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Critical properties of the Néel-to-algebraic spin liquid transition

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The algebraic spin liquid is a long-sought-after phase of matter characterized by the absence of quasiparticle excitations, a low-energy description in terms of emergent Dirac fermions and gauge fields interacting according to (2+1)D quantum electrodynamics (QED₃), and power-law correlations with universal exponents. The prototypical algebraic spin liquid is the Affleck-Marston π -flux phase, originally proposed as a possible ground state of the spin-1/2 Heisenberg model on the 2D square lattice. While the latter model is now known to order antiferromagnetically at zero temperature, recent sign-problem-free quantum Monte Carlo simulations of spin-1/2 fermions coupled to a compact $U(1)$ gauge field on the square lattice have shown that quantum fluctuations can destroy Néel order and drive a direct quantum phase transition to the π -flux phase. We show this transition is in the universality class of the chiral Heisenberg QED₃-Gross-Neveu-Yukawa model with a single $SU(2)$ doublet of four-component Dirac fermions (i.e., $N_f = 1$), pointing out important differences with the corresponding putative transition on the kagomé lattice. Using an ϵ expansion below four spacetime dimensions to four-loop order, and a large- N_f expansion up to second order, we show the transition is continuous and compute various thermodynamic and susceptibility critical exponents at this transition, setting the stage for future numerical determinations of these quantities. As a byproduct of our analysis, we also obtain charge-density-wave and valence-bond-solid susceptibility exponents at the semimetal-antiferromagnetic insulator transition in graphene.

I. INTRODUCTION

The discovery of fractionalized phases of correlated quantum matter which fall outside the standard broken-symmetry classification pioneered by Landau is a prime goal of modern condensed matter physics. The inability to describe such phases in terms of conventional local order parameters suggests that continuous transitions among them, or between them and conventional phases, are themselves exotic and may fall outside the traditional Landau-Ginzburg-Wilson (LGW) paradigm according to which critical properties are solely determined by the long-wavelength, low-energy dynamics of critical order parameter fluctuations.

The paradigmatic example of fractionalized phase of matter is the algebraic spin liquid (ASL) or Dirac spin liquid, originally proposed by Affleck and Marston [1, 2] as a possible ground state of the spin-1/2 Heisenberg model on the 2D square lattice. This state can be envisioned as the result of quantum disordering a magnetically ordered ground state, e.g., the antiferromagnetic (AF) Néel state, in such a way that the bosonic spin-1 magnons of the ordered state fractionalize into a pair of electrically neutral spin-1/2 fermions governed by a Dirac dispersion and interacting with an emergent gauge field. However, it was shown early on [3–6] that due to the bipartite nature of the square lattice, the nearest-neighbor spin-1/2 Heisenberg model on this lattice develops Néel AF order at zero temperature, and the search for quantum spin liquid ground states rapidly switched its focus to frustrated

magnetism [7], with much emphasis on spin models defined on non-bipartite lattices or with anisotropic interactions.

Surprisingly, a recent sign-problem-free quantum Monte Carlo (QMC) study [8] demonstrated the realization of an ASL-like phase on the 2D square lattice, analogous to the Affleck-Marston π -flux phase. Strictly speaking, in the slave-fermion description of spin models on the square lattice the low-energy theory of the π -flux phase corresponds to Dirac fermions coupled to an emergent $SU(2)$ gauge field [9, 10], while what is usually referred to as the ASL corresponds microscopically to the staggered flux phase [9, 11–13], where the $SU(2)$ gauge structure is broken to $U(1)$ with a flux per plaquette alternating between ϕ and $-\phi$ where $\phi \neq \pi$. By contrast, the model studied in Ref. [8] can be thought of as a hybrid of the two: it is a model of fermions explicitly coupled to a lattice $U(1)$ gauge field (see Sec. II A), but where a flux of π per plaquette is spontaneously generated at the mean-field level. A parameter J in the model controls the strength of gauge fluctuations such that for J below a finite critical value there is no symmetry breaking and AF and valence-bond-solid (VBS) correlations exhibit a power-law decay with distance, as expected for the ASL [13–15]. The low-energy effective theory of the model in this regime – (2+1)D quantum electrodynamics (QED₃) with $N_f = 1$ flavor of spinful Dirac fermions, where N_f is defined precisely here as the number of spin $SU(2)$ doublets of four-component Dirac spinors – is identical to that of the ASL as defined above, and for simplicity we will refer to the phase observed numerically as the

ASL. At low energies the ASL is believed to be described by a strongly coupled (2+1)D conformal field theory whose universal properties, notably the critical exponents controlling the power-law correlations mentioned above, can be systematically computed using field-theoretic approaches such as the ϵ -expansion [16–19] and the large- N_f expansion [13, 15, 20–22].

Remarkably, Ref. [8] reported not only the first unbiased numerical observation of the ASL, but also that of a direct quantum phase transition from the ASL to the AF Néel state at a critical value of the parameter J evoked above. Numerical evidence further points to a continuous transition. On general grounds one expects the low-energy theory of the transition to be of the QED₃-Gross-Neveu-Yukawa (GNY) type [8, 23, 24], as for the recently studied transitions between the ASL and a gapped chiral spin liquid [19, 25–27] or a gapped \mathbb{Z}_2 spin liquid [28], but with the spontaneous breaking of an $O(3)$ symmetry as appropriate for Néel order [29], as opposed to the Ising and XY symmetries appropriate for those two transitions, respectively. In theories of this type gapless $U(1)$ gauge fluctuations as well as gapless Dirac fermions couple strongly to bosonic order parameter fluctuations and can give rise to novel universality classes of critical behavior distinct from the standard (Wilson-Fisher) Ising, XY, and Heisenberg universality classes, provided *bona fide* critical fixed points of the renormalization group (RG) exist in those theories. While a stable critical point was found for the chiral Ising QED₃-GNY model both in the ϵ -expansion [19, 25, 26] for all N_f and in the large- N_f expansion [27, 30–33], in the chiral XY QED₃-GNY model [28] a fixed point found at one-loop order in the ϵ expansion was shown to disappear below a certain critical value of N_f , in analogy to the phenomenon of fluctuation-induced first-order transitions [34], while the large- N_f expansion predicts a stable critical point. Whether the chiral Heisenberg QED₃-GNY model supports a critical point that remains stable at all N_f , and if so, what its universal critical properties are, are thus important open questions in light of the numerical discoveries reported in Ref. [8]. In Ref. [29], the chiral Heisenberg QED₃-GNY model was proposed as the critical theory for a transition between the algebraic spin liquid, in its staggered flux phase realization on the square lattice, and a Néel antiferromagnet. The authors studied this model in the ϵ expansion below four dimensions at one-loop order, for the specific case of $N_f = 1$, and found a critical fixed point describing a continuous phase transition. However, as we will argue below, their renormalization group beta functions and critical exponents disagree with ours.

In this work, we revisit the problem of the Néel-to-algebraic spin liquid transition, motivated by the numerical results of Ref. [8], and present a detailed study of the critical properties of the chiral Heisenberg QED₃-GNY model for a generic number N_f of flavors of four-component Dirac fermions carrying an additional $SU(2)$ spin index. After deriving the specific form of the low-energy Lagrangian from microscopic considerations (Sec. II), we employ two complementary approaches to study the critical regime: an ϵ expansion in $d = 4 - \epsilon$ spacetime dimensions carried out to four-loop order for arbitrary N_f (Sec. III), as well as a large- N_f expansion car-

ried out up to second order in fixed but arbitrary d dimensions (Sec. IV). The use of arbitrary d in the latter approach allows us to establish consistency between the two methods, and gives us confidence in the correctness of our analysis. We do, however, pay attention to contributions specific to $d = 3$ (Aslamazov-Larkin diagrams) which arise for certain quantities. Through the ϵ expansion we establish the existence of a stable critical fixed point for all N_f , including the $N_f = 1$ case relevant for the Néel-ASL transition on the 2D square lattice observed in the QMC study [8]. Gauge-invariant universal critical properties including the order parameter anomalous dimension η_ϕ , the (inverse) correlation length exponent $1/\nu$, and the stability critical exponent ω , but also the universal exponents Δ_{CDW} , Δ_{VBS} , and Δ_{QAH} characterizing the power-law decay of charge-density-wave (CDW), VBS, and quantum anomalous Hall (QAH) correlations at the transition, are computed to $\mathcal{O}(\epsilon^4)$ and up to $\mathcal{O}(1/N_f^2)$. While the CDW, VBS, and QAH exponents have been computed in the ASL phase before [13], the Néel-ASL critical point and its arbitrary- N_f generalization correspond to a different (2+1)D conformal field theory than that describing the ASL phase, and is thus characterized by different – but equally universal – values for these exponents. We then use Padé and Padé-Borel resummation techniques to obtain numerical estimates of the critical exponents (Sec. V). As a byproduct of our calculations, we also obtain CDW and VBS exponents at the semimetal-AF insulator quantum phase transition seen in the Hubbard model on the honeycomb lattice (see Sec. III G and IV D), with relevance to graphene [35–45]. These correspond to the scaling dimensions of certain fermion bilinear operators in the chiral Heisenberg GNY model, which to our knowledge have not been computed before despite recent studies of this model [46, 47].

II. THE NÉEL-TO-ALGEBRAIC SPIN LIQUID TRANSITION

In this section we derive the continuum quantum field theory describing the Néel-ASL transition on the square lattice (Sec. II A) as observed in the QMC study of Ref. [8], and contrast it with the field theory description of similar magnetic ordering transitions on the kagomé lattice (Sec. II B).

A. Square lattice

The starting point is the compact $U(1)$ lattice gauge theory model considered in Ref. [8], here restricted to two fermion flavors:

$$H = \frac{J}{4} \sum_{r,\mu} L_{r,r+\hat{\mu}}^2 - t \sum_{r,\mu,\sigma} \left(c_{r\sigma}^\dagger e^{i\theta_{r,r+\hat{\mu}}} c_{r+\hat{\mu},\sigma} + \text{H.c.} \right) + K \sum_{\square} \cos(\Delta \times \boldsymbol{\theta}). \quad (1)$$

Here $c_{r\sigma}^{(\dagger)}$ is the annihilation (creation) operator for a fermion with spin $\sigma = \uparrow, \downarrow$ on site r of a 2D square lattice, $\theta_{r,r+\hat{\mu}} \in$

$[0, 2\pi)$ is an angular variable living on the nearest-neighbor links of the square lattice, with $\mu = x, y$ denoting its two orthogonal directions, and $L_{r,r+\hat{\mu}}$ is the operator conjugate to $\theta_{r,r+\hat{\mu}}$, i.e., $[\theta_{r,r+\hat{\mu}}, L_{r',r'+\hat{\nu}}] = i\delta_{rr'}\delta_{\mu\nu}$. Both $\theta_{r,r+\hat{\mu}}$ and $L_{r,r+\hat{\mu}}$ can be interpreted as vector fields $\theta_{r,\mu}$ and $L_{r,\mu}$, and $\Delta \times \boldsymbol{\theta} = \Delta_x \theta_{r,y} - \Delta_y \theta_{r,x}$ denotes the lattice curl of $\theta_{r,\mu}$, corresponding to its circulation around an elementary plaquette \square , where $\Delta_\mu \theta_{r,\nu} = \theta_{r+\hat{\mu},\nu} - \theta_{r,\nu}$ is the lattice derivative. The first term, proportional to J , is an electric-field term that controls the strength of the gauge fluctuations, while the last term, proportional to $K > 0$, is a magnetic-field term that favors the maximal (i.e., π) amount of magnetic flux per plaquette. The fermion chemical potential is set to zero, corresponding to half filling.

When $J = 0$, $\theta_{r,\mu}$ is a classical variable and the fermions are noninteracting. The ground state at half-filling is guaranteed by Lieb's theorem [48] to have π flux per plaquette. When J is nonzero but small, the gauge field acquires dynamics but the QMC results [8] indicate the π -flux phase remains stable up to some critical value, given by $J_c = 1.43(46)$ for $t = K = 1$. In the presence of gauge fluctuations the π -flux phase is an ASL described by the conformally invariant, infrared-stable fixed point of QED₃ with two flavors of four-component fermions. For $J > J_c$ the model develops long-range (π, π) AF order, consistent with the known Néel ground state of the $SU(2)$ -symmetric Heisenberg model, to which model (1) reduces in the $J \rightarrow \infty$ limit. The smooth behavior at $J = J_c$ of both the AF correlation ratio and the flux energy per plaquette observed in the numerical results [8] suggests the Néel-ASL transition is continuous, and should be described by a critical fixed point of a continuum quantum field theory. To derive the precise form of this quantum field theory, which is expected to be of the chiral Heisenberg QED₃-GNY type, we simply need to express the Néel order parameter in terms of the low-energy Dirac fermions in the π -flux phase. This in turn will dictate the correct form of the Yukawa coupling between Dirac fermions and the $O(3)$ vector field describing order parameter fluctuations. As will be seen in detail below and in Sec. II B, owing to the precise relation between the low-energy Dirac fermion fields and the original microscopic lattice fermions, which differs on the square and kagomé lattices, the (2+1)D Néel-ASL transition on the square lattice can be accessed by dimensional continuation from the four-dimensional Lorentz-invariant chiral Heisenberg QED₃-GNY model, while conceptually similar magnetic ordering transitions on the kagomé lattice cannot. This has important implications for ϵ -expansion studies of such transitions as will be discussed below.

We begin by studying the π -flux phase in the absence of gauge fluctuations, described by the fermionic part of the $J = 0$ limit of the model (1). Choosing a gauge such that the hopping amplitude on alternating links of the square lattice acquires an additional phase factor of -1 (Fig. 1), the Hamiltonian can be written as

$$H_0 = \sum_{\sigma} \int_{\text{1BZ}} \frac{d^2 k}{(2\pi)^2} c_{\mathbf{k}\sigma}^\dagger h(\mathbf{k}) c_{\mathbf{k}\sigma}, \quad (2)$$

where $c_{\mathbf{k}\sigma} = (c_{\mathbf{k},A,\sigma}, c_{\mathbf{k},B,\sigma})$ is a two-component spinor,

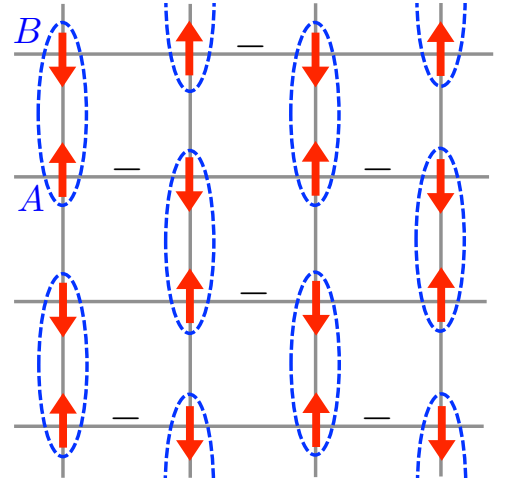


FIG. 1. The π -flux phase on the square lattice: the minus signs indicate a particular choice of gauge to realize π flux per plaquette, and A and B denote the two sites in the enlarged unit cell (dashed blue line) in the absence of Néel order (red arrows).

A, B denote the two sublattices of the square lattice, and

$$h(\mathbf{k}) = -t \begin{pmatrix} 0 & f(\mathbf{k}) \\ f^*(\mathbf{k}) & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad (3)$$

where

$$f(\mathbf{k}) = 1 - e^{i(k_x - k_y)} + e^{-i(k_x + k_y)} + e^{-2ik_y}. \quad (4)$$

The integral is over wavevectors \mathbf{k} (measured in inverse units of the lattice constant) in the first Brillouin zone, which is reduced due to the doubling of the unit cell stemming from the choice of gauge and forms a square of side length $\pi\sqrt{2}$ rotated by 45° with respect to the original Brillouin zone. The spectrum is given by $E_{\pm}(\mathbf{k}) = \pm 2t\sqrt{\sin^2 k_x + \cos^2 k_y}$ and exhibits two inequivalent Dirac points at $\pm\mathbf{Q}$ with $\mathbf{Q} \equiv (0, \frac{\pi}{2})$. At half filling the low-energy excitations are particle-hole excitations of the Dirac fermions, and we can linearize the Hamiltonian near the Dirac points,

$$h(\pm\mathbf{Q} + \mathbf{p}) = v_F(\pm\mu_1 p_x + \mu_2 p_y) + \mathcal{O}(\mathbf{p}^2), \quad (5)$$

where $|\mathbf{p}|$ is much less than the dimensions of the Brillouin zone, we denote Pauli matrices acting on the Dirac components by μ_1, μ_2, μ_3 , and $v_F \equiv 2t$. The low-energy Hamiltonian is thus given by

$$H_0 \approx v_F \sum_{\alpha,\sigma} \int \frac{d^2 p}{(2\pi)^2} \psi_{\alpha\sigma}^\dagger(\mathbf{p}) (\mu_1 p_x + \mu_2 p_y) \psi_{\alpha\sigma}(\mathbf{p}), \quad (6)$$

where we define the slow (Dirac) fields

$$\psi_{+\sigma}(\mathbf{p}) = \begin{pmatrix} c_{\mathbf{Q}+\mathbf{p},A,\sigma} \\ c_{\mathbf{Q}+\mathbf{p},B,\sigma} \end{pmatrix}, \quad \psi_{-\sigma}(\mathbf{p}) = \begin{pmatrix} c_{-\mathbf{Q}+\mathbf{p},B,\sigma} \\ -c_{-\mathbf{Q}+\mathbf{p},A,\sigma} \end{pmatrix}. \quad (7)$$

Note that defining $\psi_{-\sigma}(\mathbf{p})$ as $i\mu_2$ acting on the two-component spinor $c_{-\mathbf{Q}+\mathbf{p},\sigma}$ is necessary to absorb the extra minus sign in front of μ_1 in the Hamiltonian matrix (5) linearized near $-\mathbf{Q}$. Introducing the two-component Dirac adjoint $\bar{\psi}_{\alpha\sigma} \equiv \psi_{\alpha\sigma}^\dagger \gamma_0$ with $\gamma_0 = \mu_3$, and Fourier transforming H_0 back to (continuous) real space, we find that the imaginary-time Lagrangian density $\mathcal{L}_0 = \sum_{\alpha,\sigma} \bar{\psi}_{\alpha\sigma}^\dagger \partial_0 \psi_{\alpha\sigma} + H_0$ can be written as

$$\mathcal{L}_0 = \sum_{\alpha,\sigma} \bar{\psi}_{\alpha\sigma} \gamma_\mu \partial_\mu \psi_{\alpha\sigma}, \quad (8)$$

where $(\gamma_0, \gamma_1, \gamma_2) = (\mu_3, \mu_2, -\mu_1)$ are 2×2 Euclidean gamma matrices, and we have rescaled the spatial coordinates to set the Dirac velocity v_F to unity.

We now turn to Néel order. Referring to Fig. 1, the Néel order parameter \mathbf{N} is an $SU(2)$ triplet of fermion bilinears given by

$$\mathbf{N} \equiv \frac{1}{\mathcal{N}} \sum_{\mathbf{R}} \left(c_{\mathbf{R}\mathbf{A}}^\dagger \boldsymbol{\sigma} c_{\mathbf{R}\mathbf{A}} - c_{\mathbf{R}\mathbf{B}}^\dagger \boldsymbol{\sigma} c_{\mathbf{R}\mathbf{B}} \right), \quad (9)$$

where \mathcal{N} is the total number of sites, $\boldsymbol{\sigma} = (\sigma_1, \sigma_2, \sigma_3)$ denotes Pauli matrices acting on the (physical) spin components, and $\mathbf{R} = n_1 \mathbf{a}_1 + n_2 \mathbf{a}_2$ with $n_1, n_2 \in \mathbb{Z}$ denotes sites of the underlying Bravais lattice with primitive lattice vectors $\mathbf{a}_1 \equiv \hat{x} - \hat{y}$ and $\mathbf{a}_2 \equiv \hat{x} + \hat{y}$, measured in units of the lattice constant. Fourier transforming and keeping only the low-energy Dirac degrees of freedom near $\pm\mathbf{Q}$, we find

$$\mathbf{N} \sim \sum_{\sigma\sigma'} \int \frac{d^2p}{(2\pi)^2} \bar{\Psi}_\sigma^\dagger(\mathbf{p}) \begin{pmatrix} \gamma_0 & 0 \\ 0 & -\gamma_0 \end{pmatrix} \boldsymbol{\sigma}_{\sigma\sigma'} \bar{\Psi}_{\sigma'}(\mathbf{p}), \quad (10)$$

where we have defined the four-component Dirac spinors

$$\Psi_\sigma = \begin{pmatrix} \psi_{+\sigma} \\ \psi_{-\sigma} \end{pmatrix}, \quad \sigma = \uparrow, \downarrow. \quad (11)$$

This motivates the following choice of (reducible) four-dimensional representation of the $SO(3)$ Clifford algebra,

$$\Gamma_\mu = \begin{pmatrix} \gamma_\mu & 0 \\ 0 & -\gamma_\mu \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mu = 0, 1, 2, \quad (12)$$

and the corresponding definition of four-component Dirac adjoint $\bar{\Psi}_\sigma \equiv \Psi_\sigma^\dagger \Gamma_0$, in terms of which the Néel order parameter is written as

$$\mathbf{N} \sim \int d^2x \bar{\Psi} \boldsymbol{\sigma} \Psi, \quad (13)$$

with trace over spin indices understood.

Having identified the form of the Néel order parameter bilinear in terms of the low-energy Dirac fields, we can write down the LGW Lagrangian for the Néel-ASL transition in physical 2+1 dimensions,

$$\mathcal{L}_{2+1} = \sum_{\alpha,\sigma} \bar{\psi}_{\alpha\sigma} \gamma_\mu D_\mu \psi_{\alpha\sigma} + \frac{1}{4} F_{\mu\nu}^2 + g\boldsymbol{\phi} \cdot \bar{\Psi} \frac{\boldsymbol{\sigma}}{2} \Psi + \mathcal{L}_\phi, \quad (14)$$

where $\boldsymbol{\phi}$ is a Lorentz-scalar $O(3)$ vector field that has the interpretation of dynamical order parameter field, and \mathcal{L}_ϕ is the Lagrangian controlling its dynamics, i.e., the $O(3)$ vector model. We have accounted for the general situation with gauge fluctuations ($J \neq 0$) by replacing ∂_μ in Eq. (8) by the gauge-covariant derivative $D_\mu = \partial_\mu - ieA_\mu$, with e the gauge coupling and A_μ the continuum limit of the $U(1)$ lattice gauge field $\theta_{r,r+\hat{\mu}}$. We have also added a Maxwell term for the gauge field with $F_{\mu\nu} = \partial_\mu A_\nu - \partial_\nu A_\mu$ the field-strength tensor, which originates microscopically from the terms proportional to J and K in the lattice Hamiltonian (1). The Lagrangian (14) is equivalent to that studied in Ref. [29], although the fermionic mean-field state considered in the latter reference is the staggered flux state rather than the π -flux state, and thus the projective symmetry group characterizing the corresponding spin liquid state is different (see Appendix A).

As in previous work on related theories [16–19, 25, 26, 28], we will be interested in studying the critical properties of Eq. (14) in the standard ϵ expansion below four (spacetime) dimensions, and thus require a four-dimensional Lorentz-invariant Lagrangian which dimensionally continues to Eq. (14). In $d = 4$ dimensions the reducible four-dimensional representation of the $SO(3)$ Clifford algebra becomes an irreducible representation of the $SO(4)$ Clifford algebra when supplemented with a fourth gamma matrix Γ_3 , which for the choice of $SO(3)$ gamma matrices in Eq. (12) is given by

$$\Gamma_3 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -i \\ i & 0 \end{pmatrix}. \quad (15)$$

One can then check explicitly that the four-dimensional Lagrangian

$$\mathcal{L}_{3+1} = \sum_{\sigma} \bar{\Psi}_\sigma \Gamma_\mu D_\mu \Psi_\sigma + \frac{1}{4} F_{\mu\nu}^2 + g\boldsymbol{\phi} \cdot \bar{\Psi} \frac{\boldsymbol{\sigma}}{2} \Psi + \mathcal{L}_\phi, \quad (16)$$

is invariant under *four-dimensional* Lorentz transformations, and reduces to the physical Lagrangian (14) when all terms involving x_3 and A_3 are ignored. Thus the critical properties of the Néel-ASL transition on the square lattice can be consistently studied in an ϵ expansion of the chiral Heisenberg QED-GNY theory (16) with a single $SU(2)$ doublet $(\Psi_\uparrow, \Psi_\downarrow)$ of four-component Dirac fermions.

B. Kagomé lattice

We now briefly review the slave-fermion description of the ASL on the kagomé lattice [49–51] and its possible magnetic ordering instabilities. Similar to the π -flux phase on the square lattice, ignoring gauge fluctuations the ASL on the kagomé lattice can be understood as the ground state of noninteracting fermions with nearest-neighbor hopping on the kagomé lattice and π flux through each hexagonal plaquette, but zero flux through each triangular plaquette. The simplest gauge choice doubles the unit cell in (say) the \mathbf{a}_1 direction, where $\mathbf{a}_1 = (2, 0)$ and $\mathbf{a}_2 = (1, \sqrt{3})$ are the primitive vectors of the underlying triangular Bravais lattice, with

lengths measured in units of the side length of a kagomé triangle. Correspondingly the original (hexagonal) first Brillouin zone is halved (and becomes rectangular); at half filling the Fermi energy intersects two inequivalent Dirac points at $\pm\mathbf{Q} = \frac{\pi}{2\sqrt{3}}(0, \pm 1)$. Effective Hamiltonians similar to Eq. (5) can be obtained in first-order degenerate perturbation theory,

$$h(\pm\mathbf{Q} + \mathbf{p}) = v_F(\mu_1 p_x + \mu_2 p_y) + \mathcal{O}(\mathbf{p}^2), \quad (17)$$

with $v_F = \sqrt{2}t$. Slow Dirac fields can be defined in analogy to Eq. (7), albeit with a more complicated dependence on the microscopic lattice fields (the doubled unit cell has six sites), and the imaginary-time Lagrangian density is again given by Eq. (8) with the same set of 2×2 gamma matrices, $(\gamma_0, \gamma_1, \gamma_2) = (\mu_3, \mu_2, -\mu_1)$ [51]. As before gauge fluctuations are incorporated by promoting ∂_μ to the gauge-covariant derivative D_μ in the Dirac Lagrangian and adding a Maxwell term for the emergent continuum gauge field A_μ .

We now turn to magnetic ordering instabilities, i.e., instabilities accompanied by spontaneous breaking of the spin $SU(2)$ symmetry (which excludes VBS states) of an underlying microscopic spin model on the kagomé lattice, such as the spin-1/2 Heisenberg antiferromagnet [49–53]. We further focus on patterns of ordering that can be achieved through the condensation of Dirac fermion bilinears which gaps out the Dirac fermions (once the fermions are gapped, monopole proliferation typically ensues, which further gaps out the dynamical photon and leads to confinement [24, 54]). This leaves two possibilities [51]: a three-fold degenerate collinear stripe AF state with ordering wavevectors corresponding to the three symmetry-related M points of the physical (gauge-invariant) hexagonal Brillouin zone, and a zero-wavevector noncollinear state with nonzero vector spin chirality [23].

We first consider the stripe AF state, which corresponds to the condensation of either of the three degenerate spin-triplet, time-reversal-odd bilinears $\Psi^\dagger \mu_3 \tau_i \sigma \Psi$, $i = 1, 2, 3$, where τ_1, τ_2, τ_3 are Pauli matrices acting on the nodal/valley index $\alpha = \pm$ distinguishing the two Dirac nodes [51]. Introducing a corresponding set of Lorentz-scalar $O(3)$ vector fields ϕ_1, ϕ_2, ϕ_3 describing the fluctuating order parameters, the form of the LGW Lagrangian for the stripe AF-ASL transition is dictated by the transformation properties of the stripe AF fermion bilinears under space group operations, which have been worked out in detail in Ref. [51]. One obtains

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}_{2+1} = & \sum_{\alpha, \sigma} \bar{\psi}_{\alpha\sigma} \gamma_\mu D_\mu \psi_{\alpha\sigma} + \frac{1}{4} F_{\mu\nu}^2 + g \sum_i \phi_i \cdot \Psi^\dagger \gamma_0 \tau_i \sigma \Psi \\ & + \mathcal{L}_{\phi_i}, \end{aligned} \quad (18)$$

where the order parameter Lagrangian \mathcal{L}_{ϕ_i} is given by

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}_{\phi_i} = & \sum_i \left[\frac{1}{2} (\partial_\mu \phi_i)^2 + \frac{r}{2} \phi_i^2 + u (\phi_i^2)^2 \right] \\ & + \sum_{i < j} [u' \phi_i^2 \phi_j^2 + u'' (\phi_i \cdot \phi_j)^2] + \mathcal{O}((\phi_i^2)^3), \end{aligned} \quad (19)$$

where r, u, u', u'', \dots are phenomenological coupling constants. The \mathbb{Z}_3 anisotropy introduced by the quartic terms

in Eq. (19) is a consequence of the discrete C_6 symmetry of the kagomé lattice which rotates the three M points into each other.

In order to study the critical properties of the stripe AF-ASL transition in the $4 - \epsilon$ expansion one must lift the (2+1)D theory (18) to a four-dimensional Lorentz-invariant theory with four-component Dirac spinors. The main issue, as compared to the theory (14) for the Néel-ASL transition on the square lattice, is that the Yukawa coupling involves the nodal matrices τ_i . These matrices generate an $SU(2)_{\text{nodal}}$ subgroup of the enlarged $SU(4)$ flavor symmetry of the pure ASL state, i.e., the internal symmetry of the first term in Eq. (18), but in the four-dimensional theory elements of this subgroup act as *Lorentz group* elements on four-component Dirac spinors. In other words, the Yukawa coupling breaks the $SU(2)_{\text{nodal}}$ symmetry in the (2+1)D theory, which means it breaks Lorentz symmetry in the four-dimensional theory. For instance, suppose we choose the 4×4 gamma matrix representation given in Eq. (12) and Eq. (15): then the three bilinears $\Psi^\dagger \gamma_0 \tau_i \sigma \Psi$, $i = 1, 2, 3$ are proportional to $i\bar{\Psi}\Gamma_3\sigma\Psi$, $-i\bar{\Psi}\Gamma_5\sigma\Psi$, and $\bar{\Psi}\sigma\Psi$, respectively, only the last two of which are invariant under proper orthochronous Lorentz transformations (recall that $\Gamma_5 \equiv \Gamma_0\Gamma_1\Gamma_2\Gamma_3$ is a Lorentz pseudoscalar). Different choices of 4×4 gamma matrices that preserve the equality between the first term in Eq. (18) and its four-component counterpart (i.e., the first term of Eq. (16)) in the three-dimensional limit simply permute the assignments of $\Psi^\dagger \gamma_0 \tau_i \sigma \Psi$ to those same three bilinears.

We finally turn to the $\mathbf{q} = 0$ noncollinear state with vector spin chirality order, which corresponds to the condensation of a unique spin-triplet bilinear $\Psi^\dagger \mu_3 \sigma \Psi$ even under time reversal [51]. The LGW theory for the transition from the ASL to this state was given in Ref. [23],

$$\mathcal{L}_{2+1} = \sum_{\alpha, \sigma} \bar{\psi}_{\alpha\sigma} \gamma_\mu D_\mu \psi_{\alpha\sigma} + \frac{1}{4} F_{\mu\nu}^2 + g \phi \cdot \Psi^\dagger \gamma_0 \sigma \Psi + \mathcal{L}_\phi, \quad (20)$$

and involves a single $O(3)$ vector ϕ . In four-component notation, the bilinear appearing in the Yukawa coupling is proportional to $i\bar{\Psi}\Gamma_3\Gamma_5\sigma\Psi$ for all choices of 4×4 gamma matrices that preserve the form of the pure ASL Lagrangian; the theory (20) thus breaks Lorentz invariance when lifted to four dimensions.

III. ϵ -EXPANSION

We have shown above that the LGW theories for transitions from the ASL to either the stripe AF or the $\mathbf{q} = 0$ noncollinear state on the kagomé lattice break Lorentz invariance when lifted from three to four spacetime dimensions. This creates difficulties when applying the standard ϵ expansion as a variety of Lorentz-breaking terms not present in the original Lagrangian will be generated under renormalization (for a recent discussion of similar issues in the pure GNY model, see Ref. [55]). By contrast, the LGW theory (14) for the Néel-ASL transition on the square lattice can be extended to a four-dimensional Lorentz-invariant theory, Eq. (16). This allows

for an RG analysis in the usual ϵ expansion, to which we now turn.

A. Renormalization group

The starting point is the Lagrangian of the four-dimensional chiral Heisenberg QED-GNY model,

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L} = & \sum_{i=1}^{N_f} \bar{\Psi}_i \not{D} \Psi_i + \frac{1}{4} F_{\mu\nu}^2 + \frac{1}{2\xi} (\partial_\mu A_\mu)^2 \\ & + \frac{1}{2} (\partial_\mu \phi)^2 + \frac{1}{2} m^2 \phi^2 + \lambda^2 (\phi^2)^2 + g\phi \cdot \sum_{i=1}^{N_f} \bar{\Psi}_i \frac{\sigma}{2} \Psi_i, \end{aligned} \quad (21)$$

where $\not{D} \equiv \Gamma_\mu (\partial_\mu - ieA_\mu)$ is the gauge-covariant derivative and Γ_μ are 4×4 Euclidean gamma matrices representing the $SO(4)$ Clifford algebra $\{\Gamma_\mu, \Gamma_\nu\} = 2\delta_{\mu\nu}$. We denote by N_f the number of flavors of $SU(2)$ doublets of four-component Dirac fermions, i.e.,

$$\Psi_i \equiv \begin{pmatrix} \Psi_{i\uparrow} \\ \Psi_{i\downarrow} \end{pmatrix}, \quad (22)$$

where $\Psi_{i\sigma}$, $\sigma = \uparrow, \downarrow$ are four-component Dirac fermions. With this convention the Lagrangian (16) for the Néel-ASL transition on the square lattice corresponds to $N_f = 1$. The triplet of real fields $\phi = (\phi_1, \phi_2, \phi_3)$ transforms in the vector representation of $SU(2)$, and ξ is a gauge-fixing parameter.

We study the critical (i.e., at $m^2 = 0$) properties of the model (21) in $d = 4 - \epsilon$ spacetime dimensions with field-theoretic RG using the modified minimal subtraction ($\overline{\text{MS}}$) prescription. We consider a bare Lagrangian,

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}_0 = & \sum_{i=1}^{N_f} \bar{\Psi}_i^0 \not{D}^0 \Psi_i^0 + \frac{1}{4} (F_{\mu\nu}^0)^2 + \frac{1}{2\xi_0} (\partial_\mu A_\mu^0)^2 \\ & + \frac{1}{2} (\partial_\mu \phi_0)^2 + \frac{1}{2} m_0^2 \phi_0^2 + \lambda_0^2 (\phi_0^2)^2 \\ & + g_0 \phi_0 \cdot \sum_{i=1}^{N_f} \bar{\Psi}_i^0 \frac{\sigma}{2} \Psi_i^0, \end{aligned} \quad (23)$$

in terms of bare fields Ψ_i^0 , ϕ_0 , A_μ^0 and coupling constants e_0 , ξ_0 , m_0 , λ_0 , g_0 , with $\not{D}^0 = \Gamma_\mu (\partial_\mu - ie_0 A_\mu^0)$, and a renormalized Lagrangian

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}_R = & \sum_{i=1}^{N_f} Z_\Psi \bar{\Psi}_i \not{D} \Psi_i + \frac{1}{4} Z_A F_{\mu\nu}^2 + \frac{1}{2\xi} (\partial_\mu A_\mu)^2 \\ & + \frac{1}{2} Z_\phi (\partial_\mu \phi)^2 + \frac{1}{2} Z_{\phi^2} m^2 \mu^2 \phi^2 + Z_{\lambda^2} \lambda^2 \mu^\epsilon (\phi^2)^2 \\ & + Z_g g \mu^{\epsilon/2} \phi \cdot \sum_{i=1}^{N_f} \bar{\Psi}_i \frac{\sigma}{2} \Psi_i, \end{aligned} \quad (24)$$

where $\not{D} = \Gamma_\mu (\partial_\mu - ie\mu^{\epsilon/2} A_\mu)$. We define renormalized fields $\Psi_i = Z_\Psi^{-1/2} \Psi_i^0$, $A_\mu = Z_A^{-1/2} A_\mu^0$, $\phi = Z_\phi^{-1/2} \phi_0$ and dimensionless renormalized coupling constants,

$$e^2 = e_0^2 \mu^{-\epsilon} Z_A, \quad (25)$$

$$g^2 = g_0^2 \mu^{-\epsilon} Z_\Psi^2 Z_\phi Z_g^{-2}, \quad (26)$$

$$\lambda^2 = \lambda_0^2 \mu^{-\epsilon} Z_\phi^2 Z_{\lambda^2}^{-1}, \quad (27)$$

$$m^2 = m_0^2 \mu^{-2} Z_\phi Z_{\phi^2}^{-1}, \quad (28)$$

$$\xi = \xi_0 Z_A^{-1}, \quad (29)$$

where μ is an arbitrary renormalization scale. The renormalization constants Z_X , $X = \Psi, A, \phi, \phi^2, \lambda^2, g$ are calculated up to four-loop order using an automated setup, technical details of which can be found in previous publications [19, 46, 56, 57]. The number of diagrams that arise during the perturbative calculation of the renormalization constants is exactly the same as in the chiral-Ising GNY-QED₃ case [19], because one needs only to “dress” the chiral-Ising Lorentz amplitudes with $SU(2)$ weight-factors.

B. Beta functions

The flow of the running couplings e^2, g^2, λ^2 is governed by the following RG equations,

$$\beta_{e^2} = (-\epsilon + \gamma_A) e^2, \quad (30)$$

$$\beta_{g^2} = (-\epsilon + 2\gamma_\Psi + \gamma_\phi - 2\gamma_g) g^2, \quad (31)$$

$$\beta_{\lambda^2} = (-\epsilon + 2\gamma_\phi - \gamma_{\lambda^2}) \lambda^2, \quad (32)$$

where the beta functions are defined as

$$\beta_{\alpha^2} = \mu \frac{d\alpha^2}{d\mu}, \quad (33)$$

for $\alpha = e, g, \lambda$, and we absorb a factor of $1/(4\pi)^2$ in the definition of the couplings, $\alpha^2/(4\pi)^2 \rightarrow \alpha^2$. Likewise, the anomalous dimensions γ_X are defined as

$$\gamma_X = \mu \frac{d \ln Z_X}{d\mu}. \quad (34)$$

Note that Eq. (30)-(32) have the same form as for the chiral Ising QED-GNY model [19], but the explicit form of the renormalization constants, and thus the anomalous dimensions and beta functions, are different for the two theories. As in Ref. [19] we express the beta functions as a sum over contributions at fixed loop order,

$$\beta_{\alpha^2} = -\epsilon \alpha^2 + \beta_{\alpha^2}^{(1L)} + \beta_{\alpha^2}^{(2L)} + \beta_{\alpha^2}^{(3L)} + \beta_{\alpha^2}^{(4L)}, \quad (35)$$

for $\alpha = e, g, \lambda$. We give here the beta functions up to and including three-loop order; contributions at four-loop order are lengthy and made available in electronic format [58]. The beta function for the gauge coupling e^2 is given by

$$\beta_{e^2}^{(1L)} = \frac{16N_f}{3} e^4, \quad (36)$$

$$\beta_{e^2}^{(2L)} = 16N_f e^6 - 6N_f e^4 g^2, \quad (37)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \beta_{e^2}^{(3L)} &= -9N_f e^6 g^2 + \frac{3N_f}{2}(7N_f + 3)e^4 g^4 \\ &\quad - \frac{8N_f}{9}(44N_f + 9)e^8. \end{aligned} \quad (38)$$

The beta function for the Yukawa coupling g^2 is given by

$$\beta_{g^2}^{(1L)} = -12e^2 g^2 + \frac{1}{2}(4N_f + 1)g^4, \quad (39)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \beta_{g^2}^{(2L)} &= -\frac{1}{32}(96N_f - 47)g^6 + 2(5N_f + 2)e^2 g^4 \\ &\quad + \frac{2}{3}(40N_f - 9)e^4 g^2 - 40g^4 \lambda^2 + 160g^2 \lambda^4, \end{aligned} \quad (40)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \beta_{g^2}^{(3L)} &= \frac{2}{27}[8N_f(140N_f + 621 - 648\zeta_3) - 3483]e^6 g^2 \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{512}[4N_f(608N_f + 139 - 144\zeta_3) - 2731 \\ &\quad + 1008\zeta_3]g^8 - 10(60N_f - 89)g^4 \lambda^4 \\ &\quad - \frac{1}{4}[N_f(29 + 48\zeta_3) + 61 - 42\zeta_3]e^2 g^6 + 40e^2 g^4 \lambda^2 \\ &\quad - \frac{1}{8}[4N_f(64N_f - 17 + 432\zeta_3) - 301 - 432\zeta_3]e^4 g^4 \\ &\quad + 75(2N_f + 1)g^6 \lambda^2 - 3520g^2 \lambda^6. \end{aligned} \quad (41)$$

Finally, the beta function for the four-scalar coupling λ^2 is given by

$$\beta_{\lambda^2}^{(1L)} = 88\lambda^4 + 4N_f g^2 \lambda^2 - \frac{N_f}{4}g^4, \quad (42)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \beta_{\lambda^2}^{(2L)} &= -4416\lambda^6 - 176N_f g^2 \lambda^4 - \frac{3N_f}{2}g^4 \lambda^2 - N_f e^2 g^4 \\ &\quad + 20N_f e^2 g^2 \lambda^2 + \frac{N_f}{2}g^6, \end{aligned} \quad (43)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \beta_{\lambda^2}^{(3L)} &= -\frac{N_f}{512}(1208N_f - 365 + 384\zeta_3)g^8 + 8272N_f g^2 \lambda^6 \\ &\quad + \frac{N_f}{64}(4720N_f - 6339 - 912\zeta_3)g^6 \lambda^2 \\ &\quad - \frac{N_f}{2}(528N_f - 3067 - 1272\zeta_3)g^4 \lambda^4 \\ &\quad + \frac{N_f}{8}(232N_f + 131 - 96\zeta_3)e^4 g^4 \\ &\quad - N_f(64N_f + 119 - 144\zeta_3)e^4 g^2 \lambda^2 \\ &\quad - \frac{N_f}{16}(17 - 96\zeta_3)e^2 g^6 + \frac{N_f}{4}(841 - 1200\zeta_3)e^2 g^4 \lambda^2 \\ &\quad - 132N_f(17 - 16\zeta_3)e^2 g^2 \lambda^4 + 64(6023 + 3552\zeta_3)\lambda^8. \end{aligned} \quad (44)$$

In those expressions ζ_z denotes the Riemann zeta function.

The beta functions above can be checked against previous results in various limits. In the limit $g^2 = \lambda^2 = 0$ the model reduces to pure QED with $2N_f$ flavors of four-component Dirac fermions, and Eq. (36)-(38) together with the four-loop contribution [58] reproduce the four-loop QED beta function [59]. For $e^2 = g^2 = 0$ the model reduces to the bosonic $O(3)$ vector model; Eq. (42)-(44) with the four-loop

contribution [58] agree with the known four-loop result [60]. Setting $e^2 = 0$ only, one obtains the ungauged chiral Heisenberg GNY model; our result for β_{g^2} and β_{λ^2} agrees in that limit with the four-loop beta functions recently computed for this model [46].

One-loop beta functions for the specific case of $N_f = 1$, with all couplings e^2 , g^2 , λ^2 nonzero, were obtained in Ref. [29]. Modulo trivial rescalings of the coupling constants, our result for β_{e^2} agrees with theirs, but β_{g^2} and β_{λ^2} disagree. In Sec. IV, we show that the critical exponents obtained from our beta functions agree order by order up to $\mathcal{O}(\epsilon^4, 1/N_f^2)$ with continuous- d results obtained in the large- N_f expansion. We are thus confident that our results for the beta functions are correct.

C. Quantum critical point and stability exponent

To identify a possible quantum critical point (QCP) we look for stable fixed points of the RG flow on the critical ($m^2 = 0$) hypersurface, i.e., common zeros of the set of beta functions (30)-(32). We denote fixed-point couplings by $(e_*^2, g_*^2, \lambda_*^2)$. At one-loop order we find eight fixed points: the Gaussian fixed point $(0, 0, 0)$, the conformal QED fixed point $(\frac{3\epsilon}{16N_f}, 0, 0)$, the $O(3)$ Wilson-Fisher fixed point $(0, 0, \frac{\epsilon}{88})$, a conformal QED $\times O(3)$ Wilson-Fisher fixed point $(\frac{3\epsilon}{16N_f}, 0, \frac{\epsilon}{88})$, two $O(3)$ GNY fixed points with $e_*^2 = 0$ and $g_*^2 \neq 0, \lambda_*^2 \neq 0$, and two $O(3)$ QED-GNY fixed points with nonzero values for all couplings. The only stable fixed point among all eight is one of the latter two, with fixed-point couplings given by

$$e_*^2 = \frac{3}{16N_f}\epsilon + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon^2), \quad (45)$$

$$g_*^2 = \frac{4N_f + 9}{2N_f(4N_f + 1)}\epsilon + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon^2), \quad (46)$$

$$\lambda_*^2 = \frac{Y - 4N_f - 17}{176(4N_f + 1)}\epsilon + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon^2), \quad (47)$$

where we define

$$Y \equiv \sqrt{16N_f^2 + 488N_f + 1873 + \frac{1782}{N_f}}. \quad (48)$$

These three coupling constants are positive for all values of N_f , thus the fixed point is physical and describes a valid QCP. This establishes that at one-loop order, the Néel-ASL transition is continuous and its critical properties can be systematically calculated in the ϵ expansion. From the four-loop order results in Eq. (35), a power series expansion of the critical exponents up to fourth order in ϵ can be obtained. The first exponent one can calculate is the stability exponent ω , which controls leading corrections to scaling and corresponds to the smallest eigenvalue of the stability matrix, i.e., the Jacobian matrix $\mathcal{J}_{\alpha\alpha'} = \partial\beta_{\alpha^2}/\partial\alpha'^2$, $\alpha, \alpha' = e, g, \lambda$ of derivatives of the beta functions evaluated at the fixed point (45)-(47). We find $\omega = \epsilon + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon^2)$ at one-loop order. The full four-loop result for general N_f is given in Ref. [58]; here we only present it

for $N_f = 1$, appropriate to the Néel-ASL transition:

$$\omega \approx \epsilon - 0.9\epsilon^2 + 6.742\epsilon^3 - 32.22\epsilon^4 + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon^5). \quad (49)$$

In this and later $\mathcal{O}(\epsilon^4)$ expressions for the $N_f = 1$ critical exponents, coefficients are given to four significant digits.

D. Order parameter anomalous dimension

Microscopically, the order parameter anomalous dimension η_ϕ controls the long-distance behavior of AF correlations at the QCP,

$$\langle \mathbf{N}(r) \cdot \mathbf{N}(r') \rangle \sim \frac{1}{|r - r'|^{d-2+\eta_\phi}}, \quad (50)$$

where $\mathbf{N}(r) \sim (-1)^{x+y} \sum_{\sigma\sigma'} c_{r\sigma}^\dagger \boldsymbol{\sigma}_{\sigma\sigma'} c_{r\sigma'}$ and $|r - r'|$ is much greater than the lattice constant. In the field theory it is computed by evaluating γ_ϕ in Eq. (34) at the $O(3)$ QED-GNY fixed point (45)-(47),

$$\eta_\phi \equiv \gamma_\phi(e_*^2, g_*^2, \lambda_*^2). \quad (51)$$

As for the beta functions, we express the anomalous dimensions as sums of contributions at fixed loop order,

$$\gamma_X = \gamma_X^{(1L)} + \gamma_X^{(2L)} + \gamma_X^{(3L)} + \gamma_X^{(4L)}. \quad (52)$$

We find

$$\gamma_\phi^{(1L)} = 2N_f g^2, \quad (53)$$

$$\gamma_\phi^{(2L)} = 160\lambda^4 - \frac{7N_f}{4}g^4 + 10N_f e^2 g^2, \quad (54)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \gamma_\phi^{(3L)} = & -3520\lambda^6 - 600N_f g^2 \lambda^4 + \frac{N_f}{8}(41 - 144\zeta_3)e^2 g^4 \\ & + \frac{N_f}{128}(624N_f - 131 + 240\zeta_3)g^6 + 50N_f g^4 \lambda^2 \\ & - \frac{N_f}{2}(119 + 64N_f - 144\zeta_3)e^4 g^2, \end{aligned} \quad (55)$$

with the four-loop contribution $\gamma_\phi^{(4L)}$ given electronically [58]. At one-loop order, we find

$$\eta_\phi = \frac{4N_f + 9}{4N_f + 1}\epsilon + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon^2). \quad (56)$$

Evaluating the full four-loop result [58] for $N_f = 1$, we obtain

$$\eta_\phi \approx 2.6\epsilon + 1.993\epsilon^2 + 1.963\epsilon^3 - 4.169\epsilon^4 + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon^5). \quad (57)$$

E. Correlation length exponent

In addition to the anomalous dimension γ_ϕ of the order parameter field ϕ , we also compute $\gamma_{m^2} \equiv \gamma_{\phi^2} - \gamma_\phi$ which appears in the beta function for the scalar mass squared,

$$\mu \frac{dm^2}{d\mu} = -(2 + \gamma_{m^2})m^2. \quad (58)$$

Evaluated at the QCP, the anomalous dimension $\bar{\gamma}_{m^2}$ is related to the correlation length exponent ν ,

$$1/\nu = 2 + \bar{\gamma}_{m^2}(e_*^2, g_*^2, \lambda_*^2), \quad (59)$$

which controls the divergence of the zero-temperature correlation length upon approach to the QCP. The contributions to $\bar{\gamma}_{m^2}$ up to three-loop order are given by

$$\bar{\gamma}_{m^2}^{(1L)} = -2N_f g^2 - 40\lambda^2, \quad (60)$$

$$\bar{\gamma}_{m^2}^{(2L)} = 800\lambda^4 + \frac{11N_f}{4}g^4 + 80N_f g^2 \lambda^2 - 10N_f e^2 g^2, \quad (61)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{\gamma}_{m^2}^{(3L)} = & -99840\lambda^6 + \frac{N_f}{128}(-2672N_f + 1923 - 1392\zeta_3)g^6 \\ & + \frac{5N_f}{2}(48N_f - 109 - 72\zeta_3)g^4 \lambda^2 - 1320N_f g^2 \lambda^4 \\ & + \frac{N_f}{2}(64N_f + 119 - 144\zeta_3)e^4 g^2 \\ & + \frac{3N_f}{8}(-131 + 208\zeta_3)e^2 g^4 \\ & + \frac{5N_f}{2}(408 - 384\zeta_3)e^2 g^2 \lambda^2, \end{aligned} \quad (62)$$

and the four-loop contribution $\bar{\gamma}_{m^2}^{(4L)}$ is given in electronic form [58]. At one-loop order, we find

$$1/\nu = 2 - \frac{68N_f + 113 + 5Y}{22(4N_f + 1)}\epsilon + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon^2), \quad (63)$$

while the full four-loop result [58] for $N_f = 1$ is

$$1/\nu \approx 2 - 4.577\epsilon + 5.089\epsilon^2 - 35.81\epsilon^3 + 298.7\epsilon^4 + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon^5). \quad (64)$$

F. CDW and VBS susceptibility exponents

Besides the Néel order parameter field ϕ , which can be identified with the bilinear $\bar{\Psi}\boldsymbol{\sigma}\Psi$, other fermion bilinears will develop universal power-law correlations at the QCP. In the original $d = 3$ theory with two-component spinors $\psi_{\alpha\sigma}$, these are Lorentz-invariant bilinears of the form $\bar{\psi}\tau_i\sigma_j\psi$ where the τ_i are Pauli matrices acting on the nodal/valley index $\alpha = \pm$ (as for the kagomé lattice, see Sec. II B). Besides the spin-triplet Néel bilinear $\bar{\Psi}\boldsymbol{\sigma}\Psi = \bar{\psi}\tau_3\boldsymbol{\sigma}\psi$ already considered, in this section we consider the three spin-singlet bilinears of the form $\bar{\psi}\tau_i\psi$, $i = 1, 2, 3$. The $\bar{\psi}\psi$ spin-singlet bilinear will be discussed in Sec. IV C.

The physical meaning of these bilinears can be ascertained from an analysis of their transformation properties under space-group and time-reversal symmetries via the projective symmetry group (PSG) [9] (see Appendix A). First, the transformation properties of the spin-triplet bilinear $\bar{\psi}\tau_3\boldsymbol{\sigma}\psi$ agree with those of the microscopic Néel order parameter and confirm the identification obtained in the naive continuum limit (Sec. II A). The spin-singlet bilinear $\bar{\psi}\tau_3\psi = \bar{\Psi}\Psi$ transforms in the same way as the Néel bilinear under space-group symmetries but oppositely under time reversal; it thus corresponds

to a staggered density or CDW order parameter,

$$\mathcal{O}_{\text{CDW}}(r) = (-1)^{x+y} \sum_{\sigma} c_{r\sigma}^{\dagger} c_{r\sigma}. \quad (65)$$

The spin-singlet bilinears $\bar{\psi}\tau_1\psi$ and $\bar{\psi}\tau_2\psi$ transform into each other under C_4 rotations, are both even under time reversal, and transform oppositely under reflections and unit translations. In four-component notation with the choice of 4×4 gamma matrices introduced in Sec. II A, these can be written as $\bar{\psi}\tau_1\psi = i\bar{\Psi}\Gamma_3\Psi$ and $\bar{\psi}\tau_2\psi = -i\bar{\Psi}\Gamma_5\Psi$. These two bilinears can thus be identified with the two components of the VBS order parameter $\mathbf{V} \equiv (V_x, V_y)$, where $V_x \sim i\bar{\Psi}\Gamma_5\Psi$ and $V_y \sim i\bar{\Psi}\Gamma_3\Psi$ correspond to columnar VBS order in the x and y directions, respectively. In the microscopic theory (1), these can be defined as [8]

$$V_x(r) = (-1)^x \mathbf{S}_r \cdot \mathbf{S}_{r+\hat{x}}, \quad V_y(r) = (-1)^y \mathbf{S}_r \cdot \mathbf{S}_{r+\hat{y}}, \quad (66)$$

where $\mathbf{S}_r = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\sigma\sigma'} c_{r\sigma}^{\dagger} \boldsymbol{\sigma}_{\sigma\sigma'} c_{r\sigma'}$ is the microscopic spin operator on site r . The microscopic CDW and VBS operators are functions of on-site bilinears of the form $c_{r\sigma}^{\dagger} c_{r\sigma'}$ and are thus manifestly gauge invariant.

From the operator identifications above we therefore expect that at the QCP, the CDW and VBS order parameters should develop universal power-law correlations at long distances $|r - r'| \gg 1$ (measured in units of the lattice constant),

$$\langle \mathcal{O}_{\text{CDW}}(r) \mathcal{O}_{\text{CDW}}(r') \rangle \sim \frac{1}{|r - r'|^{2\Delta_{\text{CDW}}}}, \quad (67)$$

$$\langle \mathbf{V}(r) \cdot \mathbf{V}(r') \rangle \sim \frac{1}{|r - r'|^{2\Delta_{\text{VBS}}}}, \quad (68)$$

where

$$\Delta_{\text{CDW}} = \Delta_{\bar{\Psi}\Psi}, \quad (69)$$

$$\Delta_{\text{VBS}} = \Delta_{i\bar{\Psi}\Gamma_5\Psi} = \Delta_{i\bar{\Psi}\Gamma_3\Psi}. \quad (70)$$

Note that these correlations are already power-law in the ASL phase, as observed numerically for the Néel and VBS order parameters in Ref. [8]. However, the exponents in Eq. (69)-(70), as well as the exponent $\Delta_{\text{AF}} = \Delta_{\phi}$ for AF spin-spin correlations (i.e., the scaling dimension of the order parameter field ϕ), reflect the particular conformal field theory associated with the Néel-ASL QCP and are thus predicted to be *different* than those in the ASL phase, which corresponds to the pure conformal QED₃ fixed point.

We further observe that while $i\bar{\Psi}\Gamma_5\Psi$ is a Lorentz (pseudo)scalar in $d = 4$ dimensions, $i\bar{\Psi}\Gamma_3\Psi$ is not, but rather corresponds to one component of a Lorentz vector $i\bar{\Psi}\Gamma_{\mu}\Psi$. However, both are Lorentz scalars in $d = 3$ dimensions. Therefore, the ϵ expansion will predict different scaling dimensions for $i\bar{\Psi}\Gamma_5\Psi$ and $i\bar{\Psi}\Gamma_3\Psi$, although they are expected to have the same scaling dimension in the physical $d = 3$ theory since they transform into each other under the action of microscopic symmetries. For the purposes of determining Δ_{VBS} , in the ϵ expansion we will therefore only calculate the dimension of the Lorentz pseudoscalar $i\bar{\Psi}\Gamma_5\Psi$, which

does not have the unphysical property of transforming as a Lorentz vector in $d = 4$ dimensions. By contrast, in the $1/N_f$ expansion in $d = 3$ the scaling dimensions of $i\bar{\Psi}\Gamma_5\Psi$ and $i\bar{\Psi}\Gamma_3\Psi$ should agree order by order in $1/N_f$. On the other hand, Δ_{CDW} can be meaningfully identified with $\Delta_{\bar{\Psi}\Psi}$ computed in both the ϵ and $1/N_f$ expansions with four-component spinors, since $\bar{\Psi}\Psi$ is a Lorentz scalar in both $d = 4$ and $d = 3$ dimensions.

To compute the scaling dimension $\Delta_{\bar{\Psi}\mathcal{M}\Psi}$ of a fermion bilinear $\bar{\Psi}\mathcal{M}\Psi$ (here \mathcal{M} is the identity matrix or $i\Gamma_5$), we follow the method discussed in Ref. [19], whereby the bilinear is added to the bare (renormalized) Lagrangian with a coefficient M_0 (M), the two coefficients being related by $M = M_0 \mu^{-1} Z_M^{-1} Z_{\Psi}$. The renormalized mass M obeys the RG equation

$$\mu \frac{dM}{d\mu} = (-1 - \gamma_M + \gamma_{\Psi})M, \quad (71)$$

where $\gamma_M = \mu(d \ln Z_M / d\mu)$. Since M is the coefficient of a gauge-invariant operator the combination $\gamma_M - \gamma_{\Psi}$ must be gauge invariant even though γ_M and γ_{Ψ} individually are not. The scaling dimension of the bilinear is then given by

$$\Delta_{\bar{\Psi}\mathcal{M}\Psi} = d - 1 - \gamma_{\bar{\Psi}\mathcal{M}\Psi}(e_*^2, g_*^2, \lambda_*^2), \quad (72)$$

where $\gamma_{\bar{\Psi}\mathcal{M}\Psi} \equiv \gamma_M - \gamma_{\Psi}$. By contrast with the chiral Ising QED-GNY model [19] in which a $\bar{\Psi}\Psi$ insertion breaks a \mathbb{Z}_2 chiral symmetry and radiatively induces a relevant ϕ^3 interaction in the renormalized Lagrangian, here the continuous $O(3)$ symmetry ensures that no additional operators which might mix with $\bar{\Psi}\mathcal{M}\Psi$ are radiatively induced by an insertion of this operator.

The CDW susceptibility exponent is given in terms of the normal mass operator anomalous dimension $\gamma_{\bar{\Psi}\Psi}$, given up to three-loop order by

$$\gamma_{\bar{\Psi}\Psi}^{(1L)} = 6e^2 - \frac{9}{4}g^2, \quad (73)$$

$$\gamma_{\bar{\Psi}\Psi}^{(2L)} = -18e^2g^2 - \frac{1}{3}(40N_f - 9)e^4 + \frac{3}{64}(56N_f + 59)g^4, \quad (74)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \gamma_{\bar{\Psi}\Psi}^{(3L)} = & -\frac{1}{27}[8N_f(140N_f + 621 - 648\zeta_3) - 3483]e^6 \\ & + \frac{3}{1024}[8N_f(88N_f - 397) - 847 - 2256\zeta_3]g^6 \\ & - \frac{3}{16}[N_f(-137 + 144\zeta_3) - 6(43 + 22\zeta_3)]e^2g^4 \\ & + \frac{9}{16}(160N_f - 109 + 336\zeta_3)e^4g^2 - 75g^4\lambda^2 \\ & + 435g^2\lambda^4. \end{aligned} \quad (75)$$

The four-loop term $\gamma_{\bar{\Psi}\Psi}^{(4L)}$ is given electronically [58]. Contributions are found to be independent of the gauge-fixing parameter ξ at each loop order, which constitutes a strong check on the calculation. Evaluating Eq. (72) at the QCP (45)-(47), we obtain at one-loop order

$$\Delta_{\bar{\Psi}\Psi} = 3 + \frac{9 - N_f(4N_f + 1)}{N_f(4N_f + 1)}\epsilon + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon^2), \quad (76)$$

with the full four-loop expression given in Ref. [58]. For $N_f = 1$, we obtain

$$\Delta_{\bar{\Psi}\Psi} \approx 3 + 0.8\epsilon - 2.984\epsilon^2 - 4.352\epsilon^3 - 10.49\epsilon^4 + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon^5). \quad (77)$$

Similarly, the VBS susceptibility exponent is obtained from the axial mass operator anomalous dimension $\gamma_{i\bar{\Psi}\Gamma_5\Psi}$. Up to three-loop order we obtain

$$\gamma_{i\bar{\Psi}\Gamma_5\Psi}^{(1L)} = 6e^2 + \frac{3}{4}g^2, \quad (78)$$

$$\gamma_{i\bar{\Psi}\Gamma_5\Psi}^{(2L)} = -\left(\frac{40N_f}{3} - 3\right)e^4 + 6e^2g^2 - \frac{3}{64}(8N_f - 11)g^4, \quad (79)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \gamma_{i\bar{\Psi}\Gamma_5\Psi}^{(3L)} = & \left[-\frac{8}{27}N_f(140N_f + 621 - 648\zeta_3) + 129\right]e^6 \\ & + \frac{3}{1024}[8N_f(-40N_f + 67) + 509 - 528\zeta_3]g^6 \\ & + \frac{3}{16}[N_f(-19 + 48\zeta_3) + 44 - 108\zeta_3]e^2g^4 \\ & + \frac{3}{16}(64N_f + 13 - 720\zeta_3)e^4g^2 + 15g^4\lambda^2 \\ & - 105g^2\lambda^4, \end{aligned} \quad (80)$$

with the four-loop contribution $\gamma_{i\bar{\Psi}\Gamma_5\Psi}^{(4L)}$ given in electronic format [58]. At one-loop order for general N_f , we find

$$\Delta_{i\bar{\Psi}\Gamma_5\Psi} = 3 - \frac{2N_f(4N_f + 7) + 9}{2N_f(4N_f + 1)}\epsilon + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon^2), \quad (81)$$

while for $N_f = 1$ at four-loop order, we obtain

$$\Delta_{i\bar{\Psi}\Gamma_5\Psi} \approx 3 - 3.1\epsilon - 3.145\epsilon^2 + 10.78\epsilon^3 - 85.32\epsilon^4 + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon^5). \quad (82)$$

The full four-loop expression for general N_f is given in Ref. [58].

Finally, for $N_f > 1$, in addition to the flavor-singlet bilinears $\bar{\Psi}\Psi$ and $i\bar{\Psi}\Gamma_5\Psi$ one can define an $SU(N_f)$ flavor-adjoint bilinear,

$$\bar{\Psi}T_A\Psi = \sum_{i,j=1}^{N_f} \bar{\Psi}_i T_A^{ij} \Psi_j, \quad A = 1, \dots, N_f^2 - 1, \quad (83)$$

where T_A are the Hermitian generators of $SU(N_f)$. This operator does not exist for $N_f = 1$ and thus has no physical meaning in the context of the Néel-ASL transition, but the computation of its scaling dimension for $N_f > 1$ is an interesting problem in quantum field theory. The corresponding anomalous dimension $\gamma_{\bar{\Psi}T_A\Psi}$ is given up to four-loop order in Ref. [58]. At one-loop order, $\Delta_{\bar{\Psi}T_A\Psi}$ is equal to the flavor-singlet, normal mass bilinear dimension (76). A difference in scaling dimensions between singlet and adjoint bilinears only begins appearing at four-loop order,

$$\Delta_{\bar{\Psi}\Psi} - \Delta_{\bar{\Psi}T_A\Psi} = \frac{9(1 - 3\zeta_3)(4N_f + 9)^3}{32N_f^3(4N_f + 1)^3}\epsilon^4 + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon^5). \quad (84)$$

As discussed in Ref. [19], the difference between singlet and adjoint mass dimensions comes from bilinear insertions in closed fermion loops appearing in the loop expansion of the fermion two-point function; such closed loops vanish for adjoint insertions since the $SU(N_f)$ generators are traceless, but are generally nonzero for singlet insertions. However, here the tracelessness of the spin $SU(2)$ generators appearing at each Yukawa vertex implies that nonvanishing singlet insertions in closed fermion loops occur at higher loop order than in the chiral Ising QED-GNY model, since such closed loops must contain an even number of Yukawa vertices to not vanish in the chiral Heisenberg case.

G. Fermion bilinear dimensions in the chiral Heisenberg GNY model

Turning off the gauge coupling e^2 in the Lagrangian (21), we obtain the pure chiral Heisenberg GNY model, which for $N_f = 1$ describes the semimetal-AF insulator quantum phase transition on the honeycomb and π -flux lattices at half-filling [35–45]. Whereas the usual exponents (ν , η_ϕ , and the fermion anomalous dimension η_Ψ) for the chiral Heisenberg GNY model have been computed both in the ϵ - [46, 61] and large- N_f [47] expansions, to our knowledge scaling dimensions of fermion bilinears have thus far not been computed. In particular, the $\bar{\Psi}\Psi$ bilinear corresponds in the long-wavelength limit to the CDW order parameter, i.e., Eq. (65) on the π -flux square lattice, and the Semenoff mass [62] on the honeycomb lattice. Correlations of this bilinear can in principle be computed in sign-problem-free QMC simulations of the half-filled repulsive Hubbard model on the aforementioned lattices, and at the semimetal-AF QCP should decay at long distances according to Eq. (67) with an exponent $\Delta_{\text{CDW}} = \Delta_{\bar{\Psi}\Psi}^{\text{ch-GNY}}$ given by

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta_{\bar{\Psi}\Psi}^{\text{ch-GNY}} \approx & 3 - 0.1\epsilon - 0.4278\epsilon^2 + 0.2186\epsilon^3 - 1.063\epsilon^4 \\ & + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon^5). \end{aligned} \quad (85)$$

For the chiral Heisenberg GNY model with general N_f , we obtain at one-loop order

$$\Delta_{\bar{\Psi}\Psi}^{\text{ch-GNY}} = 3 + \frac{7 - 8N_f}{2(4N_f + 1)}\epsilon + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon^2). \quad (86)$$

A four-loop expression for general N_f is given electronically in Ref. [58].

Similarly, the Hermitian $i\bar{\Psi}\Gamma_3\Psi$ and $i\bar{\Psi}\Gamma_5\Psi$ bilinears can be viewed as the two components of the columnar VBS order parameter on the π -flux square lattice, or alternatively as the real and imaginary parts of a \mathbb{Z}_3 -symmetric complex order parameter describing Kekulé VBS order on the graphene lattice [63–65]. At the semimetal-AF QCP of the half-filled repulsive Hubbard model on those lattices the correlation function of these operators should decay as in Eq. (68), with the exponent $\Delta_{\text{VBS}} = \Delta_{i\bar{\Psi}\Gamma_5\Psi}^{\text{ch-GNY}}$ given by

$$\Delta_{i\bar{\Psi}\Gamma_5\Psi}^{\text{ch-GNY}} \approx 3 - 1.3\epsilon - 0.1674\epsilon^2 + 0.01146\epsilon^3 - 0.1148\epsilon^4$$

$$+ \mathcal{O}(\epsilon^5). \quad (87)$$

For general N_f , the one-loop result is

$$\Delta_{i\bar{\Psi}\Gamma_s\Psi}^{\text{CH-GNY}} = 3 - \frac{8N_f + 5}{2(4N_f + 1)}\epsilon + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon^2), \quad (88)$$

and the full four-loop result is given in electronic format [58].

Turning finally to the $SU(N_f)$ flavor-adjoint bilinear (83), the four-loop diagrams responsible for the difference (72) in scaling dimensions between the singlet and adjoint bilinears are $\mathcal{O}(e^2g^6)$ and vanish for the pure chiral Heisenberg GNY model with $e^2 = 0$. Thus for the latter model this difference in scaling dimensions can at most be $\mathcal{O}(\epsilon^5)$.

IV. LARGE- N_f EXPANSION

To complement the ϵ expansion studies just discussed we now turn to the large- N_f expansion. The large- N_f formalism we use has been detailed in Refs. [30–33] for the chiral Ising QED-GN(Y) model. We refer the reader to those articles for more details as well as to the original papers of Vasil'ev *et al.* [66, 67], where the large- N_f critical point approach was developed for scalar theories with N_f flavors in d dimensions. The elegance of the method is such that one carries out all computations at the d -dimensional fixed point where there is scaling behavior. The core Lagrangian for determining large- N_f critical exponents is that which governs the universality class of the $O(3)$ QED-GNY fixed point of the four-dimensional Lagrangian (21) used for the perturbative computations. The essence of that Lagrangian is that it involves the kinetic terms of the fields as well as the 3-point interactions between the matter and force fields. By the latter we include not only the photon but also the scalar field ϕ^a . For our case there are only two such interactions and the Euclidean Lagrangian of the universal theory used for the large- N_f analysis is

$$\mathcal{L} = \bar{\Psi}_i \not{\partial} \Psi_i + \bar{\phi}^a \bar{\Psi}_i \frac{1}{2} \sigma^a \Psi_i - i \tilde{A}_\mu \bar{\Psi}_i \Gamma_\mu \Psi_i + \dots, \quad (89)$$

where sums over repeated indices $i = 1, \dots, N_f$ and $a = 1, 2, 3$ are understood. We have not included any additional terms since there would be an infinite number of operators built from the three fields. Only a few of these operators would be relevant in a fixed dimension; in particular, the kinetic terms for the scalar and gauge fields in Eq. (21) are irrelevant at criticality in the large- N_f limit. Also the coupling constants have been rescaled out of the interactions to produce the new fields $\bar{\phi}^a$ and \tilde{A}_μ since the formalism applies at criticality and there the couplings do not run [66, 67]. Excluding one or the other of the two interactions in Eq. (89) would lead to critical exponents of a different universality class. At criticality the canonical dimensions of the fields are fixed by the dimensionlessness of the action in d dimensions and this leads to the asymptotic scaling forms of the propagators [30, 33],

$$\langle \Psi_i(x) \bar{\Psi}_j(y) \rangle \sim \frac{(\not{x} - \not{y}) A \delta_{ij}}{((x - y)^2)^{\hat{\alpha}}},$$

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \phi^a(x) \phi^b(y) \rangle &\sim \frac{B_\phi \delta^{ab}}{((x - y)^2)^{\hat{\beta}_\phi}}, \\ \langle A_\mu(x) A_\nu(y) \rangle &\sim \frac{B_A}{((x - y)^2)^{\hat{\beta}_A}} \\ &\times \left[\delta_{\mu\nu} + \frac{2\hat{\beta}_A}{(2\mu - 2\hat{\beta}_A - 1)} \frac{(x - y)_\mu (x - y)_\nu}{(x - y)^2} \right], \end{aligned} \quad (90)$$

in the approach to the fixed point in coordinate space. Here A , B_A and B_ϕ are coordinate-independent amplitudes and the full dimension of each field is defined by

$$\hat{\alpha} = \mu + \frac{1}{2}\eta, \quad \hat{\beta}_A = 1 - \eta - \chi_A, \quad \hat{\beta}_\phi = 1 - \eta - \chi_\phi, \quad (91)$$

where χ_A and χ_ϕ are the anomalous dimensions of the respective vertices of (89) and we retain the definition $d = 2\mu$ of Refs. [33, 66] for consistency with other large- N_f work using this formalism. Equally to avoid confusion with the notation for the β -functions we use a hat for the full dimension of the field exponents. The vertex dimensions as well as the other exponents such as η are functions of d and N_f and each exponent can be expanded in series of the form

$$\eta = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{\eta_n}{N_f^n}. \quad (92)$$

Moreover these critical exponents are related to the ϵ -expansion of their respective RG functions at the $O(3)$ QED-GNY fixed point found in Sec. III C. As such this provides a non-trivial check on the four-loop renormalization. Since the large- N_f formalism of Refs. [66, 67] operates purely at the critical point all our $1/N_f$ results will be exclusively in the Landau gauge ($\xi = 0$). The gauge parameter, ξ , of our linear gauge fixing can be regarded as a second coupling constant and at criticality its associated renormalization group function, which is in effect a β -function, defines a critical coupling. In this case it corresponds to the Landau gauge.

A. Critical exponents

Using this formalism we have extended the $\mathcal{O}(1/N_f^2)$ computations of Ref. [33] to the case where the Pauli matrices appear in the scalar-fermion vertex. Since Refs. [32, 33] already record the values for all the large N_f master integrals contributing to the scaling forms of the various Green's functions needed to find the operator dimension at $\mathcal{O}(1/N_f^2)$, we merely record the outcome of this straightforward exercise. The key building block is the fermion anomalous dimension, which at leading order is

$$\eta_1 = -\frac{(4\mu^3 - 6\mu^2 - 3\mu + 4)}{8\mu(\mu - 1)} \frac{\Gamma(2\mu - 1)}{\Gamma^3(\mu)\Gamma(1 - \mu)}, \quad (93)$$

in Landau gauge, where $\Gamma(z)$ is the gamma function. Having established this the two leading-order vertex dimensions are

required for the solution of the $\mathcal{O}(1/N_f^2)$ Schwinger-Dyson equations. We find

$$\chi_{\phi 1} = -\frac{\mu(4\mu^2 - 2\mu - 1)\eta_1}{(4\mu^3 - 6\mu^2 - 3\mu + 4)}, \quad \chi_{A1} = -\eta_1. \quad (94)$$

The simplicity of the latter equation is a reflection that in the critical large- N_f setup the photon has a full dimension of unity which correctly shows the consistency of the Ward-Takahashi identity. In the RG approach this is equivalent to the all-orders

statement that $\gamma_A = \epsilon$ at any fixed point with $e_*^2 \neq 0$, which follows from Eq. (30). In addition we have computed $1/\nu$ to $\mathcal{O}(1/N_f)$ and found

$$\frac{1}{\nu} = 2\mu - 2 - \frac{4(3\mu^2 - 4\mu + 2)(2\mu - 1)\eta_1}{(4\mu^3 - 6\mu^2 - 3\mu + 4)N_f} + \mathcal{O}(1/N_f^2). \quad (95)$$

With the leading order exponents for η , χ_A and χ_ϕ we have evaluated several exponents to the next order finding

$$\begin{aligned} \eta_2 &= \left[3\mu(2\mu - 1)(\mu - 1)(4\mu^3 - 6\mu^2 - 3\mu + 4) [\psi'(\mu - 1) - \psi'(1)] - 12(\mu - 1)^2(2\mu^2 + \mu - 2)\hat{\Psi}(\mu) \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \frac{16\mu^6 - 96\mu^5 + 156\mu^4 - 18\mu^3 - 141\mu^2 + 114\mu - 28}{\mu - 1} \right] \frac{\eta_1^2}{(4\mu^3 - 6\mu^2 - 3\mu + 4)^2}, \\ \chi_{\phi 2} &= \left[4\mu(\mu - 1)(2\mu^2 + \mu - 2)\hat{\Psi}(\mu) - \frac{(48\mu^7 - 160\mu^6 + 104\mu^5 + 134\mu^4 - 188\mu^3 + 31\mu^2 + 28\mu - 4)}{\mu - 1} \right. \\ &\quad \left. - 3(16\mu^3 - 4\mu^2 - 14\mu + 7)\mu^2(\mu - 1) [\psi'(\mu - 1) - \psi'(1)] \right] \frac{\eta_1^2}{(4\mu^3 - 6\mu^2 - 3\mu + 4)^2}, \end{aligned} \quad (96)$$

where $\psi(z) = \Gamma'(z)/\Gamma(z)$ is the Euler digamma function and we define

$$\hat{\Psi}(\mu) = \psi(2\mu - 1) - \psi(1) + \psi(1 - \mu) - \psi(\mu - 1). \quad (97)$$

As these expressions are valid in d dimensions also expanding them in powers of ϵ with $d = 4 - \epsilon$ and comparing with the corresponding RG functions at criticality we find full agreement which is a solid check on both the perturbative and large N_f computations. For instance, the exponent $\hat{\beta}_\phi$ corresponds to the full scaling dimension of the scalar field, which is given by $(d - 2 + \eta_\phi)/2$ in d dimensions where the anomalous dimension η_ϕ corresponds to the RG function γ_ϕ at criticality [Eq. (51)]. In $d = 3$ dimensions we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \eta|_{d=3} &= -\frac{1}{3\pi^2 N_f} - \frac{(3\pi^2 + 80)}{9\pi^4 N_f^2} + \mathcal{O}(1/N_f^3), \\ \eta_\phi|_{d=3} &= 1 + \frac{32}{3\pi^2 N_f} + \frac{95\pi^2 - 368}{3\pi^4 N_f^2} + \mathcal{O}(1/N_f^3), \\ \frac{1}{\nu}|_{d=3} &= 1 - \frac{44}{3\pi^2 N_f} + \mathcal{O}(1/N_f^2), \end{aligned} \quad (98)$$

or, numerically

$$\begin{aligned} \eta|_{d=3} &= -\frac{0.03377}{N_f} - \frac{0.1250}{N_f^2} + \mathcal{O}(1/N_f^3), \\ \eta_\phi|_{d=3} &= 1 + \frac{1.081}{N_f} + \frac{1.949}{N_f^2} + \mathcal{O}(1/N_f^3), \\ \frac{1}{\nu}|_{d=3} &= 1 - \frac{1.486}{N_f} + \mathcal{O}(1/N_f^2), \end{aligned} \quad (99)$$

using $\eta_\phi = 2[2 - \mu - (\eta + \chi_\phi)]$.

B. CDW and VBS susceptibility exponents

The final exercise is to determine the scaling dimension of fermion bilinears in the large- N_f expansion. We begin with the flavor-singlet bilinear $\bar{\Psi}\Psi$, which determines the CDW susceptibility exponent [see Eqs. (67) and (69)], as well as the adjoint bilinear $\bar{\Psi}T_A\Psi$. We shall compute those at $\mathcal{O}(1/N_f^2)$ which requires the expression for η_2 . In this case there is a subtle difference between the setup for (89) and that of the theory where the Pauli matrix of the scalar-fermion vertex is absent. The latter was considered in Ref. [33] and in that case the $\mathcal{O}(1/N_f^2)$ expressions for the adjoint and singlet operator dimensions were different. This was because of the graphs of Figure 7 of Ref. [33]. These correspond to the insertion of the operator in a closed fermion loop. For the adjoint case these graphs are absent due to the trace over the matrix of the operator. The operator of the singlet case in Ref. [33] is the fermion mass operator and the corresponding graphs contribute leading to different $\mathcal{O}(1/N_f^2)$ exponents. However in the case of (89) the presence of the Pauli matrix in the scalar-fermion vertex means that there is no contribution from the parallel graphs of Figure 7 of [33]. This does not mean that the singlet and adjoint operator dimensions are equivalent in the perturbative case. In that instance they are different with the discrepancy apparent at $\mathcal{O}(1/N_f^3)$, as can be seen explicitly by expanding Eq. (84) in inverse powers of N_f . Computations at $\mathcal{O}(1/N_f^3)$ are however beyond the reach of the current large- N_f formalism. The outcome is that we have the leading-order exponent

$$\eta_{\mathcal{O}1} = -\frac{\mu(4\mu^2 - 10\mu + 7)\eta_1}{(4\mu^3 - 6\mu^2 - 3\mu + 4)}, \quad (100)$$

and

$$\eta_{\mathcal{O}_2} = - \left[3\mu^2(2\mu-1)(\mu-1)(4\mu^2-10\mu+7) [\psi'(\mu-1) - \psi'(1)] + 12\mu(\mu-1)(2\mu^2+\mu-2)\hat{\Psi}(\mu) + \frac{16\mu^6-128\mu^5+236\mu^4-186\mu^3+67\mu^2-4\mu-4}{\mu-1} \right] \frac{\eta_1^2}{(4\mu^3-6\mu^2-3\mu+4)^2}, \quad (101)$$

at next-to-leading order, for both singlet and adjoint bilinears. We have checked that the ϵ -expansion of both are in full agreement with the four-loop order results. The next stage is to deduce the three-dimensional values

$$\Delta_{\bar{\Psi}\Psi}|_{d=3} = 2 - \frac{4}{3\pi^2 N_f} + \frac{4(12-\pi^2)}{3\pi^4 N_f^2} + \mathcal{O}(1/N_f^3), \quad (102)$$

or

$$\Delta_{\bar{\Psi}\Psi}|_{d=3} = 2 - \frac{0.1351}{N_f} + \frac{0.02916}{N_f^2} + \mathcal{O}(1/N_f^3), \quad (103)$$

where

$$\Delta_{\bar{\Psi}\Psi} = 2\mu - 1 + \eta + \eta_{\mathcal{O}}. \quad (104)$$

In contrast to the corresponding expression in Ref. [33] the coefficient of the $\mathcal{O}(1/N_f^2)$ term is significantly smaller than that at $\mathcal{O}(1/N_f)$. This may mean that exponent estimates for relatively low values of N_f could be reasonably reliable.

We next turn to the axial mass operator $i\bar{\Psi}\Gamma_5\Psi$, which controls the decay of VBS correlations [see Eqs. (68) and (70)] at the QCP. Expressing its scaling dimension as $\Delta_{i\bar{\Psi}\Gamma_5\Psi} = 2\mu - 1 + \eta + \eta_{\mathcal{O}_5}$, we obtain the $\mathcal{O}(1/N_f)$ correction as

$$\eta_{\mathcal{O}_5} = - \frac{\mu(4\mu^2+2\mu-5)\eta_1}{(4\mu^3-6\mu^2-3\mu+4)}. \quad (105)$$

In $d = 3$ dimensions, this evaluates to

$$\Delta_{i\bar{\Psi}\Gamma_5\Psi} = 2 - \frac{22}{3\pi^2 N_f} + \mathcal{O}(1/N_f^2). \quad (106)$$

If the result for arbitrary d is expanded in powers of ϵ , where $d = 4 - \epsilon$, then the series that ensues agrees with the large- N_f expansion of the four-loop order result.

C. QAH susceptibility exponent and Aslamazov-Larkin diagrams

We now turn to the spin-singlet bilinear $\bar{\psi}\psi = i\bar{\Psi}\Gamma_3\Gamma_5\Psi$, which is odd under time reversal \mathcal{T} and reflection R_x (i.e., parity in 2+1 dimensions) as shown in Appendix A. Because of the presence of the Γ_3 matrix, this bilinear is not Lorentz invariant in $d = 4 - \epsilon$ dimensions but is Lorentz invariant in strict $d = 3$ dimensions, where the spacetime index $\mu = 0, 1, 2$ only. As a result, we do not calculate its dimension in the ϵ expansion, but can compute it in the large- N_f expansion in fixed $d = 3$, using the relation $\Gamma_5 = \Gamma_0\Gamma_1\Gamma_2\Gamma_3$. Physically, this operator corresponds to the continuum limit of a QAH or Haldane mass term [68], first discussed in the context of

the π -flux phase on the square lattice by Wen, Wilczek, and Zee [69]:

$$\mathcal{O}_{\text{QAH}}(r) \sim i(-1)^{x+y} \sum_{\sigma} (c_{r\sigma}^{\dagger} W_{r,r+a_1} c_{r+a_1,\sigma} - c_{r\sigma}^{\dagger} W_{r,r+a_2} c_{r+a_2,\sigma}) + \text{h.c.} \quad (107)$$

The pure imaginary, diagonal next-nearest-neighbor hopping terms break time-reversal symmetry and give a mass to the Dirac fermions. We define two Wilson line operators as

$$\begin{aligned} W_{r,r+a_1} &= e^{i\theta_{r,r+\hat{x}}} e^{i\theta_{r+\hat{x},r+\hat{x}+\hat{y}}} + e^{i\theta_{r,r-\hat{y}}} e^{i\theta_{r-\hat{y},r+\hat{x}+\hat{y}}}, \\ W_{r,r+a_2} &= e^{i\theta_{r,r+\hat{x}}} e^{i\theta_{r+\hat{x},r+\hat{x}+\hat{y}}} + e^{i\theta_{r,r+\hat{y}}} e^{i\theta_{r+\hat{y},r+\hat{x}+\hat{y}}}, \end{aligned} \quad (108)$$

which obey $W_{r,r+a_1}^{\dagger} = W_{r+a_1,r}$ and $W_{r,r+a_2}^{\dagger} = W_{r+a_2,r}$. Such Wilson line insertions [13] are required to ensure that $\mathcal{O}_{\text{QAH}}(r)$ is invariant under lattice $U(1)$ gauge transformations $c_{r\sigma} \rightarrow e^{i\varphi_r} c_{r\sigma}$, $\theta_{r,r+\hat{\mu}} \rightarrow \theta_{r,r+\hat{\mu}} + \varphi_r - \varphi_{r+\hat{\mu}}$, and their particular form has been chosen to preserve all lattice symmetries: one can check that Eq. (108) transforms precisely as the continuum $\bar{\psi}\psi$ bilinear under the microscopic PSG transformations in Eq. (A.11). As result we expect that at the Néel-ASL QCP, correlations of the QAH operator (108) as computed in QMC would decay in power-law fashion at long distances,

$$\langle \mathcal{O}_{\text{QAH}}(r) \mathcal{O}_{\text{QAH}}(r') \rangle \sim \frac{1}{|r-r'|^{2\Delta_{\text{QAH}}}}, \quad (109)$$

with

$$\Delta_{\text{QAH}} = \Delta_{i\bar{\Psi}\Gamma_3\Gamma_5\Psi}, \quad (110)$$

where $\Delta_{i\bar{\Psi}\Gamma_3\Gamma_5\Psi}$ is the dimension of the continuum bilinear.

In the preceding subsections critical exponents have been computed in arbitrary d -dimensional spacetime utilizing the fact that the trace of the product $\Gamma_{\mu_1} \cdots \Gamma_{\mu_{2n+1}}$ of an odd number of 4×4 gamma matrices is zero. In fixed $d = 3$ dimensions with two-component spinors, this assumption is invalid since $\text{tr} \gamma_{\mu} \gamma_{\nu} \gamma_{\rho} \propto \epsilon_{\mu\nu\lambda}$, which was shown to give additional contributions to the large- N_f critical exponents of the chiral Ising QED₃-GNY model from Aslamazov-Larkin diagrams [27, 70]. In the four-component formulation with $d = 3$, we expect Aslamazov-Larkin diagrams to again contribute in the presence of a $\Gamma_3\Gamma_5$ insertion, since $\text{tr} \Gamma_3\Gamma_5\Gamma_{\mu}\Gamma_{\nu}\Gamma_{\lambda} \propto \epsilon_{\mu\nu\lambda}$. The calculation of the Aslamazov-Larkin diagrams for the chiral-Ising case was performed in Ref. [27], and so those results can be adapted to the present case by incorporating the additional $SU(2)$ spin structure present in the Feynman rules. As a result of the modified Feynman rules, the large- N_f scalar

propagator is twice the value of that appearing in Ref. [27], while the photon propagator is now one half of its value in the chiral-Ising case. In reference to the Feynman diagrams in Ref. [27], we note that since there are two spin components, the diagram in Fig. 4 is multiplied by two, whereas the spin factor and the modified photon propagator factor cancel one another to render Figs. 5(a-e) equal to their original value. For the diagrams in Figs. 6(a-c), the Pauli matrices in the Yukawa vertex now lead to an additional factor of $\frac{1}{4}\text{tr}\sigma^a\sigma^b\delta^{ab} = 3/2$, and thus the diagrams as a whole are $2 \times 3/2$ larger than their original values. The diagrams in Figs. 7(a,d) still give zero total contribution. As a result, the QAH susceptibility exponent in Eq. (110) is given to $\mathcal{O}(1/N_f)$ by

$$\Delta_{i\bar{\Psi}\Gamma_3\Gamma_5\Psi} = 2 + \frac{44}{3\pi^2 N_f} + \mathcal{O}(1/N_f^2).$$

D. Fermion bilinear dimensions in the chiral Heisenberg GN(Y) model

While the fermion (η) and boson (η_ϕ) anomalous dimensions as well as the inverse correlation length exponent $1/\nu$ have been computed in the large- N_f expansion for the pure chiral Heisenberg GN(Y) model [47], the scaling dimensions of fermion bilinears have thus far not been computed using this method. Using the same formalism as in previous subsections we have computed the dimension of the flavor-singlet $\bar{\Psi}\Psi$ and flavor-adjoint $\bar{\Psi}T_A\Psi$ bilinears at $\mathcal{O}(1/N_f^2)$, which are the same at this order, as well as the dimension of the axial bilinear $i\bar{\Psi}\Gamma_5\Psi$ at $\mathcal{O}(1/N_f)$. The general expressions are again Eq. (104) and its axial counterpart, together with Eq. (92), but where the exponents η , $\eta_{\mathcal{O}}$, and $\eta_{\mathcal{O}_5}$ must be computed at the critical fixed point of the pure chiral Heisenberg GN(Y) theory. The fermion exponents η_1 and η_2 were computed previously [47], but are reproduced here for convenience and accounting for the change in convention regarding the definition of flavor number (N vs N_f). We obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \eta_1^{\text{CH-GNY}} &= -\frac{3\Gamma(2\mu-1)}{4\mu\Gamma(1-\mu)\Gamma(\mu-1)\Gamma^2(\mu)}, \\ \eta_{\mathcal{O}_1}^{\text{CH-GNY}} = -\eta_{\mathcal{O}_5}^{\text{CH-GNY}} &= \frac{\mu}{\mu-1}\eta_1^{\text{CH-GNY}}, \end{aligned} \quad (111)$$

at $\mathcal{O}(1/N_f)$, and

$$\begin{aligned} \eta_2^{\text{CH-GNY}} &= \left[\frac{2\mu-3}{3(\mu-1)}\Psi(\mu) + \frac{4\mu^2-6\mu+1}{2\mu(\mu-1)^2} \right] (\eta_1^{\text{CH-GNY}})^2, \\ \eta_{\mathcal{O}_2}^{\text{CH-GNY}} &= \left[\frac{\mu(2\mu-3)}{3(\mu-1)^2}\hat{\Psi}(\mu) - \frac{\mu(4\mu-3)}{3(\mu-1)^3} \right] (\eta_1^{\text{CH-GNY}})^2, \end{aligned} \quad (112)$$

at $\mathcal{O}(1/N_f^2)$, defining

$$\Psi(\mu) = \psi(2\mu-1) - \psi(1) + \psi(2-\mu) - \psi(\mu). \quad (113)$$

In $d = 4 - \epsilon$ dimensions the results for $\Delta_{\bar{\Psi}\Psi}^{\text{CH-GNY}}$ and $\Delta_{i\bar{\Psi}\Gamma_5\Psi}^{\text{CH-GNY}}$ thus found agree with the corresponding four-loop results in

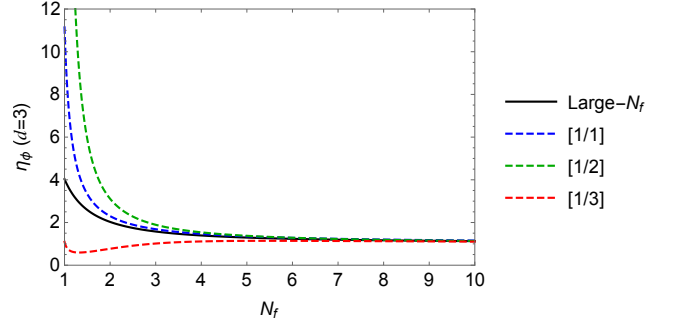


FIG. 2. Colored lines: Padé approximants for η_ϕ in $d = 3$ as a function of N_f at two (blue), three (green), and four-loop (red) orders; black line: large- N_f result from Eq. (98).

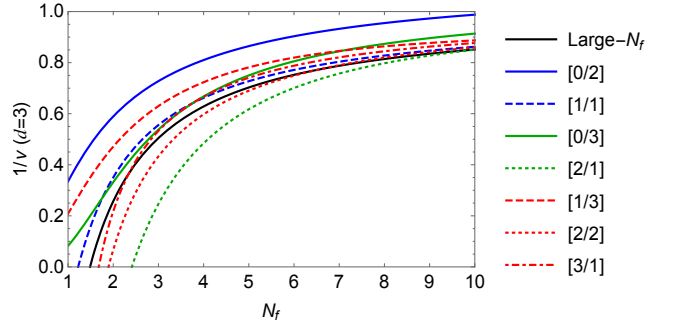


FIG. 3. Colored lines: Padé approximants for $1/\nu$ in $d = 3$ as a function of N_f at two (blue), three (green), and four-loop (red) orders; black line: large- N_f result from Eq. (98).

Sec. III G. For $d = 3$, we find

$$\Delta_{\bar{\Psi}\Psi}^{\text{CH-GNY}} = 2 + \frac{4}{\pi^2 N_f} - \frac{32}{3\pi^4 N_f^2} + \mathcal{O}(1/N_f^3), \quad (114)$$

$$\Delta_{i\bar{\Psi}\Gamma_5\Psi}^{\text{CH-GNY}} = 2 - \frac{2}{\pi^2 N_f} + \mathcal{O}(1/N_f^2). \quad (115)$$

As discussed in Sec. III G, for $N_f = 1$ those exponents control the decay of CDW and VBS correlations at the semimetal-AF QCP in the repulsive Hubbard model on the honeycomb and π -flux lattices, and are in principle accessible to sign-problem-free QMC simulations.

V. RESUMMED CRITICAL EXPONENTS

We now apply approximate resummation methods to obtain estimates of critical exponents in fixed $d = 3$ for general $N_f \geq 1$. A standard method to extrapolate finite-order ϵ -expansion results to the physical dimension $d = 3$ is the use of Padé approximants [71]. For a given loop order L , the (one-sided) Padé approximants are defined by

$$[m/n](\epsilon) = \frac{\sum_{i=0}^m a_i \epsilon^i}{1 + \sum_{j=1}^n b_j \epsilon^j}, \quad (116)$$

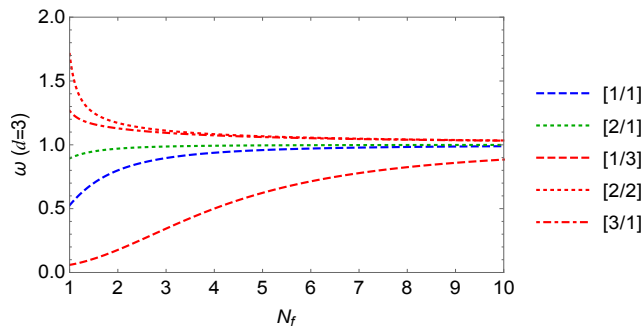


FIG. 4. Padé approximants for ω in $d = 3$ as a function of N_f at two (blue), three (green), and four-loop (red) orders.

where m and n are two positive integers obeying $m + n = L$. The coefficients a_i and b_j are determined such that expanding the above function in powers of ϵ to $\mathcal{O}(\epsilon^L)$ reproduces the ϵ -expansion results. We also use the Padé-Borel method [71], which provides an alternative method to resummation of the ϵ -expansion results. For an expansion given by $\Delta(\epsilon) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \Delta_k \epsilon^k$, the Borel sum is defined as $B_{\Delta}(\epsilon) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{k!} \Delta_k \epsilon^k$. The Borel transform is the following exact result:

$$\Delta(\epsilon) = \int_0^{\infty} dt e^{-t} B_{\Delta}(\epsilon t). \quad (117)$$

Since the ϵ -expansion coefficients are known only to fourth order, in the above expression B_{Δ} is replaced by a Padé approximant at a given order. In the following we present the results of Padé extrapolation of the ϵ -expansion for general N_f , as well as the corresponding Padé-Borel results for $N_f = 1$ only. We also apply those two methods to the resummation of the $1/N_f$ -expansion series, as done for instance in Ref. [33], for the case of $N_f = 1$ only.

A. Chiral Heisenberg QED₃-GNy model

The Padé approximants for η_{ϕ} , $1/\nu$, and ω at two-loop (blue), three-loop (green), and four-loop (red) orders are shown in Figs. 2, 3, and 4 respectively. Only those Padé approximants that are nonsingular in the extrapolation region $0 < \epsilon < 1$ are shown in the figures. With increasing N_f the various approximants generally converge towards each other as well as towards the $d = 3$ large- N_f result (black line). Furthermore, in Fig. 3 the spread of values predicted by the approximants decreases with increasing loop order for a fixed N_f . However, at smaller values of N_f there is a discernible deviation amongst the various Padé approximants. A similar phenomenon was apparent for the chiral Ising QED-GNY theory [19, 26] as well as for pure QED [17], whereas Padé approximants for pure GNY models are comparatively better behaved [46, 57, 72]. Physically this can be understood from the fact that the disordered phase of pure GNY models (a Dirac semimetal) is adiabatically connected to a system of noninteracting Dirac fermions regardless of the value of N_f , whereas

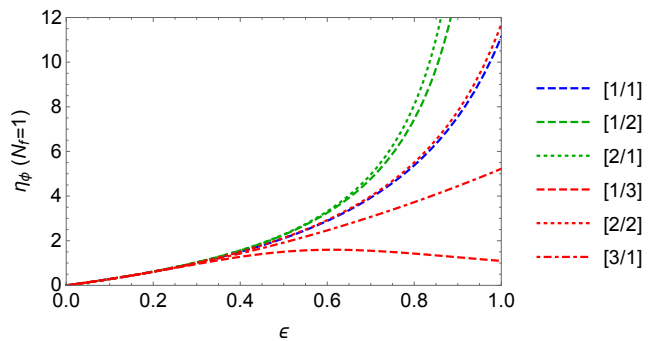


FIG. 5. Padé approximants for η_{ϕ} as a function of ϵ for $N_f = 1$ at two (blue), three (green), and four-loop (red) orders.

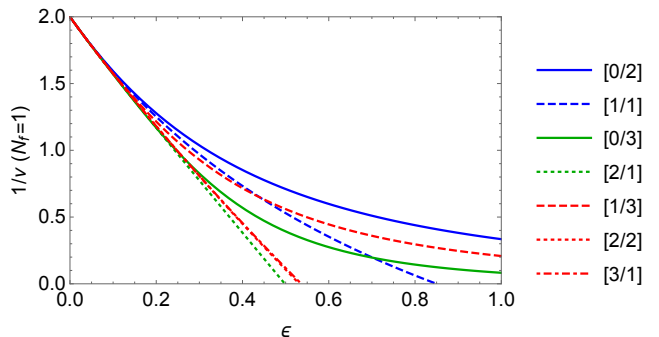


FIG. 6. Padé approximants for $1/\nu$ as a function of ϵ for $N_f = 1$ at two (blue), three (green), and four-loop (red) orders.

in QED-GNY models the disordered phase (the ASL) consists of a system of mutually interacting Dirac fermions and gauge fields which becomes increasingly strongly coupled in the infrared for small N_f (at least in the sense of the $1/N_f$ expansion). In particular, the large variation of the [1/3] Padé approximant for both η_{ϕ} and ω in relation to the other approximants was a feature also noticed for the chiral Ising QED-GNY model [19]; if this approximant is ignored for those exponents a better overall consistency is achieved. Unitarity bounds [73, 74] in conformal field theory require the scaling dimension Δ of a Lorentz scalar to obey $\Delta \geq d/2 - 1$. Since $\Delta_{\phi} = (d - 2 + \eta_{\phi})/2$ and $\Delta_{\phi^2} = d - 1/\nu$, this condition imposes $\eta_{\phi} \geq 0$, which is satisfied by all Padé approximants, and $1/\nu \leq d/2 + 1$. While all the approximants for $1/\nu$ satisfy the latter criterion in $d = 3$, some of them give unphysical negative extrapolation values for small values of N_f .

For fixed fermion flavor number $N_f = 1$, the behavior of the Padé approximants as functions of ϵ is shown in Figs. 5-7. In Fig. 5 there is significant variation—as much as two orders of magnitude—among the various approximants at $\epsilon = 1$ for η_{ϕ} , although the [1/1] and [2/2] approximants produce similar estimates. (The [2/2] approximant was not plotted in Fig. 2 as it contained singularities in the extrapolation region $0 < \epsilon < 1$ for certain values of N_f in the range considered.) In contrast to the present results, for the case of the pure chiral Heisenberg GNY model, where the gauge field is absent, the Padé approximants for η_{ϕ} shown in Ref. [46] for small N_f were

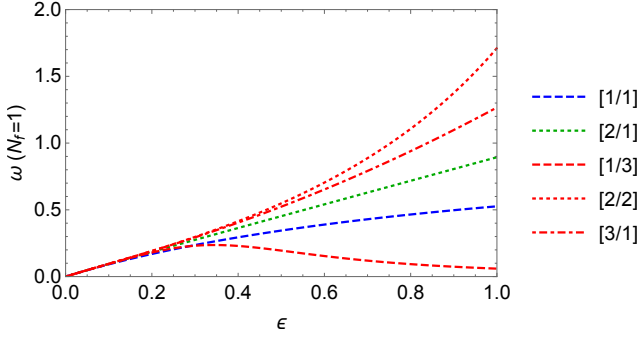


FIG. 7. Padé approximants for ω as a function of ϵ for $N_f = 1$ at two (blue), three (green), and four-loop (red) orders.

in good agreement with each other as well as with QMC and functional RG results. This suggests that gauge fluctuations are a decisive feature in the critical behavior of the scalar field. The stability exponent ω exhibits less variability than η_ϕ , as seen in Fig. 7, but better conformity between approximants was again exhibited in the pure chiral Heisenberg GNY case [46]. This reiterates the point that for small N_f gauge fluctuations tend to destabilize the system. The distinctive behavior of the [1/3] approximant at small N_f for η_ϕ and ω , already evoked above, is again illustrated by its unique non-monotonic dependence on ϵ at $N_f = 1$ in Figs. 5 and 7, which was also observed in the chiral Ising QED-GNY case (see Ref. [19], as well as unpublished results for ω vs ϵ). Dropping this approximant reduces the range of extrapolated values for those exponents, but not sufficiently so as to allow us to produce a meaningful quantitative estimate. By contrast, the three approximants [0/2], [0/3], [1/3], while at different loop orders, produce a reasonably consistent estimate of $1/\nu$ for $N_f = 1$ in the range $\sim 0.1 - 0.3$ (Fig. 6). Interestingly, in the chiral Ising QED-GNY model the same set of three approximants also produced positive values of $1/\nu$ at $N_f = 1$, and in the same order $((1/\nu)_{[0/2]} > (1/\nu)_{[1/3]} > (1/\nu)_{[0/3]})$, but spread over a wider range ($\sim 0.05 - 0.7$). Similarly, the [2/1], [2/2], and [3/1] approximants produce unphysical negative values of $1/\nu$ at $\epsilon = 1$ in both models.

Turning now to the scaling dimensions $\Delta_{\bar{\Psi}\Psi}$ and $\Delta_{i\bar{\Psi}\Gamma_5\Psi}$ of fermion bilinears, corresponding for $N_f = 1$ to CDW and VBS susceptibility critical exponents, respectively, the Padé approximants are shown for fixed $d = 3$ and arbitrary N_f in Figs. 8-9, and for $N_f = 1$ and arbitrary ϵ in Figs. 10-11. In the large- N_f limit both scaling dimensions asymptote to 2, however, for small values of N_f there is a discernible variation in the approximants as for the exponents considered previously. As we only consider scalar or pseudoscalar bilinears, unitarity bounds require $\Delta_{\bar{\Psi}\mathcal{M}\Psi} \geq 1/2$, which is satisfied by all approximants for $N_f \geq 2$, but violated for $N_f = 1$ by the [1/2] and [0/4] approximants in Fig. 8 (see also Fig. 10 for the [0/4] approximant) and all four-loop approximants in Fig. 9. However, some of those approximants do satisfy the unitarity requirement for $N_f = 1$ after Borel resummation (see Table I). There is a higher degree of convergence between approximants at a given loop order for the axial mass

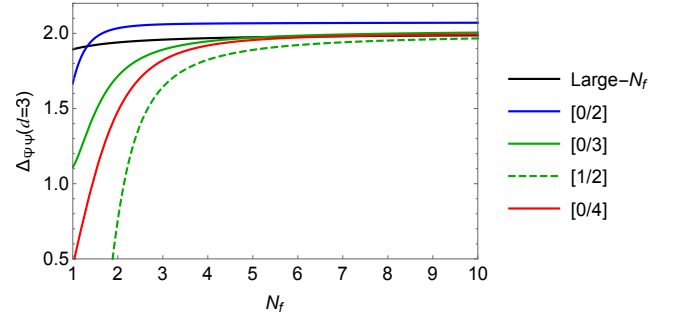


FIG. 8. Colored lines: Padé approximants for $\Delta_{\bar{\Psi}\Psi}$ in $d = 3$ as a function of N_f at two (blue), three (green), and four-loop (red) orders; black line: large- N_f result from Eq. (102).

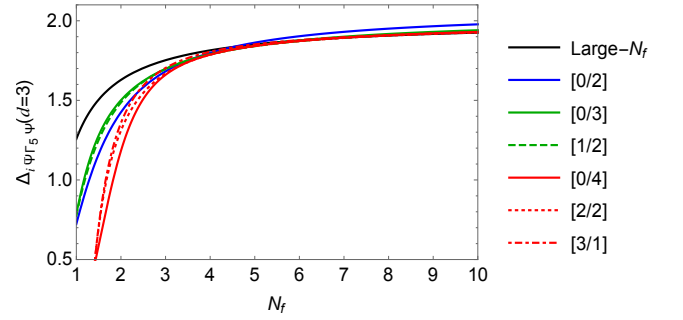


FIG. 9. Colored lines: Padé approximants for $\Delta_{i\bar{\Psi}\Gamma_5\Psi}$ in $d = 3$ as a function of N_f at two (blue), three (green), and four-loop (red) orders; black line: large- N_f result from Eq. (106).

bilinear as compared to the normal mass bilinear, as can be seen by comparing Fig. 8 and Fig. 9. Furthermore, the [0/2] (two-loop), [0/3] and [1/2] (three-loop), and [1/3] (four-loop) approximants all give very similar values for the axial mass bilinear dimension at $N_f = 1$ (Fig. 11), in the range $\sim 0.7 - 0.8$. (The [1/3] approximant was excluded from Fig. 9 for the same reason as that mentioned for η_ϕ .)

In Table I we collect the numerical extrapolated values for the critical exponents η_ϕ , $1/\nu$, and ω , and for the fermion bilinear dimensions $\Delta_{\bar{\Psi}\Psi}$ and $\Delta_{i\bar{\Psi}\Gamma_5\Psi}$, as obtained from the ϵ -expansion results using both Padé and Padé-Borel resummation, for the particular case $N_f = 1$. A high variability in the extrapolation values for η_ϕ is manifest, as already discussed, whereas the variability is significantly less for the other exponents. Supplementing the nonnegative Padé estimates for $1/\nu$ with Padé-Borel resummation extends the range of obtained values somewhat, predicting $1/\nu$ in the range $\sim 0.1 - 0.6$. Similarly, the Padé-Borel values for the fermion bilinear dimensions are systematically higher than the corresponding Padé estimates. Overall, the range of extrapolated values for the exponents, apart from η_ϕ , is comparable to that found in the chiral-Ising QED-GNY case. The use of more sophisticated resummation methods [57] may potentially improve those estimates, but typically requires the introduction of a number of free parameters which effectively adds to the

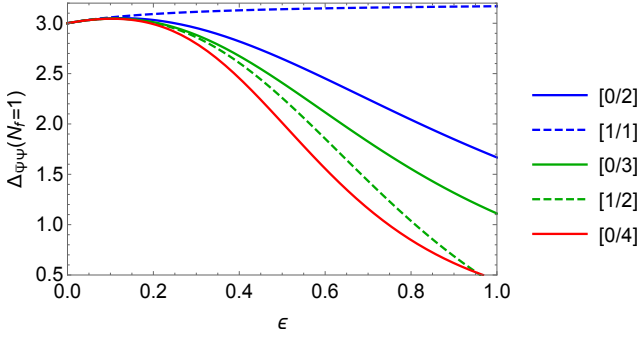


FIG. 10. Padé approximants for $\Delta_{\bar{\psi}\psi}$ as a function of ϵ for $N_f = 1$ at two (blue), three (green), and four-loop (red) orders.

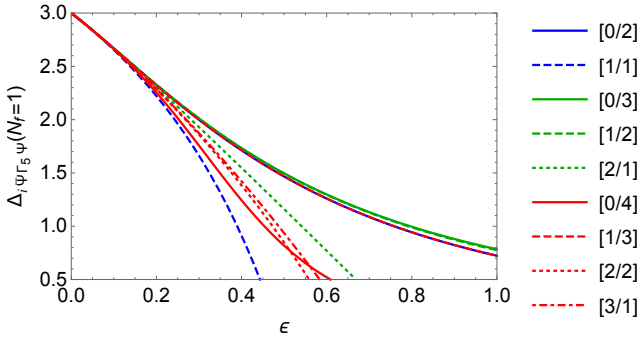


FIG. 11. Padé approximants for $\Delta_{i\bar{\psi}\Gamma_5\psi}$ as a function of ϵ for $N_f = 1$ at two (blue), three (green), and four-loop (red) orders.

uncertainty. Another potentially beneficial approach to improve exponent estimates in three dimensions is the use of two- and four-dimensional perturbation theory [72]; however, at present there is a lack of two-dimensional studies on the chiral-Heisenberg QED₃ model.

In Table II we present extrapolated values of critical exponents as obtained from the large- N_f -expansion results, again for the particular case $N_f = 1$. In addition to the critical exponents η_ϕ and $1/\nu$ and the fermion bilinear dimensions considered in Table I, we also present extrapolated results for the scaling dimension $\Delta_{i\bar{\psi}\Gamma_3\Gamma_5\psi}$ which corresponds to the QAH susceptibility exponent. The leading-order approximants for $1/\nu$ fall within the range predicted by resummation of the ϵ -expansion result. The fermion bilinear results are in good agreement with one another and their uniformity is slightly better than that observed in the chiral-Ising QED₃-GNY case [33]. The extrapolated values for $\Delta_{\bar{\psi}\psi}$ are highly uniform and fall within the broad range of values predicted by resummation of the ϵ expansion; by contrast, those for $\Delta_{i\bar{\psi}\Gamma_5\psi}$ are systematically higher, making a large- N_f evaluation of this quantity at $\mathcal{O}(1/N_f^2)$ desirable. None of the possible approximants for η_ϕ at this order exist, and thus no quantitative statements about this exponent can be made.

$N_f = 1$	η_ϕ	$1/\nu$	ω	$\Delta_{\bar{\psi}\psi}$	$\Delta_{i\bar{\psi}\Gamma_5\psi}$
[0/2]	×	0.334	×	1.67	0.723
[0/2] _{PB}	×	0.636	×	2.34	1.34
[1/1]	11.1	×	0.526	3.17	×
[1/1] _{PB}	×	×	0.578	3.23	×
[0/3]	×	0.0826	×	1.11	0.784
[0/3] _{PB}	×	0.534	×	×	1.20
[1/2]	39.4	×	×	0.393	0.776
[1/2] _{PB}	×	×	×	2.39	0.787
[2/1]	135	×	0.894	×	×
[2/1] _{PB}	×	×	0.862	×	×
[0/4]	×	×	×	0.452	0.0986
[0/4] _{PB}	×	0.492	×	2.05	1.10
[1/3]	1.09	0.208	0.0596	×	0.724
[1/3] _{PB}	2.26	0.236	0.664	2.34	×
[2/2]	11.7	×	1.71	×	×
[2/2] _{PB}	×	×	×	×	×
[3/1]	5.22	×	1.27	×	×
[3/1] _{PB}	5.29	×	1.48	×	×

TABLE I. Padé and Padé-Borel resummations of the ϵ -expansion expressions for $d = 3$ and $N_f = 1$. Approximants which are either singular in the domain $0 < \epsilon < 1$, undefined, or negative, are denoted by \times .

$N_f = 1$	η_ϕ	$1/\nu$	$\Delta_{\bar{\psi}\psi}$	$\Delta_{i\bar{\psi}\Gamma_5\psi}$	$\Delta_{i\bar{\psi}\Gamma_3\Gamma_5\psi}$
[0/1]	×	0.4022	1.873	1.458	7.783
[0/1] _{PB}	×	0.5192	1.880	1.540	×
[0/2]	×	–	1.891	–	–
[0/2] _{PB}	×	–	1.888	–	–
[1/1]	×	–	1.889	–	–
[1/1] _{PB}	×	–	1.887	–	–

TABLE II. Padé and Padé-Borel resummations of the large- N_f expressions for $d = 3$ and $N_f = 1$. Approximants which are either singular in the domain $N_f \geq 1$, undefined, or negative, are denoted by \times . The exponents that are unknown beyond $\mathcal{O}(1/N_f)$ are denoted by $–$, for these quantities only one approximant can be used.

B. Pure chiral Heisenberg GNY model

We finally turn to the resummation of ϵ -expansion and large- N_f expressions for the fermion bilinear scaling dimensions in the pure chiral Heisenberg GNY model. Figures 12 and 13 show the results of Padé extrapolation of the ϵ -expansion expressions for the normal and axial mass operator dimensions, respectively, as a function of N_f . The corresponding large- N_f expressions, Eqs. (114) and (115), are plotted on the same graphs for comparison purposes. The spread of values for $\Delta_{\bar{\psi}\psi}$ is appreciable, but comparatively less than for the same quantity in the presence of the gauge field (Fig. 8). This state of affairs was also observed in the chiral Ising QED-GNY model [19]. Remarkably, the large- N_f result and the [0/4] Padé approximant give very similar

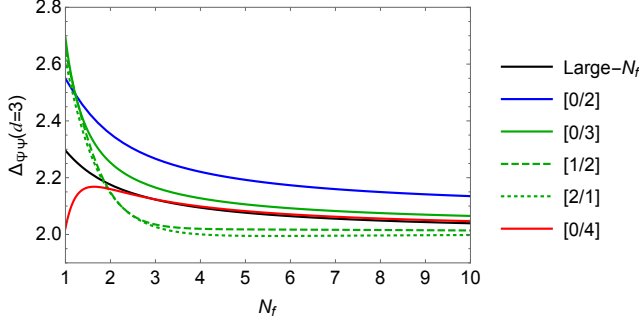


FIG. 12. Colored lines: Padé approximants for $\Delta_{\bar{\Psi}\Psi}$ in $d = 3$ as a function of N_f in the chiral Heisenberg GNY model at two (blue), three (green), and four-loop (red) orders; black line: large- N_f result from Eq. (114).

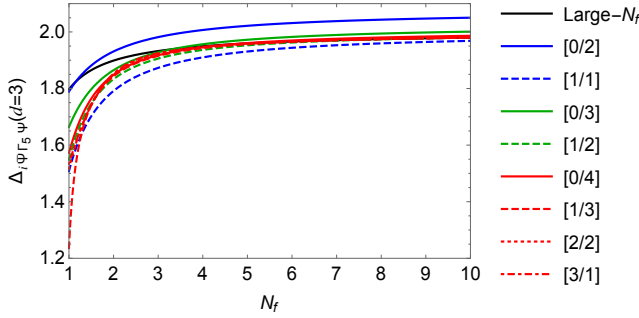


FIG. 13. Colored lines: Padé approximants for $\Delta_{i\bar{\Psi}\Gamma_5\Psi}$ in $d = 3$ as a function of N_f in the chiral Heisenberg GNY model at two (blue), three (green), and four-loop (red) orders; black line: large- N_f result from Eq. (115).

results for $N_f \geq 2$. The spread of values is even smaller, and the convergence of the approximants with increasing loop order better, for $\Delta_{i\bar{\Psi}\Gamma_5\Psi}$.

In Figs. 14 and 15 we plot the Padé approximants for $N_f = 1$ as a function of ϵ , and in Table III we present numerical results for the $N_f = 1$ Padé and Padé-Borel approximants in $d = 3$. With the exception of the [0/4] approximant without Borel resummation, the results give a reasonably consistent estimate for $\Delta_{\bar{\Psi}\Psi}$ in the range $\sim 2.5 - 2.7$, and for $\Delta_{i\bar{\Psi}\Gamma_5\Psi}$ in the range $\sim 1.4 - 2.0$. For comparison, in Table IV we display the Padé and Padé-Borel approximants obtained from the large- N_f expansion results. While the approximants for the axial mass dimension fall within the range predicted by the ϵ -expansion results, those for the normal mass dimension fall either within the same range (the [0/1] approximant) or give somewhat lower values ($\sim 2.1 - 2.3$).

VI. CONCLUSION

In this paper we provided a comprehensive analysis of the critical properties of the chiral Heisenberg QED₃-GNY model, motivated by a recent QMC study [8] of a $U(1)$ lattice

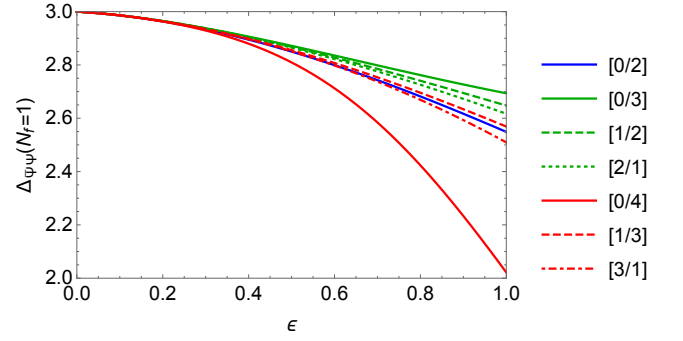


FIG. 14. Padé approximants for $\Delta_{\bar{\Psi}\Psi}$ as a function of ϵ for $N_f = 1$ in the chiral Heisenberg GNY model at two (blue), three (green), and four-loop (red) orders.

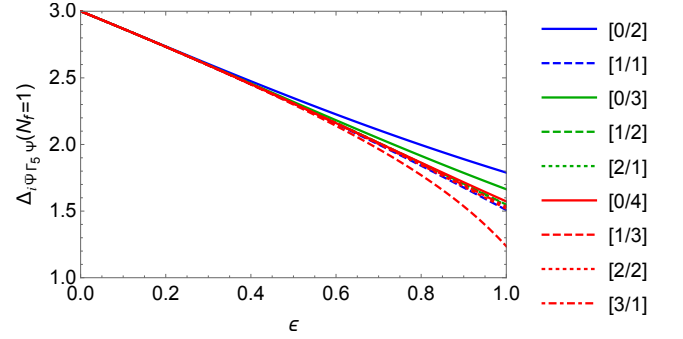


FIG. 15. Padé approximants for $\Delta_{i\bar{\Psi}\Gamma_5\Psi}$ as a function of ϵ for $N_f = 1$ in the chiral Heisenberg GNY model at two (blue), three (green), and four-loop (red) orders.

gauge theory with spinful fermions on the 2D square lattice that observed a direct transition between a $U(1)$ deconfined phase, adiabatically connected to the ASL, and an antiferromagnetic Néel-ordered phase. Using the ϵ expansion below four spacetime dimensions to four-loop order, we showed the existence of a *bona fide* critical fixed point in the chiral Heisenberg QED₃-GNY model for an arbitrary number N_f of $SU(2)$ doublets of four-component Dirac fermions. The existence of a critical fixed point for $N_f = 1$ establishes that the Néel-ASL transition should be continuous, in agreement with the numerical results in Ref. [8]. This fixed point was also shown to exist in the large- N_f expansion in fixed $2 < d < 4$ spacetime dimensions. The ϵ -expansion was used to compute several critical exponents to $\mathcal{O}(\epsilon^4)$, including the order parameter anomalous dimension η_ϕ , the inverse correlation length exponent $1/\nu$, and the stability critical exponent ω . We additionally computed the scaling dimensions of two Dirac fermion bilinears, the normal mass operator $\bar{\Psi}\Psi$ and the axial mass operator $i\bar{\Psi}\Gamma_5\Psi$, which for $N_f = 1$ had the interpretation of CDW and VBS susceptibility exponents at the Néel-ASL transition. These ϵ -expansion results were supplemented by computations in the large- N_f expansion. The exponents η_ϕ and $\Delta_{\bar{\Psi}\Psi}$ were computed to $\mathcal{O}(1/N_f^2)$, while $1/\nu$ and $\Delta_{i\bar{\Psi}\Gamma_5\Psi}$ were computed to $\mathcal{O}(1/N_f)$. Additionally, the QAH susceptibility exponent, controlled by the scaling dimension

$N_f = 1$	$\Delta_{\bar{\Psi}\Psi}$	$\Delta_{i\bar{\Psi}\Gamma_5\Psi}$
[0/2]	2.55	1.79
[0/2] _{PB}	2.66	2.01
[1/1]	×	1.51
[1/1] _{PB}	×	×
[0/3]	2.69	1.66
[0/3] _{PB}	×	1.92
[1/2]	2.65	1.55
[1/2] _{PB}	2.69	1.56
[2/1]	2.62	1.54
[2/1] _{PB}	2.61	1.54
[0/4]	2.02	1.57
[0/4] _{PB}	2.54	1.87
[1/3]	2.57	1.24
[1/3] _{PB}	2.67	×
[2/2]	×	1.52
[2/2] _{PB}	×	×
[3/1]	2.51	1.53
[3/1] _{PB}	2.52	1.53

TABLE III. Padé and Padé-Borel resummations of the ϵ -expansion expressions for $d = 3$ and $N_f = 1$ in the chiral Heisenberg GNY model. Approximants which are either singular in the domain $0 < \epsilon < 1$, undefined, or negative, are denoted by \times .

$N_f = 1$	$\Delta_{\bar{\Psi}\Psi}$	$\Delta_{i\bar{\Psi}\Gamma_5\Psi}$
[0/1]	2.508	1.816
[0/1] _{PB}	×	1.829
[0/2]	2.239	–
[0/2] _{PB}	2.168	–
[1/1]	2.319	–
[1/1] _{PB}	2.325	–

TABLE IV. Padé and Padé-Borel resummations of the large- N_f expressions for $d = 3$ and $N_f = 1$ in the chiral Heisenberg GNY model. Approximants which are either singular in the domain $N_f \geq 1$, undefined, or negative, are denoted by \times . The exponents that are unknown beyond $\mathcal{O}(1/N_f)$ are denoted by $-$; for these quantities only one approximant can be used.

of the time-reversal- and parity-odd bilinear $i\bar{\Psi}\Gamma_3\Gamma_5\Psi$, was computed to $\mathcal{O}(1/N_f)$. The CDW and VBS exponents were also computed at the critical point of the pure chiral Heisenberg GNY model, which for $N_f = 1$ describes the semimetal-AF insulator transition in graphene and the π -flux square lattice. Padé and Padé-Borel resummation techniques were subsequently applied to obtain numerical estimates of all critical exponents in $d = 3$ for general N_f , with a special emphasis on $N_f = 1$. The critical exponents computed here are in principle accessible to sign-problem-free QMC simulations [8], and we hope to compare the estimates obtained here to numerical studies of critical properties at the Néel-ASL QCP in the near future.

Besides its applications to condensed matter physics, the

critical fixed point of the chiral Heisenberg QED₃-GNY model is of interest as an example of (2+1)D conformal field theory. Recent years have witnessed a resurgence of interest in such theories, due in large part to highly successful numerical implementations of the conformal bootstrap program (for a recent review, see, e.g., Ref. [75]). These have led to the determination of $d = 3$ critical exponents with unprecedented accuracy in various models of interest to both statistical mechanics/condensed matter physics and high-energy physics, such as the 3D Ising [76] and $O(N)$ vector [77] models, the chiral Ising GNY model [78], and QED₃ [79, 80]. We hope that this work will stimulate the study of chiral Ising/XY/Heisenberg QED₃-GNY models with the conformal bootstrap technique, which may lead to precise determinations of critical exponents that could be compared with ϵ - and large- N_f expansion results presented in this and previous work.

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Note added.—After this work was completed, we became aware of Ref. [81], which partially overlaps with our work.

Appendix A: Symmetry transformation properties of fermion bilinears

In this Appendix we determine how Dirac fermion bilinears of the form $\bar{\psi}\tau_i\sigma_j\psi$, that are invariant under $d = 3$ Lorentz transformations in the continuum theory, transform under the symmetries of the microscopic Hamiltonian (1). (The τ_i matrices act in nodal (\pm) space, while the σ_j matrices act in spin space.) This in turn allows us to associate to each bilinear a microscopic operator with the same symmetry properties, but defined in terms of the original lattice fermions $c_{r\sigma}, c_{r\sigma}^\dagger$, whose long-distance correlations at the Néel-ASL QCP will be governed by the scaling dimension of the bilinear at the chiral Heisenberg QED₃-GNY fixed point.

The microscopic symmetries of interest are the symmetries of the $p4m$ space group of the square lattice, generated by the four-fold rotation C_4 about a site and the reflection R_x about the yz plane and through a site, the unit lattice translations T_x and T_y , and time-reversal symmetry \mathcal{T} . The model also has a particle-hole symmetry at half filling, but we will not discuss it further. Choosing the two Bravais lattice vectors for the π -flux phase in Fig. 1 as $\mathbf{a}_1 = \hat{x} - \hat{y}$ and $\mathbf{a}_2 = \hat{x} + \hat{y}$, and denoting the annihilation operator $c_{\mathbf{R}A\sigma}$ ($c_{\mathbf{R}B\sigma}$) for a fermion of spin σ on Bravais lattice site $\mathbf{R} = n_1\mathbf{a}_1 + n_2\mathbf{a}_2$, $n_1, n_2 \in \mathbb{Z}$

	$\bar{\psi}\sigma\psi$	$\bar{\psi}\tau_1\sigma\psi$	$\bar{\psi}\tau_2\sigma\psi$	$\bar{\psi}\tau_3\sigma\psi$
C_4	+	$-\bar{\psi}\tau_2\sigma\psi$	$\bar{\psi}\tau_1\sigma\psi$	+
R_x	-	+	-	+
T_x	+	+	-	-
T_y	+	-	+	-
\mathcal{T}	+	-	-	-

TABLE V. PSG transformation properties of spin-triplet Dirac fermion bilinears.

	$\bar{\psi}\psi$	$\bar{\psi}\tau_1\psi$	$\bar{\psi}\tau_2\psi$	$\bar{\psi}\tau_3\psi$
C_4	+	$-\bar{\psi}\tau_2\psi$	$\bar{\psi}\tau_1\psi$	+
R_x	-	+	-	+
T_x	+	+	-	-
T_y	+	-	+	-
\mathcal{T}	-	+	+	+

TABLE VI. PSG transformation properties of spin-singlet Dirac fermion bilinears.

and sublattice A (sublattice B) by $c_{(n_1, n_2)A\sigma}$ ($c_{(n_1, n_2)B\sigma}$), the fermion annihilation operator transforms as

$$C_4: c_{(n_1, n_2)A\sigma} \rightarrow c_{(-n_2, n_1)A\sigma}, \quad (\text{A.1})$$

$$c_{(n_1, n_2)B\sigma} \rightarrow c_{(-n_2, n_1-1)B\sigma}, \quad (\text{A.2})$$

$$R_x: c_{(n_1, n_2)A\sigma} \rightarrow c_{(-n_2, -n_1)A\sigma}, \quad (\text{A.3})$$

$$c_{(n_1, n_2)B\sigma} \rightarrow c_{(-n_2, -n_1)B\sigma}, \quad (\text{A.4})$$

$$T_x: c_{(n_1, n_2)A\sigma} \rightarrow c_{(n_1+1, n_2)B\sigma}, \quad (\text{A.5})$$

$$c_{(n_1, n_2)B\sigma} \rightarrow c_{(n_1, n_2+1)A\sigma}, \quad (\text{A.6})$$

$$T_y: c_{(n_1, n_2)A\sigma} \rightarrow c_{(n_1, n_2)B\sigma}, \quad (\text{A.7})$$

$$c_{(n_1, n_2)B\sigma} \rightarrow c_{(n_1-1, n_2+1)A\sigma}, \quad (\text{A.8})$$

as well as $c_{(n_1, n_2)A\sigma} \rightarrow (i\sigma_2)_{\sigma\sigma'} c_{(n_1, n_2)A\sigma'}$ and $i \rightarrow -i$ under \mathcal{T} , and likewise on the B sublattice.

To determine how the Dirac fermion bilinears $\bar{\psi}\tau_i\sigma_j\psi$ transform under the microscopic symmetries, one must first determine the PSG [9] associated with the Hamiltonian (2), i.e., the combinations of transformations (A.1)-(A.8) and $U(1)$ gauge transformations

$$c_{(n_1, n_2)A\sigma} \rightarrow e^{i\theta_{(n_1, n_2)A}} c_{(n_1, n_2)A\sigma}, \quad (\text{A.9})$$

$$c_{(n_1, n_2)B\sigma} \rightarrow e^{i\theta_{(n_1, n_2)B}} c_{(n_1, n_2)B\sigma}, \quad (\text{A.10})$$

that leave the π -flux Hamiltonian (2) invariant. Writing any of the previously listed symmetry transformations as $\mathcal{S}c_{r\sigma}\mathcal{S}^{-1} = S_{\sigma\sigma'}c_{S(r)\sigma'}$, where $S(r)$ denotes the transformed coordinate, the associated PSG transformation is

$$\tilde{\mathcal{S}}c_{r\sigma}\tilde{\mathcal{S}}^{-1} = G_r^S S_{\sigma\sigma'} c_{S(r)\sigma'}, \quad (\text{A.11})$$

where $G_r^S \in U(1)$. By explicit calculation one finds that the gauge transformations in the PSG can be chosen as

$$G_{(n_1, n_2)A}^{C_4} = G_{(n_1, n_2)B}^{C_4} = (-1)^{n_1}, \quad (\text{A.12})$$

$$G_{(n_1, n_2)A}^{R_x} = G_{(n_1, n_2)B}^{R_x} = (-1)^{n_1+n_2}, \quad (\text{A.13})$$

$$G_{(n_1, n_2)A}^{T_x} = G_{(n_1, n_2)B}^{T_x} = (-1)^{n_1+n_2}, \quad (\text{A.14})$$

$$G_{(n_1, n_2)A}^{T_y} = G_{(n_1, n_2)B}^{T_y} = (-1)^{n_1+n_2}, \quad (\text{A.15})$$

$$G_{(n_1, n_2)A}^{\mathcal{T}} = G_{(n_1, n_2)B}^{\mathcal{T}} = 1. \quad (\text{A.16})$$

Next one can determine how the PSG acts on the Dirac fermions by following the procedure detailed in Ref. [51], i.e., by expanding the Dirac fermion fields in the $\mathbf{q} \rightarrow 0$ limit in terms of the microscopic fermion operators, and using Eq. (A.11). We find

$$C_4: \psi \rightarrow e^{i\pi\mu_3/4} e^{-i\pi\tau_3/4} \psi, \quad (\text{A.17})$$

$$R_x: \psi \rightarrow \mu_2\tau_2\psi, \quad (\text{A.18})$$

$$T_x: \psi \rightarrow i\tau_1\psi, \quad (\text{A.19})$$

$$T_y: \psi \rightarrow i\tau_2\psi, \quad (\text{A.20})$$

$$\mathcal{T}: \psi \rightarrow \mu_2\tau_2 i\sigma_2 \psi K, \quad (\text{A.21})$$

where the μ_i act on the two-component spinor (Dirac) indices and K denotes complex conjugation. One can check that these are indeed symmetries of the Dirac Hamiltonian (6), provided the momentum \mathbf{p} is appropriately transformed. From Eq. (A.17)-(A.21) we can in turn determine the PSG transformation properties of spin-triplet (Table V) and spin-singlet (Table VI) Dirac fermion bilinears.

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