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Partial quenching and chiral symmetry breaking

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Partially quenched chiral perturbation theory usually assumes that valence quarks propagating on gauge configurations prepared with sea quarks of different masses will form a chiral condensate as the valence quark mass goes to zero. I present a counterexample involving non-degenerate sea quarks where the valence condensate does not form.

Summary

Partially quenched chiral perturbation theory can fail if the valence quarks are lighter than the average sea quark mass.

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