

Title: 14/15 PSI - Conformal Field Theory- Lecture 1

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URL: <http://pirsa.org/14100008>

Abstract:

Conformal Field Theory

Conformal Field Theory
Gomis, #427
* JA

Conformal Field Theory

* JAUME GOMIS, #427

- "CFT". Di-Francesco, Mathieu, Sénéchal

CFT are theories
spacetime symmetries $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \supset \text{Relativistic} \\ \supset \text{Galilean} \end{array} \right. \left. \begin{array}{l} \text{Poincaré} \\ \text{Galilean} \end{array} \right\} \rightarrow \text{conformal group.}$
Admit extra

CFT are the (\mathbb{R}^D)
 spacetime symmetries $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{non-relativistic: Poincaré} \\ \text{relativistic: Galilean} \end{array} \right\} \rightarrow \text{conformal group.}$
 Admit conformal transformations
 - preserve angles between vectors

Scale Transformations.

stationarily invariant system:

$$\vec{x} \rightarrow \lambda \vec{x} \quad \lambda \in \mathbb{R}.$$

Scale Transformations.

Rotationally invariant system:

$$\vec{x} \rightarrow \lambda \vec{x} \quad \lambda \in \mathbb{R}.$$

$$t \rightarrow \lambda^z t \quad z: \text{dynamical critical exponent.}$$

Scale Transformations

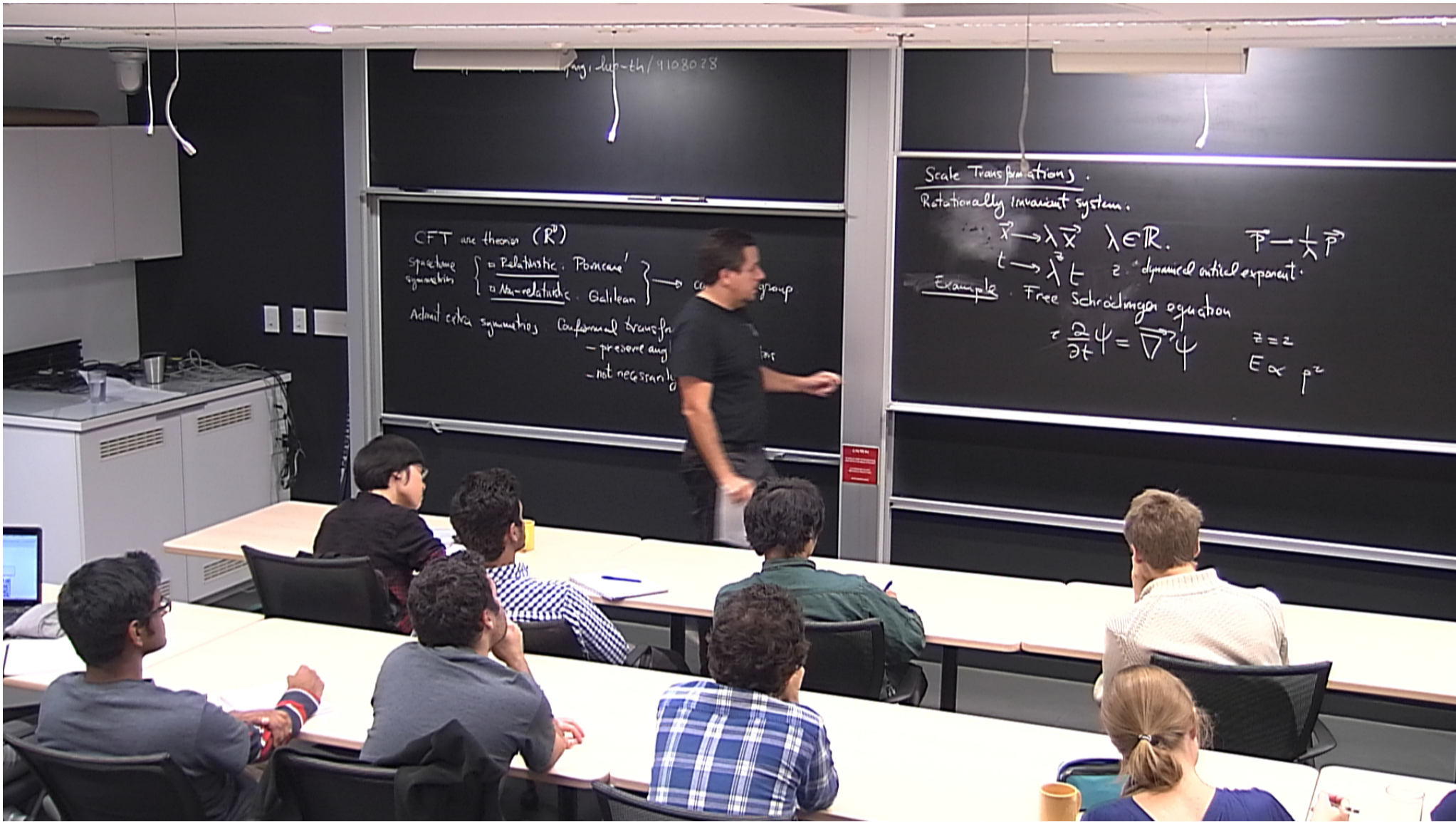
Rotationally invariant system:

$$\vec{x} \rightarrow \lambda \vec{x} \quad \lambda \in \mathbb{R}.$$

$$t \rightarrow \lambda^z t \quad z: \text{dynamical critical exponent.}$$

Example: Free Schrödinger equation

$$i \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial t} = \nabla^2 \psi \quad z = 2$$



phys. dep. th / 4108028

CFT are theories (\mathbb{R}^D)
 spacetime symmetries $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \square \text{ Relativistic: Poincaré} \\ \square \text{ Non-relativistic: Galilean} \end{array} \right\} \rightarrow$ conformal group
 Admit extra symmetries: Conformal transform
 - preserve ang.
 - not necessarily

Scale Transformations

Rotationally invariant system.

$$\vec{x} \rightarrow \lambda \vec{x} \quad \lambda \in \mathbb{R} \quad \vec{p} \rightarrow \frac{1}{\lambda} \vec{p}$$

$$t \rightarrow \lambda^z t \quad z = \text{dynamical critical exponent.}$$

Example: Free Schrödinger equation

$$i \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \psi = -\nabla^2 \psi \quad z = z$$

$$E \propto p^z$$

Scale Transformations

Rotationally invariant system:

$$\vec{x} \rightarrow \lambda \vec{x} \quad \lambda \in \mathbb{R}$$

$$\vec{p} \rightarrow \frac{1}{\lambda} \vec{p}$$

$$\rightarrow \lambda^z t$$

z : dynamical critical exponent.

Ex

Free Schrödinger equation

$$i \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial t} = \nabla^2 \psi$$

$$z = 2$$

$$E \propto p^2$$

$$d x_{\mu} d x^{\mu} \rightarrow \lambda^2 d x_{\mu} d x^{\mu}$$

\Rightarrow preserves angles

\Rightarrow not distances.

$$d x^{\mu} d x_{\mu} \rightarrow e^{2\sigma(x)} d x_{\mu} d x^{\mu}$$

1. $\partial_{\mu} F^{\mu\nu} = 0$ Maxwell's Equation

2. $\Gamma^{\mu} \partial_{\mu} \psi = 0$ Massless Dirac Equation

3. classical

Conformal Invariant Equations:

$$dx_\mu dx^\mu \rightarrow \lambda^2 dx_\mu dx^\mu$$

⇒ preserves angles

⇒ not distances.

Conformal Invariant Equ

$$dx^\mu dx_\mu \rightarrow e^{2\omega(x)} dx^\mu dx_\mu$$

$F^{\mu\nu} = 0$ Maxwell's Equation

$\partial_\mu \psi = 0$ Massless Dirac Equation

scalar $D=4$
 $\square \phi = \lambda \phi^3$ ($\lambda \phi^4$ theory)

$\nabla_\mu^a = 0$ Yang-Mills

$$\lambda_I(\mu) \quad \mu \frac{d\lambda_I}{d\mu} = \beta_I(\lambda)$$

$$\widehat{\text{CFT}} (\text{Scale invariant}) \iff \beta_I(\vec{\lambda}^*) = 0$$

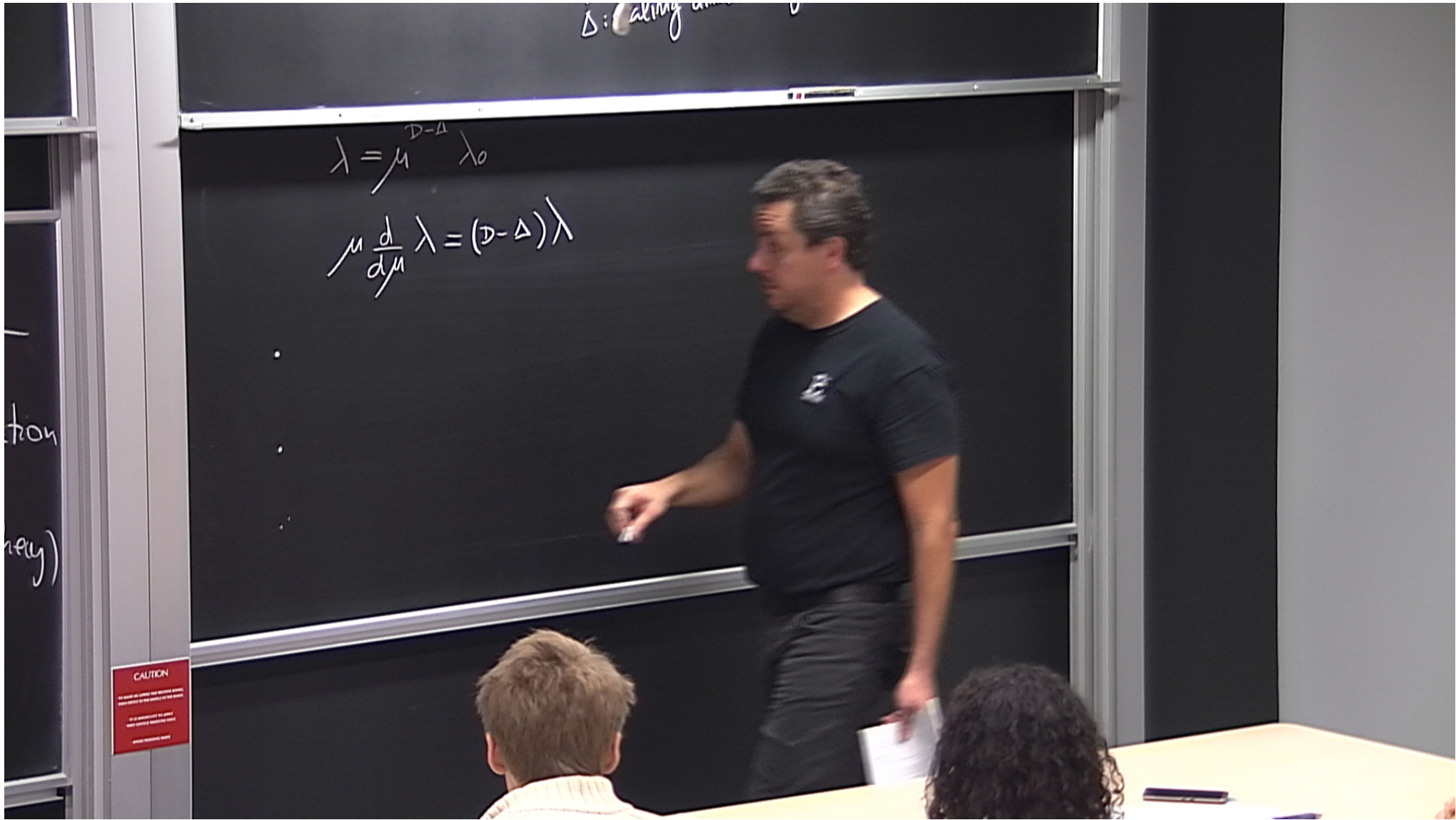
$$\text{CFT (free field theory) eg } \phi^4, \lambda \mu \dots [\lambda] =$$

$$S_{\text{CFT}} + \int d^D x \lambda O_{\Delta}(x)$$

Δ : scaling dimension of O_{Δ}



CAUTION
DO NOT TOUCH THE BOARD WHEN
IN USE
DO NOT TOUCH THE BOARD
WHEN BEING REPAIRED



Δ : *Calving*

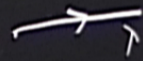
$$\lambda = \mu^{D-\Delta} \lambda_0$$

$$\mu \frac{d}{d\mu} \lambda = (D-\Delta) \lambda$$

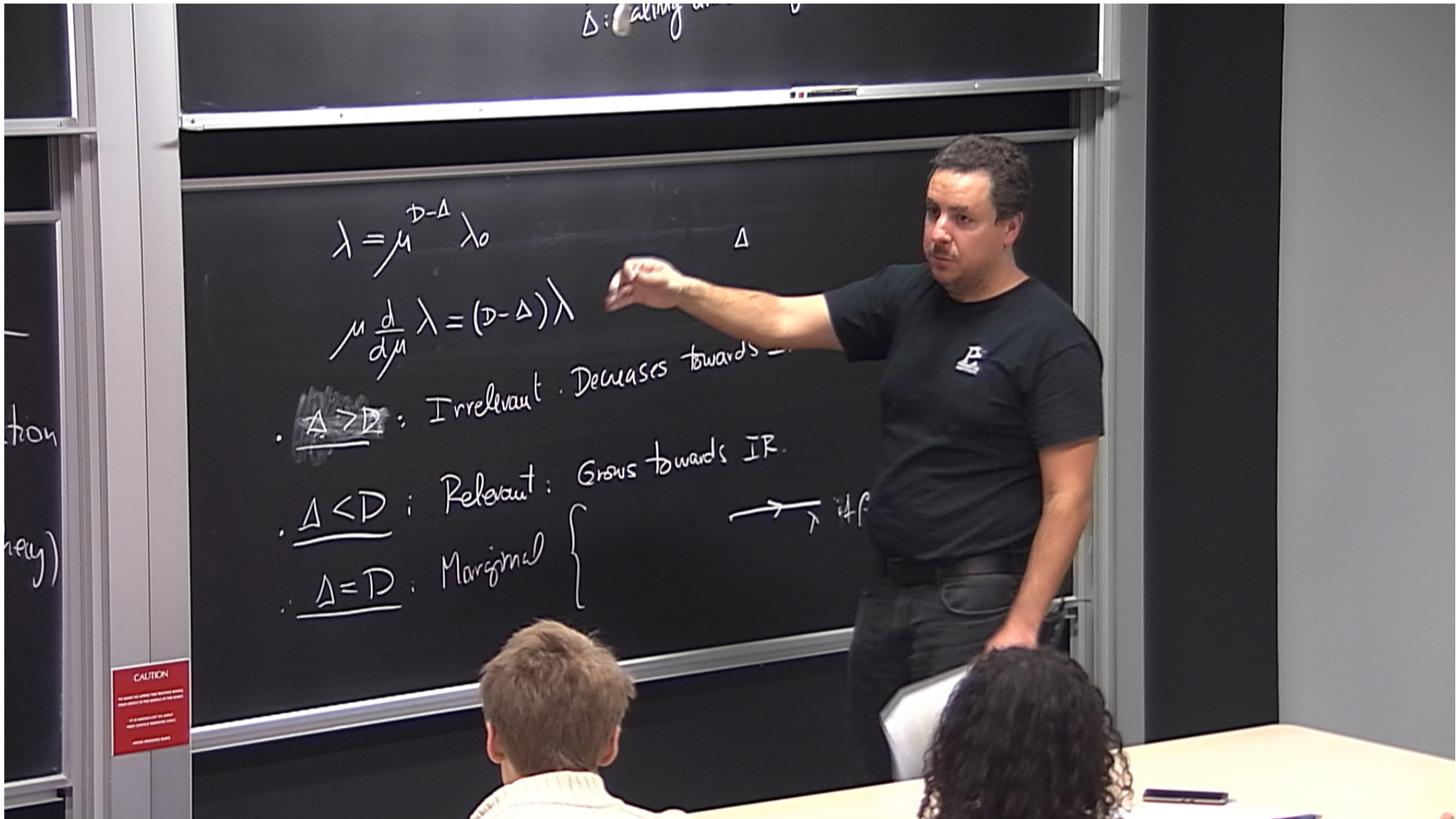
• $\Delta > D$: Irrelevant. Decreases towards IR

• $\Delta < D$: Relevant: Grows towards IR.

• $\Delta = D$: Marginal



CAUTION
DO NOT CLIMB THE BOARD
OR STAND ON THE BOARD
OR USE THE BOARD AS A
STAIRCASE



Δ : calling on

$$\lambda = \mu^{D-\Delta} \lambda_0$$

$$\mu \frac{d}{d\mu} \lambda = (D-\Delta) \lambda$$

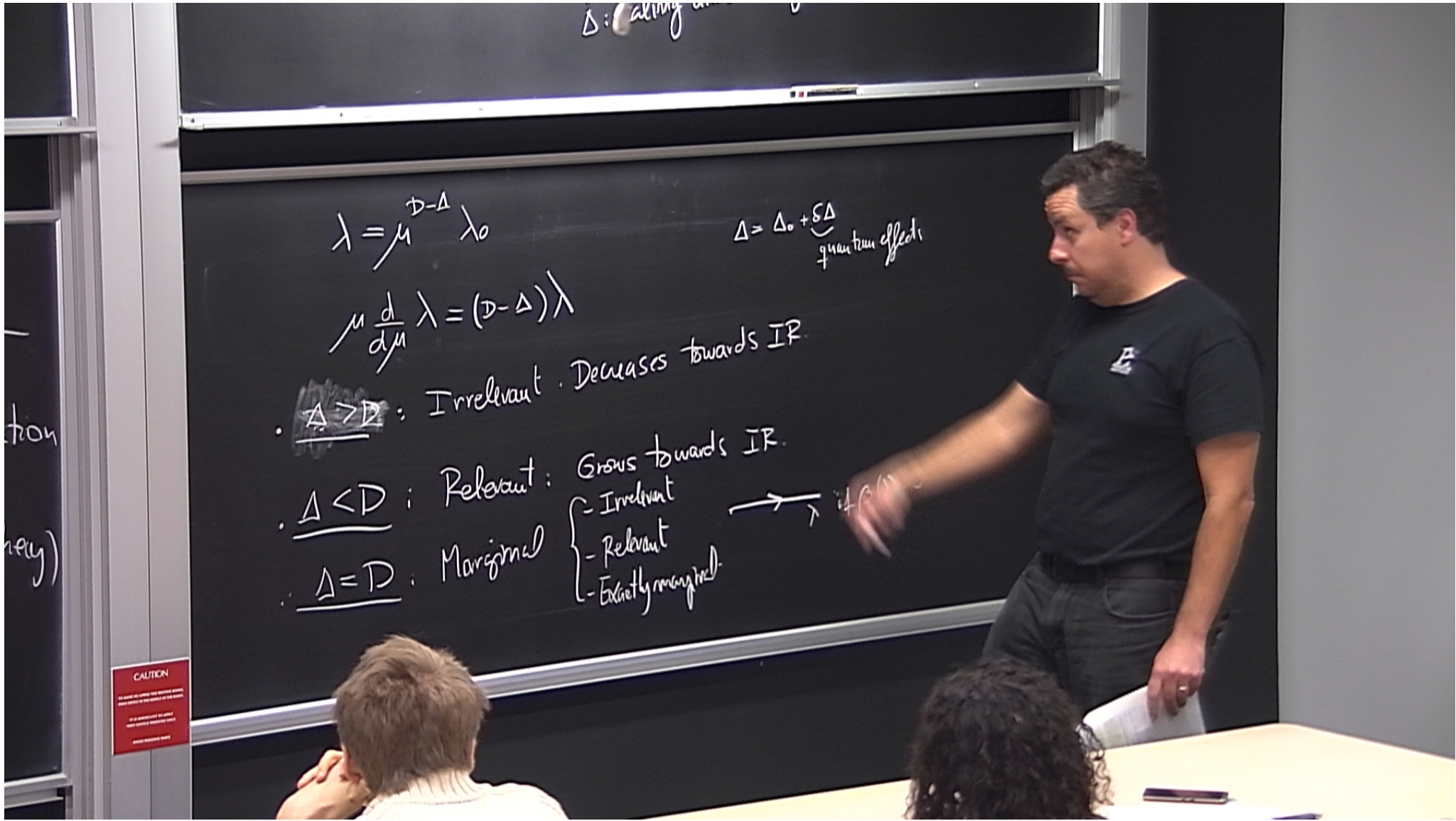
• $\Delta > D$: Irrelevant. Decreases towards -

• $\Delta < D$: Relevant: Grows towards IR.

• $\Delta = D$: Marginal

$\rightarrow \lambda$ if

CAUTION
DO NOT LEAN ON THE BOARD
OR OTHER SURFACES
AS IT MAY CAUSE DAMAGE TO THE BOARD
OR INJURY TO YOU



Δ : calling an

$$\lambda = \mu^{D-\Delta} \lambda_0$$

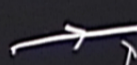
$$\Delta = \Delta_0 + \delta\Delta \text{ quantum effects}$$

$$\mu \frac{d}{d\mu} \lambda = (D-\Delta)\lambda$$

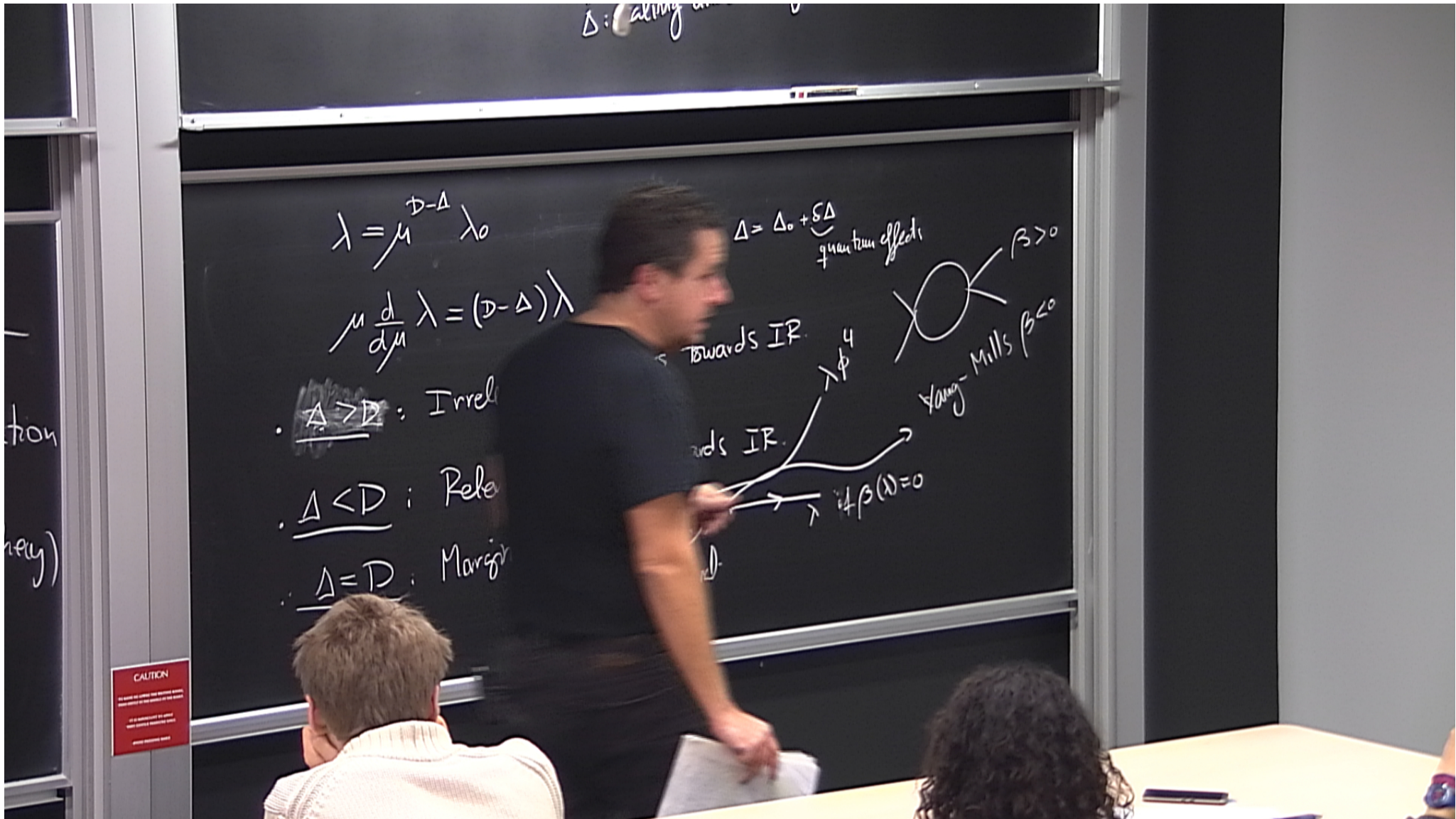
$\Delta > D$: Irrelevant: Decreases towards IR

$\Delta < D$: Relevant: Grows towards IR

$\Delta = D$: Marginal
- Irrelevant
- Relevant
- Exactly marginal



CAUTION
DO NOT TOUCH THE BOARD WHEN
IN USE
DO NOT TOUCH THE BOARD
WHEN BEING REWASHED



Δ : calling an

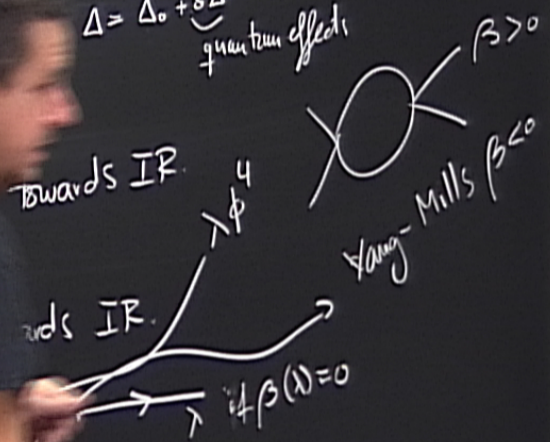
$$\lambda = \mu^{D-\Delta} \lambda_0$$

$$\mu \frac{d}{d\mu} \lambda = (D-\Delta) \lambda$$

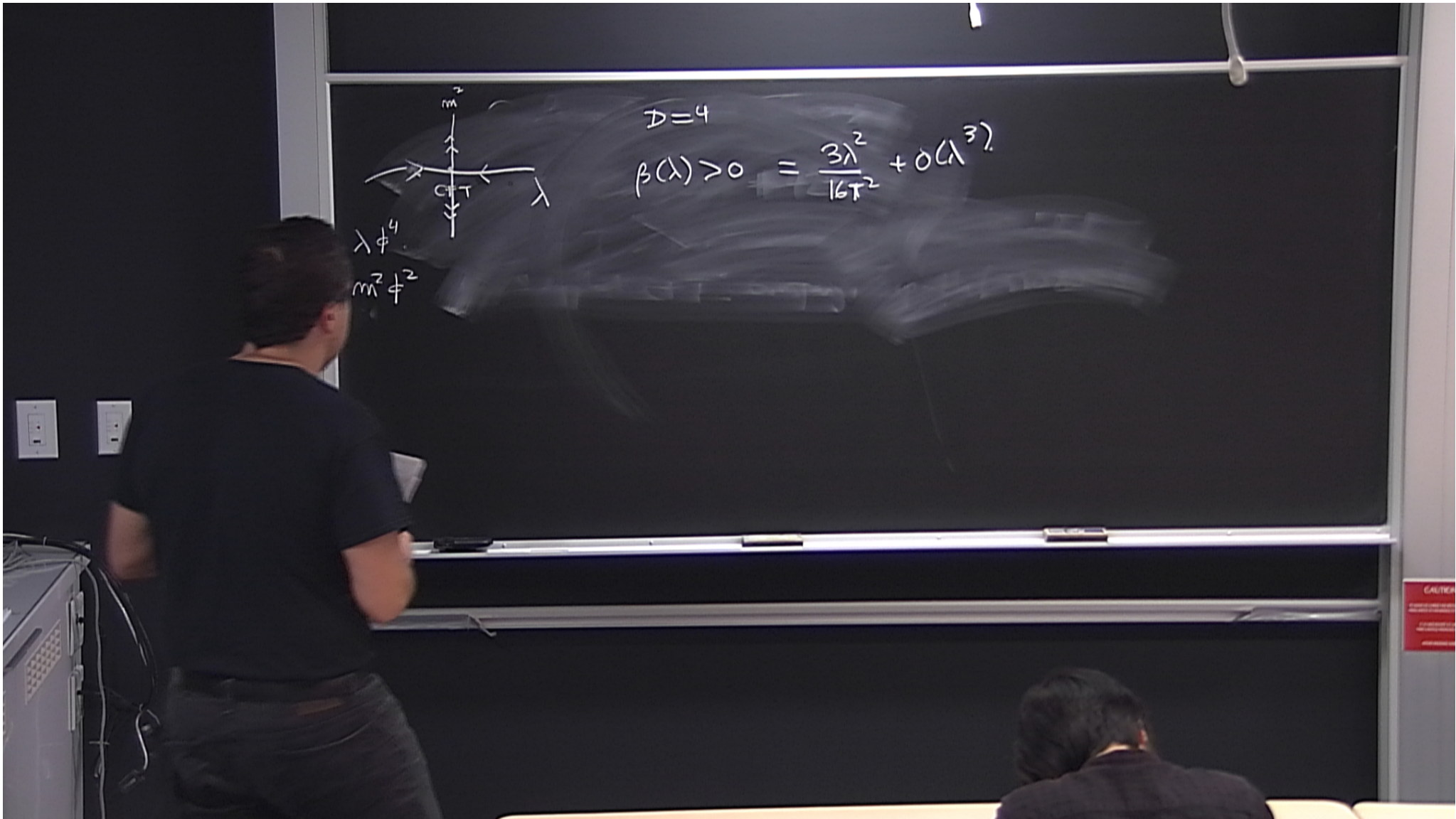
$$\Delta = \Delta_0 + \delta\Delta$$

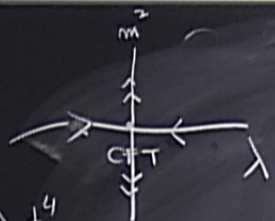
quantum effects

- $\Delta > D$: Irrel
- $\Delta < D$: Rele
- $\Delta = D$: Margi



CAUTION
DO NOT TOUCH THE BOARD WHEN THE LECTURER IS PRESENT





$$\lambda \phi^4$$

$$m^2 \phi^2$$

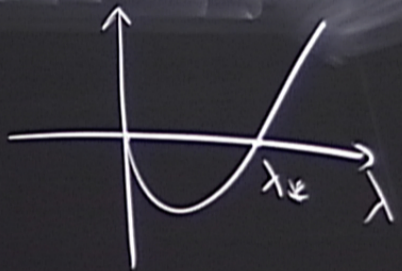
$D=4$

$$\beta(\lambda) > 0 = \frac{3\lambda^2}{16\pi^2} + O(\lambda^3)$$

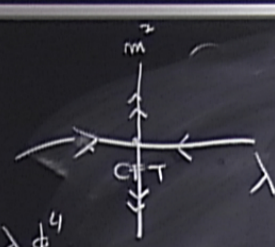
$D=4-\epsilon$ dimensions

$$[\lambda] = \epsilon$$

$$\beta(\lambda)_{4-\epsilon} = \underbrace{-\epsilon \lambda}_{\text{classical}} + \frac{3\lambda^2}{16\pi^2}$$



$$\lambda_* = \frac{16\pi^2 \epsilon}{3}$$



$$D=4$$

$$\beta(\lambda) > 0 = \frac{3\lambda^2}{16\pi^2} + O(\lambda^3)$$

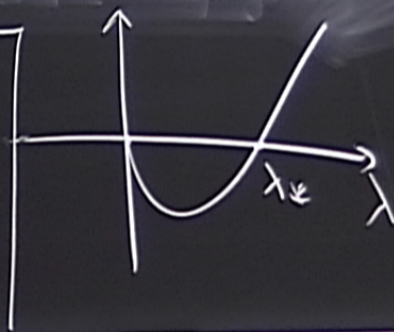
$D=4-\epsilon$ dimensions

$$[\lambda] = \epsilon$$

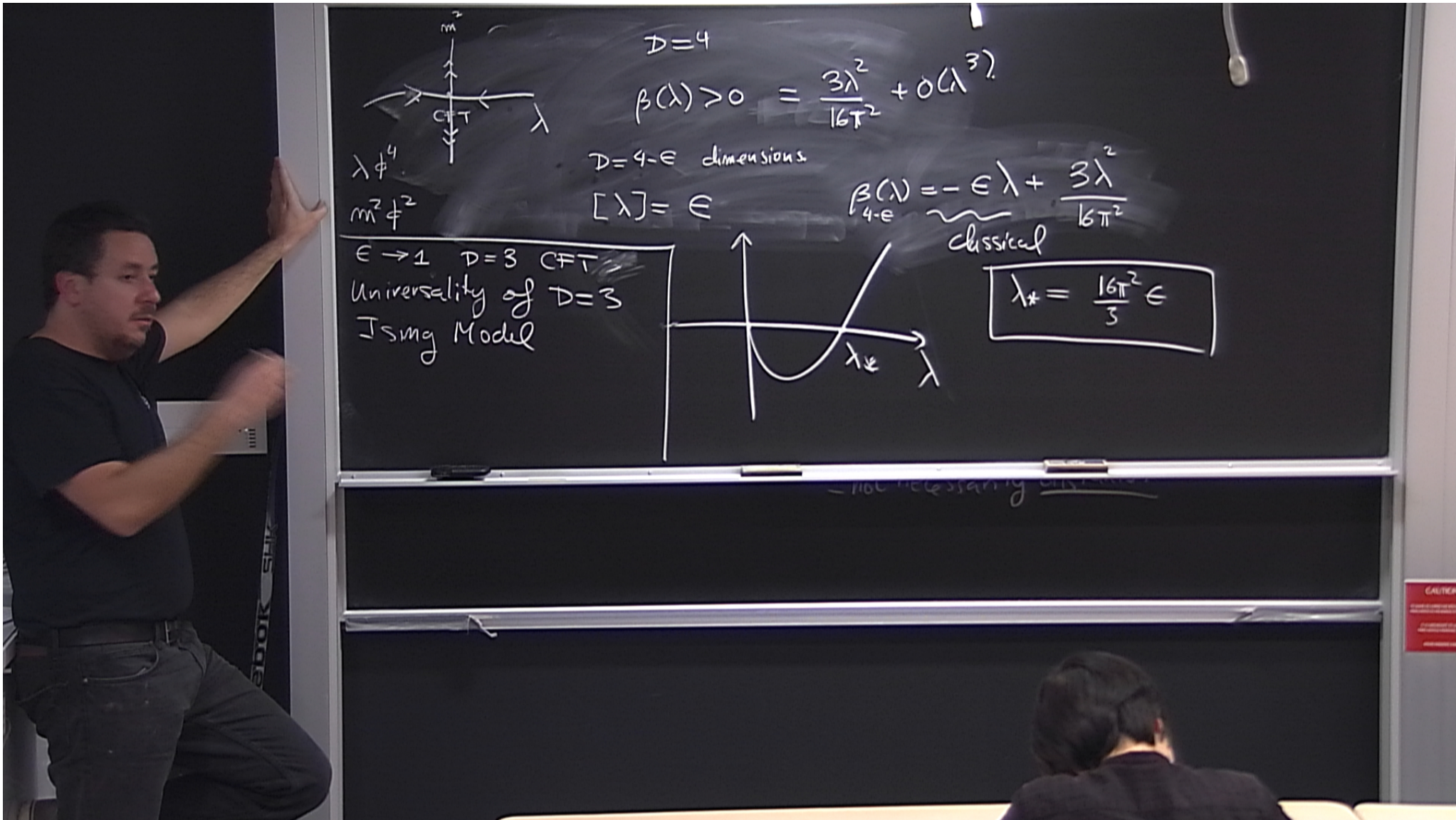
$$\beta(\lambda)_{4-\epsilon} = -\epsilon\lambda + \frac{3\lambda^2}{16\pi^2}$$

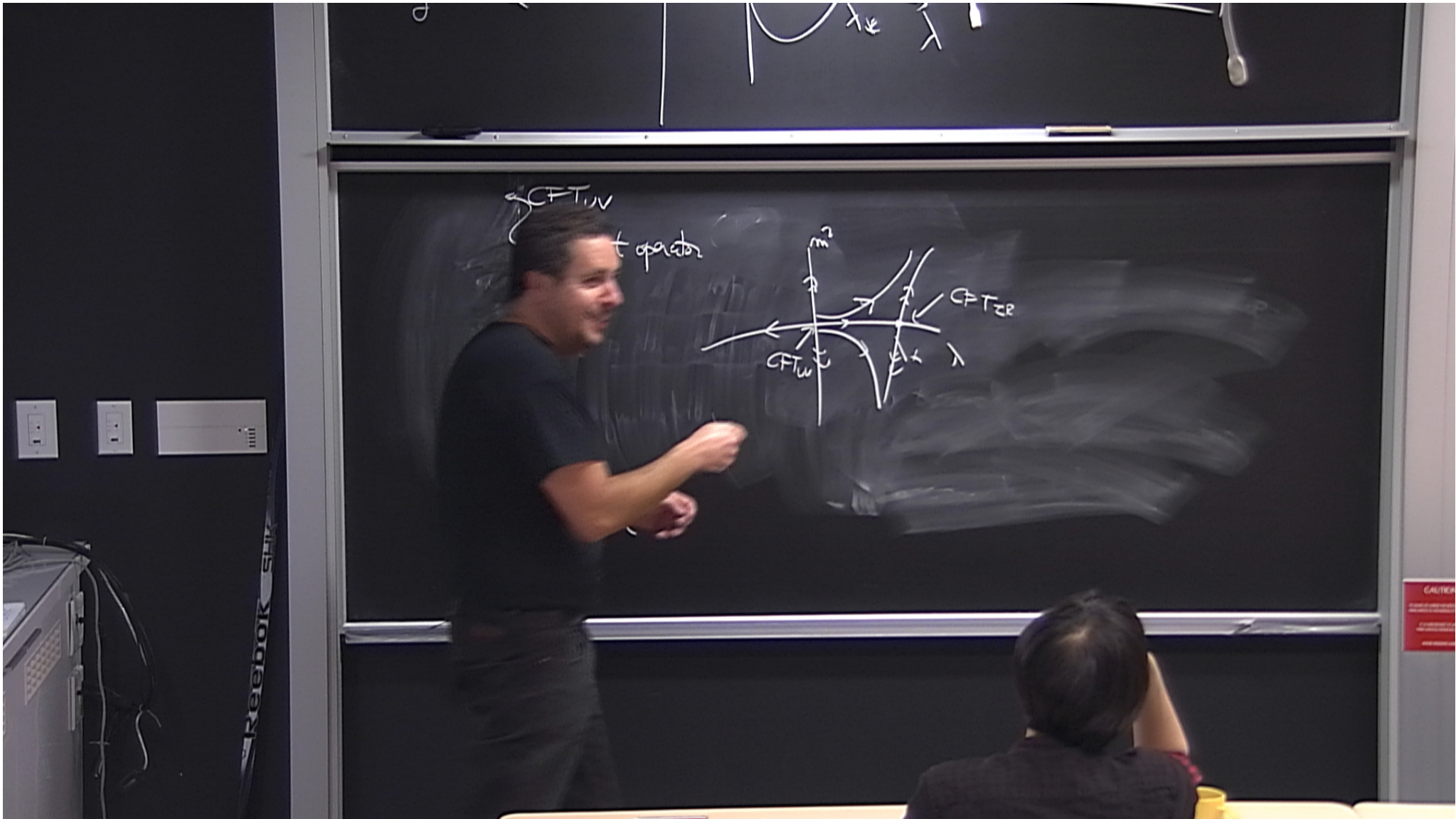
classical

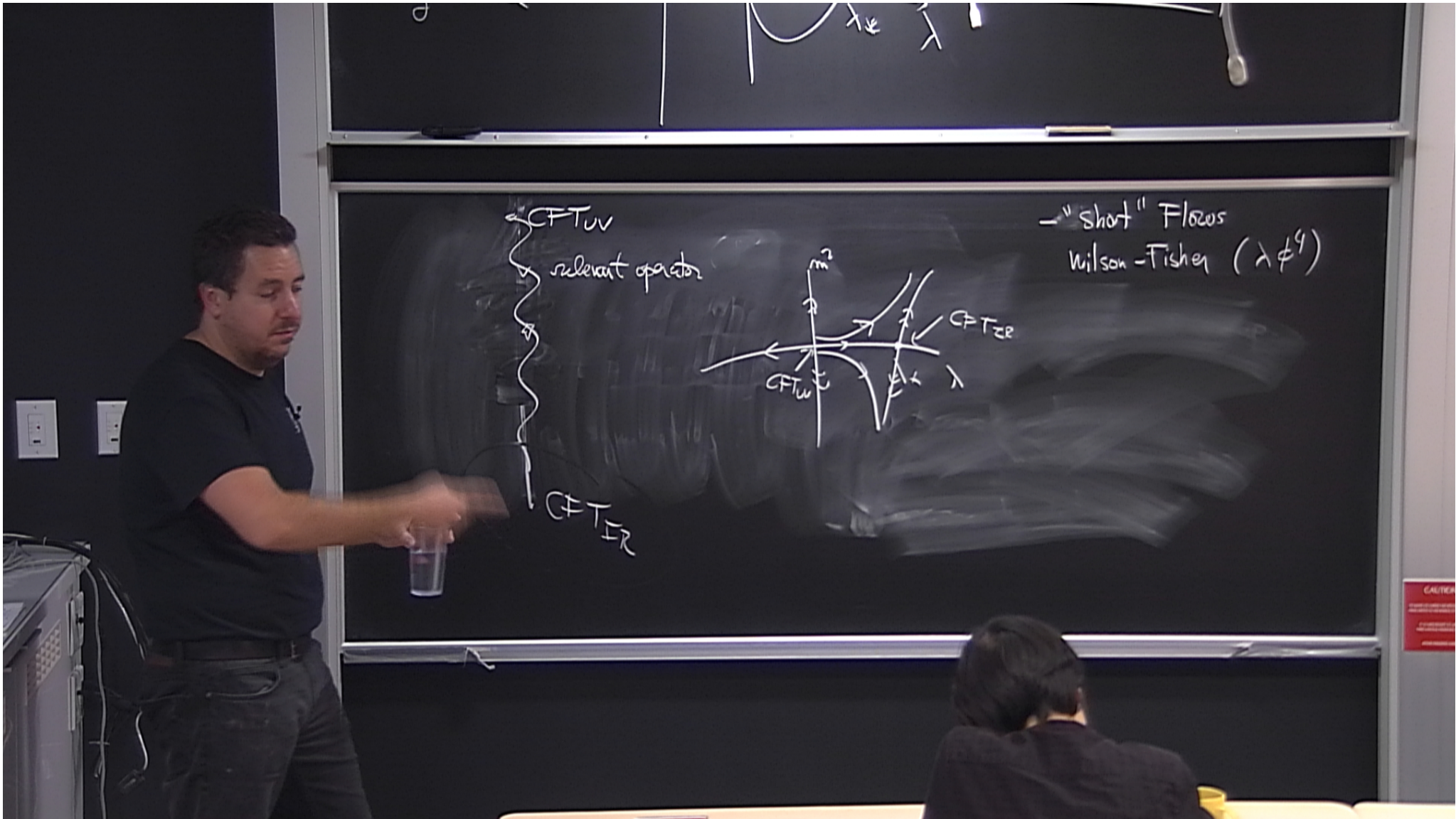
$$\lambda_* = \frac{16\pi^2 \epsilon}{3}$$

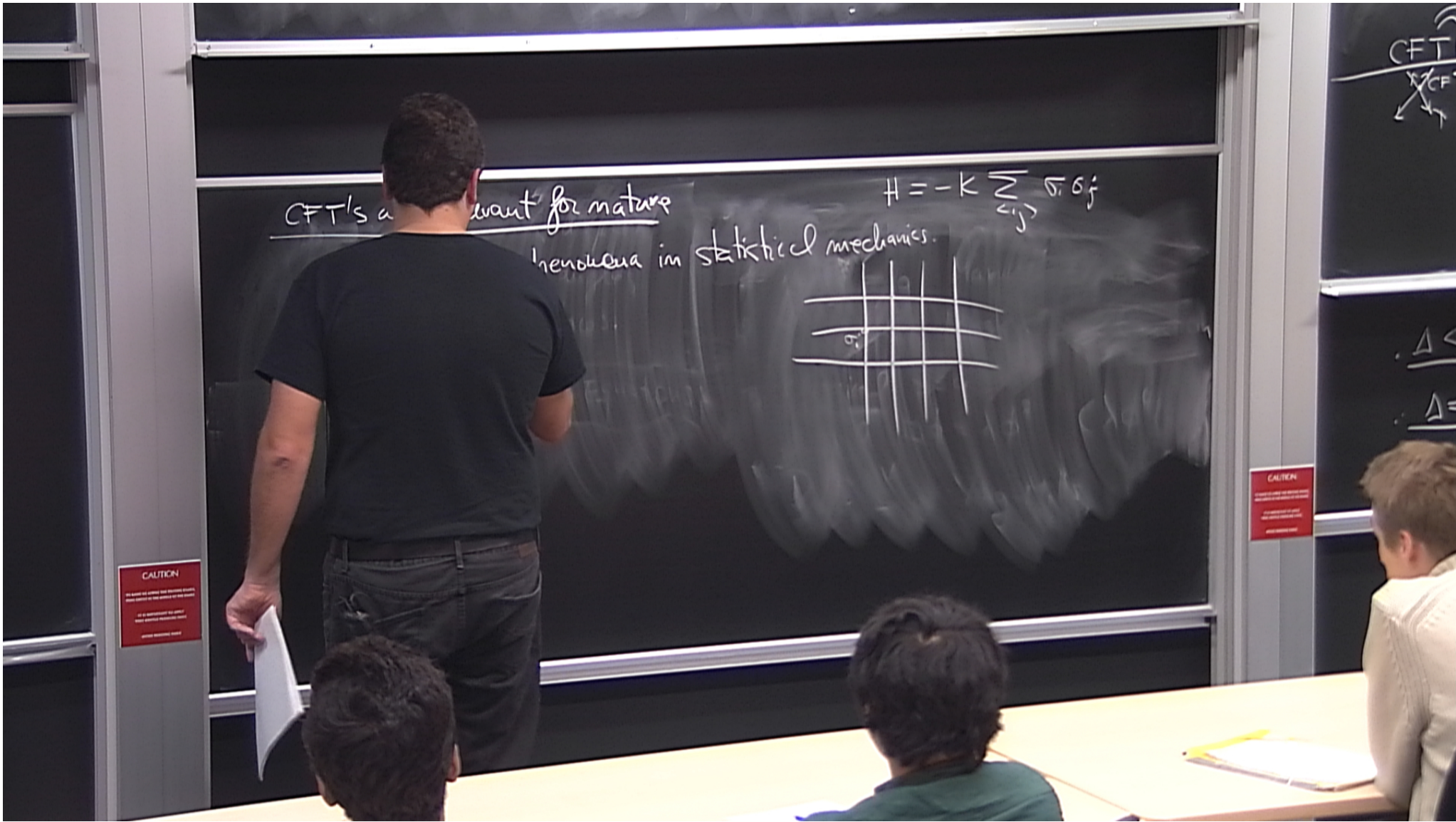


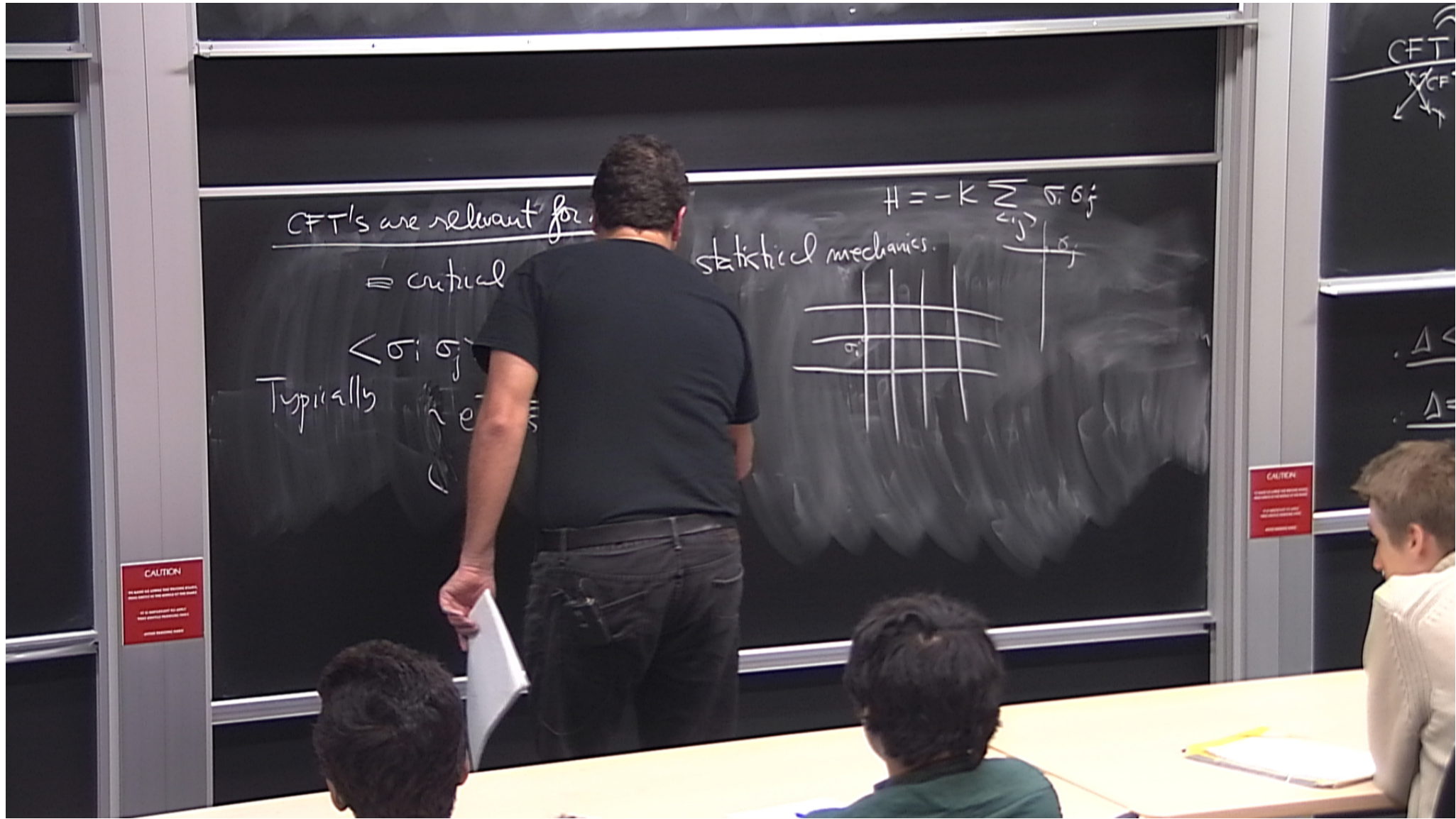
$\lambda \phi^4$
 $m^2 \phi^2$

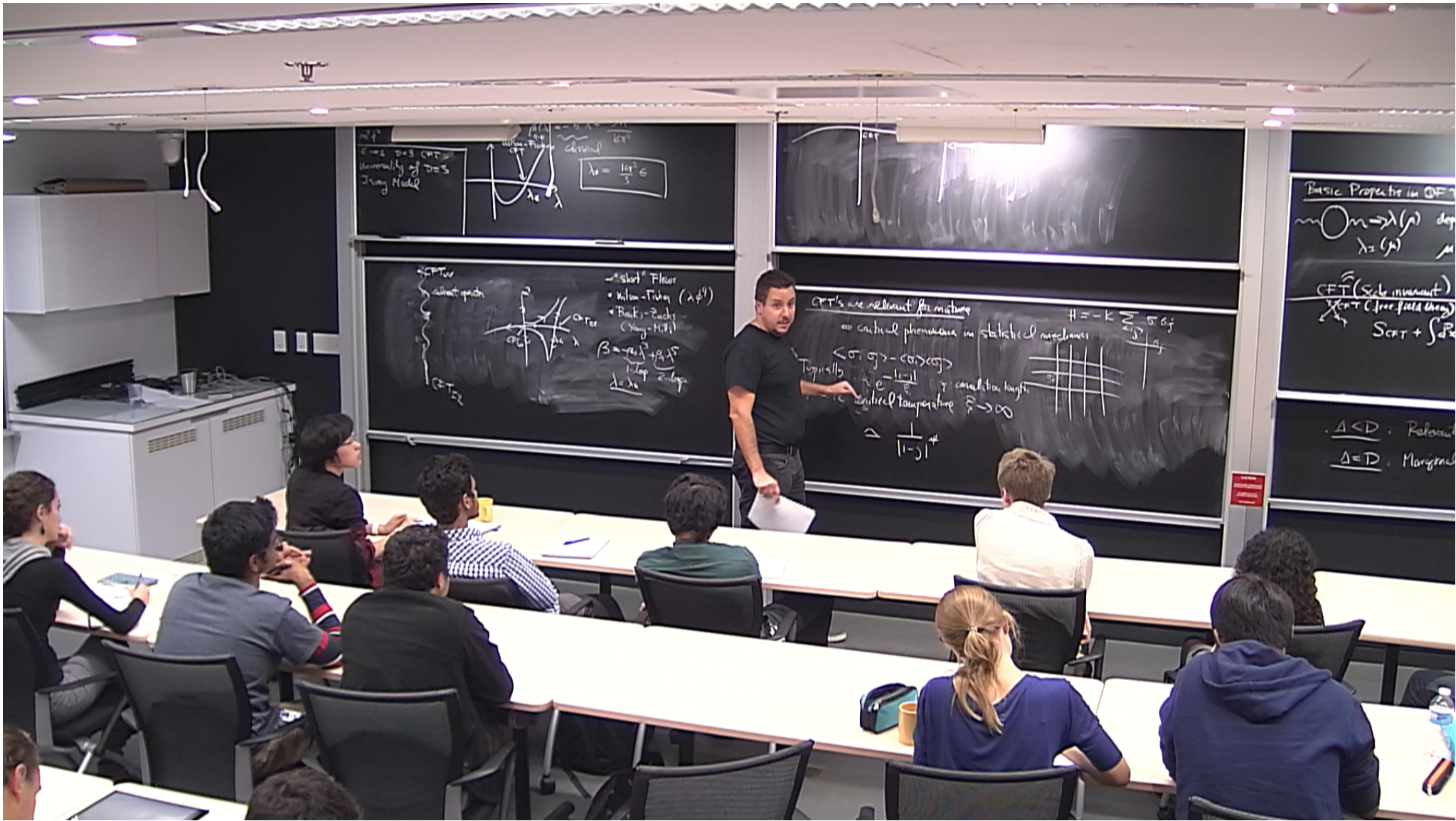




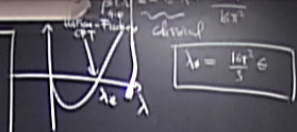






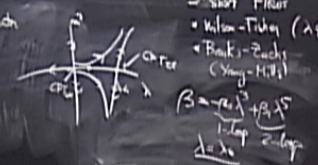


$d=1, D=3$ CFT
 Universality of $D=3$
 Ising Model



CFT_{UV}
 relevant operator
 CFT_{IR}

- "short" Fermi
 • Wilson-Fisher ($\lambda \neq 1$)
 • Banks-Zaks
 (Yang-Mills)
 $\beta = -\epsilon + \gamma \lambda$
 1-loop 2-loop
 $\lambda = \lambda_c$



CFT

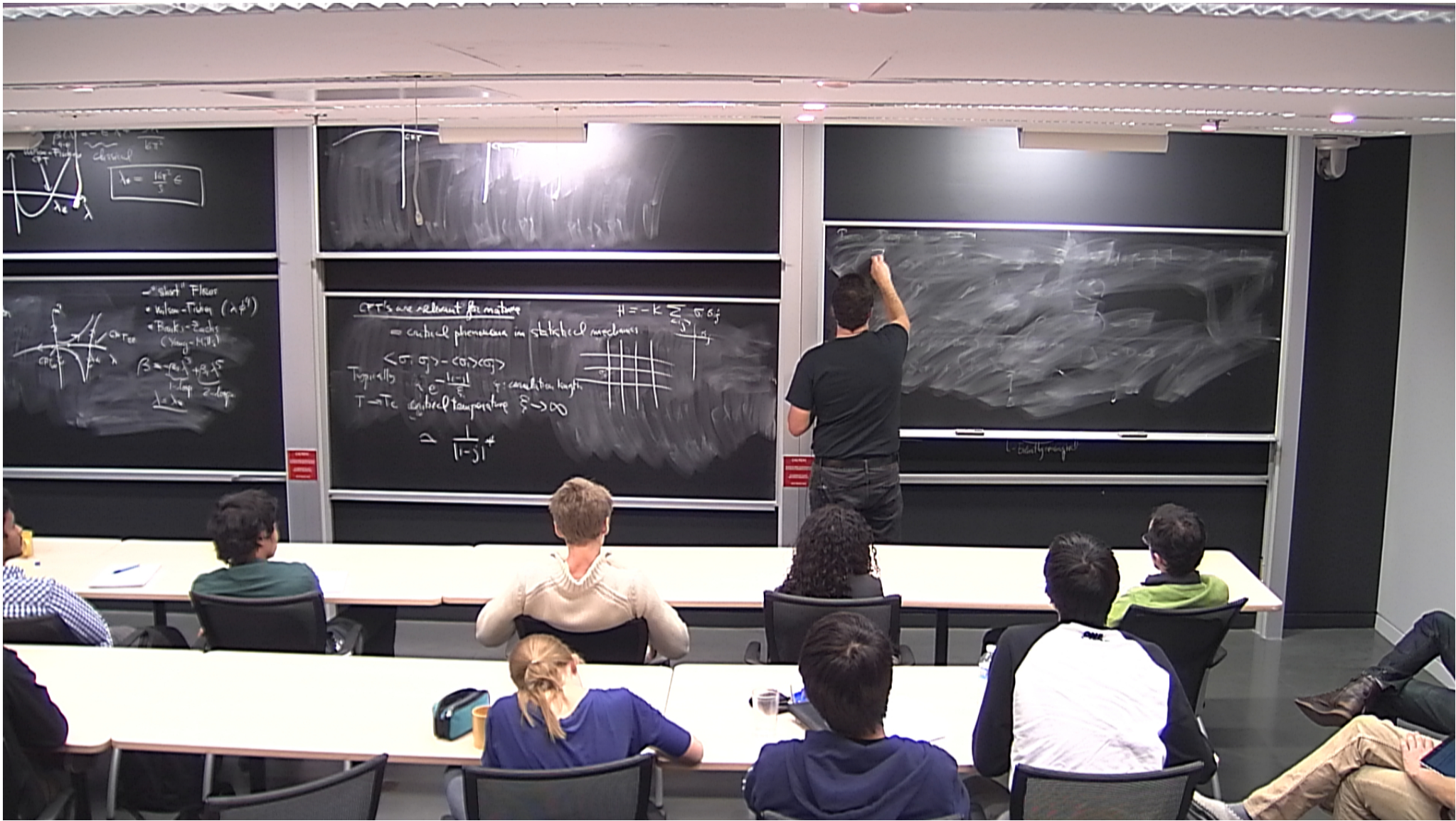
CFT's are relevant for nature
 and critical phenomena in statistical mechanics

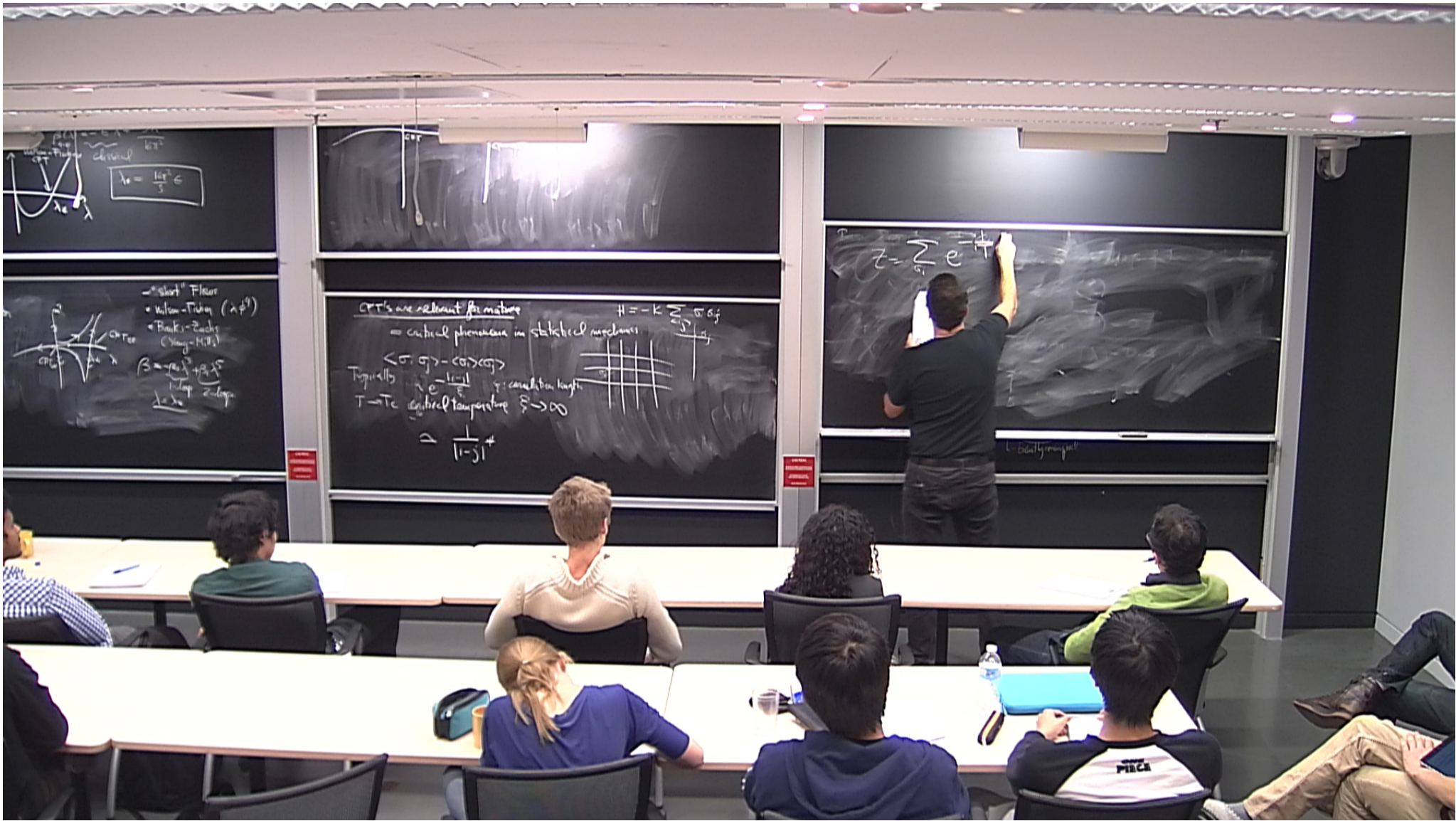
$H = -k \sum_{ij} \sigma_i \sigma_j$
 $\langle \sigma_i \sigma_j \rangle - \langle \sigma \rangle \langle \sigma \rangle$
 typically $\sim e^{-|i-j|/\xi}$ correlation length
 $\xi \sim \xi_c$ critical temperature $T \rightarrow \infty$
 $\Delta = \frac{1}{|1-\gamma|} \neq$

Basic Properties in CFT
 $\mathcal{O} \rightarrow \lambda(\mu)$ dep
 $\lambda = \lambda(\mu)$

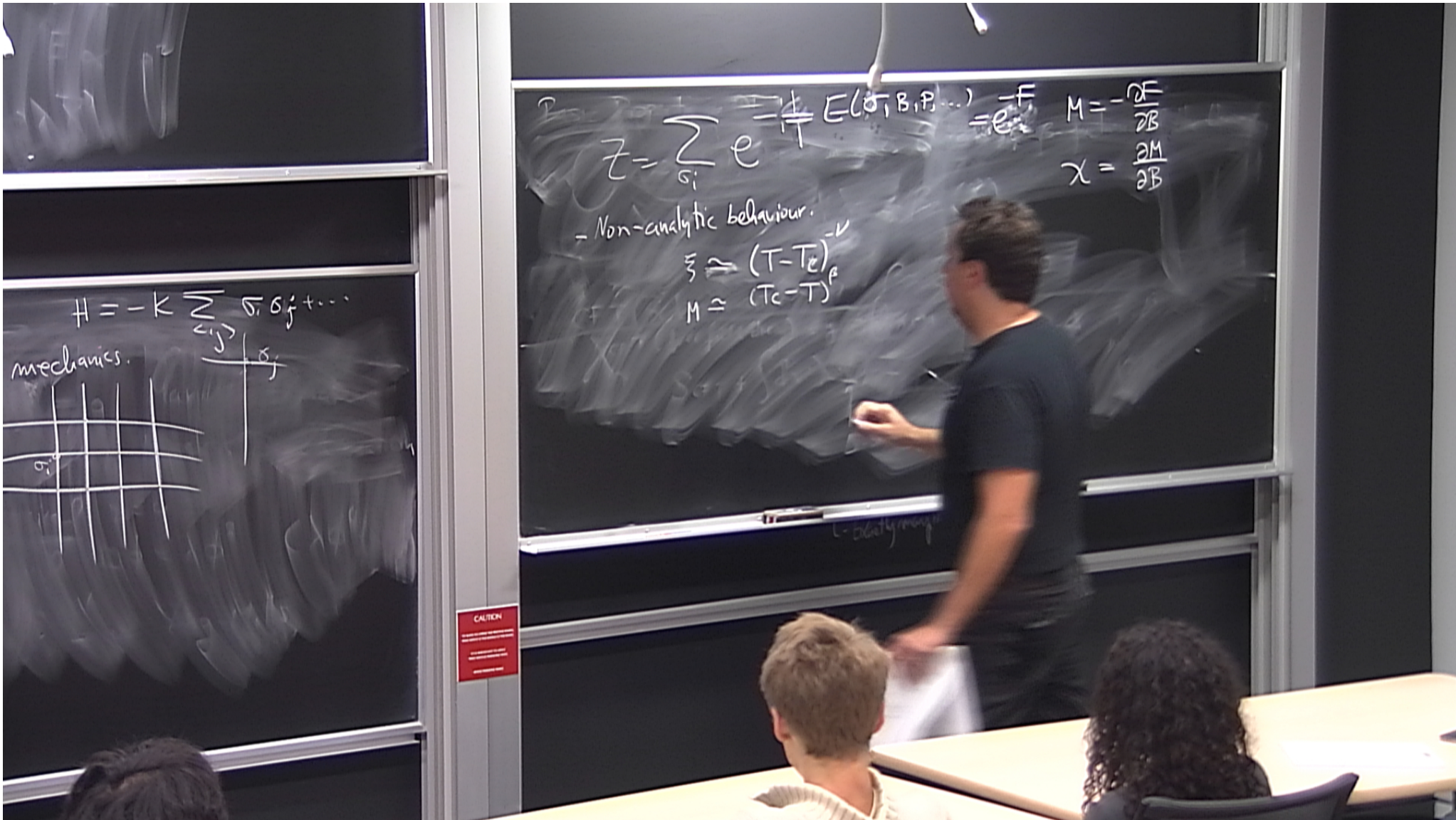
CFT (Scale invariant)
 \mathcal{L}_{CFT} (free field theory)
 $S_{CFT} + \int d^d x$

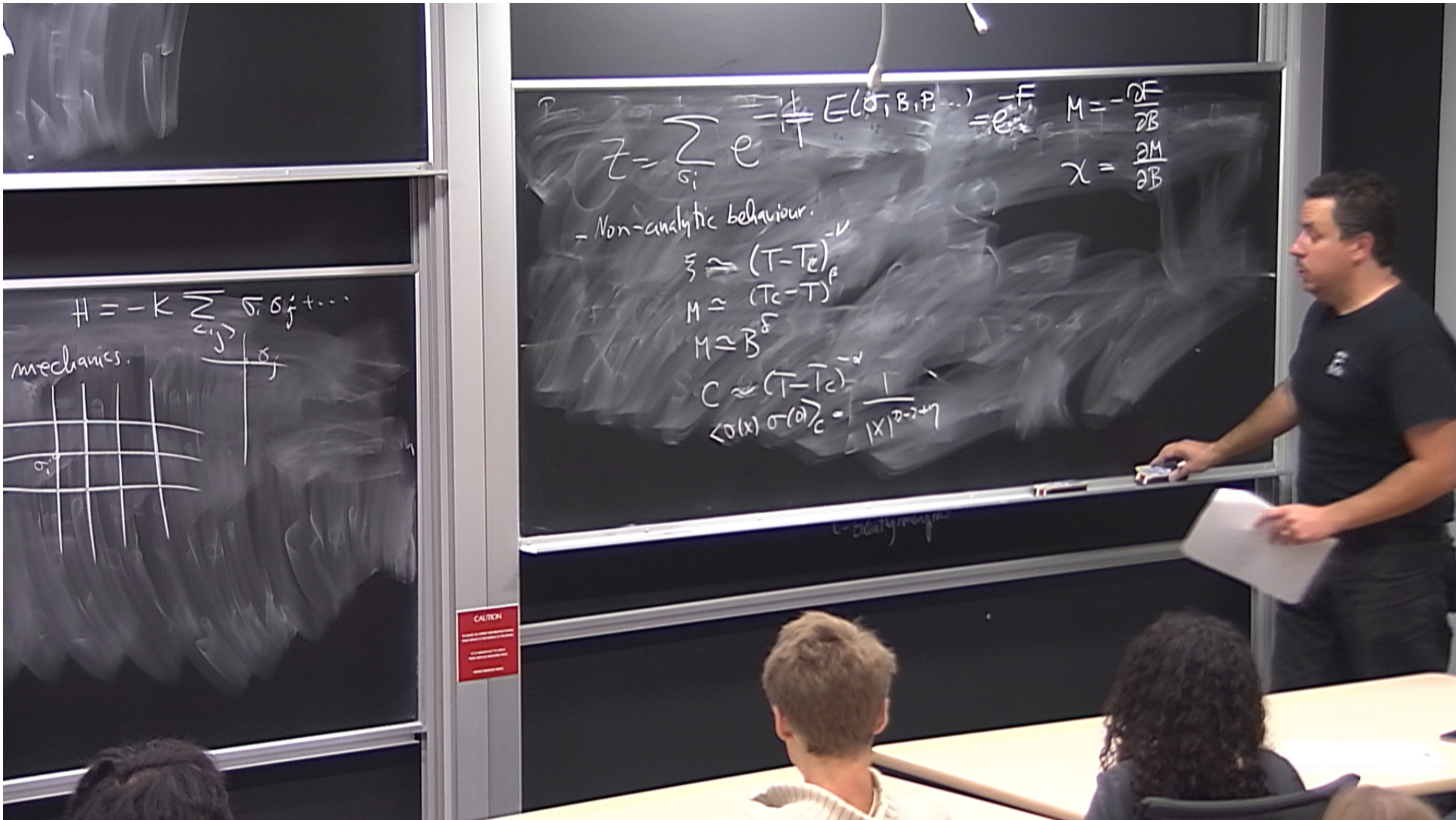
$\Delta < D$: Relevant
 $\Delta = D$: Marginal





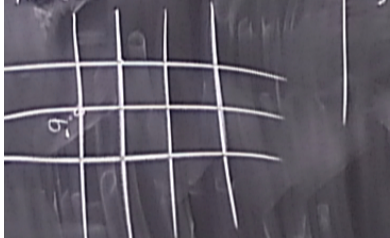






$$H = -k \sum_{\langle i,j \rangle} \sigma_i \sigma_j + \dots$$

mechanics.



$$Z = \sum_{\sigma_i} e^{-\beta E(\sigma_i, B, P, \dots)} = e^{-\beta F} \quad M = -\frac{\partial F}{\partial B}$$

$$\chi = \frac{\partial M}{\partial B}$$

- Non-analytic behaviour.

$$\xi \approx (T - T_c)^{-\nu}$$

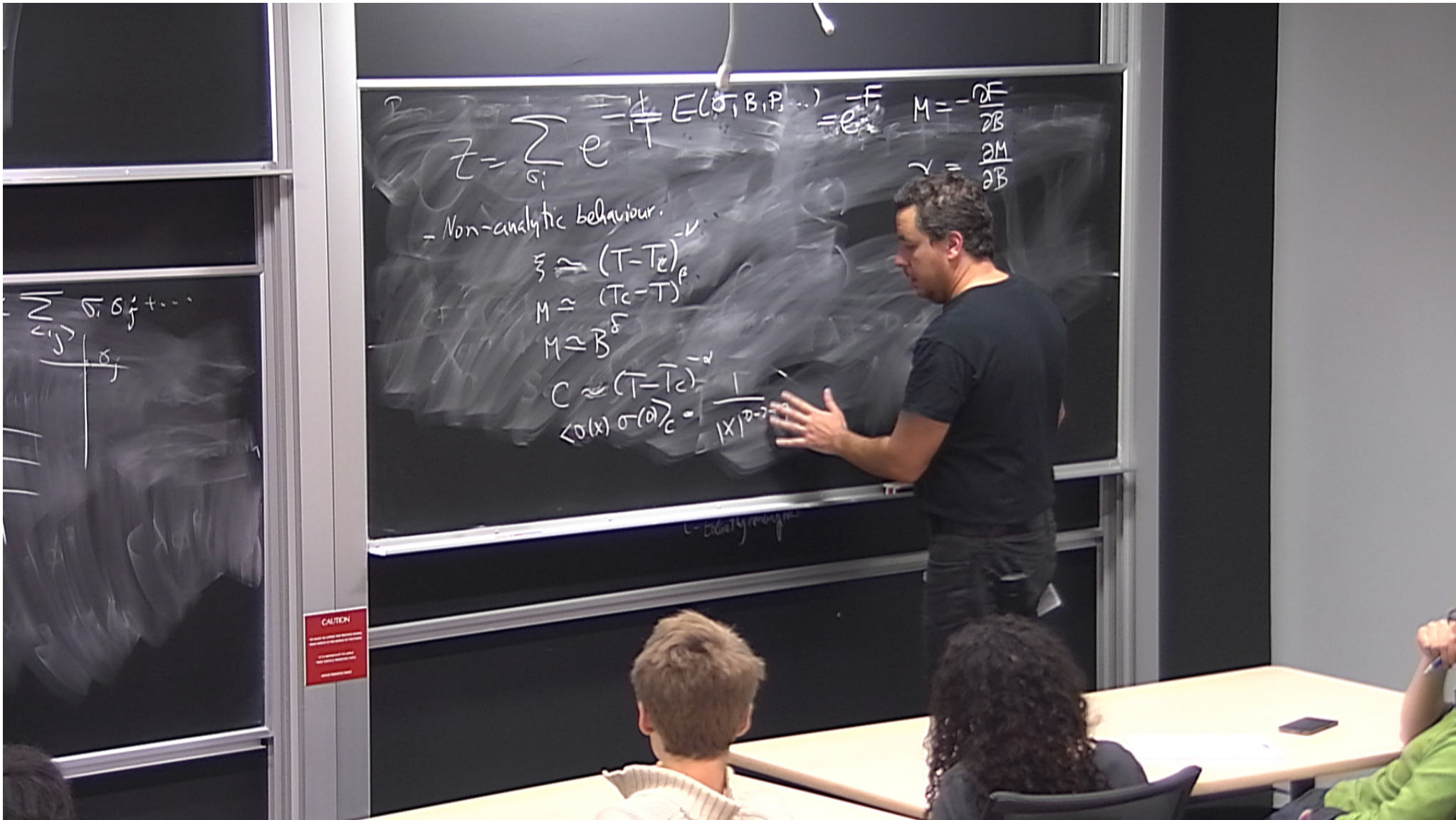
$$M \approx (T_c - T)^{\beta}$$

$$M \approx B^{\delta}$$

$$C \approx (T - T_c)^{-\alpha}$$

$$\langle \sigma(x) \sigma(0) \rangle_c = \frac{1}{|x|^{2-\eta}}$$

CAUTION



$$Z = \sum_{\sigma_i} e^{-\beta E(\sigma_i, B, P, \dots)} = e^{-F} \quad M = -\frac{\partial F}{\partial B}$$

$$\chi = \frac{\partial M}{\partial B}$$

- Non-analytic behaviour.

$$\xi \approx (T - T_c)^{-\nu}$$

$$M \approx (T_c - T)^\beta$$

$$M \approx B^{1/\delta}$$

$$C \approx (T - T_c)^{-\alpha}$$

$$\langle \sigma(x) \sigma(0) \rangle_c = \frac{1}{|x|^{2-\eta}}$$

$$\sum_{i,j} \sigma_i \sigma_j + \dots$$

CAUTION



□ If symmetries are realized by Lie-algebras
Conformal symmetry

\mathbb{R}

⇒ If symmetries are realized by Lie-algebras → Super-Lie algebras

* Conformal symmetry, more ⇒ Free theory

↓
Superconformal Sy

⇒ If symmetries are realized by Lie-algebras → Super-Lie algebras

* Conformal symmetry - , more ⇒ Free theory

↓
Superc conformal Symmetry. $D \leq G$

⇒ If symmetries are realized by Lie-algebras → Super-Lie algebras
* Conformal symmetry - , more ⇒ Free theory
↓
Supercalculus symmetry. $D \leq G$



⇒ If symmetries are realized by Lie-algebras → Super-Lie algebras

* Conformal symmetry - , more ⇒ Free theory

Special Symmetry $D \leq G$

metric 4d QFT Yang-Mills w/ "N=4"

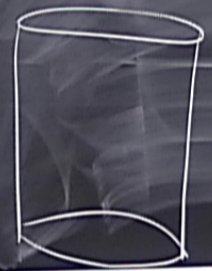
⇒ If symmetries are realized by Lie-algebras → Super-Lie algebras

* Conformal symmetry → more ⇒ Free theory

↓
Superc conformal Symmetry: $D \leq 6$

⇒ Most symmetric 4d QFT Yang-Mills w/ " $N=4$ "

⇒ AdS/CFT



1-loop 2-loop
 $\lambda = \lambda_*$

CFT_{IR}

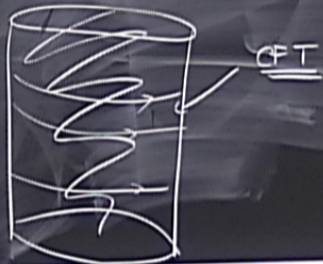
□ If symmetries are realized by Lie-algebras → Super-Lie algebras

* Conformal symmetry, more ⇒ Free theory

↓
Superc conformal Symmetry $D \leq 6$

□ Most symmetric 4d QFT Yang-Mills w/ " $N=4$ "

□ AdS/CFT

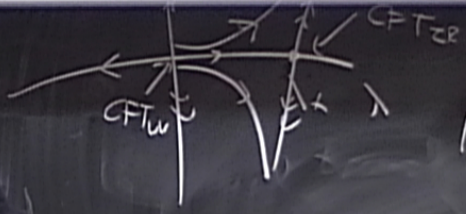
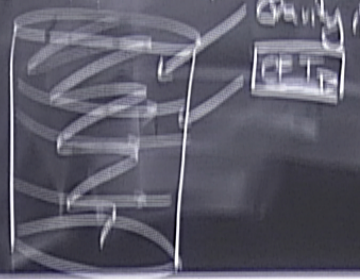


↓
CFT_{IR}

$\lambda = \lambda_{IR}$ ← loop

↓
 Superconformal Symmetry: D & G

Most symmetric 4d QFT Yang-Mills w/ $\mathcal{N}=4$
 AdS/CFT



(Yang-Mills)

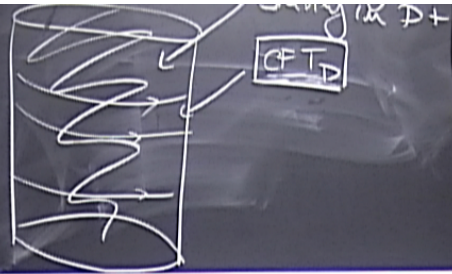
$$\beta = -\beta_0 \lambda^3 + \beta_1 \lambda^5$$

1-loop 2-loop

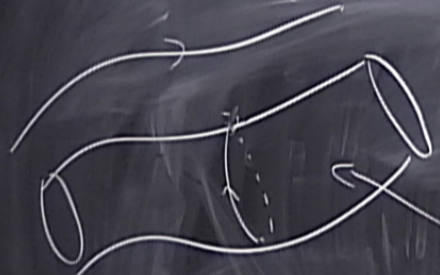
$$\lambda = \lambda^*$$

CAUTION

AdS/CFT

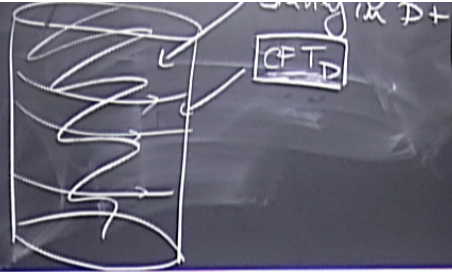


CFT is central to string theory

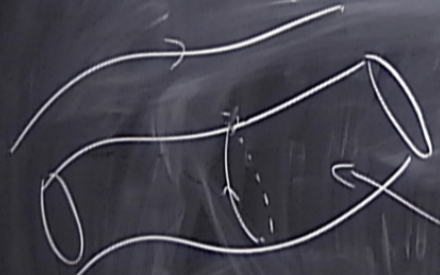


QFT is a CFT

AdS/CFT



CFT is central to string theory



QFT is a CFT

\Rightarrow \exists of a graviton
 $\Rightarrow \beta = 0$
"Einstein's equations"