

HIGHER TOPOLOGICAL CHARGE EFFECTS IN QCD & BEYOND

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[Pisarski, FR, 1910.14052]

[FR, 2003.13876]



- ICTS 09/09/2021 -

A SIMPLE MODEL

Consider a linear sigma model to describe $N_f = 2$ low-energy QCD in the chiral limit.
Meson field:

$$\phi = (\sigma + i\eta') + (\vec{a}_0 + i\vec{\pi}) \vec{\tau}$$

Classically, the theory has chiral symmetry $SU(2)_L \times SU(2)_R \times U(1)_A$ and the effective potential $V(\phi)$ is a general function of the chiral invariants

$$\Phi_1 = \text{tr } \phi^\dagger \phi, \quad \Phi_2 = \text{tr } (\phi^\dagger \phi)^2$$

Due to the axial anomaly $U(1)_A \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_{N_f}$ and we can write down one more invariant

$$\xi = \det \phi + \det \phi^\dagger \quad \text{'t Hooft determinant}$$

['t Hooft (1976)]

Conventional ansatz for the effective potential: $V(\phi) = \bar{V}(\Phi_1, \Phi_2) - c_A \xi$

anomalous 2-meson correlation (in general: $2N_f$ -quark correlation)

—————> makes η' heavy

HIGHER ORDER ANOMALOUS CORRELATIONS

This is clearly not the most general effective potential.
Instead, it is of the form

$$V(\phi) = \bar{V}(\Phi_1, \Phi_2, \xi) \supset \xi^{Q=1,2,3,\dots}$$

→ anomalous $N_f Q$ -meson correlations

Simple example: consider the Lagrangian $\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{L}_{\text{cl}} + \mathcal{L}_{\text{A}}$

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{cl}} = \text{tr}(\partial_\mu \phi^\dagger)(\partial_\mu \phi) + m^2 \text{tr} \phi^\dagger \phi + \lambda_1 \text{tr}(\phi^\dagger \phi)^2 + \lambda_2 (\text{tr} \phi^\dagger \phi)^2$$

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{A}} = -\chi_1 (\det \phi + \det \phi^\dagger) - \chi_2 [(\det \phi)^2 + (\det \phi^\dagger)^2]$$

↑
 $Q = 1$: quadratic term

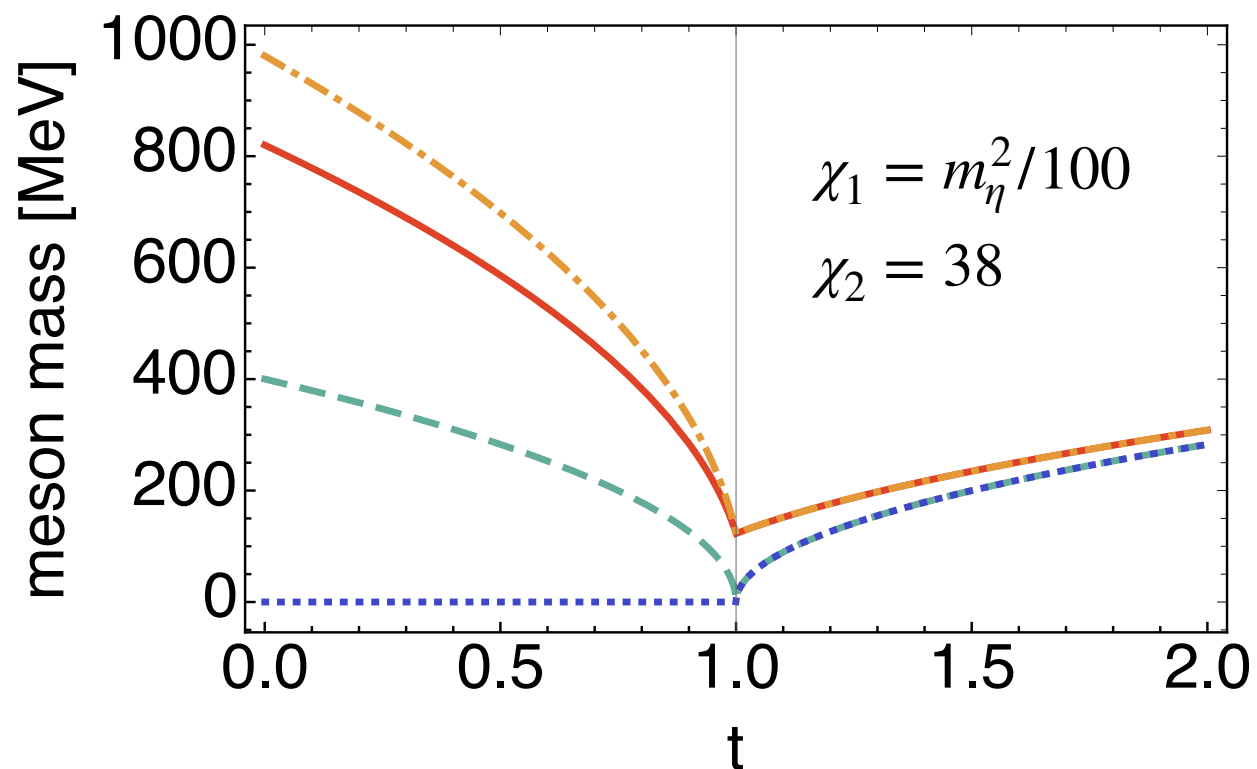
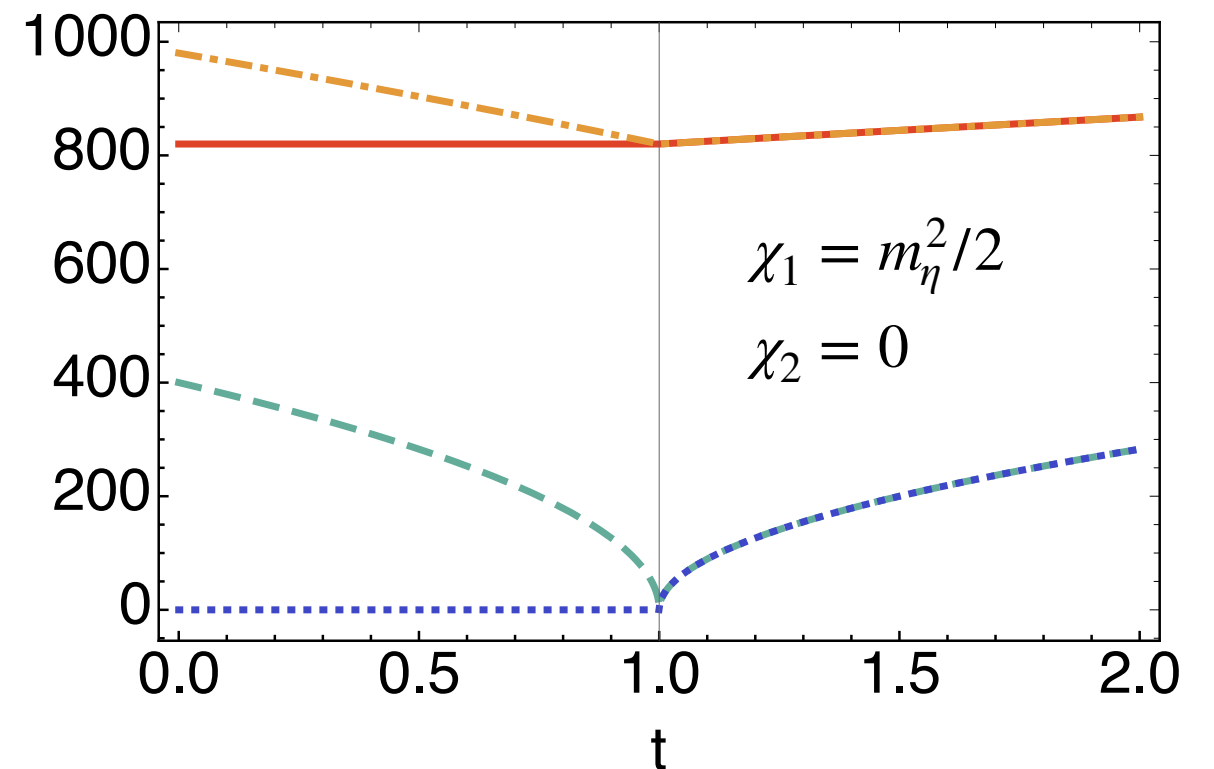
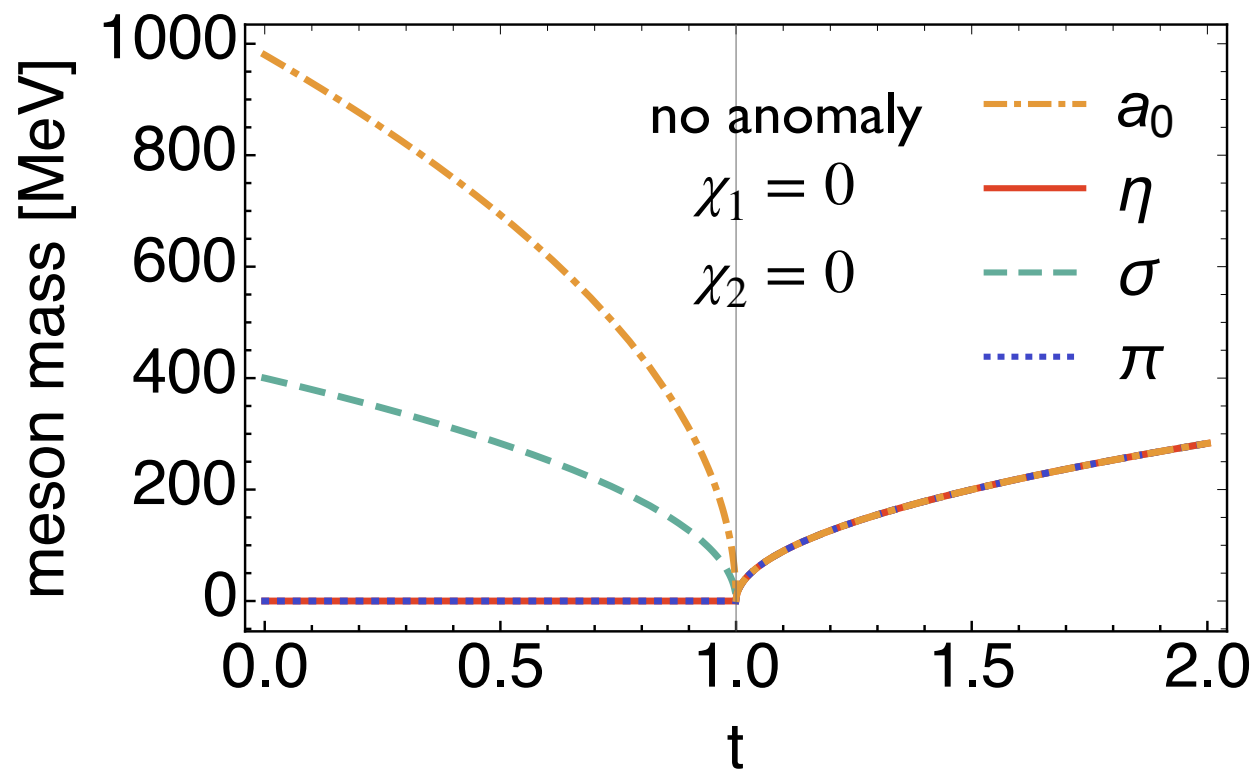
↑
 $Q = 2$: quartic term

Look at the qualitative mass spectrum in mean-field approximation. Compute masses from \mathcal{L} on the solution of the EoM

$$\frac{\delta \int d^4x \mathcal{L}}{\delta \phi} = 0$$

HIGHER ORDER ANOMALOUS CORRELATIONS

How do higher order anomalous couplings affect the mass spectrum?

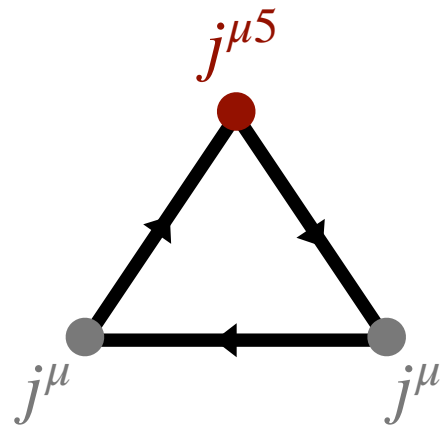


- π - η splitting due to anomalous terms χ_1 and χ_2
- the larger χ_2 , the smaller χ_1 to reproduce vacuum masses
- quartic coupling χ_2 decouples from masses in the symmetric phase

ORIGIN OF ANOMALOUS CORRELATIONS

What is the microscopic origin of these anomalous correlations?

Axial anomaly due to topologically nontrivial fluctuations



$$\partial_\mu j^{\mu 5} \sim \text{tr } F\tilde{F} \sim \rho = \text{topological charge density}$$

axial current $j^{\mu 5} = \bar{\psi} \gamma^\mu \gamma^5 \psi$

At weak coupling topological effects are described by **instantons** $A_\mu^{(Q)}$.

Typically, only instantons with topological charge $Q = \pm 1$ are taken into account

- give rise to anomalous $2N_f$ -quark correlation function ('t Hooft determinant)

$$\det(\bar{\psi}_f \mathbb{P}_R \psi_g) + \det(\bar{\psi}_f \mathbb{P}_L \psi_g) \qquad \mathbb{P}_{L/R} = \frac{1 \mp \gamma^5}{2}$$

- distribution of topological charge characterized by θ -dependent free energy

$$F(\theta) \sim \Delta Z_1 \cos \theta$$

OUTLINE

Is there a similar story for higher order anomalous correlations?

What about instantons with higher topological charge? ($|Q| > 1$: multi-instantons)

→ topic of this talk

- they give rise to anomalous $2N_f |Q|$ -quark correlation functions [Pisarski, FR; 1910.14052]

$$\det (\bar{\psi}_f \mathbb{P}_R \psi_g)^{|Q|} + \det (\bar{\psi}_f \mathbb{P}_L \psi_g)^{|Q|}$$

- outline the derivation

- they yield corrections to the θ -dependence of QCD [FR; 2003.13876]

$$F(\theta) \sim - \sum_{Q=1}^{\infty} \Delta Z_Q \cos(Q\theta)$$

- study implications for topological susceptibilities
- explore possible effects on axion dark matter

OUTLINE

Is there a similar story for higher order anomalous correlations?

What about instantons with higher topological charge? ($|Q| > 1$: multi-instantons)

→ topic of this talk

- they

compute in a controlled limit:
semiclassical approximation at large T

- derive effects induced by higher top. charge
- might be small in semiclassical limit, but must be there in general; could be significant at lower energies/temperatures

- they yield corrections to the θ -dependence of QCD [FR; 2003.13876]

$$F(\theta) \sim - \sum_{Q=1}^{\infty} \Delta Z_Q \cos(Q\theta)$$

- study implications for topological susceptibilities
- explore possible effects on axion dark matter

[4052]

BACKGROUND: INSTANTONS

Minimize the classical action of Yang-Mills theory,

$$S = \frac{1}{2g^2} \int d^4x \operatorname{tr} F^2,$$

$$\begin{aligned} F_{\mu\nu} &= [D_\mu, D_\nu] \\ \tilde{F}^{\mu\nu} &= \frac{1}{2} \epsilon^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} F_{\rho\sigma} \\ D_\mu &= \partial_\mu + A_\mu \end{aligned}$$

requiring that the solution has finite action

→ (anti) selfdual gauge fields $F = \pm \tilde{F}$: **(anti) instantons** $A_\mu^{(Q)}$

Instantons allow for a topological classification, characterized by their **topological charge**

$$Q = -\frac{1}{16\pi^2} \int d^4x \operatorname{tr} F \tilde{F} \in \mathbb{Z}$$

Solution for $Q = 1$: $A_\mu^{(1)}(x) = U_1 \bar{\sigma}^{\mu\nu} U_1^\dagger \frac{\rho_1^2}{(x - z_1)^2} \frac{(x - z_1)_\nu}{(x - z_1)^2 + \rho_1^2}$

[Belavin, Polyakov, Schwartz, Tyupkin (1975)]

$$\begin{aligned} \sigma^\mu &= (-i, \vec{\sigma})^\mu \\ \bar{\sigma}^\mu &= (i, \vec{\sigma})^\mu \\ \bar{\sigma}^{\mu\nu} &= \frac{1}{2} (\bar{\sigma}^\mu \sigma^\nu - \bar{\sigma}^\nu \sigma^\mu) \end{aligned}$$

Quarks on a topological background acquire **zero modes** with net chirality (index theorem)

$$\gamma_\mu (\partial_\mu + A_\mu^{(Q)}) \psi^{(Q)} = 0$$

$$N_f Q = n_L - n_R$$

of left- and right-handed
quark zero modes

PARTITION FUNCTION IN A MULTI-INSTANTON BACKGROUND

- get the ingredients: instantons and the corresponding quark zero modes
- compute semi-classically: small fluctuations around instanton background

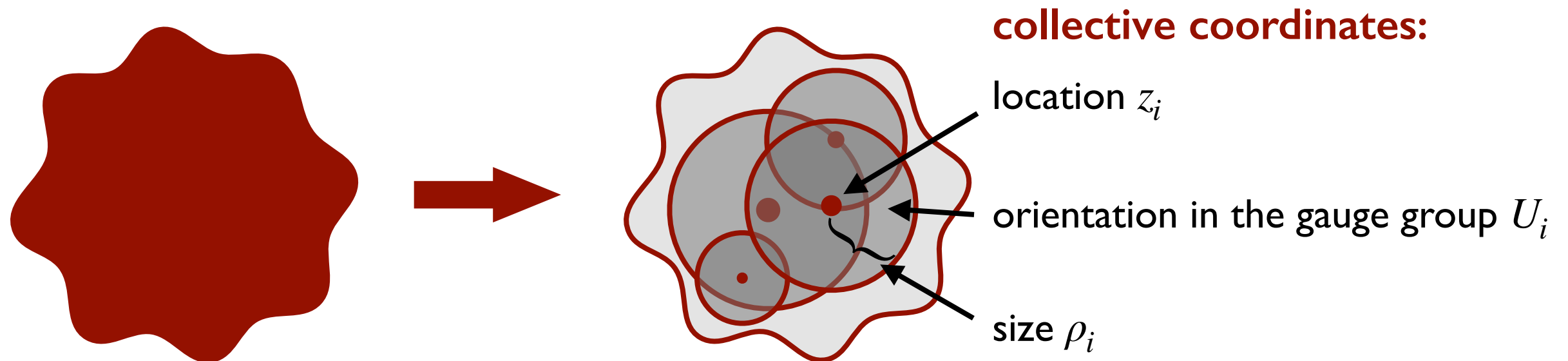
CONSTRUCTION OF INSTANTONS

General construction of instantons with arbitrary topological charge: **ADHM**

[Atiyah, Drinfeld, Hitchin, Manin (1978)]

- reduces classical self-dual YM equations to a set of nonlinear algebraic equations
- still, explicit solutions for larger Q are unknown
- use approximate solutions here

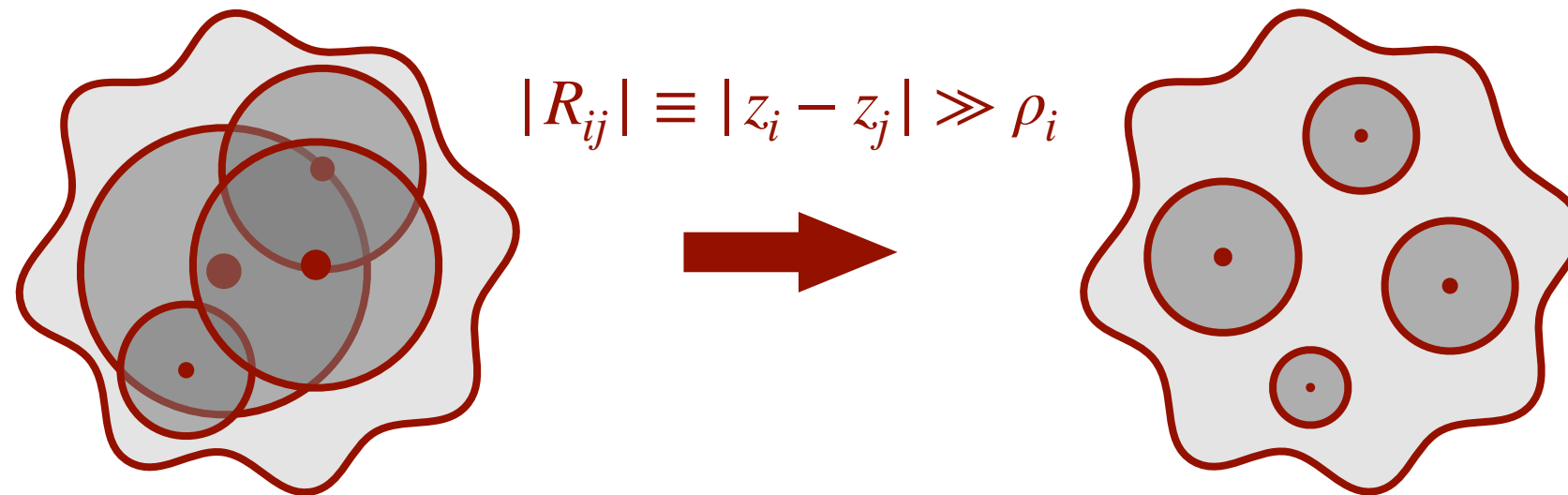
To this end, exploit that Q -instantons can be viewed as composition of **constituent-instantons** with $Q = 1$



- $4N_c |Q|$ collective coordinates describe a Q -instanton
- arise from symmetries that yield inequivalent instanton solutions

CONSTRUCTION OF INSTANTONS

Solve ADHM by expanding in the limit of **small constituent-instantons (SCI)**



Results to order $\rho^4/|R|^4$:

- Q -instanton:
$$A_\mu^{(Q)}(x) = \frac{1}{\xi_0(x, \{z_i, \rho_i\})} \sum_{i=1}^Q A_\mu^{(1)}(x; z_i, \rho_i, U_i) + \mathcal{O}\left(\frac{\rho^4}{|R|^4}\right)$$

[Christ, Weinberg, Stanton (1978)]

- $N_f Q$ quark zero modes: $(f = 1, \dots, N_f, i = 1, \dots, Q)$

$$\psi_{fi}^{(Q)}(x) = \psi_{fi}^{(1)}(x, z_i, \rho_i, U_i) - \sum_{j \neq i} \mathbb{X}_{ij}(x, z_i, \rho_i, \rho_j) \psi_{fj}^{(1)}(x, z_j, \rho_j, U_j) + \mathcal{O}\left(\frac{\rho^4}{|R|^4}\right)$$

[Pisarski, FR]

$$\sim \rho_i U_i \Delta(x - z_i) \varphi_R \text{ for } |x - z_i| \gg \rho_i$$

free quark propagator!

PARTITION FUNCTION

Partition function in a Q -instanton background

$$Z_Q[J] = \int \mathcal{D}\Phi \exp \left\{ -S[\Phi + \bar{\Phi}^{(Q)}] + \int_x \bar{\psi} J \psi \right\}$$

$\Phi = (A, c, \bar{c}, \psi, \bar{\psi})$ $\bar{\Phi}^{(Q)} = (A^{(Q)}, 0, 0, 0, 0)$ source for quark-antiquark pairs (e.g. mass term)

- consider small fluctuations around topological background $A_\mu = A_\mu^{(Q)}$
- collective coordinates correspond to symmetries: resulting gauge field zero modes need to be treated exactly
- replace integral over zero modes by integral over collective coordinates:

$$Z_Q[J] = \int \left[N \prod_{i=1}^Q d^4 z_i d\rho_i dU_i \right] n_Q(\{z_i, \rho_i, U_i\}) \det_0(J)$$

Q -instanton density

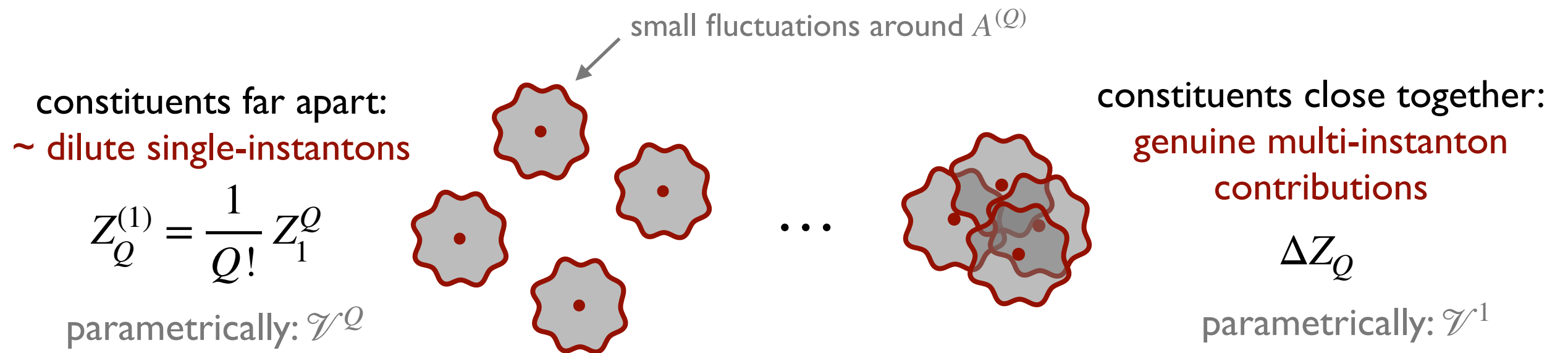
- gluon and ghost determinant
- quark determinant over nonzero modes
- Jacobian of coordinate change from zero modes to collective coordinates

quark zero mode determinant

$$\det \int d^4 x \psi^{(Q)\dagger}(x) J(x) \psi^{(Q)}(x)$$

PARTITION FUNCTION IN THE SCI LIMIT

Qualitatively different contributions to Z_Q in the SCI limit due to integration over constituent-instanton locations z_i :



Various nonlocal contributions of q -instantons ($q < Q$) and one local Q -instanton contribution:

$$Z_Q = \sum_{q=1}^{Q-1} Z_Q^{(q)} + \Delta Z_Q \quad \longrightarrow \quad \begin{array}{l} \text{compute only } \Delta Z_Q \\ \text{for local contributions} \end{array}$$

PARTITION FUNCTION IN THE SCI LIMIT

Consider only the contribution of the quark determinant to ΔZ_Q . Then:

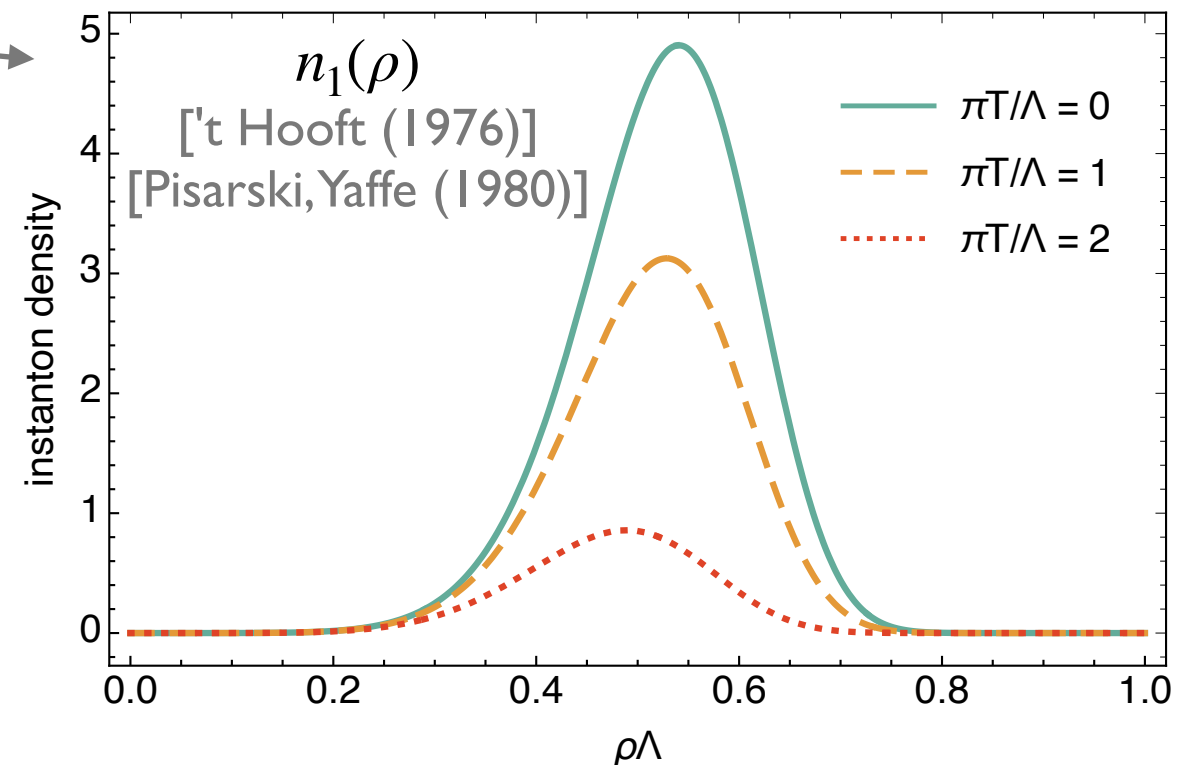
(gauge part: accurate to order $\rho^4/|R|^4$ [Brown, Creamer & Bernard (1978)])

$$\Delta Z_Q[J] = \frac{1}{Q!} \int d^4 z \left[\prod_{i=1}^Q d\rho_i n_1(\rho_i) \det_0^{(1)}(J) \right] I_Q(\{\rho_i\}) \quad I_Q(\rho_1, \rho_2) = c_{N_f} \sum_{i=1}^Q \prod_{i \neq j} \rho_i^{2N_f} \rho_j^{4-2N_f}$$

Gory details in [FR, 2003.13876].

Intuitive picture:

- instanton density peaks about certain size:
effective instanton size $\bar{\rho}$
- geometric overlap of Q constituent-instantons: $\sim \bar{\rho}^{4(Q-1)}$



geometric overlap

$$\Delta Z_Q \approx \mathcal{V} \frac{(\bar{c}_{N_f} \bar{\rho}^4)^{Q-1}}{(Q-1)!} \bar{Z}_1^Q$$

from integration over average multi-instanton position

$$Z_1 = \int d^4 z \bar{Z}_1$$

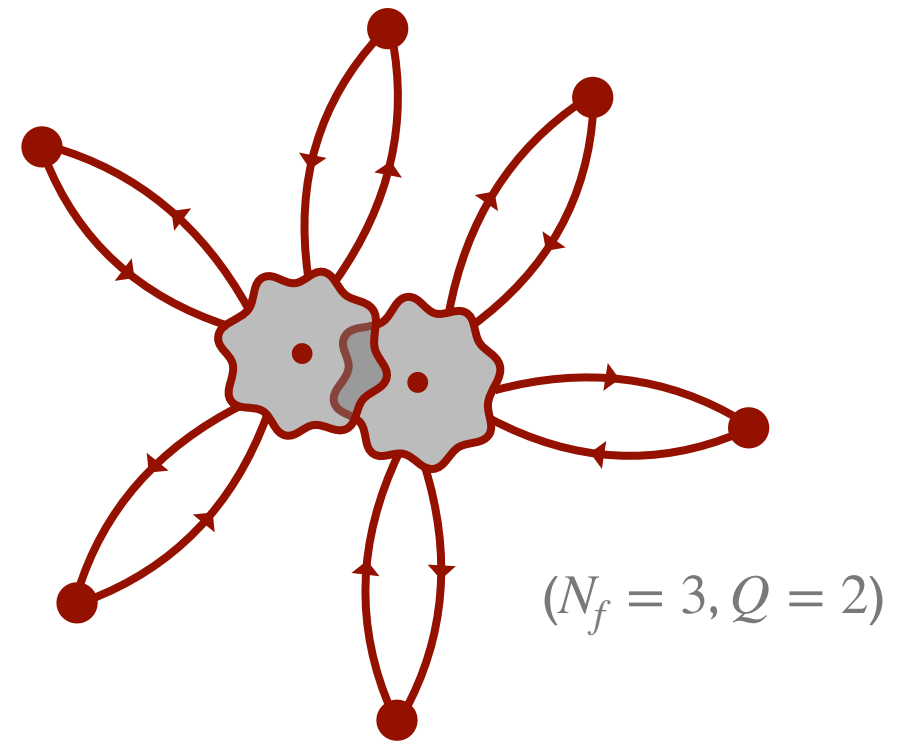
$$\approx \mathcal{V} \frac{\Lambda^4}{(Q-1)!} \hat{Z}_1^Q \quad \hat{Z}_1 = \bar{Z}_1 / \Lambda^4$$

EFFECTIVE PARTITION FUNCTION

Use the large-distance form of the quark zero modes:

$$\det_0(J) \sim \prod_i \prod_f \int d^4 x_{fi} \Delta(z_i - x_{fi}) J(x_{fi}) \Delta(x_{fi} - z_i)$$

ΔZ_Q is **identical** to the effective partition function
(details in [Pisarski, FR, 1910.14052])



$$\Delta Z_{+Q}^{\text{eff}}[\bar{J}] = \int \mathcal{D}\Phi e^{-S[\Phi] + \int_x \bar{\psi} \bar{J} \psi} \Delta S_{+Q}^{\text{eff}}$$

no instanton background!

$$\Delta S_{+Q}^{\text{eff}} \Big|_{\text{singlet}} \sim \int d^4 z \kappa_Q \det_{fg} \left[\bar{\psi}_f(z) \mathbb{P}_R \psi_g(z) \right]^Q$$

- local $2N_f Q$ -quark correlation function
- for anti-instantons ($Q < 0$): $\mathbb{P}_R \rightarrow \mathbb{P}_L$

DILUTE MULTI-INSTANTON GAS

- so far: partition function with **one** Q -instanton in the background
- but all possible gluon configurations contribute to the path integral
- assume that topological fluctuations are described by a **dilute instanton gas**
- reasonable at large enough temperature due to thermal screening of instanton density: (constituent-) instantons are small at large T , $\pi T\rho \ll 1$ [Gross, Pisarski, Yaffe (1981)]

Since the path integral involves integrations over all instanton locations, there are genuine multi-instanton corrections to the DIGA

Consider statistical ensemble of multi-instanton processes ($\Delta Z_1 \equiv Z_1$).

Only count genuine multi-instanton contributions ΔZ_Q to avoid double counting:

$$\mathcal{Z} = \prod_{Q>0} \sum_{n_Q} \sum_{\bar{n}_Q} \frac{1}{n_Q! \bar{n}_Q!} \Delta Z_{+Q}^{n_Q} \Delta Z_{-Q}^{\bar{n}_Q} = e^{\sum_{Q>0} (\Delta Z_{+Q} + \Delta Z_{-Q})}$$

ANOMALOUS QUARK CORRELATIONS

ΔS_Q^{eff} is exponentiated in the dilute gas:

$$\mathcal{Z}^{\text{eff}} = \int \mathcal{D}\Phi e^{-S[\Phi] + \sum_{Q>0} (\Delta S_{+Q}^{\text{eff}} + \Delta S_{-Q}^{\text{eff}})} \longrightarrow \det(\bar{\psi}_f \mathbb{P}_{R/L} \psi_g)^{|Q|} \text{ terms in the effective action}$$

\longrightarrow anomalous $2N_f |Q|$ -quark correlation functions

Bosonization of $Q = 1, 2$ terms lead to LSM from the beginning!

**Axial anomaly is also encoded in higher order correlation functions.
Their microscopic origin is instantons with higher topological charge.**

Use this to look for new signatures of the anomaly in quark/hadron correlations.

θ -DEPENDENCE AND TOPOLOGICAL SUSCEPTIBILITIES

cf. Maria Lombardo's talk

Θ -DEPENDENCE FROM DILUTE INSTANTONS

Topological structure of QCD necessitates the existence of a **topological θ -term**:

[Jackiw, Rebbi & Callan, Dashen, Gross (1976)]

$$\mathcal{L} = \bar{\psi} \gamma_{\mu} D_{\mu} \psi + \frac{1}{2} \text{tr} FF + \overset{\substack{\text{free parameter} \\ \swarrow}}{\frac{i\theta}{16\pi^2}} \text{tr} F\tilde{F}$$

θ -dependence in a dilute multi-instanton gas via simple substitution:

$$\Delta Z_Q \longrightarrow \Delta Z_Q e^{iQ\theta}$$

Resulting **free energy density**

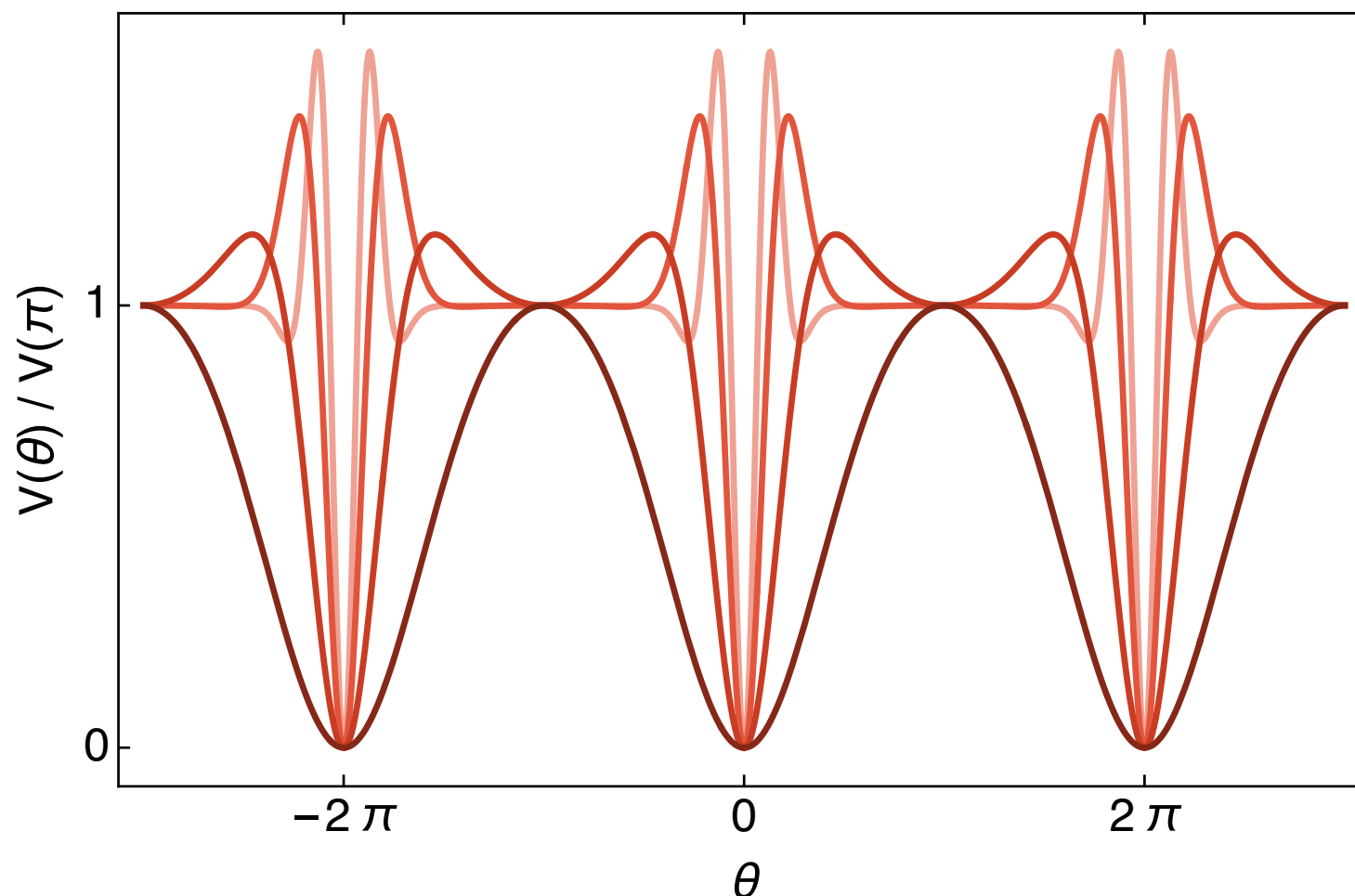
$$F(\theta) = -\frac{1}{\mathcal{V}} \ln \mathcal{Z}(\theta) = -\frac{2}{\mathcal{V}} \sum_Q \Delta Z_Q \cos(Q\theta)$$

Θ -DEPENDENCE FROM DILUTE INSTANTONS

Use simple solution to compute the normalized free energy $\Delta F(\theta) = F(\theta) - F(0)$

$$\Delta F(\theta) = 2\Lambda^4 \sum_Q \frac{\hat{Z}_1^Q}{(Q-1)!} [1 - \cos(Q\theta)] = 2\Lambda^4 \hat{Z}_1 \left[e^{\hat{Z}_1} - \cos(\hat{Z}_1 \sin \theta) e^{\hat{Z}_1 \cos \theta} \right]$$

- recover well-known single-instanton result for $\hat{Z}_1 \ll 1$: $\Delta F(\theta) = 2\Lambda^4 \hat{Z}_1 (1 - \cos \theta) + \mathcal{O}(\hat{Z}_1^2)$
- multi-instantons modify the simple $\cos \theta$ - behavior!



$\Delta F(\theta)/\Delta F(\pi)$ for
 $\hat{Z}_1 = 0.1, 1, 3, 6$
(from darkest to lightest red)

TOPOLOGICAL SUSCEPTIBILITIES

$\Delta F(\theta)$ describes the distribution of topological charge in QCD

topological susceptibilities: $\chi_{2n} = \left. \frac{\partial^{2n} \Delta F(\theta)}{\partial \theta^{2n}} \right|_{\theta=0} \sim \langle Q^{2n} \rangle_c$

dilute single-instantons gas:

$$\chi_{2n} \Big|_{Q=1} = 2(-1)^{n+1} \bar{Z}_1 = (-1)^{n+1} \chi_2$$

dilute multi-instanton gas:

$$\chi_{2n} = \frac{2(-1)^{n+1}}{\mathcal{V}} \sum_Q Q^{2n} \Delta Z_Q$$

$\Delta Z_Q > 0 \longrightarrow$ enhanced topological correlations
from multi-instanton corrections

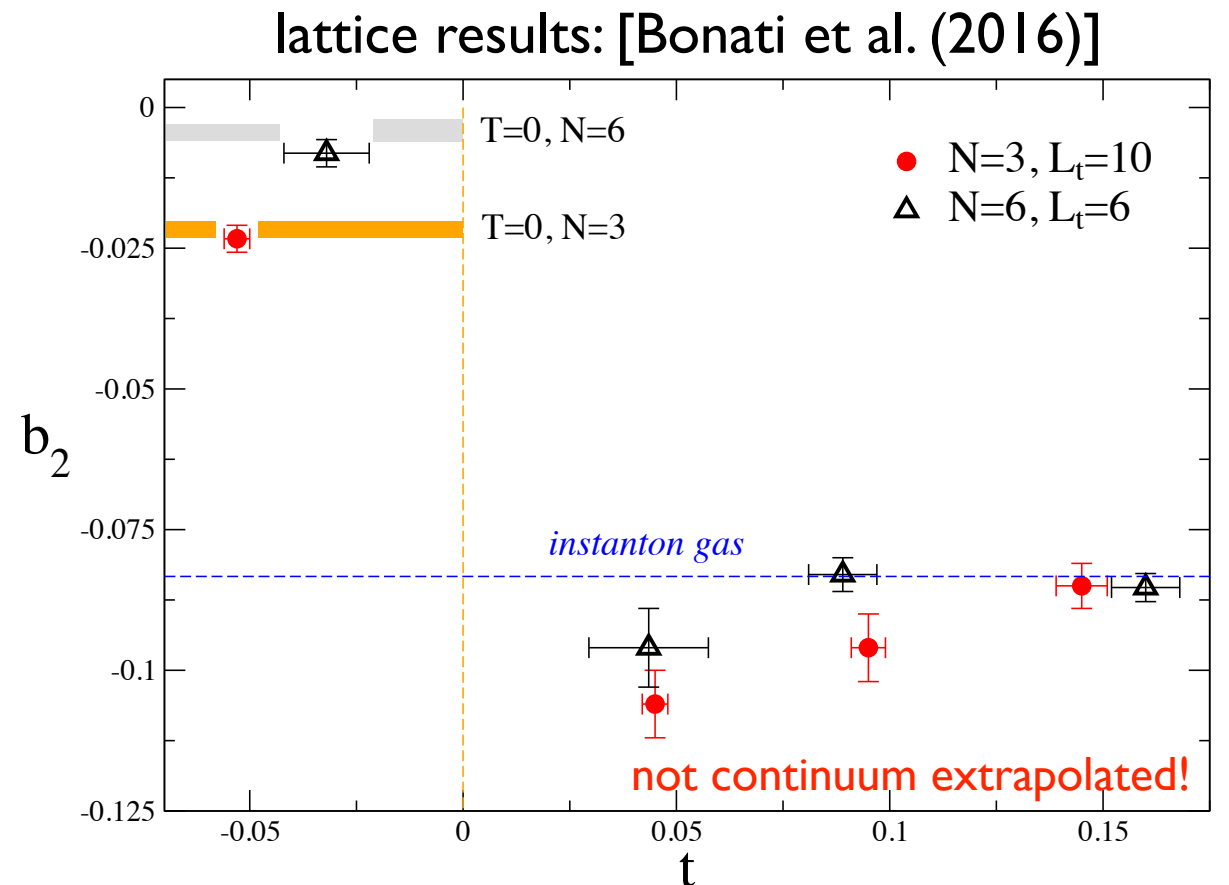
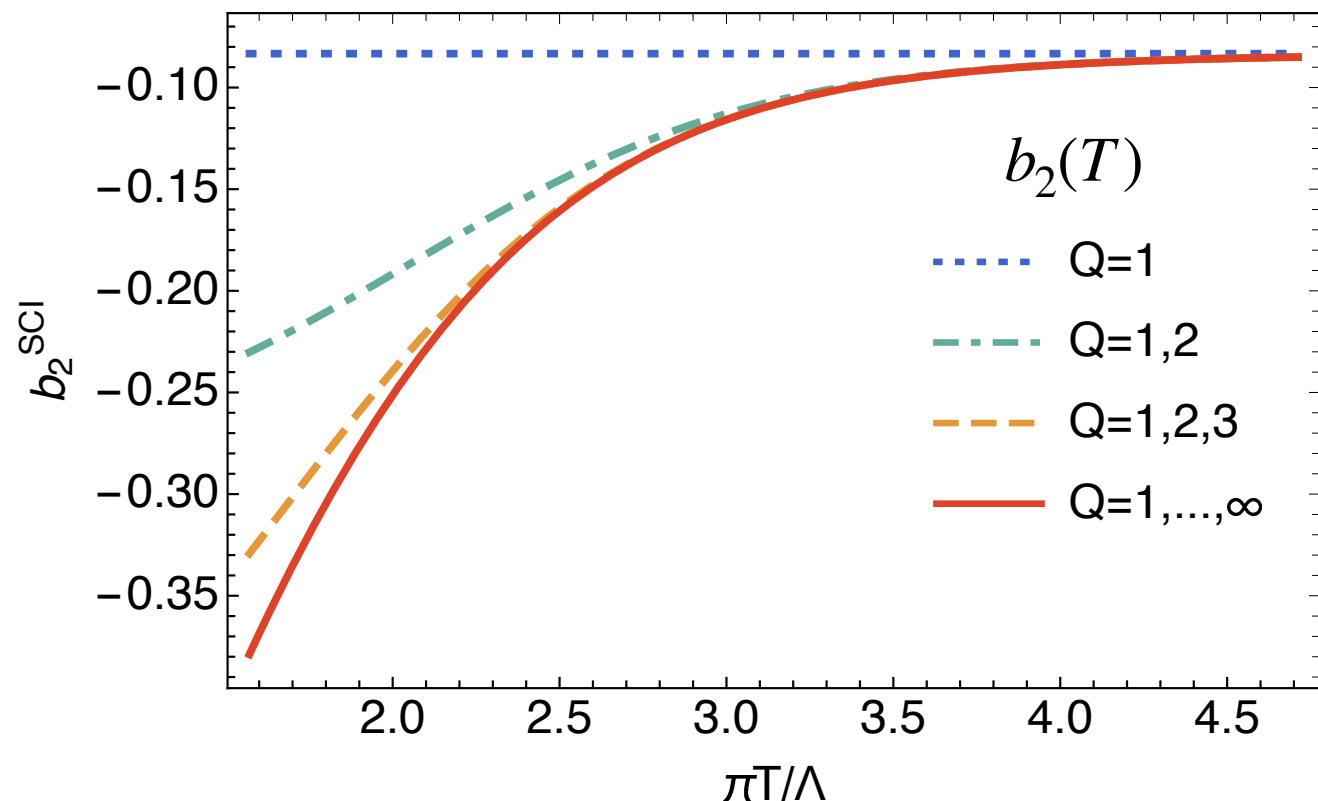
TOPOLOGICAL SUSCEPTIBILITIES

Deviation of higher susceptibilities from χ_2 : **anharmonicity coefficients**

$$b_{2n} = \frac{2}{(2n+2)!} \frac{\chi_{2n+2}}{\chi_2}$$

Multi-instantons yield T-dependent corrections to constant single-instanton prediction!

Result for **quenched QCD** at large temperatures (no dynamical quarks, $m_q \sim 1/\bar{\rho}$)



AXION COSMOLOGY

PECCEI-QUINN MECHANISM

Possible resolution of the CP problem:

why is $\theta \approx 0$?

(e.g. no neutron electric dipole moment)



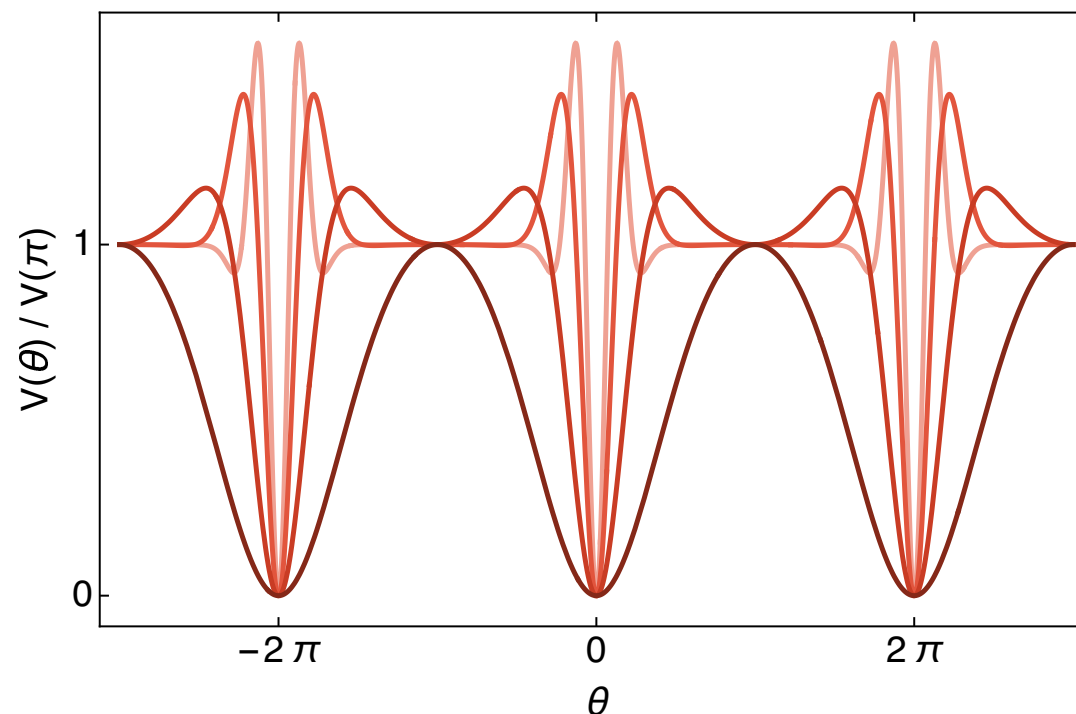
- augment SM with global axial $U(1)_{PQ}$ + charged scalar that couples to quarks
- $U(1)_{PQ}$ is spontaneously broken at scale f_a , resulting Goldstone boson: **axion**
- the axial anomaly in $U(1)_{PQ}$ dictates non-derivative couplings of the axion:

$$\mathcal{L} = \bar{\psi} \gamma_\mu D_\mu \psi + \frac{1}{2} \text{tr} FF + \frac{i\theta}{16\pi^2} \text{tr} F\tilde{F} + \frac{a(x)}{f_a} \frac{i}{16\pi^2} \text{tr} F\tilde{F} + \dots$$

→ 'dynamical' θ -angle $\bar{\theta}(x) = f_a \theta + a(x)$

axion effective potential
is given by $F(\theta)$!

$$V(\bar{\theta}/f_a) \equiv \Delta F(\bar{\theta}/f_a)$$



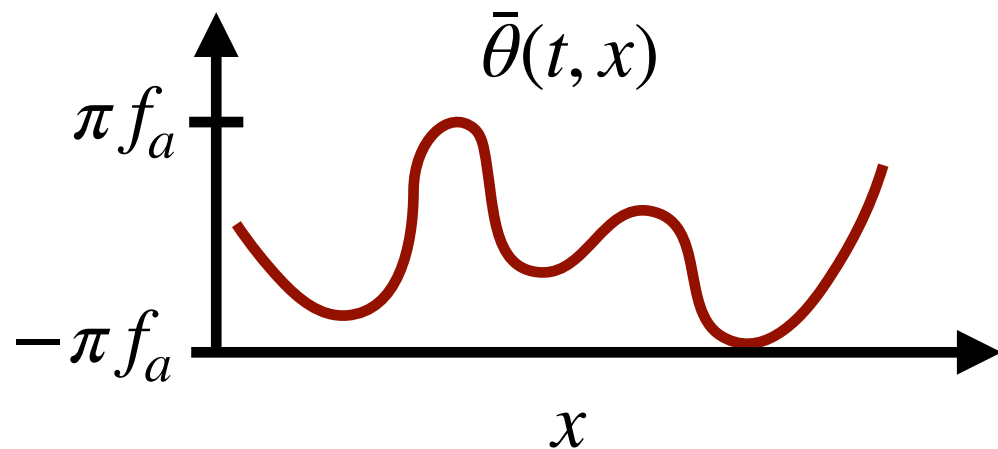
minimum at $\bar{\theta} = 0$:
CP problem resolved!

AXION DARK MATTER

Axions are also viable dark-matter candidates.

- compatible with observations if light and weakly coupled to SM ($f_a \gtrsim 10^9$ GeV)
[Kim & Shifman, Vainshtein, Zakharov & Zhitnitsky & Dine, Fischler, Srednicki (1979+)]
- production of axion dark matter through the **vacuum realignment mechanism**
[Preskill, Wise, Wilczek & Abbott, Sikivie & Dine, Fischler (1983)]

Assume $U(1)_{PQ}$ is broken before inflation
axion is very light - fluctuates strongly



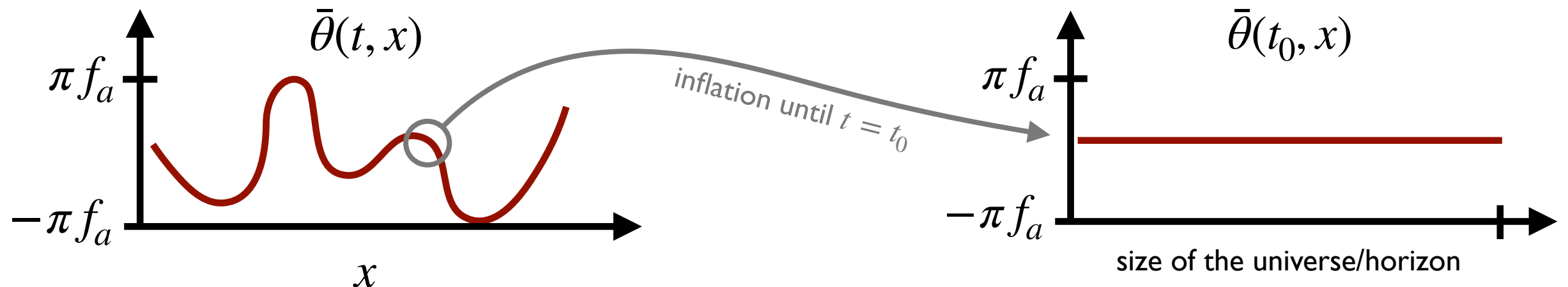
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homogeneous axion field after inflation



→ vacuum realignment: time evolution of axion dark matter from initial misalignment $\bar{\theta}(t_0)$ until today

AXION DARK MATTER

Time evolution of the axion governed by Einstein's equations.

- assume isotropic, homogenous, expanding & flat universe: Friedmann equations

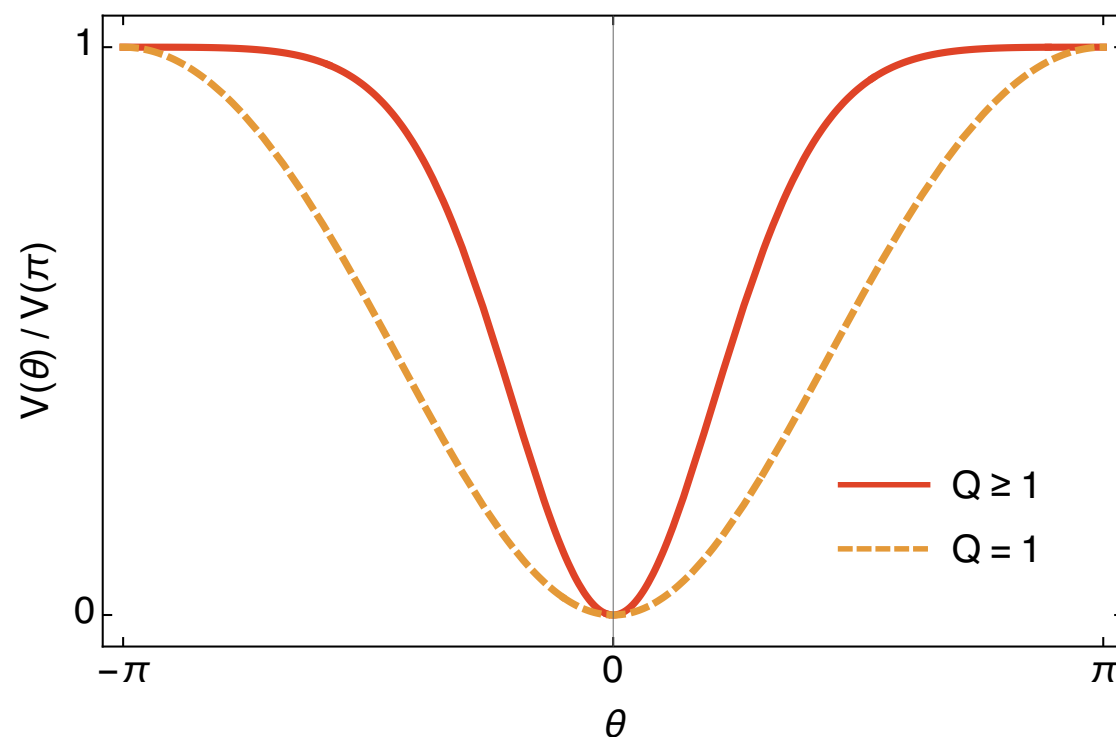
$$\frac{d^2\bar{\theta}}{dt^2} + 3H\frac{d\bar{\theta}}{dt} + \frac{dV(\bar{\theta}/f_a)}{d\bar{\theta}} = 0$$

metric: $g_{\mu\nu} = \text{diag}(1, -a^2(t), -a^2(t), -a^2(t))$

Hubble parameter: $H(t) = \frac{\dot{a}(t)}{a(t)}$

Resembles a **damped harmonic oscillator**

- early t: $\frac{H}{|V''|} \gg 1$: **overdamping** - axion is frozen in time
- late t: $\frac{H}{|V''|} \ll 1$: **underdamping** - oscillation around minimum

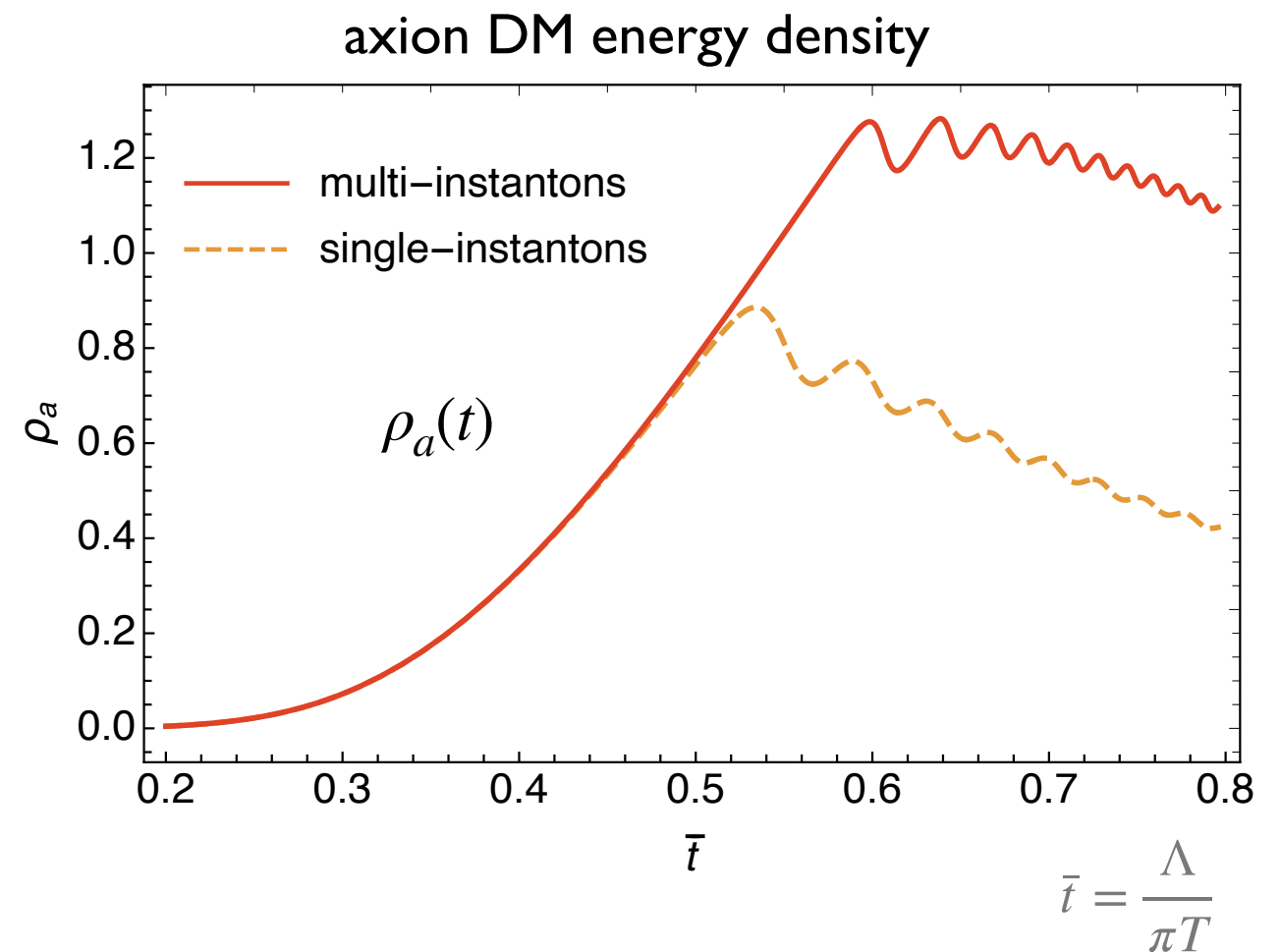
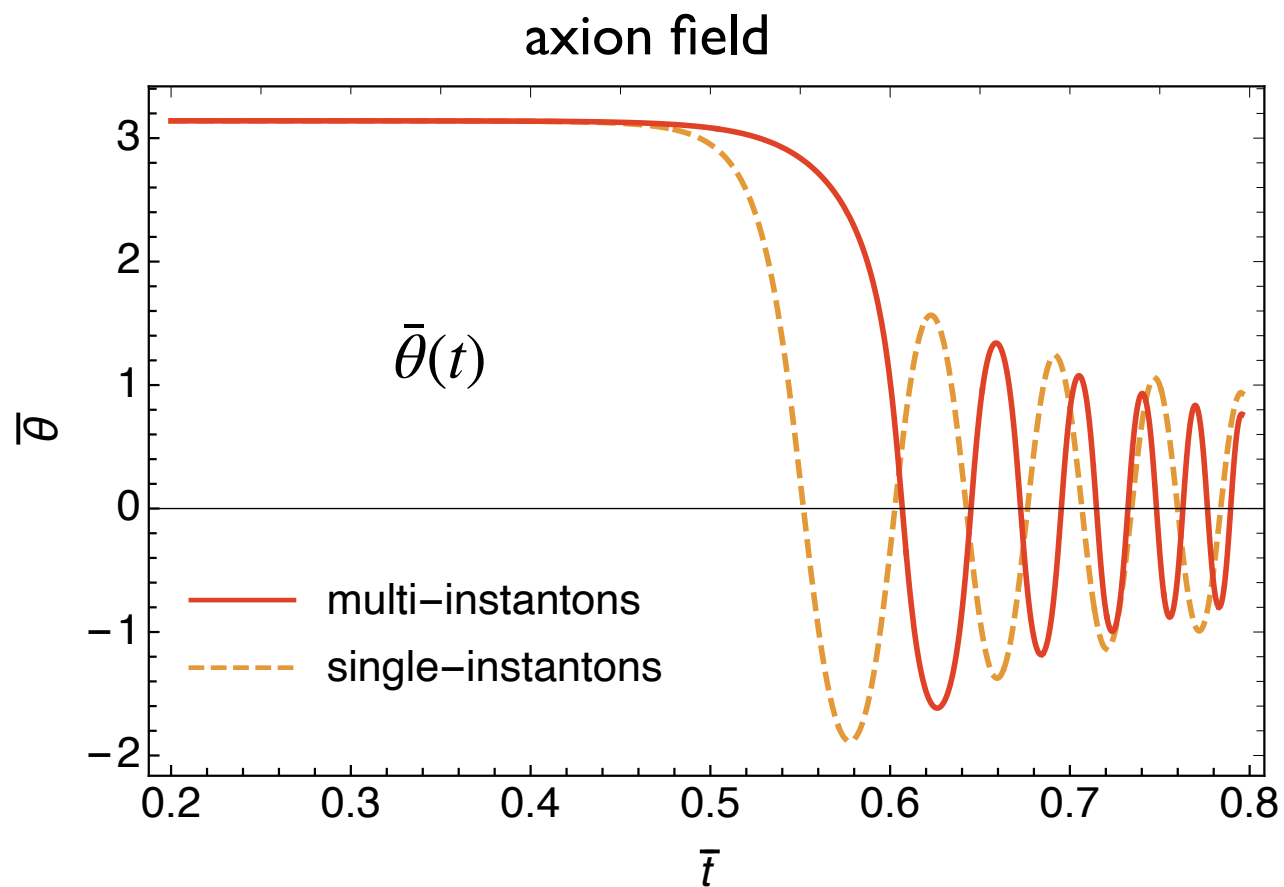


axion DM energy density

$$\rho_a = \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{d\bar{\theta}}{dt} \right)^2 + V(\bar{\theta}/f_a)$$

AXION DARK MATTER

Compare single-instanton to 'full' multi-instanton solution $V(\bar{\theta}/f_a)$
(again in the quenched limit)



➡ multi-instanton effects can lead to more axion dark matter

DISCUSSION

Size of the effects studied here depends on the size of multi-instanton effects.

- classically: strong exponential suppression: $n_Q \sim \exp\left(-\frac{8\pi^2}{g^2} |Q|\right)$
- instanton density strongly suppressed by light quarks

→ quantum corrections are crucial for multi-instanton effects

How to assess the quantitative relevance of the effects discussed here?

- compute higher-order corrections in the SCl limit: better understanding of ΔZ_Q
- account for interactions between multi-(anti-)instantons: multi-instanton liquid?

Keep in mind: semi-classical picture breaks down eventually at strong coupling!

But: semiclassical analysis shows that all these effects must be there

SUMMARY

What about instantons with higher topological charge?

- they give rise to anomalous $2N_f |Q|$ -quark correlation functions [Pisarski, FR; 1910.14052]

$$\det (\bar{\psi}_f \mathbb{P}_R \psi_g)^{|Q|} + \det (\bar{\psi}_f \mathbb{P}_L \psi_g)^{|Q|}$$

- signatures of the axial anomaly through higher order anomalous correlations
- they yield corrections to the θ -dependence of QCD [FR; 2003.13876]

$$F(\theta) \sim - \sum_{Q=1}^{\infty} \Delta Z_Q \cos(Q\theta)$$

- modified temperature dependence of topological susceptibilities
- topological mechanism to increase the amount of axion dark matter