

# Taking charge of $O(N)$ : from $d=3$ to $d=6$ via the large-charge expansion

Jahmall Bersini  
Ruđer Bošković Institute

O. Antipin, JB, F. Sannino, Z. Wang and C. Zhang, *Phys. Rev. D* 102 (2020) 4, 045011.

O. Antipin, JB, F. Sannino, Z. Wang and C. Zhang, arXiv:2107.02528[hep-th]



# Solve QFT

## Strongly-coupled QFTs

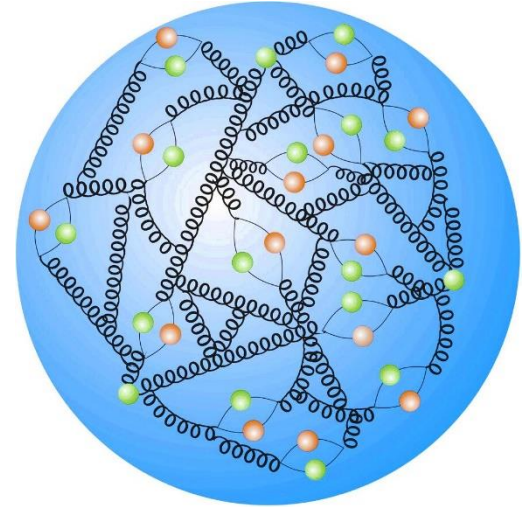
Non-perturbative physics

## Weakly-coupled QFTs

Perturbative expansion:

Many-loops

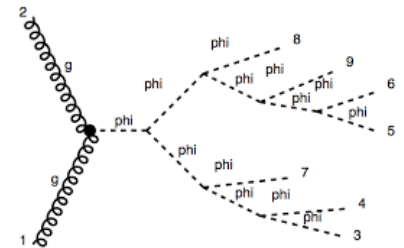
Many-legs



Rapid growth of the number of Feynman diagrams, with the number of loops/ external legs

The perturbative expansion diverges.

Evidence of violation of perturbative unitarity in multi-boson (H, W, Z) production processes at  $E \approx 100$  TeV.



# Solve QFT

## Strongly-coupled QFTs

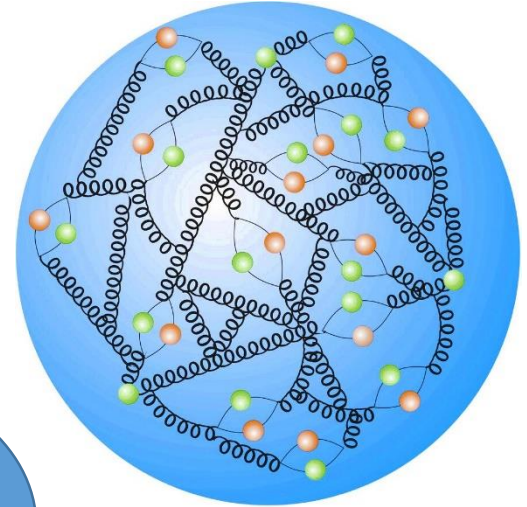
Non-perturbative physics

## Weakly-coupled QFTs

Perturbative expansion:

Many-loops

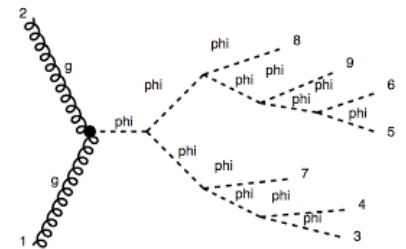
Many-legs



Rapid growth of the number of Feynman diagrams, with the number of loops/ external legs

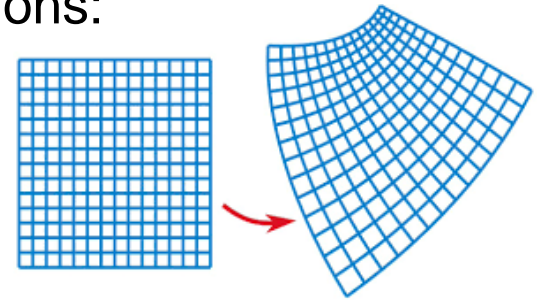
The perturbative expansion diverges.

Evidence of violation of perturbative unitarity in multi-boson (H, W, Z) production processes at  $E \approx 100$  TeV.



# Conformal field theories

CFT = QFT invariant under conformal transformations:  
transformations which locally preserve angles.



CFTs are defined by their **CFT data**:

$$\{\mathcal{O}_i, \{\Delta_i, C_{ij}^k\}\}$$

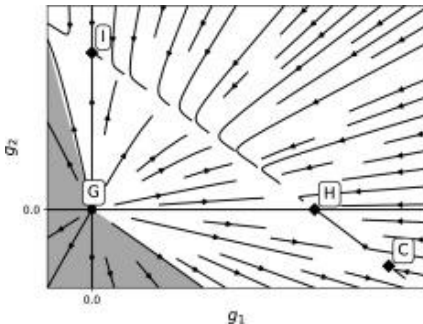
*Primary operators*

*Scaling dimensions*

*OPE coefficients*

$$\langle \mathcal{O}_i(x) \mathcal{O}_j(y) \mathcal{O}_k(z) \rangle = \frac{C_{ij}^k}{|x-y|^{\Delta_i+\Delta_j-\Delta_k} |y-z|^{\Delta_j+\Delta_k-\Delta_i} |z-x|^{\Delta_k+\Delta_i-\Delta_j}}$$

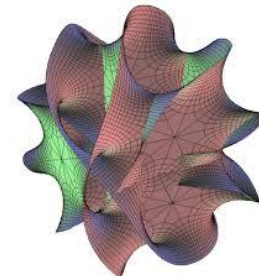
Extrema of the RG flow



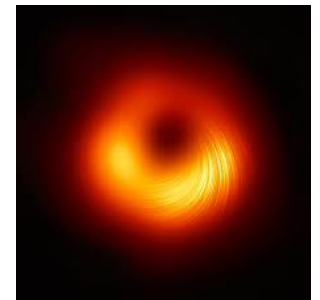
Critical phenomena



String theory



Quantum gravity



# Solve CFT

- CFT (QFT) simplifies in certain limits when a small/large parameter exists. (Perturbative expansion)
- Our large parameter(s): conserved charge(s) of the internal symmetry group of the CFT:

LARGE-CHARGE EXPANSION FOR CFT DATA

# Quantum VS Classical

Quantum physics “*classicalizes*” in the presence of large quantum numbers.

Hydrogen atom with infinite mass of the proton  
at fixed magnetic quantum number  $m$ :

**QUANTUM** ground state energy:

$$E_0^{\text{QM}}(m) = -\frac{M_e \alpha^2}{2(m+1)^2}$$

**CLASSICAL** ground state energy:

$$E_0^{\text{cl}}(m) = -\frac{M_e \alpha^2}{2m^2}$$

$$\lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} (E_0^{\text{QM}}(m) - E_0^{\text{cl}}(m)) = 0$$

LARGE-CHARGE EXPANSION =  
SEMICLASSICAL EXPANSION

# Charging the $O(N)$ model

- We study the  $O(N)$  scalar theory in  $d=4-\epsilon$  dimensions where it features an infrared Wilson-Fisher fixed point

$$\mathcal{S} = \int d^d x \left( \frac{(\partial\phi_i)^2}{2} + \frac{(4\pi)^2 g_0}{4!} (\phi_i\phi_i)^2 \right) \quad g^*(\epsilon) = \frac{3\epsilon}{8+N} + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon^2)$$

$\epsilon = 0$  and  $N = 4$

Standard Model Higgs



$\epsilon \rightarrow 1$

Superfluid  $\text{He}^4$ , Magnets,  
Superconductors, ..



# Charging the O(N) model

- We study the O(N) scalar theory in  $d=4-\epsilon$  dimensions where it features an infrared Wilson-Fisher fixed point

$$\mathcal{S} = \int d^d x \left( \frac{(\partial\phi_i)^2}{2} + \frac{(4\pi)^2 g_0}{4!} (\phi_i\phi_i)^2 \right) \quad g^*(\epsilon) = \frac{3\epsilon}{8+N} + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon^2)$$

- Consider even N: we can fix up to N/2 charges, which is the rank of the O(N) group. We fix them all.

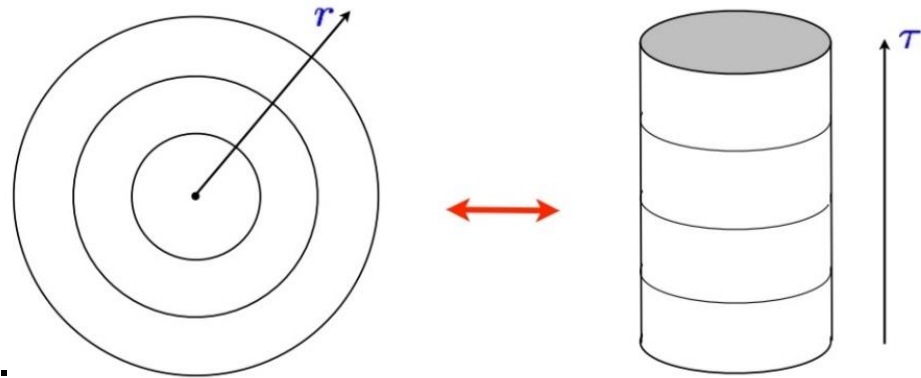




# Weyl map to the cylinder

$$\mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \times S^{d-1}$$

$$r = R e^{\tau/R}$$



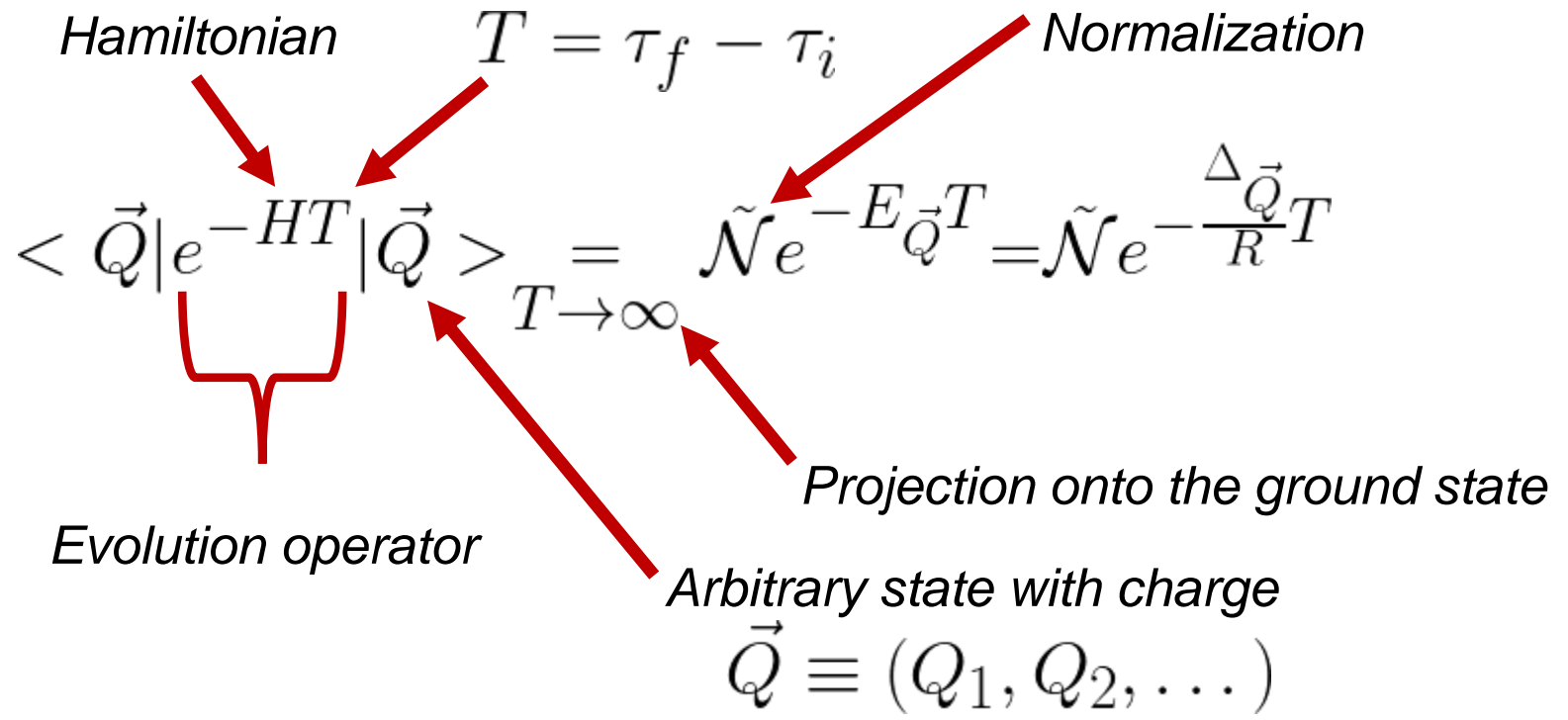
R is the radius of the sphere.

The eigenvalues of the dilation charge (the scaling dimensions) become the energy spectrum on the cylinder.

$$\mathbf{E} = \Delta / \mathbf{R}$$

# Minimal scaling dimension

- We compute the scaling dimension  $\Delta_{\vec{Q}}$  of the operators carrying the charges  $Q_i$  and the **minimal scaling dimension**.
- i.e. we compute the **ground state energy** on the cylinder.

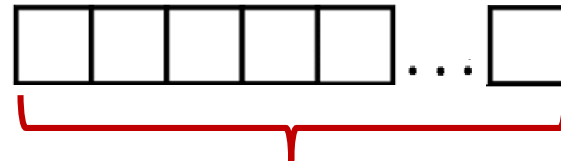


# Minimal scaling dimension

- We compute the scaling dimension  $\Delta_{\vec{Q}}$  of the operators carrying the charges  $Q_i$  and the **minimal scaling dimension**.

These operators have classical scaling dimension  $Q$  and transform in the  $Q$ -indices traceless symmetric  $O(N)$  representations where

$$Q \equiv \sum_{i=1}^{N/2} Q_i$$



$Q$

is the **total charge**.

$$Q = 1 \rightarrow \phi_i$$

$$Q = 2 \rightarrow \phi_i \phi_j - \frac{\delta_{ij}}{N} \phi^2$$

These operators represent **anisotropic perturbations** in  $O(N)$ -invariant systems.  $\Delta_{\vec{Q}}$  define a set of **crossover (critical) exponents** measuring the stability of the system (e.g. magnets) against anisotropic perturbations (e.g. crystal structure).

# Ground state

The classical solution with the minimal energy is spatially homogeneous.

$$\varphi_i = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (\phi_{2i-1} + i\phi_{2i}) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \sigma_i e^{i\chi_i}$$

$$\sigma_i = A_i, \quad \chi_i = -i\mu\tau$$

*VEV*                      *Chemical potential*

Then we can rotate the charges as

$$\vec{Q} = (Q_1, Q_2, \dots, Q_{N/2}) \rightarrow (Q, 0, 0, \dots)$$

The sum of the charges acts as a single charge.

$$\langle Q | e^{-HT} | Q \rangle = \frac{1}{Z} \int D^{N/2} \sigma D^{N/2} \chi e^{-S_{eff}[\sigma_i, \chi_i]} \quad S_{eff} = \mathcal{S} + \mu Q + \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{d-2}{2R} \right)^2 \sigma_i \sigma_i$$

*Charge-fixing*      *Conformal coupling*

Computing the path integral semiclassically, we have

$$\Delta_Q = \sum_{\mathbf{k}=-1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{Q^{\mathbf{k}}} \Delta_{\mathbf{k}}(\mathcal{A}) \quad \mathcal{A} \equiv gQ$$

Every  $\Delta_{\mathbf{k}}$  resums an infinite series of Feynman diagrams.

# Leading order: $\Delta_{-1}$

$$\mathcal{S} = \mathcal{S}(\phi_0) + \frac{1}{2}(\phi - \phi_0)^2 \mathcal{S}''(\phi_0) + \dots$$

Given by the effective action evaluated on the classical solution of the EOM

$$\frac{4\Delta_{-1}(\mathcal{A})}{\mathcal{A}} = \frac{3^{\frac{2}{3}} x^{\frac{1}{3}}}{3^{\frac{1}{3}} + x^{\frac{2}{3}}} + \frac{3^{\frac{1}{3}} (3^{\frac{1}{3}} + x^{\frac{2}{3}})}{x^{\frac{1}{3}}} \quad x \equiv 6\mathcal{A} + \sqrt{-3 + 36\mathcal{A}^2}$$

This classical result resums an infinite number of Feynman diagrams!

$$Q\Delta_{-1} = \begin{array}{c} \text{Diagram 1} \\ \sim gQ^2 \end{array} + \begin{array}{c} \text{Diagram 2} \\ \sim g^2Q^3 \end{array} + \begin{array}{c} \text{Diagram 3} \\ \sim g^3Q^4 \end{array} + \dots$$

Q counts the number of external legs.

g counts the number of vertices.

Many-loops – Many-legs

# Next-to-leading order: $\Delta_0$

$$\mathcal{S} = \mathcal{S}(\phi_0) + \frac{1}{2}(\phi - \phi_0)^2 \mathcal{S}''(\phi_0) + \dots$$

$\Delta_0$  is given by the fluctuation determinant around the classical trajectory

$$\Delta_0 = \frac{R}{2} \sum_{\ell=0}^{\infty} n_{\ell} \left[ \omega_{+}(\ell) + \omega_{-}(\ell) + \left( \frac{N}{2} - 1 \right) (\omega_{++}(\ell) + \omega_{--}(\ell)) \right]$$

$\ell$  labels the eigenvalues of the momentum which have degeneracy  $n_{\ell}$ .

$\omega_{+}$  ,  $\omega_{-}$  ,  $\omega_{++}$  ,  $\omega_{--}$   Dispersion relations of the spectrum.

# Boosting perturbation theory

By expanding the  $\Delta_k$ 's in the limit of small 't Hooft coupling  $A=gQ$ , we obtain the conventional perturbative expansion

Red terms:  $\Delta_{-1}$

Blue terms:  $\Delta_0$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \Delta_Q = & Q + \left( \frac{Q^2}{8+N} - \frac{(N+10)}{2(8+N)}Q \right) \epsilon \\
 & - \left[ \frac{2}{(8+N)^2}Q^3 + \frac{(N-22)(N+6)}{2(8+N)^3}Q^2 + \frac{184+N(14-3N)}{4(8+N)^3}Q \right] \epsilon^2 \\
 & + \left[ \frac{8}{(8+N)^3}Q^4 + \frac{-456-64N+N^2+2(8+N)(14+N)\zeta(3)}{(8+N)^4}Q^3 \right. \\
 & \left. - \frac{-31136-8272N-276N^2+56N^3+N^4+24(N+6)(N+8)(N+26)\zeta(3)}{4(N+8)^5}Q^2 \right. \\
 & \left. + \frac{-65664-8064N+4912N^2+1116N^3+48N^4-N^5+64(N+8)(178+N(37+N))\zeta(3)}{16(N+8)^5}Q \right] \epsilon^3 \\
 & + [c_5Q^5 + c_4Q^4 + c_3Q^3 + c_2Q^2 + c_1Q] \epsilon^4 + [e_6Q^6 + e_5Q^5 + e_4Q^4 + e_3Q^3 + e_2Q^2 + e_1Q] \epsilon^5 +
 \end{aligned}$$

# Boosting perturbation theory

By expanding the  $\Delta_k$ 's in the limit of small 't Hooft coupling, we obtain the conventional perturbative expansion

Red terms:  $\Delta_{-1}$

Blue terms:  $\Delta_0$

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta_Q = & Q + \left( \frac{Q^2}{8+N} - \frac{(N+10)}{2(8+N)}Q \right) \epsilon \\ & - \left[ \frac{2}{(8+N)^2}Q^3 + \frac{(N-22)(N+6)}{2(8+N)^3}Q^2 + \frac{184+N(14-3N)}{4(8+N)^3}Q \right] \epsilon^2 \\ & + \left[ \frac{8}{(8+N)^3}Q^4 + \frac{-456-64N+N^2+2(8+N)(14+N)\zeta(3)}{(8+N)^4}Q^3 \right. \\ & \left. - \frac{-31136-8272N-276N^2+56N^3+N^4+24(N+6)(N+8)(N+26)\zeta(3)}{4(N+8)^5}Q^2 \right. \\ & \left. + \frac{-65664-8064N+4912N^2+1116N^3+48N^4-N^5+64(N+8)(178+N(37+N))\zeta(3)}{16(N+8)^5}Q \right] \epsilon^3 \\ & + [c_5Q^5 + c_4Q^4 + c_3Q^3 + c_2Q^2 + c_1Q] \epsilon^4 + [e_6Q^6 + e_5Q^5 + e_4Q^4 + e_3Q^3 + e_2Q^2 + e_1Q] \epsilon^5 + \end{aligned}$$

**Complete 4-loop** (  $O(\epsilon^4)$  ) scaling dimension obtained by combining our results with the known perturbative results for  $Q=1, 2, 4$ .

Infinite number of checks for future diagrammatic computations

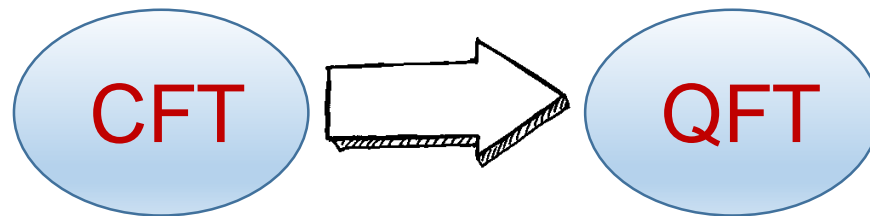


# d=4

We can rewrite the result in terms of the coupling and take  $\epsilon = 0$

$$\Delta_Q = Q + \frac{1}{3}gQ(Q-1) - \frac{1}{18}g^2 \left( 4Q^3 + (N-6)Q^2 + \frac{1}{2}(2-3N)Q \right) + \mathcal{O}(g^3)$$

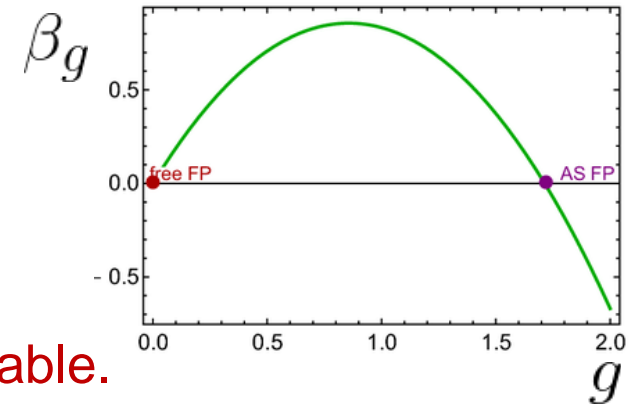
This result is correct for arbitrary values of the coupling (not only the fixed point one).



We are computing RG functions (anomalous dimensions) of Higgs operators. For  $N=4$  and  $Q=1$  we have the Higgs field itself.

# The $O(N)$ model in $4 < d < 6$

$$\mathcal{S} = \int d^d x \left( \frac{(\partial\phi_i)^2}{2} + \frac{(4\pi)^2 g_0}{4!} (\phi_i \phi_i)^2 \right)$$



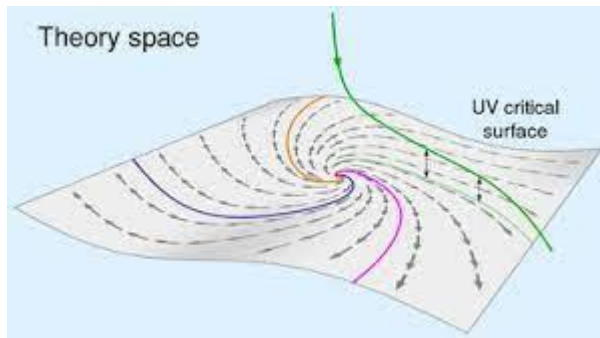
In  $d > 4$  the quartic interaction is **non-renormalizable**.

In this range, the model is studied in the **large N expansion**.

At large N the model flows to an **interacting fixed point in the UV**.

## Non-perturbative renormalizability

Asymptotic safety



## Non-SUSY 5D CFT

AdS/CFT

$O(N)$  model in  $d$  dimension/higher-spin  
gauge theories on  $\text{AdS}_{d+1}$



# The cubic $O(N)$ model

**Conjecture:** in  $4 < d < 6$  the **UV** fixed point of the **quartic**  $O(N)$  model is **equivalent** to the **IR** fixed point of the **cubic**  $O(N)$  model below

$$\mathcal{L} = \frac{1}{2}(\partial\phi_a)^2 + \frac{1}{2}(\partial\eta)^2 + \frac{g_0}{2}\eta(\phi_a)^2 + \frac{h_0}{6}\eta^3$$

**$N+1$**  fields and **cubic** interactions. Weakly coupled near  $d=6$

A priori these are two **different** universality classes (CFTs).

**We test the conjecture using the large-charge expansion**

We compute  $\Delta_Q$  in the cubic model in  $d=6-\epsilon$  and compare with large  $N$  results in the quartic model

**Cubic**

$$\Delta_Q = \sum_{k=-1} \frac{1}{Q^k} \Delta_k(\mathcal{A})$$
$$\mathcal{A} \equiv Q\epsilon$$

**Quartic**

$$\Delta_Q = \sum_{k=-1} \frac{1}{N^k} F_k(J)$$
$$J \equiv Q/N$$

# Comparison

## Cubic

$$\Delta_Q = \sum_{k=-1} \frac{1}{Q^k} \Delta_k(\mathcal{A})$$

$$\mathcal{A} \equiv Q\epsilon$$

We computed  $\Delta_{-1}$  and  $\Delta_0$ .

O. Antipin, JB, F. Sannino, Z. Wang and C. Zhang, arXiv:2107.02528[hep-th]

## Quartic

$$\Delta_Q = \sum_{k=-1} \frac{1}{N^k} F_k(J)$$

$$J \equiv Q/N$$

$F_{-1}$  is known.

Simone Giombi and Jonah Hyman, arXiv:2011.11622[hep-th]

The overlapping terms between the two expansions are

- $\alpha_j Q \left( \frac{Q\epsilon}{N} \right)^j, \quad j \geq 0$  Match between  $\Delta_{-1}$  and  $F_{-1}$
- $\beta_j \left( \frac{Q\epsilon}{N} \right)^j, \quad j \geq 0$  Match between  $\Delta_0$  and  $F_{-1}$

# The convex charge conjecture

**Convex charge conjecture:** every unitary CFT satisfies

$$\Delta_{Q_1+Q_2} \geq \Delta_{Q_1} + \Delta_{Q_2}$$

O. Aharony and E. Palti 2108.04594

Holographic version of the **weak gravity conjecture:**

*“exists at least one charged particle in the theory which has a non-negative self-binding energy”*

O(N) model in  $2 < d < 4$ : **satisfies** the conjecture

O(N) model in  $4 < d < 6$ : **violates** the conjecture





# Multi-boson production

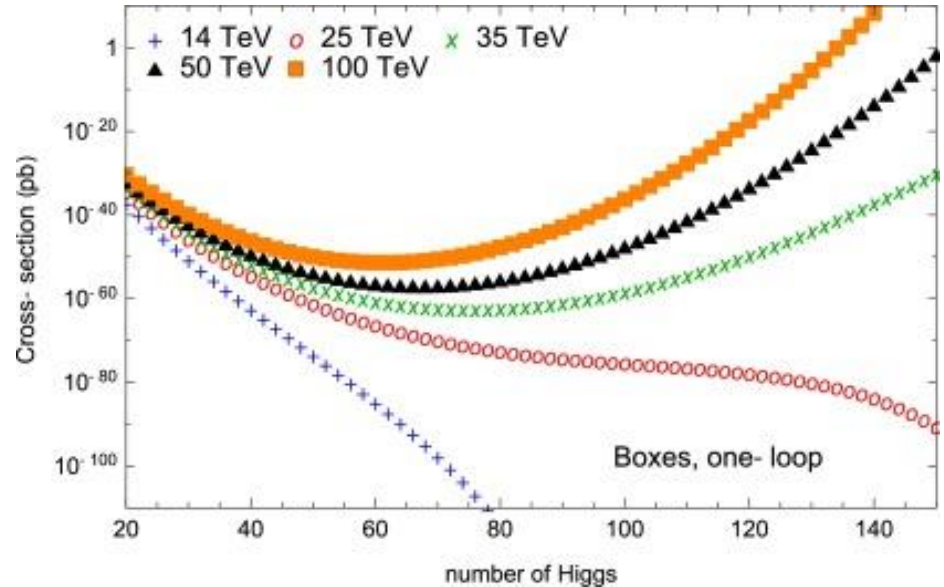
$$\lambda\phi^4$$

Consider the  $1 \rightarrow n$  amplitude

$$A^{tree} = n! \lambda^{\frac{n-1}{2}} e^{-\frac{5}{6}En}$$

$$A = A^{tree} e^{B\lambda n}$$

$$\sigma(1 \rightarrow n) = e^{F(\lambda n, E)}$$



[Degrande, Khoze, Mattelaer, 2016]

$$n \approx \sqrt{s}/m$$