

# Thermodynamics with physical mass staggered quarks

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**arxiv:1606.07494: "Lattice QCD for Cosmology"**

# Axions

## What is an axion, $A$ ?

Hypothetical elementary particle, leading candidate for dark matter.

## What is the mass of the axion, $m_A$ ?

Related to the topological susceptibility of QCD

$$m_A^2 = \chi/f_A^2, \text{ where } \chi = \langle Q^2 \rangle/V$$

## What is the scale of the axion, $f_A$ ?

Axions are produced during the evolution of the early Universe. Density depends on  $f_A$ : the larger the  $f_A$  the more axions are produced. Determine  $f_A$  from

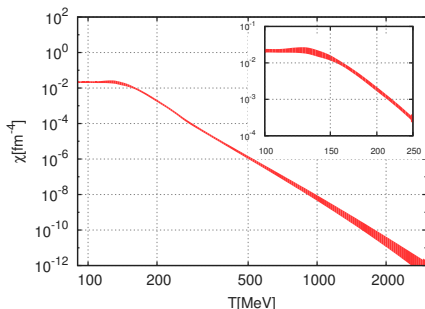
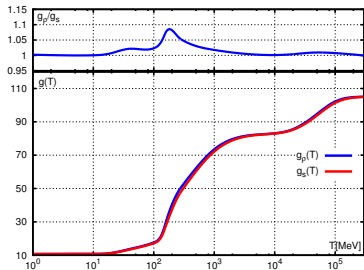
$$\rho_A = \rho_{\text{dark matter}}$$

## Calculate the density of axions produced in the early Universe!

expansion of the universe  $\rightarrow$  **Equation of State**

( $\rightarrow$  see next-to-next talk)

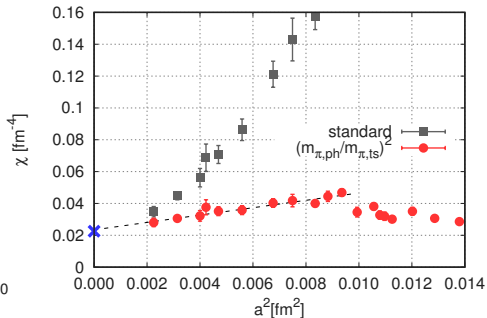
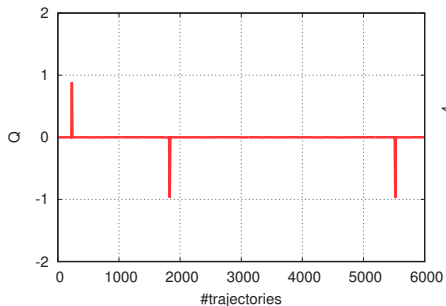
evolution of the axion field  $\rightarrow$  **Topological Susceptibility**



For  $\chi$  see also recent [Bonati et al 1512.06746] and [Petreczky et al 1606.03145].

# The challenges

1. **Very few tunneling** for large temperatures and/or fine lattices
2. **Very large lattice artefacts.**



# Fixed sector integral

See also [Frison,Kitano,Matsufuru,Mori,Yamada 1606.07175](#).

Instead of waiting for tunneling events, we make simulations in **fixed  $Q$  sectors**. Howto get

$$Z_1/Z_0 = ?$$

First calculate **derivative** of  $\log Z_1/Z_0$ :

$$b_1(T) \equiv \frac{d \log Z_1/Z_0}{d \log T}$$

Use fixed  $N_t$ -approach, ie.  $T = (aN_t)^{-1}$  is changed by  $\beta$ :

$$b_1(T) = \frac{d\beta}{d \log a} (\langle S_g \rangle_1 - \langle S_g \rangle_0)$$

# Fixed sector integral

**Integration** gives the relative ratio:

$$Z_1/Z_0|_T = \exp\left(\int_{T_0}^T d \log T' b_1(T')\right) Z_1/Z_0|_{T_0}$$

Start from a temperature  $T_0$ , where standard approach is feasible.

**Remark:**  $b_1$  is directly related to the **fall-off exponent**:

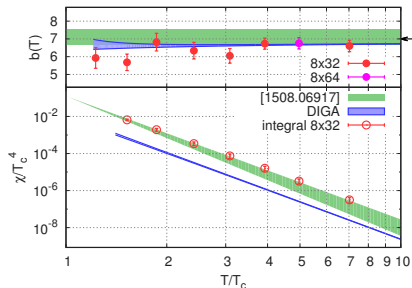
$$b(T) = \frac{d \log \chi}{d \log T} \simeq b_1(T) - 4$$

(For high temperatures, where only  $Q = 0$  and  $1$  are contributing  $\langle Q^2 \rangle \simeq \frac{2Z_1}{Z_0 N_t N_s^3 a^4}$ )

# Fixed $Q$ integral - quenched

Fixed  $Q$  simulation: extra acc/rej step at the end of each update, as lattice spacing decreased the acceptance gets better.

Test in quenched case: pure Wilson action upto  $7 \cdot T_c$  and  $8 \times 64^3$



**standard method:** extrapolation using a fit; **integral method;**  
**Dilute Instanton Gas Approximation:** exponent agrees nicely,  
but order of magnitude difference in  $\chi$

# Fixed Q integral - fermions

Lattice spacing is changed by  $\beta$  and quark masses  $m_f$ :

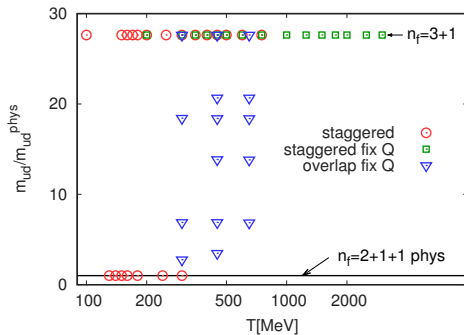
$$\begin{aligned} b_1(T) &= \frac{d \log Z_1 / Z_0}{d \log a} = \\ &= \frac{d\beta}{d \log a} \langle S_g \rangle_{1-0} + \sum_f \frac{d \log m_f}{d \log a} m_f \langle \bar{\psi} \psi_f \rangle_{1-0} \end{aligned}$$

## Remarks:

1. Very large cutoff effects on  $\langle \bar{\psi} \psi \rangle$  ( $\rightarrow$  see next talk).
2. Gauge action part is much noisier, than the fermion part.



# Simulation strategy

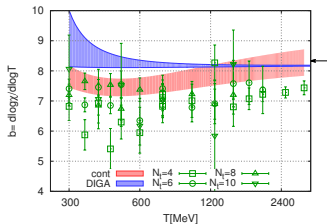


Evaluate susceptibility and decay exponent at a quark mass, where the simulation is less expensive than at phys. point. **Three flavor symmetric point.**

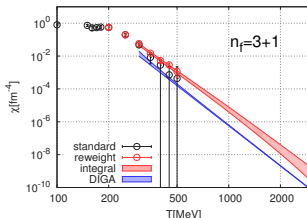
Carry out an **integration in light quark mass** from  $m_s$  to  $m_{ud}$ .

# Results

**The fall-off exponent** agrees with DIGA/SB limit for temperatures above  $T \sim 1\text{GeV}$ , for smaller  $T$ 's somewhat smaller.

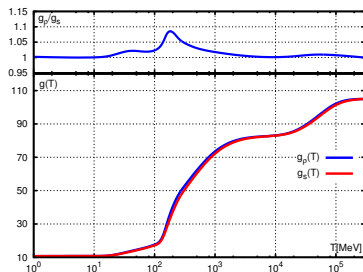
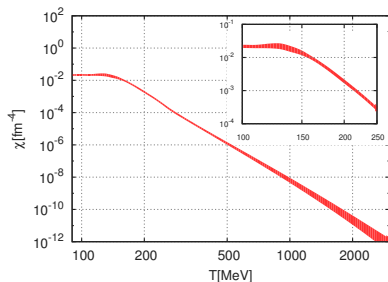


**The susceptibility** is considerably larger than the DIGA prediction.



# Final results

## Equation of State and Topological Susceptibility.



They give an axion mass of  $m_A = 50(4) \mu\text{eV}$  (in post-inflation with same amount of topological defects as misalignment).