

Title: Scaling with two divergent lengths in deconfined quantum criticality

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Abstract: <p>The existence of a deconfined quantum-critical point [1] between the standard antiferromagnet
 and a valence-bond solid in 2D $S=1/2$ quantum magnets has been controversial, in part due to
 anomalous finite-size scaling behaviors observed in quantum Monte Carlo simulations interpreted by some as signs of a first-order transition. I will discuss a new finite-size scaling hypothesis in which a scaling function of two divergent length scales [the standard correlation length and a length-scale related to an emergent $U(1)$ symmetry of the valence-bond solid] has a limiting form implying unconventional finite-size scaling behaviors, while maintaining conventional scaling in the thermodynamic limit [2]. This proposal goes beyond the standard scenario of a dangerously irrelevant perturbation as a source of the second length scale in, e.g., classical 3D clock models. Quantum Monte Carlo simulations of the J-Q model (a spin-1=2 Heisenberg model extended with certain multi-spin interactions) are in full agreement with the proposed scaling form, suggesting that deconfined quantum-criticality is an even richer phenomenon than initially imagined. Since finite temperature T plays the role of a finite imaginary-time dimension in quantum systems, the anomalous scaling behavior impacts also the scaling in the quantum-critical "fan" at $T \geq 0$. This is also observed in the J-Q model.

[1] H. Shao, W. Guo, and A. W. Sandvik, Science 352, 213 (2016).

[2] T. Senthil, A. Vishwanath, L. Balents, S. Sachdev, M. P. A. Fisher, Science 303, 1490 (2004).</p>

Perimeter Institute, Colloquium, May 24, 2017

Scaling with two divergent lengths in deconfined quantum-criticality

Anders W Sandvik, Boston University

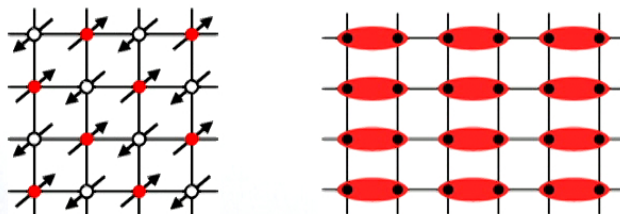


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To be discussed:

- 2D quantum antiferromagnets (Heisenberg, J-Q models)
- order and criticality of the ground state
- finite-size scaling in simulation studies
- **two divergent length scales at Néel-VBS transition**

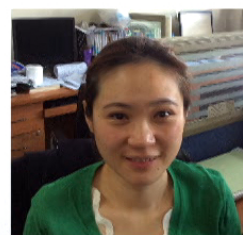
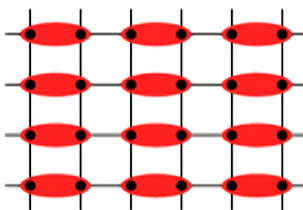
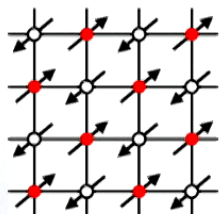


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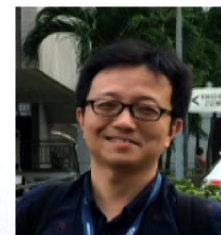
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Hui Shao



Wenan Guo



H. Shao, W. Guo, A. W. Sandvik (Science 2016)

Classical and quantum phase transitions

Classical (thermal) phase transition

- Fluctuations regulated by temperature $T > 0$

Quantum (ground state, $T=0$) phase transition

- Quantum fluctuations regulated by parameter g in Hamiltonian

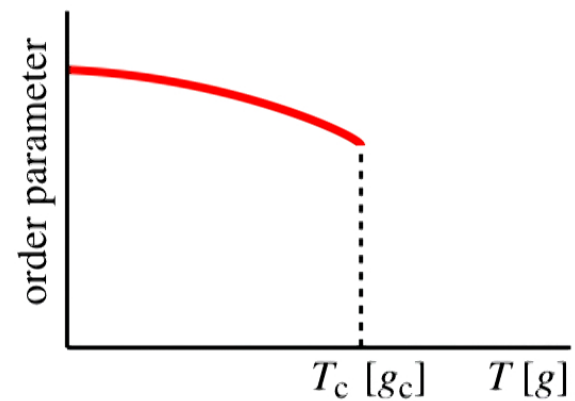
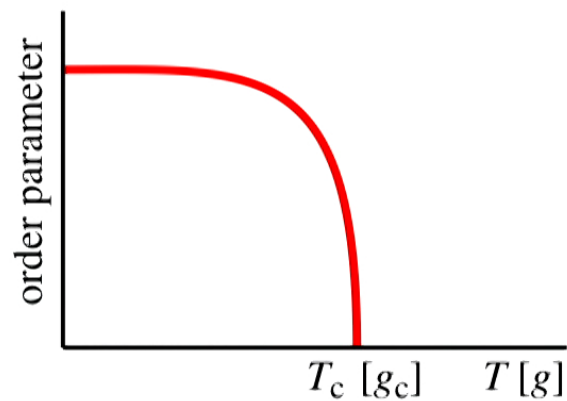
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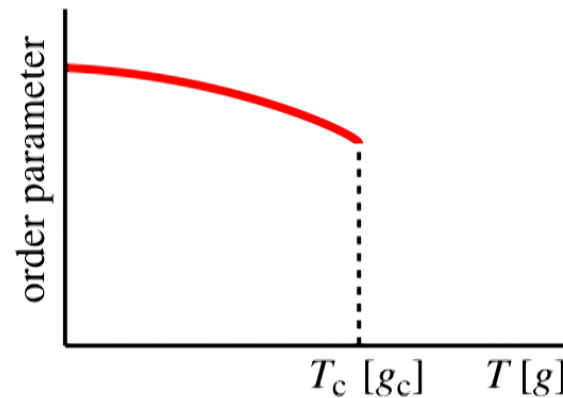
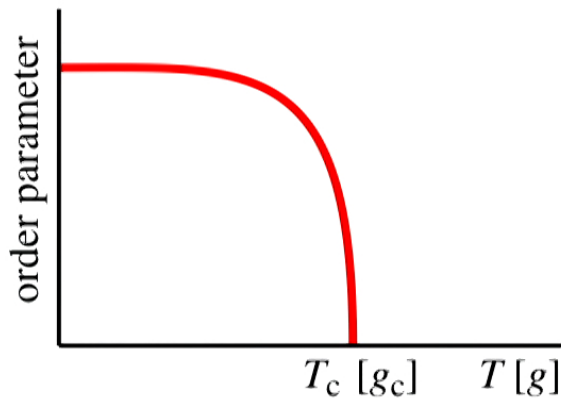
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- first-order (discontinuous): **finite correlation length ξ** as $g \rightarrow g_c$ or $T \rightarrow T_c$
- continuous: correlation length diverges:

$$\xi \sim |g - g_c|^{-\nu} \text{ or } \xi \sim |T - T_c|^{-\nu}$$

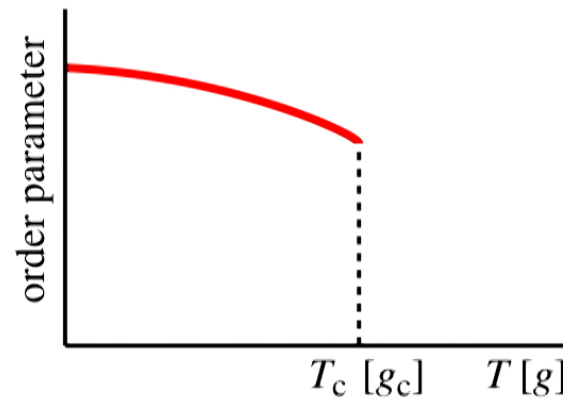
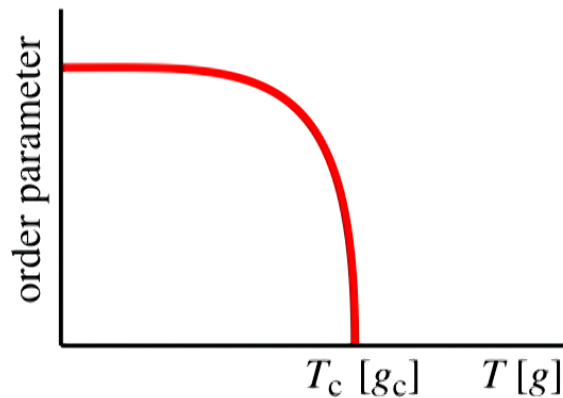
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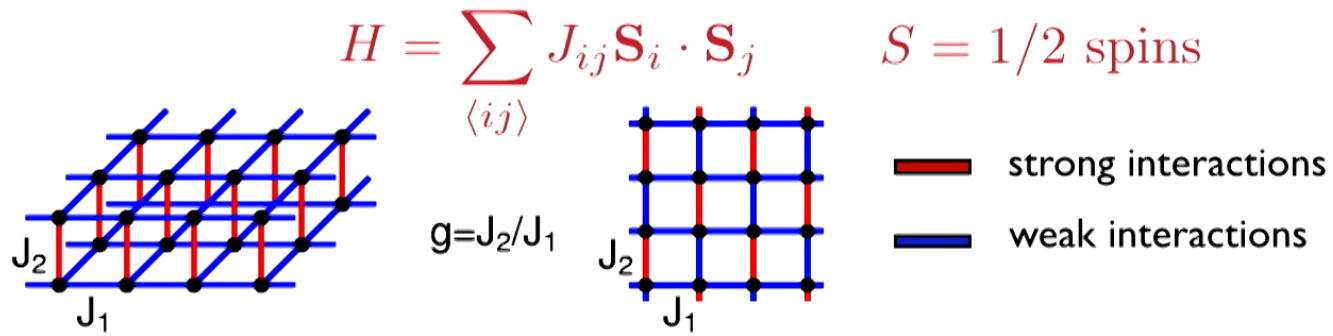
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This talk: Continuous $T=0$ transitions in 2D quantum antiferromagnets

Dimerized $S=1/2$ Heisenberg antiferromagnets

$$H = \sum_{\langle ij \rangle} J_{ij} \mathbf{S}_i \cdot \mathbf{S}_j \quad S = 1/2 \text{ spins}$$

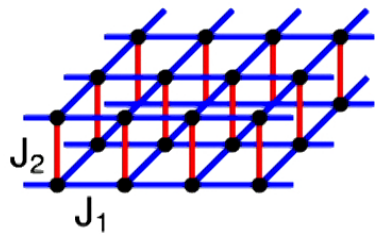
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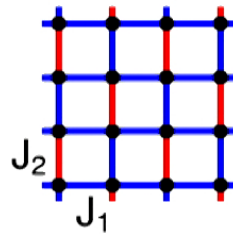
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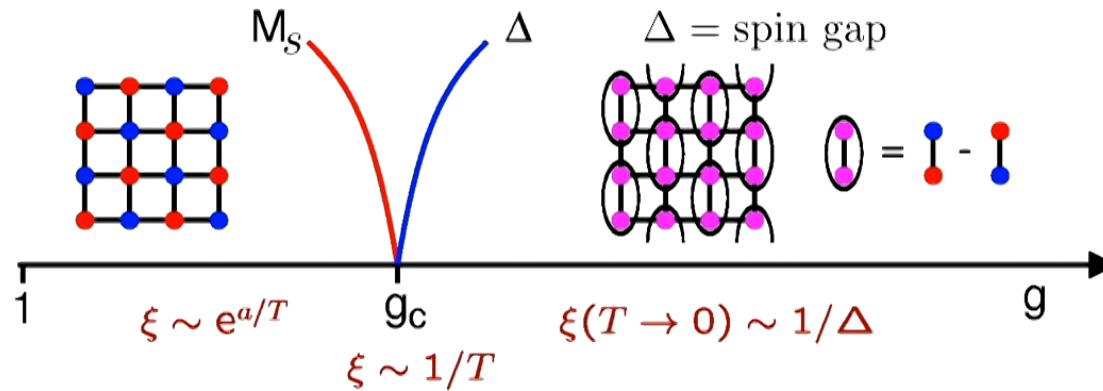


 strong interactions

 weak interactions

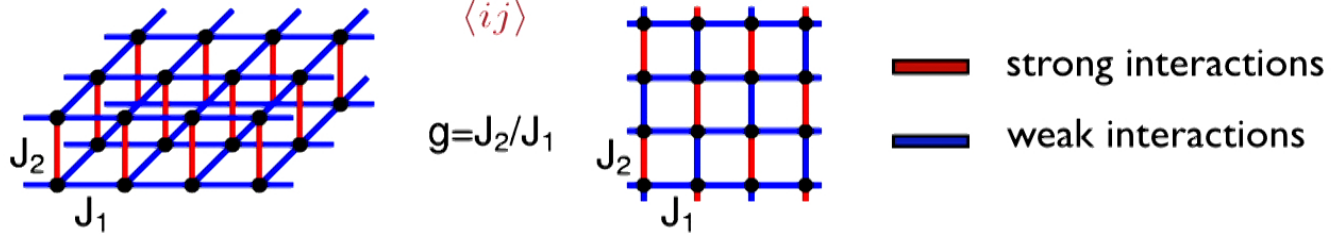
Singlet formation on strong bonds \rightarrow Néel - disordered transition

Ground state ($T=0$) phases



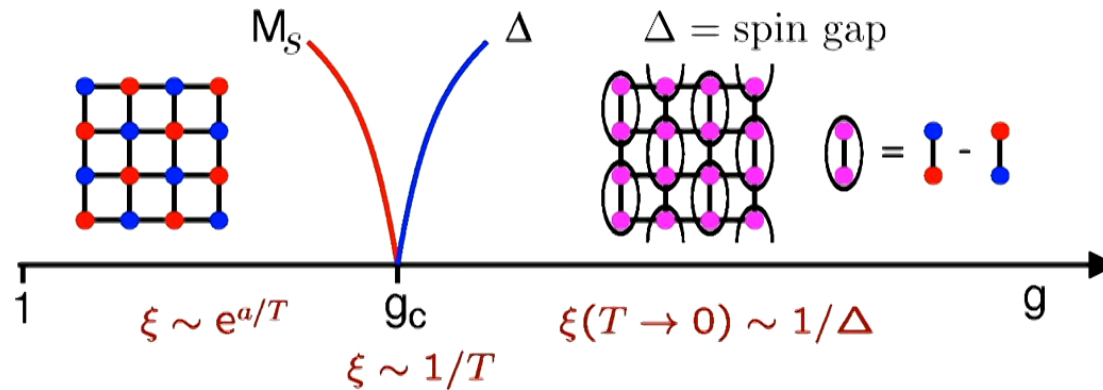
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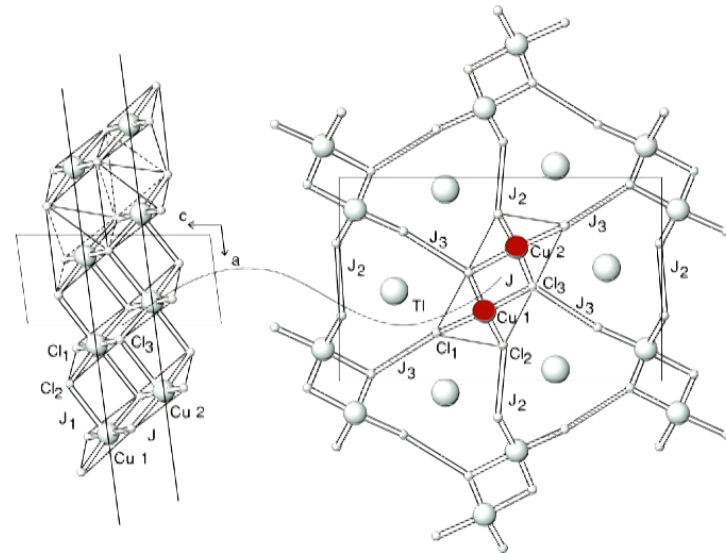
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Transition in 3D O(3) Universality class

TiCuCl₃

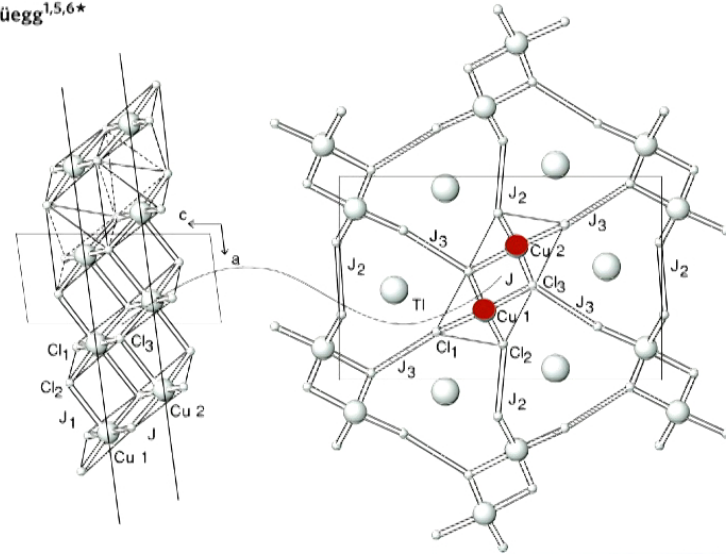
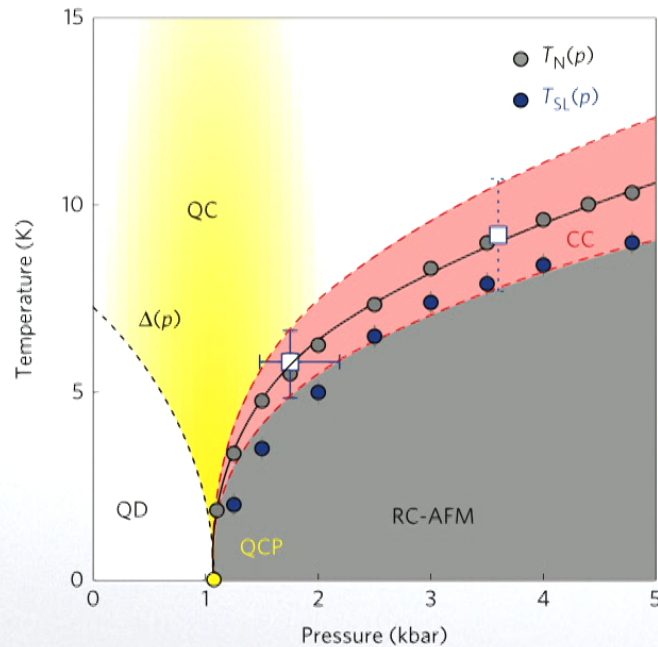
3D Network of **spin dimers**
- couplings depend on pressure



The spins on an isolated
Cu dimer form a singlet $\frac{|\uparrow\downarrow\rangle - |\downarrow\uparrow\rangle}{\sqrt{2}}$

Quantum and classical criticality in a dimerized 3D Network of **spin dimers - couplings depend on pressure**

P. Merchant¹, B. Normand², K. W. Krämer³, M. Boehm⁴, D. F. McMorrow¹ and Ch. Rüegg^{1,5,6*}



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Experimental realization of Néel - quantum-paramagnetic transition

More complex non-magnetic states; systems with 1 spin per unit cell

$$\mathbf{H} = \mathbf{J} \sum_{\langle i,j \rangle} \mathbf{S}_i \cdot \mathbf{S}_j + \mathbf{g} \times \dots$$

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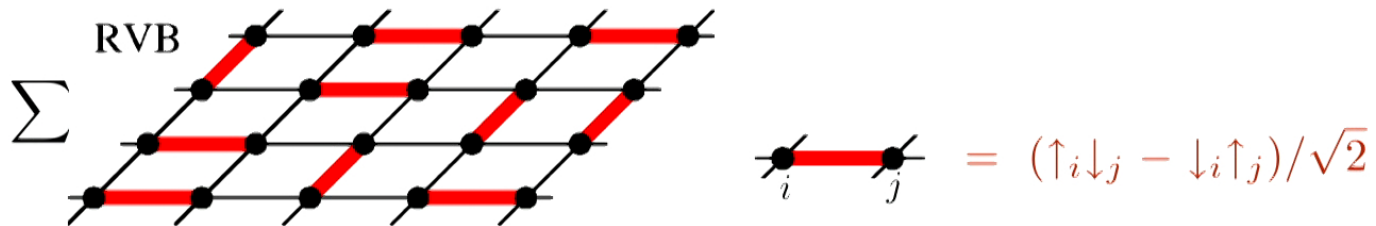
- **non-trivial non-magnetic ground states are possible, e.g.,**
 - ➔ resonating valence-bond (RVB) spin liquid
 - ➔ valence-bond solid (VBS)

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Non-magnetic states often have natural descriptions with **valence bonds**

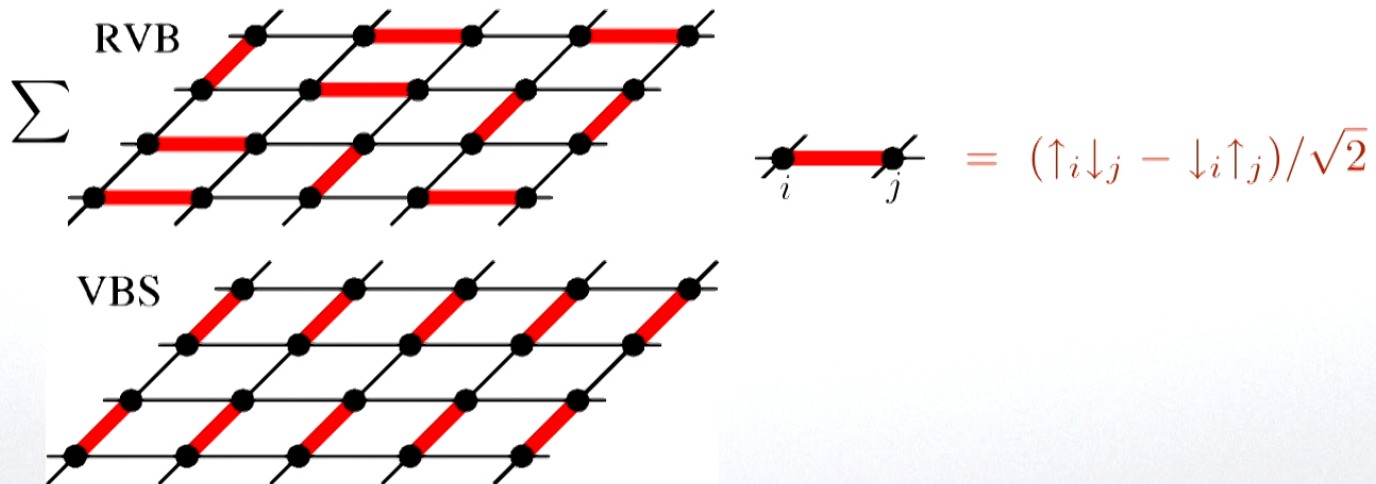


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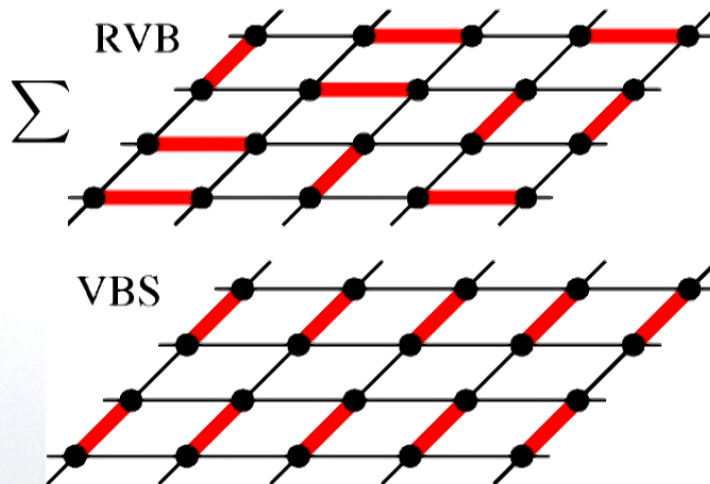
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VBS breaks lattice symmetries spontaneously

- degenerate ground state
- different from dimerized H (unique ground state)

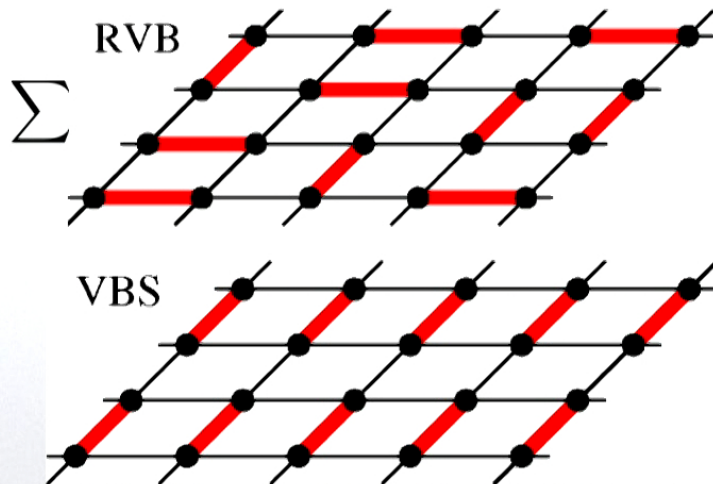
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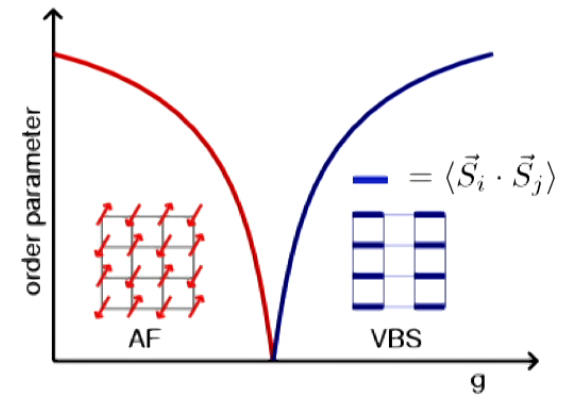
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The Néel - VBS transition may be “beyond LGW”

Deconfined quantum criticality

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(+ many previous works; Read & Sachdev, Sachdev & Murthy, Motrunich & Vishwanath....)



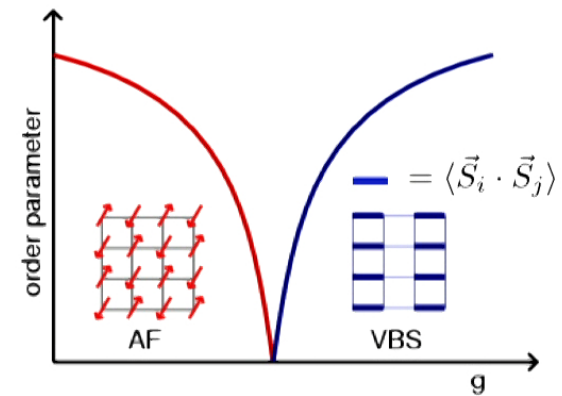
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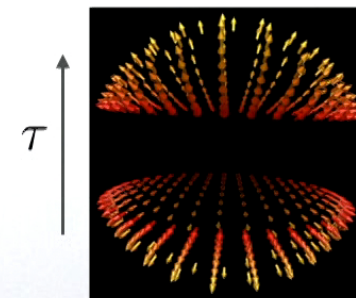
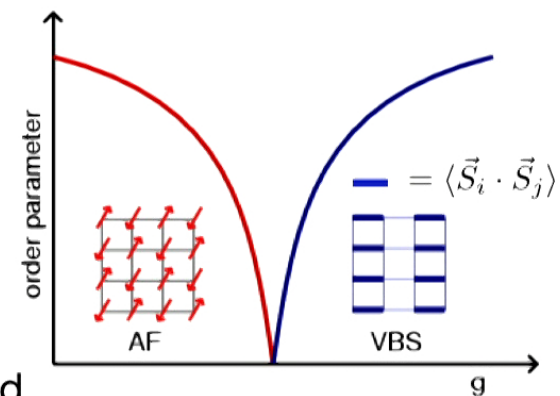
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Field-theory aspects:

- “dangerously irrelevant” topological defects
- universality: 3D defect-suppressed O(3)
- topological defects relevant in VBS state only
- both order parameters emerge from same field



Graph: Senthil et al.

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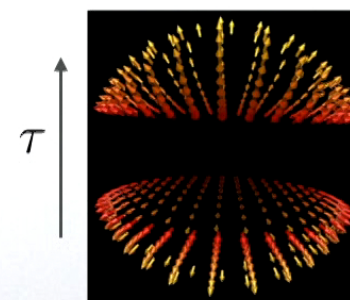
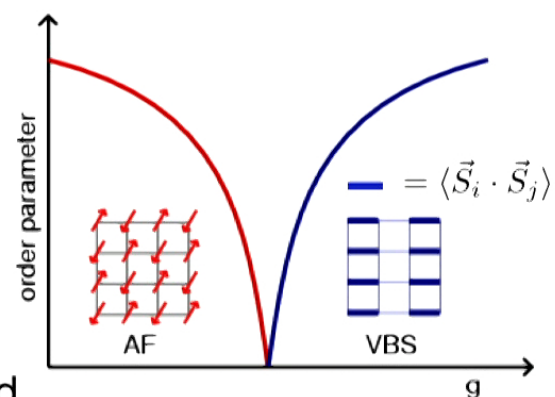
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$$S_z = \int d^2r d\tau \left[|(\partial_\mu - iA_\mu)z_\alpha|^2 + s|z_\alpha|^2 + u(|z_\alpha|^2)^2 + \frac{1}{2e_0^2} (\epsilon_{\mu\nu\lambda} \partial_\nu A_\lambda)^2 \right]$$



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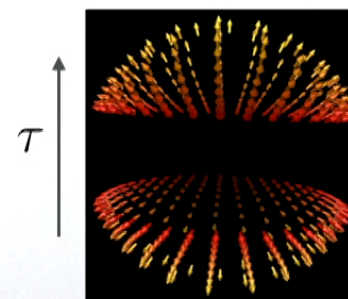
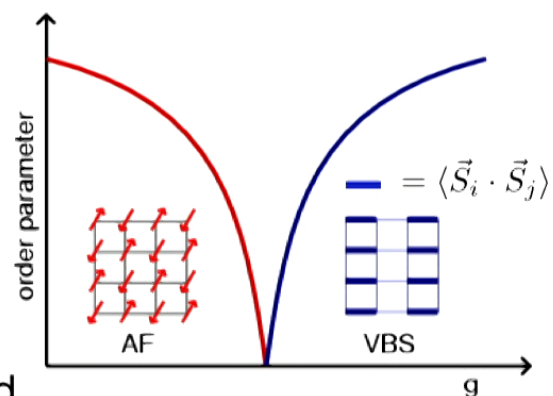
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Dangerously irrelevant perturbation →

two divergent length scales expected in critical VBS



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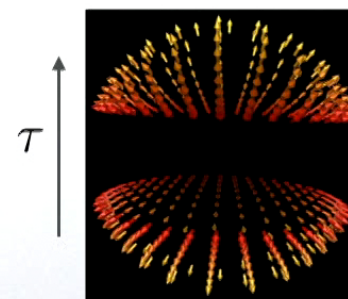
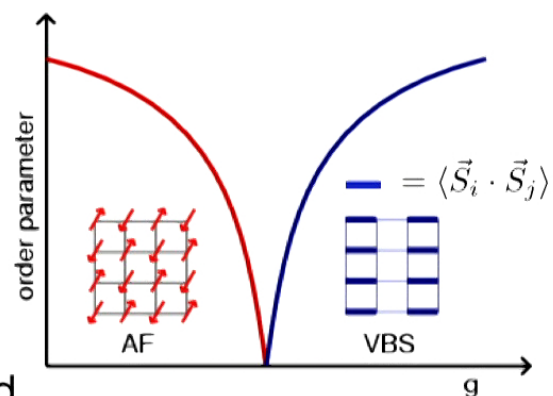
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Consequences of two divergent length scales?

Dangerously irrelevant perturbations

Classical phase transitions with two divergent length scales

- correlation length $\xi \propto (g - g_c)^{-\nu}$ and larger cross-over length $\xi' \propto (g - g_c)^{-\nu'}$
- known in many classical systems (e.g., 3D clock models)

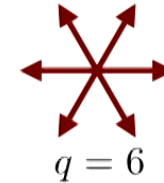
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$$H = -J \sum_{\langle ij \rangle} \cos(\Theta_i - \Theta_j) - h \sum_i \cos q\Theta_i$$



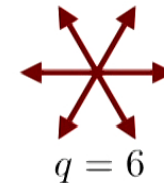
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h term is dangerously irrelevant

- does not change criticality
- changes ordered state
(different symmetry breaking)

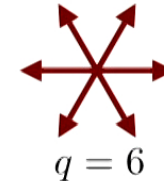
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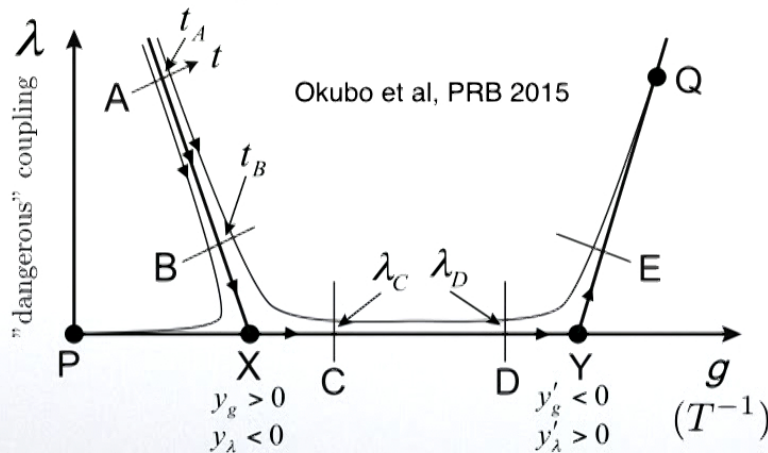
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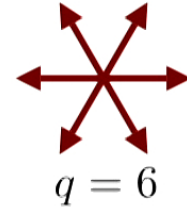
Fixedpoints:

- P** = paramagnet
- X** = 3D XY critical point
- Y** = U(1) symmetry breaking
- Q** = Z_q symmetry breaking

Cross-over from XY ordering to clock ordering at length scale ξ'

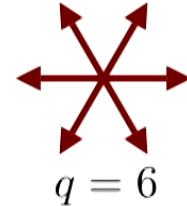
MC simulations of classical 3D clock model

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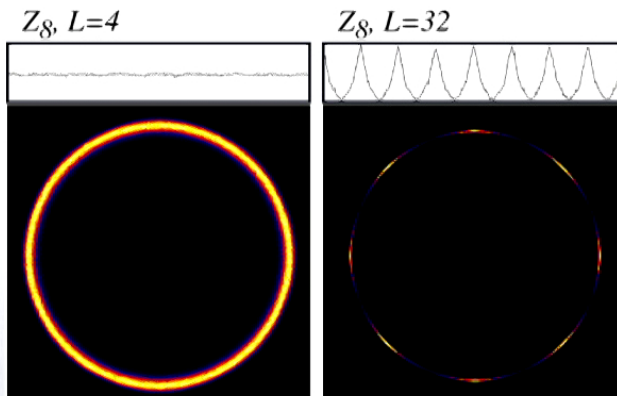
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Standard order parameter (m_x, m_y)

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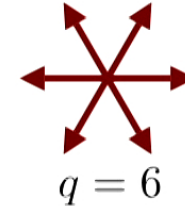
Probability distribution $P(m_x, m_y)$ shows cross-over from $U(1)$ to Z_q for $T < T_c$



Lou, Balents, Sandvik, PRL 2007

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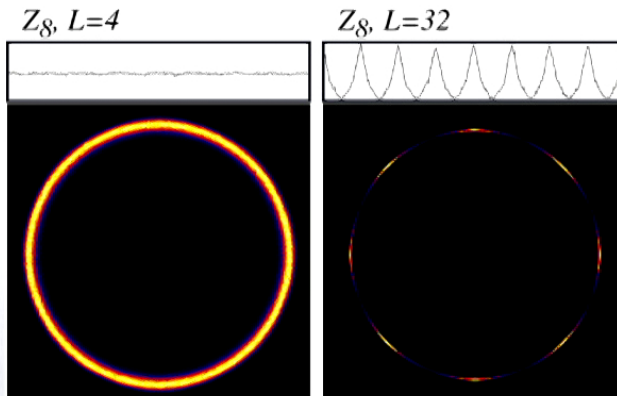
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Lou, Balents, Sandvik, PRL 2007

Angular anisotropy quantified by “angular order parameter”:

$$m_q = \int_0^{2\pi} d\Theta \cos(q\Theta) P(\Theta)$$

$m_q > 0$ only if q -fold anisotropy

Studying RG flows in MC simulations

H. Shao, W. Guo, A. W. Sandvik (work in progress)

XY fixed point can be studied using the Binder cumulant of m

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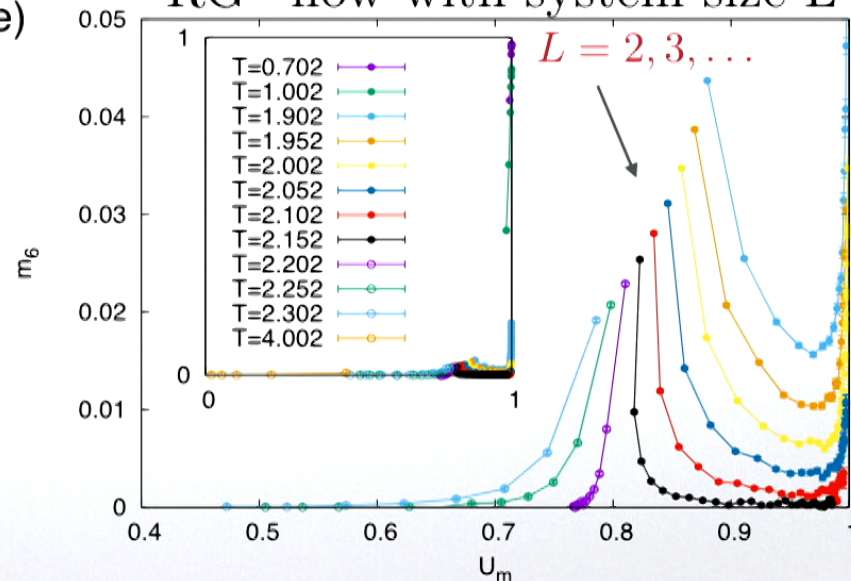
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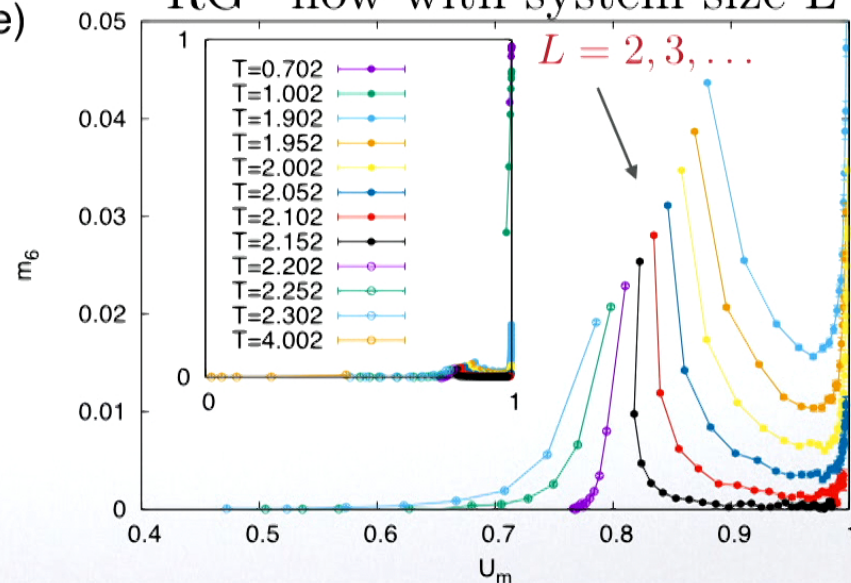
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In principle the length scale ξ' can be extracted from the flows

”RG” flow with system size L



VBS states from multi-spin interactions

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The Heisenberg interaction is equivalent to a singlet-projector

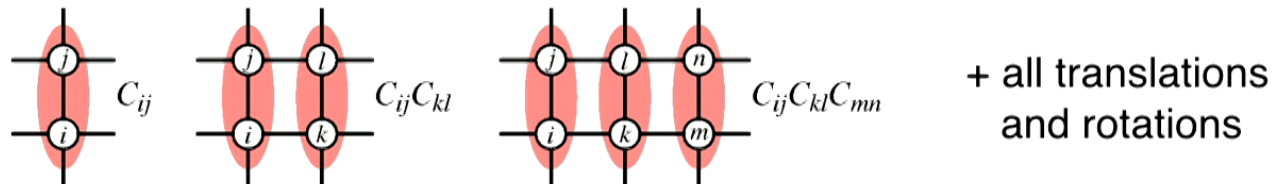
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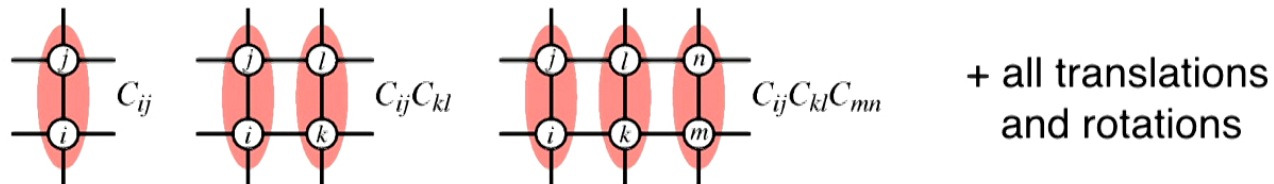


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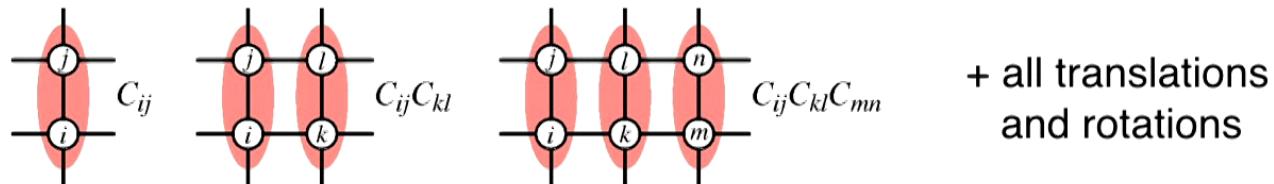
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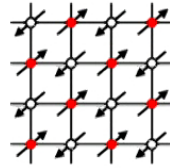
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- Has Néel-VBS transition, appears to be continuous
- Not a realistic microscopic model for materials
- “Designer Hamiltonian” for VBS physics and Néel-VBS transition

Critical behavior of the J-Q model

Staggered magnetization

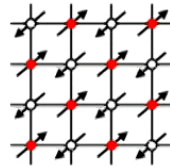
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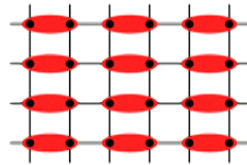
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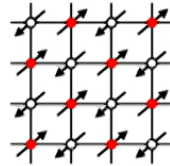


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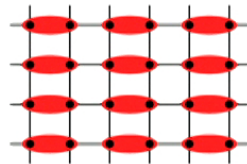
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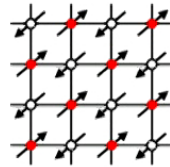
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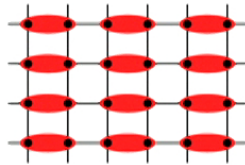
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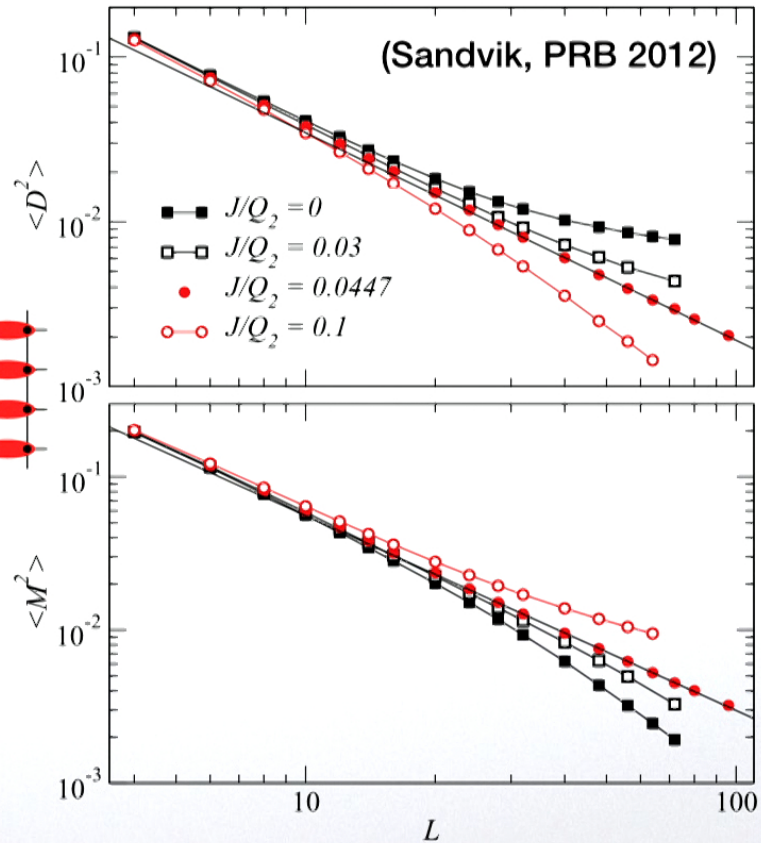
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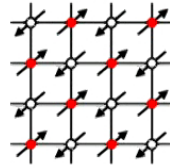
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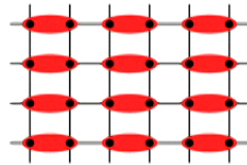
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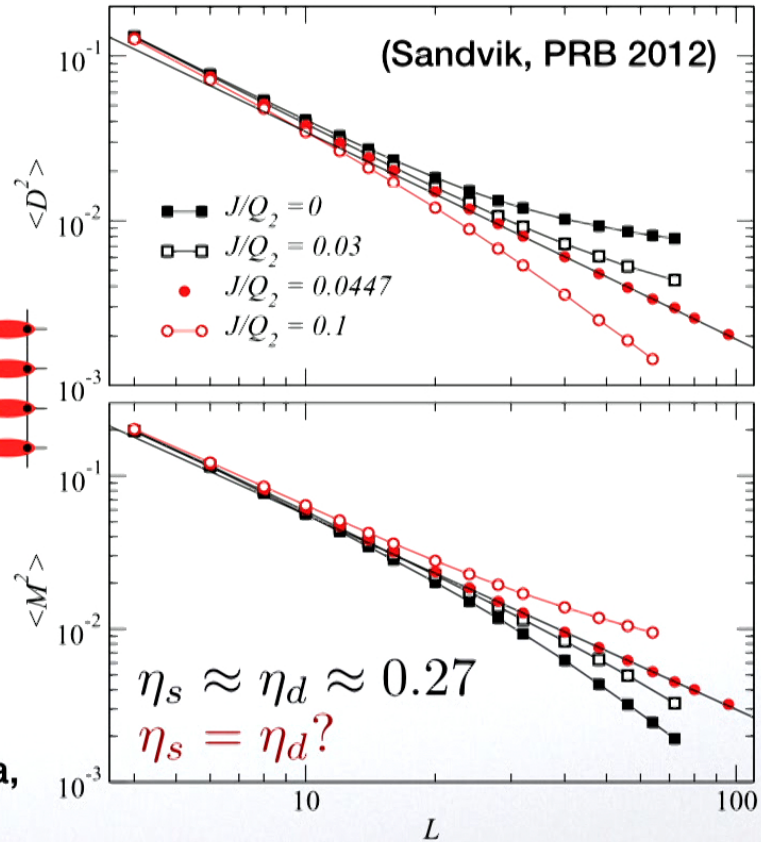


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Emergent SO(5) symmetry?

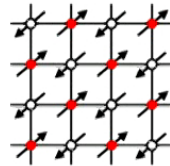
[Nahum, Serna, Chalker, Ortuno, Somoza, PRL 2015]



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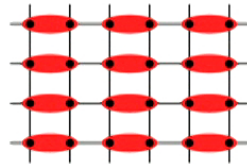
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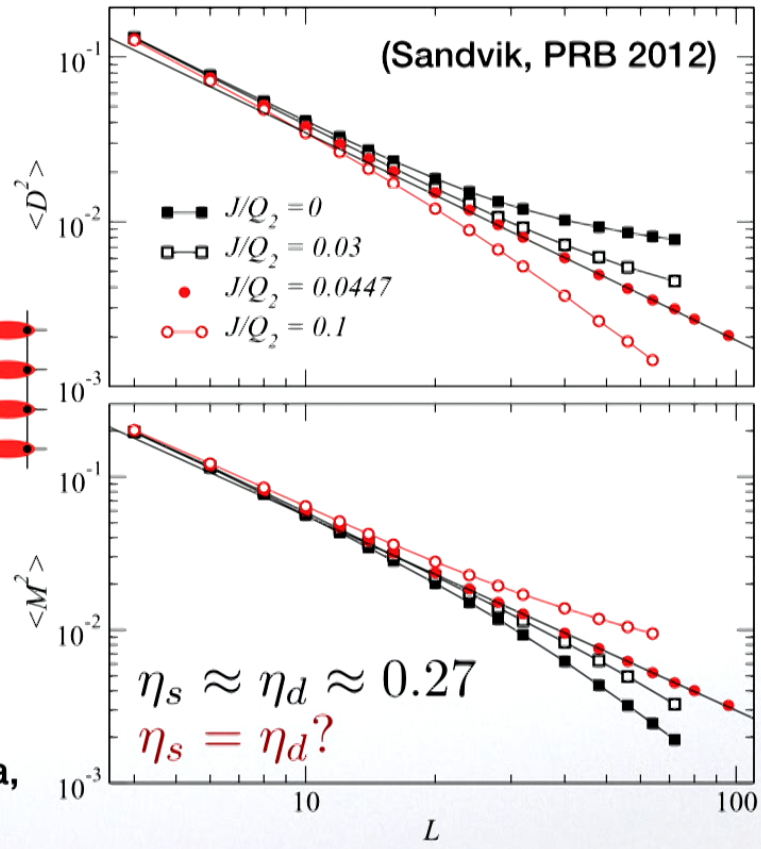


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How can we study two divergent lengths?

Expected RG flows in DQC scenario

In the field theory the VBS corresponds to condensation of topological defects (quadrupoled monopoles on square lattice)

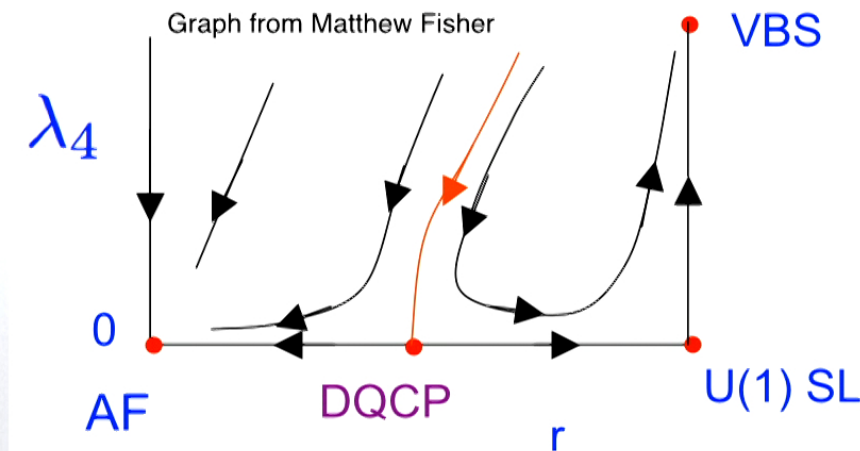
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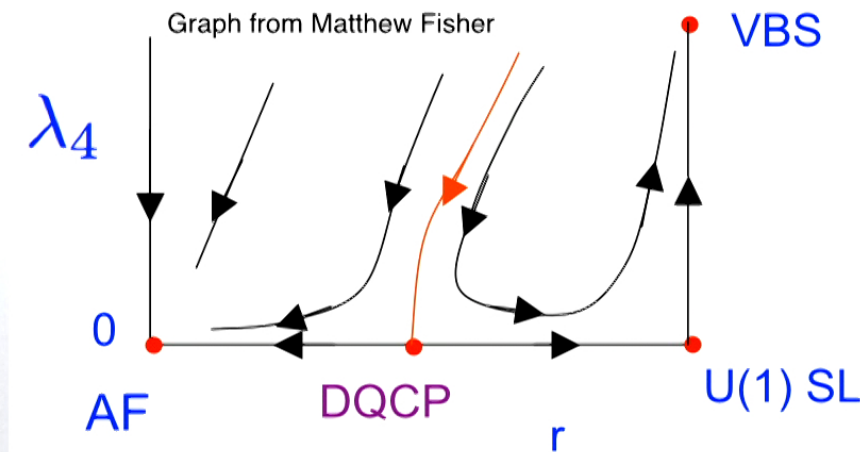
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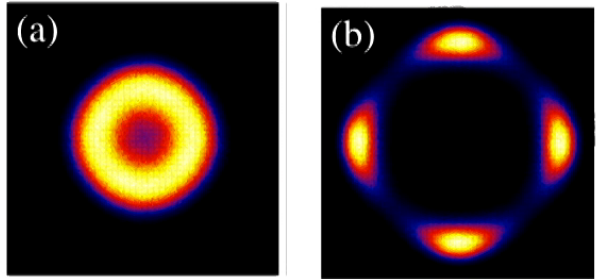
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Goal: Test scenario and obtain quantitative results using numerics

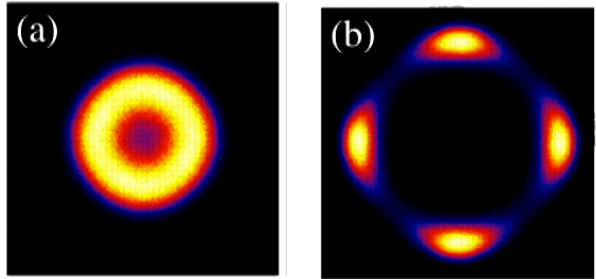
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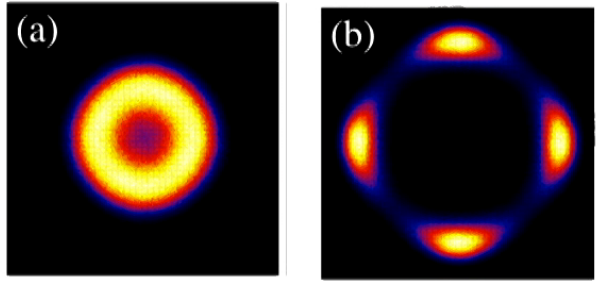
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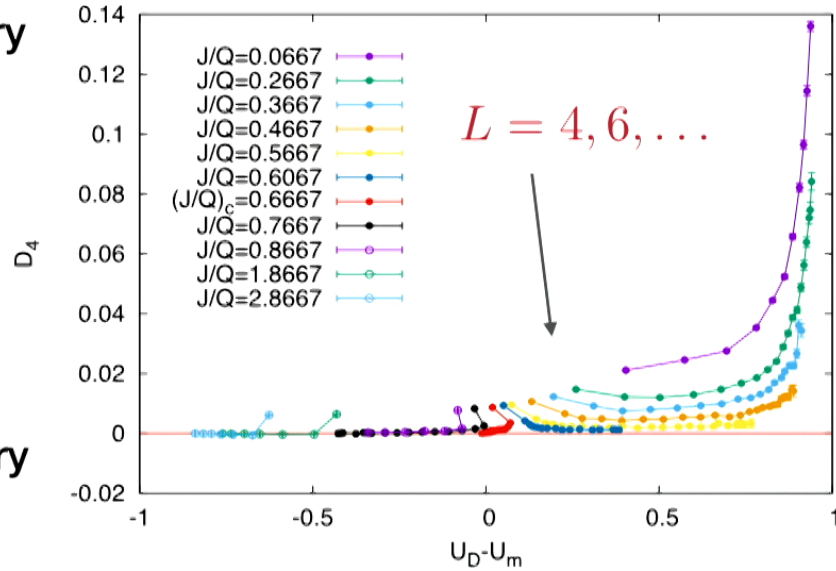
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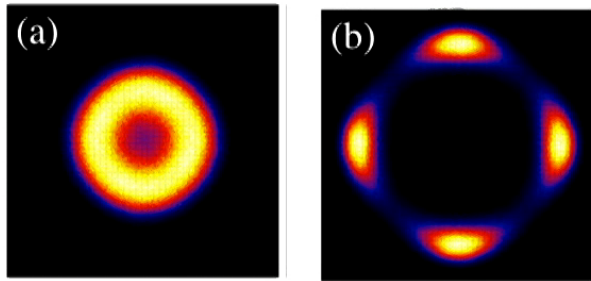
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H. Shao, W. Guo, A. W. Sandvik
(work in progress)

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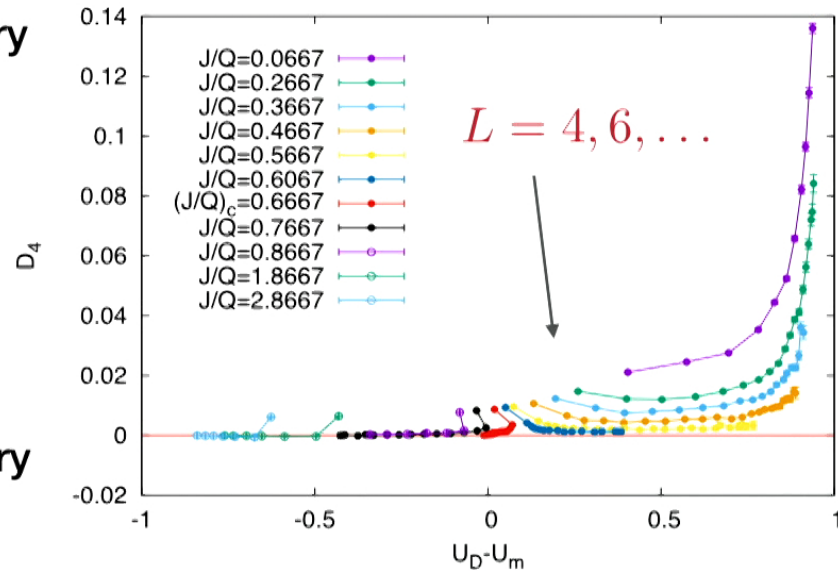
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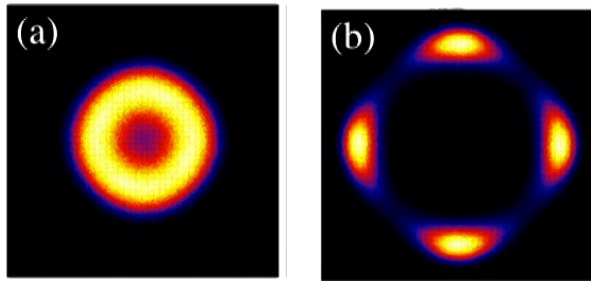
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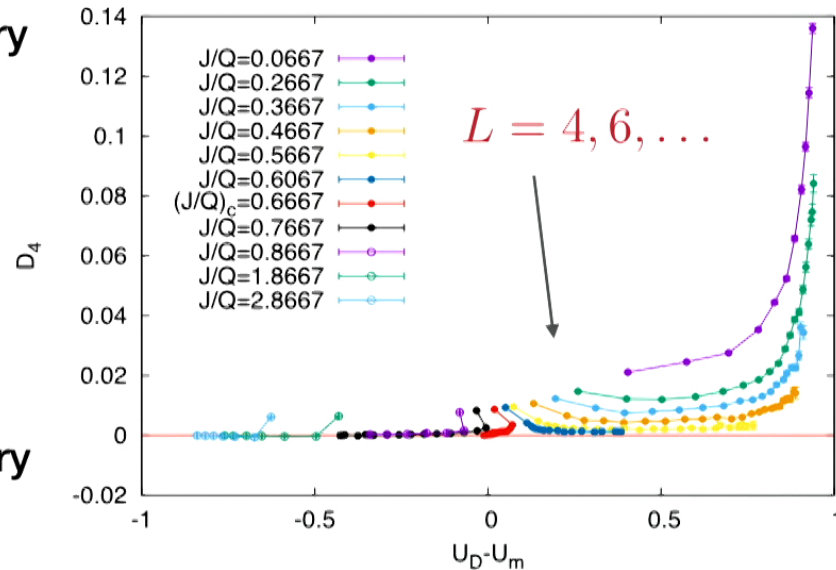
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Use systematic finite-size scaling approach for exponents

Finite-size scaling (one divergent length)

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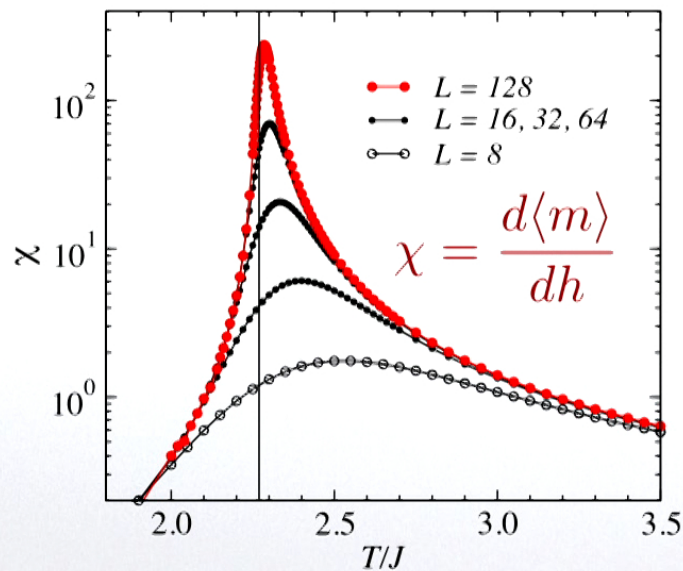
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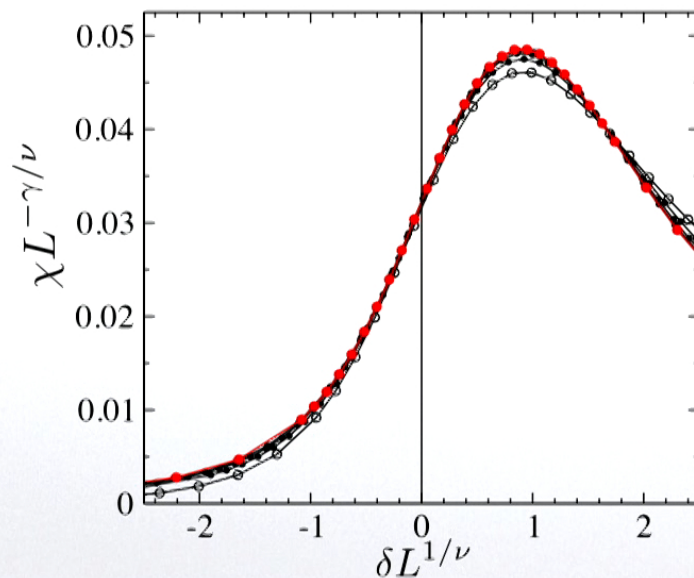
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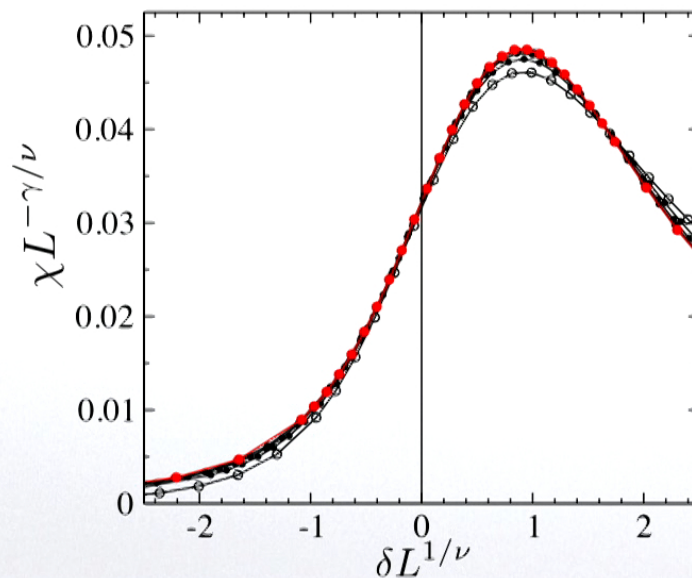
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2D Ising universality class

$$\gamma = 7/4, \quad \nu = 1 \quad (\kappa = -\gamma)$$

Critical T known

$$T_c = 2/\ln(1 + \sqrt{2}) \approx 2.2692$$

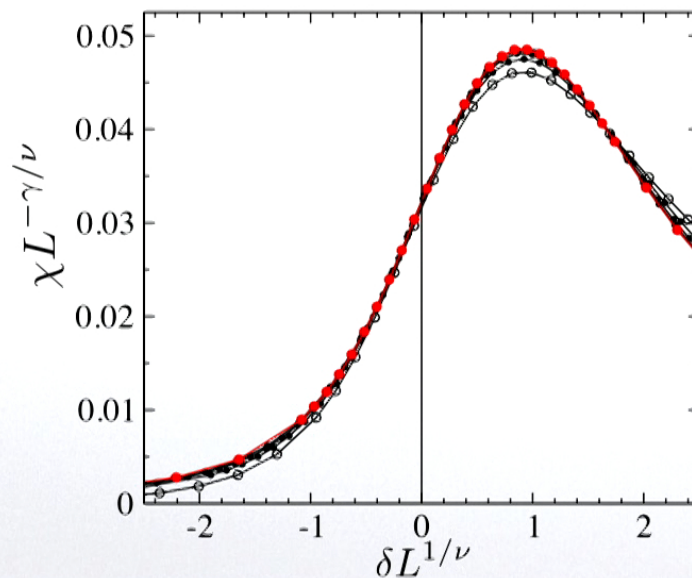
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When these are not known,
treat as fitting parameters
- or extract in other way

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Systematic critical-point analysis

Binder cumulant

- dimensionless

- size-independent at T_c

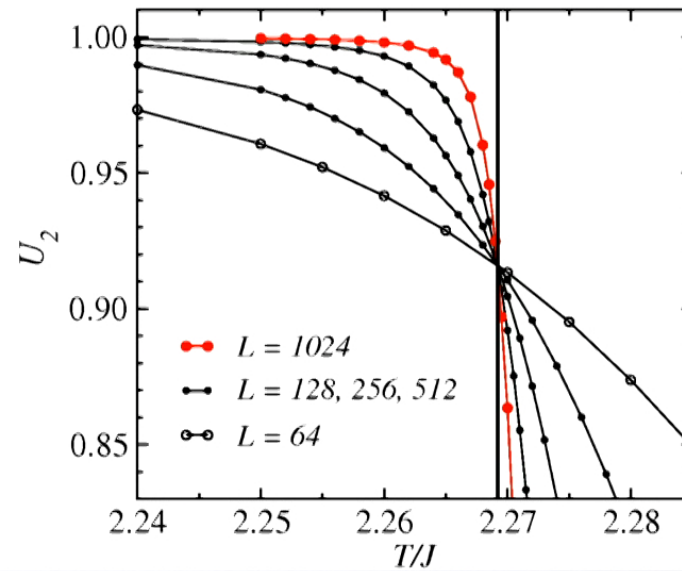
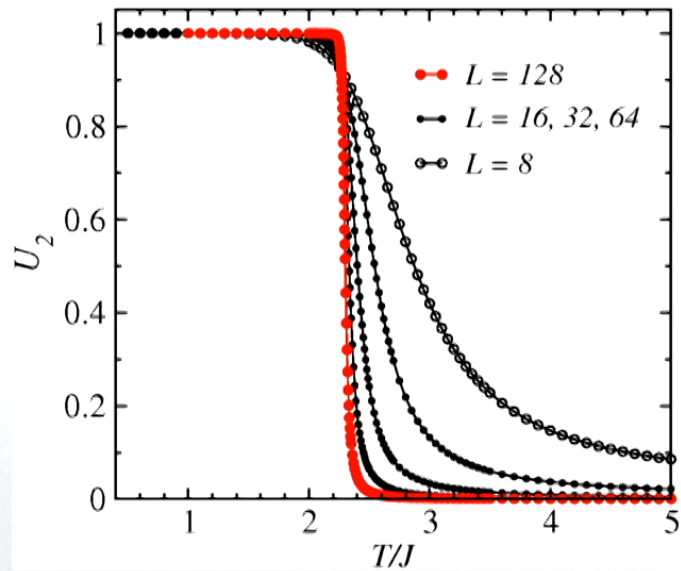
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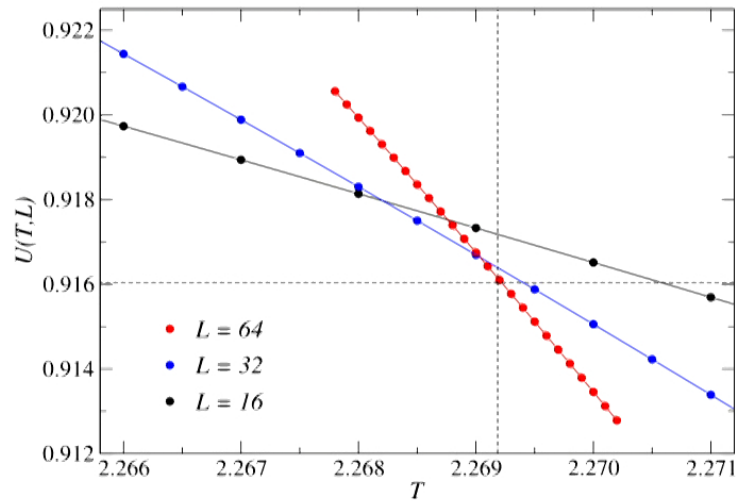
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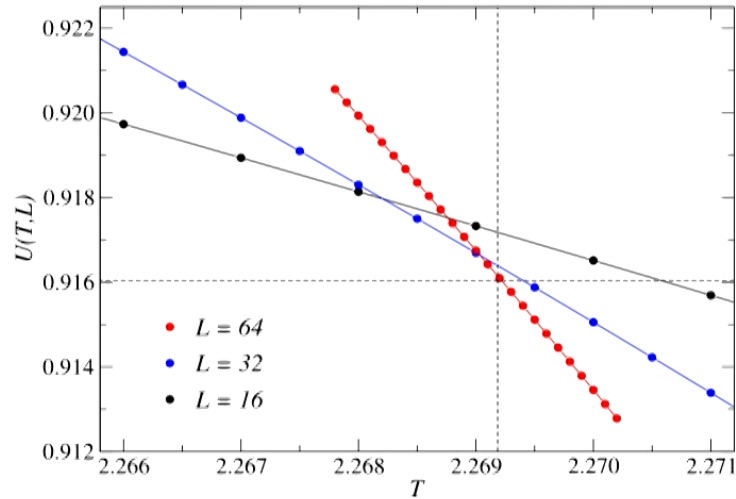


Systematic crossing-point analysis



Drift in crossing point expected
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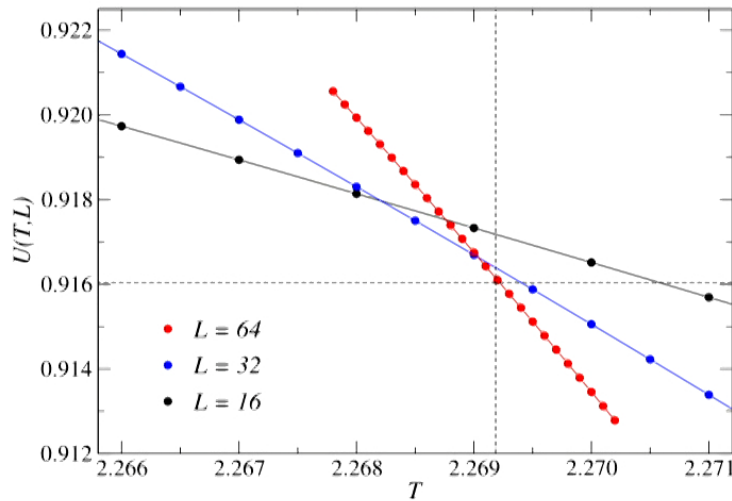
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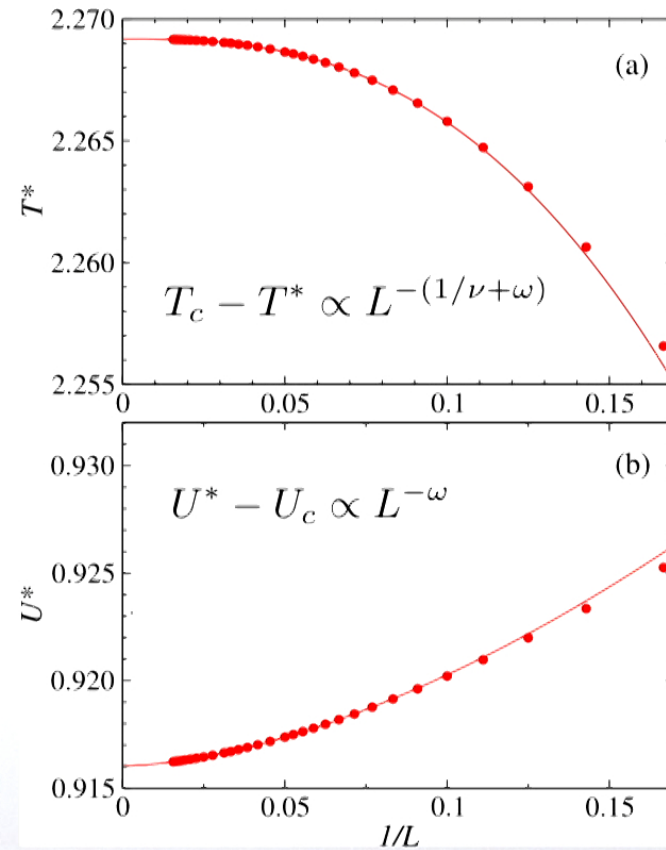
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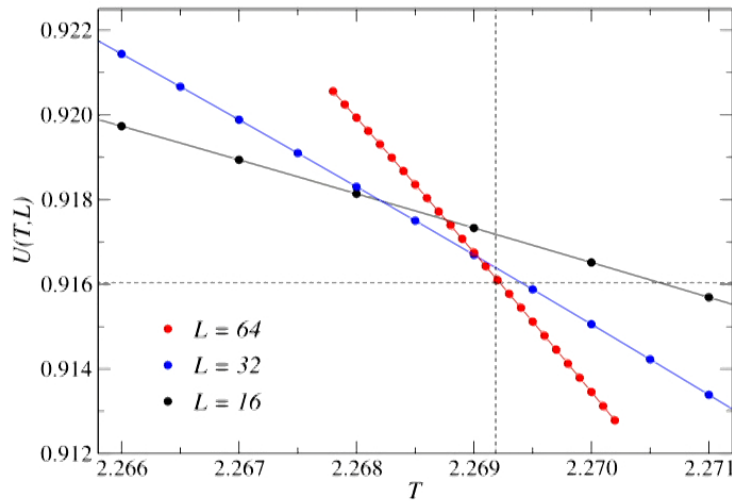


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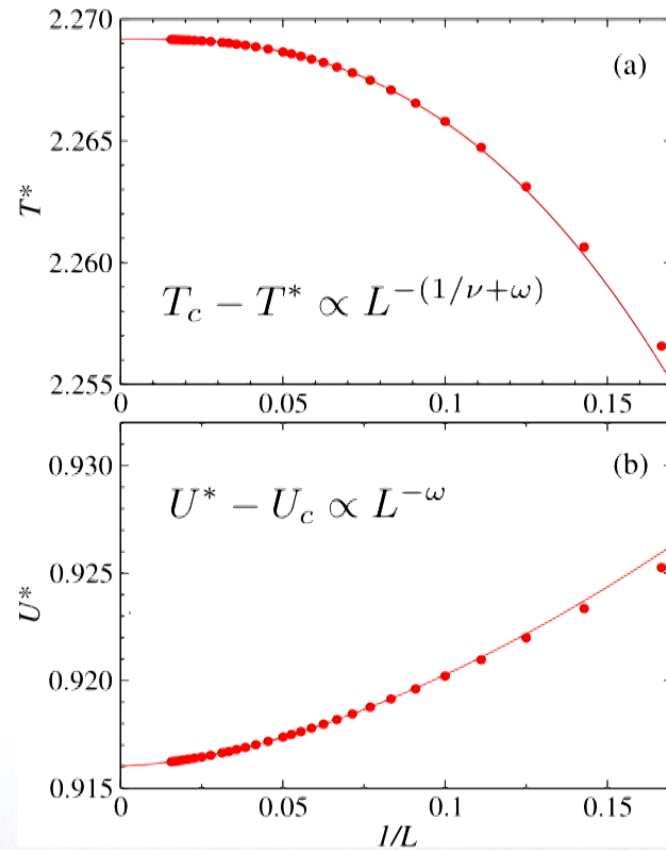


Systematic crossing-point analysis



Drift in crossing point expected
 - scaling correction

Fit $(L, 2L)$ crossing-points
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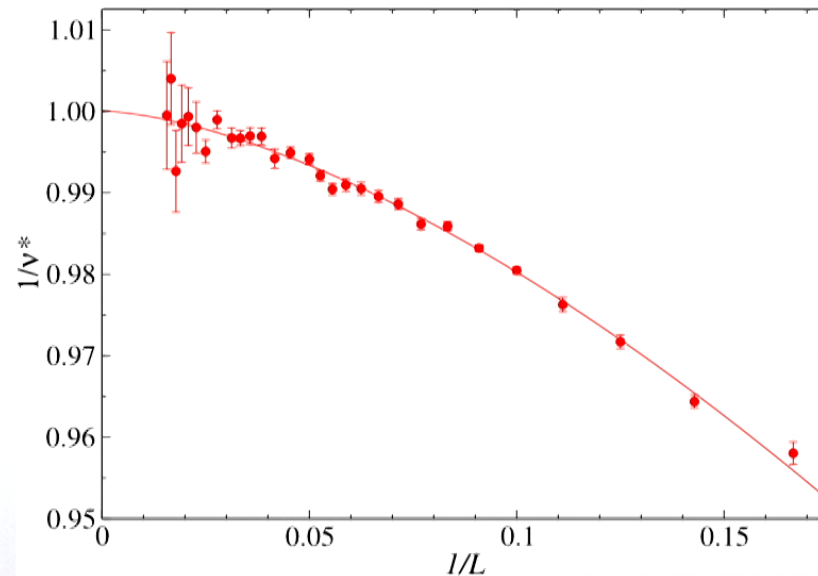
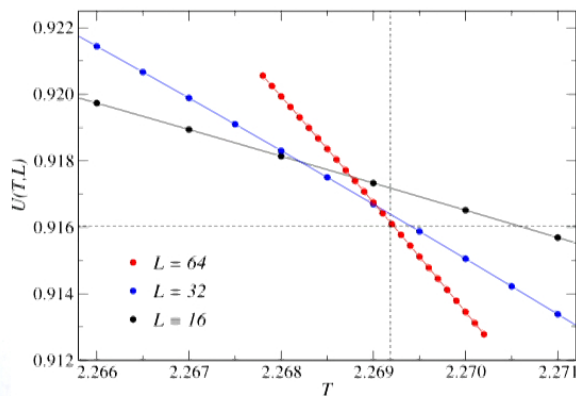
Fit with $L_{\min}=12$: $T_c=2.2691855(5)$. Correct $T_c=2.2691853\dots$

Correlation-length exponent ν

Can be extracted from the slope of the Binder cumulant

$$s(L, T) = \frac{dU(L, T)}{dT}$$

$$\frac{1}{\ln(2)} \ln \left(\frac{s(2L, T^*)}{s(L, T^*)} \right) = \frac{1}{\nu} + aL^{-\omega} + \dots$$

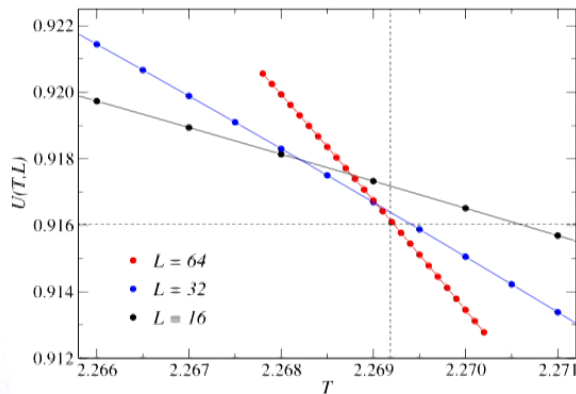


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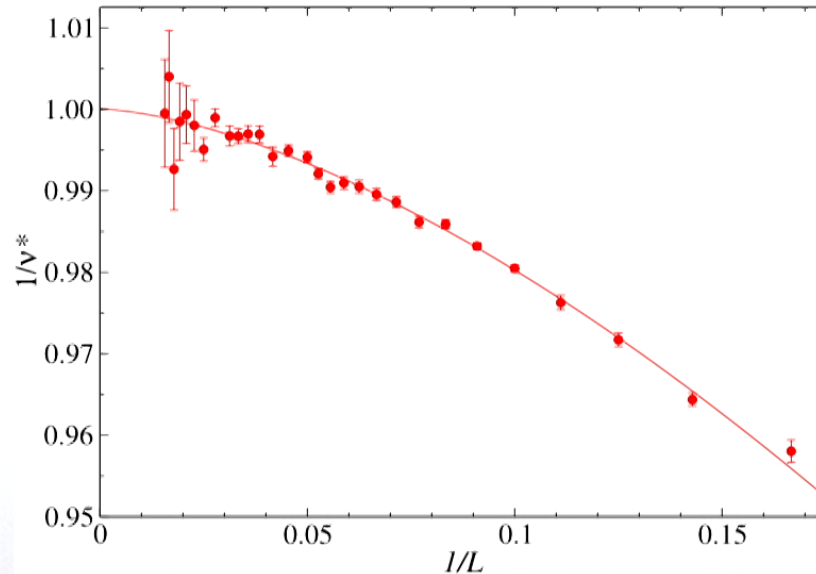
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Extrapolated exponent
 $1/\nu = 1.0001(7)$



Note: exponent ω is large here \rightarrow fast convergence

J-Q model: Exponent ν from crossing-point analysis

H. Shao, W. Guo, A. W. Sandvik (Science 2016)

Binder ratio of the spin order parameter

$$R_1 = \frac{\langle m_{sz}^2 \rangle}{\langle |m_{sz}| \rangle^2}$$

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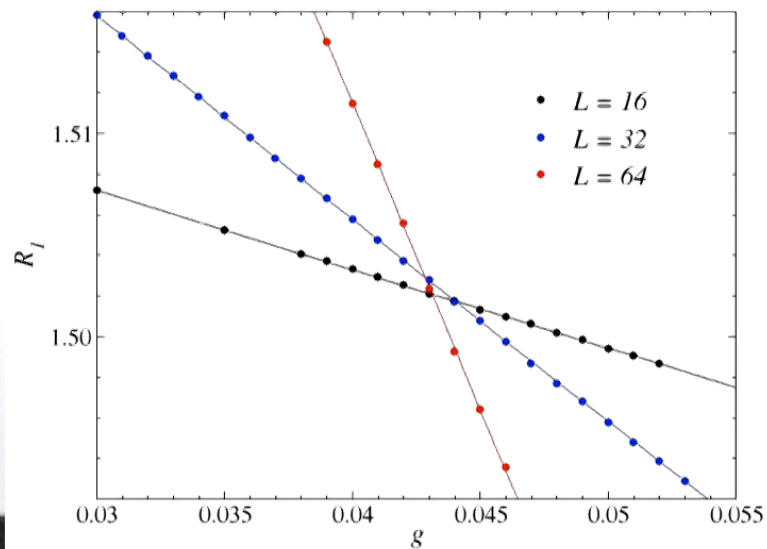
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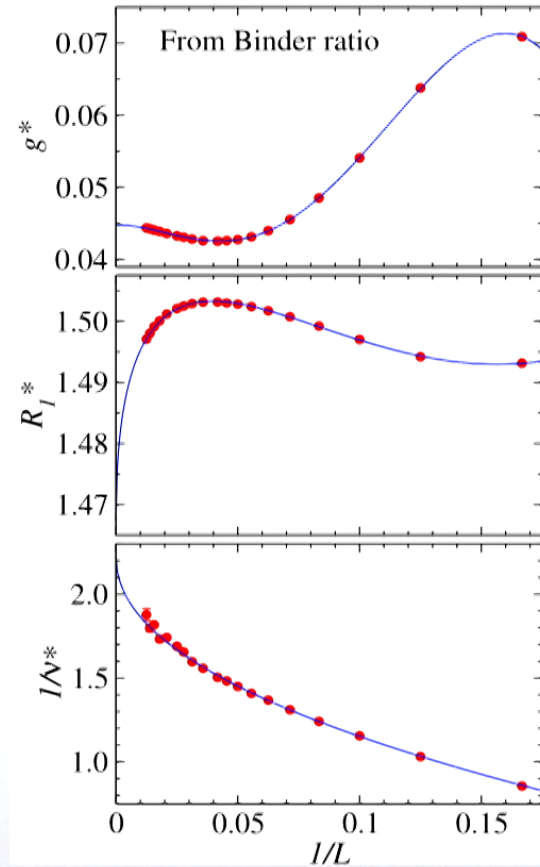
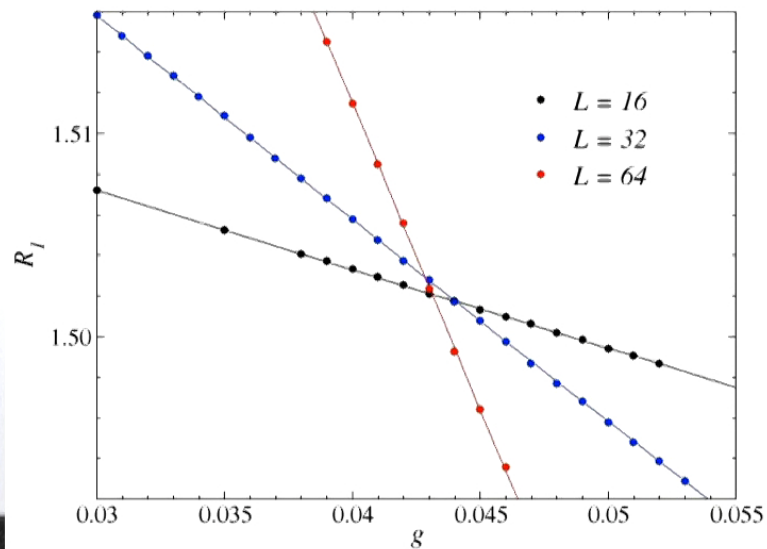
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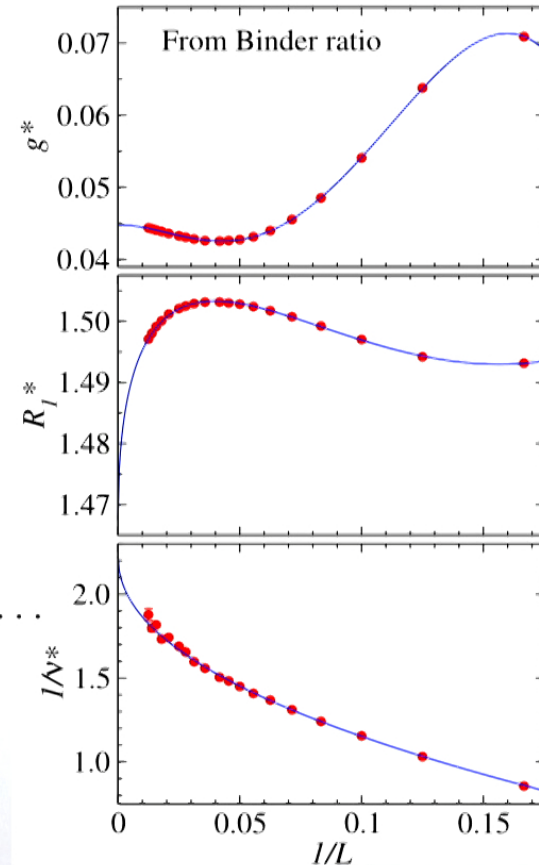
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$$s(g, L) = dR_1(g, L)/dg \quad (\text{slope})$$

- **Small correction exponent; $\omega \approx 0.4$**

- **$\nu = 0.45 \pm 0.01$**



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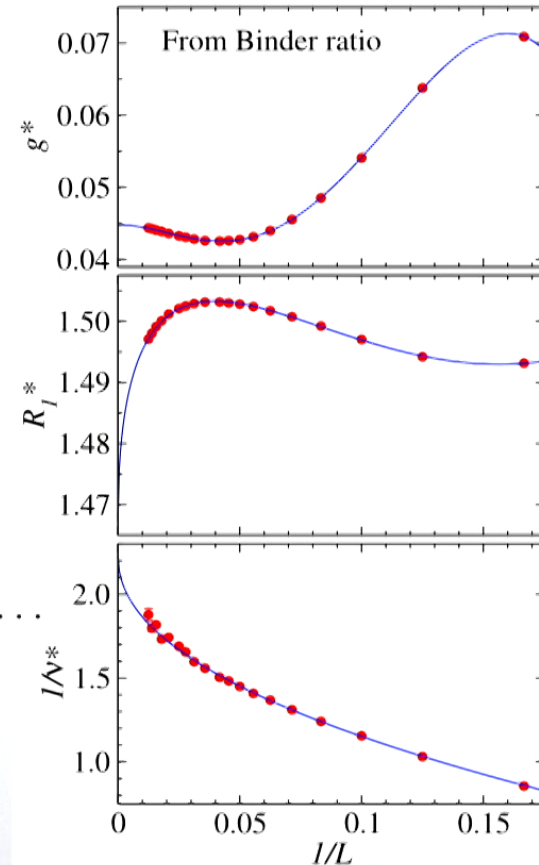
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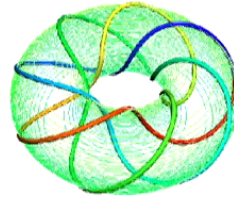
No sign of first-order transition (then $\nu=1/3$ in finite-size scaling)

Anomalous scaling behavior - weak first-order transition?

First-order scenario: Prokofe'v, Svistunov, Kuklov, Troyer,... (2008-2013)
Jiang, Nyfeler, Chandrasekharan, Wiese (2008)

Anomalous scaling of winding numbers

$$\begin{aligned}\langle W^2 \rangle &= \langle W_x^2 \rangle + \langle W_y^2 \rangle + \langle W_\tau^2 \rangle \\ &= 2\beta\rho_s + \frac{4N}{\beta}\chi\end{aligned}$$



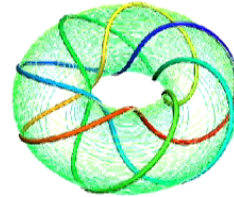
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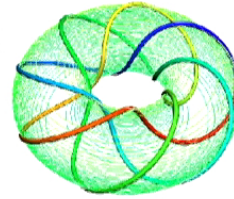
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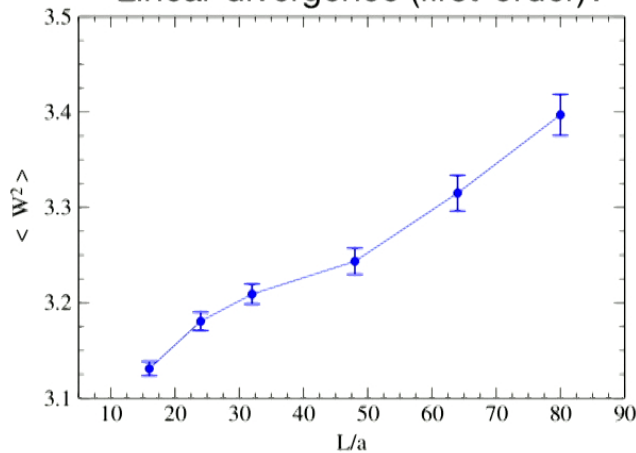


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Linear divergence (first-order)?



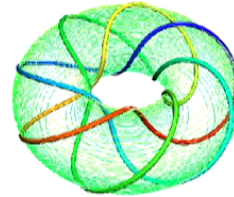
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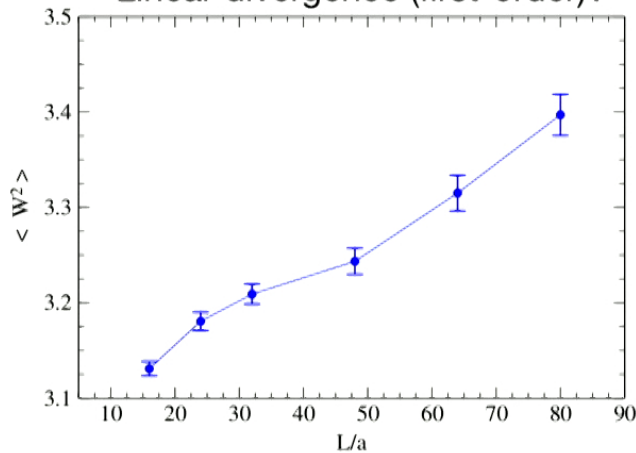
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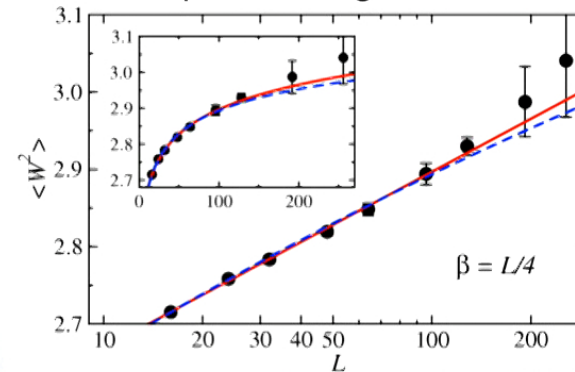
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Multiplicative log correction?



(Sandvik, PRL 2010)

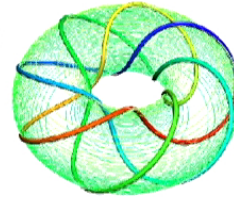
Also consistent with power-law

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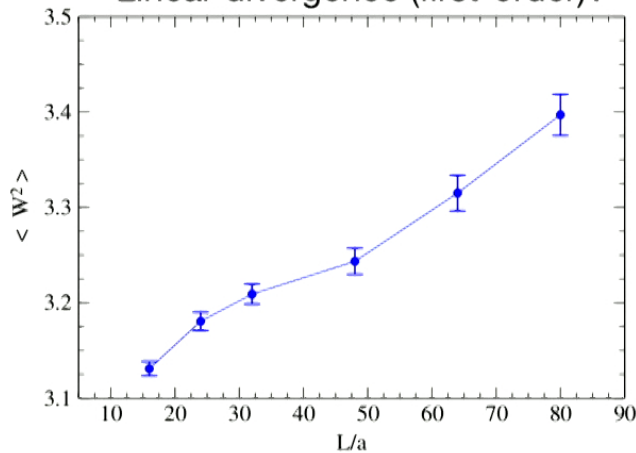
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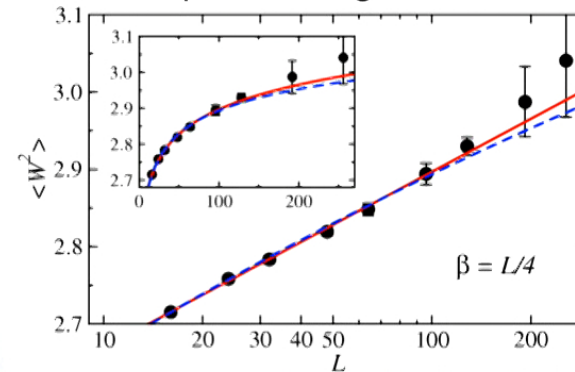
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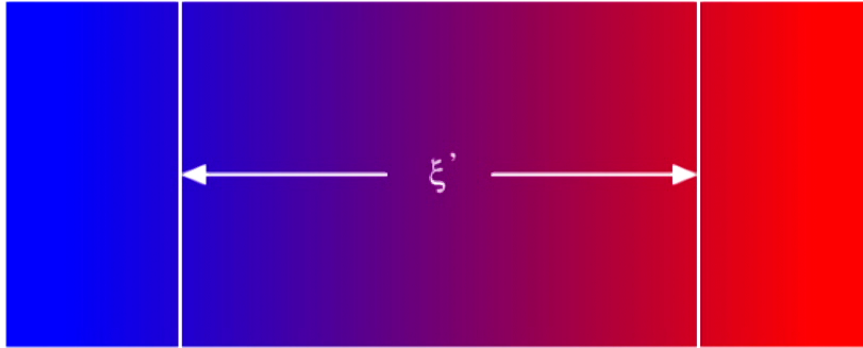
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Could the anomalous behavior be a consequence of two length scales?

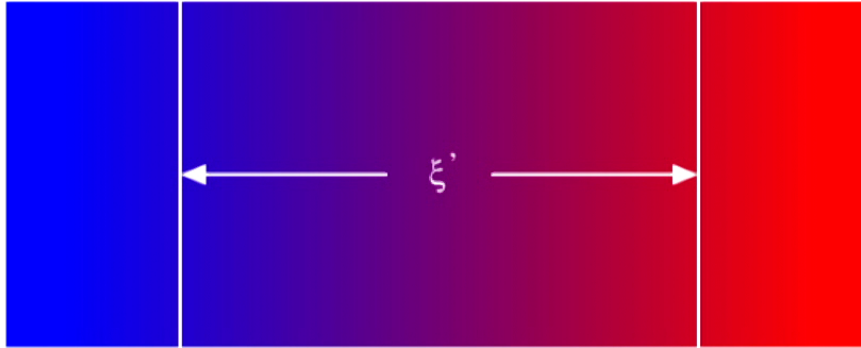
Two length scales - VBS domain walls

In some classical systems (clock models,...) the thickness of a domain wall is larger than the correlation length: $\xi \sim \delta^{-\nu}$, $\xi' \sim \delta^{-\nu'}$, $\nu' > \nu$



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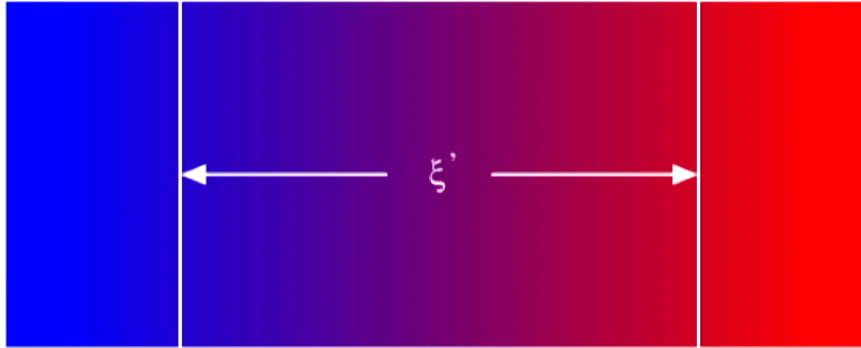


Free-energy cost of wall:

$$\Delta F \sim \xi^{d-2} \xi'^{-1} L^{d-1}$$

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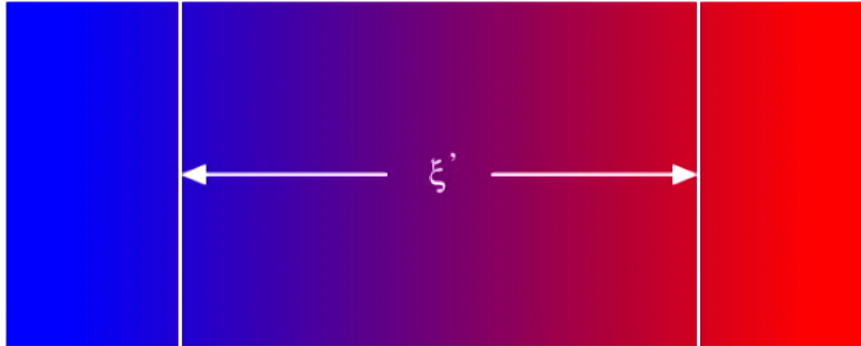
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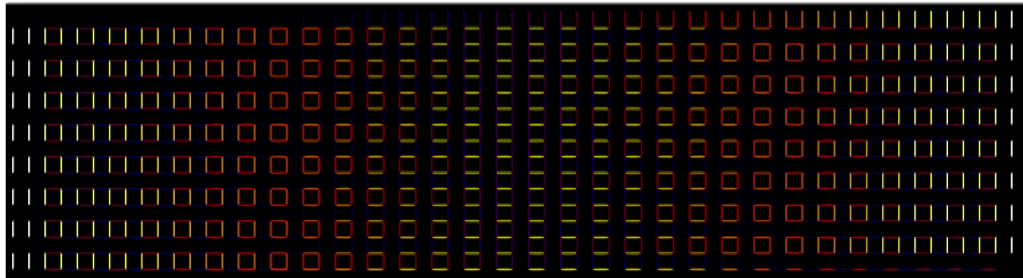
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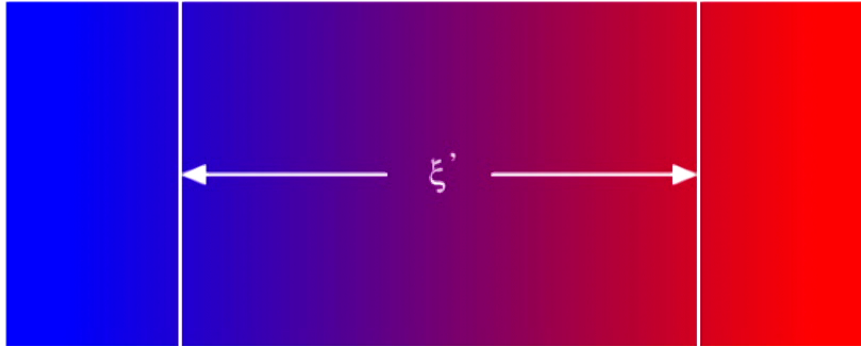
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Deconfined quantum-criticality: VBS domain wall should have this property



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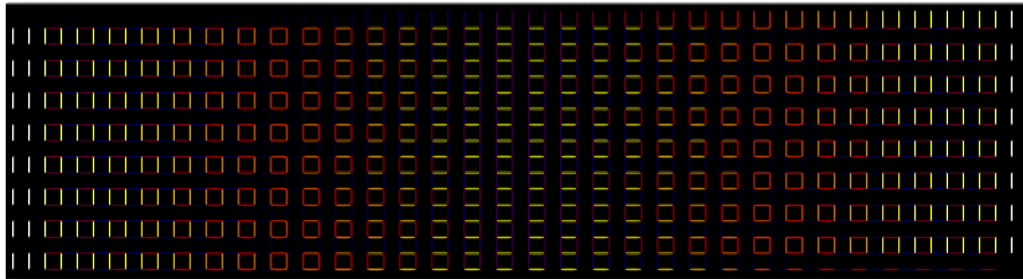
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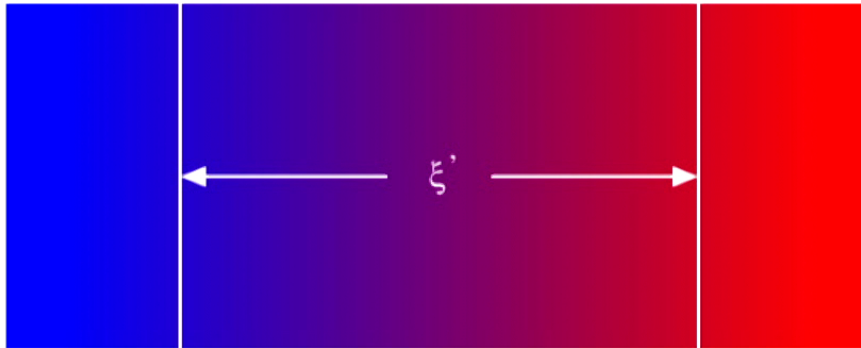
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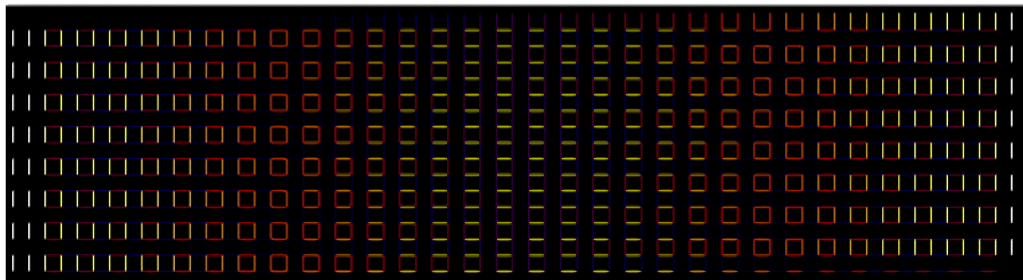
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→ finite-size scaling studies of clock/VBS domain walls

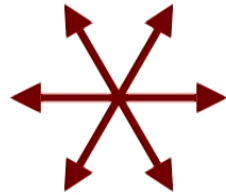
Domain-wall energy in the 3D clock model

3D q-state clock model (q>3)

- basic example of dangerously irrelevant perturbation [to U(1) symmetry]

$$H = -J \sum_{\langle ij \rangle} \cos(\Theta_i - \Theta_j)$$

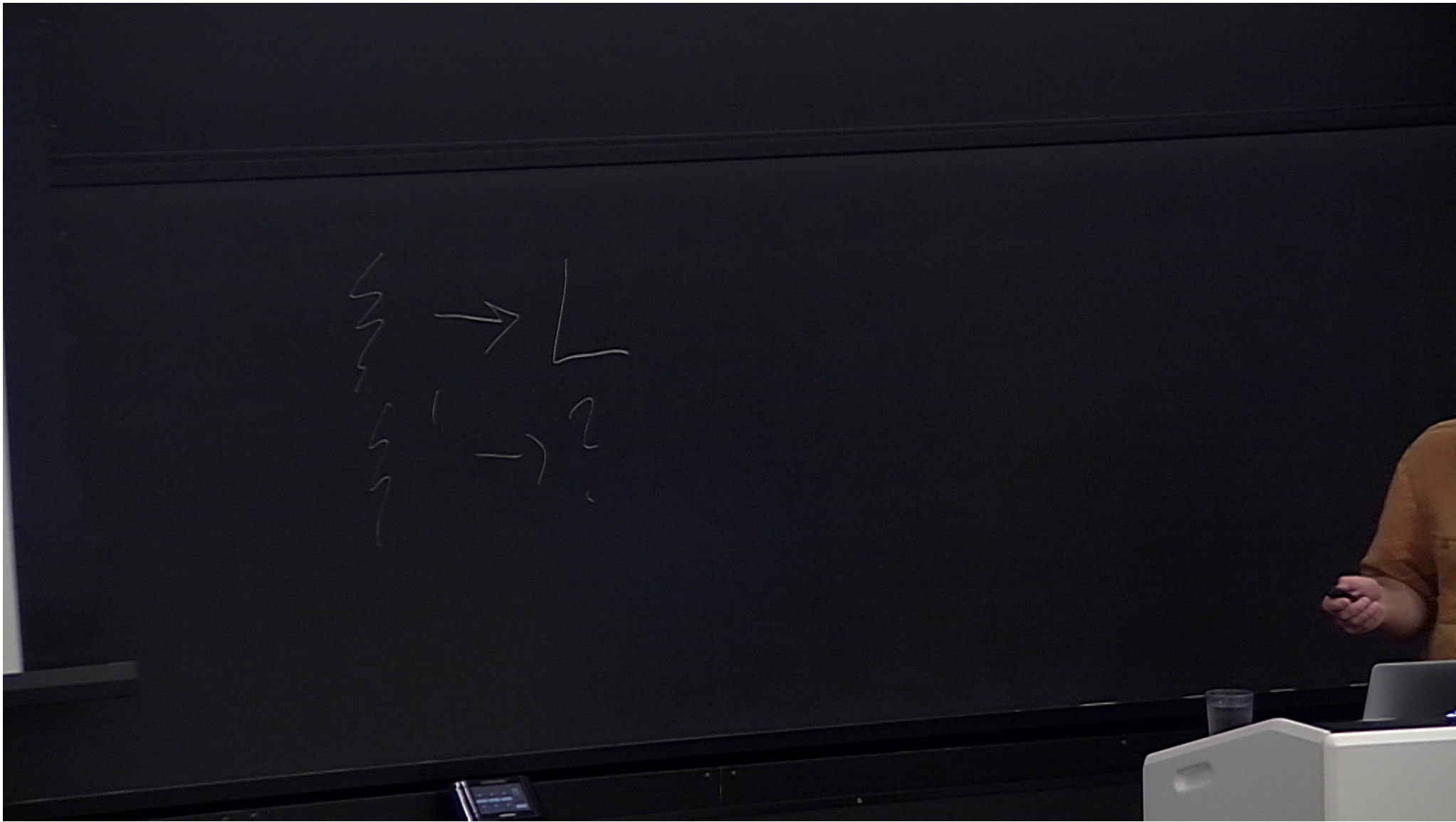
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$$q = 6$$

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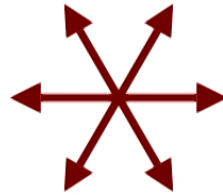
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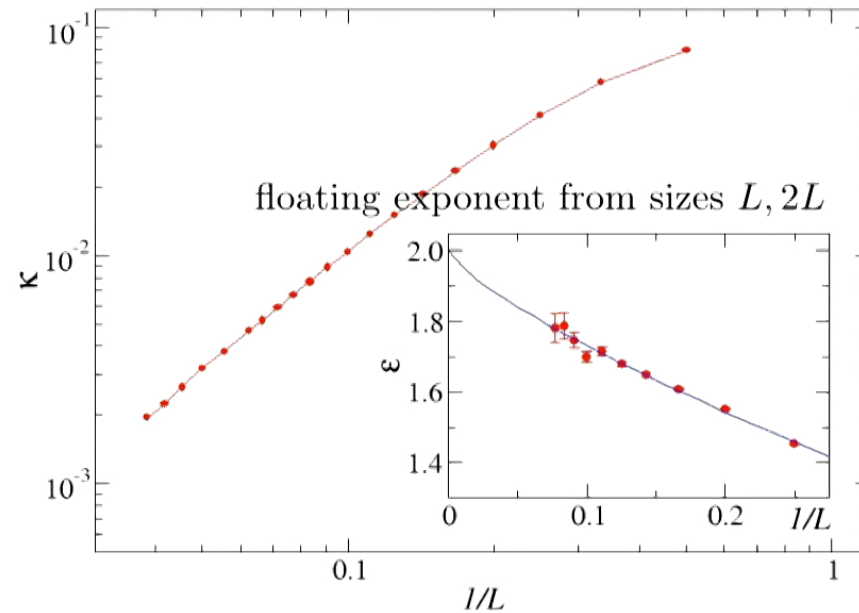
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Finite-size scaling at T_c shows

$$\kappa \sim L^{-2}$$

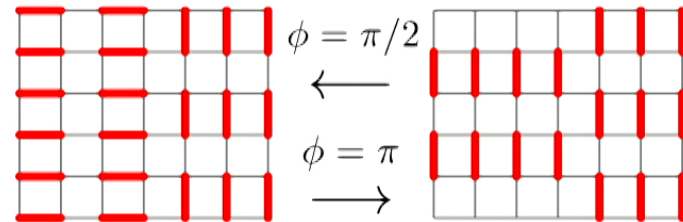
$$\xi' \sim \xi^{\nu'/\nu}, \quad \nu'/\nu \approx 2 \quad (q = 6)$$



VBS Domain-wall scaling in the critical J-Q model

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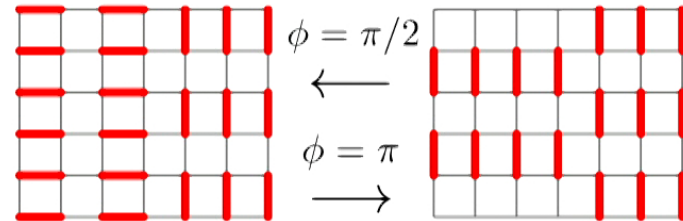
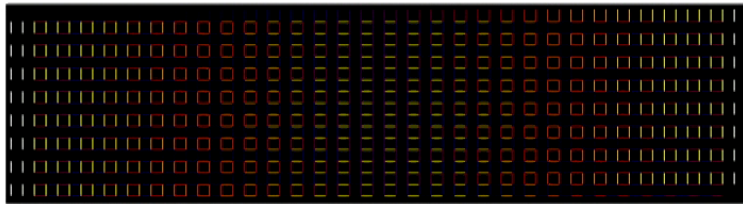
Two kinds of VBS domain walls can be imposed in open-boundary systems



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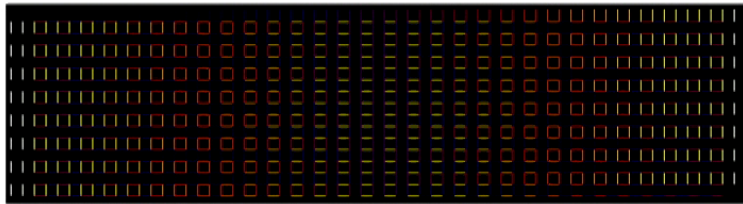
- π wall splits into two $\pi/2$ walls



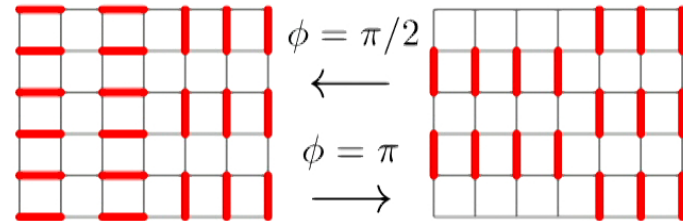
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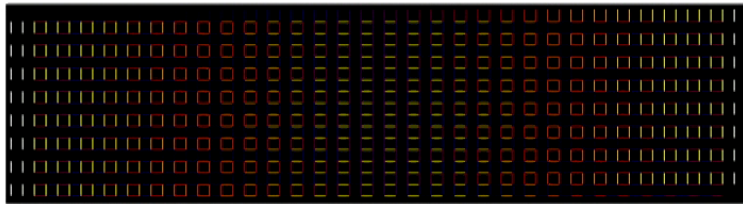
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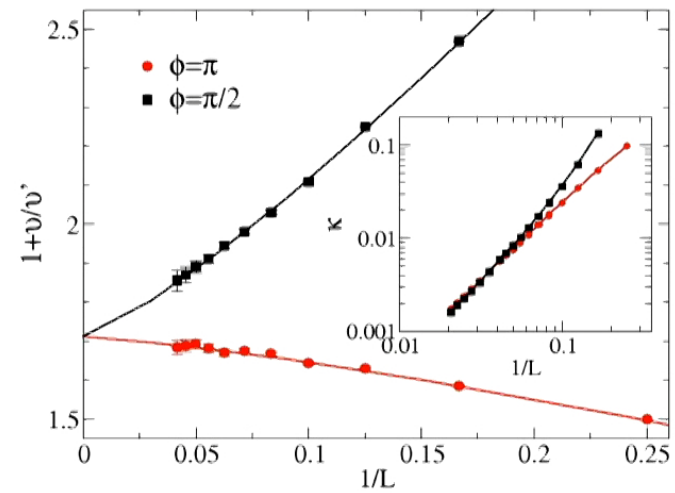
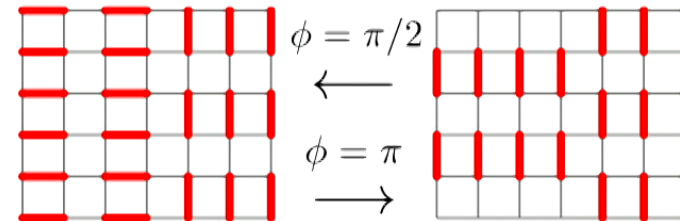
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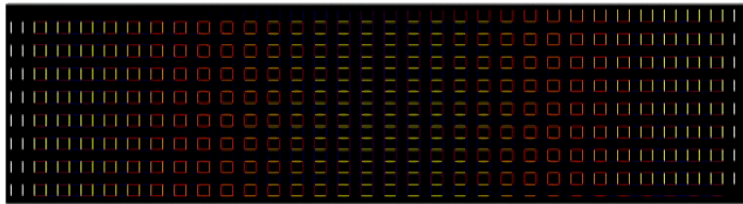


$$\ln[\kappa(L)/\kappa(2L)]/\ln(2) \rightarrow 1 + \nu/\nu'$$

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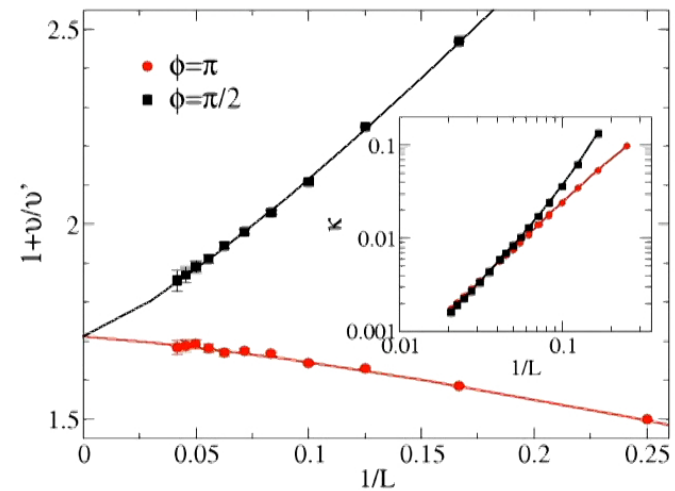
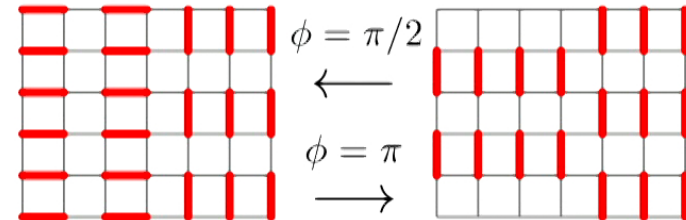
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Ambiguity in finite-size scaling:

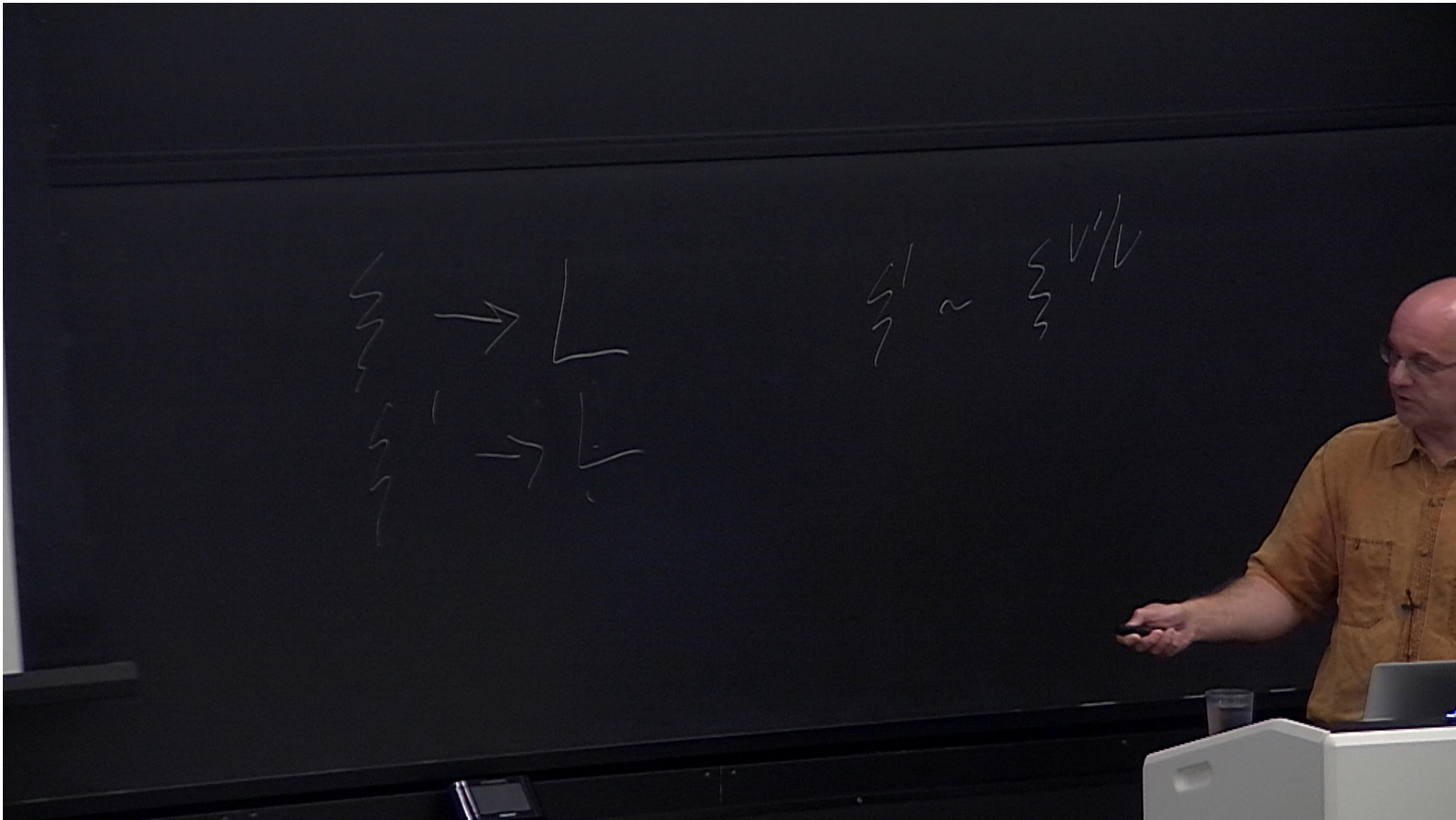
option 1) $\xi \rightarrow L, \xi' \rightarrow L^{\nu'/\nu} : \kappa \sim L^{-(1+\nu'/\nu)}$

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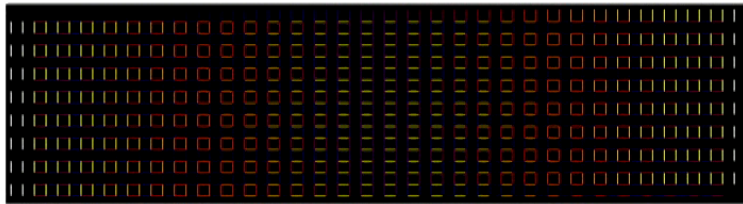
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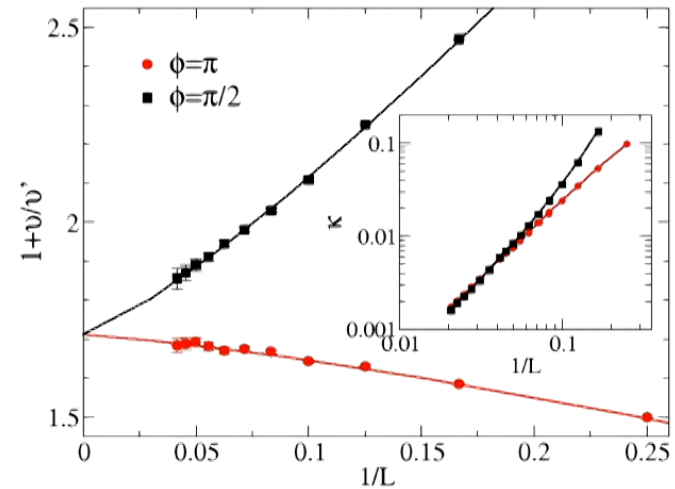
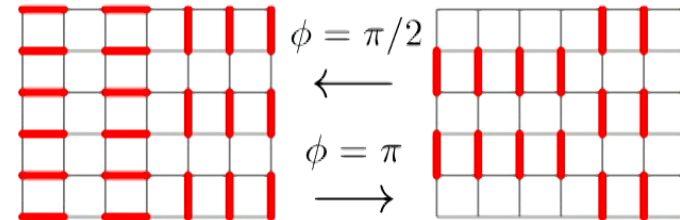
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Results show option 3 (exponent < 2):

$$\nu/\nu' \approx 0.715 \pm 0.015$$

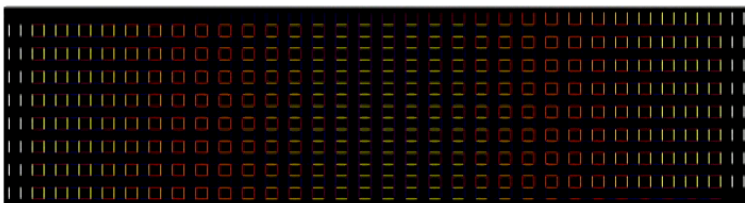


$$\ln[\kappa(L)/\kappa(2L)]/\ln(2) \rightarrow 1 + \nu/\nu'$$

VBS Domain-wall scaling in the critical J-Q model

Two kinds of VBS domain walls can be imposed in open-boundary systems

- π wall splits into two $\pi/2$ walls



$$\kappa \sim \xi^{-1} \xi'^{-1}$$

Ambiguity in finite-size scaling:

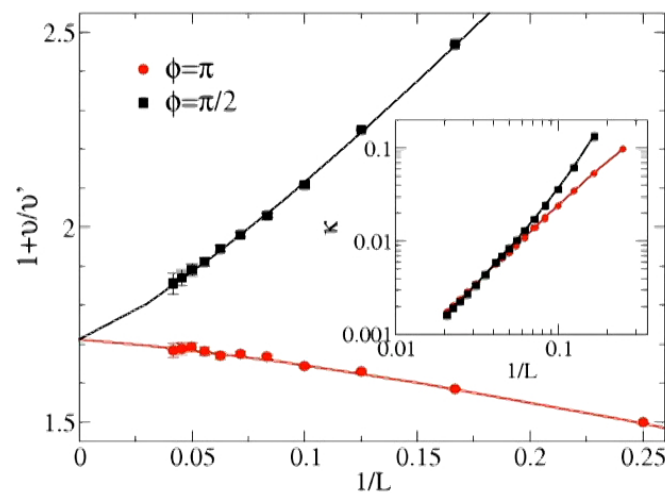
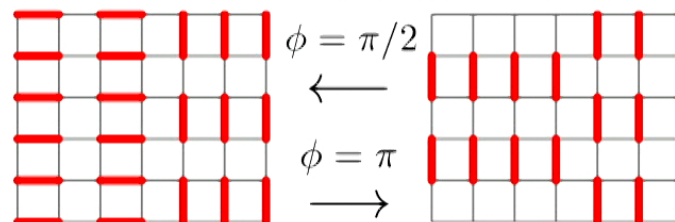
option 1) $\xi \rightarrow L, \xi' \rightarrow L^{\nu/\nu'} : \kappa \sim L^{-(1+\nu'/\nu)}$

option 2) $\xi \rightarrow L, \xi' \rightarrow L : \kappa \sim L^{-2}$

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Demonstrates explicitly two divergent length scales!
- different from standard “dangerously irrelevant” perturbation

Quantum criticality with two lengths

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Two divergent lengths tuned by one parameter: $\xi \propto \delta^{-\nu}$, $\xi' \propto \delta^{-\nu'}$

Finite-size scaling of some quantity A. Thermodynamic limit: $A \propto \delta^\kappa$

Conventional scenario

$$A(\delta, L) = L^{-\kappa/\nu} f(\delta L^{1/\nu}, \delta L^{1/\nu'})$$

$$\text{When } L \rightarrow \infty: f(\delta L^{1/\nu}, \delta L^{1/\nu'}) \rightarrow (\delta L^{1/\nu})^\kappa$$

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The first scenario has so far been assumed

- unexplained drifts in $L\rho_s$ in J-Q and other models ($z=1, d=2$)

Evidence for unconventional scaling in J-Q model

(L,2L) crossing-point analysis of $L\rho_s$ and $L\chi$

The conventional scaling form

$$\rho_s, \chi \propto L^{-1}$$

Replaced by new form

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Evidence for unconventional scaling in J-Q model

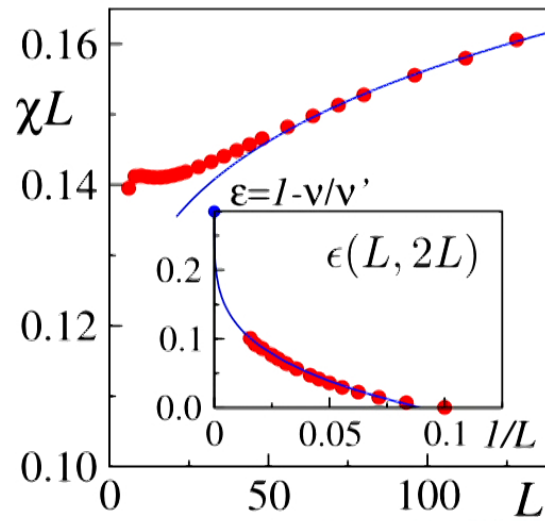
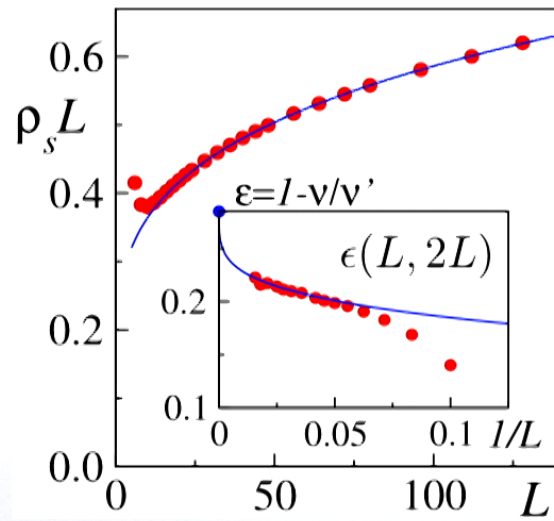
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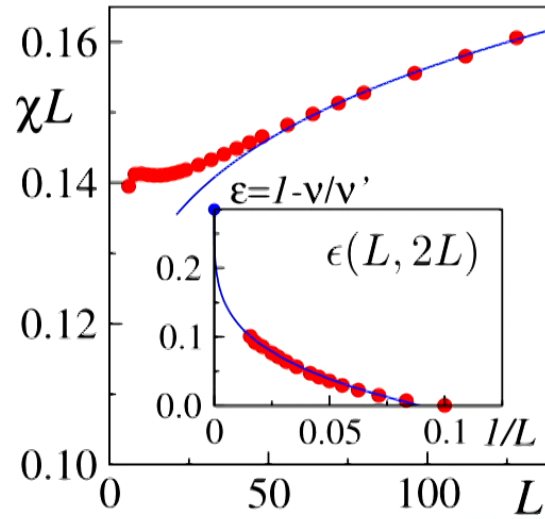
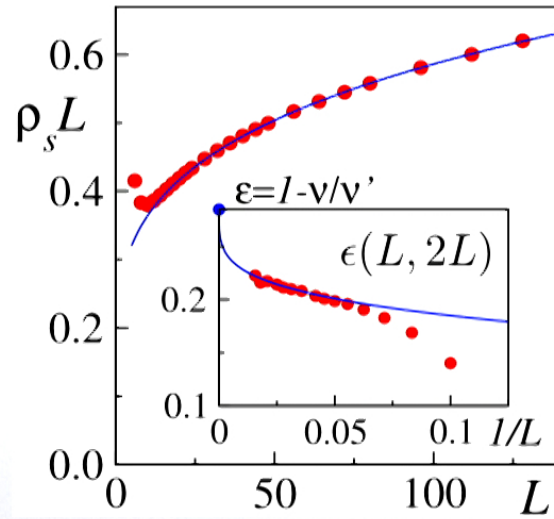
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Fixed; taken from domain-wall scaling fit

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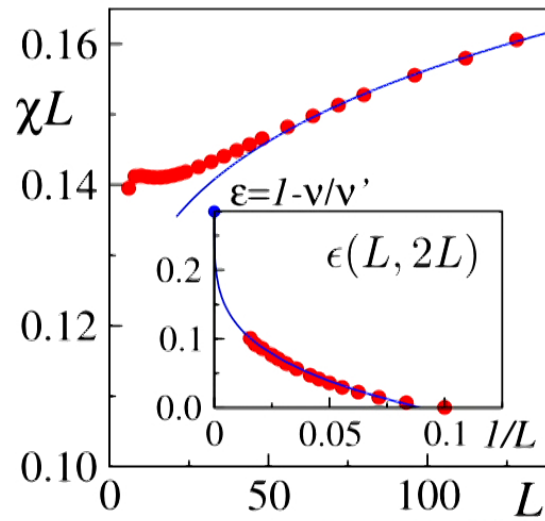
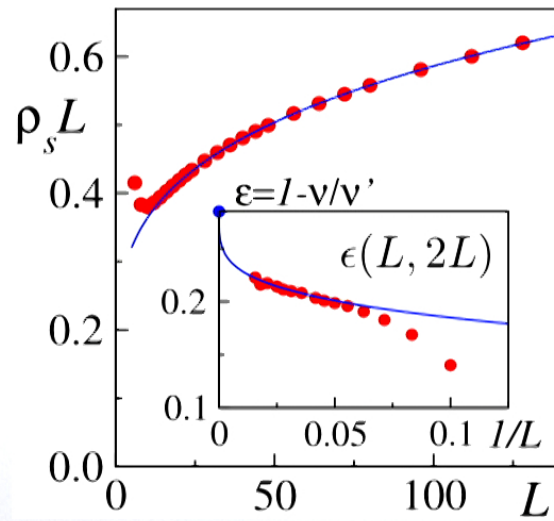
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Behavior interpreted (by some) as first-order transition is actually unconventional scaling related to two divergent lengths!

Further tests of consistent scaling exponents

The expected behaviors including finite-size corrections are

$$\rho_s L = L^\epsilon (1 + a_1 L^{-\omega_1} + a_2 L^{-\omega_2} + \dots)$$

$$\chi_u L = L^\epsilon (1 + b_1 L^{-\omega_1} + b_2 L^{-\omega_2} + \dots)$$

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Leading power: $\epsilon = 1 - \nu/\nu' \approx 0.285$

Small leading correction exponent: $\omega_1 \approx 0.3$

The prefactors of the corrections depend on details:

- one can expect $a_i(r)$, $b_i(r)$
- r is the space-time aspect ratio; $\beta = L/r$
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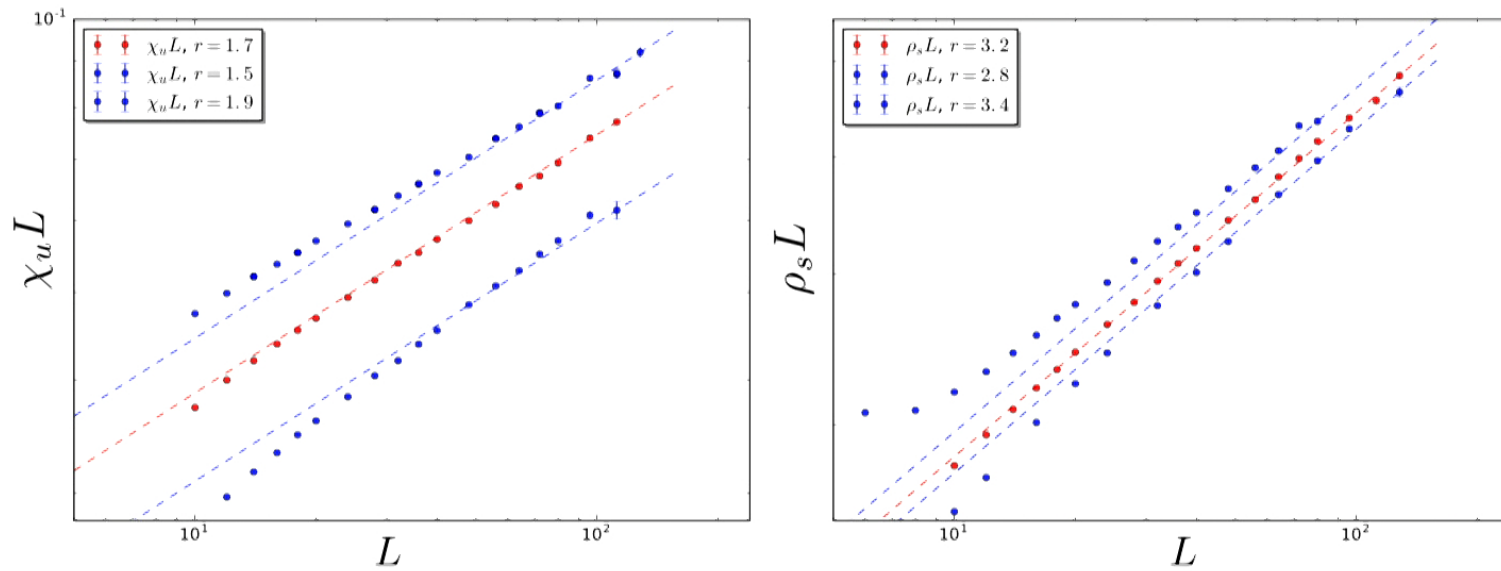
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Calculations with different r to test for optimum
(Bowen Zhao, Hui Shao, AWS, work in progress)

Some preliminary results....

Results for different aspect ratios r



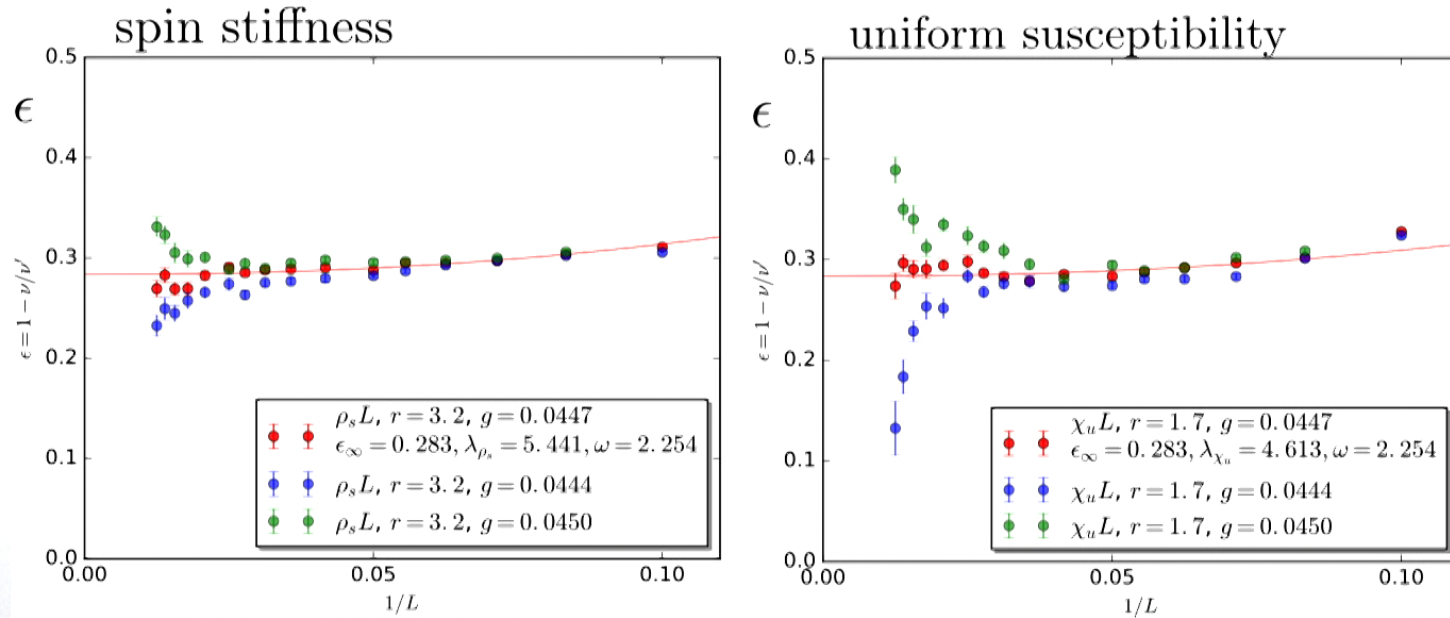
Apparent change in sign of the leading correction
- optimal aspect ratios $r \approx 1.7$ (susceptibility), $r \approx 3.2$ (spin stiffness)

Quantitative analysis

Three g-values close to the critical point, near-optimal aspect ratios
- exponent $\varepsilon = 1 - v/v'$ extracted from (L,2L) size pairs

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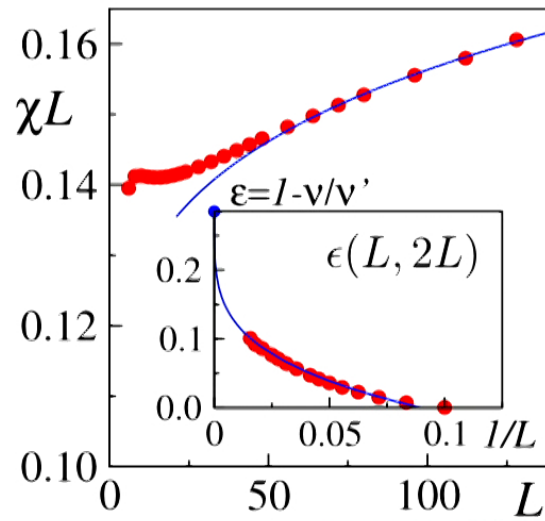
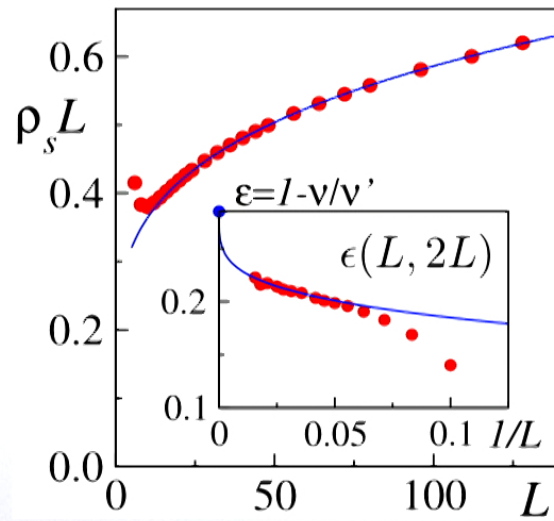
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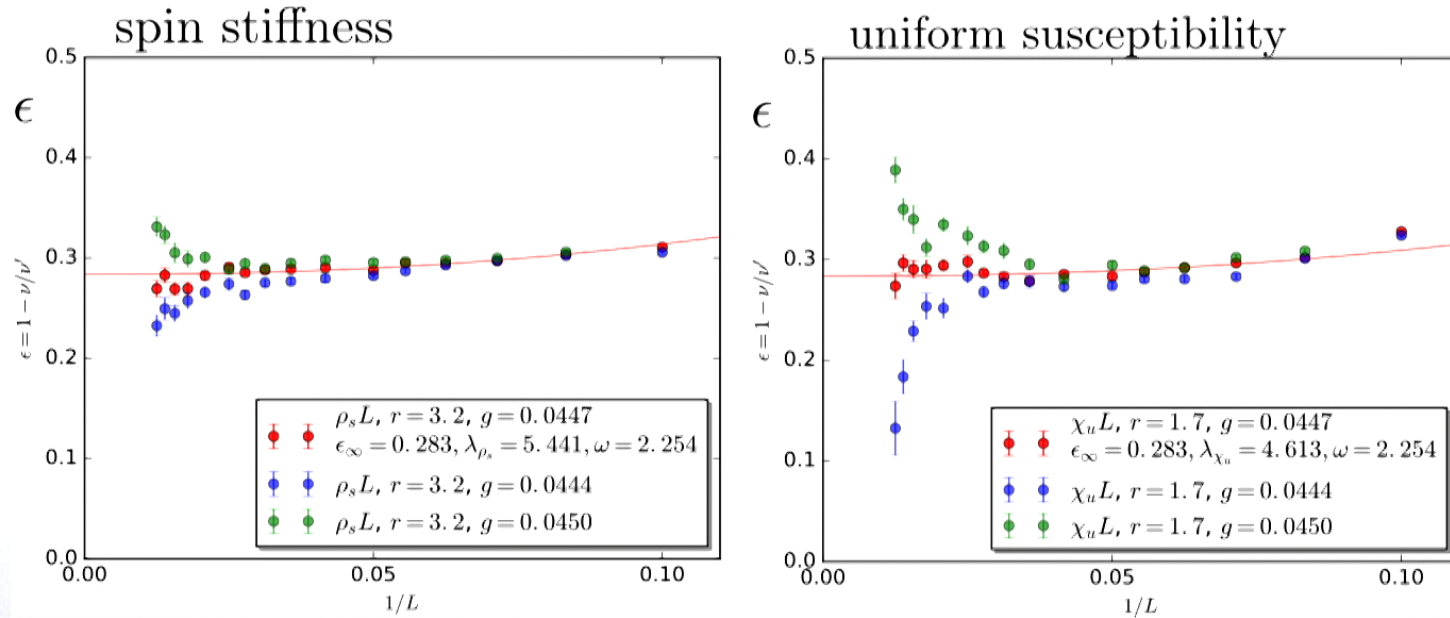


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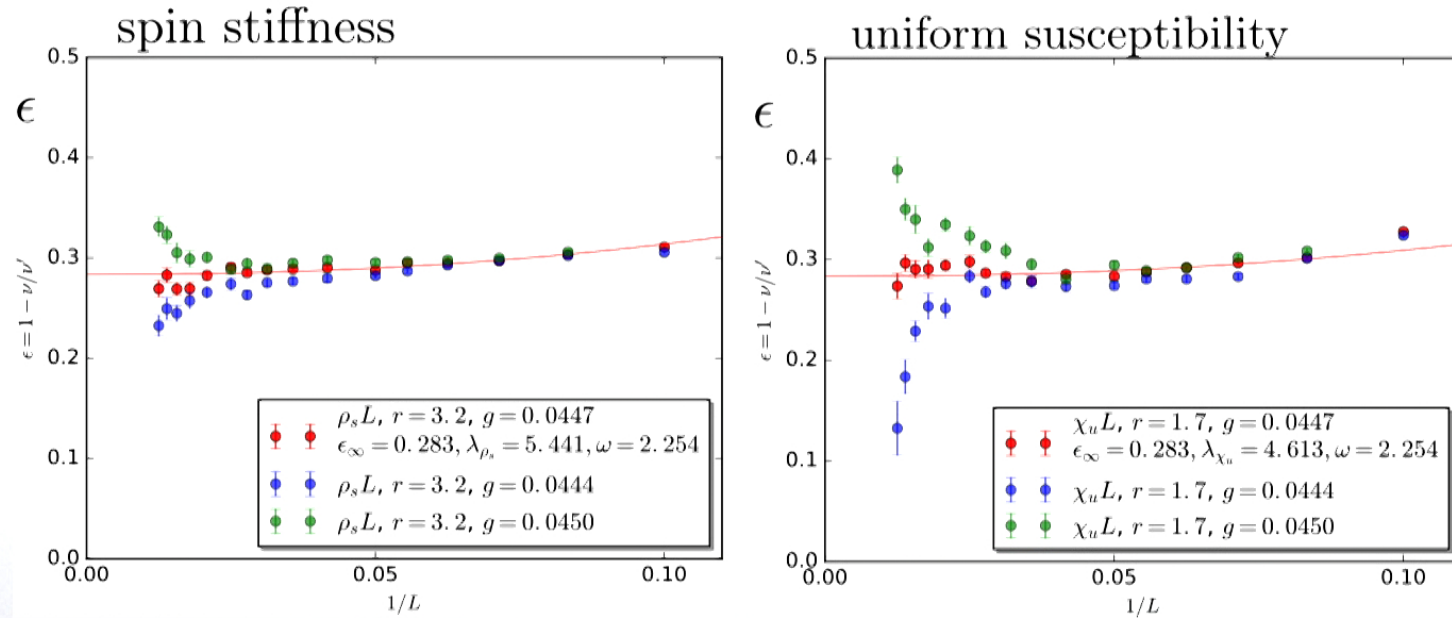
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The critical point is very close to 0.0447

Exponent in full agreement with the domain-wall value

Unconventional $T > 0$ critical scaling

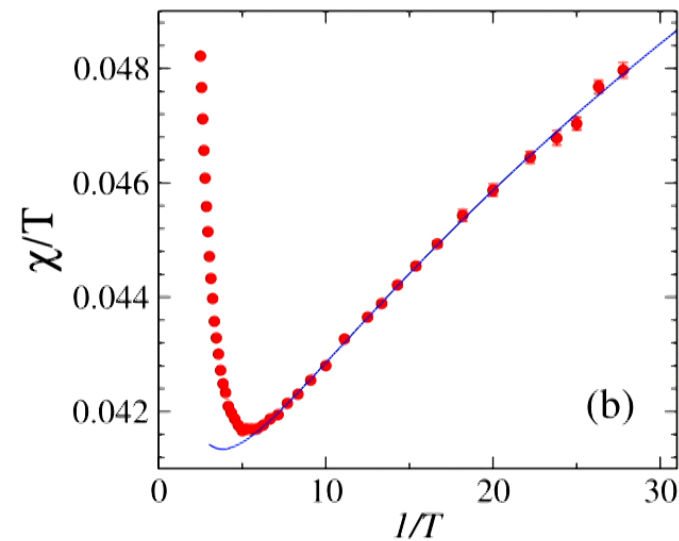
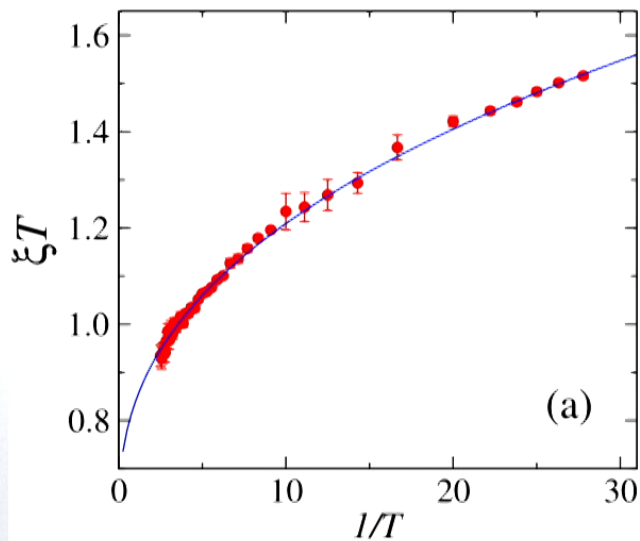
Conjecture involving the two length-scale exponents:

$$\xi_T \propto T^{-1/(z\nu/\nu')} (1 + aT^{\omega_\xi}),$$

$$\chi_T \propto T^{(d/z-1)\nu/\nu'} (1 + bT^{\omega_\chi})$$

$$\nu/\nu' \approx 0.72$$

Fixed; taken from domain-wall scaling fit



Conclusions

Two length scales observed explicitly in the J-Q model

No signs of first-order transition

Simple two-length scaling hypothesis explains anomalous scaling of spin stiffness and susceptibility

- conventional wisdoms need to be revised

Finite-temperature

- $T > 0$ corresponds to thickness of quantum system in imaginary time

- scaling laws from finite-size scaling forms

Standard $T > 0$ critical scaling forms have to be reconsidered

- existing J-Q results support unconventional forms with v/v'

- experimentally important

How general is this kind of two-length criticality?