

# The determination of $\alpha_s$

by  **ALPHA**  
Collaboration

Rainer Sommer @ FPCapri2016

based on work by

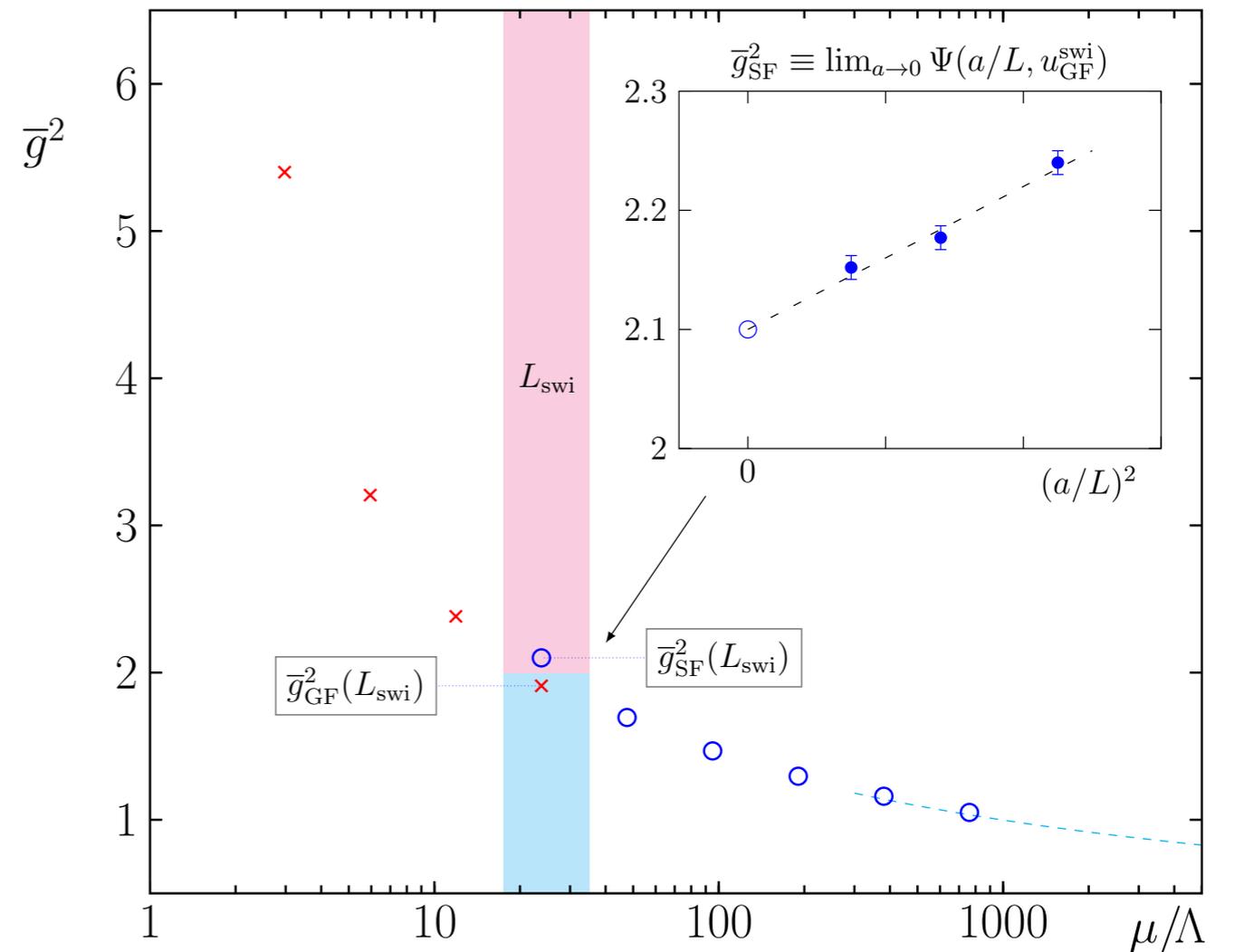
Mattia Bruno, Mattia Dalla Brida, Patrick Fritzsche,  
Tomasz Korzec, Alberto Ramos, Stefan Schaefer,  
Hubert Simma, Stefan Sint, RS

and simulations by

**CLS**

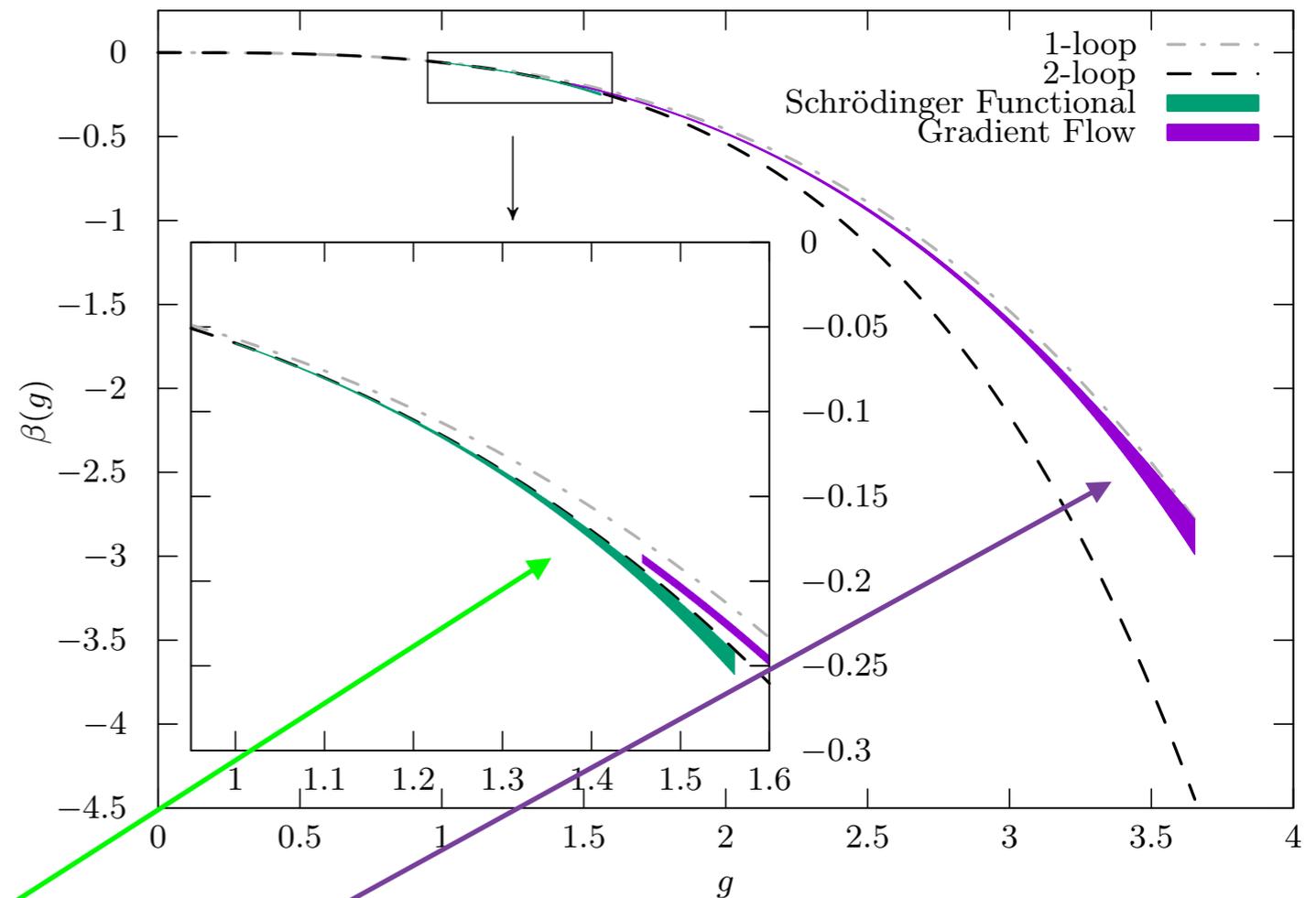
# Summary

- ▶ Connect low energy  $f_\pi, f_K$  to  $g^2(\mu=100\text{GeV})$  **non-perturbatively**
- ▶ extract  $\Lambda^{(3)}$
- ▶ connect to  $\Lambda^{(5)}$  by PT  $\Rightarrow \alpha(m_Z)$
- ▶ using two different intermediate renormalization schemes
  - SF scheme
  - GF scheme



# Summary

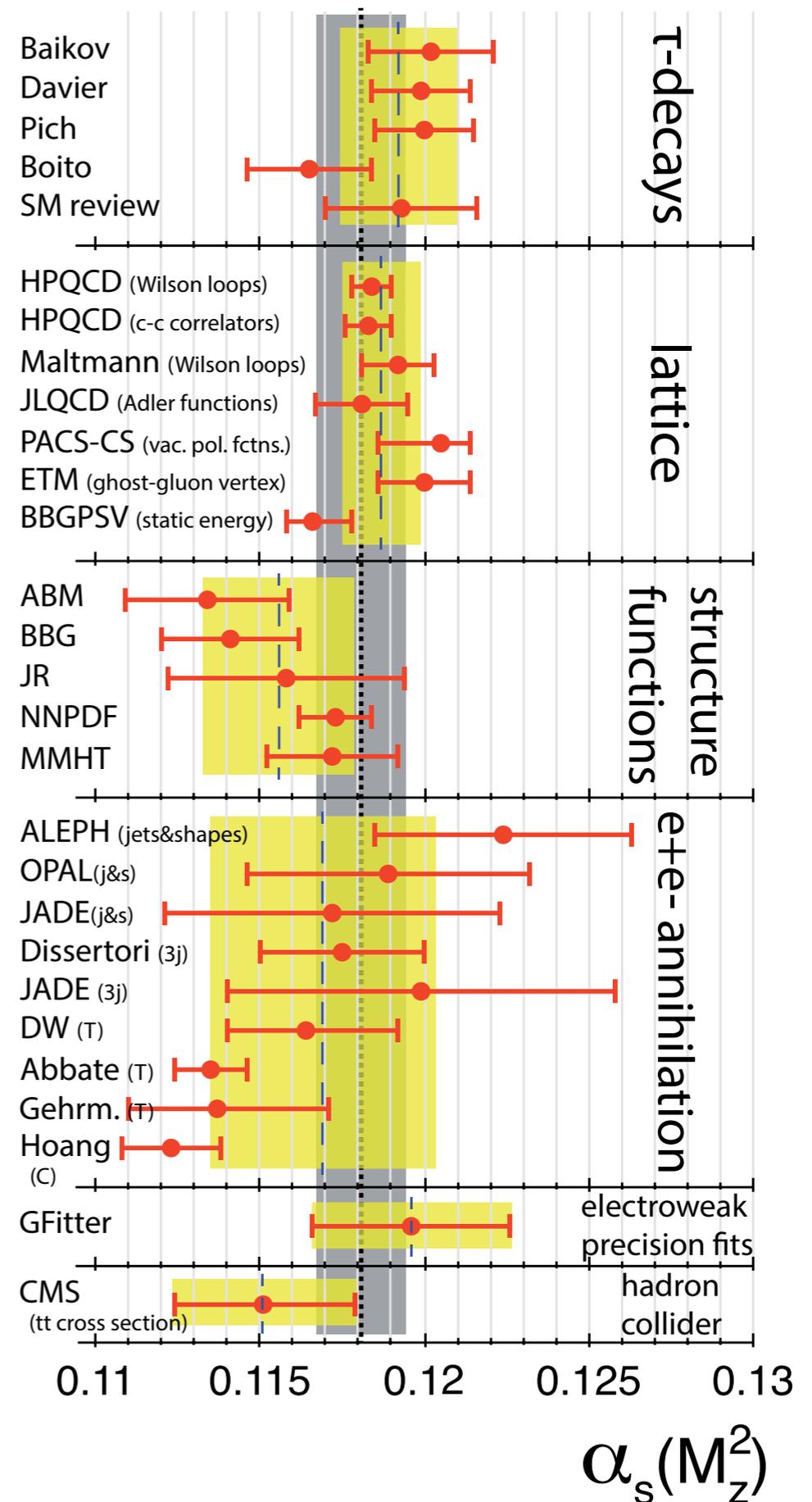
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- ▶ NP  $\beta$ - functions

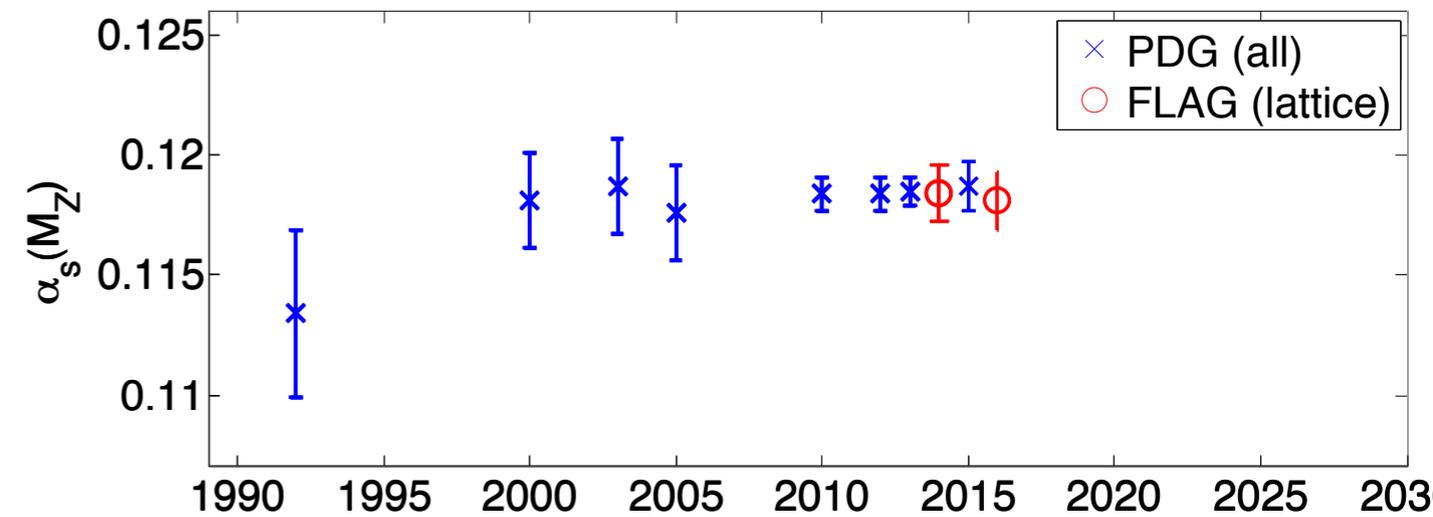
# PDG 2016

- ▶ Individual determinations differ beyond estimated errors
- ▶ lattice most precise
- ▶ Here: new very **controlled** determination



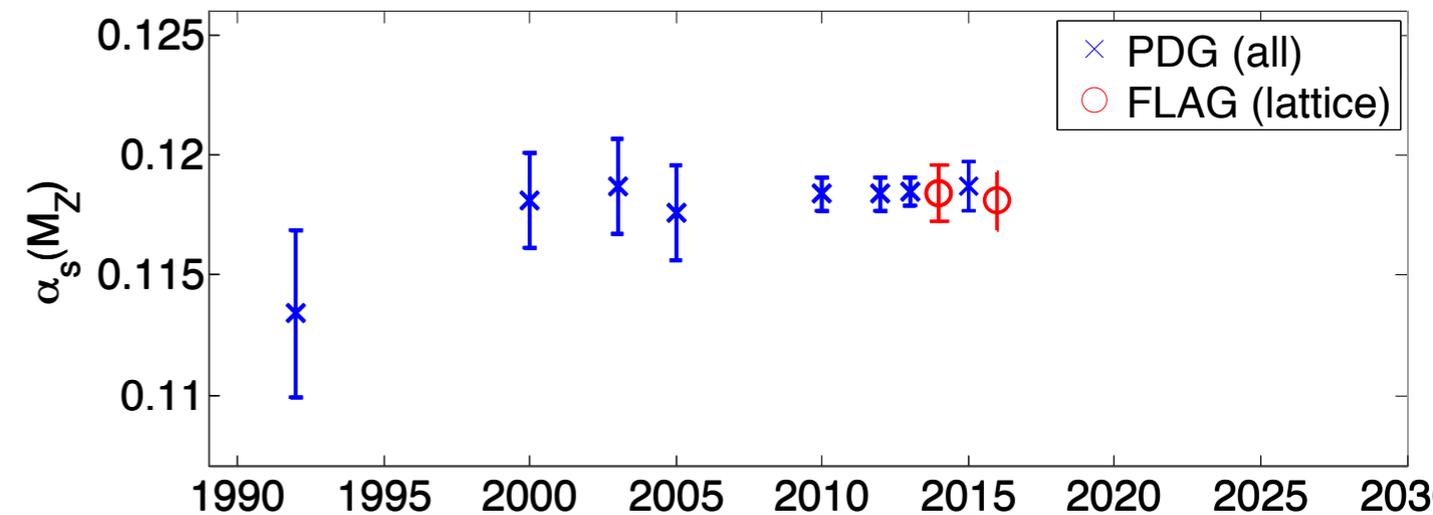
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PDG, lattice:  $0.1187^{(10)}_{(11)}$

PDG, pheno:  $0.1175(17)$

FLAG2:  $0.1184(12)$

FLAG3:  $0.1181(12)$  to be confirmed

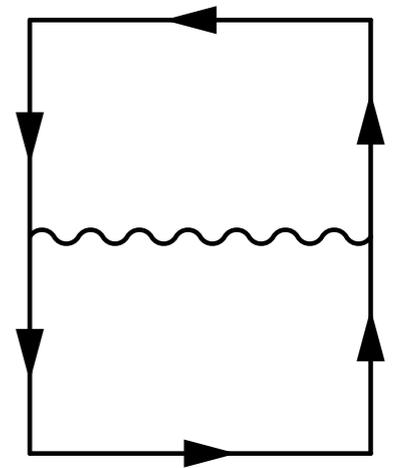
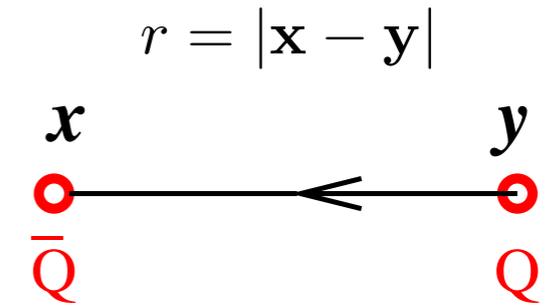
before we compute the QCD coupling

we should define it

... at least when we talk about a  
non-perturbative computation

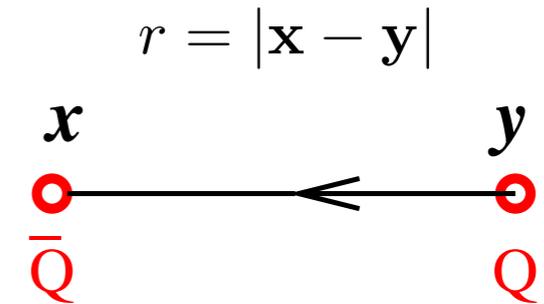
# Definition of QCD coupling (an example)

$$\alpha_{qq}(\mu) \equiv \frac{3r^2}{4} F_{Q\bar{Q}}(r), \quad \mu = \frac{1}{r}$$



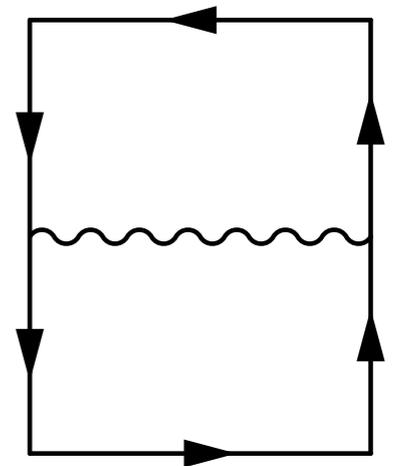
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then

$$\alpha_{qq}(\mu) = \alpha_{\overline{\text{MS}}}(\mu) + c_1 \alpha_{\overline{\text{MS}}}^2(\mu) + \dots$$



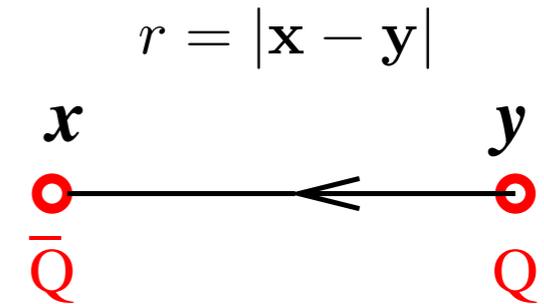
always  
(non-perturbatively)  
defined  
physics!

perturbatively defined  
by such relations

makes sense for  $\alpha \ll 1$

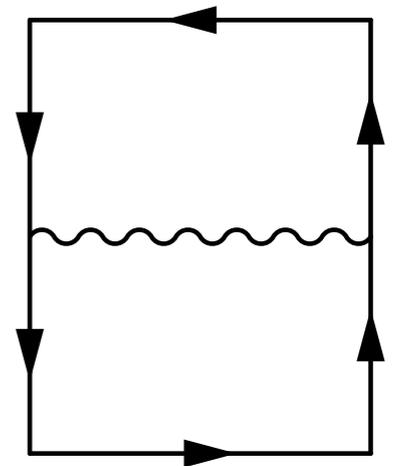
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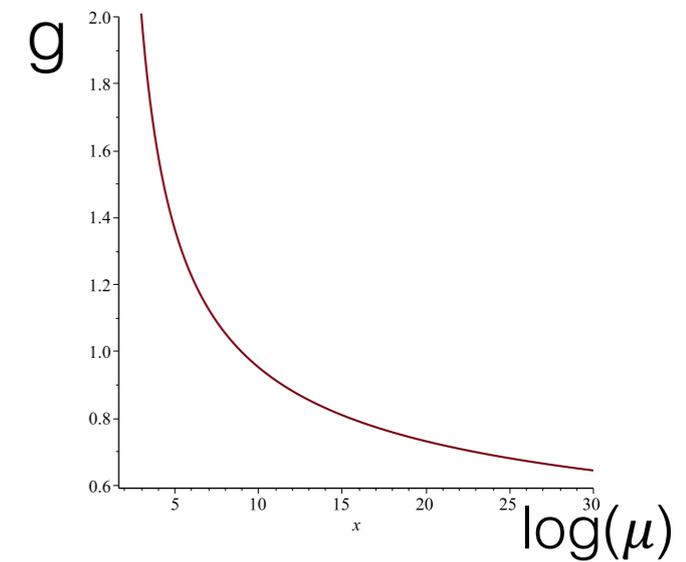
There are many definitions. Equivalent at small  $\alpha$ .

# QCD coupling, energy dependence

$$\text{RGE: } \mu \frac{\partial \bar{g}}{\partial \mu} = \beta(\bar{g}) \quad \bar{g}(\mu)^2 = 4\pi\alpha(\mu)$$

$$\beta(\bar{g}) \stackrel{\bar{g} \rightarrow 0}{\sim} -\bar{g}^3 \{ b_0 + b_1 \bar{g}^2 + b_2 \bar{g}^4 + \dots \}$$

$$b_0 = \frac{1}{(4\pi)^2} \left( 11 - \frac{2}{3} N_f \right)$$



Asymptotic freedom

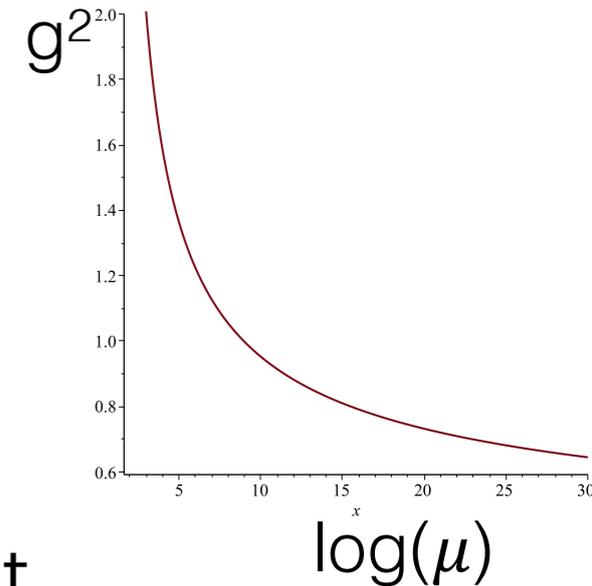
$\mu = \text{energy} = \text{physical}$

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$\Lambda$ -parameter ( $\bar{g} \equiv \bar{g}(\mu)$ ) = Renormalization Group Invariant  
 = intrinsic scale of QCD = integration constant of RGE

$$\Lambda = \mu (b_0 \bar{g}^2)^{-b_1/2b_0^2} e^{-1/2b_0 \bar{g}^2} \exp \left\{ - \int_0^{\bar{g}} dg \left[ \frac{1}{\beta(g)} + \frac{1}{b_0 g^3} - \frac{b_1}{b_0^2 g} \right] \right\}$$

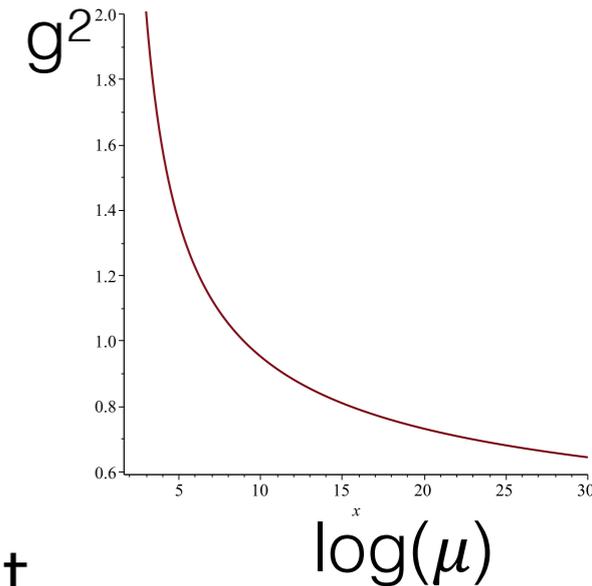
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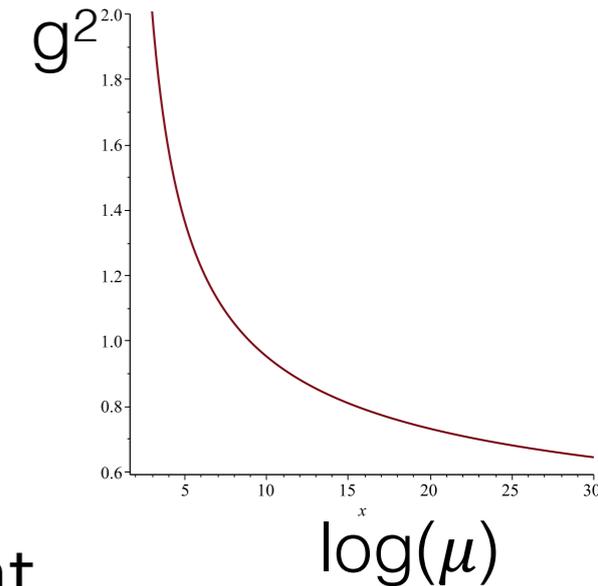
singular behavior

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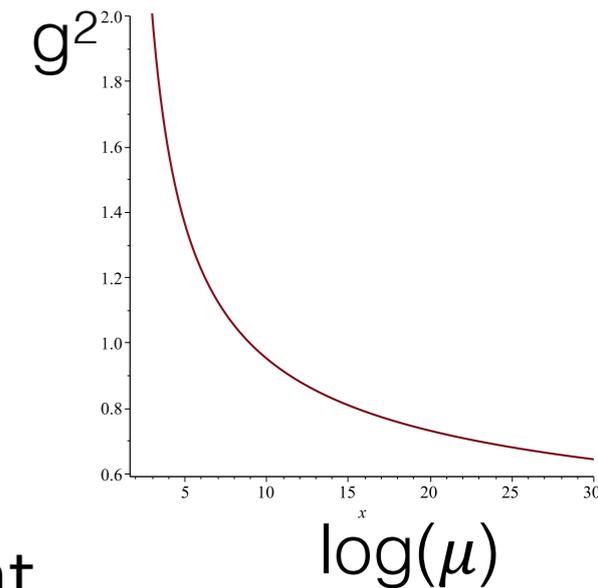
convergent for  $g \rightarrow 0$

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$$\bar{g} = \bar{g}_{\overline{\text{MS}}} \rightarrow \Lambda = \Lambda_{\overline{\text{MS}}}, \quad \bar{g} = \bar{g}_{\text{qq}} \rightarrow \Lambda = \Lambda_{\text{qq}}$$

$$\Lambda_{\overline{\text{MS}}} / \Lambda_{\text{qq}} = \exp(c_1 / (2b_0))$$

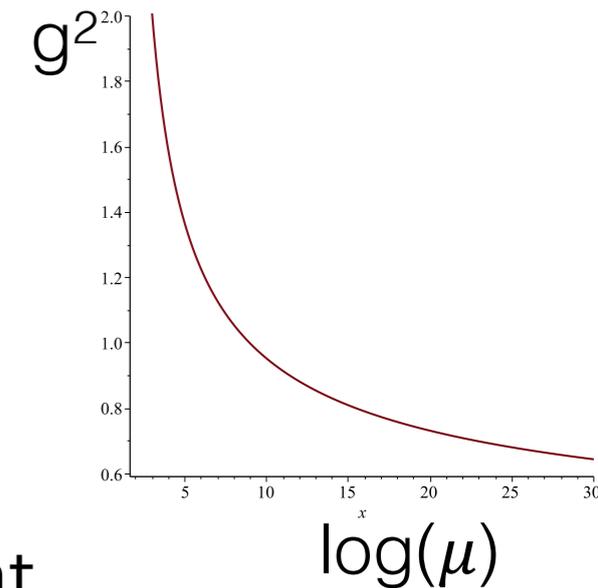
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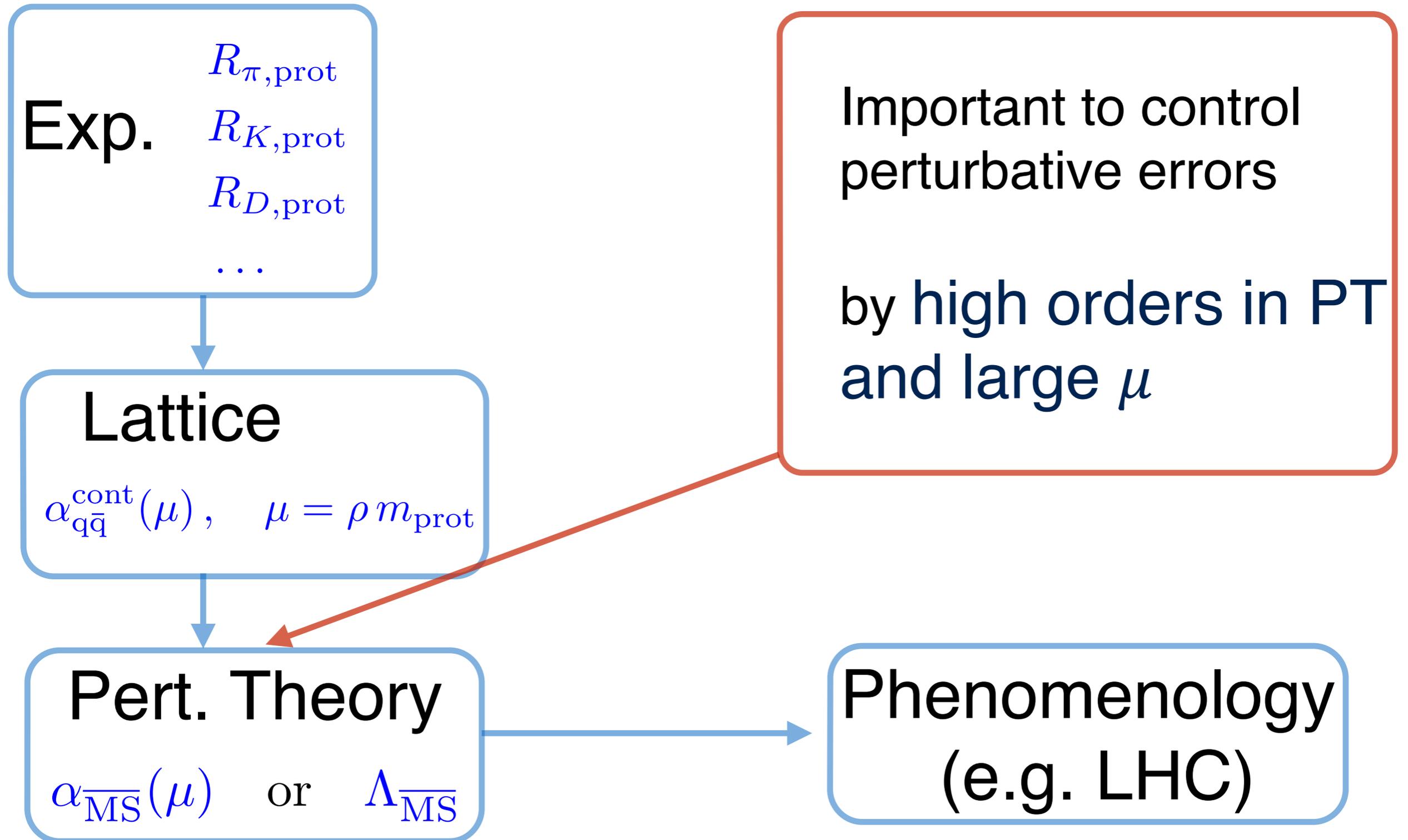
$\Lambda$  is the goal, relative uncertainty:  $k\alpha^n$  for n+1 - loop  $\beta(g)$

An aside:

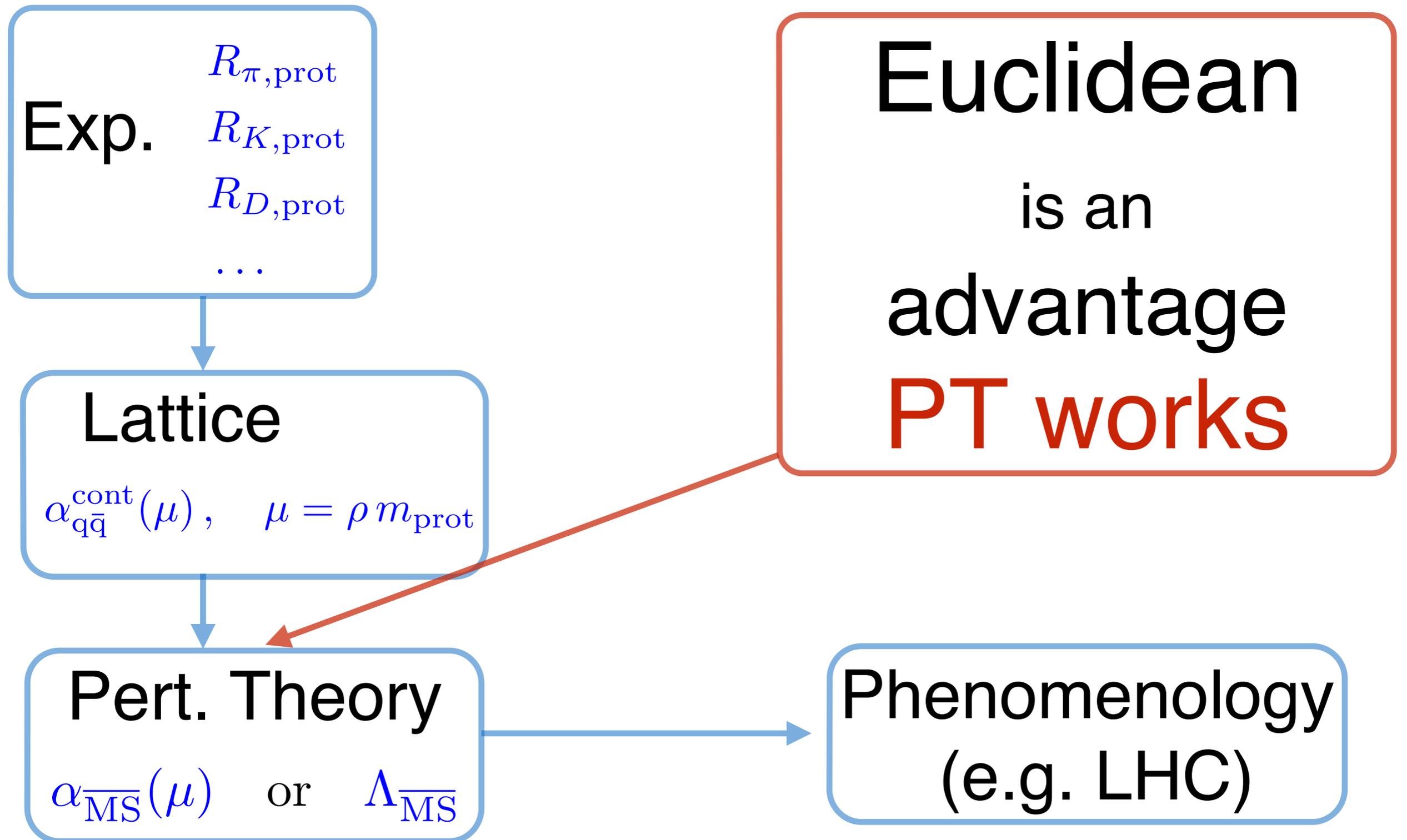
Perturbative but not short distance?

**Perturbative = short distance!**

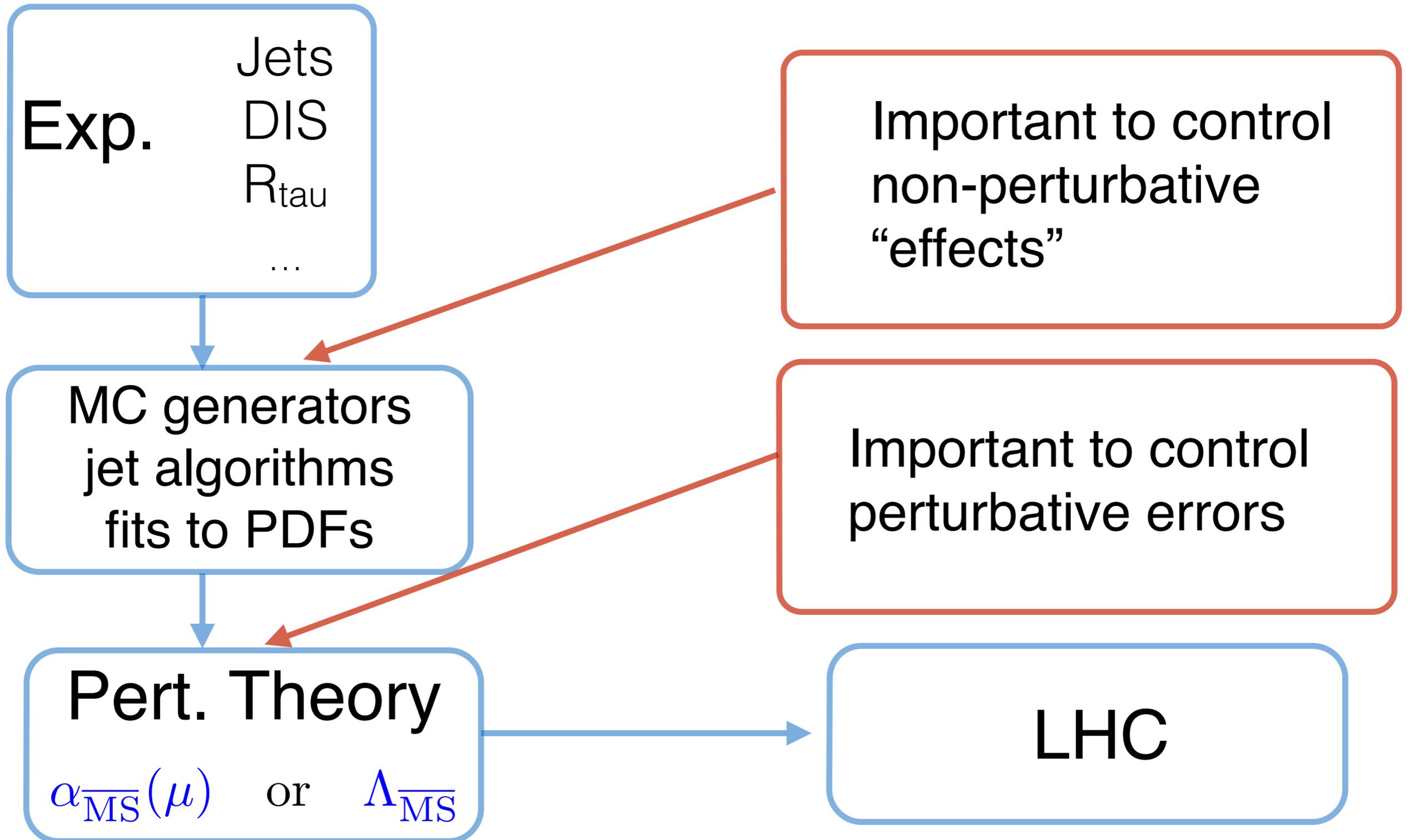
# Summary of the principle



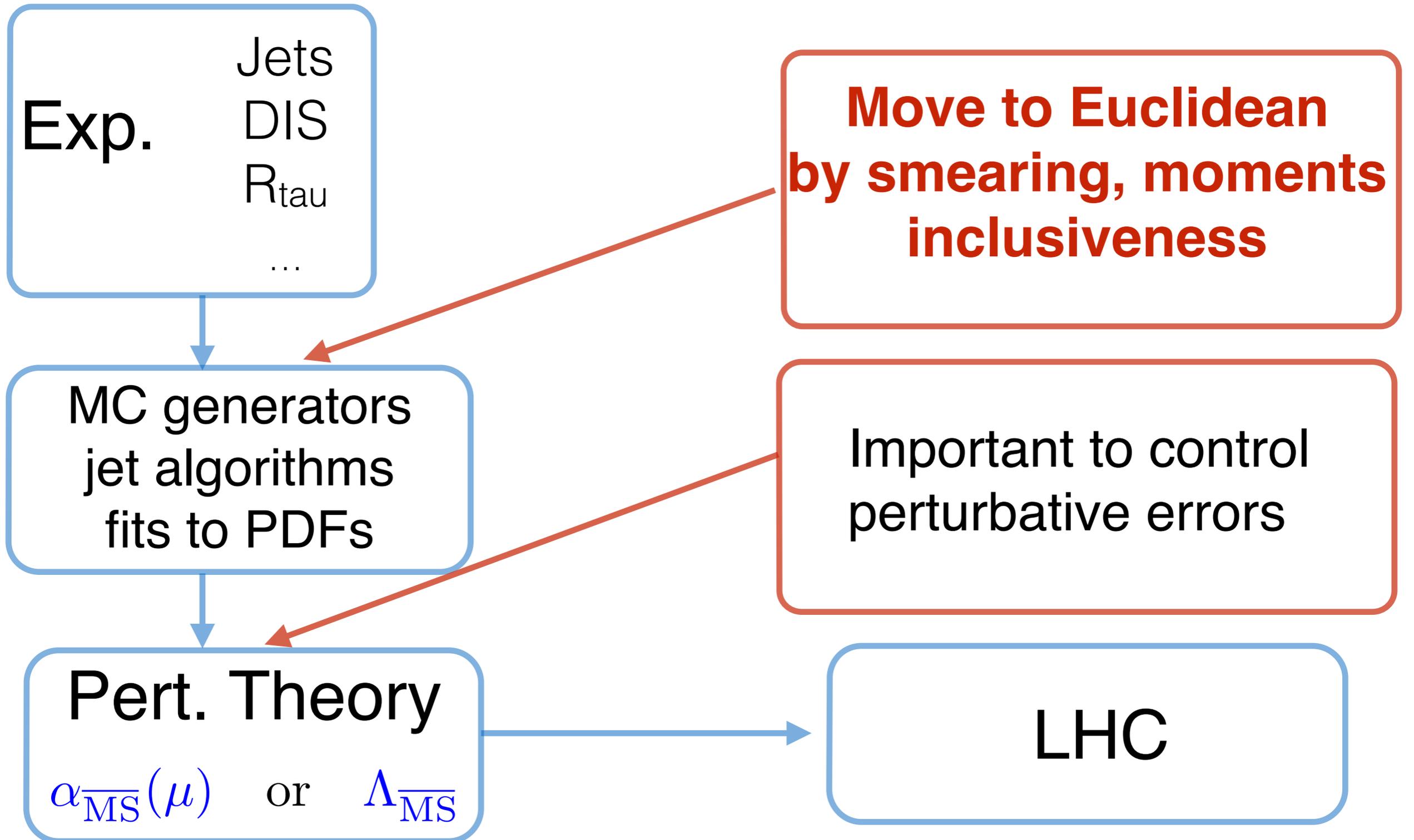
# Summary of the principle



# Compare to phenomenology



# Compare to phenomenology



# Limitations of lattice computations

FLAG2013

- ▶ Observable with energy/momentum scale  $\mu$

$$\mathcal{O}(\mu) \equiv \lim_{a \rightarrow 0} \mathcal{O}_{\text{lat}}(a, \mu) \text{ with } \mu \text{ fixed}$$

- ▶ avoid finite size and discretization effects

$$L \gg \text{hadron size} \sim \Lambda_{\text{QCD}}^{-1} \quad \text{and} \quad 1/a \gg \mu$$

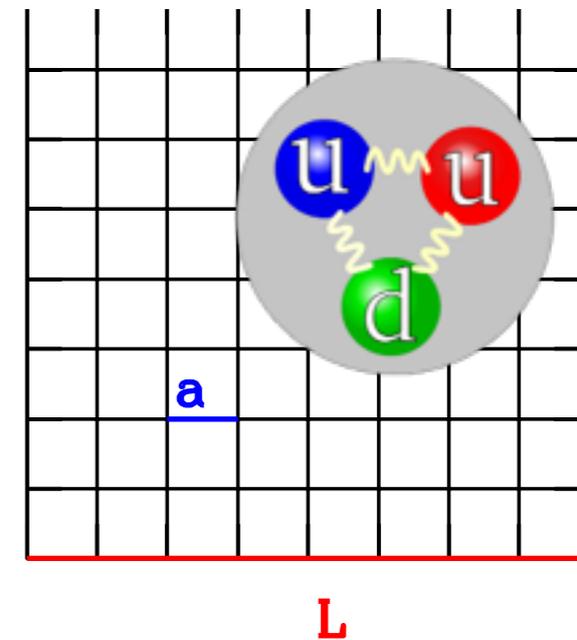
or:

$$L/a \gg \mu/\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}$$

$$\mu \lll L/a \times \Lambda_{\text{QCD}} \sim 5 - 20 \text{ GeV}$$



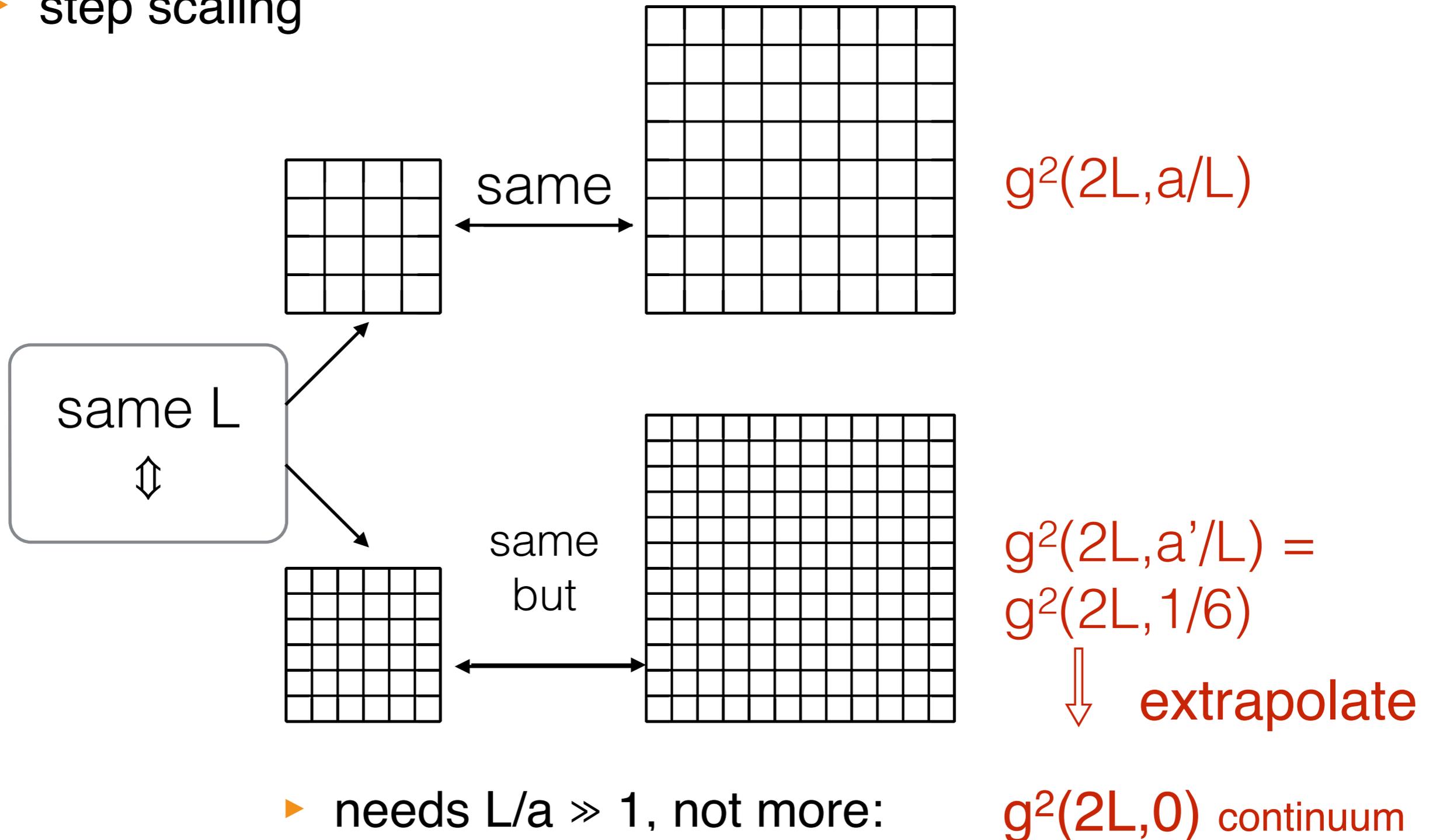
1 – 3 GeV at most, in conflict with  
**a challenge!**



$$\frac{\Delta\Lambda}{\Lambda} \sim \{\alpha(\mu)\}^n$$

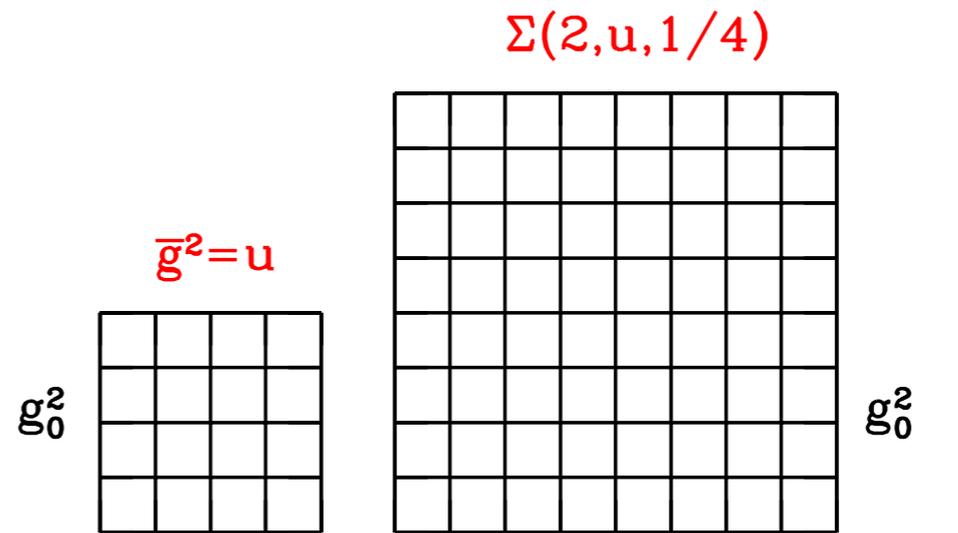
# Our Strategy to meet the Challenge

- ▶ finite volume:  $\mu=1/L$ , with  $L/a \gg 1$  get  $\mu^2 a^2 \ll 1$  for any  $\mu$
- ▶ step scaling



# Our Strategy

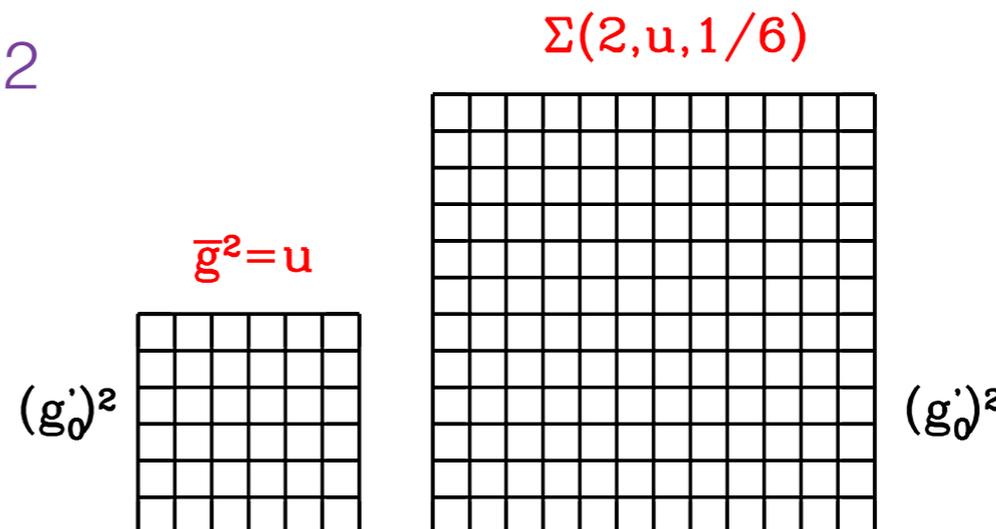
- ▶ finite volume:  $\mu=1/L$ ,  $L/a \gg 1$  at any  $\mu$
- ▶ step scaling function:  $\bar{g}^2(2L) = \sigma(\bar{g}^2(L)) = \lim_{a/L \rightarrow 0} \Sigma(2, u, a/L)$



Lüscher, Weisz, Wolff, '91

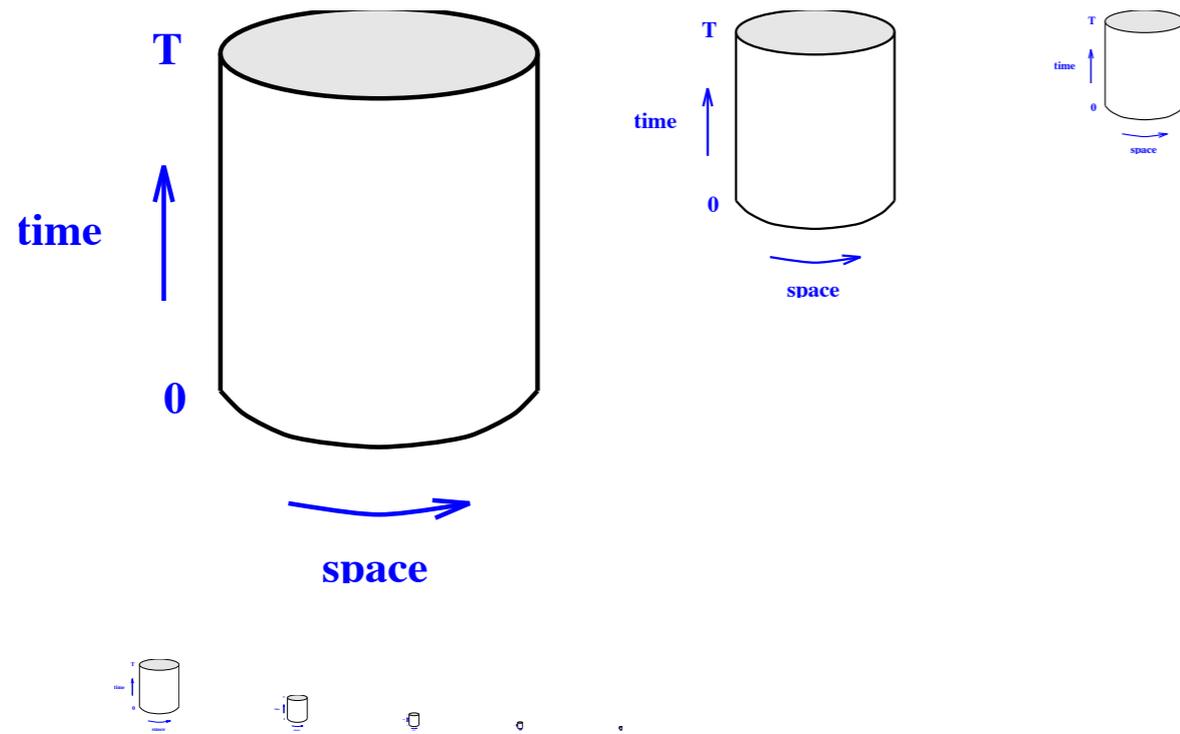
Lüscher, Narayanan, Weisz, Wolff, '92

Lüscher, Sommer, Weisz, Wolff, '94

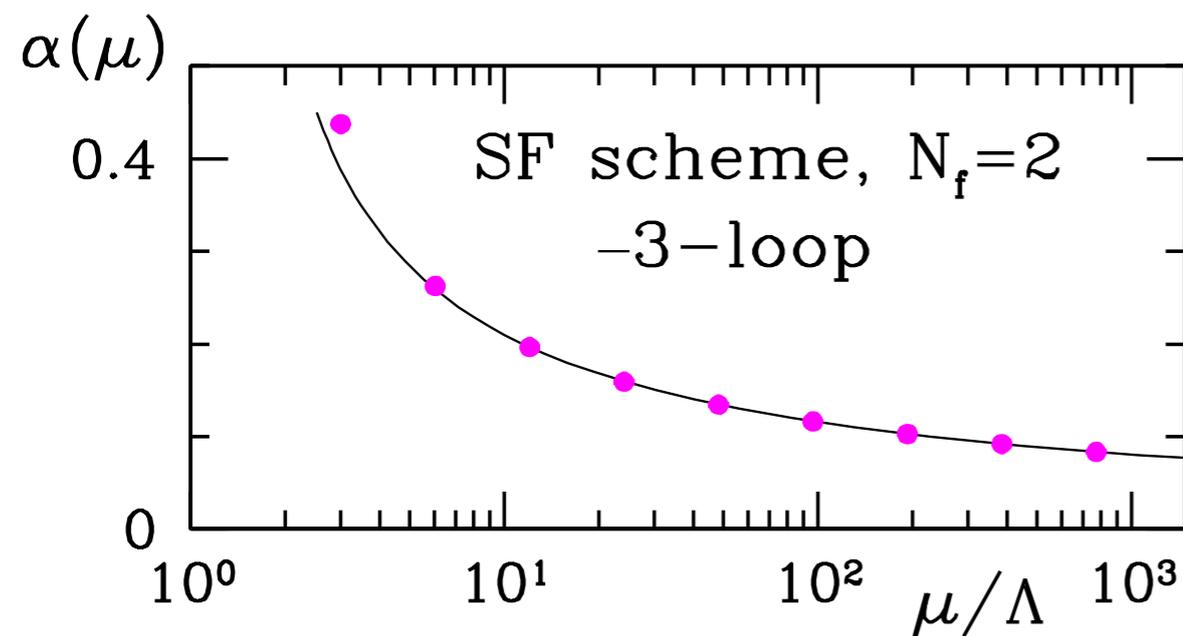
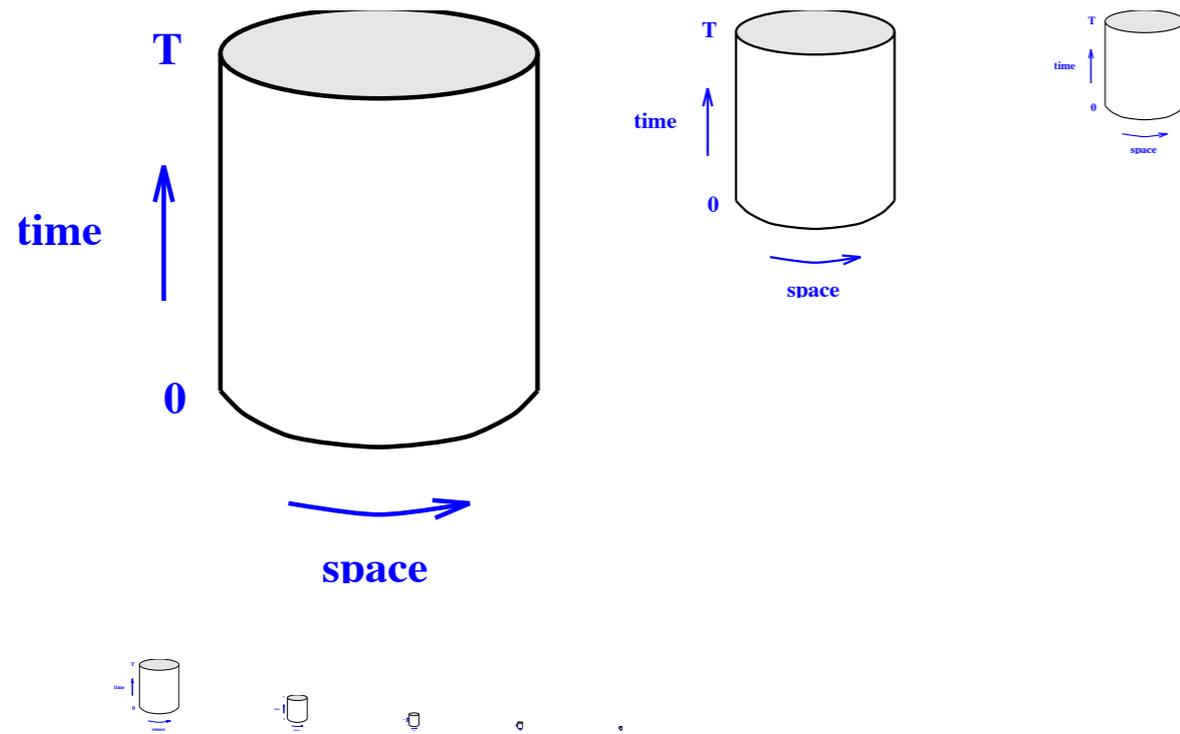


Running to (almost) any scale non-perturbatively

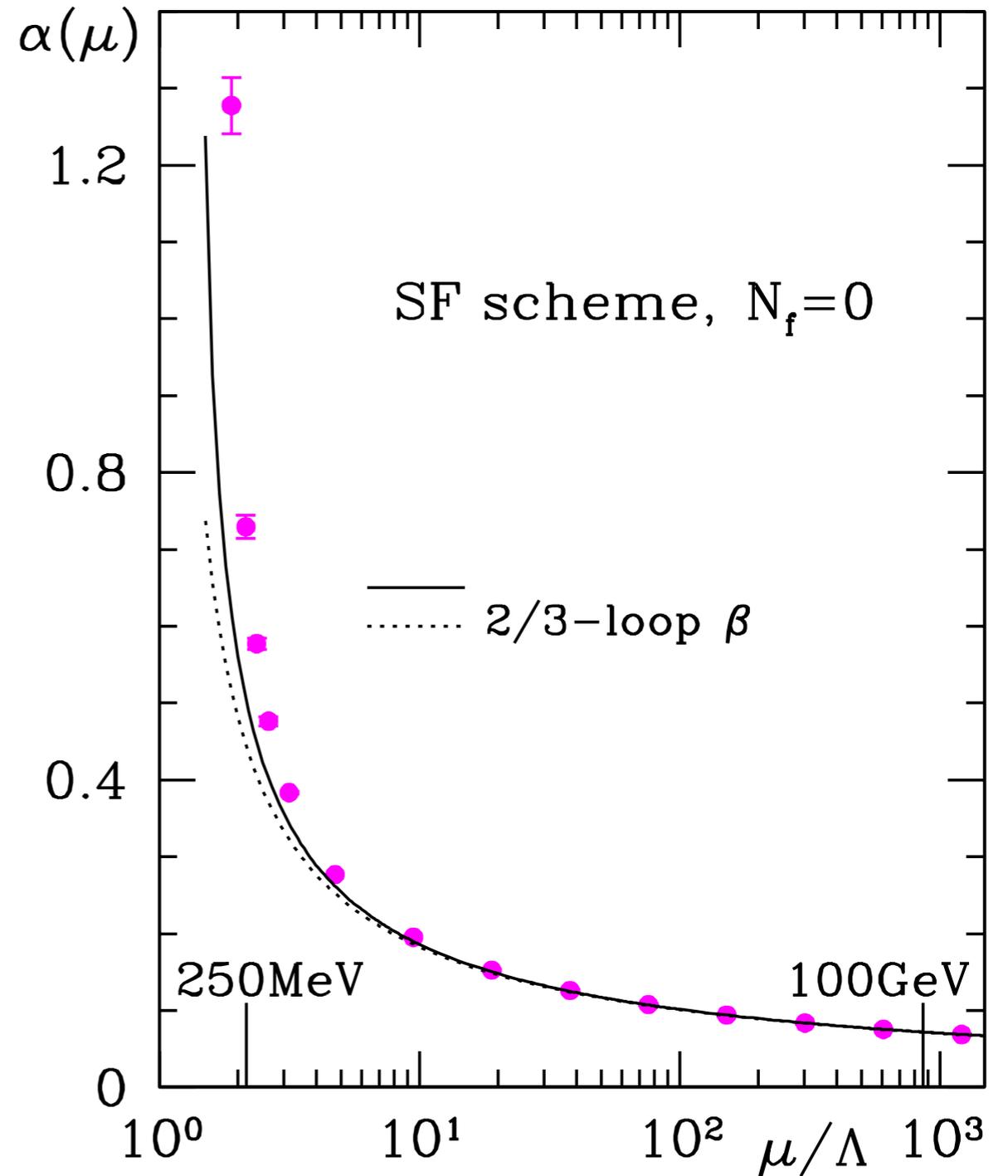
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[ALPHA Collaboration, 2005]



[ALPHA Collaboration, 2001]

Now:  $N_f=3$  (hadronic world and running)  
with up, down, strange; others decoupled

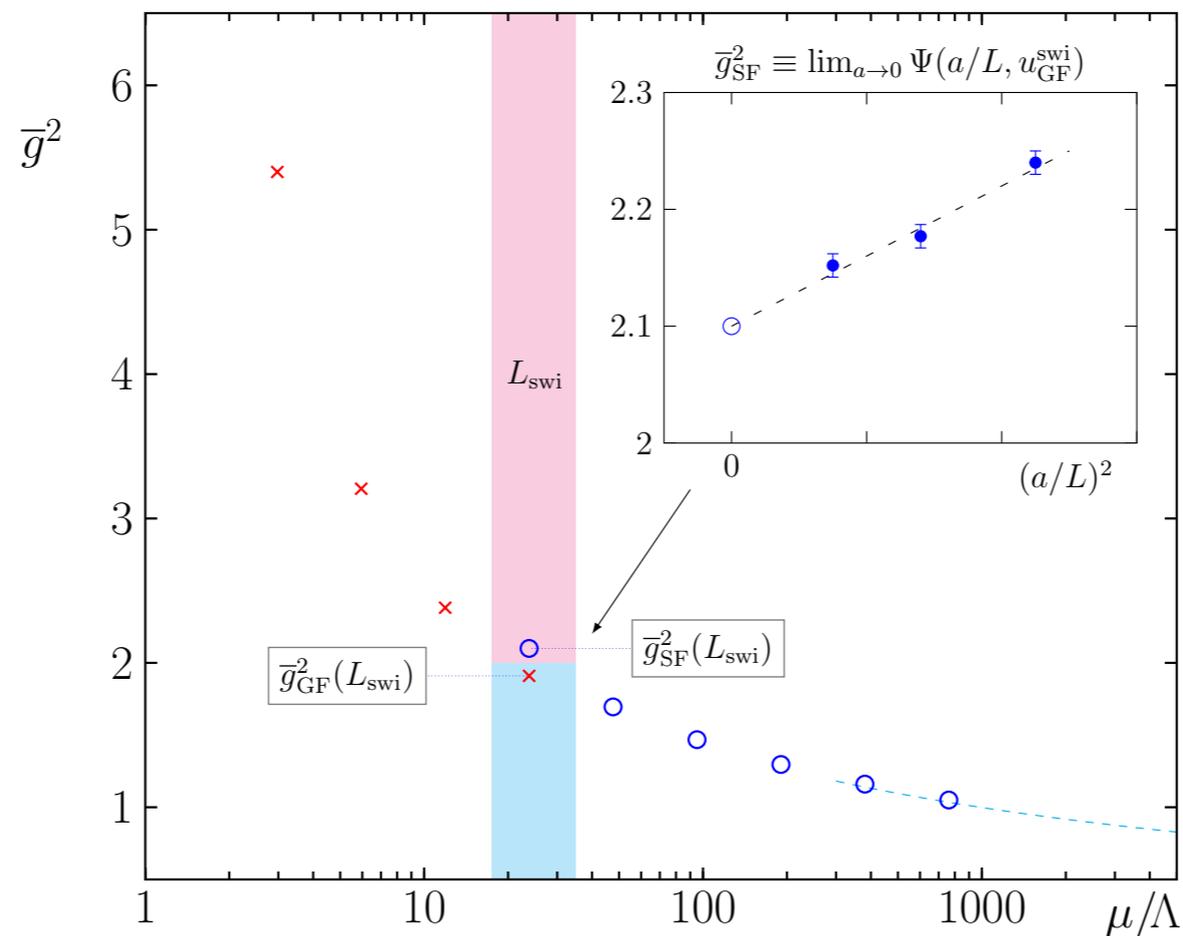
## two different schemes

Gradient flow

200 MeV  $\leftarrow$  8 GeV

Schrödinger functional

4 GeV  $\leftarrow$  200 GeV



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## two different schemes

Gradient flow

200 MeV  $\leftarrow$  8 GeV

high precision in MC

significant  $a^2$  effects

PT not yet known

Lüscher, 2010

Lüscher, Weisz, 2011

Fritzsch, Ramos, 2013

Schrödinger functional

4 GeV  $\leftarrow$  200 GeV

high precision at small  $g$

small  $a$ -effects

**3-loop  $\beta$ -function**

**2-loop  $a$ -effects**

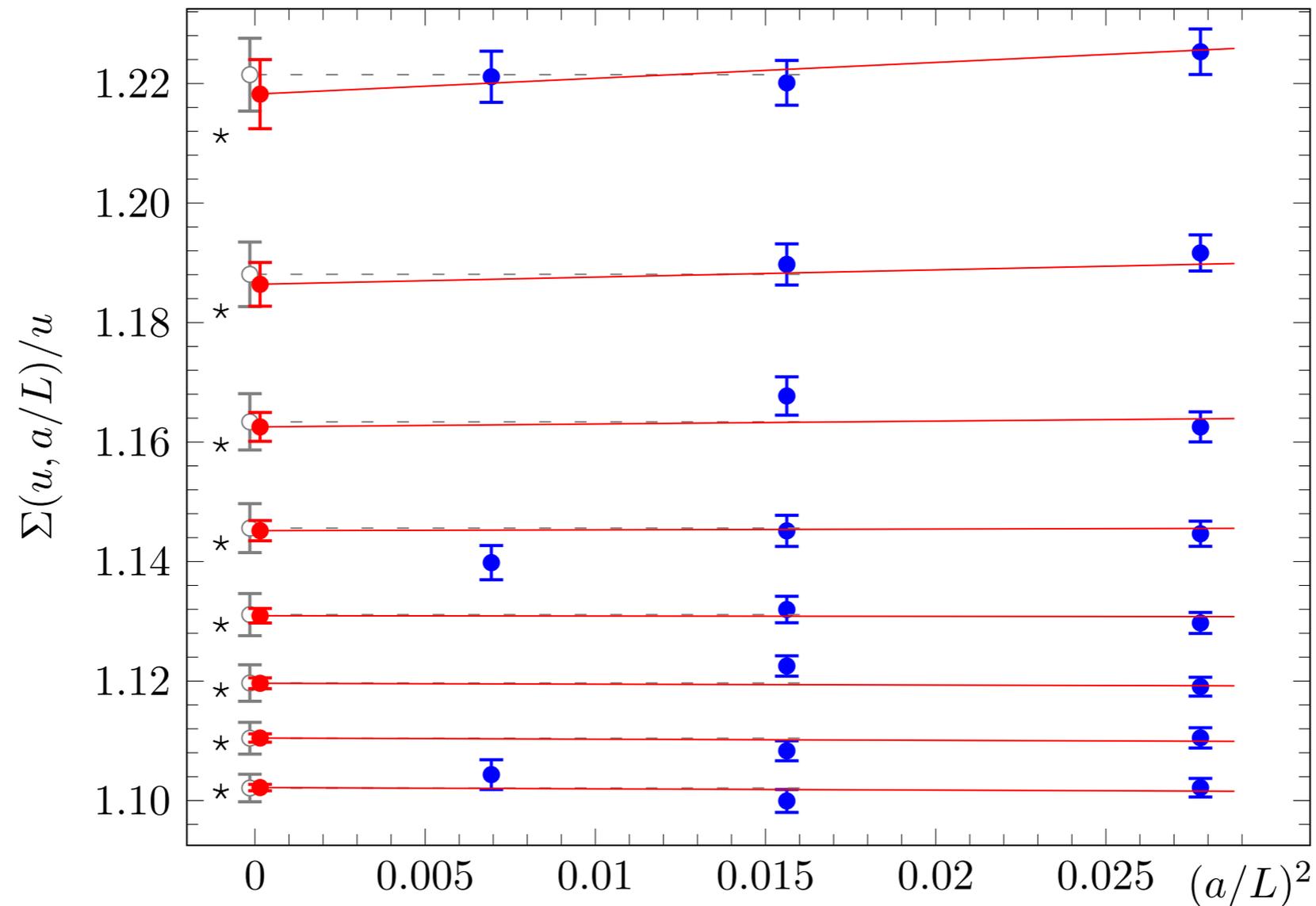
Lüscher, Weisz, Wolff, '91

Lüscher, Narayanan, Weisz, Wolff, '92

Lüscher, Sommer, Weisz, Wolff, '93

Sint '93

# Continuum limit $\sigma(g^2) = \Sigma(g^2, 0)$ in small $g^2$ region



- ▶  $\chi^2$  of global fits is good - continuum limit is precise
- ▶ constant continuum extrapolation has larger errors due to propagation of boundary improvement error

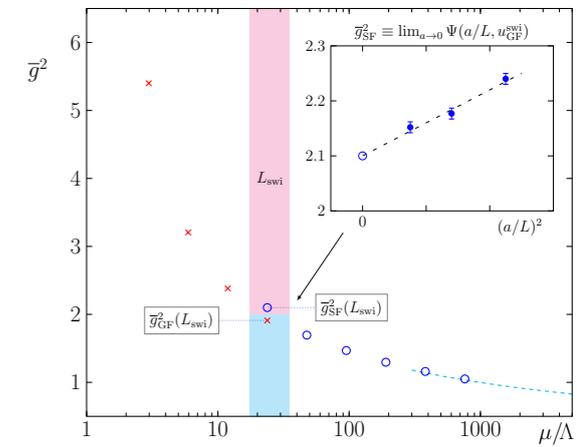
# Determination of $\Lambda L_0$

- ▶ step scaling (from  $u_0=2.012$ )

$$\bar{g}^2(1/L_0) = u_0, \quad u_k = \sigma(u_{k+1}), \quad \text{non-pert}$$

$$L_0 \Lambda = 2^n \varphi^{\text{pert}}(\sqrt{u_n})$$

$$\varphi_s(\bar{g}_s) = (b_0 \bar{g}_s^2)^{-b_1/(2b_0^2)} e^{-1/(2b_0 \bar{g}_s^2)} \times \exp \left\{ - \int_0^{\bar{g}_s} dx \left[ \frac{1}{\beta_s(x)} + \frac{1}{b_0 x^3} - \frac{b_1}{b_0^2 x} \right] \right\}$$



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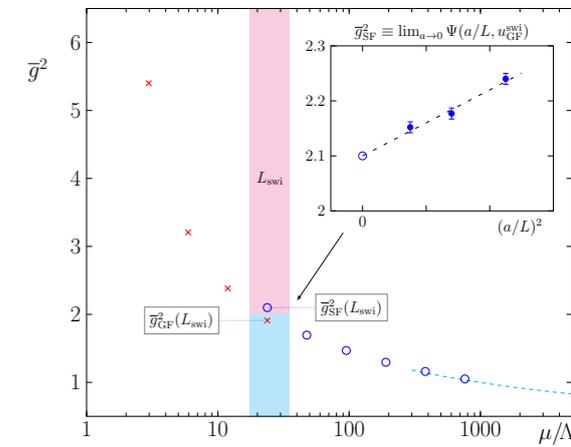
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- ▶ relation  $\frac{1}{\bar{g}_\nu^2} = \frac{1}{\bar{g}^2} - \nu \bar{v}$  through  $\Omega(u, a/L) = \bar{v} |_{\bar{g}^2(L)=u}$   $\omega(u) = \Omega(u, 0)$   
 $\omega(2.012) = 0.1199(10)$

- ▶ repeat step scaling for different  $\nu \Leftrightarrow$  different schemes



# Determination of $\Lambda_{L_0}$

- ▶ step scaling (from  $u_0=2.012$ )

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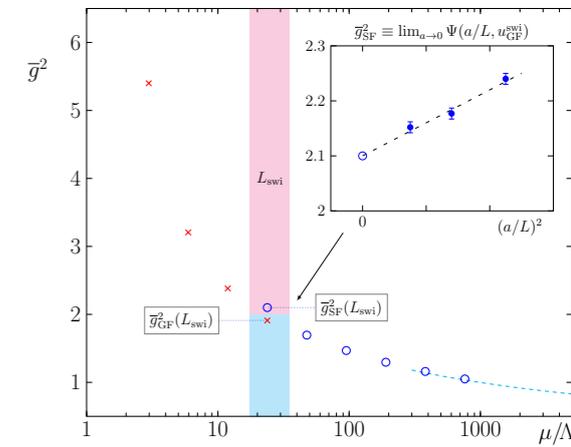
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- ▶ repeat step scaling for different  $\nu \Leftrightarrow$  different schemes

- ▶ use  $r_\nu = \Lambda/\Lambda_\nu = e^{-\nu \times 1.25516}$  exact

- ▶  $\Lambda$  independent of  $\nu, n$  ?  $\Leftarrow$  excellent check of accuracy of PT



# Results for $\Lambda L_0$

| fit | $u_n$     | $i$ | $\frac{L}{a} \Big _{\min}$ | $n_\rho^{(i)}$ | $n_c$ | $L_0\Lambda$<br>$\times 100$ | $b_3^{\text{eff}}$<br>$\times (4\pi)^4$ | $\chi^2$ | d.o.f. |
|-----|-----------|-----|----------------------------|----------------|-------|------------------------------|---|----------|--------|
| A   | 1.193(4)  | 0   | 6                          | 2              | 1     | 3.04( 8)                     |   | 14.7     | 16     |
| B   | 1.194(4)  | 1   | 6                          | 2              | 1     | 3.07( 8)                     |   | 14.2     | 16     |
| C   | 1.193(5)  | 2   | 6                          | 2              | 1     | 3.03( 8)                     |   | 14.5     | 16     |
| D   | 1.192(7)  | 2   | 6                          | 2              | 2     | 3.03(13)                     |   | 14.5     | 15     |
| E   |           | 2   | 6                          | 2              | 1     | 3.00(11)                     | 4(3)                                    | 14.6     | 16     |
| F   |           | 2   | 8                          | 1              | 1     | 3.01(11)                     | 4(3)                                    | 12.7     | 9      |
| G   | 1.191(11) | 2   | 8                          | 0              | 2     | 3.02(20)                     |   | 13.0     | 9      |
| H   |           | 1   | 6                          | 2              | 1     | 3.04(10)                     | 3(3)                                    | 14.1     | 16     |

| fit | $\nu$ | $i$ | $\frac{L}{a} \Big _{\min}$ | $n_\rho^{(i)}$ | $n_c$ | $L_0\Lambda$<br>$\times 100$ | $b_{3,\nu}^{\text{eff}}$<br>$\times (4\pi)^4$ | $\chi^2$ | d.o.f. |
|-----|-------|-----|----------------------------|----------------|-------|------------------------------|---|----------|--------|
| H   | -0.5  | 1   | 6                          | 2              | 1     | 3.03(15)                     | 11(5)   | 10.4     | 16     |
| H   | 0.3   | 1   | 6                          | 2              | 1     | 3.04(10)                     | 0(3)  | 20.0     | 16     |

TABLE I. Results for  $\nu = 0$  in the upper part.

- ▶ all results agree when **PT is used at  $\alpha = 0.1$**

$$\varphi_s(\bar{g}_s) = (b_0\bar{g}_s^2)^{-b_1/(2b_0^2)} e^{-1/(2b_0\bar{g}_s^2)} \times \exp \left\{ - \int_0^{\bar{g}_s} dx \left[ \frac{1}{\beta_s(x)} + \frac{1}{b_0x^3} - \frac{b_1}{b_0^2x} \right] \right\}$$

- ▶ what happens at larger  $\alpha$  ?

# Results for $\Lambda L_0$

fit  $\sigma(u)$  with a 4-loop coefficient in  $\beta$  instead of polynomial in  $u$

| fit | $u_n$     | $i$ | $\frac{L}{a} \Big _{\min}$ | $n_\rho^{(i)}$ | $n_c$ | $L_0\Lambda$<br>$\times 100$ | $b_3^{\text{eff}}$<br>$\times (4\pi)^4$ | $\chi^2$ | d.o.f. |
|-----|-----------|-----|----------------------------|----------------|-------|------------------------------|---|----------|--------|
| A   | 1.193(4)  | 0   | 6                          | 2              | 1     | 3.04( 8)                     |   | 14.7     | 16     |
| B   | 1.194(4)  | 1   | 6                          | 2              | 1     | 3.07( 8)                     |   | 14.2     | 16     |
| C   | 1.193(5)  | 2   | 6                          | 2              | 1     | 3.03( 8)                     |   | 14.5     | 16     |
| D   | 1.192(7)  | 2   | 6                          | 2              | 2     | 3.03(13)                     |   | 14.5     | 15     |
| E   |           | 2   | 6                          | 2              | 1     | 3.00(11)                     | 4(3)                                    | 14.6     | 16     |
| F   |           | 2   | 8                          | 1              | 1     | 3.01(11)                     | 4(3)                                    | 12.7     | 9      |
| G   | 1.191(11) | 2   | 8                          | 0              | 2     | 3.02(20)                     |   | 13.0     | 9      |
| H   |           | 1   | 6                          | 2              | 1     | 3.04(10)                     | 3(3)                                    | 14.1     | 16     |

| fit | $\nu$ | $i$ | $\frac{L}{a} \Big _{\min}$ | $n_\rho^{(i)}$ | $n_c$ | $L_0\Lambda$<br>$\times 100$ | $b_{3,\nu}^{\text{eff}}$<br>$\times (4\pi)^4$ | $\chi^2$ | d.o.f. |
|-----|-------|-----|----------------------------|----------------|-------|------------------------------|---|----------|--------|
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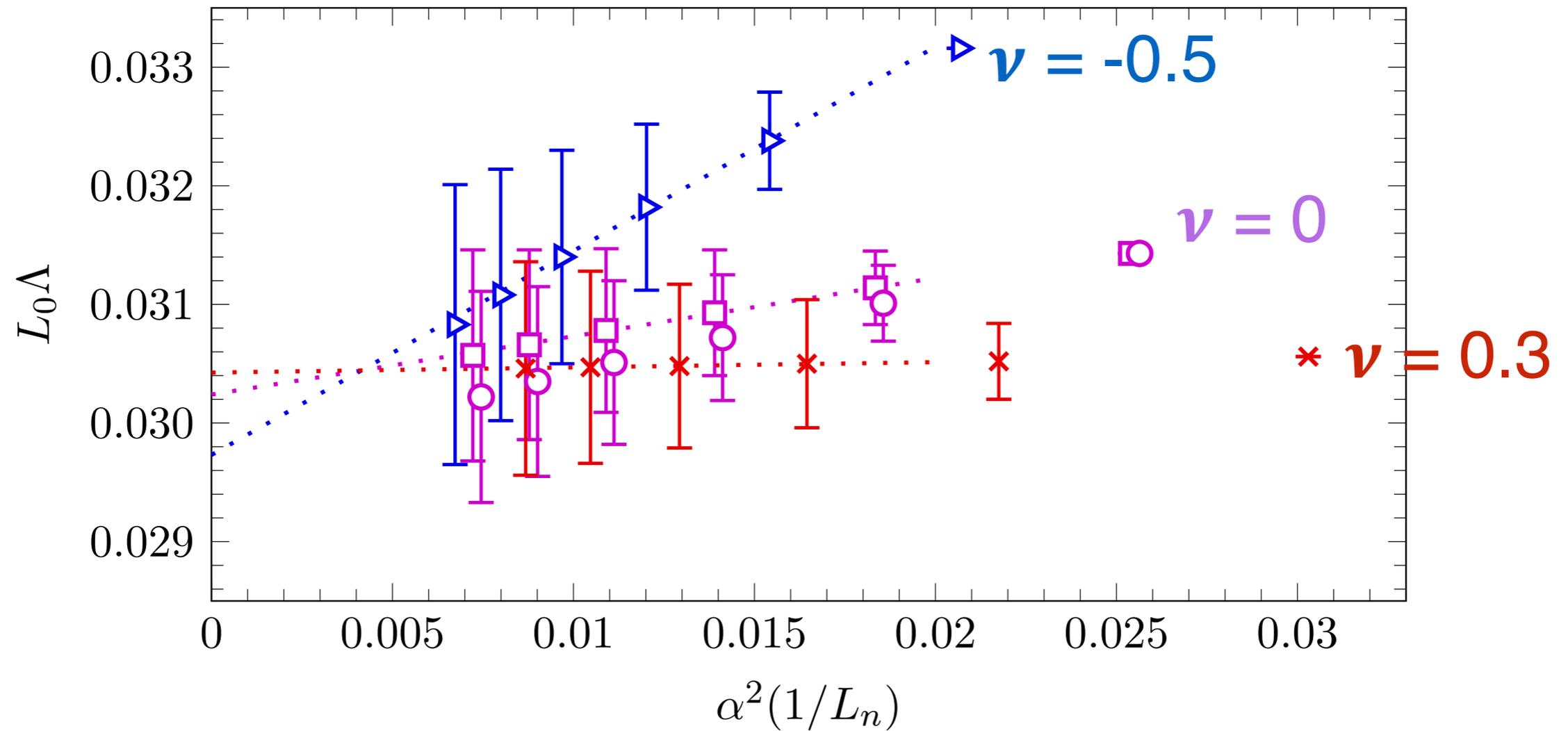
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$$\varphi_s(\bar{g}_s) = (b_0\bar{g}_s^2)^{-b_1/(2b_0^2)} e^{-1/(2b_0\bar{g}_s^2)} \times \exp \left\{ - \int_0^{\bar{g}_s} dx \left[ \frac{1}{\beta_s(x)} + \frac{1}{b_0x^3} - \frac{b_1}{b_0^2x} \right] \right\}$$

- ▶ what happens at larger  $\alpha$  ?

# Results for $\Lambda L_0$



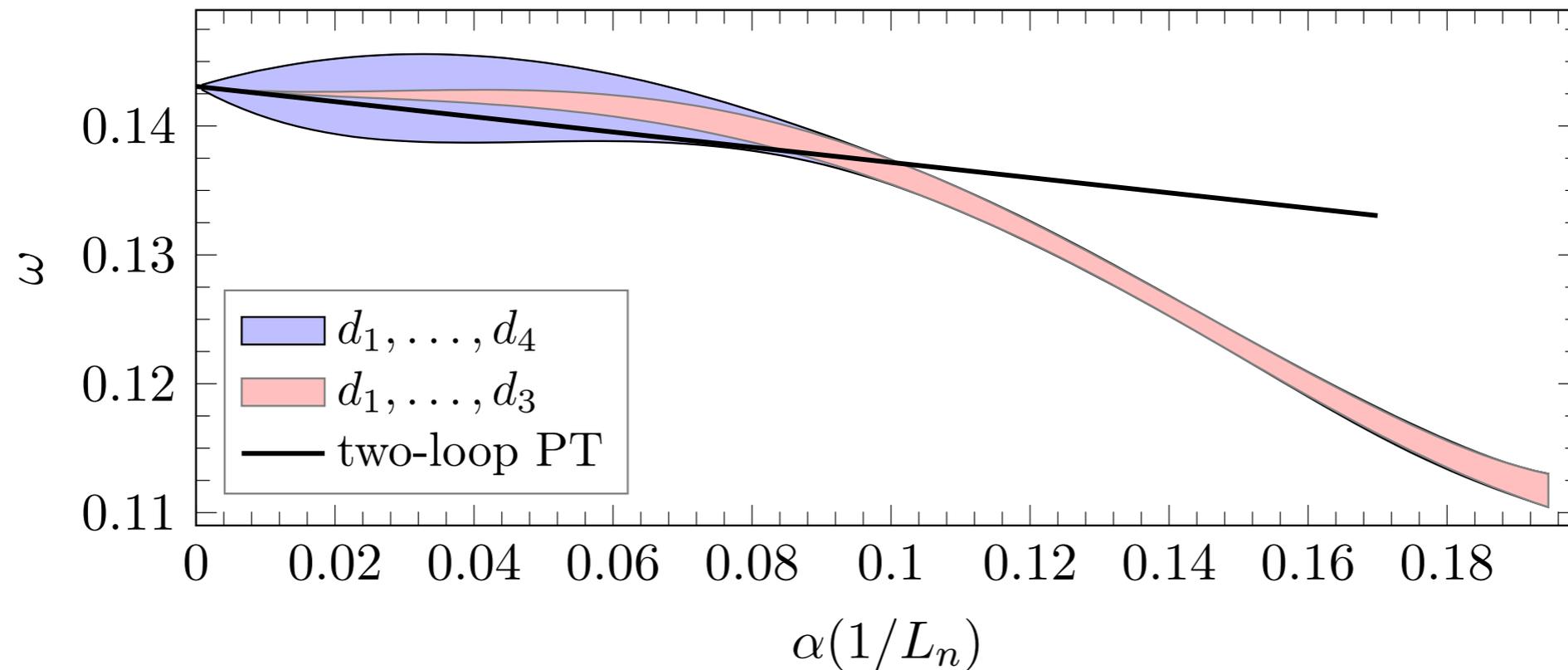
▶ 3 % accuracy?

▶ yes, at  $\alpha=0.1$  !  $\sigma(u) = \bar{g}^2(2L)$  when  $\bar{g}^2(L) = u$

▶ take a more precise look:  $\omega(u)$

# Results for $\omega$

$$\frac{1}{\bar{g}_\nu^2} = \frac{1}{\bar{g}^2} - \nu \times \omega(\bar{g}^2)$$



- ▶ deviation from PT at  $u_0$  ( $\alpha=0.19$ ):

$$(\omega(\bar{g}^2) - v_1 - v_2 \bar{g}^2) / v_1 = -3.7(2) \alpha^2$$

- ▶ not small, not perturbative
- ▶ statistically very significant

# Now: Gradient flow scheme



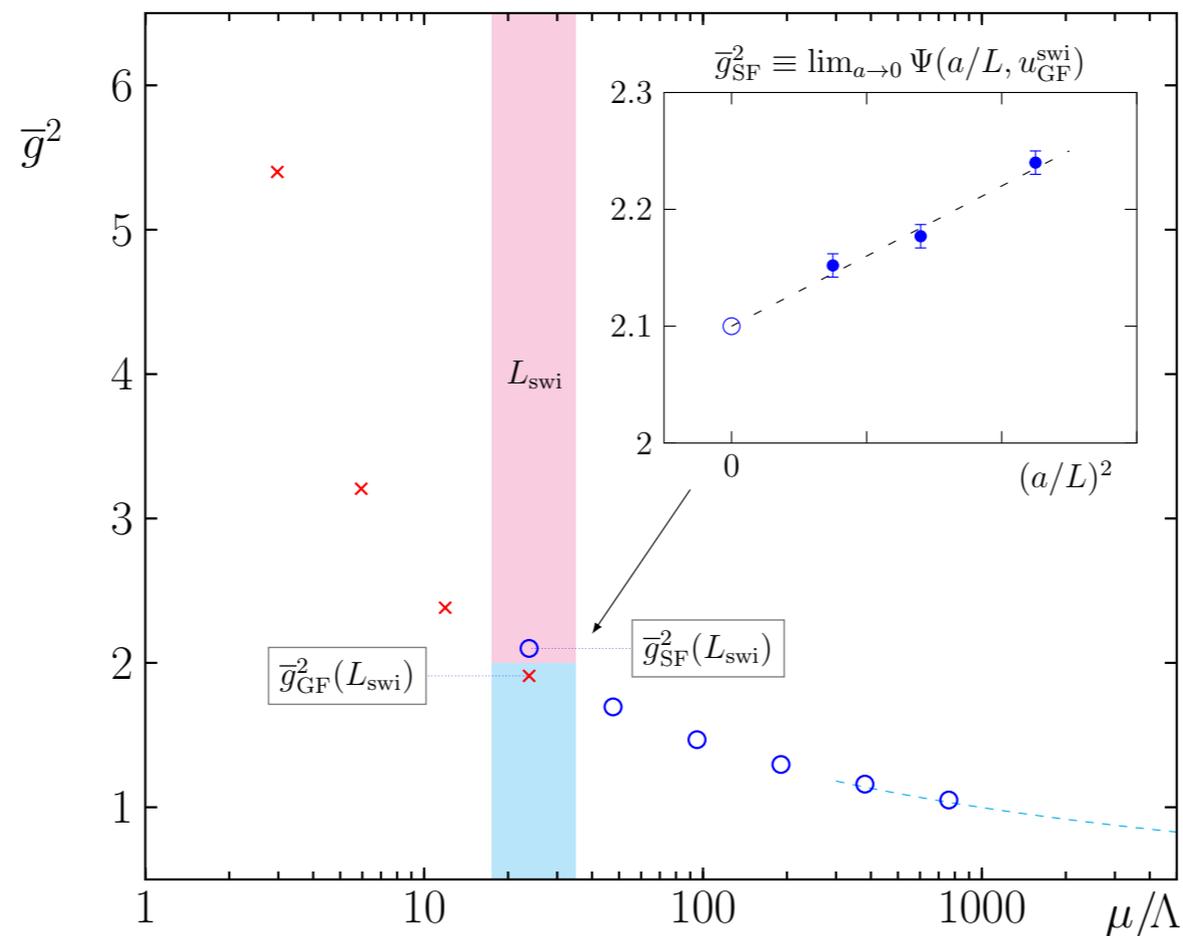
two different schemes

Gradient flow

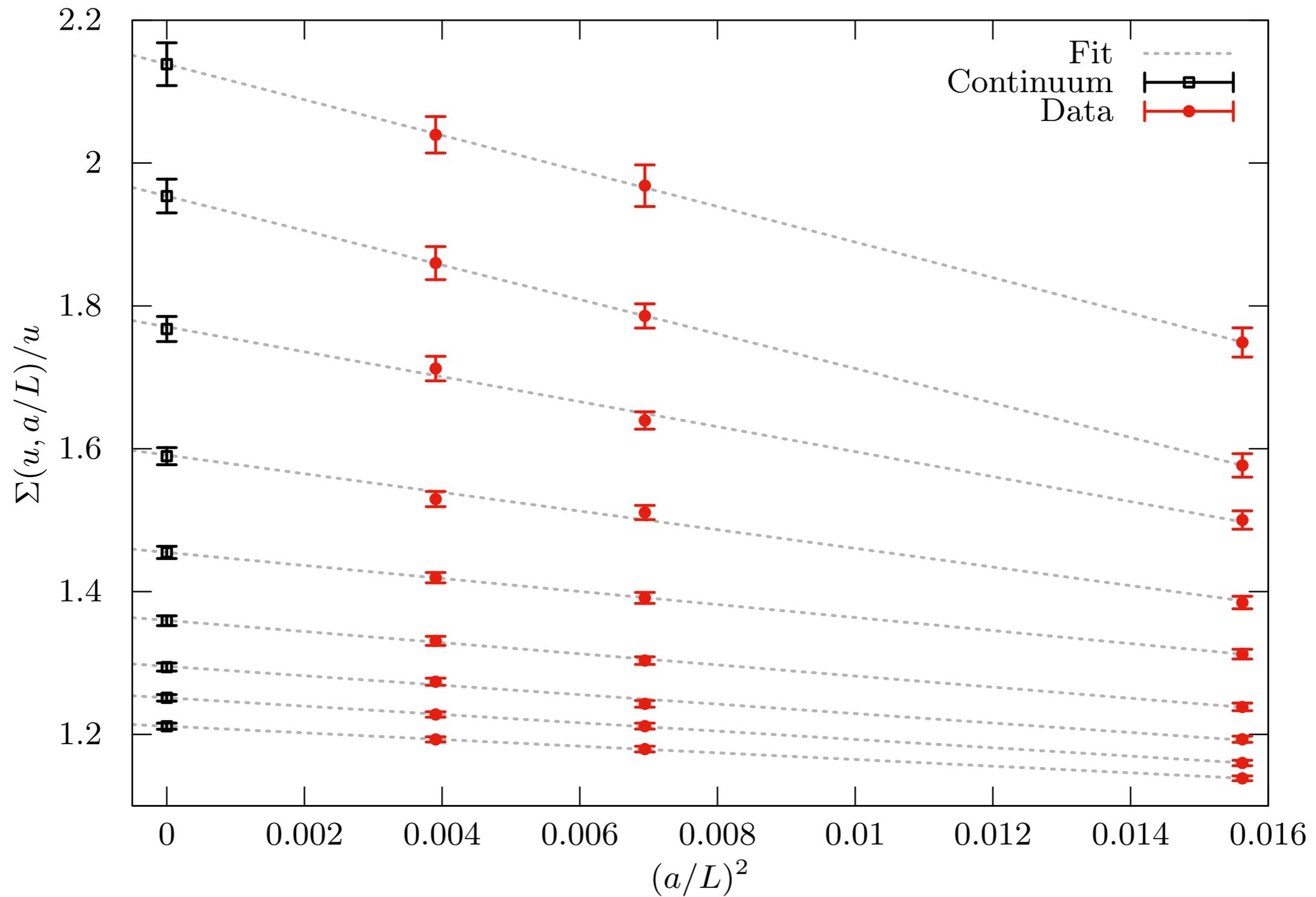
200 MeV  $\leftarrow$  8 GeV

Schrödinger functional

4 GeV  $\leftarrow$  200 GeV

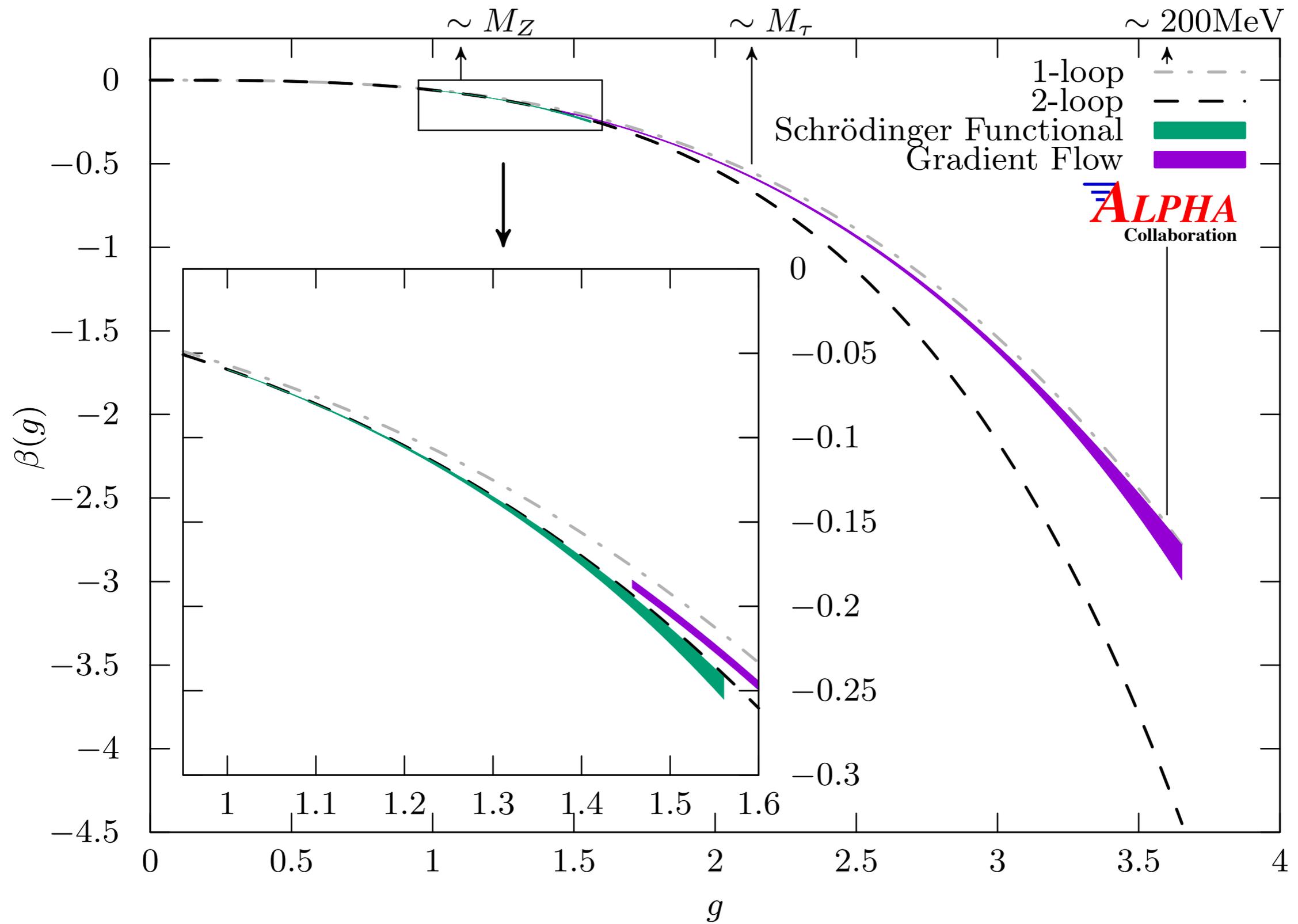


# Continuum limit $\sigma(g^2) = \Sigma(g^2, 0)$ in large $g^2$ region

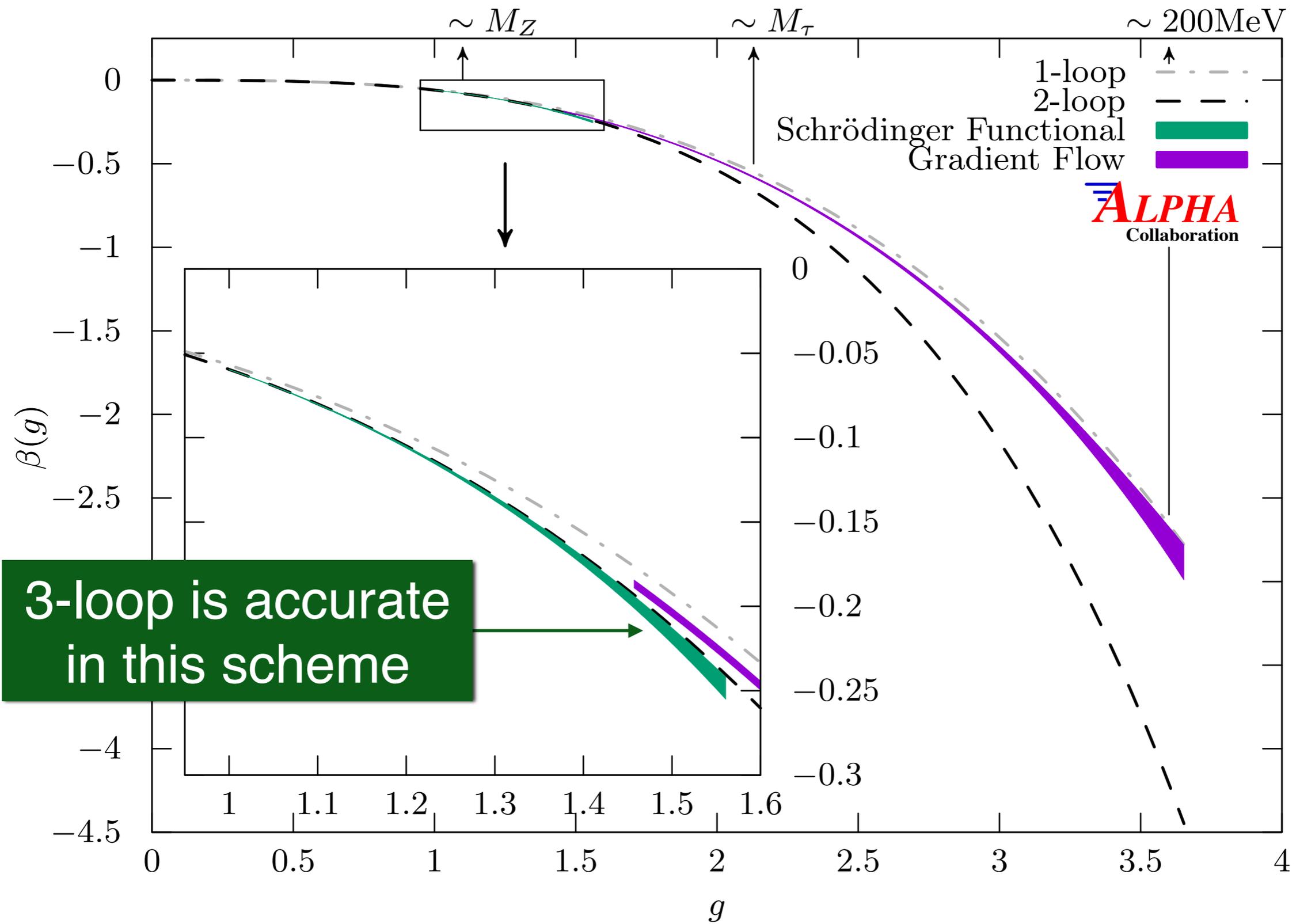


- ▶  $\chi^2$  of global fits is good - continuum limit is precise

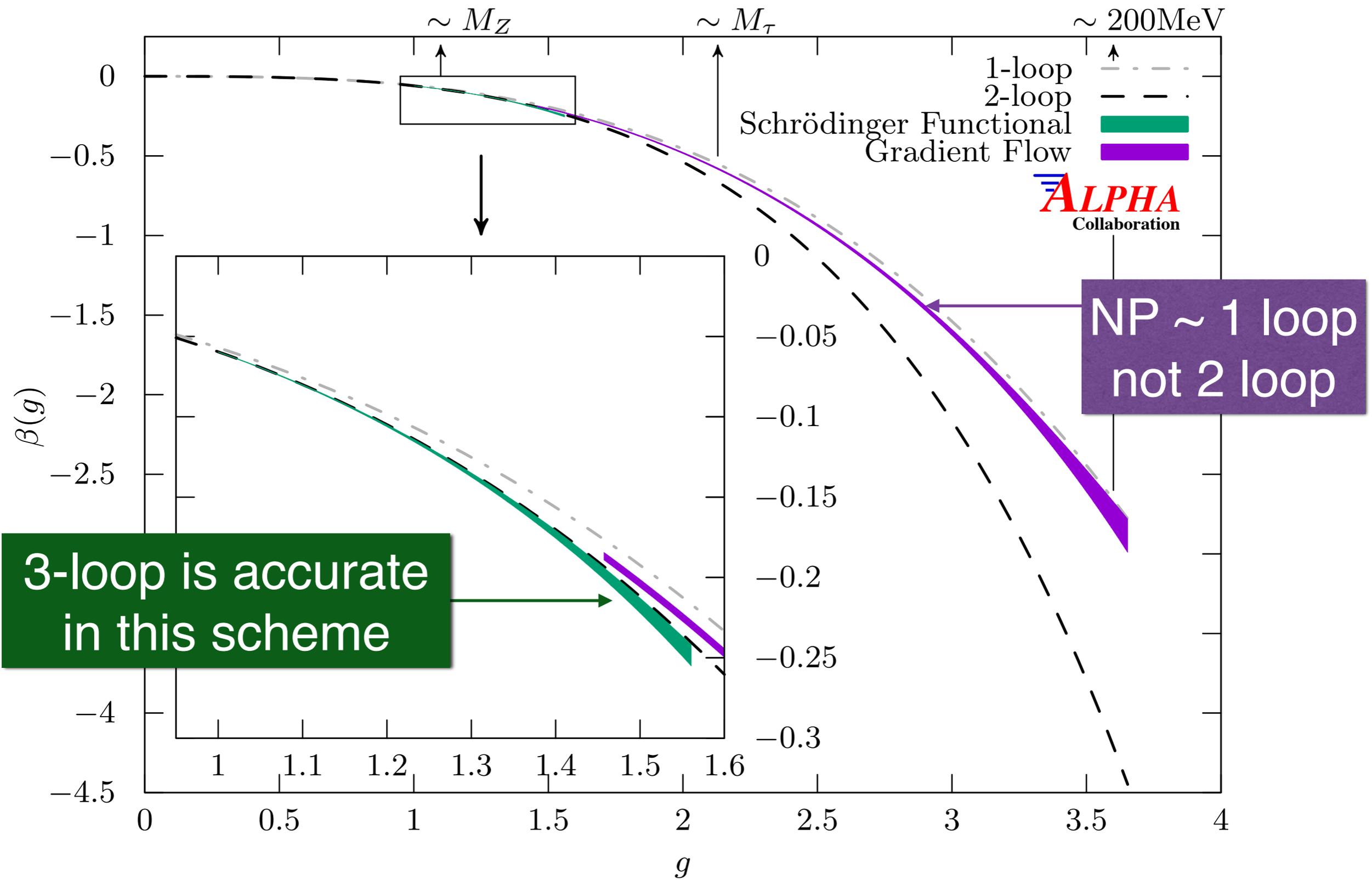
# Results (1): the non-perturbative $\beta$ -functions



# Results (1): the non-perturbative $\beta$ -functions



# Results (1): the non-perturbative $\beta$ -functions



# Preliminary result for $\alpha$

- ▶  $\Lambda_{\overline{\text{MS}}}^{(3)} = 351(14)\text{MeV}$
- ▶  $\alpha_{\overline{\text{MS}}}(m_Z) = 0.1191(10)$

| quantity                                     | value  | error  | relative error | comment             |
|--|--------|--------|----------------|---------------------|
| $\Lambda_{\overline{\text{MS}}}^{(3)} L_0$   | 0.0791 | 0.0021 | 0.026          | arXiv:1604.06193    |
| $L_{2.6712}/(2L_0)$                          | 1      | 0.0080 | 0.0080         |                     |
| $s(11.31, 2.6712)$                           | 10.895 | 0.170  | 0.0156         |                     |
| $t_{0,\text{symm}}^{1/2}/L_{11.31}$          | 0.1507 | 0.0015 | 0.0099         |                     |
| $t_{0,\text{symm}}^{-1/2}$ [GeV]             | 1.3524 | 0.0126 | 0.0093         | symmetric           |
| $\Lambda_{\overline{\text{MS}}}^{(3)}$ [GeV] | 0.351  | 0.012  | 0.034          | 11. 6. 2016         |
| $\alpha(m_Z)$                                | 0.1191 | 0.0008 | 0.007          | no conversion error |
| $\Lambda_{\overline{\text{MS}}}^{(3)}$ [GeV] | 0.336  | 0.019  |                | FLAG3               |

- ▶ using 3-flavor theory (decoupling)
  - at present no error from conversion from 3 flavors to 4 to 5: negligible uncertainty, assuming estimate from perturbation theory

# Conclusions

- ▶ errors of (asymptotic) series expansions are difficult to assess
- ▶ **at  $\alpha=0.2$** : we have examples where  $\alpha=0.2$  does not lead to an accurate perturbative result
  - more generally, this may be a reason for differences in determinations in  $\alpha(m_z)$
  - **also a warning for some uses of PT in flavor physics**
- ▶ **at  $\alpha=0.1$** : PT is accurate
  - SSF technology allows to get there
  - very accurate predictions for LHC (if matching is accurate)

# Conclusions

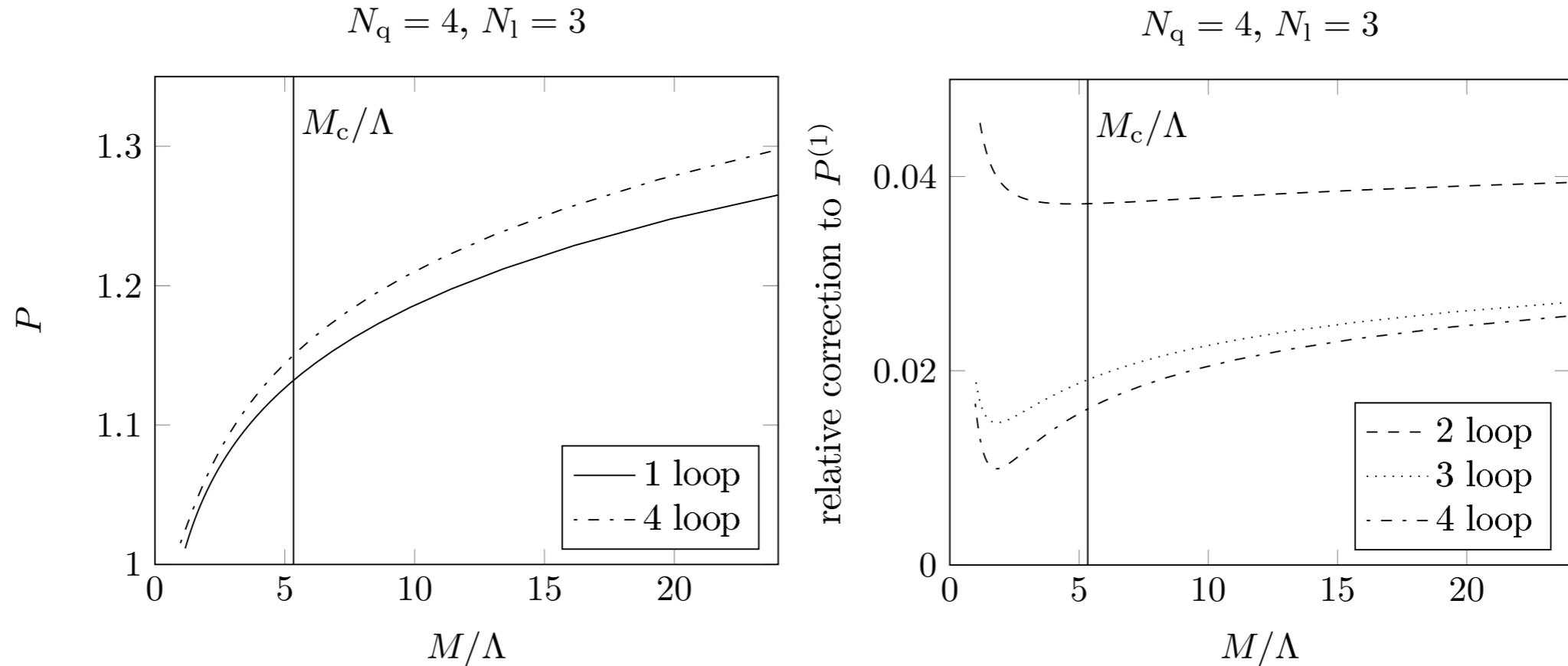
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  - **also a warning for some uses of PT in flavor physics**
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  - SSF technology allows to get there
  - very accurate predictions for LHC (if matching is accurate)

  
**EFT ( $N_f=3 \leftarrow N_f=6$ )**

Thank you

# Backup

# Change of $N_f$



**Figure 6:** The mass-dependence  $P$  at 1-loop formula and at 4-loop (left) as well as 2,3,4-loop correction normalised to the 1-loop approximation (right) for the case  $N_q = 4, N_l = 3$ .

$$P = \frac{\Lambda^{(N_f - 1)}}{\Lambda^{(N_f)}}$$

it is harmless in perturbation theory

# The SF scheme - basic definition

M. Lüscher, R. Narayanan, P. Weisz, and U. Wolff, Nucl. Phys. **B384**, 168 (1992), arXiv:hep-lat/9207009 [hep-lat].

M. Lüscher, R. Sommer, P. Weisz, and U. Wolff, hep-lat/9309005

## ▶ Dirichlet bc's

$$A_k(x)|_{x_0=0} = C_k(\eta, \nu), \quad A_k(x)|_{x_0=L} = C'_k(\eta, \nu)$$

$$C_k = \frac{i}{L} [\text{diag}(-\pi/3, 0, \pi/3) + \eta(\lambda_8 + \nu\lambda_3)]$$

$$C'_k = \frac{i}{L} [\text{diag}(-\pi, \pi/3, 2\pi/3) - \eta(\lambda_8 - \nu\lambda_3)].$$

$$\langle \partial_\eta S |_{\eta=0} \rangle = \frac{12\pi}{\bar{g}_\nu^2} = 12\pi \left[ \frac{1}{\bar{g}^2} - \nu \bar{v} \right]$$

- ▶ similar to Casimir effect
- ▶ non-perturbative definition of background field (BF)  
= classical solution with these Dirichlet bc's  
spatially constant, abelian
- ▶ each value of  $\nu$  : a different scheme

# The GF scheme - basic definition

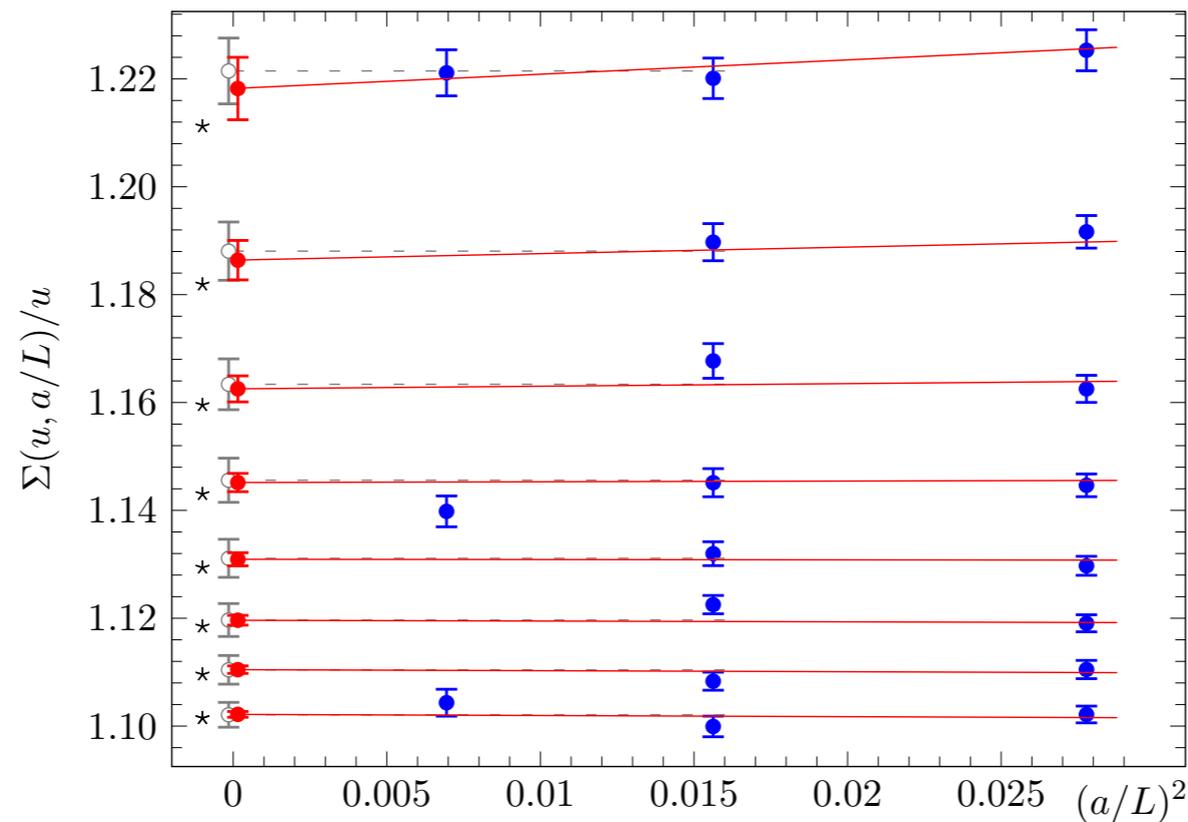
$$\frac{dB_\mu(t, x)}{dt} = D_\nu G_{\nu\mu}(t, x), \quad B_\mu(0, x) = A_\mu(x)$$

$$G_{\mu\nu}(t, x) = \partial_\mu B_\nu - \partial_\nu B_\mu + [B_\mu, B_\nu]$$

$$\bar{g}_{\text{GF}}^2(1/L) = t^2 \mathcal{N}^{-1}(c) \langle \text{tr} [G_{ij}(x_0, t) G_{ij}(x_0, t)] \rangle \Big|_{\sqrt{8t}=cL; x_0=T/2}$$

# Continuum limit of $\Sigma$

$N_f=3$  from now on



- ▶ linear in  $a/L$  discretisation errors suppressed by Symanzik improvement (boundary terms)
  - 2-loop coefficients
  - in weak coupling region
  - taking  $1 + c_1 g^2 + (c_2 \pm c_2) g^4$  ( $g=g_0$ )
- ▶ extrapolate with  $O((a/L)^2)$

# Properties of the scheme

▶  $\Delta_{\text{stat}} \bar{g}_\nu^2 = s(a/L) \bar{g}_\nu^4 + \mathcal{O}(\bar{g}_\nu^6)$ : good accuracy for small  $g$

▶ **no**  $\mu^{-1}, \mu^{-2}$  **renormalons** (infrared cutoff)

instead: secondary minimum of the action

$$\exp(-2.62/\alpha) \sim (\Lambda/\mu)^{3.8}$$

▶ **3-loop  $\beta$**

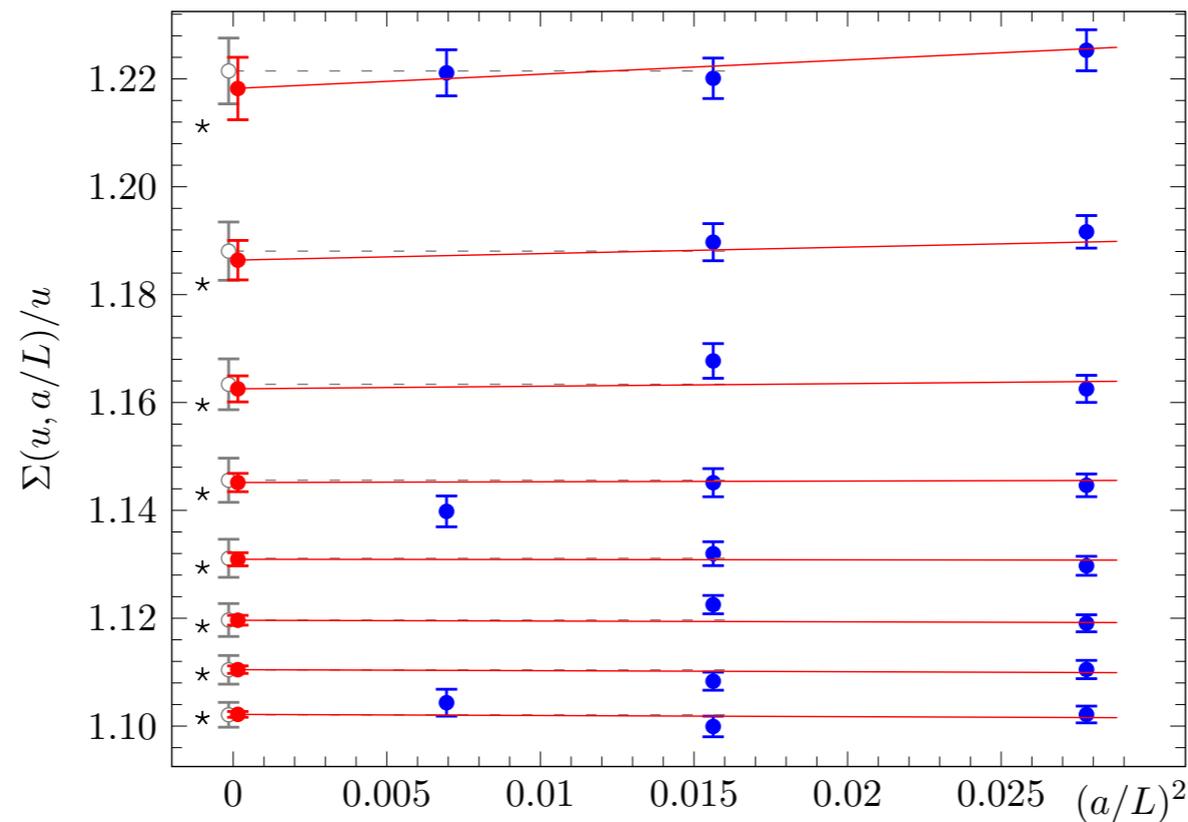
$$(4\pi)^3 \times b_{2,\nu} = -0.06(3) - \nu \times 1.26, \quad (N_f = 3)$$

▶ small discretisation effects ( $a^4$  at LO PT)  
we also subtract them including 2-loop terms

[[hep-lat/9911018](#) Bode, Weisz, Wolff]

▶ but  $\mathcal{O}(a)$  discretisation effects due to boundary terms

# Continuum limit of $\Sigma$



- ▶ use perturbative improvement (i=1,2)

$$\Sigma^{(i)}(u, a/L) = \frac{\Sigma(u, a/L)}{1 + \sum_{k=1}^i \delta_k(a/L) u^k},$$

- ▶ and global fit

$$\Sigma_{\nu}^{(i)}(u, a/L) = \sigma_{\nu}(u) + \rho_{\nu}^{(i)}(u) (a/L)^2$$

- ▶ with

$$\rho_{\nu}^{(i)}(u) = \sum_{k=1}^{n_{\rho}^{(i)}} \rho_{\nu,k}^{(i)} u^{i+1+k}, \quad \sigma_{\nu}(u) = u + u^2 \sum_{k=0}^3 s_k u^k$$

# Continuum limit of $\Sigma$

- ▶ was also tested carefully in pure gauge theory

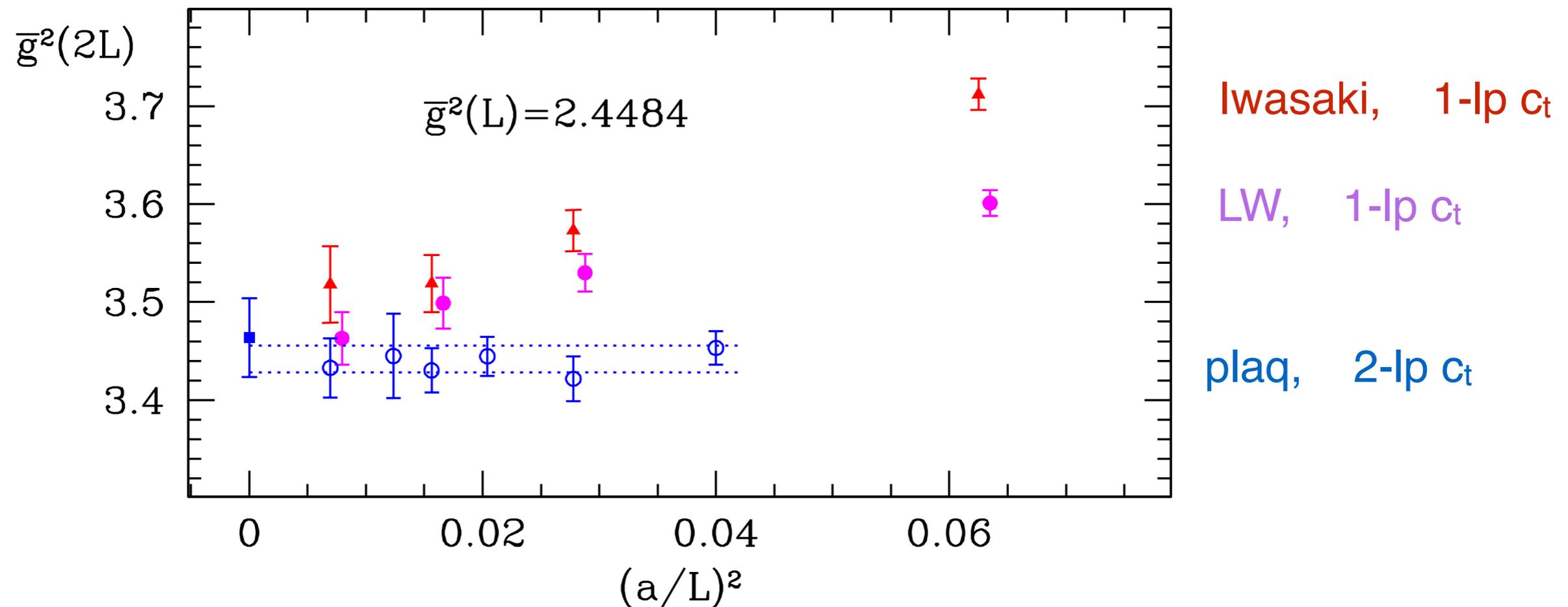
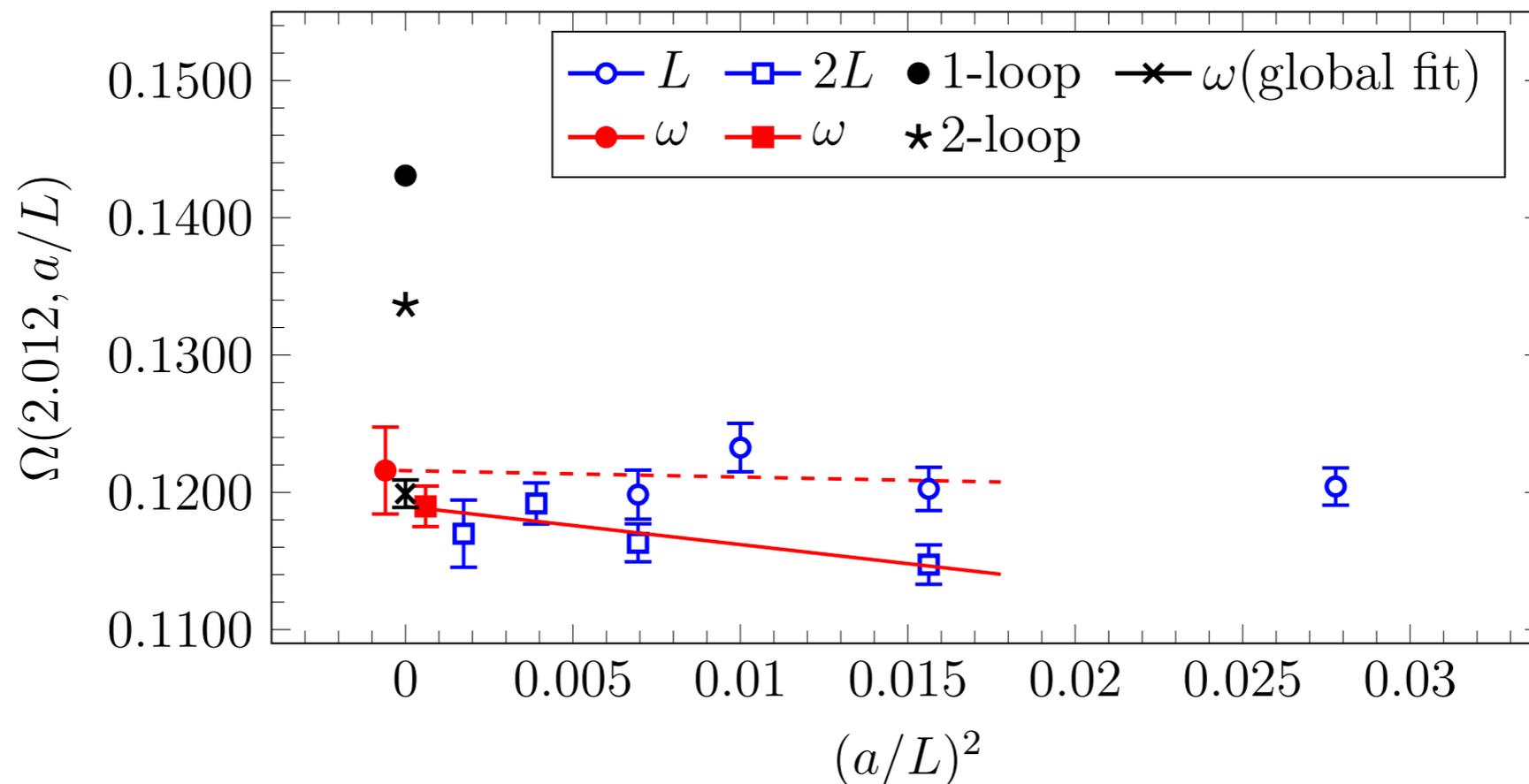


Figure 8: A test of the continuum extrapolations with different actions for  $N_f = 0$ . The data from top (triangles) to bottom (open circles) are for the Iwasaki, the tree level Lüscher Weisz and the Wilson gauge action. Both the boundary improvement of the action and the improvement of the observables have been included. At present this is possible at the 2-loop level for the Wilson gauge action only, and at the 1-loop level in the two other cases. Figure from [29] based on data from [63, 64].

# Continuum limit of $\Omega$

$$\Omega(u, a/L) = \bar{v} |_{\bar{g}^2(L)=u} \quad \omega(u) = \Omega(u, 0)$$

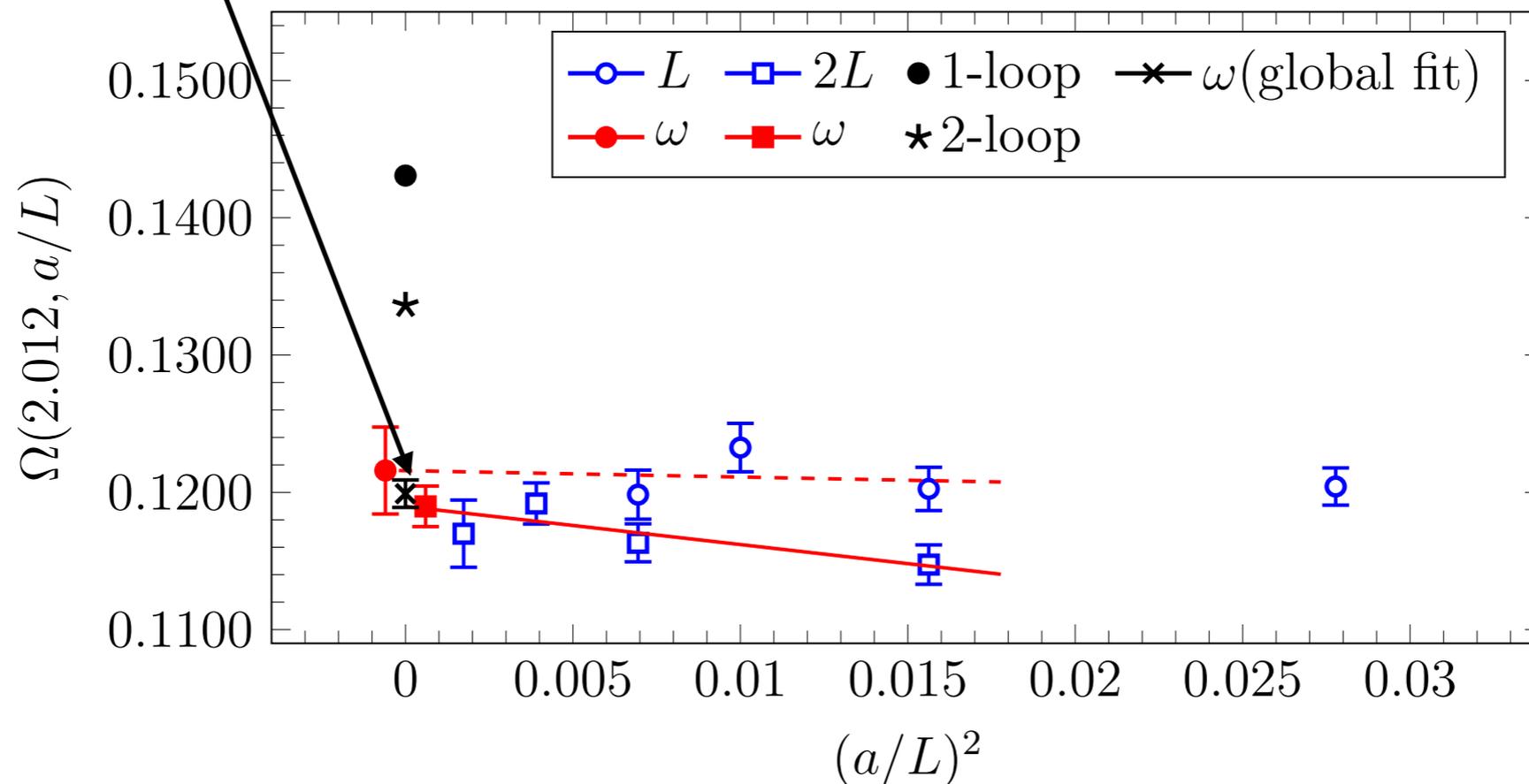
- ▶ Global fits, similar to  $\Sigma$
- ▶ but with  $L/a=6,8,10,12$  (“L”) and  $L/a=12,16,24$  (“2L”)
- ▶ a-effects different for “L” vs. “2L” (different def. of  $m=0$ )



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