

# Spectroscopy of Conventional and Unconventional 2+1D Quantum Critical Points

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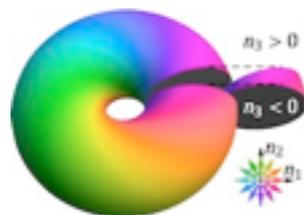


Support:



M. Schuler, S. Whitsitt, L.-P. Henry, S. Sachdev & AML  
 arXiv:1603:03042  
 to appear in PRL

L.-P. Henry, M. Schuler and AML  
 in preparation



“Topological Quantum Matter” Conference, KITP, 10/19/2016

# Outline of this talk

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- Torus Energy Spectra and CFT ?
- Spectrum of the standard 2+1D Ising transition (Ising)  
M. Schuler, S. Whittsitt, L.-P. Henry, S. Sachdev & AML  
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- Spectrum of the “ $Z_2$  confinement” transition (Ising\*)  
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- Spectrum of the 3D XY\* Transition  
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# Operator Spectrum

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- A local operator has a scaling dimension:

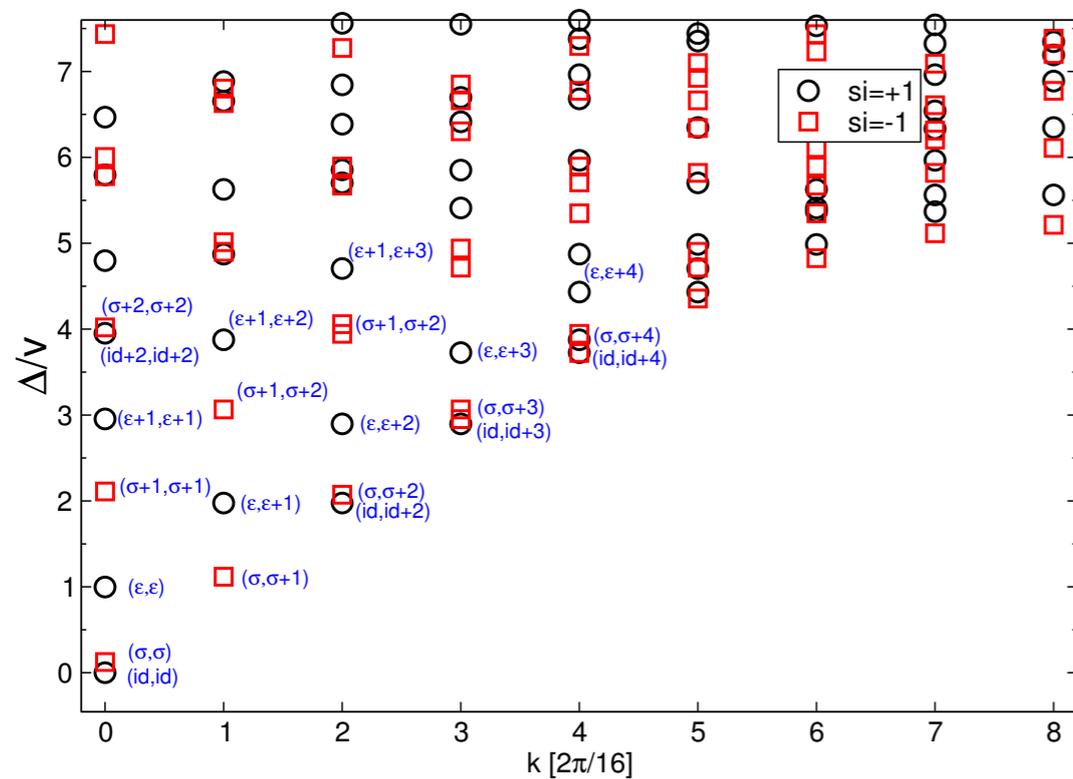
$$\mathcal{O}_i \rightarrow \Delta_i = \text{scaling dimension}$$

- The scaling dimension determines the decay of the 2-point correlation function:

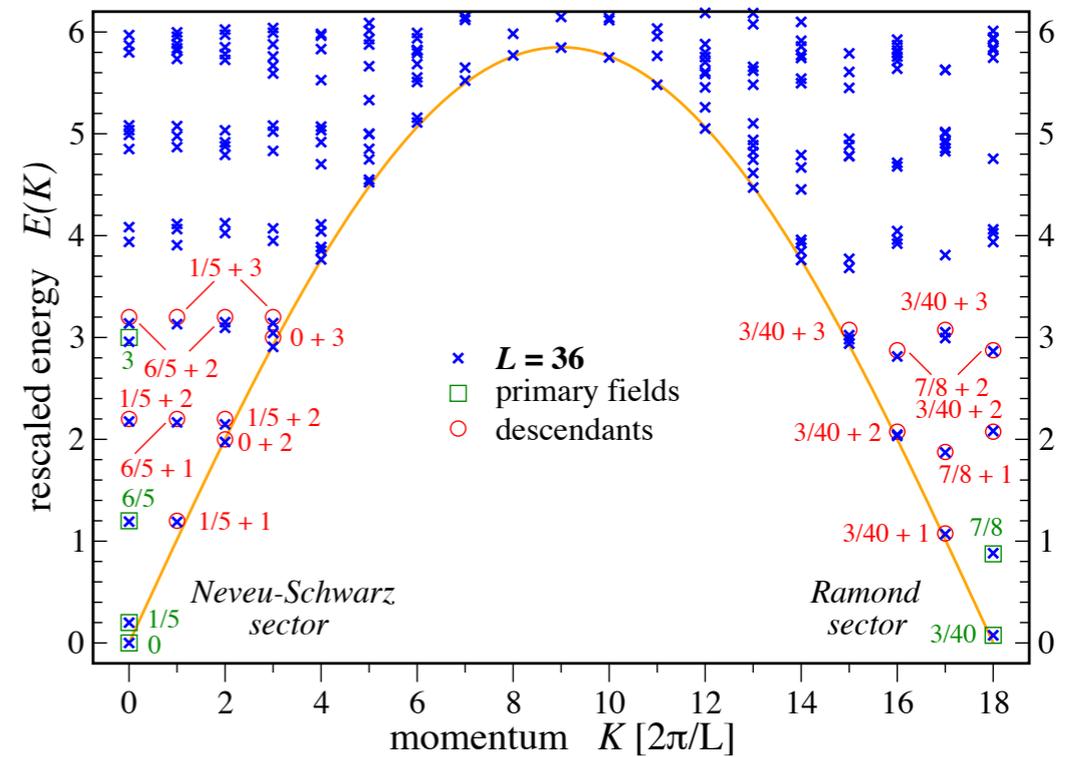
$$\langle \mathcal{O}_i(x) \mathcal{O}_i(0) \rangle = \frac{c}{|x|^{2\Delta_i}}$$

- It seems interesting and important to know the various fields with their corresponding scaling dimensions.
- Where can we find those in numerics ?

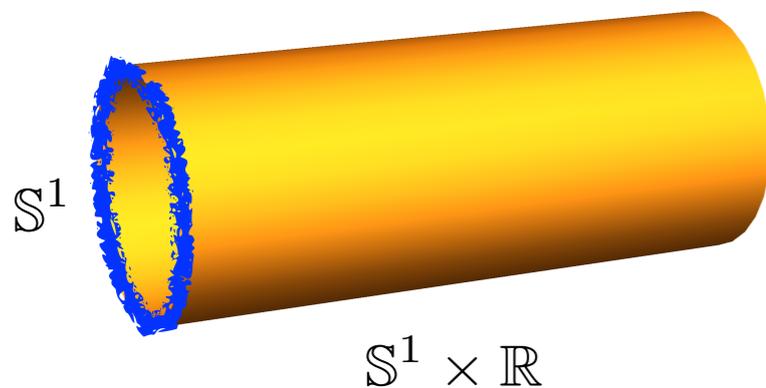
# 1D Torus (Circle) Energy Spectra



TFI chain  $L=16$   
2D Ising CFT Spectrum



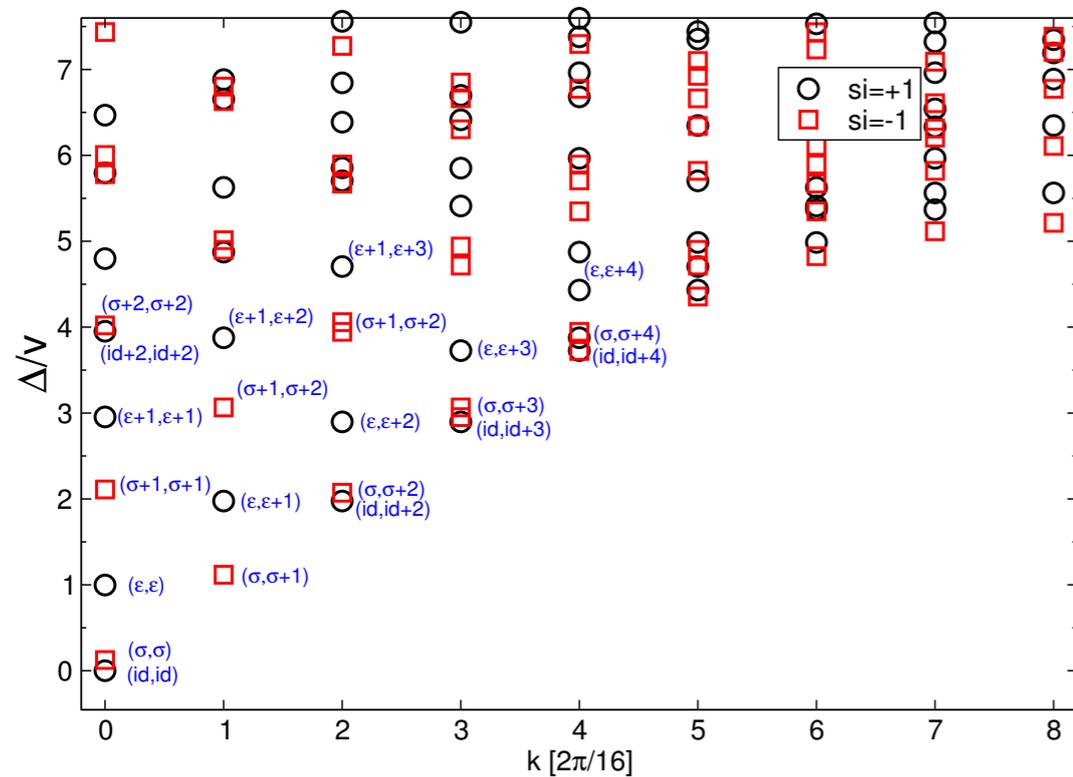
A. Feiguin et al. PRL 2007  
tricritical Ising CFT Spectrum in anyon chains



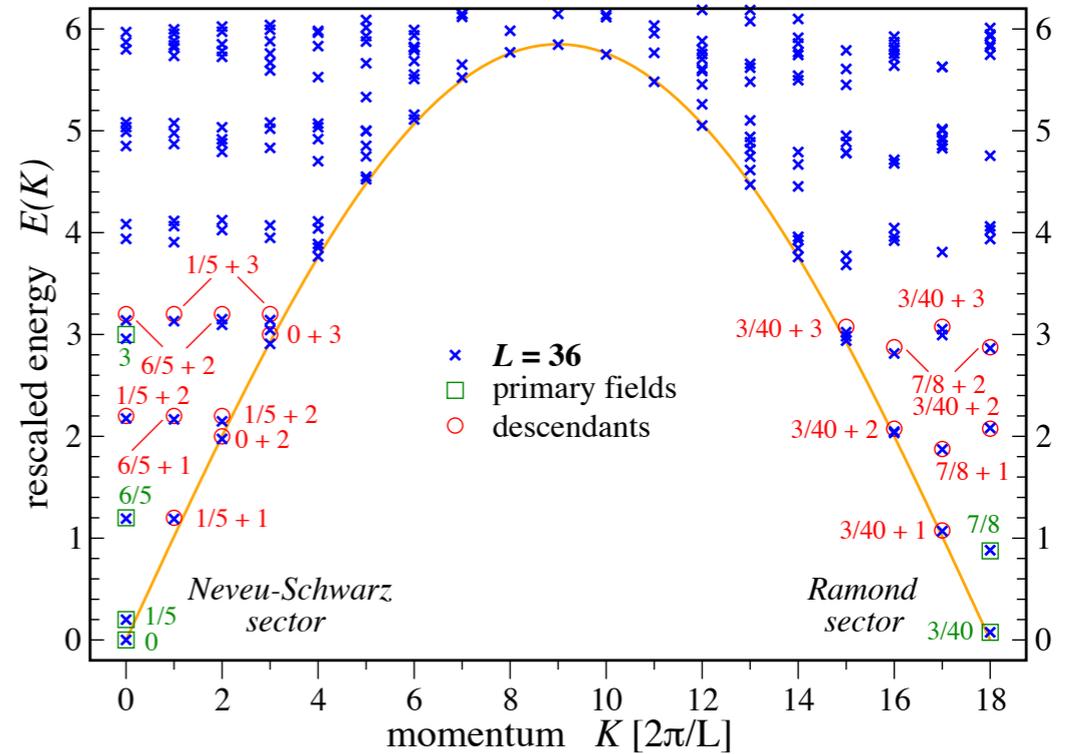
$$\mathbb{R}^2 \leftrightarrow S^1 \times \mathbb{R}$$

# 1D Torus (Circle) Energy Spectra

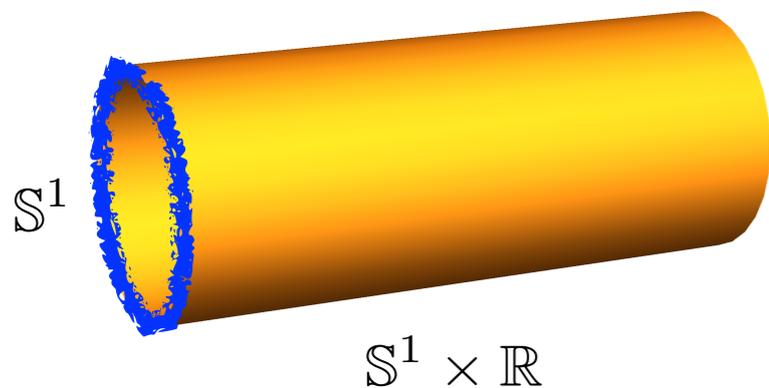
● For CFTs energy spectra of finite size (1+1D) systems arrange into conformal towers !



TFI chain  $L=16$   
2D Ising CFT Spectrum



A. Feiguin et al. PRL 2007  
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$$\mathbb{R}^2 \leftrightarrow S^1 \times \mathbb{R}$$

● Spectrum of scaling dimensions of CFT maps to Hamiltonian spectrum on a circle.

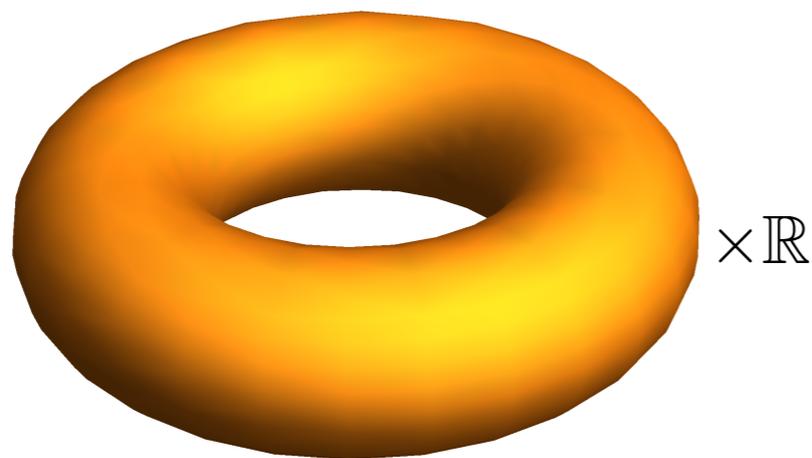
# Energy spectra and CFTs in more than 1+1D ?

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- In more than 1+1D, this relation does not hold for tori anymore, only for the sphere !

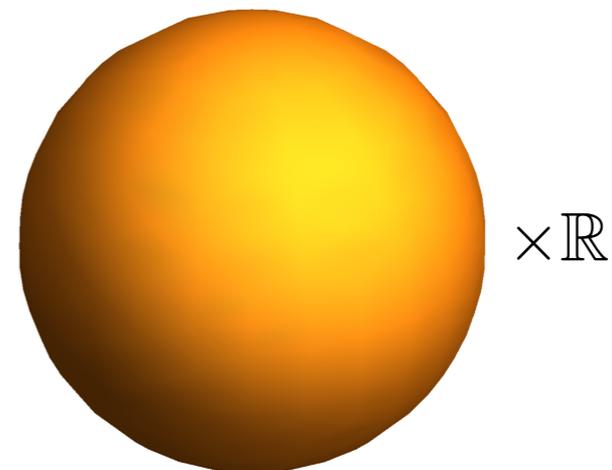
$$\mathbb{R}^d \leftrightarrow \mathcal{S}^{d-1} \times \mathbb{R} \quad (\neq \mathbb{T}^{d-1} \times \mathbb{R}, \quad d > 2)$$

- First mapping: radial quantisation, can reveal scaling dimension in higher  $d$ , but not easily accessible to numerics (although several efforts over the decades).



$$\mathbb{T}^2 \times \mathbb{R}$$

space x time



$$\mathbb{S}^2 \times \mathbb{R}$$

space x time

# Energy spectra and CFT in more than 1+1D ?

---

- In more than 1+1D, this is not expected to hold anymore for tori !

$$\mathbb{R}^d \leftrightarrow \mathcal{S}^{d-1} \times \mathbb{R} \quad (\neq \mathbb{T}^{d-1} \times \mathbb{R}, \quad d > 2)$$

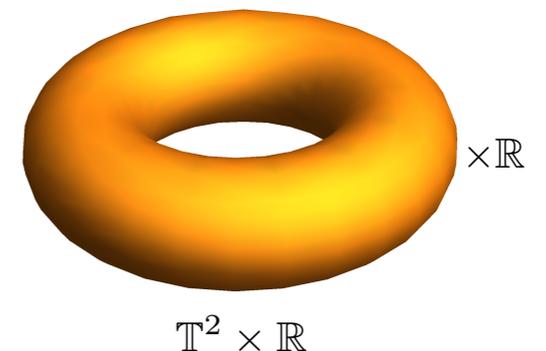
- First mapping: radial quantization, can reveal scaling dimension in higher  $d$ , but not easily accessible to numerics (although several efforts over the decades).

- What about energy spectra on tori, which are numerically accessible?

- Is there a universal low-energy spectrum (and is it accessible numerically) ?

- How does it look like ?

- Any analogy to the spectrum of scaling dimensions ?



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## 2+1D “standard” Ising CFT

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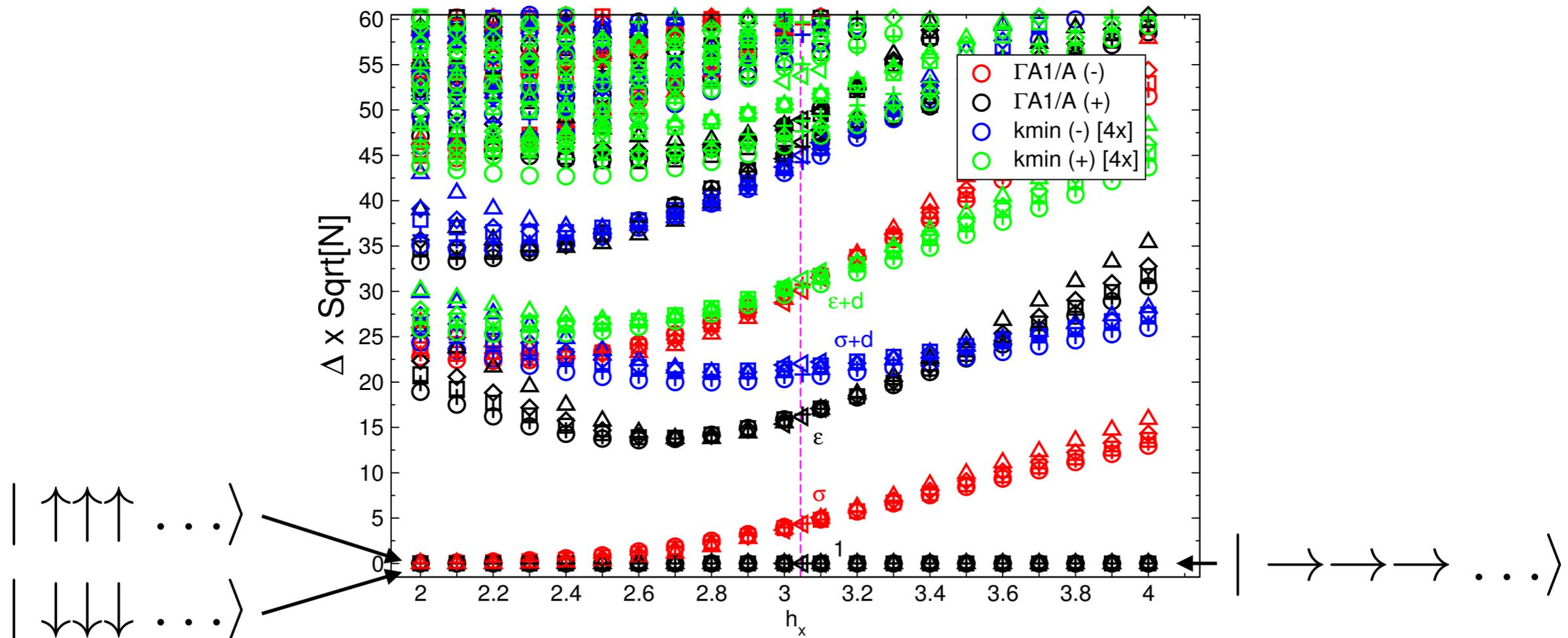
- We want to investigate the torus energy spectrum at a quantum critical point.
- While we do not expect to find the exact spectrum of scaling dimensions, the spectrum is still expected to be universal, i.e. UV cutoff independent.
- The spectrum could however depend on the IR-cutoff (shape of torus) (c.f. “hearing the shape of the drum”)
- We start with a  $Z_2$  symmetry breaking transition, and consider the transverse field Ising (TFI) model as a particular microscopic realization

$$H_{\text{TFI}} = -J \sum_{\langle i,j \rangle} \sigma_i^z \sigma_j^z - h \sum_i \sigma_i^x$$

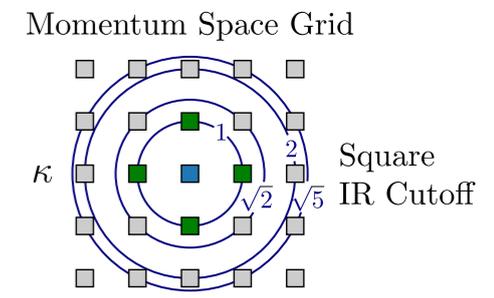
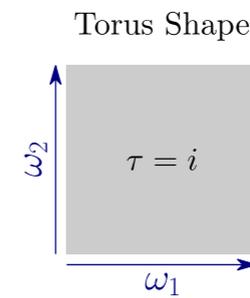
# “Raw” energy spectrum across the transition

- small field: approx. 2-fold degeneracy due to  $Z_2$ -symmetry breaking.
- large field: unique ground state in paramagnetic phase.

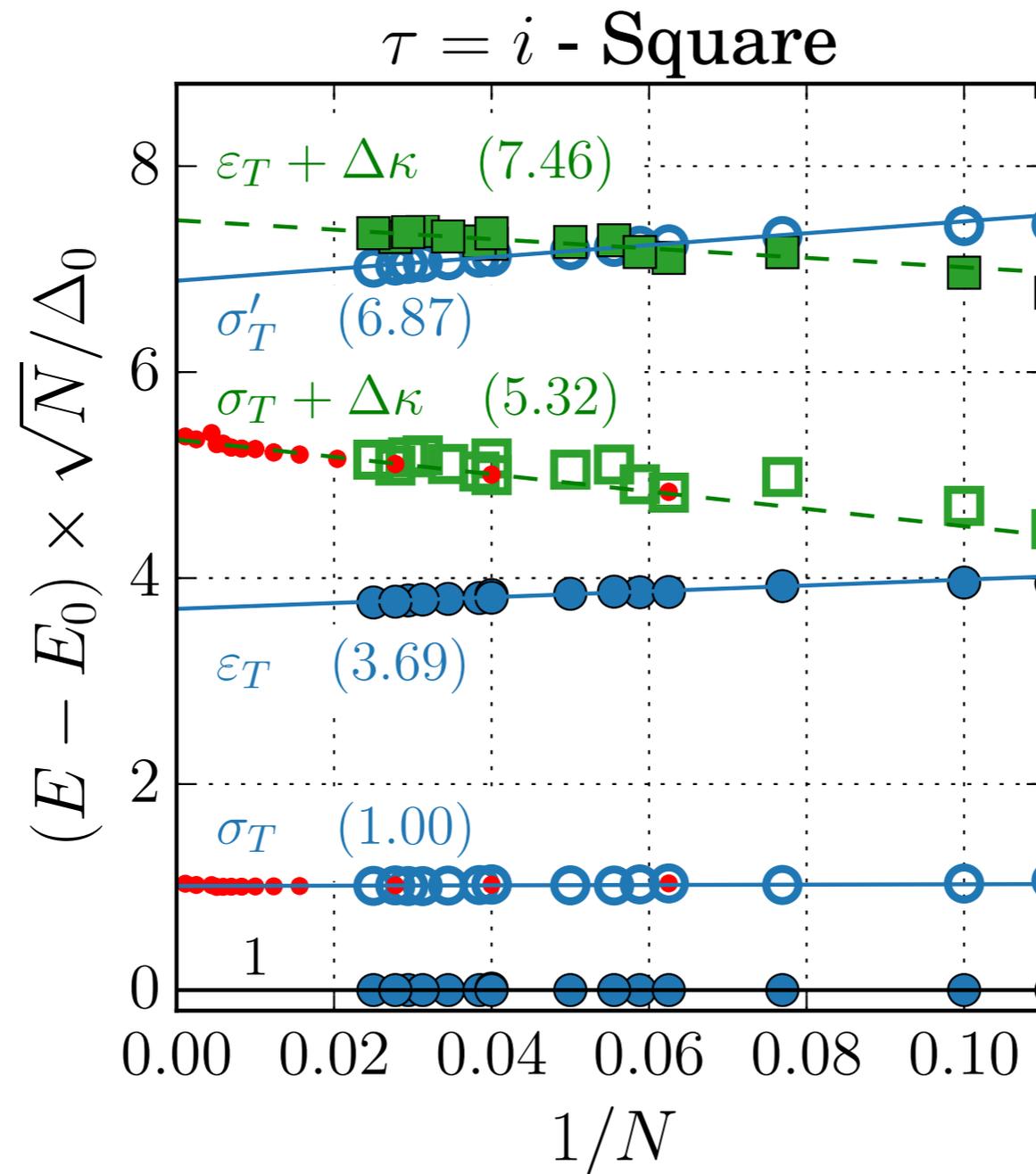
TFI Spectrum Square Lattice



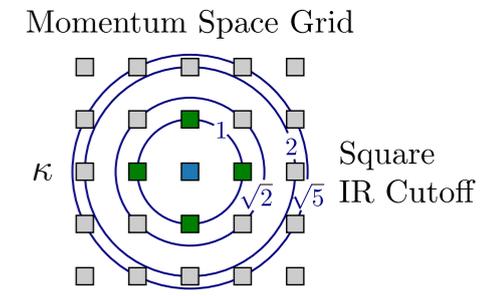
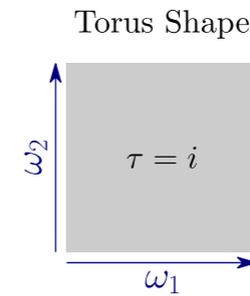
# Detailed finite size scaling



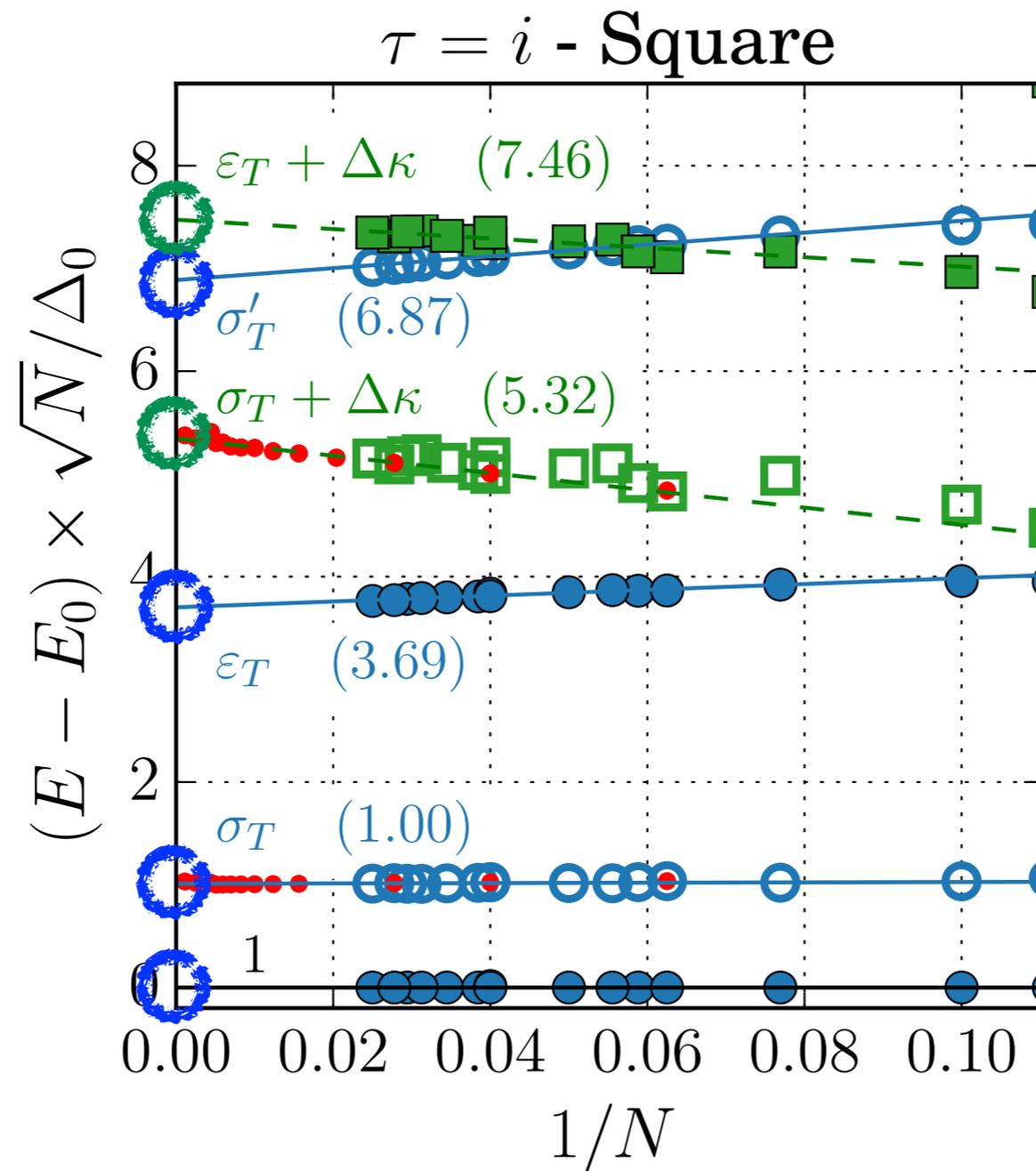
- Square lattice at critical transverse field  $h_c$ :



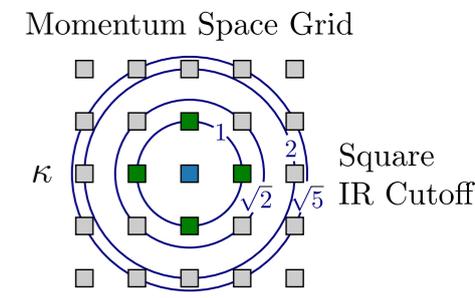
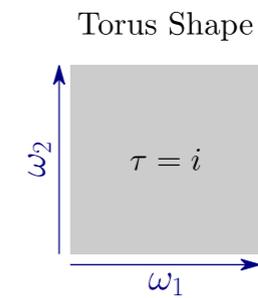
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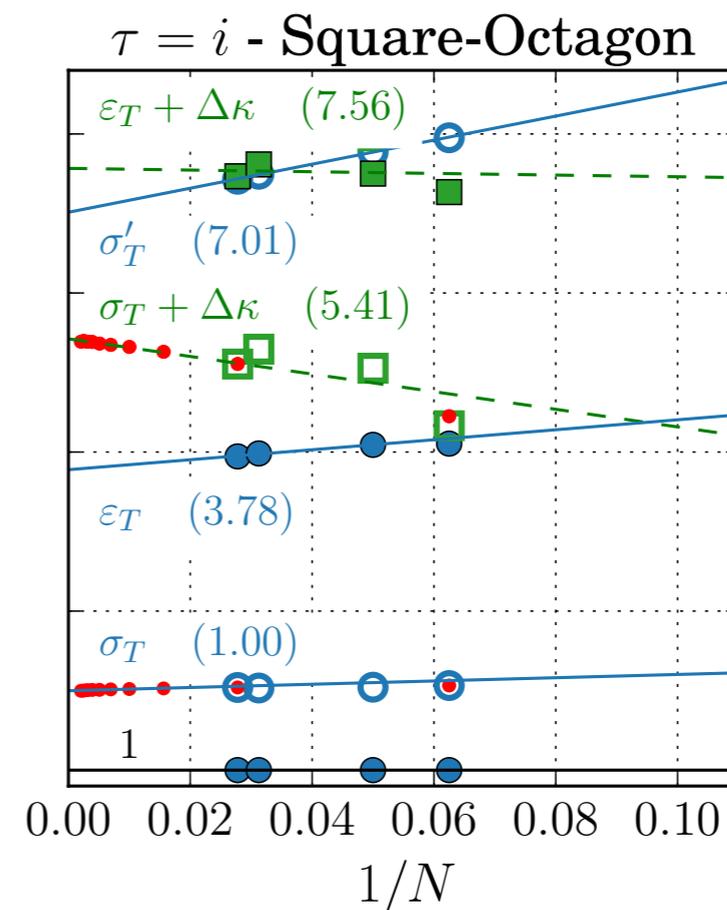
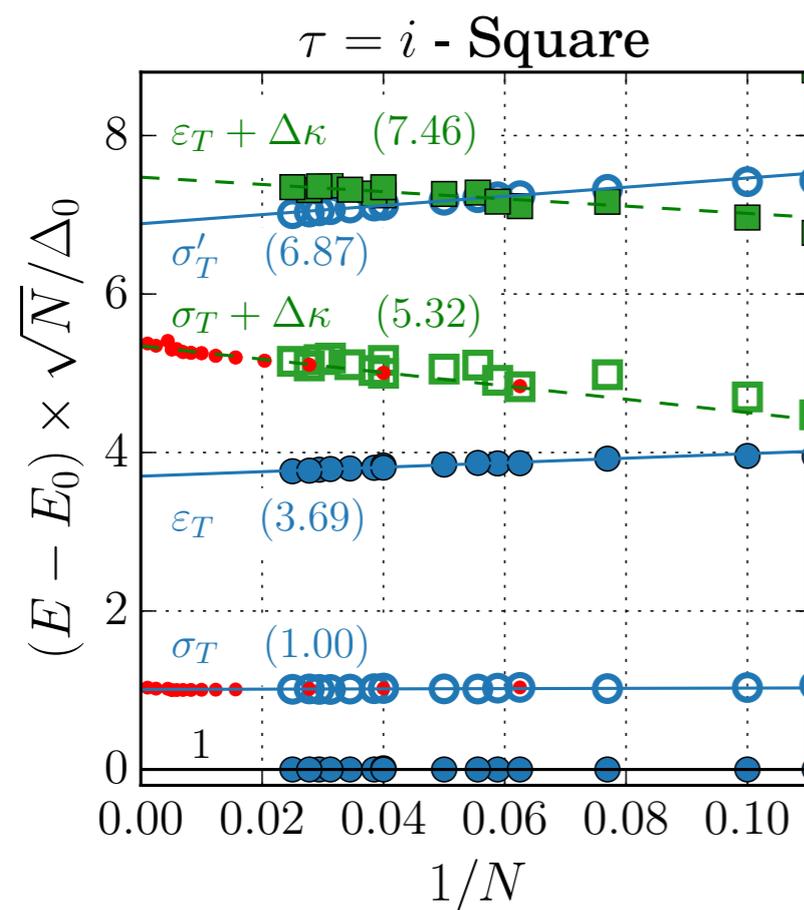
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# Comparison with a different lattice

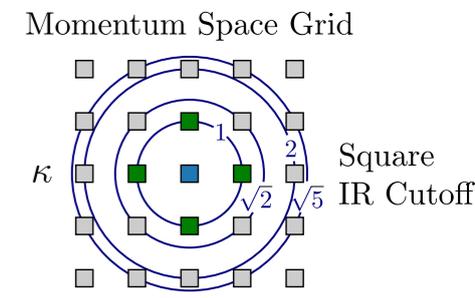
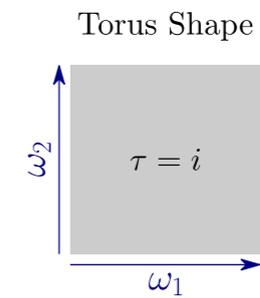


- Square lattice and Square-Octagon lattice at their critical point:

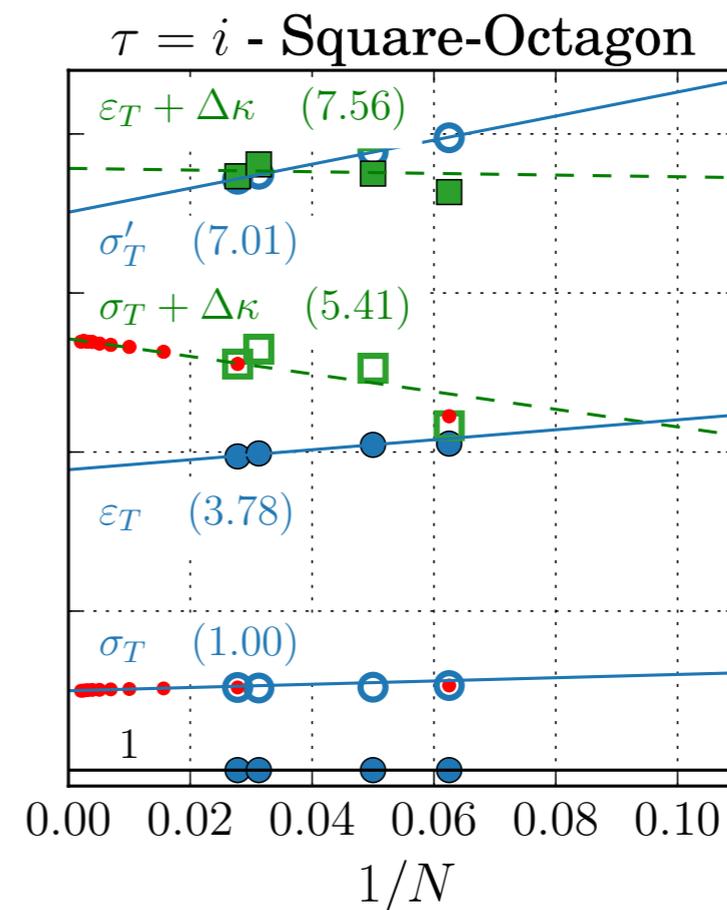
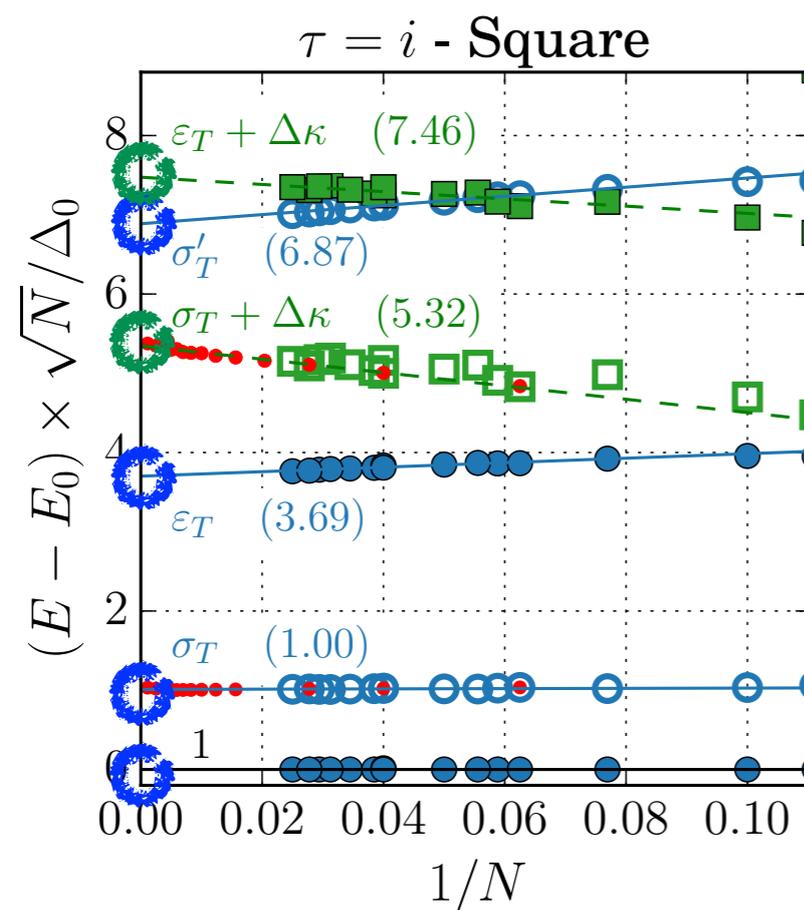


- The spectra are identical after finite-size extrapolation!  
This is thus the genuine Ising CFT spectrum on a **square** torus !

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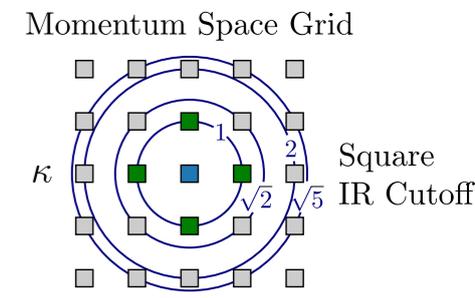
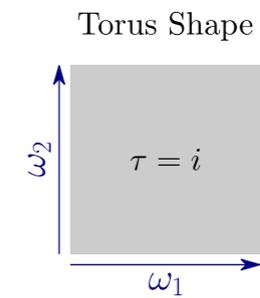


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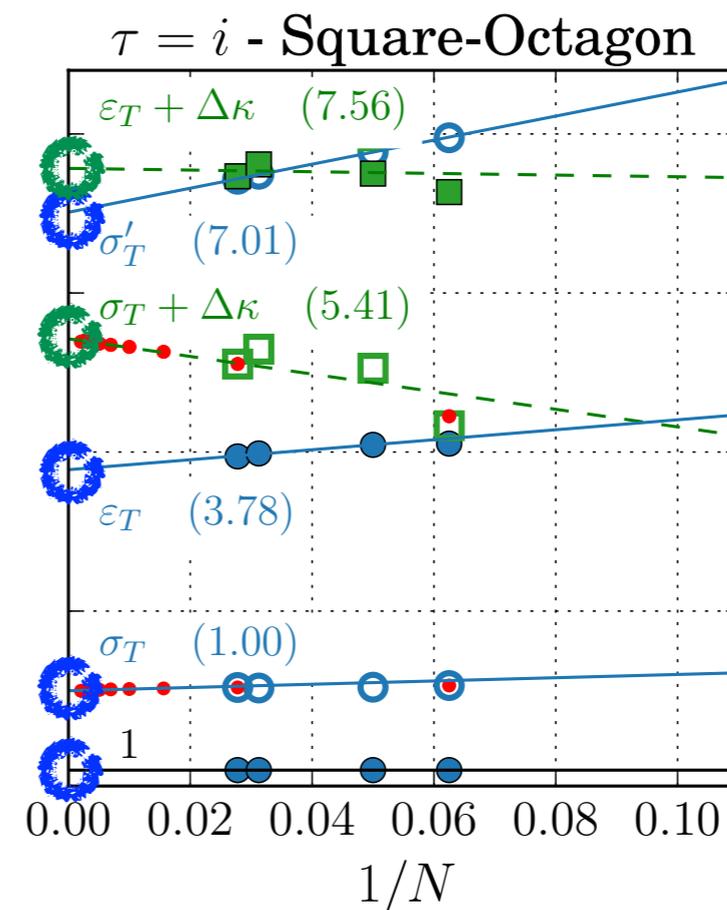
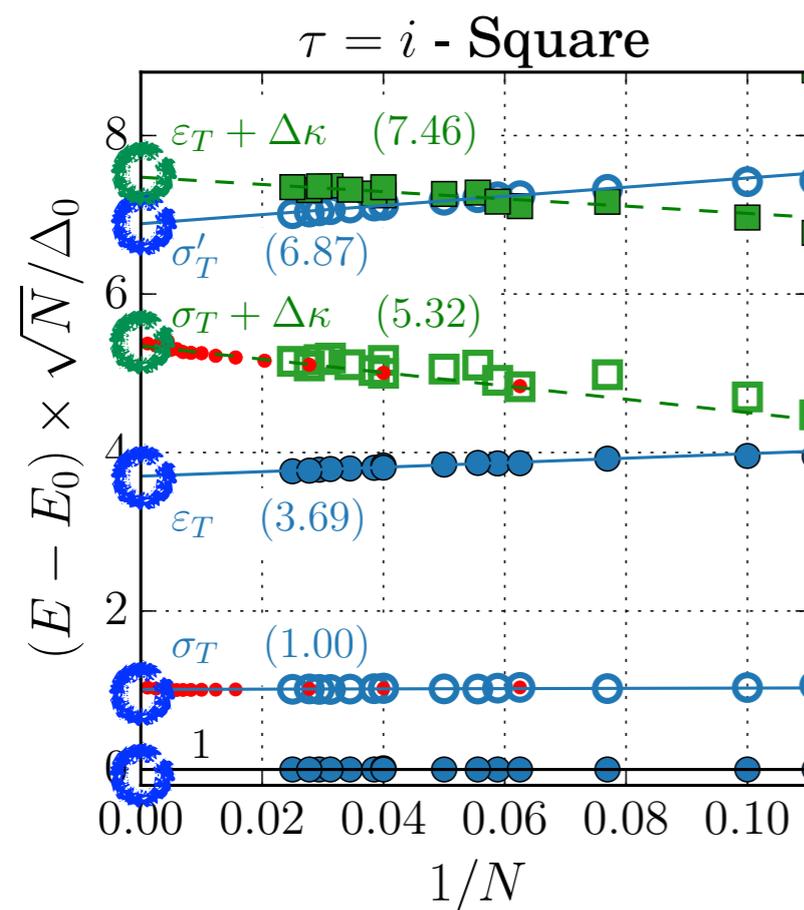


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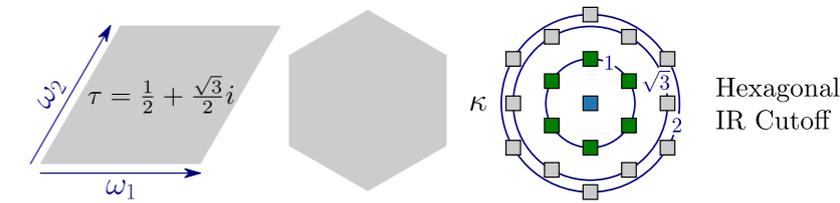
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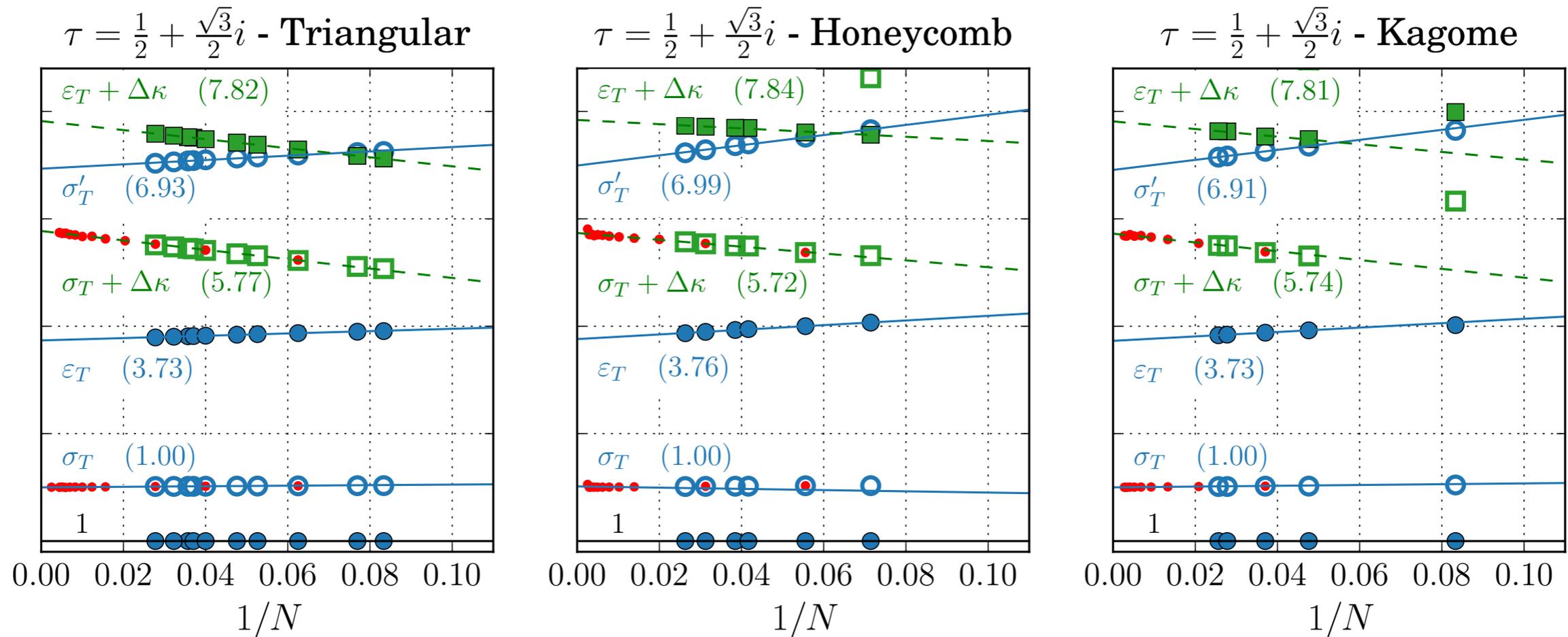


- The spectra are identical after finite-size extrapolation!  
This is thus the genuine Ising CFT spectrum on a **square** torus !



# Comparison with different modular parameter

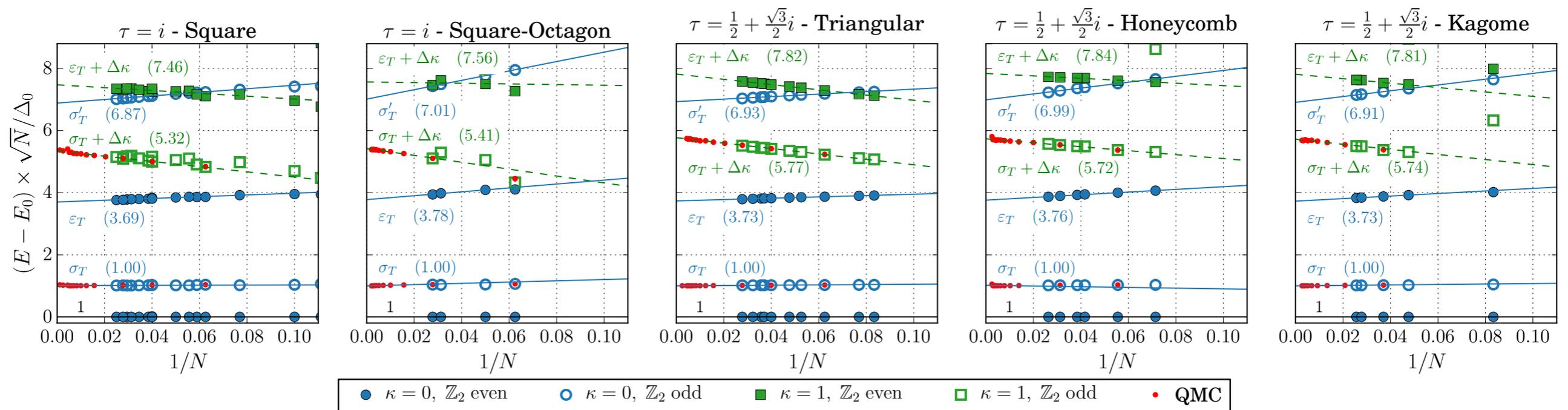
- Triangular, honeycomb and kagome lattice at their critical point:



- The spectra are identical after finite-size extrapolation!  
This is thus the genuine Ising CFT spectrum on a **hexagonal** torus !

# Comparing the different geometries

- The “square” and the “hexagonal” tori have a slightly different spectrum.



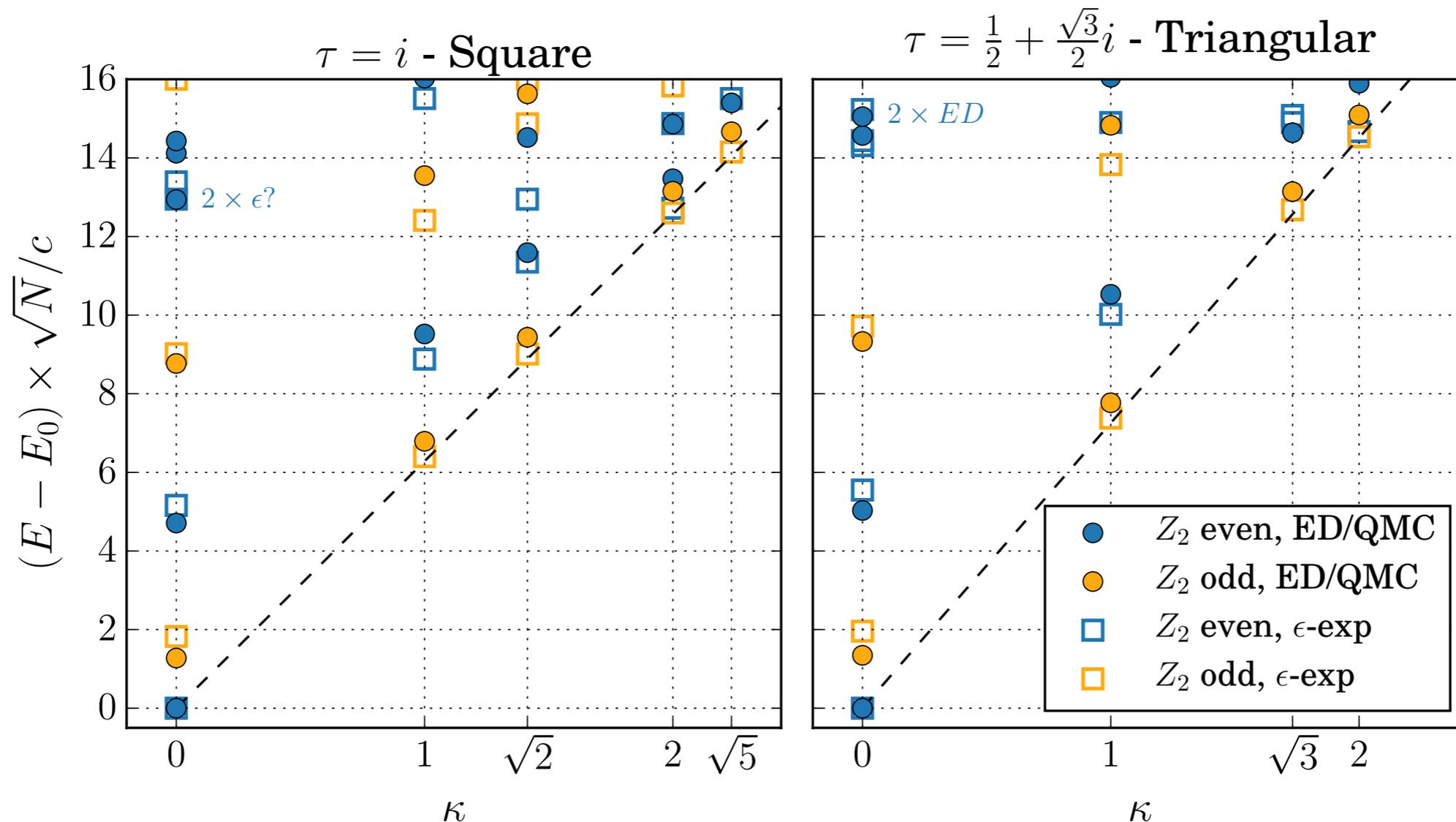
- The spectrum we see is the torus spectrum of the CFT describing the critical point.

# Analytical approach: (4-epsilon)-expansion

- Work done by S. Withsett and S. Sachdev. Lowest non-trivial order in epsilon.

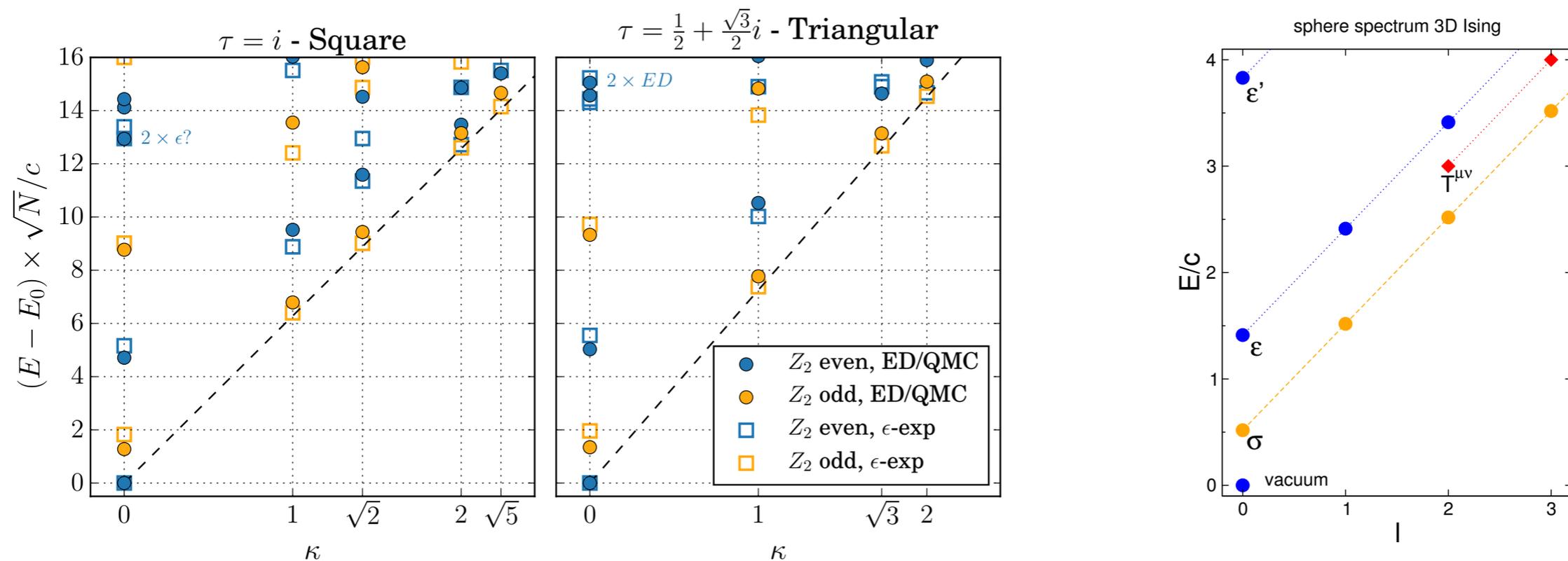
$$\mathcal{H} = \int d^d x \left[ \frac{1}{2} \Pi^2 + \frac{1}{2} (\nabla \phi)^2 + \frac{s}{2} \phi^2 + \frac{u}{4!} \phi^4 \right]$$

- Rather good agreement between analytics and numerics.



# Comparison between torus and sphere spectra

- Torus spectra at low energy per sector resemble the spectrum on the sphere:



- We believe this handwaving resemblance might be more generally the case: “light states on the sphere have a light analogon on the torus”

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# Confinement transition

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- $Z_2$  spin liquids are rather fashionable these days.
- They are phases with a four-fold ground state degeneracy on a torus, but the degeneracy is topological, and not related to symmetry breaking.
- One of the simplest incarnations of this phase appears in the Toric Code model by Kitaev.
- By an appropriate perturbation the topological phase (“deconfined”) gives way to a simple paramagnetic phase (“confined”). The transition is a confinement transition and is expected to be in the  $2+1D = 3D$  Ising universality class.
- Q: Is the torus spectrum at criticality identical to the symmetry breaking case ?

# Toric code in a magnetic field

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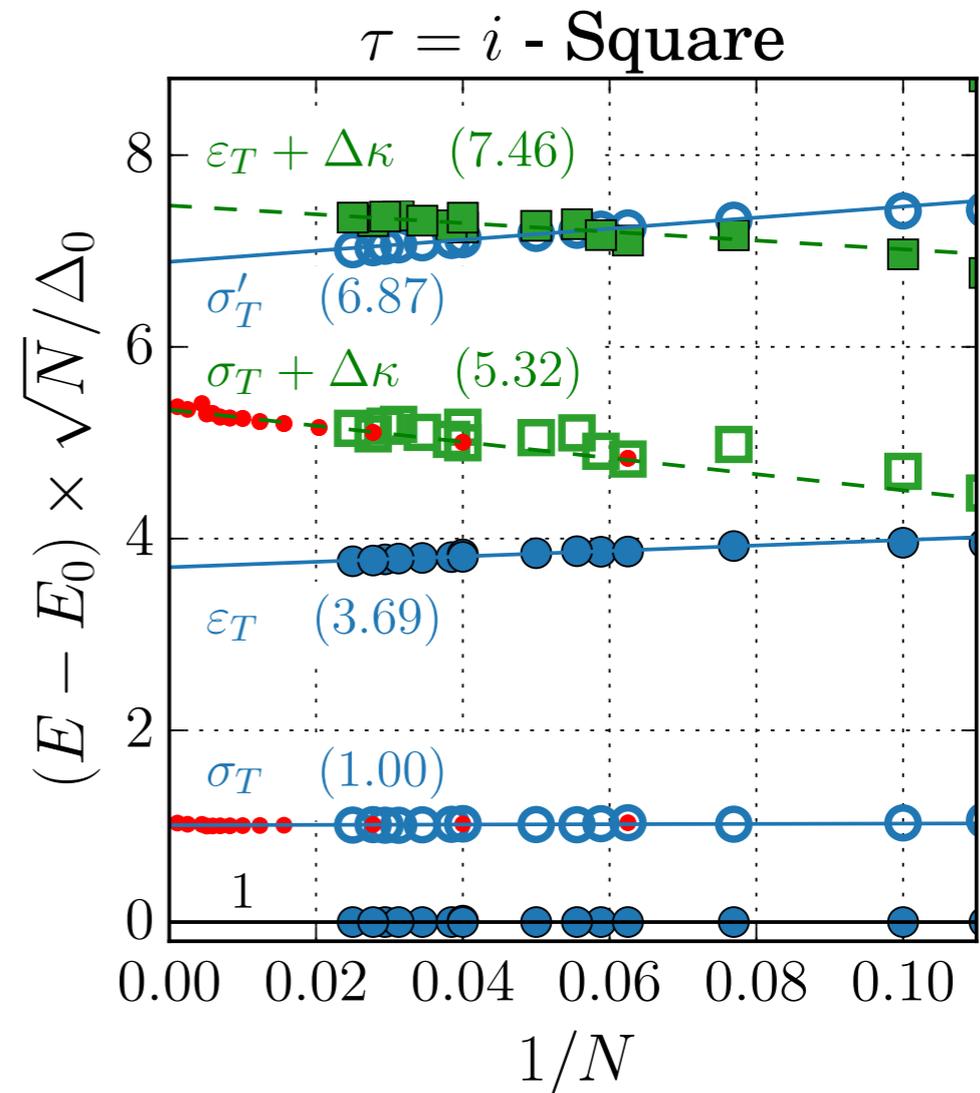
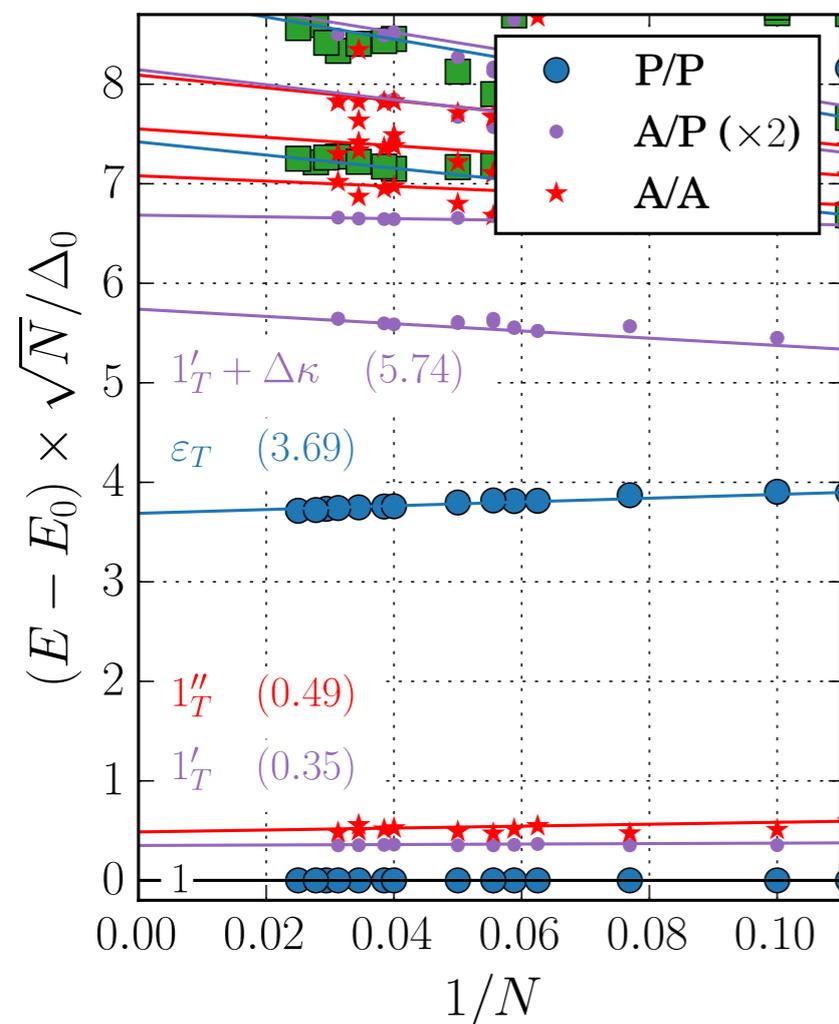
- We study the following microscopic model (but results will be independent of model):
- Toric code with a longitudinal magnetic field (S. Trebst et al., ...):

$$H = -J \sum_s A_s - J \sum_p B_p - h \sum_i \sigma_i^x$$

$$A_s = \prod_{i \in s} \sigma_i^x, \quad B_p = \prod_{i \in p} \sigma_i^z$$

# Numerics at criticality

- Left: data for the TC at criticality, Right: Symmetry breaking



- The spectra at criticality do not agree ! What is going on ?

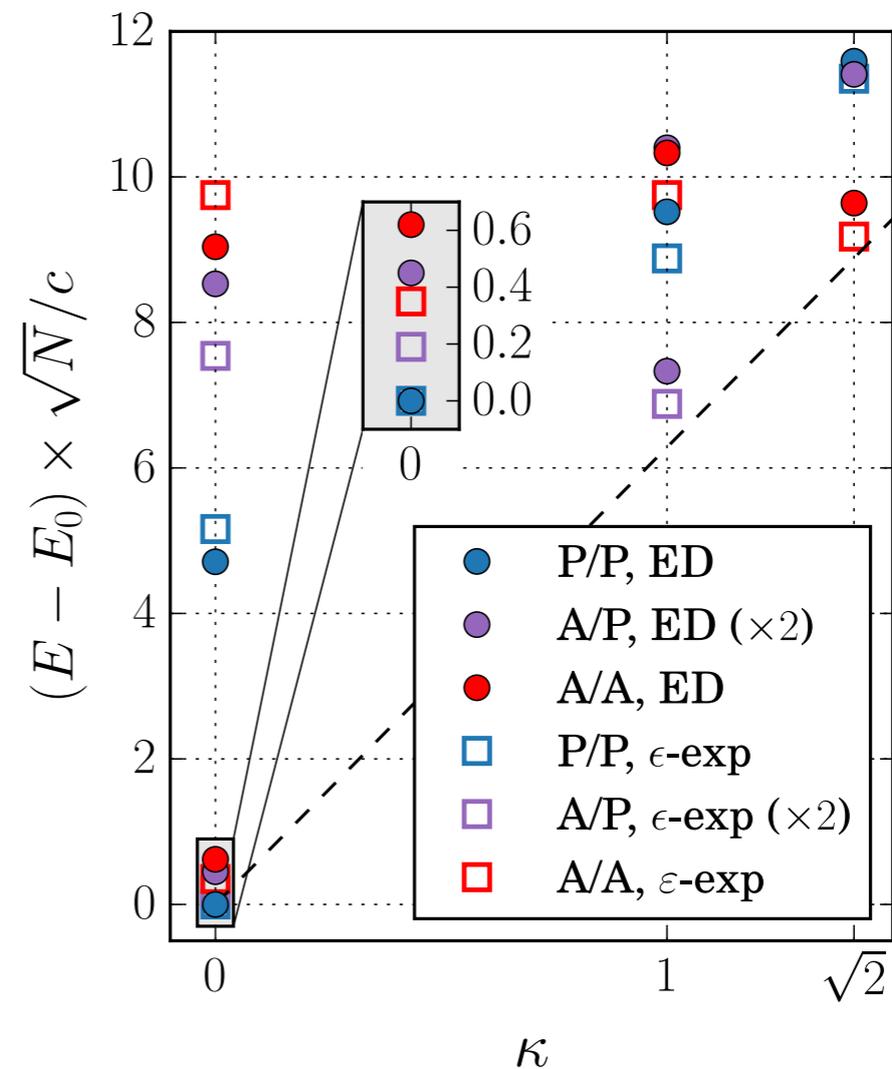
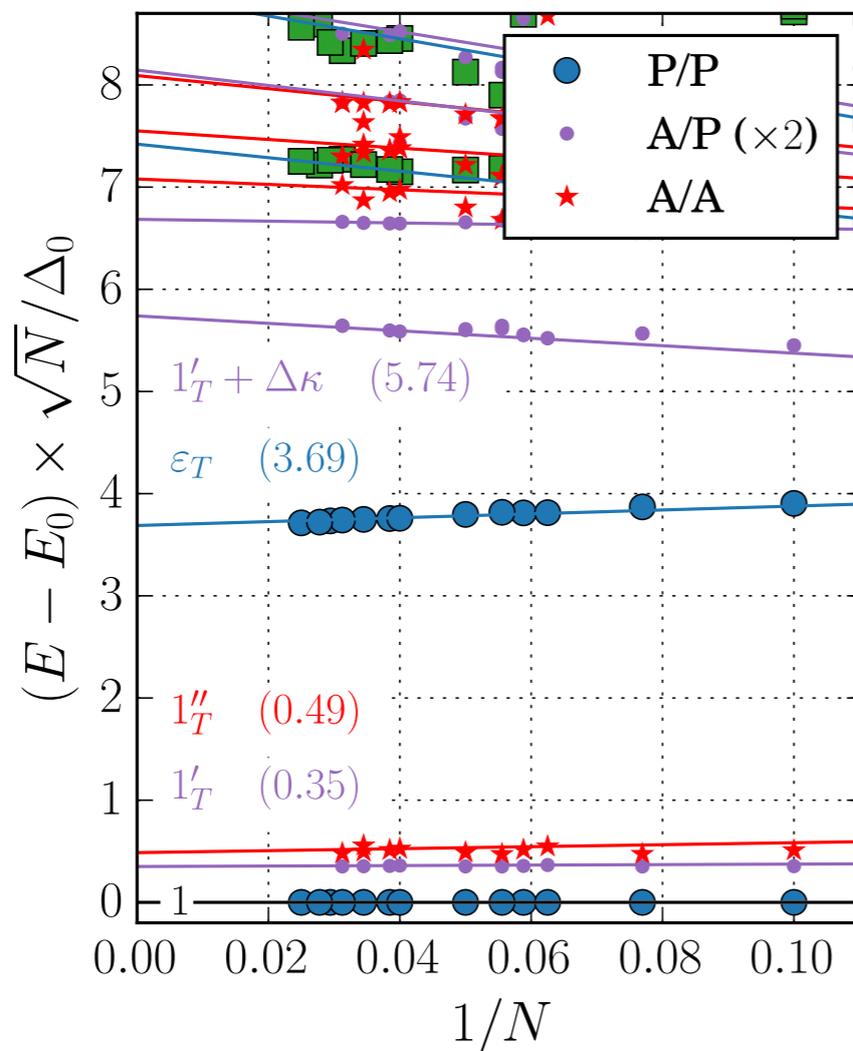
# The Ising\* transition

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- The explanation is that the operator content of the two transitions are different:
- In the  $Z_2$  symmetry breaking case we have  $Z_2$  even and odd levels and only one set of boundary conditions (fixed by the lattice model).
- In the confinement transition (Ising\*), only  $Z_2$  even levels are allowed, and for periodic boundary conditions in the Toric Code, four different boundary conditions of the CFT become simultaneously apparent.
- This can be understood at the microscopic level in the Toric Code Hamiltonian and is supported by general field theoretical considerations.
- In the Ising\* case the magnetic sector is completely absent, and the torus energy spectrum reflects this fact.

# The Ising\* transition

- comparison between numerics and epsilon-expansion:
- At criticality the 4 “topological sectors” scale also as  $1/L$ , but are much closer together than the next level above them.



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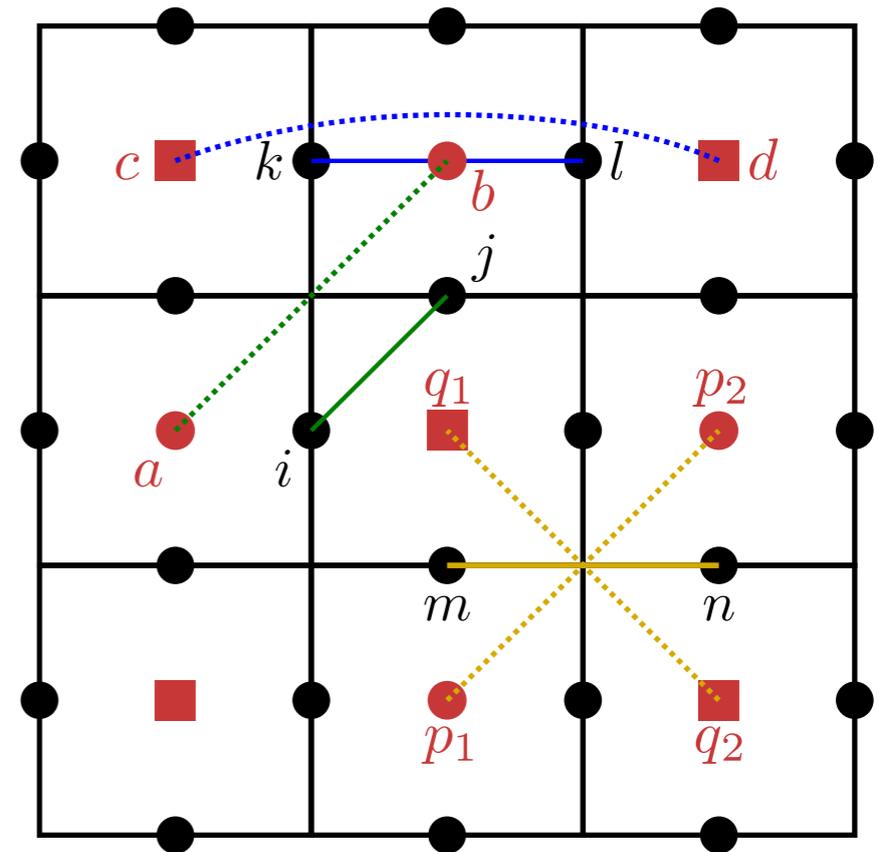
# Toric code with Ising interactions

- Want to study a possible quantum phase transition between  $Z_2$  topological order and spontaneous global  $Z_2$  symmetry breaking.
- Toric code plus additional Ising interactions:

$$H = -J \sum_s A_s - J \sum_p B_p$$

$$-J_I \sum_{\langle i,j \rangle} \sigma_i^x \sigma_j^x - J_{I_2} \sum_{\langle\langle i,j \rangle\rangle} \sigma_i^x \sigma_j^x$$

$$A_s = \prod_{i \in s} \sigma_i^x \quad B_p = \prod_{i \in p} \sigma_i^z$$



$$\sigma_i^x \sigma_j^x \rightarrow 2\mu_a^x \mu_b^x$$

$$\sigma_k^x \sigma_l^x \rightarrow \mu_c^x \mu_d^x$$

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# Toric code with Ising interactions

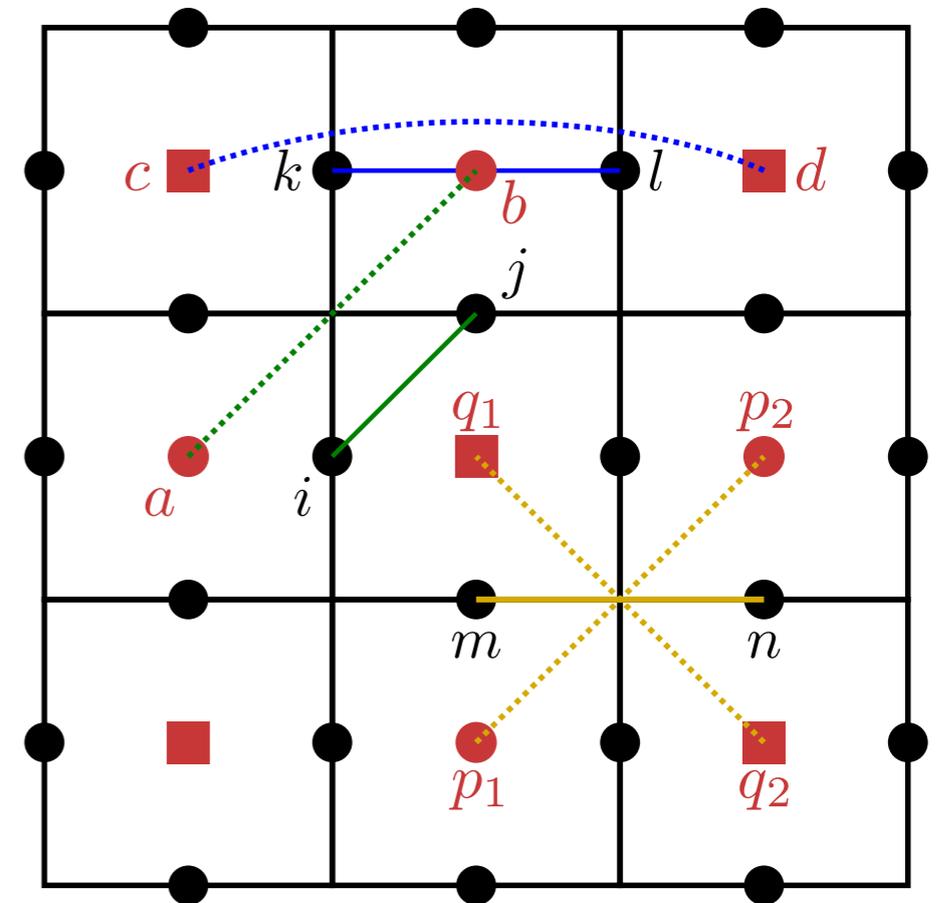
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 \end{aligned}$$

- Maps onto a particular 2+1D quantum Ashkin-Teller model:

$$\begin{aligned}
 H_{AT} &= -J \sum_i \mu_i^z - 2J_I \sum_{\langle\langle i,j \rangle\rangle} \mu_i^x \mu_j^x - J_{I_2} \sum_{\langle\langle\langle i,j \rangle\rangle\rangle} \mu_i^x \mu_j^x \\
 &\quad - 2J_{I_2} \sum_i \mu_i^x \mu_{i+\hat{x}}^x \mu_{i+\hat{y}}^x \mu_{i+\hat{x}+\hat{y}}^x \quad (A6)
 \end{aligned}$$

- This model has a two checkerboard lattice spatial structure, yielding the two AT-sublattices



$$\sigma_i^x \sigma_j^x \rightarrow 2\mu_a^x \mu_b^x$$

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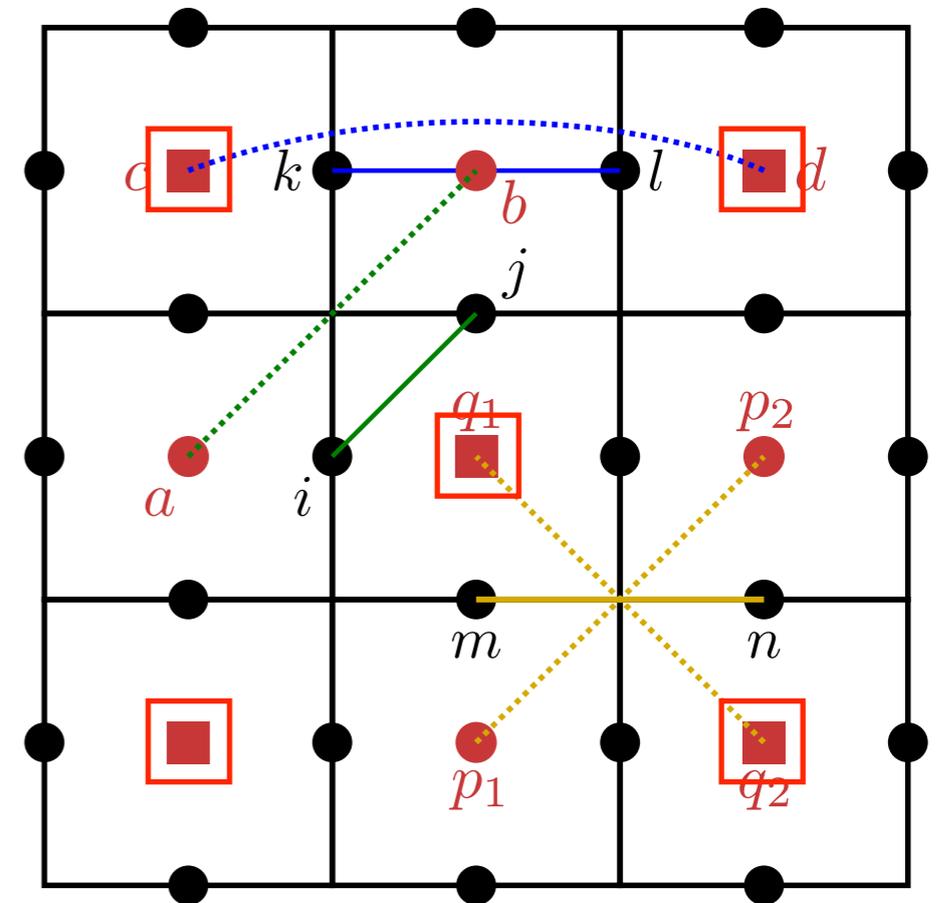
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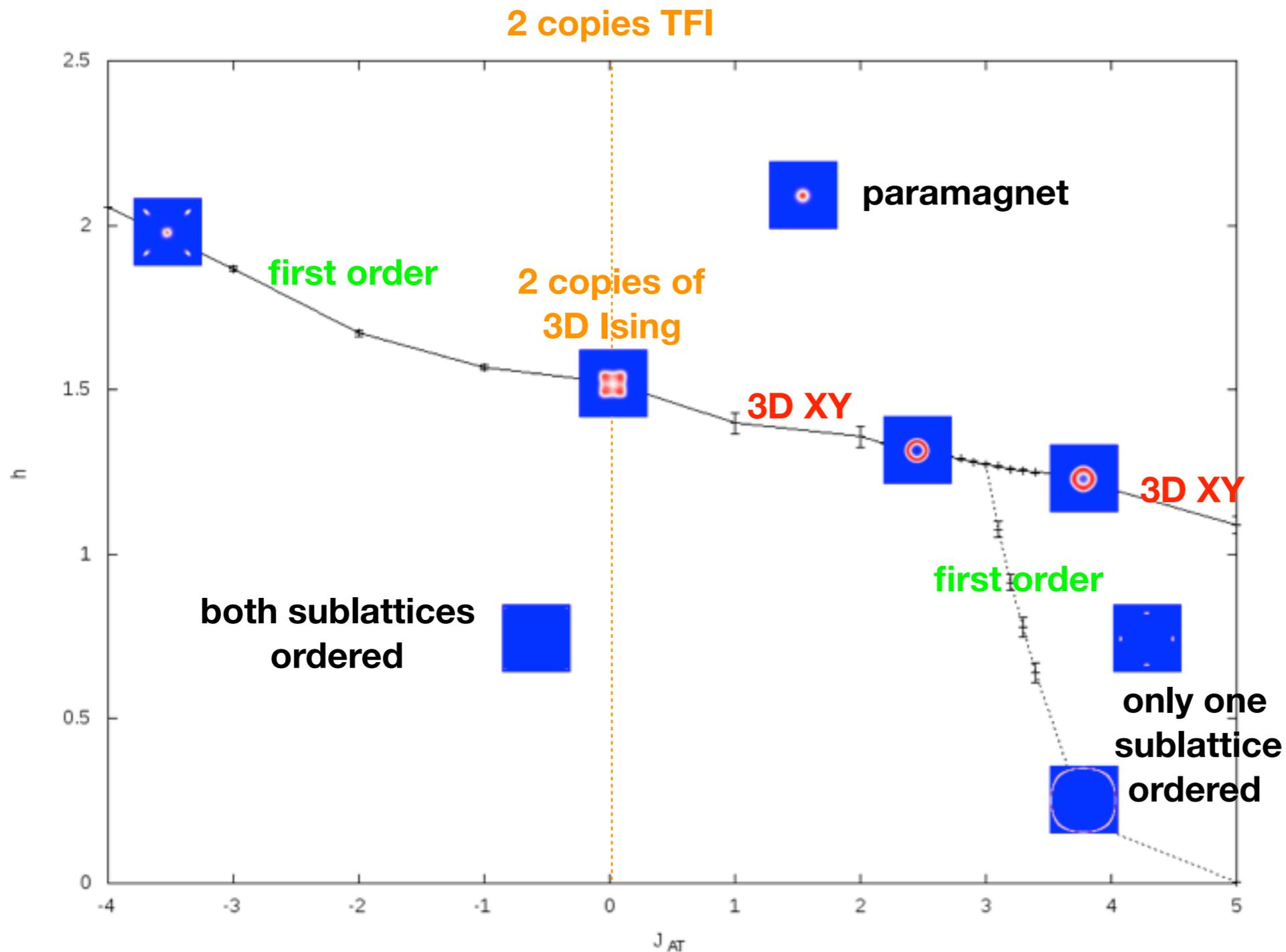
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$$\sigma_m^x \sigma_n^x \rightarrow 2\mu_{p_1}^x \mu_{p_2}^x \mu_{q_1}^x \mu_{q_2}^x$$

# Phase diagram of the Quantum Ashkin-Teller model

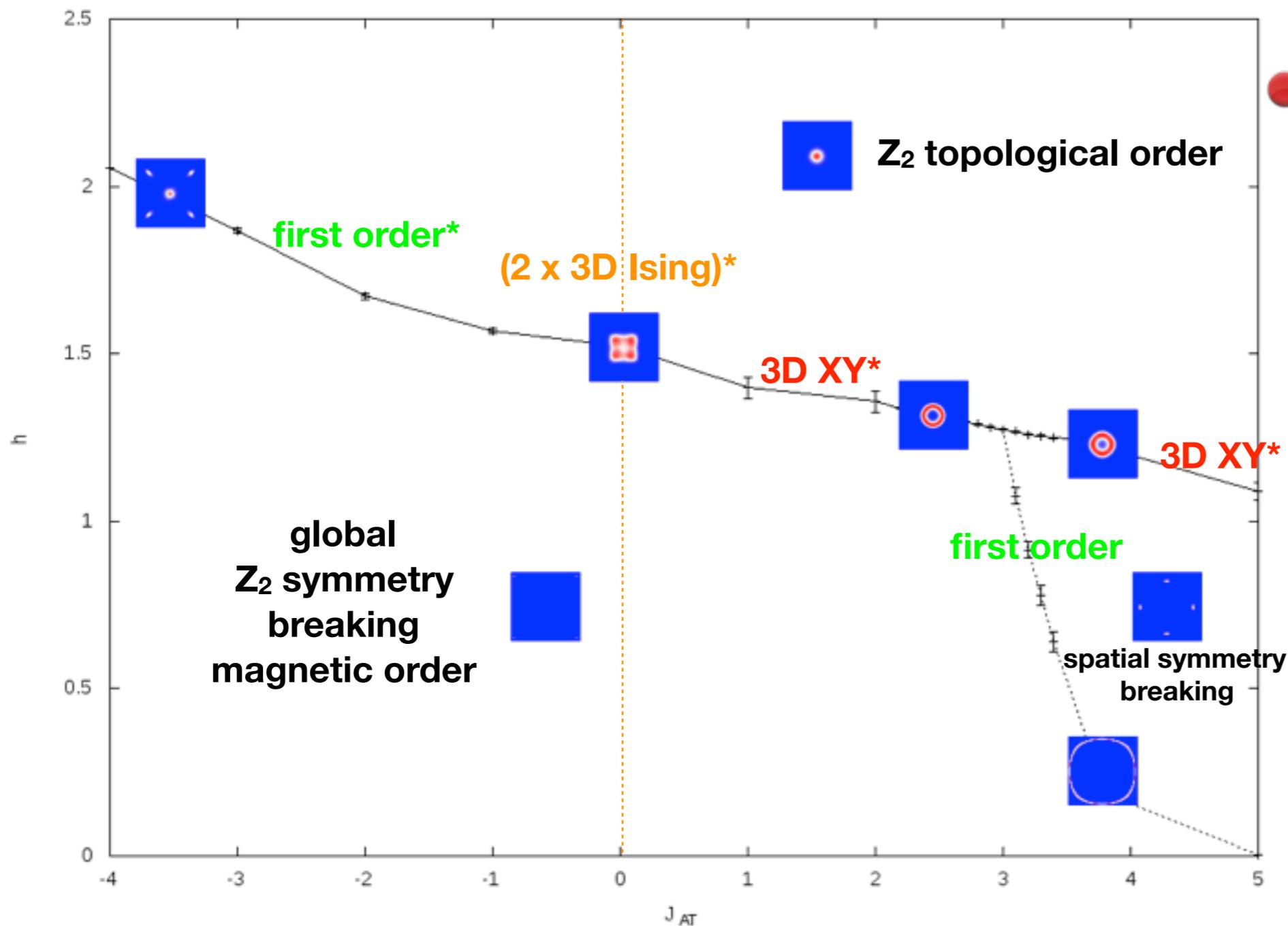
- Rather poorly studied in the past, so here we perform a new QMC study:



- Phase structure in agreement with QFT results of  $N_c=2$   $\phi^4$  theory with cubic anisotropy.

# Phase diagram of the Toric Code + Ising interactions

● Translate the Ashkin-Teller results back to the Toric code + Ising:



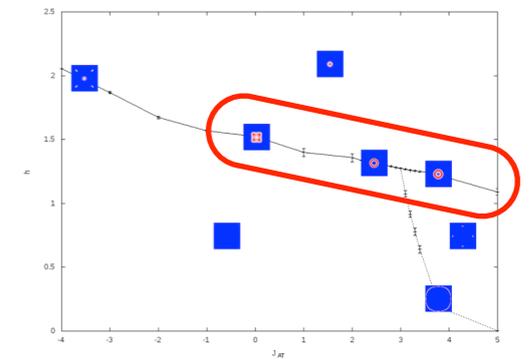
● The direct transition between  $Z_2$  topological order and  $Z_2$  symmetry breaking can be:

● first order

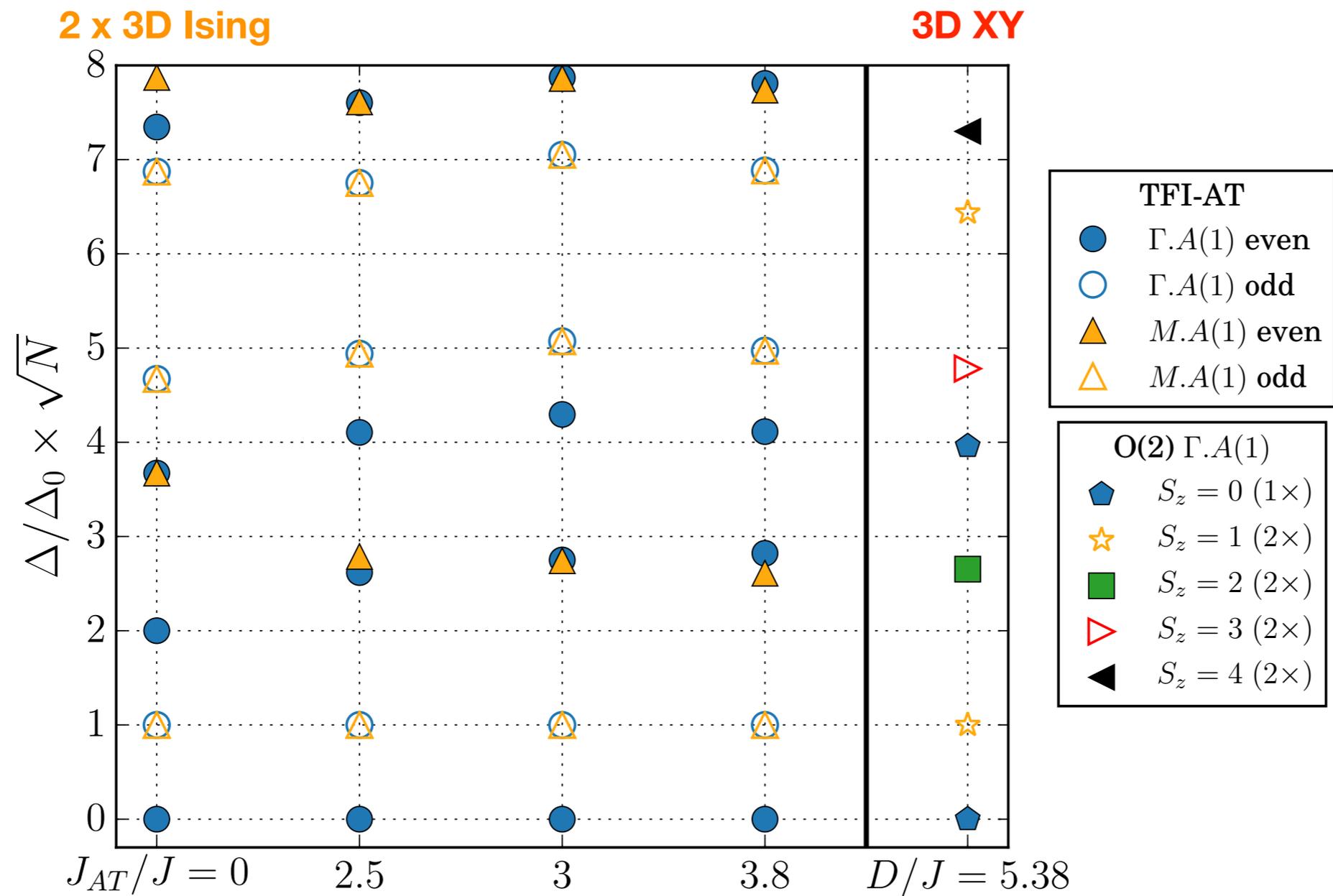
● (2 x 3D Ising)\*  
unstable fixed point

● 3D XY\* !

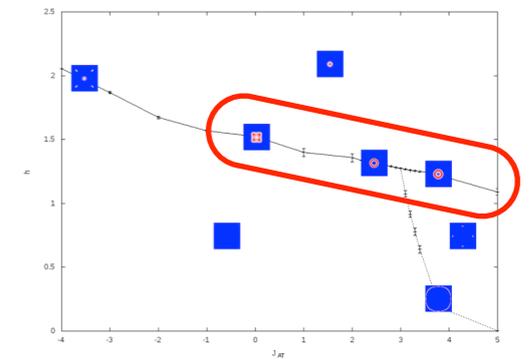
# Spectroscopy of QCP



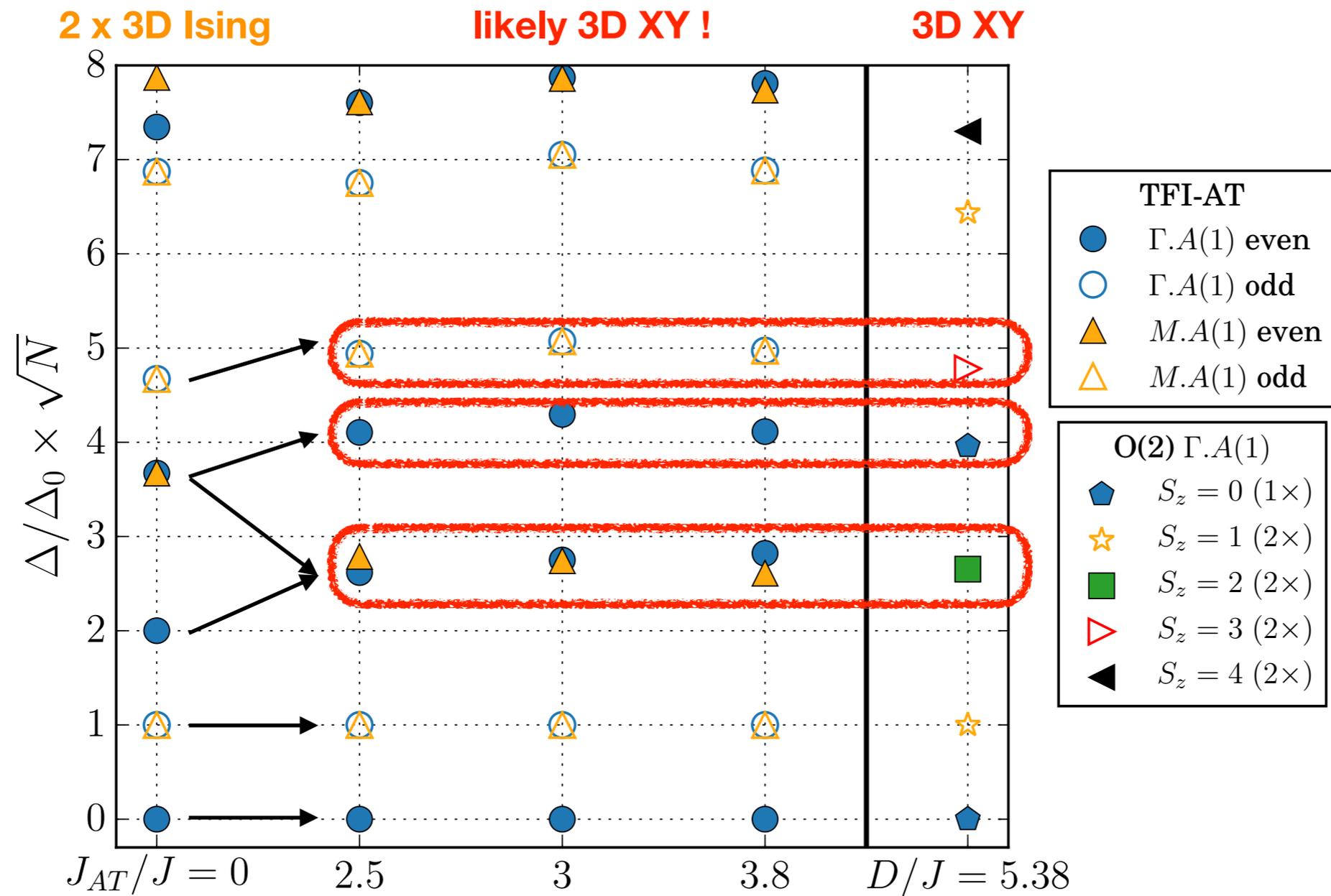
● ED Torus Spectra in the Quantum Ashkin-Teller model at criticality:



# Spectroscopy of QCP

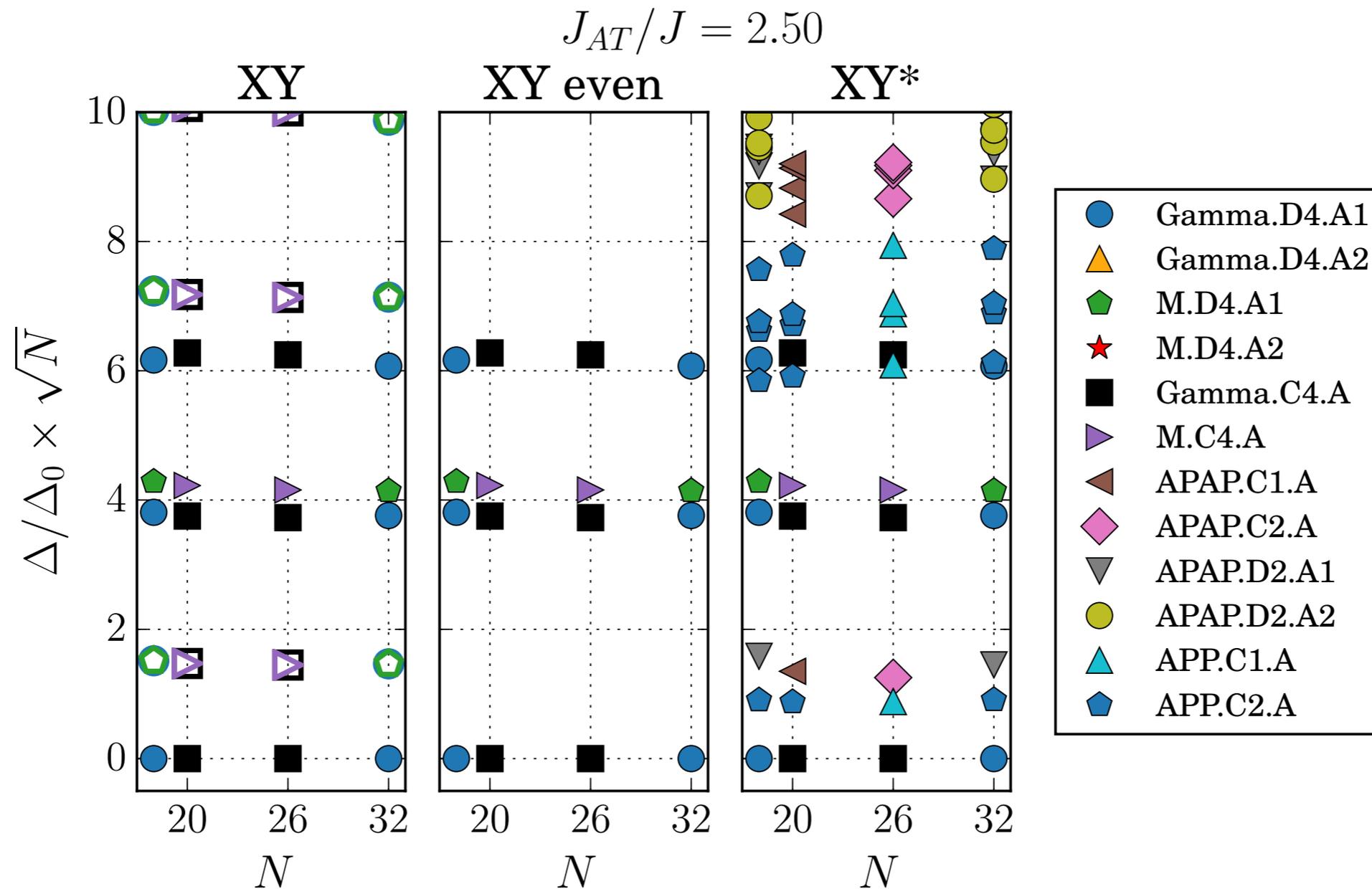


● ED Torus Spectra in the Quantum Ashkin-Teller model at criticality:



# Torus energy spectrum of 3D XY\*

- Remove all odd charge sectors in 3D XY but add all 4 BC PP/PA/AP/AA sectors:

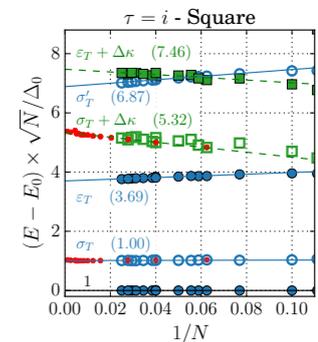


# Outline of this talk

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- Torus Energy Spectra and QFT ?
- Spectrum of the “standard” 2+1D Ising transition  
M. Schuler, S. Whittsitt, L.-P. Henry, S. Sachdev & AML  
arXiv:1603:03042
- Spectrum of the “ $Z_2$  confinement” transition (Ising\*)  
M. Schuler, S. Whittsitt, L.-P. Henry, S. Sachdev & AML  
arXiv:1603:03042
- Spectrum of the 3D XY\* Transition  
L.-P. Henry, M. Schuler and AML  
in preparation
- Outlook

# Conclusion / Outlook



- We have shown that the universal torus energy spectrum of the CFT describing quantum critical points is accessible numerically.
- The torus energy spectrum contains valuable information on the “operator content”. It is e.g. able to discriminate the Ising from the Ising\* universality class, and 2 x Ising from 3D XY
- We have preliminary results for O(2)/O(3) Wilson-Fisher fixed points and some Gross-Neveu critical points.
- We believe that this technology could help to shed light on more advanced topics, such as the SO(5) symmetry claimed to appear at deconfined critical points by Nahum et al.
- Results from CFT side ?

# Collaborators

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## ● Harvard University



Seth Whitsitt  
PhD Student



Subir Sachdev



Thank you for your attention !

