

# Variational studies of (hyper)nuclear interactions from Lattice QCD

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Universitat de Barcelona

NPLQCD Collaboration



[www.ub.edu/nplqcd](http://www.ub.edu/nplqcd)

ECT\* 2024  
SPICE workshop:  
Strange hadrons as a precision tool for strongly  
interacting systems  
May 13-17, 2023



Institut de Ciències del Cosmos  
UNIVERSITAT DE BARCELONA



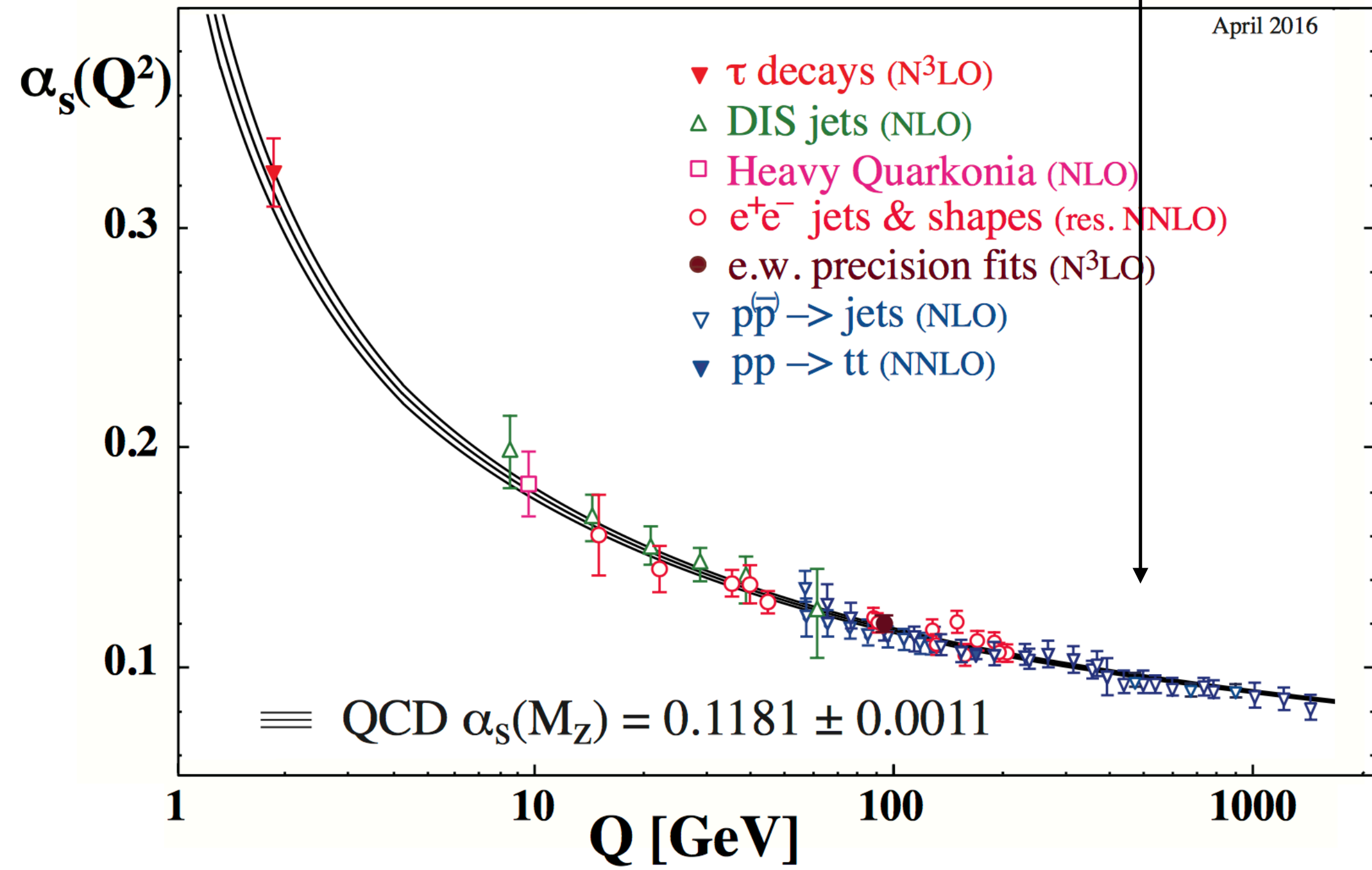
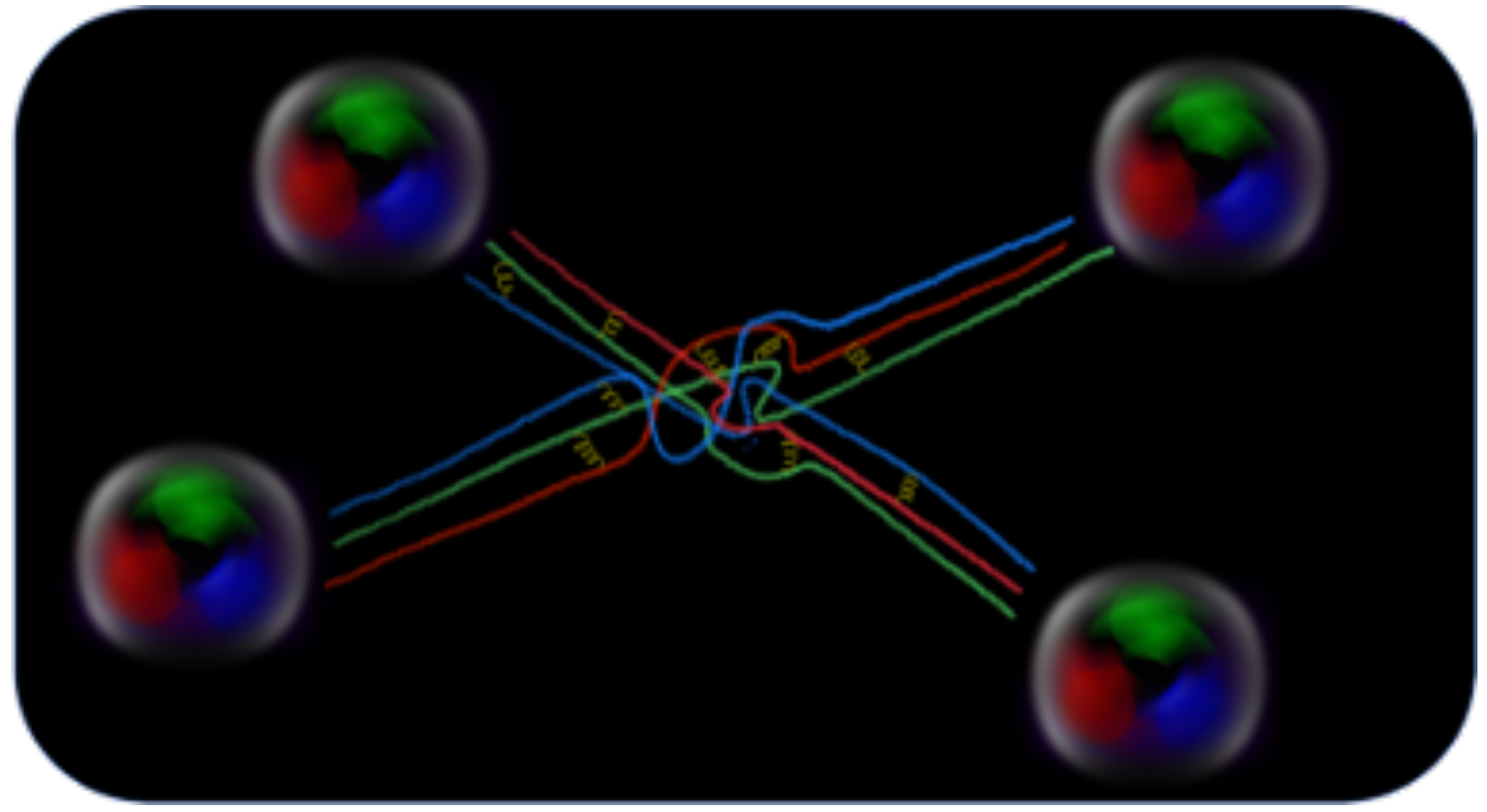
# Solving QCD

$$\mathcal{L}_{QCD} = \bar{q}_{ij} (i\gamma^u \partial_u - m_j) q_{ij} + g(\bar{q}_{ij} \gamma^u \lambda_a q_{ij}) F_u^a - \frac{1}{4} F_{uv}^a F_a^{uv}$$

$i = r, g, b \quad j = u, d, c, s, t, b$

Nuclear physics, the non-perturbative regime of QCD QCD Perturbation theory applicable

strong coupling constant *vs* energy



*S. Bethke, G.Dissertori, G.P. Salam*  
*EPJ Web of Conferences 120 07005 (2016)*

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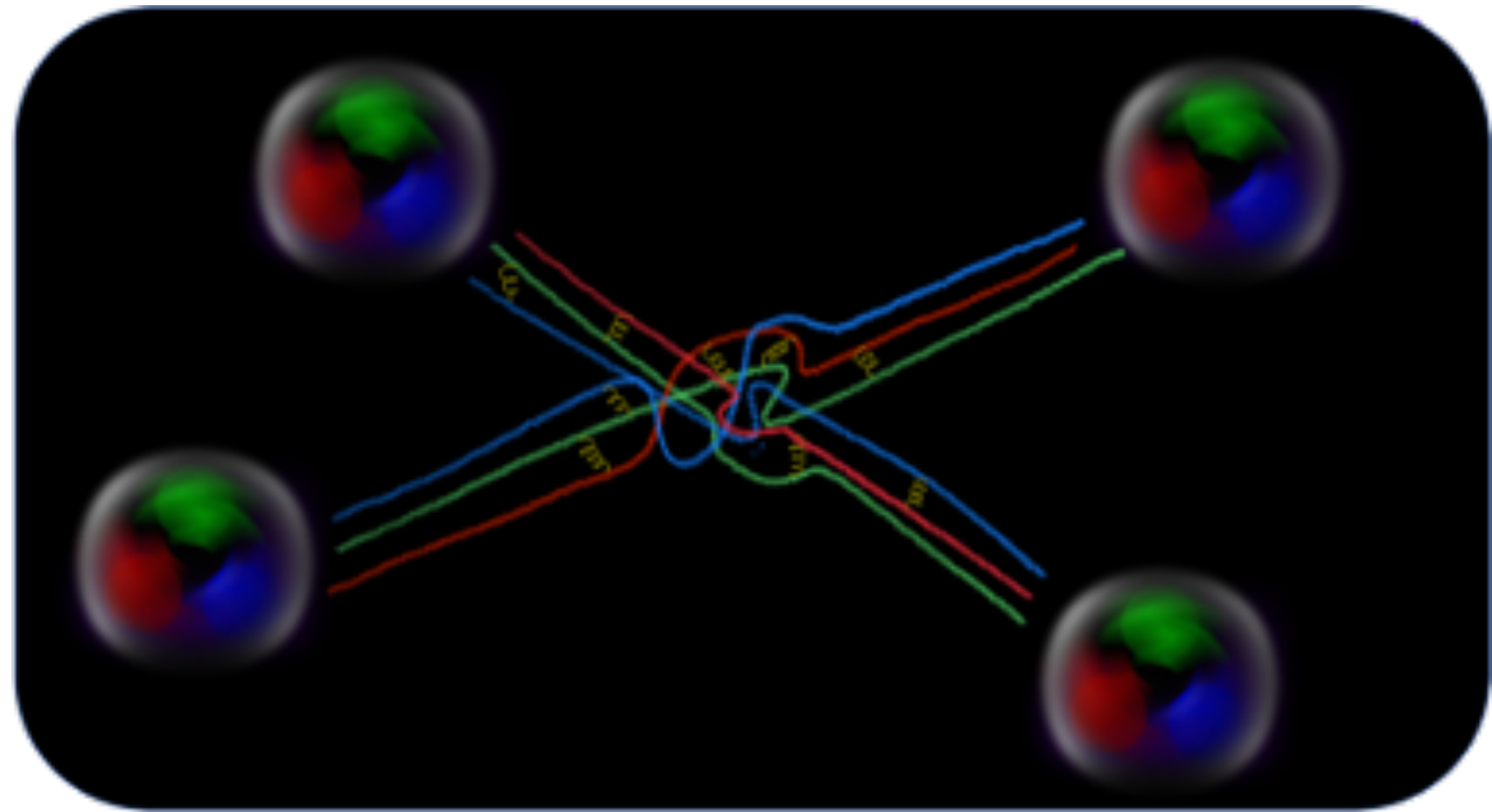
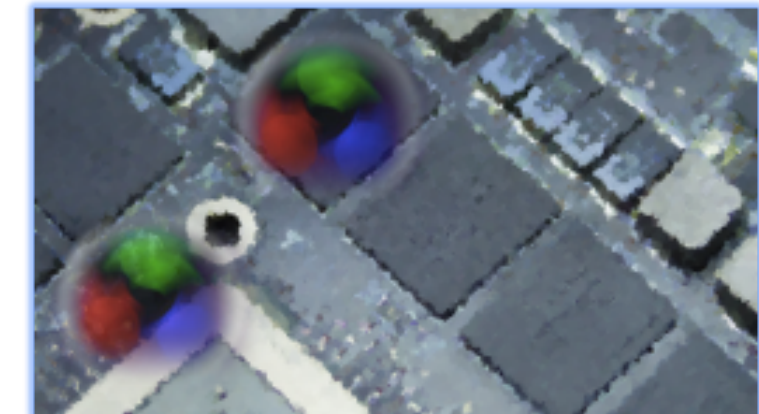
Nuclear physics, the non-perturbative regime of QCD

The quantum propagation is expressed as a weighted sum over paths

PATH INTEGRAL  
Feynman, 1948

$$A = \int D(q) \exp\left(i \int_i^f dt L(q(t))\right)$$

go to **Euclidean space**  
(numerical methods/important sampling)



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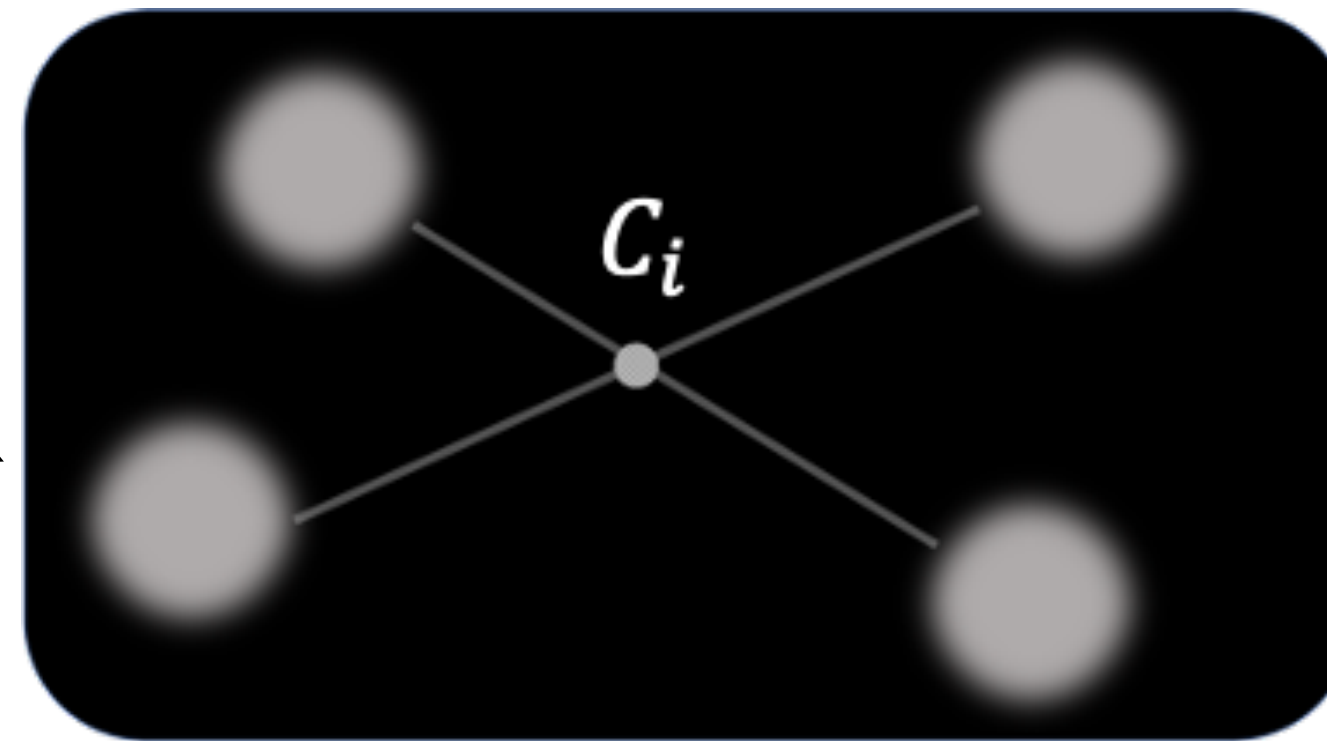
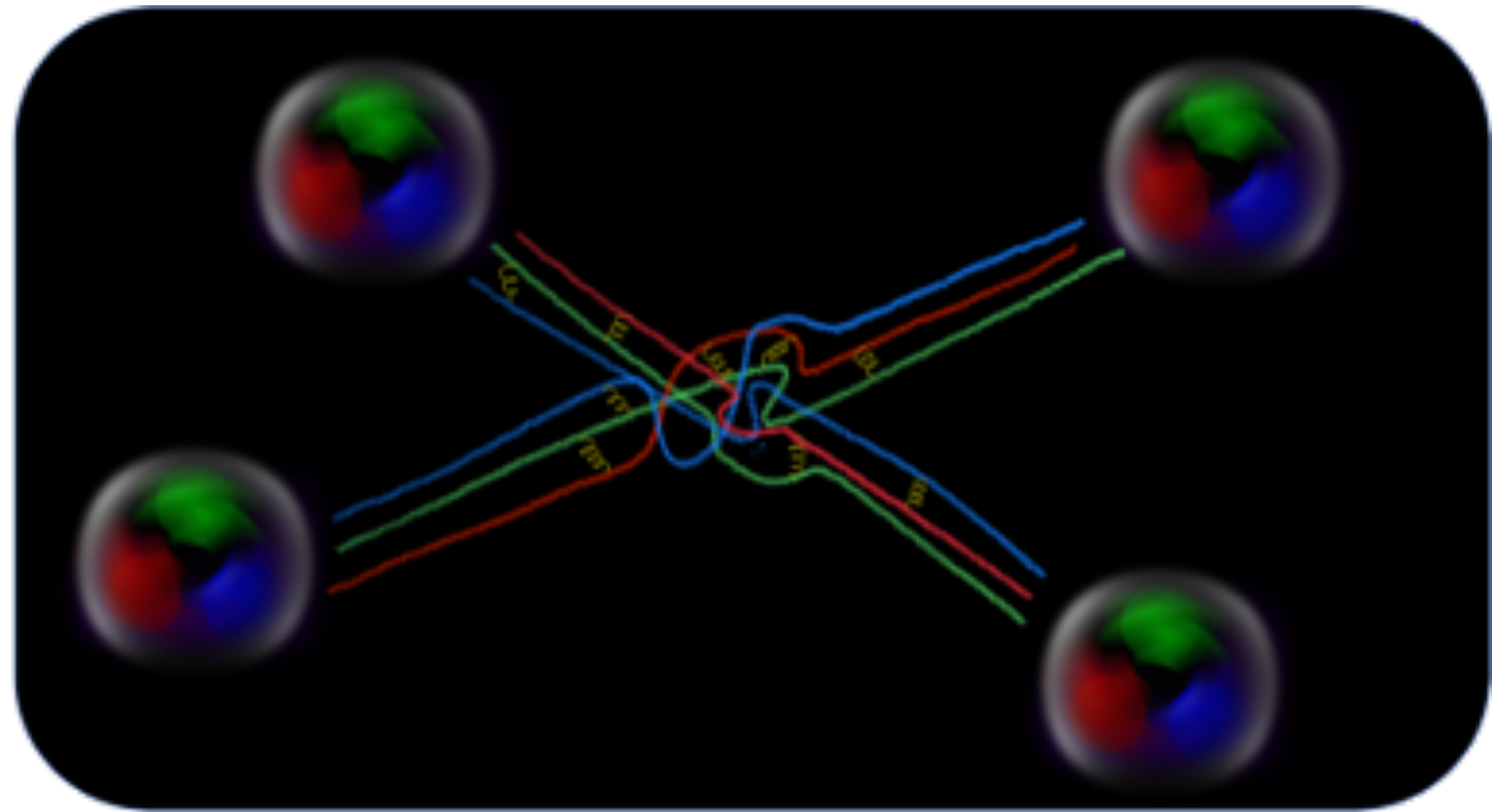
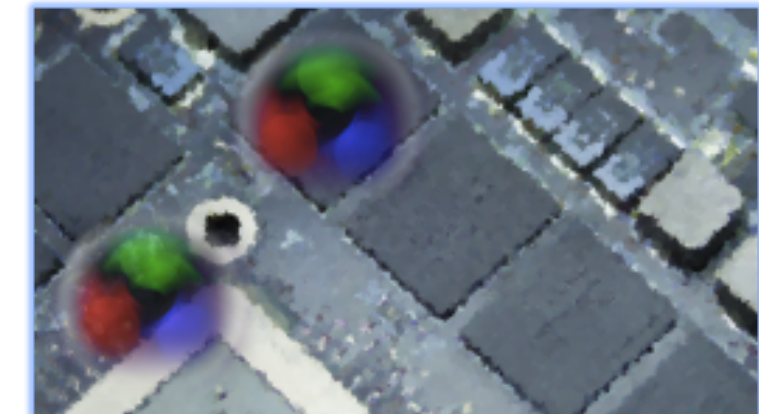
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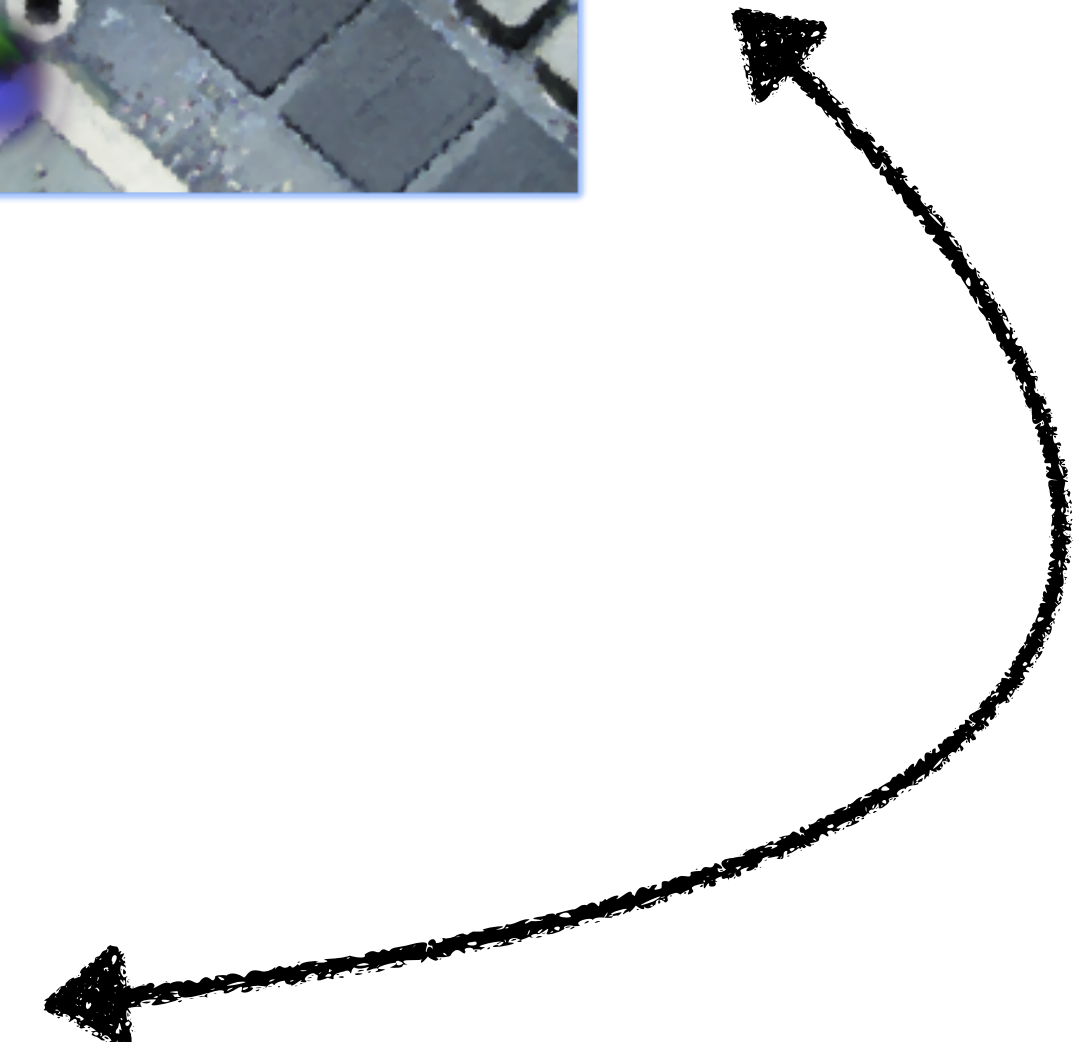
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$$\mathcal{L}_{EFT} [\pi, N, \dots; m_\pi, m_N, \dots; C_i]$$

└ LECs



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Nuclear physics, the non-perturbative regime of QCD

Lattice QCD calculations allow for:

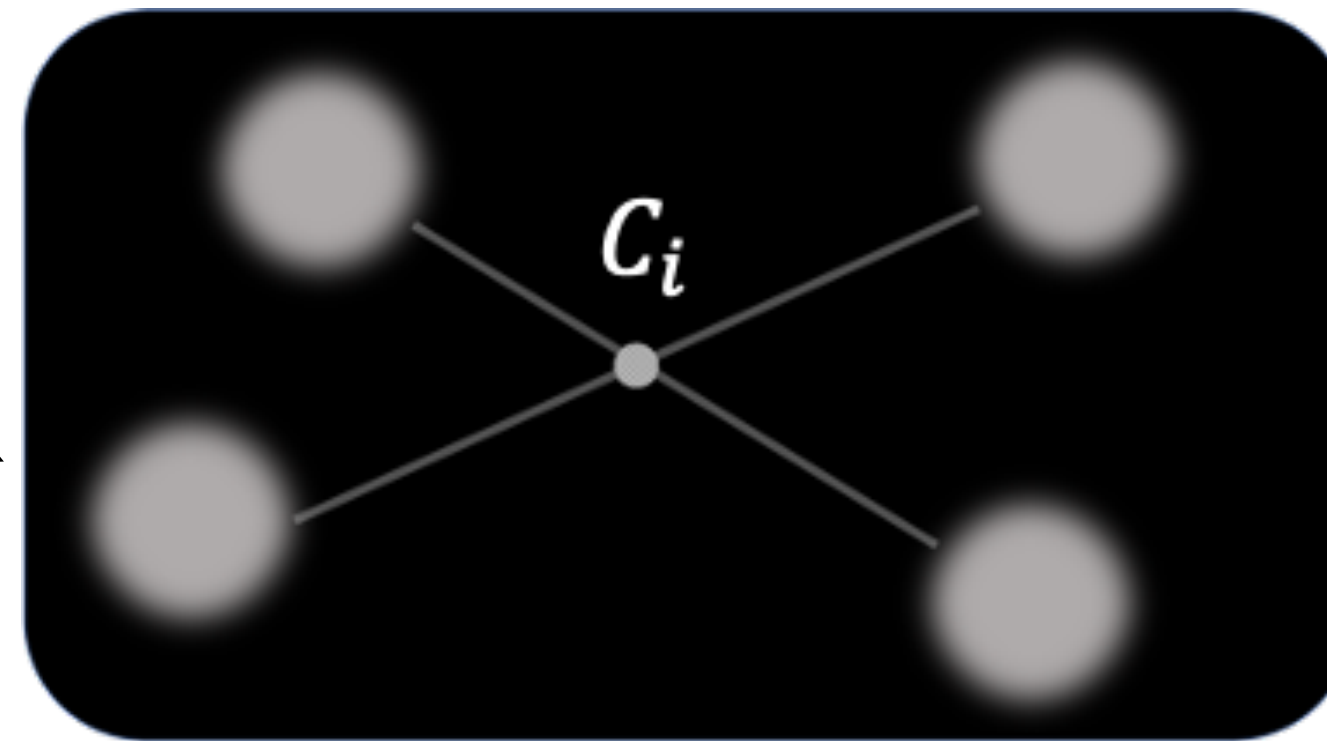
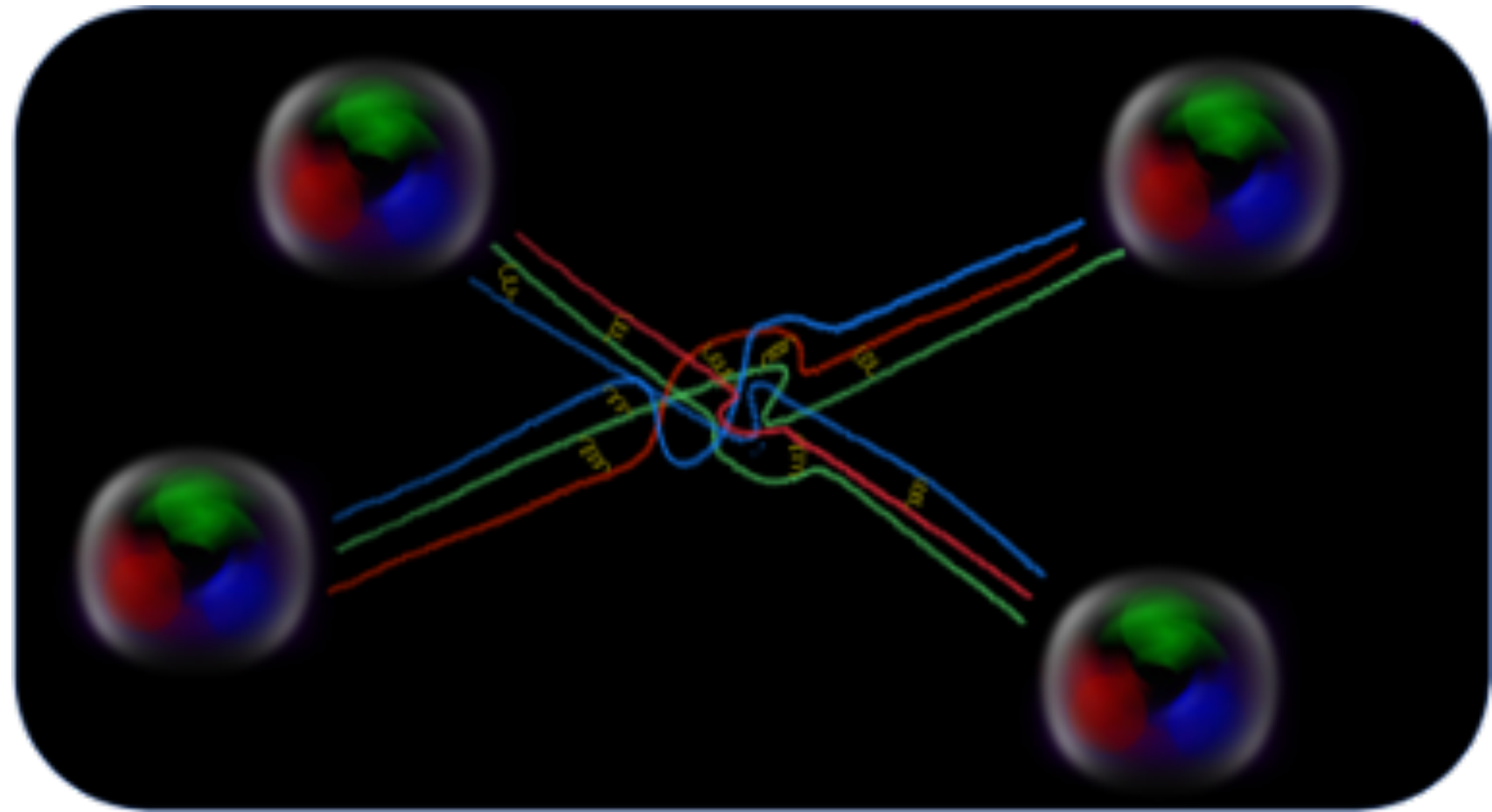
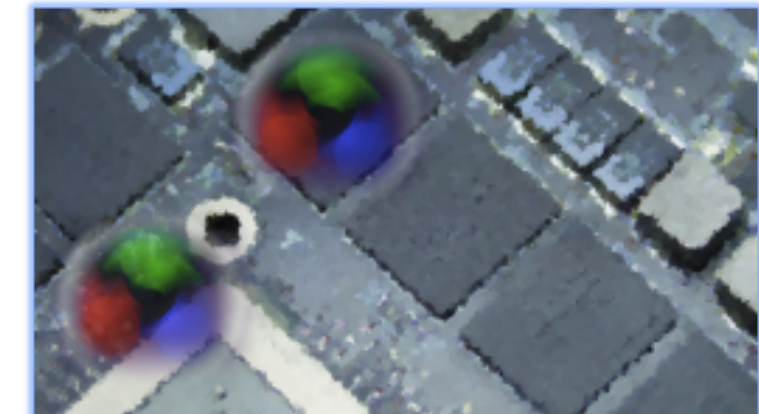
- Connection to QCD
- Systematically improve the calculation
- Control the uncertainties

The quantum propagation is expressed as a weighted sum over paths

PATH INTEGRAL  
Feynman, 1948

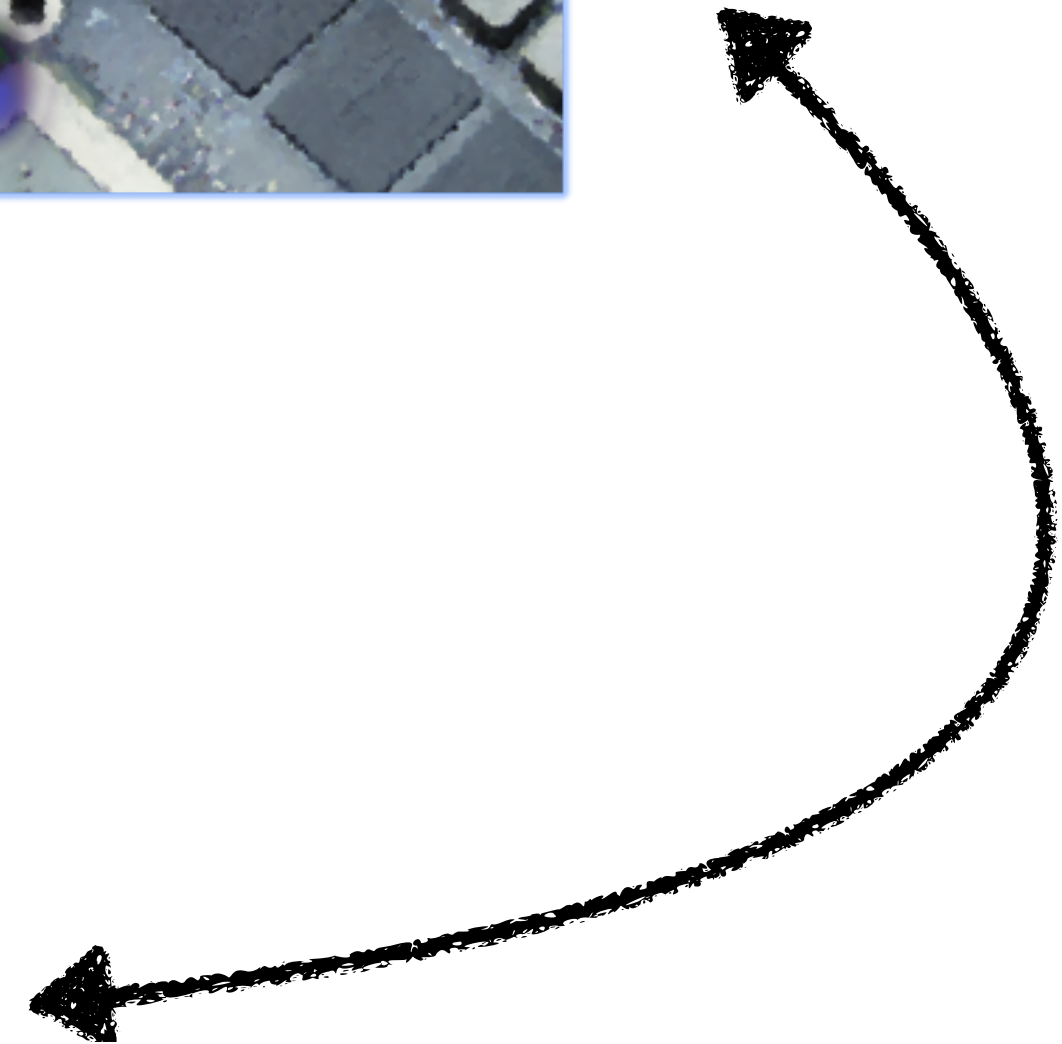
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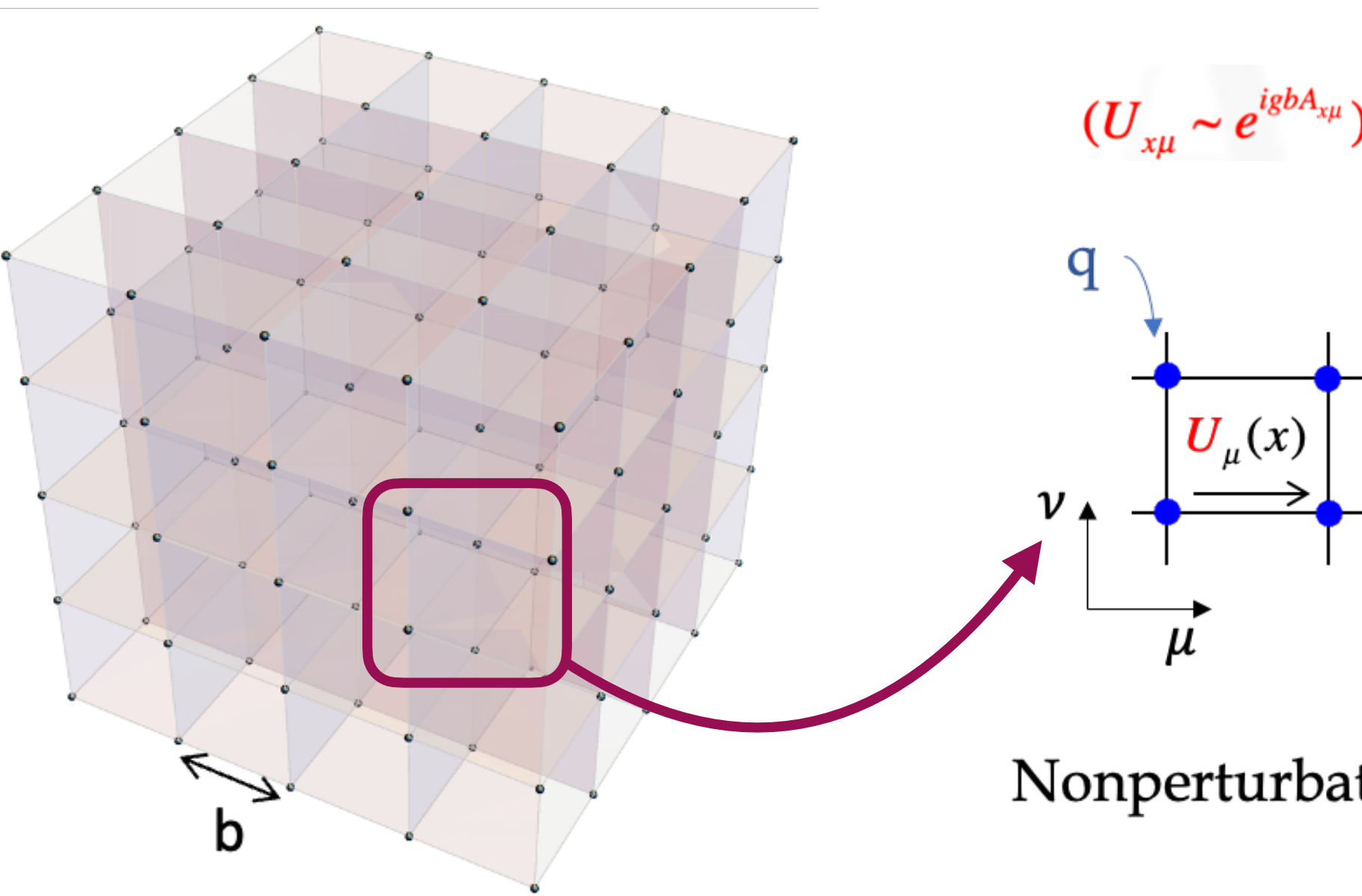
go to **Euclidean space**  
(numerical methods/important sampling)

**expectation values**

$$\langle \hat{O} \rangle = \frac{1}{Z} \int \mathcal{D}q \mathcal{D}\bar{q} \mathcal{D}A_\mu \hat{O}[q, \bar{q}, A] e^{iS_{QCD}}$$

$t \rightarrow i\tau$

go to **Euclidean space**  
numerical methods/important sampling



Nonperturbative (numerical) solution

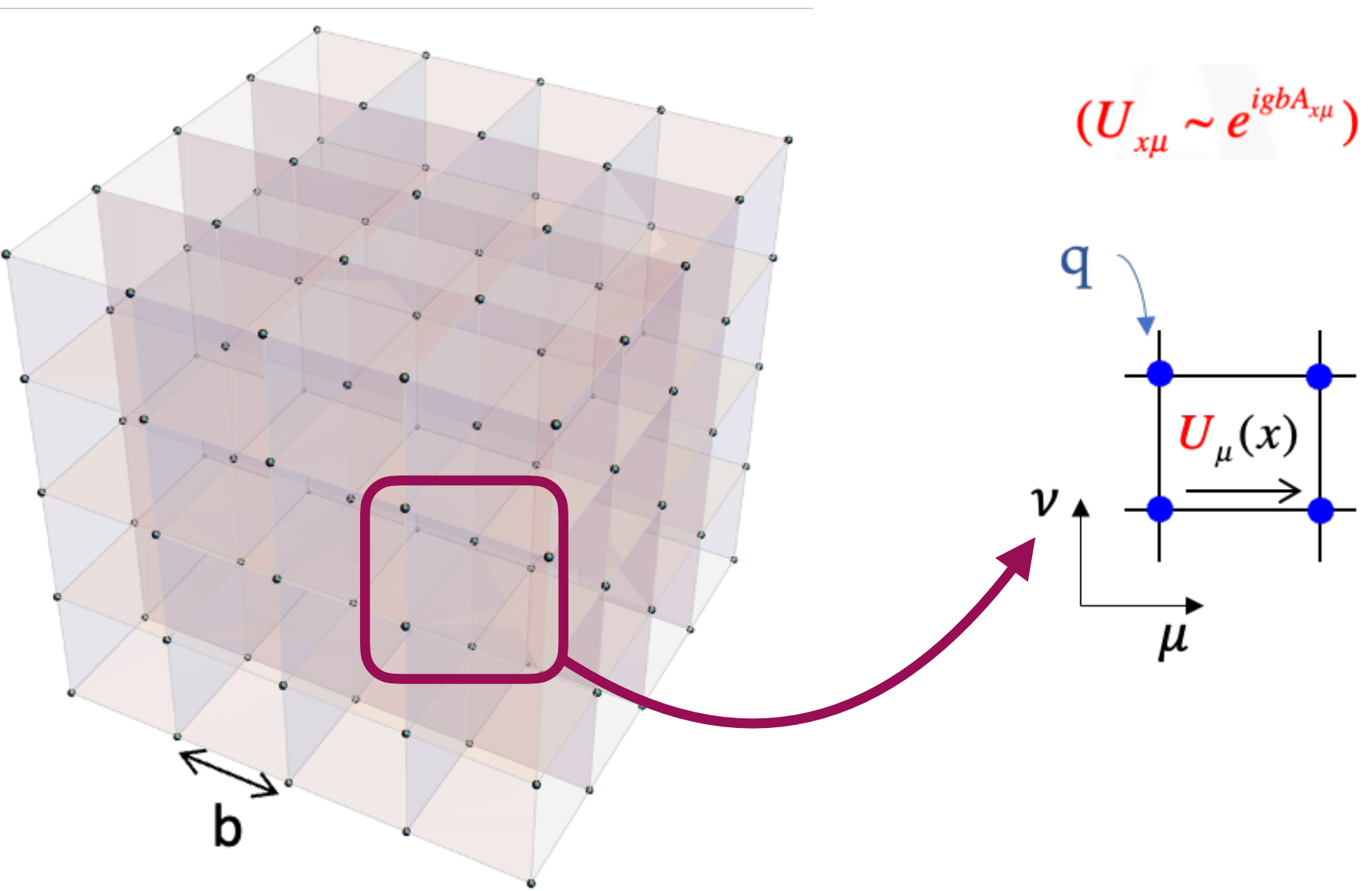
$L_x \times L_y \times L_z \times T$

$L \gg m_\pi^{-1}$  Finite volume

$b \ll \Lambda_{QCD}^{-1}$  discretize spacetime

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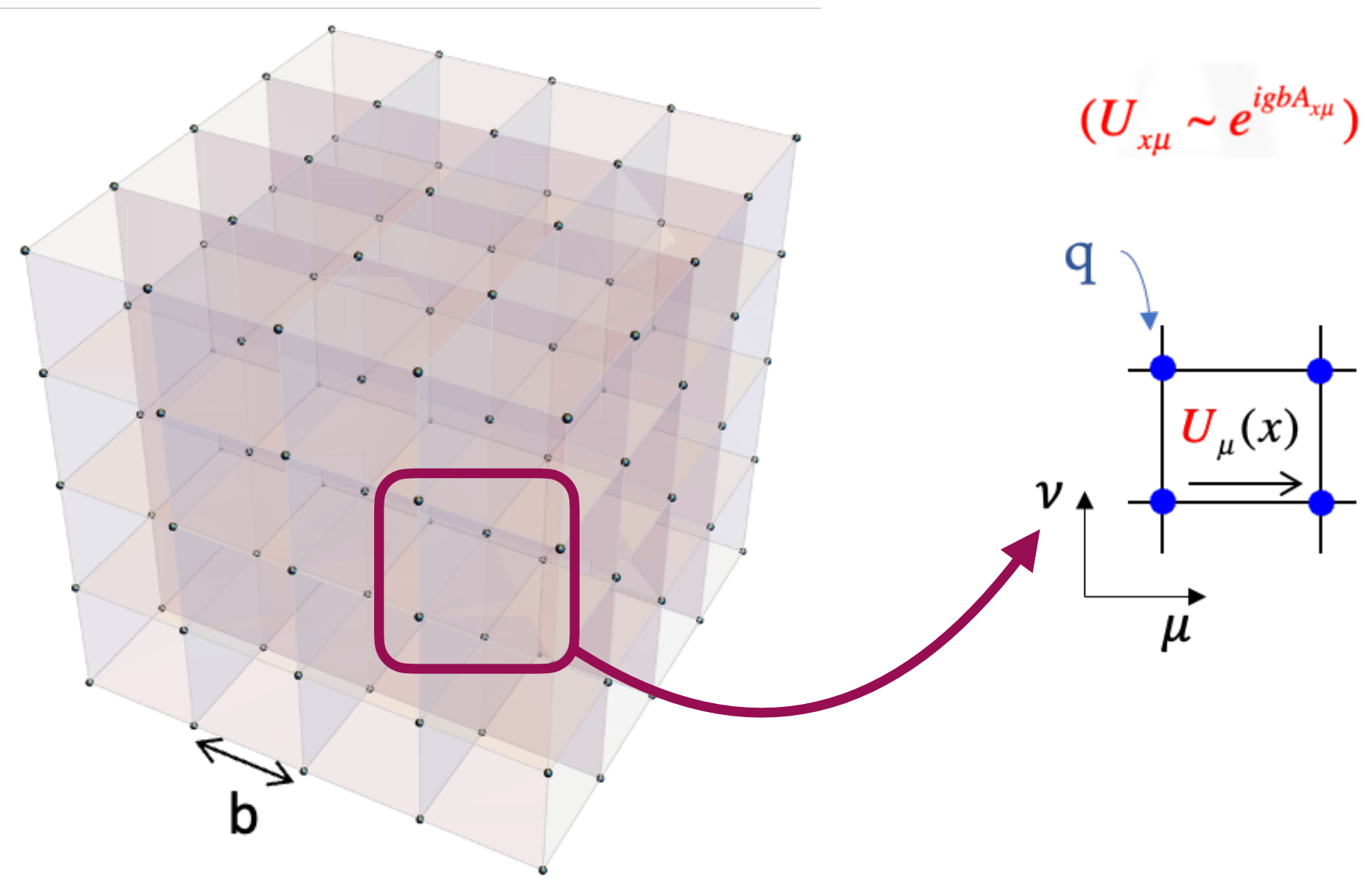
$t \rightarrow i\tau$   
go to Euclidean space  
numerical methods/important sampling

$$\langle \hat{\mathcal{O}} \rangle = \frac{1}{Z} \int \mathcal{D}U \mathcal{D}\bar{\psi} \mathcal{D}\psi \hat{\mathcal{O}}[\psi, \bar{\psi}, U] e^{-\bar{\psi} Q(U) \psi - S_g[U]}$$

$$\langle \hat{\mathcal{O}} \rangle = \frac{1}{Z} \int \mathcal{D}U \hat{\mathcal{O}}[Q(U)^{-1}] \det(Q(U)) e^{-S_g[U]}$$

propagators      configurations ( $\sim P(U)$ )

$$\langle \hat{\mathcal{O}} \rangle \approx \frac{1}{N_{\text{cfg}}} \sum_{n=1}^{N_{\text{cfg}}} \hat{\mathcal{O}}(\{U\}_n)$$



$L_x \times L_y \times L_z \times T$

$L \gg m_\pi^{-1}$       Finite volume

$b \ll \Lambda_{QCD}^{-1}$       discretize spacetime



## Algorithm

$\{U^{[i]}\}$ , (Markov process)

each configuration is created by the preceding one:

$$P(U^{[i-1]} \rightarrow U^{[i]}) P(U^{[i-1]}) = P(U^{[i]} \rightarrow U^{[i-1]}) P(U^{[i]})$$

Basic Monte Carlo algorithm

$$\langle \hat{O} \rangle = \frac{1}{Z} \int \underbrace{DU}_{\text{propagators}} \underbrace{\hat{O} [Q(U)^{-1}] \det(Q(U)) e^{-S_g[U]}}_{\text{configurations } (\sim P(U))}$$

propagators

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## Algorithm

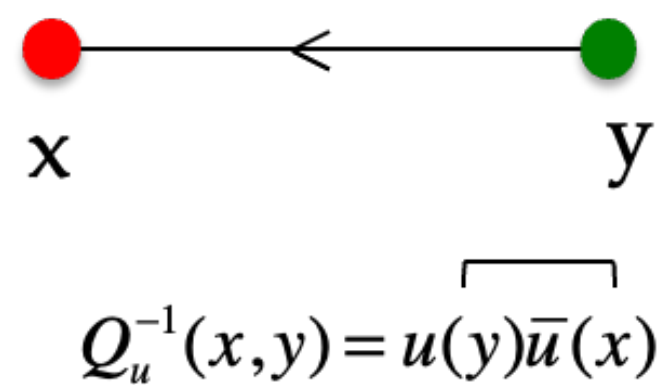
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### Basic Monte Carlo algorithm

For each gauge-field configuration, calculate the quark propagator  
(inverse of the fermion matrix)



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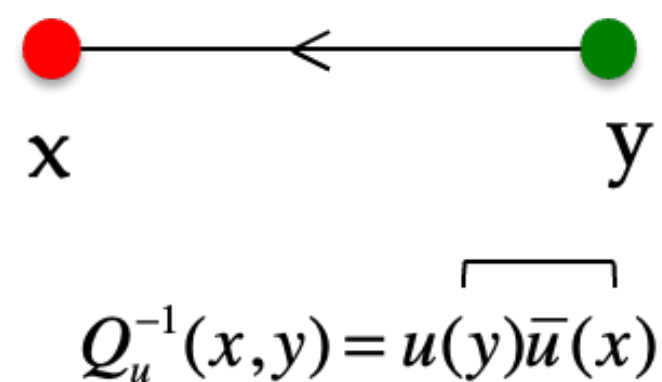
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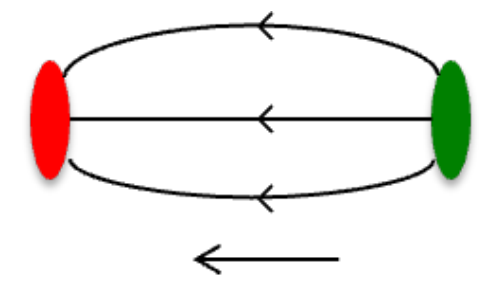
For each gauge-field configuration, calculate the quark propagator (inverse of the fermion matrix)



In order to study hadrons, we need to contract propagators onto correlation functions  $C_i(t)$

$$C(\Gamma^\nu, \vec{p}, t) = \sum_{\vec{x}_1} e^{-i\vec{p}\vec{x}_1} \Gamma^\nu \langle J(\vec{x}_1, t) \bar{J}(\vec{x}_0, 0) \rangle$$

for ex.  $\bar{u}(x_1)\gamma_5 d(x_1)$      $\bar{d}(x_0)\gamma_5 u(x_0)$



$$\pi^+ = \bar{d}\gamma_5 u$$

$$\langle \pi^\dagger(x_1) \pi(x_0) \rangle = \langle \overbrace{\bar{u}(x_1) \gamma_5 d(x_1) \bar{d}(x_0) \gamma_5 u(x_0)} \rangle$$

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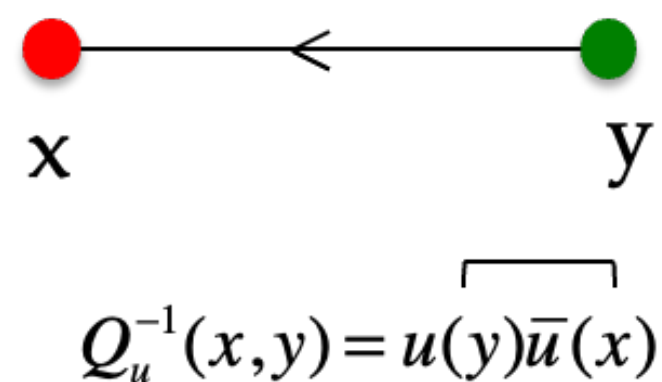
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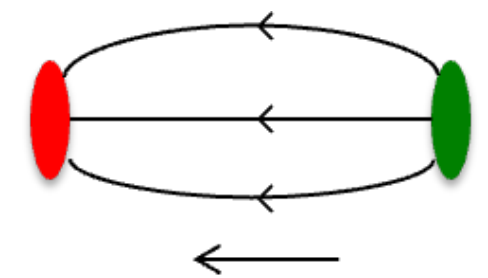


REQUIRE MULTIPLE VOLUMES AND LATTICE SPACINGS to recover the continuum infinite limit

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$$\pi^+ = \bar{d}\gamma_5 u$$

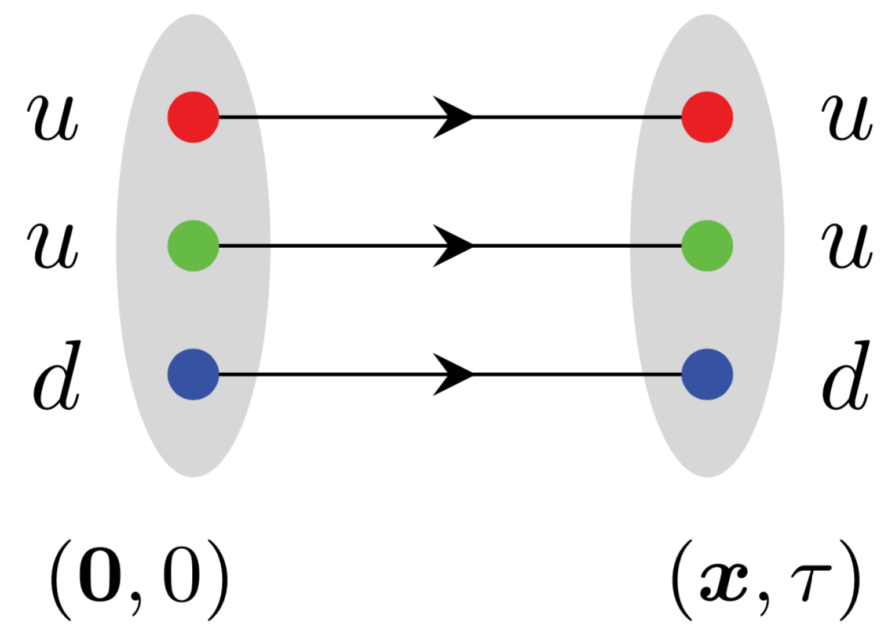
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# LQCD DIRECT METHOD: FV Energy levels from two-point correlation functions

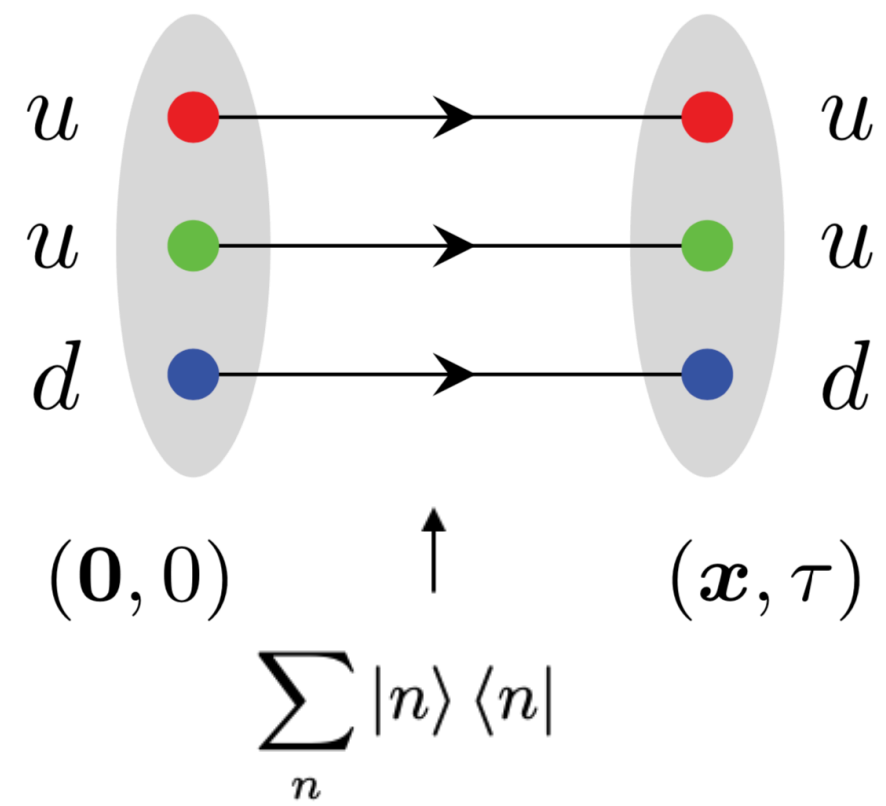
Energy levels



$$C_{2pt}(\tau, \mathbf{p}) = \sum_{\mathbf{x}} e^{-i\mathbf{x}\cdot\mathbf{p}} \Gamma_{\beta\alpha} \langle \chi_{\alpha}(\mathbf{x}, \tau) \bar{\chi}_{\beta}(\mathbf{0}, 0) \rangle$$

# LQCD DIRECT METHOD: FV Energy levels from two-point correlation functions

## Energy levels



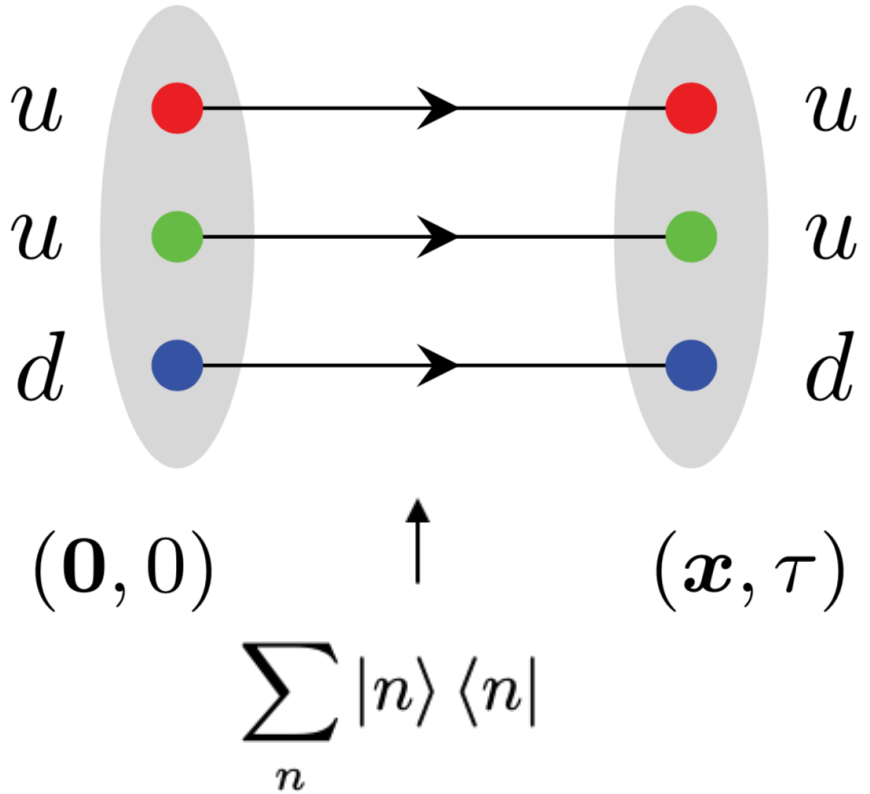
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$$= Z_0^{snk} Z_0^{\dagger src} e^{-E^{(0)}t} + Z_1^{snk} Z_1^{\dagger src} e^{-E^{(1)}t} + \dots$$

Tower of energy eigenstates  
of the system  
in the finite volume

# LQCD DIRECT METHOD: FV Energy levels from two-point correlation functions

## Energy levels

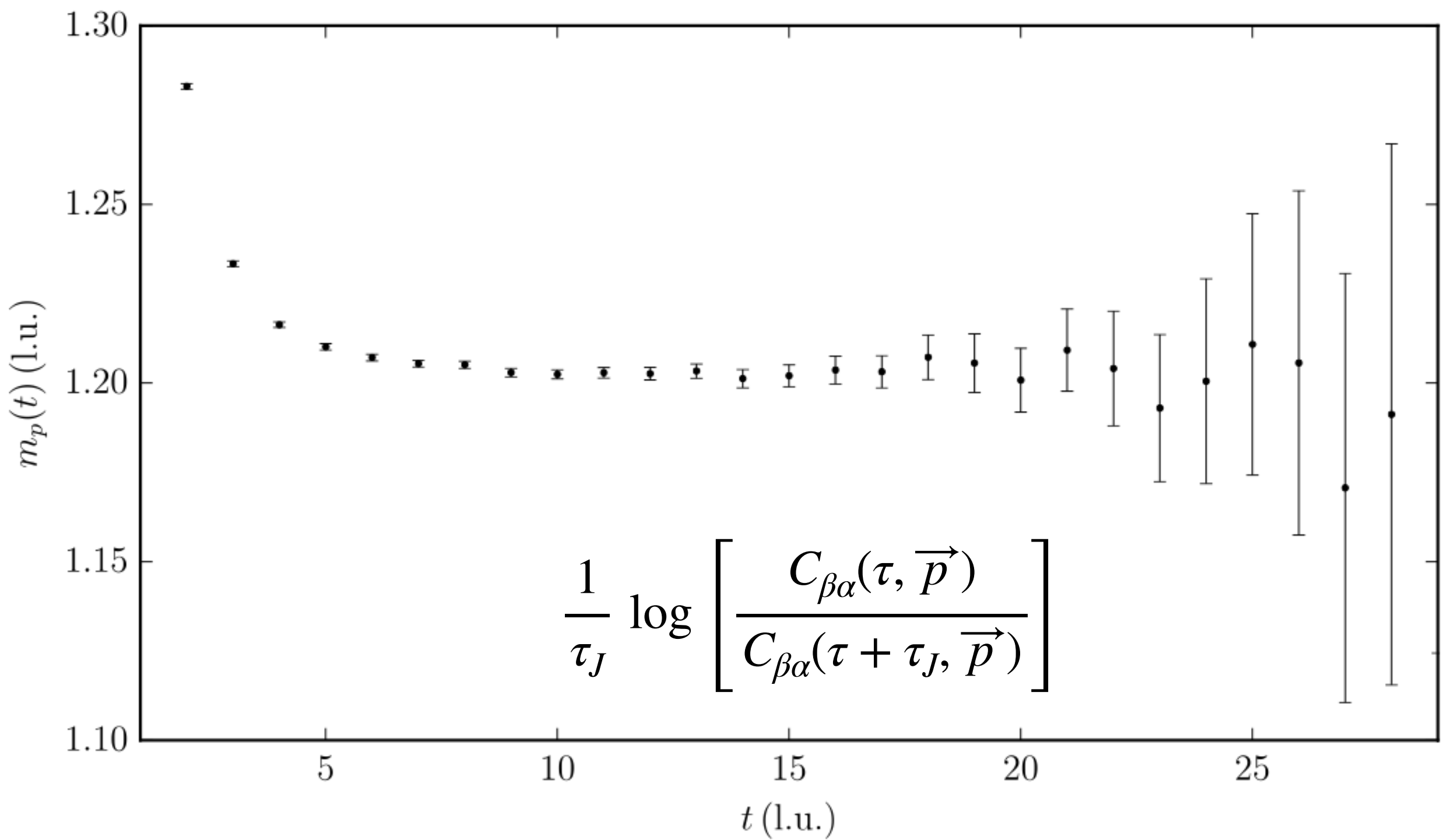


$$\begin{aligned}
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 &= \underbrace{Z_0^{snk} Z_0^{\dagger src} e^{-E^{(0)}t} + Z_1^{snk} Z_1^{\dagger src} e^{-E^{(1)}t} + \dots}_{\text{dominates at large } t}
 \end{aligned}$$

Tower of energy eigenstates  
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$E_n$

$$p_{\alpha}(\mathbf{x}, t) = \epsilon^{ijk} u_{\alpha}^i(\mathbf{x}, t) (u^{jT}(\mathbf{x}, t) C \gamma_5 d^k(\mathbf{x}, t))$$



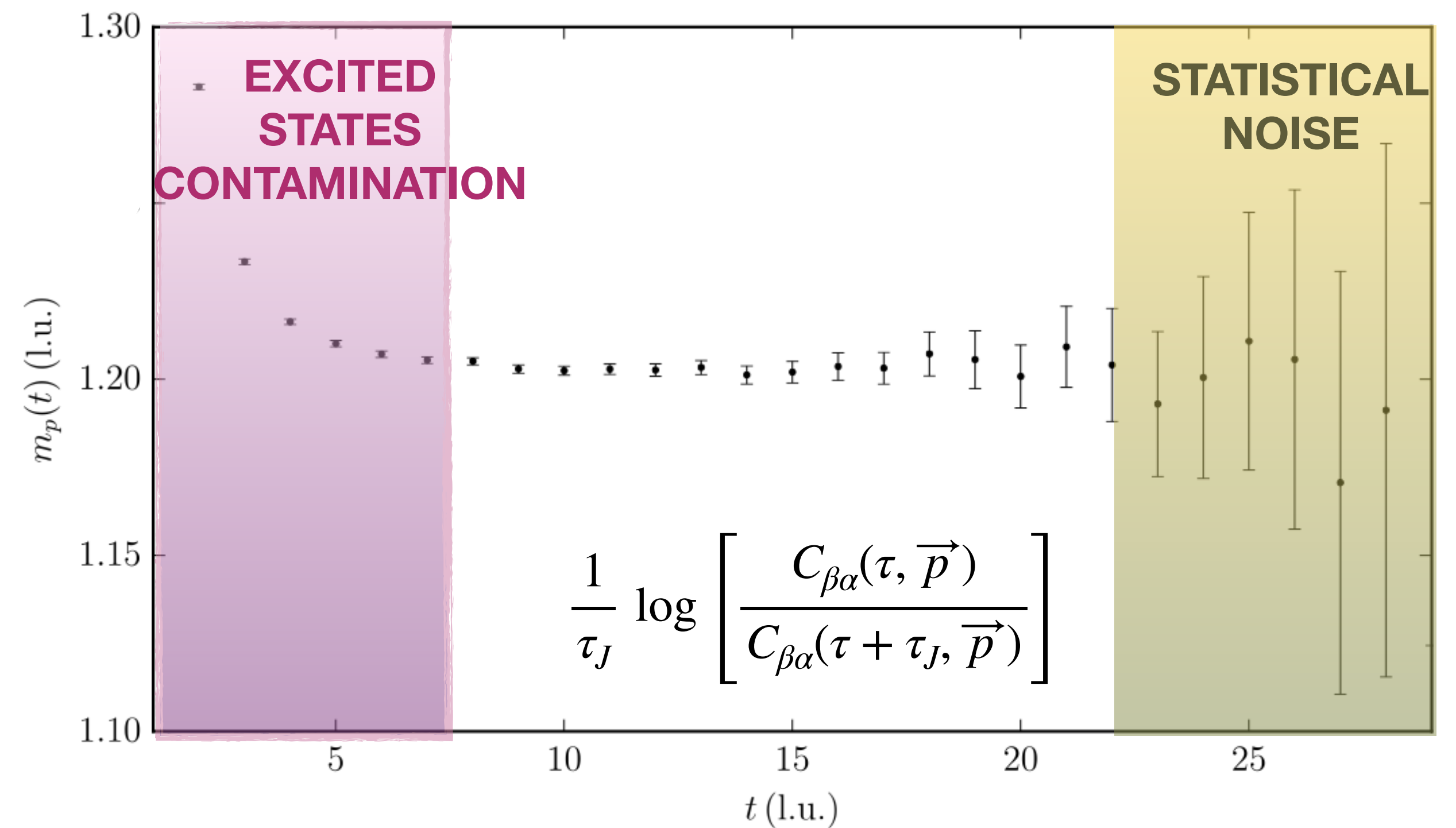
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dominates at large t

signal-to-noise degradation

$$p_{\alpha}(\mathbf{x}, t) = \epsilon^{ijk} u_{\alpha}^i(\mathbf{x}, t) (u^{j\top}(\mathbf{x}, t) C \gamma_5 d^k(\mathbf{x}, t))$$

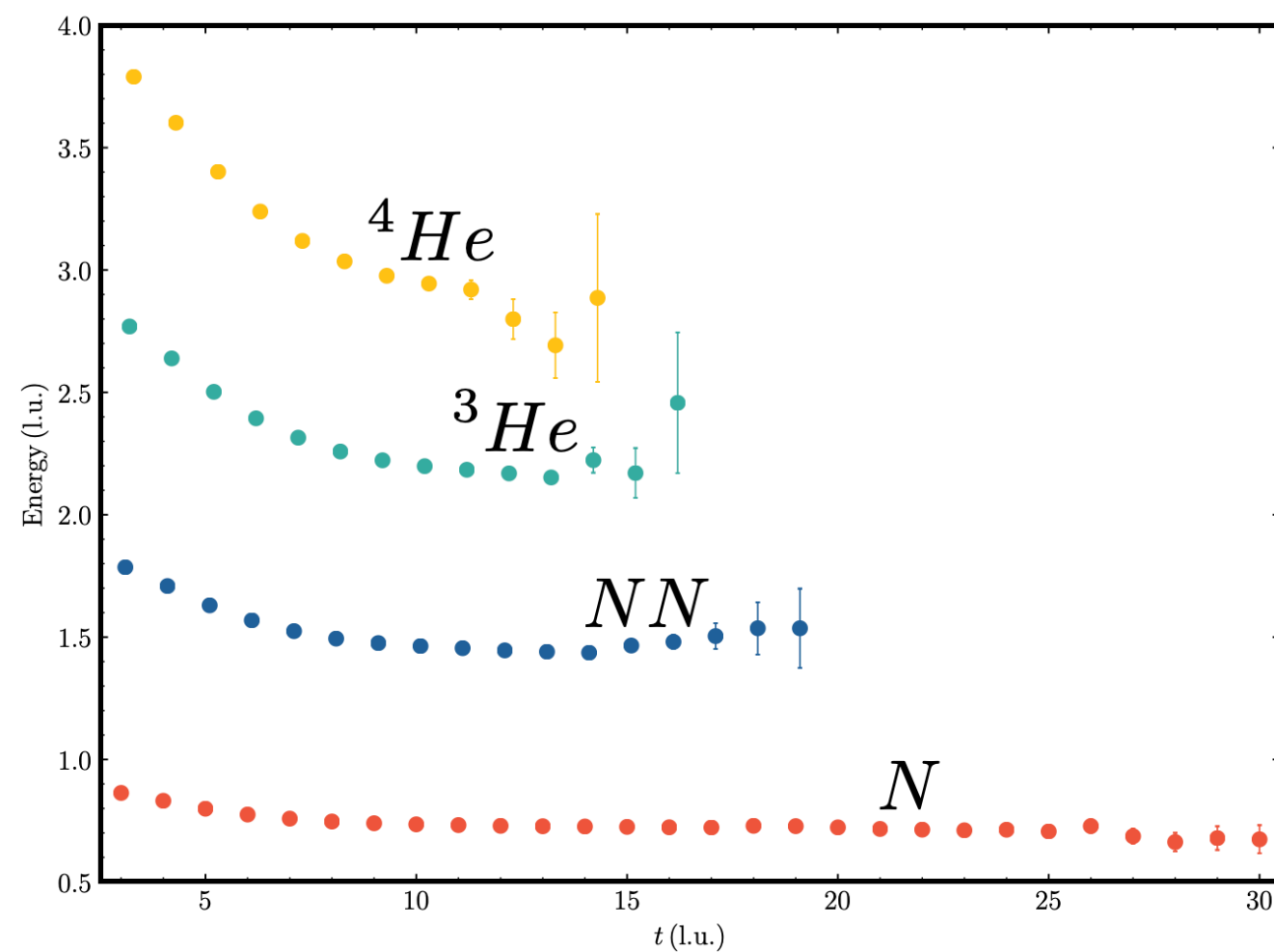




Expectation is that for  $A$  nucleons:

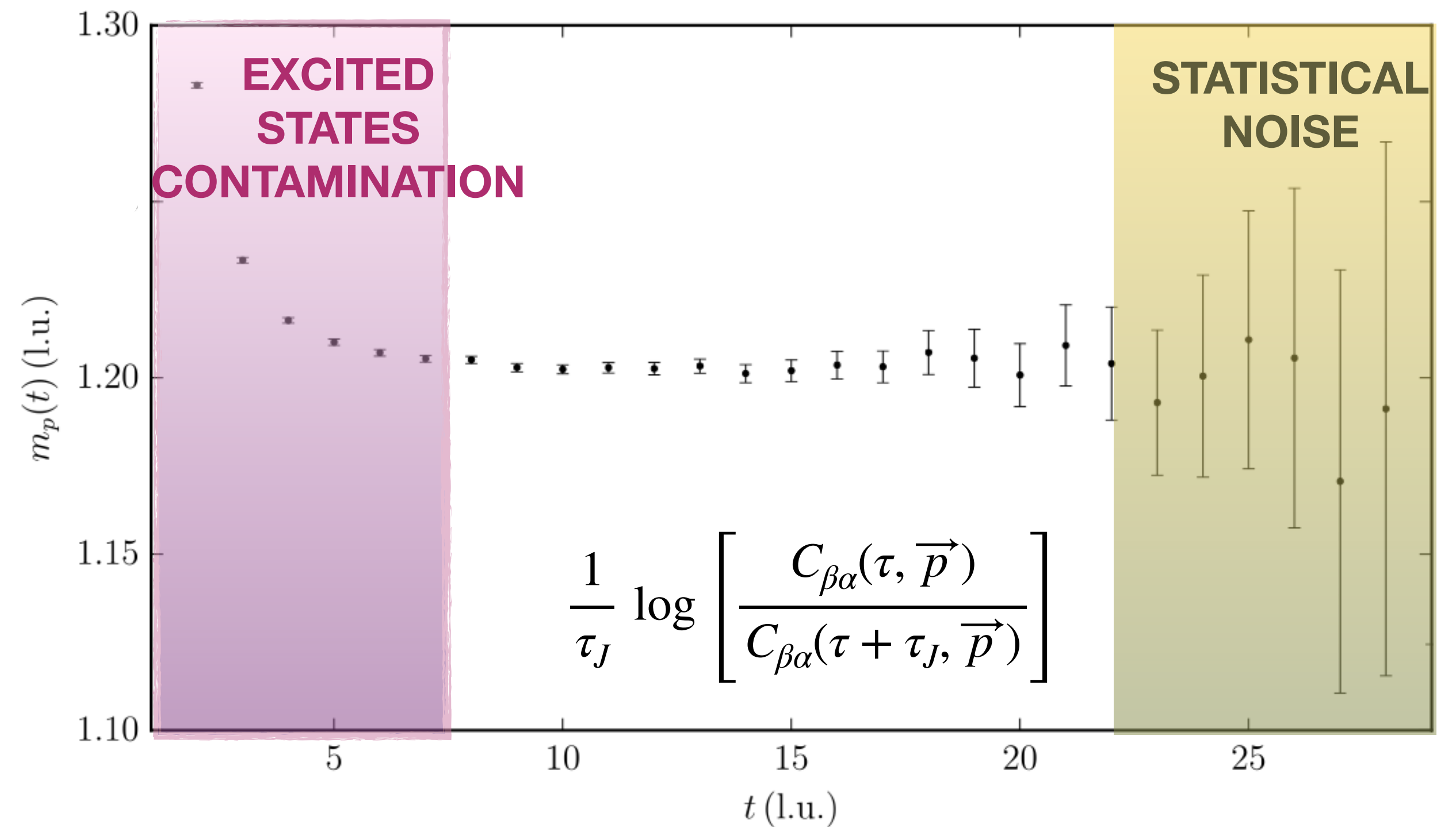
$$\frac{\sigma}{\langle C \rangle} \sim \frac{\exp\left[A\left(M_N - \frac{3m_\pi}{2}\right)t\right]}{\sqrt{N}}$$

G. Parisi, Phys.Rept. 103 (1984)  
 G.P. Lepage, Boulder TASI (1989)  
 M.L. Wagman, M.J. Savage, Phys.Rev.D 96 (2017)



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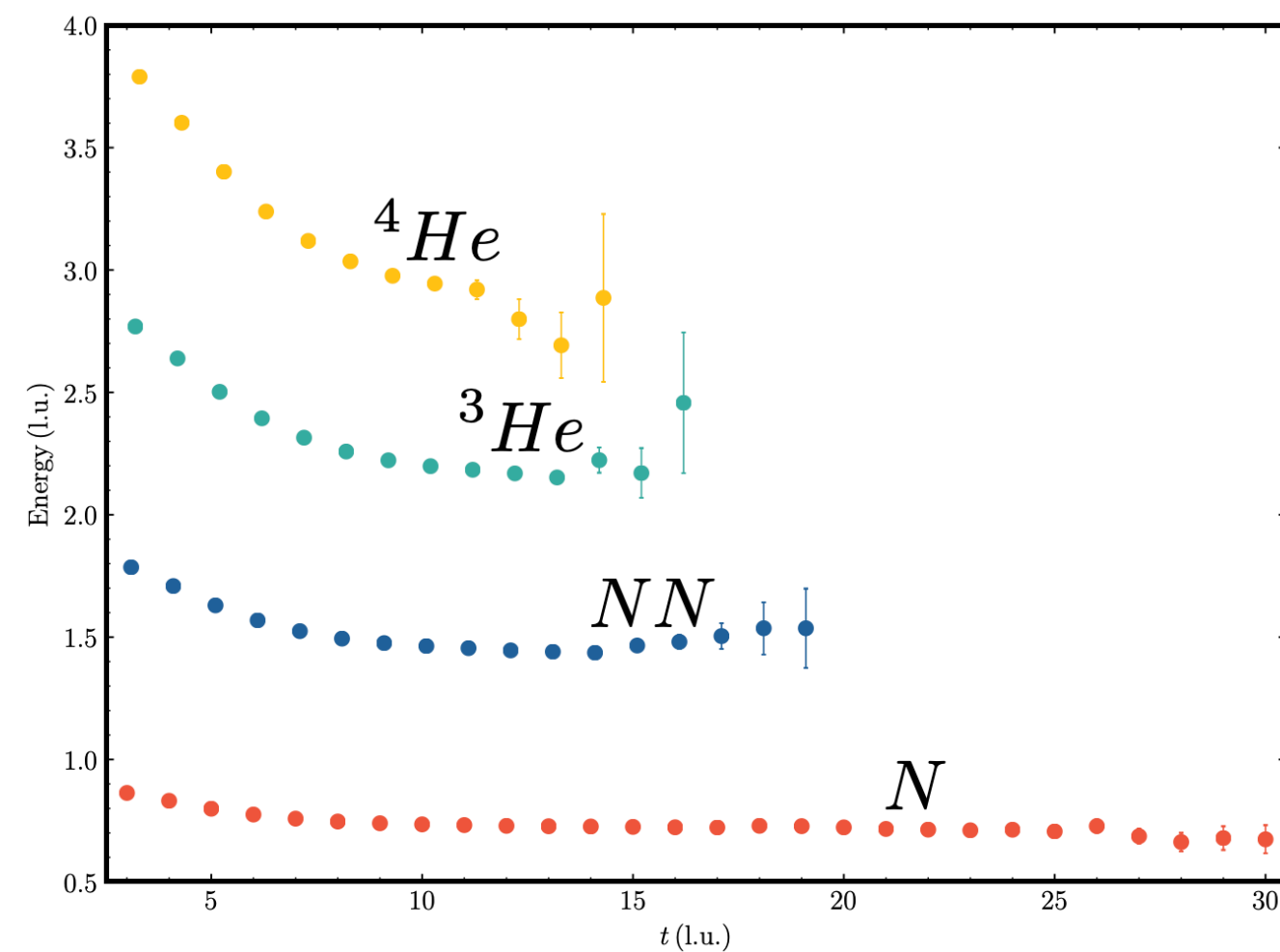


# Challenges with LQCD studies of nuclear systems

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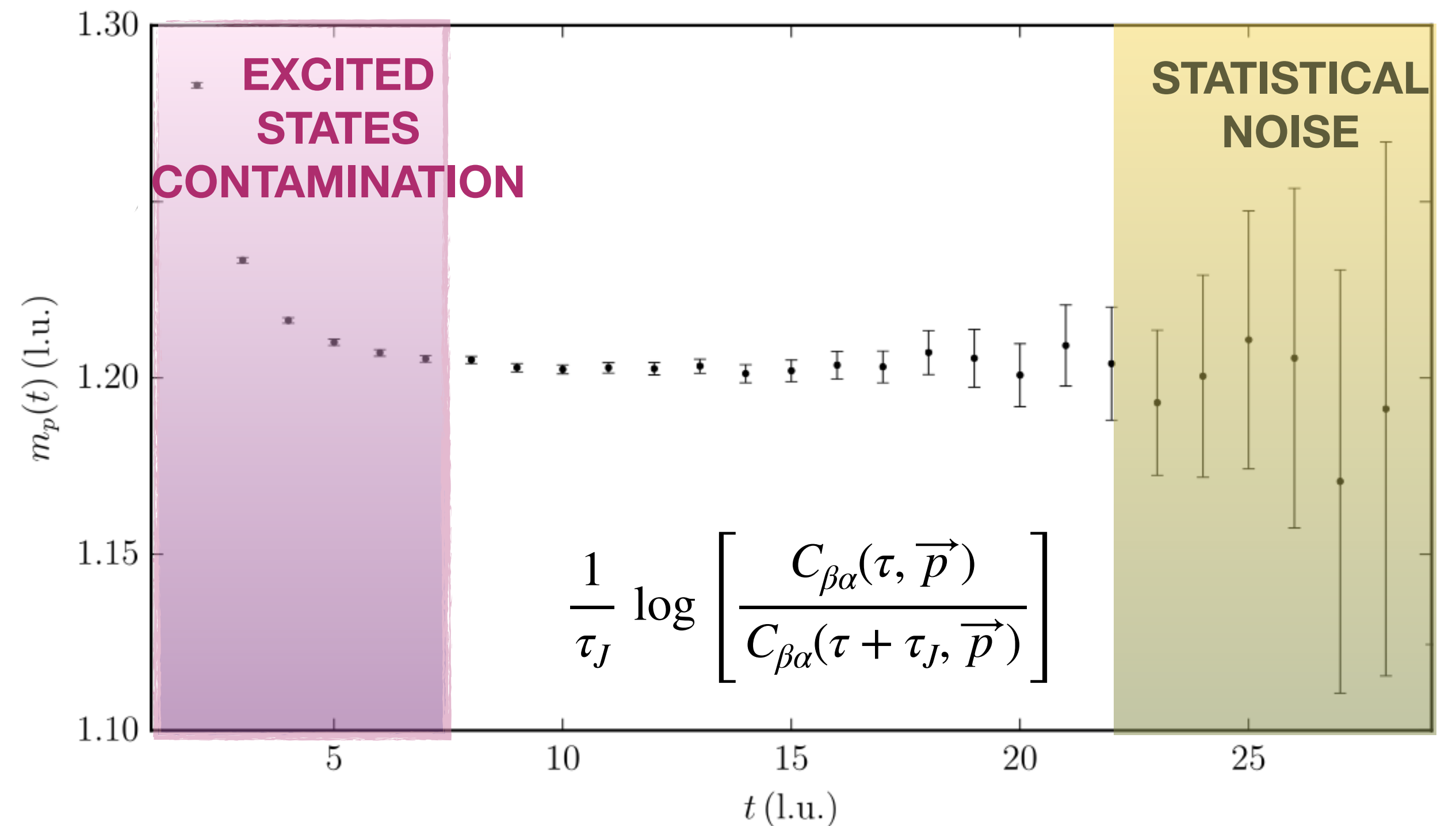


Increase the statistics / Increase the pion mass

Construct operators with a better overlap with the ground state

signal-to-noise degradation

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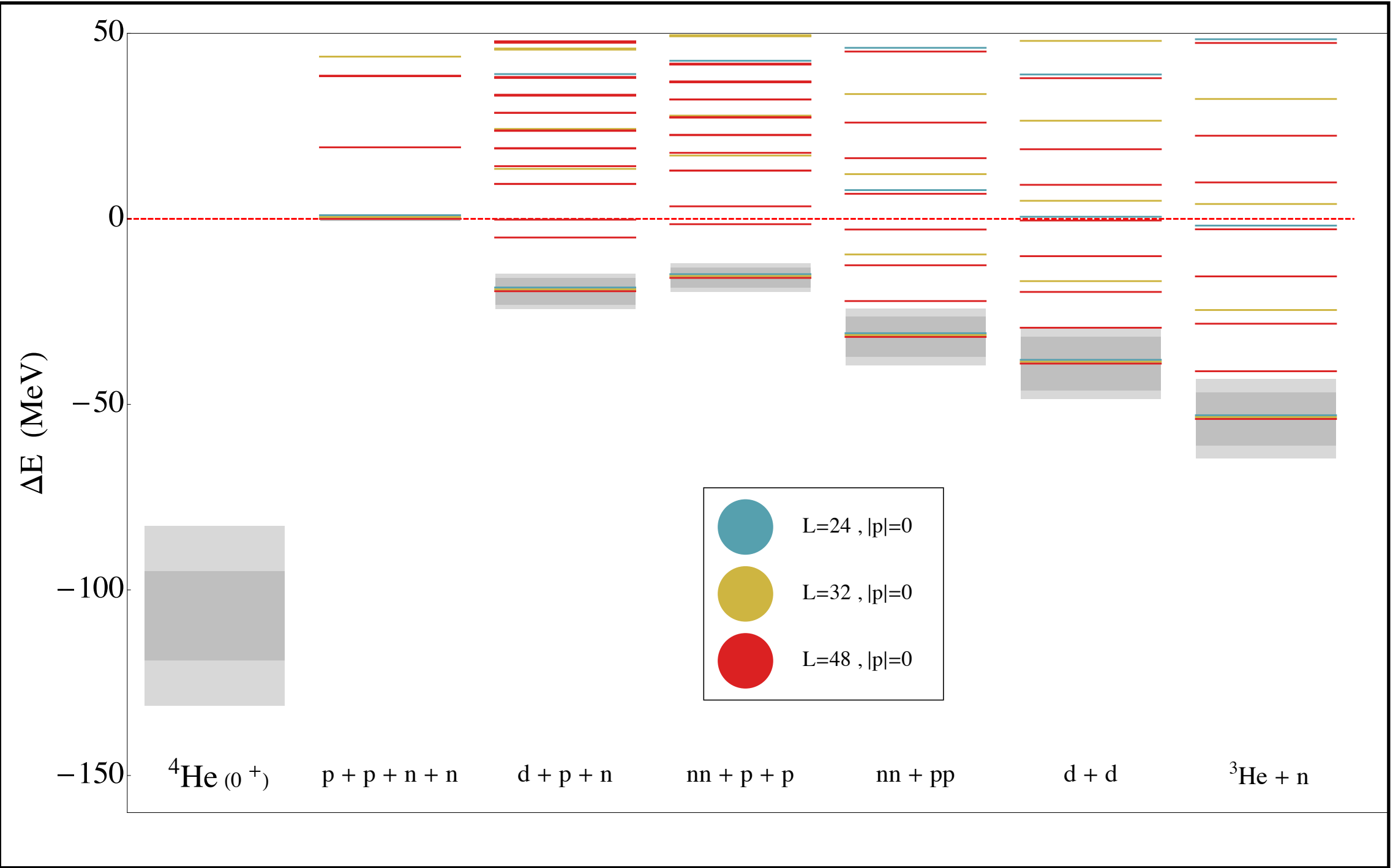


# LQCD DIRECT METHOD: FV Energy levels from two-point correlation functions

## “Challenges” with LQCD studies of nuclear systems

Small excited-state gaps may lead to incorrect identification of ground-state energy

$$\Delta E = E_1 - E_0 \sim \frac{1}{L^2}$$

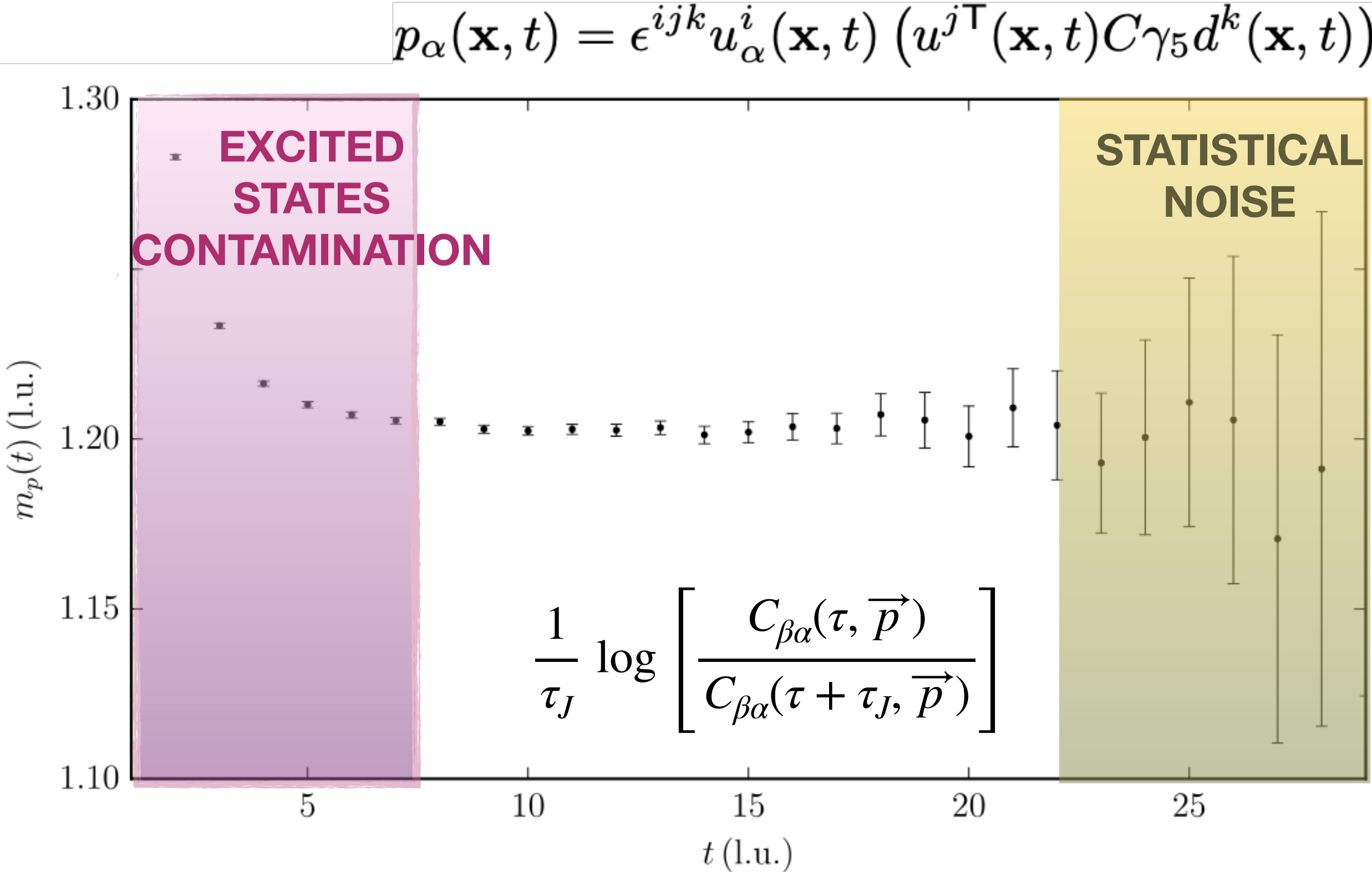


S.R. Beane et al. [NPLQCD], Phys.Rev.D 87 (2013)

Increase the statistics / Increase the pion mass

Construct operators with a better overlap with the ground state

signal-to-noise degradation



## Direct method

Misidentification of the plateau

E. Berkowitz et al. [CaLat], Phys.Lett.B 765 (2017)  
 S.R. Beane et al. [NPLQCD], arXiv:1705.09239 [hep-lat]  
 T. Yamazaki et al. [PACS], EPJ Web Conf. 175 (2018)

$$R(\tau, \mathbf{p}) = \frac{C_{B_1 B_2}(\tau, \mathbf{p})}{C_{B_1}(\tau, \mathbf{p}) C_{B_2}(\tau, \mathbf{p})}$$



$$\Delta E_n$$

Lüscher's  
method ↓

$$k^* \cot \delta$$

$$B$$

pre-variational → bound  
 variational → ???

Operator dependence?

$$k^* \cot \delta = \frac{2}{\sqrt{\pi}L} \mathcal{Z}_{00}(1; (\frac{k^*L}{2\pi})^2)$$

NN systems at unphysical  $m_\pi$

## Potential method

Only applicable at the energy  
of the calculation/system

Test convergence expansion

Ground-state saturation requirement    Short-distance operator dependence

T. Iritani et al. [HAL QCD], Phys.Rev.D 99 (2019)

$$R(\tau, \mathbf{r}) = \frac{C_{B_1 B_2}(\tau, \mathbf{r})}{C_{B_1}(\tau, \mathbf{r}) C_{B_2}(\tau, \mathbf{r})}$$



$$\left( \frac{\partial_\tau^2}{4m_B} - \partial_\tau - H_0 \right) R(\tau, \mathbf{r}) = \int d^3 \mathbf{r}' U(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}') R(\tau, \mathbf{r}')$$



$$U(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{r}') = V(\mathbf{r}) \delta(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}') + \mathcal{O}(\nabla_r^2 / \Lambda^2)$$



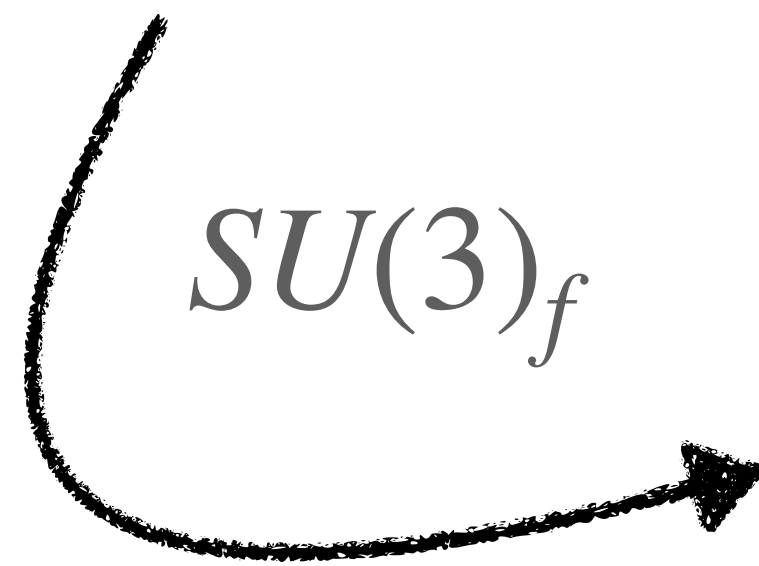
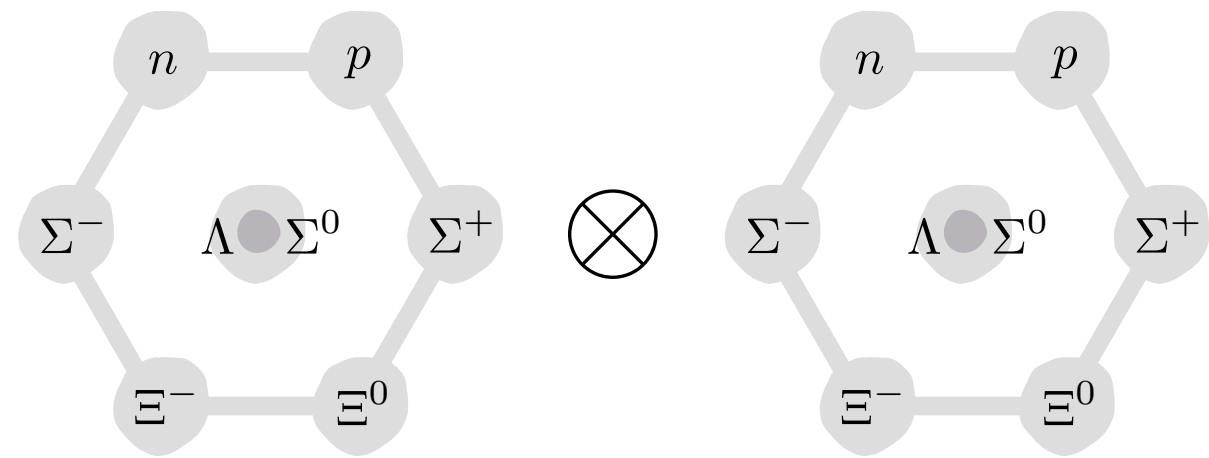
$$k^* \cot \delta$$

$$B$$

not bound

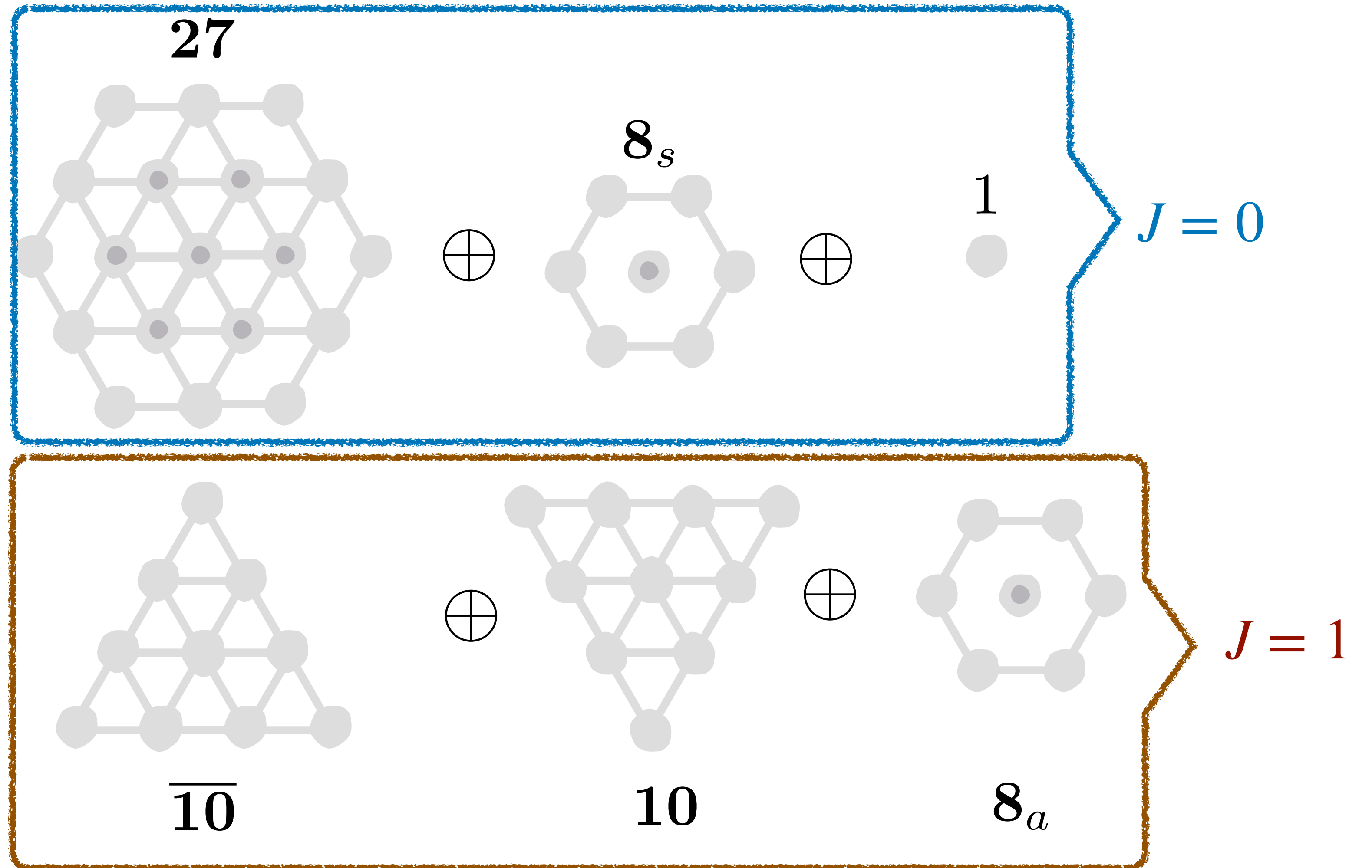
# Baryon-baryon interaction in flavor-SU(3)

$$8 \otimes 8$$



$$8 \otimes 8 = 27 \oplus 8_s \oplus 1 \oplus \bar{10} \oplus 10 \oplus 8_A$$

Physical quark masses  $\longrightarrow$  64 flavor states



Finite Volume LQCD energy eigenstates can be classified by:

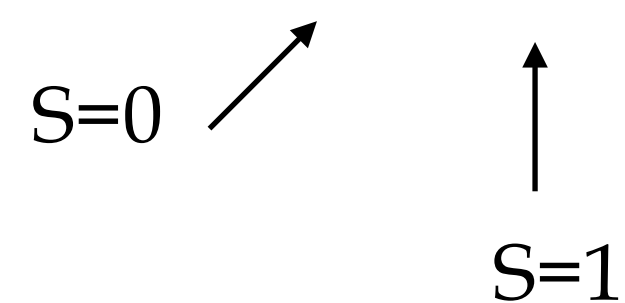
- their baryon number B,
- total isospin I,
- strangeness and
- cubic irrep  $\Gamma_J$ , which plays the role of the continuum, infinite-volume total angular momentum, J.

For ex, for I=1 NN,

$\Gamma_J$	$\Gamma_\ell$	$\Gamma_S$	$\ell$
$A_1^+$	$A_1^+$	$A_1^+$	0, 4, 6, ...
$E^+$	$E^+$	$A_1^+$	2, 4, 6, ...
$T_2^+$	$T_2^+$	$A_1^+$	2, 4, 6, ...
$T_1^+$	$T_1^+$	$A_1^+$	4, 6, ...
$A_2^+$	$A_2^+$	$A_1^+$	6, ...

$$\Gamma_J \subseteq \Gamma_\ell \otimes \Gamma_S$$

$$\Gamma_S \in \{A_1^+, T_1^+\}$$



for I=0 NN

$\Gamma_J$	$\Gamma_\ell$	$\Gamma_S$	$\ell$
$T_1^+$	$A_1^+ \oplus E^+ \oplus T_1^+ \oplus T_2^+$	$T_1^+$	0, 2, 4, 6, ...
$E^+$	$T_1^+ \oplus T_2^+$	$T_1^+$	2, 4, 6, ...
$T_2^+$	$A_2^+ \oplus E^+ \oplus T_1^+ \oplus T_2^+$	$T_1^+$	2, 4, 6, ...
$A_2^+$	$T_2^+$	$T_1^+$	2, 4, 6, ...
$A_1^+$	$T_1^+$	$T_1^+$	4, 6, ...

$L$ [fm]	$T$ [fm]
3.4	6.7
4.5	6.7
6.7	9

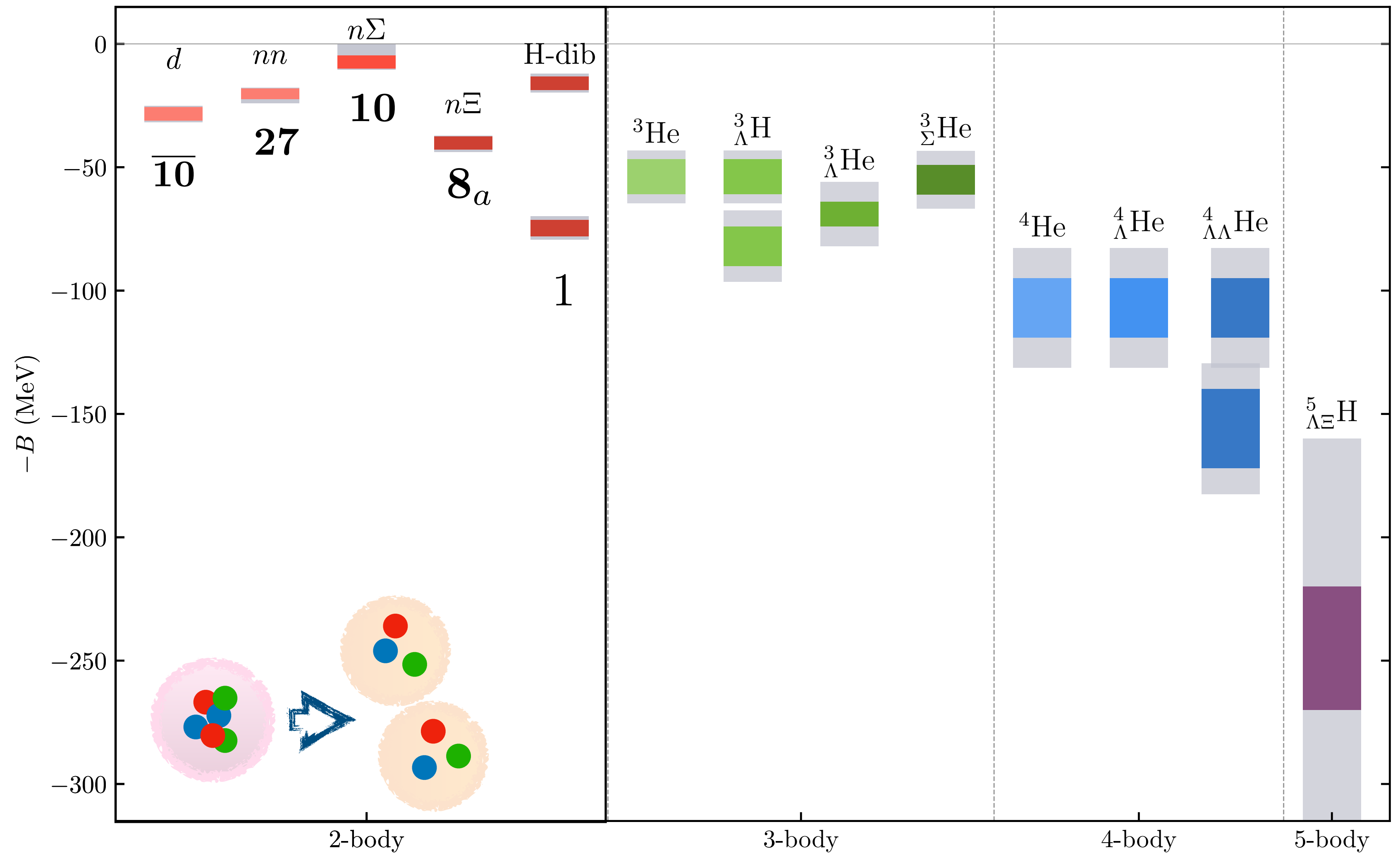
$b[fm] = 0.1453(16)$

$SU(3)_f$

$m_\pi \sim 800$  MeV

*no e.m. interactions*

NPLQCD, Phys.Rev. D87 (2013) no.3, 034506; Phys.Rev. D96 (2017) no.11, 114510



away from the  $SU(3)_f$  limit

$$n_f = 2 + 1$$

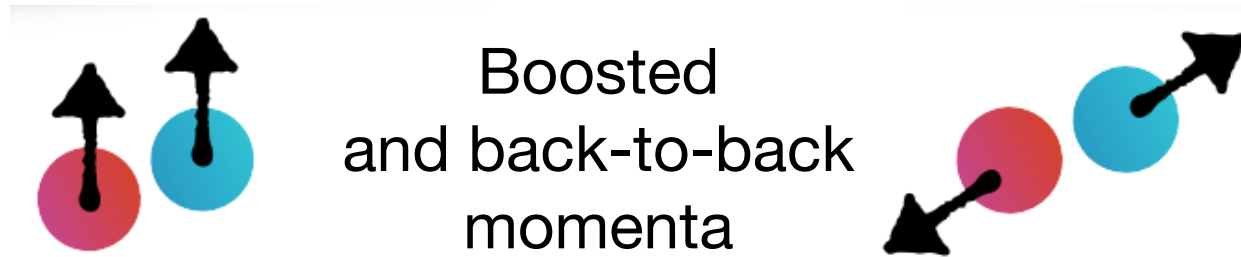
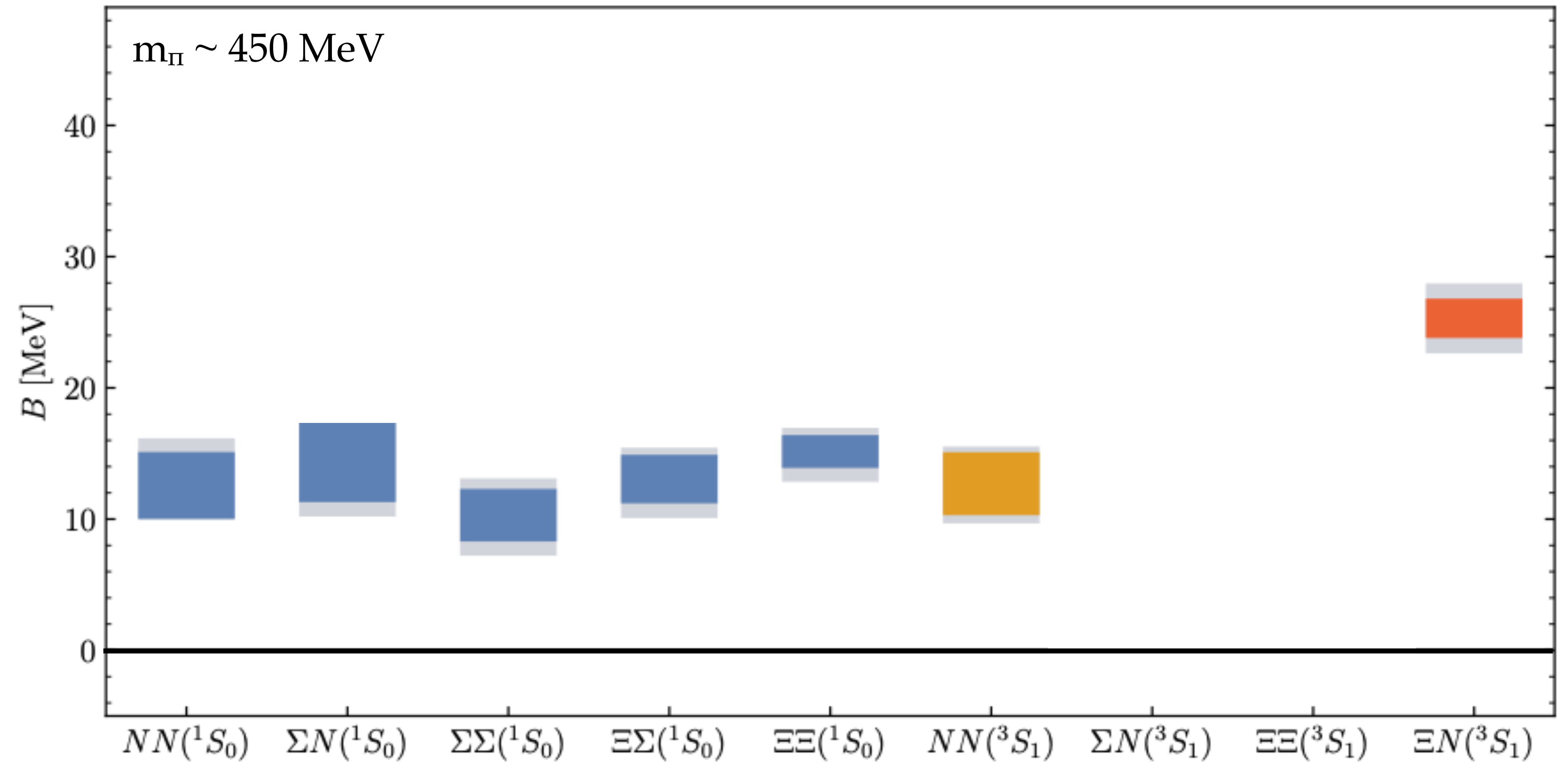
$$m_\pi = 450(5)\text{MeV}$$

$$b = 0.117(2)\text{ fm}$$

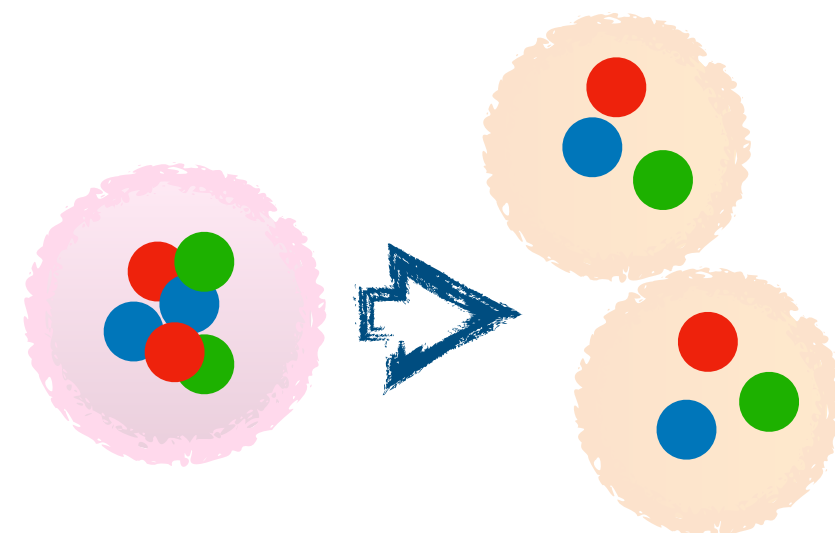
$$L = 2.8, 3.7, 5.6\text{ fm}$$

$$T = 7.5, 11.2, 11.2\text{ fm}$$

Marc Illa et al (NPLQCD) PRD 103 (2021) 5, 054508



*no e.m. interactions*





away from the  $SU(3)_f$  limit

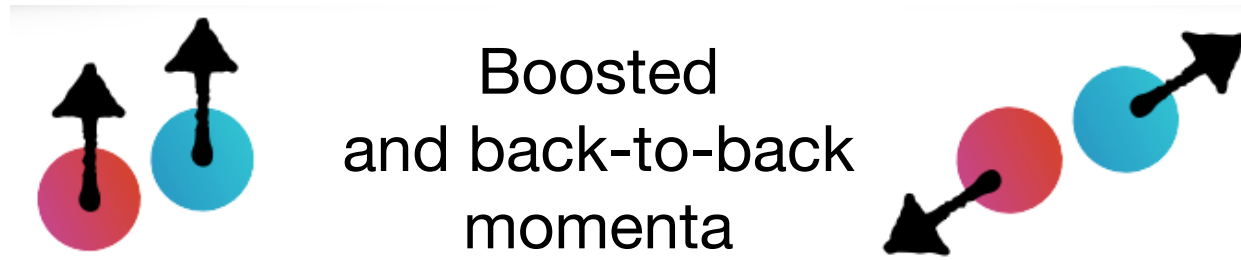
$$n_f = 2 + 1$$

$$m_\pi = 450(5)\text{MeV}$$

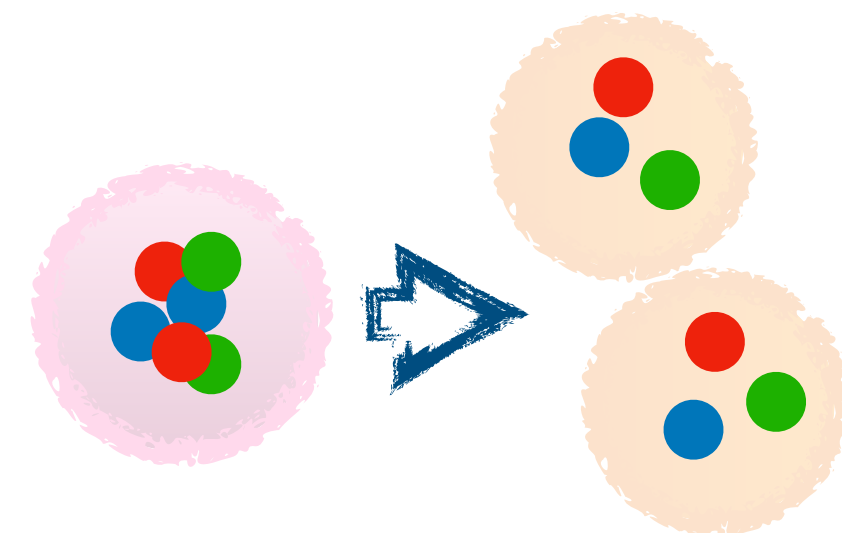
$$b = 0.117(2)\text{ fm}$$

$$L = 2.8, 3.7, 5.6\text{ fm}$$

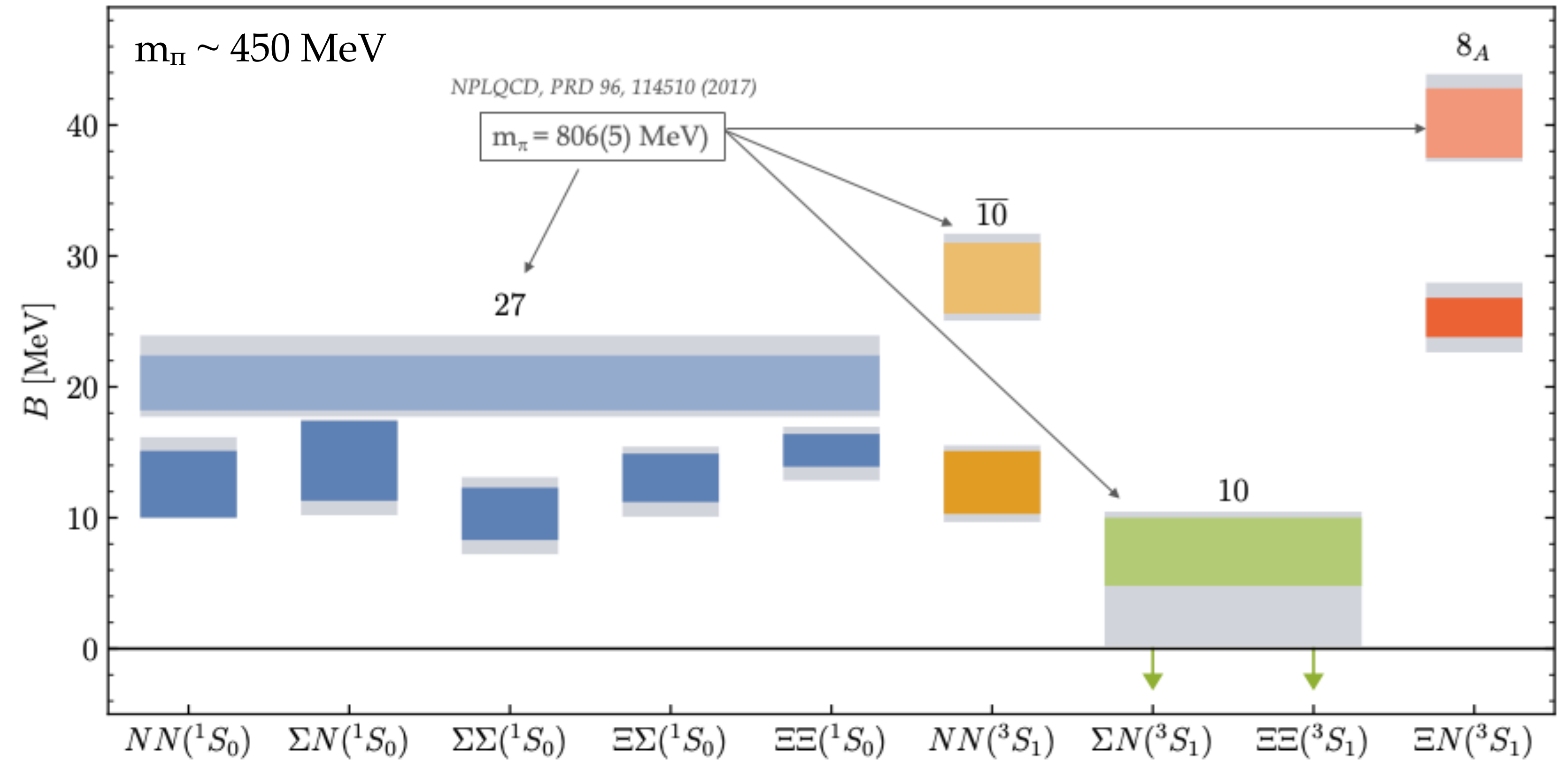
$$T = 7.5, 11.2, 11.2\text{ fm}$$



*no e.m. interactions*

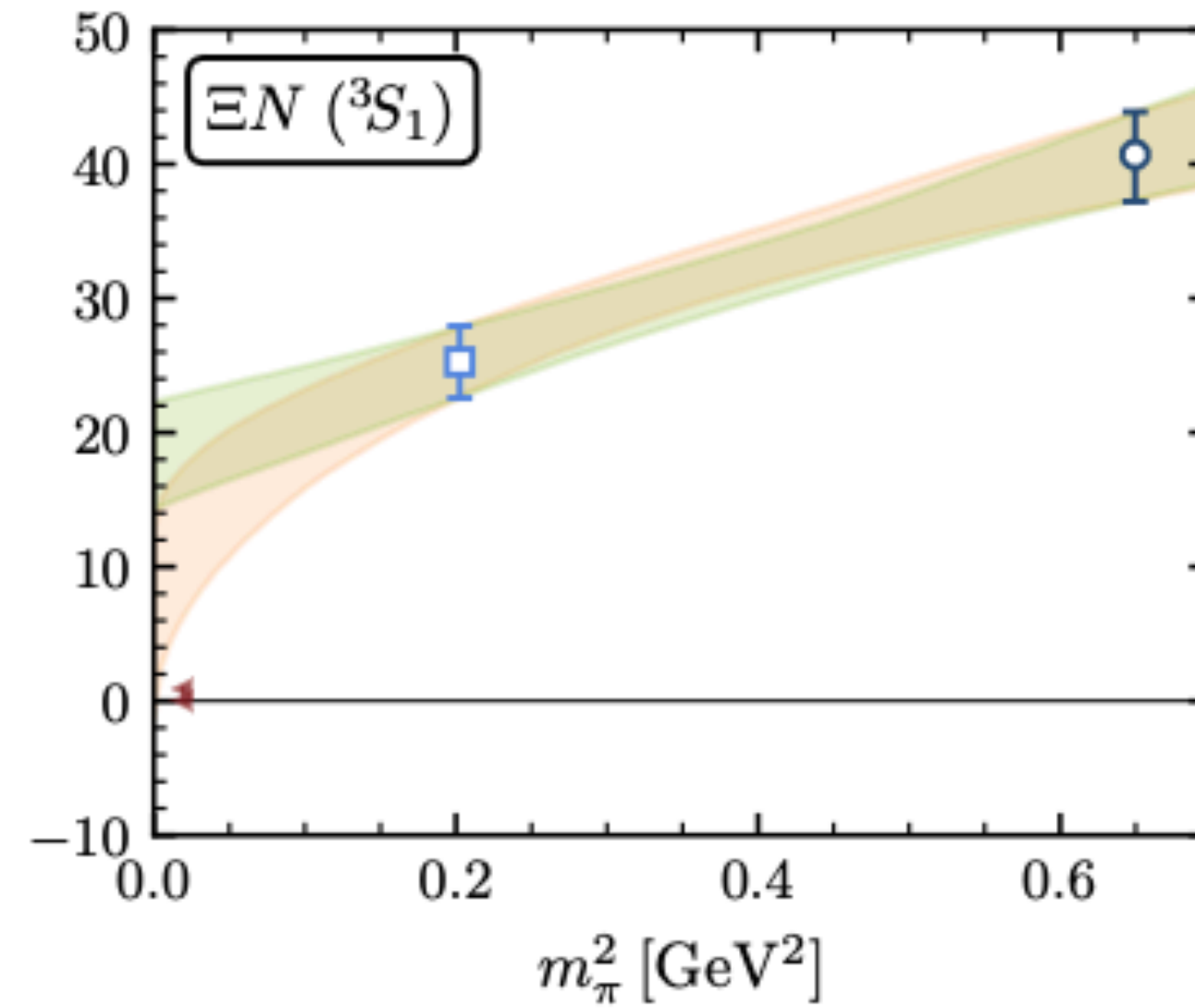
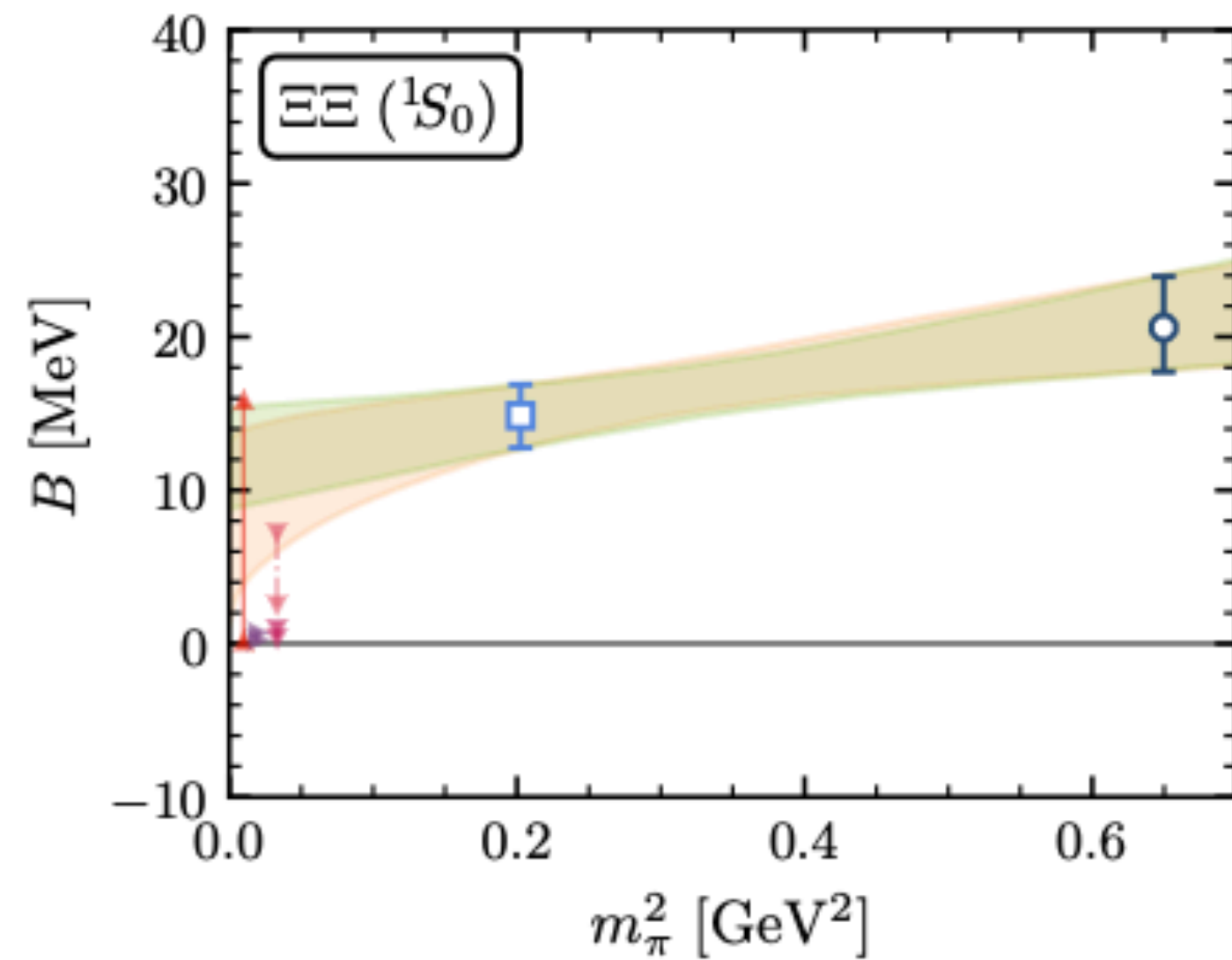
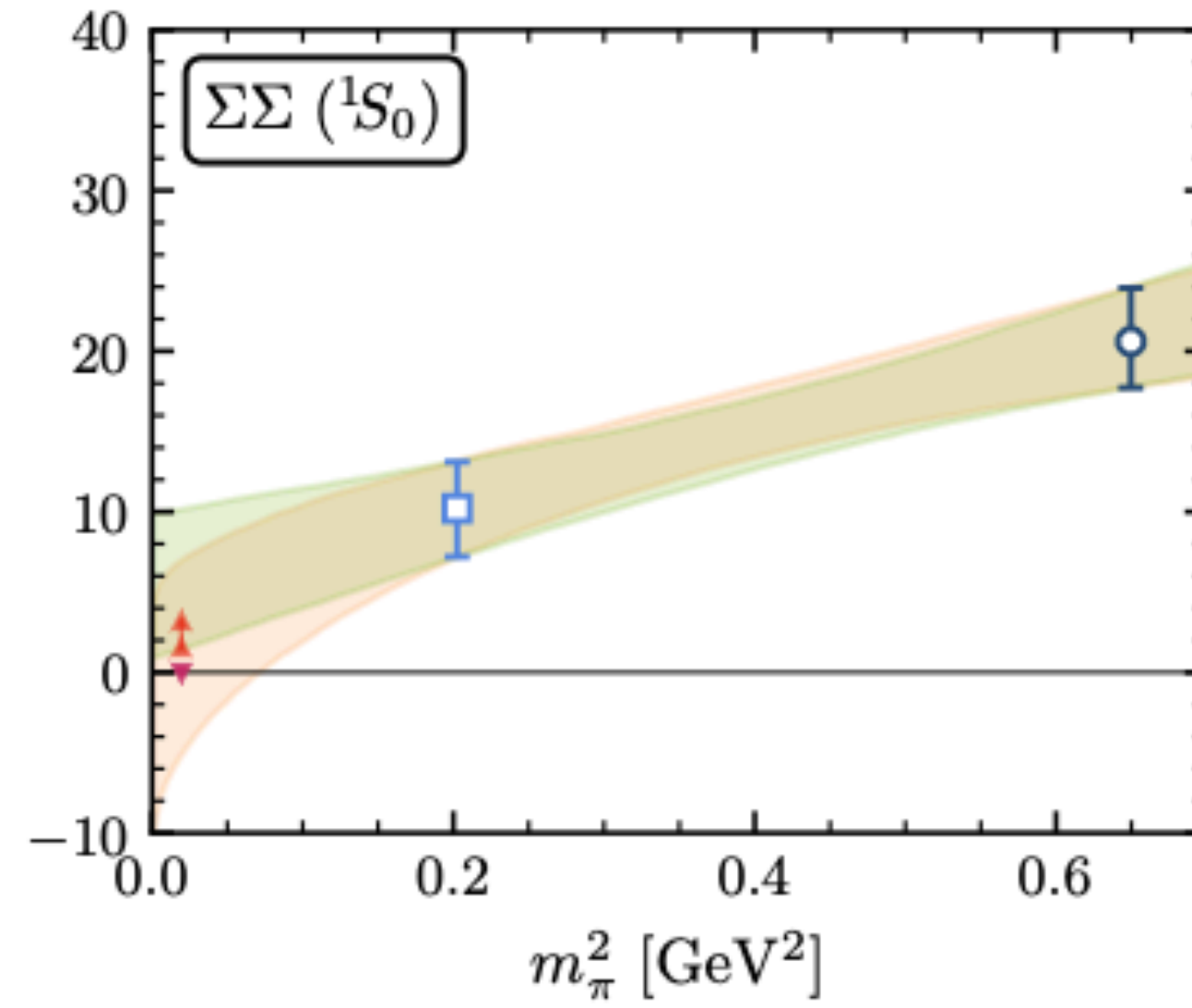
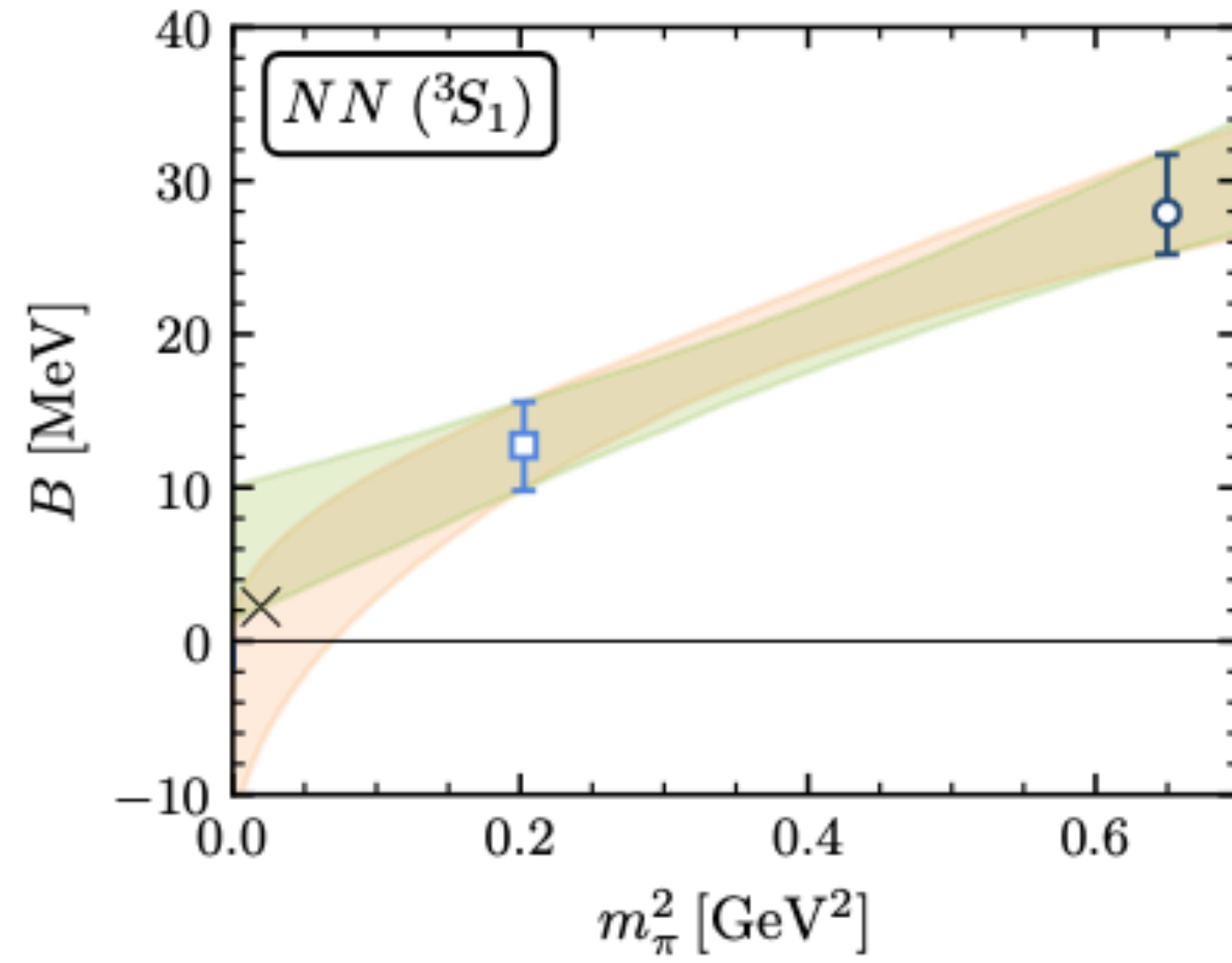


Marc Illa et al (NPLQCD) PRD 103 (2021) 5, 054508



# BB systems, quark mass extrapolations

Marc Illa et al (NPLQCD) PRD 103 (2021) 5, 054508



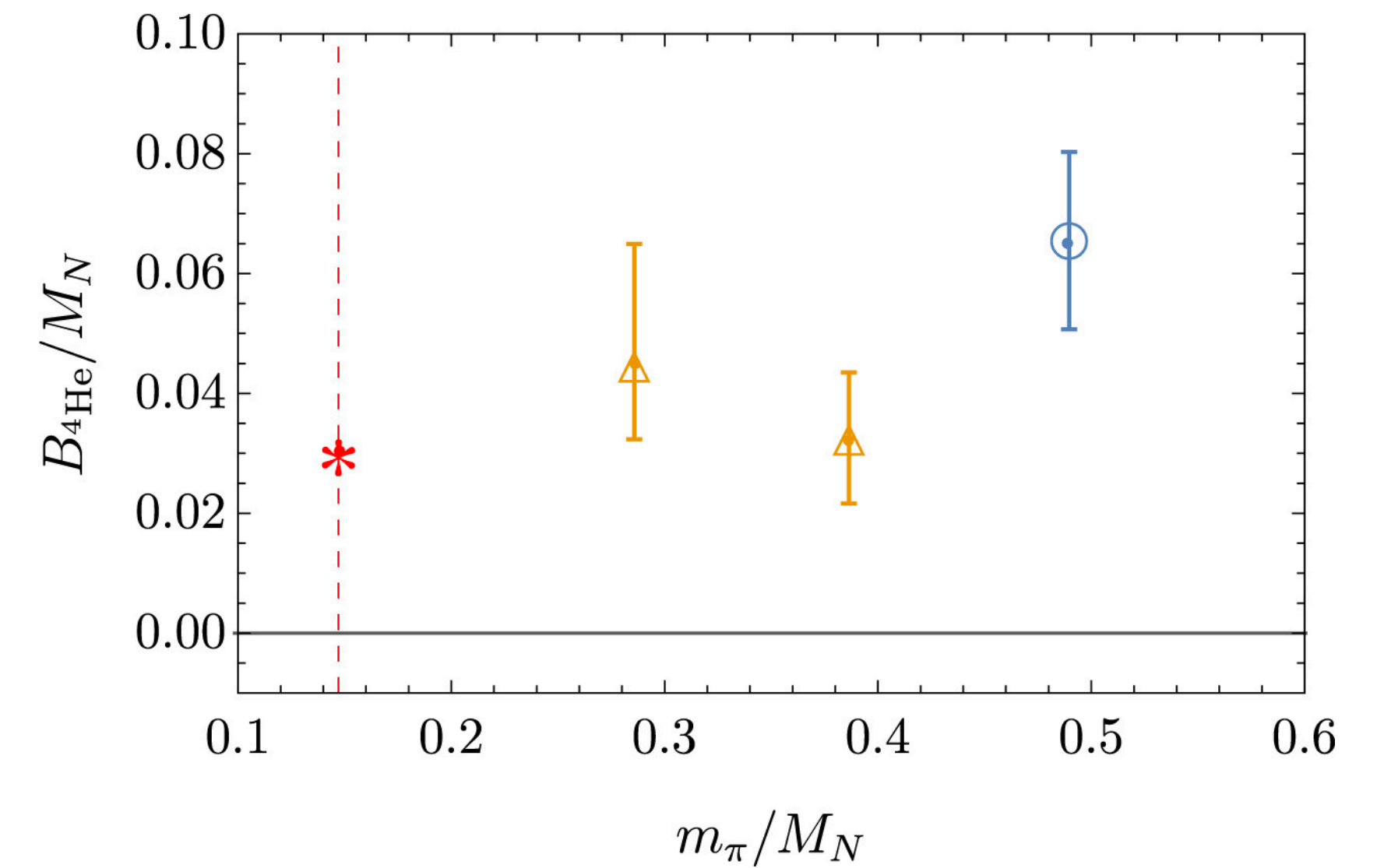
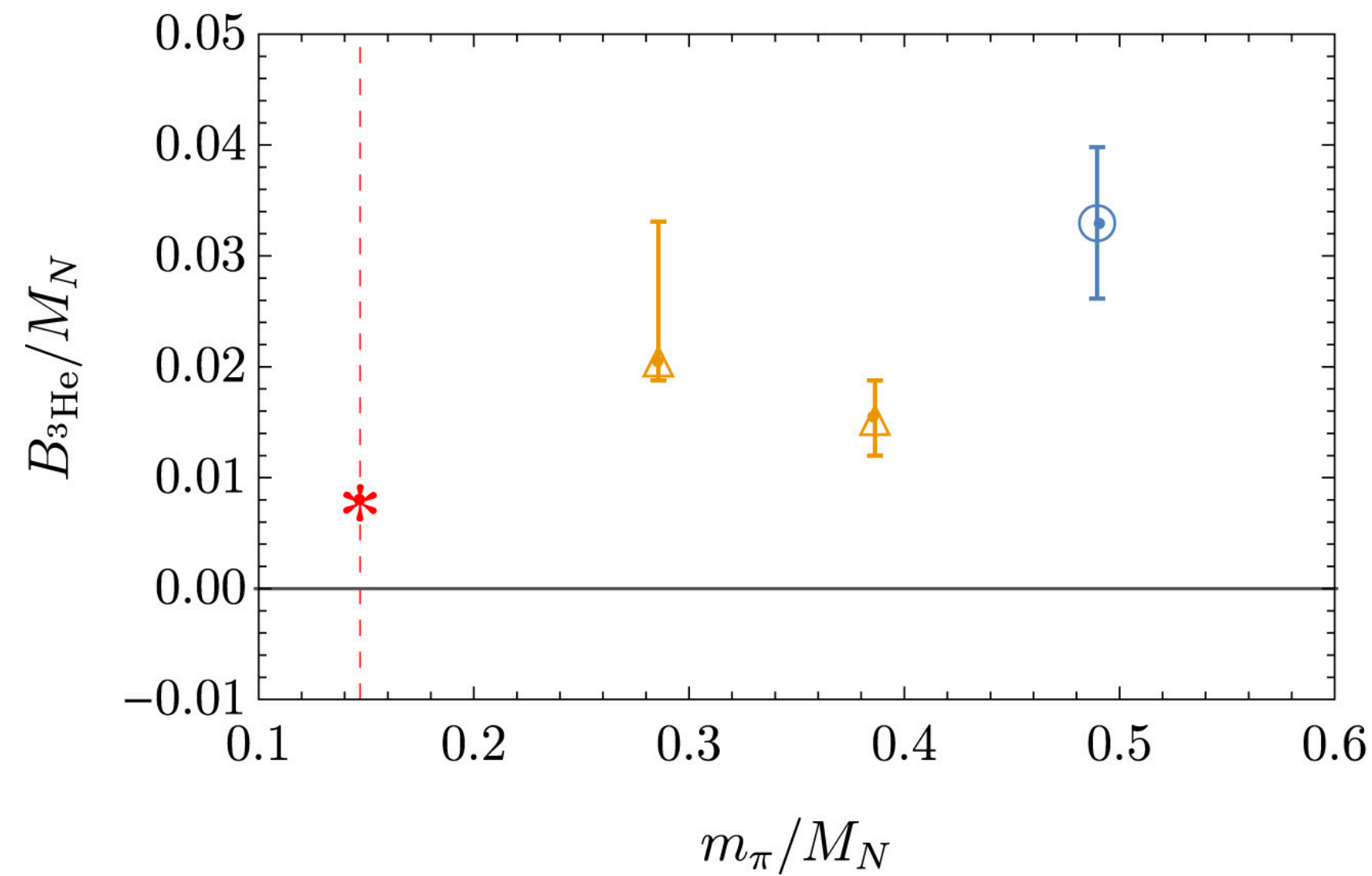
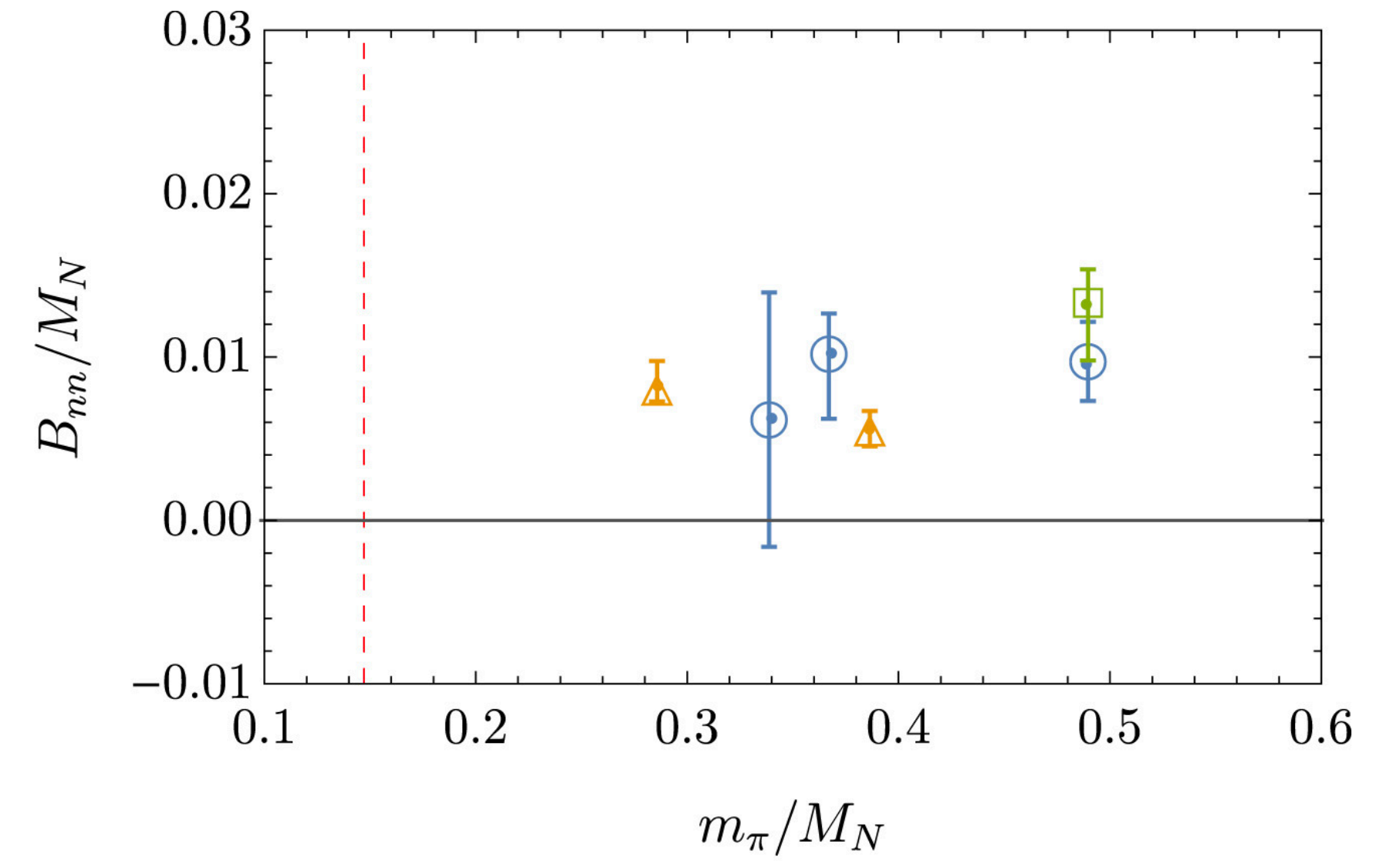
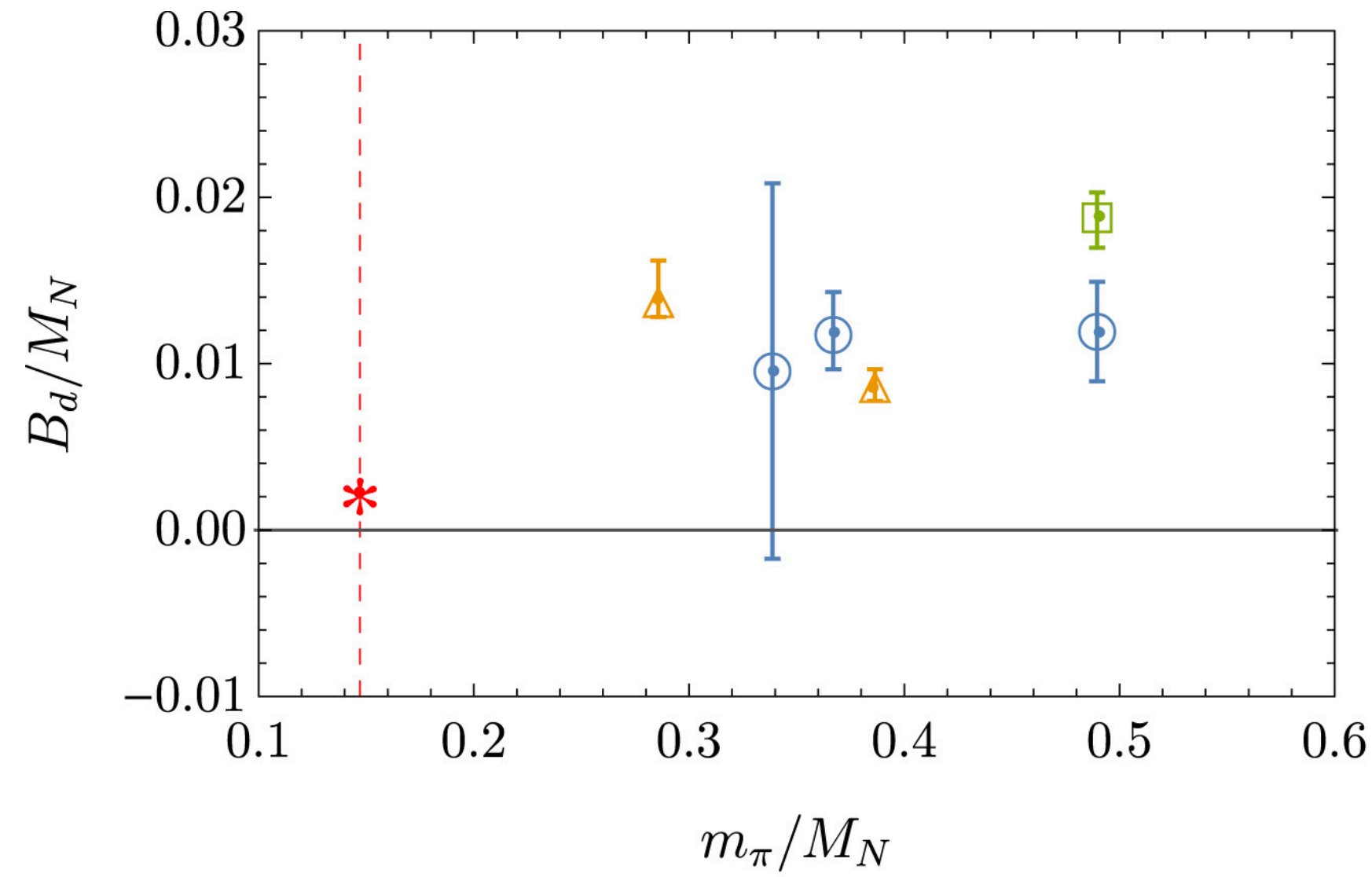
- NPLQCD  $n_f = 3$
- NPLQCD  $n_f = 2 + 1$
- Linear extrapolation in  $m_\pi$
- Quadratic extrapolation in  $m_\pi$
- ▲ NSC97
- ▲ Ehime
- ▲ ESC
- ▼  $\chi$ EFT LO
- ▼  $\chi$ EFT NLO
- × Experimental

$$B_{\text{lin}}(m_\pi) = B_{\text{lin}}^{(0)} + B_{\text{lin}}^{(1)} m_\pi$$

$$B_{\text{quad}}(m_\pi) = B_{\text{quad}}^{(0)} + B_{\text{quad}}^{(1)} m_\pi^2$$

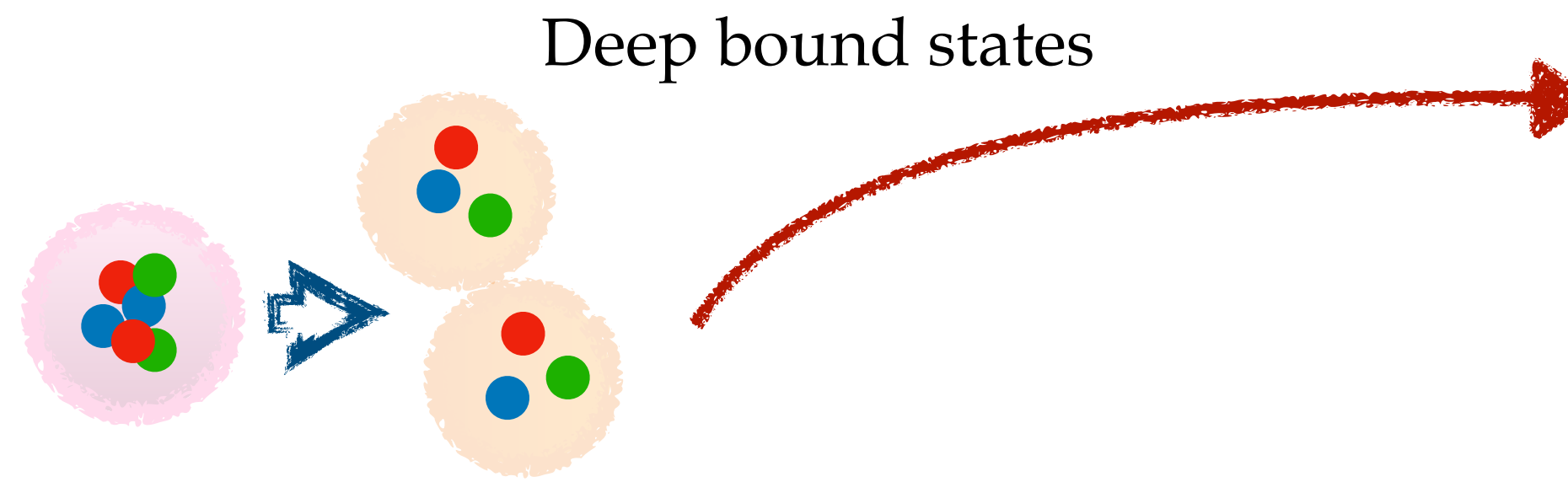
Davoudi, Detmold, Shanahan, Orginos, Parreño, Savage, Wagman, Physics Reports 900 (2021) 1–74

- NPLQCD
- △ PACS-CS
- CalLat
- \* EXP



## Misidentification of the plateau?

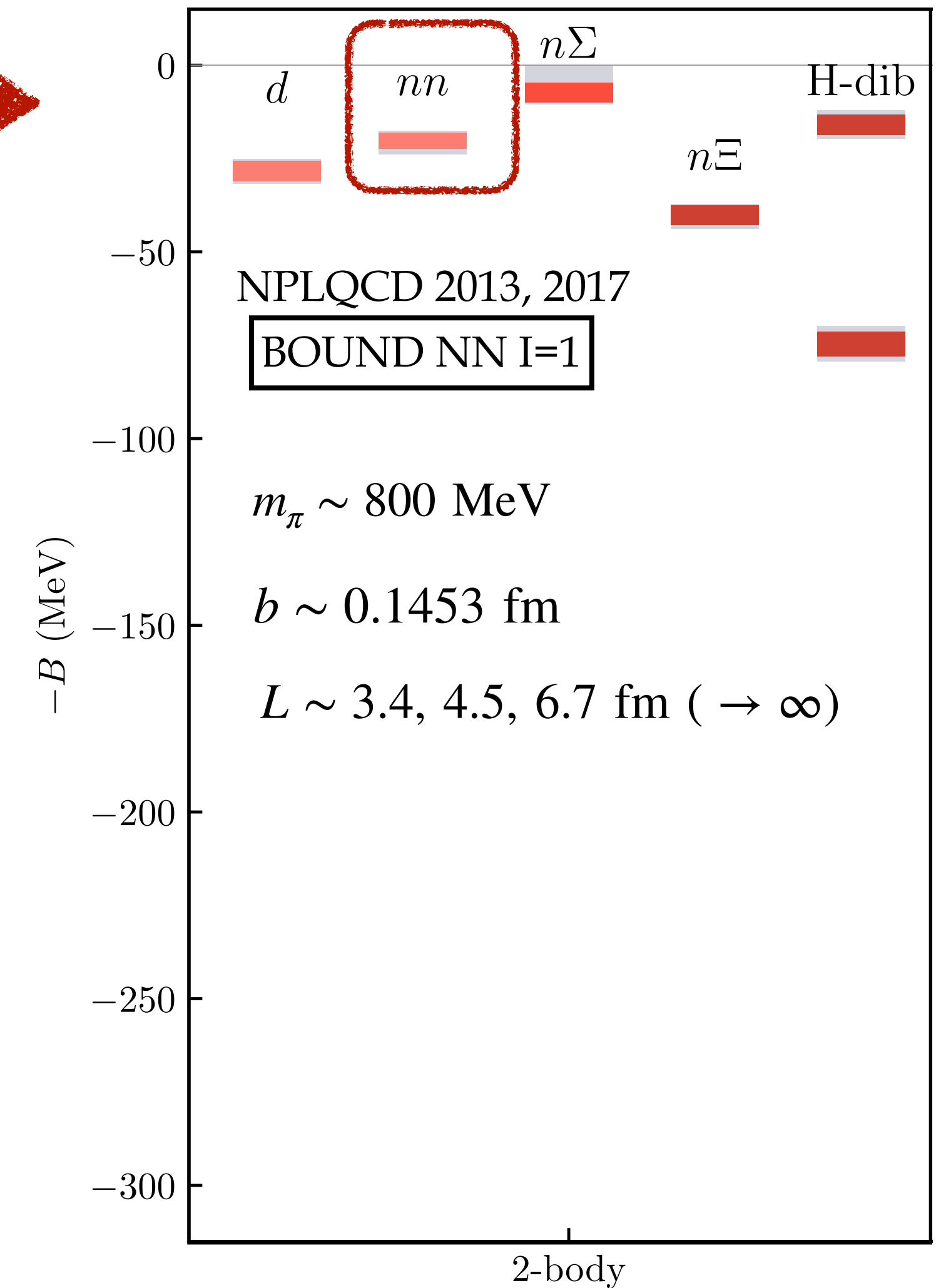
*E. Berkowitz et al. [CalLat], Phys.Lett.B 765 (2017)*  
*S.R. Beane et al. [NPLQCD], arXiv:1705.09239 [hep-lat]*  
*T. Yamazaki et al. [PACS], EPJ Web Conf. 175 (2018)*



Small excited-state gaps may lead to incorrect identification of the ground-state energy

- Is the fitting interval correctly identified?
- Are we missing excited state contributions?
- Is there an operator dependence on the energy levels extracted?

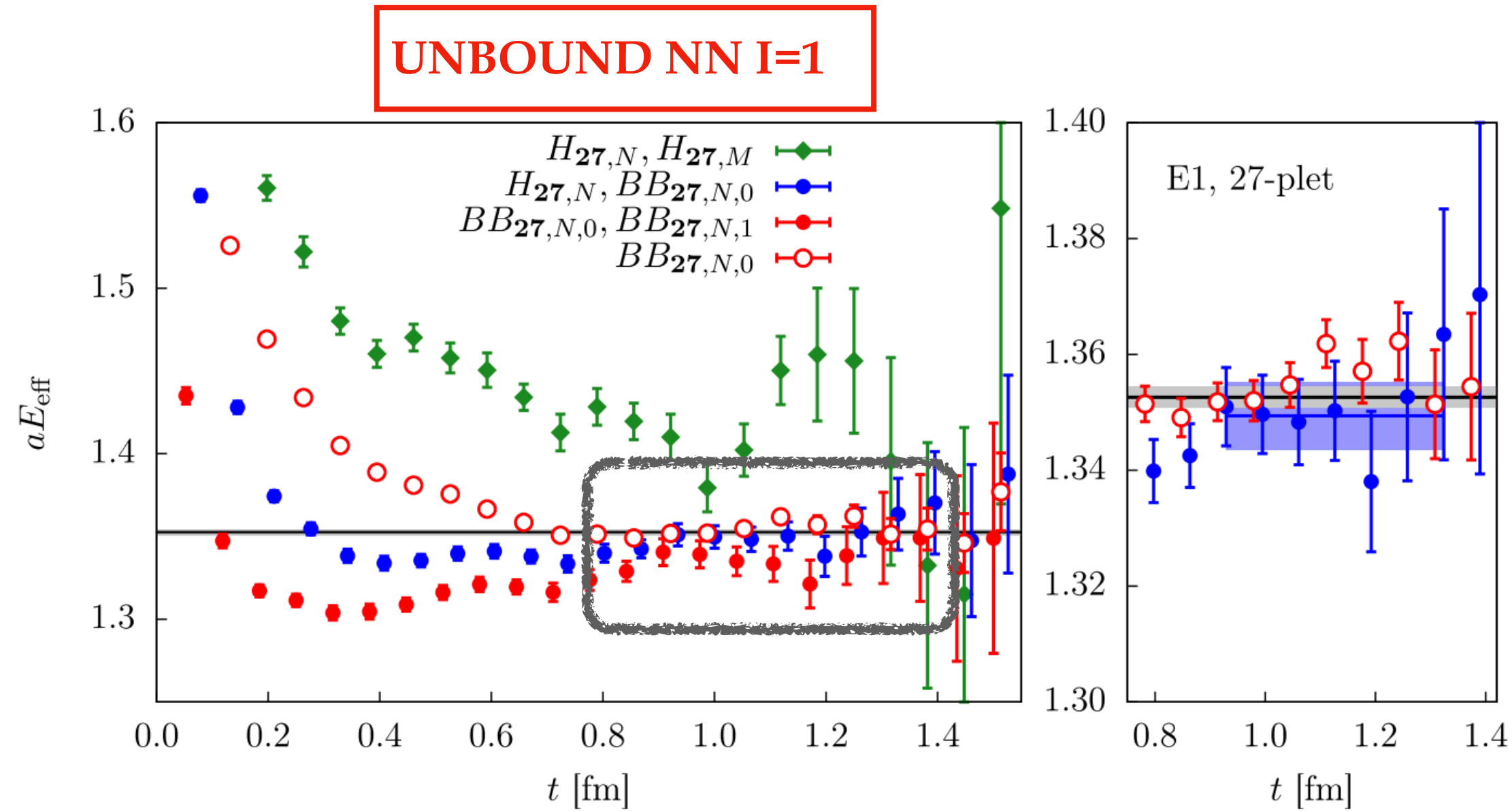
Reduce uncertainty at small time: GPoF, matrix Prony, variational



## First variational calculation

*A. Francis et al., Phys.Rev.D 99 (2019)*

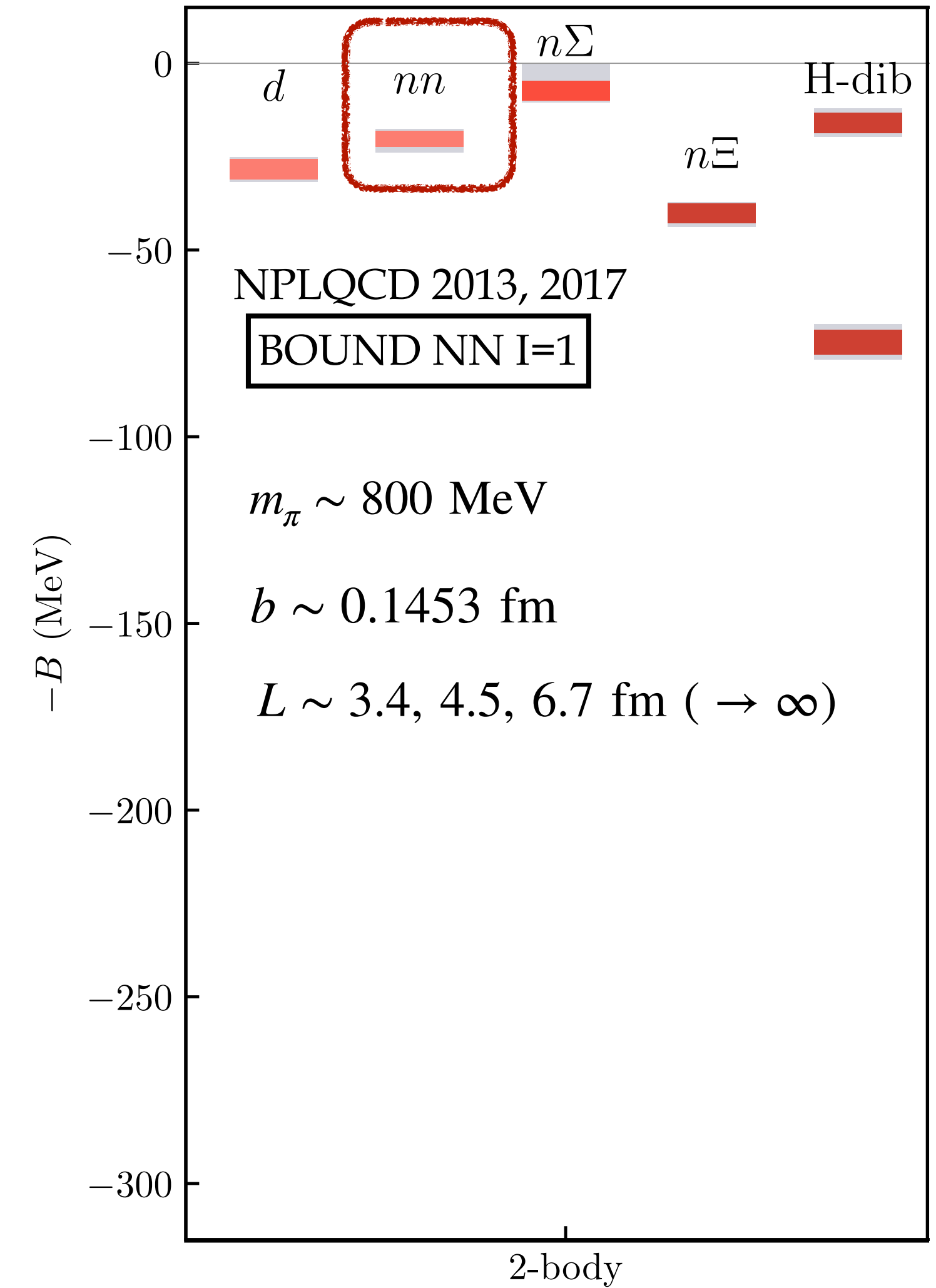
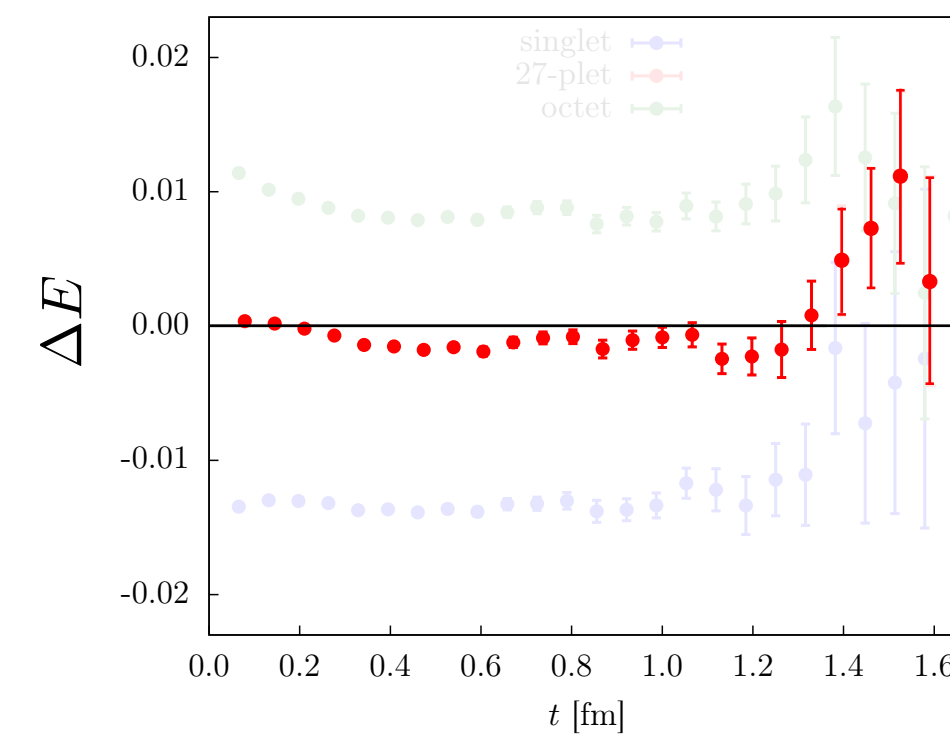
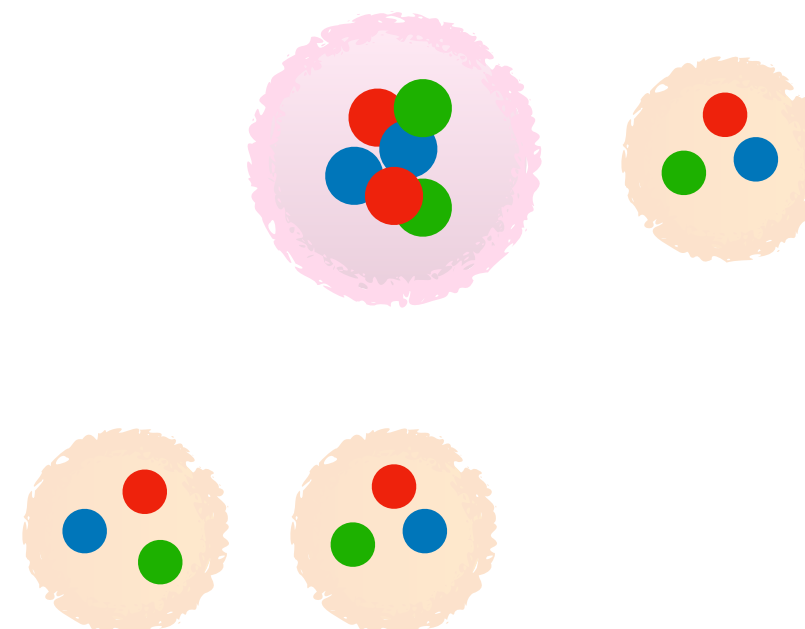
$m_\pi \sim 960$  MeV



Ground-state energy close to threshold

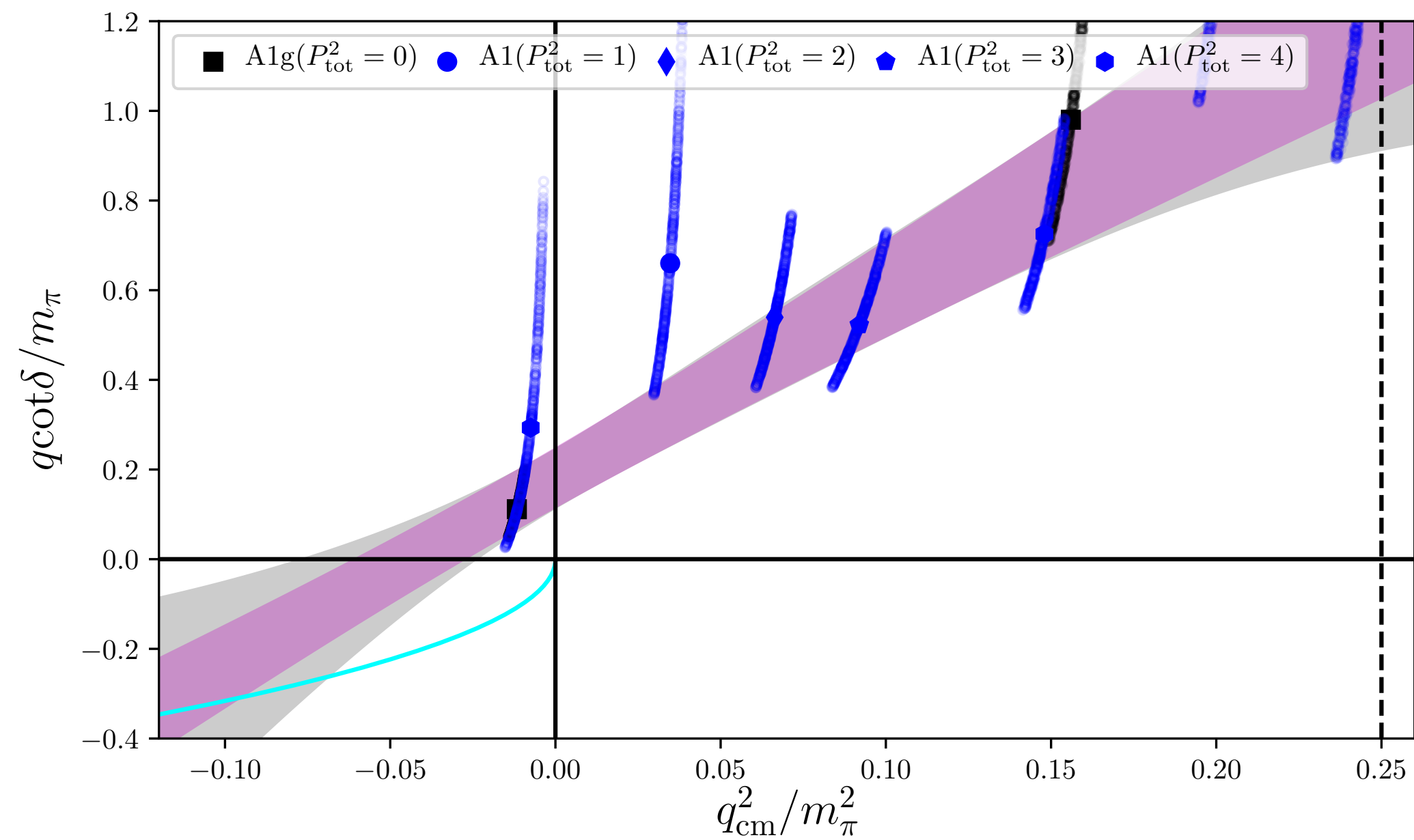
Hermitian 2x2 matrix with hexaquark and dibaryon-like operators

Non-hermitian 2x2 matrix with dibaryon-like operators



## Stochastic Laplacian Heaviside method

CalLat B. Hörz et al., Phys.Rev.C 103 (2021)



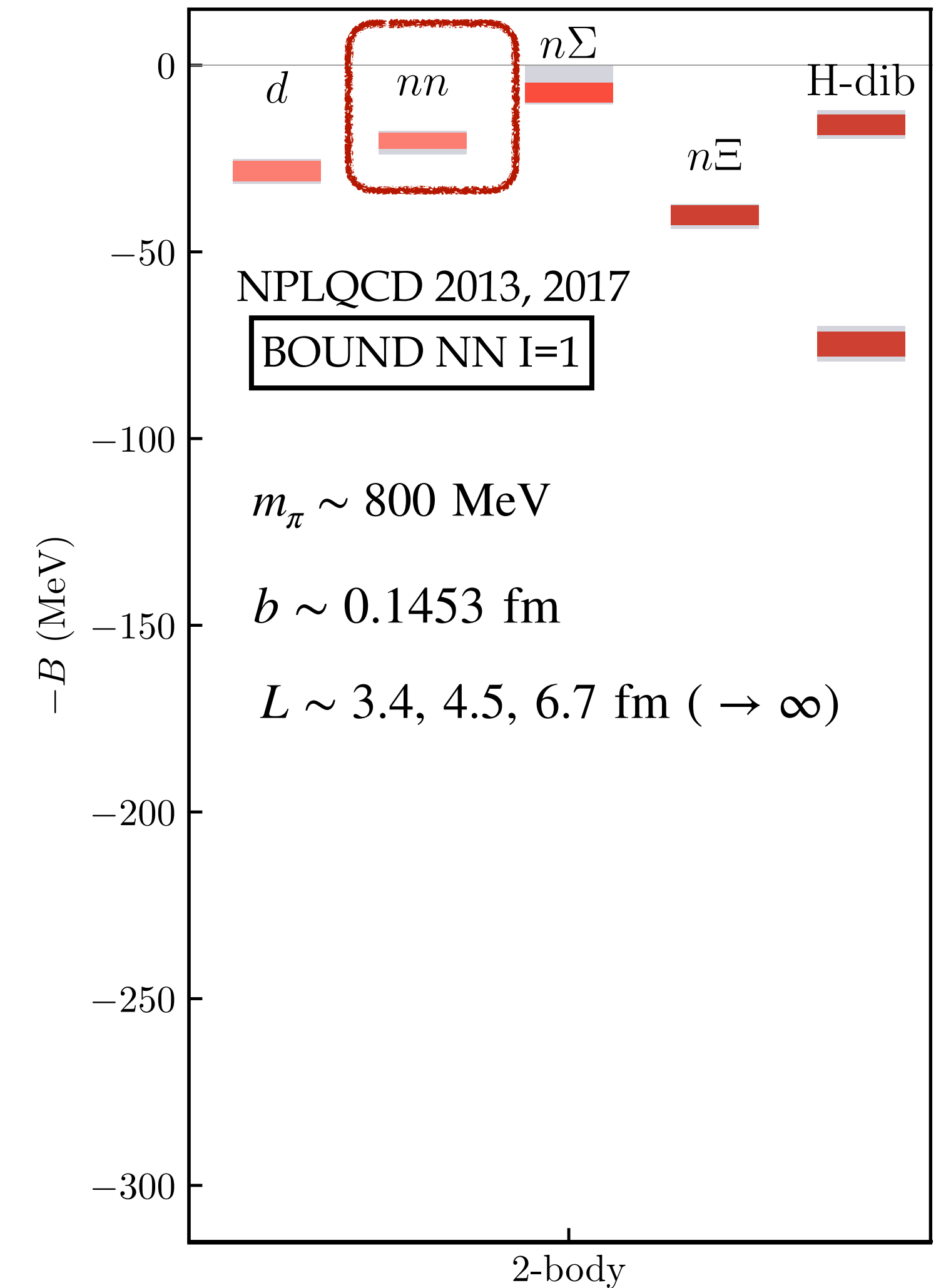
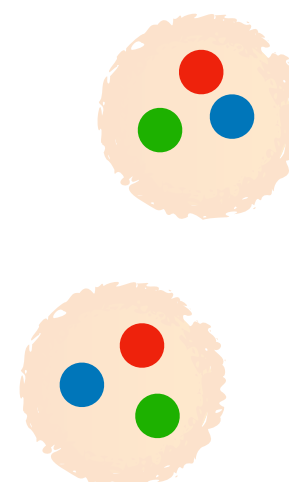
Hermitian 2x2 matrix with dibaryon-like operators

$m_\pi \sim 714$  MeV

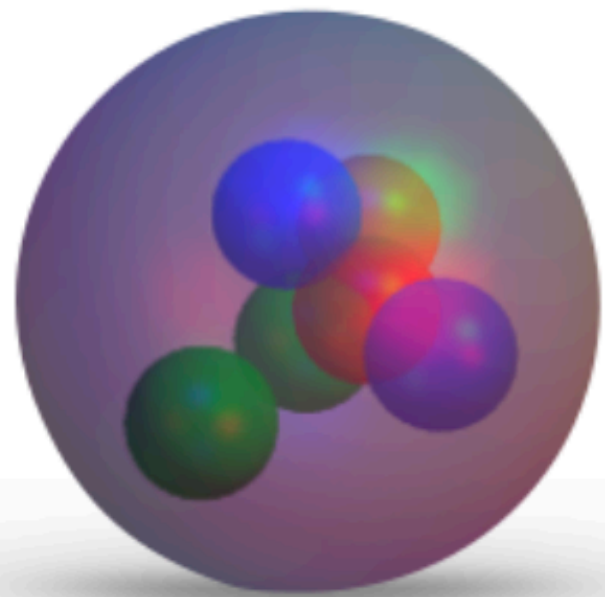
**UNBOUND NN I=1**

$b \sim 0.086$  fm

$L = 48b \sim 4.1$  fm



## Variational calculation - Types of operators

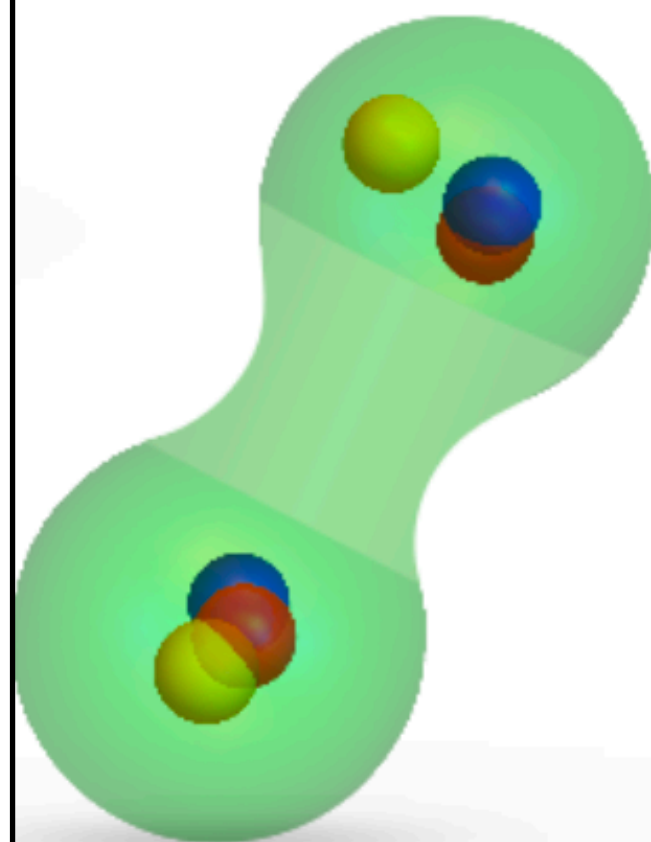
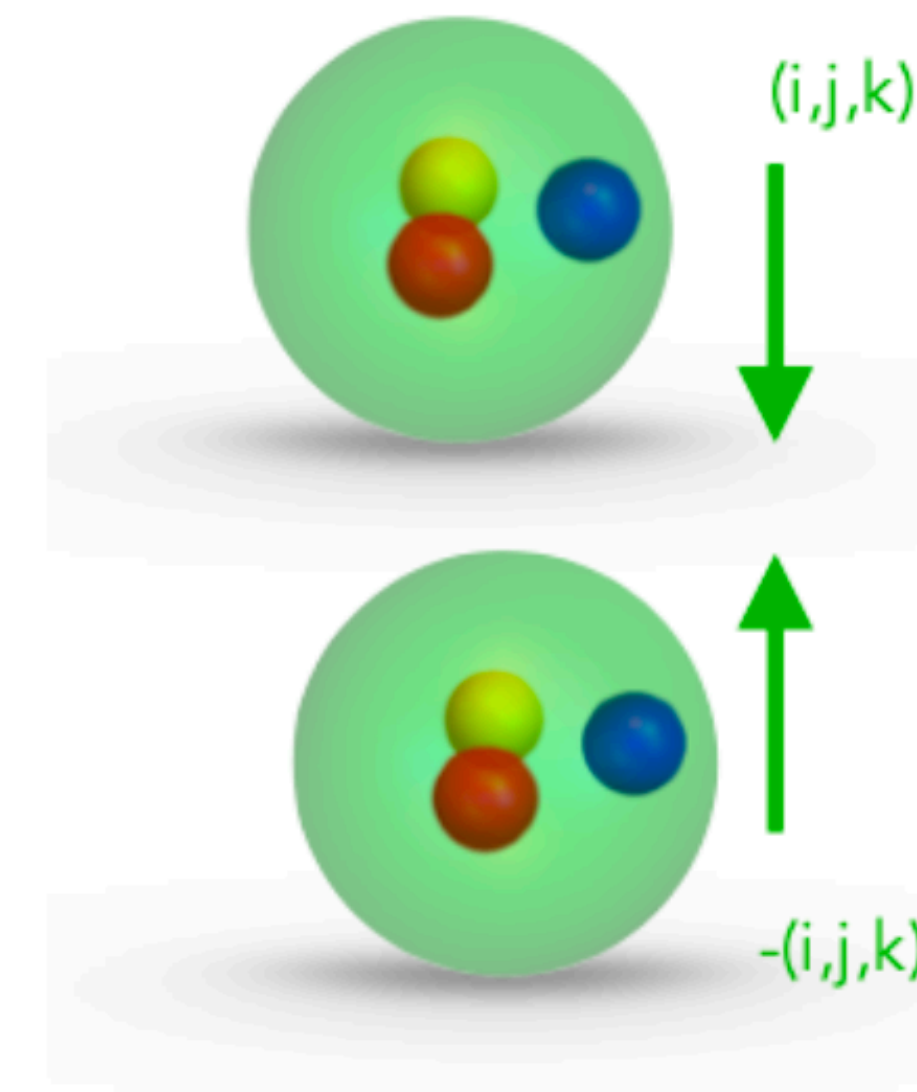


### Local hexaquark operators

- Six Gaussian smeared quarks at a point

### Dibaryon Operators

- Two spatially-separated plane-wave baryons with relative momenta
- Relative momentum: up to four units  $\rightarrow$  5 operators



### Quasi-local Operators

- Two exponentially localized baryons
- NN -EFT motivated deuteron-like structure

NPLQCD, PRD 107 (2023) 9, 094508: Largest set of operators to date

$b=0.145$  fm ,  $L/b=32$  (4.7 fm aprox)

Our first variational results added dibaryon operators at the source and sink through the (Hermitian) matrix of correlators:

$$\mathbf{C}(t) = \begin{bmatrix} \text{Diagram 1} & \text{Diagram 2} & \text{Diagram 3} & \text{Diagram 4} \\ \text{Diagram 5} & \text{Diagram 6} & \text{Diagram 7} & \text{Diagram 8} \end{bmatrix}$$

*S. Amarasinghe et al (NPLQCD) PRD 107 (2023) 9, 094508*

Solve **Generalized Eigenvalue Problem (GEVP)**:  $C(t) \vec{v}_n(t, t_0) = \lambda_n(t, t_0) C(t_0) \vec{v}_n(t, t_0)$

**GEVP Eigenvalues** provide **rigorous (stochastic) variational upper bounds on energy levels**

Variational methods lead to correlation functions with positive definite spectral representations

$$C(t) = \sum_n |Z_n|^2 e^{-E_n t}$$

For ex., the effective mass provides a genuine upper bound on the g.s. energy:

$$E(t) = -\ln \left[ \frac{C(t+1)}{C(t)} \right] = -\ln \left[ \frac{\sum_n e^{-E_n} e^{-E_n t}}{\sum_n e^{-E_n t}} \right] \geq -\ln \left[ \frac{e^{-E_0} \sum_n e^{-E_n t}}{\sum_n e^{-E_n t}} \right] = E_0 \quad \text{where } E_n \geq E_0$$

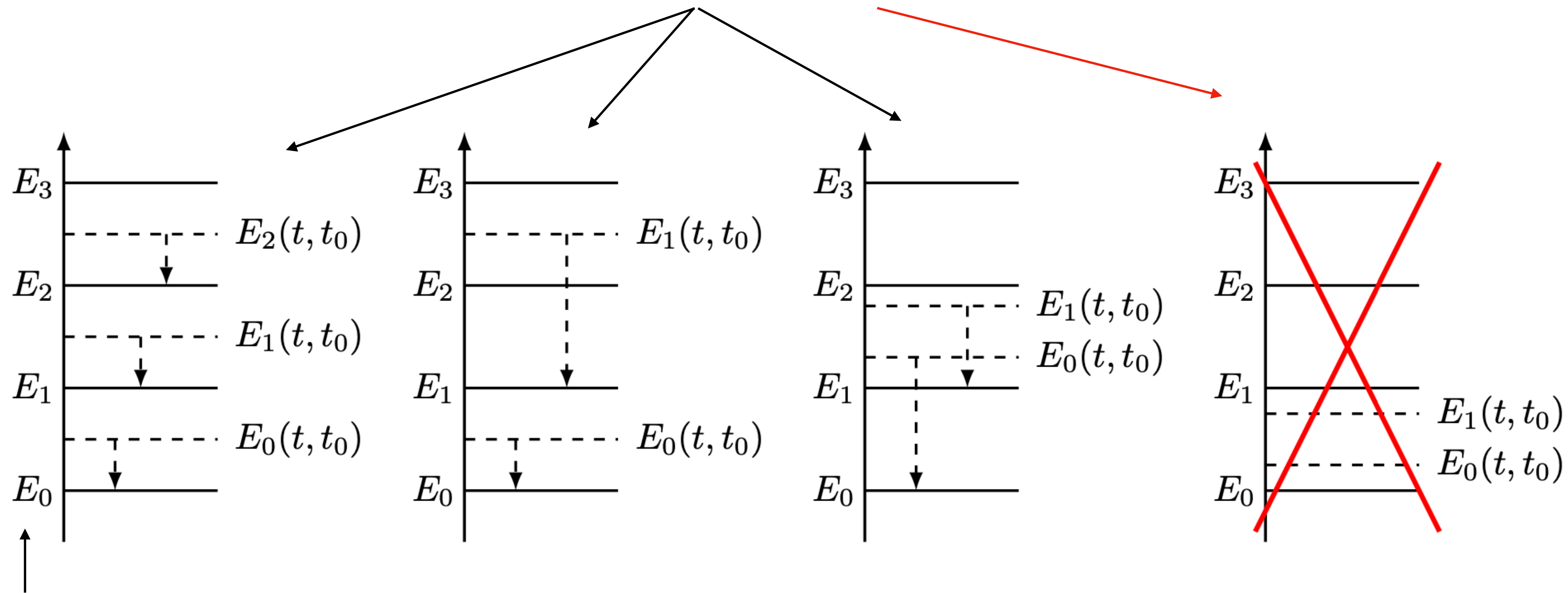


### Cauchy Interlacing theorem

$$C(t) \vec{v}_n(t, t_0) = \lambda_n(t, t_0) C(t_0) \vec{v}_n(t, t_0)$$

locations of observed effective masses

which are consistent or **inconsistent** with the interlacing theorem

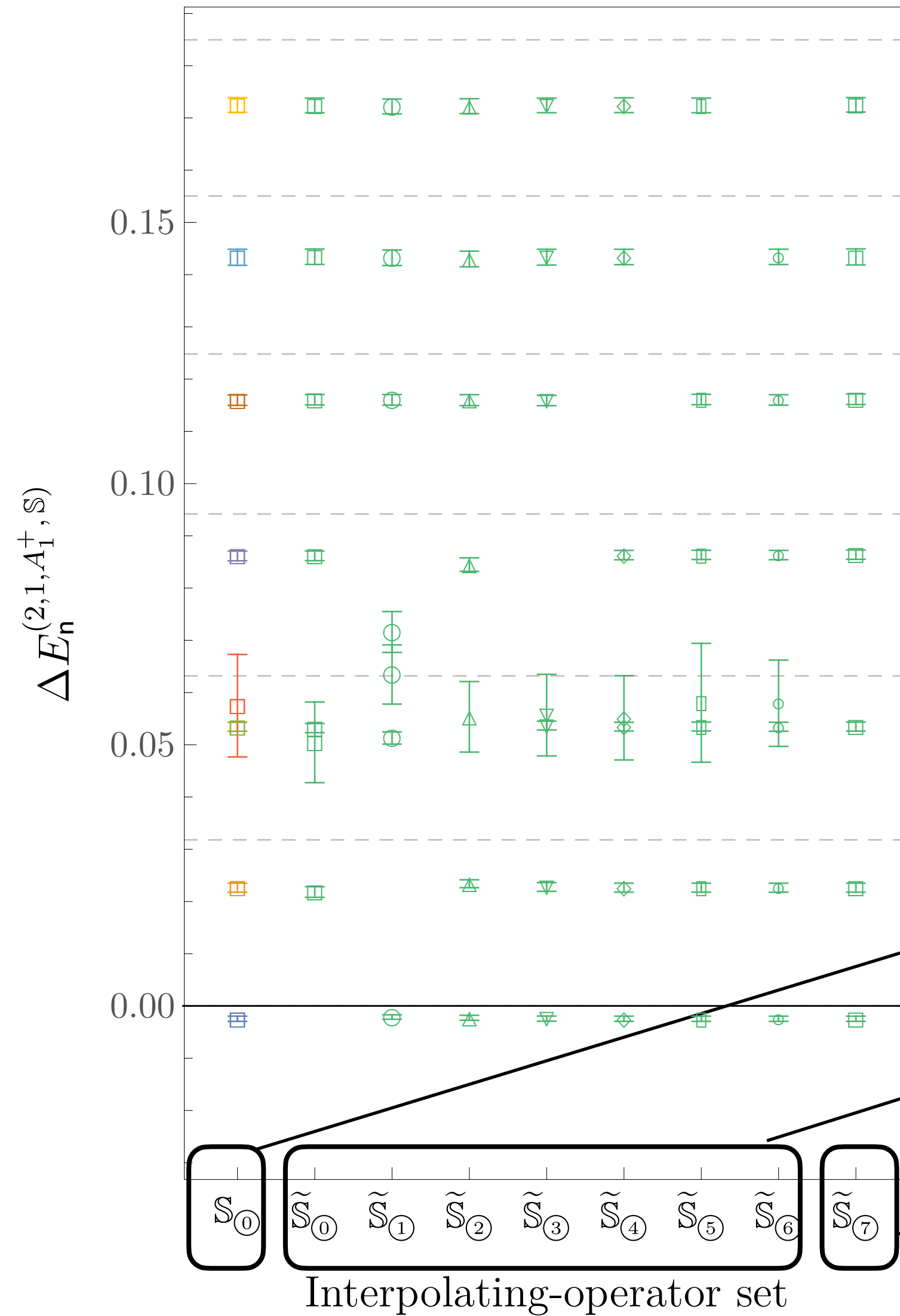


true energy-eigenvalues  
of the LQCD system

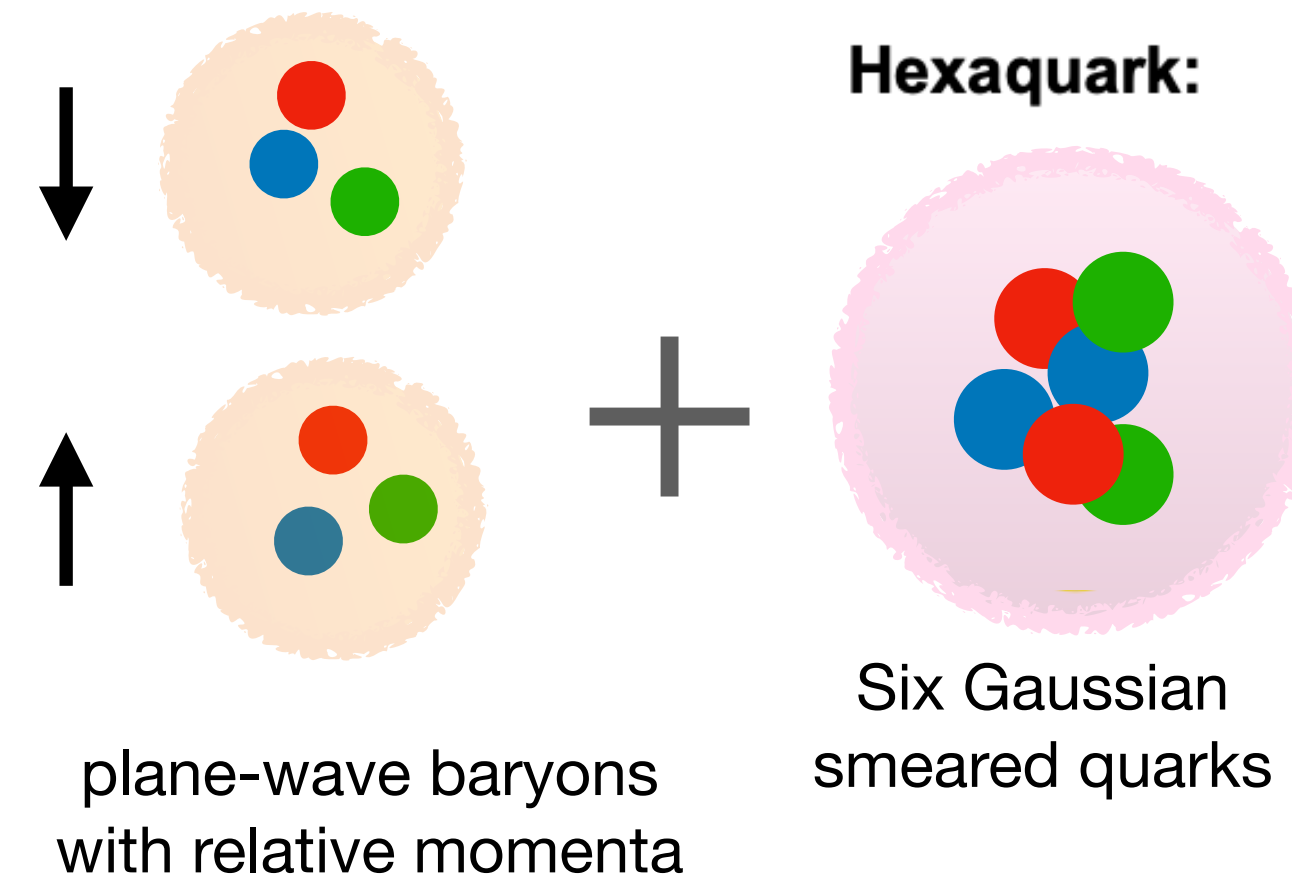
It tell us the minimum number of energy eigenvalues below a particular effective mass extracted from the GEVP

NN (I=1)

$L_S^3 \times L_T = 32^3 \times 48$



*S. Amarasinghe et al (NPLQCD) PRD 107 (2023) 9, 094508*



$S_0$  contains all operators except the quasi-locals

(hexaquark and dibaryons ops with different relative momentum)

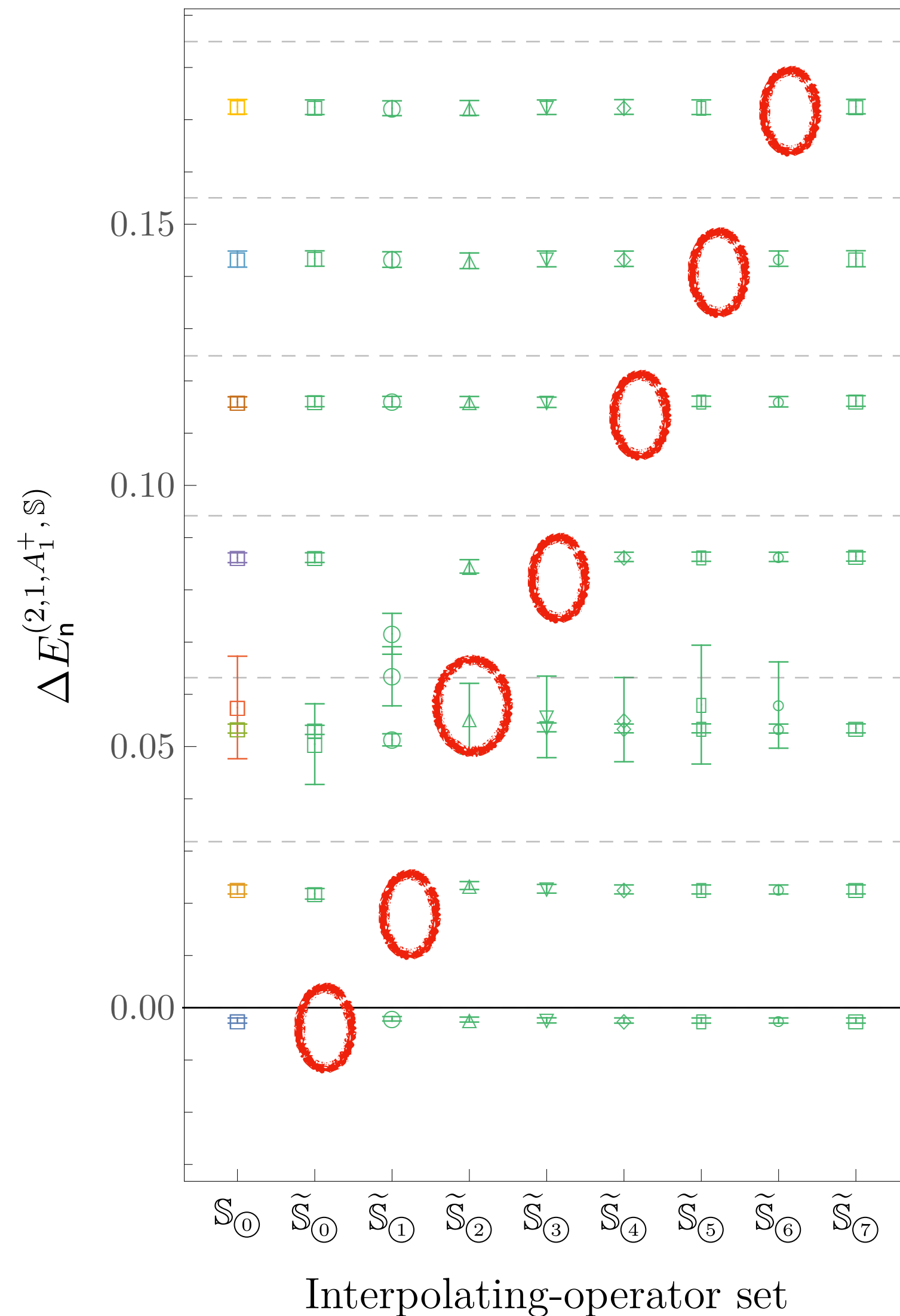
Set without a particular dibaryon operator

(taking out a dibaryon op with a given value of the relative momentum)

Set with only the whole set of dibaryon operators (NO hexaquark)

NN (I=1)

$L_S^3 \times L_T = 32^3 \times 48$



*S. Amarasinghe et al (NPLQCD) PRD 107 (2023) 9, 094508*

Similarly with what happens in the meson sector, removing the operator structure with maximum overlap on to a given energy level leads to **missing energy levels**

Importance of using an interpolating-operator set with significant overlap onto all energy levels of interest.

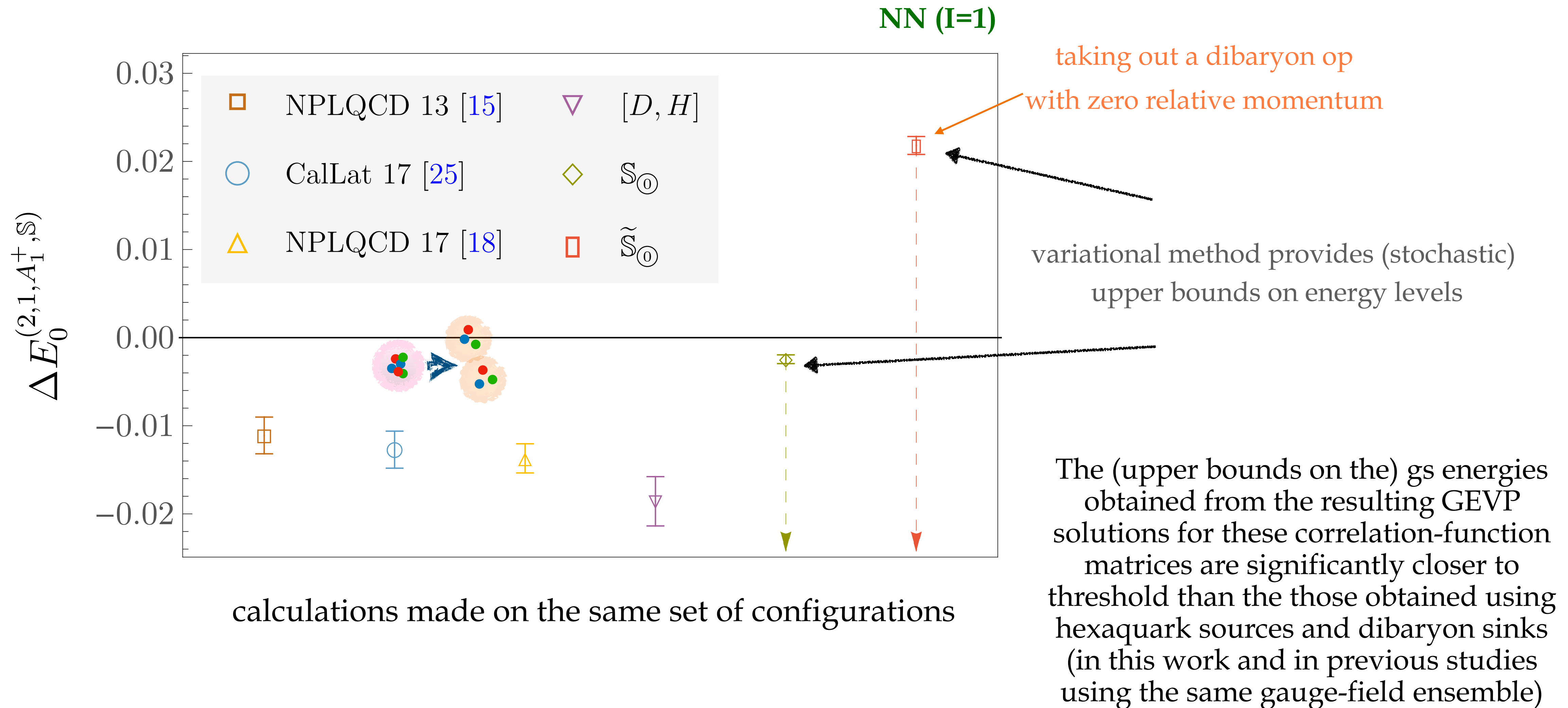
Having a large interpolating-operator set is not sufficient to guarantee that a set will have good overlap onto the ground state or a particular excited state

Variational upper bounds. No evidence for (or against) bound states

Operator dependence on variational bounds

“Additional bound”: large overlap to Hex

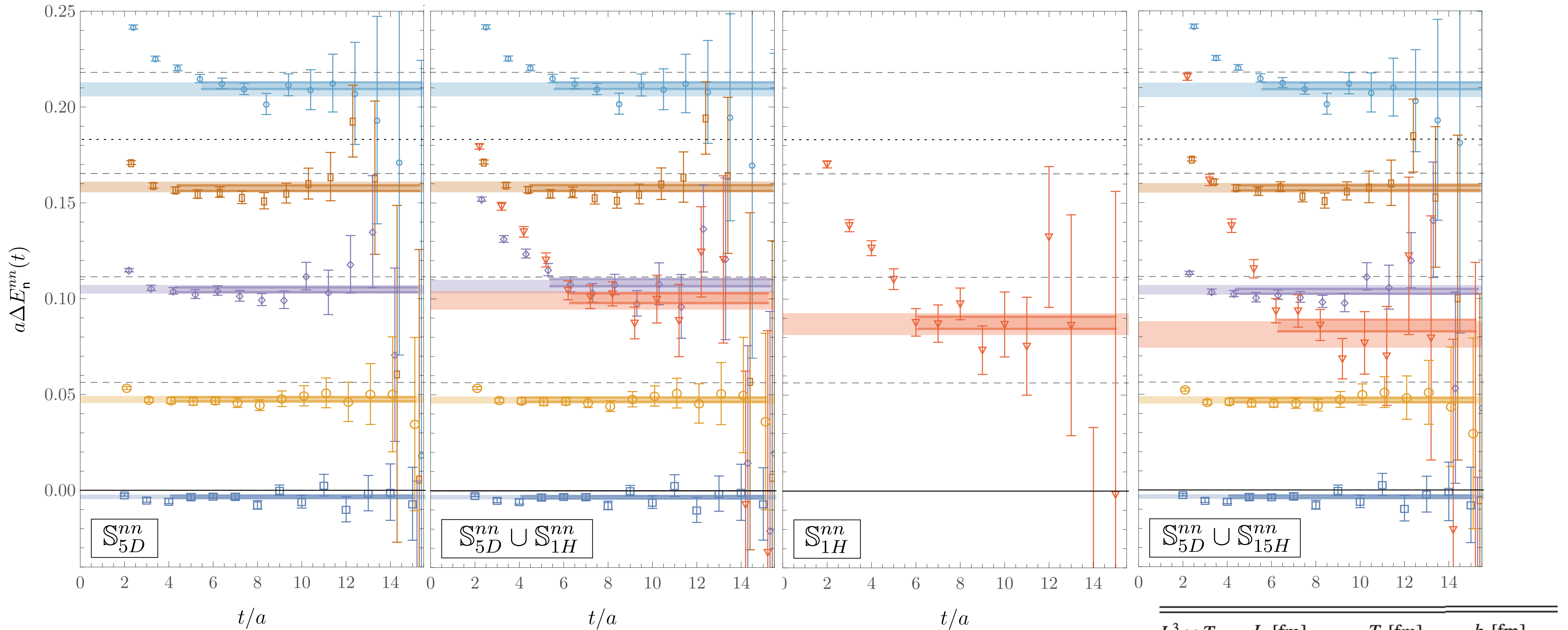
*S. Amarasinghe et al (NPLQCD) PRD 107 (2023) 9, 094508*



NPLQCD, e-Print: 2404.12039 [hep-lat]

**NN (I=1)**

$L_S^3 \times L_T = 24^3 \times 48$



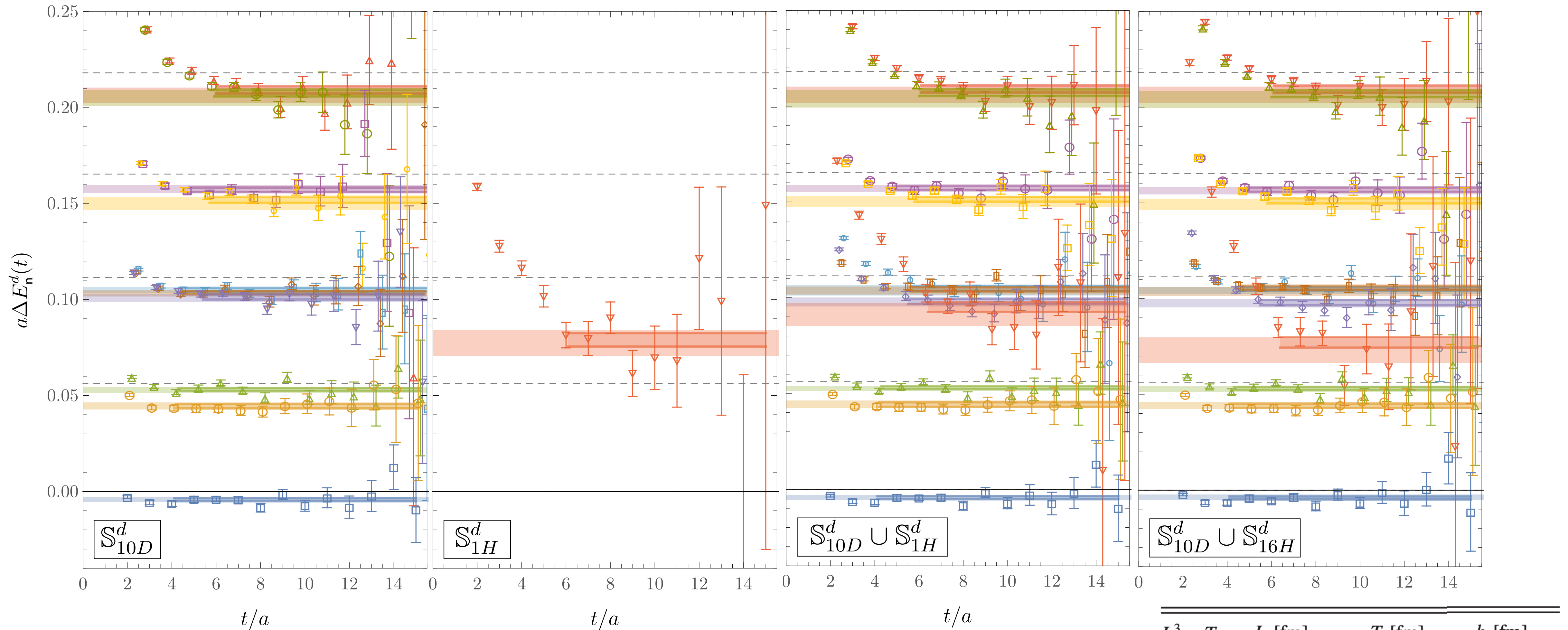
**CALCULATIONS ON A SECOND VOLUME**

$L^3 \times T$	$L$ [fm]	$T$ [fm]	$b$ [fm]
$24^3 \times 48$	3.4	6.7	0.1453(16)
$32^3 \times 48$	4.5	6.7	0.1453(16)

NPLQCD, e-Print: 2404.12039 [hep-lat]

NN (I=0)

$L_S^3 \times L_T = 24^3 \times 48$



**CALCULATIONS ON A SECOND VOLUME**

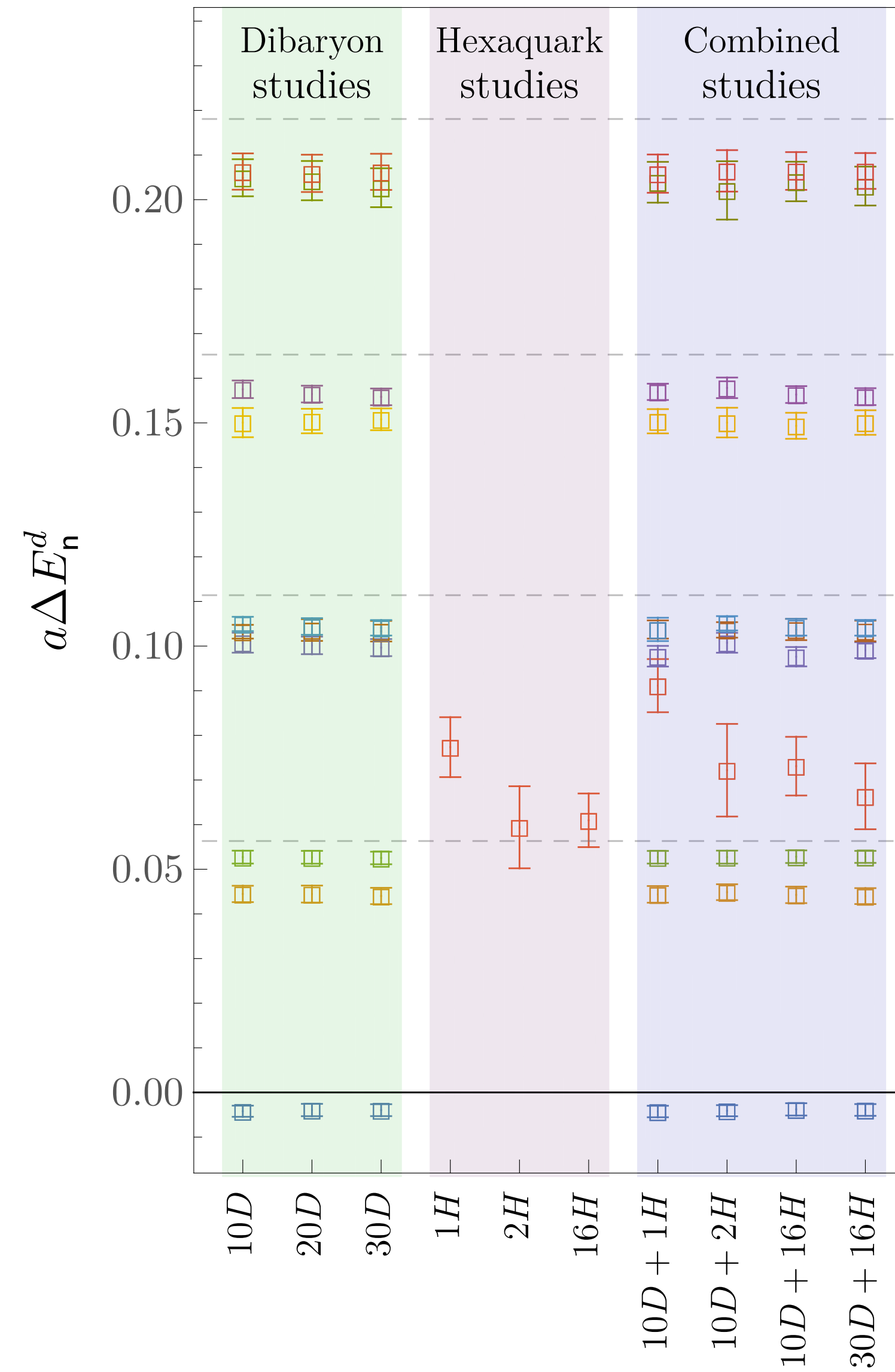
$L^3 \times T$	$L$ [fm]	$T$ [fm]	$b$ [fm]
$24^3 \times 48$	3.4	6.7	0.1453(16)
$32^3 \times 48$	4.5	6.7	0.1453(16)

Summary of variational bounds

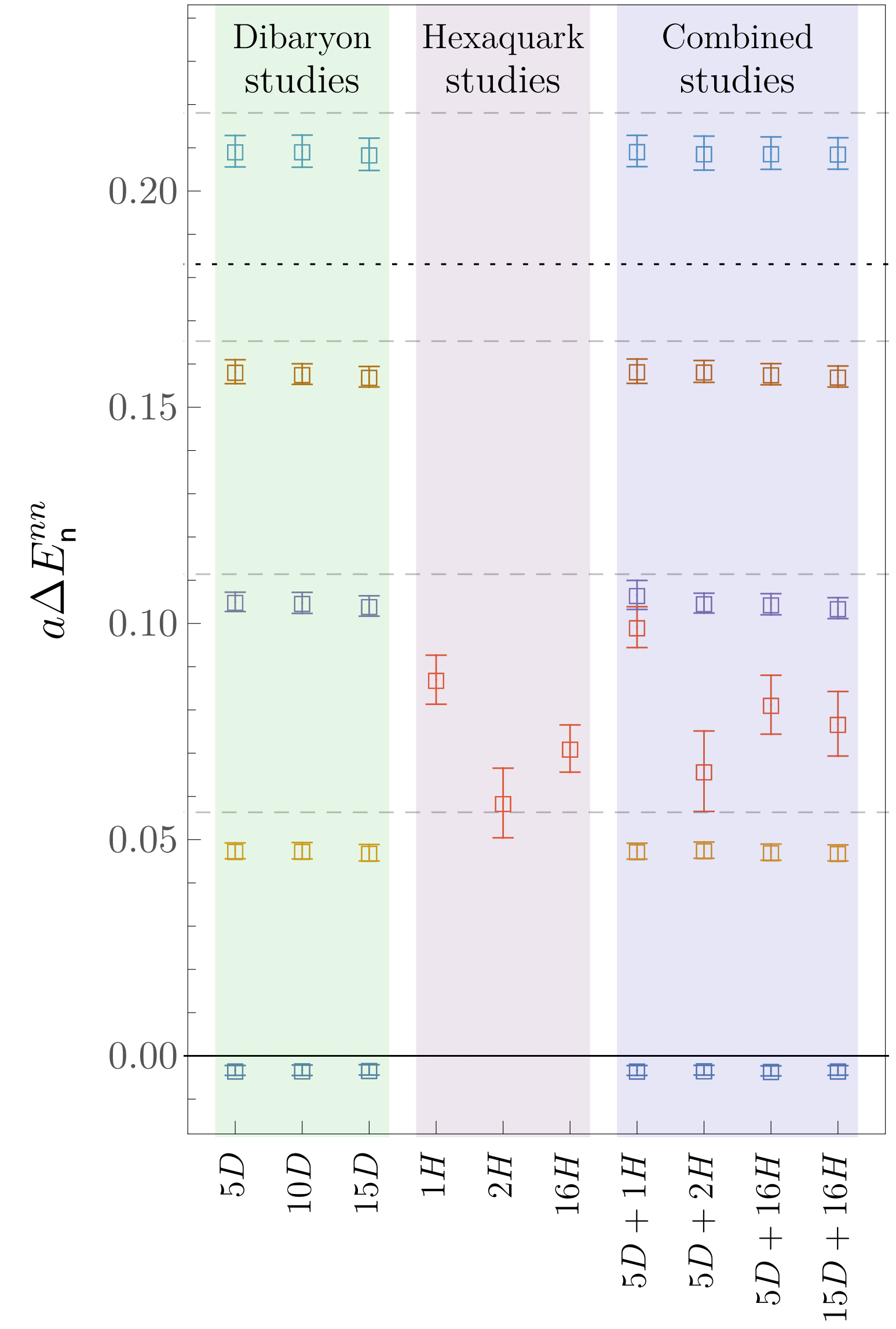
$$L_S^3 \times L_T = 24^3 \times 48$$

NPLQCD, *e-Print: 2404.12039 [hep-lat]*

NN (I=0)



NN (I=1)



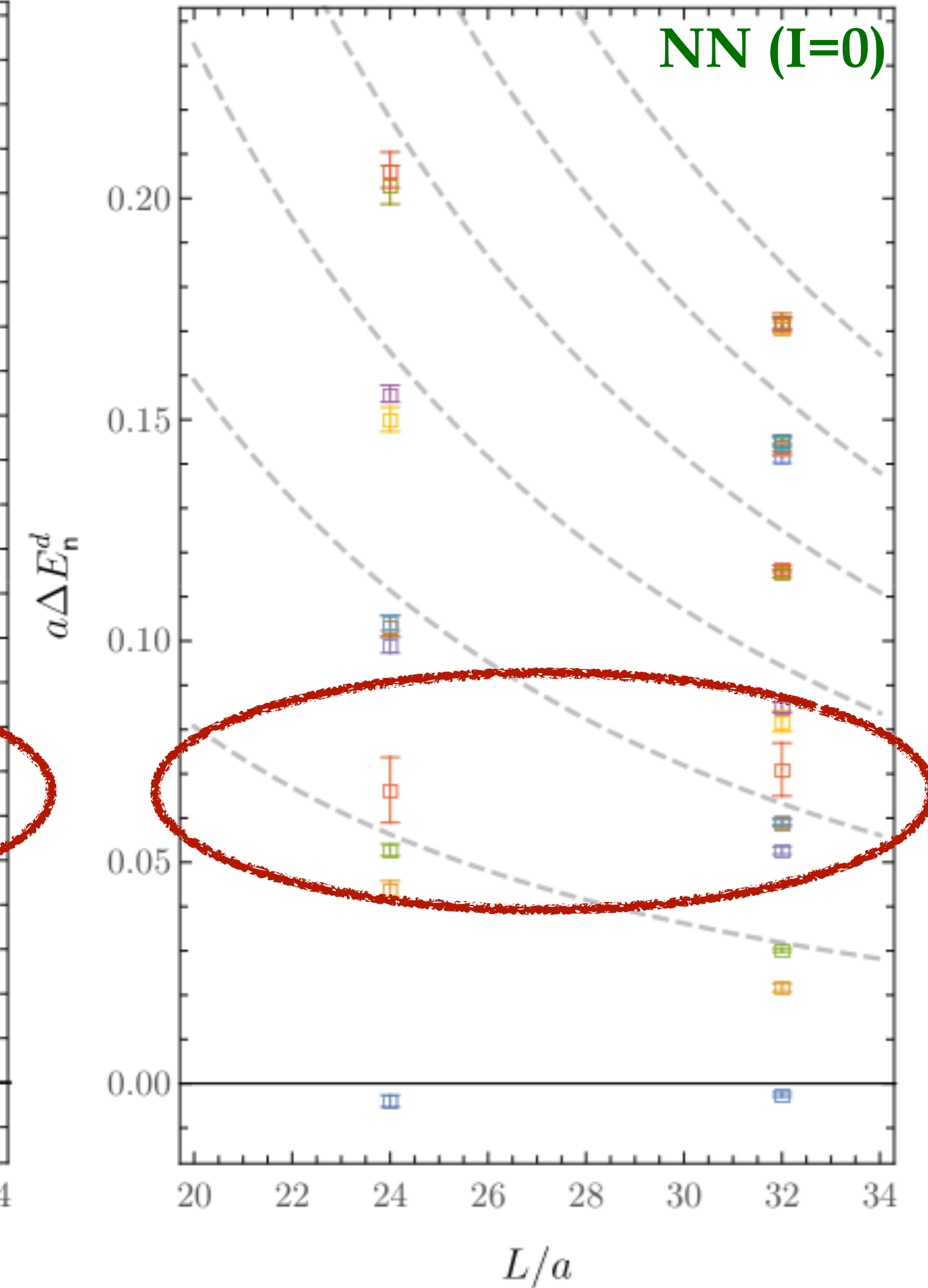
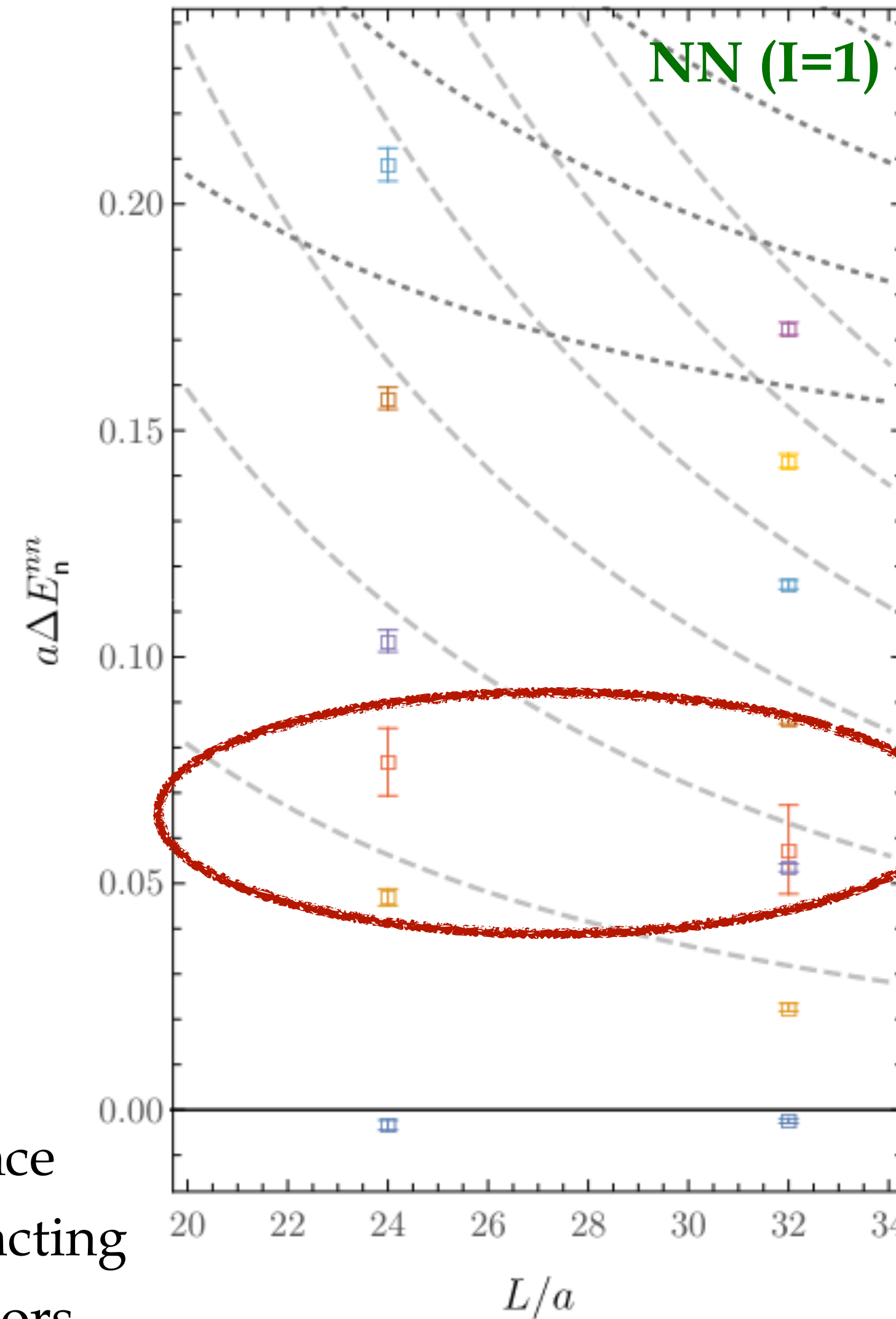
$$L_S^3 \times L_T = 32^3 \times 48 \text{ and } 24^3 \times 48$$

NPLQCD, e-Print: [2404.12039](https://arxiv.org/abs/2404.12039) [hep-lat]

Updated variational calculation:

- A complete basis of local NN hexaquark operators is included
- No evidence for (or against) bound states
- Operator dependence on variational bounds

**The additional bound is observed at two lattice volumes**



The additional state exhibits weak volume dependence compared with the states that fall near the non-interacting levels and overlap strongly with the dibaryon operators.



$$L_S^3 \times L_T = 32^3 \times 48 \text{ and } 24^3 \times 48$$

Experimental evidence supports the existence of a resonance :

$$I = 0, J^P = 3^+ \rightarrow d^*(2380)$$

*Bashkanov et al., PRL 102, 052301 (2009)*

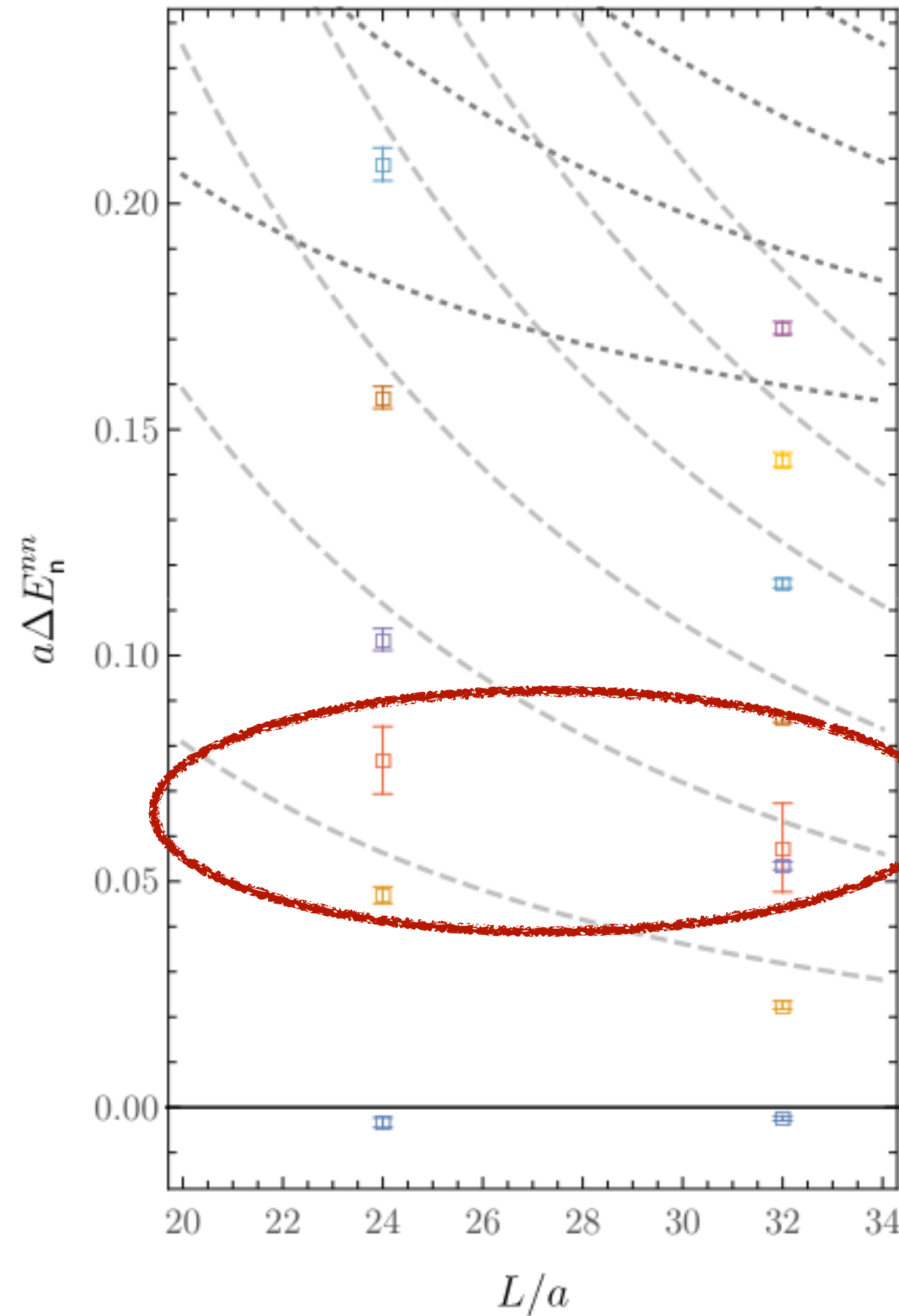
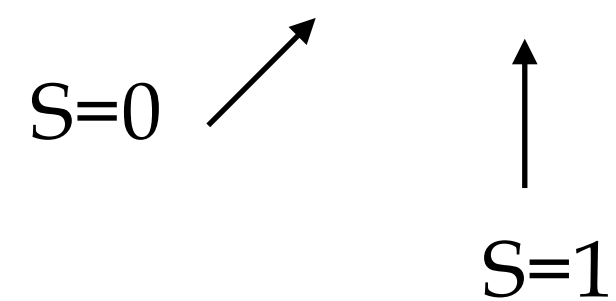
*Adlarson et al. (WASA-at-COSY), PRL 106, 242302 (2011)*

*Adlarson et al. (WASA-at-COSY), PLB 743, 325 (2015)*

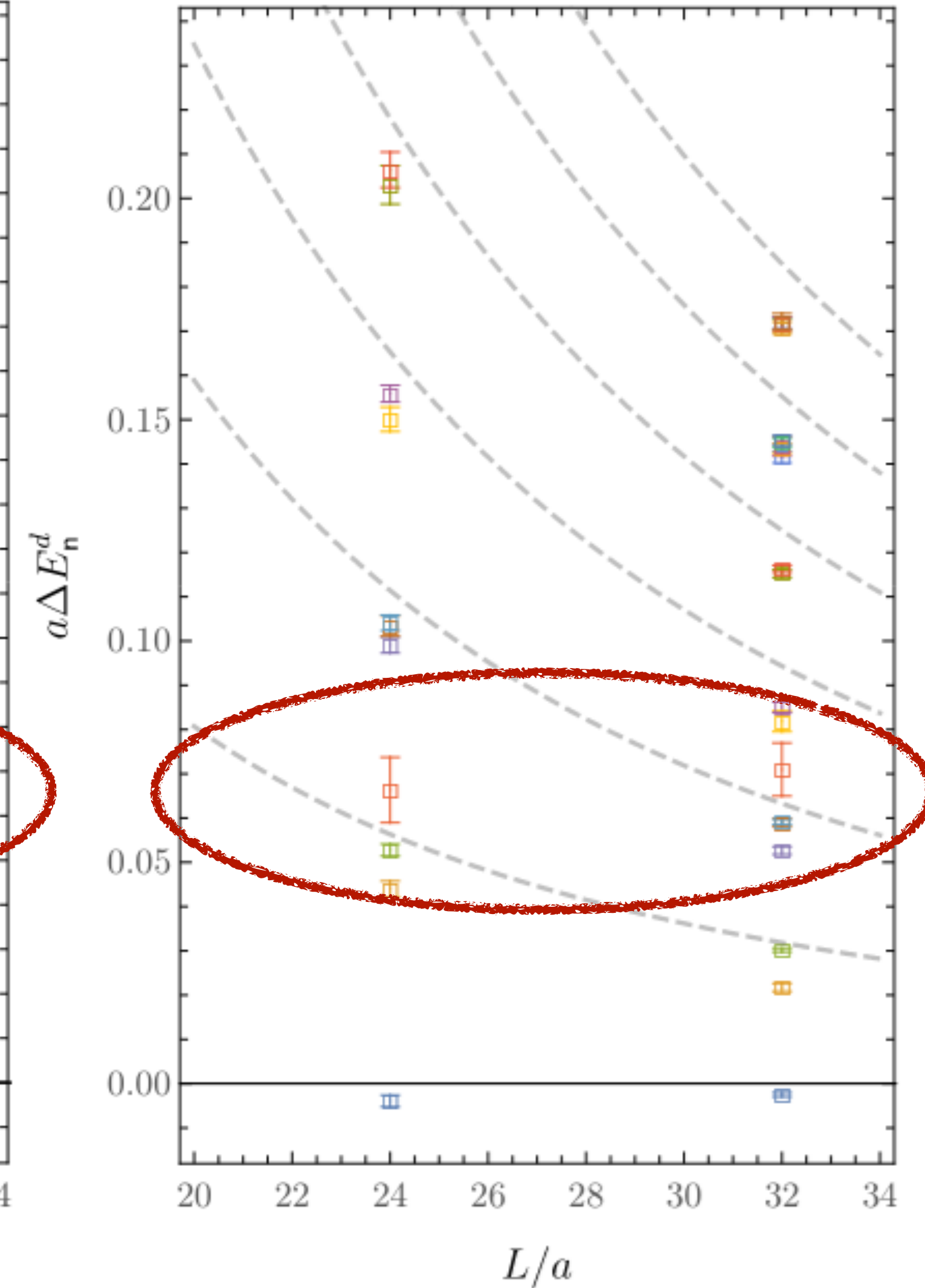
*Bashkanov et al., Eur. Phys. J. A51, 87 (2015)*

*Adlarson et al., Eur. Phys. J. A52, 147 (2016)*

$$\Gamma_J = \Gamma_\ell \otimes \Gamma_S, \text{ where } \Gamma_S \in \{A_1^+, T_1^+\}$$

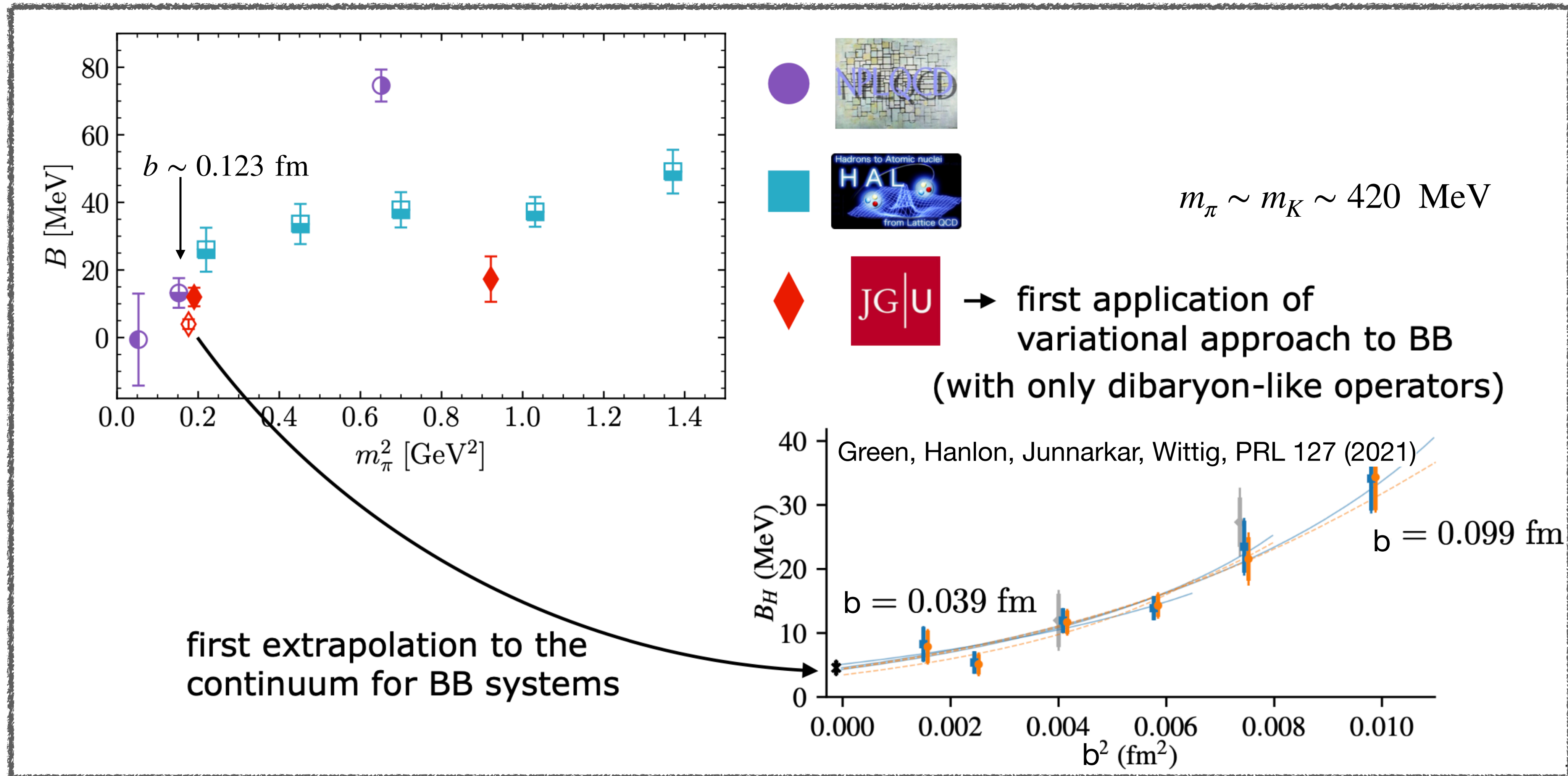


??  
interesting target for future study



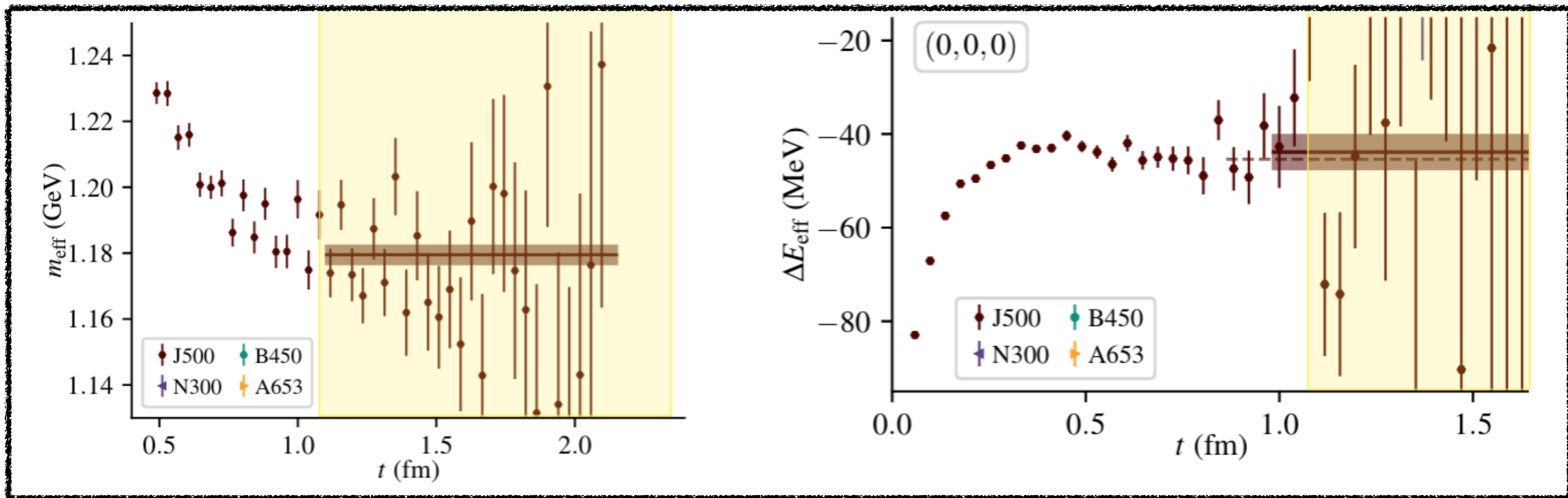
heavy-quark-mass analog of the  
d\* resonance ?

Potentially important



large statistical uncertainties in the region where  
single-state dominates the nucleon correlator

Green, Hanlon, Junnarkar, Wittig, PRL 127 (2021)



single baryon

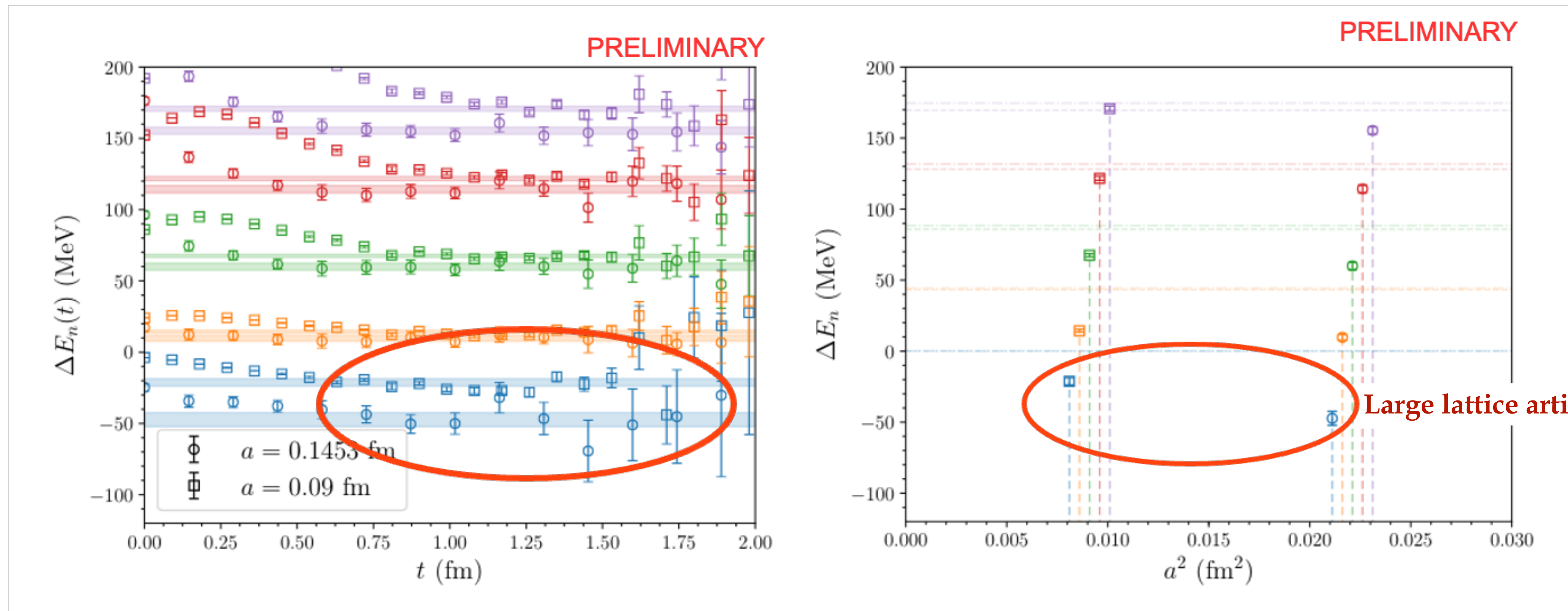
two baryons

# Lattice artifacts in two-baryon variational bounds?

We have started a study of all SU(3) irreps at two different lattice spacings

$L/a$	$T/a$	$L$ (fm)	$T$ (fm)	$a$ (fm)
48	64	4.13	5.50	0.086
32	48	4.64	6.96	0.145

Ex: flavor singlet channel (H-dibaryon)



- Variational studies have revealed significant interpolating-operator dependence in LQCD calculations of NN energy spectrum with unphysical quark masses
- Variational bounds don't provide conclusive evidence for (or against) bound states
- The combination of dibaryon and hexaquark operators provides strong evidence for the presence of an additional energy level below in both the deuteron and dineutron channels
- Similar analysis in the strange sector are underway
- Are lattice artefacts important? Very preliminary results seem to indicate that this is the case, but more statistics needed to answer this question

We have started a study of all SU(3) irreps at two different lattice spacings

In order to make physical statements and predictions, quantities determined from LQCD calculations must be extrapolated to the continuum limit.

- Calculations near the physical pion mass (coarse extrapolations at the moment) are under way

We have started studies of Octet Baryon - Octet Baryon @  $m_\pi = 170$  MeV