

# Fixed point actions from lattice gauge equivariant convolutional neural networks

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Workshop „Bridging scales: At the crossroads among  
renormalisation group, multi-scale modelling, and deep learning“

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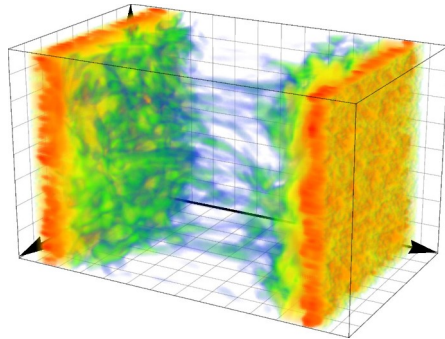


Der Wissenschaftsfonds.



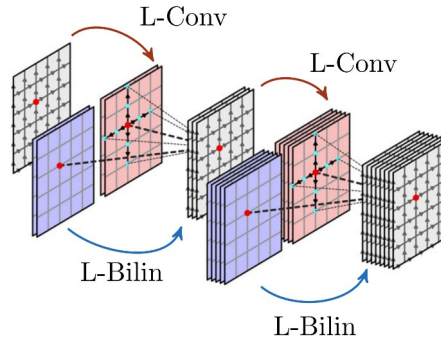
# Overview

## Glasma simulations



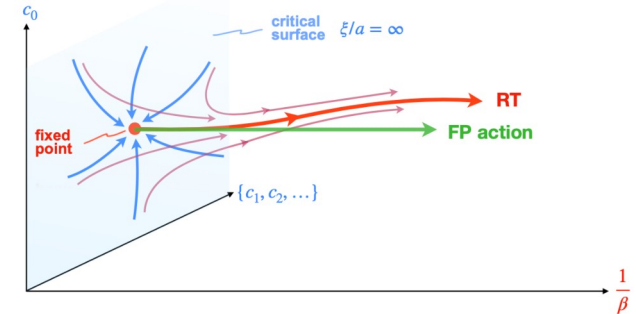
AI, Müller, Phys. Lett. B 771 (2017) 74  
Gelfand, AI, Müller, Phys. Rev. D94 (2016) no.1, 014020

## L-CNNs



Favoni, AI, Müller, Schuh,  
Phys.Rev.Lett. 128 (2022) 032003

## Learning fixed-point actions



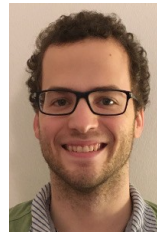
Holland, AI, Müller, Wenger  
arXiv:2401.06481



David Müller



Matteo Favoni



Daniel Schuh



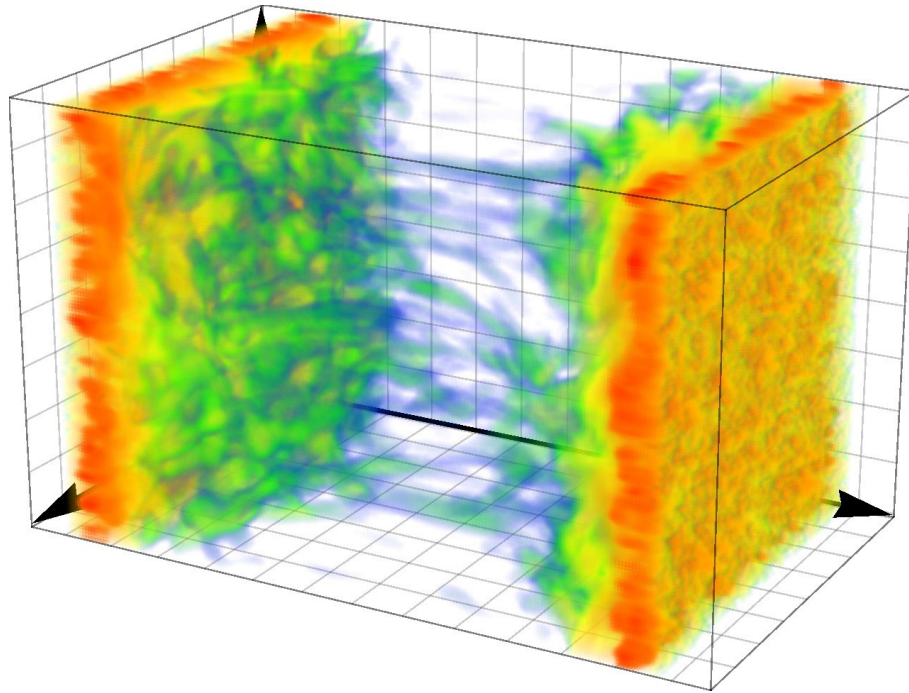
Kieran Holland  
(U. Pacific)



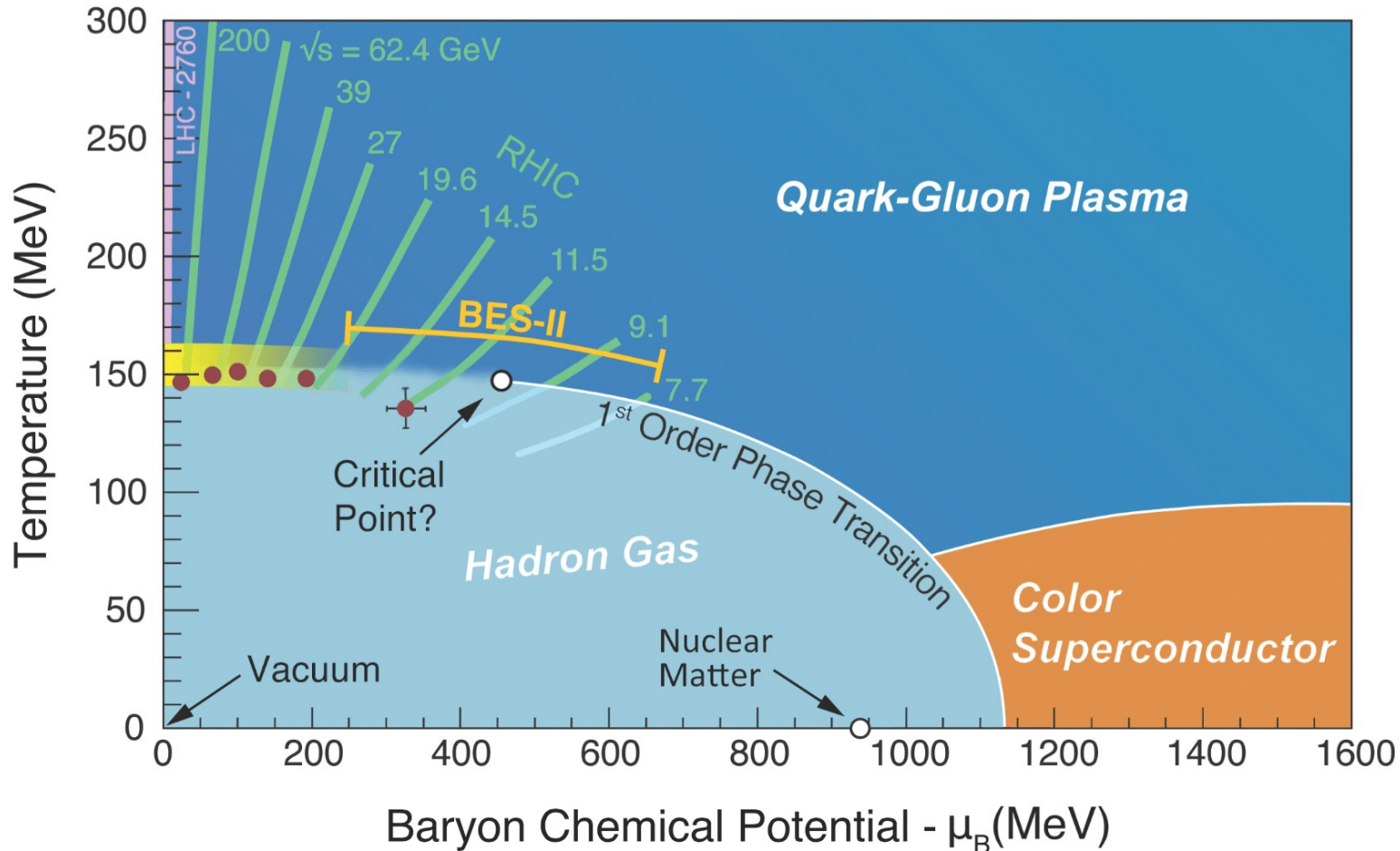
Urs Wenger  
(U. Bern)

Open source: <https://gitlab.com/openpixi/lge-cnn>

# Motivation



# QCD phase diagram

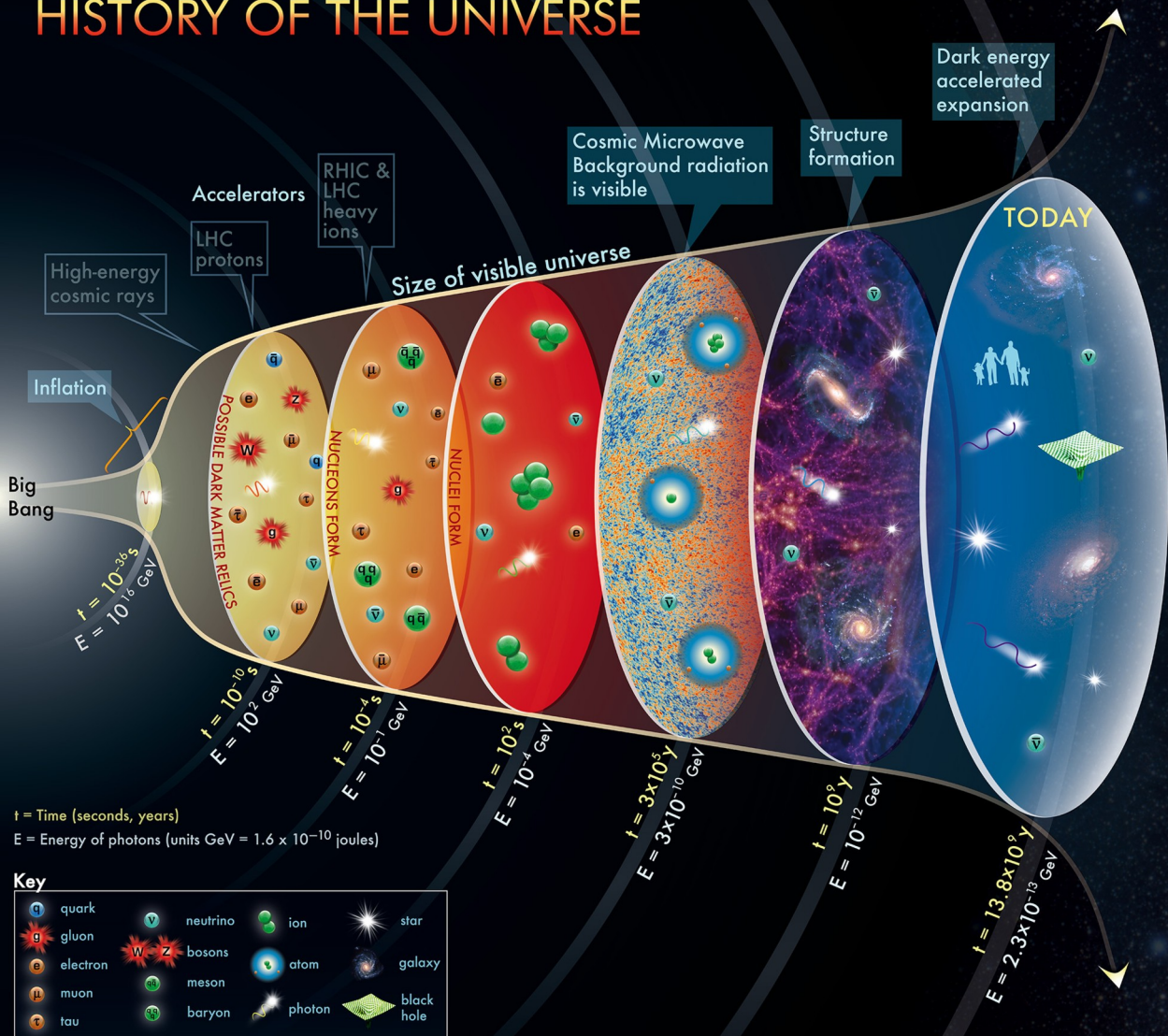


Sun (surface):  
6000°C  $\approx$  0.5 eV

Sun (core):  
15 million °C  $\approx$  1.3 keV

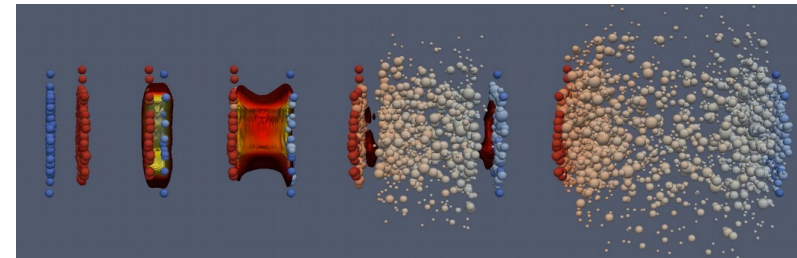
Quark-Gluon Plasma:  
 $1.7 \times 10^{12}$  °C  $\approx$  150 MeV

# HISTORY OF THE UNIVERSE

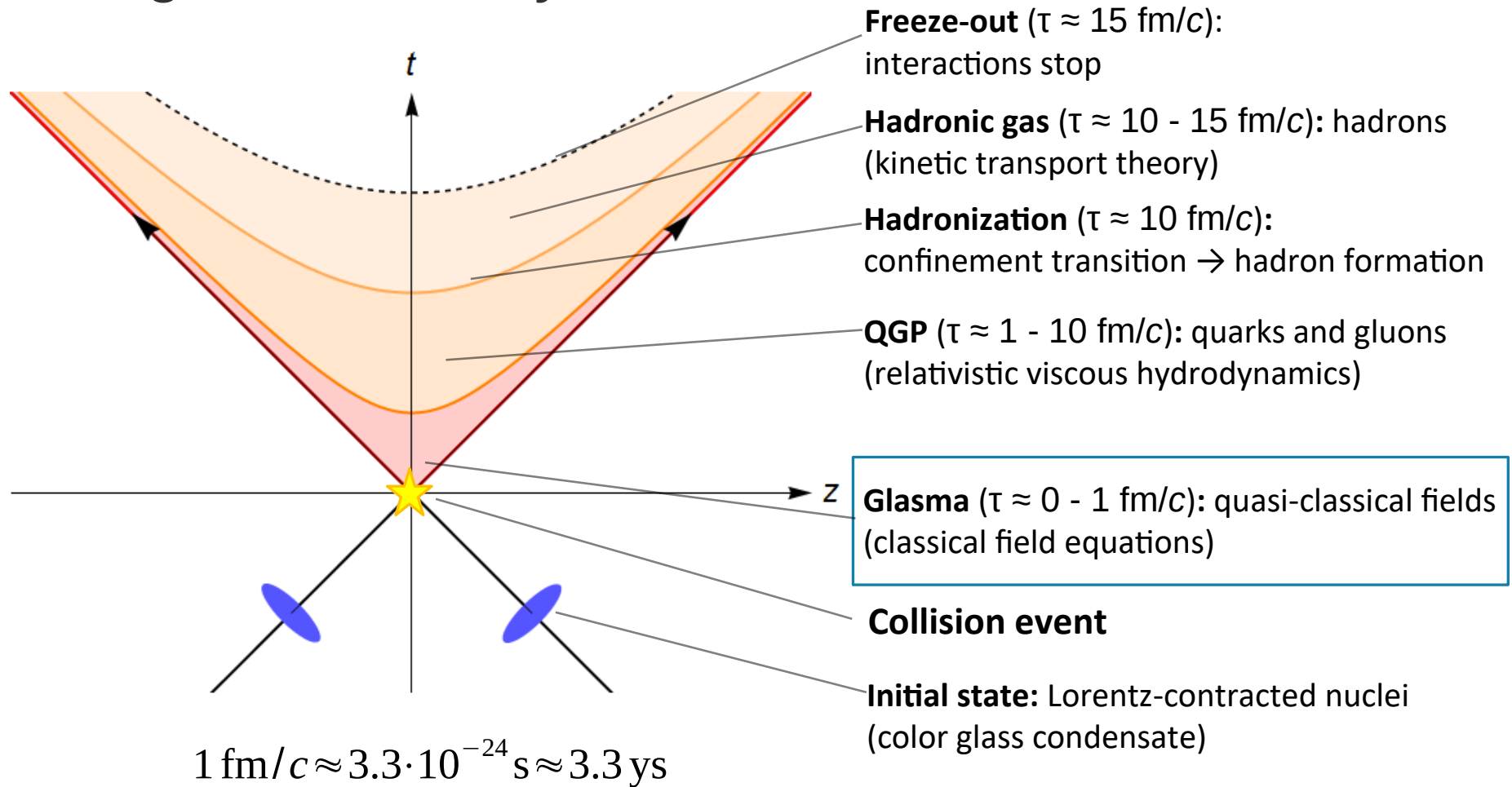


## Quark-gluon plasma

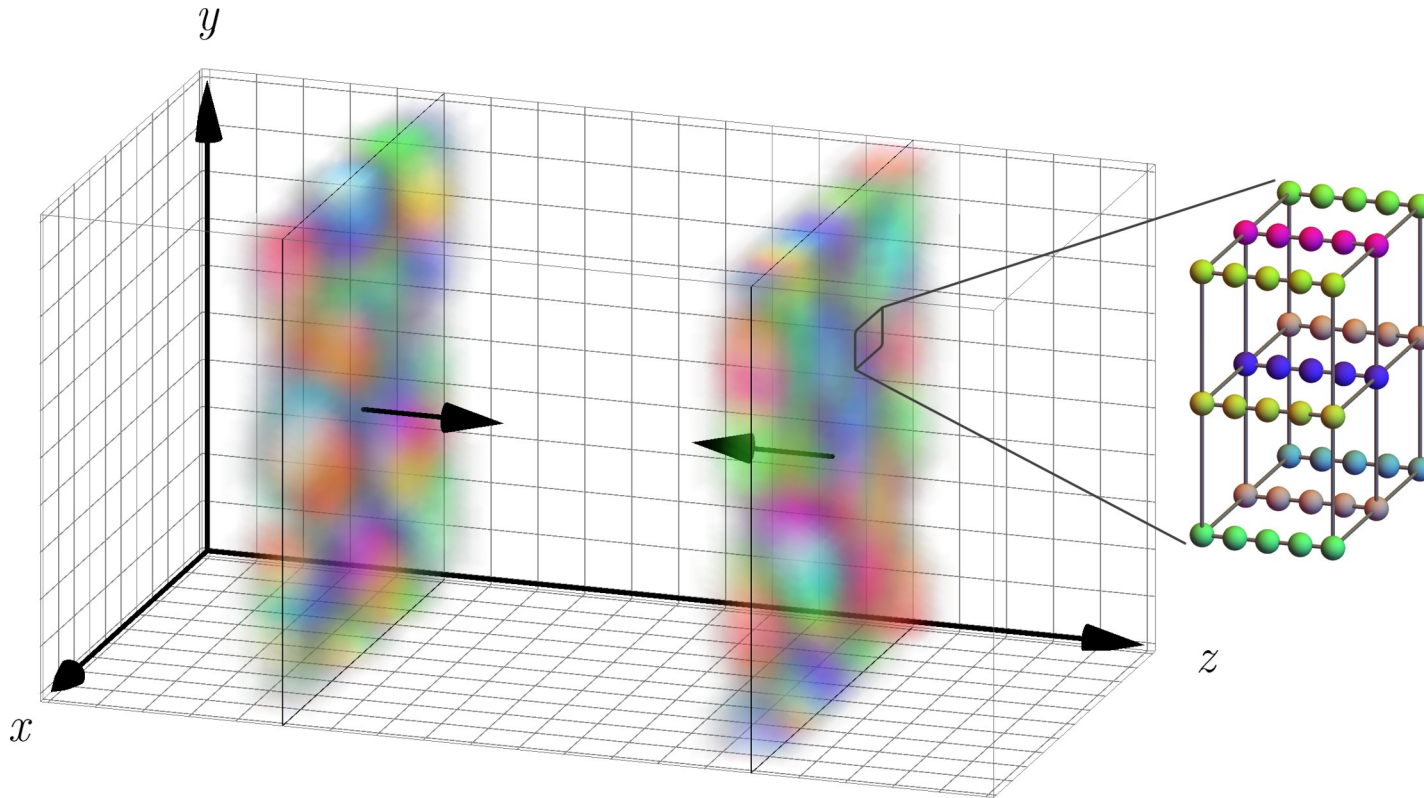
- Existed in the early universe
- Produced in heavy ion collisions



# Stages of a heavy-ion collision



# Colored particle-in-cell method



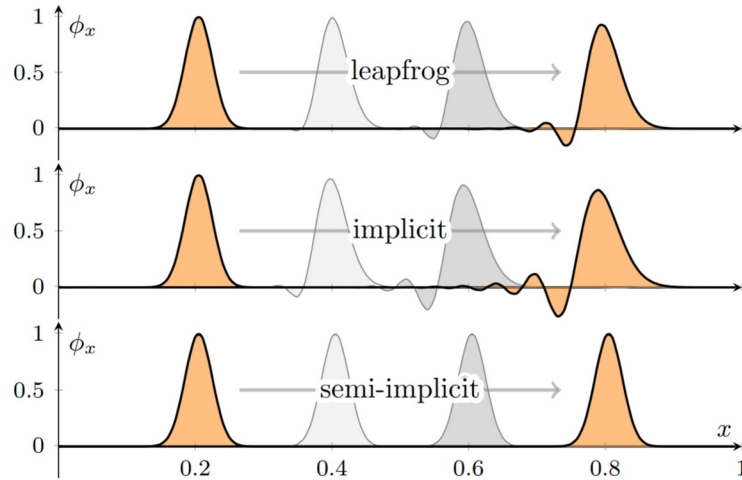
Generalization of the particle-in-cell method from plasma physics for strong interactions.

[A. Dumitru, Y. Nara, M. Strickland:  
PRD75:025016 (2007)]

Based on real-time lattice gauge theory in a classical regime.

Al, D. Müller, Phys. Lett. B 771 (2017) 74

# Dispersion-free propagation

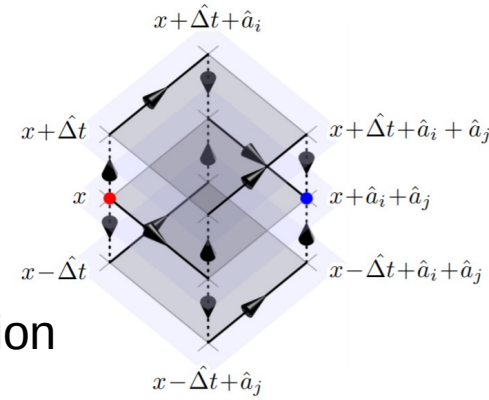


Standard **Wilson action**:

$$S[U] = \frac{V}{g^2} \sum_x \left( \sum_i \frac{1}{(a^0 a^i)^2} \text{tr} \left( 2 - U_{x,0i} - U_{x,0i}^\dagger \right) - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i,j} \frac{1}{(a^i a^j)^2} \text{tr} \left( 2 - U_{x,ij} - U_{x,ij}^\dagger \right) \right)$$

**Variational integrator:**

Discretized equations of motion from discretized action



Discretized action for the **semi-implicit scheme**:

$$S[U] = \frac{V}{g^2} \sum_x \left( \frac{1}{(a^0 a^1)^2} \text{tr} \left( C_{x,01} C_{x,01}^\dagger \right) + \sum_i \frac{1}{(a^0 a^i)^2} \text{tr} \left( C_{x,0i} C_{x,0i}^\dagger \right) - \frac{1}{4} \sum_{i,|j|} \frac{1}{(a^i a^j)^2} \text{tr} \left( C_{x,ij} M_{x,ij}^\dagger \right) - \frac{1}{4} \sum_{|j|} \frac{1}{(a^1 a^j)^2} \text{tr} \left( C_{x,1j} W_{x,1j}^\dagger + \text{h.c.} \right) \right)$$

implicit part

semi-implicit part

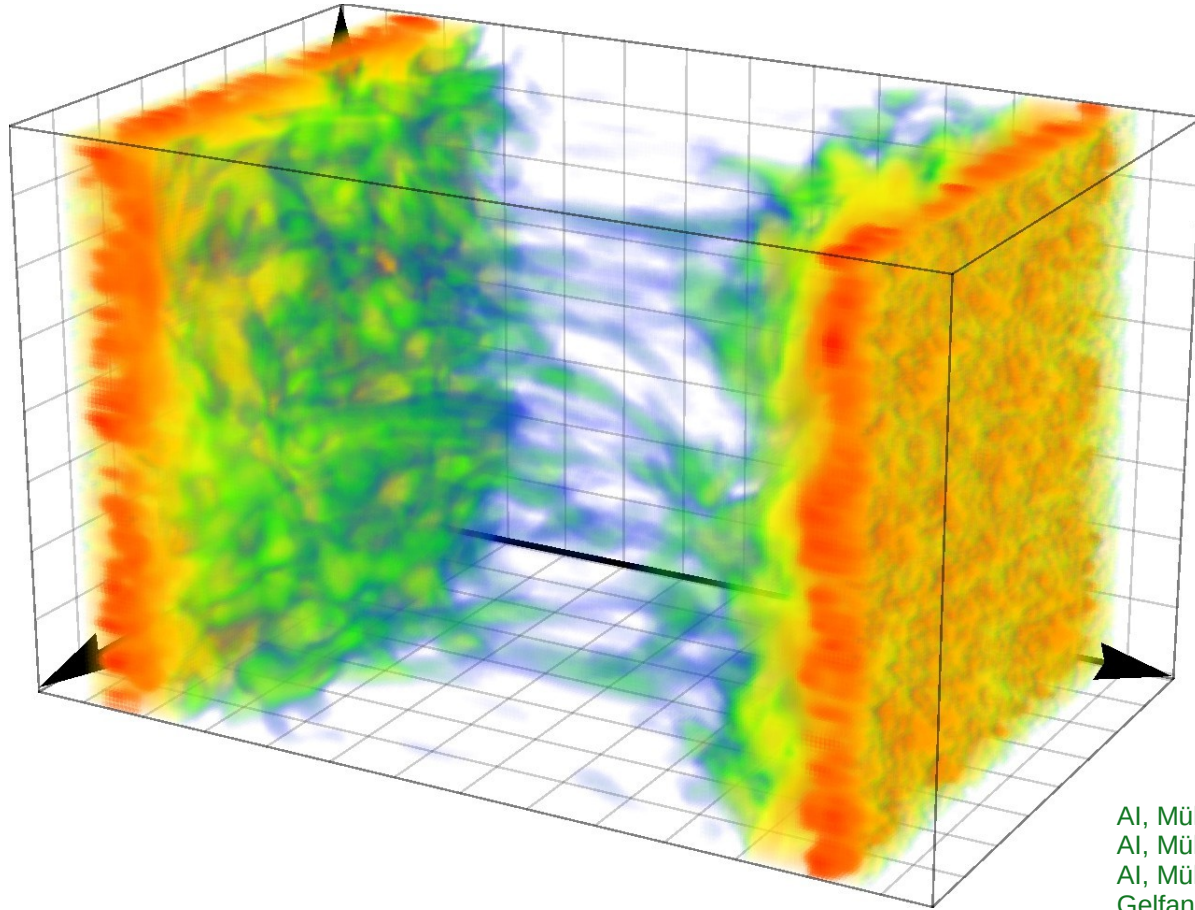
with  $C_{x,\mu\nu} \equiv U_{x,\mu} U_{x+\mu,\nu} - U_{x,\nu} U_{x+\nu,\mu}$

For details see:  
AI, D. Müller, Eur.Phys.J. C78 (2018) no.11, 884



# Simulations of the collision process

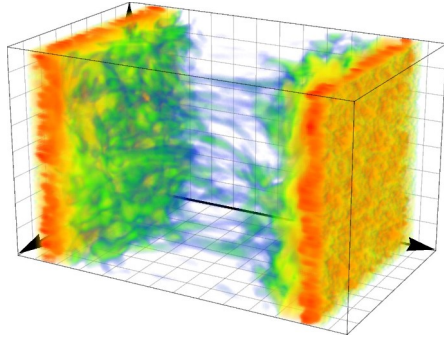
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Al, Müller, Eur.Phys.J.A 56 (2020) 9, 243  
Al, Müller, Eur.Phys.J. C78 (2018) no.11, 884  
Al, Müller, Phys. Lett. B 771 (2017) 74  
Gelfand, Al, Müller, Phys. Rev. D94 (2016) no.1,  
014020

# Computational challenges

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Simulating small part of nuclei  
at RHIC energies:

$\gamma$ -factor: 100

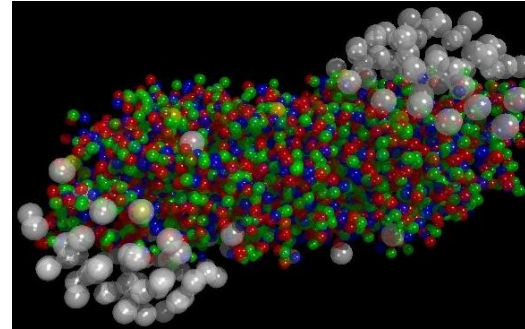
Lattice:  $2048 \times 192^2$  cells

Gauge group: SU(2)

Color sheets: 1

Simulation box:  $(6 \text{ fm})^3$

- **25 GB** simulation data
- **192 core hours** on  
Vienna Scientific Cluster (VSC-3)



Simulating realistic off-central full size nuclei  
at LHC energies:

$\gamma$ -factor: 2500

Lattice:  $(25 \times 20480) \times 1920^2$  cells

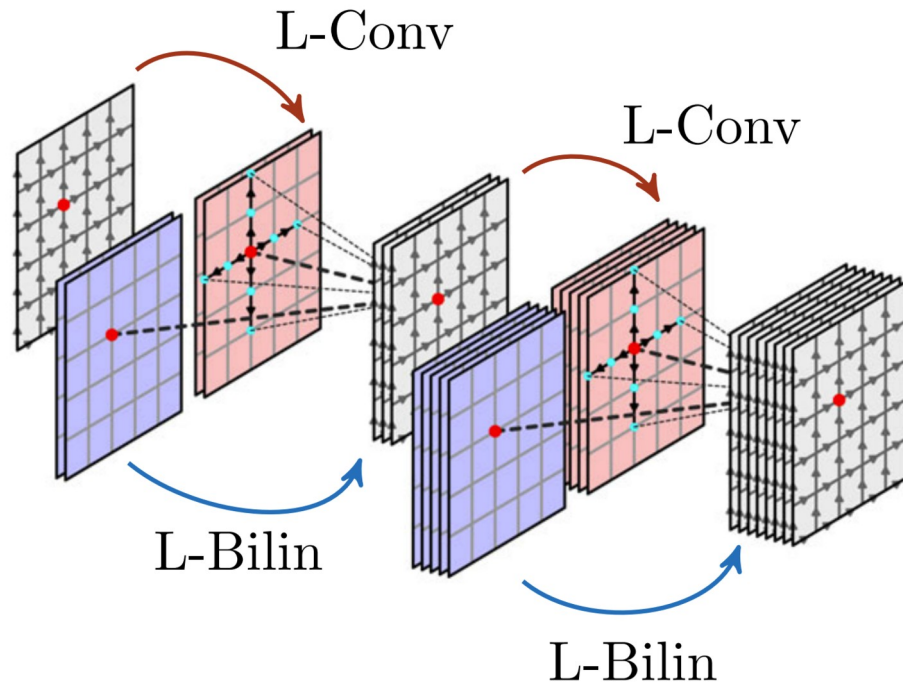
Gauge group: SU(3)

Color sheets: 100

Simulation box:  $(60 \text{ fm})^3$

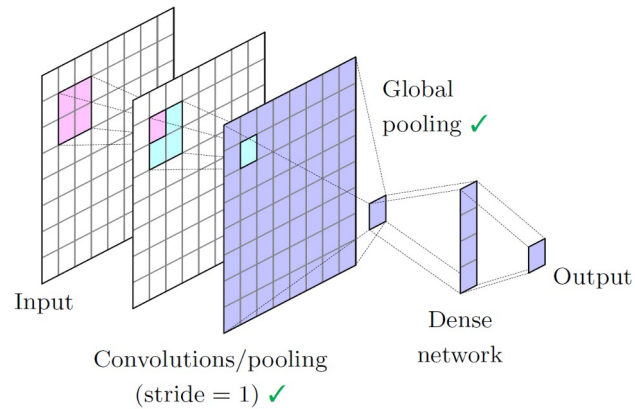
- **25 PB** simulation data
- **5 million core years** on VSC-3  
(2020: 150 years on VSC-3; but only 130 TB RAM available)  
(2023: 55 years on VSC-5; 355 TB RAM available)

# Lattice gauge symmetry



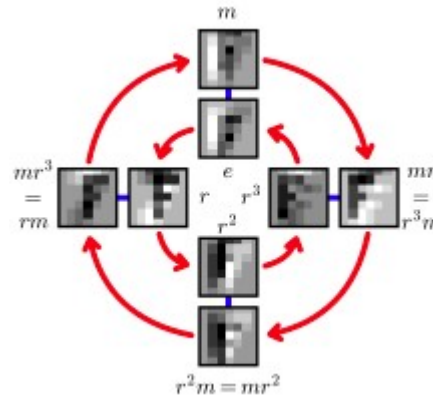
# Symmetries on the lattice

Translational symmetry  
 → Convolutional neural networks (CNNs)



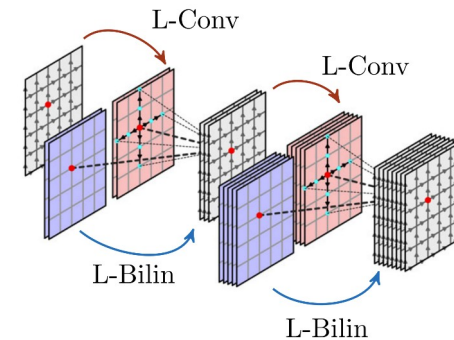
Bulusu, Favoni, Ai, Müller, Schuh,  
 Phys. Rev. D 104 (2021) 074504

Rotation, mirror symmetry  
 → Group equivariant CNNs (G-CNNs)



Cohen, Welling, ICML 2016

Lattice gauge symmetry  
 → Lattice gauge equivariant CNNs (L-CNNs)



Favoni, Ai, Müller, Schuh,  
 Phys.Rev.Lett. 128 (2022) 032003

# Yang-Mills action vs. Wilson action

## Yang-Mills action

Continuum formulation

$$S_G[A] = \frac{1}{2g^2} \int d^4x \operatorname{tr} [F_{\mu\nu}(x)F_{\mu\nu}(x)]$$

## Field strength tensor

$$\begin{aligned} F_{\mu\nu}(x) &= -i[D_\mu(x), D_\nu(x)] \\ &= \partial_\mu A_\nu(x) - \partial_\nu A_\mu(x) + i[A_\mu(x), A_\nu(x)] \end{aligned}$$

## Covariant derivative

$$D_\mu(x) = \partial_\mu + i A_\mu(x)$$

SU(3) gauge fields

$$A_\mu(x) = \sum_{i=1}^8 A_\mu^{(i)}(x) T_i$$

## Gauge transformation

$$A_\mu(x) \rightarrow A'_\mu(x) = \Omega(x)A_\mu(x)\Omega(x)^\dagger + i(\partial_\mu\Omega(x))\Omega(x)^\dagger$$

Taylor expansion in small lattice spacing reproduces continuum action:

$$U_{\mu\nu}(n) = \exp(i a^2 F_{\mu\nu}(n) + \mathcal{O}(a^3))$$

$$S_G[U] = \frac{2}{g^2} \sum_{n \in \Lambda} \sum_{\mu < \nu} \operatorname{Re} \operatorname{tr} [\mathbf{1} - U_{\mu\nu}(n)] = \frac{a^4}{2g^2} \sum_{n \in \Lambda} \sum_{\mu, \nu} \operatorname{tr} [F_{\mu\nu}(n)^2] + \mathcal{O}(a^2)$$

## Wilson action

Discrete formulation

$$S_W[U] = \frac{2}{g^2} \sum_{x \in \Lambda} \sum_{\mu < \nu} \operatorname{Tr} [\mathbf{1} - U_{x, \mu\nu}]$$

Wilson (1974)

## Plaquette

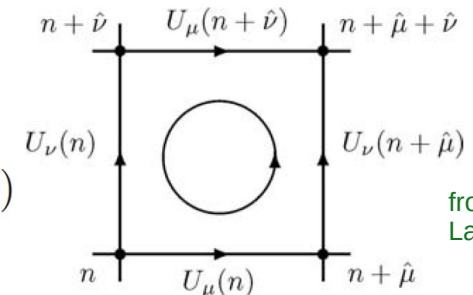
$$U_{x, \mu\nu} = U_{x, \mu} U_{x+\mu, \nu} U_{x+\mu, \nu}^\dagger U_{x, \nu}^\dagger = \text{[Diagram of a square plaquette with arrows forming a counter-clockwise loop]}$$

## Link variable

$$U_\mu(n) = \exp(i a A_\mu(n))$$

## Gauge transformation

$$U_\mu(n) \rightarrow U'_\mu(n) = \Omega(n) U_\mu(n) \Omega(n + \hat{\mu})^\dagger$$



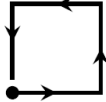
from Gattringer, Lang (2010)

# Wilson loops

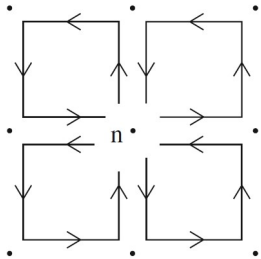
## Wilson action

$$S_W[U] = \frac{2}{g^2} \sum_{x \in \Lambda} \sum_{\mu < \nu} \text{Tr} [\mathbb{1} - U_{x, \mu\nu}]$$

## Plaquette

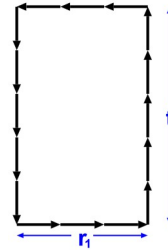
$$U_{x, \mu\nu} = U_{x, \mu} U_{x+\mu, \nu} U_{x+\nu, \mu}^\dagger U_{x, \nu}^\dagger =$$


## Symanzik improved clover action



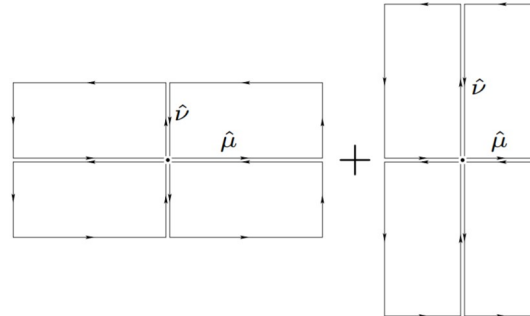
from: Gattringer, Lang (2010)

## Potential of static quark pair



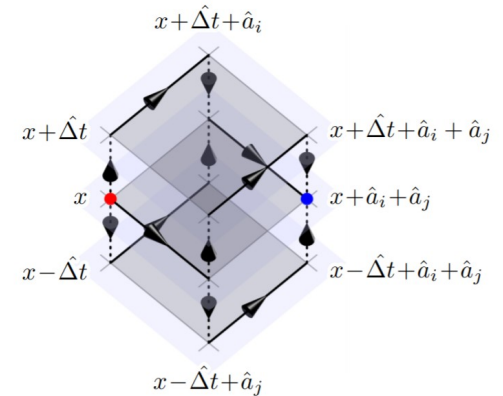
from: Bali, Phys.Rept. 343:1 (2001)

## Improved topological charge



from: Alexandrou et al., Eur.Phys.J.C 80 (2020) 5, 424

## Improved real-time lattice actions



Al, Müller, Eur.Phys.J. C78 (2018) no.11, 884

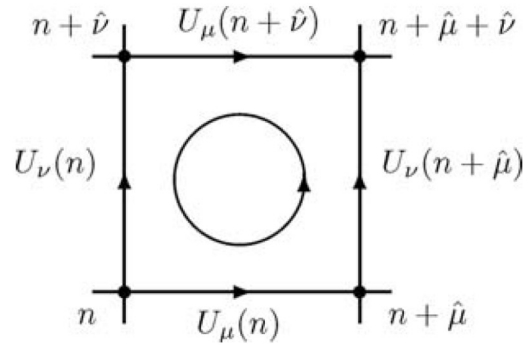
# L-CNN data

Combine lattice links  $U$   
and locally transforming objects  $W$

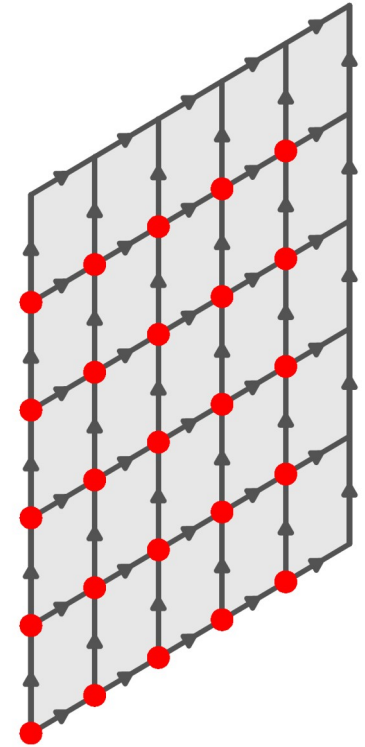
tuple  $(\mathcal{U}, \mathcal{W})$

$\mathcal{U} = \{U_{x,\mu}\}$   $SU(N_c)$  matrices

$\mathcal{W} = \{W_{x,i}\}$  with  $W_{x,i} \in \mathbb{C}^{N_c \times N_c}$



from: Gattringer, Lang (2010)



$$\mathcal{U} = \{U_{\mathbf{x},\mu}\}$$

$$\mathcal{W} = \{W_{\mathbf{x},\mu\nu}\}$$

Gauge transformation

$$T_\Omega U_{x,\mu} = \Omega_x U_{x,\mu} \Omega_{x+\mu}^\dagger$$

$$T_\Omega W_{x,i} = \Omega_x W_{x,i} \Omega_x^\dagger$$

Gauge equivariant (gauge covariant) function

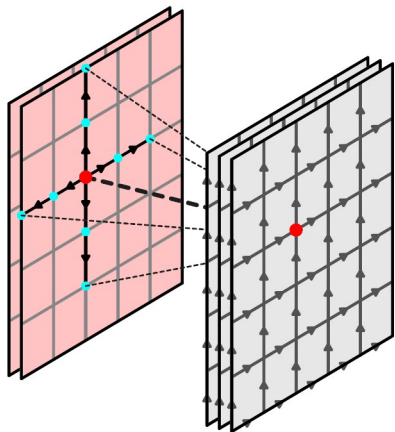
$$f(T_\Omega \mathcal{U}, T_\Omega \mathcal{W}) = T'_\Omega f(\mathcal{U}, \mathcal{W})$$

Gauge invariant function

$$f(T_\Omega \mathcal{U}, T_\Omega \mathcal{W}) = f(\mathcal{U}, \mathcal{W})$$

# Lattice gauge equivariant layers

Convolution (L-Conv)

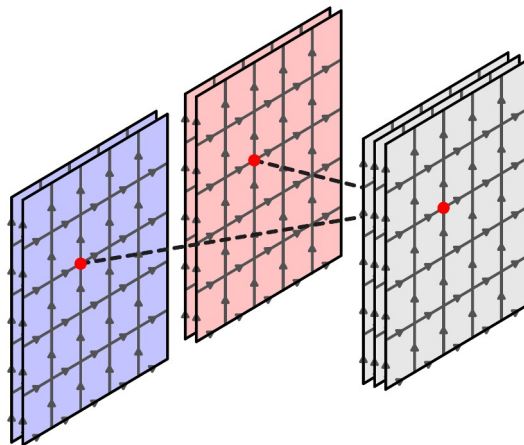


Convolution with shared weights and proper parallel transport along coordinate axes

$$(U, W) \rightarrow (U, W')$$

$$W'_{\mathbf{x},i} = \sum_{j,\mu,k} \omega_{i,j,\mu,k} U_{\mathbf{x},k,\mu} W_{\mathbf{x}+\mathbf{k},\mu,j} U_{\mathbf{x},k,\mu}^\dagger$$

Bilinear layer (L-Bilin)

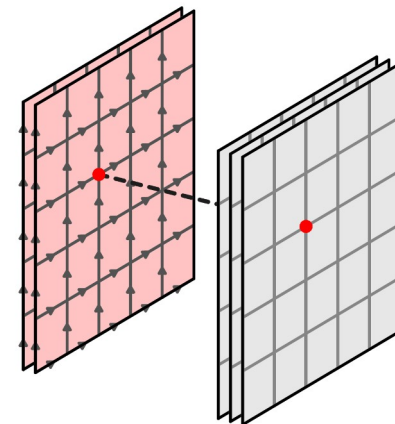


Multiply  $W$  at each lattice point

$$(U, W) \times (U, W') \rightarrow (U, W'')$$

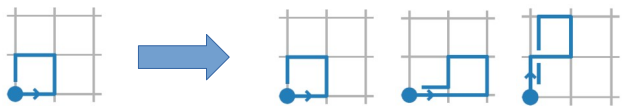
$$W''_{\mathbf{x},i} = \sum_{j,k} \alpha_{ijk} W_{\mathbf{x},j} W'_{\mathbf{x},k}$$

Trace layer

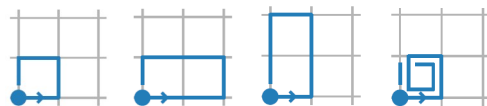


Generate gauge invariant output

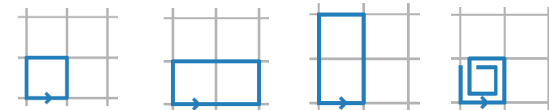
$$w_{\mathbf{x},i} = \text{Tr } W_{\mathbf{x},i} \in \mathbb{C}$$



Fixed point actions from L-CNNs

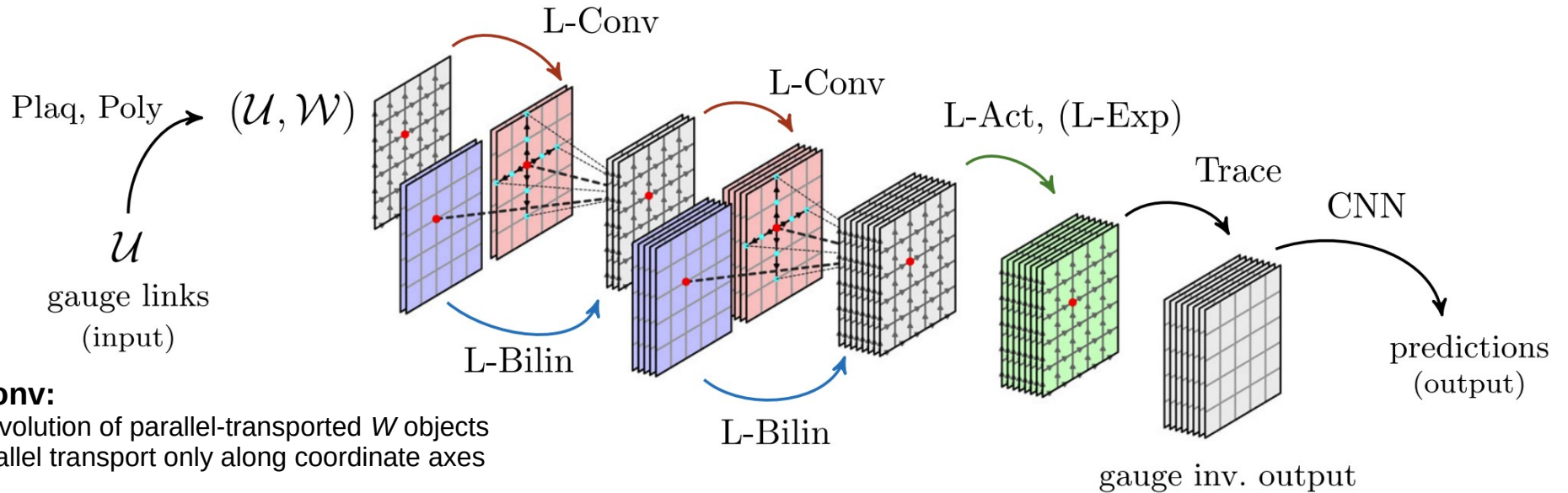


Andreas Ipp





# Generic L-CNN



## L-Conv:

- \* convolution of parallel-transported  $W$  objects
- \* parallel transport only along coordinate axes

## L-Bilin:

- \* bilinear layer, product of locally transforming objects

## L-Act:

- \* activation functions multiply  $W$  objects by scalar, gauge-invariant functions

## L-Exp:

- \* update link variables using exponential map

## Trace:

- \* calculate gauge invariant trace

## Plaq:

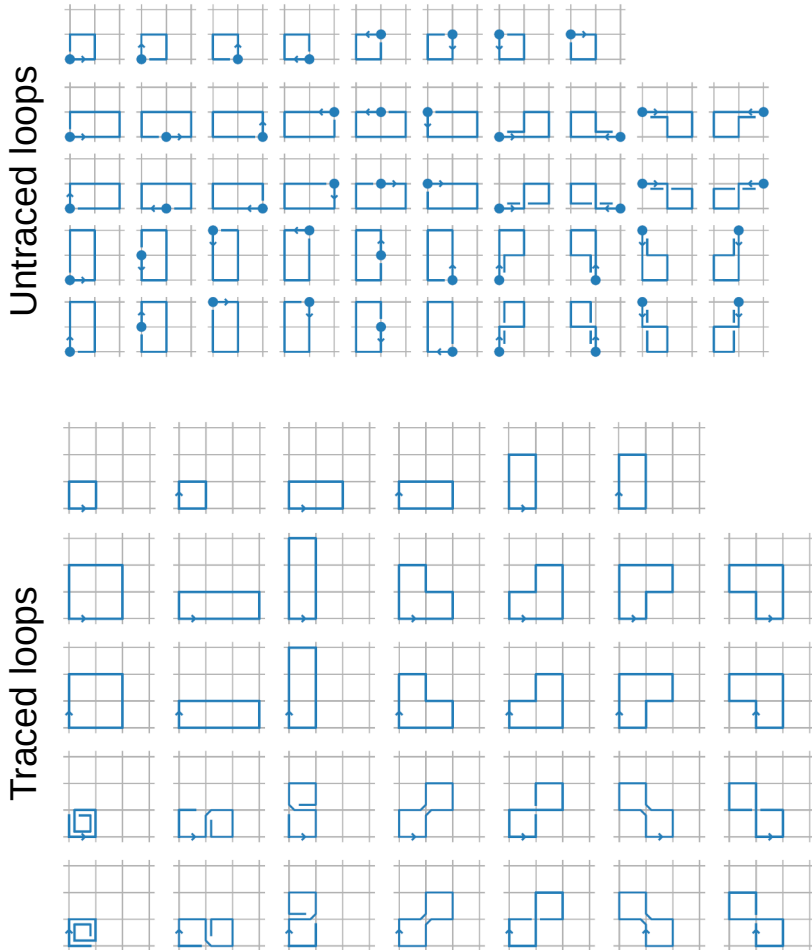
- \* generate all possible plaquettes

## Poly:

- \* generate all possible Polyakov loops

Favoni, AI, Müller, Schuh,  
Phys.Rev.Lett. 128 (2022) 032003

# L-CNNs generate Wilson loops



Fixed point actions from L-CNNs

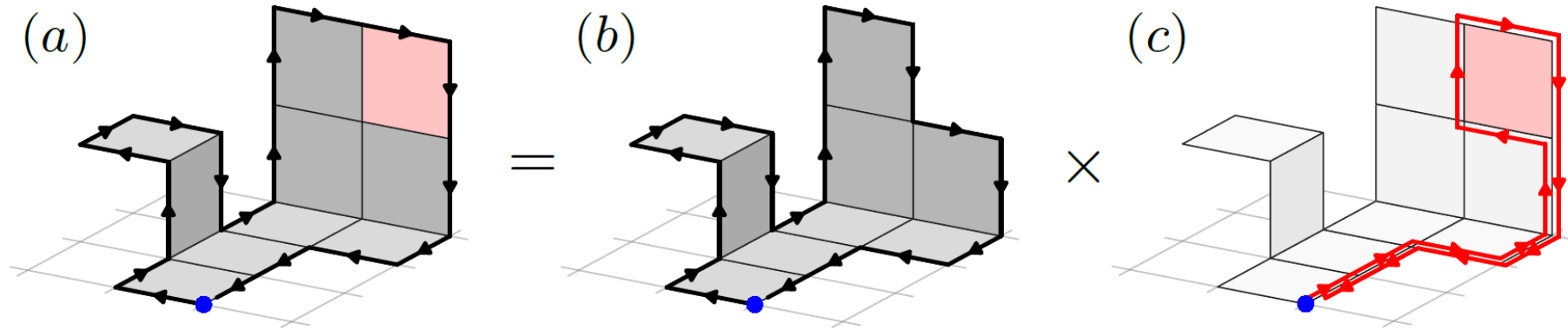
Number of traced Wilson loops covered by L-CNN architectures of various sizes in 1+1 D

Length	Max	$W^{(1 \times 1)}$		$W^{(1 \times 2)}$			$W^{(2 \times 2)}$		
		S	S	M	L	S	M	L	
0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
6	4		4	4	4	4	4	4	4
8	28		4	4	4	22	22	22	22
10	152			8	8	48	76	76	76
12	1,010				8	92	204	220	220
14	6,772					120	412	532	532
16	47,646					100	712	1,080	1,080
18	343,168					136	928	1,896	1,896
20	2,529,890					32	1,056	2,620	2,620
22	18,982,172					64	768	3,152	3,152
$\geq 24$							800	7,210	7,210
Total			3	11	19	27	621	4,985	16,725
Max.Len			4	8	10	12	22	28	34

Architectures differ in number of layers, kernel size, and number of channels.

Favoni, AI, Müller, Schuh, Phys.Rev.Lett. 128 (2022) 032003

# Sketch of proof for arbitrary Wilson loops



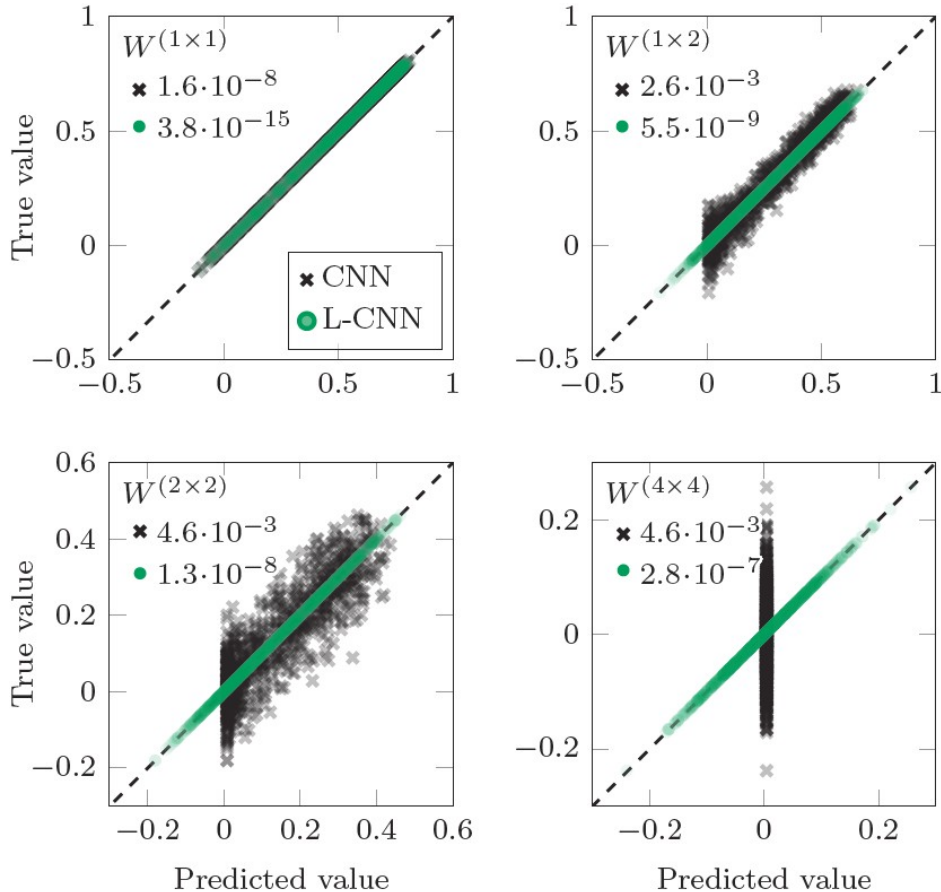
Favoni, AI, Müller, Schuh, Phys.Rev.Lett. 128 (2022) 032003

- (a) An arbitrary contractible Wilson loop of  $n$  tiles ...
- (b) ... is composed (L-Bilin) of a Wilson loop of  $(n-1)$  tiles ...
- (c) ... and a parallel-transported (L-Conv) plaquette (Plaq).

Non-contractible loops (like Polyakov loops) have to be added (Poly).

# Numerical results

1+1D



Fixed point actions from L-CNNs

Regression task to learn value of rectangular Wilson loops:

$$W_{x,\mu\nu}^{(m \times n)} = \text{Re Tr} \left[ U_{x,\mu\nu}^{(m \times n)} \right]$$

Lattice gauge equivariant CNN (L-CNNs, green) can learn the relation, while traditional convolutional neural networks (CNNs, black) struggle to find the solution.

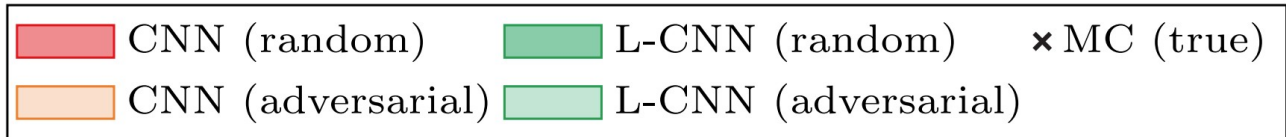
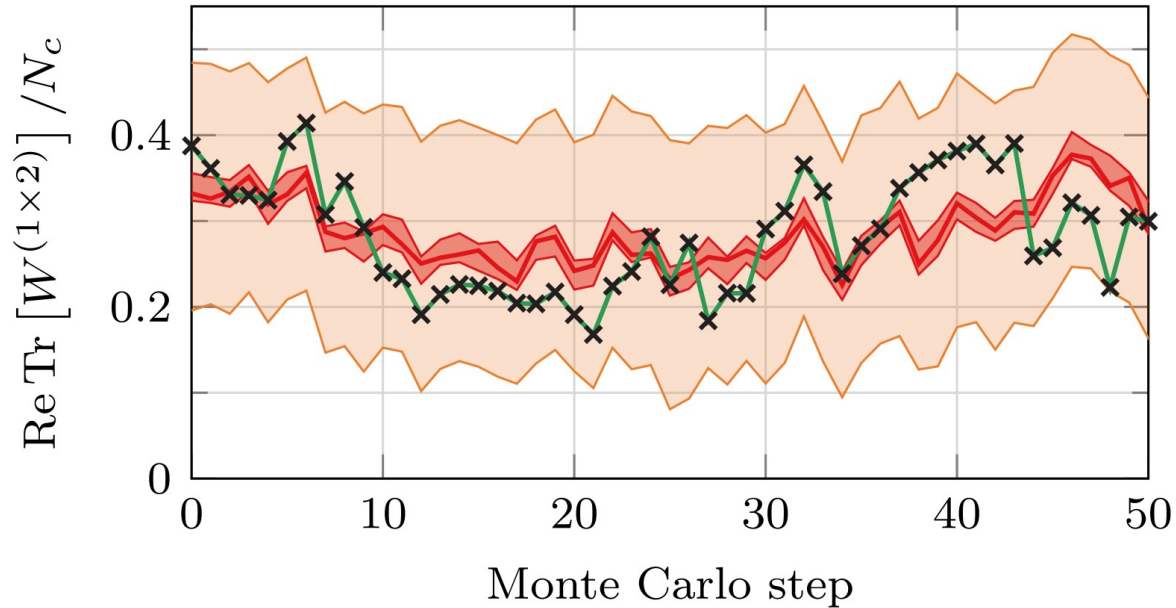
Training on  $8 \times 8$ , testing from  $8 \times 8$  up to  $64 \times 64$

Compared best from:  
100 L-CNN models ( $10 - 10^4$  trainable parameters, up to 4 L-Conv+L-Bilin)

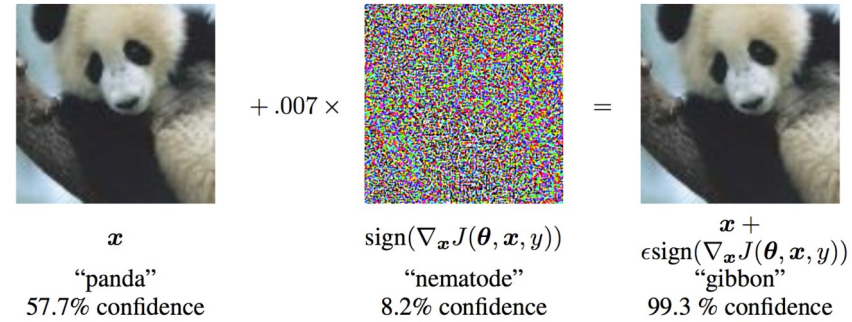
2840 CNN models ( $100 - 10^5$  trainable parameters up to 6 layers, 512 channels, 4 activation functions)

Favoni, Ai, Müller, Schuh, Phys.Rev.Lett. 128 (2022) 032003

# Adversarial attacks



Adversarial attack:

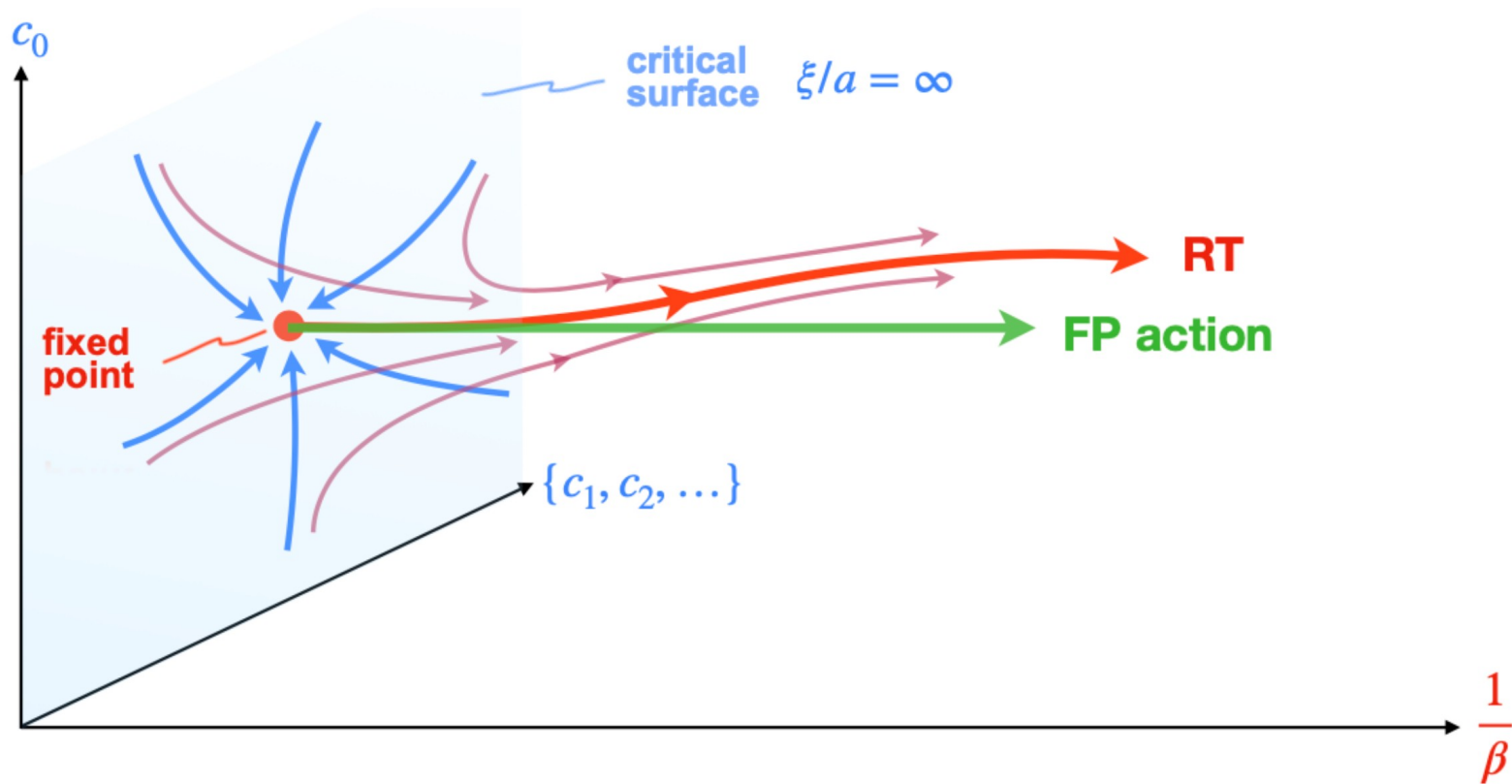


From Goodfellow, Shlens, Szegedy [ICLR 2015](#)

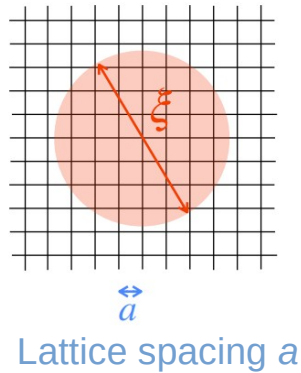
L-CNNs are insensitive to random or adversarial gauge transformations

Favoni, AI, Müller, Schuh, [Phys.Rev.Lett. 128 \(2022\) 032003](#)

# Fixed point action



# Quantum field theory on a lattice



Partition function for  $SU(N_c)$  gauge theory

$$Z(\beta) = \int \mathcal{D}U \exp\{-\beta A[U]\}$$

with gauge coupling  $\beta = \frac{2N_c}{g^2}$  Action

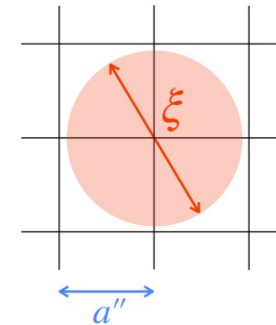
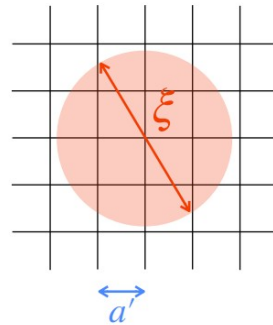
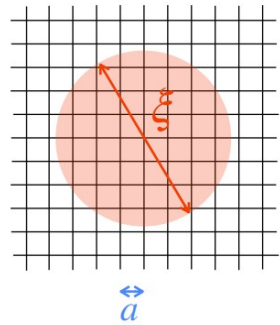
Expectation values of observables can be calculated as

$$\langle \mathcal{O}_\xi(\beta) \rangle = \frac{1}{Z} \int \mathcal{D}U \exp\{-\beta A[U]\} \mathcal{O}_\xi[U]$$

for a characteristic length scale  $\xi$

# Renormalization group transformation

Critical slowing down,  
topological freezing ...



... Large lattice artifacts



Introduce a (real space) renormalization group transformation (RGT)

$$\exp \{-\beta' A'[V]\} = \int \mathcal{D}U \exp \{-\beta (A[U] + T[U, V])\}$$

Blocking kernel

The effective action  $\beta' A'[V]$  is described

by infinitely many couplings  $\{c'_\alpha\}$

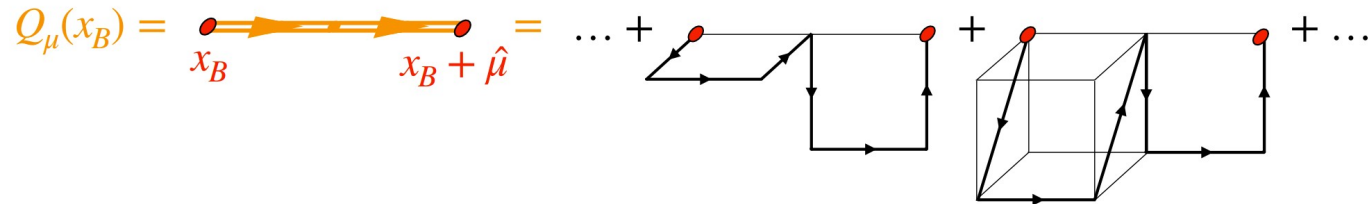
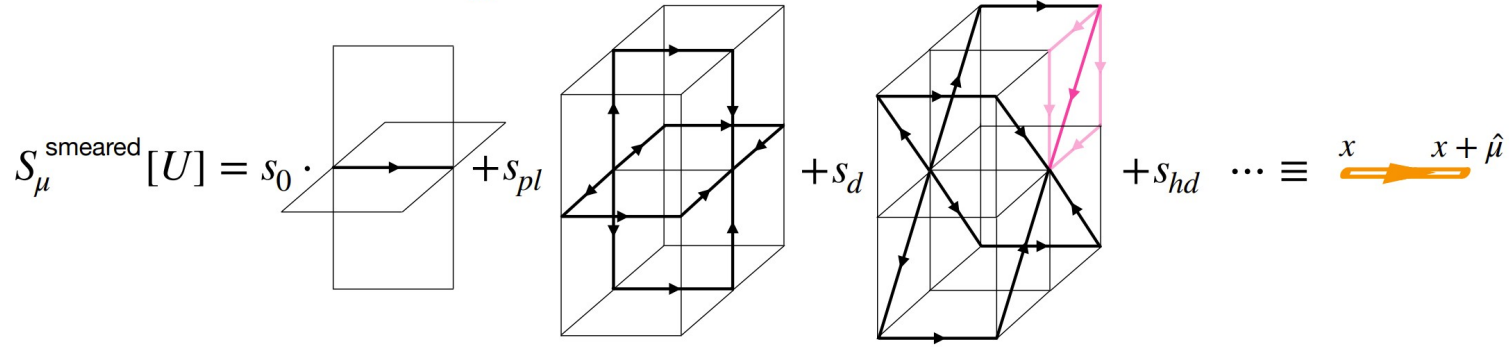
The fixed point is the saddle point in the classical limit  $\beta \rightarrow \infty$ , which can be found by a minimization condition.

P. Hasenfratz, F. Niedermayer,  
Nucl.Phys.B 414 (1994) 785



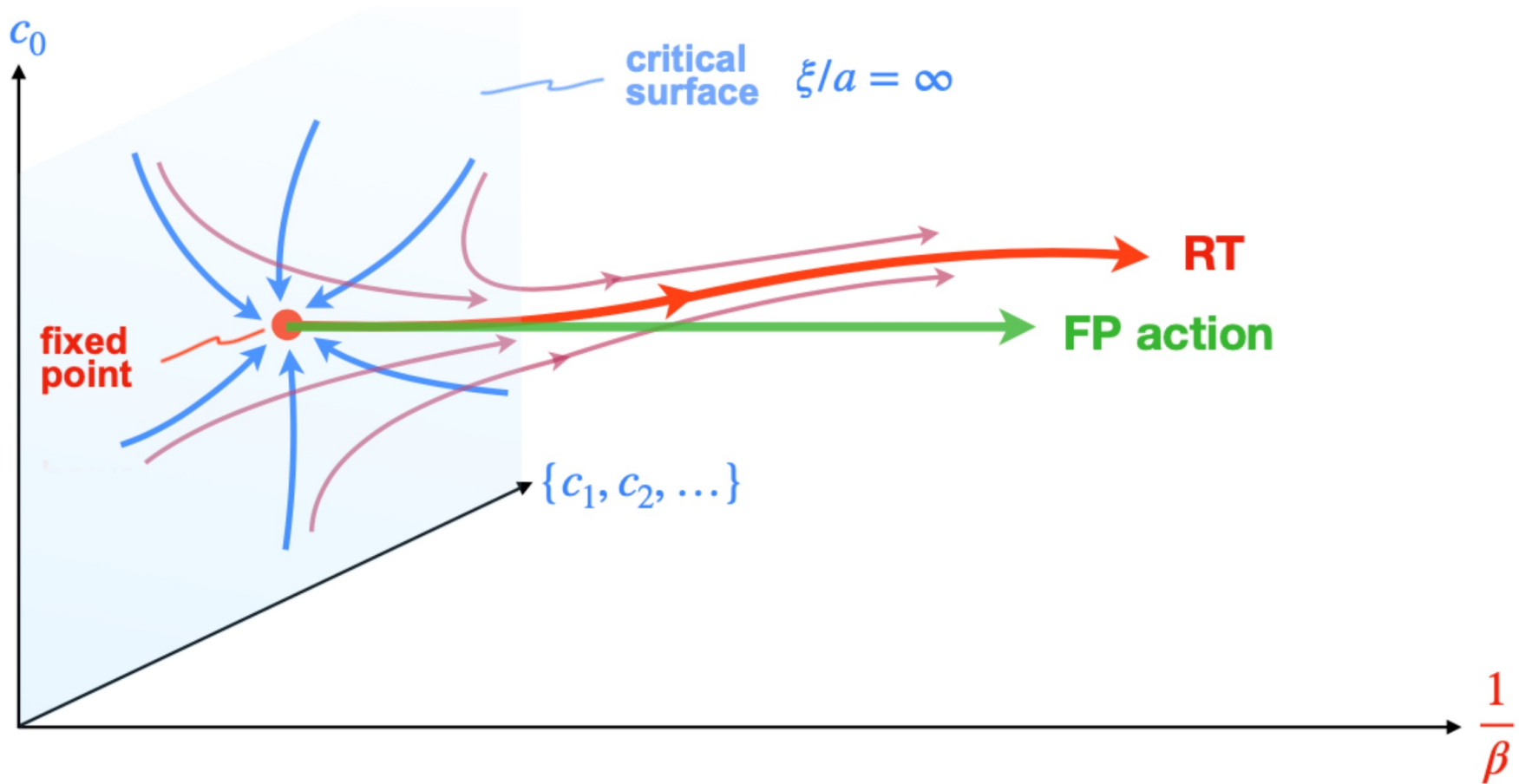
# Blocking kernel

$$T[U, V] = -\frac{\kappa}{N_c} \sum_{x_B, \mu} \left\{ \text{ReTr} \left( V_\mu(x_B) \cdot Q_\mu^\dagger(x_B) \right) - \mathcal{N}_\mu^\beta \right\}$$



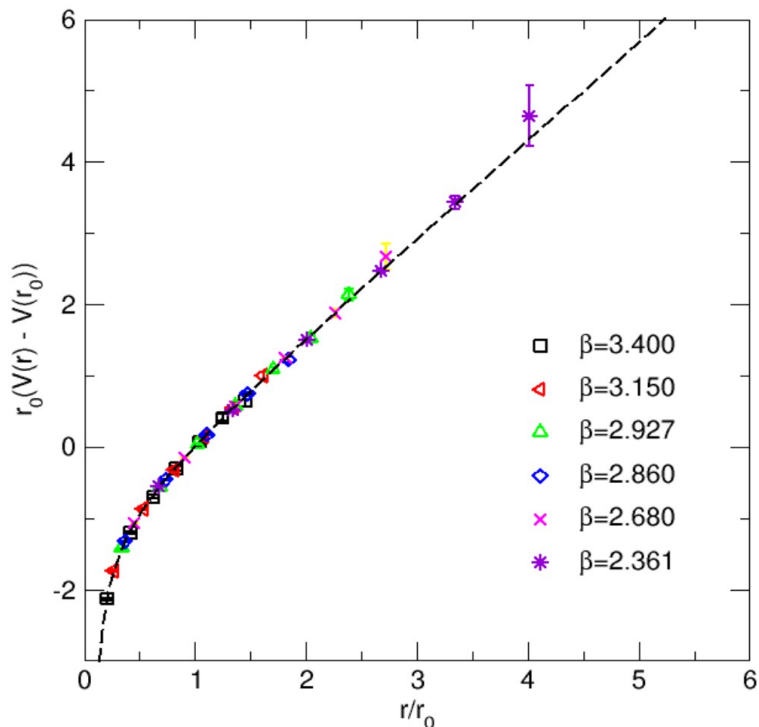
Choice of blocking kernel determines how couplings are modified across scales.

# Renormalization group transformation and Fixed point action



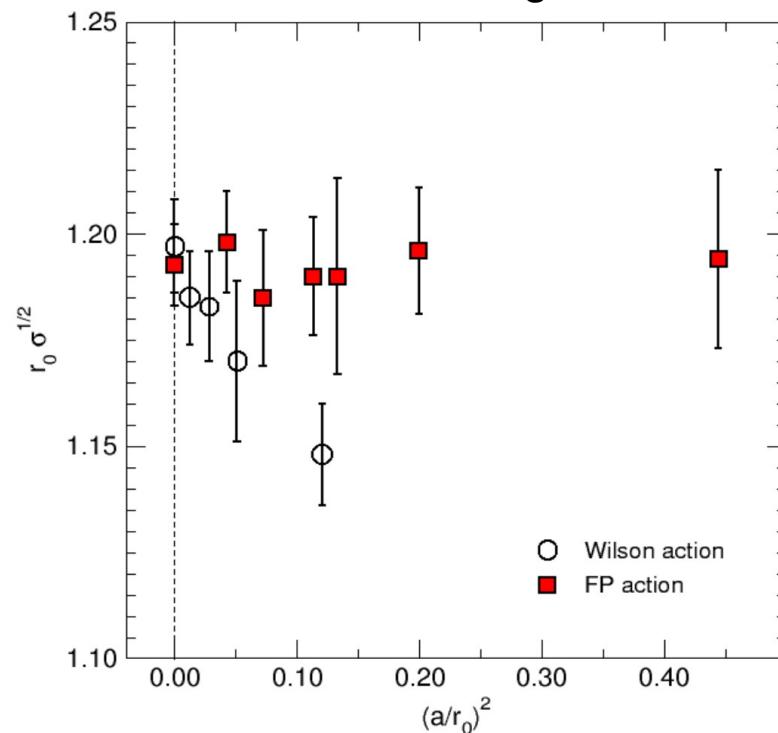
# Fixed point action using older parametrizations

## Static quark-antiquark potential



$$\text{fit to } V(r) = V_0 - \frac{\alpha}{r} + \sigma r$$

## Extraction of string tension $\sigma$



Niedermayer, Rufenacht, Wenger, Nucl.Phys.B 597 (2001) 413, hep-lat/0007007

# Machine learning the fixed point action

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To obtain the training data for supervised machine learning, first generate ensembles of coarse configurations  $V$ .

For a given coarse configuration  $V$ , the **fixed point action values** are determined by minimizing configurations  $U, U', \dots$

$$A^{\text{FP}}[V] = \min_{\{U\}} \{A^{\text{FP}}[U] + T[U, V]\} = \min_{\{U', U\}} \{A^{\text{FP}}[U'] + T[U', U] + T[U, V]\}$$

Use additional information for training obtained from **derivatives of the fixed point action**:

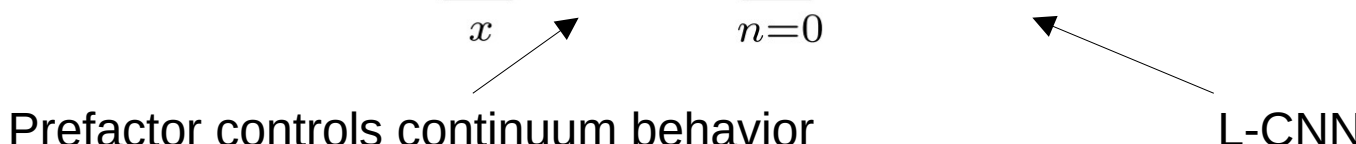
$$\frac{\delta A^{\text{FP}}[V]}{\delta V_{x,\mu}^a} = \frac{\delta T[U, V]}{\delta V_{x,\mu}^a} = -\kappa \text{Re Tr}(it^a V_{x,\mu} Q_{x,\mu}^\dagger) \quad Q_{x,\mu}^\dagger = Q_{x,\mu}^\dagger[U]$$


yields  $D$  [link directions]  $\times (N^2 - 1)$  [colors]  $\times L^D$  [lattice sites] data per configuration.

# Fixed point action using L-CNNs

---

Parametrize **action model** in particular way:

$$\mathcal{A}^{\text{L-CNN}}[V] = \sum_x \mathcal{A}_x^{\text{pre}}[V] \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} b^{(n)} (N_x[V] - N_x[\mathbb{1}])^n$$


Prefactor controls continuum behavior

L-CNN

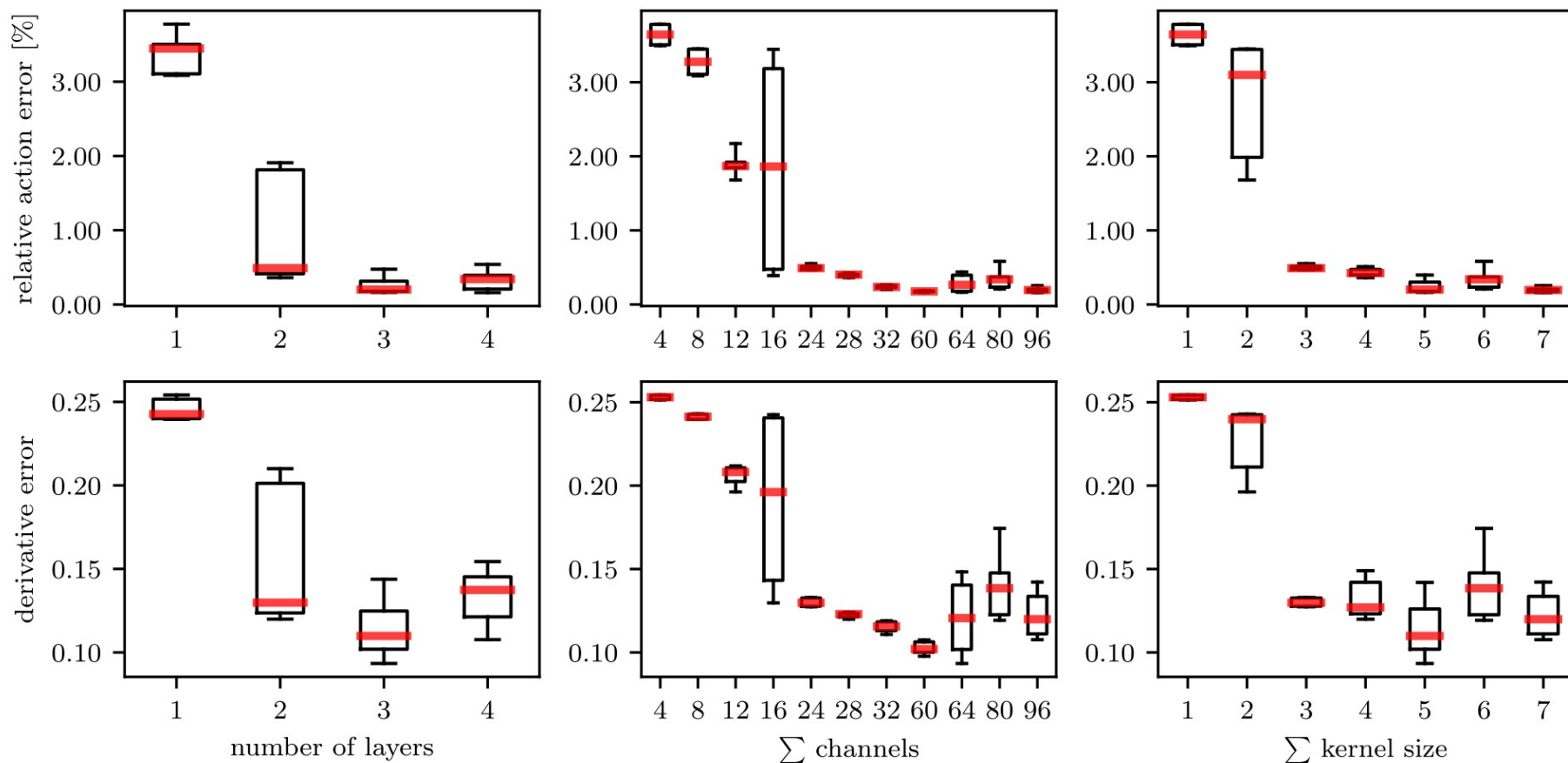
**Loss function** combines action values and its derivatives  $\mathcal{L} = w_1 \mathcal{L}_1 + w_2 \mathcal{L}_2$

$$\mathcal{L}_1 = \frac{1}{L^4 N_{\text{cfg}}} \sum_{i=1}^{N_{\text{cfg}}} |\mathcal{A}^{\text{FP}}[V_i] - \mathcal{A}^{\text{L-CNN}}[V_i]|,$$

$$\mathcal{L}_2 = \frac{1}{32L^4 N_{\text{cfg}}} \sum_{i=1}^{N_{\text{cfg}}} \sum_{x,\mu} \text{Tr} [(D_{x,\mu}^{\text{FP}}[V_i] - D_{x,\mu}^{\text{L-CNN}}[V_i])^2]$$

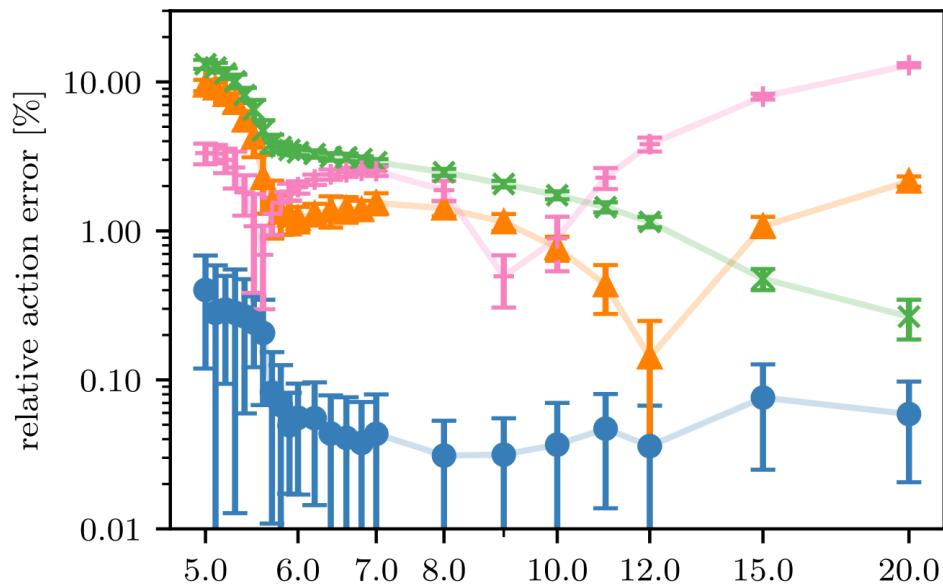
Technical remark: derivatives of L-CNNs are obtained through backpropagation

# Scan through various architectures

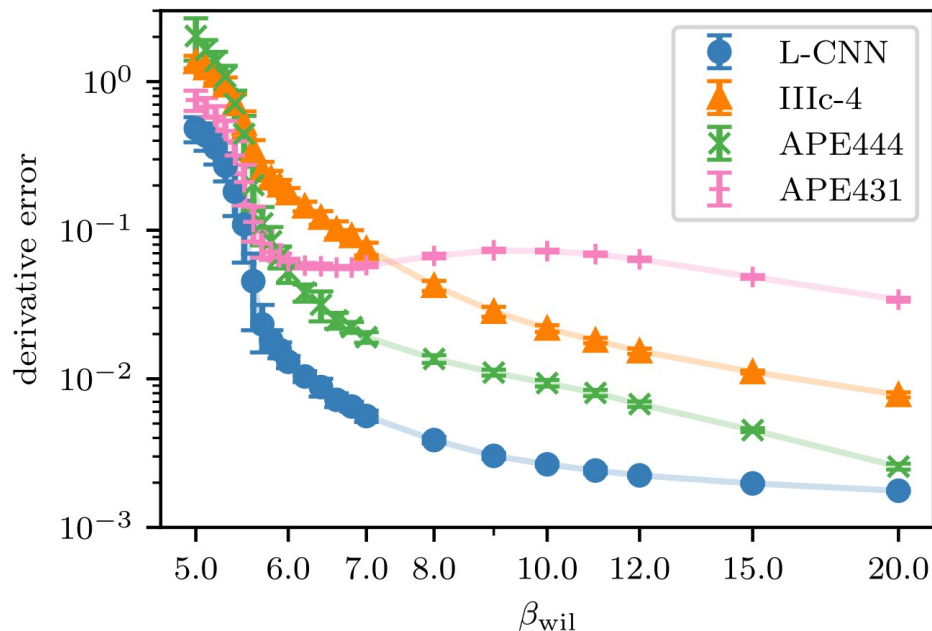


Train 130 models of various sizes for  $4^4$  lattice,  $SU(3)$  gauge group, and  $\beta_{wil} \in [5,10]$ .

# Learning the fixed point action with L-CNNs



Best model: L-CNN with  
3 layers with 12, 24, 24 channels  
and kernel size 2, 2, 1.

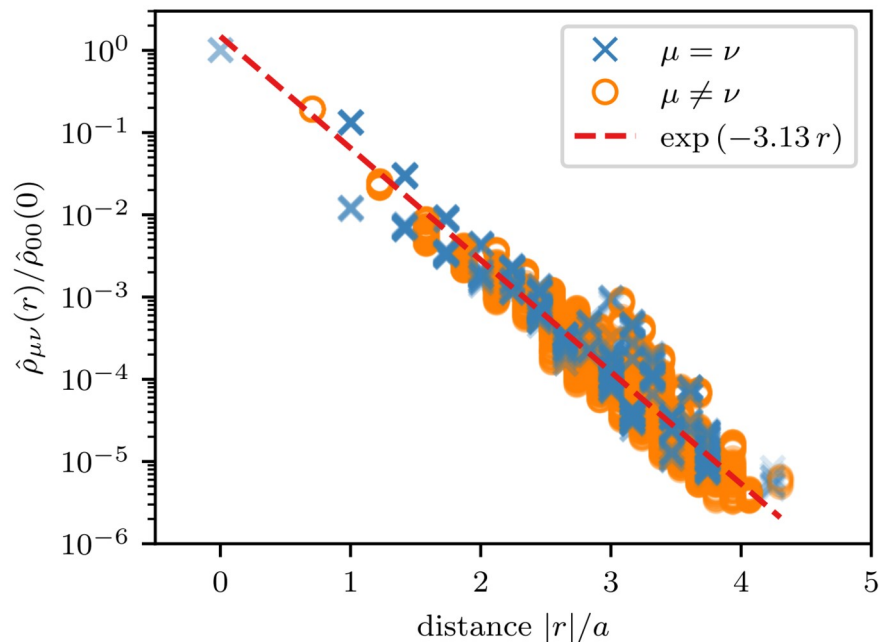


L-CNN superior to older parametrizations  
of FP action.

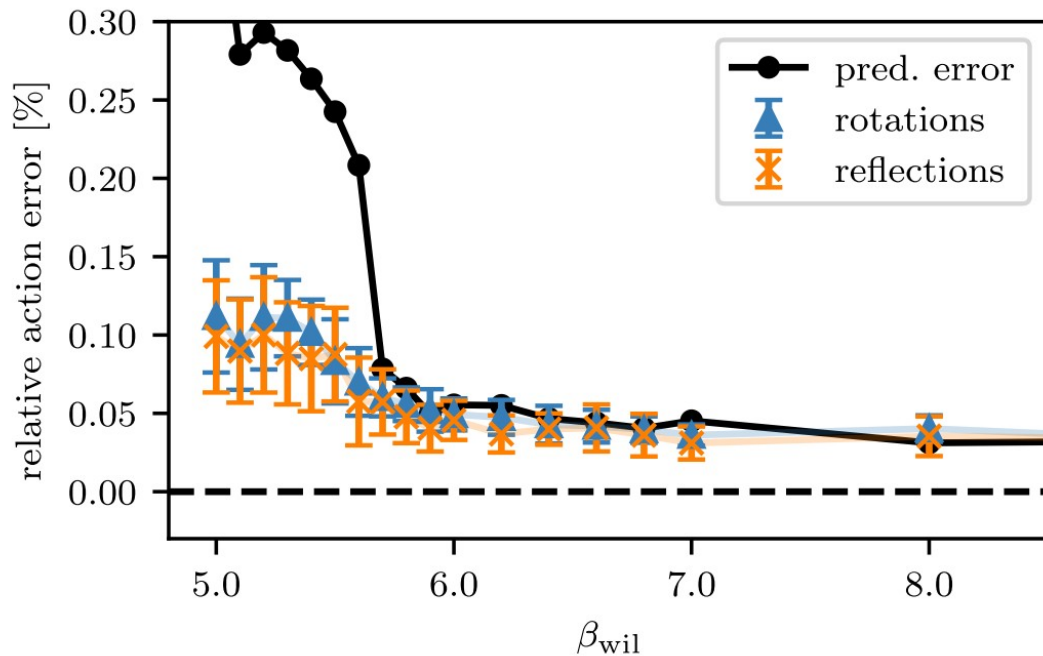
Holland, AI, Müller, Wenger  
arXiv:2401.06481

# Properties of the learned FP action

## Locality measurement



## Rotation and reflection error

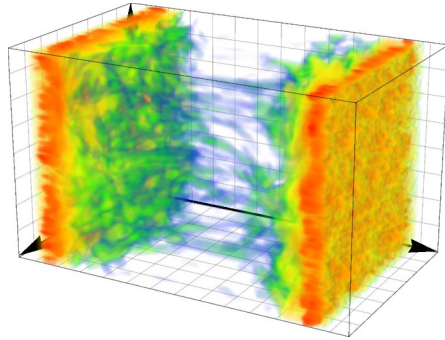


Holland, AI, Müller, Wenger  
arXiv:2401.06481



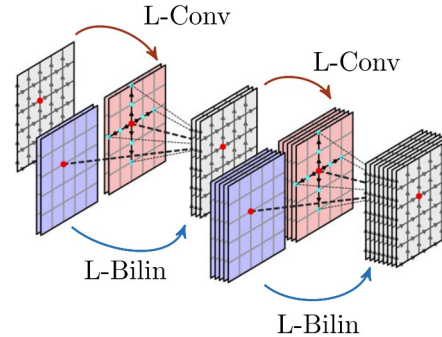
# Summary

## Glasma simulations



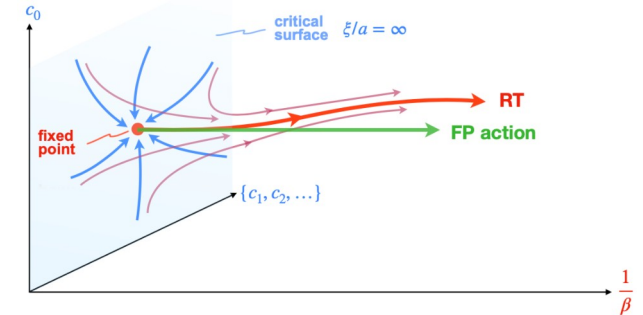
AI, Müller, Phys. Lett. B 771 (2017) 74  
Gelfand, AI, Müller, Phys. Rev. D94 (2016) no.1, 014020

## L-CNNs



Favoni, AI, Müller, Schuh,  
Phys.Rev.Lett. 128 (2022) 032003

## Learning fixed-point actions



Holland, AI, Müller, Wenger  
arXiv:2401.06481

- improved gauge actions may enable simulations at coarser lattice spacing
- fixed point actions have no lattice artifacts at the classical level (if the object studied can be resolved), and may have suppressed lattice artifacts at the quantum level.
- L-CNNs achieve higher accuracy than previous hand-crafted parametrizations
- Outlook: apply learned FP action to Monte Carlo simulations.

Open source: <https://gitlab.com/openpixi/lge-cnn>

# Backup

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# Continuous formulation of L-CNNs

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Define a continuous version of a gauge equivariant convolution:

$$[\psi * \mathcal{W}]^a(\mathbf{x}) = \sum_b \int_{\mathbb{R}^D} d\mathbf{y}^D \psi^{ab}(\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{x}) U_{\mathbf{x} \rightarrow \mathbf{y}} W^b(\mathbf{y}) U_{\mathbf{x} \rightarrow \mathbf{y}}^\dagger$$

with kernel components  $\psi^{ab} : \mathbb{R}^D \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$

and parallel transporter  $U_{\mathbf{x} \rightarrow \mathbf{y}} = \mathcal{P} \exp \left\{ i \int_0^1 ds \frac{d\mathbf{x}^\nu(s)}{ds} A_\nu(\mathbf{x}(s)) \right\}$

that map  $\mathcal{W} = (W^1, \dots, W^m)$  objects to new objects

in a gauge equivariant manner:

$$[\psi * T_\Omega \mathcal{W}]^a(\mathbf{x}) = T_\Omega [\psi * \mathcal{W}]^a(\mathbf{x})$$

Similarly define continuous bilinear layer, trace layer, ...

Discretize this to obtain previous formulation.

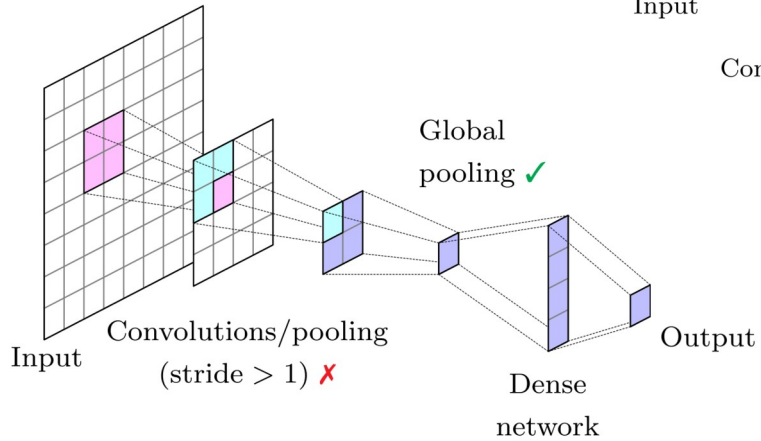
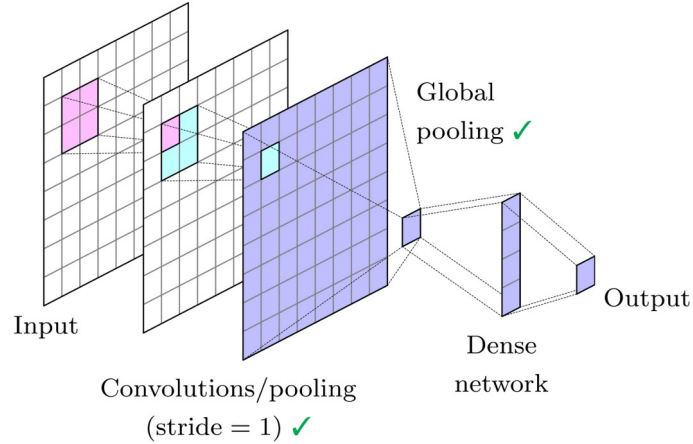
Compatible with G-CNNs.

Generalizable to vectors and tensors.

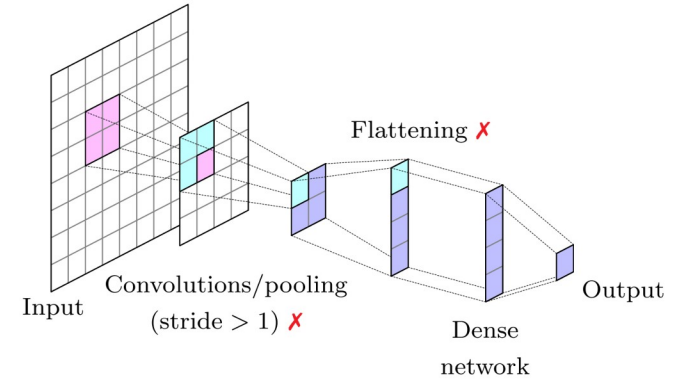
Aronsson, Müller, Schuh, arxiv:2303.11448

# Translational symmetry

## Equivariant architecture (EQ)



## Strided architecture (ST)



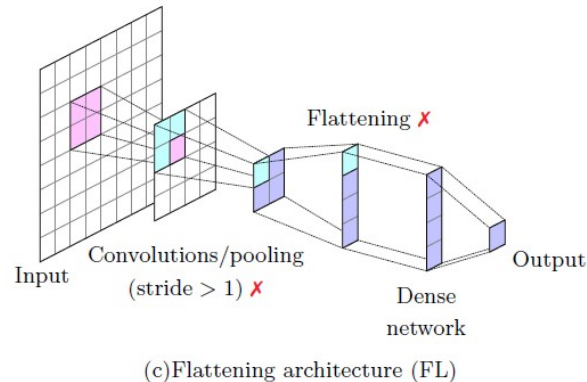
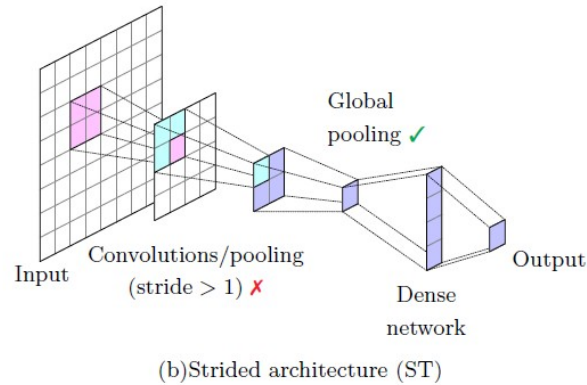
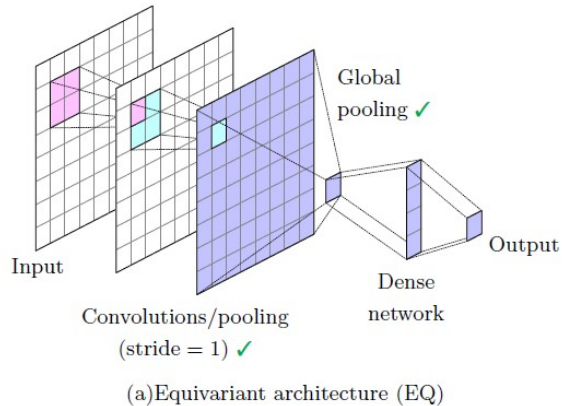
## Flattening architecture (FL)

Bulusu, Favoni, AI, Müller, Schuh, Phys. Rev. D 104 (2021) 074504

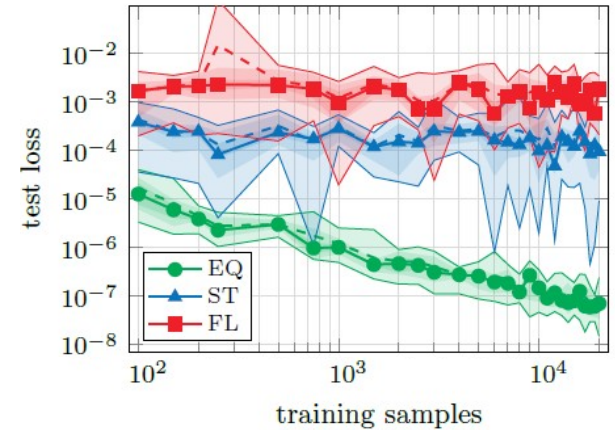
# Comparison of architecture types

For fair comparison, best architectures for each type have been obtained by an Optuna optimization (scanning through various kernel sizes, number of layers, number of channels, ...)

Best architectures are retrained 10 times and evaluated on the validation set.



Test regression tasks on observables of a scalar field model in 2 dimensions:



Bulusu, Favoni, AI, Müller, Schuh, Phys. Rev. D 104 (2021) 074504