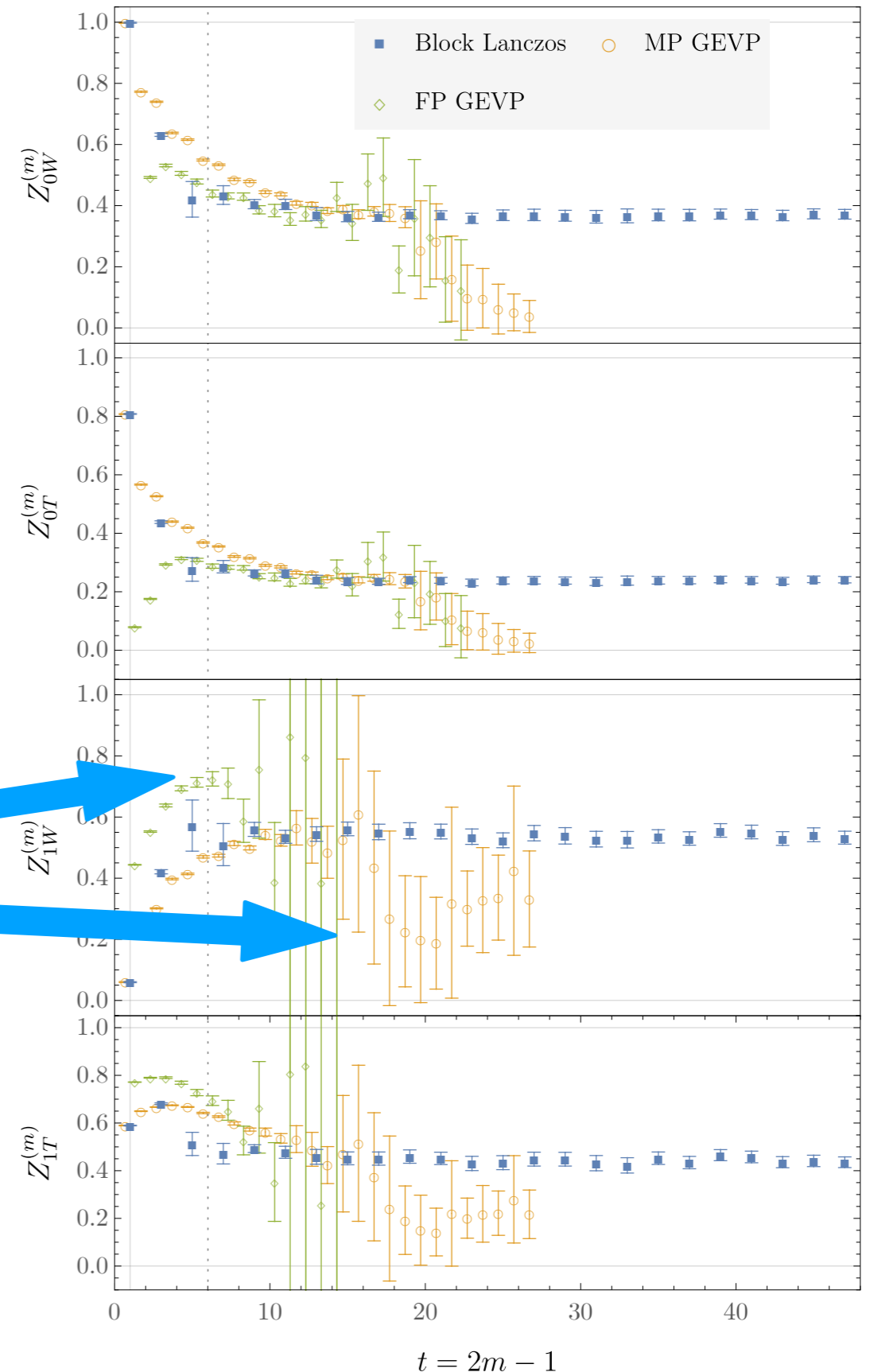
Block Lanczos provides unambiguous signals for ground- and excited-state overlap factors

- Consistent with GEVP when the latter achieves reliable plateaus
- More robust signals for noisy excited-state observables

Deceptive pseudo-plateau?

Block Lanczos can be applied to  $nn$  correlator matrices to extract

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{Z}_{nH_i^{nn}} &= \langle 0 | H_i^{nn} | nn, n \rangle \\ &= \sum_J \langle 0 | Q_J | nn, n \rangle C_{Ji} \end{aligned}$$

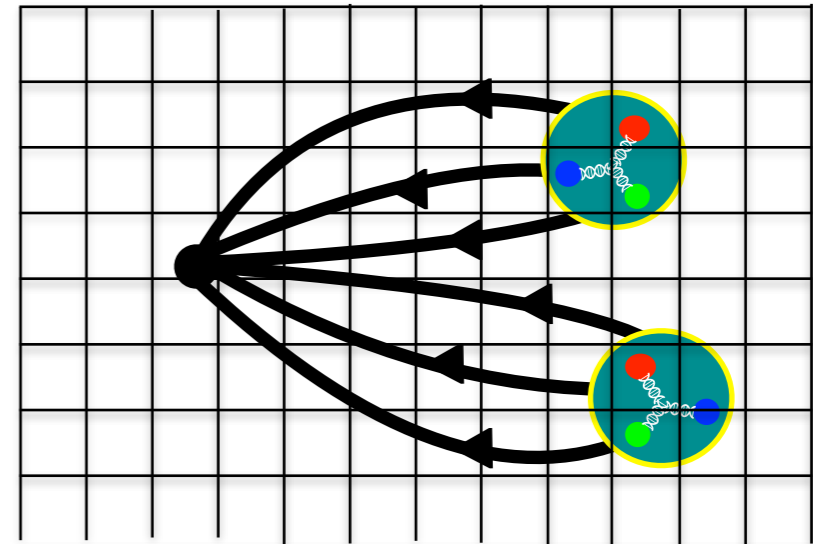


# Outlook

Reliably interpreting experimental searches for intranuclear  $n\bar{n}$  requires better understanding of nuclear effects on  $\Delta B = 2$  matrix elements

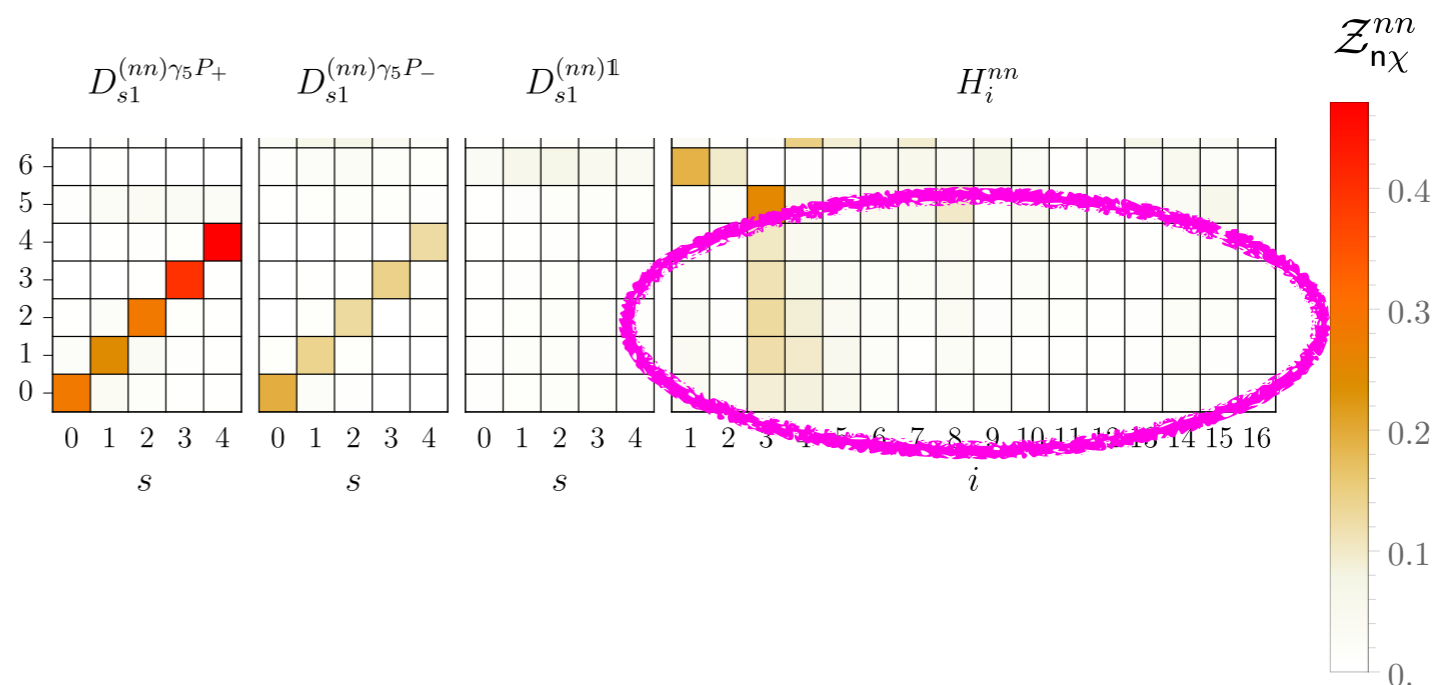
$nn$  decay — simplest starting point ?

$$\langle Q_I(t)nn^\dagger(0) \rangle \sim \sum_J \langle 0|Q_J|nn \rangle Z_{JI} + \dots$$



Exploratory results show significant energy dependence, hints that intranuclear  $n\bar{n}$  depends nontrivially on neutron energy distribution

Lanczos methods provide a path to rigorously quantifying excited-state effects and providing robust QCD predictions for  $nn$  decay

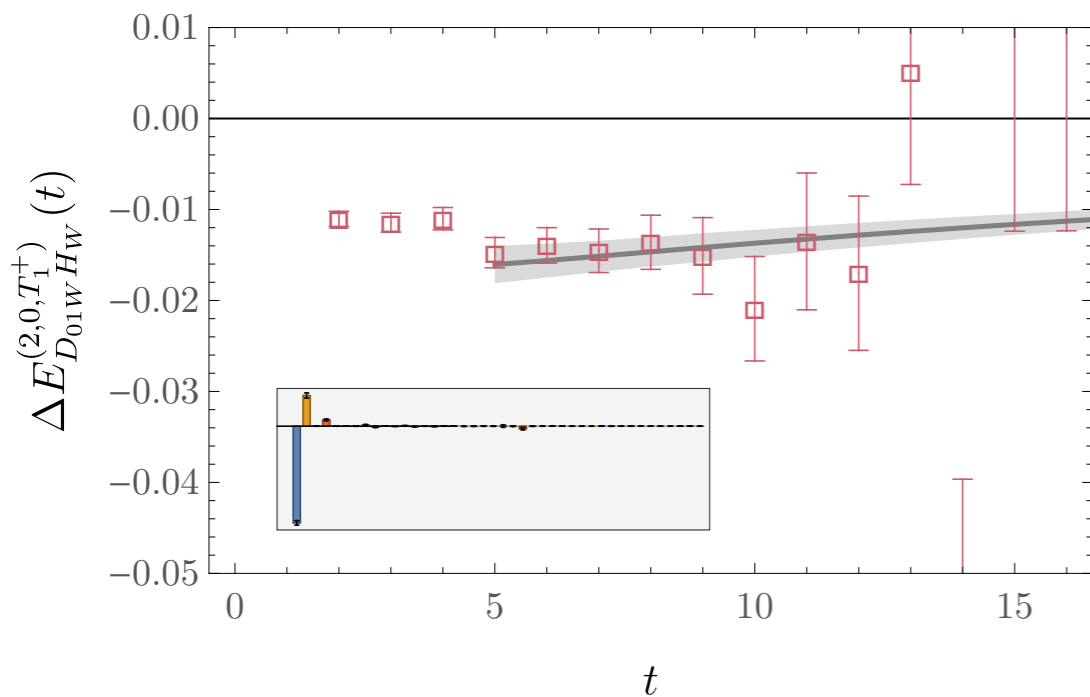


**Backup**



# Excited-states or overlap problem?

Apparent plateau of hexaquark-dibaryon correlation function can be reproduced by a linear combination of ground- and excited-state GEVP energy levels



GEVP predicts slow approach to  $-0.0025(5)$  for much larger  $t \gtrsim 1/(E_1 - E_0) \approx 41$

**Toy model: 2 operators, 3 states**

$$Z_n^{(A)} = (\epsilon, \sqrt{1 - \epsilon^2}, 0)$$

$$Z_n^{(B)} = (\epsilon, 0, \sqrt{1 - \epsilon^2})$$

- Both operators have small overlap  $\epsilon$  with ground state
- Operators are approximately orthogonal

GEVP eigenvalues controlled by first and second excited state (**not** ground state) for  $\epsilon \ll e^{t(E_1 - E_0)}$

$$\lambda_0^{(AB)} = e^{-(t-t_0)E_1} + O(\epsilon^2)$$

$$\lambda_1^{(AB)} = e^{-(t-t_0)E_2} + O(\epsilon^2)$$

Off-diagonal correlator conversely has perfect ground-state overlap

# Lanczos = Prony = ...

Algebraic methods for decomposing time series into sum of exponentials  
known since 1795

[Prony and Gaspard \(1795\)](#)

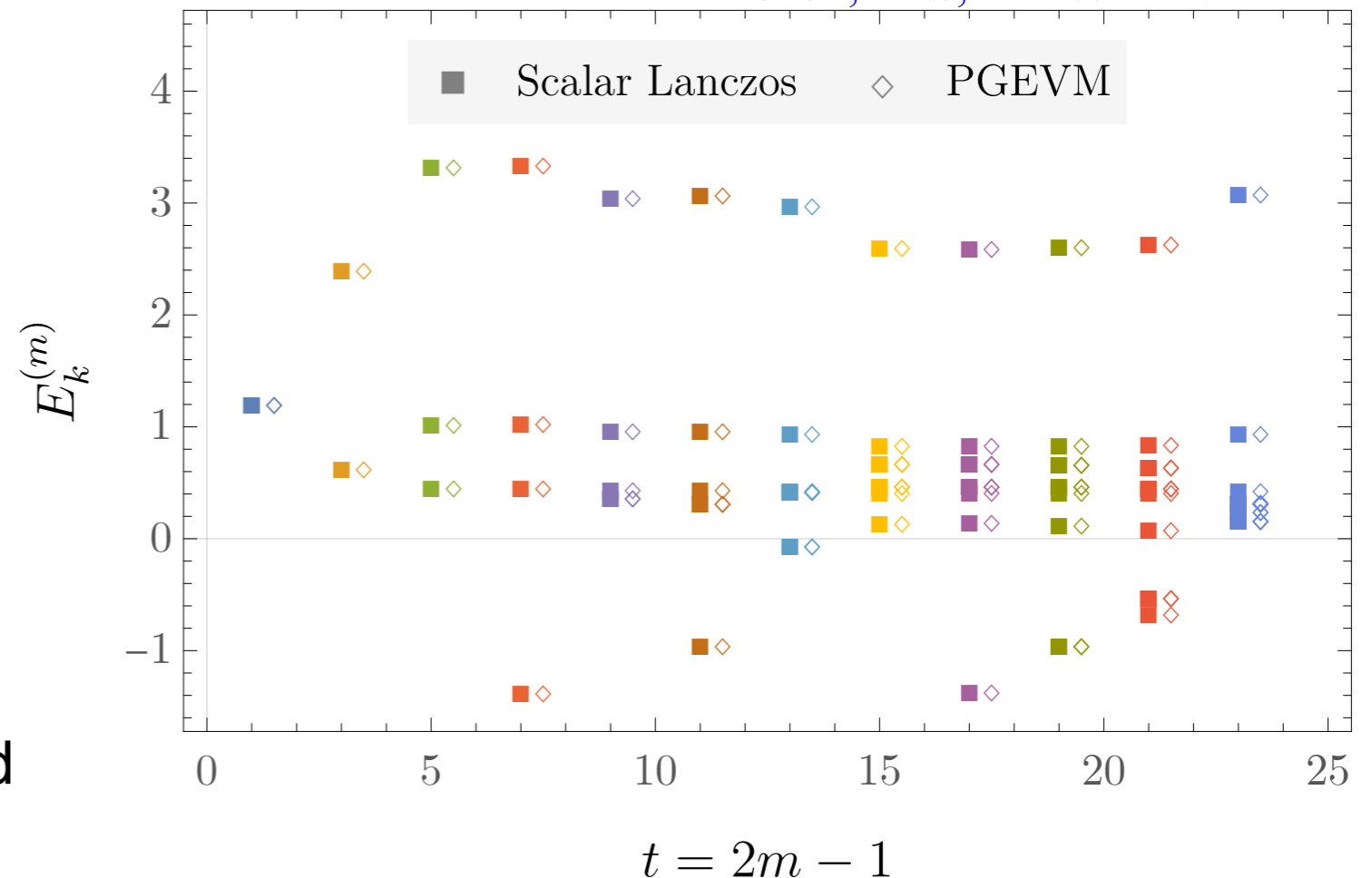
[Hackett, MW, arXiv:2412.04444](#)

Applications of Prony's method  
to LQCD first proposed by  
Fleming in 2004

[Fleming arXiv:hep-lat/0403023 \(2004\)](#)

Other equivalent implementations  
possible, e.g. Prony generalized  
eigenvalue method (PGEVM)

[Fischer et al, Eur. Phys. J. A 56, 206 \(2020\)](#)



**Lanczos and Prony produce identical energy estimators for noisy data**

[MW, arXiv:2406.20009](#)

[Ostmeyer et al, arXiv:2411.14981](#)

[Chakraborty et al, arXiv:2412.01900](#)

# Rayleigh-Ritz is all you need

One step of block Lanczos = GEVP

Lüscher and Wolff, Nucl. Phys. B 339, 222 (1990)

Hackett, MW, arXiv:2412.04444

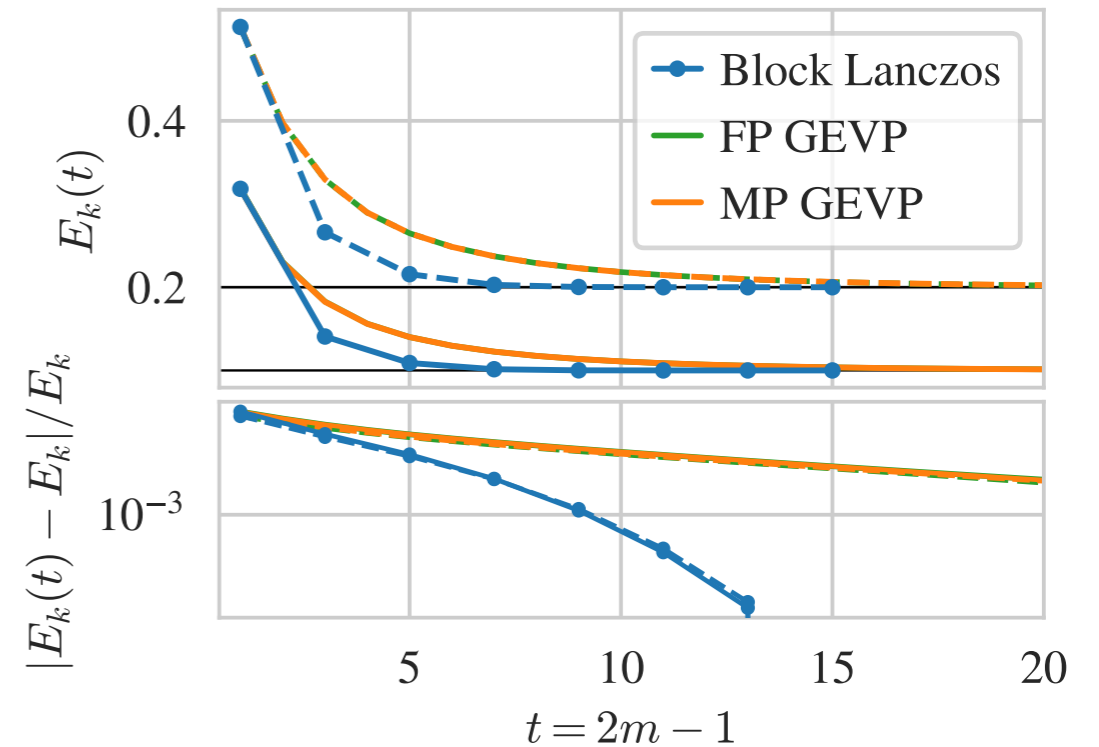
Block Lanczos is a strict generalization of GEVP

Block Lanczos = Block Prony

Fleming, LATTICE2023

= GPOF

Aubin and Orginos, MENU 2010



These and more ***coincidences in Krylov space*** between Rayleigh-Ritz methods explored in

Abbot, Fleming, Hackett, Pefkou, MW, arXiv:2401.XX

RR Name	Convergence	Hermiticity	Block	Correlator analysis methods
RR / ORR	Power iteration	Yes / No	No	Effective masses, ratios, etc.
RR / ORR	Power iteration	Yes / No	Yes	GEVP methods
KRR	KPS	Yes	No	Lanczos, Prony, GPOF/PGEVM/TGEVP
BKRR	KPS	Yes	Yes	Block Lanczos, Block Prony, GPOF
OKORR	Oblique KPS	No	No	Oblique Lanczos, Prony, GPOF/PGEVM/TGEVP
OBKORR	Oblique KPS	No	Yes	Oblique block Lanczos, Block Prony, GPOF

TABLE I. Taxonomy of various methods for correlator analysis as they relate to the Rayleigh-Ritz method.

# KPS convergence theory

Lanczos converges exponentially faster than power iteration for transfer matrices with small gaps (e.g. for small  $a$ )

Kaniel, Mathematics of Computation 20, 369 (1966)

$$\delta = a(E_1 - E_0)$$

Paige, PhD thesis 1971

$$\left| E_0 - E_0^{(m)} \right| \propto e^{-2t\sqrt{\delta}}$$

$$\left| E_0 - E_0^{\text{eff}}(t) \right| \propto e^{-t\delta}$$

Saad, SIAM 17 (1980)

**Lanczos**

**Power iteration**

- Convergence benefits largest near continuum limit where  $1 \gg \sqrt{\delta} \gg \delta$
- Prony (= Lanczos) has identical convergence, but we didn't know the rate before

Block Lanczos converges exponentially faster than GEVP for transfer matrices with small gaps (e.g. for small  $a$ )

$$\delta_r = a(E_r - E_0)$$

Saad, SIAM 17 (1980)

$$\left| E_0 - E_0^{(m)} \right| \propto e^{-2t\sqrt{\delta_r}}$$

$$\left| E_0 - E_0^{\text{GEVP}}(t) \right| \propto e^{-t\delta_r}$$

**Block Lanczos**

**GEVP**