

Stationary configurations of the Standard Model potential: EW stability and Higgs inflation

Giuseppe Iacobellis

(iacobellis@fe.infn.it)

based on *arXiv: 1604.06046* - submitted to *PRD*,
in collaboration with dr. **Isabella Masina**

University of Ferrara and INFN - Ferrara

28th Rencontres de Blois
BSM/DM parallel session

Blois, 1st June 2016



Outline

EW
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Scalar particle at LHC: very special universe!

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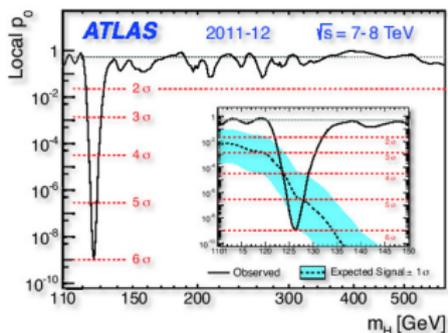
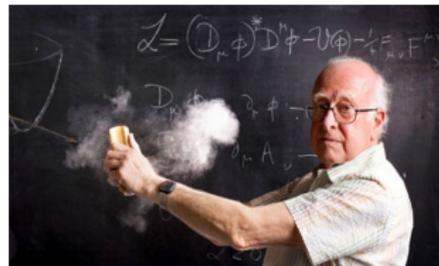
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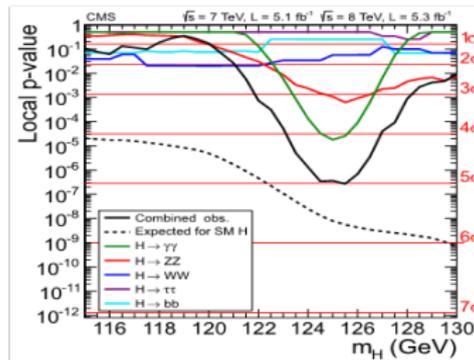
Higgs boson mass

$$m_H = 125.09 \pm 0.21 \pm 0.11 \text{ GeV}$$

Now it's possible to study the SM
potential **up to the Planck scale**



ATLAS, Phys.Lett.B 716(2012) 1-29



CMS, Phys.Lett.B 716(2012) 30



Stability and metastability

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Higgs doublet (unitary gauge)

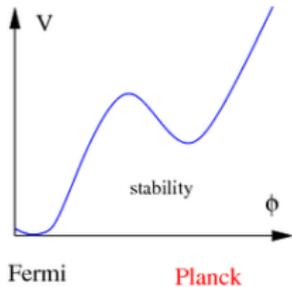
$$\mathcal{H}^T = \left(0 \quad (\phi_H + v)/\sqrt{2} \right)$$

$$v = 1/(\sqrt{2}G_\mu)^{1/2} \simeq 246 \text{ GeV}$$

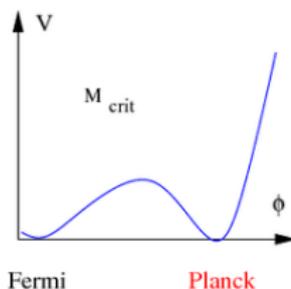
SM Higgs potential

$$V_0(\phi_H) = \frac{\lambda_H}{6} \left(|\mathcal{H}|^2 - \frac{v^2}{2} \right)^2$$

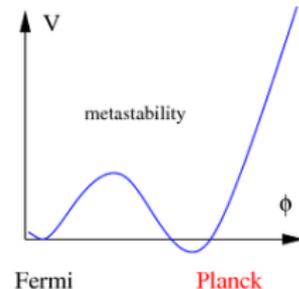
$$\sim \frac{\lambda_H}{24} \phi_H^4$$



$\lambda\phi^4$, inflection point, plateau, ...



Degenerate vacua
(Froggatt-Nielsen)



Tunneling rate $\tau > \tau_{universe}$



Vacuum stability diagram

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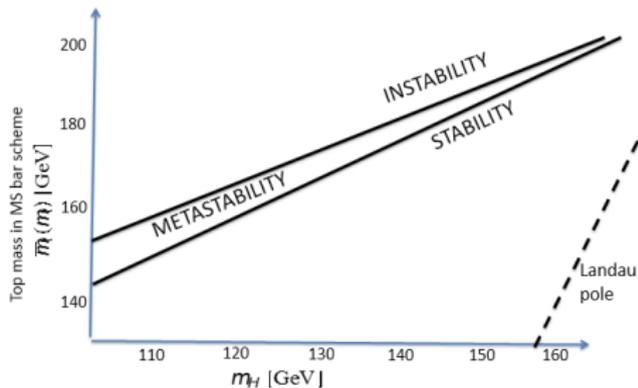
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Masina, Talk in Padua(2014)

$$\begin{aligned}\bar{m}_t^{\text{running}}(\mu) &= y_t(\mu) \frac{v}{\sqrt{2}} = \\ &= m_t^{\text{pole}} (1 + \delta_t(\mu))\end{aligned}$$

Alekhin, Djouadi, Moch,
Phys.Lett.B 716(2012) 214

- Extracted from the total cross-section $p\bar{p} \rightarrow t\bar{t} + X$

- Comparison rule:
 $m_t^{\text{pole}} \approx \bar{m}_t + 10 \text{ GeV}$

The two methods agree:
Masina, PRD 87(2013) 053001



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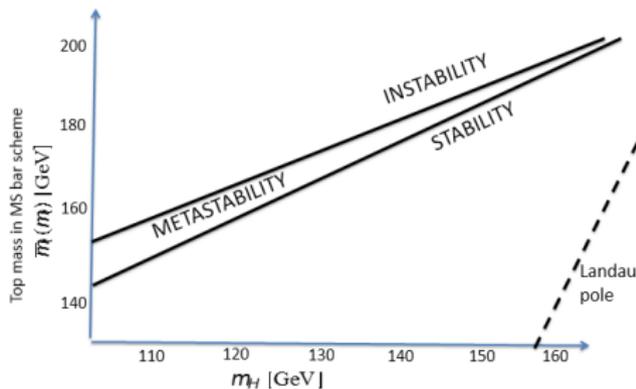
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Experimental constraints (2000)

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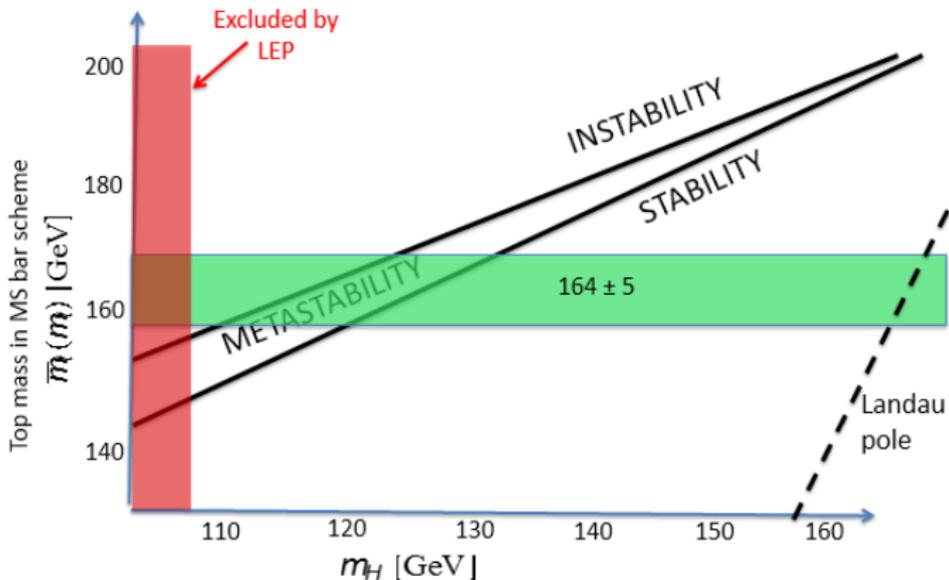
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Experimental constraints (2011)

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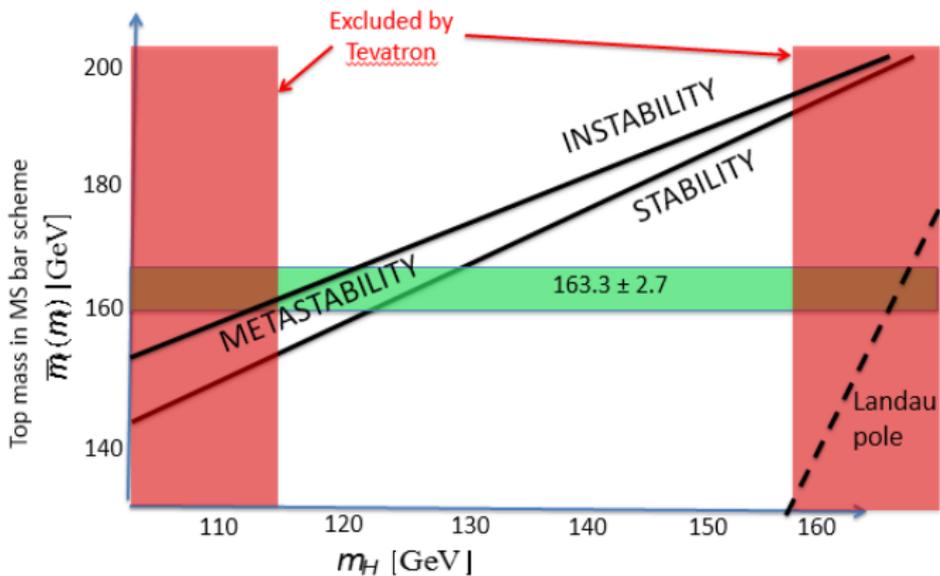
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Experimental constraints (2012)

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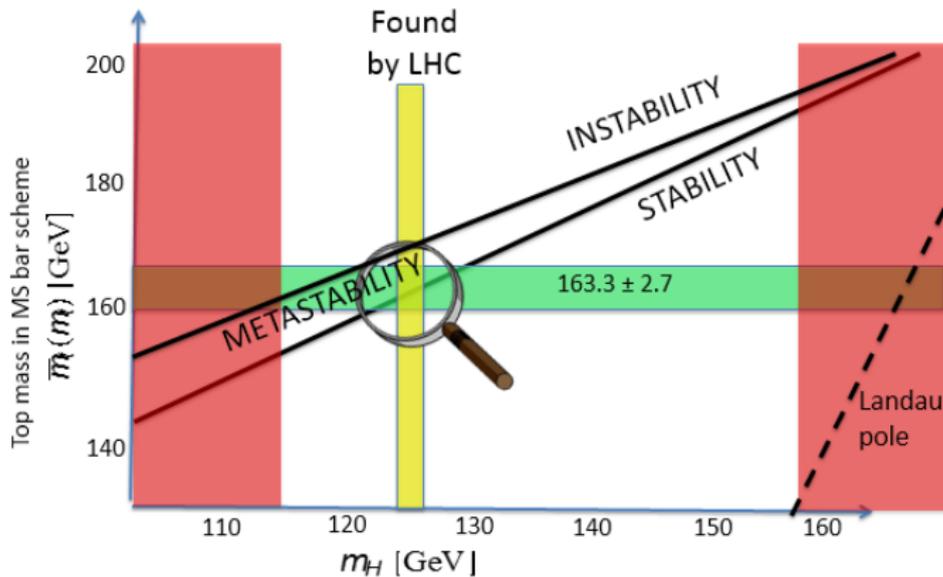
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Masina, Talk in Padua(2014)

Is Nature trying to tell us something?



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Extrapolating the Higgs potential at high energies:
RGE evolution of the couplings (assuming “desert”)

The effective potential must be independent of μ :

$$\left(\mu \frac{\partial}{\partial \mu} + \beta_i \frac{\partial}{\partial \lambda_i} - \gamma \frac{\partial}{\partial \phi} \right) V_{\text{eff}} = 0,$$

$$\beta_i = \mu \frac{d\lambda_i}{d\mu}, \quad \gamma = -\frac{\mu}{\phi} \frac{d\phi}{d\mu}$$

The formal solution of the RGE is

$$V_{\text{eff}}(\mu, \lambda_i, \phi) = V_{\text{eff}}(\mu(t), \lambda_i(t), \phi(t)),$$

$$\mu(t) = e^t \mu, \quad \phi(t) = e^{\Gamma(t)} \phi, \quad \Gamma(t) = - \int_0^t dt' \gamma(\lambda(t'))$$

t can be chosen in order to make $\phi(t)/\mu(t) \sim \mathcal{O}(1)$

Our choice: $\mu = m_p$



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Matching low-energy parameters at NNLO

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Updating the results in literature:

Bednyakov et al., PRL 115(20) (2015) 201802

- **Gauge couplings** (g_3 in particular) matching is performed at m_Z and it is dominated by

$$\alpha_s^{(5)} = 0.1181 \pm 0.0013 \quad (\text{error doubled})$$

- Uncertainty on λ is dominated by uncertainty on *Higgs mass* and *theoretical errors in the matching procedure* (scale variation and truncation)

$$\lambda(m_t) \simeq 0.7554 + 2.9 \times 10^{-3} \frac{m_H - m_H^{\text{exp}}}{\Delta m_H^{\text{exp}}} \pm 4.8 \times 10^{-3}$$

slight disagreement in literature (Degrassi et al., Buttazzo et al., Masina)



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Matching of Yukawa top coupling

Extrapolation of the $y_t(\mu)$ from the matching between **the running top mass $\bar{m}_t(\mu)$** and **the top pole mass m_t** :

y_t matching

$$y_t(\mu) \frac{v}{\sqrt{2}} = \bar{m}_t(\mu) = m_t \left(1 + \delta_t^W(\mu) + \delta_t^{QED}(\mu) + \delta_t^{QCD}(\mu) \right)$$

- *matching procedure theoretical uncertainty*
- *experimental top mass: $m_t^{\text{exp}} = 173.34 \pm 0.74 \text{ GeV}$*
ATLAS, CDF, CMS, D0, arXiv: 1403.4427

(but what it is really measured is a MC parameter m_t^{MC}
→ how much is the error committed in the identification?)

$$y_t(m_t) = 0.9359 + 4.4 \times 10^{-3} \frac{m_t - m_t^{\text{exp}}}{\Delta m_t^{\text{exp}}} \pm 1.4 \times 10^{-3}$$

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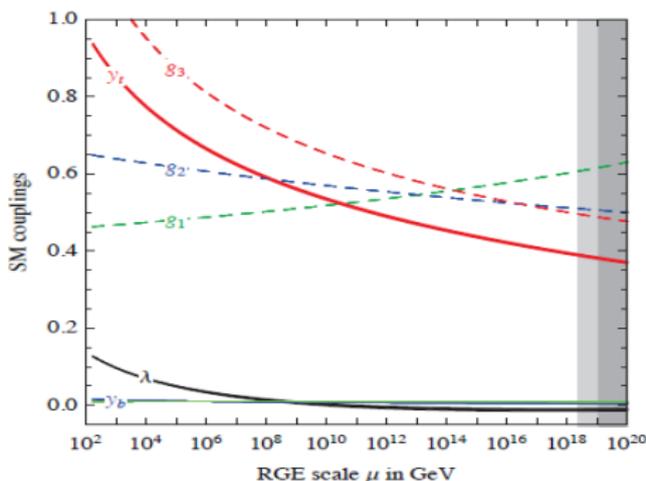
Running

(Mihaila, Salomon, Steinhauser; Chetyrkin, Zoller; Bednyakov, Pikelner, Velizhanin)

β -functions at NNLO (and 4-loop for strong coupling)

$$\frac{d\lambda_i(t)}{dt} = \kappa\beta_{\lambda_i}^{(1)} + \kappa^2\beta_{\lambda_i}^{(2)} + \kappa^3\beta_{\lambda_i}^{(3)},$$

$$\kappa = 1/(16\pi^2), \quad \lambda_i = \{g, g', g_3, y_t, \lambda, \gamma\}$$



We focus on the running of the Higgs quartic coupling λ

Degrassi et al.,
JHEP 08(2012) 098

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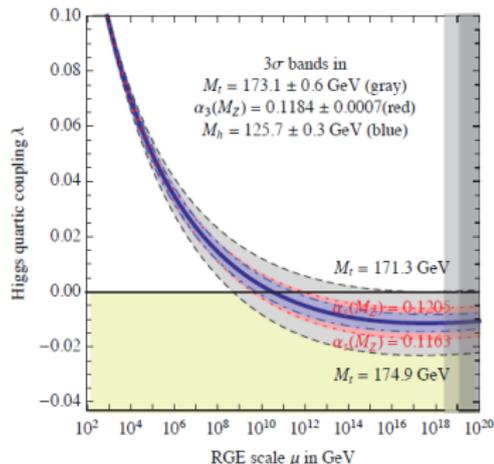


Higgs quartic coupling: running of effective λ at NNLO

$$\frac{d\lambda}{d \ln \left(\frac{\mu}{m_t} \right)} \simeq \frac{1}{16\pi^2} [12\lambda^2 + 6\lambda y_t^2 - 3y_t^4 - \frac{3}{2}\lambda(3g'^2 + g^2) + \frac{3}{16}(2g'^4 + (g'^2 + g^2)^2)] + \lambda^{(2)}(\mu/m_t) + \lambda^{(3)}(\mu/m_t)$$

The running of λ is heavily dependent on the top Yukawa coupling (and α_s)

*Stability or metastability?
Inflection point?*



Buttazzo et al., JHEP 12(2013) 089

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RGE-improved effective potential

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$$V_{\text{eff}}(\phi) = V^{(0)}(\phi) + V^{(1)}(\phi) + V^{(2)}(\phi) \equiv \frac{1}{24} \lambda_{\text{eff}}(\mu) \phi^4$$

Coleman-Weinberg correction (Coleman, Weinberg, PRD 7(1973) 1888)

$$V^{(1)}(\phi) = \sum_{i=W^\pm, Z, t} \frac{n_i}{4(4\pi)^2} m_i(\phi)^4 \left[\ln \frac{m_i(\phi)^2}{\mu^2} - C_i \right]$$

Issue: gauge dependence?

2-loop correction

Ford, Jack, Nucl.Phys.B 387(1992) 373-390 and in more compact forms
Degrassi et al. JHEP 1208(2012) 098; Buttazzo et al. JHEP 12(2013) 089

$\lambda \rightarrow 0$: Higgs and Goldstone contributions are neglected

Issue: is this approximation theoretically justified?



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Abuses of the CW radiative correction

- V_{eff} is **gauge dependent**: is it meaningful to extract physical quantities?

For instance:

$$\left. \frac{\partial^2 V_{\text{eff}}}{\partial \phi^2} \right|_{\phi_{\text{min}}} \approx m_H^2.$$

Solution!

Nielsen's identities and critical points

- Dangerous “hunting” **imaginary part**:

$$V^{(1)} \sim \ln \frac{m_i(\phi)^2}{\mu^2(t)}, \text{ but } \dots \text{ some } m_i(\phi)^2 < 0!!$$



Solution!

\hbar -expansion (Andreassen, Frost, Schwartz, PRL 113(2014) 241801)

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Gauge (in)dependence: Nielsen's identities

Nielsen, Nucl. Phys. B 101 (1975) 173-188

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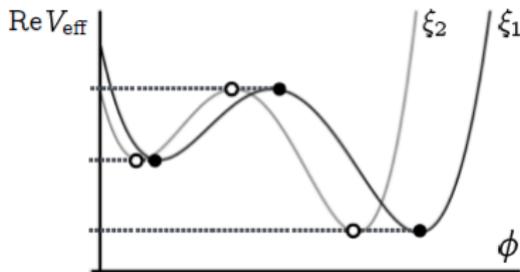
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$$\xi \frac{\partial}{\partial \xi} V(\phi, \xi) = -C(\phi, \xi) \frac{\partial}{\partial \phi} V(\phi, \xi).$$

Variations w.r.t. gauge parameters are proportional to variations w.r.t. field.

In other words, at critical points of V , the potential is **gauge independent**.



The top mass value at any stationary configuration m_t^s ($s = i, c$) is a **gauge-independent quantity**



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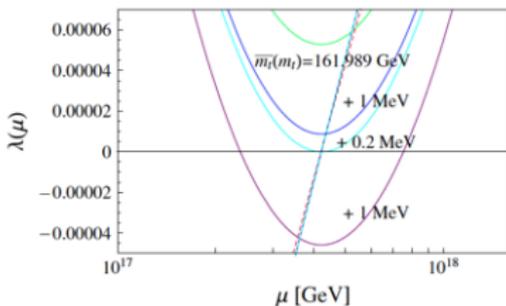
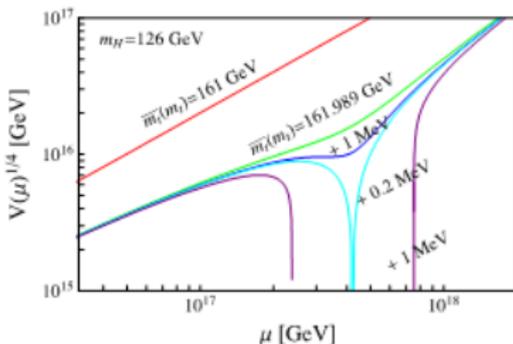
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Masina, PRD 87(2013) 053001

As m_t increases, the potential is destabilized:

- **stable**
- **stable with flex**
(*inflection point*) ★
- **stability line**
(*degenerate vacua*) ★
- **metastable**
- **deeper: unstable**

$$m_t^c \approx m_t^i$$



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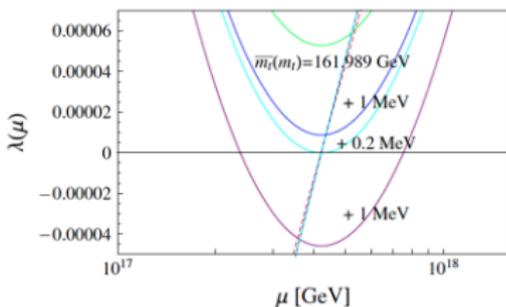
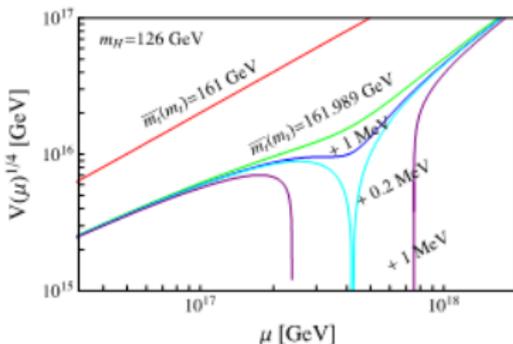
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Masina, PRD 87(2013) 053001

As m_t increases, the potential is destabilized:

- stable
- stable with flex (*inflection point*) ★
- stability line (*degenerate vacua*) ★
- metastable
- deeper: unstable

$$m_t^c \approx m_t^i$$

Stability results: degenerate vacua (1)

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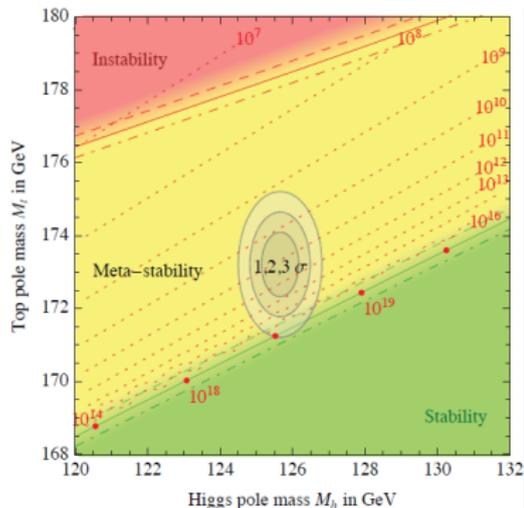
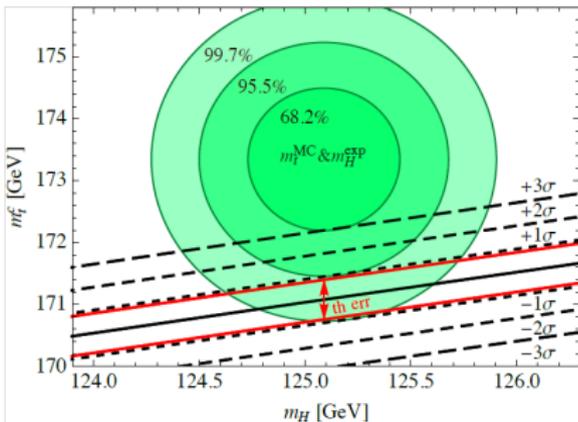
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Only 1.5 σ deviation from stability!

Buttazzo et al., JHEP 12(2013) 089

$$m_t^c = 171.08 \pm 0.37_{\alpha_s} \pm 0.12_{m_H} \pm 0.32_{\text{th}} \text{ GeV}$$



Stability results: degenerate vacua (2)

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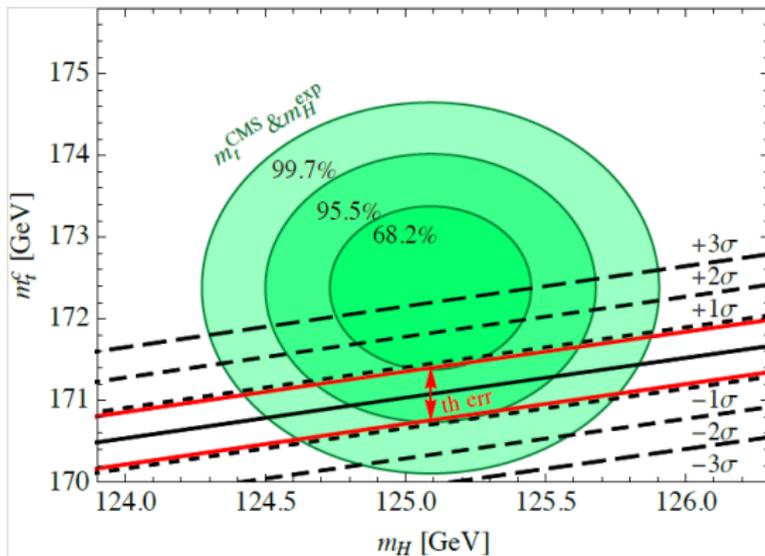
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$$m_t^{\text{CMS}} = 172.38 \pm 0.66 \text{ GeV}$$

CMS, Rep. number: CMS-PAS-TOP-14-015(2014)

Stability would be excluded at less than 1σ



Degenerate vacua: theoretical uncertainties

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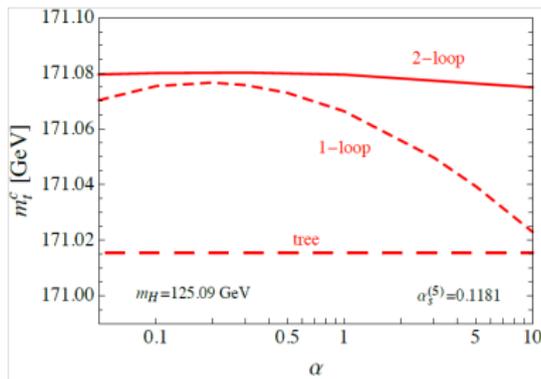
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- NNLO **matching** (scale variation and truncation):
($\Delta\lambda$)_{th} $\sim 1.6\sigma$ in m_H and (Δy_t)_{th} $\sim 0.3\sigma$ in m_t
 $\rightarrow 0.32 \text{ GeV}$ in m_t^c (dominant one);
- Order of the **β -functions in the RGE**: error $\sim 10^{-5}$
(negligible);



- **Truncation** of the effective potential loop expansion at 2nd order: $\mu(t) = \alpha\phi(t)$

The higher the order, the less the dependence on α
($\sim \pm 5 \times 10^{-3} \text{ GeV}$)

Inflection point configuration: results

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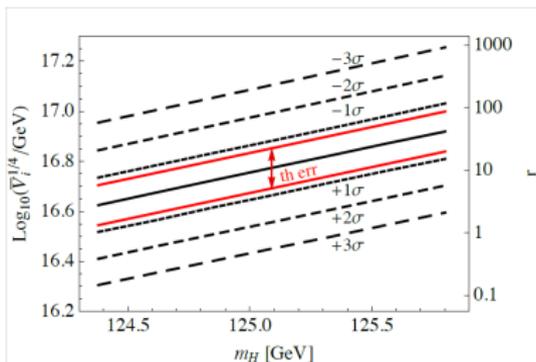
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Degenerate
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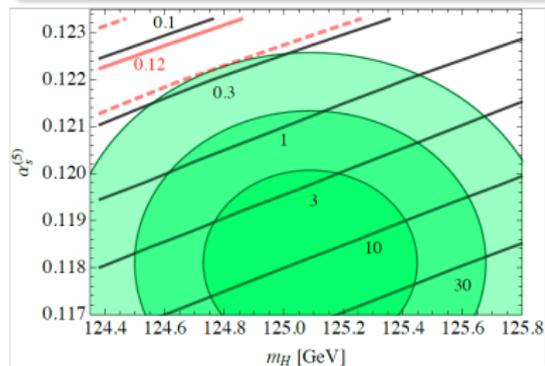


A **tension** of at least 3σ appears:
all the false vacuum inflationary
models seem to be **ruled out**

Exclusion should be less stronger than
Ballesteros, Tamarit, JHEP 09(2015) 210

$$V = \frac{3\pi^2 A_s}{2} r$$

The potential spans one order of
magnitude for decreasing α_s :
dramatic variation of r

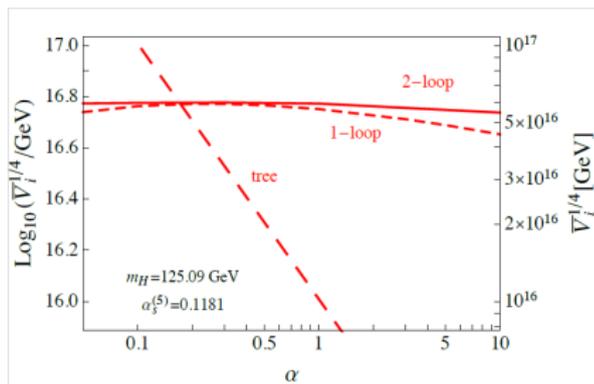


$$\log_{10} \bar{V}_i^{1/4} = 16.77 \pm 0.11 \alpha_s \pm 0.05 m_H \pm 0.08 \text{th}$$



Inflection point: theoretical uncertainties

- NNLO **matching** (scale variation and truncation):
 $(\Delta\lambda)_{\text{th}} \sim 0.08 \text{ GeV}$ on \bar{V}_i and $(\Delta y_t)_{\text{th}}$ has no significant impact on $\bar{V}_i \rightarrow 0.08 \text{ GeV}$ on \bar{V}_i ;
- Order of the β -functions in the **RGE**: $\bar{V}_i^{1/4}$ changes at the per mille level (negligible);



- Now the dependence at tree-level is implicit, but significant (one order of magnitude). The 1-loop and 2-loop flatten the potential and make the uncertainty respectively of 20% and 5%



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Most updated and detailed study of *gauge-independent observables* associated with m_t^c (which ensures **stability**) and m_t^i (SM Higgs potential at **rising inflection point**)

- 1 Stability of the SM is *compatible with present data at the level of 1.5σ* : it is still a **viable possibility**.
Higher precision measurements of the top quark pole mass and α_s would be needed.
- 2 *False vacuum inflationary models* (Higgs scalar rolling down along an inflection point configuration) display a **3σ tension** with the PLANCK bounds on the tensor-to-scalar ratio r .



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Thank you.



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General inflationary parameters: slow-roll

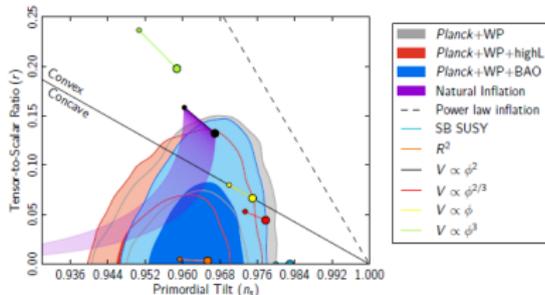
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- 1 scalar spectral index: $n_s = 1 - 6\epsilon + 2\eta$;
- 2 tensor-to-scalar ratio: $r = \mathcal{P}_t / \mathcal{P}_s \simeq 16\epsilon$;
- 3 number of e-folds:

$$N \equiv \ln \left(\frac{a_f}{a_i} \right) = \lambda_P^2 \int_{\phi_{end}}^{\phi_{CMB}} \frac{V}{V_\phi} d\phi \sim 50 \div 60$$



Planck collaboration, arXiv: 1303.5062

Inflationary scale

$$V_{infl} = 1.94 \times 10^{16} \text{ GeV} \left(\frac{r}{0.12} \right)^{1/4}$$

Amplitude of scalar
perturbations (slow-roll approx)

$$A_s \simeq \frac{V}{24\pi^2 \epsilon M_P^4}$$



Matching procedure (1)

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- The matching for the **gauge couplings** is performed at the Z boson pole mass m_Z : the correction to the numerical values for the related \overline{MS} observables (from PDG) is very small and can be neglected;
- The matching between $\lambda_h(\mu)$ with **the Higgs pole mass m_h** is given by:

$$\lambda_h(\mu) = \frac{1}{2} \frac{m_h^2}{v^2} \left(1 + \delta_h^{(1)}(\mu) + \delta_h^{(2)}(\mu) + \dots \right)$$

known at NLO: $\delta_h^{(1)}(\mu)$ is $\mathcal{O}(\alpha)$, while $\delta_h^{(2)}(\mu)$ is a Yukawa contribution and a QCD contribution ($\mathcal{O}(\alpha\alpha_3)$, $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^4)$). “Theoretical” uncertainty is 0.7% at 2-loop:

$$\lambda_h(m_h) = 0.8065 + 0.0109(m_h[\text{GeV}] - 126) + \\ + 0.0015(m_t[\text{GeV}] - 172)_{-0.0060}^{+0.0002}$$



Matching procedure (2)

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- Extrapolation of the $y_t(\mu)$ from the matching between the running top mass $\bar{m}_t(\mu)$ and the top pole mass m_t :

$$y_t(\mu) \frac{v}{\sqrt{2}} = \bar{m}_t(\mu) = m_t \left(1 + \delta_t^W(\mu) + \delta_t^{QED}(\mu) + \delta_t^{QCD}(\mu) \right)$$

known at NLO: $\delta_t^W(\mu) + \delta_t^{QED}(\mu)$ represent the EW contribution (at 2-loop), while $\delta_t^{QCD}(\mu)$ is the QCD (at 3-loop).

“Theoretical” uncertainty is related to the choice of μ , 2% at 2-loop:

$$y_t(m_t) = 0.933 + 0.006(m_t[\text{GeV}] - 172)_{-0.013}^{+0.017}$$



SM two-loop effective potential²

Coleman-Weinberg correction¹

$$V_{\text{eff}}(\phi) = V^{(0)}(\phi) + V^{(1)}(\phi) + V^{(2)}(\phi) \equiv \frac{1}{4} \lambda_{\text{eff}}(\mu) \phi^4,$$

$$V^{(1)}(\phi) = \sum_{i=W^\pm, Z, t} \frac{n_i}{4(4\pi)^2} m_i(\phi)^4 \left[\ln \frac{m_i(\phi)^2}{\mu^2(t)} - C_i \right],$$

$$C_{W^\pm} = C_Z = \frac{5}{6}, \quad C_t = \frac{3}{2}, \quad n_{W^\pm} = 6, \quad n_Z = 3, \quad n_t = -12$$

$$m_i(t)^2 = k_i \phi(t)^2, \quad \mu(t) = m_Z e^t$$

$$\phi(t) = \xi(t) \phi_{cl}, \quad \xi(t) \equiv e^{-\int_0^t \gamma(\tau) d\tau}$$

$$k_{W^\pm} = \frac{1}{4} g(t)^2, \quad k_Z = \frac{1}{4} [g(t)^2 + g'(t)^2], \quad k_t = \frac{1}{2} \phi(t)^2$$

¹S. Coleman, E. Weinberg, Phys. Rev. D7, 1888 (1973).

²*t* Hooft-Landau gauge and \overline{MS} renormalization scheme.

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Anomalous dimension

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Dilatation in a scale-invariant QFT: $x \rightarrow \lambda x$,
each operator acquires a factor $\lambda^{-\Delta}$,
with Δ called *scaling dimension of the operator*

Free theories Δ_0 from **dimensional analysis** (classical one);

Interacting fields $\Delta = \Delta_0 + \gamma(g)$, where $\gamma(g)$ is the
anomalous dimension³: the scale invariance is
spoiled at quantum level
(or, in some cases, preserved approximately over long distances).

Higgs field case

$$\Gamma(\mu) \equiv \int_{m_t}^{\mu} \gamma(\mu') d \ln \mu', \quad \gamma(g) = -\frac{d \ln h}{d \ln \mu}$$

This quantity is independent by the cut-off of the theory but not by the gauge.

³It is generally expressed by power series in the couplings, with their running in energy.



\hbar - expansion method (1)

(H. Patel, M. J. Ramsey-Musolf, JHEP 1107, 029 (2011) and also⁵)

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- \hbar counts the **number of loops**, the effective potential is truncated to **order \hbar at NLO** and **\hbar^2 at NNLO**, with a $\lambda \sim \hbar$ power counting⁴.
- Effective potential will be a series in \hbar :

$$V_{\text{eff}}(\phi) = V^{(0)}(\phi) + \hbar V^{(1)}(\phi) + \hbar^2 V^{(2)}(\phi) + \dots \rightarrow$$
$$\phi_{\text{min}} = \phi^{(0)} + \hbar \phi^{(1)} + \hbar^2 \phi^{(2)} + \dots,$$

where $\phi^{(0)}$ is the tree-level vev v and the others are the quantum corrections δv .

Inserting into the minimization condition $V'_{\text{eff}} \Big|_{\phi_{\text{min}}} = 0$:

$$V'_{\text{eff}}(\phi_{\text{min}}) = V'^{(0)}(\phi^{(0)} + \hbar \phi^{(1)} + \dots) + V'^{(1)}(\dots) + \dots =$$
$$= V'^{(0)}(\phi^{(0)}) + \hbar [V'^{(1)}(\phi^{(0)}) + \phi^{(1)} V''^{(2)}(\phi^{(0)})] = 0$$

⁴Be careful to terms scaling like the inverse power of \hbar .

⁵A. Andreassen, W. Frost, D. Schwartz, arXiv:1408.0292



\hbar - expansion method (2)

- Each power of \hbar must satisfy the equality:

$$\mathcal{O}(1): \quad V^{(0)} = 0 \quad \text{tree-level vev}$$

$$\mathcal{O}(\hbar): \quad \phi^{(1)} = -V''^{(0)}(\phi^{(0)})^{-1}V'^{(1)}(\phi^{(0)}) \quad \text{1-loop}$$

$$\mathcal{O}(\hbar^2): \quad \dots\dots\dots \quad \text{2-loop}$$

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Vacuum energy

$$\varepsilon = V^{(0)}(\phi^{(0)}) + \hbar V^{(1)}(\phi^{(0)}) + \hbar^2 \left(V^{(2)}(\phi^{(0)}) - \frac{1}{2} \frac{V'^{(1)}(\phi^{(0)})^2}{V''^{(2)}(\phi^{(0)})} \right) + \dots$$

ε depends only on extremal gauge-independent objects

- It can be applied also to
VEVs (δv), Masses, CW corrections, RG-improved vacua,
...



Proof: gauge independence of m_t^s (1)

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Absolute stability ($\phi_c > \phi_{ew}$)

$$\left. \frac{\partial V_{\text{eff}}}{\partial \phi} \right|_{\phi_{ew}, m_t^c} = \left. \frac{\partial V_{\text{eff}}}{\partial \phi} \right|_{\phi_c, m_t^c} = 0, \quad V_{\text{eff}}(\phi_{ew}, m_t^c; \xi) = V_{\text{eff}}(\phi_c, m_t^c; \xi)$$

Inflection point ($\phi_i > \phi_{ew}$)

$$\left. \frac{\partial V_{\text{eff}}}{\partial \phi} \right|_{\phi_{ew}, m_t^i} = \left. \frac{\partial V_{\text{eff}}}{\partial \phi} \right|_{\phi_i, m_t^i} = 0, \quad \left. \frac{\partial^2 V_{\text{eff}}}{\partial \phi^2} \right|_{\phi_i, m_t^i} = 0$$

Due to Nielsen's identities

$$\left. \frac{\partial V_{\text{eff}}(\phi, \xi)}{\partial \phi} \right|_{\phi_s, m_t} = 0 \rightarrow \left. \frac{\partial V_{\text{eff}}(\phi, \xi)}{\partial \xi} \right|_{\phi_s, m_t} = 0$$

$$\text{so } V_{\text{eff}}(\phi_s, m_t^s; \xi) = V_{\text{eff}}(\phi_s^L, m_t^s; 0) \equiv \bar{V}_s$$



Proof: gauge independence of m_t^s (2)

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Inverting $V_{\text{eff}}(\phi_s, m_t^s; \xi) = V_{\text{eff}}(\phi_s^L, m_t^s; 0) \equiv \bar{V}_s$
would give a gauge-dependent field and top mass

$$\phi_s = \phi_s(\xi) \text{ and } m_t^s = m_t^s(\xi)$$

Applying a total derivative w.r.t. ξ

$$\left. \frac{\partial V_{\text{eff}}}{\partial \xi} \right|_{\phi_s, m_t^s} + \left. \frac{\partial V_{\text{eff}}}{\partial m_t} \right|_{\phi_s, m_t^s} \frac{\partial m_t^s}{\partial \xi} + \left. \frac{\partial V_{\text{eff}}}{\partial \phi} \right|_{\phi_s, m_t^s} \frac{\partial \phi_s}{\partial \xi} = 0$$

third and first term vanish because of stationary condition
and Nielsen identity respectively.

Since in general $\left. \frac{\partial V_{\text{eff}}}{\partial m_t} \right|_{\phi_s, m_t^s} \neq 0$, we obtain that

$$\frac{\partial m_t^s}{\partial \xi} = 0$$



$\phi \rightarrow h$: Higgs inflation? (1)

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Who's the scalar field which drives inflation?

Minimal choice: the only scalar in SM, the Higgs field!

Main issue

The Higgs potential is **not flat**

$$V_0 = \lambda_h \left(\mathcal{H}^\dagger \mathcal{H} - \frac{v^2}{2} \right)^2$$

Electroweak (EW) scale: $v \simeq 246 \text{ GeV}$.

Higgs mass: $m_h \equiv \sqrt{2v^2\lambda_h} \simeq 125.1 \text{ GeV}$.

Extrapolation of the high-energy behaviour is needed!



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$\phi \rightarrow h$: Higgs inflation? (2)

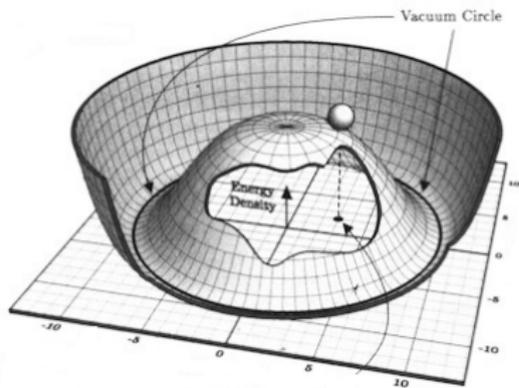
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Unitary gauge

$$\mathcal{H}^T = \left(0 \quad (h+v)/\sqrt{2} \right)$$



λ_h quartic coupling constant

For large field values

$$V_0 \sim \lambda_h h^4$$

Guth, PRD 23(1981) 347

Pure SM inflation

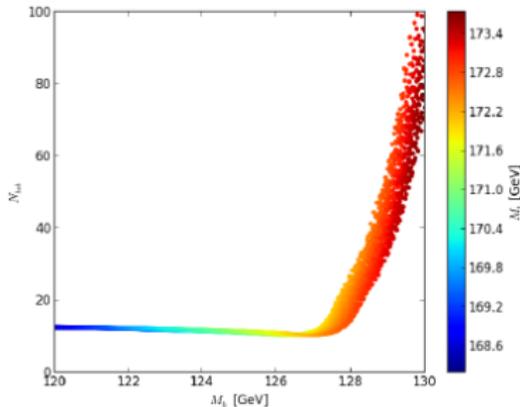
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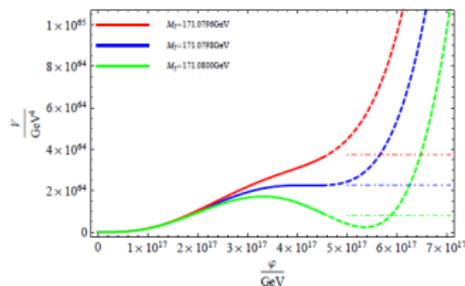
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- ① Sufficient e-folds N ;
- ② Correct A_s ;
- ③ Power spectrum nearly scale invariant.



M. Fairbairn et al., arXiv: 1403.7483



Y. Hamada et al., arXiv: 1308.6651

- For $m_h \simeq 126 \text{ GeV} \Rightarrow$
too low N_{tot}
- If N_{tot} correct, wrong
 A_s : no slow-roll?

*Maybe the Higgs is not
responsible of both inflation and
scalar perturbations.*

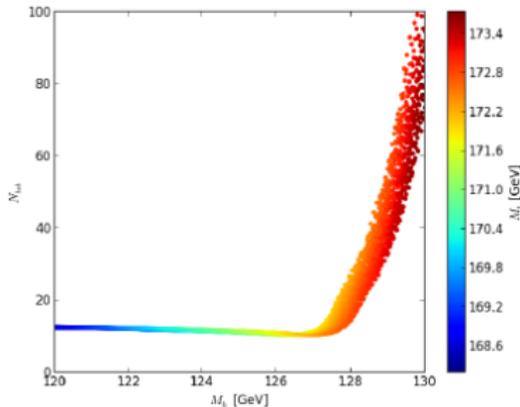
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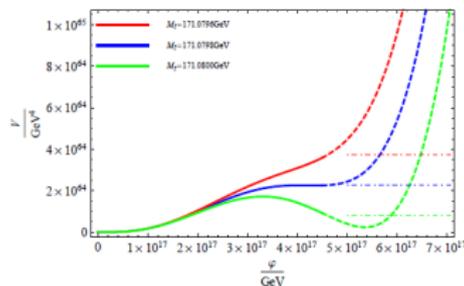
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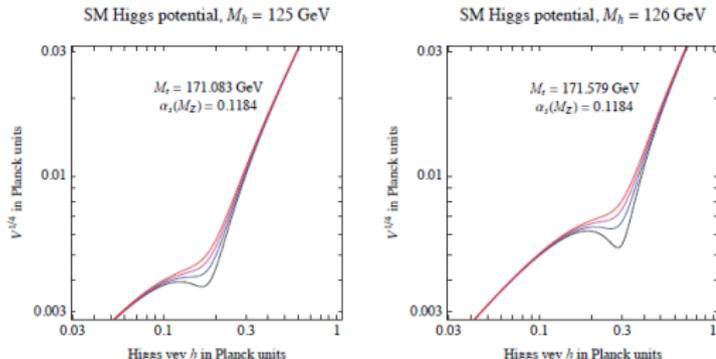
False vacuum inflation (1)⁶

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- Tuning the top quark mass, it is possible to obtain a **shallow local minimum** at large field values (stability required);
- The Higgs boson sitting in this false vacuum would provide **exponential inflation** and then could **tunnel to the EW one**;
- The model needs **another scalar** responsible of scalar perturbations and a mechanism (tunnelling) for escaping from inflationary phase (**graceful exit**).



⁶I. Masina, A. Notari, arXiv: 1112.2659.



Real scalar singlet and right-handed neutrino: $U(1)_{B-L}$

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Global Lagrangian

$$\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{L}_{SM} + \mathcal{L}_S + \mathcal{L}_N,$$

$$\mathcal{L}_S = -\frac{m_s^2}{2} s^2 - \frac{\lambda_{\phi s}}{2} |\mathcal{H}|^2 s^2 - \frac{\lambda_s}{24} s^4 + (\text{kinetic terms}),$$

$$\mathcal{L}_N = \left(\frac{M_N}{2} \bar{N}^c N + h_\nu \bar{L}_\alpha \mathcal{H} N + \text{c.c.} \right) + (\text{kinetic terms})$$

I-type seesaw mechanism

$$m_\nu = h_\nu \frac{v^2}{M_N}, \quad M_N \gg v$$

Other generations can be generated by
lighter right-handed neutrinos

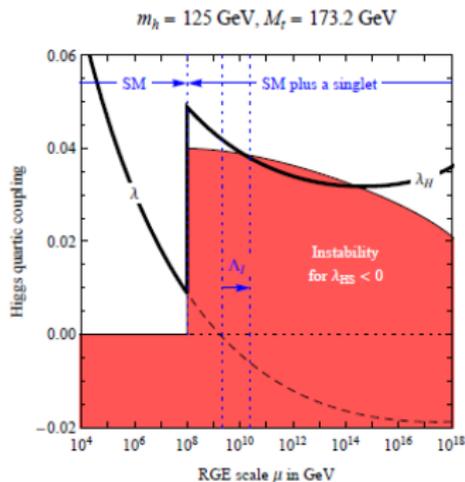
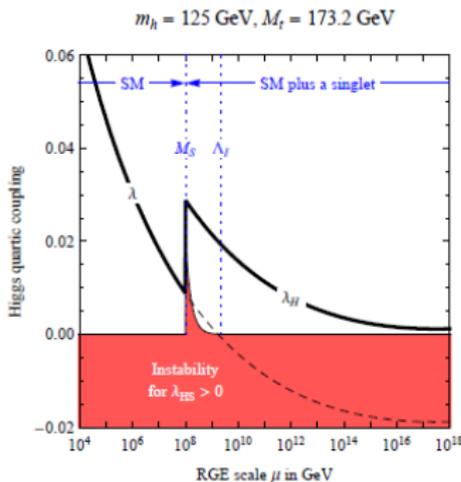
- Z_2 symmetry
- $m_s < \text{instability scale}$
- tree-level threshold effect:

$$\lambda = \lambda_\phi - \frac{\lambda_{\phi s}^2}{\lambda_s}$$

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Under evaluation...

⁷J. Elias-Miró, J. R. Espinosa, G. F. Giudice, H. M. Lee, A. Strumia, JHEP 1206 (2012) 031.



Gravitational corrections

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Near the cutoff of the theory, large Planckian effects are possible: our *ignorance about the UV completion* of the theory could be parametrized through an **effective field theory approach**

$$V(\phi) = \frac{\lambda}{24} \phi^4 + \frac{\lambda_6}{6} \frac{\phi^6}{M_P^2} + \frac{\lambda_8}{8} \frac{\phi^8}{M_P^4} + \mathcal{O}\left(\frac{\phi^{10}}{M_P^6}\right)$$

The impact of gravitational effects is largely dependent on the free couplings towards stability or metastability

The effective theory expansion breaks down when $\phi \sim M_P$:
the use of an effective theory close to its cutoff might not be fully reliable