

# IR Phase of Thermal QCD



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## Outline:

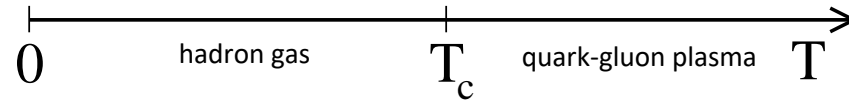
- ✓ Glue for thought
- ✓ IR phase of thermal QCD [ A.A & I.H. 1906.08047, also 1502.07732 ]
- ✓ IR scale invariance: exact or asymptotic? [ A.A. & I.H. 2103.05607 ]
  - IR effective dimensions [ I.H. and R.M. 1807.03995, I.H. , P.M. & R.M. 2205.11520 ]
  - Anderson connection [ A.A. & I.H. 2110.04833 ]
- ✓ Current picture

# I. Glue for Thought

[ 1906.08047 , 1502.07732 ]

setting:

$T > 0$  ,  $\mu_B = 0$   $\rightarrow$  LHC, early universe



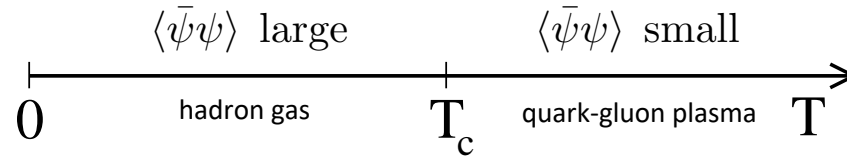
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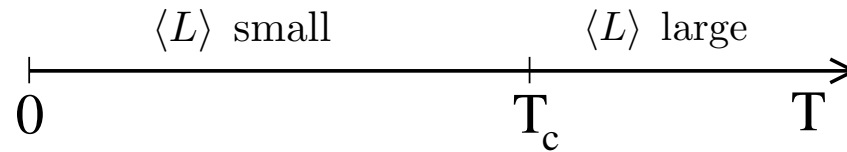
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quark view:



glue view:



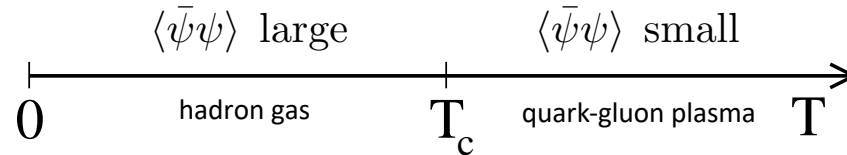
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[ 1906.08047 , 1502.07732 ]

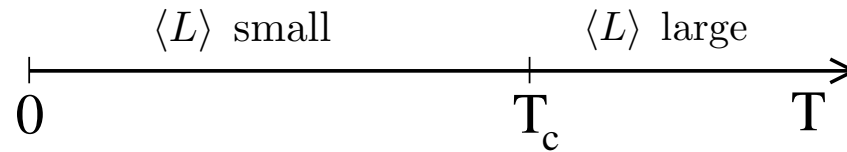
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Quarks won the popularity contest

[  $T_c \approx 155$  MeV, crossover , Aoki et al, 2007 ]

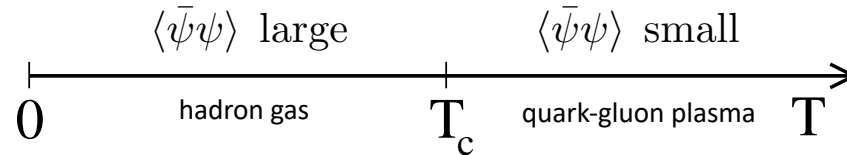
**But it would be great to have a robust glue-based phase criterion!**

[ For one, we could take it and scan all quark contents, masses, reps, temperatures etc. ]

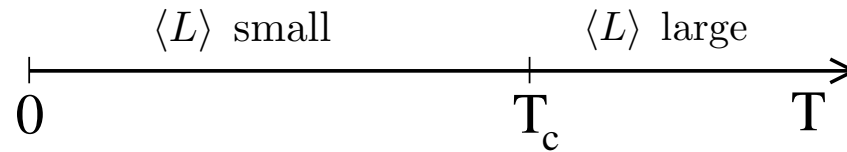
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**Point 1:**  $\langle \bar{\psi}\psi \rangle$  is cleaner because it reflects deeper IR of glue

**Point 2:** both  $\langle \bar{\psi}\psi \rangle$  and  $\langle L \rangle$  are limited in terms of reflecting glue

**Point 3:** need glue probe that is sensitive to any scale by construction  
object with explicit scale dependence

## I. Glue for Thought...

Point 4: DIRAC SPECTRAL DENSITY FITS THE BILL What???

[quark-looking construct and all]

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[quark-looking construct and all]

- Dirac spectral density as glue operator

$$S = S_g(U) + \sum_{f=1}^{N_f} \bar{\psi}_f [D_s(U) + m_f] \psi_f$$

arbitrary  $D = D(U) : D\chi_k = \lambda_k \chi_k$

$$\sigma(\lambda, U) \equiv \frac{1}{V} \sum_{0 \leq \lambda_k(U) < \lambda} 1$$

gauge invariant  
scale dependent  
glue operator

$$\sigma(\lambda, m_f) = \langle \sigma(\lambda, U) \rangle_{m_f}$$

$$\rho(\lambda, m_f) = \frac{\partial}{\partial \lambda} \sigma(\lambda, m_f)$$

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→ one that resolves IR best → spectral density of overlap operator

- Can such complex composite operator give us clues about glue?



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- Can such monster of a composite operator tell us something useful about glue?

[ hep-th/9811212 & other ]

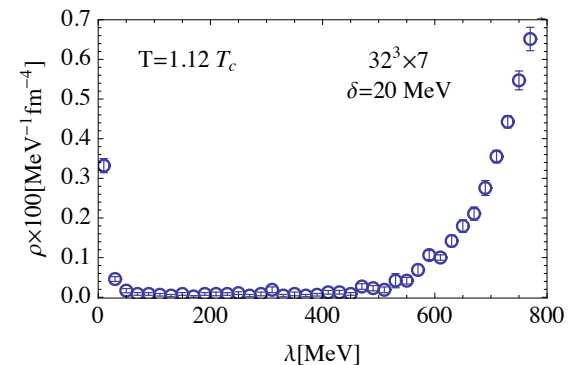
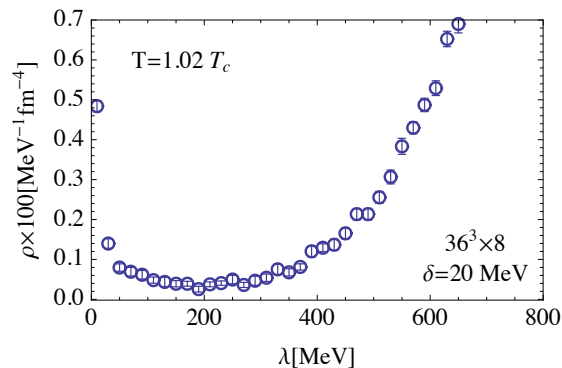
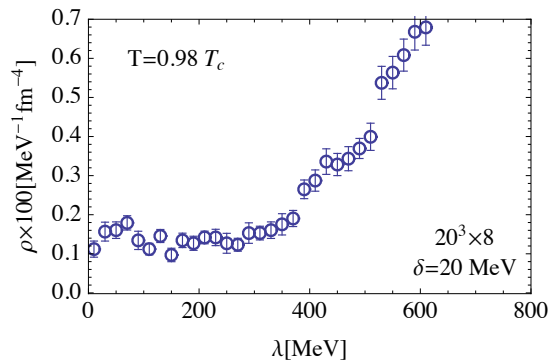
Example: set  $D = D_s$ ,  $N_f = 2$ ,  $m_1 = m_2$  chiral expansion of  $\rho(\lambda, m)$ : terms  $+ c \ln(m/\lambda)$

Is the existence of this logarithmic IR peak telling us something about IR glue?

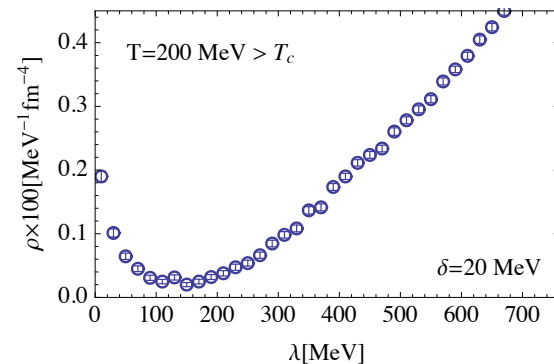
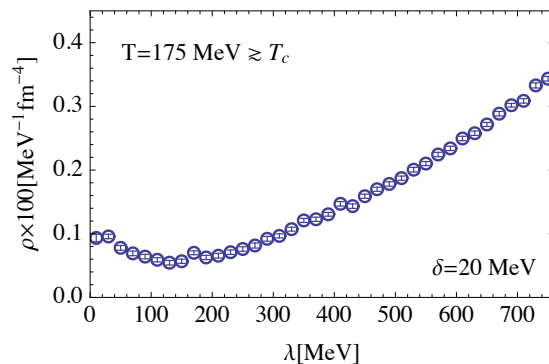
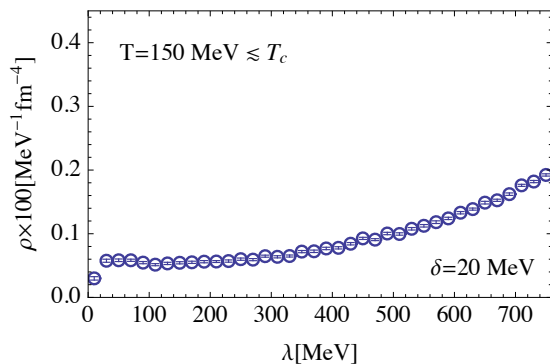
Most certainly! We just don't know what. BUT

# I. Glue for Thought... BUT...

- Peak in IR overlap spectrum upon crossing  $T_c$  (pure glue) [ Edwards, Heller, Narayanan, Kiskis, 1999 ]
- Our version of it [ AA & IH, 1502.07732 ]

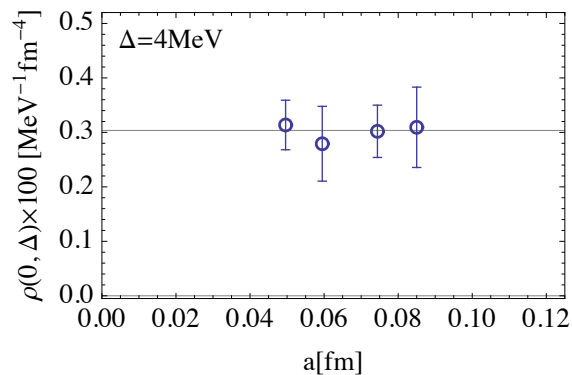
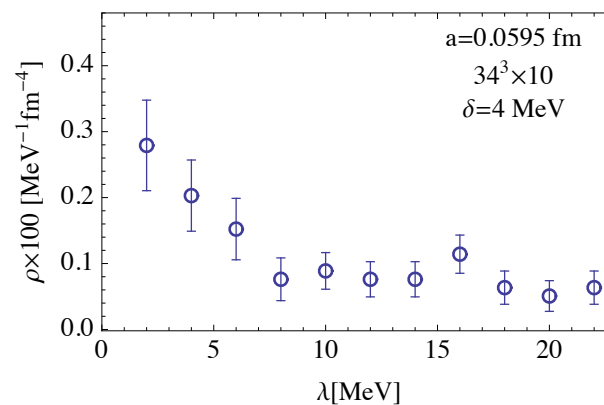
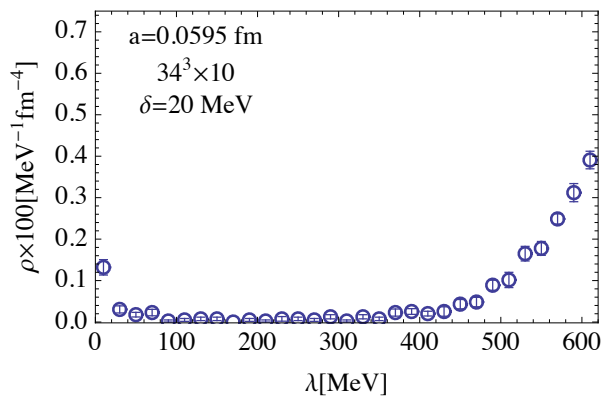


- knee-jerk reaction was: quenched chiral condensate may diverge in high-temperature pure glue
- knee-jerk reaction should be: **what on earth is glue doing to produce this?** [1502.07732]
- didn't know but went on with it, e.g., around chiral crossover we got this:



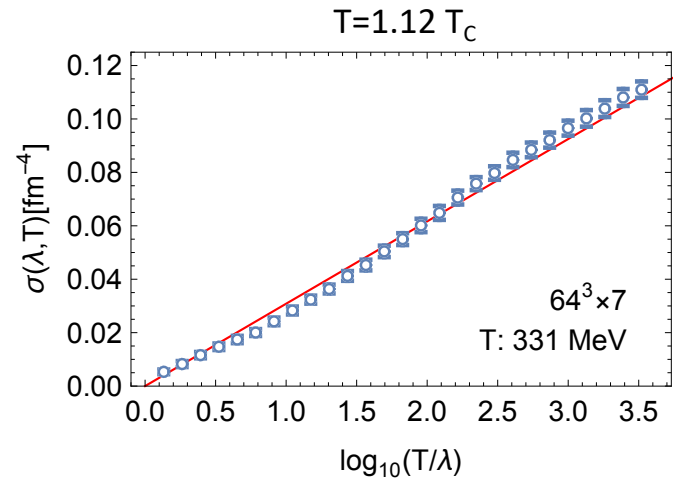
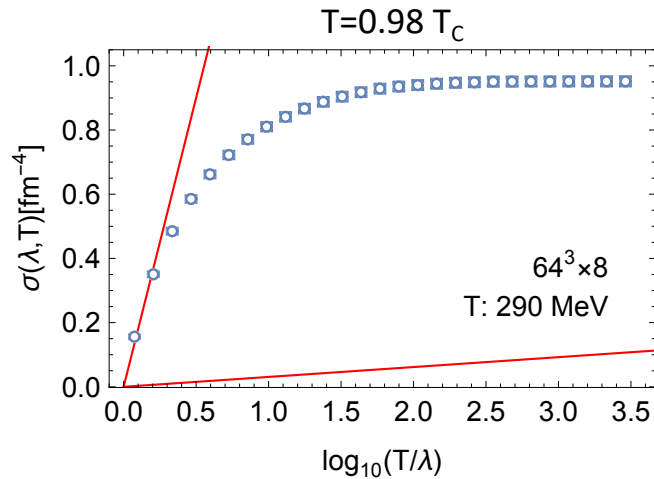
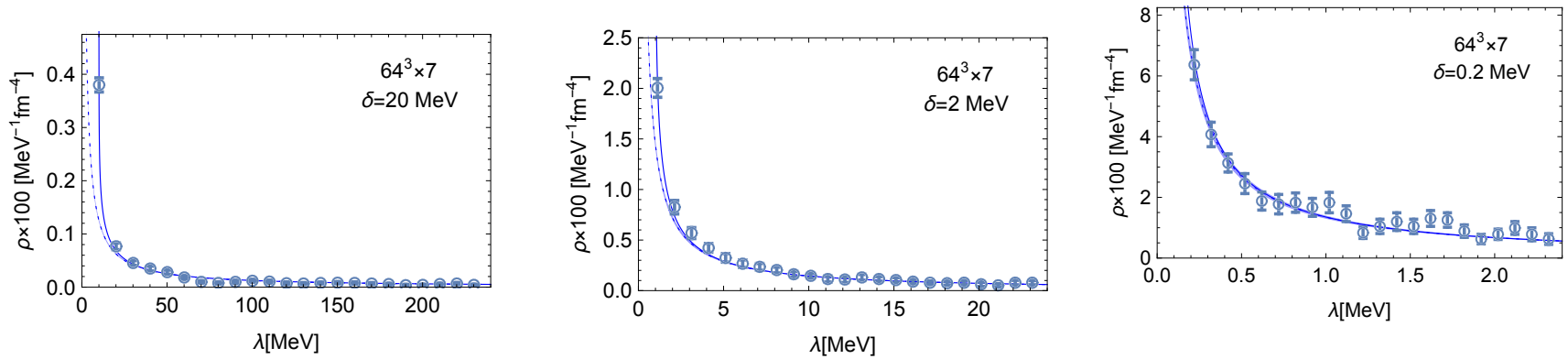
# I. Glue for Thought... BUT...

Key for taking this IR structure seriously: **Persists into continuum limit** [AA & IH, 1502.07732]



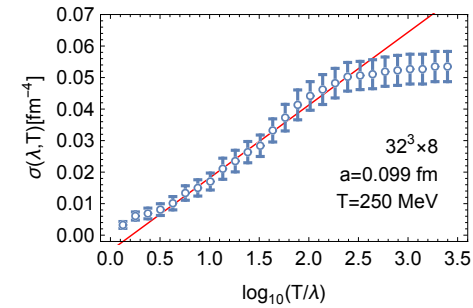
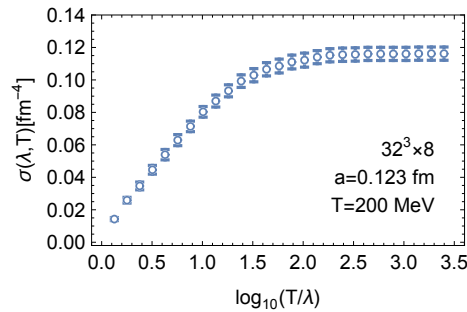
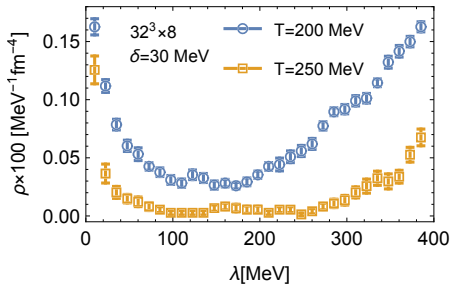
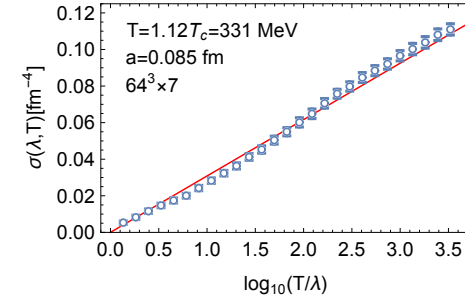
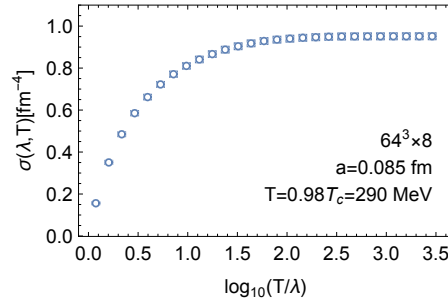
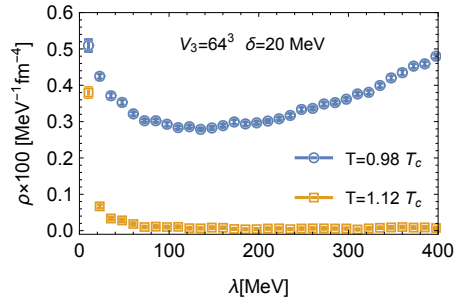
## II. IR Phase of Thermal QCD: Point 1 [AA & IH 1906.08047]

Surprise: fits to  $\rho(\lambda) \propto 1/\lambda$  [pure-gluon QCD]

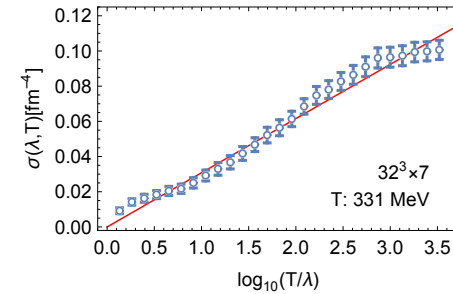


Conjecture: IR scale invariant density  $\rightarrow$  IR scale invariance of glue restored

• Real-world QCD ( $N_f=2+1$ , BMW configs)



pure-gluon lattice of  
comparable volume



Proposition: QCD has a phase with scale-invariant glue - IR phase

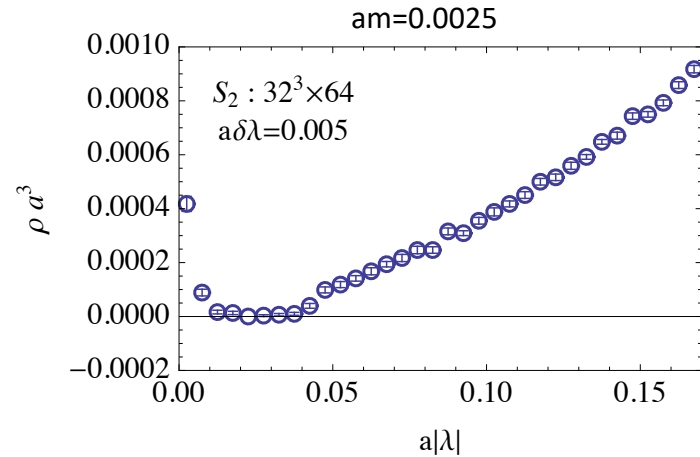
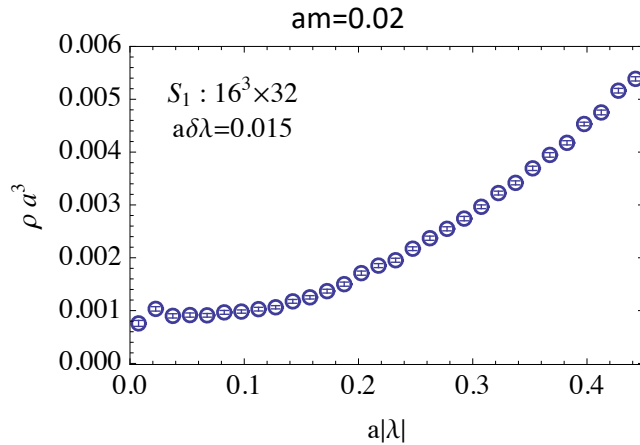
$$200 \text{ MeV} < T_{\text{IR}} < 250 \text{ MeV}$$

## II. IR Phase of Thermal QCD: Point 2 [AA & IH 1906.08047]

$N_f=12, T=0$

Ensembles: A. Hasenfratz et al, 1207.7162

staggered with nHYP,  $\beta_F=2.8, \beta_A/\beta_F=-0.25$



A.A, I.H. 1405.2968, 1411.1777

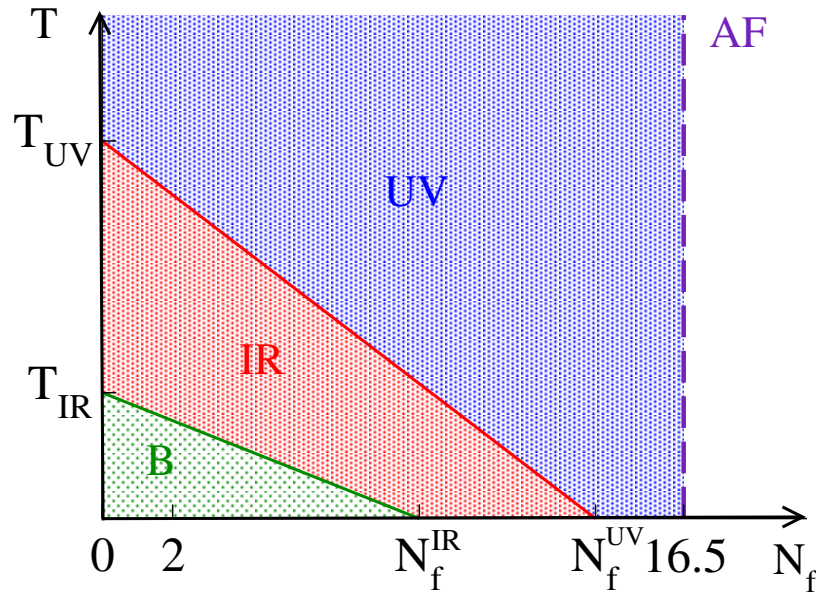
- Light quarks generate bimodality without temperature!
- Since near conformal window, it is expected  $\rho(\lambda) \propto \lambda^p$  but then  $p < 0$ !

Proposition: Conformal window has a strongly coupled part with  $p < 0$

$$N_f^c \equiv N_f^{\text{IR}} < N_f < N_f^{\text{UV}} \leq 16.5$$

## II. IR Phase of Thermal QCD: Point 2 [AA & IH 1906.08047] ...

- Near-massless SU(3) theories with fundamental quarks

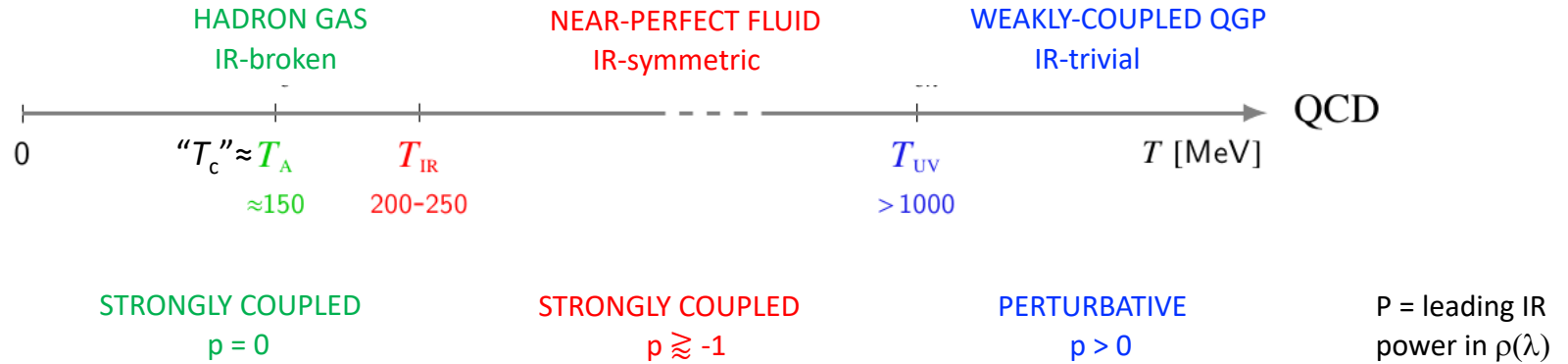


IR phase of QCD is in the same contiguous phase as strongly-coupled part of conf window

- Scale invariant glue is expected in the conformal window!
- Conjecture: IR phase of thermal QCD may feature full IR scale invariance

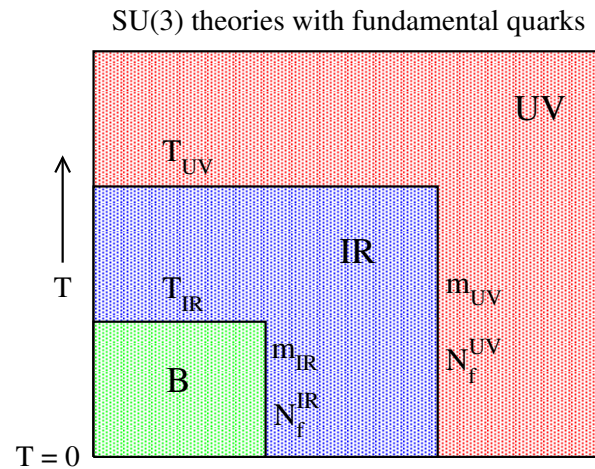
## II. IR Phase of Thermal QCD: [AA & IH 1906.08047] ...

### PHASE STRUCTURE OF QCD AND $p_g$ QCD IN TERMS OF IR SCALE INVARIANCE



For details see this Wuhan talk:

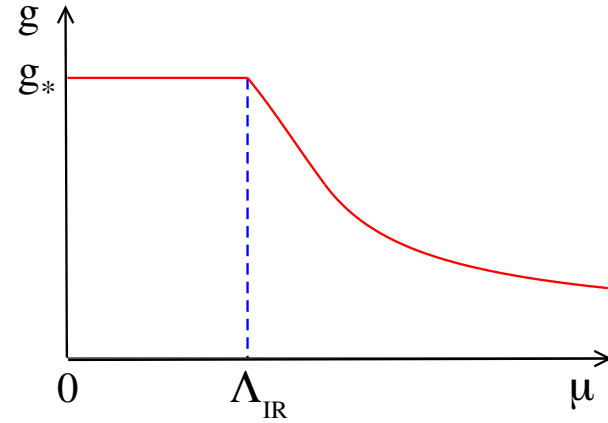
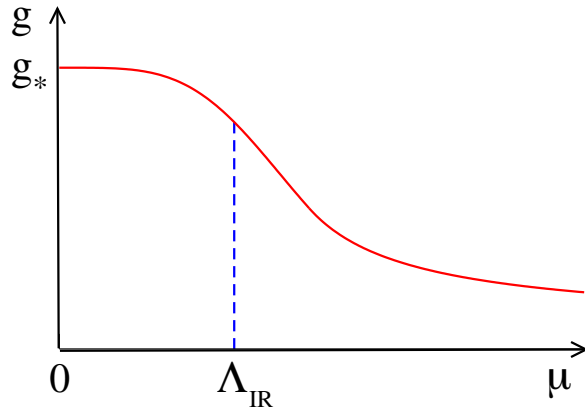
[https://indico.cern.ch/event/764552/contributions/3420459/attachments/1865996/3068382/WuHan\\_jun\\_2019\\_infra.pdf](https://indico.cern.ch/event/764552/contributions/3420459/attachments/1865996/3068382/WuHan_jun_2019_infra.pdf)





### III. Asymptotic or Exact?

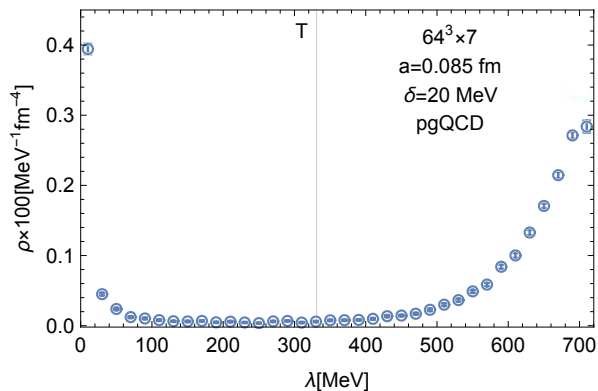
$\Lambda_{\text{IR}}$  = onset of scale invariance



$g(\mu)$  non-analytic at  $\Lambda_{\text{IR}}$

Q: How does the non-analyticity arise?

Proposed answer: [AA & IH 1906.08047]



bimodality  $\rightarrow$  IR glue fluctuates independently of bulk

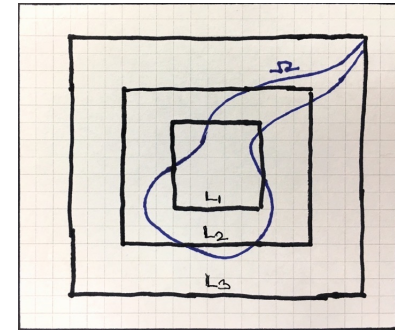
Makes non-analyticity natural (mismatch)!

$$\Lambda_{\text{IR}} < \lambda_{\text{min}} < T$$

Not very convincing: needs more

### III. Asymptotic or Exact?...

Study IR measure-based dimension: global features,  $L \rightarrow \infty$

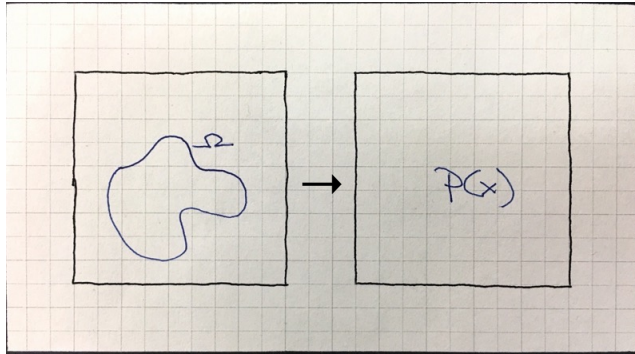


$$V(\Omega, L) \propto L^{d_{\text{IR}}(\Omega)}$$

Rarely discussed but useful!

### III. Asymptotic or Exact?...

But how to proceed in field theory?



$$P(x) \implies \Omega_{\text{eff}}$$

How???

[ And we are on the lattice to begin with...]

Since measure has to be assigned to  $\Omega_{\text{eff}}$  for dimension à la Minkowski/Hausdorff:

- 1) count how many points  $\mathcal{N} = \mathcal{N}[P] = \mathcal{N}(p_1, p_2, \dots, p_N)$  are effectively selected by  $P$   
(must be additive counting in order to obtain measure)
- 2) select  $\Omega_{\text{eff}}$  as  $\mathcal{N}$  most probable points on the lattice
- 3) proceed as with Box

Consistent realization of the above program leads to unique effective dimension

$$\mathcal{N}_\star[P] = \sum_{i=1}^N \mathfrak{n}_\star(Np_i) \quad , \quad \mathfrak{n}_\star(c) = \min \{c, 1\}$$

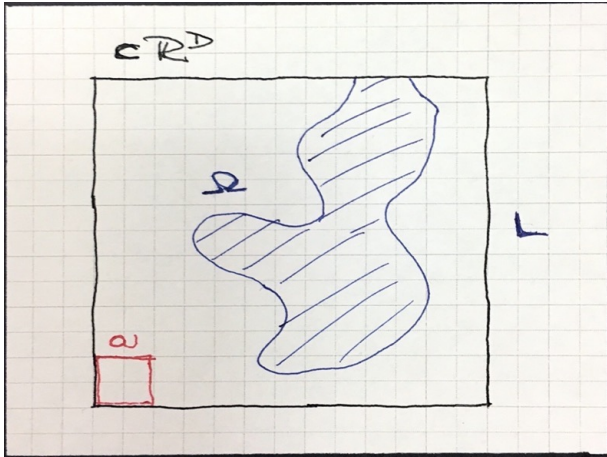
I.H. and R. M., 1807.03995  
I.H. , P. M. and R.M. 2205.11520

Box:  $N \longrightarrow N_+$

Effective:  $N \longrightarrow \mathcal{N}_\star[P]$

Defines measure-based dimension for probabilistic sets (effective subsets).

### III. Asymptotic or Exact?...



characterize both fine (UV) and global (IR) features

$$N \propto (L/a)^D$$

$$\text{UV: } N_+(a, L) \propto a^{-d_{\text{UV}}(L)} , a \rightarrow 0$$

$$\text{IR: } N_+(a, L) \propto L^{d_{\text{IR}}(a)} , L \rightarrow \infty$$

Effective Dimensions of Dirac eigenmodes:

$$\text{UV: } \langle \mathcal{N}_* \rangle_{a,L,\lambda} \propto a^{-d_{\text{UV}}(L,\lambda)} , a \rightarrow 0$$

$$\text{IR: } \langle \mathcal{N}_* \rangle_{a,L,\lambda} \propto L^{d_{\text{IR}}(a,\lambda)} , L \rightarrow \infty$$

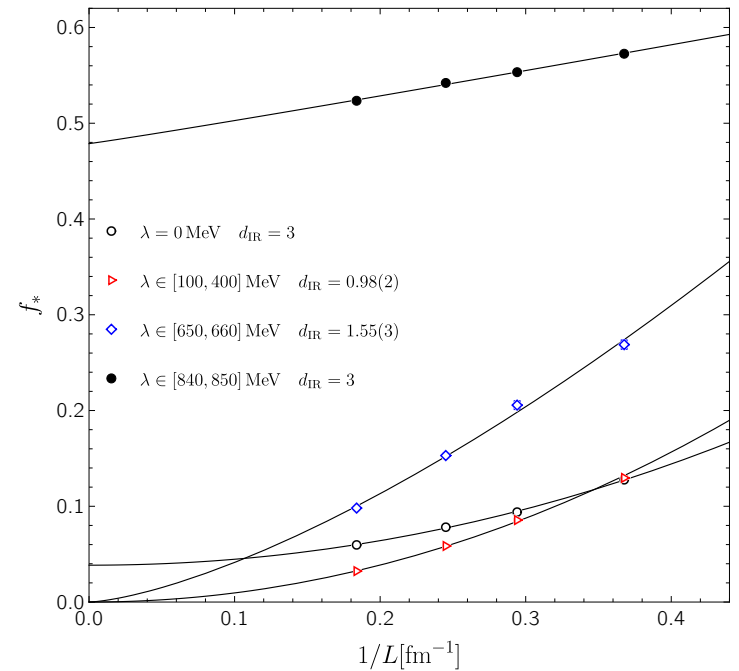
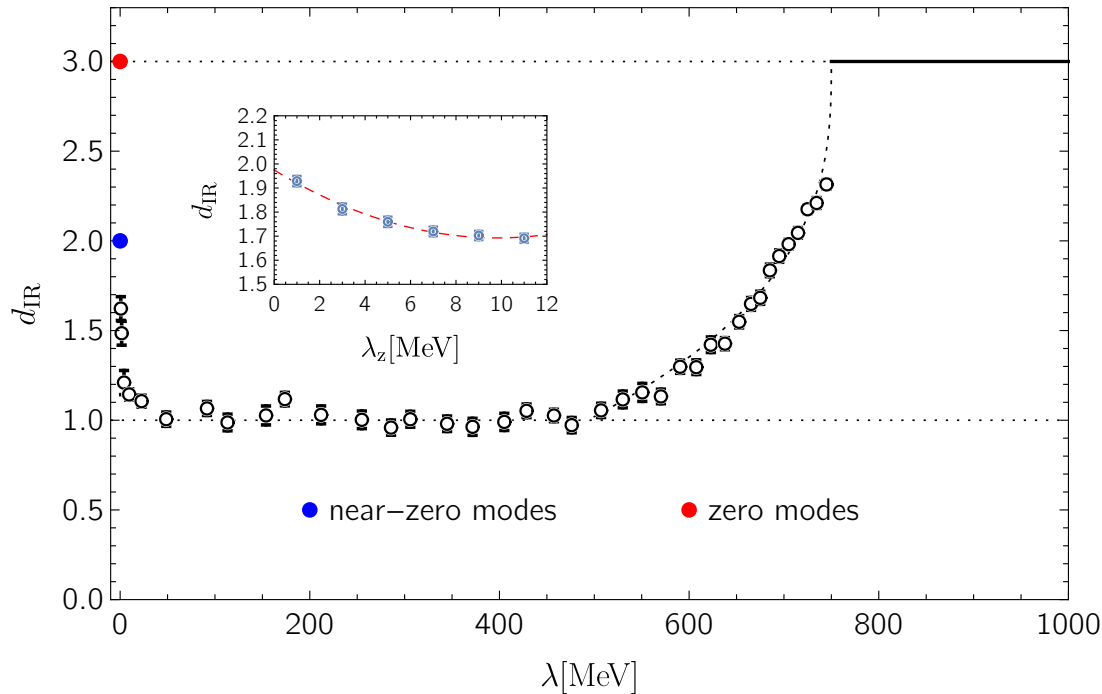
Finite T: 
$$N = \left(\frac{L}{a}\right)^3 \frac{1}{Ta} \quad P = (p_1, p_2, \dots, p_N) , p_i = \psi_\lambda^+ \psi_\lambda(x_i)$$

We are interested in IR dimension here.

### III. Asymptotic or Exact?...

pure-gluon QCD,  $a=0.085$  fm, Wilson action, overlap Dirac,  $T=1.12T_{\text{IR}}$ ,  $L_{\text{max}} = 5.5$  fm

$$f_{\star} = \frac{\mathcal{N}_{\star}}{N} \propto \left(\frac{1}{L}\right)^{3-d_{\text{IR}}}$$



$\lambda_{\text{IR}} = 0$

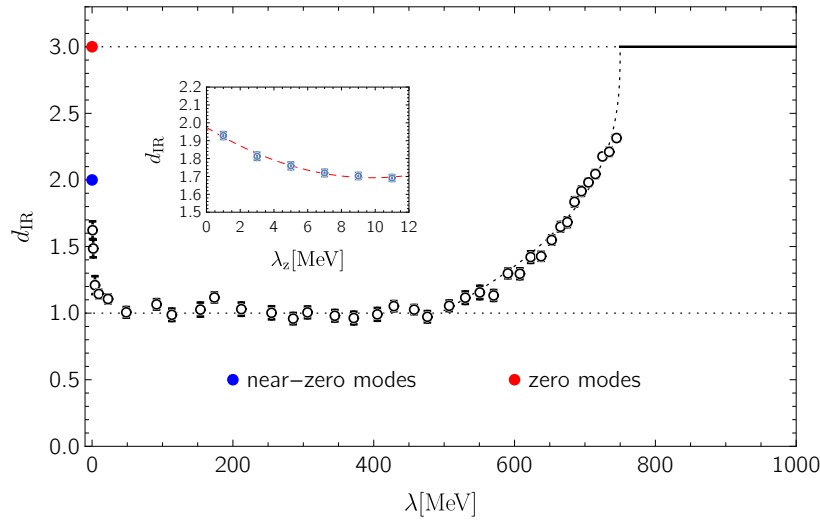
$\lambda_A \approx 750$  MeV

What is  $\lambda_A$ ? This dimension break coincides with Anderson-like mobility edge!

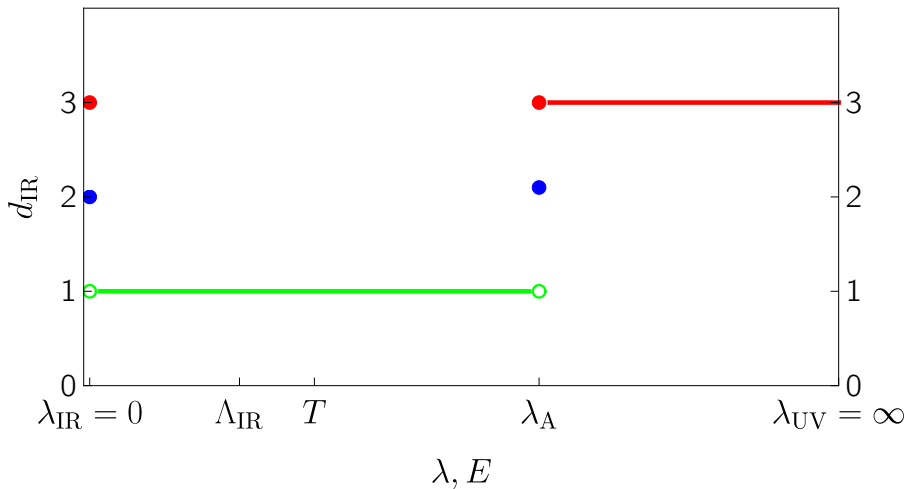
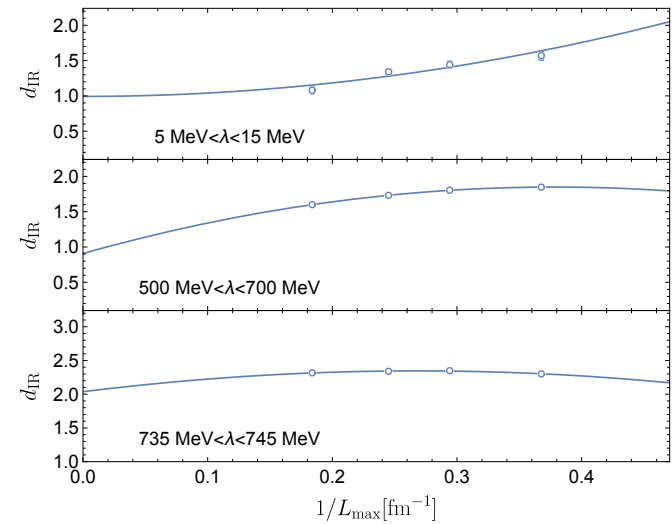
determined via methods used in localization

[ e.g. Giordano, Kovacs, Pitler, 1312.1179 & their other works ]

### III. Asymptotic or Exact?...



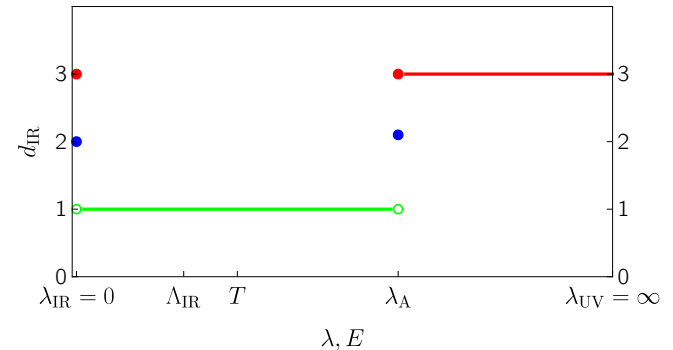
Volume trends toward thermodynamic limit



- Unusual dimension structure
- Non-analytic
- No finite Dirac scales below  $\Lambda_{\text{IR}}$  detected, consistently with IR scale invariance restoration.

$$d_{\text{IR}}(0^+) \equiv \lim_{L \rightarrow \infty} \lim_{\lambda \rightarrow 0^+} d_{\text{IR}}(\lambda, L)$$

# Ramifications & Current Picture



## I. Anderson viewpoint:

$\lambda_{\text{IR}}$  appears to pass as a new “mobility edge”

[ criticality and long-range IR physics ] Andrei talk

## II. Topological viewpoint 1:

Studied measure-based dimension but got near-integers: IR phase may have topological origin

[ At  $T_{\text{IR}}$  thermal agitation destroys low QCD scales ( $\rightarrow$ IR scale invariance) but not topology . ]

## III. Scale invariance viewpoint 1:

Crossing  $T_{\text{IR}}$  (external parameter) internal Dirac singularities  $\lambda_{\text{IR}}$  and  $\lambda_{\text{A}}$  appear.

[ Propose: reflects non-analytic running at  $\Lambda_{\text{IR}}$  ]

## IV. Scale invariance viewpoint 2: Why does $\lambda_{\text{A}}$ exist? Does the logic of IR phase need it?

Internal “phase transition” at  $\lambda_{\text{A}}$  (non-analyticity) makes Dirac “states above and below unrelated.

[ This feature facilitates the conjectured decoupling of scale-invariant IR and makes non-analyticity of running at  $\Lambda_{\text{IR}}$  concrete: crossing  $\lambda_{\text{A}}$  in the RG process makes the break.]

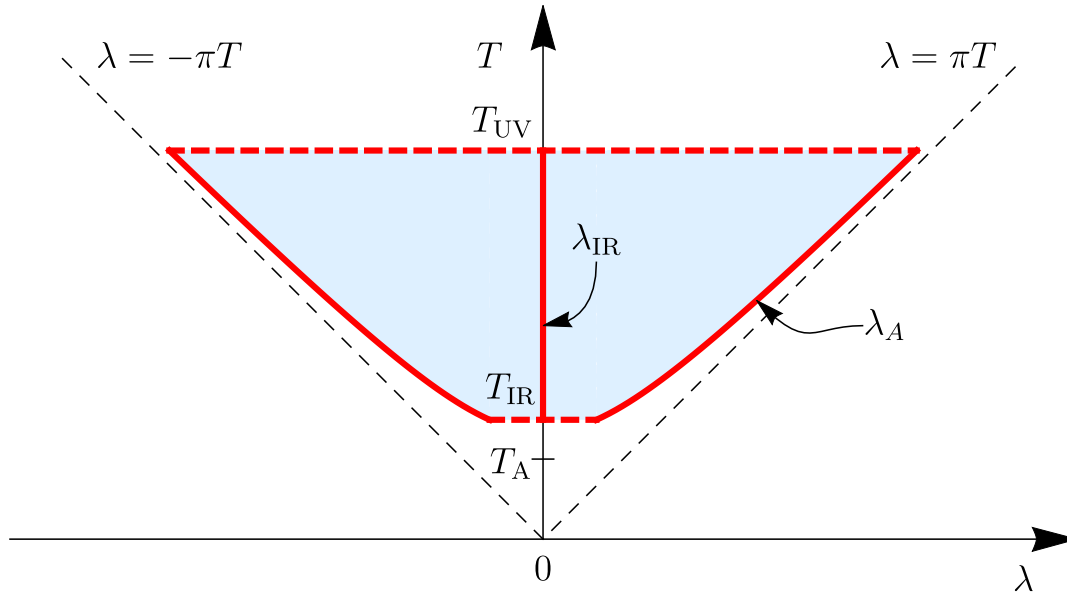
## V. Topological viewpoint 2:

How to explain this dimensional structure in terms of known topology?

[ Explaining  $d_{\text{IR}}=2$  an interesting problem. ]

For works that may add content to this see recent [Cardinali, D’Elia, Pasqui and Vig, Kovacs](#)

# Ramifications & Current Picture...



Dirac spectral phase diagram