

# Running relational observables in Asymptotic Safety

*Renata Ferrero*

*Based on:*

*A. Baldazzi, K. Falls and R. Ferrero, Annals Phys. **80** (2022), 168822  
[arXiv:2112.02118 [hep-th]]*

*and work in progress in collaboration with Kevin Falls*

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JOHANNES GUTENBERG  
UNIVERSITÄT MAINZ



# Asymptotic Safety

[Wetterich, Reuter,  
Saueressig, Percacci and  
many more]

[Höhn, Thiemann, Dittrich,  
Fröb, Chataignier, Rejzner,  
Marchetti, Gielen and many  
more]



Asymptotic  
Safety



Relational  
observables

[Wetterich, Reuter,  
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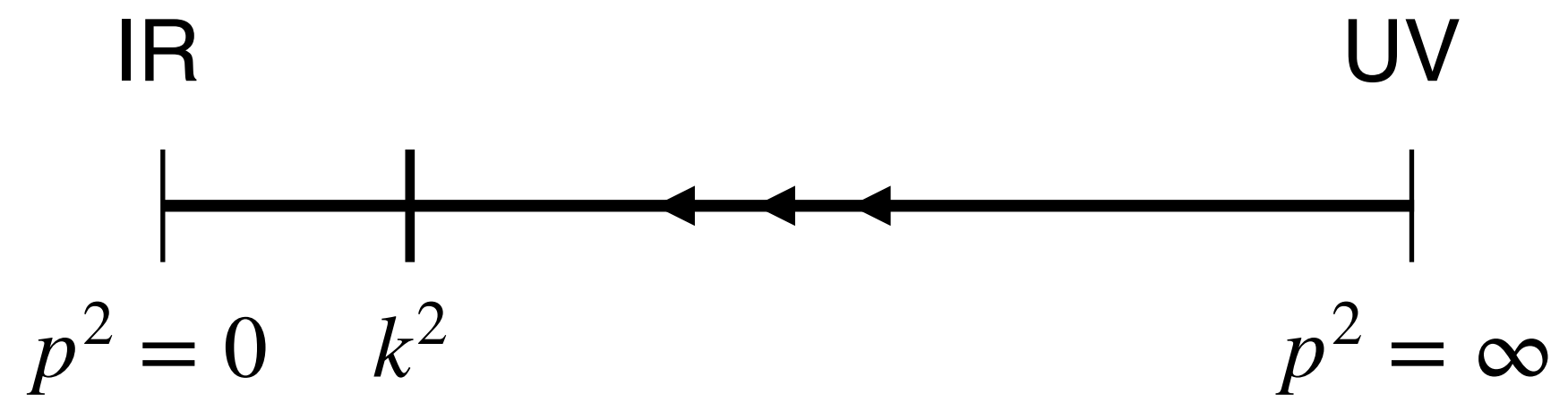
[Wetterich, Reuter,  
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**Asymptotic Safety**

Asymptotic Safety

EAA

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow 0} \Gamma_k \rightarrow \Gamma$$



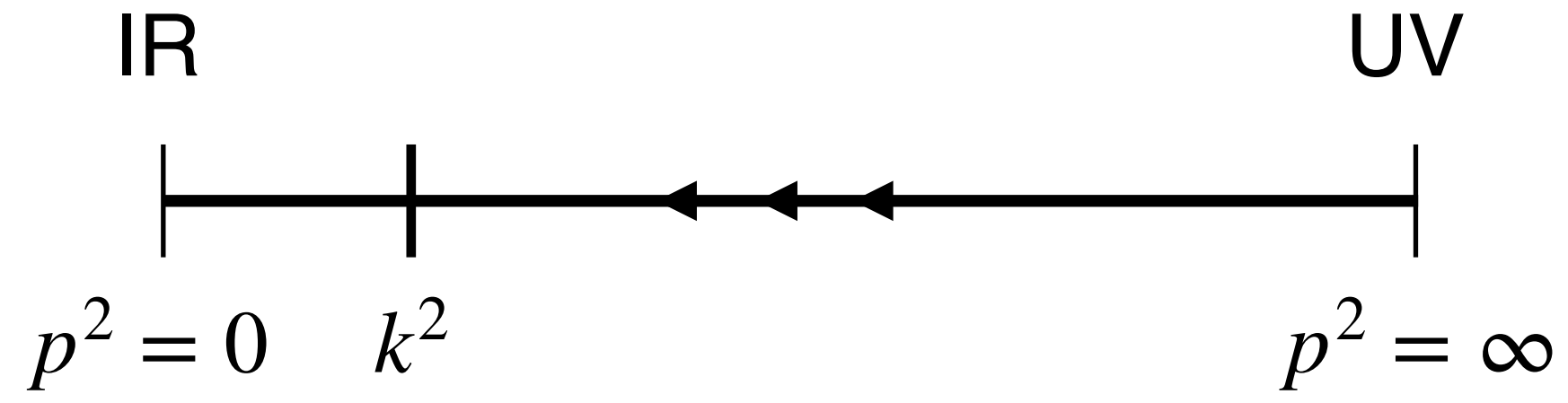
$$\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \Gamma_k \rightarrow S$$

Asymptotic Safety

EAA

FRGE

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow 0} \Gamma_k \rightarrow \Gamma$$

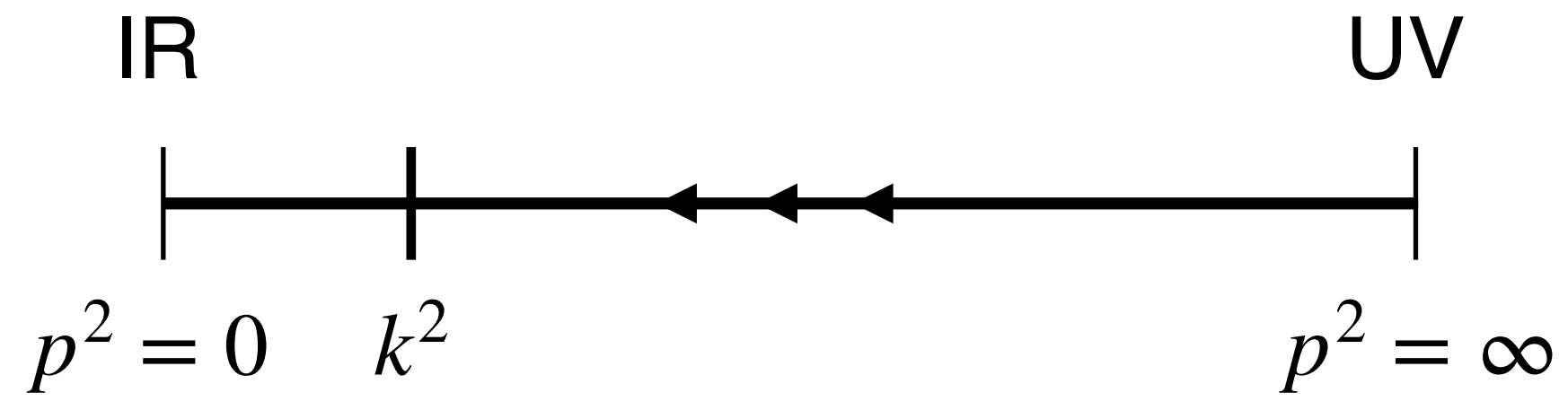


$$\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \Gamma_k \rightarrow S$$

$$k \partial_k \Gamma_k[\phi] = \frac{1}{2} \text{Tr} \left[ (\Gamma_k^{(2)} + \mathcal{R}_k)^{-1} k \partial_k \mathcal{R}_k \right]$$

EAA

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow 0} \Gamma_k \rightarrow \Gamma$$



$$\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \Gamma_k \rightarrow S$$

FRGE

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Weinberg's  
conjecture

physical scattering amplitudes are finite (but non-vanishing) at energy scales exceeding the Planck scale



EAA

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow 0} \Gamma_k \rightarrow \Gamma \quad \begin{array}{c} \text{IR} \\ \text{---} \\ p^2 = 0 \quad k^2 \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{c} \text{UV} \\ \text{---} \\ p^2 = \infty \end{array} \quad \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \Gamma_k \rightarrow S$$

FRGE

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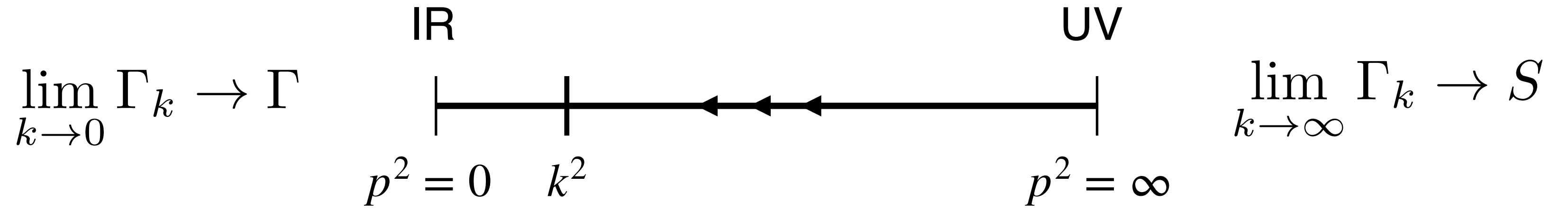
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Fixed points

$$\Gamma_k[\phi] = \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} U^i(k) P_i[\phi] \quad \longrightarrow \quad \beta^i(u_*) = 0$$

Asymptotic Safety

EAA



FRGE

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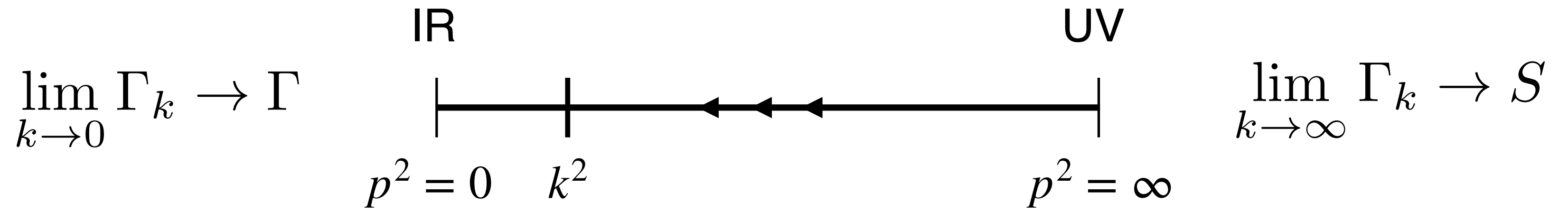
Observables and AS

$$\mathcal{O} = \mathcal{O}(E, U_a(\mu), \mu) \quad \longrightarrow \quad \mathcal{O} = \mu^D \tilde{\mathcal{O}}(E/\mu, u_a(\mu))$$

$$\mathcal{O} = E^D \quad \mu = E \rightarrow \infty \quad \text{well-defined limit} \quad \iff \quad \lim_{\mu \rightarrow \infty} u_a(\mu) = u_a^*$$

Asymptotic Safety

EAA



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what is the meaning of  $k$ ?

**Asymptotic Safety**

Asymptotic Safety

Which is the behaviour of geometric or relational quantities at the quantum level?

Composite  
operators

[Pagani, Becker]

Which is the behaviour of geometric or relational quantities at the quantum level?

$$\Gamma_k[\phi, \varepsilon] = \Gamma_k[\phi] + \int d^d x \varepsilon(x) \mathcal{O}_k(x) + O(\varepsilon^2)$$

$$\int d^d x \varepsilon k \partial_k \mathcal{O}_k = -\frac{1}{2} \text{Tr} \left[ \left( \Gamma_k^{(2)} + \mathcal{R}_k \right)^{-1} \left( \int d^d x \varepsilon \mathcal{O}_k^{(2)} \right) \left( \Gamma_k^{(2)} + \mathcal{R}_k \right)^{-1} k \partial_k \mathcal{R}_k \right]$$

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \mathcal{O}_k = \hat{\mathcal{O}}|_{\hat{\phi} \rightarrow \phi}$$

$$\mathcal{O}_{k=0} = \langle \hat{\mathcal{O}} \rangle$$

## Composite operators

[Pagani, Becker]

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Concrete method to compute expectation values of observables.

## Composite operators

[Pagani, Becker]

## Critical exponents

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Concrete method to compute expectation values of observables.

The **critical exponents** do not depend on the cutoff scheme, they are **universal**.

$$u^i(k) = u_*^i + \sum_I C_I V_I^i \left( \frac{k_0}{k} \right)^{\theta_I}$$



[Höhn's terminology:  
covariant representation]

**Relational observables**

[Höhn's terminology:  
covariant representation]

In GR there are no local diffeomorphism-  
invariant observables.

$$R(x) \mapsto \varphi * R(x)$$

**Diffeomorphism  
invariance**

**Relational observables**

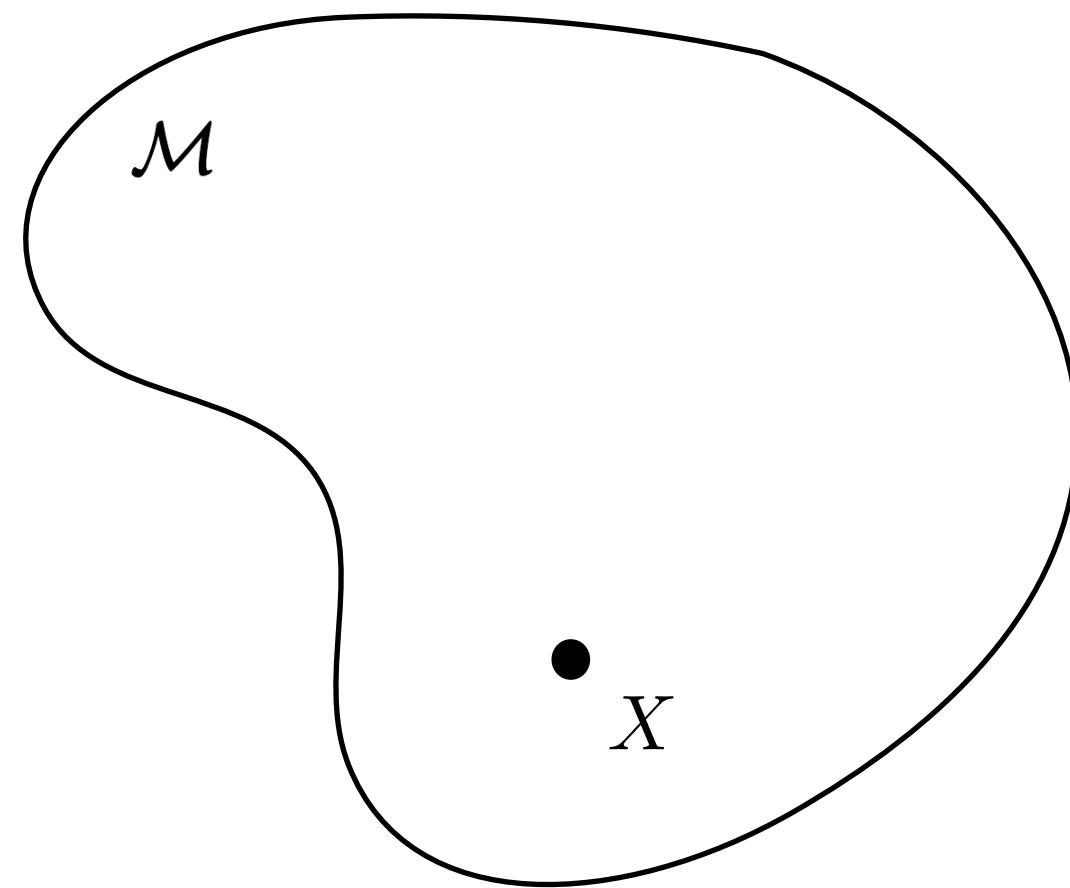
[Höhn's terminology:  
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However, if  $X$  denotes the (spacetime) position of a particle, a diffeomorphism will map

$$X \mapsto \varphi^{-1}(X)$$



Thus  $R(X)$  at the position of the particle, is diffeomorphism invariant, and hence observable.

$$R(X) \mapsto \varphi * R(\varphi^{-1}(X)) = R(X)$$

Diffeomorphism invariance

Relational formalism

Relational observables

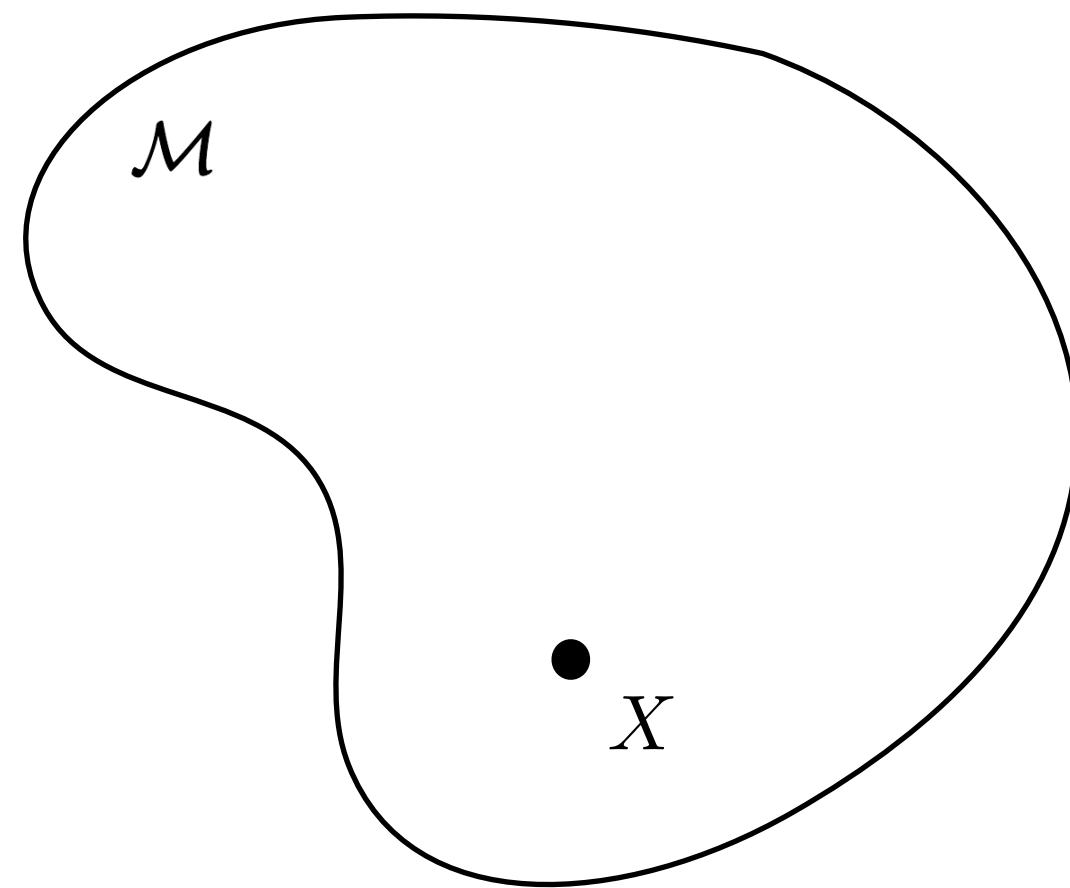
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Construct a physical coordinate frame, s.t. composed transformation leaves the tensor invariant.

Diffeomorphism invariance

Relational formalism

Physical coordinate system

Relational observables

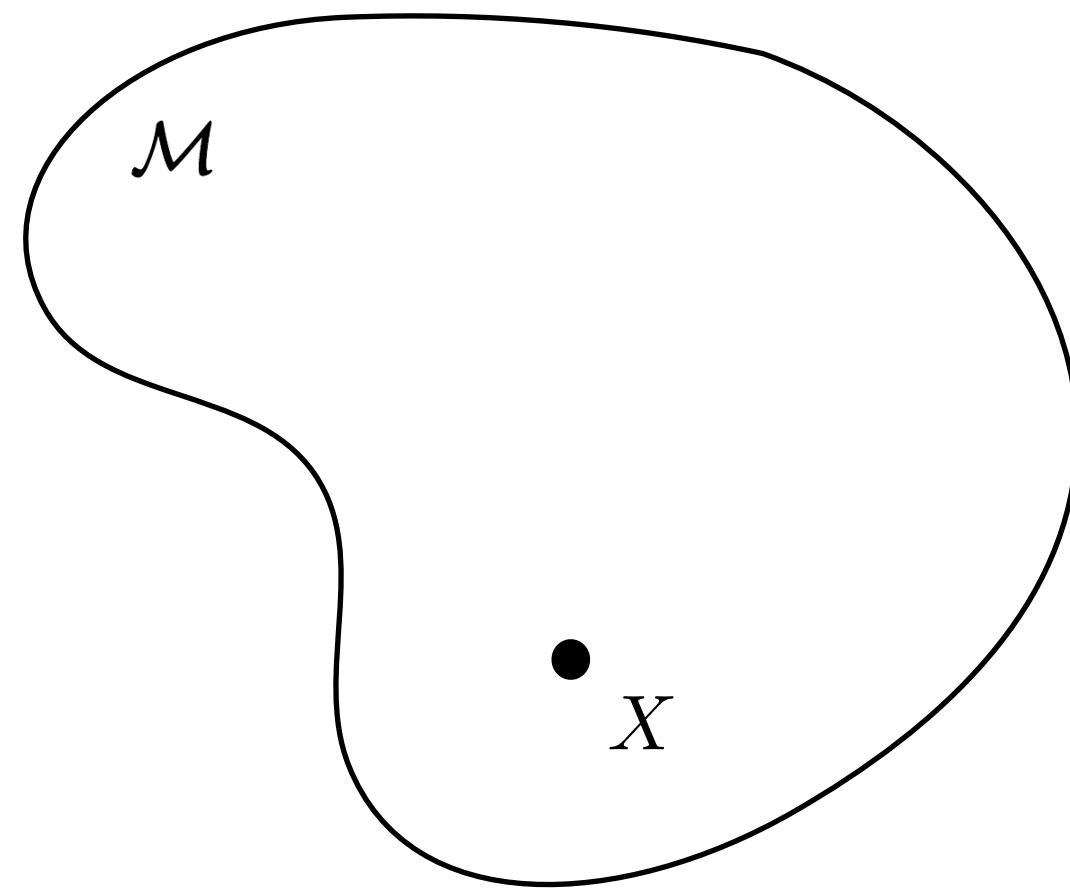
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Construct a physical coordinate frame,  
s.t. composed transformation leaves the tensor invariant.

add matter fields

Diffeomorphism invariance

Relational formalism

Physical coordinate system

Relational observables

*Asymptotic Safety*

*Relational observables*

Asymptotic Safety

## Relational EAA

$$\Gamma_k^{\text{rel.}} \equiv \int d^4x \tilde{e}(x) \mathcal{L}_k^{\text{rel.}}(x) := \int d^4x \tilde{e}(x) \sum_i a_{\hat{I}_i}(k) O^{\hat{I}_i}(x)$$

Relational observables

Asymptotic Safety

## Relational EAA

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## Flow of the relational EAA

$$k\partial_k \Gamma_k^{\text{rel.}} = -\frac{1}{2} \text{Tr} \left[ \left( \Gamma_k^{(2)} + \mathcal{R}_k \right)^{-1} \left( \Gamma_k^{\text{rel.}(2)} \right) \left( \Gamma_k^{(2)} + \mathcal{R}_k \right)^{-1} k\partial_k \mathcal{R}_k \right]$$

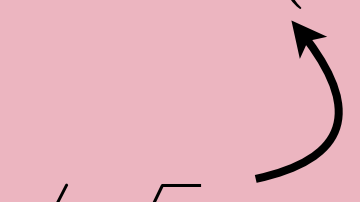
Relational observables



Asymptotic Safety

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$\neq \sqrt{g}$  

## Flow of the relational EAA

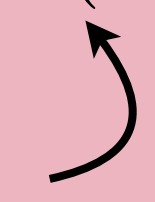
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Relational observables

Asymptotic Safety

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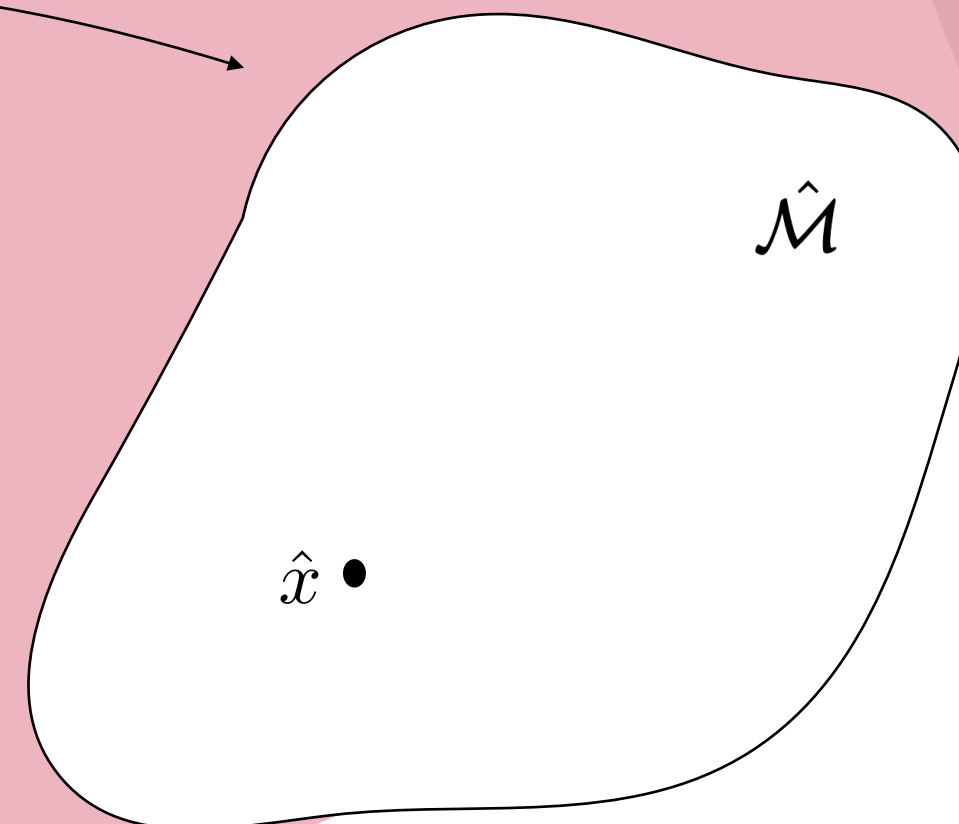
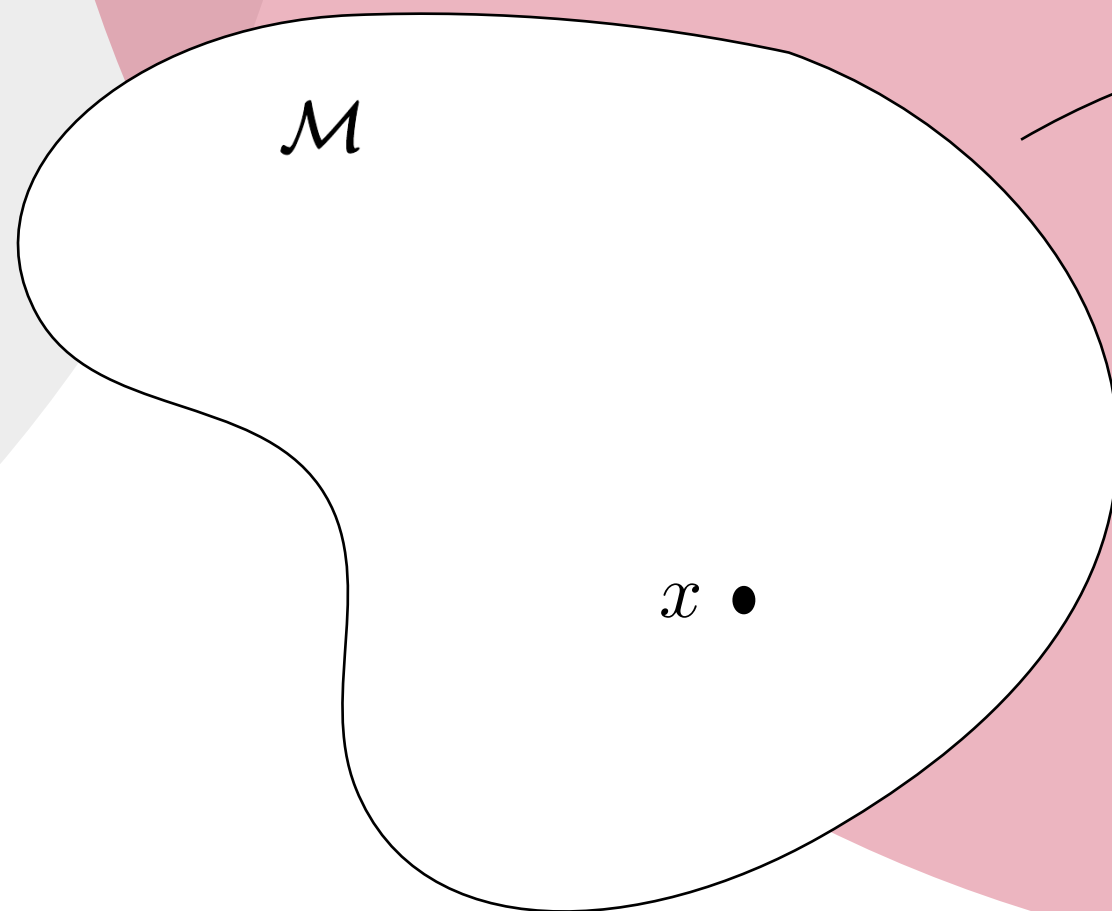
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$$\hat{X}^{\hat{\mu}}(x) = \hat{x}^{\hat{\mu}}$$

$$x^\mu = X^\mu(\hat{x})$$



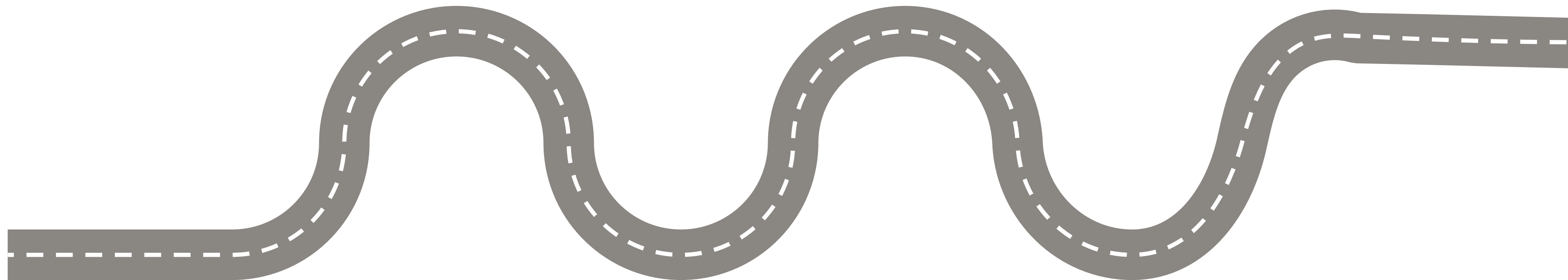
Relational observables

$$e_{\mu}^{\hat{\mu}}(x) = \partial_{\mu} \hat{X}^{\hat{\mu}}(x)$$

$$\tilde{e} = \det e_{\mu}^{\hat{\mu}}$$

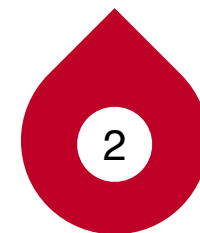
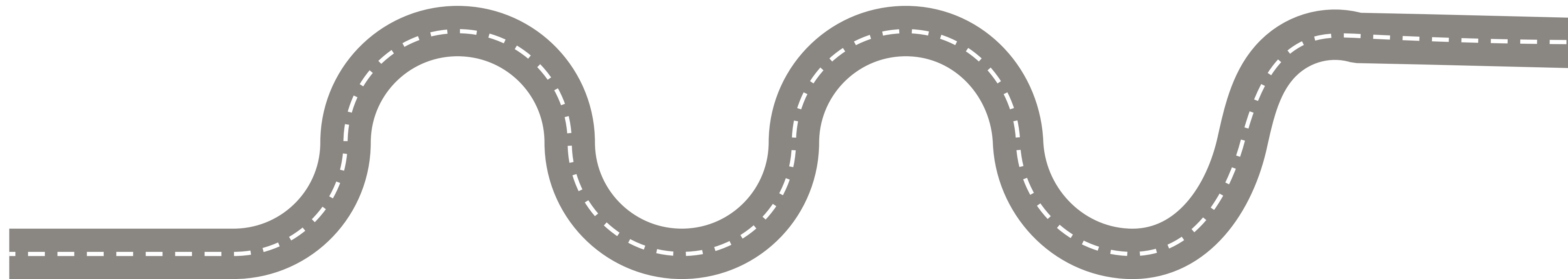
# Find the fixed points

EAA



**Find the  
fixed points**

EAA



**Identify the  
relational  
observables**

**Find the  
fixed points**

EAA

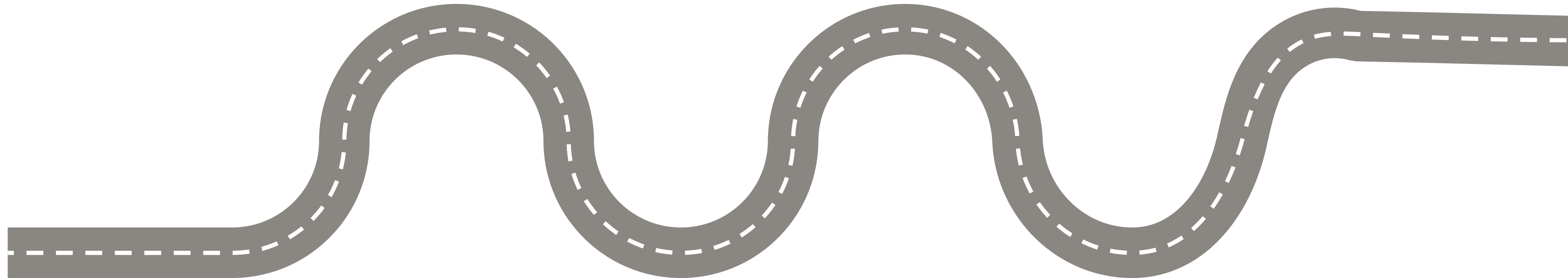
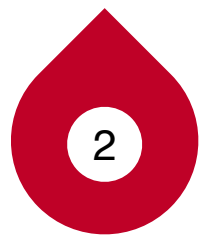


**Compute the  
flow of the  
observables**

Relational EAA



**Identify the  
relational  
observables**



**Find the  
fixed points**

EAA



**Compute the  
flow of the  
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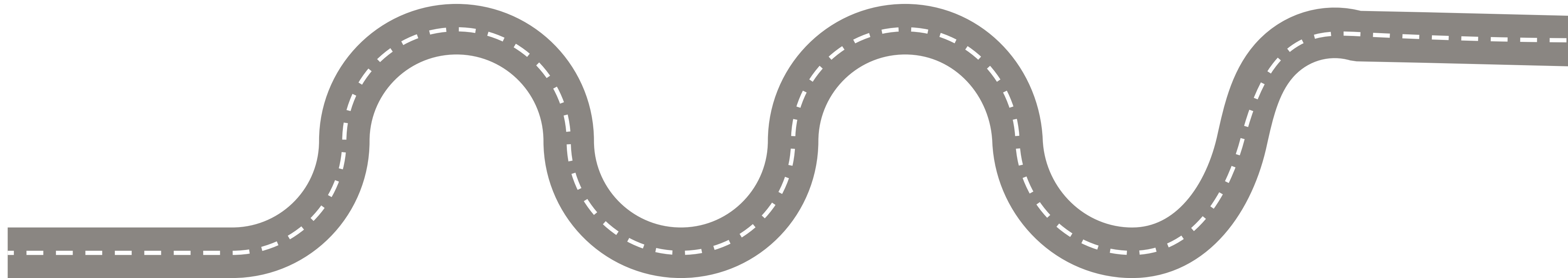
Relational EAA



**Identify the  
relational  
observables**



**Scaling  
dimension  
at the FP**



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# Application

**Find the  
fixed points**



**Identify the  
relational  
observables**



**Compute the  
flow of the  
observables**



**Scaling  
dimension  
at the FP**



# Application

**Find the  
fixed points**



$$\Gamma_k = \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} \left( \frac{1}{16\pi G_N(k)} (R - 2\Lambda(k)) + \frac{1}{2} \delta_{AB} g^{\mu\nu} \partial_\mu \varphi^A \partial_\nu \varphi^B \right) + \dots$$

**Identify the  
relational  
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**Compute the  
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**Scaling  
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# Application

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**Identify the  
relational  
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$$\varphi^{\hat{\mu}} = \hat{X}^{\hat{\mu}}$$

**Compute the  
flow of the  
observables**



**Scaling  
dimension  
at the FP**



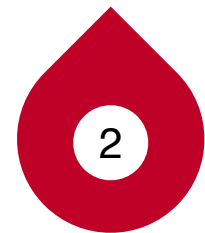
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**Compute the  
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$$\Gamma_k^{\text{rel.}} = \int d^4x \tilde{e} \left( \alpha_0(k) + \alpha_R(k) R + \alpha_1(k) \delta_{\hat{\mu}\hat{\nu}} g^{\mu\nu} (\partial_\mu \hat{X}^{\hat{\mu}}) (\partial_\nu \hat{X}^{\hat{\nu}}) \right)$$

**Scaling  
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at the FP**



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Identify the relational observables



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Compute the flow of the observables



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Scaling dimension at the FP



Matter content	$\theta_0$	$\theta_R$	$\theta_1$
SM (type II)	-4	-5.97643	-7.92358
SM (type I)	-4	-5.97467	-7.8177
SM + SF (type II)	-4	-5.97505	-7.80603
SM + 3 $\nu$ (type II)	-4	-5.98015	-7.78084

# Application

Find the fixed points



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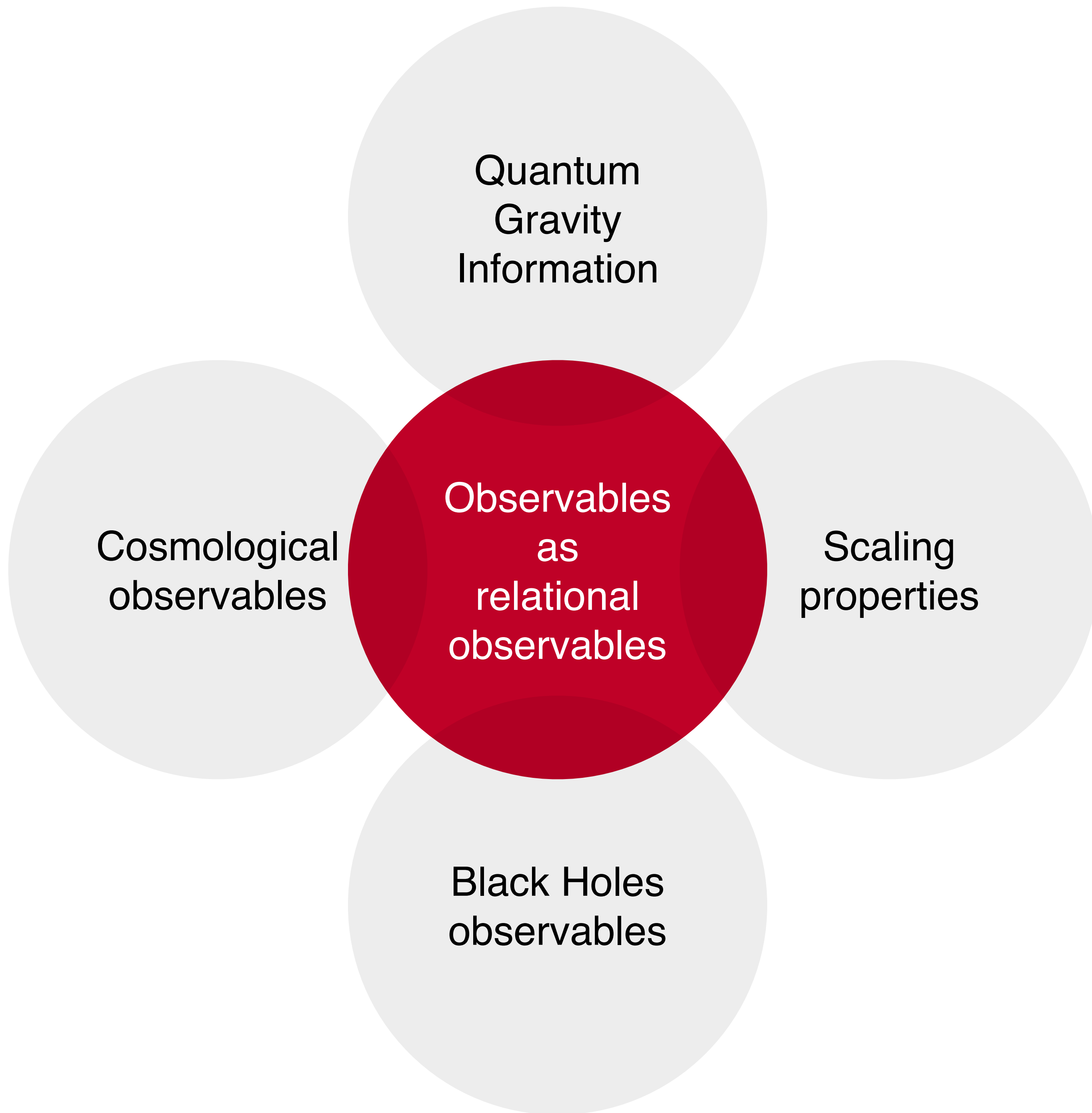


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Small quantum corrections



Observables  
as  
relational  
observables



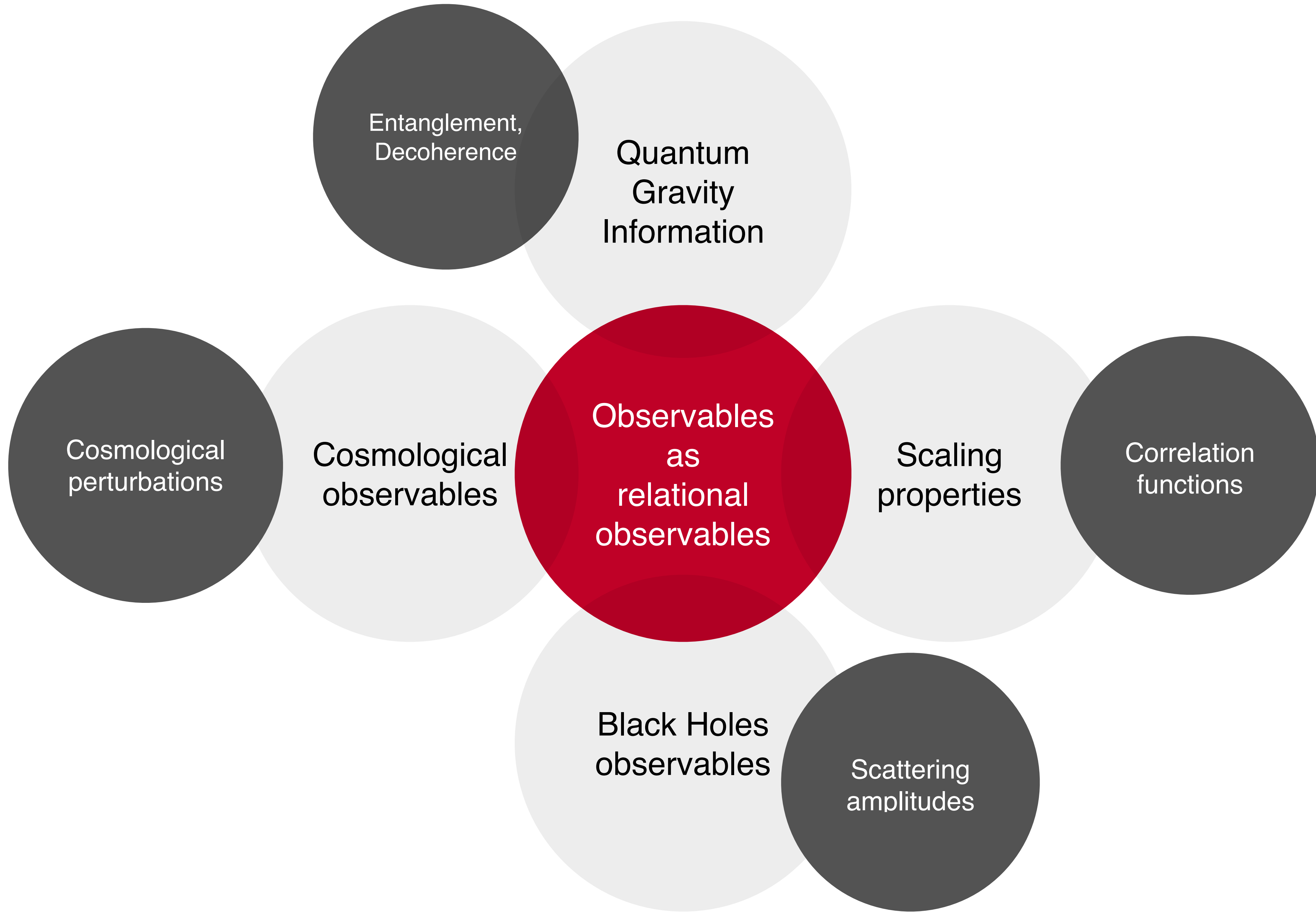
Quantum  
Gravity  
Information

Cosmological  
observables

Observables  
as  
relational  
observables

Scaling  
properties

Black Holes  
observables



Entanglement,  
Decoherence

Quantum  
Gravity  
Information

Cosmological  
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Cosmological  
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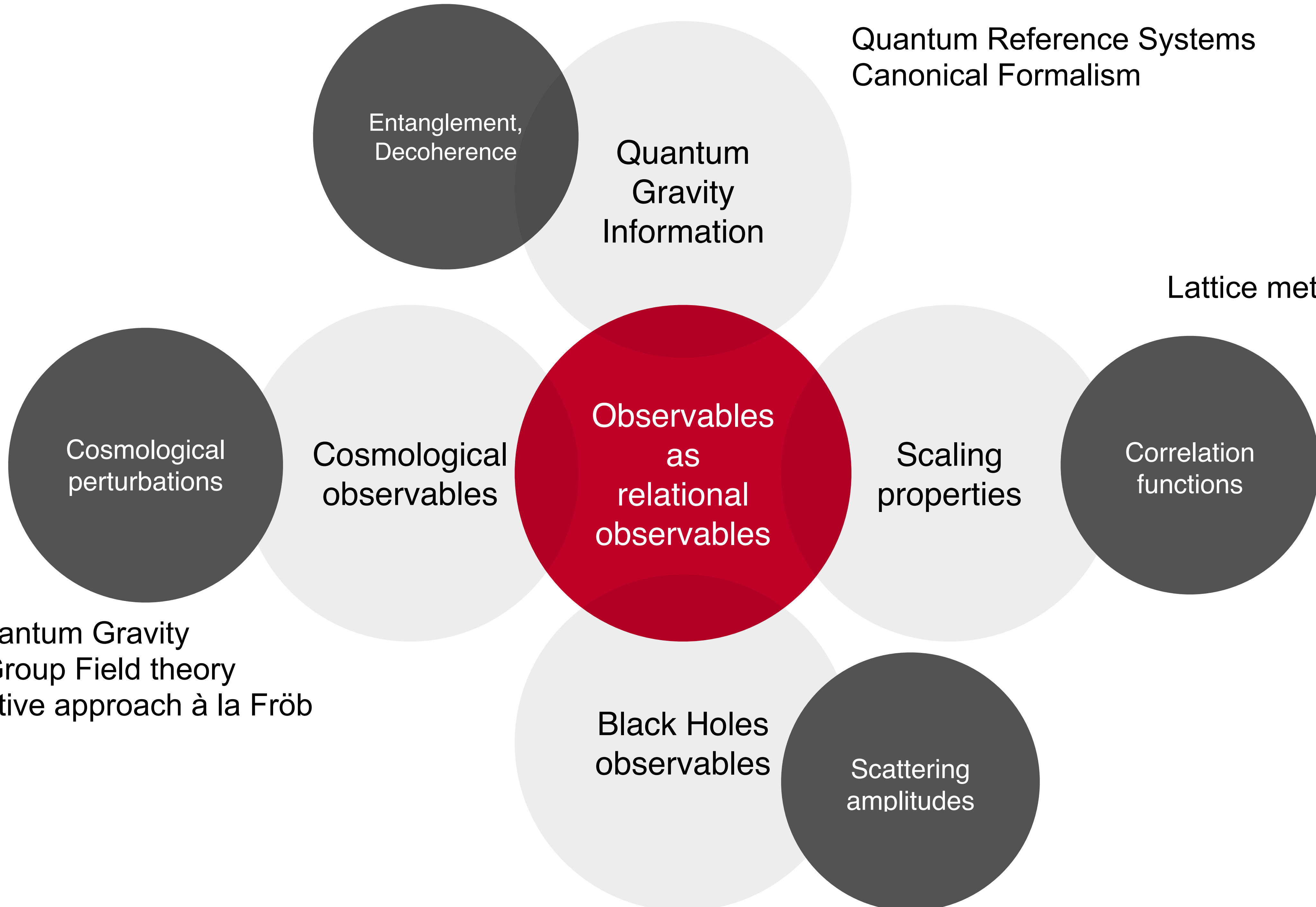
Observables  
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Correlation  
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amplitudes





Entanglement,  
Decoherence

Quantum  
Gravity  
Information

Quantum Reference Systems  
Canonical Formalism

Lattice methods: CDT

Cosmological  
perturbations

Cosmological  
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Loop Quantum Gravity  
Tensor Group Field theory  
Perturbative approach à la Fröb

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They  
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## Running observables in AS

- Comparing in detail the consequences of the Asymptotic Safety Scenario with observations represents one of the main challenges.
- Starting from the **safe harbor of asymptotically safe gravity**, we developed new methods for extracting physical contents, by constructing **relational observables**.
- Which are “good observables”? How are they constructed? Inspiration from cosmology?
- Contact with different approaches of Quantum Gravity?
  - At the level of the **scaling exponents**, e.g. scaling of the **correlation functions**
  - At the level of the RG computations



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Introduce an additional scale (fixed volume) and study the scaling wrt. this scale

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