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# Dimensionally reduced EFTs for cosmological phase transitions

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03/12/24 · DISCRETE 2024

Javier López Miras

Based (mostly) on [2406.02667], by:  
M. Chala, J. C. Criado, L. Gil and JLM

**FTAE**  
High Energy Theory



UNIVERSIDAD  
DE GRANADA

**A** Junta  
de Andalucía



# Thermal field theory

## Outline of the Matsubara formalism

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- **Generating functional** ( $J=0$ ) in QFT:

$$\mathcal{Z}[0] = \langle q' t | q 0 \rangle = \langle q' 0 | e^{-i\mathcal{H}t} | q 0 \rangle = \mathcal{N} \int \mathcal{D}q \exp(iS)$$

- **Partition function** in quantum statistical mechanics:

$$\mathcal{Z}_{\text{th}} = \text{Tr} (e^{-\beta\mathcal{H}}) = \sum_q \langle q 0 | e^{-\beta\mathcal{H}} | q 0 \rangle = \mathcal{N} \int_{q(0)=q(-i\beta)} \mathcal{D}q \exp(-S_E)$$

Field correlators

### *Time compactification*

QFT at finite temperature

=

Euclidean QFT at zero temperature  
with periodic time



# Thermal field theory

## Outline of the Matsubara formalism

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- At thermal equilibrium, fields decompose in **Matsubara modes** that live in 3D Euclidean space:

### Bosons

$$\phi(\tau, \mathbf{x}) \equiv T \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} \phi_n(\mathbf{x}) e^{i\omega_n \tau}$$

$$\omega_n = 2\pi n T$$

### Fermions

$$\psi(\tau, \mathbf{x}) \equiv T \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} \psi_n(\mathbf{x}) e^{i\omega'_n \tau}$$

$$\omega'_n = 2\pi \left( n + \frac{1}{2} \right) T$$

- Each mode acquires a **thermal mass** given by its **Matsubara frequency**.

This introduces a **hierarchy of scales**.

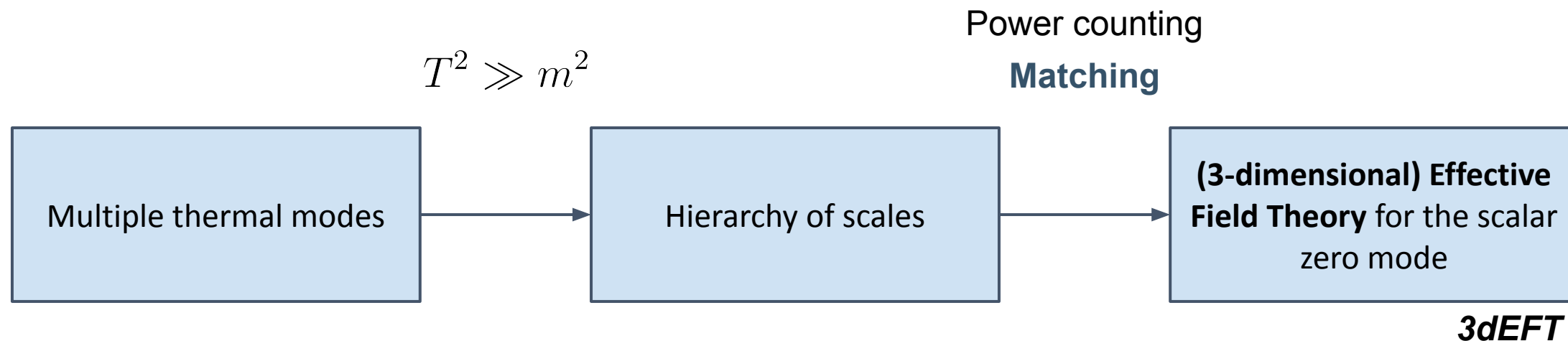
$$M \sim \pi T^2$$



# Thermal field theory

The 3D EFT approach

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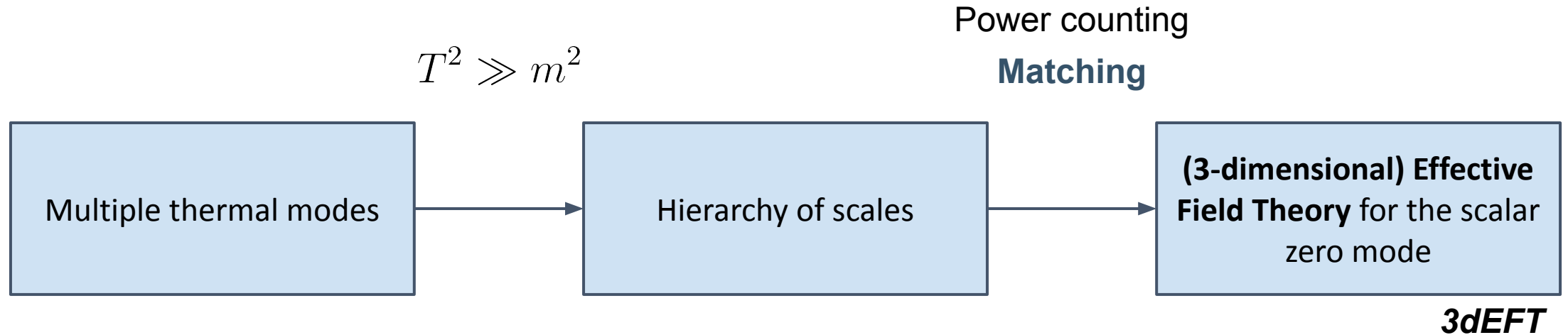




# Thermal field theory

The 3D EFT approach

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We have a simplified theory to study cosmological phase transitions in the high temperature limit



# Bubbles and gravitational waves

Thermally induced field phase transitions

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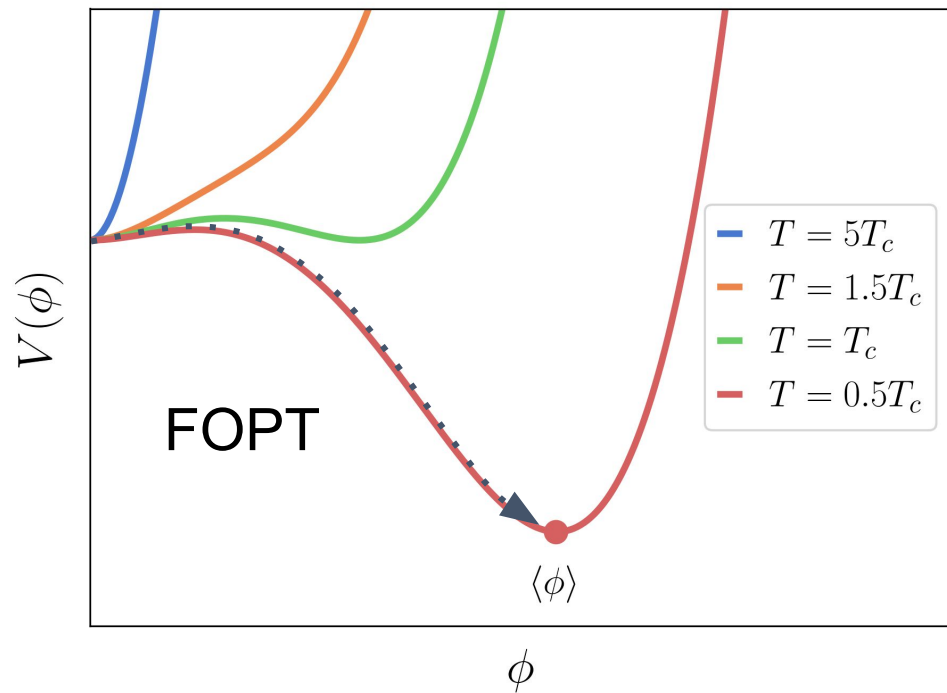


Fig. 1: Temperature evolution of scalar potential

Transition rate:  $\Gamma = A(T)e^{-S_E[\varphi_b](T)}$

Depends on static, non-homogeneous solutions to the (Euclidean) EoMs:

$$\left. \frac{\delta S_E}{\delta \varphi} \right|_{\varphi = \varphi_b} = 0$$

These are the so-called **bounce solutions**.

[Coleman - PhysRevD.15.2929]



# Bubbles and gravitational waves

From PTs to GWs

---

[Caprini *et al.* - 1512.06239]

As the transition rate grows, in a **first-order PT (FOPT)**:

- 1) Bubbles of true vacuum nucleate and expand in a hot plasma
- 2) Bubble fronts collide
- 3) Sound waves
- 4) Turbulence



# Bubbles and gravitational waves

From PTs to GWs

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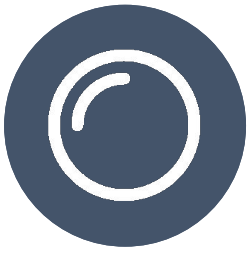
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$$h\Omega_{\text{GW}} \simeq h\Omega_{\phi} + h\Omega_{\text{sw}} + h\Omega_{\text{turb}}$$





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From PTs to GWs

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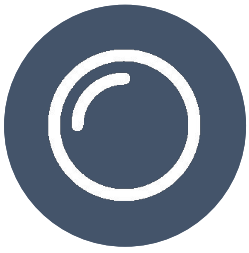
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Probe for NP

How do we connect a QFT model to these GW spectra?

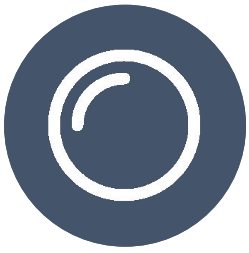


# Bubbles and gravitational waves

From PTs to GWs

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# Bubbles and gravitational waves

From PTs to GWs

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How do we connect a QFT model to these GW spectra?

## Nucleation temperature

$$S_3[\varphi_c] \sim 100 - 4 \log \frac{T_*}{100 \text{ GeV}}$$

## Inverse duration of PT

$$\frac{\beta}{H_*} = T_* \frac{dS_3[\varphi_c]}{dT} \Big|_{T_*}$$

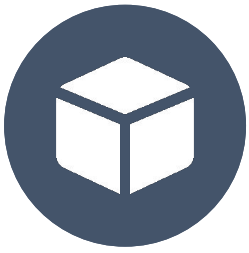
## Strength parameter

$$\alpha = \frac{\Delta \left( V_3(\varphi) - \frac{T}{4} \frac{d}{dT} V_3(\varphi) \right) \Big|_{T_*}}{\rho_r(T_*)}$$

## Terminal bubble wall velocity

Not very well understood how to compute it

[Lewicki *et al.* - 2111.02393]



# 3D EFT approach

Building our high-T EFT

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UV theory in 4D Minkowski:

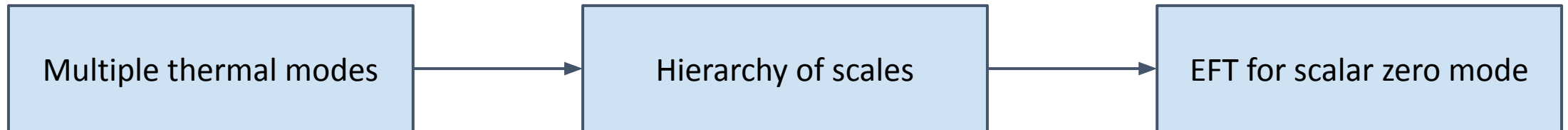
$$\mathcal{L}_4 = \frac{1}{2}(\partial_\mu\phi)^2 - \frac{1}{2}m^2\phi^2 - \kappa\phi^3 - \lambda\phi^4 + \bar{\Psi}i\not{\partial}\Psi - g\phi\bar{\Psi}\Psi \quad [\text{Gould, Xie - 2310.02308}]$$

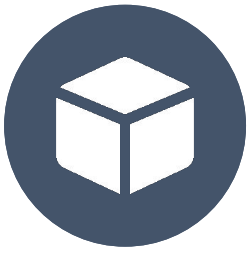
At temperature  $T$ , in Euclidean space:

$$S_0 = (-i)\frac{1}{T} \int d^3\mathbf{x} \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} \left[ \frac{1}{2}(\partial_i\phi_n)^2 + \frac{1}{2} \left( m^2 + (2\pi nT)^2 \right) \phi_n^2 + \bar{\psi}_n \not{\partial} \psi_n + \left( 2\pi \left( n + \frac{1}{2} \right) T \right)^2 \bar{\psi}_n \psi_n \right]$$

$$T^2 \gg m^2$$

Power counting





# 3D EFT approach

Building our high-T EFT

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[Kajantie *et al.* - 9508379]

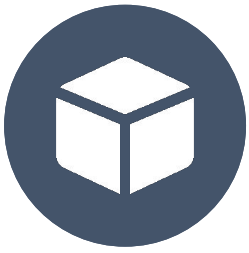
[Criado - 1901.03501]

We determine our 3D EFT by matching correlators to the full theory in the **high-temperature limit**:

$$\mathcal{L}_3 = \frac{K_3}{2} (\partial\varphi)^2 + \frac{1}{2} m_3^2 \varphi^2 + \kappa_3 \varphi^3 + \lambda_3 \varphi^4 + \underbrace{\text{higher orders in } \left(\frac{\text{m}}{\text{T}}\right)}$$

New effective operators (**EO**)

ex.  $\alpha_6 \varphi^6$  or  $\beta_{61} \partial^2 \varphi \partial^2 \varphi$



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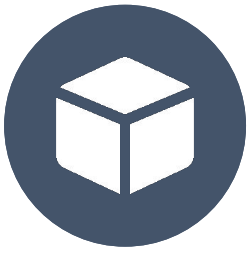
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**Complete bases** of EO are usually neglected because they:

- Are scale-suppressed
- Require **higher-order matching**
- Are not implemented in tools for PT computations

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How important are they in strong transitions?



# Results

## PT magnitudes and effective interactions

[Chala, Criado, LG, López Miras -  
2406.02667]

■  $(m^2, \kappa, \lambda)_A = (20\,000 \text{ GeV}^2, -40 \text{ GeV}, 0.01)$

■  $(m^2, \kappa, \lambda)_B = (31\,643.5 \text{ GeV}^2, -71.1 \text{ GeV}, 0.045)$

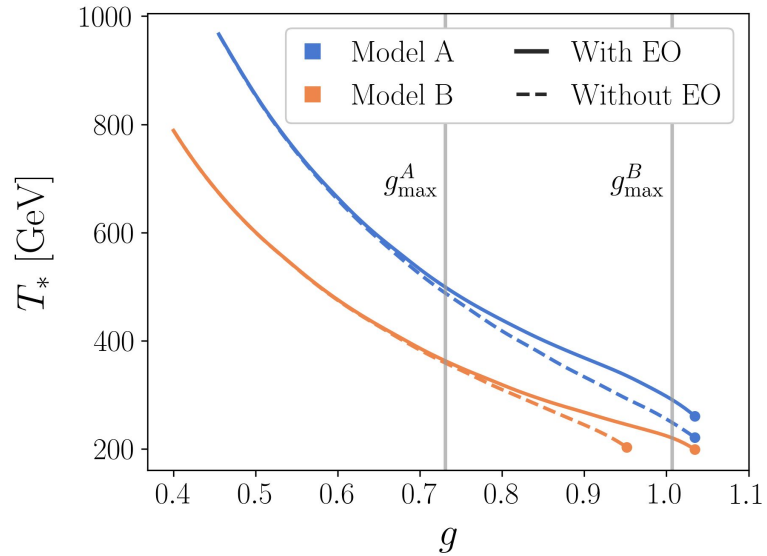


Fig. 5: PT magnitudes in two models, with and w/o effective operators





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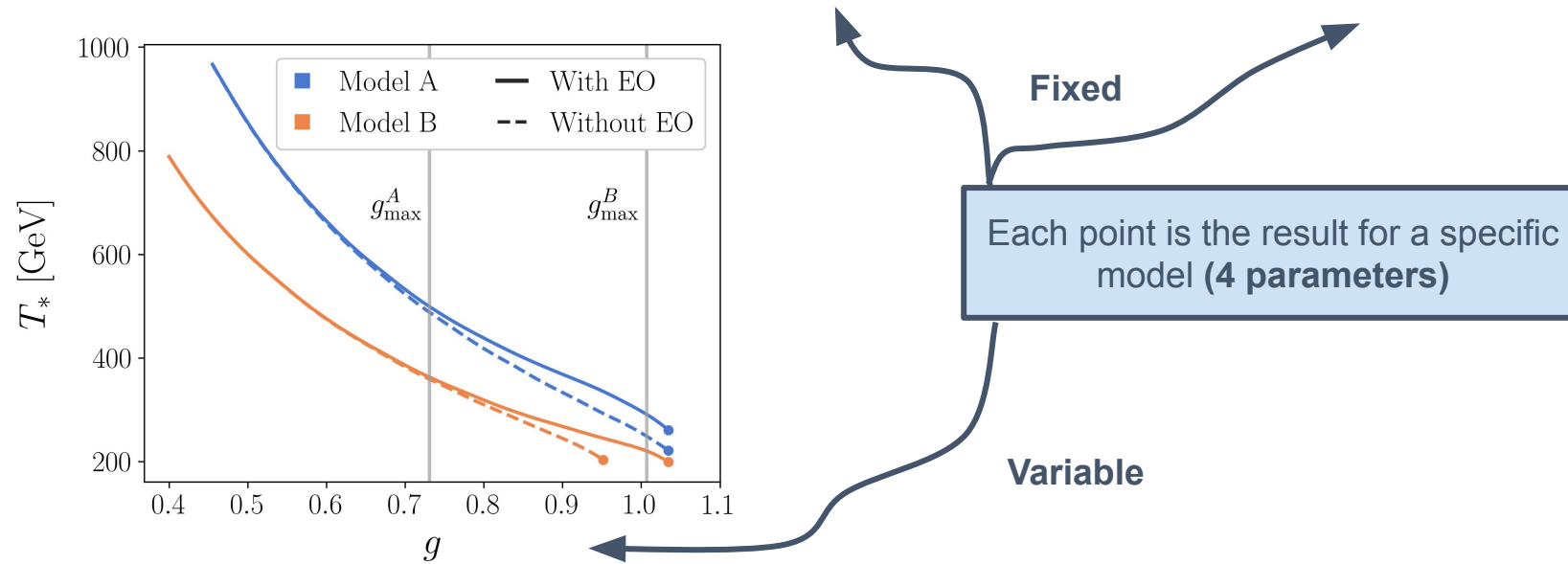


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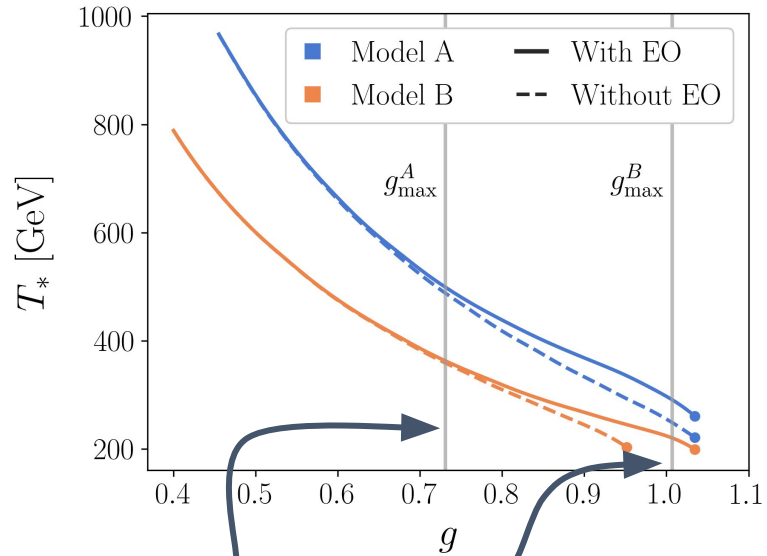
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3dEFT not valid beyond the corresponding line!

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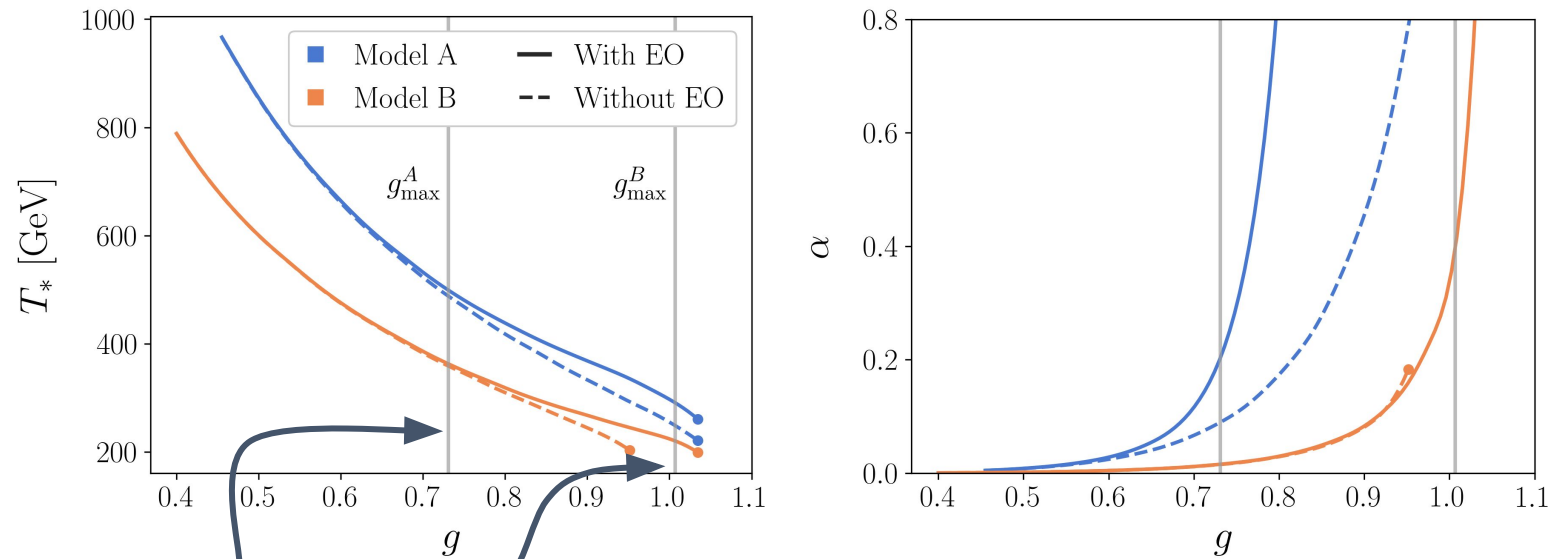
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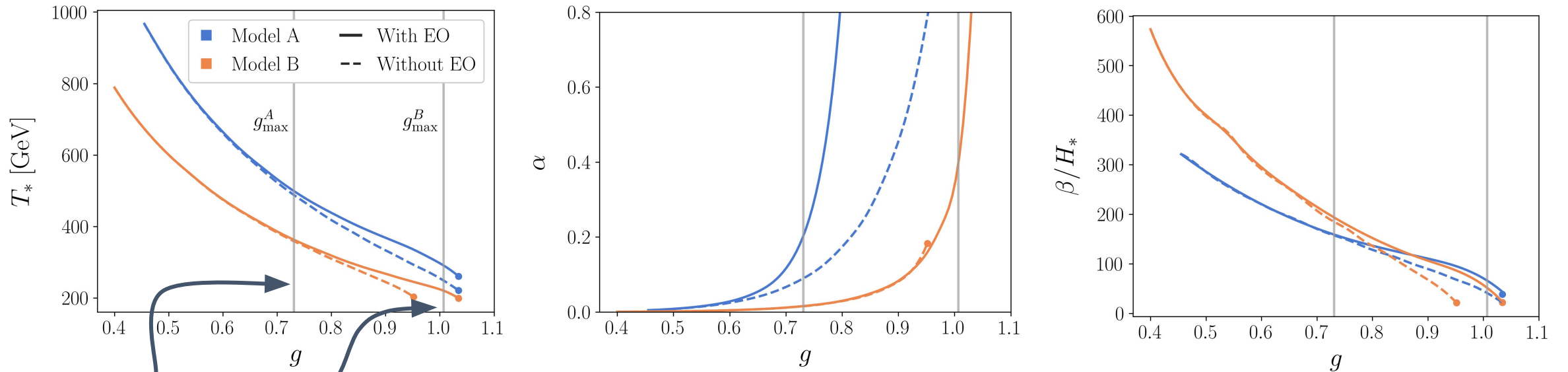
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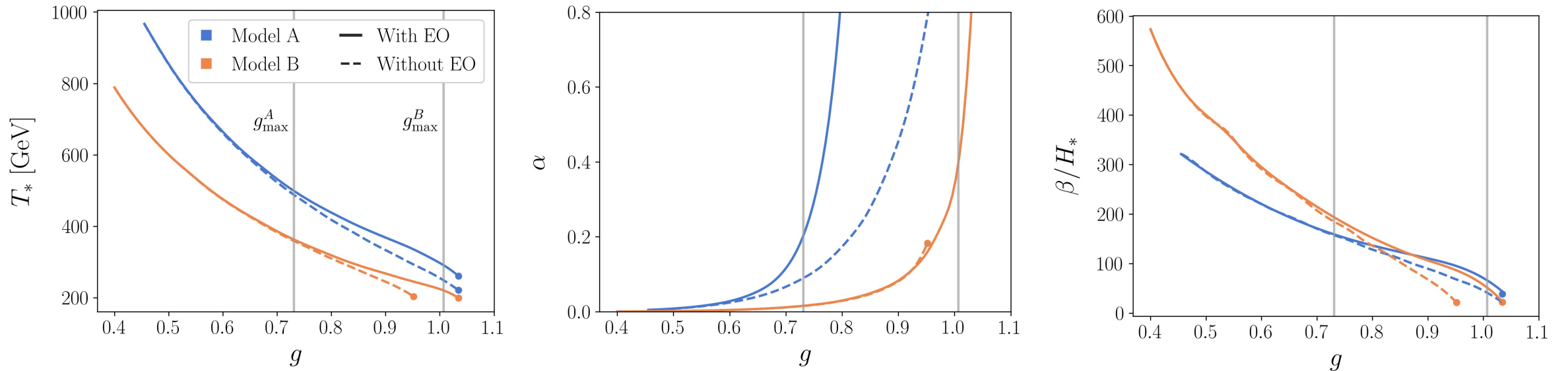


Fig. 5: PT magnitudes in two models, with and w/o effective operators

Two observations

EO can allow for PTs in a wider range of values of the Yukawa  
 Including EO yields **very different estimations** at large Yukawas



# Results

[Chala, Criado, LG, López Miras - 2406.02667]

## GW power spectra and effective interactions

■  $(m^2, \kappa, \lambda)_A = (20\,000 \text{ GeV}^2, -40 \text{ GeV}, 0.01)$

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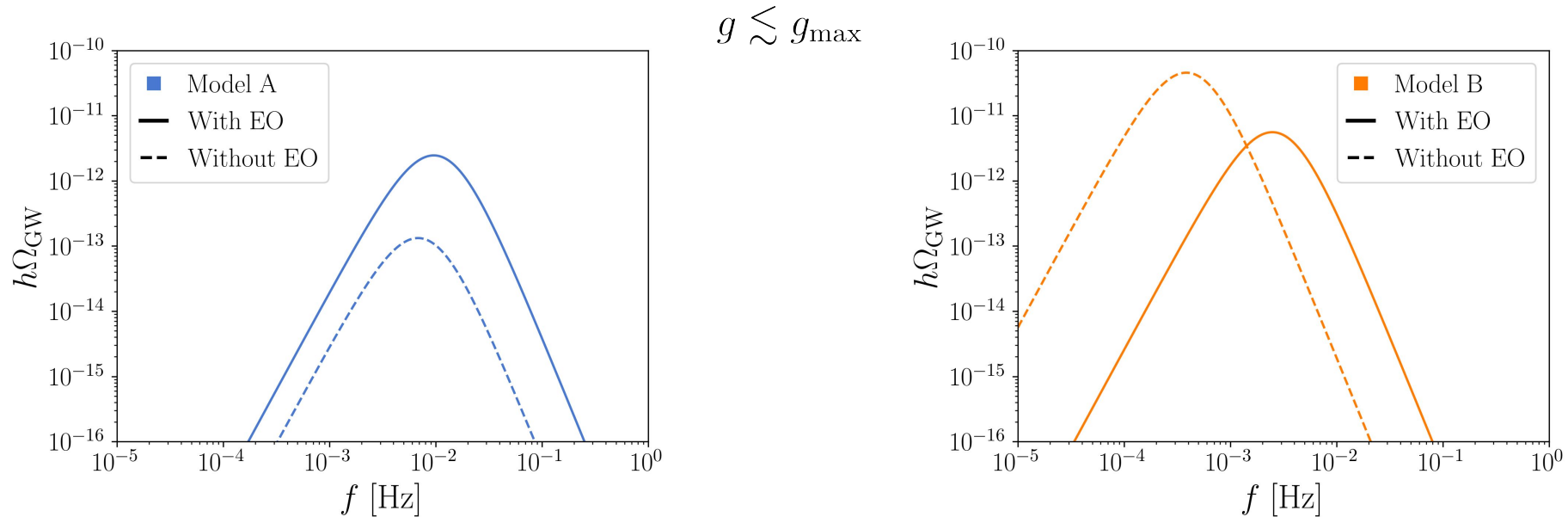


Fig. 6: GW power spectra in two models, with and w/o effective operators

(\*) Generated with **PTPlot**  
[Caprini *et al.* - 1910.13125]



# Results

[Chala, Criado, LG, López Miras - 2406.02667]

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$g \lesssim g_{\text{max}}$

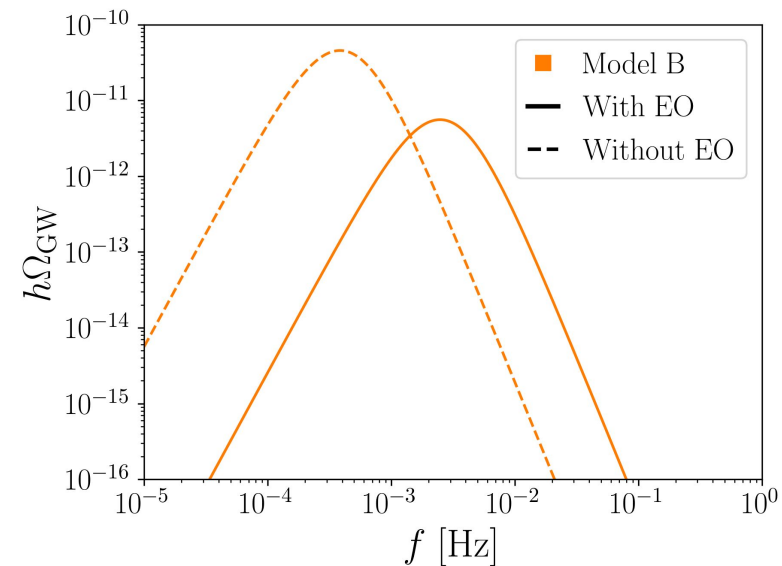
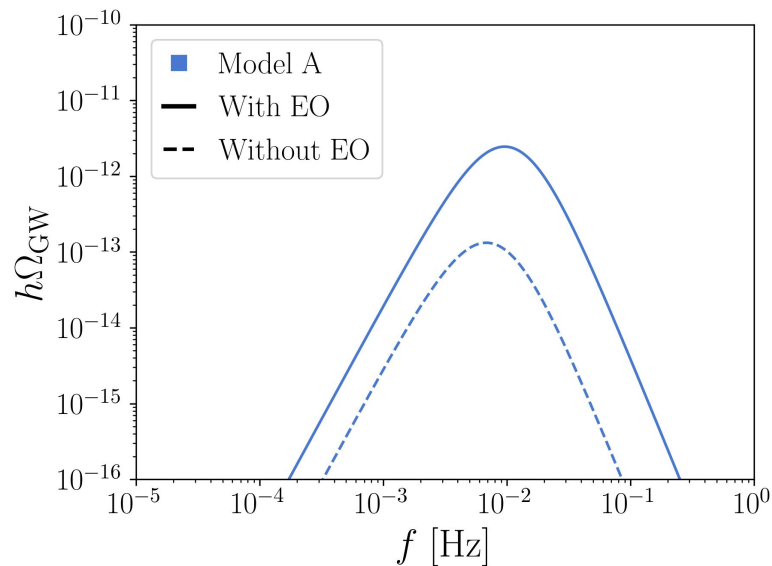


Fig. 6: GW power spectra in two models, with and w/o effective operators

Including EO can change the peak amplitude and frequency by **orders of magnitude**



## Take home messages

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### We have learned

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- Strong FOPTs occur in regions of parameter space **close the limit of validity** of the 3D EFT
- Higher-order-operator corrections in the 3dEFT **are thus relevant in the estimation of PT-related magnitudes** (order of magnitude differences in GW spectra)

### Future work

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- **Currently working on:** full order corrections to assess dependence on unphysical parameters  
→ Matching at 2-loops (3-loops?), 4D and 3D RGEs and effective action
- Application to high-temperature **SMEFT**



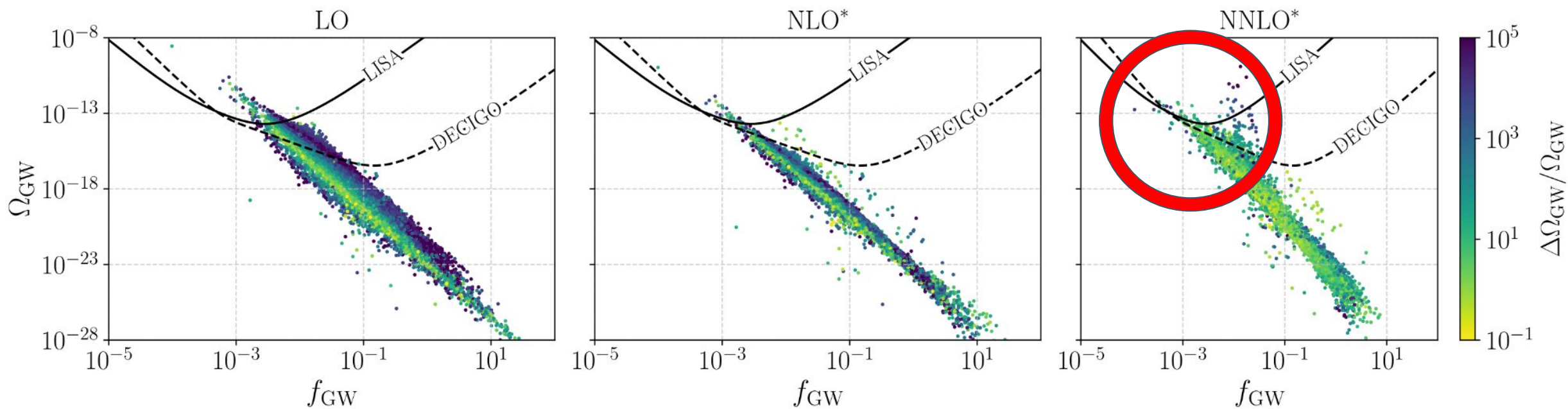
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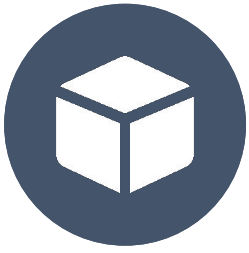
# Results

What we expect

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*Fig. A: Gravitational wave peak amplitude and frequency from parameter scan at different perturbative orders. Extracted from Fig. 3 in [Gould et al. - 2411.08951]*



# 3D EFT approach

Building our high-T EFT

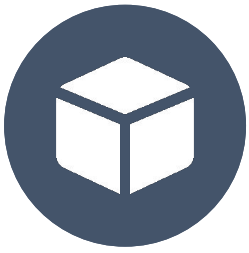
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[Kajantie *et al.* - 9508379]  
[Criado - 1901.03501]

We find an off-shell basis of operators up to (4D) dim-8 with the help of *BasisGen* and match at 1-loop (fermion only loops)<sup>1</sup>:

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{L}_3 = & \frac{1}{2}K_3(\partial\varphi)^2 + \frac{1}{2}m_3^2\varphi^2 + \kappa_3\varphi^3 + \lambda_3\varphi^4 \\ & + \alpha_{61}\varphi^6 + \beta_{61}\partial^2\varphi\partial^2\varphi + \beta_{62}\varphi^3\partial^2\varphi \\ & + \alpha_{81}\varphi^8 + \alpha_{82}\varphi^2\partial_\mu\partial_\nu\varphi\partial^\mu\partial^\nu\varphi + \beta_{81}\varphi\partial^6\varphi + \beta_{82}\varphi^3\partial^4\varphi + \beta_{83}\varphi^2\partial^2\varphi\partial^2\varphi + \beta_{84}\varphi^5\partial^2\varphi\end{aligned}$$

<sup>1</sup> Scalar loop contributions to effective operators are subleading (see Appendix A in [2406.02667]).



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$$+ \alpha_{61}\varphi^6 + \beta_{61}\partial^2\varphi\partial^2\varphi + \beta_{62}\varphi^3\partial^2\varphi$$

$$+ \alpha_{81}\varphi^8 + \alpha_{82}\varphi^2\partial_\mu\partial_\nu\varphi\partial^\mu\partial^\nu\varphi + \beta_{81}\varphi\partial^6\varphi + \beta_{82}\varphi^3\partial^4\varphi + \beta_{83}\varphi^2\partial^2\varphi\partial^2\varphi + \beta_{84}\varphi^5\partial^2\varphi$$

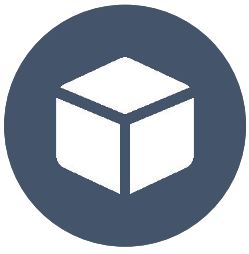
**dim-6**

Measure eff. ops. relevance

**dim-8**

Control EFT validity

<sup>1</sup> Scalar loop contributions to effective operators are subleading (see Appendix A in [2406.02667]).



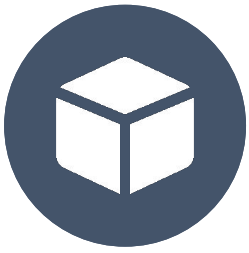
# 3D EFT approach

## Matching

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[Chala, Criado, LG, López Miras -  
2406.02667]

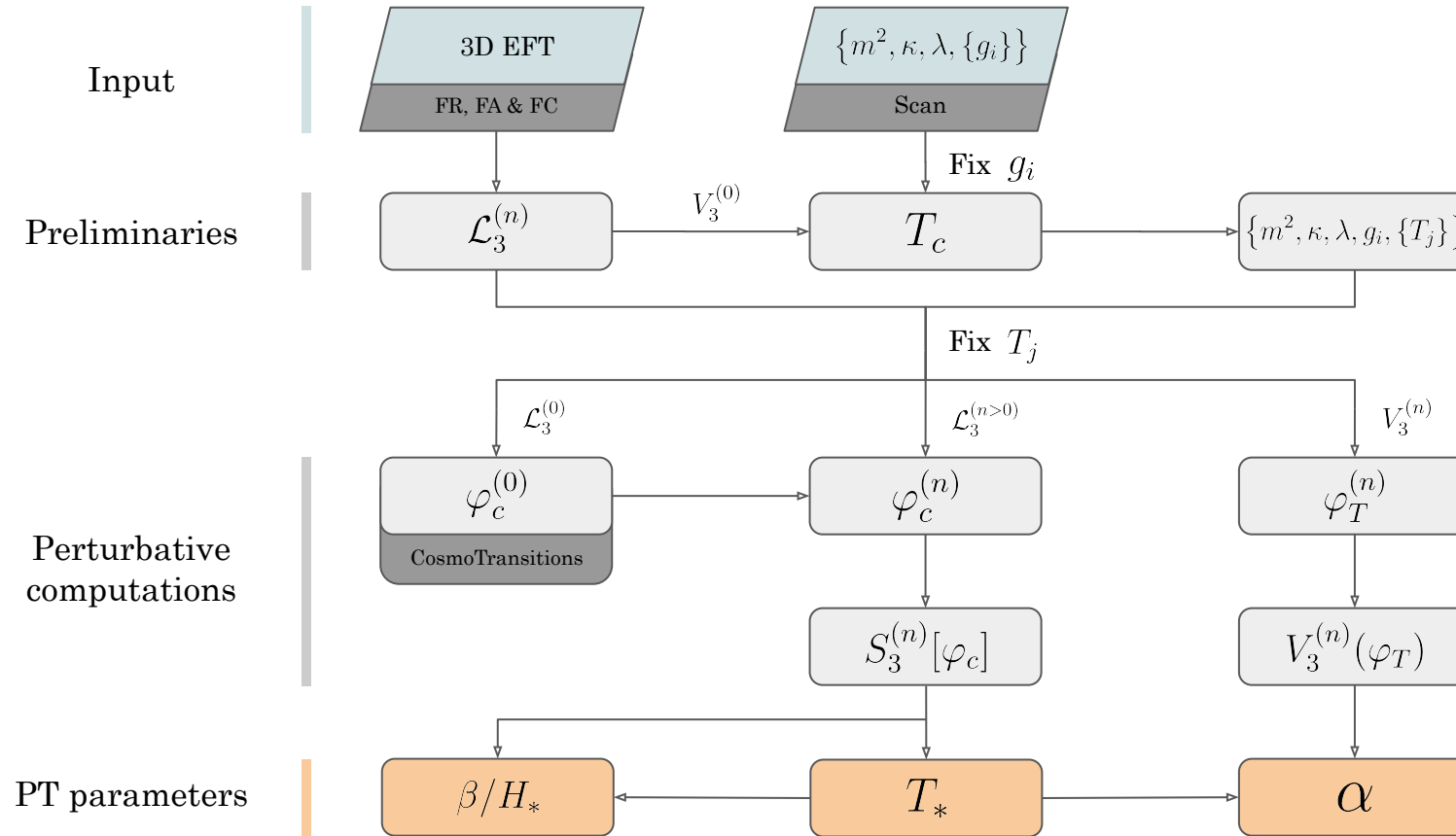
$$\begin{aligned} K_3 &= 1 + \frac{g^2}{12\pi^2}, & m_3^2 &= m^2 + \frac{g^2 T^2}{6}, & \kappa_3 &= \kappa\sqrt{T}, & \lambda_3 &= \lambda T; \\ \alpha_{61} &= -\frac{7\zeta(3)g^6}{192\pi^4}, & \beta_{61} &= -\frac{7\zeta(3)g^2}{384\pi^4 T^2}, & \beta_{62} &= \frac{35\zeta(3)g^4}{576\pi^4 T}; \\ \alpha_{81} &= \frac{31\zeta(5)g^8}{2048\pi^6 T}, & \alpha_{82} &= -\frac{31\zeta(5)g^4}{10240\pi^6 T^3}, & \beta_{81} &= -\frac{31\zeta(5)g^2}{10240\pi^6 T^4}, \\ \beta_{82} &= \frac{217\zeta(5)g^4}{20480\pi^6 T^3}, & \beta_{83} &= \frac{279\zeta(5)g^4}{20480\pi^6 T^3}, & \beta_{84} &= -\frac{217\zeta(5)g^6}{5120\pi^6 T^2}. \end{aligned}$$



# 3D EFT approach

## The algorithm

[Chala, Criado, LG, López Miras - 2406.02667]





# Results

## GW power spectra and matching scale dependence

