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# **from asymptotic freedom to asymptotic safety**

**Max Planck Institut f. Kernphysik, Heidelberg  
11 May 2015**

# standard model & beyond

local QFT for fundamental interactions

**strong** nuclear force

**weak** force

**electromagnetic** force

perturbatively renormalisable & **predictive**

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**key feature**

asymptotic freedom

couplings achieve **non-interacting**  
Gaussian fixed point in the UV

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perturbatively renormalisable & **predictive**

**key feature**

asymptotic freedom  
couplings achieve **non-interacting**  
Gaussian fixed point in the UV

fundamental  
definition of QFT            UV fixed point

Wilson '71

# standard model & beyond

local QFT for fundamental interactions

**strong** nuclear force

**weak** force

**electromagnetic** force

perturbatively renormalisable & **predictive**

~~asymptotic freedom~~

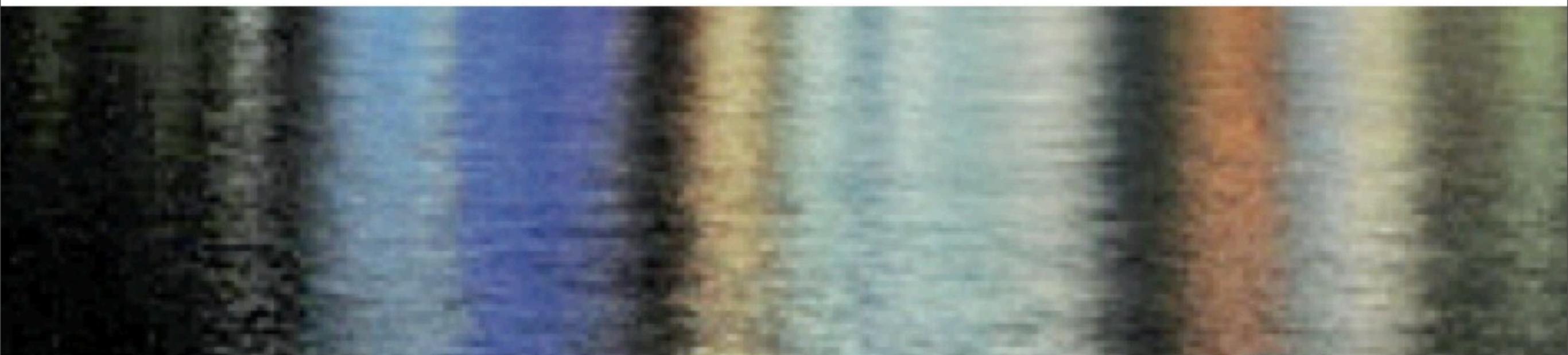
~~couplings achieve **non-interacting**~~  
~~Gaussian fixed point in the UV~~

today:

**asymptotic safety**

couplings achieve **interacting**  
non-Gaussian fixed point in the UV

# **asymptotic safety from perturbation theory**



# interacting fixed point

theory with coupling  $\alpha$ :

$$t = \ln \mu / \Lambda$$

$$\partial_t \alpha = A \alpha - B \alpha^2$$

$$\alpha_* \ll 1$$

perturbative non-renormalisability:  $A > 0$

# interacting fixed point

theory with coupling  $\alpha$ :

$$t = \ln \mu / \Lambda$$

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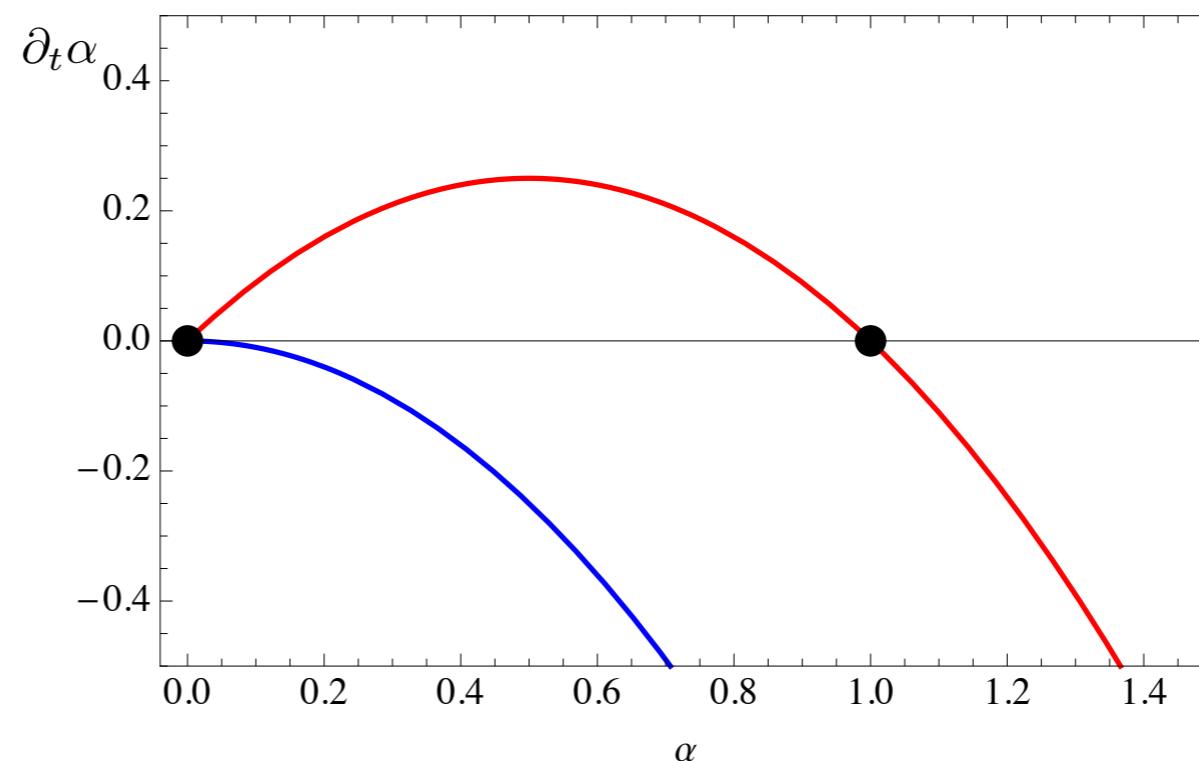
$$\alpha_* \ll 1$$



fixed points  
if  $A > 0, B > 0$ :

$$\alpha_* = 0$$
  
**IR**

$$\alpha_* = A/B$$
  
**UV**



# interacting fixed point

theory with coupling  $\alpha$ :

$$t = \ln \mu / \Lambda$$

$$\partial_t \alpha = A \alpha - B \alpha^2$$

$$\alpha_* \ll 1$$



fixed points

$$\alpha_* = 0$$

$$\alpha_* = A/B$$

**epsilon** expansion:  $\epsilon = D - D_c$

**large-N** expansion: many fields

# perturbation theory

theory with coupling  $\alpha$ :

$$t = \ln \mu / \Lambda$$

$$\partial_t \alpha = A \alpha - B \alpha^2$$

$$\alpha_* \ll 1$$

**gravitons**

$$D = 2 + \epsilon : \quad \alpha = G_N(\mu) \mu^{D-2}$$

Gastmans et al '78  
Weinberg '79  
Kawai et al '90

**fermions**

$$D = 2 + \epsilon : \quad \alpha = g_{\text{GN}}(\mu) \mu^{2-D}$$

Gawedzki, Kupiainen '85  
de Calan et al '91

**gluons**

$$D = 4 + \epsilon : \quad \alpha = g_{\text{YM}}^2(\mu) \mu^{4-D}$$

Peskin '80  
Morris '04

**scalars**

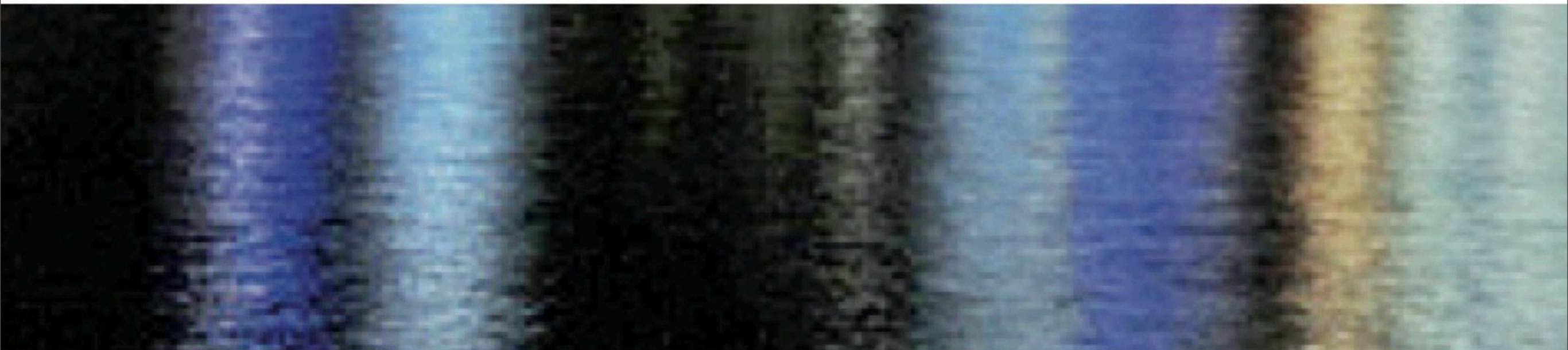
$$D = 2 + \epsilon : \quad \alpha = g_{NL}(\mu) \mu^{D-2}$$

Brezin, Zinn-Justin '76  
Bardeen, Lee, Shrock '76

**non-perturbative  
renormalisability**

$$A = \epsilon \ll 1, \quad B = \mathcal{O}(1) > 0$$

# asymptotic safety cookbook



DFL, F Sannino, I406.2337  
and work in prep.

# gauge theory with fermions

**SU(NC) YM with NF fermions:**  $\alpha_g = \frac{g^2 N_c}{(4\pi)^2}$   $t = \ln \mu/\Lambda$

$$\partial_t \alpha_g = -B \alpha_g^2$$

$\alpha_* \ll 1$

# gauge theory with fermions

**SU(NC) YM with NF fermions:**  $\alpha_g = \frac{g^2 N_c}{(4\pi)^2}$   $t = \ln \mu/\Lambda$

$$\partial_t \alpha_g = -B \alpha_g^2 \quad \alpha_* \ll 1$$

$B > 0$  : **asymptotic freedom  
UV fixed point**

$$\alpha_* = 0$$

$B < 0$  : **no asymptotic freedom  
UV fixed point?**

$$\alpha_* \neq 0$$

# gauge theory with fermions

**SU(NC) YM with NF fermions:**  $\alpha_g = \frac{g^2 N_c}{(4\pi)^2}$   $t = \ln \mu/\Lambda$

$$\partial_t \alpha_g = -B \alpha_g^2 + C \alpha_g^3 \quad \alpha_* \ll 1$$



2-loop

# gauge theory with fermions

**SU(NC) YM with NF fermions:**  $\alpha_g = \frac{g^2 N_c}{(4\pi)^2}$   $t = \ln \mu/\Lambda$

$$\partial_t \alpha_g = -B \alpha_g^2 + C \alpha_g^3 \quad \alpha_* \ll 1$$



$$\alpha_* = 0 \quad \alpha_g^* = B/C$$

# gauge theory with fermions

**SU(NC) YM with NF fermions:**

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$$\partial_t \alpha_g = -B \alpha_g^2 + C \alpha_g^3$$

$$\alpha_* \ll 1$$



$$\alpha_* = 0 \quad \alpha_g^* = B/C$$

**large-NF,NC (Veneziano) limit:**  
 $\epsilon$  continuous

$$\epsilon = \frac{N_f}{N_c} - \frac{11}{2}$$

Veneziano '79

**we consider**

$$0 < -B \equiv -B(\epsilon) \ll 1$$

# gauge theory with fermions

**SU(NC) YM with NF fermions:**

$$\alpha_g = \frac{g^2 N_c}{(4\pi)^2}$$

$$t = \ln \mu/\Lambda$$

$$\partial_t \alpha_g = -B \alpha_g^2 + C \alpha_g^3$$

$$\alpha_* \ll 1$$

$$\alpha_g^* = B/C$$

however:

**no perturbative UV fixed point**

in gauge theories with fermionic matter ( $C > 0$ )

Caswell '74

# gauge theory with fermions

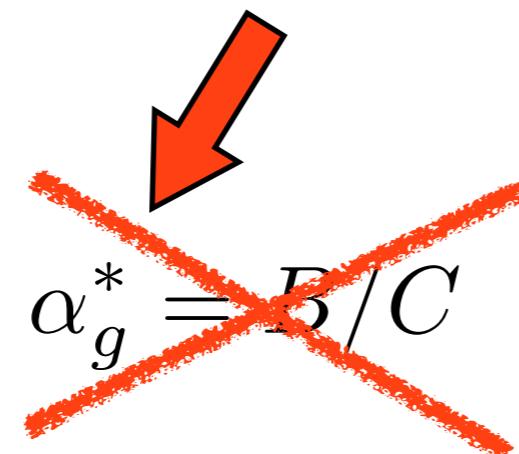
**SU(NC) YM with NF fermions:**

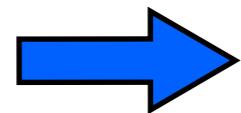
$$\alpha_g = \frac{g^2 N_c}{(4\pi)^2}$$

$$t = \ln \mu/\Lambda$$

$$\partial_t \alpha_g = -B \alpha_g^2 + C \alpha_g^3$$

$$\alpha_* \ll 1$$


$$\alpha_g^* = \cancel{B/C}$$



**scalar fields & Yukawa couplings required**

# gauge-Yukawa theory

$$\alpha_y = \frac{y^2 N_c}{(4\pi)^2}$$

$$\alpha_g = \frac{g^2 N_c}{(4\pi)^2}$$

$$t = \ln \mu/\Lambda$$

$$\alpha_* \ll 1$$

$$\partial_t \alpha_g = -B \alpha_g^2 + C \alpha_g^3 - D \alpha_g^2 \alpha_y$$

# gauge-Yukawa theory

$$\alpha_y = \frac{y^2 N_c}{(4\pi)^2}$$

$$\alpha_g = \frac{g^2 N_c}{(4\pi)^2}$$

$$t = \ln \mu/\Lambda$$

$$\alpha_* \ll 1$$

$$\partial_t \alpha_g = -B \alpha_g^2 + C \alpha_g^3 - D \alpha_g^2 \alpha_y$$

$$\partial_t \alpha_y = E \alpha_y^2 - F \alpha_g \alpha_y$$

# gauge-Yukawa theory

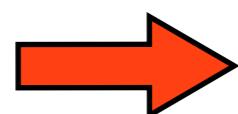
$$\alpha_y = \frac{y^2 N_c}{(4\pi)^2}$$

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$$t = \ln \mu/\Lambda$$

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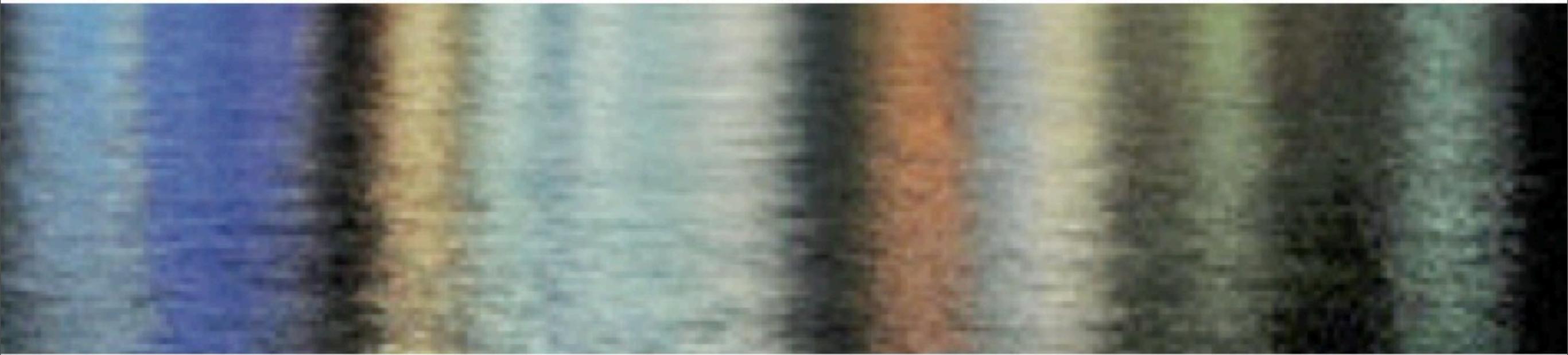
$$\begin{aligned}\partial_t \alpha_g &= -B \alpha_g^2 + C \alpha_g^3 - D \alpha_g^2 \alpha_y \\ \partial_t \alpha_y &= E \alpha_y^2 - F \alpha_g \alpha_y\end{aligned}$$



sensible interacting UV fixed point

$$D F - C E > 0$$

# **asymptotic safety from template gauge-Yukawa theory**



DFL, F Sannino, 1406.2337  
DFL, M Mojaza, F Sannino, 1501.03061

# gauge-Yukawa theory

Lagrangean

$$L_{\text{YM}} = -\frac{1}{2} \text{Tr} F^{\mu\nu} F_{\mu\nu}$$

$$L_F = \text{Tr} (\bar{Q} i \not{D} Q)$$

$$L_Y = y \text{Tr} (\bar{Q} H Q)$$

$$L_H = \text{Tr} (\partial_\mu H^\dagger \partial^\mu H)$$

$$L_U = -u \text{Tr} (H^\dagger H)^2$$

$$L_V = -v (\text{Tr} H^\dagger H)^2 .$$

gauge

Nc colours

Yukawa

Nf flavours

Higgs

Nf times Nf

# gauge-Yukawa theory

Lagrangean

$$L_{\text{YM}} = -\frac{1}{2} \text{Tr} F^{\mu\nu} F_{\mu\nu}$$

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$$L_V = -v (\text{Tr} H^\dagger H)^2 .$$

couplings

$$\alpha_g = \frac{g^2 N_C}{(4\pi)^2}$$

$$\alpha_h = \frac{u N_F}{(4\pi)^2}$$

$$\alpha_y = \frac{y^2 N_C}{(4\pi)^2}$$

$$\alpha_v = \frac{v N_F^2}{(4\pi)^2} .$$

small parameter:

$$0 < \epsilon \ll 1 \quad \epsilon = \frac{N_f}{N_c} - \frac{11}{2}$$

**no asymptotic freedom**

# gauge-Yukawa theory

$$\beta_g = \alpha_g^2 \left\{ \frac{4}{3}\epsilon + \left( 25 + \frac{26}{3}\epsilon \right) \alpha_g - 2 \left( \frac{11}{2} + \epsilon \right)^2 \alpha_y \right\}$$

**gauge**

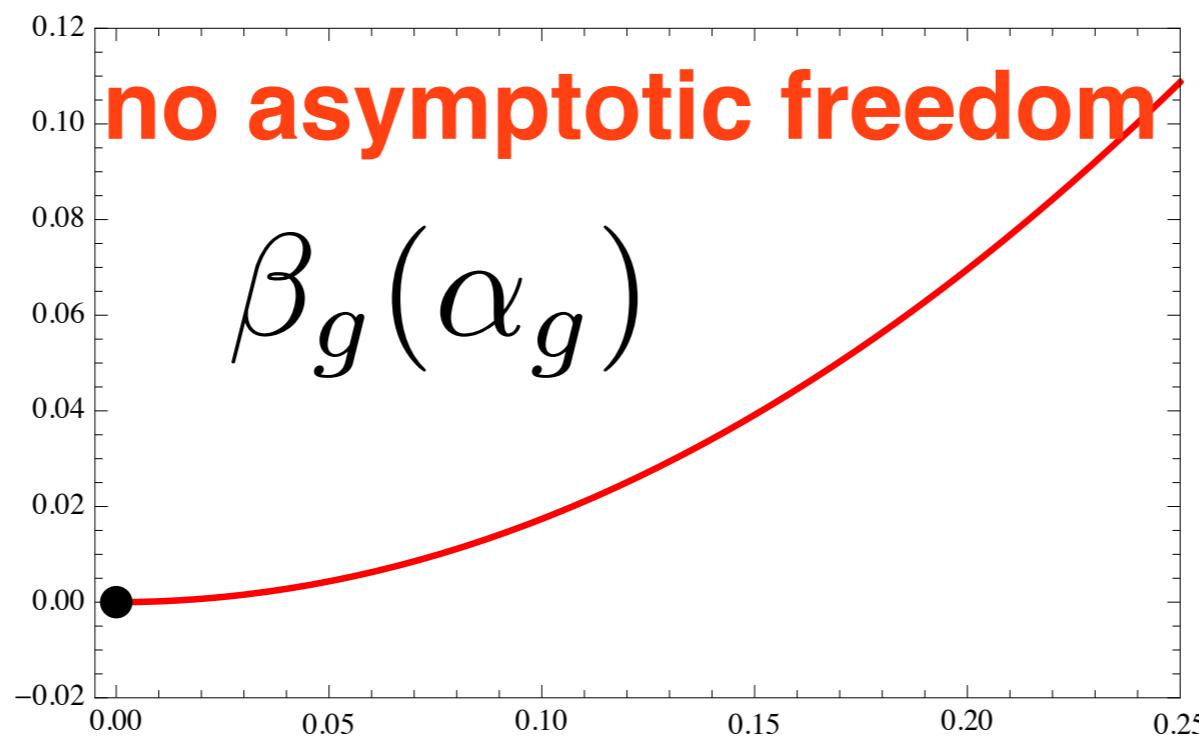
$$\beta_y = \alpha_y \left\{ (13 + 2\epsilon) \alpha_y - 6 \alpha_g \right\}.$$

**Yukawa**

$$\beta_h = -(11 + 2\epsilon) \alpha_y^2 + 4\alpha_h(\alpha_y + 2\alpha_h)$$

**Higgs**

$$\beta_v = 12\alpha_h^2 + 4\alpha_v (\alpha_v + 4\alpha_h + \alpha_y).$$



# gauge-Yukawa theory

$$\beta_g = \alpha_g^2 \left\{ \frac{4}{3}\epsilon + \left( 25 + \frac{26}{3}\epsilon \right) \alpha_g - 2 \left( \frac{11}{2} + \epsilon \right)^2 \alpha_y \right\}$$

gauge

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# gauge-Yukawa theory

$$\beta_g = \alpha_g^2 \left\{ \frac{4}{3}\epsilon + \left(25 + \frac{26}{3}\epsilon\right) \alpha_g - 2 \left(\frac{11}{2} + \epsilon\right)^2 \alpha_y \right\}$$

gauge

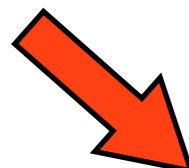
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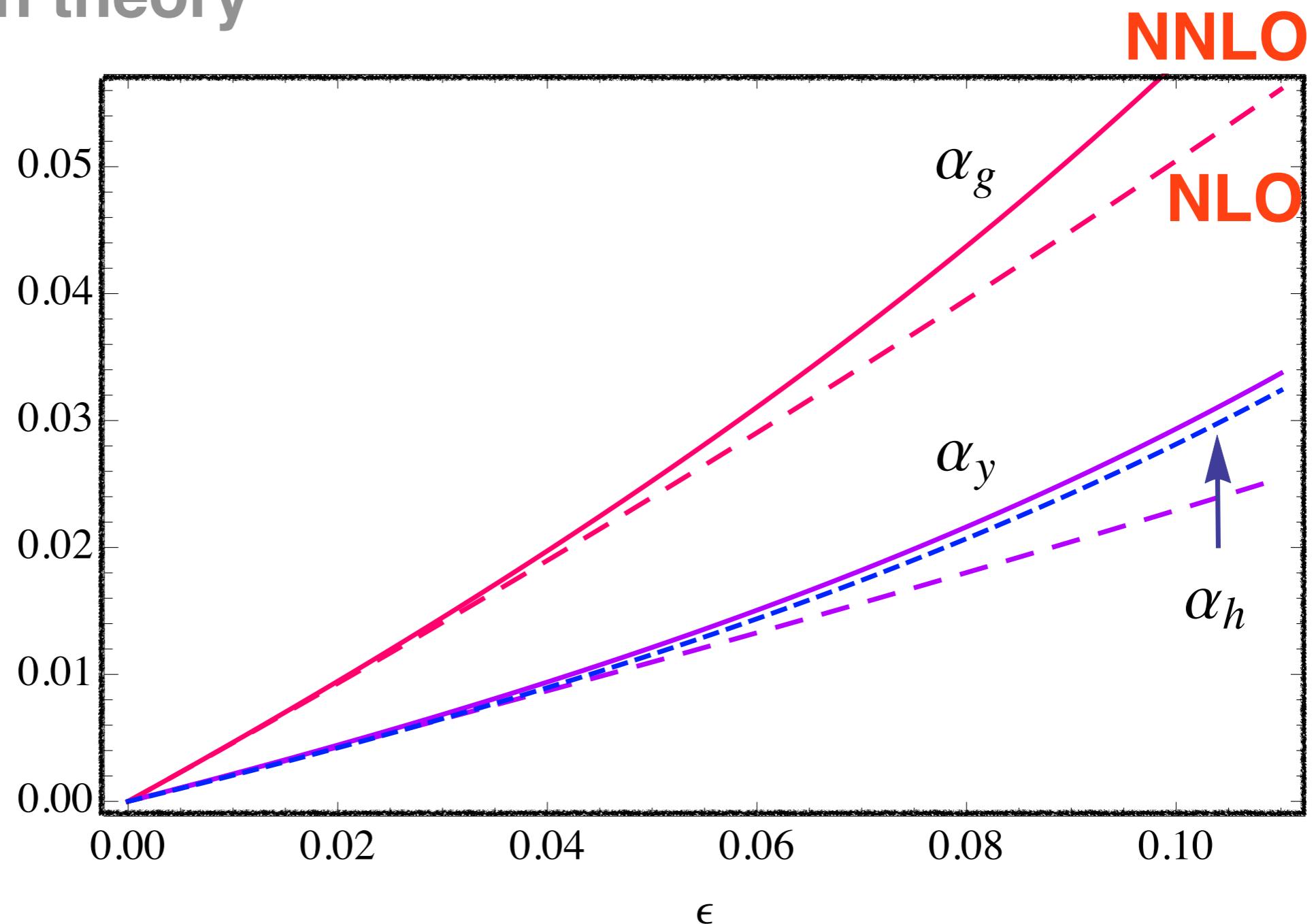


exact  
**UV fixed point**

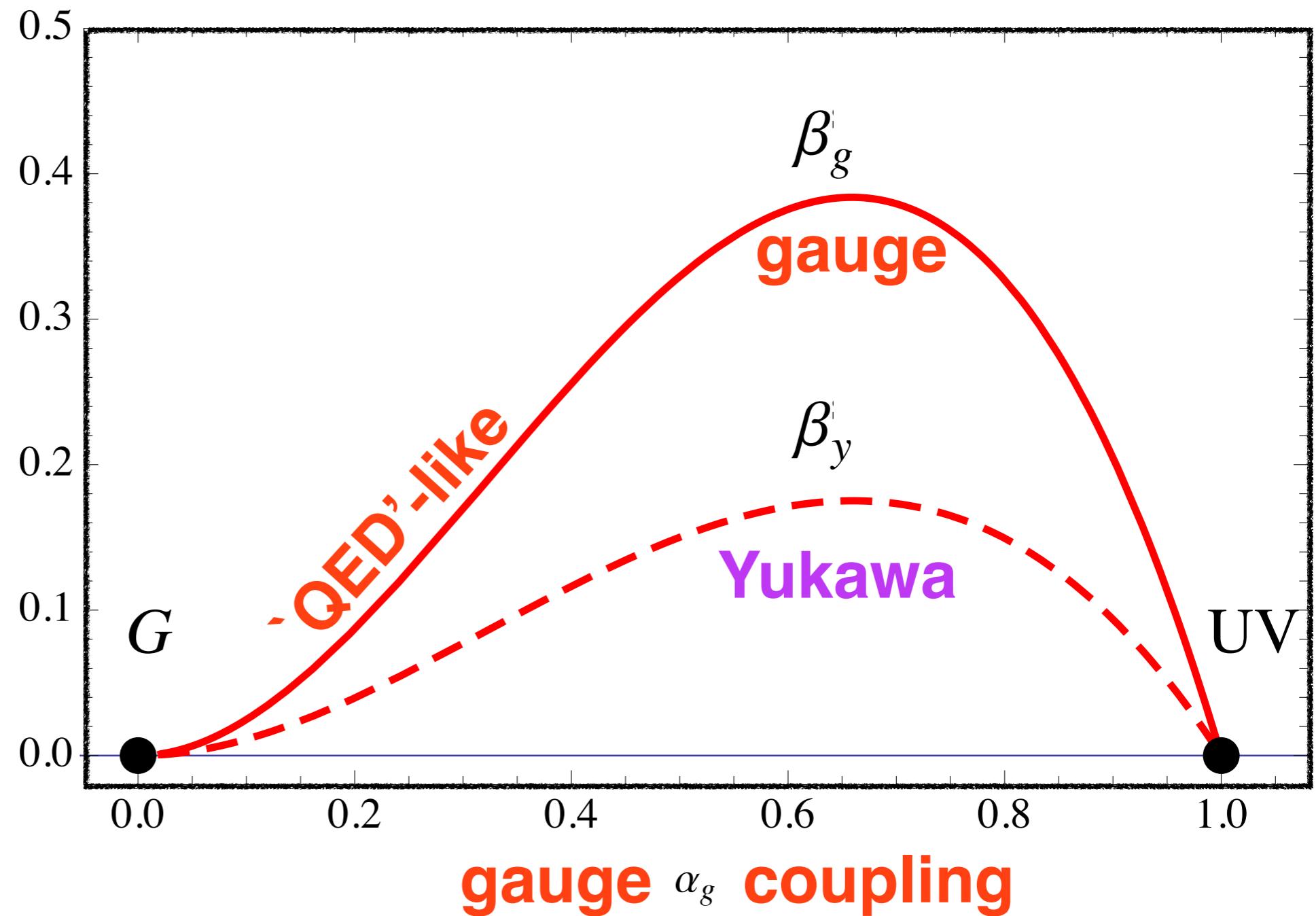
$$\boxed{\begin{aligned} \alpha_g^* &= 0.4561\epsilon + 0.7808\epsilon^2 + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon^3) \\ \alpha_y^* &= 0.2105\epsilon + 0.5082\epsilon^2 + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon^3) \\ \alpha_h^* &= 0.1998\epsilon + 0.5042\epsilon^2 + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon^3) \\ \alpha_v^* &= -0.1373\epsilon + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon^2) \end{aligned}}$$

# results

## UV fixed point from perturbation theory



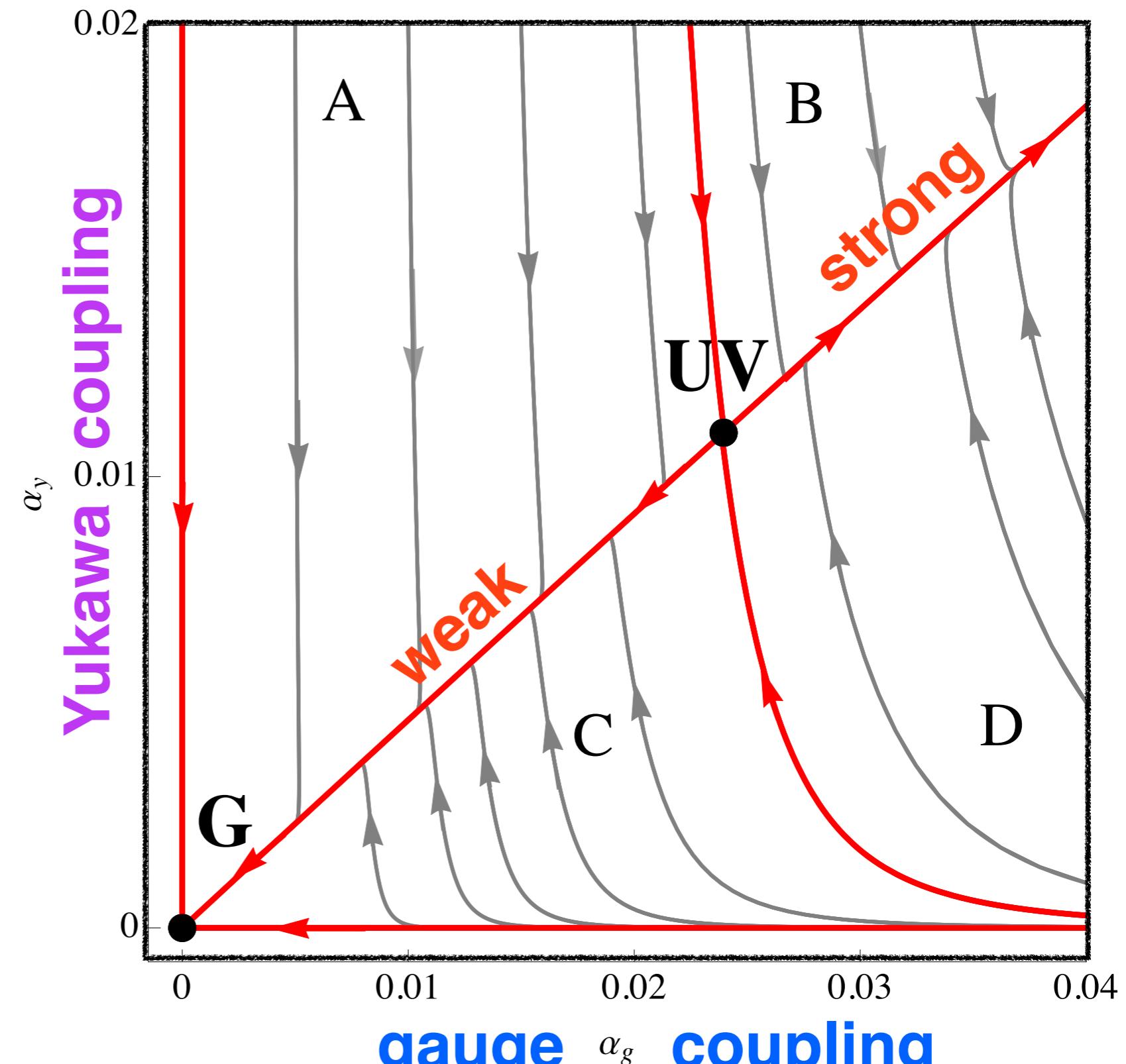
# results



interacting UV fixed point  
entirely due to ‘fluctuations’

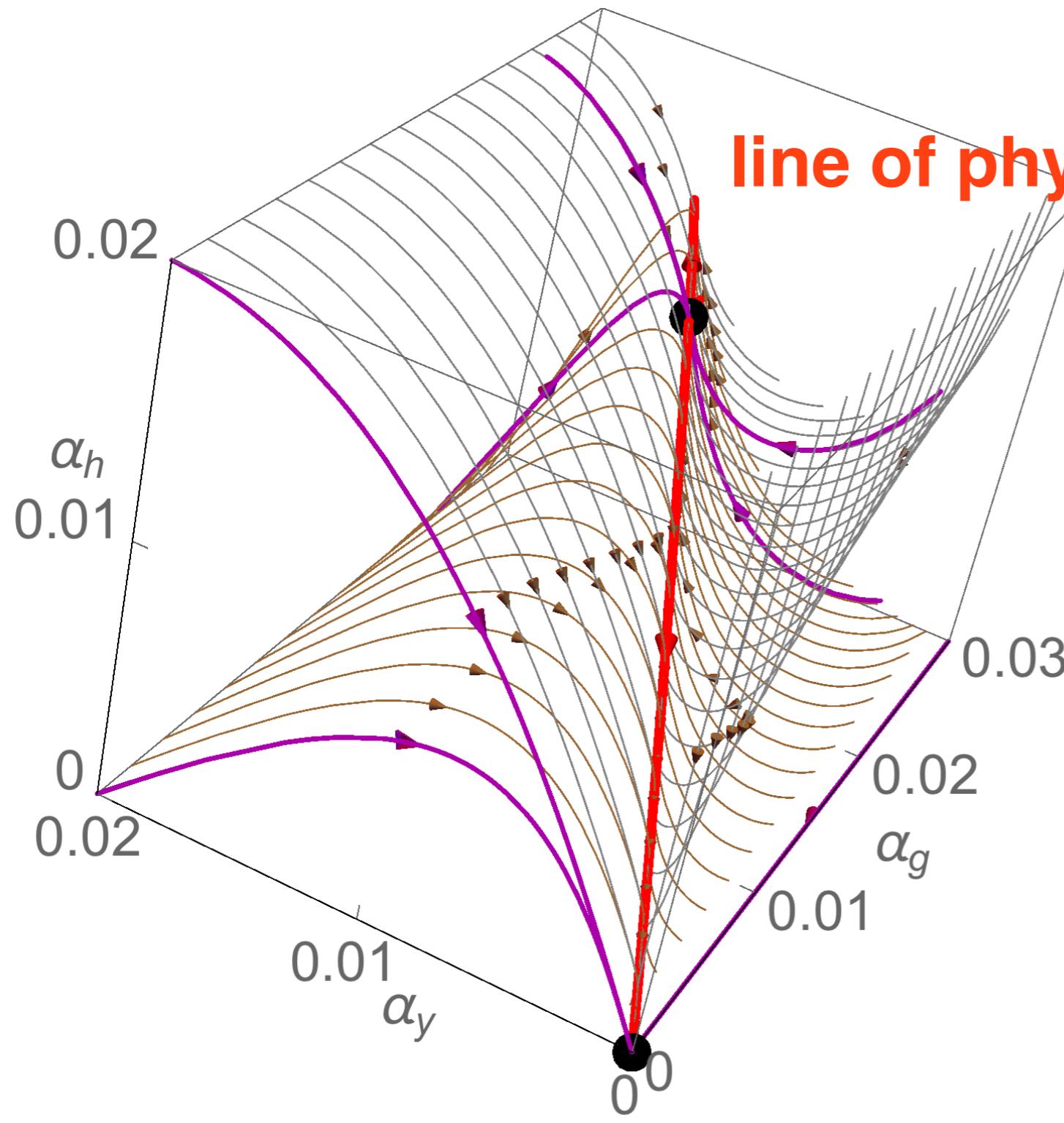
# results

## phase diagram

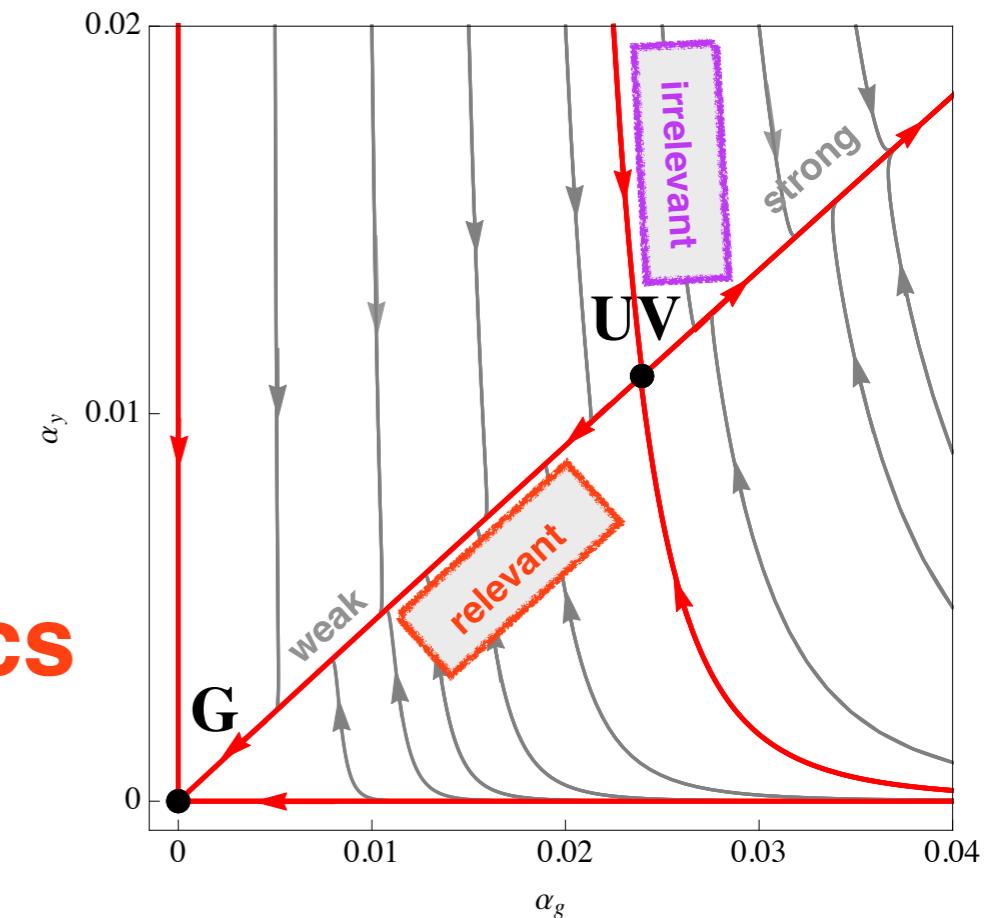


exact UV FP  
strict perturbative control

# phase diagram



line of physics



**leading order**

$$\alpha(\mu) = \frac{\alpha_*}{1 + W(\mu)}$$

$$W(\mu) = W_{\text{Lambert}}[z(\mu)]$$

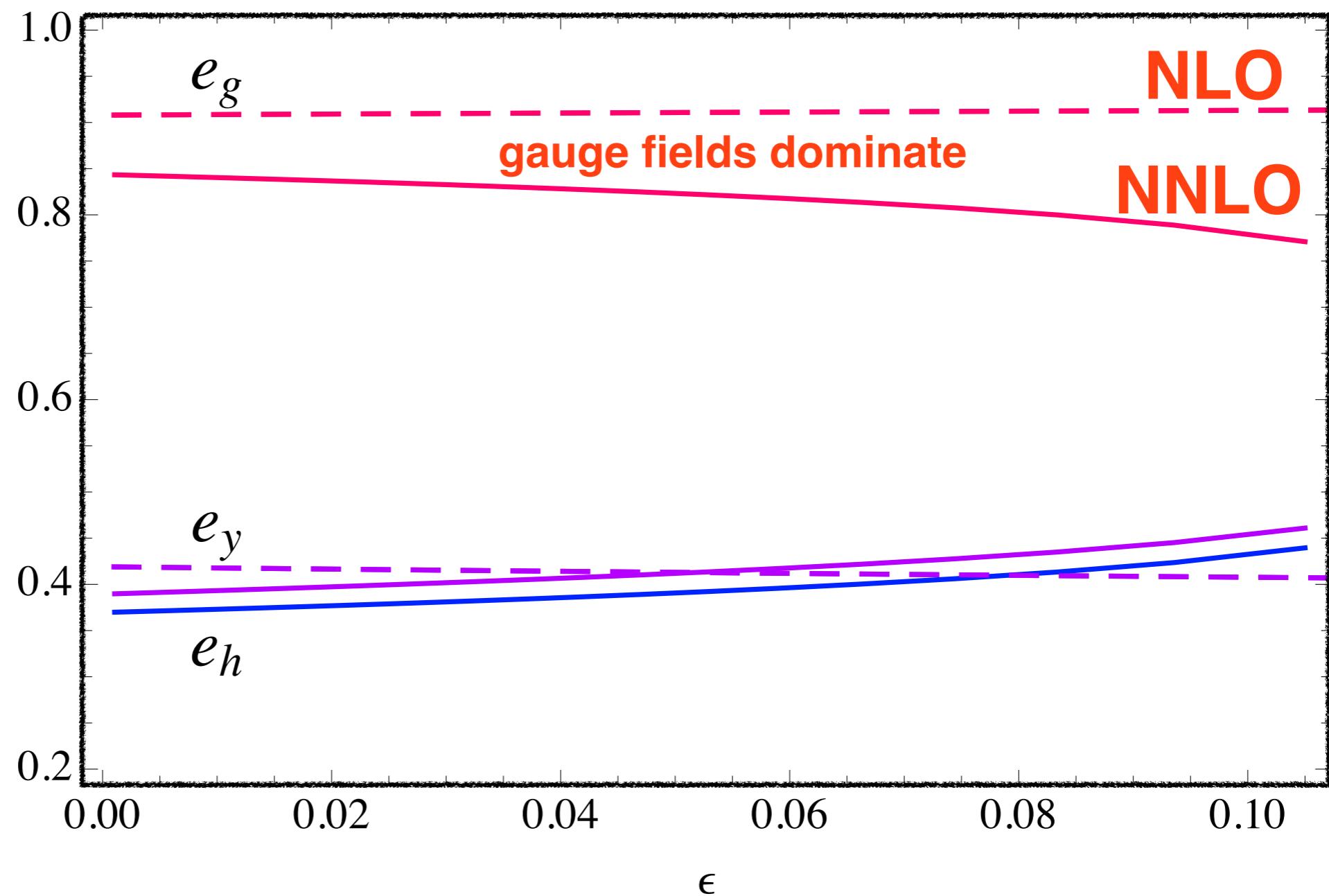
$$z = \left( \frac{\mu_0}{\mu} \right)^{-B \cdot \alpha_*} \left( \frac{\alpha_*}{\alpha_0} - 1 \right) \exp \left( \frac{\alpha_*}{\alpha_0} - 1 \right).$$

# results

UV-relevant  
eigendirection

gauge

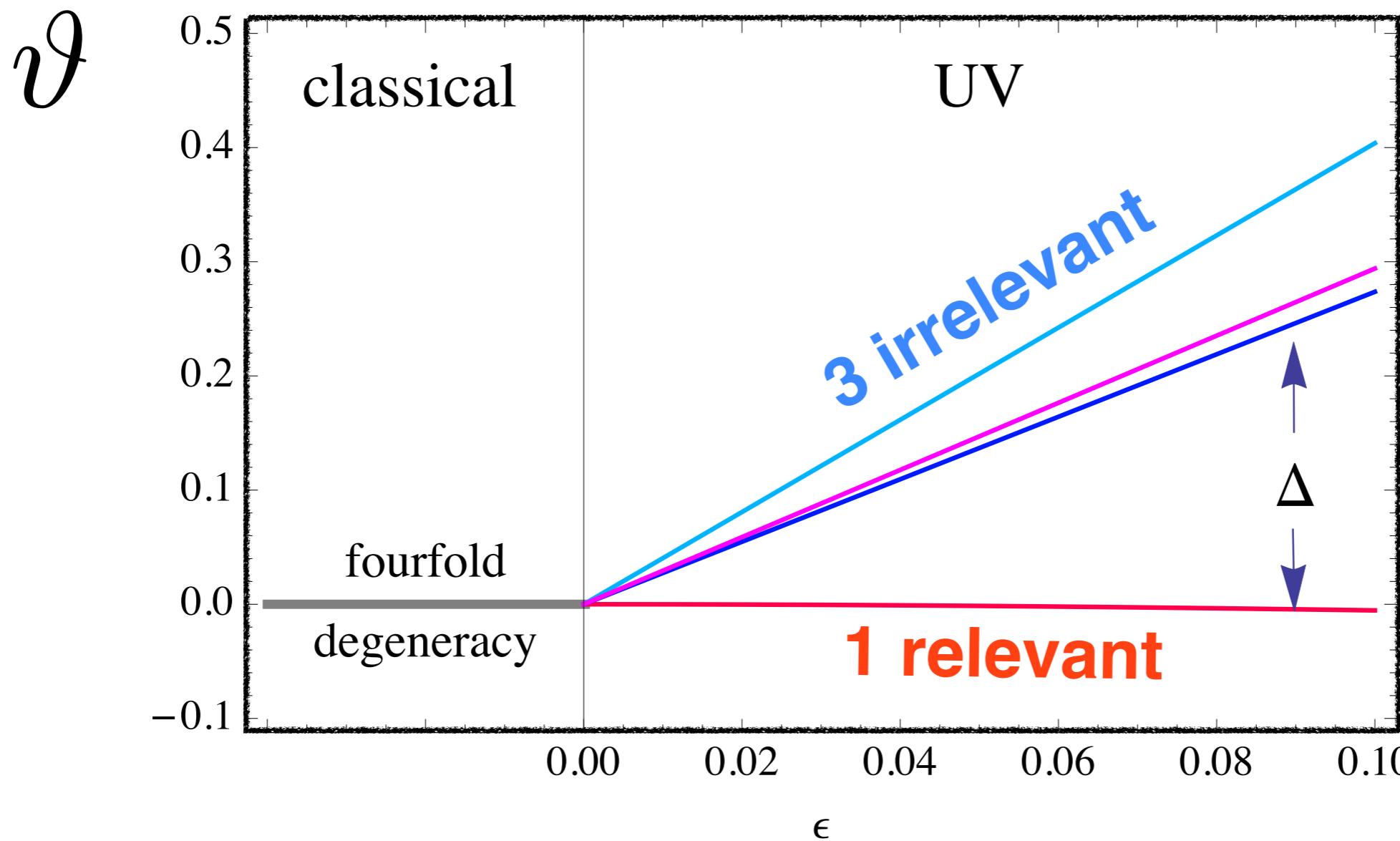
Yukawa  
Higgs



# results

## UV scaling exponents

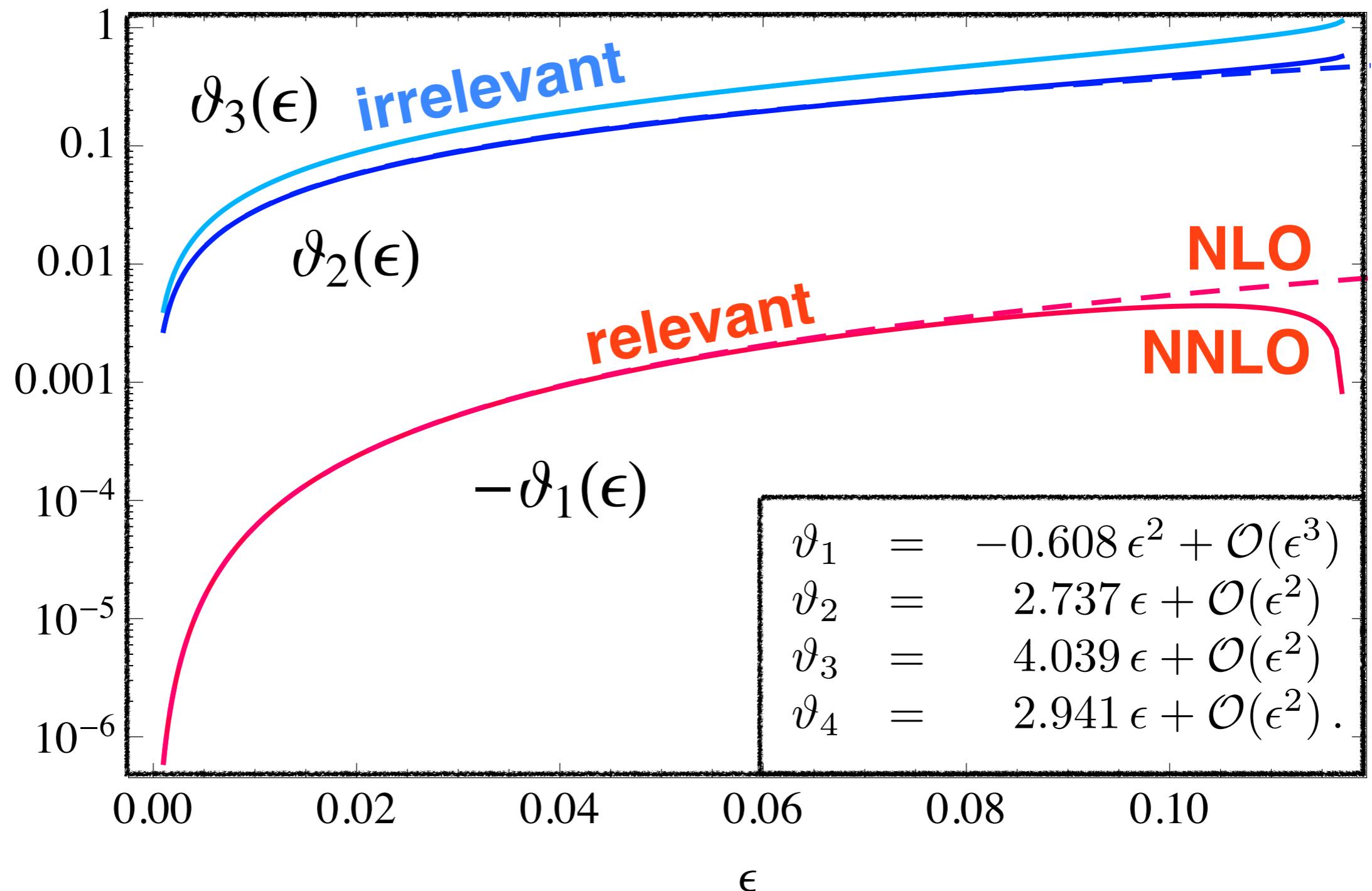
$$\vartheta_1 < 0 < \vartheta_2 < \vartheta_4 < \vartheta_3$$



# results

## UV scaling exponents

$$\vartheta_1 < 0 < \vartheta_2 < \vartheta_4 < \vartheta_3$$



# vacuum stability

vacuum must be stable classically  
and quantum-mechanically

$$V \propto \alpha_v \text{Tr}(H^\dagger H)^2 + \alpha_h (\text{Tr} H^\dagger H)^2$$

stability

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha_h > 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \alpha_h + \alpha_v \geq 0 & \quad H_c \propto \delta_{ij} \\ \alpha_h < 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \alpha_h + \alpha_v/N_F \geq 0 & \quad H_c \propto \delta_{i1} \end{aligned}$$

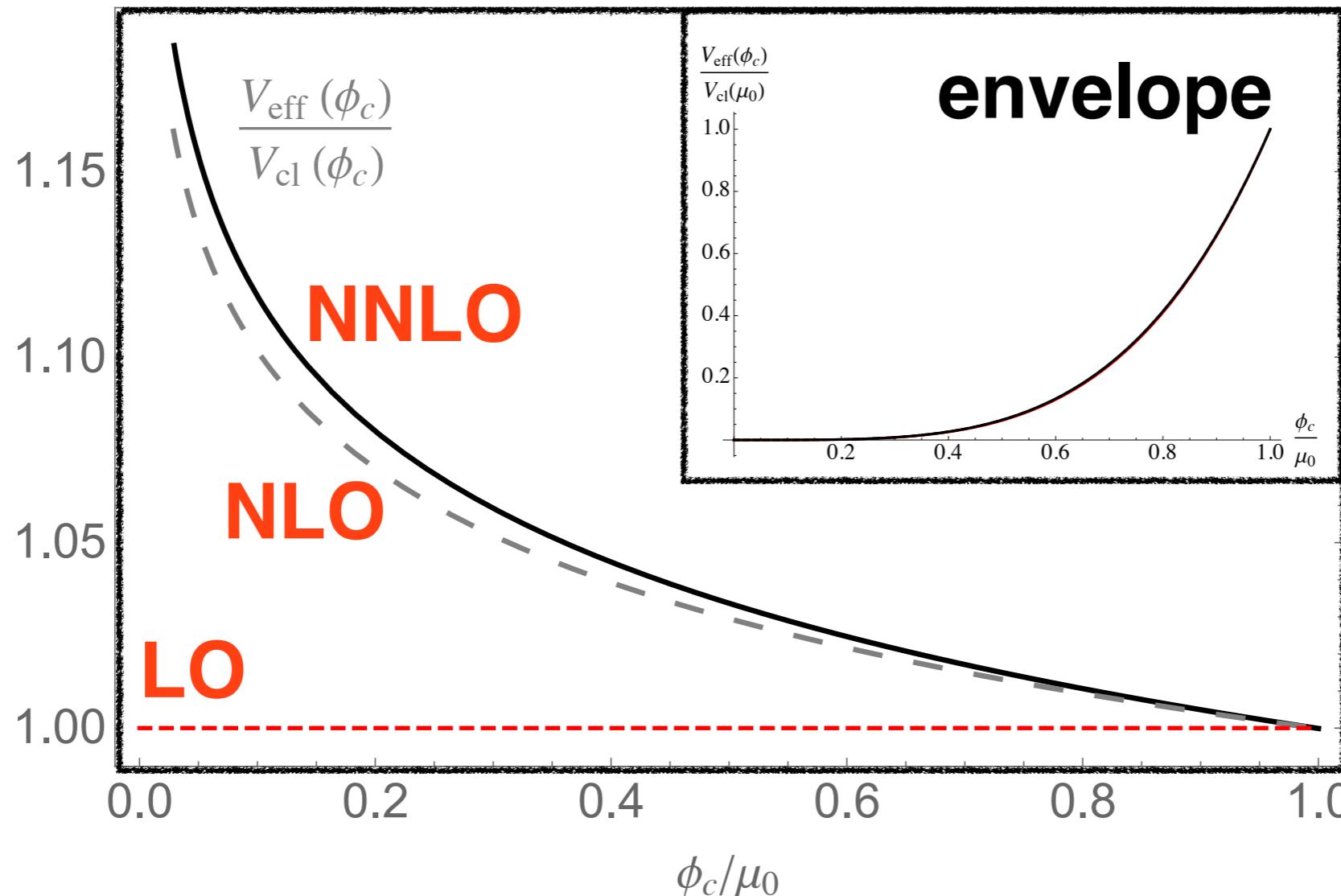
UV FP:

$$0 < \alpha_h^* + \alpha_v^* \quad \text{ok}$$

# vacuum stability

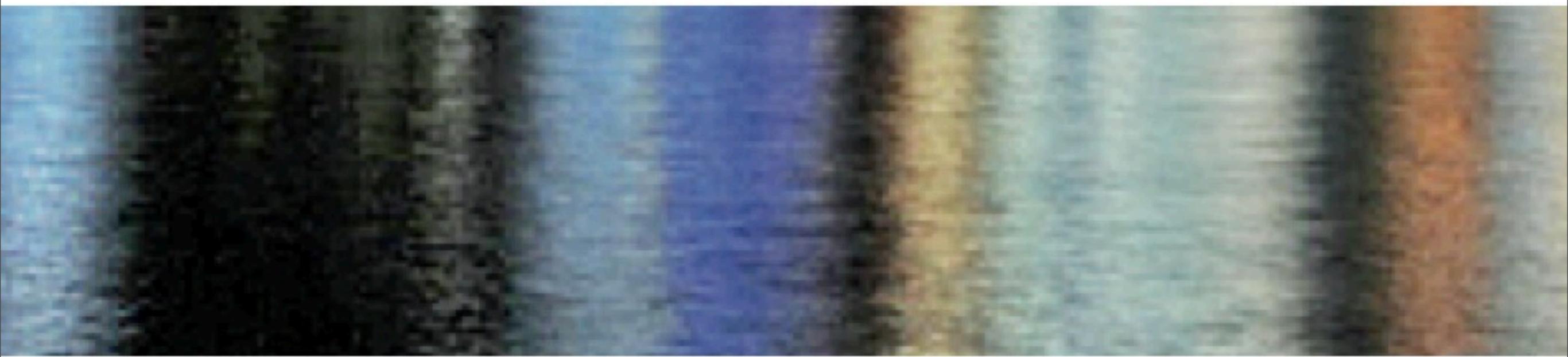
**quantum stability:** Coleman-Weinberg type  
resummation of logs

$$\left( \mu_0 \frac{\partial}{\partial \mu_0} - \gamma(\alpha_j) \phi_c \frac{\partial}{\partial \phi_c} + \sum_i \beta_i(\alpha_j) \frac{\partial}{\partial \alpha_i} \right) V_{\text{eff}}(\phi_c, \mu_0, \alpha_j) = 0$$



effective potential well-defined for all scales

# **asymptotic safety beyond perturbation theory**



K Falls, DL, K Nikolakopoulos & C Rahmede,

1301.4191

# asymptotic freedom

vs

# asymptotic safety

$$g_* = 0$$

anomalous dimensions

$$\eta_A = 0$$

**canonical** power counting

$\{\vartheta_{G,n}\}$  are known

$F^{256}$  irrelevant !

$$g_* \neq 0$$

anomalous dimensions

$$\eta_N \neq 0$$

**non-canonical** power counting

$\{\vartheta_n\}$  are **not** known

$$R^{256}$$

relevant  
marginal  
irrelevant ?

# bootstrap search strategy

**hypothesis** relevancy of invariants follows canonical dimension

# bootstrap search strategy

**hypothesis** relevancy of invariants follows canonical dimension

strategy

**Step 1** retain invariants up to mass dimension D

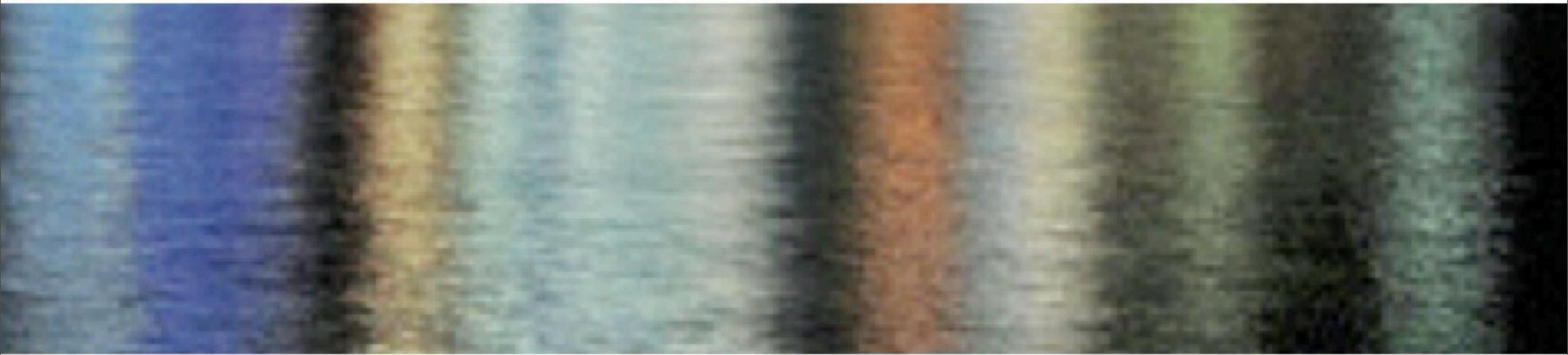
**Step 2** compute  $\{\vartheta_n\}$  (eg. RG, lattice, holography)

**Step 3** enhance D, and iterate

convergence (no convergence) of the iteration:

**hypothesis** supported (refuted)

# testing asymptotic safety with quantum gravity templates



K Falls, DL, K Nikolopoulos & C Rahmede,  
K Falls, DL, K Nikolopoulos & C Rahmede  
and in prep.

1301.4191  
1410.4815

# **f(R)**

$$\Gamma_k \propto f(R)$$

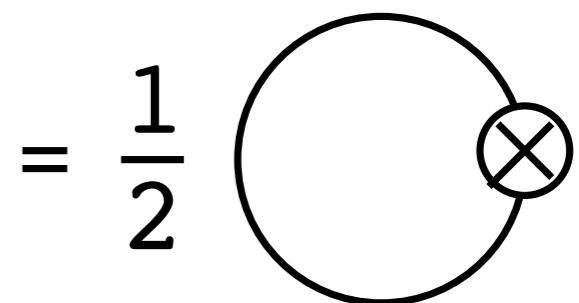
$$\Gamma_k = \sum_{n=0}^{N-1} \lambda_n k^{d_n} \int d^4x \sqrt{g} R^n$$

# **Ricci scalars**

**effective action with invariants up to mass dimension**  $D = 2(N - 1)$

**technicalities:** functional renormalisation

$$k \frac{d\Gamma_k}{dk} = \frac{1}{2} \text{Tr} \left[ \left( \frac{\delta^2 \Gamma_k[\phi]}{\delta \phi \delta \phi} + \color{red}R_k\right)^{-1} k \frac{d\color{red}R_k}{dk} \right]$$



**here:**

M Reuter hep-th/9605030

Falls, DL, Nikolakopoulos, Rahmede  
Falls, DL, Nikolakopoulos, Rahmede

[1301.4191.pdf](#)  
I410.4815

DL [hep-th/0103195](#)  
[hep-th/0312114](#)

A Codella, R Percacci, C Rahmede 0705.1769, 0805.2909  
P Machado, F Saueressig 0712.0445

# identifying fixed points

$$f(R) = \sum_n \lambda_n R^n$$

polynomial expansion

generating function

$$\partial_t f + 4f - 2R f' = I[f]$$

$$I[f] = I_0[f] + I_1[f] \cdot \partial_t f' + I_2[f] \cdot \partial_t f''$$

recursive solution of

$$\beta_n \equiv \partial_t \lambda_n \quad \beta_{n-2} = 0$$

family of FP candidates

$$\lambda_n = \lambda_n(\lambda_0, \lambda_1)$$

‘free’ parameters

$$(\lambda_0, \lambda_1)$$

# interlude: Wilson-Fisher FP

$$u(\rho) = \sum_{n=0} \frac{\lambda_n}{n!} \rho^n \quad \rho = \frac{1}{2} \phi^a \phi_a \quad \text{polynomial expansion}$$

**generating function**

$$\partial_t u' = -2u' + (d-2)\rho u'' - A \frac{u''}{(1+u')^2} - B \frac{3u'' + 2\rho u'''}{(1+u'+2\rho u'')^2}$$

**recursive solution**

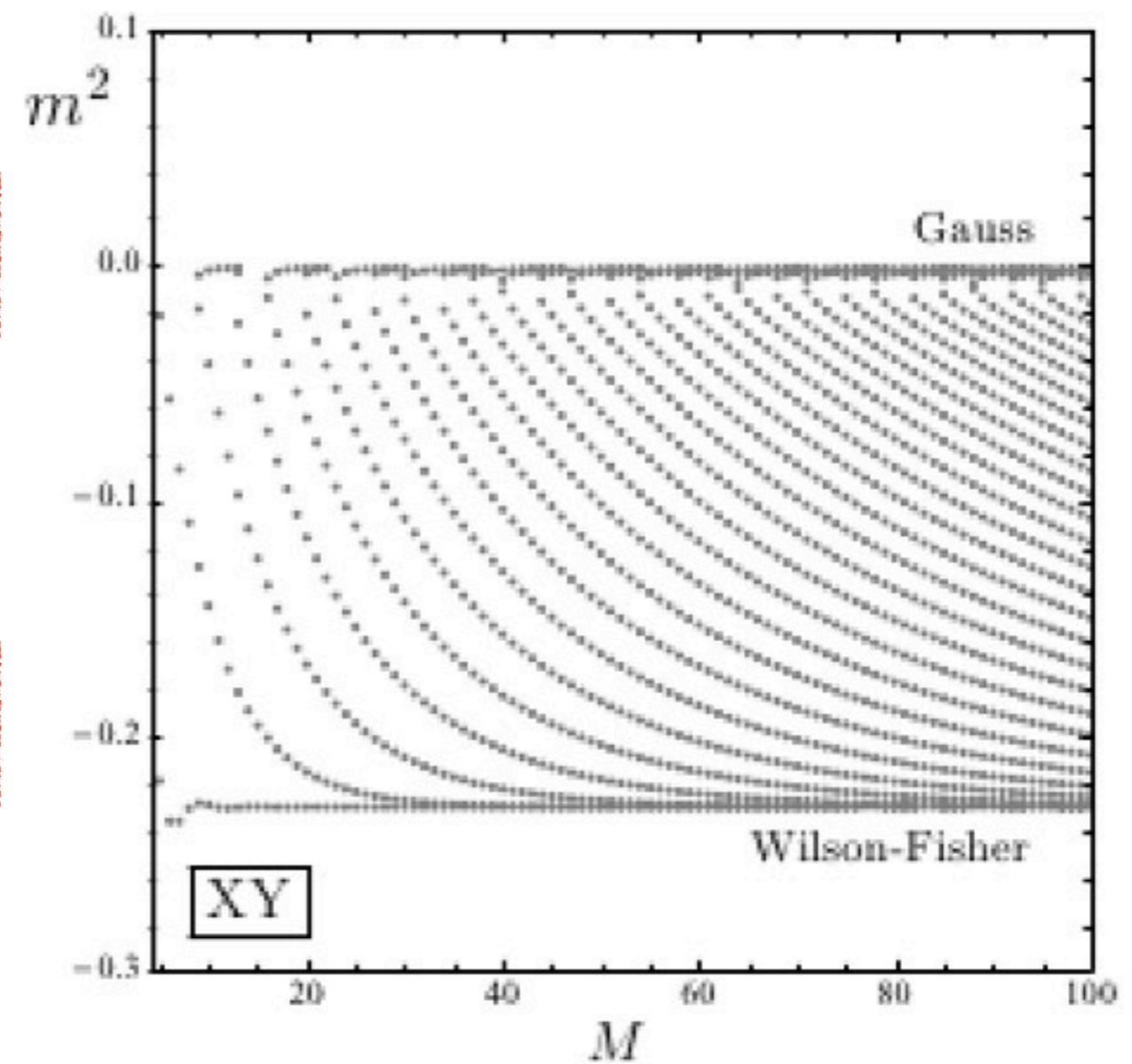
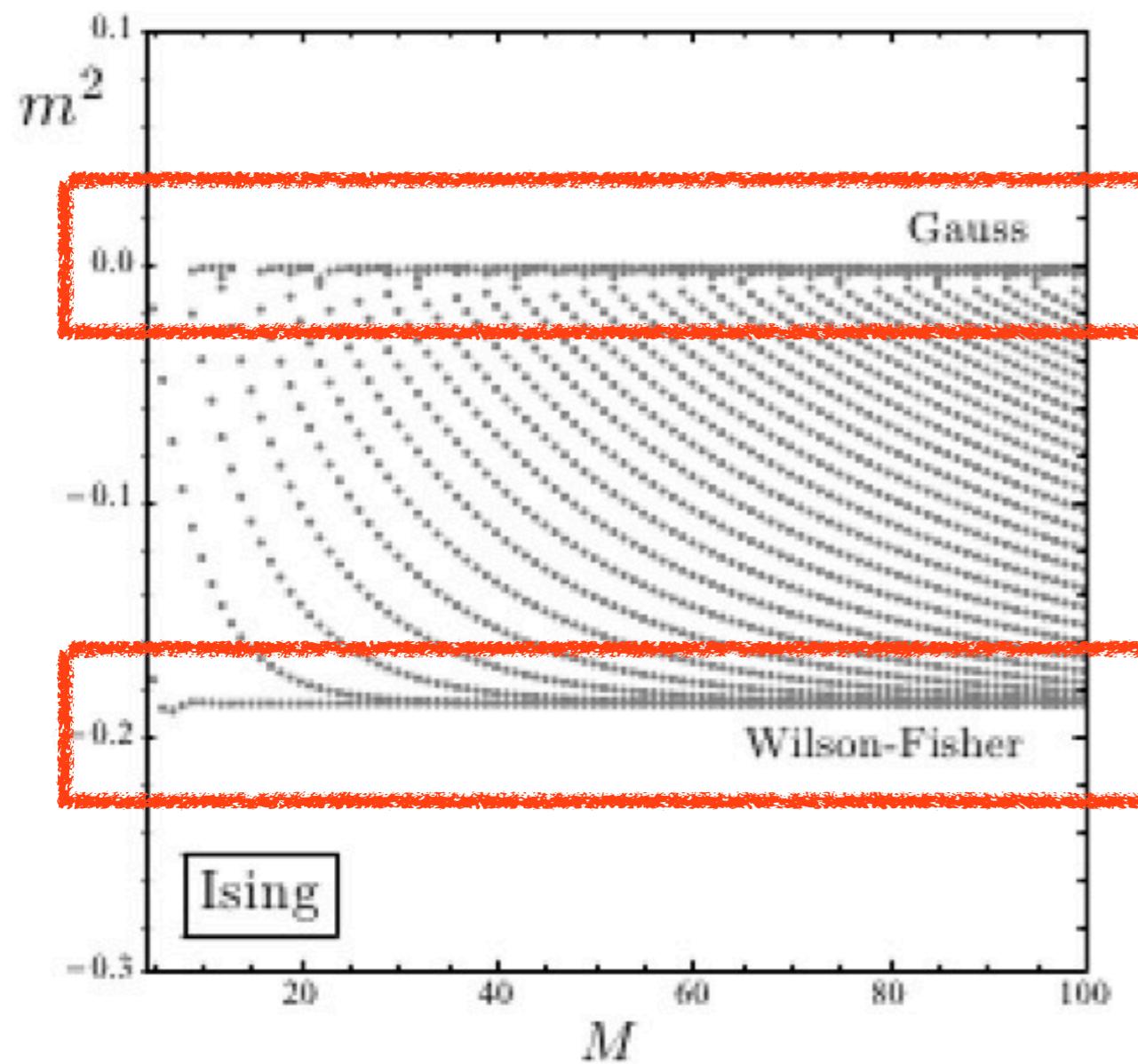
$$(\lambda_1 \equiv m^2)$$

$$\lambda_n = \lambda_n(m^2)$$

# Wilson-Fisher LPA

FP solutions with  $\lambda_M = 0$

Juettner, DL, Marchais (in prep), arXiv:1504.00xyz

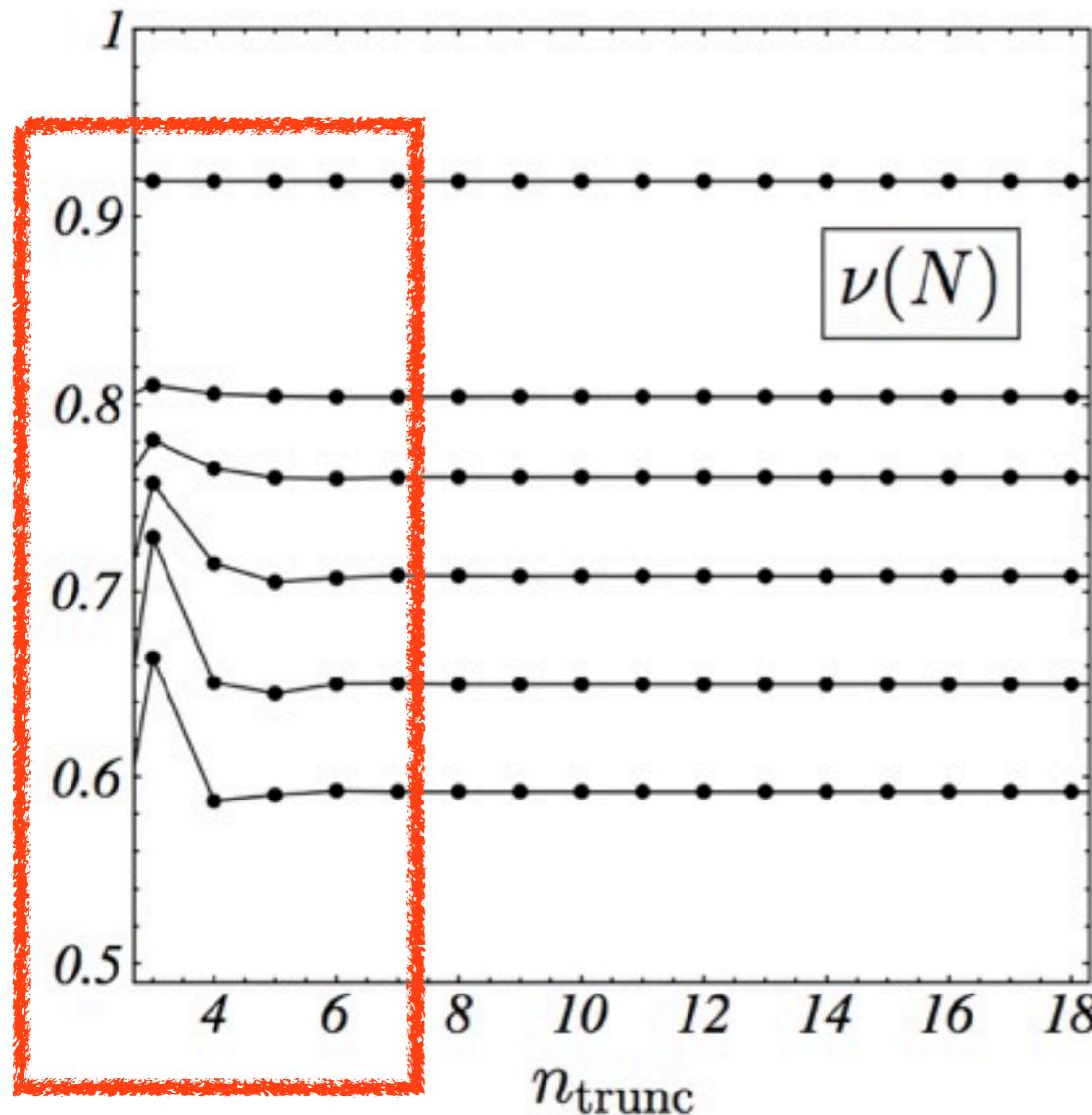


physical FP = accumulation point

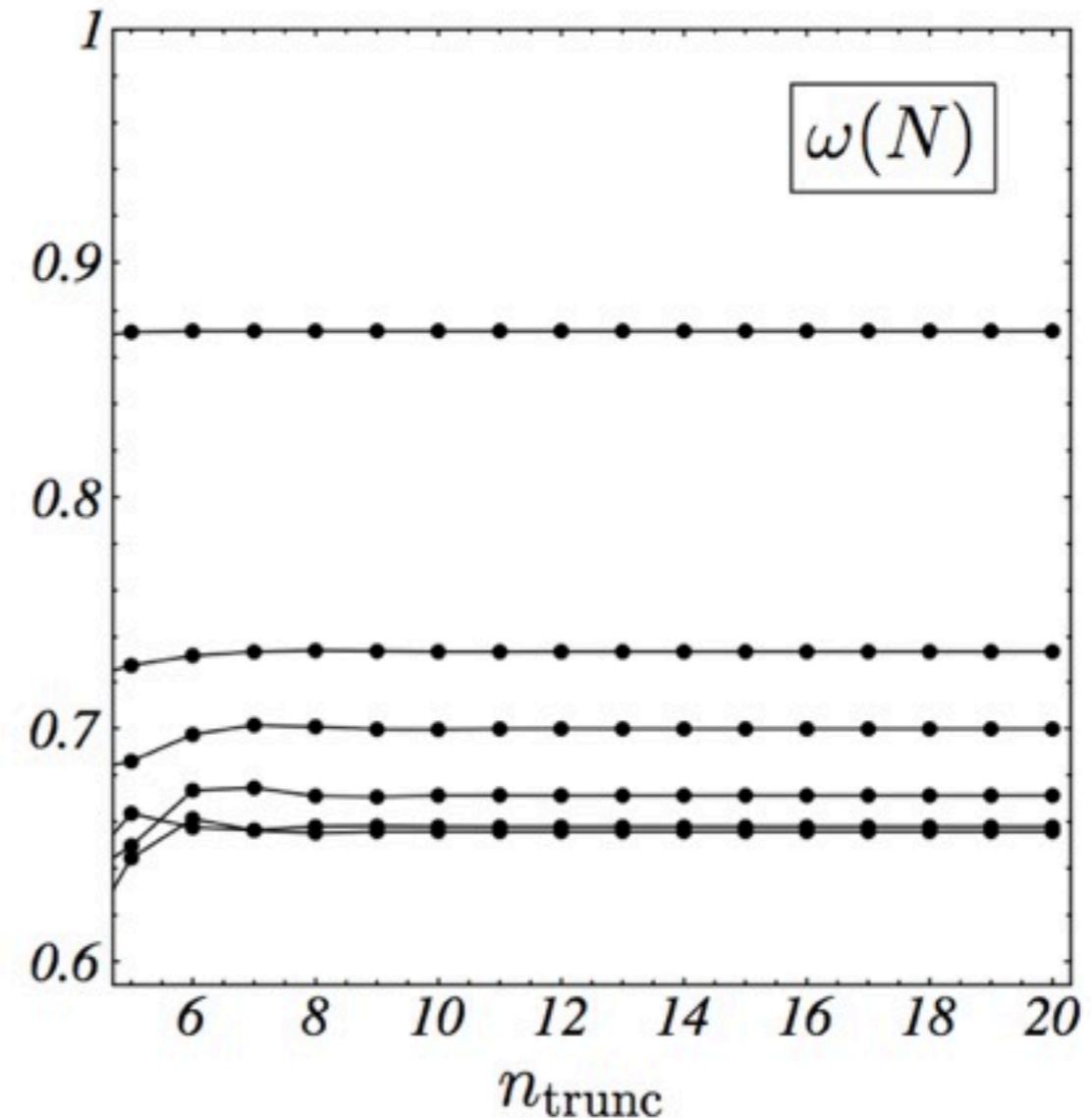
# Wilson-Fisher LPA

DL, hep-th/0203006

## universal eigenvalues



**Figure 4:** The exponent  $\nu(N)$  as a function of  $N$  and of the order of the truncation. From top to bottom:  $N = 10, 4, 3, 2, 1, 0$ .



**Figure 5:** The eigenvalue  $\omega(N)$  as a function of  $N$  and of the order of the truncation. From top to bottom:  $N = 10, 4, 3, 2, 0, 1$ .

# **f(R)**

**recursive solution**

$$\lambda_n(\lambda_0, \lambda_1) = \frac{P_n(\lambda_0, \lambda_1)}{Q_n(\lambda_0, \lambda_1)}$$

**boundary condition**

$$\lambda_N = 0 \quad \& \quad \lambda_{N+1} = 0$$

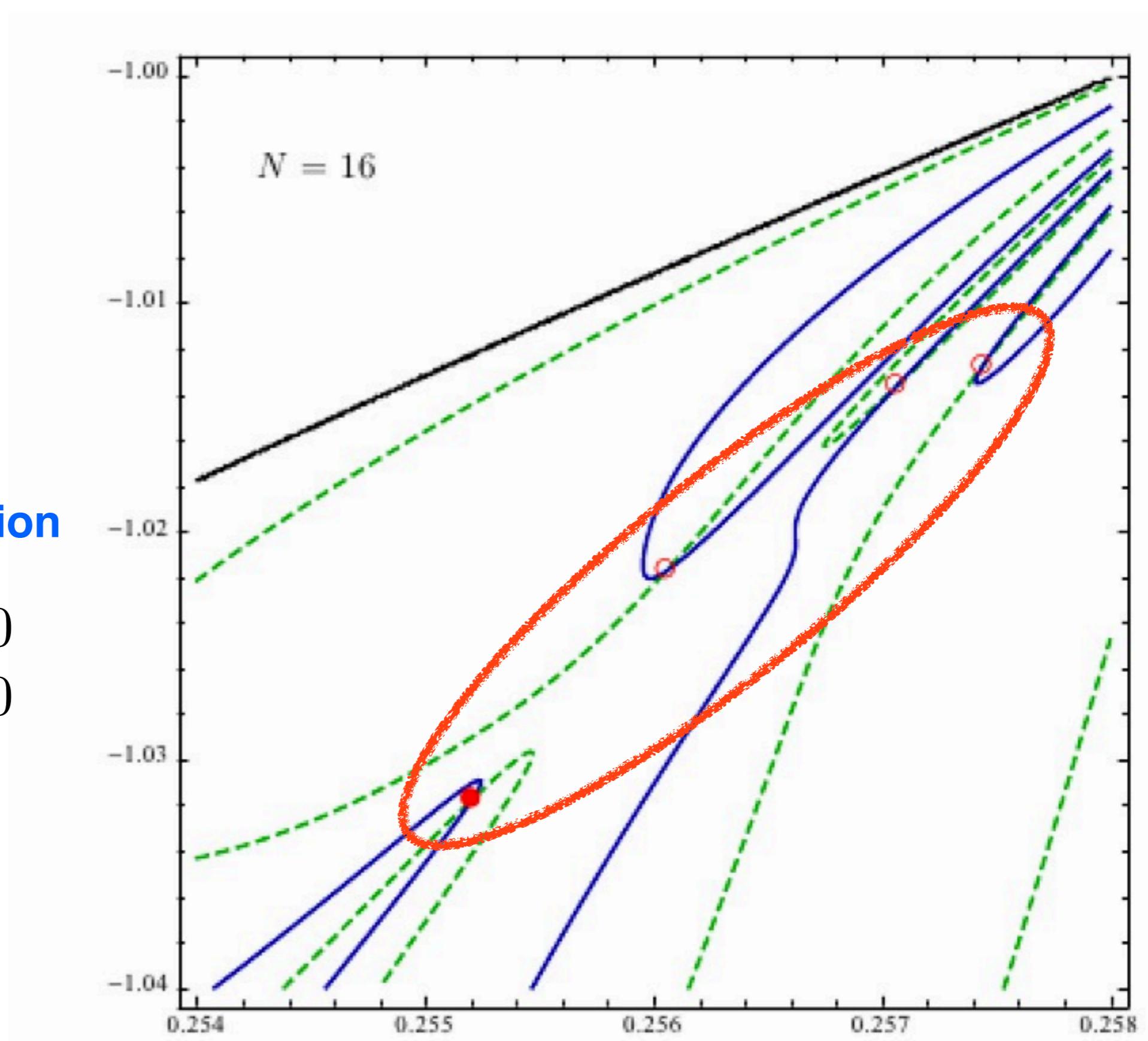
**polynomials grow large, eg.**

$P_{35} \approx 45.000$  terms

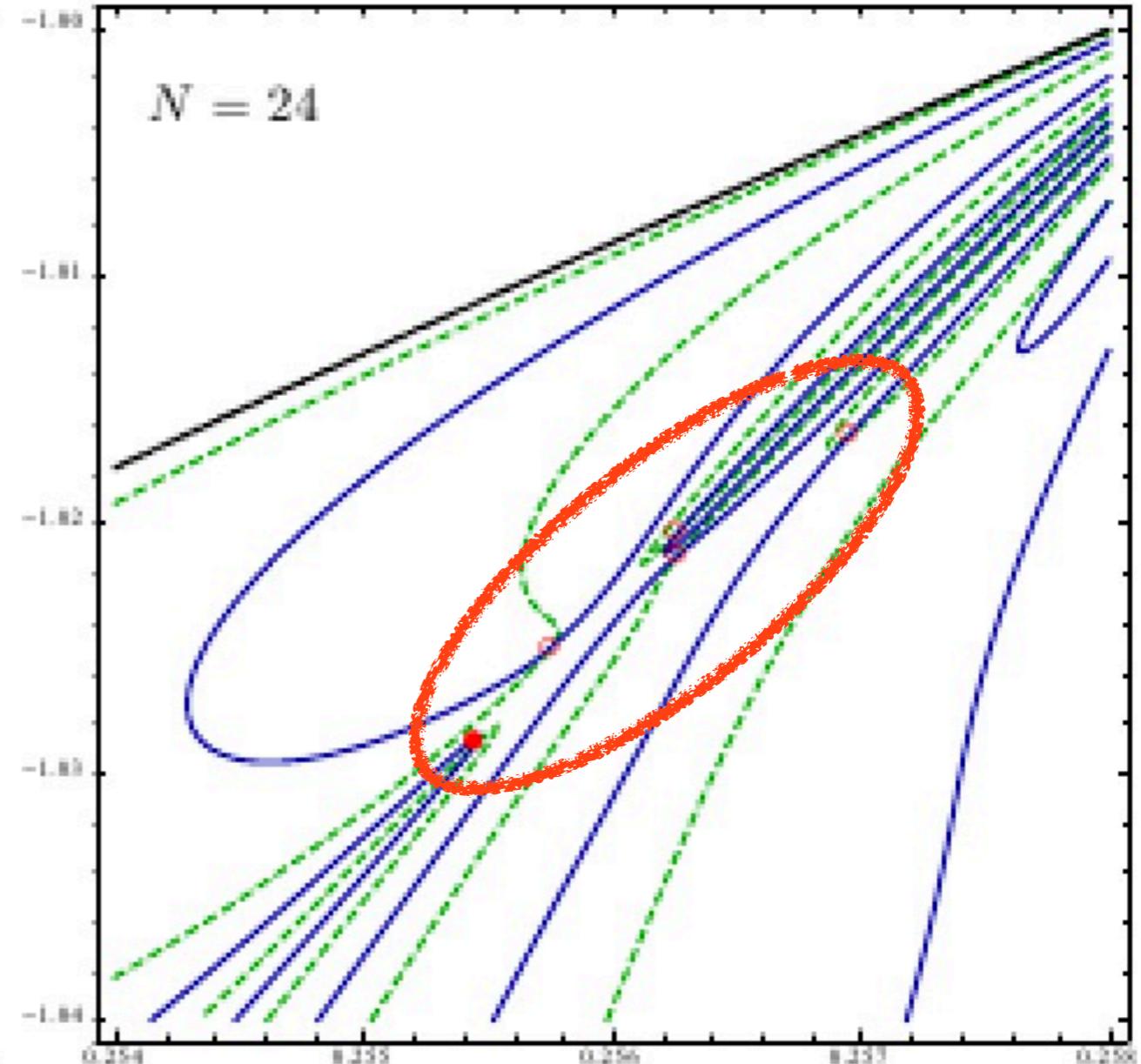
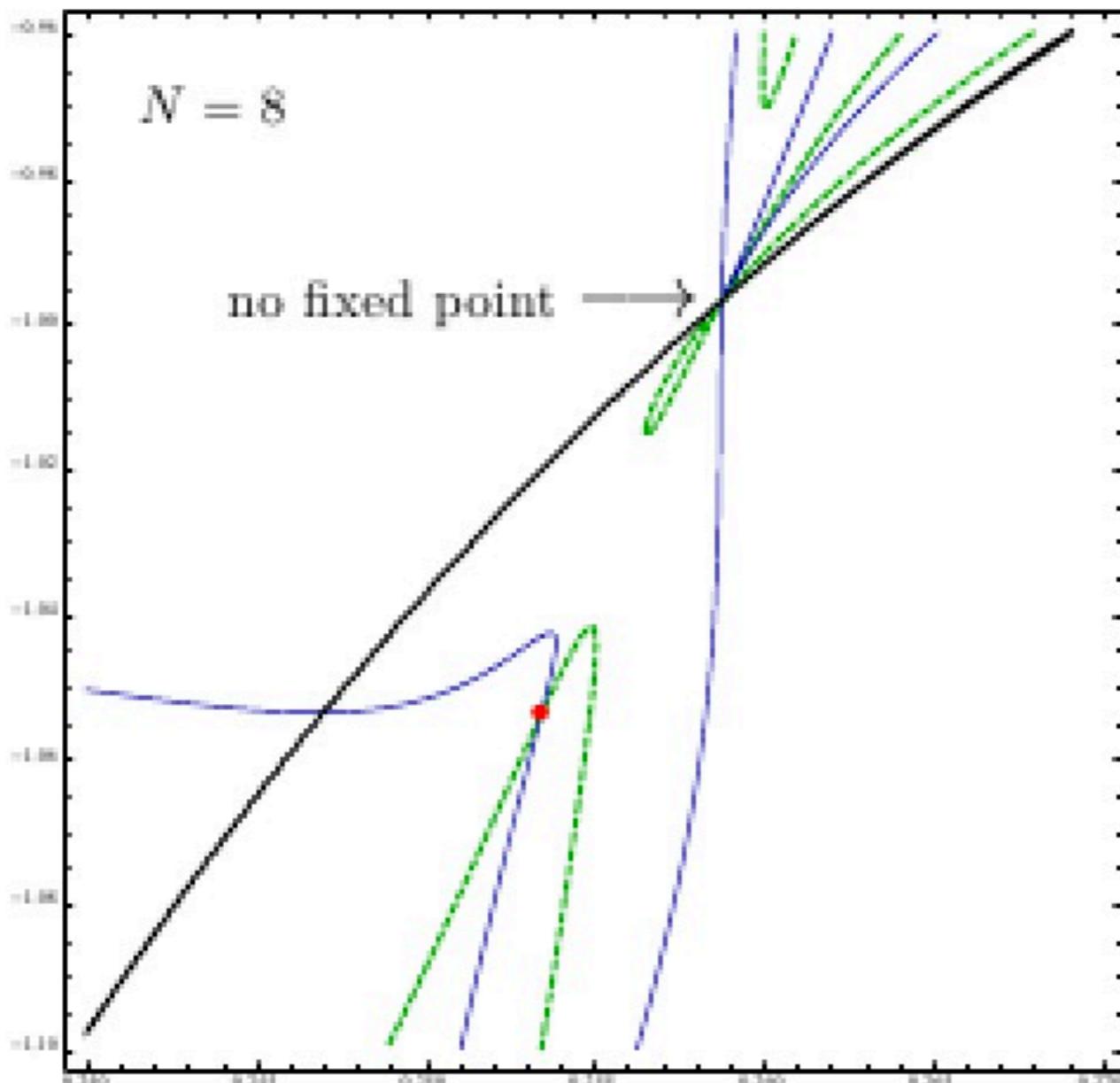
# $f(R)$

**fixed point condition**

$$\begin{aligned}\lambda_N &= 0 \\ \lambda_{N+1} &= 0\end{aligned}$$



# $f(R)$



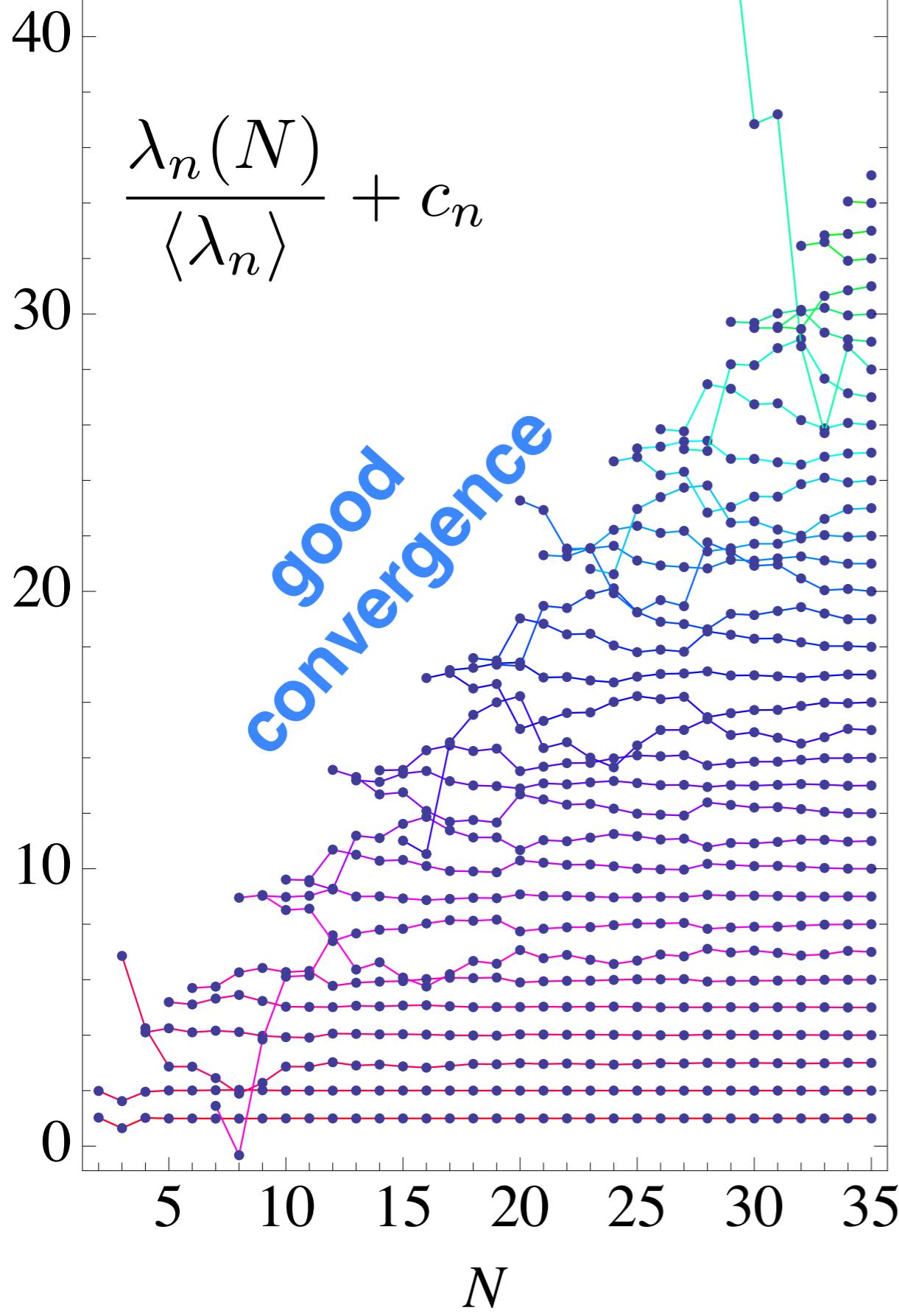
**boundary condition**

$$\lambda_N = 0 \quad \& \quad \lambda_{N+1} = 0$$

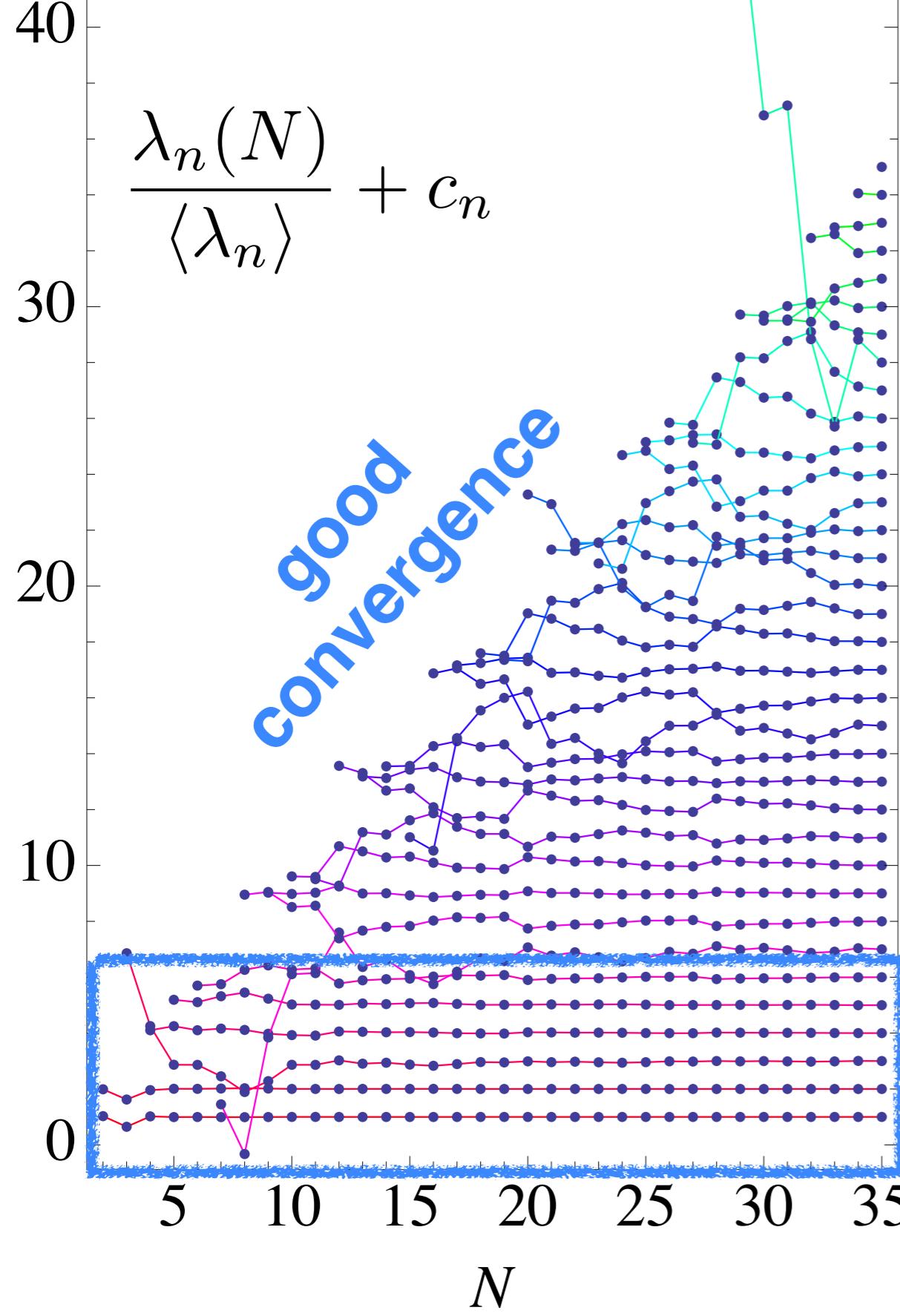
# UV fixed point

$$\frac{\lambda_n(N)}{\langle \lambda_n \rangle} + c_n$$

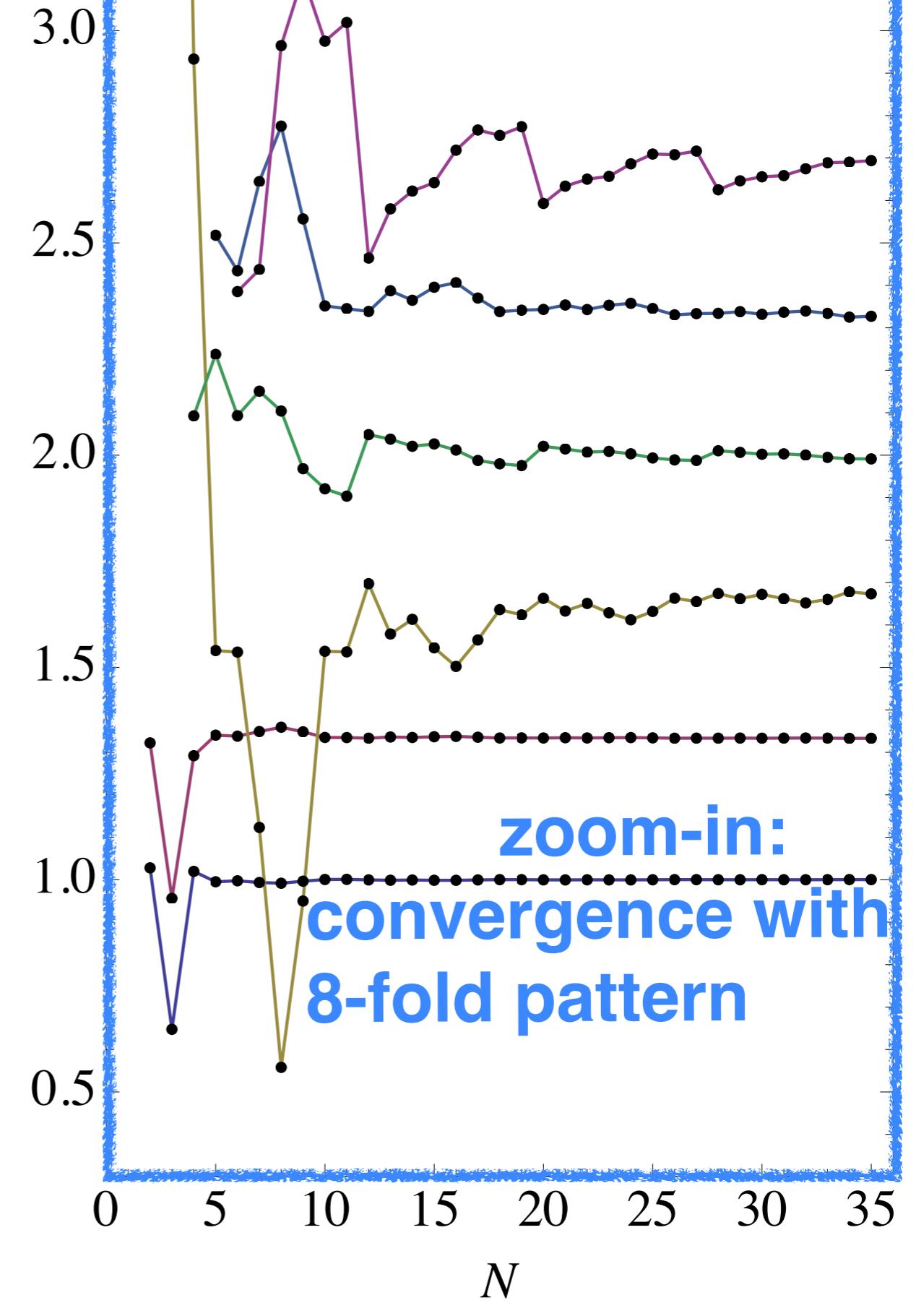
good convergence



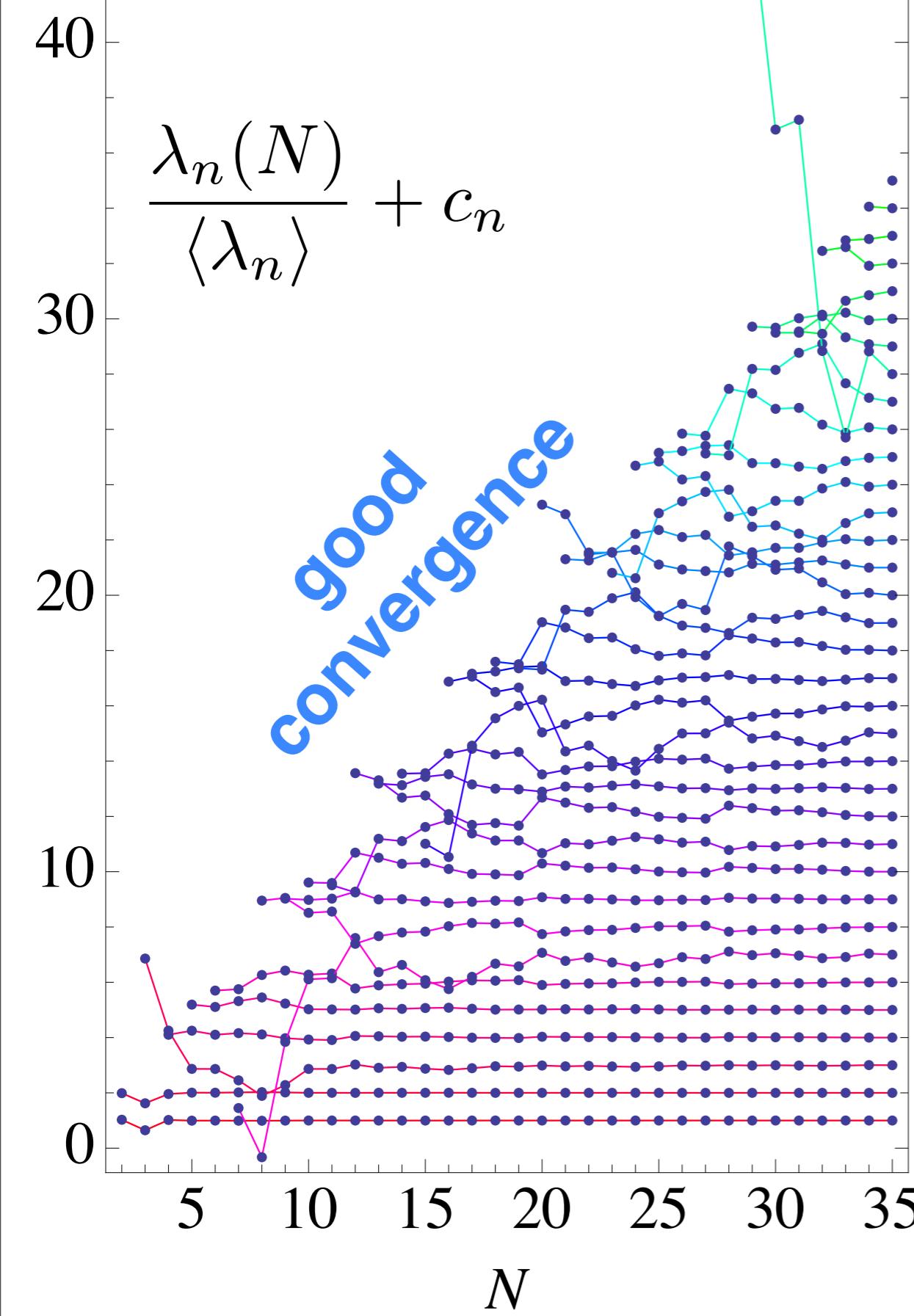
## UV fixed point



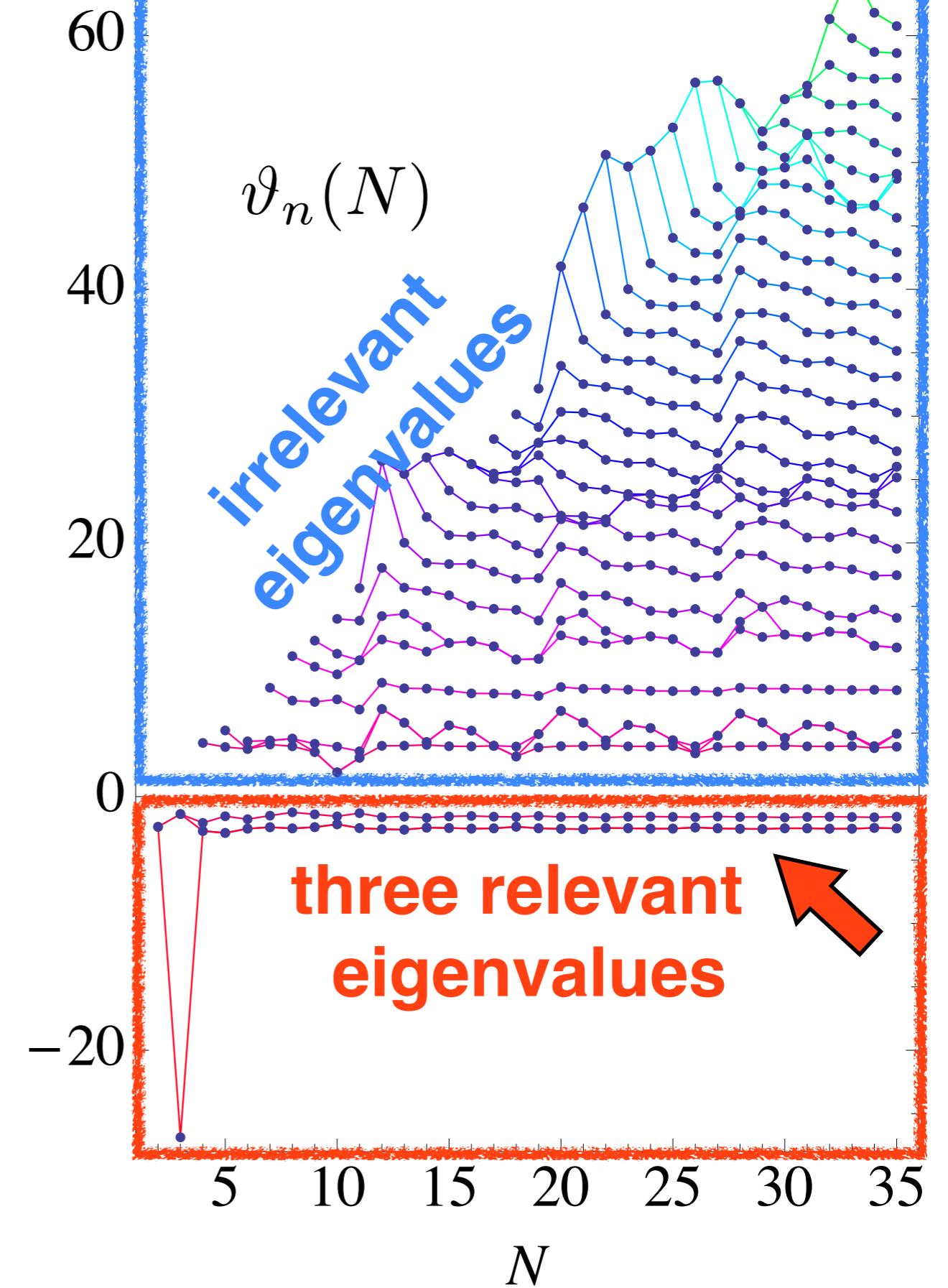
## UV fixed point



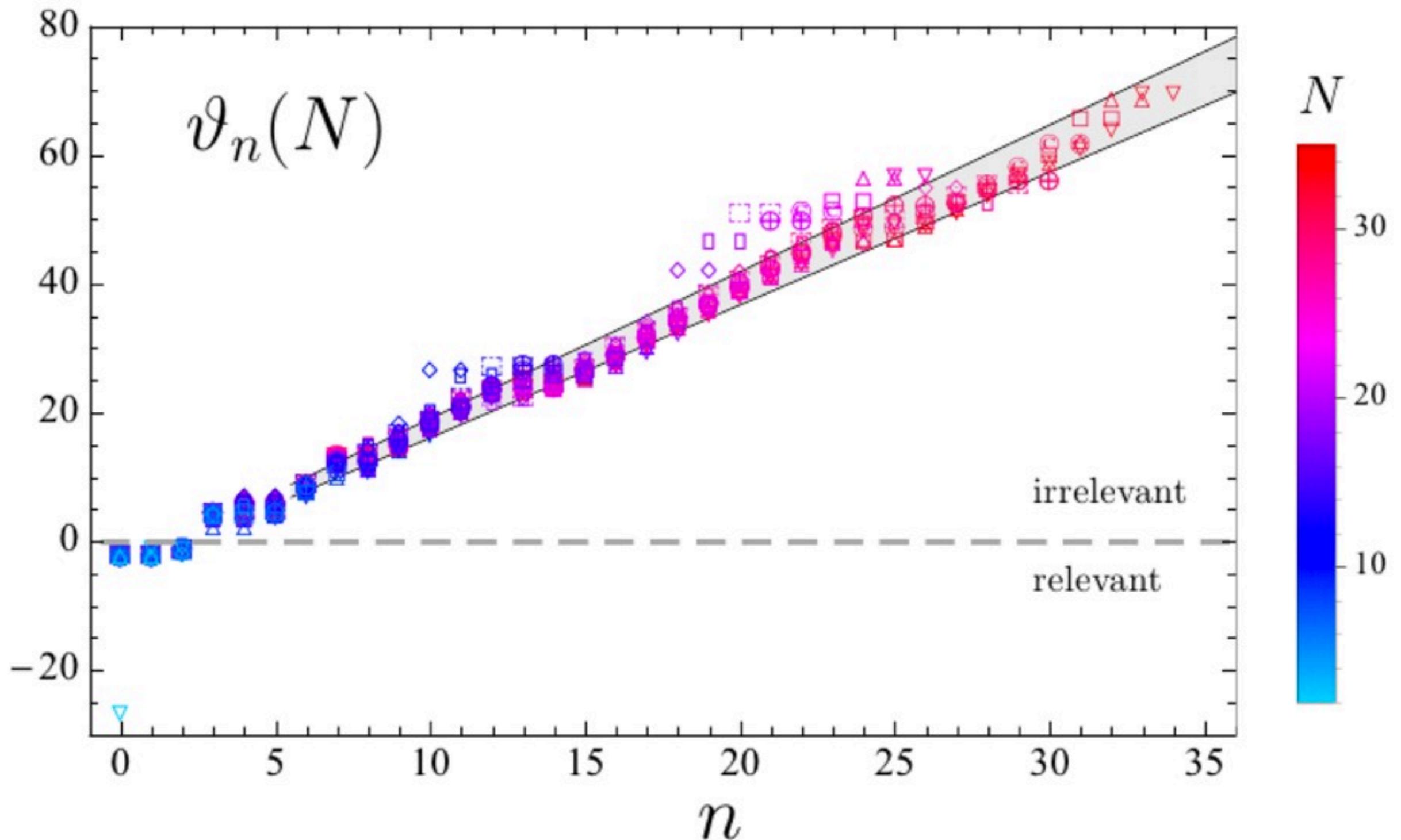
## UV fixed point



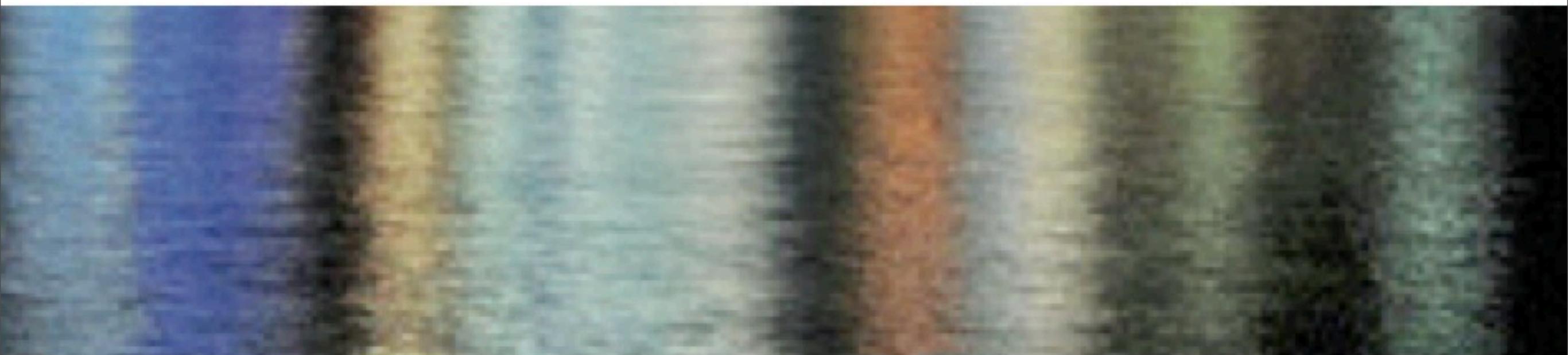
## UV eigenvalues



# near-Gaussian



# beyond Ricci scalars



# f(Ricci)

$$\Gamma_k \propto \int d^d x \sqrt{g} [f_k(R_{\mu\nu} R^{\mu\nu}) + R \cdot z_k(R_{\mu\nu} R^{\mu\nu})]$$

# f(Ricci)

$$\Gamma_k \propto \int d^d x \sqrt{g} [f_k(R_{\mu\nu}R^{\mu\nu}) + R \cdot z_k(R_{\mu\nu}R^{\mu\nu})]$$

$$\begin{aligned}\partial_t \Gamma[\bar{g}, \bar{g}] = & \frac{1}{2} \text{Tr}_{(2T)} \left[ \frac{\partial_t \mathcal{R}_k^{h^T h^T}}{\Gamma_{h^T h^T}^{(2)}} \right] + \frac{1}{2} \text{Tr}'_{(1T)} \left[ \frac{\partial_t \mathcal{R}_k^{\xi\xi}}{\Gamma_{\xi\xi}^{(2)}} \right] + \frac{1}{2} \text{Tr}''_{(0)} \left[ \frac{\partial_t \mathcal{R}_k^{\sigma\sigma}}{\Gamma_{\sigma\sigma}^{(2)}} \right] + \frac{1}{2} \text{Tr}_{(0)} \left[ \frac{\partial_t \mathcal{R}_k^{hh}}{\Gamma_{hh}^{(2)}} \right] \\ & + \text{Tr}''_{(0)} \left[ \frac{\partial_t \mathcal{R}_k^{\sigma h}}{\Gamma_{\sigma h}^{(2)}} \right] - \text{Tr}_{(1T)} \left[ \frac{\partial_t \mathcal{R}_k^{\bar{C}^T C^T}}{\Gamma_{\bar{C}^T C^T}^{(2)}} \right] - \text{Tr}_{(0)'} \left[ \frac{\partial_t \mathcal{R}_k^{\bar{\eta}\eta}}{\Gamma_{\bar{\eta}\eta}^{(2)}} \right] - \text{Tr}''_{(0)} \left[ \frac{\partial_t \mathcal{R}_k^{\bar{\lambda}\lambda}}{\Gamma_{\bar{\lambda}\lambda}^{(2)}} \right] \\ & + \frac{1}{2} \text{Tr}''_{(0)} \left[ \frac{\partial_t \mathcal{R}_k^{\omega\omega}}{\Gamma_{\omega\omega}^{(2)}} \right] - \text{Tr}'_{(1T)} \left[ \frac{\partial_t \mathcal{R}_k^{\bar{c}^T c^T}}{\Gamma_{\bar{c}^T c^T}^{(2)}} \right] + \frac{1}{2} \text{Tr}'_{(1T)} \left[ \frac{\partial_t \mathcal{R}_k^{\zeta^T \zeta^T}}{\Gamma_{\zeta^T \zeta^T}^{(2)}} \right] + \text{Tr}'_{(0)} \left[ \frac{\partial_t \mathcal{R}_k^{\bar{s}s}}{\Gamma_{\bar{s}s}^{(2)}} \right]\end{aligned}$$

# f(Ricci)

$$\Gamma_k \propto \int d^d x \sqrt{g} [f_k(R_{\mu\nu} R^{\mu\nu}) + R \cdot z_k(R_{\mu\nu} R^{\mu\nu})]$$

**generating function**

$$384\pi^2 [4f + 2\rho z - \rho^2 (f' + \rho z') + \partial_t f + \rho \partial_t z] = I[f, z](\rho)$$

$$\begin{aligned} I[f, z](\rho) = & I_0[f, z](\rho) + \partial_t z I_1[f, z](\rho) + \partial_t f' I_2[f, z](\rho) + \partial_t z' I_3[f, z](\rho) \\ & + \partial_t f'' I_4[f, z](\rho) + \partial_t z'' I_5[f, z](\rho) . \end{aligned}$$

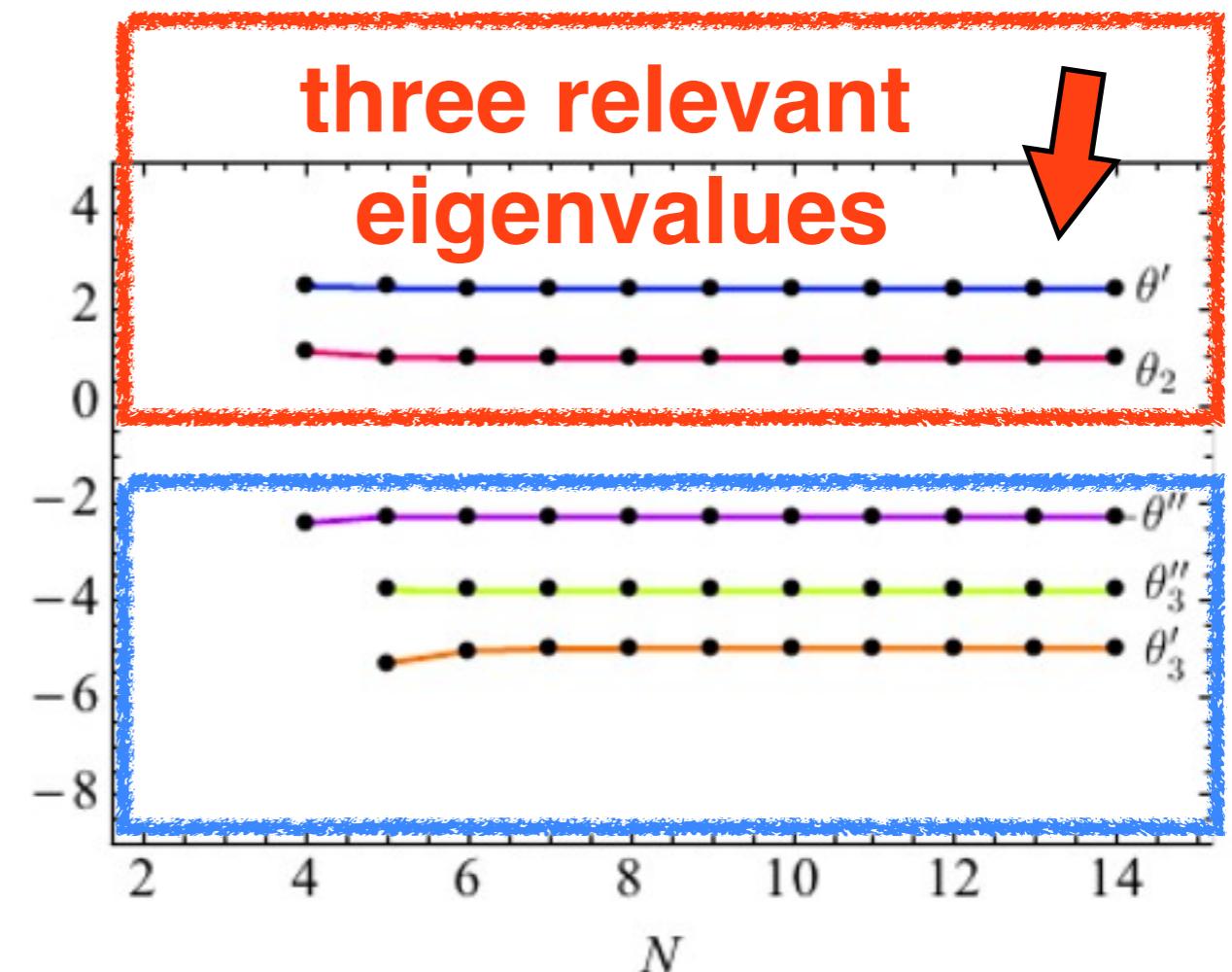
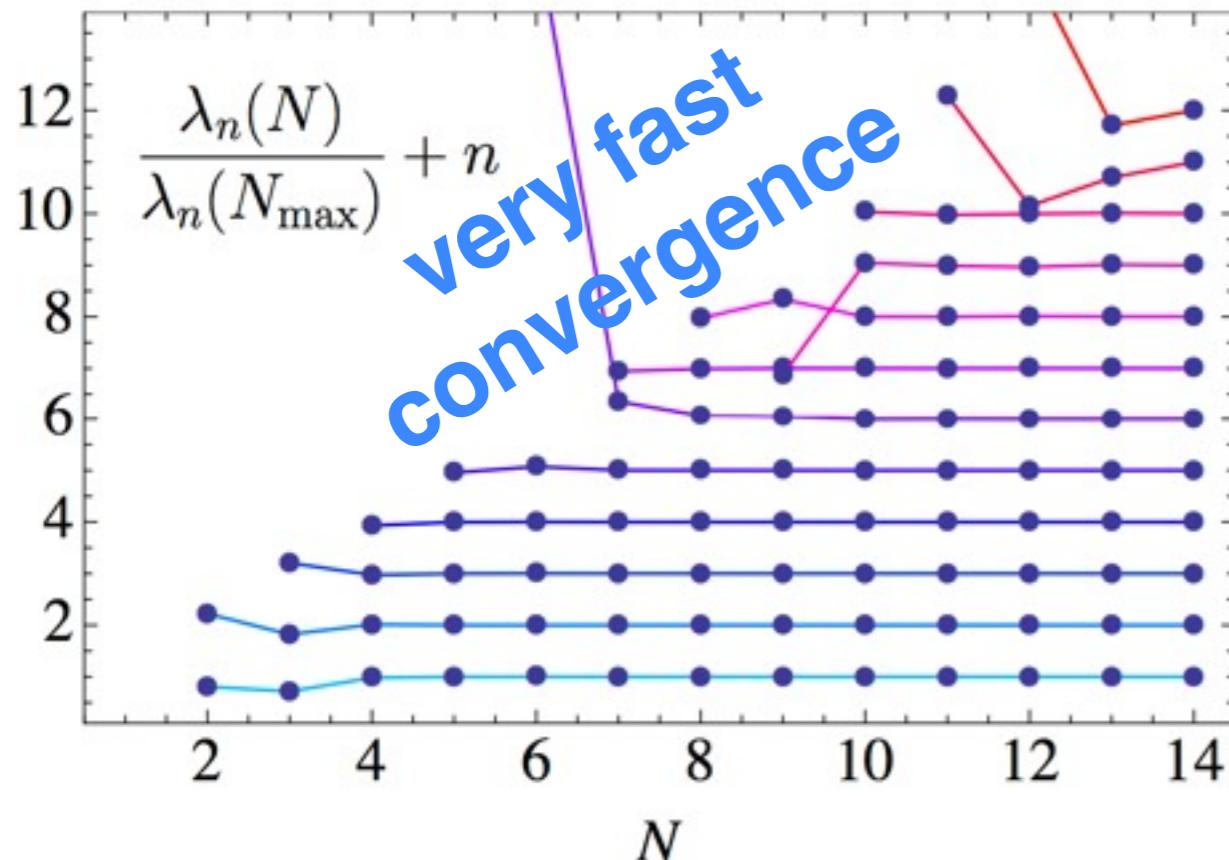
# fixed points

**recursive solution more demanding**

# f(Ricci)

$$\Gamma_k \propto \int d^d x \sqrt{g} [f_k(R_{\mu\nu}R^{\mu\nu}) + R \cdot z_k(R_{\mu\nu}R^{\mu\nu})]$$

results:



# conclusions

## QFTs beyond asymptotic freedom

### 4D matter-gauge theories

**exact proof** of asymptotic safety

**all types of fields** required

**sensible UV finite theory**

**no additional (super-)symmetry**

### 4D quantum gravity

systematic **non-perturbative** search strategies

**strong hints** for interacting UV fixed point

**intriguing near Gaussianity**