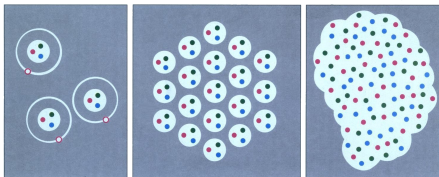


# The chiral critical point from the strong coupling expansion

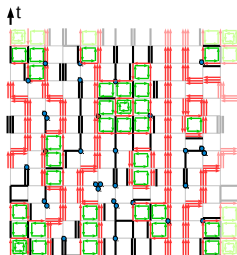
Wolfgang Unger, Bielefeld University  
with Jangho Kim, Pratitee Pattanaik

Lattice 2024, Liverpool  
July 31, 2024

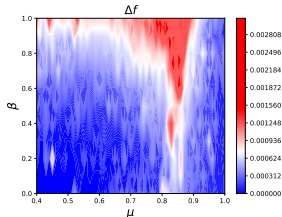


# Dual Representation of Lattice QCD

- Use “standard” QCD lattice action (staggered fermions, Wilson gauge action)
- But: **change order of integration**:
  - gauge links  $\{U_\mu(x)\}$  first
  - quarks afterwards (Grassmann integration)
- At  $\beta = 0$ : link states are **mesons** and **baryons**  
[Rossi, Wolff, NPB 248 (1984)]
- For  $\beta > 0$ : use **strong coupling expansion**
  - $\mathcal{O}(\beta)$ : via studied via reweighting  
[Langelage *et al.* PRL 113 (2014)],
  - for any order: has been mapped to a tensor network  
[Gagliardi, U, PRD 101 (2020)]
- Sign problem in regime  $\beta = \frac{6}{g^2} \lesssim 1$   
**mild enough** to study full phase diagram:
  - baryons are heavy (almost static)
  - color singlets closer to physical states $\Rightarrow$  **sign reweighting** feasible:  $\Delta f \simeq 10^{-5}$



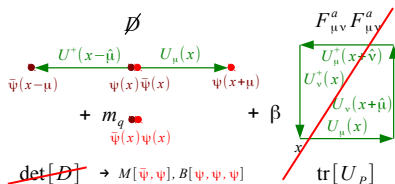
2-dim. example of configuration  
in terms of dual variables



# Strong Coupling Limit

Regime where sign problem is mild:

Limit of strong coupling:  $\beta = \frac{6}{g^2} \rightarrow 0$



- change order of integration:  $\{U_\mu(x)\}$  first!
- **“dual” representation:** via color singlets on the links!
- at strong coupling: **mesons** and **baryons**

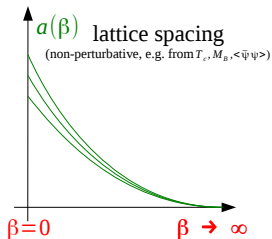
Interesting regime, because:

- exhibits **chiral symmetry** breaking and confinement
- (almost) no sign problem
- fast simulations (no supercomputers necessary)  
 $\Rightarrow$  **complete phase diagram** can be calculated

Caveat:

- **infinitely strong coupling**  $\rightarrow$  **coarse lattices**

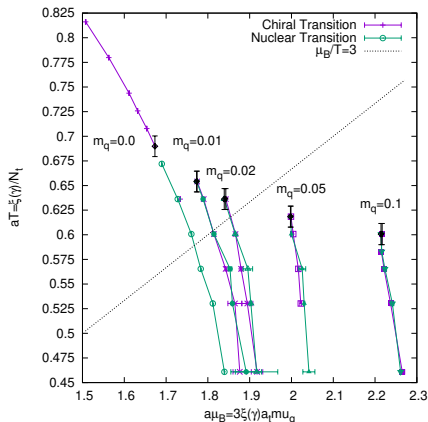
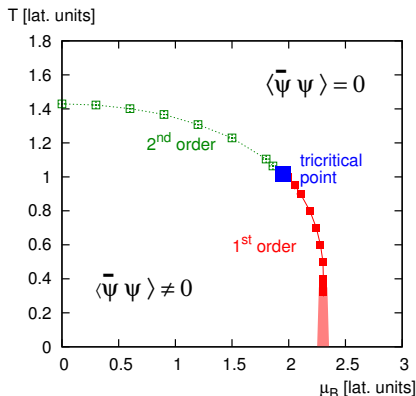
Gauge corrections for  $\beta > 0$  **needed!**



# The phase diagram in the strong coupling limit

Chiral and nuclear phase boundary obtained via Monte Carlo:

- at finite quark mass, the **tri-critical point** turns into  $Z_2$  critical end point
- chiral and nuclear first order lines also match at finite quark mass



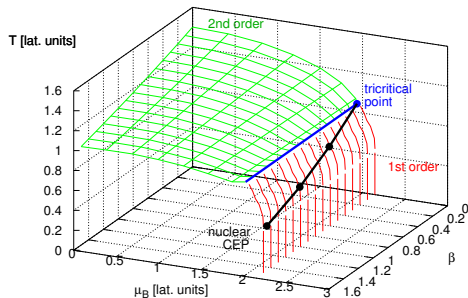
$\mu_q - T$  phase diagram in renormalized parameters [Kim & U. PoS Lattice 2016]

# Goal: What does the Phase Diagram including $\beta$ look like?

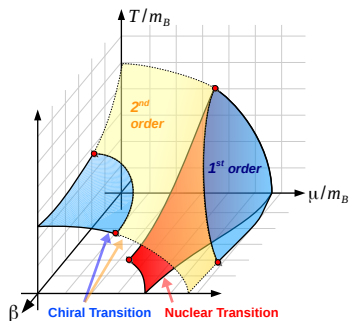
## Phase Diagram in the Strong Coupling Regime and Chiral Limit:

- Via **reweighting** in  $\beta$  from  $\beta = 0$ :  $\mathcal{O}(\beta)$  corrections for **SU(3)**

[Langelage, de Forcrand, Philipsen & U., *PRL* 113 (2014)]



[measured via Worm algorithm]



[one of several possible scenarios]

## Questions we want to address:

- Do the **nuclear and chiral transition split?**
- Does the **tri-critical point** move to smaller or larger  $\mu$  as  $\beta$  is increased?

# Dualization of full lattice QCD

- 1 combined **Taylor expansion** in the reduced gauge coupling  $\tilde{\beta} \equiv \frac{\beta}{2N} = \frac{1}{g^2}$  and quark mass  $\hat{m}_q$ , giving rise to **dual variables**:

$$n_p, \bar{n}_p, d_\ell, \bar{d}_\ell \text{ and } m_x:$$

$$\mathcal{Z}(\beta, \mu_q, \hat{m}_q) = \sum_{\{n_p, \bar{n}_p\}} \prod_p \frac{\tilde{\beta}^{n_p + \bar{n}_p}}{n_p! \bar{n}_p!} \prod_\ell \frac{1}{d_\ell! \bar{d}_\ell!} \prod_x \frac{(2\hat{m}_q)^{m_x}}{m_x!} \mathcal{G}_{n_p, \bar{n}_p, d_\ell, \bar{d}_\ell, m_x}$$

- 2 Evaluate 1-link integrals in  $\mathcal{G}$  in terms of **generalized Weingarten functions**

- 3 decouple those integrals via a choice of orthogonal projectors

- 4 collect operators into a **local tensor**  $T_x^{\rho_x^1 \dots \rho_x^d}$  that depends on participating dual degrees of freedom  $\mathcal{D}_x = \{m_x, d_{x, \pm\mu}, n_{x, \mu\nu}, \bar{n}_{x, \mu\nu}\}$

- 5 Final **dual partition function**:

$$\mathcal{Z}(\beta, \mu_q, \hat{m}_q) = \sum_{\substack{\{n_p, \bar{n}_p\} \\ \{k_\ell, f_\ell, m_x\}}} \sigma_f \sum_{\{\rho_\pm^x\}} \prod_p \frac{\tilde{\beta}^{n_p + \bar{n}_p}}{n_p! \bar{n}_p!} \prod_{\ell=(x, \mu)} \frac{e^{\mu_q \delta_{\mu, 0} f_{x, \mu}}}{k_\ell! (k_\ell + |f_\ell|)!} \prod_x \frac{(2\hat{m}_q)^{m_x}}{m_x!} T_x^{\rho_x^1, \dots, \rho_x^d}(\mathcal{D}_x)$$

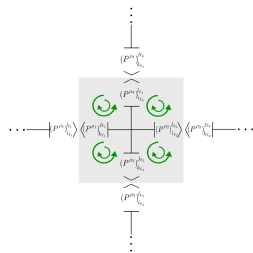
[G. Gagliardi & W. U. PRD 101, (2020) 034509]

**Truncation at  $\mathcal{O}(\beta^2)$ :** allow for plaquette occupations  $(n_p, \bar{n}_p) \in \{(1, 1), (2, 0), (0, 2)\}$

# Monte Carlo for TN-Representation via Vertex Model

- Each tensor can be transformed into a vertex: weight depends on directions
- Number of distinct vertices:

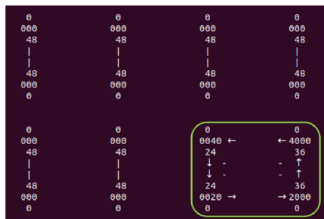
limit	$\mathcal{O}(\beta^0)$	$\mathcal{O}(\beta^1)$	$\mathcal{O}(\beta^2)$	$\mathcal{O}(\beta^3)$
all	221	3485	51125	681013
chiral	176	2960	<b>44672</b>	607792
quenched	1	1	25	137



- Some vertices have negative weight, but most configurations are positive after contraction
- Use heatbath algorithm for to modify vertices along closed countours; has been parallelized; Worm algorithm not yet applicable beyond  $\mathcal{O}(\beta)$

[Pattanaik & U. PoS Lattice (2023)]

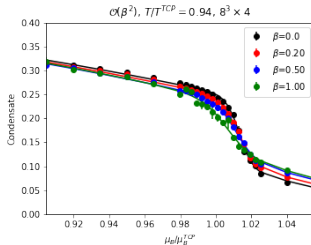
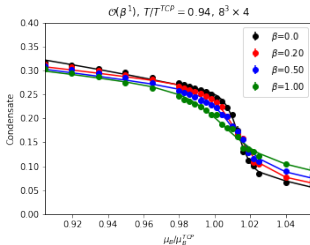
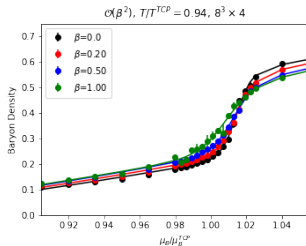
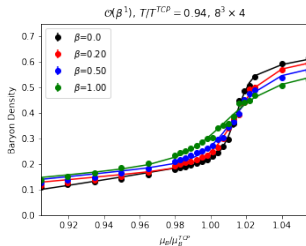
- At  $\mu_B = 0$ : crosschecked with HMC
- Lattice Setup:  $8^3 \times 4$ ,  $12^3 \times 4$  and  $16^3 \times 4$ , SC, and  $\mathcal{O}(\beta)$ ,  $\mathcal{O}(\beta^2)$  for  $\beta = [0.0, \dots, 1.0]$  and at  $T = 0.8, 0.85, 0.9, 0.95, 1.0$ , all for chiral limit



# Results: Baryon Density and Chiral Condensate

- All results relative to the location of the strong coupling tricritical point:

$$T_{N_\tau=4}^{TCP} = 0.85, \mu_B^{TCP} = 1.99$$

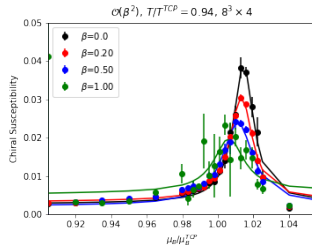
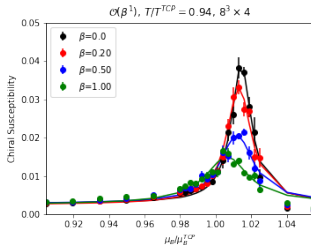
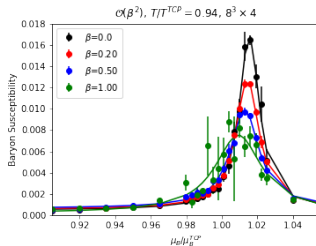
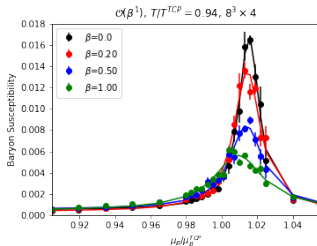




# Results: Baryon Susceptibility, Chiral Susceptibility

- All results relative to the location of the strong coupling tricritical point:

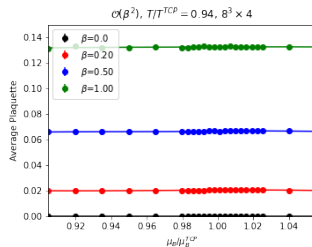
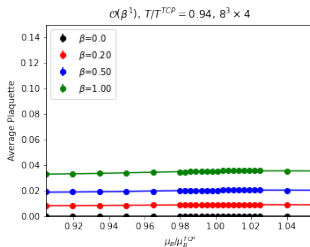
$$T_{N_\tau=4}^{TCP} = 0.85, \mu_B^{TCP} = 1.99$$



## Results: Average Plaquette

- All results relative to the location of the strong coupling tricritical point:

$$T_{N_\tau=4}^{TCP} = 0.85, \mu_B^{TCP} = 1.99$$

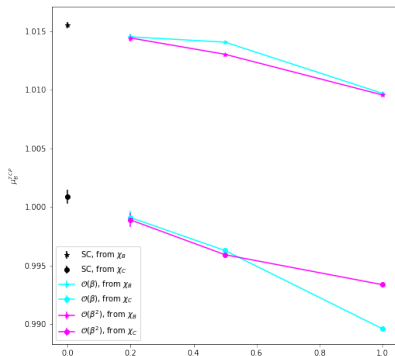


- Average plaquette and its susceptibility: no imprint of the chiral/nuclear transition

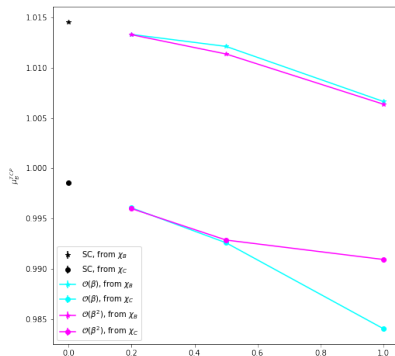
# Preliminary Result on the chiral TCP/nuclear CEP

- To compare  $\mathcal{O}(\beta)$  with  $\mathcal{O}(\beta^2)$ : restricted to rather small lattice volume

$$T/T^{TCP} = 0.94, 12^3 \times 4$$



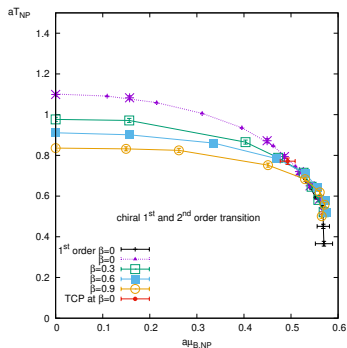
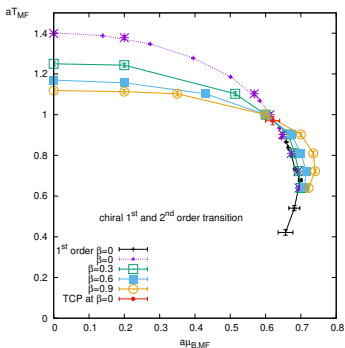
$$T/T^{TCP} = 1.00, 12^3 \times 4$$



- Extrapolation to thermodynamic limit requires larger volumes: expensive for  $\mathcal{O}(\beta^2)$
- Does  $\mu_B^{TCP}(\beta)$  move to smaller values? Not quite...

## Phase Diagram in the Strong Coupling Regime $\beta > 0$

- Still required for  $\mathcal{O}(\beta^2)$ : **anisotropy**  $\frac{a_s}{a_t} \equiv \xi(\gamma, \beta)$  at finite  $\beta$
- Taking into account the  $\beta$ -dependent renormalization of  $aT$  and  $a\mu_B$ :



- Back-bending vanished
- **Even weaker (no?)  $\beta$ -dependence** after renormalization:  
 $aT \mapsto \xi(\gamma, \beta)aT$ ,  $a\mu_B \mapsto \xi(\gamma, \beta)a\mu_B$

# Conclusions

## Results:

- Dual representation established that is in principle not truncated in  $\beta$
- Caveat: it re-introduces the sign problem gradually with  $\beta$
- Still at  $\mathcal{O}(\beta^2)$ : TCP has weak dependence on  $\beta$  up to  $\beta \lesssim 1$
- If TCP remains invariant for higher orders in  $\beta$ : CEP also exists in the continuum!

## Prospects:

- Character expansion with staggered fermion feasible??? SC regime up to  $\beta \simeq 6$ ?
- Connect  $\mathcal{O}(\beta^2)$  results to nuclear liquid gas transition at finite quark mass, low T  
[Kim, Pattanaik & U. PRD 107 (2023)]
- Strong Coupling LQCD on a quantum annealer allows very low T  
[Luu, Kim & U. PRD 108 (2023)]
- Extending the Hamiltonian formulation of LQCD to  $\beta > 0$  and/or  $N_f = 2$ , well suited for quantum simulations:  
→ Required QC Resources: [talk by Michael Fromm (Tue 16:35)]