

# Nuclear superfluidity

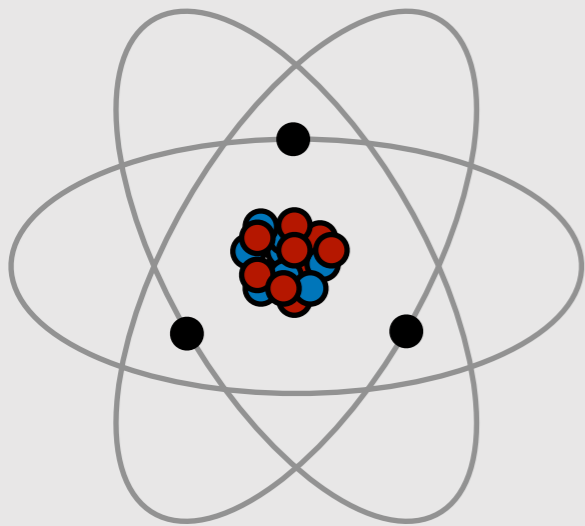
## The Pairing Hamiltonian as a many-body testbed

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**MSQM 2024**

*Workshop on model systems in quantum mechanics*

January 12th, 2024



**Alexander Tichai**

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Technische Universität Darmstadt



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DARMSTADT



European Research Council  
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# Outline

**Nuclear superfluidity**

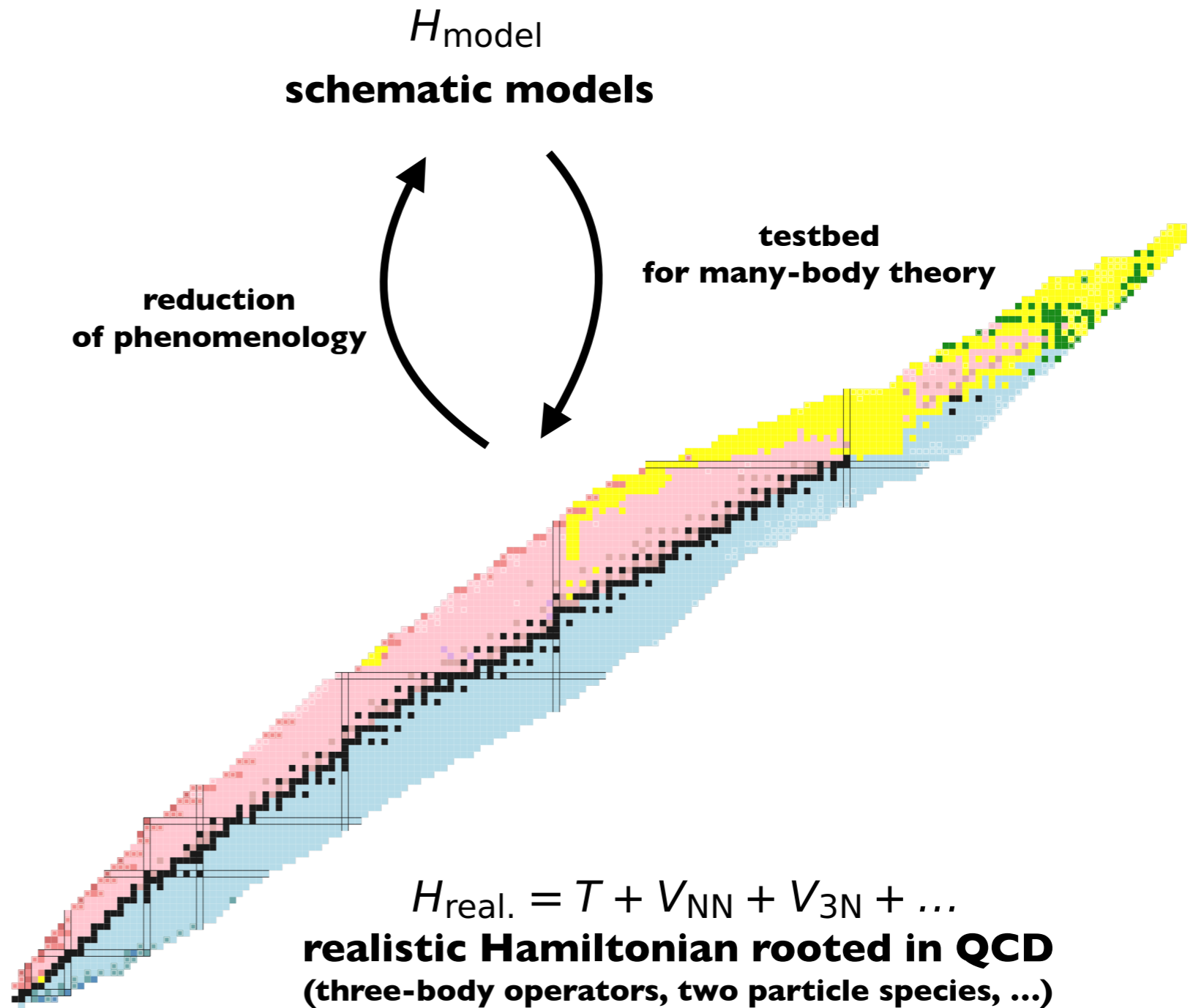
**The pairing Hamiltonian**

**Richardson solution**

**Mean-field approach**

**Many-body expansions**

**Emulators**



# Outline

**Nuclear superfluidity**

**The pairing Hamiltonian**

**Richardson solution**

**Mean-field approach**

**Many-body expansion**

**Emulators**

$H_{\text{model}}$   
**schematic models**

testbed  
for many-body theory

**Theme:**  
**The pairing Hamiltonian as prototype  
for strongly correlated nuclei.**

$H_{\text{real.}} = T + V_{\text{NN}} + V_{\text{3N}} + \dots$   
**realistic Hamiltonian rooted in QCD**  
(three-body operators, two particle species, ...)

# Nuclear phenomenology

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

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

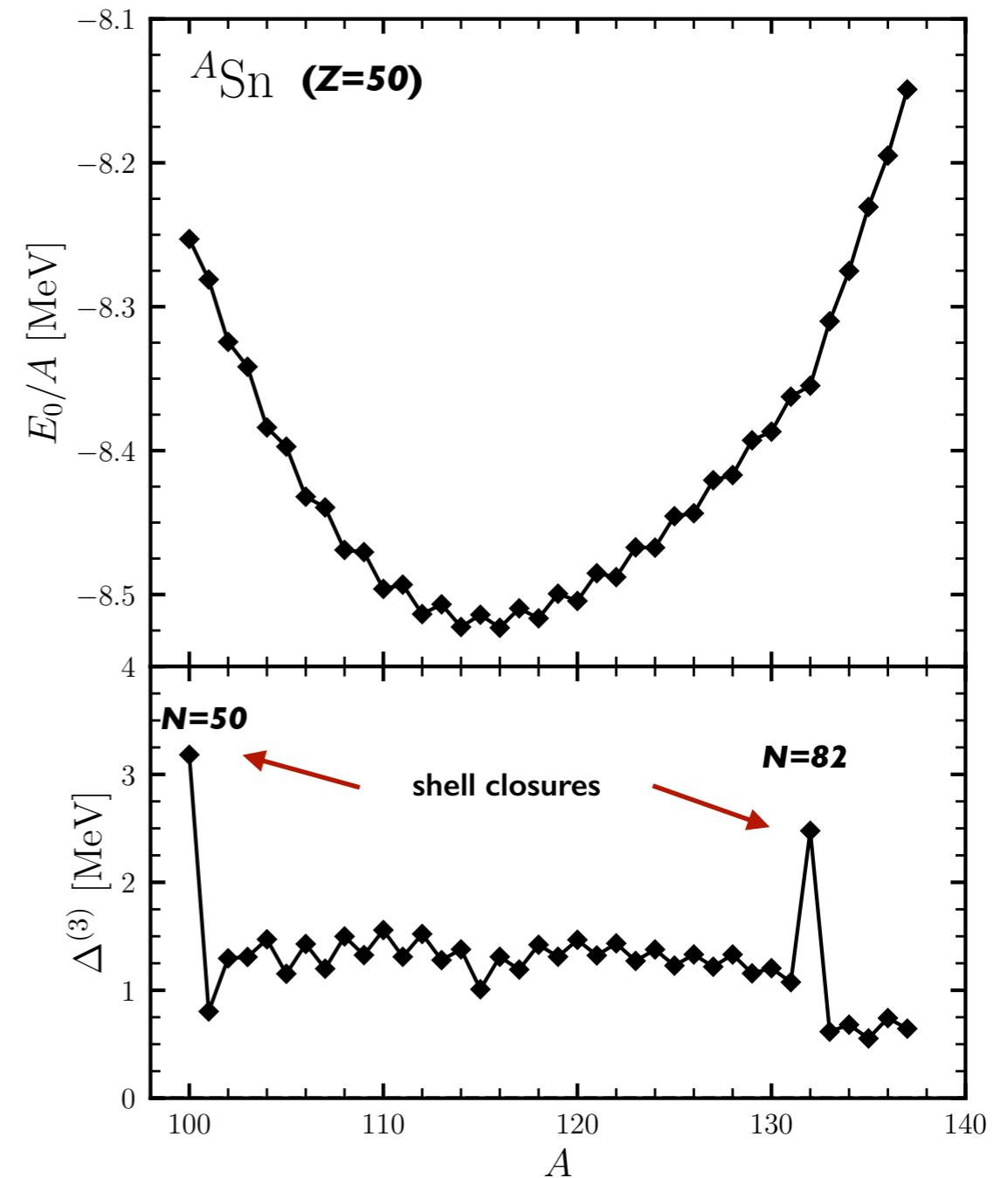
- Experimental evidence of **formation of Cooper pairs** in atomic nuclei

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

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

→ see also talk by **D. Lacroix**

**Nuclear masses of tin isotopes (AME2020)**



# The Pairing Hamiltonian

- **One-parameter interaction** describing superfluidity

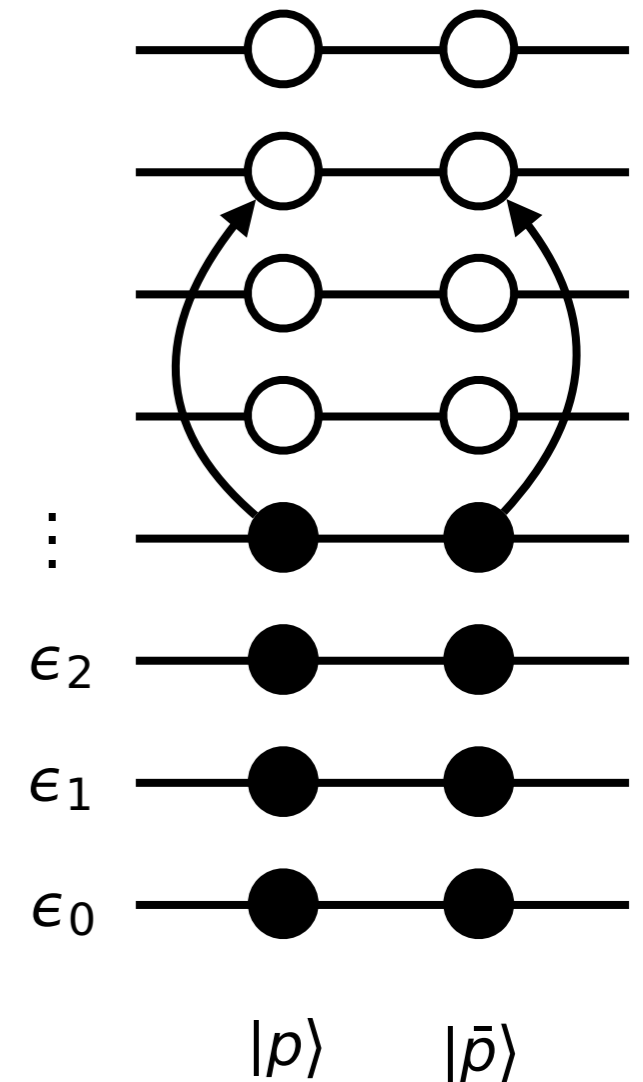
$$H_{\text{pairing}} = \sum_p \epsilon_p (c_p^\dagger c_p + c_{\bar{p}}^\dagger c_{\bar{p}}) + g \sum_{pq} c_p^\dagger c_{\bar{p}}^\dagger c_{\bar{q}} c_q$$

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

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

Number of levels  $\Omega = 8$

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



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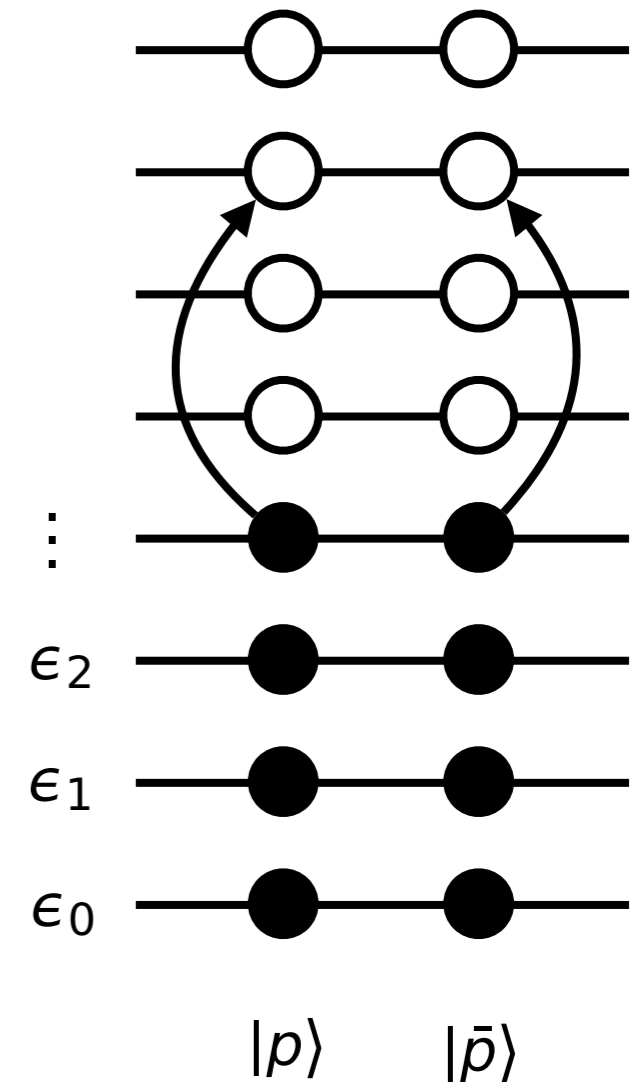
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- **Pair operators** form a **SU(2)** quasispin algebra

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

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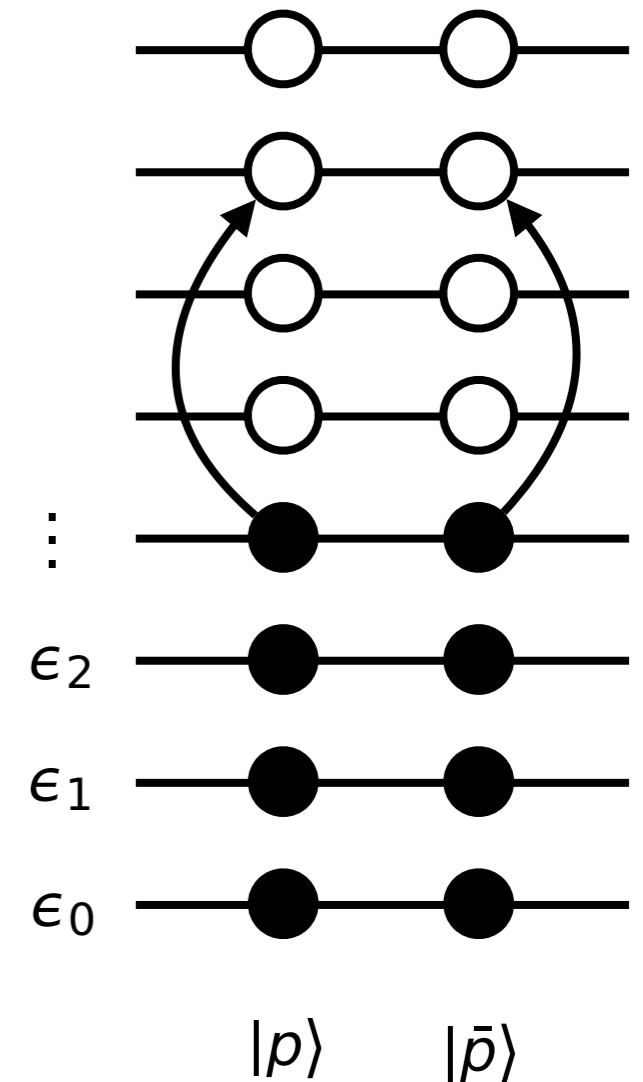
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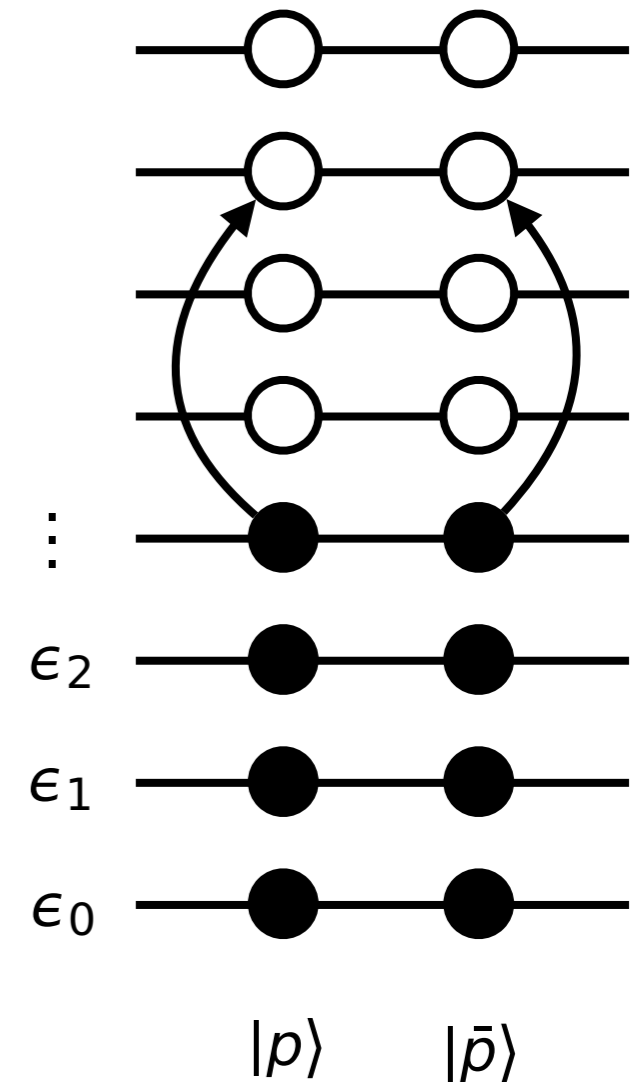
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- Admits for a **transition to superfluid regime** at critical coupling strength

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$$H_{\text{pairing}}$$

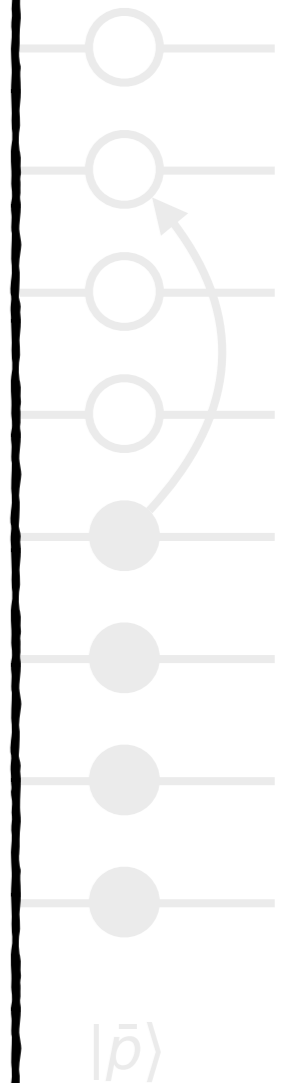
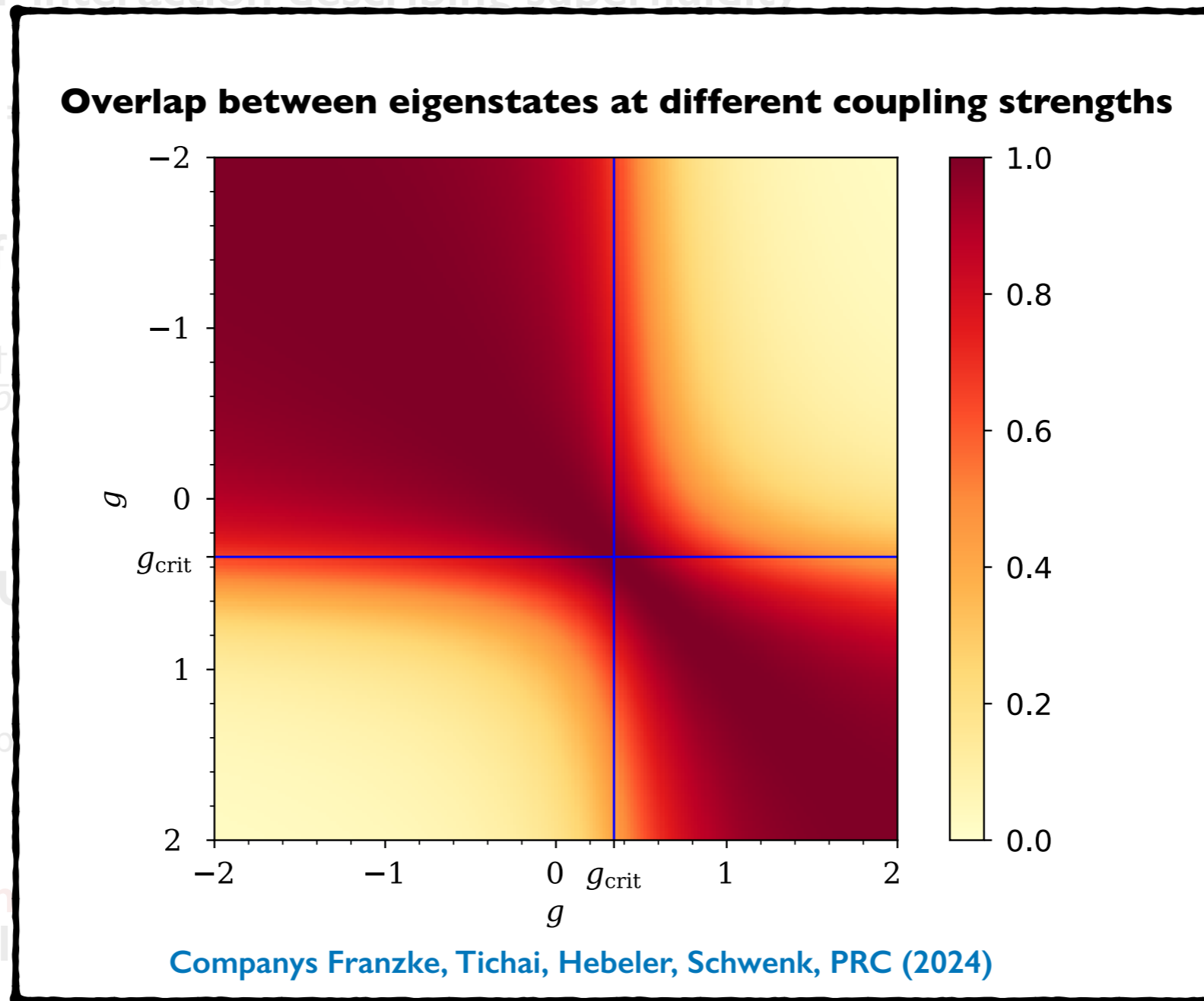
- Introduction of

$$N_{\rho} = c_{\rho}^{\dagger} c_{\rho} + c_{\bar{\rho}}^{\dagger} c_{\bar{\rho}}$$

- Re-writing in SU

$$H_{\text{p}}$$

- Admits for a phase transition at critical coupling



# Richardson solution

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

Richardson, PL (1965), PR (1966)

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

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

$$1 - g \sum_{p=1}^n \frac{1}{2\epsilon_p - E_\alpha} - 2g \sum_{\beta \neq \alpha}^{\Omega} \frac{1}{E_\beta - E_\alpha} = 0 \quad \forall \alpha = 1, \dots, \Omega$$

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- Final ground-state energy obtained from **sum of pair energies**

$$E_{\text{gs}} = \sum_{\alpha=1}^{\Omega} E_\alpha$$

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

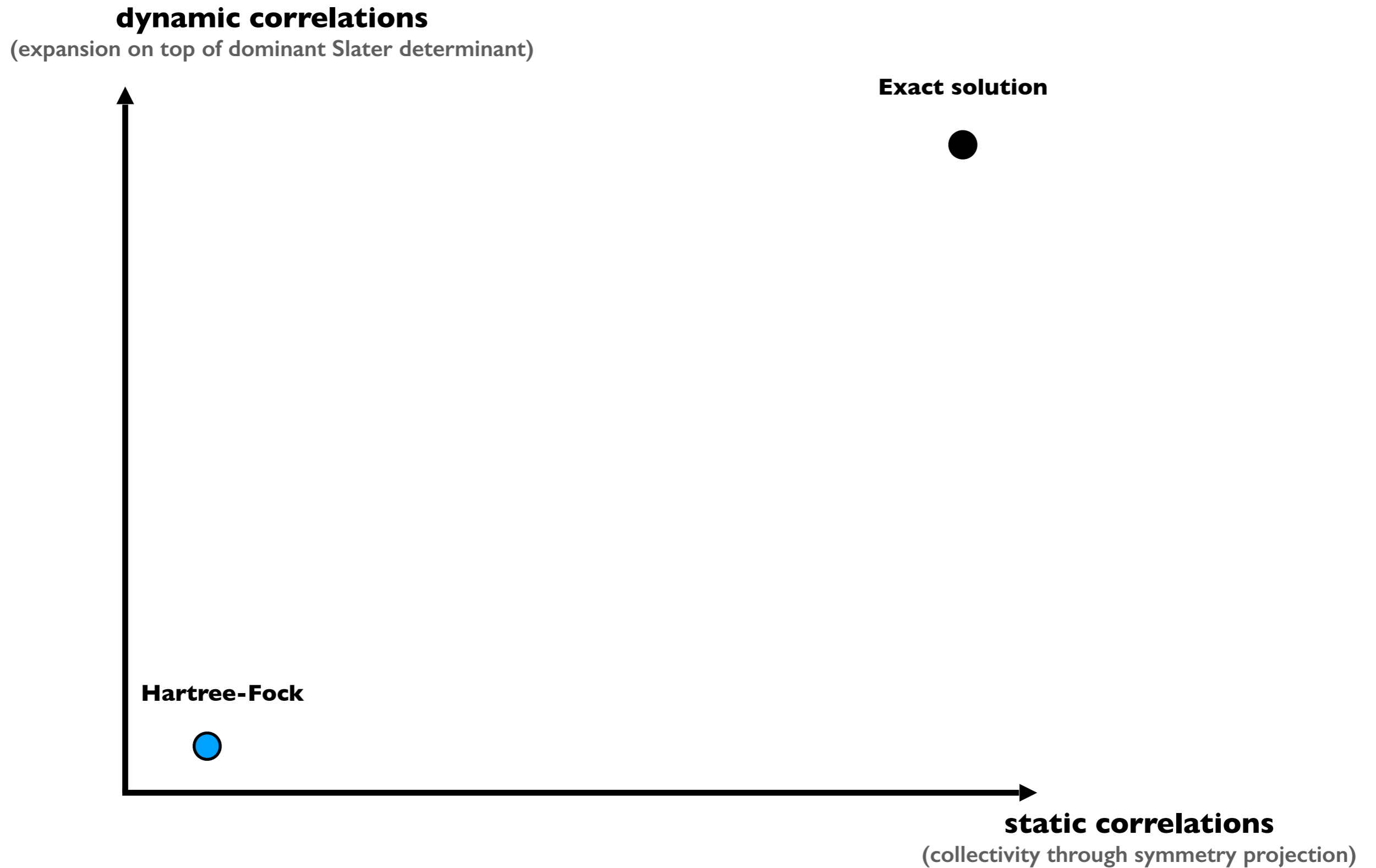
# Many-body correlations

**dynamic correlations**  
(expansion on top of dominant Slater determinant)



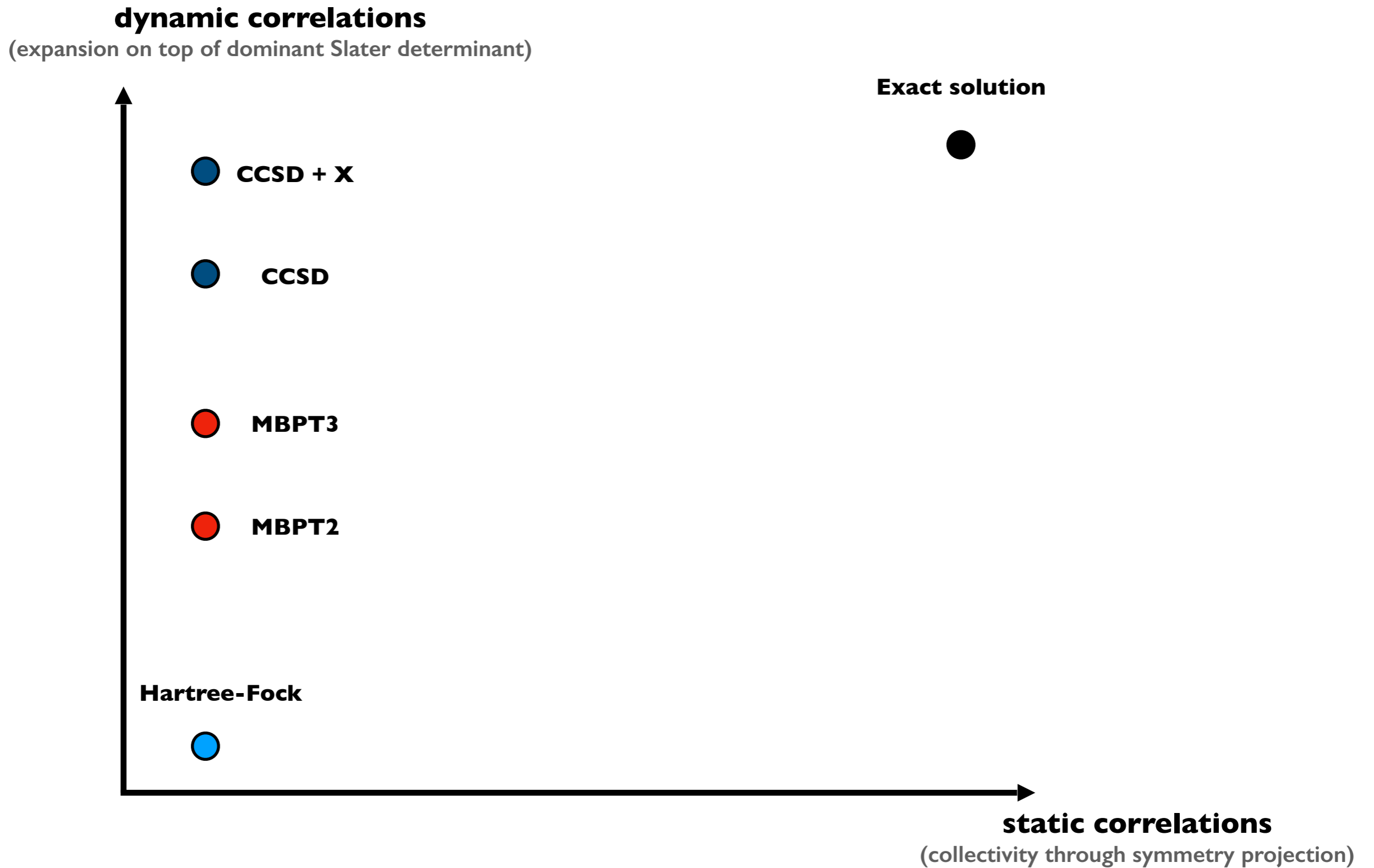
**static correlations**  
(collectivity through symmetry projection)

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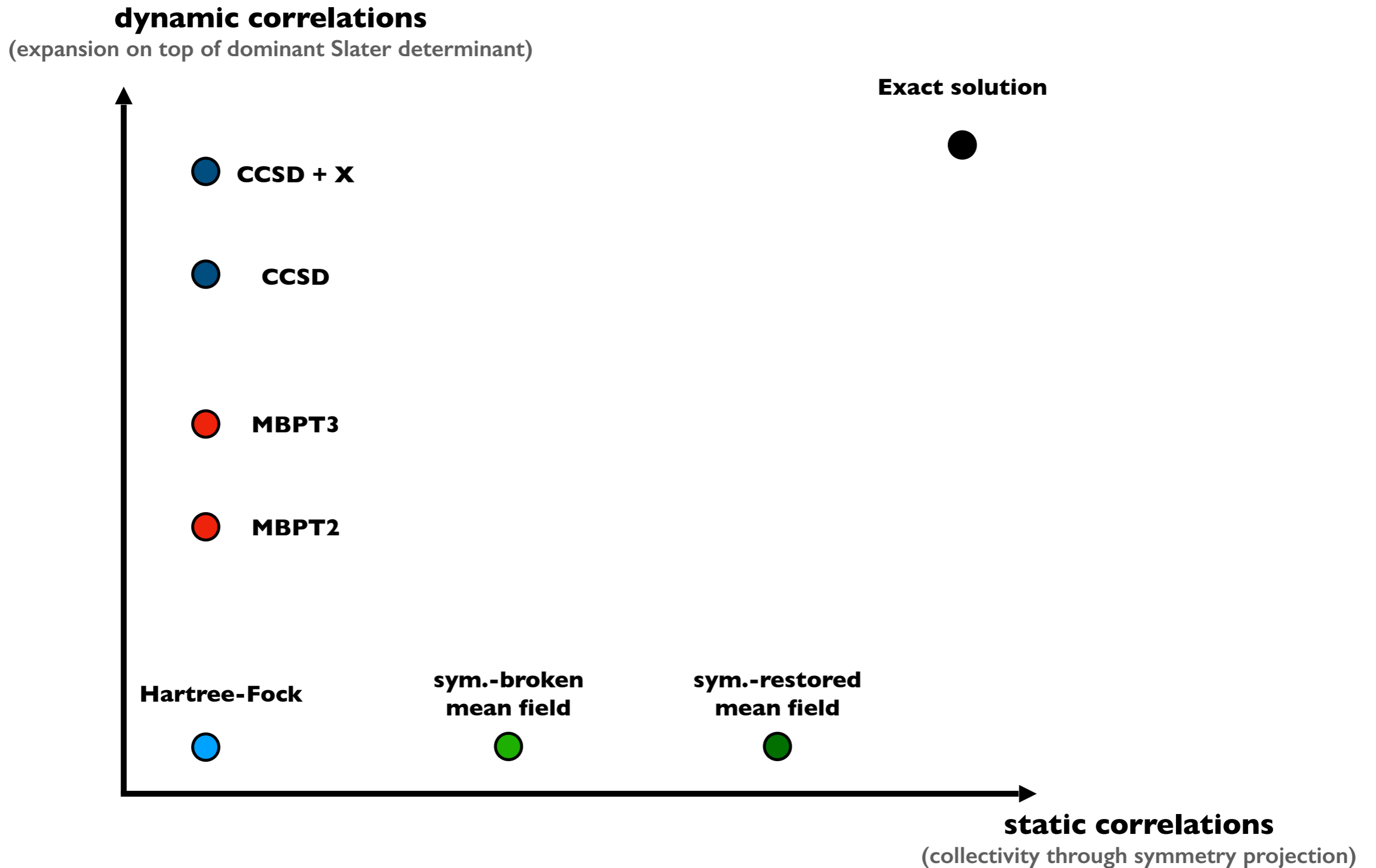




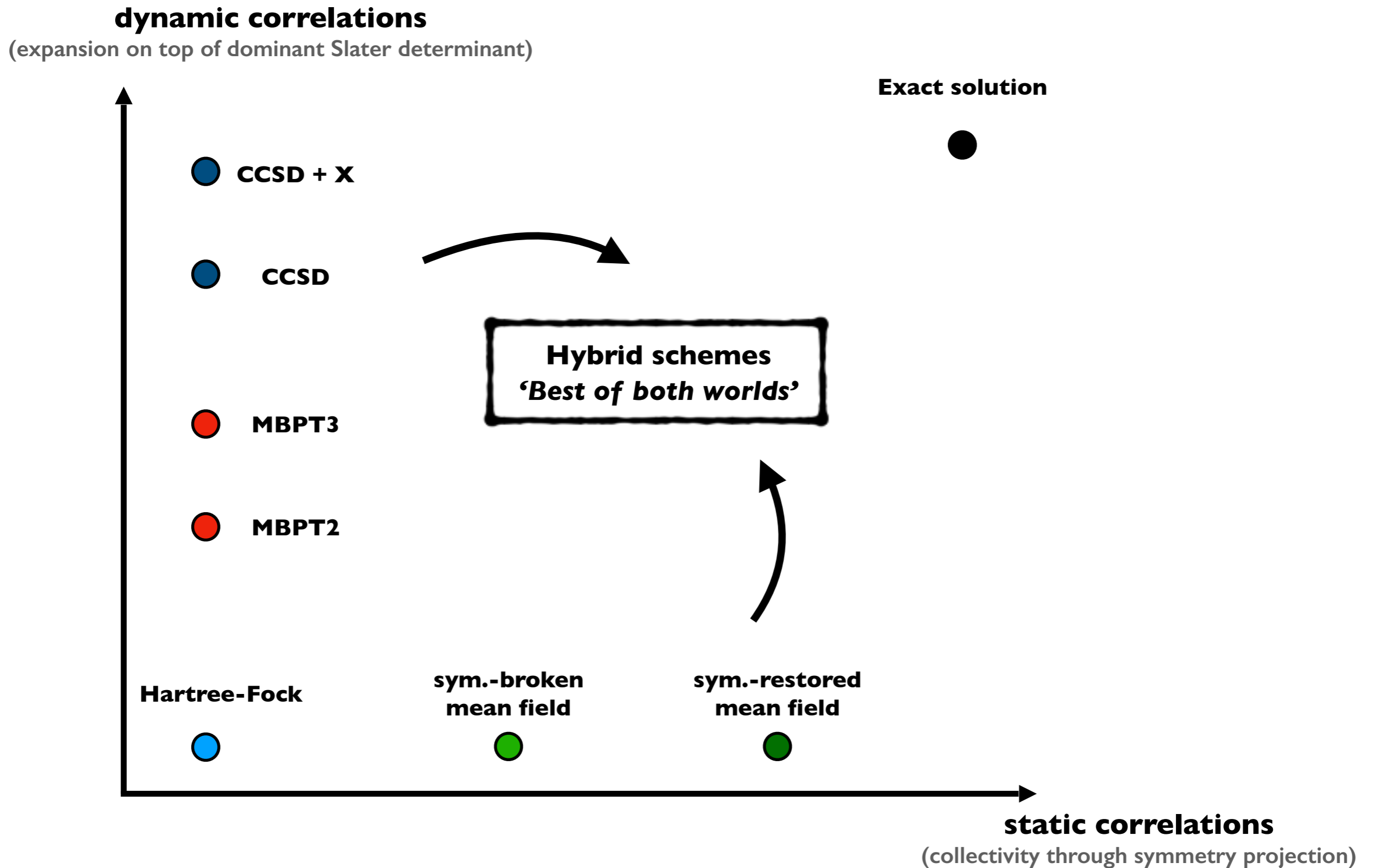
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# Particle-number-broken mean field

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

(Bardeen-Cooper-Schrieffer)

$$|\Phi_{\text{BCS}}\rangle = \prod_{p>0} (u_p + v_p c_p^\dagger c_{\bar{p}}^\dagger) |0\rangle$$

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

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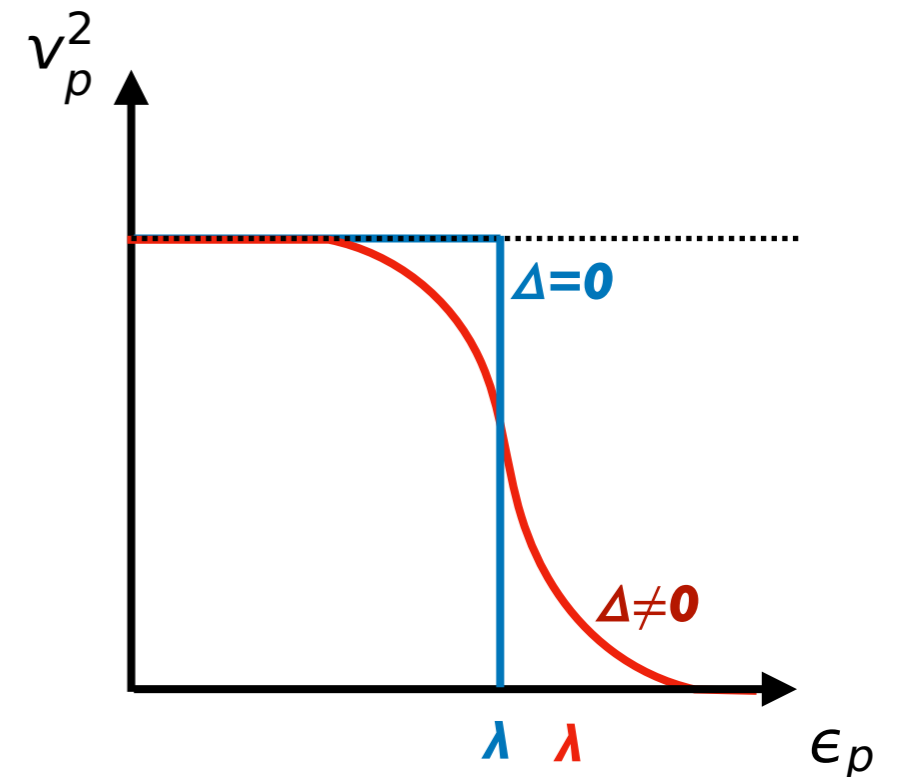
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**BCS occupation profile**



$$\Delta = \langle \Phi_{\text{BCS}} | c_p^\dagger c_{\bar{p}}^\dagger | \Phi_{\text{BCS}} \rangle = g \sum_{p>0} u_p v_p$$

**BCS gap parameter**

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$$|\Phi_{\text{BCS}}\rangle = \prod_{p>} \dots$$

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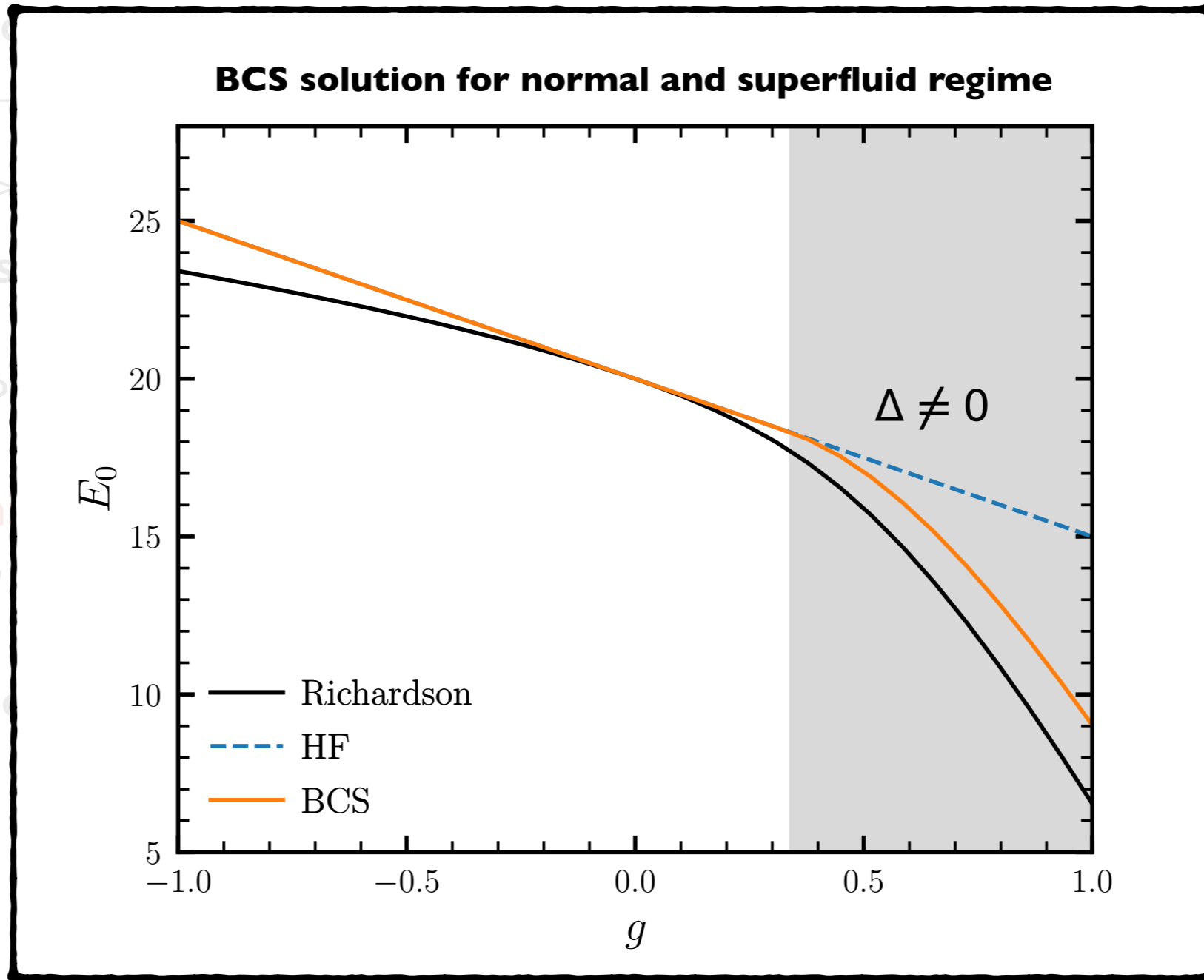
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- Similar expressions hold for **other symmetries**, e.g., rotational invariance SU(2)

# Perturbation theory

Lacroix, Gambacurta, PRC (2012)

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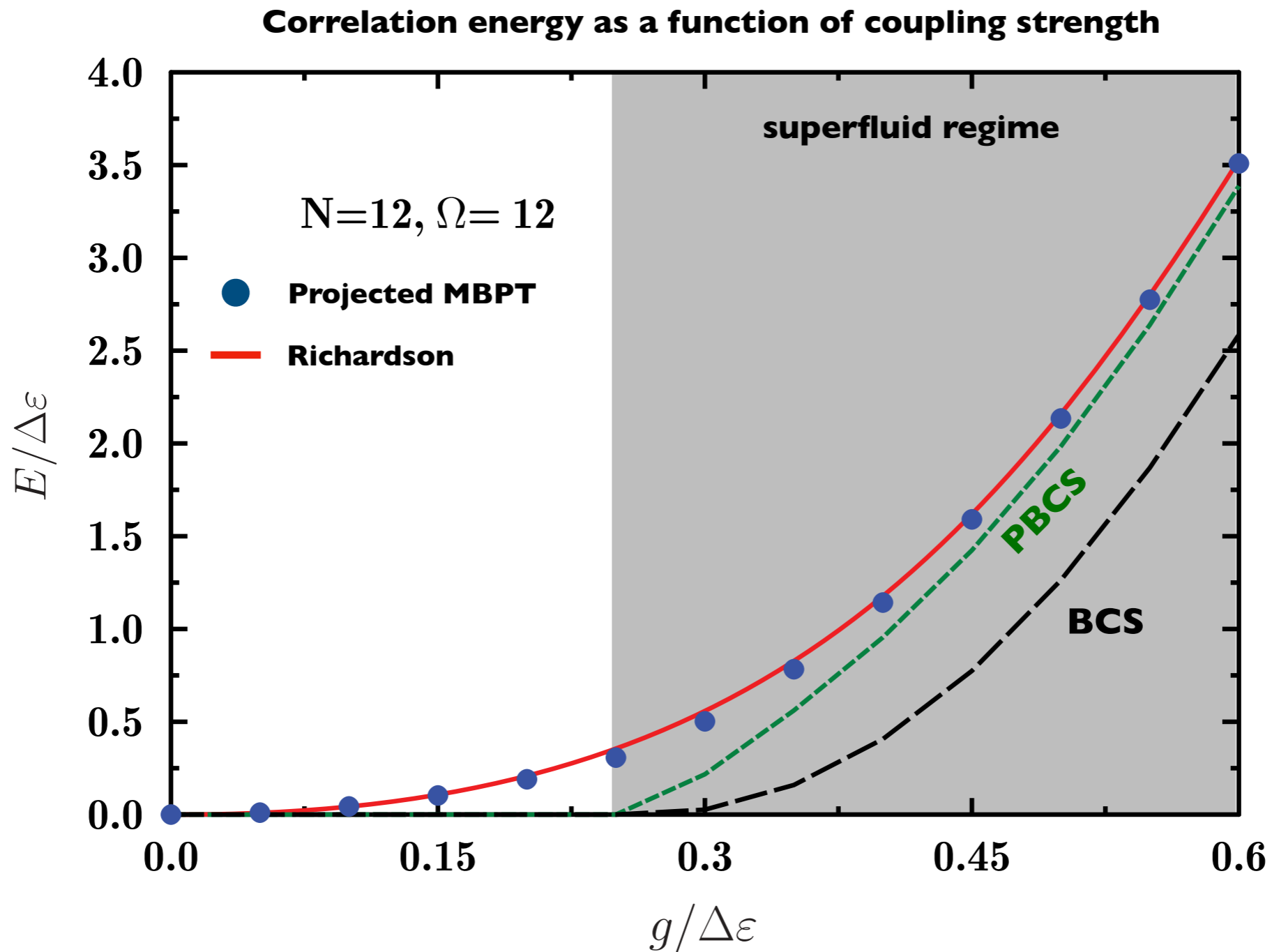
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- Standard HF-MBPT is recovered in limiting case of vanishing pairing gap

# Results of perturbation theory

Lacroix, Gambacurta, PRC (2012)



# Coupled-cluster theory for BCS states

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- **Bogoliubov coupled-cluster (BCC) theory: CC extension for BCS reference states**

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- Many-body operators are transformed to **quasiparticle basis** using  $u/v$  coefficients

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- Evaluate **amplitude equations** using Wick theorem for **SU(2) algebra**

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

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$$\beta_p^\dagger = u_p c_p^\dagger + v_p c_{\bar{p}} \quad \beta_{\bar{p}}^\dagger = u_p c_{\bar{p}}^\dagger - v_p c_p$$

- Cluster operator is expressed in **SU(2) algebra** (but now with quasiparticles!)

$$T_2 = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{pq} t_{pq} \mathcal{P}_p^\dagger \mathcal{P}_q^\dagger \quad \mathcal{P}_p^\dagger = \beta_p^\dagger \beta_{\bar{p}}^\dagger$$

- Evaluate **amplitude equations** using Wick theorem for SU(2) algebra

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

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

# Coupled-cluster theory for BCS states

Henderson et al., PRC (2014)

- Bogoliubov coup

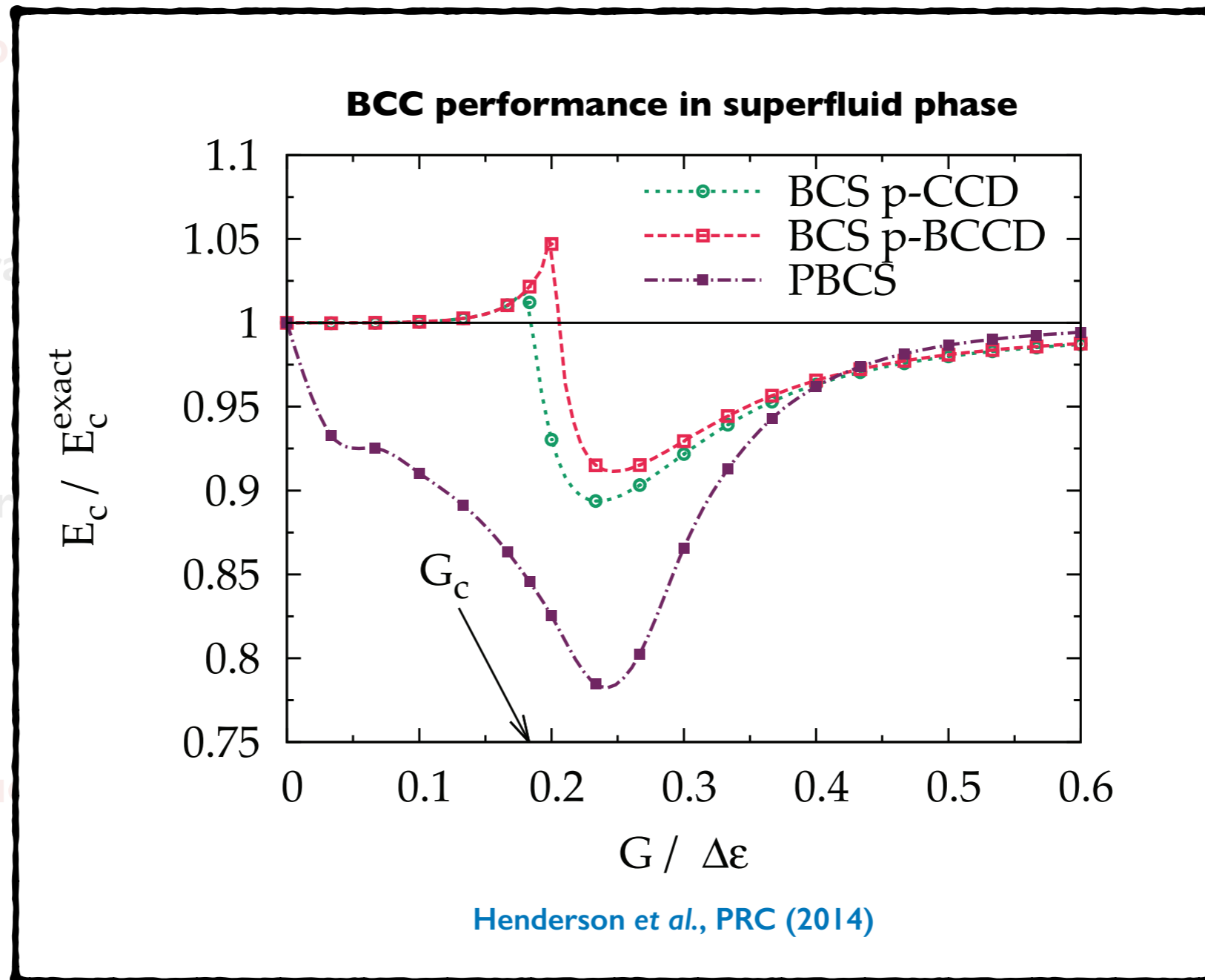
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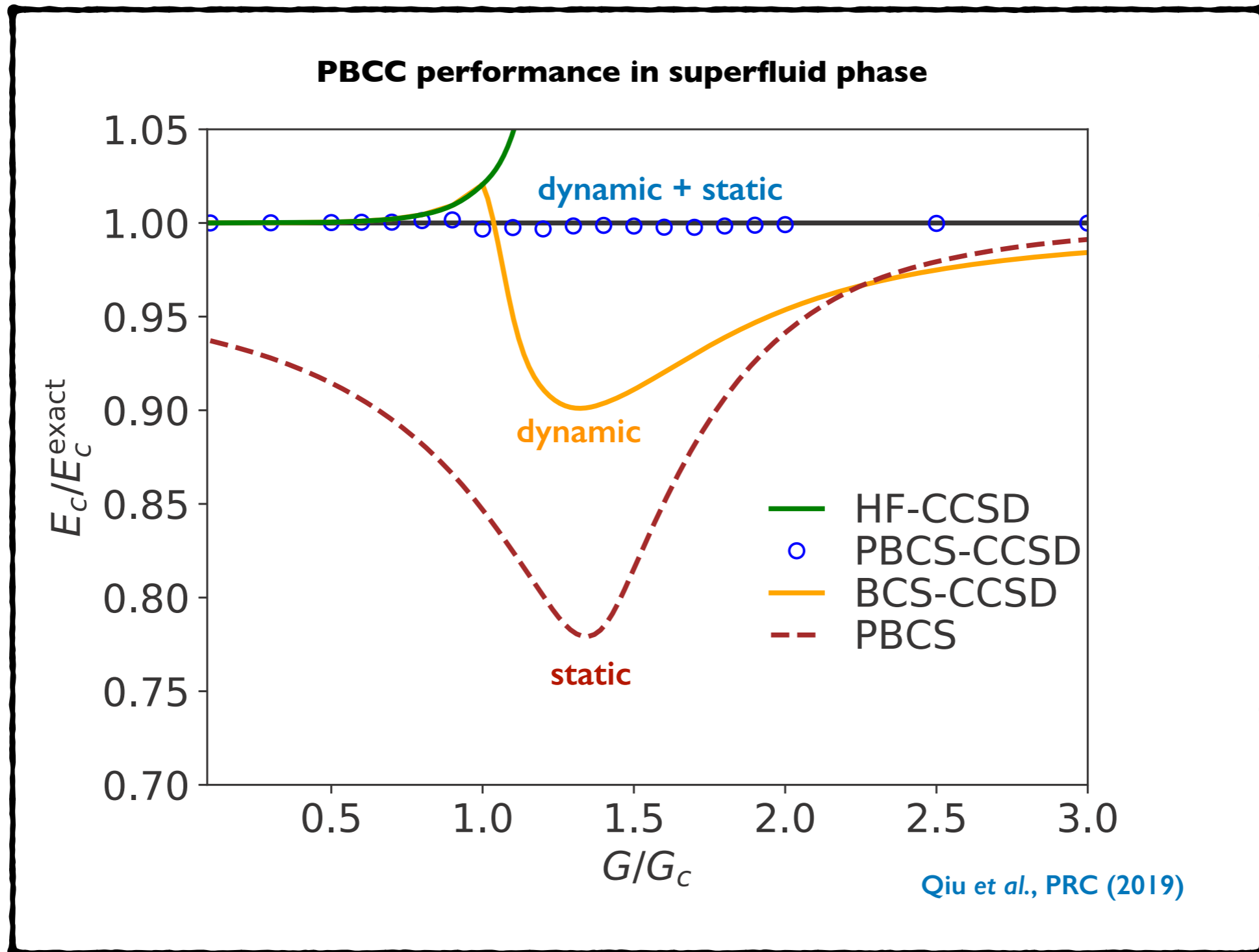
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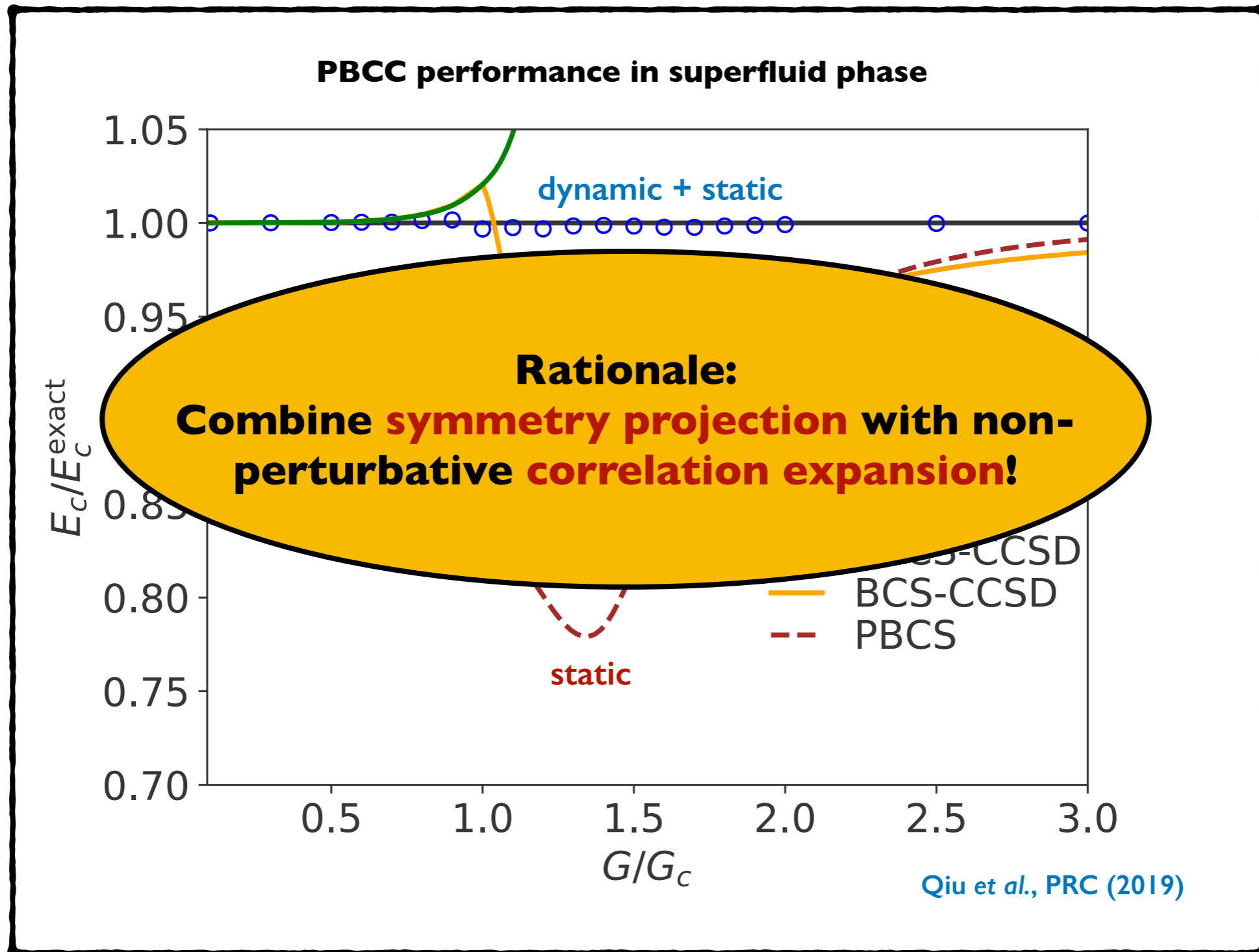
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- Symmetry projection beyond mean-field constitutes a highly non-trivial task
- **Numerical implementation** is computationally very demanding in practice

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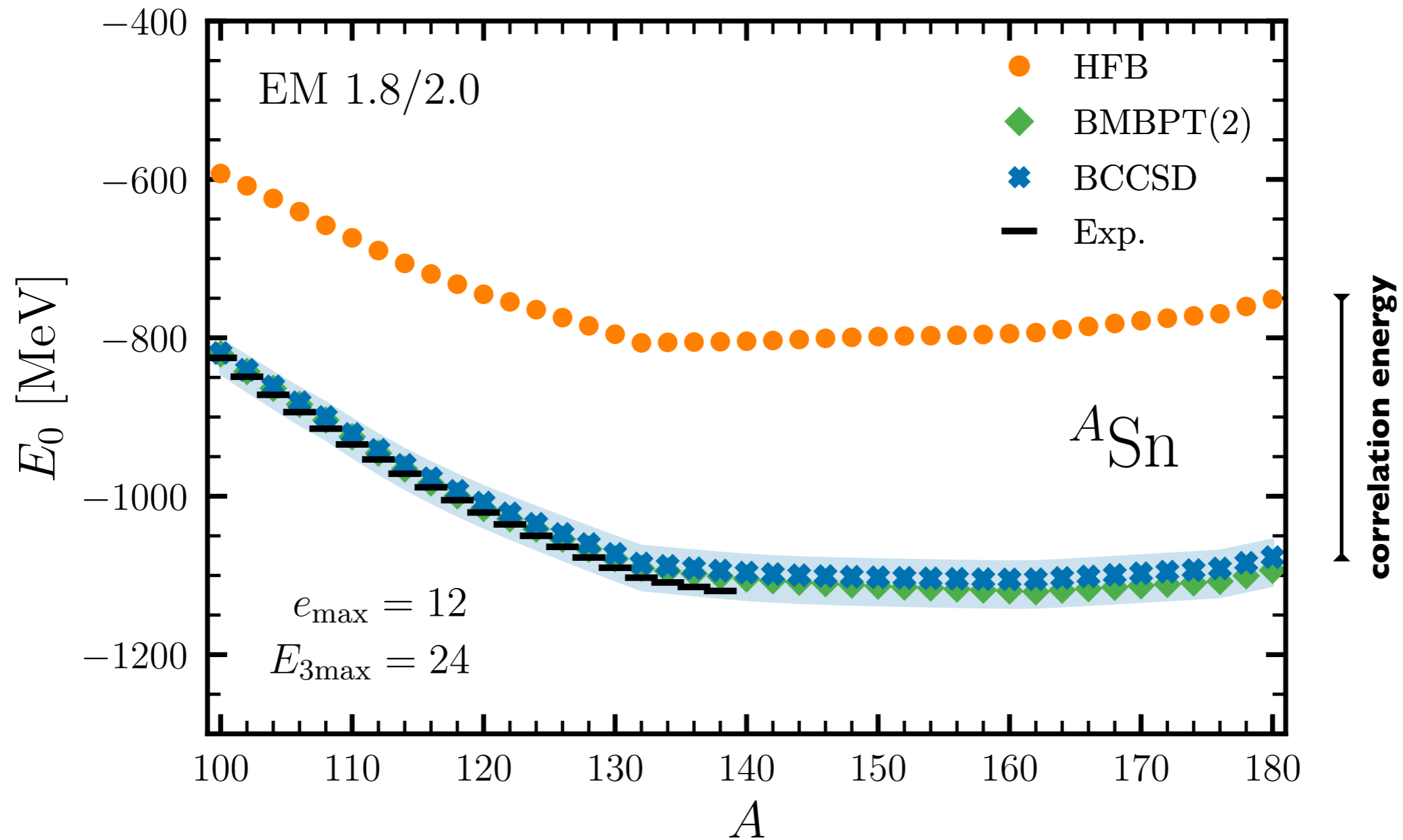


# Projected coupled-cluster theory



# Large-scale *ab initio* applications

Particle-number-broken many-body frameworks for open-shell nuclei

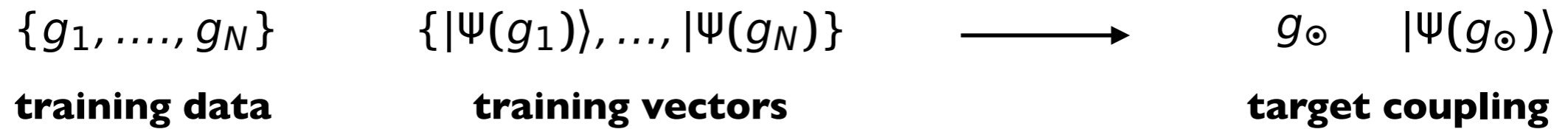


Tichai, Demol, Duguet, arXiv:2307.15619 (2023)

**No full projection yet!**

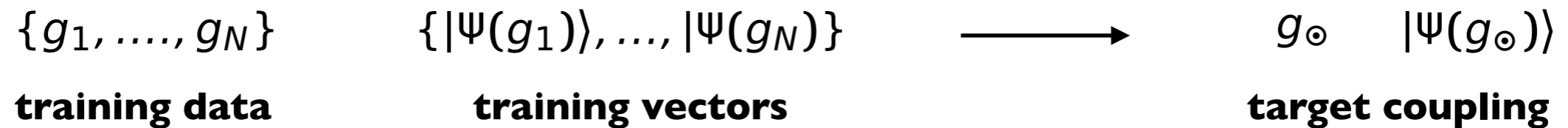
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- **Question:** can we emulate the many-body solution based on training data?



# Many-body emulators

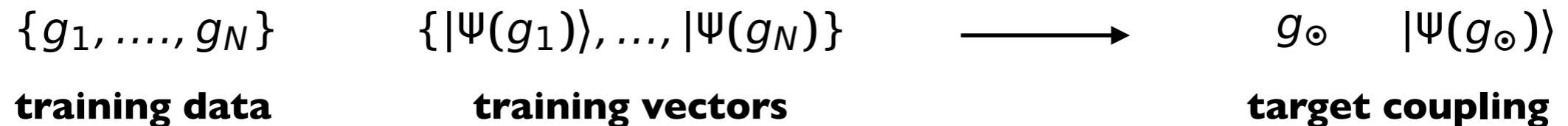
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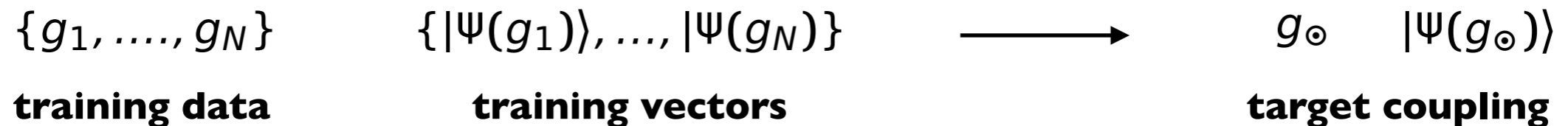


- **Eigenvector continuation:** systematic framework for emulation of observables
- **Generalized eigenvalue problem** in the basis of (non-orthogonal) training vectors

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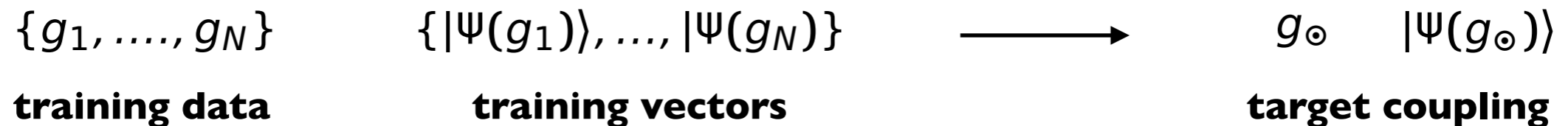
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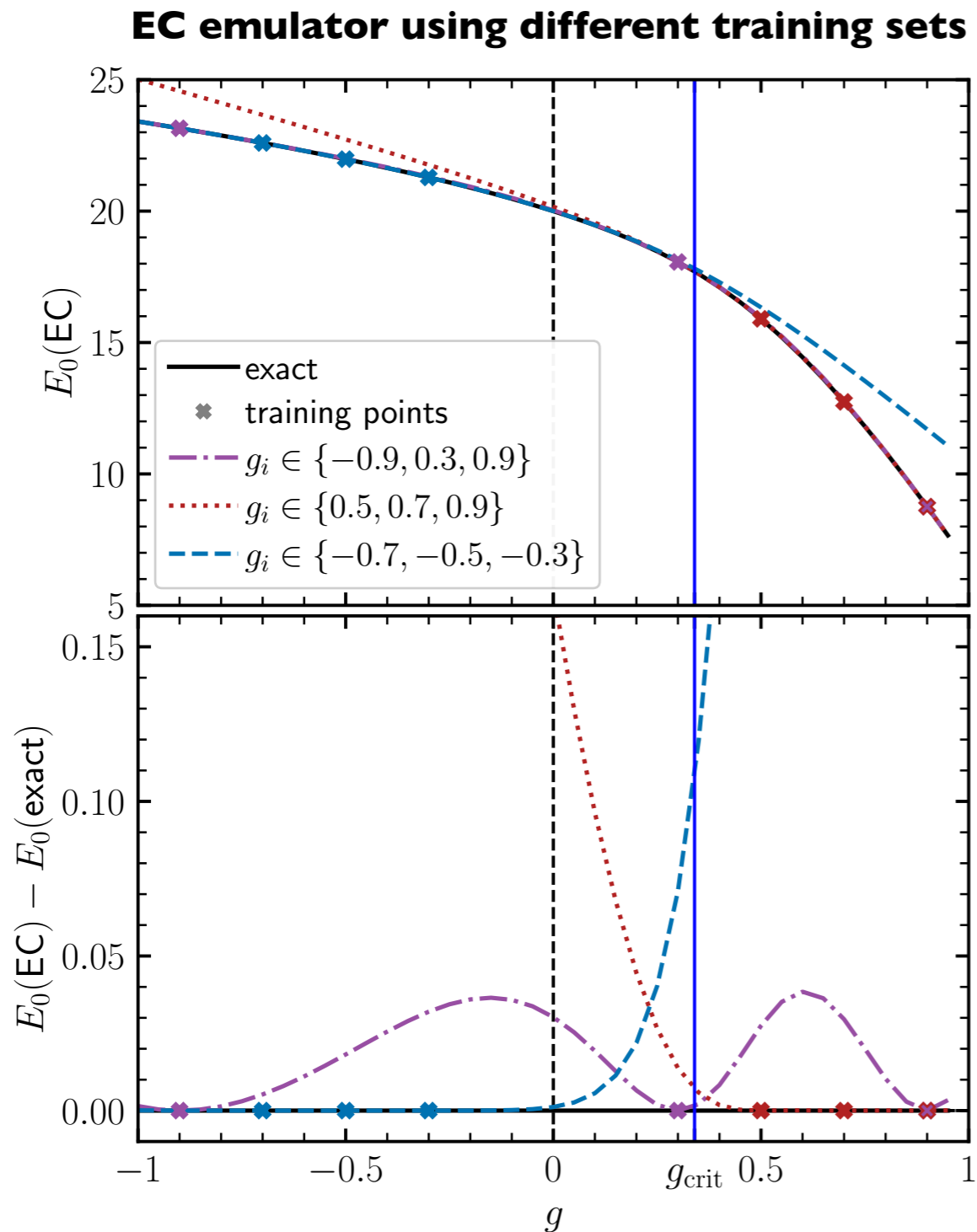
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- Hot topic: **emerging field in nuclear physics** with numerous applications

Duguet et al., arXiv:2310.19419 (2023)

# Performance of the EC emulator



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

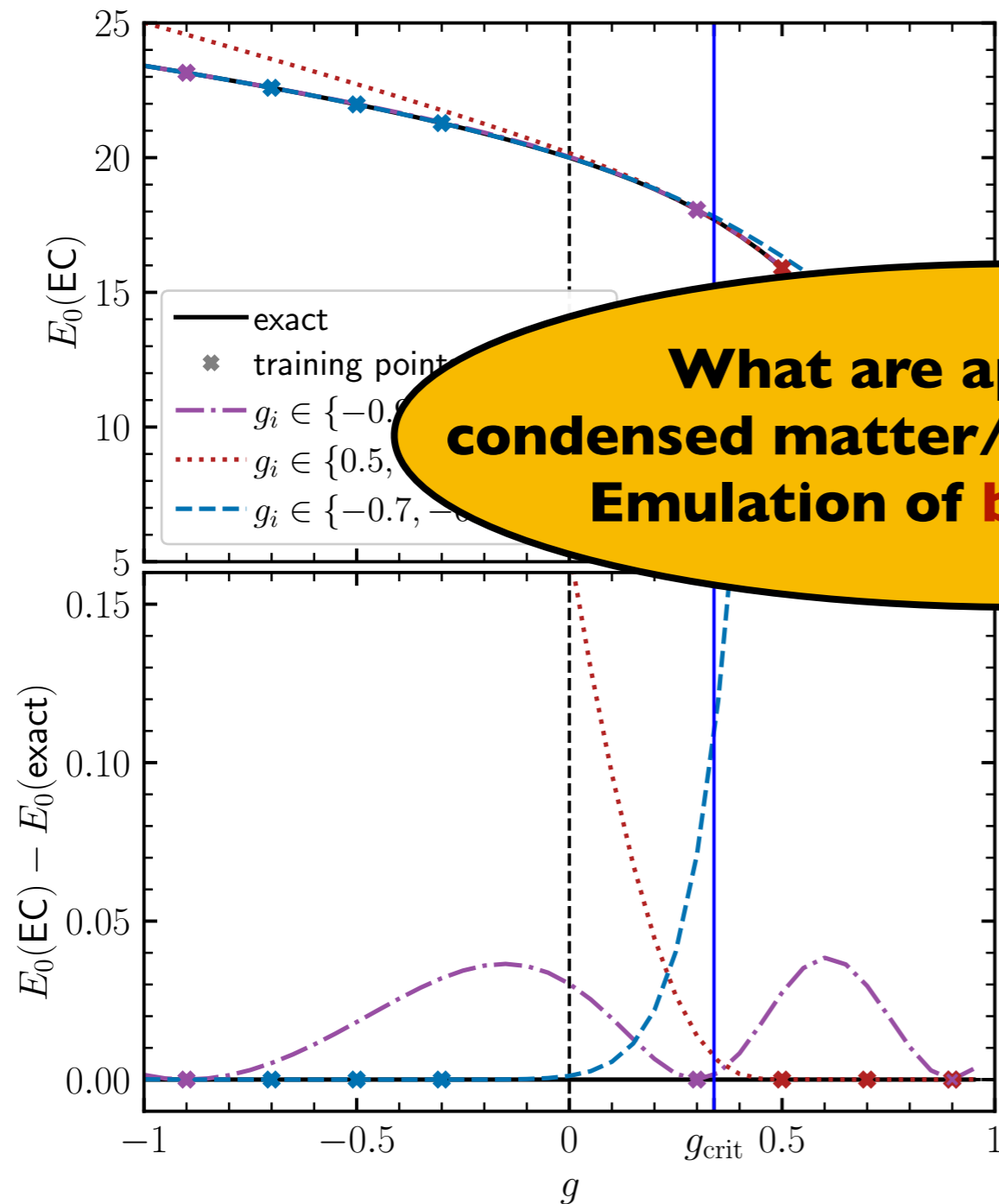
**Selection of appropriate training vectors crucial!**

Comanys Franzke, Tichai, Hebeler, Schwenk, PRC (2024)

similar study using DMRG:  
Baran, Nichita, PRB (2023)

# Performance of the EC emulator

EC emulator using different training sets



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

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

One-sided training manifolds are **not** **non-trained regime**  
One-sided training manifold yields **accurate prediction** for all couplings

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# Conclusions

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

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

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

---

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

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

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**Lesson:** Hartree-Fock

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

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