

# Avoiding Death by Vacuum Decay

## Cutting on the MSSM parameter space

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DESY Hamburg Theory

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The end is nigh...



W. G. H.

Avoiding Death by Vacuum Decay



**“I think, we have it!”**

Rolf Heuer



[www.thedailystar.net](http://www.thedailystar.net)

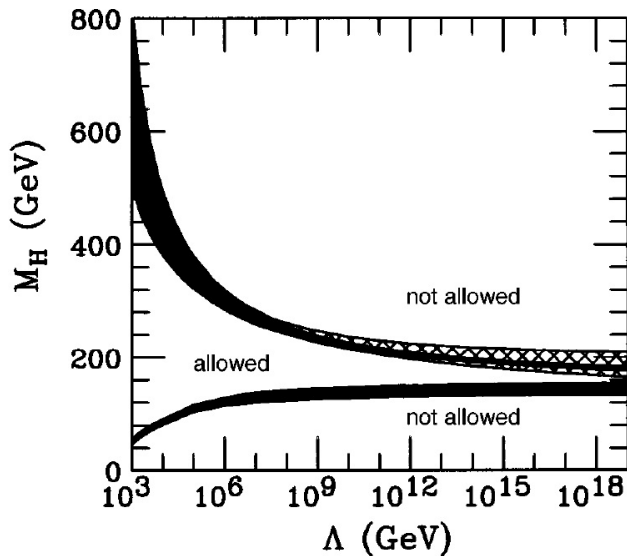
**“Eureka!”**  
Archimedes

What do we have?



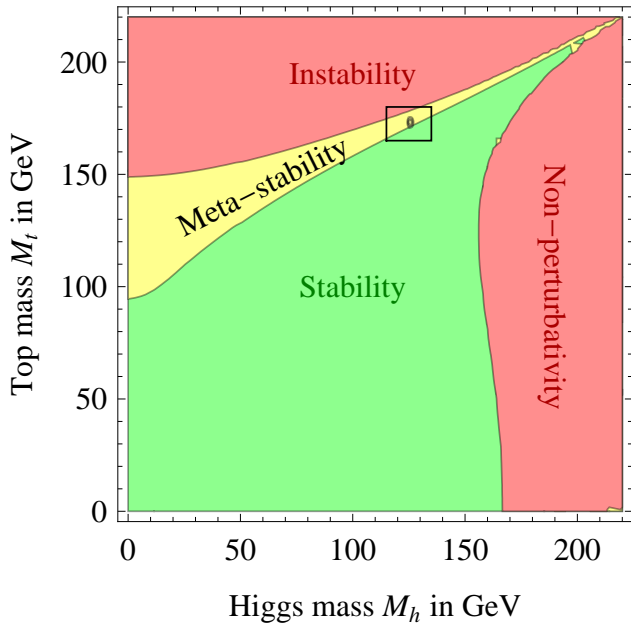
[particlezoo]

Having pinned down the missing piece...

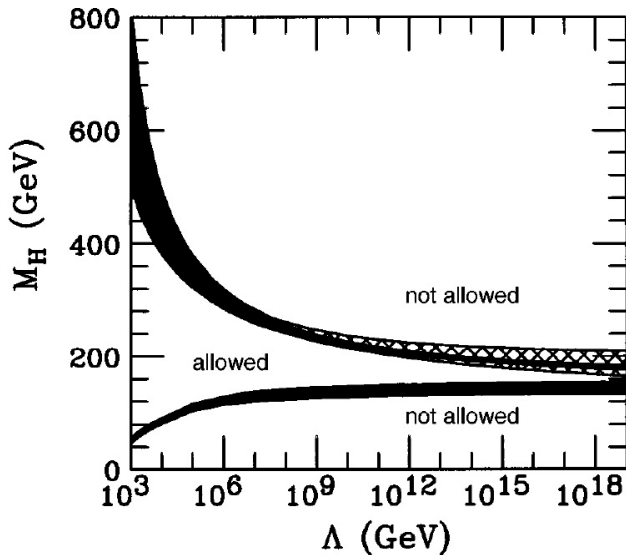


[Hambye, Riesselmann: Phys.Rev. D55 (1997) 7255]

# The SM phase diagram



[Degrassi et al. JHEP 1208 (2012) 098]



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## Theoretical considerations

- $\lambda < 4\pi$   $\leftrightarrow$  perturbativity
- $\lambda > 0$   $\leftrightarrow$  unbounded from below, aka vacuum stability

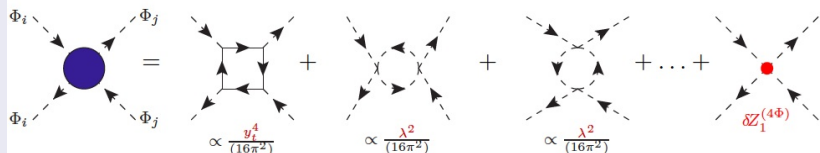
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trivial at the classical (i.e. tree) level

$$V(\Phi) = m^2 \Phi^\dagger \Phi + \lambda (\Phi^\dagger \Phi)^2$$

## Quantum level



[courtesy of Max Zoller]

- dominant contribution: top quark ( $y_t \sim 1$ )
- dependence on the energy scale:  $\beta$  function!

## Scale-independent loop-corrected effective potential

$$Q \frac{d}{dQ} V_{\text{loop}}(\lambda_i, \phi, Q) = 0$$

## Approximation for large field values

$$V_{\text{loop}}(\phi) = \lambda(\phi)\phi^4,$$

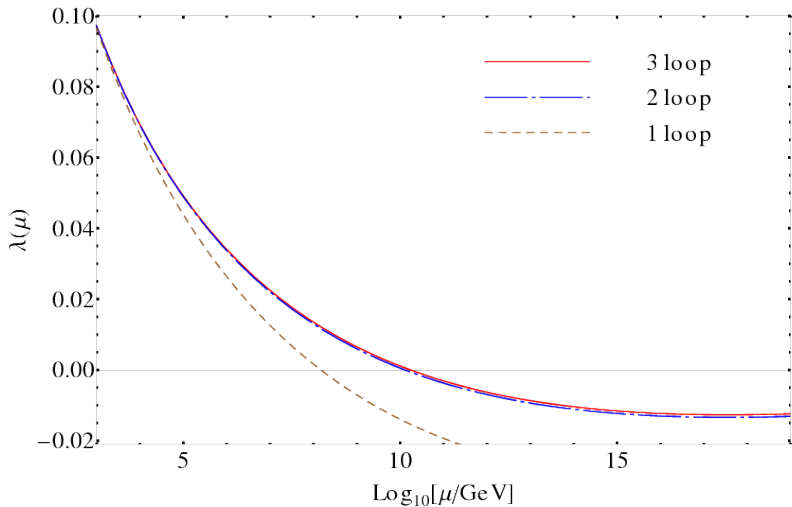
evaluated at  $Q \sim \phi$

## $\beta$ function for coupling $\lambda_i$

$$\beta_i(\lambda_i) = Q \frac{d\lambda_i(Q)}{dQ}$$

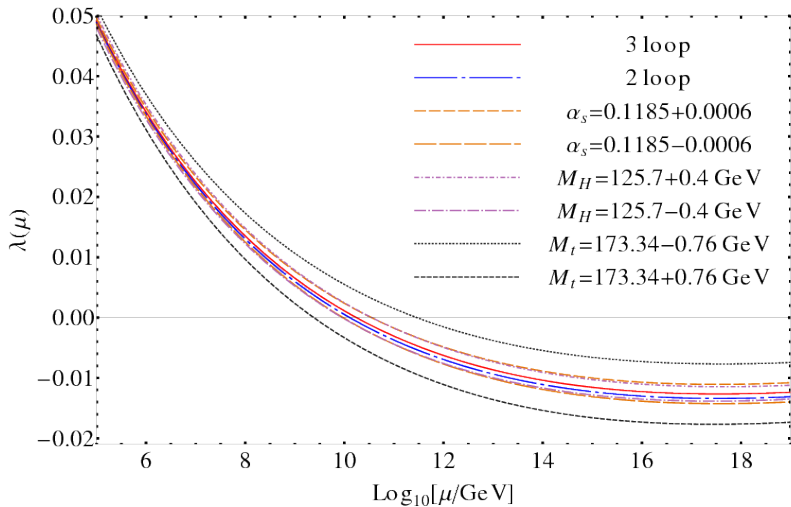
- running of  $\lambda$  determines stability of the loop potential
- upper bound: Landau pole; lower bound:  $\lambda > 0$

# Precise analysis: up to three loops!



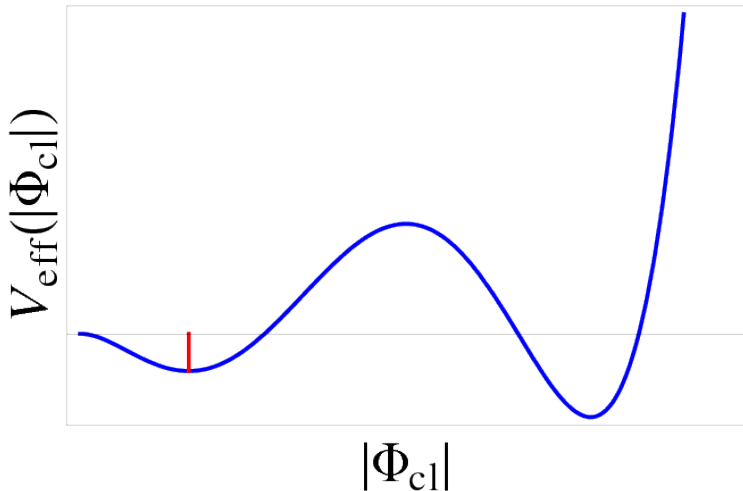
[Zoller 2014]

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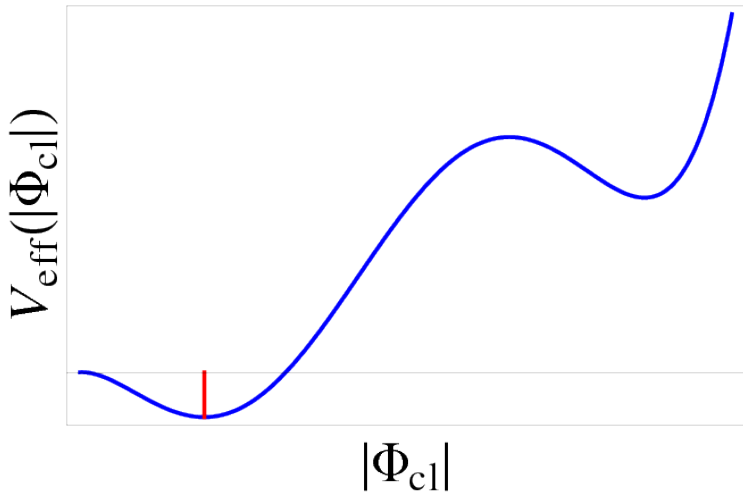
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- $m_h = 125 \text{ GeV}$ : metastable electroweak vacuum
- metastability: decay time of false vacuum large
- instability scale around  $10^{10\dots 12} \text{ GeV}$
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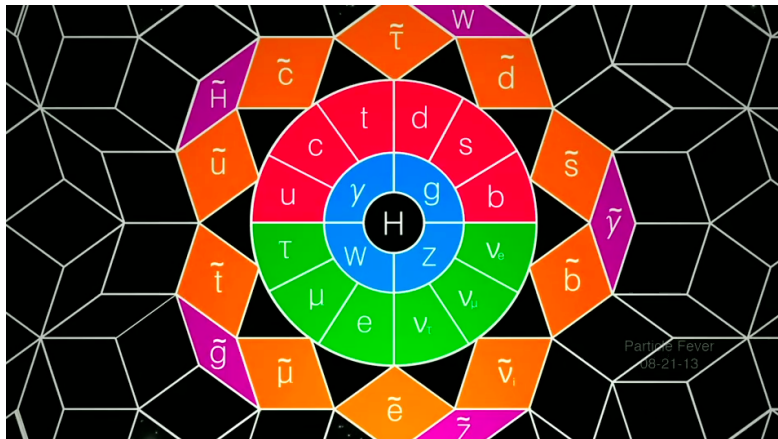
(generically difficult)

# Supersymmetry

- relates bosonic and fermionic degrees of freedom: absolute zero
- the only non-trivial extension of Poincaré symmetry

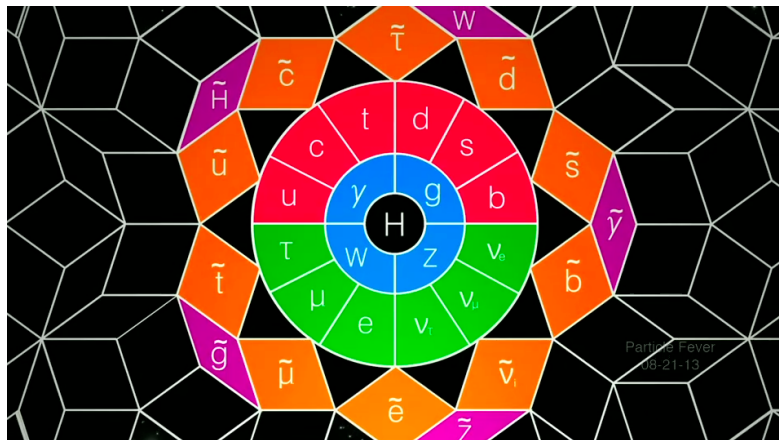
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[Particle Fever]

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$$\mathcal{W}_{\text{MSSM}} = \mu H_d \cdot H_u - Y_{ij}^e H_d \cdot L_{L,i} \bar{E}_{R,j} + Y_{ij}^u H_u \cdot Q_{L,i} \bar{U}_{R,j} - Y_{ij}^d H_d \cdot Q_{L,i} \bar{D}_{R,j}$$

# The Higgs sector of the MSSM and its stability

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## Higgs potential of 2HDM type II

$$\begin{aligned} V = & m_{11}^2 H_d^\dagger H_d + m_{22}^2 H_u^\dagger H_u + (m_{12}^2 H_u \cdot H_d + \text{h.c.}) \\ & + \frac{\lambda_1}{2} (H_d^\dagger H_d)^2 + \frac{\lambda_2}{2} (H_u^\dagger H_u)^2 \\ & + \lambda_3 (H_u^\dagger H_u) (H_d^\dagger H_d) + \lambda_4 (H_u^\dagger H_d) (H_d^\dagger H_u) + \{\lambda_5, \lambda_6, \lambda_7\} \end{aligned}$$

In the MSSM: tree potential calculated from  $D$ -terms and  $\mathcal{L}_{\text{soft}}$

$$m_{11}^{2\text{tree}} = |\mu|^2 + m_{H_d}^2, \quad \lambda_1^{\text{tree}} = \lambda_2^{\text{tree}} = -\lambda_3^{\text{tree}} = \frac{g^2 + g'^2}{4},$$

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## Unbounded from below requirements

$$\lambda_1 > 0, \quad \lambda_2 > 0, \quad \lambda_3 > -\sqrt{\lambda_1 \lambda_2}$$

and others...

[Gunion, Haber 2003]

- always fulfilled in the MSSM @ tree

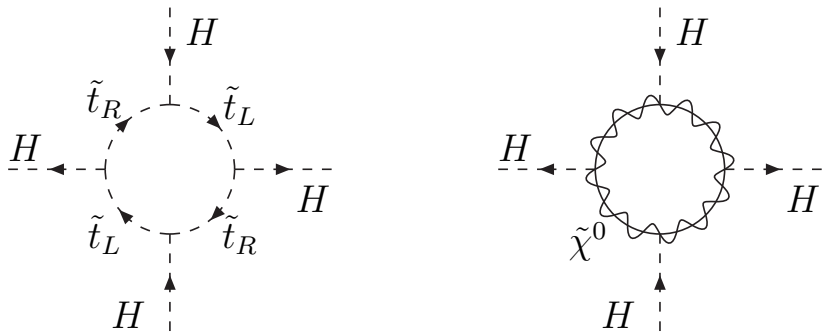
## Extending the tree

- loop corrections?

[Gorbahn, Jäger, Nierste, Trine 2011]

- integrating out heavy SUSY particles
- requirement of large SUSY scale  $M_{\text{SUSY}} \gg M_A \sim v_{\text{ew}}$
- effective theory: generic 2HDM,  $\lambda_i$  calculated from SUSY loops

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collecting all SUSY contributions:

$$\lambda_i = \lambda_i(\tan \beta, \mu, M_1, M_2, \tilde{m}_Q^2, \tilde{m}_u^2, \tilde{m}_d^2, \tilde{m}_L^2, \tilde{m}_e^2, A_u, A_d, A_e).$$

simple check:

$$\lambda_1 > 0, \quad \lambda_2 > 0, \quad \lambda_3 > -\sqrt{\lambda_1 \lambda_2},$$

where now

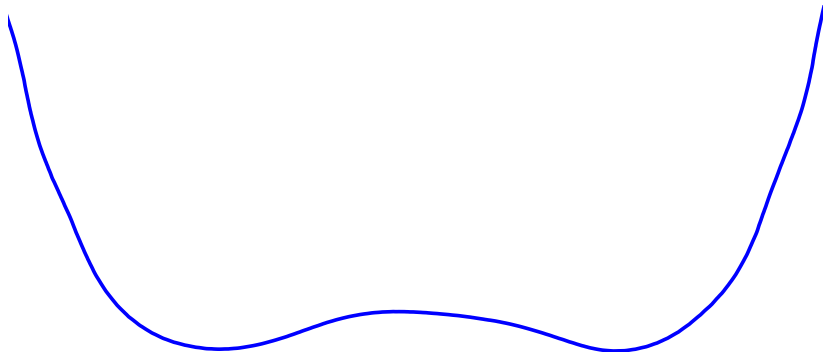
$$\lambda_i = \lambda_i^{\text{tree}} + \frac{\lambda_i^{\text{ino}} + \lambda_i^{\text{sferm}}}{16\pi^2}.$$

Severe UFB limits

Bounds on  $\lambda_{1,2,3}$  transfer into bounds on  $m_0, A_t, \mu, \dots$

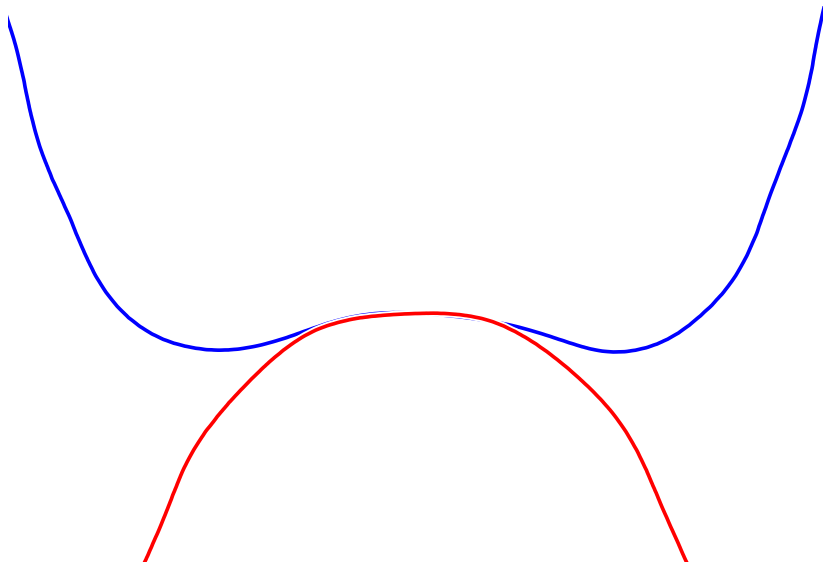
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$$V(\phi) = -\mu^2\phi^2 + \lambda\phi^4$$



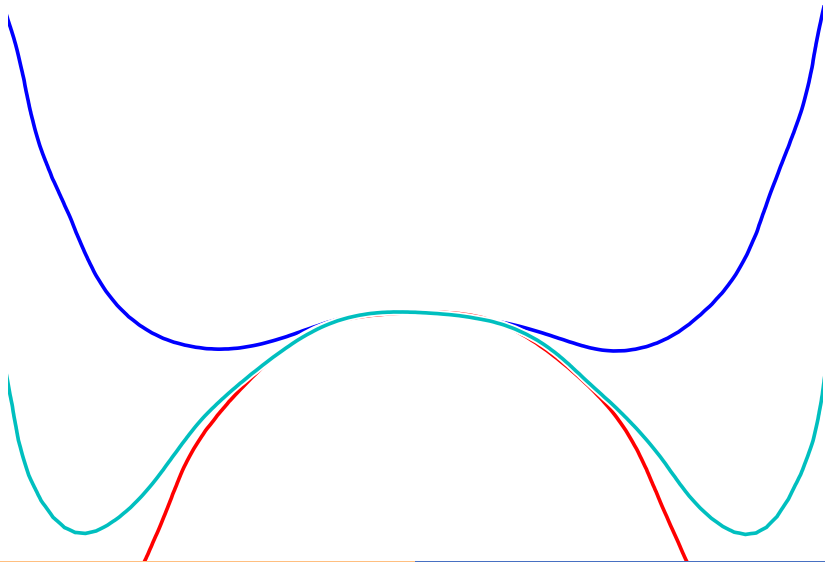
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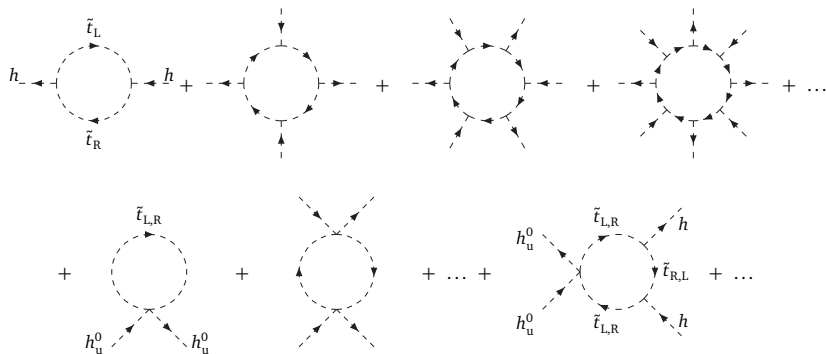
# Recovery from unbounded from below???

$$V(\phi) = -\mu^2\phi^2 - \lambda\phi^4 + \lambda^{(6)}\phi^6$$



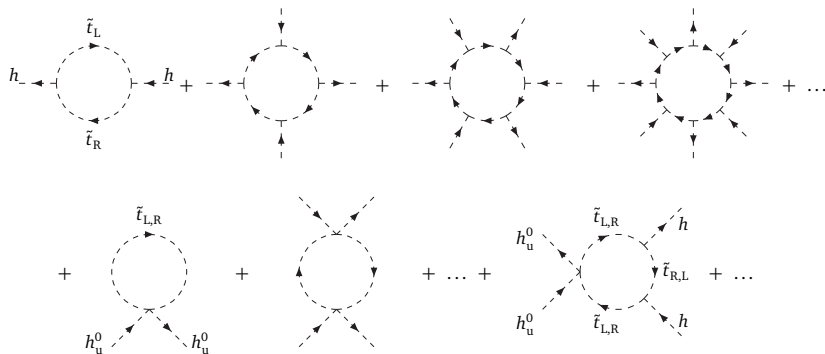


# Calculating the H-loop effective potential



- dominant contribution from third generation squarks
- quadrilinear couplings ( $\sim |Y_t|^2$ )
- trilinear coupling to a linear combination ( $\mu^* Y_t h_d^\dagger - A_t h_u^0$ )
- series summable to an infinite number of external legs

# Calculating the 1-loop effective potential



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- series summable to an infinite number of external legs
- **Do not stop after renormalizable / dim 4 terms!**

- 1-loop effective potential

[Coleman, Weinberg 1973]

$$V_1(h_u, h_d) = \frac{1}{64\pi^2} \text{STr} \mathcal{M}^4(h_u, h_d) \left[ \ln \left( \frac{\mathcal{M}^2(h_u, h_d)}{Q^2} \right) - \frac{3}{2} \right]$$

- *field dependent mass*  $\mathcal{M}(h_u, h_d)$
  - STr accounts for spin degrees of freedom
- same result can be obtained by the tadpole method

$$T \sim \frac{\partial}{\partial h} V_1(h) \quad \leftrightarrow \quad V_1(h) \sim \int dh T(h)$$

[Lee, Sciacaluga 1975]

- functional methods: effective potential for arbitrary number of scalars:  $V_1(\phi_1, \phi_2, \dots, \phi_n)$

[Jackiw 1973]

## The effective potential

$V_{\text{eff}}(\phi)$ : average energy density

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$V_{\text{eff}}$  minimized:

$$\left. \frac{d V_{\text{eff}}}{d \phi} \right|_{\phi=v} = 0$$

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## Technically:

generating function for 1PI  $n$ -point Green's functions:

$$V_{\text{eff}}(\phi) = - \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \tilde{G}^{(n)}(p_i = 0) \phi^n$$

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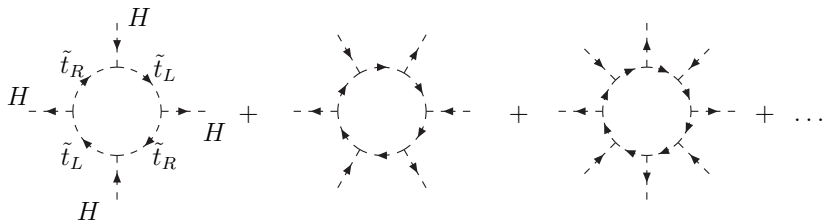
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(with subtleties)



# Summing up external legs

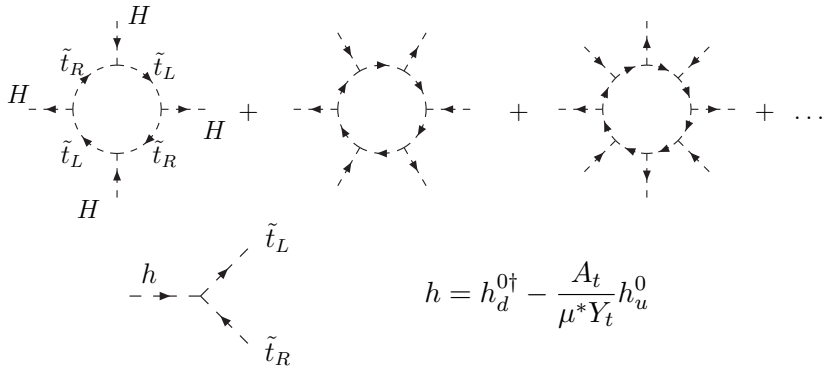


- most dominant contribution from top Yukawa  $y_t$  and  $A_t$
- can be easily summed for  $m_{\tilde{t}_R} = m_{\tilde{t}_L} \equiv M$
- 1-PI potential as generating function for 1-PI Green's functions

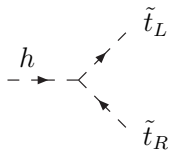
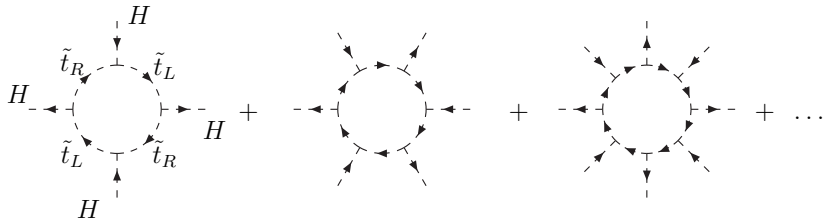
$$-V_{1\text{-PI}}(\phi) = \Gamma_{1\text{-PI}}(\phi) = \sum_n \frac{1}{n!} G_n(p_{\text{ext}} = 0) \phi^n$$

- “classical” field value  $\phi \rightarrow \langle 0 | \phi | 0 \rangle$
- $\frac{dV(\phi)}{d\phi} = 0$  determines ground state of the theory

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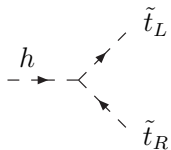
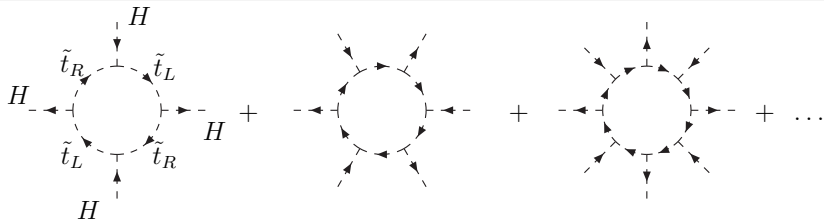


$$h = h_d^{0\dagger} - \frac{A_t}{\mu^* Y_t} h_u^0$$

$$V_1 \sim \sum_n \frac{a_n}{n!^2} \left( h^\dagger h \right)^n ,$$

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$$V_1 = \frac{N_c M^4}{32\pi^2} \left[ (1+x)^2 \log(1+x) + (1-x)^2 \log(1-x) - 3x^2 \right]$$

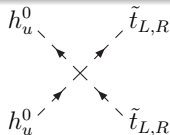
$$Q^2 = M^2$$

$$x^2 = |\mu Y_t|^2 h^\dagger h / M^4, \quad m_{\tilde{t}_L}^2 = m_{\tilde{t}_R}^2 = M^2$$

## Field dependent stop mass

$$\mathcal{M}_{\tilde{t}}^2(h_u^0, h_d^0) = \begin{pmatrix} m_{\tilde{t}_L}^2 + |Y_t h_u^0|^2 & A_t h_u^0 - \mu^* Y_t h_d^{0*} \\ A_t^* h_u^{0*} - \mu Y_t^* h_d^0 & m_{\tilde{t}_R}^2 + |Y_t h_u^0|^2 \end{pmatrix}$$

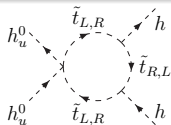
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- diagrams with mixed contributions



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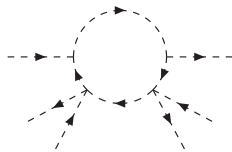
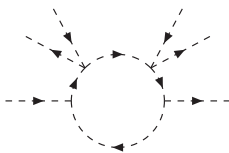
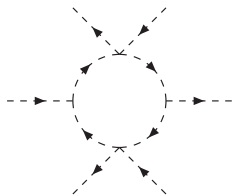
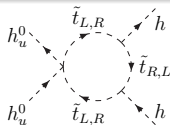
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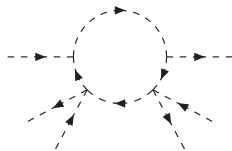
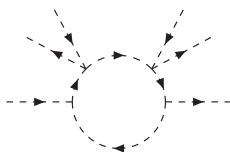
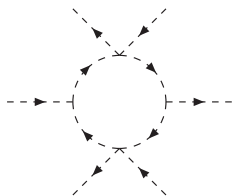
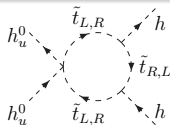
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- gummi bear factor

$$\frac{(2n + k - 1)!}{k!(2n - 1)!}$$

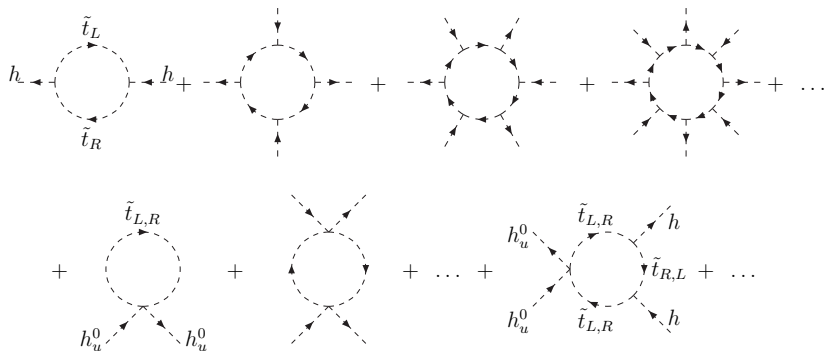


[www.idn.uni-bremen.de/biologiedidaktik](http://www.idn.uni-bremen.de/biologiedidaktik)



## Field dependent stop mass

$$\mathcal{M}_{\tilde{t}}^2(h_u^0, h_d^0) = \begin{pmatrix} m_{\tilde{t}_L}^2 + |Y_t h_u^0|^2 & A_t h_u^0 - \mu^* Y_t h_d^{0*} \\ A_t^* h_u^{0*} - \mu Y_t^* h_d^0 & m_{\tilde{t}_R}^2 + |Y_t h_u^0|^2 \end{pmatrix}$$



## Field dependent stop mass

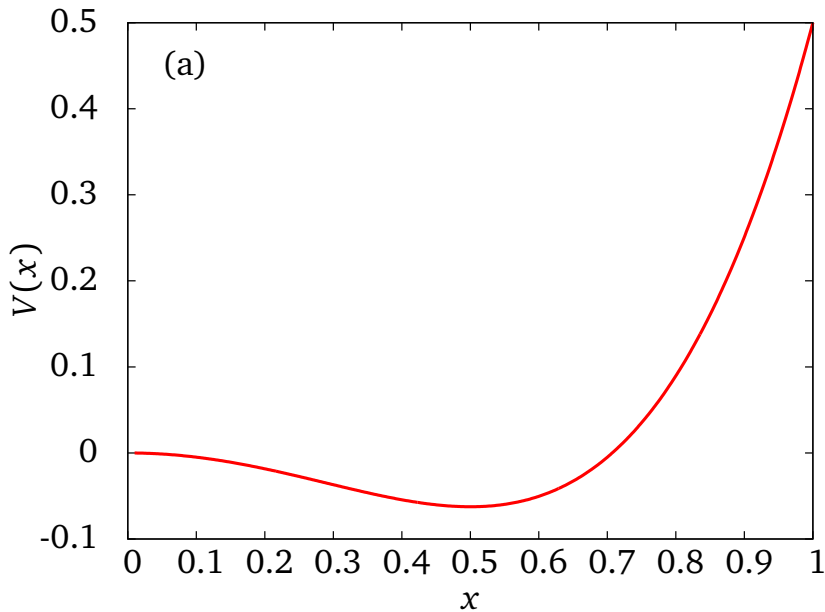
$$\mathcal{M}_t^2(h_u^0, h_d^0) = \begin{pmatrix} m_{\tilde{t}_L}^2 + |Y_t h_u^0|^2 & A_t h_u^0 - \mu^* Y_t h_d^{0*} \\ A_t^* h_u^{0*} - \mu Y_t^* h_d^0 & m_{\tilde{t}_R}^2 + |Y_t h_u^0|^2 \end{pmatrix}$$

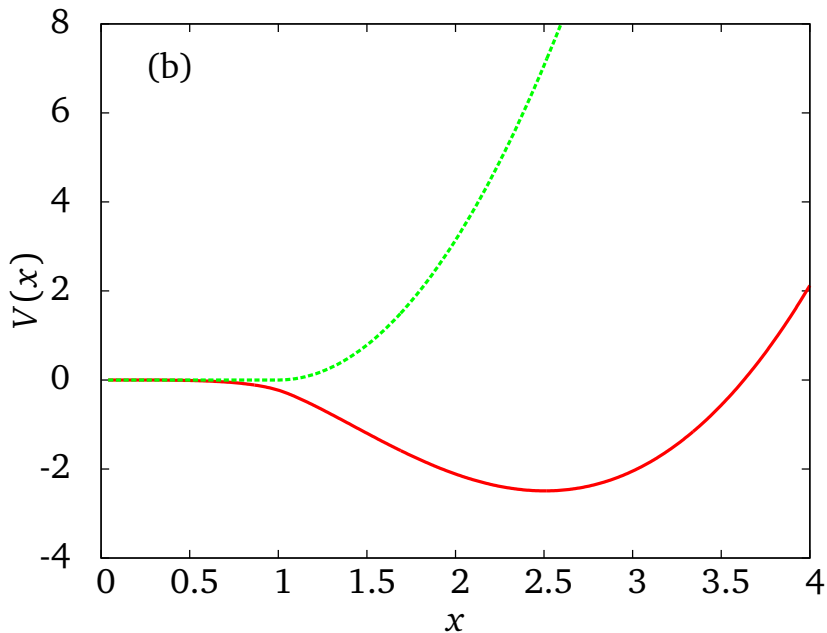
$$\begin{aligned} V_1 &\sim \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} a_{kn} x^{2n} y^k, & x^2 &= \frac{|\mu Y_t|^2 h^\dagger h}{M^4}, y = \frac{|Y_t h_u^0|^2}{M^2} \\ &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n(2n+k-1)(2n+k-2)} \frac{(2n+k-1)!}{k!(2n-1)!} x^{2n} y^k \\ &= \left[ (1+y+x)^2 \log(1+y+x) \right. \\ &\quad \left. + (1+y-x)^2 \log(1+y-x) - 3(x^2 + y^2 + 2y) \right] \end{aligned}$$

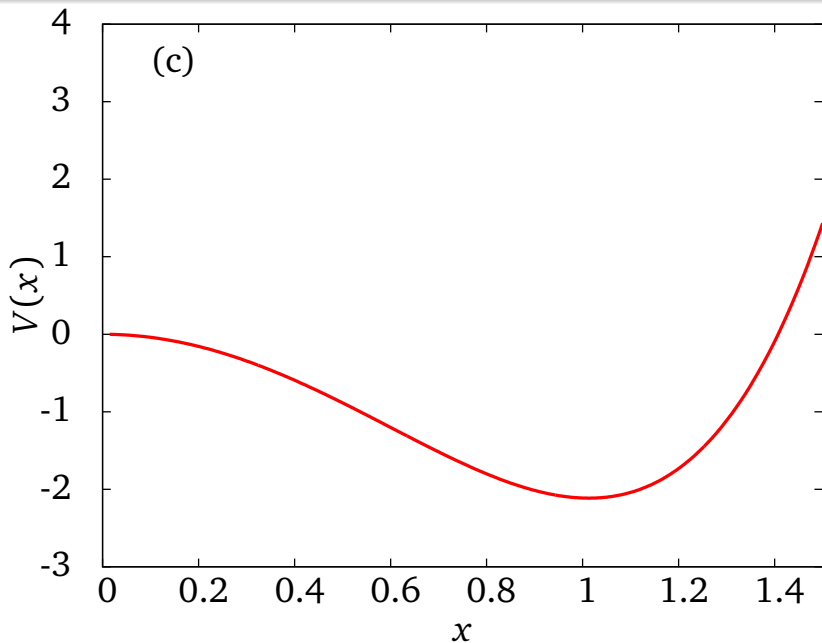
$$V_1(h_u^0, h_d^0) = \frac{N_c M^4}{32\pi^2} \left[ (1 + y + x)^2 \log(1 + y + x) + (1 + y - x)^2 \log(1 + y - x) - 3(x^2 + y^2 + 2y) \right]$$

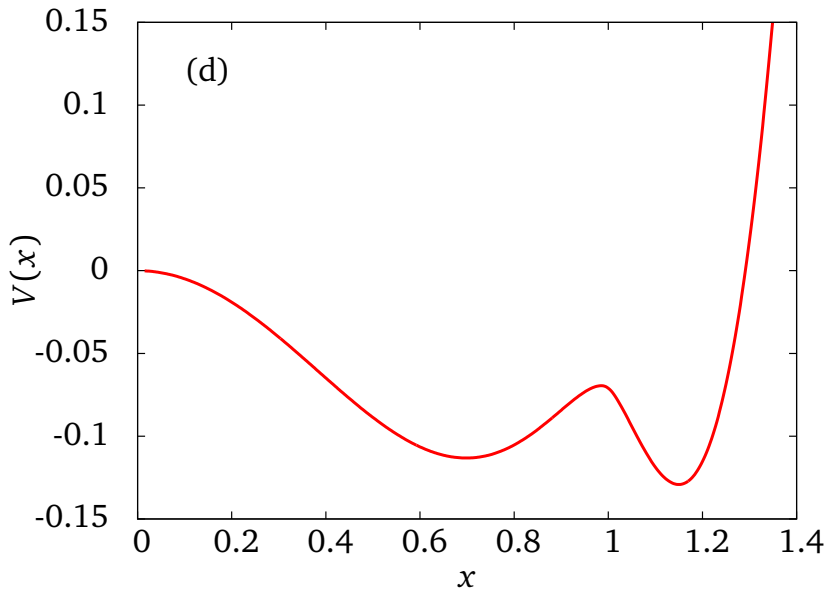
$$x^2 = \frac{|\mu Y_t|^2 h^\dagger h}{M^4}, \quad h = h_d^{0*} - \frac{A_t}{\mu^* Y_t} h_u^0, \quad y = \frac{|Y_t h_u^0|^2}{M^2}$$

- branch cut at  $x - y = \pm 1$ : take real part (analytic cont.)
- ignore imaginary part:  $\log(1 + y - x) = \frac{1}{2} \log((1 + y - x)^2)$
- always bounded from below
- minimum independent of Higgs parameters from tree potential
- minimum determined by SUSY scale parameters









Minimum at the electroweak scale  $v = 246 \text{ GeV}$

$$m_{11}^{2 \text{ tree}} = m_{12}^{2 \text{ tree}} \tan \beta - \frac{v^2}{2} \cos(2\beta) \lambda_1^{\text{tree}} - \frac{1}{v \cos \beta} \left. \frac{\delta}{\delta \phi_d} V_1 \right|_{\substack{\phi_{u,d} \rightarrow 0 \\ \chi_{u,d} \rightarrow 0}},$$

$$m_{22}^{2 \text{ tree}} = m_{12}^{2 \text{ tree}} \cot \beta + \frac{v^2}{2} \cos(2\beta) \lambda_1^{\text{tree}} - \frac{1}{v \sin \beta} \left. \frac{\delta}{\delta \phi_u} V_1 \right|_{\substack{\phi_{u,d} \rightarrow 0 \\ \chi_{u,d} \rightarrow 0}}.$$

$m_h = 125 \text{ GeV}$

- using FeynHiggs 2.10.0 to determine light Higgs mass by adjusting  $A_t$  (several solutions:  $\text{sign } A_t = -\text{sign } \mu$ )
- connection to potential:  $m_A$
- pseudoscalar mass  $m_A$  less dependent on higher loops
- decoupling limit:  $m_A, m_{H^\pm}, m_H \gg m_h$
- include sbottom (drives minimum), take  $A_b = 0$



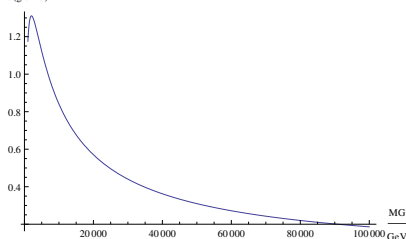
Yukawa coupling not given directly by the mass

$$y_b = \frac{m_b}{v_d(1 + \Delta_b)}$$

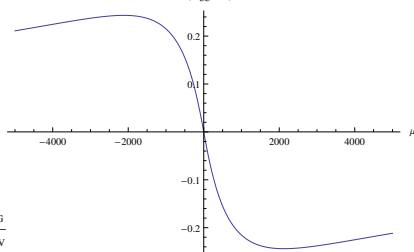
$$\Delta_b^{\text{gluino}} = \frac{2\alpha_s}{3\pi} \mu M_{\tilde{G}} \tan \beta C_0(\tilde{m}_{\tilde{b}_1}, \tilde{m}_{\tilde{b}_2}, M_{\tilde{G}}),$$

$$\Delta_b^{\text{higgsino}} = \frac{Y_t^2}{16\pi^2} \mu A_t \tan \beta C_0(\tilde{m}_{\tilde{t}_1}, \tilde{m}_{\tilde{t}_2}, \mu).$$

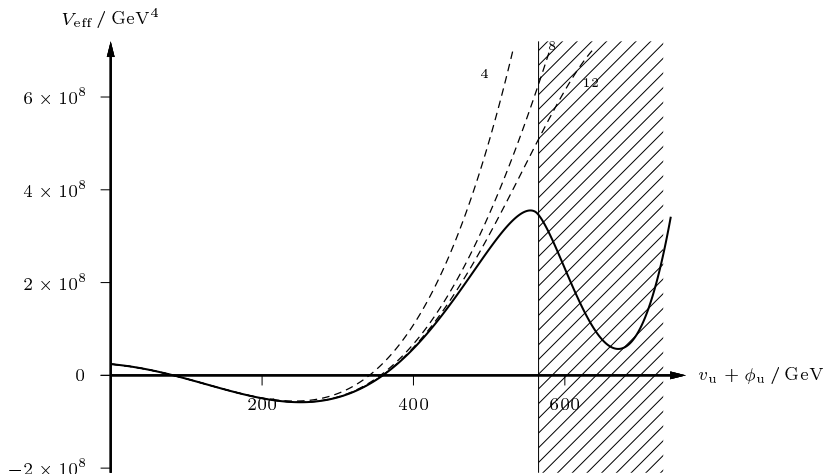
$\Delta_b(\text{gluino})$



$\Delta_b(\text{higgsino})$



# Discussion of stability



- $\tan \beta = 40$

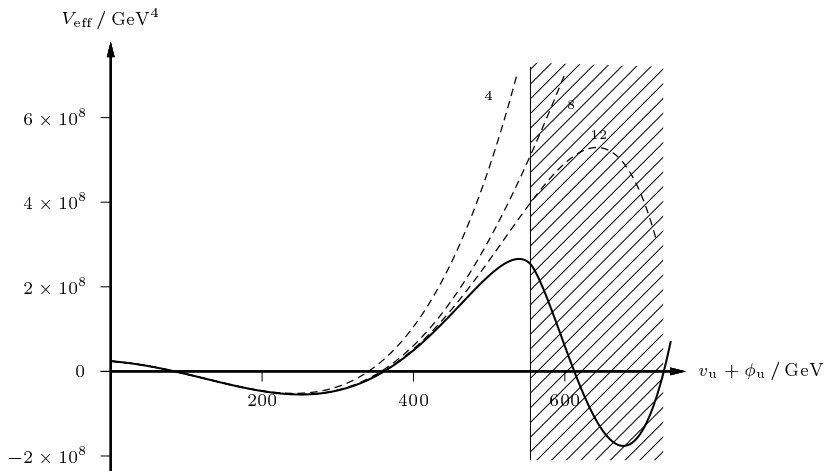
- $m_A = 800 \text{ GeV}$

- $M = 1 \text{ TeV}$

- $\mu = 3.75 \text{ TeV}$

- $A_t \simeq -1.5 \text{ TeV}$

# Discussion of stability



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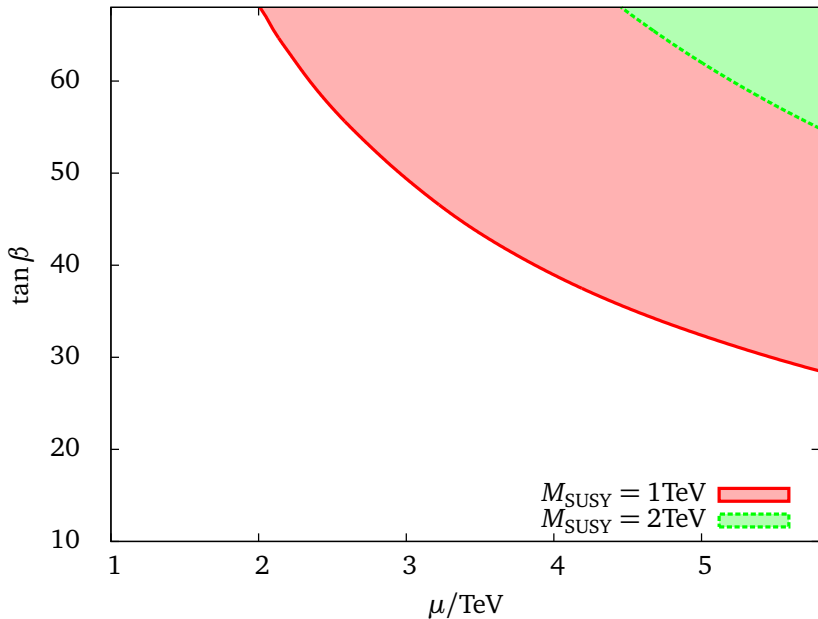
- $\mu = 3.83 \text{ TeV}$

- $A_t \simeq -1.5 \text{ TeV}$

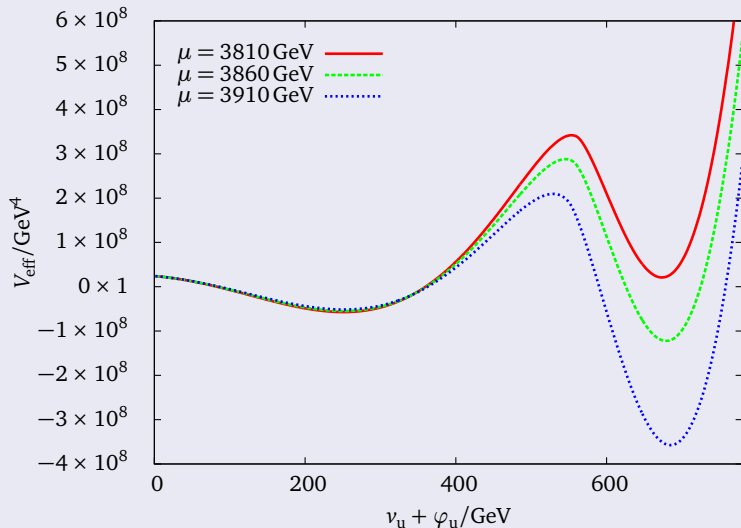


[www.bbcamerica.com]

# Naive exclusions: Constraint in $\mu$ - $\tan\beta$



## Access to Charge and Color breaking minima



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$$\mathcal{M}_{\tilde{t}}^2(h_u^0, h_d^0) = \begin{pmatrix} \tilde{m}_Q^2 + |Y_t h_u^0|^2 & A_t h_u^0 - \mu^* Y_t h_d^{0*} \\ A_t^* h_u^{0*} - \mu Y_t^* h_d^0 & \tilde{m}_t^2 + |Y_t h_u^0|^2 \end{pmatrix}$$

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- non-trivial behaviour of sfermions masses with Higgs vev:

$$m_{\tilde{b}_{1,2}}^2(h_u^0, h_d^0) = \frac{\tilde{m}_Q^2 + \tilde{m}_b^2}{2} + |Y_b h_d^0|^2 \pm \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{(\tilde{m}_Q^2 - \tilde{m}_b^2)^2 + 4|A_b h_d^0 - \mu^* Y_b h_u^{0*}|^2}$$

- expand theory around new minimum:  $m_{\tilde{b}_2}^2 < 0$



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- expand theory around new minimum:  $m_{\tilde{b}_2}^2 < 0$
- **tachyonic squark mass!**



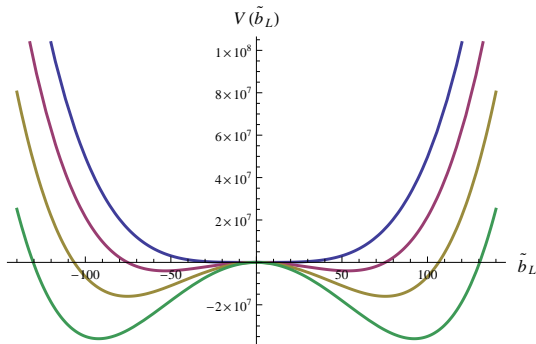
[commons.wikimedia.org]

## What does a tachyonic mass mean?

- mass  $\Leftrightarrow$  second derivative:  $m_\phi^2 = \partial^2 V / \partial \phi^2$
- $m_\phi^2 < 0 \quad \Leftrightarrow$  negative curvature
- non-convex potential: **imaginary part**
- $\log(1 + y - x) \sim \log(m_\phi^2)$

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## Including colored directions

$$\begin{aligned} V_{\tilde{b}}^{\text{tree}} &= \tilde{b}_L^* (M_{\tilde{Q}}^2 + |Y_b v_d|^2) \tilde{b}_L + \tilde{b}_R^* (M_{\tilde{b}}^2 + |Y_b v_d|^2) \tilde{b}_R \\ &\quad - \left[ \tilde{b}_L^* (\mu^* Y_b h_u^{0\dagger} - A_b v_d) \tilde{b}_R + \text{h. c.} \right] + |Y_b|^2 |\tilde{b}_L|^2 |\tilde{b}_R|^2 \\ &\quad + D\text{-terms.} \end{aligned}$$

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## $D$ -flat direction: minimizing $D$ -term contribution

- $D$ -terms:  $g^2 \phi^4$

$$\begin{aligned}
 V_D = & \frac{g_1^2}{8} (|h_u^0|^2 - |h_d^0|^2 + \frac{1}{3} |\tilde{b}_L|^2 + \frac{2}{3} |\tilde{b}_R|^2)^2 \\
 & + \frac{g_2^2}{8} (|h_u^0|^2 - |h_d^0|^2 + |\tilde{b}_L|^2)^2 + \frac{g_3^2}{6} (|\tilde{b}_L|^2 - |\tilde{b}_R|^2)^2.
 \end{aligned}$$

- will always take over for large field values
- take e.g.  $\tilde{b}_L = \tilde{b}_R = \tilde{b}$  and  $|h_d^0|^2 = |h_u^0|^2 + |\tilde{b}|^2$

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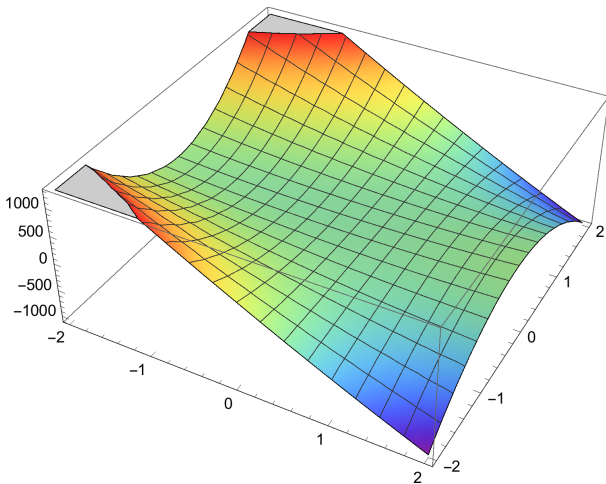
- $D$ -terms:  $g^2 \phi^4$

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 \end{aligned}$$

- will always take over for large field values
- or  $h_d^0 = 0$  and  $\tilde{b} = h_u^0$  [large  $D$ -term]

## From CCC to CCB

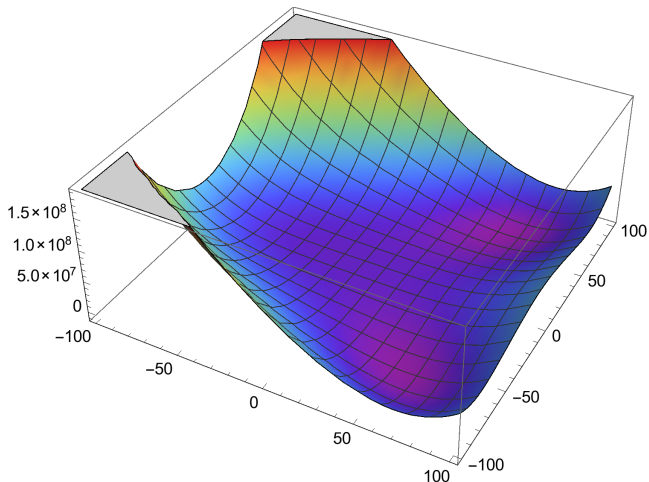
- previously “safe” false but CC conserving minima turn into deep global minima with  $\langle \tilde{b}_L \rangle = \langle \tilde{b}_R \rangle \neq 0$  and  $\langle h_u^0 \rangle \neq v_u$





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- 1 choose appropriate direction  $\hookrightarrow$  one-field problem

$$V_\phi^{\text{tree}} = \bar{m}^2 \phi^2 - A\phi^3 + \lambda\phi^4$$

$$h_u^0 = \tilde{b}, h_d^0 = 0$$

- 2 identify parameters, e.g.  $\bar{m}^2 = \tilde{m}_Q^2 + \tilde{m}_b^2 + m_{H_u}^2 + \mu^2$ ,  
 $\lambda = Y_b^2 + \frac{g_1^2 + g_2^2}{2}$ ,  $A = 2\mu Y_b$
- 3 necessary condition:  $\bar{m}^2 > \frac{A^2}{4\lambda} \hookrightarrow$  second minimum not below first (trivial) one)

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$$m_{H_u}^2 + \mu^2 + \tilde{m}_Q^2 + \tilde{m}_b^2 > \frac{(\mu Y_b)^2}{Y_b^2 + (g_1^2 + g_2^2)/2}$$

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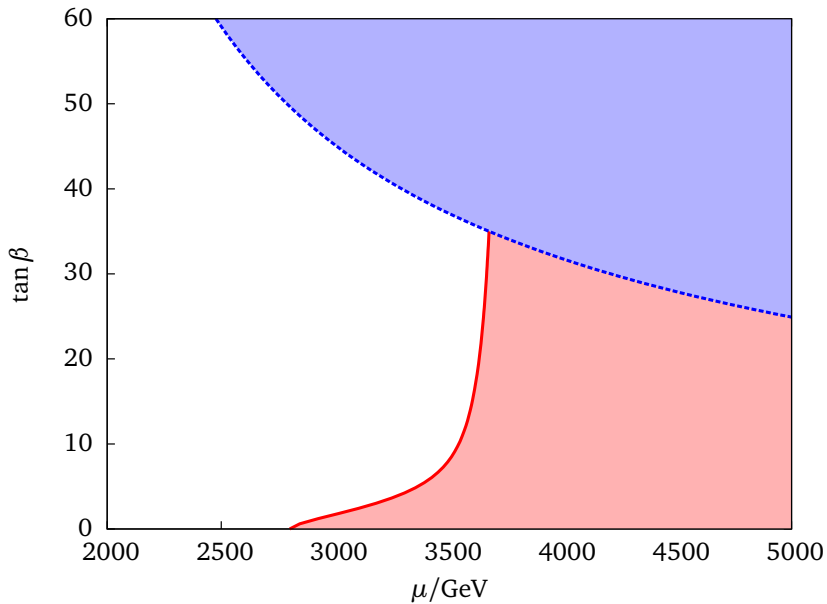
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- 3 necessary condition:  $\bar{m}^2 > \frac{A^2}{4\lambda} \leftrightarrow$  second minimum not below first (trivial) one)

$$|h_d^0|^2 = |h_u^0|^2 + |\tilde{b}|^2, \tilde{b} = \alpha h_u^0$$

$$m_{11}^2(1 + \alpha^2) + m_{22}^2 \pm 2m_{12}^2 \sqrt{1 + \alpha^2} + \alpha^2(\tilde{m}_Q^2 + \tilde{m}_b^2) > \frac{\mu^2 \alpha^4}{2 + 3\alpha^2}$$



- the Higgs potential in the SM is meta/un/stable
- MSSM: multi-scalar theory, has several unwanted minima
- formation of new CCB *conserving* minima at the 1-loop level
- stability of the electroweak vacuum: bounds on  $\mu \tan \beta$
- instability of electroweak vacuum by second minimum in “standard model direction”  $\sim v_u$ : global CCB minimum
- more severe bounds [new CCB constraints]
- CCB constraints for non-vanishing  $D$ -Terms
- quantum tunneling: either very long- or very short-lived

Finally...



Greetings from Señor Higgs  
(courtesy of Jens Hoff)

Backup

Slides



- Wolfgang Gregor Hollik: *“Charge and color breaking constraints in the Minimal Supersymmetric Standard Model associated with the bottom Yukawa coupling”* Physics Letters B **752** (2016) 7 – 12
- Wolfgang Gregor Hollik: *“Neutrinos meet Supersymmetry: Quantum Aspects of Neutrino Physics in Supersymmetric Theories”*, PhD Thesis, Karlsruhe 2015
- Markus Bobrowski, Guillaume Chalons, Wolfgang G. Hollik, Ulrich Nierste: *“Vacuum stability of the effective Higgs potential in the Minimal Supersymmetric Standard Model”* Physical Review D **90**, 035025 (2014)