

# Universal critical dynamics in QCD

Johannes Roth

Institut für Theoretische Physik, Justus-Liebig-University Gießen

## Based on

JR, Ye, Schlichting, von Smekal, JHEP **01**, 118 (2025)

JR, Ye, Schlichting, von Smekal, arXiv:2409.14470

**Confinement and symmetry from vacuum to QCD phase diagram,**  
Benasque Science Center, Spain, 12 February 2025

## QCD phase diagram

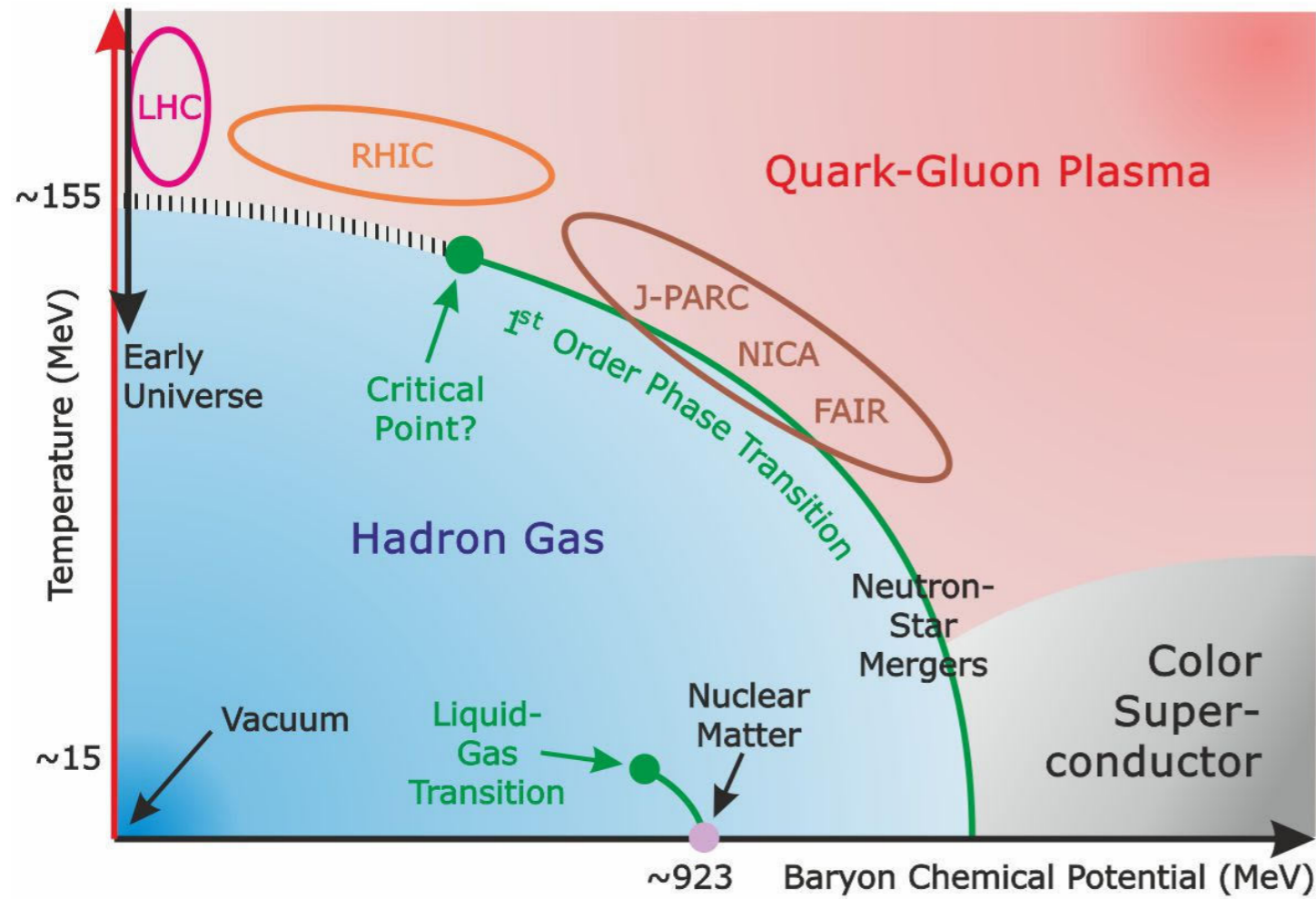


Figure: A. Steidl, CRC-TR 211

## QCD phase diagram

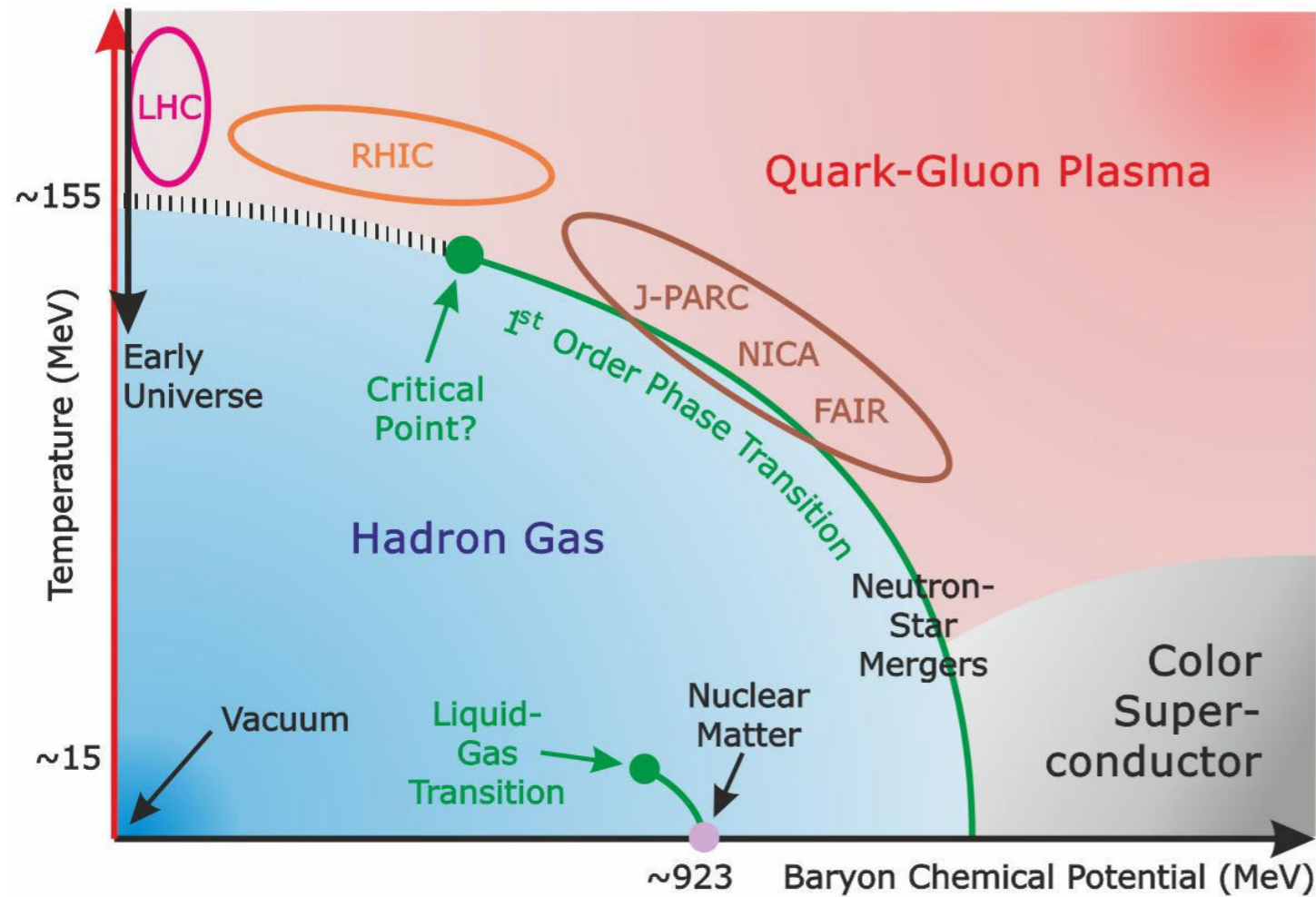


Figure: A. Steidl, CRC-TR 211

- Long-term goal: find **critical point**

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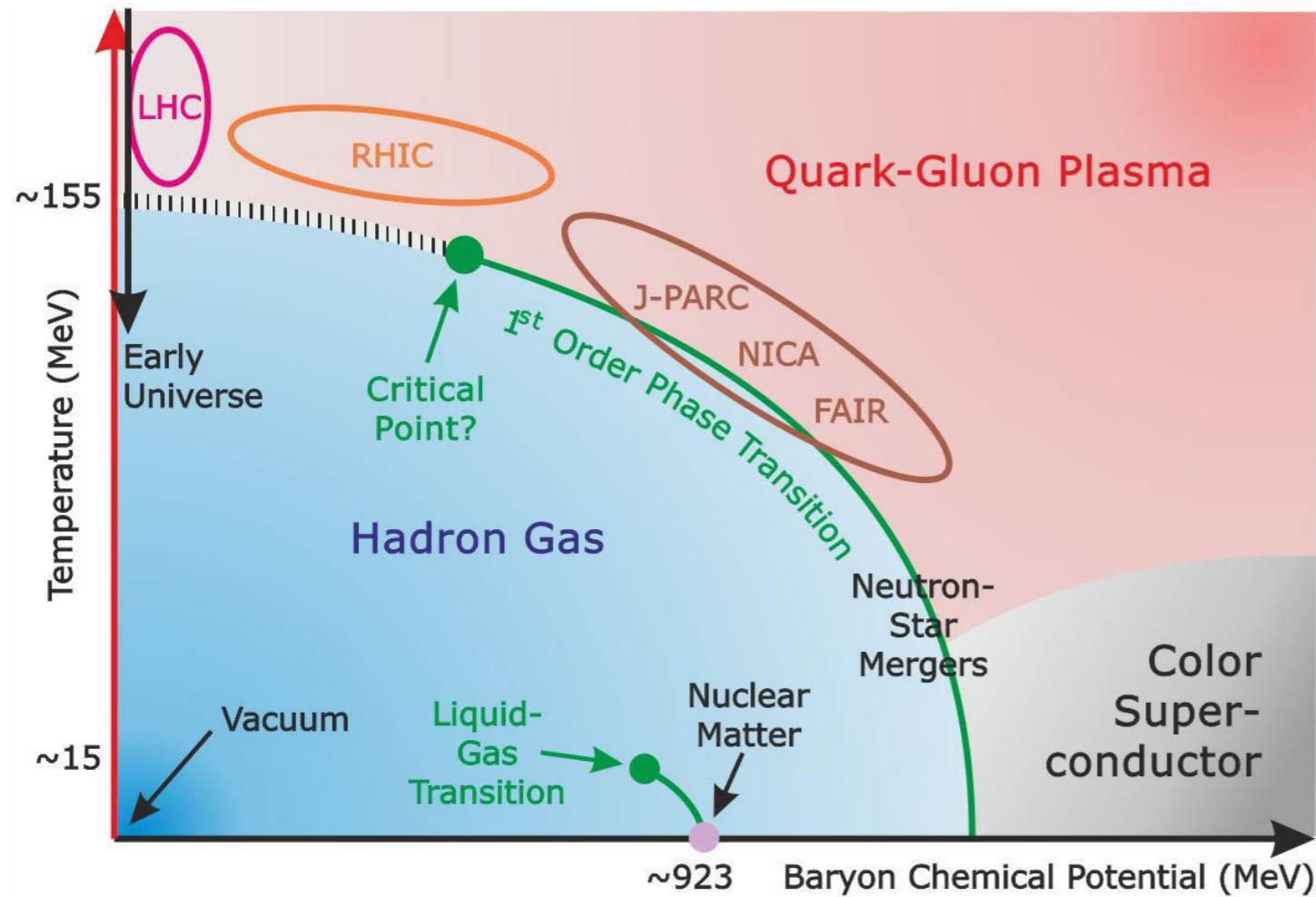


Figure: A. Steidl, CRC-TR 211

- Long-term goal: find **critical point**
- Possible signature in heavy-ion collisions: **critical fluctuations**

Stephanov, Rajagopal, Shuryak, PRD **60** (1999) 114028



## QCD phase diagram

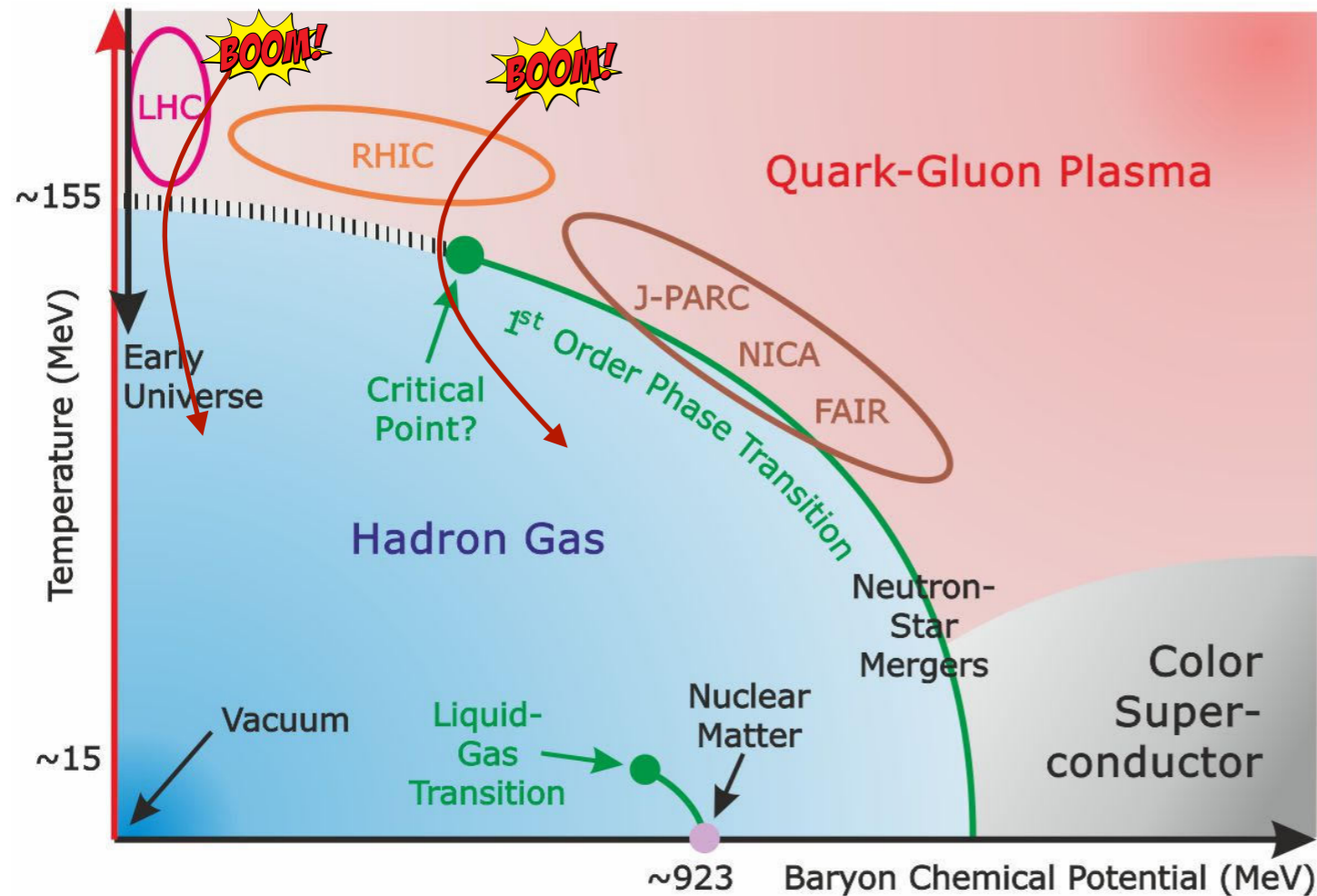
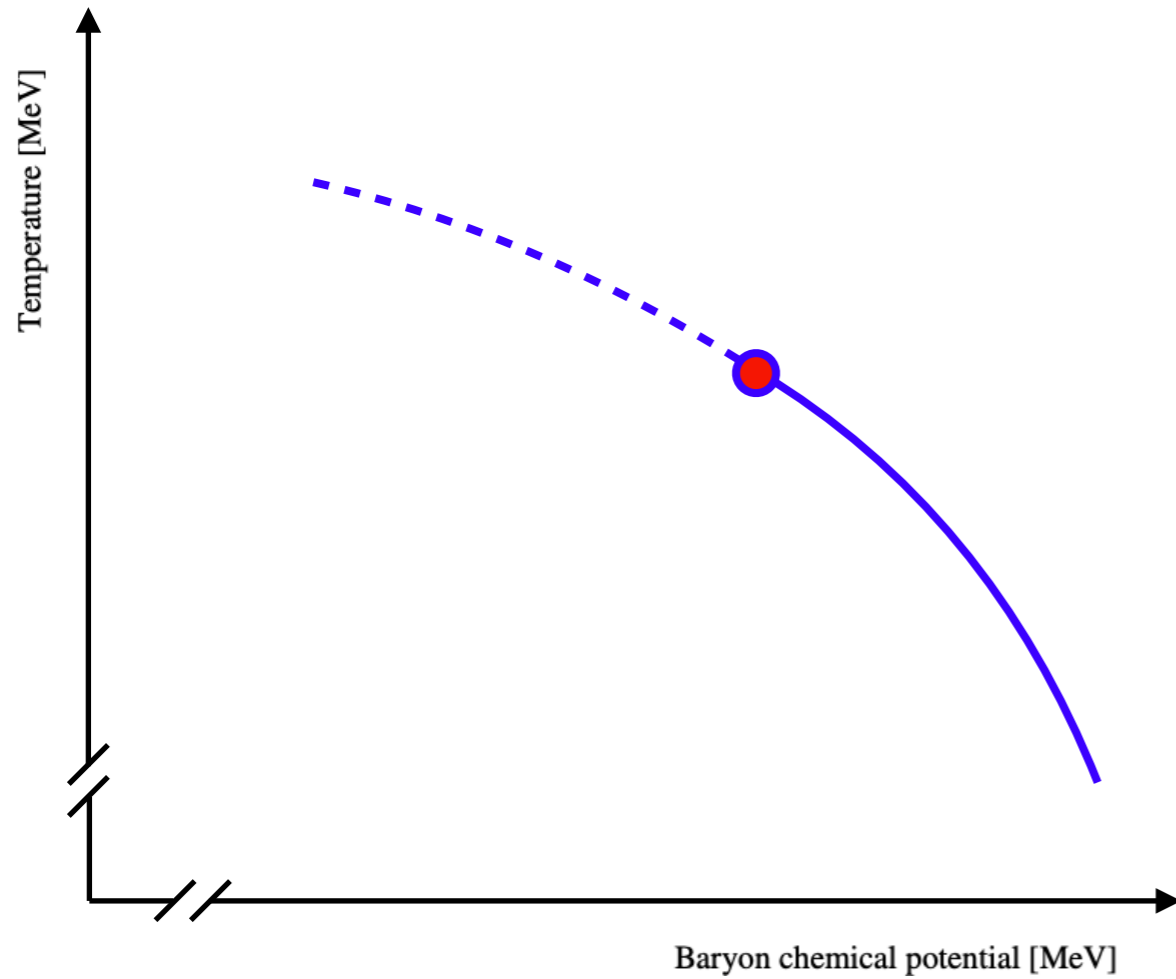
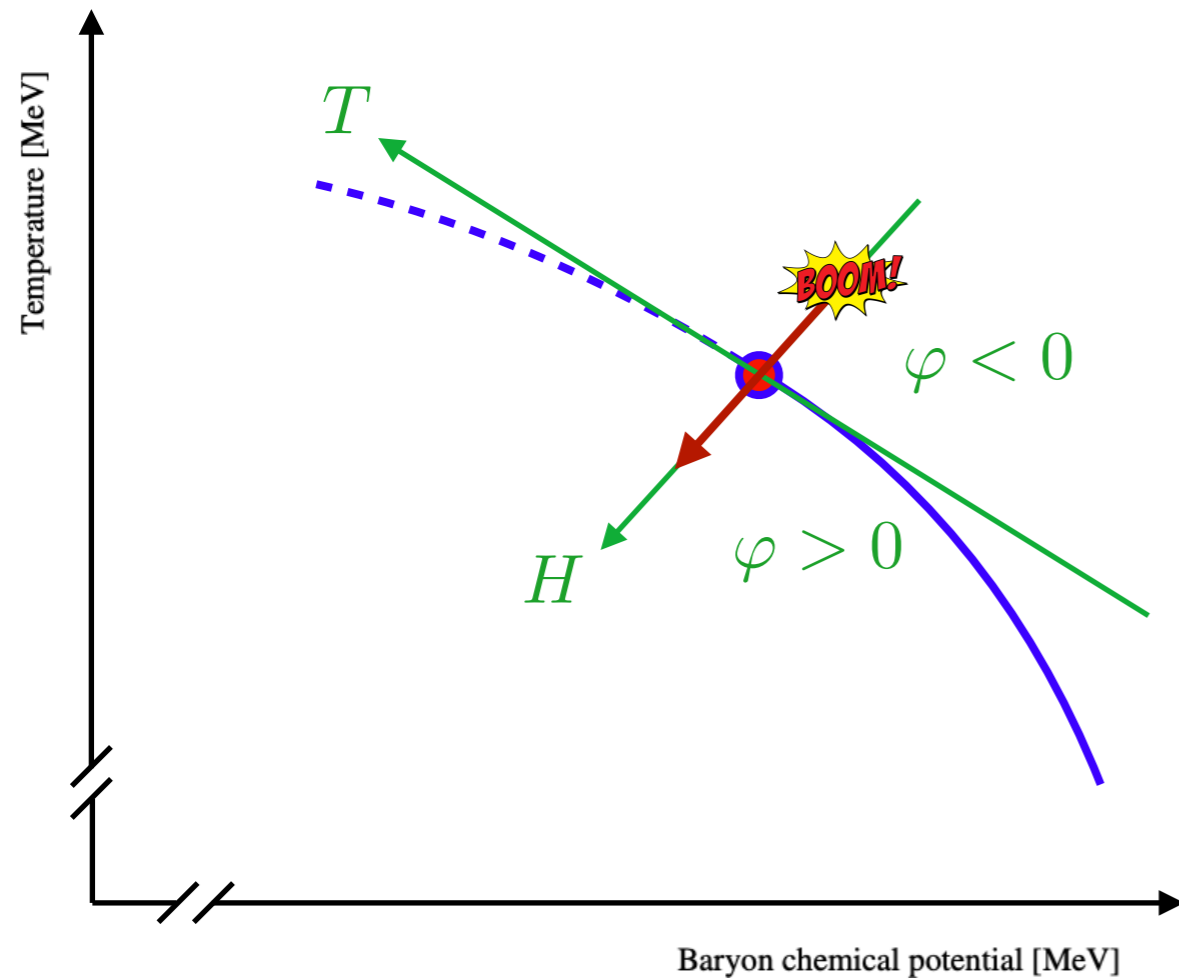


Figure: A. Steidl, CRC-TR 211

- Long-term goal: find **critical point**
- Possible signature in heavy-ion collisions: **critical fluctuations**  
Stephanov, Rajagopal, Shuryak, PRD **60** (1999) 114028
- Fireball is rapidly evolving  $\sim$  need to understand **time evolution** of critical fluctuations

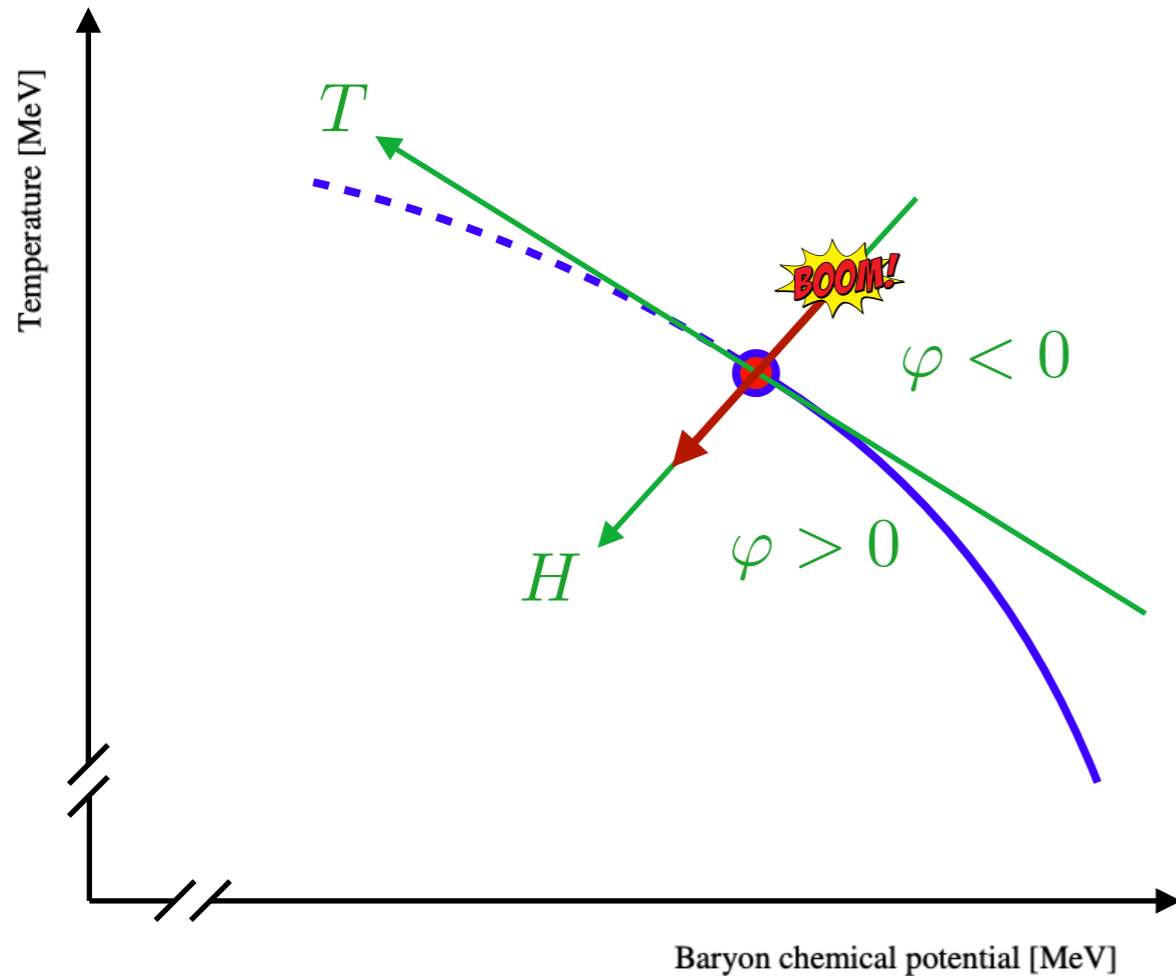


map to **Ising model**,  
study simplified trajectory:

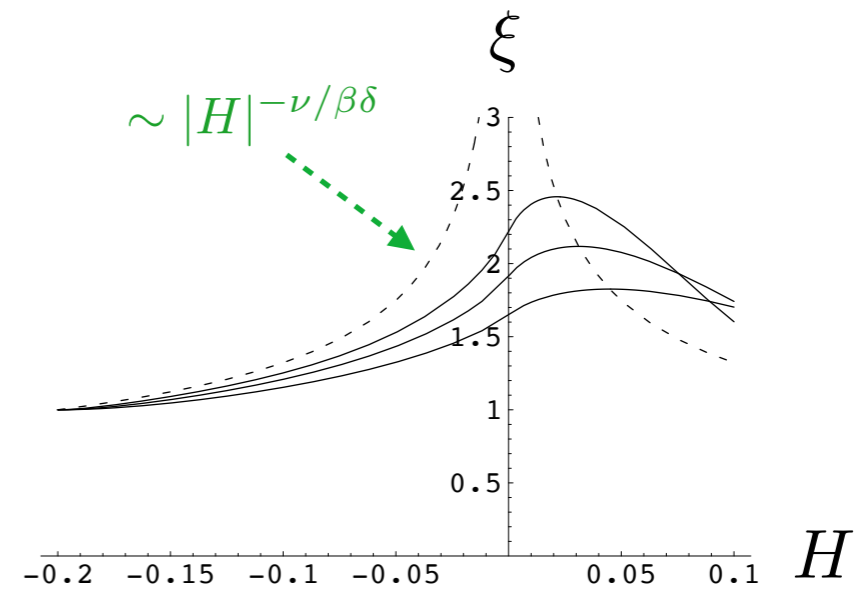


details on (non-universal) mapping to Ising model:  
Parotto et al., PRC **101** (2020) 3, 034901  
Pradeep, Stephanov, PRD **100** (2019) 5, 056003

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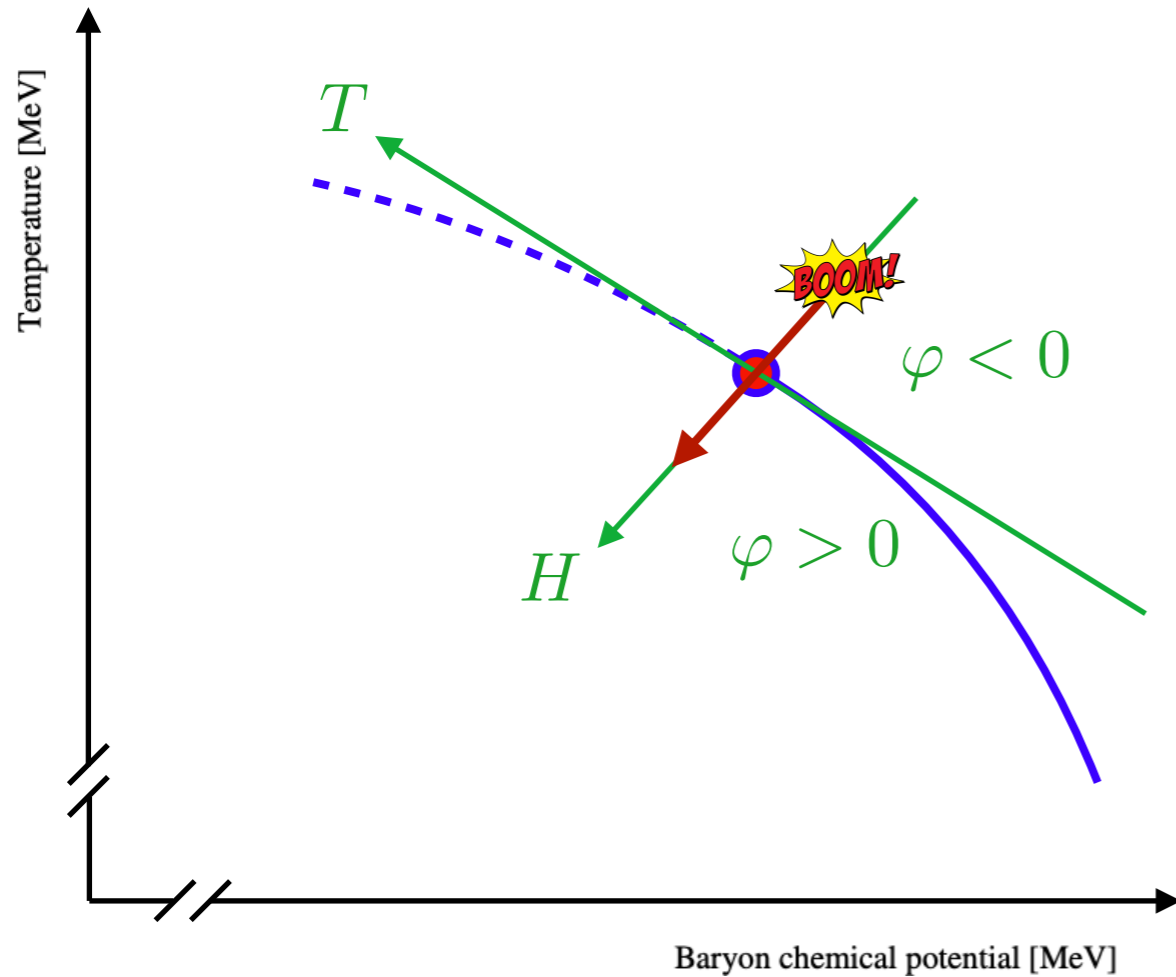
time evolution of correlation length  $\xi$ :



Berdnikov & Rajagopal, PRD **61**, 105017 (2000)

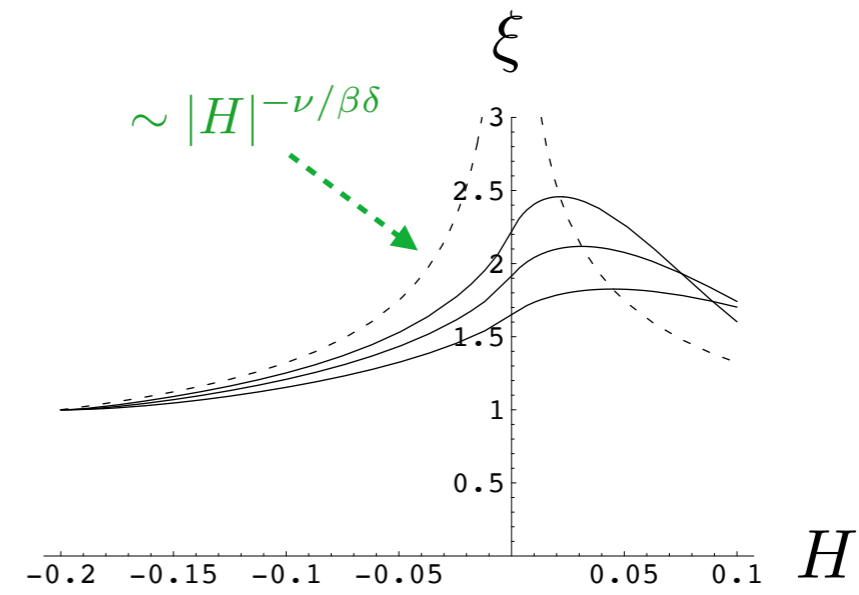
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time evolution of correlation length  $\xi$ :



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→ **Critical mode falls out of (local) equilibrium!**

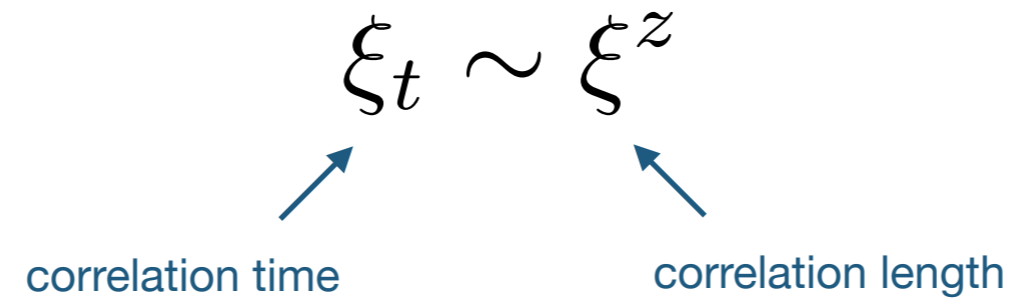


Reason:

**critical slowing down**

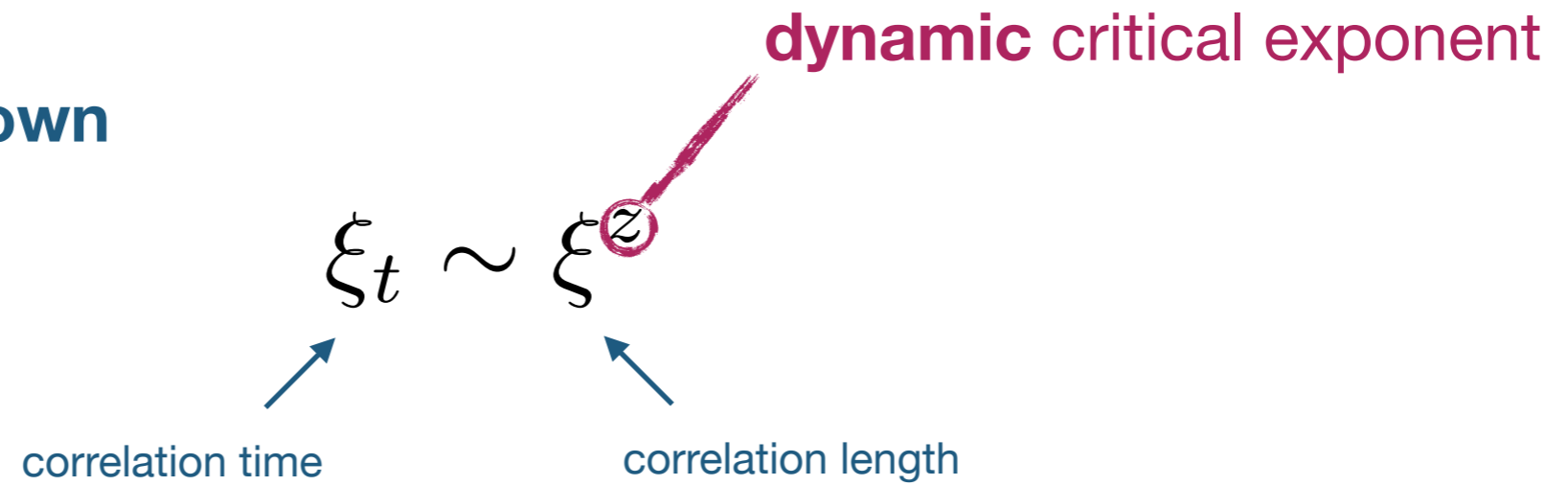
$$\xi_t \sim \xi^z$$

correlation time                      correlation length



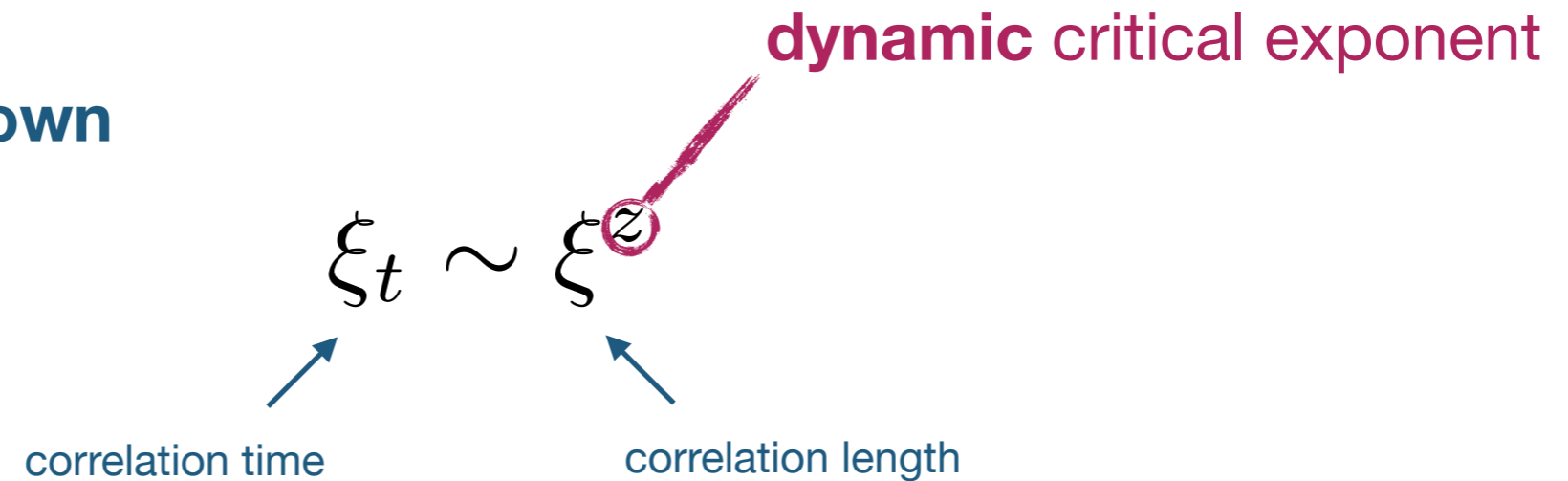
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- $z$  determined by **dynamic universality class**
- group theories by equations of motion for critical modes
- critical mode arbitrarily slow  $\leadsto$  **hydrodynamic theory**  
(form depends on: order parameter conserved or not, which other quantities are conserved, etc.)

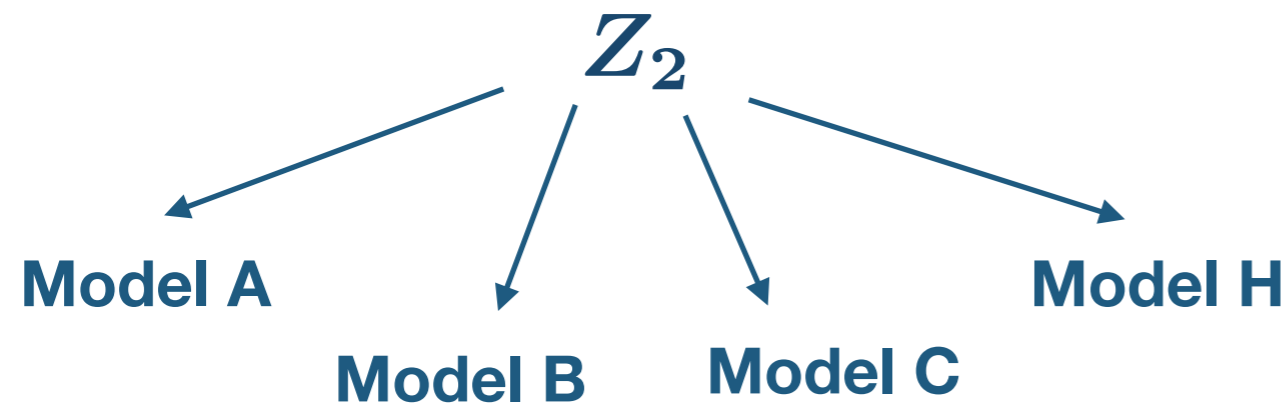
Static universality classes split up into **dynamic** universality classes:

Hohenberg & Halperin, Rev. Mod. Phys. **49**, 435 (1977)

$Z_2$

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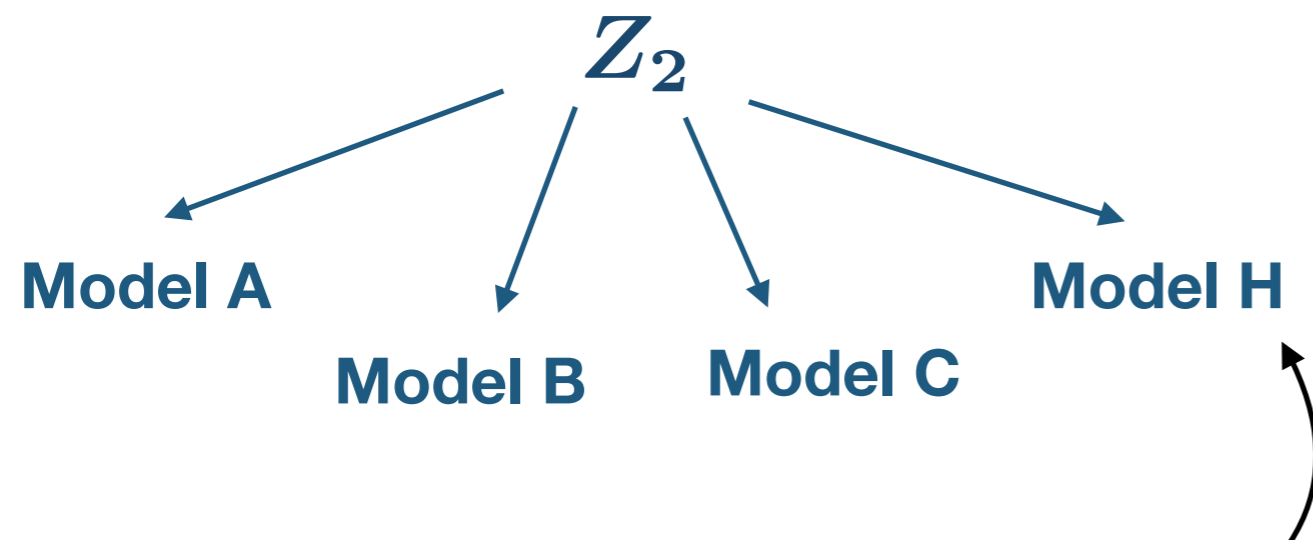
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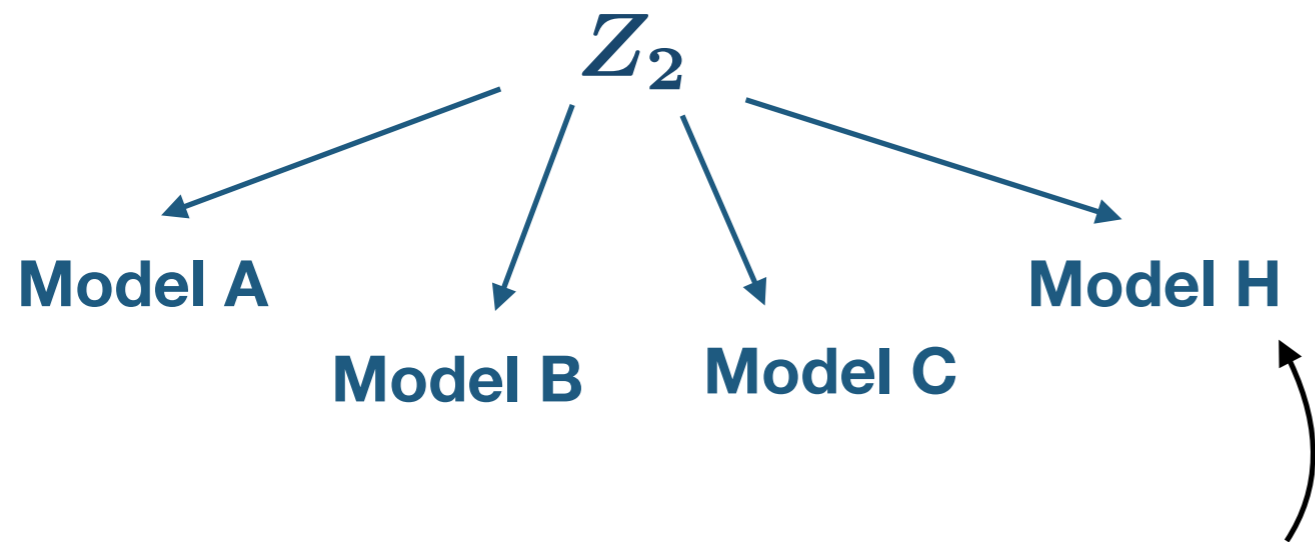


**Dynamic universality class  
of QCD's critical point**

Son and Stephanov, PRD **70**, 056001 (2004)

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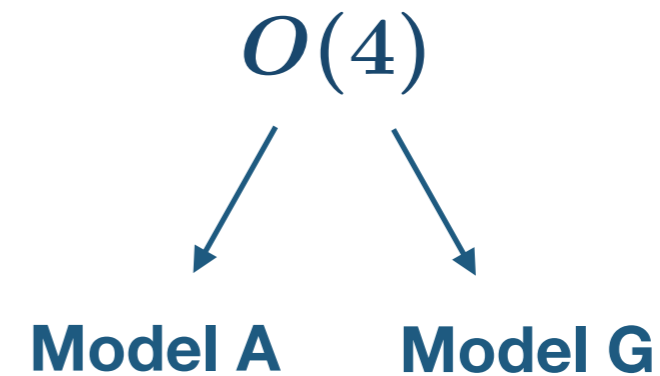
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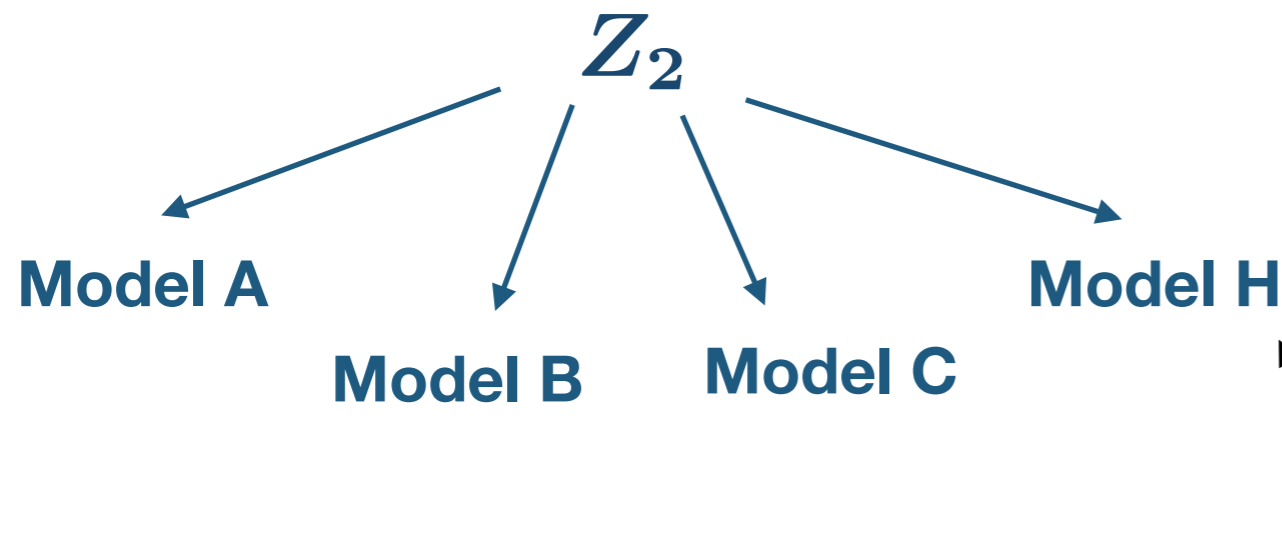
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chiral  $SU(2)_L \times SU(2)_R \simeq$



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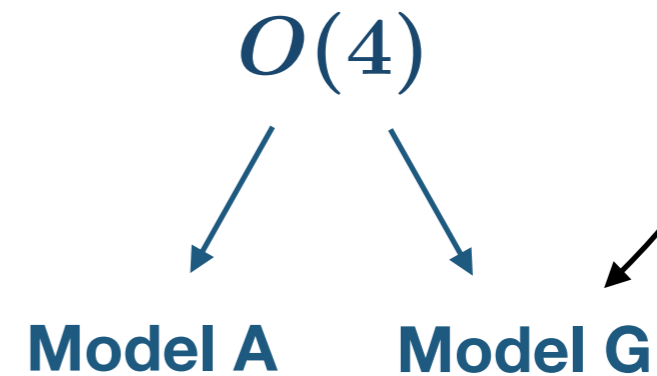
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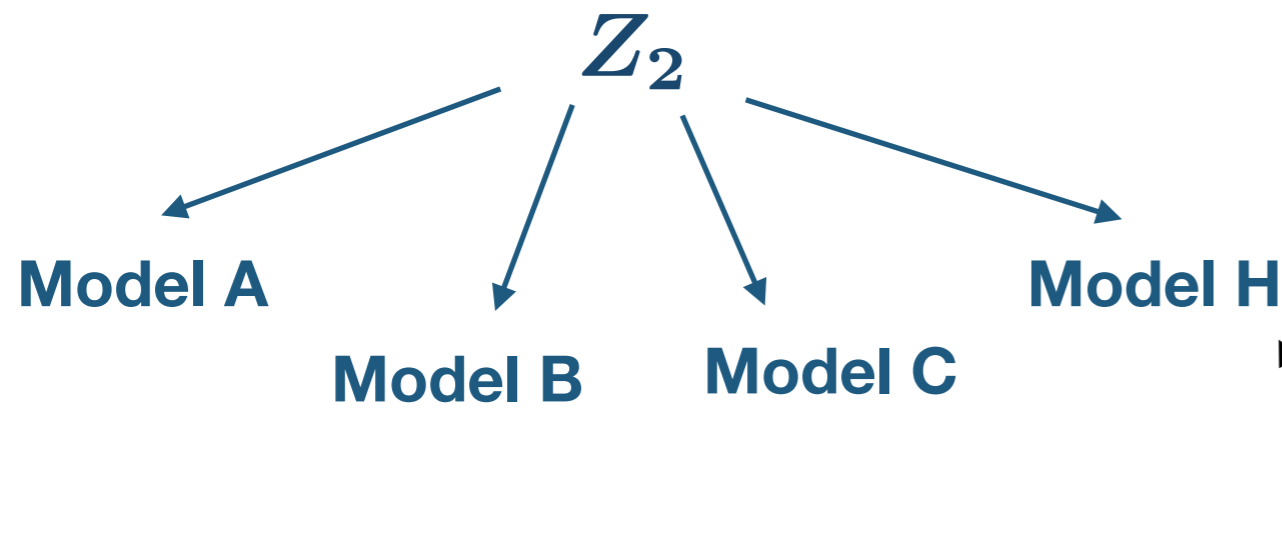
Rajagopal and Wilczek, NPB **399** (1993) 395-425

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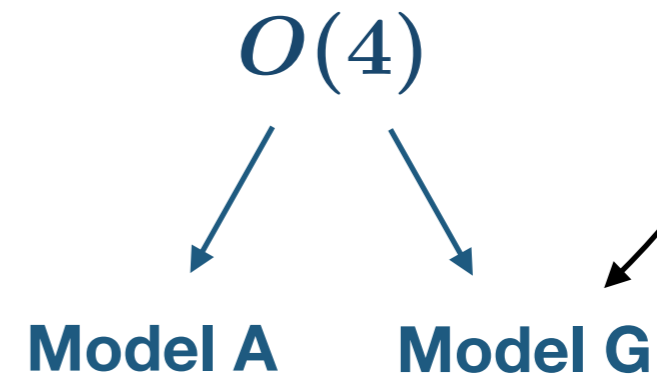
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**This work:** predict **dynamic universal properties** of hot and dense QCD matter by studying simpler system from same dynamic universality class

1. Dynamic universality classes:  
QCD's critical point, chiral phase transition
2. Functional renormalization group (FRG) flow  
for systems with reversible mode couplings
3. Results for fixed points & dynamic critical exponents



**Order parameter:**  $\phi \sim \delta(s/n)$  (entropy per baryon)

Son and Stephanov,  
PRD **70**, 056001 (2004)

**FRG:**

Chen, Tan, Fu, arXiv:2406.00679

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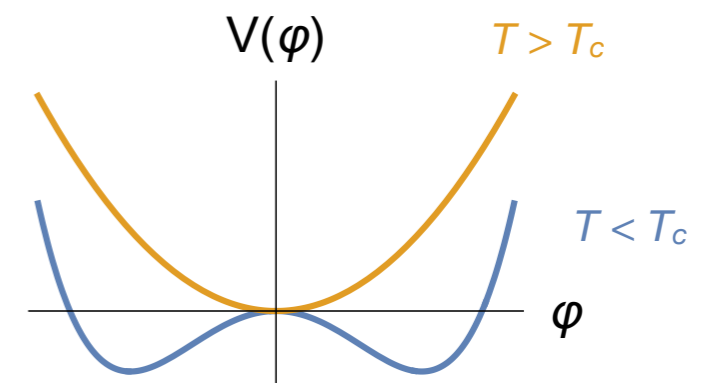
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$$F = \int d^d x \left\{ \frac{1}{2} (\vec{\nabla} \phi)^2 + \frac{m^2}{2} \phi^2 + \frac{\lambda}{24} \phi^4 + \frac{\vec{j}^2}{2\rho} \right\}$$



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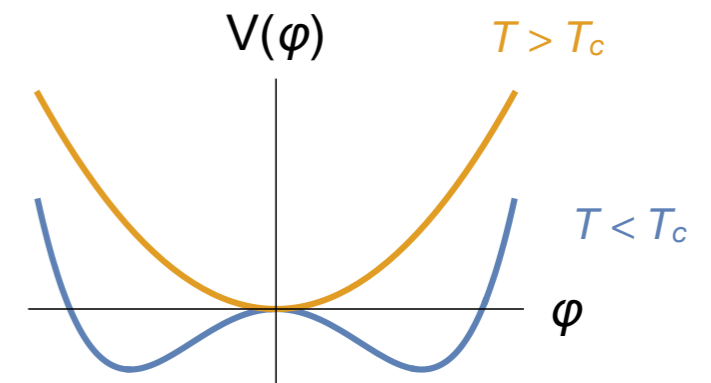
$$\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial t} = \sigma \vec{\nabla}^2 \frac{\delta F}{\delta \phi} + \theta + g\{\phi, \vec{j}\} \cdot \frac{\delta F}{\delta \vec{j}}$$

order parameter

(transverse)

momentum density

$$\frac{\partial j_l}{\partial t} = \mathcal{T} \left[ \eta \vec{\nabla}^2 \frac{\delta F}{\delta j_l} + \xi_l + g\{j_l, \phi\} \frac{\delta F}{\delta \phi} + g\{j_l, j_m\} \frac{\delta F}{\delta j_m} \right]$$



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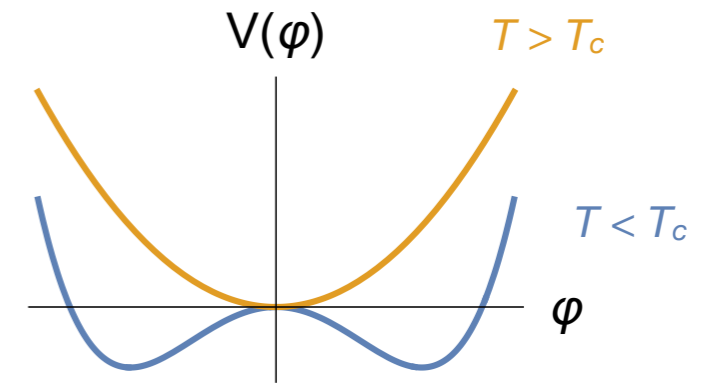
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diffusion noise

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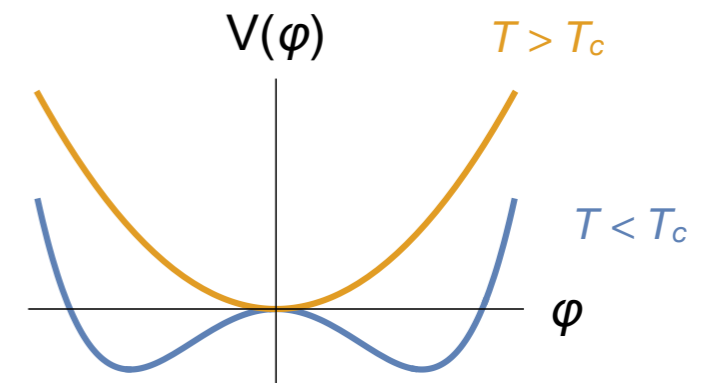
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diffusion noise

fluctuation-dissipation relation (FDR)

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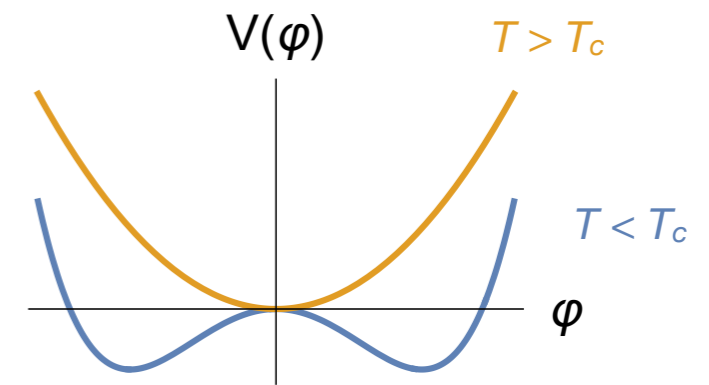
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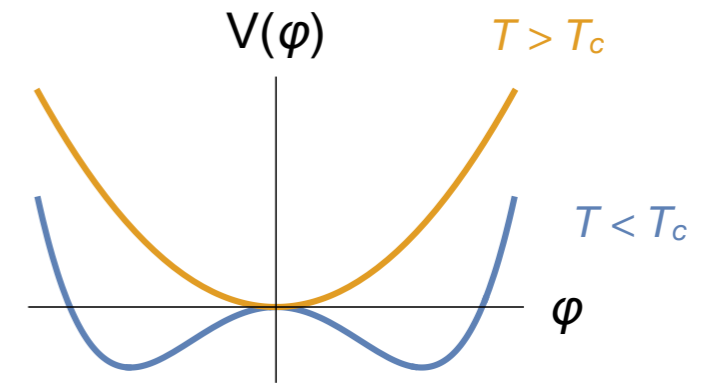
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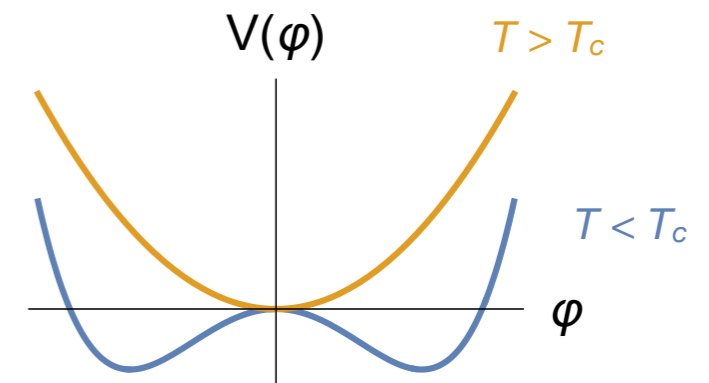
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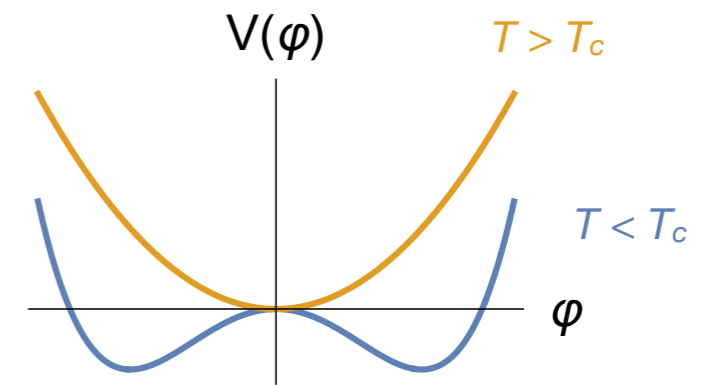
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diffusion noise advection

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diffusion noise reversibility convection

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Chen, Tan, Fu, arXiv:2406.00679

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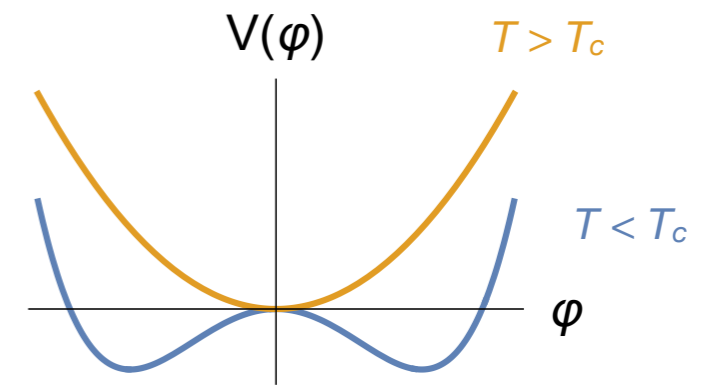
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**Model H**

$$z = 4 - \eta_{\perp} - x_{\sigma}$$

FRG:

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JR, Ye, Schlichting, von Smekal, arXiv:2409.14470

Classical-statistical simulations:

Chattopadhyay, Ott, Schaefer, Skokov, PRL **133**, 032301 (2024)

Liquid-gas critical point in pure fluid

**Chiral order parameter:**  $\phi = (\sigma, \vec{\pi})$

Rajagopal and Wilczek,  
NPB **399** (1993) 395-425

**FRG:**

JR, Ye, Schlichting, von Smekal, JHEP **01**, 118 (2025)

**Classical-statistical simulations:**

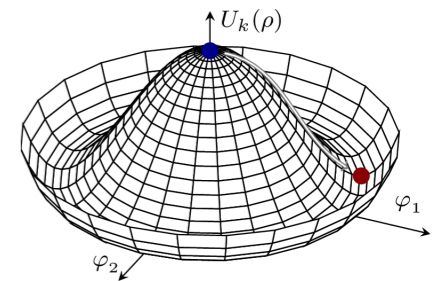
Florio, Grossi, Soloviev, Teaney, PRD **105**, 054512 (2022)

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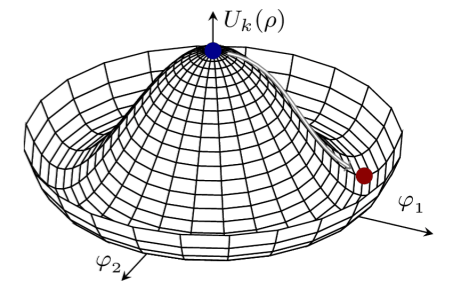
**Equations of motion:**

$$\frac{\partial \phi_a}{\partial t} = -\Gamma^\phi \frac{\delta F}{\delta \phi_a} + \theta_a + \frac{g}{2} \{ \phi_a, n_{bc} \} \frac{\delta F}{\delta n_{bc}}$$

order parameter

iso-(axial-)vector  
charge densities

$$\frac{\partial n_{ab}}{\partial t} = \gamma \vec{\nabla}^2 \frac{\delta F}{\delta n_{ab}} + \zeta_{ab} + g \{ n_{ab}, \phi_c \} \frac{\delta F}{\delta \phi_c} + \frac{g}{2} \{ n_{ab}, n_{cd} \} \frac{\delta F}{\delta n_{cd}}$$



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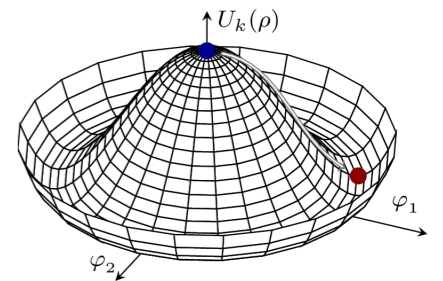
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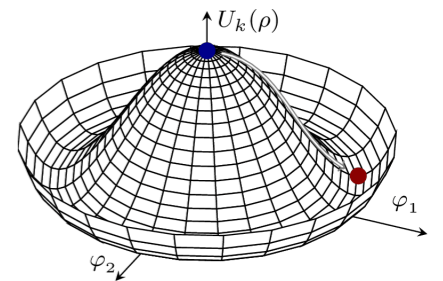
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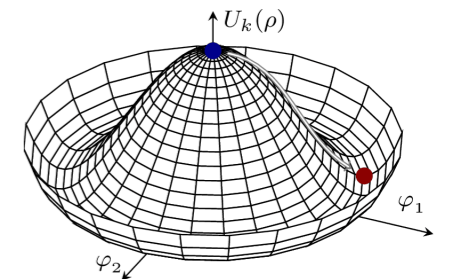
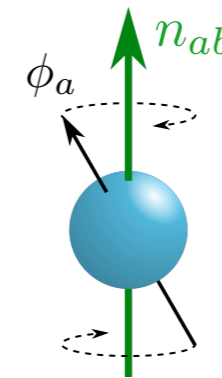
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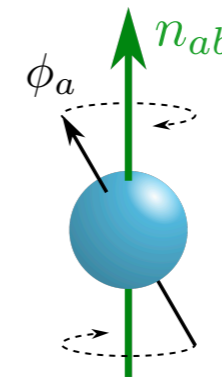
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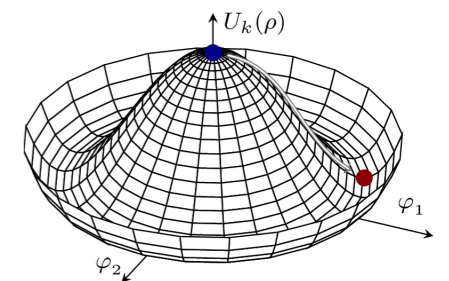
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diffusion

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FRG:

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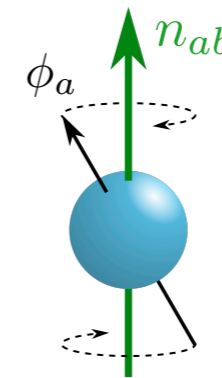
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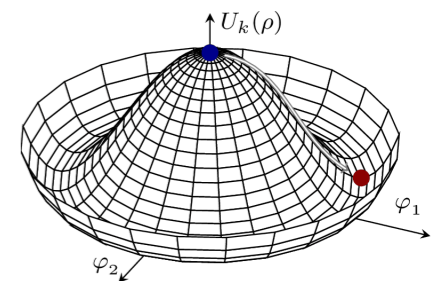
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diffusion

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reversibility

**Model G**  
 $z = d/2$

FRG:

JR, Ye, Schlichting, von Smekal, JHEP **01**, 118 (2025)

Classical-statistical simulations:


Florio, Grossi, Soloviev, Teaney, PRD **105**, 054512 (2022)

$O(4)$  Heisenberg antiferromagnet

- Equations of motion in Poisson-bracket formulation


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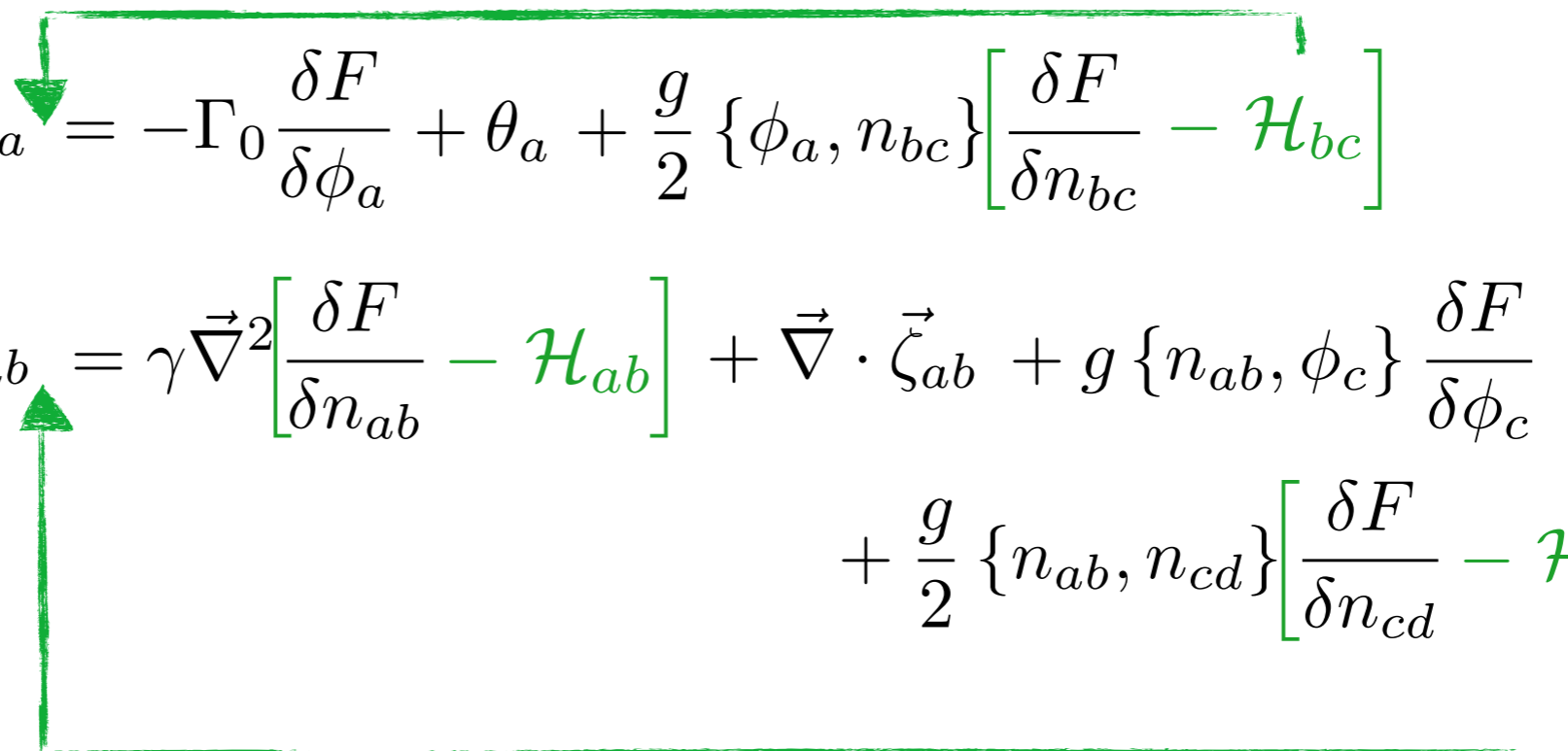
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**Covariant time-derivatives,**  
in which  $\mathcal{H}_{ab}$  = zero-component  
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- Apply external ‘magnetic’ field  $\mathcal{H}_{ab}$ :  $F \rightarrow F - \frac{1}{2} \int d^d x \mathcal{H}_{ab} n_{ab}$ 



‘magnetization’
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Homogeneous term  
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- Equations of motion **invariant** under **time-gauged**  $O(4)$  transformations

$$\phi(t, \vec{x}) \rightarrow O(t)\phi(t, \vec{x})$$

$$n(t, \vec{x}) \rightarrow O(t)n(t, \vec{x})O^T(t)$$

$$\mathcal{H}(t, \vec{x}) \rightarrow O(t)\mathcal{H}(t, \vec{x})O^T(t) + \frac{1}{g}O(t)\partial_t O^T(t)$$

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- **Goal:** preserve during FRG flow (next)

## 2. Functional renormalization group (FRG) flow for systems with reversible mode couplings

- Wilson: introduce **infrared cutoff** to suppress fluctuations  $p \lesssim k$

$$S \rightarrow S + \Delta S_k \quad \Delta S_k = \int_{xx'} \phi(x) R_k(x, x') \phi(x')$$



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- Exact flow equation:

integrate out fluctuations  
'momentum shell by momentum shell'



$$\partial_k \Gamma_k = \frac{i}{2} \text{tr} \left\{ \partial_k R_k \circ \left( R_k + \Gamma_k^{(2)} \right)^{-1} \right\} = -\frac{i}{2} \text{tr} \left( \text{circle with x} \right)$$

C. Wetterich, Phys. Lett. B **301** (1993) 90-94

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C. Wetterich, Phys. Lett. B **301** (1993) 90-94

- Quantitative results for (e.g.) critical exponents & amplitude ratios

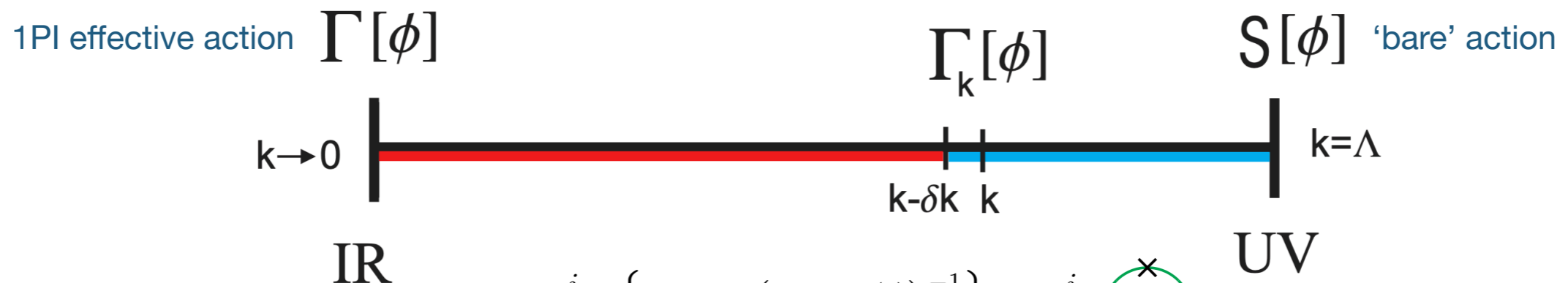
Balog et al., PRL **123**, 240604 (2019), Dupuis et al., Phys. Rept. **910** (2021) 1-114

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- Scale invariance at critical point  $\rightarrow$  fixed point of FRG flow

- **Problem:** preserve temporal gauge symmetry during FRG flow

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- **Path-integral formulation:** Martin-Siggia-Rose (MSR) technique

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- for every classical field  $\psi$ : introduce ‘response’ field  $\tilde{\psi}$  (schematically)

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- ✓ **Problem solved:** temporal gauge symmetry becomes **extended** symmetry of effective MSR action  $\Gamma$

see also Canet, Delamotte, Wschebor, PRE **93** (2016) 6, 063101

Floerchinger, Grossi, PRD **105** (2022) 8, 085015

- Similarly, add regulators also on level of LGW free energy:

$$F \rightarrow F + \frac{1}{2} \int \psi R_k \psi \quad \Longrightarrow \quad S \rightarrow S - \frac{1}{2} \int \tilde{\Psi} R_k \psi$$

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thermal equilibrium symmetry,  
temporal (non-Abelian) gauge symmetry,  
BRST symmetry

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- Flow of LGW free energy **independent** of dynamics

- Truncation:
 

$m^2 \rightarrow m_k^2$	$\sigma \rightarrow \sigma_k$	$\Gamma^\phi \rightarrow \Gamma_k^\phi$
$\lambda \rightarrow \lambda_k$	$\eta \rightarrow \eta_k$	$\gamma \rightarrow \gamma_k$

( $g, \chi, \rho$  protected from renormalization)

### 3. Results for fixed points & dynamic critical exponents



First look at flow of LGW free energy  $\leadsto$  flow of (static) couplings  $m_k^2, \lambda_k$

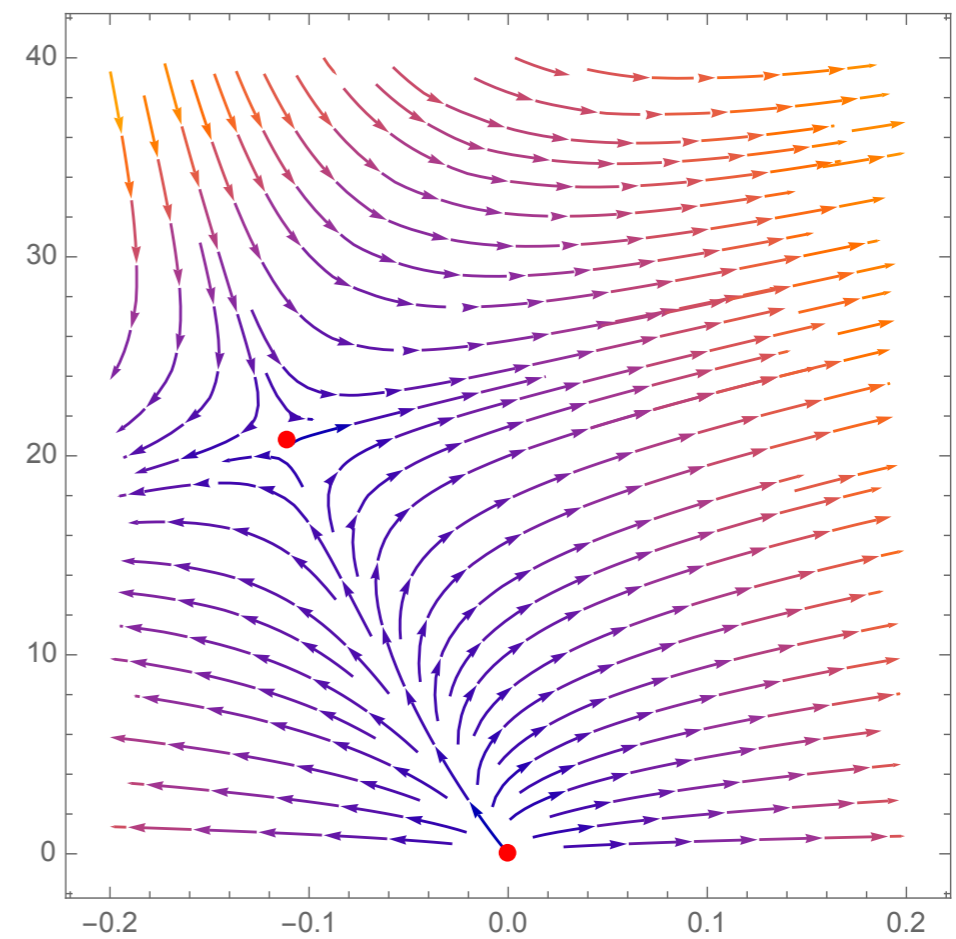
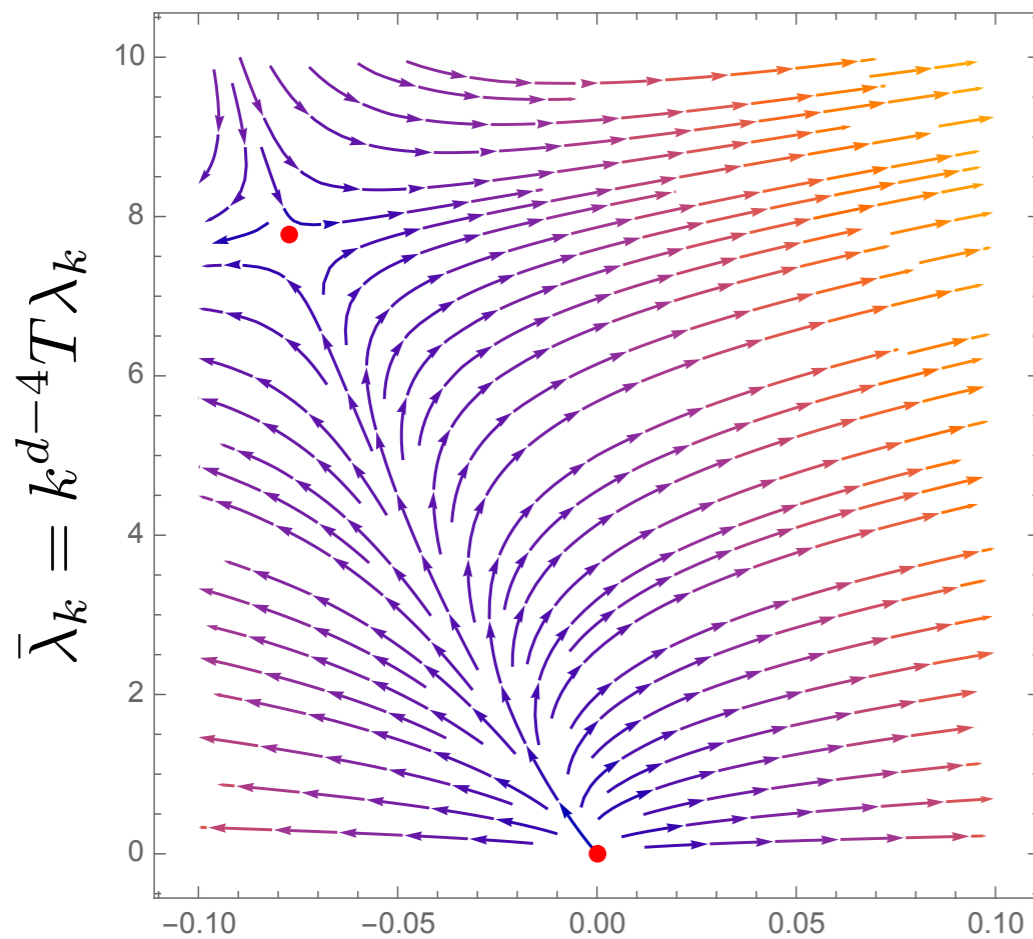
$Z_2$

$O(4)$

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**O(4)**



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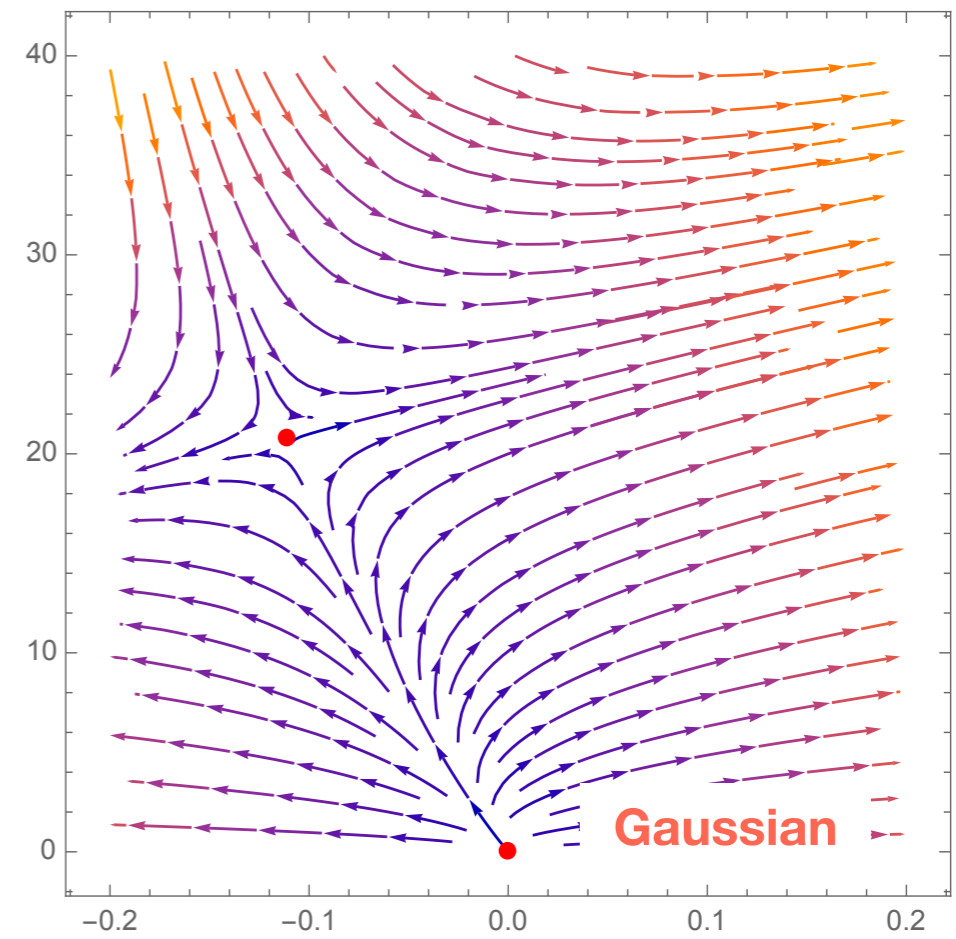
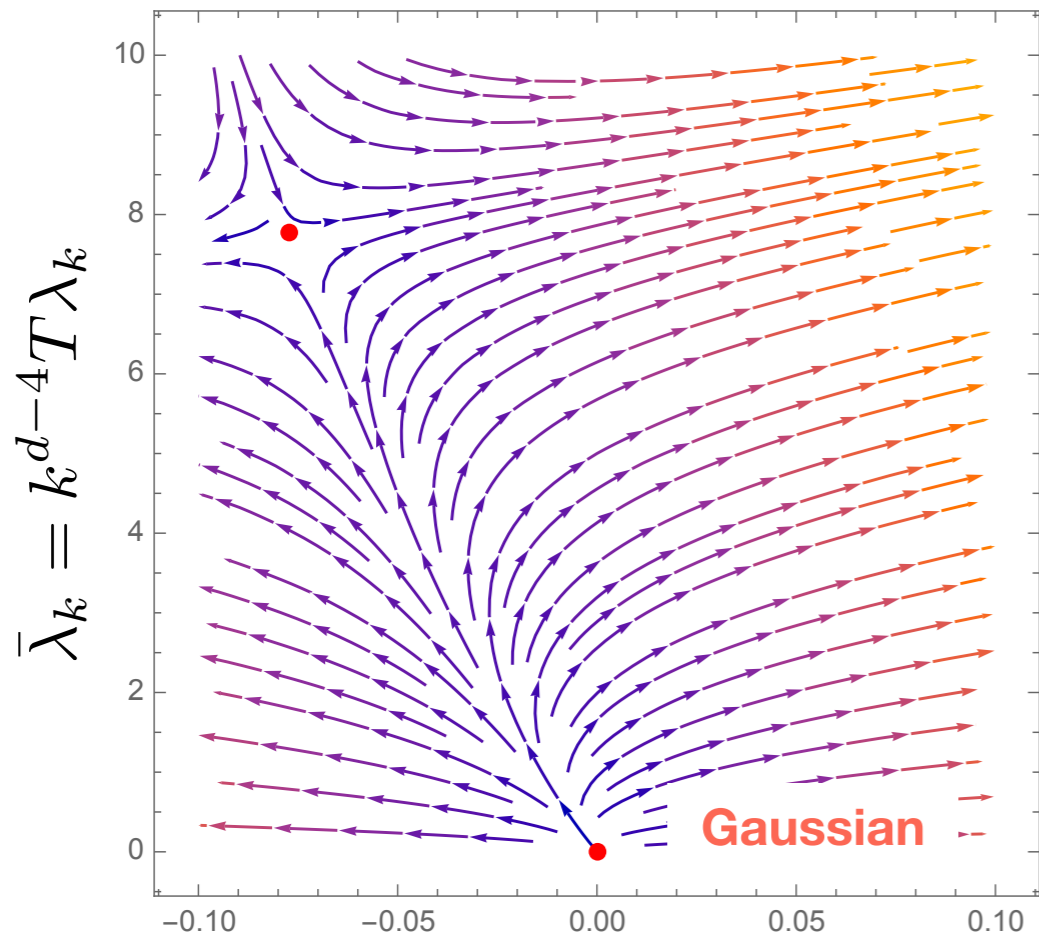
(mass)

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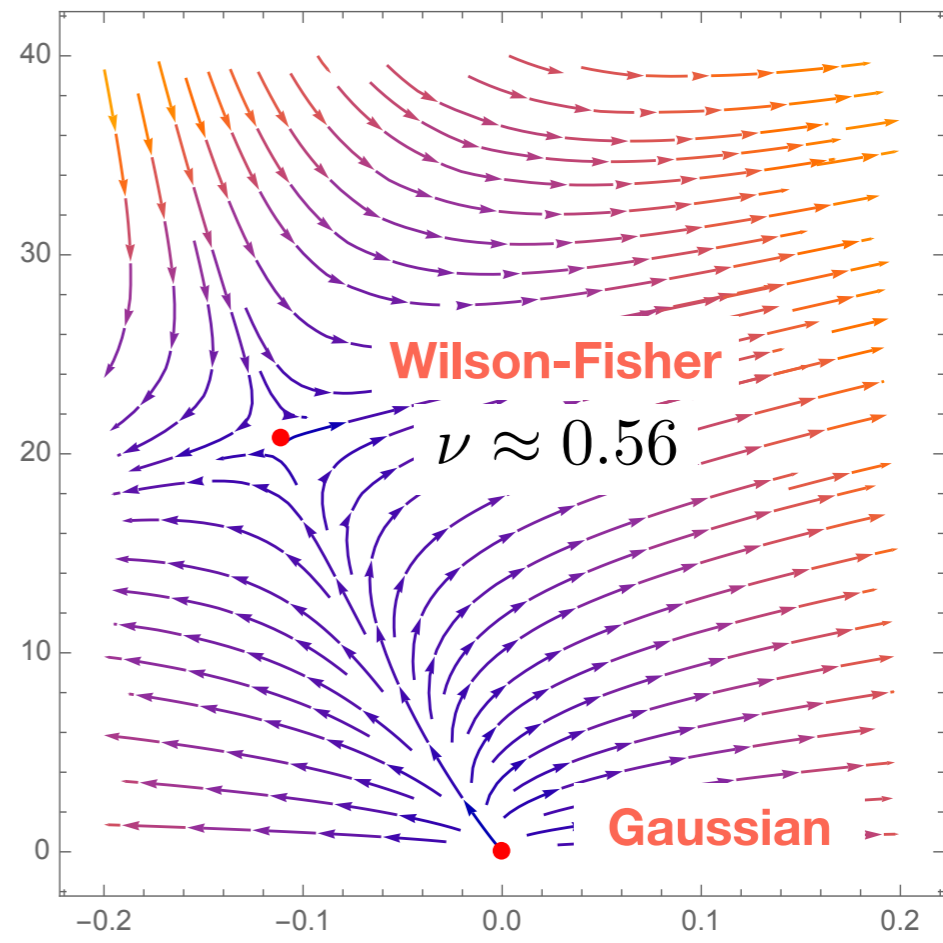
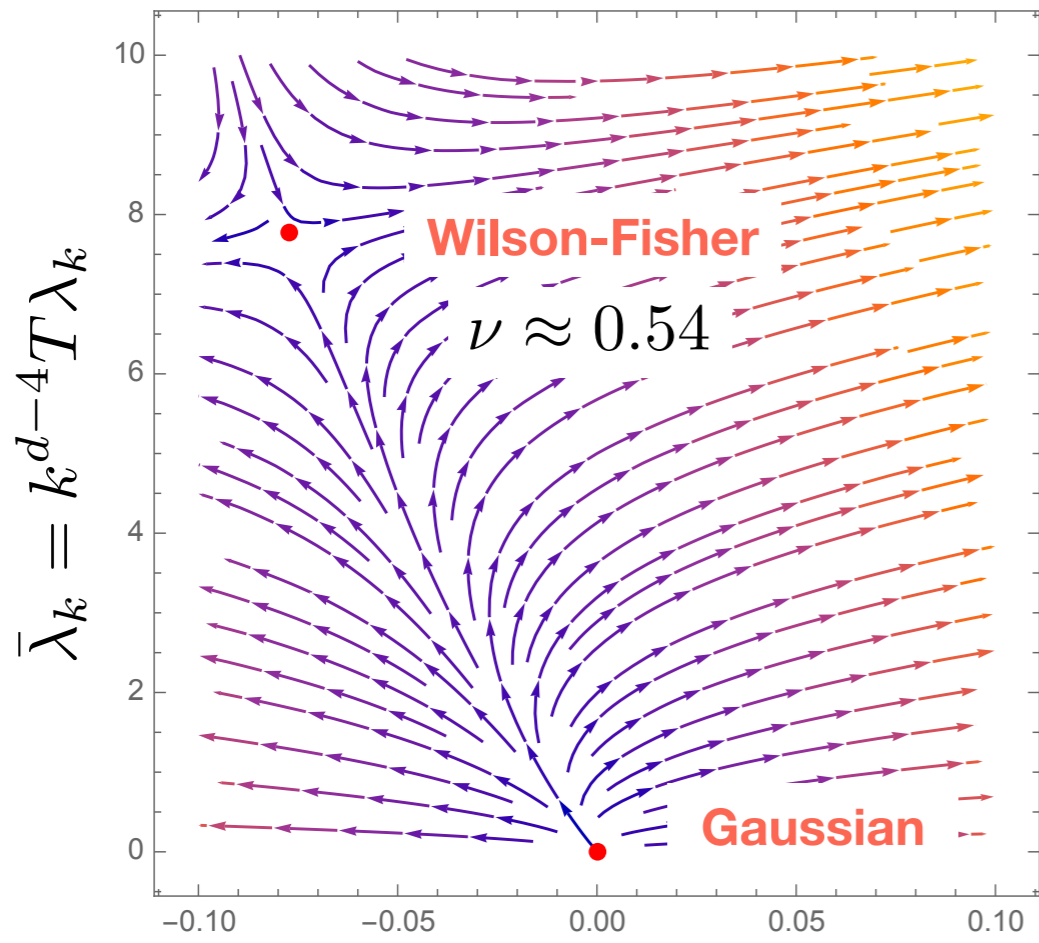
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## Model G

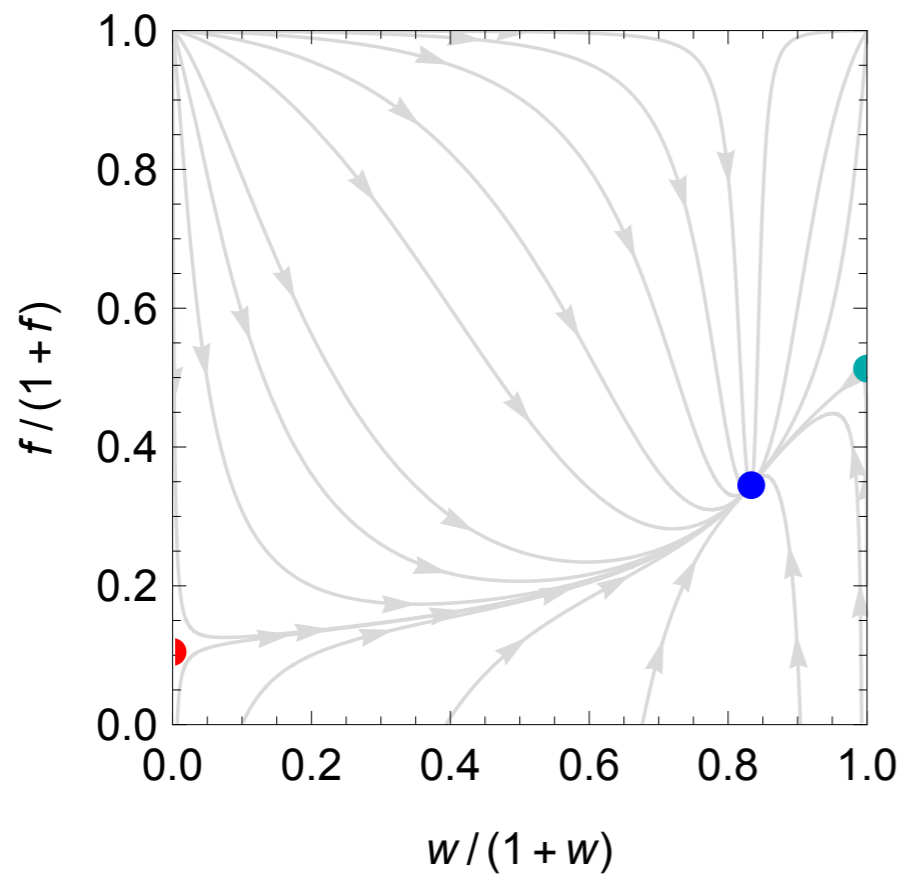
$$w_G = \chi \frac{\Gamma_k^\phi}{\gamma_k} \quad f_G \propto \frac{T k^{d-4}}{\Gamma_k^\phi \gamma_k}$$

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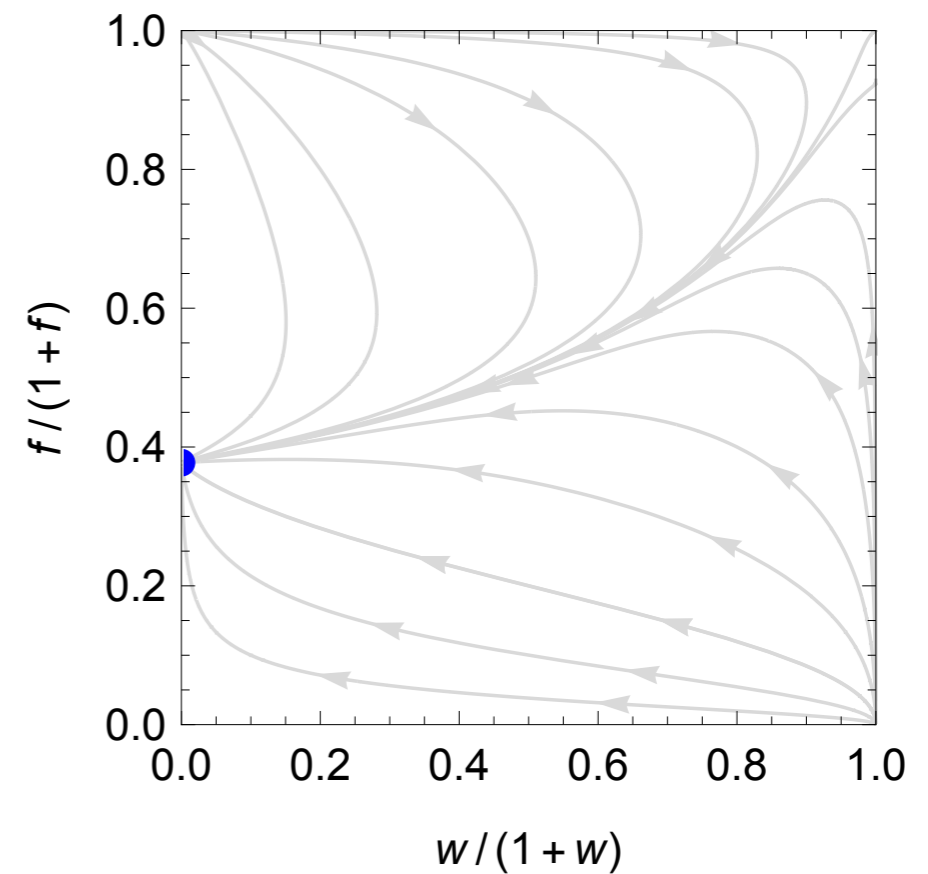
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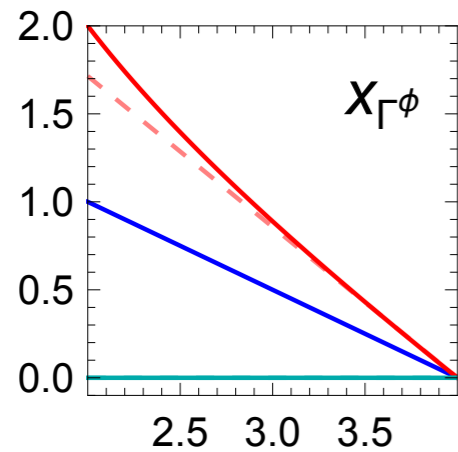


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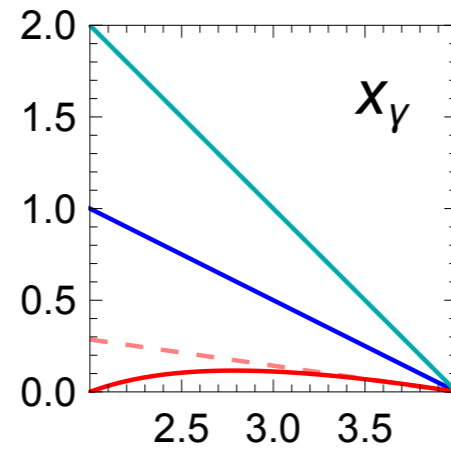
## Model G



spatial dimension  $d$

$$\Gamma^\phi \sim k^{-x_{\Gamma^\phi}}$$

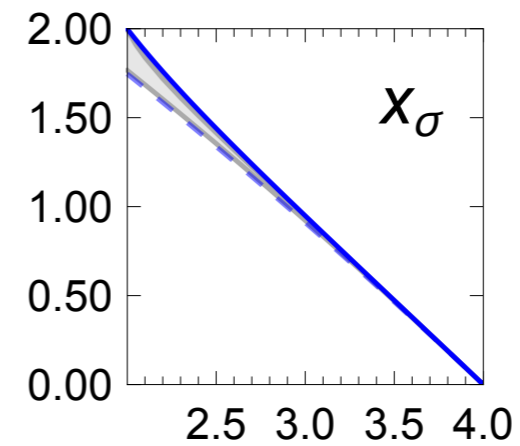
(order-parameter damping rate)



$$\gamma \sim k^{-x_\gamma}$$

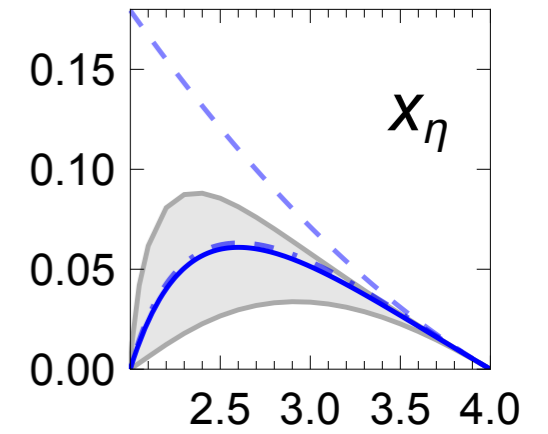
(charge mobility)

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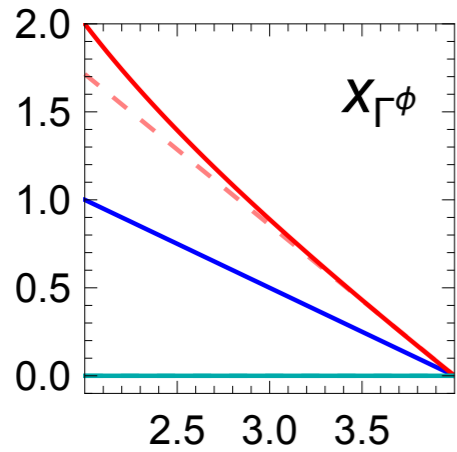
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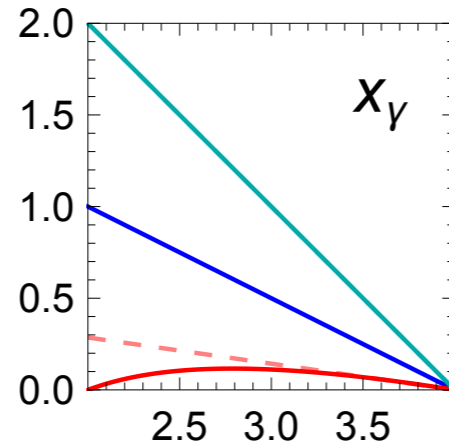
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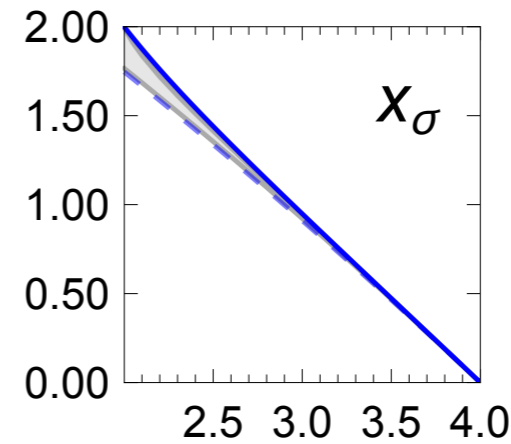
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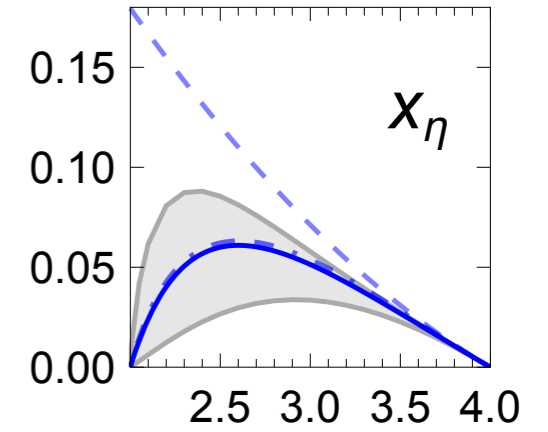
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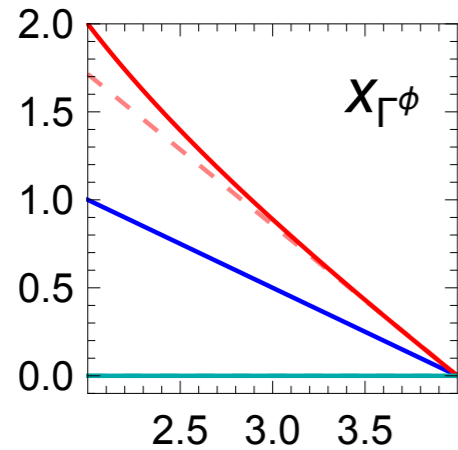
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• Model H ( $d = 3$ ):

	$\phi^4$	LPA, $\phi = 0$	LPA', $\phi = \phi_{\min}$
$x_\sigma \approx$	0.949	0.942	0.922
$x_\eta \approx$	0.051	0.058	0.034
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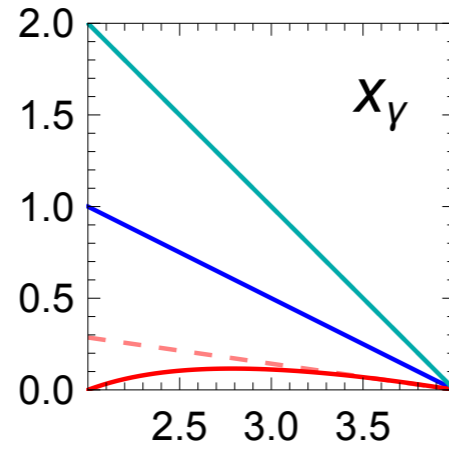
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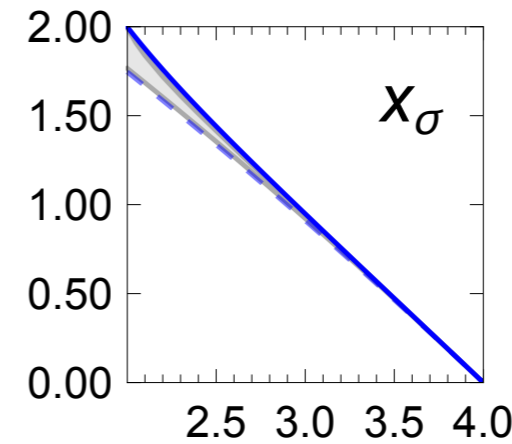
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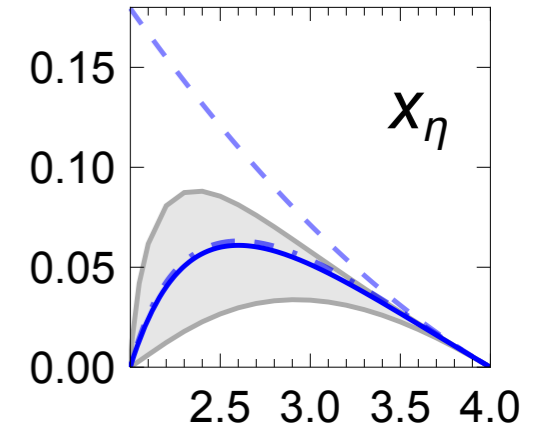
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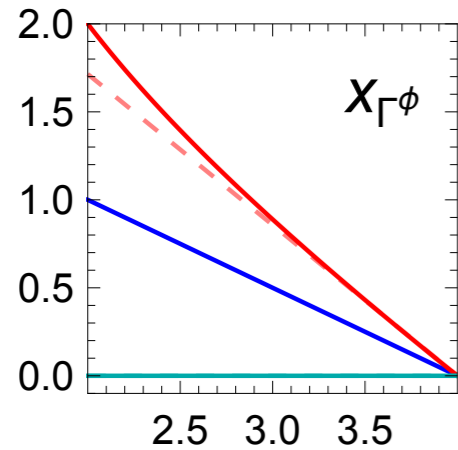


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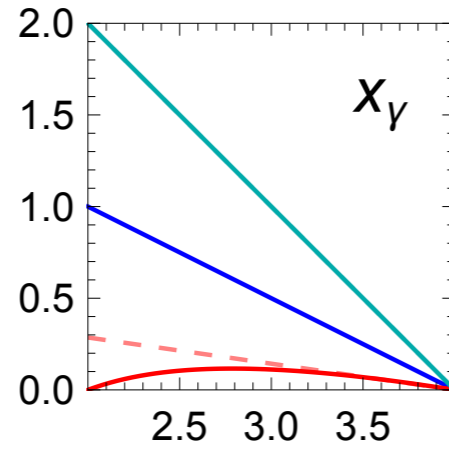
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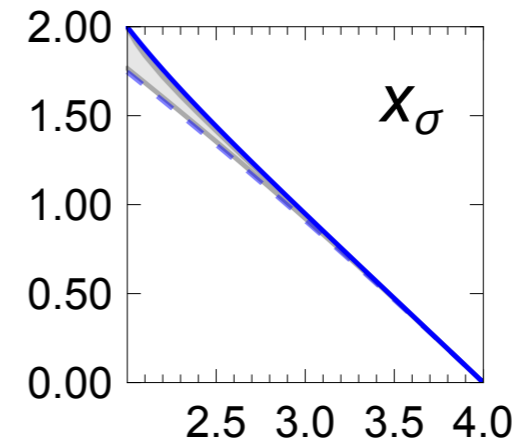
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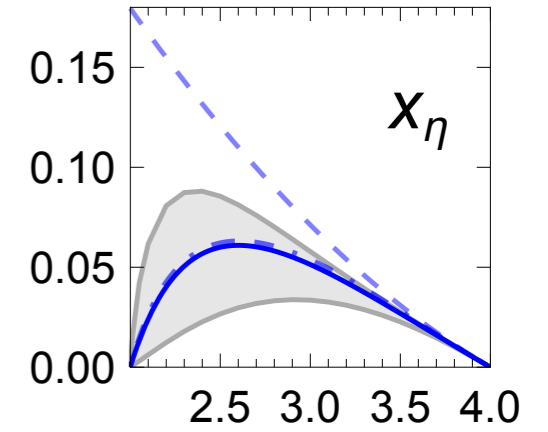
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## Summary:

- FRG flow for systems with reversible mode couplings

**Model G:** JR, Ye, Schlichting, von Smekal, JHEP **01**, 118 (2025)

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## Outlook:

- dynamics of **Model G** for non-vanishing external fields (quark masses)
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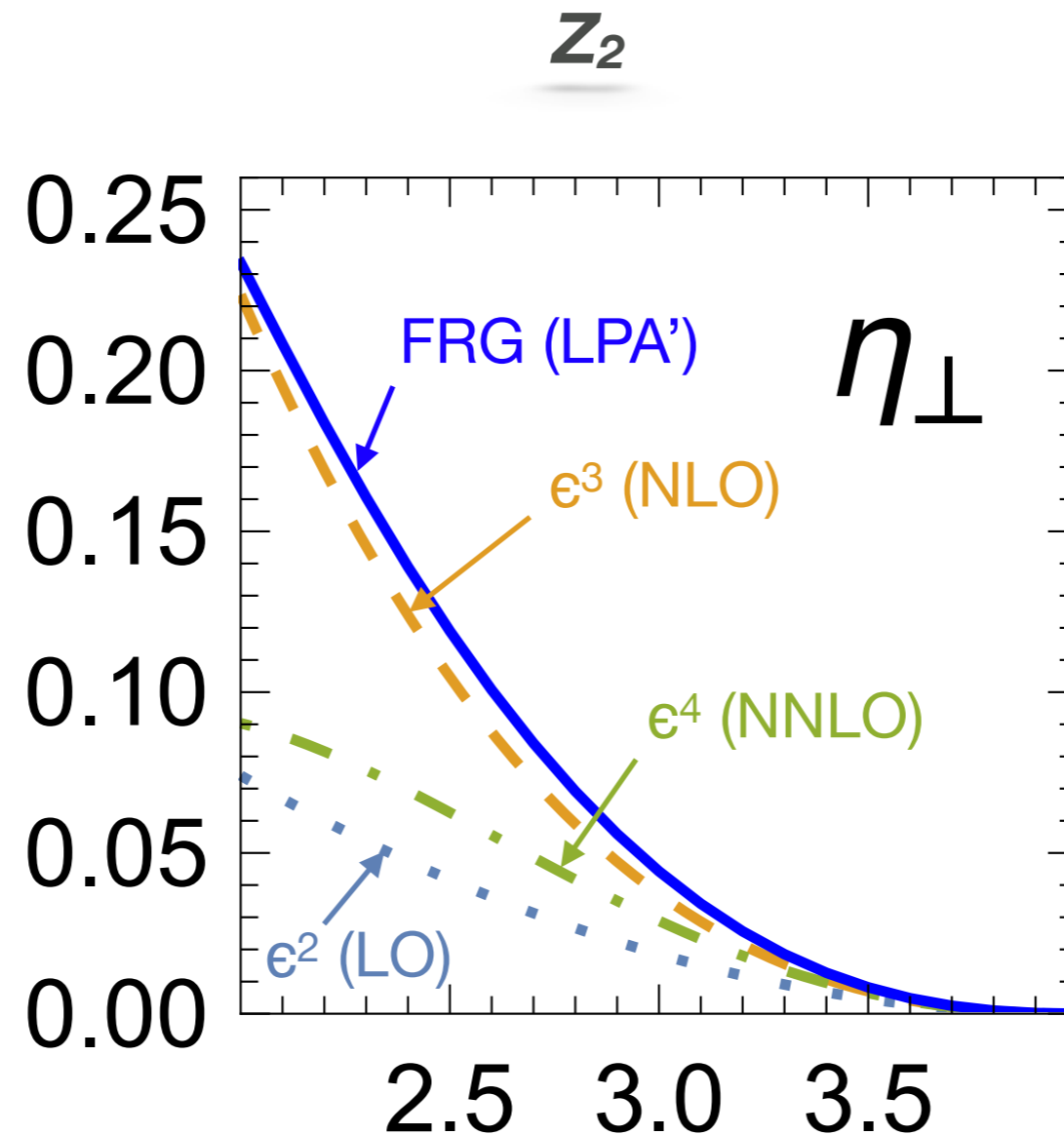
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**Thank you for your attention!**

Backup



Result from  $\epsilon$ -expansion:

$$\eta = \frac{\epsilon^2(N+2)}{2(N+8)^2} \left\{ 1 + \frac{(-N^2 + 56N + 272)}{4(N+8)^2} \epsilon + \frac{1}{16(N+8)^4} [-5N^4 - 230N^3 + 1124N^2 + 17920N + 46144 - 384(5N+22)(N+8)\zeta(3)] \epsilon^2 \right\} + O(\epsilon^5)$$

Zinn-Justin, *Quantum Field Theory and Critical Phenomena*, Oxford University Press (2021)

- Generating functional

$$Z[H, \tilde{H}, \vec{A}, \vec{\tilde{A}}] = \int \mathcal{D}\phi \mathcal{D}\tilde{\phi} \mathcal{D}n \mathcal{D}\tilde{n} \exp \left\{ iS + i \int_x (\tilde{H}\phi + \vec{\tilde{A}}_l j_l) + \right. \\ \left. i \int_x H(-\sigma_k \vec{\nabla}^2 \tilde{\phi} + g\{\phi, j_m\} \mathcal{T}_{mo} \tilde{j}_o) + i \int_x A_l (-\eta_k \vec{\nabla}^2 \mathcal{T}_{lo} \tilde{j}_o + g\mathcal{T}_{lm}\{j_m, \phi\} \tilde{\phi} + g\mathcal{T}_{lm}\{j_m, j_n\} \mathcal{T}_{no} \tilde{j}_o) \right\}$$

- MSR action

$$S = \int_x \left\{ -\tilde{\phi} \left( \frac{\partial \phi}{\partial t} - \sigma \vec{\nabla}^2 \frac{\delta F}{\delta \phi} - g\{\phi, \vec{j}\} \cdot \frac{\delta F}{\delta \vec{j}} \right) \right. \\ \left. - \tilde{j}_l \left( \frac{\partial j_l}{\partial t} - \mathcal{T}_{lm} \left[ \eta \vec{\nabla}^2 \frac{\delta F}{\delta j_m} + g\{j_m, \phi\} \frac{\delta F}{\delta \phi} + g\{j_m, j_n\} \frac{\delta F}{\delta j_n} \right] \right) \right. \\ \left. - iT\tilde{\phi}\sigma\vec{\nabla}^2\tilde{\phi} - iT\tilde{j}_l\eta\mathcal{T}_{lm}\vec{\nabla}^2\tilde{j}_m \right\}$$

- Composite operators

$$\tilde{\Phi} \equiv -\sigma_k \vec{\nabla}^2 \tilde{\phi} + g\{\phi, j_m\} \mathcal{T}_{mo} \tilde{j}_o$$

$$\tilde{J}_l \equiv -\eta_k \vec{\nabla}^2 \mathcal{T}_{lo} \tilde{j}_o + g\mathcal{T}_{lm}\{j_m, \phi\} \tilde{\phi} + g\mathcal{T}_{lm}\{j_m, j_n\} \mathcal{T}_{no} \tilde{j}_o$$

- effective average MSR action

$$\Gamma_k[\phi, \tilde{\Phi}, \vec{j}, \tilde{J}] \equiv \sup_{H, \tilde{H}, \vec{A}, \tilde{A}} \left\{ -i \log Z_k[H, \tilde{H}, \vec{A}, \tilde{A}] - \int_x (\tilde{H}\phi + H\tilde{\Phi} + \tilde{A}_l j_l + A_l \tilde{J}_l) \right\}$$

- full (truncated) propagators

$$G_{\phi,k}^{R/A}(\omega, \vec{p}) = -\frac{\sigma_k \vec{p}^2}{\pm i\omega - \sigma_k \vec{p}^2 (m_k^2 + \vec{p}^2 + R_k^\phi(\vec{p}))}, \quad G_{j,k}^{R/A}(\omega, \vec{p}) = -\frac{\eta_k \vec{p}^2}{\pm i\omega - \eta_k \vec{p}^2 (1/\rho + R_k^j(\vec{p}))}$$

$$iF_{\phi/j,k}(\omega, \vec{p}) = \frac{T}{\omega} \left( G_{\phi/j,k}^R(\omega, \vec{p}) - G_{\phi/j,k}^A(\omega, \vec{p}) \right)$$

- (truncated) 1PI vertex functions

$$\Gamma_k^{\tilde{\Phi}\phi j_l}(p, q, r) = -g \frac{r^0 (\mathcal{T}_{\vec{r}\vec{p}})_l}{\eta_k \vec{r}^2 \sigma_k \vec{p}^2}$$

$$\Gamma_k^{\tilde{J}_l \phi \phi}(p, q, r) = g \frac{q^0 (\mathcal{T}_{\vec{p}\vec{q}})_l}{\eta_k \vec{p}^2 \sigma_k \vec{q}^2} + g \frac{r^0 (\mathcal{T}_{\vec{p}\vec{r}})_l}{\eta_k \vec{p}^2 \sigma_k \vec{r}^2}$$

$$\Gamma_k^{\tilde{\Phi}\tilde{\Phi}\phi\phi}(p, q, r, s) = \frac{2ig^2 T}{\sigma_k \vec{p}^2 \sigma_k \vec{q}^2} \left( \frac{\mathcal{T}_{lm}(\vec{p} + \vec{r})}{\eta_k (\vec{p} + \vec{r})^2} + \frac{\mathcal{T}_{lm}(\vec{q} + \vec{r})}{\eta_k (\vec{q} + \vec{r})^2} \right) r_l s_m$$

$$\Gamma_k^{\tilde{J}_l \tilde{J}_m \phi \phi}(p, q, r, s) = 2ig^2 T \frac{(\mathcal{T}_{\vec{p}}(\vec{p} + \vec{r}))_l (\mathcal{T}_{\vec{q}}(\vec{q} + \vec{s}))_m}{\eta_k \vec{p}^2 \eta_k \vec{q}^2 \sigma_k (\vec{p} + \vec{r})^2} + 2ig^2 T \frac{(\mathcal{T}_{\vec{p}}(\vec{p} + \vec{s}))_l (\mathcal{T}_{\vec{q}}(\vec{q} + \vec{r}))_m}{\eta_k \vec{p}^2 \eta_k \vec{q}^2 \sigma_k (\vec{q} + \vec{r})^2}$$



- projection onto kinetic coefficients (Model H)

$$\partial_k \sigma_k = -\frac{\sigma_k^2}{2iT} \lim_{\vec{p} \rightarrow 0} \vec{p}^2 \lim_{\omega \rightarrow 0} \frac{\delta^2 \partial_k \Gamma_k}{\delta \tilde{\Phi}(-p) \delta \tilde{\Phi}(p)} \Big|_0$$

$$\partial_k \eta_k = -\frac{\eta_k^2}{2iT} \lim_{\vec{p} \rightarrow 0} \vec{p}^2 \lim_{\omega \rightarrow 0} \frac{\mathcal{T}_{lm}(\vec{p})}{d-1} \frac{\delta^2 \partial_k \Gamma_k}{\delta \tilde{J}_l(-p) \delta \tilde{J}_m(p)} \Big|_0$$

- analytical result:

$$\partial_k \sigma_k = \frac{2g^2 \Omega_d k^{d-1} T}{(2\pi)^d} \frac{d-1}{d-2} \frac{1}{\eta_k} \left( \frac{\sigma_k^2}{(\eta_k/\rho + \sigma_k(k^2 + m_k^2))^2} - \frac{1}{(k^2 + m_k^2)^2} \right)$$

$$\partial_k \eta_k = -\frac{g^2 \Omega_d k^{d+1} T}{(2\pi)^d (2+d) \sigma_k (k^2 + m_k^2)^3}$$

- analytical result (Model G):

$$\partial_k \Gamma_k^\phi = \frac{g^2 (N-1) d \Omega_d k^{d-1} T}{(2\pi)^d (k^2 + m_k^2) \gamma_k} \left\{ \frac{\Gamma_k^\phi}{k^2 \gamma_k / \chi + \Gamma_k^\phi (k^2 + m_k^2)} - \frac{2 + (d-4) {}_2F_1 \left( 1, \frac{d-2}{2}; \frac{d}{2}; -\frac{k^2 \gamma_k / \chi}{\Gamma_k^\phi (k^2 + m_k^2)} \right)}{(d-2) (k^2 + m_k^2)} \right\}$$

$$\partial_k \gamma_k = -\frac{2g^2 \Omega_d k^{d+1} T}{(2\pi)^d \Gamma_k^\phi (k^2 + m_k^2)^3}$$

- dynamic couplings (Model G):

$$w_G \equiv \chi \frac{\Gamma_k^\phi}{\gamma_k}, \quad f_G \equiv \frac{d \Omega_d g^2 T}{(2\pi)^d} \frac{k^{d-4}}{\Gamma_k^\phi \gamma_k}$$

$$\begin{aligned} k\partial_k f_G &= f_G(d-4) + \\ & f_G^2 \left( \frac{2}{d(1+\bar{m}_k^2)^3} - (N-1)I_d(\bar{m}^2, w_G) \right) \\ k\partial_k w_G &= w_G f_G \left[ \frac{2}{d(1+\bar{m}_k^2)^3} + (N-1)I_d(\bar{m}^2, w_G) \right] \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{with } I_d(\bar{m}^2, w_G) &\equiv -\frac{1}{(1+\bar{m}^2)^2} \left\{ \frac{1}{1+(1+\bar{m}^2)w_G} \right. \\ & \left. + \frac{4-d}{d-2} \left[ 1 - {}_2F_1 \left( 1, \frac{d-2}{2}; \frac{d}{2}; -\frac{1}{(1+\bar{m}^2)w_G} \right) \right] \right\} \end{aligned}$$

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- Model G (strong-scaling FP):

$$f_G^* = \frac{(4-d)d(1+\bar{m}^2)^3}{4}$$

$$I_d(\bar{m}^{*2}, w_G^*) = -\frac{2}{(N-1)d(1+\bar{m}^{*2})^3}$$

numerical inversion:  $\leadsto w_G^*$

critical exponents:

$$x_{\Gamma\phi} = x_\gamma = 2 - \frac{d}{2}$$

- Model G (weak-scaling FP 1):

$$f_G^* = \frac{(4-d)(d-2)d(1+\bar{m}^{2*})^3}{2d(N(1+\bar{m}^{2*}) - \bar{m}^{2*}) - 4}$$

$$w_G^* = 0$$

$$x_{\Gamma\phi} = \frac{(N-1)(4-d)d(1+\bar{m}^{2*})}{d(N(1+\bar{m}^{2*}) - \bar{m}^{2*}) - 2}$$

$$x_\gamma = \frac{(4-d)(d-2)}{d(N(1+\bar{m}^{2*}) - \bar{m}^{2*}) - 2}$$

- Model G (weak-scaling FP 2):

$$f_G^* = \frac{1}{2}(4-d)d(1+\bar{m}^{2*})^3$$

$$w_G^* = \infty$$

$$x_{\Gamma\phi} = 0$$

$$x_\gamma = d$$

- Model H:

$$f_H^* = \frac{4-d}{\frac{2}{d-2} \frac{d-1}{d(1+\bar{m}^2)^2} + \frac{1}{d(d+2)} \frac{1}{(1+\bar{m}^2)^3}}$$

$$w_H^* = 0$$

$$x_\sigma = \frac{4-d}{\frac{2}{d-2} \frac{d-1}{d(1+\bar{m}^2)^2} + \frac{1}{d(d+2)} \frac{1}{(1+\bar{m}^2)^3}} \frac{2}{d-2} \frac{d-1}{d(1+\bar{m}^2)^2} \quad (26)$$

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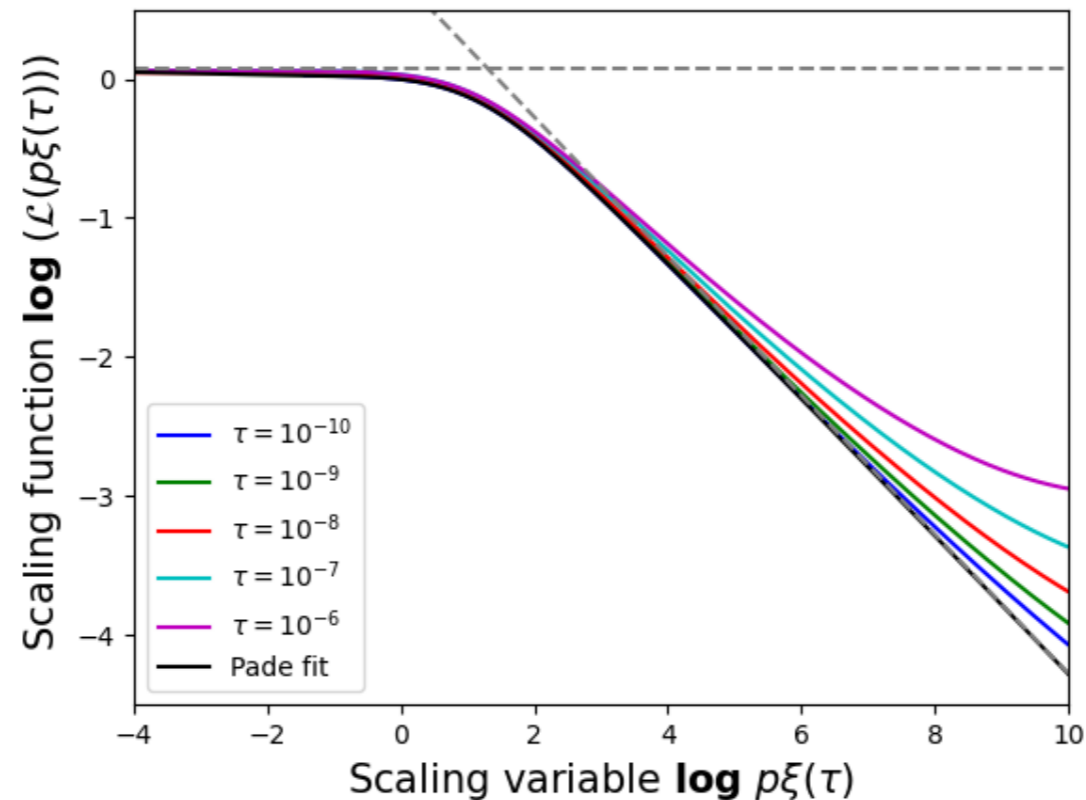
- **Strong-scaling** of charge diffusion coefficient in Model G

$$D_n(\mathbf{p}, \tau) = s^{2-z} D_n(s\mathbf{p}, s^{1/\nu} \tau)$$
$$\leadsto D_n(p, \tau) \sim \tau^{-\nu(2-z)} \mathcal{L}(\tau^{-\nu} \bar{p}) \quad \bar{p} = f^+ p$$

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**dynamic universal scaling function**

JR, Ye, Schlichting, von Smekal, arXiv:2403.04573

- What can we say about the scaling exponents?  
Investigate fixed-point equation of  $f$ :

$$f_G \equiv \frac{d \Omega_d g^2 T}{(2\pi)^d} \frac{k^{d-4}}{\Gamma_k^\phi \gamma_k}$$

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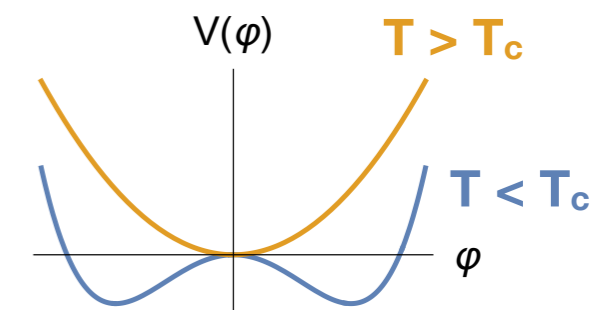
only at **‘strong-scaling’ fixed point** of Model G:  
also **‘strong-scaling’** relation

**Statics:**  $O(4)$  Landau-Ginzburg-Wilson (LGW) functional

$$F = \int d^d x \left\{ \frac{1}{2} (\partial^i \phi_a) (\partial^i \phi_a) + \frac{m^2}{2} \phi_a \phi_a + \frac{\lambda}{4! N} (\phi_a \phi_a)^2 \right.$$

six conserved iso-vector and  
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$$\left. + \frac{1}{4\chi} n_{ab} n_{ab} \right\}$$



**(higher-order  
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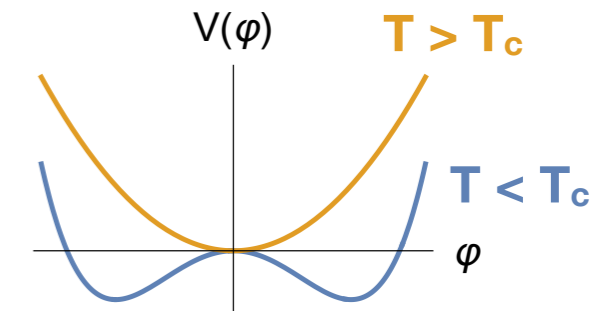
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**Dynamics:** need equations of motion which drive system towards  $e^{-F/T}$

[see Landau & Lifshitz, *Statistical Physics, Part 1* (Butterworth-Heinemann, Oxford, 1980)]

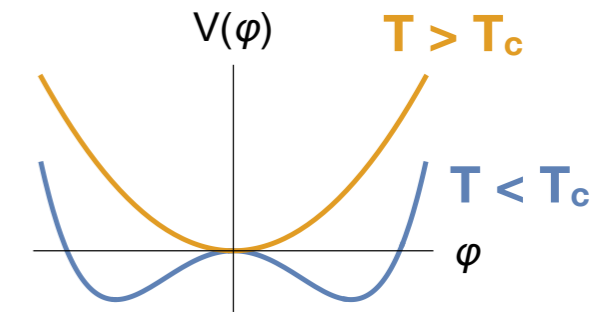
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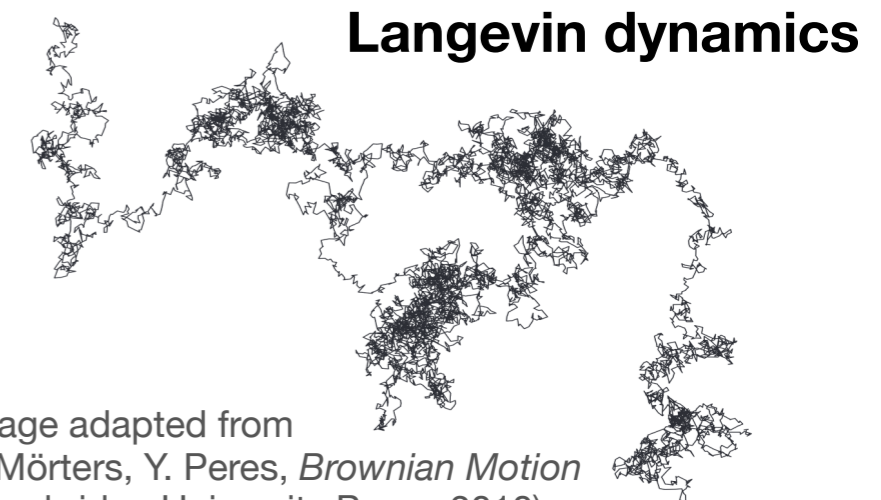


Image adapted from  
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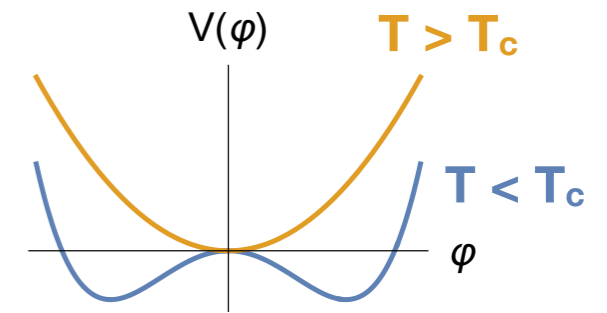
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damping/diffusion

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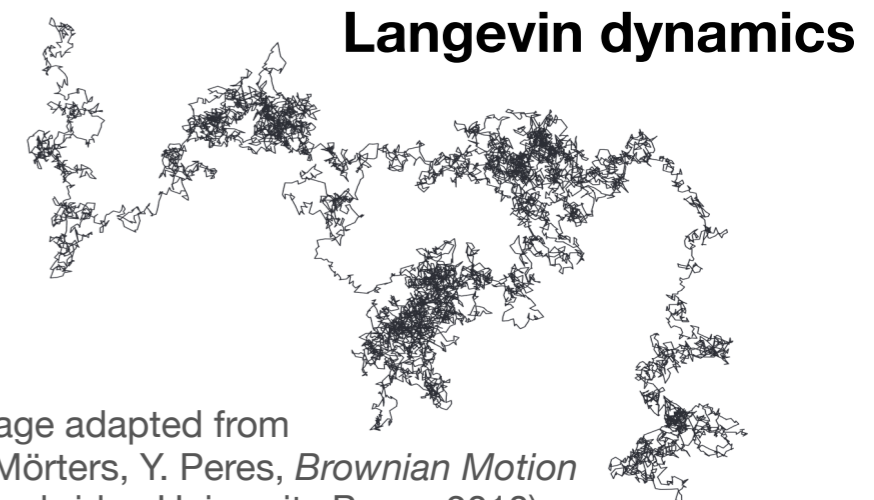


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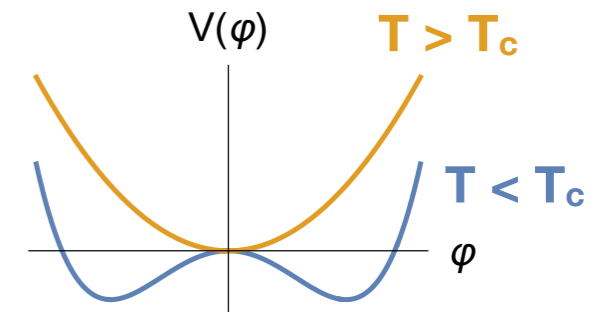
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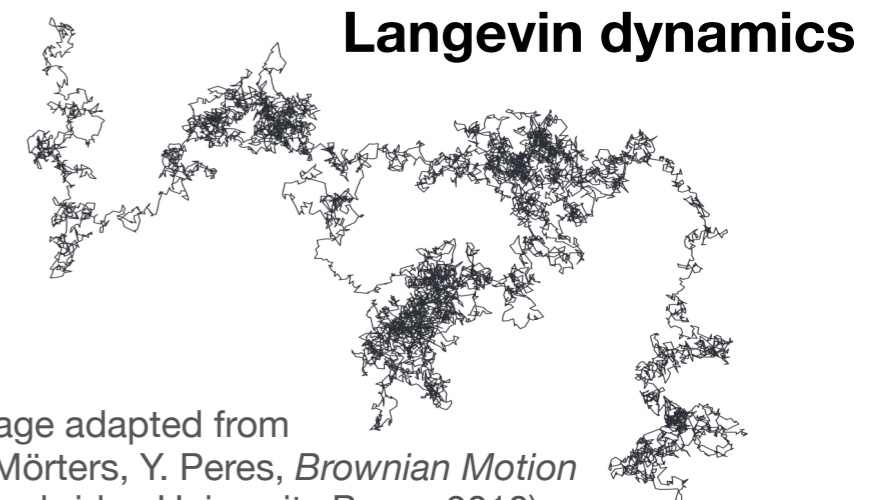


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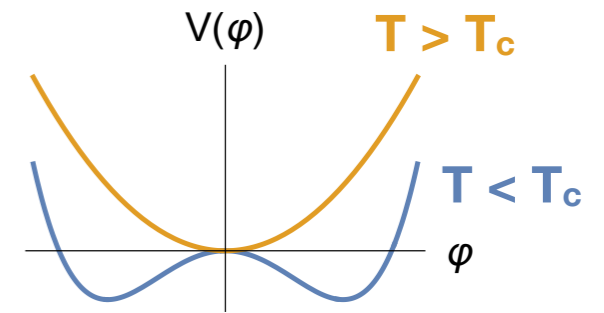
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fixed by fluctuation-dissipation (Einstein) relations, e.g.:

$$\langle \theta_a(x) \theta_b(x') \rangle = 2 \Gamma_0 T \delta_{ab} \delta(x - x')$$

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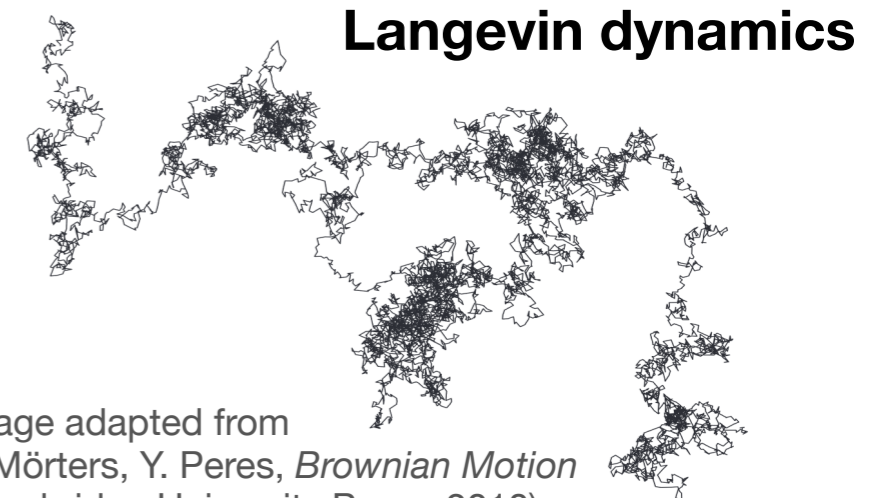


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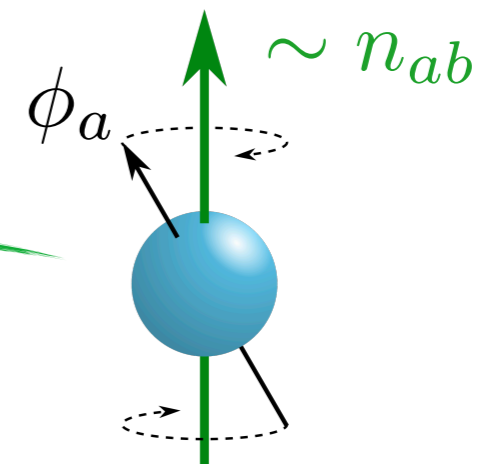
( $n$ 's generate  $O(4)$  transformations)

- Reversible (ideal) part:** Poisson bracket technique

$$\frac{\partial \phi_a}{\partial t} = \{\phi_a, F\} = \frac{1}{2} \{\phi_a, n_{bc}\} \frac{\delta F}{\delta n_{bc}}$$

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$$\{\cdot, \cdot\} \rightarrow -i[\cdot, \cdot]$$



Larmor precession

conserve  $F$  exactly

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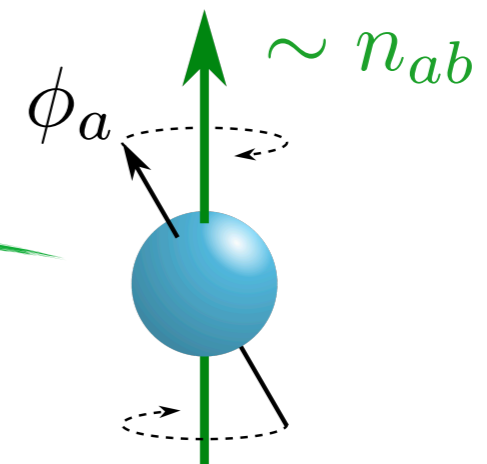
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reversibility



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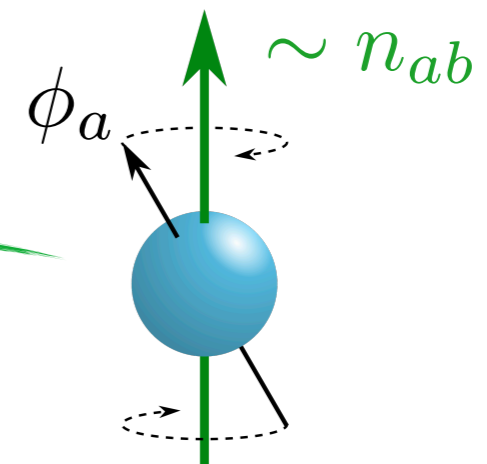
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reversibility

non-Abelian nature of  $O(4)$



Larmor precession

conserve  $F$  exactly

**Goal:** compute **non-equilibrium** correlation functions

→ Path integral requires **doubling number of fields:**

L.V. Keldysh, Sov. Phys. JETP **20** (1965) 1018

$$\langle O(t) \rangle = \text{tr} (O(t) \rho_0) \quad (\text{Heisenberg picture})$$

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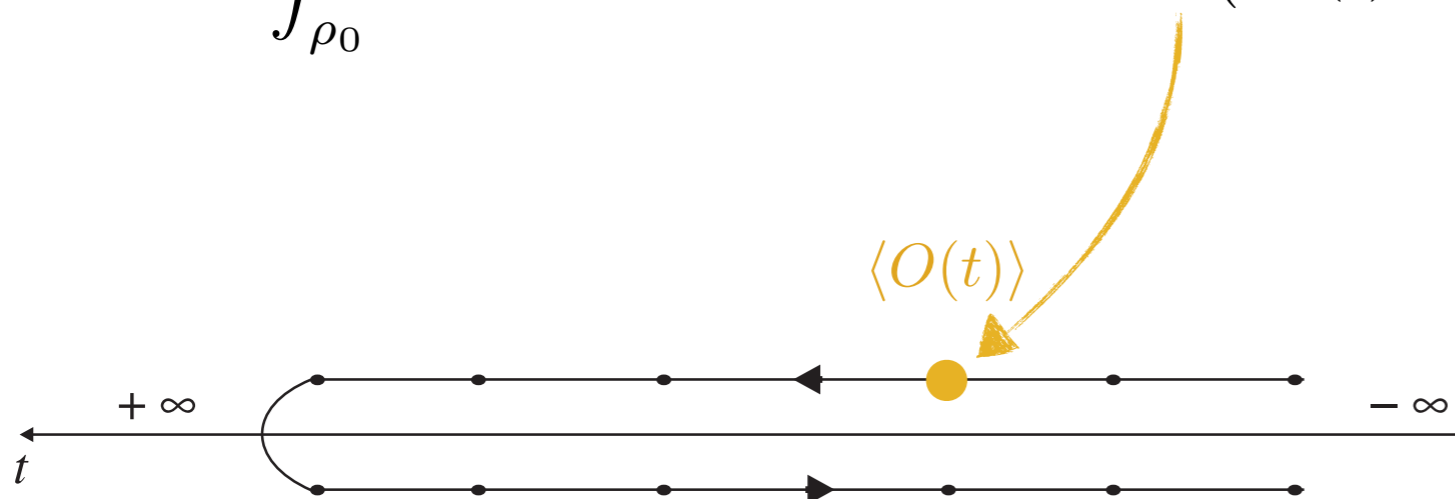


Figure adapted from  
Kamenev, *Field Theory of Non-Equilibrium Systems*  
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**closed-time path**

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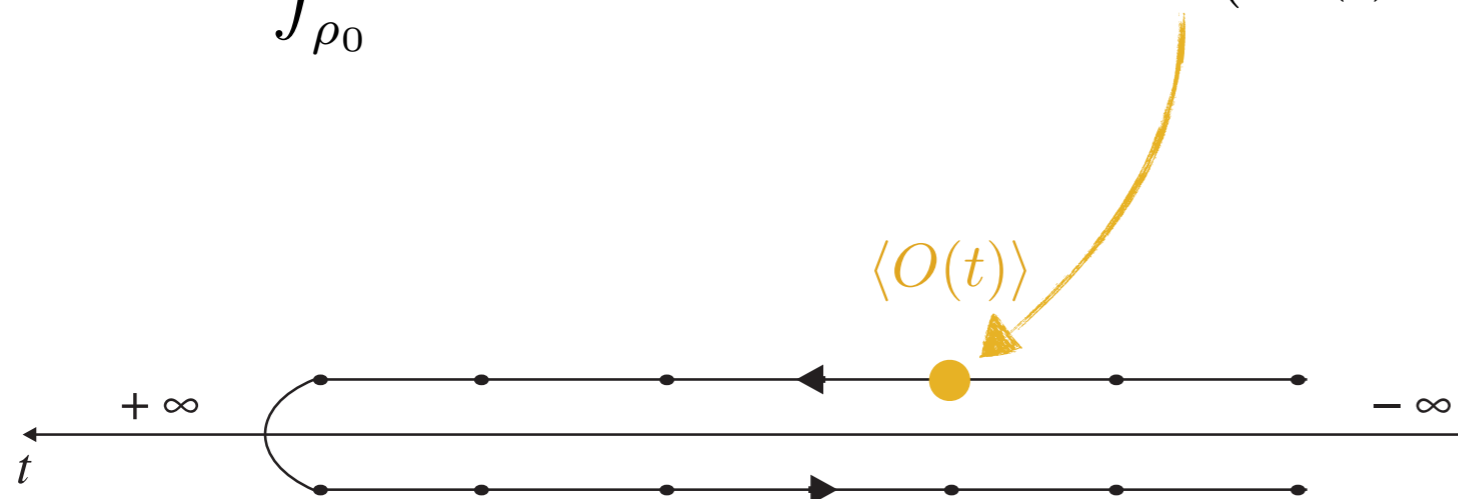
→ in particular: **direct access to real-time Green functions**

$$G^K(t, t') = i \langle \{ \phi(t), \phi(t') \} \rangle$$

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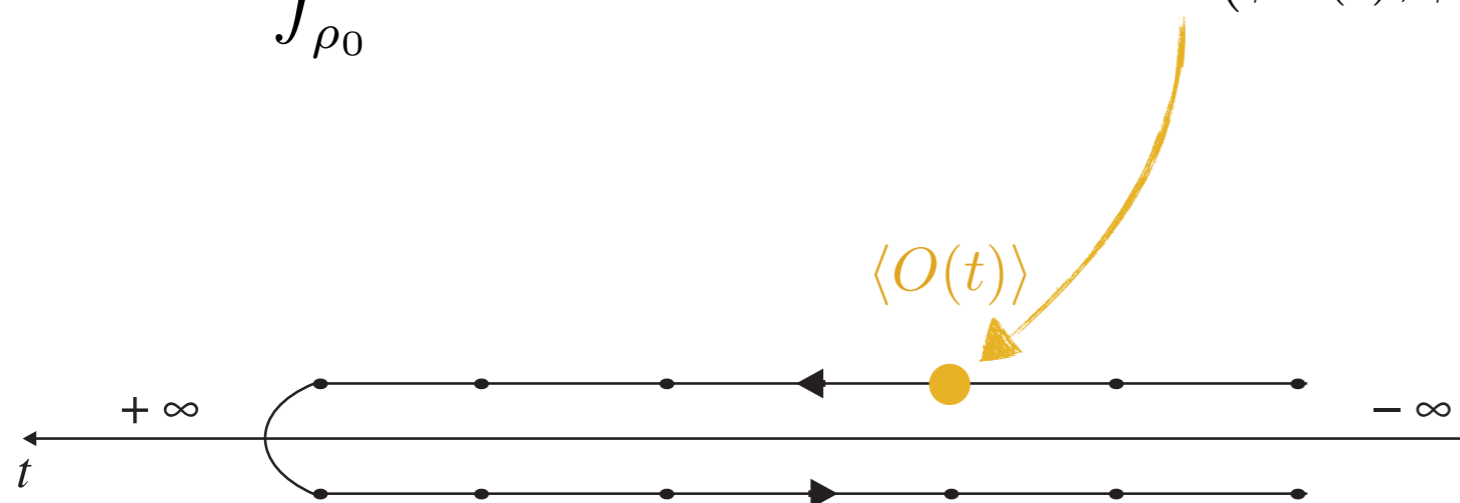
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→ **Causal structure** built into the formalism!

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**closed-time path**

in classical simulations:  
**solve Langevin equation**

$$\partial_t^2 \varphi + \gamma \partial_t \varphi = -\frac{\delta F}{\delta \varphi} + \xi(x) \quad \langle \xi(x) \rangle = 0$$
$$\langle \xi(x) \xi(x') \rangle = 2\gamma T \delta(x - x')$$


However, we need:

**Path-integral formulation**  
for (real-time) FRG

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response field  $\tilde{\varphi}$



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**Path-integral formulation**  
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deterministic part of eom's

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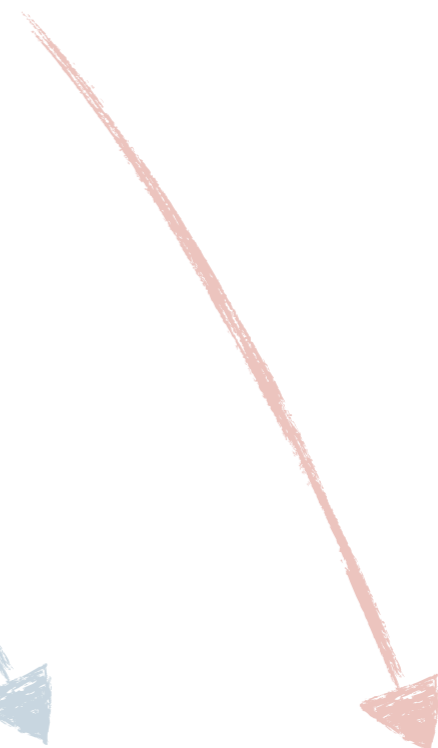
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fluctuations

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 response field  $\tilde{\varphi}$

integrate  $\tilde{\varphi}$

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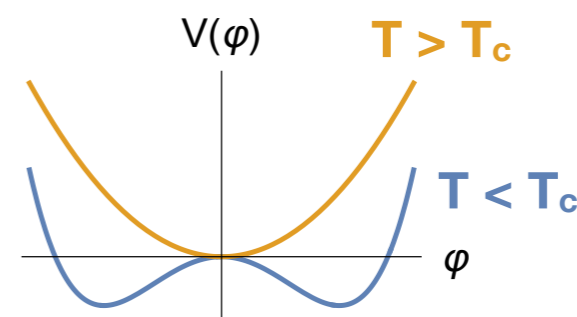
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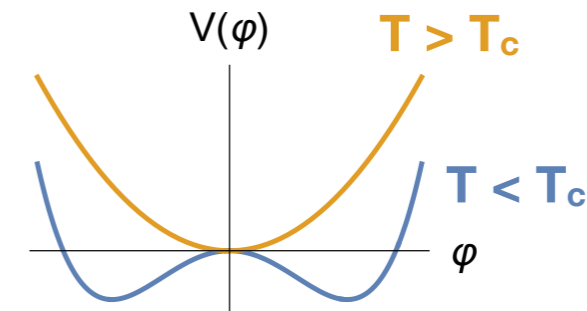
**Statics:** Landau-Ginzburg-Wilson functional

$$F = \int d^d x \left\{ \frac{1}{2} (\vec{\nabla} \varphi)^2 + V(\varphi) \right\}$$



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- **Dynamics:** Langevin equations of motion

$$\partial_t^2 \varphi + \gamma \partial_t \varphi = -\frac{\delta F}{\delta \varphi} + \xi$$

↑  
Gaussian white noise

describes particle submerged in heat bath:

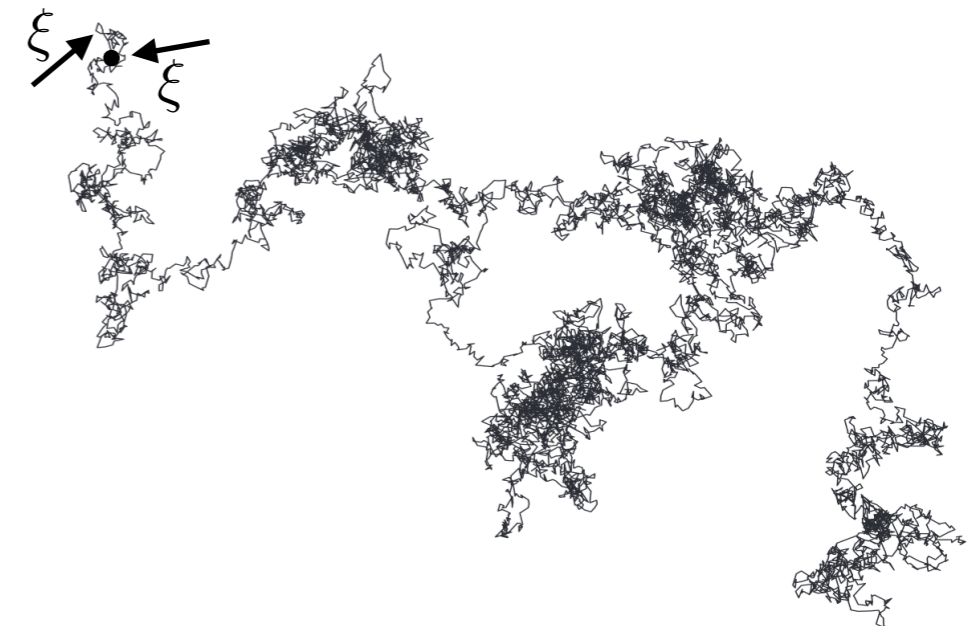


Image adapted from P. Mörters, Y. Peres, *Brownian Motion* (Cambridge University Press, 2010)

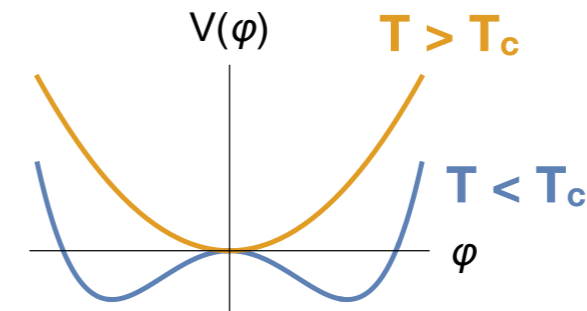


## Model A

$$z = 2 + c\eta$$

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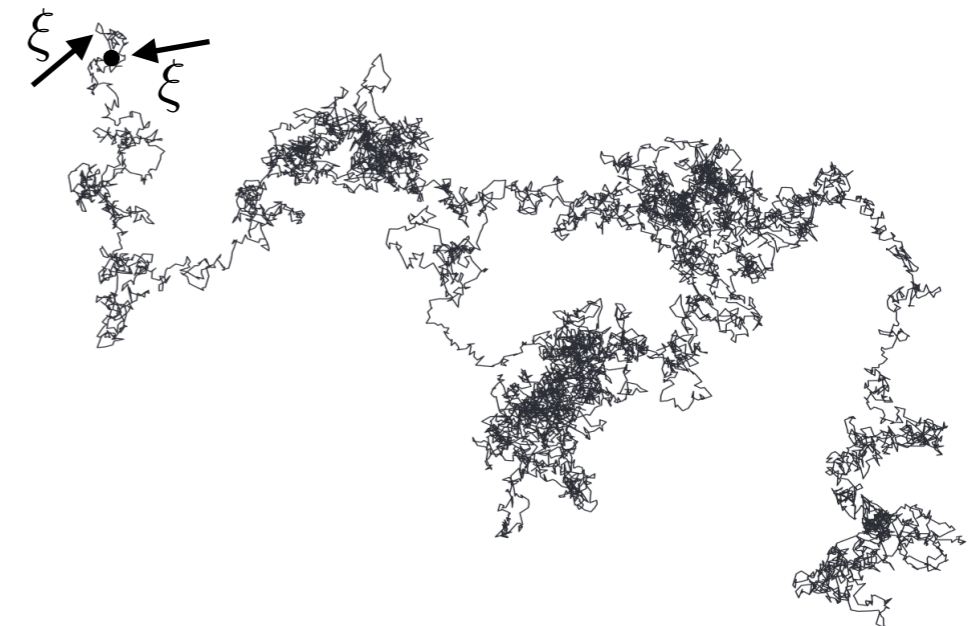


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- No conservation laws here!  $\leadsto$  **Model A**
- **Slow modes** determine critical dynamics

(e.g. densities of conserved quantities)

(generally true!)

Image adapted from P. Mörters, Y. Peres, *Brownian Motion* (Cambridge University Press, 2010)

**Statics:** Landau-Ginzburg-Wilson functional

$$F = \int d^d x \left\{ \frac{1}{2} (\vec{\nabla} \varphi)^2 + V(\varphi) + B\varphi n + \frac{n^2}{2\chi_0} \right\}$$

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Gaussian white noises

$$\partial_t n = \bar{\lambda} \vec{\nabla}^2 \frac{\delta F}{\delta n} + \vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{\zeta}$$

**diffusive!**

- Critical dynamics dominated by diffusion  $\sim$  **Model B**
- Include hydrodynamic shear modes of energy-momentum tensor  $\sim$  **Model H**

**Model C**

$$z = 2 + a/\nu$$

**Statics:** Landau-Ginzburg-Wilson functional

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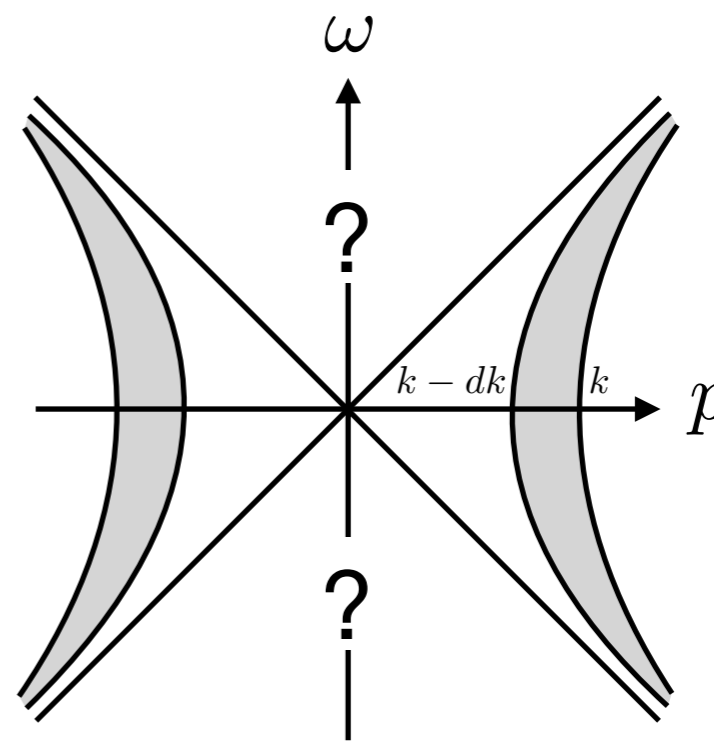
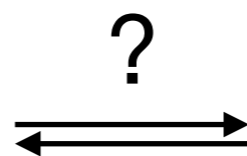
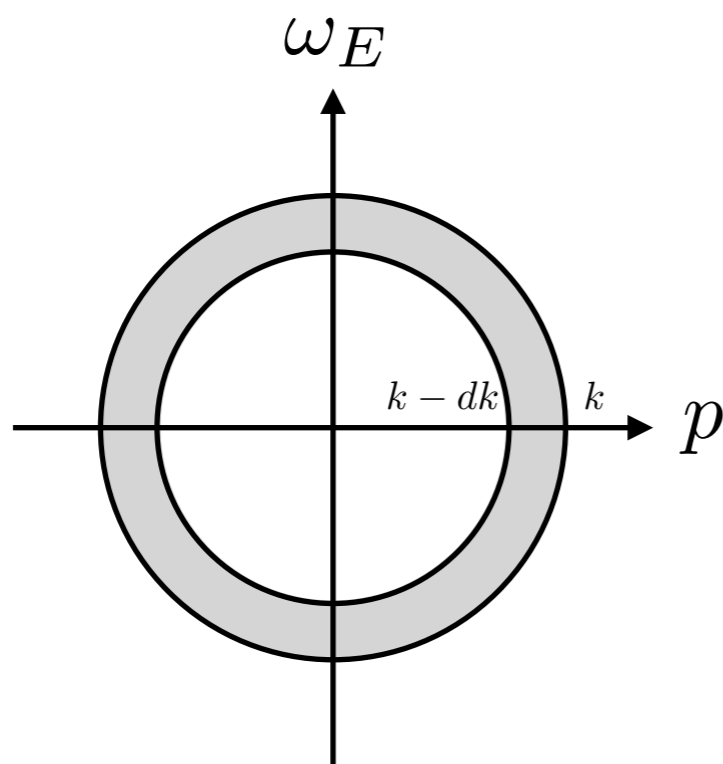
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**diffusive!**

• Order parameter not conserved but interacts non-linearly with conserved (energy) density  $\leadsto$  **Model C**



Wilsonian renormalization in  
Euclidean spacetime

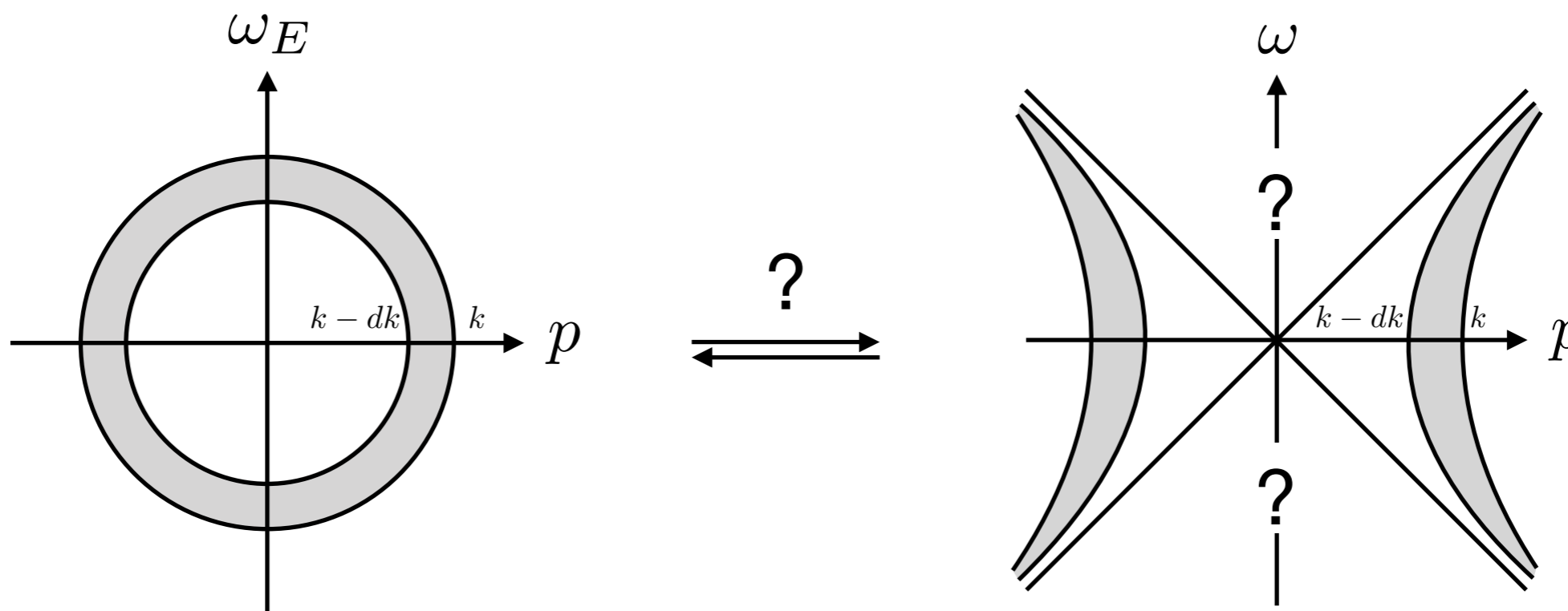
vs.

Wilsonian renormalization in  
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**Conceptually straightforward:**  
integrate out (hyper-)spheres  
no need to worry about causality (at least naively)

**Conceptually intricate:**  
integrate hyperboloids?  
timelike momenta?  
causal structure of propagators?

...



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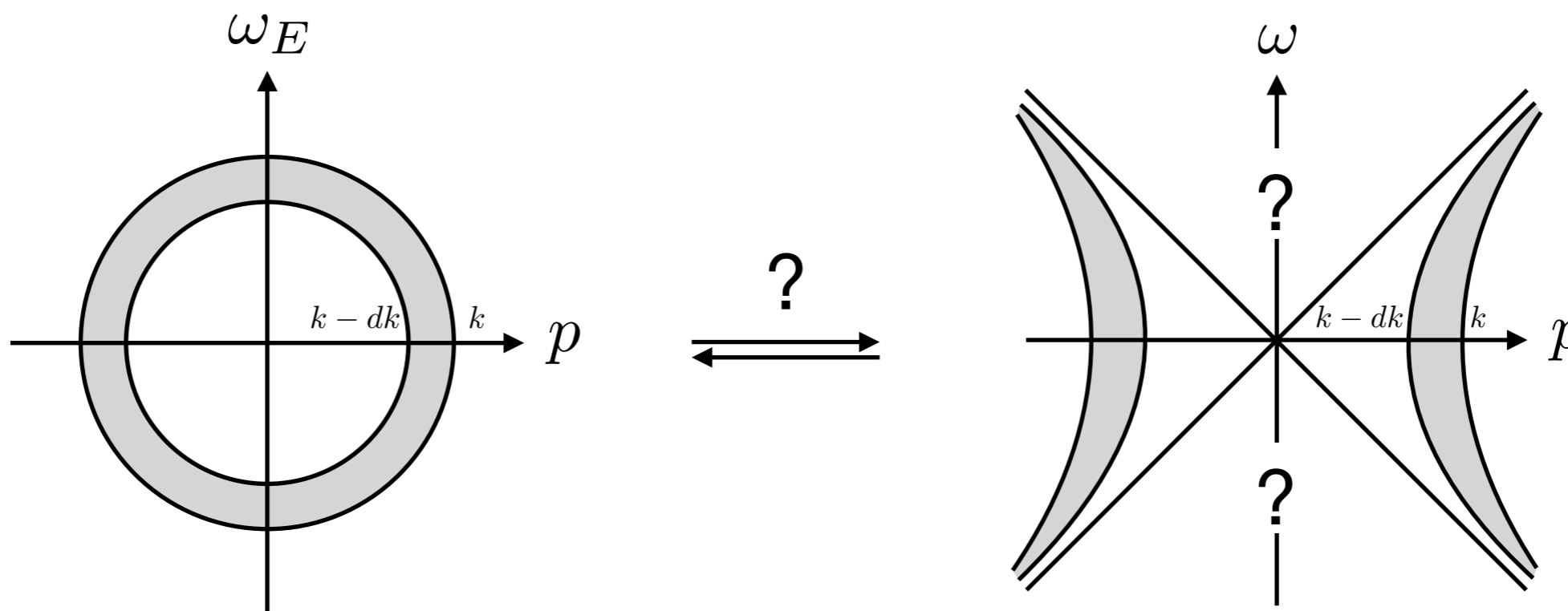
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**Problem:** Frequency-dependent regulators usually violate **causal structure**

**Solution:** Interpret regulator as fictitious scale-dependent heat bath  
⇒ **Spectral representation**

JR, L. von Smekal, JHEP 10, 065 (2023)

**Solution:** Observe that regulator is a self-energy

- Self-energies generally inherit **causal structure**

→ **Spectral representation** from (subtracted) Kramers-Kronig relations

$$R_k^{R/A}(\omega, \mathbf{p}) = R_k^{R/A}(0, \mathbf{p}) - \int_0^\infty \frac{d\omega'}{2\pi} \frac{2\omega'^2 J_k(\omega', \mathbf{p})}{\omega'((\omega \pm i\varepsilon)^2 - \omega'^2)}$$

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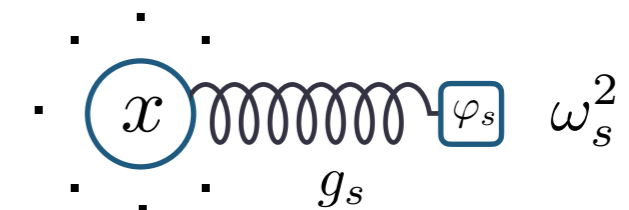
JR, von Smekal, JHEP **10**, 065 (2023)

JR, Schweitzer, Sieke, von Smekal, Phys. Rev. D **105**, 116017 (2022)



- Interpret as coupling to **fictitious heat bath:**

(Hubbard-Stratonovich transformation)



here:  $J_k(\omega) = \pi \sum_s \frac{g_s^2(k)}{\omega_s(k)} (\delta(\omega - \omega_s(k)) - \delta(\omega + \omega_s(k)))$

→ Spectral density encodes **spectrum of bath oscillators**

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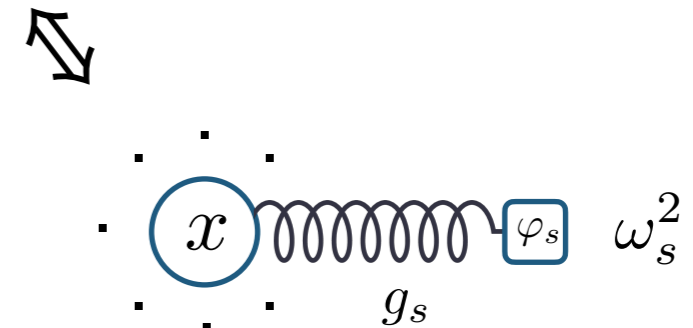
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→ **Physical** only for **positive-semidefinite** spectral densities  $J_k(\omega, \mathbf{p}) \geq 0 \quad (\omega > 0)$

→ Spectral density encodes **spectrum of bath oscillators**

$$R_k^{R/A}(\omega) = R_k^{R/A}(0) - \int_0^\infty \frac{d\omega'}{2\pi} \frac{2\omega^2 J_k(\omega')}{\omega'((\omega \pm i\varepsilon)^2 - \omega'^2)} \quad \text{in} \quad \Gamma_k^{(2)R}(\omega) = (\omega + i\varepsilon)^2 - m^2 + R_k^R(\omega)$$

- spectral density:  $\rightsquigarrow$  **Regulator (retarded part):**

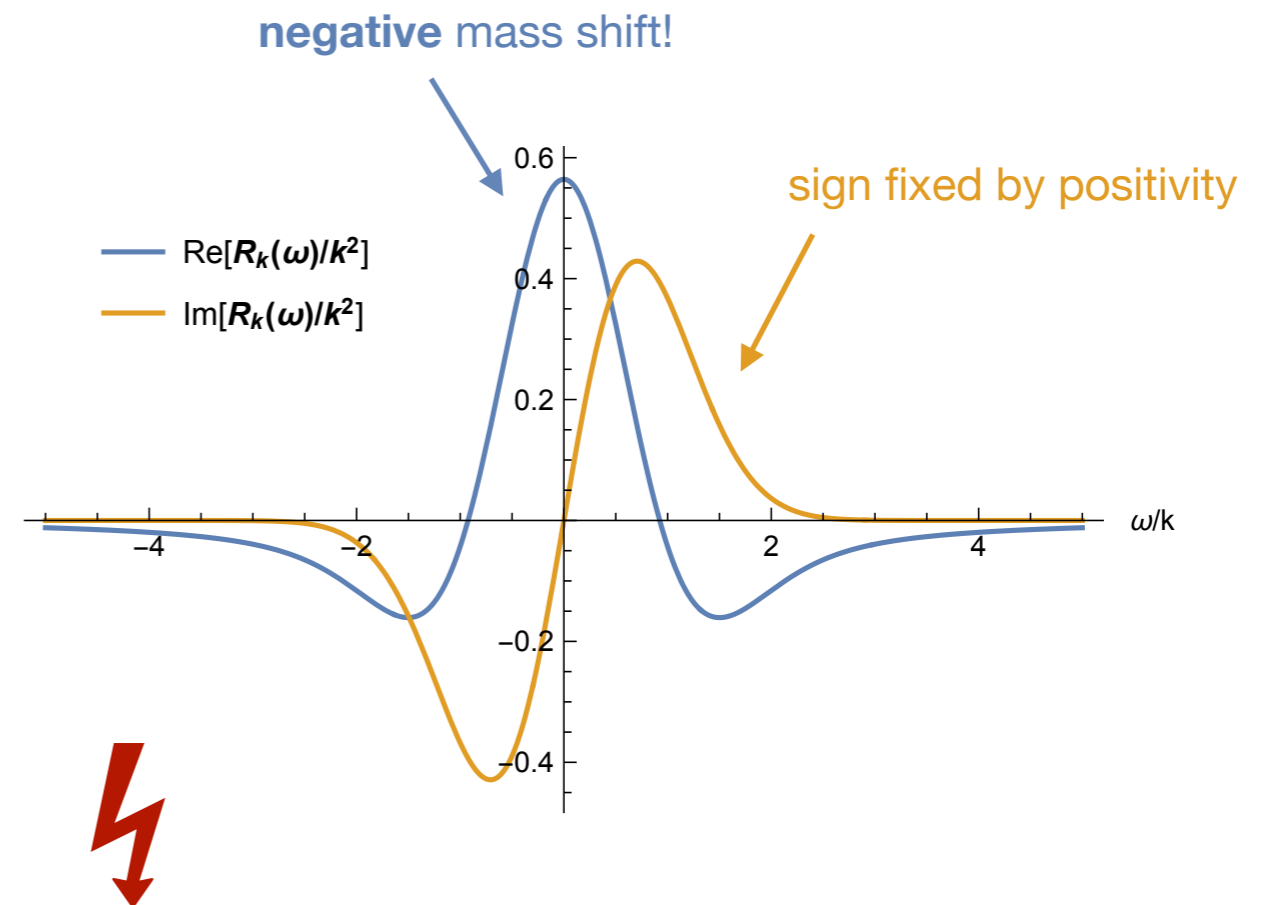
$$J_k(\omega) = 2k\omega e^{-\omega^2/k^2} = 2 \operatorname{Im} R_k^R(\omega)$$

- assume UV finiteness:

$$\Delta M_{UV}^2(k) = -R_k^{R/A}(0) + \underbrace{\int_0^\infty \frac{d\omega'}{\pi} \frac{J_k(\omega')}{\omega'}}_{\geq 0 \text{ (positivity)}} \stackrel{!}{=} 0$$

$\Rightarrow$  IR mass shift:

$$\Delta M_{IR}^2(k) = -R_k^{R/A}(0) < 0 \quad \text{is negative!}$$



**Solution:** choose IR mass shift  $\Delta M_{IR}^2(k) > 0$  positive (at cost of **UV finiteness**)