

# Charge-breaking opportunities for the early Universe

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talk given at [Planck 2024](#)

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Based on: [Aoki, Biermann, Borschensky, Ivanov, Mühlleitner, Shibuya, JHEP 02 \(2024\) 232 = arXiv:2308.04141](#)

[Yang, Ivanov, arXiv:2401.03264.](#)



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SUN YAT-SEN UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF PHYSICS AND ASTRONOMY

# Multi-Higgs models

**Non-minimal Higgs sectors:** a conservative framework for New Physics model building

SM

$u$ up	$c$ charm	$t$ top	$\gamma$ photon
$d$ down	$s$ strange	$b$ bottom	$Z$ Z boson
$\nu_e$ electron neutrino	$\nu_\mu$ muon neutrino	$\nu_\tau$ tau neutrino	$W$ W boson
$e$ electron	$\mu$ muon	$\tau$ tau	$g$ gluon

+



Multi-Higgs-doublet models

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# Several Higgs generations

Higgses can come in **generations** →  **$N$ -Higgs-doublet models** (NHDMs).

- **T.D. Lee, 1973**: 2HDM as a new source of  $CP$ -violation (CPV);
- **Weinberg, 1976**: 3HDM with natural flavor conservation and CPV;
- Intense activity in **70–80's**: trying to reconstruct hierarchical quark and lepton **masses and mixing** patterns from **symmetries** and their breaking;
- **1990–2000's**: **MSSM** requires two Higgs doublets;
- Cosmological consequences: scalar **dark matter candidates** protected by residual symmetries and strong first-order **phase transitions** → **baryogenesis** and **GW** signals.
- In total,  $\mathcal{O}(10^4)$  papers over 40 years [**Branco et al, 1106.0034**; **Ivanov, 1702.03776**]

# Charge-breaking vacuum in the early Universe

# 2HDM potential

2HDM with a **softly broken**  $\mathbb{Z}_2$  symmetry (review [Branco et al, 1106.0034](#)):

$$V_{\text{tree}} = m_{11}^2 \Phi_1^\dagger \Phi_1 + m_{22}^2 \Phi_2^\dagger \Phi_2 - m_{12}^2 \left( \Phi_1^\dagger \Phi_2 + \text{h.c.} \right) + \frac{\lambda_1}{2} \left( \Phi_1^\dagger \Phi_1 \right)^2 + \frac{\lambda_2}{2} \left( \Phi_2^\dagger \Phi_2 \right)^2 \\ + \lambda_3 \left( \Phi_1^\dagger \Phi_1 \right) \left( \Phi_2^\dagger \Phi_2 \right) + \lambda_4 \left( \Phi_1^\dagger \Phi_2 \right) \left( \Phi_2^\dagger \Phi_1 \right) + \frac{\lambda_5}{2} \left[ \left( \Phi_1^\dagger \Phi_2 \right)^2 + \text{h.c.} \right].$$

- **Vacuum stability:**  $\lambda_1, \lambda_2 > 0$ ,  $\sqrt{\lambda_1 \lambda_2} + \lambda_3 > 0$ ,  $\sqrt{\lambda_1 \lambda_2} + \lambda_3 + \lambda_4 - |\lambda_5| > 0$  [[Deshpande, Ma, 1978](#)]
- **Perturbative unitarity:** partial wave amplitudes  $|a_\ell| < 1 \rightarrow$  eigenvalues of the  $2 \rightarrow 2$  quartic coupling matrix are  $< 16\pi$  [[Lee, Quigg, Thacker, 1977](#); [Kanemura, Kubota, Takasugi, 1993](#); [Logan, 2207.01064](#)], see also [[Goodsell, Staub, 1805.07310](#)].

**Natural flavor conservation** [[Glashow, Weinberg; Paschos, 1977](#)] each right-handed fermion sector ( $u_R, d_R, \ell_R$ ) couples only to one Higgs doublet. Let's choose **Type I 2HDM**: all RH fermions couple only to  $\Phi_2$ .

# Charge breaking vacuum

Minimization gives  $\langle \Phi_1 \rangle$ ,  $\langle \Phi_2 \rangle$ , which can be written as

$$\langle \Phi_1 \rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ v_1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \langle \Phi_2 \rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} \sqrt{2}u \\ v_2 e^{i\xi} \end{pmatrix},$$

- **Neutral vacuum:**  $u = 0$ , residual symmetry  $SU(2)_L \times U(1)_Y \rightarrow U(1)_{EM}$ ; the world we live in.
- **Charge-breaking (CB) vacuum:**  $u \neq 0$ : no residual symmetry,  $SU(2)_L \times U(1)_Y$  is broken completely, massive photon, no conserved electric charge.
- The usual procedure: disregard the CB vacuum, assume the neutral vacuum, choose  $v_1, v_2, \xi$  as input, compute  $m_{ij}^2$ , proceed with phenomenology.
- In general 2HDM, at tree level, the necessary and sufficient conditions for the **CB minimum** were established in [Ivanov, 2007].

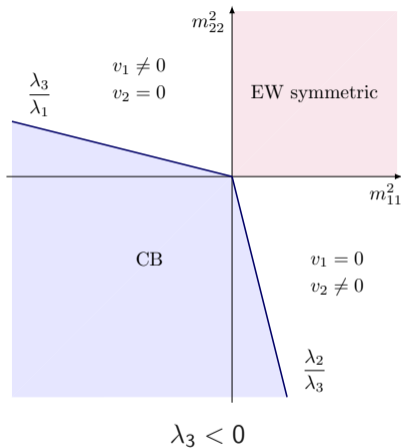
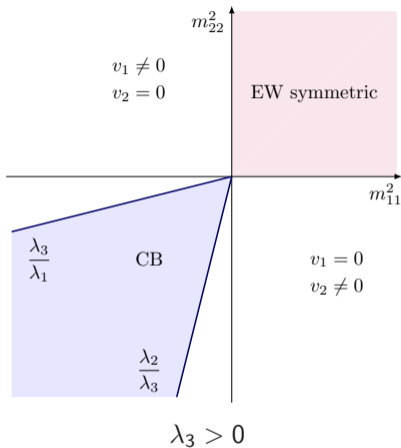
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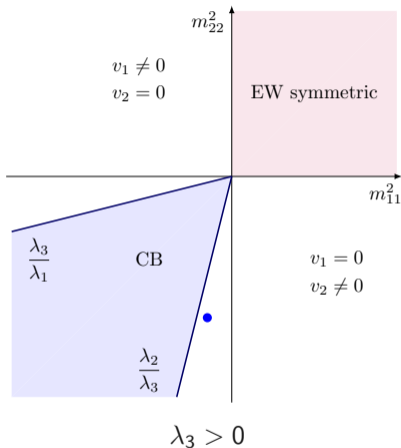
# $\mathbb{Z}_2$ symmetric 2HDM: the phase diagram



Conditions for the CB minimum:  $\sqrt{\lambda_1 \lambda_2} > \lambda_3$ ,  $\lambda_4 > |\lambda_5|$ , the point  $(m_{11}^2, m_{22}^2)$  inside the CB wedge.



# $\mathbb{Z}_2$ symmetric 2HDM: the phase diagram



The neutral/CB boundary is:

$$\frac{m_{22}^2}{m_{11}^2} = \frac{\lambda_2}{\lambda_3}.$$

The **charged Higgs mass** depends on the proximity to this boundary:

$$\frac{m_{H^\pm}^2}{v^2} = \frac{\lambda_3}{2} \left( 1 - \frac{m_{11}^2}{m_{22}^2} \frac{\lambda_2}{\lambda_3} \right).$$

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# Charge breaking vacuum

In the hot early Universe, the Higgs potential and its minima **evolve with temperature**  $T \rightarrow$  phase transitions are expected.

**Electroweak phase transition** (EWPT) ( $v = 0 \Rightarrow v \neq 0$ ) is the most famous example. But other phase transitions could have taken place.

What if the **charge-breaking vacuum existed in the hot early Universe** in a range of  $T$ ?

**Ginzburg, Ivanov, Kanishev, 0911.2383**: a simple tree-level study revealed benchmark 2HDMs with an intermediate CB vacuum at finite  $T$ .

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In [Aoki et al, 2308.04141](#), we returned to this possibility with the [finite- \$T\$  loop-corrected effective potential](#) and the code [BSMPT v2](#) [[Basler, Mühlleitner, Müller, 2007.01725](#)].

- [Is it possible at all](#) to have a CB vacuum at intermediate  $T$ ?
- Are such scenarios [compatible with the LHC Higgs results](#)?
- If they are, what are the [characteristic features](#) of such scenarios?

# The formalism

Finite  $T$  one-loop corrected effective potential:  $V = V_{\text{tree}} + V_{CW} + V_{CT} + V_T$ , where

- $V_{CW}$ :  $T$ -independent one-loop Coleman-Weinberg potential,
- $V_{CT}$ :  $T$ -independent counterterms (keep  $v$  and  $m_h$ ),
- $V_T$ : one-loop thermal corrections at finite  $T$ :

$$V_T = \sum_k n_k \frac{T^4}{2\pi^2} J_{\pm}^{(k)} \left( \frac{m_k^2}{T^2} \right),$$

with summation over all fields,  $n_k$  is the number of d.o.f.,  $J$ 's are the thermal integrals,  $m_k$  depend on the values of scalar fields; full expressions in [Basler et al, 1612.04086, 1803.02846].

- Thermal masses are consistently implemented at one loop using the Arnold-Espinosa resummation procedure [Arnold, Espinosa, hep-ph/9212235; Quiros, hep-ph/9901312].

Recently extended to the [general 2HDM](#) using the bilinear formalism [Cao, Cheng, Xu, 2305.12764]

# Qualitative analysis

To gain **qualitative insights**, let's consider a toy model:

- stay with the **tree-level potential**,
- assume that the main thermal effect is in the **quadratic coefficients**:

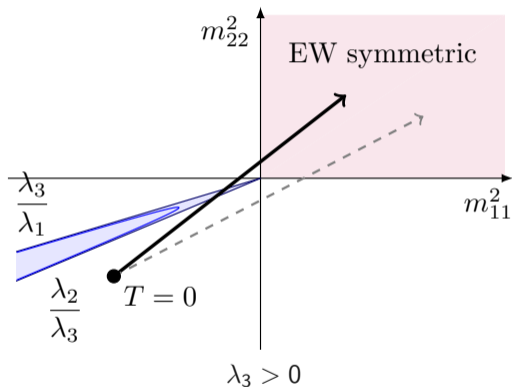
$$m_{11}^2(T) = m_{11}^2 + c_1 T^2, \quad m_{22}^2(T) = m_{22}^2 + c_2 T^2, \quad m_{12}^2(T) = m_{12}^2,$$

where for Type I 2HDM we have

$$c_1 = \frac{1}{12} (3\lambda_1 + 2\lambda_3 + \lambda_4) + \frac{1}{16} (3g^2 + g'^2),$$
$$c_2 = \frac{1}{12} (3\lambda_2 + 2\lambda_3 + \lambda_4) + \frac{1}{16} (3g^2 + g'^2) + \frac{1}{12} (y_\tau^2 + 3y_b^2 + 3y_t^2).$$

Then one can describe thermal evolution as a straight **trajectory on the phase diagram**.

# Qualitative analysis



The ray passes through the CB wedge if

$$\frac{c_2}{c_1} > \frac{|m_{22}^2|}{|m_{11}^2|} > \frac{\lambda_2}{\lambda_3}.$$

- Not easy to satisfy!
- Placing  $T = 0$  point close to the wedge will lead to a **dangerously light charged Higgs!**
- The plot is for

$$\lambda_1 = 2, \quad \lambda_2 = 0.25, \quad \lambda_3 = 0.6, \quad \lambda_4 = 2.8,$$

which leads to  $m_{H^\pm} = 82$  GeV.

- Adding  $m_{12}^2$  plays against the CB phase.

# Scan of the 2HDM parameter space

The procedure adopted in [Aoki et al, 2308.04141](#):

- Scan over parameter space of the **tree-level potential** to generate **seed points**:
  - ▶ At  $T = 0$ : neutral vacuum,  $v = 246.22$  GeV,  $m_h = 125.09$  GeV
  - ▶ At  $T \neq 0$ : intermediate CB phase.
- For each seed point, analyze the full **finite- $T$  one-loop corrected effective potential** using BSMPT v2.
- Select points for which the **intermediate CB phase survives** for the effective potential.
- Use ScannerS [[Coimbra et al, 1301.2599](#)] to apply scalar sector constraints (unitarity, STU, flavor physics, HiggsSignals/HiggsBounds).
- Unfortunately, **all** such seed points are **excluded** by the LHC data, mainly by  $\mu_{\gamma\gamma}$ , due to the presence of a light  $H^\pm$ .
- So, one more tweak: we explore the parameter space patches **in the vicinity of seed points**: the CB phase must be present in the **full effective potential**, but no need to require it in  $V_{\text{tree}}$ .

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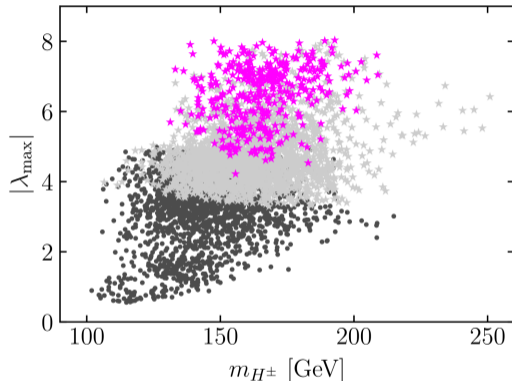
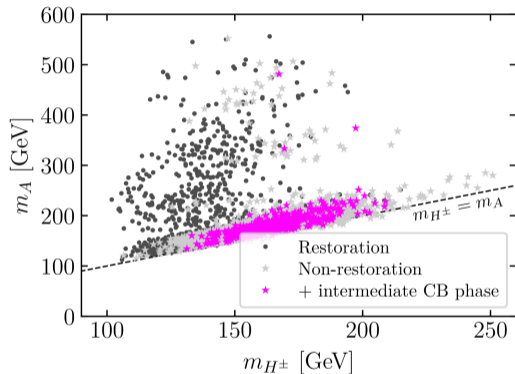
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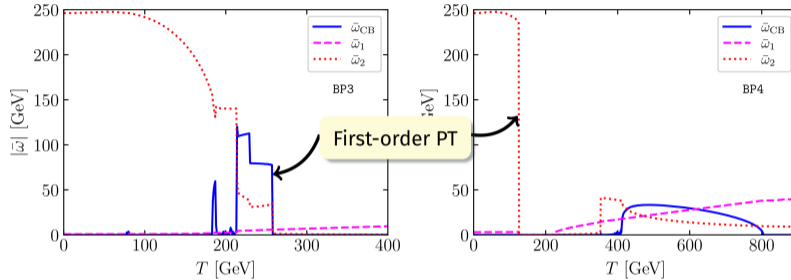
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# Numerical results



Intermediate CB vacuum is **possible** in the 2HDM — but only at the expense of a large  $\lambda_1$  and **EW symmetry non-restoration** at high  $T$ ! Typical predictions: large  $\tan \beta \sim 10 - 100$  and rather small  $m_{H^+} \sim 150 - 200$  GeV.

# Benchmark models



	$m_H$ (GeV)	$m_A$ (GeV)	$m_{H^\pm}$ (GeV)	$\tan \beta$	$\cos(\beta - \alpha)$	$m_{12}^2$ (GeV <sup>2</sup> )
BP3	342.52	230.02	183.72	286.00	0.009	410.17
BP4	558.56	194.52	168.43	80.84	0.026	3857.90

Christoph Borschensky – Intermediate CB phases in the 2HDM – 16/09/23

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[Slide borrowed from the talk by [Christoph Borschensky](#) at [Scalars 2023](#)]

# BSMPT v3

Recent update: **BSMPT v3**, **Basler et al**, 2404.19037:

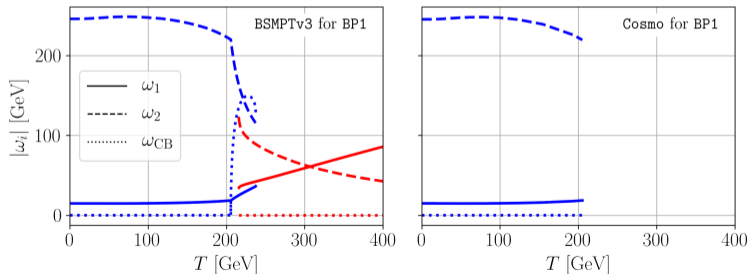
- tracks  $T$ -dependent coexisting minima and **computes the bounce solution**;
- $\Rightarrow$  critical, **nucleation**, and percolation temperatures; checks EW restoration at high  $T$ ;
- determines the properties of the **GW signal**.

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- $\Rightarrow$  critical, **nucleation**, and percolation temperatures; checks EW restoration at high  $T$ ;
- determines the properties of the **GW signal**.

CB phase transitions **confirmed** with BSMPT v3.



## BSMPT v3 vs CosmoTransitions

Benchmark point:  $M_H = 563$  GeV,  
 $M_A = 169$  GeV,  $M_{H^\pm} = 164.5$  GeV  
 $\tan \beta = 16.5$ ,  $\cos(\beta - \alpha) = 0.128$   
 $m_{12}^2 = 18933$  GeV<sup>2</sup>

# Charge-breaking bubbles walls in multi-Higgs-doublet models



# Symmetries in 3HDM

A powerful feature of 3HDM: a lot of new **symmetry options** available!

Full classification of symmetries in the 3HDM scalar sector:

- abelian groups: [Ferreira, Silva, 1012.2874; Ivanov, Keus, Vdovin, 1112.1660]

$$\mathbb{Z}_2, \quad \mathbb{Z}_3, \quad \mathbb{Z}_4, \quad \mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_2, \quad U(1), \quad U(1) \times \mathbb{Z}_2, \quad U(1) \times U(1).$$

- discrete non-abelian groups: [Ivanov, Vdovin, 1210.6553; Darvishi, Pilaftsis, 1912.00887]:

$$S_3, \quad D_4, \quad A_4, \quad S_4, \quad \Delta(54), \quad \Sigma(36).$$

- The classification is **exhaustive**: imposing any other discrete group in the 3HDM scalar sector will produce an accidental continuous symmetry. Accidental symmetries beyond  $SU(3)$  were classified in [Darvishi, Pilaftsis, 1912.00887].

Large finite groups come up with many minima and saddle points

$\Rightarrow$  consequences for **phase transitions!**

The largest discrete group in 3HDM scalar sector is

$$\Sigma(36) \simeq (\mathbb{Z}_3 \times \mathbb{Z}_3) \rtimes \mathbb{Z}_4$$

generated by:

$$a = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \omega & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \omega^2 \end{pmatrix}, \quad b = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad d = \frac{i}{\sqrt{3}} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & \omega^2 & \omega \\ 1 & \omega & \omega^2 \end{pmatrix},$$

where  $\omega = \exp(2\pi i/3)$ . Orders of generators:

$$a^3 = \mathbf{1}, \quad b^3 = \mathbf{1}, \quad d^4 = \mathbf{1}.$$

The scalar potential

$$\begin{aligned} V = & -m^2 \left[ \phi_1^\dagger \phi_1 + \phi_2^\dagger \phi_2 + \phi_3^\dagger \phi_3 \right] + \lambda_1 \left[ \phi_1^\dagger \phi_1 + \phi_2^\dagger \phi_2 + \phi_3^\dagger \phi_3 \right]^2 \\ & - \lambda_2 \left[ |\phi_1^\dagger \phi_2|^2 + |\phi_2^\dagger \phi_3|^2 + |\phi_3^\dagger \phi_1|^2 - (\phi_1^\dagger \phi_1)(\phi_2^\dagger \phi_2) - (\phi_2^\dagger \phi_2)(\phi_3^\dagger \phi_3) - (\phi_3^\dagger \phi_3)(\phi_1^\dagger \phi_1) \right] \\ & + \lambda_3 \left( |\phi_1^\dagger \phi_2 - \phi_2^\dagger \phi_3|^2 + |\phi_2^\dagger \phi_3 - \phi_3^\dagger \phi_1|^2 + |\phi_3^\dagger \phi_1 - \phi_1^\dagger \phi_2|^2 \right), \end{aligned}$$

where terms in **blue** are  $U(3)$ -invariant and  $\lambda_3$  term selects out  $\Sigma(36)$  subgroup.

- The model is **extremely constrained**  $\rightarrow$  numerous relations among scalar masses and couplings.
- Many features remain even if  $\Sigma(36)$  is softly broken [Varzielas, Ivanov, Levy, 2107.08227].

# $\Sigma(36)$ 3HDM

[Ivanov, Nishi, 1410.6139]: up to cyclic permutations, the global minimum can only be at

$$\begin{aligned} A &: (\omega, 1, 1), & A' &: (\omega^2, 1, 1), & B &: (1, 0, 0), \\ C &: (1, 1, 1), & & (1, \omega, \omega^2), & & (1, \omega^2, \omega). \end{aligned}$$

Notation: for example,  $(1, 1, 1)$  denotes the case  $v_1 = v_2 = v_3$ , that is

$$(\langle \phi_1^0 \rangle, \langle \phi_2^0 \rangle, \langle \phi_3^0 \rangle) = \frac{v}{\sqrt{6}} (1, 1, 1).$$

- In each case, there are 6 degenerate global minima:  $A + A'$  or  $B + C$ .
- But if we study phase transitions, we want to know:
  - ▶ Can we have local minima? Can we have CB minima?
  - ▶ Can we have CB saddle points which would separate neutral minima?
  - ▶ In 2HDM, CB domain walls were recently studied in [Sassi, Moortgat-Pick, 2309.12398] and [Battye et al, 2006.13273] → see talk by Mohamed Sassi on Thursday, Parallel Session PII.5.

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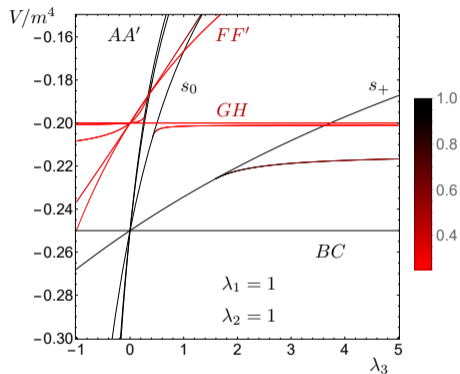
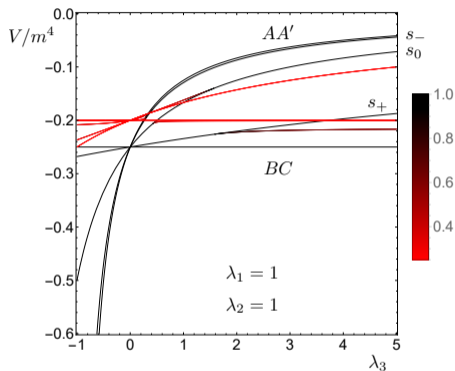
- In each case, there are 6 degenerate global minima:  $A + A'$  or  $B + C$ .
- But if we study phase transitions, we want to know:
  - ▶ Can we have local minima? Can we have CB minima?
  - ▶ Can we have CB saddle points which would separate neutral minima?
  - ▶ In 2HDM, CB domain walls were recently studied in [Sassi, Moortgat-Pick, 2309.12398] and [Battye et al, 2006.13273] → see talk by Mohamed Sassi on Thursday, Parallel Session PII.5.

- Large symmetry group  $\rightarrow$  many competing minima and many competing saddle points.
- We can expect intriguing multi-step phase transitions in the early Universe, perhaps with exotic features which are not available even in the 2HDM.
- In Yang, Ivanov, arXiv:2401.03264, we undertook an exploratory study of the phase diagram and possible phase transitions on the 3HDM with exact or softly broken  $\Sigma(36)$ .
- We paid attention not only to the global minima (they are already known analytically) but also to all minima and saddle points.

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# Exact $\Sigma(36)$

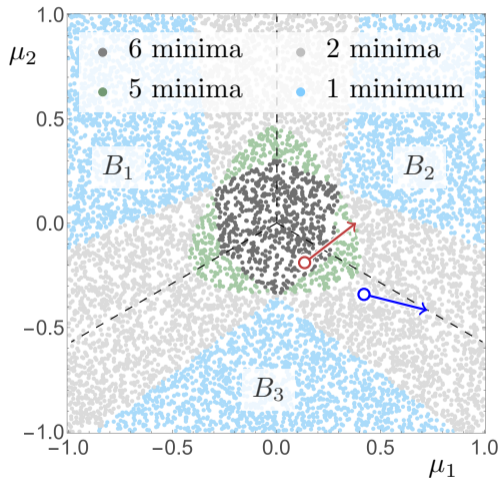


We find an extremely rich picture, with 69 or 78 extrema in total.

Color encodes neutral (black) and charge-breaking extrema (shades of red).

Note: for  $\lambda_3 > 2$ , the deepest saddle point is charge-breaking.

# Softly broken $\Sigma(36)$



Adding  $\mathbb{Z}_3$ -preserving soft breaking terms:  
 $m_{ii}^2(\phi_i^\dagger \phi_i)$  with  $m_{11}^2 + m_{22}^2 + m_{33}^2 = 0$ .

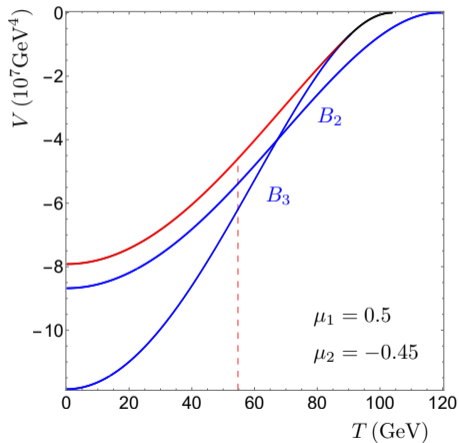
Parametrizing them via

$$\mu_1 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \frac{m_{11}^2 - m_{22}^2}{m^2}, \quad \mu_2 = \frac{\sqrt{6}}{2} \frac{m_{33}^2}{m^2}.$$

Coexistence of local and global minima on the plane of soft breaking parameters  $(\mu_1, \mu_2)$ .

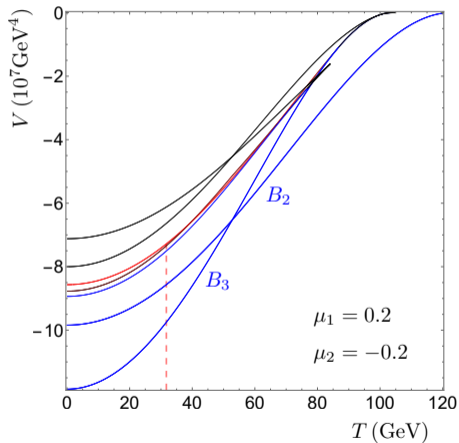
Also shown:  $T$  evolution in benchmark model 1 and benchmark model 2.

# Softly broken $\Sigma(36)$ 3HDM: benchmark 1



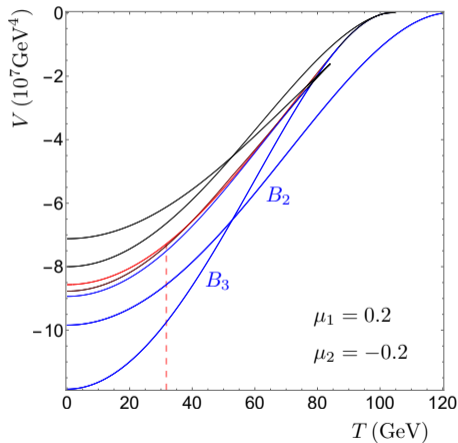
- Used the same simple tree-level thermal evolution with  $m_{ii}^2(T) = m_{ii}^2 + c_i T^2$ .
- A clear example of a deepest **CB saddle point**.
- The red dashed line indicates an approximate nucleation temperature (criterion: equal depth differences).
- These features **should survive** in an accurate numerical study.

## Softly broken $\Sigma(36)$ 3HDM: benchmark 2



- Here, we have **several saddle points**, either neutral or **charge-breaking**, which closely follow each other.
- Which bounce trajectory corresponds to the most probable bubble nucleation? **Impossible to answer** with this simplistic analysis!
- If **several saddle points compete**, it may happen that bubbles of the same true and the same false vacua but completely **different bubble wall profiles** emerge in the Universe. How do they merge? What GW signatures are expected?
- A dedicated numerical study is required!

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# Conclusions

- Multi-Higgs models can accommodate **rich phase transition dynamics** around the EW scale!
- Intermediate **charge-breaking phases** at finite  $T$  or **charge-breaking bubble walls** between neutral vacua are possible within 2HDM and become more intriguing in the 3HDM.
- Within the 3HDM, **competing minima and saddle points** are ubiquitous and may lead to highly non-trivial bubble nucleation and coalescence dynamics.
- **What happens to fermions** during evolution through a CB phase or upon the passage of a CB bubble wall? Any consequences for **baryogenesis**?