

# Topology of the $O(3)$ non-linear sigma model under the gradient flow

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by

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# Contents

Acknowledgments	iv
List of Figures	vi
List of Tables	vii
Abstract	v
<b>1 Introduction</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1 Method Overview . . . . .	2
1.2 Conventions . . . . .	3
<b>2 Theory</b>	<b>4</b>
2.1 Quantum Field Theory . . . . .	4
2.1.1 Path Integral Formulation . . . . .	5
2.1.2 $\phi^4$ model . . . . .	7
2.1.3 Non-linear sigma model . . . . .	8
2.2 Markov Chain Monte Carlo . . . . .	8
2.2.1 The Markov Chain . . . . .	9
2.3 Observables . . . . .	10
2.3.1 Primary Observables . . . . .	10
2.3.2 Secondary Observables . . . . .	12

2.3.3	Bimodality . . . . .	14
2.3.4	Jackknife Method . . . . .	15
2.4	Topological Observables . . . . .	15
2.4.1	NLSM $\theta$ term . . . . .	16
2.5	Ultraviolet Divergences . . . . .	16
2.5.1	Regularization: fields on the lattice . . . . .	17
2.5.2	Renormalization . . . . .	17
2.5.3	The Gradient Flow . . . . .	18
<b>3</b>	<b>Methods</b>	<b>20</b>
3.1	Fields on the Lattice . . . . .	20
3.2	Defining the topological charge . . . . .	22
3.3	Monte Carlo Simulations . . . . .	25
3.3.1	Metropolis Algorithm . . . . .	25
3.3.2	Wolff Cluster Algorithm . . . . .	26
3.3.3	Checkerboard algorithm . . . . .	28
3.3.4	Thermalization . . . . .	29
3.3.5	Autocorrelation . . . . .	29
3.3.6	Runge-Kutta Algorithm . . . . .	30
3.4	Topological charge with a $\theta$ term . . . . .	31
<b>4</b>	<b>Results</b>	<b>33</b>
4.1	Non-linear sigma model results . . . . .	33
4.1.1	Comparison with Existing Literature . . . . .	33
4.1.2	Topological charge when $\theta \neq 0$ . . . . .	34
<b>5</b>	<b>Conclusion &amp; Outlook</b>	<b>41</b>

<b>A</b>	<b>C++ NLSM Monte Carlo Program</b>	<b>43</b>
A.1	sweep.h . . . . .	43
A.2	sweep.cpp . . . . .	45
A.3	lattice.h . . . . .	56
A.4	lattice.cpp . . . . .	57
A.5	phi.h . . . . .	58
A.6	phi.cpp . . . . .	59
A.7	observables.h . . . . .	61
A.8	constants.h . . . . .	63

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# List of Figures

2.1	Visualization of broken phase, symmetric phase and transition. Simulation run on $64 \times 64$ lattice, plotted after 1000 sweep thermalization (see Sec 3.3.4) . . . . .	11
2.2	Effect of flow time evolution on a random lattice in the symmetric phase. White represents positive values of $\phi$ while black represents negative. . . . .	19
3.1	Visualization of plaquette $x^*$ . Dotted line separated plaquette into two signed areas which are used to define the topological charge density $q(x^*)$ . Arrows represent order of signed area. . . . .	23
3.2	Visualization of signed area $A$ on the sphere $S^2$ traced out by field at points $x_1, x_2$ and $x_3$ . . . . .	24
3.3	Histogram of topological charge values $Q$ for trivial NLSM. $L = 404$ , 10,000 measurements, measurements every 50 sweeps, 1,000 sweep thermalization, $\tau = 0$ . . . . .	25
3.4	An example of the Wolff cluster algorithm in the $\phi^4$ model. White represents positive values of $\phi$ while black represents negative. $\lambda = 0.5$ , $m_0^2 = -0.9$ . . . . .	28
3.5	Plots of the action as a function of Monte Carlo time, starting with a random NLSM lattice. . . . .	29

3.6	Plots of automatic windowing procedure used to calculate $\tau_{int}$ for the NLSM model. . . . .	30
4.1	The lattice average $ \langle\bar{\phi}\rangle $ , the lattice susceptibility $\chi$ , the Binder cumulant $U$ and the bimodality $B$ plotted as functions of $m_0^2$ . $L = 32$ , $\lambda = 0.5$ . The lattice was thermalized from a hot start for 1000 sweeps. Afterwards, 100 measurements were taken with 100 sweeps between each. The red horizontal line indicates $U = 2/3$ , the symmetric limit of the Binder cumulant. . . . .	36
4.2	Comparison with [1]. First panel: internal energy compared with analytic energy (Eq. 4.1). Second panel: magnetic susceptibility compared with literature values. . . . .	37
4.3	$\chi_t L^2$ as a function of flow time $\tau$ . Simulation run with 10,000 measurements, measurements every 50 sweeps, 1,000 sweep thermalization. . . . .	38
4.4	$\chi_t \xi_2^2$ as a function of $L$ . The data is fit with both a log and power fit. Simulation run with 10,000 measurements, measurements every 50 sweeps, 1,000 sweep thermalization. In the $\tau = 0$ case, we have compared our result with the curve fit found in [2]. . . . .	39
4.5	Imaginary part of $\langle Q \rangle$ as a function of $\theta$ . Simulation run with 10,000 measurements, measurements every 50 sweeps, 1,000 sweep thermalization. Note the different scaling of the $y$ -axis. . . . .	40

# List of Tables

2.1	Average magnetization with average action per site corresponding to the particular configurations in Fig. 2.1. . . . .	11
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## Abstract

The  $O(3)$  non-linear model features topological effects such as instantons but cannot be perturbatively renormalized. Other nonperturbative theories such as QCD have motivated the development of lattice quantum field theory, where fields are simulated as discrete arrays and extrapolated to the continuum limit. Unfortunately, operators such as the topological susceptibility diverge in this limit. The gradient flow is a strong contender to remove these infinities, having prior success in QCD. We confirm a previous result[2] that the gradient flow does not make the topological susceptibility infinite. We also study the nontrivial field theory by introducing a  $\theta$  term into the action and plot the topological charge as a function of  $\theta$ .

# Chapter 1

## Introduction

Quantum field theory (QFT) is an extraordinarily successful framework which describes a range of physical phenomena. Paired with the Standard Model, QFT provides the prevailing basis for all small-scale physics (that is, where general relativity does not apply) and is the fundamental tool for studying particle physics. In condensed matter physics, effective field theories model emergent effects such as phonons and quasiparticles. Compared to experiment, QFT is remarkably accurate, famously matching the experimental value for the electron  $g$ -factor to eight significant figures.[3]

However, this power comes at a cost: the study of quantum fields is rife with infinities. A naïve treatment of quantum field theory produces divergent values for physical quantities, a clearly impossible result. Since the 1950s, this issue has been resolved for a large number of models— most notably quantum electrodynamics— through perturbation theory and the so-called *renormalization group*. However, the technique fails with perturbatively nonrenormalizable theories.

One such example is the *non-linear sigma model*, a prototypical theory in both condensed matter and particle physics. In solid-state systems, this model describes Heisenberg ferromagnets and in nuclear physics, it acts as a prototype for quantum chromodynamics (QCD), exhibiting characteristic features such as a mass gap and

asymptotic freedom.<sup>1</sup>

In this study, we specifically consider the  $O(3)$  non-linear sigma model in  $1 + 1$  dimensions (one dimension of space, one dimension of time). This theory exhibits topological properties such as *instantons*, or classical field solutions at local minima of the action.

Since the non-linear sigma model cannot be renormalized perturbatively, we cannot study these topological effects with normal perturbative techniques. An alternative solution is placing the field on a discretized lattice, a technique originally used for quantum chromodynamics. In this scenario, field configurations become computationally calculable. This process introduces a nonphysical length scale  $a$ , the lattice spacing. Therefore, we expect any physical result to converge in the continuum limit, i.e. when  $a \rightarrow 0$ . However, this is not always the case as observables mix on the lattice, leading to divergences. As an example, states of definite angular momentum mix when discretized, a clear violation of the angular momentum commutation relations.

The gradient flow is a technique designed to remove these divergences. By dampening high-momentum fluctuations, the gradient flow reduces power-divergent mixing and makes observables finite on the lattice.[4] In quantum chromodynamics, previous studies have verified the ability of the gradient flow to make observables finite<sup>2</sup>. Due to its success in QCD, there has been interest in using the gradient flow to finitize the topological susceptibility in the  $1+1$   $O(3)$  non-linear sigma model.[2].

## 1.1 Method Overview

To numerically study the topological qualities of the non-linear sigma model, we first implement a Markov Chain Monte Carlo simulation. We initially construct a proof-

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<sup>1</sup>*citation needed*

<sup>2</sup>*citation needed*

of-concept Python program that models the simpler  $\phi^4$  model (see Sec. 2.1.2). After comparing with existing literature, we transition to a C++ simulation for efficiency, implementing the non-linear sigma model in larger lattices. Since the gradient flow has no exact solution in the non-linear sigma model, we implement a numerical solution using a fourth-order Runge-Kutta approximation. By applying the gradient flow to every configuration in the sample, we can measure its effect on the topological charge and susceptibility.

## 1.2 Conventions

- Throughout this paper, we use natural units, i.e.  $\hbar = 1$  and  $c = 1$ .
- We use Einstein summation notation, an implicit sum over repeated spacetime indices. For example, if  $x^\mu$  is a spacetime four-vector and  $x_\mu$  is its covariant form, the term

$$\begin{aligned} x^\mu x_\mu &= \sum_{\mu=0}^4 x^\mu x_\mu \\ &= x_0^2 - x_1^2 - x_2^2 - x_3^2. \end{aligned}$$

# Chapter 2

## Theory

This thesis incorporates two main bodies of knowledge: quantum field theory and statistical simulation. Through the path integral formulation of quantum field theory, we are able to describe the physics of the former with the established mathematics of the latter.

### 2.1 Quantum Field Theory

In this section we outline a rough description of quantum field theory. A full introduction is beyond the scope of this paper, however we do assume knowledge of nonrelativistic quantum mechanics and classical field theory.

The fundamental hypothesis of quantum field theory (QFT) describes particles as discrete packets of energy on a quantum field. But what is a quantum field? Like in classical mechanics, a field is a function of spacetime with some mathematical object assigned to each point in space and time. In the case of the electric field, this object is a three-dimensional vector, while the electric potential is a scalar field. Classical and quantum fields have Lagrangians which define how they evolve in space and time. What differentiates a quantum field from a classical field is superposition: where classical fields have a definite configuration, quantum fields exist in a superposition of all possible configurations. It is possible—though nontrivial and outside the scope of this

description— to motivate the appearance of discrete particles from this superposition [5]. This formulation of QFT is known as the “path integral formulation”, which differs from the “second quantization” used by most textbooks.

This general description allows QFT to easily incorporate special relativity. By ensuring that the Lagrangian of a theory is invariant under Lorentz transformations, we can ensure that the theory itself is Lorentz invariant. This is a necessary condition of physical theories.

### 2.1.1 Path Integral Formulation

We can model a quantum field theory as a superposition of all possible classical fields. Like single-particle quantum mechanics, each configuration has a probability amplitude. To measure expectation values of observables, we simply take an average over all configurations weighted by this complex amplitude. We can formalize this notion using the fundamental formula<sup>1</sup>

$$\langle \hat{O} \rangle = \frac{1}{Z} \int \mathcal{D}\phi \, \hat{O}[\phi] \, e^{iS[\phi]} \quad (2.1)$$

where  $\langle \hat{O} \rangle$  is the expectation value of an arbitrary operator  $\hat{O}$ ;  $Z$  is a normalization constant;  $S$  is the action functional, defined from the theory’s Lagrangian; and  $\int \mathcal{D}\phi$  represents the eponymous path integral. Though it is possible to define this integral rigorously, for our purposes we can equate it to a sum over all possible configurations. This form is the quantum analog of the classical principle of least action and reduces to such for large values of the action. For a more pedagogical explanation, see Richard Feynman’s lectures on physics [6].

At first glance, Eq. 2.1 is remarkably similar to the statistics of the canonical ensemble. Through this similarity, we will be able to use mathematical tools from statistical mechanics to study quantum field theories. However, the factor of  $i$  in

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<sup>1</sup>Since this study concerns vacua, we do not include a source term.

the exponent currently prohibits us from making this jump. To remedy this issue, we perform a “Wick rotation” which shifts spacetime into Euclidean coordinates. In normal spacetime, defined by the Minkowski metric, the Lorentz-invariant distance is given as

$$s^2 = x_0^2 - x_1^2 - x_2^2 - x_3^2 \quad (2.2)$$

where  $x_0 = ct$  and  $\vec{x} = (x_1, x_2, x_3)^T$ . By redefining the time coordinate of a spacetime point  $x$  to be  $x_4 = ix_0$ , we find that the quantity

$$s_E^2 = x_1^2 + x_2^2 + x_3^2 + x_4^2, \quad (2.3)$$

is therefore invariant under  $SO(4)$  transformations, which is representative of a four-dimensional Euclidean space. Furthermore, we find that

$$\begin{aligned} d^4x_E &= d^3\vec{x}dx_4 \\ &= id^3\vec{x}dx_0 \\ &= id^4x. \end{aligned} \quad (2.4)$$

We can use this transformation to redefine the Lagrangian  $\mathcal{L}$  in Euclidean space as  $\mathcal{L}_E$ , replacing all  $x_0$  with  $ix_0$ . Since a Lorentz-invariant Lagrangian must only include even powers and derivatives of  $x$ , the Euclidean Lagrangian remains real. Subsequently, we can define a Euclidean action based on the differential in Eq. 2.4:

$$S_E = \int d^4x_E \mathcal{L}_E \quad (2.5)$$

$$= i \int d^4x \mathcal{L}_E, \quad (2.6)$$

allowing us to redefine the path integral as

$$\langle \hat{O} \rangle = \frac{1}{Z} \int \mathcal{D}\phi \hat{O}(\phi) e^{-S_E[\phi]}. \quad (2.7)$$

By replacing the Minkowski action  $S$  with a Euclidean action  $S_E$ , we have transformed the amplitude  $e^{iS}$  to a statistical Boltzmann factor  $e^{-S_E}$ . This new form will allow us to use statistical techniques to simulate quantum fields.

### 2.1.2 $\phi^4$ model

One of the simplest interacting field theories is known as the  $\phi^4$  model. This theory describes a spin-0 boson and consists of a real scalar field given by the four-dimensional Minkowski action

$$S[\phi] = \int d^4x \left[ \frac{1}{2} \partial^\mu \phi \partial_\mu \phi - \frac{1}{2} m_0^2 \phi^2 - \frac{\lambda}{4} \phi^4 \right]. \quad (2.8)$$

The first two terms describe a free relativistic particle of mass  $m_0$  while the last term describes an interaction with strength  $\lambda$ . Per Einstein summation notation, there is an implicit sum over spacetime dimensions  $\mu \in \{0, 1, 2, 3\}$  indexing the derivative vectors<sup>2</sup>

$$\partial^\mu = \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial t}, \frac{\partial}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial}{\partial y}, \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \right) \quad (2.9)$$

$$\partial_\mu = \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial t}, -\frac{\partial}{\partial x}, -\frac{\partial}{\partial y}, -\frac{\partial}{\partial z} \right). \quad (2.10)$$

In this study, we specifically consider fields in 1+1 spacetime dimensions. Following Sec. 2.1.1, we convert Eq. 2.8 from 3+1 Minkowski spacetime to 1+1 Euclidean spacetime, yielding

$$S_E[\phi] = \int d^2x_E \left[ \frac{1}{2} (\partial_t \phi)^2 + \frac{1}{2} (\partial_x \phi)^2 + \frac{1}{2} m_0^2 \phi^2 + \frac{\lambda}{4} \phi^4 \right]. \quad (2.11)$$

where  $\partial_t$  and  $\partial_x$  are the two partial derivatives in 1+1 Euclidean spacetime.

This field features spontaneous symmetry breaking at a critical value of  $m_0^2$ . In practice this property causes the field to spontaneously align, similarly to spins aligning in a ferromagnet. The name “symmetry breaking” refers to the transformation  $\phi \rightarrow -\phi$ , which changes the values of observables in the aligned regime but not the disordered regime. These two phases are known as the “broken” and “symmetric” phases and their transition is well understood.

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<sup>2</sup>This canonical representation of the kinetic term  $\frac{1}{2} \partial^\mu \phi \partial_\mu \phi$  is equivalent to  $\frac{1}{2} \dot{\phi}^2 - \frac{1}{2} (\nabla \phi)^2$ .



### 2.1.3 Non-linear sigma model

The non-linear sigma model (NLSM) is a prototypical theory for a variety of unrelated physical phenomena, including applications in string theory [7] and ferromagnetism [8]. As a simple nonperturbative model, it also provides an ideal starting point for lattice QCD studies. Specifically, the NLSM exhibits many properties shared by Yang-Mills gauge theories, such as a mass gap, asymptotic freedom and  $O(2)$  renormalizability.

Unlike the  $\phi^4$  model, which consists of a real value at each point in spacetime, the  $O(3)$  NLSM consists of a 3D unit vector at each point. For this reason, every transformation of the field must be “norm preserving”. Per its name, the  $O(3)$  NLSM features a global symmetry under the 3D orthogonal group  $O(3)$ . In other words, the theory remains the same if all vectors are rotated equivalently. To differentiate it from the  $\phi^4$  model, we denote the NLSM field as  $\vec{e}(x)$ .

The theory is defined by the Euclidean action

$$S_E = \frac{\beta}{2} \int d^D x \partial^\mu \vec{e} \cdot \partial_\mu \vec{e} \quad (2.12)$$

subject to the constraint that  $\vec{e} \cdot \vec{e} = 1$ . Here,  $\beta$  is the inverse coupling and  $D$  is the number of spacetime dimensions.

## 2.2 Markov Chain Monte Carlo

To accomplish a statistical analysis of quantum fields, we use a Monte Carlo simulation. This method amounts to producing a large number of configurations and calculating statistics on the sample. A brute-force calculation over all possible configurations—as Eq. 2.7 suggests—is clearly infinite and computationally infeasible. However, the exponential nature of the Boltzmann factor dictates that only configurations near the action minima contribute to observable statistics. Therefore, by selecting a sample

of configurations near this minimum, we are able to extract meaningful results with a finite computation.

### 2.2.1 The Markov Chain

The Markov chain is an effective method to identify field configurations that minimize the action. Essentially, we begin with a predetermined configuration and then make small adjustments, gradually lowering the action. By measuring states after a certain amount of time has passed, called the “thermalization”, we can form a set of configurations near the action minima and approximate the observables of the system.

Each step consists of two parts: proposing a change and accepting the new configuration. The proposal creates a new configuration  $\phi_b$  based on the current configuration  $\phi_a$ . In order to direct the Markov chain towards the action minima, we do not immediately accept this change. We calculate a probability

$$P(\phi_a \rightarrow \phi_b) \tag{2.13}$$

of adding  $\phi_b$  to the Markov chain, depending only on the actions of each configuration. This stochastic process ensures the chain will seek action minima.

There are four requirements that this function must obey to produce a Boltzmann distribution of samples:

1.  $P(\phi_a \rightarrow \phi_b)$  must depend only on the configurations  $\phi_a$  and  $\phi_b$ .
2. The probability must be properly normalized, i.e.  $\sum_{\phi} P(\phi_a \rightarrow \phi) = 1$ .
3. Every configuration must be reachable in a finite number of steps. In other words, the chain must be ergodic.
4. In order to reach equilibrium, the chain must be reversible. In other words, the probability of a  $\phi_a \rightarrow \phi_b$  transition must be equal to the probability of a

$\phi_b \rightarrow \phi_a$  transition. Mathematically, this condition takes the form of *detailed balance equations*:

$$P(\phi_a) P(\phi_a \rightarrow \phi_b) = P(\phi_b) P(\phi_b \rightarrow \phi_a), \quad (2.14)$$

where  $P(\phi)$  is the probability of a system existing in state  $\phi$ .

This final condition will allow us to explicitly define the transition probability using the action. From the Boltzmann distribution, we know

$$P(\phi) = \frac{1}{Z} e^{-S_E[\phi]}. \quad (2.15)$$

Therefore, by rearranging Eq. 2.14, we find

$$\frac{P(\phi_a \rightarrow \phi_b)}{P(\phi_b \rightarrow \phi_a)} = e^{S_E[\phi_a] - S_E[\phi_b]}. \quad (2.16)$$

This formula will provide the explicit transition probabilities for the Metropolis and Wolff algorithms.

## 2.3 Observables

To extract physics from Monte Carlo simulations, we define a set of “observables”. These quantities manifest as expectation values of operators, calculated using the Euclidean path integral formula (Eq. 2.7). We can classify these observables into two categories: primary and secondary observables. Primary observables are calculated as expectation values of global operators while secondary observables are derived from these quantities.

### 2.3.1 Primary Observables

Each primary observable is defined on each configuration independently, meaning they do not encode ensemble statistics of the Markov Chain.<sup>3</sup> In the  $\phi^4$  model, we can

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<sup>3</sup>One slight exception is the magnetic susceptibility, which can be defined both ways.

develop an intuition around these quantities by visualizing the symmetric and broken phases. Fig 2.1 and Tab. 2.1 show examples of these quantities in three different configurations: one in the broken phase, one in the symmetric phase, and one at the transition.

There are two potential points of confusion here. The first lies in the definition of “broken” phase. Though the symmetric phase more closely resembles a pane of broken glass, it leaves  $\phi \rightarrow -\phi$  symmetry *un*-broken, thereby giving the title “broken” to the more visually uniform configuration. An additional potential pitfall is the distinction between the *lattice average* and the *ensemble average*. The first is a mean over all lattice sites while the second is a mean over all configurations in the Markov Chain.

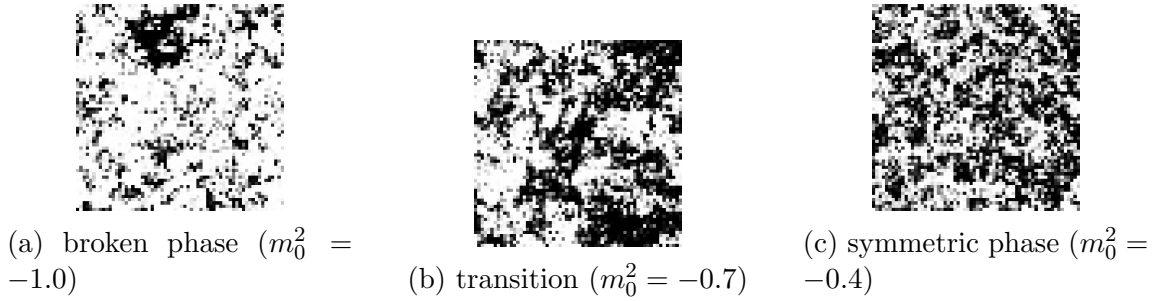


Figure 2.1: Visualization of broken phase, symmetric phase and transition. Simulation run on  $64 \times 64$  lattice, plotted after 1000 sweep thermalization (see Sec 3.3.4)

	broken	transition	symmetric
$ \bar{\phi} $	0.56	0.07	0.02
$S_E/L^2$	0.29	0.40	0.44

Table 2.1: Average magnetization with average action per site corresponding to the particular configurations in Fig. 2.1.

## Average Magnetization

The average magnetization quantifies the total alignment of the field. In both the  $\phi^4$  model and the NLSM, a value of zero indicates the symmetric phase while a nonzero value indicates broken symmetry. In the NLSM, a magnitude of one represents total alignment.

Due to the  $\phi \rightarrow -\phi$  symmetry of the  $\phi^4$  model, the ensemble mean of the average magnetization  $\langle \phi \rangle$  is 0. Likewise, the  $O(3)$  symmetry in the NLSM enforces  $\langle \vec{e} \rangle = 0$ . To measure the alignment, we therefore use the magnitude of this quantity, defined in the  $\phi^4$  model as

$$|\bar{\phi}| \equiv \frac{1}{L^2} \left| \sum_i^{L^2} \phi(x_i) \right|. \quad (2.17)$$

and in the NLSM as

$$|\bar{\vec{e}}| \equiv \frac{1}{L^2} \left| \sum_i^{L^2} \vec{e}(x_i) \right|. \quad (2.18)$$

In the symmetric phase, both  $\langle \bar{\vec{e}} \rangle$  and  $\langle \bar{\phi} \rangle = 0$  while in the broken phase they are both nonzero.

## Internal Energy

The internal energy is defined as [1]

$$E = \frac{2}{\beta L^2} \langle S \rangle \quad (2.19)$$

in the NLSM.

### 2.3.2 Secondary Observables

Unlike primary observables, secondary observables are defined for each *ensemble*, not each configuration. We define three secondary observables: the magnetic susceptibility, the Binder cumulant and the bimodality. Since the Binder cumulant and the

bimodality provide different perspectives on phase transitions, we will restrict our usage of these observables to the  $\phi^4$  model.

### Magnetic Susceptibility

Though the magnitude of the average magnetization is the main phase transition indicator, its behaviour on the lattice makes the critical point difficult to identify. With a finite lattice spacing  $a$ , the transition becomes smoother around the critical point. An alternative metric is the magnetic susceptibility. The magnetic susceptibility is proportional to the variance of the magnetization and features a peak at the critical point. This peak is more identifiable than the smooth transition of the magnetization.

Mathematically, this value is defined as

$$\chi_m \equiv L^2(\langle \vec{e}^2 \rangle - \langle \vec{e} \rangle^2) \quad (2.20)$$

in the NLSM and

$$\chi_m \equiv L^2(\langle \bar{\phi}^2 \rangle - \langle \bar{\phi} \rangle^2) \quad (2.21)$$

in the  $\phi^4$  model. Manifestly, this expression appears as a secondary observable since it is not defined for each lattice configuration. However, due to the rotation invariance of both fields, the second term disappears (see Sec. 2.3.1), yielding

$$\chi_m = L^2 \left\langle \left( \sum_x e(x) \right)^2 \right\rangle \quad (2.22)$$

$$= L^2 \left\langle \sum_{x,y} \vec{e}(x) \cdot \vec{e}(y) \right\rangle. \quad (2.23)$$

Due to translational invariance from the periodic boundary conditions, this expression becomes

$$\chi_m = \left\langle \sum_x \vec{e}(0) \cdot \vec{e}(x) \right\rangle \quad (2.24)$$

for the NLSM. Following the same logic, we derive

$$\chi_m = \left\langle \sum_x \phi(0)\phi(x) \right\rangle \quad (2.25)$$

for the  $\phi^4$  model.

### Binder Cumulant

We define the Binder cumulant  $U$  as [9]

$$U \equiv 1 - \frac{\langle \bar{\phi}^4 \rangle}{3\langle \bar{\phi}^2 \rangle^2}. \quad (2.26)$$

Similar to the magnitude of the average magnetization, this formula yields 0 in the symmetric phase and a nonzero value in the broken phase. This nonzero value is  $U = 2/3$  for the Binder cumulant. The advantage of this metric is a fixed point with regards to a scaling transformation that corresponds with the critical point of the phase transition [10]. In our study, we use the Binder cumulant as further evidence of a phase transition.

### 2.3.3 Bimodality

The final phase transition indicator we use is the bimodality. In the symmetric phase, the average magnetization  $\bar{\phi}$  centers around 0 while in the broken phase, these values cluster around two peaks. Qualitatively, this metric measures the separation of these peaks.

We begin by measuring  $\bar{\phi}$  for each configuration. We separate each value into an odd number number of bins, ensuring that there is a bin centered at  $\bar{\phi} = 0$ . We then calculate the number of configurations  $n_0$  in the center bin and the number of configurations  $n_{max}$  in the fullest bin. The bimodality is then calculated as

$$B = 1 - \frac{n_0}{n_{max}}. \quad (2.27)$$

When the configurations are centered around  $\bar{\phi} = 0$ , i.e. in the symmetric phase, this value is  $B = 0$ . When the configurations are aligned such that  $\bar{\phi} \neq 0$ , i.e. in the broken phase, this value becomes  $B = 1$ .

### 2.3.4 Jackknife Method

Though the uncertainties of primary observables are simple to calculate, this process is more complicated for secondary observables. While we could propagate the uncertainty of the Binder cumulant, such a process is not clear for the bimodality. Therefore, we utilize a method known as Jackknife resampling.

We begin by calculating some observable  $O$  on an ensemble of  $N$  configurations. Then, for each configuration  $i$ , we calculate the same observable but exclude said configuration. This leaves us with a set of  $N$  observables  $O_i$ . Assuming independent measurements, we can calculate the variance of  $O$  as

$$\text{Var}(O) = \sum_i (C_i - C)^2. \quad (2.28)$$

We use this formula to calculate all uncertainties in this study.

## 2.4 Topological Observables

The  $O(3)$  NLSM features topological features originating from two properties:

1. At  $x \rightarrow \infty$ , the field must become uniform since the Lagrangian must vanish. This allows us to model  $x \rightarrow \infty$  as a single point on the field, forming a Riemann sphere in three dimensions.
2. The elements of the  $O(3)$  non-linear sigma model are three-dimensional unit vectors, thereby existing on a three dimensional unit sphere.

With these two properties, we can view the field as a continuous mapping between two 3D spheres, denoted as  $S^2$ , and associate an integer number of wrappings to each mapping from  $S^2$  to  $S^2$ . We can envision a tangible metaphor for this wrapping with a balloon and a baseball: by simply inserting the baseball into the balloon, we have established a mapping from every point on the balloon to every point on the baseball.



We can create an equally valid map by twisting the balloon’s mouth and wrapping the baseball again. In a purely mathematical world, we perform this process an infinite number of times, thereby associating every possible mapping with an integer. The group of integers is known as the *homotopy group* of the non-linear sigma model. We associate every field configuration with an element of this group, known as the *topological charge*, which we denote as  $Q$ . Configurations with  $|Q| = 1$  are known as instantons.

### 2.4.1 NLSM $\theta$ term

In the nonlinear sigma model, we expect  $\langle Q \rangle = 0$ . By introducing a  $\theta$  term into the action,

$$S[\vec{e}] \rightarrow S[\vec{e}] - i\theta Q[\phi], \quad (2.29)$$

we can construct a topologically nontrivial model (that is,  $\langle Q \rangle \neq 0$ ).

## 2.5 Ultraviolet Divergences

In Section 2.1.1, we defined a fundamental equation of quantum fields using a “path integral” which encompasses an uncountably infinite configuration space. However, we said nothing of the integral’s convergence. In fact, many fundamental processes in QFT have divergent amplitudes, yielding nonsensical results. The most type of divergence stems from high-momentum states, giving them the name “ultraviolet divergences”. The remedy to this catastrophe is unintuitive. Essentially, we adopt infinite values for the parameters of the Lagrangian ( $m_0^2$  and  $\lambda$  in  $\phi^4$  theory). Since neither of these two quantities is ever measured directly, we do not have to assume that their values are finite. In practice, this technique is involved and consists of two steps: regularization and renormalization.

### 2.5.1 Regularization: fields on the lattice

Regularization is a process which introduces a new parameter into calculations. One example is a momentum cutoff. This technique transforms infinite momentum integrals as follows:

$$\int_0^\infty dk \rightarrow \int_0^\Lambda dk,$$

introducing  $\Lambda$  as a regularization parameter. This process makes results  $\Lambda$ -dependent, but finite. Another example is dimensional regularization, which calculates results in terms of the spacetime dimension  $d$  and analytically continues this parameter into the real numbers.

In this study, we employ lattice regularization. This process discretizes the field, modeling the field  $\phi(x)$  as a lattice  $\phi_i$  where  $i$  indexes lattice sites. The inherent parameter in this case is the lattice spacing  $a$  which measures the width of each lattice chunk.

### 2.5.2 Renormalization

After regularization, we redefine the Lagrangian parameters in terms of the regularization parameter, following a handful of boundary conditions. In this study, we assert that  $L/\xi$  remains constant, where  $L$  is the side length of the system and  $\xi$  is the coherence length. In perturbation theory, this process is arduous and includes the introduction of counter-terms into the Lagrangian. In the case of the non-linear sigma model, it is impossible using counterterms<sup>4</sup>but can be performed numerically. In this study, we use predetermined values from [2].

At this point, we can calculate observables as functions of regularization parameters. To achieve physical values, we take the limit as the regularization parameters approach their physical values. With a momentum cutoff, we take  $\Lambda \rightarrow \infty$  and with

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<sup>4</sup>*citation needed*

dimensional regularization we usually take  $d \rightarrow 4$ . With lattice regularization, we approach the continuum, taking the lattice spacing  $a \rightarrow 0$ .

At this point, we have surely eliminated all divergences, right? Unfortunately, this is not always the case. The topological susceptibility  $\chi_t$  is one such value that diverges in the continuum limit. As we decrease the width of each lattice site, high frequency modes become more significant, leading to an ultraviolet divergence in the operator.

### 2.5.3 The Gradient Flow

To remove this ultraviolet divergence, we adopt a technique is “smearing”, a local averaging of the field.[11] Specifically, we use a technique known as the “gradient flow” [12] which introduces a new half-dimension called “flow time”, or  $\tau$ .<sup>5</sup> The flow time parameterizes the smearing such that an evolution in flow time corresponds to suppressing ultraviolet divergences.

Specifically, the gradient flow pushes field configuration toward classical minima of the action. Additionally, renormalized correlation functions remain renormalized at nonzero flow time.[13] In 2D  $\phi^4$  scalar field theory, the gradient flow is defined by the differential equation

$$\frac{\partial \rho(\tau, x)}{\partial \tau} = \partial^2 \rho(\tau, x) \quad (2.30)$$

where  $\partial^2$  is the Laplacian in 4-D Euclidean spacetime and  $\tau$  is the flow time. Here,  $\rho$  is the field evolved into a nonzero flow time, bounded by the condition  $\rho(\tau = 0, x) = \phi(x)$ . In the  $\phi^4$  theory, we can solve this equation exactly to find [4]

$$\rho(\tau, x) = \frac{1}{4\pi\tau} \int d^2 y e^{-(x-y)^2/4\tau} \phi(y). \quad (2.31)$$

This function forms a Gaussian, smoothly dampening high-momentum modes and removing ultraviolet divergences from evolved correlation functions.[14] We can vi-

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<sup>5</sup>The term “half-dimension” indicates that  $\tau > 0$ .

sualize this by plotting the  $\phi$  field, shown in Fig. 2.2. These plots demonstrate the reduction of high momentum modes.

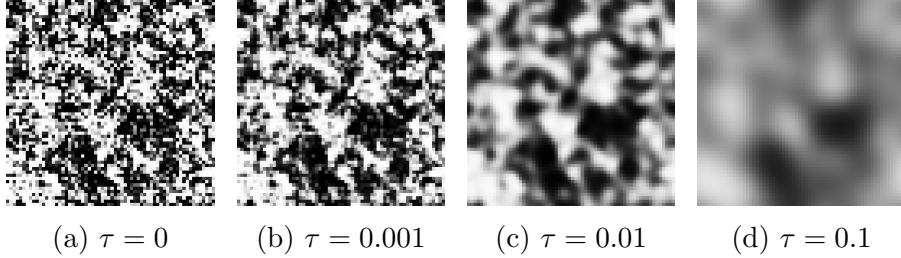


Figure 2.2: Effect of flow time evolution on a random lattice in the symmetric phase. White represents positive values of  $\phi$  while black represents negative.

Generally, we can choose any flow time equation that drives the field towards a classical minimum. Beyond the  $\phi^4$  model, we need flow equations that incorporate different types of fields. In the non-linear sigma model, it has been shown that an appropriate manifestation of the flow time can resolve divergences [14]. Therefore, it is possible to define a different flow equation for this model as well. Following [2], we can define the gradient flow in this model via the differential equation

$$\partial_\tau \vec{\rho}(\tau, x) = (1 - \vec{\rho}(\tau, x) \vec{\rho}(\tau, x)^T) \partial^2 \vec{\rho}(\tau, x), \quad (2.32)$$

where  $\partial^2$  is the Laplacian operator in Euclidean space<sup>6</sup>. We solve this equation numerically using the boundary condition  $\vec{\rho}(0, x) = \vec{e}(x)$ .

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<sup>6</sup>Explicitly,  $\partial^2 = \frac{\partial^2}{\partial t^2} + \nabla^2$

# Chapter 3

## Methods

Our study of the gradient flow in the non-linear sigma model consists of a computational part and an analytical part. We begin by outlining a numerical Monte Carlo method to simulate the lattice in two and three dimensions. We verify our program with the well-studied  $\phi^4$  scalar field theory. We then generalize our model to a vector field to simulate the non-linear sigma model. This simulation system provides data on vacuum states with which we study the gradient flow's effect on topology.

We implement these two algorithms first in Python for the  $\phi^4$  model. Afterwards, we transition to C/C++ code due to the increased speed for more complicated theories.

### 3.1 Fields on the Lattice

To implement the lattice regularization technique, we must redefine the field action in terms of discrete positions, a process known as “discretization”. We transition from  $x$  as a continuous vector in  $\mathbb{R}^2$  to  $x_{i,j}$  where

$$x_{i,j} = ia\hat{\mu}_t + ja\hat{\mu}_x. \quad (3.1)$$

Here,  $a$  is the lattice constant and  $\hat{\mu}_0$  and  $\hat{\mu}_1$  are unit vectors. This change effectively shifts the domain of the field from  $\mathbb{R}^2$ , which is uncountably infinite, to  $\mathbb{Z}^2$ ,

which is countably infinite. To achieve a finite domain, we impose periodic boundary conditions, such that

$$\phi(x_{i+L,j}) = \phi(x_{i,j+L}) = \phi(x_{i,j}) \quad (3.2)$$

where  $L$  is the side length (in units of the lattice constant  $a$ ) of the system. In this study we focus solely on square geometries and thus the side length  $L$  is unambiguous.

In the  $\phi^4$  model, we can specify a discrete action using the Euclidean action from Eq. 2.11. We begin by redefining the derivative operator as a difference:

$$\partial_\mu \phi = \frac{\phi(x + a\hat{\mu}) - \phi(x)}{a} \quad (3.3)$$

We can then define the kinetic term

$$\frac{1}{2} (\partial_t \phi)^2 + \frac{1}{2} (\partial_x \phi)^2 \rightarrow \frac{1}{2a^2} \left[ (\phi(x + a\hat{t}) - \phi(x))^2 + (\phi(x + a\hat{x}) - \phi(x))^2 \right] \quad (3.4)$$

$$\begin{aligned} &\rightarrow \frac{1}{2a^2} \left[ \phi^2(x + a\hat{t}) + \phi^2(x + a\hat{x}) + 2\phi^2(x) \right. \\ &\quad \left. - 2\phi(x + a\hat{t})\phi(x) - 2\phi(x + a\hat{x})\phi(x) \right] \end{aligned} \quad (3.5)$$

Since we will eventually sum over all sites  $x$ , the periodic boundary conditions imply that an overall shift in  $x$  does not effect the final action. Therefore, we can combine the first two terms with the third term to produce

$$\frac{1}{2} (\partial_t \phi)^2 + \frac{1}{2} (\partial_x \phi)^2 \rightarrow \frac{1}{a^2} \left[ 2\phi^2(x) - \phi(x + a\hat{t})\phi(x) - \phi(x + a\hat{x})\phi(x) \right] \quad (3.6)$$

Unlike the kinetic term, the mass and interaction terms remain unchanged under the discretization procedure. The only remaining change is a shift from an integral to a sum. This takes the form

$$\int dt dx \rightarrow a^2 \sum_i \quad (3.7)$$

such that the final discretized action becomes

$$S_{\text{lat}}[\phi] = \sum_i \left[ -\phi(x_i + a\hat{t})\phi(x_i) - \phi(x_i + a\hat{x})\phi(x_i) + \left( 2 + \frac{1}{2}m_0^2 \right) \phi^2(x_i) + \frac{1}{4}\lambda\phi^4(x_i) \right] \quad (3.8)$$

Likewise, we can discretize the non-linear sigma model. In this case, the derivative term becomes

$$\frac{1}{2} (\partial_t \vec{e})^2 + \frac{1}{2} (\partial_x \vec{e})^2 \rightarrow \frac{1}{a^2} [2 - \vec{e}(x + a\hat{t}) \cdot \vec{e}(x) - \vec{e}(x + a\hat{x}) \cdot \vec{e}(x)]. \quad (3.9)$$

Note that we have used the identity  $\vec{e} \cdot \vec{e} = 1$ . Inserting this into Eq. 2.12 yields the discretized action

$$S_{\text{lat}}[\vec{e}] = \sum_i [2 - \vec{e}(x + a\hat{t}) \cdot \vec{e}(x) - \vec{e}(x + a\hat{x}) \cdot \vec{e}(x)]. \quad (3.10)$$

Finally, we redefine the gradient flow in on the lattice. Since the gradient flow is solved exactly in the  $\phi^4$  model, we rely on a Fast Fourier Transform. *TODO: explicit expression for this* In the NLSM, the definition of the gradient flow (Eq. 2.32) becomes

$$\partial_\tau \vec{e}(\tau, x) = (1 - \vec{e}(\tau, x) \vec{e}(\tau, x)^T) \partial^2 \vec{e}(\tau, x), \quad (3.11)$$

where the Laplacian operator  $\partial^2$  is defined as

$$\partial^2 \vec{e}(\tau, x) = \vec{e}(\tau, x + a\hat{t}) + \vec{e}(\tau, x - a\hat{t}) + \vec{e}(\tau, x + a\hat{x}) + \vec{e}(\tau, x - a\hat{x}) - 2\vec{e}(\tau, x).$$

## 3.2 Defining the topological charge

In practice, this quantity is nontrivial to calculate. Primarily, there are multiple definitions of the topological charge. In this work, we use the definition found in [1]. To begin, we define a local topological charge density  $q$ , defined for each square of adjacent lattice points. This square, known as a *plaquette*, is denoted  $x^*$ . The global charge  $Q$  is the sum of all local charges:

$$Q \equiv \sum_{x^*} q(x^*). \quad (3.12)$$

As a function of  $x^*$ , the charge density is a function of the field on the plaquette vertices, an idea visualized in Fig. 3.1. In the NLSM, the field at each of these

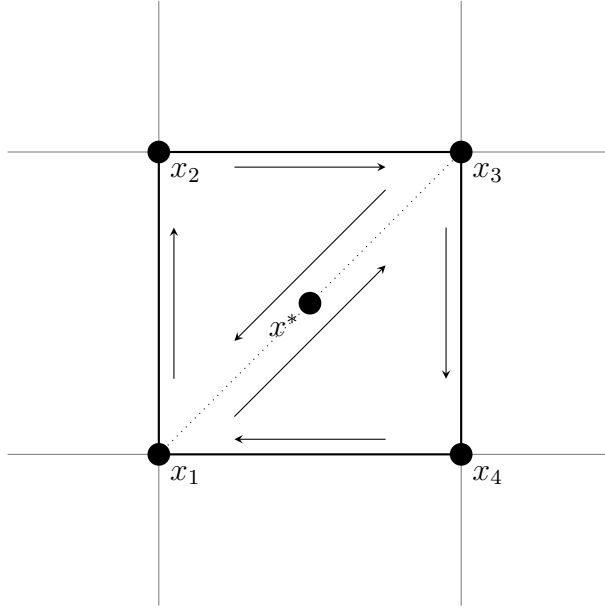


Figure 3.1: Visualization of plaquette  $x^*$ . Dotted line separated plaquette into two signed areas which are used to define the topological charge density  $q(x^*)$ . Arrows represent order of signed area.

vertices is a point on the sphere  $S^2$ . Therefore, there is a signed area  $A$  on the sphere associated with each triplet of points, as shown in Fig. 3.2 (the sign changes with odd permutations of the ordering). We follow the derivation in [1] and split the plaquette into two triangles, as shown in Fig. 3.1, with the ordering determining the sign. The topological charge density is defined using this signed area as

$$q(x^*) = \frac{1}{4\pi} \left[ A(\vec{e}(x_1), \vec{e}(x_3), \vec{e}(x_3)) + A(\vec{e}(x_1), \vec{e}(x_3), \vec{e}(x_4)) \right]. \quad (3.13)$$

This sign is defined if  $A \neq 0, 2\pi$ , or in other words, as long as the three points on the sphere are distinct and do not form a hemisphere. In numerical calculations, these points can be ignored. Therefore, we impose that the signed area is defined on the smallest spherical triangle, or mathematically

$$-2\pi < A < 2\pi. \quad (3.14)$$



Following [1], this yields an expression for the signed area

$$A(\vec{e}_1, \vec{e}_2, \vec{e}_3) = 2 \arg \left( 1 + \vec{e}_1 \cdot \vec{e}_2 + \vec{e}_2 \cdot \vec{e}_3 + \vec{e}_3 \cdot \vec{e}_1 + i \vec{e}_1 \cdot (\vec{e}_2 \times \vec{e}_3) \right). \quad (3.15)$$

Under periodic boundary conditions, these triangles on the sphere necessarily wrap  $S^2$  an integer number of times, ensuring  $Q$  is an integer. In the NLSM described by

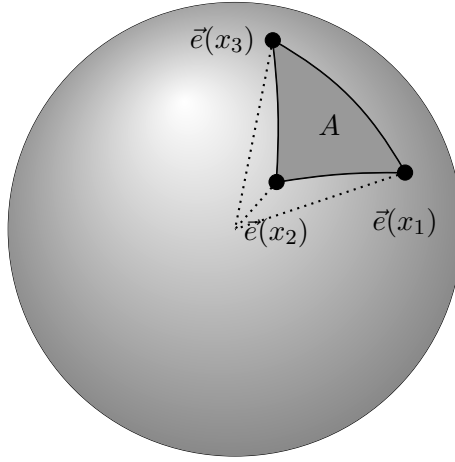


Figure 3.2: Visualization of signed area  $A$  on the sphere  $S^2$  traced out by field at points  $x_1$ ,  $x_2$  and  $x_3$ .

Eq. ??, the values of  $Q$  are roughly Gaussian around  $Q = 0$ , as shown in Fig. 3.3.

Following this quantity, we can define a topological susceptibility  $\chi_t$

$$\chi_t \equiv \frac{1}{L^2} \left( \langle Q^2 \rangle - \langle Q \rangle^2 \right). \quad (3.16)$$

In the trivial case,  $\langle Q \rangle$  disappears and

$$\chi_t = \frac{1}{L^2} \sum_{x,y} \langle q(x)q(y) \rangle. \quad (3.17)$$

Assuming periodic boundary conditions and therefore translational symmetry, this expression simplifies to

$$\chi_t = \frac{1}{L^2} \sum_x \langle q(x)q(0) \rangle. \quad (3.18)$$

On the lattice, this quantity is known to diverge in the continuum limit.[2]

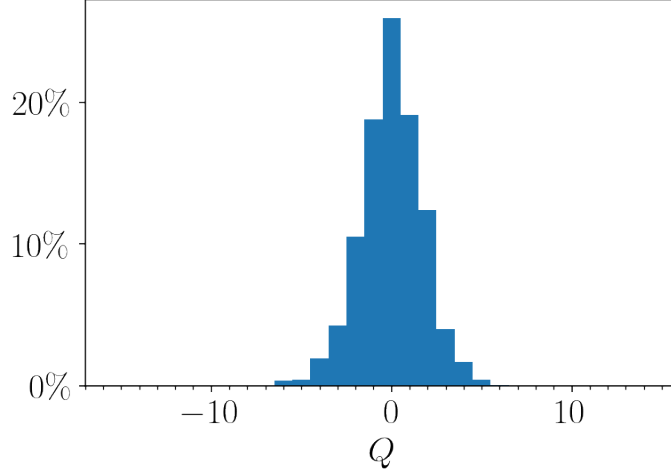


Figure 3.3: Histogram of topological charge values  $Q$  for trivial NLSM.  $L = 404$ , 10,000 measurements, measurements every 50 sweeps, 1,000 sweep thermalization,  $\tau = 0$

### 3.3 Monte Carlo Simulations

We implement a Markov Chain Monte Carlo method following Schaich’s thesis [15]. This implementation utilizes a “random walk,” i.e. a set of random steps through phase space, to determine statistical values such as correlation functions across the lattice. By the definition of the Markov chain, the probability of adoption of each state, and therefore its inclusion in the Monte Carlo calculation, depends only on the current state and the proposed state. This probability is denoted as  $P(\mu \rightarrow \nu)$  where  $\mu$  and  $\nu$  are the existing and proposed lattice configurations respectively.

#### 3.3.1 Metropolis Algorithm

We primarily use the Metropolis algorithm for the calculation of new Markov chain configurations. We begin with a so-called “hot start,” where each field value at each lattice site is randomly selected. Then we propose a new value for a single lattice

point, which is accepted with a probability

$$P(\phi_a \rightarrow \phi_b) = \begin{cases} e^{-(S[\phi_b] - S[\phi_a])} & S[\phi_b] < S[\phi_a] \\ 1 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \quad (3.19)$$

where  $\phi_a$  is the initial configuration and  $\phi_b$  is the proposed configuration. This process is performed for each point on the lattice, making up a “sweep.” Repeating this sweep many times pushes the lattice toward the action minimum.

### 3.3.2 Wolff Cluster Algorithm

Though the Metropolis algorithm will slowly find the absolute minimum of the theory, the presence of local minima can greatly prolong the convergence. Both the  $\phi^4$  model and the non-linear sigma model feature “kinetic” terms with gradients of  $\phi$ . Therefore, the presence of large similarly-valued regions in the lattice can lead to a local minimum. One method of removing these clusters involves identifying all clusters on the lattice and probabilistically flipping each, a technique known as the Swendsen-Wang algorithm[16].

A more efficient approach is the Wolff algorithm[17], which *grows* one cluster probabilistically and flips it unconditionally. In the case of  $\phi^4$  theory, this flipping takes the form of a simple sign change. In the non-linear sigma model we choose a random unit vector  $\vec{r}$  and consider the projection of the field on this vector. When the cluster flips, each site is flipped along this direction.<sup>1</sup>To identify the cluster, the algorithm uses a recursive algorithm defined by the probability of adding a new site, growing the cluster from a single, randomly selected “seed”. Starting with the seed, the probability of adding each neighboring site is given by the source site  $x$  and the proposed site  $x'$ . Wolff defines this probability for arbitrary sigma models as

$$P_{add}(\vec{e}(x), \vec{e}(x')) = \begin{cases} 1 - e^{2\beta[\vec{r} \cdot \vec{e}(x)][\vec{r} \cdot \vec{e}(x')]} & \text{sgn}[\vec{r} \cdot \vec{e}(x)] = \text{sgn}[\vec{r} \cdot \vec{e}(x')] \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \quad (3.20)$$

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<sup>1</sup>*citation needed*

This expression is designed to preserve the detailed balance equations. We can demonstrate this quality, and motivate an equivalent expression for the  $\phi^4$  model, by considering the probability  $P(\phi \rightarrow f_C(\phi))$  of flipping some cluster  $C$ . Generally,

$$P(\phi \rightarrow f_C(\phi)) \propto \prod_{\langle x, x' \rangle \in \partial C} \left[ 1 - P_{add}(\vec{e}(x), \vec{e}(x')) \right] \quad (3.21)$$

where  $\partial C$  is the set of pairs of sites on the boundary of  $C$ . Since  $P_{add} = 0$  for unaligned sites, these pairs contribute nothing to the value. We can also find the probability  $P(f_C(\phi) \rightarrow \phi)$  with the same expression:

$$P(f_C(\phi) \rightarrow \phi) \propto \prod_{\langle x, x' \rangle \in \partial C} \left[ 1 - P_{add}(\vec{e}(x), R \vec{e}(x')) \right], \quad (3.22)$$

where the matrix  $R$  which is a reflection matrix along the vector  $\vec{r}$ .

From the discretized action of the NLSM model (Eq. 3.10) and the detailed balance equation (Eq. 2.16), we derive

$$\prod_{\langle x, x' \rangle \in \partial C} \frac{1 - P_{add}(\vec{e}(x), \vec{e}(x'))}{1 - P_{add}(\vec{e}(x), R \vec{e}(x'))} = \exp \left\{ \beta \sum_{\langle x, x' \rangle \in \partial C} \vec{e}(x) \cdot [R - 1] \vec{e}(x') \right\}. \quad (3.23)$$

Note that all the pairs within and outside the cluster cancel in the fraction on the left and the difference on the right. Using the definition of the reflection matrix

$$R \vec{e} = \vec{e} - 2(\vec{e} \cdot \vec{r})\vec{e}, \quad (3.24)$$

we can simplify the equation to be

$$\prod_{\langle x, x' \rangle \in \partial C} \frac{1 - P_{add}(\vec{e}(x), \vec{e}(x'))}{1 - P_{add}(\vec{e}(x), R \vec{e}(x'))} = \prod_{\langle x, x' \rangle \in \partial C} \exp \{ 2\beta [r \cdot \vec{e}(x)] [r \cdot \vec{e}(x')] \}. \quad (3.25)$$

By plugging in Eq. 3.20, it is clear to see this equation is satisfied.

Using this same reasoning, we can deduce an expression for  $P_{add}$  in the  $\phi^4$  model. Since this model is one dimensional, the reflection matrix  $R$  is equivalent to  $-1$ . Adapting the NLSM detailed balance equation for the  $\phi$  field, we find

$$\prod_{\langle x, x' \rangle \in \partial C} \frac{1 - P_{add}(\phi(x), \phi(x'))}{1 - P_{add}(\phi(x), -\phi(x'))} = \prod_{\langle x, x' \rangle \in \partial C} \exp \{ -2\phi(x)\phi(x') \}. \quad (3.26)$$

This equation is satisfied by the ansatz

$$P_{add}(\phi(x), \phi(x')) = \begin{cases} 1 - e^{-2\phi(x)\phi(x')} & \text{sgn}[\phi(x)] = \text{sgn}[\phi(x')] \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}. \quad (3.27)$$

We will use this expression in the computational implementation of this algorithm.

Fig. 3.4 shows a real demonstration of this process. We can see a large cluster of negative field values becoming positive. Note that periodic boundary conditions apply, so the small island of black at the bottom is actually part of the larger cluster. Furthermore, this visualization demonstrates the probabilistic nature of the Wolff algorithm. Since states are added probabilistically, there are some small holes in the cluster. These will be removed by following Metropolis sweeps.

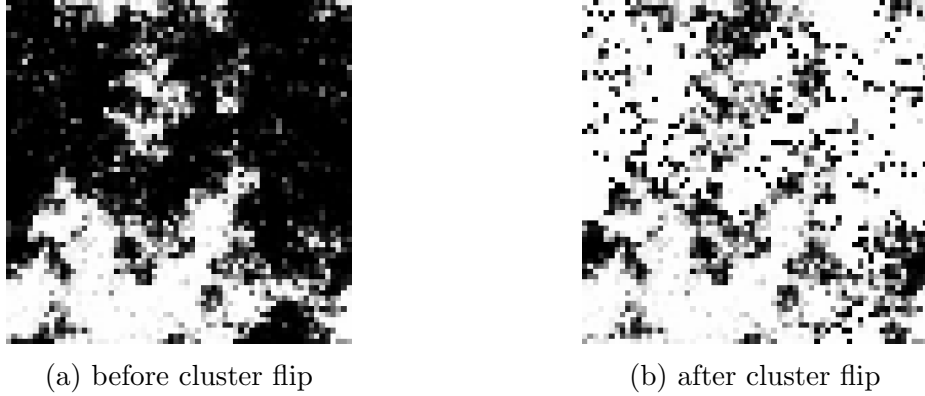


Figure 3.4: An example of the Wolff cluster algorithm in the  $\phi^4$  model. White represents positive values of  $\phi$  while black represents negative.  $\lambda = 0.5$ ,  $m_0^2 = -0.9$

### 3.3.3 Checkerboard algorithm

In order to parallelize the Metropolis algorithm, we use a checkerboard algorithm. Since the Lagrangian density at each site does not depend on any sites diagonal to it, the lattice can be split into “white” sites and “black” sites, like the tiles on a checkerboard. Each white site is independent of every other white site and likewise with black sites. Therefore, we can split the sites of each color into separate parallel

processing nodes and independently run the Metropolis algorithm, ensuring that no site affects the Lagrangian density at any other site. We use this method to parallelize the code through the Message Passing Interface (MPI).

### 3.3.4 Thermalization

Since we begin with a random lattice, the first few configurations of our Monte Carlo simulation will be far from the lattice minimum. We plot the action as a function of metropolis sweeps in Fig. 3.5. Based on this plot, we determine that 1000 sweeps will

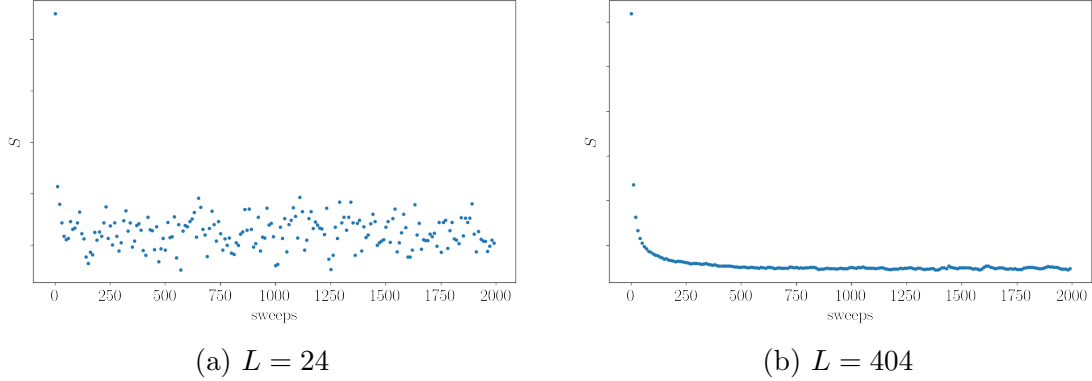


Figure 3.5: Plots of the action as a function of Monte Carlo time, starting with a random NLSM lattice.

give sufficient time for the system to reach the classical action minimum. We use this value for the remainder of this study.

### 3.3.5 Autocorrelation

One important aspect is the correlation between different states of the Markov chain. Ideally, each sample of the lattice would be completely independent, but this is not the case. Since each configuration is based on previous configurations, there is a correlation between each pair of members in the Markov chain, decreasing exponentially based on the number of steps between. Explicitly, the autocorrelation scales as  $e^{t/\tau_{int}}$

where  $t$  is the number of steps between configurations and  $\tau_{int}$  is the autocorrelation time.<sup>2</sup> When performing simulations of the lattice, the number of sweeps between measurements should be much larger than  $\tau_{int}$ .

We use Wolff's automatic windowing procedure [18] and the magnetic susceptibility  $\chi_m$  to estimate the autocorrelation. Using Wolff's public MatLab code<sup>3</sup>, we estimate the autocorrelation time for  $L = 24$  and  $L = 404$  lattices. This algorithm identifies the optimal window size with which to calculate the autocorrelation time. We perform this process on  $L = 24$  and  $L = 404$  lattices using a thermalization of 1000 sweeps and 500 total measurements. Note that this calculation included a Wolff cluster algorithm every 5 sweeps. The result of this calculation is shown in Fig. 3.6.

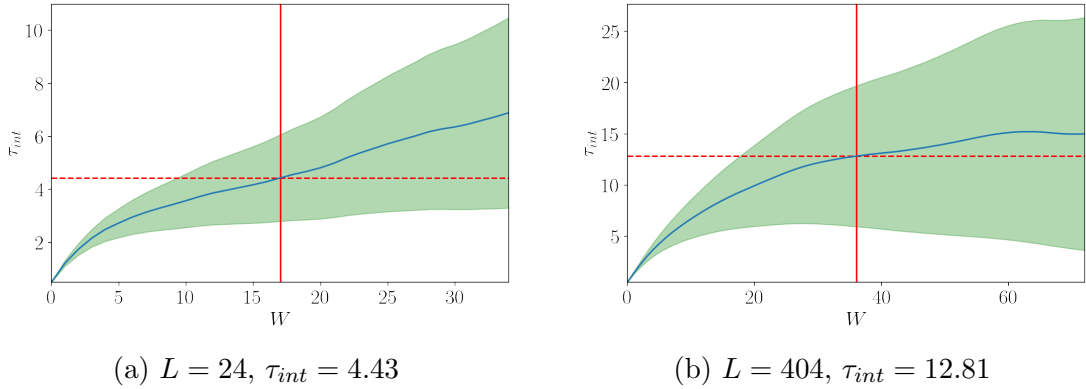


Figure 3.6: Plots of automatic windowing procedure used to calculate  $\tau_{int}$  for the NLSM model.

Based on these two values for  $\tau_{int}$ , we decide to measure every 50 sweeps for each simulation. This value will ensure that each measurement is effectively independent.

### 3.3.6 Runge-Kutta Algorithm

In order to calculate the gradient flow, we numerically solve the differential equation using a fourth-order Runge-Kutta approximation. This algorithm refines the Euler

<sup>2</sup>Though it is called a time,  $\tau_{int}$  is in units of Markov Chain steps.

<sup>3</sup><https://www.physik.hu-berlin.de/de/com/ALPHAsoft>

method

$$\vec{e}(\tau + h)_x \approx \vec{e}(\tau)_x + hf(\vec{e}(\tau)_x).$$

where  $f(\vec{e})$  is defined for convenience as

$$f(\vec{e}) = \partial_\tau \vec{e}(\tau)_x = (1 - \vec{e}(\tau)_x \vec{e}(\tau)_x^T) \partial^2 \vec{e}(\tau)_x, \quad (3.28)$$

following from Eq. 3.11. To the fourth order, this approximation becomes

$$k_1 = hf(\vec{e}(\tau)_x) \quad (3.29)$$

$$k_2 = hf\left(\vec{e}(\tau)_x + \frac{k_1}{2}\right) \quad (3.30)$$

$$k_3 = hf\left(\vec{e}(\tau)_x + \frac{k_2}{2}\right) \quad (3.31)$$

$$k_4 = hf(\vec{e}(\tau)_x + k_3) \quad (3.32)$$

$$\vec{e}(\tau + h)_x = \vec{e}(\tau)_x + \frac{k_1}{6} + \frac{k_2}{3} + \frac{k_3}{3} + \frac{k_4}{6} + O(h^5). \quad (3.33)$$

This method is usually superior to Euler's method and the midpoint method [19].

To increase the efficiency of this algorithm, we implement the step-doubling algorithm to adaptively adjust  $h$ . If the error of a Runge-Kutta step is greater than the tolerance, the same step is repeated with half the step size. Alternatively, if the error is less than half of the tolerance, the step size is doubled for the next calculation. Finally, if the step size is greater than the distance to the next measurement, that distance is used as the step size, using the normal value afterwards. Otherwise, the algorithm proceeds with the consistent step size.

### 3.4 Topological charge with a $\theta$ term

In Sec. 2.4, we discussed the introduction of a  $\theta$  term into the action. This change made the theory “topological”, pushing  $\langle Q \rangle$  away from zero. In order to calculate



$\langle Q \rangle$  as a function of  $Q$ , we consider the path integral

$$\langle Q \rangle_\theta = \int \mathcal{D}\vec{e} Q[\vec{e}] e^{-S[\vec{e}] + i\theta Q[\vec{e}]} \quad (3.34)$$

$$= \int \mathcal{D}\vec{e} (Q[\vec{e}] e^{i\theta Q[\vec{e}]}) e^{-S[\vec{e}]} \quad (3.35)$$

$$= \langle Q e^{i\theta Q} \rangle_{\theta=0}. \quad (3.36)$$

Therefore, we can calculate  $\langle Q \rangle_\theta$  for arbitrary  $\theta$  using the same simulation framework as the  $\theta = 0$  case.

We can also relate this function to the topological susceptibility. By expanding the exponent as a Taylor series around  $\theta = 0$ , we find that

$$\langle Q \rangle_\theta = \langle Q \rangle_{\theta=0} + i\theta \langle Q^2 \rangle_{\theta=0} + O(\theta^2), \quad (3.37)$$

such that

$$-i \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \Big|_{\theta=0} \langle Q \rangle_\theta = \langle Q^2 \rangle_{\theta=0} \quad (3.38)$$

$$= \chi_t L^2. \quad (3.39)$$

Since  $\chi_t$  diverges at  $\theta = 0$ , we expect the plot of  $\langle Q \rangle_\theta$  to approach a vertical line in the in continuum limit.

# Chapter 4

## Results

We initially implement the  $\phi^4$  model to verify the results of our system. According to previous studies [4, 15], the  $\phi^4$  model exhibits a symmetric and broken phase depending on its parameters  $m_0^2$  and  $\lambda$ , specifically occurring at  $m_0^2 = -0.72$  when  $\lambda = 0.5$ . We verify this result by plotting four observables: the lattice average  $|\langle\bar{\phi}\rangle|$ , the magnetic susceptibility  $\chi$ , the Binder cumulant  $U$  and the bimodality  $B$  in Fig. 4.1. This figure confirms a phase transition near  $m_0^2 = -0.72$  and supports the accuracy of our model.

### 4.1 Non-linear sigma model results

After confirming the phase transition in the  $\phi^4$  model, we turn to the NLSM. In order to confirm the accuracy of the model, we compare results with existing literature. We first compare our results to Berg & Lüscher [1], specifically measuring the internal energy and magnetic susceptibility.

#### 4.1.1 Comparison with Existing Literature

Following [1], we approximate the internal energy in the strong ( $\beta < 1$ ) and weak ( $\beta > 2$ ) regimes as

$$E \approx \begin{cases} 4 - 4y - 8y^3 - \frac{48}{5}y^5 & \beta < 1 \\ \frac{2}{\beta} + \frac{4\beta^2}{+} 0.156 \frac{1}{\beta^3} & \beta > 2. \end{cases} \quad (4.1)$$

We compare this analytical result and simulated values of  $\chi_m$  with the Monte Carlo simulation in Fig. 4.2. These two charts show a high degree of agreement with the current literature.

We also seek to confirm the results from Bietenholz et al.[2]. Specifically, that the topological susceptibility  $\chi_t$  diverges in the continuum limit even at finite flow time. Since  $\chi_t$  is in units of inverse distance squared, we multiply by  $\xi_2^2$ , the square of the second moment correlation length, to achieve a scale-invariant value  $\chi_t \xi_2^2$ . Additionally, we use a parameter  $t_0$  to scale the flow time such that  $t_0 \sim L^2$ . In our Monte Carlo simulation, we adapt the same values as [2] for  $\xi_2$ .

To begin the comparison, we plot  $\chi_t \xi_2^2$  as a function of flow time  $\tau$ , shown in Fig. 4.4. We find that the flow time effectively decreases the topological susceptibility by dampening high-momentum modes. To analyze the divergence of  $\chi_t$  in the continuum limit, we plot  $\chi_t \xi_2^2$  as a function of lattice size  $L$ . We perform this simulation at flow time  $\tau = 5t_0$ . The data is fit with two options: a log fit

$$\chi_t \xi_2^2 = A \log(BL) + C \quad (4.2)$$

and a power fit

$$\chi_t \xi_2^2 = AB^L + C. \quad (4.3)$$

The data fits these functions with  $\chi^2/DOF$  of 31.3 and 761.6 respectively. Both of these function diverge as  $L \rightarrow \infty$ , indicating that the topological susceptibility does as well. This is still a slower divergence than the linear divergence featured in the  $\tau = 0$  case.

#### 4.1.2 Topological charge when $\theta \neq 0$

Following the method explained in Sec. 3.4, we calculate the imaginary part of  $\langle Q \rangle$  for arbitrary  $\theta$ . We perform this calculation for four values of the flow time  $\tau$ , shown in

Fig 4.5. These plots demonstrate the divergence of the continuum limit in the  $\tau = 0$  and the flowed regimes. In the  $\tau = 0$  case, the slope increases sharply, reflecting the linear divergence of  $\chi_t$ . However in the flowed regime, this divergence is much slower, reflecting the logarithmic or power-law relationship shown in Fig. 4.4.

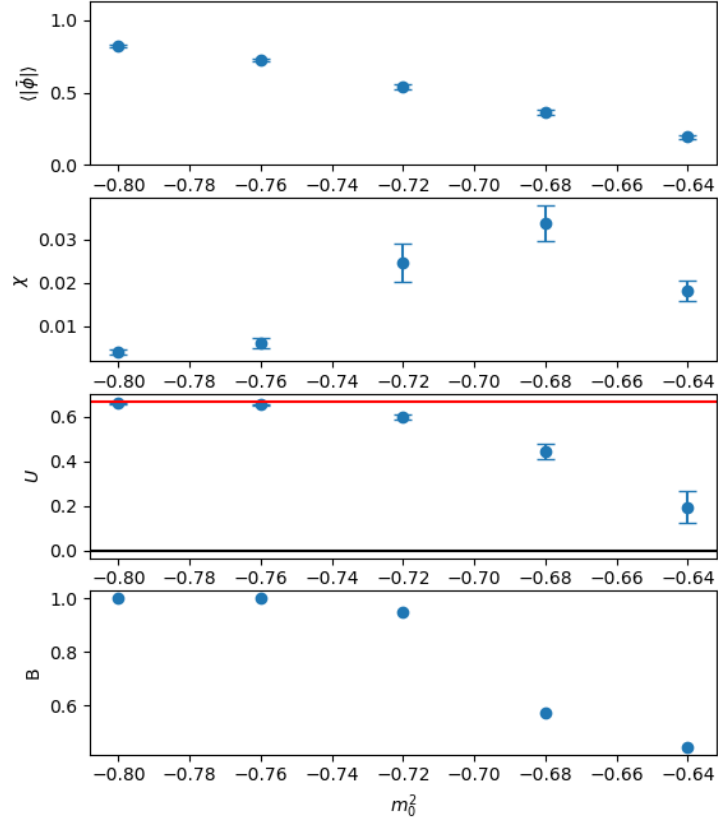


Figure 4.1: The lattice average  $|\langle\bar{\phi}\rangle|$ , the lattice susceptibility  $\chi$ , the Binder cumulant  $U$  and the bimodality  $B$  plotted as functions of  $m_0^2$ .  $L = 32$ ,  $\lambda = 0.5$ . The lattice was thermalized from a hot start for 1000 sweeps. Afterwards, 100 measurements were taken with 100 sweeps between each. The red horizontal line indicates  $U = 2/3$ , the symmetric limit of the Binder cumulant.

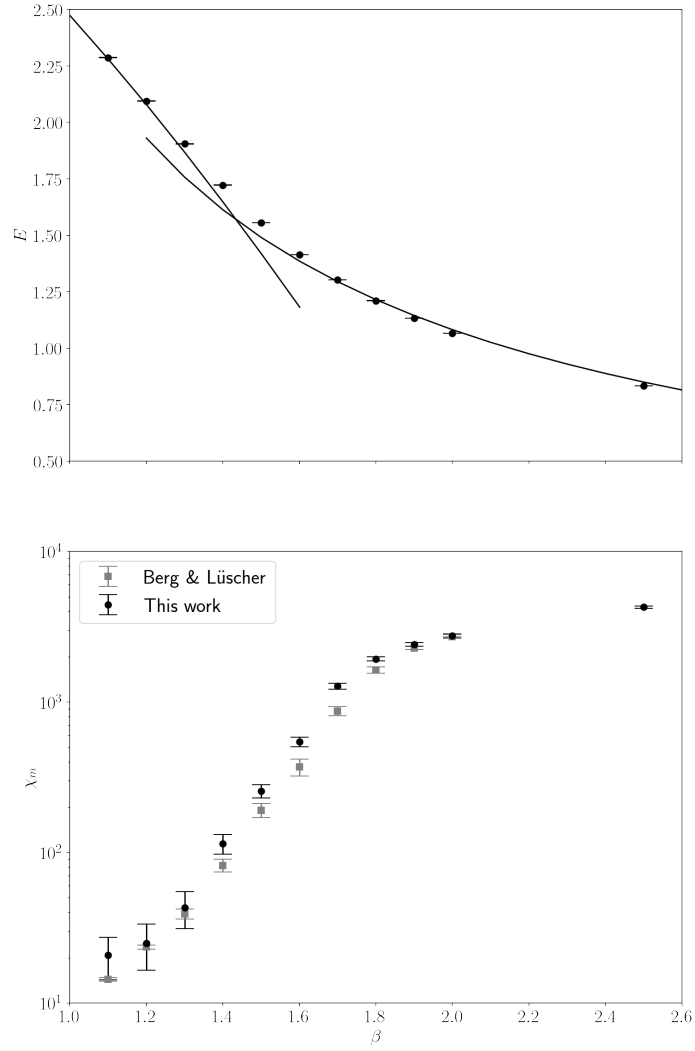


Figure 4.2: Comparison with [1]. First panel: internal energy compared with analytic energy (Eq. 4.1). Second panel: magnetic susceptibility compared with literature values.

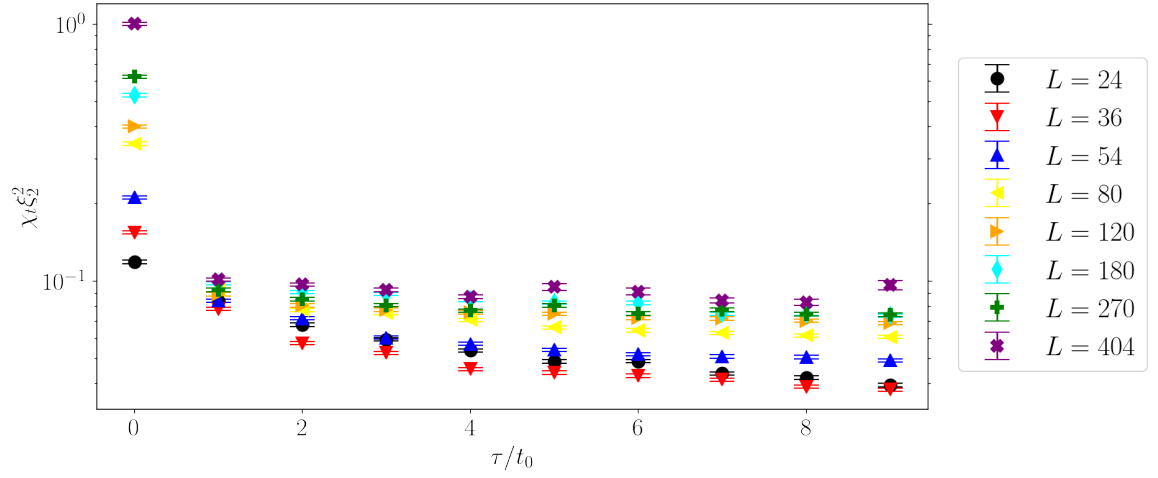
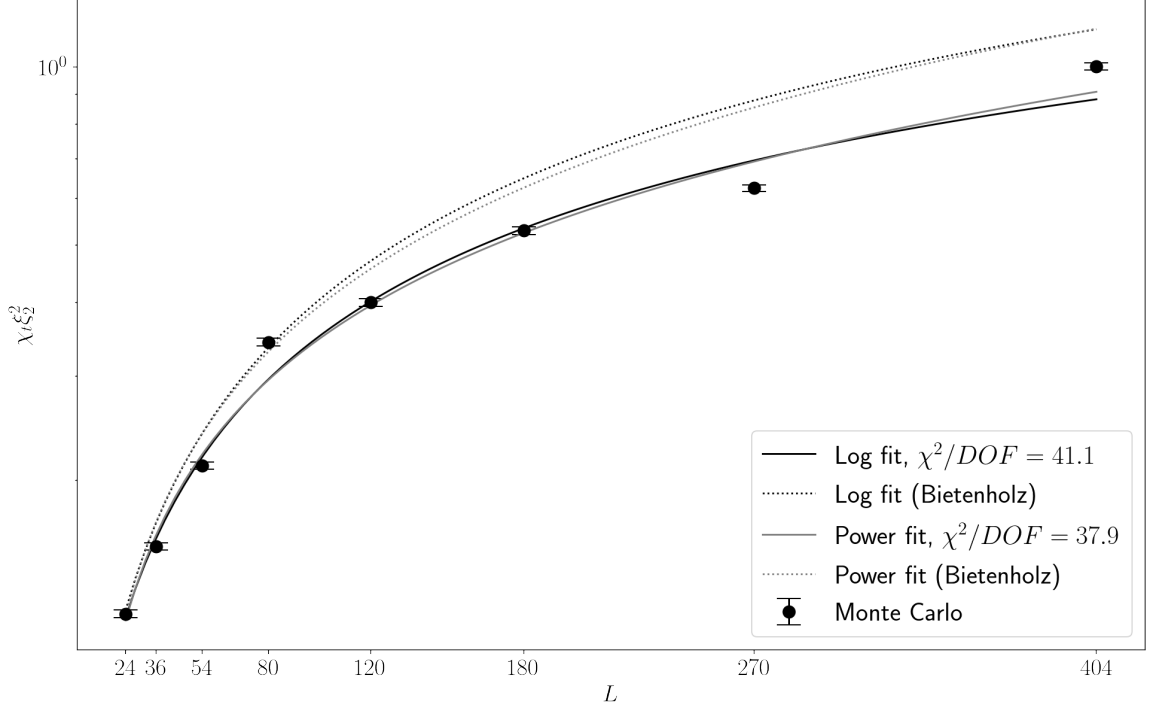
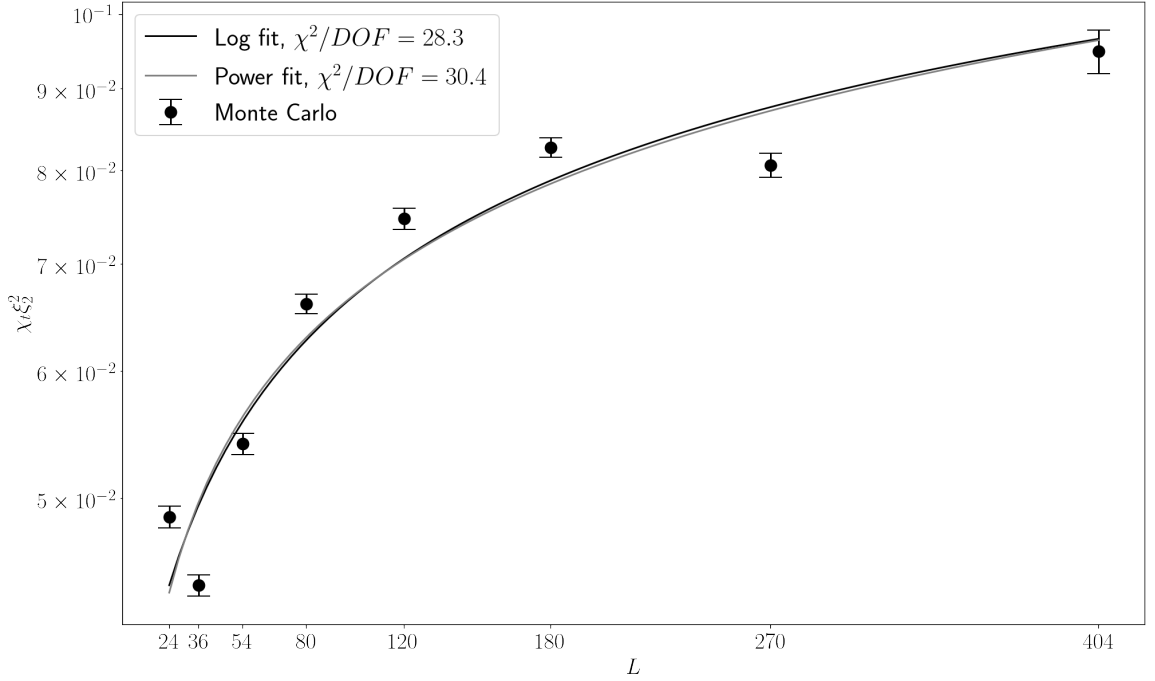


Figure 4.3:  $\chi_t L^2$  as a function of flow time  $\tau$ . Simulation run with 10,000 measurements, measurements every 50 sweeps, 1,000 sweep thermalization.



(a)  $\tau = 0$



(b)  $\tau = 5t_0$

Figure 4.4:  $\chi_t \xi_2^2$  as a function of  $L$ . The data is fit with both a log and power fit. Simulation run with 10,000 measurements, measurements every 50 sweeps, 1,000 sweep thermalization. In the  $\tau = 0$  case, we have compared our result with the curve fit found in [2].



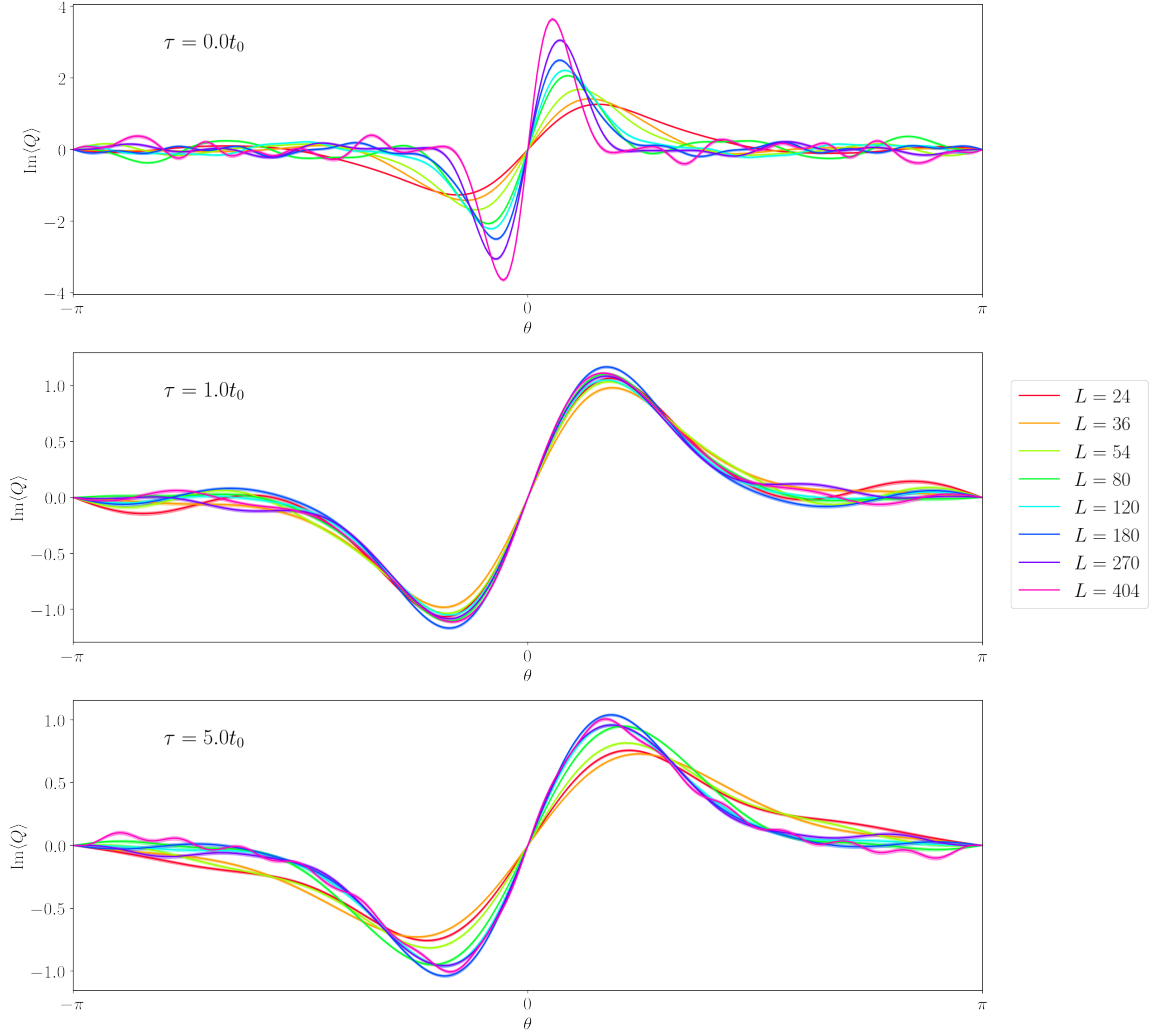


Figure 4.5: Imaginary part of  $\langle Q \rangle$  as a function of  $\theta$ . Simulation run with 10,000 measurements, measurements every 50 sweeps, 1,000 sweep thermalization. Note the different scaling of the  $y$ -axis.

# Chapter 5

## Conclusion & Outlook

Using a Monte Carlo simulation, we have analyzed two main quantum field theories: the  $\phi^4$  model and the  $O(3)$  non-linear sigma model. To perform the calculation, we run a series of Metropolis sweeps interspersed with Wolff cluster algorithms, creating a Markov chain of samples. We use these field configurations to calculate operators using a Wick-rotated path integral.

In the  $\phi^4$  model, we verified a phase transition at  $m_0^2 = -0.72$  using the magnitude of the average magnetization, the magnetic susceptibility, the Binder cumulant and the bimodality. This process verified the effectiveness of the Monte Carlo computational system. We then generalized our system to the  $O(3)$  non-linear sigma model, confirming our calculations with known results. We calculated the topological susceptibility  $\chi_t$  to analyze its divergence in the continuum limit, confirming that this is indeed the case even at finite flow time. Specifically, the gradient flow reduces the linear divergence of the susceptibility to either a power-law relationship or a logarithmic relationship with  $\chi^2/DOF$  of 31.3 and 761.6 respectively.

Finally, we produced a plot demonstrating the relationship between the topological charge and the  $\theta$  in the topological action. This plot demonstrates qualitatively the different divergences of the topological susceptibility, which is equivalent to the slope at  $\theta = 0$ . In the  $\tau = 0$  case, this slope became vertical rapidly for higher lattice sizes

while this process occurred more slowly at nonzero flow time.

Though the logarithmic and power-law functions visually fit the susceptibility data well, the  $\chi_2$  values are high. This imprecision can be attributed to errors that are too small. Future work could include more independent simulations which may reduce the variance between points or increase the statistical errors. Furthermore, more and larger lattices may help reduce the  $\chi^2$  value.

Procedurally, we found that the MPI parallelization and checkerboard algorithm was unnecessary in this calculation. The computation time of the Runge-Kutta algorithm for computing the gradient flow far outweighed that of the Monte Carlo simulation. A possible improvement could be a parallelization of the Runge-Kutta algorithm or a more accurate approximation to the gradient flow.

Generally, this study has implications in both condensed matter and nuclear physics as the NLSM is used in both. Though the calculation of the  $\chi_t$  divergence confirms existing literature, the relationship between the topological charge and  $\theta$  in the flow time was previously unexplored.

Other future work may include explorations of higher order non-linear sigma models or other topological effective field theories. The latter of these models has applications in topological quantum computing and other technologies.

# Appendix A

## C++ NLSM Monte Carlo Program

### A.1 sweep.h

```
#ifndef SWEEP_H
#define SWEEP_H
#include <vector>
#include <tuple>
#include <stack>
#include <unordered_set>
#include <limits>
#include <array>
#include <stdexcept>
#include <math.h>
#include <iomanip>
#include <ostream>
#include <memory>
#include <string>

#include "constants.h"
#include "mpi.h"
#include "phi.h"
#include "lattice.h"

using namespace std;

enum ClusterAlgorithm { NONE, WOLFF};
typedef int site;

class BaseObservable {
public:
    virtual double operator()(const Lattice2D& lat) const = 0;
    virtual const string name() const = 0;
    virtual ~BaseObservable() = default;
};

class Recorder {
    vector<double> measurements;
    vector<BaseObservable*> observables;
public:
    Recorder(const vector<BaseObservable*> some_observables);
    void reserve(size_t size);
    int size();
    void record(const Lattice2D& lat, double x);
    void write(const string filename);
};
```

```

        ~Recorder();
};

struct sweep_args {

    int sweeps;
    int thermalization;
    int record_rate;
    ClusterAlgorithm cluster_algorithm;
    vector<double> ts;
    int cluster_rate;
    bool progress;
};

class Sweeper {
    const int process_Rank;
    const int size_Of_Cluster;
    const int sites_per_node;

    enum COLOR {
        black,
        white
    };

    vector<vector<site>*> mpi_assignments;

private:
    static int get_rank(MPI_Comm c) {
        int rank;
        MPI_Comm_rank(c, &rank);
        return rank;
    }
    static int get_size(MPI_Comm c) {
        int size;
        MPI_Comm_size(c, &size);
        return size;
    }

    auto static constexpr gif_filename = "lattice.gif";
    const int gif_delay = 10;
    vector<site> full_neighbors(site aSite);
    Plaquette plaquette(site aSite);
    vector<Phi> dphis;
    Lattice2D flowed_lat;
    Lattice2D prev_flowед_lat;
    Lattice2D flowed_lat_2;
    Lattice2D k1, k2, k3, k4;

public:
    const int DIM;
    Lattice2D lat;

    Sweeper();
    ~Sweeper();
    Sweeper(int DIM, MPI_Comm c);

    double full_action();
    void assert_action(double tol=0.001);
    int wrap(site c);
    double rand_dist(double r);
    Phi new_value(Phi old_phi);
    Phi proj_vec();
    Phi random_phi();

```

```

    void full_sweep(Recorder* recorder, const sweep_args& args);
    double sweep(COLOR color);
    void wolff();

    void broadcast_lattice();
    void collect_changes(double dS, COLOR color);

    double Padd(Phi dphi, Phi phi_b);
    unordered_set<int> generate_cluster(int seed, Phi r, bool accept_all);

    void runge_kutta(double t_, double h, Lattice2D& l, bool recycle_k1=false);
    void flow(vector<double> ts, Recorder* recorder=nullptr);

};

double randf();
int randint(int n);
Phi sign(Phi x);
double sign(double x);

#endif

```

## A.2 sweep.cpp

```

#include <iostream>
#include <stdexcept>
#include "sweep.h"
#include <algorithm>
#include "gif.h"
#include "progress.cpp"
#include <assert.h>
#include <stdlib.h>
#include <math.h>
#include <fstream>

// #define VERIFY_ACTION
// #define GIF
// #define ACTIONFLOW
#define ADAPTIVESTEP

using namespace std;

Recorder::Recorder(const vector<BaseObservable*> some_observables) {
    observables = some_observables;
}

void Recorder::record(const Lattice2D& lat, double x=0) {
    measurements.push_back(x);
    for (const BaseObservable* f : observables) {
        measurements.push_back((*f)(lat));
    }
}

void Recorder::reserve(size_t size) {
    return measurements.reserve((observables.size()+1) * size);
}

int Recorder::size() {

```

```

    return measurements.size() / (observables.size() + 1);
}

void Recorder::write(const string filename) {
    ofstream outputfile;
    outputfile.open(filename);
    outputfile << "tau";
    for (const auto* obs : observables) {
        outputfile << "," << obs->name();
    }
    outputfile << endl;

    for (int i=0; i<measurements.size(); i++) {
        if ( (i+1)%(observables.size()+1) != 0 ) {
            outputfile << measurements[i] << ",";
        } else {
            outputfile << measurements[i] << endl;
        }
    }
    outputfile.close();
}

Recorder::~Recorder() {
    for (const BaseObservable* f : observables) {
        delete f;
    }
}

Sweeper::Sweeper (int DIM, MPI_Comm c) :
    process_Rank(get_rank(c)),
    size_Of_Cluster(get_size(c)),
    sites_per_node((DIM*DIM)/2 / get_size(c)),
    DIM{DIM}
{
    // generate lattice
    array<double, N> zero_array = {};
    Phi zero_phi(zero_array);

    dphis.resize(sites_per_node);

    mpi_assignments.push_back(new vector<site>);
    mpi_assignments.push_back(new vector<site>);

    site s;
    for (int i = 0; i<DIM; i++){
        for (int j = 0; j<DIM; j++) {
            s = i*DIM + j;
            lat[s] = new_value(zero_phi);

            lat.neighbor_map.push_back(full_neighbors(s));
            lat.plaquette_map.push_back(plaquette(s));

            // generate MPI assignments
            if (s / (2*sites_per_node) == process_Rank) { // Factor of 2 for
                ↪ checkerboard
                if ( (i+j)%2 ) {
                    mpi_assignments[COLOR::black]->push_back(s);
                } else {
                    mpi_assignments[COLOR::white]->push_back(s);
                }
            }
        }
    }
}

```

```

    }

    lat.action = full_action();
    int offset = process_Rank * sites_per_node;
}

Sweeper::~Sweeper() {
    delete mpi_assignments[COLOR::black];
    delete mpi_assignments[COLOR::white];
}

void print(std::vector<Phi> const &a) {
    for(int i=0; i < a.size(); i++)
        std::cout << a.at(i) << '␣';
    cout << endl;
}

double Sweeper::full_action() {
    site s;
    int i;
    Phi forward_nphi_sum;
    vector<site> neighbors;
    double S = 0;
    // initial action
    for (int s=0; s<DIM*DIM; s++) {
        neighbors = lat.neighbor_map[s];
        forward_nphi_sum = lat[neighbors[2]] + lat[neighbors[3]];

        S += lat.lagrangian(lat[s], forward_nphi_sum);
    }
    return S;
}

int Sweeper::wrap( int c) {
    int mod = c % DIM;
    if (mod < 0) {
        mod += DIM;
    }
    return mod;
}

vector<site> Sweeper::full_neighbors(site aSite) {
    int x = aSite % DIM;
    int y = aSite / DIM;
    vector<site> neighbors;
    neighbors.push_back(wrap(x-1) + DIM * y);
    neighbors.push_back(x + DIM * wrap(y-1));
    neighbors.push_back(wrap(x+1) + DIM * y);
    neighbors.push_back(x + DIM * wrap(y+1));
    return neighbors;
}

Plaquette Sweeper::plaquette(site aSite) {
    int x = aSite % DIM;
    int y = aSite / DIM;
    return make_tuple( x + DIM * y,
                      wrap(x+1) + DIM * y,
                      wrap(x+1) + DIM * wrap(y+1),
                      x + DIM * wrap(y+1)
                    );
}

```



```

double Sweeper::rand_dist(double r) {
    return 3 * r - 1.5;
}

/*    Phi Sweeper::new_value(Phi old_phi) {*/

    //Phi dphi;
    //double sum_of_squares = 0;
    //for (int i = 0; i<N-1; i++) {
        //dphi[i] = rand_dist(randf());

        //sum_of_squares += pow(old_phi[i] + dphi[i], 2);
    //}
    //dphi[N-1] = (2*randint(2) - 1) * sqrt(1-sum_of_squares) - old_phi[N-1]; //the
    //    ↪ first term randomizes the sign

    //// test?
    //cout << "Dot: " << (old_phi + dphi) * (old_phi + dphi) << endl;
    //return dphi;
/*}*/

Phi Sweeper::new_value(Phi old_phi) {
    //Phi dphi;
    //dphi[0] = rand_dist(randf());
    //return dphi;
    return random_phi();
}

Phi Sweeper::proj_vec () {
    //for (int i = 0; i<N-1; i++) {
        //r[i] =
    //}
    return Phi();
}

Phi Sweeper::random_phi() {
    Phi new_phi;
    for (int i=0; i<N; i++) {
        new_phi[i] = 2 * randf() - 1;
        if (abs(new_phi[i]) > 1e+10) {
            cout << "overflow" << endl;
            exit(1);
        }
    }
    return new_phi * (1/sqrt(new_phi.norm_sq()));
}

void write_gif_frame(Lattice2D& lat, GifWriter* gif_writer, int delay, double rate=3)
    ↪ {
    Phi aPhi;
    auto DIM = lat.L;
    vector<uint8_t> vec(4*DIM*DIM);

    for (int i=0; i<DIM*DIM; i++) {
        aPhi = lat[i];
        for (int j=0; j<N; j++) {
            vec[4*i + j] = static_cast<uint8_t>((aPhi[j]+1)*128);
        }
        vec[4*i + 3] = 255;
        //cout << vec[0] <<" "<< vec[1] <<" "<< vec[2] <<" "<< vec[3] <<" "<< endl;
    }
}

```

```

    GifWriteFrame(gif_writer, vec.data(), DIM, DIM, delay);
}

void Sweeper::assert_action(double tol) {
    double fa = full_action();
    if (abs(fa-lat.action)>tol) {
        cout << "ASSERT_ACTION_FAILED(" << lat.action << "!=" << fa << ")\n";
        exit(1);
    } else {
        cout << "assert_action_passed(" << lat.action << "==" << fa << ")\n";
    }
}

void Sweeper::full_sweep(Recorder* recorder, const sweep_args& args = sweep_args()) {

    //if (args.cluster_algorithm != WOLFF) throw invalid_argument("Currently, Wolff
    ↪ is the only allowed algorithm");

    shared_ptr<progress_bar> progress;
    progress = args.progress ? make_shared<progress_bar>(cout, 70u, "Working") :
    ↪ nullptr;

    double dS;
    Phi phibar;
    double chi_m;

    int s;

    vector<uint8_t> white_vec(DIM*DIM*4,255);

    double norm_factor = 1 / (double) (DIM*DIM);
    #ifdef GIF
        GifWriter gif_writer;
        GifBegin(&gif_writer, gif_filename, DIM, DIM, gif_delay);
        write_gif_frame(lat, &gif_writer, gif_delay);
    #endif
    COLOR colors[2] = {COLOR::white, COLOR::black};
    for (int i=0; i<args.sweeps; i++) {
        for (const auto &color : colors) {
            if (progress != nullptr) {
                progress->write((double)i/args.sweeps);
            }
            broadcast_lattice();

            //cout << "Met: " << action << " vs " << full_action() << endl;
            dS = sweep(color);
            collect_changes(dS, color);
        }
        //cout << "Met: " << action << " vs " << full_action() << endl;

        //if (i==args.thermalization && gif)
        //GifWriteFrame(&gif_writer, white_vec.data(), DIM, DIM, gif_delay); //
        ↪ add one white frame after thermalization

        if (i%args.record_rate==0 && i>=args.thermalization) {
            flow(args.ts, recorder);
            #ifdef GIF
                write_gif_frame(lat, &gif_writer, gif_delay);
            #endif
            //if (gif) write_gif_frame(lat, &gif_writer, gif_delay);
        }
    }
}

```

```

        if (i%args.cluster_rate==0 && args.cluster_algorithm == WOLFF) {
            //cout << "Wolff: " << action << " vs " << full_action() << endl;
            #ifdef GIF
                write_gif_frame(lat, &gif_writer, gif_delay);
            #endif
            wolff();
            #ifdef GIF
                write_gif_frame(lat, &gif_writer, gif_delay);
            #endif
            //if (gif) write_gif_frame(this, &gif_writer, gif_delay);
            //cout << "Wolff: " << action << " vs " << full_action() << endl;

        }

    }
    #ifdef GIF
        GifEnd(&gif_writer);
    #endif
}

double Sweeper::sweep(COLOR color){

    double tot_dS = 0;
    double dS, new_L, old_L, A, r;
    Phi newphi, dphi, phi, backward_nphi_sum, forward_nphi_sum;
    int i;
    site s;
    vector<site> neighbors;

    array<double, N> zero_array = {};
    Phi zero_phi(zero_array);

    for (int i = 0; i<sites_per_node; i++){
        s = mpi_assignments[color]->at(i);

        phi = lat[s];

        neighbors = lat.neighbor_map[s];
        backward_nphi_sum = lat[neighbors[0]] + lat[neighbors[1]];
        forward_nphi_sum = lat[neighbors[2]] + lat[neighbors[3]];

        newphi = new_value(phi);

        old_L = lat.lagrangian( phi, forward_nphi_sum);
        new_L = lat.lagrangian( newphi, forward_nphi_sum);

        dphi = newphi - phi;
        dS = (new_L - old_L) - lat.beta * backward_nphi_sum * dphi;

        //cout << old_L << " " << new_L << " " << backward_nphi_sum << endl;
        A = exp(-dS);
        r = randf();

        if (dS < 0 || r <= A) {
            dphis[i] = dphi;
            tot_dS += dS;
        } else {
            dphis[i] = zero_phi;
        }
    }
    return tot_dS;
}

```

```

}

double randf() {
    return (double)rand() / RAND_MAX;
}

int randint(int n) {
    return rand() % n; // may want to replace this with something better later
}

double Sweeper::Padd(Phi dphi, Phi phi_b){
    double dS = -lat.beta * (dphi * phi_b);
    return 1 - exp(-dS); // Schaich Eq. 7.17, promoted for vectors
}

unordered_set<int> Sweeper::generate_cluster(int seed, Phi r, bool accept_all) {
    int s, c, i;
    Phi phi_a, phi_b, dphi;

    double cumsum_dS = 0;

    double Padd_val;
    stack<tuple<int, double>> to_test; // (site, previous r_proj
    unordered_set<int> cluster;

    phi_a = lat[seed];

    double r_proj_a = phi_a * r;
    double r_proj_b;
    double proj_sign = sign(r_proj_a);

    //to_test.push(make_tuple(seed, phi_a * numeric_limits<double>::max() )); // site
    //    and phi value, using infinity to ensure Padd=1 for first addition
    to_test.push(make_tuple(seed, 0. )); // site and r_projection. r_projection is
    //    overridden for seed
    bool first = true;
    while (to_test.size()>0) {
        tie(s, r_proj_a) = to_test.top();
        dphi = -2 * r_proj_a * r;
        to_test.pop();

        if (cluster.find(s)!=cluster.end()) {
            continue;
        }

        phi_b = lat[s];
        r_proj_b = phi_b * r;
        if (sign(r_proj_b) == proj_sign) {
            if (accept_all || first || randf() < Padd(dphi, phi_b)) {
                cluster.insert(s);
                for (const int n : lat.neighbor_map[s]){
                    to_test.push( make_tuple(n, r_proj_b) );
                }
                //if (s == seed) {
                //    cout << "SEED" << endl;
                //    cumsum_dS += 2 * beta * (lat[seed] * phi_b);
                //} else {
                //    cumsum_dS += 2 * beta * (phi_a * phi_b);
                //}
            }
        }
    }
}

```

```

        }
        if (first) first = !first;
    }
    //cout << "cumsum_dS: " << cumsum_dS << endl;
    return cluster;
}

void Sweeper::wolff() {

    int seed = randint(pow(DIM,2));
    unordered_set <int> cluster;
    int neighbors[4];
    int n, i, c;

    Phi r = random_phi();
    cluster = generate_cluster(seed, r, false);

    double dS = 0;
    Phi phi, dphi;

    for (const int c : cluster) {
        phi = lat[c];
        dphi = -2 * (phi * r) * r;
        lat[c] = phi + dphi;
        for (const int n : lat.neighbor_map[c]) {
            dS -= lat.beta * (lat[n] * dphi);
        }
    }

    lat.action+=dS;
    //cout << "dS: " << dS << endl;
#ifdef VERIFY_ACTION
    assert_action();
#endif
}

void Sweeper::broadcast_lattice() {
    if (size_of_Cluster>1) {
        const int raw_data_len = DIM*DIM*N;
        double raw_data[raw_data_len];

        if (process_Rank == MASTER) {
            for (int i = 0; i < raw_data_len; i++) {
                raw_data[i] = lat[i/N][i%N];
            };
        }

        MPI_Bcast(&raw_data, raw_data_len, MPI_DOUBLE, MASTER, MPI_COMM_WORLD);
        MPI_Bcast(&lat.action, 1, MPI_INT, MASTER, MPI_COMM_WORLD);

        if (process_Rank != MASTER) {
            for (int i = 0; i < raw_data_len; i++) {
                lat[i/N][i%N] = raw_data[i];
            };
        }
    }
}

void Sweeper::collect_changes(double dS, COLOR color){
    const int recv_data_size = N*DIM*DIM/2;

```

```

double send_data[N*sites_per_node];

for (int i=0; i<sites_per_node; i++) {
    for (int j = 0; j<N; j++) {
        send_data[i*N+j] = dphis[i][j] ;
    };
};

int recv_sites[DIM*DIM/2];
double recv_data[recv_data_size];
double recv_actions[size_Of_Cluster];

MPI_Gather(mpi_assignments[color]->data(), sites_per_node, MPI_INT, &recv_sites,
    ↪ sites_per_node, MPI_INT, MASTER, MPI_COMM_WORLD);
MPI_Gather(&send_data, N*sites_per_node, MPI_DOUBLE, &recv_data, N*sites_per_node
    ↪ , MPI_DOUBLE, MASTER, MPI_COMM_WORLD);
MPI_Gather(&dS, 1, MPI_DOUBLE, &recv_actions, 1, MPI_DOUBLE, MASTER,
    ↪ MPI_COMM_WORLD);

if (process_Rank == MASTER) {
    for (int i = 0; i<DIM*DIM/2; i++){
        for (int j = 0; j<N; j++) {
            lat[recv_sites[i]][j] += recv_data[i*N + j];
        }
    }

    for (int i = 0; i<size_Of_Cluster; i++) {
        lat.action += recv_actions[i];
    }
}

}

Phi sign(Phi x){ // temporary, should be eventually replaced with proj_vec
    Phi phi_sign;
    phi_sign[0] = (x[0] > 0) - (x[0] < 0);
    return phi_sign;
}

double sign(double x){
    return (x>0) - (x<0);
}

// GF
//
//

inline void deriv(Lattice2D& f, double t, const Lattice2D& yn, double h, const
    ↪ Lattice2D* k = nullptr) {

    Phi neighbor_sum;
    Phi dte;
    Phi e;
    double Pij;
    double laplacianj;
    int L = yn.L;

    for (site s=0; s<L*L; s++) {
        neighbor_sum.init_as_zero();

        if (k) {
            e = yn[s] + k->at(s);
            for (site n : f.neighbor_map[s])
                neighbor_sum += yn[n] + k->at(n);
        } else {

```

```

        e = yn[s];
        for (site n : f.neighbor_map[s])
            neighbor_sum += yn[n];
    }

    //if (s==0) cout << "Site: " << e << endl;

    for (int i=0; i<N; i++) {
        dte[i] = 0;
        for (int j=0; j<N; j++) {
            Pij = (i==j) - e[i] * e[j];
            laplacianj = neighbor_sum[j] - 2*D*e[j];
            //if (s==0 && i==0 && j==0) cout << "Laplacian:      " << laplacianj <<
            //    endl;
            //if (s==0 && i==0 && j==0) cout << "Pij:              " << Pij << endl;
            //if (s==0 && i==0 && j==0) cout << "Neighbor sum: " << neighbor_sum
            //    << endl;
            dte[i] += Pij * laplacianj;
        }
    }
    //if (s==0) cout << "deriv " << dte << endl;
    //if (s==0) cout << "deriv " << h*dte << endl;

    f[s] = h*dte;
}

void Sweeper::runge_kutta(double t_, double h, Lattice2D& l, bool recycle_k1) {

    // Runge Kutta (see http://www.foo.be/docs-free/Numerical\_Recipe\_In\_C/c16-1.pdf)
    // Slight changes for efficiency:
    // - deriv(t, y, h, k) := h * f(t, y + k);
    // - k1 => k1/2; k2 => k2/2

    if (t_>0) {
        if (recycle_k1) {
            k1 /= 2;
        } else {
            deriv(k1, t_, l, h/2);
        }
        deriv(k2, t_+h/2, l, h/2, &k1);
        deriv(k3, t_+h/2, l, h, &k2);
        deriv(k4, t_+h, l, h, &k3);

        k1 /= 3;
        k4 /= 6;

        l += k1;
        l += k2;
        l += k3;
        l += k4;

        // Normalize phi
        for (Phi& phi : l) {
            phi /= sqrt(phi.norm_sq());
        }
    }
}

void Sweeper::flow(vector<double> ts, Recorder* recorder) {
    // ts must be in ascending order
    double h = 0.01; // aka dt
    double t_ = 0;
    double chi_m;

```

```

double S;

double error;

auto measurement_iter = ts.begin();
double measurement_t = *measurement_iter;

flowed_lat = lat;

const auto gif_filename = "flow.gif";
const int gif_delay = 10;
#ifdef GIF
    GifWriter gif_writer;
    GifBegin(&gif_writer, gif_filename, DIM, DIM, gif_delay);
#endif

#ifdef GIF
    int counter = 0;
#endif

bool rerun=false;

while (true) {

    if (t_ + h > measurement_t) {
        runge_kutta(t_, measurement_t-t_, flowed_lat);
        recorder->record(flowed_lat, measurement_t);
        //cout << "took measurement at " << t_ << endl;
        t_ = measurement_t;

        measurement_iter++;
        if (measurement_iter == ts.end()) break;
        measurement_t = *(measurement_iter);

    } else {
#ifdef ADAPTIVESTEP
        if (!rerun){
            prev_flowed_lat = flowed_lat;
            flowed_lat_2 = flowed_lat;
            runge_kutta(t_, h, flowed_lat);
        } else {
            flowed_lat = flowed_lat_2;
        }

        runge_kutta(t_, h/2, flowed_lat_2, true);
        runge_kutta(t_+h/2, h/2, flowed_lat_2);

        error = 0;
        for (site i=0; i<flowed_lat.size(); i++) {
            error += (flowed_lat[i] - flowed_lat_2[i]).norm_sq();
        }

        error = sqrt(error)/15;
        //cout << "t_: " << t_ << "\terror: " << error << "\th: " << h << "\n";
        //    ↪ tmax_error: "<<MAXERROR<<endl;
        if (error>MAXERROR) {
            //cout << "RERUN" << endl;
            rerun=true;
            h /= 2;
        } else if (error<MAXERROR/2) {
            rerun=false;
            h *=2;
            t_ += h;
        } else {
            rerun=false;

```



```

        t_ += h;
    }

#else
    runge_kutta(t_, h, flowed_lat);
    t_ += h;
#endif
}
#ifdef ACTIONFLOW
    flowed_lat.action = flowed_lat.full_action();
#endif

#ifdef GIF
    if (counter % 10 == 0) write_gif_frame(flowed_lat, &gif_writer, gif_delay
    ↪ );
    counter++;
#endif
}

#ifdef GIF
    GifEnd(&gif_writer);
    system("gifsicle --colors 256 --resize 512x512 flow.gif -o flow.gif");
#endif
}

```

## A.3 lattice.h

```

#ifdef LATTICE_H
#define LATTICE_H

#include "phi.h"
#include <vector>
#include <tuple>

typedef tuple<int,int,int,int> Plaquette;

using namespace std;

class Lattice2D {
    typedef vector<Phi> datatype;
    datatype data;
public:
    static int L;
    static double beta;
    static vector<vector<int>> neighbor_map;
    static vector<Plaquette> plaquette_map;
    double action;

    vector<Phi> vec() const;
    size_t size() const;

    Lattice2D();
    Lattice2D(const Lattice2D& other);

    Phi operator[] (int i) const;
    Phi& operator[] (int i);
    Phi at(int i) const;

    Lattice2D& operator+=(const Lattice2D& other);
    Lattice2D& operator*=(const double & factor);
    Lattice2D& operator/=(const double & factor);

```

```

    Lattice2D operator+ (const Lattice2D & other) const;
    //Lattice2D operator+ (const Lattice2D & other) const;

    // Iterator stuff
    typedef datatype::iterator iterator;
    typedef datatype::const_iterator const_iterator;

    iterator begin();
    const_iterator cbegin() const;
    iterator end();
    const_iterator cend() const;

    static double lagrangian(const Phi phi, const Phi nphi_sum);
    double full_action();

};
#endif

```

## A.4 lattice.cpp

```

// lattice.cpp

#include <iostream>
#include "lattice.h"
#include <algorithm>

using namespace std;

int Lattice2D::L;
double Lattice2D::beta;

vector<vector<int>> Lattice2D::neighbor_map;
vector<Plaquette> Lattice2D::plaquette_map;

Lattice2D::Lattice2D() {
    data.resize(L*L);
}

Lattice2D::Lattice2D(const Lattice2D& other) {
    data = other.vec();
    action = other.action;
}

vector<Phi> Lattice2D::vec() const { return data; }
size_t Lattice2D::size() const { return data.size(); }

Phi Lattice2D::operator[] (int i) const { return data[i]; };
Phi& Lattice2D::operator[] (int i) { return data[i]; };
Phi Lattice2D::at(int i) const { return data.at(i); };

Lattice2D& Lattice2D::operator+=(const Lattice2D& other) {
    auto iter = other.cbegin();
    for_each(data.begin(), data.end(), [&iter](Phi &phi){phi += *(iter++); } );
    return *this;
};

Lattice2D& Lattice2D::operator*=(const double & factor) {
    for_each(data.begin(), data.end(), [&factor](Phi &phi){phi *= factor; } );
    return *this;
};

Lattice2D& Lattice2D::operator/=(const double & factor) {

```

```

        for_each(data.begin(), data.end(), [factor](Phi &phi){phi /= factor; } );
        return *this;
};

Lattice2D Lattice2D::operator+ (const Lattice2D & other) const {
    Lattice2D new_lat(*this);
    new_lat += other;
    return new_lat;
};

Lattice2D::iterator Lattice2D::begin() { return data.begin(); }
Lattice2D::const_iterator Lattice2D::cbegin() const { return data.cbegin(); }
Lattice2D::iterator Lattice2D::end() { return data.end(); }
Lattice2D::const_iterator Lattice2D::cend() const { return data.cend(); }

double Lattice2D::full_action() {
    int site, i;
    Phi forward_nphi_sum;
    vector<int> neighbors;
    double S = 0;
    // initial action
    for (int s=0; s<L*L; s++) {
        neighbors = neighbor_map[s];
        forward_nphi_sum = data[neighbors[2]] + data[neighbors[3]];
        S += lagrangian(data[s], forward_nphi_sum);
    }

    return S;
}

double Lattice2D::lagrangian(const Phi phi, const Phi nphi_sum) {
    // S[phi] = beta/2 int (dphi . dphi)
    return beta * (D - phi * nphi_sum); // note that the sum over dimension has
    ↪ already been made
}

```

## A.5 phi.h

```

#ifndef PHI_H // include guard
#define PHI_H

#include "constants.h"
#include <array>
#include <ostream>

using namespace std;

class Phi {
    array<double, N> phi;

public:
    Phi();
    Phi(array<double, N> phi);
    void init_as_zero();
    double norm_sq() const;
    Phi& operator+=(const Phi& other);
    Phi& operator*=(const double & a);
    Phi& operator&=(const double & a);
};

```

```

    Phi& operator/=(const double & a);

    Phi operator+ (const Phi & phi) const;
    Phi operator- (const Phi & phi) const;
    Phi operator- () const;
    double operator* (const Phi & phi) const; // Dot product
    Phi operator& (const Phi & phi) const; // Cross product
    Phi operator* (const double & a) const;
    friend ostream& operator<< (ostream& os, const Phi & aPhi);
    double operator[] (int i) const;
    double& operator[] (int i);
    bool operator== (const Phi & phi) const;
};

Phi operator*(double a, const Phi& b);

#endif

```

## A.6 phi.cpp

```

#include "phi.h"

using namespace std;

Phi::Phi() {};

Phi::Phi(array<double, N> phi){
    this->phi = phi;
};

void Phi::init_as_zero(){
    phi = {0,0,0};
    //for (int i=0; i<N; i++) {
        //phi[i] = 0;
    //}
}

double Phi::norm_sq() const {
    double cumsum = 0;
    for (int i=0; i<N; i++) {
        cumsum += phi[i] * phi[i];
    }
    return cumsum;
}

Phi& Phi::operator+=(const Phi& other) {
    for (int i=0; i<N; i++) {
        phi[i] += other[i];
    }
    return *this;
}

Phi& Phi::operator*=(const double & a) {
    for (int i=0; i<N; i++) {
        phi[i] *= a;
    }
    return *this;
}

Phi& Phi::operator/=(const double & a) {
    for (int i=0; i<N; i++) {

```

```

        phi[i] /= a;
    }
    return *this;
}

Phi Phi::operator+ (const Phi & aPhi) const {
    Phi new_phi(phi);
    //for (int i=0; i<N; i++) {
        //new_phi[i] = phi[i] + aPhi[i];
    //}
    new_phi += aPhi;
    return new_phi;
}

Phi Phi::operator- (const Phi & aPhi) const {
    return *this + (-aPhi);
}

Phi Phi::operator- () const {
    Phi new_phi;
    for (int i=0; i<N; i++) {
        new_phi[i] = -phi[i];
    }
    return new_phi;
}

Phi Phi::operator& (const Phi & other) const {
    Phi new_phi;
    new_phi[0] = phi[1] * other[2] - phi[2] * other[1];
    new_phi[1] = phi[2] * other[0] - phi[0] * other[2];
    new_phi[2] = phi[0] * other[1] - phi[1] * other[0];
    return new_phi;
}

double Phi::operator* (const Phi & aPhi) const{
    //dot product
    double dot = 0;
    for (int i=0; i<N; i++) {
        dot += phi[i] * aPhi[i];
    }
    return dot;
}

Phi Phi::operator* (const double & a) const{
    Phi new_phi(phi);
    new_phi *= a;
    return new_phi;
}

ostream& operator<<(ostream& os, const Phi & aPhi)
{
    os << "(";
    for (int i=0; i<N; i++) {
        os << aPhi[i];
        if (i<N-1) { os<<","; }
    }
    os << ")";
    return os;
}

double Phi::operator[] (int i) const {
    return phi[i];
}

double & Phi::operator[] (int i) {

```

```

    return phi[i];
}

bool Phi::operator==(const Phi & aPhi) const {
    for (int i=0; i<N; i++) {
        if (phi[i] != aPhi[i]) {
            return false;
        }
    }
    return true;
}

Phi operator*(double a, const Phi& b)
{
    return b*a;
}

```

## A.7 observables.h

```

#include <math.h>
#include <string>

namespace observables {

    class action : public BaseObservable {
    public:
        double operator()(const Lattice2D& lat) const {
            return lat.action;
        };
        const string name() const { return "S"; };
    };

    class beta : public BaseObservable {
    public:
        double operator()(const Lattice2D& lat) const {
            return lat.beta;
        };
        const string name() const { return "beta"; };
    };

    class L : public BaseObservable {
    public:
        double operator()(const Lattice2D& lat) const {
            return lat.L;
        };
        const string name() const { return "L"; };
    };

    class chi_m : public BaseObservable {
    public:
        double operator()(const Lattice2D& lat) const {
            double val = 0;

            for (auto itx = lat.cbegin(); itx!=lat.cend(); ++itx) {
                for (auto ity = lat.cbegin(); ity!=lat.cend(); ++ity) {
                    val += (*itx)*(*ity);
                }
            }
            return val;
        };
        const string name() const { return "chi_m"; };
    };
}

```

```

};

class F : public BaseObservable {
public:
    double operator()(const Lattice2D& lat) const {
        double val = 0;

        int x=0;
        int y=0;
        const double two_pi_L = 2*M_PI*lat.L;

        //for (const Phi& phi : as_const(lat)) {
        for (auto itx = lat.cbegin(); itx!=lat.cend(); ++itx) {
            for (auto ity = lat.cbegin(); ity!=lat.cend(); ++ity) {
                val += (*itx)*(*ity) * cos( two_pi_L * (x - y));
                x++;
                if (x==lat.L) x=0; // This ensures that x is the Euclidean
                                ↪ space dimension
            }
            if (y==lat.L) y=0;
        }
        return val;
    };
    const string name() const { return "F"; };
};

class Q : public BaseObservable {
private:
    double angle(double re, double im) const {
        double arctan = atan(im / re);
        if (re> 0) {
            return arctan;
        } else if (im> 0) {
            return M_PI + arctan;
        } else {
            return (-M_PI + arctan);
        }
    }

    double sigma_A(Phi s1, Phi s2, Phi s3) const {
        // Returns values (-2pi,2pi)
        double real_part = 1 + s1 * s2 + s2 * s3 + s3 * s1;
        double imag_part = s1 * (s2 & s3);
        return 2*angle(real_part, imag_part);
    }

    double q(int x, const Lattice2D& lat, bool reversed=false) const {
        int x1, x2, x3, x4;
        tie(x1, x2, x3, x4) = lat.plaquette_map[x];
        Phi s1 = lat[x1], s2 = lat[x2], s3 = lat[x3], s4 = lat[x4];
        if (reversed) {
            return sigma_A(s1,s2,s4) + sigma_A(s2,s3,s4);
        } else {
            return sigma_A(s1,s2,s3) + sigma_A(s1,s3,s4);
        }
    }

public:
    double operator()(const Lattice2D& lat) const {
        double Q = 0;
        for (int i=0; i<lat.L*lat.L; i++) {
            Q += q(i, lat);
        }
        Q /= (4 * M_PI);
        return Q;
    };
    const string name() const { return "Q"; };
};

```

```
};  
};
```

## A.8 constants.h

```
#define N 3  
#define MASTER 0  
#define PROG_CHAR "#"  
#define D 2  
#define MAXERROR 0.01
```



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