

Decoding the Path Integral: Resurgent Asymptotics and Extreme QFT

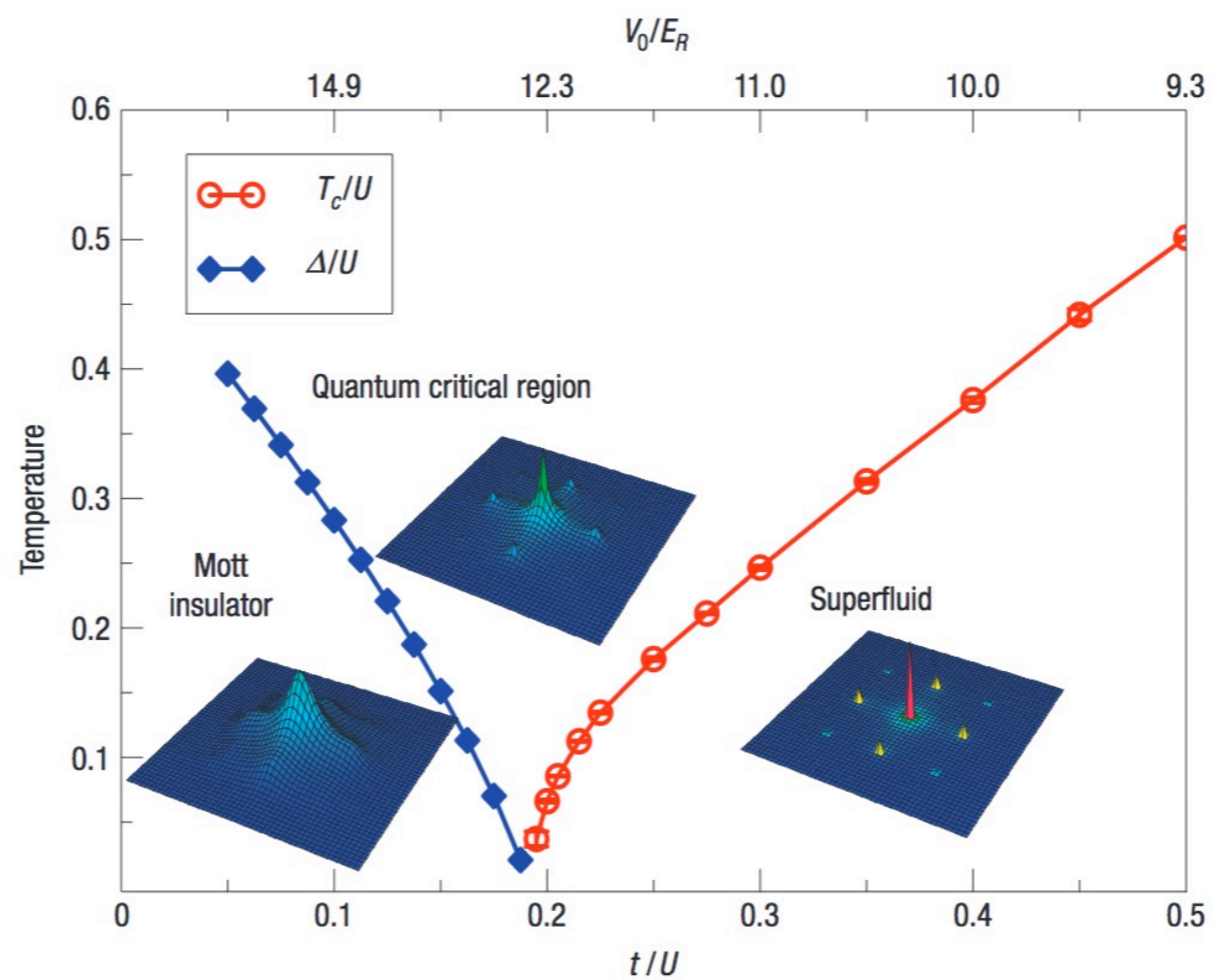
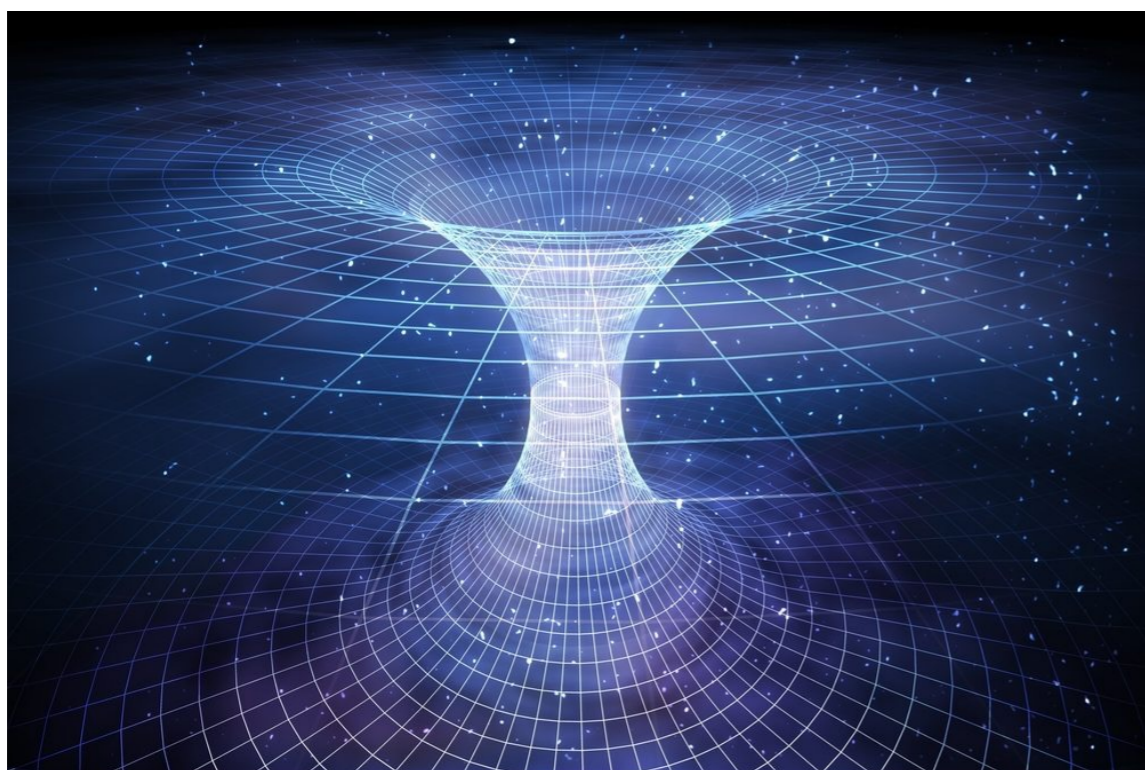
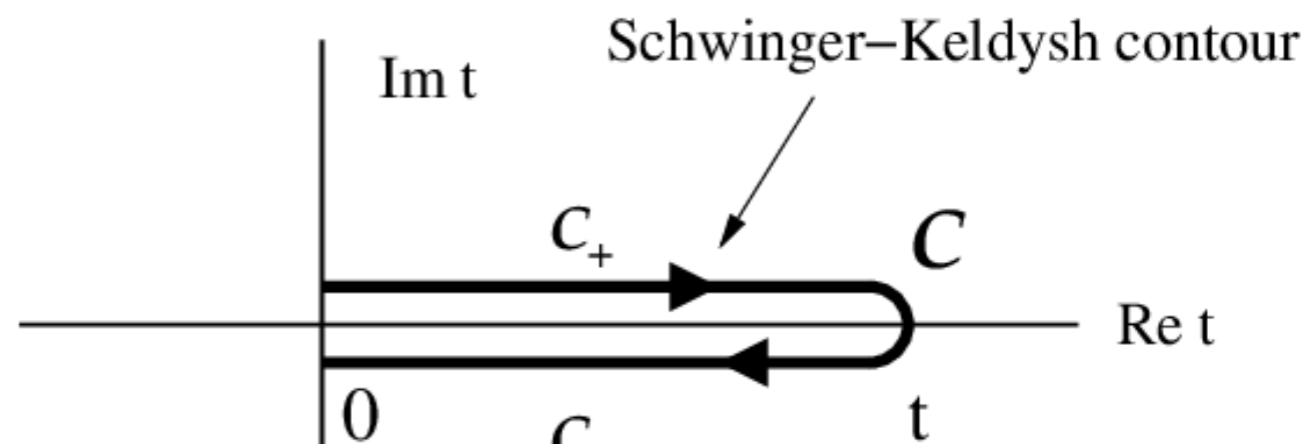
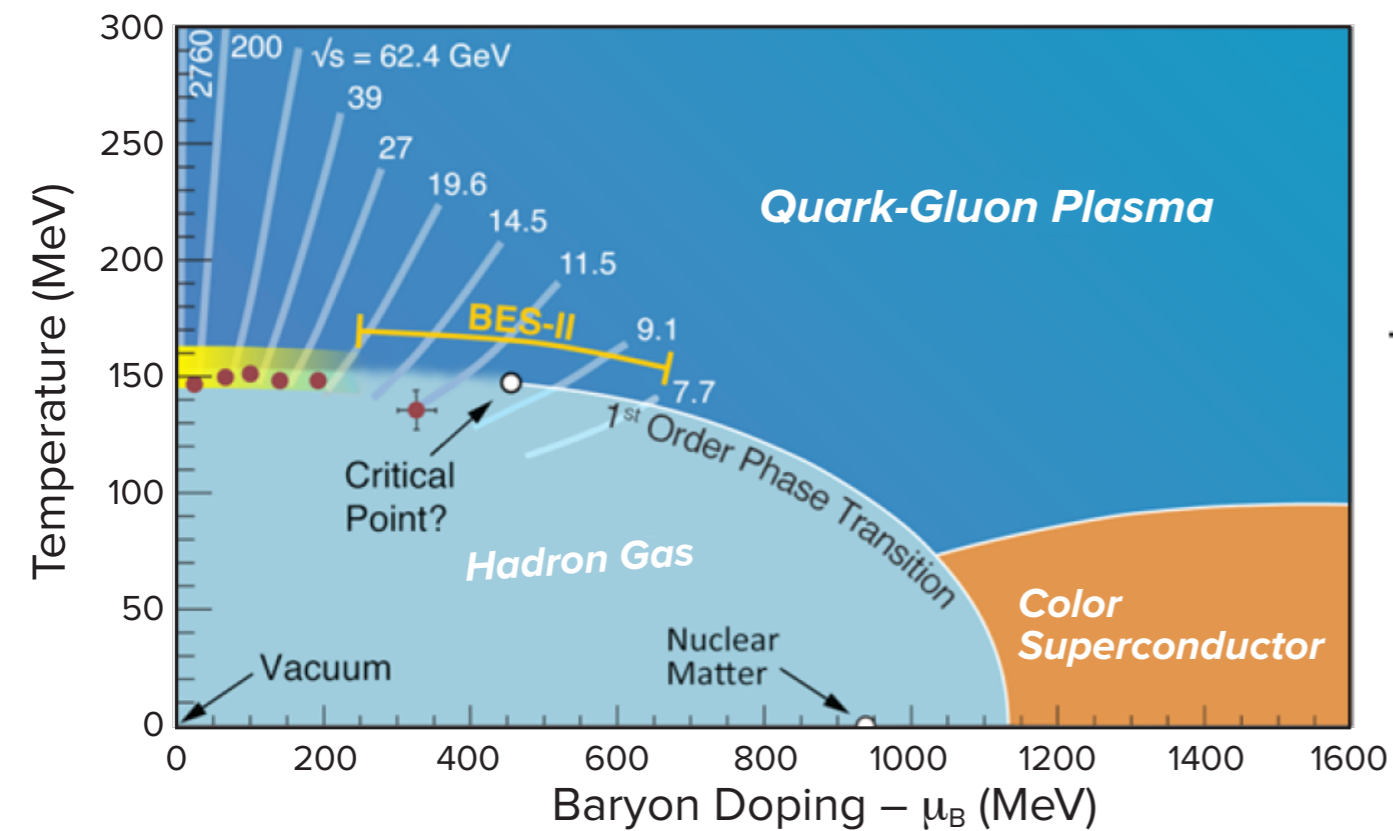


Gerald Dunne
University of Connecticut

Theoretical Physics Colloquium, Arizona State, October 28, 2020



Physical Motivation



Physical Motivation: Quantum Physics in Extreme Conditions

- QCD phase diagram
- non-equilibrium physics at strong-coupling
- quantum systems in extreme background fields
- back-reaction physics
- transition to hydrodynamics

extreme = strongly-coupled; high density; ultra-fast driving; ultra-cold; strong fields; strong curvature; heavy ion collisions; ...

- perturbation theory
- non-perturbative semi-classical methods: “instantons”
- non-perturbative numerical methods: Monte Carlo
- asymptotics

Physical Motivation: Quantum Physics in Extreme Conditions

- QCD phase diagram
- non-equilibrium physics at strong-coupling
- quantum systems in extreme background fields
- back-reaction physics
- transition to hydrodynamics

extreme = strongly-coupled; high density; ultra-fast driving; ultra-cold; strong fields; strong curvature; heavy ion collisions; ...

- perturbation theory
- non-perturbative semi-classical methods: “instantons”
- non-perturbative numerical methods: Monte Carlo
- asymptotics

“resurgence”: new form of asymptotics that unifies these approaches

Physical Motivation: Quantum Physics in Extreme Conditions

- QCD phase diagram
- non-equilibrium physics at strong-coupling
- quantum systems in extreme background fields
- back-reaction physics
- transition to hydrodynamics

extreme = strongly-coupled; high density; ultra-fast driving; ultra-cold; strong fields; strong curvature; heavy ion collisions; ...

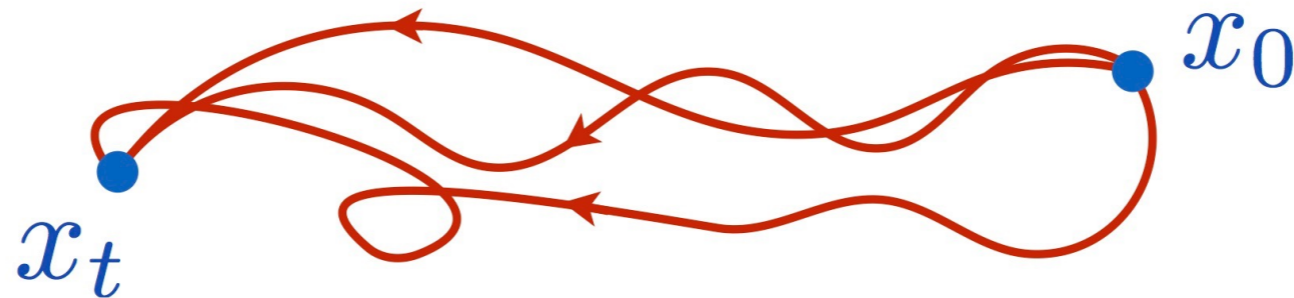
- perturbation theory
- non-perturbative semi-classical methods: “instantons”
- non-perturbative numerical methods: Monte Carlo
- asymptotics

“resurgence”: new form of asymptotics that unifies these approaches

technical problem: what does a quantum path integral really mean?

The Feynman Path Integral

$$\langle x_t | e^{-i\hat{H}t/\hbar} | x_0 \rangle =$$



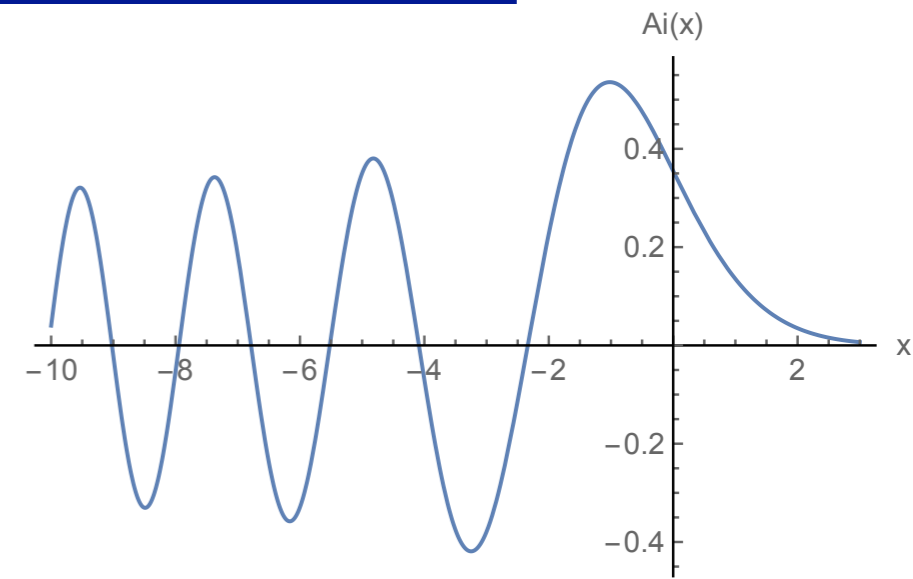
$$\text{QM: } \int \mathcal{D}x(t) \exp \left[\frac{i}{\hbar} S[x(t)] \right]$$

$$\text{QFT: } \int \mathcal{D}A(x^\mu) \exp \left[\frac{i}{g^2} S[A(x^\mu)] \right]$$

- stationary phase approximation: classical physics
- quantum perturbation theory: fluctuations about trivial saddle point
- other saddle points: non-perturbative physics
- resurgence: saddle points are related by analytic continuation, so perturbative and non-perturbative physics are *unified*

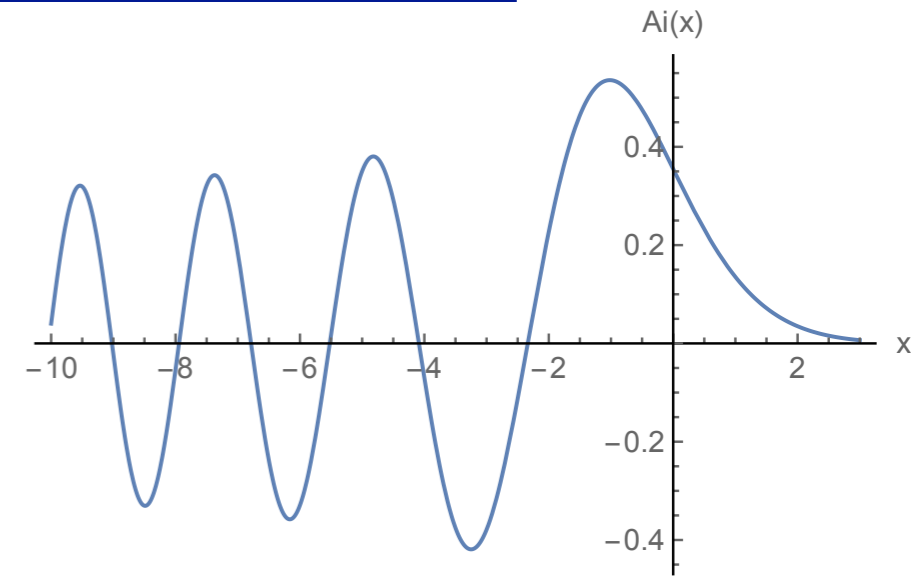
Stokes and the Airy Function: “Stokes Phenomenon”

$$\text{Ai}(x) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} dt e^{i\left(\frac{1}{3}t^3 + xt\right)}$$

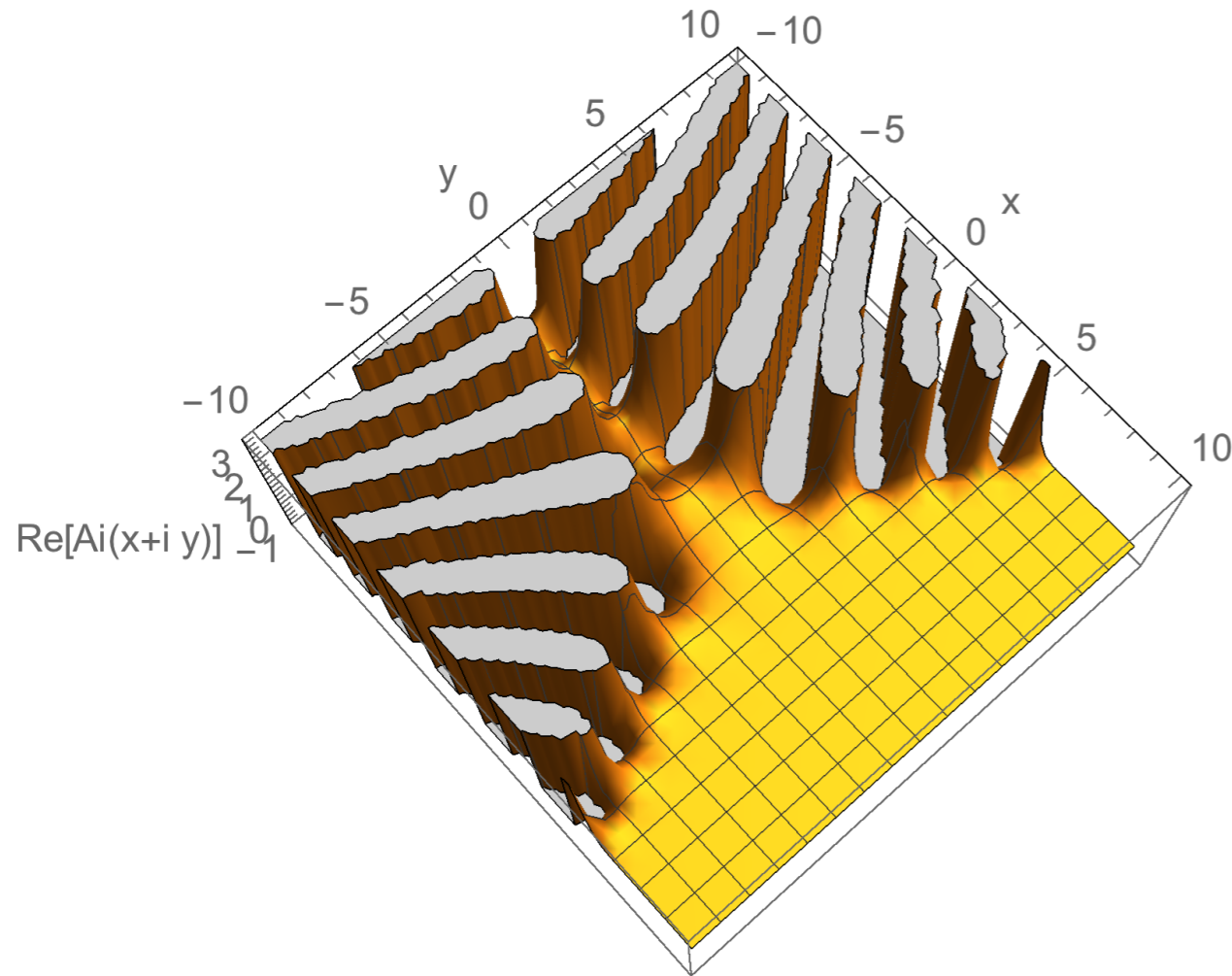


Stokes and the Airy Function: “Stokes Phenomenon”

$$\text{Ai}(x) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} dt e^{i\left(\frac{1}{3}t^3 + xt\right)}$$



- Stokes transitions occur in the complex x plane



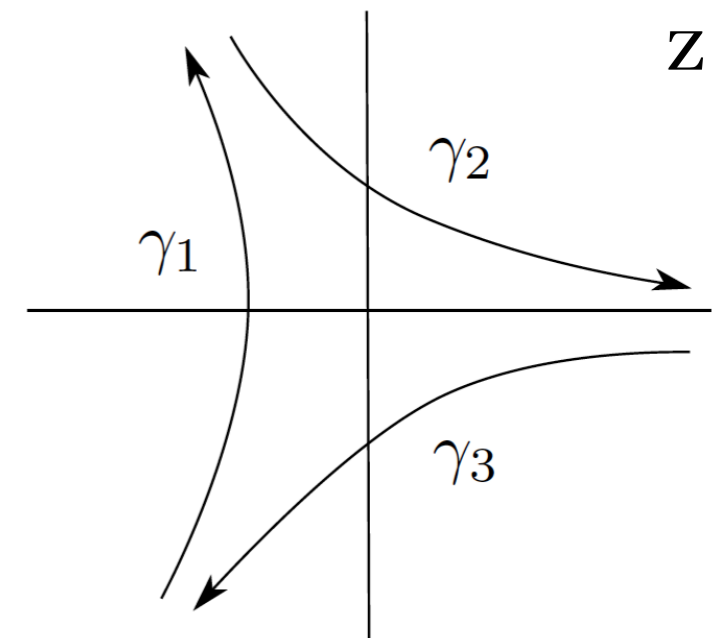
Airy Stokes sectors

anti-Stokes lines: $\arg(x) = \pm\frac{\pi}{3}, \pi$

Stokes lines: $\arg(x) = \pm\frac{2\pi}{3}, 0$

- non-perturbative connection formulae connect sectors

$$\text{Ai}(x) = \frac{\sqrt{r}}{2\pi i} \int_{\gamma} dz e^{-r^{3/2} \left(\frac{1}{3}z^3 - e^{i\theta} z\right)}$$



Analytic Continuation of Path Integrals

since we need complex analysis and contour deformation to make sense of oscillatory exponential integrals, it is natural to explore similar methods for (infinite dimensional) path integrals

$$\int \mathcal{D}x(t) \exp \left[\frac{i}{\hbar} S[x(t)] \right] \longleftrightarrow \int \mathcal{D}x(t) \exp \left[-\frac{1}{\hbar} S[x(t)] \right]$$

goal: a satisfactory formulation of the functional integral should be able to describe Stokes transitions

idea: seek a computationally viable constructive definition of the path integral using ideas from resurgent trans-series

Resurgent Trans-Series

resurgence: “new” idea in mathematics

Ecalle 1980s; Dingle 1960s; Stokes 1850

perturbative series \longrightarrow “trans-series”

$$f(\hbar) = \sum_p c_{[p]} \hbar^p \longrightarrow f(\hbar) = \sum_k \sum_p \sum_l c_{[kpl]} e^{-\frac{k}{\hbar}} \hbar^p (\ln \hbar)^l$$

physics: • unifies perturbative and non-perturbative physics

mathematics: • trans-series is well-defined under analytic continuation
• expansions about different saddles are related
• exponentially improved asymptotics

Resurgent Functions

“resurgent functions display at each of their singular points a behaviour closely related to their behaviour at the origin. Loosely speaking, these functions resurrect, or surge up - in a slightly different guise, as it were - at their singularities”

J. Ecalle, 1980



implication: fluctuations about different singularities are related

conjecture: this structure occurs for all “natural problems”

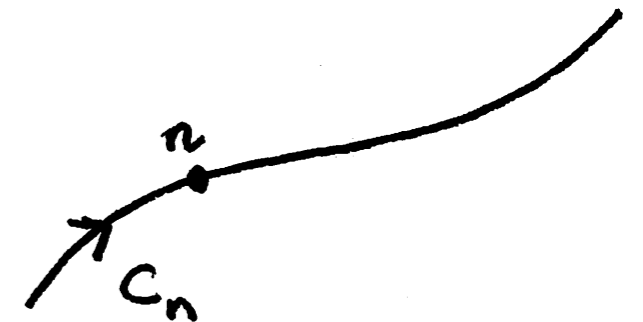
Resurgence in Exponential Integrals

steepest descent integral through saddle point “n”:

$$I^{(n)}(\hbar) = \int_{C_n} dx e^{\frac{i}{\hbar} f(x)} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1/\hbar}} e^{\frac{i}{\hbar} f_n} T^{(n)}(\hbar)$$

all fluctuations beyond the Gaussian approximation:

$$T^{(n)}(\hbar) \sim \sum_{r=0}^{\infty} T_r^{(n)} \hbar^r$$



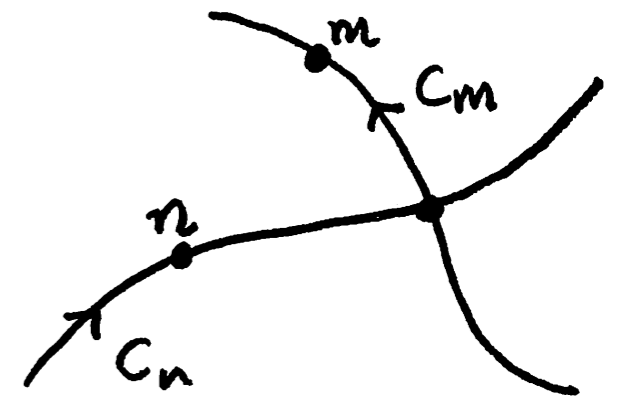
Resurgence in Exponential Integrals

steepest descent integral through saddle point “n”:

$$I^{(n)}(\hbar) = \int_{C_n} dx e^{\frac{i}{\hbar} f(x)} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1/\hbar}} e^{\frac{i}{\hbar} f_n} T^{(n)}(\hbar)$$

all fluctuations beyond the Gaussian approximation:

$$T^{(n)}(\hbar) \sim \sum_{r=0}^{\infty} T_r^{(n)} \hbar^r$$



straightforward complex analysis implies:

universal large orders of fluctuation coefficients: $(F_{nm} \equiv f_m - f_n)$

$$T_r^{(n)} \sim \frac{(r-1)!}{2\pi i} \sum_m \frac{(\pm 1)}{(F_{nm})^r} \left[T_0^{(m)} + \frac{F_{nm}}{(r-1)} T_1^{(m)} + \frac{(F_{nm})^2}{(r-1)(r-2)} T_2^{(m)} + \dots \right]$$

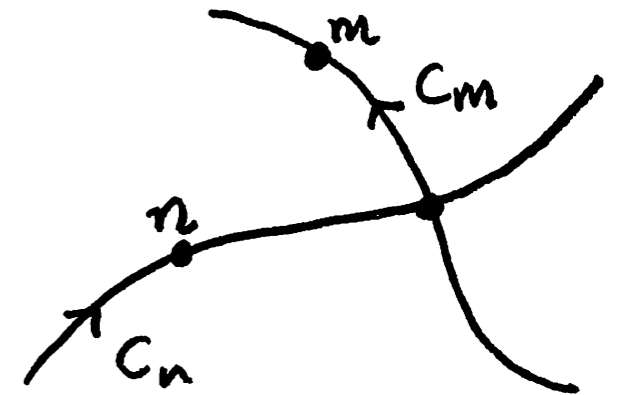
Resurgence in Exponential Integrals

steepest descent integral through saddle point “n”:

$$I^{(n)}(\hbar) = \int_{C_n} dx e^{\frac{i}{\hbar} f(x)} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1/\hbar}} e^{\frac{i}{\hbar} f_n} T^{(n)}(\hbar)$$

all fluctuations beyond the Gaussian approximation:

$$T^{(n)}(\hbar) \sim \sum_{r=0}^{\infty} T_r^{(n)} \hbar^r$$



straightforward complex analysis implies:

universal large orders of fluctuation coefficients: $(F_{nm} \equiv f_m - f_n)$

$$T_r^{(n)} \sim \frac{(r-1)!}{2\pi i} \sum_m \frac{(\pm 1)}{(F_{nm})^r} \left[T_0^{(m)} + \frac{F_{nm}}{(r-1)} T_1^{(m)} + \frac{(F_{nm})^2}{(r-1)(r-2)} T_2^{(m)} + \dots \right]$$

fluctuations about different saddles are quantitatively related

Resurgence in Exponential Integrals

canonical example: Airy function: 2 saddle points

$$T_r^\pm = (\pm 1)^r \frac{\Gamma\left(r + \frac{1}{6}\right) \Gamma\left(r + \frac{5}{6}\right)}{(2\pi) \left(\frac{4}{3}\right)^r r!} = \left\{ 1, \pm \frac{5}{48}, \frac{385}{4608}, \pm \frac{85085}{663552}, \dots \right\}$$

Resurgence in Exponential Integrals

canonical example: Airy function: 2 saddle points

$$T_r^\pm = (\pm 1)^r \frac{\Gamma\left(r + \frac{1}{6}\right) \Gamma\left(r + \frac{5}{6}\right)}{(2\pi) \left(\frac{4}{3}\right)^r r!} = \left\{ 1, \pm \frac{5}{48}, \frac{385}{4608}, \pm \frac{85085}{663552}, \dots \right\}$$

large orders of fluctuation coefficients:

$$T_r^+ \sim \frac{(r-1)!}{(2\pi) \left(\frac{4}{3}\right)^r} \left(1 - \binom{4}{3} \frac{5}{48} \frac{1}{(r-1)} + \binom{4}{3}^2 \frac{385}{4608} \frac{1}{(r-1)(r-2)} - \dots \right)$$

generic “large-order/low-order” resurgence

Resurgence in Exponential Integrals

canonical example: Airy function: 2 saddle points

$$T_r^\pm = (\pm 1)^r \frac{\Gamma\left(r + \frac{1}{6}\right) \Gamma\left(r + \frac{5}{6}\right)}{(2\pi) \left(\frac{4}{3}\right)^r r!} = \left\{ 1, \pm \frac{5}{48}, \frac{385}{4608}, \pm \frac{85085}{663552}, \dots \right\}$$

large orders of fluctuation coefficients:

$$T_r^+ \sim \frac{(r-1)!}{(2\pi) \left(\frac{4}{3}\right)^r} \left(1 - \binom{4}{3} \frac{5}{48} \frac{1}{(r-1)} + \binom{4}{3}^2 \frac{385}{4608} \frac{1}{(r-1)(r-2)} - \dots \right)$$

generic “large-order/low-order” resurgence

amazing fact: this resurgent large-order/low-order behavior has been found in matrix models, QM, QFT, string theory, ...

the only natural way to explain this is via analytic continuation of functional integrals

Perturbation Theory

perturbation theory works, but it is generically divergent

perturbation theory encodes non-perturbative information

Divergence of Perturbation Theory in Quantum Electrodynamics

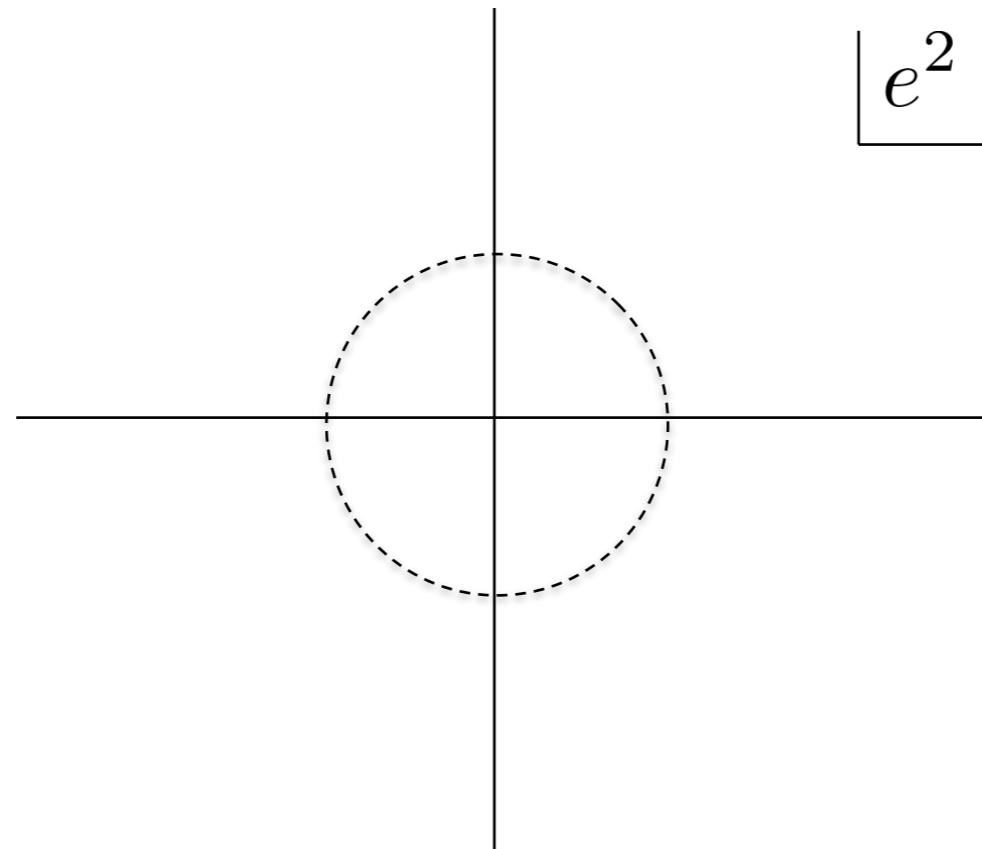
F. J. DYSON

Laboratory of Nuclear Studies, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York

(Received November 5, 1951)

An argument is presented which leads tentatively to the conclusion that all the power-series expansions currently in use in quantum electrodynamics are divergent after the renormalization of mass and charge. The divergence in no way restricts the accuracy of practical calculations that can be made with the theory, but raises important questions of principle concerning the nature of the physical concepts upon which the theory is built.

$$F = a_0 + a_1 e^2 + a_2 e^4 + a_3 e^6 + \dots$$



Divergence of Perturbation Theory in Quantum Electrodynamics

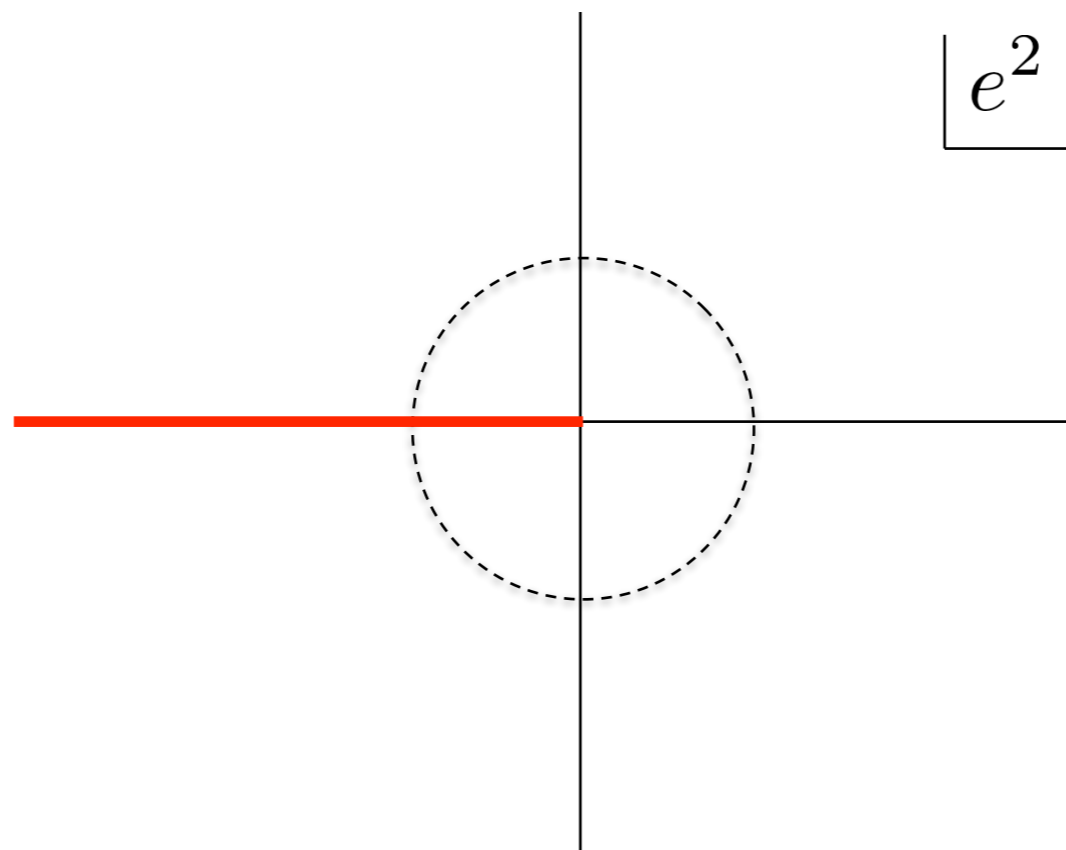
F. J. DYSON

Laboratory of Nuclear Studies, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York

(Received November 5, 1951)

An argument is presented which leads tentatively to the conclusion that all the power-series expansions currently in use in quantum electrodynamics are divergent after the renormalization of mass and charge. The divergence in no way restricts the accuracy of practical calculations that can be made with the theory, but raises important questions of principle concerning the nature of the physical concepts upon which the theory is built.

$$F = a_0 + a_1 e^2 + a_2 e^4 + a_3 e^6 + \dots$$



$$e^2 < 0$$

unstable

Borel Summation: the Physics of Divergent Series

Borel transform of a divergent series with $c_n \sim n!$

$$f(g) \sim \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n g^n \quad \rightarrow \quad \mathcal{B}[f](t) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{c_n}{n!} t^n$$

Borel sum of the divergent series:

$$\mathcal{S}[f](g) = \frac{1}{g} \int_0^{\infty} dt e^{-t/g} \mathcal{B}[f](t)$$

- the singularities of $\mathbf{B}[\mathbf{f}](\mathbf{t})$ provide a physical encoding of the global asymptotic behavior of $\mathbf{f}(\mathbf{g})$, which is also much more mathematically efficient than the asymptotic series
- singularities of Borel transform \longleftrightarrow non-perturbative physics
- singularities on positive Borel t axis: exponentially small imaginary part

QM Perturbation Theory: Zeeman & Stark Effects

Zeeman : divergent, alternating, asymptotic series

$$a_n \sim (-1)^n (2n)!$$

Borel singularities on the negative Borel axis.

physics: Magnetic field causes (real) energy level shifts

Stark : divergent, non-alternating, asymptotic series

$$a_n \sim (2n)!$$

Borel singularities on the positive Borel axis.

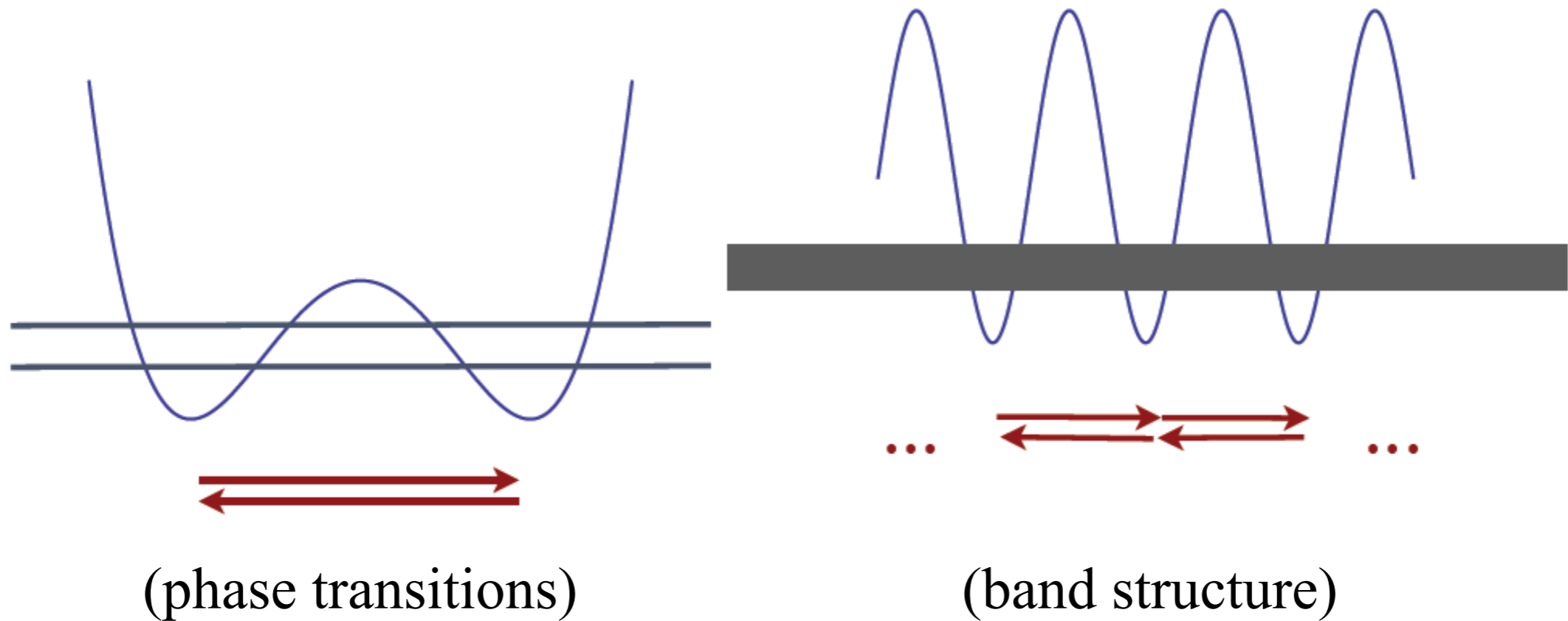
physics: Electric field causes (real) energy level shifts

and ionization (imaginary, exponentially small)

but not so fast ...

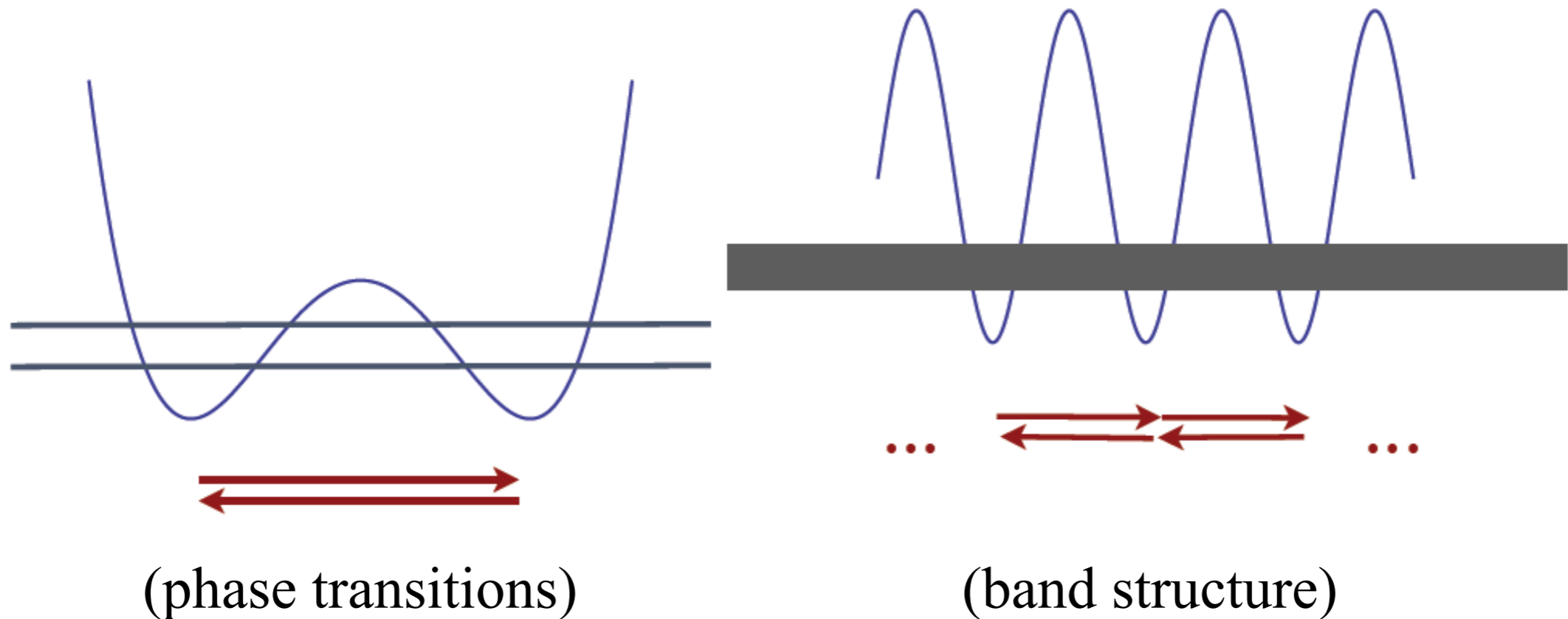
the story becomes even more interesting ...

Instantons and Non-Perturbative Physics



- exponentially small non-perturbative splitting due to tunneling
- Yang-Mills theory and QCD have aspects of both systems

Instantons and Non-Perturbative Physics



- exponentially small non-perturbative splitting due to tunneling
- Yang-Mills theory and QCD have aspects of both systems

surprise: perturbation theory is non-alternating divergent

but these systems are stable ???

A Brilliant Resolution: “BZJ Cancellation Mechanism”

E. B. Bogomolny, 1980; J. Zinn-Justin et al, 1980

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{perturbation theory + Borel:} & \longrightarrow +i \exp \left[-\frac{2 S_I}{\hbar} \right] \\ \text{non-perturbative instanton} & \\ \text{\& anti-instanton interaction:} & \longrightarrow -i \exp \left[-\frac{2 S_I}{\hbar} \right] \end{array}$$

unphysical imaginary parts exactly cancel

separately, each of these perturbative and non-perturbative computations is inconsistent; but combined as a trans-series they are consistent

A Brilliant Resolution: “BZJ Cancellation Mechanism”

E. B. Bogomolny, 1980; J. Zinn-Justin et al, 1980

perturbation theory + Borel: \longrightarrow $+i \exp \left[-\frac{2 S_I}{\hbar} \right]$

non-perturbative instanton
& anti-instanton interaction: \longrightarrow $-i \exp \left[-\frac{2 S_I}{\hbar} \right]$

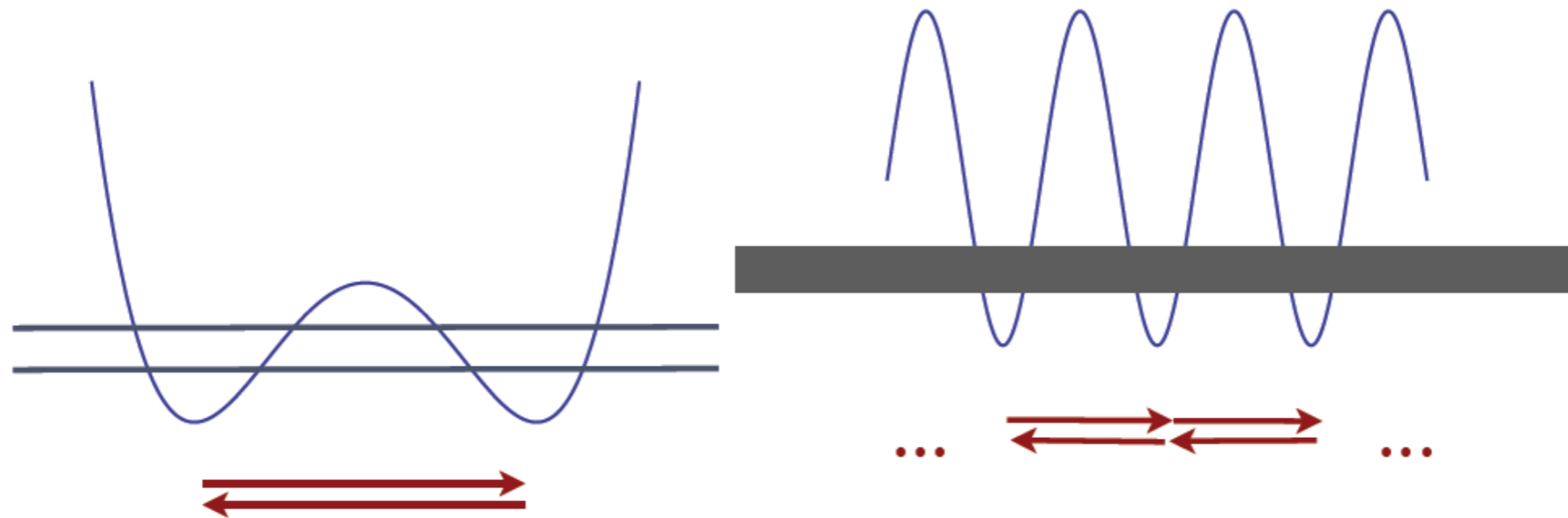
unphysical imaginary parts exactly cancel

separately, each of these perturbative and non-perturbative computations is inconsistent; but combined as a trans-series they are consistent

tip-of-the-iceberg: perturbative/non-perturbative relations

“Resurgence”: cancelations occur to all orders; the trans-series expression for the energy is real & well-defined

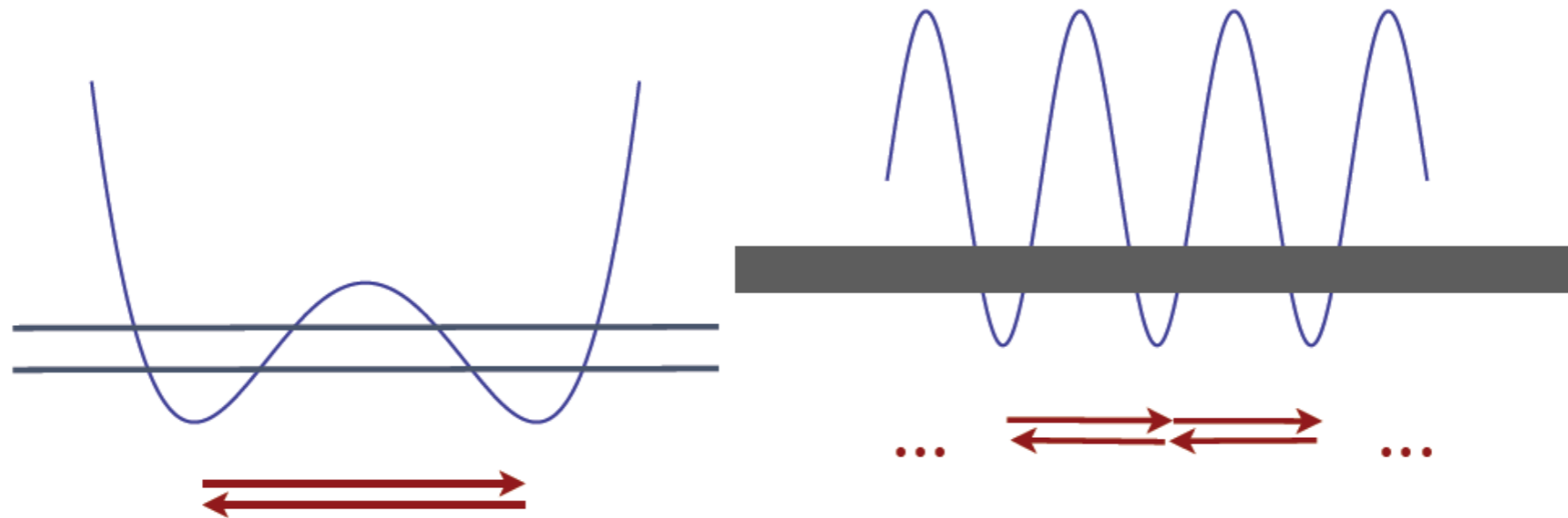
Resurgence in Quantum Mechanical Instanton Models



trans-series for energy, including non-perturbative splitting:

$$E_{\pm}(\hbar, N) = E_{\text{pert}}(\hbar, N) \pm \frac{\hbar}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \frac{1}{N!} \left(\frac{32}{\hbar} \right)^{N+\frac{1}{2}} \exp \left[-\frac{8}{\hbar} \right] \mathcal{P}_{\text{inst}}(\hbar, N) + \dots$$

Resurgence in Quantum Mechanical Instanton Models



trans-series for energy, including non-perturbative splitting:

$$E_{\pm}(\hbar, N) = E_{\text{pert}}(\hbar, N) \pm \frac{\hbar}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \frac{1}{N!} \left(\frac{32}{\hbar} \right)^{N+\frac{1}{2}} \exp \left[-\frac{8}{\hbar} \right] \mathcal{P}_{\text{inst}}(\hbar, N) + \dots$$

fluctuations about first non-trivial saddle:

$$\mathcal{P}_{\text{inst}}(\hbar, N) = \frac{\partial E_{\text{pert}}(\hbar, N)}{\partial N} \exp \left[S \int_0^{\hbar} \frac{d\hbar}{\hbar^3} \left(\frac{\partial E_{\text{pert}}(\hbar, N)}{\partial N} - \hbar + \frac{(N + \frac{1}{2}) \hbar^2}{S} \right) \right]$$

perturbation theory encodes everything ... to all orders

Resurgent Functions



resurgent relations seen in QM path integrals with an infinite number of saddles

Parametric Resurgence and Phase Transitions

$$Z(\hbar) = \int \mathcal{D}A \exp\left(\frac{i}{\hbar} S[A]\right)$$

- in practice, we are interested in many parameters

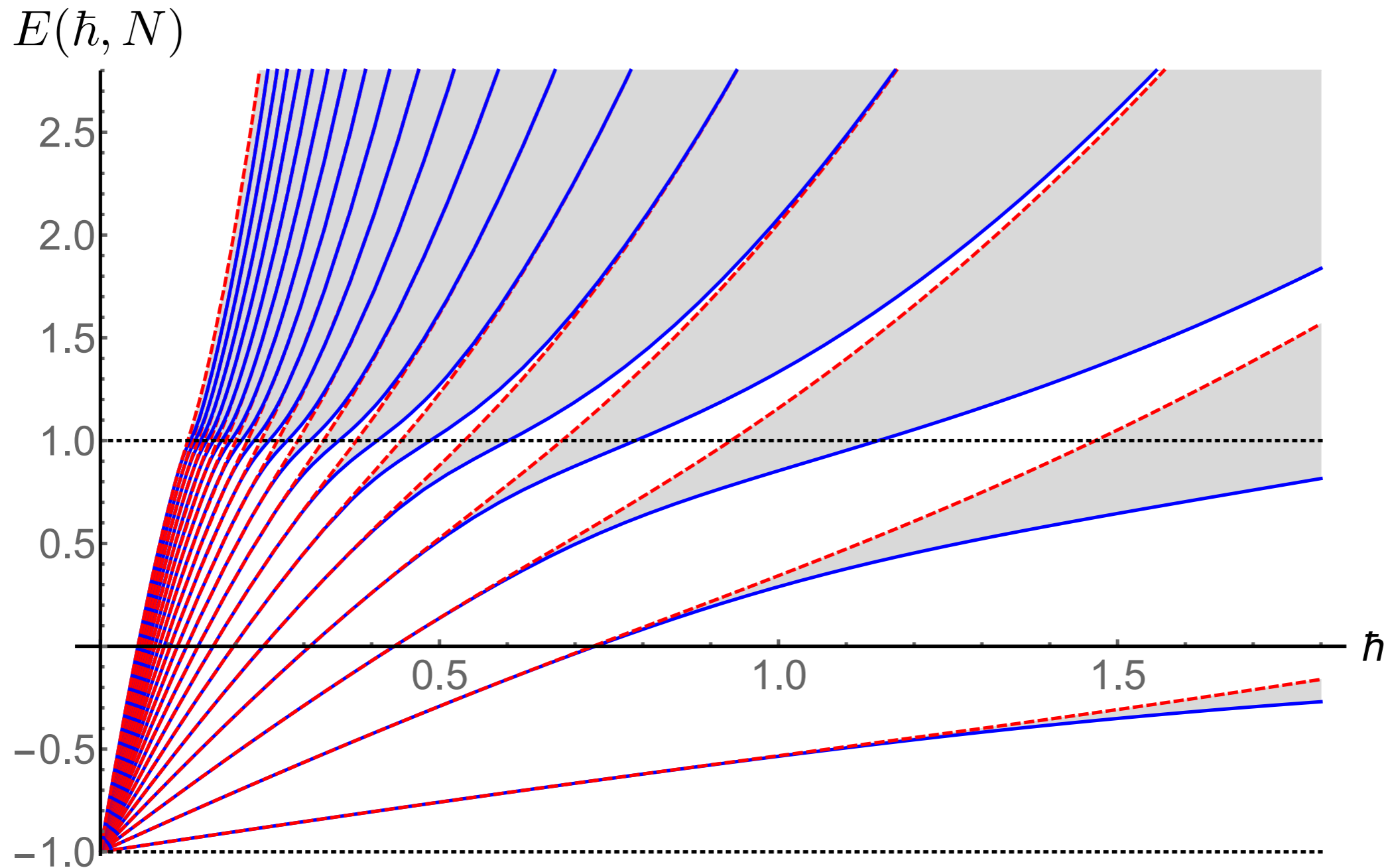
$$Z(\hbar) \rightarrow Z(\hbar, \text{masses, couplings, } \mu, T, B, \dots)$$

- e.g., for a phase transition: large N “thermodynamic limit”

$$Z(\hbar) \rightarrow Z(\hbar, N), \text{ and } N \rightarrow \infty$$

- multiple parameters: different limits are possible
- “uniform” ’t Hooft limit: $N \rightarrow \infty$, $\hbar \rightarrow 0$: $\hbar N = \text{fixed}$
- **trans-series transmutes into different form** in the large N limit
- hallmark of a phase transition

Phase Transition in the Periodic Potential Spectrum



- N = band/gap label; \hbar = coupling
- phase transition: narrow bands vs. narrow gaps: $\hbar N = \frac{8}{\pi}$
- real instantons vs. complex instantons
- phase transition = “instanton condensation”
- universal phase transition

Neuberger, 1981;
Basar, GD, [1501.05671](#),
GD, Unsal, [1603.04924](#)

Resurgence in QFT: Euler-Heisenberg Effective Action

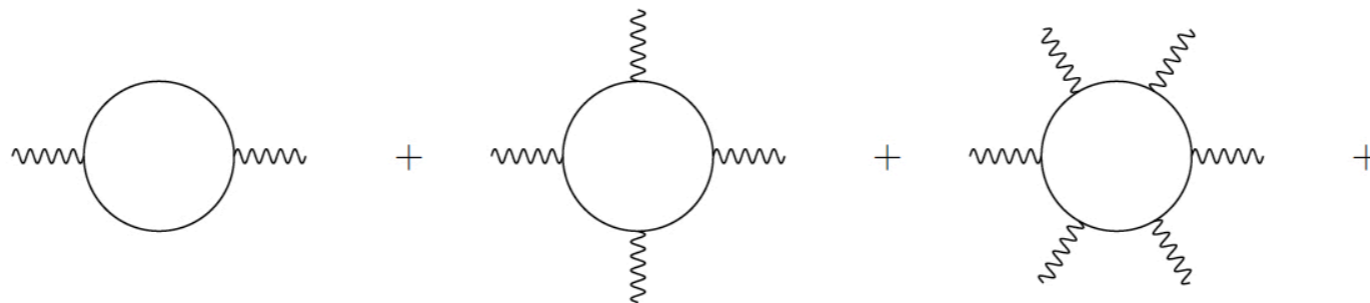
Folgerungen aus der Diracschen Theorie des Positrons.

Von W. Heisenberg und H. Euler in Leipzig.

Mit 2 Abbildungen. (Eingegangen am 22. Dezember 1935.)

Aus der Diracschen Theorie des Positrons folgt, da jedes elektromagnetische Feld zur Paarerzeugung neigt, eine Abänderung der Maxwell'schen Gleichungen des Vakuums. Diese Abänderungen werden für den speziellen Fall berechnet, in dem keine wirklichen Elektronen und Positronen vorhanden sind, und in dem sich das Feld auf Strecken der Compton-Wellenlänge nur wenig ändert. Es ergibt sich für das Feld eine Lagrange-Funktion:

$$\mathcal{L} = \frac{1}{2} (\mathcal{E}^2 - \mathcal{B}^2) + \frac{e^2}{hc} \int_0^\infty e^{-\eta} \frac{d\eta}{\eta^3} \left\{ i\eta^2 (\mathcal{E}\mathcal{B}) \cdot \frac{\cos\left(\frac{\eta}{|\mathcal{E}_k|} \sqrt{\mathcal{E}^2 - \mathcal{B}^2 + 2i(\mathcal{E}\mathcal{B})}\right) + \text{konj}}{\cos\left(\frac{\eta}{|\mathcal{E}_k|} \sqrt{\mathcal{E}^2 - \mathcal{B}^2 + 2i(\mathcal{E}\mathcal{B})}\right) - \text{konj}} + |\mathcal{E}_k|^2 + \frac{\eta^2}{3} (\mathcal{B}^2 - \mathcal{E}^2) \right\}.$$



- paradigm of an effective field theory
- integral representation = Borel sum
- analogue of Stark effect ionization and Dyson's argument

Stokes Phase Transition in QFT

- Schwinger effect with monochromatic E field: $E(t) = \mathcal{E} \cos(\omega t)$

- Keldysh adiabaticity parameter: $\gamma \equiv \frac{m c \omega}{e \mathcal{E}}$

(Keldysh, 1964;
Brezin/Itzykson, 1980;
Popov, 1981)

- WKB: $\Gamma_{\text{QED}} \sim \exp \left[-\pi \frac{m^2 c^3}{e \hbar \mathcal{E}} g(\gamma) \right]$

$$\Gamma_{\text{QED}} \sim \begin{cases} \exp \left[-\pi \frac{m^2 c^3}{e \hbar \mathcal{E}} \right] & , \quad \gamma \ll 1 \quad (\text{tunneling}) \\ \left(\frac{e \mathcal{E}}{m c \omega} \right)^{4 m c^2 / \hbar \omega} & , \quad \gamma \gg 1 \quad (\text{multiphoton}) \end{cases}$$

- phase transition: tunneling vs. multi-photon “ionization”

- phase transition: **real vs. complex instantons**

(GD, Dumlu, [1004.2509](#), [1102.2899](#))

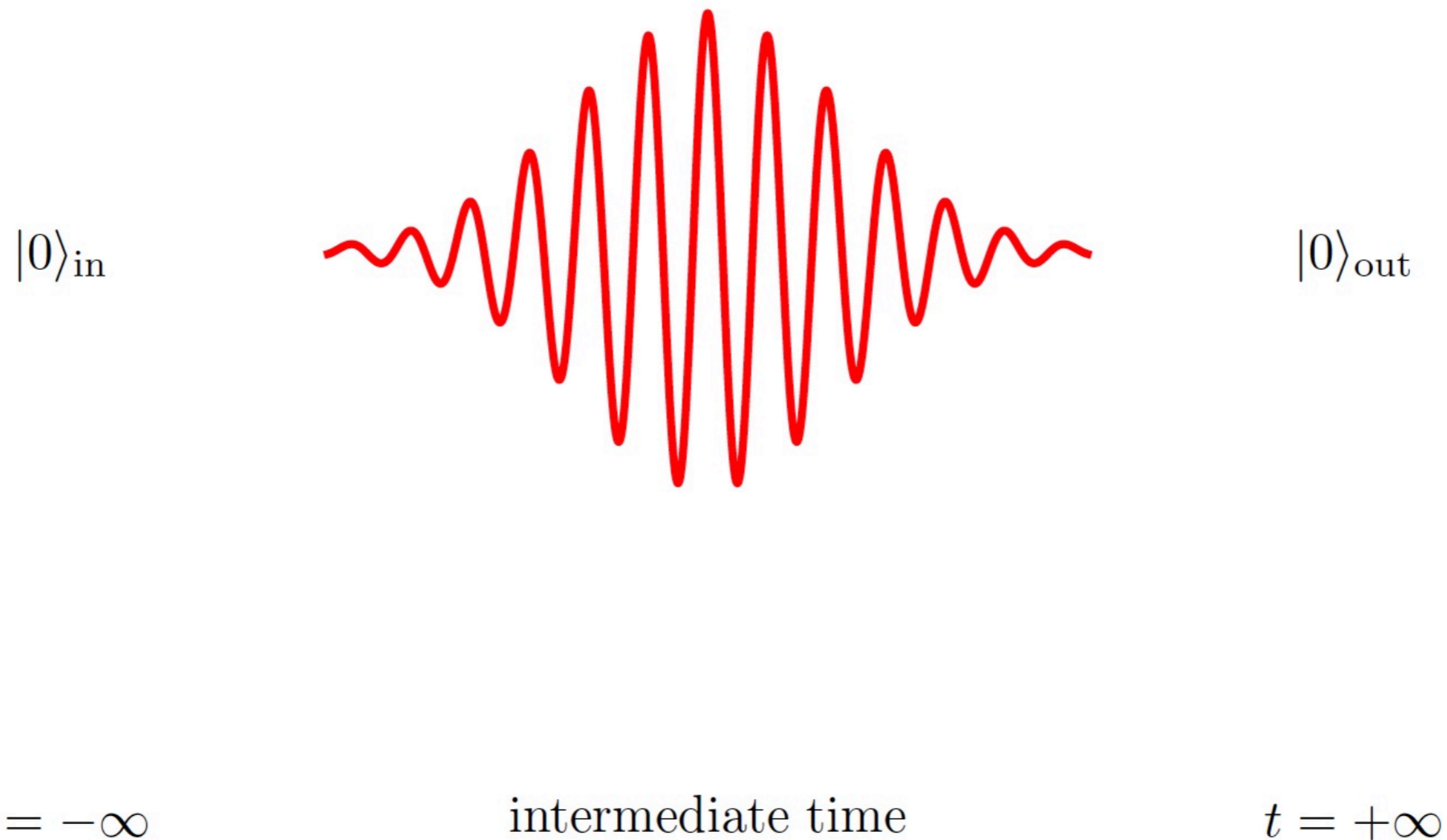
- the same transition as in the Mathieu equation

- applications to worldline representation of QFT

(Raju’s colloquium)

Resurgence in QFT: Ultra-Fast Dynamics

time evolution of quantum systems with ultra-fast perturbations



- the adiabatic/gradient expansion is divergent
- resurgence: expansion can be (Borel) resummed to a universal form
- novel quantum interference effects: complex saddles
- applications in QFT, and in AMO and CM physics

Analytic Continuation of Path Integrals: “Lefschetz Thimbles”

$$Z(\hbar) = \int \mathcal{D}A \exp\left(\frac{i}{\hbar} S[A]\right) \stackrel{?}{=} \sum_{\text{thimble}} \mathcal{N}_{\text{th}} e^{i\phi_{\text{th}}} \int_{\text{th}} \mathcal{D}A \times (\mathcal{J}_{\text{th}}) \times \exp\left(\mathcal{R}e\left[\frac{i}{\hbar} S[A]\right]\right)$$

Lefschetz thimble = “functional steepest descents contour”

on a thimble, the path integral becomes well-defined and computable

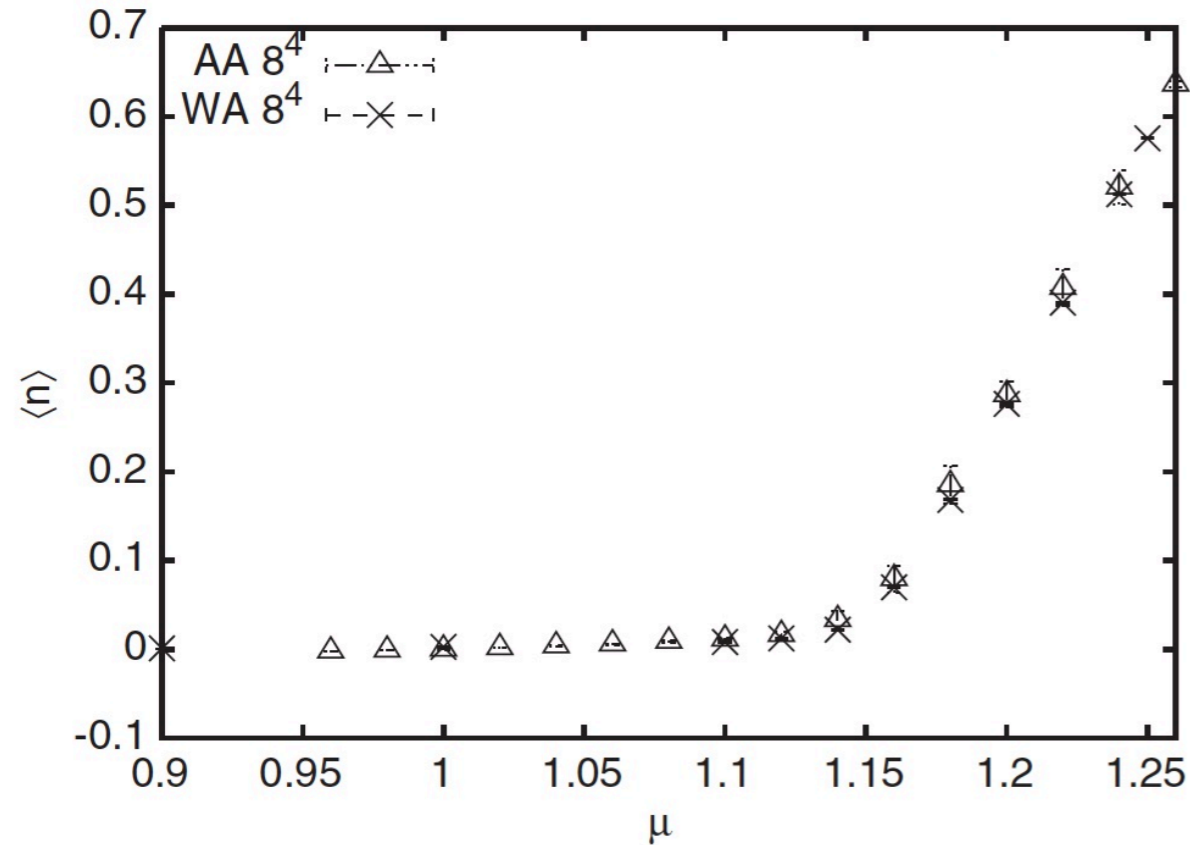
complexified gradient flow:

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \tau} A(x; \tau) = -\frac{\overline{\delta S}}{\delta A(x; \tau)}$$



Analytic Continuation of Path Integrals: “Lefschetz Thimbles”

CRISTOFORETTI *et al.* (2013)



Fujii et al (2013)

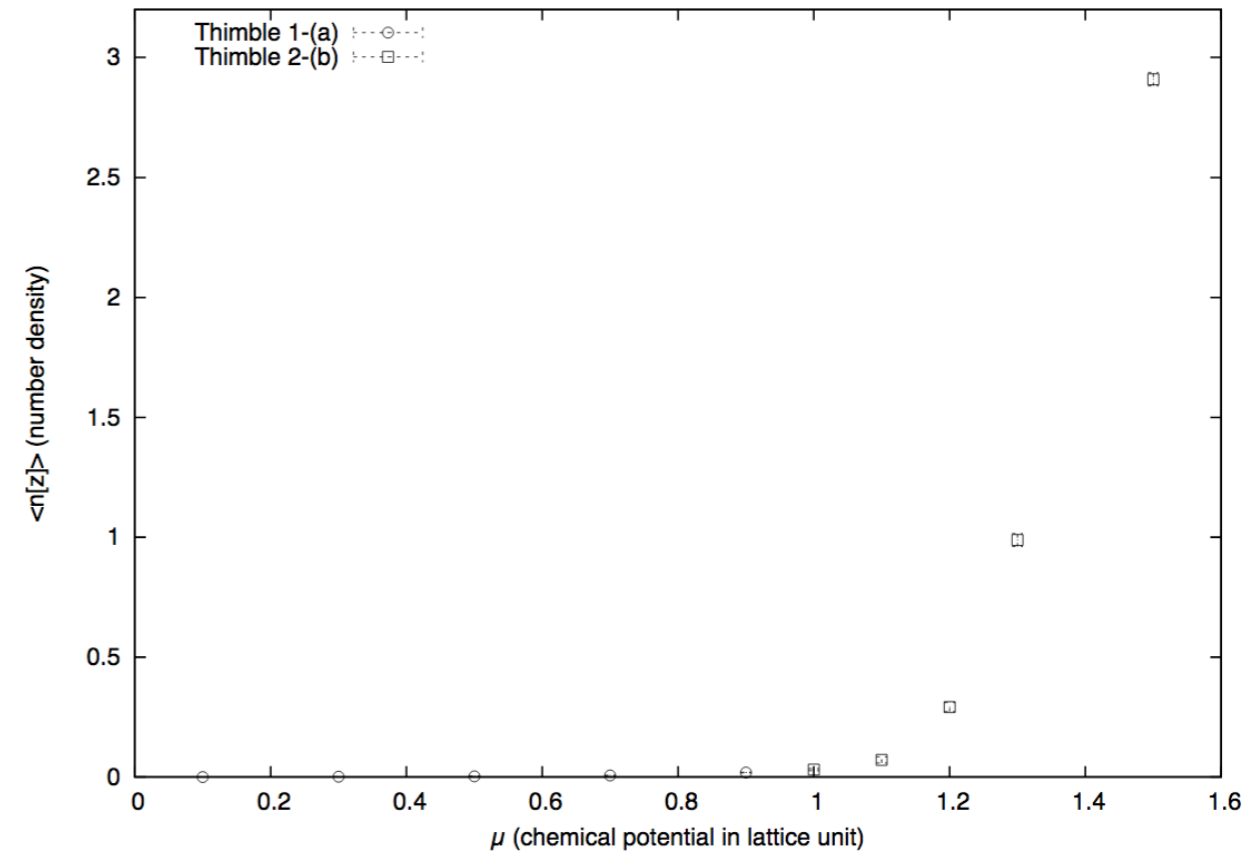


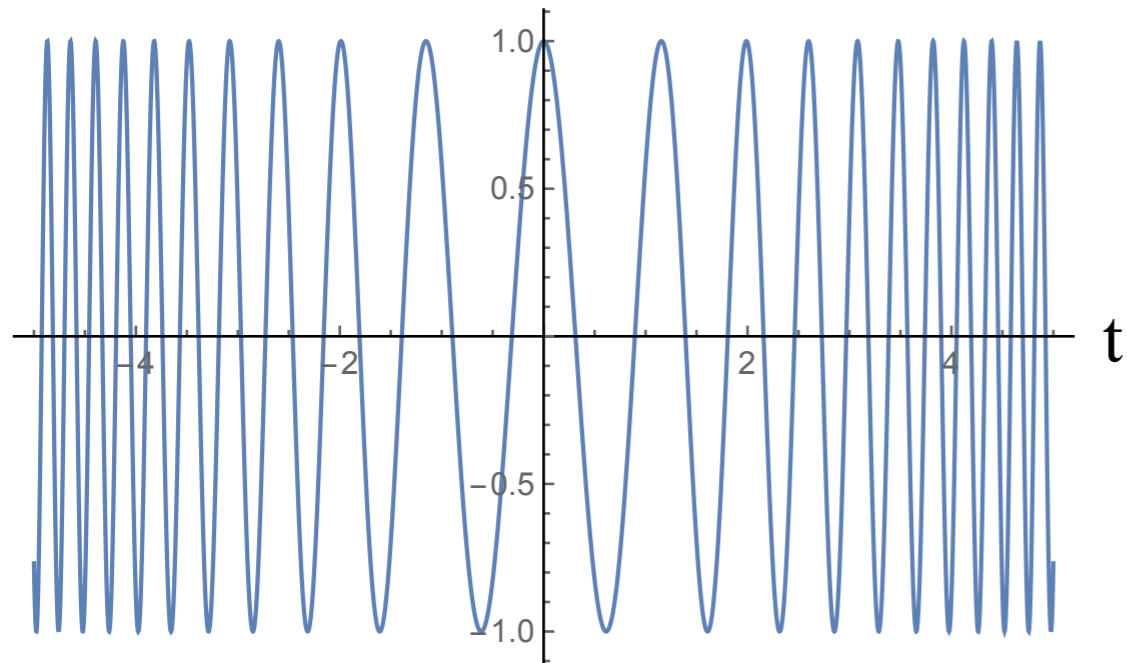
FIG. 3. Comparison of the average density $\langle n \rangle$ obtained with the worm algorithm (WA) [22] with the Aurora algorithm (AA)

- 4d relativistic Bose gas: complex scalar field theory
- Monte Carlo on thimble softens the sign problem
- results comparable to “worm algorithm”

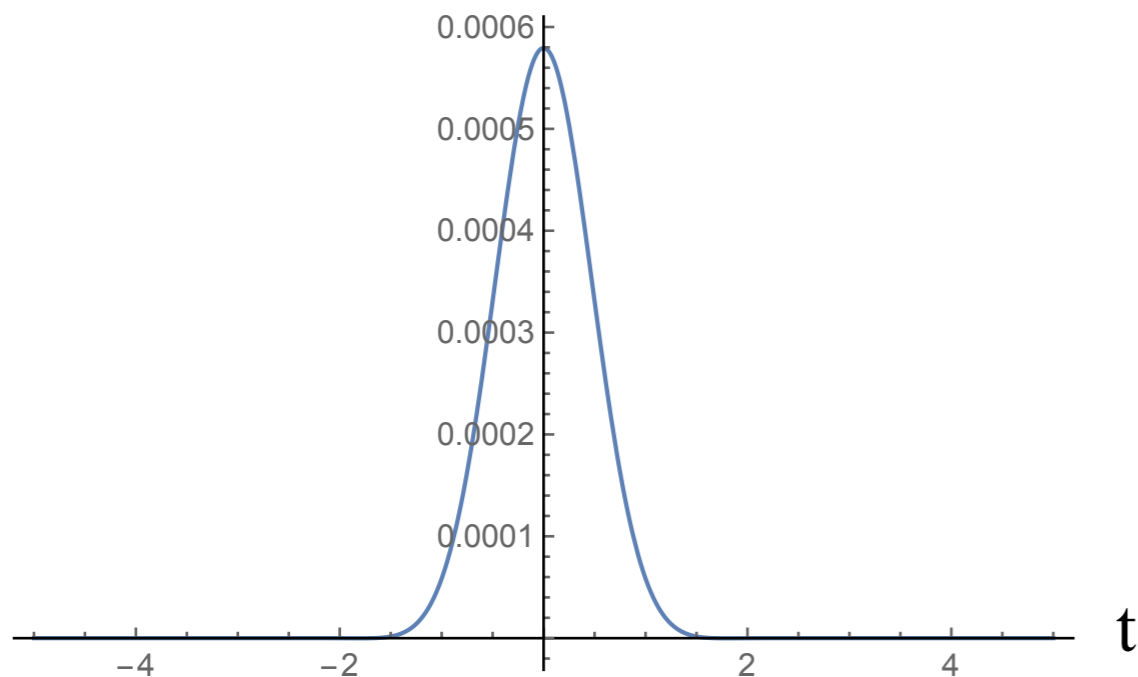
Generalized Thimble Method

Alexandru, Basar, Bedaque et al 2016

idea: flow to an approximate Lefschetz thimble



exact steepest
descents contour

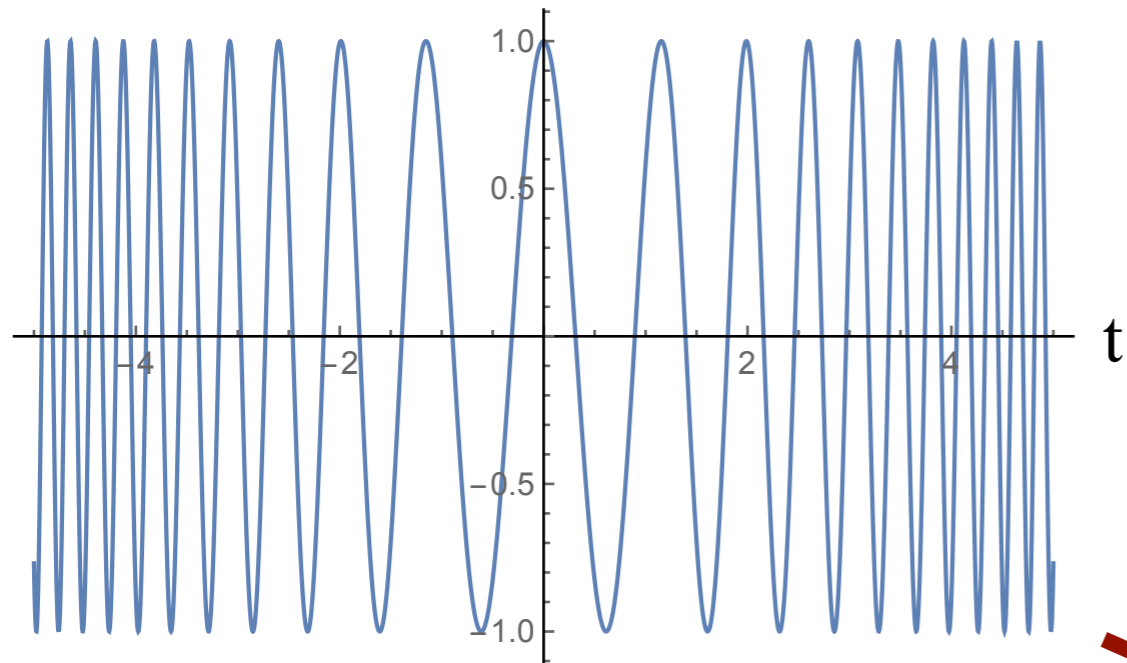


$$\text{Ai}(x) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} dt e^{i\left(\frac{1}{3}t^3 + xt\right)}$$

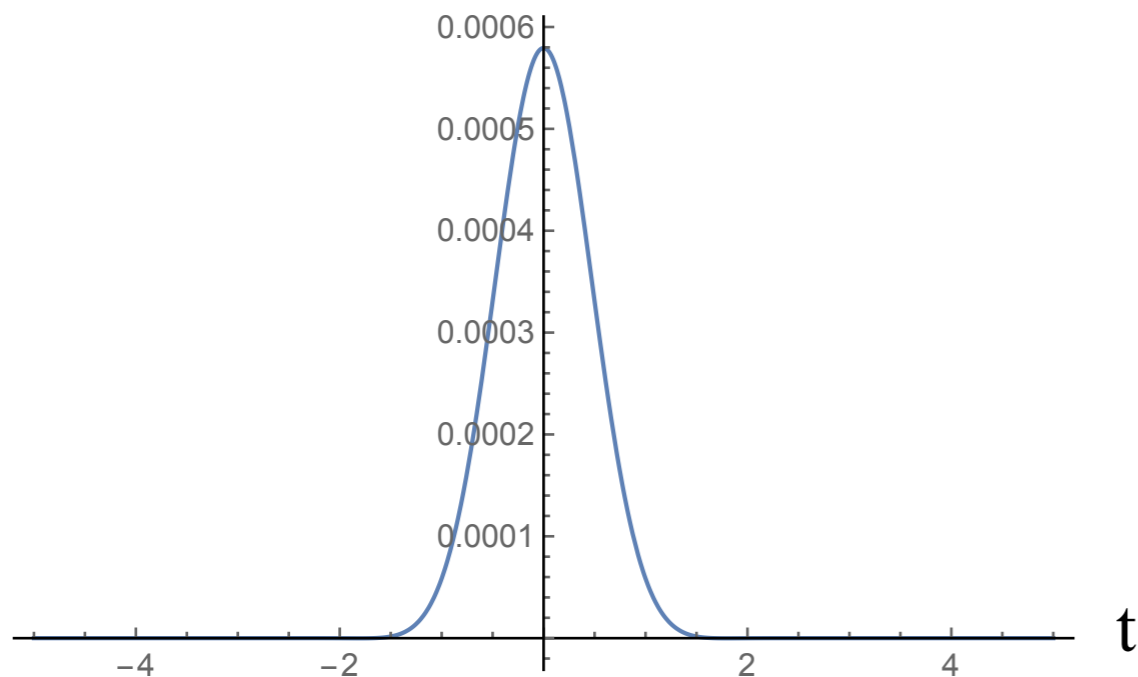
Generalized Thimble Method

Alexandru, Basar, Bedaque et al 2016

idea: flow to an approximate Lefschetz thimble

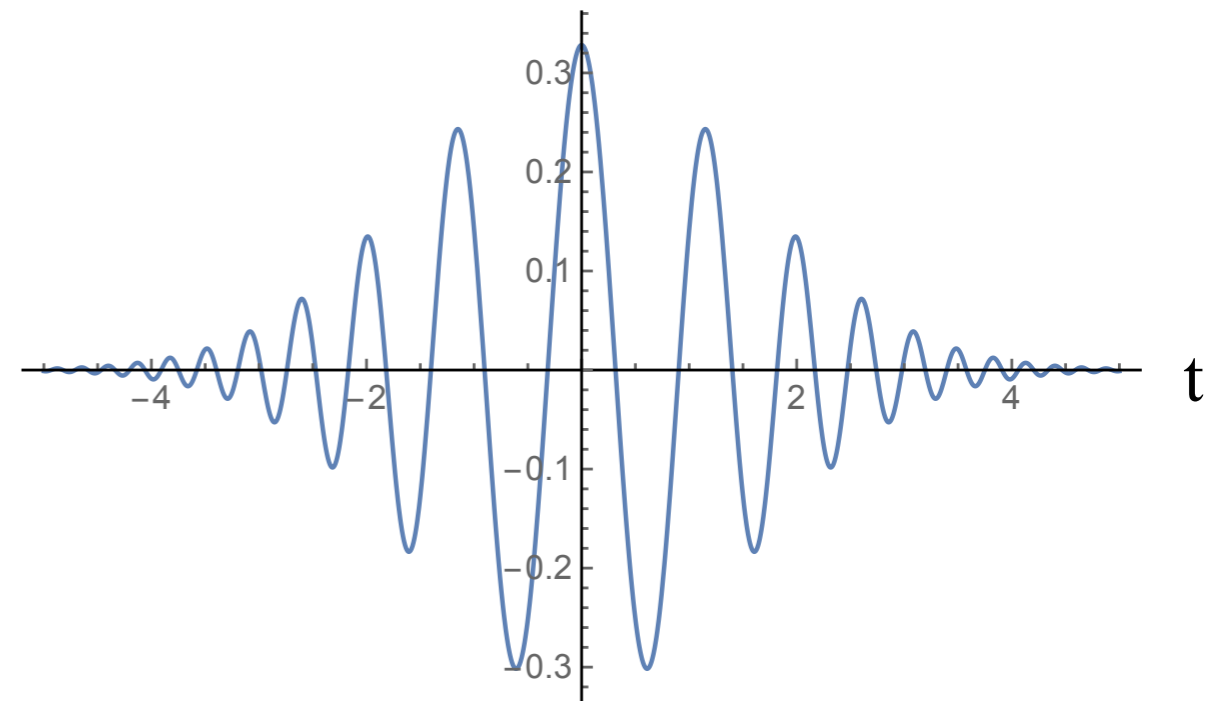


exact steepest descents contour

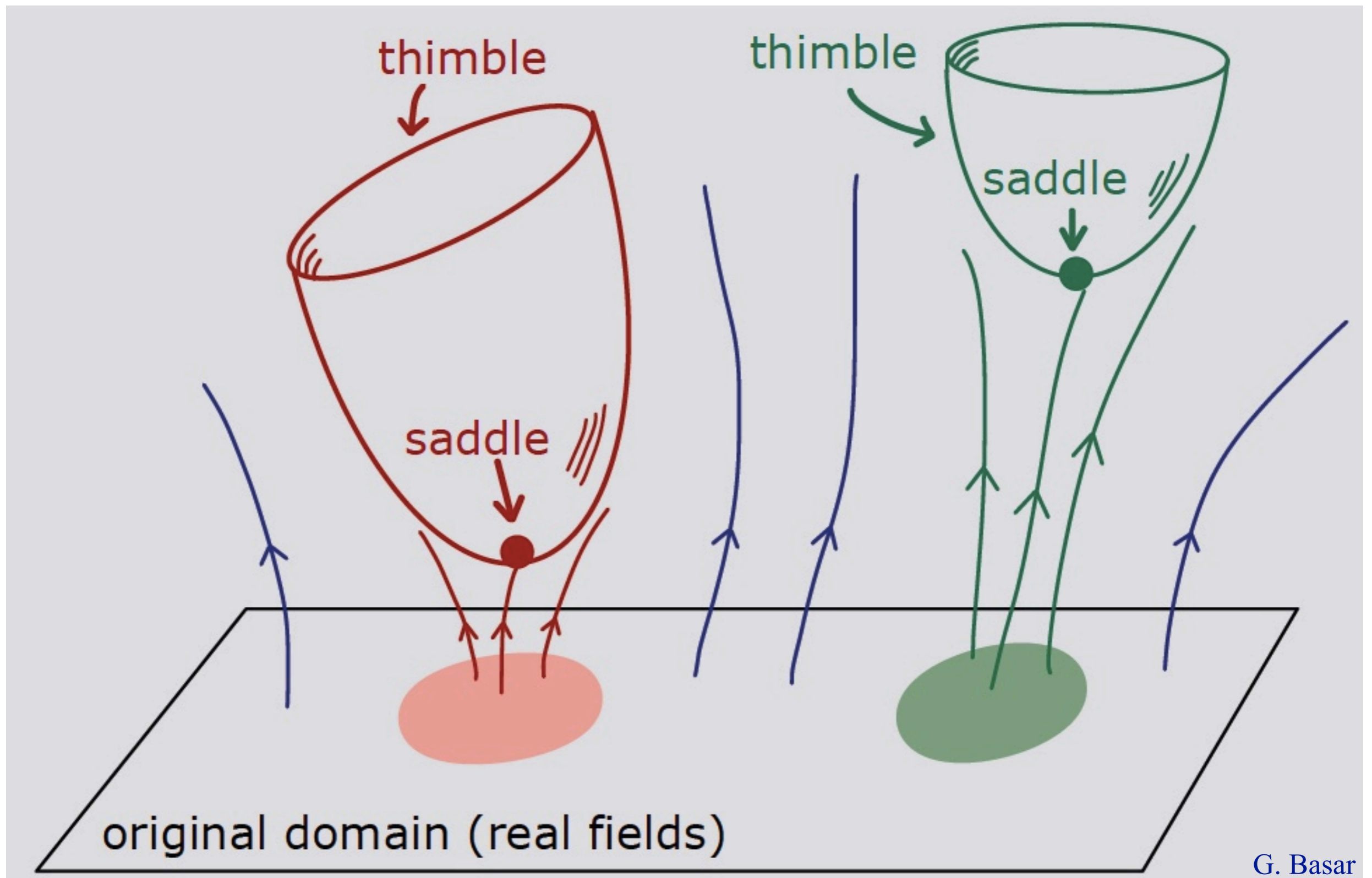


$$\text{Ai}(x) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} dt e^{i\left(\frac{1}{3}t^3 + xt\right)}$$

approximate steepest descents contour



Generalized Thimble Method



recall that thimble structure can change as parameters change

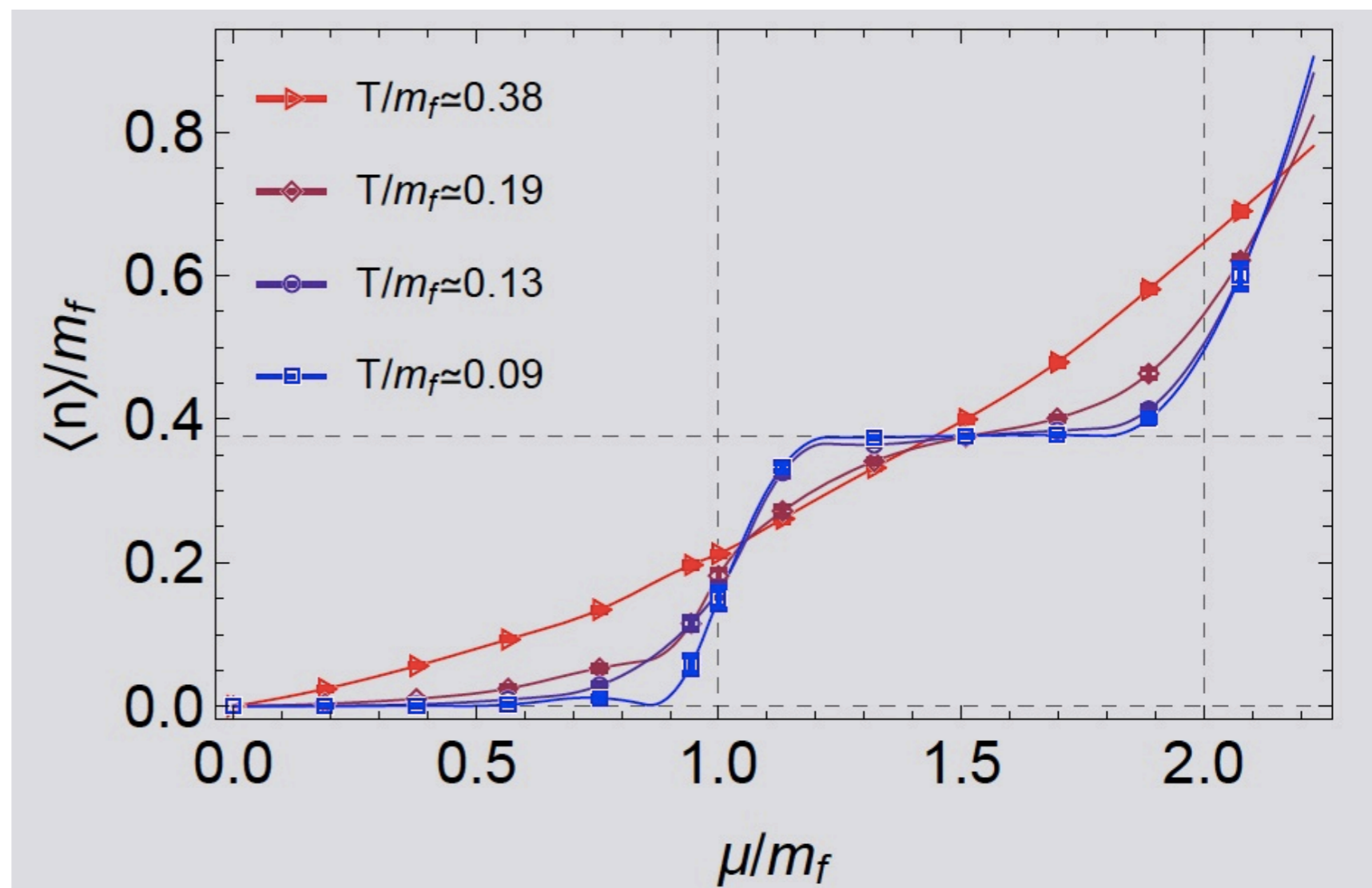
Phase Transitions in QFT: 2d Thirring Model

$$\mathcal{L} = \bar{\psi}^a (\gamma_\nu \partial_\nu + m + \mu \gamma_0) \psi^a + \frac{g^2}{2N_f} (\bar{\psi}^a \gamma_\nu \psi^a) (\bar{\psi}^b \gamma_\nu \psi^b)$$

- chain of interacting fermions: asymptotically free
- prototype for dense quark matter
- sign problem at nonzero density

Monte Carlo thimble
computation

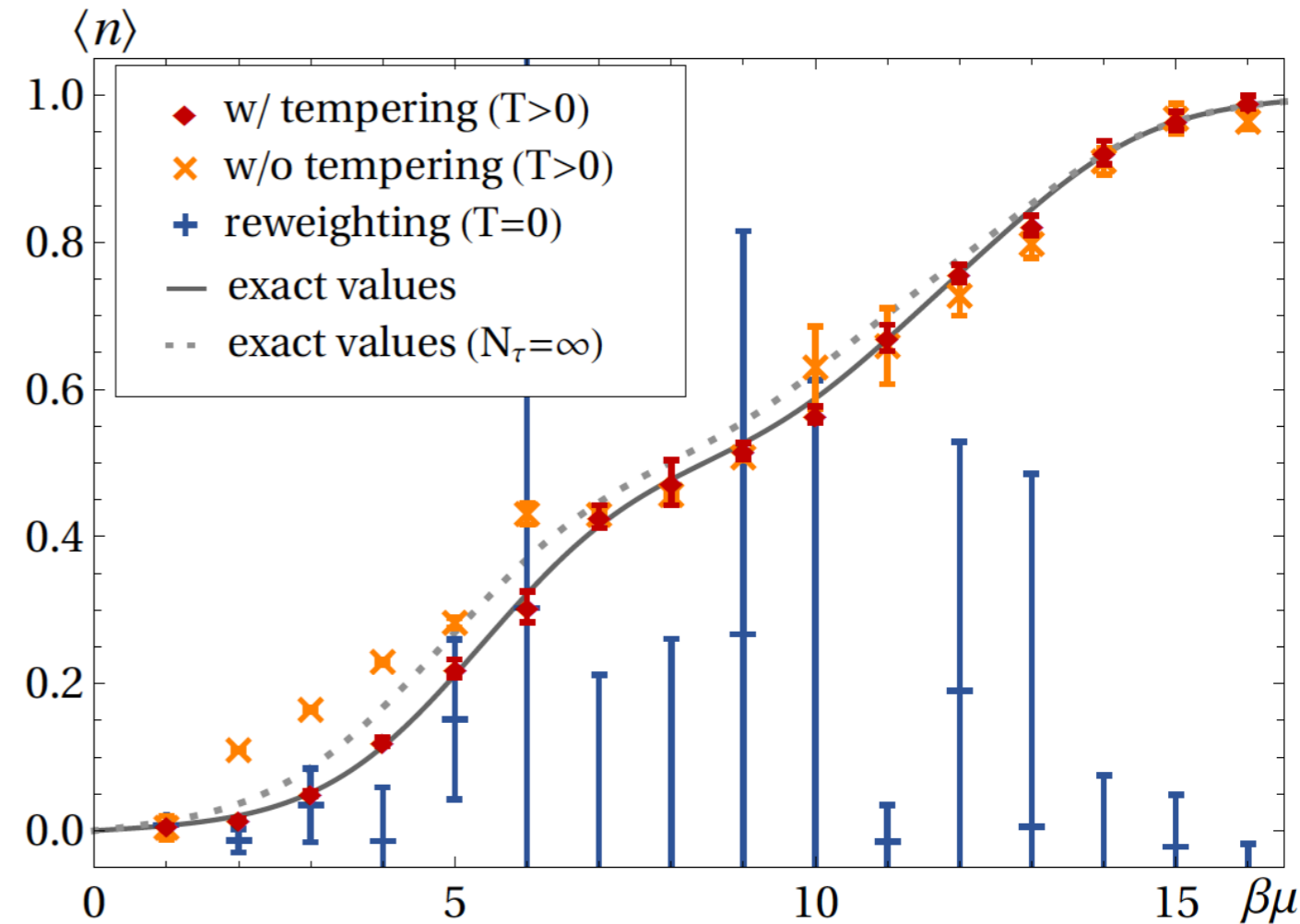
(Alexandru et al, 2016)



Tempered Lefschetz Thimble Method

(Fukuma et al, 2017, 2019,...)

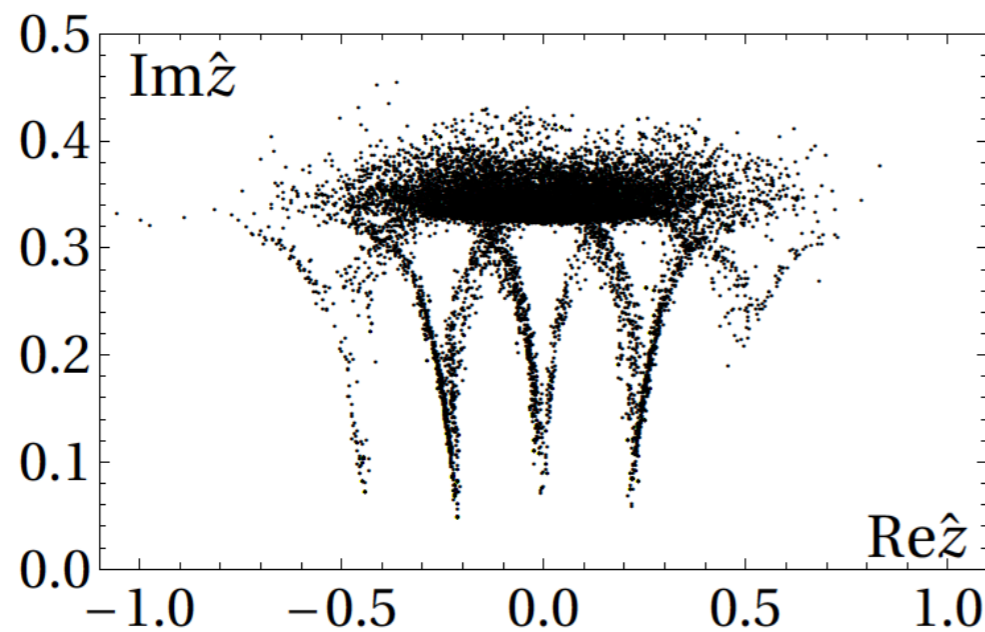
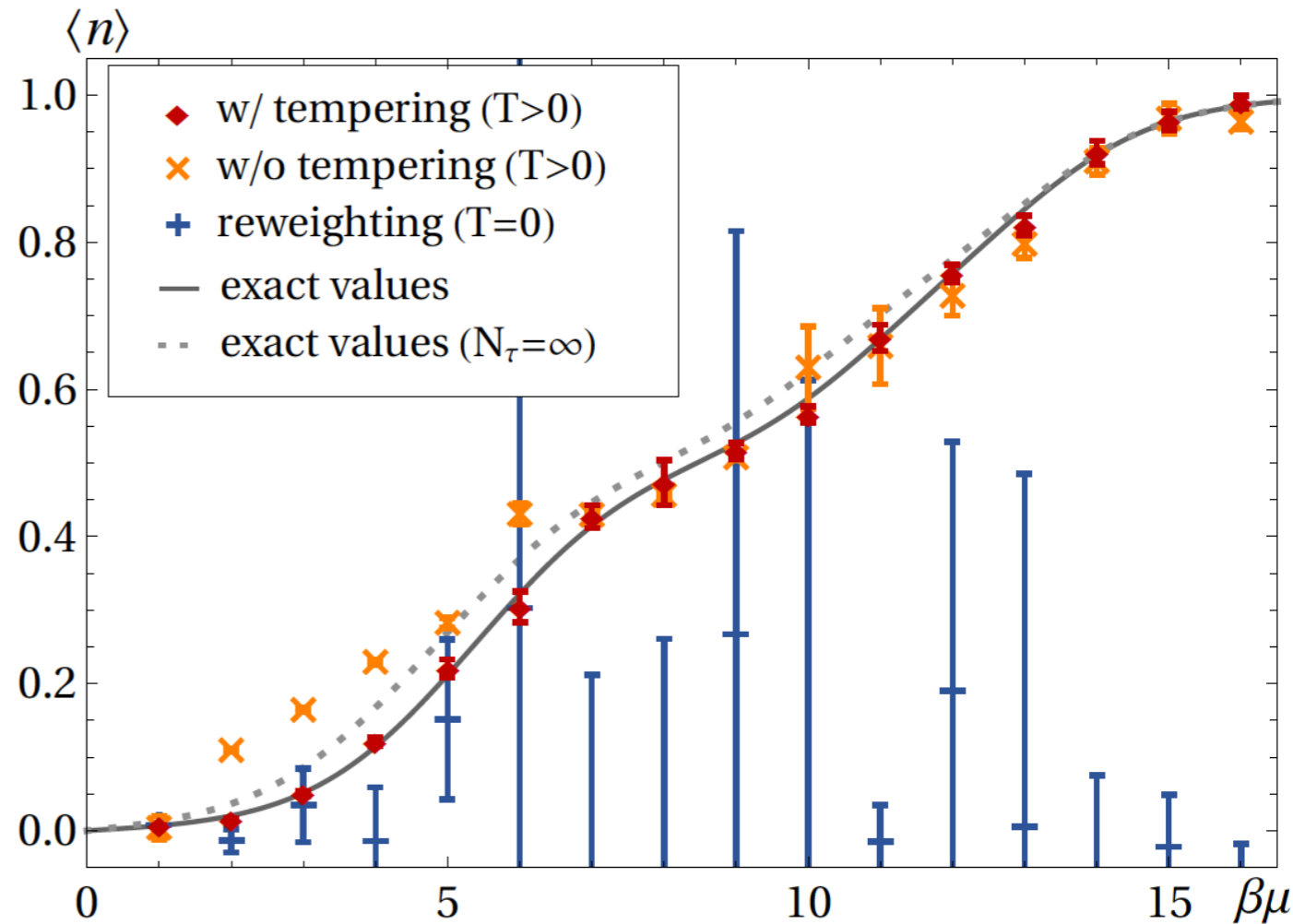
- probe all relevant thimbles ???
- sign problem vs. ergodicity
- coupling \rightarrow dynamical variable
- parallelized tempering
- e.g. 2d Hubbard model
- probes multiple thimbles



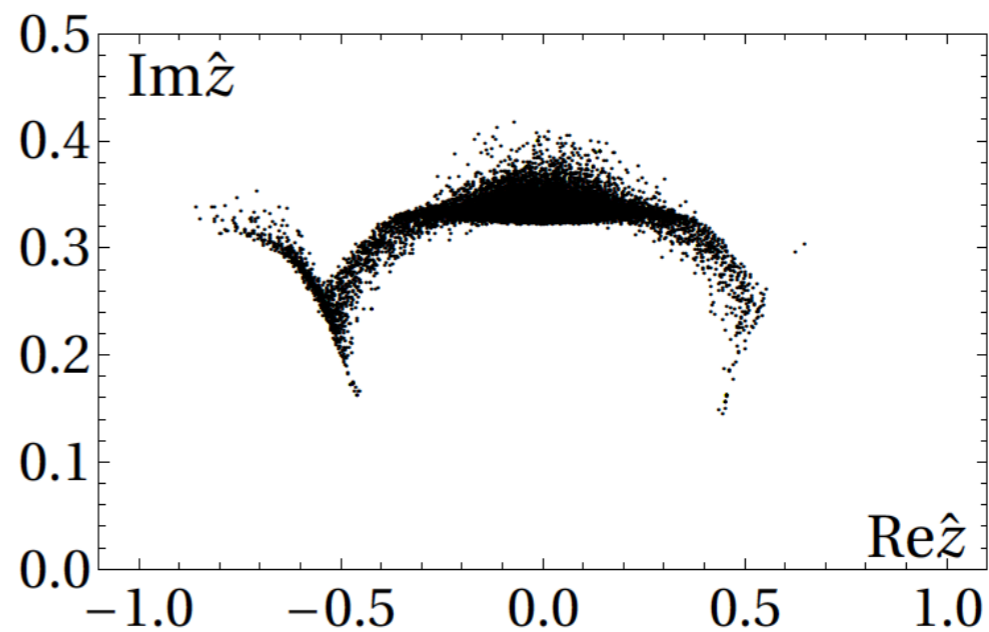
Tempered Lefschetz Thimble Method

(Fukuma et al, 2017, 2019,...)

- probe all relevant thimbles ???
- sign problem vs. ergodicity
- coupling \rightarrow dynamical variable
- parallelized tempering
- e.g. 2d Hubbard model
- probes multiple thimbles



with tempering

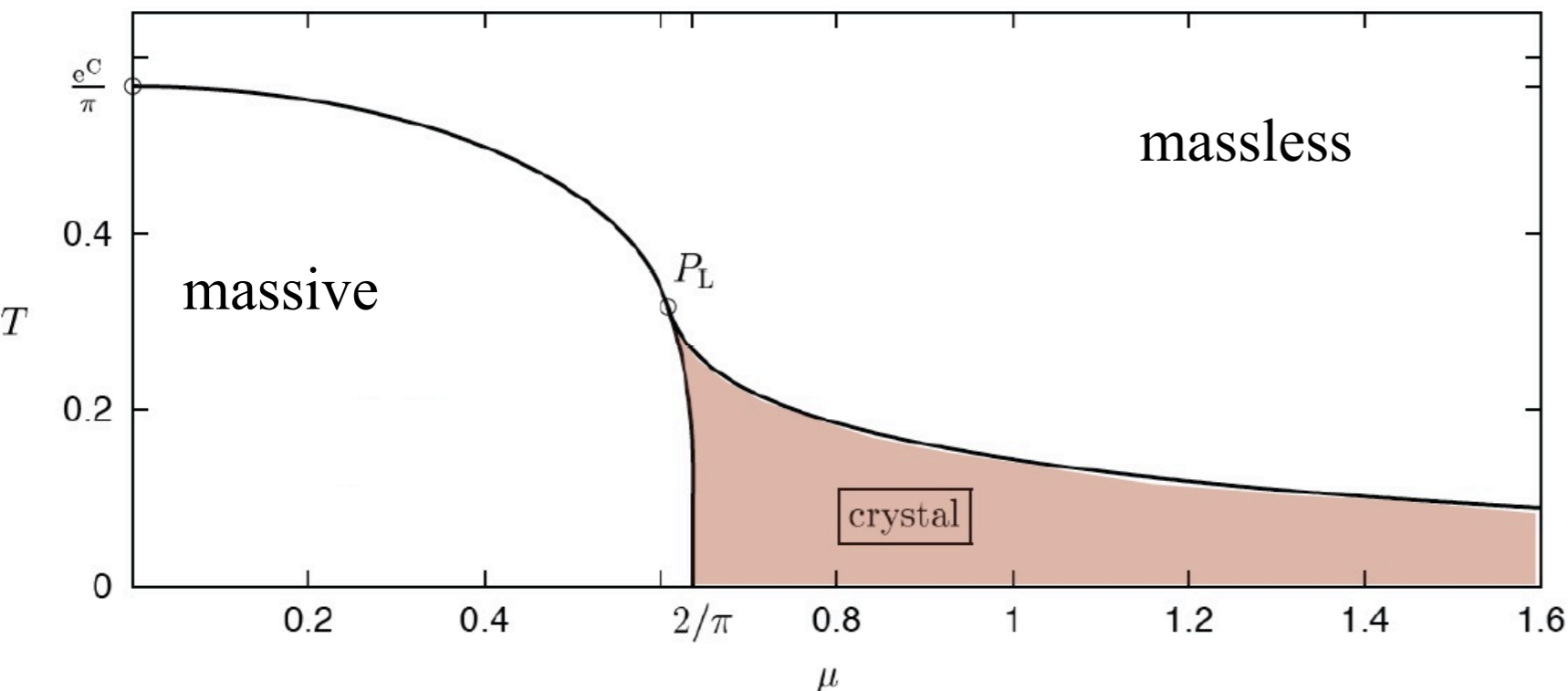


without tempering

Phase Transitions in 2d Gross-Neveu Model

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{Gross-Neveu}} = \bar{\psi}_a i \not{\partial} \psi_a + \frac{g^2}{2} (\bar{\psi}_a \psi_a)^2$$

- asymptotically free; dynamical mass; chiral symmetry; model for QCD
- large N_f chiral symmetry breaking phase transition
- physics = (relativistic) Peierls dimerization instability in 1+1 dim.



chiral symmetry
breaking condensate

$$\sigma(x; T, \mu) \equiv \langle \bar{\psi} \psi \rangle(x; T, \mu)$$

develops crystalline
phases

(Thies et al)

saddles solve an inhomogeneous gap equation

$$\sigma(x; T, \mu) = \frac{\delta}{\delta \sigma(x; T, \mu)} \ln \det (i \not{\partial} - \sigma(x; T, \mu))$$

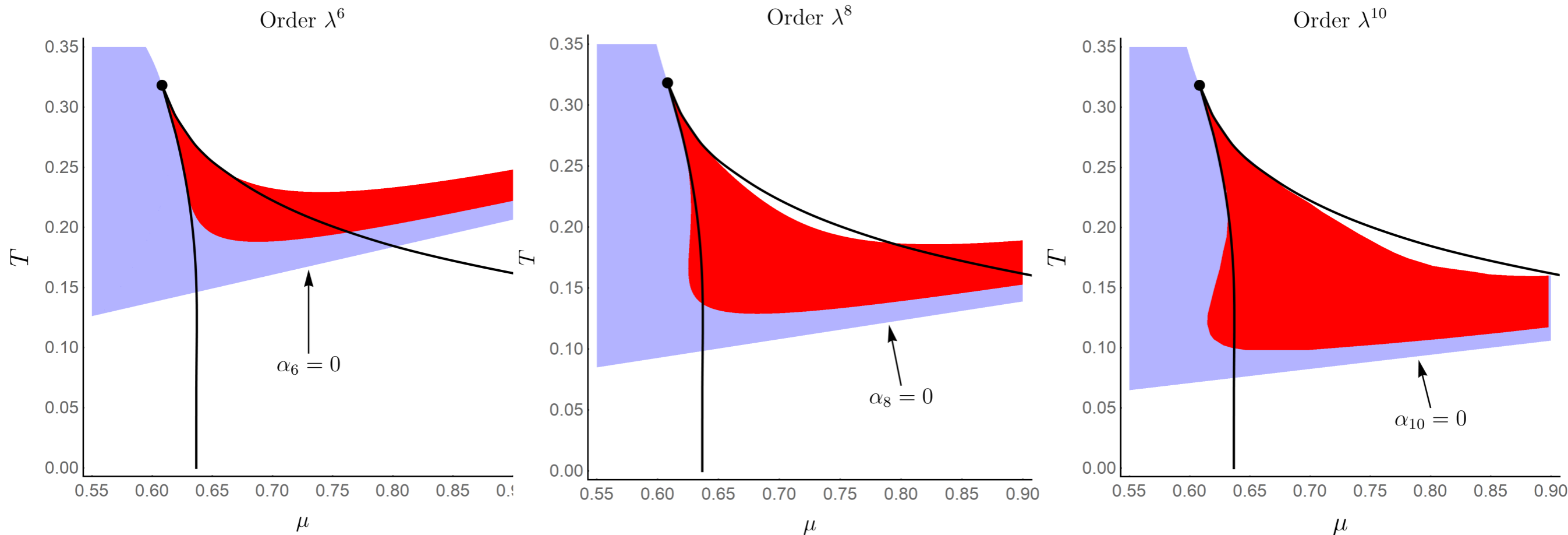
Phase Transitions in Gross-Neveu Model

Basar, GD, Thies, [0903.1868](#)

- thermodynamic potential

$$\Psi[\sigma; T, \mu] = \sum_n \alpha_n(T, \mu) f_n[\sigma(x, T, \mu)] = \alpha_0 + \alpha_2 \sigma^2 + \alpha_4 (\sigma^4 + (\sigma')^2) + \dots$$

- expansion about tricritical point = Ginzburg-Landau expansion (divergent)
- mKdV hierarchy
- successive orders of GL expansion “reveal” crystal phase



- all orders gives full crystal phase ... but $T=0$ critical point is difficult

Phase Transitions in Gross-Neveu Model

- density expansion has non-perturbative terms: “trans-series”
- high-density expansion at $T=0$: convergent; radius gives μ_c

$$\mathcal{E}(\rho) \sim \frac{\pi}{2} \rho^2 \left(1 - \frac{1}{32(\pi\rho)^4} + \frac{3}{8192(\pi\rho)^8} - \dots \right)$$

- low-density expansion at $T=0$: (**non-perturbative trans-series**)

$$\mathcal{E}(\rho) \sim -\frac{1}{4\pi} + \frac{2\rho}{\pi} + \frac{1}{\pi} \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{e^{-k/\rho}}{\rho^{k-2}} \mathcal{F}_{k-1}(\rho)$$

- $T=0$ quantum phase transition

$$\mu_{\text{critical}} = \frac{2}{\pi} \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad \rho = 0$$

Resurgence and Large N Phase Transitions in Matrix Models

3rd order phase transition in Gross-Witten-Wadia unitary matrix model

$$Z(t, N) = \int_{U(N)} DU \exp \left[\frac{N}{t} \text{tr} (U + U^\dagger) \right]$$

Gross-Witten, 1980
Wadia, 1980
Marino, 2008

Z depends on two parameters: 't Hooft coupling t , and matrix size N

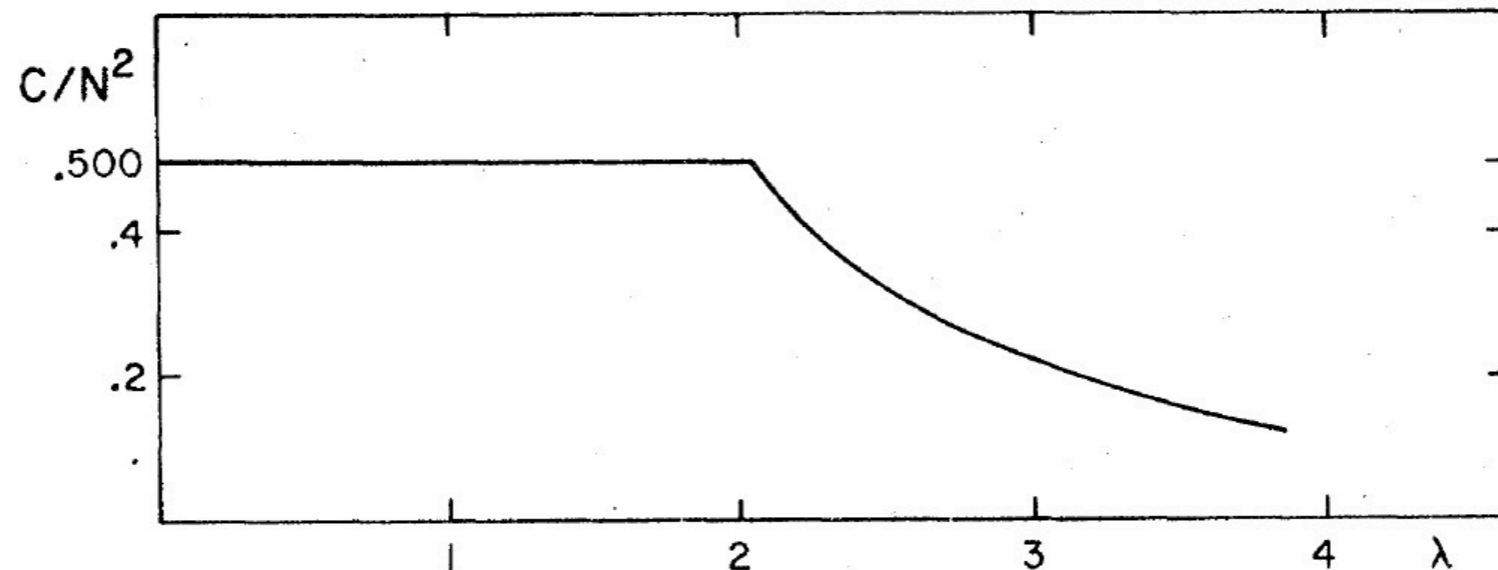


FIG. 2. The specific heat per degree of freedom, C/N^2 , as a function of λ (temperature).

$$Z(t, N) = \det \left[I_{j-k} \left(\frac{N}{t} \right) \right]_{j,k=1,\dots,N}$$

phase transition in the
“thermodynamic” large N limit

Resurgence in Matrix Models at Large N

“order parameter” $\Delta(t, N) \equiv \langle \det U \rangle$ satisfies a Painleve III equation

Ahmed & GD, [1710.01812](#)

$$t^2 \Delta'' + t \Delta' + \frac{N^2 \Delta}{t^2} (1 - \Delta^2) = \frac{\Delta}{1 - \Delta^2} \left(N^2 - t^2 (\Delta')^2 \right)$$

N appears only as a parameter: perfect for large N asymptotics

$$\Delta(t, N) \sim \sum_n \frac{a_n(t)}{N^n} + e^{-N S(t)} \sum_n \frac{b_n(t)}{N^n} + e^{-2N S(t)} \sum_n \frac{c_n(t)}{N^n} + \dots$$

large N instanton contributions: generated from ODE

$$\text{e.g. } a_0(t) = \sqrt{1-t}$$

all physical observables inherit this large N trans-series structure

Resurgence in Matrix Models at Large N

ODE \Rightarrow large N weak coupling trans-series:

$$\Delta(t, N) \sim \sqrt{1-t} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{d_n^{(0)}(t)}{N^{2n}} - \frac{i \sigma_{\text{weak}}}{2\sqrt{2\pi N}} \frac{t e^{-NS_{\text{weak}}(t)}}{(1-t)^{1/4}} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{d_n^{(1)}(t)}{N^n} + \dots$$

weak coupling large N action:

$$S_{\text{weak}}(t) = \frac{2\sqrt{1-t}}{t} - 2 \operatorname{arctanh}(\sqrt{1-t})$$

Resurgence in Matrix Models at Large N

ODE \Rightarrow large N weak coupling trans-series:

$$\Delta(t, N) \sim \sqrt{1-t} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{d_n^{(0)}(t)}{N^{2n}} - \frac{i \sigma_{\text{weak}}}{2\sqrt{2\pi N}} \frac{t e^{-N S_{\text{weak}}(t)}}{(1-t)^{1/4}} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{d_n^{(1)}(t)}{N^n} + \dots$$

weak coupling large N action:

$$S_{\text{weak}}(t) = \frac{2\sqrt{1-t}}{t} - 2 \operatorname{arctanh}(\sqrt{1-t})$$

“one-instanton” fluctuations:

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{d_n^{(1)}(t)}{N^n} = 1 + \frac{(3t^2 - 12t - 8)}{96(1-t)^{3/2}} \frac{1}{N} + \dots$$

Resurgence in Matrix Models at Large N

ODE \Rightarrow large N weak coupling trans-series:

$$\Delta(t, N) \sim \sqrt{1-t} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{d_n^{(0)}(t)}{N^{2n}} - \frac{i \sigma_{\text{weak}}}{2\sqrt{2\pi N}} \frac{t e^{-N S_{\text{weak}}(t)}}{(1-t)^{1/4}} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{d_n^{(1)}(t)}{N^n} + \dots$$

weak coupling large N action:

$$S_{\text{weak}}(t) = \frac{2\sqrt{1-t}}{t} - 2 \operatorname{arctanh}(\sqrt{1-t})$$

“one-instanton” fluctuations:

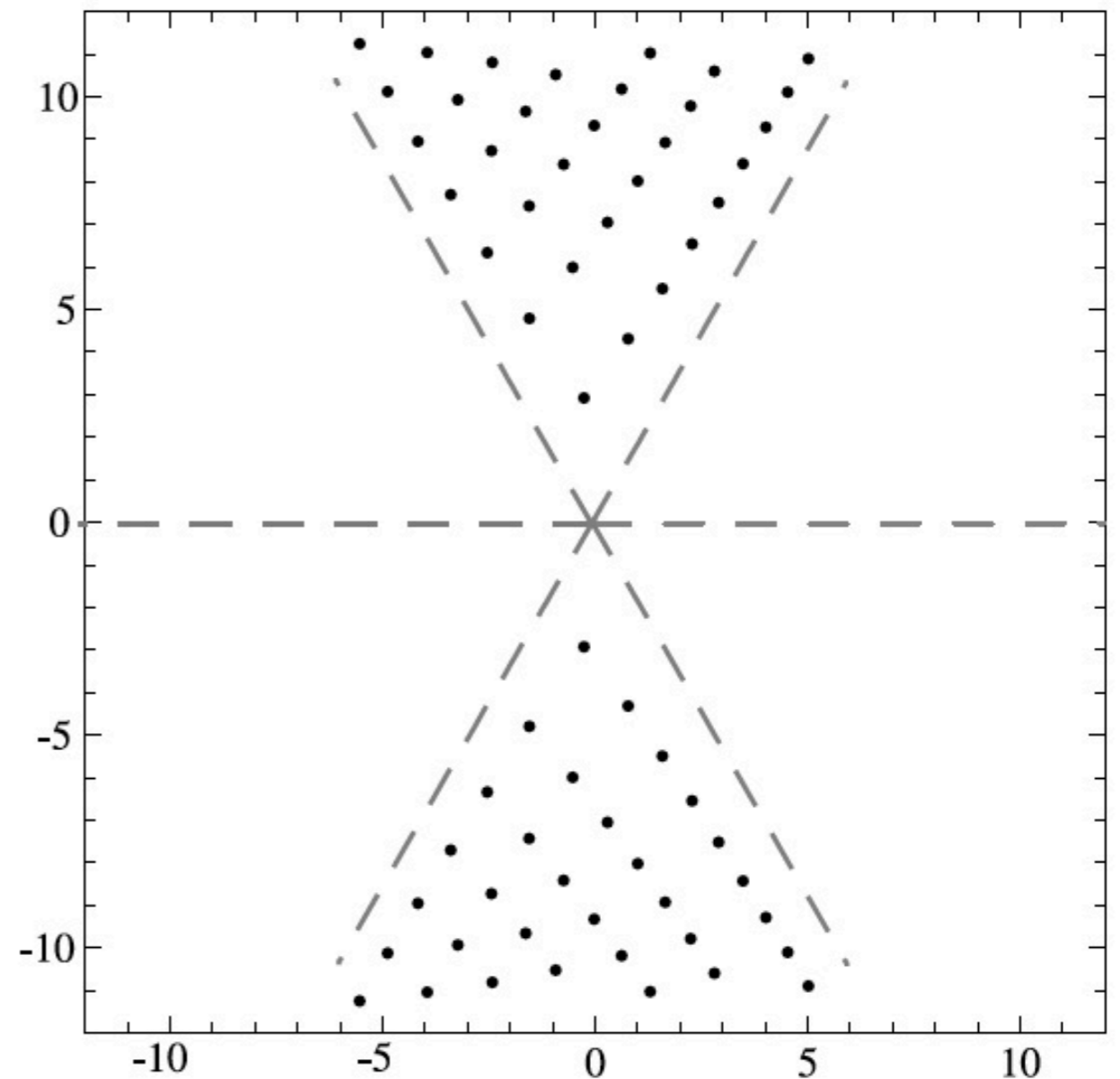
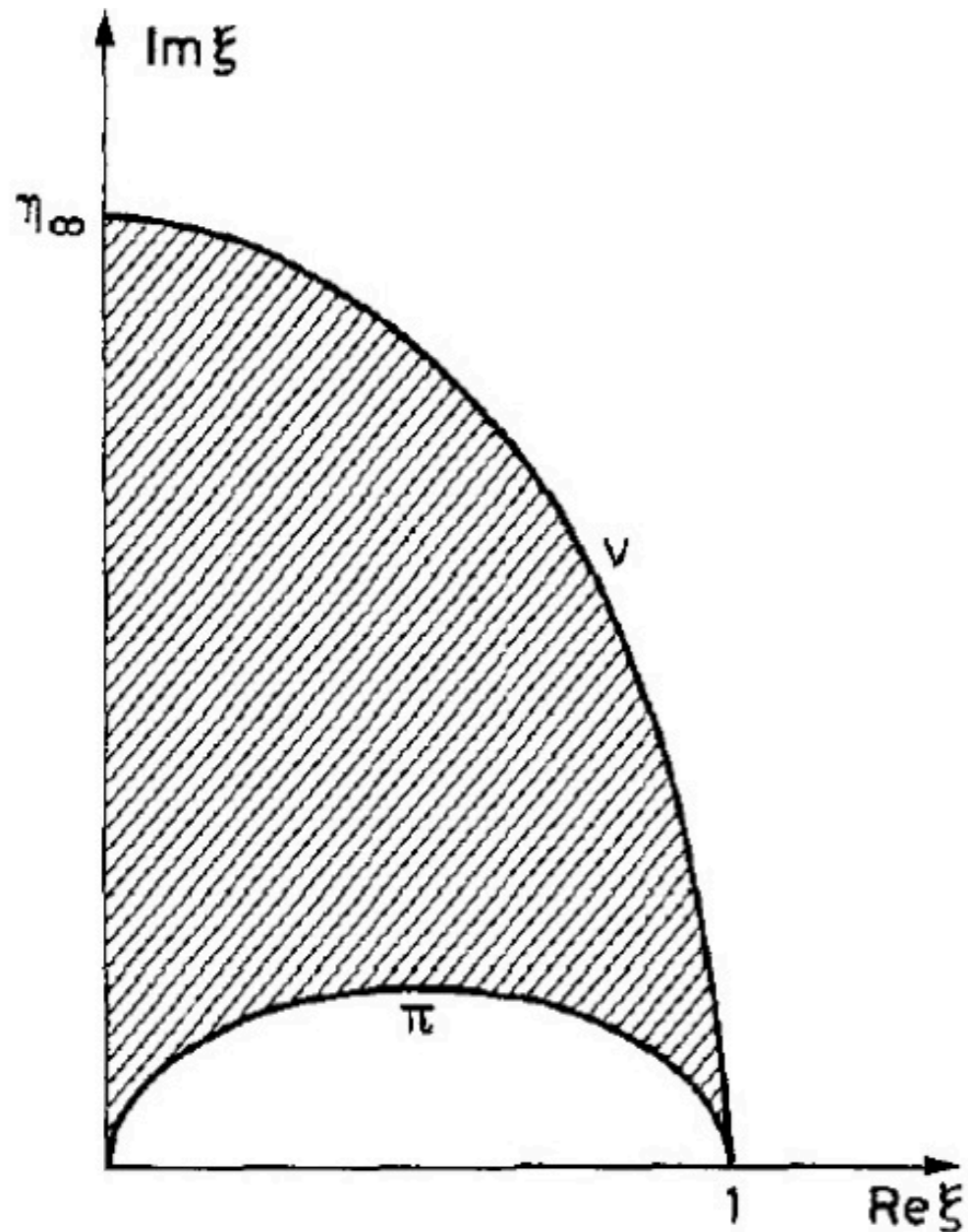
$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{d_n^{(1)}(t)}{N^n} = 1 + \frac{(3t^2 - 12t - 8)}{96(1-t)^{3/2}} \frac{1}{N} + \dots$$

resurgence: large-order growth of “perturbative coefficients”:

$$d_n^{(0)}(t) \sim \frac{-1}{\sqrt{2}(1-t)^{3/4}\pi^{3/2}} \frac{\Gamma(2n - \frac{5}{2})}{(S_{\text{weak}}(t))^{2n - \frac{5}{2}}} \left[1 + \frac{(3t^2 - 12t - 8)}{96(1-t)^{3/2}} \frac{S_{\text{weak}}(t)}{(2n - \frac{7}{2})} + \dots \right]$$

Lee-Yang view of Large N Phase Transitions in Matrix Models

Lee-Yang: complex zeros of $Z(t, N)$ pinch the real t axis at the phase transition, in the thermodynamic (large N) limit



Lee-Yang zeros near $t=1$ transition can be recovered from large t expansion

Resurgence in 2d Lattice Ising Model

diagonal correlation functions: $C(s, N) = \langle \sigma_{0,0} \sigma_{N,N} \rangle(s)$

$C(s, N)$ = tau function for Painleve VI equation (Jimbo, Miwa)

$C(s, N)$ has a trans-series expansion: convergent about $T=0$, $T= \infty$

scaling limit: PVI \rightarrow PIII as $N \rightarrow \infty$ & $T \rightarrow T_c$ (McCoy et al)

convergent conformal block expansions at low T and high T:

$$\tau(s) \sim \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} \rho^n C(\vec{\theta}, \sigma+n) \mathcal{B}(\vec{\theta}, \sigma+n; s)$$

(Lisovyy et al,
2012, 2013 ...)

$$\mathcal{B}(\vec{\theta}, \sigma; s) \propto s^{\sigma^2} \sum_{\lambda, \mu \in \mathcal{Y}} \mathcal{B}_{\lambda, \mu}(\vec{\theta}, \sigma) s^{|\lambda|+|\mu|}$$

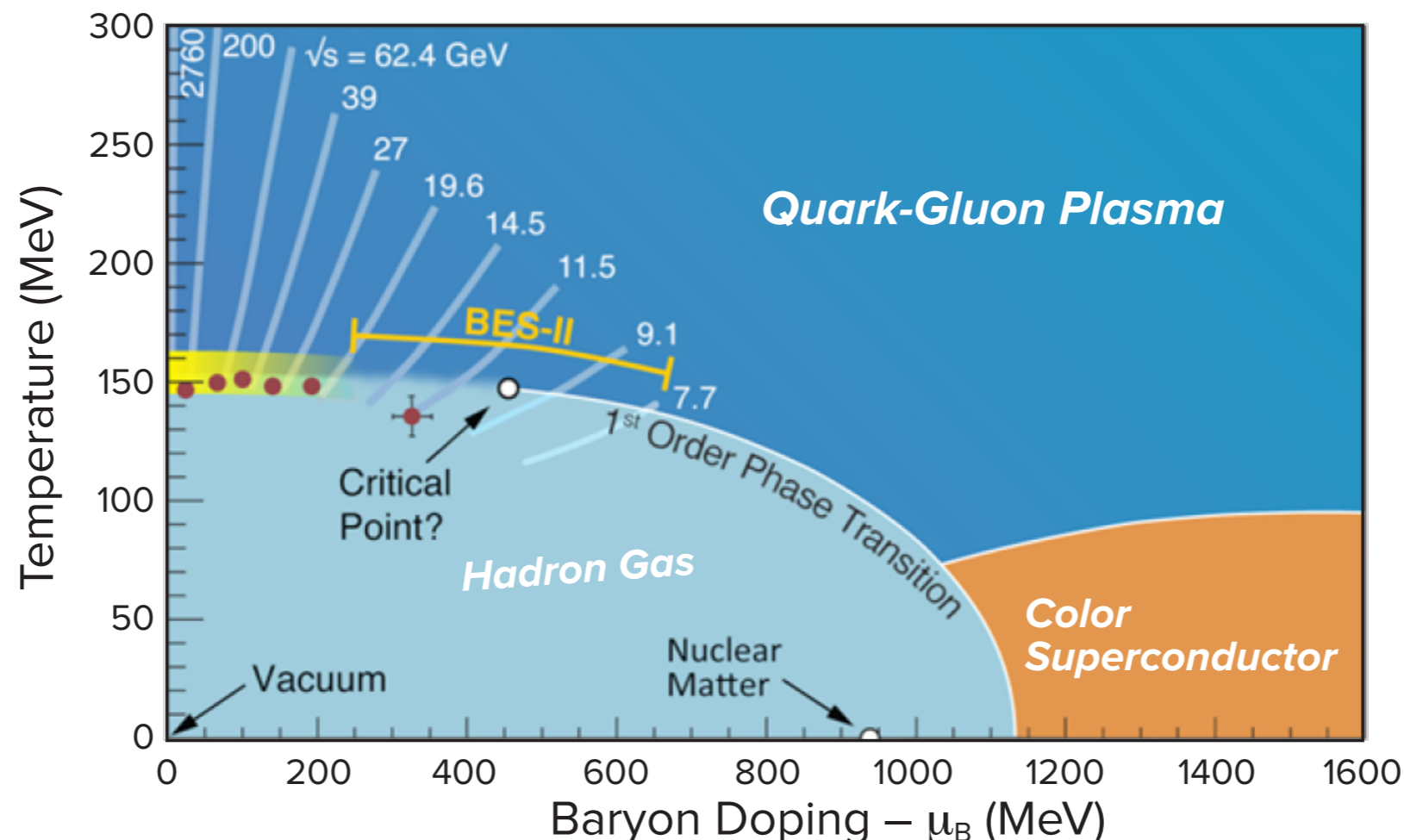
resurgence also for convergent expansions

GD, [1901.02076](#)

Resurgent Extrapolation

Costin, GD: [1904.11593](#), [2003.07451](#)
[2009.01962](#)

- often, perturbation theory/asymptotics is the **ONLY** thing we can do
- question: how much global information can be decoded from a **FINITE** number of perturbative coefficients ?
- how much “perturbative” information is required to detect, and to probe the properties of, a phase transition, possibly at a distant point ?

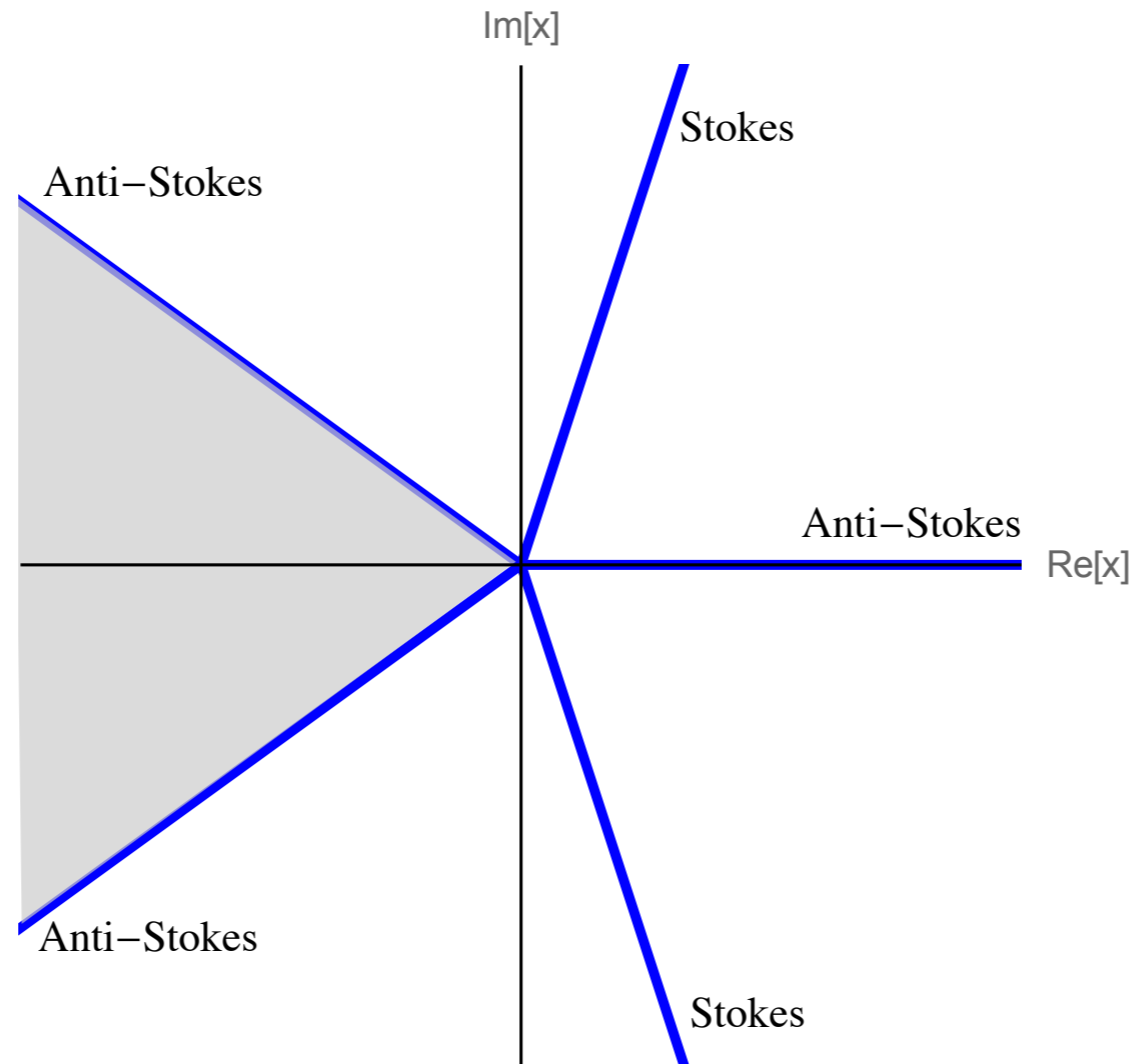


Resurgent Extrapolation

- case-study: Painleve I equation

$$y''(x) = 6y^2(x) - x$$

pole expansion



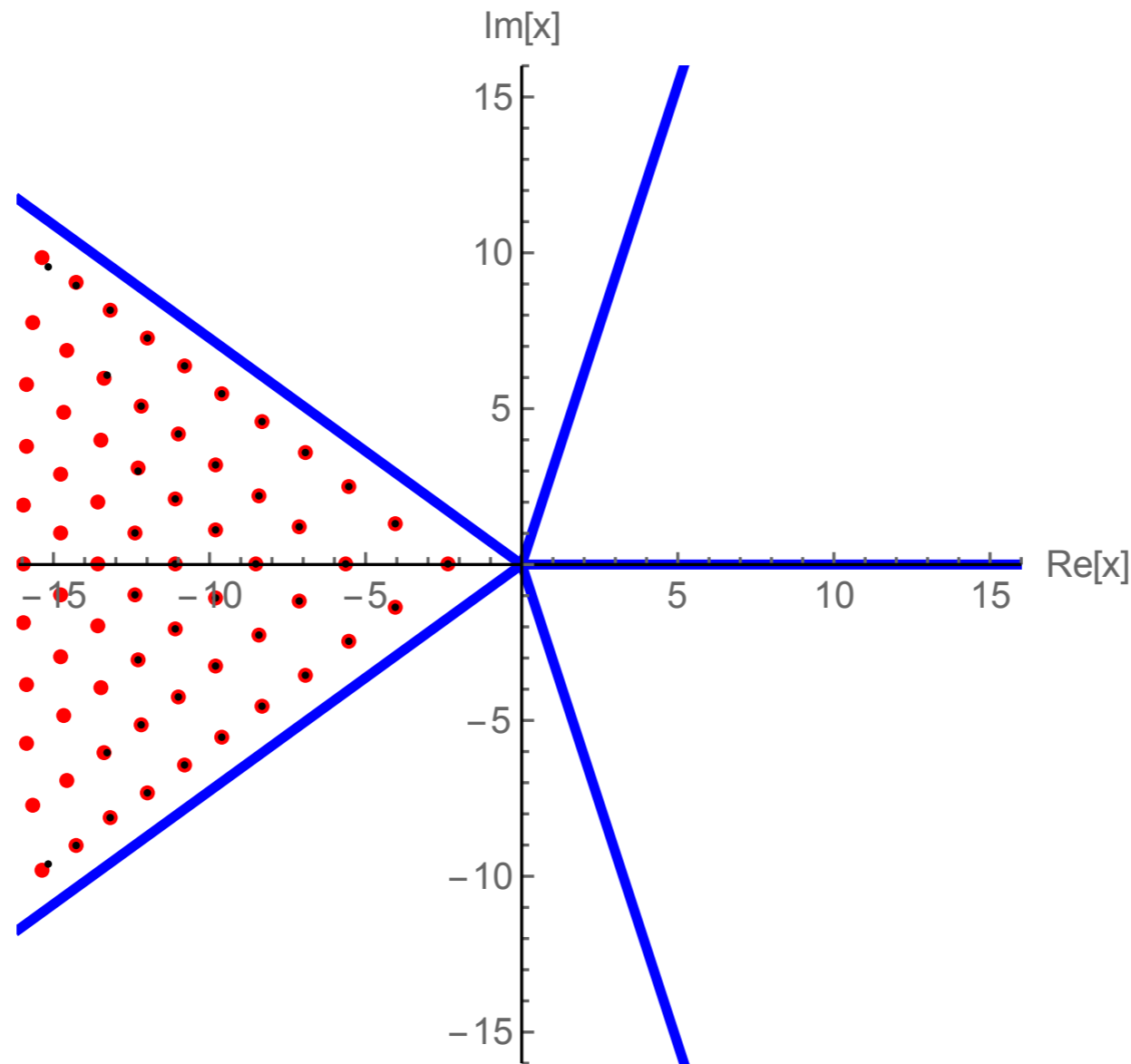
asymptotic expansion

- Painleve I equation has 5 sectors in the complex x plane, separated by phase transitions
- *tritronquée* solution: poles only in shaded region
- suppose we expand about $x=+\infty$ to finite order N : how much do these coefficients “know” about the other sectors?

Resurgent Extrapolation

Costin, GD: [1904.11593](#),
[2009.01962](#)

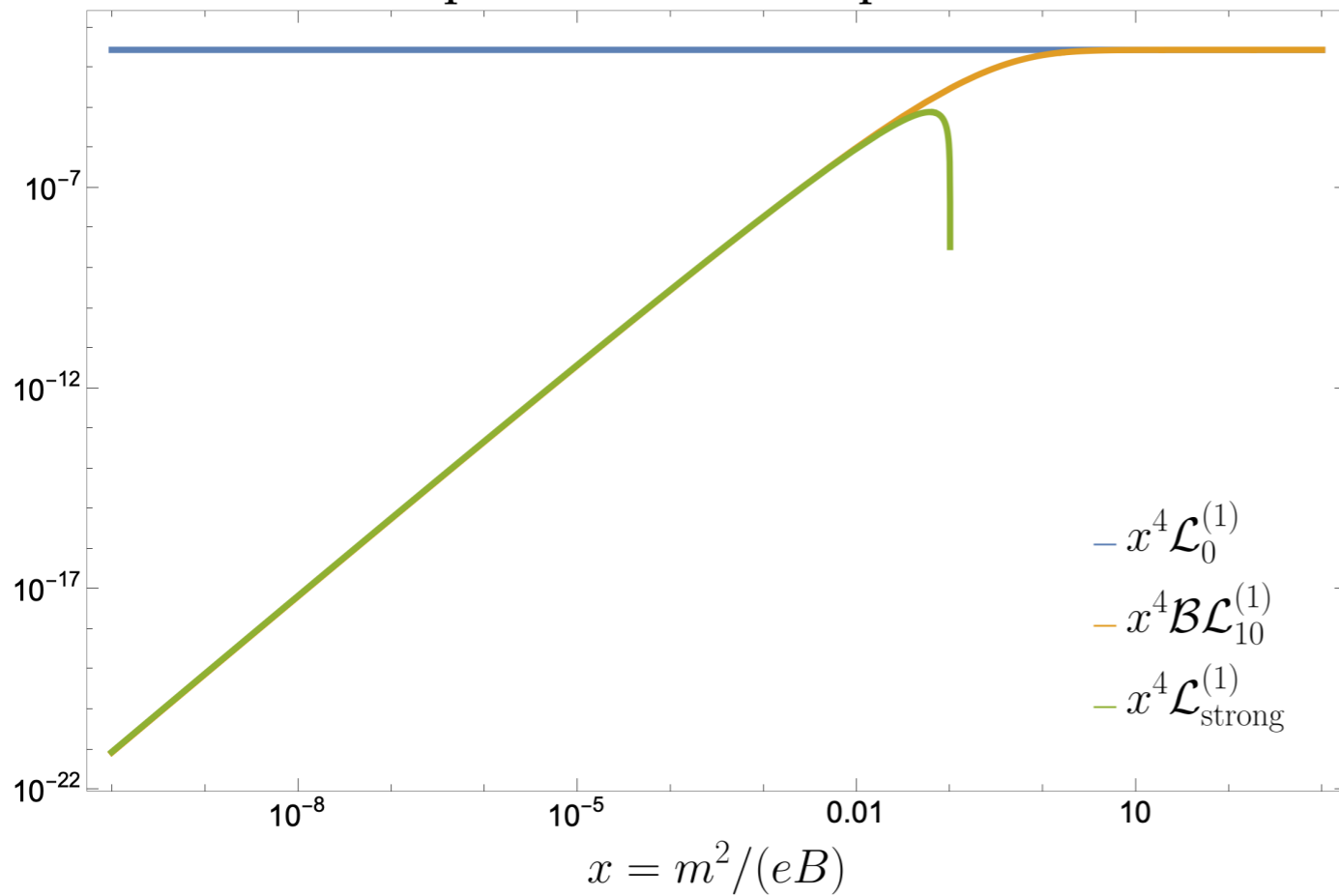
- there is an optimal way to extrapolate
- Pade-Borel + uniformizing maps: extreme precision



- extrapolate across Stokes transitions, and also onto higher Riemann sheets
- resurgent extrapolation can decode global behavior from surprisingly little input data from some other regime

Resurgent Extrapolation: Euler-Heisenberg example

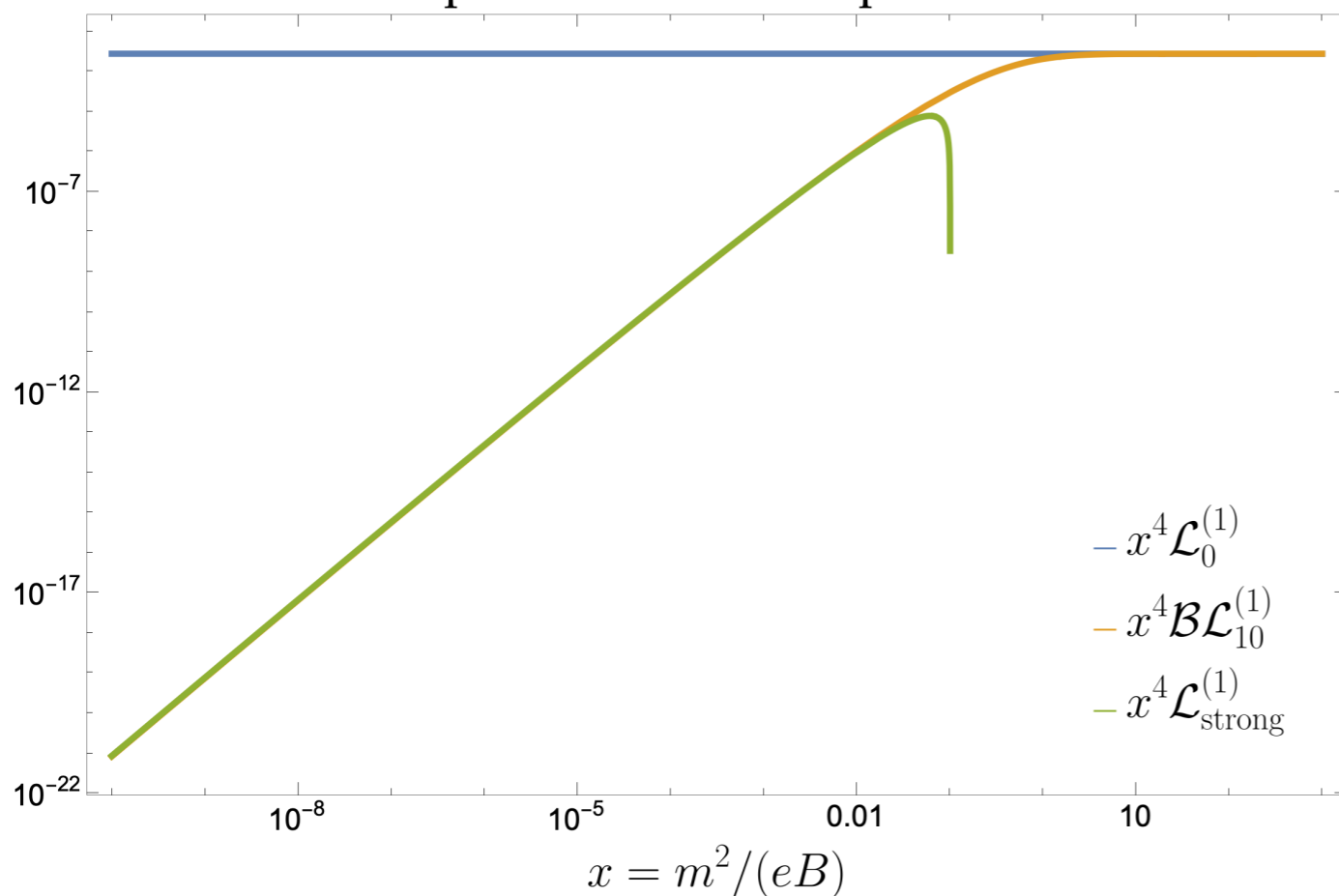
Borel extrapolation of one-loop effective action



weak to strong magnetic field extrapolation:
12 orders of magnitude from
just 10 weak field coefficients

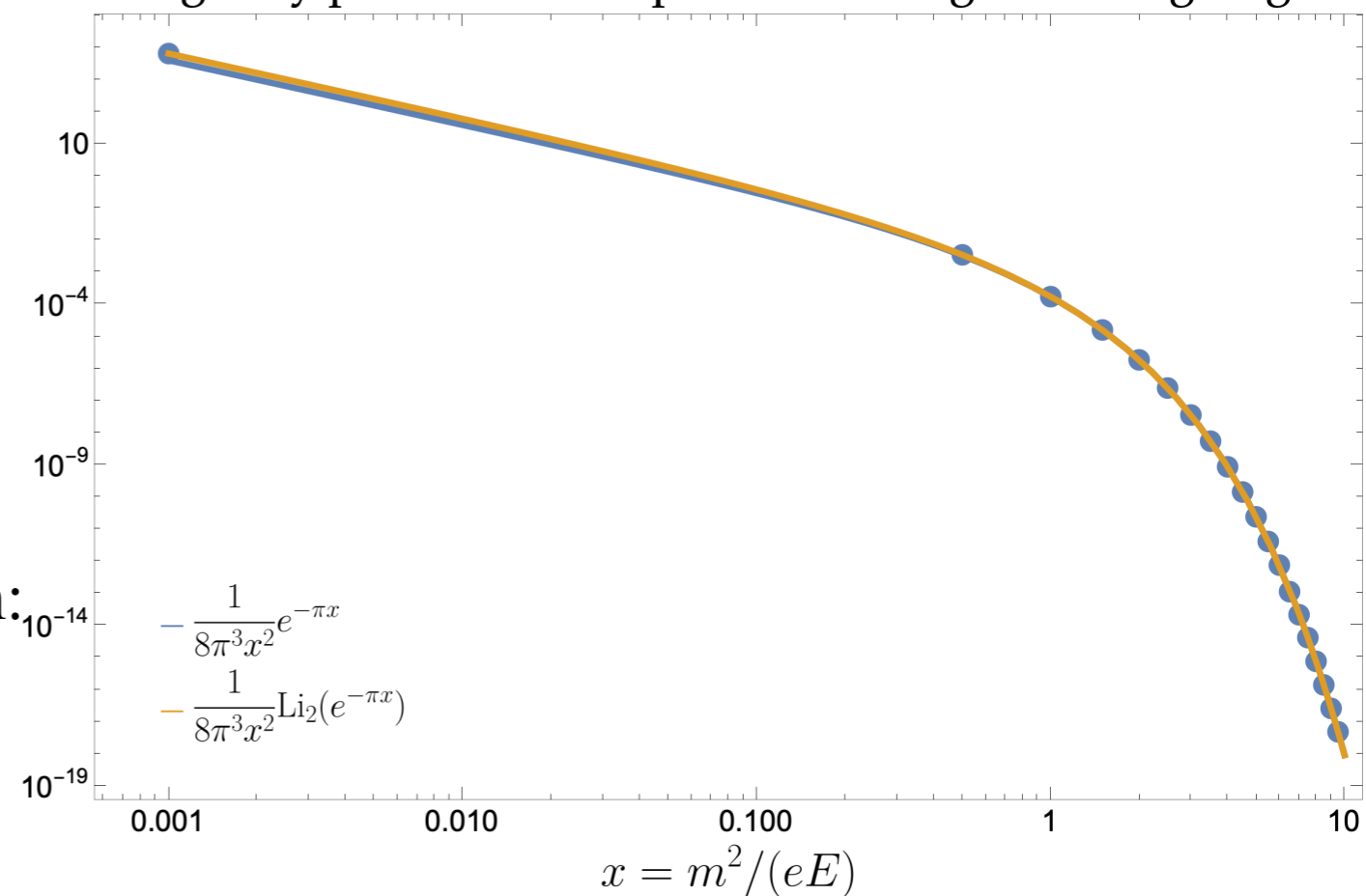
Resurgent Extrapolation: Euler-Heisenberg example

Borel extrapolation of one-loop effective action



weak to strong magnetic field extrapolation:
 12 orders of magnitude from
 just 10 weak field coefficients

Imaginary part of one-loop electric background Lagrangian



magnetic to electric field analytic continuation:
 4 orders of magnitude in imaginary part from
 just 10 weak magnetic field coefficients

Conclusions

- “resurgence” is based on a new and improved form of asymptotics
- deep(er) connections between perturbative and non-perturbative physics
- recent applications to differential eqs, QM, QFT, string theory, ...
- phase transitions from large N in 2-parameter trans-series
- resurgent extrapolation: high-precision extraction of physical information from finite order expansions
- outlook: new theoretical approach to quantum systems in extreme conditions
- outlook: computational access to strongly-coupled systems, phase transitions, particle production, and far-from-equilibrium physics, ...