Revisiting Quantum Criticality and Naturalness with the Standard Model

Juan Pablo Garcés with F. Goertz, M. Lindner and Á. Pastor-Gutiérrez (To appear [2505.xxxx])

Max-Planck-Institut für Kernphysik

May 22, 2025





INTERNATIONAL MAX PLANCK RESEARCH SCHOOL

• No protection mechanism for the Higgs mass in the SM

• No protection mechanism for the Higgs mass in the SM

 \bullet Introduce a UV cutoff Λ in the SM

- No protection mechanism for the Higgs mass in the SM
- \bullet Introduce a UV cutoff Λ in the SM



• No protection mechanism for the Higgs mass in the SM

 \bullet Introduce a UV cutoff Λ in the SM



• No protection mechanism for the Higgs mass in the SM

 \bullet Introduce a UV cutoff Λ in the SM



• These QDs are the main source of UV-sensitivity

• Mass-independent schemes project out these QDs

- Mass-independent schemes project out these QDs
- No fine-tuning in mass-independent schemes?

- Mass-independent schemes project out these QDs
- No fine-tuning in mass-independent schemes?



Not necessarily

- Mass-independent schemes project out these QDs
- No fine-tuning in mass-independent schemes?



Not necessarily

• A new physical scale comes with finite, irremovable corrections

- Mass-independent schemes project out these QDs
- No fine-tuning in mass-independent schemes?



Not necessarily

- A new physical scale comes with finite, irremovable corrections
- Additive corrections at the matching scale

- Mass-independent schemes project out these QDs
- No fine-tuning in mass-independent schemes?



Not necessarily

- A new physical scale comes with finite, irremovable corrections
- Additive corrections at the matching scale
- E.g. SM extended by a heavy scalar singlet S:

- Mass-independent schemes project out these QDs
- No fine-tuning in mass-independent schemes?



- A new physical scale comes with finite, irremovable corrections
- Additive corrections at the matching scale
- E.g. SM extended by a heavy scalar singlet S:

$$\delta m^2 \sim \lambda_{HS} M_S^2$$

- Mass-independent schemes project out these QDs
- No fine-tuning in mass-independent schemes?



- A new physical scale comes with finite, irremovable corrections
- Additive corrections at the matching scale
- E.g. SM extended by a heavy scalar singlet S: $\delta m^2 \sim \lambda_{HS} M_S^2$
- Mass-independent schemes are useful to study Naturalness, but

- Mass-independent schemes project out these QDs
- No fine-tuning in mass-independent schemes?



- A new physical scale comes with finite, irremovable corrections
- Additive corrections at the matching scale
- E.g. SM extended by a heavy scalar singlet S: $\delta m^2 \sim \lambda_{HS} M_S^2$
- Mass-independent schemes are useful to study Naturalness, but
 - QDs are manifested at the threshold scale
 - Manifesting the QDs requires an Ansatz of the UV embedding

• Physical effects of QDs contribute to the RGEs

• Physical effects of QDs contribute to the RGEs

- Dynamical decoupling of heavy particles
- UV sensitivity incorporated along the RG flow
- And...

• Physical effects of QDs contribute to the RGEs

- Dynamical decoupling of heavy particles
- UV sensitivity incorporated along the RG flow
- And...

Allows to study fine-tuning without an Ansatz of the UV embedding!

















Scalar couplings

$$\Gamma_k \supset V_{eff,k} = \mu_k^2 Z_{\Phi,k} \operatorname{tr} \Phi^{\dagger} \Phi + \lambda_k (Z_{\Phi,k} \operatorname{tr} \Phi^{\dagger} \Phi)^2$$

$$\Phi = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} \mathcal{G}_1 & i\mathcal{G}_2 \\ H & i\mathcal{G}_3 \end{pmatrix}$$

Scalar couplings

$$\Gamma_{k} \supset V_{eff,k} = \left(\mu_{k}^{2} Z_{\Phi,k} \operatorname{tr} \Phi^{\dagger} \Phi + \lambda_{k} \left(Z_{\Phi,k} \operatorname{tr} \Phi^{\dagger} \Phi\right)^{2}\right)$$

$$\Phi = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} \mathcal{G}_1 & i\mathcal{G}_2 \\ H & i\mathcal{G}_3 \end{pmatrix}$$

Scalar couplings curvature quartic $\Gamma_k \supset V_{eff,k} = \mu_k^2 Z_{\Phi,k} \operatorname{tr} \Phi^{\dagger} \Phi + \lambda_k (Z_{\Phi,k} \operatorname{tr} \Phi^{\dagger} \Phi)^2$

Scalar couplings curvature quartic $\Gamma_k \supset V_{eff,k} = \mu_k^2 Z_{\Phi,k} \operatorname{tr} \Phi^{\dagger} \Phi + \lambda_k (Z_{\Phi,k} \operatorname{tr} \Phi^{\dagger} \Phi)^2$ $\lambda > 0$ $\lambda > 0$ $\partial_t \bar{\mu}^2 \Big|_{\overline{\rho}_0 = 0} = (-2 + \eta_H) \bar{\mu}^2 + \partial_{\overline{\rho}} \overline{\text{Flow}}[V_{eff}] \Big|_{\overline{\rho}_0 = 0}$ $(\bar{\mu}^2 \equiv \mu^2 / k^2)$

Scalar couplings curvature quartic $\Gamma_k \supset V_{eff,k} = \mu_k^2 Z_{\Phi,k} \operatorname{tr} \Phi^{\dagger} \Phi + \lambda_k (Z_{\Phi,k} \operatorname{tr} \Phi^{\dagger} \Phi)^2$ $\partial_t \bar{\mu}^2 \Big|_{\overline{\rho}_0 = 0} = (-2 + \eta_H) \bar{\mu}^2 + \partial_{\overline{\rho}} \overline{\text{Flow}}[V_{eff}] \Big|_{\overline{\rho}_0 = 0}$ $(\bar{\mu}^2 \equiv \mu^2 / k^2)$

Scalar couplings curvature quartíc $\Gamma_k \supset V_{eff,k} = \mu_k^2 Z_{\Phi,k} \operatorname{tr} \Phi^{\dagger} \Phi + \lambda_k (Z_{\Phi,k} \operatorname{tr} \Phi^{\dagger} \Phi)^2$ $\lambda > 0 \qquad \lambda > 0$ Log running polynomial $\partial_t \bar{\mu}^2 \Big|_{\bar{\rho}_0 = 0} = (-2 + \eta_H) \bar{\mu}^2 + \partial_{\bar{\rho}} \overline{\text{Flow}}[V_{eff}] \Big|_{\bar{\rho}_0 = 0} \text{running (QD)}$ $(\bar{\mu}^2 \equiv \mu^2/k^2)$

Scalar couplings curvature quartíc coupling mass $\Gamma_k \supset V_{eff,k} = \mu_k^2 Z_{\Phi,k} \operatorname{tr} \Phi^{\dagger} \Phi + \lambda_k (Z_{\Phi,k} \operatorname{tr} \Phi^{\dagger} \Phi)^2$ $\lambda > 0 \qquad \lambda > 0$ Log running polynomial $\partial_t \bar{\mu}^2 \Big|_{\bar{\rho}_0 = 0} = (-2 + \eta_H) \bar{\mu}^2 + \partial_{\bar{\rho}} \overline{\text{Flow}}[V_{eff}] \Big|_{\bar{\rho}_0 = 0} \text{running } (QD)$ $(\bar{\mu}^2 \equiv \mu^2 / k^2)$

Why the fRG?

Mass-dependent renormalization scheme

Why the fRG?

Mass-dependent renormalization scheme

- Incorporates QDs, the main source of fine-tuning, smoothly along the flow
- Model-independent study of fine-tuning
- Allows access to the phase structure and critical surface

Why the fRG?

Mass-dependent renormalization scheme

- Incorporates QDs, the main source of fine-tuning, smoothly along the flow
- Model-independent study of fine-tuning
- Allows access to the phase structure and critical surface
- Possibility to explore non-perturbative physics
 - E.g. large anomalous dimensions










$$\bar{\mu}^2(\Lambda_{UV}) = \frac{\bar{\mu}^2_{\Lambda_{UV}} - \bar{\mu}^2_{\Lambda_{UV,SM}}}{\bar{\mu}^2_{\Lambda_{UV}}}$$







Quantifying the fine-tuning





Juan P. Garcés (MPIK)



Juan P. Garcés (MPIK)

LIO Conference 2025

9/14

Quantifying the fine-tuning





















$$k = 10^5 \,\mathrm{GeV}$$

Juan P. Garcés (MPIK)

0.02





 $\bar{\mu}^2$



$$k = 10^5 \,\mathrm{GeV}$$





 $k = 10^3 \,\mathrm{GeV}$



EWSB

0.4

0.3

0.2

 $ar{\lambda}$

Juan P. Garcés (MPIK)



1. Fine-tuning due to the magnitude of Λ_{UV}

1. Fine-tuning due to the magnitude of Λ_{UV}

1. Fine-tuning due to the magnitude of Λ_{UV}

1. Fine-tuning due to the magnitude of Λ_{UV}





1. Fine-tuning due to the magnitude of Λ_{UV}



1. Fine-tuning due to the magnitude of Λ_{UV}



1. Fine-tuning due to the magnitude of Λ_{UV}



1. Fine-tuning due to the magnitude of Λ_{UV}



New-physics deformations



New-physics deformations



$$\partial_t \bar{\mu}^2 = (\partial_t \bar{\mu}^2)_{SM} + c_1 \cdot \bar{\mu}^2 + c_2$$
$$\partial_t \bar{\lambda} = (\partial_t \bar{\lambda})_{SM} + c_3 \cdot \bar{\lambda} + c_4$$

New-physics deformations




LIO Conference 2025







LIO Conference 2025



• The mass-like character of the fRG allowed us to study the fine-tuning problem in a model-independent way



- The mass-like character of the fRG allowed us to study the fine-tuning problem in a model-independent way
- Extended the standard fine-tuning discussion by connecting to the notion of quantum criticality



- The mass-like character of the fRG allowed us to study the fine-tuning problem in a model-independent way
- Extended the standard fine-tuning discussion by connecting to the notion of quantum criticality
 - SM-like theories with large scale separations are not only finetuned but also near quantum critical



- The mass-like character of the fRG allowed us to study the fine-tuning problem in a model-independent way
- Extended the standard fine-tuning discussion by connecting to the notion of quantum criticality
 - SM-like theories with large scale separations are not only finetuned but also near quantum critical
- A simplified approach to study the effect of new physics on naturalness reproduces the large anomalous dimension solution





$\begin{array}{c} 0.4 \\ 0.3 \\ 0.4$

Thank you!



Backup slides



Consequences for the (little) hierarchy problem



New-physics deformations





Standard view of Naturalness



Fine-temperature analogy

$$G_{H,k}(T,p^2) = \frac{1}{Z_{H,k}} \frac{1}{\omega_n^2 + \vec{p}^2 \left(1 + r_k(\vec{p})\right) + m_{H,k}^2}$$

$T_{\rm SSB,1}^{\rm crit} \sim k_{\rm SSB,1}/(2\pi) \approx 150 \,{\rm GeV}$

Previous Wilsonian studies of Naturalness

<u>Aoki, Iso [1201.0857]</u>

• Physical contributions of QD diagrams cannot be projected out

Krajewski, Lalak [1411.6435]

• Fine-tuning in a Higgs-Yukawa model using the fRG

<u>Yamada [2004.00142]</u>

• Gravity effects does not necessarily spoil the SM naturalness

Gies, Schmieden, Zambelli [2306.05943]

• Moving Λ_{QCD} closer to v_{EW} in the SM reduces fine-tuning

Mass and flow

$$m_{\rm H}^2 = k^2 \left[\partial_{\bar{\rho}} u(\bar{\rho}) + 2\bar{\rho} \partial_{\bar{\rho}}^2 u(\bar{\rho}) \right]_{\bar{\rho} = \bar{\rho}_0} = \begin{cases} \mu^2 & \bar{\rho}_0 = 0\\ 2\bar{\lambda}v^2 & \bar{\rho}_0 > 0 \end{cases}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \partial_{\bar{\rho}} \ \overline{\mathrm{Flow}} \left[V_{\mathrm{eff}} \right] \Big|_{\bar{\rho}_0 = 0} = & \frac{1}{8\pi^2} \left[-\frac{\bar{\lambda}}{(1 + \bar{\mu}^2)^2} \left(3 - \frac{\eta_{\mathcal{G}}^{\pm}}{6} - \frac{\eta_{\mathcal{G}}^0}{12} - \frac{\eta_H}{4} \right) + 3y_{\mathrm{t}}^2 \left(1 - \frac{\eta_{\mathrm{t}}}{5} \right) \\ & - \frac{18 \, g_1^2}{80} \left(1 - \frac{\eta_{Z^0}}{6} \right) - \frac{18 \, g_2^2}{16} \left(1 - \frac{\eta_{Z^0}}{18} - \frac{\eta_{W^{\pm}}}{9} \right) \right] \end{aligned}$$

Los vs. polynomial running



Critical exponents

$$v \propto \left| \Delta \bar{\mu}_{\rm SP}^2(\Lambda_{\rm UV}) \times \Lambda_{\rm UV}^2 \right|^{\beta}$$

$$\Delta \bar{\mu}_{\rm SP}^2 = \bar{\mu}_{\Lambda_{\rm UV}}^2 - \bar{\mu}_{\Lambda_{\rm UV},\,\rm SP}^2$$

$$\beta = \frac{\nu}{2} \left(d - 2 + \eta_H |_{k_{\text{SSB},1}} \right)$$

$$u = -\Theta_{ar{\mu}^2}^{-1} pprox \left(2 - \eta_H |_{k_{ ext{SSB},1}}
ight)^{-1}$$

Distance to critical surface



IR observables

