


# Can EFT reveal if there was an electroweak phase transition?

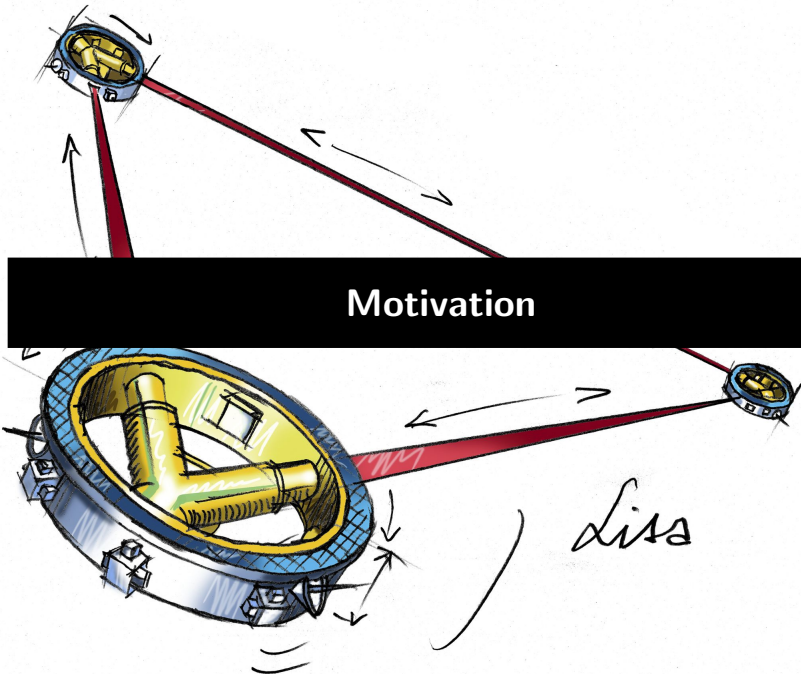
Philipp Schicho  
schicho@itp.uni-frankfurt.de  
pschicho.github.io

*Institute for Theoretical Physics, Goethe University Frankfurt*

*Cosmology from Home, 07/2023*

---

 P. Schicho, T. V. I. Tenkanen, and G. White, *Combining thermal resummation and gauge invariance for electroweak phase transition*, JHEP **11** (2022) 047 [2203.04284], A. Ekstedt, P. Schicho, and T. V. I. Tenkanen, *DRalgo: A package for effective field theory approach for thermal phase transitions*, Comput. Phys. Commun. **288** (2023) 108725 [2205.08815]



Motivation

Lisa

# The thermal history of electroweak symmetry breaking

Strong first-order cosmic phase transition at EW scale  $T_c \sim 100$  GeV:

- ▷ Baryogenesis                      Baryon asymmetry of the universe
- ▷ Colliding bubbles              Gravitational wave (GW) production

In Standard Model EWSB occurs via a smooth crossover but possible that it is first-order in Beyond the Standard Model (BSM) extensions.

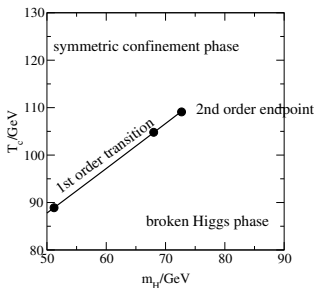


figure by M. Laine, *Electroweak phase transition beyond the standard model*, in *4th International Conference on Strong and Electroweak Matter*, pp. 58–69, 6, 2000 [hep-ph/0010275]

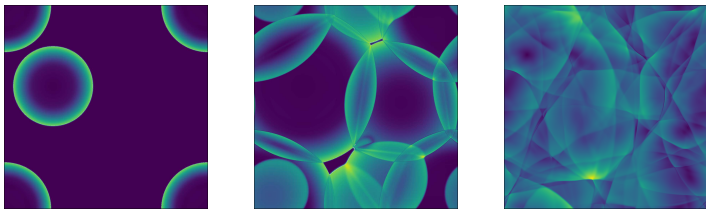
# The thermal history of electroweak symmetry breaking

Strong first-order cosmic phase transition at EW scale  $T_c \sim 100$  GeV:

- ▷ Baryogenesis                      Baryon asymmetry of the universe
- ▷ Colliding bubbles                Gravitational wave (GW) production

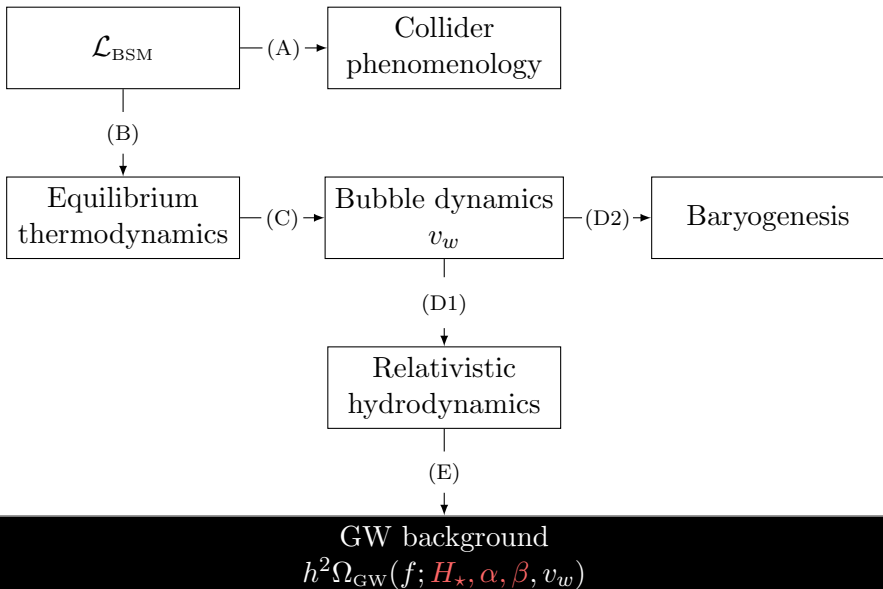
In Standard Model EWSB occurs via a smooth crossover but possible that it is first-order in Beyond the Standard Model (BSM) extensions. Study **BSM physics** near EW scale in context of phase transitions:

- ▷ Light fields strongly coupled to Higgs
- ▷ Collider targets. BSM testing pipeline: Collider phenomenology

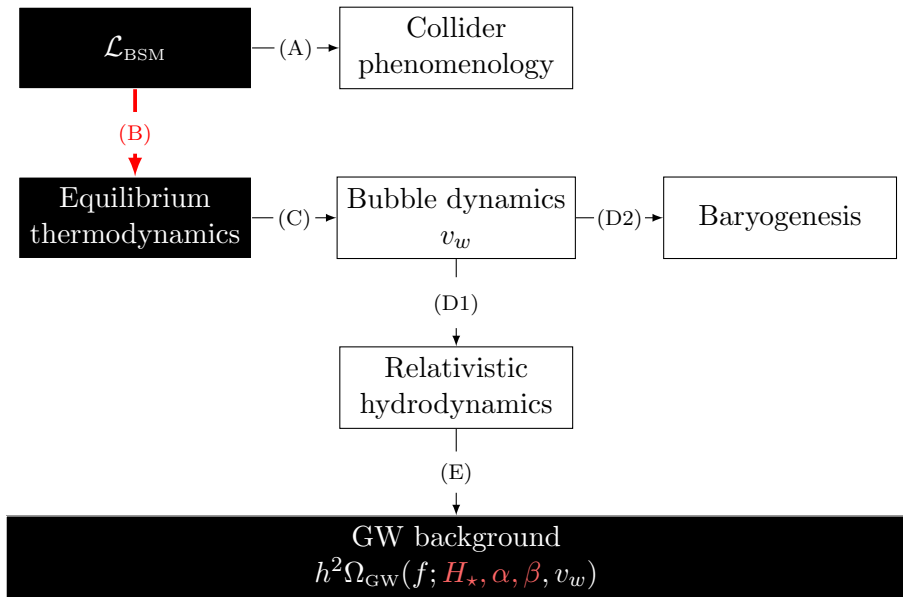


figures by D. Cutting, M. Hindmarsh, and D. J. Weir, *Vorticity, kinetic energy, and suppressed gravitational wave production in strong first order phase transitions*, Phys. Rev. Lett. **125** (2020) 021302 [1906.00480]

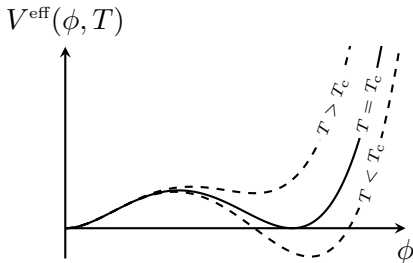
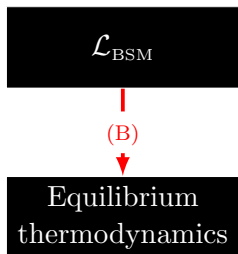
# Uncertainties of the gravitational wave pipeline



# Uncertainties of the gravitational wave pipeline



# The effective potential in perturbation theory<sup>1</sup>



(B): Equilibrium thermodynamics as a function of BSM theory parameters. Encoded in **effective potential**,  $V^{\text{eff}}$ . **Origin of uncertainty.**

Important for  $v_w$  in the context of local thermal equilibrium (LTE).

<sup>1</sup> R. Jackiw, *Functional evaluation of the effective potential*, Phys. Rev. D **9** (1974) 1686

# Theoretical predictions are **not robust**

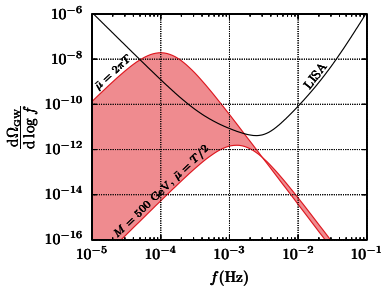
$\mathcal{O}(10^4)$  uncertainty even for purely perturbative regimes<sup>2</sup> as  $\Omega_{\text{GW}}$  depends strongly on the transition temperature,  $T_*$ , in simulation fits:

$$\Omega_{\text{GW}} \propto \frac{(\Delta V_*)^2}{T_*^8}$$

▷ Ensure (improve) quantitative precision at finite  $T$ ?

Minimal SM extensions e.g.:

▷ **SMEFT**:  $\text{SM} + \frac{1}{M^2}(\phi^\dagger\phi)^3$



<sup>2</sup> D. Croon, O. Gould, P. Schicho, T. V. I. Tenkanen, and G. White, *Theoretical uncertainties for cosmological first-order phase transitions*, JHEP **04** (2021) 055 [2009.10080], O. Gould and T. V. I. Tenkanen, *On the perturbative expansion at high temperature and implications for cosmological phase transitions*, JHEP **06** (2021) 069 [2104.04399]



# Theoretical predictions are **not robust**

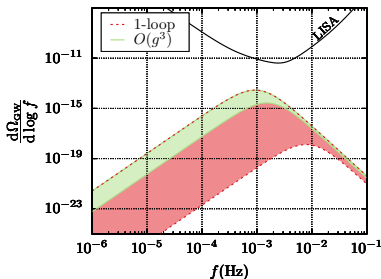
$\mathcal{O}(10^4)$  uncertainty even for purely perturbative regimes<sup>2</sup> as  $\Omega_{\text{GW}}$  depends strongly on the transition temperature,  $T_*$ , in simulation fits:

$$\Omega_{\text{GW}} \propto \frac{(\Delta V_*)^2}{T_*^8}$$

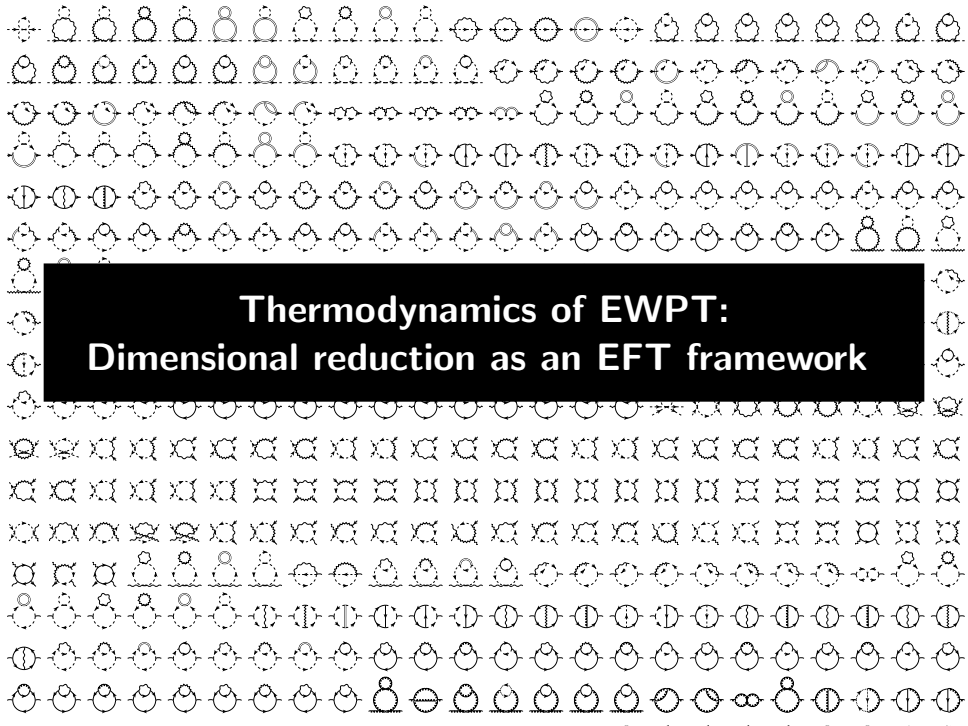
- ▷ Ensure (improve) quantitative precision at finite  $T$ ?

Minimal SM extensions e.g.:

- ▷ SMEFT: SM +  $\frac{1}{M^2}(\phi^\dagger\phi)^3$
- ▷ xSM: SM + singlet



<sup>2</sup> D. Croon, O. Gould, P. Schicho, T. V. I. Tenkanen, and G. White, *Theoretical uncertainties for cosmological first-order phase transitions*, JHEP **04** (2021) 055 [2009.10080], O. Gould and T. V. I. Tenkanen, *On the perturbative expansion at high temperature and implications for cosmological phase transitions*, JHEP **06** (2021) 069 [2104.04399]



**Thermodynamics of EWPT:  
Dimensional reduction as an EFT framework**

# Perturbative phase transitions need scale hierarchies

for quantum effects  $\Delta V_{\text{fluct}}$  to influence the tree-level potential

$$V^{\text{eff}} = V_{\text{tree}} + \Delta V_{\text{fluct}} .$$

As relevant operators ( $\sigma > 0$ ) in the IR get large UV contributions

$$\frac{\Delta V_{\text{fluct}}}{V_{\text{tree}}} \sim g^2 N \left[ \frac{\Lambda_{\text{fluct}}}{\Lambda_{\text{tree}}} \right]^\sigma \stackrel{!}{\sim} 1 .$$

Realised for

- 1 strong coupling  $g^2 N \gtrsim 1$
- 2 scale hierarchies  $\frac{\Lambda_{\text{fluct}}}{\Lambda_{\text{tree}}} \gg \frac{1}{(g^2 N)^{\frac{1}{\sigma}}}$

# Equilibrium Thermodynamics: Imaginary Time Formalism

$\rho(\beta) = e^{-\beta\mathcal{H}} \rightarrow \mathcal{U}(t) = e^{-i\mathcal{H}t}$ . Relating density operator to time evolution corresponds to path integral over imaginary-time  $t \rightarrow -i\tau$ ,

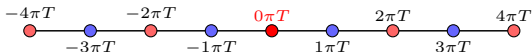
$$\mathcal{Z} = C \int_{\text{b.c.}} \mathcal{D}\phi \exp \left[ - \int_0^{\beta=1/T} d\tau \int_{\mathbf{x}} \mathcal{L}_{\text{E}} \right], \quad \phi(0, \mathbf{x}) = \pm \phi(\beta, \mathbf{x}).$$

(Anti-)periodic bosonic(fermionic) fields at boundaries  $\rightarrow$  **compact time direction**:  $\mathbb{R}^3 \times S^1_{\beta}$ .

Finite- $\tau$  and (b.c.) induce a discrete Fourier sum for time component  $P = (\omega_n, \mathbf{p})$  with **Matsubara frequencies**

$$\omega_n = \begin{cases} 2n\pi T & \text{bosonic} \\ (2n+1)\pi T & \text{fermionic} \end{cases}$$

Absent zero mode  $\omega_{n=0}$  for fermions:



# Multi-scale hierarchy in hot gauge theories

Evaluated **Matsubara sums** yield Bose(Fermi) distribution. At asymptotically high- $T$  and weak  $g \ll 1$  the effective expansion parameter

$$g^2 n_B(|p|) = \frac{g^2}{e^{|p|/T} - 1} \approx \frac{g^2 T}{|p|}$$

differs from the weak coupling  $g^2$ . Fermions are IR-safe  $g^2 n_F |p| \sim g^2/2$ .

Theory separates scales rigorously:

$$|p| \sim \begin{cases} \pi T & \text{hard scale} \\ gT & \text{soft scale} \\ g^{3/2}T & \text{supersoft scale} \quad \text{symmetry breaking} \\ g^2 T/\pi & \text{ultrasoft scale} \end{cases}$$

**Limit:** Confinement-like behavior in ultrasoft sector  $g^2 n_B(g^2 T) \sim \mathcal{O}(1)$ .  
Ultrasoft bosons are non-perturbative at finite  $T$ : **Linde IR problem**.<sup>3</sup>

---

<sup>3</sup> A. Linde, *Infrared problem in the thermodynamics of the Yang-Mills gas*, Phys. Lett. B **96** (1980) 289

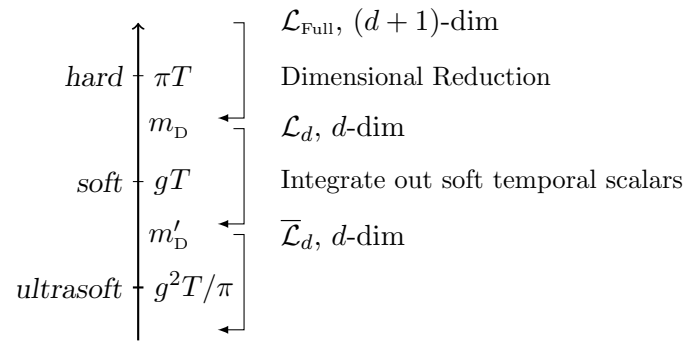
# Effective Field Theory (EFT): Dimensional Reduction (DR)

*Integrate out hard modes perturbatively* → EFT for static modes.

Incorporates an all order thermal resummation to by-pass IR problem.

Precision thermodynamics of non-Abelian gauge theories as QCD and

(EW) phase transition<sup>4</sup> using e.g. DRalgo<sup>5</sup>

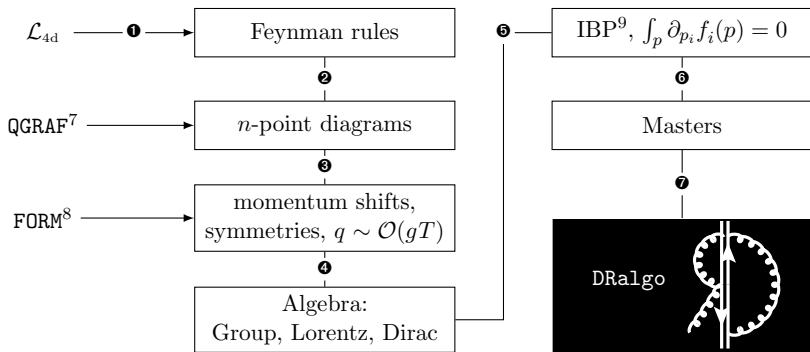


<sup>4</sup> K. Kajantie, M. Laine, K. Rummukainen, and M. E. Shaposhnikov, *Generic rules for high temperature dimensional reduction and their application to the standard model*, Nucl. Phys. B **458** (1996) 90 [hep-ph/9508379], K. Kajantie, M. Laine, K. Rummukainen, and M. E. Shaposhnikov, *The Electroweak phase transition: A Nonperturbative analysis*, Nucl. Phys. B **466** (1996) 189 [hep-lat/9510020]

<sup>5</sup> A. Ekstedt, P. Schicho, and T. V. I. Tenkanen, *DRalgo: A package for effective field theory approach for thermal phase transitions*, Comput. Phys. Commun. **288** (2023) 108725 [2205.08815]

# A Dimensional Reduction algorithm (DRalgo)

State-of-the-art Mathematica package DRalgo.<sup>6</sup>



<sup>6</sup> [github.com/DR-algo/DRalgo](https://github.com/DR-algo/DRalgo), A. Ekstedt, P. Schicho, and T. V. I. Tenkanen, DRalgo: A package for effective field theory approach for thermal phase transitions, *Comput. Phys. Commun.* **288** (2023) 108725 [2205.08815]

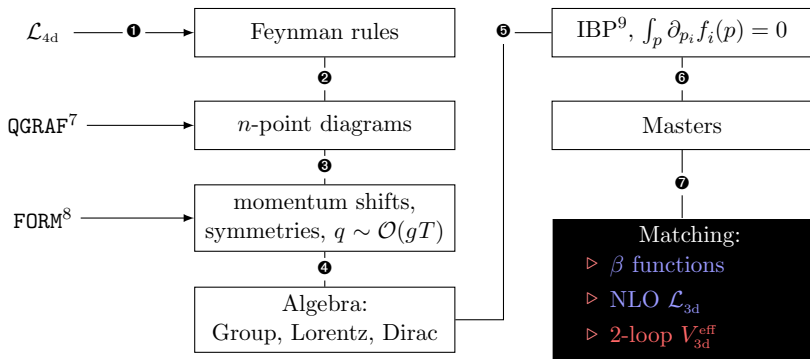
<sup>7</sup> P. Nogueira, *Automatic Feynman Graph Generation*, *J. Comput. Phys.* **105** (1993) 279

<sup>8</sup> B. Ruijl, T. Ueda, and J. Vermaseren, *FORM version 4.2* arXiv (2017) [1707.06453]

<sup>9</sup> S. Laporta, *High precision calculation of multiloop Feynman integrals by difference equations*, *Int. J. Mod. Phys. A* **15** (2000) 5087 [hep-ph/0102033]

# A Dimensional Reduction algorithm (DRalgo)

State-of-the-art Mathematica package DRalgo.<sup>6</sup>



<sup>6</sup> [github.com/DR-algo/DRalgo](https://github.com/DR-algo/DRalgo), A. Ekstedt, P. Schicho, and T. V. I. Tenkanen, DRalgo: A package for effective field theory approach for thermal phase transitions, *Comput. Phys. Commun.* **288** (2023) 108725 [2205.08815]

<sup>7</sup> P. Nogueira, *Automatic Feynman Graph Generation*, *J. Comput. Phys.* **105** (1993) 279

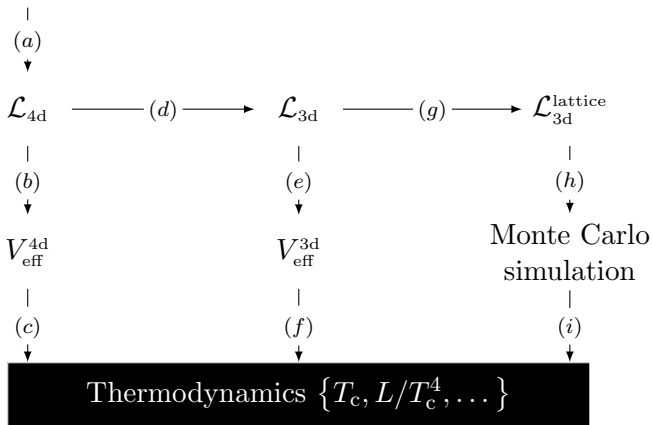
<sup>8</sup> B. Ruijl, T. Ueda, and J. Vermaseren, *FORM version 4.2* arXiv (2017) [1707.06453]

<sup>9</sup> S. Laporta, *High precision calculation of multiloop Feynman integrals by difference equations*, *Int. J. Mod. Phys. A* **15** (2000) 5087 [hep-ph/0102033]

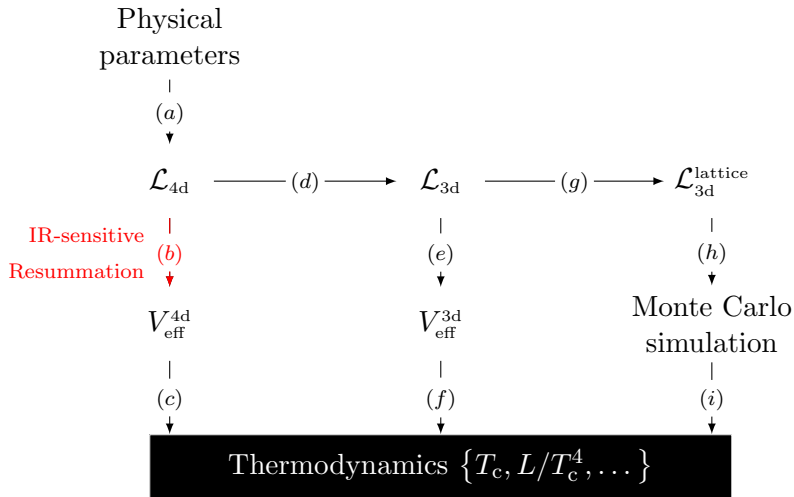


# Thermodynamics of electroweak phase transition

Physical  
parameters

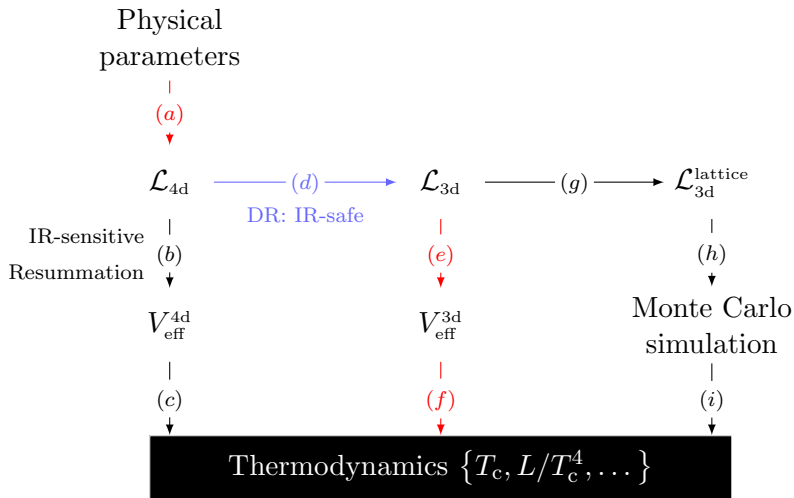


# Thermodynamics of electroweak phase transition



▷ 4d approach: (a) → (b) → (c)

# Thermodynamics of electroweak phase transition



▷ 4d approach: (a) → (b) → (c)

▷ Perturbative 3d approach: (a) → (d) → (e) → (f)

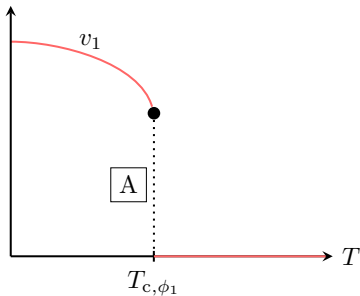
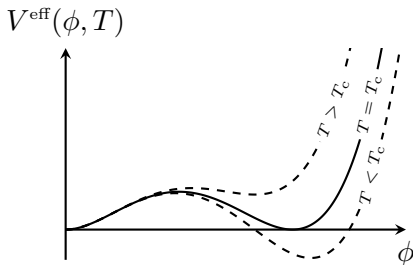
**Improving accuracy of EWPT:  
Effective potential**

# The effective potential in perturbation theory

receives thermal corrections  $\Pi_T \sim \gamma T^2$  with  $\gamma \sim g^n$ . Dynamical generation of scales close to critical temperature  $T_c$ :

$$V^{\text{eff}} \simeq \frac{1}{2}(-\mu^2 + \Pi_T)\phi^2 + \frac{1}{2}\lambda\phi^4 - \frac{g^3 T}{16\pi}\phi^3 + \dots$$

$$(-\mu^2 + g^n T^2) \sim \boxed{\begin{array}{c} 0 \times (gT)^2 \\ \text{soft} \end{array}} + \boxed{\begin{array}{c} 0 \times (g^{3/2}T)^2 \\ \text{supersoft} \end{array}} + \boxed{\begin{array}{c} \#(g^2T)^2 \\ \text{ultrasoft} \end{array}} .$$

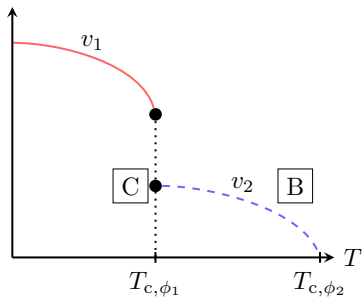
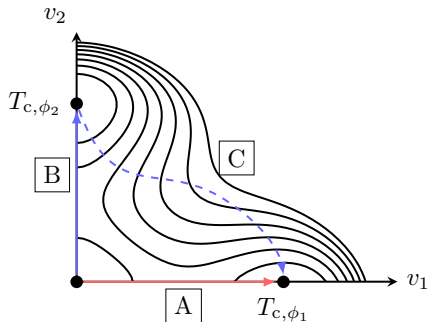


# The effective potential in perturbation theory

receives thermal corrections  $\Pi_T \sim \gamma T^2$  with  $\gamma \sim g^n$ . Dynamical generation of scales close to critical temperature  $T_c$ :

$$V^{\text{eff}} \simeq \frac{1}{2}(-\mu^2 + \Pi_T)\phi^2 + \frac{1}{2}\lambda\phi^4 - \frac{g^3 T}{16\pi}\phi^3 + \dots$$

$$(-\mu^2 + g^n T^2) \sim \underbrace{0 \times (gT)^2}_{\text{soft}} + \underbrace{0 \times (g^{3/2}T)^2}_{\text{supersoft}} + \underbrace{\#(g^2 T)^2}_{\text{ultrasoft}}.$$



# The thermal effective potential at LO

$$V^{\text{eff}} = V_{\text{tree}}^{\text{eff}} + V_{1\ell}^{\text{eff}} .$$

At 1-loop sum over  $n$ -point functions at  $Q_i = 0$  external momenta

$$\begin{aligned}
 V_{1\ell}^{\text{eff}} &= \text{---}\text{---}\text{---} + \frac{1}{2} \text{---}\text{---}\text{---} + \frac{1}{3} \text{---}\text{---}\text{---} + \dots \Big|_{Q_i=0} \\
 &= \frac{1}{2} \oint_P \ln(P^2 + m^2) \\
 V_{1\ell}^{\text{eff}} &= \underbrace{\frac{1}{2} \int_P \ln(P^2 + m^2)}_{\equiv V_{\text{CW}}(m)} - T \underbrace{\int_p \ln\left(1 \mp n_{\text{B/F}}(E_p, T)\right)}_{\equiv V_{T,b/f}\left(\frac{m^2}{T^2}\right)} \\
 &= \underbrace{\frac{T}{2} \int_p \ln(p^2 + m^2)}_{\equiv TV_{\text{soft}}(m)} + \underbrace{\frac{1}{2} \oint_{P/\{P\}}' \ln(P^2 + m^2)}_{\equiv V_{\text{hard}}(m)} .
 \end{aligned}$$

# Renormalization scale (in)dependence at finite $T$

Zero temperature

$$V^{\text{eff}}(\phi, \bar{\mu}) = \boxed{\begin{array}{c} V_{\text{tree}}^{\text{eff}} \\ \mathcal{O}(g^2) \end{array}} + \boxed{\begin{array}{c} V_{\text{CW},1\ell} \\ \mathcal{O}(g^4) \end{array}}, \quad \mu \frac{d}{d\mu} \left( V_{\text{tree}}^{\text{eff}} + V_{\text{CW},1\ell} \right) = 0.$$

At finite temperature<sup>10</sup>

$$V_{\text{res.}}^{\text{eff}}(\phi, T, \bar{\mu}) = \boxed{\begin{array}{c} V_{\text{tree}}^{\text{eff}} \\ \mathcal{O}(g^2) \end{array}} + \boxed{\begin{array}{c} V_{\text{res.,soft}} \\ \mathcal{O}(g^3) \end{array}} + \boxed{\begin{array}{c} V_{\text{hard}} \\ \mathcal{O}(g^2 T^2) + \mathcal{O}(g^4) \end{array}},$$

running of 1-loop thermal masses is of the same order as 2-loop thermal-mass logarithms.

Automatically included in dimensionally reduced  $3d$ -approach:

$$\mu \frac{d}{d\mu} \text{---}\bullet\text{---} \sim \mu \frac{d}{d\mu} \text{---}\bigcirc\text{---} \sim \text{---}\bigcirc\text{---} \sim \text{---}\bigcirc\bigcirc\text{---} \sim \mathcal{O}(g^4 T^2)$$

<sup>10</sup> O. Gould and T. V. I. Tenkanen, *On the perturbative expansion at high temperature and implications for cosmological phase transitions*, JHEP **06** (2021) 069 [2104.04399]



# The effective potential at NLO and beyond

$$V^{\text{eff}} = V_{\text{tree}}^{\text{eff}} + V_{1l}^{\text{eff}} + V_{2l}^{\text{eff}} + V_{3l}^{\text{eff}} .$$

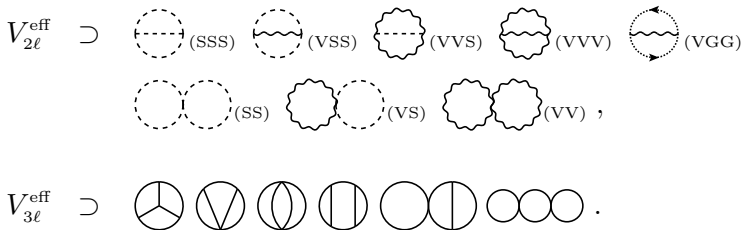
WHAT IF WE TRIED  
MORE LOOPS ?



# The effective potential at NLO and beyond

$$V^{\text{eff}} = V_{\text{tree}}^{\text{eff}} + V_{1\ell}^{\text{eff}} + V_{2\ell}^{\text{eff}} + V_{3\ell}^{\text{eff}} .$$

Computing 2-loop<sup>11</sup> and 3-loop<sup>12</sup>  $V^{\text{eff}}$  via vacuum integrals in 3d EFT:



Todo: extend 3-loop  $V^{\text{eff}}$  to general models.

<sup>11</sup> K. Farakos, K. Kajantie, K. Rummukainen, and M. E. Shaposhnikov, *3-D physics and the electroweak phase transition: Perturbation theory*, Nucl. Phys. B **425** (1994) 67 [hep-ph/9404201], M. Laine, *The Two loop effective potential of the 3-d SU(2) Higgs model in a general covariant gauge*, Phys. Lett. B **335** (1994) 173 [hep-ph/9406268], L. Niemi, M. Ramsey-Musolf, T. V. I. Tenkanen, and D. J. Weir, *Thermodynamics of a two-step electroweak phase transition*, [2005.11332], L. Niemi, P. Schicho, and T. V. I. Tenkanen, *Singlet-assisted electroweak phase transition at two loops*, Phys. Rev. D **103** (2021) 115035 [2103.07467]

<sup>12</sup> A. K. Rajantie, *Feynman diagrams to three loops in three-dimensional field theory*, Nucl. Phys. B **480** (1996) 729 [hep-ph/9606216]

# A minimal scheme for gauge invariance and resummation

- 1 Determine 3d EFT at NLO (gauge-invariant)
- 2 Compute  $V_{3d}^{\text{eff}}$  within 3d EFT at 1-loop level
- 3 Determine  $T_c$ , condensates e.g.  $\langle\phi^\dagger\phi\rangle$ , and latent heat

Minimum of  $V^{\text{eff}}$  is gauge parameter independent (Nielsen identities<sup>13</sup>); use  $\hbar$ -expansion. Improve previous schemes.<sup>14</sup>

---

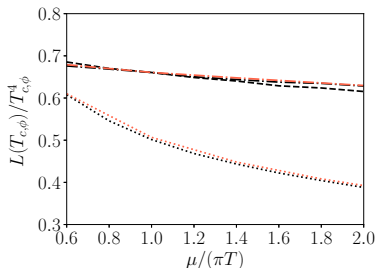
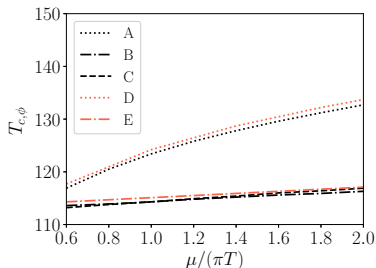
<sup>13</sup> N. Nielsen, *On the gauge dependence of spontaneous symmetry breaking in gauge theories*, Nucl. Phys. B **101** (1975) 173

<sup>14</sup>PRM scheme: H. H. Patel and M. J. Ramsey-Musolf, *Baryon Washout, Electroweak Phase Transition, and Perturbation Theory*, JHEP **2011** (2011) 29 [1101.4665]

# Increasing accuracy to $\mathcal{O}(g^4)$ : cxSM (complex singlet)

Augment SM with **complex singlet scalar**<sup>15</sup>,  $\mathbb{S} \rightarrow v_{\mathbb{S}} + \mathbb{S} + iA$  at

Benchmark	$M_{\mathbb{S}}$	$M_A$	$\lambda_p$	$\lambda_{\mathbb{S}}$
BM1	62.5 GeV	62.5 GeV	0.55	0.5



- ▷ A, D: 1-loop level dimensional reduction
- ▷ B, E: 2-loop level dimensional reduction
- ▷ C: as B, with varying  $\mu_3 = \mu/(\pi T)g_3^2$

<sup>15</sup> P. Schicho, T. V. I. Tenkanen, and G. White, *Combining thermal resummation and gauge invariance for electroweak phase transition*, JHEP **11** (2022) 047 [2203.04284], C.-W. Chiang, M. J. Ramsey-Musolf, and E. Senaha, *Standard Model with a Complex Scalar Singlet: Cosmological Implications and Theoretical Considerations*, Phys. Rev. D **97** (2017) 1 [1707.09960]

# Conclusions

*Precision thermodynamics of BSM theories:*

- ▷ reliably describe cosmological FOPT and GW production,
- ▷ practical approach: **Effective Theories**.

*Precision cosmology with dimensionally reduced 3d EFT:*

- ▷ multi-loop sport – automatic all-order high- $T$  resummation,
- ▷ analytic fermions, numerical on the lattice at  $T_c \sim 100$  GeV,
- ▷ systematic higher-loop/operator improvement,
- ▷ **universality**,
- ▷ apply to **supercooled phase transitions(?)**,
- ▷ accurate description of the phase transition.<sup>a</sup>

---

<sup>a</sup> D. Croon, O. Gould, P. Schicho, T. V. I. Tenkanen, and G. White, *Theoretical uncertainties for cosmological first-order phase transitions*, JHEP **04** (2021) 055 [2009.10080]