

Title: Quantum Gravity Seminar - TBA - VIRTUAL

Speakers: Jan Pawłowski

Series: Quantum Gravity

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Abstract: Abstract TBA

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Zoom link

# Particle physics & quantum black holes from asymptotically safe correlation functions

**Jan M. Pawłowski**

**Universität Heidelberg**

**Virtual seminar Perimeter Institute, January 25<sup>th</sup> 2024**



**STRUCTURES**  
CLUSTER OF  
EXCELLENCE



## Outline

- Asymptotic safety
- Asymptotically safe correlation functions
- Some remarks on unitarity
- Applications I: asymptotically safe Standard Model
- Applications II: asymptotically black holes
- Summary

# Asymptotic safety

## Einstein-Hilbert action

$$S[g] = \frac{1}{16\pi G_N} \int d^4x \sqrt{g} (-R(g) + 2\Lambda)$$

Metric  $g$       Cosmological constant  $\Lambda$   
Newton constant  $G_N$       Ricci scalar  $R(g)$


## Momentum dimension of couplings

$$\dim G_N = -2$$

$$\dim \Lambda = 2$$

### perturbatively non-renormalisable

graviton propagator :   $\propto \frac{1}{p^2}$

3 - grav. vertex :   $\propto \sqrt{G_N} p^2$

4 - grav. vertex :   $\propto G_N p^2$

⋮

# Asymptotic safety

## Einstein-Hilbert action

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Newton constant  $G_N$     Ricci scalar  $R(g)$

Metric  $g$     Cosmological constant  $\Lambda$

## Momentum dimension of couplings

$$\dim G_N = -2$$

$$\dim \Lambda = 2$$

**perturbatively non-renormalisable**

## Correlation functions

diffeomorphism invariant

$$\langle R(g(x_1)) \cdots R(g(x_n)) \rangle$$

**Ricci scalar correlations**

not diffeomorphism invariant

$$\langle g(x_1) \cdots g(x_n) \rangle$$

**metric correlations**

# Asymptotic safety

Weinberg '79: Ultraviolet Divergences in Quantum Theories of Gravitation

Consider an observable  $\mathcal{O}(g)$  with fundamental coupling  $g$

- **Standard perturbation theory**

$$\mathcal{O}(g) = O_0 + O_1 g + \frac{1}{2} O_2 g^2 + \dots$$

- **Generalised perturbation theory**

$$\mathcal{O}(g) = O^* + O_1^* (g - g^*) + \frac{1}{2} O_2^* (g - g^*)^2 + \dots$$

e.g. aiming at better convergence fundamental coupling  
non-perturbative example: analytic perturbation theory in QCD

- **Renormalisation group fixed points**

**beta functions**

$$\partial_t g = \beta_g(g, \mu)$$

$$\partial_t \mu = \beta_\mu(g, \mu)$$

Logarithmic momentum (RG) scale:  $t = \log \frac{k}{k_0}$

# Asymptotic safety

Consider an observable  $O(g)$  with fundamental coupling  $g$

## ▪ Ultraviolet running

**QCD**

$$\beta_g(g) = -\frac{1}{16\pi^2} \frac{22 N_c}{3} g^3$$

**Asymptotic freedom**

**quantum gravity**

$$\beta_{g_N} = \left[ 2 + \eta_N(g_N, \lambda) \right] g_N$$

dimensional running

quantum fluctuations

**Asymptotic safety**

$$g_N = G_N k^2$$

$$\lambda = \frac{\Lambda}{k^2}$$

Logarithmic momentum scale

## ▪ Renormalisation group fixed points

**beta functions**

$$\partial_t g = \beta_g(g, \mu)$$

$$\partial_t \mu = \beta_\mu(g, \mu)$$

**Fixed points**

$$\beta_g(g^*, \mu^*) = 0$$

$$\beta_\mu(g^*, \mu^*) = 0$$

# Asymptotic safety

Consider an observable  $\mathcal{O}(g)$  with fundamental coupling  $g$

## Ultraviolet running

**QCD**

$$\beta_g(g) = -\frac{1}{16\pi^2} \frac{22 N_c}{3} g^3$$

**Asymptotic freedom**

**Gaussian fixed point**

## Renormalisation group fixed points

**beta functions**

$$\partial_t g = \beta_g(g, \mu)$$

$$\partial_t \mu = \beta_\mu(g, \mu)$$

**quantum gravity**

$$\beta_{g_N} = \left[ 2 + \eta_N(\vec{g}_N, \lambda) \right] g_N$$

dimensional running

quantum fluctuations

**Asymptotic safety**

$$\eta_N = -2$$

**non-Gaussian fixed point**

$$(g_N^*, \lambda^*) \neq 0$$

Logarithmic momentum scale

**Fixed points**

$$\beta_g(g^*, \mu^*) = 0$$

$$\beta_\mu(g^*, \mu^*) = 0$$



## From vertex dressings/distribution functions to physics

aka  
form factors

### Effective action

$$\Gamma[\bar{g}, h, c_\mu, \bar{c}_\mu] = \int_x \left[ \frac{2\Lambda - R}{16\pi G_N} + R f_R(\Delta) R + C f_C(\Delta) C + \dots \right]_{\text{BRST-inv}} + S_{\text{gf}} + S_{\text{gh}}$$

### Background effective action

$$\Gamma[g_{\mu\nu}] = \frac{1}{16\pi} \int_x \sqrt{g} \left\{ \mathcal{R}(\Delta, R) + R f_{R^2}(\Delta) R + R_{\mu\nu} f_{R^2_{\mu\nu}}(\Delta) R^{\mu\nu} + \dots \right\}$$

I **JMP, Tränkle, 2309.17043**

**Enforced by IR-UV consistence**

$$R f_{R^2}(\Delta, R) R = \mathcal{R}(\Delta, R) + R f_{R^2}(\Delta) R$$

## Background independence in gravity

**free energy**

$$k\partial_k \Gamma_k[\bar{g}, \phi] = \frac{1}{2} \text{gauge fields} - \text{fermions} + \frac{1}{2} \text{bosons} + \frac{1}{2} \text{gravity}$$

**Linear split**  
 $g = \bar{g} + h$

### Effective action

$$\Gamma_k[\bar{g}, \bar{h}] = \Gamma_k[\bar{g}] + \Gamma_k^{(0,1)}[\bar{g}] * \bar{h} + \frac{1}{2} \Gamma_k^{(0,2)}[\bar{g}] * \bar{h}^2 + \frac{1}{6} \Gamma_k^{(0,3)}[\bar{g}] * \bar{h}^3 + \dots$$

$\bar{h} = \langle h \rangle$

$$\left\{ \Gamma_k[\bar{g}], \Gamma_k^{(0,1)}[\bar{g}], \Gamma_k^{(0,2)}[\bar{g}], \Gamma_k^{(0,3)}[\bar{g}], \dots \right\}$$

## From vertex dressings/distribution functions to physics

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Effective action

$$\Gamma[\bar{g}, h, c_\mu, \bar{c}_\mu] = \int_x \left[ \frac{2\Lambda - R}{16\pi G_N} + R f_R(\Delta) R + C f_C(\Delta) C + \dots \right]_{\text{BRST-inv}} + S_{\text{gf}} + S_{\text{gh}}$$

gauge dependent

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gauge independent

JMP, Tränkle, 2309.17043

Enforced by IR-UV consistence

$$R f_{R^2}(\Delta, R) R = \mathcal{R}(\Delta, R) + R f_{R^2}(\Delta) R$$

How much do they differ?

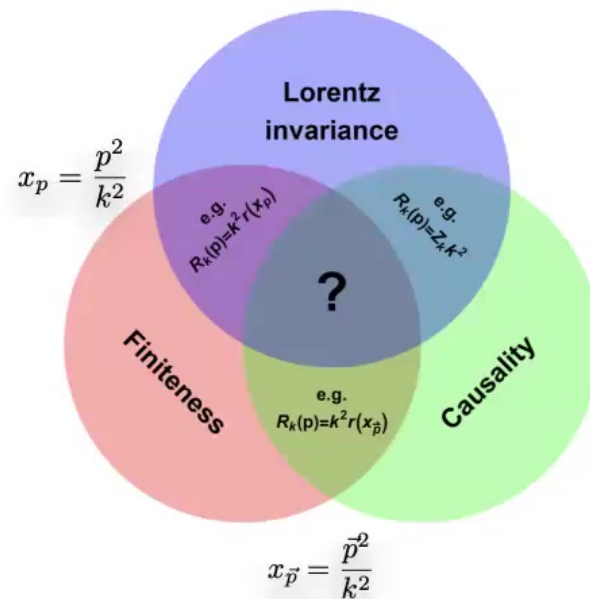
## A lesson from graviton spectral functions

Spectral representation

$$G_k(p) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{d\lambda}{2\pi} \frac{\lambda \rho_k(\lambda, \vec{p})}{\lambda^2 + p_0^2}$$

Reconstruction (inverse problem):  $\rho_k[G_k]$

Direct Lorentzian computation with symmetry preserving



9

fQCD, Reichert, SciPost Phys.Core 6 (2023) 061  
 Fehre, Litim, JMP, Reichert, PRL 130 (2023) 081501

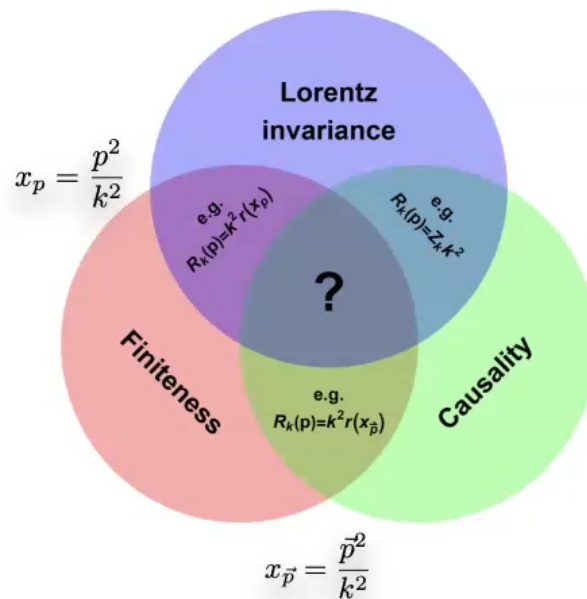
## A lesson from graviton spectral functions

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Reconstruction (inverse problem):  $\rho_k[G_k]$

Direct Lorentzian computation with symmetry preserving



Lorentz invariance & Causality

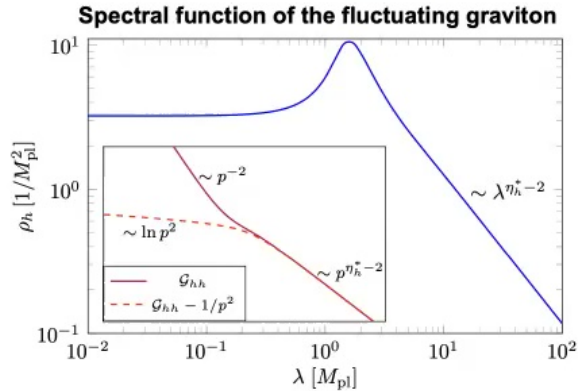
Callan-Symanzik regulator

$$R_{CS} = Z_\phi k^2$$

Finiteness lost

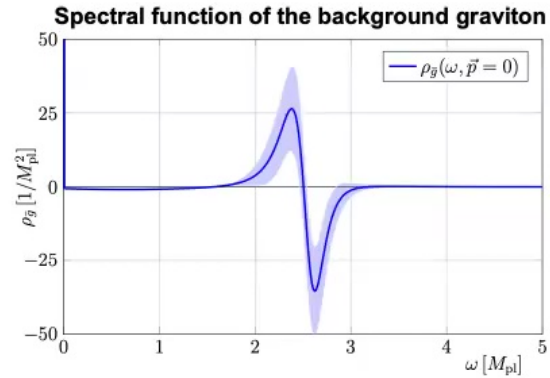
# A lesson from graviton spectral functions

## Direct computation



Fehre, Litim, JMP, Reichert, PRL 130 (2023) 081501

## Reconstruction



Bonanno, Denz, JMP, Reichert, SciPost Phys. 12 (2022) 1, 001

Spectral properties 'resemble' that of an asymptotic

$$\rho_h(\lambda) \in \mathbb{R}^+ \quad \int_{\mathbb{R}} \frac{d\lambda}{2\pi} \lambda \rho_h(\lambda) = \infty$$

Spectral properties of an unphysical mode

$$\rho_{\bar{g}}(\lambda) \in \mathbb{R} \quad \int_{\mathbb{R}} \frac{d\lambda}{2\pi} \lambda \rho_{\bar{g}}(\lambda) = 0$$

How much do they differ?

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JMP, Reichert, Front.in Phys. 8 (2021) 527  
2309.10785

## Background spectral function and scattering amplitudes

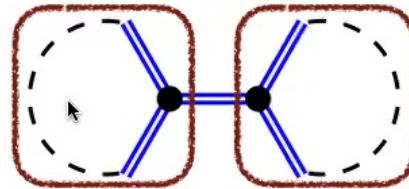
**RG-invariant vertex**

$$\frac{\Gamma_{hhh}^{(3)}(p_1, p_2, p_3)}{Z_h^{\frac{1}{2}}(p_1)Z_h^{\frac{1}{2}}(p_2)Z_h^{\frac{1}{2}}(p_3)}$$

aka

**RG-invariant coupling**  
/form factor

**Graviton-graviton scattering**



Bonanno, Denz, JMP, Reichert, *SciPost Phys.* 12 (2022) 1, 001

**RG-invariant vertex**

$$\frac{\Gamma_{hhh}^{(3)}(p_1, p_2, p_3)}{Z_h^{\frac{1}{2}}(p_1)Z_h^{\frac{1}{2}}(p_2)Z_h^{\frac{1}{2}}(p_3)}$$

aka

**RG-invariant coupling**  
/form factor

Fluctuation approach: 2012 ...

Form factor approach: 2018 ...

Knorr, Ripken, Saueressig, ...

**Suggestive educated guess**

$$\bar{\Gamma}_{\bar{g}^n}^{(n)}(p_1, \dots, p_n) \approx \frac{\Gamma_{h^n}^{(n)}(p_1, \dots, p_n)}{Z_h^{\frac{1}{2}}(p_1) \cdots Z_h^{\frac{1}{2}}(p_n)}$$



# The physics of thresholds

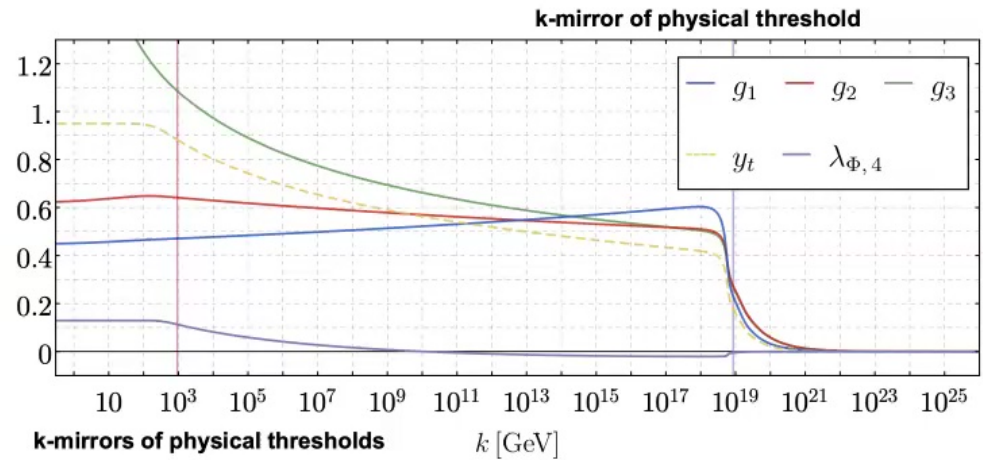
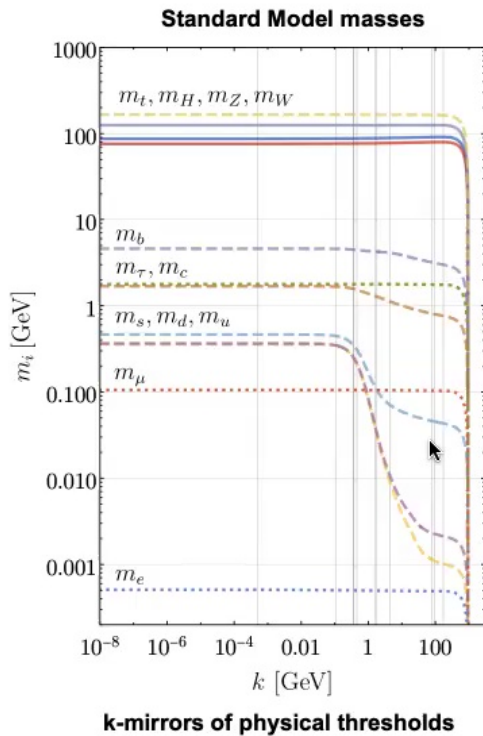
Bonanno et al., *Critical reflections on asymptotically safe gravity*, *Front.in Phys.* **8** (2020) 269

QCD & SM thresholds in the RG since (many) decades

QCD with the fRG since a decade

## Example: asymptotically safe Standard Model

Pastor-Gutiérrez, JMP, Reichert, *SciPost Phys.* **15** (2023) 105



**k-mirrors of physical thresholds: feature, not bug!**



# The physics of thresholds

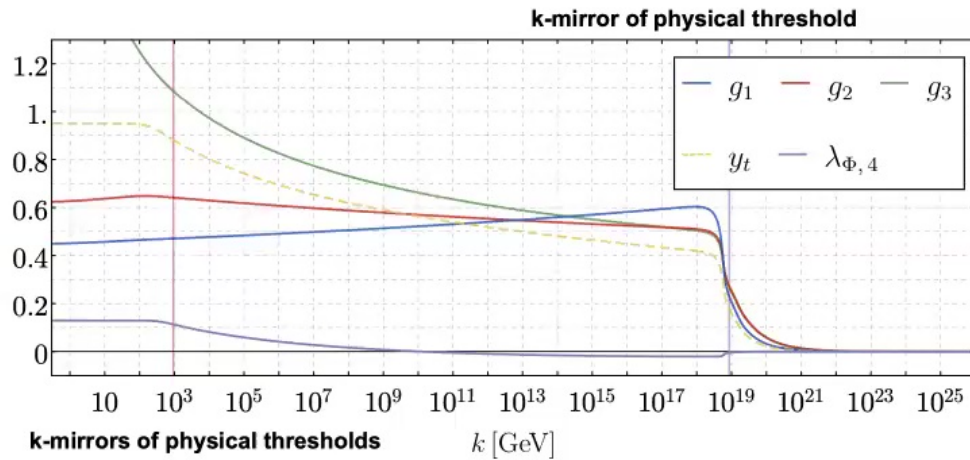
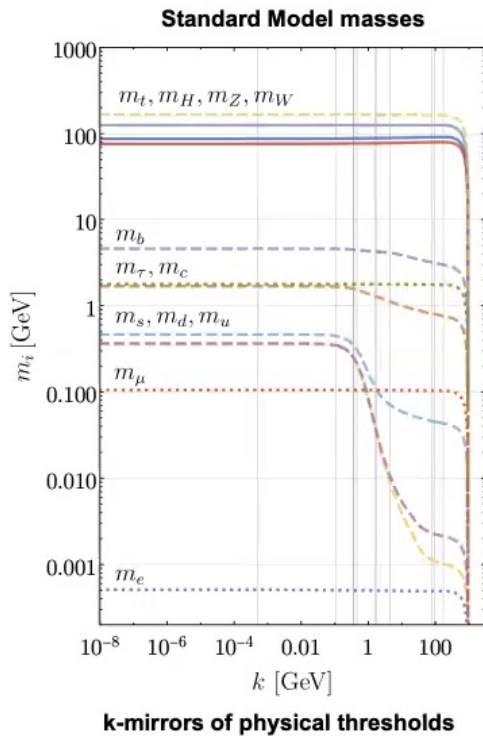
Bonanno et al., Critical reflections on asymptotically safe gravity, *Front.in Phys.* 8 (2020) 269

QCD & SM thresholds in the RG since (many) decades

QCD with the fRG since a decade

## Example: asymptotically safe Standard Model

Pastor-Gutiérrez, JMP, Reichert, *SciPost Phys.* 15 (2023) 105



k-mirrors of physical thresholds: feature, not bug!

Full physics: momentum-dependent correlation functions & S-matrix elements at  $k=0$

# Towards apparent convergence in quantum gravity

vertex expansion

$$\Gamma^{(m,n \geq 2)}$$

$$\partial_t \Gamma_k = \frac{1}{2} \text{[diagram 1]} - \text{[diagram 2]}$$

$$\partial_t \Gamma_k^{(h)} = -\frac{1}{2} \text{[diagram 3]} + \text{[diagram 4]}$$

$$\partial_t \Gamma_k^{(2h)} = -\frac{1}{2} \text{[diagram 5]} + \text{[diagram 6]} - 2 \text{[diagram 7]}$$

$$\partial_t \Gamma_k^{(c\bar{c})} = \text{[diagram 8]} + \text{[diagram 9]}$$

$$\partial_t \Gamma_k^{(3h)} = -\frac{1}{2} \text{[diagram 10]} + 3 \text{[diagram 11]} - 3 \text{[diagram 12]} + 6 \text{[diagram 13]}$$

$$\partial_t \Gamma_k^{(4h)} = -\frac{1}{2} \text{[diagram 14]} + 3 \text{[diagram 15]} + 4 \text{[diagram 16]} - 6 \text{[diagram 17]}$$

$$- 12 \text{[diagram 18]} + 12 \text{[diagram 19]} - 24 \text{[diagram 20]}$$

Aiming at apparent convergence

JMP, Reichert, Front.in Phys. 8 (2021) 527  
2309.10785

# Towards apparent convergence in quantum gravity

## vertex expansion

$$\Gamma^{(m,n \geq 2)}$$

bi-metric approach: Manrique, Reuter, Saueressig, *Annals Phys.* 326 (2011) 463

$$\partial_t \Gamma_k = \frac{1}{2} \left( \text{circle with } \otimes \text{ and } \bullet \text{ on top} \right) - \left( \text{circle with } \otimes \text{ and } \bullet \text{ on top, dashed red lines} \right)$$

**level 1:**  $\Gamma^{(m,n)} \approx \Gamma^{(m+n-1,1)}$

$$\partial_t \Gamma_k^{(h)} = -\frac{1}{2} \left( \text{circle with } \otimes \text{ and } \bullet \text{ on top, two external lines} \right) + \left( \text{circle with } \otimes \text{ and } \bullet \text{ on top, dashed red lines, two external lines} \right)$$

$$\partial_t \Gamma_k^{(2h)} = -\frac{1}{2} \left( \text{circle with } \otimes \text{ and } \bullet \text{ on top, four external lines} \right) + \left( \text{circle with } \otimes \text{ and } \bullet \text{ on top, four external lines} \right) - 2 \left( \text{circle with } \otimes \text{ and } \bullet \text{ on top, dashed red lines, four external lines} \right)$$

$$\partial_t \Gamma_k^{(c\bar{c})} = \left( \text{circle with } \otimes \text{ and } \bullet \text{ on top, dashed red lines, two external lines} \right) + \left( \text{circle with } \otimes \text{ and } \bullet \text{ on top, dashed red lines, two external lines} \right)$$

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**Aiming at apparent convergence**

JMP, Reichert, *Front.in Phys.* 8 (2021) 527  
2309.10785

# Towards apparent convergence in quantum gravity

## vertex expansion

$$\Gamma^{(m,n \geq 2)}$$

Denz, JMP, Reichert, EPJ C78 (2018) 4, 336

**level 4:**  $\Gamma^{(m,n)} \approx \Gamma^{(m+n-4,4)}$

$$\partial_t \Gamma_k = \frac{1}{2} \text{[diagram 1]} - \text{[diagram 2]}$$

$$\partial_t \Gamma_k^{(h)} = -\frac{1}{2} \text{[diagram 3]} + \text{[diagram 4]}$$

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$$-12 \text{[diagram 18]} + 12 \text{[diagram 19]} - 24 \text{[diagram 20]}$$

$Z_h(p), Z_c(p), \mu = -2\lambda_2$

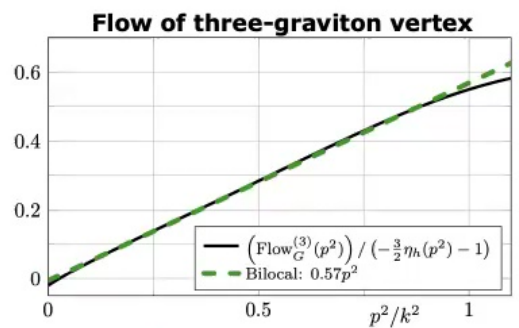
$g_3(p), \lambda_3$

$g_4(p), \lambda_4$

**Aiming at apparent convergence**

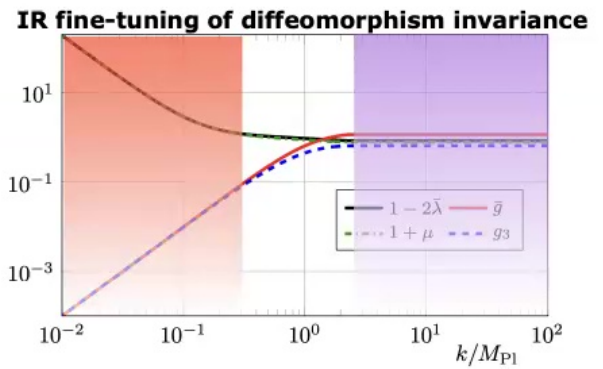
JMP, Reichert, Front.in Phys. 8 (2021) 527  
2309.10785


# Momentum-dependent vertices




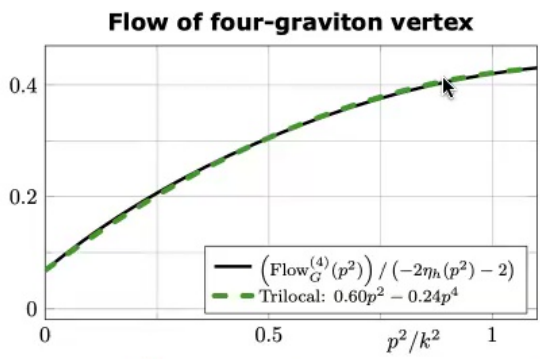
**no  $R^2_{\mu\nu}$  - tensor structure generated!**

Denz, JMP, Reichert, EPJ C78 (2018)



 **classical general relativity**

 **asymptotically safe fixed point scaling**



**$R^2$  - tensor structure generated**

**$R$  - tensor structure sustained**

**Full momentum dependence of two-, three- and four-point function at  $k=0$**  → **Spectral properties**



## Towards apparent convergence in quantum gravity

### Why does/could it work?

Typically diagrams with higher order vertices are strongly suppressed

- (a) couplings stay finite
- (b) combinatorial suppression of diagrams with higher vertices
- (c) phase space (angular) suppression of diagrams with higher vertices

turns out to be very efficient!

JMP, Reichert, Front.in Phys. 8 (2021) 527  
2309.10785

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### Why does/could it fail?

Resonant interaction channels and their interactions circumvent (b) and make (a) irrelevant

- (a) couplings diverge
- (b) hadrons, diquarks, glueballs, ... in QCD → Emergent composites, BSE
- (c) graviballs in gravity → 😂

Gies, Wetterich, PRD 65 (2002) 0650016  
JMP, AP 322 (2007) 2831  
Flörchinger, Wetterich, PLB 680 (2009) 371

JMP, Reichert, Front.in Phys. 8 (2021) 527  
2309.10785

## Towards apparent convergence in quantum gravity

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Gies, Wetterich, PRD 65 (2002) 0650016  
JMP, AP 322 (2007) 2831  
Flörchinger, Wetterich, PLB 680 (2009) 371

QG as perturbative as possible & apparently converging

... slight oversimplification for the sake of this talk ...

JMP, Reichert, Front.in Phys. 8 (2021) 527  
2309.10785



## Applications I: asymptotically safe Standard Model

Pastor-Gutiérrez, JMP, Reichert, SciPost Phys. 15 (2023) 105

Dona, Eichhorn, Percacci, PRD 89 (2014) 084035

Meibohm, JMP, Reichert, EPJC 76 (2016) 285

Christiansen, Litim, JMP, Reichert PRD 97 (2018) 4, 046007



Shaposhnikov, Wetterich, PLB 683 (2010) 196

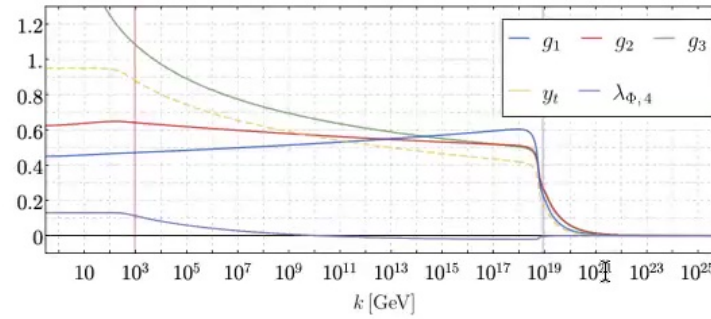
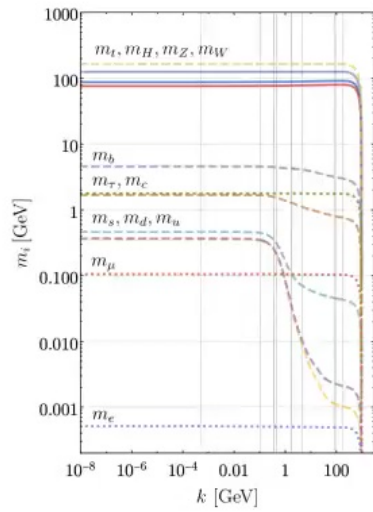
Eichhorn, Versteegen, JHEP 1801 (2018) 030

Eichhorn, Held, PRL 121 (2018) 151302



Latest 'status report': Eichhorn, Schiffer, 2212.01456

## Asymptotically safe Standard Model

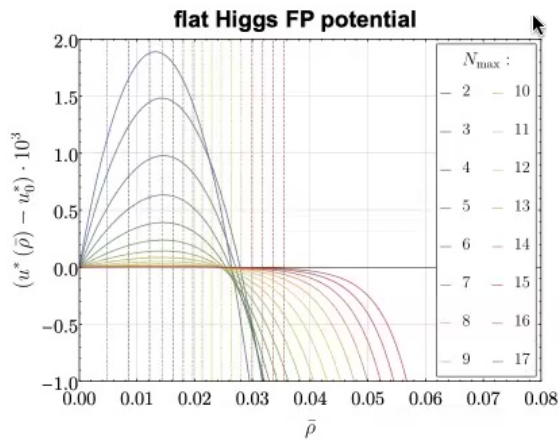
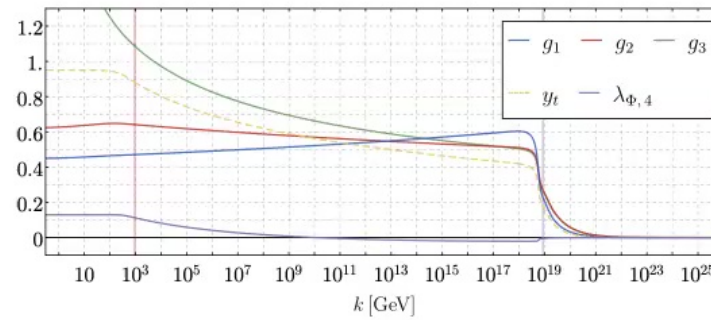
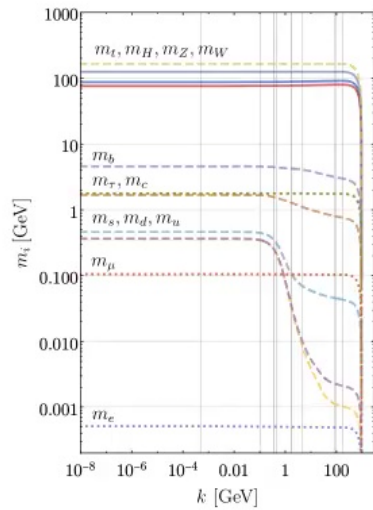


**top pole mass (getting real)**

$$M_{t,\text{pole}}^{(\text{exp})} = 172.5 \pm 0.7 \text{ GeV}$$

**Experimental value (PDG)**

## Asymptotically safe Standard Model



Two relevant directions

top pole mass (getting real)

$$M_{t,\text{pole}}^{(\text{exp})} = 172.5 \pm 0.7 \text{ GeV} \quad \leftarrow \quad m_t = 165.4^{+0.9}_{-0.2} \text{ GeV}$$

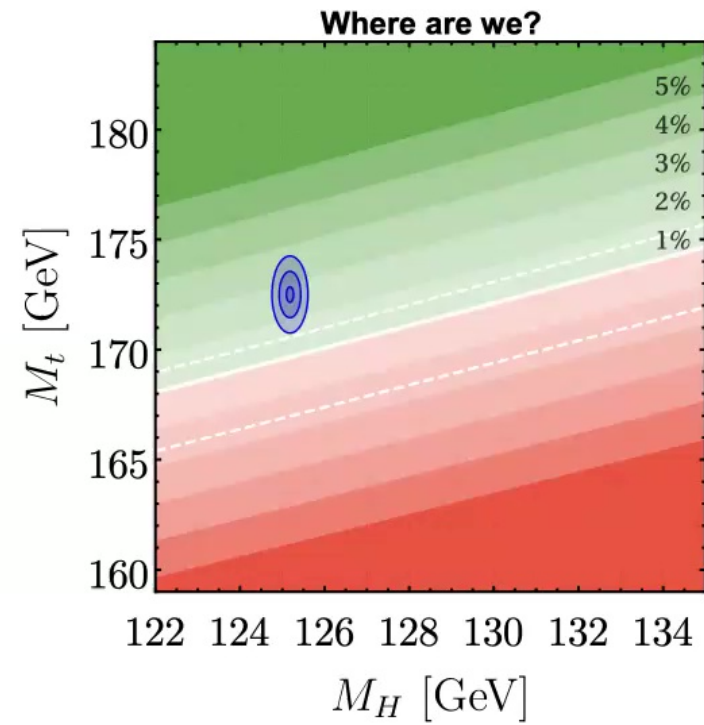
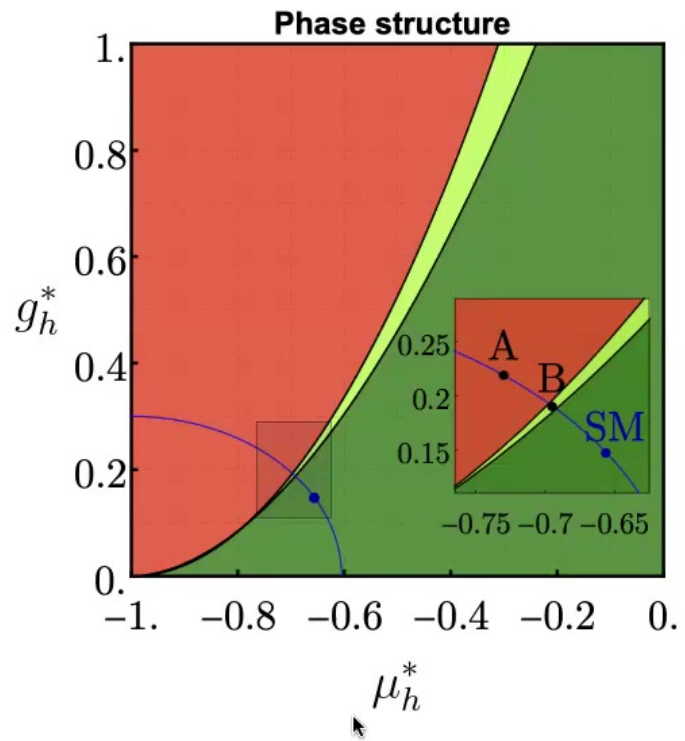
Experimental value (PDG) Euclidean curvature mass

Prediction of decay width

$$\Gamma_{t,\text{pole}}^{(\text{theo})} = 1.72^{+0.09}_{-0.41} \text{ GeV} \quad \Gamma_{t,\text{pole}}^{(\text{exp})} = 1.42^{+0.19}_{-0.15} \text{ GeV}$$

Experimental value (PDG)

## Asymptotically safe Standard Model



## Applications II: asymptotically black holes

JMP, Tränkle, 2309.17043

**Black Holes in Asymptotically Safe Gravity:** Platania, 2309.17043

and beyond: Held, Eichhorn, 2212.09495

## Asymptotically black holes

### Unfolding the background effective action

$$\Gamma[g_{\mu\nu}] = \frac{1}{16\pi} \int_x \sqrt{g} \left\{ \mathcal{R}(\Delta, R) + R f_{R^2}(\Delta) R + R_{\mu\nu} f_{R^2_{\mu\nu}}(\Delta) R^{\mu\nu} + \dots \right\}$$

gauge dependent

$$\bar{\Gamma}_{hh}^{(2)}(p)$$

$$\bar{\Gamma}_{h^3}^{(3)}(p)$$

$$\bar{\Gamma}_{h^4}^{(4)}(p)$$



RG-invariant

$$\bar{\Gamma}_{\bar{g}^3}^{(3)}(p)$$

$$\bar{\Gamma}_{\bar{g}^4}^{(4)}(p)$$

## Asymptotically black holes

### Unfolding the background effective action

$$\Gamma[g_{\mu\nu}] = \frac{1}{16\pi} \int_x \sqrt{g} \left\{ \mathcal{R}(\Delta, R) + R f_{R^2}(\Delta) R + R_{\mu\nu} f_{R_{\mu\nu}^2}(\Delta) R^{\mu\nu} + \dots \right\}$$

gauge dependent

$$\bar{\Gamma}_{hh}^{(2)}(p)$$

$$\bar{\Gamma}_{h^3}^{(3)}(p)$$

$$\bar{\Gamma}_{h^4}^{(4)}(p)$$



RG-invariant

$$\bar{\Gamma}_{\bar{g}^3}^{(3)}(p)$$

$$\bar{\Gamma}_{\bar{g}^4}^{(4)}(p)$$



gauge independent

$$\mathcal{R}(\Delta, R)$$

**Unfolding**

**Educated guess**

$$R f_{R^2}(\Delta) R$$

**Maps**

$$R_{\mu\nu} f_{R_{\mu\nu}^2}(\Delta) R^{\mu\nu}$$

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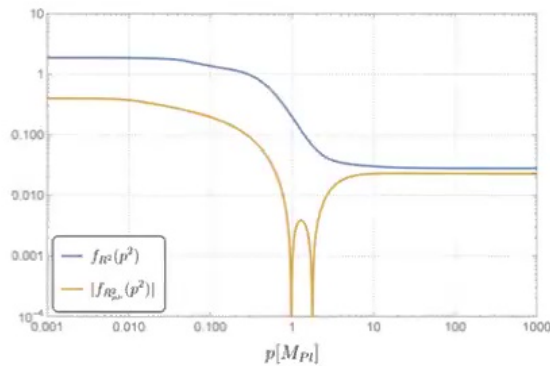
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### Results for form factors



$$\mathcal{R}(\Delta, R) = R \frac{\gamma_g^{(3)}(\Delta) - \bar{\gamma}_3 \Delta}{\Delta + R} R$$



## Asymptotically black holes

### Infrared asymptotic effective action

$$\Gamma_{\text{IR}}[g_{\mu\nu}] = \frac{1}{16\pi} \int_x \sqrt{-g} (G_N^{-1} R + g_{R^2_{\mu\nu}} R_{\mu\nu} R^{\mu\nu} + g_{R^2} R^{\mathbb{D}} + c_1 R_{\mu\nu} \square R^{\mu\nu} + c_2 R \square R)$$

### Spherical symmetric solution

$$ds^2 = -f(r)dt^2 + \frac{1}{g(r)}dr^2 + r^2 d\Omega^2$$

### Weak field solutions

$$f(r) = 1 - \frac{2M}{r} + S_0 \frac{e^{-m_0 r}}{r} + S_2 \frac{e^{-m_2 r}}{r}$$

$$g(r) = 1 - \frac{2M}{r} - S_0 \frac{e^{-m_0 r}}{r} (1 + m_0 r) + \frac{1}{2} S_2 \frac{e^{-m_2 r}}{r} (1 + m_2 r)$$

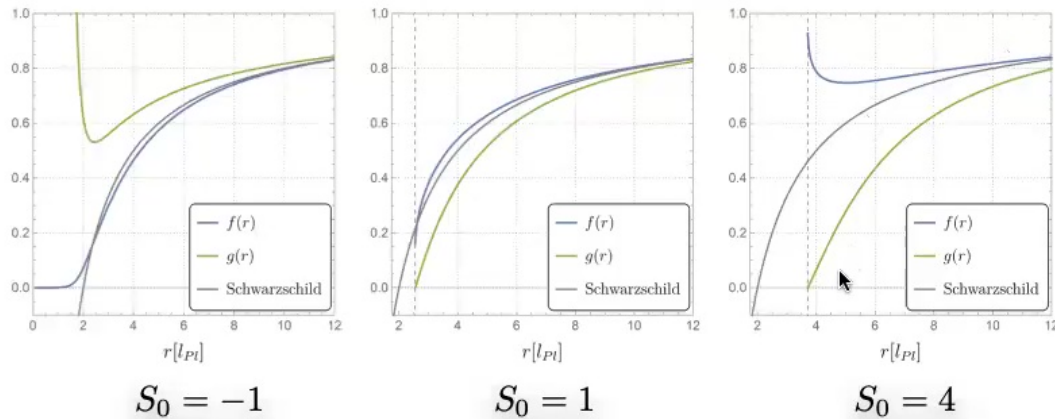
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Numerical Solutions for  $S_2 = 1 = M$



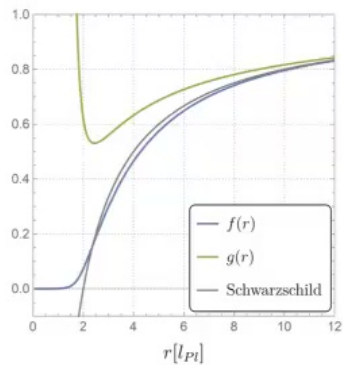
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### Weak field solutions

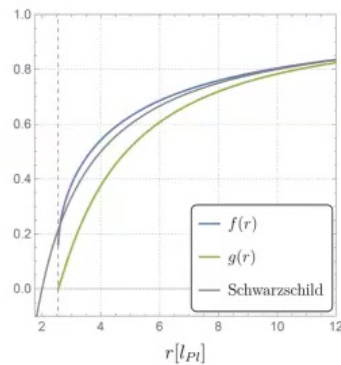
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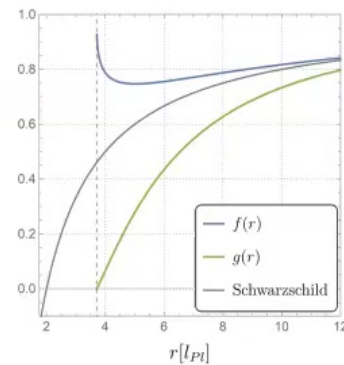
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$S_0 = -1$

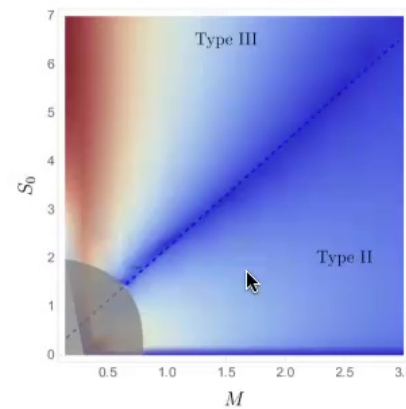


$S_0 = 1$



$S_0 = 4$

Phase structure



$$T = \frac{1}{4\pi} \sqrt{|f'(r_h)g'(r_h)|}$$

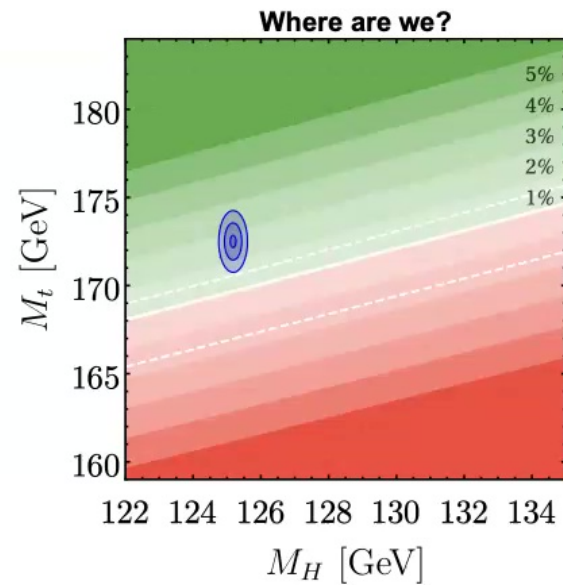
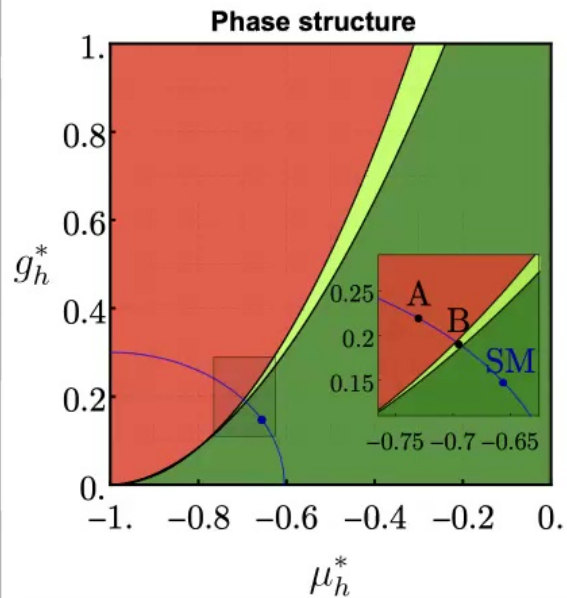
'Hawking temperature'

see also Borissova, Held, Afshordi,  
*CQuant.Grav.* 40 (2023) 7, 075011

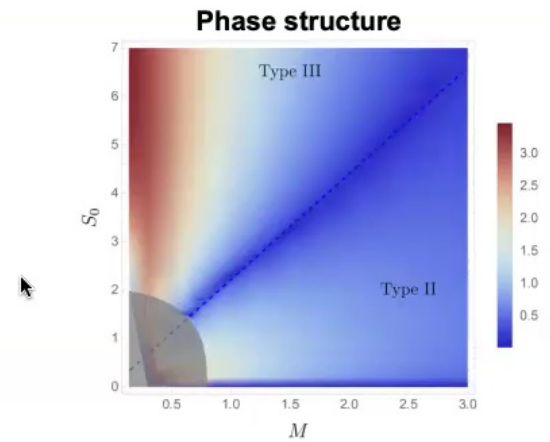
## Summary

$$\partial_t \Gamma_k[\Phi] = \frac{1}{2} \left( \text{orange loop} - \text{dashed loop} - \text{solid loop} + \frac{1}{2} \text{blue loop} + \frac{1}{2} \text{double blue loop} - \text{red dotted loop} \right)$$

## Asymptotically safe SM



## Quantum black holes



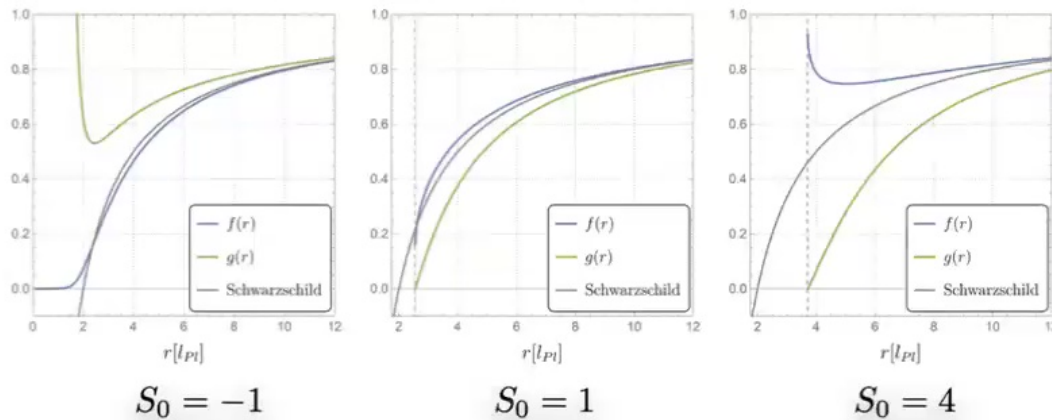
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### Weak field solutions

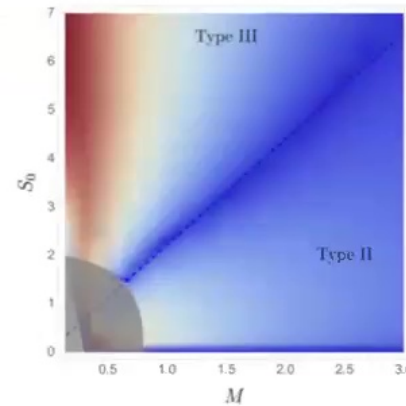
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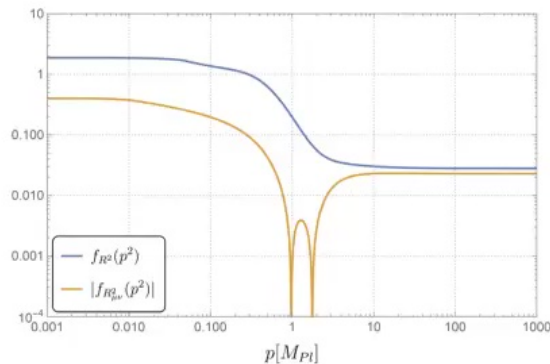
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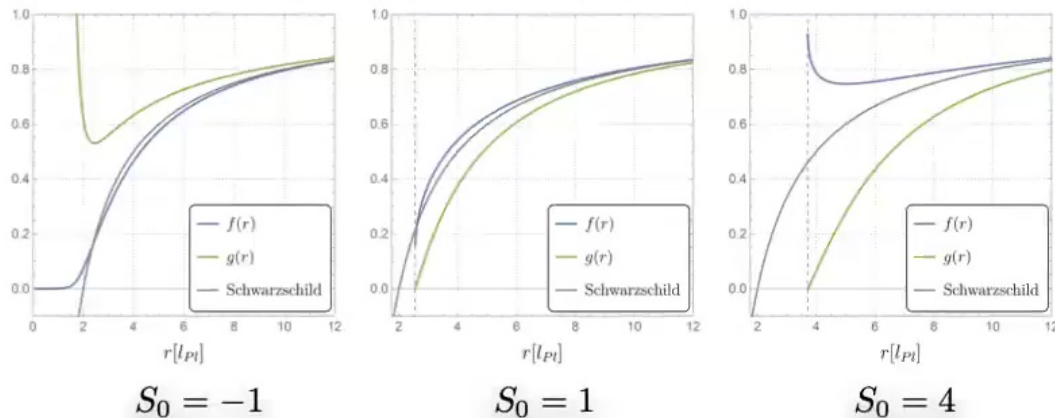
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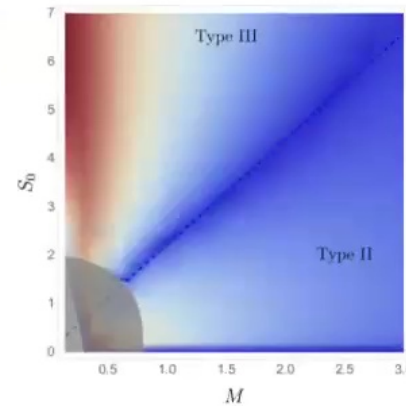
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