

Charge-breaking opportunities for the early Universe

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Extended Scalar Sectors From All Angles 2024

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

[Yang, Ivanov, PRD110 \(2024\) 1, 015001 = arXiv:2401.03264.](#)



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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;
- 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, ℓ_R) couples only to one Higgs doublet. Let's choose **Type I 2HDM**: all RH fermions couple only to Φ_2 .

Charge breaking vacuum

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

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

- **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, ξ 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].

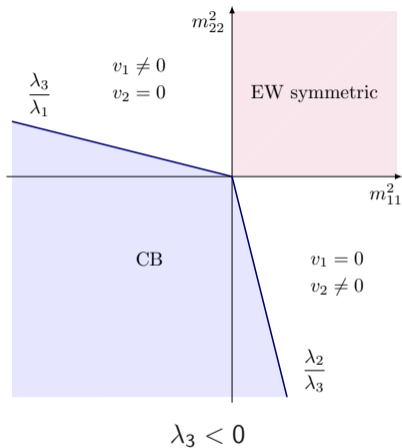
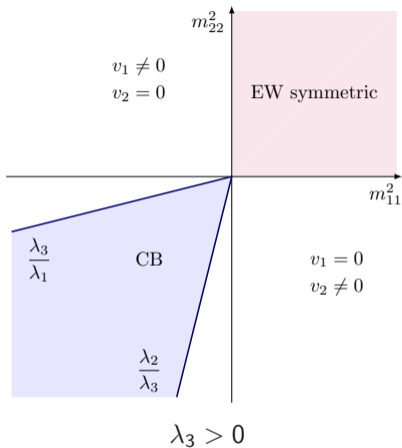
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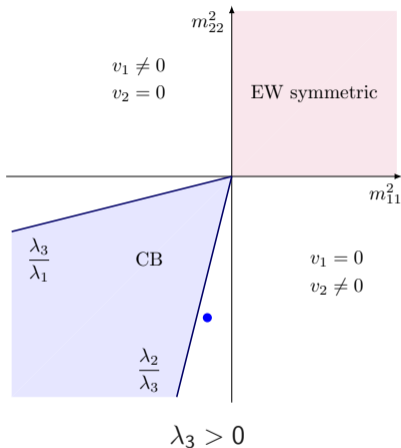
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\mathbb{Z}_2 symmetric 2HDM: the phase diagram



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] and the Dirac algebra formalism [Pilaftsis, 2408.04511].

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**:

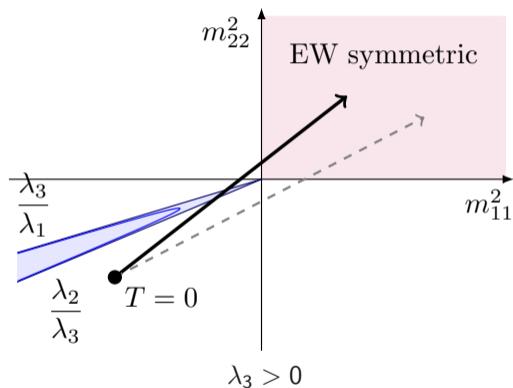
$$m_{11}^2(T) = m_{11}^2 + c_1 T^2, \quad m_{22}^2(T) = m_{22}^2 + c_2 T^2, \quad m_{12}^2(T) = m_{12}^2,$$

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

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

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

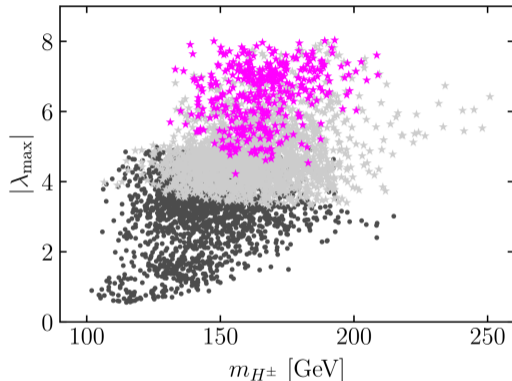
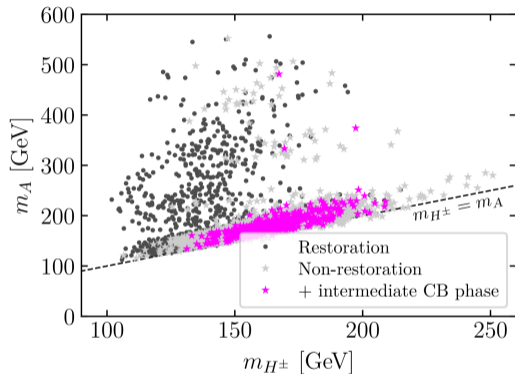
- Adding m_{12}^2 plays against the CB phase.

Scan of the 2HDM parameter space

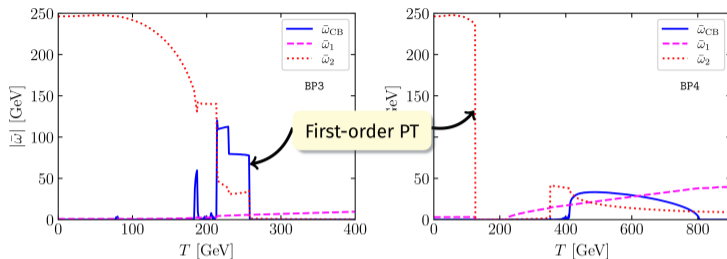
The procedure adopted in [Aoki et al, 2308.04141](#):

- 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 BSMP2 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_{tree} .

Numerical results



Intermediate CB vacuum is **possible** in the 2HDM — but only at the expense of a large λ_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.



	m_H (GeV)	m_A (GeV)	m_{H^\pm} (GeV)	$\tan \beta$	$\cos(\beta - \alpha)$	m_{12}^2 (GeV ²)
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

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

Confirmed with BSMPT v3, Basler et al, 2404.19037.

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

Symmetries in 3HDM

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

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

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

- finite **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**: any other finite group leads to an accidental continuous symmetry. Accidental symmetries were classified in [Darvishi, Pilaftsis, 1912.00887].

Large finite groups come up with many minima and saddle points

⇒ consequences for **phase transitions**!

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 $SU(3)$ -invariant and λ_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; Law, Pilaftsis, 2110.12550].
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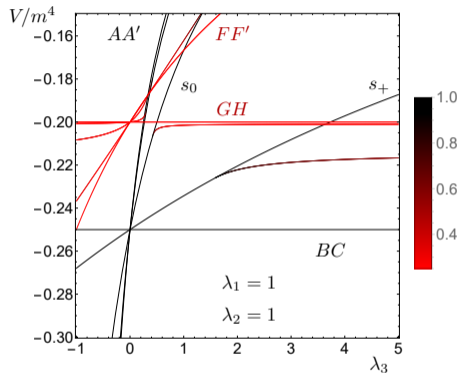
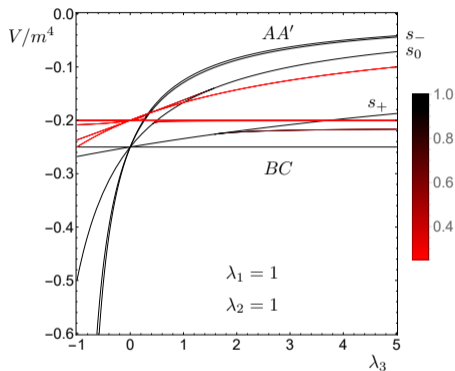
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Exact $\Sigma(36)$

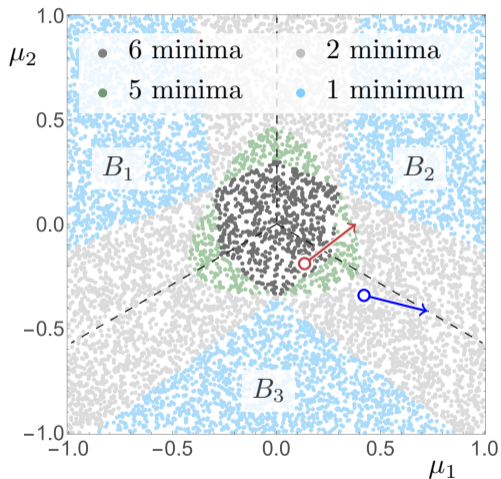


In [Yang, Ivanov, arXiv:2401.03264](#), we find an extremely rich picture, with 69 or 78 extrema in total.

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 $m_{11}^2 + m_{22}^2 + m_{33}^2 = 0$.

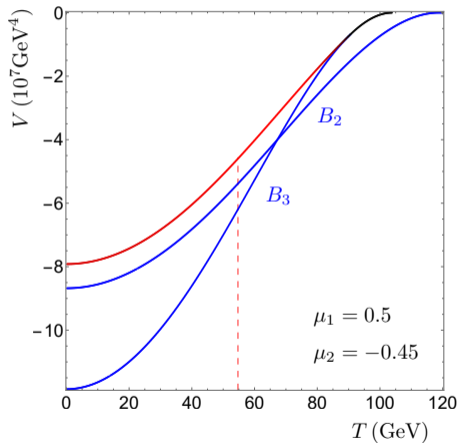
Parametrizing them via

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

Coexistence of local and global minima on the plane of soft breaking parameters (μ_1, μ_2) .

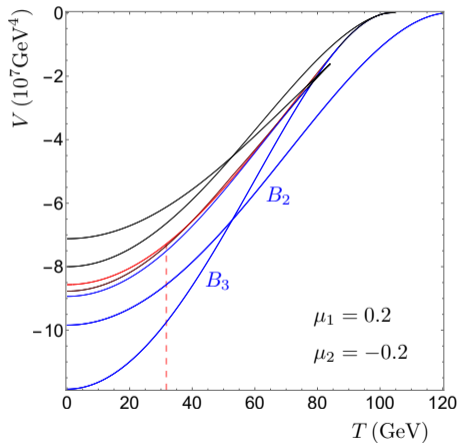
Also shown: T evolution in **benchmark model 1** and **benchmark model 2**.

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



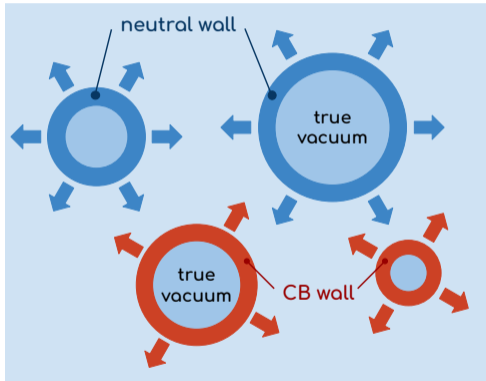
- Used the same simple tree-level thermal evolution with $m_{ii}^2(T) = m_{ii}^2 + c_i T^2$.
- A clear example of a deepest **CB saddle point**.
- The red dashed line indicates an approximate nucleation temperature (criterion: equal depth differences).
- These features **should survive** in an accurate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

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- 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 than 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!

Conclusions

- Rich phase transition dynamics in multi-Higgs models 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?