

# **Phase Transition of Vortices in Higgs-Confinement Continuity**

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**based on arXiv: 2411.03676**

# Summary

We focus on systems with  $U(1)_{\text{global}} \times G_{\text{gauge}}$  symmetry

Pure gauge theory

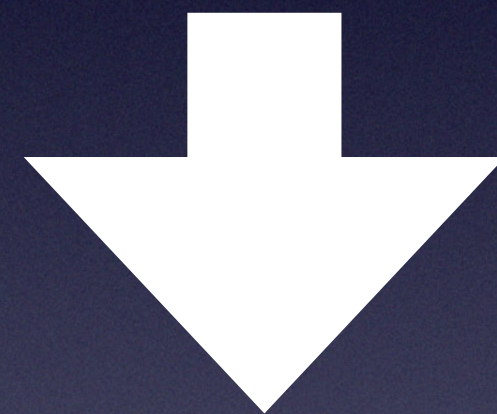
Confined phase

Deconfined phase

Strong coupling

Weak coupling

$$\beta_g = 1/g^2$$



Adding fundamental  
charged matter and Higgsing it  
and consider SSB of  $U(1)_{\text{global}}$

$U(1)$  superfluid

⋮

Strong coupling

Weak coupling

$$\beta_g = 1/g^2$$

We show something happened between strong and weak coupling.

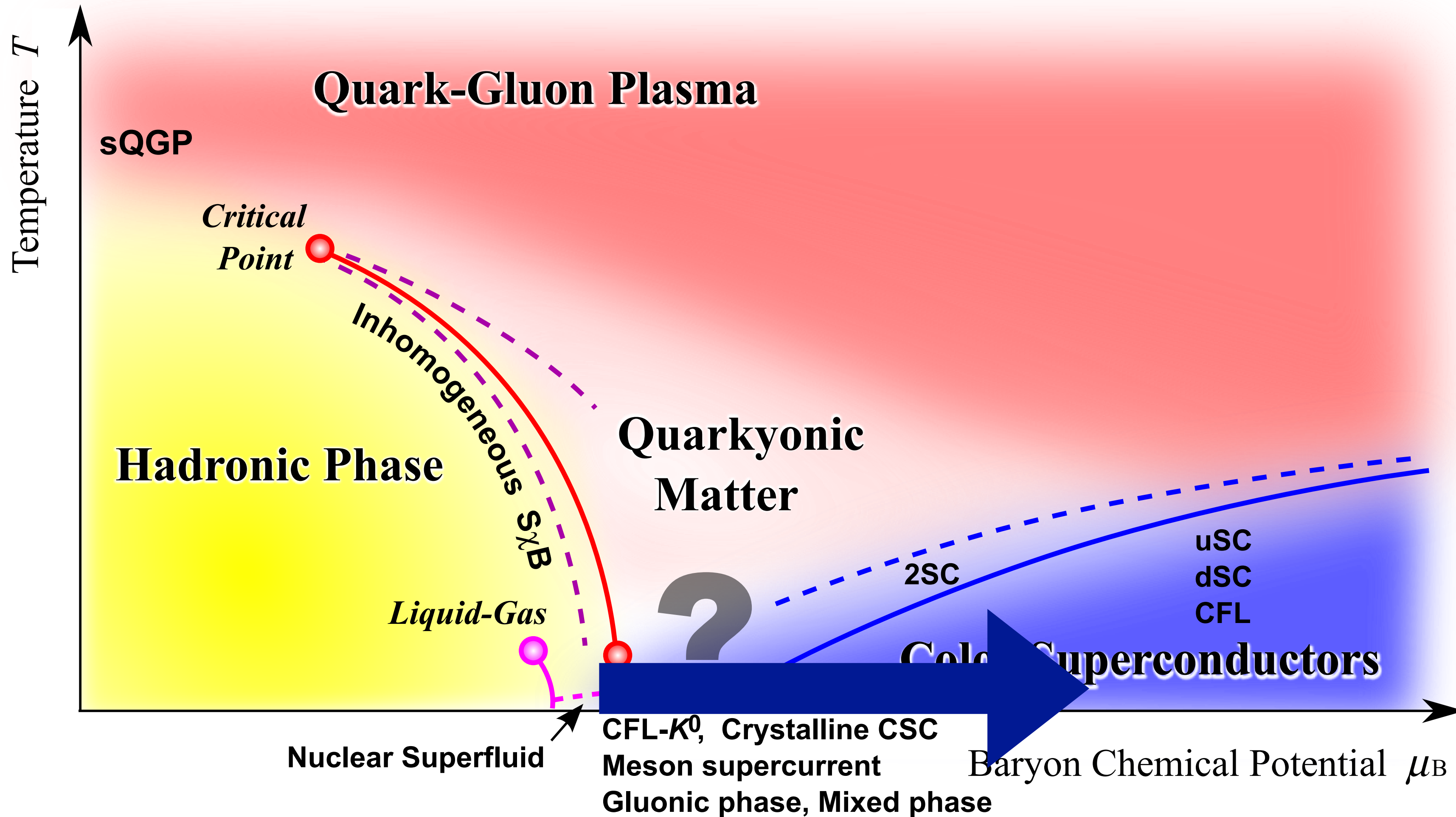
⇒ Phase transition on vortex even in bulk has no phase transition.

# Outline

- **Motivation**
- **What we know about quark hadron continuity**
- **Phase transition on a vortices**
- **Summary and Outlook**

# Motivation: QCD phase diagram

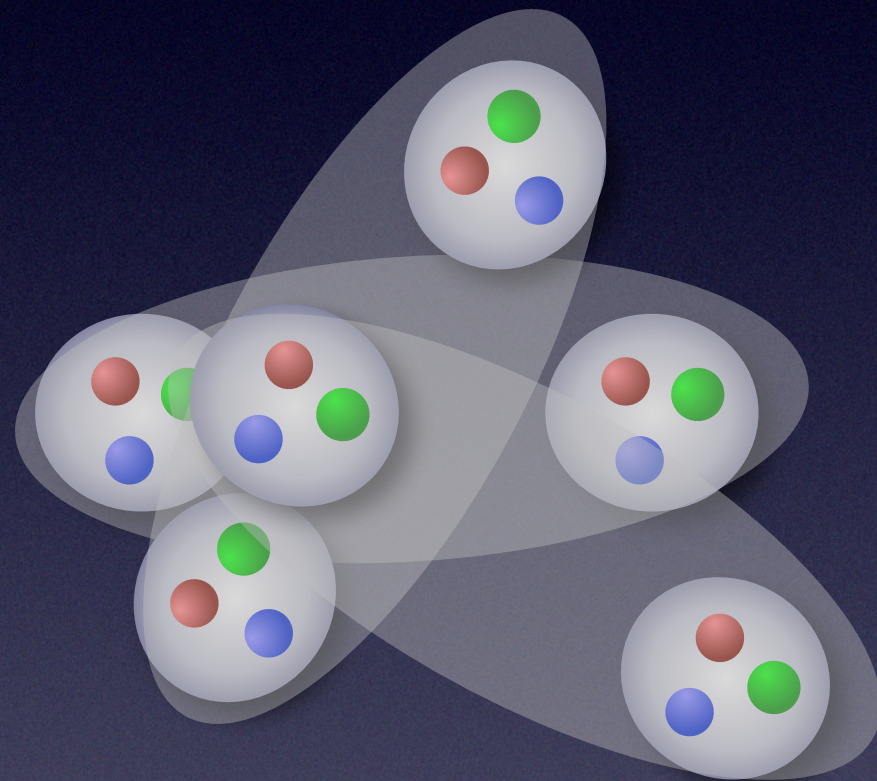
Fukushima, Hatsuda, Rept. Prog. Phys. 74 (2011) 014001



# What we know

For 3-flavor QCD :  $G = SU(3)_f \times U(1)_B$

## • Superfluid (dilute phase)

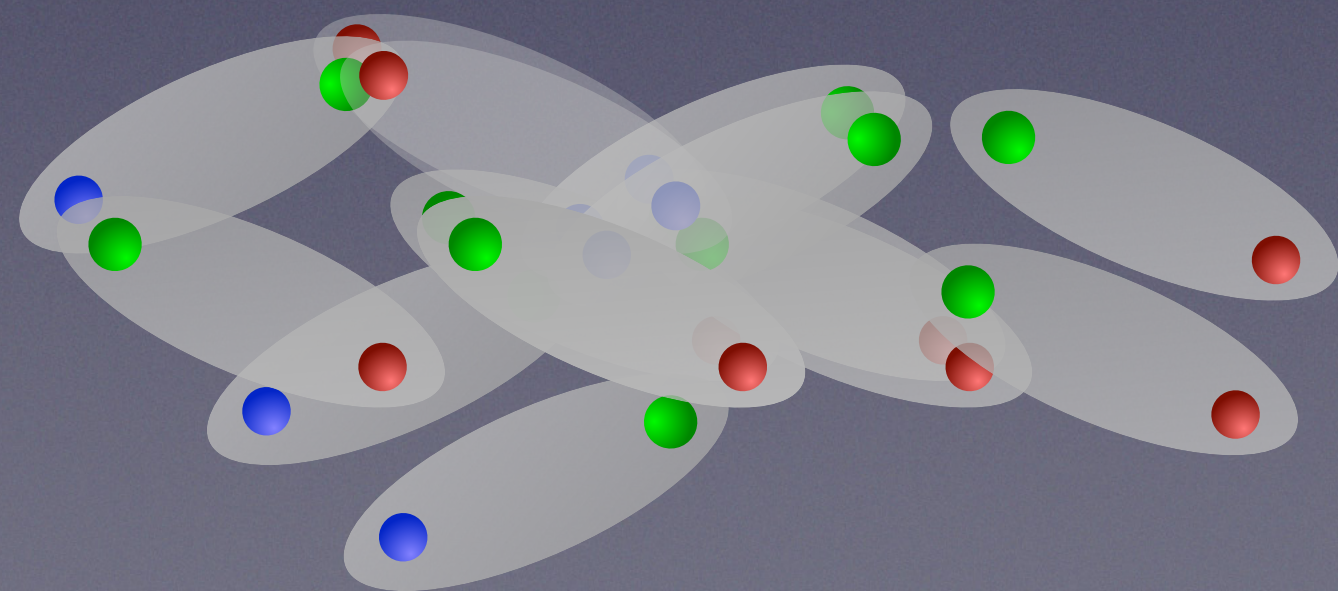


Baryon pair condensation

$$\Delta = \langle \Lambda \Lambda \rangle \neq 0 \quad \Lambda \sim uds$$

$$SU(3)_f \times U(1)_B \rightarrow SU(3)_f$$

## • Color super conductor (dense phase)



“quark pair condensate”

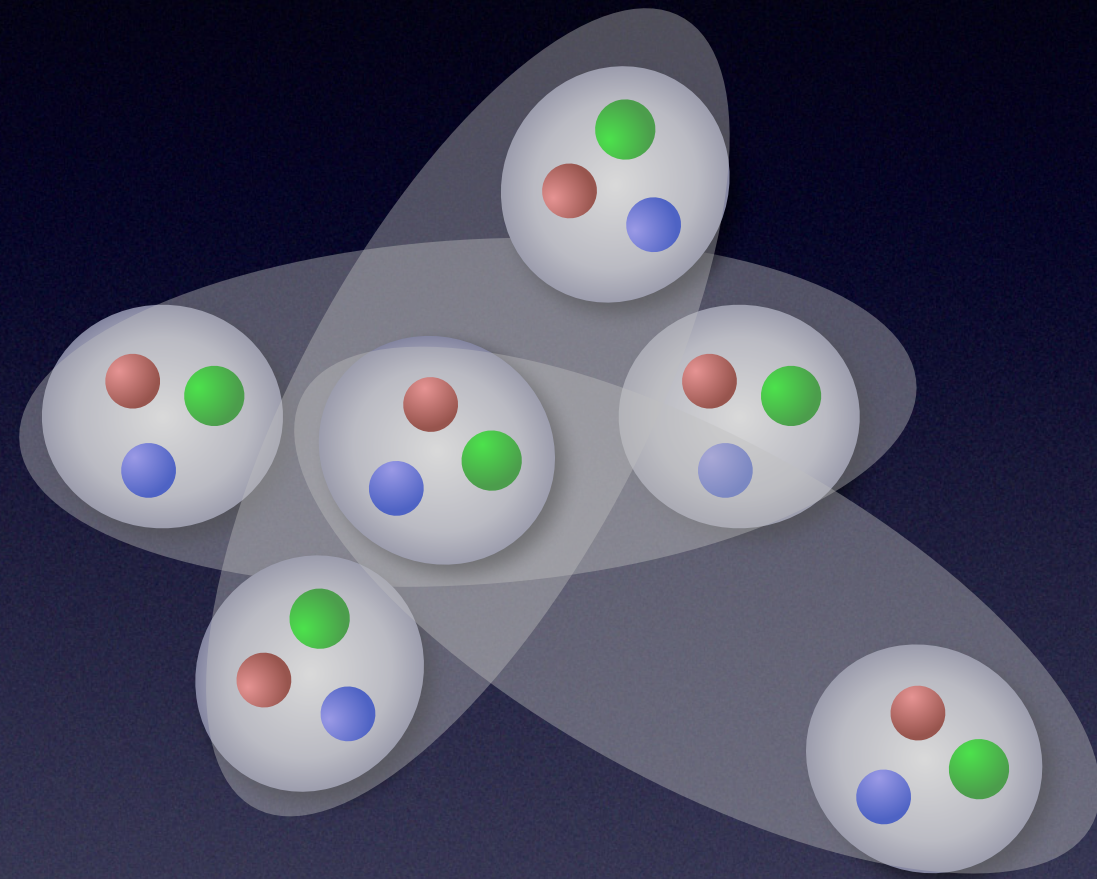
$$(\Phi_L)_a^i = \epsilon^{ijk} \epsilon_{abc} \langle (q_L)_j^b (Cq_L)_k^c \rangle = - \epsilon^{ijk} \epsilon_{abc} \langle (q_R)_j^b (Cq_R)_k^c \rangle$$

$$SU(3)_f \times U(1)_B \rightarrow SU(3)_f$$

# Quark hadron continuity

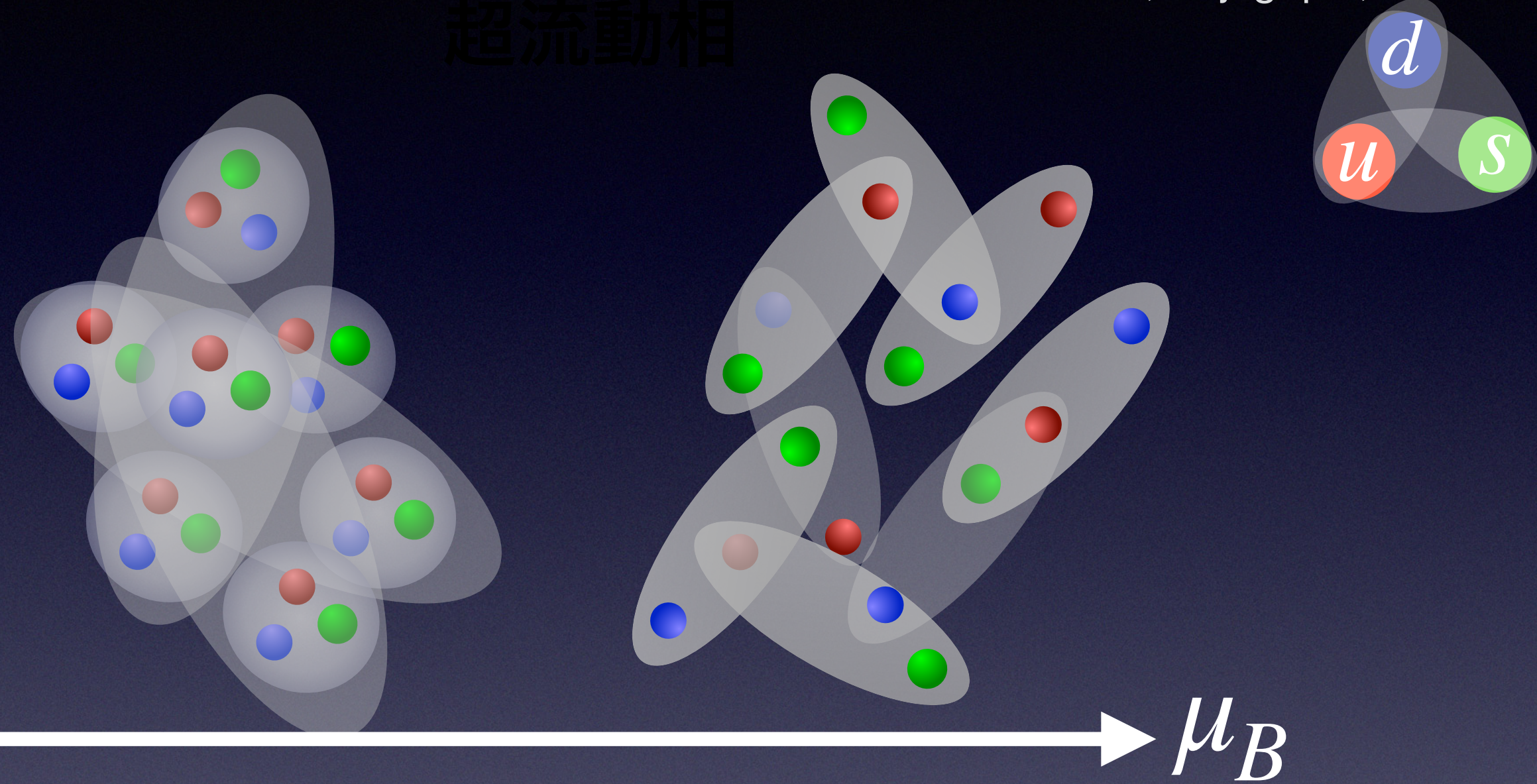
## Hadronic superfluid

Tamagaki ('70), Hoffberg et al ('70)



## Color flavor locked phase (CFL phase)

Alford, Rajagopal, Wilczek ('99)



Symmetry breaking pattern is the same

⇒ Quark hadron continuity

Excitations

Baryons ⇒ Quarks

Vector meson ⇒ Gluons

cf. Hatsuda, Tachibana, Yamamoto, Baym ('06)

**Can the two phases be distinguished  
for topological reasons?**

**SPT phase, topological ordered phase, ...**

**Topological ordered phase**

**$\approx$  Spontaneously broken  
generalized (discrete) global symmetries**

# Generalized global symmetry

Gaiotto, Kapustin, Seiberg, Willett ('14)

Ordinary global symmetry of  
Quantum field theory(QFT) in  $(d+1)$  dimensions



$U_g$

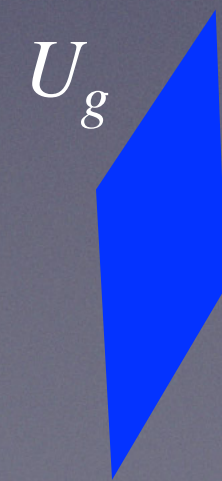
$\phi$



Symmetry operator

Charged object

$d$  dimensional topological  
object labeled by  
 $g \in G$



=



Group law

$g, g' \in G$   
 $gg' \in G$

0-dimensional object  
labeled by representation of  $G$

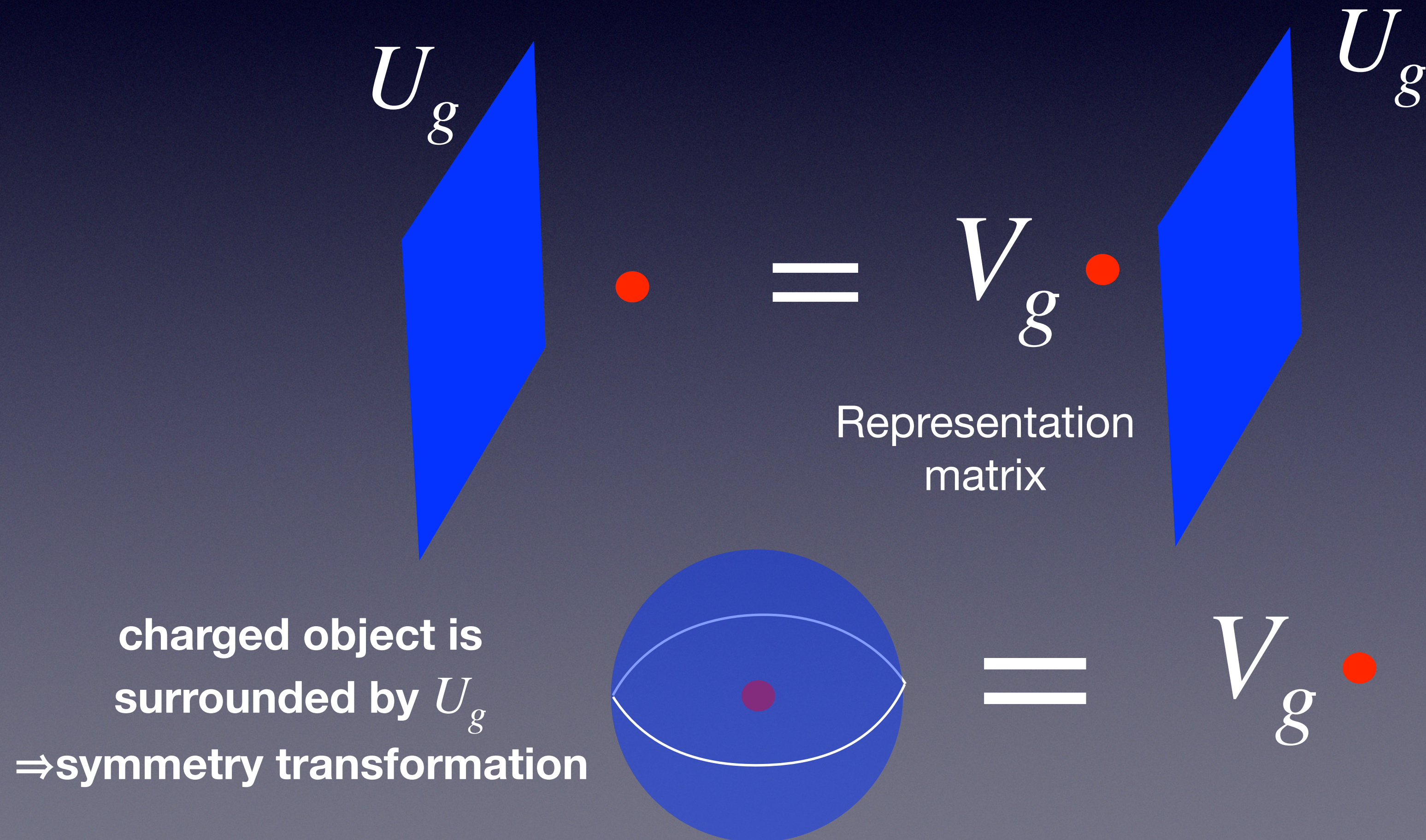


# Generalized global symmetry

Gaiotto, Kapustin, Seiberg, Willett ('14)

## QFT in $(d+1)$ dimension

Transformation:  $U_g \phi = V_g \phi U_g$



# Generalized global symmetry

Gaiotto, Kapustin, Seiberg, Willett ('14)

QFT in  $(d+1)$  dimension

$p$  form symmetry  $G$

$U_g$



Symmetry generator

$d - p$  dimensional topological  
object labeled by  
 $g \in G$

$W$



Charged object

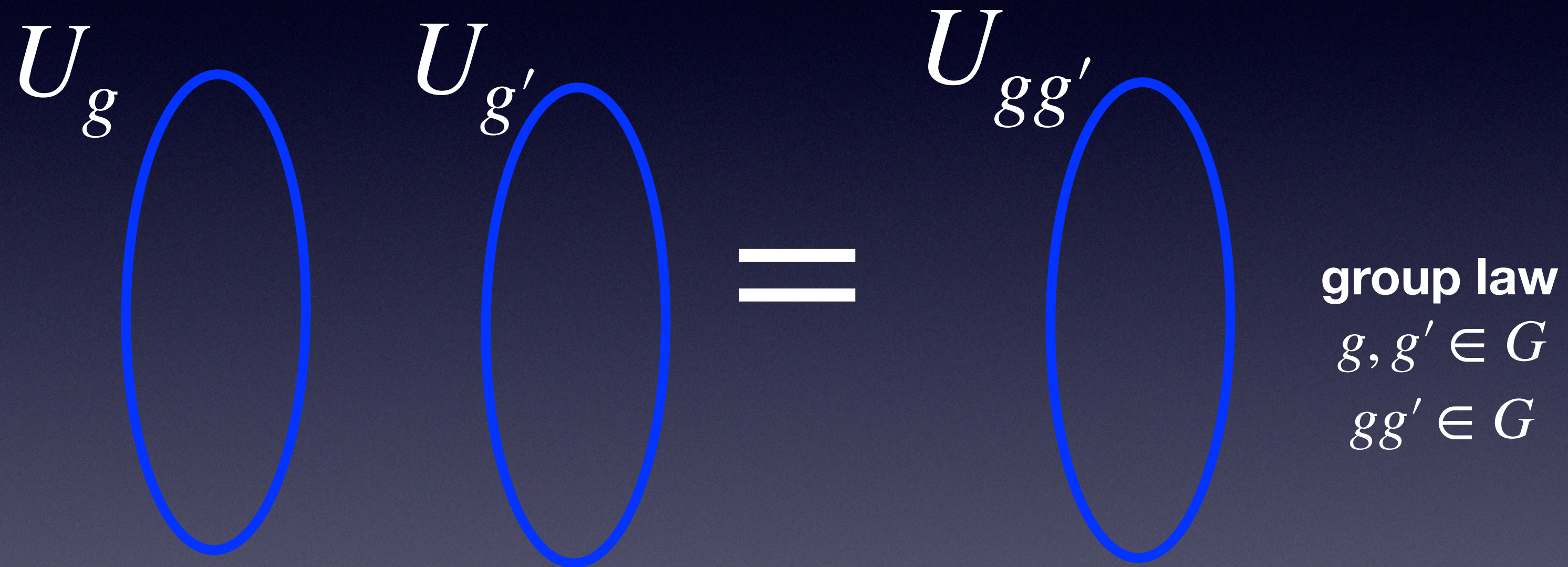
$p$ -dimensional object  
labeled by representation of  $G$

# Generalized global symmetry

Gaiotto, Kapustin, Seiberg, Willett ('14)

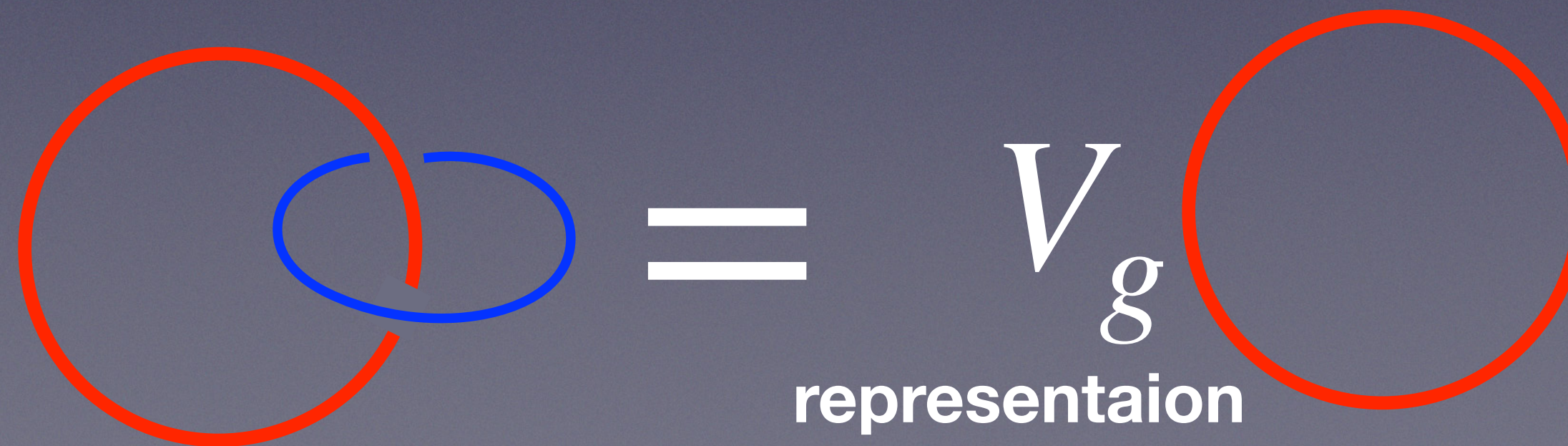
QFT in  $(d+1)$  dimension

$p$  form symmetry  $G$



Symmetry generator:  
 $(d-p)$ -dimensional

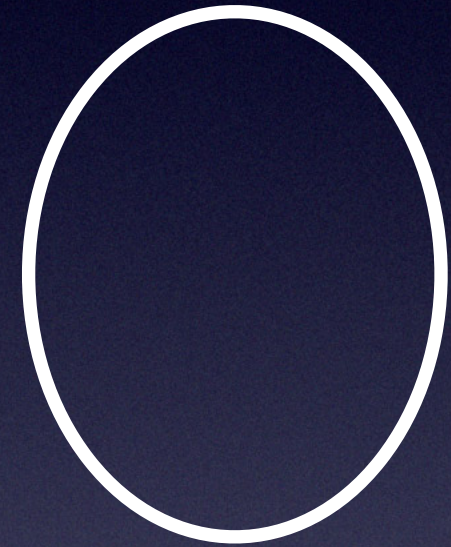
Charged object:  
 $p$ -dimensional



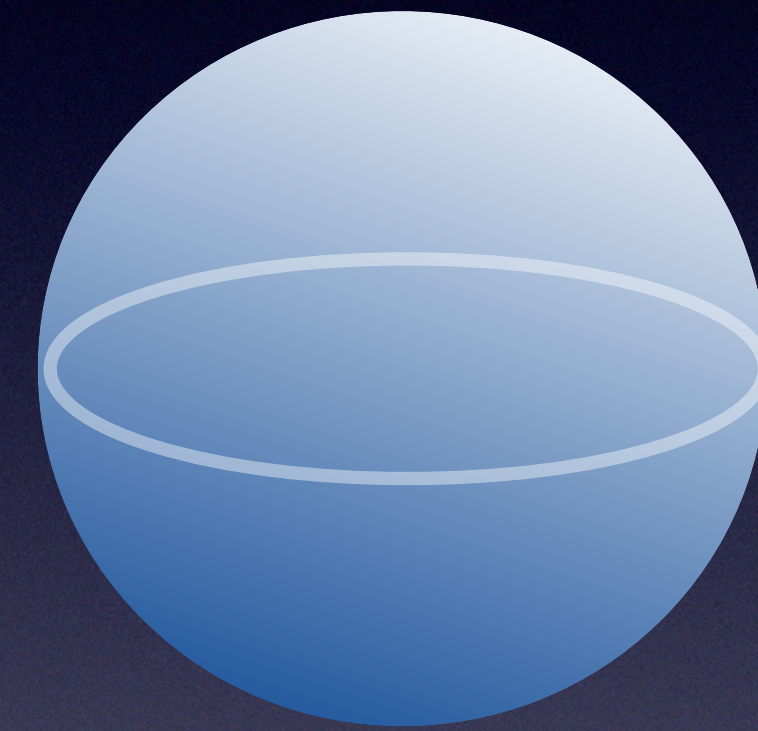
# Example: U(1) gauge theory

Gaiotto, Kapustin, Seiberg, Willett ('14)

**Charged object**



**Charge**



**Wilson ('t Hooft) loop**

$$U(1)_E^{[1]} \quad W = \exp \left[ i \oint_{M^{(1)}} A \right]$$

$$U(1)_M^{[1]} \quad H = \exp \left[ i \oint_{M^{(1)}} \tilde{A} \right]$$

**Surface operators**

$$\text{Electric: } Q_e = \frac{1}{e^2} \int_{M^{(2)}} \star F$$

$$\text{Magnetic: } Q_m = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{M^{(2)}} F$$

# Quantum electrodynamics

There are  $U(1)_M^{[1]}$  magnetic 1-form symmetry

**Vacuum**

**SSB**  $U(1)_M^{[1]}$

**Emergent symmetry**  $U(1)_E^{[1]}$

**Photons are Nambu-Goldstone modes**

**Superconductor**

**Unbroken**  $U(1)_M^{[1]}$

**Emergent symmetry (SSB)**  $\mathbb{Z}_2^{[1]} \times \mathbb{Z}_2^{[2]}$

**Topological order**

$\mathbb{Z}_2^{[1]}$  : cooper pair has charge 2

$\mathbb{Z}_2^{[2]}$  :  $\pi$  magnetic flux inside of vortex

# Thought experiment : rotating neutron stars

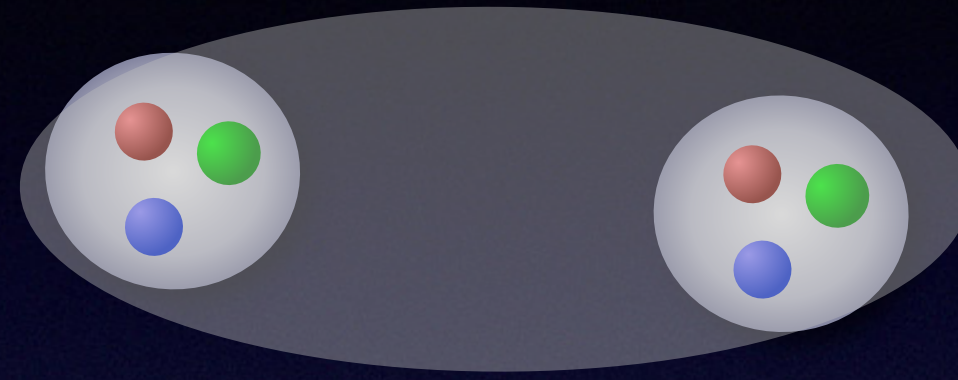


Quantum vortex

## Consider continuity of vortices

- Circulation
- Emergent symmetry

# Hadronic superfluid phase di-baryons condense



$$\Delta = \langle \Lambda \Lambda \rangle \neq 0 \quad \Lambda \sim uds$$

**Symmetry breaking pattern**

$$SU(3)_f \times U(1)_B \rightarrow SU(3)_f$$

**Topological excitation: U(1) vortex**  $\pi_1(U(1)_B) = \mathbb{Z}$

$$\phi = \Delta f(r) e^{i\theta} \quad \int \frac{d\theta}{2\pi} \in \mathbb{Z} \quad f \xrightarrow{r \rightarrow 0} 0 \quad f \xrightarrow{r \rightarrow \infty} 1$$

# Quantum number in Hadronic superfluid phase

Global  $U(1)_B$  symmetry is broken

U(1) vortex: topological defect  $\Delta e^{i\theta}$



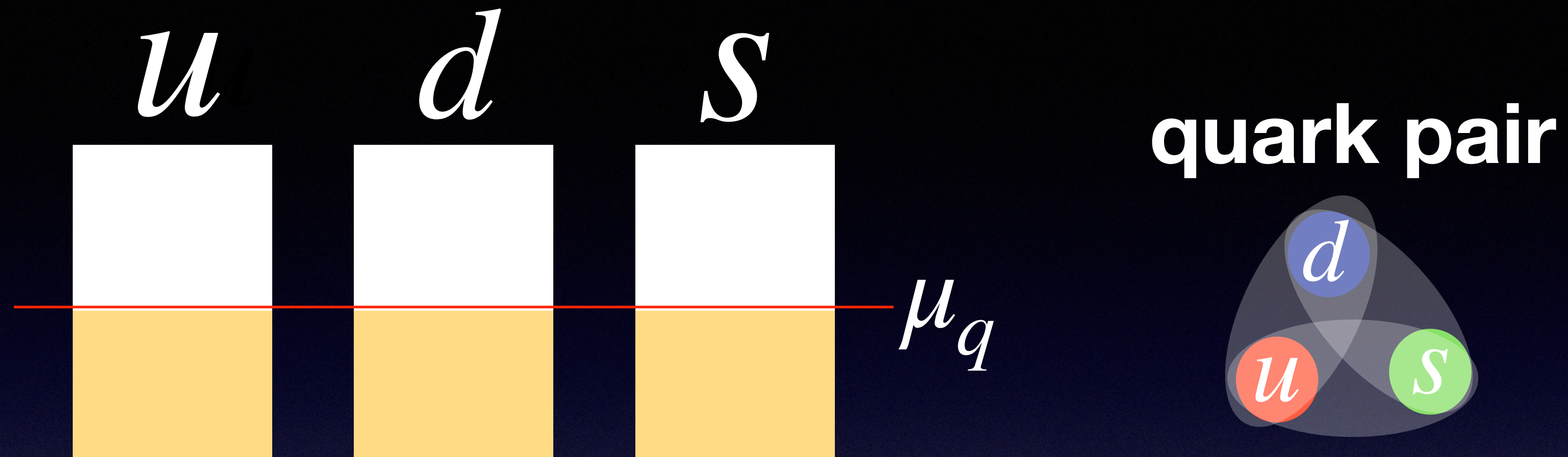
Circulation:  $\int v = \int \frac{d\theta}{2\mu_B} = \frac{2\pi\nu_B}{2\mu_B}$

$$\nu_B = \int \frac{d\theta}{2\pi}: \text{Winding number}$$

$2\mu_B$ : Baryon chemical potential of order parameter



# Color-flavor locking phase



$$(\Phi_L)_a^i = \epsilon^{ijk} \epsilon_{abc} \langle (q_L)_j^b (Cq_L)_k^c \rangle \quad (\Phi_R)_a^i = \epsilon^{ijk} \epsilon_{abc} \langle (q_R)_j^b (Cq_R)_k^c \rangle$$

$$\Phi := \Phi_L = -\Phi_R = \begin{pmatrix} \Delta_{\text{CFL}} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \Delta_{\text{CFL}} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \Delta_{\text{CFL}} \end{pmatrix}$$

# Topological excitations

cf. Eto, Hirono, Nitta & Yasui, PTEP 2014, 012D01 (2014)

order parameter space  $G/H \simeq \frac{SU(3)_c \times U(1)_B}{\mathbb{Z}_3} \simeq U(3)$

## U(1) vortex

$$\Phi := \Delta_{\text{CFL}} \begin{pmatrix} e^{i\theta} f(r) & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & e^{i\theta} f(r) & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & e^{i\theta} f(r) \end{pmatrix}$$

## Non-abelian CFL vortex

Balachandran, Digal, Matsuura, PRD73, 074009 (2006)

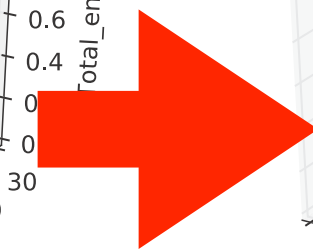
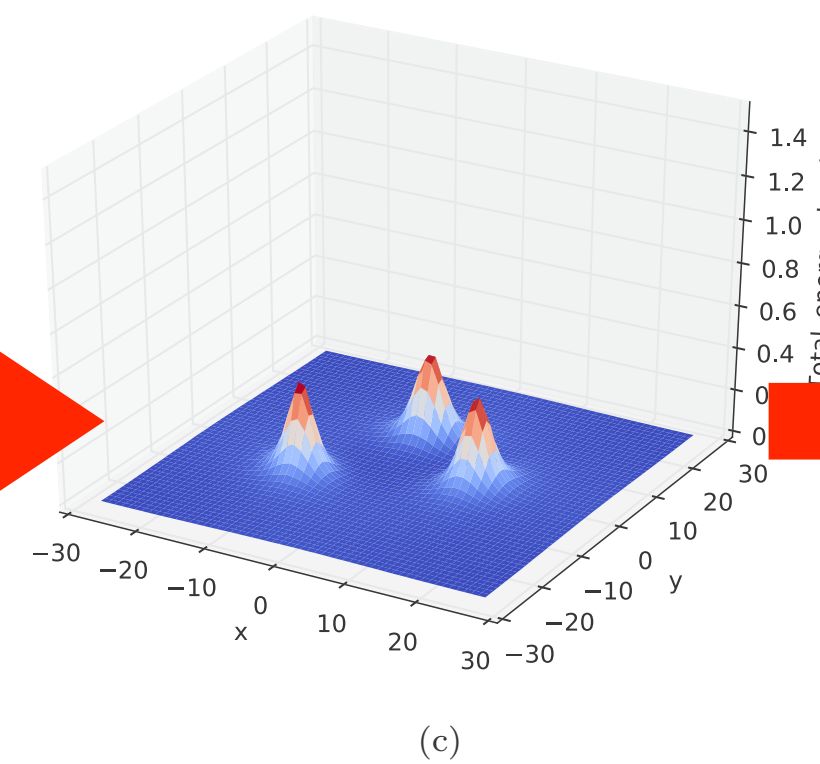
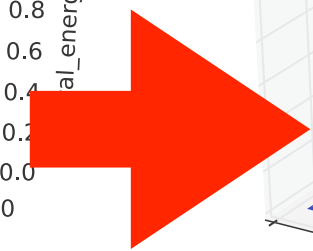
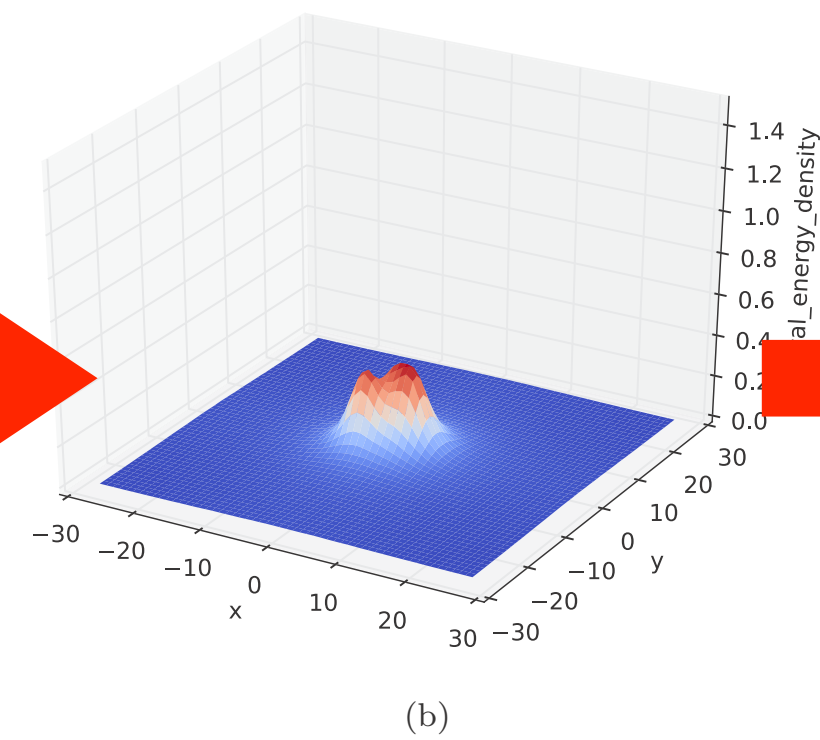
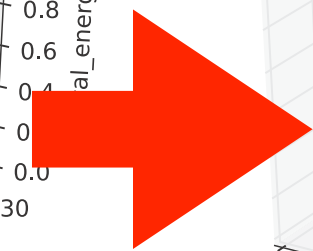
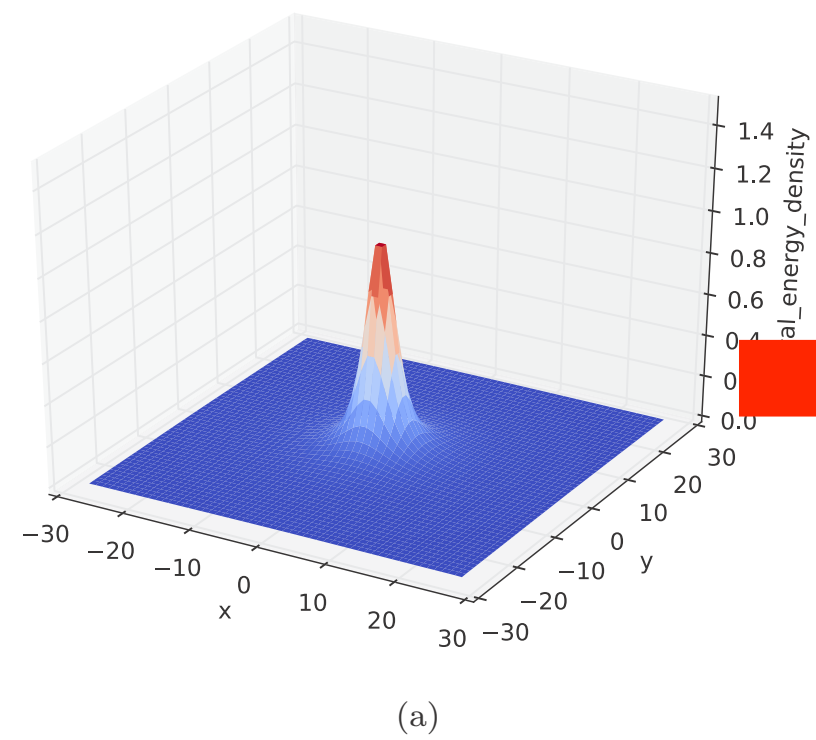
$$\Phi := \Delta_{\text{CFL}} \begin{pmatrix} e^{i\theta} f(r) & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & g(r) & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & g(r) \end{pmatrix} = \Delta_{\text{CFL}} e^{i\frac{\theta}{3}} \begin{pmatrix} e^{i\frac{2\theta}{3}} f(r) & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & e^{-i\frac{\theta}{3}} g(r) & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & e^{-i\frac{\theta}{3}} g(r) \end{pmatrix}$$

$$A_i = -\frac{\epsilon_{ij} x^j}{g_s^2 r^2} (1 - h(r)) \text{diag} \left( -\frac{2}{3}, \frac{1}{3}, \frac{1}{3} \right) \text{ both superfluidity and superconductivity}$$

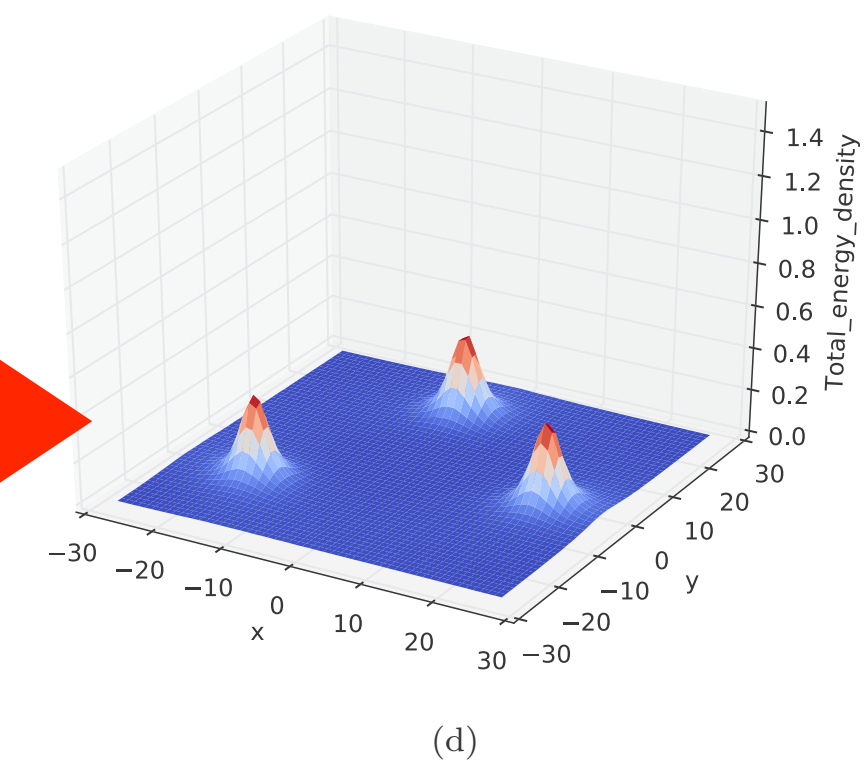
# Numerical Simulation

Alford, Mallavarapu, Vachaspati, Windisch, PRC 93, 045801 (2016)

U(1) vortex



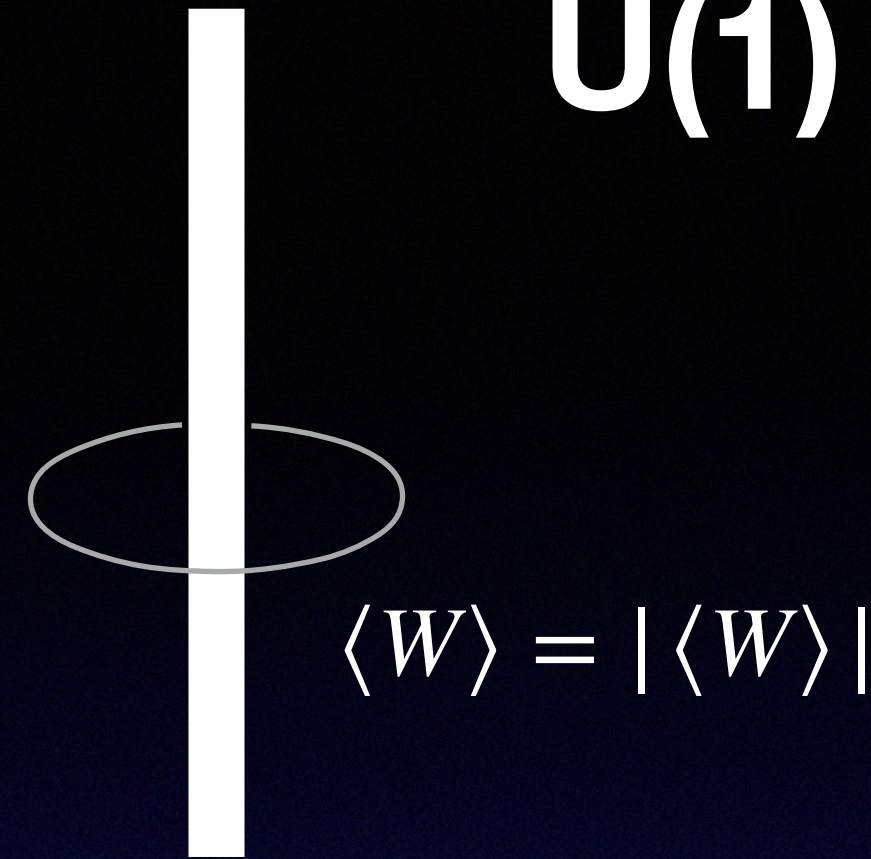
non-abelian vortices



U(1) vortex decays into  
three non-abelian vortices

## U(1) vortex in Hadronic phase

Alford, Baym, Fukushima, Hatsuda, Tachibana ('19)

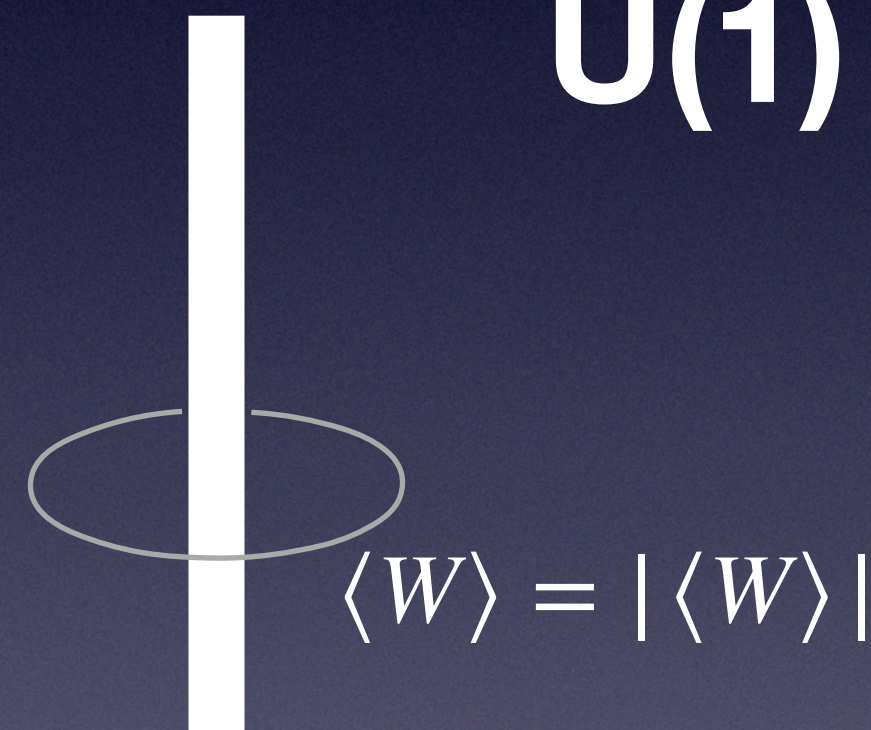


Circulation

$$2\pi \frac{\nu_B}{2\mu_B}$$

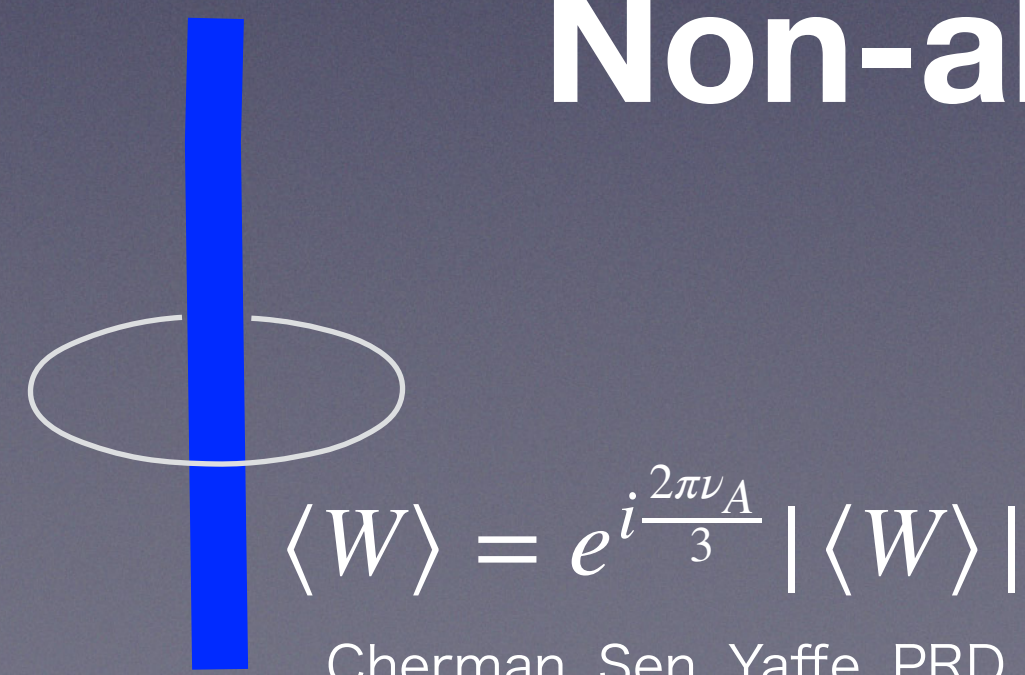
$\nu_B$ : Winding number

## U(1) vortex in CFL



Circulation  $2\pi \frac{\nu_A}{2\mu_q} = 2\pi \frac{3\nu_A}{2\mu_B}$

## Non-abelian vortex in CFL



Circulation  $\frac{2\pi\nu_A/3}{2\mu_q} = 2\pi \frac{\nu_A}{2\mu_B}$

Cherman, Sen, Yaffe, PRD 100, 034015 (2019)

# Topological ordered phase?

CFL vortex: emergent  $\mathbb{Z}_3^{[2]}$  symmetry

However, it is not unbroken, i.e. not topological order

Hirono, Tanizaki ('19)

What is the fate of  $e^{\frac{2\pi}{3}i}$ ?

The magnetic flux will not penetrate through the vortices in the hadronic phase

⇒ This allow us to distinguish the phases.

Cherman, Jacobson, Sen, Yaffe ('20), ('24)

Magnetic flux may penetrate through the vortices in the hadronic phase or dissipate during the transition.

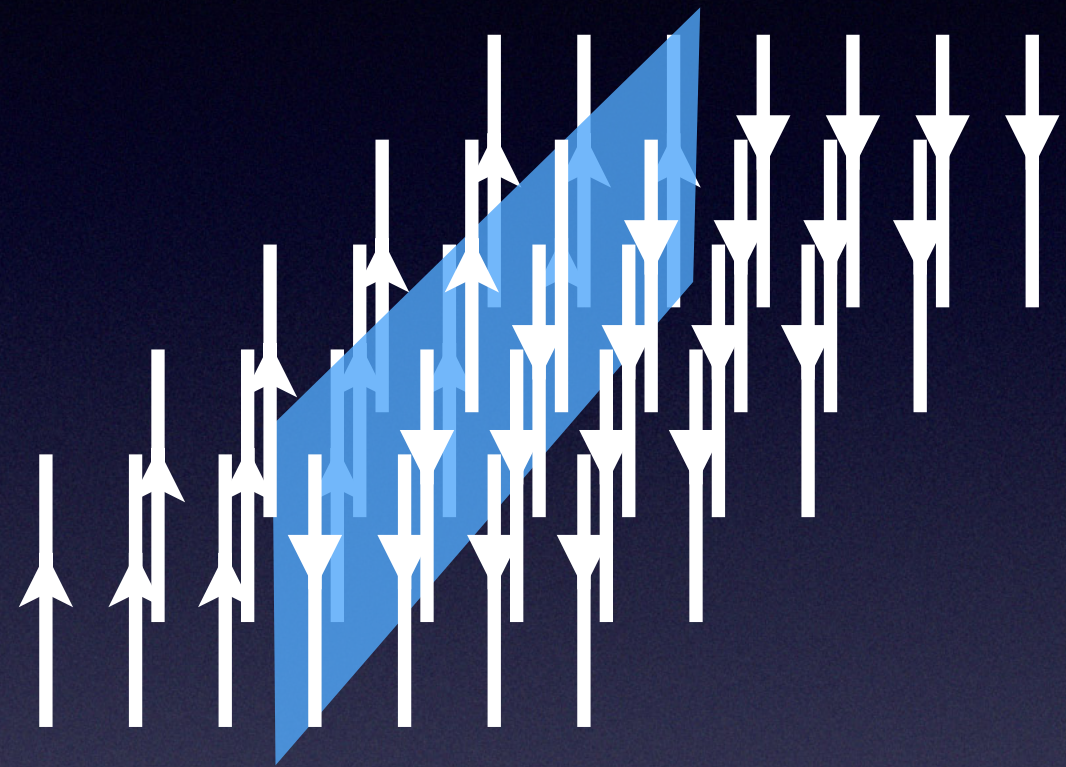
Hayashi ('23)

# Outline

- **Phase transition on a vortices**
- **Summary**

# Phase transition on a topological defect, while the bulk remains continuous?

**Domain wall**



**vortex**



## Our answer is YES!

Effective theory on a topological defect=  
a lower-dimensional field theory may exhibit phase transition

Phase transitions may occur in quantum vortices.

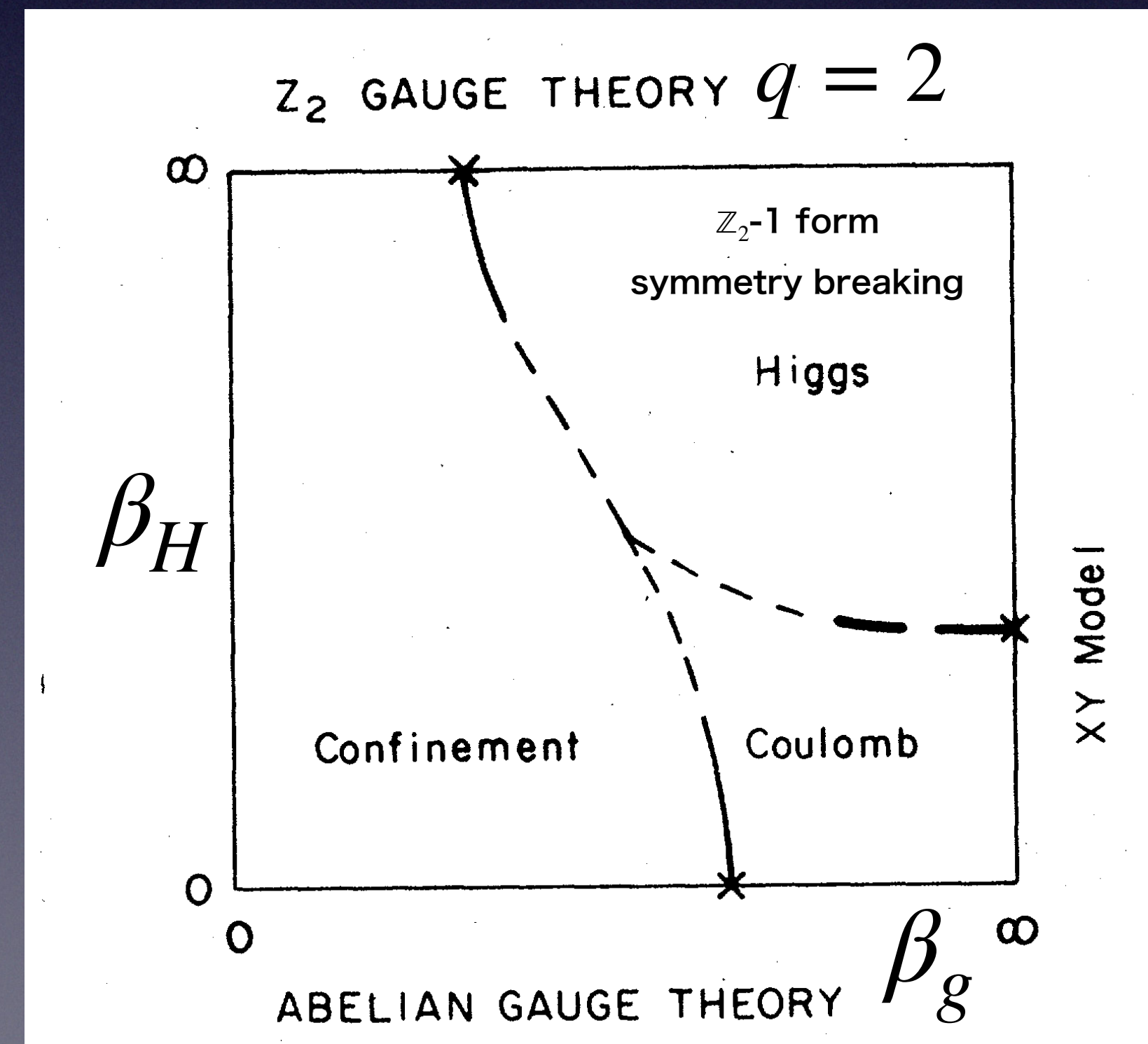
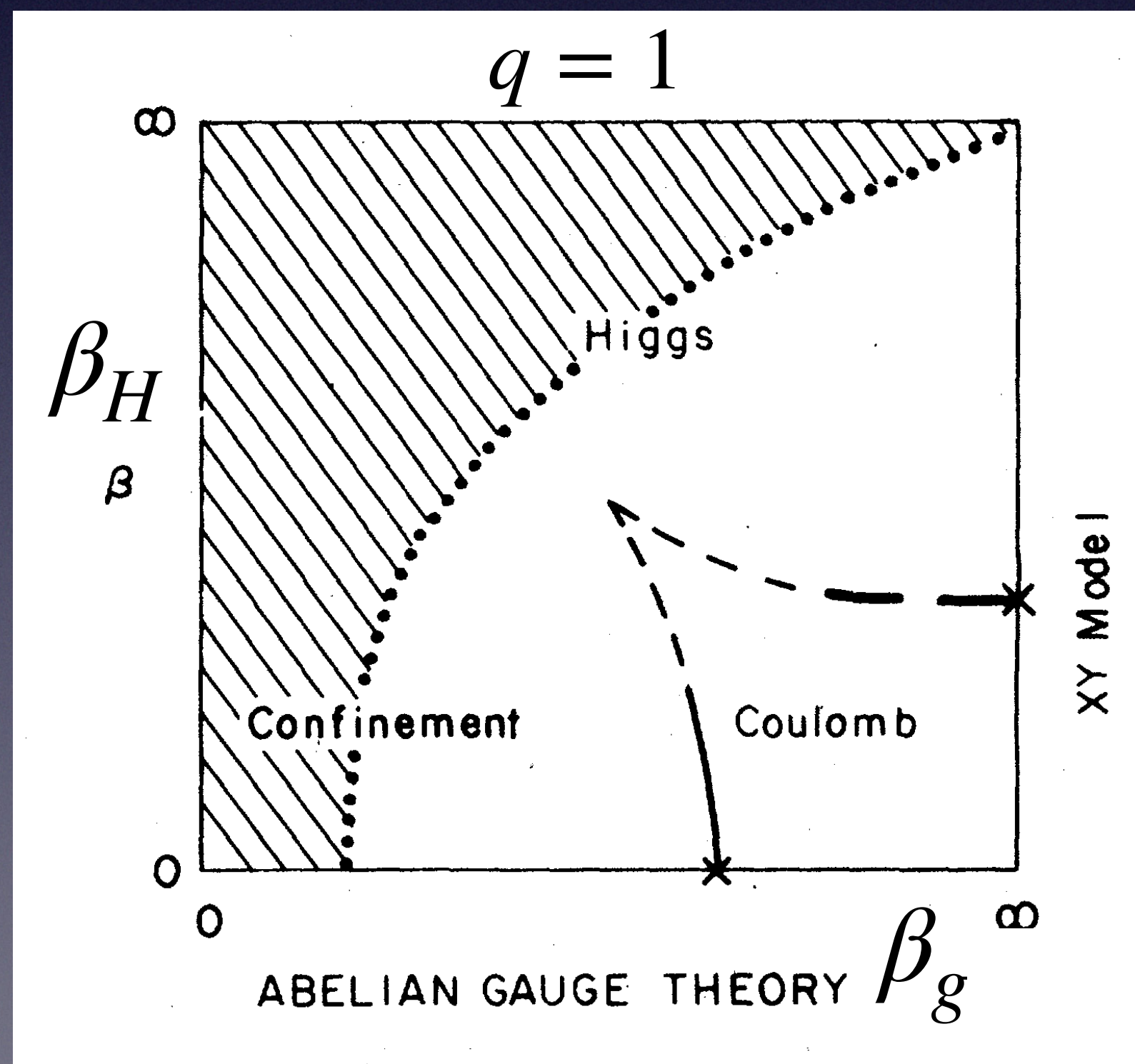
# Abelian Higgs model in (3+1) dimensions

$$S = -\beta_g \sum_{x, \mu < \nu} \cos(F_{\mu\nu}(x)) - \beta_H \sum_{x, \mu} \cos(\Delta_\mu \varphi(x) - qA_\mu(x))$$

**Field strength**
**Scalar field**
**Gauge field**

(phase dof)
 $\Delta_\mu \varphi_a(x) = \varphi_a(x + \hat{\mu}) - \varphi_a(x)$

Fralkin-Schenker Phys. Rev. D 19, 3682 ('79)





# $U(1)_{\text{gauge}} \times U(1)_{\text{global}}$ lattice model

cf. Motrunich, Senthil ('05)

$$S = -\beta_g \sum_{x, \mu < \nu} \cos(F_{\mu\nu}(x)) - \beta_H \sum_{x, \mu} \sum_{a=1,2} \cos(\Delta_\mu \varphi_a(x) + A_\mu(x))$$

Field strength

Scalar field  
(phase dof)

Gauge field

$$\Delta_\mu \varphi_a(x) = \varphi_a(x + \hat{\mu}) - \varphi_a(x)$$

## Symmetry

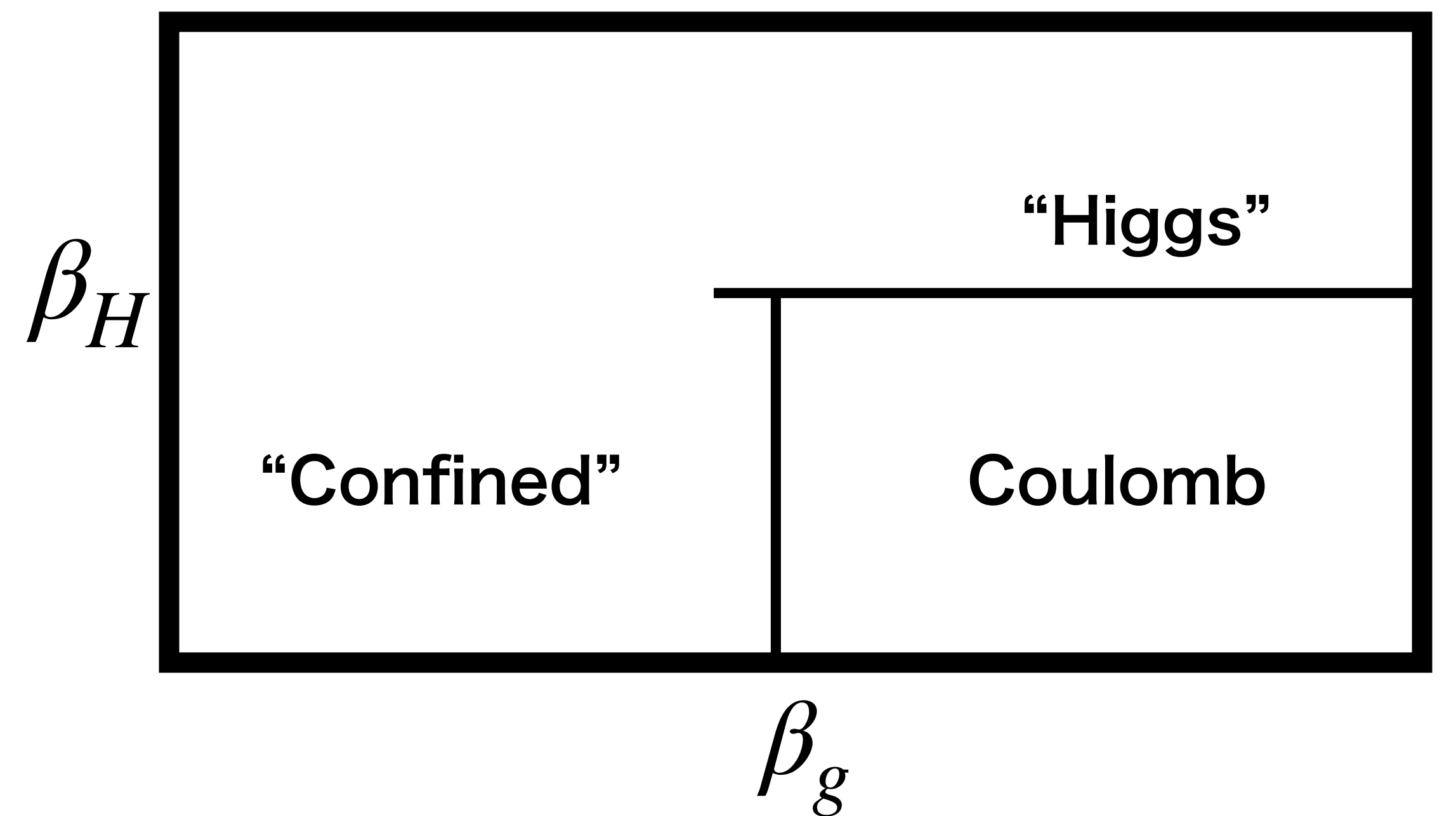
$$U(1)_{\text{gauge}} : \begin{aligned} \varphi_1 &\rightarrow \varphi_1 - \lambda \\ \varphi_2 &\rightarrow \varphi_2 - \lambda \end{aligned}$$

$$A_\mu \rightarrow A_\mu + \Delta_\mu \lambda$$

$$U(1)_{\text{global}} : \begin{aligned} \varphi_1 &\rightarrow \varphi_1 + \theta \\ \varphi_2 &\rightarrow \varphi_2 - \theta \end{aligned}$$

$$\mathbb{Z}_{2F} : \begin{aligned} \varphi_1 &\rightarrow \varphi_2 \\ \varphi_2 &\rightarrow \varphi_1 \end{aligned}$$

## Phase diagram Fradkin-Schenker



# $U(1)_{\text{gauge}} \times U(1)_{\text{global}}$ lattice model

cf. Motrunich, Senthil ('05)

$$S = -\beta_g \sum_{x, \mu < \nu} \cos(F_{\mu\nu}(x)) - \beta_H \sum_{x, \mu} \sum_{a=1,2} \cos(\Delta_\mu \varphi_a(x) + A_\mu(x))$$

Field strength

Scalar field  
(phase dof)

Gauge field

$$\Delta_\mu \varphi_a(x) = \varphi_a(x + \hat{\mu}) - \varphi_a(x)$$

## Symmetry

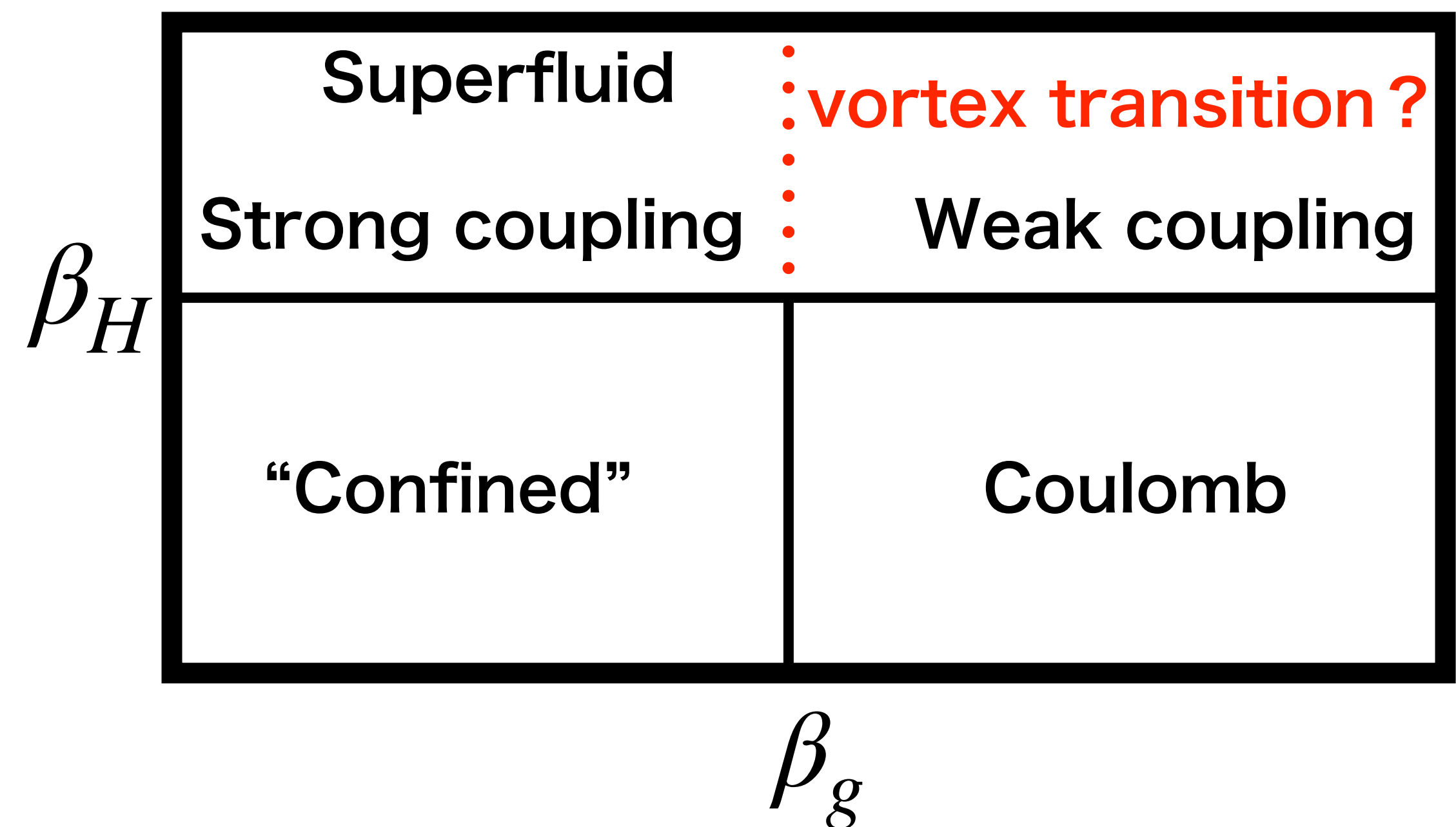
$$U(1)_{\text{gauge}} : \begin{aligned} \varphi_1 &\rightarrow \varphi_1 - \lambda \\ \varphi_2 &\rightarrow \varphi_2 - \lambda \end{aligned}$$

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$$U(1)_{\text{global}} : \begin{aligned} \varphi_1 &\rightarrow \varphi_1 + \theta \\ \varphi_2 &\rightarrow \varphi_2 - \theta \end{aligned}$$

$$\mathbb{Z}_{2F} : \begin{aligned} \varphi_1 &\rightarrow \varphi_2 \\ \varphi_2 &\rightarrow \varphi_1 \end{aligned}$$

## Phase diagram



# $U(1)_{\text{gauge}} \times U(1)_{\text{global}}$ **lattice model**

$$S = -\beta_g \sum_{x, \mu < \nu} \cos(F_{\mu\nu}(x)) - \beta_H \sum_{x, \mu} \sum_{a=1,2} \cos(\Delta_\mu \varphi_a(x) + A_\mu(x))$$

**Field strength**
**Scalar field**
**Gauge field**

(phase dof)
 $\Delta_\mu \varphi_a(x) = \varphi_a(x + \hat{\mu}) - \varphi_a(x)$

**Emergent symmetry at large  $\beta_H$  (SSB of  $U(1)_{\text{global}}$ )**

YH, Kondo ('22)

**Emergent**  $U(1)^{[2]}$   $\mathbb{Z}_2^{[2]}$

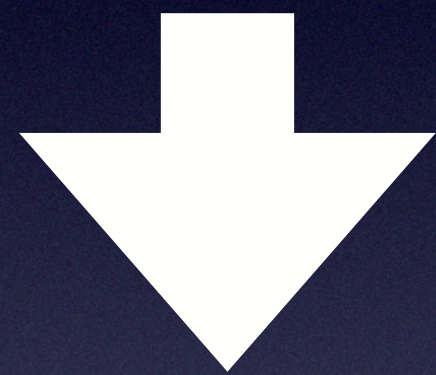
**Symmetry operator**  $e^{i\frac{\theta}{2\pi} \int_C (d\varphi_1 - d\varphi_2)}$   $e^{i\frac{1}{2} \int_C (d\varphi_1 + d\varphi_2)}$

# Example: $U(1)_{\text{gauge}} \times U(1)_{\text{global}}$ lattice model

Strong coupling  $\beta_g \ll 1$

Weak coupling  $\beta_g \gg 1$

Integrating over gauge fields



$$S_{\text{eff}} = - \sum_{x,\mu} \ln I_0 \left[ 2\beta_H \cos \left( \frac{\Delta_\mu \varphi_1(x) - \Delta_\mu \varphi_2(x)}{2} \right) \right]$$

$I_0(z)$  : Modified Bessel

Essential d.o.f. is  $\varphi_1 - \varphi_2$

i.e., one d.o.f.

$$S = -\beta_g \sum_{x,\mu < \nu} \cos (F_{\mu\nu}(x)) \\ - \beta_H \sum_{x,\mu} \sum_{a=1,2} \cos (\Delta_\mu \varphi_a(x) + A_\mu(x))$$

Distinguishable  $\varphi_1$  and  $\varphi_2$

$\mathbb{Z}_{2F}$  is spontaneously broken on  
the vortices

# Criterion of symmetry breaking:

When discrete symmetry is broken:  
twisting the boundary conditions by the symmetry  
causes the formation of domain walls

## Example: Ising model

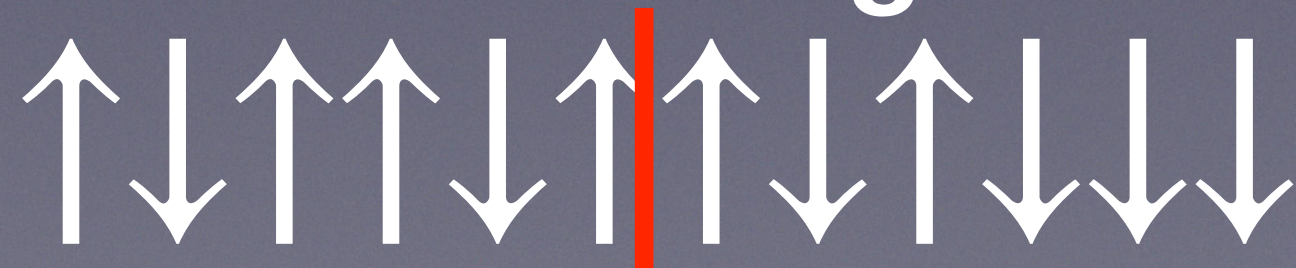
$\mathbb{Z}_2$  broken phase



domain wall

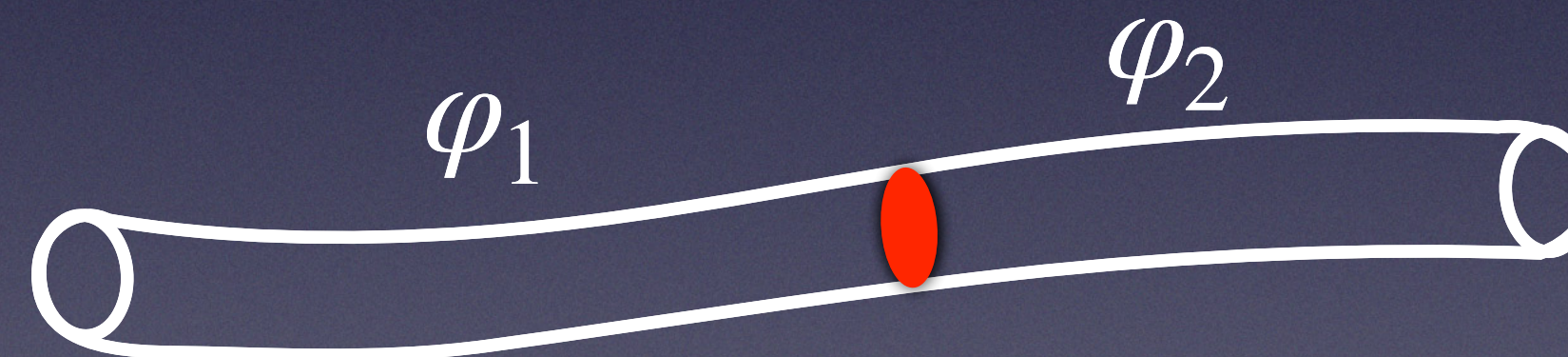
$\mathbb{Z}_2$  unbroken phase

random configuration



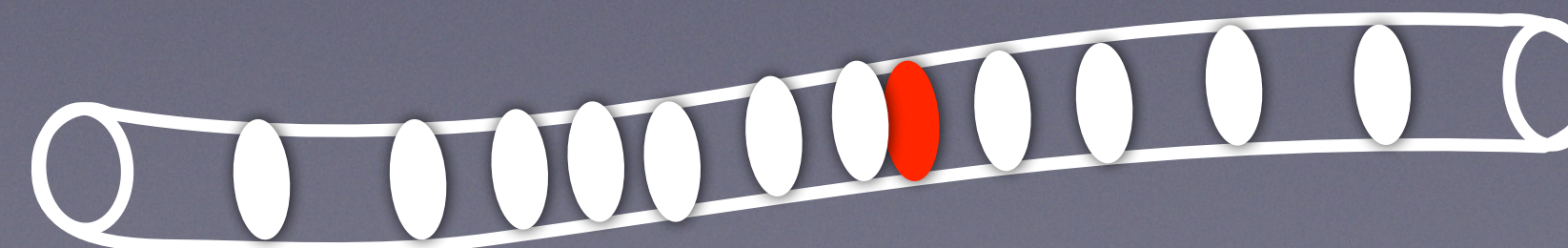
$U(1)_{\text{gauge}} \times U(1)_{\text{global}}$  model

Weak coupling ( $\mathbb{Z}_{2F}$  broken)

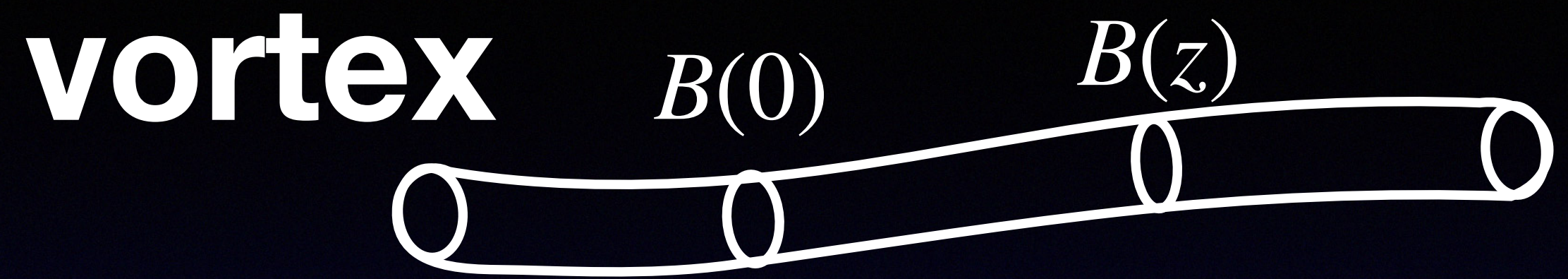


Strong coupling ( $\mathbb{Z}_{2F}$  unbroken)

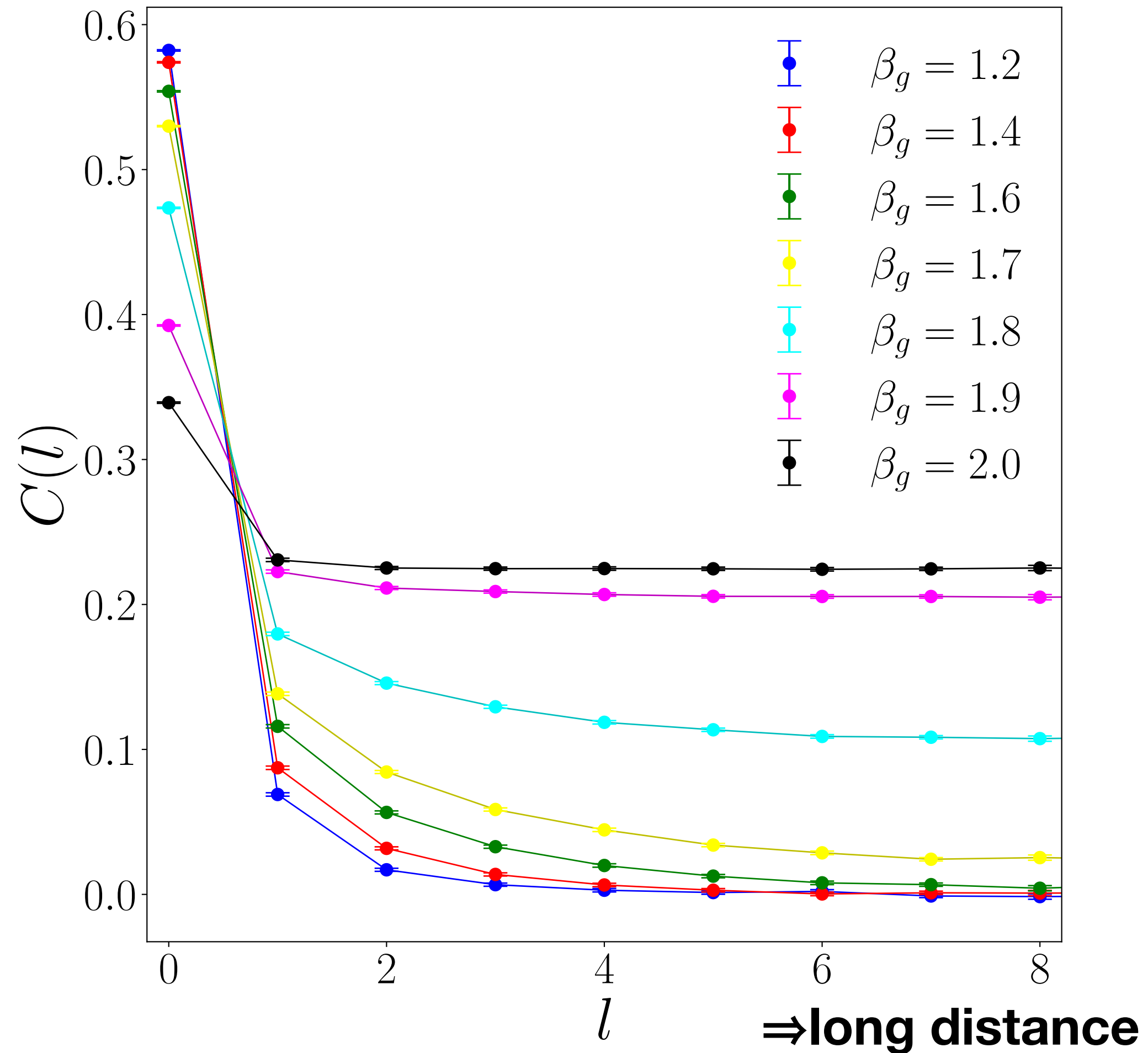
randomized junctions



# Numerical simulation

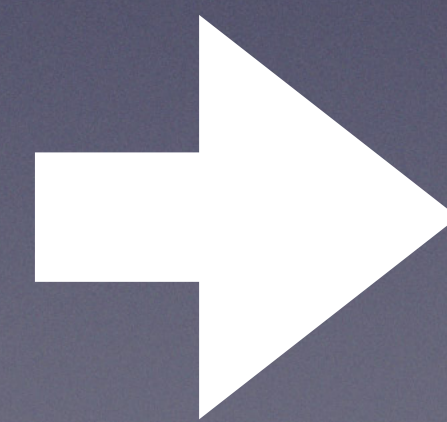


**Correlation function of magnetic flux**



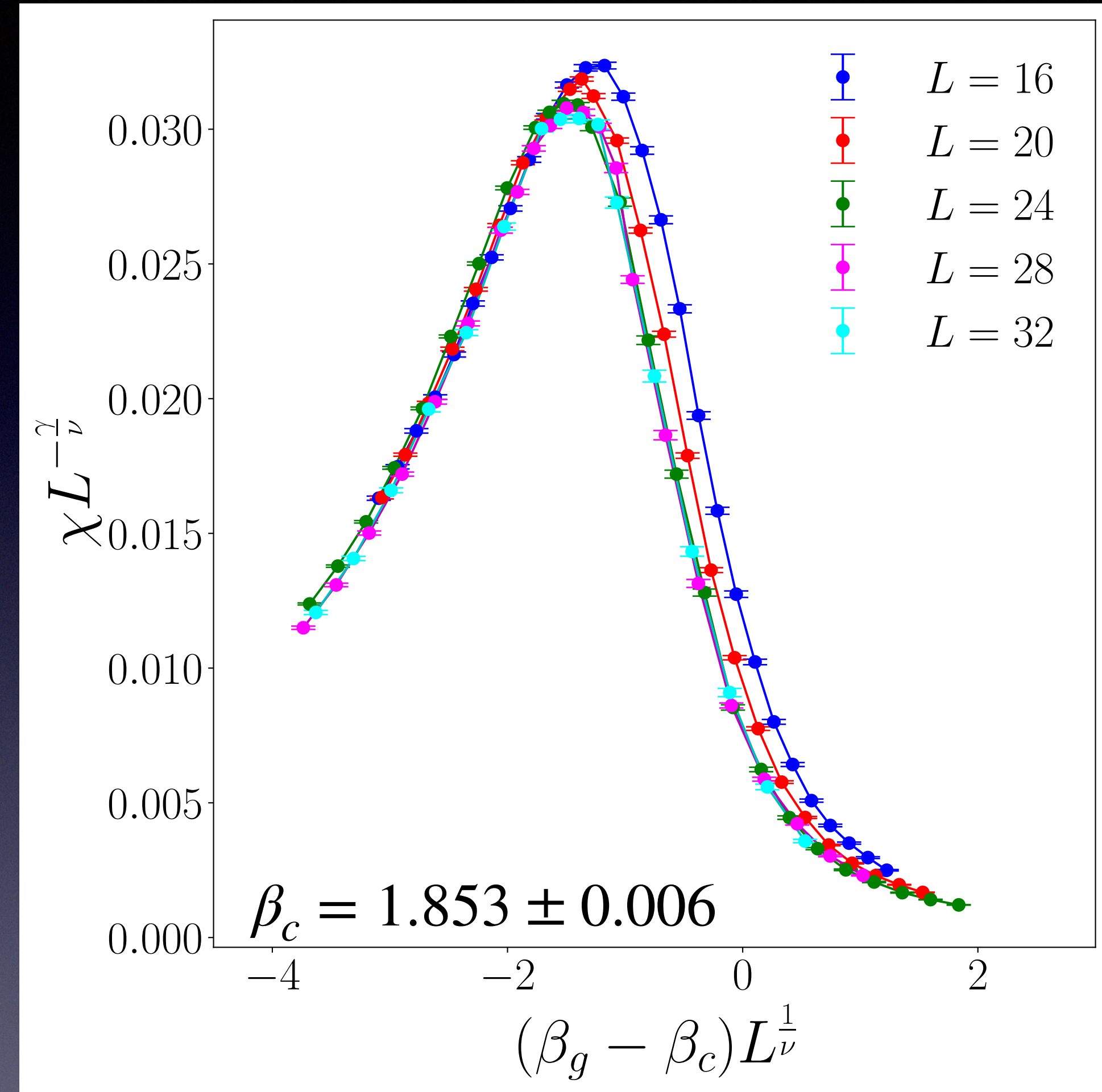
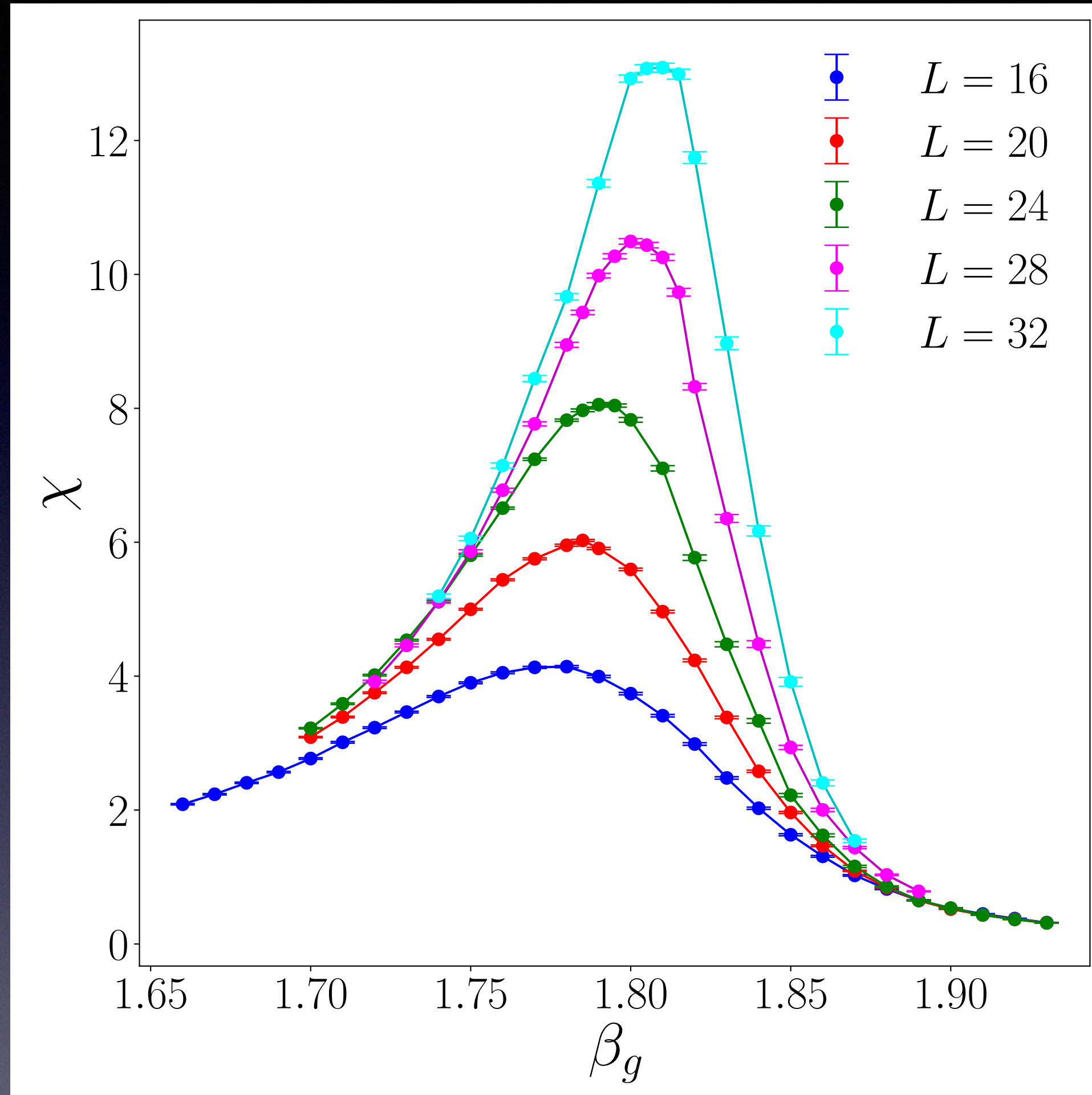
**At weak coupling  
long-range correlation**

**Spontaneous symmetry  
breaking**



**Phase transition  
on a vortex**

# Critical point



Ising universality class  $\nu = 1, \gamma = 7/4$

predicted in Motrunich, Senthil ('05)

# Summary

**We found the phase transition on a vortex  
between strong and weak gauge couplings  
in superfluid phase**

**More generally, there can be phase transitions of  
various phase defects**

**Codimension 1: transition on a domain wall**

**Codimension 2: transition on a vortex**

**Codimension 3: Level crossing**

**Phase transitions on domain wall junctions are also possible**



# Outlook

**EFT on  $U(1) \times U(1)$  model  $\sim$  Ising model**

**EFT of CFL phase  $\sim$   $CP(2)$  model**

**Ground state of  $CP(2)$  model**

**Gapped phase, no flavor breaking**

**$\Rightarrow$  continuously connects to the hadronic phase?**

**What happens if fermion d.o.f. is included?**