

Phys525:  
Quantum Condensed Matter Physics:  
Emergent phenomena and emergent symmetries

Episode 13:

**Scale** transformation and QFTs with **scale** symmetries as QCPs I:  
Basic Phenomenology (informal discussions)  
and identifications of scale invariant fixed Points (**SIFP**)

*(QFT CS-RGE based slightly formal discussions next Thursday)*

Fluctuations near  $\langle \phi \rangle$ ,  $\phi \rightarrow \langle \phi \rangle + \phi$

$$\alpha(\beta\langle\phi(\vec{r}, \tau)\rangle) = |\partial_c \phi|^2 + |\nabla \phi|^2 + m^2 |\phi|^2, \quad m^2 = 4|d|$$

$$\langle \phi(\vec{r}, \tau) \phi(0, 0) \rangle \approx \int \frac{d^d \vec{k}}{(2\pi)^d} \int \frac{d\omega}{2\pi} G(\omega, \vec{k}) e^{i\vec{k} \cdot \vec{r} - i\omega\tau}$$

$$\underset{C(\vec{r}, \tau)}{\sim} \frac{1}{|\vec{R}|^{d-1}} e^{-\frac{|\vec{R}|}{\xi_c}}, \quad \underbrace{\vec{R} = (\vec{r}, \tau)}_{(d+1) \text{ dimension}}$$

$$\xi_c \sim \frac{1}{m} \sim \frac{1}{|J - J_c|^{1/2}}$$

$$(|d| \propto J - J_c > 0)$$

$$G.C.^{(d+1)} = \frac{\left\langle \frac{1}{V_c} \int_{V_c} \bar{\Phi}^*(\vec{R}') d\vec{R}' \cdot \frac{1}{V_c} \int_{V_c} \bar{\Phi}(\vec{R}) d\vec{R} \right\rangle}{\Delta_0^2}$$

$$= \frac{1}{\Delta_0^2 V_c^2} \int_{V_c} \langle \bar{\Phi}^*(\vec{R}') \bar{\Phi}(\vec{R}) \rangle d\vec{R}' d\vec{R}$$

$$\rightarrow G(\vec{R}' - \vec{R}) \sim \frac{1}{|\vec{R}' - \vec{R}|^{d-1}}$$

$$\sim \frac{1}{\Delta_0^2} \frac{1}{\ell_c^{d-1}} \sim \ell_c^{3-d}$$

$$\left( V_c \sim \ell_c^{d+1}, \quad \Delta_0^2 \sim |d| \sim \ell_c^{-2} \right)$$

$$\Delta_0 \sim \frac{1}{\ell_c}$$

# Important Statements on fluctuations ← Quantum

$$G^Q = G.C. \sim \xi_c^{(d+1)} \xi_c^{3-d} \quad (\xi_c \rightarrow \infty \text{ at critical points})$$

1)  $d > 3$ ,  $G^Q$  approaches zero as  $\xi_c \rightarrow \infty$ .  
fluctuations appear to be irrelevant.

2)  $d < 3$ ,  $G^Q$  diverges as  $\xi_c \rightarrow \infty$   
fluctuations appear to be irrelevant  
and MF can be qualitatively problematic.

$d=3$  Upper critical dimension for Q.C.P. !!



- Two corner stones of EFT approach to QCPs
- **Symmetry groups, space-time symmetry (as well as PHC) and the corresponding QFT.**  $G = Z_2, U(1), SU(N), N=2, 3, 4 \dots$  [with caveats: QFTs can further depend on symmetry group representations or *with quantum anomalies as research focuses.*]
- **Scale Symmetric QFTs or fixed points (SIFPs).**
  1. Wilson, K. G. (1971). "[Renormalization Group and Critical Phenomena. I. Renormalization Group and the Kadanoff Scaling Picture](#)". Physical Review B. 4 (9): 3174–3183. [Bibcode:1971PhRvB...4.3174W](#). [doi:10.1103/PhysRevB.4.3174](#).
  2. ^ Wilson, K. (1971). "[Renormalization Group and Critical Phenomena. II. Phase-Space Cell Analysis of Critical Behavior](#)". Physical Review B. 4 (9), 3184.
  3. Wilson, K. (1983). "The renormalization group and critical phenomena". Reviews of Modern Physics. 55 (3): 583–600.

# Scale transformation and Scale symmetry: Phenomenology and informal stuff (without RGE)

- Scale transformation in QFT (in real space)
- Definition of scale invariance in terms of  $(d+1)$  dimension action/Lagrangian density
- How to identify SIFP.

# Scale transformation and Scale symmetry: Phenomenology without RGE

- Scale transformation in QFT (real space phenomenology)
- Definition of scale invariance in terms of  $(d+1)$  dimension action/Lagrangian density



What does Scale symmetry imply at QCPs ?

dynamical critical Exponent

Scale dimension  
of field " $\psi$ "

Scale transformation :

$$\vec{r}' = \vec{r} \lambda, \quad \tau' = \tau \lambda^z, \quad \psi'(\vec{r}', \tau') = \lambda^{-\eta} \psi(\vec{r}, \tau)$$

(for MI-SF QCP at  $T = T_c$ ,  $z = 1$ ,  $\eta = \frac{d-1}{2}$  MF fixed pt)

Scale invariance at QCPs

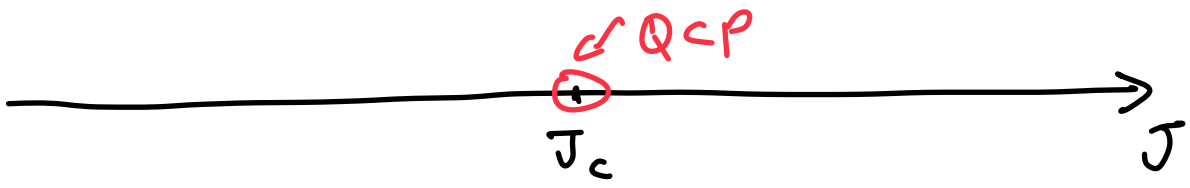
$$S(\{\psi(\vec{r}, \tau)\}) \rightarrow S'(\{\psi'(\vec{r}', \tau')\}) = S(\{\psi'(\vec{r}', \tau')\})$$

or

$$\mathcal{H}(\{b_{\vec{r}}^+, b_{\vec{r}}^+\}) \rightarrow \mathcal{H}'(\{b_{\vec{r}'}^+, b_{\vec{r}'}^+\}) = \lambda^{-2} \mathcal{H}(\{b_{\vec{r}}^+, b_{\vec{r}}^+\})$$

$z=1$

Example I.



$c=1,$

$$\mathcal{L} = |\partial_t \varphi|^2 + |\nabla \varphi|^2 + m^2 |\varphi|^2 + \dots$$

$$\mathcal{L}_{QCP} = \mathcal{L} (m=0)$$

irrelevant  $d > 3$

$$\tau \rightarrow \tau' = \tau \lambda \quad x \rightarrow x' = x \lambda, \quad \varphi \rightarrow \varphi'(x') = \lambda^{-\frac{d-1}{2}} \varphi(x, \tau)$$

$$\mathcal{L} = \left\{ |\partial_{t'} \varphi'|^2 + |\nabla_{\vec{r}'} \varphi'|^2 \right\} \lambda^{+\frac{d-1}{2} \times 2 + 2} + m^2 |\varphi'|^2 \lambda^{+(\frac{d-1}{2}) \times 2}$$

$$S = \int^{(d)} dx d\tau \mathcal{L} \rightarrow S' = \int^{(d)} dx' d\tau'$$

breaks scale symmetry

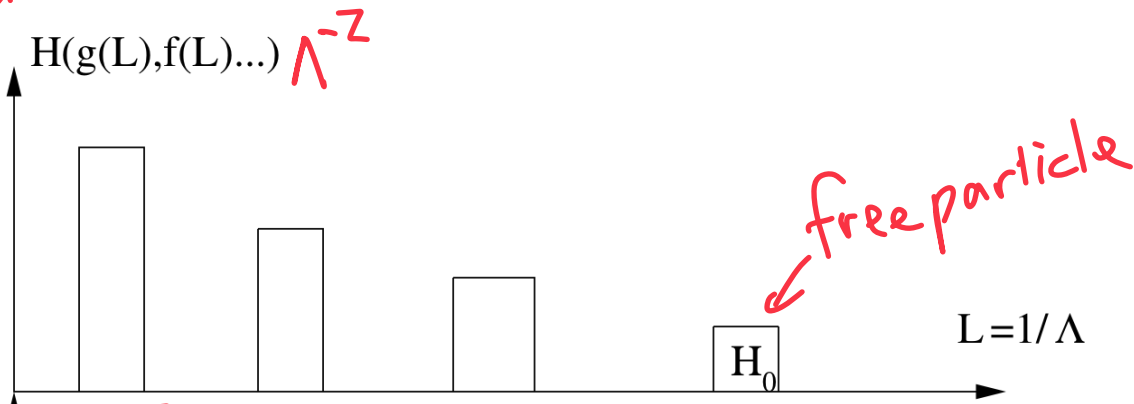
$$\left\{ \left[ |\partial_{t'} \varphi'|^2 + |\nabla_{\vec{r}'} \varphi'|^2 \right] + \lambda^{-2} m^2 |\varphi'|^2 \right\}$$

so that  $S \rightarrow S' = S(\varphi'(\vec{r}', \tau'))$  if  $m=0$  or QCP!

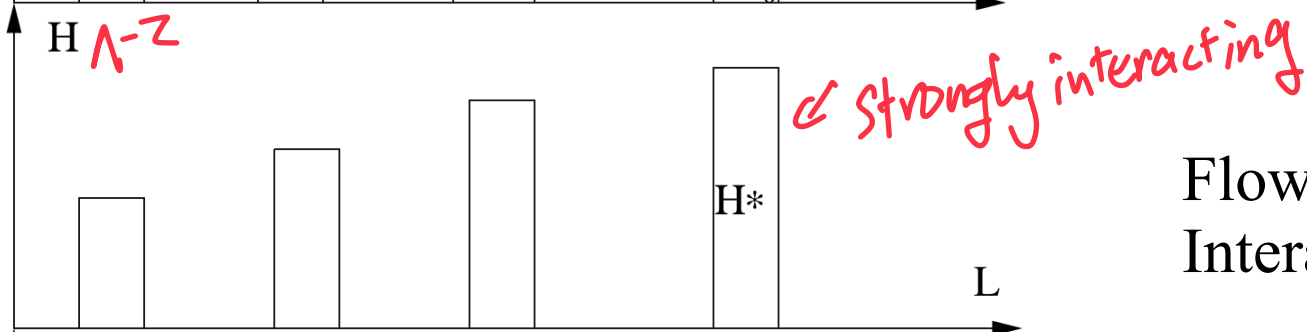
Scale invariant.

# Wilson's view of critical points (70s): A cartoon as a scale invariant "fixed point"

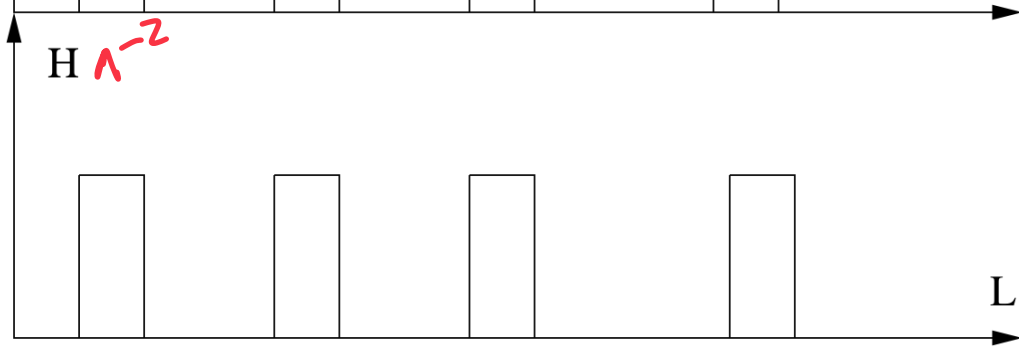
*Interaction*



Flows into a free theory



Flows into a strongly Interacting theory



<<<< Critical point/  
Fixed Point  
= H invariant under  
scale transformation

$\Lambda$ : UV scale

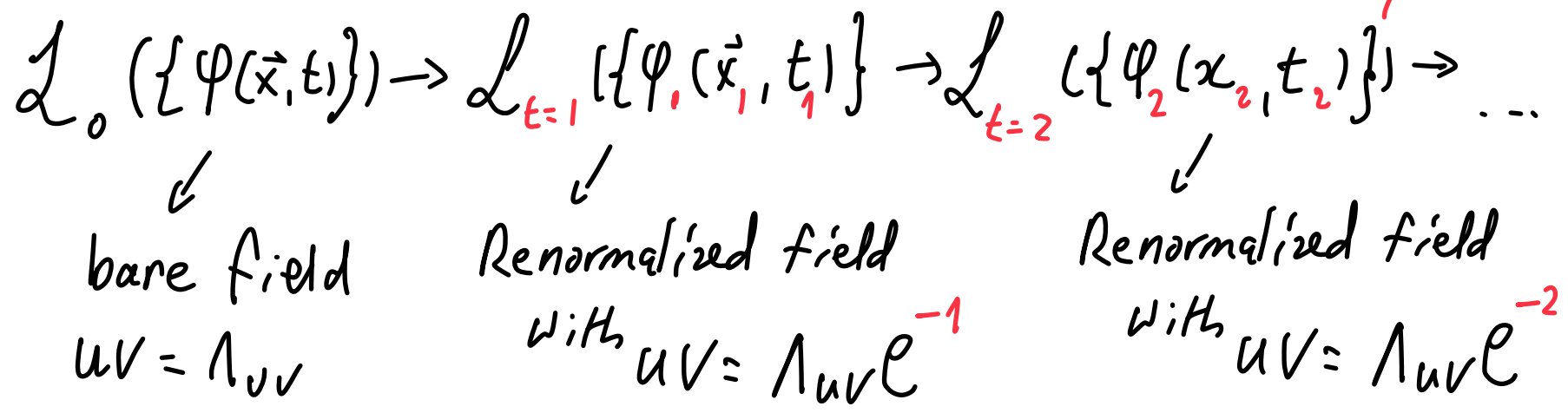
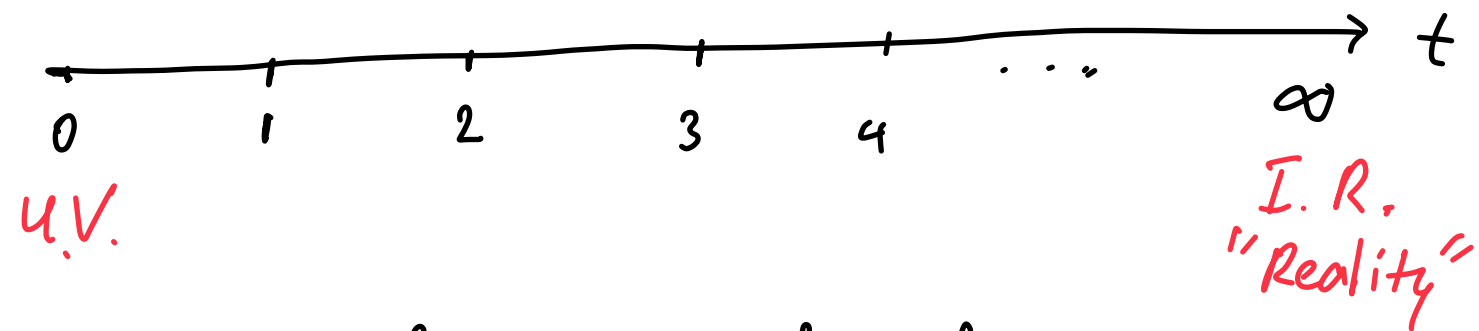
Scale transformation: General  $\ln \lambda = t$  or  $\lambda = e^t$

$$\tau \rightarrow \tau' = \tau e^{-t}$$

$$\vec{x} \rightarrow \vec{x}' = \vec{x} e^{-t}$$

$$\varphi(\vec{x}, t) \rightarrow \varphi'(\vec{x}', \tau') = e^{+\eta t} \varphi(\vec{x}, t), \quad \left[ \varphi(\vec{x}, \tau) = e^{-\eta t} \varphi_t(\vec{x}_t, \tau_t) \right]$$

best defined in terms of  $t$   
Not  $\lambda$

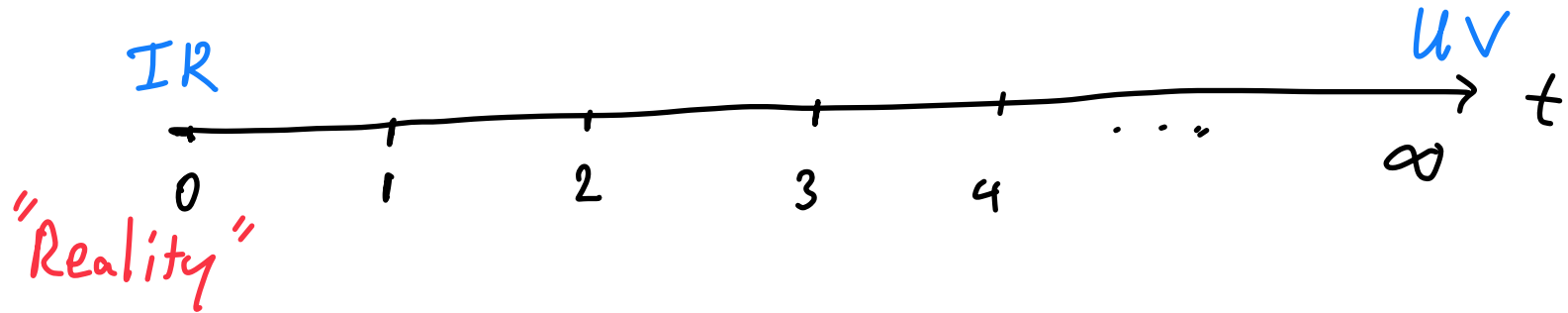


Scale transformation: General II: "particle physics" towards unification

$$\tau \rightarrow \tau' = \tau e^{tZ}$$

$$\vec{x} \rightarrow \vec{x}' = \vec{x} e^t$$

$$\varphi(\vec{x}, t) \rightarrow \varphi'(\vec{x}', \tau') = e^{-\eta t} \varphi(\vec{x}, t), \quad \varphi(\vec{x}, \tau) = e^{+\eta t} \varphi_t(\vec{x}_t, \tau_t)$$

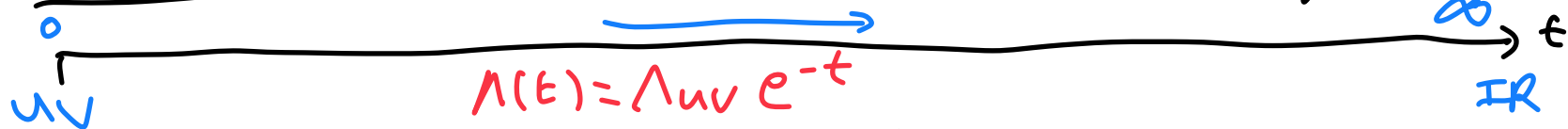


$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{IR}}(\{\varphi(\vec{x}, t)\}) \rightarrow \mathcal{L}_{t=1}(\{\varphi_1(\vec{x}_1, t_1)\}) \rightarrow \mathcal{L}_{t=2}(\{\varphi_2(\vec{x}_2, t_2)\}) \rightarrow \dots$$

Renormalized field
Renormalized field
Renormalized field

with  $UV = \Lambda_{\text{IR}} e^{+1}$ 
with  $UV = \Lambda_{\text{IR}} e^{+2}$

# Scale transformation and Renormalization Group equations



$$\mathcal{L}(\{\varphi(\vec{x}, t); m, g, \dots\}) = \Lambda(t)^{d+1} \mathcal{L}_E(\{\varphi(x, \tau)\}; \tilde{m}, \tilde{g}, \dots)$$

$\uparrow$  Mass
 $\rightarrow$  interactions
 $\propto S$

define at  $\Lambda(t) = \Lambda_{UV} e^{-t}$

on a running scale

$$\tilde{m}(t) = m(t) \Lambda(t)^{-2}, \quad \tilde{g}(t) = g(t) \Lambda(t)^{d-3} \dots$$

transforms in unique way under Scale Transformation

follows a set of PDE the called "R.G.E."

# Scale transformation and Scale symmetry: Phenomenology without RGE

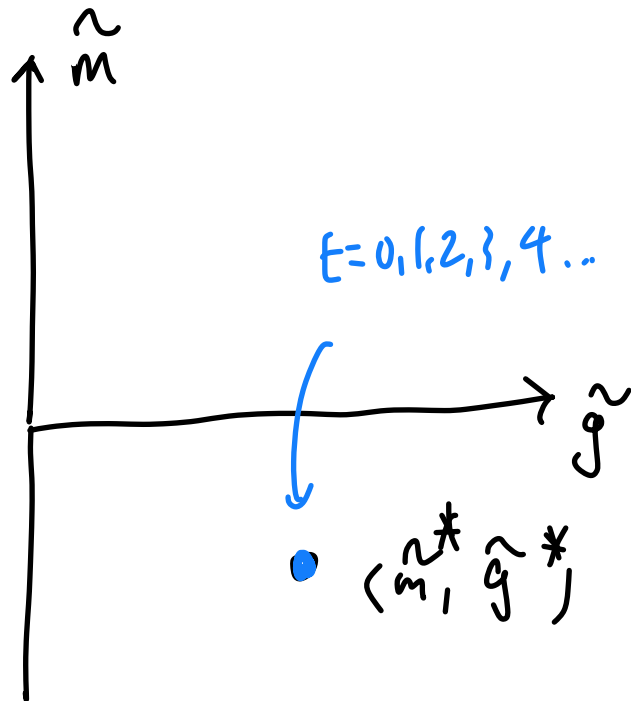
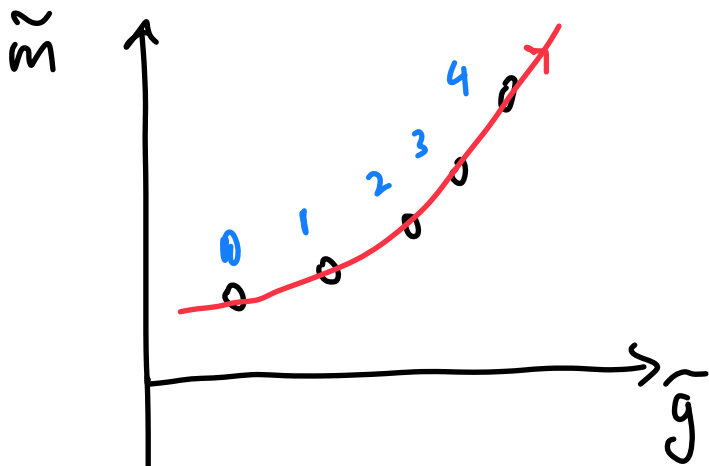
- Scale transformation in real space
- Definition of scale invariance in terms of  $(d+1)$  dimension action/Lagrangian density
- How to identify SIFP.

RGE

$$\frac{d\tilde{m}}{dt} = \beta_m(\tilde{m}, \tilde{g}, \dots)$$

$$\frac{d\tilde{g}}{dt} = \beta_g(\tilde{m}, \tilde{g}, \dots)$$

A) Generically,  $\beta_m \neq \beta_g \neq 0$ , and  $\tilde{m}(t), \tilde{g}(t)$  are running.

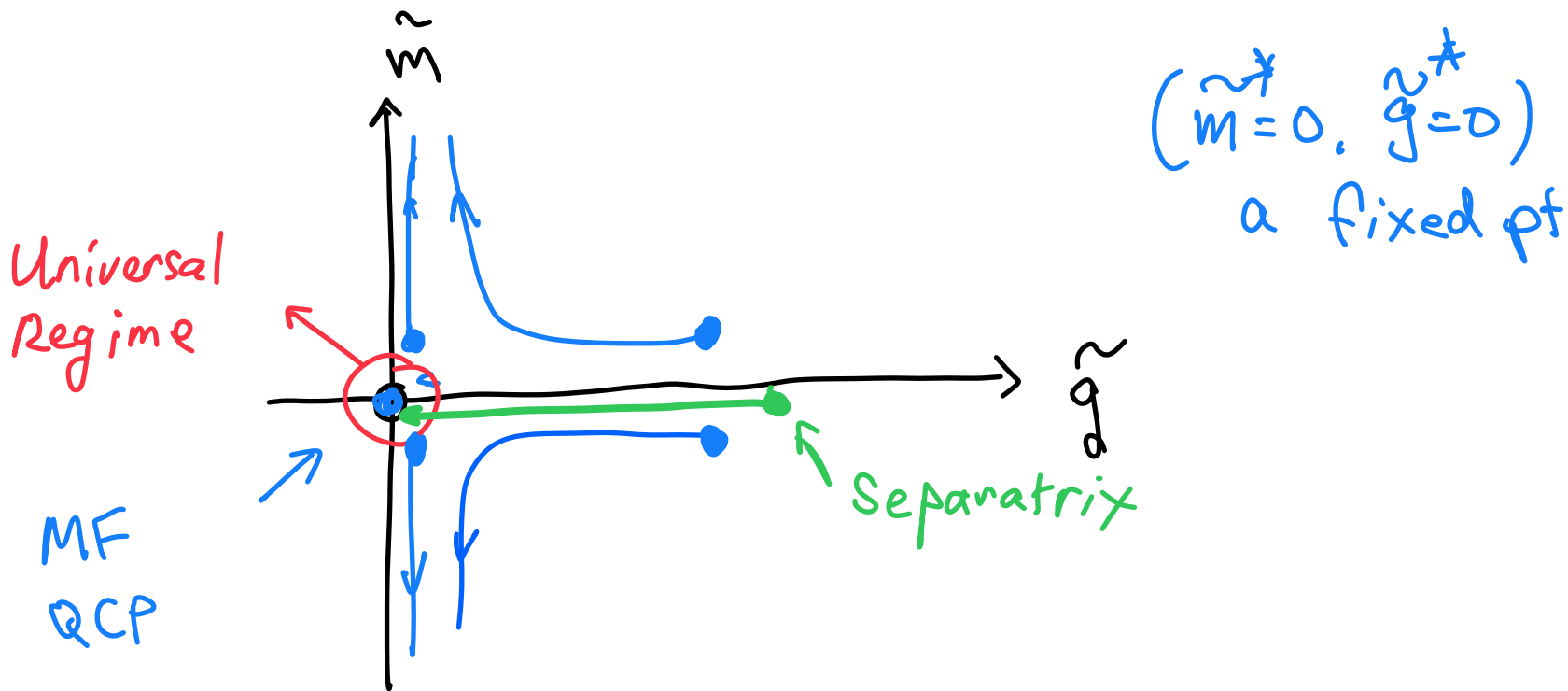


B)  $\stackrel{=0}{\rightarrow}$  fixed pt

if  $\beta_m(\tilde{m}^*, \tilde{g}^*, \dots) = \beta_g(\tilde{m}^*, \tilde{g}^*, \dots) \stackrel{=0}{\rightarrow}$ ,  $\tilde{m}(t), \tilde{g}(t)$  Not Running



$d > 3$ , QCP for MI-SF transition at  $J = J_c$

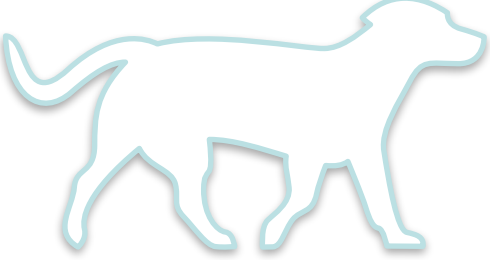


$$\mathcal{L} = |\partial_t \psi|^2 + |\vec{\nabla} \psi|^2 + m^2 |\psi|^2 + g |\psi|^4 + \dots$$

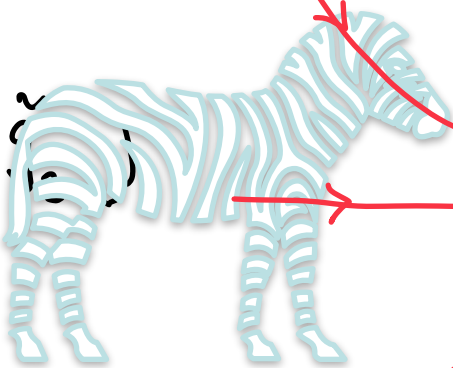
$\mathcal{L}(m=0, g \neq 0, \dots) \xrightarrow{\text{Flow into}} \mathcal{L}^*(m=0, g=0, 0, 0, \dots) \mathcal{L}^*$  fixed pt

Universality Class I

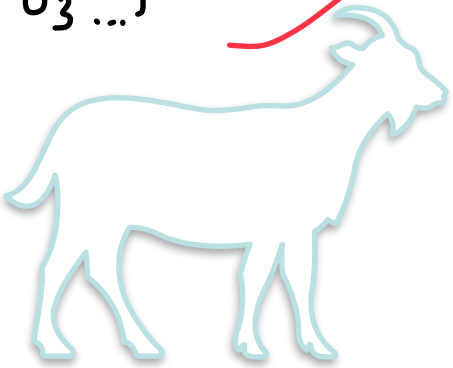
$$\mathcal{L}(\tilde{m}=0, \tilde{g}_1, \dots)$$



$$\mathcal{L}(\tilde{m}=0, \tilde{g}_2, \dots)$$

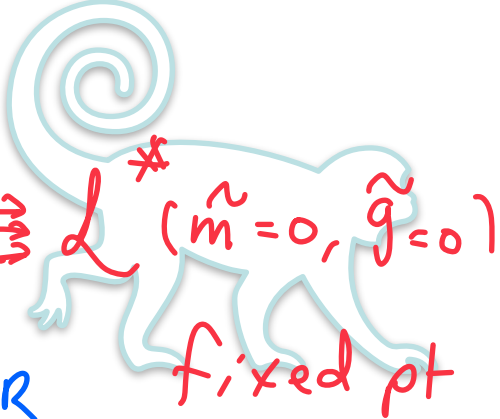


$$\mathcal{L}(\tilde{m}=0, \tilde{g}_3, \dots)$$



⋮

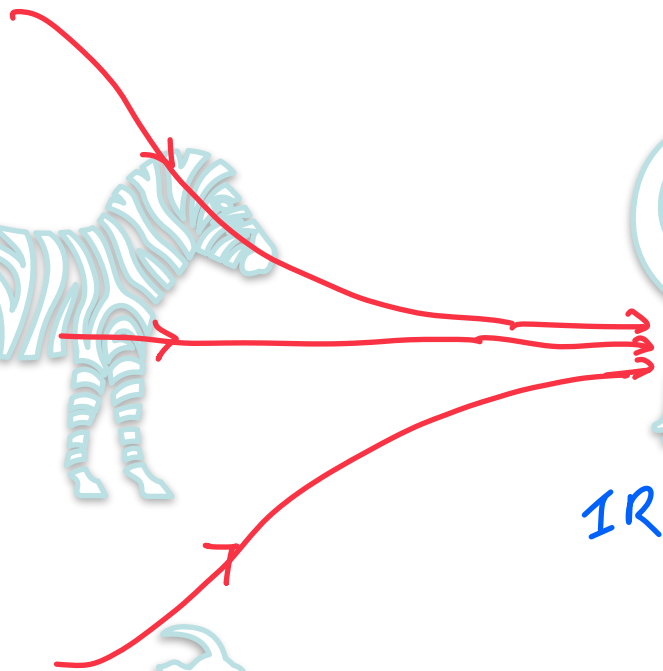
$$\mathcal{L}^*(\tilde{m}=0, \tilde{g}=0)$$



fixed pt

UV

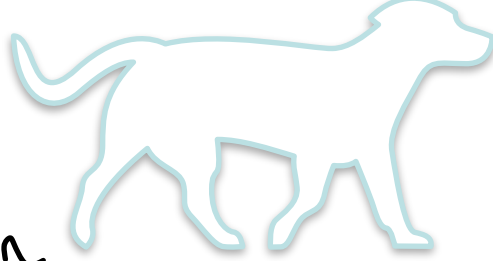
IR



# Universality II

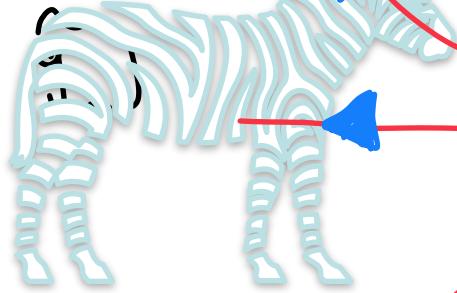
$$\mathcal{L}(\vec{m}=0, \vec{g}_1)$$

$t=0$



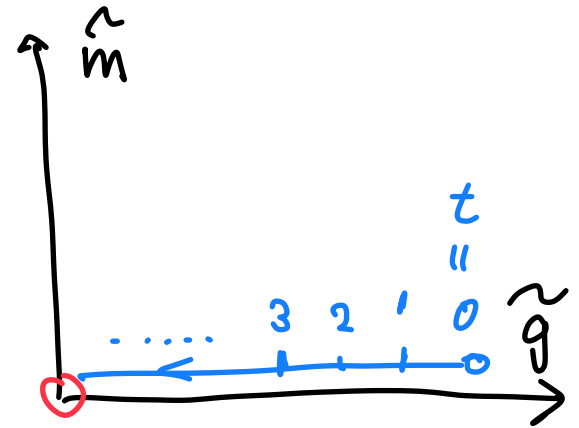
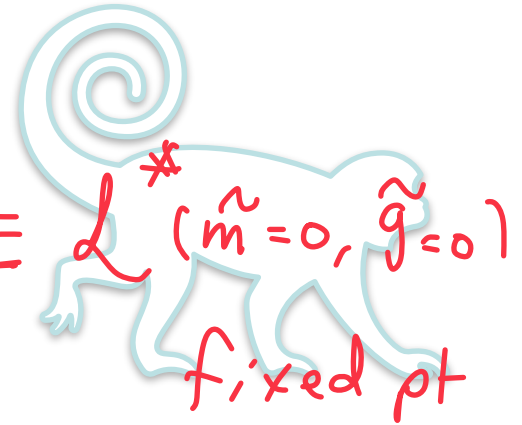
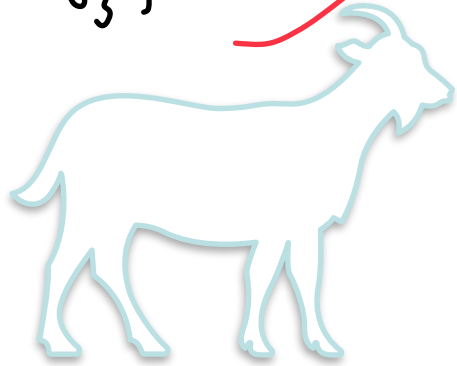
$$\mathcal{L}(\vec{m}=0, \vec{g}_2)$$

$t=1$



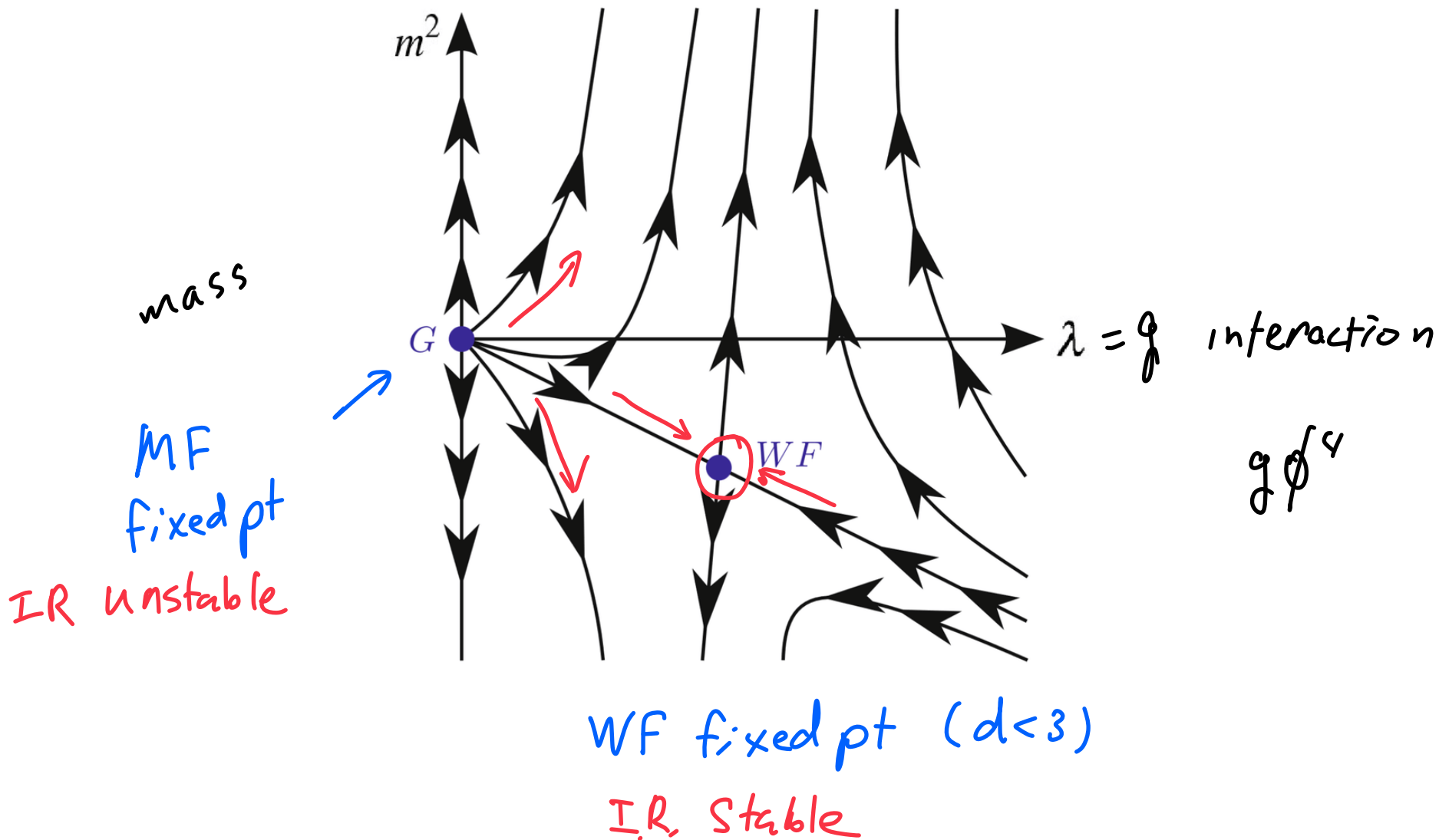
$$\mathcal{L}(\vec{m}=0, \vec{g}_3)$$

$t=2$



# RG flows (i.e. scale transformation) of a scalar model : Scale Symmetric Wilson-Fisher F.P. ( $d+1 < 4$ )

$d < 3$



# Scale invariance and Phase Transitions

- 1) Effective QFT or EFT constructed out of symmetry and other general considerations.
- 1) Critical point is identified as a scale invariant QFT (or CFT if  $z=1,2$ ) or a fixed point Hamiltonian understand scale transformation.
- 3) Microscopic information (which appears in EFT) wiped out in the course of renormalization leading to universalities.