

# The gradient flow in simple field theories

Christopher Monahan



# Operator mixing on the lattice

Rotational symmetry broken on the lattice to (hyper)cubic symmetry

1. operators **mix under renormalisation** on the lattice
2. **power divergent mixing** between operators with different dimension

For example: **twist expansion of parton distribution functions** (PDFs)

# Twist expansion

PDFs capture longitudinal momentum structure of nucleon constituents

- defined on the light cone: not accessible on a Euclidean lattice
- Mellin moments  $\Leftrightarrow$  matrix elements of “twist” (dim. - spin) operators

Twist operators organised in powers of momentum transfer (squared)

- twist-2 operators dominate in Bjorken limit
- mix with power-divergent coefficients

Limits lattice calculations to first four moments

Detmold et al, EPJ C3 (2001) 1  
Detmold et al, MPLA 18 (2003) 2681

# Operator mixing on the lattice

Simple perturbative example (4D  $\phi^4$  scalar field theory)

- continuum

$$\langle \Omega | \phi^2(0) \cdot \phi(0) \partial_\mu \partial_\nu \phi(0) | \Omega \rangle = 0$$

- lattice

$$\langle \Omega | \phi^2(0) \cdot \phi(0) \nabla_\mu \nabla_\nu \phi(0) | \Omega \rangle = -\frac{\delta_{\mu\nu}}{48a^2} + \dots$$

# Smearing

**Smearing** partially restores rotational symmetry - reduces operator mixing...

e.g. Davoudi & Savage, PRD 86 (2012) 054505

# Gradient flow

Narayanan & Neuberger, JHEP 0603 (2006) 064

Lüscher, CMP 293 (2010) 899

Lüscher & Weisz, JHEP 1102 (2011) 51

## Gradient flow

- deterministic field evolution in “flow time” toward classical minimum
- renormalised boundary theory requires no further renormalisation

## Particularly simple in scalar field theories

- ideal testing ground

no gauge-fixing complications

no fermionic complications

$\varphi^4$  theory has no flow interactions

2D O(3) model still asymptotically free

Makino & Suzuki, PTEP (2015) 033B08

Makino *et al.*, PTEP (2015) 043B07

Aoki *et al.*, JHEP 1504 (2015) 156

See also Marco Garofalo’s poster and  
Susanne Ehret’s talk at this conference

## Gradient flow in $\varphi^4$ scalar field theory

$$\frac{\partial \phi(\tau, x)}{\partial \tau} = \partial^2 \phi(\tau, x) \quad \phi(\tau = 0, x) = \phi(x)$$

### Exact solution possible

- 2D

$$\phi(\tau, x) = \frac{1}{4\pi\tau} \int d^2 y e^{-(x-y)^2/4\tau} \phi(y)$$

- 4D

$$\phi(\tau, x) = \frac{1}{16\pi^2\tau^2} \int d^4 y e^{-(x-y)^2/4\tau} \phi(y)$$

All interactions occur on the boundary, *i.e.* at zero flow time

Makino & Suzuki, PTEP (2015) 033B08

Makino *et al.*, PTEP (2015) 043B07

Aoki *et al.*, JHEP 1504 (2015) 156

Kikuchi & Onogi, JHEP 1411 (2014) 094

## Gradient flow in 2D O(3) model

$$\frac{\partial n^i(\tau, x)}{\partial \tau} = [\delta^{ij} - n^i(\tau, x)n^j(\tau, x)] \partial^2 n^j(\tau, x)$$

$$n^i(\tau = 0, x) = n^i(x)$$

$$n^i(\tau, x) = \pi^i(\tau, x) \quad \text{for } i = 1, 2 \quad n^3(\tau, x) = \sqrt{1 - \pi^i(\tau, x)\pi^i(\tau, x)}$$

Exact solution no longer possible: generate iterative tree-level expansion

$$n^i(\tau, x) = \int d^2 y \int \frac{d^2 p}{(2\pi)^2} e^{ip \cdot (x-y)} \left[ e^{-\tau p^2} n^i(y) - \int_0^\tau ds e^{-sp^2} R^i(s, y) \right]$$

$$R^i(s, y) = n^i(s, y)n^j(s, x)\partial^2 n^j(s, x)$$

Interactions occur in the bulk, *i.e.* at non-zero flow time, but no closed loops

See also Sinya Aoki's and Kengo Kikuchi's talks at this conference



# Operator mixing on the lattice

Simple perturbative example (4D  $\phi^4$  scalar field theory)

- continuum

$$\langle \Omega | \phi^2(0) \cdot \phi(0) \partial_\mu \partial_\nu \phi(0) | \Omega \rangle = 0$$

- lattice

$$\langle \Omega | \phi^2(0) \cdot \phi(0) \nabla_\mu \nabla_\nu \phi(0) | \Omega \rangle = -\frac{\delta_{\mu\nu}}{48a^2} + \dots$$

- smeared via gradient flow

$$\langle \Omega | \phi^2(\tau, 0) \cdot \phi(\tau, 0) \nabla_\mu \nabla_\nu \phi(\tau, 0) | \Omega \rangle = \delta_{\mu\nu} \frac{e^{-4\pi^2\tau/a^2} - 1}{256\pi^2\tau} + \dots$$

## Simple perturbative example (2D O(3) model)

- continuum

$$\langle \Omega | \pi^2(0) \cdot \pi(0) \partial^2 \partial_\mu \partial_\nu \pi(0) | \Omega \rangle = 0$$

- lattice

$$\langle \Omega | \pi^2(0) \cdot \pi(0) \nabla^2 \nabla_\mu \nabla_\nu \pi(0) | \Omega \rangle = \delta_{\mu\nu} \frac{\pi}{8a} + \dots$$

- smeared via gradient flow

$$\langle \Omega | \pi^2(\tau, 0) \cdot \pi(\tau, 0) \nabla^2 \nabla_\mu \nabla_\nu \pi(\tau, 0) | \Omega \rangle = \delta_{\mu\nu} \frac{1 - e^{-4\pi^2\tau/a^2}}{32\pi\tau} + \dots$$

# Smearred operator product expansion

Replace local operators with “smearred” operator basis

CJM & Orginos, PRD (2015) 033B08

- constructed from fields at fixed physical flow time
- nonperturbative matrix elements and perturbative coefficients
  - flow time
  - renormalisation scale
- reproduces leading space-time behaviour of OPE
- choose flow times in suitable window
  - large enough to damp ultraviolet fluctuations
  - small enough not to distort hadronic physics
- for small flow times, one can construct renormalisation group equations
  - relate low energy hadronic matrix elements to high energy coefficients

# Example calculation: perturbative coefficients

Simple example (4D  $\varphi^4$  scalar field theory):

- Wilson's operator product expansion

$$\phi(x)\phi(0) = \frac{c_{\mathbb{I}}}{4\pi x^2} \mathbb{I} + c_{\phi^2} \phi^2(0) + c_{\partial_\mu} x^\mu \partial_\mu \phi^2(0) + \dots$$

- smeared operator product expansion

$$\phi(x)\phi(0) = \frac{d_{\mathbb{I}}}{4\pi x^2} \mathbb{I} + d_{\phi^2} \phi^2(\tau, 0) + d_{\partial_\mu} x^\mu \partial_\mu \phi^2(\tau, 0) + \dots$$

Recall our simple example

$$\phi(x)\phi(0) = \frac{d_{\mathbb{I}}}{4\pi x^2} \mathbb{I} + d_{\phi^2} \phi^2(\tau, 0) + d_{\partial_\mu} x^\mu \partial_\mu \phi^2(\tau, 0) + \dots$$

Leading disconnected coefficient

$$d_{\mathbb{I}}(x^2/\tau) = 4\pi^2 x^2 \left\{ \langle \Omega | \phi(x)\phi(0) | \Omega \rangle - \langle \Omega | \phi^2(\tau, 0) | \Omega \rangle \right\}_{\mathcal{O}(m^2)}$$

Or, graphically: at one loop



$$d_{\mathbb{I}}(x^2/\tau) = 4\pi^2 x^2 \left\{ \int \frac{d^4 k}{(2\pi)^4} \frac{e^{ik \cdot x} - e^{-2k^2 \tau}}{k^2 + m^2} \right\}_{\mathcal{O}(m^2)} = 1 - \frac{x^2}{8\tau} + \frac{m^2 x^2}{4} \left[ \gamma_E - 1 + \log \left( \frac{x^2}{8\tau} \right) \right]$$

Note that 
$$c_{\mathbb{I}}^{\overline{MS}}(\mu^2 x^2) = 1 + \frac{m^2 x^2}{4} \left[ 1 + 2\gamma_E + \log \left( \frac{\mu^2 x^2}{16} \right) \right]$$

At two loops  $d_{\mathbb{I}}(x^2/\tau) = 4\pi^2 x^2 \left\{ \langle \Omega | \phi(x) \phi(0) | \Omega \rangle - \langle \Omega | \phi^2(\tau, 0) | \Omega \rangle \right\}_{\mathcal{O}(m^2)}$



$$d_{\mathbb{I}}(x^2/\tau, \mu^2 x^2) = 4\pi^2 x^2 \left\{ \int \frac{d^4 k_1}{(2\pi)^4} \frac{e^{ik_1 \cdot x} - e^{-k_1^2 \tau}}{k_1^2 + m^2} \left[ 1 - \frac{\lambda}{2} \int \frac{d^4 k_2}{(2\pi)^4} \frac{1}{k_2^2 + m^2} \right] \right\}_{\mathcal{O}(m^2)}$$

$$= 1 - \frac{x^2}{8\tau} + \frac{m_{\text{R}}^2 x^2}{4} \left[ \gamma_{\text{E}} - 1 + \log \left( \frac{x^2}{8\tau} \right) \right]$$

Renormalised boundary theory remains renormalised at non-zero flow time

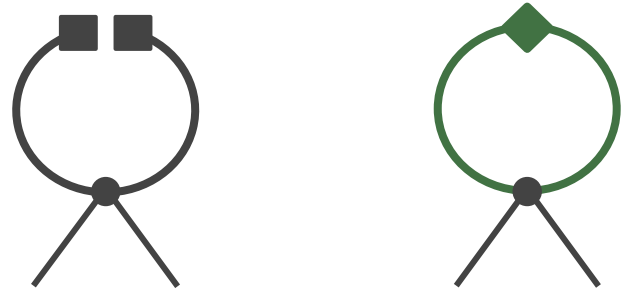
Recall our simple example

$$\phi(x)\phi(0) = \frac{d_{\mathbb{I}}}{4\pi x^2} \mathbb{I} + d_{\phi^2} \phi^2(\tau, 0) + d_{\partial_\mu} x^\mu \partial_\mu \phi^2(\tau, 0) + \dots$$

Leading connected coefficient

$$d_{\phi^2}(x^2/\tau) = \left\{ \langle \Omega | \phi(x)\phi(0) \tilde{\phi}(p_1) \tilde{\phi}(p_2) | \Omega \rangle - \langle \Omega | \phi^2(\tau, 0) \tilde{\phi}(p_1) \tilde{\phi}(p_2) | \Omega \rangle \right\}_{\mathcal{O}(m^0)}$$

Or, graphically: at one loop



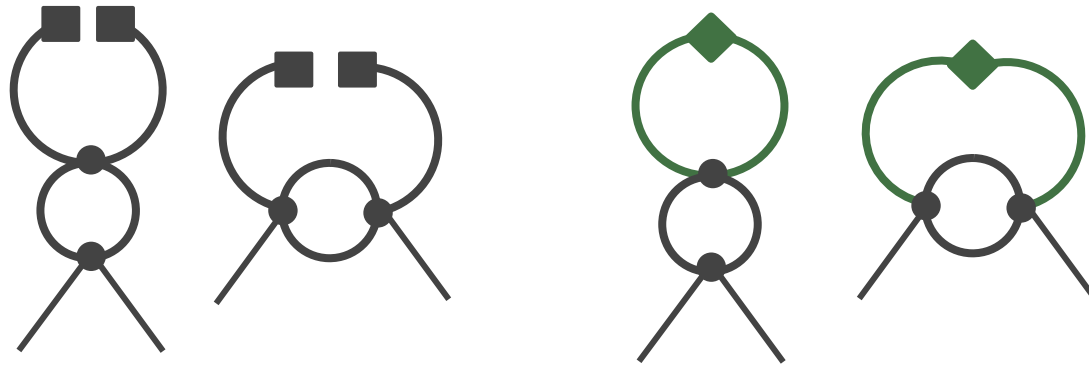
$$d_{\phi^2}(x^2/\tau) = \frac{1}{(p_1^2 + m^2)(p_2^2 + m^2)} \left\{ 1 - \frac{\lambda}{2} \int \frac{d^4 k}{(2\pi)^4} \frac{e^{ik \cdot x} - e^{-(k^2 + (k-p_1-p_2)^2)\tau}}{(k^2 + m^2)((k-p_1-p_2)^2 + m^2)} \right\}_{\mathcal{O}(m^0)}$$

$$= 1 + \frac{\lambda}{32\pi^2} \left[ \gamma_E - 1 + \log \left( \frac{x^2}{8\tau} \right) \right]$$

Note that  $d_{\phi^2} \langle \Omega | \phi^2(\tau, 0) \tilde{\phi}(p_1) \tilde{\phi}(p_2) | \Omega \rangle = 1 + \frac{\lambda}{32\pi^2} \left[ 2\gamma_E + \log \left( \frac{m^2 x^2}{4} \right) \right]$

At two loops

$$d_{\phi^2}(x^2/\tau) = \left\{ \langle \Omega | \phi(x) \phi(0) \tilde{\phi}(p_1) \tilde{\phi}(p_2) | \Omega \rangle - \langle \Omega | \phi^2(\tau, 0) \tilde{\phi}(p_1) \tilde{\phi}(p_2) | \Omega \rangle \right\}_{\mathcal{O}(m^0)}$$



Leading to

$$d_{\phi^2}(x^2/\tau, \mu^2 x^2) = 1 + \frac{\lambda_R}{32\pi^2} \left[ \gamma_E - 1 + \log \left( \frac{x^2}{8\tau} \right) \right]$$

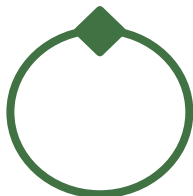
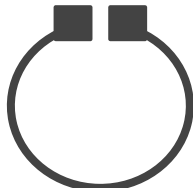
Renormalised boundary theory remains renormalised at non-zero flow time



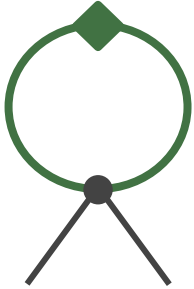
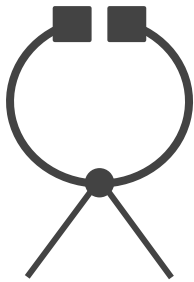
Consider

$$\pi(x)\pi(0) = \frac{b_{\mathbb{I}}}{4\pi} \mathbb{I} + b_{\pi^2} \pi^2(\tau, 0) + b_{\partial_\mu} x^\mu \partial_\mu \pi^2(\tau, 0) + \dots$$

One loop calculations (almost) as straightforward as 4D  $\varphi^4$  scalar field theory



$$b_{\mathbb{I}}(x^2/\tau) = -g_0^2 \delta^{ij} \left[ \gamma_E + \log \left( \frac{x^2}{8\tau} \right) \right]$$



$$b_{\pi^2}(x^2/\tau) = 1 - \frac{g_0^2}{4\pi} \delta^{ik} \delta^{jl} \left[ \gamma_E + \log \left( \frac{x^2}{8\tau} \right) \right]$$

Consider

$$\pi(x)\pi(0) = \frac{b_{\mathbb{I}}}{4\pi} \mathbb{I} + b_{\pi^2} \pi^2(\tau, 0) + b_{\partial_\mu x^\mu} \partial_\mu \pi^2(\tau, 0) + \dots$$

One loop calculations (almost) as straightforward as 4D  $\varphi^4$  scalar field theory

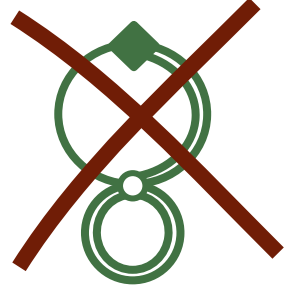
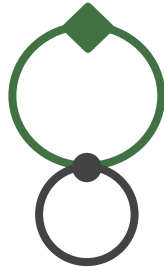
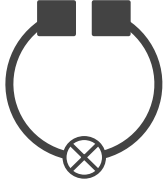
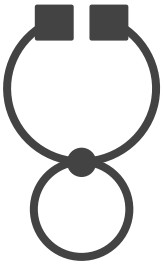


Two loops - interactions complicate the picture

1. quantum interactions

2. tree interactions

but still no flow loops



Consider

$$\pi(x)\pi(0) = \frac{b_{\mathbb{I}}}{4\pi} \mathbb{I} + b_{\pi^2} \pi^2(\tau, 0) + b_{\partial_\mu} x^\mu \partial_\mu \pi^2(\tau, 0) + \dots$$

One loop calculations (almost) as straightforward as 4D  $\phi^4$  scalar field theory



Two loops - interactions complicate the picture

- 1. quantum interactions
  - 2. tree interactions
- but still no flow loops

- all divergences can be absorbed by original renormalisation parameters

# Example calculation: renormalisation group equations

Renormalisation group equation (4D  $\phi^4$  scalar field theory):

$$\mu \frac{d}{d\mu} \rightarrow \mu \frac{d}{d\mu} - 2\tau \frac{d}{d\tau}$$

For sufficiently small flow times

$$[\phi^2(0)]_{\text{R}} = \mathcal{Z}_{\phi^2}(\tau, \mu) \phi^2(\tau, 0) \quad \mu \frac{d}{d\mu} \log [\mathcal{Z}_{\phi^2}(\tau, \mu^2)] = 2\gamma_m$$

Perturbative coefficient obeys

$$\left[ \mu \frac{d}{d\mu} - 2\tau \frac{d}{d\tau} + 2(\zeta_{\phi^2} - \gamma) \right] d_{\phi^2} = 0 \quad \zeta_{\phi^2} = \tau \frac{d}{d\tau} \log [\mathcal{Z}_{\phi^2}(\tau, \mu^2)]$$

Corresponding nonperturbative matrix elements satisfy

$$\left[ \mu \frac{d}{d\mu} - 2\tau \frac{d}{d\tau} + 2(\zeta_{\phi^2} + \gamma) \right] \langle \Omega | \phi^2(\tau, 0) \tilde{\phi}(p_1) \tilde{\phi}(p_2) | \Omega \rangle = 0$$

Following a line of constant physics

$$\left[ \mu \frac{d}{d\mu} + \zeta_{\phi^2} + \gamma \right] \langle \Omega | \phi^2(1/\mu^2, 0) \tilde{\phi}(p_1) \tilde{\phi}(p_2) | \Omega \rangle = 0$$

# Perturbation theory and nonperturbative results

In theory, there is no difference between <sup>perturbation</sup> theory and <sup>nonperturbative</sup> practice;  
in practice, there is.

Savitch, 1984

# (A very few) Nonperturbative results

## Nonperturbative calculation in 2D $\phi^4$ scalar field theory

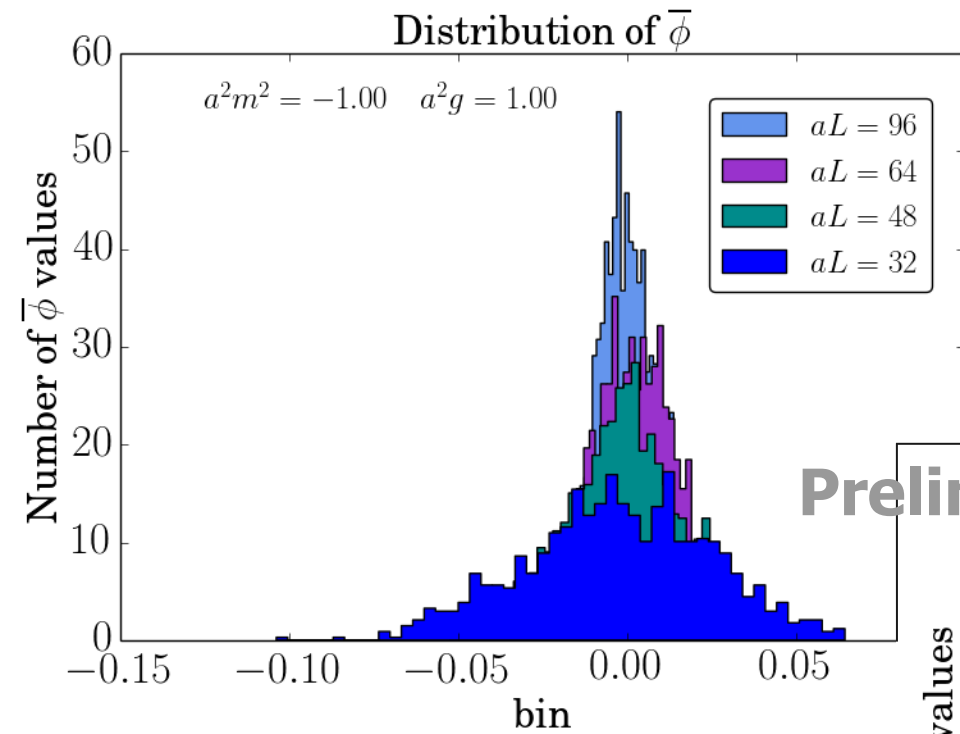
- implemented in C++
- experimented with 3 update algorithms and different combinations
  - Metropolis
  - microcanonical
  - embedded Wolff cluster

Morningstar (2007) hep-lat/0702020

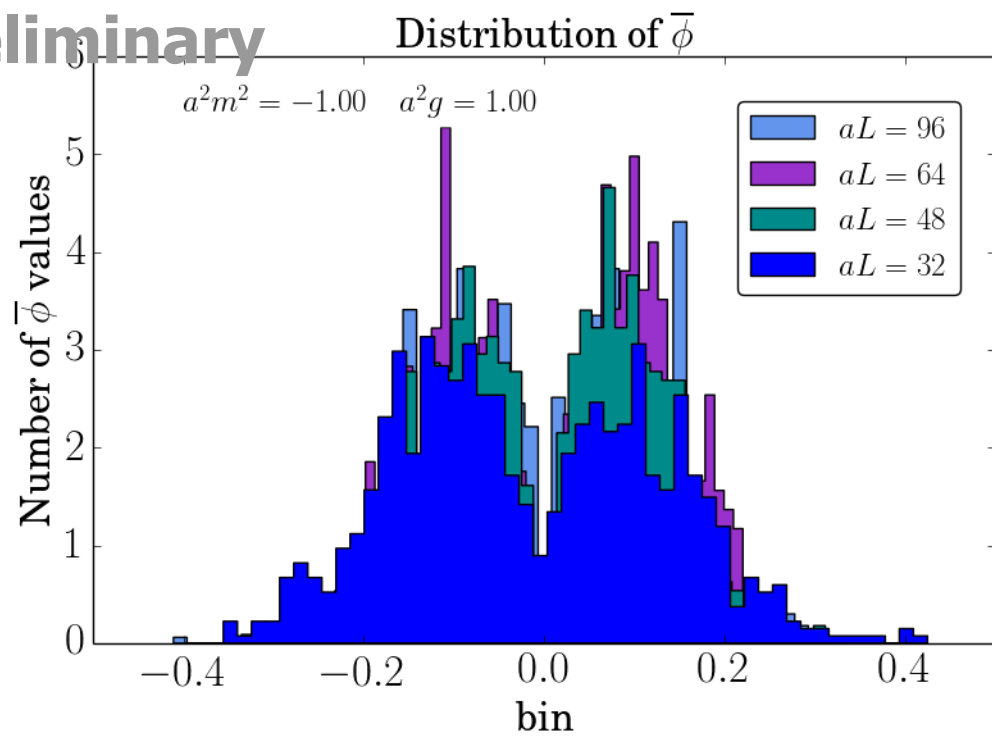
Wolff, PRL 62 (1989) 361

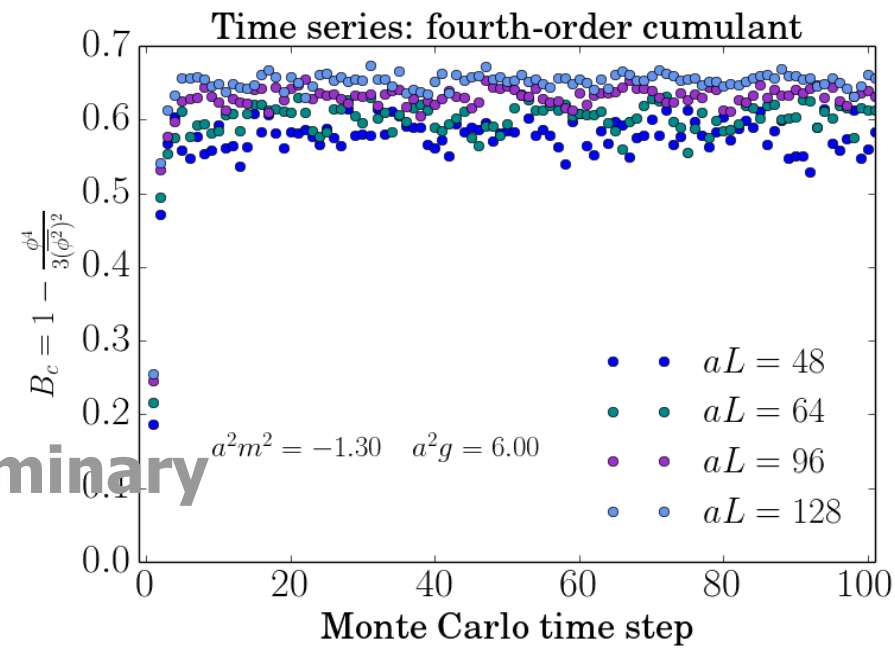
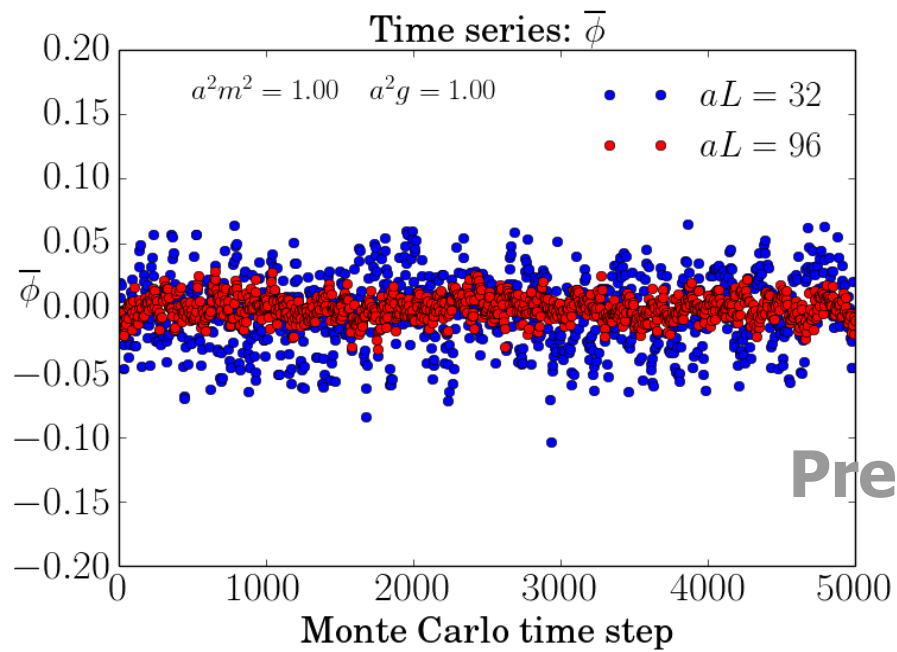
and might implement multigrid method for fun

- currently running on scalar processor
  - few seconds to tens of minutes for  $L = 16, \dots, 192$  for configurations
  - measurements < few seconds
- primarily a dry-run test case for 2D  $O(3)$  model (code exists)



Preliminary



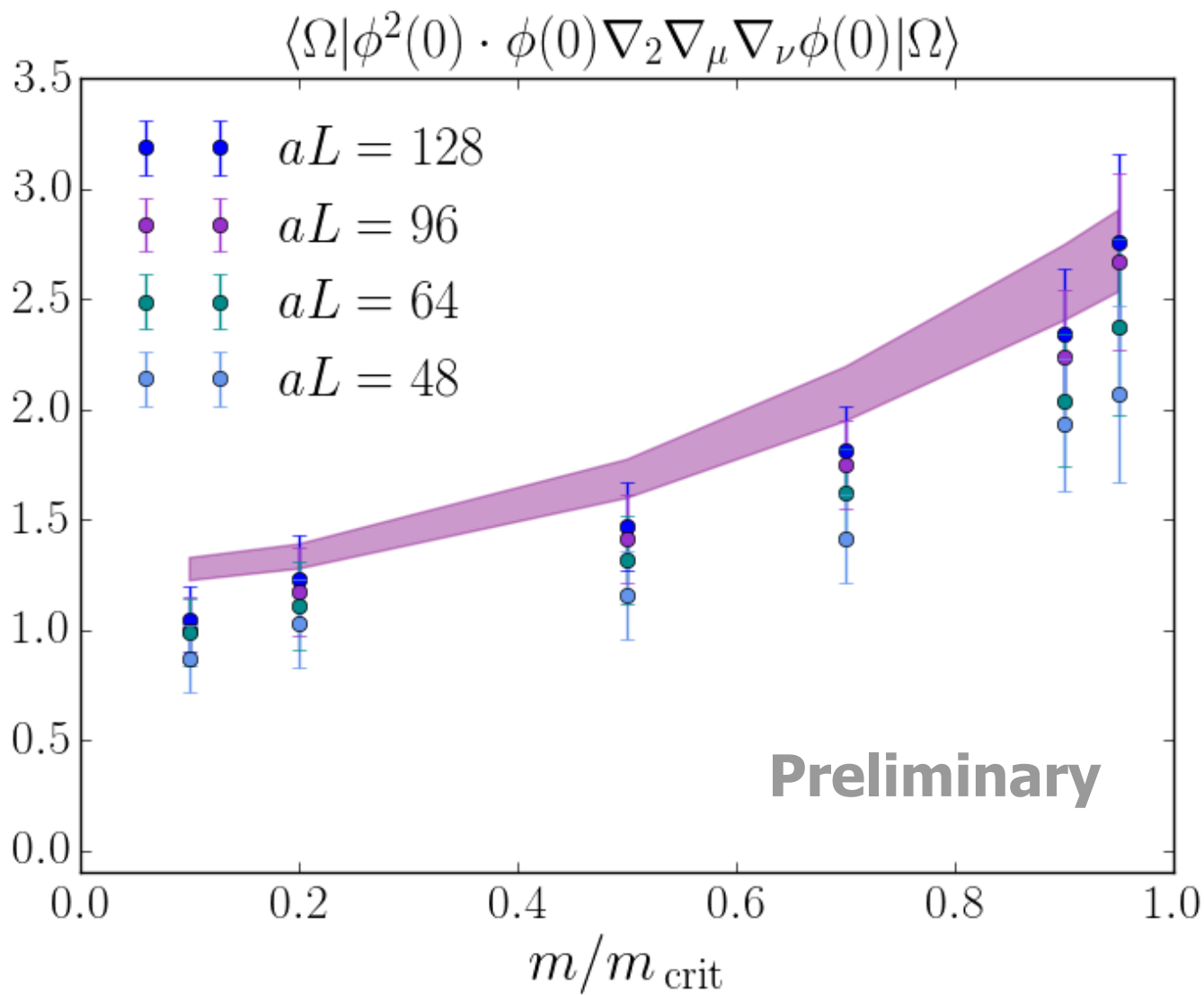




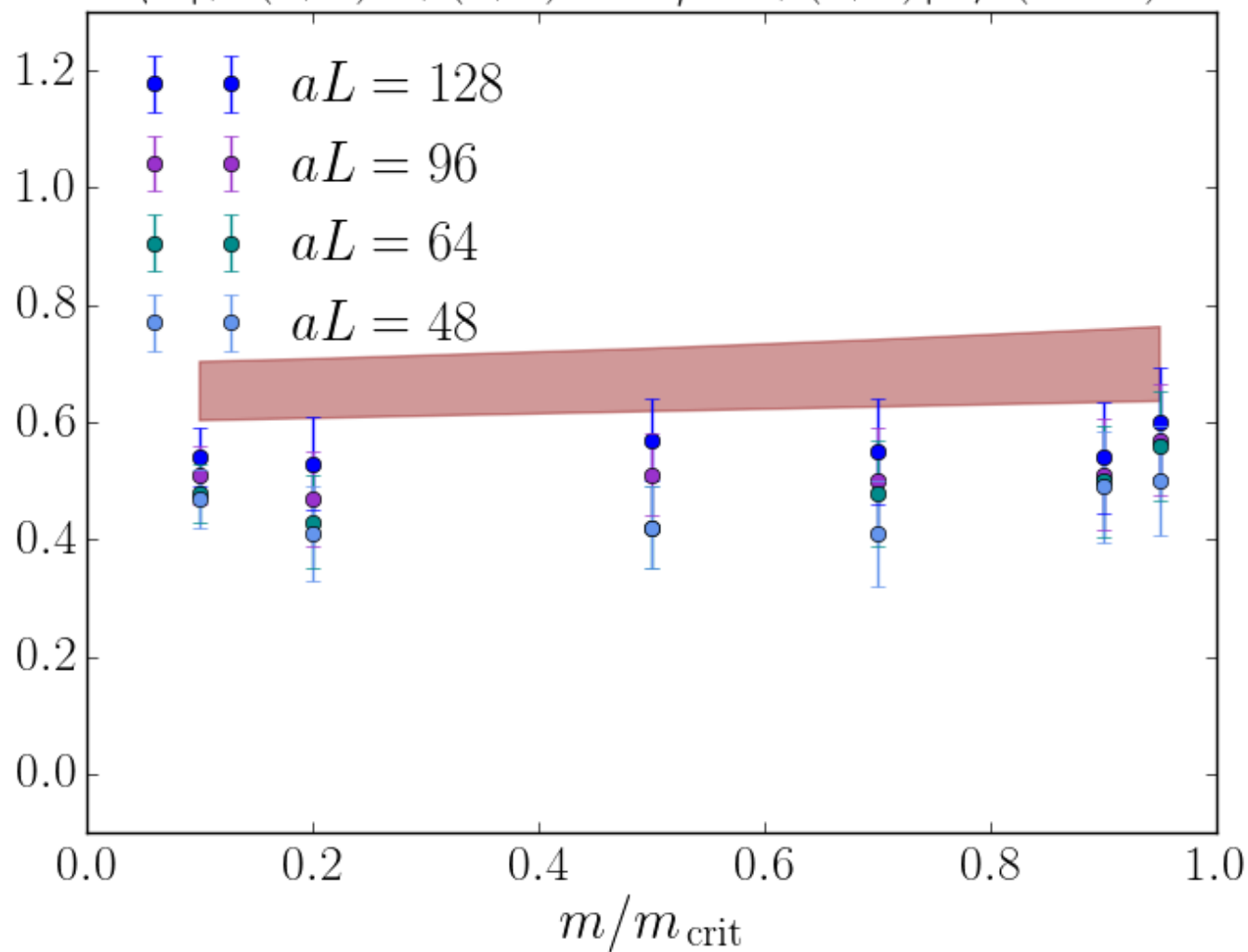
# Operator mixing on the lattice

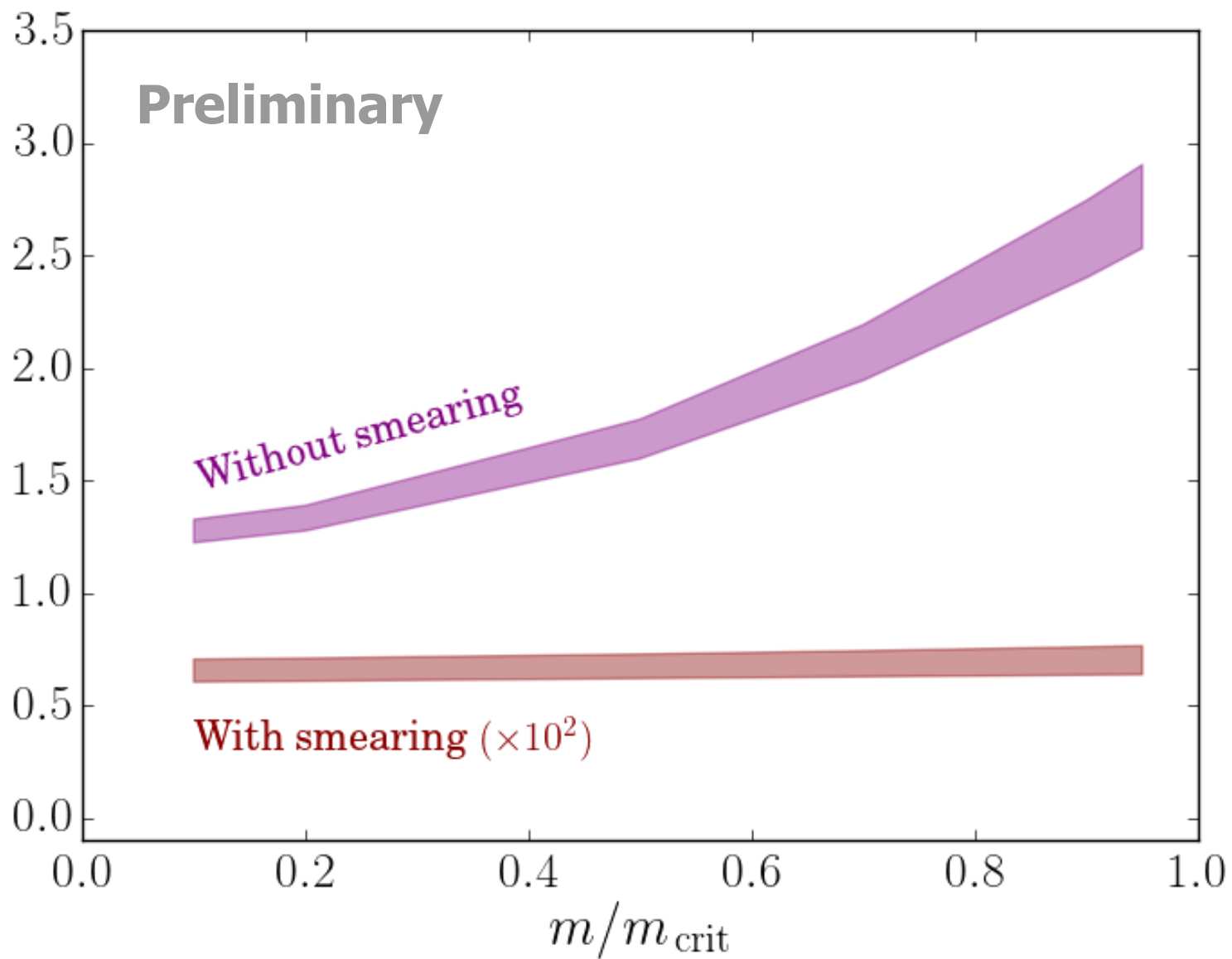
Recall our simple example

$$\langle \Omega | \phi^2(0) \cdot \phi(0) \nabla^2 \nabla_\mu \nabla_\nu \phi(0) | \Omega \rangle = \frac{\delta_{\mu\nu}}{8a^2} + \dots$$
$$\langle \Omega | \phi^2(\tau, 0) \cdot \phi(\tau, 0) \nabla^2 \nabla_\mu \nabla_\nu \phi(\tau, 0) | \Omega \rangle = \delta_{\mu\nu} \frac{e^{-4\pi^2\tau/a^2} - 1}{32\pi\tau} + \dots$$



$$\langle \Omega | \phi^2(0, \tau) \cdot \phi(0, \tau) \nabla_2 \nabla_\mu \nabla_\nu \phi(0, \tau) | \Omega \rangle (\times 10^2)$$





# Outlook

## 2D and 4D $\phi^4$ scalar field theory

- illustrative perturbative and nonperturbative calculations largely complete

## 2D non-linear sigma model

- code written (not debugged!)
- determine:
  - finite volume running coupling
  - twist-2 matrix elements
  - finite volume step-scaling procedure to match to...
- 2-loop perturbation theory for twist-2 matrix elements (underway)

# Thank you

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Kostas Orginos

