

LIO International Conference on
“Asymptotic safety in Quantum Field Theory: Grand Unification”

**Directions for Model Building
beyond Asymptotic Freedom**

Daniel Litim

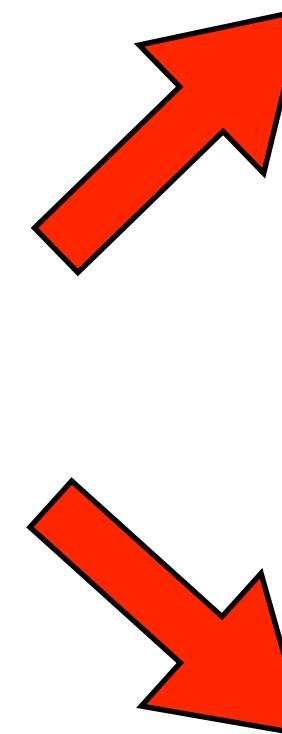
CERN TH
&
US
UNIVERSITY
OF SUSSEX

running couplings

quantum fluctuations modify interactions
couplings depend on energy

$$\mu \frac{d\alpha}{d\mu} = \beta(\alpha)$$

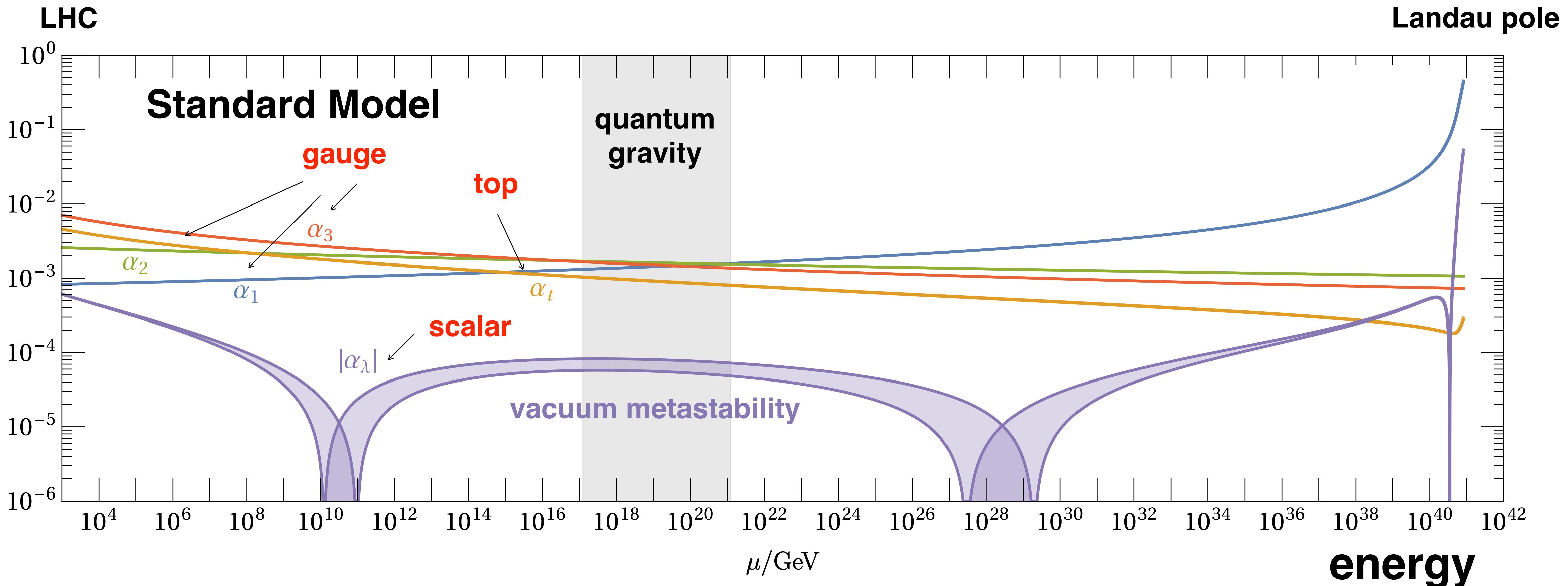
QFT provides
us with



fluctuations \hbar
energy scale μ
couplings $\alpha(\mu)$

predictions into regions where we
cannot (yet) make measurements

where are we?



$$\alpha_\lambda = \frac{\lambda}{(4\pi)^2}$$

Higgs quartic

Uncertainty bands:
1-sigma top pole mass

$$m_t = 172.76 \pm 0.30 \text{ GeV}$$

SM vacuum stability

Higgs discovery '12:

SM vacuum metastability

Buttazzo et al '13

revisiting vacuum stability '24:

matching observables to MSbar

at least 2L + 3L QCD Martin, Patel '18

RG running

4L gauge + 5L QCD

Davies, Herren, Poole, Steinhauer, Thomsen '19

Baikov et al '16, Herzog et al '17, Luthe et al '17

3L Yukawa + 3L quartic (+4L QCD)

Chetyrkin, Zoller '13-'16

Bednyakov et al '12-'14

effective potential

3L (4L QCD) + RG improvement

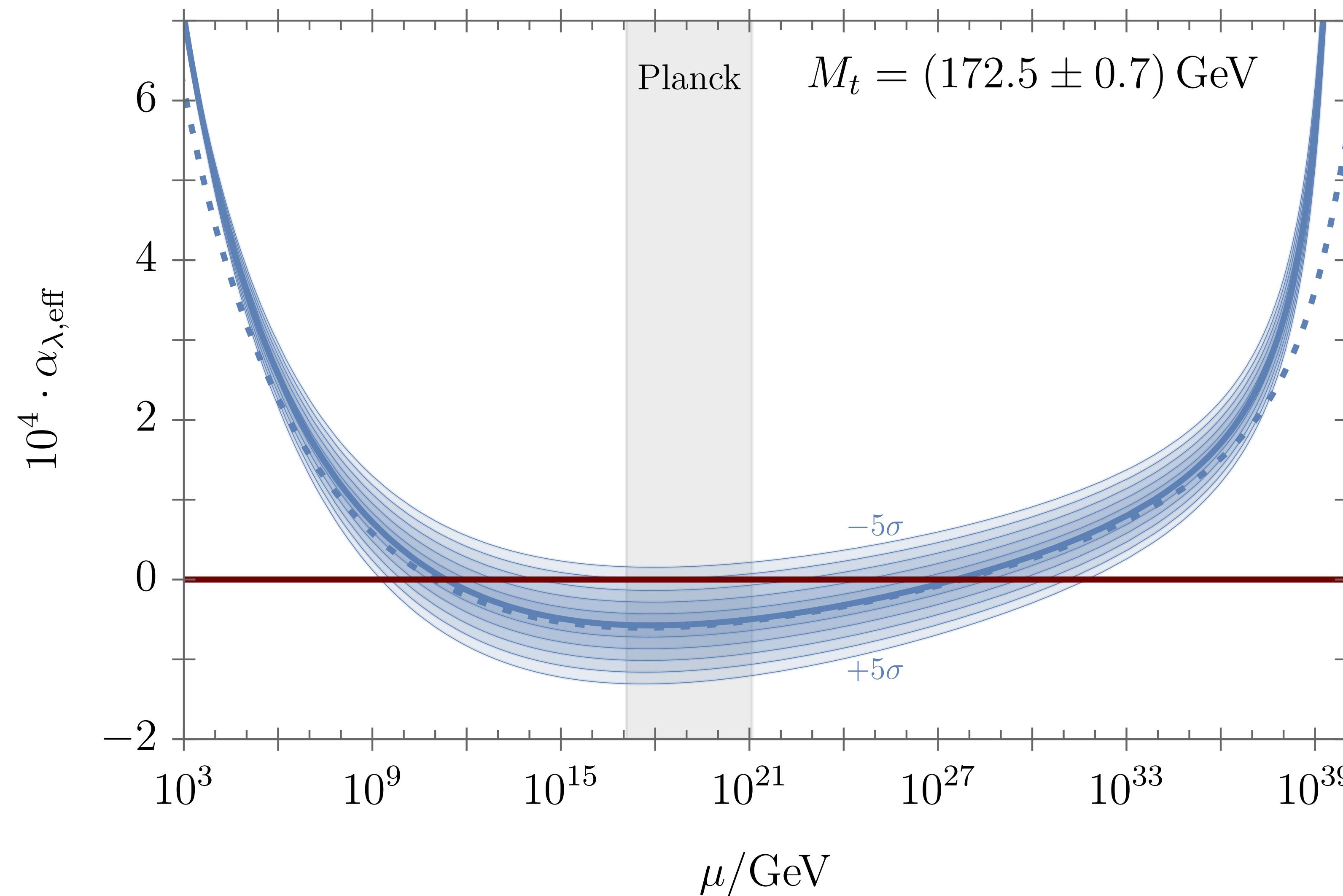
Ford, Jack, Jones '92, Martin '13-'17

PDG 2023 update

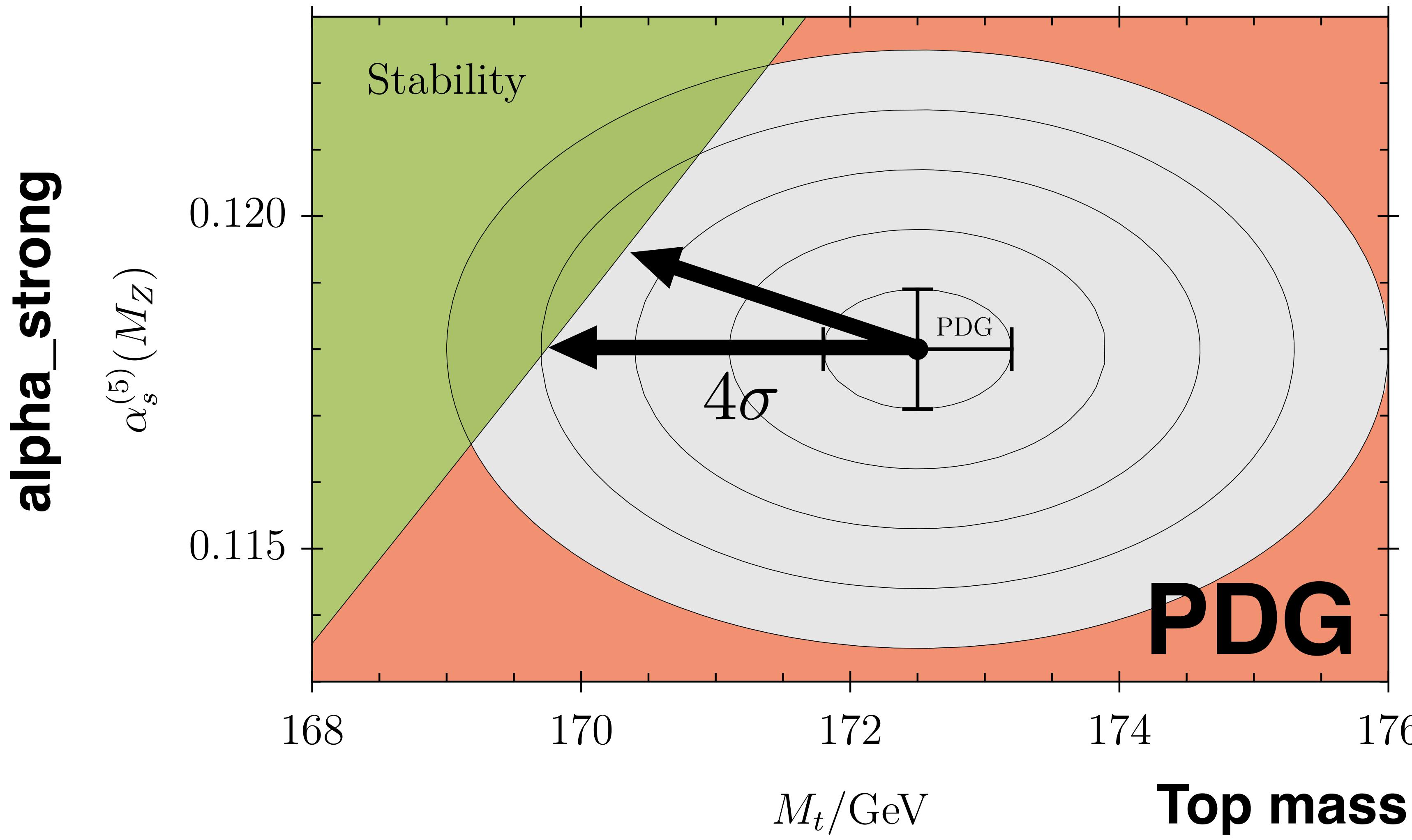


Obs.	Value	$\alpha_\lambda > 0$	$\alpha_{\lambda,\text{eff}} > 0$
M_h/GeV	125.25(17)	128.22 $+17.5\sigma$	128.10 $+16.7\sigma$
M_t/GeV	172.5(7) [‡] 172.69(30) [†] 170.5(8)	169.62 -4.1σ -10.3σ 167.85 -3.3σ	169.74 -3.9σ -9.8σ 167.97 -3.2σ
m_t/GeV	162.5($^{+2.1}_{-1.5}$)	160.0 -1.7σ	160.1 -1.6σ
$\alpha_s^{(5)}(M_Z)$	0.1180(9) 0.1135($^{+21}_{-17}$)	0.1255 $+8.3\sigma$ 0.1203 $+3.2\sigma$	0.1252 $+8.0\sigma$ 0.1200 $+3.1\sigma$

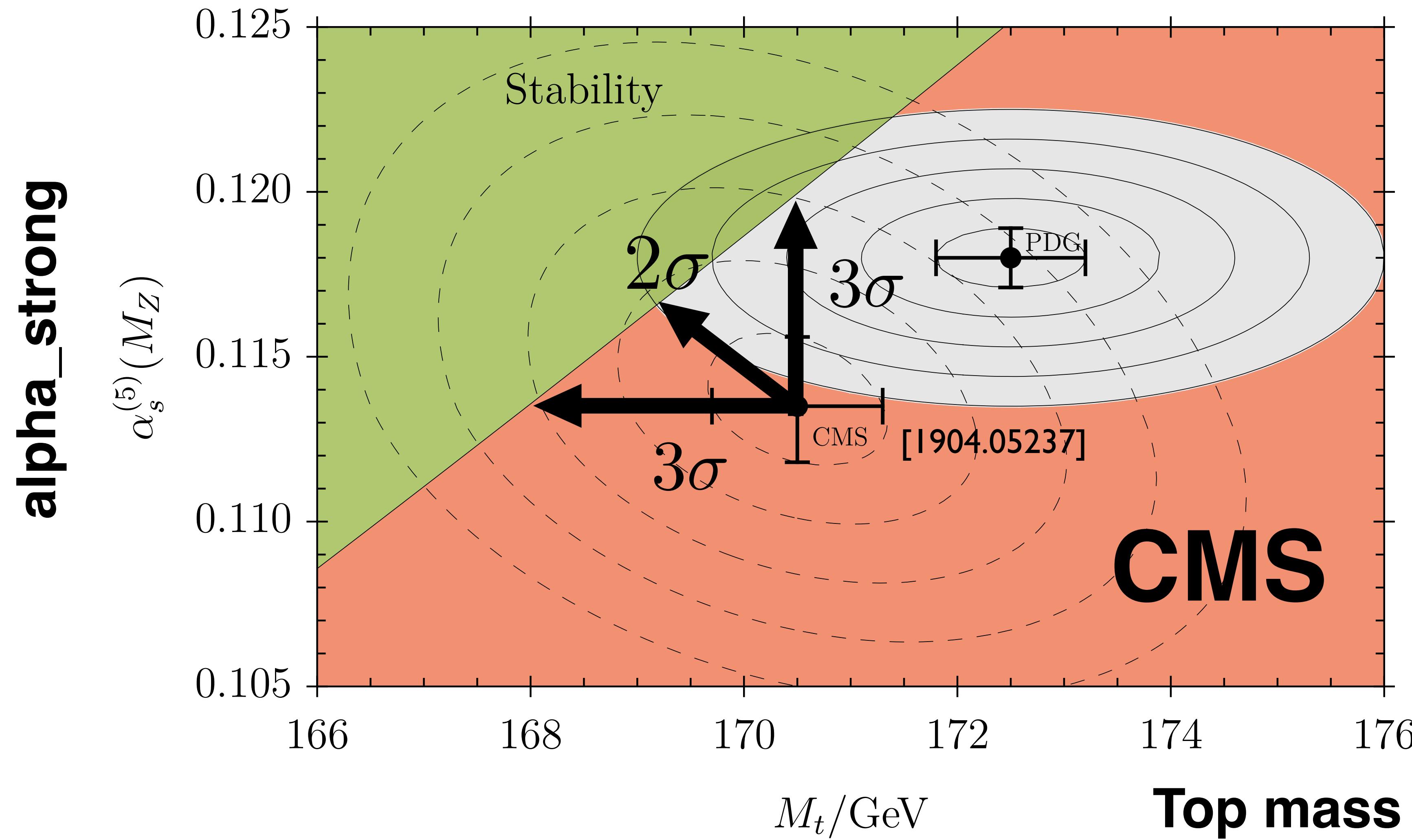
SM vacuum stability



SM vacuum stability



correlations



today:

new directions for model building

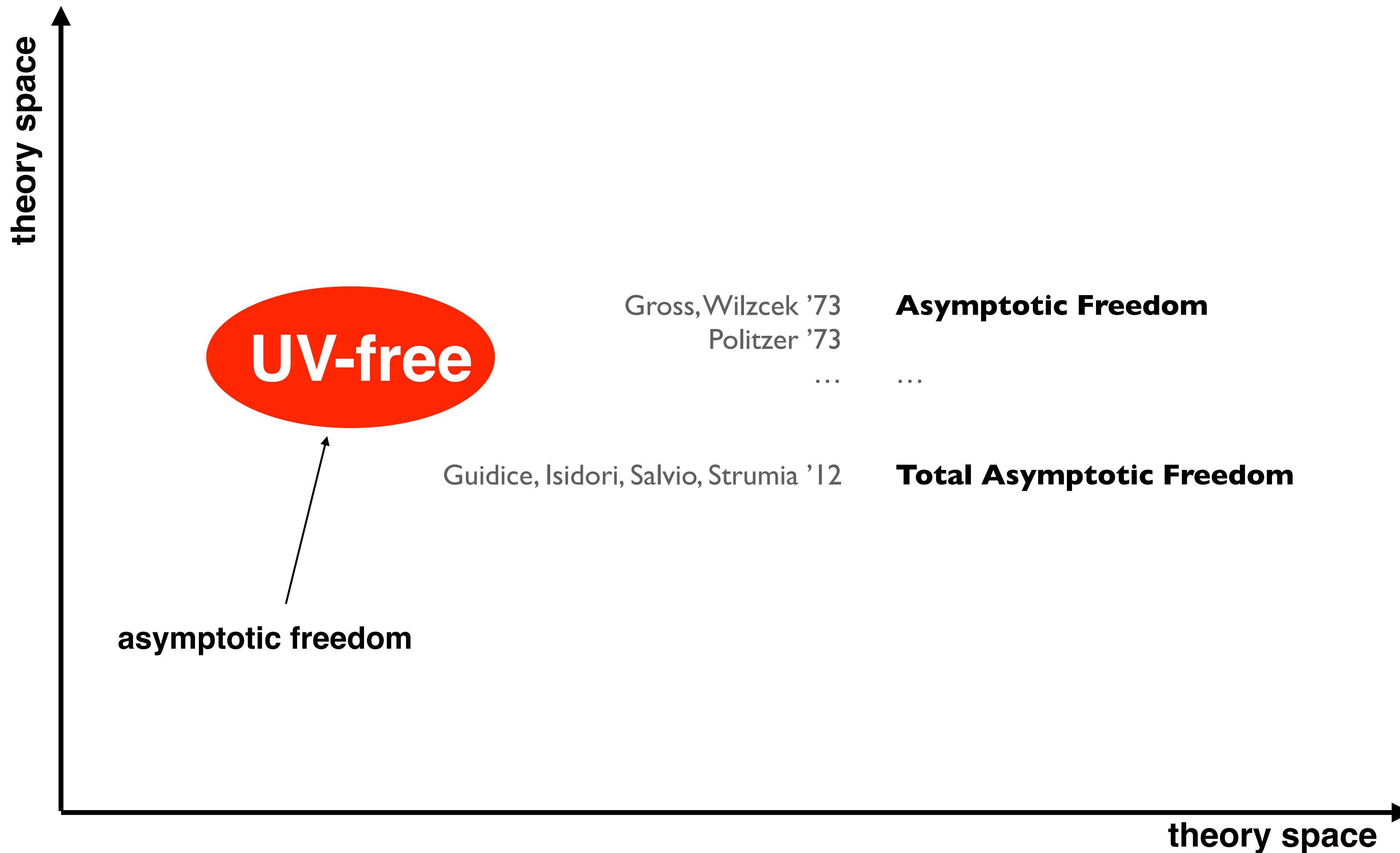
bottom-up

“Planck-safe”

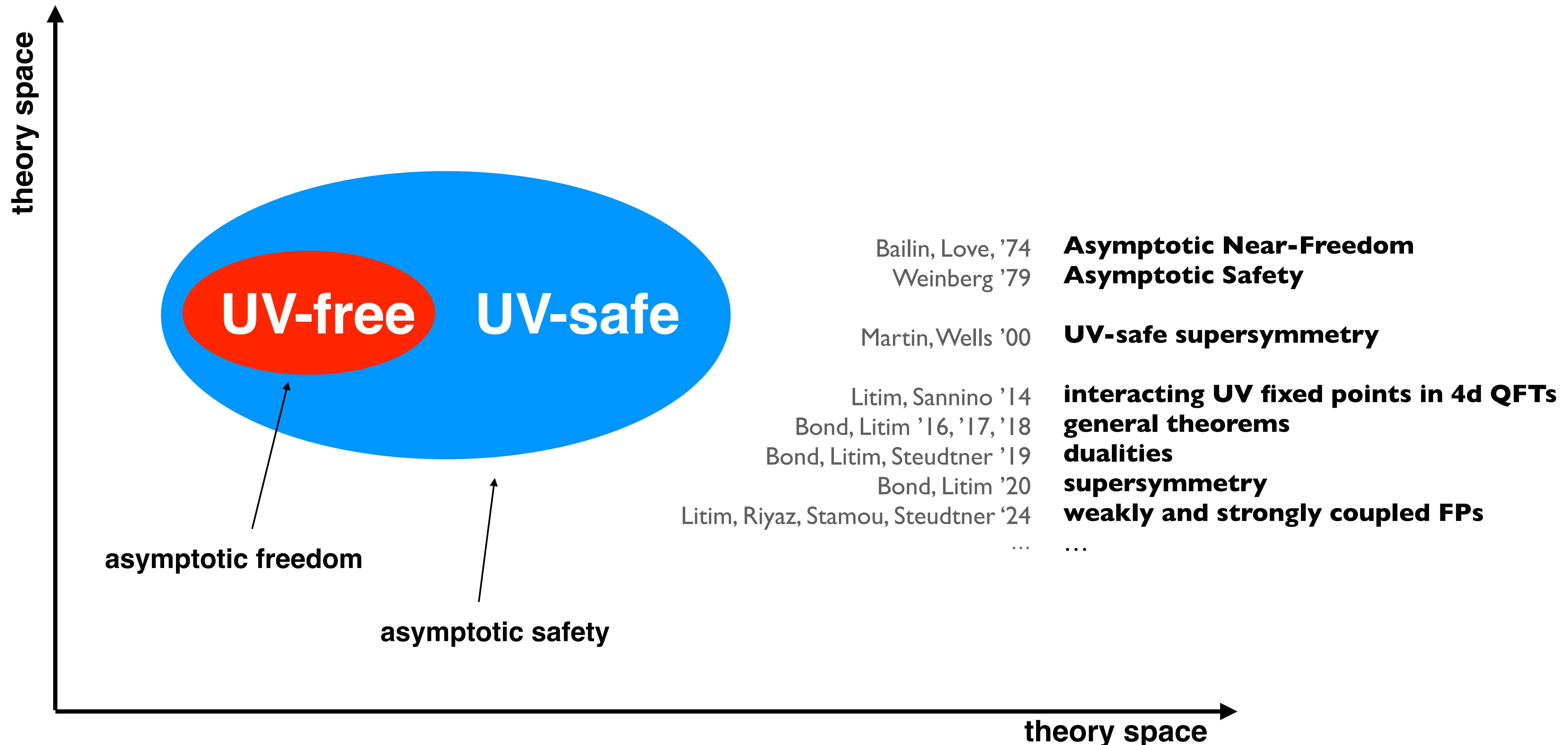
top-down

“UV safe”

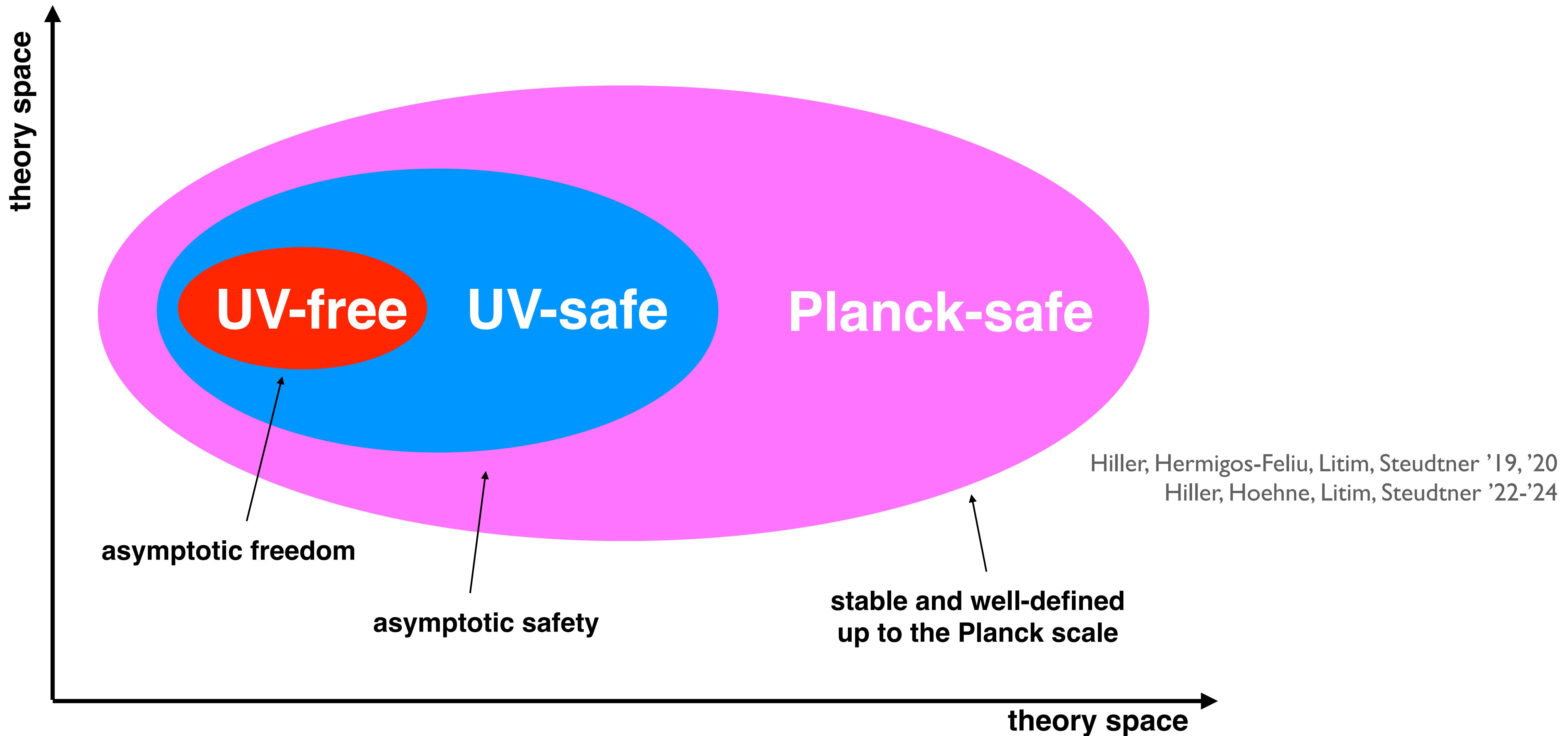
Top-Down



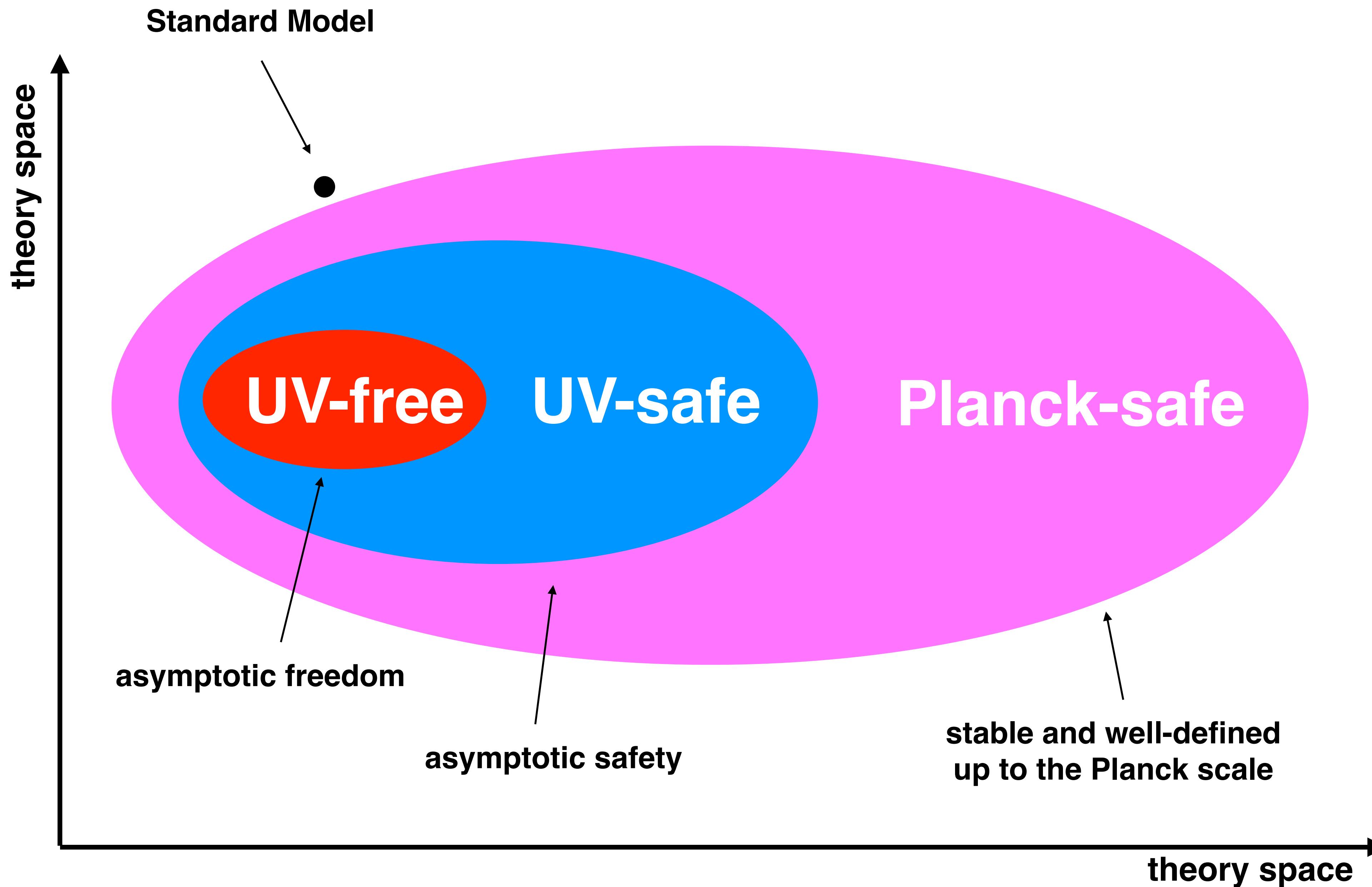
Top-Down



Bottom-Up



Bottom-Up



Bottom-Up

Q: What does it take to

achieve vacuum stability?

**... and make it safely up to
the Planck scale?**

Portals into Stability

Gauge Portals

Portals into Stability

Gauge Portals

$$\mathcal{L} \supset \bar{\psi} i\cancel{D} \psi$$

**Vectorlike Fermions
(VLFs)**

$$U(1)_Y \times SU(2)_L \times SU(3)_c$$

charges (Y_F, d_2, d_3)
mass M_F
multiplicity N_F



modified RG running
“minimally invasive”

Portals into Stability

Gauge Portals

$$\mathcal{L} \supset \bar{\psi} i\cancel{D} \psi$$

Yukawa Portals

$$\mathcal{L} \supset -\kappa \bar{\psi} H f_{\text{SM}}$$

Yukawa

VLFs

Higgs

SM fermion



new interactions



new RG beta functions
modified RG running

Portals into Stability

Gauge Portals

$$\mathcal{L} \supset \bar{\psi} i \not{D} \psi$$

Yukawa Portals

$$\mathcal{L} \supset -\kappa \bar{\psi} H f_{\text{SM}}$$

Higgs Portals

$$\mathcal{L} \supset \sum_i \delta_i (H^\dagger H) (S_i^\top S_i)$$

Portals

Higgs

BSM scalars

→ new scalars

→ new interactions

→ new RG beta functions
modified RG running

Portals into Stability

Gauge Portals

$$\mathcal{L} \supset \bar{\psi} i \not{D} \psi$$

Yukawa Portals

$$\mathcal{L} \supset -\kappa \bar{\psi} H f_{\text{SM}}$$

Higgs Portals

$$\mathcal{L} \supset \sum_i \delta_i (H^\dagger H) (S_i^\intercal S_i)$$

and more...

How do they work?

Study RG running of couplings

Matching: $\alpha_{1,2,3,t,b,\lambda}^{\text{BSM}}(\mu_0) = \alpha_{1,2,3,t,b,\lambda}^{\text{SM}}(\mu_0)$



scale of new physics

Tools:	ARGES	Litim, Steudtner '21
	RGBeta	Thomsen '22
	Pyr@te3	Sartore, Schienbein '20
	Sarah4	Staub '13

here: complete 2-loop

Gauge Portals

1-loop running

$$\beta_i \approx -B_i \alpha_i^2$$

SM **BSM**

$$B_1 = -\frac{41}{3} - \delta B_1,$$

$$B_2 = \frac{19}{3} - \delta B_2,$$

$$B_3 = 14 - \delta B_3,$$

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{BSM}} \supset \bar{\psi} (i \not{D} - M_F) \psi$$

$$\delta B_1 = \frac{8}{3} N_F d_2 d_3 Y_F^2$$

$$\delta B_{2,3} = \frac{8}{3} N_F d_{3,2} S_2(d_{2,3})$$

Gauge Portals

1-loop running

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Three key effects

$$\Lambda > \mu_0$$



$$\alpha_i(\Lambda) - \alpha_i^{\text{SM}}(\Lambda) \geq 0$$

Gauge Portals

1-loop running

$$\beta_i \approx -B_i \alpha_i^2$$

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Three key effects

$$\Lambda > \mu_0$$



$$\alpha_i(\Lambda) - \alpha_i^{\text{SM}}(\Lambda) \geq 0$$



$$\alpha_t(\Lambda) - \alpha_t^{\text{SM}}(\Lambda) < 0$$

$$\beta_t \approx \alpha_t [9 \alpha_t - \frac{17}{6} \alpha_1 - \frac{9}{2} \alpha_2 - 16 \alpha_3]$$

Gauge Portals

1-loop running

$$\beta_i \approx -B_i \alpha_i^2$$

SM	BSM
$B_1 = -\frac{41}{3} - \delta B_1,$	
$B_2 = \frac{19}{3} - \delta B_2,$	
$B_3 = 14 - \delta B_3,$	

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{BSM}} \supset \bar{\psi} (i \not{D} - M_F) \psi$$

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Three key effects

$$\Lambda > \mu_0$$



$$\alpha_i(\Lambda) - \alpha_i^{\text{SM}}(\Lambda) \geq 0$$



$$\alpha_t(\Lambda) - \alpha_t^{\text{SM}}(\Lambda) < 0$$



$$\alpha_\lambda(\Lambda) - \alpha_\lambda^{\text{SM}}(\Lambda) > 0$$

$$\beta_\lambda \approx \frac{3}{8} [\bar{\alpha}_1^2 + 2\bar{\alpha}_1\bar{\alpha}_2 + 3\bar{\alpha}_2^2] - 6\bar{\alpha}_t^2$$

Why?

Hypercharge

$$\alpha_\lambda(\Lambda) - \alpha_\lambda^{\text{SM}}(\Lambda) \approx +\frac{3}{8}\alpha_1^2(\mu_0) [\alpha_1(\mu_0) + \alpha_2(\mu_0)] \boxed{\delta B_1} \ln^2 \left(\frac{\Lambda}{\mu_0} \right)$$

Weak

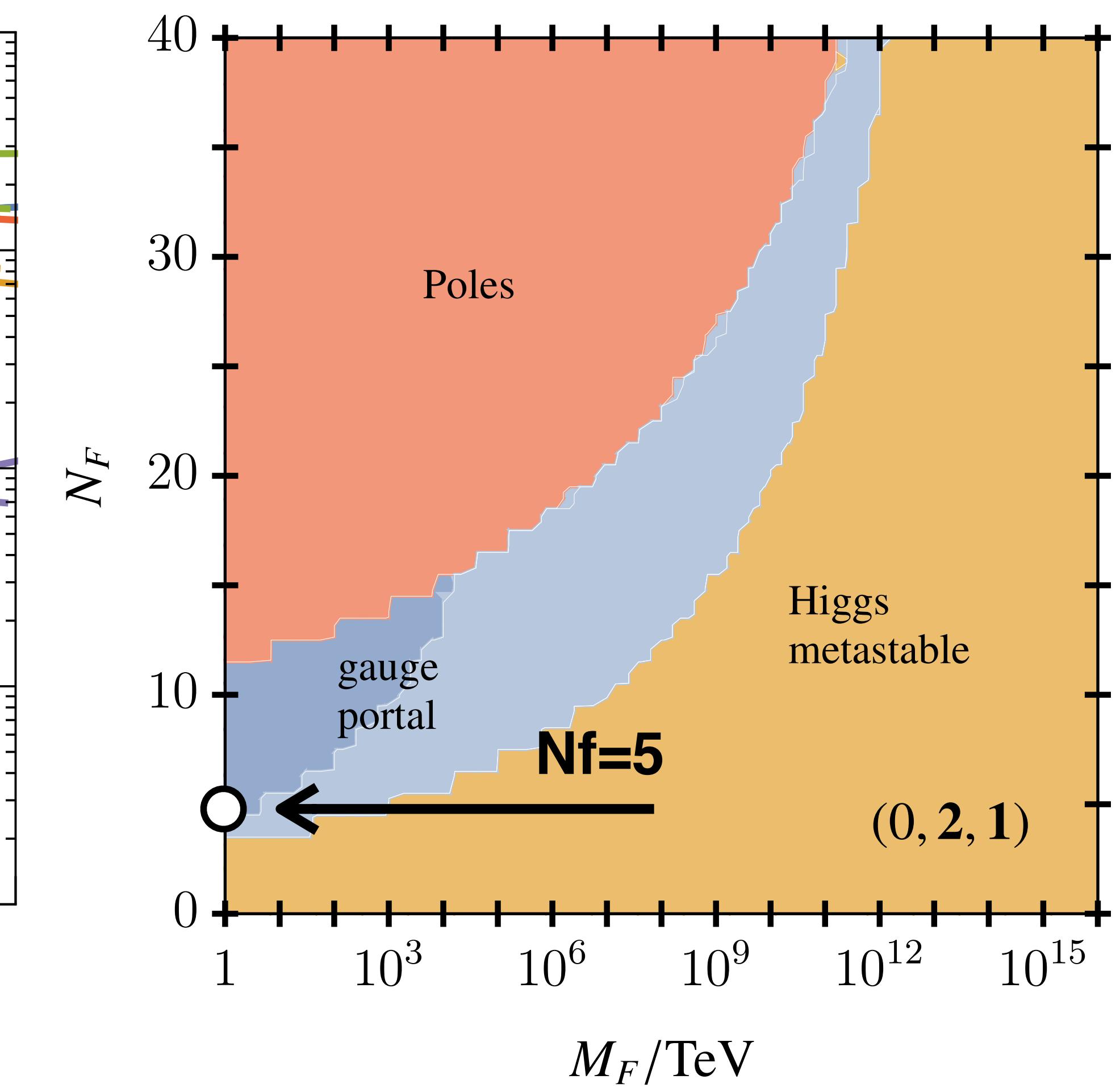
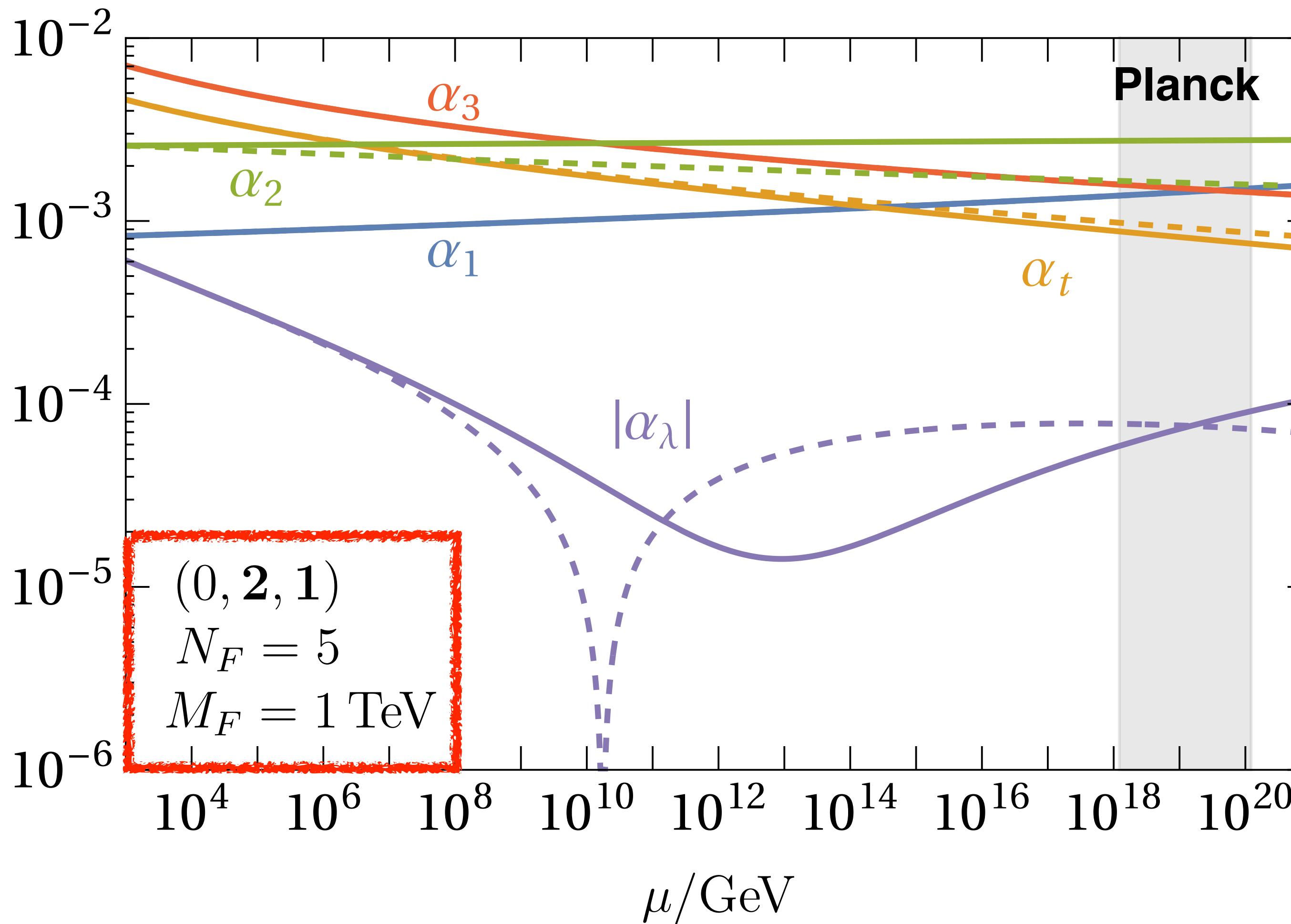
$$+ \frac{3}{8}\alpha_2^2(\mu_0) [\alpha_1(\mu_0) + 3\alpha_2(\mu_0)] \boxed{\delta B_2} \ln^2 \left(\frac{\Lambda}{\mu_0} \right)$$

Strong

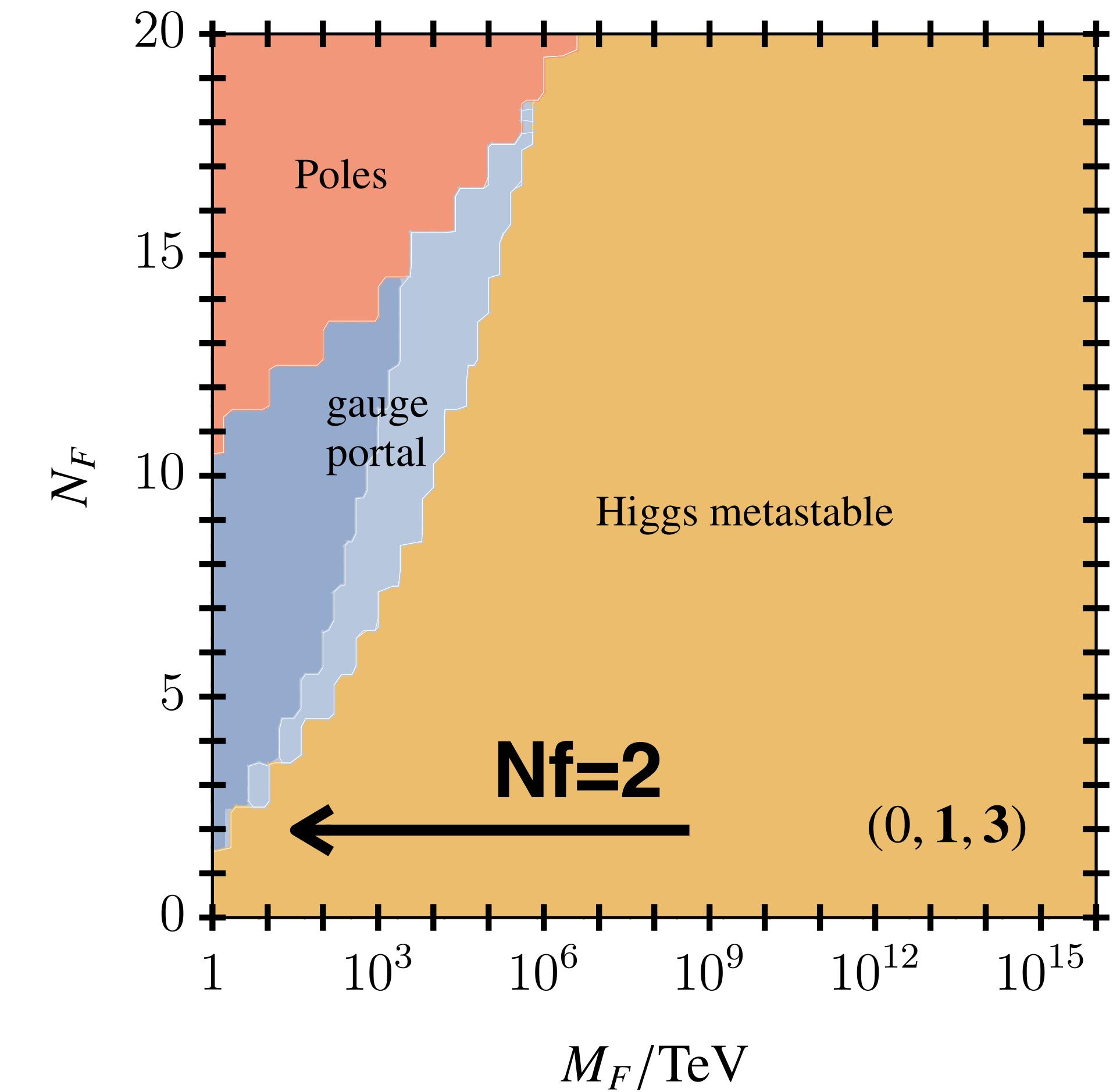
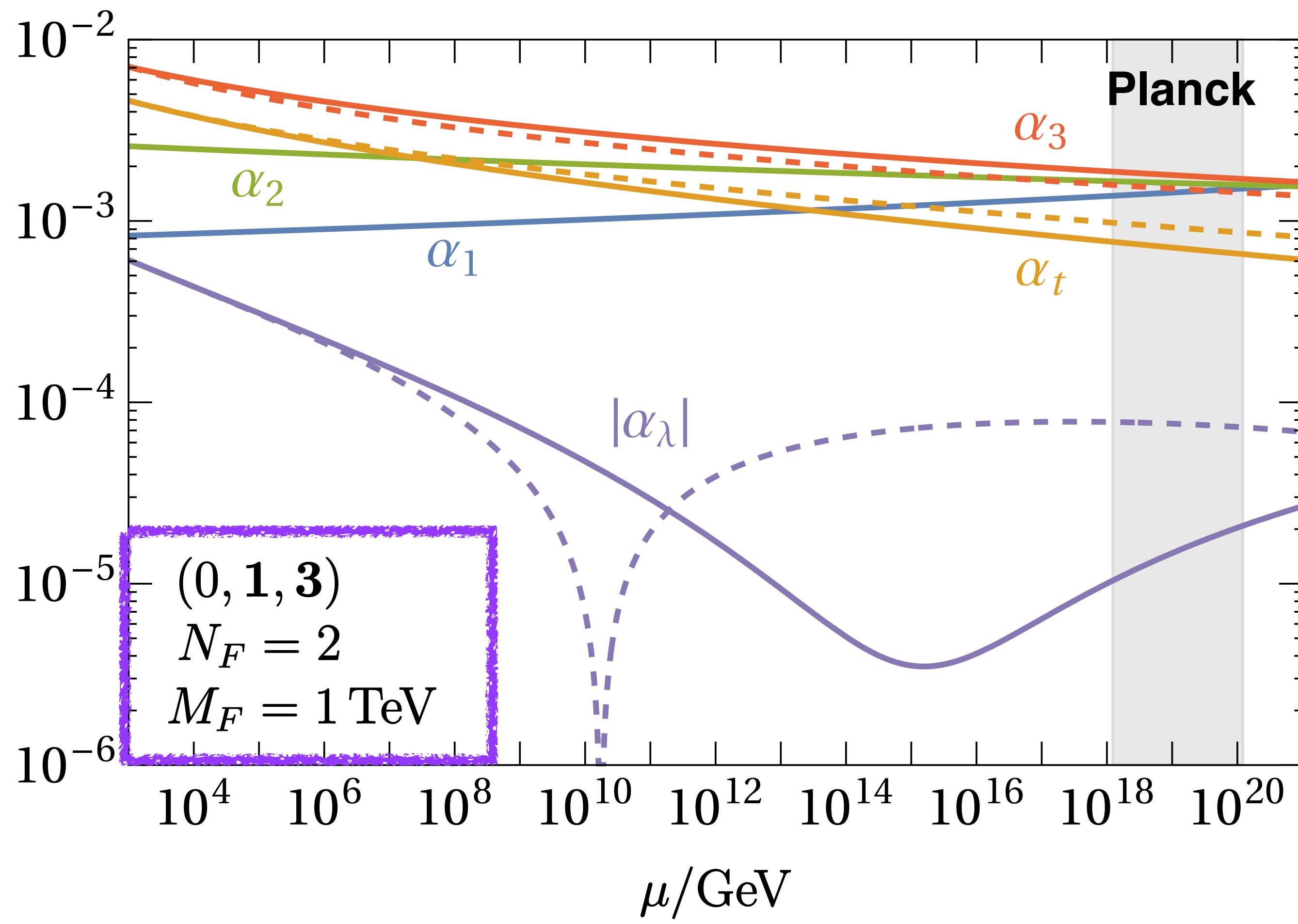
$$+ 32 \alpha_t^2(\mu_0) \alpha_3^2(\mu_0) \boxed{\delta B_3} \ln^3 \left(\frac{\Lambda}{\mu_0} \right)$$

All three gauge portals enhance the quartic

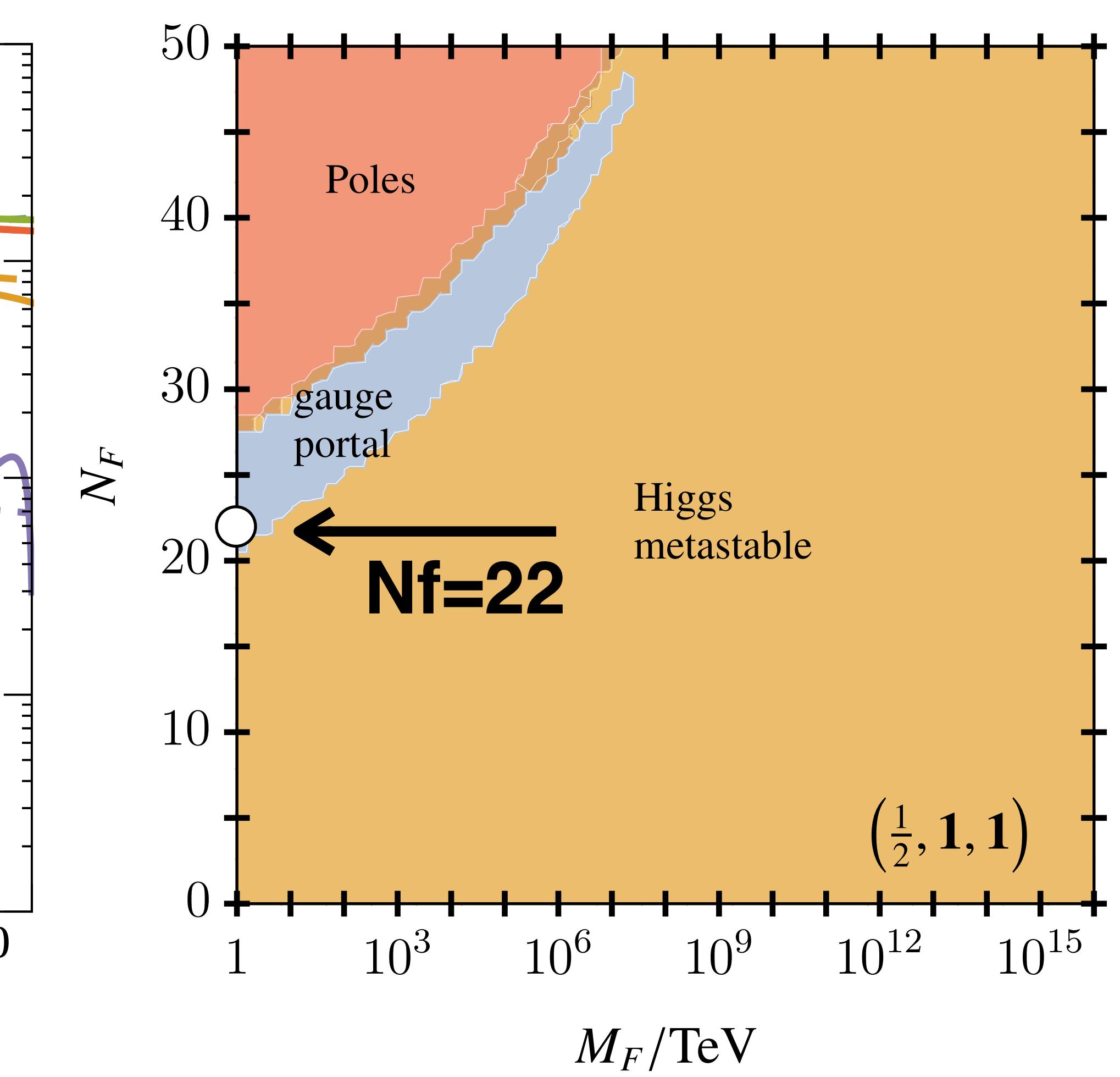
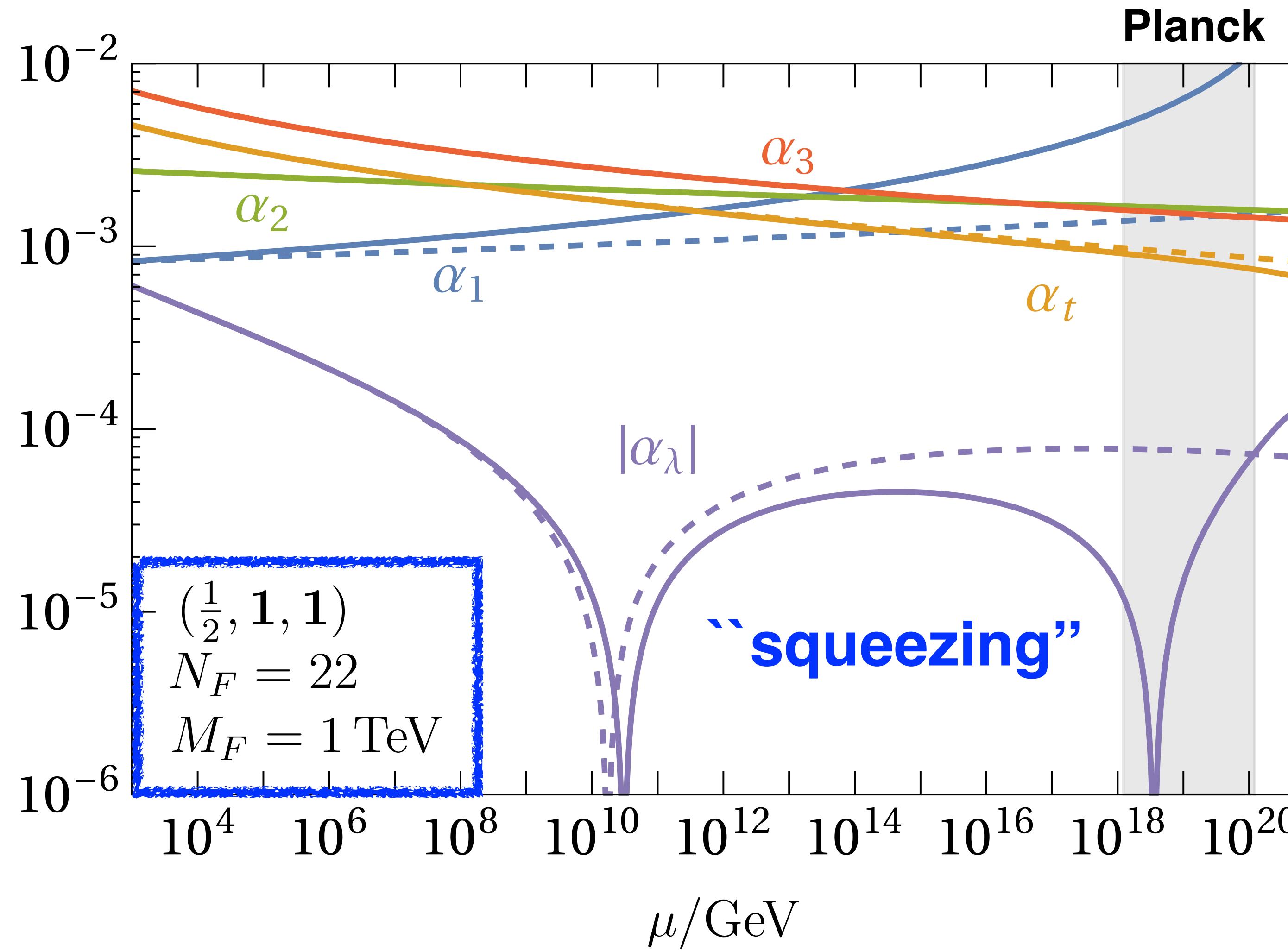
weak portal



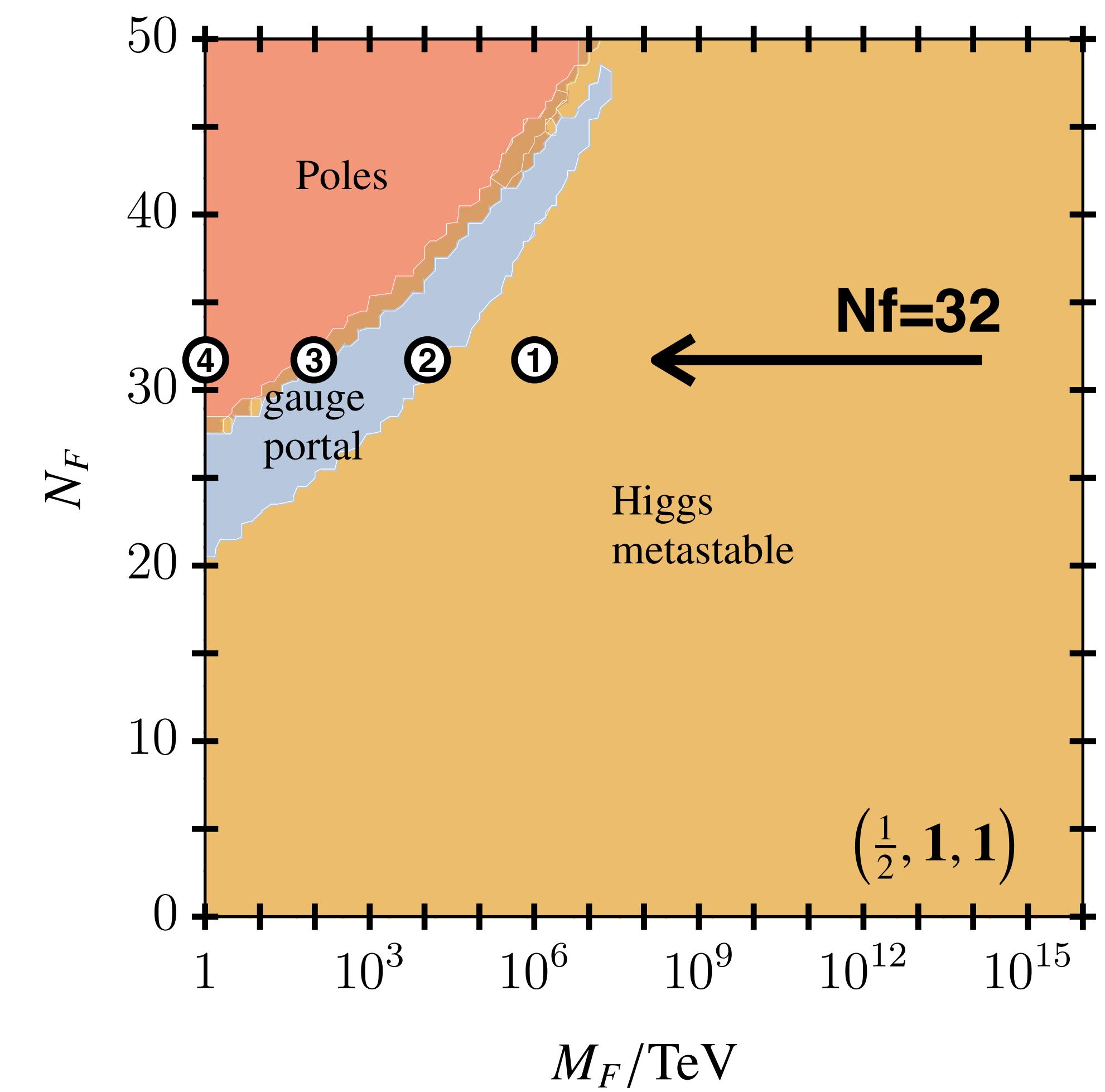
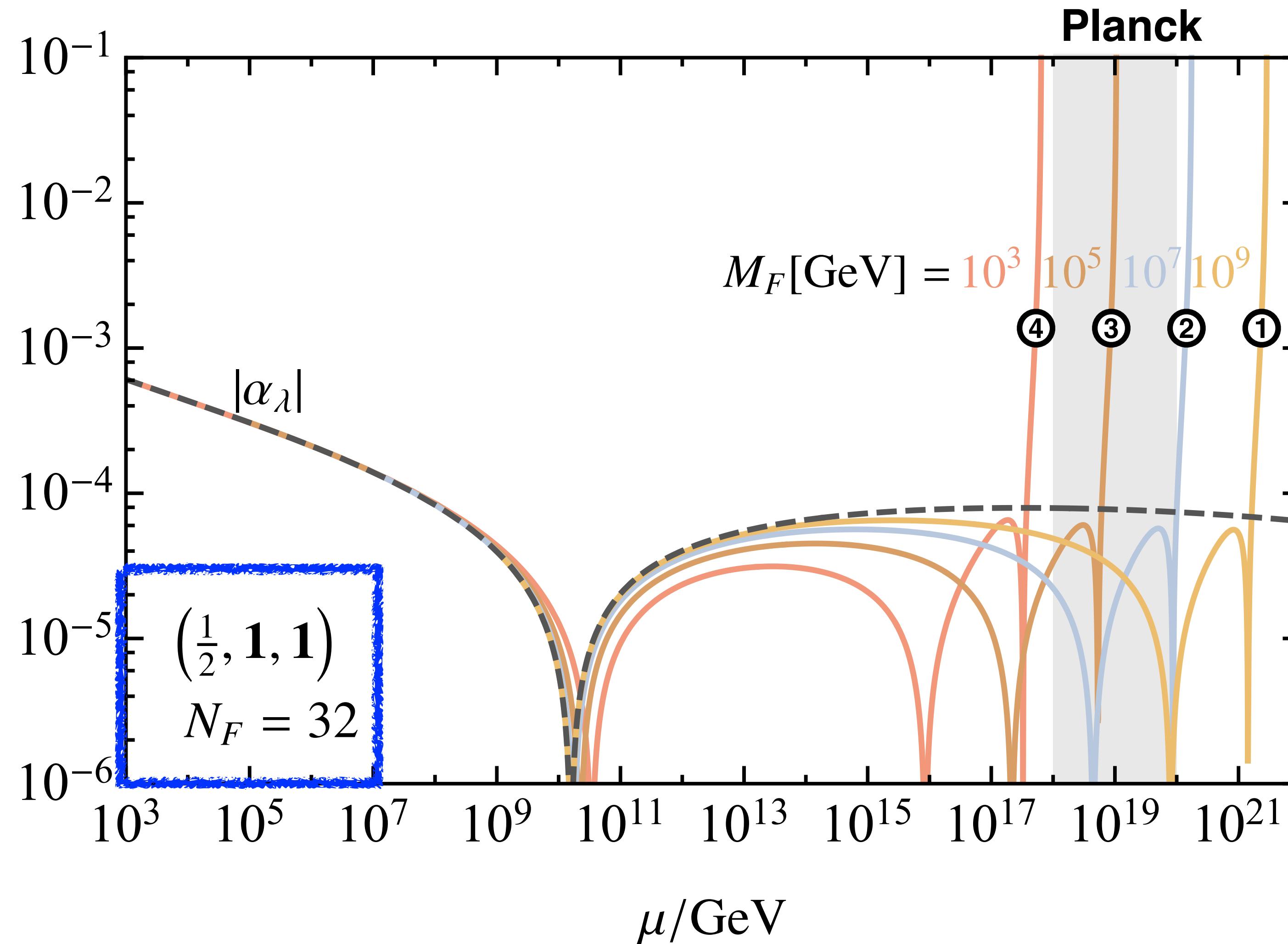
strong portal



hypercharge portal



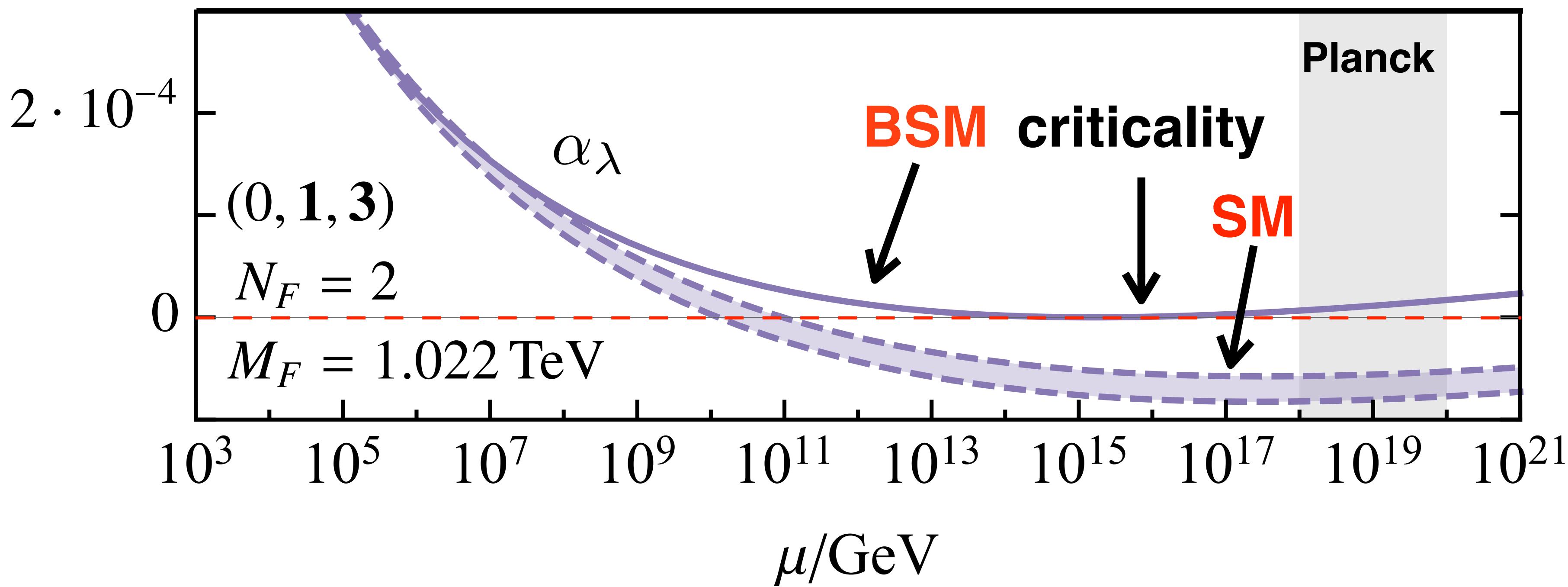
hypercharge portal



Higgs Criticality

Criticality: $\lambda|_{\mu_{\text{crit}}} = 0$ and $\beta_\lambda|_{\mu_{\text{crit}}} = 0$

[SM $\beta_\lambda|_{\mu=M_{\text{Pl}}} \approx 0$ and $\lambda|_{\mu=M_{\text{Pl}}} \approx 0$ within $\mathcal{O}(10^{-4})$
[Buttazzo et al '13]]



Result:

$$\frac{\mu_{\text{crit}}}{\text{GeV}} \approx 10^{11} - 10^{15}$$

typical GUT scale
not Planck scale

Yukawa Portals

Main new RG effect

$$\beta_\lambda = \beta_\lambda^{\text{SM}} + I_{\kappa\lambda} \alpha_\kappa \alpha_\lambda - I_{\kappa\kappa} \alpha_\kappa^2 + \mathcal{O}(2\text{-loop})$$

``good'' ``bad''



Yukawa

$$\alpha_\lambda = \frac{\lambda}{(4\pi)^2}$$

$$\alpha_\kappa = \frac{\kappa^2}{(4\pi)^2}$$

Competition!

Who wins?

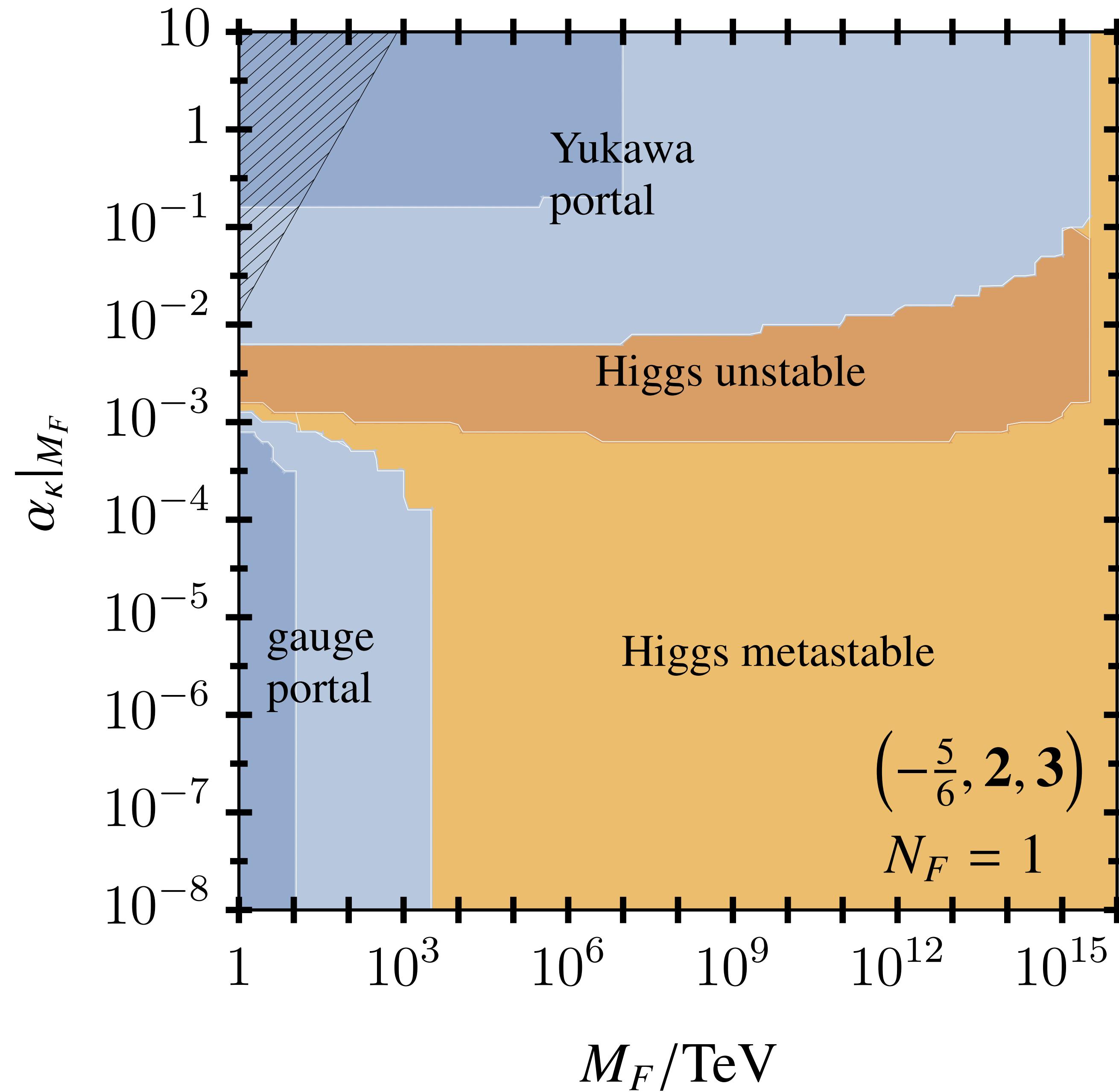
Yukawa Portals

all 13 possibilities

TABLE I. Complete list of vectorlike fermion extensions of the SM with Yukawa portals to the Higgs and SM fermions, also showing the respective gauge charges and interactions; $H^c = i\sigma_2 H^*$. Note that model K offers two Yukawa portals.

Model	(Y_F, d_2, d_3)	Yukawa interactions
A	$(-1, \mathbf{1}, \mathbf{1})$	$\kappa_{ij} \bar{L}_i H \psi_{Rj} + \text{h.c.}$
B	$(-1, \mathbf{3}, \mathbf{1})$	$\kappa_{ij} \bar{L}_i \psi_{Rj} H + \text{h.c.}$
C	$\left(-\frac{1}{2}, \mathbf{2}, \mathbf{1}\right)$	$\kappa_{ij} \bar{\psi}_{Li} H E_j + \text{h.c.}$
D	$\left(-\frac{3}{2}, \mathbf{2}, \mathbf{1}\right)$	$\kappa_{ij} \bar{\psi}_{Li} H^c E_j + \text{h.c.}$
E	$(0, \mathbf{1}, \mathbf{1})$	$\kappa_{ij} \bar{L}_i H^c \psi_{Rj} + \text{h.c.}$
F	$(0, \mathbf{3}, \mathbf{1})$	$\kappa_{ij} \bar{L}_i \psi_{Rj} H^c + \text{h.c.}$
G	$\left(-\frac{1}{3}, \mathbf{1}, \mathbf{3}\right)$	$\kappa_{ij} \bar{Q}_i H \psi_{Rj} + \text{h.c.}$
H	$\left(+\frac{2}{3}, \mathbf{1}, \mathbf{3}\right)$	$\kappa_{ij} \bar{Q}_i H^c \psi_{Rj} + \text{h.c.}$
I	$\left(-\frac{1}{3}, \mathbf{3}, \mathbf{3}\right)$	$\kappa_{ij} \bar{Q}_i \psi_{Rj} H + \text{h.c.}$
J	$\left(+\frac{2}{3}, \mathbf{3}, \mathbf{3}\right)$	$\kappa_{ij} \bar{Q}_i \psi_{Rj} H^c + \text{h.c.}$
K	$\left(+\frac{1}{6}, \mathbf{2}, \mathbf{3}\right)$	$\kappa_{ij}^u \bar{\psi}_{Li} H^c U_j + \kappa_{ij}^d \bar{\psi}_{Li} H D_j + \text{h.c.}$
L	$\left(+\frac{7}{6}, \mathbf{2}, \mathbf{3}\right)$	$\kappa_{ij} \bar{\psi}_{Li} H U_j + \text{h.c.}$
M	$\left(-\frac{5}{6}, \mathbf{2}, \mathbf{3}\right)$	$\kappa_{ij} \bar{\psi}_{Li} H^c D_j + \text{h.c.}$

Yukawa Portals



Model M
 $\kappa \bar{\psi}_L H^c D_3$

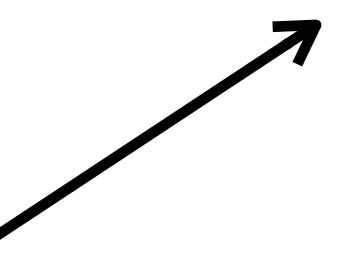
Higgs Portals

Main new RG effect

“good”

$$\beta_\lambda = \beta_\lambda^{\text{SM}} + \sum_i 2 N_i \alpha_{\delta_i}^2$$

$$\alpha_\lambda(\Lambda) - \alpha_\lambda^{\text{SM}}(\Lambda) \propto \sum_i 2 N_i \alpha_{\delta_i}^2 > 0$$

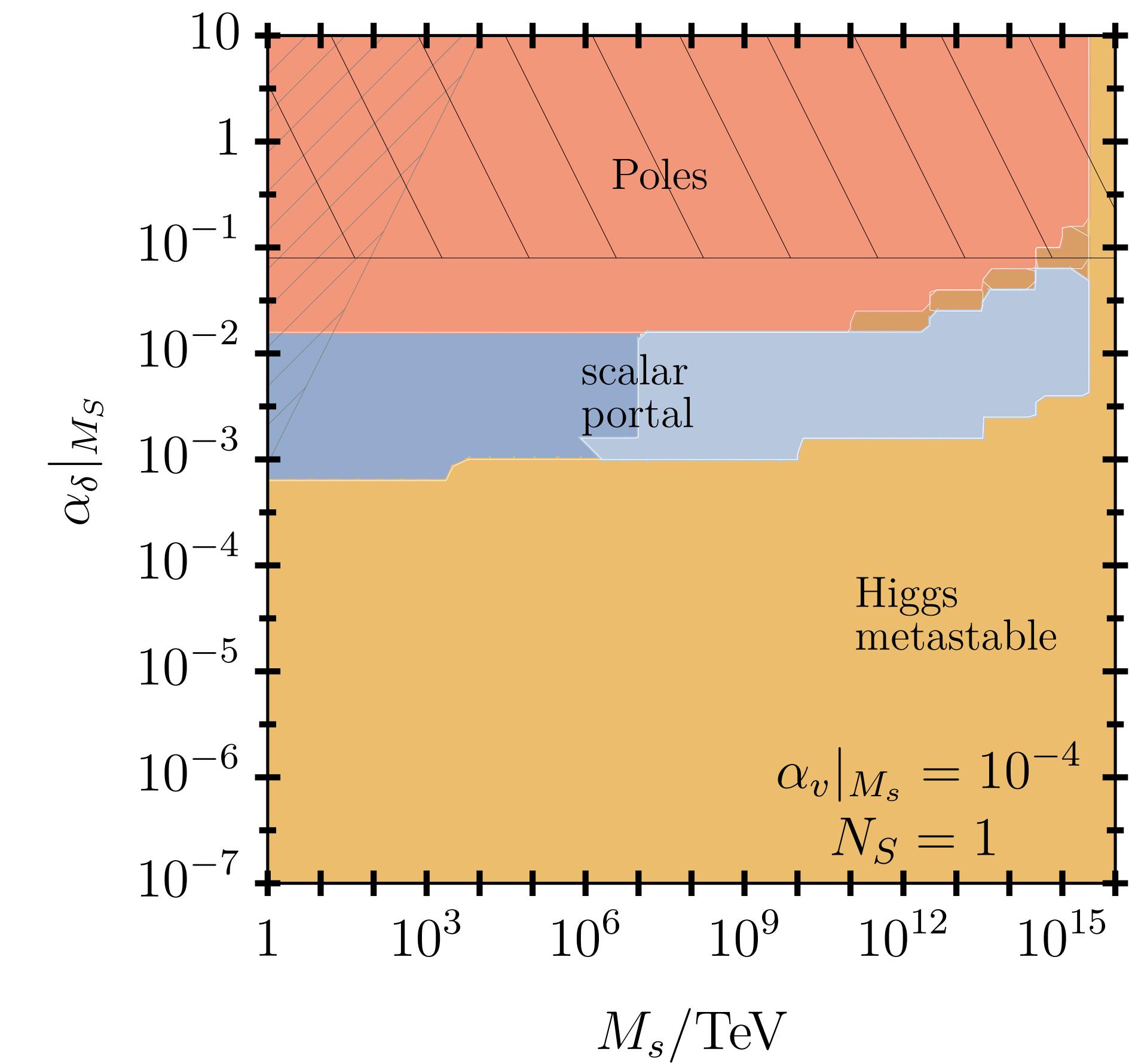
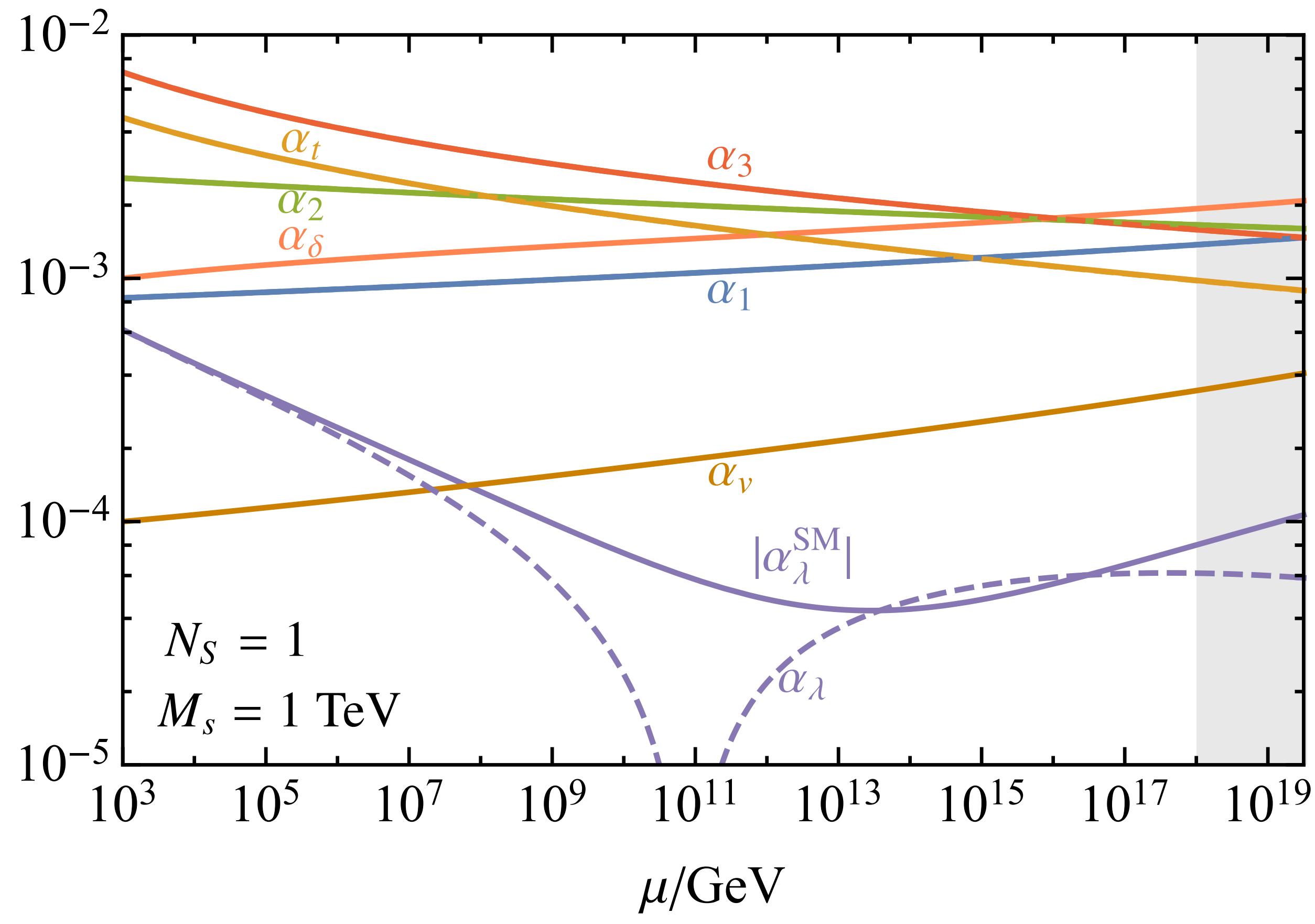


genuine uplift

$$\mathcal{L} \supset \sum_i \delta_i (H^\dagger H)(S_i^\top S_i)$$

Higgs Portals

single real BSM scalar

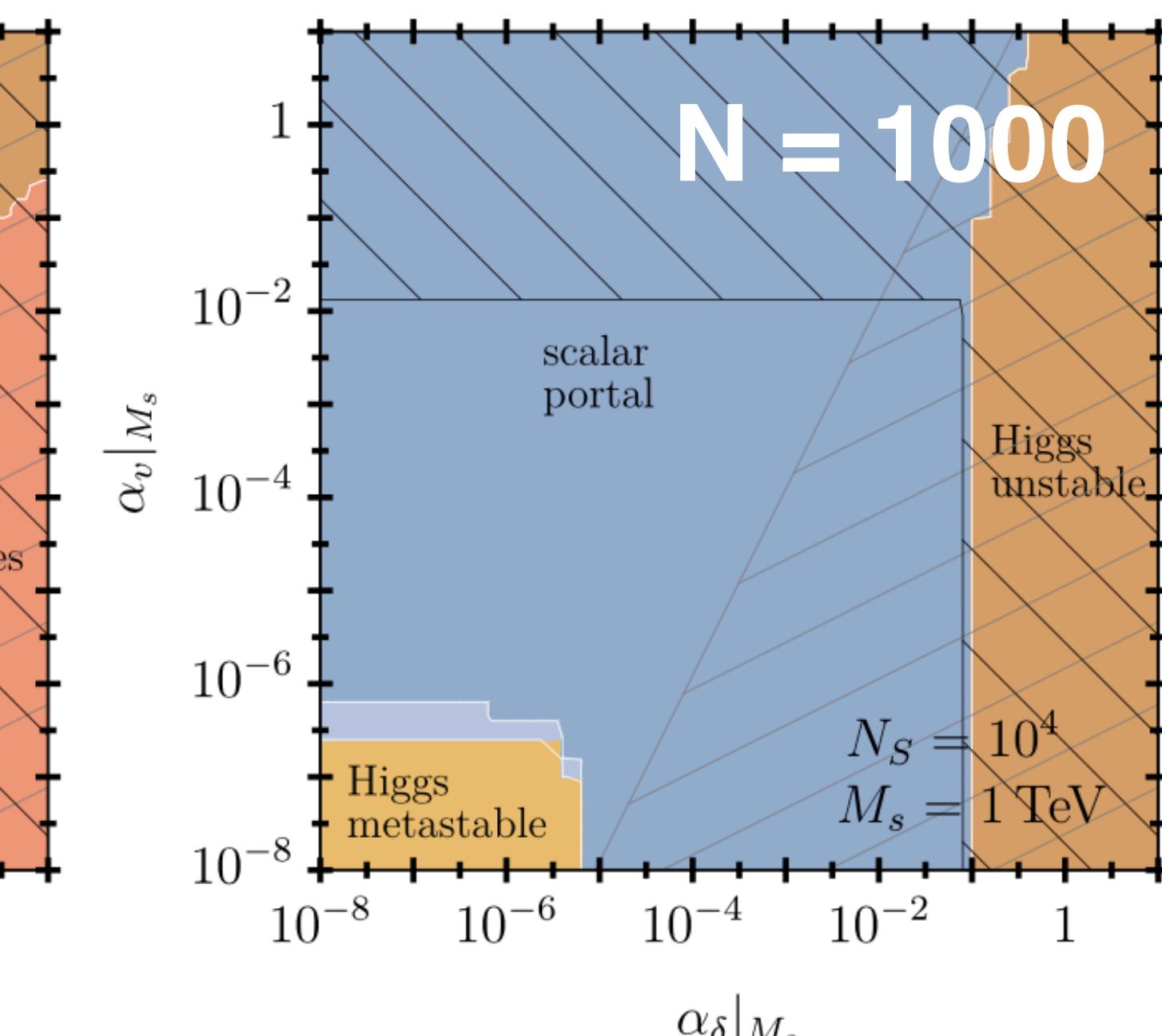
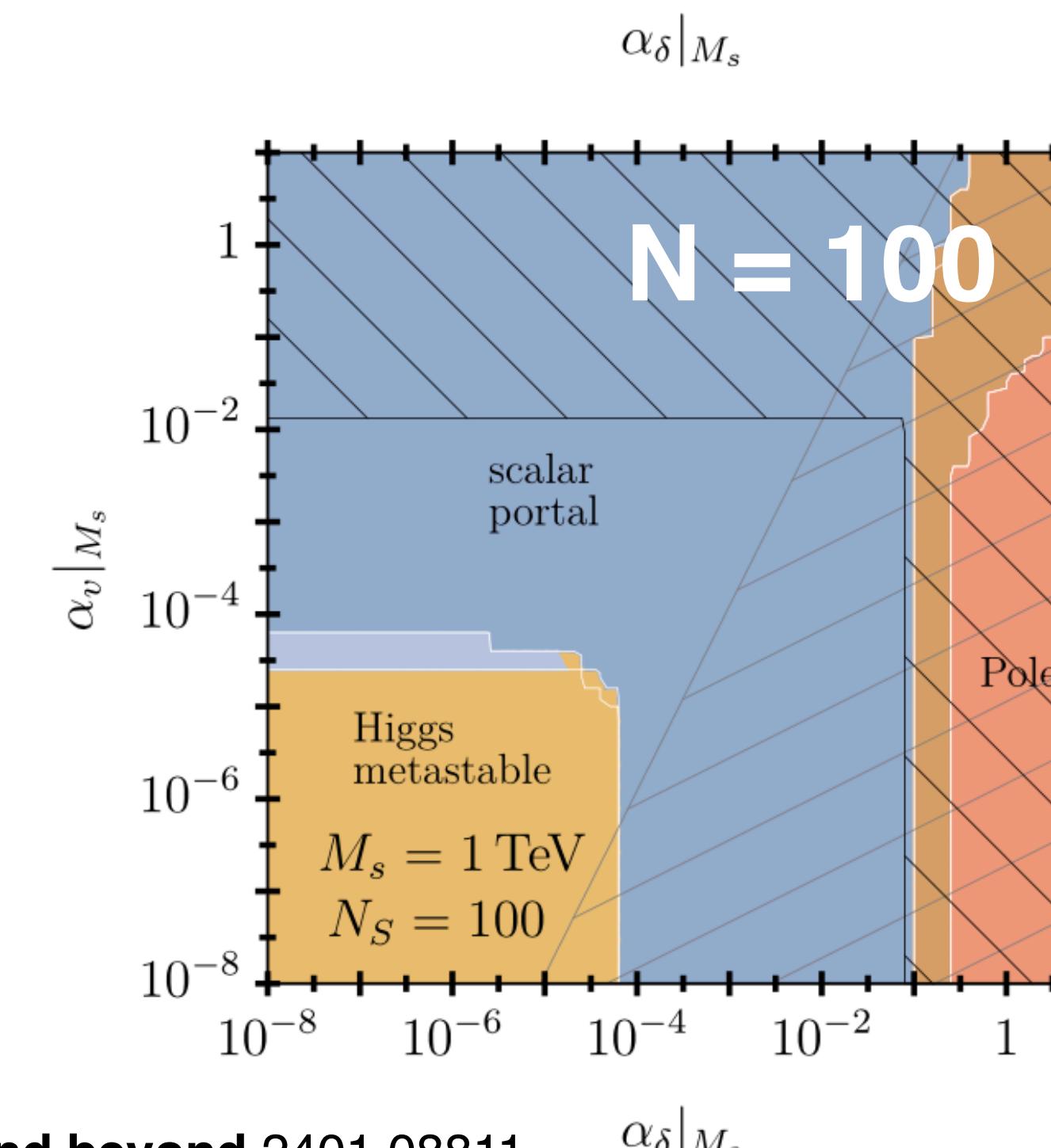
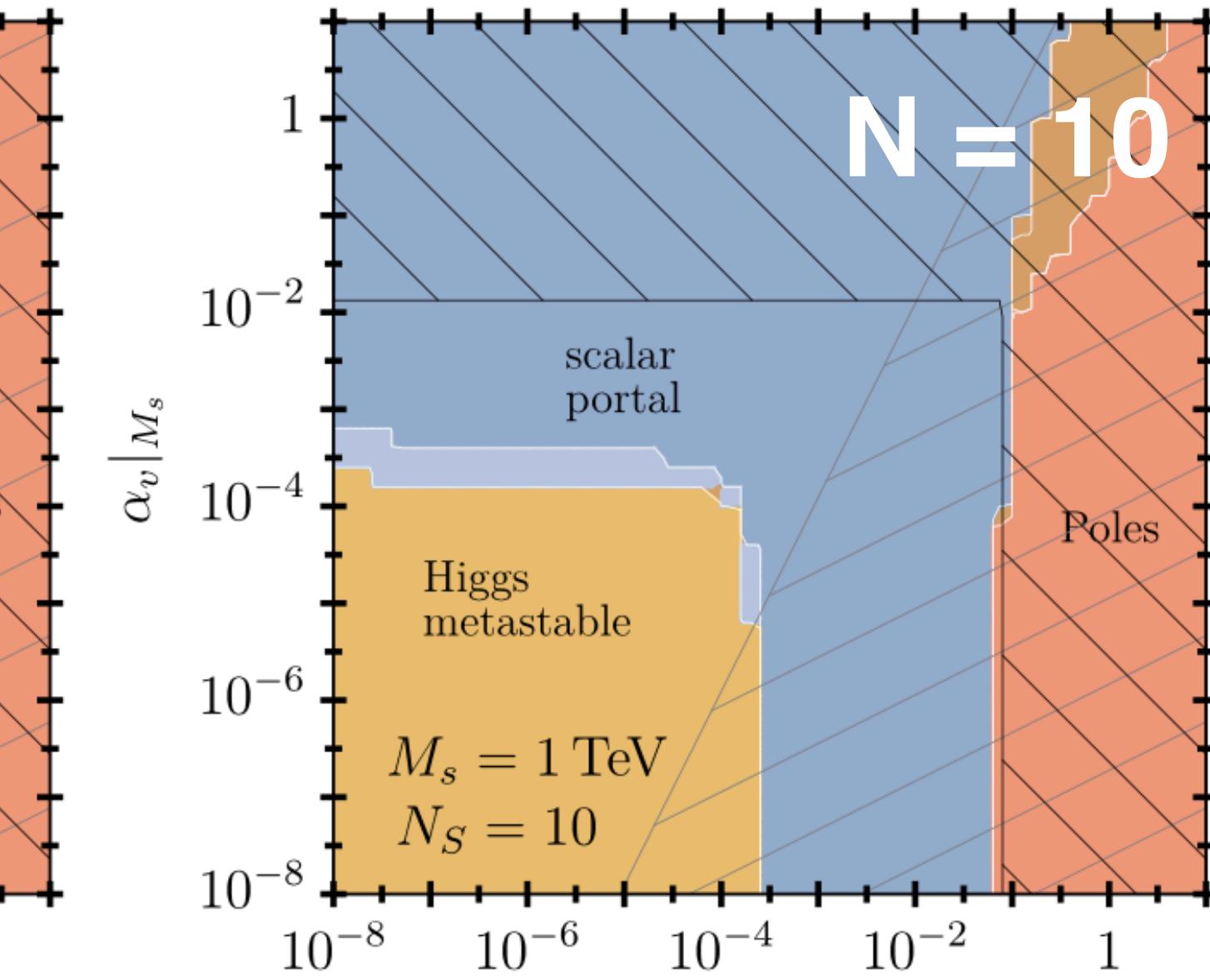
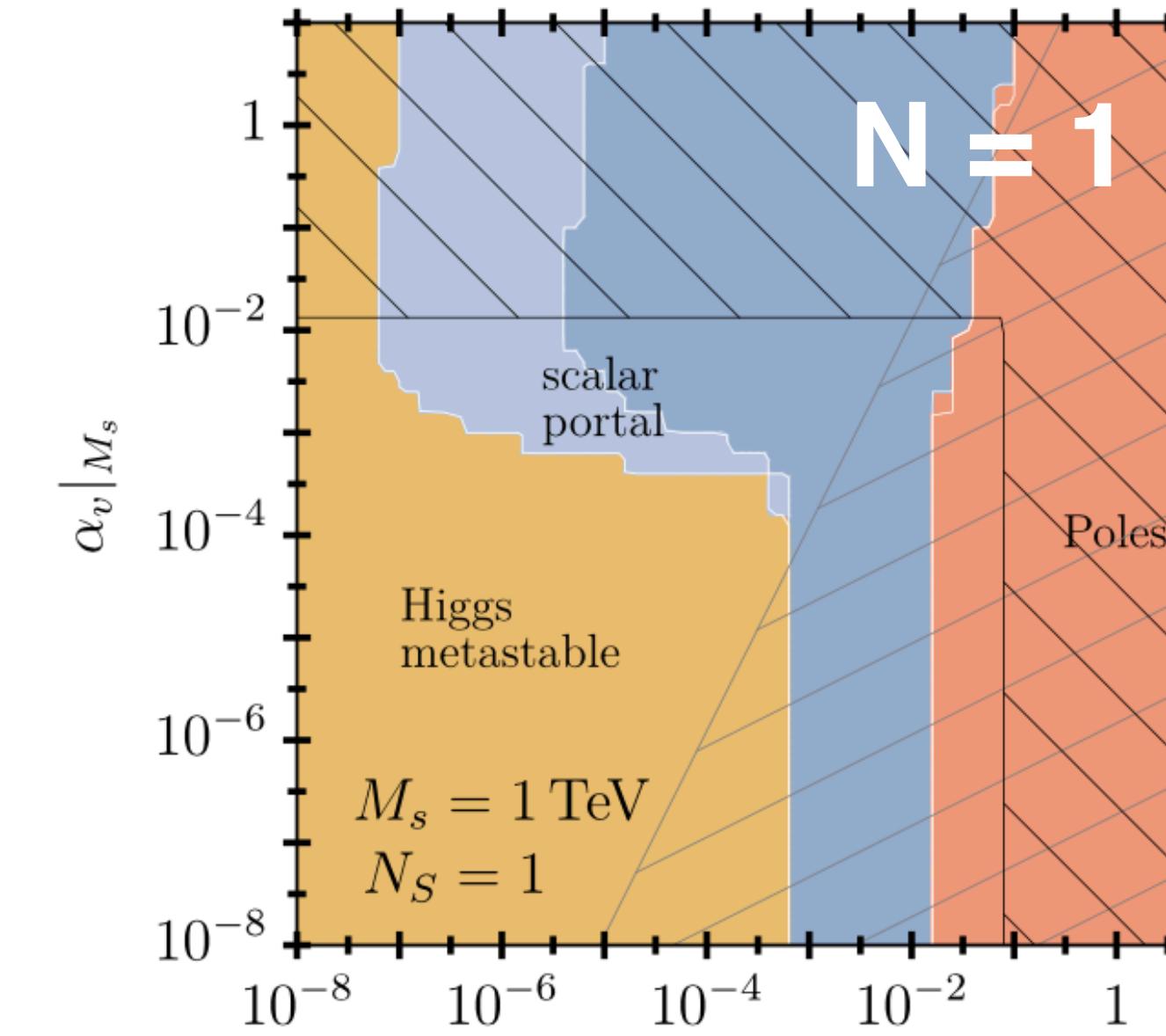


Higgs Portals

O(N) BSM scalars

$M = 1 \text{ TeV}$

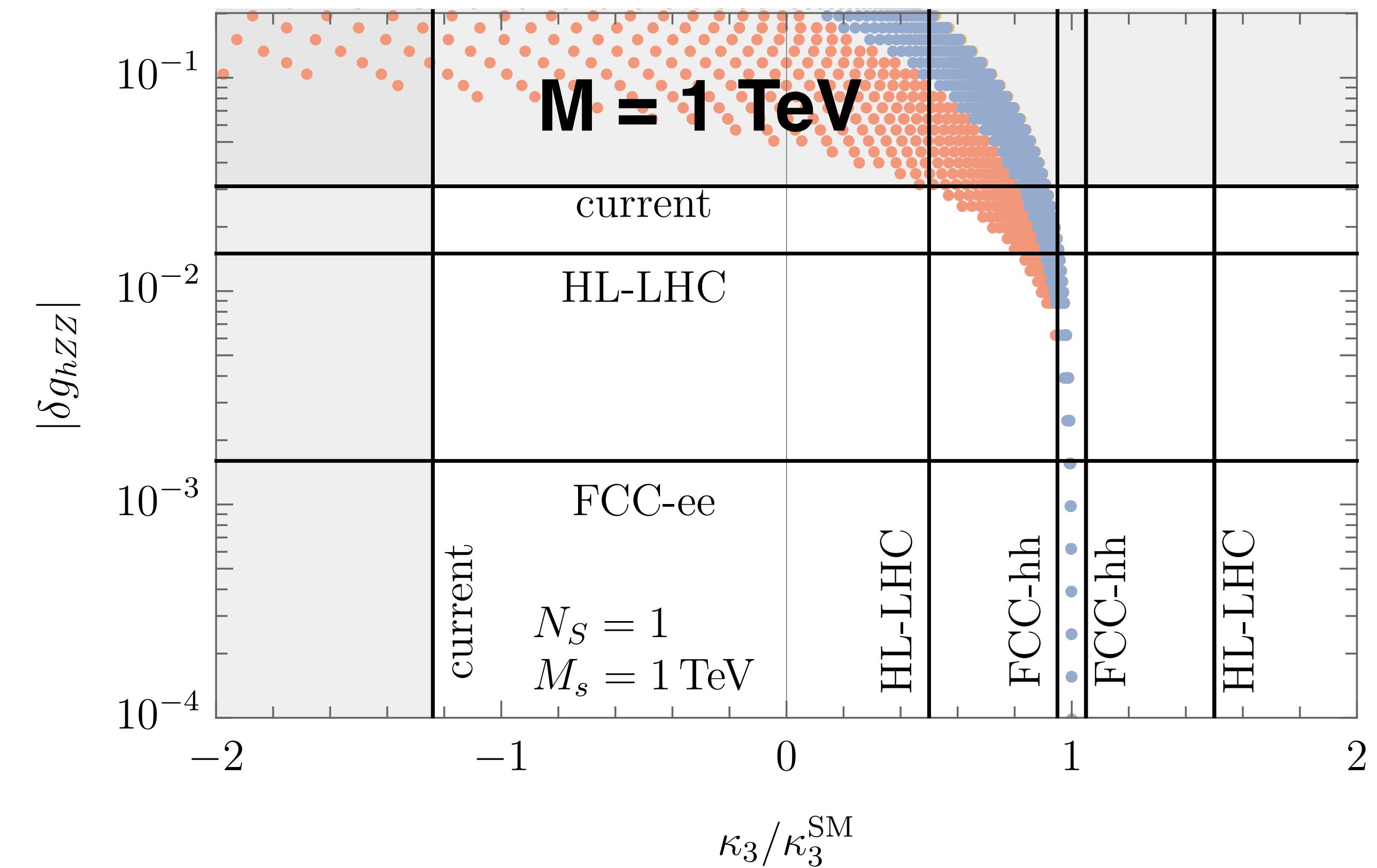
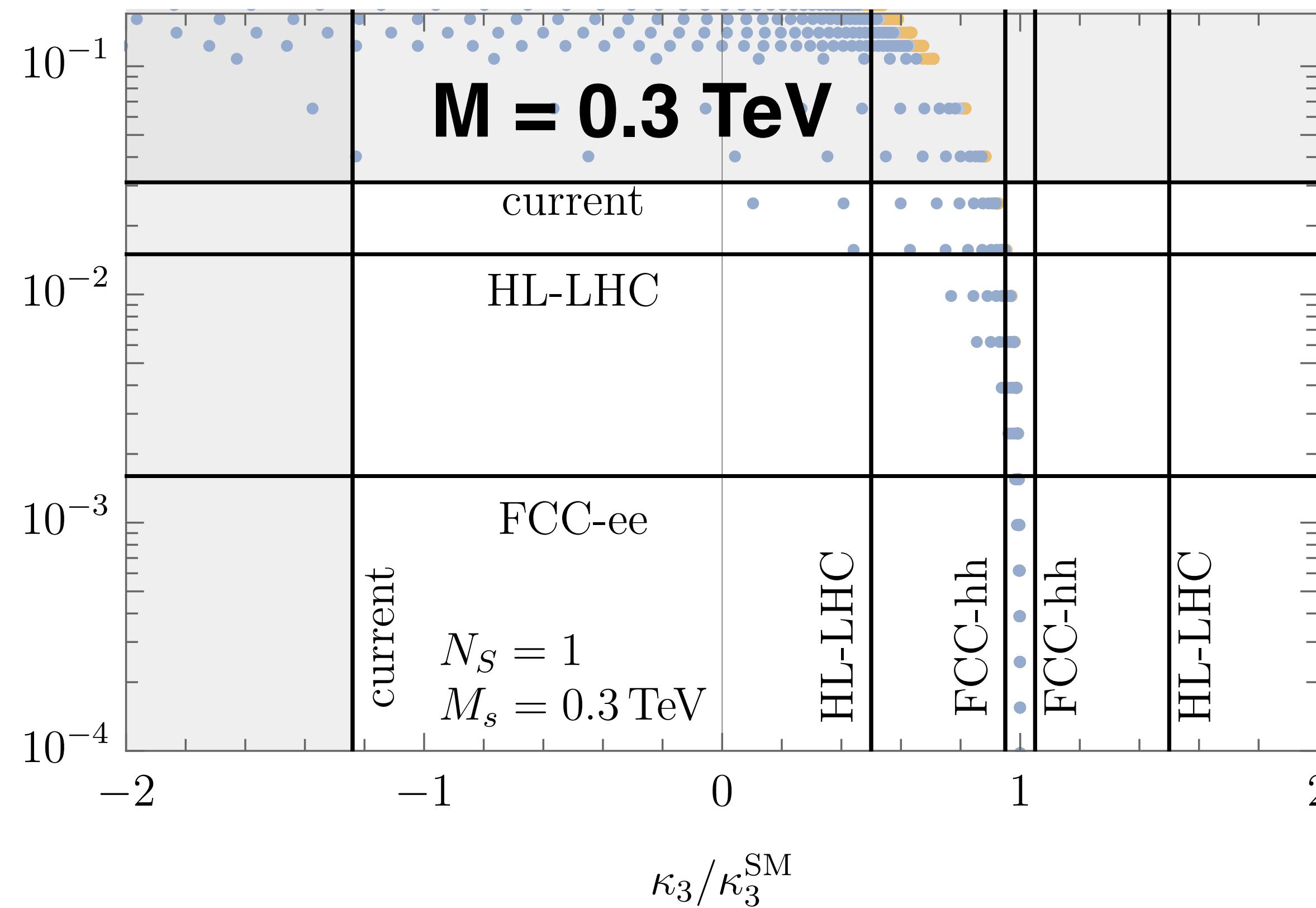
**adding more scalars
enhances the range
for stability**



Higgs Portals

Signatures

BSM scalar obtains VEV
modified hZZ , $3h$ vertices \rightarrow FCC-ee

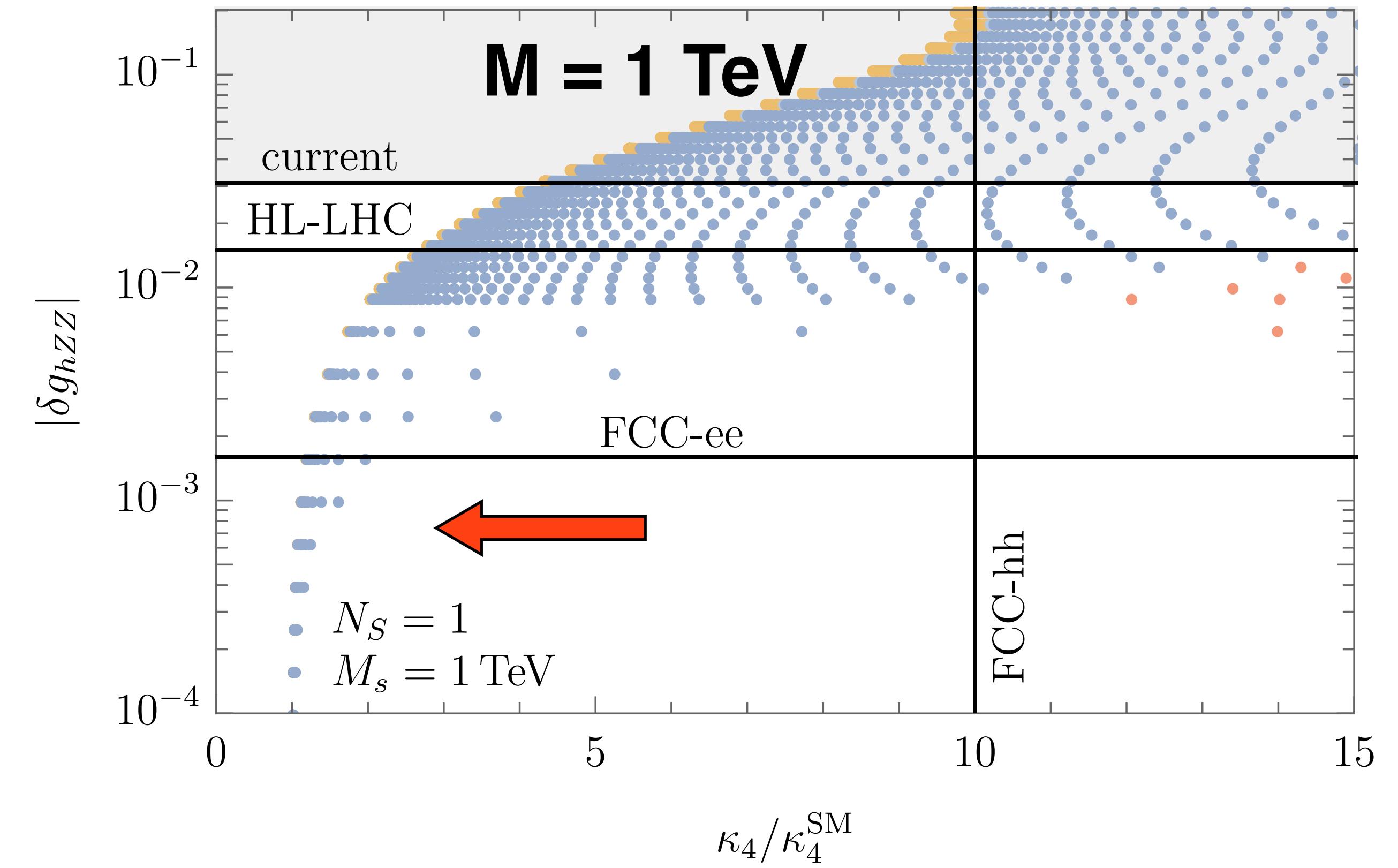
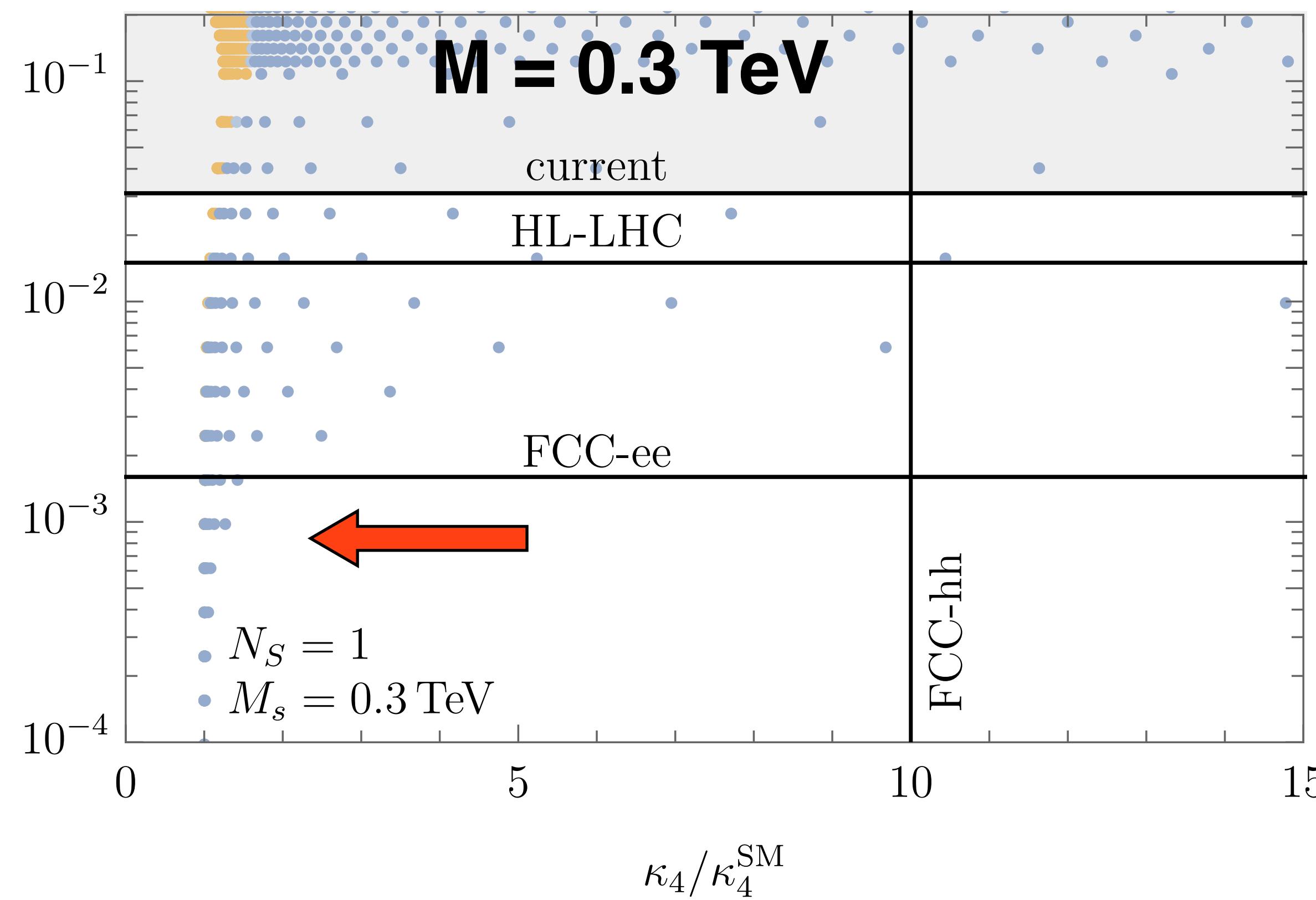


Higgs Portals

Signatures

BSM scalar obtains VEV
modified 4h vertices

FCC-ee
FCC-hh



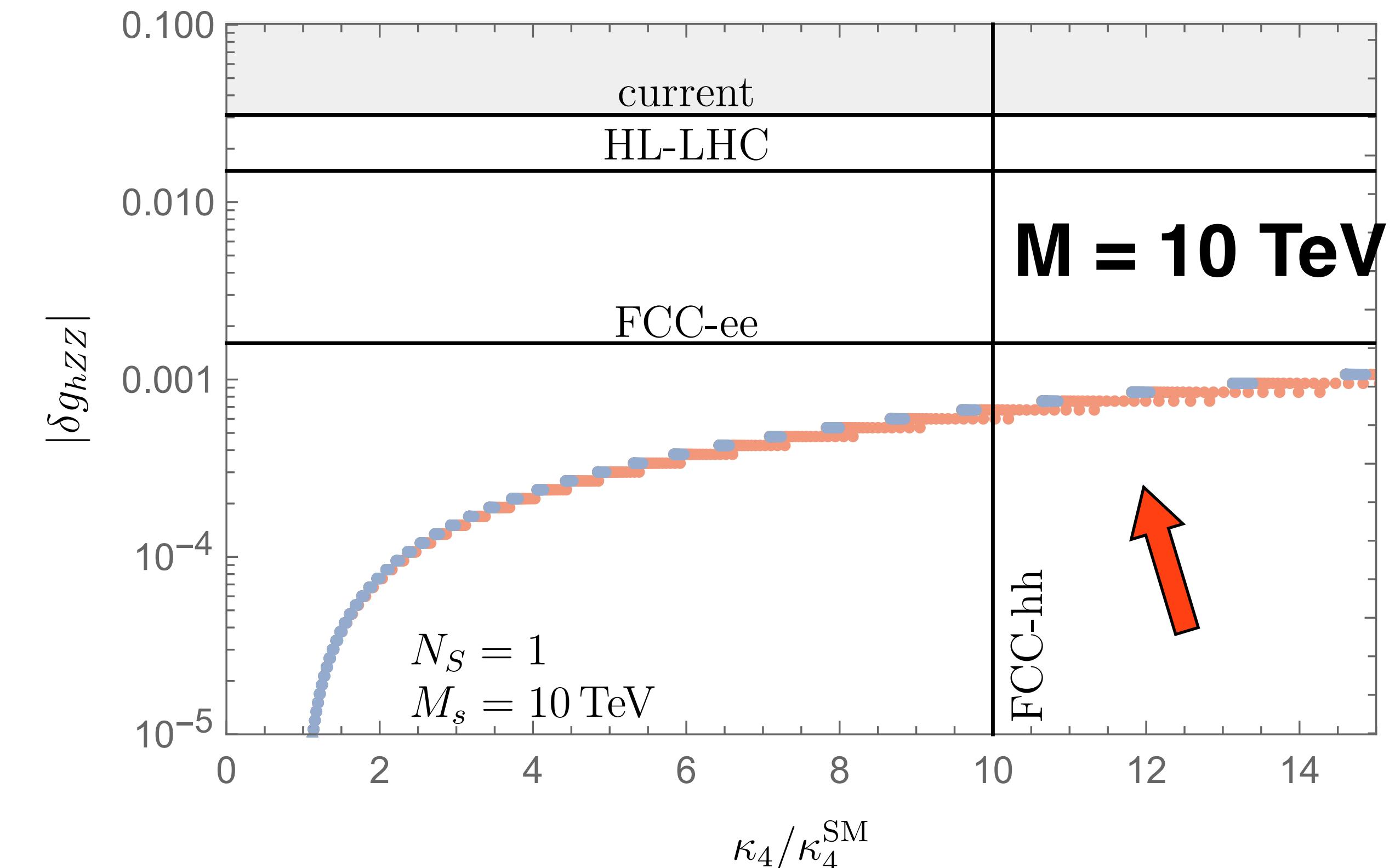
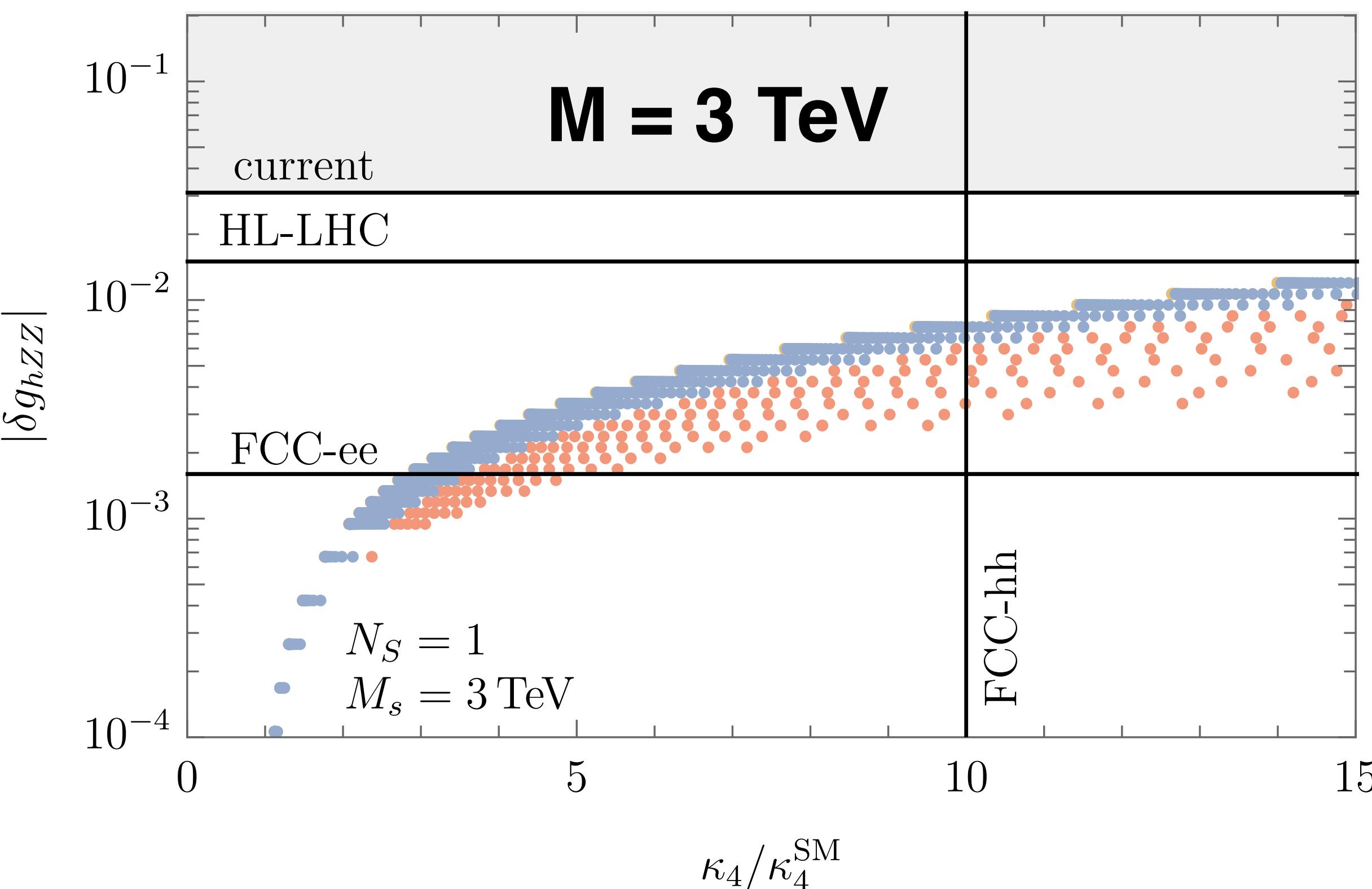
Higgs Portals

Signatures

BSM scalar obtains VEV
modified 4h vertices
higher mass

→ FCC-hh

O(1) effects



Top-Down

Q: What does it take to

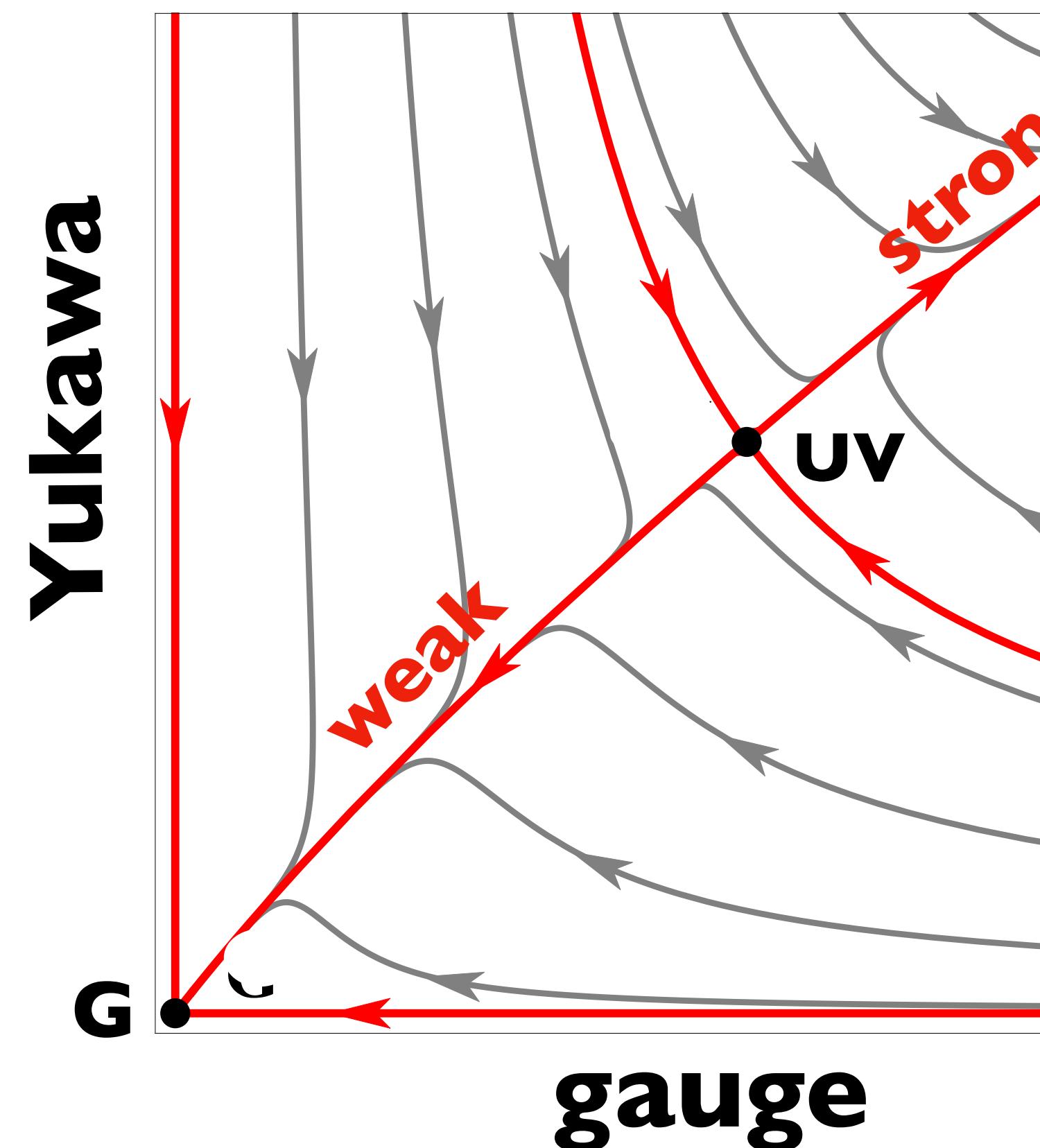
achieve UV-safe theories

... beyond asymptotic freedom?

Top-Down

rigorous fixed points in 4d:

exist for **weakly coupled gauge theories with matter**



- SU(N) + Diracs**
+ mesons
- SO(N) + Majoranas**
+ mesons
- Sp(N) + Majoranas**
+ mesons

DF Litim, F Sannino, **Asymptotic safety guaranteed**, 1406.2337

AD Bond, DF Litim, G Medina Vazquez, T Steudtner, **Conformal window for asymptotic safety**, 1710.07615

AD Bond, DF Litim, T Steudtner, **Asymptotic safety with Majorana fermions and new large N equivalences** 1911.11168

Top-Down

rigorous UV fixed points in 4d:

exist for **weakly coupled gauge non-SUSY theories with matter**

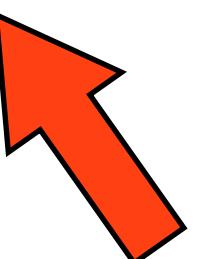
exist for **weakly and strongly coupled SUSY theories**

UV fixed points with SUSY and MSSM extensions

why no Susy UV fixed point

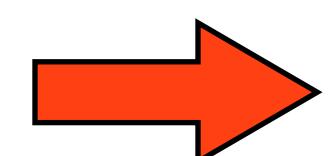
superfield anomalous dimension

$$2d_R|\gamma_R|^2 = d_G B \alpha_* + \mathcal{O}(B\alpha_*^2, \alpha_*^3)$$



asymptotic freedom: $B > 0$

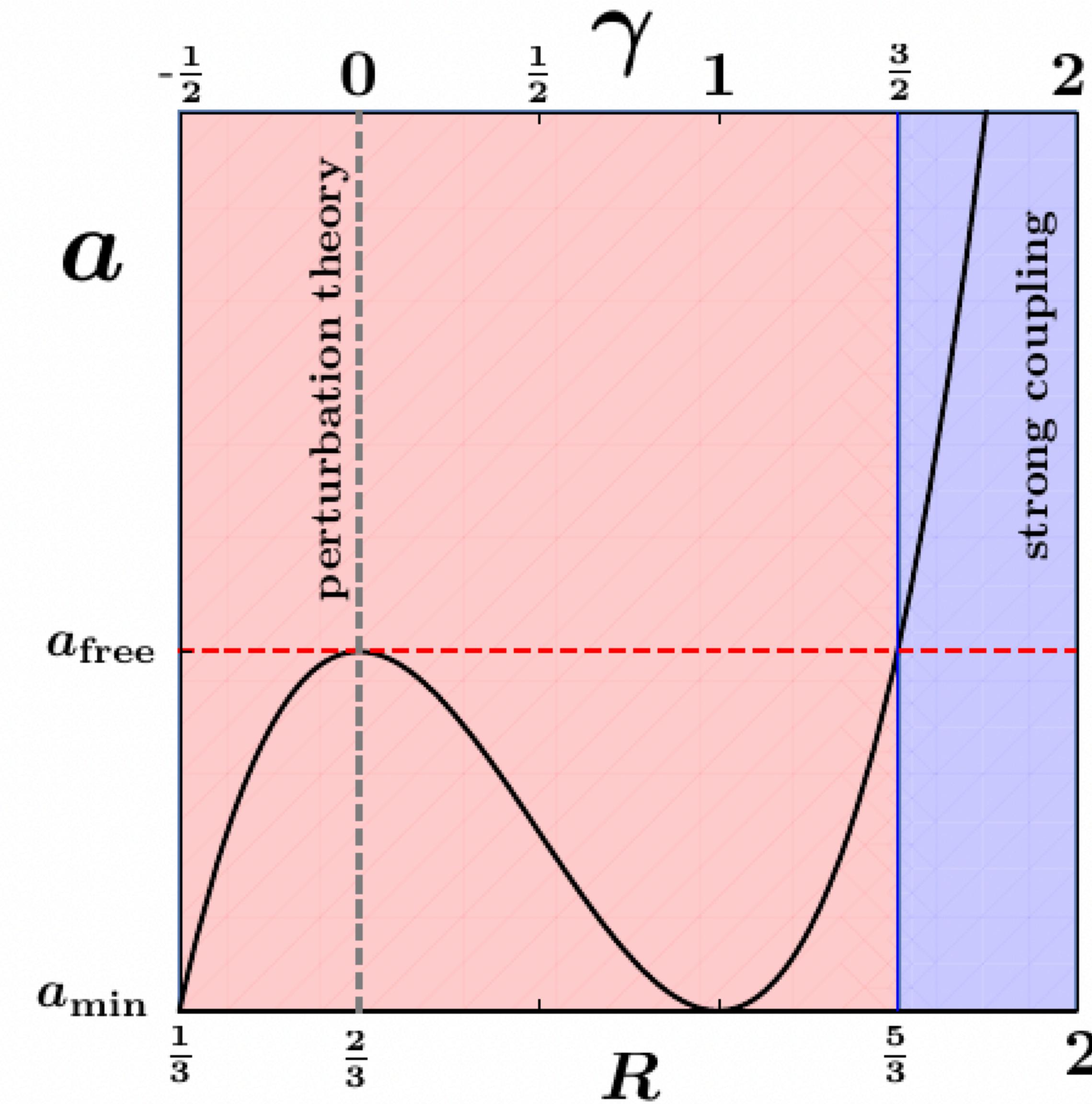
no asymptotic freedom: $B < 0$



**fixed point requires AF
UV fixed point cannot arise**

why ~~no~~ Susy UV fixed point

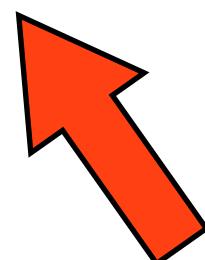
strong coupling?



why ~~no~~ Susy UV fixed point

superfield anomalous dimension

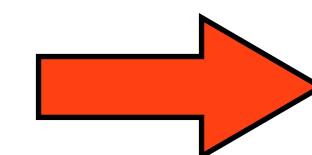
$$2d_R |\gamma_R|^2 = d_{G_i} B_i \alpha_i^* + \mathcal{O}(B\alpha_*^2, \alpha_*^3)$$



remedy:

semi-simple susy gauge theories

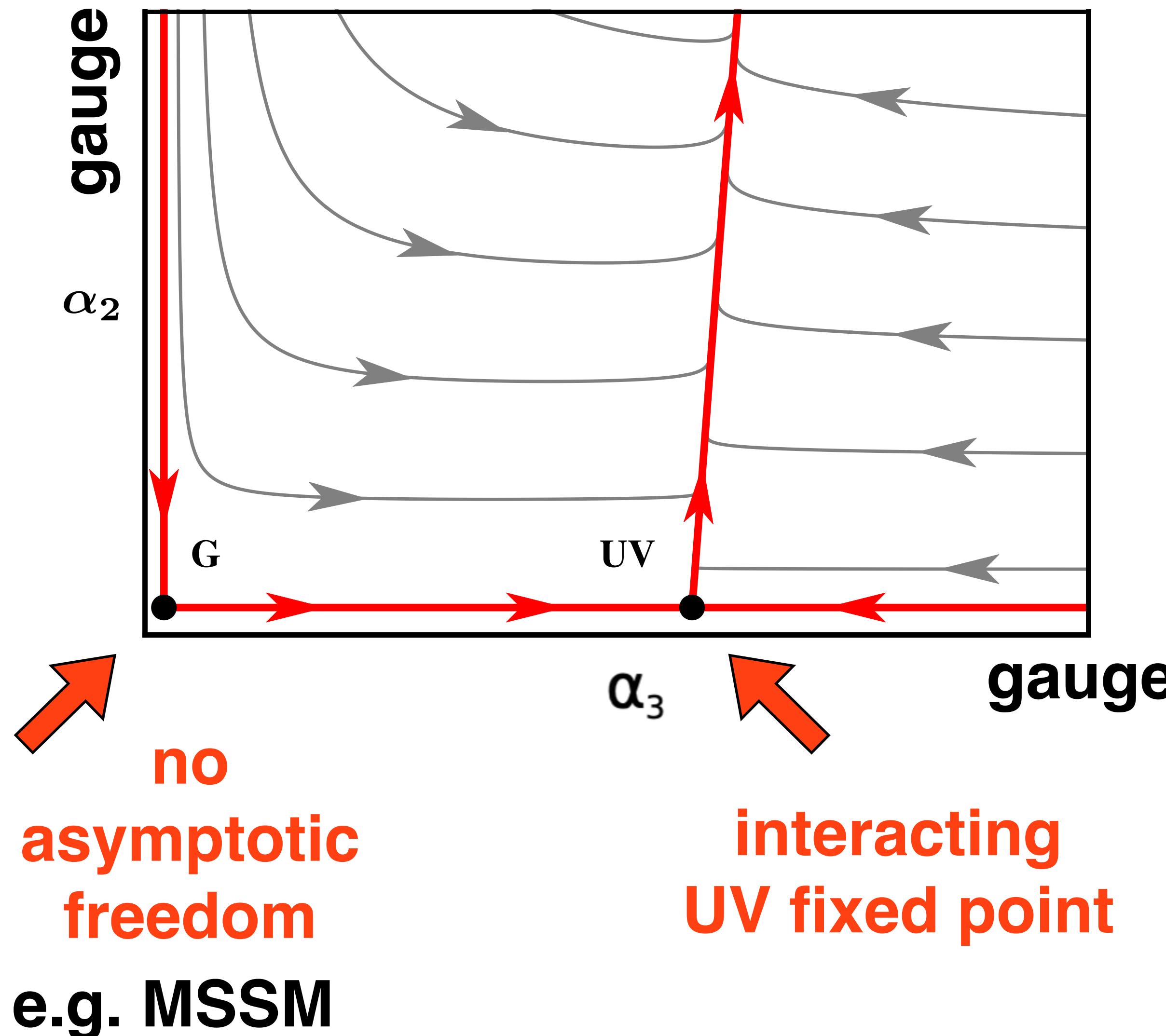
some $B_i < 0$ a possibility



UV fixed points can arise

AD Bond, DF Litim, 1709.06953/PRL

Susy UV fixed points



template:

SU(N) \times SU(M)
+ chiral superfields
+ superpotential

MSSM extensions

concrete: MSSM + new quark singlets Q
+ new leptons L
+ superpotential Y_ijk

$$W_1 = Y^{ijk} \bar{d}_i Q_j L_k + \bar{Y}^{ijk} \bar{u}_i Q_j \bar{L}_k \\ + x_b y_b \bar{d}_3 Q_3 H_d + x_t y_t \bar{u}_3 Q_3 H_u ,$$

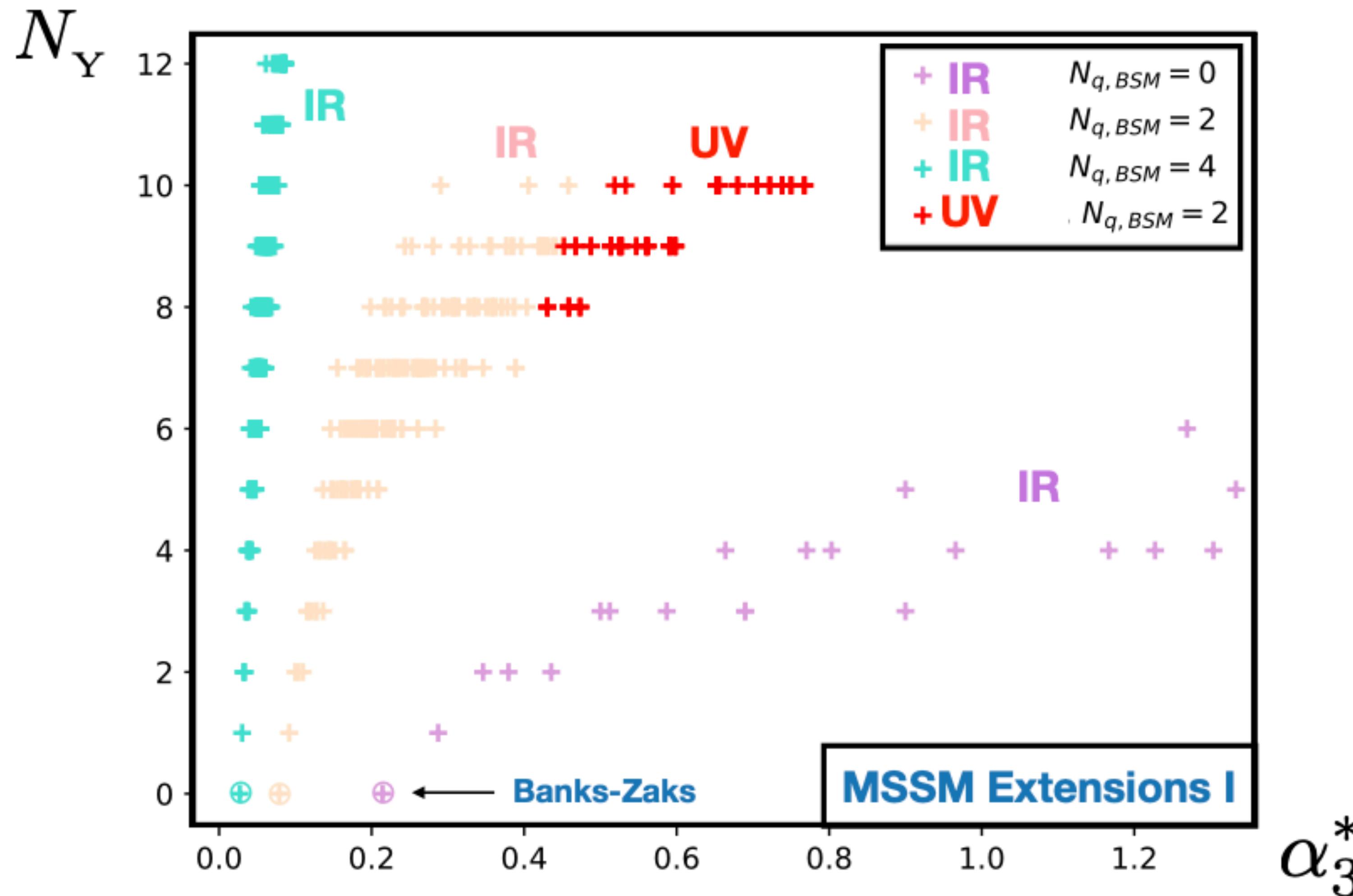
2 Loop RGEs

scan over 212k models
approx 100 UV fixed points

MSSM extensions

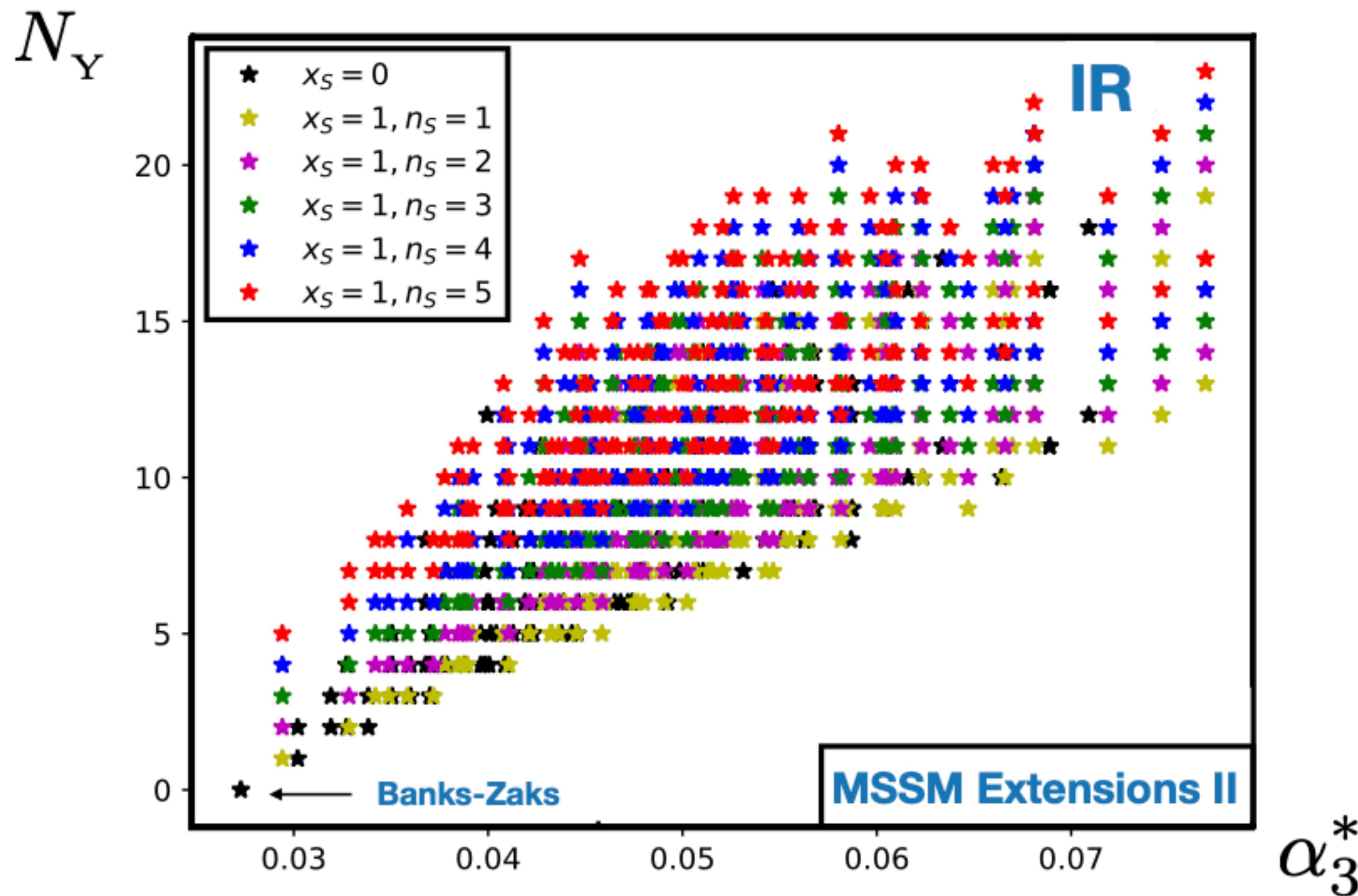
Superfield	$SU(3)_C$	$SU(2)_L$	$U(1)_Y$	MSSM	Extension I	Extension II	Extension III
quark doublet Q	3	2	$+\frac{1}{6}$	3	3	4	4
anti-quark doublet \bar{Q}	3	2	$-\frac{1}{6}$	0	0	1	0
up-quark \bar{u}	3	1	$-\frac{2}{3}$	3	$3 + n_u$	3	4
down-quark \bar{d}	3	1	$+\frac{1}{3}$	3	$3 + n_d$	3	4
anti-up-quark u	3	1	$+\frac{2}{3}$	0	n_u	0	0
anti-down-quark d	3	1	$-\frac{1}{3}$	0	n_d	0	0
lepton doublet L	1	2	$-\frac{1}{2}$	3	$3 + n_L$	$3 + n_L$	$4 + n_L$
anti-lepton doublet \bar{L}	1	2	$+\frac{1}{2}$	0	n_L	n_L	n_L
lepton singlet \bar{e}	1	1	+1	3	3	3	4
up-Higgs H_u	1	2	$+\frac{1}{2}$	1	1	1	1
down-Higgs H_d	1	2	$-\frac{1}{2}$	1	1	1	1
gauge singlets S	1	1	0	0	0	n_S	0

MSSM extensions

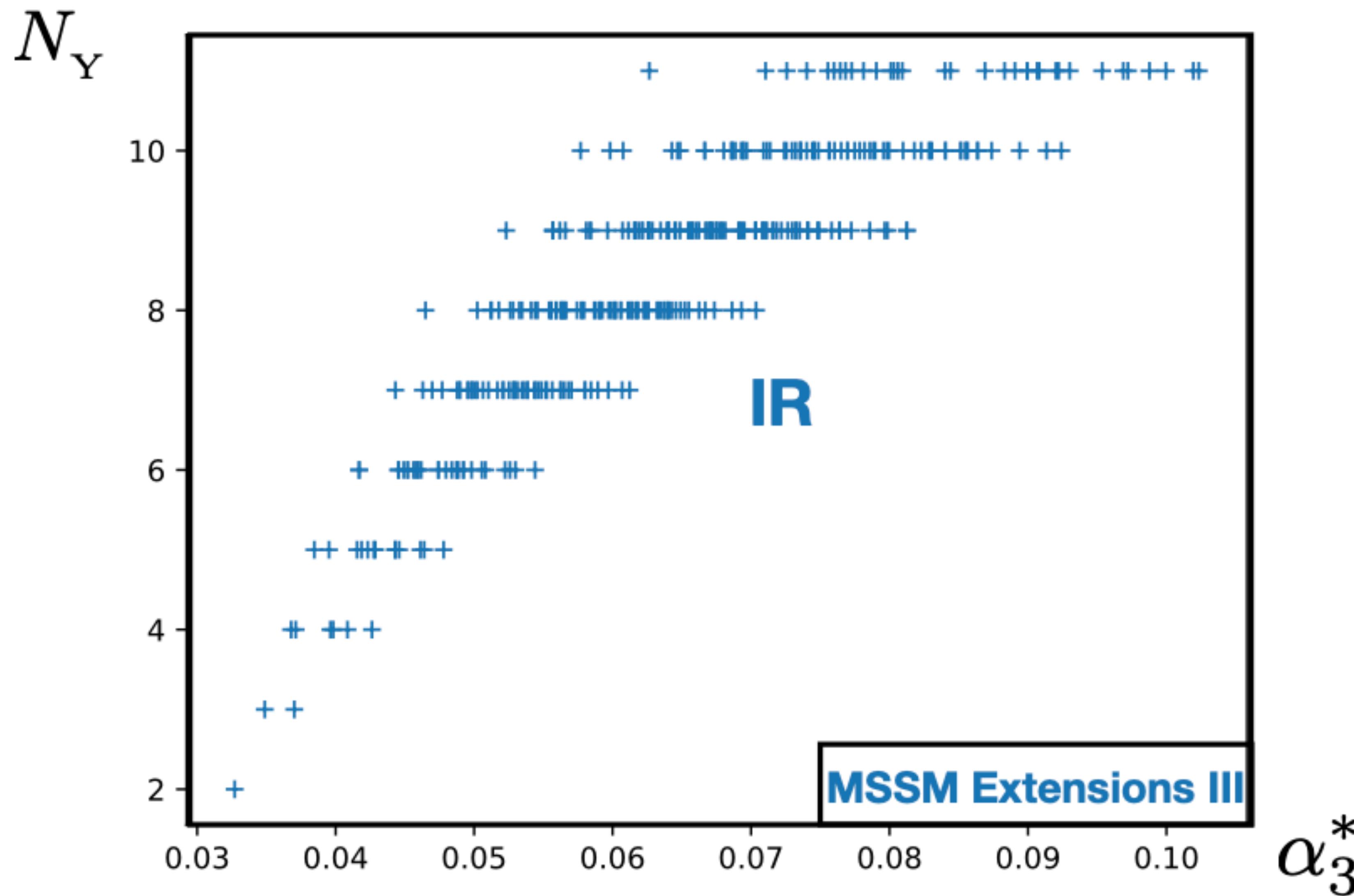


scan over 212k models
approx 100 UV fixed points

MSSM extensions

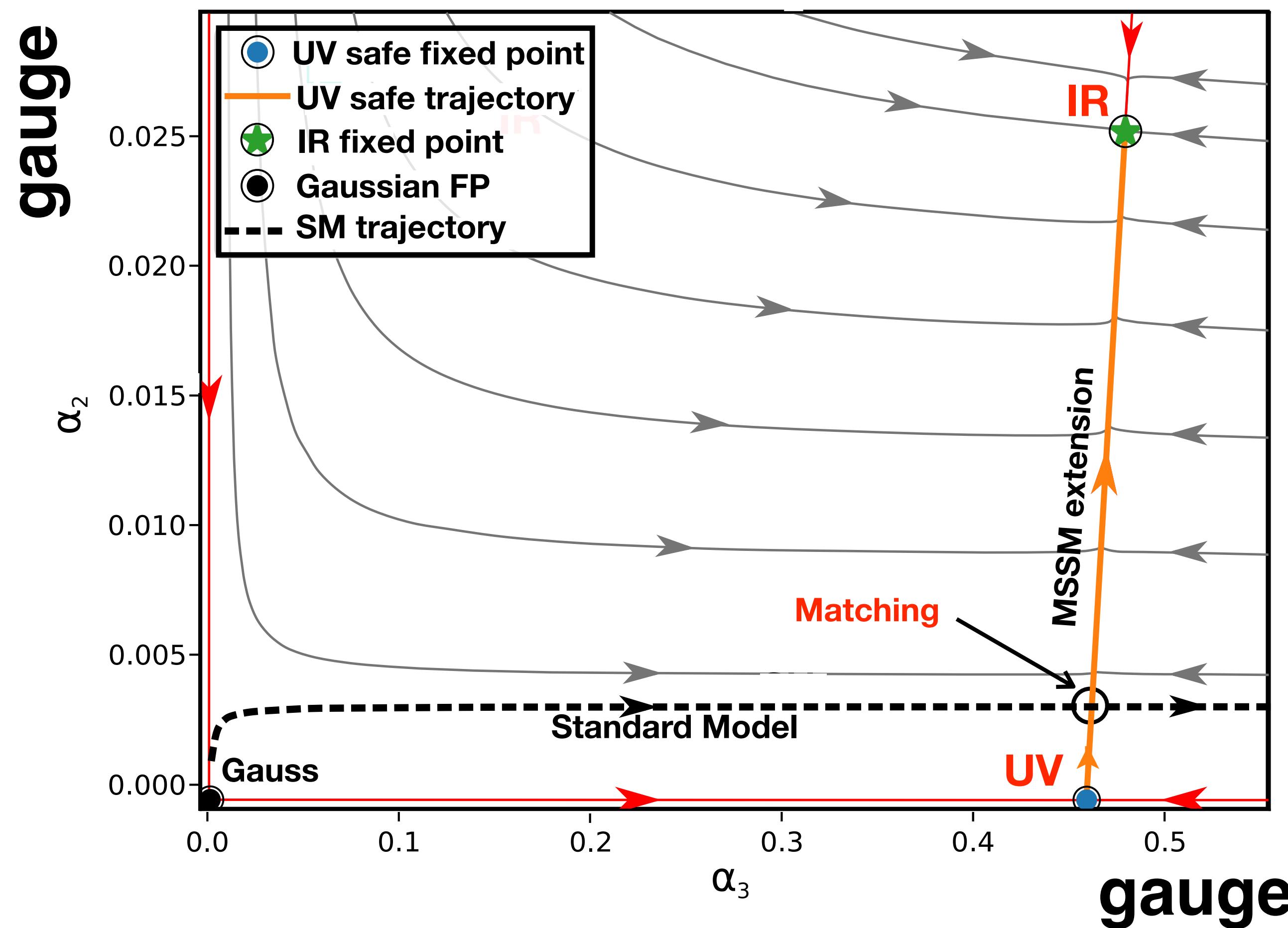


MSSM extensions



MSSM extensions

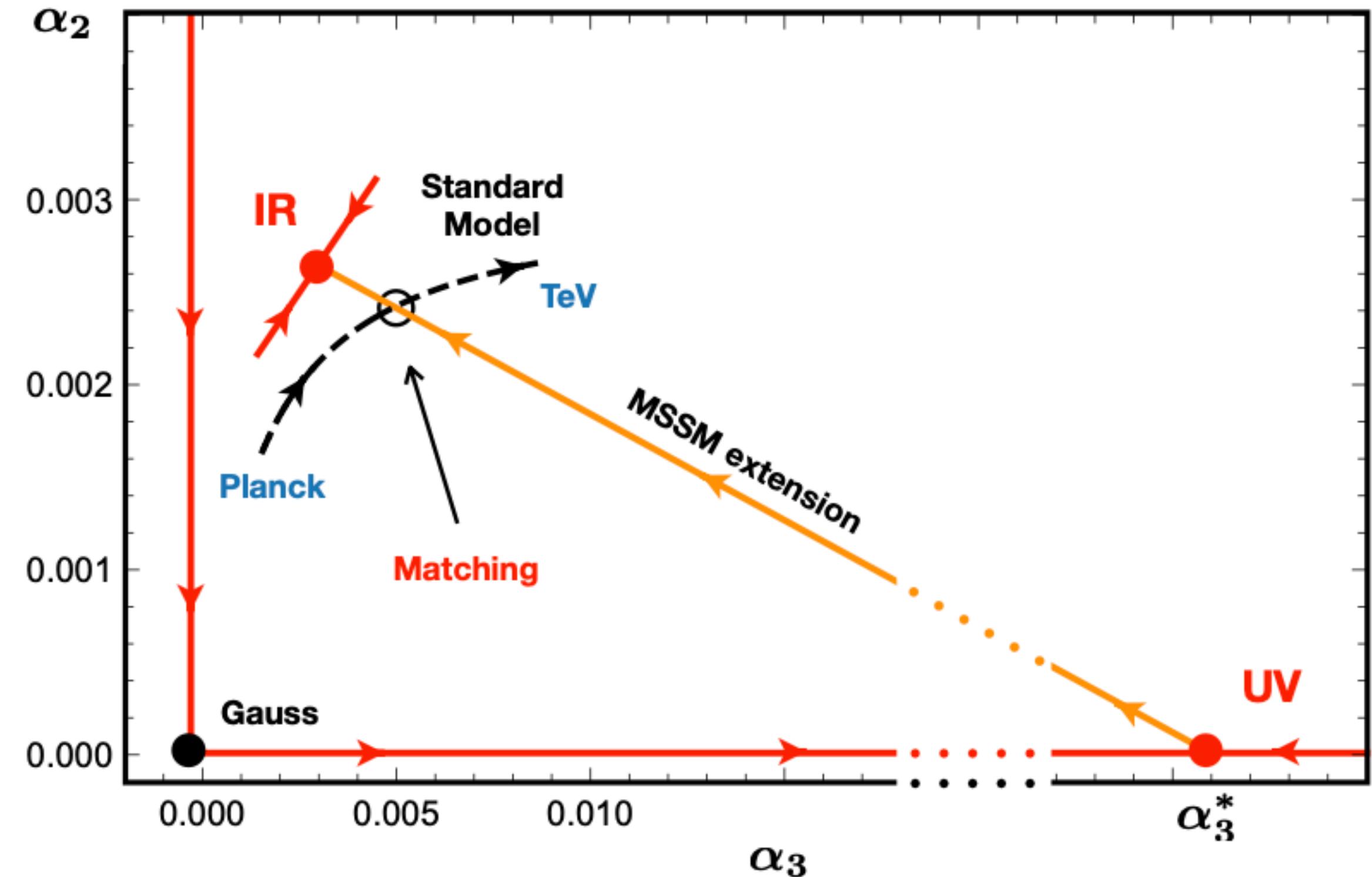
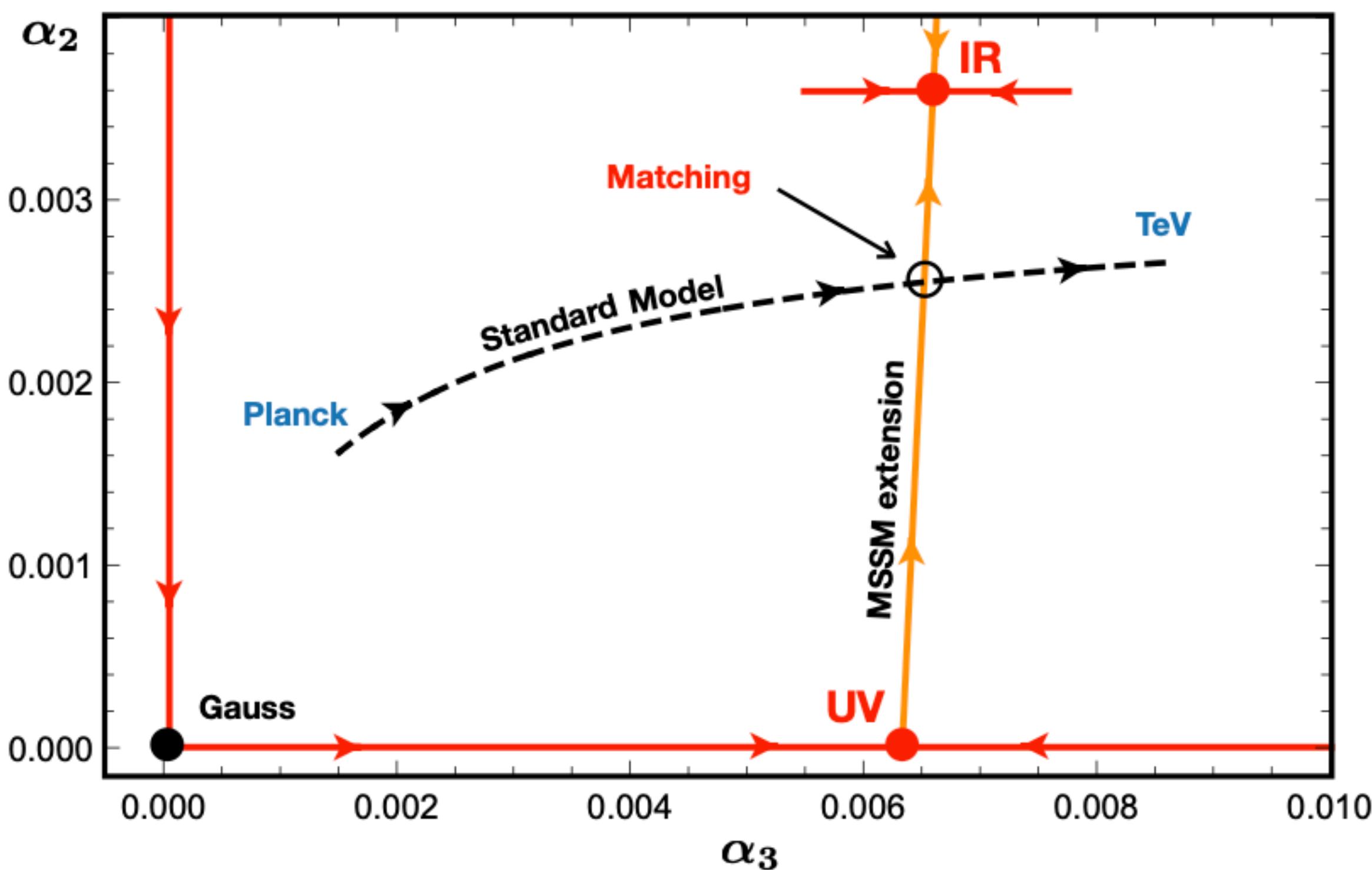
MSSM + new quark singlets
+ new leptons + superpotential



*nearly works:
matching scale
too low (1 GeV)*

MSSM extensions

Effects that could help:



non-perturbative study required

Conclusions

Quo vadis model building?

Bottom-Up

turn SM metastability into BSM task

various portals, constraining power
new BSM matter as light as TeV
can be searched for at colliders

Top-Down

new opportunities from UV fixed points

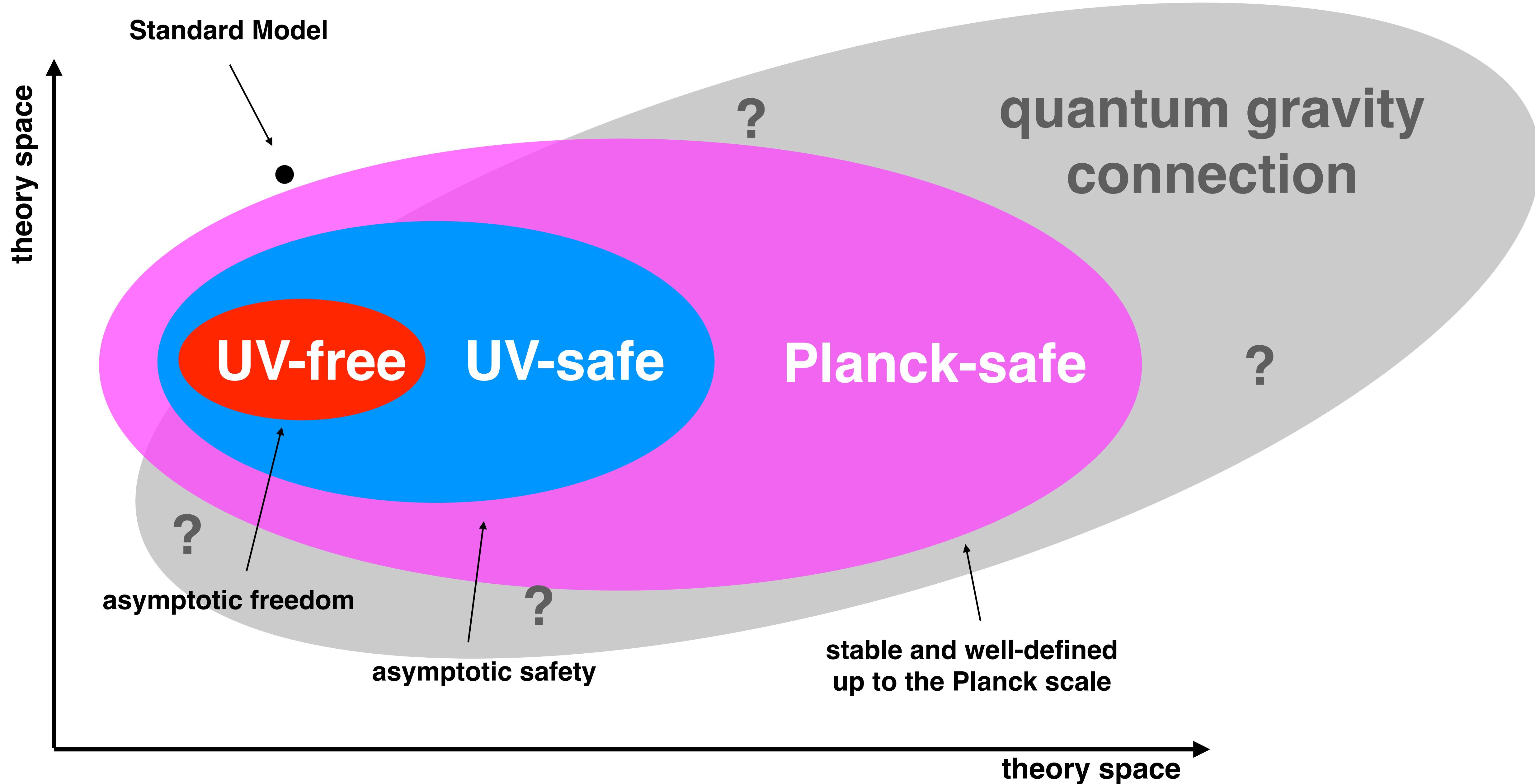
exploit ideas beyond asymptotic freedom

Outlook

“quantum gravity connection”

learn how quantum gravity kicks in
constraining power

Outlook

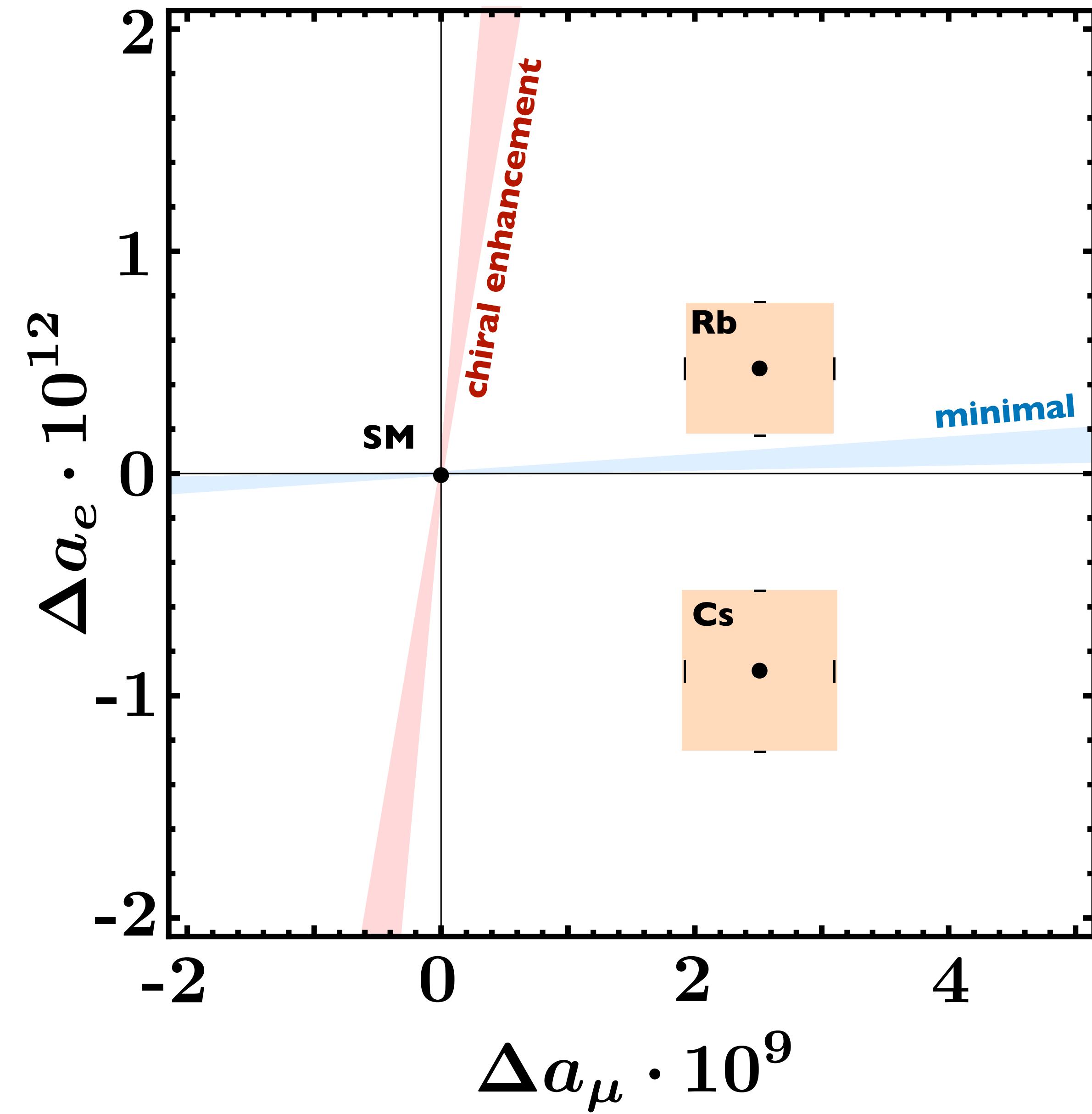


Thank you!

electron and muon anomalous magnetic moments

A Bond, G Hiller, K Kowalska, DF Litim,
Directions for model building from asymptotic safety, JHEP1708 (2017) 004

G Hiller, C Hermigos-Feliu, DF Litim, T Steudtner,
Asymptotically safe extensions of the Standard Model and their flavour phenomenology 1905.11020
Anomalous magnetic moments from asymptotic safety 1910.14062
Model building from asymptotic safety with Higgs and flavour portals 2008.08606



a puzzle ...

what's the new physics?

to date:

**about < 100 BSM models can explain the muon
and electron data simultaneously**

**All but ONE treat electrons and muons differently
i.e. break lepton universality manifestly**

inspired by UV fixed point:

matrix scalar field S
 $N_f = 3$ vector-like fermions
new Yukawas + portal interactions

$$y \operatorname{Tr} [\bar{\psi}_L S \psi_R] + \kappa \bar{L} H \psi_R + \kappa' \operatorname{Tr} [\bar{E} S^\dagger \psi_L]$$

feature 1: lepton universality intact

identify SM flavour symmetry with BSM flavour symmetry

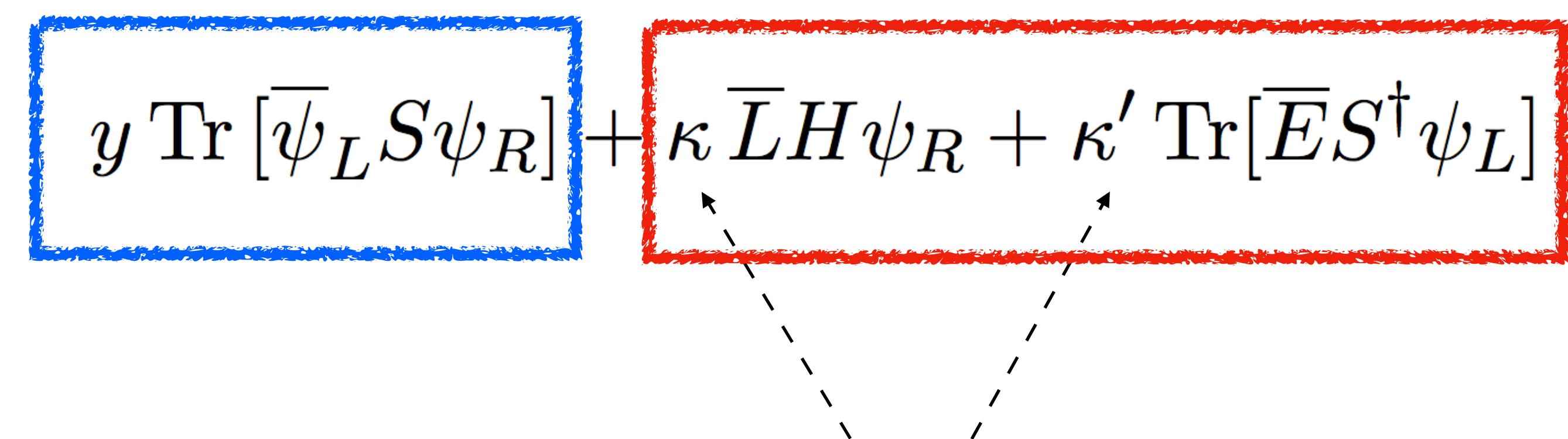
$$\kappa_{ij} = \kappa \delta_{ij}$$

inspired by UV fixed point:

matrix scalar field S

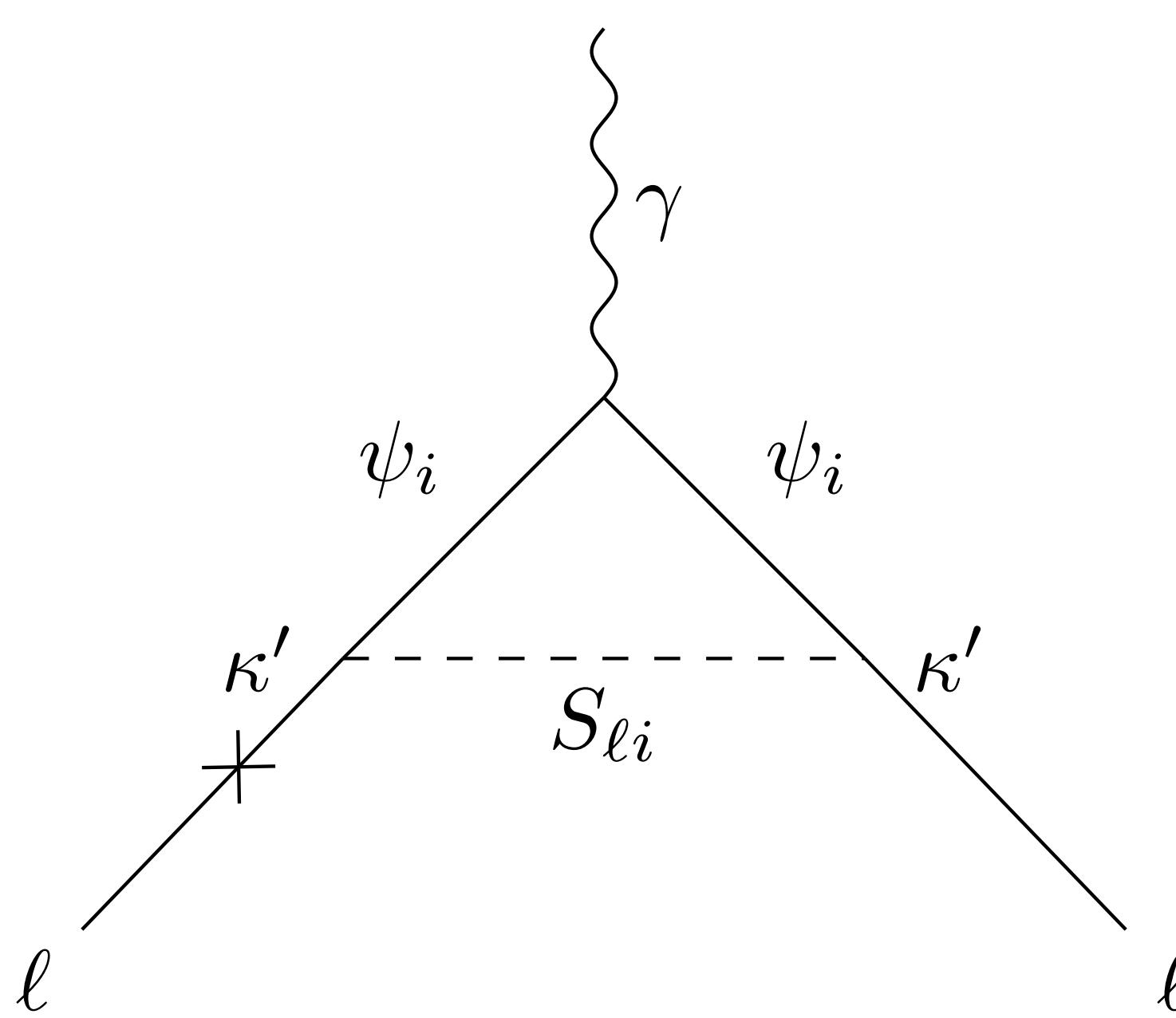
$N_f = 3$ vector-like fermions

new Yukawas + portal interactions

$$y \text{Tr} [\bar{\psi}_L S \psi_R] + \kappa \bar{L} H \psi_R + \kappa' \text{Tr} [\bar{E} S^\dagger \psi_L]$$


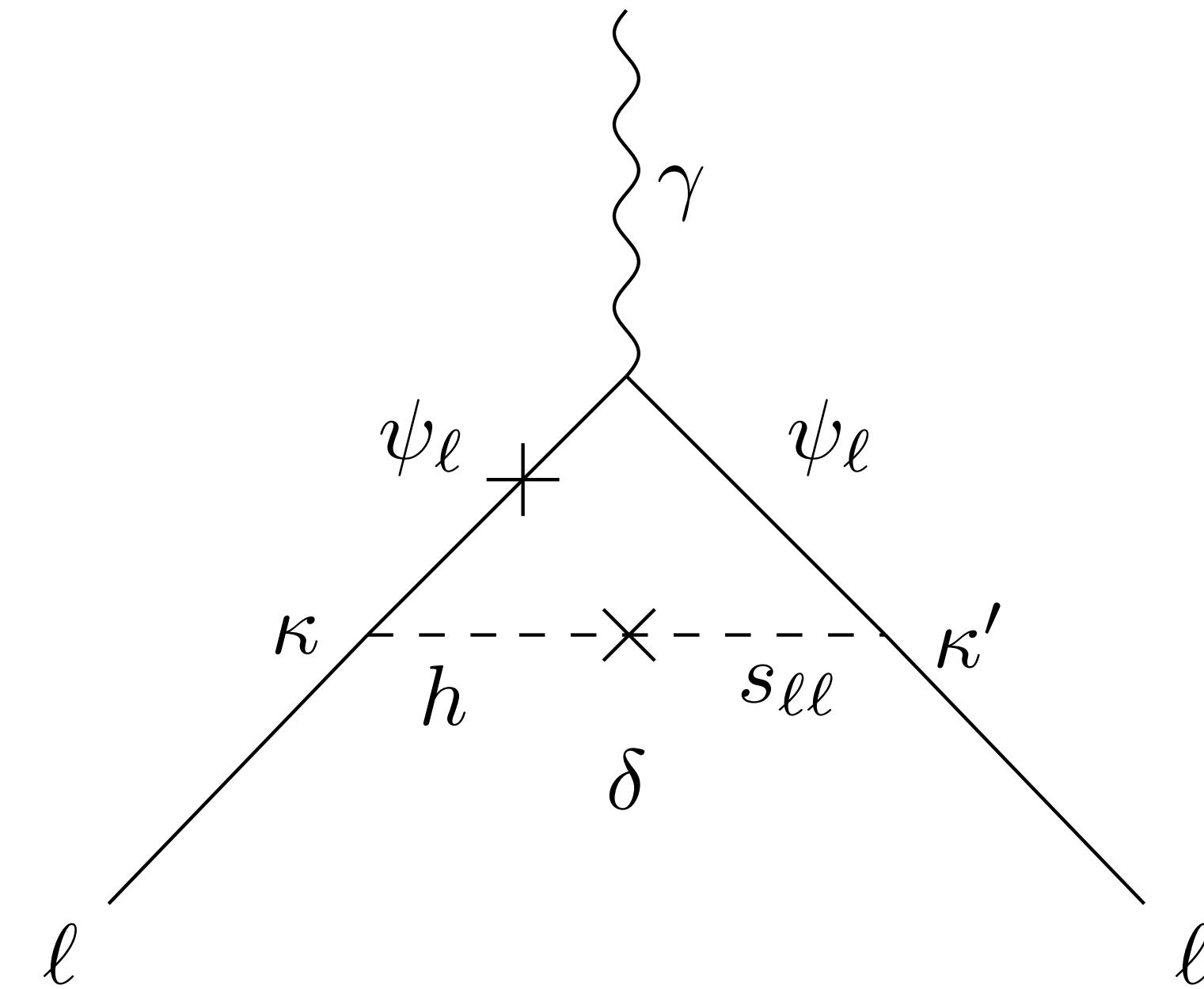
feature 2:

BSM Yukawas can explain
anomalous magnetic moments



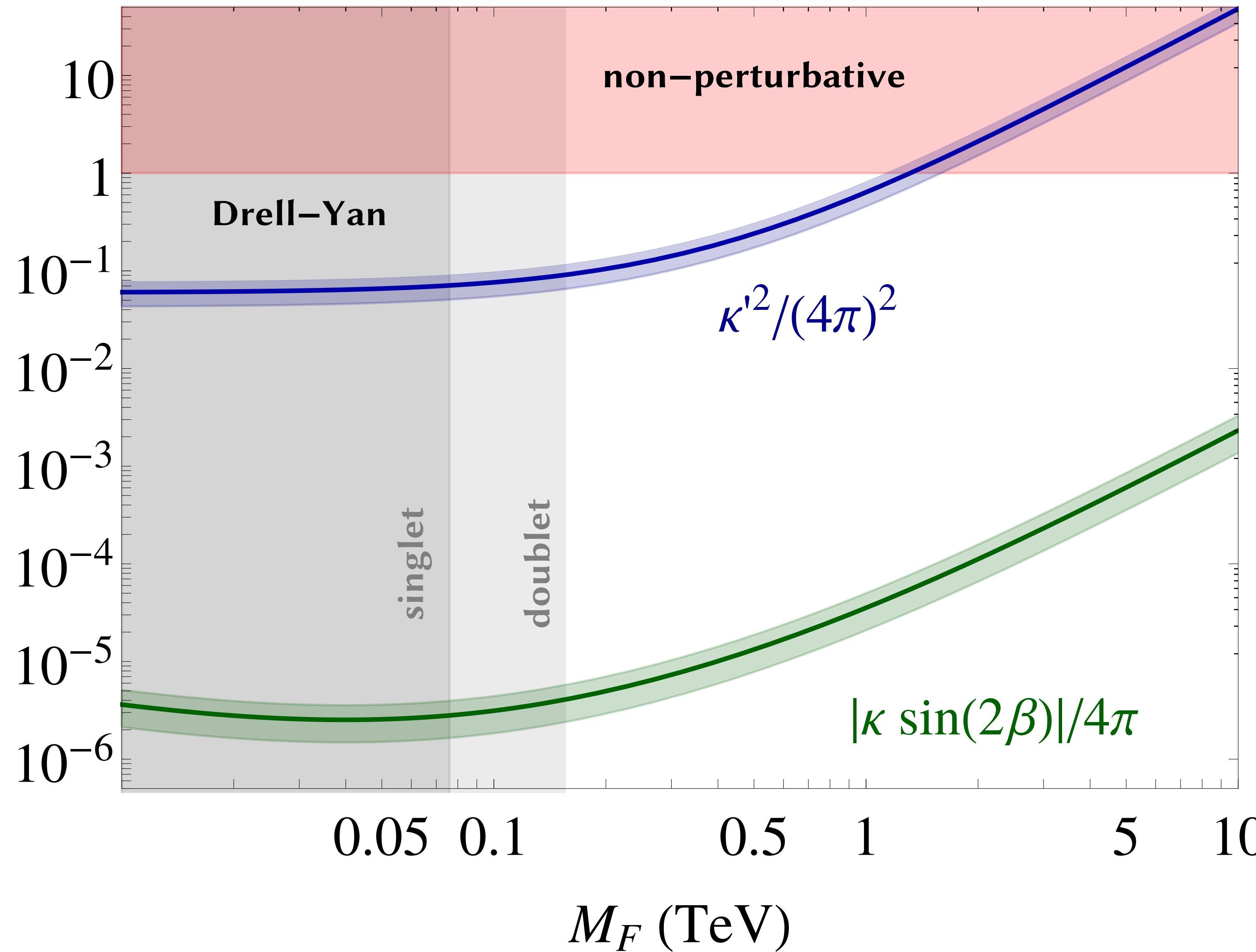
"minimal"

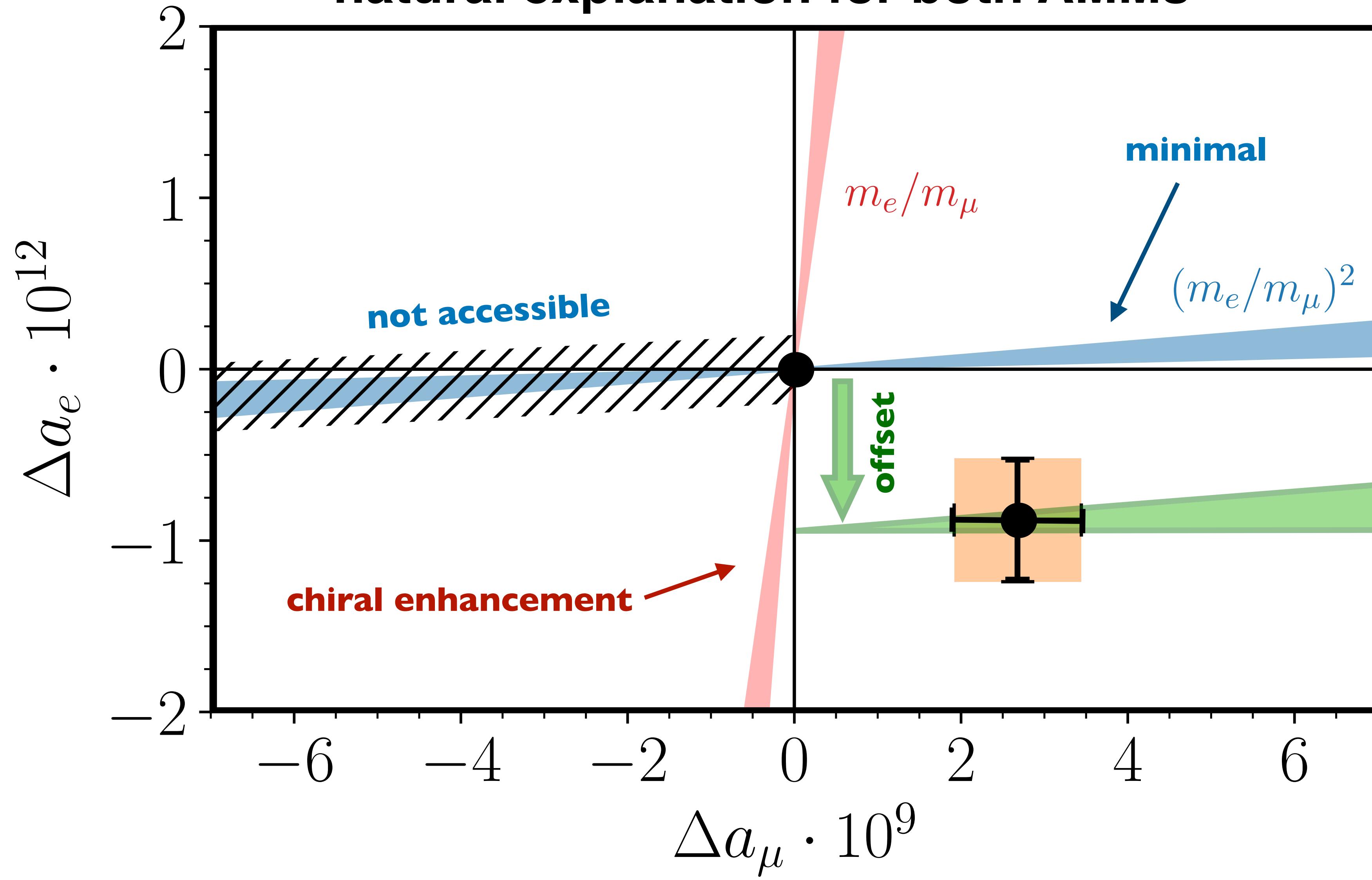
$$\sim (m_e/m_\mu)^2$$



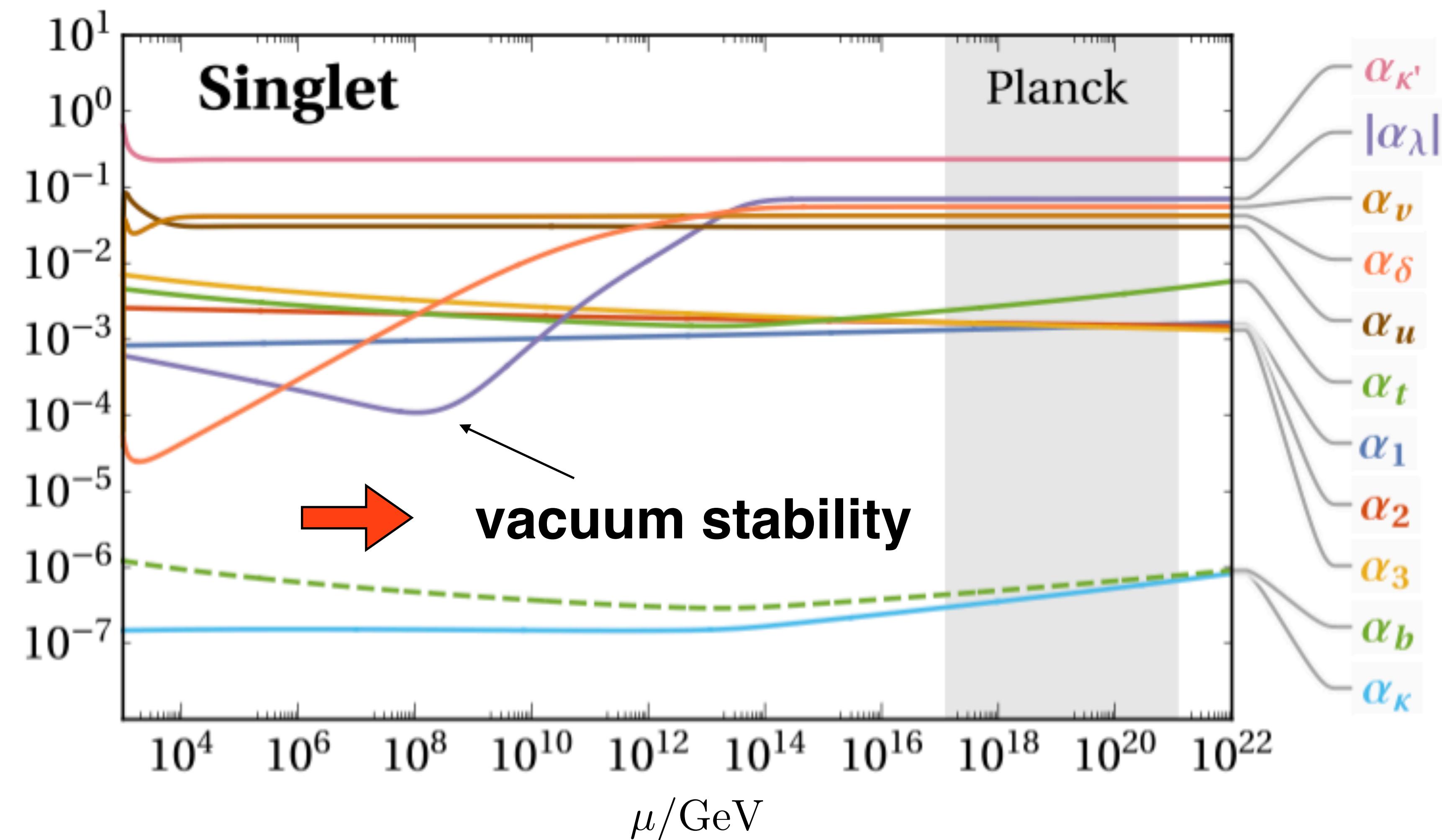
"chirally
enhanced"

$$\sim (m_e/m_\mu)$$

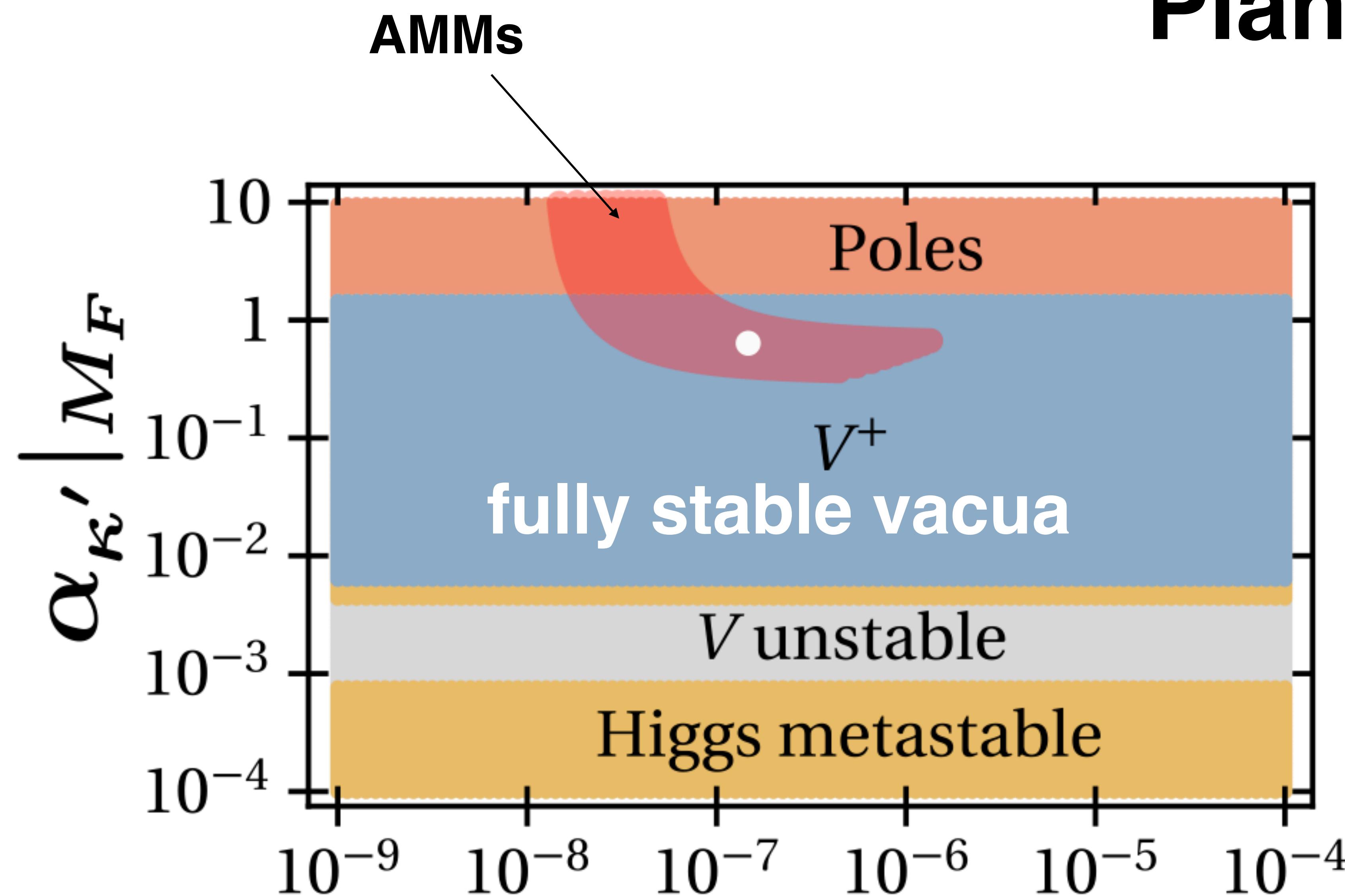


natural explanation for both AMMs

what's more

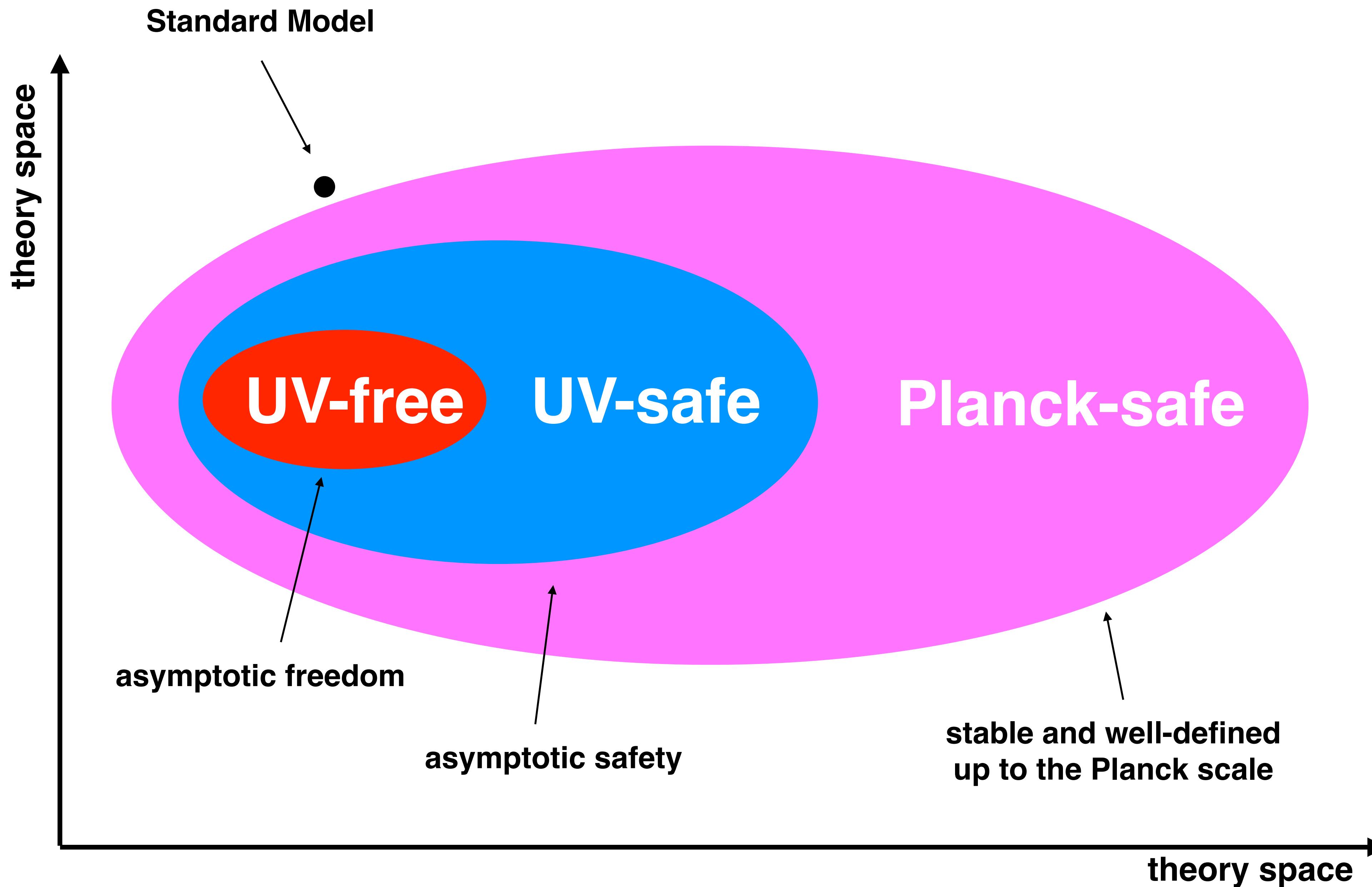


“Planck safe”



$\alpha_{\kappa} | M_F$

Conclusions



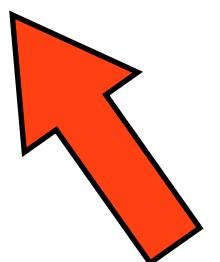
extra material

UV fixed points and MSSM extensions

why no Susy UV fixed point

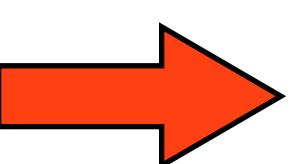
superfield anomalous dimension

$$2d_R |\gamma_R|^2 = d_G B \alpha_* + \mathcal{O}(B\alpha_*^2, \alpha_*^3)$$



asymptotic freedom: $B > 0$

no asymptotic freedom: $B < 0$

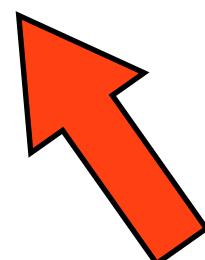


fixed point requires AF
UV fixed point cannot arise

why ~~no~~ Susy UV fixed point

superfield anomalous dimension

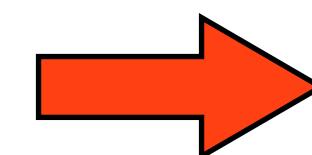
$$2d_R |\gamma_R|^2 = d_{G_i} B_i \alpha_i^* + \mathcal{O}(B\alpha_*^2, \alpha_*^3)$$



remedy:

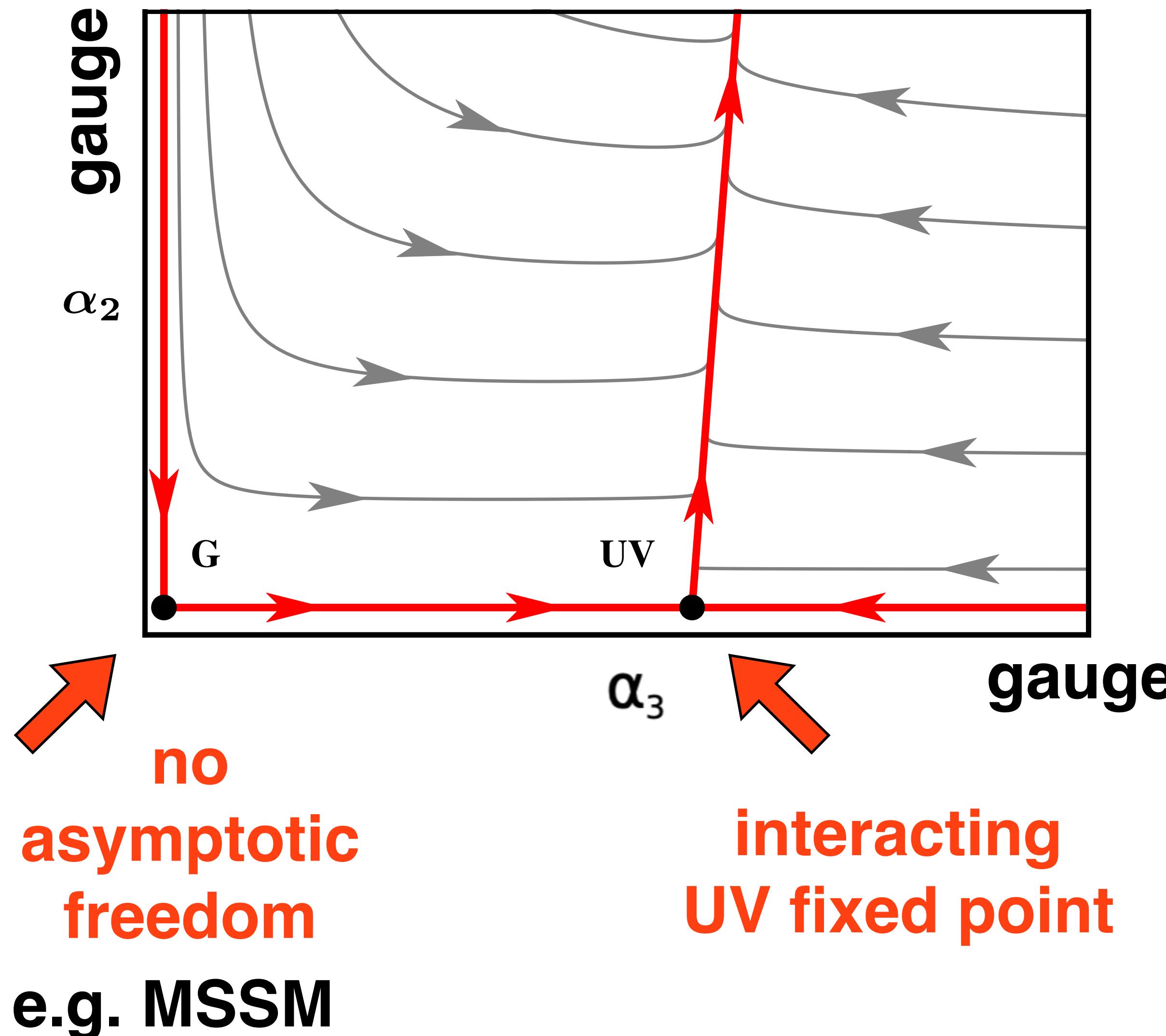
semi-simple susy gauge theories

some $B_i < 0$ a possibility



UV fixed points can arise

Susy UV fixed points



template:

SU(N) \times SU(M)
+ chiral superfields
+ superpotential

MSSM extensions

concrete: MSSM + new quark singlets Q
+ new leptons L
+ superpotential Y_ijk

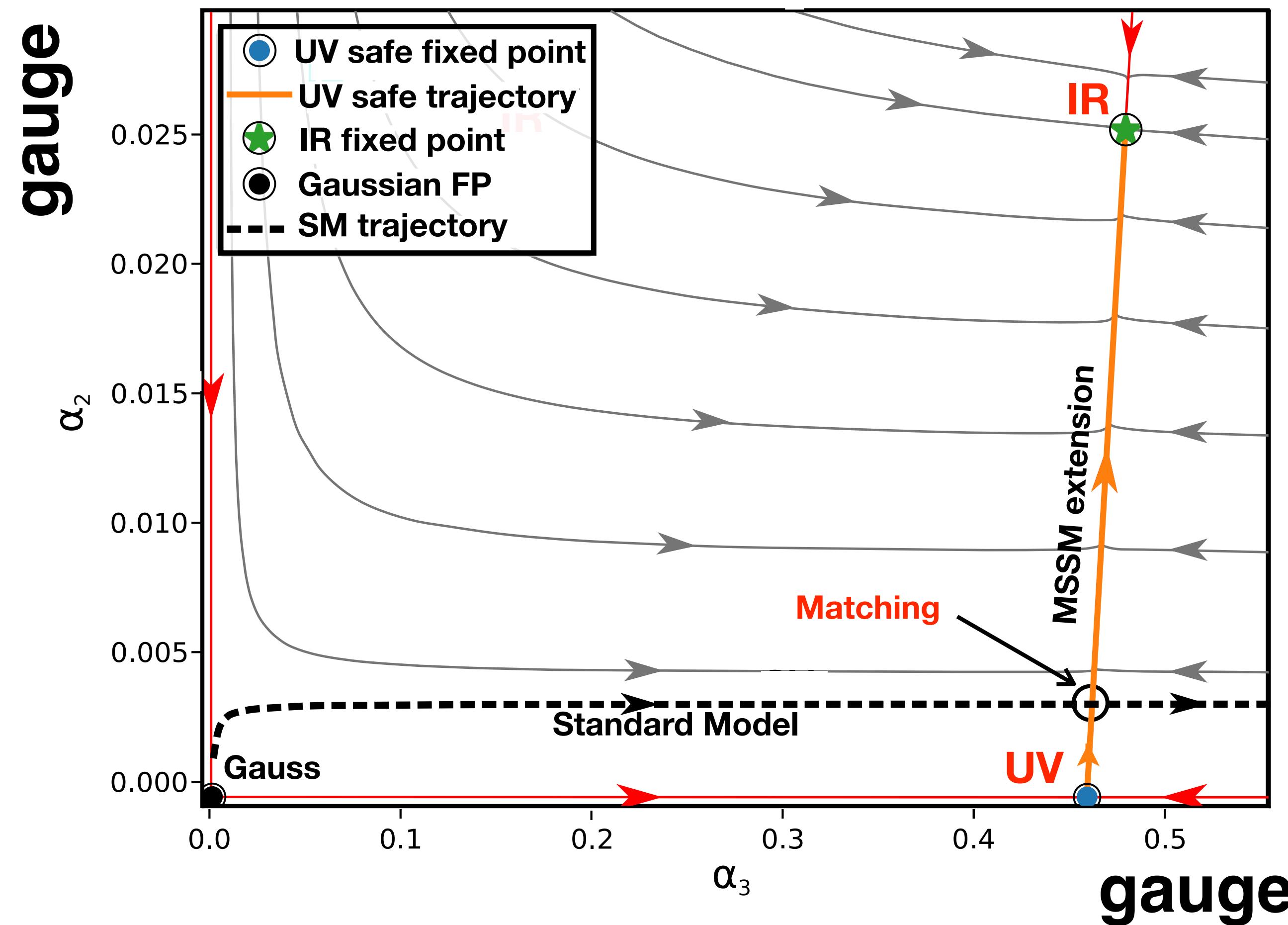
$$W_1 = Y^{ijk} \bar{d}_i Q_j L_k + \bar{Y}^{ijk} \bar{u}_i Q_j \bar{L}_k \\ + x_b y_b \bar{d}_3 Q_3 H_d + x_t y_t \bar{u}_3 Q_3 H_u ,$$

2 Loop RGEs

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+ new leptons + superpotential



*nearly works:
matching scale
too low (1 GeV)*

Top-Down

template UV

Lagrangian

$$L_{\text{YM}} = -\frac{1}{2} \text{Tr} F^{\mu\nu} F_{\mu\nu}$$

$$L_F = \text{Tr} (\bar{Q} i \not{D} Q)$$

$$L_Y = y \text{Tr} (\bar{Q} H Q)$$

$$L_H = \text{Tr} (\partial_\mu H^\dagger \partial^\mu H)$$

$$L_U = -u \text{Tr} (H^\dagger H)^2$$

$$L_V = -v (\text{Tr} H^\dagger H)^2.$$

scalars are “meson-like”, H_{ij}

no asymptotic freedom, yet, stable and predictive
“UV complete”

SU(N)

fermions

scalars

