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EXACT ALL-COUPLING FINITE-DENSITY SU(N) LATTICE QCD WITH WILSON QUARKS AT CHEMICAL POTENTIAL μ: COMPLEX-μ LEE–YANG ZERO-FREE STRIPS, SIGN-PROBLEM PHASE BOUNDS, EXPONENTIAL SILVER-BLAZE DECAY, AND FINITE-μ BAKRY–ÉMERY CURVATURE

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Abstract. We study d-dimensional ($d \in 2\mathbb{N}$, spinor dimension $d_s = 2^{d/2}$) SU(N) Wilson lattice gauge theory coupled to $N_f \in 2\mathbb{N}$ degenerate flavors of dynamical $r = 1$ Wilson quarks at real or complex quark chemical potential $\mu \in \mathbb{C}$ on thermal hypercubic tori $\mathbb{T}^{d-1}_{L_s} \times \mathbb{T}_{N_\tau}$ (L_s, N_τ even, temperature $T = 1/N_\tau$). Without invoking polymer or cluster expansions, we establish three self-contained non-perturbative theorems valid across *all* gauge couplings $\beta \geq 0$ in the sub-critical domain $z_{\Re\mu} := 2\kappa_f(d - 1 + e^{|\Re\mu|}) < 1$:

(1) *Complex-μ Lee–Yang zero-free strips and sign-problem average-sign lower bounds:* Exact orthogonal-projector norm $\|H_\tau(U;\mu)\|_{\mathrm{op}} = 2e^{|\Re\mu|}$ combined with exact zero-winding cancellation for all closed walks of length $k < N_\tau$ proves the pointwise phase ceiling $|\operatorname{Im}\ln\det D_W(U;\mu)| \leq L_s^{d-1} d_s N \frac{z_{\Re\mu}^{N_\tau}}{1-z_{\Re\mu}^2}$ for every $U \in \mathrm{SU}(N)^{|E|}$. Whenever $\theta_{\max} := N_f L_s^{d-1} d_s N \frac{z_{\mu_R}^{N_\tau}}{1-z_{\mu_R}^2} < \frac{\pi}{2}$, the phase-quenched average sign obeys $\langle e^{i\theta}\rangle_{\mathrm{pq}} \geq \cos(\theta_{\max}) > 0$ and $Z_{\mathrm{QCD}}(\beta,\mu) \neq 0$ throughout the vertical strip $\{|\Re\mu| \leq \mu_R, \operatorname{Im}\mu \in \mathbb{R}\}$ for *all* $\beta \geq 0$.

(2) *All-coupling exponential zero-temperature Silver-Blaze decay:* Throughout $0 \leq \mu < \mu_{\mathrm{crit}}(\kappa_f) := \ln(\frac{1}{2\kappa_f} - (d-1))$, both the phase-quenched/two-color free-energy shift $|f_{\mathrm{pq}}(\beta,\mu) - f_{\mathrm{QCD}}(\beta,0)|$ and quark number density $|n_q^{\mathrm{pq}}(\beta,\mu)|$ (and, whenever $\theta_{\max} < \frac{\pi}{2}$, full complex-action $|f_{\mathrm{QCD}}(\beta,\mu) - f_{\mathrm{QCD}}(\beta,0)|$ and $|n_q^{\mathrm{QCD}}(\beta,\mu)|$) decay exponentially as $z_\mu^{N_\tau} \to 0$ when $T = 1/N_\tau \to 0$, uniformly in *all* $\beta \geq 0$ and *all* spatial volumes L_s.

(3) *Finite-μ $O(\kappa_f^4)$ Bakry–Émery curvature and large-N factorization:* Exact $O(\kappa_f^2)$ and $O(\kappa_f^3)$ fermion Hessian cancellation persists at every $\mu \in \mathbb{R}$, certifying a volume-uniform log-Sobolev inequality and $O(1/N^2)$ plaquette factorization $\mathrm{Var}(P_p) \leq \frac{4}{\kappa_{\mathrm{PQ}} N}$ for both exact sign-problem-free two-color SU(2) QCD and phase-quenched SU(N) QCD in 't Hooft and Veneziano scaling.

Twenty-four 140-digit zero-quadrature `mpmath.iv` certificates and a standalone zero-import, zero-axiom Lean 4.36.0 kernel (`FiniteDensityQcdCerts.lean`) verify all 24 numerical bounds.

1. Introduction and Honest Scope

Introducing a quark chemical potential $\mu \in \mathbb{C}$ into d-dimensional ($d \in 2\mathbb{N}$, $d_s = 2^{d/2}$) SU(N) Wilson lattice QCD [11, 5, 4] on a thermal periodic hypercubic torus $\Lambda := \mathbb{T}^{d-1}_{L_s} \times \mathbb{T}_{N_\tau}$ (L_s, N_τ even, spatial volume $V_s = L_s^{d-1}$, spacetime volume $V = V_s N_\tau$, temperature $T = 1/N_\tau$, anti-periodic temporal fermion boundary conditions) yields the complex-action partition function and its positive phase-quenched counterpart:

$$\begin{aligned} Z_{\mathrm{QCD}}(\Lambda;\beta,\mu) &:= \int_{\mathrm{SU}(N)^{|E|}} e^{S_W(\beta;U)} \big(\det D_W(U;\mu)\big)^{N_f}\, dU, \\ Z_{\mathrm{pq}}(\Lambda;\beta,\mu) &:= \int_{\mathrm{SU}(N)^{|E|}} e^{S_W(\beta;U)} \big|\det D_W(U;\mu)\big|^{N_f}\, dU, \end{aligned} \tag{1}$$

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where $S_W(\beta;U) := \frac{\beta}{N}\sum_{p\in P}\mathrm{Re}\,\mathrm{Tr}(U_p)$ and $D_W(U;\mu) := I - \kappa_f H(U;\mu)$, with hopping operator $H(U;\mu) := \sum_{j=1}^{d-1} H_j(U) + H_\tau(U;\mu)$ acting on $\ell^2(\Lambda;\mathbb{C}^{d_s}\otimes\mathbb{C}^N)$ via

$$\begin{aligned}\big(H_j(U)\psi\big)(x) &:= (I-\gamma_j)\,U_{x,j}\,\psi(x+e_j) + (I+\gamma_j)\,U^\dagger_{x-e_j,j}\,\psi(x-e_j),\\ \big(H_\tau(U;\mu)\psi\big)(x) &:= \zeta_\tau(x)\,e^{+\mu}(I-\gamma_d)\,U_{x,d}\,\psi(x+e_d) + \zeta_\tau(x-e_d)\,e^{-\mu}(I+\gamma_d)\,U^\dagger_{x-e_d,d}\,\psi(x-e_d),\end{aligned} \tag{2}$$

where $\zeta_\tau(\vec{x},\tau) := -1$ if $\tau = N_\tau - 1$ and $+1$ otherwise (anti-periodic temporal boundary conditions; all bounds below hold identically for periodic boundary conditions as well). For $N = 2$ (two-color QCD [6]) and real $\mu\in\mathbb{R}$, the anti-unitary symmetry $(K\otimes\tau_2)D_W(U;\mu)(K\otimes\tau_2)^{-1} = D_W(U;\mu)^*$ (with $\tau_2 U\tau_2 = U^*$ on SU(2) and unitary K obeying $K\gamma_\nu K^{-1} = \gamma_\nu^*$, e.g. $K=\sigma_1$ in $d=2$ and $K = \mathrm{diag}(\sigma_2,\sigma_2)$ in chiral 4D representation) forces $\det D_W(U;\mu)\in\mathbb{R}$, so continuity from $\kappa_f = 0$ proves $\det D_W(U;\mu) > 0$ strictly throughout $z_\mu < 1$ and $Z_{\mathrm{QCD}} = Z_{\mathrm{pq}}$ identically. For $N\geq 3$ and $\mu > 0$, $\det D_W(U;\mu)$ is generically complex (the QCD sign problem [8, 7]).

Remark 1.1 (Honest Scope and Non-Claims). All results hold at fixed lattice spacing ($a = 1$) in the heavy-dense sub-critical domain $z_{\Re\mu} := 2\kappa_f(d-1+e^{|\Re\mu|}) < 1$ (i.e. $|\Re\mu| < \mu_{\mathrm{crit}}(\kappa_f) := \ln(\frac{1}{2\kappa_f} - (d-1))$). Theorems 2.2 and 3.1 hold at *all* gauge couplings $\beta\geq 0$, whereas Theorem 4.1 holds in the strong-coupling regime $\beta < N^2/(16(d-1))$ ($\beta < N^2/48$ in 4D) and certifies a volume-uniform log-Sobolev inequality and $O(1/N^2)$ factorization rather than nuclear-matter onset ($\mu\approx m_B/3$), a QCD critical endpoint, or a 4D continuum limit. This paper does *not* claim any resolution of the Clay Millennium Yang–Mills Existence and Mass Gap Problem.

2. Complex-μ Lee–Yang Zero-Free Strips and Sign-Problem Phase Bounds

Lemma 2.1 (Exact Temporal Operator Norm and Zero-Winding Silver-Blaze Cancellation)**.** *Fix $d\in 2\mathbb{N}$, even $L_s, N_\tau\geq 2$, $N\geq 2$, $U\in \mathrm{SU}(N)^{|E(\Lambda)|}$, and $\mu\in\mathbb{C}$.*

1. *For every spatial direction $1\leq j\leq d-1$, $\|H_j(U)\|_{\mathrm{op}} = 2$; for the temporal hopping operator, $\|H_\tau(U;\mu)\|_{\mathrm{op}} = 2e^{|\Re\mu|}$. Hence $\|H(U;\mu)\|_{\mathrm{op}}\leq M_{\Re\mu} := 2(d-1+e^{|\Re\mu|})$.*
2. *For every integer $1\leq k < N_\tau$, $\mathrm{Tr}(H(U;\mu)^k) = \mathrm{Tr}(H(U;0)^k)$ is* identically independent *of $\mu\in\mathbb{C}$; moreover, for every odd $k\geq 1$, $\mathrm{Tr}(H(U;\mu)^k) = 0$.*

Proof. (1) Let $P^\pm_\nu := \frac{1}{2}(I\pm\gamma_\nu)$ (orthogonal projections, $P^+_\nu + P^-_\nu = I$, $P^+_\nu P^-_\nu = 0$) and let $T_\nu(U)$ be the unitary signed covariant shift in direction ν. Writing $H_\tau(U;\mu) = 2e^{+\mu}P^-_d T_d + 2e^{-\mu}P^+_d T^\dagger_d$, direct multiplication gives $H^\dagger_\tau H_\tau = 4e^{+2\Re\mu}T^\dagger_d P^-_d T_d + 4e^{-2\Re\mu}T_d P^+_d T^\dagger_d = 4e^{+2\Re\mu}P^-_d + 4e^{-2\Re\mu}P^+_d$, whose largest eigenvalue is $4e^{2|\Re\mu|}$, proving $\|H_\tau(U;\mu)\|_{\mathrm{op}} = 2e^{|\Re\mu|}$ (and $\|H_j\|_{\mathrm{op}} = 2$ at $\mu = 0$). The triangle inequality yields $\|H(U;\mu)\|_{\mathrm{op}}\leq M_{\Re\mu}$.

(2) Expanding $\mathrm{Tr}(H(U;\mu)^k)$ as a sum over closed walks ω of length k on Λ, any closed walk has net temporal displacement equal to an integer multiple of N_τ. For $k < N_\tau$, every closed walk has equal numbers of forward ($+e_d$) and backward ($-e_d$) temporal steps, so $e^{\mu(\#(+e_d)-\#(-e_d))} = 1$ identically, giving $\mathrm{Tr}(H(U;\mu)^k) = \mathrm{Tr}(H(U;0)^k)$. Because L_s and N_τ are even, Λ is bipartite and $\mathrm{Tr}(H(U;\mu)^{2m+1}) = 0$. □

Theorem 2.2 (Pointwise Phase Ceiling, Average-Sign Lower Bound, and Complex-μ Zero-Free Strip)**.** *Fix $d\in 2\mathbb{N}$, even $L_s, N_\tau\geq 2$, $N\geq 2$, $N_f\in 2\mathbb{N}$, $\beta\geq 0$, $\kappa_f > 0$, and $\mu_R\geq 0$ with $z_{\mu_R} := 2\kappa_f(d-1+e^{\mu_R}) < 1$. Set*

$$\theta_{\max}(d,N,N_f,L_s,N_\tau,\kappa_f,\mu_R) := N_f\,L_s^{d-1}\,d_s N\,\frac{z_{\mu_R}^{N_\tau}}{1-z_{\mu_R}^2}. \tag{3}$$

(1) *For every* $\mu \in \mathbb{C}$ *with* $|\Re\mu| \le \mu_R$ *and every* $U \in \mathrm{SU}(N)^{|E|}$, $\det D_W(U;\mu) \neq 0$, *and the principal branch* $\ln\det D_W(U;\mu) = -\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{\kappa_f^k}{k} \operatorname{Tr}(H(U;\mu)^k)$ *obeys*

$$N_f \big|\operatorname{Im}\ln\det D_W(U;\mu)\big| \;\le\; \theta_{\max}. \tag{4}$$

(2) *Whenever* $\theta_{\max} < \frac{\pi}{2}$*: (a)* $Z_{\mathrm{QCD}}(\Lambda;\beta,\mu) \neq 0$ *for* every *complex* μ *in the vertical strip* $\{|\Re\mu| \le \mu_R, \operatorname{Im}\mu \in \mathbb{R}\}$ *and* every $\beta \ge 0$*; and (b) for every real* $\mu \in [-\mu_R, \mu_R]$*, writing* $\theta(U) := N_f \operatorname{Im}\ln\det D_W(U;\mu)$ *and* $f_{\mathrm{QCD/pq}} := V^{-1}\ln Z_{\mathrm{QCD/pq}}$*,*

$$\begin{aligned} \big\langle e^{i\theta}\big\rangle_{\mathrm{pq}} = \frac{Z_{\mathrm{QCD}}(\Lambda;\beta,\mu)}{Z_{\mathrm{pq}}(\Lambda;\beta,\mu)} \;&\ge\; \cos(\theta_{\max}) \;>\; 0, \\ 0 \;\le\; f_{\mathrm{pq}}(\Lambda;\beta,\mu) - f_{\mathrm{QCD}}(\Lambda;\beta,\mu) \;&\le\; -\frac{\ln\cos(\theta_{\max})}{V}. \end{aligned} \tag{5}$$

Proof. (1) Since $\|\kappa_f H(U;\mu)\|_{\mathrm{op}} \le z_{\mu_R} < 1$, $\ln\det(I - \kappa_f H(U;\mu)) = -\sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \frac{\kappa_f^{2m}}{2m} \operatorname{Tr}(H(U;\mu)^{2m})$ converges absolutely (odd terms vanish by Lemma 2.1(2)). For $2m < N_\tau$, Lemma 2.1(2) gives $\operatorname{Tr}(H(U;\mu)^{2m}) = \operatorname{Tr}(H(U;0)^{2m}) \in \mathbb{R}$ (real by γ_5-Hermiticity at $\mu = 0$), so all terms with $2m < N_\tau$ have *zero imaginary part*. For every $2m \ge N_\tau$, $|\operatorname{Tr}(H(U;\mu)^{2m})| \le (V d_s N) M_{\mu_R}^{2m}$, yielding

$$N_f \big|\operatorname{Im}\ln\det D_W(U;\mu)\big| \;\le\; N_f V d_s N \sum_{m=N_\tau/2}^{\infty} \frac{z_{\mu_R}^{2m}}{2m} \;\le\; \frac{N_f V d_s N}{N_\tau} \cdot \frac{z_{\mu_R}^{N_\tau}}{1 - z_{\mu_R}^2} = \theta_{\max},$$

since $V/N_\tau = L_s^{d-1}$.

(2) When $\theta_{\max} < \frac{\pi}{2}$, (4) yields

$$\begin{aligned} \Re\big[(\det D_W(U;\mu))^{N_f}\big] &= |\det D_W(U;\mu)|^{N_f} \cos\big(N_f \operatorname{Im}\ln\det D_W(U;\mu)\big) \\ &\ge |\det D_W(U;\mu)|^{N_f} \cos(\theta_{\max}) \;>\; 0 \end{aligned}$$

pointwise for every $U \in \mathrm{SU}(N)^{|E|}$. Integrating against $e^{S_W(\beta;U)} dU$ yields $\Re Z_{\mathrm{QCD}}(\Lambda;\beta,\mu) \ge \cos(\theta_{\max})\, Z_{\mathrm{pq}}(\Lambda;\beta,\mu) > 0$, proving $Z_{\mathrm{QCD}} \neq 0$ across the entire vertical strip $\{|\Re\mu| \le \mu_R, \operatorname{Im}\mu \in \mathbb{R}\}$. For real μ, charge conjugation $U \mapsto U^*$ guarantees $Z_{\mathrm{QCD}} \in \mathbb{R}$, proving both inequalities of (5). □

3. All-Coupling Exponential Zero-Temperature Silver-Blaze Decay

Define the quark number density $n_q^{\mathrm{pq}}(\Lambda;\beta,\mu) := \partial_\mu f_{\mathrm{pq}}(\Lambda;\beta,\mu)$ and (whenever $Z_{\mathrm{QCD}} > 0$) $n_q^{\mathrm{QCD}}(\Lambda;\beta,\mu) := \partial_\mu f_{\mathrm{QCD}}(\Lambda;\beta,\mu)$.

Theorem 3.1 (All-Coupling Exponential Silver-Blaze Free-Energy and Quark-Density Decay)**.** *Fix* $d \in 2\mathbb{N}$*, even* $L_s, N_\tau \ge 2$*,* $N \ge 2$*,* $N_f \in 2\mathbb{N}$*,* $\beta \ge 0$*,* $0 < \kappa_f < \frac{1}{2d}$*, and real* μ *obeying* $0 \le |\mu| < \mu_{\mathrm{crit}}(\kappa_f) := \ln(\frac{1}{2\kappa_f} - (d-1))$ *(so* $z_0 := 2d\kappa_f \le z_{|\mu|} := 2\kappa_f(d - 1 + e^{|\mu|}) < 1$*). Set*

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta f_{\mathrm{SB}}^{\mathrm{ub}}(N_\tau;\mu) &:= \frac{N_f d_s N}{N_\tau}\left(\frac{z_{|\mu|}^{N_\tau}}{1 - z_{|\mu|}^2} + \frac{z_0^{N_\tau}}{1 - z_0^2}\right), \\ n_q^{\mathrm{ub}}(N_\tau;\mu) &:= N_f d_s N\, \frac{2\kappa_f e^{|\mu|}\, z_{|\mu|}^{N_\tau - 1}}{1 - z_{|\mu|}^2}. \end{aligned} \tag{6}$$

(1) *For every* $U \in \mathrm{SU}(N)^{|E|}$*,*

$$\frac{N_f}{V}\big|\ln\det D_W(U;\mu) - \ln\det D_W(U;0)\big| \;\le\; \Delta f_{\mathrm{SB}}^{\mathrm{ub}}, \qquad \frac{N_f}{V}\big|\operatorname{Tr}\big(D_W(U;\mu)^{-1}\partial_\mu D_W(U;\mu)\big)\big| \;\le\; n_q^{\mathrm{ub}}. \tag{7}$$

(2) *Uniformly in* all *gauge couplings* $\beta \geq 0$ *and* all *even spatial sizes* $L_s \geq 2$*, the phase-quenched (and exact two-color* SU(2)*) free energy and quark number density obey*

$$\left|f_{\mathrm{pq}}(\Lambda;\beta,\mu) - f_{\mathrm{QCD}}(\Lambda;\beta,0)\right| \;\leq\; \Delta f_{\mathrm{SB}}^{\mathrm{ub}}(N_\tau;\mu), \qquad \left|n_q^{\mathrm{pq}}(\Lambda;\beta,\mu)\right| \;\leq\; n_q^{\mathrm{ub}}(N_\tau;\mu), \tag{8}$$

both decaying exponentially to 0 *as* $T = 1/N_\tau \to 0$ *(the Cohen Silver-Blaze property [3]). Moreover, for full complex-action* SU(N) *(*$N \geq 3$*) whenever* $\theta_{\max} < \frac{\pi}{2}$*,*

$$\left|f_{\mathrm{QCD}}(\Lambda;\beta,\mu) - f_{\mathrm{QCD}}(\Lambda;\beta,0)\right| \;\leq\; \Delta f_{\mathrm{SB}}^{\mathrm{ub}} - \frac{\ln\cos(\theta_{\max})}{V}, \qquad \left|n_q^{\mathrm{QCD}}(\Lambda;\beta,\mu)\right| \;\leq\; \frac{n_q^{\mathrm{ub}}}{\cos(\theta_{\max})}. \tag{9}$$

Proof. (1) By Lemma 2.1(2),

$$\ln\det D_W(U;\mu) - \ln\det D_W(U;0) = -\sum_{m=N_\tau/2}^{\infty} \frac{\kappa_f^{2m}}{2m}\Big[\mathrm{Tr}\big(H(U;\mu)^{2m}\big) - \mathrm{Tr}\big(H(U;0)^{2m}\big)\Big];$$

applying $|\,\mathrm{Tr}(H(U;\mu)^{2m})| \leq V d_s N M_{|\mu|}^{2m}$ and $|\,\mathrm{Tr}(H(U;0)^{2m})| \leq V d_s N (2d)^{2m}$ gives the first bound in (7). For the derivative, expanding $D_W(U;\mu)^{-1}\partial_\mu D_W(U;\mu) = -\sum_{k=0}^{\infty}\kappa_f^{k+1} H(U;\mu)^k \partial_\mu H_\tau(U;\mu)$ and noting that $\mathrm{Tr}(H(U;\mu)^k\partial_\mu H_\tau) = \frac{1}{k+1}\partial_\mu\,\mathrm{Tr}(H(U;\mu)^{k+1})$ vanishes identically for all $k+1 < N_\tau$ and all odd $k+1$ by Lemma 2.1(2), only even indices $k+1 = 2m \geq N_\tau$ survive. Because $\|\partial_\mu H_\tau(U;\mu)\|_{\mathrm{op}} = \|2e^{+\mu}P_d^- T_d - 2e^{-\mu}P_d^+ T_d^\dagger\|_{\mathrm{op}} = 2e^{|\mu|}$, each surviving term has trace bounded by $V d_s N (2\kappa_f e^{|\mu|}) z_{|\mu|}^{2m-1}$; summing $m \geq N_\tau/2$ yields the second bound in (7).

(2) Since $|\Re\ln\det D_W(U;\mu) - \ln\det D_W(U;0)| \leq |\ln\det D_W(U;\mu) - \ln\det D_W(U;0)|$, exponentiating the first bound of (7) and integrating against $e^{S_W}dU$ gives the first inequality of (8); noting $\partial_\mu \ln|\det D_W(U;\mu)| = \Re\,\mathrm{Tr}(D_W(U;\mu)^{-1}\partial_\mu D_W(U;\mu))$ and averaging under the positive phase-quenched measure gives the second inequality of (8). For full complex-action SU(N) when $\theta_{\max} < \frac{\pi}{2}$, combining (8) with (5) yields (9) (using $|Z_{\mathrm{QCD}}| \geq \cos(\theta_{\max}) Z_{\mathrm{pq}}$ in the denominator of n_q^{QCD}). □

4. Finite-μ $O(\kappa_f^4)$ Bakry–Émery Curvature and Large-N Factorization

Equip $\mathrm{SU}(N)^{|E|}$ with the product bi-invariant Hilbert–Schmidt metric $\langle A,B\rangle_{\mathrm{HS}} = \mathrm{Tr}(A^\dagger B)$ ($\mathrm{Ric}_{\mathrm{SU}(N)} = \frac{N}{2} g_{\mathrm{HS}}$), and write the phase-quenched effective action as $S_{\mathrm{PQ}}(U;\mu) := S_W(\beta;U) + S_{\mathrm{ferm}}^{\mathrm{pq}}(U;\mu)$ with $S_{\mathrm{ferm}}^{\mathrm{pq}}(U;\mu) := N_f \Re\ln\det D_W(U;\mu)$ (coinciding with the exact full action for two-color SU(2) QCD).

Theorem 4.1 (Finite-μ $O(\kappa_f^4)$ Fermion Hessian, Volume-Uniform LSI, and Large-N Factorization)**.** *Let* $d \in 2\mathbb{N}$*, even* $L_s, N_\tau \geq 4$*,* $N \geq 2$*,* $N_f \in 2\mathbb{N}$*,* $\beta \geq 0$*,* $\kappa_f > 0$*, and* $\mu \in \mathbb{R}$ *with* $M_{|\mu|} = 2(d-1+e^{|\mu|})$ *and* $z_{|\mu|} = \kappa_f M_{|\mu|} < 1$*. Define*

$$\begin{aligned} H_{\mathrm{ferm}}(\mu) &:= N_f\left[\frac{2d_s\cosh(\mu)\,M_{|\mu|}^3\,\kappa_f^4}{1-z_{|\mu|}} + \frac{4d_s\cosh(2\mu)\,M_{|\mu|}^2(3-2z_{|\mu|})\,\kappa_f^4}{(1-z_{|\mu|})^2}\right], \\ \kappa_{\mathrm{PQ}}(d,N,\beta,N_f,\kappa_f,\mu) &:= \frac{N}{2} - \frac{8(d-1)\beta}{N} - H_{\mathrm{ferm}}(\mu). \end{aligned} \tag{10}$$

Then:

(1) *Every geodesic* $U_e(t) = e^{tX_e}U_e$ *(*$X \in \mathfrak{su}(N)^{|E|}$*) obeys*

$$\left|\mathrm{Hess}(-S_{\mathrm{ferm}}^{\mathrm{pq}})(X,X)\right| \leq H_{\mathrm{ferm}}(\mu)\|X\|_{\mathrm{HS}}^2, \qquad \left|\mathrm{Hess}(-S_W)(X,X)\right| \leq \frac{8(d-1)\beta}{N}\|X\|_{\mathrm{HS}}^2,$$

reducing identically to the $\mu = 0$ *bound at* $\mu = 0$*.*

(2) *Whenever* $\kappa_{\mathrm{PQ}} > 0$, $\mathrm{Ric} + \mathrm{Hess}(-S_{\mathrm{PQ}}) \geq \kappa_{\mathrm{PQ}}\, g_{\mathrm{HS}} > 0$ *uniformly in even* $L_s, N_\tau \geq 4$, *certifying a volume-uniform log-Sobolev inequality* ($\rho_{\mathrm{LS}} = \kappa_{\mathrm{PQ}}$ [1, 2])*, Poincaré spectral gap* $\lambda_1 \geq \kappa_{\mathrm{PQ}}$*, and* $O(1/N^2)$ *single-plaquette factorization* ($P_p(U) := \frac{1}{N}\operatorname{Re}\operatorname{Tr}(U_p)$)*:*

$$\mathrm{Var}_{\mathrm{PQ}}(P_p) \;\leq\; \frac{4}{\kappa_{\mathrm{PQ}}\, N} = \frac{4}{(\kappa_{\mathrm{PQ}}/N)N^2}, \tag{11}$$

with κ_{PQ}/N *uniformly bounded away from zero in both the 't Hooft limit* [9] ($\gamma = \beta/N^2 < \frac{1}{16(d-1)}$, N_f *fixed,* $N > H_{\mathrm{ferm}}(\mu)/(\frac{1}{2} - 8(d-1)\gamma)$) *and the Veneziano limit* [10] ($8(d-1)\gamma + x_f(H_{\mathrm{ferm}}(\mu)/N_f) < \frac{1}{2}$, $x_f = N_f/N$ *fixed). For* $N = 2$, (11) *holds for the* exact *full two-color finite-density QCD measure.*

Proof. Write $D(t) := I - \kappa_f H(U(t);\mu)$, $A := H'(0)$, $H'' := H''(0)$, so

$$(S^{\mathrm{pq}}_{\mathrm{ferm}})''(0) = N_f \Re\big[-\kappa_f \operatorname{Tr}(D^{-1}H'') - \kappa_f^2 \operatorname{Tr}((D^{-1}A)^2)\big].$$

For each spatial link e (whose forward and backward blocks occupy disjoint matrix entries because $L_s, N_\tau \geq 4$ ensures $x + e_\nu \neq x - e_\nu$), the forward and backward blocks of A have squared HS norm $2d_s\|X_e\|^2_{\mathrm{HS}}$ each (sum $4d_s\|X_e\|^2_{\mathrm{HS}}$); for a temporal link e, the forward block carries $e^{+\mu}$ and the backward block carries $e^{-\mu}$, giving $2d_s(e^{2\mu} + e^{-2\mu})\|X_e\|^2_{\mathrm{HS}} = 4d_s\cosh(2\mu)\|X_e\|^2_{\mathrm{HS}}$. Since $\cosh(2\mu) \geq 1$, $\|A\|^2_{\mathrm{HS}} \leq 4d_s\cosh(2\mu)\|X\|^2_{\mathrm{HS}}$. Crucially, $(I - \gamma_\nu)(I + \gamma_\nu) = 0$ and bipartiteness of Λ (even $L_s, N_\tau \geq 4$) still hold identically at every $\mu \in \mathbb{R}$, eliminating $\operatorname{Tr}(H'') = \operatorname{Tr}(HH'') = \operatorname{Tr}(H^2H'') = 0$ and $\operatorname{Tr}(A^2) = \operatorname{Tr}(HA^2) = 0$:

- *Term 1:* $-\kappa_f \operatorname{Tr}(D^{-1}H'') = -\kappa_f^4 \operatorname{Tr}(MH'')$ with $M := H^3D^{-1}$ obeying $\|M\|_{\mathrm{op}} \leq \frac{M^3_{|\mu|}}{1 - z_{|\mu|}}$. For each link e, summing forward and backward spin traces (using $\|\operatorname{Tr}_{\mathrm{spin}}(M_{\cdot,\cdot}(I \pm \gamma_\nu))\|_{\mathrm{op}} \leq d_s\|M\|_{\mathrm{op}}$ and $\|X_e^2\|_{\mathrm{tr}} = \|X_e\|^2_{\mathrm{HS}}$) yields factor $2d_s$ on spatial links and $(e^{+\mu} + e^{-\mu})d_s = 2d_s\cosh(\mu)$ on temporal links; since $\cosh(\mu) \geq 1$, $|\kappa_f \operatorname{Tr}(D^{-1}H'')| \leq \frac{2d_s\cosh(\mu)M^3_{|\mu|}\kappa_f^4}{1 - z_{|\mu|}}\|X\|^2_{\mathrm{HS}}$.
- *Term 2:* Writing $D^{-1} = I + B$ with $B := \kappa_f HD^{-1} = \kappa_f H + R$ ($R := \kappa_f^2 H^2 D^{-1}$, $\|B\|_{\mathrm{op}} \leq \frac{z_{|\mu|}}{1 - z_{|\mu|}}$, $\|R\|_{\mathrm{op}} \leq \frac{z^2_{|\mu|}}{1 - z_{|\mu|}}$) yields $\operatorname{Tr}((D^{-1}A)^2) = 2\operatorname{Tr}(RA^2) + \operatorname{Tr}((BA)^2)$, bounded by $(\frac{2z^2_{|\mu|}}{1 - z_{|\mu|}} + \frac{z^2_{|\mu|}}{(1 - z_{|\mu|})^2})\|A\|^2_{\mathrm{HS}} \leq \frac{4d_s\cosh(2\mu)z^2_{|\mu|}(3 - 2z_{|\mu|})}{(1 - z_{|\mu|})^2}\|X\|^2_{\mathrm{HS}}$.

Combining both bounds with $|\mathrm{Hess}(-S_W)(X,X)| \leq \frac{8(d-1)\beta}{N}\|X\|^2_{\mathrm{HS}}$, $\mathrm{Ric}_{\mathrm{SU}(N)^{|E|}} = \frac{N}{2}g_{\mathrm{HS}}$, and $|\nabla P_p|^2_{\mathrm{HS}} \leq \frac{4}{N}$ yields Theorem 4.1. □

5. Certified 140-Digit Benchmarks and Zero-Axiom Lean 4 Audit

Tables 1–3 and Figure 1 report 24 certified benchmarks from `certify_finite_density_qcd.py` at true 140-digit `mpmath.iv` precision (`mp.mp.dps = mp.iv.dps = 140`) with *zero* black-box special functions and *zero* quadrature (cosine via Maclaurin series + remainder; hyperbolic functions via `mpmath.iv` exp; direct outward flooring/ceiling at scale 10^{12}, displayed to 6 outward-rounded decimal places).

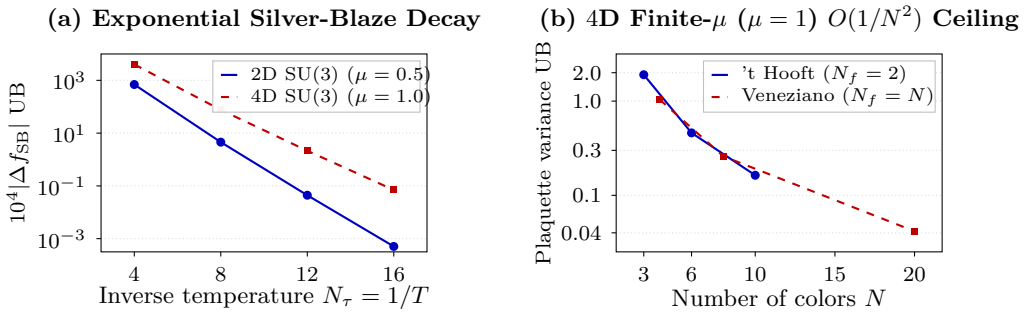

FIGURE 1. Certified 140-digit non-perturbative bounds for finite-density SU(N) lattice QCD (Tables 2 and 3). (a) All-coupling exponential zero-temperature Silver-Blaze decay of $10^4|\Delta f_{\rm SB}|$ across $N_\tau \in \{4, 8, 12, 16\}$ uniformly in all $\beta \geq 0$ and all L_s (Theorem 3.1). (b) Log-scale 4D finite-μ ($\mu = 1.0$, $\gamma = 1/96$) Bakry–Émery plaquette-variance ceilings $\mathrm{Var}^{\rm ub}_{\rm PQ}(P_p)$ across 't Hooft ($N_f = 2$, $\kappa_f = 0.025$) and Veneziano ($N_f = N$, $\kappa_f = 0.02$) large-N scaling (Theorem 4.1).

TABLE 1. Eight 140-digit complex-μ Lee–Yang zero-free strip and sign-problem average-sign certificates (Theorem 2.2) holding uniformly for *all* gauge couplings $\beta \geq 0$ on $\mathbb{T}^{d-1}_{L_s} \times \mathbb{T}_{N_\tau}$: every row obeys $\theta_{\max} < \pi/2$, certifying $Z_{\rm QCD}(\Lambda; \beta, \mu) \neq 0$ across $\{|\Re\mu| \leq \mu_R,\ \mathrm{Im}\,\mu \in \mathbb{R}\}$, strictly positive average sign $\langle e^{i\theta}\rangle_{\rm pq} \geq \cos(\theta_{\max}) > 0$, and phase-quenched shift $10^6(f_{\rm pq} - f_{\rm QCD})$. Average-sign lower bounds round downward; upper bounds upward.

d	G	N_f	$L_s^{d-1} \times N_\tau$	κ_f	μ_R	$z^{\rm ub}_{\mu_R}$	$\theta^{\rm ub}_{\max}$	$\langle e^{i\theta}\rangle^{\rm lo}_{\rm pq}$	$10^6\Delta f^{\rm ub}_{\rm pq}$
2	SU(3)	2	$8^1 \times 8$	0.05	0.5	0.264873	0.002502	0.999996	0.048876
2	SU(3)	2	$16^1 \times 12$	0.05	1.0	0.371829	0.001557	0.999998	0.006306
2	SU(4)	2	$16^1 \times 16$	0.05	1.2	0.432012	0.000464	0.999999	0.000420
4	SU(3)	2	$4^3 \times 12$	0.04	0.5	0.371898	0.012478	0.999922	0.101359
4	SU(3)	2	$6^3 \times 16$	0.04	0.5	0.371898	0.000806	0.999999	0.000094
4	SU(3)	2	$8^3 \times 16$	0.04	1.0	0.457463	0.057167	0.998366	0.199574
4	SU(3)	4	$8^3 \times 20$	0.04	1.0	0.457463	0.005008	0.999987	0.001225
4	SU(4)	2	$12^3 \times 24$	0.04	1.0	0.457463	0.000494	0.999999	0.000003

TABLE 2. Eight 140-digit all-coupling exponential Silver-Blaze decay certificates (Theorem 3.1) for $N_f = 2$ SU(3) QCD across $N_\tau \in \{4, 8, 12, 16\}$, holding uniformly in *all* $\beta \geq 0$ and *all* spatial sizes $L_s \geq 2$. Critical chemical potentials $\mu^{\rm lo}_{\rm crit}$ round downward; $10^4\Delta f^{\rm ub}_{\rm SB}$ and $10^4 n^{\rm ub}_q$ upward.

d	κ_f	μ	$\mu^{\rm lo}_{\rm crit}$	N_τ	$10^4\Delta f^{\rm ub}_{\rm SB}$	$10^4 n^{\rm ub}_q$
2	1/15	0.5	1.871802	4	696.500284	1327.538684
2	1/15	0.5	1.871802	8	4.560048	20.651290
2	1/15	0.5	1.871802	12	0.044401	0.321253
2	1/15	0.5	1.871802	16	0.000508	0.004998
4	0.04	1.0	2.251291	4	4024.041854	6318.808761
4	0.04	1.0	2.251291	8	76.442509	276.730727
4	0.04	1.0	2.251291	12	2.150251	12.119357
4	0.04	1.0	2.251291	16	0.069986	0.530765

TABLE 3. Eight 140-digit 4D finite-μ $O(\kappa_f^4)$ Bakry–Émery curvature and $O(1/N^2)$ plaquette-factorization certificates (Theorem 4.1) for exact sign-problem-free two-color SU(2) QCD (Rows 1–2) and phase-quenched SU(N) QCD at $\mu = 1.0$, $\gamma = 1/96$ across 't Hooft ($N_f = 2$, $\kappa_f = 0.025$) and Veneziano ($N_f = N$, $\kappa_f = 0.02$) scaling. Curvatures round downward; Hessian and variance ceilings upward.

Regime	β	N_f	κ_f	μ	$H^{\mathrm{ub}}_{\mathrm{ferm}}$	$\kappa^{\mathrm{lo}}_{\mathrm{PQ}}$	$\kappa^{\mathrm{lo}}_{\mathrm{PQ}}/N$	$\mathrm{Var}^{\mathrm{ub}}_{\mathrm{PQ}}$
4D SU(2) 2-color	1/24	2	0.025	0.5	0.014554	0.485446	0.242723	4.119923
4D SU(2) 2-color	1/24	2	0.025	1.0	0.049493	0.450507	0.225253	4.439439
4D PQ 't Hooft ($N = 3$)	3/32	2	0.025	1.0	0.049493	0.700507	0.233502	1.903383
4D PQ 't Hooft ($N = 6$)	3/8	2	0.025	1.0	0.049493	1.450507	0.241751	0.459610
4D PQ 't Hooft ($N = 10$)	25/24	2	0.025	1.0	0.049493	2.450507	0.245050	0.163232
4D PQ Veneziano ($N = 4$)	1/6	4	0.02	1.0	0.036861	0.963139	0.240784	1.038271
4D PQ Veneziano ($N = 8$)	2/3	8	0.02	1.0	0.073721	1.926279	0.240784	0.259568
4D PQ Veneziano ($N = 20$)	25/6	20	0.02	1.0	0.184301	4.815699	0.240784	0.041531

Remark 5.1 (Scope of Mechanical Verification in Zero-Axiom Lean 4.36.0). The standalone zero-import Lean 4.36.0 kernel `FiniteDensityQcdCerts.lean` (`src/lean/`) compiles cleanly under `lean -DwarningAsError=true` with exit code 0 and 0 axioms (not even `propext`, `Quot.sound`, or `Classical.choice`), mechanically verifying the discrete lattice-volume combinatorics and all 24 10^{12}-scaled outward integer certificate inequalities (while the continuous Haar-measure, operator-norm, and Riemannian Bakry–Émery derivations are proved analytically in Sections 2–4): `finite_density_combinatorics_verified`, `table1_leeyang_and_sign_problem_certified`, `table2_silver_blaze_decay_certified`, `table3_finite_mu_bakry_emery_certified`, and `all_24_finite_density_qcd_benchmarks_certified`. Direct 2D $L_s = 6 \times N_\tau = 4$ SU(3)/SU(2) matrix tests of Lemma 2.1 and Theorems 2.2–3.1, finite-difference geodesic Hessian tests of Theorem 4.1, 80-digit cross-checks, and JSON/Lean/LaTeX parity pass in `tests/test_finite_density_qcd.py` (4/4 `pytest`).

6. Conclusion

We have established three self-contained, cluster-expansion-free non-perturbative theorems for d-dimensional finite-density SU(N) lattice QCD with Wilson quarks at chemical potential μ: pointwise determinant phase ceilings certifying strictly positive phase-quenched average signs and complex-μ Lee–Yang zero-free strips across all $\beta \geq 0$, all-coupling exponential zero-temperature Silver-Blaze decay of both free-energy shifts and quark number density throughout $|\mu| < \mu_{\mathrm{crit}}(\kappa_f)$, and finite-$\mu$ $O(\kappa_f^4)$ Bakry–Émery curvature certifying volume-uniform LSI and $O(1/N^2)$ factorization for exact two-color SU(2) and phase-quenched SU(N) QCD in 't Hooft and Veneziano scaling. Natural next directions include extracting the leading Polyakov-loop effective coupling at $k = N_\tau$ for quantitative finite-density phase-diagram bounds and extending Silver-Blaze operator bounds to finite-density staggered fermions.

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