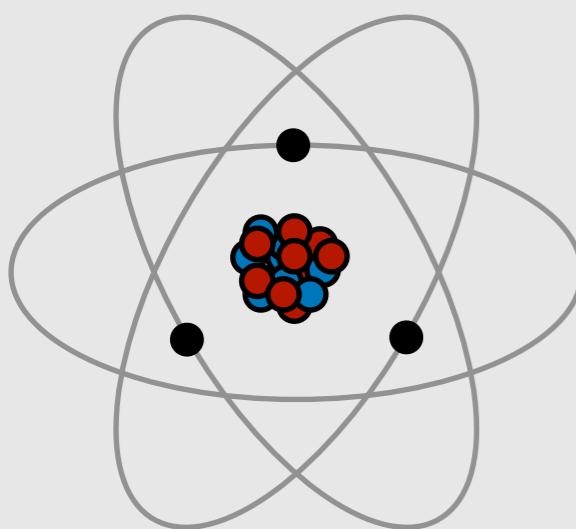


# Nuclear superfluidity

## The Pairing Hamiltonian as a many-body testbed



Alexander Tichai

Technische Universität Darmstadt



TECHNISCHE  
UNIVERSITÄT  
DARMSTADT



European Research Council  
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# Outline

**Nuclear superfluidity**

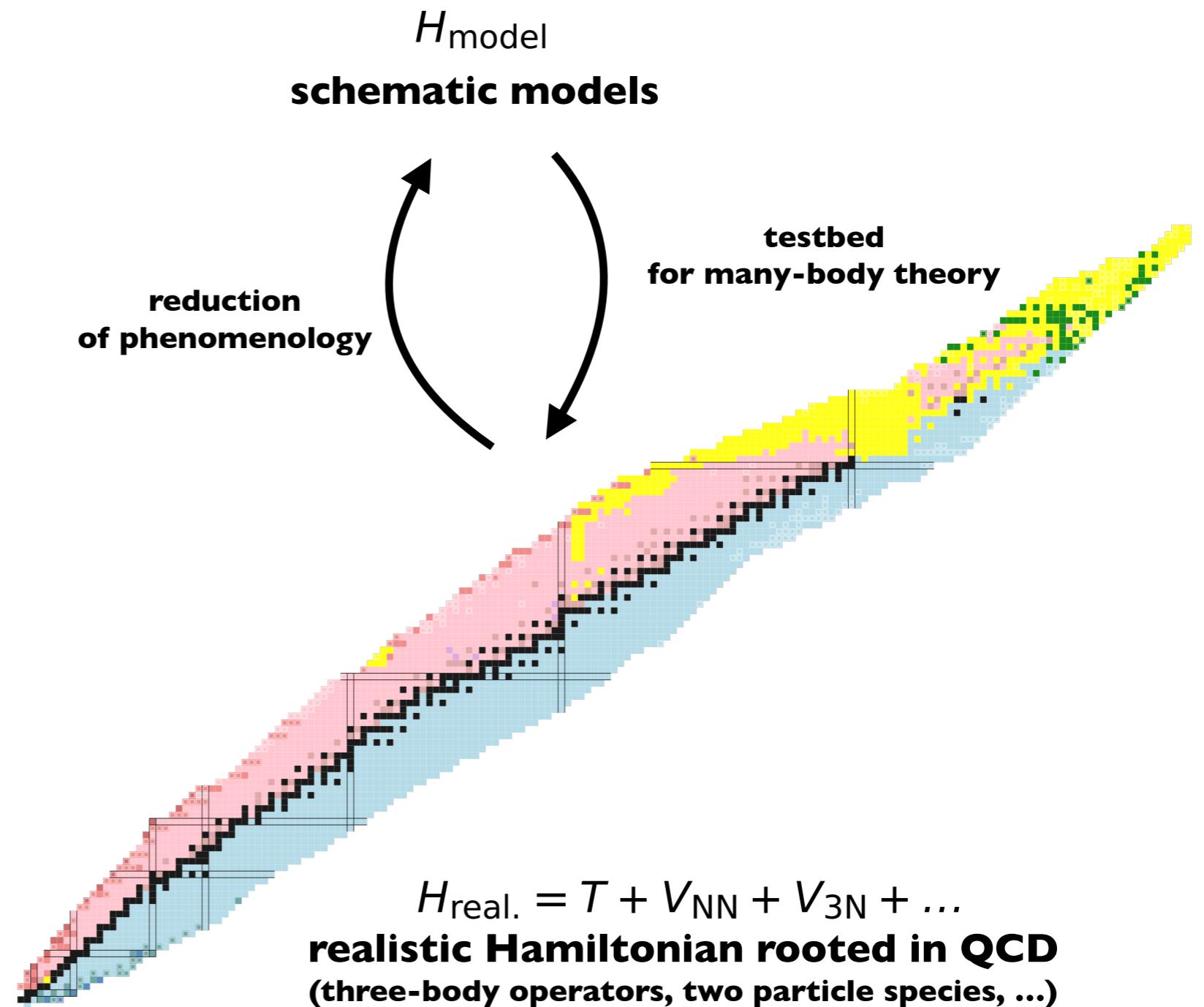
**The pairing Hamiltonian**

**Richardson solution**

**Mean-field approach**

**Many-body expansions**

**Emulators**



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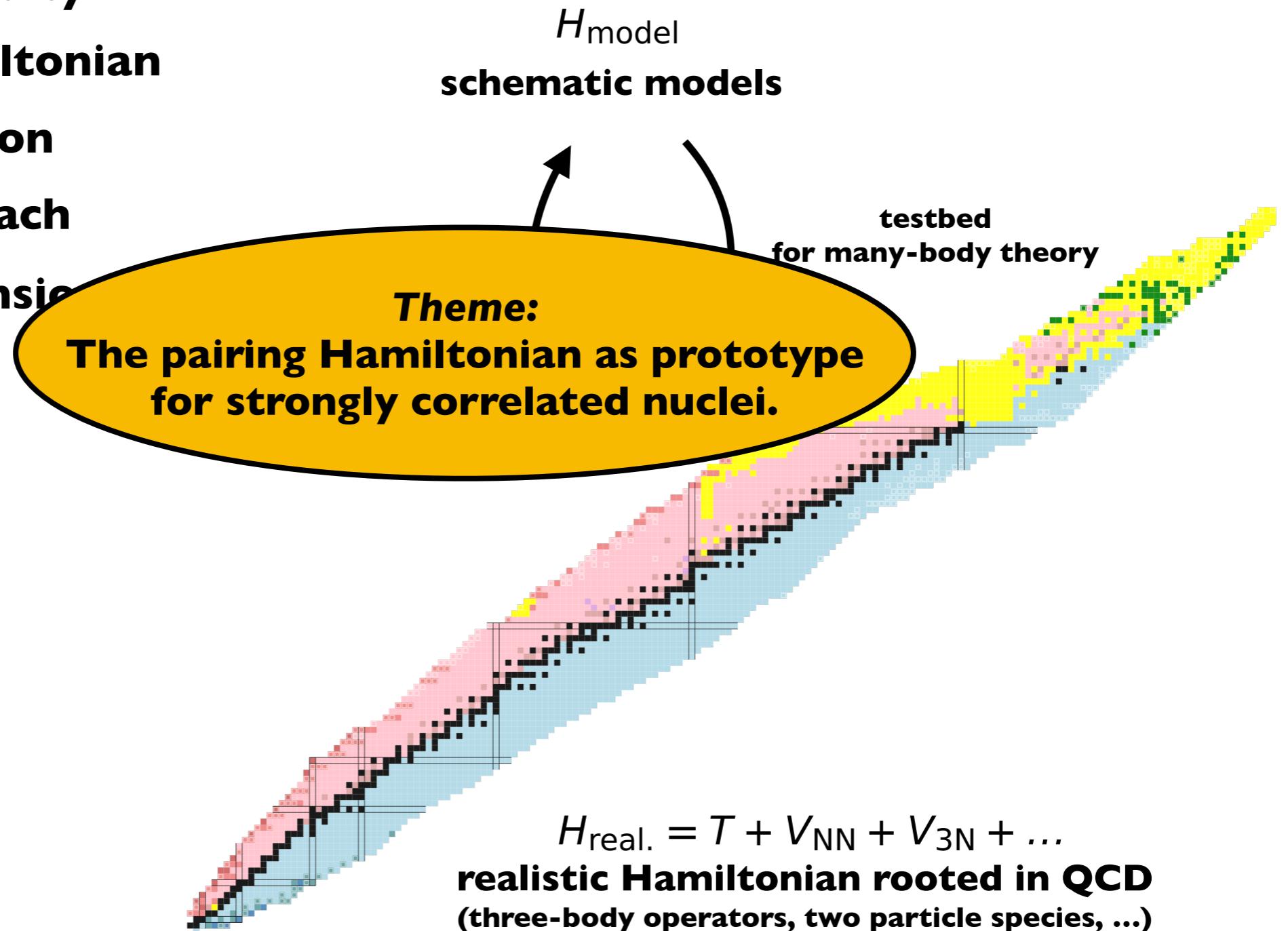
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# Nuclear phenomenology

- **Odd-even staggering** of experimental binding energies along isotopic chains
- **Three-point mass differences** give estimate for the (neutron) pairing gap

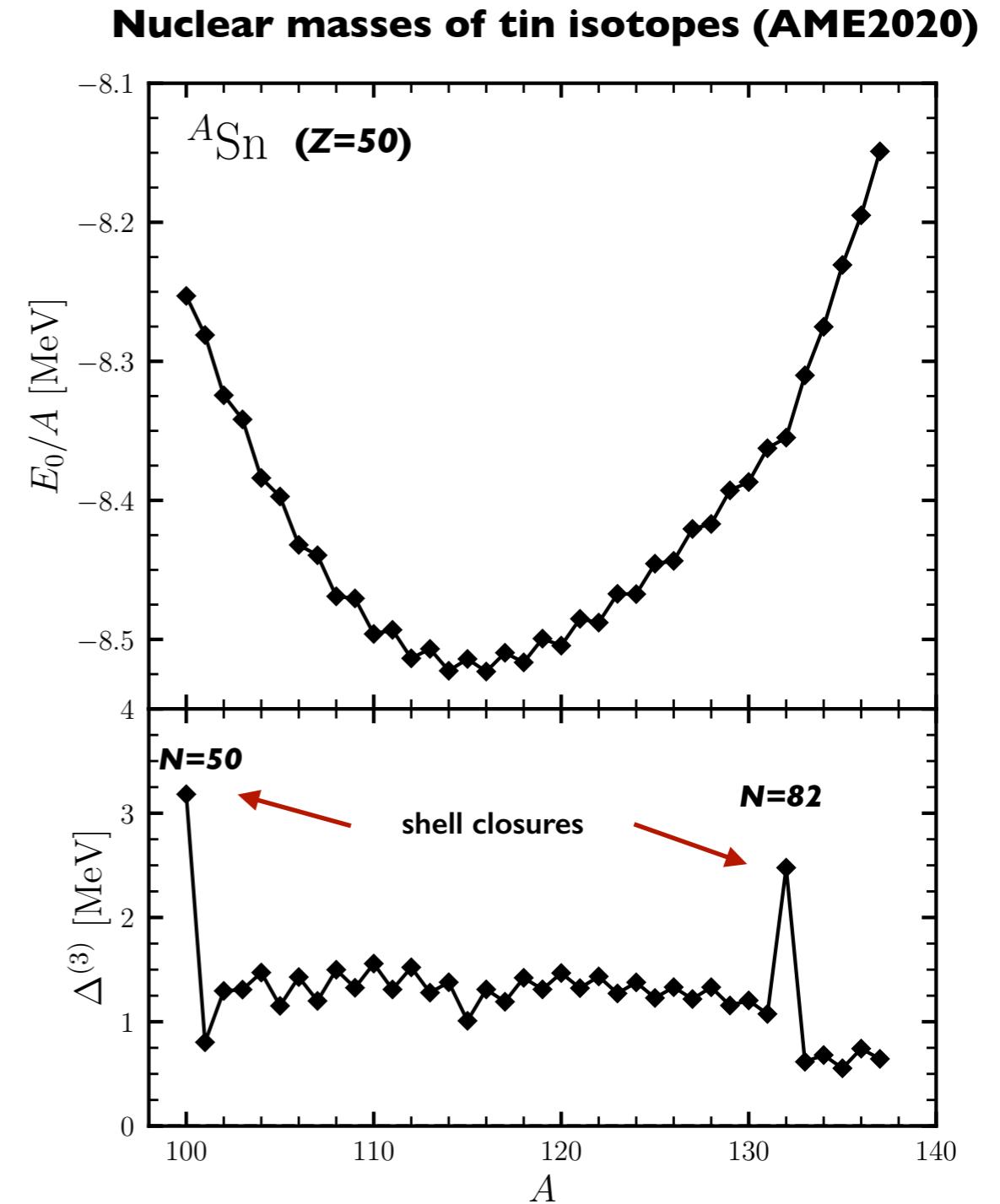
$$\Delta_N^{(3)} = \frac{(-1)^N}{2} (E_{N+1} - 2E_N + E_{N-1})$$

- Experimental evidence of **formation of Cooper pairs** in atomic nuclei

**short-range attractive two-body interaction**

- **Nuclear phenomenology** emerges from interplay of pairing and deformation

→ see also talk by **D. Lacroix**



# The Pairing Hamiltonian

- **One-parameter interaction describing superfluidity**

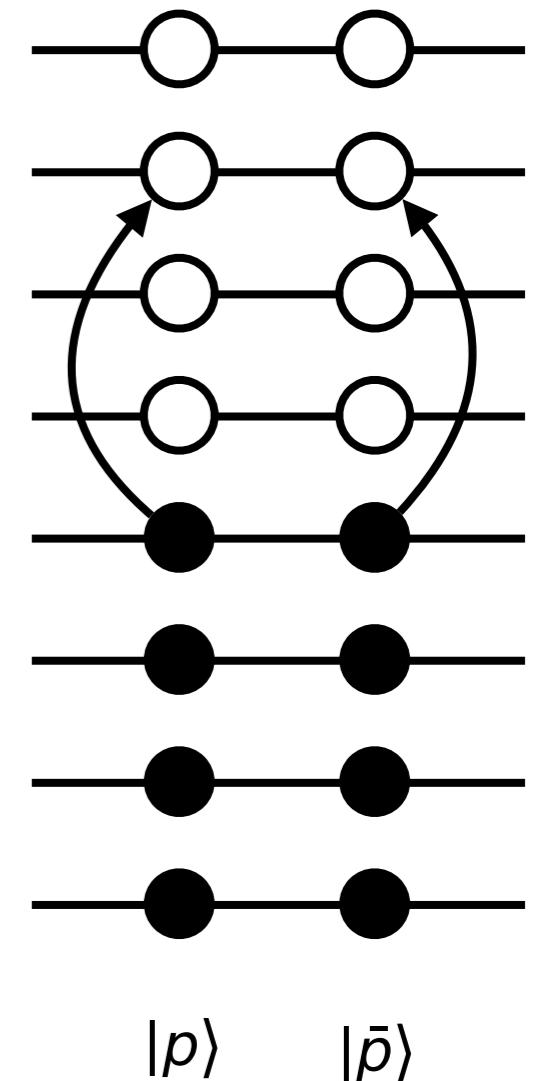
$$H_{\text{pairing}} = \sum_p \epsilon_p (c_p^\dagger c_p + c_{\bar{p}}^\dagger c_{\bar{p}}) + g \sum_{pq} c_p^\dagger c_{\bar{p}}^\dagger c_{\bar{q}} c_q$$

- **Generation of a pair of time-reversed states**

$$|p\rangle = |n_p l_p j_p m_p\rangle \quad \rightarrow \quad |\bar{p}\rangle = |n_p l_p j_p - m_p\rangle$$

**Number of levels**  $\Omega = 8$

**Occupied levels**  $N_{\text{occ}} = 4$



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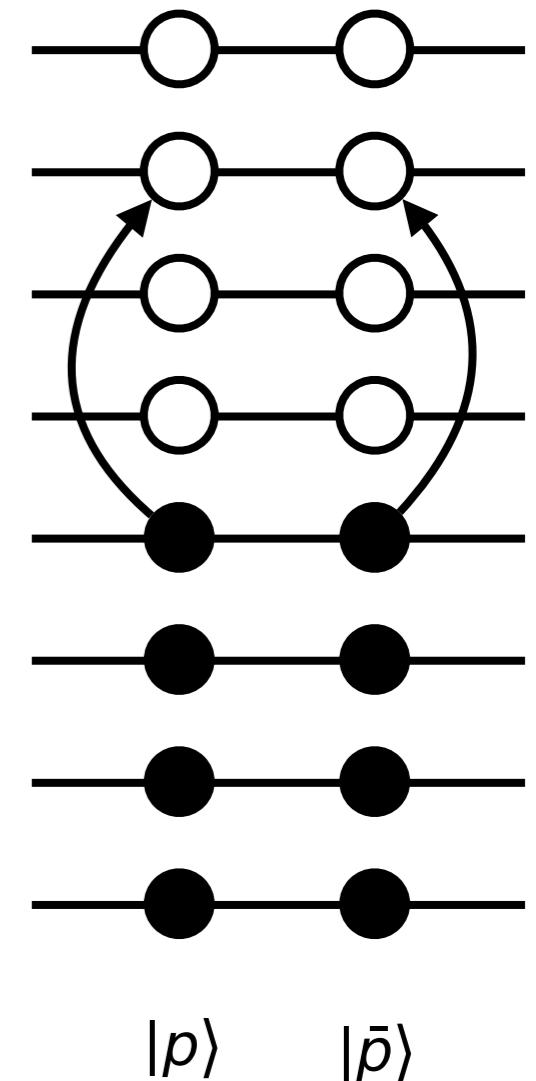
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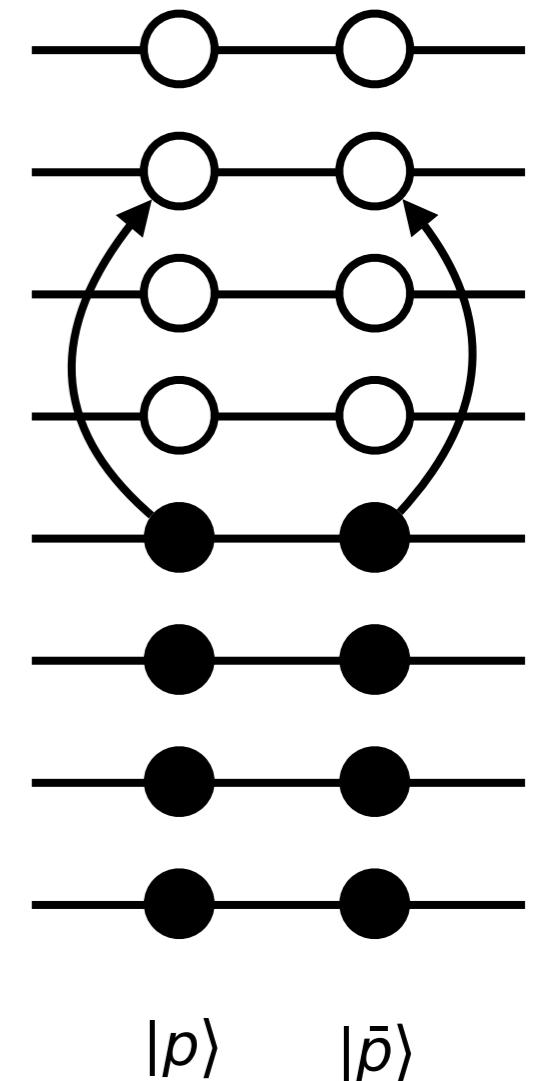
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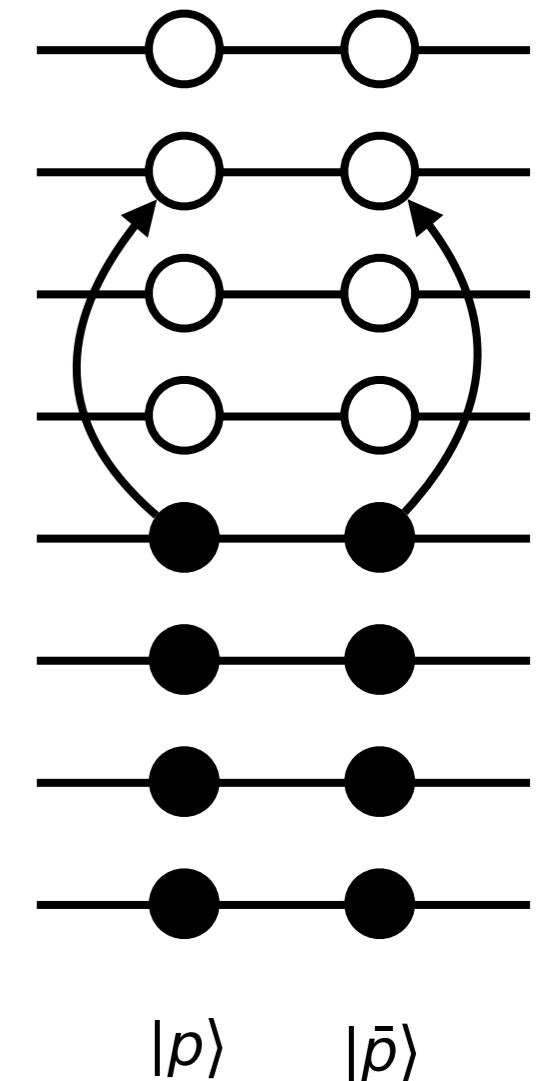
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$H_{\text{pairing}}$

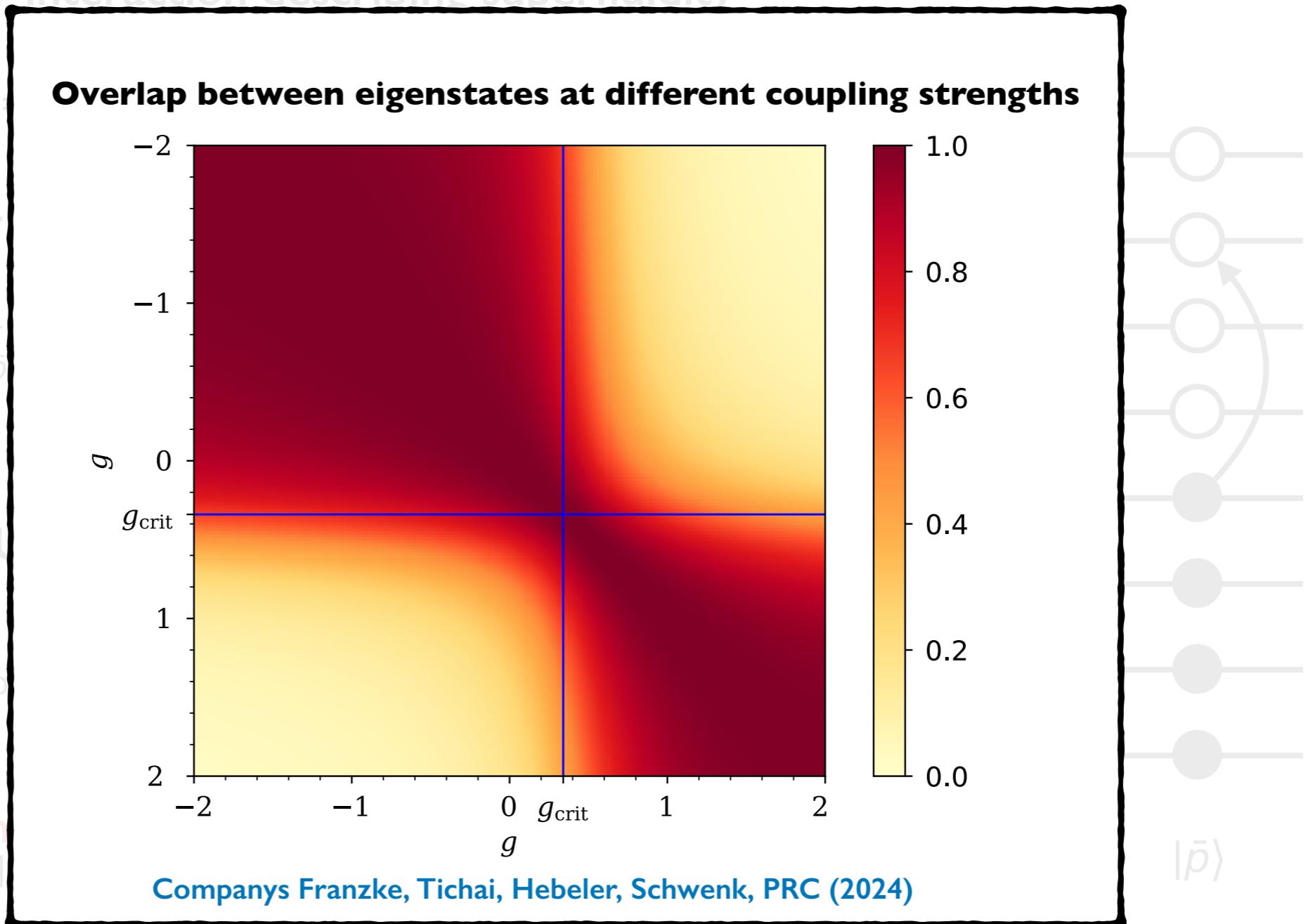
- Introduction of

$$N_p = c_p^\dagger c_p + c_{\bar{p}}^\dagger c_{\bar{p}}$$

- Re-writing in SU(2)

$H_p$

- Admits for a phase transition at critical coupling



# Richardson solution

- **Richardson solution:** exact wave function is written from pair creation operators

Richardson, PL (1965), PR (1966)

$$|\Psi\rangle = B_1^\dagger \cdot \dots \cdot B_\Omega^\dagger |0\rangle$$

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- Solving coupled system of equations provides **unknown pair energies  $E_\alpha$**

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- Extend full configuration interaction (FCI) capacities: limited to ~20 levels

# Many-body correlations

**dynamic correlations**

(expansion on top of dominant Slater determinant)



**Hartree-Fock**

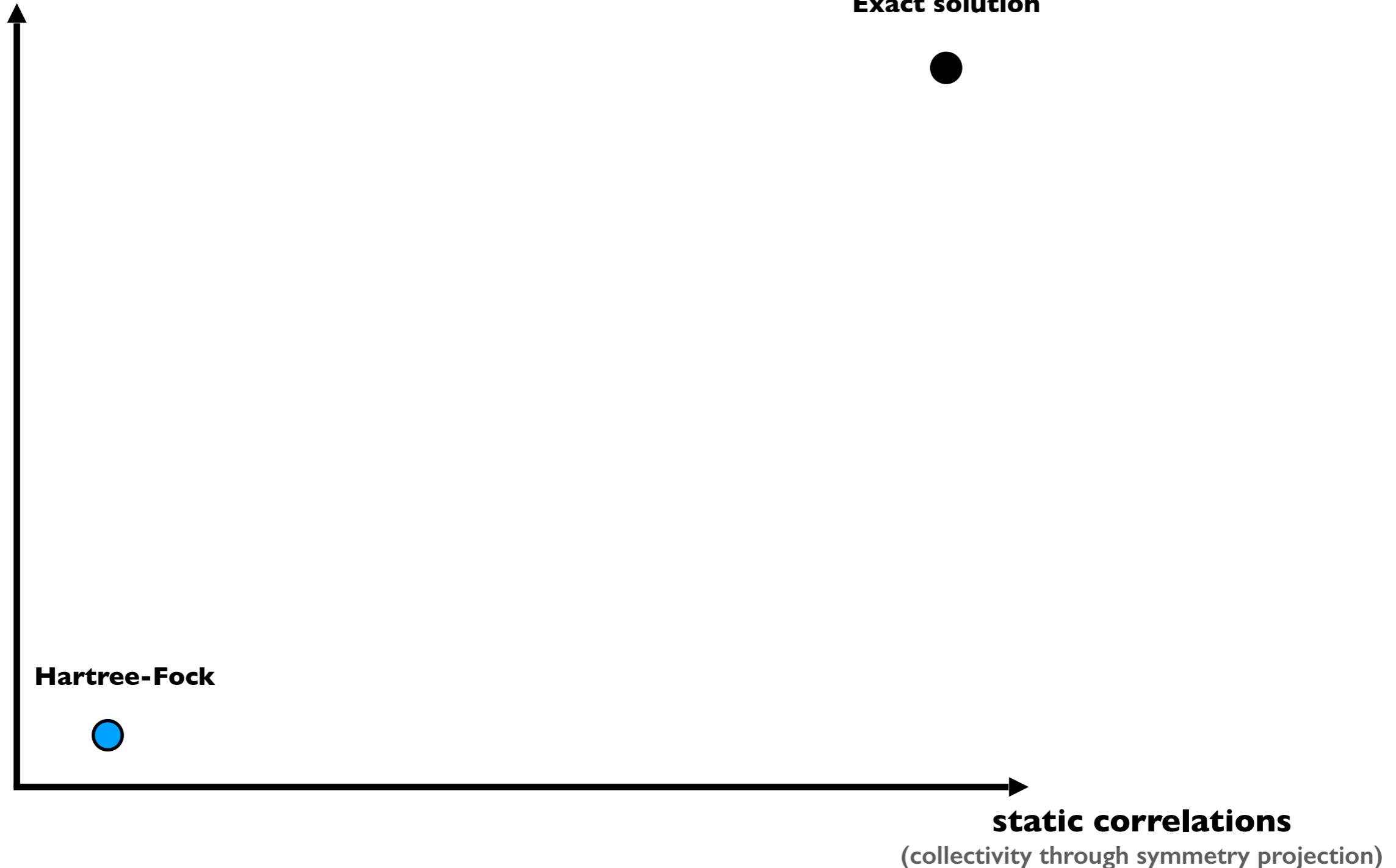


**static correlations**

(collectivity through symmetry projection)

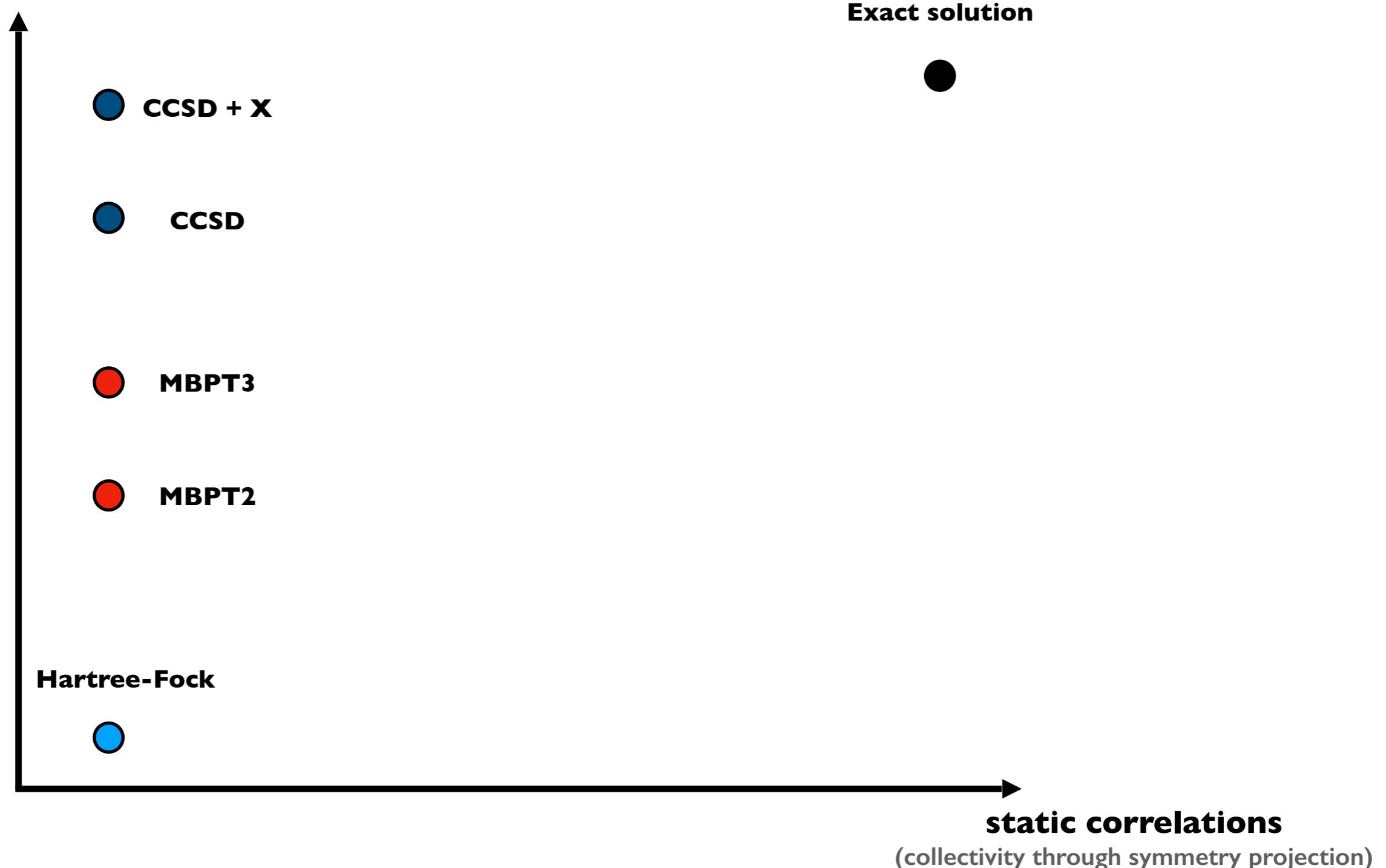
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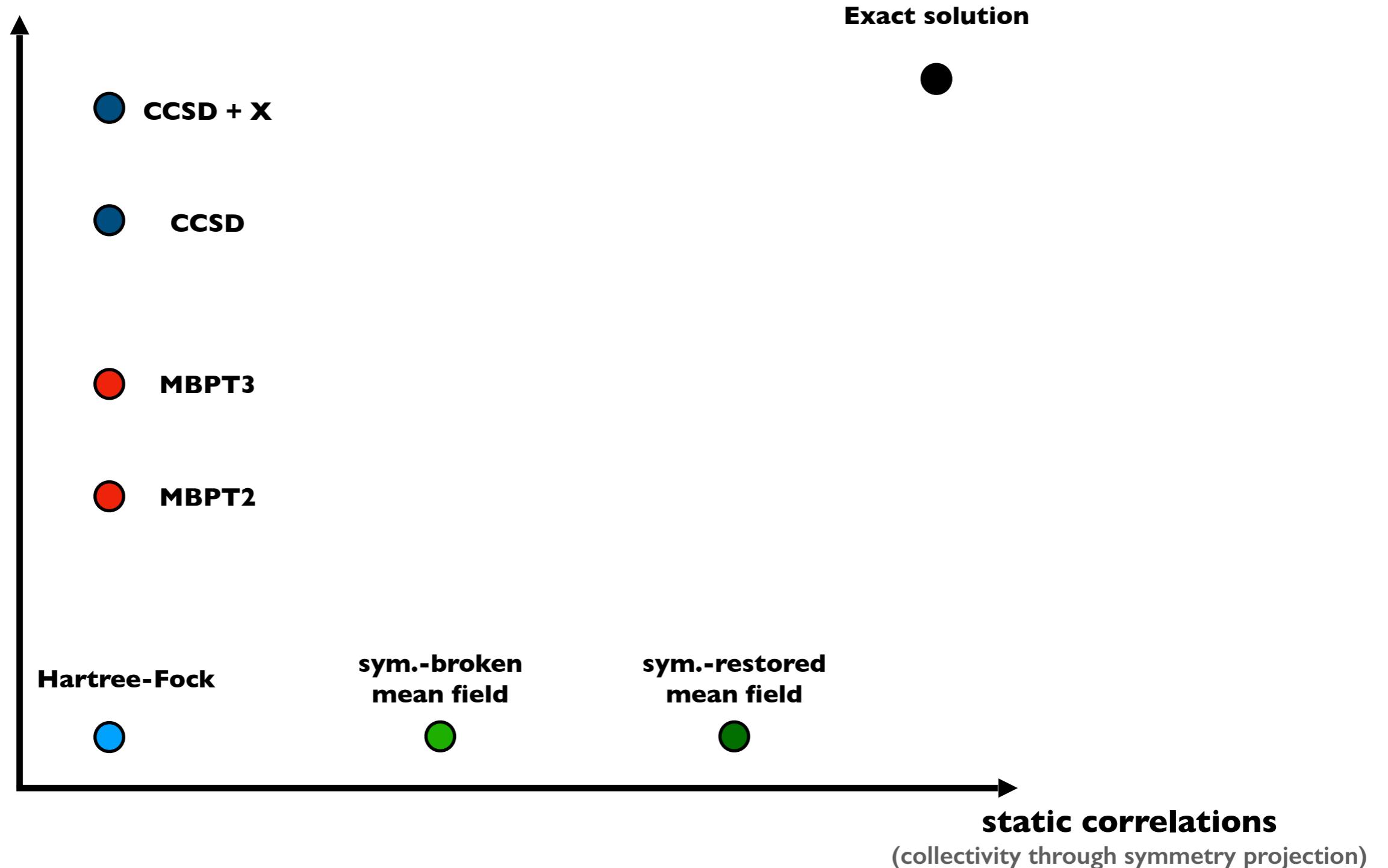
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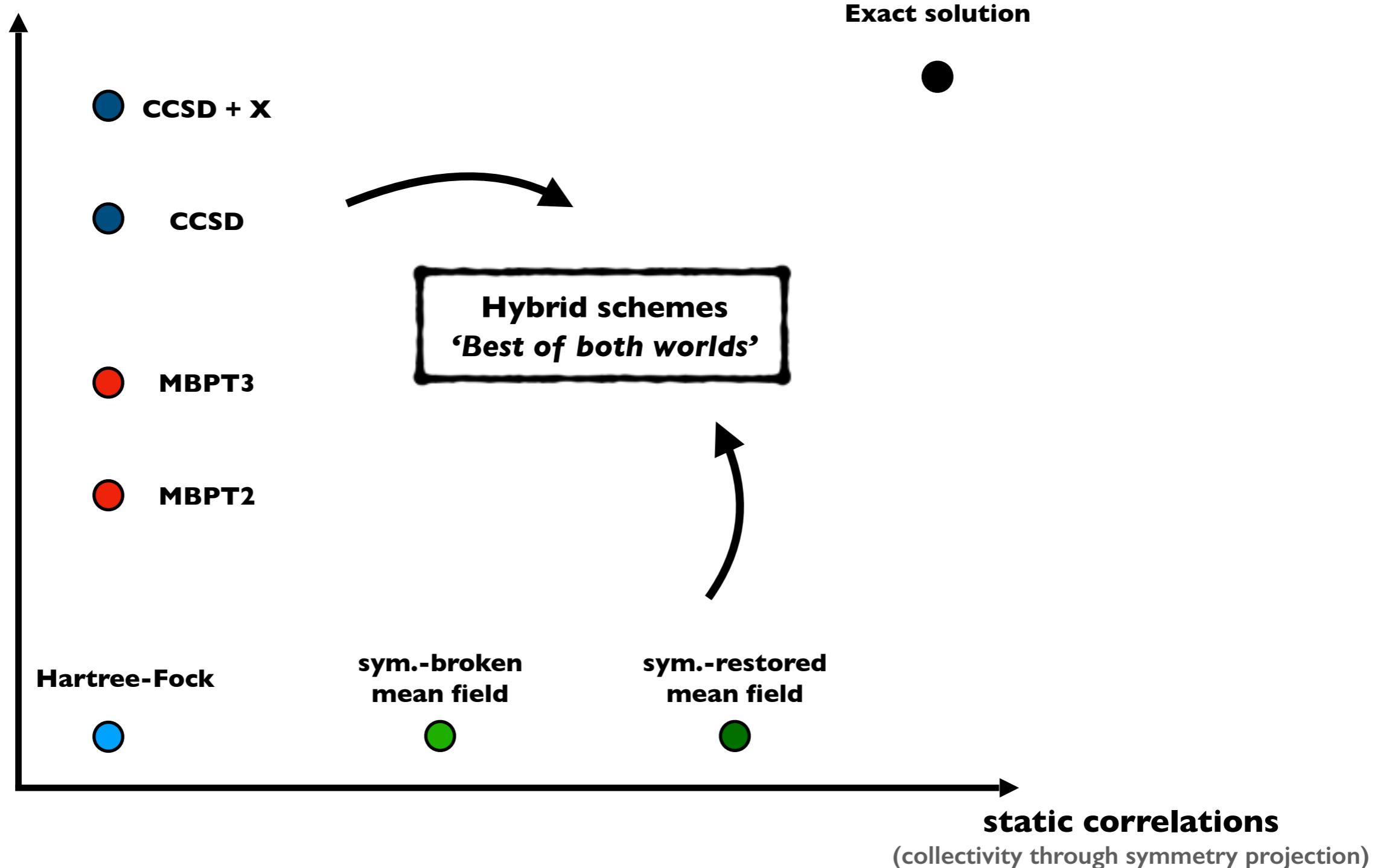
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- **BCS wave-function ansatz for superfluid system**

(Bardeen-Cooper-Schrieffer)

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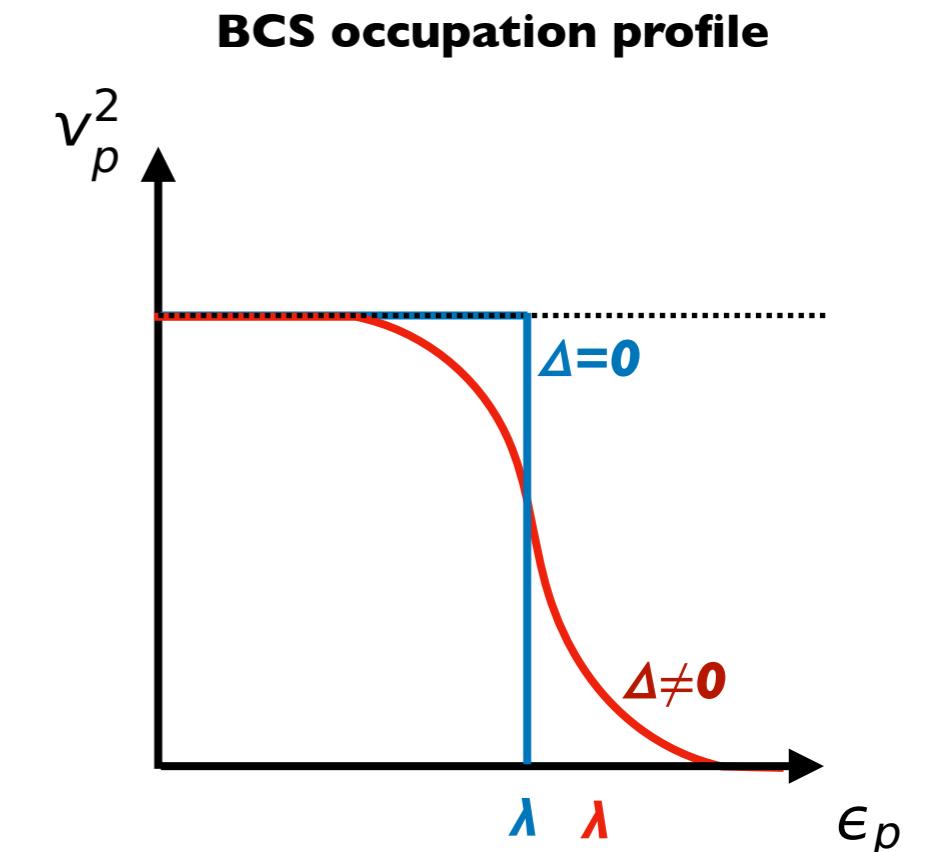
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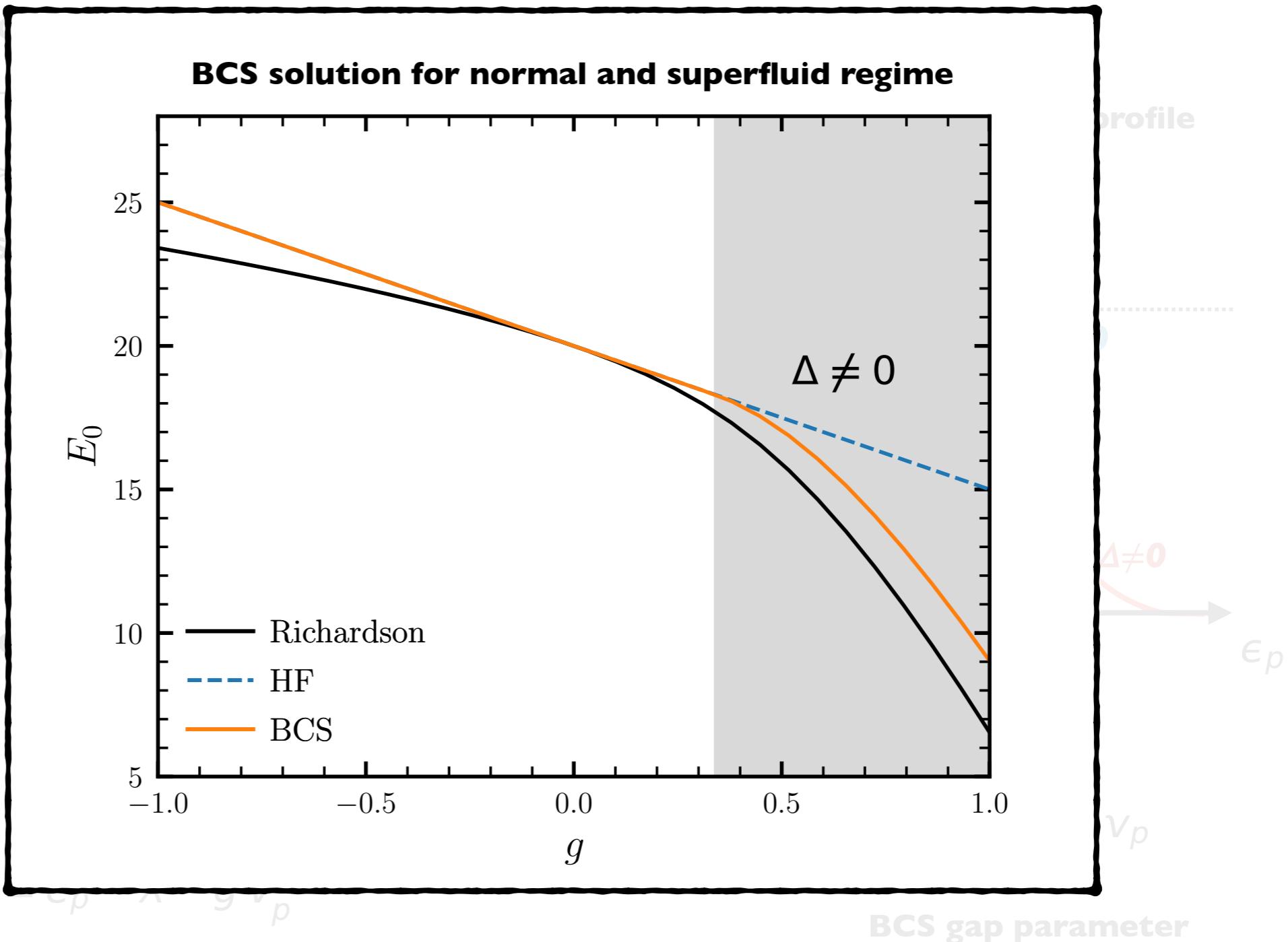
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- Similar expressions hold for **other symmetries**, e.g., rotational invariance  $SU(2)$

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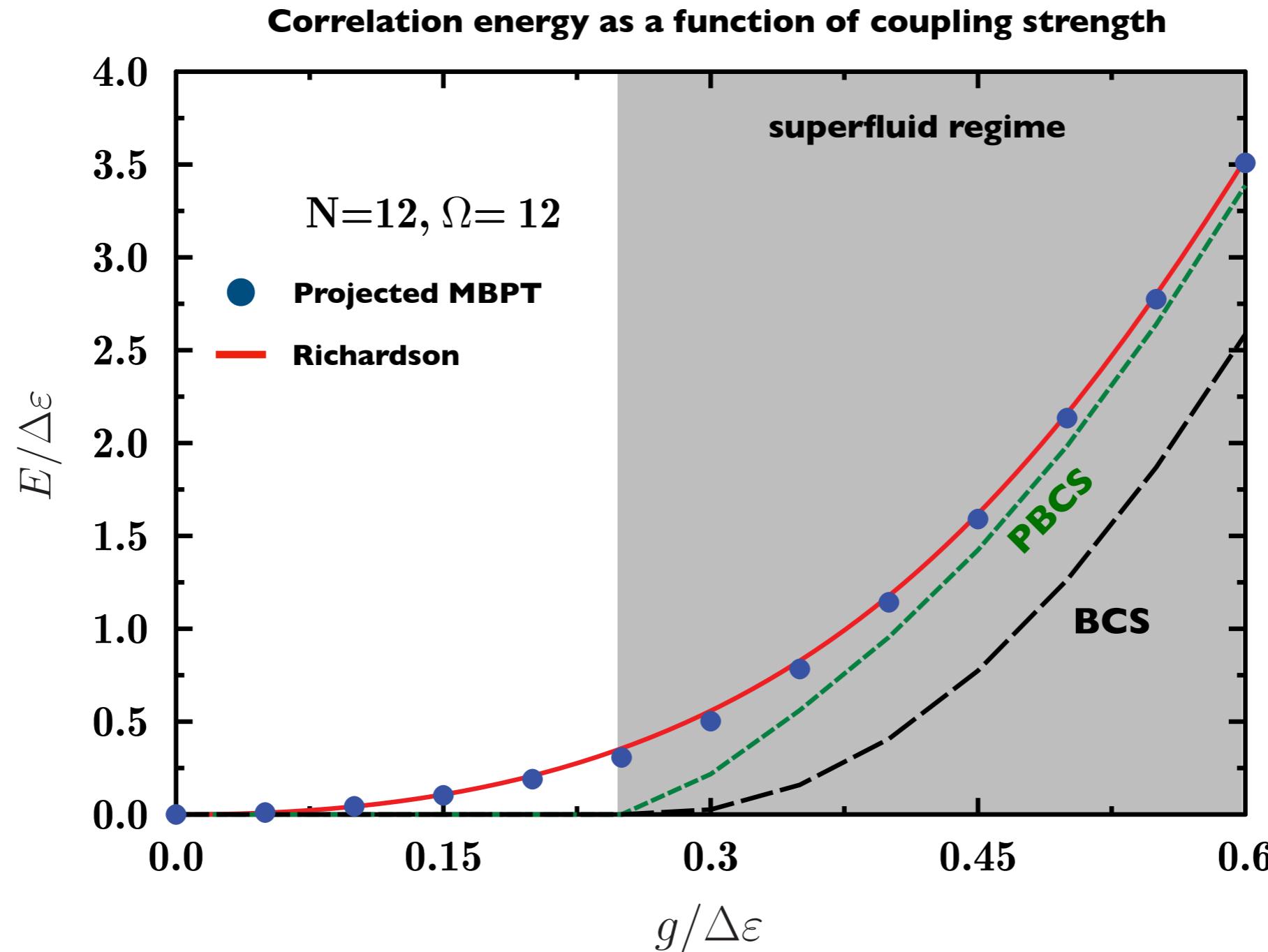
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- **Standard HF-MBPT is recovered in limiting case of vanishing pairing gap**

# Results of perturbation theory

Lacroix, Gambacurta, PRC (2012)



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Henderson et al., PRC (2014)

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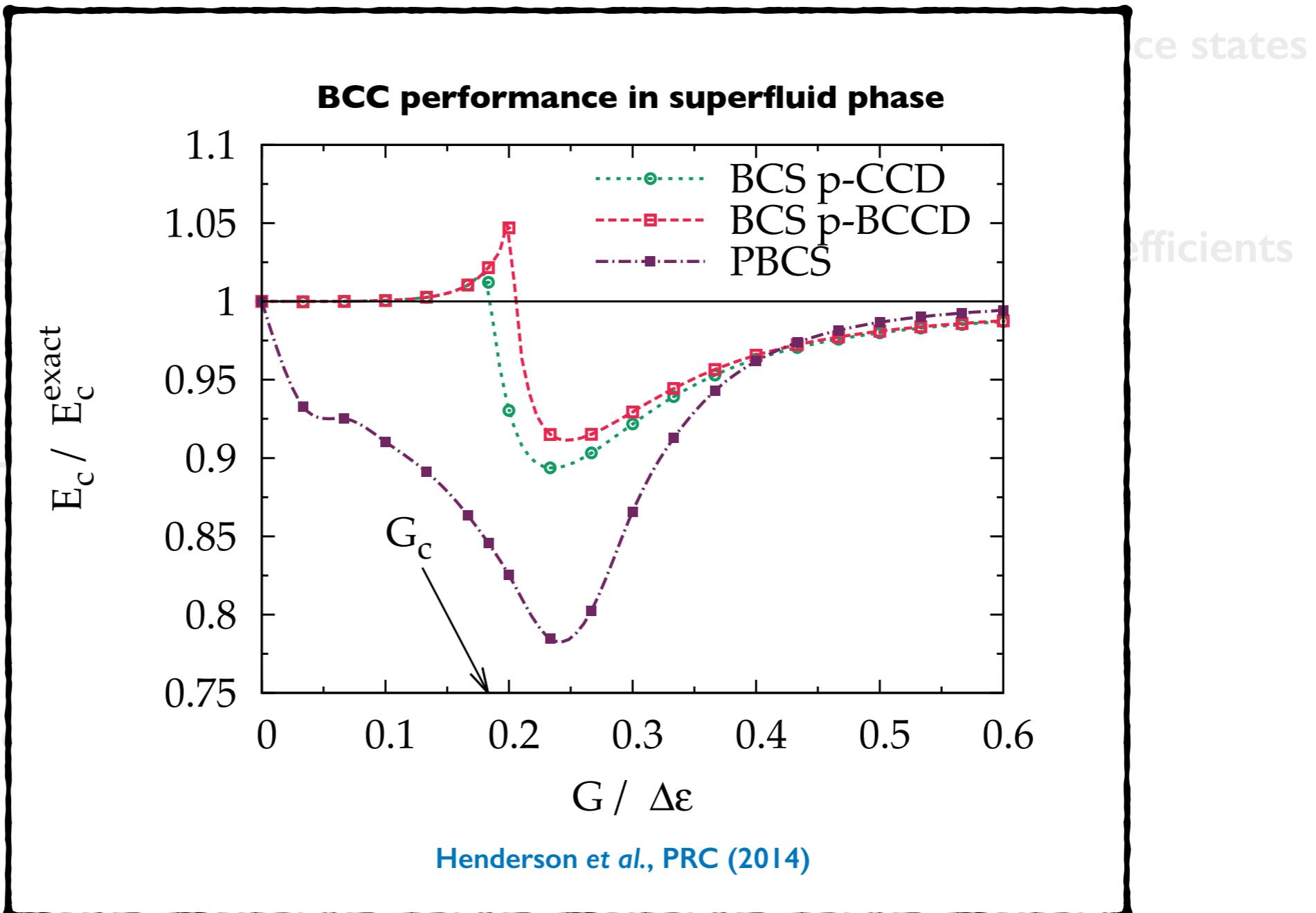
$$0 = \langle \Phi_{\text{BCS}} | \mathcal{P}_p \mathcal{P}_q e^{-T} (H - \lambda A) e^T | \Phi_{\text{BCS}} \rangle \quad \forall p, q$$

- Extends single-reference coupled-cluster theory to **superfluid regime**

# Coupled-cluster theory for BCS states

Henderson et al., PRC (2014)

- Bogoliubov coupling



- Many-body operators
- Cluster operators
- Evaluate amplitudes
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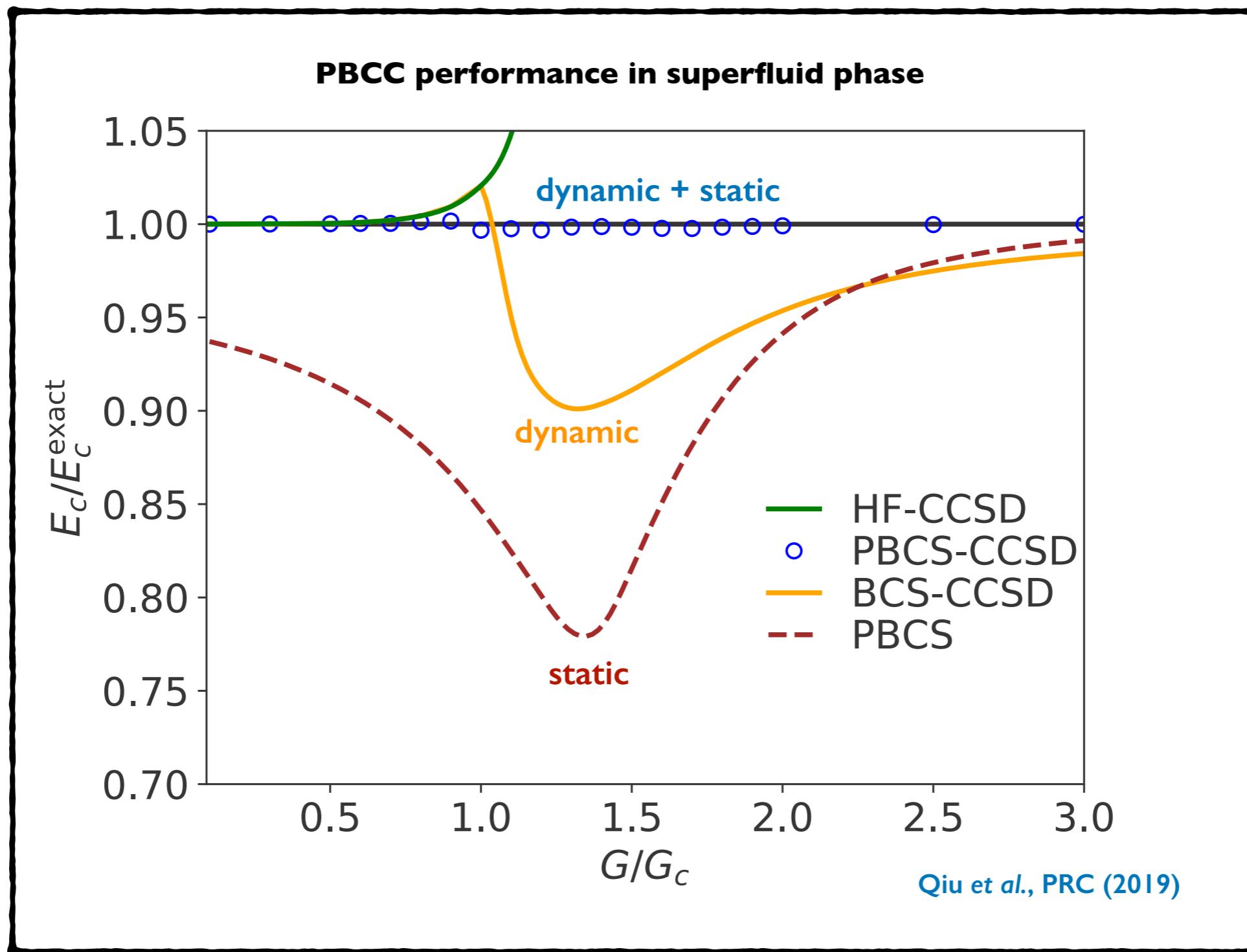
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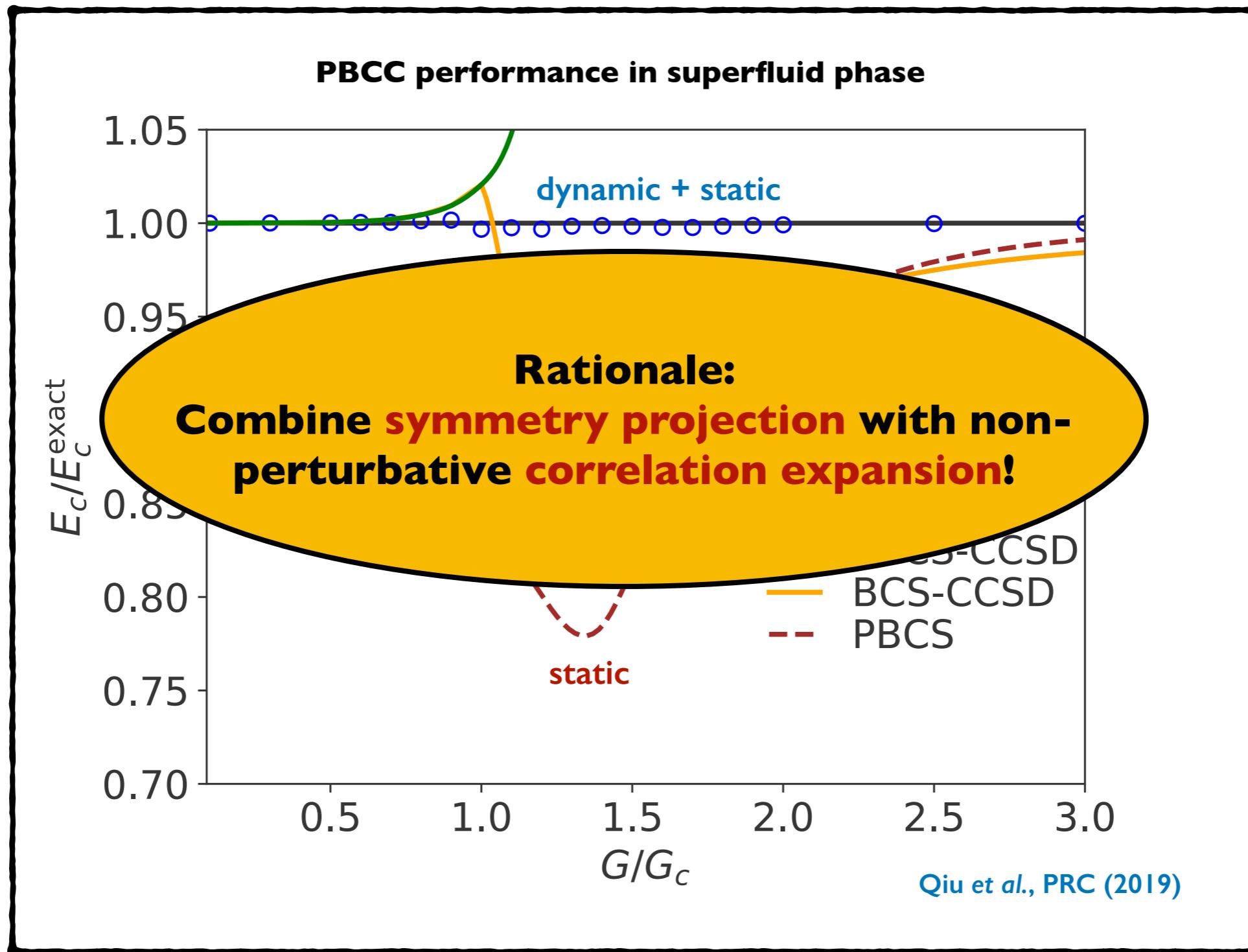
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- Symmetry projection beyond mean-field constitutes a highly non-trivial task
- Numerical implementation is computationally very demanding in practice

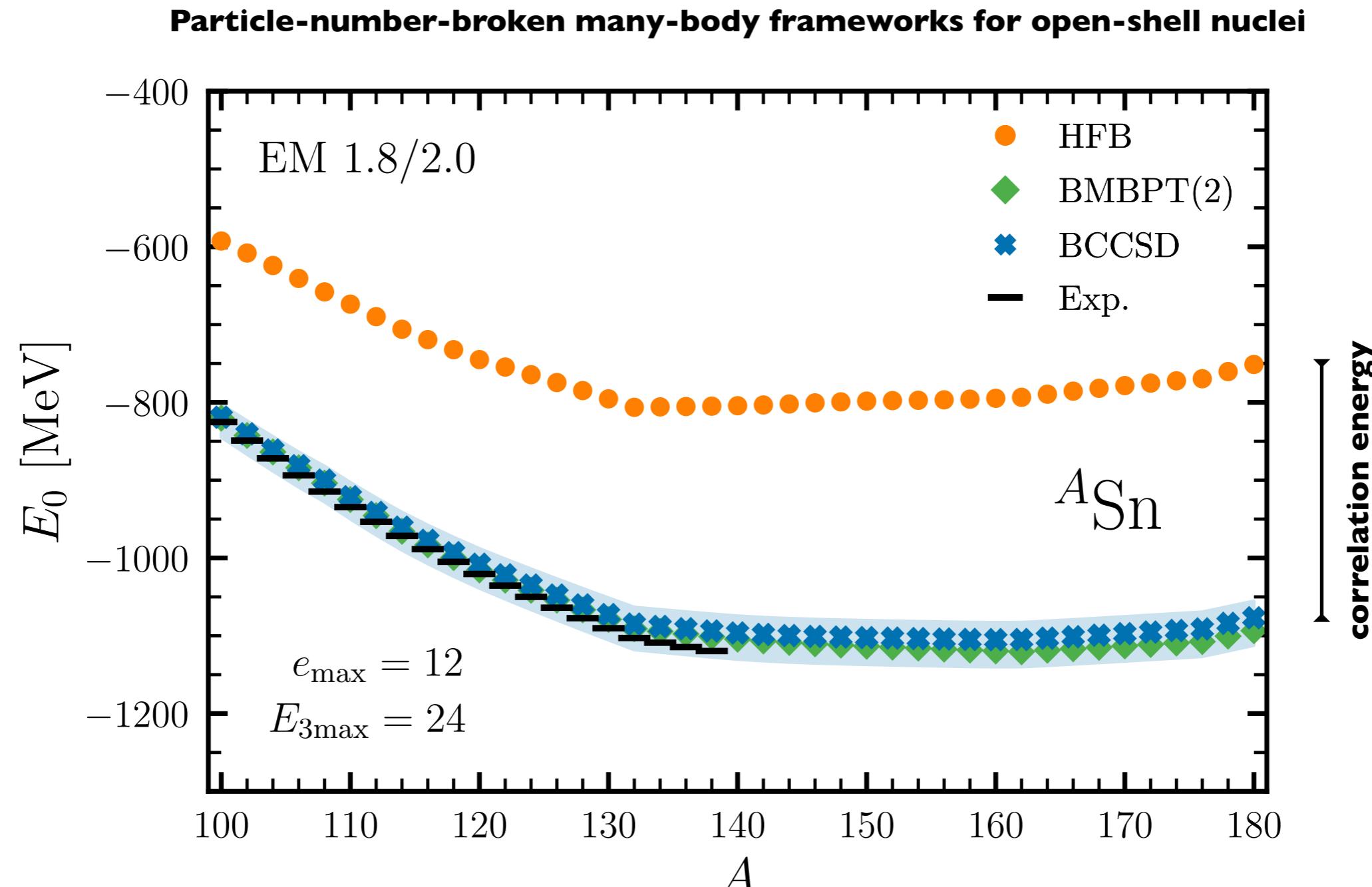
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# Large-scale *ab initio* applications

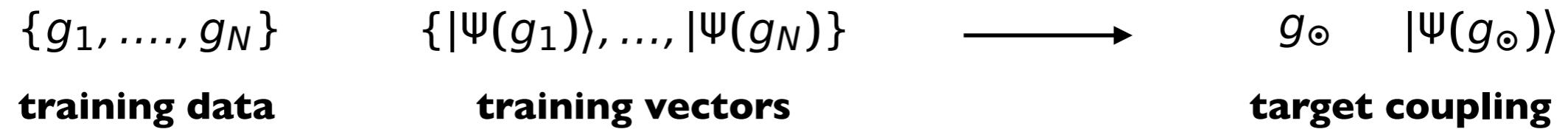


Tichai, Demol, Duguet, arXiv:2307.15619 (2023)

**No full projection yet!**

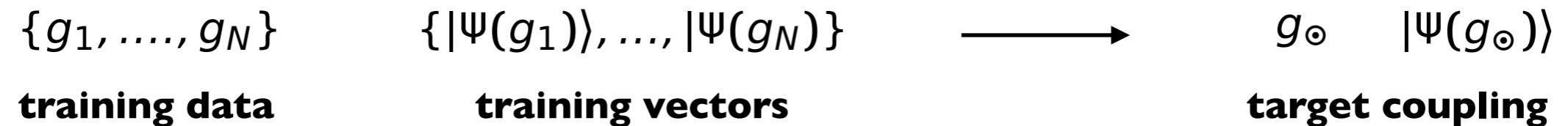
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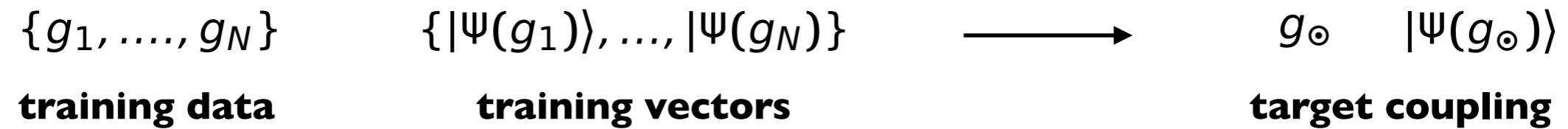
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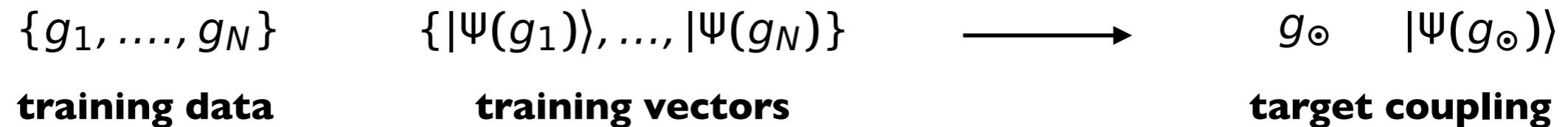


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- **Generalized eigenvalue problem** in the basis of (non-orthogonal) training vectors

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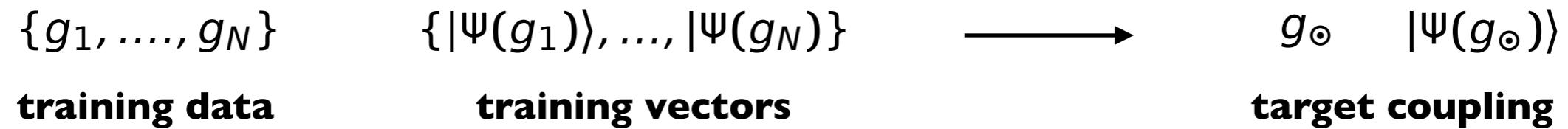
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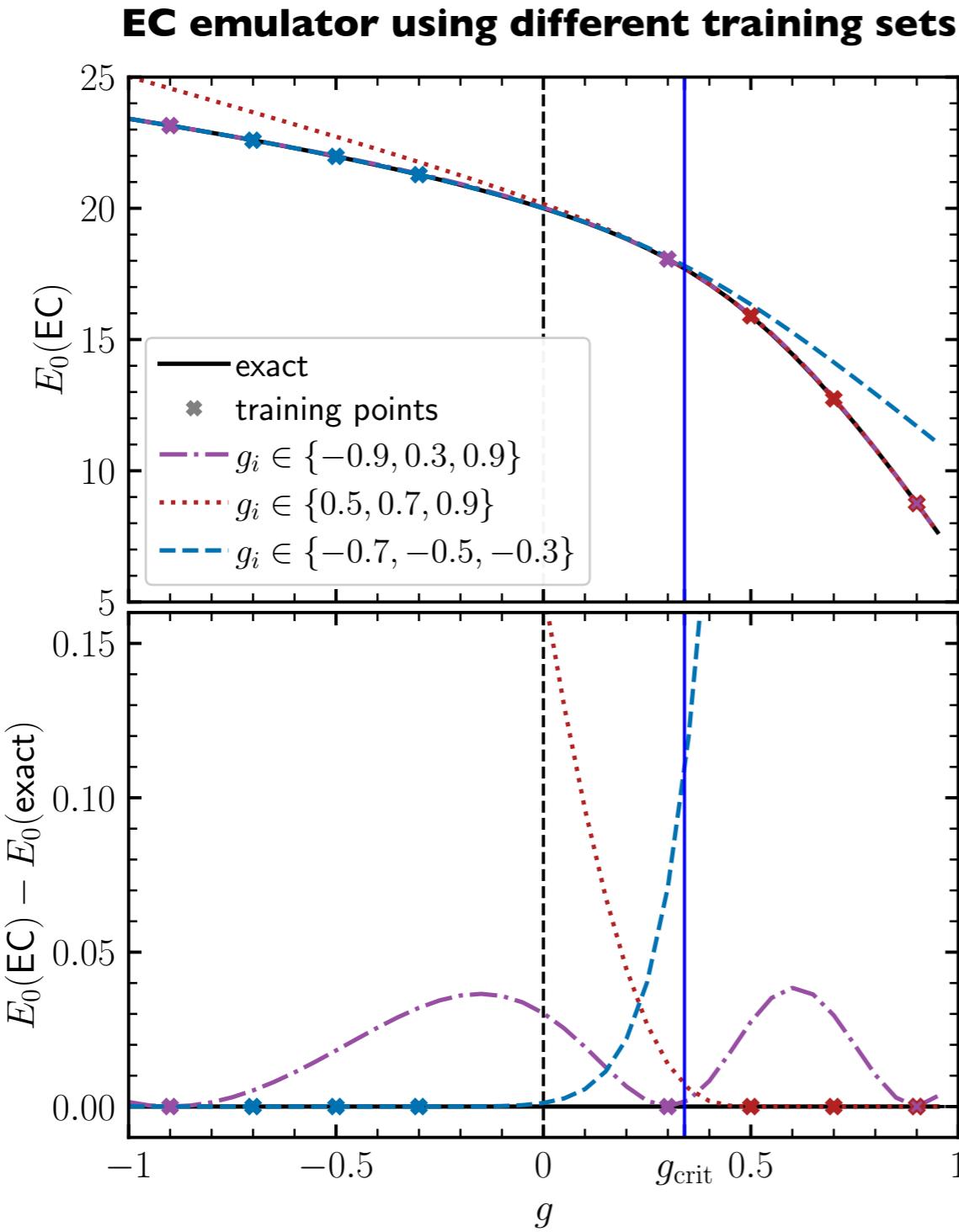
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- Hot topic: **emerging field in nuclear physics** with numerous applications

Duguet et al., arXiv:2310.19419 (2023)

# Performance of the EC emulator



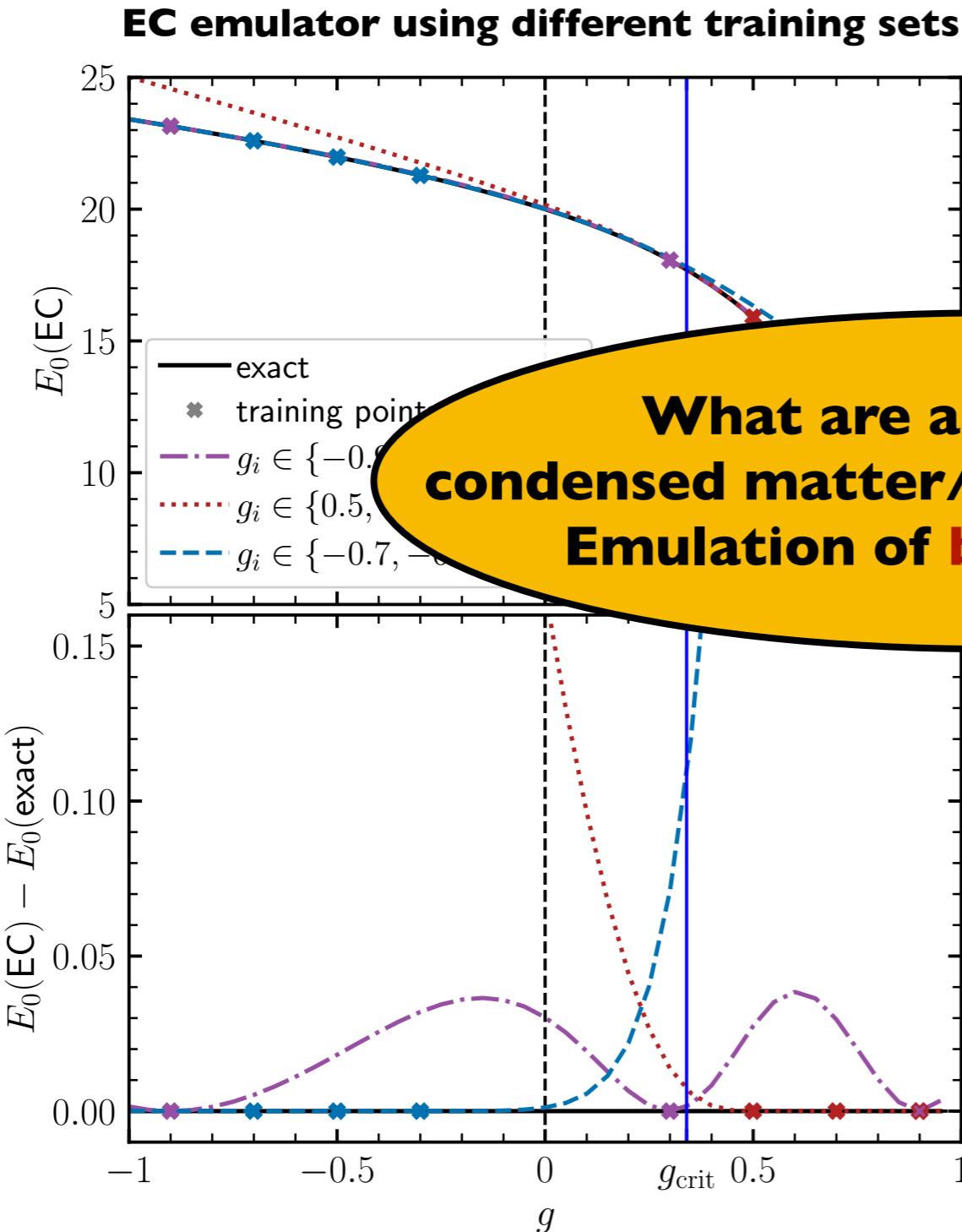
- Introduction of **different training manifolds**: normal, superfluid, mixed
- One-sided training manifolds are **unreliable for non-trained regime**
- Mixed training manifold **yields consistent prediction** for all couplings

**Selection of appropriate training vectors crucial!**

**similar study using DMRG:**

Baran, Nichita, PRB (2023)

# Performance of the EC emulator



- Introduction of **different training manifolds**: normal, superfluid, mixed

One-sided training manifolds are  
more robust in the non-trained regime

What are applications in  
condensed matter/quantum chemistry?  
Emulation of **bond stretching**?

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# Conclusions

## Pairing Hamiltonian as **many-body testbed**

- Integrable Richardson solution for arbitrary system size
- Emergence of critical coupling separating normal and superfluid phase
- Breakdown of conventional many-body expansions

**Lesson:** Hartree-Fock-based schemes are doomed to fail

---

## Implications on **many-body frameworks**

- Capture static correlations via spontaneous symmetry breaking
- Account for dynamic correlations using many-body expansion
- Parametric dependence can be efficiently emulated

**Lesson:** reference state must capture important **static correlations**

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**Lesson:** Hartree Fock

**Take-home message:**  
**Schematic models reveal key correlations**  
**relevant for realistic applications.**

**Implications on many-body theory**

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