

Baryonic popcorn: holographic nuclear interactions, nuclear matter and multi-instanton chains

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Introduction

- In recent years **holography** or **gauge/gravity duality** has provided a new tool to handle strong coupling problems.
- It has been spectacularly successful at explaining certain features of the quark-gluon plasma such as its low **viscosity/entropy density ratio**.
- An insightful picture, though not complete, has been developed for **glueballs**, and **mesons spectra**.
- This naturally raises the question of whether one can apply holography to **baryons** and the “**Strong interaction**” namely to **nuclear interactions** and **nuclear matter**.

Questions to investigate in nuclear holography

- Is the large N_c and large λ world similar to reality
- Static properties of baryons
- Nuclear interactions
- The nuclear binding energy puzzle
- Nuclear matter at zero and finite temperature
- The structure of the QCD phase diagram

Nuclear binding energy puzzle

- The interactions between nucleons are **strong** so why is the nuclear binding **non-relativistic**, about 1.7% of $M c^2$ namely **16 Mev per nucleon**.
 - The usual explanation of this puzzle involves a **near-cancellation** between the **attractive** and the **repulsive** nuclear forces. [Walecka]
 - Attractive due to σ exchange -400 Mev
 - Repulsive due to ω exchange + 350 Mev
 - Fermion motion + 35 Mev
-
- Net binding per nucleon - 15 Mev

Outline

- **Stringy** holographic baryons
- The laboratory: the **generalized Sakai Sugimoto** model
- Baryons as **flavor gauge instantons**
- A brief review of static properties of Baryons
- **Nuclear interaction: repulsion and attraction**
- The **DKS model** and the **binding energy puzzle**

Outline

- **Chains** of baryons-generalities
- The 1d and 3d toy models of point charges.
- **Exact ADHM 1d chain of instantons**
- **The two instanton approximation**
- **Phase transitions** between lattice structures
- **The phase diagram of QCD at large N_c**
- Summary and open questions



Stringy holographic Baryons

Stringy Baryons in holography

- How do we identify a **baryon in holography** ?
- Since a **quark** corresponds to a **string**, the baryon has to be a structure with **N_c strings** connected to it.
- **Witten** proposed a **baryonic vertex** in $AdS_5 \times S^5$ in the form of a wrapped D5 brane over the S^5 .
- On the world volume of the wrapped D5 brane there is a CS term of the form

$$S_{CS} = \int_{S^5 \times \mathbb{R}} a \wedge \frac{G_5}{2\pi}.$$

Baryonic vertex

- The flux of the five form is

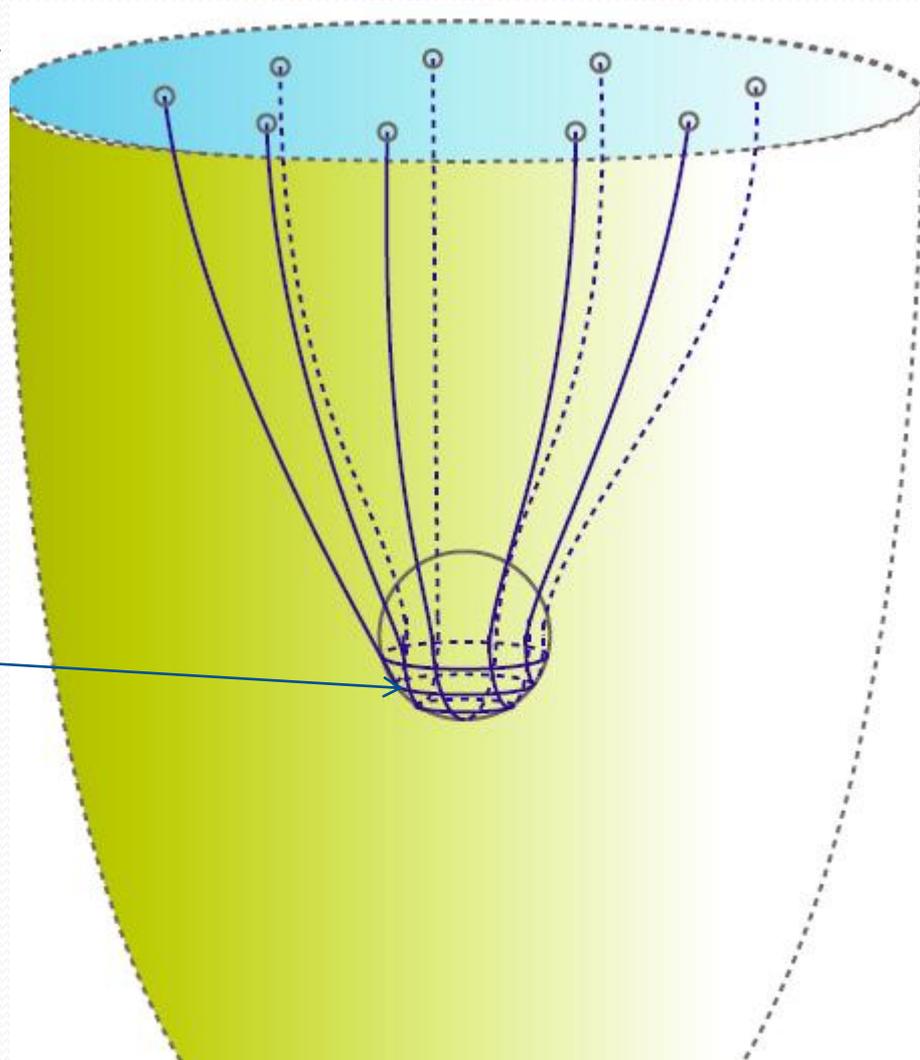
$$\int_{S^5} \frac{G_5}{2\pi} = N_c$$

- This implies that there is a **charge** N_c for the abelian gauge field. Since in a **compact space** one cannot have non-balanced charges there must be N_c **strings** attached to it.

External baryon

- **External baryon** – N_c strings connecting the baryonic vertex and the boundary

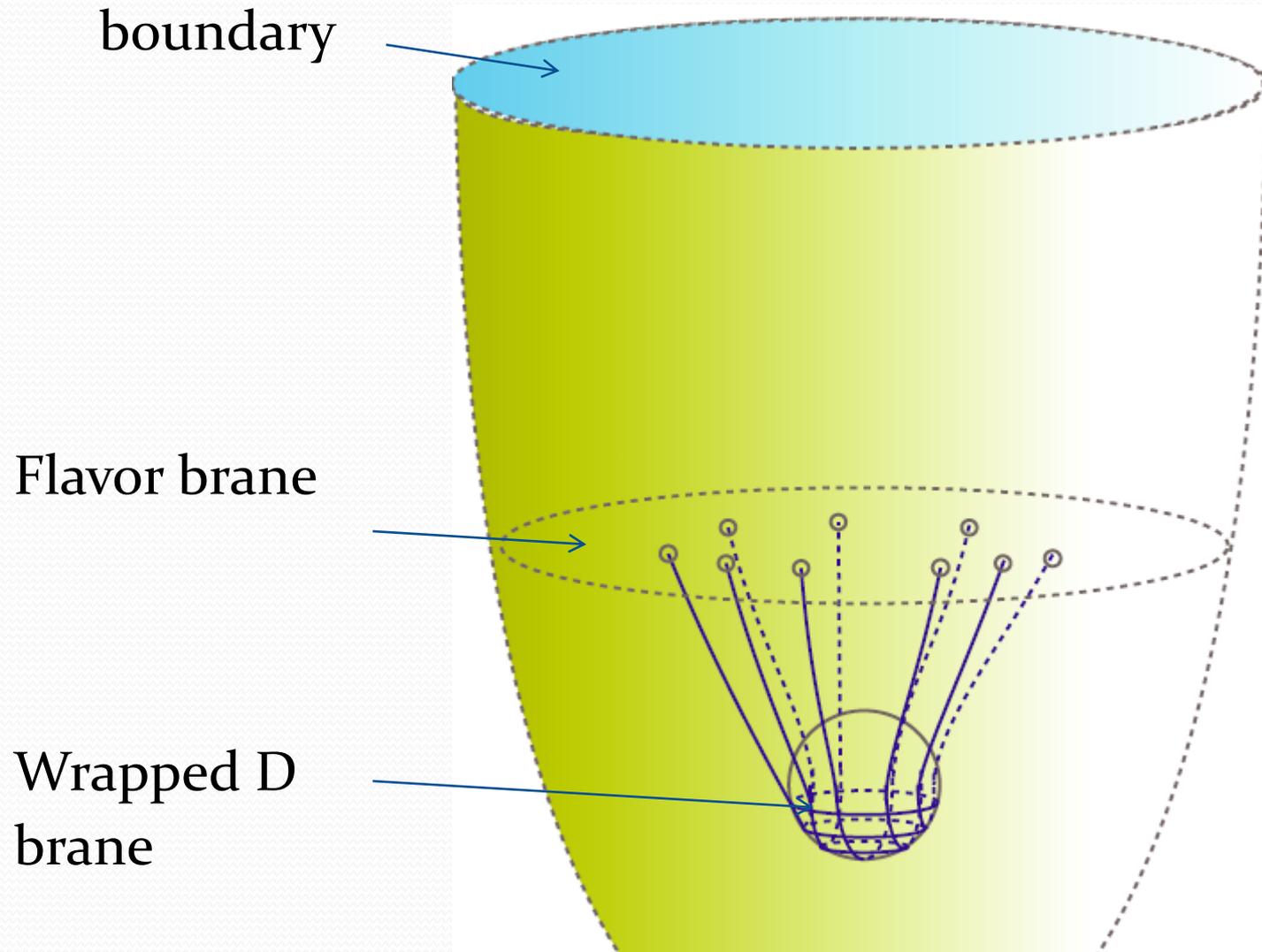
boundary



Wrapped
D brane

Dynamical baryon

- **Dynamical baryon** – N_c strings connecting the baryonic vertex and flavor branes

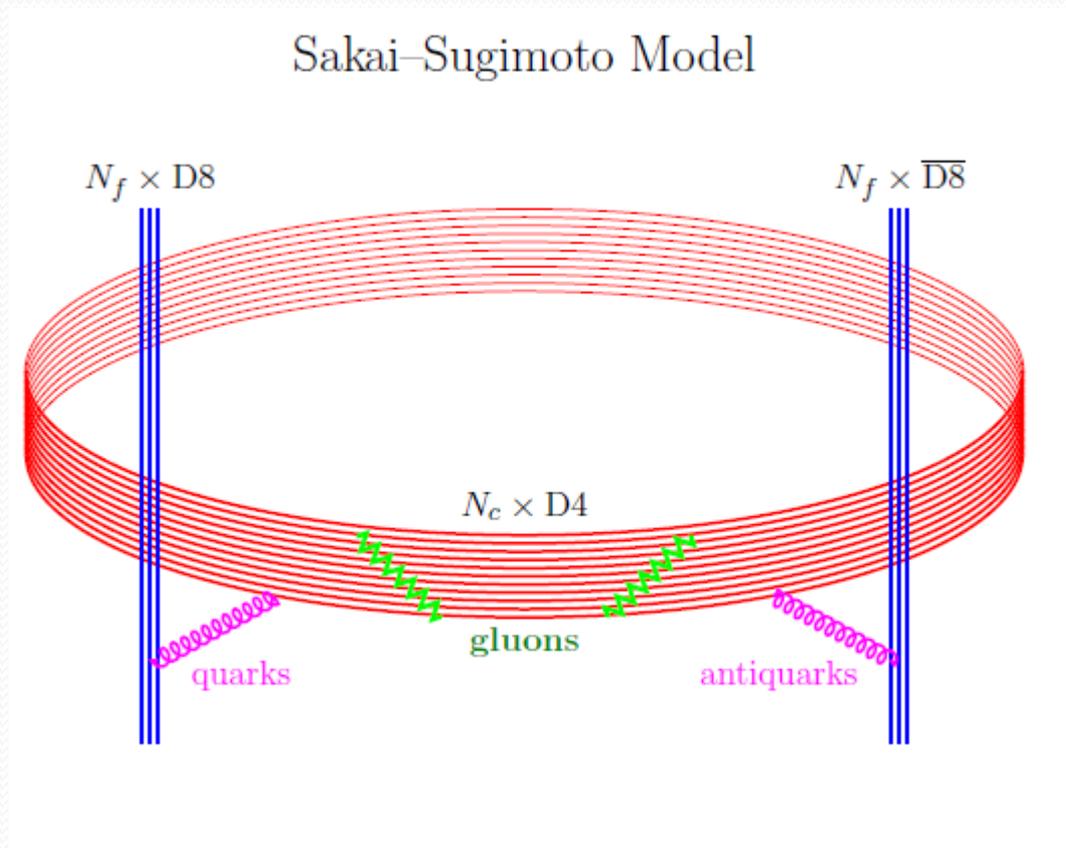


*Baryons as instantons in the
generalized Sakai Sugimoto
model*

Baryons in a confining gravity background

- Holographic baryons have to include a **baryonic vertex** embedded in a gravity background “dual” to the YM theory with **flavor branes** that admit **chiral symmetry breaking**
- A suitable candidate is the **Sakai Sugimoto** model which is based on the incorporation of **D8 anti D8** branes in **Witten’s** model

The brane setup of the Sakai–Sugimoto model



Structure of geometries with confining dual

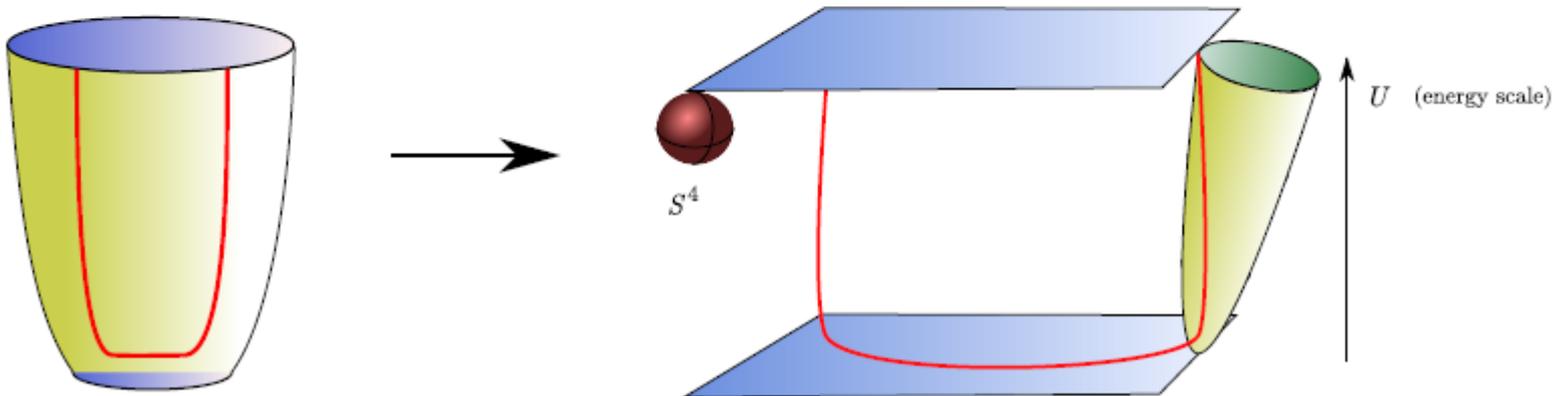
[Witten, Sakai & Sugimoto, ...]

$$ds^2 = \left(\frac{U}{R}\right)^{3/2} [\eta_{\mu\nu} dX^\mu dX^\nu + f(U) d\theta^2] + \left(\frac{R}{U}\right)^{3/2} \left[\frac{dU^2}{f(U)} + U^2 d\Omega_4 \right]$$

*world-volume
our 3+1 world*

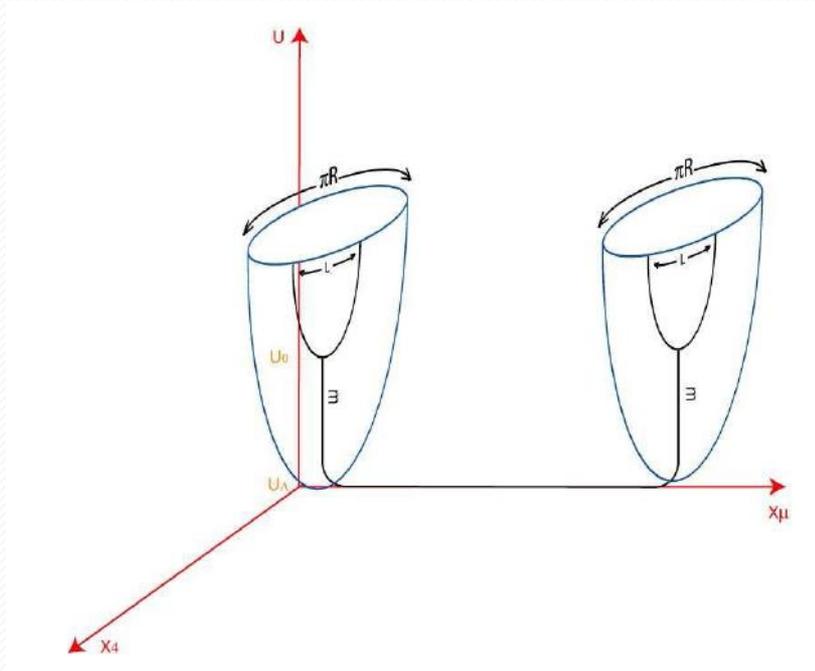
$f(U) = 1 - \left(\frac{U_\Lambda}{U}\right)^3$
 θ is a compact
Kaluza-Klein circle

U : radial direction
bounded from
below $U \geq U_\Lambda$

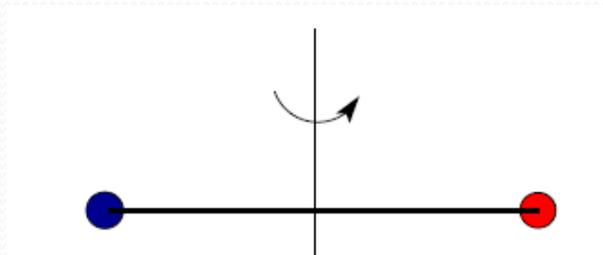


Mesons in the gSS

- The **holographic meson** = string in curved space that **connect the tip of the U shat at two points in x**



- Is mapped into a **rotated string with massive endpoints**



The location of the baryonic vertex

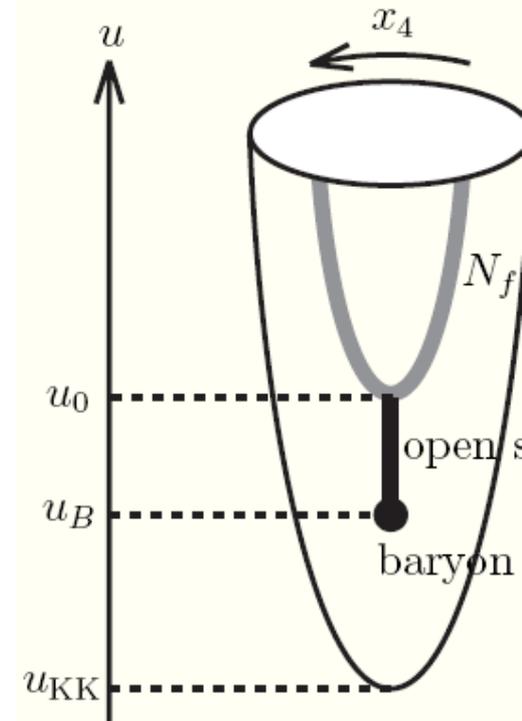
- We need to determine the **location of the baryonic vertex** in the radial direction.
- In the leading order approximation it should depend on the **wrapped brane** tension and the tensions of the **N_c strings**.
- We can do such a calculation in a background that corresponds to **confining (like gSS)** and to **deconfining** gauge theories. Obviously we expect different results for the two cases.

- The location of the baryonic vertex in the radial direction is determined by “**static equilibrium**”.

$$S = -T_4 \int dt d\Omega_4 e^{-\phi} \sqrt{-\det g_{D4}} - N_c T_f \int dt du \sqrt{-\det g_{\text{string}}}$$

- The **energy** is a **decreasing** function of $x=uB/u_{\text{KK}}$ and hence it will be located at the **tip** of the flavor brane

$$\mathcal{E}_{\text{conf}}(x; x_0) = \frac{1}{3}x + \int_x^{x_0} \frac{dy}{\sqrt{1-y^{-3}}}$$



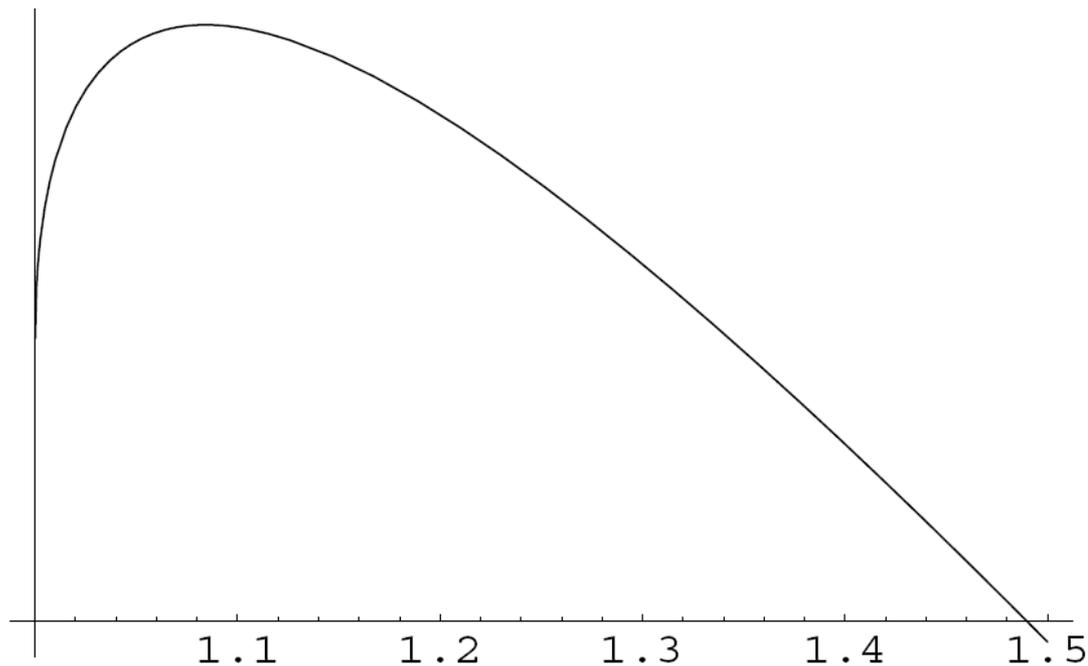
- It is interesting to check what happens in the **deconfining** phase.

- For this case the result for the energy is

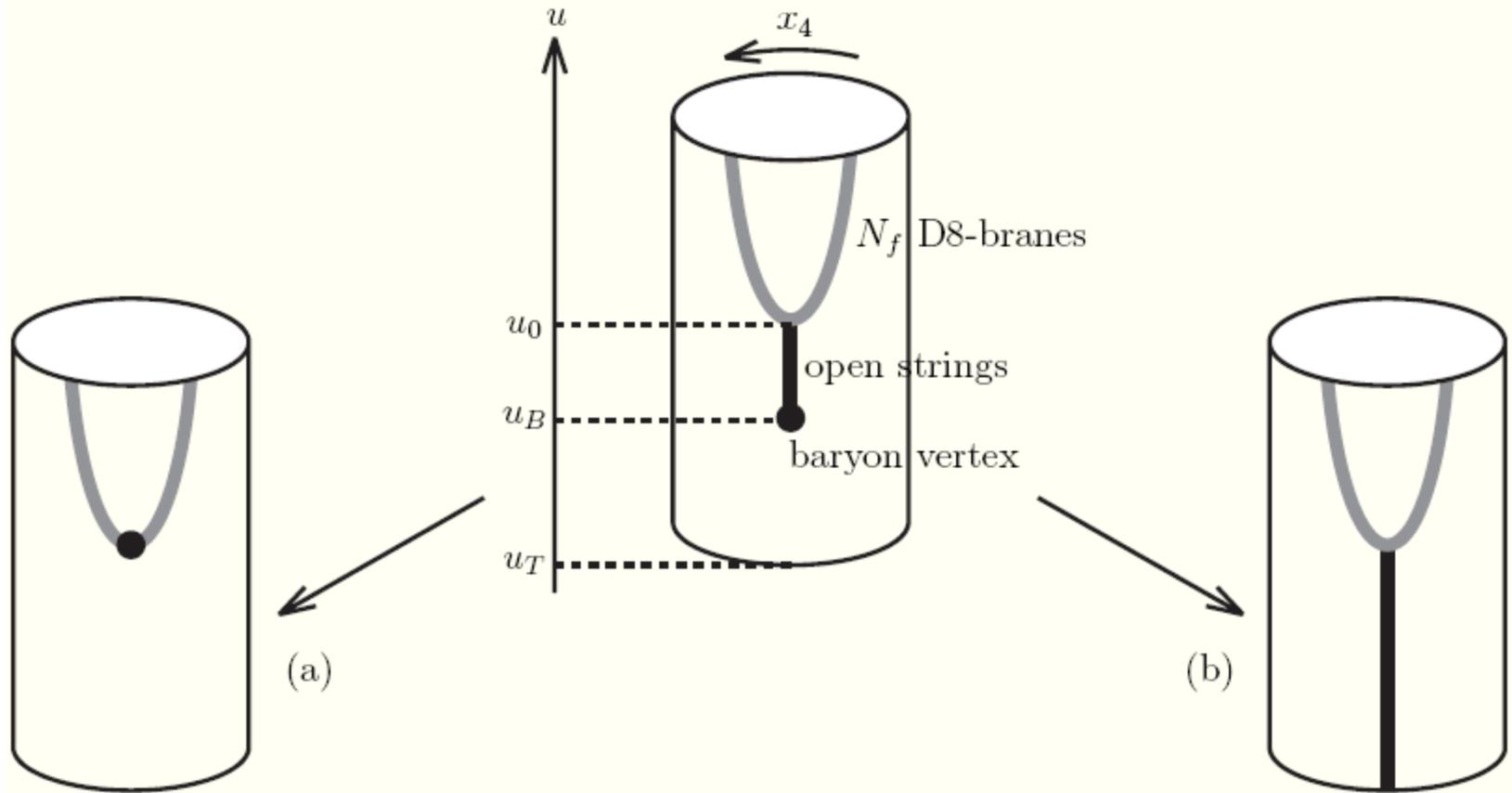
$$\mathcal{E}_{\text{deconf}}(x; x_0) = \frac{1}{3}x\sqrt{1 - \frac{1}{x^3}} + (x_0 - x)$$

- For $x > x_{\text{cr}}$ low temperature **stable baryon**
- For $x < x_{\text{cr}}$ high temperature **dissolved baryon**

The baryonic vertex falls into the **black hole**



The location of the baryonic vertex at finite temperature



Baryons as Instantons in the SS model (review)

- In the SS model the b.v is immersed in the flavor branes.
- The baryon takes the form of an **instanton** in the 5d $U(N_f)$ gauge theory.

D4 wrapped on $S^4 \simeq$ **instanton** on D8 \simeq Skymion
[Witten, Gross-Ooguri 1998] [Atiyah-Manton 1989] [Skyrme 1961]

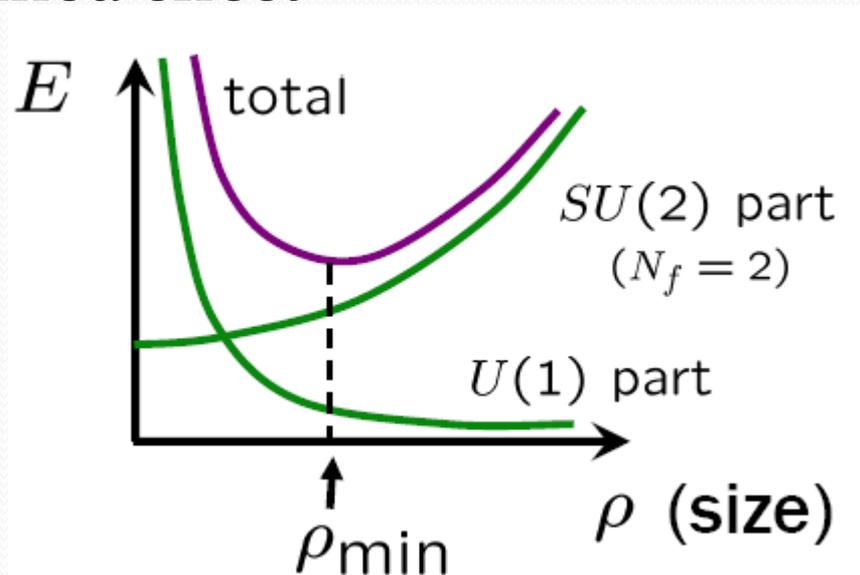
Realization of Atiyah-Manton: $U(x^\mu) \equiv P \exp \left\{ - \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dz A_z(x^\mu, z) \right\}$
Skymion Instanton

- The instanton is a **BPST-like** instanton in the (x_i, z) 4d curved space. In the leading order in λ it is exact.

$$N_B = \frac{1}{8\pi^2} \int \text{tr} F \wedge F$$

Baryon (Instanton) size

- For $N_f = 2$ the $SU(2)$ yields a **rising potential**
- The coupling to the $U(1)$ via the CS term has a **run away potential**.
- The combined effect



“**stable**” size but unfortunately of the order of $\lambda^{-1/2}$ so **stringy effects** cannot be neglected in the large λ limit.

Baryons as instantons in the SS model

- The probe brane world volume 9d \rightarrow 5d upon Integration over the S^4 . The 5d DBI+ CS is approximated

$$S = S_{\text{YM}} + S_{\text{CS}} ,$$
$$S_{\text{YM}} = -\kappa \int d^4x dz \operatorname{tr} \left[\frac{1}{2} h(z) \mathcal{F}_{\mu\nu}^2 + k(z) \mathcal{F}_{\mu z}^2 \right]$$
$$S_{\text{CS}} = \frac{N_c}{24\pi^2} \int_{M^4 \times \mathbb{R}} \omega_5^{U(N_f)}(\mathcal{A}) .$$

where

$$h(z) = (1 + z^2)^{-1/3} , \quad k(z) = 1 + z^2$$

Baryons in the SS model

- One decomposes the flavor gauge fields to SU(2) and U(1)
- In a $1/\lambda$ expansion the leading term is the YM action
- Ignoring the curvature the solution of the SU(2) gauge field with baryon # = instanton # = 1 is the **BPST instanton**

$$A_M(x) = -if(\xi) g\partial_M g^{-1} ,$$

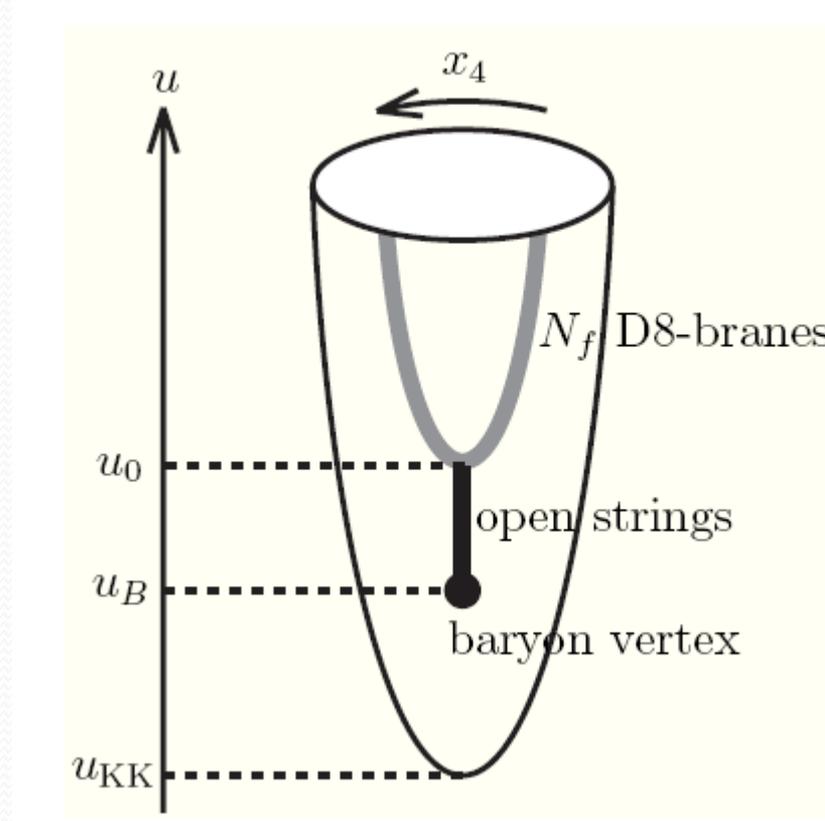
$$f(\xi) = \frac{\xi^2}{\xi^2 + \rho^2} , \quad \xi = \sqrt{(\vec{x} - \vec{X})^2 + (z - Z)^2} ,$$

$$g(x) = \frac{(z - Z) - i(\vec{x} - \vec{X}) \cdot \vec{\tau}}{\xi} ,$$

Baryons in the generalized SS model

- With the **generalized non-antipodal** with non trivial m_{sep} namely for u_0 different from $u_{\Lambda} = u_{KK}$ with general

$$\zeta = u_0 / u_{KK}$$

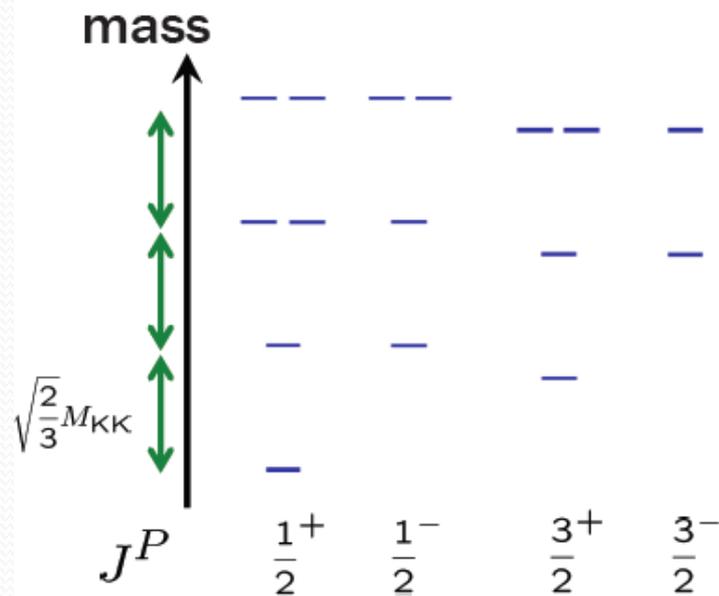


- We found that the **size** scales in the same way with λ . We computed also the baryonic properties

Baryonic spectrum

Theory

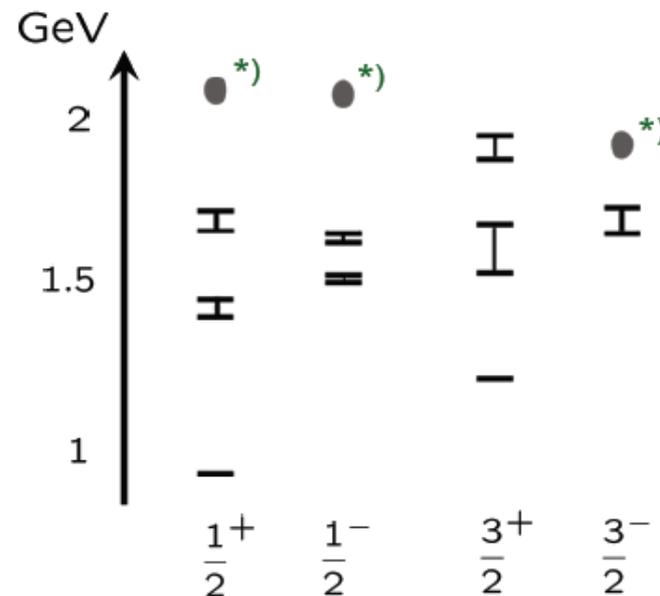
$$M \simeq M_0 + \left(\sqrt{\frac{(l+1)^2}{6} + \frac{2}{15}N_c^2} + \sqrt{\frac{2}{3}(n_\rho + n_z)} \right) M_{KK}$$



Experiment

($I = J$ states from PDG)

*) Evidence for existence is poor



Note:

We only consider the mass difference,
since $\mathcal{O}(N_c^0)$ term in M_0 is not known,

$$M_0 = (\text{classical soliton mass}) + \mathcal{O}(N_c^0) \\ \sim \mathcal{O}(N_c)$$

The spectrum of nucleons and deltas

• The spectrum using best fit approach

| N baryons | (n_ρ, n_z) | $M_{\text{KK}}M_{1,n_\rho,n_z}$ | Δ baryons | (n_ρ, n_z) | M_{KK} |
|-------------|-----------------|---------------------------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| $n(940)$ | (0, 0) | 1027 | $\Delta(1232)$ | (0, 0) | 1282 |
| $N(1440)$ | (1, 0) | 1374 | $\Delta(1600)$ | (1, 0) | 1629 |
| $N(1535)$ | (0, 1) | 1374 | $\Delta(1700)$ | (0, 1) | 1629 |
| $N(1650)$ | (1, 1) | 1721 | $\Delta(1920)$ | (2, 0), (0, 2) | 1976 |
| $N(1710)$ | (2, 0), (0, 2) | 1721 | $\Delta(1940)$ | (1, 1) | 1976 |
| $N(2090)$ | (2, 1), (0, 3) | 2068 | | | |
| $N(2100)$ | (1, 2), (3, 0) | 2068 | | | |

Table 3: The baryon masses by the use of the minimal χ^2 fitting.

Hadronic properties of the generalized model

| | our model | experiment | discrepancy[%] |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|------------|----------------|
| m_ρ | 746 MeV | 776 MeV | -3.86 |
| m_{a_1} | 1160 MeV | 1230 MeV | -5.31 |
| $\frac{m_{\Delta(1232)}}{m_{n(940)}}$ | 1.51 | 1.31 | 15.2 |
| $\sqrt{\langle r^2 \rangle}_{I=0}$ | 0.813 fm | 0.806 fm | 0.920 |
| $\sqrt{\langle r^2 \rangle}_A$ | 0.594 fm | 0.674 fm | -11.9 |
| $g_{I=0}$ | 1.99 | 1.76 | 13.1 |
| $g_{I=1}$ | 8.41 | 9.41 | -10.7 |



Holographic nuclear interaction

holographic nuclear interaction

- In real life, the nucleon has a **fairly large radius** ,
 $R_{\text{nucleon}} \sim 4/M_{\rho\text{meson}}$.

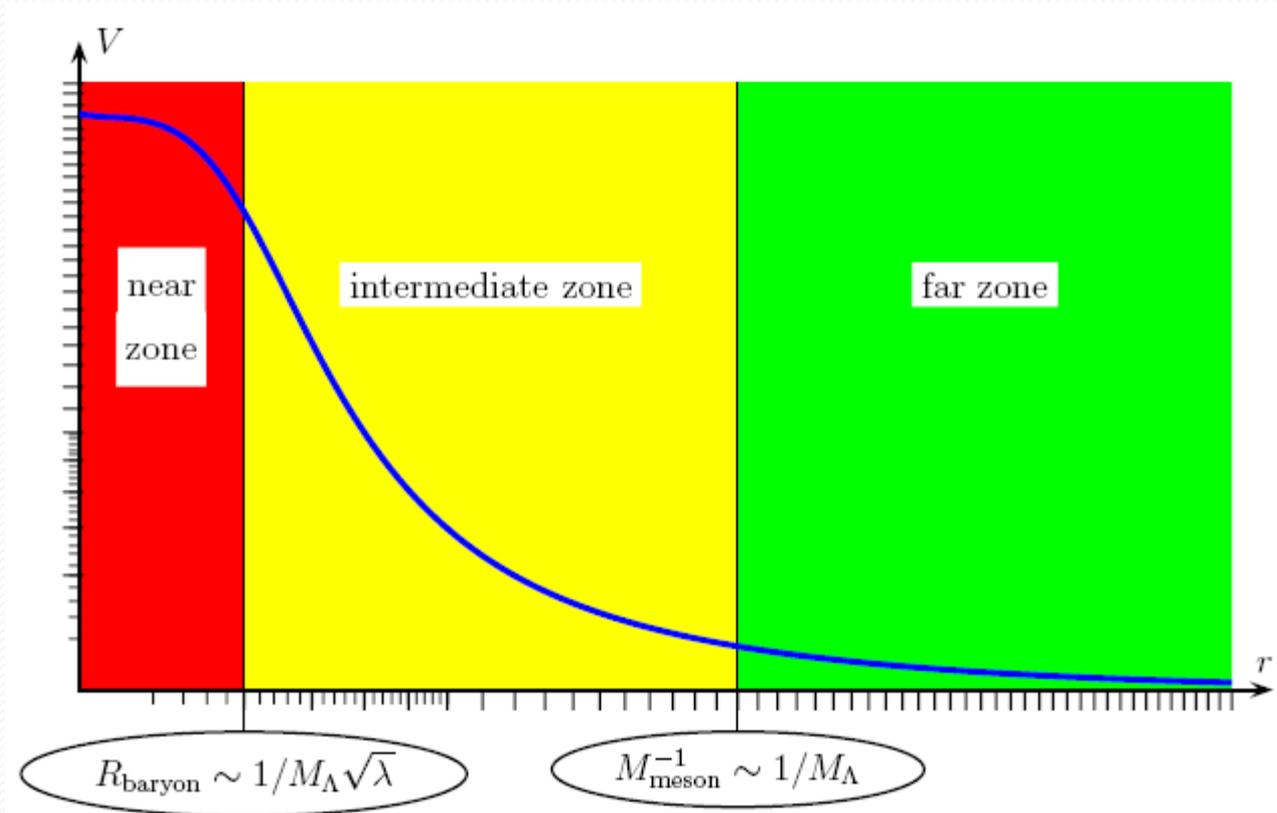
- But in the holographic nuclear physics with $\lambda \gg 1$, we have the **opposite situation**

$$R_{\text{baryon}} \sim 1/(\sqrt{\lambda} M),$$

- *Thanks to this hierarchy, the nuclear forces between two baryons at distance r from each other fall into*
3 distinct zones

Zones of the nuclear interaction

- The 3 zones in the nucleon-nucleon interaction



Intermediate Zone of the nuclear interaction

- In the **intermediate zone** $R_{\text{baryon}} \ll r \ll (1/M)$
- The baryons **do not overlap** much and the fifth dimension is **approximately flat**.
- At first blush, the nuclear force in this zone is simply the **5D Coulomb repulsive** force between two point sources,

$$V(r) = \frac{N_c^2}{4\kappa} \times \frac{1}{4\pi^2 r^2} = \frac{27\pi N_c}{2\lambda M_\Lambda} \times \frac{1}{r^2}$$

Nuclear attraction

- We expect to find a holographic **attraction** due to the interaction of the instanton with the **fluctuations of the embedding** which is the dual of the **scalar fields**

- The **attraction term** should have the form

$$L_{\text{attr}} \sim \phi \text{Tr}[F^2]$$

- In the **antipodal** case (the SS model) there is a **symmetry** under $\delta x_4 \rightarrow -\delta x_4$ and since asymptotically x_4 is the transverse direction

$$\phi \sim \delta x_4$$

such an interaction term **does not exist**.

Attraction versus repulsion

- In the generalized model the story is different.
- Indeed the **5d effective action** for A_M and ϕ is

$$S_{5d} = \int d^4x dw \left[N_c \lambda M_\Lambda \left[\frac{u}{u_0} \text{tr}[F_{MN}^2] + \frac{u^9}{u_0^9} \frac{1}{1 - \zeta^{-3}} (\partial_M \phi)^2 \right] - N_c [\phi (\text{Tr} F_{MN}^2) - \mathcal{L}_{CS}] \right]$$

- For instantons $F = *F$ so there is a competition between

repulsion

$A \text{Tr} F^2$

attraction

$\phi \text{Tr} F^2$

- The **attraction** potential also behaves as

$$V_{\text{scalar}} \sim 1/r^2$$

Attraction versus repulsion

- The ratio between the **attraction** and **repulsion** in the intermediate zone is

$$C_{a/r} \equiv \frac{-V^{\text{attractive}}}{V^{\text{repulsive}}} = \frac{1}{9} \times (1 - \zeta^{-3}),$$

$$\zeta = \frac{u_0}{u_\Lambda}.$$

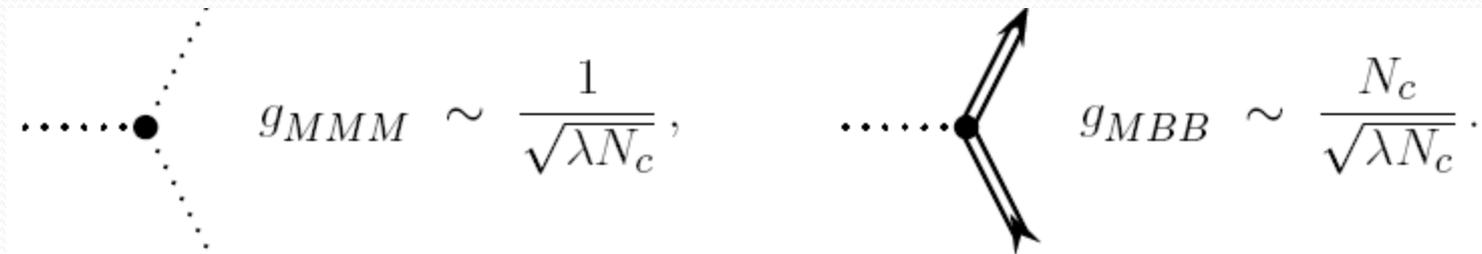
Nuclear potential in the far zone

- We have seen the **repulsive hard core** and **attraction** in the **intermediate** zone.
- To have **stable nuclei** the **attractive** potential has to dominate in the far zone.
- In holography this should follow from the fact that the lightest isoscalar **scalar is lighter** than the corresponding **lightest vector meson**.
- In SS model this **is not** the case.
- Maybe the dominance of the attraction associates with two **pion** exchange(sigma)?.

Multi meson exchange at large λ

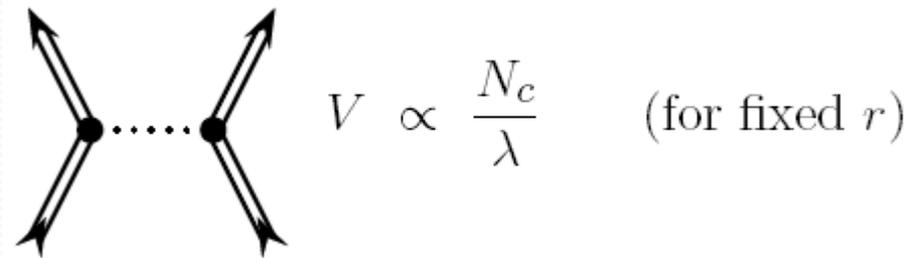
What are the effects of **large λ**

- Baryon **mass increases**, $M_{\text{baryon}} \sim \lambda N_c M_{\text{meson}}$, while **baryon radius shrinks**, $R_{\text{baryon}} \sim 1/\lambda^{1/2} \times 1/M_{\text{meson}}$.



The image shows two Feynman diagrams. The left diagram depicts a meson (represented by a dotted line) interacting with another meson (represented by a solid line) at a vertex, with the coupling constant $g_{MMM} \sim \frac{1}{\sqrt{\lambda N_c}}$. The right diagram shows a meson (dotted line) interacting with a baryon (represented by a double line) at a vertex, with the coupling constant $g_{MBB} \sim \frac{N_c}{\sqrt{\lambda N_c}}$.

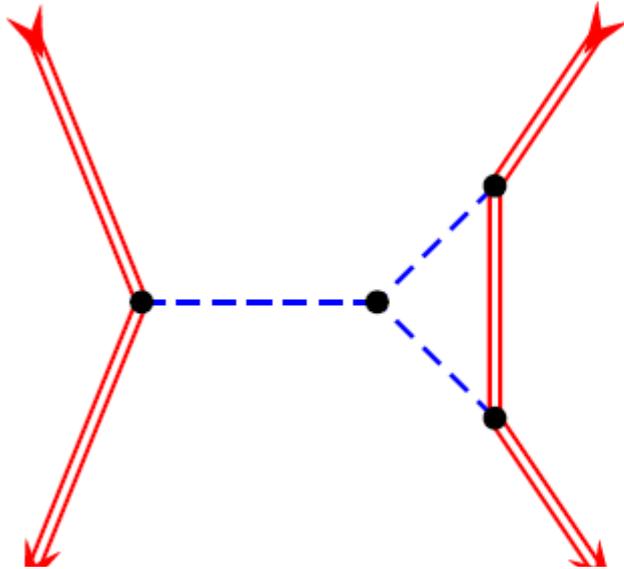
Meson's **couplings** decrease as $\lambda^{-1/2}$:



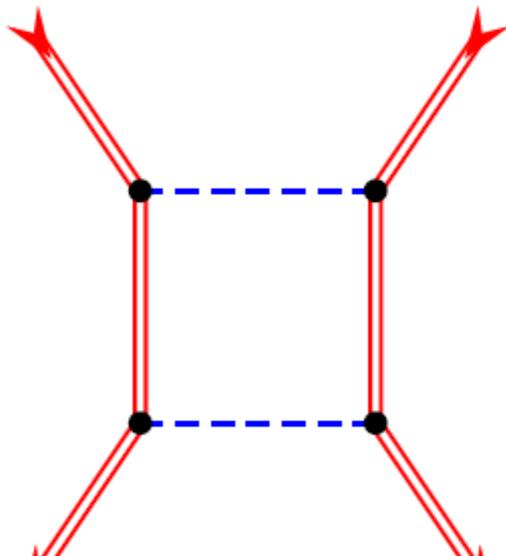
The image shows a Feynman diagram representing meson-meson exchange. Two vertices, each with a double line representing a baryon, are connected by a dotted line representing a meson. The potential V is given by $V \propto \frac{N_c}{\lambda}$ (for fixed r).

The role of the large λ limit

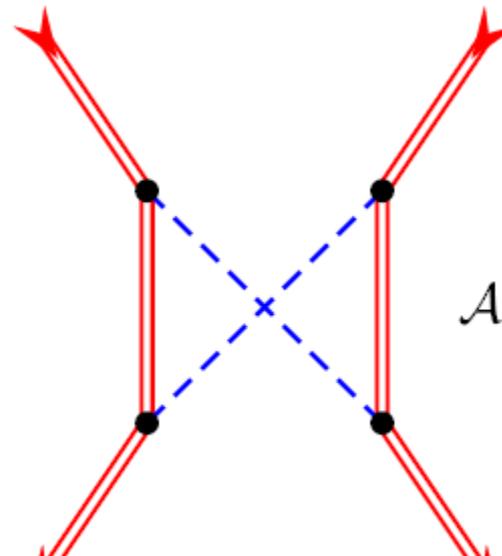
- At one loop there are two types of diagrams



$$\mathcal{A}^\Delta \sim g_{MB\bar{B}}^3 \times g_{MMM} \sim \frac{N_c}{\lambda^2}$$



+



$$\mathcal{A}^\square \sim g_{MB\bar{B}}^4 \sim \frac{N_c^2}{\lambda^2}$$

The role of the large λ limit

- However, *for non-relativistic* baryons, the box and the crossed-box diagrams **almost cancel** each other, with the un-canceled part having

$$\mathcal{A}_{\text{uncanceled}}^{\square} \sim \frac{N_c}{\lambda^2} \sim \mathcal{A}^{\Delta} \sim \frac{1}{\lambda} \mathcal{A}^{\text{tree}}$$

- In other words, the contribution of the **double-meson exchange** carries the same power of N_c but is **suppressed by a factor $1/\lambda$**



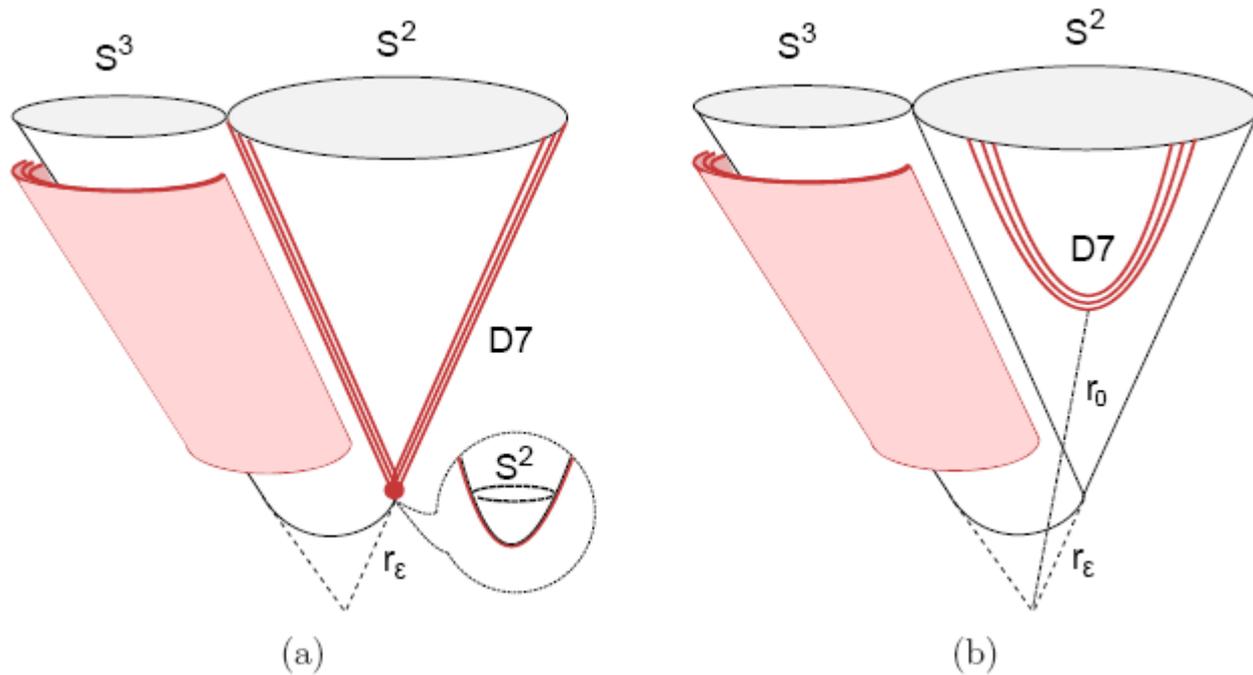
*Nuclear interaction in the
DKS model*

A holographic analog of Walecka's model?

- Can one find another holographic laboratory apart from the SS model where the **lightest scalar** particle is **lighter** than the **lightest vector** particle which interacts with the baryon.
- Can we find a model of an **almost cancelation**?
- Generically, similar to the gSS model in other holographic models the **vector is lighter**.
- The **Goldstone mechanism** may provide a lighter scalar.

The DKS model

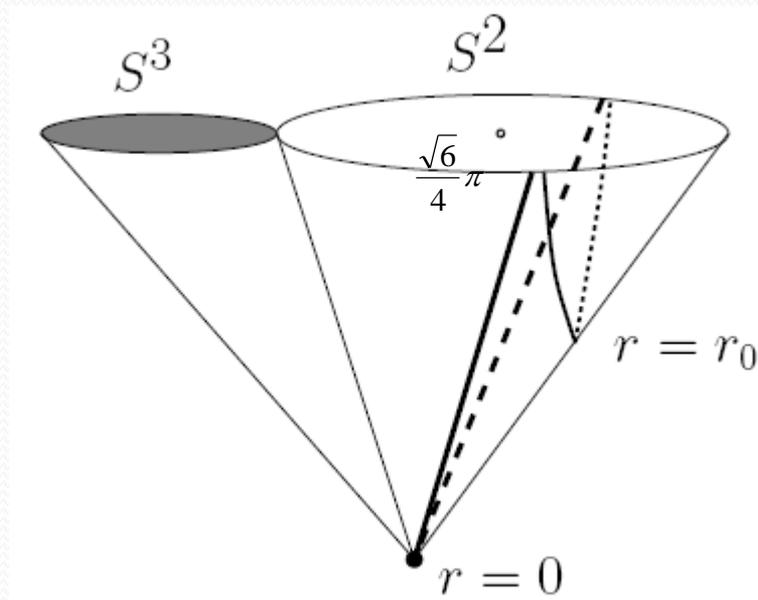
- In the DKS model we place N_f D7 and anti-D7 branes in the Klebanov Strassler model.



- In the undeformed conifold the D7 anti D7 branes spontaneously break the conformal symmetry

Spontaneous breaking of scale invariance

- Adding brane anti-branes to the Klebanov Witten model is different than in the SS model. The asymptotic difference is fixed $\frac{\sqrt{6}}{4}\pi$ independent of r_0



- The mode of changing r_0 is a “dilaton” a **Goldstone boson** associated with **breaking scale invariance**.

Baryons in the DKS model

- The **baryons** are **D₃-branes** wrapping the **S₃** of the conifold with **M strings** connecting the **D₃** and the **flavor branes**
- When r_0 is significantly close to r_e the geometry can be effectively approximated by the flat one and creates only a mild force. The string tension wins, and the **D₃-brane** is pulled towards the **D₇-D₇** branes and **dissolves** there becoming an instanton
- The model has the following hierarchy of light particles:
- The mass of **glueballs** remains the same as in the KS and therefore is r_0 -independent. The typical scale of the **glueball mass** is

$$m_{\text{gb}} \sim \frac{r_e}{\alpha' \lambda}, \quad \lambda = g_s M$$

Meson masses in the DKS model

- In the regime $r_0 \gg r_\epsilon$ the theory is (almost) conformal and therefore the mass of mesons can depend only on the scale of symmetry breaking r_0

$$m_{\text{meson}} \sim \frac{r_0}{\alpha' \lambda} = \frac{r_0}{r_\epsilon} m_{\text{gb}}$$

- The pseudo-Goldstone boson σ is parametrically lighter

$$m_\sigma \sim \frac{r_\epsilon^2}{r_0^2} m_{\text{gb}} .$$

The net baryonic potential

- The **net potential** in the far zone in this case can be written in the form

$$V = \frac{1}{4\pi g_s} \left(g_\omega^2 \frac{e^{-m_\omega |x|}}{|x|} - g_\sigma^2 \frac{e^{-m_\sigma |x|}}{|x|} \right).$$

- For $r_0 \sim r_Q$ the **approximate cancellation** of the attractive and the repulsive force can occur naturally
- It is valid only for $|x|$ large enough.
- If $m_\sigma < m_\omega$, the potential is **attractive** at large distances no matter what the couplings are.

Binding energy and near cancellation

- On the other hand if $g\sigma$ is small enough, at distances shorter than $1/m\omega$ the vector interaction “wins” and the potential becomes repulsive.
 - The binding energy $E_{\text{binding}} \sim \kappa \frac{r_\epsilon}{g_s^2 M \alpha'}$
- is suppressed by a small dimensionless number κ , which is related to the smallness of the coupling $g\sigma$ and the fact that $m\sigma$ and $m\omega$ are of the same order.
- κ is phenomenologically promising as it represents the near-cancellation of the attractive and repulsive forces responsible for the small binding energy in hadron physics.

*Nuclear matter in large N_c is
necessarily in a solid phase*

The crystal structure of holographic nuclear matter

- Is nuclear matter at **large N_c** the same as **for finite N_c** ?
- Let's take an analogy from **condensed matter** – some **atoms** that **attract** at large and intermediate distances but have a **hard core-repulsion** at short ones.
- The parameter that determines the state at $T=0$ $p=0$ is

$$\frac{K}{U} \approx 11\Lambda_B^2, \quad \Lambda_B = \frac{\hbar}{r_c \sqrt{2M\epsilon}} \quad \text{de Bour parameter}$$

$$K \sim \frac{\pi^2 \hbar^2}{2M_{\text{atom}} (\text{well diameter})^2}$$

is the **kinetic term** r_c is the **radius** of the atomic hard core and ϵ is the **maximal depth** of the potential.

The solid structure of holographic nuclear matter

When Λ_B exceeds 0.2-0.3 the **crystal melts**.

For example,

- Helium has $\Lambda_B = 0.306$, $K/U \approx 1$ **quantum liquid**
- Neon has $\Lambda_B = 0.063$, $K/U \approx 0.05$; a **crystalline solid**
- For **large N_c** the leading nuclear potential behaves as

$$\begin{aligned} V(\vec{r}, I_1, I_2, J_1, J_2; N_c) = & N_c \times A_C(r) + N_c \times A_S(r)(\mathbf{I}_1 \mathbf{I}_2)(\mathbf{J}_1 \mathbf{J}_2) \\ & + N_c \times A_T(r)(\mathbf{I}_1 \mathbf{I}_2) [3(\mathbf{n} \mathbf{J}_1)(\mathbf{n} \mathbf{J}_2) - (\mathbf{J}_1 \mathbf{J}_2)] \\ & + O(1/N_c). \end{aligned}$$

- Since the well **diameter** is **N_c independent** and the **mass** M scales as $\sim N_c$

$$\frac{K}{U} \propto \frac{N_c^{-1}}{N_c^{+1}} = \frac{1}{N_c^2}.$$

The solid structure of holographic nuclear matter

- The **maximal depth** of the nuclear potential is ~ 100 MeV so we take it to be $\epsilon \sim N_c \times 30$, the **mass scales** as

$$M_N \sim N_c \times 300 \text{ MeV} \quad r_c \sim 0.7$$

Consequently

$$\Lambda_B = \frac{\hbar}{r_c \sqrt{2M\epsilon}} \sim \frac{2}{N_c} \implies \frac{K}{U} \sim \frac{45}{N_c^2}$$

Hence the critical value is $N_c=8$

Liquid nuclear matter $N_c < 8$

Solid Nuclear matter $N_c > 8$

*Lattices (chains) of
holographic nuclear matter*

. Lattice nuclear matter

- To zeroth order in $1/\lambda$ the $SU(N_f)$ gauge fields are self-dual \Rightarrow ADHM solutions with $4N_f$ degenerate moduli per baryon (the $4D$ locations of the instantons, their radii, and the $SU(N_f)$ orientations)
- At first order, the degeneracy is lifted by Coulomb interactions (via abelian electric and scalar fields) and the curvature which enters $g(z)$
- As we have just seen at large N_c nuclear matter is a solid.

Lattice nuclear matter

- We study 3 types of **toy models** of lattices
 - (i) Baryons as **point charges** of 1d and 3d.
 - (ii) 1d exact **instanton chains**
 - (iii) Two instanton interaction approximation
- We investigate the **phase diagram** of holographic solid nuclear matter.
- In particular: whether at high enough density instantons **spill to the holographic spatial dimension?**
- Is the GS configuration **abelian on non-abelian?**

Forcing the system to be one dimensional

- Recall the 5d flavor gauge action of the gSS model

$$S = \int d^4x dz \left[\frac{1}{g^2(z)} \left(\frac{1}{2} \text{tr}(F^{\mu\nu} F_{\mu\nu}) + \text{tr}(D^\mu \Phi D_\mu \Phi) \right) + N_c \times \omega_5(F, A) + N_c c(z) \times \text{tr}(\Phi \{F^{\mu\nu}, F_{\mu\nu}\}) \right]$$

$$\text{where } \frac{8\pi^2}{g^2(z)} = \lambda N_c M_m \left(1 + (M_m z)^2 + O((M_m z)^4) \right),$$

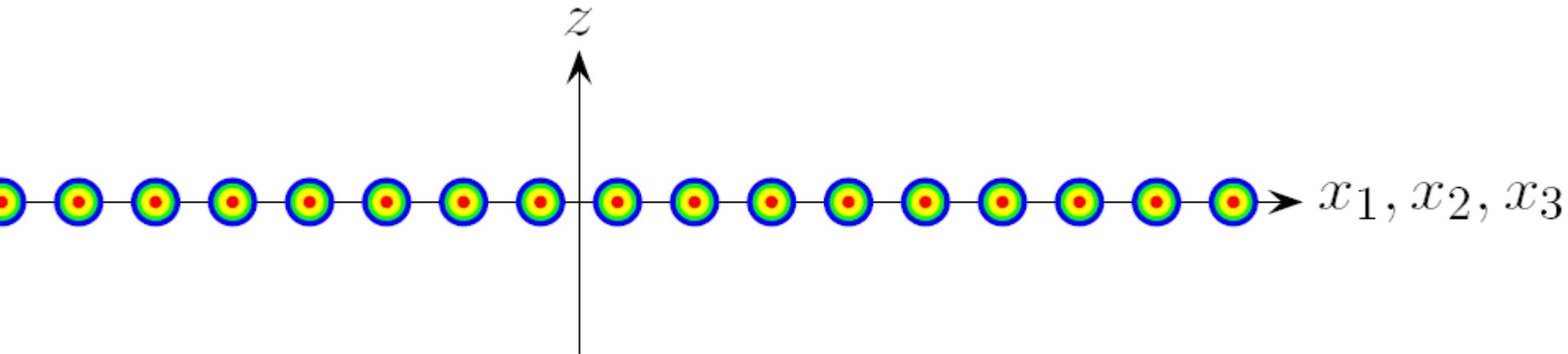
$$c(z) = O(1), \text{ details not important except } c < 1.$$

- We force the system to be a 1d chain by adding a harmonic potential to the charge in the other directions

$$\frac{8\pi^2}{g_{\text{YM}}^2} = N_c \lambda M \left(1 + M^2 z^2 + M'^2 (x_1^2 + x_2^2)^2 \right)$$

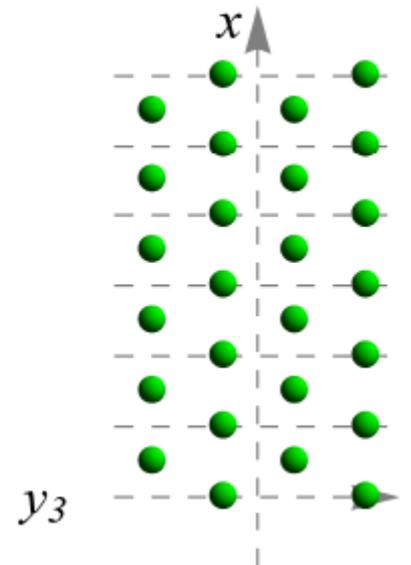
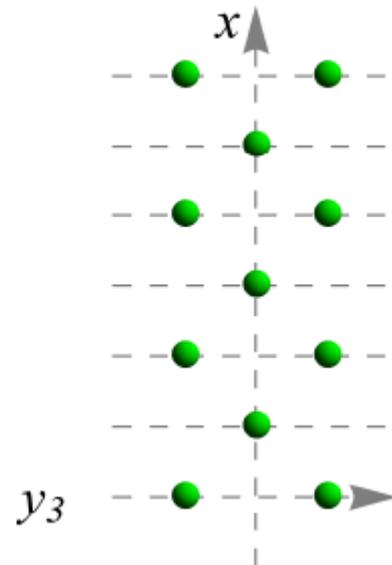
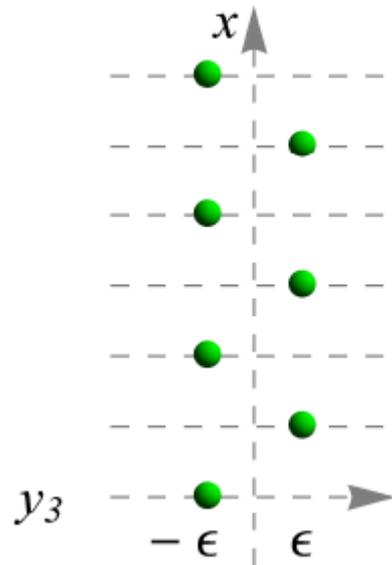
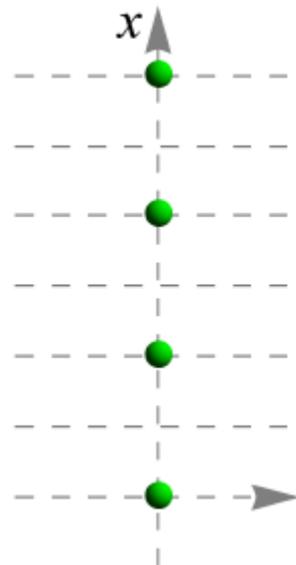
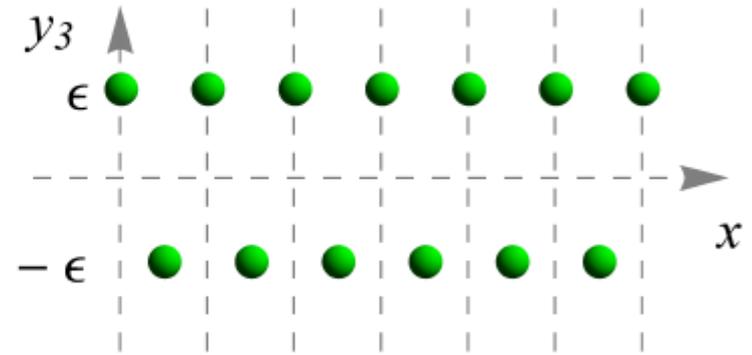
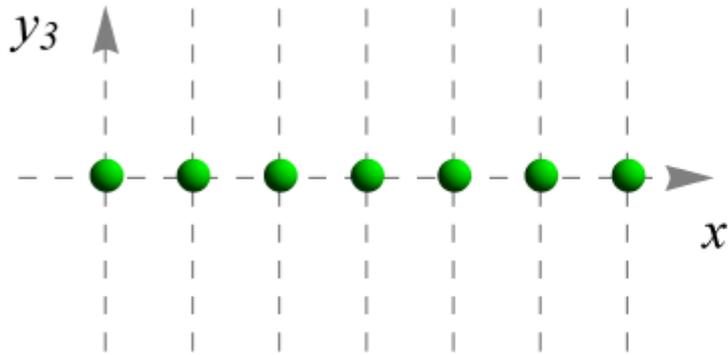
The general structure of holographic nuclear matter

- At **low densities** $g(z)$ dominates. Each instanton falls to the **bottom of the U**, i.e. to the $z=0$, hyperplane. The instantons form a **3d lattice**



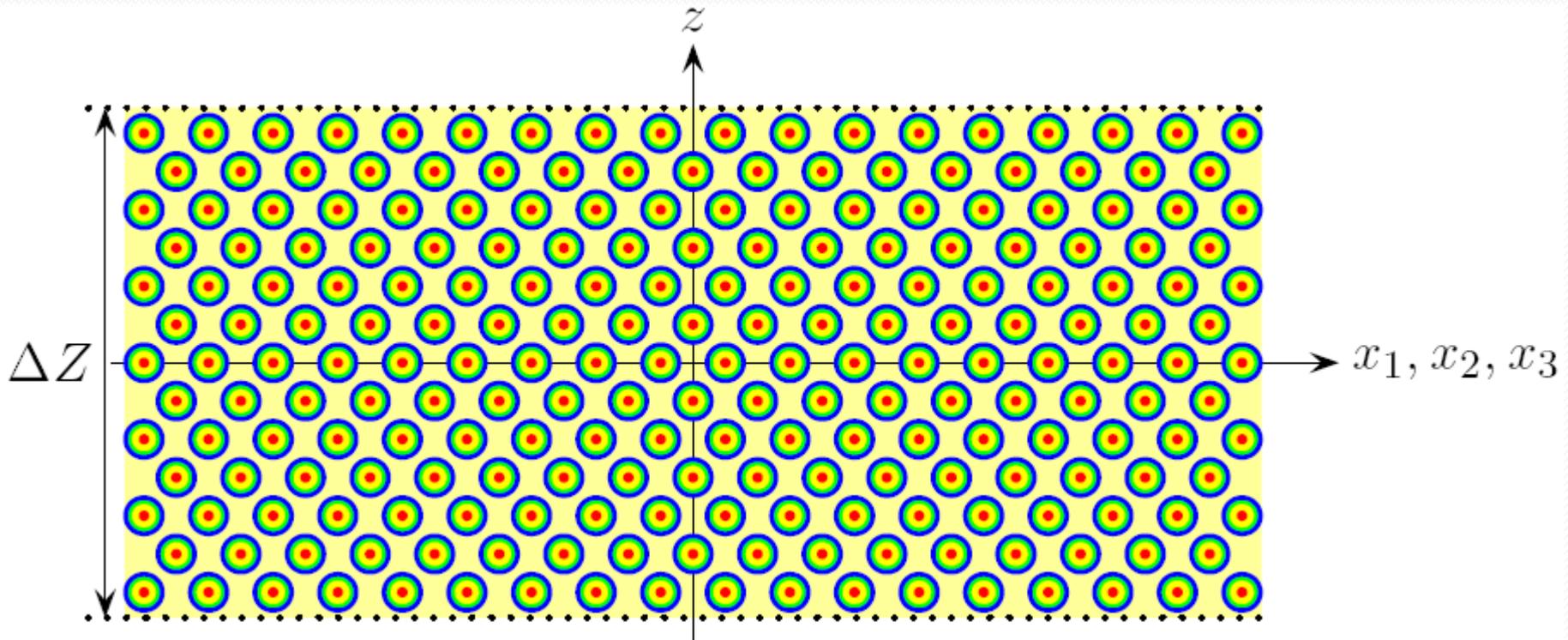
- This phase of the holographic nuclear matter is **dual** to the **baryonic crystal** of large N_c QCD

Zig Zag chain, transition to 2,3,4 layers



The general structure of holographic nuclear matter

- At **higher density** the $1/r^2$ **repulsion** pushes the instantons into the holographic dimension forming a **4d lattice**



- In the z direction the lattice has a width $\Delta Z \gg$ lattice spacing \longrightarrow **many baryons on each 3d point**.

The general structure of holographic nuclear matter

- From the 3D point of view, the 4D lattice means **overlapping baryons**



- Quarks are **no longer confined** to individual baryons



- The 4D instanton lattice of the holographic QCD is dual to the **quarkyonic phase of the nuclear matter**. (Quark fermi liquid — weakly coupled for large N_c — with baryon-like excitations near the fermi surface.)



Point charge approximation

(ia) Phase transitions in chain of point charges

- We want to consider a **1 D chain** of point charges.
- For that we turn on a **potential in the transverse directions x_1, x_2 and z .**

$$\frac{8\pi^2}{g_{\text{YM}}^2} = N_c \lambda M \left(1 + M^2 z^2 + M'^2 (x_1^2 + x_2^2)^2 \right)$$

- We put a preference to **dislocations** in z via $M' \gg M$
- At low density the chain is **straight**
- When the density is increased we find

Phase transitions for chains of point particles

- Let us now study the **transitions quantitatively**
- The **instanton density** is replaced by

$$I(\mathbf{x}) = \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} \delta^{(4)}(\mathbf{x} - n\mathbf{d})$$

- For the straight chain **the non abelian energy per instanton**

$$E_{\text{NA}} = N_c \lambda M \int_0^d dx_3 \int d^3x I(x) (1 + M'^2(x_1^2 + x_2^2) + M^2 z^2) = N_c \lambda M (1 + M'^2(\vec{x}_\perp)^2 + M^2 z^2)$$

- The minimum is at $x_1=x_2=z=0$
- The **Coulomb energy** is

$$E_C = \frac{N_c}{4\lambda M} \sum_{n \neq 0} \frac{1}{(nd)^2} = \frac{N_c}{\lambda M} \frac{\pi^2}{12d^2}$$

The energy for a zig zag configuration

- For a zig-zag with **displacement** ϵ the total E_c is

$$E_C = \frac{N_c}{4\lambda M} \left(\sum_{\text{even } n \neq 0} \frac{1}{(nd)^2} + \sum_{\text{odd } n} \frac{1}{(nd)^2 + (2\epsilon)^2} \right) = \frac{N_c}{\lambda M} \left(\frac{\pi^2}{48d^2} + \frac{\pi}{16\epsilon d} \tanh \frac{\pi\epsilon}{d} \right)$$

- Expanding in ϵ^2 we get

$$E = E_0 + N_c \lambda M^3 \epsilon^2 + \frac{N_c}{\lambda M} \left(-\frac{\pi^4 \epsilon^2}{48d^4} + \frac{\pi^6 \epsilon^4}{120d^6} + O(\epsilon^6) \right)$$

- Thus there is a **critical separation distance**

$$d = d_c \equiv \frac{\pi}{2 \cdot 3^{1/4} M \sqrt{\lambda}}$$

- For spacing slightly smaller than d_c the system admits a **zig-zag** structure with

$$\langle \epsilon \rangle \simeq \pm \frac{\sqrt{5}}{\pi} \sqrt{d_c(d_c - d)}$$

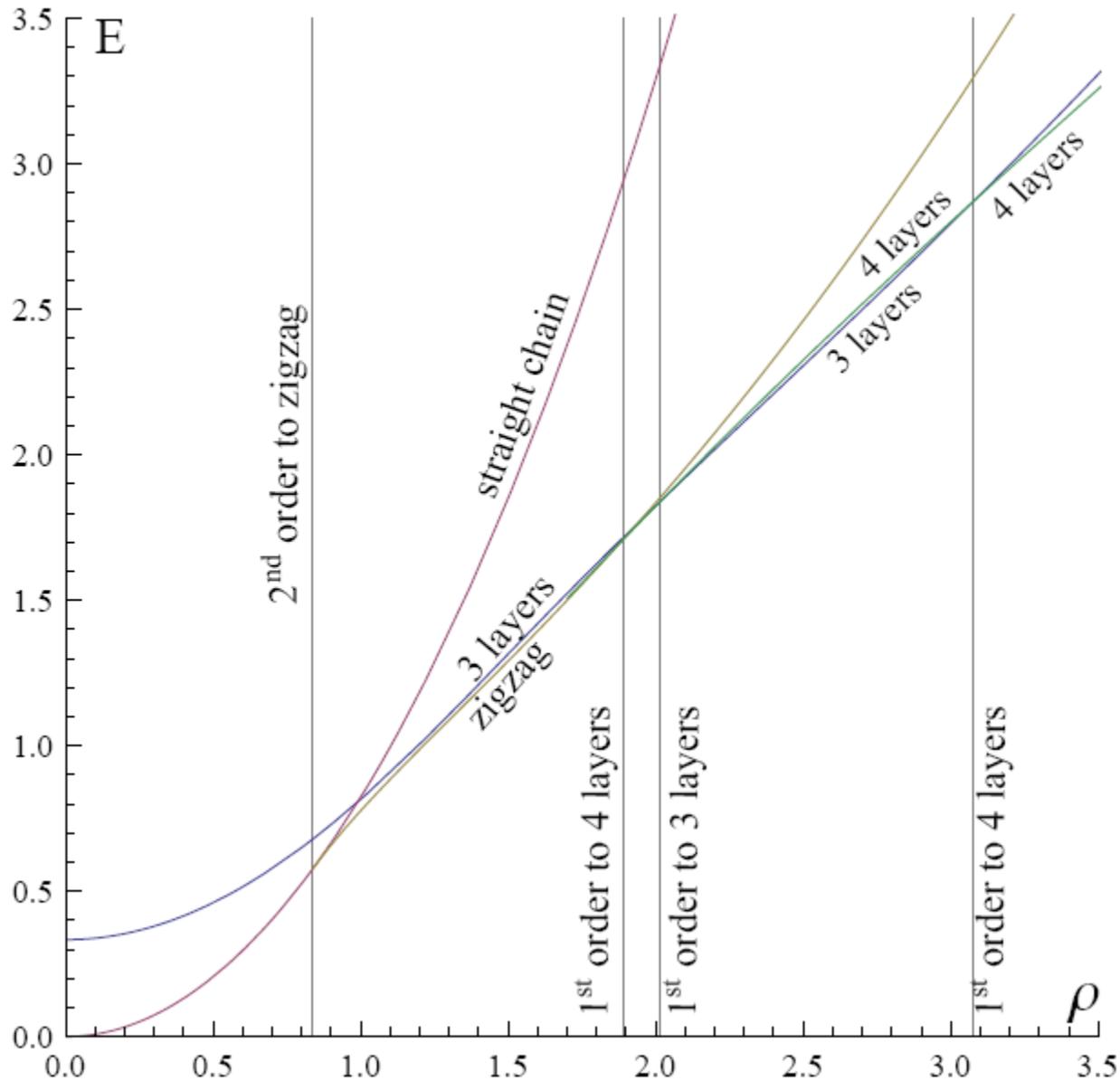
Transitions to multi-layers

- **At higher densities** the following sequence of transitions take place

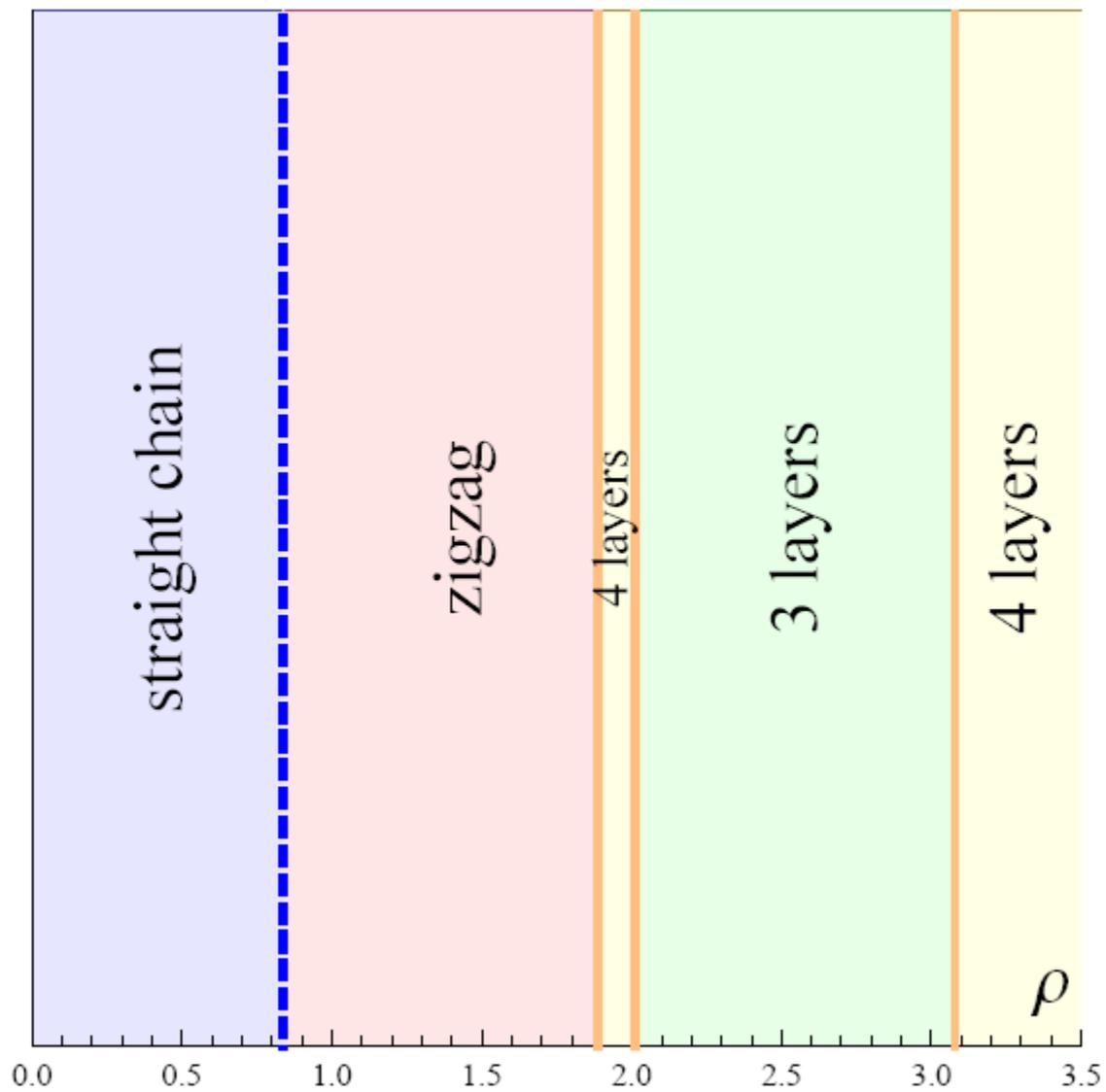


- The structure of the phase transition is given in the figure of the energy as a function of d (or ρ)
- Thus the lesson from this toy model is that when **squeezed** the baryons do not seat anymore in the regular chain sites but **instead pop into the holographic dimension**
- The question of course is how is this picture modified once we discuss instantons.

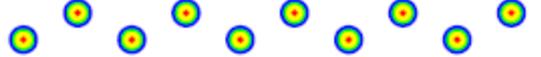
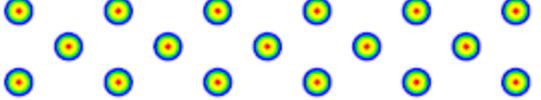
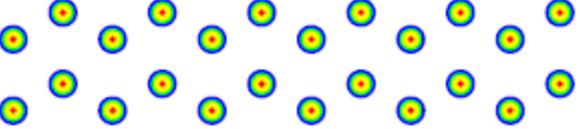
Energy as a function of ρ and the phase transitions



1d point charges phase diagram



Point charges transitions into multi-layer system

| #layers | Z | configuration | energy per baryon |
|---------|---------------------------|---|---|
| 1 | 0 |  | $\frac{\pi^2 \rho^2}{12}$ |
| 2 | $\pm \epsilon$ |  | $\epsilon^2 + \frac{\pi^2 \rho^2}{48} + \frac{\pi \rho}{16 \epsilon} \tanh \frac{\pi \rho}{\epsilon}$ |
| 3 | $+\epsilon, 0, -\epsilon$ |  | $\frac{2}{3} \epsilon^2 + \frac{\pi^2 \rho^2}{108} + \frac{\pi \rho}{9 \epsilon} \tanh \frac{\pi \epsilon \rho}{3} + \frac{\pi \rho}{36 \epsilon} \coth \frac{2 \pi \epsilon \rho}{3}$ |
| 4 | $\pm \epsilon \pm \delta$ |  | $\epsilon^2 + \delta^2 + \frac{\pi^2 \rho^2}{96} + \frac{\pi \rho}{32 \epsilon} \coth \frac{\pi \epsilon \rho}{2} + \frac{\pi \rho}{32 \delta} \coth \frac{\pi \epsilon \rho}{2} + \frac{\pi \rho}{64(\epsilon + \delta)} \tanh \frac{\pi \rho(\epsilon + \delta)}{2} + \frac{\pi \rho}{64(\epsilon - \delta)} \tanh \frac{\pi \rho(\epsilon - \delta)}{2}$ |

(ib) 3D lattice of point charges

- Repeating this analysis in 3D we find that the **minimal energy** is achieved for **close packing**.
- This means the largest inter-distance between nearest neighbors for a given density.
- In 3D it is the **FCC lattice**.
- Above a **critical density** the analog of the 1D zig-zag will turn the FCC into **two sublattices** with broken cubic symmetry.
- A structure of **BCC** will transform into **two SC sublattices**.
- For a 2d case the transition is like that a **chessboard** where the **white** and the **black** are displaced

3D lattice of point charges

- Now E_c diverges, however for the **stability** analysis we are interested only in the **variation** of the energy so constant infinity can be subtracted.
- The **regularized energy** per instanton is

$$E - E_0 = N_c \lambda M^3 \epsilon^2 + \frac{N_c}{\lambda M} \left(-\frac{\Delta\mu^2 \epsilon^2}{d^4} + \frac{4\ell \epsilon^4}{d^6} + O(\epsilon^6) \right)$$

where

$$\Delta\mu^2 = \sum_{\text{odd}} \frac{1}{(n_1^2 + n_2^2 + n_3^2)^2}, \quad \ell = \sum_{\text{odd}} \frac{1}{(n_1^2 + n_2^2 + n_3^2)^3}$$

- This implies a **critical spacing**

$$d_c = \frac{1}{M} \sqrt{\frac{\Delta\mu}{\lambda}} \simeq 0.69 \frac{1}{M\sqrt{\lambda}}$$



*Exact ADHM chains of
instantons*

1d chain : The ADHM construction

- For the **1d chain of instantons**, we first determine the ADHM data, namely solve the self duality condition subjected to the symmetries.
- We then compute the **non-abelian and coulomb** energies of the chain as a function of the **geometrical arrangement** and the **SU(2) orientations**.
- From this we determine the **structure** of the multi instanton configurations and the corresponding **phase transitions**.

The ADHM construction of a chain of instantons

- For instanton # N of SU(2) the **ADHM data** includes

$$X = \Gamma^\mu \tau^\mu, \quad y = y^\mu \tau^\mu$$

4 NxN real matrices

4 real N vector

$\tau^i, i = 1, 2, 3$ Pauli matrices τ^4 unit matrix

- They have to fulfill the following **ADHM equation**

$$([\Gamma^\mu, \Gamma^\nu] + y^\mu \otimes y^\nu - y^\nu \otimes y^\mu) = \frac{1}{2} \epsilon^{\mu\nu\kappa\lambda} ([\Gamma^\kappa, \Gamma^\lambda] + y^\kappa \otimes y^\lambda - y^\lambda \otimes y^\kappa)$$

The ADHM construction

- For a periodic 1D infinite chain, we impose **translational symmetry**

$$S : x^\mu \rightarrow x^\mu + d^\mu$$

- The S tran. acts on Γ_{mn}^μ and y_m^μ as follows

$$\Gamma^\mu \rightarrow S^{-1}\Gamma^\mu S = \Gamma^\mu + d^\mu \mathbf{1} \quad \langle\langle \text{to keep the } x^\mu \mathbf{1} - \Gamma^\mu \text{ invariant} \rangle\rangle$$

$$(y_n^\mu \tau^\mu) \rightarrow \sum G(y_m^\mu \tau^\mu) S_{mn} = (y_n^\mu \tau^\mu)$$

$$G = \exp(i\phi\tau_3/2)$$

$$S_{mn} = \delta_{m,n+1}$$

$$d^\mu = (0, 0, 0, d)$$

The ADHM construction

- Consequently **translation symmetry requires**

$$i\tau^\mu y_n^\mu = a \exp\left(i\frac{\phi}{2}\tau_3\right) \iff y_n^\mu = (0, 0, a \sin(n\phi/2), a \cos(n\phi/2))$$

and $\Gamma_{mn}^\mu = d\delta^{\mu 4} \times n\delta_{mn} + \hat{\Gamma}^\mu(m - n)$

- The diagonal Γ_{nn}^μ are the **4D coordinates** of the centers, y_n^μ combine the **radii and SU(2) orientations**
- Combining with the ADHM constraint we get

$$y_m^\mu \otimes y_n^\mu = a^2 \cos[(m - n)\phi/2],$$

$$\Gamma_{mn}^4 = dn \delta_{mn},$$

$$\Gamma_{mn}^1 = \Gamma_{mn}^2 = 0,$$

$$\Gamma_{mn}^3 = \frac{a^2}{d} \times \frac{\sin[(m - n)\phi/2]}{m - n} \quad \text{for } m \neq n \text{ but } 0 \text{ for } m = n.$$

Chain of instantons- The ADHM construction

- For our purposes we will need to know only the **instanton density**

$$I(x) = \frac{1}{32\pi^2} \epsilon_{MNPQ} \text{tr} F_{MN} F_{PQ}$$

expressed in terms of the ADHM data.

$$I(x) = -\frac{1}{16\pi^2} \square\square \log \det(L(x))$$

where

$$L(x) = (x^\mu \mathbf{1} - \Gamma^\mu)(x^\mu \mathbf{1} - \Gamma^\mu) + y^\mu \otimes y^\mu$$

The ADHM construction

- To evaluate the determinant, it is natural to use **Fourier transform** from **infinite matrices into linear operators** acting on periodic functions of $\theta \pmod{2\pi}$
- A lengthy calculation yields the following determinant

$$\det(L) = \left(\cosh \frac{\phi r_1}{d} + \frac{\pi a^2}{dr_1} \sinh \frac{\phi r_1}{d} \right) \left(\cosh \frac{(2\pi - \phi)r_2}{d} + \frac{\pi a^2}{dr_2} \sinh \frac{(2\pi - \phi)r_2}{d} \right) + \frac{r_1^2 + r_2^2 - (\pi a^2/d)^2}{2r_1 r_2} \sinh \frac{\phi r_1}{d} \sinh \frac{(2\pi - \phi)r_2}{d} - \cos \frac{2\pi x_4}{d},$$

$$r_1^2 = x_1^2 + x_2^2 + \left(x_3 + \frac{a^2(\phi - 2\pi)}{2d} \right)^2,$$

$$r_2^2 = x_1^2 + x_2^2 + \left(x_3 + \frac{a^2\phi}{2d} \right)^2.$$

The total energy of the spin chain

- The total energy is the sum of the non-abelian and coulomb energies.
- We first determine the spread $\langle x_i^2 \rangle$

$$\langle x_i^2 \rangle \equiv \int_0^d dx_4 \int d^3 x x_i^2 \times \left(I(x) = \frac{-1}{16\pi^2} \square \square \log \det(L) \right)$$

This gives us

$$\langle x_1^2 \rangle = \langle x_2 \rangle^2 = \frac{a^2}{2} \quad \langle x_3^2 \rangle = \frac{a^2}{2} + \frac{a^4}{4d^2} \times \phi(2\pi - \phi),$$

The non-abelian energy

- We add a “potential” to constrain the multi-instanton configuration to a 1d by assuming a 5d gauge coupling of the form

$$\frac{8\pi^2}{g_{5D}^2(x)} = N_c \lambda M (1 + M^2(x_1^2 + x_2^2 + x_3^2) + O(M^4 x^4))$$

- For small instanton $a \ll M^{-1}$ the **non-abelian**

$$\begin{aligned} E_{NA} &= N_c \lambda M (1 + M^2 \langle x_1^2 + x_2^2 + x_3^2 \rangle + O(M^4 a^4)) \\ &= N_c \lambda M \left(1 + \frac{3}{2} M^2 a^2 + \frac{M^2 a^4}{4d^2} \times \phi(2\pi - \phi) + O(M^4 a^4) \right) \end{aligned}$$

Coulomb energy

- The **abelian electric potential** obeys

$$\hat{A}_0(x) = +\frac{N_c g^2}{32\pi^2} \square \log \det(L(x)) + \text{const}$$

- Thus the Coulomb energy per instanton is given by

$$\begin{aligned} E_C &= \frac{1}{2g^2} \int_0^d dx_4 \int d^3x (\partial_\mu \hat{A}_0)^2 \\ &= \frac{N_c}{256\pi^2 \lambda M} \int_0^d dx_4 \int d^3x (\partial_\mu \square \log \det(L))^2 \end{aligned}$$

- For large lattice spacing $d \gg a$

$$E_C \approx \frac{N_c}{\lambda M} \left[\frac{1}{5a^2} + \frac{4\pi^2 + 3(\pi - \phi)^2}{30d^2} + O(a^2/d^4) \right]$$

Minimum for overlapping instantons

- Combining the non-abelian and Coulomb energies and **minimizing with respect to the instanton radius and twist angle** we find

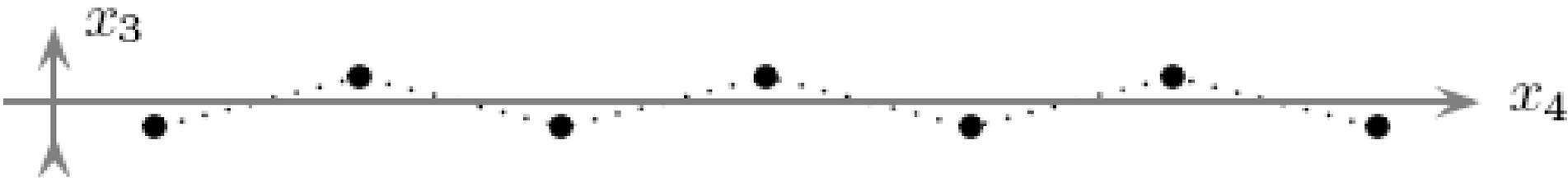
$$a[\text{@min}] = a_0 - \frac{\pi^2 a_0^3}{d^2} + O(a_0^4/d^2), \quad \phi[\text{@min}] = \pi$$

a_0 is the equilibrium radius of a standalone instanton

$$a_0 = \frac{(2/5)^{1/4}}{M\sqrt{\lambda}}, \quad \left(\text{or } \frac{9\pi^{1/2}}{M\sqrt{\lambda}} \left(\frac{2}{40\zeta^3 - 25} \right)^{1/4} \text{ for original } \lambda, M_{KK} \right)$$

The zig-zag chain

- The gauge coupling keeps the centers **lined up** along the x_4 axis for low density.
- At high density, such alignment becomes unstable because the **abelian Coulomb repulsion** makes them move away from each other in other directions.
- Since the repulsion is strongest between the nearest neighbors, the leading instability should have adjacent instantons move in opposite ways forming a **zigzag** pattern



$$\delta X^3[n] = \epsilon \times (-1)^n$$

The Zig-Zag

- We study the **instability** against transverse motions.
- In particular we **restrict the motion to $z=x_3$** by making the instanton energies rise faster in x_1 and x_2

$$\frac{8\pi^2}{g_{5D}^2(x)} = N_c \lambda M (1 + M'^2(x_1^2 + x_2^2) + M^2 x_3^2 + O(x^4 M^4)), \quad M' > M$$

- The ADHM data is based on keeping

$$y_n^\mu = (0, 0, a \sin(n\phi/2), a \cos(n\phi/2)), \quad \Gamma_{mn}^4 = dn\delta_{mn}$$

- While changing

$$\delta\Gamma_{mn}^3 = \delta_{mn} \times \delta X^3[n]$$

The energies of the zigzag deformation

- The **zigzag deformation** changes the width

$$\langle x_1^2 \rangle = \langle x_2^2 \rangle = \frac{a^2}{2}, \quad \langle x_3^2 \rangle = \frac{a^2}{2} + \frac{\pi^2 a^4}{4d^2} + \epsilon^2.$$

- Hence the **non abelian energy** reads

$$= E_{NA}[\epsilon = 0] + N_c \lambda M^3 \times \epsilon^2$$

- The **Coulomb energy**

$$E_C = \frac{N_c}{\lambda M} \left[\frac{1}{5a^2} + \frac{3\pi^2}{80d^2} + \frac{\pi^2}{80d^2} \times \frac{\tanh(\pi\epsilon/d)}{\pi\epsilon/d} + O(a^4/d^6) \right]$$

- The net energy cost for small zigzag

$$\Delta E_{\text{net}} = \Delta E_{NA} + \Delta E_C = N_c \lambda M^3 \times \epsilon^2 + \frac{N_c}{\lambda M} \left[-\frac{\pi^4 \epsilon^2}{240d^4} + \frac{\pi^6 \epsilon^4}{600d^6} + O(\epsilon^4/d^6) \right]$$

The zigzag phase transition

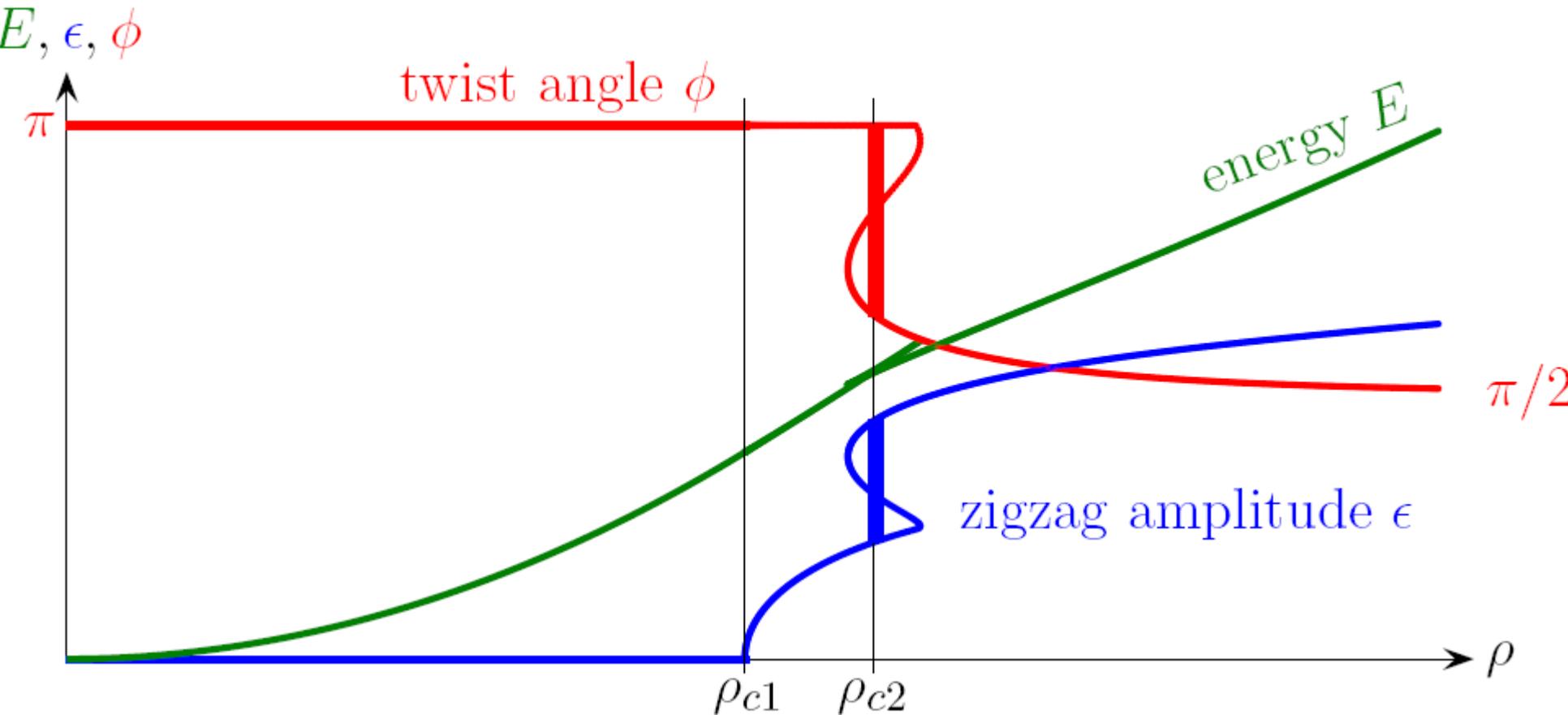
- For small lattice spacing $d < d_{\text{crit}}$, the energy function has a negative coefficient of ϵ^2 but positive coefficient of ϵ^4 .
- Thus, for $d < d_{\text{crit}}$ the straight chain becomes **unstable** and there is a **second-order phase transition to a zigzag configuration**.
- The critical distance is

$$d > d_{\text{crit}} = \frac{\pi}{\sqrt[4]{240}} \times \frac{1}{M\sqrt{\lambda}}$$

$$\langle \epsilon \rangle \approx \pm \frac{\sqrt{5}}{\pi} \times \sqrt{d_c(d_c - d)}$$

The phase transitions

- Free energy, zig-zag parameter and phase as a function of the density





2. The two instanton approximation

Two –instanton interaction approximation

- In the **low density regime** the **two body forces dominate** the interactions. The multi-body forces are suppressed by $(a/D)^2$
- We sketch the proof of this statement and compute the corresponding **two body energy**.
- Recall the ADHM data

$$\Gamma_{nn}^\mu = X_n^\mu ;$$

$$\Gamma_{m \neq n}^\mu = \alpha_{mn}^\mu$$

$$Y_n = a_n y_n$$

$$\Im ((\Gamma^\dagger \Gamma)_{mn} + Y_m^\dagger Y_n) = 0$$

$$\eta_{\mu\nu}^a [\Gamma^\mu, \Gamma^\nu]_{mn} + a_m a_n \times \text{tr}(y_m^\dagger y_n (-i\tau^a)) = 0$$

Perturbative solution of the ADHM equation

- We solve the **ADHM equation** and the constraints associated with **the SO(N) symmetry** of an **N** instantons chain in a power series of $(a/D)^2$

$$\begin{aligned}\alpha_{mn}^\mu &\equiv \Gamma_{m \neq n}^\mu = \alpha_{\mu mn}^{(1)} + \alpha_{\mu mn}^{(2)} + \alpha_{\mu mn}^{(3)} + \dots, \\ \alpha_{\mu mn}^{(1)} &= \frac{\eta_{\mu\nu}^a (X_m - X_n)_\nu}{|X_m - X_n|^2} \times \frac{O(A)}{2} a_m a_n \operatorname{tr}(y_m^\dagger y_n (-i\tau^a)) = O(a^2/D), \\ \alpha_{\mu mn}^{(2)} &= -\frac{\eta_{\mu\nu}^a (X_m - X_n)_\nu}{|X_m - X_n|^2} \times \sum_{\ell \neq m, n} \eta_{\kappa\lambda}^a \alpha_{\kappa\ell m}^{(1)} \alpha_{\lambda\ell n}^{(1)} = O(a^4/D^3), \\ \alpha_{\mu mn}^{(3)} &= -2 \frac{\eta_{\mu\nu}^a (X_m - X_n)_\nu}{|X_m - X_n|^2} \times \sum_{\ell \neq m, n} \eta_{\kappa\lambda}^a \alpha_{\kappa\ell m}^{(1)} \alpha_{\lambda\ell n}^{(2)} = O(a^6/D^5),\end{aligned}$$

- The leading term depends only on two instanton data

Perturbative solution of the ADHM equation

- Given the ADHM data the **instanton number density** is

$$I(x) = -\frac{1}{16\pi^2} \log \det(L(x))$$

$$L_{mn}(x) = \sum_{\ell} (\Gamma_{\ell m}^{\mu} - x^{\mu} \delta_{\ell m}) (\Gamma_{\ell n}^{\mu} - x^{\mu} \delta_{\ell n}) + \frac{1}{2} a_m a_n \operatorname{tr}(y_m^{\dagger} y_n)$$

- Using integration by parts we can compute several **moments of the instanton density**

$$\int d^4x I(x) = A,$$

$$\int d^4x I(x) \times x^{\nu} = \operatorname{tr}(\Gamma^{\nu}),$$

$$\int d^4x I(x) \times x^{\mu} x^{\nu} = \operatorname{tr}(\Gamma^{\mu} \Gamma^{\nu}) + \frac{1}{2} \delta^{\mu\nu} \operatorname{tr}(T)$$

where $T_{mn} \equiv \frac{1}{2} a_m a_n \operatorname{tr}(y_m^{\dagger} y_n)$,

$$\int d^4x I(x) \times x^{\lambda} x^{\mu} x^{\nu} = \frac{1}{3} (\Gamma^{\lambda} \{\Gamma^{\mu}, \Gamma^{\nu}\}) + \frac{1}{3} \delta^{\lambda\mu} \operatorname{tr}(\Gamma^{\nu} T) + \frac{1}{3} \delta^{\lambda\nu} \operatorname{tr}(\Gamma^{\mu} T) + \frac{1}{3} \delta^{\mu\nu} \operatorname{tr}(\Gamma^{\lambda} T)$$

The non-abelian energy

- The **non-abelian energy** is given by quadratic moment with $\mu = \nu = 4$

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{E}_{NA} &= N_c \lambda M^3 \times \int d^4x I(x) \times (x^4)^2 \\ &= N_c \lambda M^3 \times \left(\text{tr}(\Gamma^4 \Gamma^4) + \frac{1}{2} \text{tr}(T) \right) \\ &= N_c \lambda M^3 \times \left(\sum_{i=n}^A \left((\Gamma_{nn}^4)^2 + \frac{1}{2} T_{nn} \right) + \sum_{m \neq n} (\Gamma_{mn}^4)^2 \right) \\ &= N_c \lambda M^3 \sum_n \left((X_n^4)^2 + \frac{1}{2} a_n^2 \right) + N_c \lambda M^3 \sum_{m \neq n} (\alpha_{mn}^4)^2.\end{aligned}$$

Individual
potential energy

Two-body
interactions

The non-abelian energy

- Thus to leading order of the non abelian energy **only the two intanton interaction are relevant**

$$\mathcal{E}_{NA}^{\text{net interaction}} = N_c \lambda M^3 \sum_{m \neq n} (\alpha_{mn}^4)^2$$

$$\mathcal{E}_{NA}^{\text{interaction}} = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{m \neq n} \mathcal{E}_{NA}^{2\text{body}}(m, n) + O(N_c \lambda M^3 a^6 / D^4) \text{ multi-body terms,}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{E}_{NA}^{2\text{body}}(m, n) &= 2N_c \lambda M^3 \times \left(a_m a_n \times \frac{\eta_{4\nu}^a (X_m - X_n)_\nu}{|X_m - X_n|_{4D}^2} \times \frac{1}{2} \text{tr}(y_m^\dagger y_n (-i\tau^a)) \right)^2 \\ &= \frac{N_c \lambda M^3 a_m^2 a_n^2}{2|X_m - X_n|_{4D}} \times \text{tr}^2 \left(y_m^\dagger y_n (-i\vec{N}_{mn} \cdot \vec{\tau})_{3D} \right) \\ &= O(N_c \lambda M^3 a^4 / D^2). \end{aligned}$$

where

$$N_{mn}^\mu \equiv (\vec{N}_{mn}, N_{mn}^4) = \frac{X_n^\mu - X_m^\mu}{|X_n - X_m|}$$

The Coulomb energy

- The **Coulomb energy** of the multi-instanton system

$$\mathcal{E}_C = \frac{N_c}{4\lambda M} \iint d^4x_1 d^4x_2 \frac{I(x_1)I(x_2)}{|x_1 - x_2|^2}$$

- The diagonal terms of $L(x)$ are much larger than the off-diagonal so we take a **power series of the ratio**

$$\begin{aligned} I(x) &= \frac{-1}{16\pi^2} \square\square \log \det(L) \\ &= \sum_n \mathcal{I}_n^{(1)}(x) + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{m \neq n} \mathcal{I}_{mn}^{(2)}(x) + \frac{1}{6} \sum_{\text{different } \ell, m, n} \mathcal{I}_{\ell mn}^{(3)}(x) + \dots \end{aligned}$$

where

$$\mathcal{I}_n^{(1)}(x) = \frac{-1}{16\pi^2} \square\square \log(L_{nn}(x)),$$

$$\mathcal{I}_{mn}^{(2)}(x) = \frac{+1}{16\pi^2} \square\square \frac{L_{mn}L_{nm}}{L_{mm}L_{nn}},$$

$$\mathcal{I}_{\ell mn}^{(3)}(x) = \frac{-2}{16\pi^2} \square\square \frac{L_{\ell m}L_{mn}L_{n\ell}}{L_{\ell\ell}L_{mm}L_{nn}},$$

etc., etc.

The Coulomb energy

• The net Coulomb energy

$$\mathcal{E}_C^{\text{net}} = \frac{N_c}{4\lambda M} \times \left\{ \sum_n \frac{1}{\rho_n^2} + \sum_{m \neq n} \frac{1}{|X_m^\mu - X_n^\mu|^2} + O(a^4/D^6) \right\}$$

Self
interaction
including
interference

Point
charge
Coulomb
repulsion

Density in
inter
instanton
space

Note that the self interaction terms dominate the net Coulomb energy

The Coulomb energy

- The contribution of the **two instanton interference terms** is comparable to the direct repulsion. The three or more body interactions are **negligible**
- The final expression for the **Coulomb energy**

$$\mathcal{E}_C^{\text{net}} = \frac{N_c}{4\lambda M} \left(\sum_n \frac{4/5}{a_n^2} + \sum_{m \neq n} \frac{1}{|X_m - X_n|^2} \times \left(1 + \frac{1}{5} \left(\frac{a_m^2}{a_n^2} + \frac{a_n^2}{a_m^2} \right) \times (\text{tr}^2(y_m^\dagger y_n) - 2) \right) \right) + O(a^2/D^4)$$

The total two body total energy

- Combining the **non-abelian and Coulomb energies**

$$\mathcal{E}^{\text{total}} = \sum_n \mathcal{E}^{\text{1body}}(n) + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{m \neq n} \mathcal{E}^{\text{2body}}(m, n) + \frac{1}{6} \sum_{\text{different } \ell, m, n} \mathcal{E}^{\text{3body}}(\ell, m, n) + \dots$$

$$\mathcal{E}^{\text{1body}}(n) = N_c M \left(\lambda M^2 \times (X_n^4)^2 + \frac{\lambda M^2}{2} \times a_n^2 + \frac{1}{5\lambda M^2} \times \frac{1}{a_n^2} \right),$$

$$\mathcal{E}^{\text{2body}}(m, n) = \frac{N_c}{2\lambda M} \times \frac{1}{|X_m - X_n|_{4D}^2} \left(\begin{aligned} & \lambda^2 M^4 \times a_m^2 a_n^2 \times \text{tr}^2(y_m^\dagger y_n (-i\vec{N}_{mn} \cdot \vec{\tau})) \\ & + 1 + \frac{1}{5} \left(\frac{a_m^2}{a_n^2} + \frac{a_n^2}{a_m^2} \right) \times (\text{tr}^2(y_m^\dagger y_n)) \\ & + O\left(\frac{a^2}{D^2} \sim \frac{1}{\lambda M^2 D^2}\right) \end{aligned} \right)$$

$$\mathcal{E}^{\text{3body}}(\ell, m, n) = O\left(\frac{N_c a^2}{\lambda M^2 D^4} \sim \frac{N_c}{\lambda^2 M^3 D^4}\right), \quad \text{etc., etc.}$$

The total two body total energy

- We plug the **equilibrium radii**

$$a_n = a_0 + O(a^3/D^2)$$

$$a_0 = \frac{\sqrt[4]{2/5}}{\sqrt{\lambda M}}$$

- We finally get the **two instanton interaction energy**

$$\mathcal{E}^{2\text{body}}(m, n) = \frac{2N_c}{5\lambda M} \times \frac{1}{|X_m - X_n|_{4D}^2} \times \left[\frac{1}{2} + \text{tr}^2(y_m^\dagger y_n) + \text{tr}^2(y_m^\dagger y_n (-i\vec{N}_{mn} \cdot \vec{\tau})) \right]$$

Linear chains of instantons

- For **1D lattice geometry** $X_n^\mu = (nD, 0, 0, 0), \quad n \in \mathbb{Z}$

$$|X_m - X_n|^2 = D^2 \times (m - n)^2 \text{ while } \vec{N}_{mn} = (\pm 1, 0, 0)$$

- This **1d structure is enforced by a 5D gauge coupling**

$$\frac{8\pi^2}{g_5^2(x_2, x_3, x_4)} = N_c \lambda M \left(1 + M^2 x_4^2 + M_3^2 x_3^2 + M_2^2 x_2^2 + O(M^4 x^4) \right)$$

- Let's us consider first the regime where

$$M_2^2, M_3^2 \ll M^2.$$

- So the impact on the instanton size of m_2, m_3 is negligible

Linear chains of instantons

- The **net energy** as a function of the **orientations**

$$\mathcal{E}^{\text{int}} = \frac{N_c}{5\lambda MD^2} \times \sum_{m \neq n} \frac{1}{(m-n)^2} \times \left[\frac{1}{2} + \text{tr}^2(y_m^\dagger y_n) + \text{tr}^2(y_m^\dagger y_n (-i\tau_1)) \right]$$

- We **minimize** the energy with respect to the **orientations of nearest neighbors pairs.**

$$\forall m : y_m^\dagger y_{m+1} = \cos \psi_m \times (i\tau_3) + \sin \psi_m \times (i\tau_2) \quad \text{for some angle } \psi_m$$

- The most general solution of these equations

$$y_n = \exp(i\phi_n \tau_i) \times (i\tau_3)^n = \begin{cases} \pm[\cos \phi_n \times 1 + \sin \phi_n \times (i\tau_1)] & \text{for even } n, \\ \pm[\cos \phi_n \times (i\tau_3) + \sin \phi_n \times (i\tau_2)] & \text{for odd } n, \end{cases}$$

Linear chains

- All these configurations have the **same energy**, thus there is a huge **degeneracy** of chains with

$\mathcal{E}_{\text{interaction per instanton}}$

$$\begin{aligned} &= \frac{N_c}{5\lambda MD^2} \times \sum_{m \neq n}^{\text{fixed } n} \frac{1}{(m-n)^2} \times \left[\frac{1}{2} + \text{tr}^2(y_m^\dagger y_n) + \text{tr}^2(y_m^\dagger y_n (-i\tau_1)) \right] \\ &= \frac{N_c}{5\lambda MD^2} \times \sum_{\ell=m-n \neq 0} \frac{1}{\ell^2} \times \begin{cases} \frac{1}{2} & \text{for odd } \ell, \\ \frac{9}{2} & \text{for even } \ell, \end{cases} \\ &= \frac{N_c}{5\lambda MD^2} \times \left(\frac{1}{2} \sum_{\text{odd } \ell} \frac{1}{\ell^2} + \frac{9}{2} \sum_{\text{even } \ell \neq 0} \frac{1}{\ell^2} \right) \\ &= \frac{N_c}{5\lambda MD^2} \times \left(\frac{1}{2} \times \frac{\pi^2}{4} + \frac{9}{2} \times \frac{\pi^2}{12} = \frac{\pi^2}{2} \right). \end{aligned}$$

Regular patterns

• Among the configurations are certain **regular patterns**

- The *antiferromagnetic chain*, with 2 alternating instanton orientations:

$$y_{\text{even } n} = \pm 1, \quad y_{\text{odd } n} = \pm i\tau_3. \quad (4.12)$$

In this configuration — which obtains for $\phi_n \equiv 0$ — the y_n (modulo sign) span a \mathbb{Z}_2 subgroup of the $SO(2) \times \mathbb{Z}_2$.

- Cartesian axes¹:

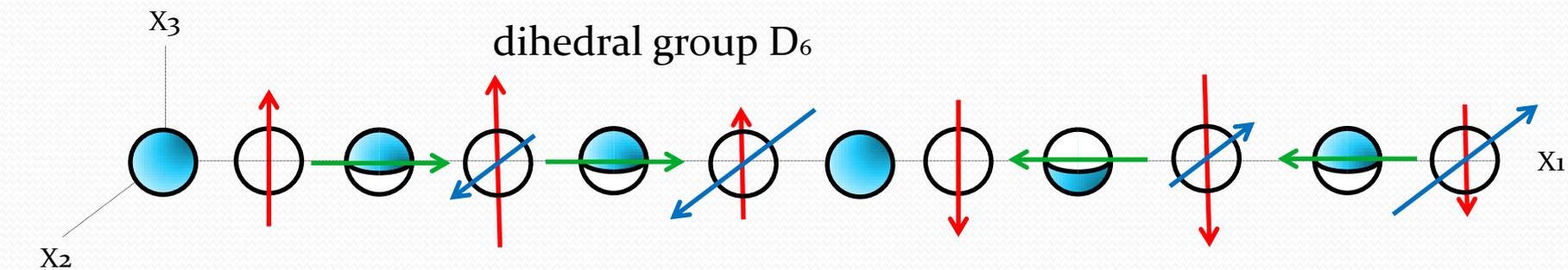
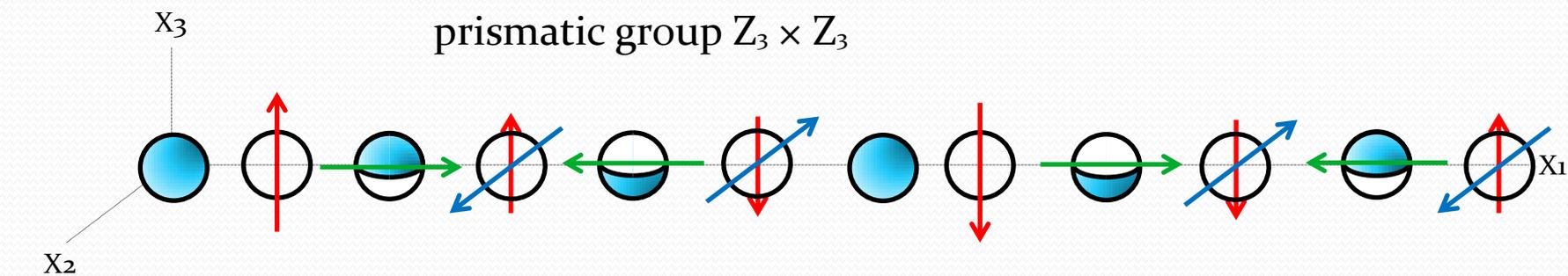
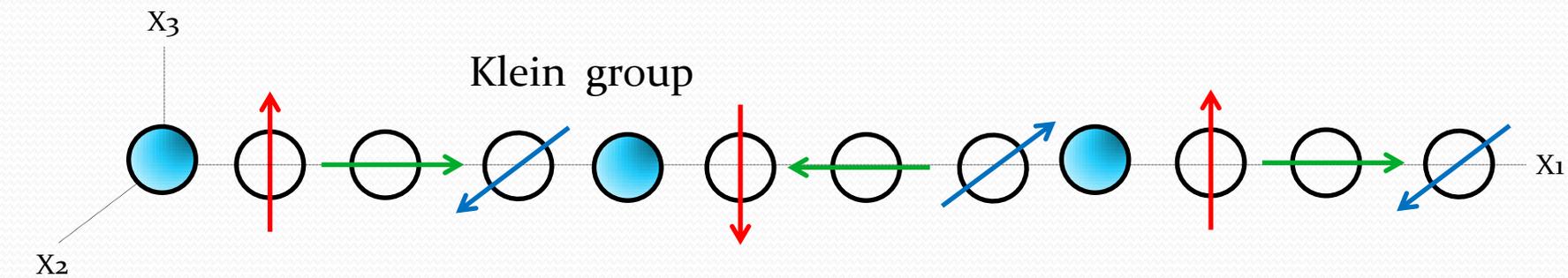
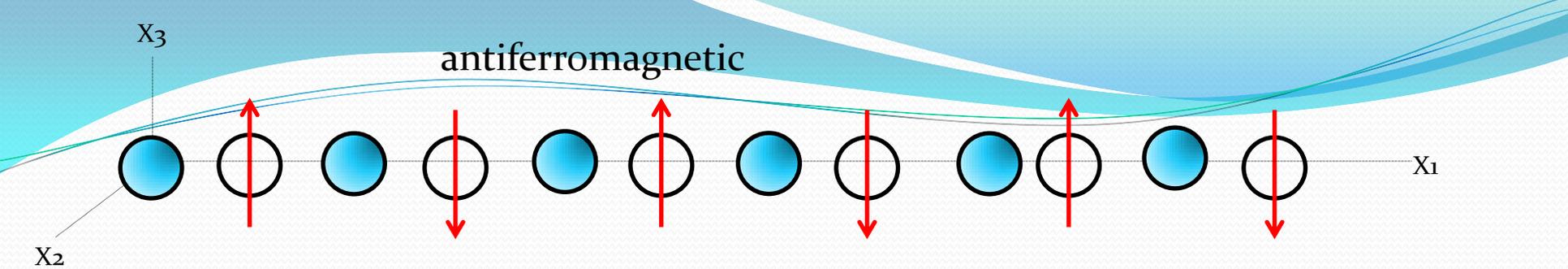
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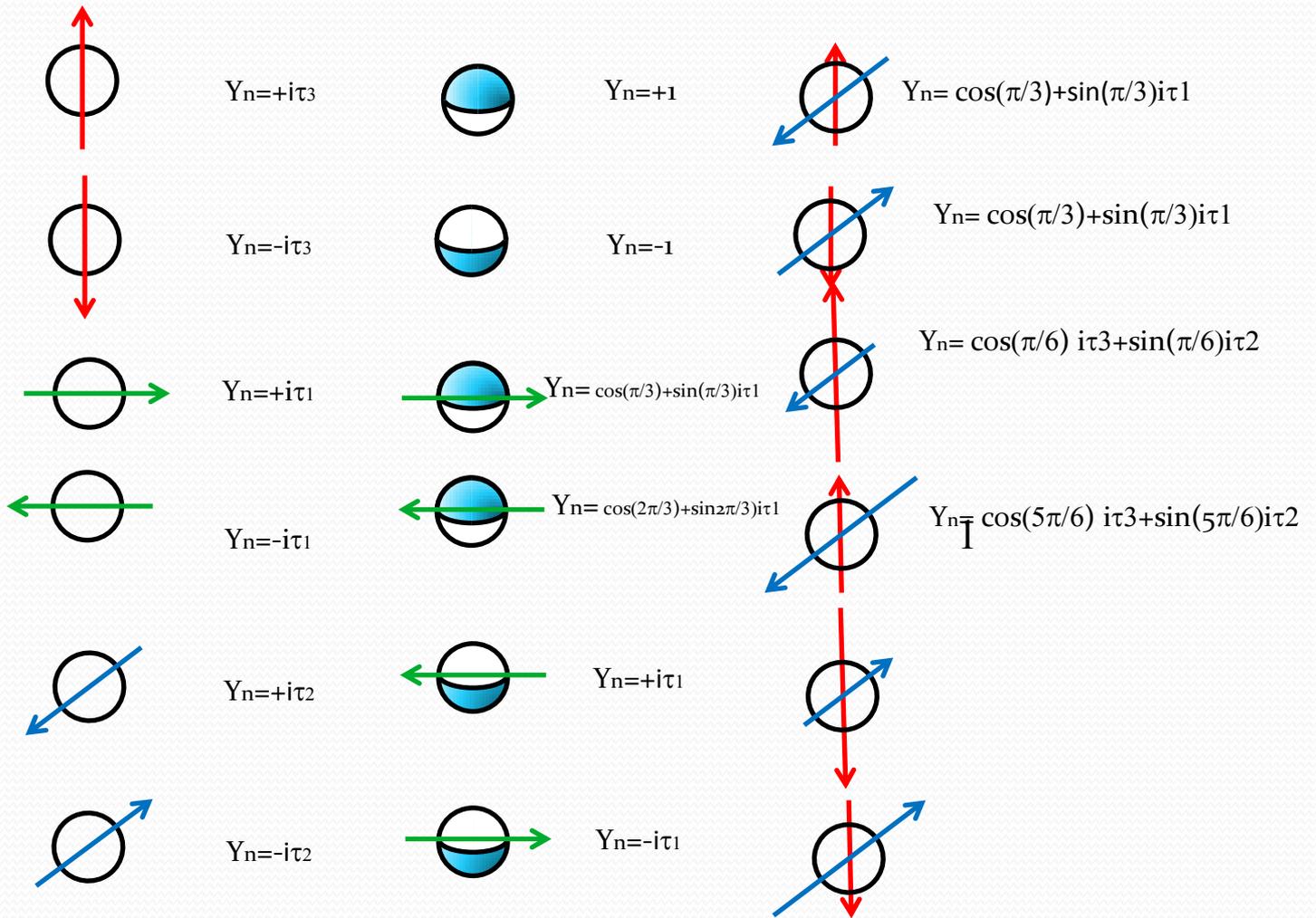
$$y_{n \equiv 0 \pmod{4}} = \pm 1, \quad y_{n \equiv 1 \pmod{4}} = \pm \tau_3, \quad y_{n \equiv 2 \pmod{4}} = \pm \tau_1, \quad y_{n \equiv 3 \pmod{4}} = \pm \tau_2. \quad (4.13)$$

- Period = $2k = 6, 8, 10, \dots$ configurations spanning *prismatic groups* $\mathbb{Z}_k \times \mathbb{Z}_2$:

$$y_{\text{even } n} = \cos \frac{\pi n}{2k} \times 1 + \sin \frac{\pi n}{2k} \times (i\tau_1), \quad y_{\text{odd } n} = \cos \frac{\pi(n-1)}{2k} \times (i\tau_3) + \sin \frac{\pi(n-1)}{2k} \times (i\tau_2) \quad (4.14)$$

- Period = $2k = 6, 8, 10, \dots$ configurations spanning *dihedral groups* D_{2k} , which obtain for $\phi_n = n \times (\pi/2k)$, *i. e.*





The general case of linear chain

- For the regime $M_2, M_3 \sim M$ the **huge degeneracy** is lifted and the **net energy** is

$$\mathcal{E}_{\text{net}}^{\text{int}} \equiv \frac{1}{2} \sum_{n \neq m} \mathcal{E}^{(2)}(n, m) = \frac{N_c}{5\lambda M D^2} \times \sum_{m \neq n} \frac{Q(m, n)}{(m - n)^2}$$

where

$$Q(m, n) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \frac{1}{2} + \text{tr}^2(y_m^\dagger y_n) + C_4 \text{tr}^2(y_m^\dagger y_n (-i\tau^1)) \\ + C_3 \text{tr}^2(y_m^\dagger y_n (-i\tau^2)) + C_2 \text{tr}^2(y_m^\dagger y_n (-i\tau^3))$$

and with

$$C_\mu \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \frac{M_\mu^2}{M_4^2 + M_3^2 + M_2^2}, \quad C_4 + C_3 + C_2 = 1.$$

Relaxation method

- We now **minimize the energy** with respect to the **orientation using a computer relaxation method.**
- We take a lattice of 200 SU(2) matrices y_n .
- In each run we started with random elements of SU(2)
- We let the y_n relax to the **minimum energy** via

$$\frac{dy_n(t)}{dt} = -K \times \frac{\delta \mathcal{E}_{\text{net}}^{\text{int}}}{\delta y_n}$$

A mobility constant

$$\frac{\delta \mathcal{E}}{\delta y_n} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} y_n \left(-i\vec{\tau} \right) \cdot \nabla_s \mathcal{E} \left(y_n \rightarrow y_n (1 + i\vec{s} \cdot \vec{\tau}) \right) \Big|_{\vec{s}=0}$$

Link-periodic chains

- We find that the lattices are **link-periodic** with

$$\text{even } n - m, \quad y_m^\dagger y_n = \cos((n - m)\varphi) \times i^{n-m} + \sin((n - m)\varphi) \times i^{n+m+1} \tau^1$$

$$\text{odd } n - m, \quad y_m^\dagger y_n = \cos((n - m)\varphi \pm \theta) \times i^{n-m} \tau^3 + \sin((n - m)\varphi \pm \theta) \times i^{n+m} \tau^2$$

- The **average interaction energy per instanton** is

$$\mathcal{E}_{\text{per instanton}}^{\text{interaction}} = \frac{N_c}{5\lambda M D^2} \times \left\langle \sum_{m \neq n}^{\text{fixed } n} \frac{Q(m, n)}{(n - m)^2} \right\rangle_{\text{over } n}^{\text{average}} = \frac{N_c}{5\lambda M D^2} \times \sum_{\ell \neq 0} \frac{\overline{Q}(\ell)}{\ell^2}$$

$$= \frac{N_c}{5\lambda M D^2} \times \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\pi^2}{2} \times \left(1 + C_3 + C_2 - (C_3 - C_2) \cos(2\theta) \right) \\ - 2\pi|\varphi| \times \left(C_3 + C_2 - (C_3 - C_2) \cos(2\theta) \right) \\ + 4\varphi^2 \times \left(C_3 + C_2 \right) \end{pmatrix}$$

Link-periodic chains

- Minimizing the energy with respect to φ and θ

$$(1) \quad \varphi = +\frac{\pi}{2} \times \frac{C_2}{C_2 + C_3}, \quad \theta = 0,$$

$$(2) \quad \varphi = -\frac{\pi}{2} \times \frac{C_2}{C_2 + C_3}, \quad \theta = 0,$$

$$(3) \quad \varphi = -\frac{\pi}{2} \times \frac{C_3}{C_2 + C_3}, \quad \theta = \frac{\pi}{2},$$

$$(4) \quad \varphi = +\frac{\pi}{2} \times \frac{C_3}{C_2 + C_3}, \quad \theta = \frac{\pi}{2},$$

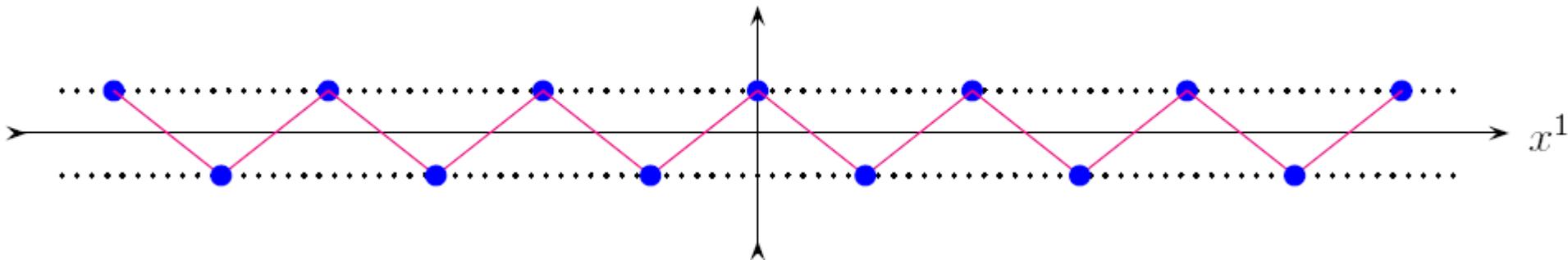
- Thus there are **two degenerate ground states** related by

$$\varphi \rightarrow -\varphi$$

Instanton zigzags

- The **zigzag chains** analyzed previously using the point charge approximation and the exact ADHM solution can be determined also using the **two body approximation**.
- Recall the zigzag data

$$X_n^1 = n \times D, \quad X_n^2 = (-1)^n \times \epsilon, \quad x_n^3 = X_n^4 = 0$$



- We work in the general 5d gauge coupling

$$\frac{8\pi^2}{g_5^2(x_2, x_3, x_4)} = N_c \lambda M \left(1 + M^2 x_4^2 + M_3^2 x_3^2 + M_2^2 x_2^2 + O(M^4 x^4) \right)$$

The phase diagram

- The **two body energy** for the zigzag

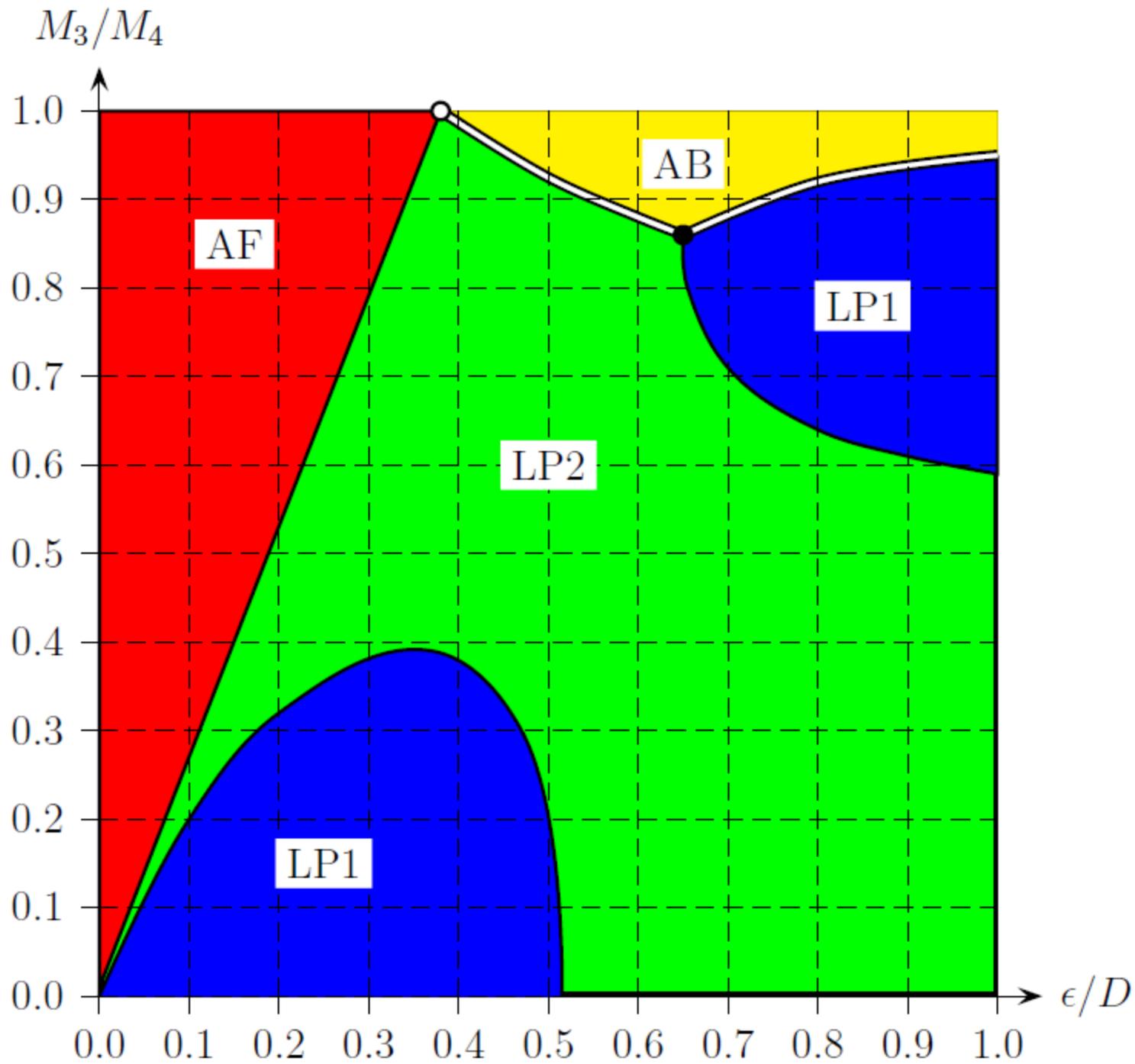
$$\mathcal{E}_{\text{net}}^{\text{int}}[\text{zigzag}] = \frac{N_c}{5\lambda M} \sum_{m \neq n} \frac{Q_z(m, n)}{|X_m - X_n|^2}$$

where

$$Q_z(m, n) = \frac{1}{2} + \text{tr}^2(y_m^\dagger y_n) + C_3 \sum_{a=1,2} \text{tr}^2(y_m^\dagger y_n (-i\tau^a)) \\ + (1 - 2C_3) \times \text{tr}^2(y_m^\dagger y_n (-i\vec{\tau} \cdot \vec{N}_{mn})).$$

- We compute **numerically the lowest energy** configuration of the orientations

y_n as a function of ϵ/D and M_3/M_4



The different phases

- The red dots on this diagram denote the antiferromagnetic pattern (AF) of instanton orientations in which the nearest neighbors always differ by a 180° rotation around the third axis,

$$y_n = \begin{cases} \pm 1 & \text{for even } n, \\ \pm i\tau_3 & \text{for odd } n, \end{cases}, \quad \text{same } y_n^\dagger y_{n+1} = i\tau_3 \text{ for all } n. \quad (5.11)$$

- The yellow dots denote another abelian pattern (AB) in which all nearest neighbors differ by the same $U(1) \subset SU(2)$ rotation, but now the rotation angle is $< 180^\circ$,

$$\text{same } y_n^\dagger y_{n+1} = \exp\left(\frac{i}{2}\phi\tau_3\right) \text{ for all } n, \quad 0 < \phi < \pi. \quad (5.12)$$

- The blue dots denote a non-abelian link-periodic pattern (LP1) in which the relative rotation between nearest neighbors is always through a 180° angle, but the direction

The different phases

of rotation alternates between two different axes in the (12) plane, one axis for the odd-numbered instantons and the other for the even-numbered. In $SU(2)$ terms,

$$\begin{aligned}y_{2k}^\dagger y_{2k+1} &= \exp\left(\frac{i\pi}{2} \vec{n}_e \cdot \vec{\tau}\right) = i\vec{n}_e \cdot \vec{\tau} = +iA\tau_1 + iB\tau_2, \\y_{2k+1}^\dagger y_{2k+2} &= \exp\left(\frac{i\pi}{2} \vec{n}_o \cdot \vec{\tau}\right) = i\vec{n}_o \cdot \vec{\tau} = +iA\tau_i - iB\tau_2,\end{aligned}\tag{5.13}$$

for some $A, B \neq 0$ ($A^2 + B^2 = 1$).

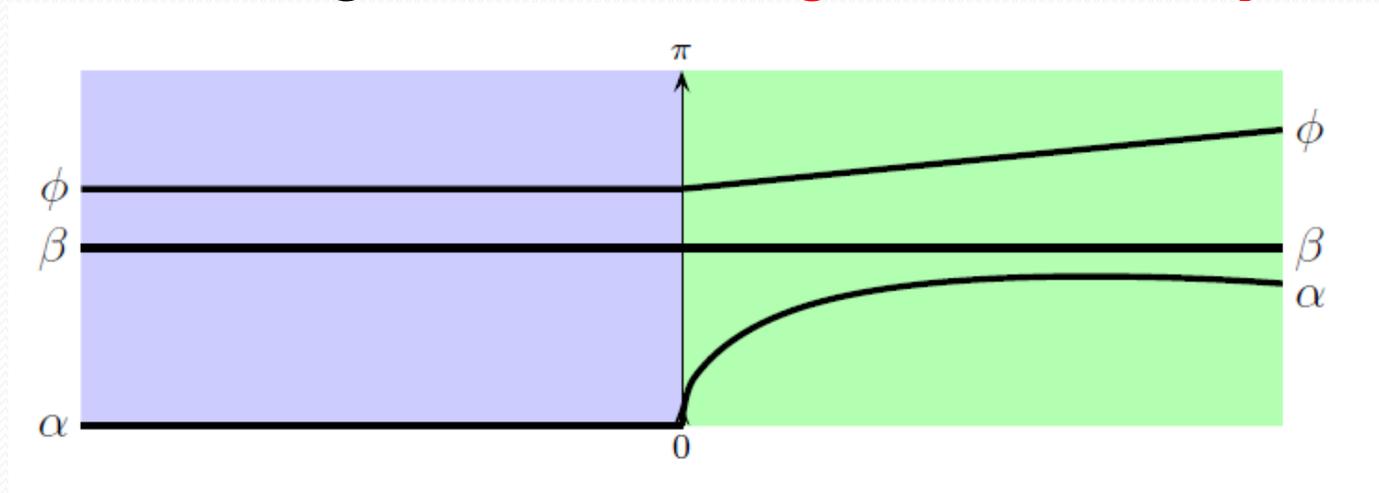
- The green dots denote another non-abelian link-periodic pattern (LP2). Again, the relative rotation between nearest neighbors is always through a 180° angle, but the direction of rotation alternates between two different axes. However, this time the two axes no longer lie within the (12) plane, thus

$$\begin{aligned}y_{2k}^\dagger y_{2k+1} &= iA\tau_1 + iB\tau_2 + iC\tau_3, \\y_{2k+1}^\dagger y_{2k+2} &= iA\tau_1 - iB\tau_2 - iC\tau_3,\end{aligned}\tag{5.14}$$

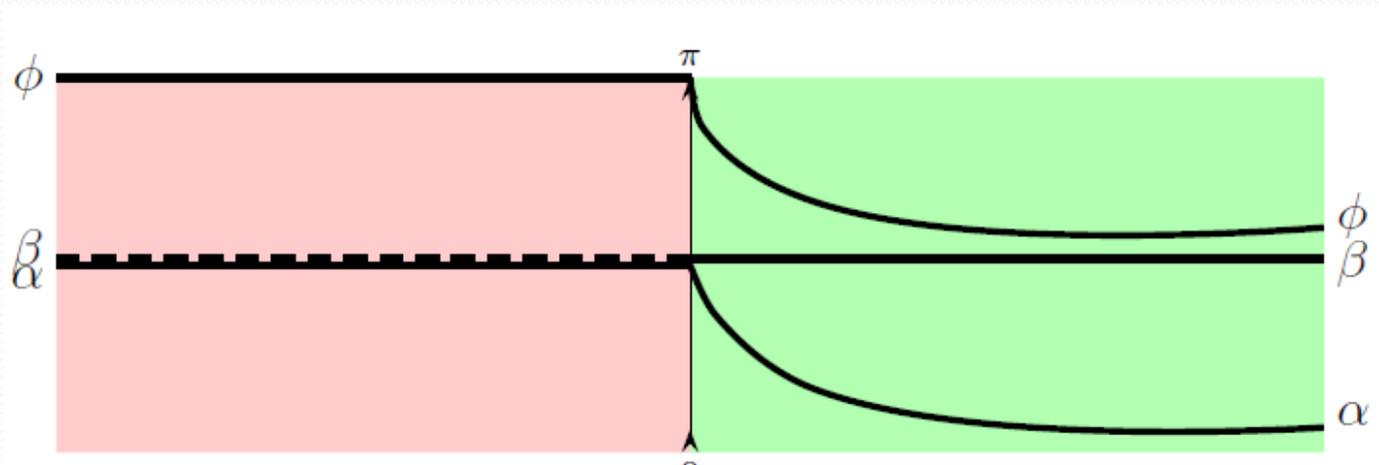
where A, B, C all $\neq 0$ ($A^2 + B^2 + C^2 = 1$).

The phase transitions

- Both transitions from LP 1 to LP2 are second order
all three angles α, β, ϕ change continuously

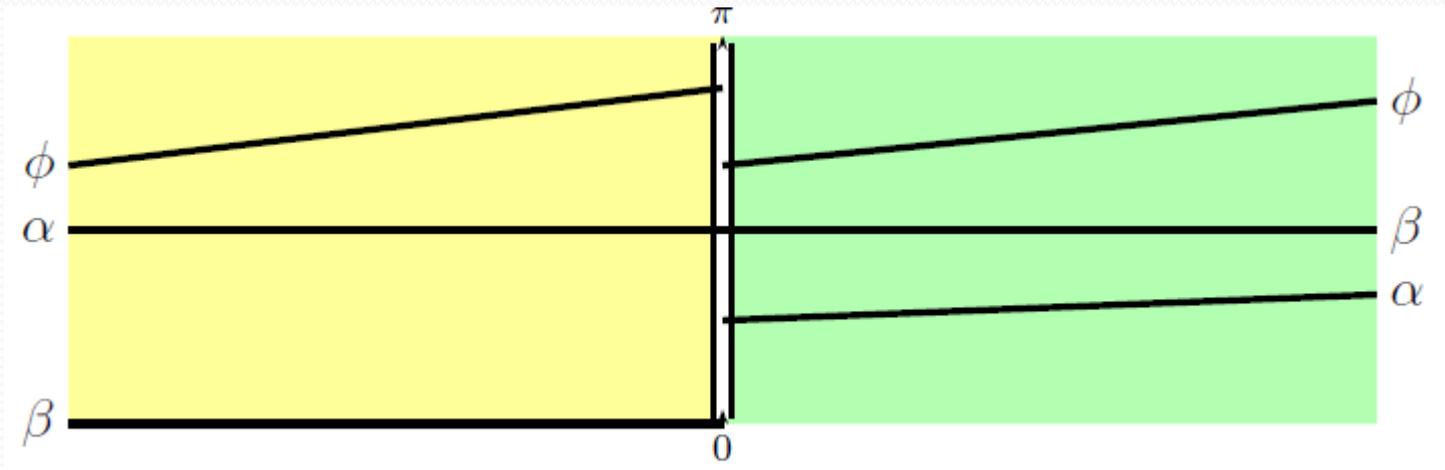


- Likewise the transition between LP2 and AF

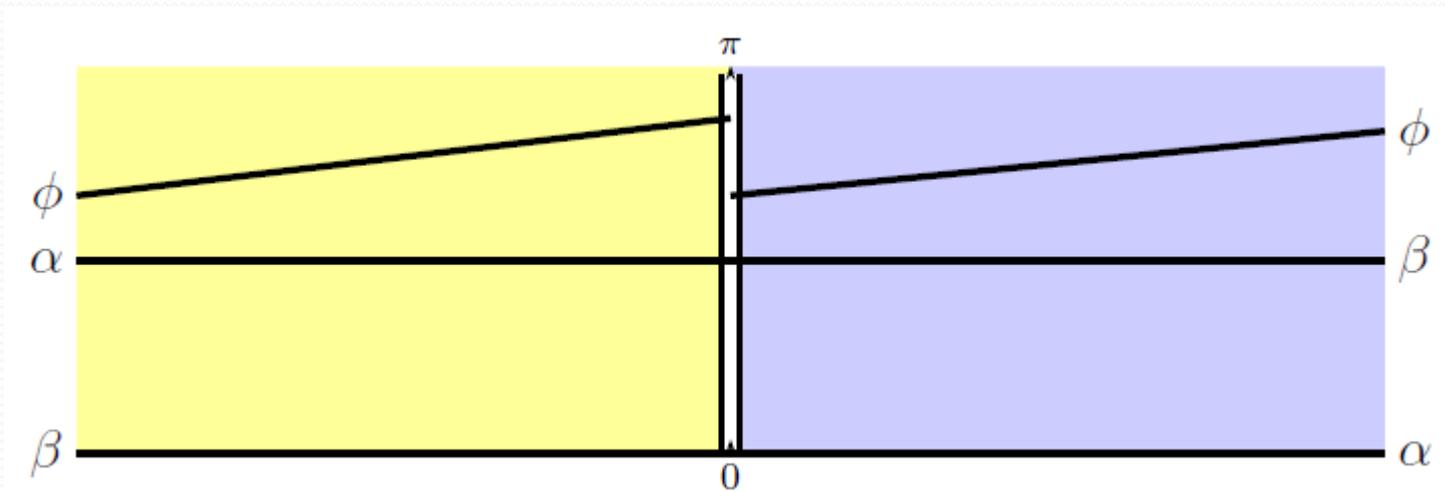


The phase transitions

- The transition between AB and LP₁ and LP₂ are **first order**

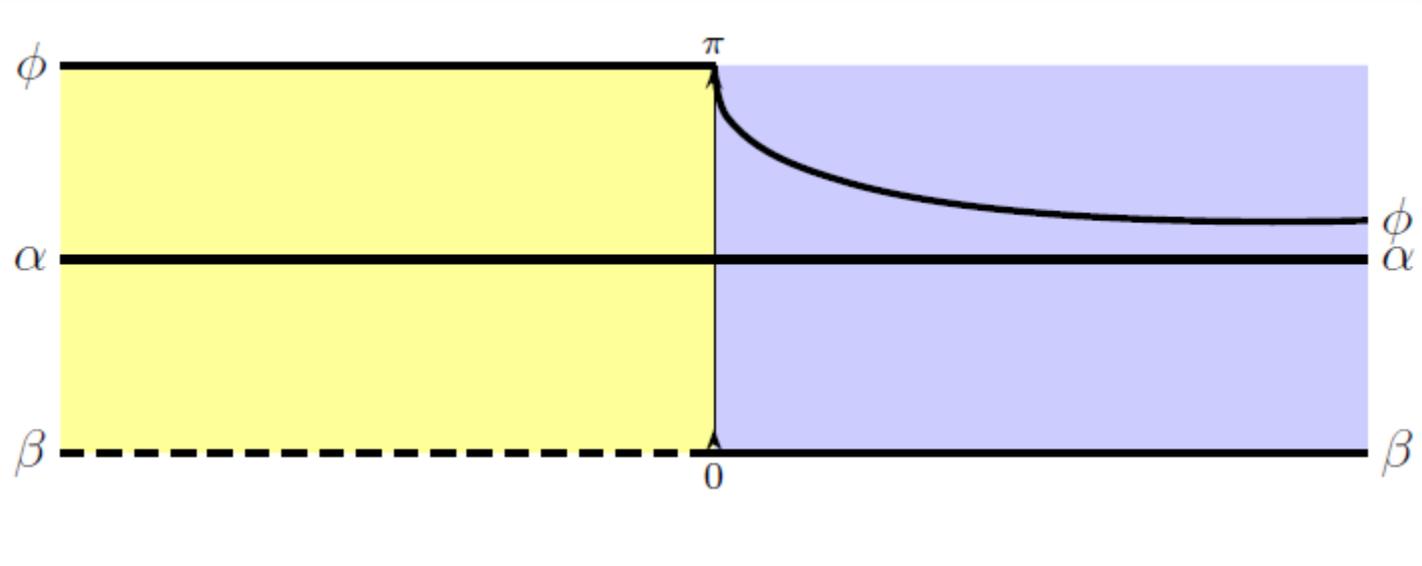


or



The phase transitions

- There are **two triple points** of the phase diagram
- At the origin there is no triple point
- The black dot at $(\epsilon/D) \approx 0.65$, $(M_3/M_4) \approx 0.86$ is an **ordinary triple point** between AB and LP₁ LP₂
- The white circle at $(M_3/M_4) = 1$, $(\epsilon/D) \approx 0.38$ is a **critical triple point** between AF and AB of second order

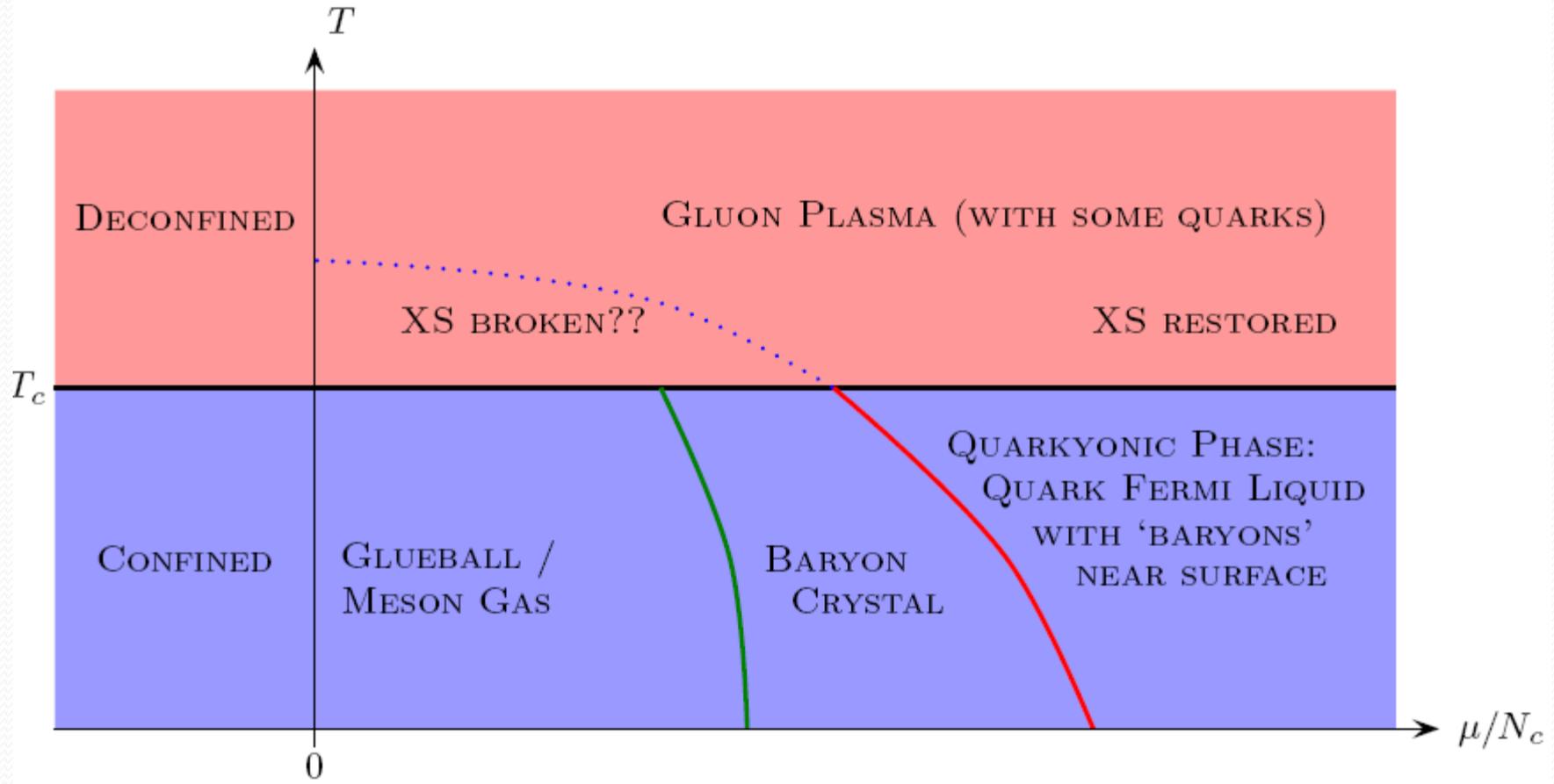




*The holographic 2CD phase
diagram*

Large N Phase diagram

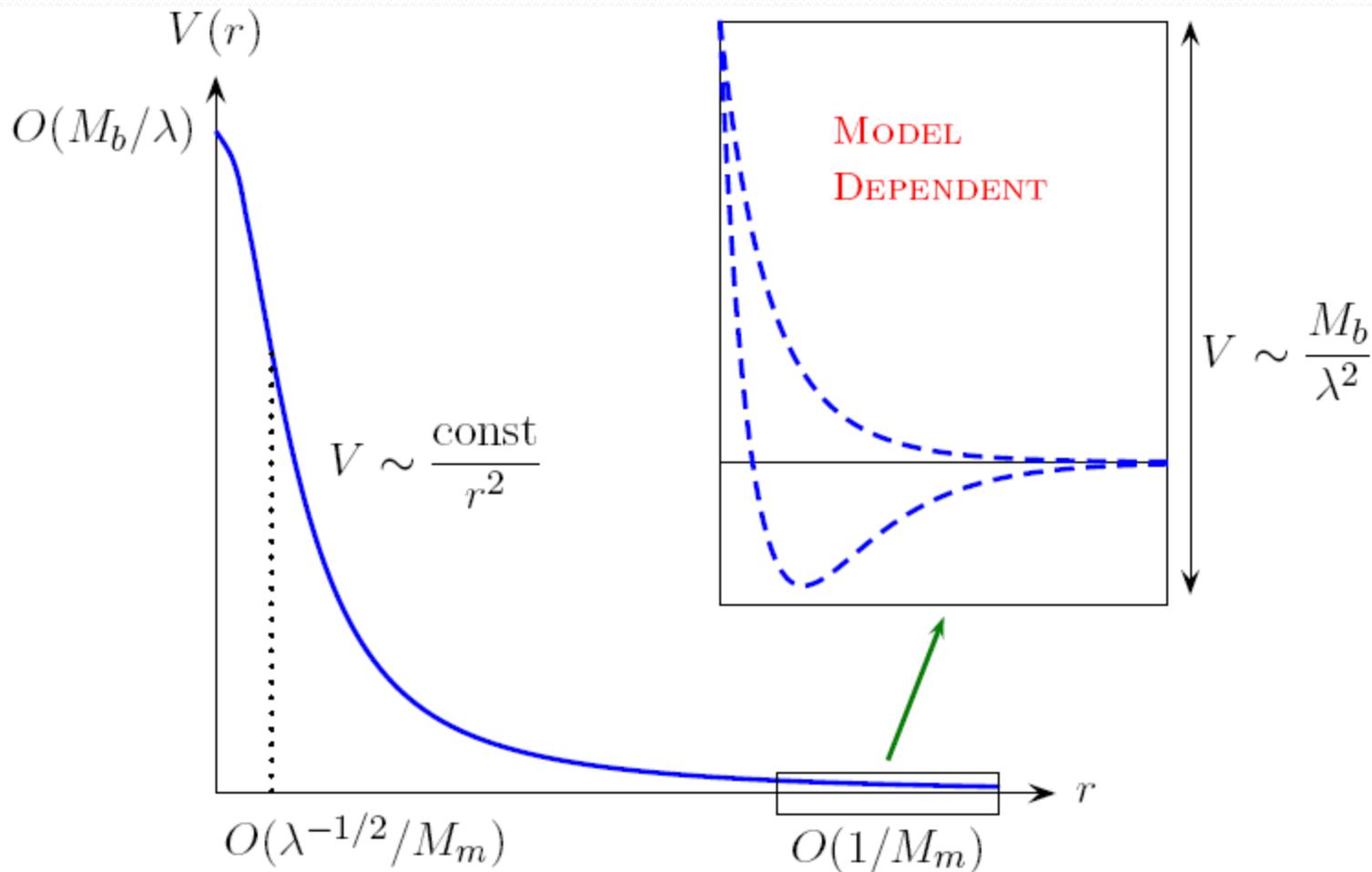
- We can summarize in terms of the **holographic QCD phase diagram** in the (temperature, chemical potential plane)



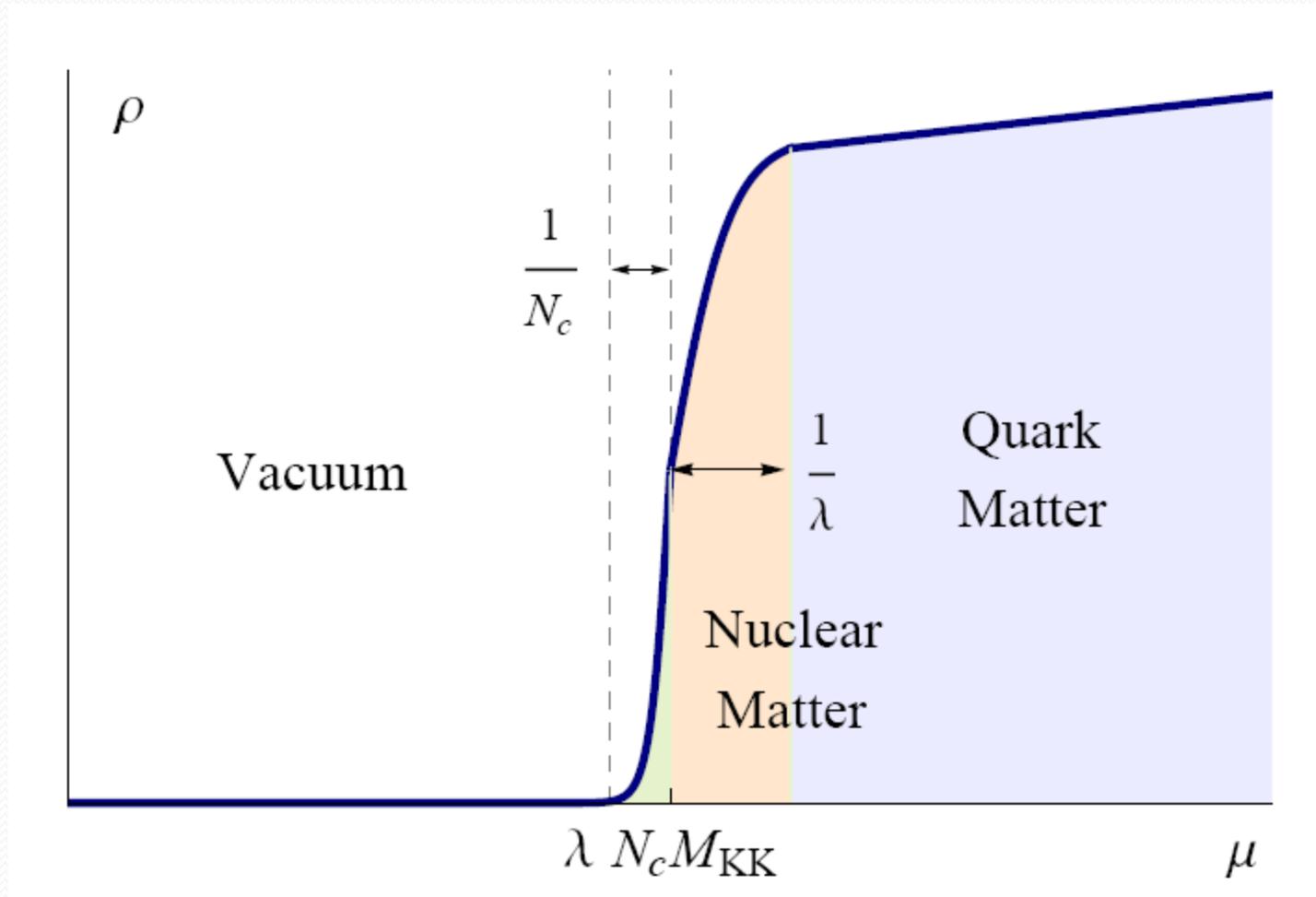
Large N Phase diagram

- Large $N_c \rightarrow \infty$ but fixed $N_f = 2$ or 3 .
- **Gluons dominate QGP.**
- **Sharp confinement-deconfinement transition** at T_c almost independent on μ .
- **No color SC or CFL** in a quark liquid at high $\mu_q = \mu/N_c$.
- For $\mu_q \gg \Lambda_{\text{QCD}}$ the quarks form a weakly coupled **Fermi liquid**. But near the Fermi surface, the quarks and the holes combine into meson-like and baryon-like excitations \Rightarrow the **quarkyonic phase**.
- $M_{\text{baryon}} \propto N_c \rightarrow \infty$ while M_{meson} and M_{glueball} stay finite.
- No baryons in glueball/meson gas for $T < T_c$, $\mu < M_{\text{baryon}}$.

Generic effects of large λ

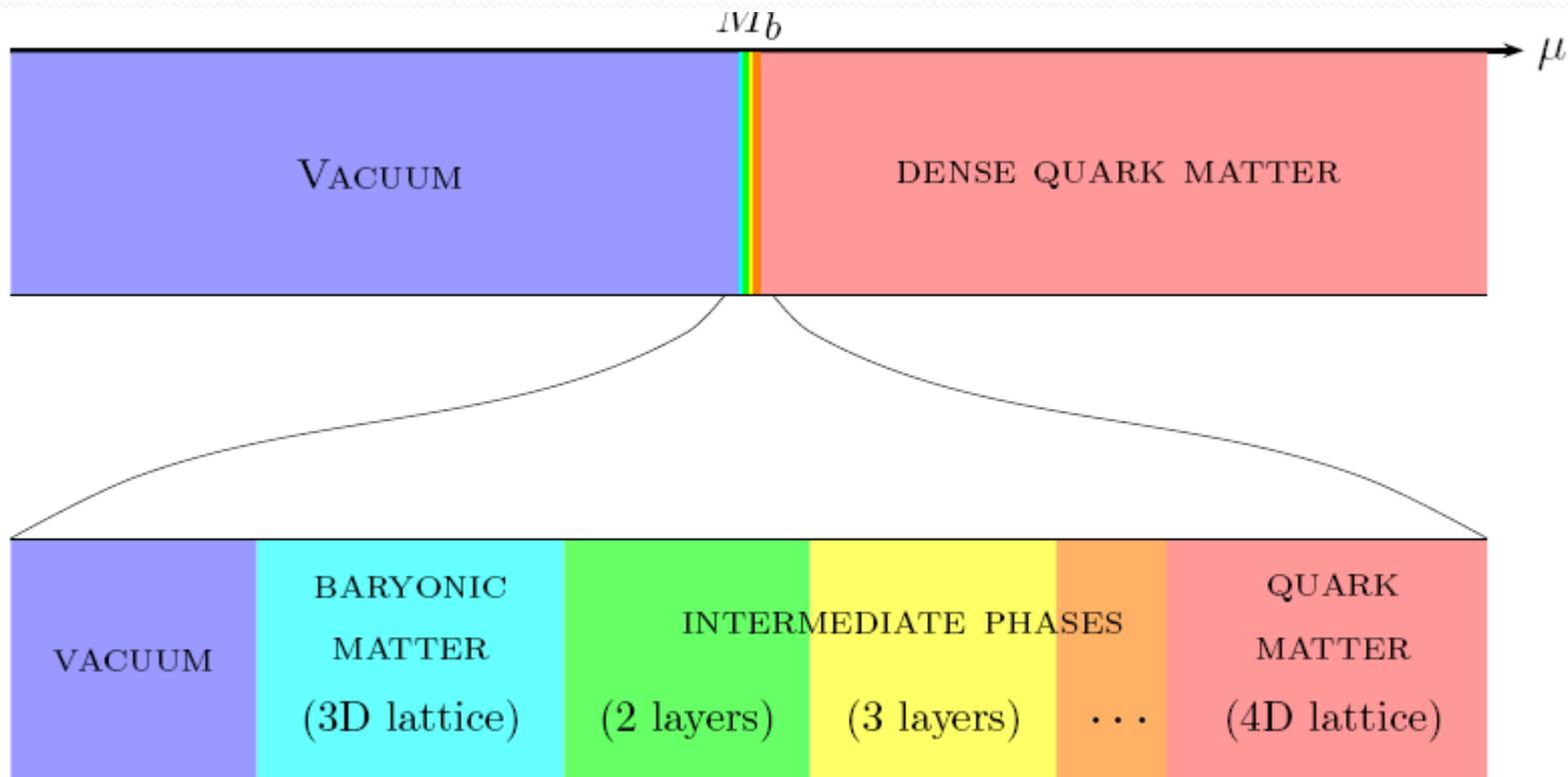


Transitions at large N_c and large λ



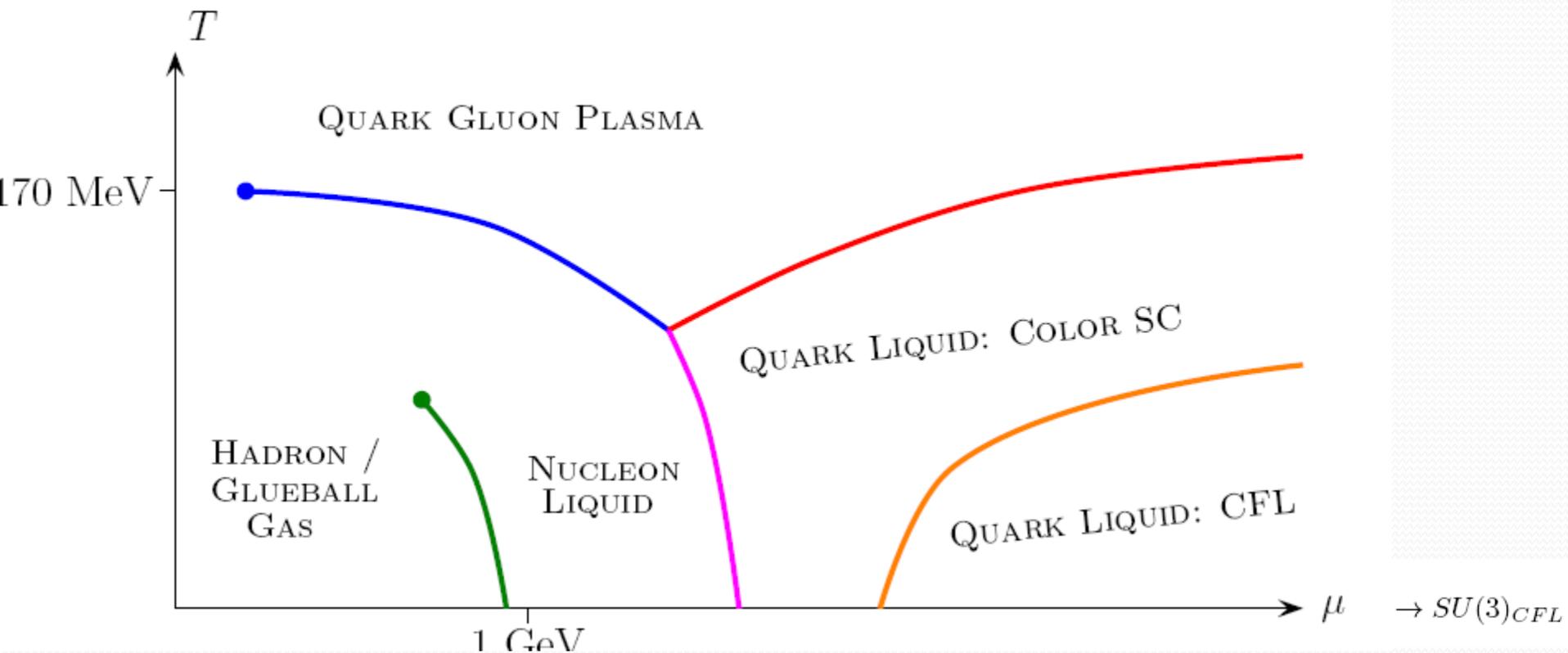
Generic effects of large λ

- $V \ll Mb \Rightarrow$ transitions between different phases of cold nuclear matter happen very close to $\mu = Mb \Rightarrow$ need to **zoom into the $\mu \sim Mb$** region of the phase diagram to see all the phases. At $T = 0$



QCD Phase diagram

- This is to be compared with the “lore” of QCD phase diagram at finite N_c



Summary

- The holographic **stringy** picture for a **baryon** favors a baryonic vertex that is **immersed** in the flavor brane
- Baryons as **instantons** lead to a picture that is similar to the **Skyrme** model.
- We showed that on top of the **repulsive** hard core due to the abelian field there is an **attraction** potential due to the **scalar interaction** in the generalized Sakai Sugimoto model.

Summary

- The is **no `` nuclear physics**” in the gSS model
- We showed that in the DKS model one may be able to get an **attractive interaction** at the far zone with an **almost cancelation** which will **resolve the binding energy puzzle**.
- We showed that the holographic nuclear matter takes the form of a **lattice of instantons**
- We found that there is a second order phase + a first order transitions that drives a chain of instantons into a **zigzag** structure namely to split into two **sub-lattices** separated along the holographic direction
- Using **2-instanton approximation** we found a rich phase structure of nuclear matter

The phase transitions

- At **large densities** the **straight chain** of instantons is **unstable** against formation of a **zigzag** ($\epsilon \neq 0$) in the holographic dimension.
- There is a **second order phase transition**, which takes the straight chain to the zigzag.
- For small amplitude of the zigzag the neighboring instantons remain antiparallel as in the ($\epsilon=0$) case.
- At some larger density (zigzag amplitude), the **relative orientation** of instantons changes from $\phi = \pi$ to $\phi \simeq 117^\circ$. This occurs in a **first order transition**.

The phase transitions

- For **densities larger** than the one of the first order phase transition orientation changes **smoothly to asymptotical value $\pi/2$** .
- That it is the neighboring instantons in each of the two layers prefer to orient themselves in an **antiferromagnetic way, $\phi = \pi$** .
- Notice that the orientation twist between instantons **never becomes non-abelian**.