

# functional flows for higher curvature quantum gravity

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**Workshop**

**Quantum Space-Time and the Renormalisation Group**

**Calgiari / Sant Elmo**

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# critical points in 4d

## UV critical points

fundamental definition of QFT Wilson '71

asymptotic freedom Gross, Wilzcek '73 , Politzer '73

asymptotic near freedom Bailin, Love '74

**asymptotic safety** Weinberg '79  
Reuter '98

## IR critical points

**Banks-Zaks** conformal window Caswell '74  
Banks, Zaks, '82

weak-strong dualities Seiberg '95

# today:

**canonical mass dimension** as ordering principle

weakly-coupled 4d QFTs

strongly-coupled fermions

higher curvature quantum gravity

# perturbative 4d QFTs

fields

**vectors**  $A_\mu^a$ , **fermions**  $\psi_I$ , **scalars**  $\phi^A$

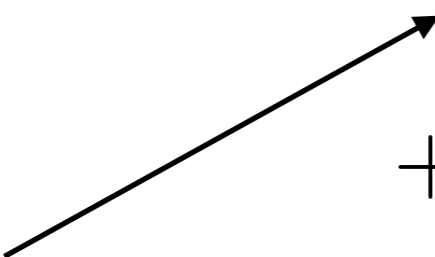
path integral

$$Z[J] = \exp -i \int d^4x (L + L_{\text{gf}} + L_{\text{gh}} + J^i \Phi_i)$$

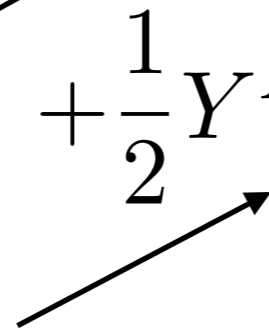
action

$$L = \frac{1}{4g_a^2} \text{Tr} F_{\mu\nu}^a F_a^{\mu\nu} + i\psi_I \not{D}\psi_I + \frac{1}{2} (D_\mu \phi^A)^2$$

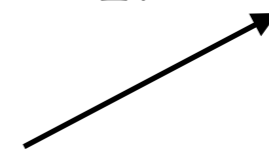
**gauge**



**Yukawa**



**quartics**



$$+ \frac{1}{2} Y^A_{IJ} \phi^A \psi_I \xi \psi_J + \frac{1}{4!} \lambda_{ABCD} \phi^A \phi^B \phi^C \phi^D$$

## **Perturbativity guarantees that**

**mass terms remain relevant**

**higher dimension interactions remain irrelevant**

**classically marginal couplings are key**

**strongly-coupled fermions**

U(N) symmetric fermions

4-fermion interactions  $G(\bar{\psi}\psi)^2$

Gross, Neveu '74

chiral symmetry  $\psi \rightarrow \gamma^5 \psi \quad \bar{\psi} \rightarrow -\bar{\psi} \gamma^5$

3d: perturbatively non-renormalisable...  $[G] = 2 - d$

**...yet** non-perturbatively renormalisable  
**interacting UV fixed point**

Gawedzki, Kupiainen '85

Rosenstein, War, Park '89

de Calan, Faria da Veiga, Magnen, de Seneor '91

Gross-Neveu (-Yukawa)

PT, large Nf  
functional RG

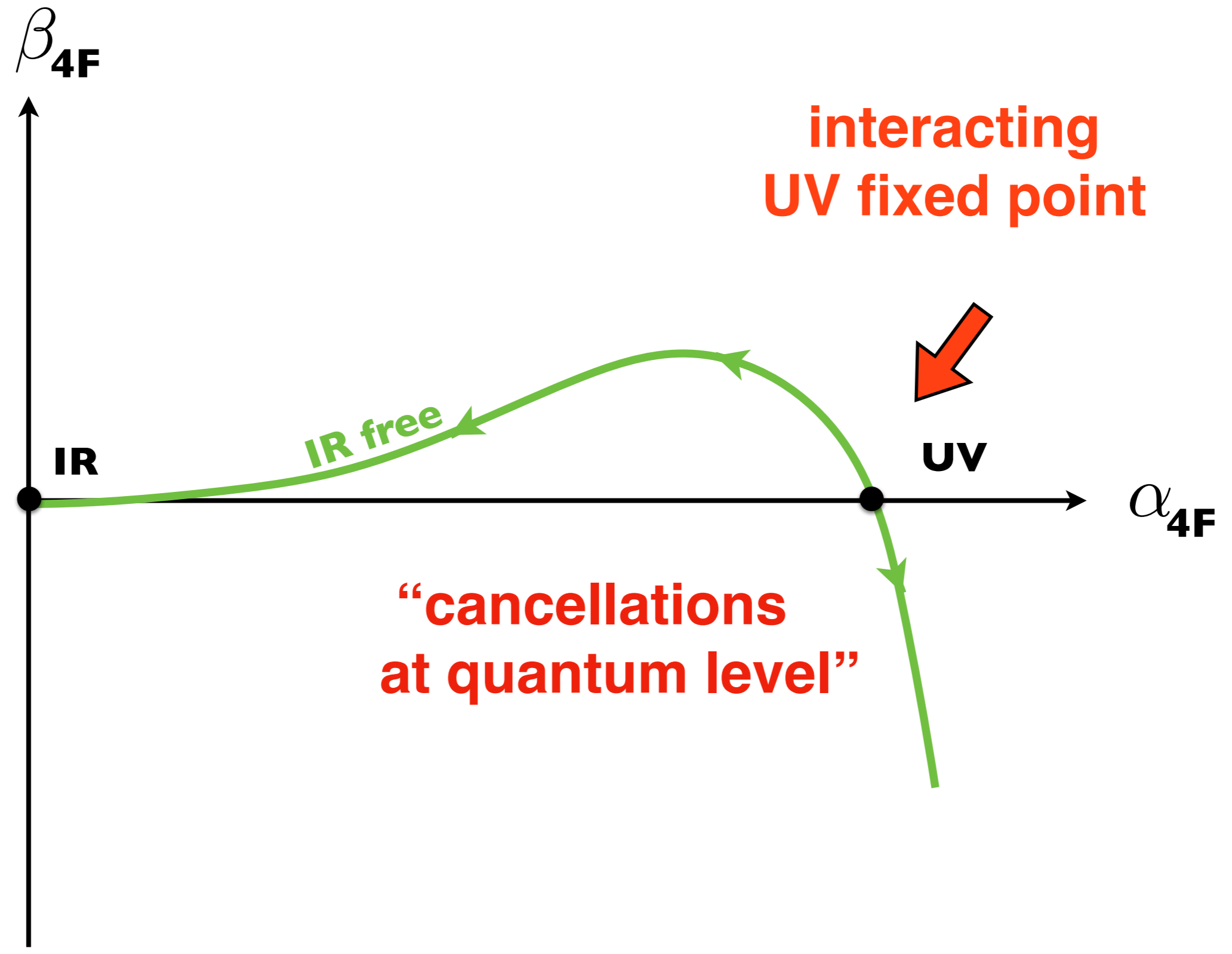
Gracey '90

Moshe Moshe, Zinn-Justin '03

Gies, MM Scherer '10

Braun, Gies, DD Scherer '12

Jakovac, Patkos '13, '14





**relax chiral symmetry**

$$S = \int d^d x \left\{ \bar{\psi}_a \not{\partial} \psi_a + \frac{1}{2} G (\bar{\psi}_a \psi_a)^2 + \frac{1}{3!} H (\bar{\psi}_a \psi_a)^3 \right\}$$

mass term permitted  $m \bar{\psi} \psi$

6-fermion interactions permitted  $[H] = 3 - 2d$

functional RG

$$\partial_t \Gamma_k = \frac{1}{2} \text{tr} \left\{ \left[ \Gamma_k^{(2)} + R_k \right]^{-1} \cdot \partial_t R_k \right\}$$

exactly solvable at infinite Nf

**in 3d**

classical

$$\lambda_1 \bar{\psi}\psi$$

**relevant**

---

$$\lambda_2 (\bar{\psi}\psi)^2$$

**irrelevant**

$$\lambda_3 (\bar{\psi}\psi)^3$$

▪

$$\lambda_n (\bar{\psi}\psi)^n$$

▪

▪

▪

▪

▪

**in 3d**

classical

quantum

$$\lambda_1 \bar{\psi}\psi$$

**relevant**

**relevant**

$$\lambda_2 (\bar{\psi}\psi)^2$$

**irrelevant**

**relevant**

$$\lambda_3 (\bar{\psi}\psi)^3$$

▪

**marginal**

$$\lambda_n (\bar{\psi}\psi)^n$$

▪

▪

**irrelevant**

▪

▪

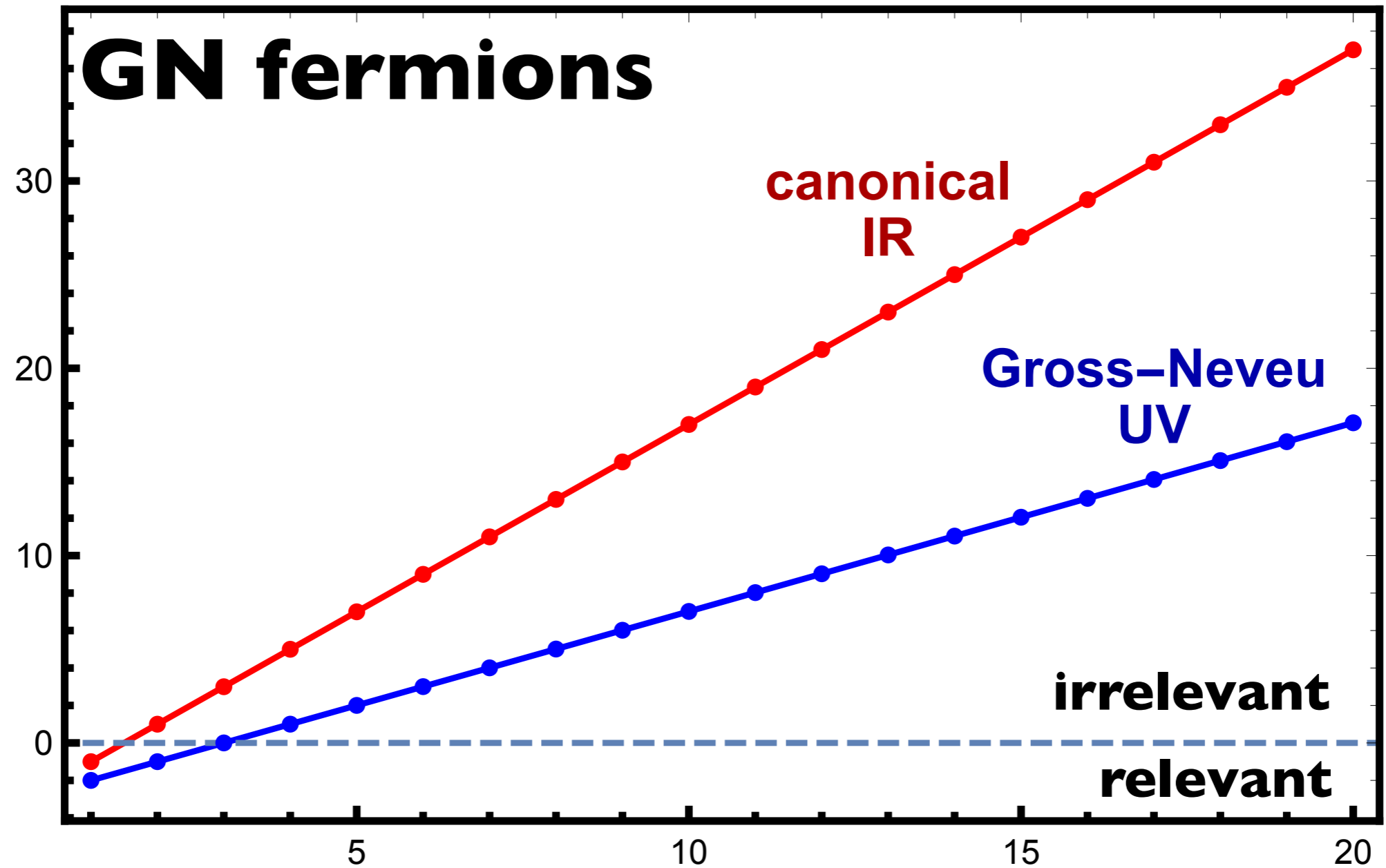
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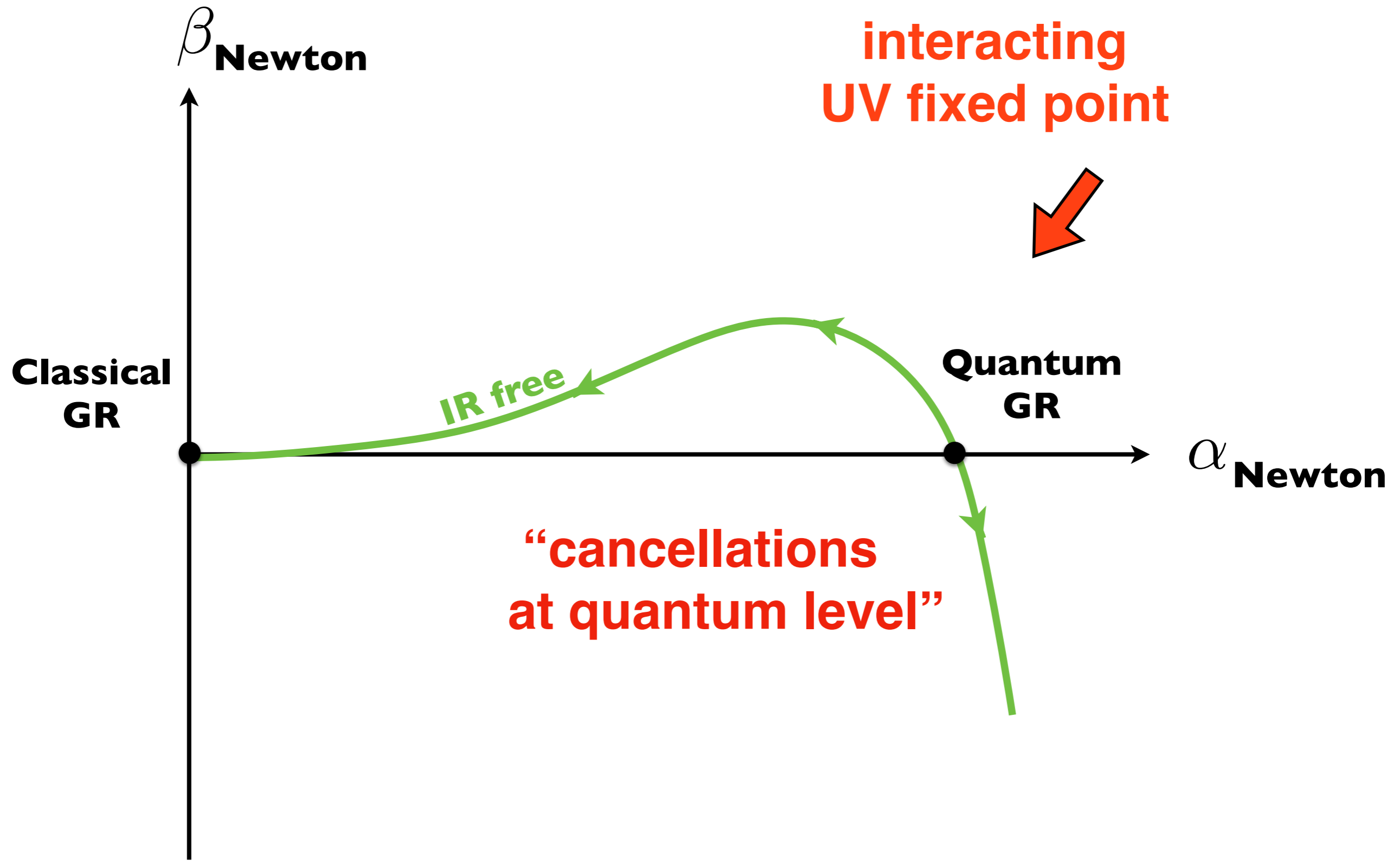
# universal scaling dimensions



large quantum effects

$$\frac{\vartheta_n^{(\text{IR})} - \vartheta_n^{(\text{UV})}}{\vartheta_n^{(\text{IR})}} = \frac{n+1}{2n-1}$$

**quantum gravity**



# what's the trouble with gravity?

degrees of freedom: **spin 2**

Newton's coupling is **dimensionful**  $[G_N] = 2 - D < 0$

perturbatively non-renormalisable

interacting fixed point requires **large**

anomalous dimensions

higher curvature interactions non-negligible

# Einstein-Hilbert

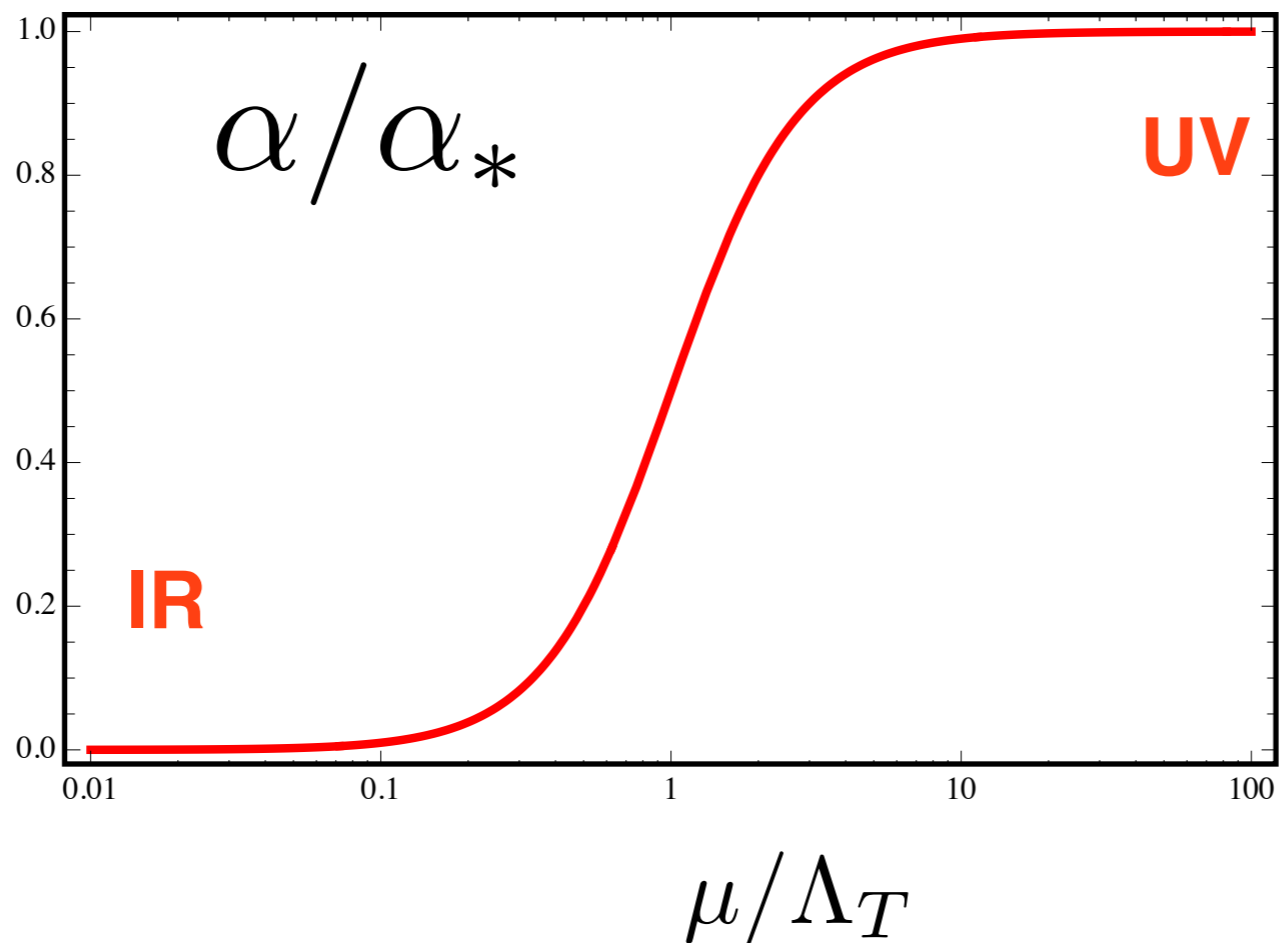
**gravitons**

dimension

coupling

$$D = 2 + \epsilon : \quad \alpha = G_N(\mu) \mu^{D-2}$$

Gastmans et al '78  
Christensen, Duff '78  
Weinberg '79  
Kawai et al '90



$$G(\mu) \approx \frac{\alpha_*}{\mu^{D-2}}$$

quantum GR

**UV fixed point  
implies  
weakened gravity**

$G(\mu) \approx G_N$   
classical GR

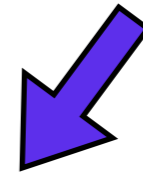


**Ricci scalars**  $\Gamma_k \propto f(R)$

$$\Gamma_k = \int d^4x \sqrt{\det g_{\mu\nu}} \frac{1}{16\pi G} [-R + 2\Lambda] + \sum_{n=2}^{N-1} \lambda_n R^n$$

effective action with  
invariants up to mass  
dimension  $D = 2(N - 1)$

**Ricci scalars**  $\Gamma_k \propto f(R)$



$$\Gamma_k = \int d^4x \sqrt{\det g_{\mu\nu}} \frac{1}{16\pi G} [-R + 2\Lambda] + \sum_{n=2}^{N-1} \lambda_n R^n$$

effective action with  
invariants up to mass  
dimension  $D = 2(N - 1)$

**up to order  $N = 2$**  Souma, '99, Reuter, Lauscher '01, Litim '03

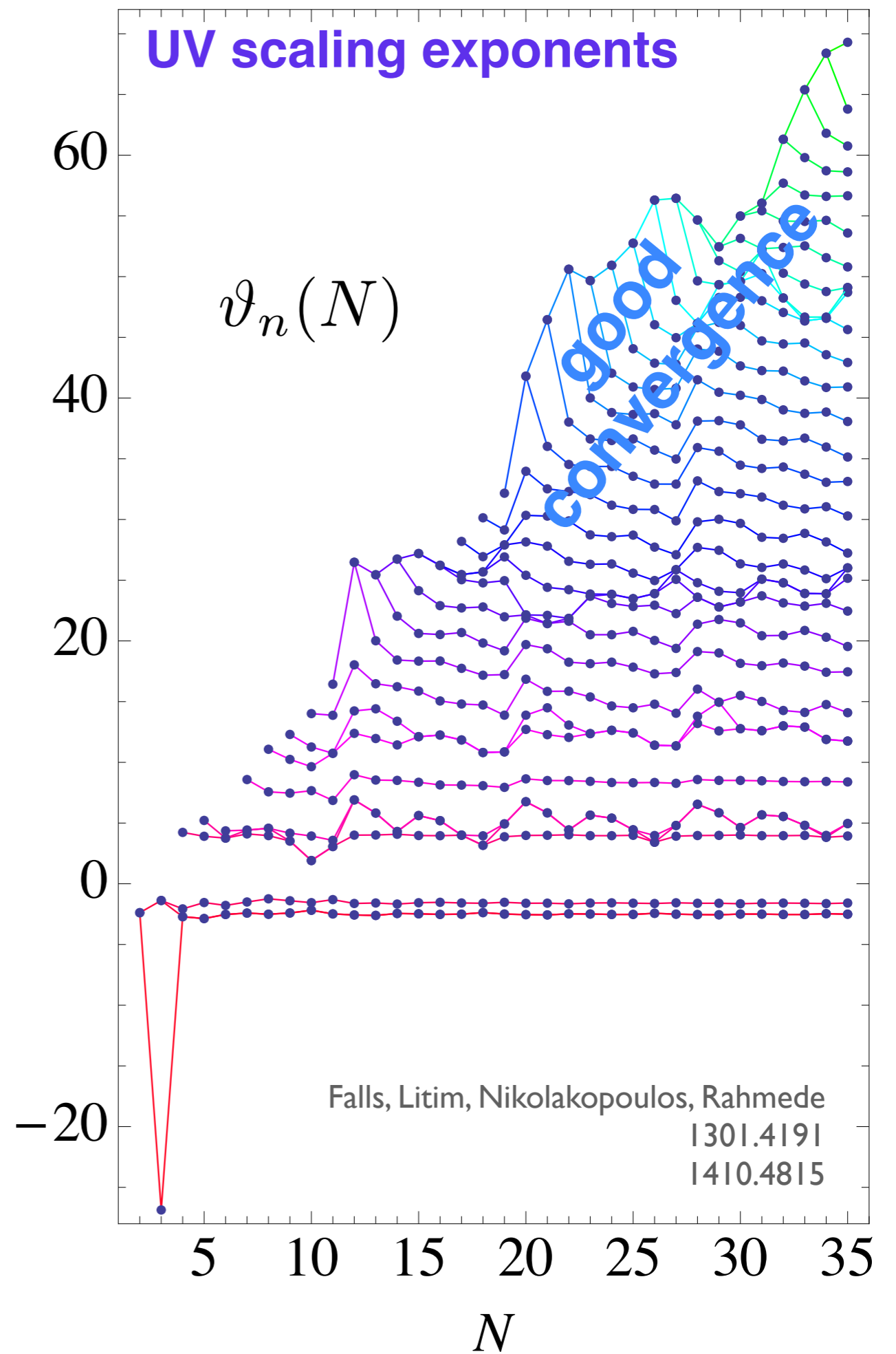
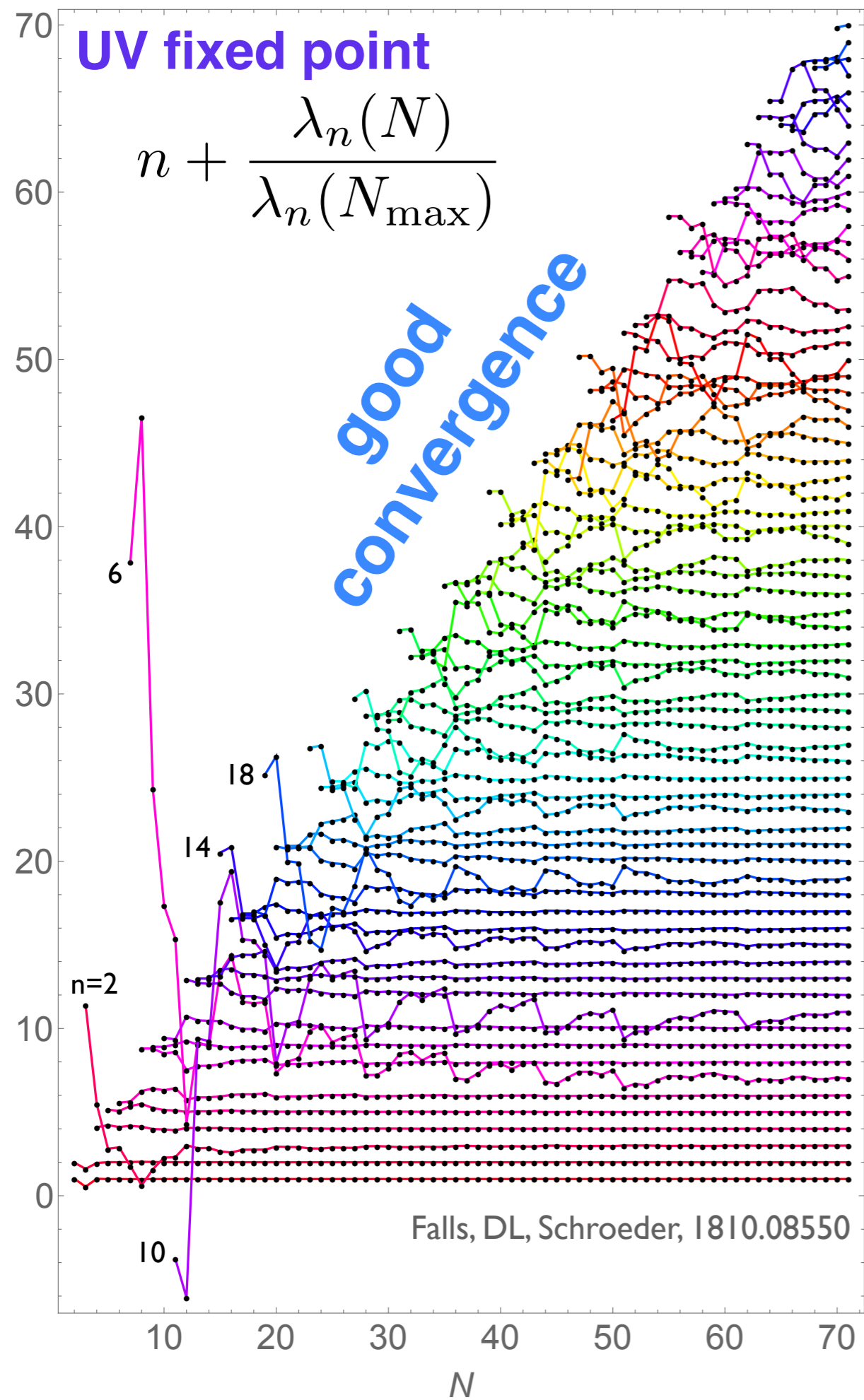
**$N = 3$**  Reuter, Lauscher '01

**$N = 7$**  Codello, Percacci, Rahmede '07

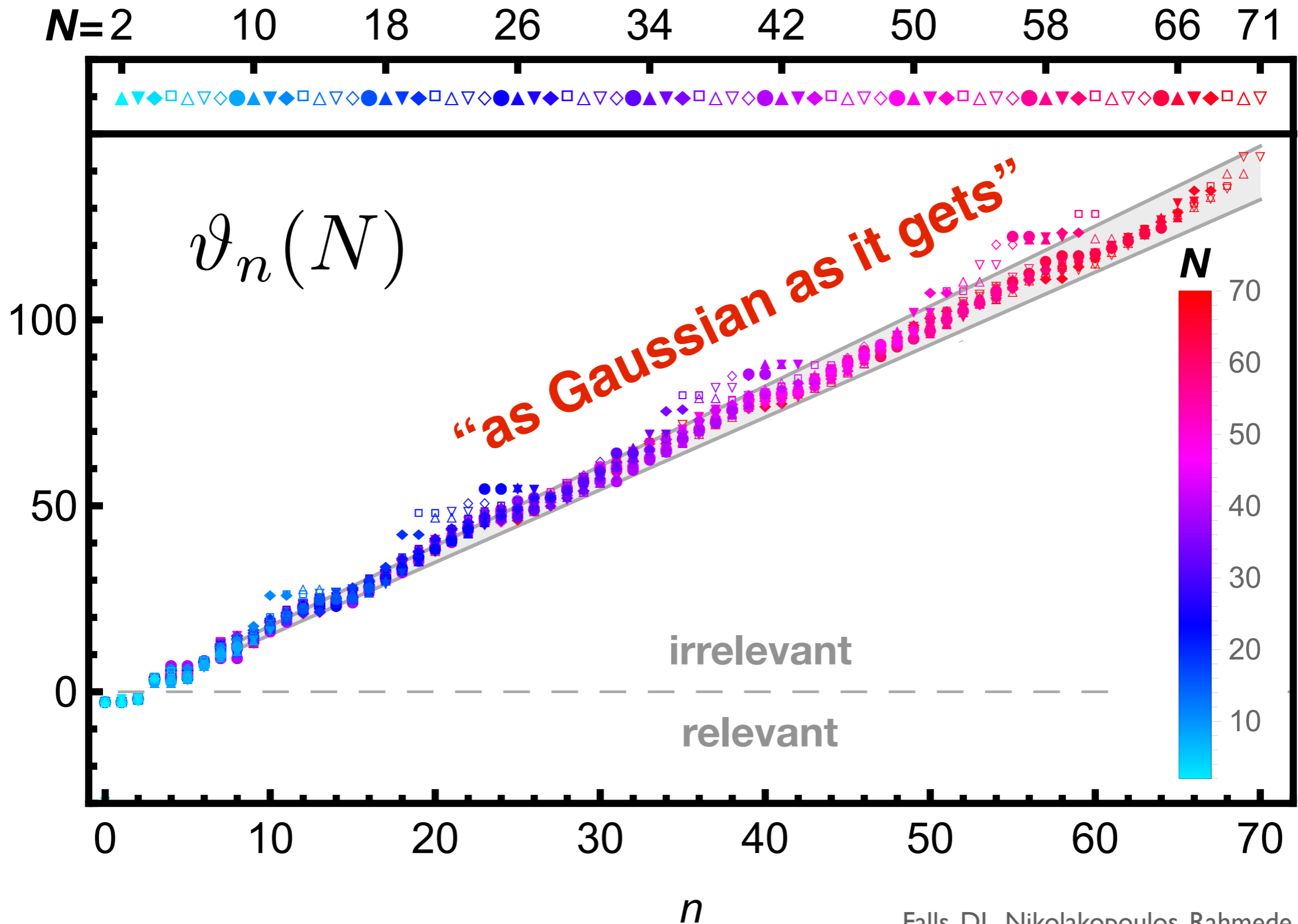
**$N = 11$**  Bonanno, Contillo, Percacci '10

**$N = 35$**  Falls, Litim, Nikolakopoulos, Rahmede '13, '14, '16

**$N = 71$**  Falls, Litim, Schroeder '18

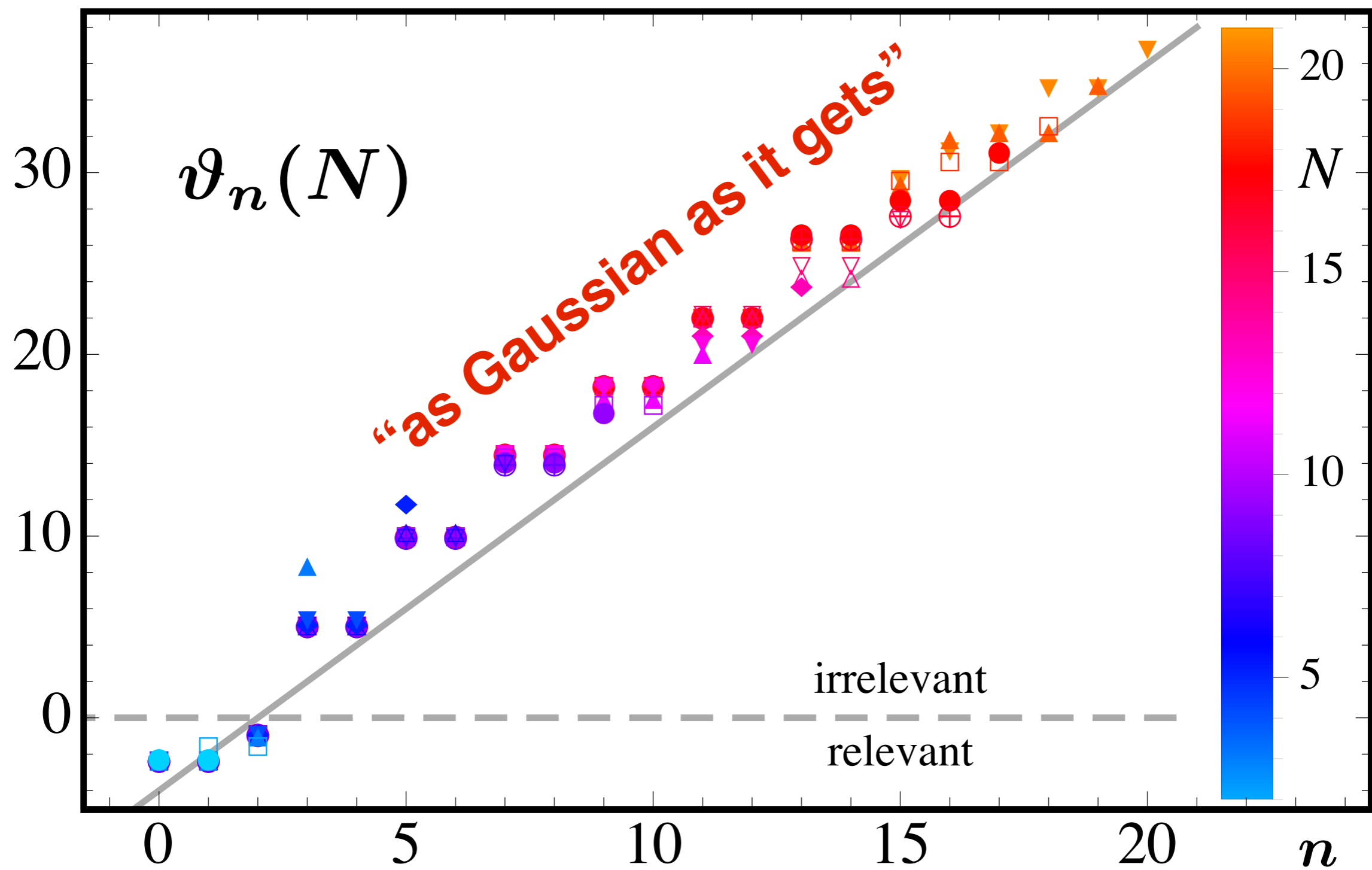


# Ricci scalars



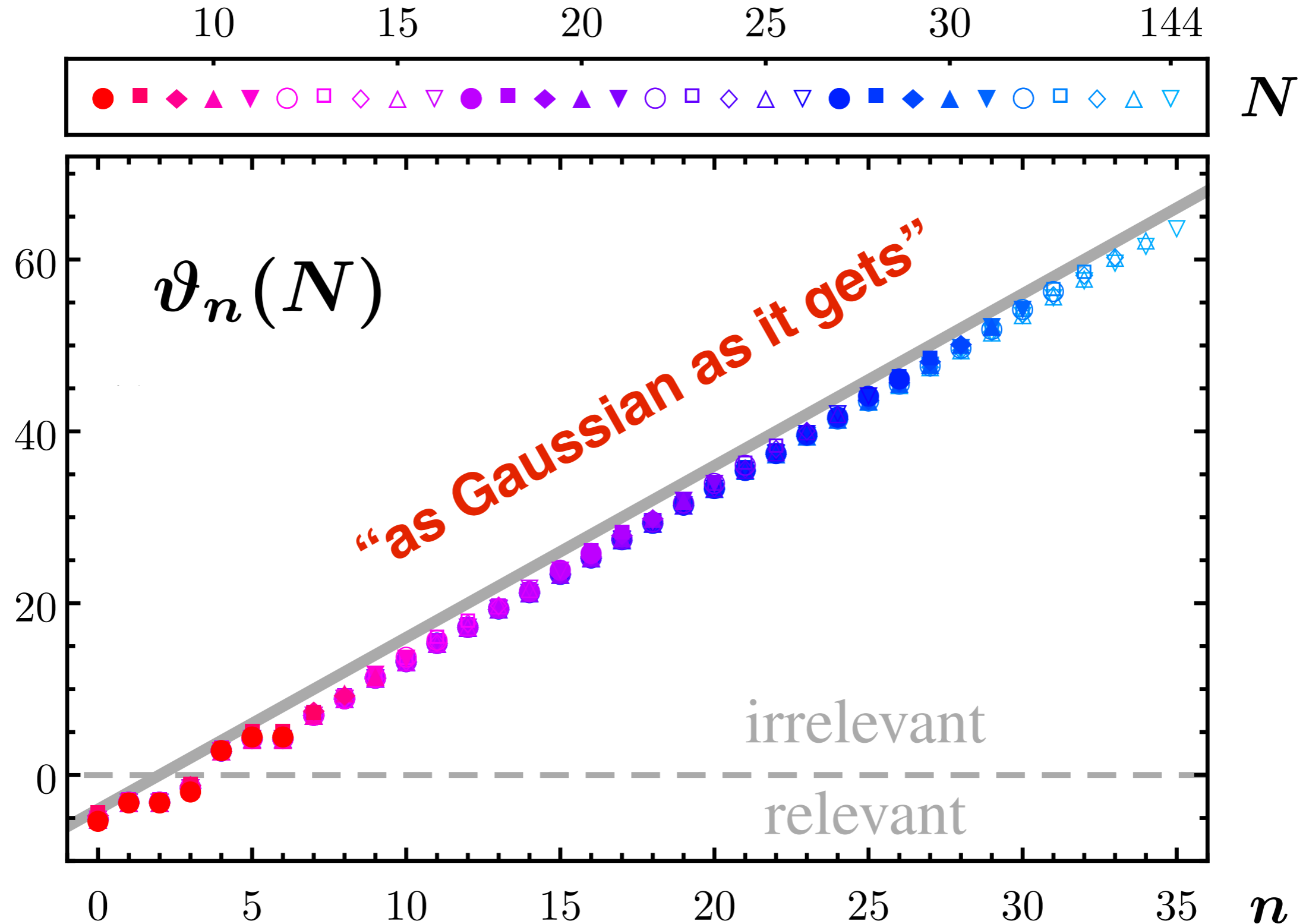
$$\Gamma_k = \int d^d x \sqrt{g} [F_k(\text{Ric}^2) + R \cdot Z_k(\text{Ric}^2)]$$

# Ricci tensors

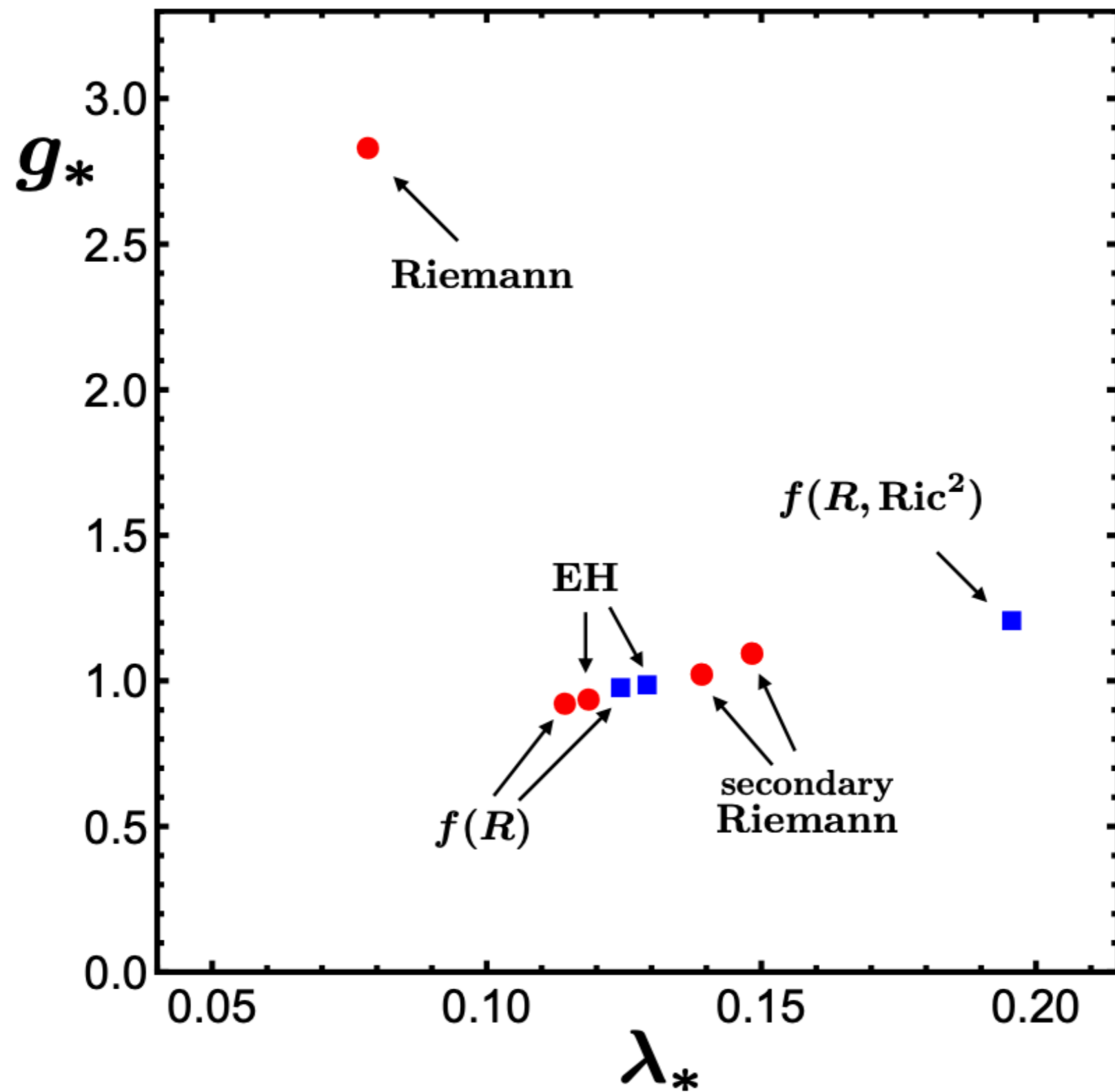


$$\Gamma_k = \int d^d x \sqrt{g} [F_k(\text{Riem}^2) + R \cdot Z_k(\text{Riem}^2)]$$

# Riemann



# comparison



# status

- + consistency of findings**
- + signatures of weak coupling**
- + FPs in various extensions of EH**
- pragmatic choices in theory space**
- prospect of global FPs unclear**
- systematic search in theory space missing**



# fRG for f(Riemann)

consider fRG for actions

$$\bar{\Gamma}_k[g_{\mu\nu}] = \int d^d x \sqrt{g} \mathcal{L}(R_{\rho\sigma\mu\nu}, g^{\alpha\beta})$$

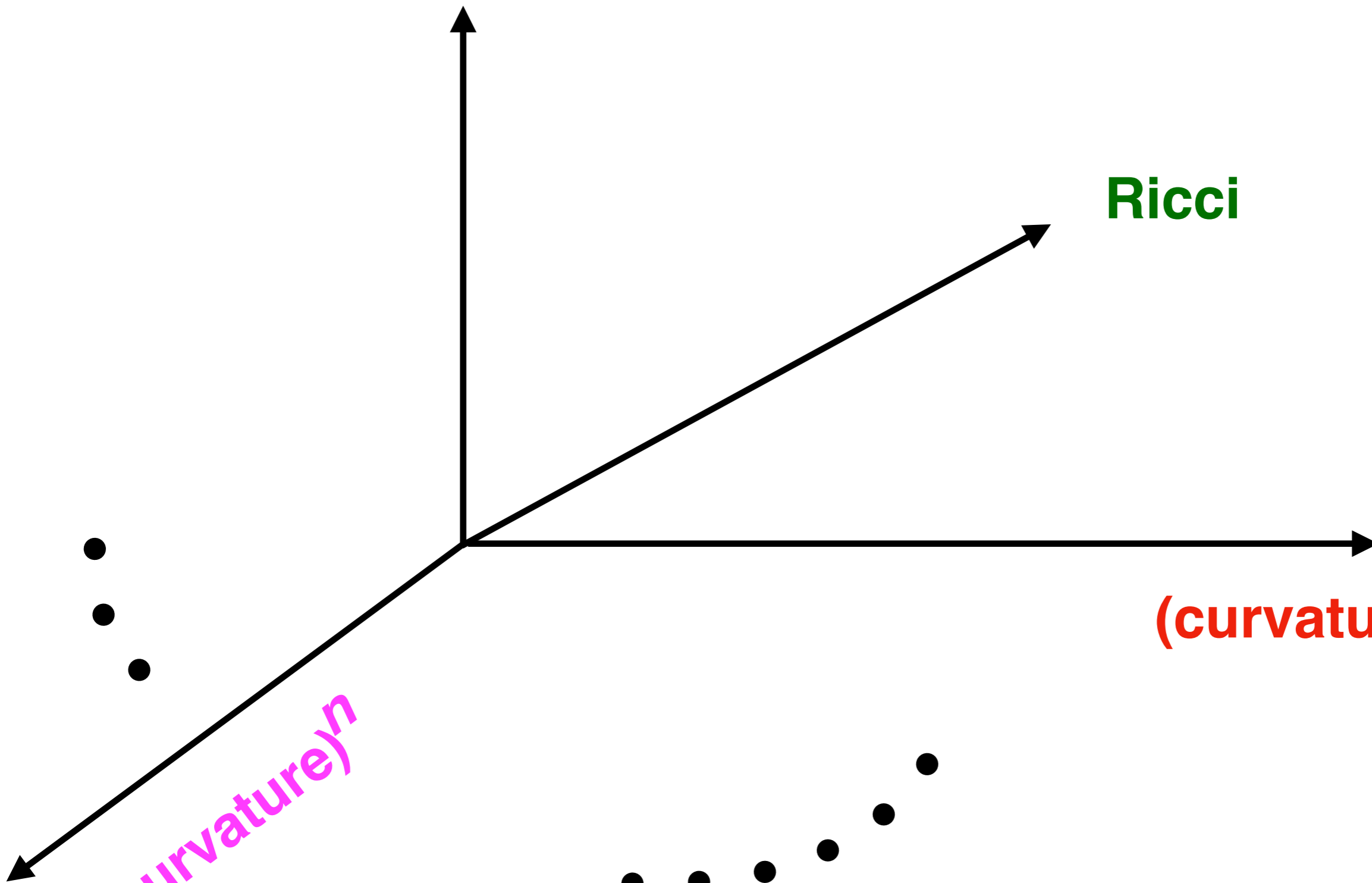
# “theory space”

cosmo  
constant

Ricci

$(\text{curvature})^2$

$(\text{curvature})^n$



# fRG for f(Riemann)

	Curvature Invariants
dim-0	1
dim-2	$R$
dim-4	$R^2, R_{\mu\nu}R^{\mu\nu}, R_{\rho\sigma\mu\nu}R^{\rho\sigma\mu\nu}, \square R$
dim-6	$R^3, RR_{\mu\nu}R^{\mu\nu}, RR_{\rho\sigma\mu\nu}R^{\rho\sigma\mu\nu}, R_{\mu\nu}R^{\nu\rho}R_{\rho}^{\mu}, R_{\mu\rho}R_{\nu\sigma}R^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma}, R_{\nu}^{\mu}R_{\nu\alpha\beta\gamma}R^{\mu\alpha\beta\gamma},$ $R^{\mu\nu}{}_{\rho\sigma}R^{\rho\sigma}{}_{\alpha\beta}R^{\alpha\beta}{}_{\mu\nu}, R_{\mu\nu\rho\sigma}R^{\mu}{}^{\rho}{}_{\alpha}{}^{\sigma}{}_{\beta}R^{\nu\alpha\sigma\beta}, \nabla_{\mu}R\nabla^{\mu}R, \nabla_{\rho}R_{\mu\nu}\nabla^{\rho}R^{\mu\nu}$

**Table 1.** List of curvature invariants up to canonical mass dimension six.

# fRG for f(Riemann)

	Curvature Invariants
dim-0	1
dim-2	$R$
dim-4	$R^2, R_{\mu\nu}R^{\mu\nu}, R_{\rho\sigma\mu\nu}R^{\rho\sigma\mu\nu}, \square R$
dim-6	$R^3, RR_{\mu\nu}R^{\mu\nu}, RR_{\rho\sigma\mu\nu}R^{\rho\sigma\mu\nu}, R_{\mu\nu}R^{\nu\rho}R_{\rho}^{\mu}, R_{\mu\rho}R_{\nu\sigma}R^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma}, R_{\nu}^{\mu}R_{\nu\alpha\beta\gamma}R^{\mu\alpha\beta\gamma},$ $R^{\mu\nu}_{\rho\sigma}R^{\rho\sigma}_{\alpha\beta}R^{\alpha\beta}_{\mu\nu}, R_{\mu\nu\rho\sigma}R^{\mu\rho}_{\alpha\beta}R^{\nu\alpha\sigma\beta}, \nabla_{\mu}R\nabla^{\mu}R, \nabla_{\rho}R_{\mu\nu}\nabla^{\rho}R^{\mu\nu}$

**Table 1.** List of curvature invariants up to canonical mass dimension six.

# fRG for f(Riemann)

1st variation:

$$\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial R_{\rho\sigma\mu\nu}} = \text{it's complicated}$$

2nd variation:

$$\frac{\partial^2 \mathcal{L}}{\partial R_{\rho\sigma\mu\nu} \partial R_{\alpha\beta\gamma\delta}} = \text{even more so...}$$

# fRG for f(Riemann)

1st variation:

$$\left. \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial R_{\rho\sigma\mu\nu}} \right|_{\text{msb}}$$

**max symmetric backgrounds**

2nd variation:

$$\left. \frac{\partial^2 \mathcal{L}}{\partial R_{\rho\sigma\mu\nu} \partial R_{\alpha\beta\gamma\delta}} \right|_{\text{msb}}$$

**max symmetric backgrounds**

# fRG for f(Riemann)

1st variation:

$$\left. \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial R_{\rho\sigma\mu\nu}} \right|_{\text{msb}} \equiv \mathcal{W}^{\rho\sigma\mu\nu} \Big|_{\text{msb}} = E \mathcal{P}^{\rho\sigma\mu\nu} \quad \mathcal{P}^{\rho\sigma\mu\nu} = g^{\rho[\mu} g^{\nu]\sigma}$$

2nd variation:

$$\left. \frac{\partial^2 \mathcal{L}}{\partial R_{\rho\sigma\mu\nu} \partial R_{\alpha\beta\gamma\delta}} \right|_{\text{msb}} = A(R) \mathcal{A}^{\rho\sigma\mu\nu\alpha\beta\gamma\delta} + B(R) \mathcal{B}^{\rho\sigma\mu\nu\alpha\beta\gamma\delta} + C(R) \mathcal{C}^{\rho\sigma\mu\nu\alpha\beta\gamma\delta}$$

$$\mathcal{A}^{\rho\sigma\mu\nu\alpha\beta\gamma\delta} = \mathcal{P}^{\rho\sigma\mu\nu} \mathcal{P}^{\alpha\beta\gamma\delta},$$

$$\mathcal{B}^{\rho\sigma\mu\nu\alpha\beta\gamma\delta} = \frac{1}{4} \left[ g^{\beta[\rho} g^{\sigma]\mu} g^{\nu]\gamma} g^{\delta[\alpha} + g^{\sigma[\alpha} g^{\beta][\gamma} g^{\delta]\mu} g^{\nu]\rho} + g^{\beta[\mu} g^{\nu][\rho} g^{\sigma]\gamma} g^{\delta[\alpha} + g^{\nu][\alpha} g^{\beta][\gamma} g^{\delta]\rho} g^{\sigma]\mu} \right]$$

$$\mathcal{C}^{\rho\sigma\mu\nu\alpha\beta\gamma\delta} = \frac{1}{6} \left[ 2g^{\alpha[\rho} g^{\sigma]\beta} g^{\gamma[\mu} g^{\nu]\delta} + 2g^{\alpha[\mu} g^{\nu]\beta} g^{\gamma[\rho} g^{\sigma]\delta} - g^{\alpha[\rho} g^{\mu]\beta} g^{\gamma[\nu} g^{\sigma]\delta} - g^{\alpha[\nu} g^{\sigma]\beta} g^{\gamma[\rho} g^{\mu]\delta} \right. \\ \left. - g^{\alpha[\rho} g^{\nu]\beta} g^{\gamma[\sigma} g^{\mu]\delta} - g^{\alpha[\sigma} g^{\mu]\beta} g^{\gamma[\rho} g^{\nu]\delta} \right].$$

# fRG for f(Riemann)

1st variation:

$$\left. \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial R_{\rho\sigma\mu\nu}} \right|_{\text{msb}} \equiv \mathcal{W}^{\rho\sigma\mu\nu} \Big|_{\text{msb}} = E \mathcal{P}^{\rho\sigma\mu\nu} \quad \mathcal{P}^{\rho\sigma\mu\nu} = g^{\rho[\mu} g^{\nu]\sigma}$$

2nd variation:

$$\left. \frac{\partial^2 \mathcal{L}}{\partial R_{\rho\sigma\mu\nu} \partial R_{\alpha\beta\gamma\delta}} \right|_{\text{msb}} = A(R) \mathcal{A}^{\rho\sigma\mu\nu\alpha\beta\gamma\delta} + B(R) \mathcal{B}^{\rho\sigma\mu\nu\alpha\beta\gamma\delta} + C(R) \mathcal{C}^{\rho\sigma\mu\nu\alpha\beta\gamma\delta}$$

**2nd variation only depends on three functions**



# parameter count

5 functions of curvature      **L, E, A, B, C**

- 2 conditions       $\frac{\partial L}{\partial R} = E$        $\frac{\partial^2 L}{\partial R^2} = A + \frac{2}{d(d-1)}B + \frac{1}{d}C$

= 3 independent functions      **L, B, C**

are sufficient to characterise the fRG flow

$$\partial_t L = I[L, B, C]$$

# mapping invariants onto parameters

$$\Lambda = \frac{R}{d(d-1)}$$

Curvature Invariants	$L$	$E$	$A$	$B$	$C$
$R$	$(d-1)d\Lambda$	1	0	0	0
$R^2$	$(d-1)^2d^2\Lambda^2$	$2(d-1)d\Lambda$	2	0	0
$R^{\mu\nu}R_{\mu\nu}$	$(d-1)^2d\Lambda^2$	$2(d-1)\Lambda$	0	2	0
$R^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma}R_{\mu\nu\rho\sigma}$	$2(d-1)d\Lambda^2$	$4\Lambda$	0	0	2
$R^3$	$(d-1)^3d^3\Lambda^3$	$3(d-1)^2d^2\Lambda^2$	$6(d-1)d\Lambda$	0	0
$RR^{\mu\nu}R_{\mu\nu}$	$(d-1)^3d^2\Lambda^3$	$3(d-1)^2d\Lambda^2$	$4(d-1)\Lambda$	$2(d-1)d\Lambda$	0
$R^{\nu\rho}R_{\mu\nu}R^{\mu\rho}$	$(d-1)^3d\Lambda^3$	$3(d-1)^2\Lambda^2$	0	$6(d-1)\Lambda$	0
$RR^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma}R_{\mu\nu\rho\sigma}$	$2(d-1)^2d^2\Lambda^3$	$6(d-1)d\Lambda^2$	$8\Lambda$	0	$2(d-1)d\Lambda$
$R_{\rho\sigma}R_{\mu\nu}R^{\mu\rho\nu\sigma}$	$(d-1)^3d\Lambda^3$	$3(d-1)^2\Lambda^2$	$2\Lambda$	$2(2d-3)\Lambda$	0
$R^{\nu\alpha\sigma\beta}R_{\mu\nu\rho\sigma}R^{\mu\rho\alpha\beta}$	$(d-2)(d-1)d\Lambda^3$	$3(d-2)\Lambda^2$	0	$6\Lambda$	$-3\Lambda$
$R^{\rho\sigma\alpha\beta}R_{\mu\nu\rho\sigma}R^{\mu\nu\alpha\beta}$	$4(d-1)d\Lambda^3$	$12\Lambda^2$	0	0	$12\Lambda$
$R^{\nu\rho\sigma\alpha}R_{\mu\nu}R^{\mu\rho\sigma\alpha}$	$2(d-1)^2d\Lambda^3$	$6(d-1)\Lambda^2$	0	$8\Lambda$	$2(d-1)\Lambda$
$R^4$	$(d-1)^4d^4\Lambda^4$	$4(d-1)^3d^3\Lambda^3$	$12(d-1)^2d^2\Lambda^2$	0	0
$R^2R^{\mu\nu}R_{\mu\nu}$	$(d-1)^4d^3\Lambda^4$	$4(d-1)^3d^2\Lambda^3$	$10(d-1)^2d\Lambda^2$	$2(d-1)^2d^2\Lambda^2$	0
$R^{\rho\sigma}R_{\rho\sigma}R^{\mu\nu}R_{\mu\nu}$	$(d-1)^4d^2\Lambda^4$	$4(d-1)^3d\Lambda^3$	$8(d-1)^2\Lambda^2$	$4(d-1)^2d\Lambda^2$	0
$RR^{\nu\rho}R_{\mu\nu}R^{\mu\rho}$	$(d-1)^4d^2\Lambda^4$	$4(d-1)^3d\Lambda^3$	$6(d-1)^2\Lambda^2$	$6(d-1)^2d\Lambda^2$	0
$R^{\nu\sigma}R^{\rho\sigma}R_{\mu\nu}R^{\mu\rho}$	$(d-1)^4d\Lambda^4$	$4(d-1)^3\Lambda^3$	0	$12(d-1)^2\Lambda^2$	0
$R^2R^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma}R_{\mu\nu\rho\sigma}$	$2(d-1)^3d^3\Lambda^4$	$8(d-1)^2d^2\Lambda^3$	$20(d-1)d\Lambda^2$	0	$2(d-1)^2d^2\Lambda^2$
$R^{\rho\sigma\alpha\beta}R_{\rho\sigma\alpha\beta}R^{\mu\nu}R_{\mu\nu}$	$2(d-1)^3d^2\Lambda^4$	$8(d-1)^2d\Lambda^3$	$16(d-1)\Lambda^2$	$4(d-1)d\Lambda^2$	$2(d-1)^2d\Lambda^2$
$R^{\alpha\beta\gamma\delta}R_{\alpha\beta\gamma\delta}R^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma}R_{\mu\nu\rho\sigma}$	$4(d-1)^2d^2\Lambda^4$	$16(d-1)d\Lambda^3$	$32\Lambda^2$	0	$8(d-1)d\Lambda^2$
$RR_{\rho\sigma}R_{\mu\nu}R^{\mu\rho\nu\sigma}$	$(d-1)^4d^2\Lambda^4$	$4(d-1)^3d\Lambda^3$	$2(d-1)(4d-3)\Lambda^2$	$2(d-1)d(2d-3)\Lambda^2$	0
$R_{\rho\sigma}R^{\sigma\alpha}R_{\mu\nu}R^{\mu\rho\nu\alpha}$	$(d-1)^4d\Lambda^4$	$4(d-1)^3\Lambda^3$	$4(d-1)\Lambda^2$	$4(d-1)(2d-3)\Lambda^2$	0
$RR^{\nu\alpha\sigma\beta}R_{\mu\nu\rho\sigma}R^{\mu\rho\alpha\beta}$	$(d-2)(d-1)^2d^2\Lambda^4$	$4(d-2)(d-1)d\Lambda^3$	$6(d-2)\Lambda^2$	$6(d-1)d\Lambda^2$	$-3(d-1)d\Lambda^2$
$RR^{\rho\sigma\alpha\beta}R_{\mu\nu\rho\sigma}R^{\mu\nu\alpha\beta}$	$4(d-1)^2d^2\Lambda^4$	$16(d-1)d\Lambda^3$	$24\Lambda^2$	0	$12(d-1)d\Lambda^2$
$RR^{\nu\rho\sigma\alpha}R_{\mu\nu}R^{\mu\rho\sigma\alpha}$	$2(d-1)^3d^2\Lambda^4$	$8(d-1)^2d\Lambda^3$	$12(d-1)\Lambda^2$	$8(d-1)d\Lambda^2$	$2(d-1)^2d\Lambda^2$
$R^{\nu\alpha\sigma\beta}R_{\rho\sigma}R_{\mu\nu}R^{\mu\rho\alpha\beta}$	$2(d-1)^3d\Lambda^4$	$8(d-1)^2\Lambda^3$	$2\Lambda^2$	$2(9d-10)\Lambda^2$	$2(d-1)^2\Lambda^2$
$R^{\nu\sigma\alpha\beta}R_{\rho\sigma}R_{\mu\nu}R^{\mu\rho\alpha\beta}$	$2(d-1)^3d\Lambda^4$	$8(d-1)^2\Lambda^3$	$4\Lambda^2$	$4(4d-5)\Lambda^2$	$2(d-1)^2\Lambda^2$
$R^{\rho\alpha\gamma\delta}R^{\sigma\beta\gamma\delta}R_{\mu\nu\rho\sigma}R^{\mu\nu\alpha\beta}$	$4(d-1)d\Lambda^4$	$16\Lambda^3$	0	0	$24\Lambda^2$
$R_{\rho\sigma}R^{\rho\alpha\sigma\beta}R_{\mu\nu}R^{\mu\alpha\nu\beta}$	$(d-1)^4d\Lambda^4$	$4(d-1)^3\Lambda^3$	$2(3d-4)\Lambda^2$	$2(d(3d-8)+6)\Lambda^2$	0

# Examples:

**a)**  $L = f(R),$   
 $E = f'(R),$   
 $A = f''(R),$   
 $B = 0,$   
 $C = 0,$

**b)**  $f(R, \text{Ric}^2) = F(\text{Ric}^2) + R \cdot Z(\text{Ric}^2).$

$$L = F(x) + R Z(x),$$
$$E = \frac{1}{2} [F'(x) + R Z'(x)] R + Z(x),$$
$$A = \frac{1}{4} [F''(x) + R Z''(x)] R^2 + R Z'(x),$$
$$B = 2 F'(x) + 2 R Z'(x),$$
$$C = 0,$$

**c)**  $f(R, \text{Riem}^2) = F(\text{Riem}^2) + R \cdot Z(\text{Riem}^2).$

$$L = F(x) + R Z(x),$$
$$E = \frac{1}{3} [F'(x) + R Z'(x)] R + Z(x),$$
$$A = \frac{1}{9} [F''(x) + \frac{2}{3} R Z''(x)] R^2 + R Z'(x),$$
$$B = 0,$$
$$C = 2 F'(x) + 2 R Z'(x),$$

## 2nd variation

$$\begin{aligned}
 \delta^2 \bar{\Gamma}_k = & \int d^d x \sqrt{g} \left\{ h_{\mu\nu}^T \left[ \frac{R^2}{(d-1)d^2} \left( \frac{B}{d-1} + 2C \right) - \frac{R}{d(d-1)} L' + (\tau-1) \left( \frac{L}{2} - \frac{R}{d} L' \right) \right. \right. \\
 & \left. \left. + \left( \frac{(d+1)R}{d(1-d)} \left( \frac{B}{d+1} + C \right) + \frac{L'}{2} \right) \bar{\nabla}^2 + \left( \frac{B}{4} + C \right) \bar{\nabla}^4 \right] h_{\mu\nu}^T \right. \\
 & - 2\xi_\mu (\tau-1) \left( \frac{L}{2} - \frac{R}{d} L' \right) \left[ \frac{R}{d} + \bar{\nabla}^2 \right] \xi^\mu \\
 & + \sigma \left[ (\tau-1) \left( \frac{L}{2} - \frac{R}{d} L' \right) \left( \frac{R}{d} - \frac{(1-d)}{d} \bar{\nabla}^2 \right) + \Xi \bar{\nabla}^2 \right] \bar{\nabla}^2 \sigma \\
 & - 2h \Xi \bar{\nabla}^2 \sigma \\
 & \left. + h \left[ \Xi + \frac{(\tau-1 + \frac{d}{2})}{d} \left( \frac{L}{2} - \frac{R}{d} L' \right) \right] h \right\},
 \end{aligned}$$

## 2nd variation

$$\begin{aligned}
 \delta^2 \bar{\Gamma}_k = & \int d^d x \sqrt{g} \left\{ h_{\mu\nu}^T \left[ \frac{R^2}{(d-1)d^2} \left( \frac{B}{d-1} + 2C \right) - \frac{R}{d(d-1)} L' + (\tau-1) \left( \frac{L}{2} - \frac{R}{d} L' \right) \right. \right. \\
 & \left. \left. + \left( \frac{(d+1)R}{d(1-d)} \left( \frac{B}{d+1} + C \right) + \frac{L'}{2} \right) \nabla^2 + \left( \frac{B}{4} + C \right) \nabla^4 \right] h_{\mu\nu}^T \right. \\
 & - 2\xi_\mu (\tau-1) \left( \frac{L}{2} - \frac{R}{d} L' \right) \left[ \frac{R}{d} + \nabla^2 \right] \xi^\mu \\
 & + \sigma \left[ (\tau-1) \left( \frac{L}{2} - \frac{R}{d} L' \right) \left( \frac{R}{d} - \frac{(1-d)}{d} \nabla^2 \right) + \Xi \nabla^2 \right] \nabla^2 \sigma \\
 & - 2h \Xi \nabla^2 \sigma \\
 & \left. + h \left[ \Xi + \frac{(\tau-1 + \frac{d}{2})}{d} \left( \frac{L}{2} - \frac{R}{d} L' \right) \right] h \right\},
 \end{aligned}$$

**= e.o.m.**

## 2nd variation

$$\begin{aligned}
 \delta^2 \bar{\Gamma}_k = & \int d^d x \sqrt{g} \left\{ h_{\mu\nu}^T \left[ \frac{R^2}{(d-1)d^2} \left( \frac{B}{d-1} + 2C \right) - \frac{R}{d(d-1)} L' + (\tau-1) \left( \frac{L}{2} - \frac{R}{d} L' \right) \right. \right. \\
 & \left. \left. + \left( \frac{(d+1)R}{d(1-d)} \left( \frac{B}{d+1} + C \right) + \frac{L'}{2} \right) \nabla^2 + \left( \frac{B}{4} + C \right) \nabla^4 \right] h_{\mu\nu}^T \right. \\
 & - 2\xi_\mu (\tau-1) \left( \frac{L}{2} - \frac{R}{d} L' \right) \left[ \frac{R}{d} + \nabla^2 \right] \xi^\mu \\
 & + \sigma \left[ (\tau-1) \left( \frac{L}{2} - \frac{R}{d} L' \right) \left( \frac{R}{d} - \frac{(1-d)}{d} \nabla^2 \right) + \Xi \nabla^2 \right] \nabla^2 \sigma \\
 & - 2h \Xi \nabla^2 \sigma \\
 & \left. + h \left[ \Xi + \frac{(\tau-1) + \frac{d}{2}}{d} \left( \frac{L}{2} - \frac{R}{d} L' \right) \right] h \right\}, \quad = \text{exp. split}
 \end{aligned}$$

**= e.o.m.**

# fRG for f(Riemann)

cosmological constant for general backgrounds

$$\delta^2 \left( \int d^d x \sqrt{g} \lambda_0 \right) = \int d^d x \sqrt{g} \left[ \frac{1}{4} h h - \frac{1}{2} h_{\mu\nu} h^{\mu\nu} + \frac{\tau}{2} h_{\mu\nu} h^{\mu\nu} \right] \lambda_0 .$$

**standard metric split** generates contributions to all modes, irrespective of background geometry

**exp split** only generates contributions to trace mode, irrespective of the background

d.o.f.

$$\begin{aligned}
\delta^2 \bar{\Gamma}_k = & \int d^d x \sqrt{\bar{g}} \left\{ h_{\mu\nu}^T \left[ \frac{R^2}{(d-1)d^2} \left( \frac{B}{d-1} + 2C \right) - \frac{R}{d(d-1)} L' + (\tau-1) \left( \frac{L}{2} - \frac{R}{d} L' \right) \right. \right. \\
& + \left. \left( \frac{(d+1)R}{d(1-d)} \left( \frac{B}{d+1} + C \right) + \frac{L'}{2} \right) \bar{\nabla}^2 + \left( \frac{B}{4} + C \right) \bar{\nabla}^4 \right] h_{\mu\nu}^T \\
& - 2\xi_\mu (\tau-1) \left( \frac{L}{2} - \frac{R}{d} L' \right) \left[ \frac{R}{d} + \bar{\nabla}^2 \right] \xi^\mu \\
& + \sigma \left[ (\tau-1) \left( \frac{L}{2} - \frac{R}{d} L' \right) \left( \frac{R}{d} - \frac{(1-d)}{d} \bar{\nabla}^2 \right) + \Xi \bar{\nabla}^2 \right] \bar{\nabla}^2 \sigma \\
& - 2h \Xi \bar{\nabla}^2 \sigma \\
& \left. + h \left[ \Xi + \frac{(\tau-1 + \frac{d}{2})}{d} \left( \frac{L}{2} - \frac{R}{d} L' \right) \right] h \right\},
\end{aligned}$$

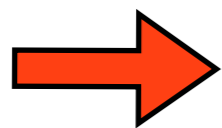
**F**



# auxiliary function

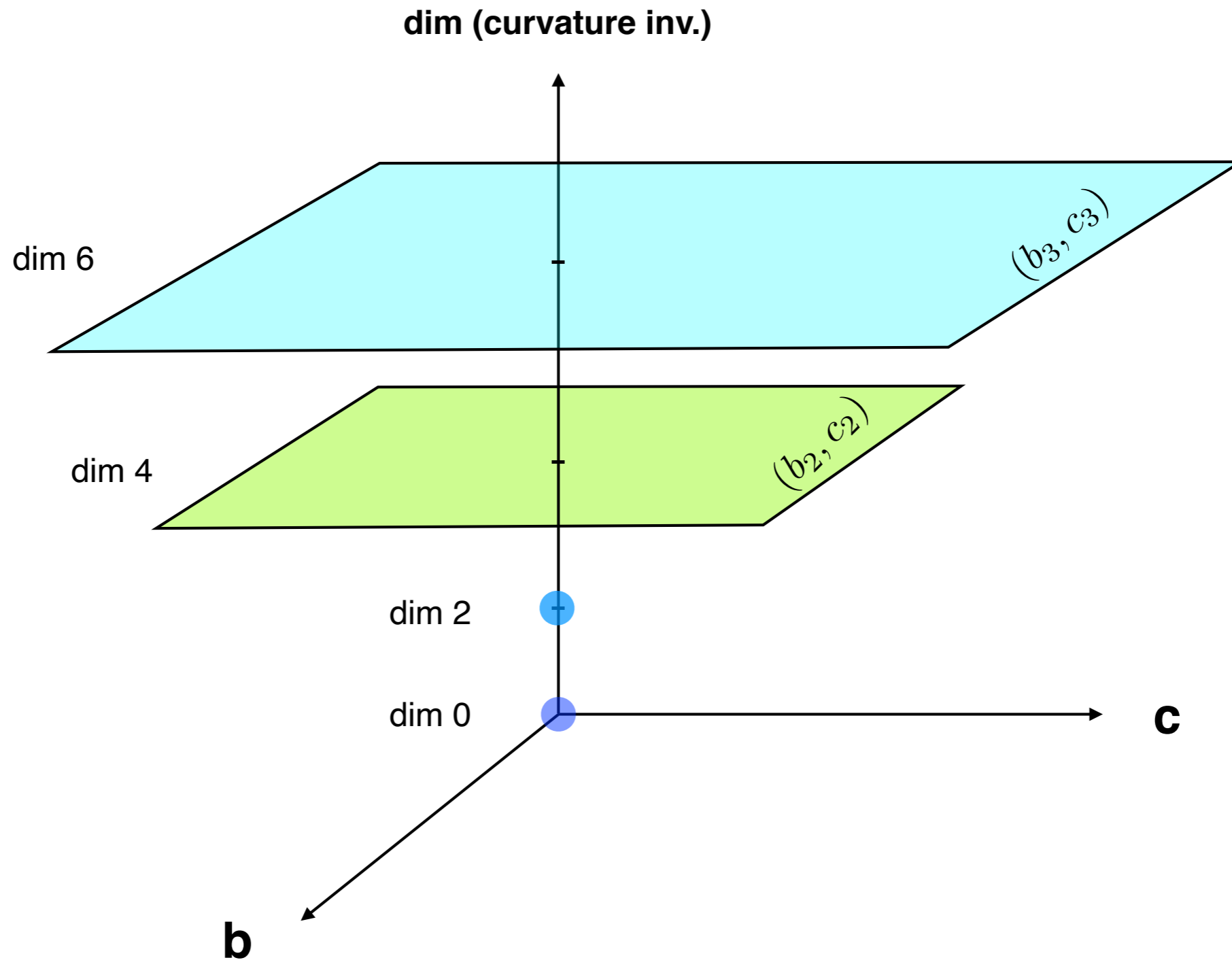
$$\begin{aligned}\Xi &= \frac{R^2}{d^2} \left( \frac{d-3}{(d-1)d} (B-C) + L'' \right) - \frac{(d-2)R}{2d^2} L' \\ &+ \left[ \frac{R}{d^2} \left( \frac{d^2+4d-20}{4d} B - \frac{d-4}{d} C + 2(d-1)L'' \right) - \frac{(d-2)(d-1)}{2d^2} L' \right] \nabla^2 \\ &+ \frac{d-1}{d^2} \left( \frac{d^2-8}{4d} B + \frac{1}{d} C + (d-1)L'' \right) \nabla^4. \quad =S\end{aligned}$$

e.g. Einsteinian gravities:  $S=0$   
 $F=0$



see poster by Gabriel Assant

# enables "horizontal" and "vertical" searches



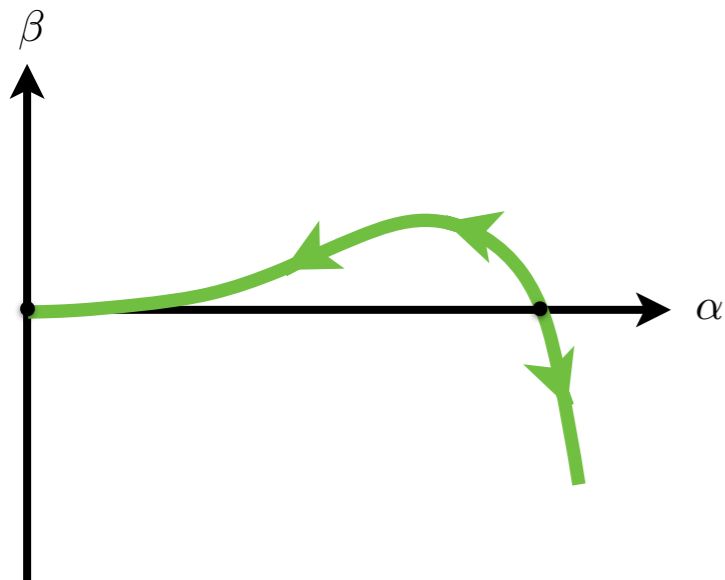
## new fRG flows

flow for general f(Riemann) actions

one curvature invariant at a time, LPA

vertical and horizontal searches

global fixed points



## challenges

same mass dim curvature invariants

backgrounds beyond msb

include  $(DRiem)^n$  interactions