

# *Towards an Asymptotically Safe SM*

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Steven Abel (Durham IPPP)

w/ Sannino, [ArXiv:1704.00700](https://arxiv.org/abs/1704.00700) Phys.Rev. D96 (2017) no.10, 106013

w/ Sannino, [ArXiv: 1707.06638](https://arxiv.org/abs/1707.06638) Phys.Rev. D96 (2017) no.5, 055021

w/ Molgaard, Sannino to appear

w/ D.Lewis to appear

# Outline

- Motivation; the hierarchy versus triviality problem
- RG flows and the asymptotic safety idea
- Asymptotically safe 4D QFTs
- Adding relevant operators
- An ASSM ?
- AS in String theory?

*Motivation: two problems to do with scalars*

***The hierarchy problem:***

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- *Misaligned Supersymmetry* - even non-supersymmetric non-tachyonic strings are finite. (*Alternative route to naturalness*) (Dienes, Moshe, Myers (90's), SAA+Dienes+Mavroudi)

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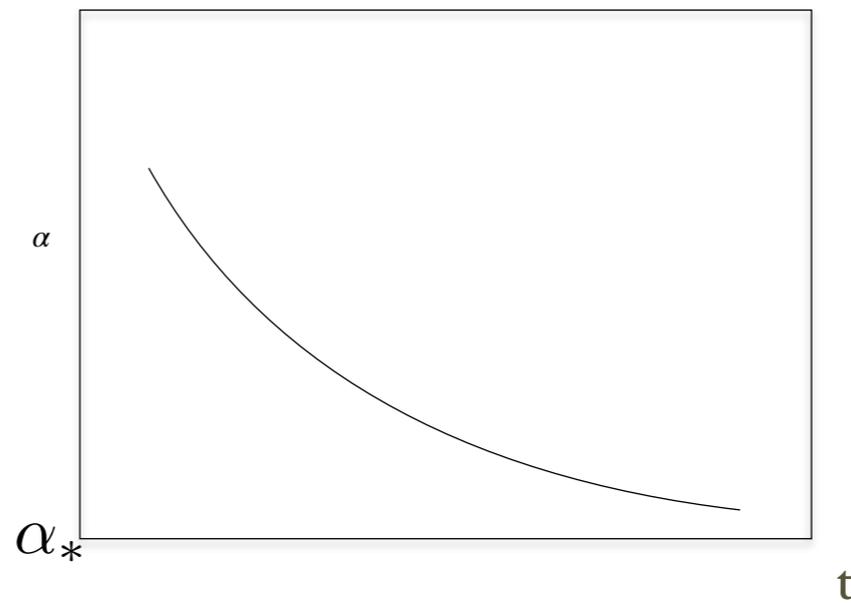
Scalars lead to Landau poles:

=> the theory is UV incomplete

But trying to UV complete it results in the hierarchy problem again! (see previous comments)

## Hints from QCD

$$\partial_t \alpha = -B\alpha^2$$



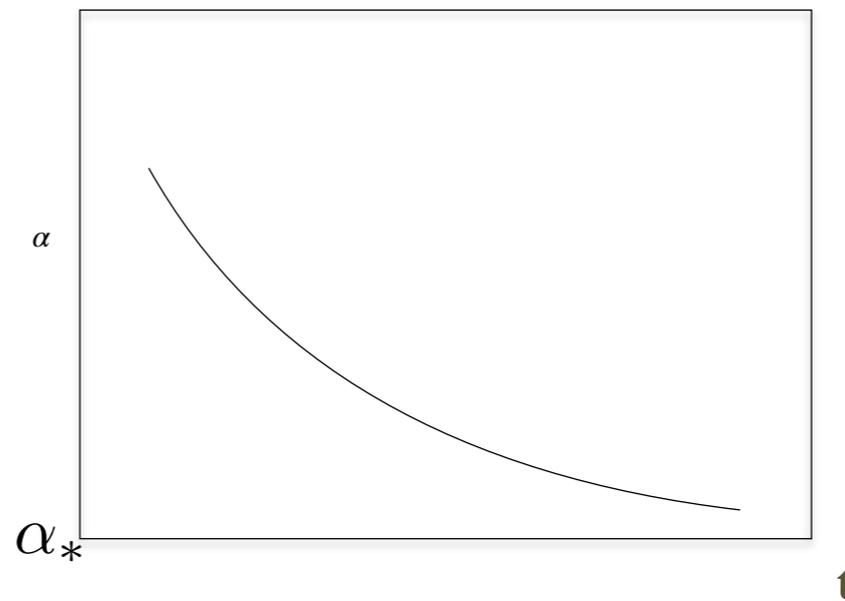
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## Hints from QCD

QCD is (unlike SUSY) a UV complete theory. Why?

1. *There is no hierarchy problem:* quark masses are protected by chiral symmetry
2. *There is no triviality problem:* QCD is **asymptotically free**

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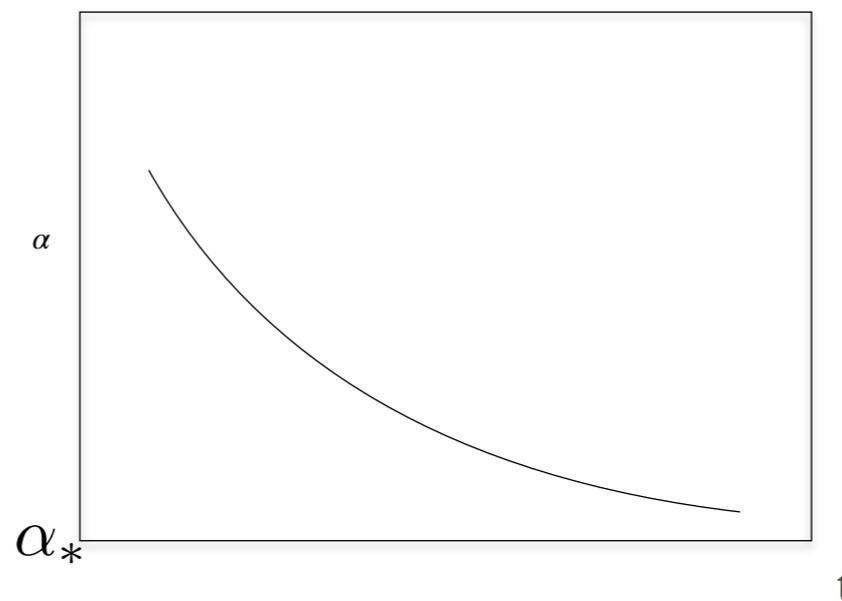
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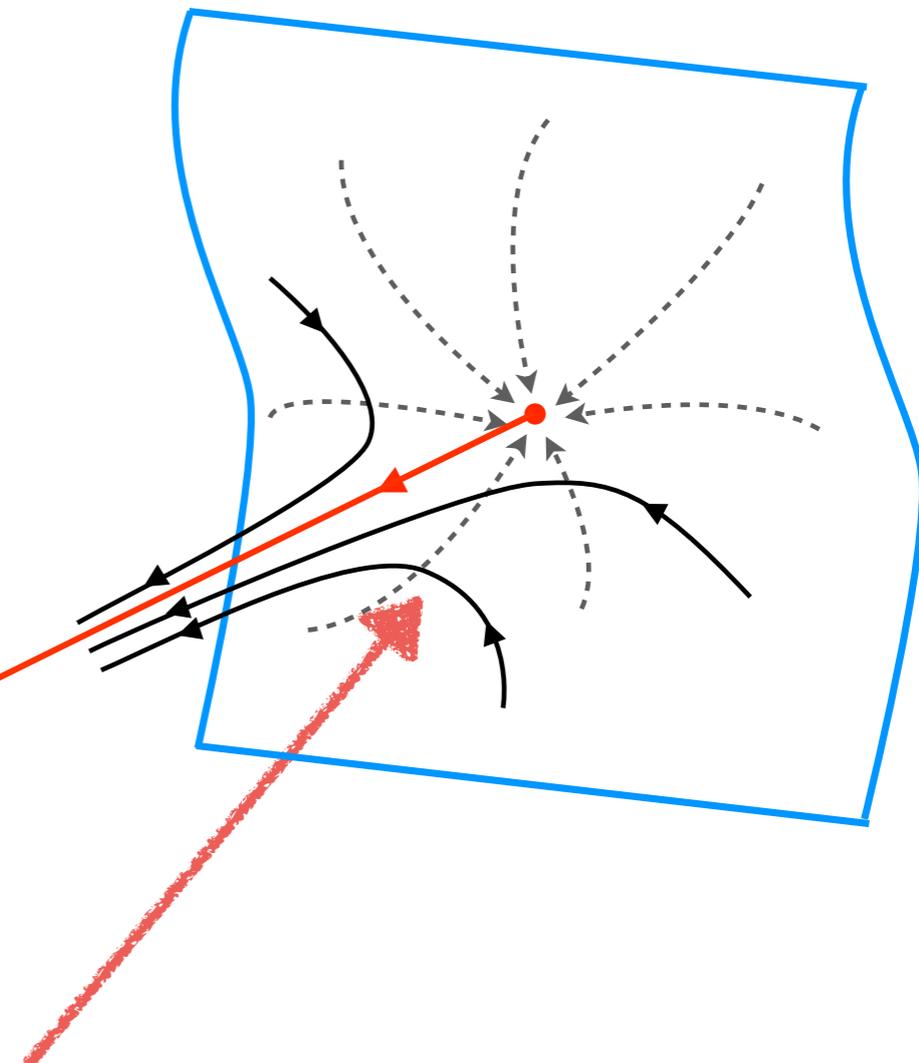
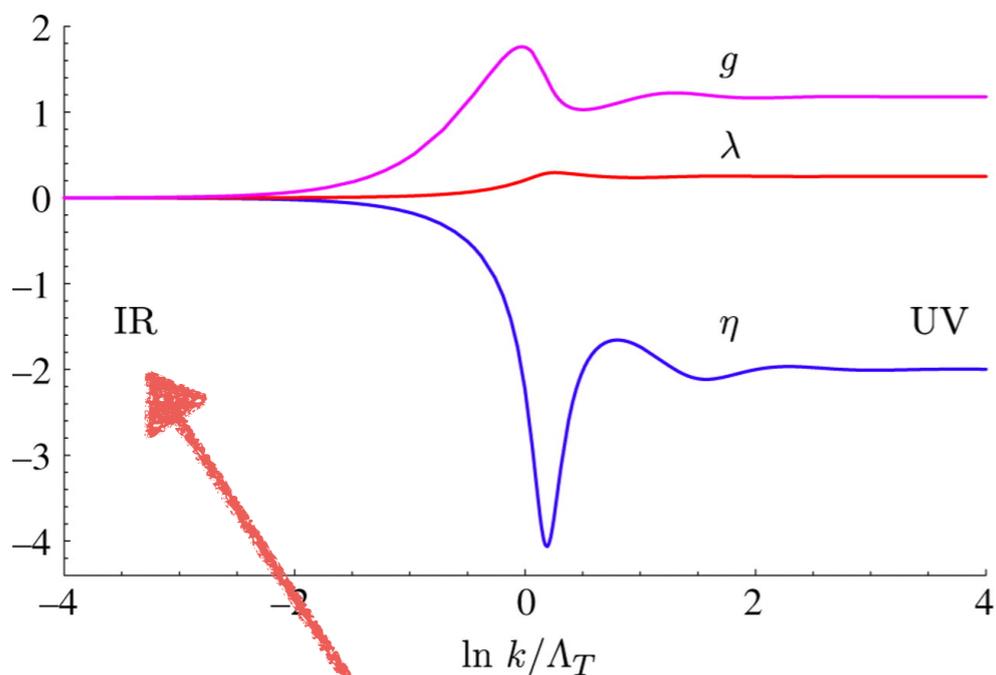
Note the philosophy of QCD: we do not mind running masses because they do not upset the Gaussian UV fixed point. We simply measure them and let them run. Or to put it another way: they are “relevant” operators that are effectively zero in the UV. They do not need to run to zero in the UV! (We also don’t care too much about couplings blowing up in the IR.)

*RG flows and the asymptotic safety idea*

Gastmans et al '78  
 Weinberg '79  
 Peskin '80  
 Gawedski, Kupiainen '85  
 Kawai et al '90  
 de Calan et al '91  
 Litim '03  
 Morris '04

## The Basic idea

Weinberg used this as a basis for his proposal of UV complete theories



Gaussian IR fixed point => perturbative

Interacting UV fixed point => finite anomalous dimensions

In a field theory replace  $1/\epsilon$  with  $1/\gamma$  => divergences of marginal operators (which affect the fixed point) cured

## *Categorise the possible content of a theory as follows:*

**Irrelevant operators:** would disrupt the fixed point - therefore asymptotically safe theories have to emanate precisely from UV fixed point where they are assumed zero (exactly renormalizable trajectory)

**Marginal operators:** can be involved in determining the UV fixed point where they become *exactly* marginal. Or can be marginally relevant (asymptotically free) or irrelevant.

**Relevant operators:** become “irrelevant” in the UV but may determine the IR fixed point.

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Note relevant or marginally relevant operators still have “infinities” at the FP - just as quark masses, they still run at the FP just like any other relevant operator: but being relevant they do not affect the FP. (And by definition they become less important the higher you go in energy.)

## U.V. v. I.R. F.P.

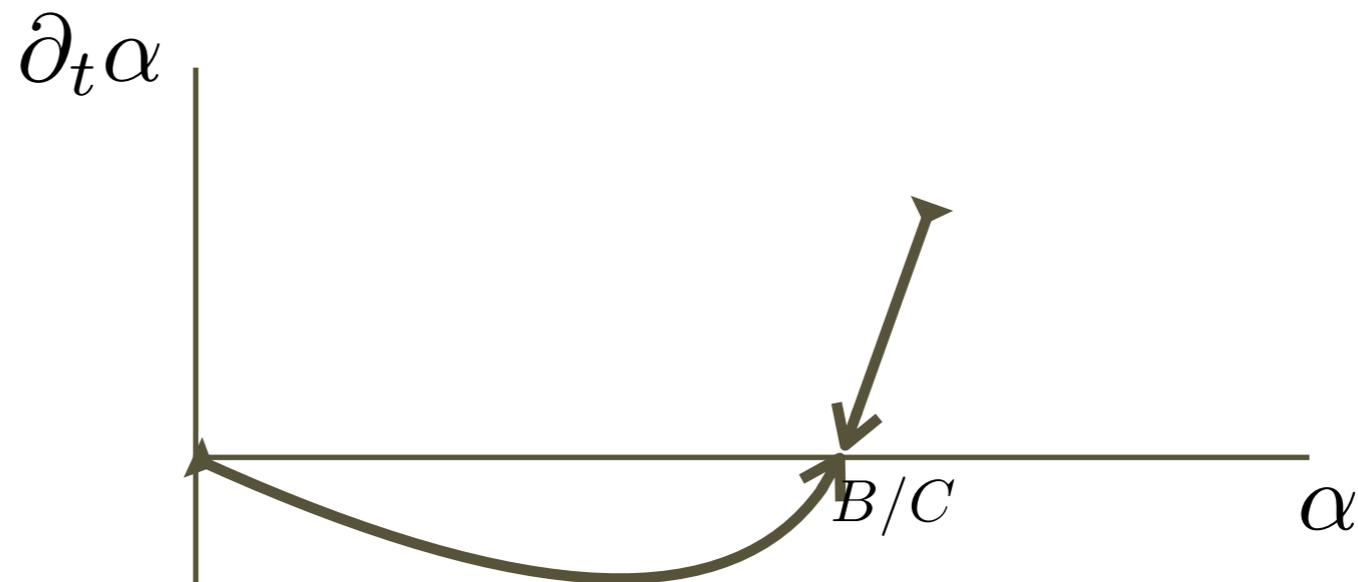
### Caswell-Banks-Zaks fixed point:

Take QCD with  $SU(N_C)$  and  $N_F$  fermions but very large numbers of colours+flavours

$$\partial_t \alpha = -B\alpha^2 + C\alpha^3$$

$$B \propto \epsilon = \frac{N_F}{N_C} - \frac{11}{2}$$

Turns out  $C > 0$ ,  $B > 0$ : theory has *stable* IR fixed point at  $\alpha = B/C$  and *unstable* one in UV  $\alpha = 0$



Note perturbativity:  $\implies B \ll C$

requires many fields (Veneziano limit) with  $N_F \approx 11N_C/2$

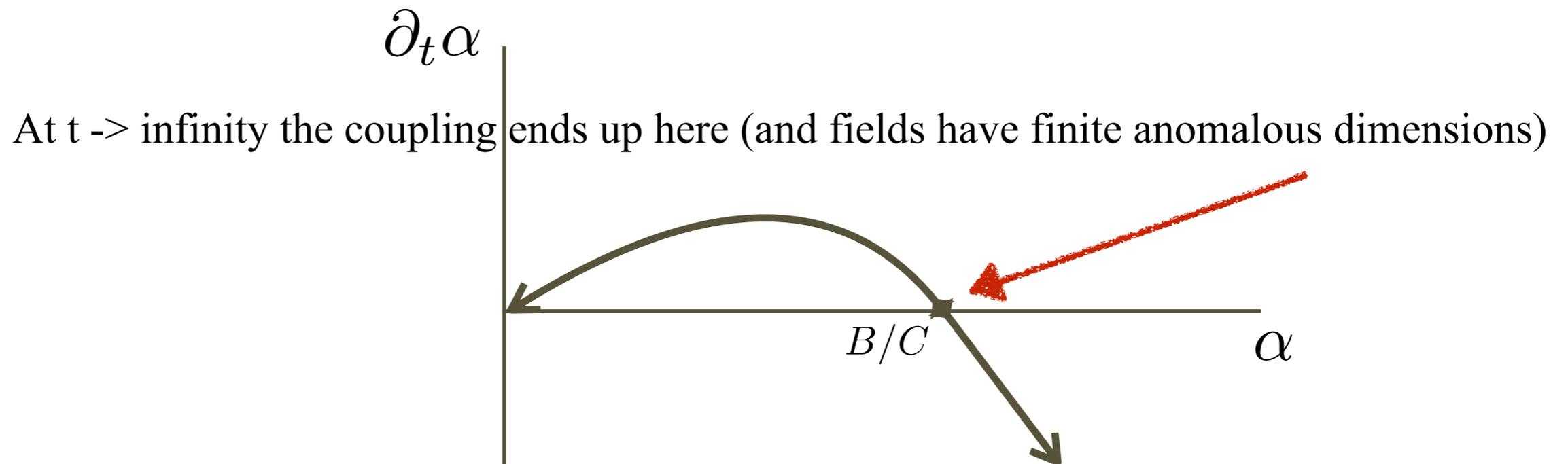
Familiar from Seiberg duality and weakly coupled  $N_F \lesssim 3N_C$   $\mathcal{N} = 1$  supersymmetry

## Cartoon of a would-be Interacting UV FP:

Again would have ...

$$\partial_t \alpha = -B\alpha^2 + C\alpha^3$$

But requires  $C < 0$ ,  $B < 0$ , this theory has *stable* IR fixed point at  $\alpha = 0$  and *unstable* UV one at  $\alpha = B/C$



Again perturbativity would require

$$N_F \approx 11N_C/2$$

# *Asymptotic safety in 4D QFT*

**Real situation requires several couplings to realise**

Litim & Sannino '14

Need to add **scalars** and **Yukawa couplings**:

$$\mathcal{L} = -\frac{1}{2} \text{Tr} F^{\mu\nu} F_{\mu\nu} + \text{Tr} (\bar{Q} i \not{D} Q) + y \text{Tr} (\bar{Q} H Q) + \text{Tr} (\partial_\mu H^\dagger \partial^\mu H) \\ - u \text{Tr} [(H^\dagger H)^2] - v (\text{Tr} [H^\dagger H])^2,$$

$H$  is an  $N_F \times N_F$  scalar

Initially have  $U(N_F)_L \times U(N_F)_R$  flavour symmetry

Effect of Yukawa ....

$$\left( \alpha_g = \frac{g^2 N_C}{(4\pi)^2}, \quad \alpha_y = \frac{y^2 N_C}{(4\pi)^2} \right)$$

$$\beta_g = \alpha_g^2 \left[ \frac{4}{3}\epsilon + \left( 25 + \frac{26}{3}\epsilon \right) \alpha_g - 2 \left( \frac{11}{2} + \epsilon \right)^2 \alpha_y \right]$$

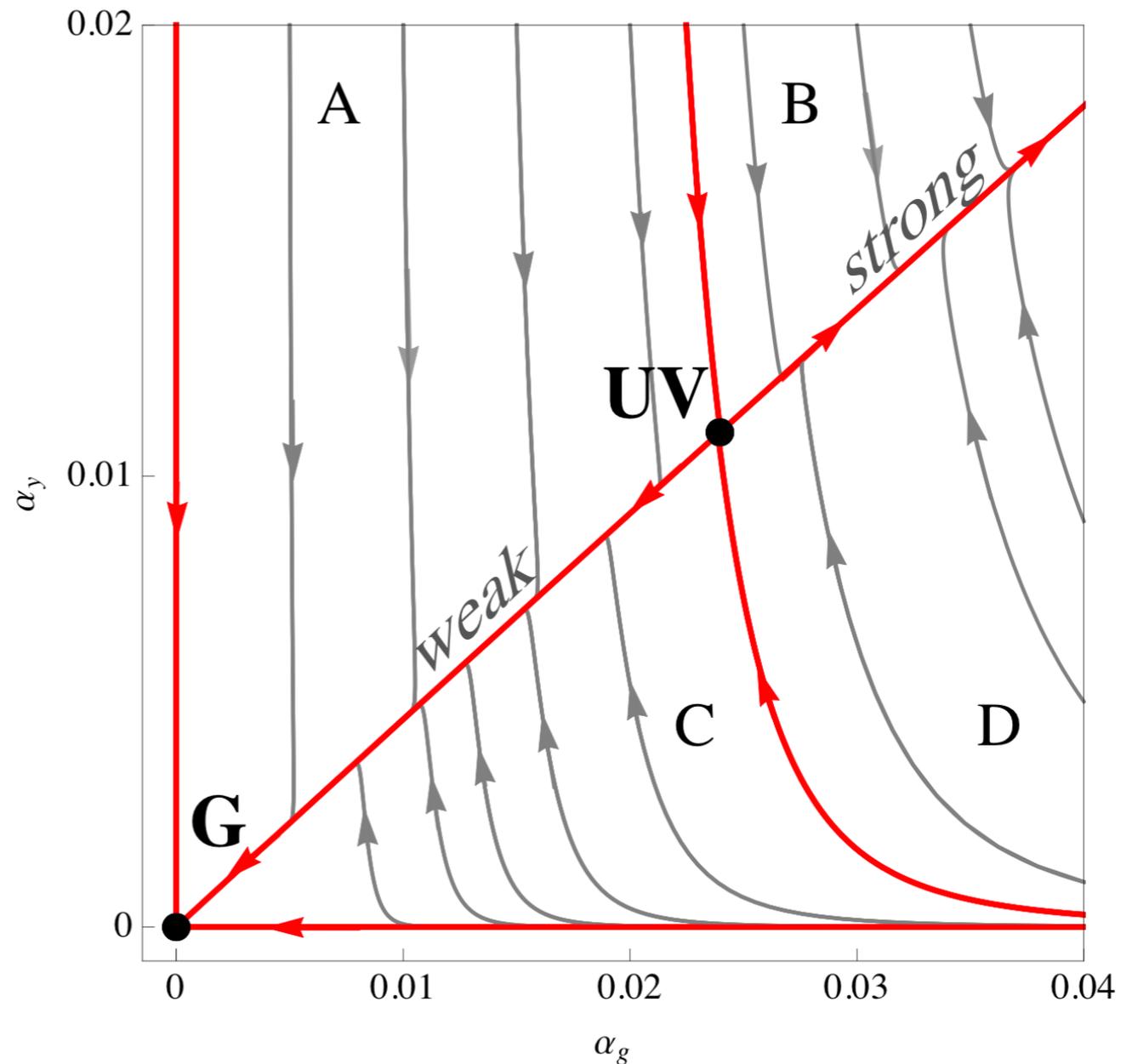
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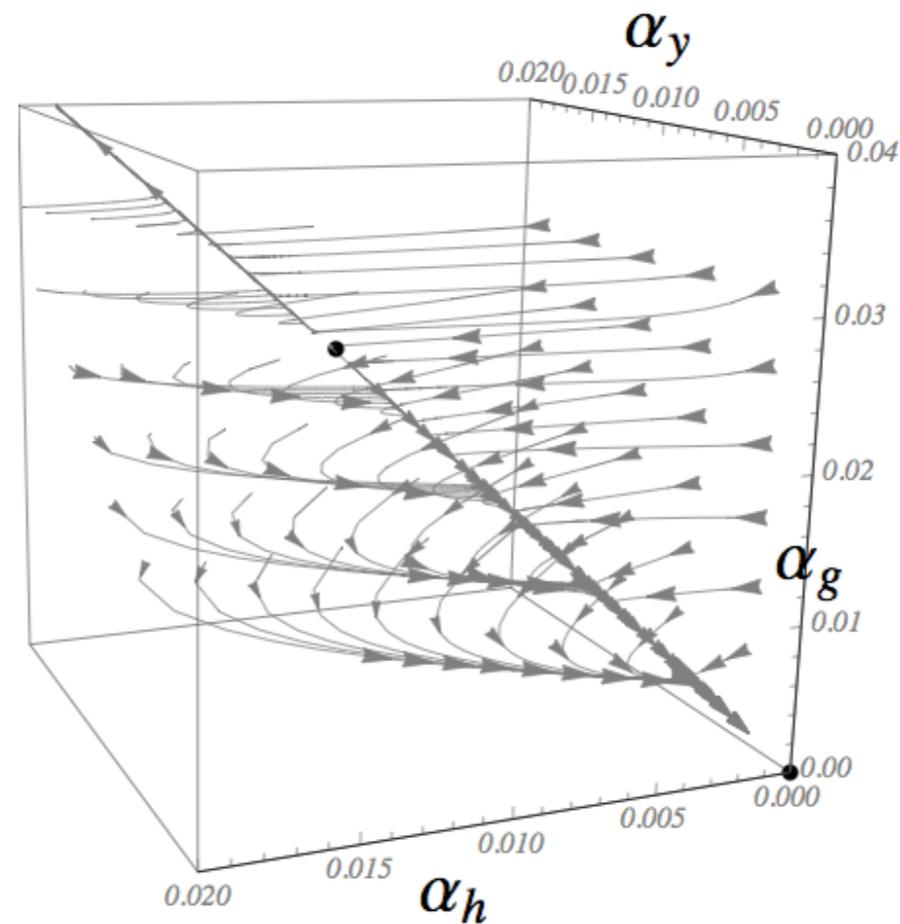
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Four 't Hooft-like couplings - flow could in principle be four dimensional

$$\alpha_g = \frac{g^2 N_C}{(4\pi)^2}, \quad \alpha_y = \frac{y^2 N_C}{(4\pi)^2}, \quad \alpha_h = \frac{u N_F}{(4\pi)^2}, \quad \alpha_v = \frac{v N_F^2}{(4\pi)^2}$$

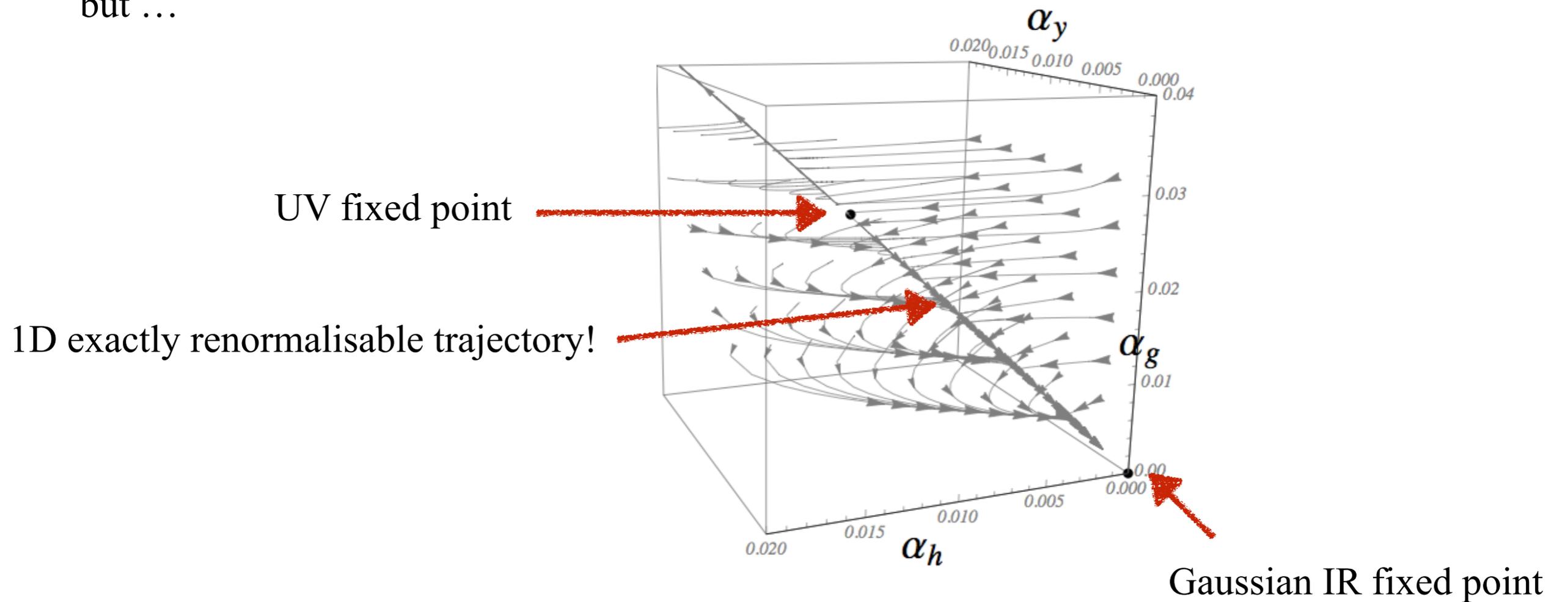
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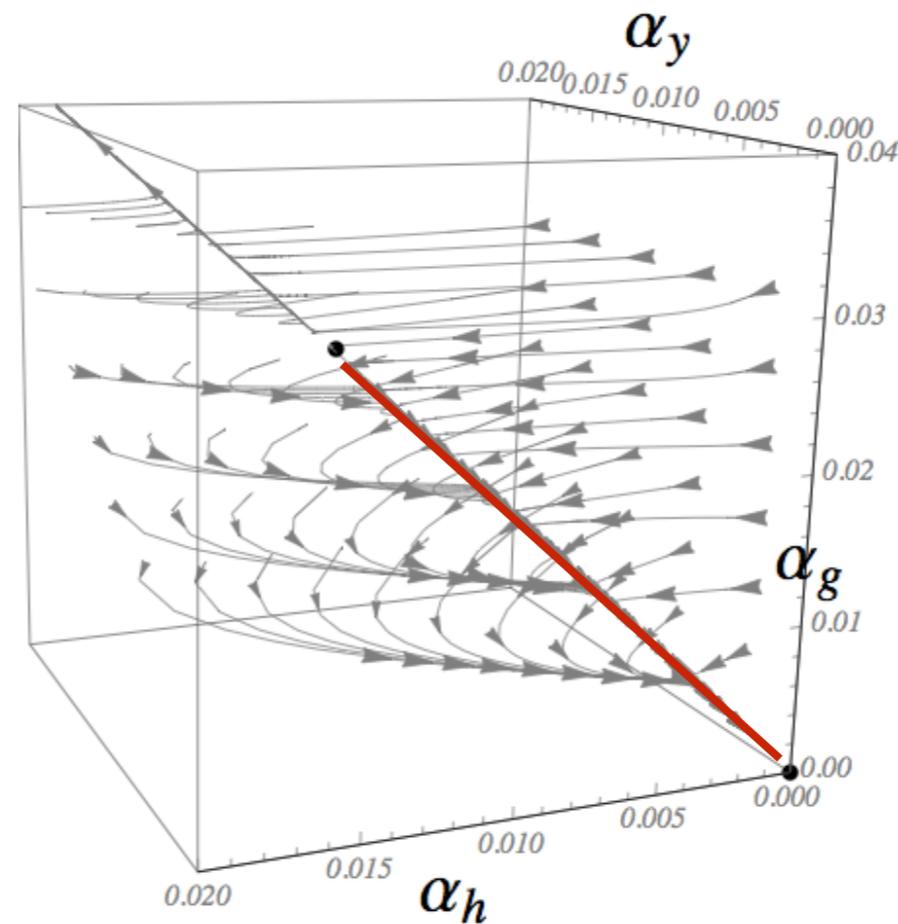


Along the critical-curve/exact-trajectory can parameterise the flow in terms of  $\alpha_g(t)$

$$\alpha_y(t) = \frac{6}{13}\alpha_g(t) ,$$

$$\alpha_h(t) = 3\frac{\sqrt{23}-1}{26}\alpha_g(t) ,$$

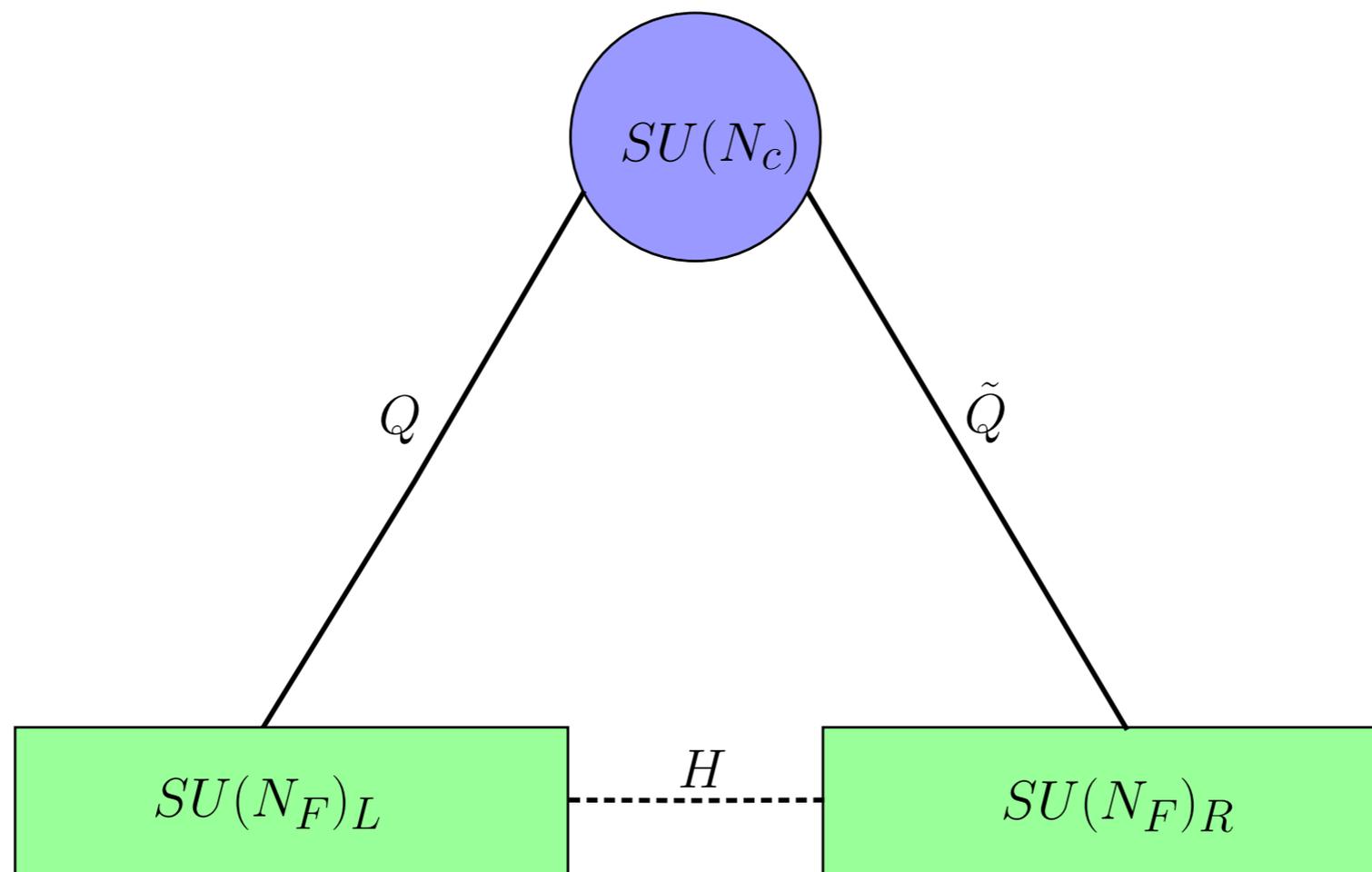
$$\alpha_v(t) = \frac{3\sqrt{20+6\sqrt{23}}-6\sqrt{23}}{26}\alpha_g(t) ,$$



At the fixed point it is arbitrarily weakly coupled,  $\alpha_g^* = 0.4561 \epsilon$ , where  $\epsilon = \frac{N_F}{N_C} - \frac{11}{2}$

Quiver diagram for this model:

	$SU(N_C)$	$SU(N_F)_L$	$SU(N_F)_R$	spin
$Q_{ai}$	$\square$	$\square$	1	1/2
$\tilde{Q}^{ia}$	$\tilde{\square}$	1	$\tilde{\square}$	1/2
$H_j^i$	1	$\tilde{\square}$	$\square$	0



*Adding relevant operators (mass-squareds)*

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*The non-predictive free parameters*

**Organize relevant operators in terms of the  $U(N_F) \times U(N_F)$  flavour symmetry that we break with the mass-squareds (closed under RG):**

$$H = \frac{(h_0 + ip_0)}{\sqrt{2N_F}} \mathbb{1}_{N_F \times N_F} + (h_a + ip_a) T_a$$

$$\mathcal{L}_{Soft} = -m_{h_0}^2 \text{Tr} [H^\dagger H] - \sum_{a=1}^{N_F^2 - 1} \Delta_a^2 \text{Tr} [HT^a] \text{Tr} [H^\dagger T^a]$$

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**Then solve Callan Symanzik eqn for them as usual =>**

$$\bar{\beta} = \frac{d\lambda^{(n)}(t)}{dt} = \frac{\partial \lambda_{eff}^{(n)}}{\partial t} + n\bar{\gamma}\lambda^{(n)}$$

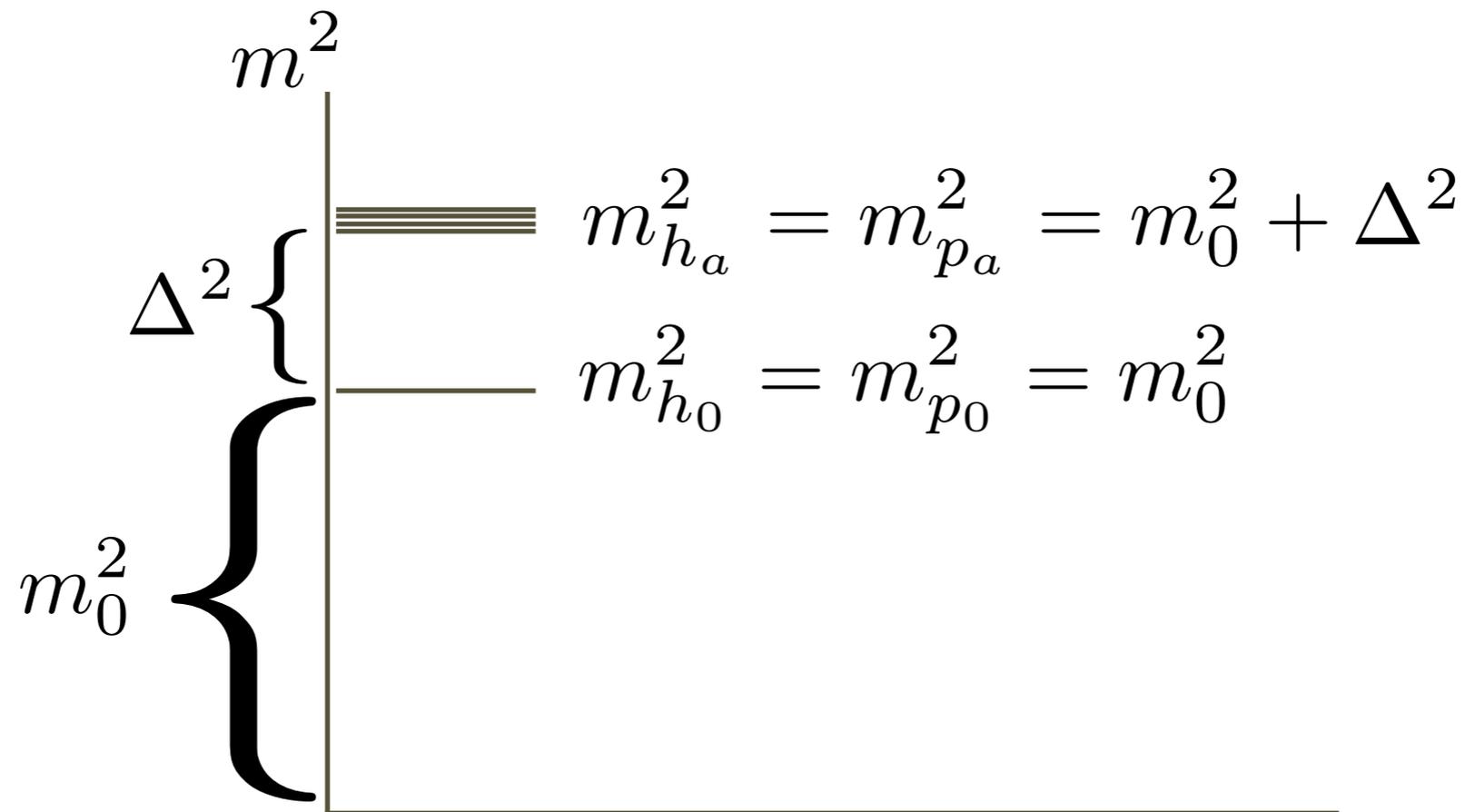
**Anomalous dimension of fields**

**t-dependence in one-loop calculation of V**

## *Non-trivial simple example...*

Consider case where the trace component has a slightly smaller mass-squared:

$$V_{class}^{(2)} = m_0^2 \text{Tr}(H^\dagger H) + 2\Delta^2 \sum_a \text{Tr}(T_a H^\dagger) \text{Tr}(T_a H)$$



## Non-trivial simple example...

After some work find the following answer in terms of two RG invariants, one for each independent (non-predicted) relevant operator (where  $\nu = (1 - 1/NF^2)$ ):

$$m_0^2 = \tilde{m}_*^2 \left( \frac{\alpha_g^*}{\alpha_g} - 1 \right)^{-\frac{3fm_0}{4\epsilon}} - \Delta_*^2 \nu \left( \frac{\alpha_g^*}{\alpha_g} - 1 \right)^{-\frac{3f\Delta}{4\epsilon}},$$
$$m_{a=1 \dots N_F^2 - 1}^2 = \tilde{m}_*^2 \left( \frac{\alpha_g^*}{\alpha_g} - 1 \right)^{-\frac{3fm_0}{4\epsilon}} + \Delta_*^2 (1 - \nu) \left( \frac{\alpha_g^*}{\alpha_g} - 1 \right)^{-\frac{3f\Delta}{4\epsilon}}$$

$$f_{m_0} > f_\Delta$$

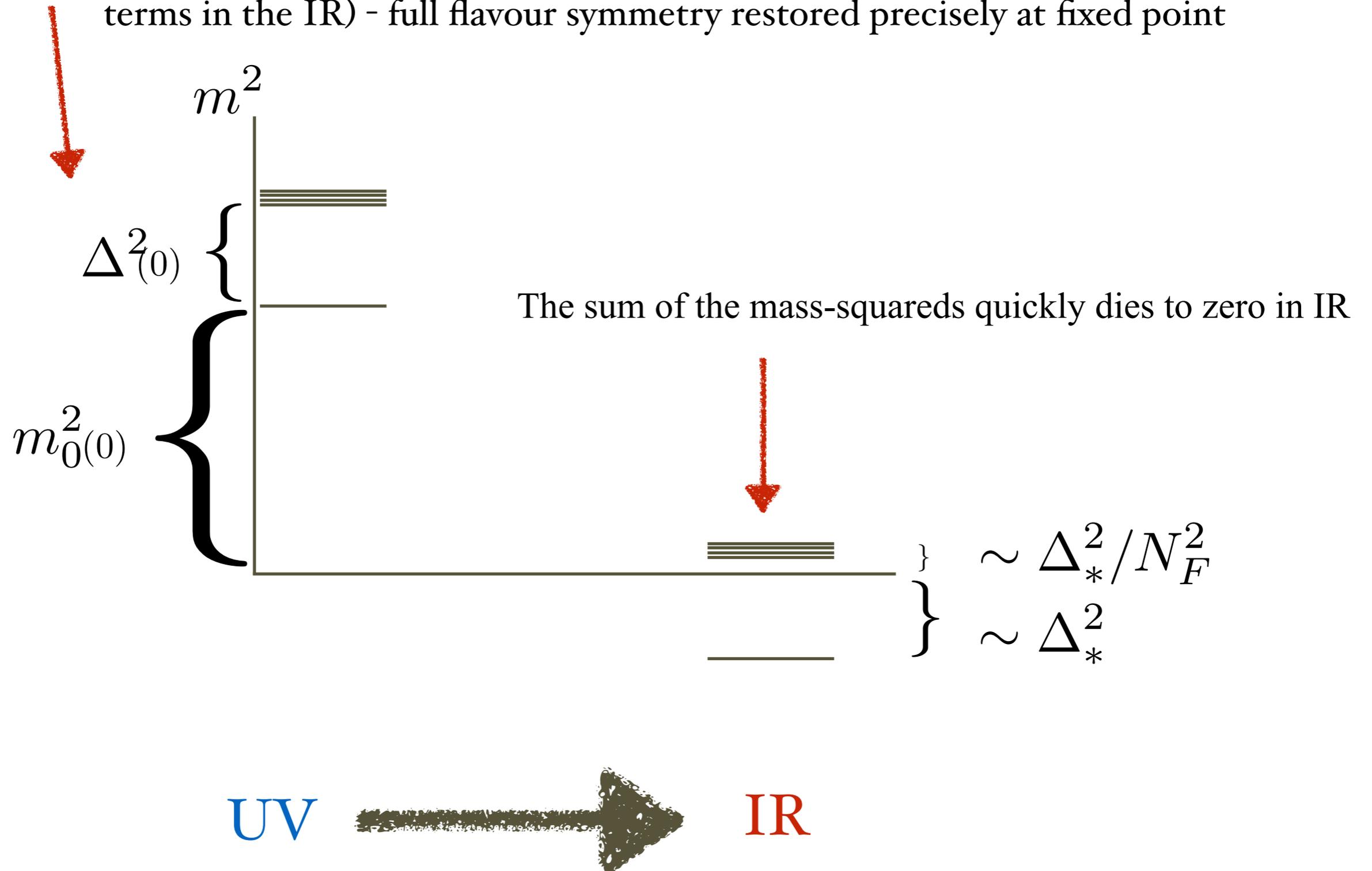


Dies away quickly *in the IR*

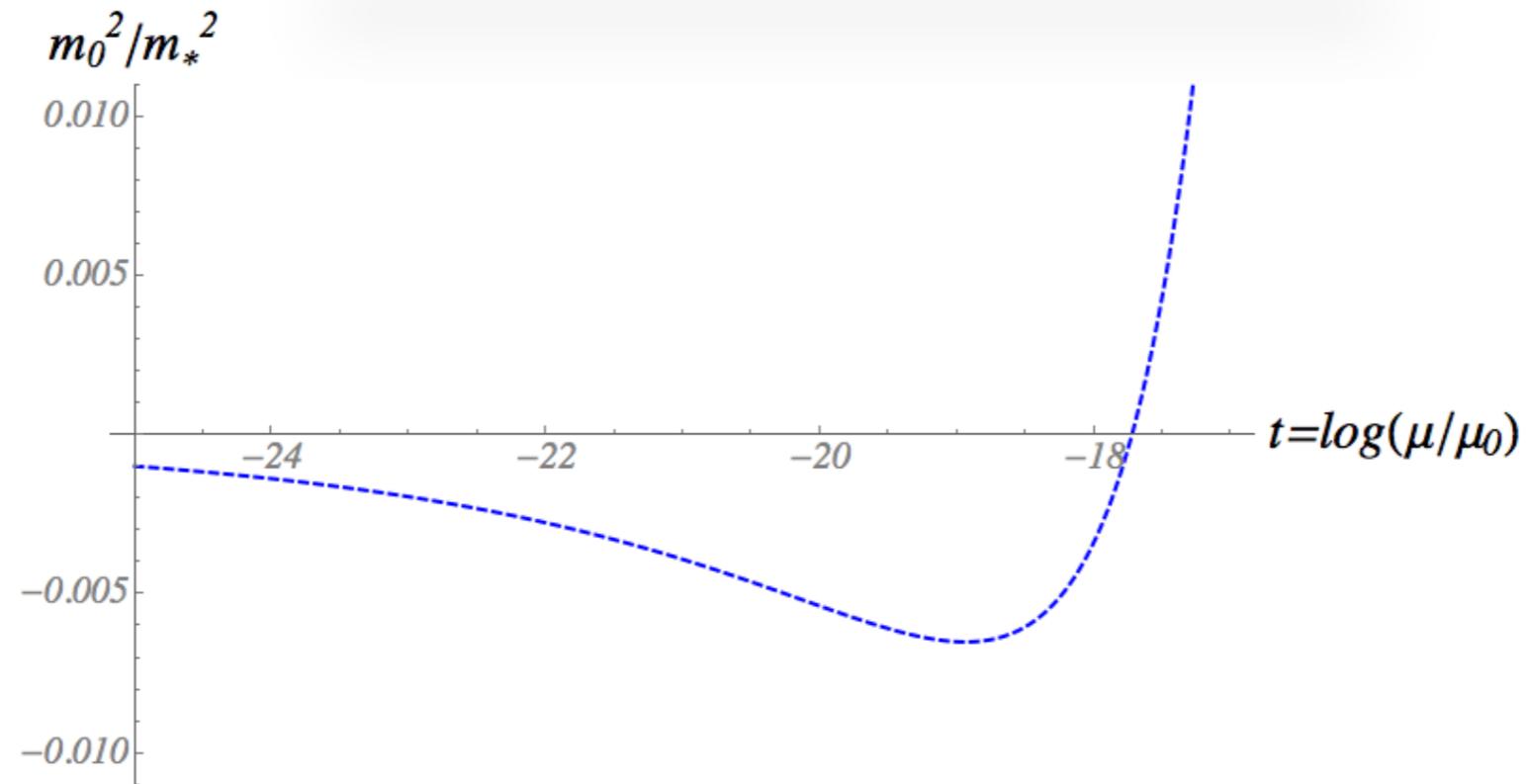


Dies away slowly *in the IR*

Starting values get relatively closer in UV (note the masses are all shrinking in absolute terms in the IR) - full flavour symmetry restored precisely at fixed point



## Induces radiative breaking...



$$\alpha_{g,min} \xrightarrow{\epsilon \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{2} \alpha_g^*$$

$$m_{0,min}^2 \sim -\tilde{m}_*^2$$

**Generally in IR find flavour hierarchies grow ...**

$$V \rightarrow \sum_{n>1} \Delta_n^2 \left[ \text{Tr}_n (h^2 + p^2) - n \left( (\text{Tr}_n h)^2 + (\text{Tr}_n p)^2 \right) \right]$$

where  $\text{Tr}_n$  is the trace over the SU(n) sub-matrix

*The ASSM via radiative breaking...*

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Gigantic UV Safe theory

SM

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graph TD; A[Gigantic UV Safe theory] --- B[SM]
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*The ASSM via radiative breaking...*



SM

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SM

- **To embed the SM - focus on breaking  $SU(N_C)$  to  $SU(3)$  colour with new scalars ...**

c.f. Pelaggi, Sannino Strumia Vigiani; Bond, Litim; Bond, Hiller, Kowalska, Litim

	$SU(N_C)$	$SU(N_F)_L \supset$ $SU(2)_L \otimes SU(n_g)_L$	$SU(N_F)_R \supset$ $SU(2)_r \otimes SU(n_g)_r$	$SU(N_S) =$ $SU(N_C - 4)_R \oplus SU(2)_S$	spin
$Q_{ai}$	$\square$	$\square \supset (\square, \square)$	1	1	1/2
$\tilde{Q}^{ia}$	$\tilde{\square}$	1	$\tilde{\square} \supset (\tilde{\square}, \tilde{\square})$	1	1/2
$H_j^i$	1	$\tilde{\square} \supset (\tilde{\square}, \tilde{\square})$	$\square \supset (\square, \square)$	1	0
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Tab. 2: *Fields in the Asymptotically Safe SM, where  $N_S = N_C - 2$ . The top  $2n_g = 6$  components of flavour  $SU(N_F)$  correspond to  $SU(2)$  multiplets, where  $n_g$  is the generation number. There is a mass-term  $m_q q \tilde{q}$  that respects the  $SU(N_C - 4)$  in addition to the gauging for the usual Pati-Salam  $SU(2)_R$ , given by  $SU(2)_R = [SU(2)_r \otimes SU(2)_S]_{diag}$ .*

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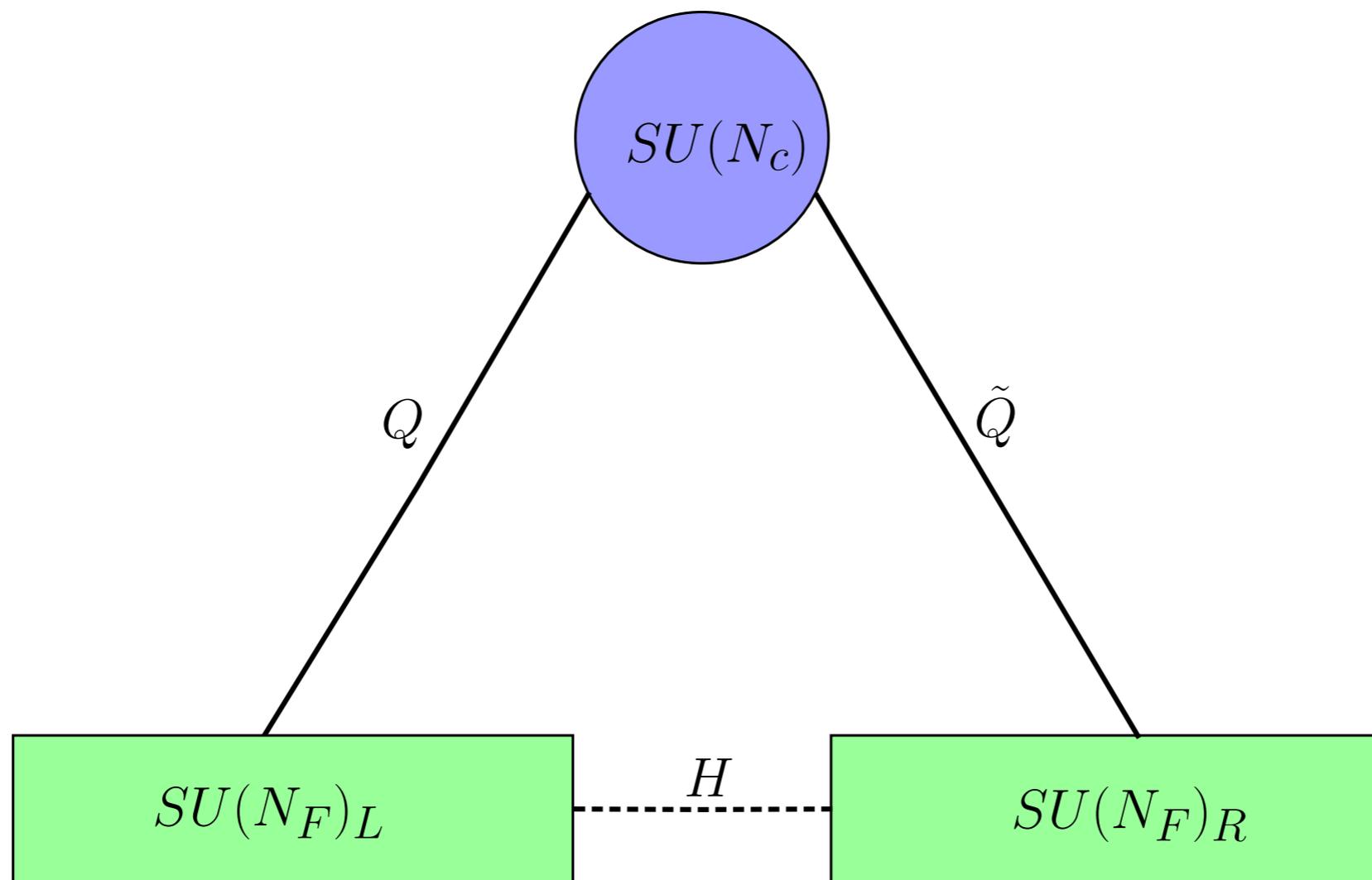
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Extension of Pati-Salam - breaks to  $SU(3)$  if we choose  $N_S = N_C - 2$

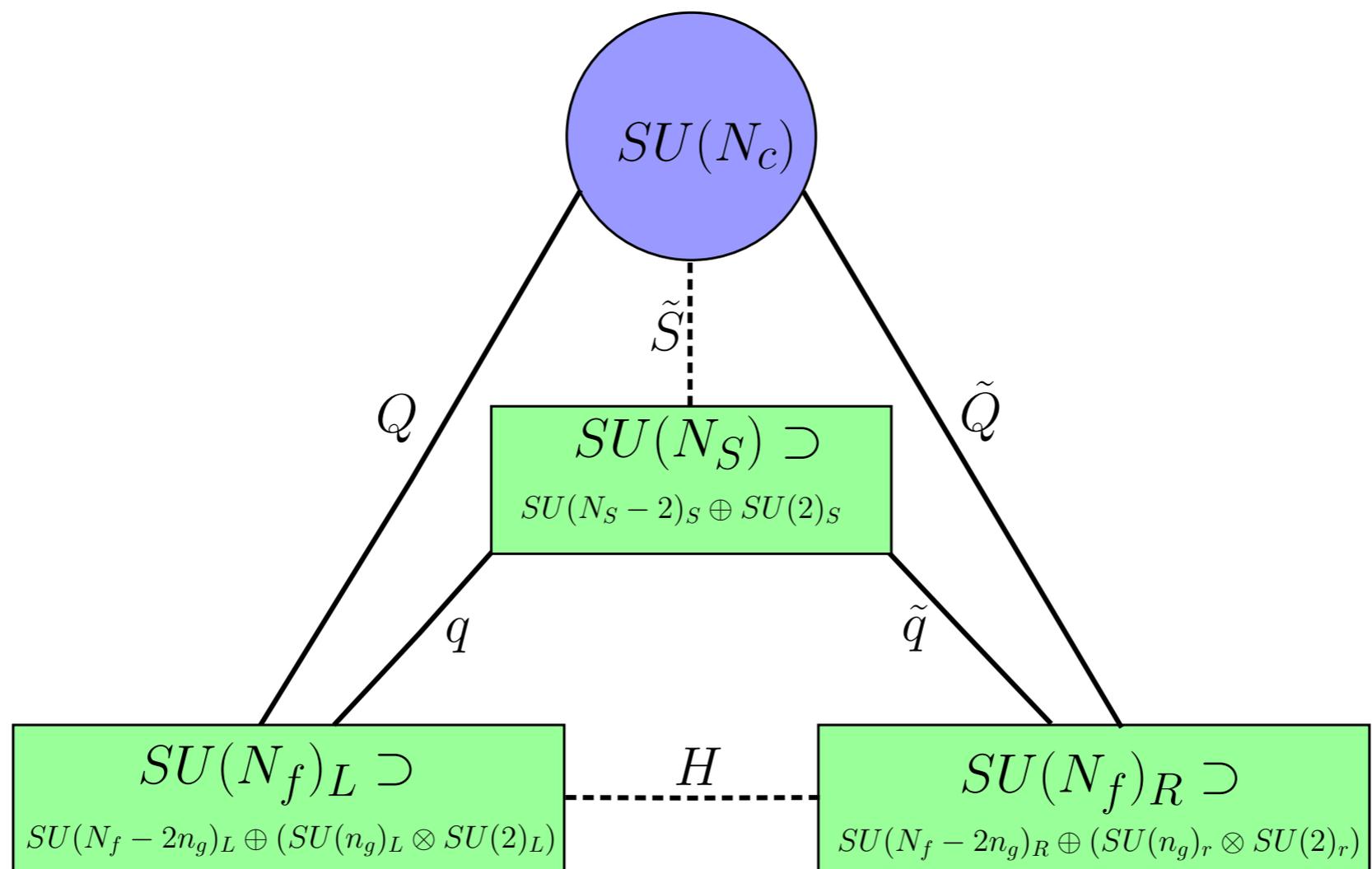
$$\frac{N_S}{N_C} \rightarrow 1; \quad \frac{N_F}{N_C} \rightarrow \frac{21}{4} + \epsilon$$

$$\tilde{S} = \left( \overbrace{\begin{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \tilde{d}^c \\ \tilde{u}^c \end{pmatrix} & \begin{pmatrix} \tilde{e}^c \\ \tilde{\nu}^c \end{pmatrix} & \begin{pmatrix} \tilde{\phi}_{-\frac{1}{2}} \\ \tilde{\phi}_{\frac{1}{2}} \end{pmatrix} & \dots & \begin{pmatrix} \tilde{\phi}_{-\frac{1}{2}} \\ \tilde{\phi}_{\frac{1}{2}} \end{pmatrix} \\ \tilde{T}_{-\frac{1}{6}} & \tilde{\phi}_{\frac{1}{2}} & \tilde{\phi}_0 & \dots & \tilde{\phi}_0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ \tilde{T}_{-\frac{1}{6}} & \tilde{\phi}_{\frac{1}{2}} & \tilde{\phi}_0 & \dots & \tilde{\phi}_0 \end{pmatrix} \right) \left. \vphantom{\tilde{S}} \right\} N_S = N_C - 2$$

Before:



After:



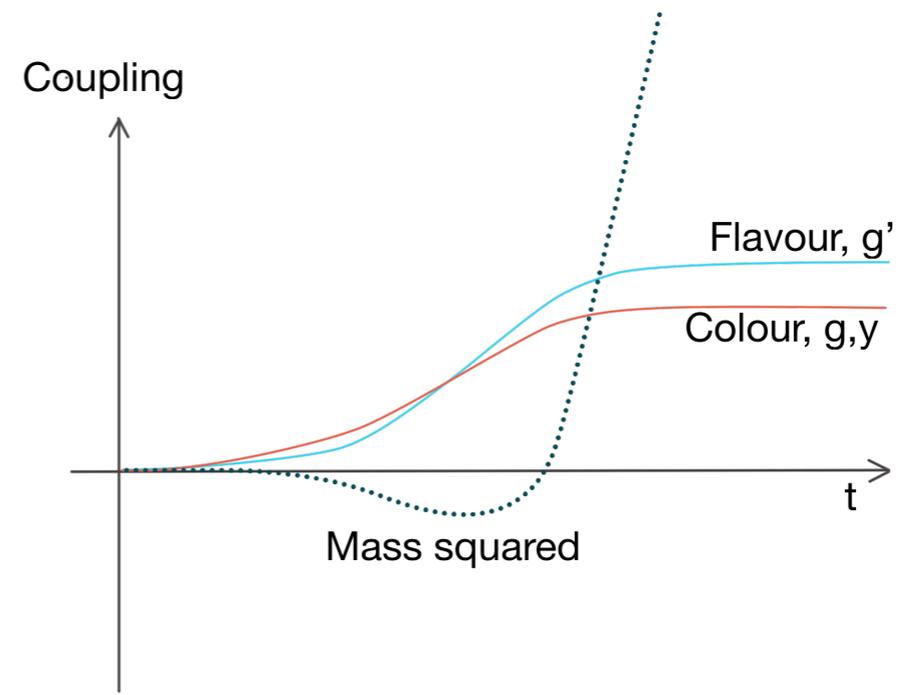
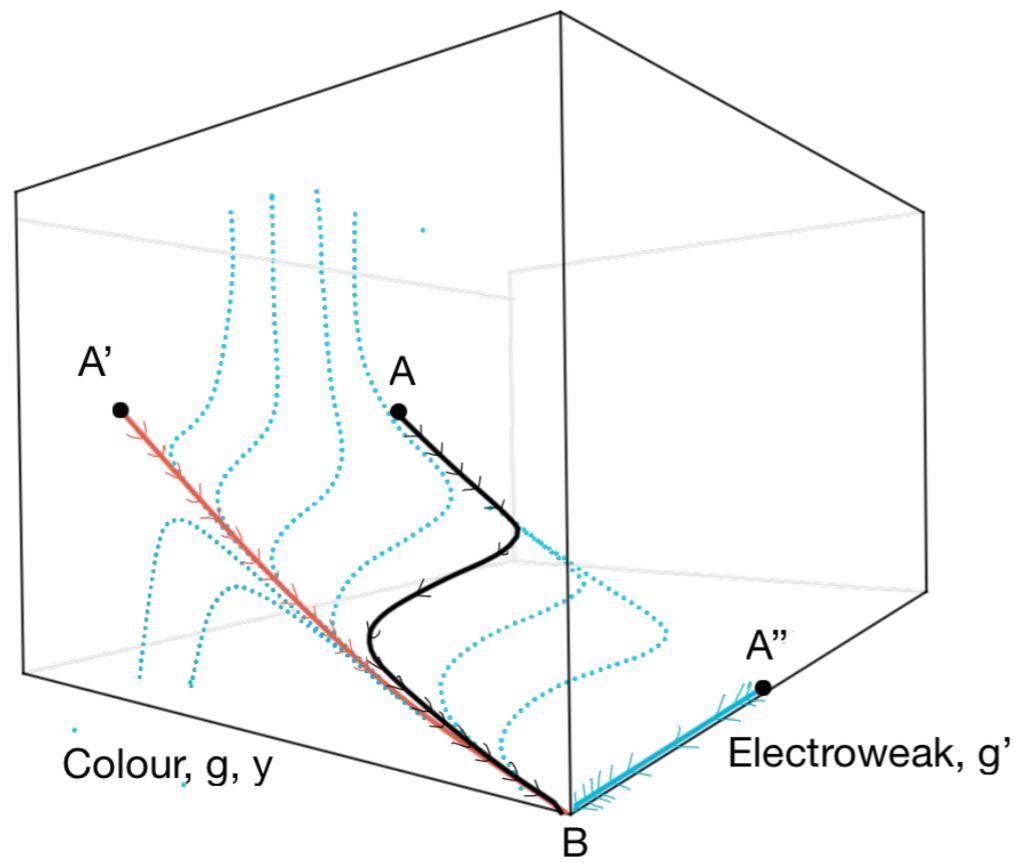
- Explicit embedding looks like P-S

$$Q = \left( \begin{array}{cccc} \overbrace{q_1 \quad \ell_1 \quad \cdots}^{N_C} \left( \begin{array}{c} \Psi_{\frac{1}{2}} \\ \Psi_{-\frac{1}{2}} \end{array} \right) \cdots \\ q_2 \quad \ell_2 \quad \cdots \left( \begin{array}{c} \Psi_{\frac{1}{2}} \\ \Psi_{-\frac{1}{2}} \end{array} \right) \cdots \\ q_3 \quad \ell_3 \quad \cdots \left( \begin{array}{c} \Psi_{\frac{1}{2}} \\ \Psi_{-\frac{1}{2}} \end{array} \right) \cdots \\ \vdots \quad \vdots \quad \quad \quad \ddots \end{array} \right) \Bigg\} N_F ; \quad \tilde{Q} = \left( \begin{array}{cccc} \left( \begin{array}{c} u^c \\ d^c \end{array} \right) & \left( \begin{array}{c} \nu_e^c \\ e^c \end{array} \right) & \cdots & \left( \begin{array}{c} \tilde{\Psi}_{-\frac{1}{2}} \\ \tilde{\Psi}_{\frac{1}{2}} \end{array} \right) \cdots \\ \left( \begin{array}{c} s^c \\ c^c \end{array} \right) & \left( \begin{array}{c} \nu_\mu^c \\ \mu^c \end{array} \right) & \cdots & \left( \begin{array}{c} \tilde{\Psi}_{-\frac{1}{2}} \\ \tilde{\Psi}_{\frac{1}{2}} \end{array} \right) \cdots \\ \left( \begin{array}{c} b^c \\ t^c \end{array} \right) & \left( \begin{array}{c} \nu_\tau^c \\ \tau^c \end{array} \right) & \cdots & \left( \begin{array}{c} \tilde{\Psi}_{-\frac{1}{2}} \\ \tilde{\Psi}_{\frac{1}{2}} \end{array} \right) \cdots \\ \vdots & \vdots & & \ddots \end{array} \right)$$

$$H = \left( \begin{array}{cccc} \left( \begin{array}{cc} h_u^0 & h_d^- \\ h_u^+ & h_d^0 \end{array} \right)_{11} & \left( \begin{array}{cc} h_u^0 & h_d^- \\ h_u^+ & h_d^0 \end{array} \right)_{12} & \left( \begin{array}{cc} h_u^0 & h_d^- \\ h_u^+ & h_d^0 \end{array} \right)_{13} & \cdots \\ \left( \begin{array}{cc} h_u^0 & h_d^- \\ h_u^+ & h_d^0 \end{array} \right)_{21} & \left( \begin{array}{cc} h_u^0 & h_d^- \\ h_u^+ & h_d^0 \end{array} \right)_{22} & \left( \begin{array}{cc} h_u^0 & h_d^- \\ h_u^+ & h_d^0 \end{array} \right)_{23} & \cdots \\ \left( \begin{array}{cc} h_u^0 & h_d^- \\ h_u^+ & h_d^0 \end{array} \right)_{31} & \left( \begin{array}{cc} h_u^0 & h_d^- \\ h_u^+ & h_d^0 \end{array} \right)_{32} & \left( \begin{array}{cc} h_u^0 & h_d^- \\ h_u^+ & h_d^0 \end{array} \right)_{33} & \cdots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & H_0 \end{array} \right)$$

- Assignment implies 9 pairs of Higgses one for each Yukawa coupling

- **Need ...**



- **What about AS for the SU(2)xSU(2) electroweak gauge groups?**

These see a large number of flavours ( $N_f$  (small  $f$ ) of order order  $N_c$ )?

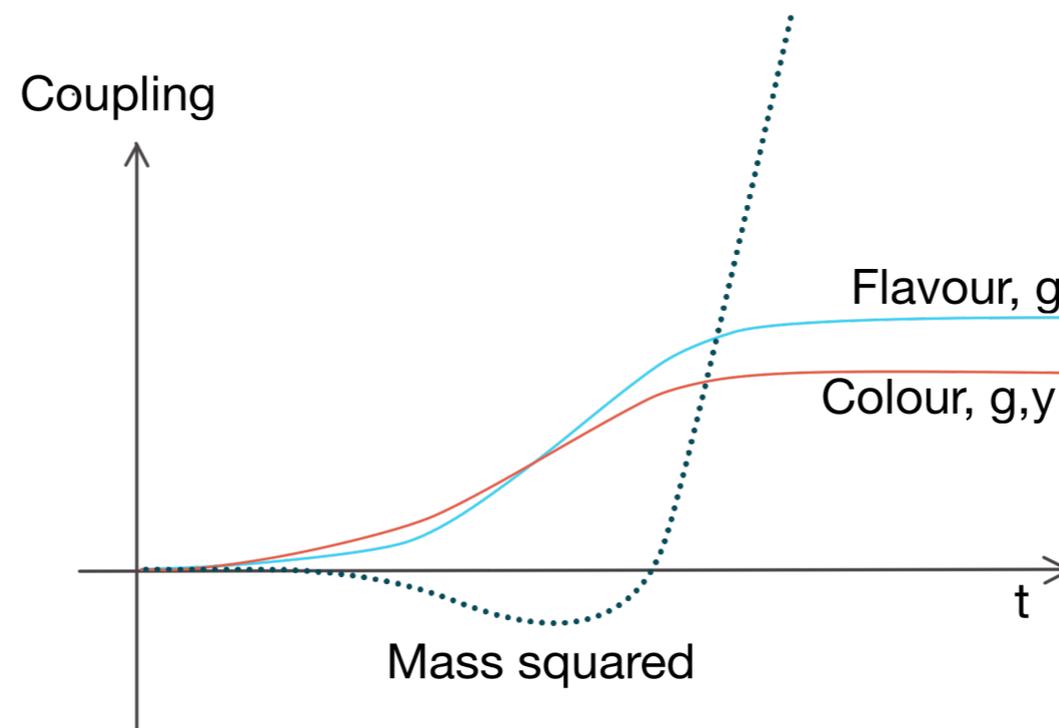
- **This gives UVFP behaviour with a fixed point at 't Hooft couple  $\sim 1 \dots$  if  $N_f \gg 16$ :**

Gracey, Holdom, Shrock, Antipin, Pica, Sannino

Resum first terms gives

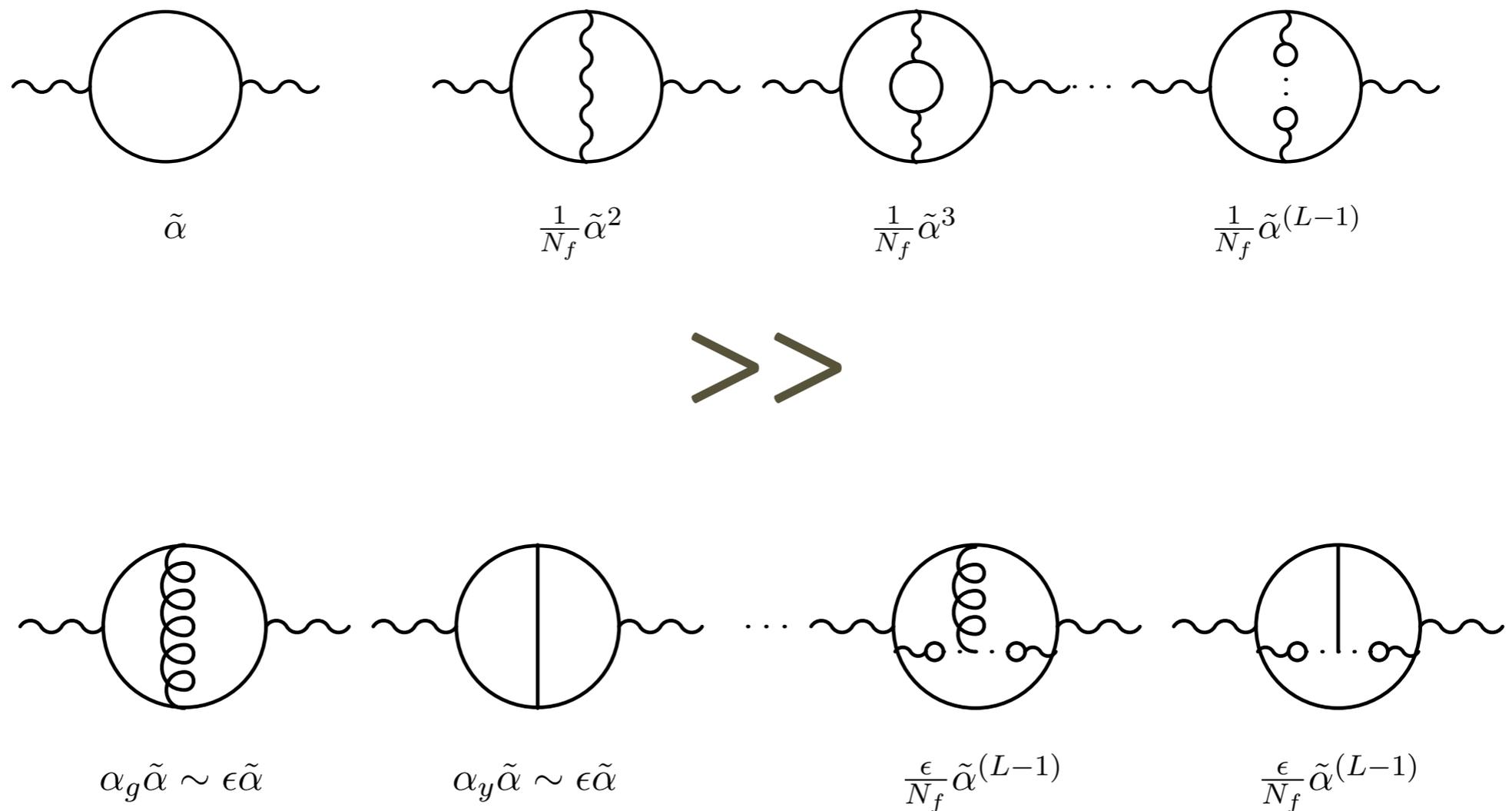
$$\frac{3}{4} \frac{\beta_{\tilde{\alpha}}}{\tilde{\alpha}^2} = 1 + \frac{H(\tilde{\alpha})}{N_f} + \mathcal{O}(N_f^{-2})$$

$$H(\tilde{\alpha}) = \frac{1}{4} \log |3 - 2\tilde{\alpha}| + \text{constant}$$

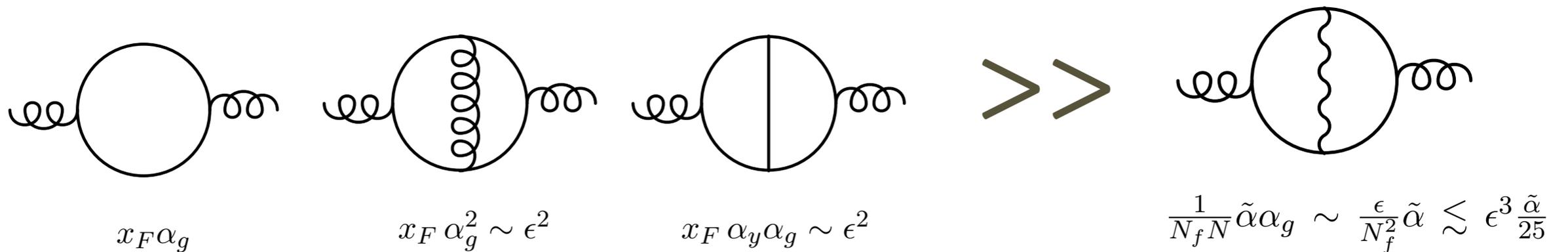


$$\tilde{\alpha}_* = \frac{3}{2} - C e^{-4N_f}$$

- **The difficult part: Showing that the two kinds of UVFP decouple.**
- **Can show in the Veneziano limit the corrections to the weak FP go like epsilon. Can neglect everything but gauge couplings when determining the SU(2) fixed points.**



- **By simple power-counting, the SU(2) gauge couplings are subdominant (by  $1/N_c$ ) in the original “strong” UVFP  $\implies$  Can neglect the weak gauging for this UVFP.**
- **Likewise ...**



*Does this make sense without gravity?*

*What can we learn from string theory?*

# *Asymptotic safety in strings*

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String theory is famously scale invariant, but not normally considered asymptotically safe. Why? It has *two scales* (String tension and Planck Scale - or in a compactification, the radius  $R$ )?

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$$\delta\mathcal{L} = -\frac{1}{4}\tilde{C}_1(p^2, \mu^2)F_{\mu\nu}F^{\mu\nu}$$

$$\beta_g = \frac{g}{2} \frac{\partial \tilde{C}_1}{\partial \log \mu}.$$

## *Consider what happens in field theory*

C1 given by 2-point function in background-field method:

$$(p_\mu p_\nu - p^2 g_{\mu\nu}) \frac{16\pi^2}{g^2} \mathcal{A}_{\text{gauge}}^{(2)}(s) = -\frac{22C_A}{3} (p_\mu p_\nu - p^2 g_{\mu\nu}) \left( \frac{1}{\epsilon} - \gamma_E + \log 4\pi + \log \left( -\frac{\mu^2}{s} \right) \right) ,$$

$$(p_\mu p_\nu - p^2 g_{\mu\nu}) \frac{16\pi^2}{g^2} \mathcal{A}_{\text{ferm}}^{(2)}(s) = \frac{4N_f}{3} (p_\mu p_\nu - p^2 g_{\mu\nu}) \left( \frac{1}{\epsilon} - \gamma_E + \log 4\pi + \log \frac{\mu^2}{m_f^2} + \left( 1 + \frac{2m_s^2}{s} \right) \Lambda(s; m_f, m_f) \right) ,$$

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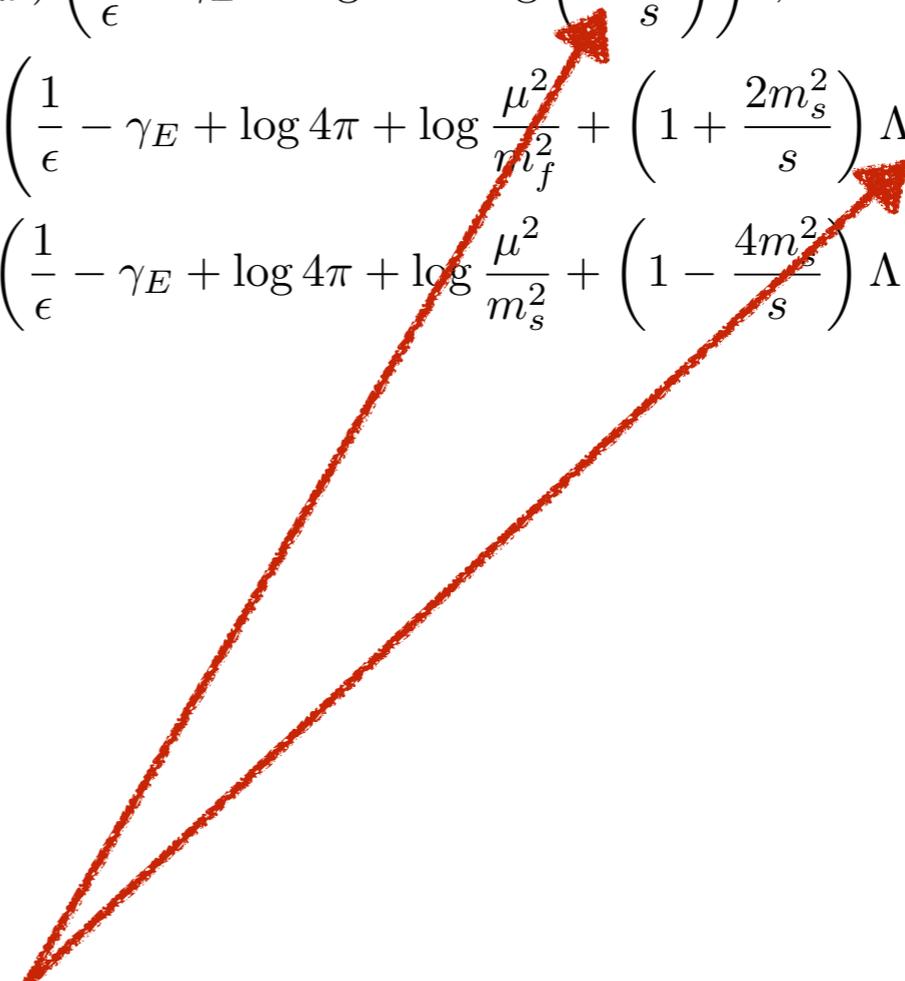
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## *Example: KK Towers*

$$m^2 = \frac{\vec{m} \cdot \vec{m}}{R^2}$$

- Where  $\Delta b$  is the coefficient from a single KK level - doesn't care about level splitting
- Note A(s) is able to preserve all stringy symmetries that may be needed for finiteness
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$$= \frac{\Delta b}{\Gamma(3 + d/2)} \frac{\pi^{(d+3)/2}}{2^{d+1}} (R\sqrt{s})^d$$

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# Summary

- Considered perturbative asymptotically safe QFTs (gauge-Yukawa theories)
- Positive mass-squareds can be driven negative in the IR, akin to radiative symmetry breaking in MSSM => radiative symmetry breaking
- A minimal embedding of the SM within this set-up relatively straightforward
- Overall now has the “feel of” other RG systems with large numbers of degrees of freedom in the UV such as duality cascade.
- Can this picture be “blended” in to a stringy version of AS— Misaligned  $N=4$  SUSY.