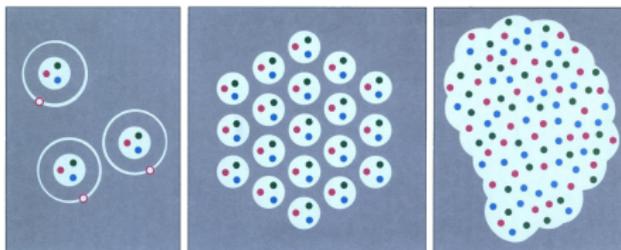


# The Nuclear and Chiral Transition in the Strong Coupling Regime of Lattice QCD

Wolfgang Unger, Bielefeld University

Lattice 2016

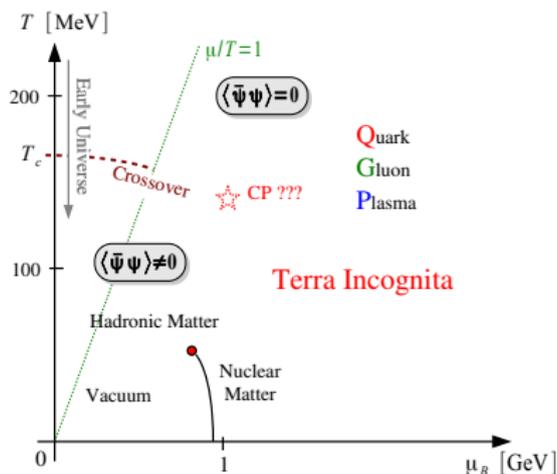
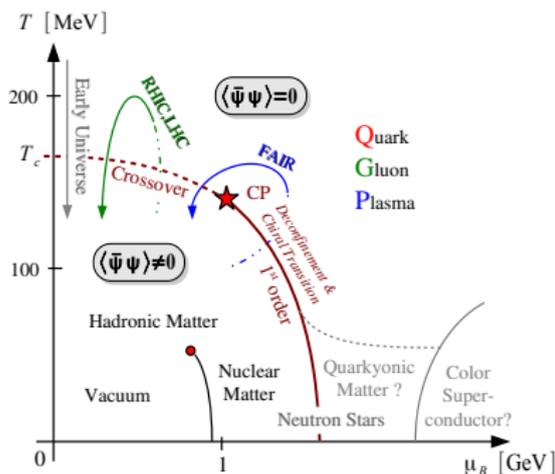
University of Southampton, 29.07.2016



# Overview

- 1 Lattice QCD at strong coupling: **dual approach** to QCD
- 2 The phase diagram at leading order in  $\beta$
- 3 Towards higher order gauge corrections
- 4 Preliminary results on the nuclear/chiral transition

# QCD Phase Diagram and Sign Problem



- **Sign problem:** no direct RHMC simulations at finite  $\mu$
- **Complex Langevin:** not (yet) ready to address confined phase, also needs to be crosschecked (convergence issue)
- **Lefschetz Thimbles:** challenging to adapt to SU(3) and 4 dimensions

Sign problem is **representation dependent:** Dual Representation of QCD

# Lattice QCD at strong coupling

Alternative approach:

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

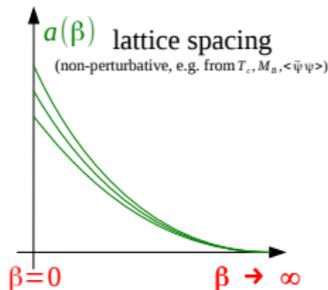
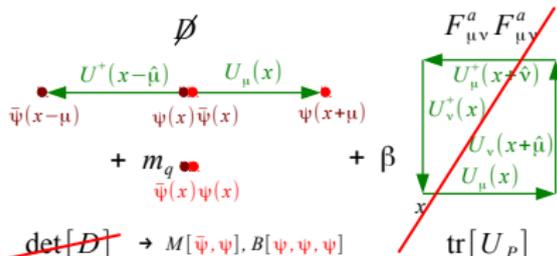
- gauge fields  $U_\mu(x)$  can be integrated out  ~~$\det[D]$~~   $\rightarrow M[\bar{\psi}, \psi], B[\psi, \psi, \psi]$
- **“dual” representation:** via color singlets on the links!
- at strong coupling: **mesons** and **baryons**

Advantage:

- very mild sign problem
  - fast simulations (no supercomputers necessary)
- $\Rightarrow$  **complete phase diagram** can be calculated

Caveat:

- was limited to **infinitely strong coupling**  $\rightarrow$  **coarse lattices**
- continuum limit?!?



Necessary to extend to  $\beta > 0$

# Strong Coupling Partition Function

**Dualization** for staggered fermions: Mapping onto **discrete system**:

[Rossi & Wolff, 1984], [Karsch & Mütter, 1989]

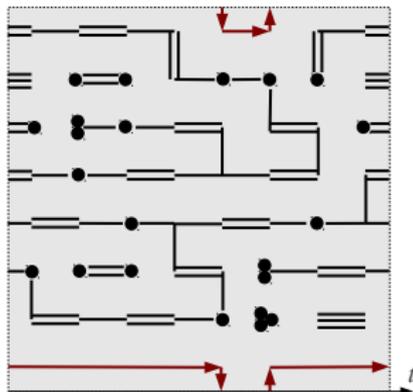
$$Z_F(m_q, \mu) = \sum_{\{k, n, \ell\}} \underbrace{\prod_{b=(x, \mu)} \frac{(N_c - k_b)!}{N_c! k_b!}}_{\text{meson hoppings } M_x M_y} \underbrace{\prod_x \frac{N_c!}{n_x!} (2am_q)^{n_x}}_{\text{chiral condensate } \bar{\psi}\psi} \underbrace{\prod_{\ell} w(\ell, \mu)}_{\text{baryon hoppings } \bar{B}_x B_y}$$

$$k_b \in \{0, \dots, N_c\}, n_x \in \{0, \dots, N_c\}, \ell_b \in \{0, \pm 1\}, \quad \text{QCD: } N_c = 3$$

- Grassmann constraint:

$$n_x + \sum_{\hat{\mu}=\pm 0, \dots, \pm d} \left( k_{\hat{\mu}}(x) + \frac{N_c}{2} |\ell_{\hat{\mu}}(x)| \right) = N_c$$

- weight  $w(\ell, \mu)$  and sign  $\sigma(\ell) \in \{-1, +1\}$  for oriented baryonic loop  $\ell$  depends on loop geometry
- next talk by **Jangho Kim**: finite  $m_q$



finite quark mass

# Strong Coupling Partition Function

**Dualization** for staggered fermions: Mapping onto **discrete system**:

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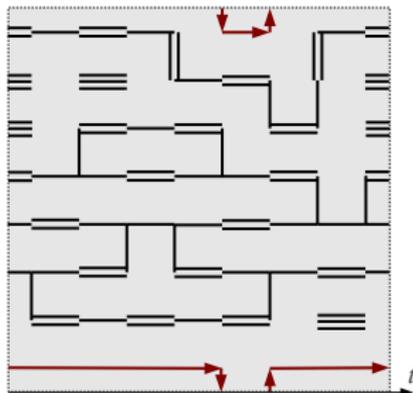
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- weight  $w(\ell, \mu)$  and sign  $\sigma(\ell) \in \{-1, +1\}$  for oriented baryonic loop  $\ell$  depends on loop geometry
- this talk: consider chiral limit



chiral limit: monomers absent

# Strong Coupling Partition Function

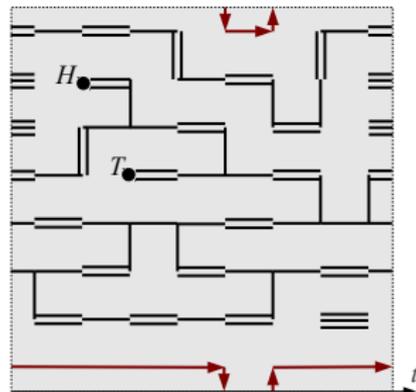
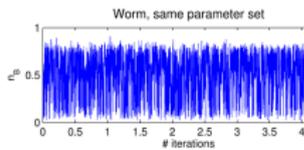
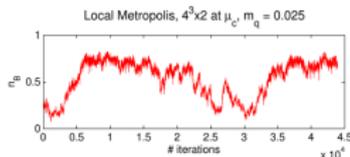
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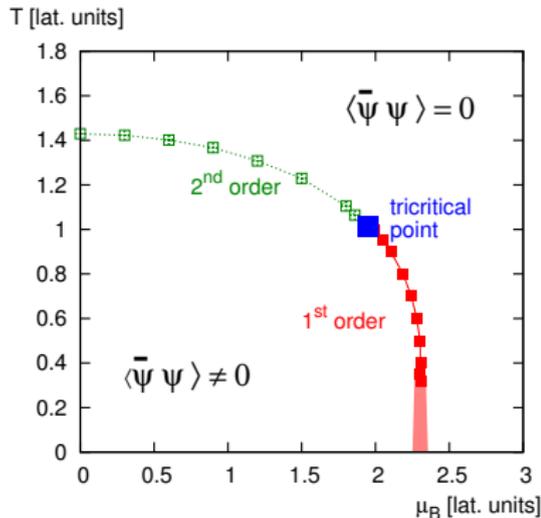
- Worm algorithm [Prokof'ev & Svistunov 2001]:  
sampling 2-monomer sector  
(for U(3): [Adams & Chandrasekharan, 2003])
- SU(3): Worm both in mesonic and baryonic sector



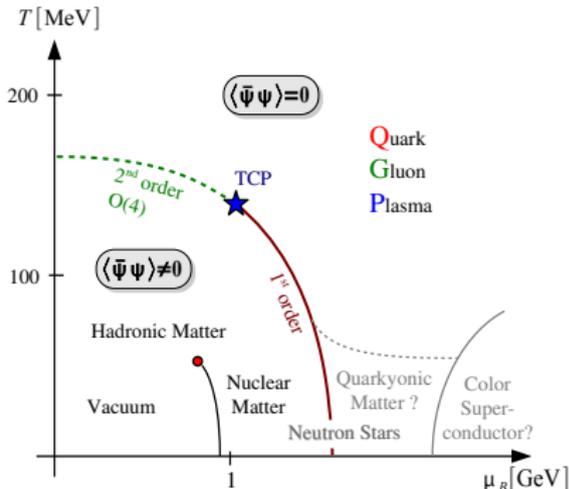
during Worm evolution

# The Phase Diagram in the Strong Coupling Limit

Comparison of phase boundaries ( $T_c, \mu_c$ ) for **massless quarks** [de Forcrand & U. (2011)]:



measured at strong coupling



speculated in continuum

- Similar to **standard scenario of continuum QCD** [Stephanov *et al.* PRL 81 (1998)]
- However, nuclear and chiral transition coincide at  $\beta = 0$

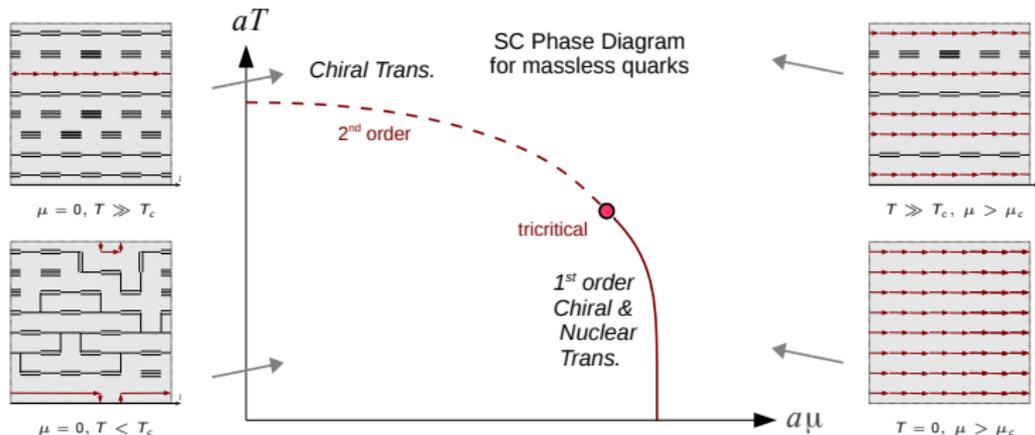
# Relation Between Chiral and Nuclear Transition at $\beta = 0$

## Chiral Transition at Strong Coupling:

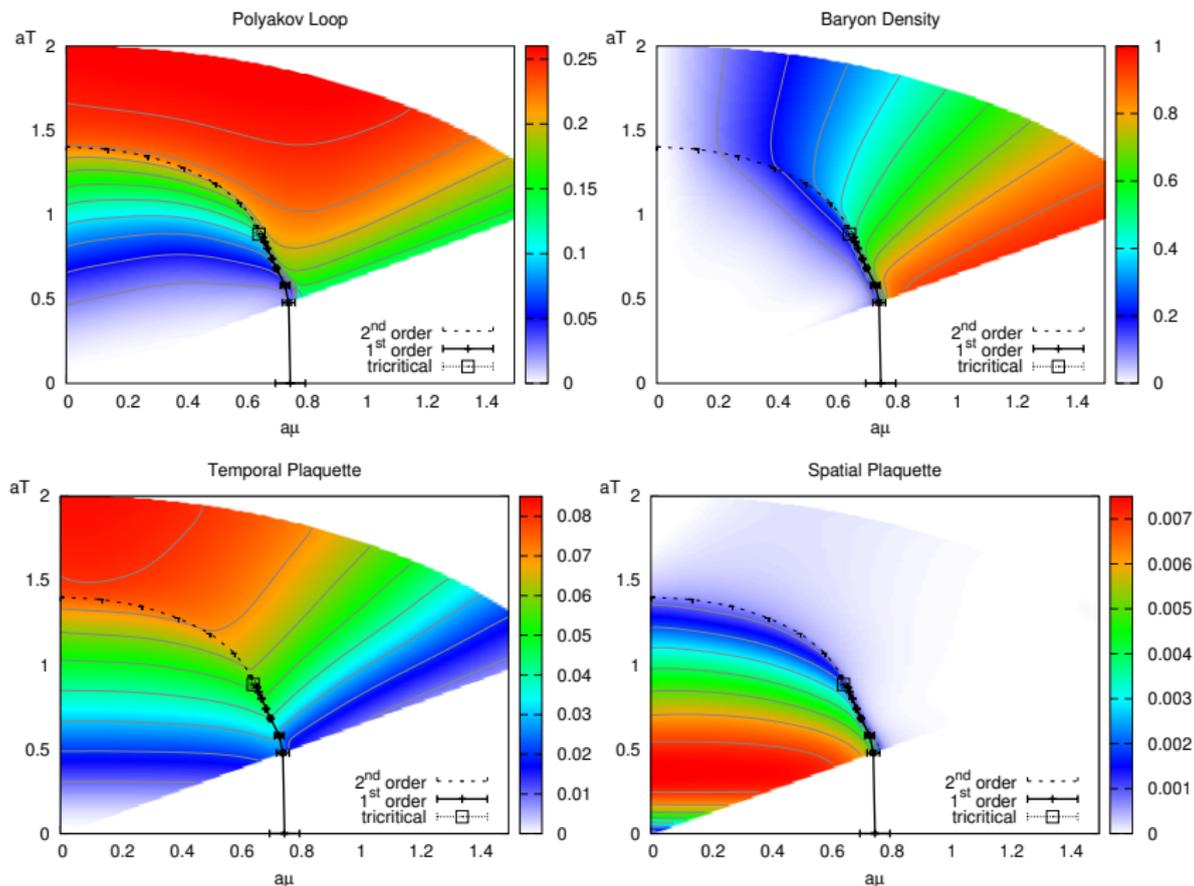
- **chiral symmetry**:  $U(1)_{55}$ :  $\psi(x) \mapsto e^{i\epsilon(x)\theta_{55}}\psi(x)$ ,  $\epsilon(x) = (-1)^{x_1+x_2+x_3+x_4}$  is spontaneously broken at low temperatures/densities
- chiral transition: **spatial dimers vanish**, at small  $\mu$ : 2nd order with  $O(2)$  exponents

## Nuclear Transition (below TCP):

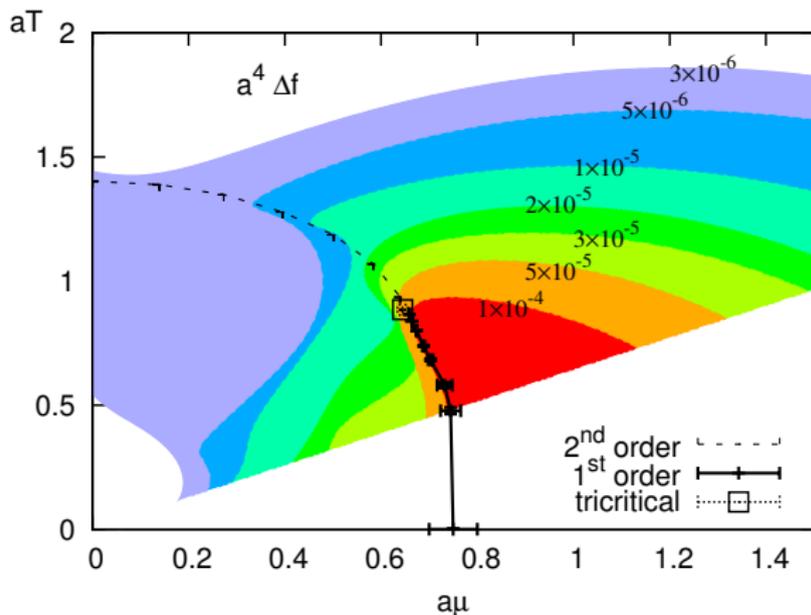
- **baryon crystal** forms (Pauli saturation)
- coincides with chiral transition:  $\langle \bar{\psi}\psi \rangle$  vanishes as baryonic crystal forms



# Polyakov Loop, Baryon Density and Plaquettes



# Sign Problem in Dual Representation (Strong Coupling)



- average sign:  $\langle \text{sign} \rangle \simeq e^{-\frac{V}{T} \Delta_f}$
- volumes  $32^3 \times N_\tau$  can be easily simulated at tricritical point
- sign problem more **severe at low temperatures**

## Including the gauge corrections

- QCD Partition function via **strong coupling expansion in  $\beta$** :

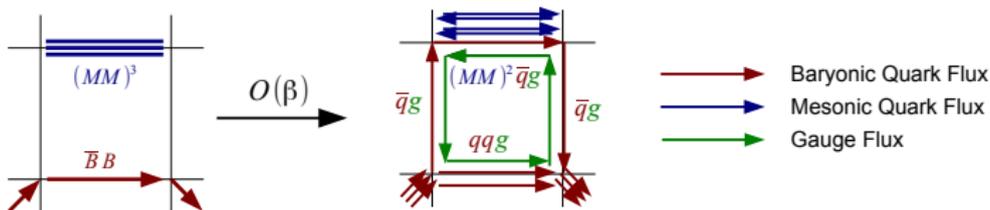
$$Z_{QCD} = \int d\psi d\bar{\psi} dU e^{S_G + S_F} = \int d\psi d\bar{\psi} Z_F \langle e^{S_G} \rangle_{Z_F}$$

$$\langle O \rangle_{Z_F} = \frac{1}{Z_F} \int dU O e^{-S_F}, \quad Z_F = \int dU e^{-S_F} = \prod_{l=(x,\mu)} z(x,\mu)$$

- expand gauge action to some order in  $\beta$ :

$$\langle e^{S_G} \rangle_{Z_F} \simeq 1 + \langle S_G \rangle_{Z_F} + \mathcal{O}(\beta^2) = 1 + \frac{\beta}{2N_c} \sum_P \langle \text{tr}[U_P + U_P^\dagger] \rangle_{Z_F} + \mathcal{O}(\beta^2)$$

→ **additional color singlet link states**



## Link Integrations for $\mathcal{O}(\beta)$ diagrams

One-Link integrals for links on the edge of an excited plaquette:

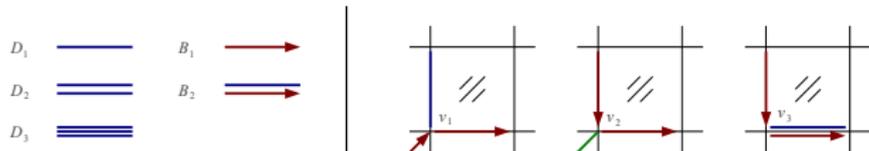
[Azakov & Aliev, Physica Scripta 38 (1988)]

$$J_{ij} = \sum_{k=1}^{N_c} \underbrace{\frac{(N_c - k)!}{N_c!(k-1)!} (M_\chi M_\varphi)^{k-1} \bar{\chi}_j \varphi_i}_{D_k = \text{mesons} + \bar{q}g} - \underbrace{\frac{1}{N_c!(N_c - 1)!} \epsilon_{i_1 i_2} \epsilon_{j_1 j_2} \bar{\varphi}_{i_1} \bar{\varphi}_{i_2} \chi_{j_1} \chi_{j_2}}_{B_1 = q\bar{q}g} - \underbrace{\frac{1}{N_c} \bar{B}_\varphi B_\chi \bar{\chi}_j \varphi_i}_{B_2 = \text{meson} + q\bar{q}g \text{ baryon} + \bar{q}g}$$

- determine plaquette link product  $P = \text{tr}[J_{ik} J_{kl} J_{lm} J_{mi}]$
- result can be consistently re-expressed via

**link weights:**  $w(D_k) = \frac{(N_c - k)!}{N_c!(k-1)!}$ ,  $w(B_1) = \frac{1}{N_c!(N_c - 1)!}$ ,  $w(B_2) = \frac{(N_c - 1)!}{N_c!}$

and **site weights:**  $v_1 = N_c!$ ,  $v_2 = (N_c - 1)!$ ,  $v_3 = 1$

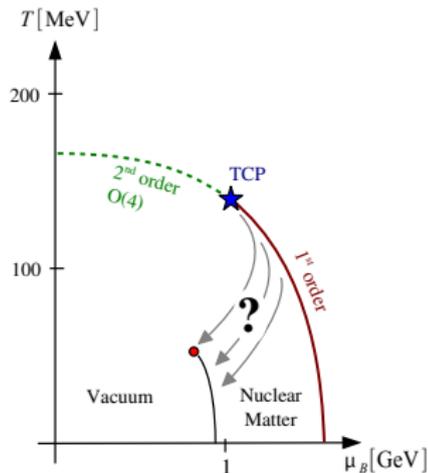
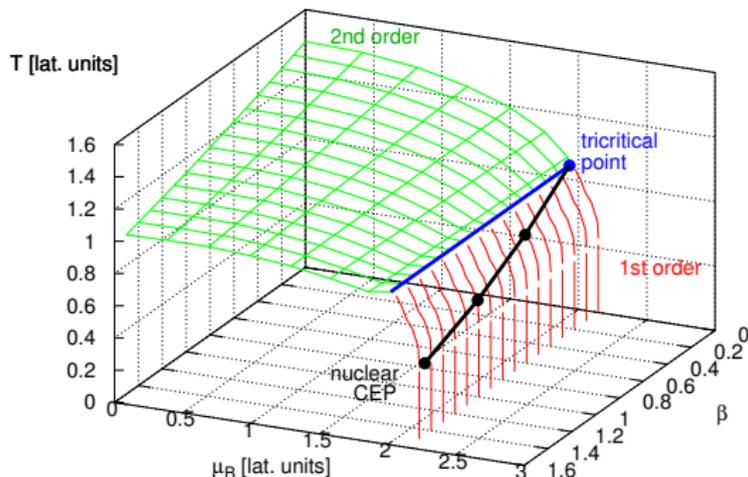


- Grassman constraint on sites touching a plaquette altered  $N_c \rightarrow N_c + 1$

# Gauge corrections to the phase diagram at strong coupling

State of the art:  $\mathcal{O}(\beta)$  corrections for SU(3)

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



Questions we want to address:

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

## First step: obtain higher order gauge integrals: $\mathcal{O}(\beta^{r+s})$

- need to determine one-link integrals, with quark matrices  $\mathcal{M}_{ij} = \sum_{f=1}^{N_f} \psi_i^f(x) \bar{\psi}_j^f(y)$ :

$$\mathcal{J}_{(i,j)_{1:r}(k,l)_{1:s}}^{r;s} = \int_{SU(3)} dU \underbrace{e^{\text{tr}[U\mathcal{M}^\dagger + \mathcal{M}U^\dagger]}}_{\text{from quark action}} \underbrace{U_{i_1 j_1} \dots U_{i_r j_r} (U^\dagger)_{k_1 l_1} \dots (U^\dagger)_{k_s l_s}}_{\text{from gluon action}}$$

- in the strong coupling limit, **link integration for  $\mathcal{J}^{0,0}$  factorizes!**
- $\beta > 0$ : **tensorial structure**, but still true that gauge integrals can be decomposed into linear combinations of **invariants**
- strategy: expand exponential of fermion action  $\mathcal{J}_{(i,j)_{1:r}(k,l)_{1:s}}^{r;s} = \sum_{\kappa_1, \kappa_2} \mathcal{K}_{(i,j)_{1:r}(k,l)_{1:s}}^{\kappa_1, r; \kappa_2, s}$

$$\mathcal{K}_{(i,j)_{1:r}(k,l)_{1:s}}^{\kappa_1, r; \kappa_2, s} = \frac{1}{\kappa_1! \kappa_2!} \sum_{\{i_a, j_a, k_b, l_b\}} \left( \prod_{a=1}^{\kappa_1} (\mathcal{M}^\dagger)_{i_a j_a} \right) \left( \prod_{b=1}^{\kappa_2} \mathcal{M}_{k_b l_b} \right) \mathcal{I}_{(i,j)_{1:\kappa_1+r}(k,l)_{1:\kappa_2+s}}$$

- $\kappa_1$  quark hoppings,  $\kappa_2$  anti-quark hoppings:  $|\kappa_1 - \kappa_2 + r - s| \in \{0, N_c, 2N_c, \dots\}$
- color** and **flavor** structure intimately linked!
- Integrals  $\mathcal{I}_{(i,j)_{1:a}(k,l)_{1:b}}^{a;b} = \int_{SU(3)} dU U_{i_1 j_1} \dots U_{i_a j_a} (U^\dagger)_{k_1 l_1} \dots (U^\dagger)_{k_b l_b}$  are known, recursive [M. Creutz, 1980], or expressed by **Young projectors** [J. Myers, 2014]:

## Gauge Integrals and Characters of $S_n$

At strong coupling, general result for **any number of flavors**  $N_f$ :

$$\mathcal{K}_0^{\kappa;\kappa} = \sum_{\lambda, \tau} C_\lambda^\tau \prod_{i=1}^{\kappa} \text{Tr}[(M_{xy})^i]^{t_i}$$

$$C_\lambda^\tau = \frac{c_\tau \chi_\tau^\lambda}{D_\lambda}$$

- $\chi_\tau^\lambda$  is character of symmetric group  $S_n$ ,  $D_\lambda$  is dimension of  $SU(N)$  representation  $\lambda$ ,  $c_\tau$  is degeneracy of cycle structure
- $\lambda$  encodes  $N_c$ -dependence,  $\tau$  for  $N_f$ -dependence, e.g.

$$\mathcal{K}_0^{3;3} = \frac{1}{6} \frac{1}{N_c(N_c^2 - 1)(N_c^2 - 4)} \left[ (N_c^2 - 2) \text{Tr}[M_{xy}]^3 + 3N_c \text{Tr}[M_{xy}] \text{Tr}[(M_{xy})^2] + 4 \text{Tr}[(M_{xy})^3] \right]$$

- Generalization for higher order gauge corrections possible, e.g.

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{K}_{i_1 j_1, i_2 j_2}^{1,2,3,0} &= \frac{1}{N_c(N_c^2 - 1)(N_c^2 - 4)} \left[ (N_c^2 + N_c - 2) \text{Tr}[Q^{i_1 j_1}] \text{Tr}[Q^{i_2 j_2}] \text{Tr}[M_{xy}] \right. \\ &\quad \left. + N_c \text{Tr}[Q^{i_1 j_1} Q^{i_2 j_2}] \text{Tr}[M_{xy}] + N_c \text{Tr}[M_{xy} Q^{i_1 j_1}] \text{Tr}[Q^{i_2 j_2}] + 4 \text{Tr}[M_{xy} Q^{i_1 j_1} Q^{i_2 j_2}] \right] \end{aligned}$$

# Plaquette and Flux Variables

New interpretation of **dual representation**:

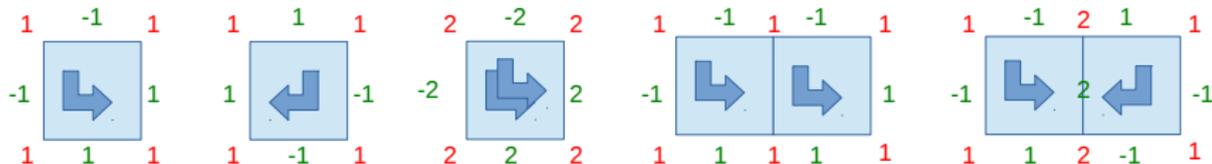
- at strong coupling limit: dimers=meson hoppings, 3-fluxes=baryons
- away from strong coupling limit: **dimers = color singlets** (=U(3) sector),  
**3-fluxes = color triplets**
- in principle: also 6-flux, 9-flux, ... sectors, but neglected here

Plaquette occupation numbers at plaquette coordinate  $P$ :

- **equivalence classes** of difference of fundamental plaquettes  $\text{Tr}[U_P]$  and anti-fundamental plaquettes  $\text{Tr}[U_P^\dagger]$  from gauge action:

$$n_P = n_f(P) - n_a(P) \quad \Rightarrow \quad \beta \mapsto \text{U(3) sectors within } u(\beta)$$

- plaquette fluxes induce **links fluxes**  $f_b$  and defines **flux sites**  $f_x$ :



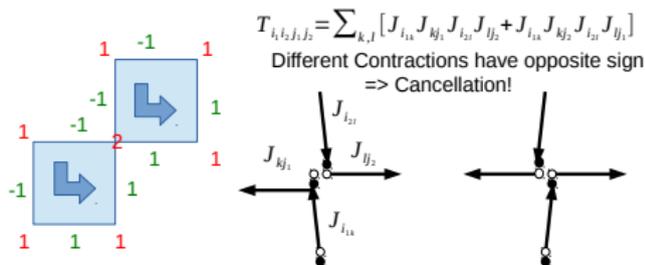
## Second step: Grassmann integration

Recall: gauge integration before Grassmann integration (no fermion determinant)

- free color indices need to be **contracted** at each site (for given ensemble of plaquettes)
- in general, gives rise to tensor networks/vertex model  $\rightarrow$  (too) difficult!

**Simplification** in the  $U(3)$  sector:

- plaquette occupations  $n_p, n_{p'} \in \mathbb{Z}$  can **only differ by  $\pm 1$**  if  $p, p'$  adjacent
- plaquette occupations  $n_p, n_{p'} \in \mathbb{Z}$  cannot share a site if they don't share a link



$\Rightarrow$

Gauge fluxes  $f_b$  form self-avoiding loops!

- Does not apply to the additional  $SU(3)$  contributions: so far restricted to first non-trivial contribution (3-flux sector)

## MDP+P partition function:

$$Z_F(m_q, \mu) = \sum_{\{k, n, \ell, n_P\}} \underbrace{\prod_{b=(x, \mu)} \frac{(N_c - k_b)!}{N_c! (k_b - |f_b|)!}}_{\text{singlet hoppings } M_x M_y} \underbrace{\prod_x \frac{N_c!}{n_x!} (2am_q)^{n_x}}_{\text{chiral condensate } \bar{\psi} \psi} \underbrace{\prod_{\ell} w(\ell, f_b, \mu)}_{\text{triplet hoppings } \bar{B}_x B_y} \underbrace{\prod_P \frac{1}{|n_P|!} \left( \frac{\beta}{2N_c} \right)^{|n_P|}}_{\text{gluon propagation}}$$

$k_b \in \{0, \dots, N_c\}$ ,  $n_x \in \{0, \dots, N_c\}$ ,  $\ell_b \in \{0, \pm 1\}$ ,  $f_b = \partial n_P$ ,  $f_x = \frac{1}{2} \sum_b f_b$

- color constraint:

$$n_x + \sum_{\hat{\mu}=\pm\hat{0}, \dots, \pm\hat{d}} \left( k_{\hat{\mu}}(x) + \frac{N_c}{2} |\ell_{\hat{\mu}}(x)| \right) = N_c + f_x$$

- 3-flux weight involves additional **site weights**  $v_i$  and **link weights**:

$$w(B_3) = \frac{1}{N_c! (N_c - 1)! (N_c - 2)!}, \quad w(B_4) = \frac{(N_c - 1)! (N_c - 2)!}{N_c!}$$

- sign: combine gauge flux  $f_b$  with triplet flux  $\ell_b$  to identify **fermionic loops**  $\tilde{\ell}$ :

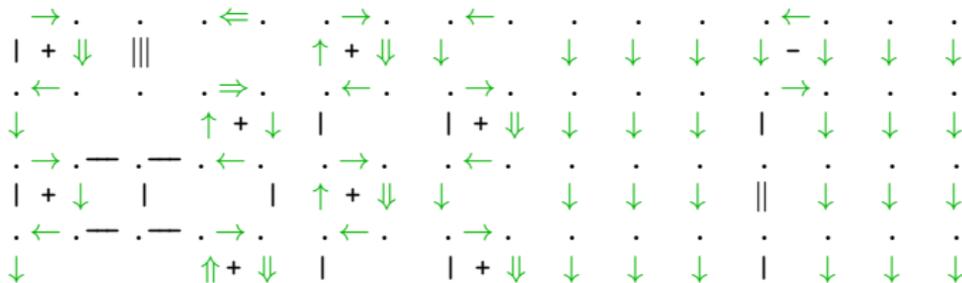
$$\sigma(C) = (-1)^{L(C) + W(C) + N_-(C)} \prod_{\tilde{\ell}} \eta_{\mu}(x)$$

QCD lattice partition function correct up to  $\mathcal{O}(\beta^3)$

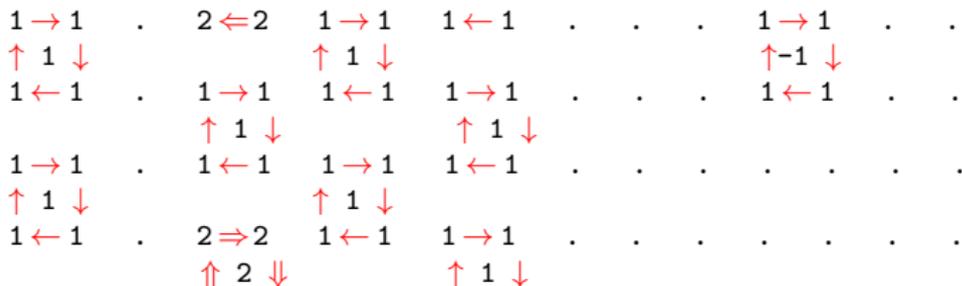
# MDP+P Ensembles (2-dim for visualization)

$$\beta = 1.0, \mu = 0.5 \text{ (liquid phase)}$$

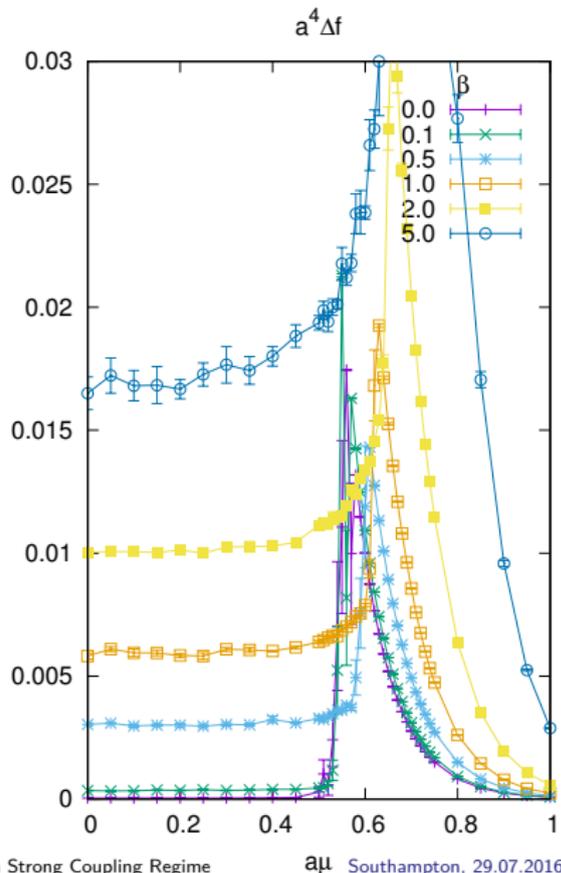
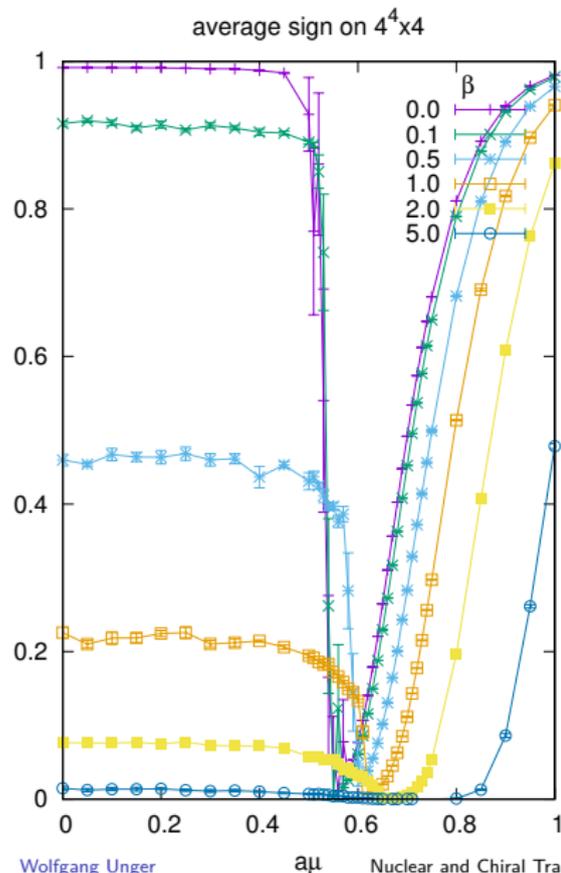
MDP ensemble:



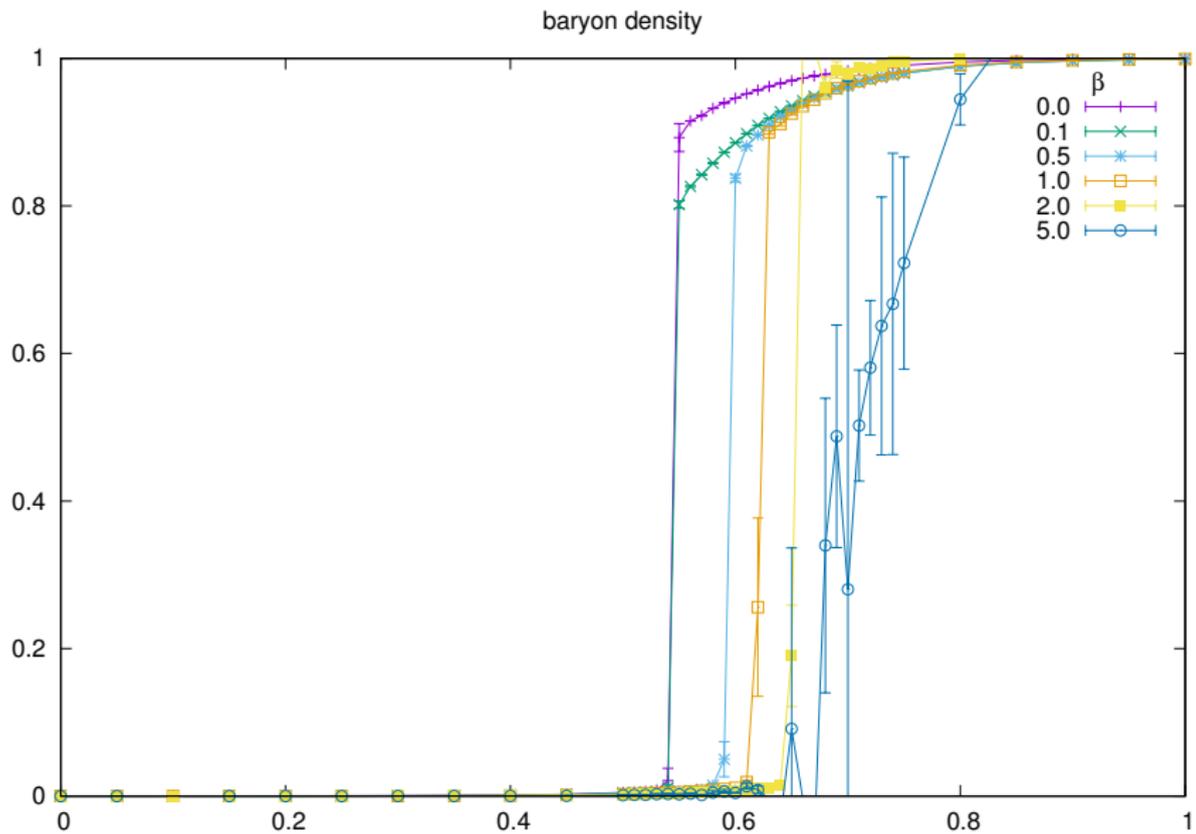
Flux ensemble:



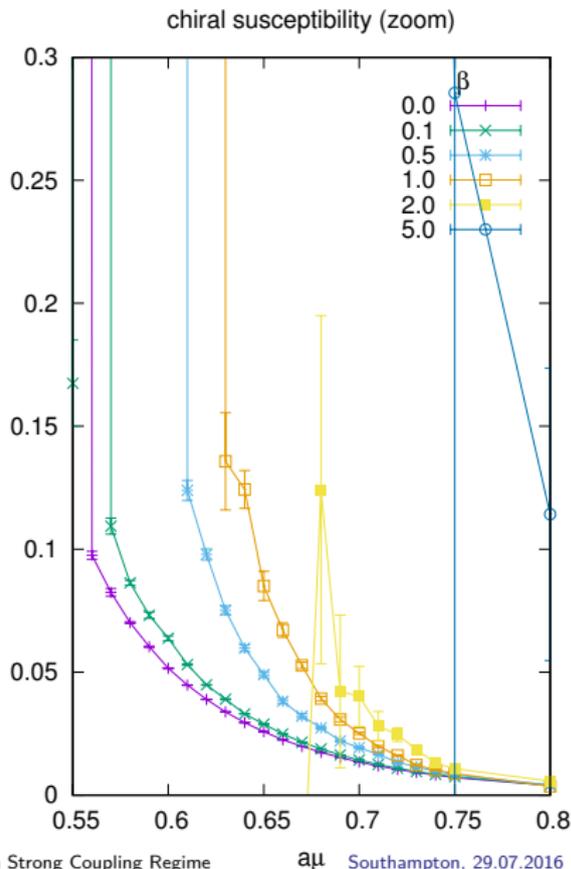
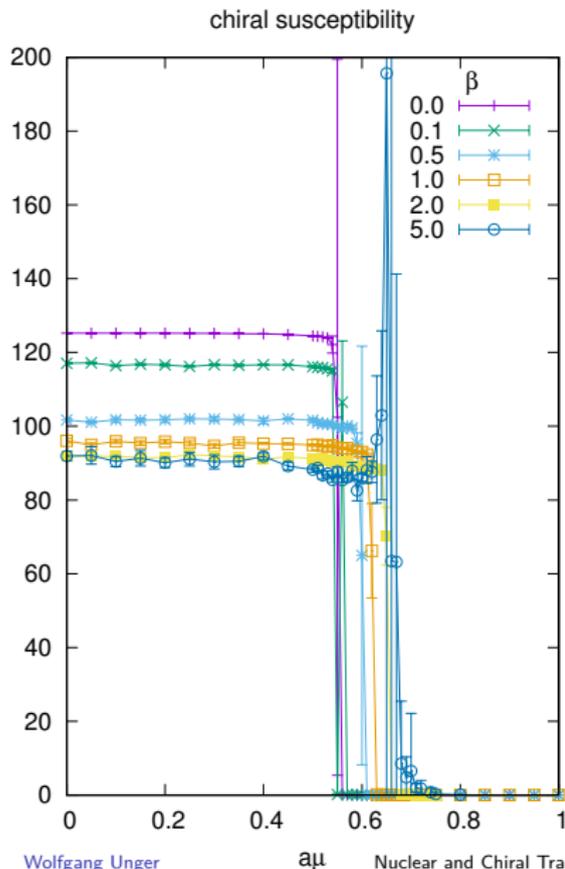
# Nuclear and Chiral Transition at $T = 0$ - ongoing analysis



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# Nuclear and Chiral Transition at $T = 0$ - ongoing analysis



# Conclusions

## Results:

- all gauge integrals needed for  $\mathcal{O}(\beta^3)$  and related to group characters
- Grassmann integration simplifies in U(3) sector
- sign problem mild enough to go beyond  $\beta > 1$ , but hard at  $T = 0$  (even at  $\beta = 0$ )
- **simulations with  $\mathcal{O}(\beta)^3$  corrections** included but not conclusive yet concerning nuclear vs. chiral transition (weak dependence on  $\beta$ )
- split between chiral and nuclear transition might be very small in nature

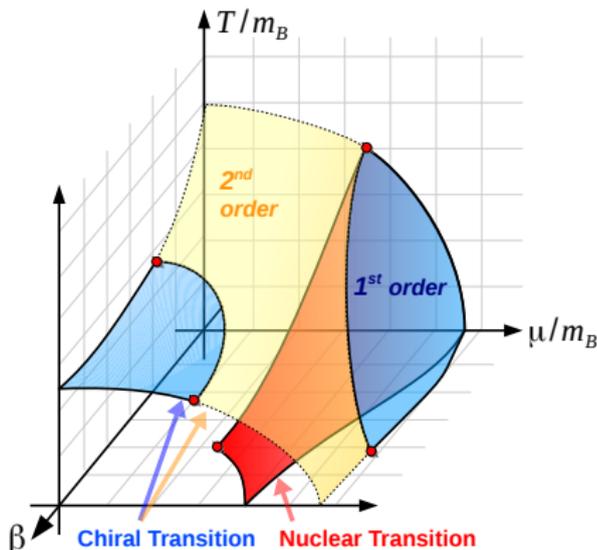
## Goals:

- improve plaquette algorithm  $\rightarrow$  incorporate **character expansion**
- generalize plaquette algorithm to non-trivial anisotropy  $a/a_t = f(\gamma, \beta_s/\beta_t)$  to study various  $T$  ( $\rightarrow$  talk by **Hélvio Vairinhos**:  $a/a_t = f(\gamma)$  at  $\beta = 0$ )
- surpass the **roughening transition** at  $\beta \simeq 5.9$ : sampling of all orders needed
- other dualizations? ( $\rightarrow$  talk by **Carla Marchis**)

## Backup: Connection Between Strong Coupling and Continuum Limit?

One of several **possible scenarios** for the extension to the continuum:

- back plane: strong coupling phase diagram ( $\beta = 0$ ),  $N_f = 1$
- front plane: continuum phase diagram ( $\beta = \infty$ ,  $a = 0$ )
- due to fermion doubling, corresponds to  $N_f = 4$  in continuum (no rooting)



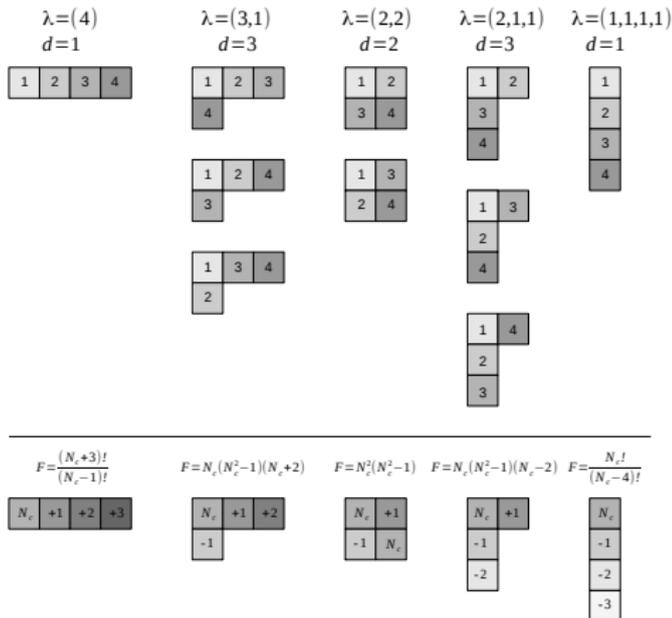
# Backup: Young Tableaux - Color Structure

So, what are the  $C_\lambda^T$  (and for  $\mathcal{O}(\beta)$ ,  $\mathcal{O}(\beta^2)$ ):  $C_\lambda^{T,\rho^1}$ ,  $C_\lambda^{T,\rho^1,\rho^2}$ , etc) ?

- answer: related to **irreducible representations** of the **symmetric group  $S_n$**  with  $n = \kappa_1 + r = \kappa_2 + s$

**Young Tableaux**  $\lambda = (\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_k)$ :

- Standard Young tableaux correspond to **irreps of  $S_n$**  with dimension  $d_\lambda = \frac{n!}{H_\lambda}$  with Hook lengths  $H_\lambda$
- used to determine dimension  $D_\lambda = \frac{F_\lambda}{H_\lambda}$  of irreps of  $SU(N_c)$



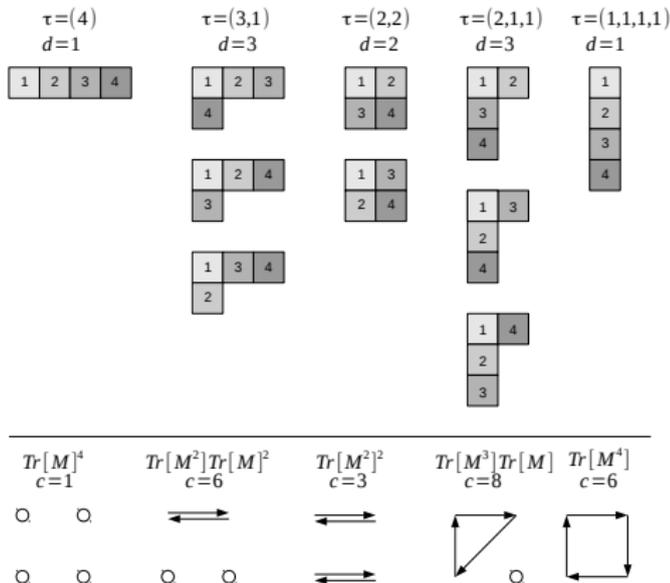
# Backup: Young Tableaux - Flavor Structure

So, what are the  $C_\lambda^\tau$  (and for  $\mathcal{O}(\beta)$ ,  $\mathcal{O}(\beta^2)$ :  $C_\lambda^{\tau, \rho_1}$ ,  $C_\lambda^{\tau, \rho_1, \rho_2}$ , etc) ?

- answer: related to **irreducible representations** of the **symmetric group**  $S_n$  with  $n = \kappa_1 + r = \kappa_2 + s$

**Young Tableaux**  $\tau = (t_1, \dots, t_k)$ :

- conjugacy classes
  - $\leftrightarrow$  cycle structure of  $S_n$
  - $\leftrightarrow$  flavor permutations
- at a given order  $n$ , the **trace structure**  $\tau = (t_1, \dots, t_k)$  with  $T = \prod \text{Tr}[M_{xy}^i]^{t_i}$  is equivalent to a partition of  $n$ :  $\sum_i i t_i = n$
- example:  $\pi = (136)(24)(58)(7)$   
 $\rightarrow t_1 = 1, t_2 = 2, t_3 = 1$



## Backup: Table of Characters and Invariants

$\tau$	$\lambda :$	(1, 1, 1, 1)	(2, 1, 1)	(2, 2)	(3, 1)	(4)	Sum
(4,0,0,0)		1	3	2	3	1	10
(2,1,0,0)		1	1	0	-1	-1	0
(0,2,0,0)		1	-1	2	-1	1	2
(1,0,1,0)		1	0	-1	0	1	1
(0,0,0,1)		1	-1	0	1	-1	0
Sum		5	2	3	2	1	

Table: Characters  $\chi_\lambda^\tau$  for  $n = 4$

$\tau$	$\lambda :$	(1, 1, 1, 1)	(2, 1, 1)	(2, 2)	(3, 1)	(4)	Sum
(4,0,0,0)		1	9	4	9	1	24
(2,1,0,0)		6	18	0	-18	-6	0
(0,2,0,0)		3	-9	12	-9	3	0
(1,0,1,0)		8	0	-16	0	8	0
(0,0,0,1)		6	-18	0	18	-6	0
Sum		24	0	0	0	0	

Table: Invariants  $C_\lambda^\tau$  for  $n = 4$

# Backup: Relationship to the Character Expansion

- Define Bessel Determinants:

$$D_n^{(3,e)} = \begin{vmatrix} I_n(x) & I_{n+1}(x) & I_{n+2}(x) \\ I_{n-1}(x) & I_n(x) & I_{n+1}(x) \\ I_{n-2}(x) & I_{n-1}(x) & I_n(x) \end{vmatrix}, \quad D_n^{(3,f)} = \begin{vmatrix} I_{n+1}(x) & I_{n+2}(x) & I_{n+3}(x) \\ I_{n-1}(x) & I_n(x) & I_{n+1}(x) \\ I_{n-2}(x) & I_{n-1}(x) & I_n(x) \end{vmatrix}$$

- fundamental character in  $x = \frac{1}{g^2} = \frac{\beta}{2N_c}$ :

$$\text{for U(3): } u(\beta) = \frac{D_0^{(3,f)}(2x)}{D_0^{(3,e)}(2x)} = \frac{\frac{1}{0!1!}x + \frac{2}{1!2!}x^3 + \frac{6}{2!3!}x^5 + \frac{23}{3!4!}x^7 + \frac{103}{4!5!}x^9 + \dots}{1 + \frac{1}{1!^2}x^2 + \frac{2}{2!^2}x^4 + \frac{6}{3!^2}x^6 + \frac{23}{4!^2}x^8 + \frac{103}{5!^2}x^{10} + \dots}$$

$$\text{for SU(3): } u(\beta) = \frac{\sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} D_n^{(3,f)}(2x)}{\sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} D_n^{(3,e)}(2x)} = \frac{\frac{1}{0!1!}x + \frac{1}{0!2!}x^2 + \frac{2}{1!2!}x^3 + \frac{5}{8}x^4 + \frac{2 \times 6 + 1}{24}x^5 + \frac{77}{240}x^6 + \frac{5 \times 23 + 24}{720}x^7 + \dots}{1 + \frac{1}{1!^2}x^2 + \frac{1+1}{3!}x^3 + \frac{2}{2!^2}x^4 + \frac{1}{4}x^5 + \frac{2 \times 6 + 1}{72}x^6 + \frac{23}{4!^2}x^8 + \dots}$$

- character expansion recovered, but not limited to Wilson loops!

	1 (mesonic)	$L^3$	$L^6$	$L^9$	$L^{12}$
1 (baryonic)	1	1	5	42	462
$(LL^*)$	1	3	21	210	2574
$(LL^*)^2$	2	11	98	1122	15015
$(LL^*)^3$	6	74	498	6336	91091
$(LL^*)^4$	23	225	2709	37466	571428

$L^3$     $L^6$     $L^9$

$(LL^*)^3$     $(LL^*)^4$