

# UV fixed points - from gauge theories to quantum gravitation

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# standard model

local QFT for fundamental interactions

**strong** nuclear force

**weak** force

**electromagnetic** force

degrees of freedom

spin 0 (the **Higgs** has finally arrived)

spin 1/2 (quite a few)

spin 1

perturbatively renormalisable & **predictive**

# standard model

local QFT for fundamental interactions

**strong** nuclear force

**weak** force

**electromagnetic** force

challenges

**Higgs, QED**: maximum UV extension?

complete asymptotic freedom?

how does **quantum gravity** fits in?

...

**interacting UV fixed points**

# UV fixed points

# perturbation theory

theory with coupling  $\alpha$ :

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

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

$$\alpha_* \ll 1$$

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free fixed point


$$\alpha_* = 0$$

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free fixed point


$$\alpha_* = 0$$

**QED, Higgs**

$$B < 0$$

**IR fixed point**

perturbative UV Landau pole  
predictive up to maximal UV extension

# asymptotic freedom


theory with coupling  $\alpha$ :

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free fixed point


$$\alpha_* = 0$$

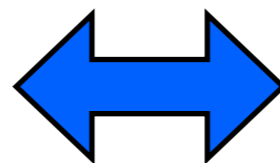
QCD

$$B > 0$$

UV fixed point

perturbative renormalisability & asymptotic freedom  
predictive up to highest energies

fundamental  
definition of QFT

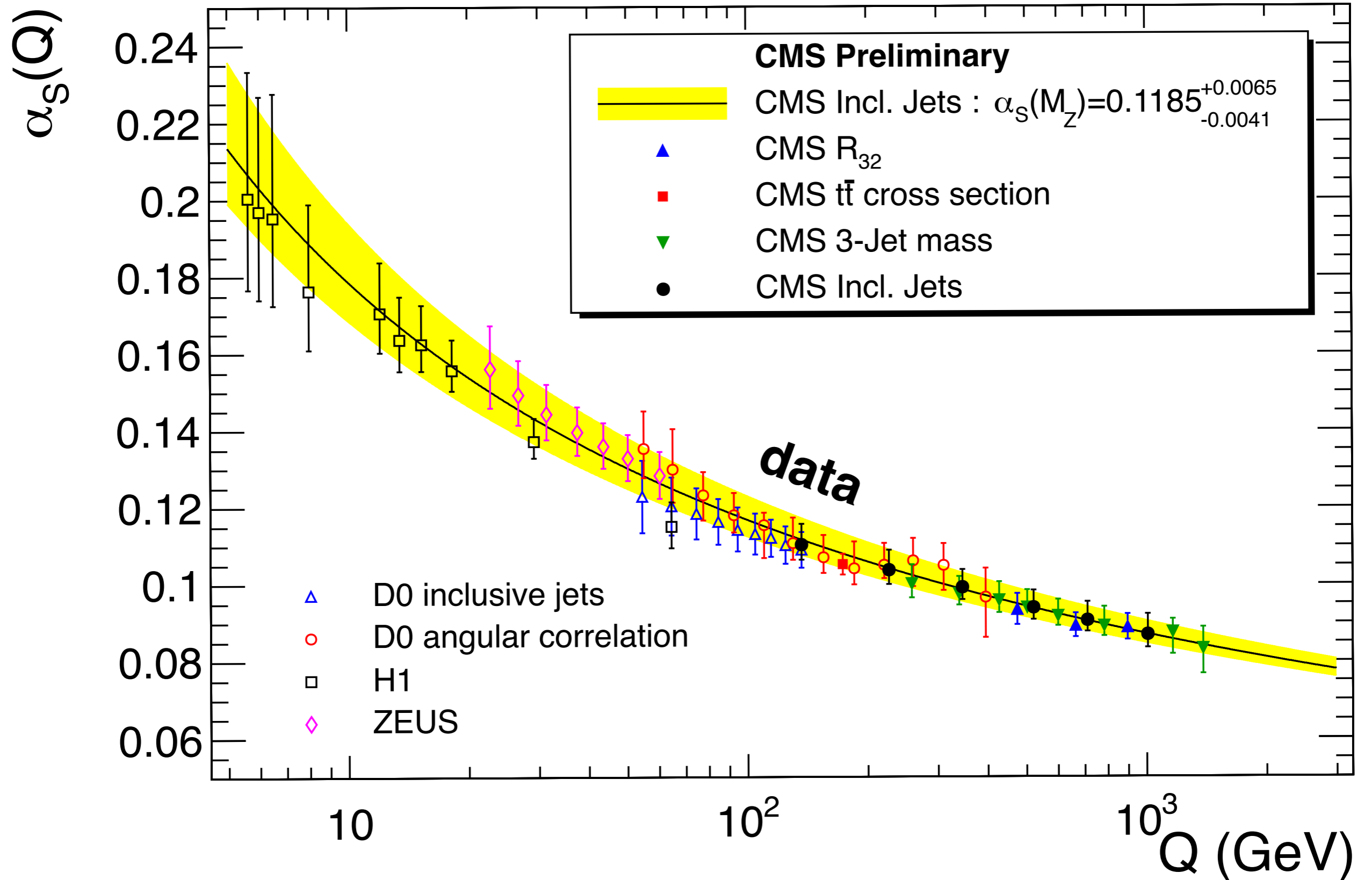


UV fixed point

Wilson '71



# asymptotic freedom



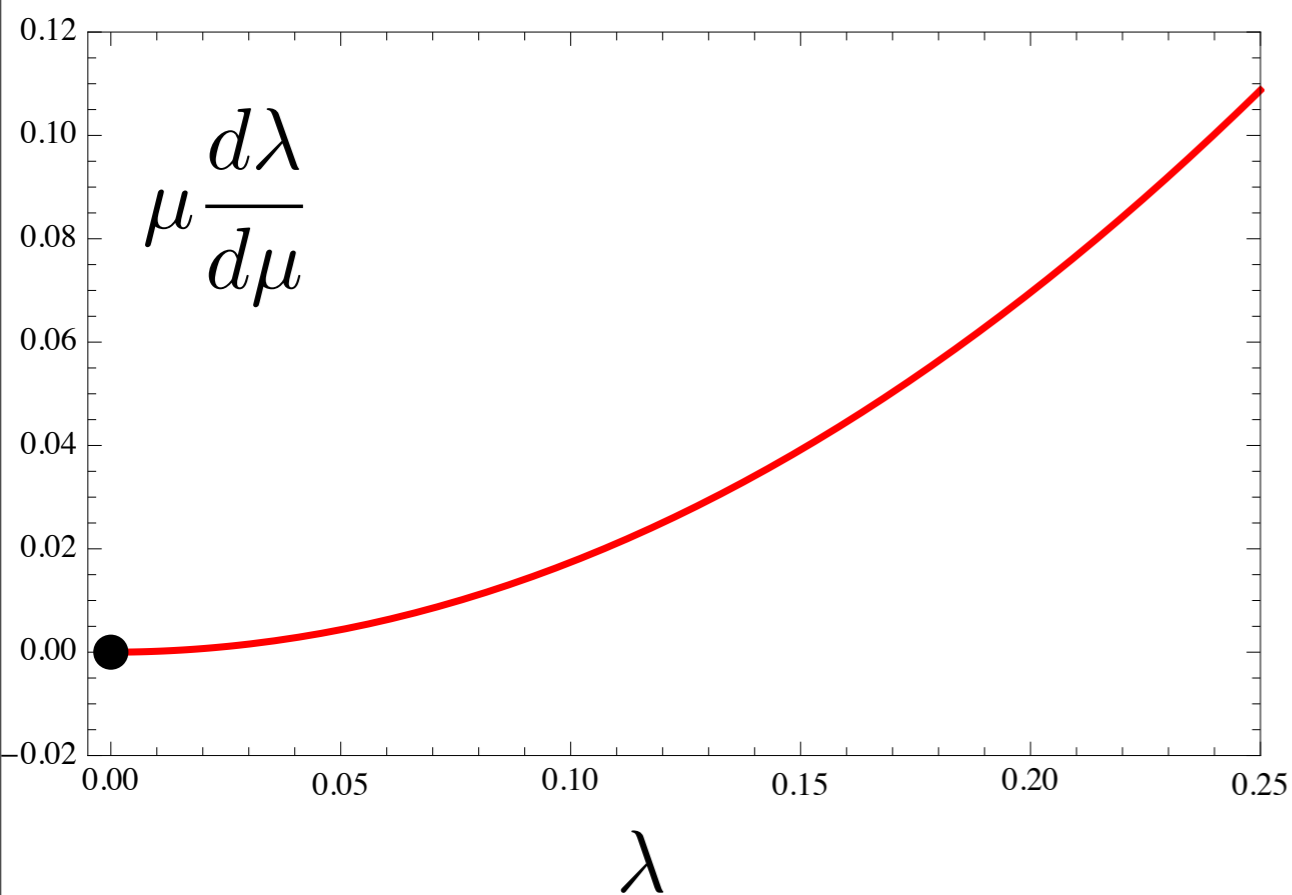
# asymptotic freedom

$$\mu \frac{d\alpha_{e.m.}}{d\mu} \propto \alpha_{e.m.}^2 > 0$$

**QED** beta function

$$\mu \frac{d\lambda}{d\mu} \propto \lambda^2 > 0$$

**Higgs** self-coupling  
**Yukawa** couplings



perturbative UV Landau pole:  
maximal UV extension

cure:  
complete asymptotic freedom

# 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  $\alpha$ :

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

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

$$\alpha_* \ll 1$$

fixed points

$$\alpha_* = 0$$

$$\alpha_* = A/B$$



# interacting fixed point

theory with coupling  $\alpha$ :

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$$\alpha_* \ll 1$$



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

$$\alpha_* = 0$$

**IR**

$$\alpha_* = A/B$$

**UV**

# interacting fixed point

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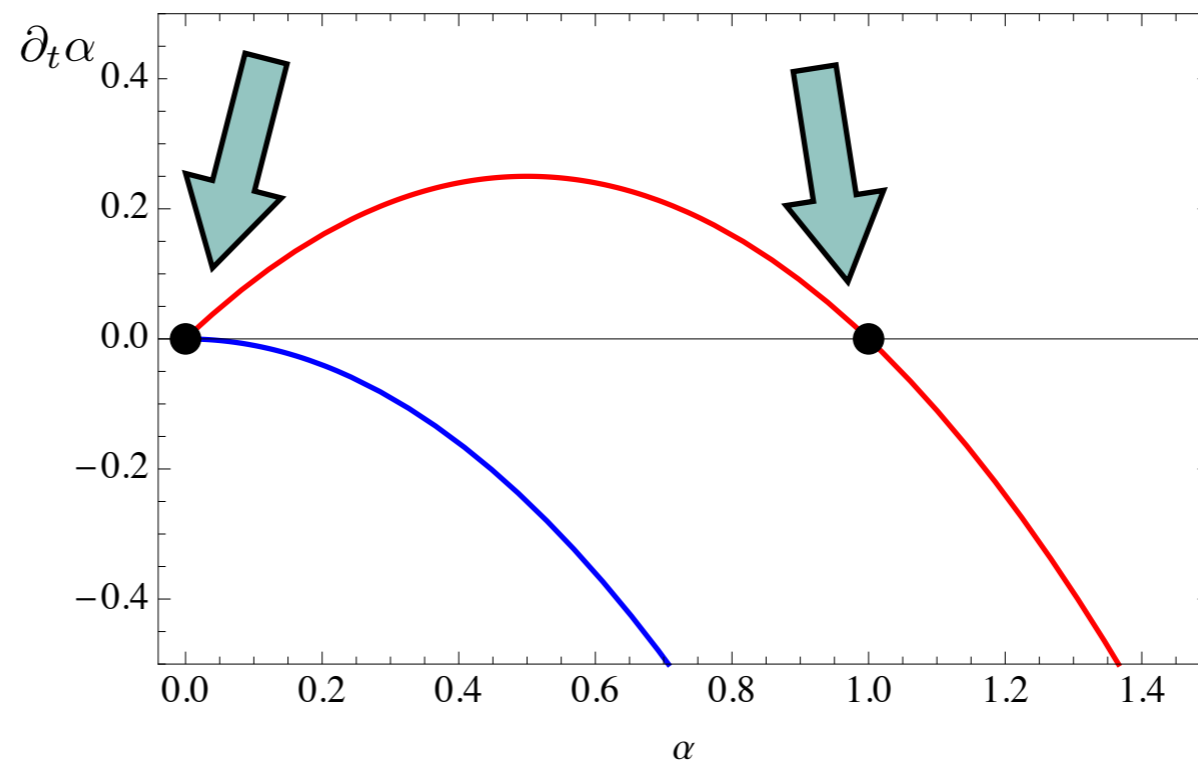
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# interacting fixed point

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$$\alpha_* \ll 1$$

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

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



# UV fixed points in 4D quantum gauge theories

DL, F Sannino, JHEP1214(2014)178 arXiv:1406.2337  
DL, M Mojaza, F Sannino, arXiv:1501.03061

# gauge theory with fermions

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

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

$$\alpha_* \ll 1$$

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**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

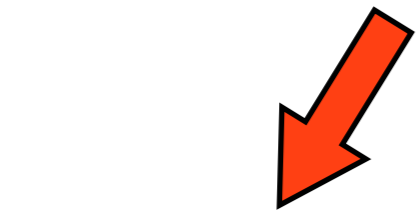
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$$\alpha_* \ll 1$$



$$\alpha_* = 0$$



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

interacting  
fixed points:

$B > 0$  &  $C > 0$  : Caswell - Banks-Zaks

**IR fixed point**

Caswell '74  
Banks, Zaks '82

$B < 0$  &  $C < 0$  : **UV fixed point**

no asymptotic freedom

# gauge theory with fermions


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

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$$\alpha_* \ll 1$$


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

**we are in the regime**

$$0 < \epsilon \ll 1$$

here:  $B = -\frac{4\epsilon}{3} < 0$  &  $C > 0$

hence:

**no physical  
fixed point**


Caswell '74

# gauge theory with fermions

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

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$$\alpha_* \ll 1$$


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

 **scalar** fields & **Yukawa** couplings required

# gauge-Yukawa theory

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

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

$$\alpha_* \ll 1$$

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



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# gauge-Yukawa theory

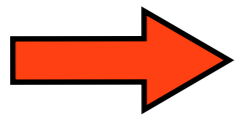
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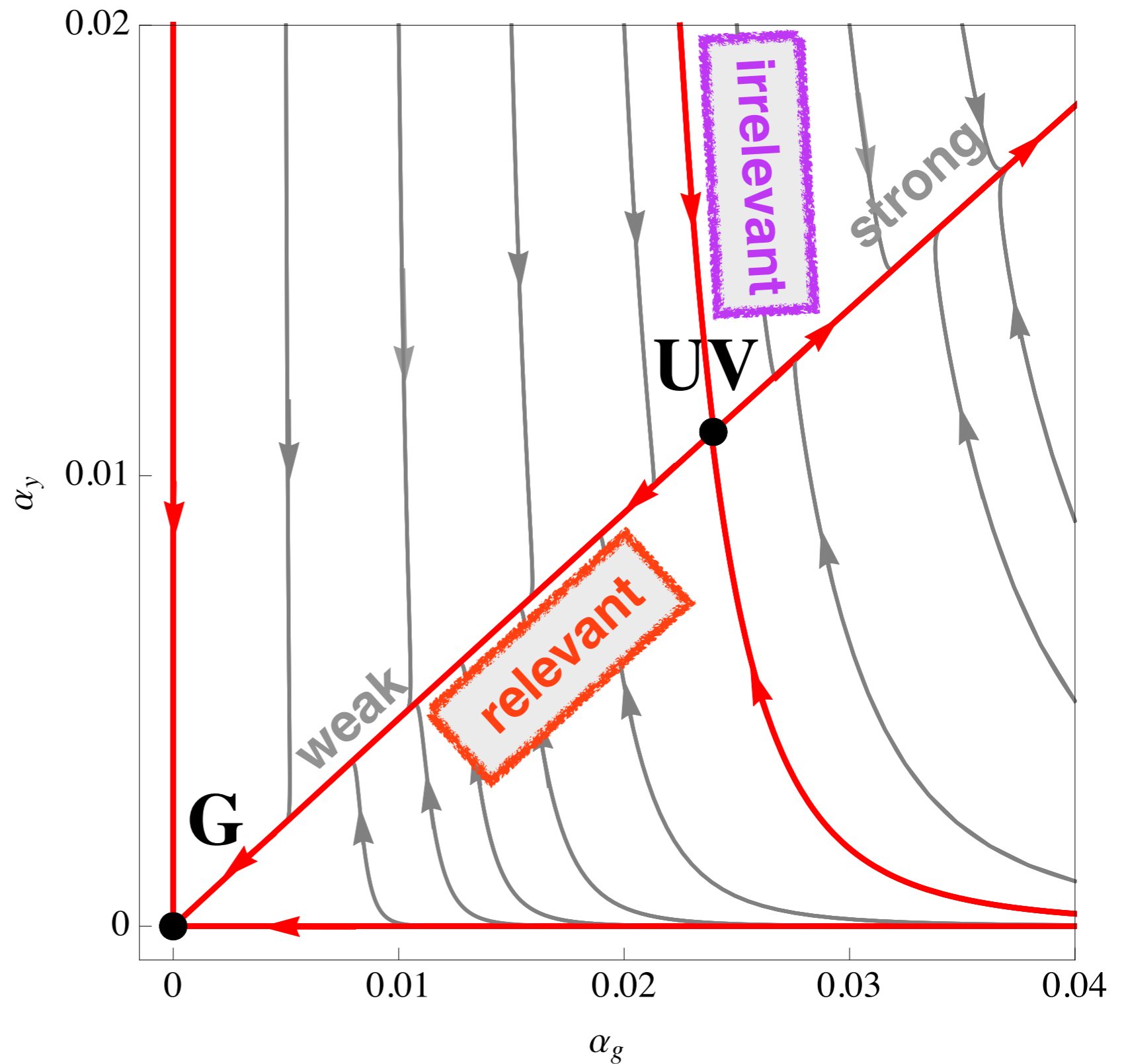


**sensible interacting UV fixed point**

$$D F - C E \geq 0$$

# phase diagram

UV finite theories  
(weak & strong)



exact UV FP  
strict perturbative control

# template gauge-Yukawa theory

## Lagrangian

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

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

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

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

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

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

small parameter

global symmetry

$$SU(N_F) \times SU(N_F) \times U(1)$$

## couplings

$$\alpha_g = \frac{g^2 N_C}{(4\pi)^2}, \quad \alpha_y = \frac{y^2 N_C}{(4\pi)^2}$$

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

no asymptotic freedom

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

# template gauge-Yukawa theory

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

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

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

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

up to 3-, 2-, 1-loop order  
in the gauge, Yukawa  
and scalar couplings

coupling	order in perturbation theory		
$\alpha_g$	1	2	3
$\alpha_y$	0	1	2
$\alpha_h$	0	0	1
$\alpha_v$	0	0	1
approximation level	LO	NLO	NNLO

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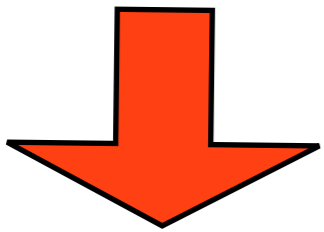
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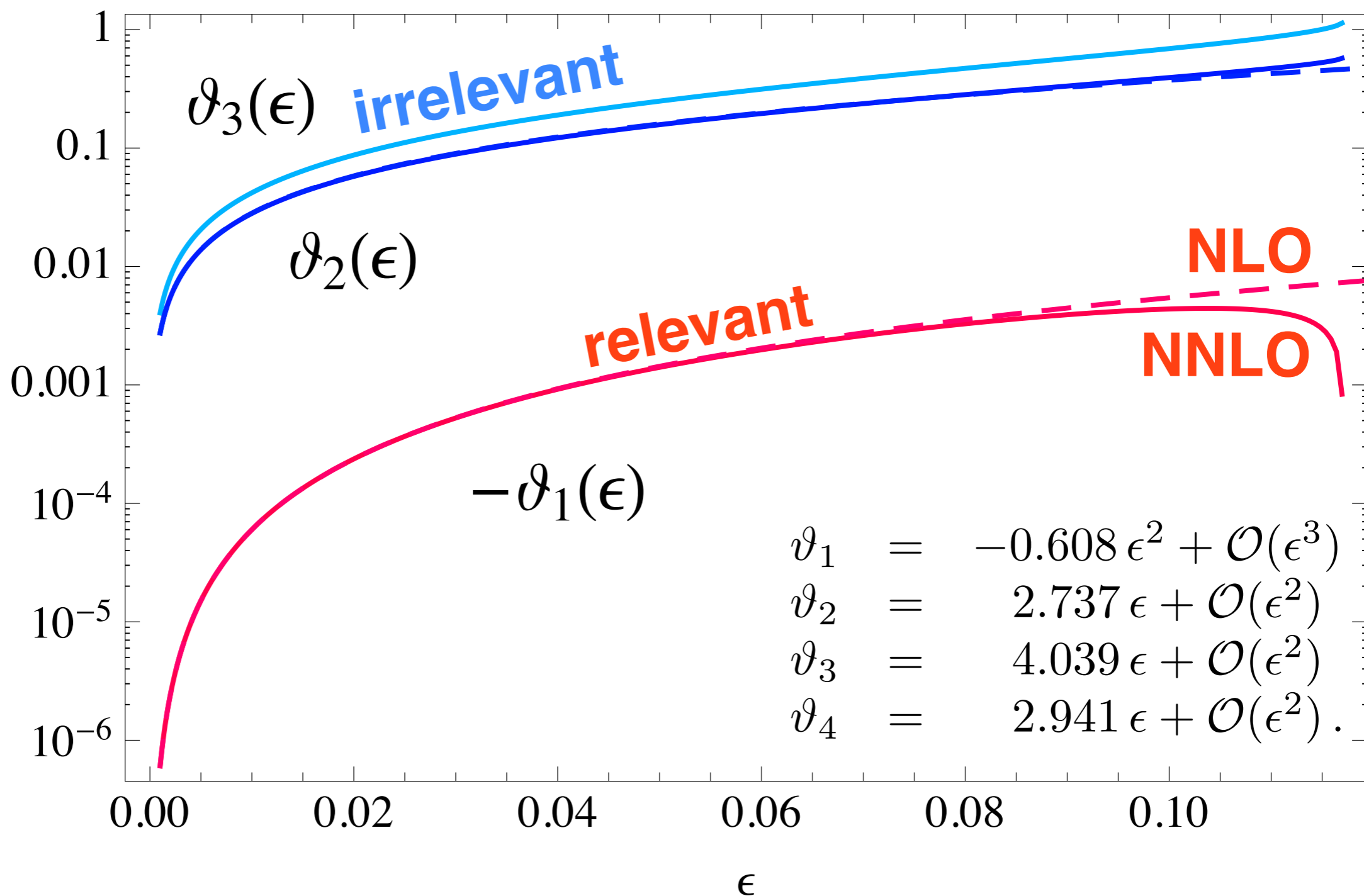
**universal**  
**UV fixed point**

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

# results

UV scaling exponents

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

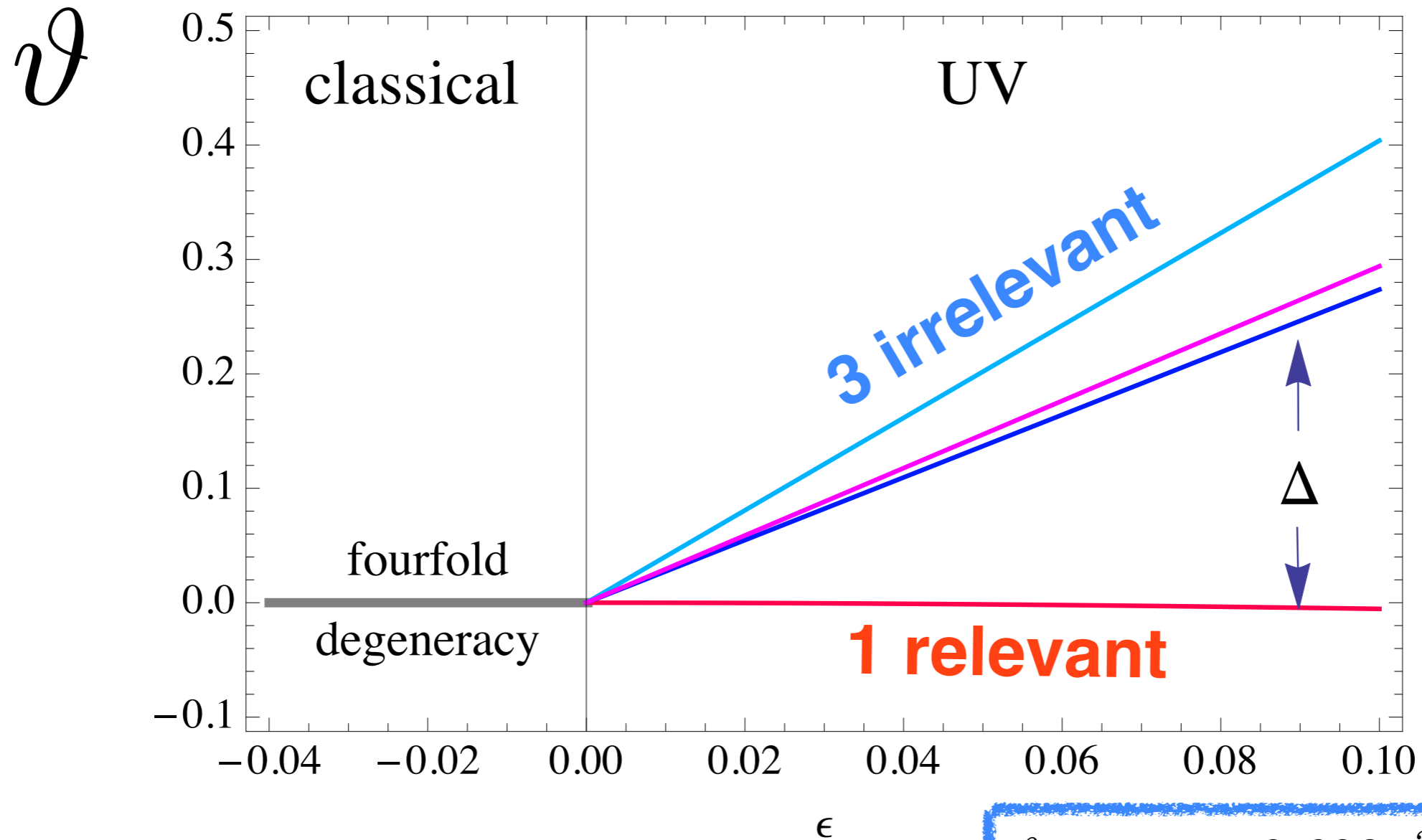




# results

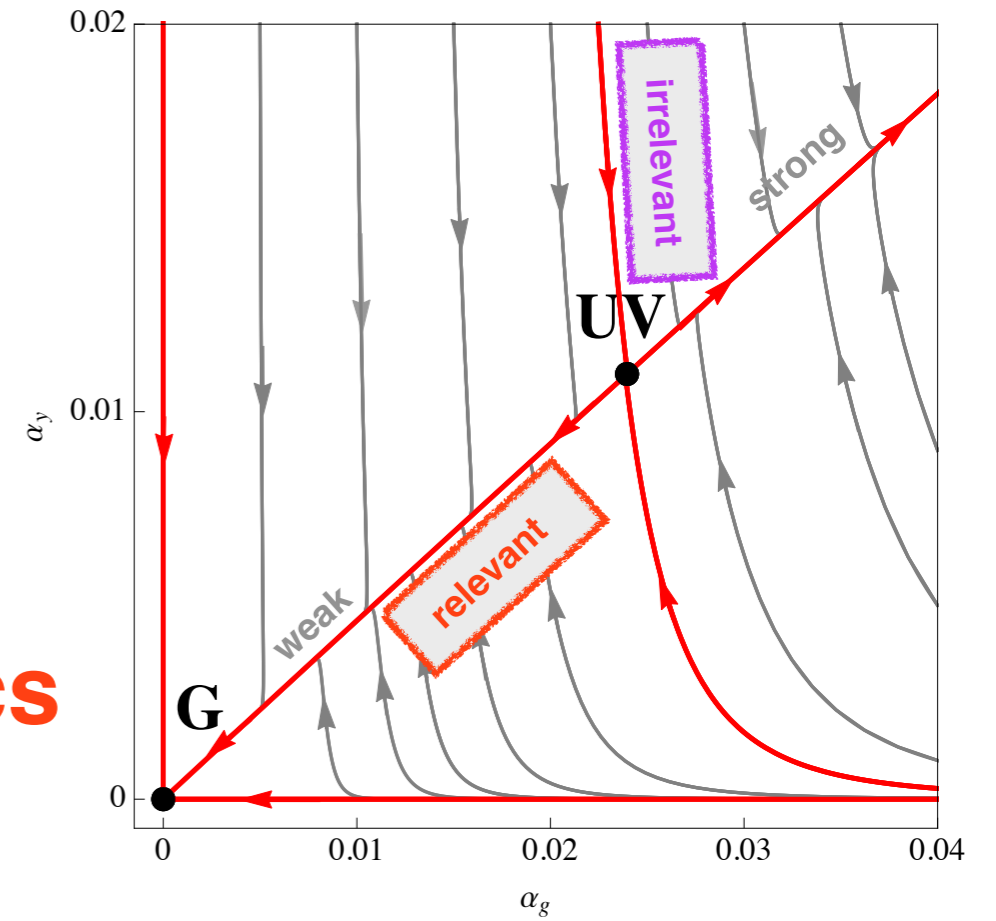
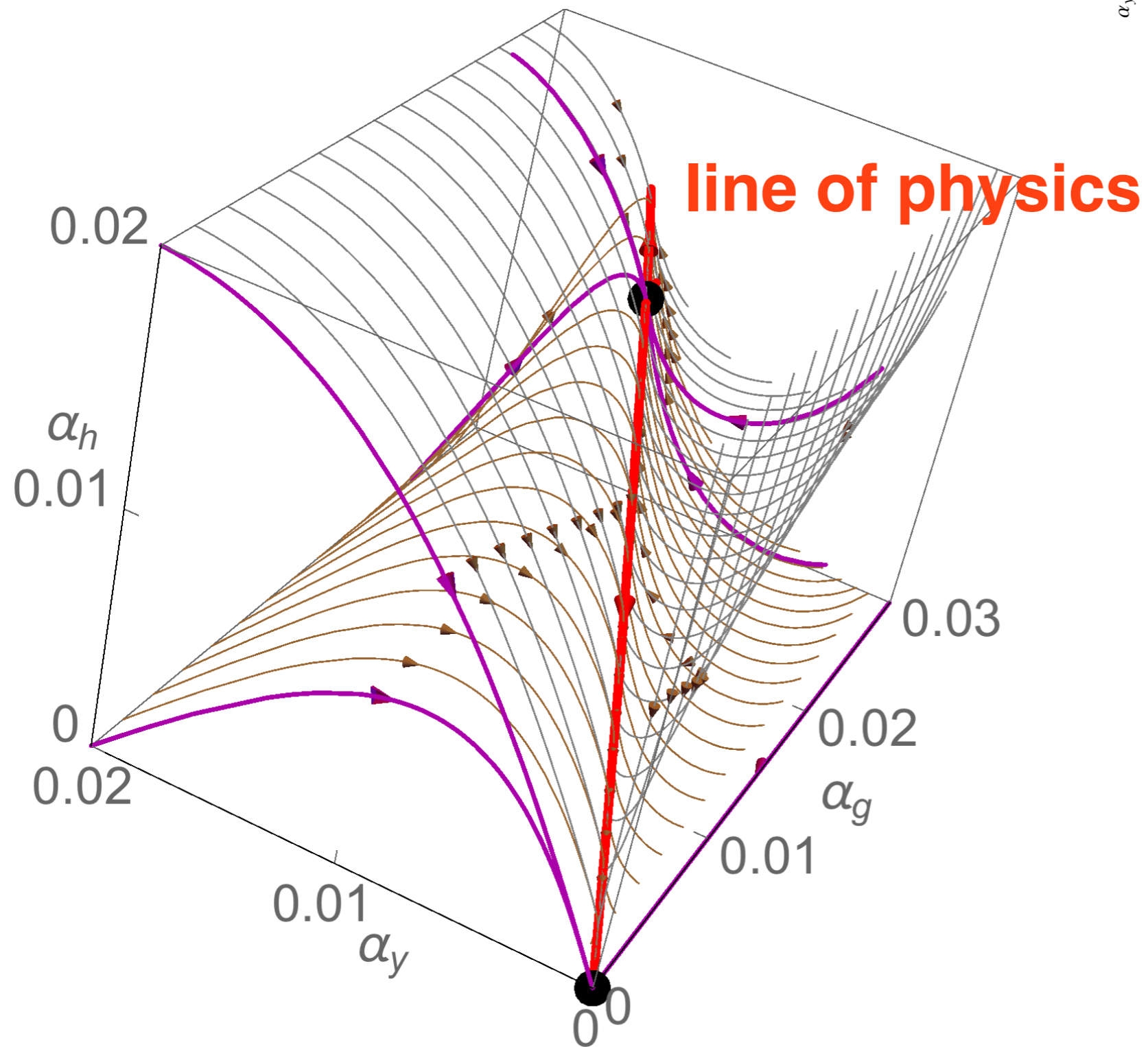
## UV scaling exponents

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



$$\begin{aligned}\vartheta_1 &= -0.608 \epsilon^2 + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon^3) \\ \vartheta_2 &= 2.737 \epsilon + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon^2) \\ \vartheta_3 &= 4.039 \epsilon + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon^2) \\ \vartheta_4 &= 2.941 \epsilon + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon^2).\end{aligned}$$

# phase diagram

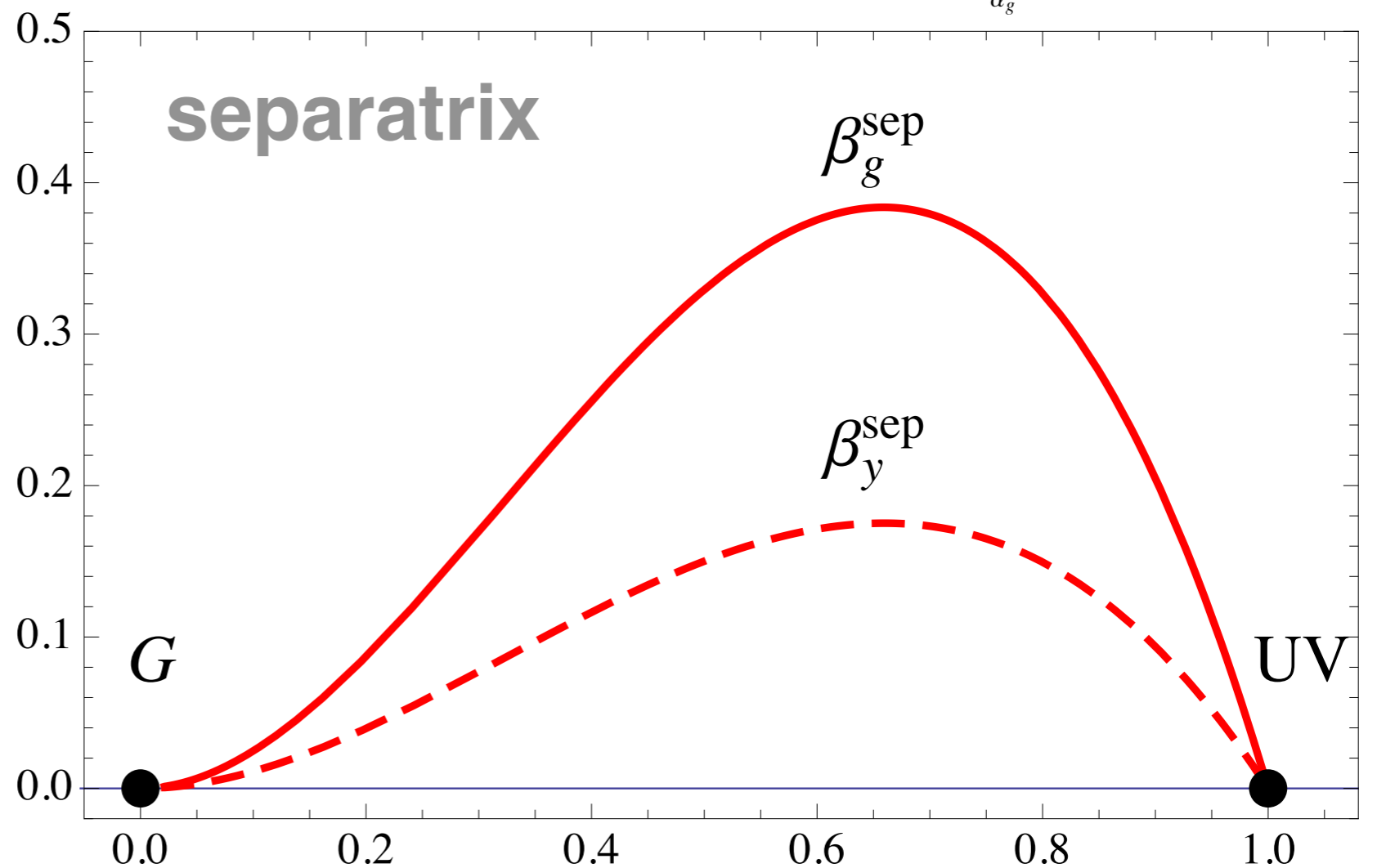
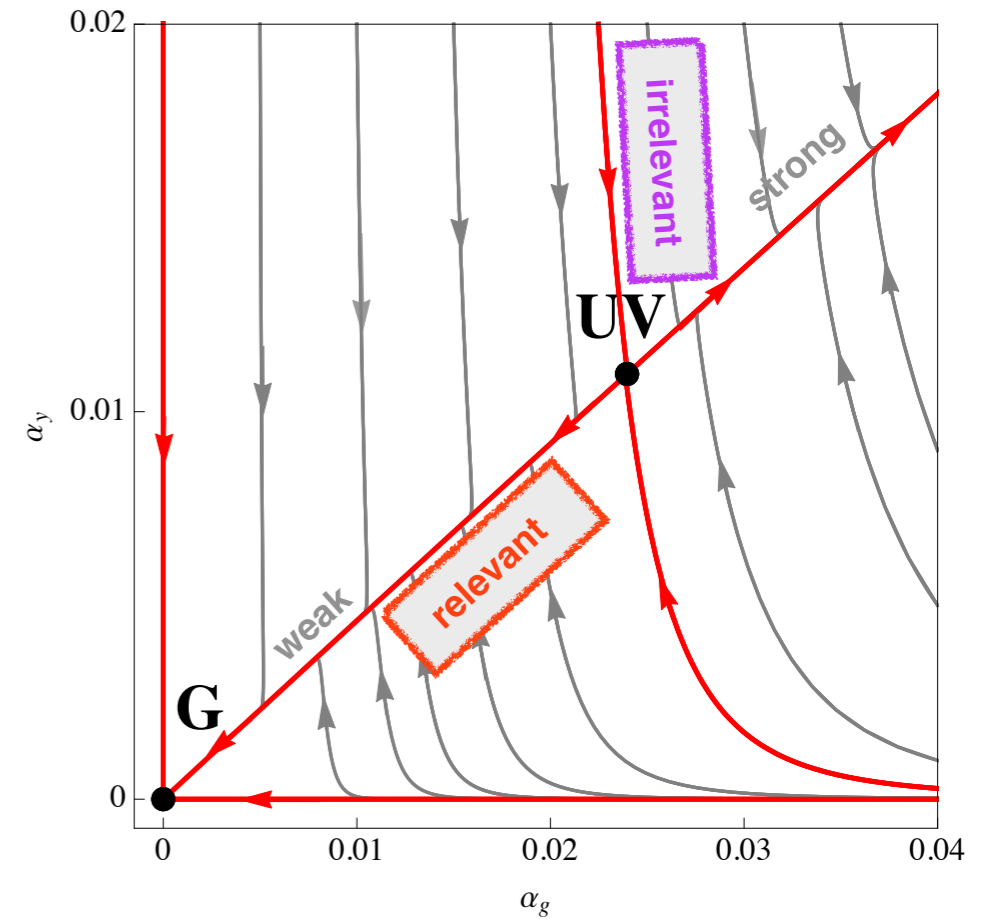


# lines of physics

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

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

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



# 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

$$\alpha_h > 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \alpha_h + \alpha_v \geq 0$$

$$H_c \propto \delta_{ij}$$

$$\alpha_h < 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \alpha_h + \alpha_v/N_F \geq 0$$

$$H_c \propto \delta_{i1}$$

UV FP:

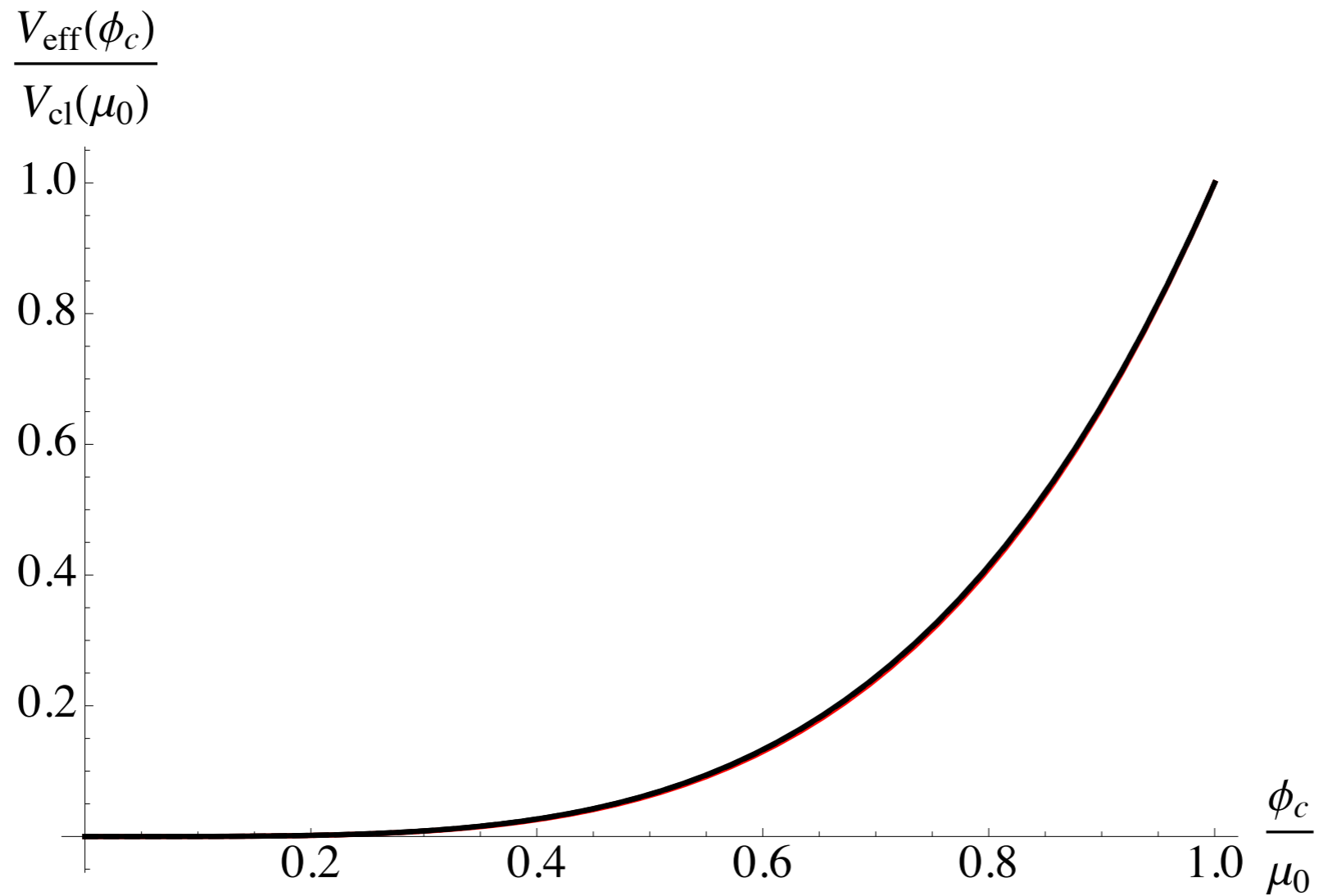
$$0 < \alpha_h^* + \alpha_v^* \quad \text{ok}$$

**quantum effects:** integrate exact RG

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

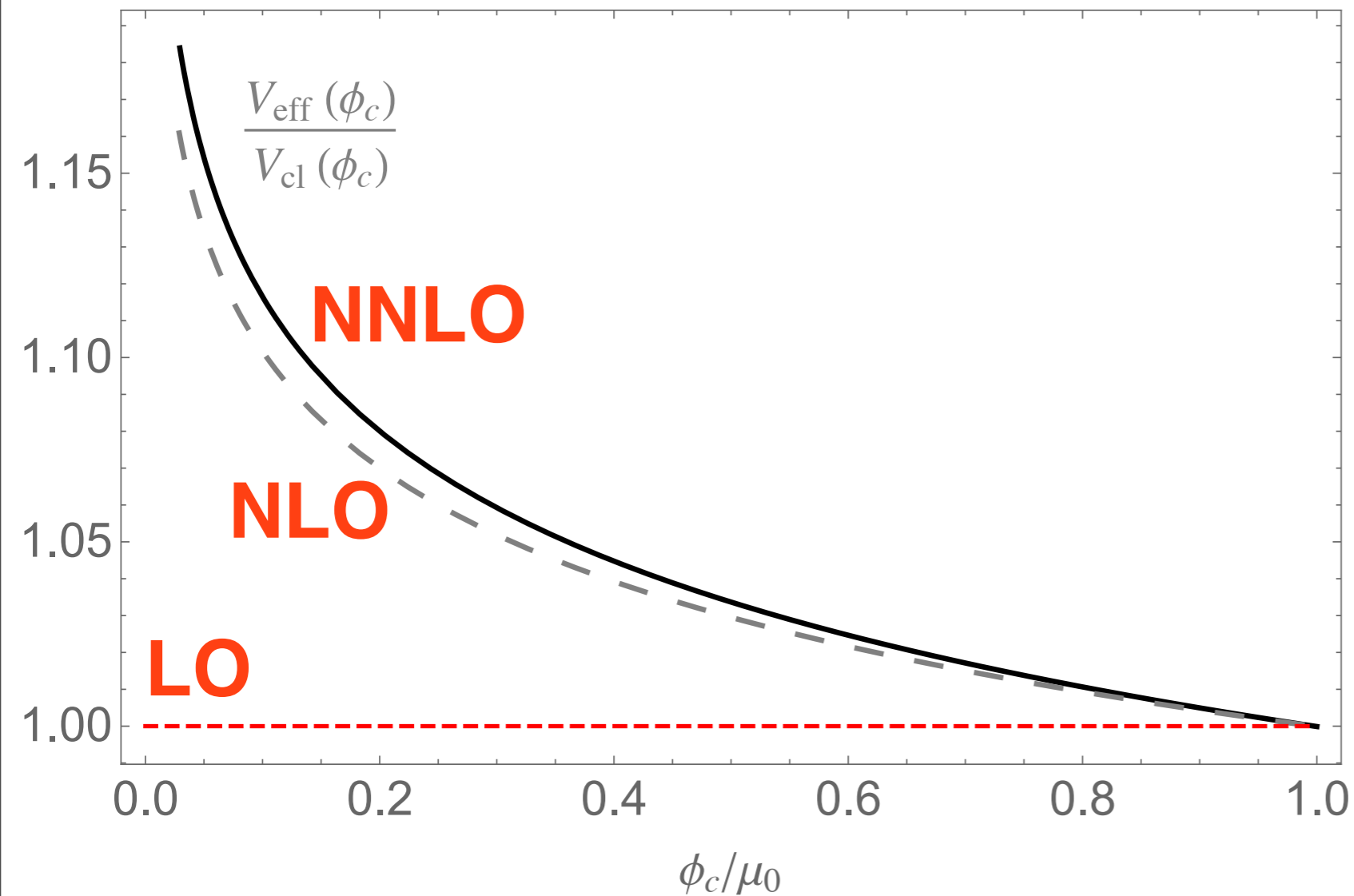
# vacuum stability

## Coleman-Weinberg potential



# vacuum stability

quantum stability: resummation of logarithms



scalar effective potential defined for all scales  
quantum vacuum is stable

# summary

## QFTs beyond asymptotic freedom

### 4D matter-gauge theories

exact **perturbative** proof of existence

all types of fields required

sensible interacting & UV finite theory

no supersymmetry

# **UV fixed points in 4D quantum gravity**



# gravitation

## physics of classical gravity

Einstein's theory  $G_N = 6.7 \times 10^{-11} \frac{m^3}{kg s^2}$

## physics of quantum gravity

**Planck length**  $\ell_{Pl} = \left(\frac{\hbar G_N}{c^3}\right)^{1/2} \approx 10^{-33} \text{ cm}$

**Planck mass**  $M_{Pl} \approx 10^{19} \text{ GeV}$

**Planck time**  $t_{Pl} \approx 10^{-44} \text{ s}$

**Planck temperature**  $T_{Pl} \approx 10^{32} \text{ K}$

expect **quantum modifications** at energy scales  $M_{Pl}$

# perturbation theory

- **structure of UV divergences**

gravity:  $[g_{\mu\nu}] = 0$ ,  $[\text{Ricci}] = 2$ ,  $[G_N] = 2 - d$

**effective** expansion parameter:  $g_{\text{eff}} \equiv G_N E^2 \sim \frac{E^2}{M_{\text{Pl}}^2}$

N-loop Feynman diagram  $\sim \int dp p^{A - [G]N}$

$[G] > 0$  : **superrenormalisable**

$[G] = 0$  : **renormalisable**

$[G] < 0$  : **dangerous** interactions

- **perturbative non-renormalisability**

gravity with matter interactions

pure gravity (Goroff-Sagnotti term)

# perturbation theory

- **effective theory for gravity** (Donoghue '94)

quantum corrections computable for energies  $E^2/M_{\text{Pl}}^2 \ll 1$   
knowledge of UV completion not required

- **higher derivative gravity I** (Stelle '77)

$R^2$  gravity perturbatively renormalisable  
unitarity issues at high energies

- **higher derivative gravity II** (Gomis, Weinberg '96)

all higher derivative operators  
gravity 'weakly' perturbatively renormalisable  
no unitarity issues at high energies

# quantum gravity

running coupling  $g(k) = G_N(k)k^{D-2}$

$$\partial_t g = (D - 2 + \eta_N) g$$

$$t = \ln k / \Lambda_c$$

# quantum gravity

running coupling

$$g(k) = G_N(k)k^{D-2}$$

$$\partial_t g = (D - 2 + \eta_N) g$$

$$t = \ln k / \Lambda_c$$



$$g_* \neq 0$$

UV



$$g_* = 0$$

IR


fixed points

non-trivial anomalous  
dimension


# quantum gravity

running coupling  $g(k) = G_N(k)k^{D-2}$

$$\partial_t g = (D - 2 + \eta_N) g \quad t = \ln k / \Lambda_c$$


$$g_* \neq 0$$

UV


$$g_* = 0$$

IR

fixed points

**large** anomalous dimension

$$\eta_N = \eta_N(g, \text{all other couplings})$$

**large** UV scaling exponents

$$\vartheta \approx \mathcal{O}(1)$$

**strong** coupling effects

$$g_* \approx \mathcal{O}(1)$$

**relevant** vs **irrelevant**

invariants not known a priori

# evidence for UV fixed point

overviews: DL 0810.3675 and 1102.4624

## gravitation

**Einstein-Hilbert** (Souma '99, Reuter, Lauscher '01, DL '03)

**higher dimensions, dimensional reduction** (DL '03, Fischer, DL '05)

**f(R), polynomials in R** (Lauscher, Reuter, '02, Codello, Percacci, Rahmede '08, Machado, Saueressig '09, Benedetti, Caravelli '12, Dietz, Morris '12, Falls, DL, Nikolakopoulos, Rahmede '13)

**local potential approximation** (Benedetti, Caravelli '12, Dietz, Morris, '12, Demmel, Saueressig, Zanusso '12, Falls, DL, Nikolakopoulos, Rahmede '13, Benedetti '13, Benedetti, Guarnieri '13)

**higher-derivative gravity** (Codello, Percacci '05)  
(Benedetti, Saueressig, Machado '09, Niedermaier '09)

**conformally reduced gravity** (DL, Rahmede, in prep.)  
(Reuter, Weyer '09, Machado, Percacci '10, DL, Satz '12)

**Holst action + Immirzi parameter** (Daum, Reuter '10, Benedetti, Speciale '11)

**signature effects** (Manrique, Rechenberger, Saueressig '11)

## gravitation + matter

**matter** (Percacci '05, Perini, Percacci '05, Narain, Percacci '09, Narain, Rahmede '09, Codello '11, Eichhorn et al '13)

### Yang-Mills gravity

**1-loop:** (Robinson, Wilzcek '05, Pietrokowski, '06, Toms '07, Ebett, Plefka, Rodigast '08)

**beyond:** (Manrique, Reuter, Saueressig '09, Folkerts, DL, Pawlowski '11, Harst, Reuter '11)

# asymptotic freedom

vs

# asymptotic safety

$$g_* = 0$$

anomalous dimensions

$$\eta_A = 0$$

**canonical** power counting

$\{\mathcal{V}_{G,n}\}$  are known

$F^{256}$  irrelevant !

$$g_* \neq 0$$

anomalous dimensions

$$\eta_N \neq 0$$

**non-canonical** power counting

$\{\mathcal{V}_n\}$  are **not** known

$R^{256}$

relevant  
marginal  
irrelevant





# bootstrap search strategy

**hypothesis** relevancy of invariants follows canonical dimension

strategy

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

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

**Step 3** enhance  $D$ , and iterate

convergence (no convergence) of the iteration:

**hypothesis** supported (refuted)

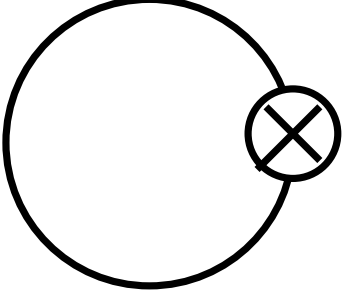
# f(R)

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

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

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

**technicalities:** functional renormalisation

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


**here:**

M Reuter [hep-th/9605030](#)

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

Falls, DL, Nikolakopoulos, Rahmede

Falls, DL, Nikolakopoulos, Rahmede

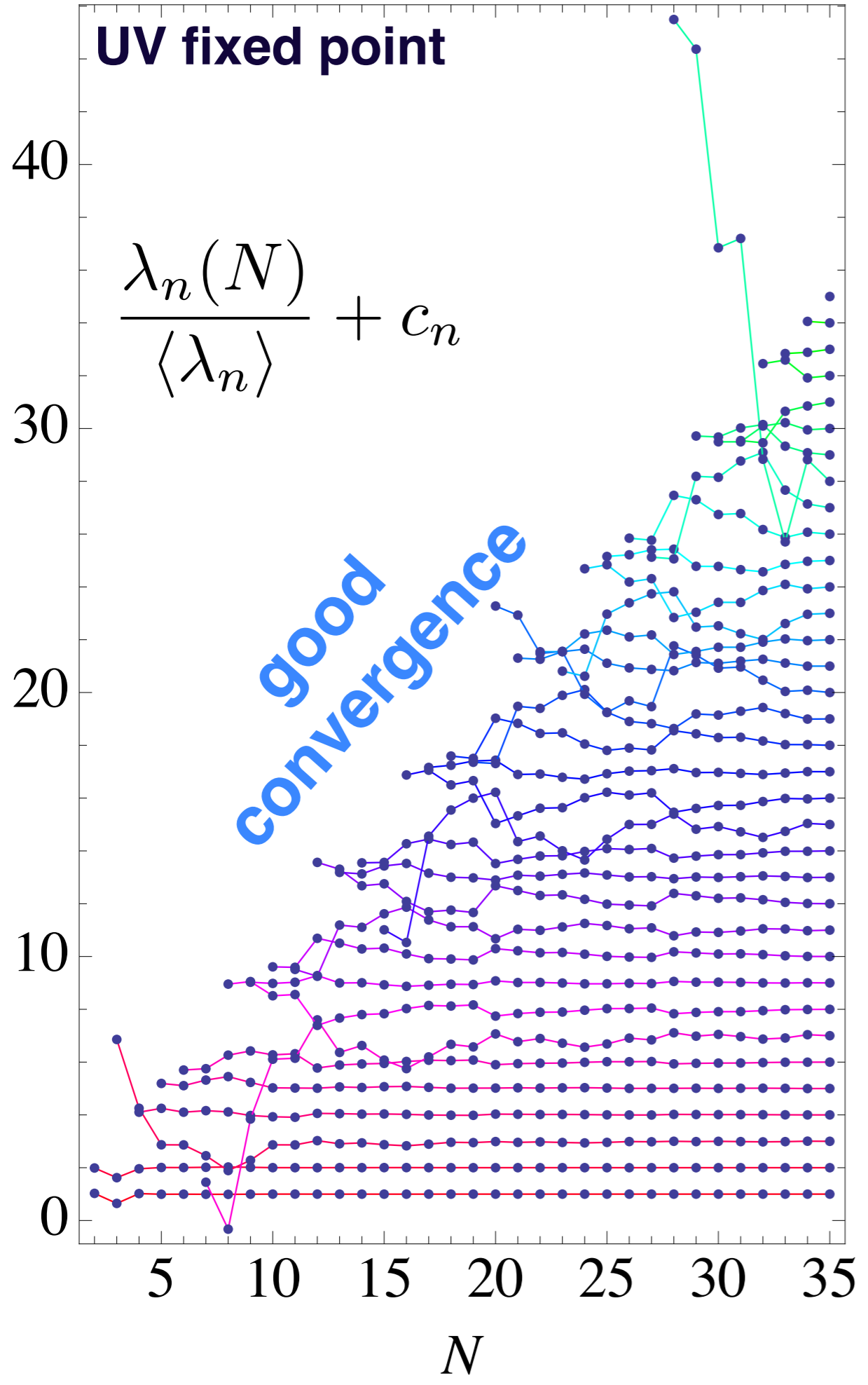
A Codello, R Percacci, C Rahmede 0705.1769, 0805.2909  
P Machado, F Saueressig 0712.0445

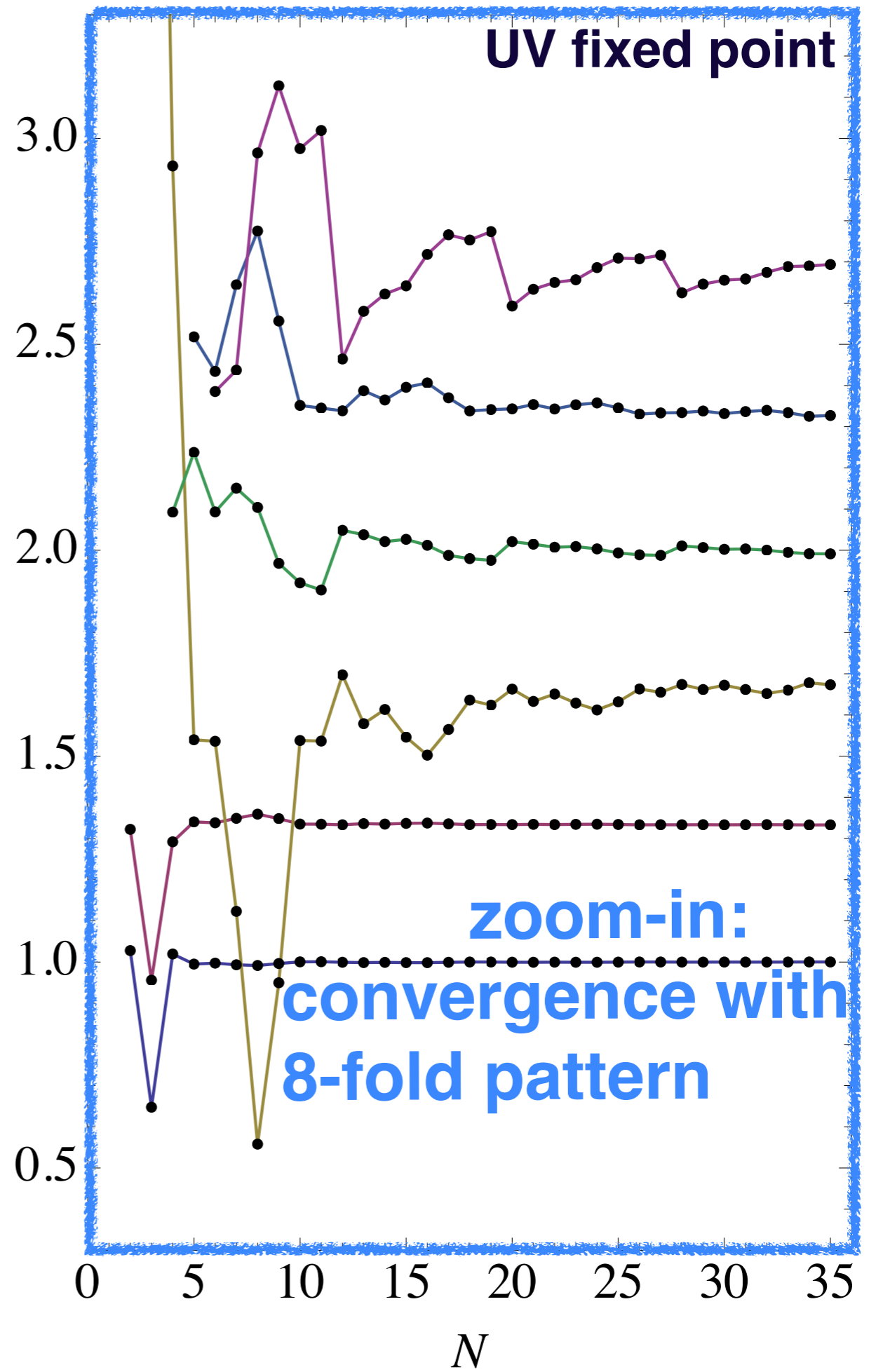
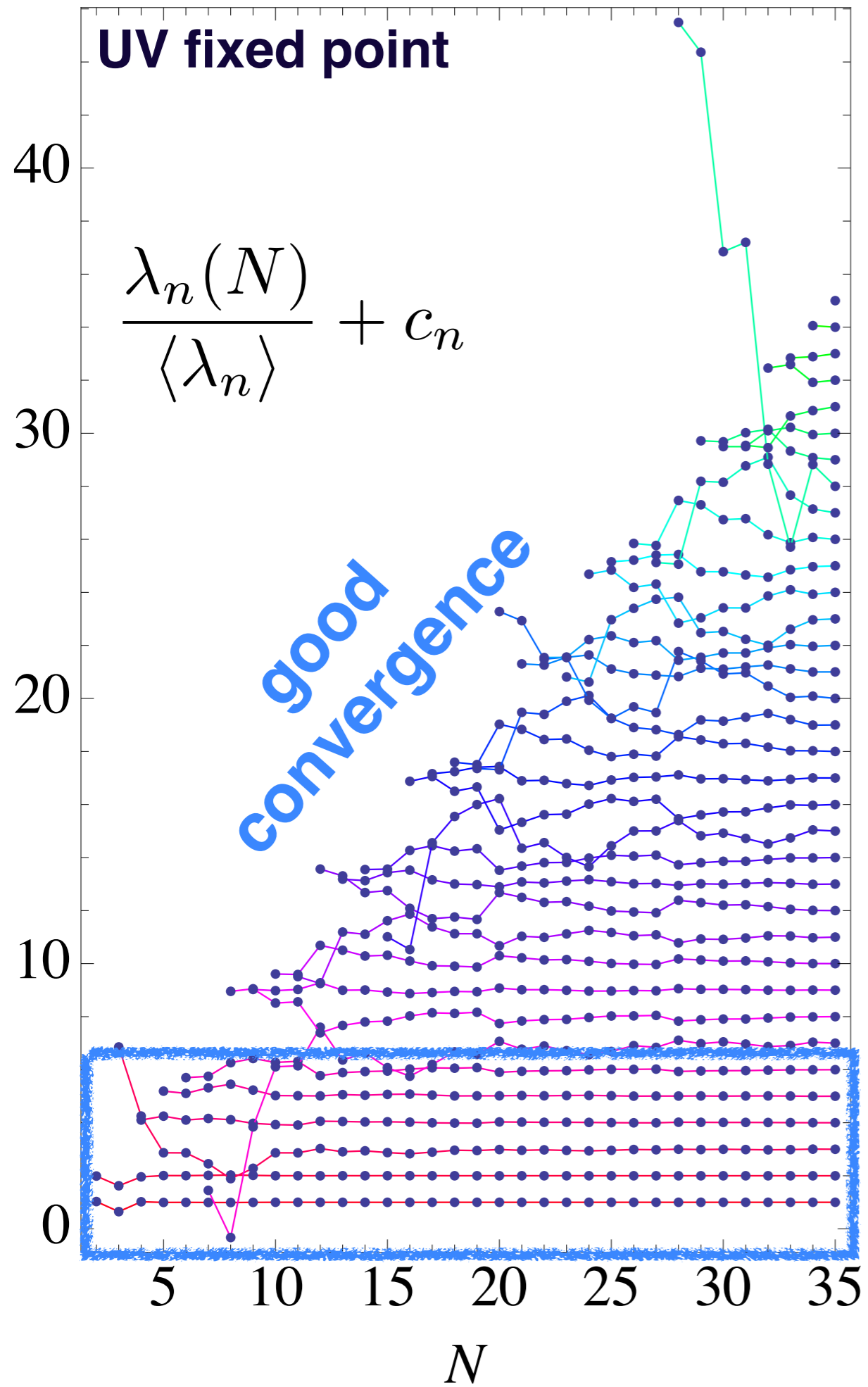
[1301.4191.pdf](#)

1410.4815

# UV fixed point

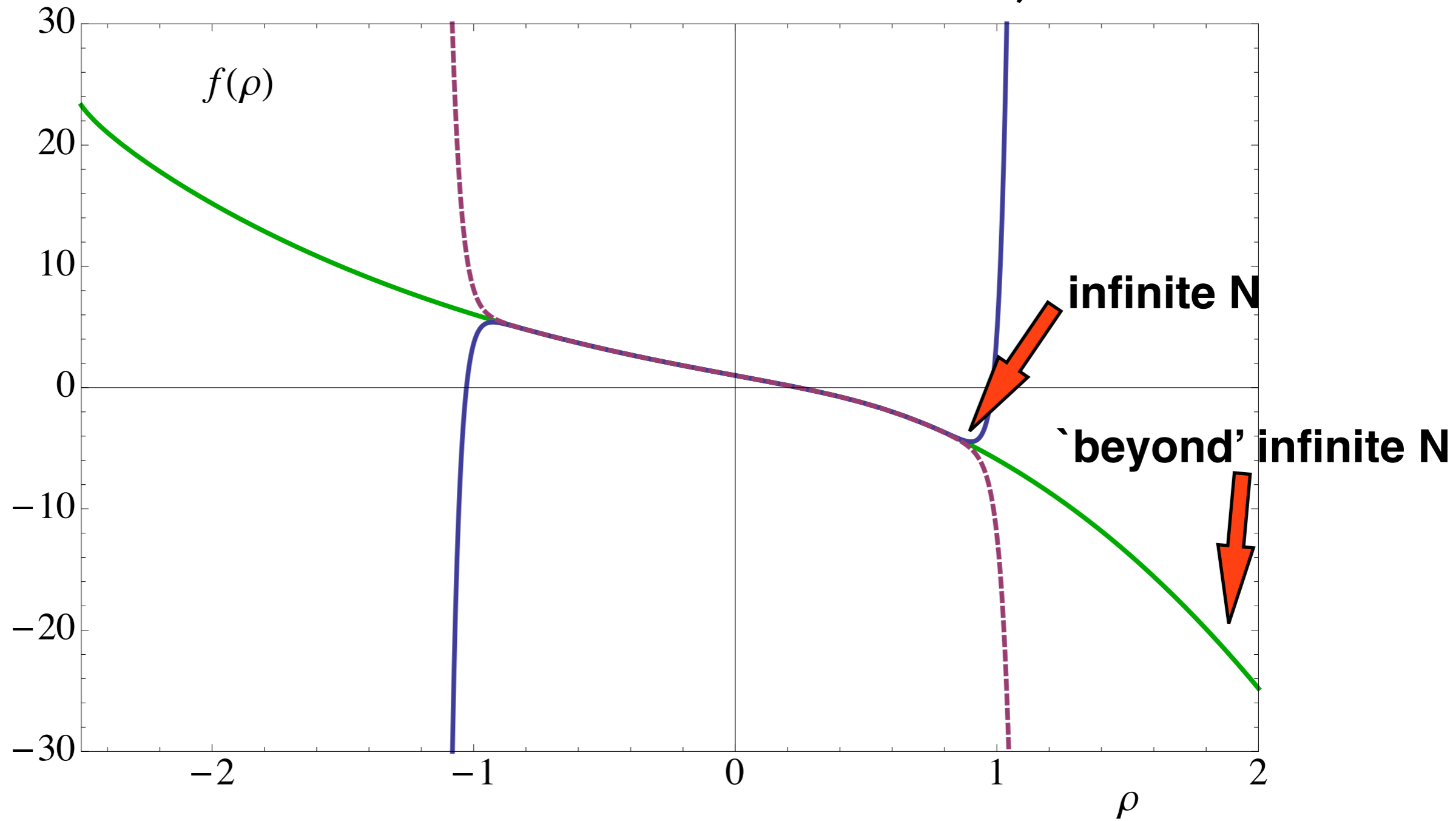
$$\frac{\lambda_n(N)}{\langle \lambda_n \rangle} + c_n$$





# f(R) quantum gravity

UV scaling solution

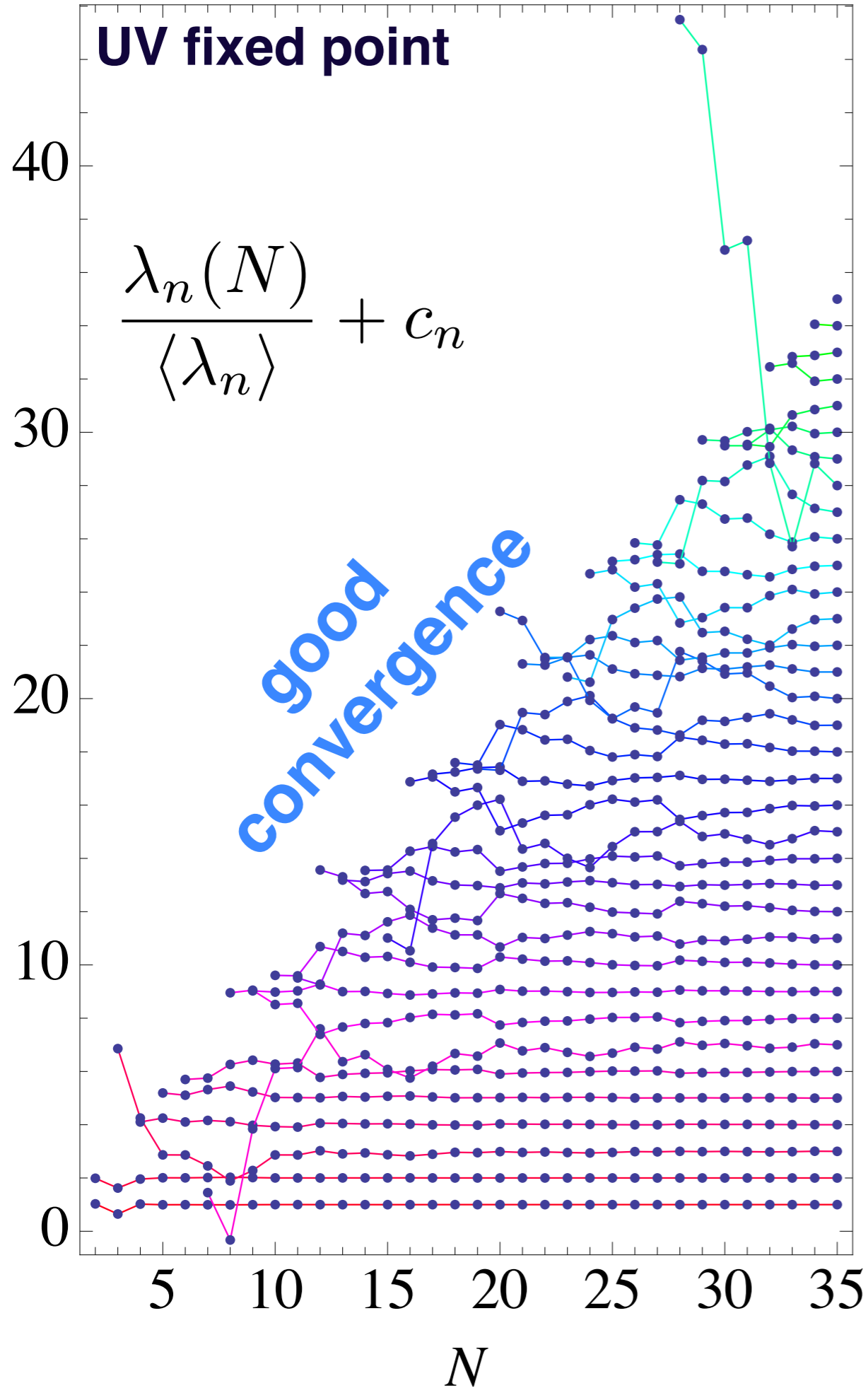


**radius of convergence**

$$\rho_c \approx 0.82 \pm 5\%$$

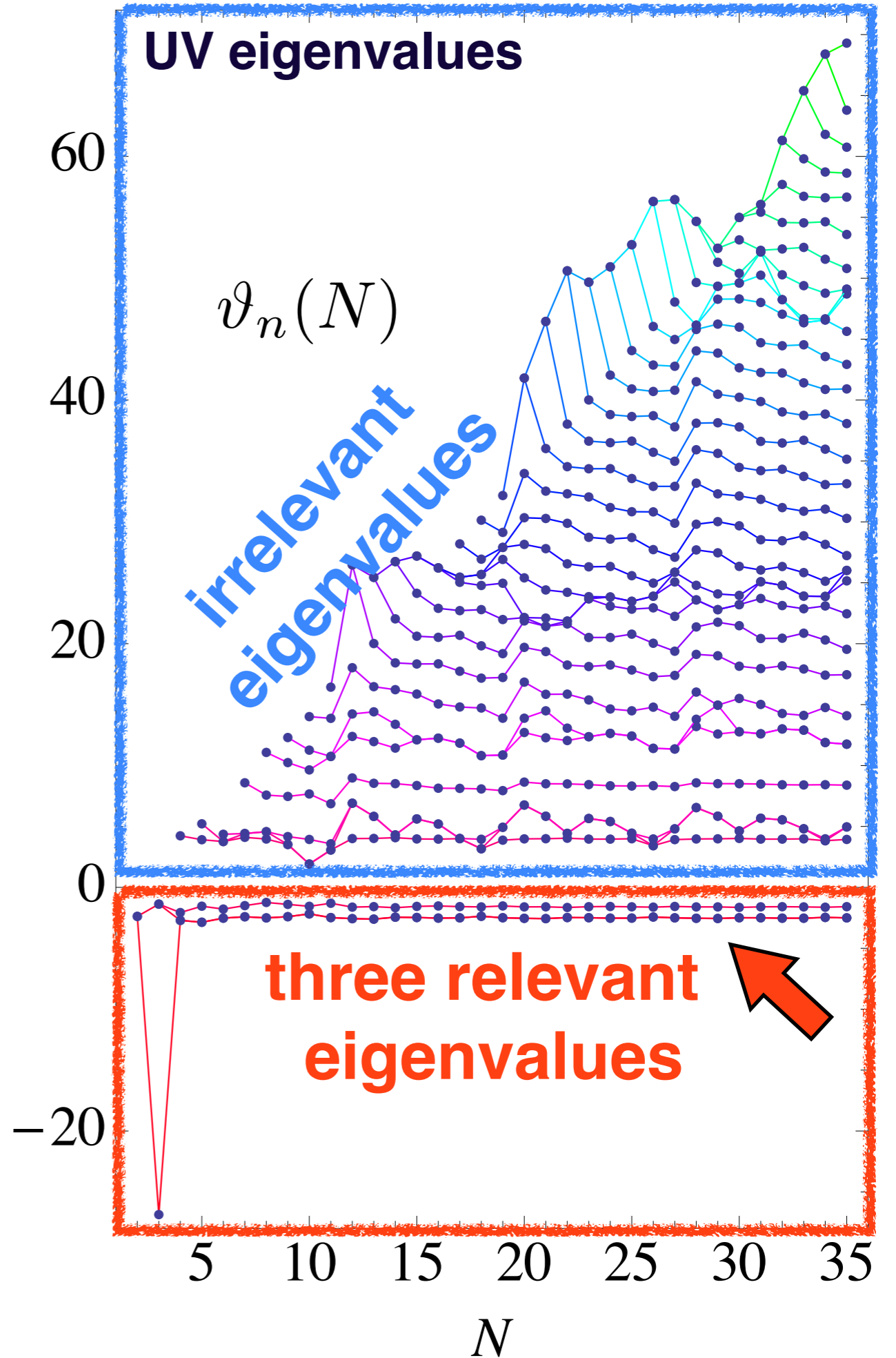
# UV fixed point

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

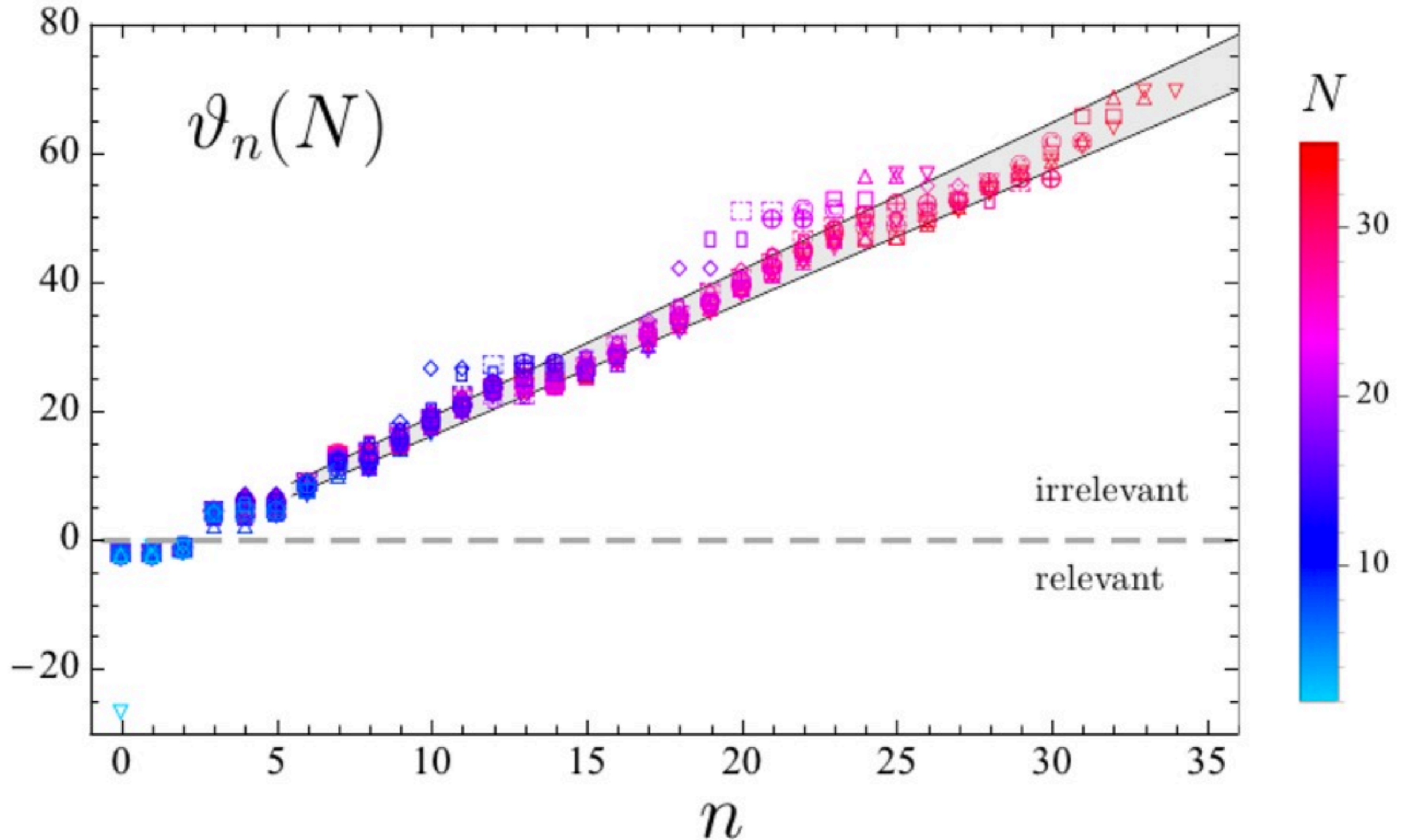


# UV eigenvalues

$$\vartheta_n(N)$$



# near-Gaussian



# f(Ricci)

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

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

K Falls, DL, K Nikolakopoulos & C Rahmede, (to appear)

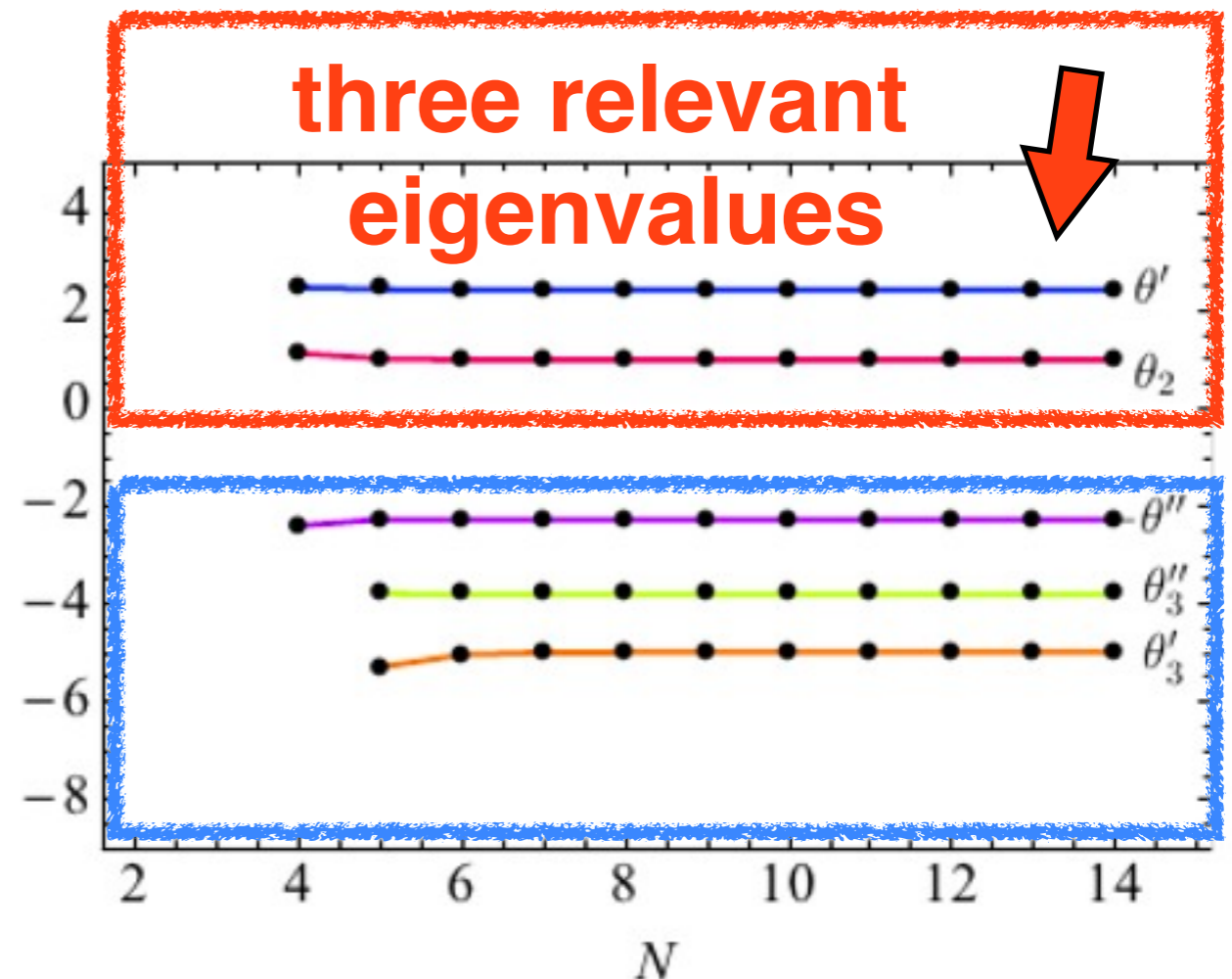
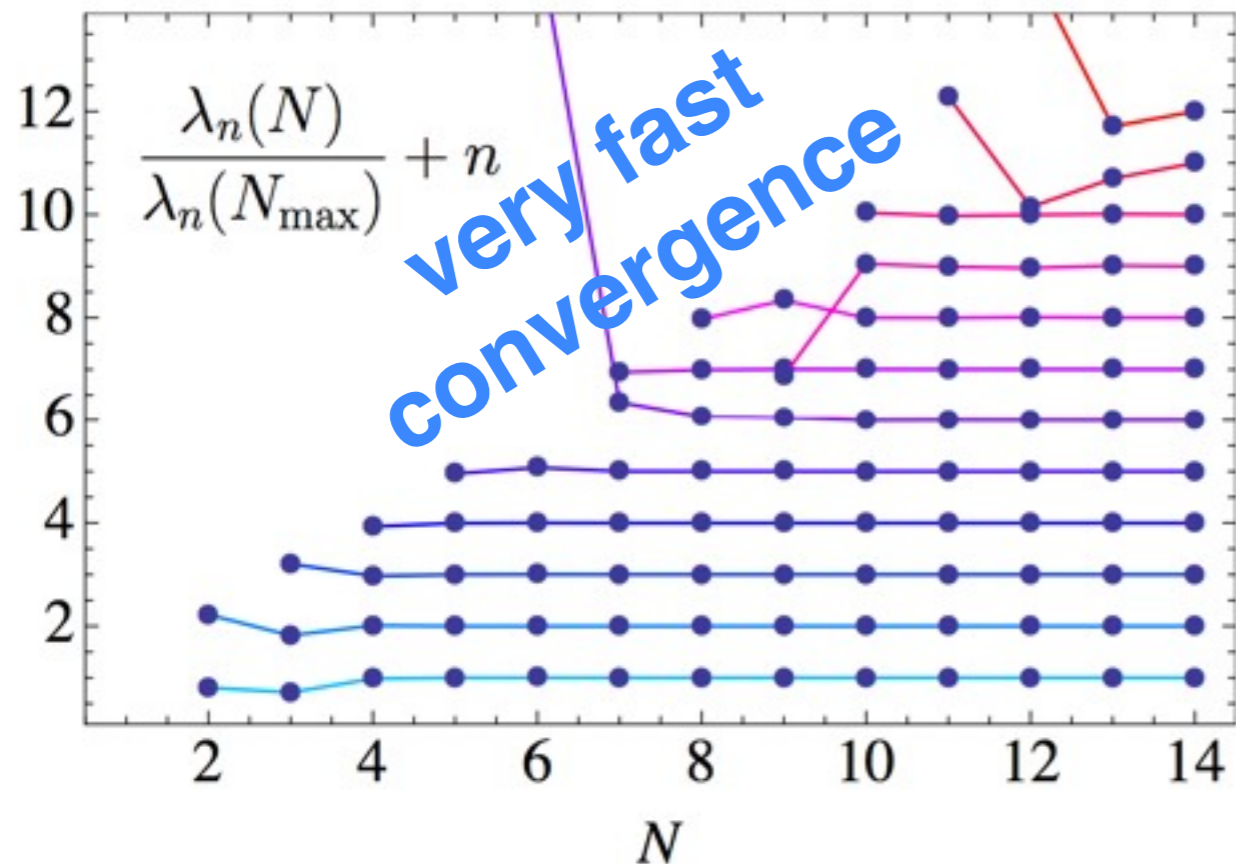


# f(Ricci)

K Falls, DL, K Nikolakopoulos & C Rahmede, (to appear)

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

fixed point



# conclusions

## QFTs beyond asymptotic freedom

### 4D matter-gauge theories

exact **proof of existence**

requires **elementary** scalars, fermions, vectors

no additional (super)symmetry

### 4D quantum gravity

systematic **non-perturbative** search strategies

**strong hints** towards interacting UV fixed point

field-dependent **anomalous dimension**

# conclusions

## what's next?

### 4D matter-gauge theories

composite operators

UV FP beyond perturbation theory?

realistic models beyond SM?

### 4D quantum gravity

test further curvature invariants

include **matter fields**

combined FP for **gravity-matter** theories?