



# Small-Instanton induced Flavor Invariants and the Axion Potential

based on arXiv: [2402.09361](https://arxiv.org/abs/2402.09361)

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Ravneet Bedi, Tony Gherghetta, Christophe Grojean, Guilherme Guedes,  
Jonathan Kley, and Pham Ngoc Hoa Vuong  
(hoa.vuong@desy.de)

The Axion Quest  
09 August 2024, Quy Nhon, Vietnam

# Preliminary & Outline of this talk

- Axion potential:

How to make small(UV)-instanton becoming relevant?

QCD contribution & UV contributions via Instanton effects

- Small-instantons & Axion potential:

Topological susceptibilities and Flavour invariants

UV completions of small-instanton

Bounds from neutron EDM

# Preliminary & Outline of this talk

- Instanton #101:

QCD  $\theta$ -vacuum = Superposition of n-vacua (energy degenerate but topologically distinct)

$$|\theta\rangle = \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-in\theta}|n\rangle = \cdots |0\rangle + e^{-i\theta}|1\rangle + \cdots$$


Instanton describes the tunnelling effect between degenerate n-vacua

Localized objects in Euclidean spacetime, satisfying the Euclidean equation of motion with non-trivial topologies and therefore minimize the Euclidean action.

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Explicit SU(2) BPST instanton solution with  $Q = 1$ :  $\frac{g^2}{32\pi^2} \int d^4x G_{\mu\nu}^A \tilde{G}^{A,\mu\nu}(x) \Big|_{\text{inst.}} = Q$ , where  $Q \in \mathbb{Z}$ .  
(Background field configuration)

$$G_\mu^a(x) \Big|_{\text{1-inst.}} = 2 \eta_{a\mu\nu} \frac{(x - x_0)_\nu}{(x - x_0)^2 + \rho^2}$$

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Characterized by a set of collective coordinates  $\Rightarrow$  zero-modes (family of equivalent solutions)

$x_0$

Location of instanton

$\rho$

Size of instanton

# Preliminary & Outline of this talk

- Instanton #101: Path Integral with Instanton configurations

$$S_{\text{YM}}^{\text{inst.}} = \int d^4x \left( \frac{1}{4} G_{\mu\nu}^A G^{A,\mu\nu} + i\theta_{QCD} \frac{g^2}{32\pi^2} G_{\mu\nu}^A \tilde{G}^{A,\mu\nu} \right) \Big|_{(\text{a.-})\text{inst.}} = \frac{8\pi^2}{g^2} |Q| + i\theta_{QCD} Q$$

=> Within perturbative regime,  $Q = \pm 1$  will dominate the Euclidean Path Integral

$$Z = \int \mathcal{D}A e^{-S_{\text{YM}}^{\text{inst.}}}$$

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Estimating instanton effects => vacuum-to-vacuum transition amplitude:

$$\langle 0|0 \rangle \Big|_{1\text{-inst.}} \sim \int \mathcal{D}\varphi_I^{(0)} \int \mathcal{D}\varphi_I^{(\neq 0)} e^{- \left[ S_{\text{YM}}^{\text{1-inst.}} + \int d^4x \varphi_I^\dagger \left( \frac{\delta^2 \mathcal{L}}{\delta \varphi_I^2} \right) \varphi_I \right]}$$

Zero modes measure Non-zero modes measure

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Integrating out non-zero modes

$$\langle 0|0 \rangle \Big|_{1\text{-inst.}} = e^{-i\theta_{\text{QCD}}} \int d^4x_0 \int \frac{d\rho}{\rho^5} d_N(\rho) \int \prod_{f=1}^{N_f} \left( \rho d\xi_f^{(0)} d\bar{\xi}_f^{(0)} \right) e^{\int d^4x (-\bar{\psi} J\psi + \text{h.c.})}$$

Instanton density

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$$d_N(\rho) \sim e^{-8\pi^2/g^2(\Lambda=1/\rho)}$$

Strongly suppressed at high energy scale  
(for asymptotic free theory)

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When small-instanton effects become relevant?

=> Boost the QCD coupling at high energy scale

- Non-trivial embedding of QCD in UV theories:  $SU(3)_1 \times SU(3)_2 \times \cdots \times SU(3)_k \rightarrow SU(3)_{\text{QCD}}$
- Extra-dimensions (5D instantons)

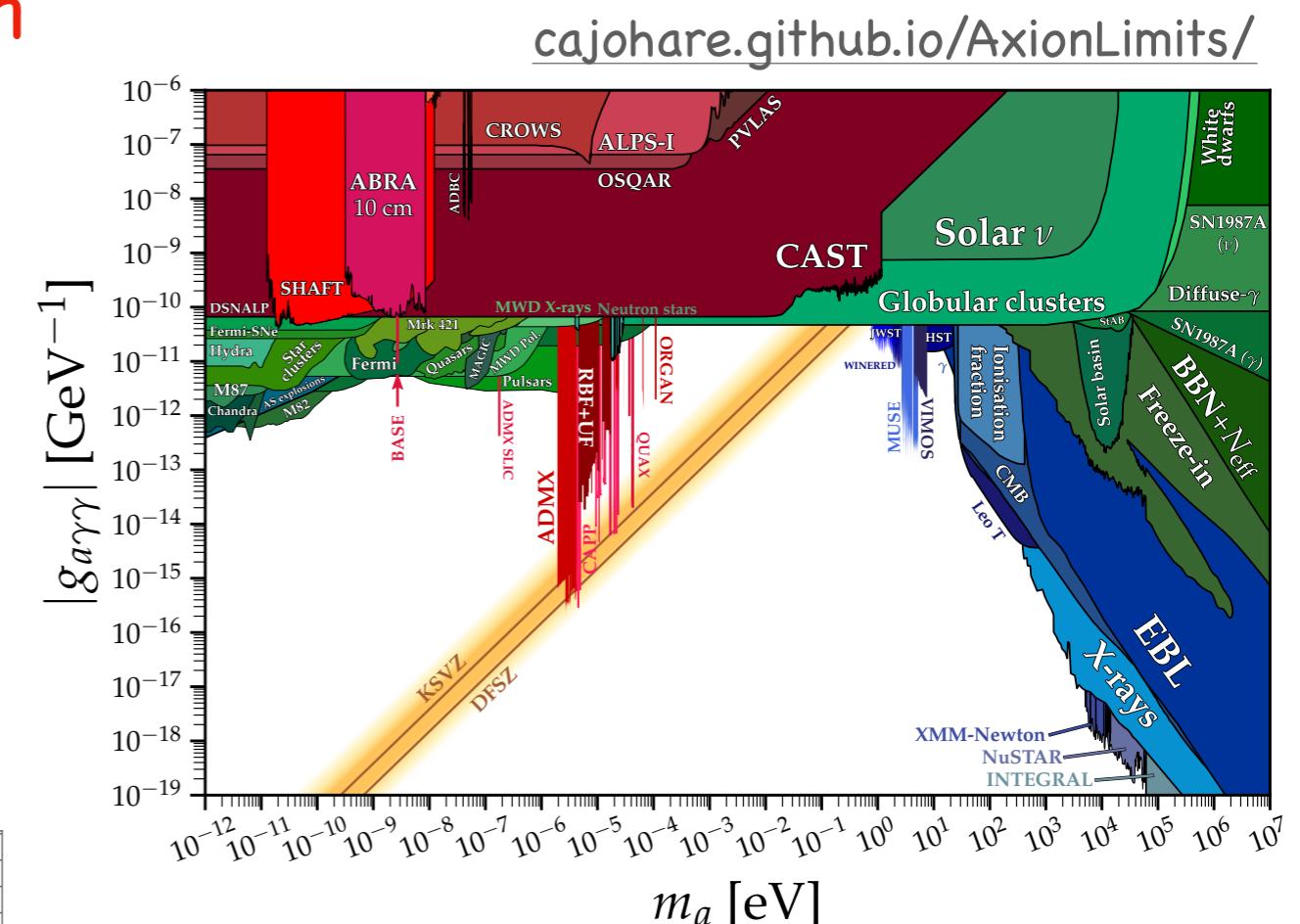
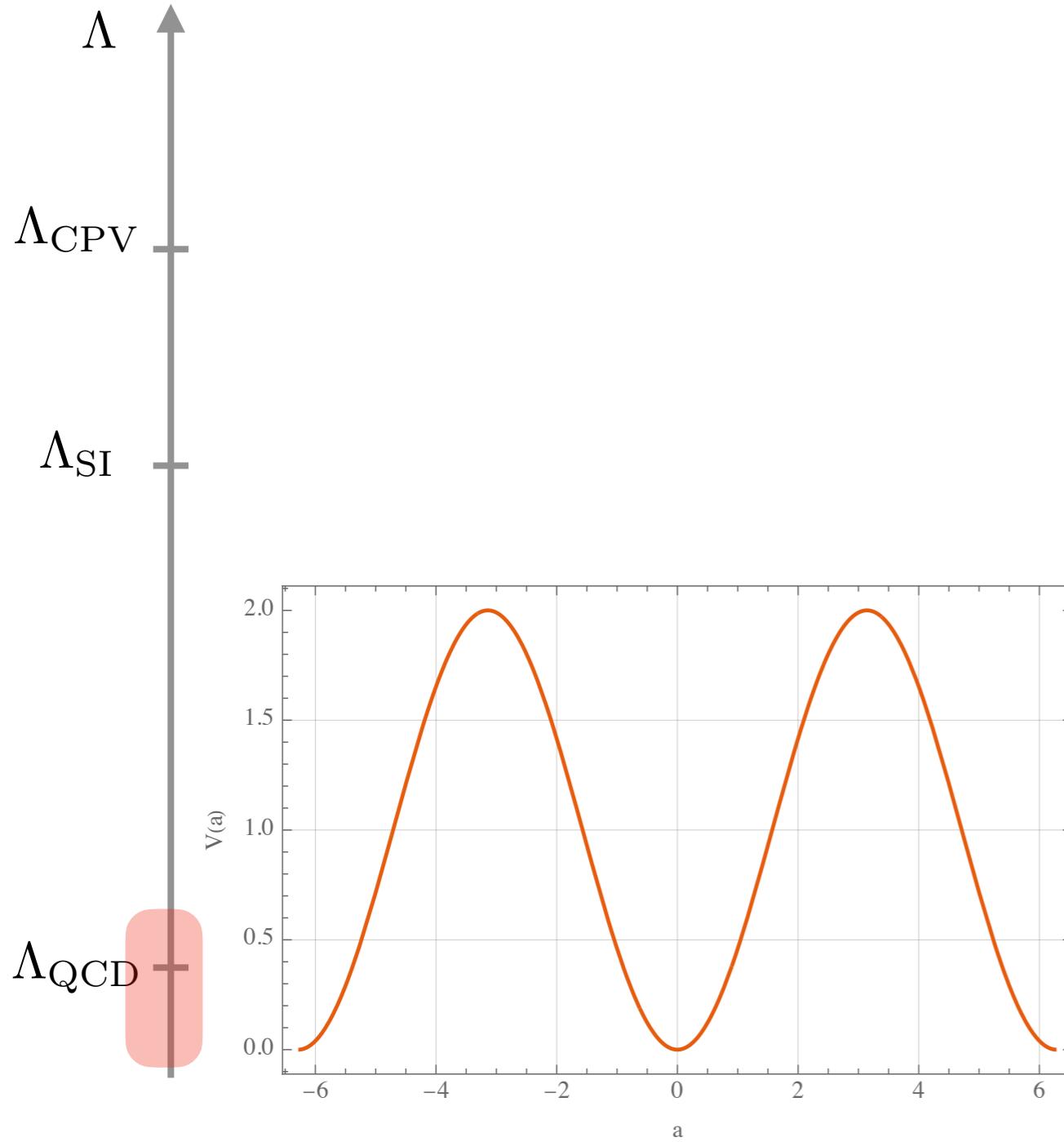
Agrawal and Howe (1710.04213)

C. Csáki, M. Ruhdorfer, Y. Shirman (1912.02197)

T. Gherghetta, V. V. Khoze, A. Pomarol, Y. Shirman (2001.05610)

# Preliminary & Outline of this talk

- Axion potential: QCD contribution



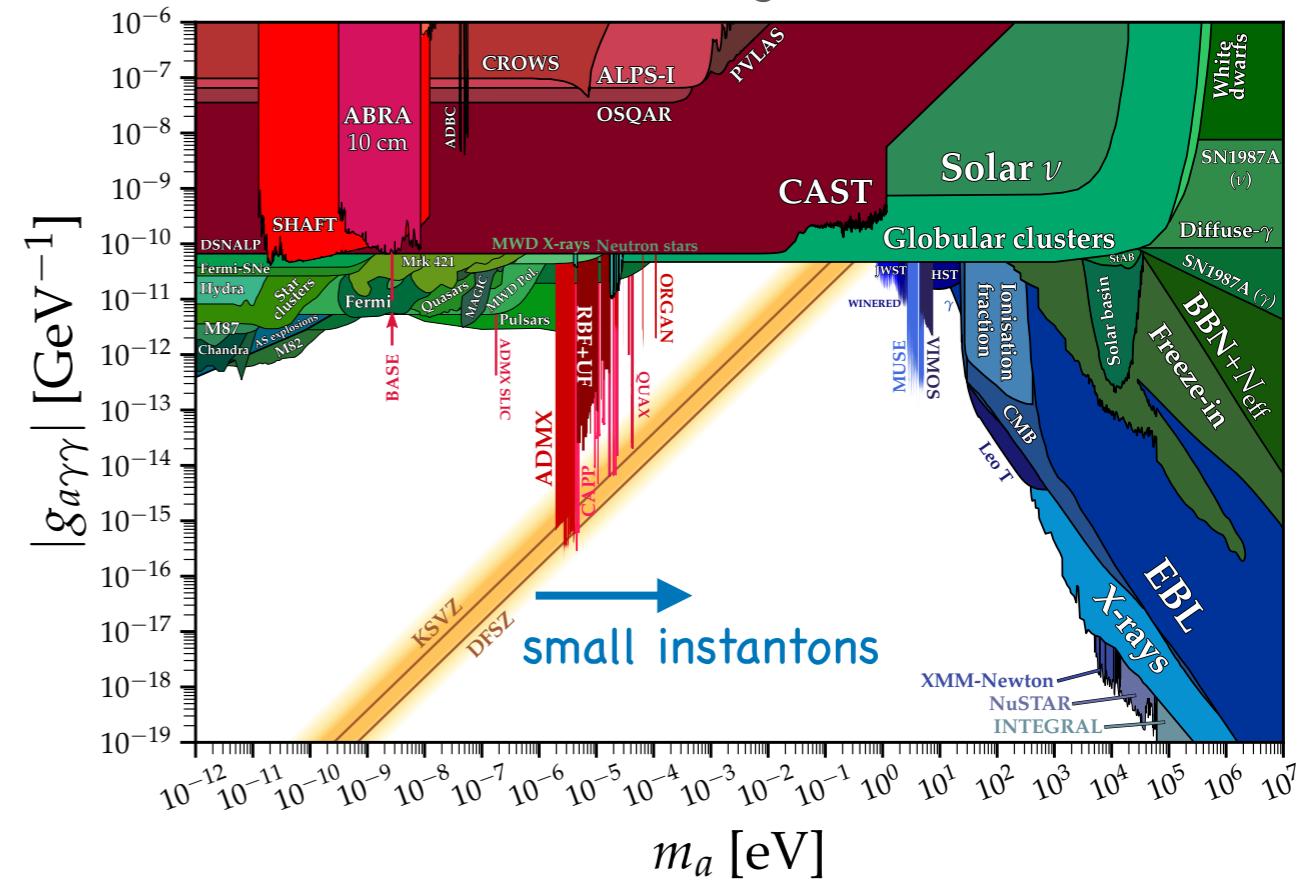
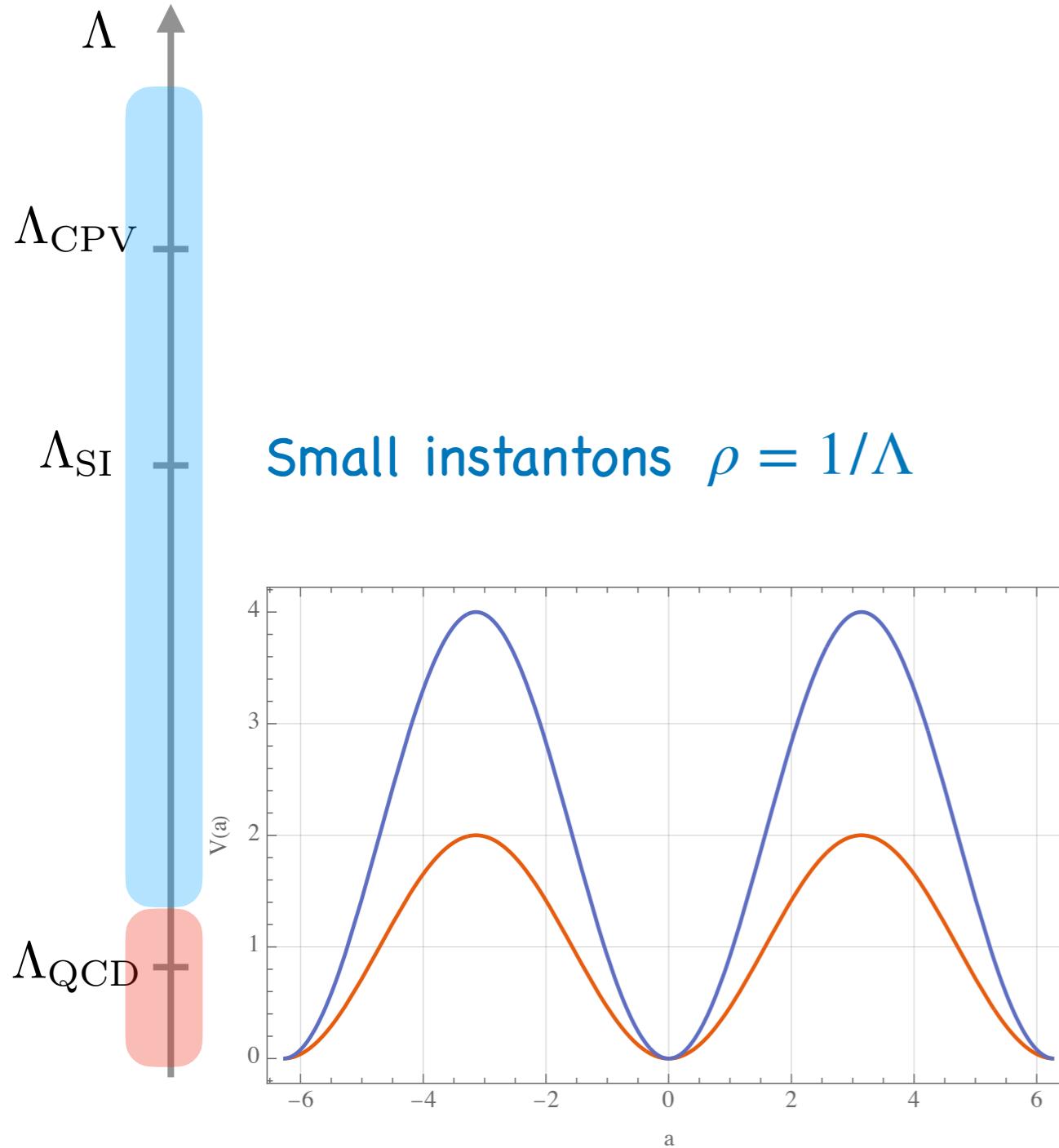
$$V(a) \sim m_\pi^2 f_\pi^2 \left[ 1 - \cos \frac{a}{f_a} \right] \rightarrow \left\langle \frac{a}{f_a} \right\rangle = 0$$

$$m_a^2 f_a^2 = \frac{m_u m_d}{(m_u + m_d)^2} m_\pi^2 f_\pi^2$$

# Preliminary & Outline of this talk

- ## • Axion potential: UV aligned contribution

[cajohare.github.io/AxionLimits/](http://cajohare.github.io/AxionLimits/)

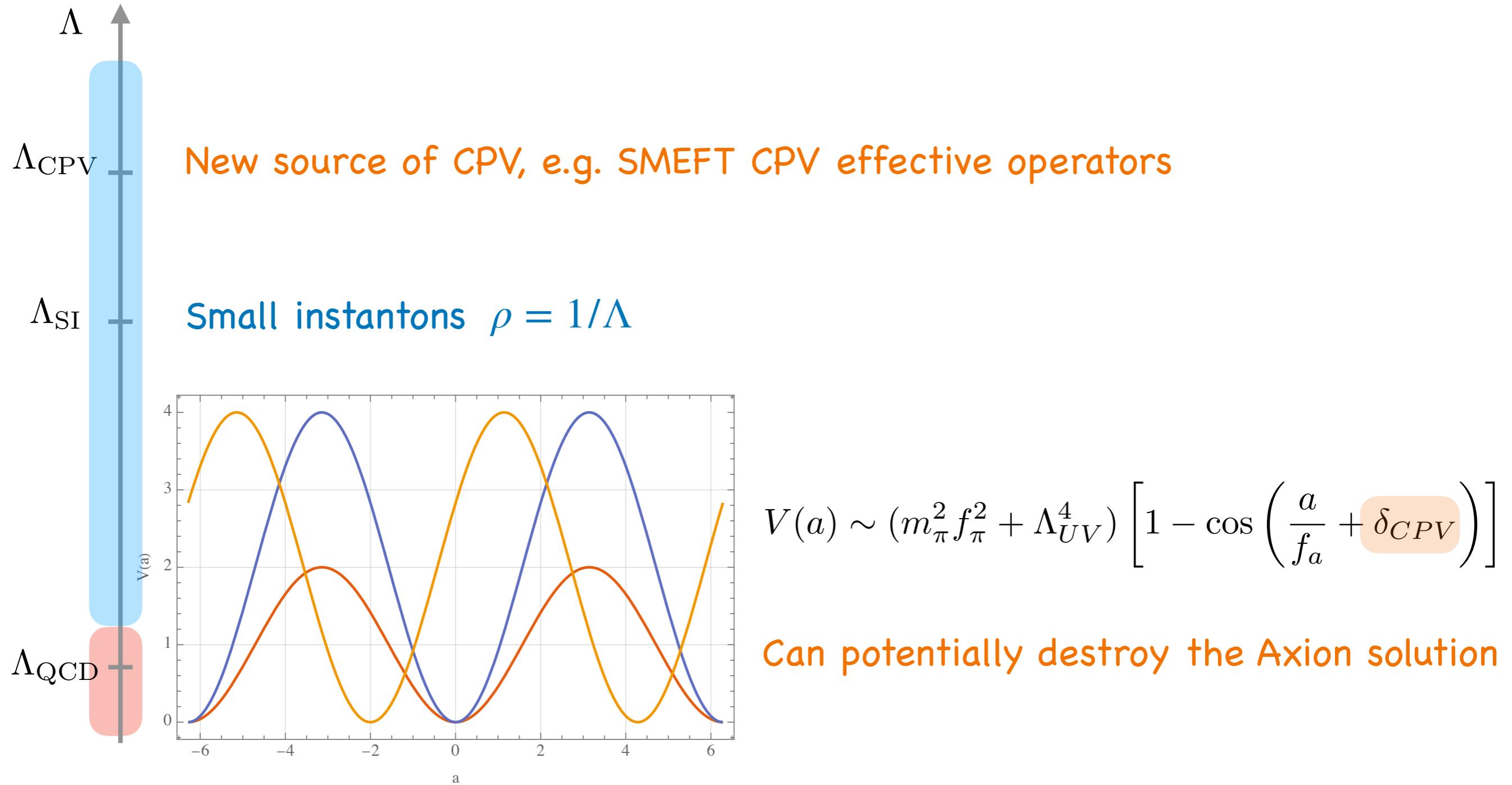


$$V(a) \sim (m_\pi^2 f_\pi^2 + \Lambda_{UV}^4) \left[ 1 - \cos \frac{a}{f_a} \right]$$

Enhance axion mass &  
solve strong CP problem

# Preliminary & Outline of this talk

- Axion potential: UV misaligned contribution



# Preliminary & Outline of this talk

- CP-violation: The case of Standard Model(SM)

CPV is parametrised by Jarlskog invariant:

$$J_4 = \text{ImTr} \left( [Y_u Y_u^\dagger, Y_d Y_d^\dagger]^3 \right)$$

=> CP is conserved iff  $J_4 = 0$  (neglecting  $\bar{\theta}$  )

Jarlskog '85

Bernabeu, Branco, Gronau '86

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- CPV in the SM will not misalign the axion potential:

Appear at 4-loop (from threshold corrections) and  
7-loop (from radiative corrections) level

Jarlskog '85

Bernabeu, Branco, Gronau '86

Ellis, Gaillard '79

Khriplovich '86

Georgi, Randall '86

$$\bar{\theta}_{\text{ind}}^{(\text{SM})} \sim 10^{-19}$$

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## • BSM CP-violation: The case of SMEFT

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{SMEFT}} = \mathcal{L}_{\text{SM}} + \sum_i \frac{C_i \mathcal{O}_i^{(6)}}{\Lambda^2}$$

Contain 1149 CP-odd couplings !!!

=> Generalise Jarlskog invariant to study CPV in the SMEFT systematically

Bonnefoy, Gendy, Grojean, Ruderman

2112.03889, 2302.07288

# Preliminary & Outline of this talk

## • CP-violation: The case of SMEFT

Considering non-perturbative effects => Use  $\theta_{\text{QCD}}$  as a spurion:

|                            | $U(3)_Q$          | $U(3)_u$                | $U(3)_d$                | $U(3)_L$          | $U(3)_e$                |
|----------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|
| $e^{i\theta_{\text{QCD}}}$ | $\mathbf{1}_{+6}$ | $\mathbf{1}_{-3}$       | $\mathbf{1}_{-3}$       | $\mathbf{1}_0$    | $\mathbf{1}_0$          |
| $Y_u$                      | $\mathbf{3}_{+1}$ | $\bar{\mathbf{3}}_{-1}$ | $\mathbf{1}_0$          | $\mathbf{1}_0$    | $\mathbf{1}_0$          |
| $Y_d$                      | $\mathbf{3}_{+1}$ | $\mathbf{1}_0$          | $\bar{\mathbf{3}}_{-1}$ | $\mathbf{1}_0$    | $\mathbf{1}_0$          |
| $Y_e$                      | $\mathbf{1}_0$    | $\mathbf{1}_0$          | $\mathbf{1}_0$          | $\mathbf{3}_{+1}$ | $\bar{\mathbf{3}}_{-1}$ |

SM has one more CP-odd flavour invariant:

$$J_\theta = \text{Im}[e^{-i\theta_{\text{QCD}}} \det(Y_u Y_d)]$$

Built flavour invariants featuring  $\theta_{\text{QCD}}$  for CP-violating SMEFT operators:

$$\mathcal{O}_{quqd}^{(1)} = \bar{Q} u \bar{Q} d$$

$$\mathcal{I}(C_{\text{quqd}}^{(1,8)}) = \text{Im} \left[ e^{-i\theta_{\text{QCD}}} \epsilon^{ABC} \epsilon^{abc} \epsilon^{DEF} \epsilon^{def} Y_{u,Aa} Y_{u,Bb} C_{\text{quqd},CcDd}^{(1,8)} Y_{d,Ee} Y_{d,Ff} \right]$$

Note:  $\bar{Q} u \bar{Q} d$  has 81 CP-odd phases

Bonnefoy, Gendy, Grojean, Ruderman

2112.03889, 2302.07288

# Preliminary & Outline of this talk

- Small instanton & Axion potential: UV misaligned contributions

Small instantons generate axion potential of the form:

$$V(a) = \chi_{\mathcal{O}}(0) \frac{a}{f_a} + \frac{1}{2} \chi(0) \left( \frac{a}{f_a} \right)^2 \quad \longrightarrow \quad \langle \frac{a}{f_a} \rangle \equiv \theta_{\text{ind}} = -\frac{\chi_{\mathcal{O}}(0)}{\chi(0)}$$

Induced by CP-violating operator                              This talk

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Coefficients in the potential can be computed from following correlators: Witten '79

$$\chi(0) = -i \lim_{k \rightarrow 0} \int d^4x e^{ikx} \left\langle 0 \left| T \left\{ \frac{g^2}{32\pi^2} G \tilde{G}(x), \frac{g^2}{32\pi^2} G \tilde{G}(0) \right\} \right| 0 \right\rangle \Big|_{1-(a.-)\text{inst.}}$$

$$\chi_{\mathcal{O}}(0) = -i \lim_{k \rightarrow 0} \int d^4x e^{ikx} \left\langle 0 \left| T \left\{ \frac{g^2}{32\pi^2} G_{\mu\nu}^a \tilde{G}_a^{\mu\nu}(x), \frac{C_{\mathcal{O}}^{ij\dots}}{\Lambda_{\text{CP}}^{D-4}} \mathcal{O}^{D,ij\dots}(0) \right\} \right| 0 \right\rangle \Big|_{1-(a.-)\text{inst.}}$$

Evaluating these correlation functions within perturbative regime and one-(anti)instanton approximation. Making connection with SMEFT flavour invariants => Simplify the calculations

# Small instanton & Axion potential: Evaluating the correlator $\chi_{\mathcal{O}}(0)$

- Core technique 1: Path Integral & Instanton background

$$\begin{aligned} \chi_{\mathcal{O}}(0) &= -i \lim_{k \rightarrow 0} \int d^4x e^{ikx} \left\langle 0 \left| T \left\{ \frac{g^2}{32\pi^2} G\tilde{G}(x), \frac{C_{\mathcal{O}}}{\Lambda_{\mathcal{CP}}^2} \mathcal{O}[\varphi_I, \varphi](0) \right\} \right| 0 \right\rangle, \\ &= e^{-i\theta_{\text{QCD}}} \int d^4x_0 \int \frac{d\rho}{\rho^5} d_N(\rho) \int \prod_{f=1}^{N_f} (\rho d\xi_f^{(0)} d\bar{\xi}_f^{(0)}) \\ &\quad \times \int \mathcal{D}\varphi e^{-S_0[\varphi] - S_{\text{int}}[\varphi_I, \varphi]} \int d^4x \frac{g^2}{32\pi^2} G\tilde{G}(x) \times \frac{C_{\mathcal{O}}}{\Lambda_{\mathcal{CP}}^2} \mathcal{O}[\varphi_I, \varphi](0) \Big|_{1-(\text{a.-})\text{inst.}} \end{aligned}$$

Fields with instanton solutions (e.g. gluon, quark):  $\varphi_I$

=> Expand the fields in their eigenmodes, replace zero mode wave function by instanton solutions, and integrate out non-zero modes:

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 &\quad \times \int \mathcal{D}\varphi e^{-S_0[\varphi] - S_{\text{int}}[\varphi_I, \varphi]} \left. \int d^4x \frac{g^2}{32\pi^2} G\tilde{G}(x) \times \frac{C_{\mathcal{O}}}{\Lambda_{\mathcal{CP}}^2} \mathcal{O}[\varphi_I, \varphi](0) \right|_{1-(\text{a.-})\text{inst.}}
 \end{aligned}$$

Fields without instanton solutions:  $\varphi$

=> Integrate over without performing the eigenmode expansion

# Small instanton & Axion potential: Evaluating the correlator $\chi_0(0)$

- Core technique 2: Fermion zero mode & Grassmann integral

Fermion eigenmode expansion & fermion zero-mode solutions:

$$\psi_f(x) = \sum_k \xi_f^{(k)} \psi^{(k)}(x); \quad \bar{\psi}_f(x) = \sum_k \bar{\xi}_f^{(k)} \bar{\psi}^{(k)}(x)$$

$$-i I \not{D} \Big|_{\text{1-inst.}} \psi^{(0)}(x) = 0. \quad \longrightarrow \quad \left. \psi^{(0)}(x) \right|_{\text{1-inst.}} = \begin{pmatrix} \chi_L \\ \chi_R \end{pmatrix} = \frac{1}{\pi} \frac{\rho}{[(x - x_0)^2 + \rho^2]^{3/2}} \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ \varphi \end{pmatrix}, \quad \varphi_{\alpha m} = \epsilon^{\alpha m}$$

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Fermion zero modes & Grassmann integral give rise to determinant-like structures:

- The well-known Grassmann integration identity:

$$\int d^3 \xi_1 d^3 \xi_2 e^{\xi_1 A \xi_2} = \det A$$

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$-i D^\mu \Big|_{\text{1-inst.}} \psi^{(0)}(x) = 0.$

→

$\psi^{(0)}(x) \Big|_{\text{1-inst.}}$

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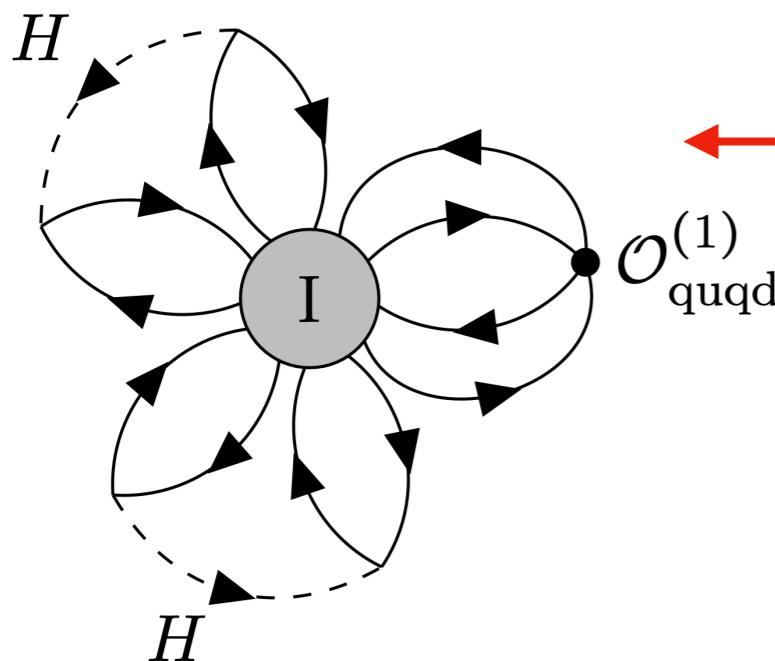
- Generalise the Grassmann integration identity for operator insertion:

Example:  $\int d^3 \xi_1 d^3 \xi_2 e^{\xi_1 A \xi_2} \xi_1 B \xi_2 = \frac{1}{2} \epsilon^{i_1 i_2 i_3} \epsilon^{j_1 j_2 j_3} A_{i_1 j_1} A_{i_2 j_2} B_{i_3 j_3}$

$$\int d^3 \xi_1 d^3 \xi_2 d^3 \xi_3 d^3 \xi_4 e^{\xi_1 A \xi_2 + \xi_3 B \xi_4} \xi_1 C \xi_2 = \frac{1}{2} \epsilon^{i_1 i_2 i_3} \epsilon^{j_1 j_2 j_3} A_{i_1 j_1} A_{i_2 j_2} C_{i_3 j_3} \det B$$

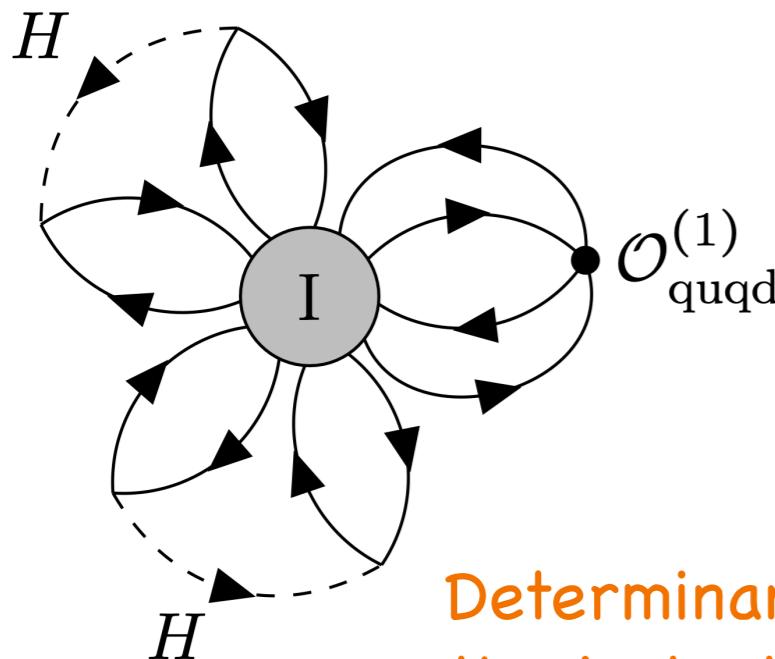
Determinant-like contraction

# Topological Susceptibilities & Flavor invariants: Four-quark operator



$$\chi_{\text{quqd}}^{(1)}(0)^{\text{1-inst.}} = -i \lim_{k \rightarrow 0} \int d^4x e^{ikx} \left\langle 0 \left| T \left\{ \frac{1}{32\pi^2} G\tilde{G}(x), \frac{C_{\text{quqd}}^{(1)}}{\Lambda_{\text{QP}}^2} \mathcal{O}_{\text{quqd}}^{(1)}(0) \right\} \right| 0 \right\rangle$$

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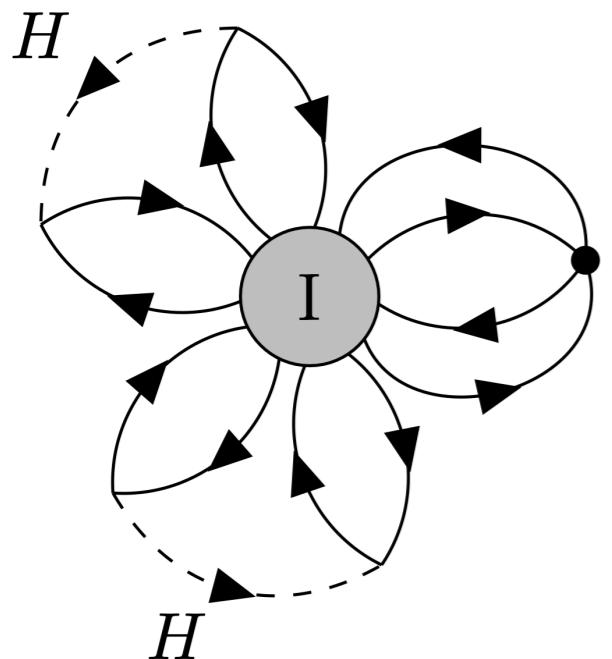


Determinant-like flavour invariants naturally arise in the instanton calculations

$$\begin{aligned}
 \chi_{\text{quqd}}^{(1)}(0)^{\text{1-inst.}} &= \frac{1}{4\Lambda_{\mathcal{QP}}^2} \left[ e^{-i\theta_{\text{QCD}}} \epsilon^{i_1 i_2 m} \epsilon^{j_1 j_2 n} Y_{u,i_1 j_1} Y_{u,i_2 j_2} C_{\text{quqd}, mnop}^{(1)} \epsilon^{k_1 k_2 o} \epsilon^{l_1 l_2 p} Y_{d,k_1 l_1} Y_{d,k_2 l_2} \right. \\
 &\quad \left. + e^{-i\theta_{\text{QCD}}} \epsilon^{i_1 i_2 m} \epsilon^{j_1 j_2 n} Y_{u,i_1 j_1} Y_{u,i_2 j_2} C_{\text{quqd}, onmp}^{(1)} \epsilon^{k_1 k_2 o} \epsilon^{l_1 l_2 p} Y_{d,k_1 l_1} Y_{d,k_2 l_2} \right] \int d^4 x_0 \int \frac{d\rho}{\rho^5} d_N(\rho) \rho^6 \\
 &\times \underbrace{\int \mathcal{D}H \mathcal{D}H^\dagger e^{-S_0[H, H^\dagger]} \left[ \int d^4 x_1 d^4 x_2 (\bar{\psi}^{(0)} H_I^\dagger \epsilon^{IJ} P_R \psi^{(0)}) (x_1) (\bar{\psi}^{(0)} \epsilon_{JK} H^K P_R \psi^{(0)}) (x_2) \right]^2}_{= 2! \left[ \int d^4 x_1 d^4 x_2 (\bar{\psi}^{(0)} P_R \psi^{(0)}) (x_1) \Delta_H(x_1 - x_2) \epsilon_{IJ} \epsilon^{JI} (\bar{\psi}^{(0)} P_R \psi^{(0)}) (x_2) \right]^2 \equiv 2! \mathcal{I}^2} \\
 &\times \left( \epsilon_{MN} \epsilon^{MN} \bar{\psi}^{(0)} P_R \psi^{(0)} \bar{\psi}^{(0)} P_R \psi^{(0)} \right) (0) \int d^4 x \frac{G \tilde{G}(x)}{32\pi^2}.
 \end{aligned}$$

Fermion zero modes

# Topological Susceptibilities & Flavor invariants: Four-quark operator

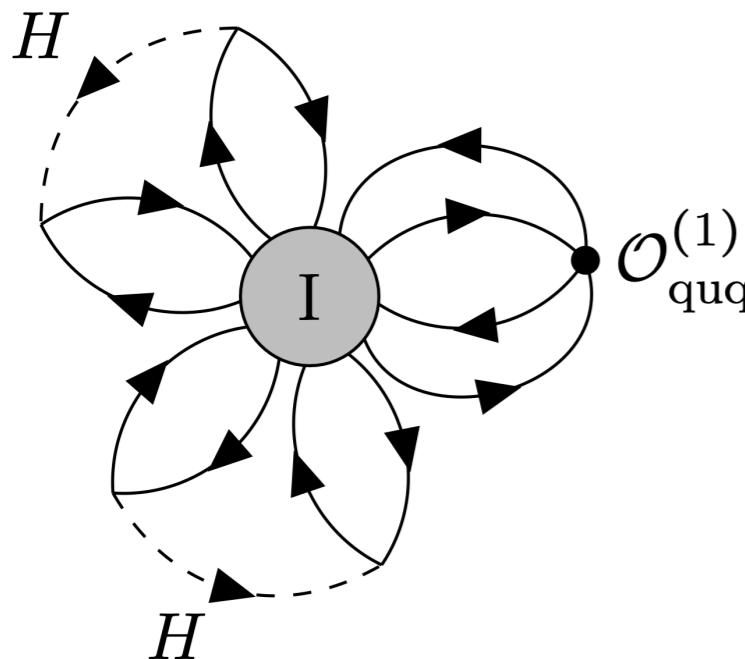


Plugging explicit form of fermion zero modes  
Integrate over loop momenta,  
collective coordinates

$$\chi_{\text{quqd}}^{(1)(\text{UV})}(0) = \frac{i}{\Lambda_{\text{CP}}^2} \left( \mathcal{A}_{0000}^{0000} \left( C_{\text{quqd}}^{(1)} \right) + \mathcal{B}_{0000}^{0000} \left( C_{\text{quqd}}^{(1)} \right) \right) \int \frac{d\rho}{\rho^5} d_N(\rho) \frac{2!}{(6\pi^2)^2} \frac{2}{5\pi^2 \rho^2}$$

Contraction of Yukawa matrices  
encapsulated in the Flavour invariants

# Topological Susceptibilities & Flavor invariants: Four-quark operator



Can also use Instanton Naive Dimensional Analysis (NDA), result up to  $\mathcal{O}(1)$

Csáki, D'Agnolo, Kuflik, Ruhdorfer (2311.09285)

$$\chi_{\text{quqd}}^{(1)(\text{UV})}(0) = \frac{i}{\Lambda_{\text{CP}}^2} \left( \mathcal{A}_{0000}^{0000} \left( C_{\text{quqd}}^{(1)} \right) + \mathcal{B}_{0000}^{0000} \left( C_{\text{quqd}}^{(1)} \right) \right) \int \frac{d\rho}{\rho^5} d_N(\rho) \frac{1}{(256\pi^6)\rho^2}$$

Contraction of Yukawa matrices  
encapsulated in the Flavour invariants

Combining Flavour invariants & Instanton NDA  
=> quickly estimate 't Hooft flower diagrams

# Topological Susceptibilities & Flavor invariants: Semi-leptonic operator

- Now start from the Flavour invariants:

$$\mathcal{O}_{\text{lequ}}^{(1)} = \bar{L}e\bar{Q}u + \text{h.c.}$$

$$\text{Im} \left( I_{\text{lequ}}^{(1)} \right) = \text{Im} \left[ e^{-i\theta_{\text{QCD}}} \epsilon^{i_1 i_2 m} \epsilon^{j_1 j_2 n} Y_{\text{u}, i_1 j_1} Y_{\text{u}, i_2 j_2} C_{\text{lequ}, opmn}^{(1)} Y_{\text{e}, po}^\dagger \det Y_{\text{d}} \right] = \mathcal{I}_{0000}^0 \left( C_{\text{lequ}}^{(1)} \right)$$



Trace-like contraction

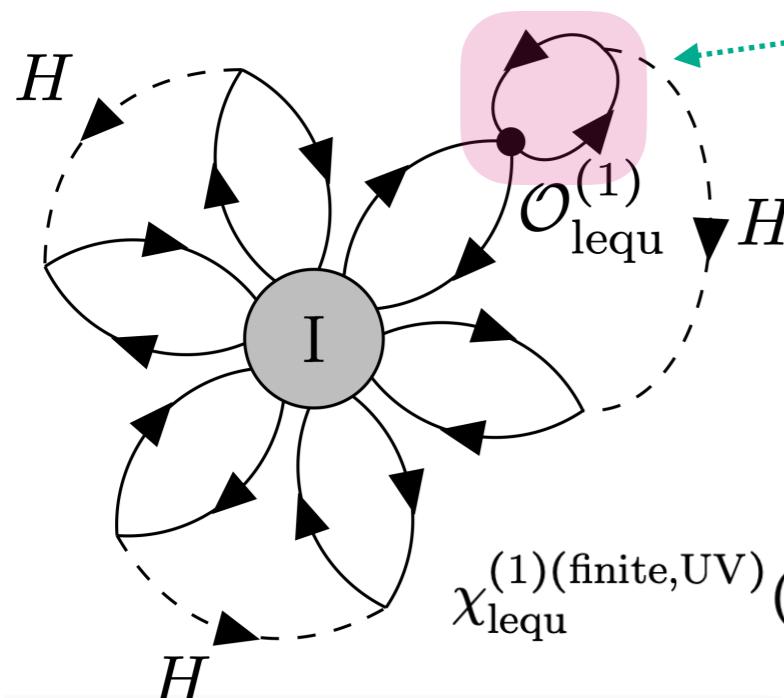
# Topological Susceptibilities & Flavor invariants: Semi-leptonic operator

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Trace-like contraction

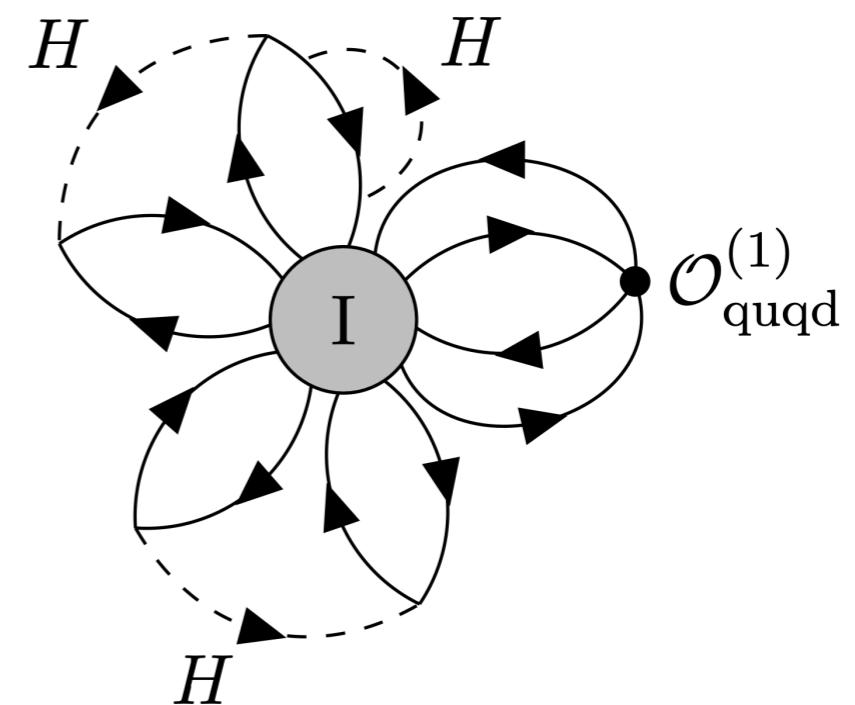
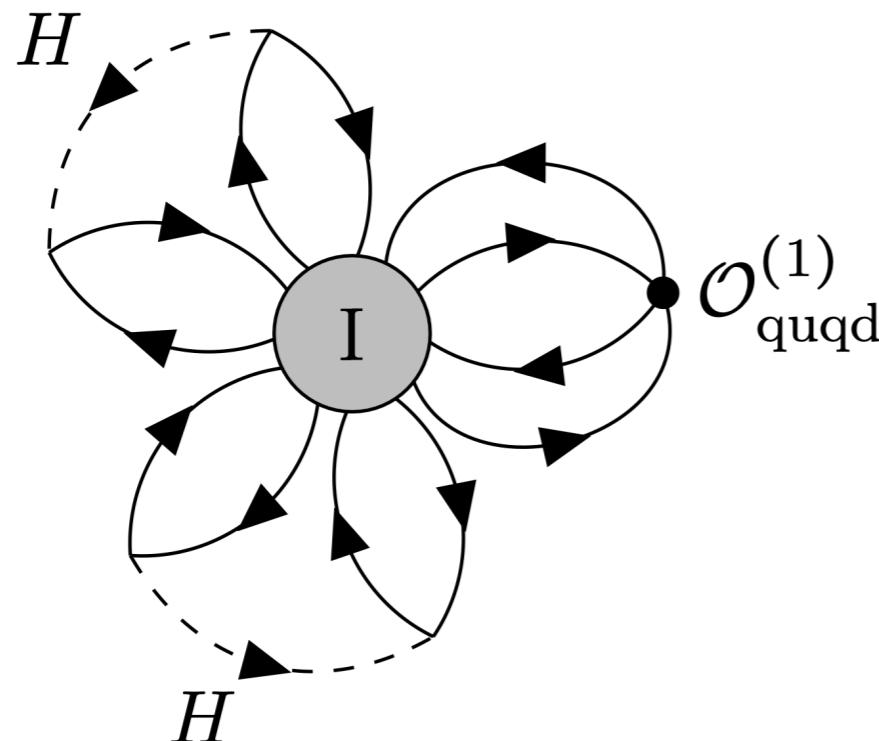


1-loop suppression  
induced by leptonic fields

$$\chi_{\text{lequ}}^{(1)(\text{finite,UV})}(0) = \frac{i}{\Lambda_{\text{CP}}^2} \mathcal{I}_{0000}^0 \left( C_{\text{lequ}}^{(1)} \right) \int \frac{d\rho}{\rho^5} d_N(\rho) \frac{3!}{(6\pi^2)^2} \frac{11 + 30 (\log(\rho \Lambda_{\text{CP}}) + \gamma_E - \log 2)}{600\pi^4 \rho^2}$$

- Anticipating how CPV SMEFT operators participate in the instanton computations
- Classifying the leading effects from the Wilson coefficients

# Topological Susceptibilities & Flavor invariants: Higher-order Invariants



$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{A}_{a_2, b_2, c_2, d_2}^{a_1, b_1, c_1, d_1}(C_{\text{quqd}}^{(1,8)}) = & \text{Im} \left[ e^{-i\theta_{\text{QCD}}} \epsilon^{ABC} \epsilon^{abc} \epsilon^{DEF} \epsilon^{def} Y_{u,Aa} Y_{u,Bb} \left( X_u^{a_1} X_d^{b_1} X_u^{c_1} X_d^{d_1} \right)_C^{C'} \right. \\ & \times C_{\text{quqd}, C'cD'd}^{(1,8)} \left. \left( X_u^{a_2} X_d^{b_2} X_u^{c_2} X_d^{d_2} \right)_D^{D'} Y_{d,Ee} Y_{d,Ff} \right], \end{aligned}$$

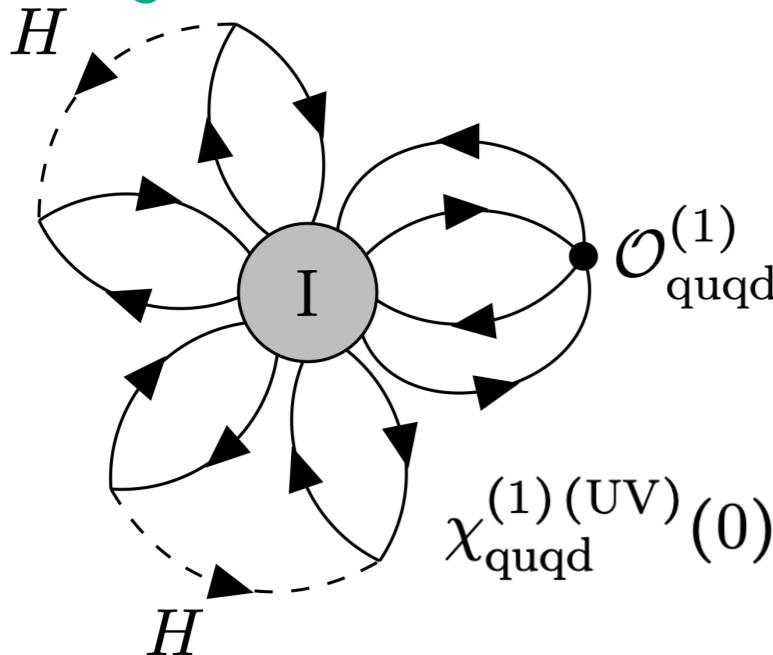
$$X_{u,d} = Y_{u,d} Y_{u,d}^\dagger$$

=> Set  $X=1$  for the lowest order flavour invariants

# Topological Susceptibilities & Flavor invariants: Four-quark operator

#Integration over the size of instanton

$$\mathcal{O}_{\text{quqd}}^{(1)} = \bar{Q}u\bar{Q}d + \text{h.c.}$$



$$\chi_{\text{quqd}}^{(1)(\text{UV})}(0) = \frac{i}{\Lambda_{\text{QP}}^2} \left( \mathcal{A}_{0000}^{0000} \left( C_{\text{quqd}}^{(1)} \right) + \mathcal{B}_{0000}^{0000} \left( C_{\text{quqd}}^{(1)} \right) \right)$$

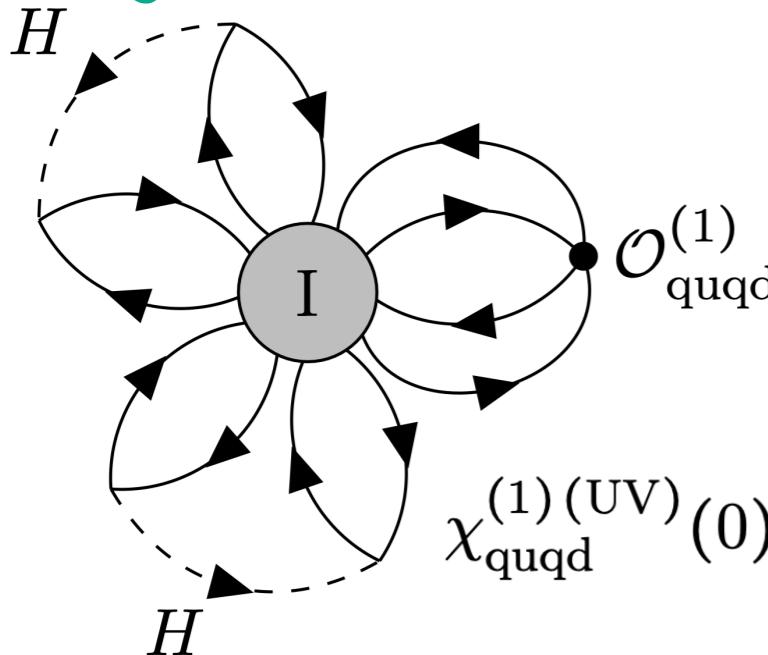
$$\int \frac{d\rho}{\rho^5} d_N(\rho) \frac{2!}{(6\pi^2)^2} \frac{2}{5\pi^2 \rho^2}$$

$\rho$ -integral is IR divergent  
 $\Rightarrow$  Need a physical IR cut-off

# Topological Susceptibilities & Flavor invariants: Four-quark operator

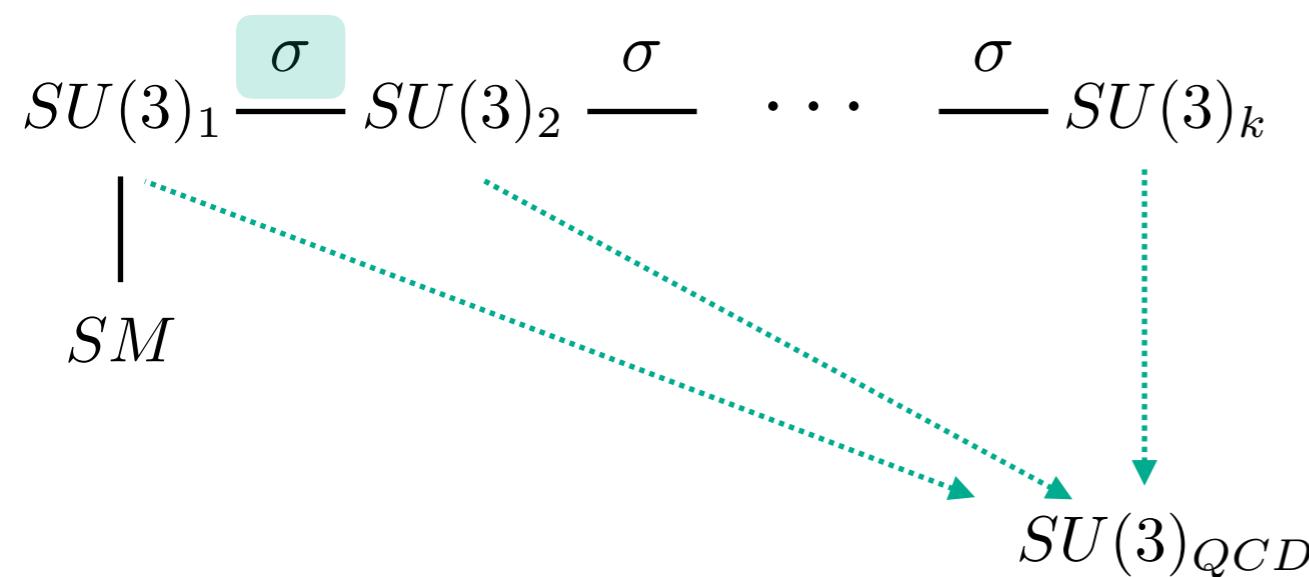
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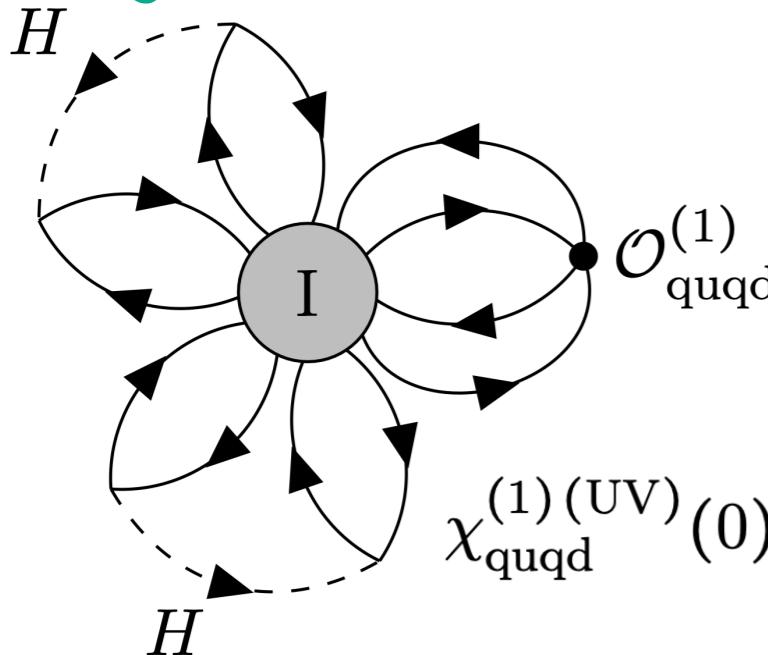
- Possible UV completion of small-instantons:  
Product of Gauge groups



# Topological Susceptibilities & Flavor invariants: Four-quark operator

#Integration over the size of instanton

$$\mathcal{O}_{\text{quqd}}^{(1)} = \bar{Q}u\bar{Q}d + \text{h.c.}$$

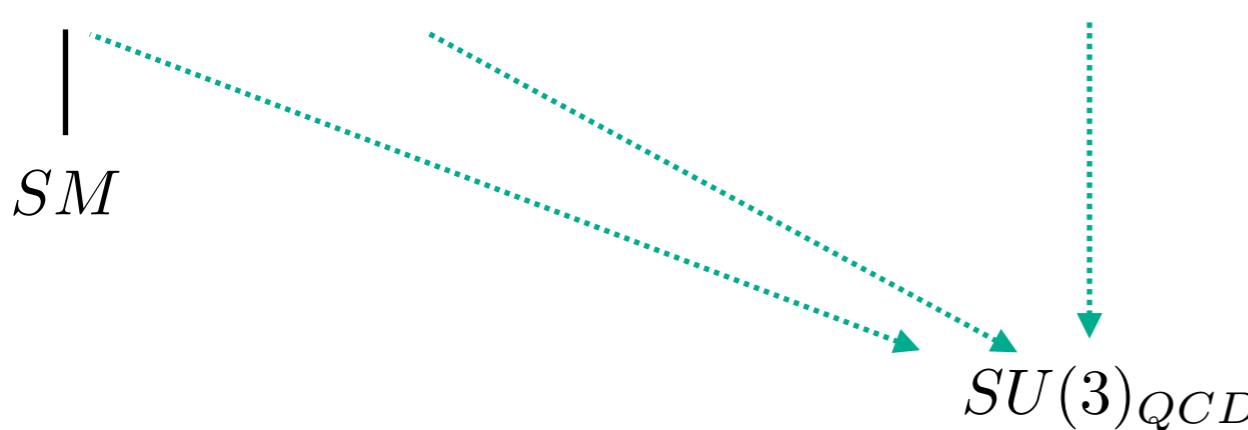


$$\int \frac{d\rho}{\rho^5} d_N(\rho) \frac{2!}{(6\pi^2)^2} \frac{2}{5\pi^2 \rho^2}$$

- Possible UV completion of small-instantons:

Product of Gauge groups

$$SU(3)_1 \xrightarrow{\sigma} SU(3)_2 \xrightarrow{\sigma} \dots \xrightarrow{\sigma} SU(3)_k$$



Boost the coupling of each QCD subgroup:

$$\frac{1}{g_{\text{QCD}}^2(\mu)} = \frac{1}{g_1^2(\mu)} + \frac{1}{g_2^2(\mu)} + \dots + \frac{1}{g_k^2(\mu)}$$

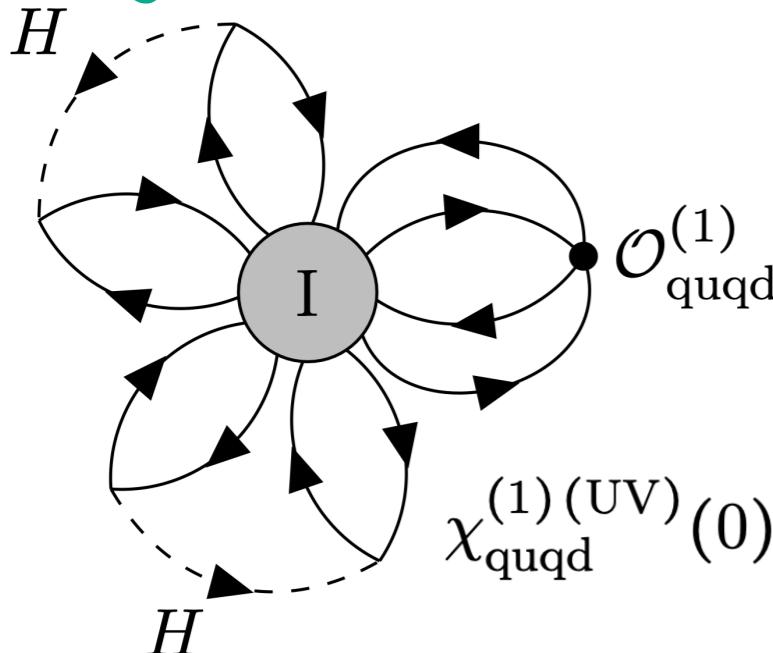
Provide a physical cut-off:

$$d_N(\rho) \rightarrow d_N(\rho) e^{-2\pi^2 \rho^2 \sum |\langle \sigma \rangle|^2}$$

# Topological Susceptibilities & Flavor invariants: Four-quark operator

#Integration over the size of instanton

$$\mathcal{O}_{\text{quqd}}^{(1)} = \bar{Q}u\bar{Q}d + \text{h.c.}$$



$$\chi_{\text{quqd}}^{(1)(\text{UV})}(0) = \frac{i}{\Lambda_{\text{QP}}^2} (\mathcal{A}_{0000}^{0000}(C_{\text{quqd}}^{(1)}) + \mathcal{B}_{0000}^{0000}(C_{\text{quqd}}^{(1)}))$$

$$\int \frac{d\rho}{\rho^5} d_N(\rho) \frac{2!}{(6\pi^2)^2} \frac{2}{5\pi^2 \rho^2}$$

- Possible UV completion of small-instantons:

5D instantons

Uplift BPST instanton to a compact extra dimension of size R

$$d_N(\rho) \rightarrow d_N(\rho) e^{R/\rho}$$

# Bounds from non-measurement of theta-induced: Four-quark operator

- Example: Product of gauge groups

$$\mathcal{O}_{\text{quqd}}^{(1)} = \bar{Q}u\bar{Q}d + \text{h.c.}$$

$$\theta_{\text{ind}} = \frac{16\pi^2}{5(b_0 - 6)K_\theta} \left( \mathcal{A}_{0000}^{0000} \left( C_{\text{quqd}}^{(1)} \right) + \mathcal{B}_{0000}^{0000} \left( C_{\text{quqd}}^{(1)} \right) \right)$$

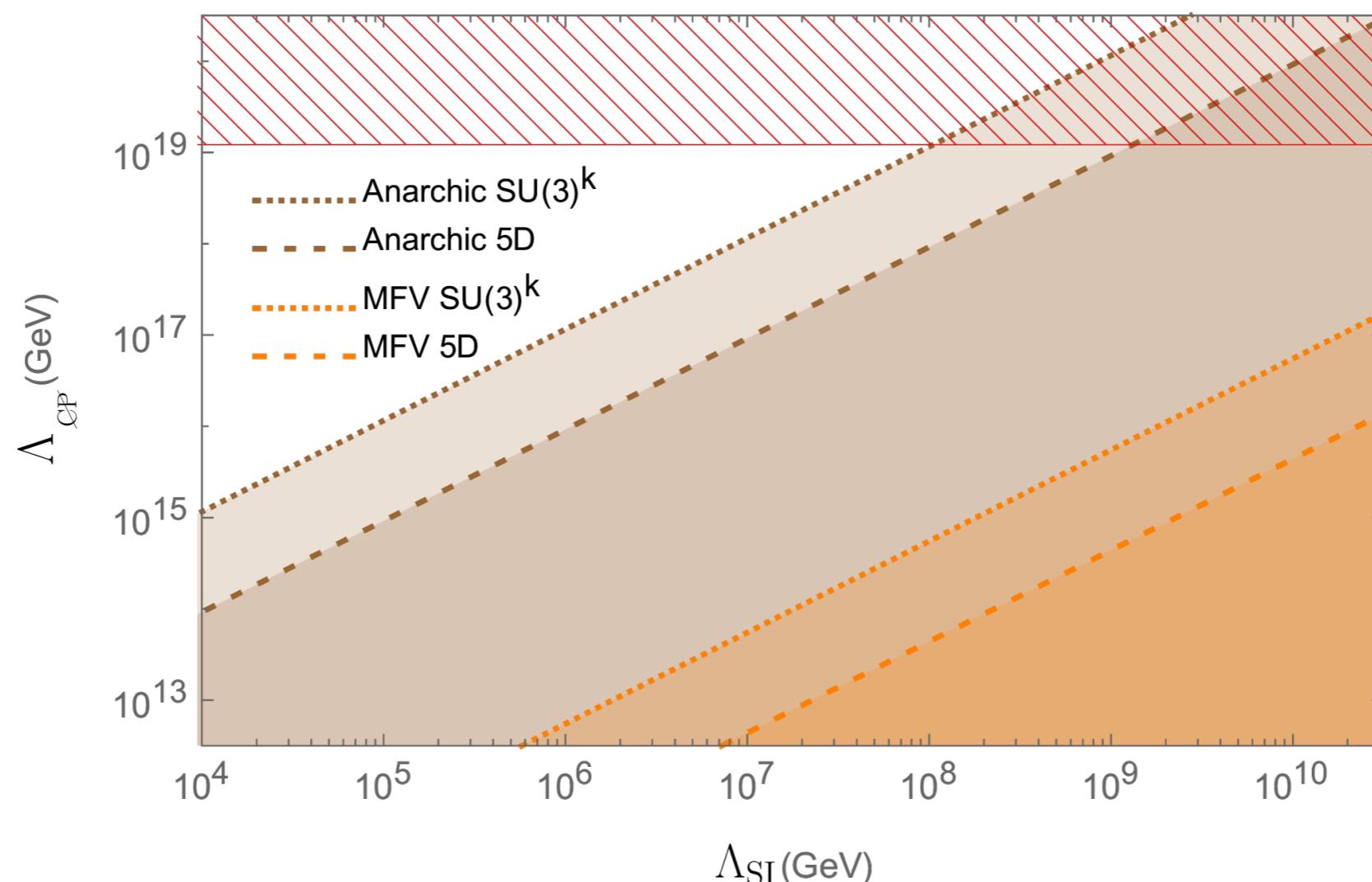
$$\frac{\Lambda_{\text{SI}}^2}{\Lambda_{\text{CP}}^2}$$

Test different flavour scenarios

$$K_\theta = \text{Re} \left[ e^{-i\theta_{\text{QCD}}} \det(Y_u Y_d) \right]$$

Finite ratio in the decoupling limit

$$\mathcal{O}_{\text{quqd}}^{(1)}$$



# Conclusions

- Enhancing the axion mass via small-instanton also (accidentally)enhances CPV effects that misalign potential
  - => Dangerous effects which spoil Axion solution
  - => The quality of Axion solution depends on UV scenarios
- The estimation of these effects can be made easier with the help of Determinant-like Flavour Invariants and Instanton Naive Dimensional Analysis
  - => Allow to study the contributions of any SMEFT operators to the axion potential

# Bonus slides

# Preliminary & Outline of this talk

## • Small instanton & Axion potential: UV misaligned contributions

Small instantons generate axion potential of the form:

$$V(a) = \chi_{\mathcal{O}}(0) \frac{a}{f_a} + \frac{1}{2} \chi(0) \left( \frac{a}{f_a} \right)^2 \quad \longrightarrow \quad \langle \frac{a}{f_a} \rangle \equiv \theta_{\text{ind}} = -\frac{\chi_{\mathcal{O}}(0)}{\chi(0)}$$

Induced by CP-violating operator                              This talk

Coefficients in the potential can be computed from following correlators: Witten "79

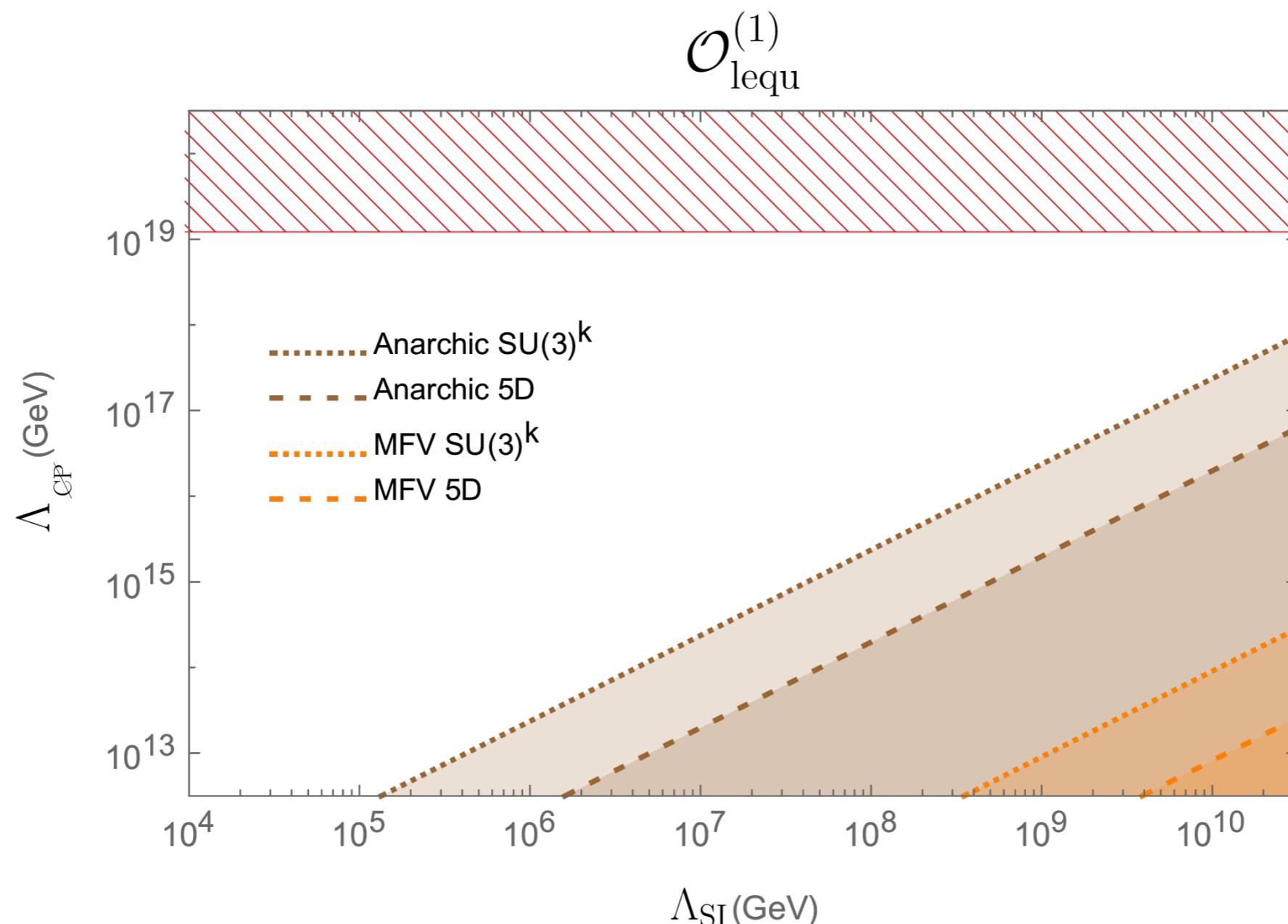
$$\chi(0) = -i \lim_{k \rightarrow 0} \int d^4x e^{ikx} \left\langle 0 \left| T \left\{ \frac{g^2}{32\pi^2} G \tilde{G}(x), \frac{g^2}{32\pi^2} G \tilde{G}(0) \right\} \right| 0 \right\rangle$$

$$\chi_{\mathcal{O}}(0) = -i \lim_{k \rightarrow 0} \int d^4x e^{ikx} \left\langle 0 \left| T \left\{ \frac{g^2}{32\pi^2} G_{\mu\nu}^a \tilde{G}_a^{\mu\nu}(x), \frac{C_{\mathcal{O}}^{ij\dots}}{\Lambda_{\text{CP}}^{D-4}} \mathcal{O}^{D,ij\dots}(0) \right\} \right| 0 \right\rangle$$

**Note:** In strongly coupled regime, one should use non-perturbative methods  
=> Current algebra, QCD light cone sum rules

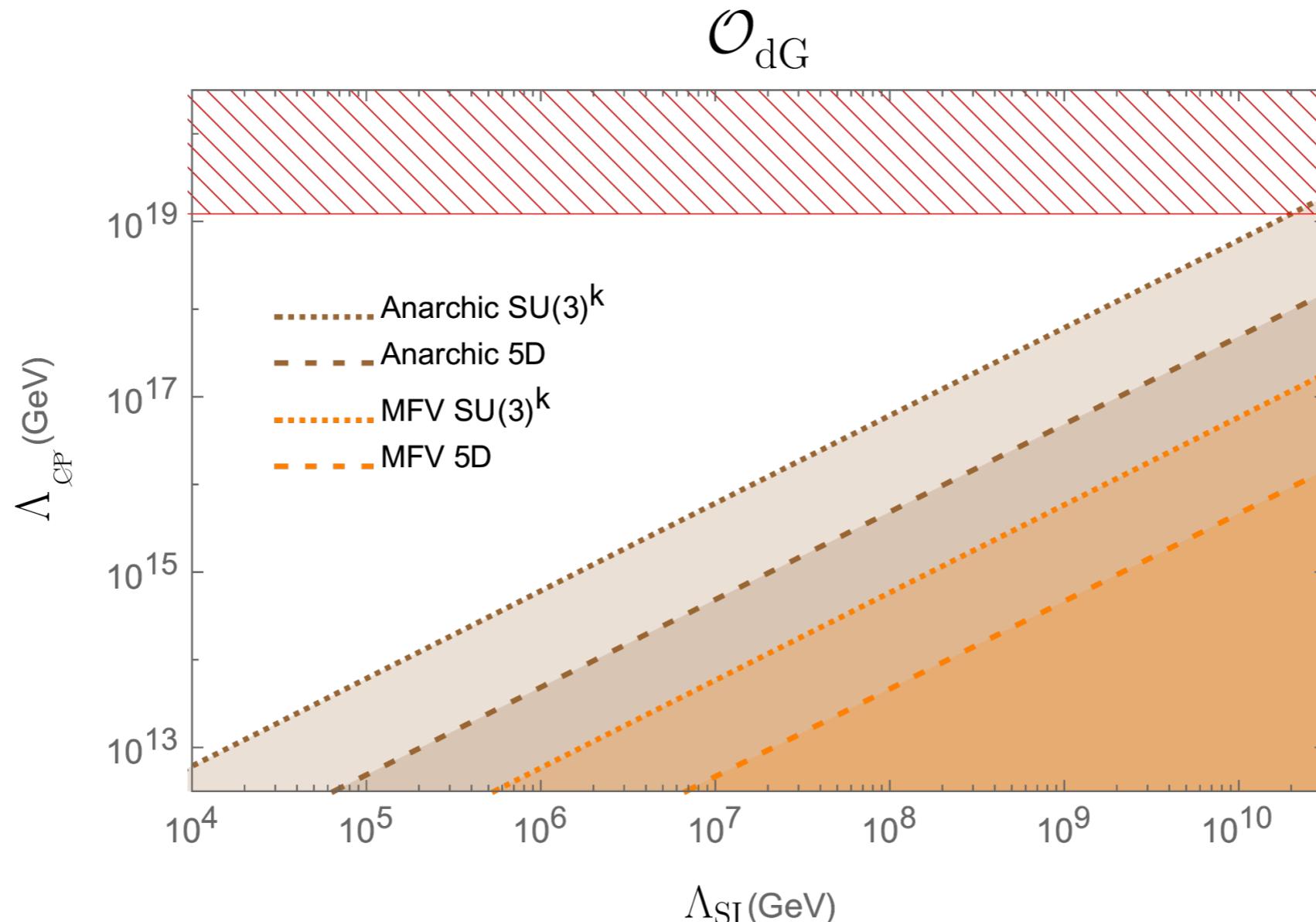
# Bounds from non-measurement of theta-induced: Semi-leptonic operator

$$\mathcal{O}_{\text{lequ}}^{(1)} = \bar{L}e\bar{Q}u + \text{h.c.}$$

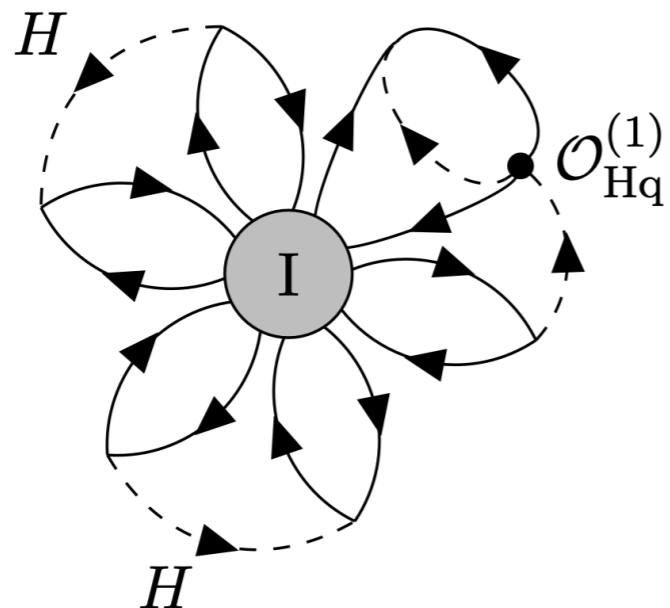


# Bounds from non-measurement of theta-induced: Gluon dipole operator

$$\mathcal{O}_{\text{uG}} = (\bar{Q} \sigma^{\mu\nu} T^A u) \tilde{H} G_{\mu\nu}^A + \text{h.c.}$$



# Topological Susceptibilities & Flavor invariants: Higher-order Invariants



(c) Instanton diagram with an insertion of a non-chirality-flipping effective operator  $\mathcal{O}_{\text{Hq}}^{(1)}$ .

$$\mathcal{I}_{abcd}(C_{\text{Hq}}^{(1,3)}) \equiv \text{Im} \left[ e^{-i\theta_{\text{QCD}}} \epsilon^{IJK} \epsilon^{ijk} Y_{u,Ii} Y_{u,Jj} \left( X_u^a X_d^b X_u^c X_d^d C_{\text{Hq}}^{(1,3)} Y_u \right)_{Kk} \det Y_d \right]$$

$$X_{u,d} = Y_{u,d} Y_{u,d}^\dagger$$

=> Set  $X=1$  for the lowest order flavour invariants

# Preliminary

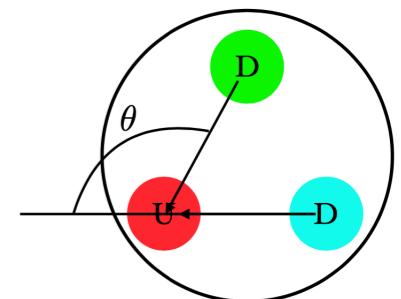
## Strong CP problem & Axion solution

1.) QCD vacuum allows an effective(CP violating) term in the Lagrangian:

$$\mathcal{L} \supset \bar{\theta} \frac{g_s^2}{32\pi^2} G_{\mu\nu} \tilde{G}^{\mu\nu}$$

#Key feature:  $\bar{\theta} = \theta_{\text{QCD}} - \arg(\det M_q)$  received contributions from both Strong & Electroweak sectors => theta-bar expected to be O(1)

2.) Bound from Neutron EDM:  $\bar{\theta} < 10^{-10}$



Strong CP problem: Why is theta-bar so small?

Alternative questions: why no CP-violation in QCD? What make theta-bar so small?  
(any mechanism behind?)

3.) Axion solution: dynamically relaxes theta-bar to zero

$$\mathcal{L} \supset \left( \bar{\theta} + \frac{a}{f_a} \right) \frac{g_s^2}{32\pi^2} G_{\mu\nu} \tilde{G}^{\mu\nu}$$

# BPST instanton

$$G_\mu^a(x)|_{\text{1-inst.}} = 2\eta_{a\mu\nu} \frac{(x - x_0)_\nu}{(x - x_0)^2 + \rho^2}, \quad \eta_{a\mu\nu} = \begin{cases} \epsilon_{a\mu\nu}, & \mu, \nu \in \{1, 2, 3\} \\ -\delta_{a\nu}, & \mu = 0 \\ +\delta_{a\mu}, & \nu = 0 \\ 0, & \mu = \nu = 0 \end{cases}$$

An important property of the one-(anti-)instanton solution is that it satisfies the (*anti-*) *self-dual* equation

$$G_{\mu\nu}^a = \pm \tilde{G}_{\mu\nu}^a, \quad (\text{C.6})$$

and thus, due to the Bianchi identity, automatically solves the gluon equation of motion  $D^\mu G_{\mu\nu}^a = D^\mu \tilde{G}_{\mu\nu}^a = 0$ . With all of these properties, the one-(anti)-instanton solution then yields the finite QCD classical action

$$S_{\text{YM}}^{\text{1-inst.}} = \int d^4x \left( \frac{1}{4} G_{\mu\nu}^A G^{A,\mu\nu} + i\theta_{\text{QCD}} \frac{g^2}{32\pi^2} G_{\mu\nu}^A \tilde{G}^{A,\mu\nu} \right) \Big|_{\text{1-(a.-)inst.}} = \frac{8\pi^2}{g^2} \pm i\theta_{\text{QCD}}. \quad (\text{C.7})$$

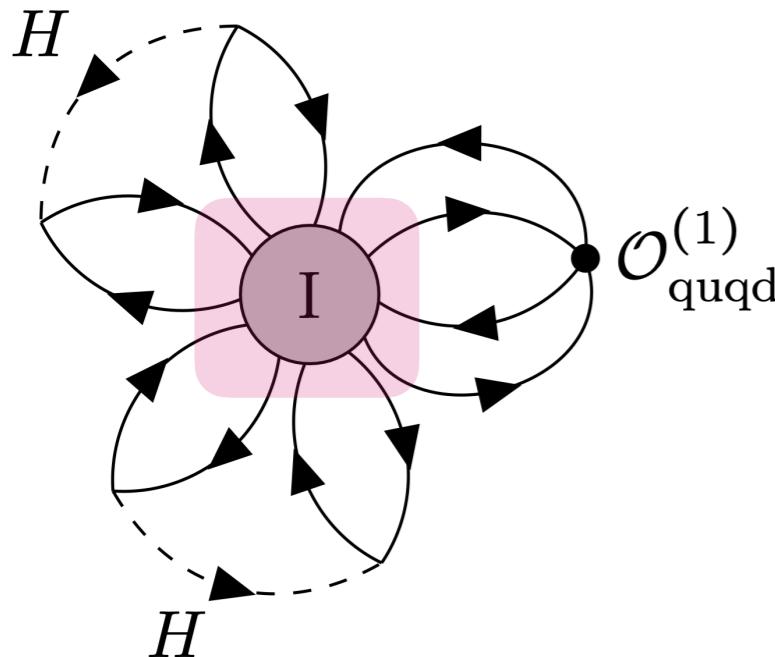
# Instanton density

$$d_N(\rho) = C[N] \left( \frac{8\pi^2}{g^2} \right)^{2N} e^{-8\pi^2/g^2(1/\rho)}$$

$$C[N] = \frac{C_1 e^{-C_2 N}}{(N-1)!(N-2)!} e^{0.292 N_f}$$

$$\frac{8\pi^2}{g^2(1/\rho)} = \frac{8\pi^2}{g_0^2(\Lambda_{\text{UV}})} - b_0 \log \rho \Lambda_{\text{UV}}, \quad b_0 = \frac{11}{3}N - \frac{2}{3}N_f$$

# Topological Susceptibilities & Flavor invariants: Four-quark operator



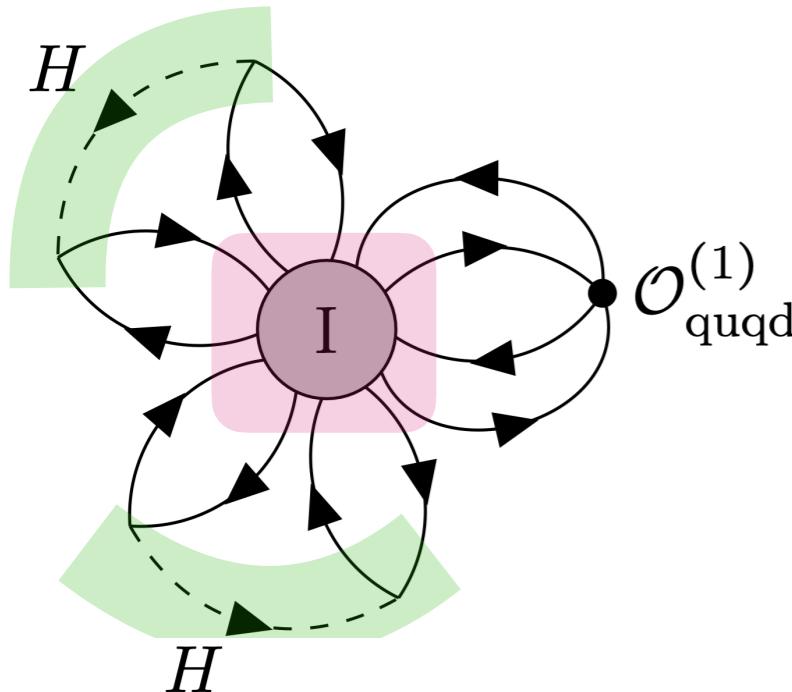
$$\chi_{\text{quqd}}^{(1)}(0)^{\text{1-inst.}} = -i \lim_{k \rightarrow 0} \int d^4x e^{ikx} \left\langle 0 \left| T \left\{ \frac{1}{32\pi^2} G \tilde{G}(x), \frac{C_{\text{quqd}}^{(1)}}{\Lambda_{\mathcal{CP}}^2} \mathcal{O}_{\text{quqd}}^{(1)}(0) \right\} \right| 0 \right\rangle,$$

$$= e^{-i\theta_{\text{QCD}}} \int d^4x_0 \int \frac{d\rho}{\rho^5} d_N(\rho) \int \mathcal{D}H \mathcal{D}H^\dagger e^{-S_0[H, H^\dagger]} \int \prod_{f=1}^3 \left( \rho^2 d\xi_{u_f}^{(0)} d\xi_{d_f}^{(0)} d^2 \bar{\xi}_{Q_f}^{(0)} \right)$$

$$\times e^{\int d^4x (\bar{Q}Y_u \tilde{H}u + \bar{Q}Y_d Hd + \text{h.c.})(x)} \frac{1}{32\pi^2} \int d^4x G \tilde{G}(x) \left( \frac{C_{\text{quqd}}^{(1)}}{\Lambda_{\mathcal{CP}}^2} \bar{Q}u\bar{Q}d(0) + \text{h.c.} \right),$$

$$Q = 1$$

# Topological Susceptibilities & Flavor invariants: Four-quark operator



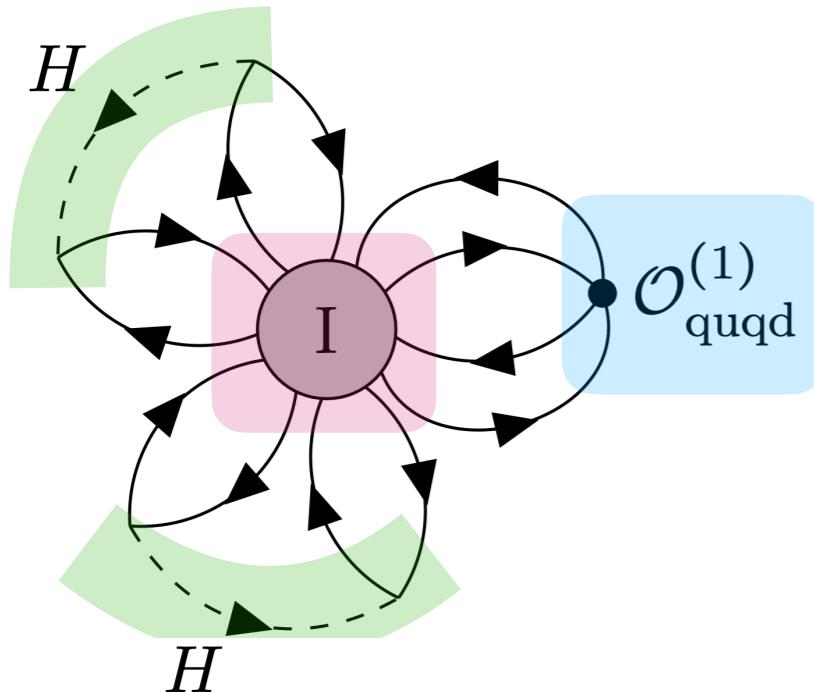
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$$= e^{-i\theta_{\text{QCD}}} \int d^4x_0 \int \frac{d\rho}{\rho^5} d_N(\rho) \int \mathcal{D}H \mathcal{D}H^\dagger e^{-S_0[H, H^\dagger]} \int \prod_{f=1}^3 \left( \rho^2 d\xi_{u_f}^{(0)} d\xi_{d_f}^{(0)} d^2 \bar{\xi}_{Q_f}^{(0)} \right)$$

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$$Q = 1$$

# Topological Susceptibilities & Flavor invariants: Four-quark operator



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$$\times e^{\int d^4x (\bar{Q} Y_u \tilde{H} u + \bar{Q} Y_d H d + \text{h.c.})(x)} \frac{1}{32\pi^2} \int d^4x G \tilde{G}(x) \left( \frac{C_{\text{quqd}}^{(1)}}{\Lambda_{\mathcal{CP}}^2} \bar{Q} u \bar{Q} d(0) + \text{h.c.} \right),$$

$$Q = 1$$