

# $\mathcal{N} = 4$ supersymmetric Yang–Mills on a space-time lattice

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[arXiv:1405.0644](#), [arXiv:1410.6971](#), [arXiv:1411.0166](#) & more to come  
with Simon Catterall, Poul Damgaard, Tom DeGrand and Joel Giedt

# Plan

- Motivations for lattice supersymmetry in general
- Why lattice  $\mathcal{N} = 4$  supersymmetric Yang–Mills (SYM) in particular
- Some highlights of the lattice  $\mathcal{N} = 4$  SYM formulation  
& demonstrations of correctness
- Some initial physics results  
& connections to perturbation theory, AdS/CFT, bootstrap
- The future

## Context: Why lattice supersymmetry

Lattice discretization provides non-perturbative,  
gauge-invariant regularization of vectorlike gauge theories

Amenable to numerical analysis

→ complementary approach to study strongly coupled field theories

Proven success for QCD; many potential susy applications:

- Compute Wilson loops, spectrum, scaling dimensions, etc.,  
complementing perturbation theory, holography, bootstrap, ...
- Further direct checks of conjectured dualities
- Predict low-energy constants from dynamical susy breaking
- Validate or refine AdS/CFT-based modelling  
(e.g., QCD phase diagram, condensed matter systems)

## Context: Why not lattice supersymmetry

There is a problem with supersymmetry on a space-time lattice

Recall: supersymmetry extends Poincaré symmetry

by spinorial generators  $Q_\alpha^I$  and  $\bar{Q}_{\dot{\alpha}}^I$  with  $I = 1, \dots, \mathcal{N}$

The resulting algebra includes  $\{Q_\alpha, \bar{Q}_{\dot{\alpha}}\} = 2\sigma_{\alpha\dot{\alpha}}^\mu P_\mu$

$P_\mu$  generates infinitesimal translations, which don't exist on the lattice  
 $\implies$  supersymmetry explicitly broken at classical level

### Consequence for lattice calculations

Quantum effects generate (typically many) susy-violating operators

Fine-tuning their couplings to restore susy is generally not practical

# Why $\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM: Exact susy on the lattice

In order to forbid generation of susy-violating operators  
(some subset of) the susy algebra must be preserved

In four dimensions  $\mathcal{N} = 4$  SYM is the only known system  
with a supersymmetric lattice formulation

$\mathcal{N} = 4$  SYM is an extremely interesting theory

- $SU(N)$  gauge theory with four fermions  $\psi^I$  and six scalars  $\phi^{IJ}$ ,  
all massless and in adjoint rep.
- Action consists of kinetic, Yukawa and four-scalar terms
- Supersymmetric: 16 supercharges  $Q_\alpha^I$  and  $\bar{Q}_{\dot{\alpha}}^I$  with  $I = 1, \dots, 4$   
Fields and  $Q$ 's transform under global  $SU(4) \simeq SO(6)$  R symmetry
- Conformal:  $\beta$  function is zero for all 't Hooft couplings  $\lambda$

# Why lattice $\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM: Kähler–Dirac fermions

## What is special about $\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM

The 16 fermionic supercharges  $Q_{\alpha}^I$  and  $\overline{Q}_{\dot{\alpha}}^I$  of  $\mathcal{N} = 4$  SYM fill a Kähler–Dirac multiplet:

$$Q_{\alpha}^I, \overline{Q}_{\dot{\alpha}}^I \longrightarrow \mathcal{Q}, \mathcal{Q}_{\mu}, \mathcal{Q}_{\mu\nu}, \mathcal{Q}_{\mu\nu\rho}, \mathcal{Q}_{\mu\nu\rho\sigma}$$

↖ all totally anti-symmetric

In this notation there is a susy subalgebra  $\{\mathcal{Q}, \mathcal{Q}\} = 2\mathcal{Q}^2 = 0$

**This can be exactly preserved on the lattice**

Let's see how...

## Dijkstra, “Notes on Structured Programming”, 1970

A convincing demonstration of correctness being impossible as long as the mechanism is regarded as a black box, our only hope lies in not regarding the mechanism as a black box.

# Kähler–Dirac fermions from topological twisting

The Kähler–Dirac representation is related to the usual  $Q_\alpha^I, \bar{Q}_{\dot{\alpha}}^I$  by

$$\begin{pmatrix} Q_\alpha^1 & Q_\alpha^2 & Q_\alpha^3 & Q_\alpha^4 \\ \bar{Q}_{\dot{\alpha}}^1 & \bar{Q}_{\dot{\alpha}}^2 & \bar{Q}_{\dot{\alpha}}^3 & \bar{Q}_{\dot{\alpha}}^4 \end{pmatrix} = \mathcal{Q} + \gamma_\mu \mathcal{Q}_\mu + \gamma_\mu \gamma_\nu \mathcal{Q}_{\mu\nu} + \gamma_\mu \gamma_5 \mathcal{Q}_{\mu\nu\rho} + \gamma_5 \mathcal{Q}_{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} \\ \longrightarrow \mathcal{Q} + \gamma_a \mathcal{Q}_a + \gamma_a \gamma_b \mathcal{Q}_{ab} \\ \text{with } a, b = 1, \dots, 5$$

The  $4 \times 4$  matrix involves R symmetry transformations along each row and (euclidean) Lorentz transformations along each column

$\implies$  Kähler–Dirac components transform under “twisted rotation group”

$$\mathrm{SO}(4)_{tw} \equiv \mathrm{diag} \left[ \mathrm{SO}(4)_{\mathrm{euc}} \otimes \mathrm{SO}(4)_R \right]$$

$\uparrow$   
 only  $\mathrm{SO}(4)_R \subset \mathrm{SO}(6)_R$



## Twisted $\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM

$$\mathrm{SO}(4)_{tw} \equiv \mathrm{diag} \left[ \mathrm{SO}(4)_{\mathrm{euc}} \otimes \mathrm{SO}(4)_R \right]$$

- $Q, Q_\mu, Q_{\mu\nu}, \dots$  transform with **integer spin** – no longer spinors!
- Fermions decompose in the same way,  $\Psi^I \longrightarrow \{\eta, \psi_a, \chi_{ab}\}$
- Scalar fields transform as a four-vector  $B_\mu$  plus two scalars  $\phi, \bar{\phi}$   
Combine with  $A_\mu$  in complexified five-component gauge field

$$\mathcal{A}_a = A_a + iB_a = (A_\mu, \phi) + i(B_\mu, \bar{\phi}) \quad \text{and similarly for } \bar{\mathcal{A}}_a$$

Complexified gauge field  $\implies \mathrm{U}(N) = \mathrm{SU}(N) \otimes \mathrm{U}(1)$  gauge invariance

Irrelevant in the continuum, but will affect lattice calculations

# Twisted $\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM

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## Twisting is trustworthy

In flat space just a change of variables, no effect on physics

## If you're not yet convinced...

You can derive precisely the same lattice system

from orbifolding / dimensional deconstruction – cf. [arXiv:0903.4881](https://arxiv.org/abs/0903.4881)

# Five-component notation lets us move to the lattice

**Goal:** Preserve  $\mathcal{Q}$  supersymmetry on the lattice

①  $\mathcal{Q}^2 \cdot = 0$

②  $\mathcal{Q}$  directly interchanges bosonic  $\longleftrightarrow$  fermionic d.o.f.

Both conditions are easy to verify in five-component notation:

$$\mathcal{Q} \mathcal{U}_a = \psi_a$$

$$\mathcal{Q} \psi_a = 0$$

$$\mathcal{Q} \chi_{ab} = -\overline{\mathcal{F}}_{ab}$$

$$\mathcal{Q} \overline{\mathcal{U}}_a = 0$$

$$\mathcal{Q} \eta = d$$

$$\mathcal{Q} d = 0$$

- Gauge field  $\mathcal{U}_a$  and  $\psi_a$  live on links between lattice sites  
 $\mathcal{U}_a$  must be elements of algebra  $\mathfrak{gl}(N, \mathbb{C})$   
 $\implies$  Non-trivial to ensure  $\mathcal{U}_a \longrightarrow \mathbb{I} + \mathcal{A}_a$  in the continuum limit
- Field strength  $\overline{\mathcal{F}}_{ab}$  and  $\chi_{ab}$  live on diagonals of oriented faces
- Bosonic auxiliary field  $d$  and  $\eta$  live on sites  
Usual equation of motion:  $d = \overline{\mathcal{D}}_a \mathcal{U}_a$

# Five links in four dimensions: The $A_4^*$ lattice

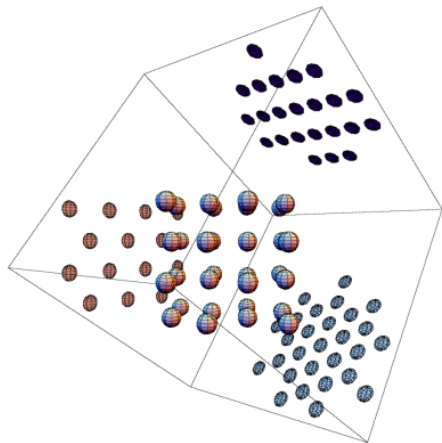
$A_a = (A_\mu, \phi)$  may remind you of dimensional reduction

On the lattice we need to treat all five  $\mathcal{U}_a$  symmetrically

—Start with hypercubic lattice  
in 5d momentum space

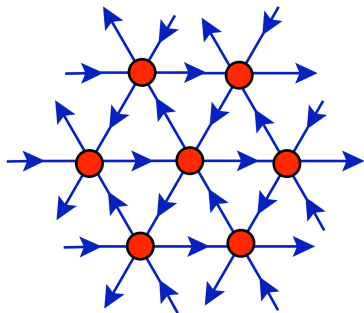
—**Symmetric** constraint  $\sum_a \partial_a = 0$   
projects to 4d momentum space

—Result is  $A_4$  lattice  
→ dual  $A_4^*$  lattice in real space



# Twisted $\text{SO}(4)$ symmetry on the $A_4^*$ lattice

- Can picture  $A_4^*$  lattice as 4d analog of 2d triangular lattice
- Five basis vectors are non-orthogonal and linearly dependent
- Preserves  $S_5$  point group symmetry



$S_5$  irreps precisely match onto irreps of twisted  $\text{SO}(4)_{tw}$

$$\mathbf{5} = \mathbf{4} \oplus \mathbf{1} : \quad \mathcal{U}_a \longrightarrow \mathcal{A}_\mu, \quad \phi$$

$$\psi_a \longrightarrow \psi_\mu, \quad \bar{\eta}$$

$$\mathbf{10} = \mathbf{6} \oplus \mathbf{4} : \quad \chi_{ab} \longrightarrow \chi_{\mu\nu}, \quad \bar{\psi}_\mu$$

# Checkpoint: What we have so far

Thanks to twisting &  $A_4^*$

we have a manifestly supersymmetric lattice action for  $\mathcal{N} = 4$  SYM

$$S = \frac{N}{2\lambda_{\text{lat}}} \mathcal{Q} \left( \chi_{ab} \mathcal{F}_{ab} + \eta \overline{\mathcal{D}}_a \mathcal{U}_a - \frac{1}{2} \eta d \right) - \frac{N}{8\lambda_{\text{lat}}} \epsilon_{abcde} \chi_{ab} \overline{\mathcal{D}}_c \chi_{de}$$

$\mathcal{Q}S = 0$  follows from  $\mathcal{Q}^2 \cdot = 0$  and **Bianchi identity**

- We have exact  $U(N)$  gauge invariance
- We exactly preserve  $\mathcal{Q}$ , one of 16 supersymmetries
- The  $S_5$  point group symmetry  
provides twisted R & Lorentz symmetry in the continuum limit

## Checkpoint: What we have so far

$$S = \frac{N}{2\lambda_{\text{lat}}} \mathcal{Q} \left( \chi_{ab} \mathcal{F}_{ab} + \eta \overline{\mathcal{D}}_a \mathcal{U}_a - \frac{1}{2} \eta d \right) - \frac{N}{8\lambda_{\text{lat}}} \epsilon_{abcde} \chi_{ab} \overline{\mathcal{D}}_c \chi_{de}$$

The high degree of symmetry has important consequences

- Moduli space preserved to all orders of lattice perturbation theory  
→ no scalar potential induced by radiative corrections
- $\beta$  function vanishes at one loop (at least)
- Real-space RG blocking transformations preserve  $\mathcal{Q}$  &  $S_5$
- Only one marginal tuning to recover  $\mathcal{Q}_a$  and  $\mathcal{Q}_{ab}$  in the continuum

The theory is **almost** suitable for practical numerical calculations. . .

# Stabilizing numerical calculations

We need to add two deformations to the  $\mathcal{Q}$ -invariant action

Both deal with features required by the supersymmetric construction

## Scalar potential to regulate flat directions

$\mathcal{U}_a$  in algebra  $\longrightarrow$  Add scalar potential  $\left(\frac{1}{N}\text{Tr} [\mathcal{U}_a \overline{\mathcal{U}}_a] - 1\right)^2$   
to ensure  $\mathcal{U}_a \longrightarrow \mathbb{I} + \mathcal{A}_a$  in the continuum limit

Otherwise  $\mathcal{U}_a$  can run away along flat directions

## Plaquette determinant to suppress U(1) sector of U(N)

$\mathcal{U}_a$  complexified  $\longrightarrow$  Add approximate SU(N) projection  $|\det \mathcal{P}_{ab} - 1|^2$   
where  $\mathcal{P}_{ab}$  is the product of four  $\mathcal{U}_a$  around the elementary plaquette

Otherwise encounter strong-coupling U(1) confinement transition



# Lattice action for $\mathcal{N} = 4$ numerical calculations

Applying  $\mathcal{Q}$ , integrating out  $d$  and adding the deformations, we have

$$\begin{aligned} S = & \frac{N}{2\lambda_{\text{lat}}} \left[ -\overline{\mathcal{F}}_{ab} \mathcal{F}_{ab} + \frac{1}{2} (\overline{\mathcal{D}}_a \mathcal{U}_a)^2 - \chi_{ab} \mathcal{D}_{[a} \psi_{b]} - \eta \overline{\mathcal{D}}_a \psi_a \right] \\ & - \frac{N}{8\lambda_{\text{lat}}} \epsilon_{abcde} \chi_{de} \overline{\mathcal{D}}_c \chi_{ab} \\ & + \frac{N}{2\lambda_{\text{lat}}} \mu^2 \left( \frac{1}{N} \text{Tr} [\mathcal{U}_a \overline{\mathcal{U}}_a] - 1 \right)^2 + \kappa |\det \mathcal{P}_{ab} - 1|^2 \end{aligned}$$

## Deformations introduce soft supersymmetry breaking

As written, both the  $\mu^2$  and  $\kappa$  terms softly break  $\mathcal{Q}$

**New development:** Either (maybe both) can be made  $\mathcal{Q}$ -invariant by modifying the equation of motion for  $d$

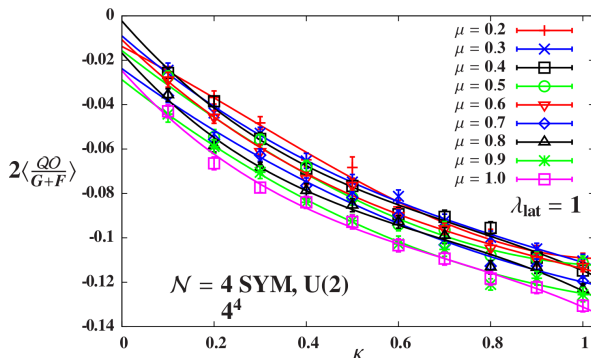
# Soft $\mathcal{Q}$ supersymmetry breaking

Exact preservation of  $\mathcal{Q}$  by the underlying formulation

$\implies$  all susy-violating operators automatically vanish as  $\mu, \kappa \longrightarrow 0$

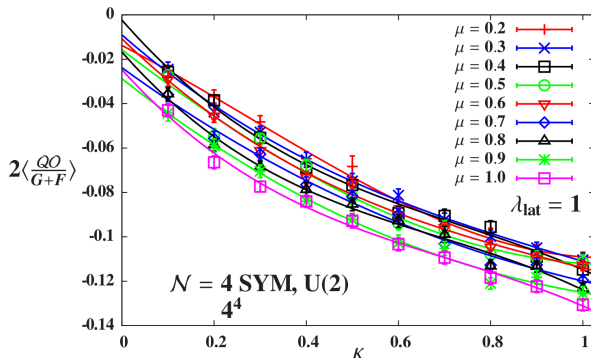
Use violations of (normalized) Ward identities  $\langle \mathcal{Q}\mathcal{O} \rangle = 0$

to monitor  $\mathcal{Q}$  breaking and restoration



# Soft $\mathcal{Q}$ supersymmetry breaking

Use normalized Ward identity violations to monitor  $\mathcal{Q}$  restoration

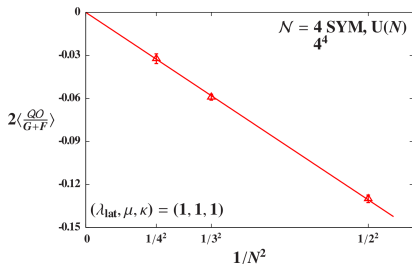
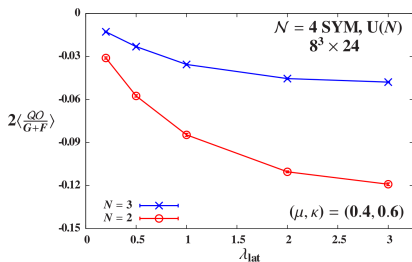


Relatively narrow band

$\Rightarrow$  more severe  $\mathcal{Q}$  breaking from plaquette determinant deformation  
than from scalar potential deformation

# Soft $\mathcal{Q}$ supersymmetry breaking

Use normalized Ward identity violations to monitor  $\mathcal{Q}$  restoration



Two more sanity tests with fixed non-zero  $\mu$  and  $\kappa$

- Ward identity violations vanish in free-field limit  $\lambda_{\text{lat}} \rightarrow 0$
- Ward identity violations suppressed  $\propto 1/N^2$  as  $N$  increases

Effects of soft  $\mathcal{Q}$ -breaking are under control, at the 1–10% level

Numerical calculations are practical

## Recap: Highlights of the formulation

- Topological twisting puts fields in convenient form
- $A_4^*$  lattice provides corresponding discretization
- Soft  $\mathcal{Q}$ -breaking deformations allow practical numerical studies

The construction is obviously very complicated

To reduce this barrier to entry,

we make our efficient parallel code publicly available

[github.com/daschaich/susy](https://github.com/daschaich/susy)

## Now for some physics results

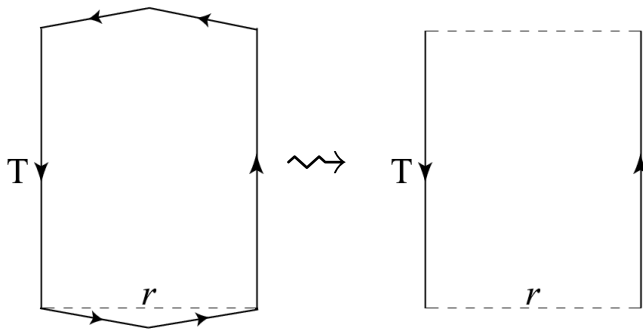
- Static potential from Wilson loops
- Konishi operator scaling dimension from Monte Carlo RG

# $\mathcal{N} = 4$ static potential from Wilson loops

Extract static potential  $V(r)$

from  $r \times T$  Wilson loops:  $W(r, T) \propto e^{-V(r) T}$

Coulomb gauge trick from lattice QCD reduces  $A_4^*$  lattice complications



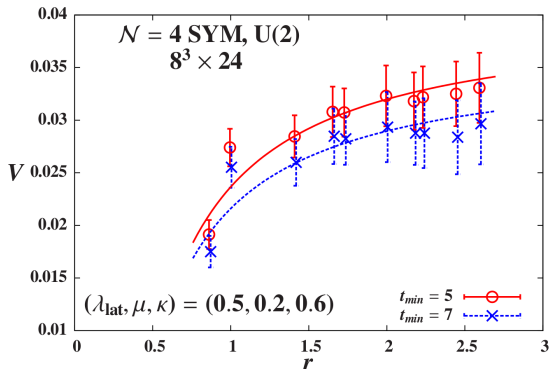
# Potential should be Coulombic at all couplings

Current results for  $V(r)$  from  $W(r, T) \propto e^{-V(r) T}$  are fairly noisy

Fit  $V(r)$  to Coulombic  
or confining form

$$V(r) = A - C/r$$

$$V(r) = A - C/r + \sigma r$$



Always find vanishing string tension  $\sigma = 0$

→  $V(r)$  is Coulombic for all  $\lambda$ , as expected

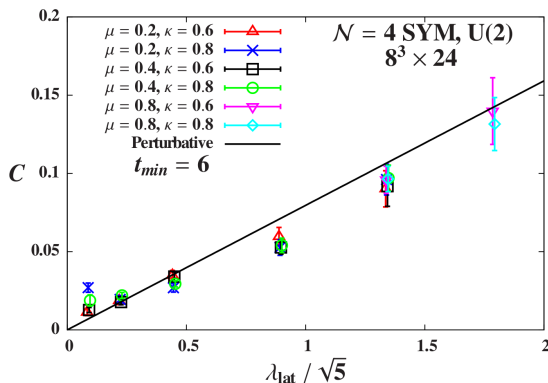
# Coupling dependence of $\mathcal{N} = 4$ static potential

We have a Coulombic potential  $V(r) = A - C/r$  for all  $\lambda$

Perturbation theory predicts

$$C(\lambda) = \lambda/(4\pi) + \mathcal{O}(\lambda^2)$$

Although noisy, for U(2)  
our results agree for  $\lambda \lesssim 2$   
(The  $\sqrt{5}$  comes from  $A_4^*$ )



No dependence on  $\mu$  or  $\kappa \longrightarrow$  apparently insensitive to soft  $\mathcal{Q}$  breaking



# Coulomb coefficients for larger $U(N)$

For  $N = 3$  we still have Coulombic  $V(r) = A - C/r$

Our results now deviate from (well-convergent) perturbation theory

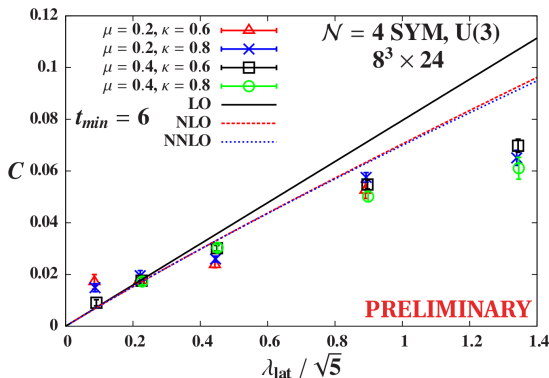
Are we seeing onset of expected large- $N$  strong-coupling behavior?

AdS/CFT predicts

$$C(\lambda) \propto \sqrt{\lambda}$$

for  $N \rightarrow \infty, \lambda \rightarrow \infty, \lambda \ll N$

In QCD,  $SU(3)$  is 'large  $N$ '  
for some quantities...



# Konishi operator scaling dimension

Recall  $\mathcal{N} = 4$  SYM is conformal

$\implies$  All correlation functions decay algebraically  $\propto r^{-\Delta}$

The Konishi operator is the simplest conformal primary operator

$$\mathcal{O}_K = \sum_I \text{Tr} [\Phi^I \Phi^I] \quad C_K(r) \equiv \mathcal{O}_K(x+r) \mathcal{O}_K(x) = A r^{-2\Delta_K}$$

There are many predictions for the scaling dim.  $\Delta_K(\lambda) = 2 + \gamma_K(\lambda)$

- From perturbation theory for small  $\lambda$ ,  
related to  $\lambda \rightarrow \infty$  by S duality under  $\frac{4\pi N}{\lambda} \longleftrightarrow \frac{\lambda}{4\pi N}$
- From holography for  $N \rightarrow \infty$  and  $\lambda \rightarrow \infty$  but  $\lambda \ll N$
- Bounds on  $\max \{\Delta_K\}$  from the conformal bootstrap program

We will add lattice gauge theory to this list

# Konishi operator on the lattice

$$\mathcal{O}_K = \sum_I \text{Tr} [\Phi^I \Phi^I]$$

On the lattice the scalars  $\Phi^I$  are twisted  
and wrapped up in the complexified gauge field  $\mathcal{U}_a$

Since  $\mathcal{U}_a \approx \mathbb{I} + \mathcal{A}_a$  the most obvious way to extract the scalars is

$$\hat{\varphi}^a = \mathcal{U}_a \bar{\mathcal{U}}_a - \frac{1}{N} \text{Tr} [\mathcal{U}_a \bar{\mathcal{U}}_a] \mathbb{I}$$

This is still twisted, so all  $\{a, b\}$  contribute to R-singlet Konishi

$$\hat{\mathcal{O}}_K = \sum_{a, b} \text{Tr} [\hat{\varphi}^a \hat{\varphi}^b]$$

# Small-volume lattice Konishi sanity test

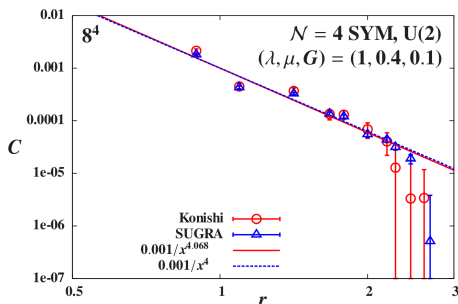
$$\mathcal{O}_K = \sum_I \text{Tr} [\Phi^I \Phi^I] \longrightarrow \hat{\mathcal{O}}_K = \sum_{a,b} \text{Tr} [\hat{\varphi}^a \hat{\varphi}^b]$$

$$\hat{\mathcal{C}}_K(r) \equiv \hat{\mathcal{O}}_K(x+r) \hat{\mathcal{O}}_K(x) \propto r^{-2\Delta_K}$$

Qualitative agreement with  
power laws using perturbative  $\Delta$

“SUGRA” operator is R-nonsinglet  
with protected  $\Delta_S = 2$

Need  $\mathcal{Q}$ -invariant  $SU(N)$  projection  
for test to pass on  $8^4$  lattice volume



Obviously not a stable way to determine  $\Delta_K$  — we have other tools

# Scaling dimensions from Monte Carlo RG

Couplings flow under RG blocking transformation  $R_b$

$n$ -times-blocked system is  $H^{(n)} = R_b H^{(n-1)} = \sum_i c_i^{(n)} \mathcal{O}_i^{(n)}$

Consider linear expansion around fixed point  $H^*$  with couplings  $c_i^*$

$$c_i^{(n)} - c_i^* = \sum_j \left. \frac{\partial c_i^{(n)}}{\partial c_j^{(n-1)}} \right|_{H^*} (c_j^{(n-1)} - c_j^*) \equiv \sum_j T_{ij}^* (c_j^{(n-1)} - c_j^*)$$

$T_{ij}^*$  is the “stability matrix”

Eigenvalues of  $T_{ij}^*$  are scaling dimensions of corresponding operators

# Initial Konishi $\Delta_K$ from Monte Carlo RG

Eigenvalues of  $T_{ij}^*$  are scaling dimensions of corresponding operators

Simplest possible trial:

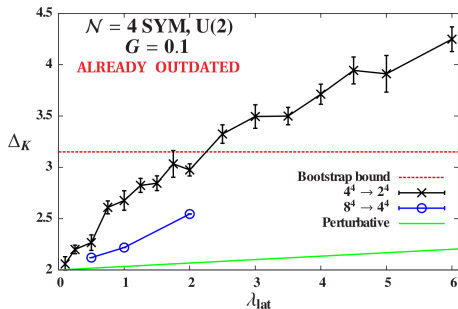
One operator ( $\hat{\mathcal{O}}_K$ )

One blocking  $n = 1$

Correctly find  $\Delta_K \rightarrow 2$  as  $\lambda \rightarrow 0$

Significant volume dependence

→ approach perturbation theory  
as  $L$  increases



Many refinements (and other approaches) currently in the works

# Recapitulation

- Lattice gauge theory provides a complementary approach to study strongly coupled supersymmetric field theories
- Lattice  $\mathcal{N} = 4$  SYM based on topological twisting
  - exactly preserves subset of susy algebra,  $Q^2 = 0$
  - Allows practical numerical calculations
- The construction is complicated
  - publicly-available code to reduce barriers to entry
- The static potential is always Coulombic
  - For  $N = 2$   $C(\lambda)$  is consistent with perturbation theory
  - For  $N = 3$  an intriguing discrepancy at stronger couplings
- Work is progressing to predict the Konishi scaling dimension
- There are many more directions to pursue in the future

# One future direction: Understanding the sign problem

In lattice gauge theory we compute operator expectation values

$$\langle \mathcal{O} \rangle = \frac{1}{\mathcal{Z}} \int [d\mathcal{U}][d\bar{\mathcal{U}}] \mathcal{O} e^{-S_B[\mathcal{U}, \bar{\mathcal{U}}]} \text{pf } \mathcal{D}[\mathcal{U}, \bar{\mathcal{U}}]$$

$\text{pf } \mathcal{D} = |\text{pf } \mathcal{D}| e^{i\alpha}$  is generically complex for lattice  $\mathcal{N} = 4$  SYM  
→ Complicates interpretation of  $[e^{-S_B} \text{pf } \mathcal{D}]$  as Boltzmann weight

Still possible to “reweight” “phase-quenched (pq)” calculations

$$\langle \mathcal{O} \rangle_{pq} = \frac{1}{\mathcal{Z}_{pq}} \int [d\mathcal{U}][d\bar{\mathcal{U}}] \mathcal{O} e^{-S_B[\mathcal{U}, \bar{\mathcal{U}}]} |\text{pf } \mathcal{D}| \quad \langle \mathcal{O} \rangle = \frac{\langle \mathcal{O} e^{i\alpha} \rangle_{pq}}{\langle e^{i\alpha} \rangle_{pq}}$$

**Sign problem:** This breaks down if  $\langle e^{i\alpha} \rangle_{pq}$  consistent with zero

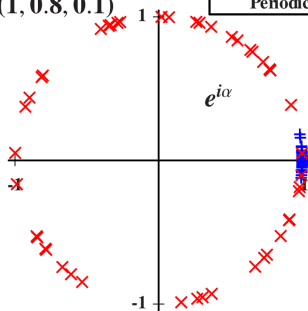


# Illustration of sign problem and its absence

- With **periodic temporal fermion boundary conditions** we have an obvious sign problem,  $\langle e^{i\alpha} \rangle_{pq}$  consistent with zero
- With **anti-periodic BCs** and all else the same  $\langle e^{i\alpha} \rangle_{pq} \approx 1$   
→ phase reweighting not even necessary

$\mathcal{N} = 4$  SYM,  $U(2)$   $3^3 \times 4$   
 $(\lambda, \mu, G) = (1, 0.8, 0.1)$

Anti-periodic BCs +  
Periodic BCs x



Even stranger

Other  $\langle \mathcal{O} \rangle_{pq}$  nearly identical  
despite sign problem...

Can this be understood?

# Numerical results for volume & $N$ dependence

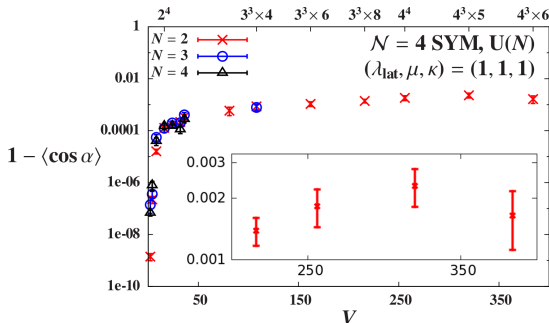
## No indication of a sign problem with anti-periodic BCs

- Pfaffian  $P = |P|e^{i\alpha}$  is nearly real and positive,  $1 - \langle \cos(\alpha) \rangle \ll 1$
- Fluctuations in pfaffian phase don't grow with the lattice volume
- Insensitive to number of colors  $N = 2, 3, 4$

## Hard calculations

Each  $4^3 \times 6$  measurement  
requires  $\sim 8$  days,  
 $\sim 10$ GB memory

Parallel  $\mathcal{O}(n^3)$  algorithm



# Thank you!

# Thank you!

## Collaborators

Simon Catterall, Poul Damgaard, Tom DeGrand and Joel Giedt

## Funding and computing resources



## Backup: Failure of Leibnitz rule on lattice

Given that  $\left\{ Q_\alpha, \overline{Q}_{\dot{\alpha}} \right\} = 2\sigma_{\alpha\dot{\alpha}}^\mu P_\mu = 2i\sigma_{\alpha\dot{\alpha}}^\mu \partial_\mu$  is problematic,  
why not try  $\left\{ Q_\alpha, \overline{Q}_{\dot{\alpha}} \right\} = 2i\sigma_{\alpha\dot{\alpha}}^\mu \nabla_\mu$  for a discrete translation?

Here  $\nabla_\mu \phi(x) = \frac{1}{a} [\phi(x + a\hat{\mu}) - \phi(x)] = \partial_\mu \phi(x) + \frac{a}{2} \partial_\mu^2 \phi(x) + \mathcal{O}(a^2)$

Essential difference between  $\partial_\mu$  and  $\nabla_\mu$  on the lattice ( $a > 0$ )

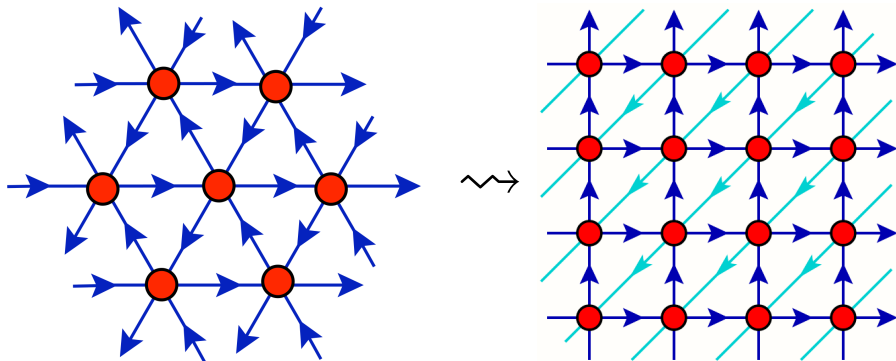
$$\begin{aligned} \nabla_\mu [\phi(x)\chi(x)] &= a^{-1} [\phi(x + a\hat{\mu})\chi(x + a\hat{\mu}) - \phi(x)\chi(x)] \\ &= \nabla_\mu [\phi(x)] \chi(x) + \phi(x) \nabla_\mu \chi(x) + a \nabla_\mu [\phi(x)] \nabla_\mu \chi(x) \end{aligned}$$

We only recover the Leibnitz rule  $\partial_\mu(fg) = \partial_\mu(f)g + f\partial_\mu g$  when  $a \rightarrow 0$   
 $\implies$  “Discrete supersymmetry” breaks down on the lattice

(Dondi & Nicolai, “Lattice Supersymmetry”, 1977)

# Backup: Hypercubic basis for $A_4^*$ lattice

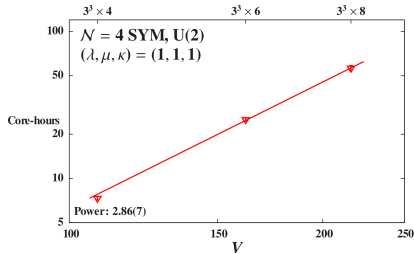
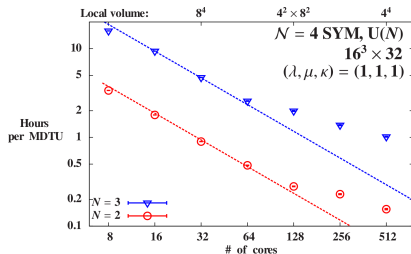
It is very convenient to represent the  $A_4^*$  lattice  
as a hypercube with a backwards diagonal



# Backup: Code performance—weak and strong scaling

**Left:** Strong scaling for U(2) and U(3)  $16^3 \times 32$  RHMC

**Right:** Weak scaling for  $\mathcal{O}(N_\psi^3)$  pfaffian calculation (fixed local volume)

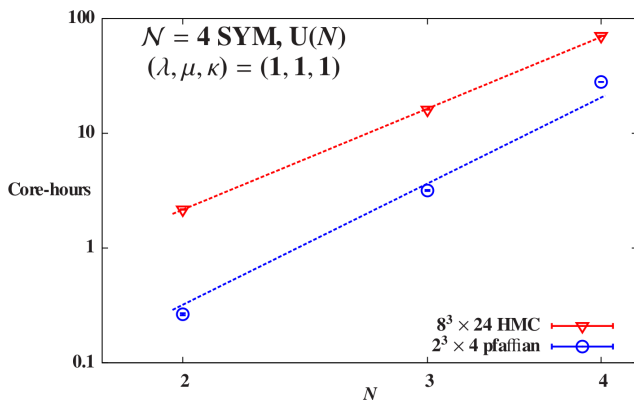


Both plots on log–log axes with power-law fits

## Backup: Code performance for 2, 3 and 4 colors

**Red:** Find RHMC costs scaling  $\sim N^5$  (recall  $16N^2$  fermion components)

**Blue:** Pfaffian costs consistent with expected  $N^6$  scaling

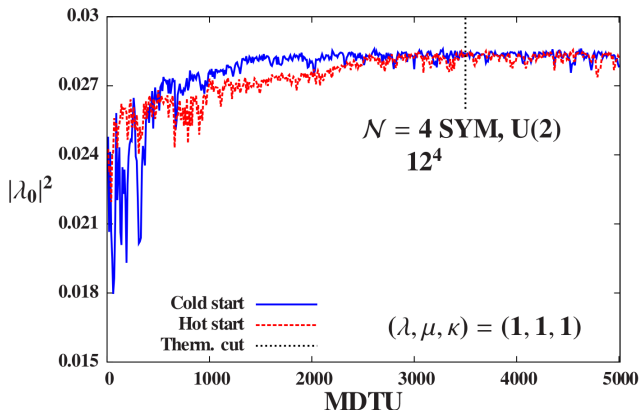




## Backup: Thermalization

Thermalization becomes increasingly painful as  $N$  and  $L$  increase

Example: Evolution of smallest  $\mathcal{D}^\dagger \mathcal{D}$  eigenvalue  $|\lambda_0|^2$



Shouldn't be too hard to address this with better initial configuration

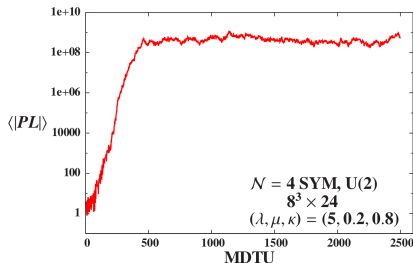
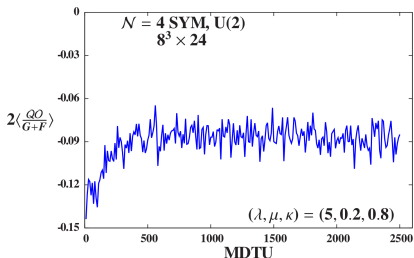
# Backup: The problem with flat directions

Gauge fields can move far away from  $\mathcal{U}_a \longrightarrow \mathbb{I} + \mathcal{A}_a$   
if  $N\mu/(2\lambda_{\text{lat}})$  becomes too small

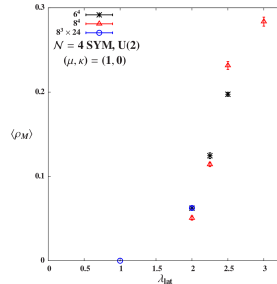
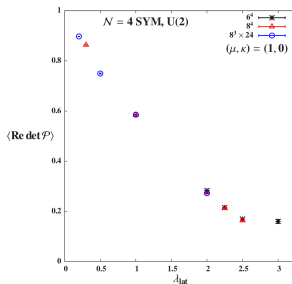
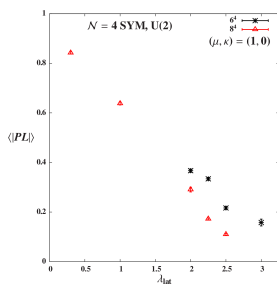
Example for two-color  $(\lambda_{\text{lat}}, \mu, \kappa) = (5, 0.2, 0.8)$  on  $8^3 \times 24$  volume

**Left:** Ward identity violations are stable at  $\sim 10\%$  level

**Right:** Polyakov loop wanders off to  $\sim 10^9$



# Backup: Lattice phase due to U(1) sector



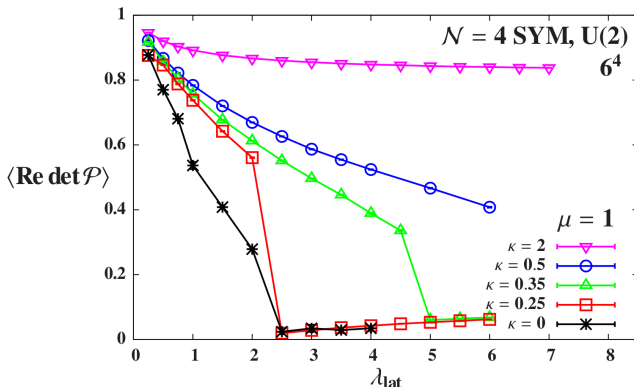
- 1 Polyakov loop collapses  $\implies$  confining phase  
(**not** present in continuum  $\mathcal{N} = 4$  SYM)
- 2 Plaquette determinant is variable in U(1) sector  
Drops at same coupling  $\lambda$  as Polyakov loop
- 3  $\rho_M$  is density of U(1) monopole world lines (DeGrand & Toussaint)  
Non-zero when Polyakov loop and plaq. determinant collapse

# Backup: Suppressing the U(1) sector

$\Delta S = \kappa |\det \mathcal{P} - 1|^2$  suppresses the strongly-coupled lattice phase

Produces  $2\kappa F_{\mu\nu} F^{\mu\nu}$  term in U(1) sector

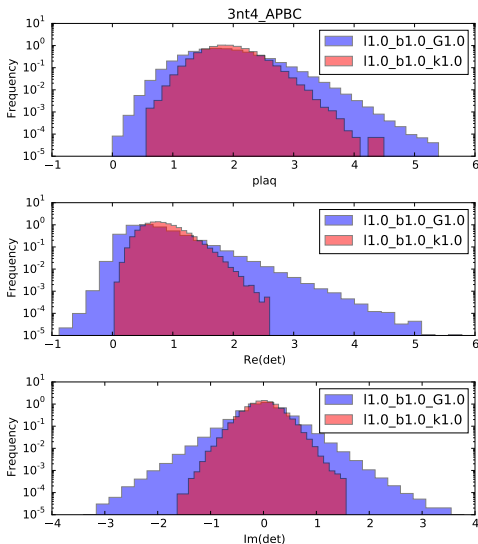
$\implies$  QED critical  $\beta_c = 0.99 \longrightarrow$  critical  $\kappa_c \approx 0.5$



# Backup: Plaquette and determinant distributions

Price of  $Q$ -invariant  
determinant deformation:

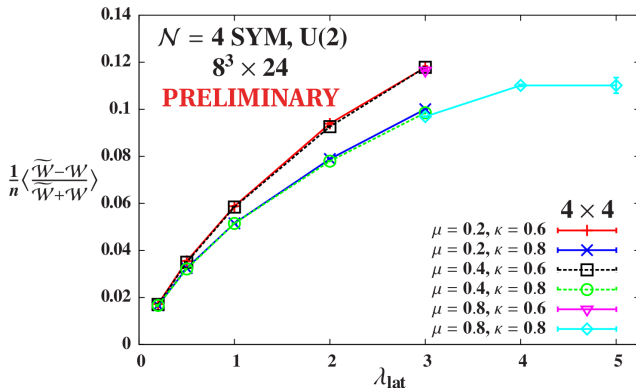
Distributions tend to  
broaden out, at least for  
parameters currently in use



# Backup: Restoration of $\mathcal{Q}_a$ and $\mathcal{Q}_{ab}$ supersymmetries

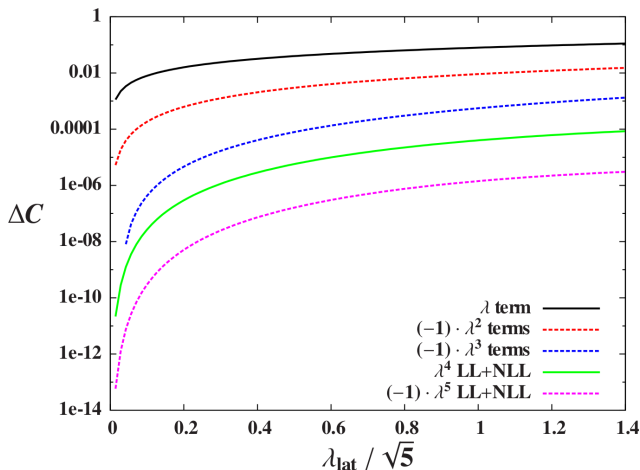
Restoration of the other 15  $\mathcal{Q}_a$  and  $\mathcal{Q}_{ab}$  in the continuum limit follows from restoration of R symmetries (motivation for  $A_4^*$  lattice)

Modified Wilson loops test R symmetries at non-zero lattice spacing



# Backup: Perturbation theory for Coulomb coefficient

For range of  $\lambda_{\text{lat}}$  currently being studied, the perturbative series for the U(3) Coulomb coefficient appears well convergent

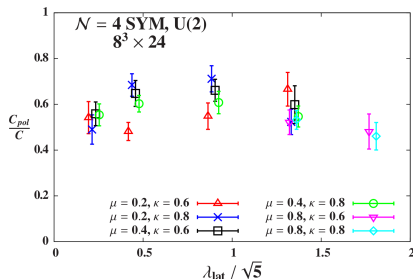
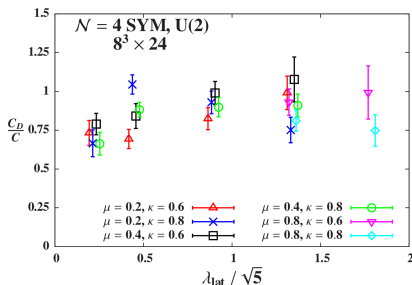


# Backup: More tests of the U(2) static potential

**Left:** Projecting Wilson loops from U(2)  $\longrightarrow$  SU(2)

$$\implies \text{factor of } \frac{N^2-1}{N^2} = 3/4$$

**Right:** Unitarizing links removes scalars  $\implies$  factor of  $1/2$



Both expected factors present, although (again) noisily

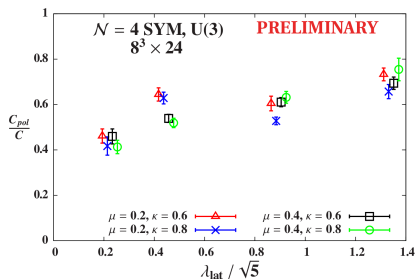
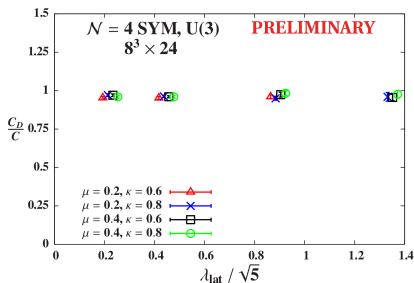


# Backup: More tests of the U(3) static potential

**Left:** Projecting Wilson loops from U(3)  $\longrightarrow$  SU(3)

$$\implies \text{factor of } \frac{N^2-1}{N^2} = 8/9$$

**Right:** Unitarizing links removes scalars  $\implies$  factor of 1/2



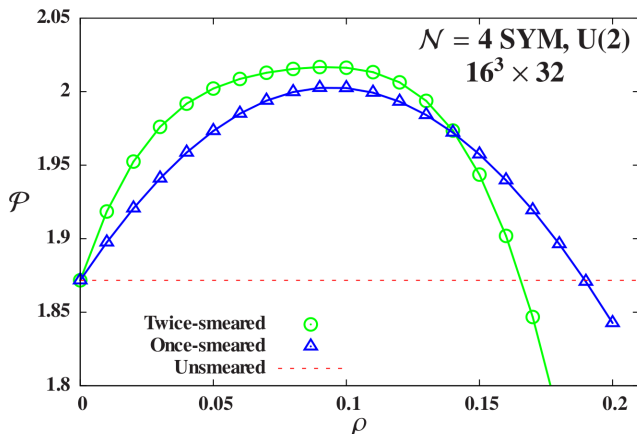
Ratios look slightly higher than expected,  
less noise in SU(3)-projected results

# Backup: Smearing for noise reduction

Smearing may reduce noise in static potential (etc.) measurements

—Stout smearing implemented and tested

—APE or HYP (without unitary projection) may work better for Konishi



## Backup: Pfaffian phase dependence on $\lambda_{\text{lat}}$ , $\mu$ , $\kappa$

We observe little dependence on  $\kappa$

Fluctuations in phase grow as  $\lambda_{\text{lat}}$  increases

