

Phase diagram of QCD matter with magnetic field: domain-wall Skyrmion chain in chiral soliton lattice

Kentaro Nishimura (Hiroshima University)

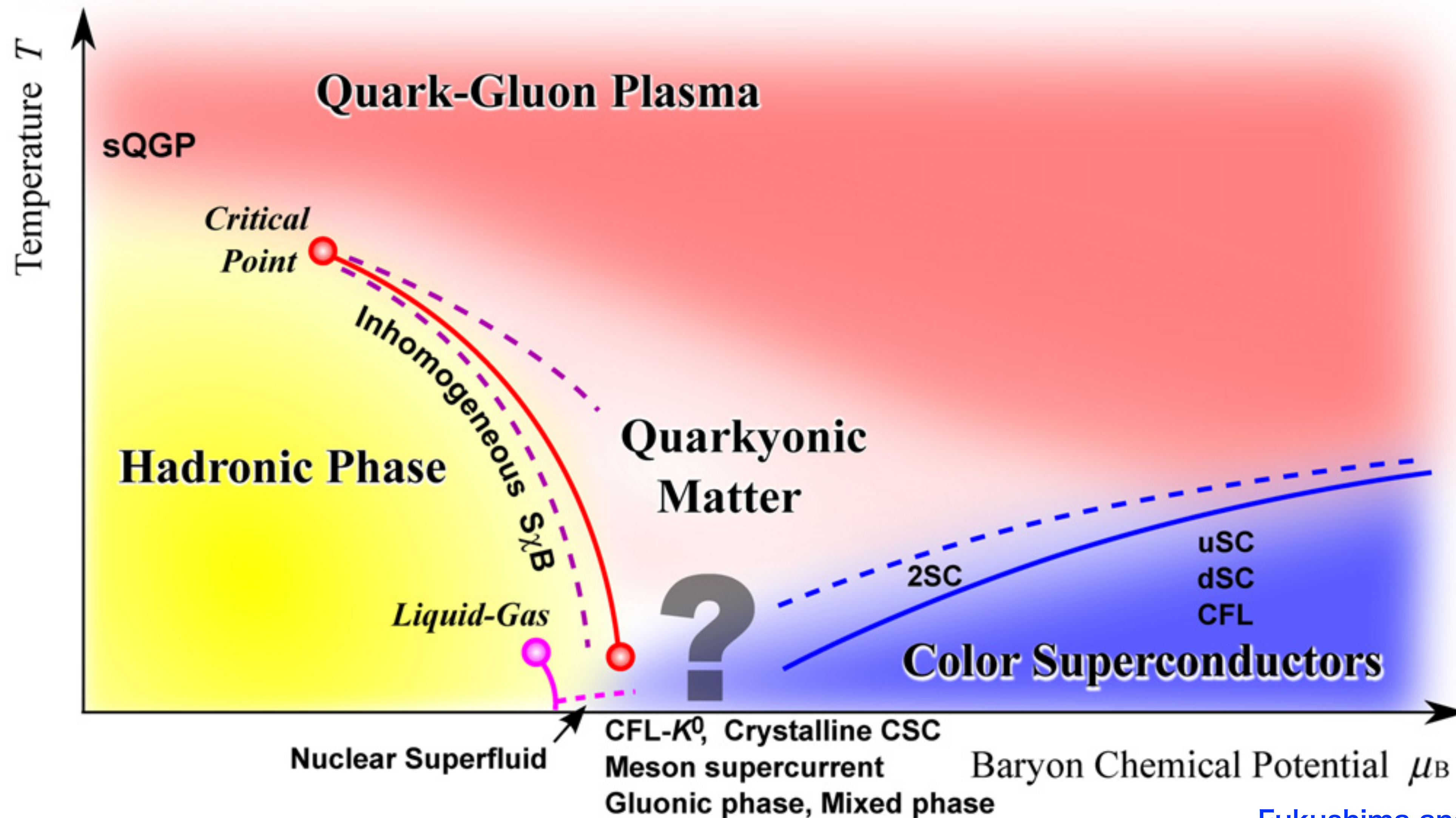
In a collaboration with Minoru Eto (Yamagata) and Muneto Nitta (Keio)

Topology and Dynamics of Magneto-Vortical Matter

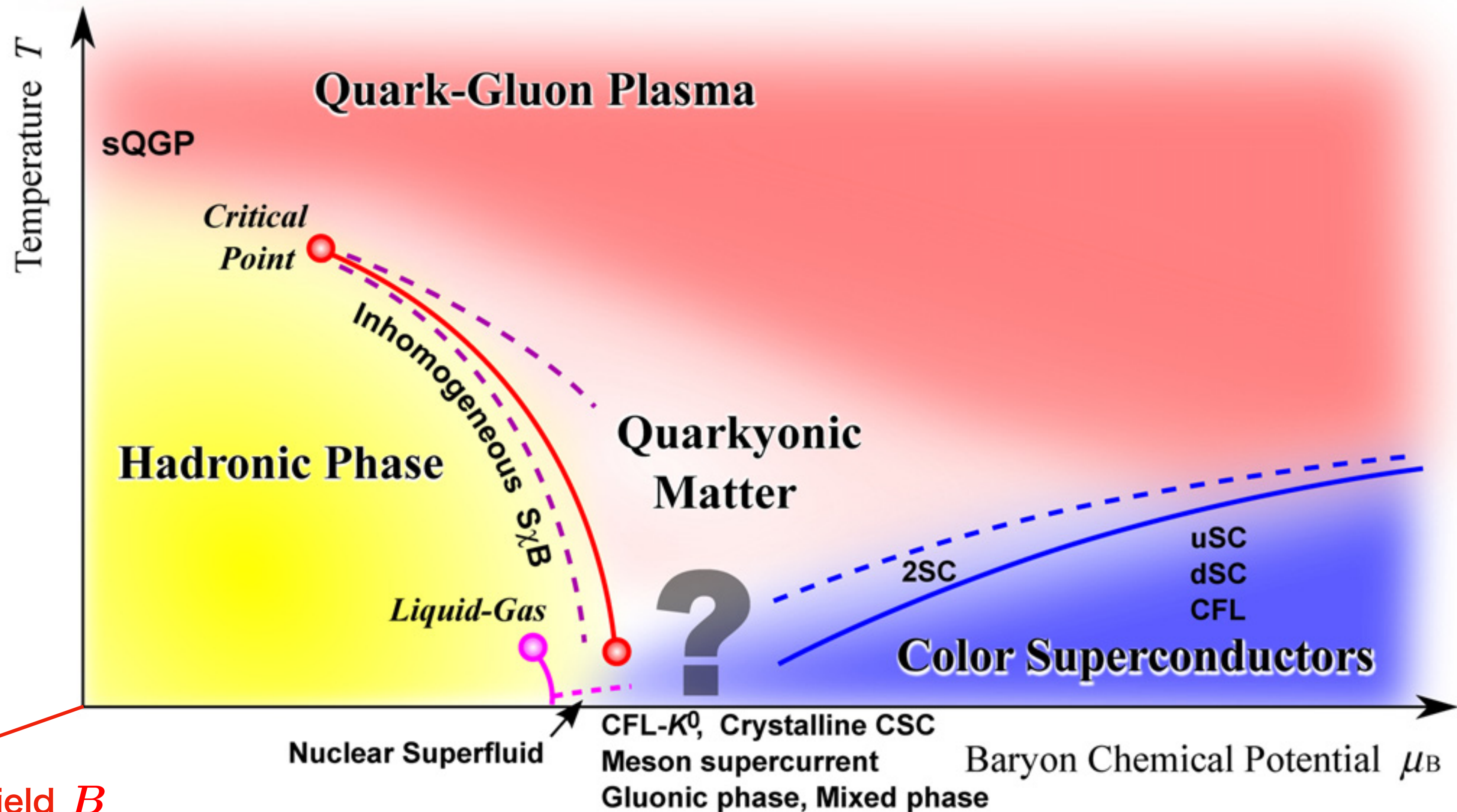
YITP at Kyoto University, 2025/1/14

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QCD phase diagram



QCD phase diagram with B



What I want to discuss today

=How phase structure is modified?

- I will use the chiral perturbation theory.
 - It is useful for making model-independent predictions because it is based on the symmetry of the microscopic QCD Lagrangian.
 - Consider the finite-B modification in a region with a small μ_B .
- Consider zero-temperature and only μ_B .



Since pions do not carry baryon number, nothing seems to happen even if μ_B is considered.

- **Skyrmion** plays an important role to determine the phase structure.

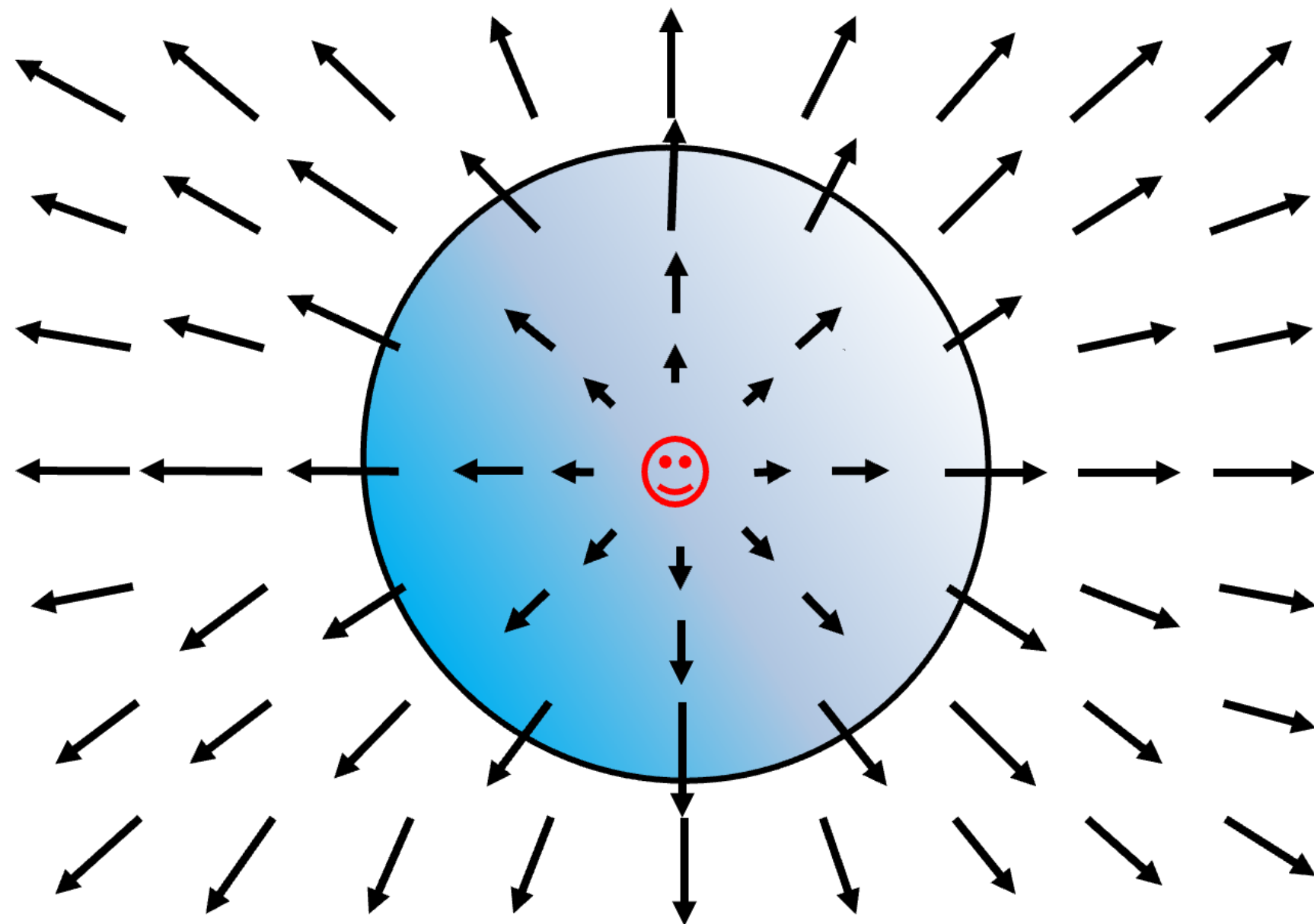
Chiral perturbation theory

- **Order parameter is the chiral condensate:** $\langle \bar{q}q \rangle = |\langle \bar{q}q \rangle| \Sigma$
- **Nambu-Goldstone boson:** $\Sigma = \exp(i\sigma_a \phi_a)$, $\phi_a \equiv \pi_a / f_\pi$
- **Effective Lagrangian:**
$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{ChPT}} = \frac{f_\pi^2}{4} \text{tr} (D_\mu \Sigma D^\mu \Sigma^\dagger) - \frac{f_\pi^2 m_\pi^2}{4} (2 - \Sigma - \Sigma^\dagger)$$
$$D_\mu \Sigma = \partial_\mu \Sigma + iA_\mu [Q, \Sigma], \quad Q = \text{diag}(2/3, -1/3)$$

Skymions

- Can the baryons be made by pions (rather than quarks)?

Baryon as soliton = Skymion



Topological number = Baryons

$$N_B = \frac{1}{24\pi^2} \int d^3x \epsilon^{ijk} \text{tr}(\Sigma \partial_i \Sigma^\dagger \Sigma \partial_j \Sigma^\dagger \Sigma \partial_k \Sigma^\dagger)$$
$$J_B^\mu = \frac{1}{24\pi^2} \epsilon^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} \text{tr}(\Sigma \partial_\mu \Sigma^\dagger \Sigma \partial_\nu \Sigma^\dagger \Sigma \partial_\sigma \Sigma^\dagger)$$

- How many times R^3 surrounds the configuration space of the pions S^3 .

ChPT w/ topological terms

- Baryon current couples to $U(1)_B$ gauge field (minimal coupling): [Son and Zhitnitsky \(2002\)](#)
[Son and Stephanov \(2008\)](#)

$$\mathcal{L}_B = -A_B^\mu j_{B\mu}, \quad A_B^\mu = (\mu_B, \mathbf{0})$$

- The μ_B can modify phase structure of ChPT (only pions theory).

$$j_B^\mu = \underbrace{-\frac{\epsilon^{\mu\nu\alpha\beta}}{24\pi^2} \text{tr}\{L_\nu L_\alpha L_\beta}_{\text{Skyrmion charge}} \underbrace{- 3ie\partial_\nu [A_\alpha Q(L_\beta + R_\beta)]}_{U(1)_{em} \text{ gauged part}} \quad L_\mu \equiv \Sigma \partial_\mu \Sigma^\dagger, \quad R_\mu \equiv \partial_\mu \Sigma^\dagger \Sigma$$

$$Q = \text{diag}(2/3, -1/3)$$

- ✓ “trial and error” $U(1)_{em}$ gauging w/ baryon number conservation. [Goldstone and Wilczek \(1981\)](#);
[Witten \(1983\)](#)

- Anomalous coupling of pions to baryons via Skymion!

- Due to this term, μ_B can modify phase diagram, even though the theory considers only pions

sine-Gordon theory with the topological term

- I first ignore π_{\pm} : $\Sigma = e^{i\phi_3\tau_3}$

- Reduced Hamiltonian (\mathbf{B} is oriented in z-direction) :

$$\mathcal{H} = \frac{f_{\pi}^2}{2} (\partial_z \phi_3)^2 + f_{\pi}^2 m_{\pi}^2 (1 - \cos \phi_3) - \frac{e\mu_B}{4\pi^2} B \partial_z \phi_3$$

- The last term stems from the 2nd term of the Skyrmion term.

$$\mathcal{L}_B = -\mu_B \frac{\epsilon^{0ijk}}{24\pi^2} \text{tr} \left\{ \cancel{L_i L_j L_k} - \underline{3ie\partial_i [A_j Q(L_k + R_k)]} \right\}$$

- $\mathbf{B} \neq 0 \rightarrow$ Finite 1st derivative term \rightarrow Favor ϕ inhomogeneity

- What is a ground state at finite B ?

Chiral Soliton Lattice

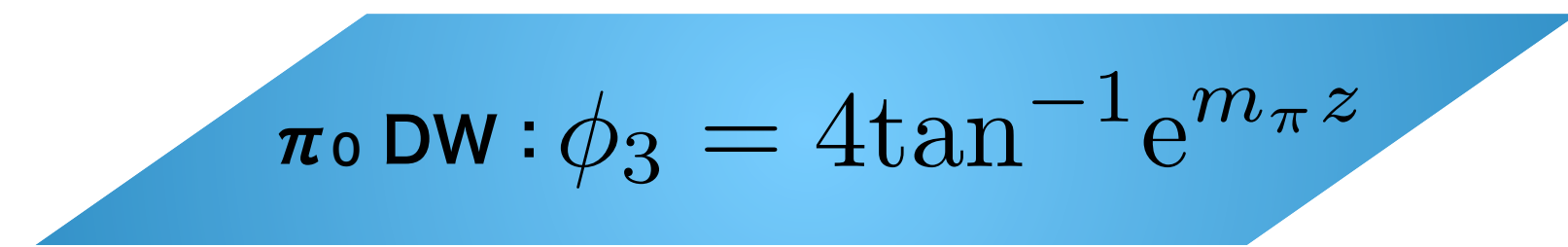
- **EOM** : $\partial_z^2 \phi_3 = m_\pi^2 \sin \phi_3$

$$\phi_3(-\infty) = 0, \phi_3(\infty) = 2\pi$$

- **Energy** : $E = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dz \mathcal{H} = 8m_\pi^2 f_\pi^2 - \frac{e\mu_B B}{2\pi}$

- **Critical B** : $B_{\text{CSL}} = \frac{16\pi m_\pi f_\pi^2}{e\mu_B}$

$B\hat{z}$



$\pi_0 \text{ DW} : \phi_3 = 4 \tan^{-1} e^{m_\pi z}$

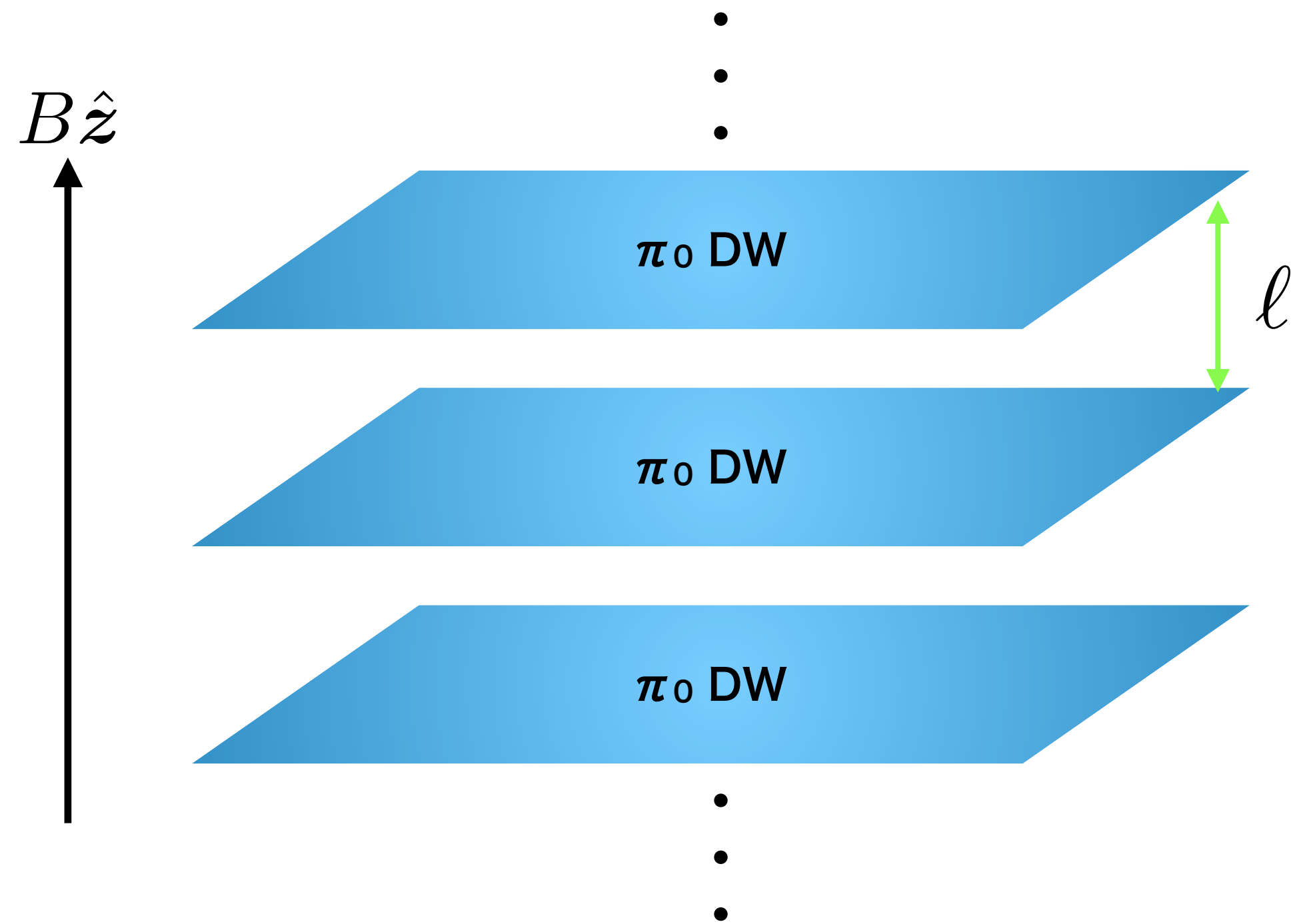
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- Pack many DWs in ground state!
- Impossible to pack due to the repulsive force.
- Period depends on B and μ_B .

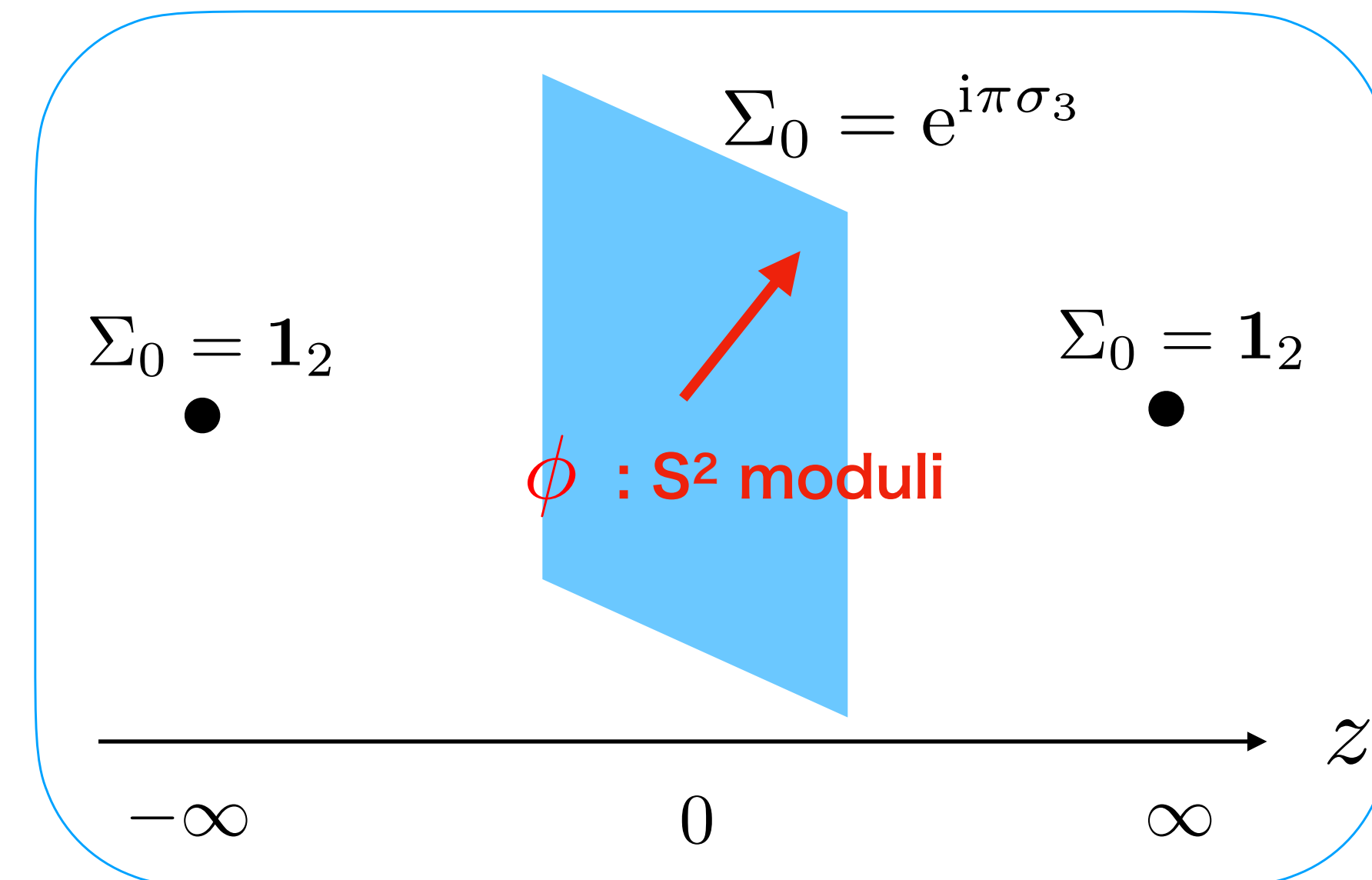
Non-Abelian soliton

- The single soliton: $\Sigma_0 = e^{i\sigma_3\theta}$, $\theta = 4\tan^{-1}e^{m_\pi z}$
- More general solution: $\Sigma = g\Sigma_0g^\dagger = \exp(i\theta g\tau_3g^\dagger)$, $g \in \text{SU}(2)_V$

- Σ_0 is invariant under U(1) transformation: $g = e^{i\tau_3\theta}$

- “SSB” of $\text{SU}(2)_V \rightarrow \text{U}(1)$ Moduli $\rightarrow \text{SU}(2)/\text{U}(1) \cong S^2$

- Coordinate for S^2 $\phi = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1+|f|^2}} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ f \end{pmatrix}$, $f \in \mathbb{C}$
 $g\sigma_3g^\dagger = 2\phi\phi^\dagger - 1$



CSL with S^2 moduli

- Each arrow represents S^2 moduli.

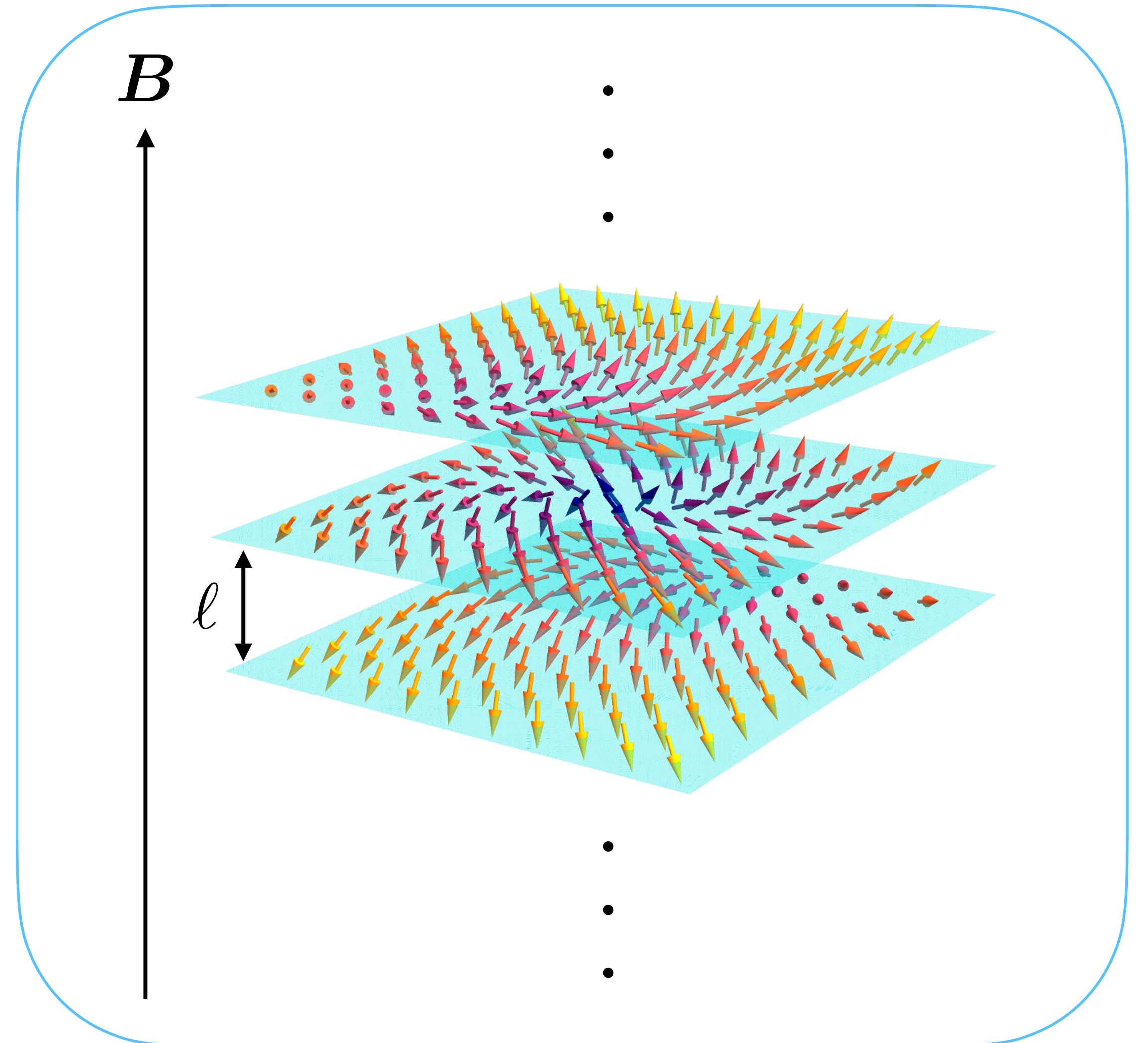
- S^2 is represented by $\mathbf{n} \in \mathbb{R}^3$ ($|\mathbf{n}| = 1$)

$O(3)$ nonlinear sigma model

$$n_a \equiv \phi^\dagger \sigma_a \phi \quad |\mathbf{n}| = 1$$

- Only π^0 DW $\rightarrow \mathbf{n} = (0, 0, 1)^t$

- Does nontrivial configurations of ϕ (or \mathbf{n}) occur?



EFT for S^2 moduli

• **Effective Lagrangian :** $\mathcal{L}_{\text{EFT}} = \mathcal{L}_{\text{const}} + \mathcal{L}_{\text{kin}} + \mathcal{L}_{\text{topo}}$ Eto, KN and Nitta, JHEP 12 (2023) 032

• **Kinetic term :** $\mathcal{L}_{\text{kin}} = \mathcal{C}(\ell)[(\phi^\dagger D_\alpha \phi)^2 + D^\alpha \phi^\dagger D_\alpha \phi]$

• **Topological terms :** $\mathcal{L}_{\text{topo}} = -2\mu_B q + \frac{e\mu_B}{2\pi} \epsilon^{03jk} \partial_j [A_k (1 - n_3)]$ O(3) nonlinear sigma model
 $n_a \equiv \phi^\dagger \sigma_a \phi \quad |\mathbf{n}| = 1$

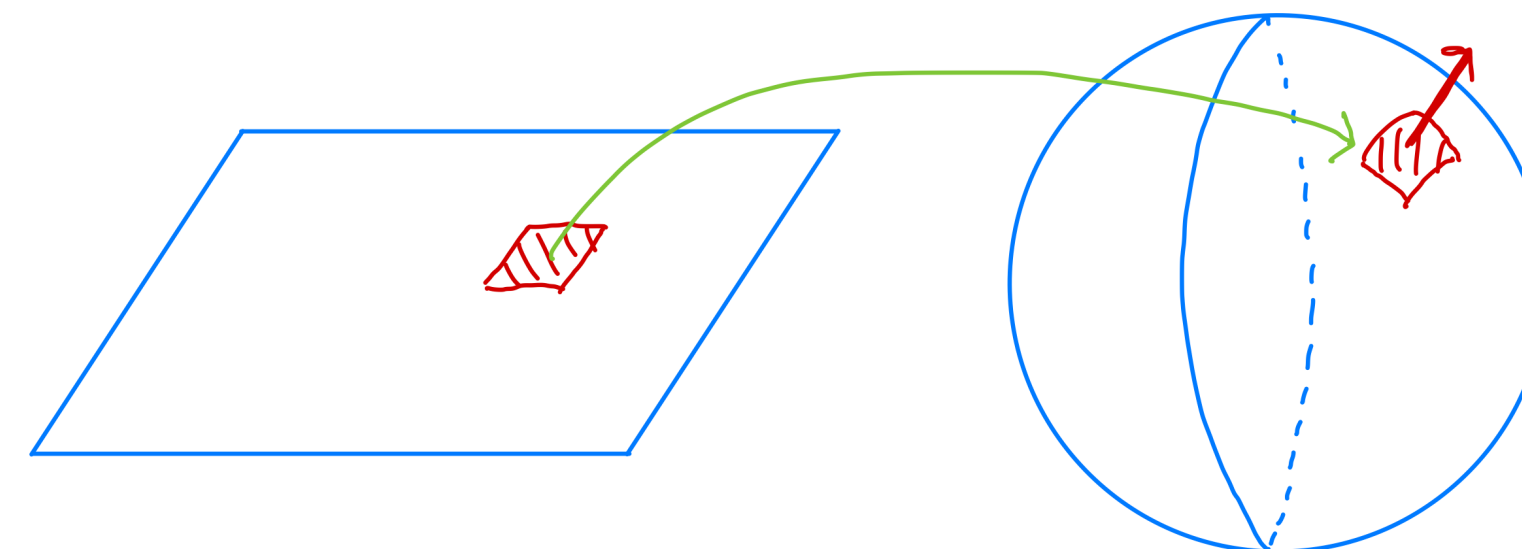
- The red term stabilizes the configuration with finite $k (< 0)$!

$\pi_2(S^2)$ topological charge (counting how many times xy plane covers S^2 moduli)

$$k = \int d^2x q$$

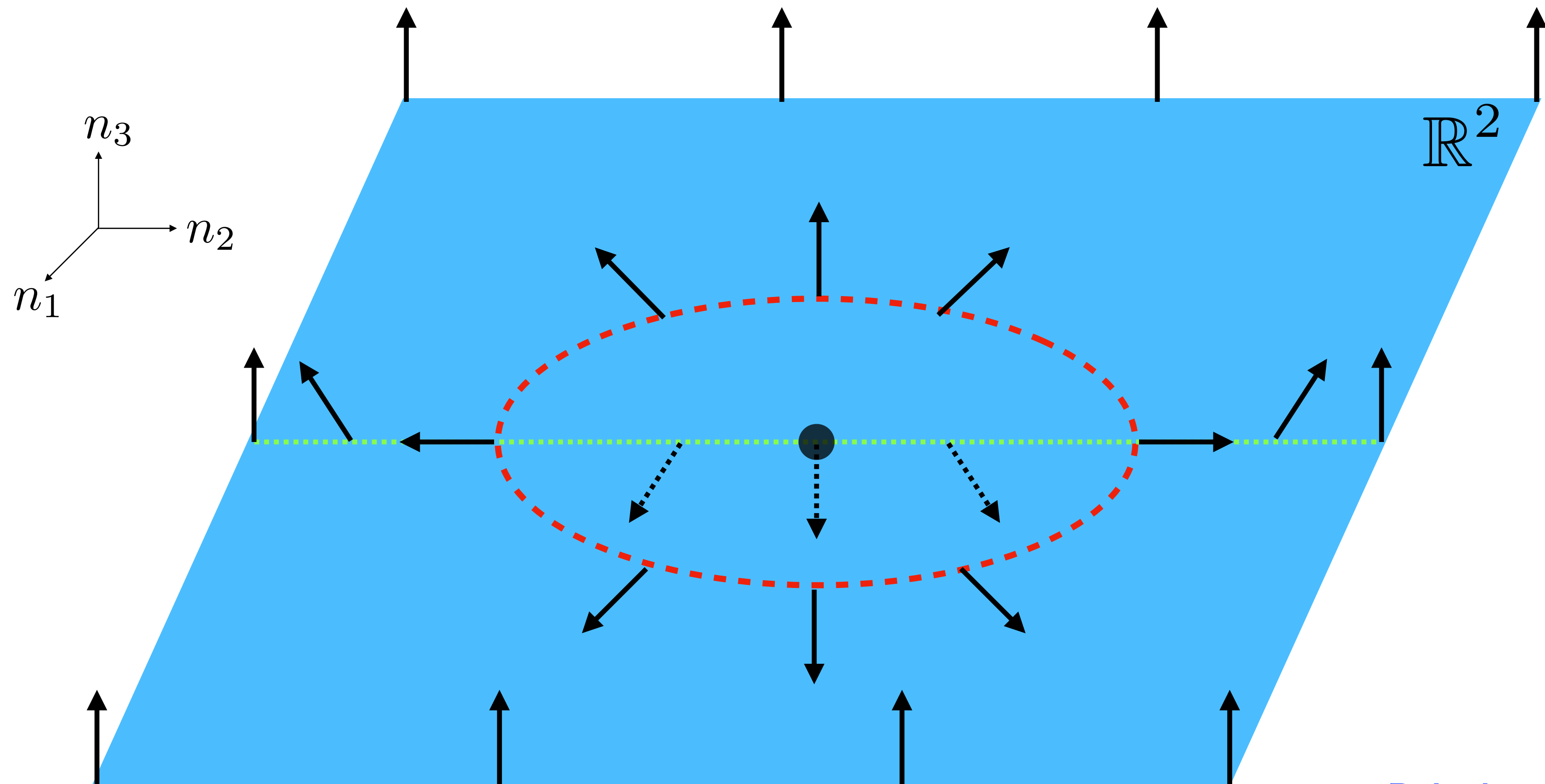
$$= \frac{1}{4\pi} \int \mathbf{n} \cdot \left(\frac{\partial \mathbf{n}}{\partial x} dx \times \frac{\partial \mathbf{n}}{\partial y} dy \right)$$

$\in \mathbb{Z}$



Baby Skyrmion

- Configuration on DW surrounding S^2 : $\uparrow = n_a \quad n^2 = 1$



Energy of baby Skyrmion on DW

• **The effective Hamiltonian:** $\mathcal{H}_{\text{DW}} = \frac{\mathcal{C}(\kappa)}{4} \partial_i \mathbf{n} \cdot \partial_i \mathbf{n} + 2\mu_B q - \frac{e\mu_B}{2\pi} \epsilon^{03jk} \partial_j [A_k (1 - n_3)]$

• **Completing of square of $(\partial_i \mathbf{n})^2$:** $(\partial_i \mathbf{n})^2 = \frac{1}{2} (\partial_i \mathbf{n} \pm \epsilon_{ij} \mathbf{n} \times \partial_j \mathbf{n})^2 \pm 8\pi q \geq \pm 8\pi q$

• **“Equal” = BPS equation:** **Baby Skyrmion!**
 $\partial_i \mathbf{n} \pm \epsilon_{ij} \mathbf{n} \times \partial_j \mathbf{n} = 0$ See Manton and Sutcliffe (2004)

• **Total energy:** $E_{\text{DWSk}} \geq \boxed{2\pi \mathcal{C}(\kappa) |k| + 2\mu_B k} - \boxed{\frac{e\mu_B}{2\pi} \int d^2 x \epsilon^{03jk} \partial_j [A_k (1 - n_3)]}$

★ The total energy becomes negative at sufficiently large μ_B , and baby Skyrmion appears in the ground state!

✓ Some constraints on the baby Skyrmion.

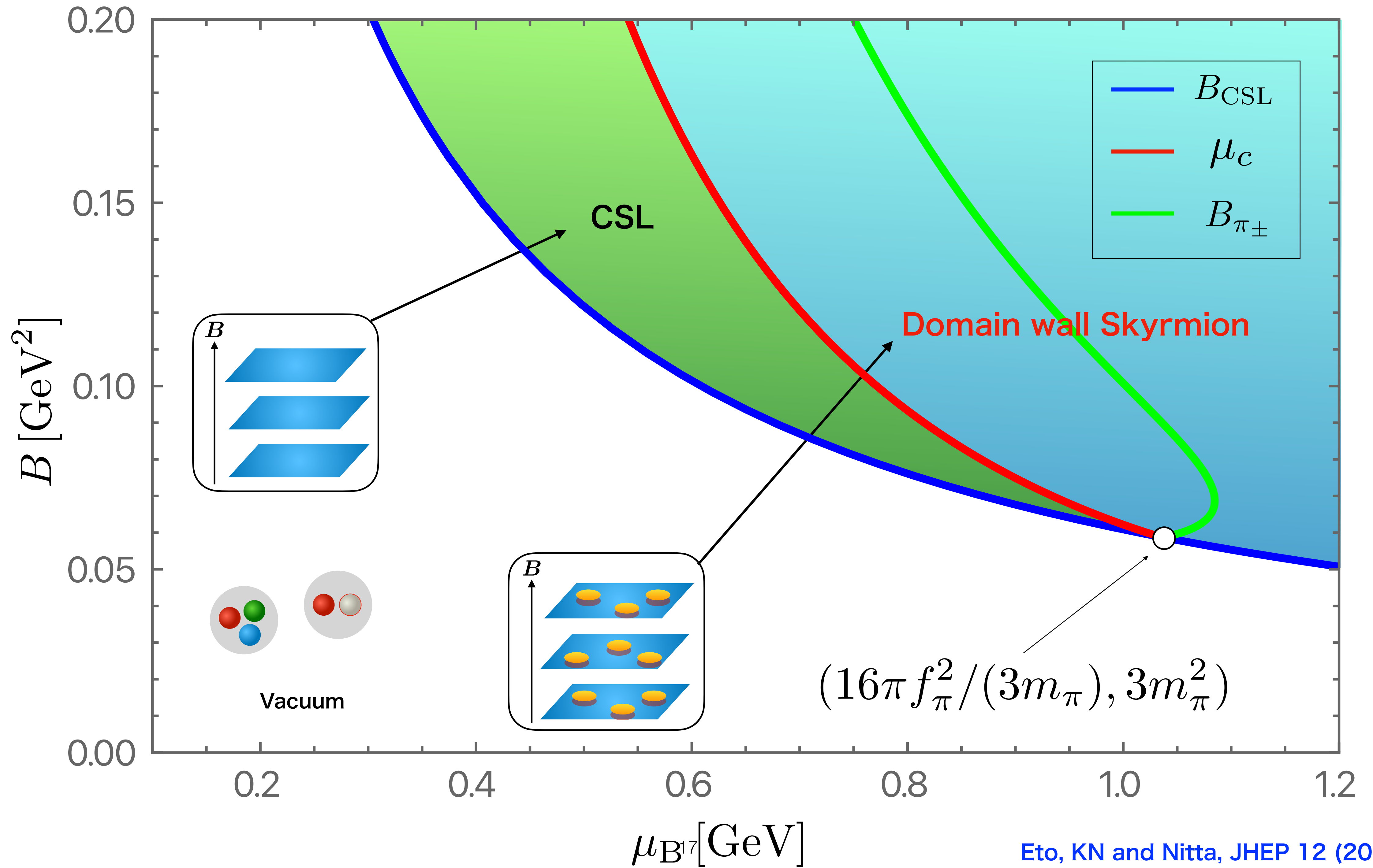
Constraint on baby Skyrmion

- **k anti-Baby Skyrmion solution:** $n_3 = \frac{1 - |f|^2}{1 + |f|^2}$, $f = \frac{b_{k-1}\bar{w}^{k-1} + \dots + b_0}{\bar{w}^k + a_{k-1}\bar{w}^{k-1} + \dots + a_0}$
 See Manton and Sutcliffe (2004)

- **E_{DWSk} for the k anti-baby Skyrmion:** $E_{DWSk} = 2\pi C(\kappa)|k| - 2\mu_B|k| + e\mu_B B|b_{k-1}|^2$
 Can it be negative here?

- In order to minimize E_{DWSk} , $b_{k-1}=0$.

- **Critical baryon chemical potential:** $\mu_B \geq \mu_c = \pi C(\kappa)$ Eto, KN and Nitta, JHEP 12 (2023) 032
 ↑
 Depending on μ_B and B



DW Skyrmion

- Baryon and electric charge :

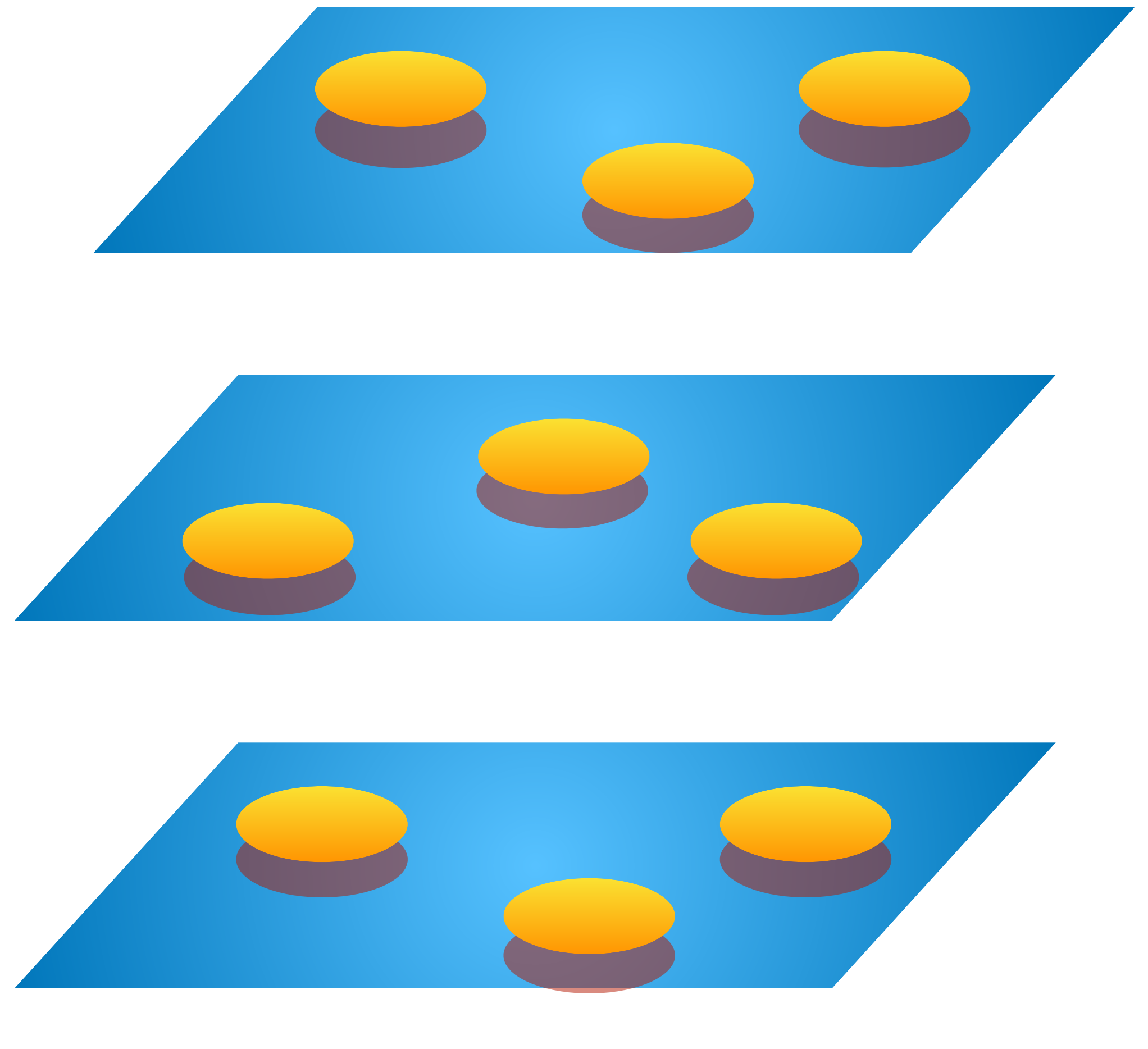
$$N_B = 2, N_e = 1, I_3 = 0$$

- Deuteron? <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deuterium>

- What structure is realized?

- There is no interaction.
- Beyond BPS approximation

B



Summary

- We have to include the minimal coupling of Skyrmions to baryons.
- At $B > B_{csL}$, the parallel stack of π_0 DWs is energetically stable.
- At $\mu > \mu_c$, the baby Skyrmion appears on π_0 DWs.

Future direction

- DWSk in QCD-like theory (two-color QCD)
 - Two-color QCD with finite baryon chemical potential and magnetic field has no sign problem.
 - CSL is QCD-like theory has been considered. [Brauner, Filions and Kolesova \(2019\)](#)

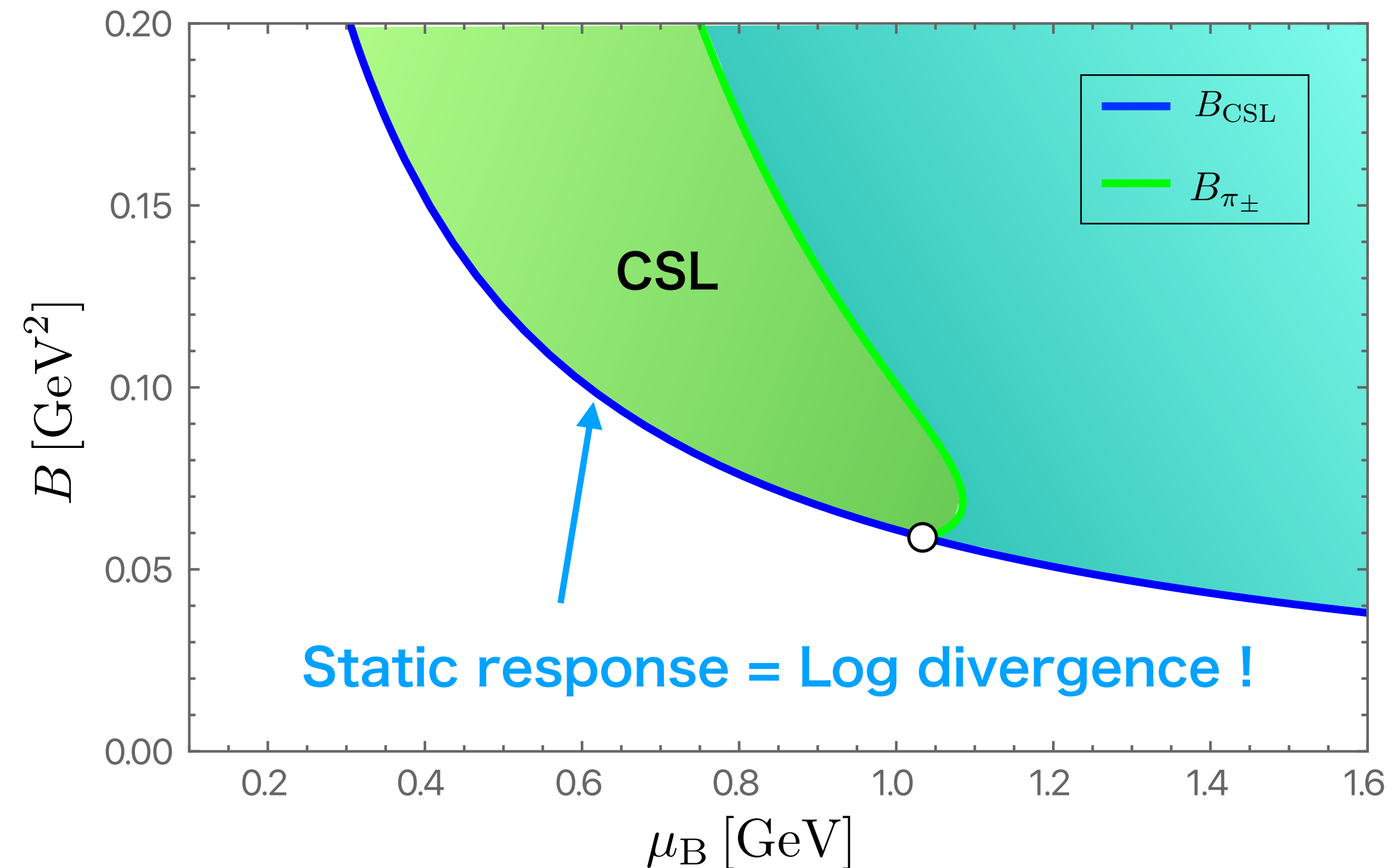
- DWSk in lattice gauge theory
 - Monte-Carlo simulation
 - Strong-coupling expansion for calculating free energy
[See also Nishida \(2004\) and Nishida, Fukushima and Hatsuda \(2004\)](#)

Other Future Directions

- Log div (different from ordinary case):

Solitonic phase

- CSL in QCD with μ_B and B
- CSL in chiral magnet [Dzyaloshinsky, JETP \(1965\)](#)
- Abrikosov lattice in superconductors
["Superconductivity," Volume 2, Edited by R. D. Parks \(1969\)](#)



- Investigation of **dynamics** near the **phase transition to solitonic phases**
 - Application of the hydro w/ explicit symmetry breaking [Hongo, Sogabe, Stephanov and Ho-Ung \(2024\)](#)
 - Previous work may be wrong... [Nishimura and Sogabe \(2024\)](#)

Thank you for your attention!

Back up

Chiral Soliton Lattice

- **EOM = Pendulum:** $\partial_z^2 \phi_3 = m_\pi^2 \sin \phi_3$
 $\phi_3(0) = \pi, \phi_3(\ell) = 2\pi$

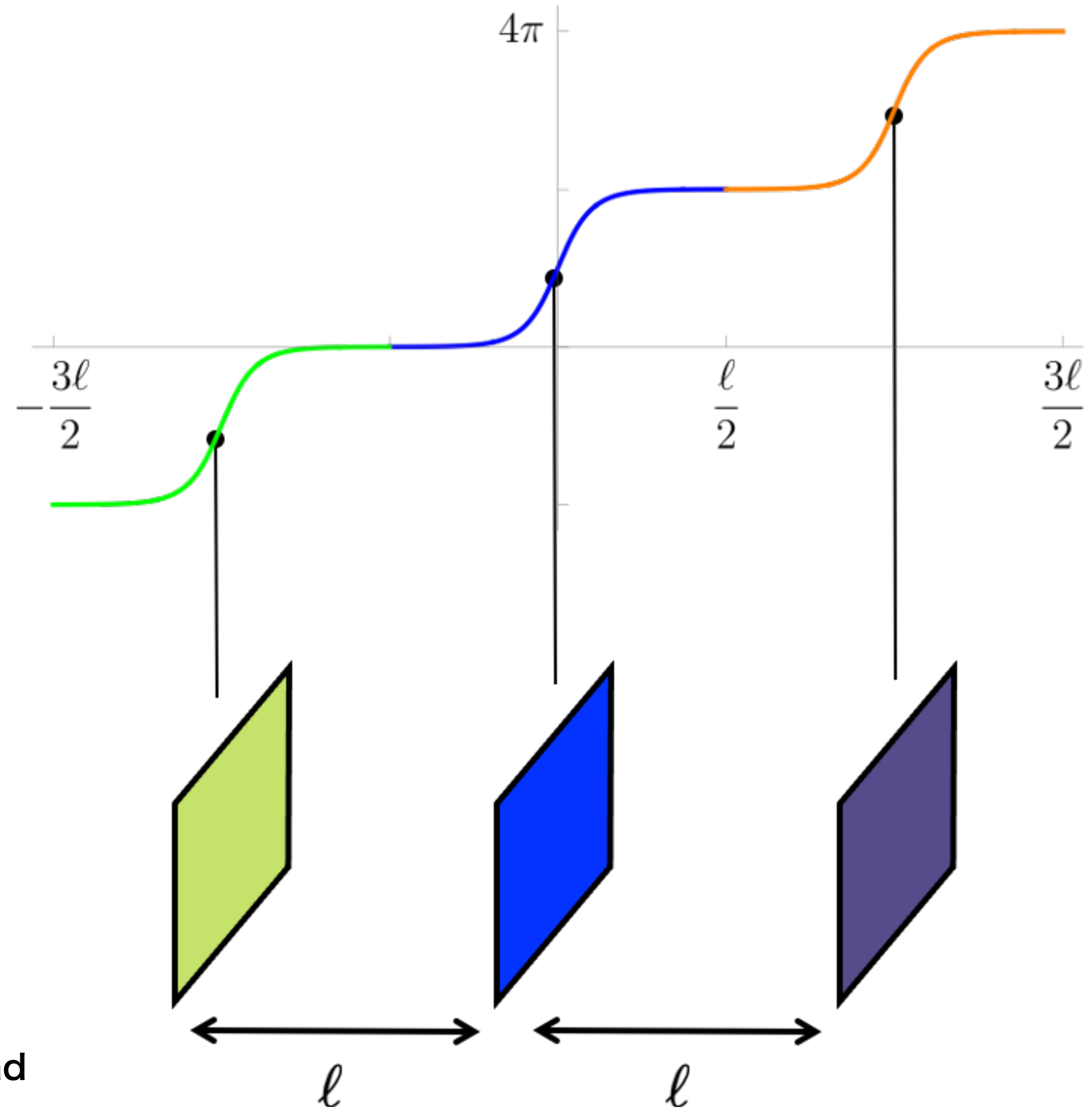
- **Analytic solution :** $\bar{\phi} = 2\text{am}(z/\kappa, \kappa) + \pi$

κ : Elliptic modulus

- **Period :** $\phi(z + \ell) = \phi(z) + 2\pi$

$$\ell = 2\kappa K(\kappa)$$

$K(\kappa)$: The complete elliptic integral of the first kind



Minimization of the total energy

- Minimizing the total energy gives us the optimal κ .

$$\mathcal{E}_{\text{tot}} = \int_0^\ell dz \left[\underbrace{\frac{f_\pi^2}{2} (\partial_z \phi)^2 + f_\pi^2 m_\pi^2 (1 - \cos \phi)}_{\text{positive}} - \underbrace{\frac{\mu_B}{4\pi^2} B \partial_z \phi}_{\text{negative!}} \right]$$

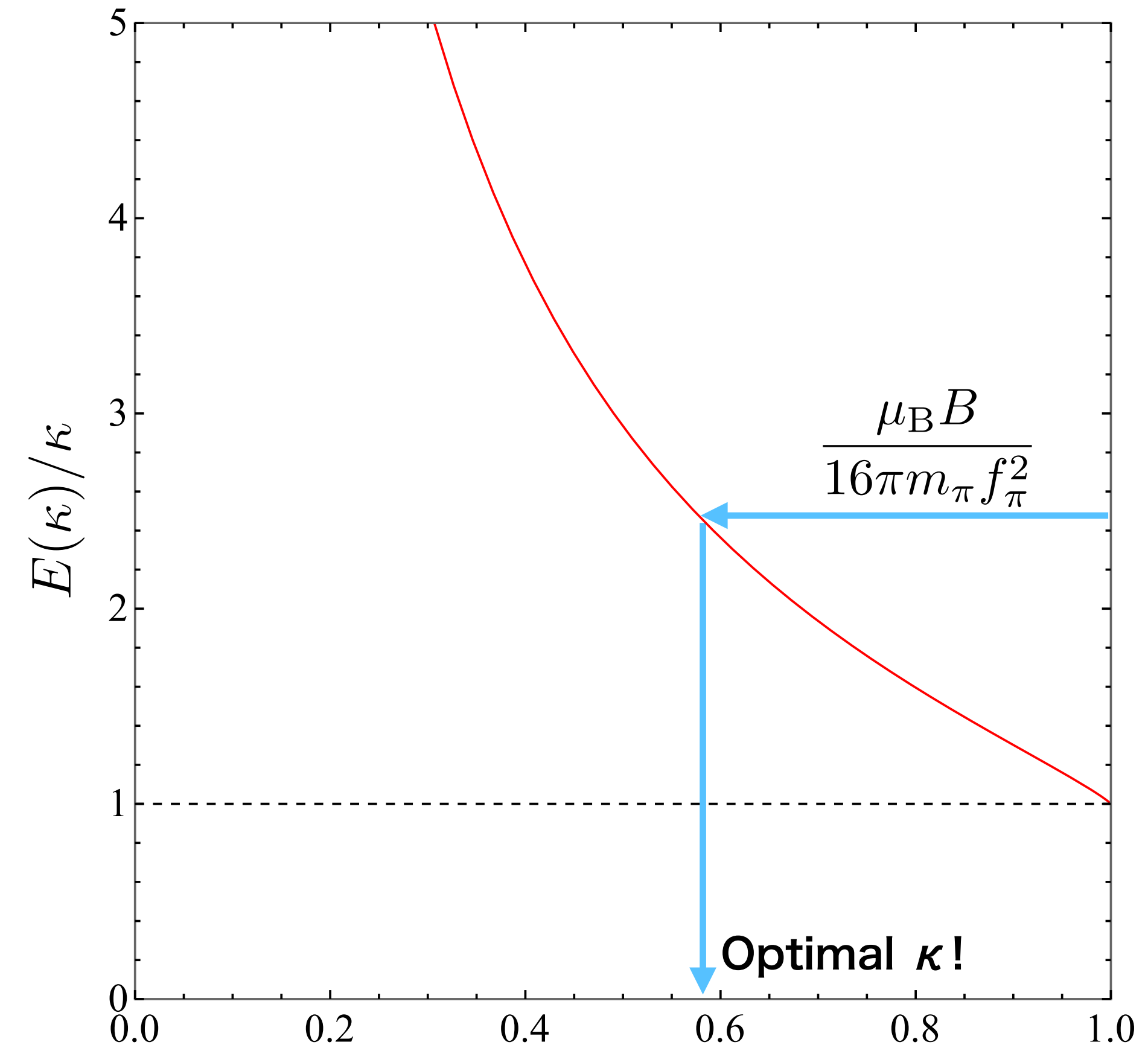
$\phi(\ell) - \phi(0) = 2\pi$

- Energy minimization condition :

$$\frac{d}{d\kappa} \left(\frac{\mathcal{E}_{\text{tot}}}{\ell} \right) \rightarrow \frac{E(\kappa)}{\kappa} = \frac{\mu_B B}{16\pi m_\pi f_\pi^2}$$

$E(\kappa)$: The complete elliptic integral of the 2nd kind

- Critical magnetic field : $B_{\text{CSL}} = 16\pi f_\pi^2 m_\pi / \mu_B$



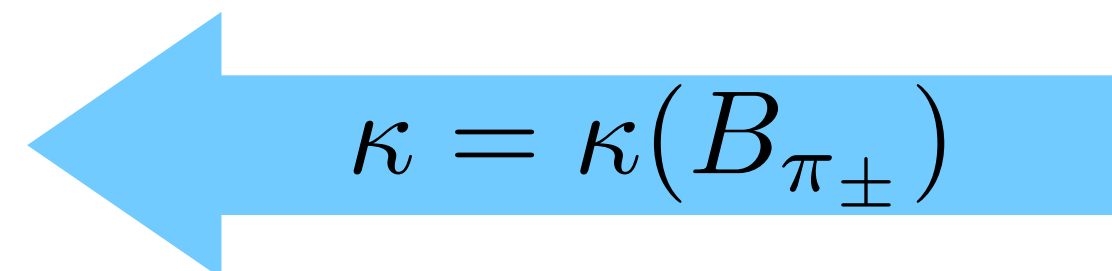
κ

Brauner and Yamamoto (2017)

Is the CSL stable?

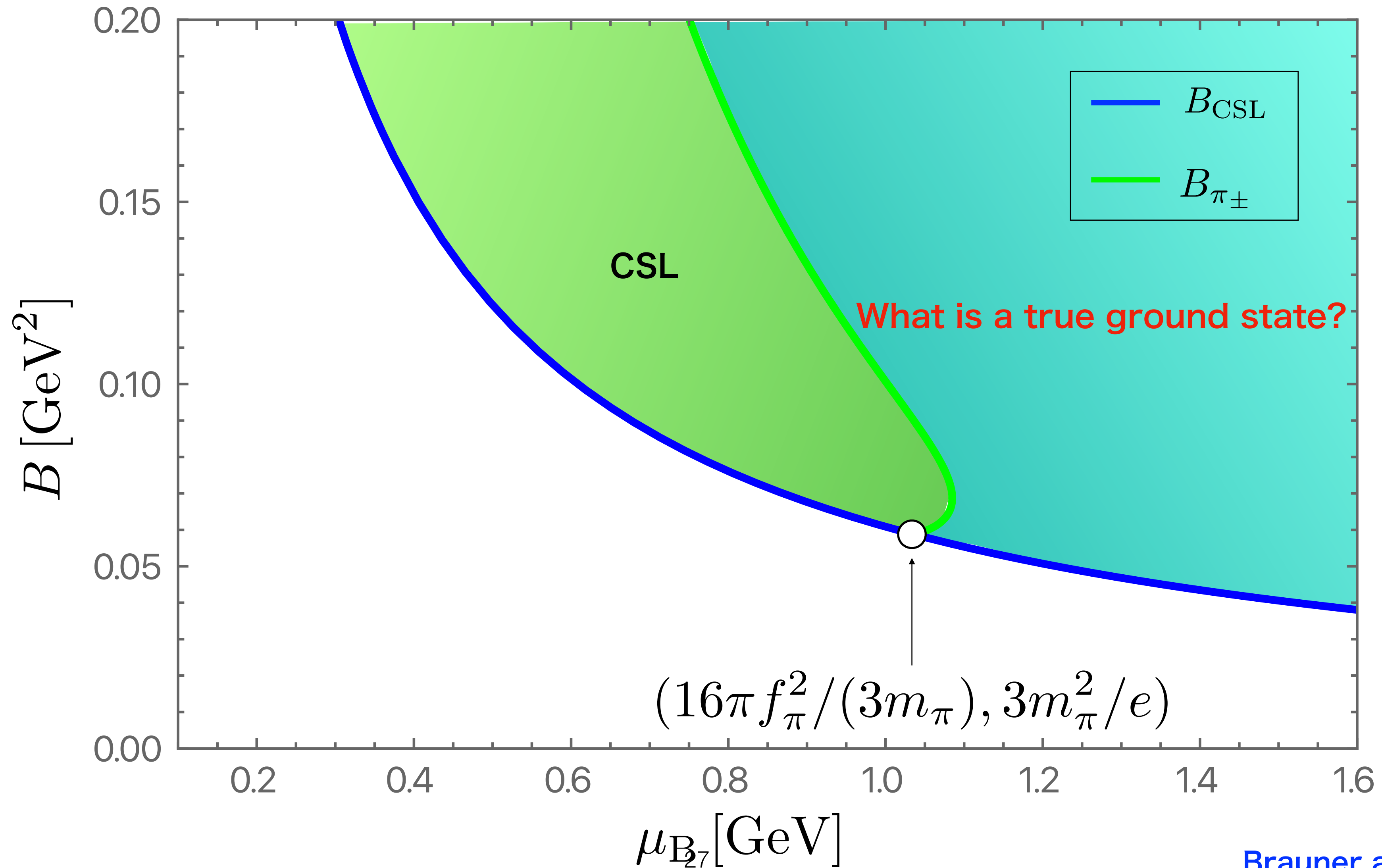
- Fluctuation around the CSL background :
- CSL is unstable against fluctuations of π_{\pm} above $B_{\pi_{\pm}}$
 - Derive the effective action up to the 2nd of the fluctuations from the CSL.
 - Calculate the dispersion relation ω .
 - When $\omega^2 < 0$, the fluctuation is tachyonic and CSL becomes unstable.

$$B_{\pi_{\pm}} = \frac{m_{\pi}^2}{\kappa^2} \left(2 - \kappa^2 + 2\sqrt{1 - \kappa^2 + \kappa^4} \right)$$


$$\kappa = \kappa(B_{\pi_{\pm}})$$

$$\frac{E(\kappa)}{\kappa} = \frac{\mu_B B_{\pi_{\pm}}}{16\pi m_{\pi} f_{\pi}^2}$$

μ_{B_7} - B phase diagram



EFT of the DW

- Construct DW world volume effective theory via the moduli approximation.
- This EFT identifies S^2 moduli as degrees of freedom.
- Promote the moduli to a field on 2+1 dim world volume :

$$\phi \rightarrow \phi(x^\alpha), \quad (\alpha = 0, 1, 2)$$

- Integrating over the codimension z :

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{EFT}} = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dz (\mathcal{L}_{\text{ChPT}} + \mathcal{L}_{\text{B}}) \quad \leftarrow \text{Substitution} \quad \Sigma = \exp(2i\theta\phi\phi^\dagger)u^{-i\bar{\phi}_3}$$

Elliptic integrals and functions

- The elliptic integral of the first kind : $k' = \sqrt{1 - k^2}$

$$K(k) = \int_0^{\pi/2} d\theta \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 - k^2 \sin^2 \theta}} \simeq \ln \frac{4}{k'^2} + \frac{k'^2}{4} \left(\ln \frac{4}{k'^2} - 1 \right)$$

- The elliptic integral of the second kind :

$$E(k) = \int_0^{\pi/2} d\theta \sqrt{1 - k^2 \sin^2 \theta} \simeq 1 + \frac{k'^2}{2} \left(\ln \frac{4}{k'^2} - \frac{1}{2} \right)$$

EOM of the fluctuations

- Fluctuation around the CSL background :

$$\omega^2 \pi_+ = \left[-\partial_x^2 + B^2 \left(x - \frac{p_y}{B} \right)^2 \right] \pi_+ + (\partial_z^2 + 2i\partial_z + m_\pi^2 e^{i\phi_3}) \pi_+$$

Giving the Landau quantization

- Chiral limit : $\omega^2 = p_z^2 - \frac{\mu_B B p_z}{2\pi^2 f_\pi^2} + (2n + 1)B$

Deducing the energy!

- $\omega^2 < 0$: $B_{\pi_\pm} = \frac{16\pi^4 f_\pi^2}{\mu_B^2}$

Brauner and Yamamoto (2017)