

# View from the front line: simulations of quantum chromodynamics and the continuum limit

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University of Washington

# A fish out of water?

- Why someone might have mistaken me for an expert on quantization

PHYSICAL REVIEW D **103**, 054503 (2021)

**Relativistic three-particle quantization condition for nondegenerate scalars**

Tyler D. Blanton<sup>\*</sup> and Stephen R. Sharpe<sup>†</sup>  
*Physics Department, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington 98195-1560, USA*

PHYSICAL REVIEW D **102**, 054515 (2020)

**Equivalence of relativistic three-particle quantization conditions**

Tyler D. Blanton<sup>\*</sup> and Stephen R. Sharpe<sup>†</sup>  
*Physics Department, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington 98195-1560, USA*

PHYSICAL REVIEW D **102**, 054520 (2020)

**Alternative derivation of the relativistic three-particle quantization condition**

Tyler D. Blanton<sup>\*</sup> and Stephen R. Sharpe<sup>†</sup>

PHYSICAL REVIEW D **98**, 014506 (2018)

**Numerical study of the relativistic three-body quantization condition in the isotropic approximation**

Raúl A. Briceño,<sup>1,2,\*</sup> Maxwell T. Hansen,<sup>3,†</sup> and Stephen R. Sharpe<sup>4,‡</sup>

PHYSICAL REVIEW D **95**, 034501 (2017)

**Applying the relativistic quantization condition to a three-particle bound state in a periodic box**

Maxwell T. Hansen<sup>1,\*</sup> and Stephen R. Sharpe<sup>2,†</sup>

PHYSICAL REVIEW D **90**, 116003 (2014)

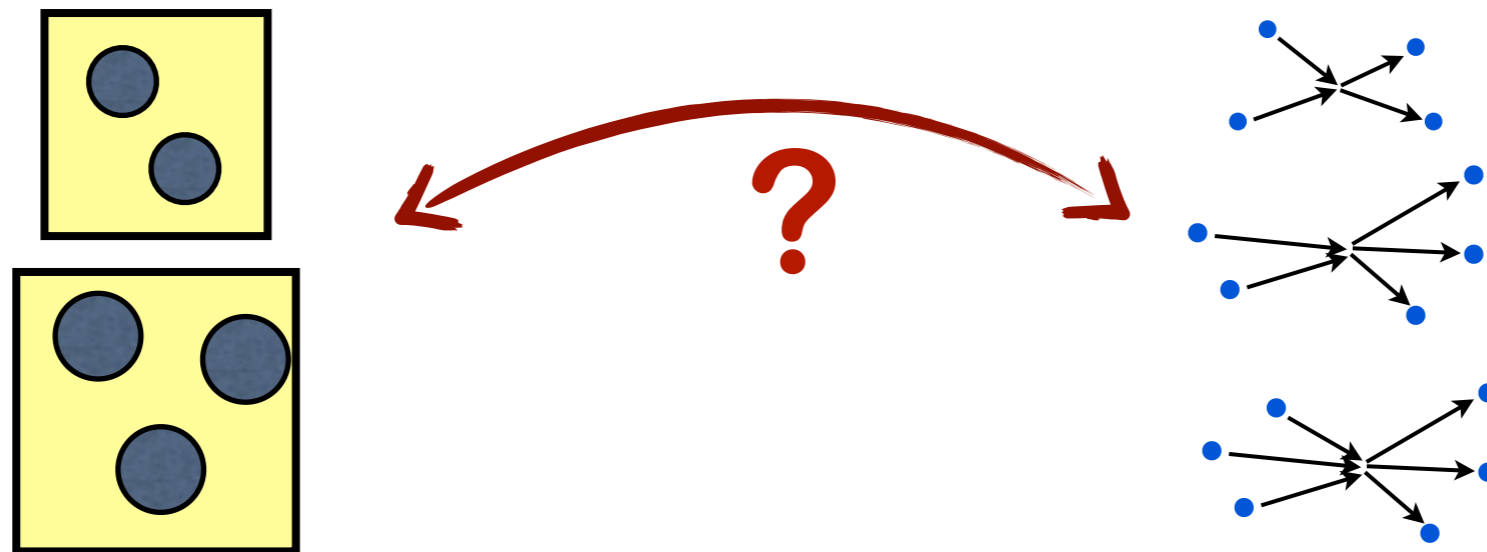
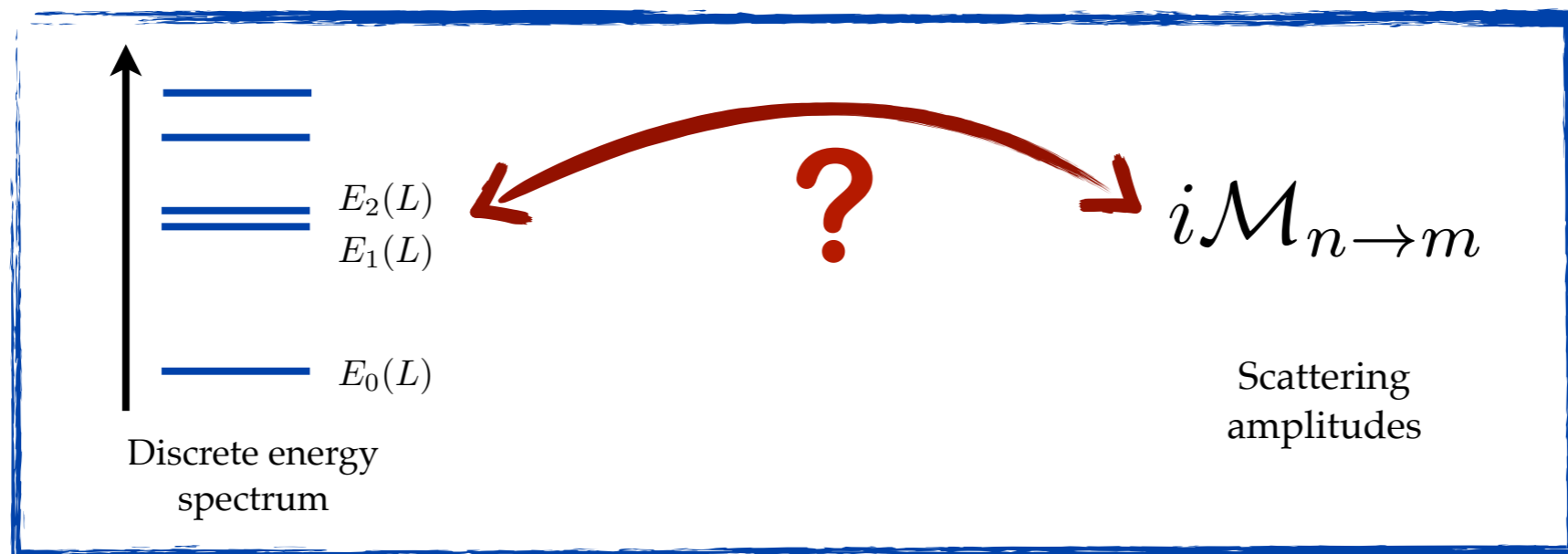
**Relativistic, model-independent, three-particle quantization condition**

Maxwell T. Hansen<sup>\*</sup> and Stephen R. Sharpe<sup>†</sup>

- But this is the “trivial” quantization condition of particles in a box, albeit in the nontrivial context of a generic relativistic effective field theory

# A fish out of water?

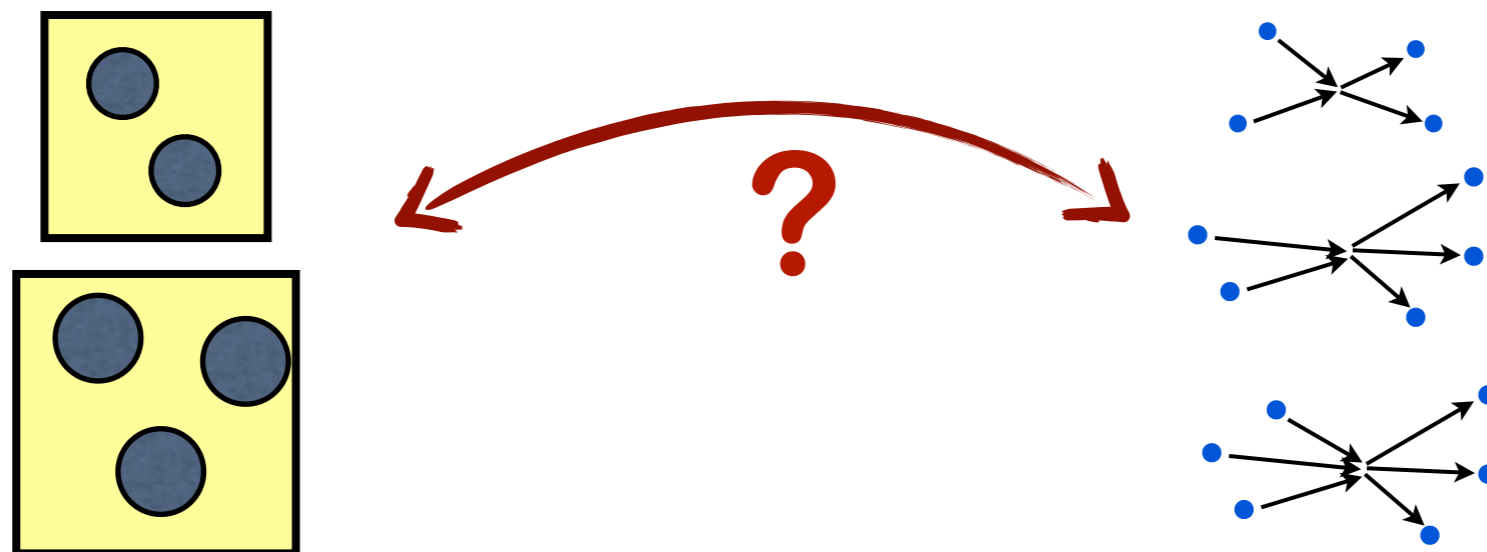
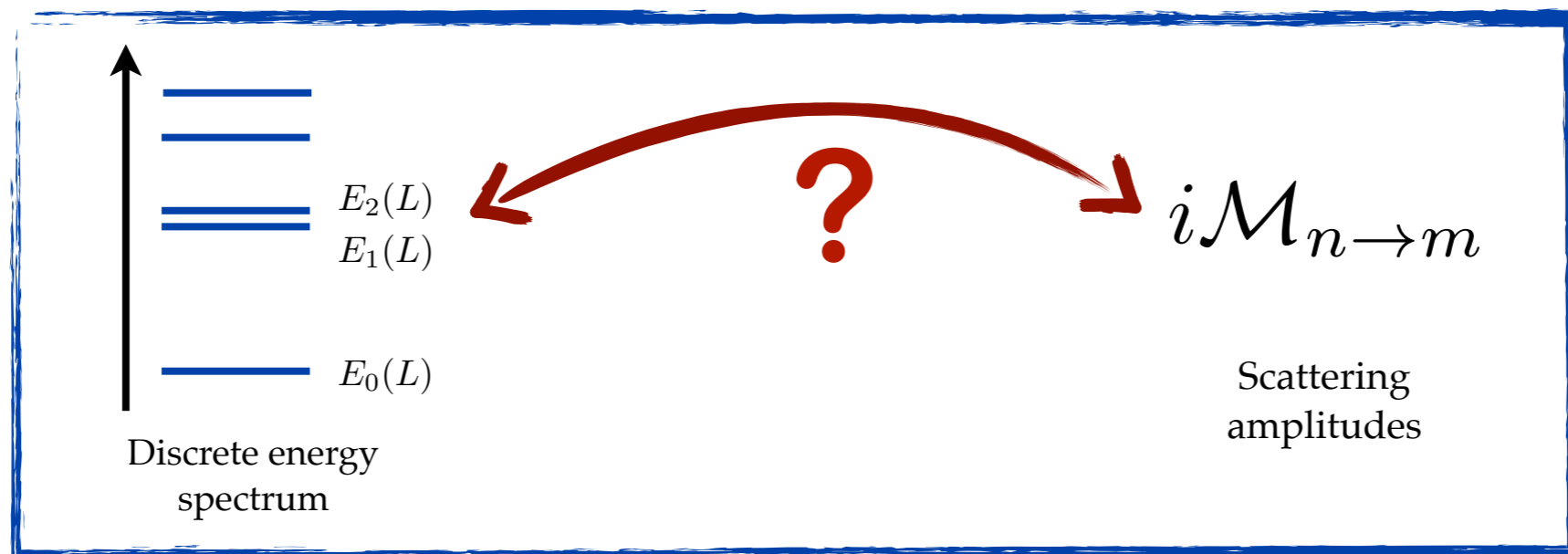
- Lattice QCD can calculate energy levels of multiparticle systems in a box
- How are these related to infinite-volume scattering amplitudes?



# A fish out of water?

!?

- Lattice QCD can calculate energy levels of multiparticle systems in a box
- How are these related to infinite-volume scattering amplitudes?



# Today's topic: how can we claim that “lattice QCD can calculate....”?

- QCD=Quantum Chromodynamics=QFT describing the strong interactions (quarks & gluons)
- Lattice QCD  $\Rightarrow$  discretize space-time  $\Rightarrow$  computational method, implemented numerically
- (Also need to work in finite space-time volume, imaginary time, ...)
- Key question for today: can we take the continuum limit (lattice spacing  $a \rightarrow 0$ )?
- Much numerical evidence, backed by some theoretical calculations, suggests that we can do so in a controlled way
- How rigorous can this be made?

# State-of-the art LQCD results

Eur. Phys. J. C (2020) 80:113  
<https://doi.org/10.1140/epjc/s10052-019-7354-7>

THE EUROPEAN  
 PHYSICAL JOURNAL C

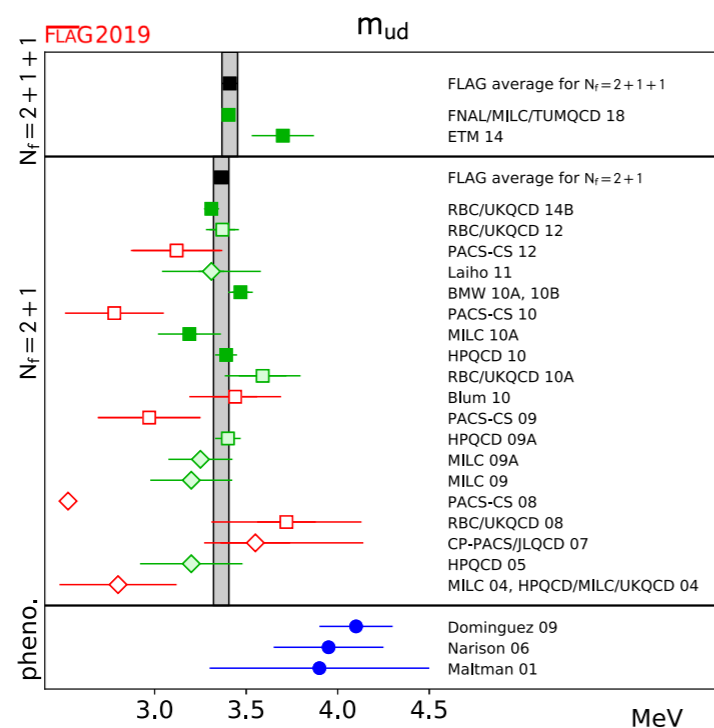


Review

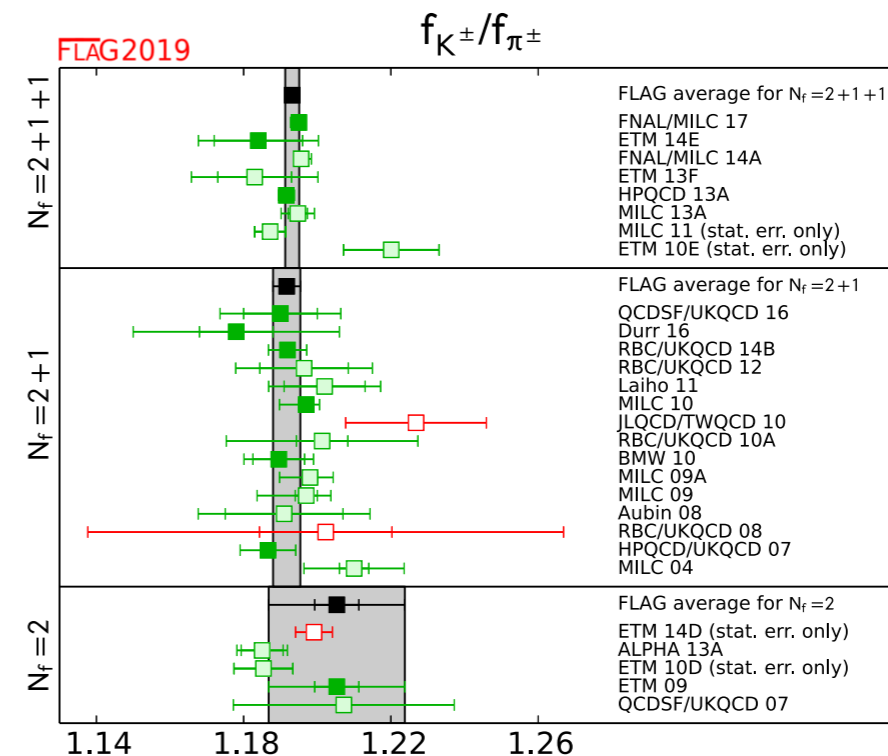
## FLAG Review 2019

Flavour Lattice Averaging Group (FLAG)

S. Aoki<sup>1</sup>, Y. Aoki<sup>2,3,34</sup>, D. Bečirević<sup>4</sup>, T. Blum<sup>3,5</sup>, G. Colangelo<sup>6</sup>, S. Collins<sup>7</sup>, M. Della Morte<sup>8</sup>, P. Dimopoulos<sup>9,10</sup>, S. Dürr<sup>11,12</sup>, H. Fukaya<sup>13</sup>, M. Golterman<sup>14</sup>, Steven Gottlieb<sup>15</sup>, R. Gupta<sup>16</sup>, S. Hashimoto<sup>2,17</sup>, U. M. Heller<sup>18</sup>, G. Herdoiza<sup>19</sup>, R. Horsley<sup>20</sup>, A. Jüttner<sup>21,a</sup>, T. Kaneko<sup>2,17</sup>, C.-J. D. Lin<sup>22,23</sup>, E. Lunghi<sup>15</sup>, R. Mawhinney<sup>24</sup>, A. Nicholson<sup>25</sup>, T. Onogi<sup>13</sup>, C. Pena<sup>19</sup>, A. Portelli<sup>20</sup>, A. Ramos<sup>26</sup>, S. R. Sharpe<sup>27</sup>, J. N. Simone<sup>28</sup>, S. Simula<sup>29</sup>, R. Sommer<sup>30,31</sup>, R. Van de Water<sup>28</sup>, A. Vladikas<sup>32</sup>, U. Wenger<sup>6</sup>, H. Wittig<sup>33</sup>



**Fig. 2** Mean mass of the two lightest quarks,  $m_{ud} = \frac{1}{2}(m_u + m_d)$ . The bottom panel shows results based on sum rules [173, 176, 178] (for more details see Fig. 1)



# What is QCD?

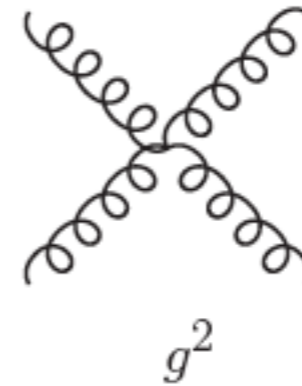
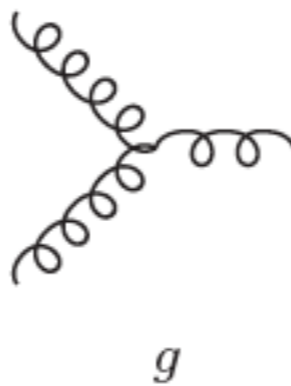
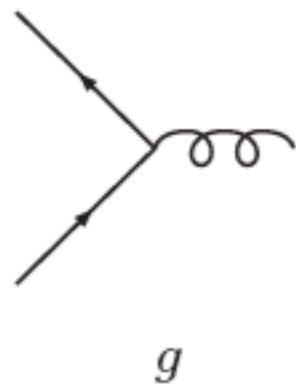
$$\mathcal{L}_{QCD} = \bar{q}_{a,i} [(i\gamma^\mu \partial_\mu - m_i) \delta_{ab} \delta_{ij}] q_{b,j} - g G_\mu^a \bar{q}_{i,b} \gamma^\mu T_{bc}^a q_{i,c} - \frac{1}{4} G_{\mu\nu}^a G_a^{\mu\nu}$$

$$G_{\mu\nu}^a = \partial_\mu G_\nu^a - \partial_\nu G_\mu^a - g f^{abc} G_\mu^b G_\nu^c$$

$q_{a,i}(x)$  = quark, 3 colors “a” and 6 flavors “i”

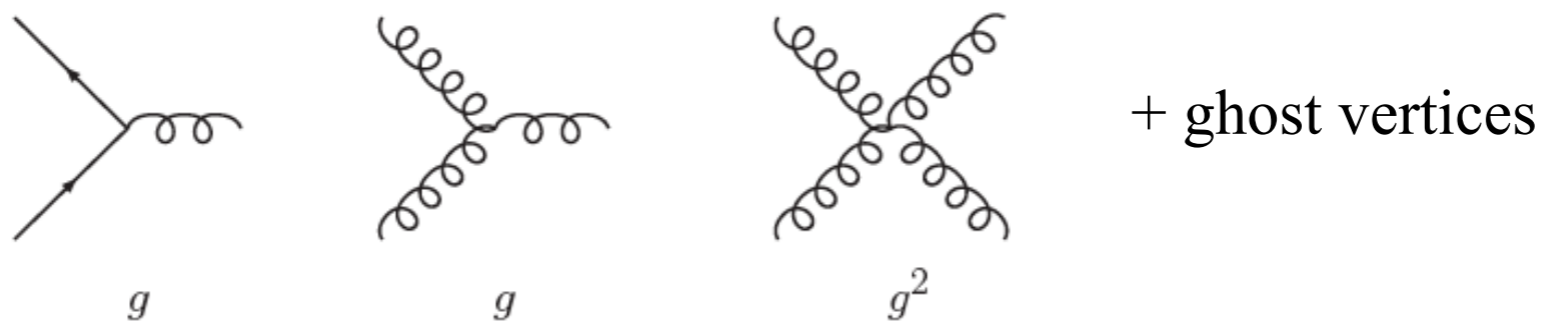
$G_\mu^a(x)$  = gluon, 8 colors “a”

$g$  QCD coupling



# Textbook quantization

- EITHER canonical quantization in term of quark and gluon field operators
  - Subtleties associated with gauge symmetry (redundant degrees of freedom)
- OR (more usual) use functional integral approach (Feynman path integral)
  - Non-abelian gauge symmetry leads to ghosts (spinless particles quantized as fermions)
- BOTH lead, formally, to standard Feynman rules (after gauge fixing)



- Calculation of loop contributions to vertex functions & scattering amplitudes leads to UV (and IR) divergences
  - Regularize (e.g. dim. reg., introduces a scale), renormalize with counterterms (e.g.  $\overline{\text{MS}}$  scheme?)
  - Leads to method for calculating order by order in perturbation theory (extremely successful for QED, although series known not to converge)



# Wilsonian view—EFTs

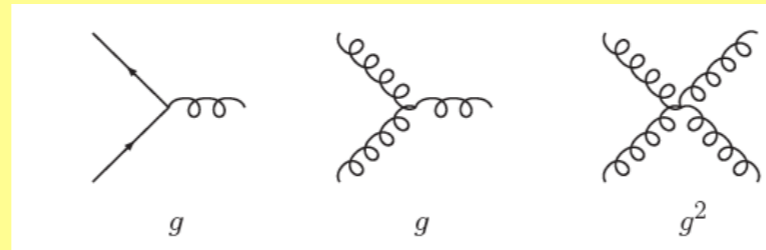
- Theory is defined with an UV cutoff on momenta ( $\sim 1/a$  in a lattice theory)
- As the cutoff is changed, couplings and masses change (“run”) to account for the modes that have been “integrated out/in”
  - Leads to differential equations (RG equations) for couplings (and masses)
  - Physically more appealing (and mathematically more solid) as only claiming to control a range of momenta
- Running, in general, takes place in a space with an infinite number of couplings (EFT)
  - Couplings are organized by their dimensions,  $n$ , with contributions, in general,  $\sim (q/\Lambda)^{n-d}$  with  $q \sim$  momentum scale of process, and  $d =$  space-time dimension
  - Renormalizable couplings have  $n \leq d$ , and are those that remain as  $\Lambda \rightarrow \infty$  (e.g. in QCD: gluon coupling  $g$  and quark masses)
- Caveats: in general, can only work out explicitly in perturbation theory; there may be large anomalous dimensions (due to interactions); “triviality” (couplings diverge at finite  $\Lambda$ )

# Wilsonian view of QCD

$$\Lambda \sim 1/a$$

Asymptotic Freedom

$$\alpha_s(\Lambda) = \frac{g(\Lambda)^2}{4\pi} \propto \frac{1}{\log(\Lambda/\Lambda_{\text{QCD}})}$$



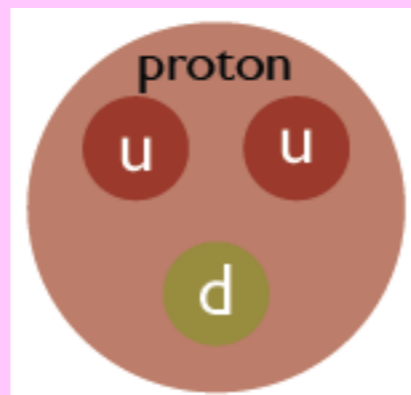
Perturbative region

$\sim 1 \text{ GeV}$

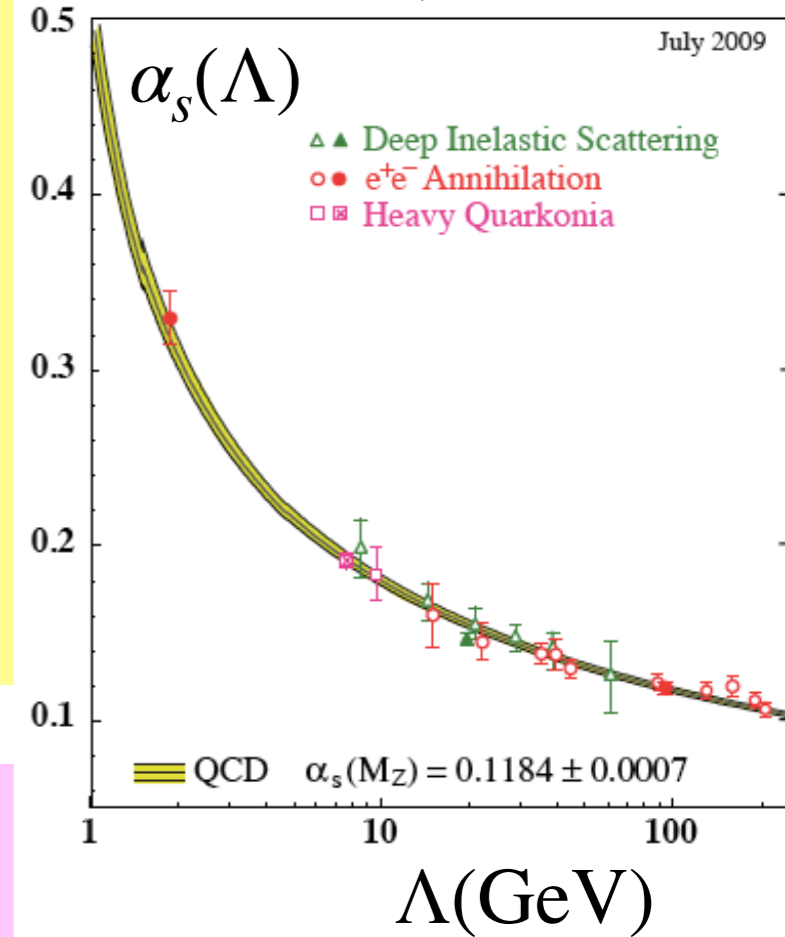
Nonperturbative region

$$\Lambda_{\text{QCD}} \approx 300 \text{ MeV} \approx 1/\text{fm}$$

Confinement



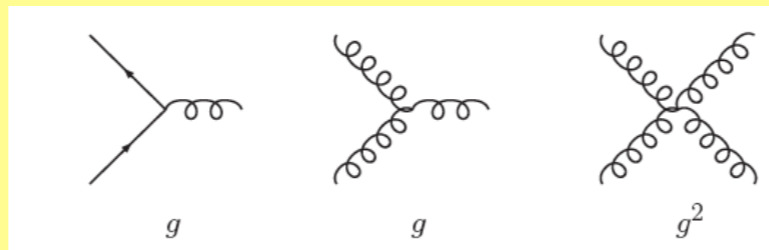
PDG, 2010



# Wilsonian view of QCD

$\Lambda \sim 1/a$   
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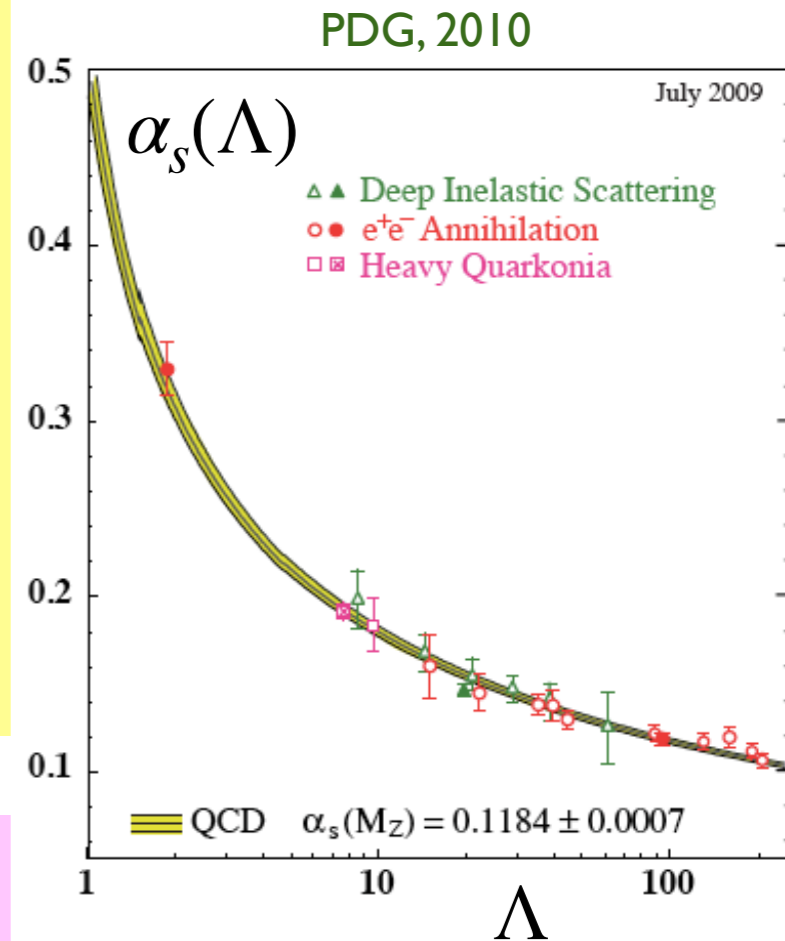
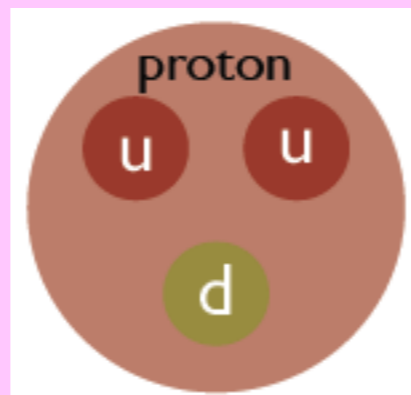
Perturbative region

$\sim 1 \text{ GeV}$

Nonperturbative region

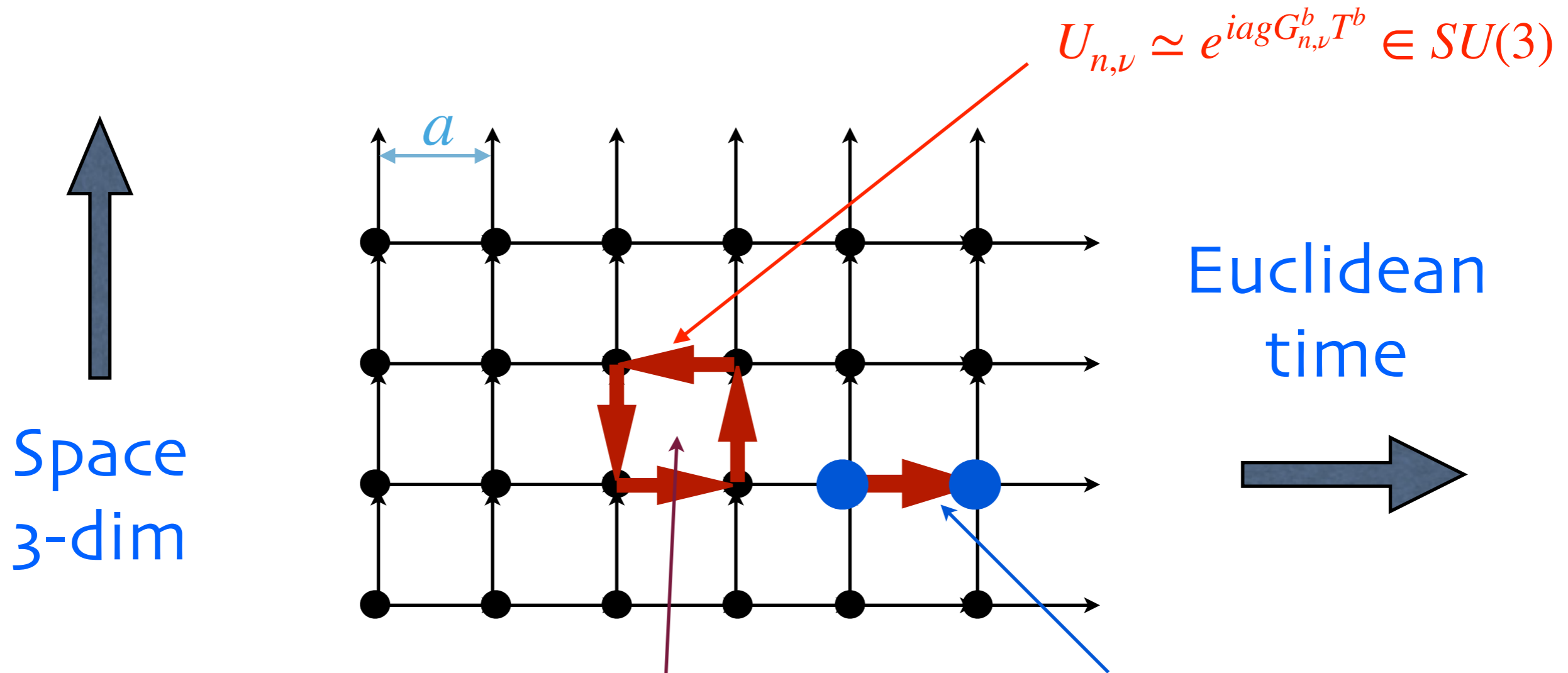
$\Lambda_{\text{QCD}} \approx 300 \text{ MeV}$   
 $\approx 1/\text{fm}$

Confinement



How do we test this?  
Can we control the  
 $a \rightarrow 0$  limit?

# Lattice QCD



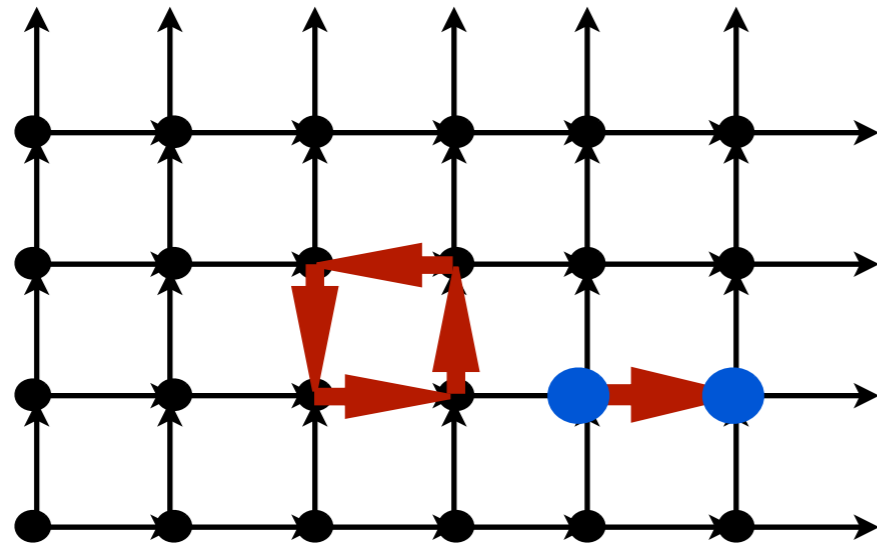
$$S_E^{\text{latt}} = - \sum_{\square} \frac{6}{g^2} \text{Re tr}_N(U_{\square,\mu\nu}) - \sum_q \bar{q}(D_{\mu}^{\text{lat}} \gamma_{\mu} + am_q)q$$

Wilson gauge action

Lattice fermion action

**Gauge symmetry preserved; Nonperturbative formulation**

# Quantizing Lattice QCD



Use Feynman  
path integral  
definition of QM

$$Z_{\text{QCD}} = \int \prod dU d\bar{q} dq e^{-S_E^{\text{lat}}}$$

$$= \int dU e^{-S_{\text{glue}}^{\text{lat}}} \prod_q \det (D_{\mu}^{\text{lat}} \gamma_{\mu} + m)$$

Grassmann variables

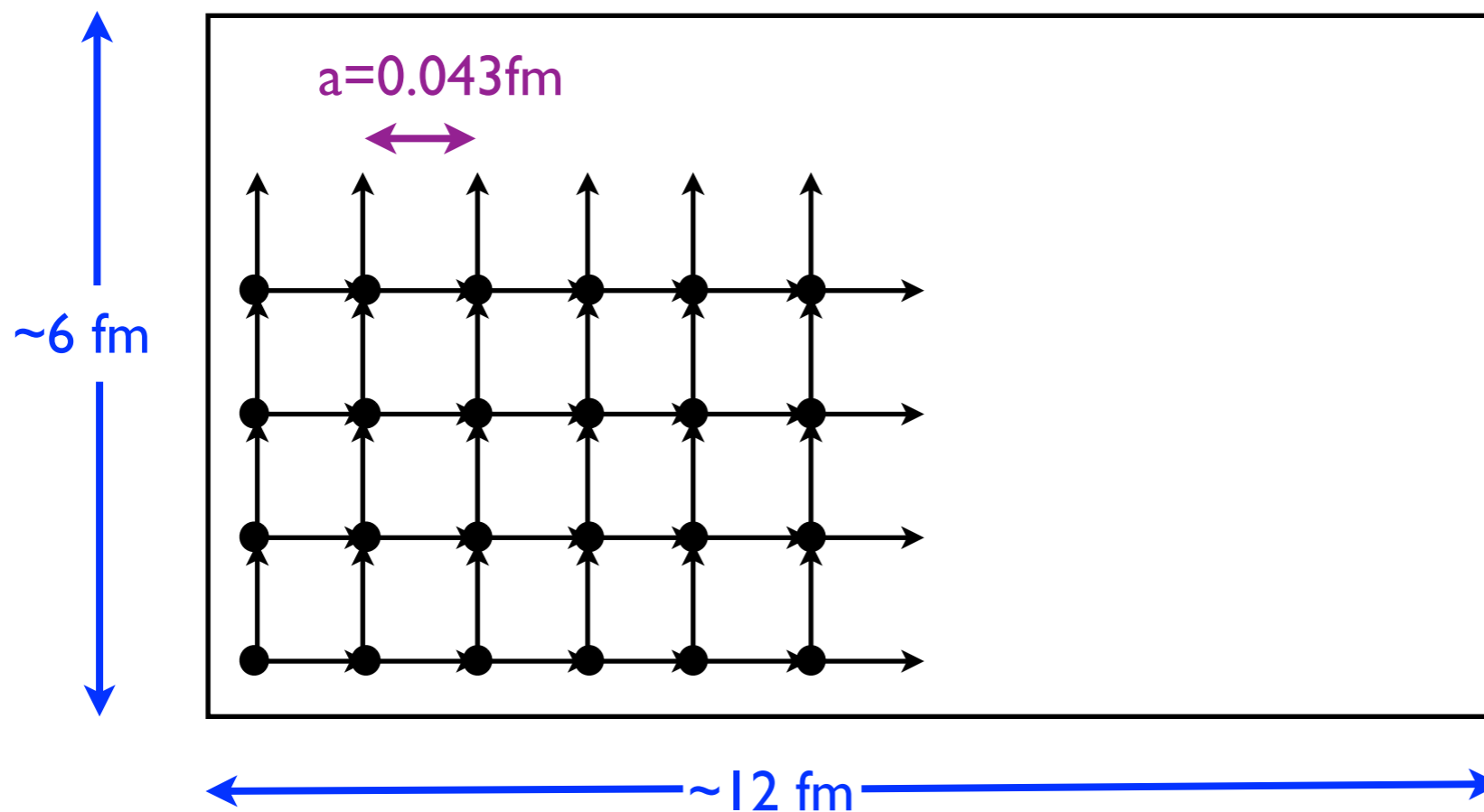
No need for gauge fixing

- Countably-infinite set of coupled QM systems
- In classical continuum limit action goes over to desired continuum form
  - **Define** QFT as  $a \rightarrow 0$  limit of this QM system

# Lattice QCD in practice

- Restrict to finite volume  $\Rightarrow$  finite QM system
- Using Monte-Carlo methods to simulate
  - State of the art:  $144^3 \times 288$  lattice [MILC collaboration]

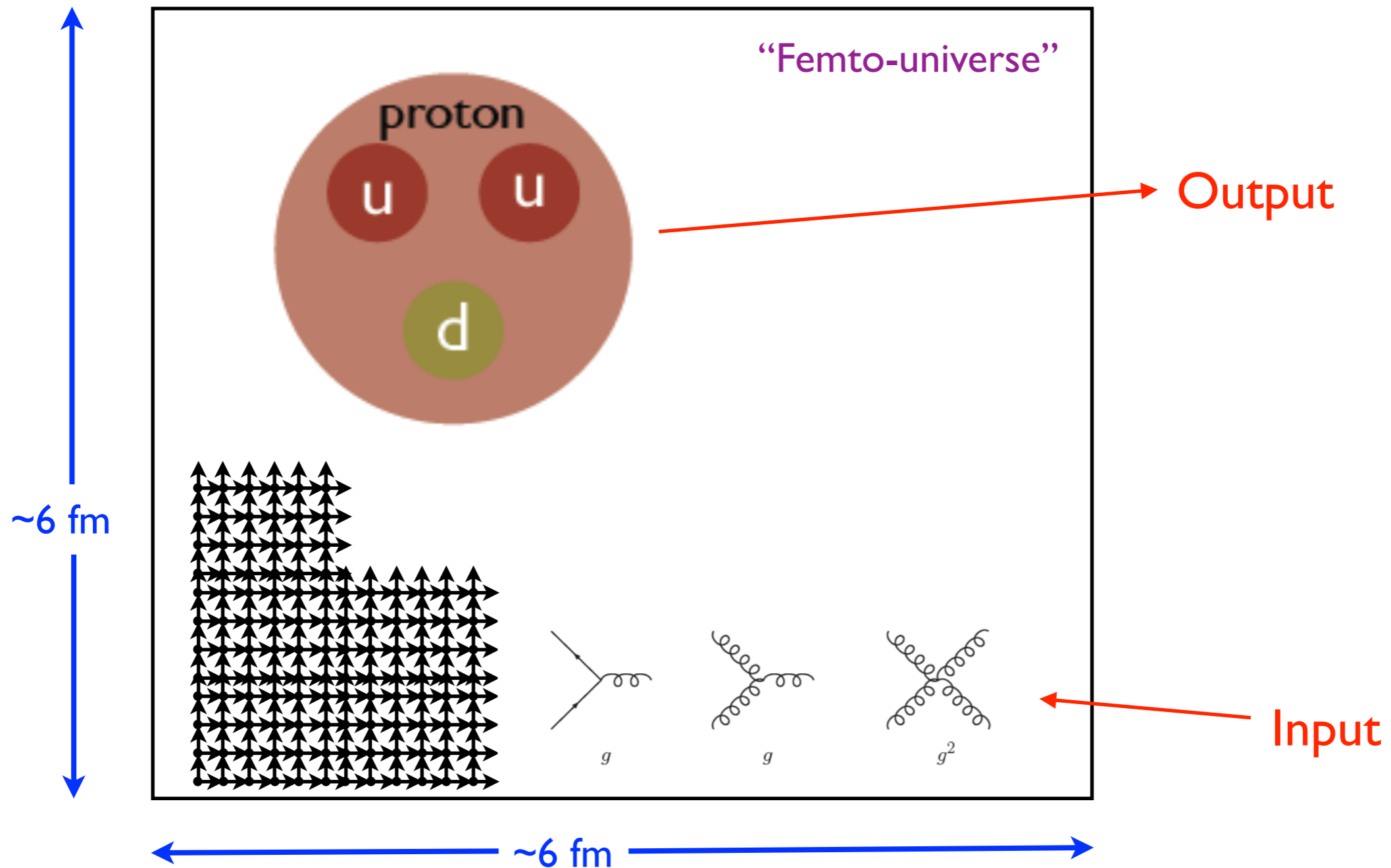
Highly Improved Staggered (HISQ) fermions  
Physical quark masses (in isospin limit:  $m_u = m_d$ )



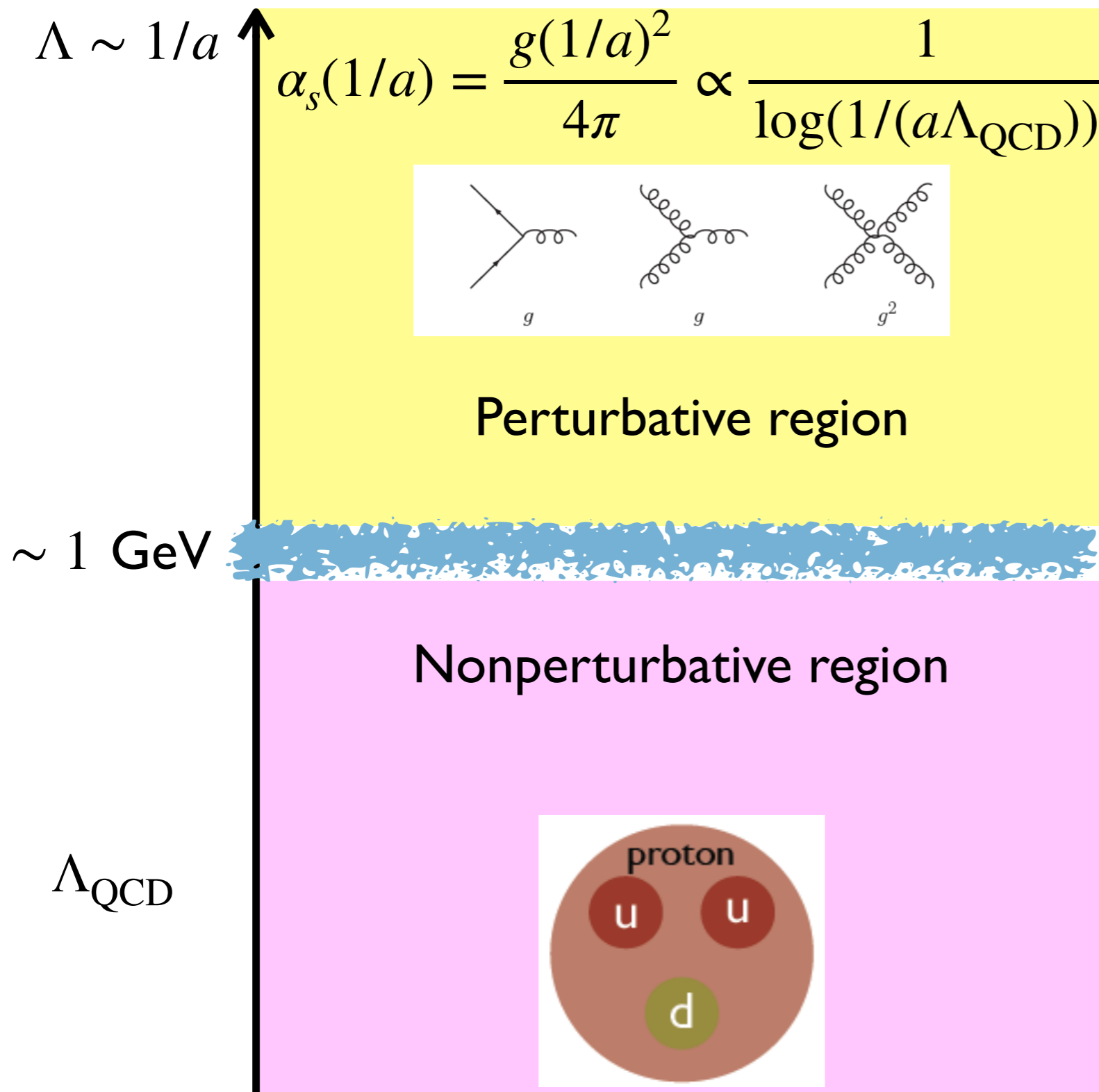
Need to invert matrices  
of size  
 $\sim (3 \times 10^9) \times (3 \times 10^9)$

# Wilsonian view again

- Finite-volume physics must accommodate and reproduce both short-distance weakly interacting quarks & gluons AND long-distance confinement



# Key questions

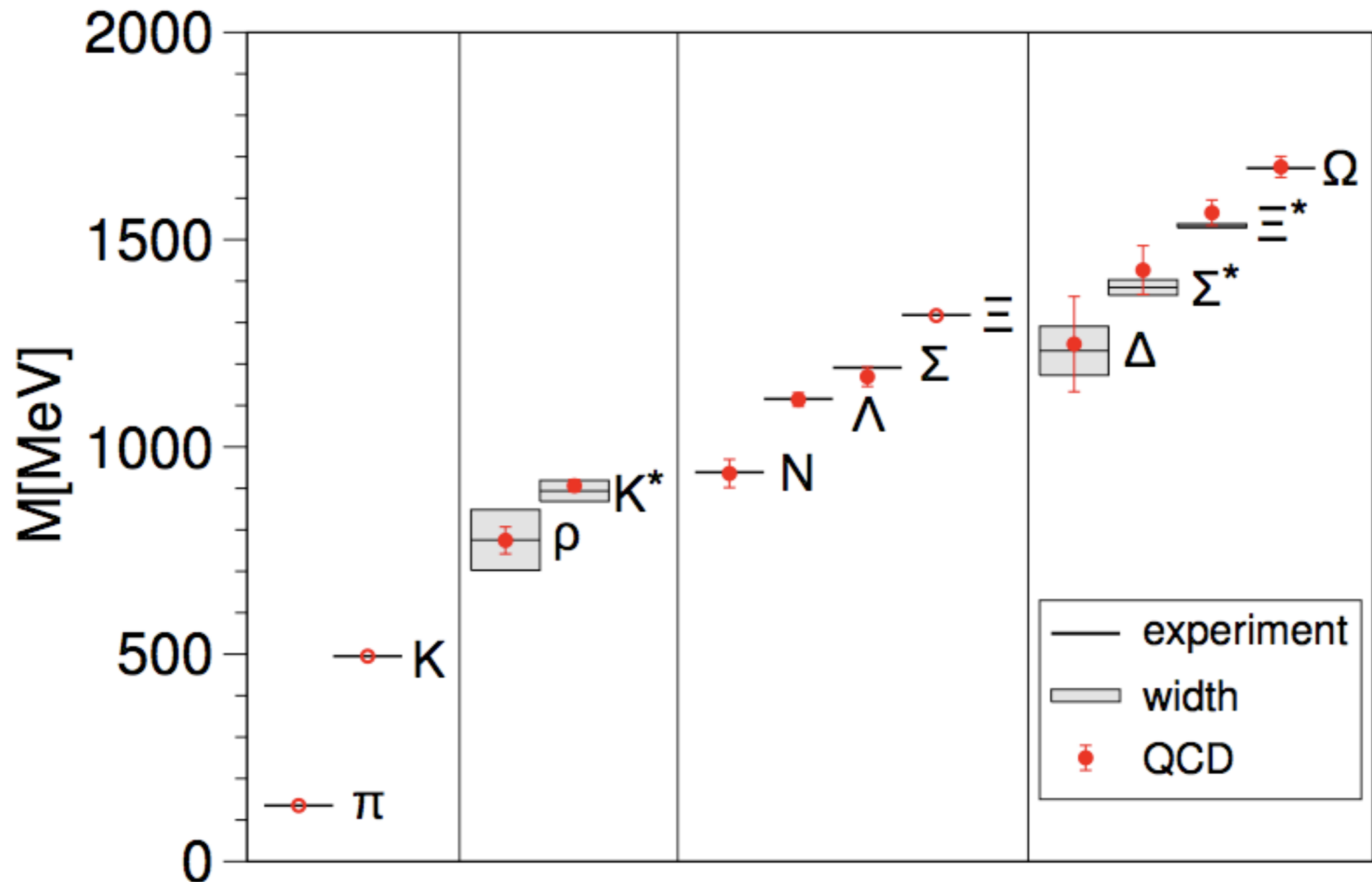


- **SCALING.** Can we reduce  $a \rightarrow 0$  (by varying  $g$  appropriately) while the long-distance non-perturbative physics remains fixed?
- **ASYMPTOTIC SCALING.** If scaling holds does the required  $g(1/a)$  depend on  $a$  in the manner predicted by perturbation theory?
- **CORRECTIONS TO SCALING.** Can we predict the form of the  $a^n$  corrections to scaling, and do the numerical results agree with the predictions?
- Do the results agree with nature?



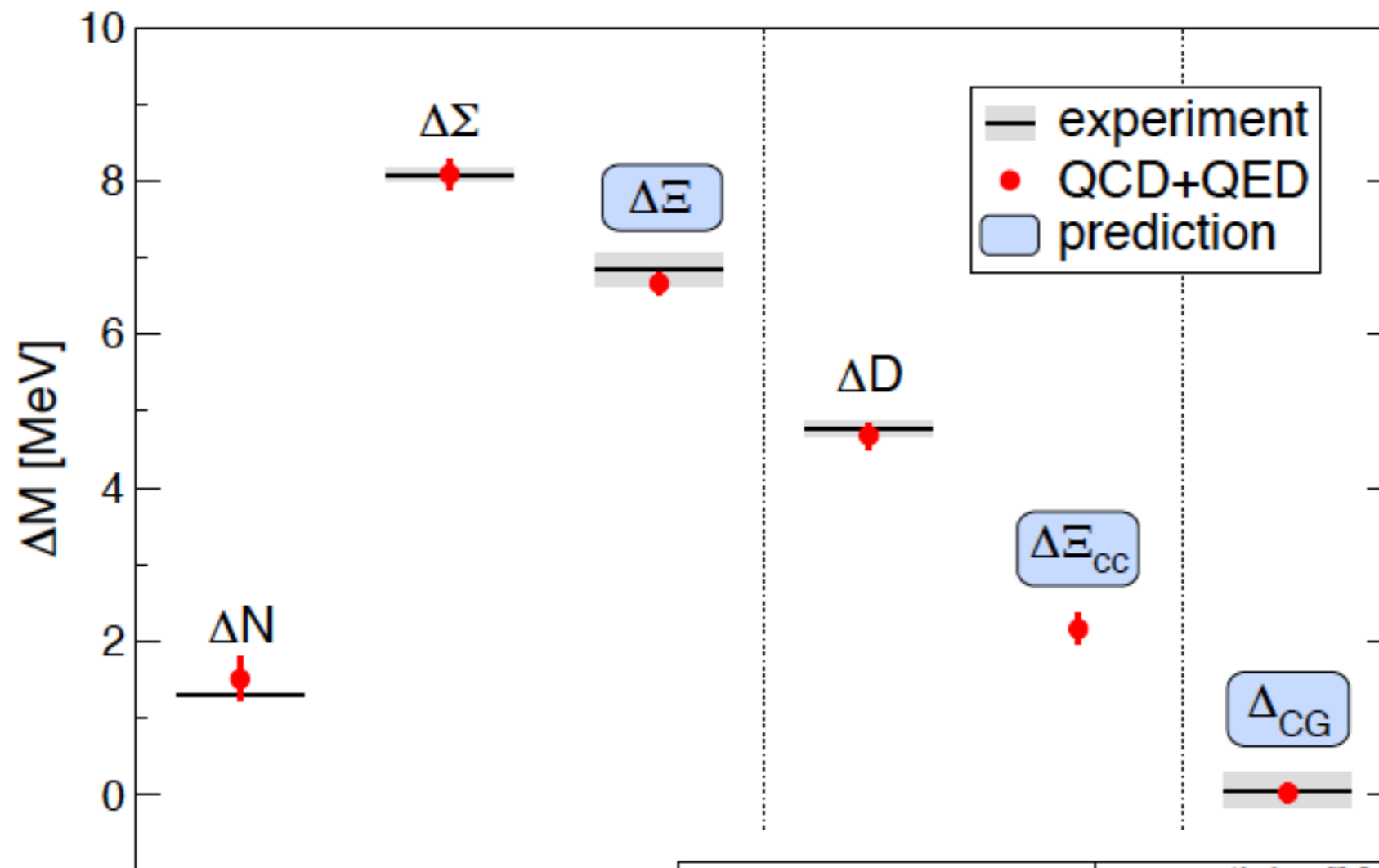
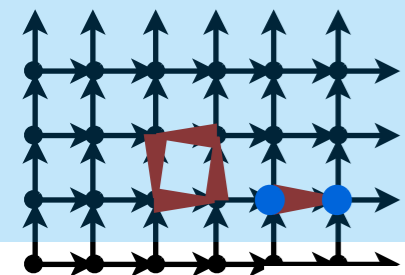
# Agreement with nature

- Spectrum of light hadrons in QCD with  $m_u = m_d$  (after  $a \rightarrow 0$  extrapolation)



BMW collab. Science 322 (2008) 1224

# Isospin splittings



BMW Collaboration  
2014

u, d, s & c in loops  
 $m_u \neq m_d$   
QED included

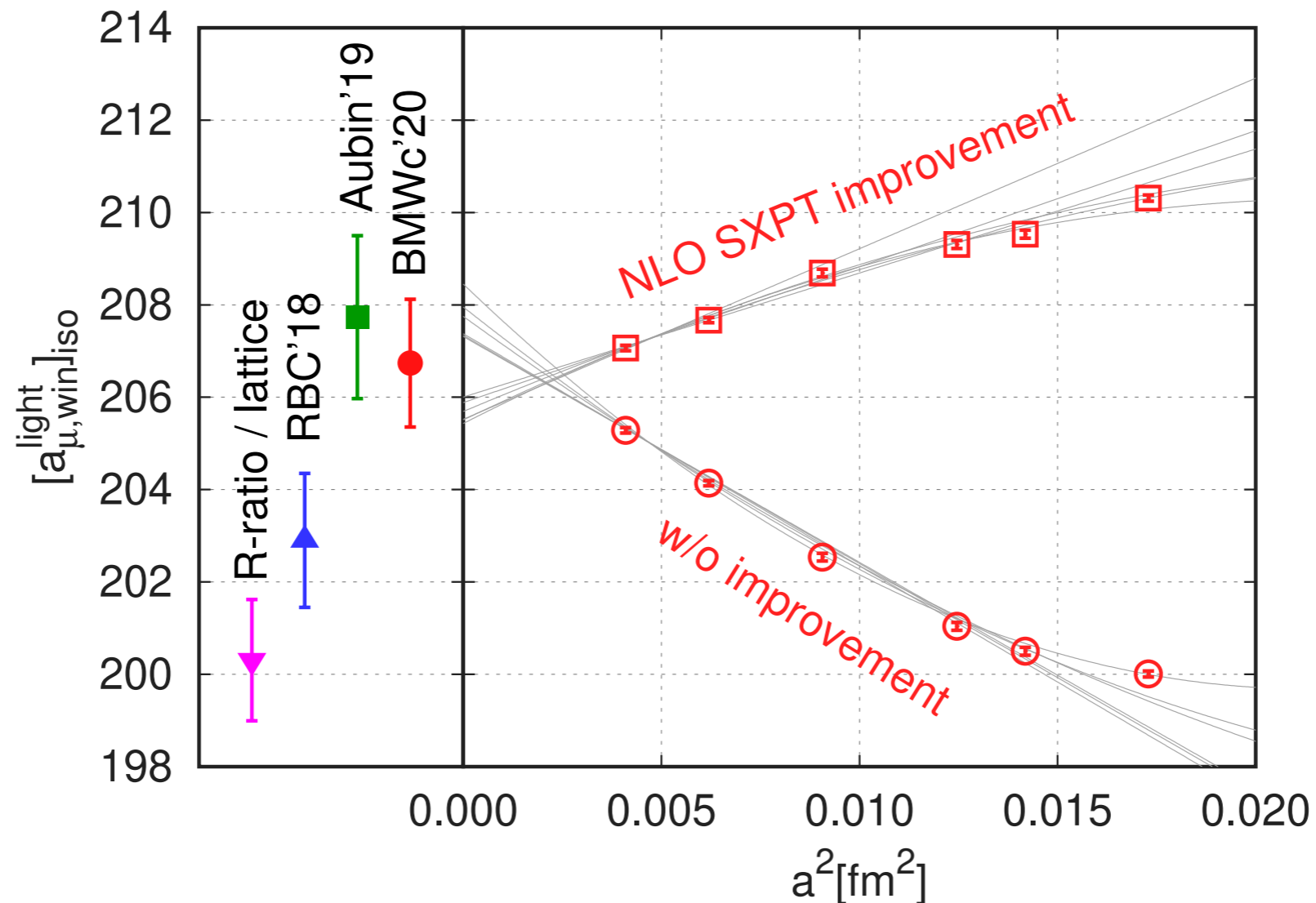
quark masses & scale  
determined using  
 $\pi^+$ ,  $K^+$ ,  $K^0$ ,  $D^0$ ,  $\Omega$

Errors  $\sim 0.2$  MeV !

|   | mass splitting [MeV] | QCD [MeV]     | QED [MeV]     |
|---|----------------------|---------------|---------------|
| $\Delta N = n - p$                                    | 1.51(16)(23)         | 2.52(17)(24)  | -1.00(07)(14) |
| $\Delta \Sigma = \Sigma^- - \Sigma^+$                 | 8.09(16)(11)         | 8.09(16)(11)  | 0             |
| $\Delta \Xi = \Xi^- - \Xi^0$                          | 6.66(11)(09)         | 5.53(17)(17)  | 1.14(16)(09)  |
| $\Delta D = D^\pm - D^0$                              | 4.68(10)(13)         | 2.54(08)(10)  | 2.14(11)(07)  |
| $\Delta \Xi_{cc} = \Xi_{cc}^{++} - \Xi_{cc}^+$        | 2.16(11)(17)         | -2.53(11)(06) | 4.69(10)(17)  |
| $\Delta_{CG} = \Delta N - \Delta \Sigma + \Delta \Xi$ | 0.00(11)(06)         | -0.00(13)(05) | 0.00(06)(02)  |

# Corrections to scaling

- Generic expectation with “improved actions”: dimensionless quantities approach continuum limit as  $c_1 a^2 + c_2 a^4 + \dots$  (up to  $\log(a)$  corrections), with  $c_i$  unknown
- Example from recent LQCD calculation of anomalous magnetic moment of muon



BMW collab. Nature (2021) arXiv:[2002.12347](https://arxiv.org/abs/2002.12347)

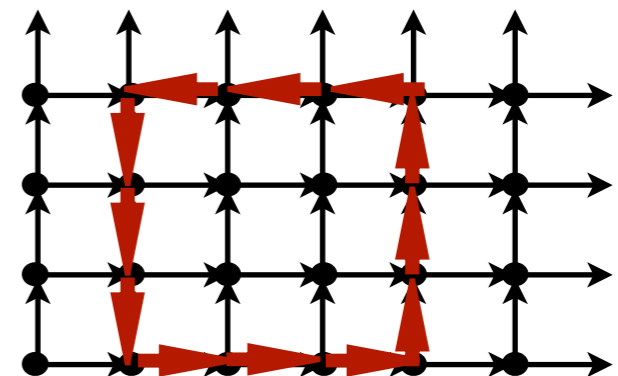
# Evidence for asymptotic scaling

- Does bare coupling  $g(1/a)$  run with  $a$  as predicted by perturbation theory (PT) ?
  - Accuracy of PT improves as  $a$  decreases (asymptotic freedom)

$$\frac{dg(1/a)}{d \log(a)} = \beta_0 g(1/a)^3 + \beta_1 g(1/a)^5 + \mathcal{O}(g^7) + \mathcal{O}(a^2)$$

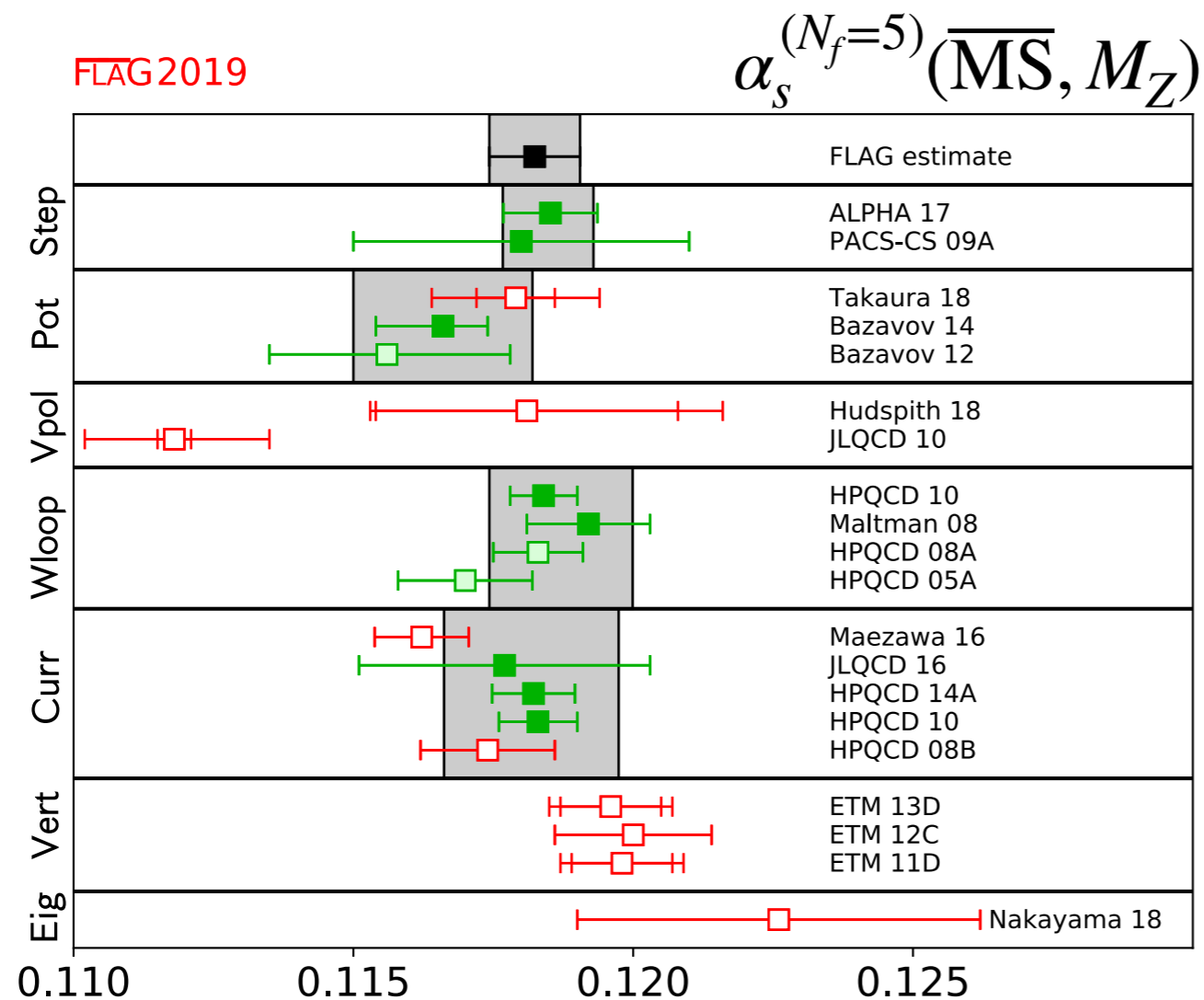
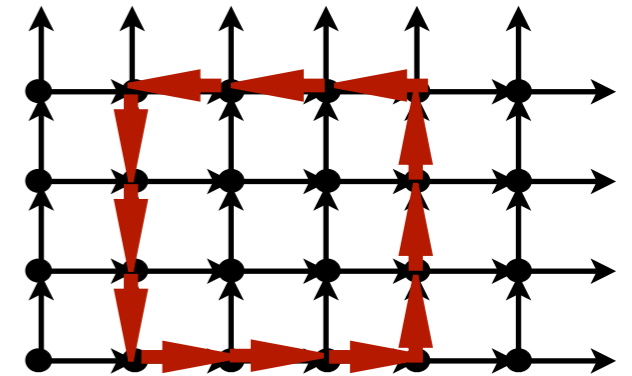
$\beta_0, \beta_1$  known and both positive

- Tricky issue as there are  $a^n$  corrections that must be disentangled
- Can test indirectly by checking that PT correctly reproduces short-distance observables
  - Wilson loops, short-distance correlation functions, ...



# Evidence for asymptotic scaling

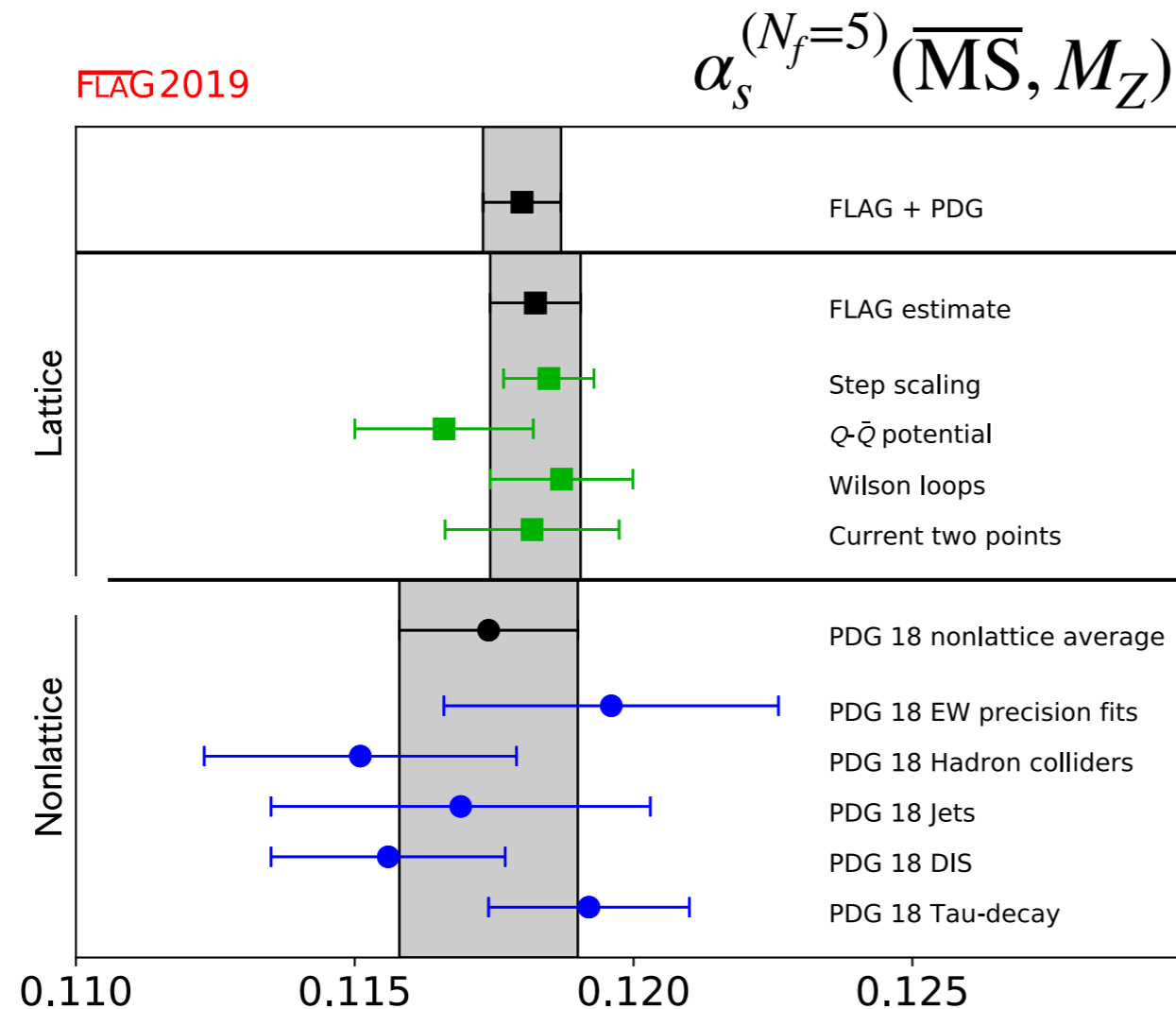
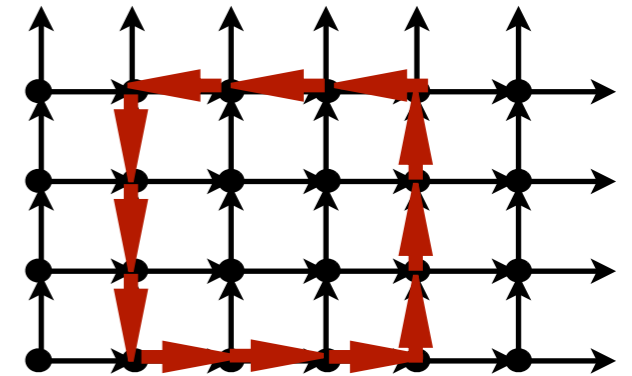
- Can test indirectly by checking that PT correctly reproduces short-distance observables determined using lattice QCD
- Wilson loops, short-distance correlation functions, ...



Methods based on different quantities, and a range of scales above  $\sim 2$  GeV, give consistent results

# Evidence for asymptotic scaling

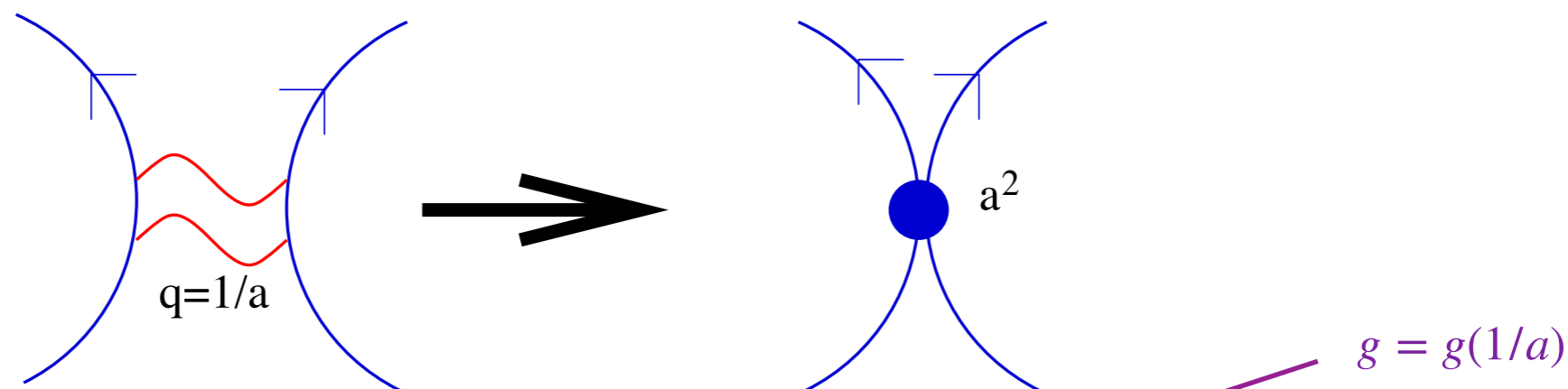
- Can test indirectly by checking that PT correctly reproduces short-distance observables determined using lattice QCD
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Lattice-based result agrees with those from high-energy experiments fit to perturbative QCD expressions

# Theory of scaling violations

- Based on Symanzik effective field theory (SEFT), known to be valid to all orders in PT
  - Continuum EFT that reproduces the discretization effects of the lattice theory



$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{SEFT}} = \mathcal{L}_{\text{QCD}} + a^2 \sum_i c_i(g) O_i + \mathcal{O}(a^4)$$

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{QCD}} = -\frac{1}{2} \text{tr} \sum_{\mu\nu} (G_{\mu\nu} G_{\mu\nu})$$

All operators of dimension 6  
consistent with symmetries  
of lattice QCD

$$O_1 = \sum_{\mu\nu\rho} \text{Tr} \left( [D_\mu, G_{\nu\rho}] [D_\mu, G_{\nu\rho}] \right), \quad O_2 = \sum_{\mu\nu} \text{Tr} \left( [D_\mu, G_{\mu\nu}] [D_\mu, G_{\mu\nu}] \right), \quad \dots$$

# State of the art

- Result for physical (dimensionless) quantities in renormalization group improved PT

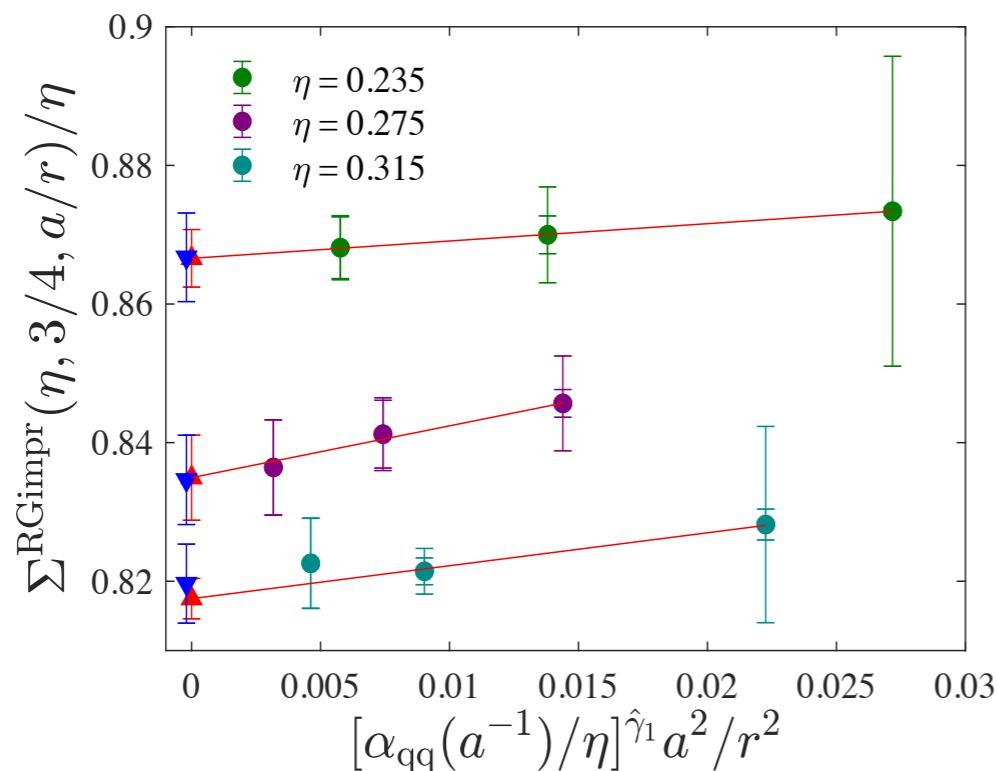
$$Q(a) = Q(0) + \sum_i d_i^{(0)} a^2 g(1/a)^n g(1/a)^{2\gamma_i} [1 + \mathcal{O}(g^2)] + \dots$$

unknown coefficients

$n > 0$  if calculation  
"improved"

Operator-dependent  
logarithmic correction to  
scaling, determined by  
anomalous dimension  $\gamma_i$ ,  
which is known in PT

$$\left[ \frac{1}{\log(1/(a\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}))} \right]^{\gamma_i}$$



Example of fitting including  
logarithmic correction to  
power-law scaling in QCD  
without fermions

Husung, Nada, Sommer, PoS(Lattice2019)263



# Closing comments

- Asymptotic freedom (AF) allows theoretical control of continuum limit, assuming no short-distance nonperturbative effects
  - Supported by numerical evidence
  - Extends to other AF theories (varying numbers of colors and fermions)
- Corrections to scaling in lower-dimensional theories (e.g.  $O(3)$  sigma model) studied in great detail
  - Logarithmic corrections turn  $a^2$  dependence almost into a linear dependence
- For SUSY theories, there are many exact results assuming the theory exists
  - Hard to confirm with lattice methods, although some progress
- QIS approaches that aim to solve sign problems in lattice theories (e.g. studying real time processes) are based on the Hamiltonian approach with spatial discretization
  - Face the same issue of understanding the spatial continuum limit

Thank you.  
Questions?