

Stability of the Higgs Potential in the Standard Model and Beyond

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in collaboration with
Gudrun Hiller, Tim Höhne, Daniel Litim, Moritz Bosse
[arXiv 2207.07737] [arXiv 2401.08811]

Matter To The Deepest 2025

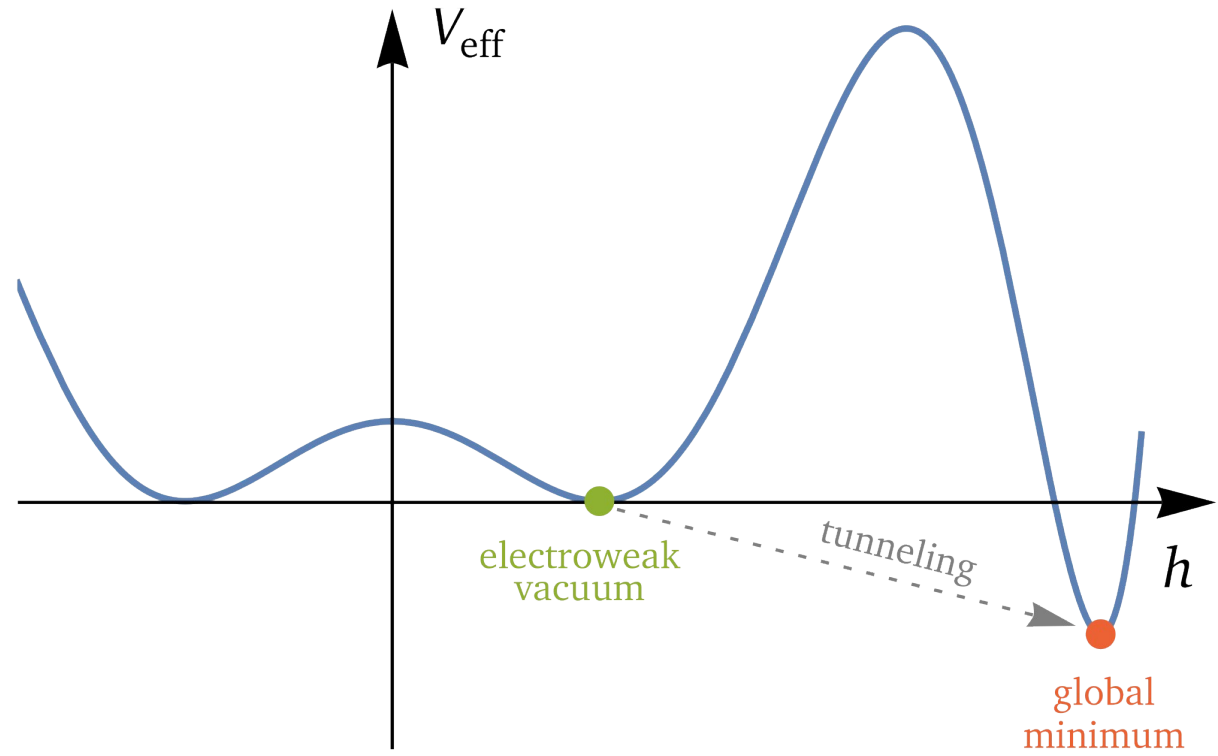
Katowice, September 16th 2025

Motivation

» Higgs discovery in 2012 [ATLAS,CMS 2012] $\rightarrow$ Metastability [Buttazzo et al, 2013]

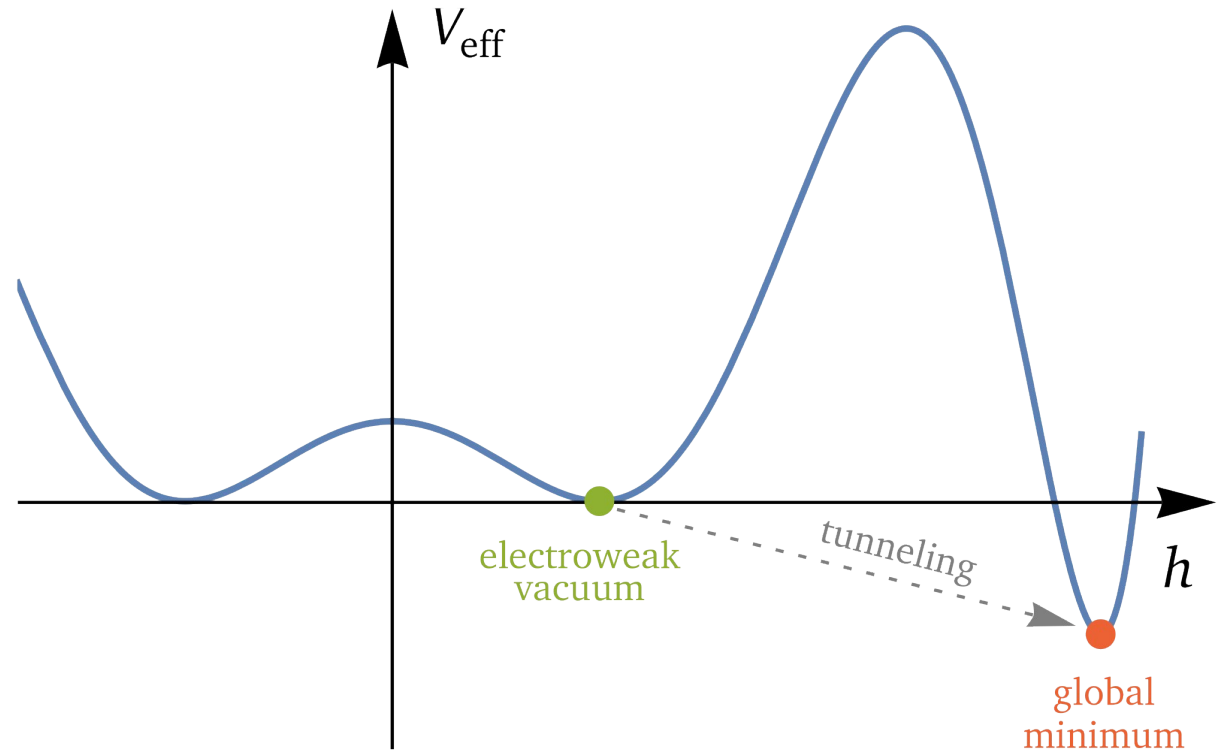
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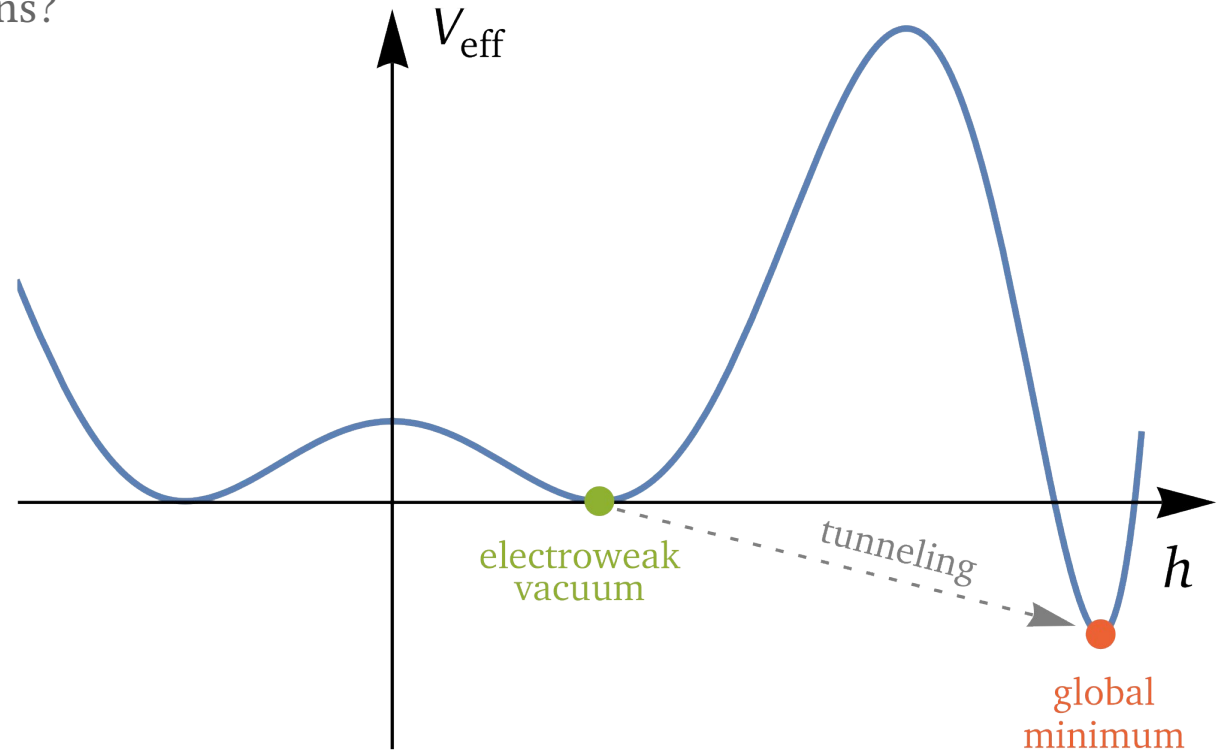
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- » Not necessarily a problem – But why so close to stability?



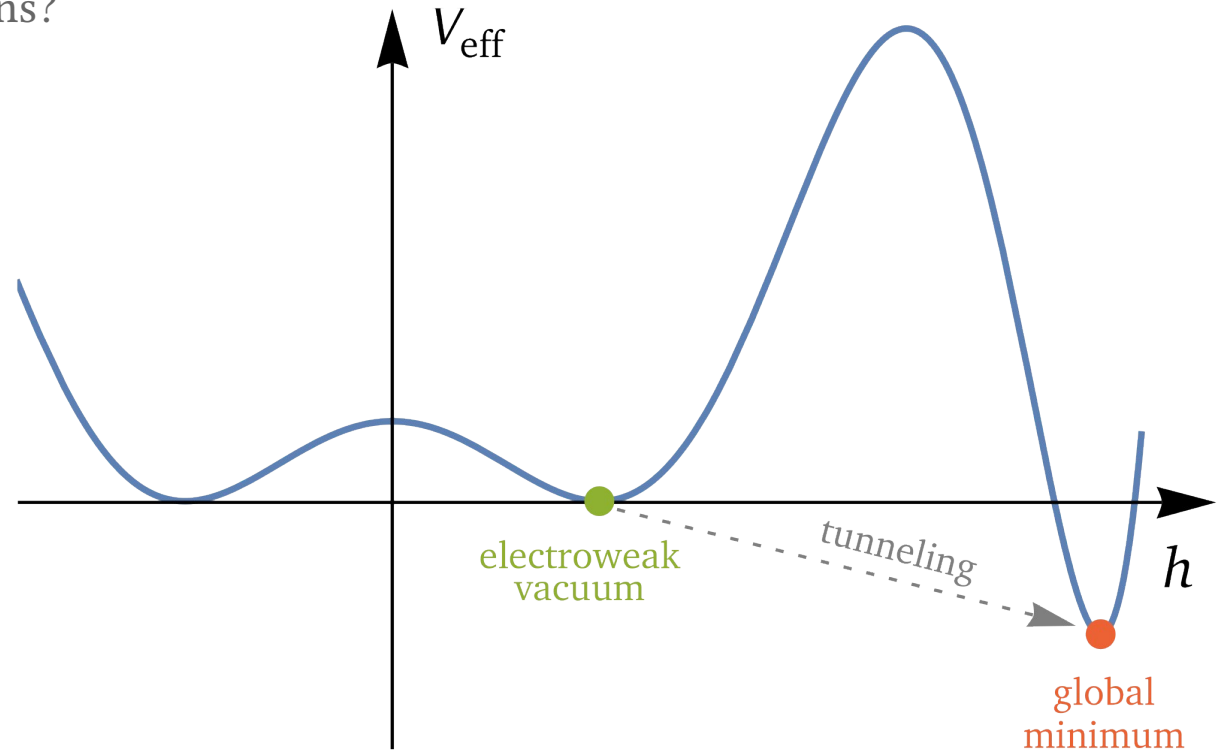
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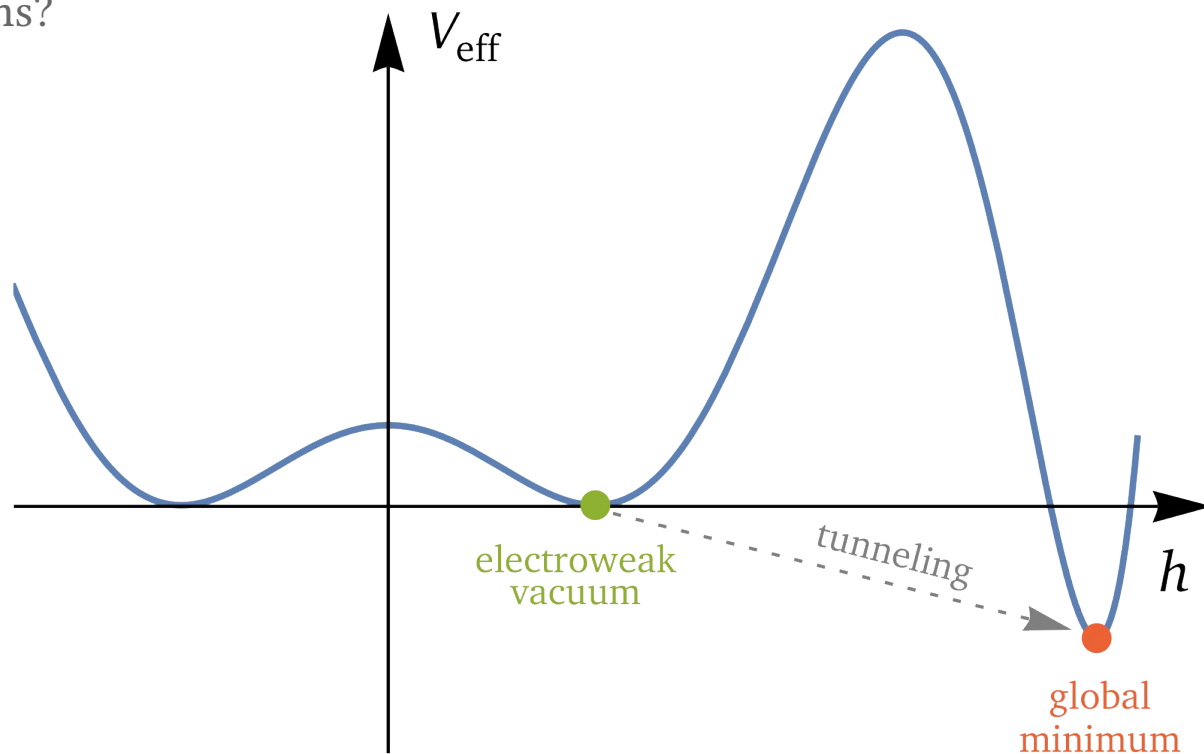


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Outline

- » Stability in the SM – An update
- » BSM solutions



How to compute vacuum stability

1. Observables

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- Higgs mass M_h
- Top mass M_t
- Strong coupling $\alpha_s^{(5)}(M_Z)$
- Z mass M_Z
- Fermi constant G_F
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- Lepton masses $M_{e,\mu,\tau}$
- Light quark $\overline{\text{MS}}$ masses $m_b(m_b), m_c(m_c), m_{u,d,s}(2\text{GeV})$

PDG 2024

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PDG 2024

2. Matching Observables to $\overline{\text{MS}}$

at least 2L + 3L QCD [Martin, Patel, 2018]

→ running couplings at a reference scale $\alpha_x(\mu_{\text{ref}})$
 $\mu_{\text{ref}} = 200 \text{ GeV}$

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3L (4L QCD) with RG improvement

[Ford, Jack, Jones, 1992] [Martin, 2013-17]

→ minima

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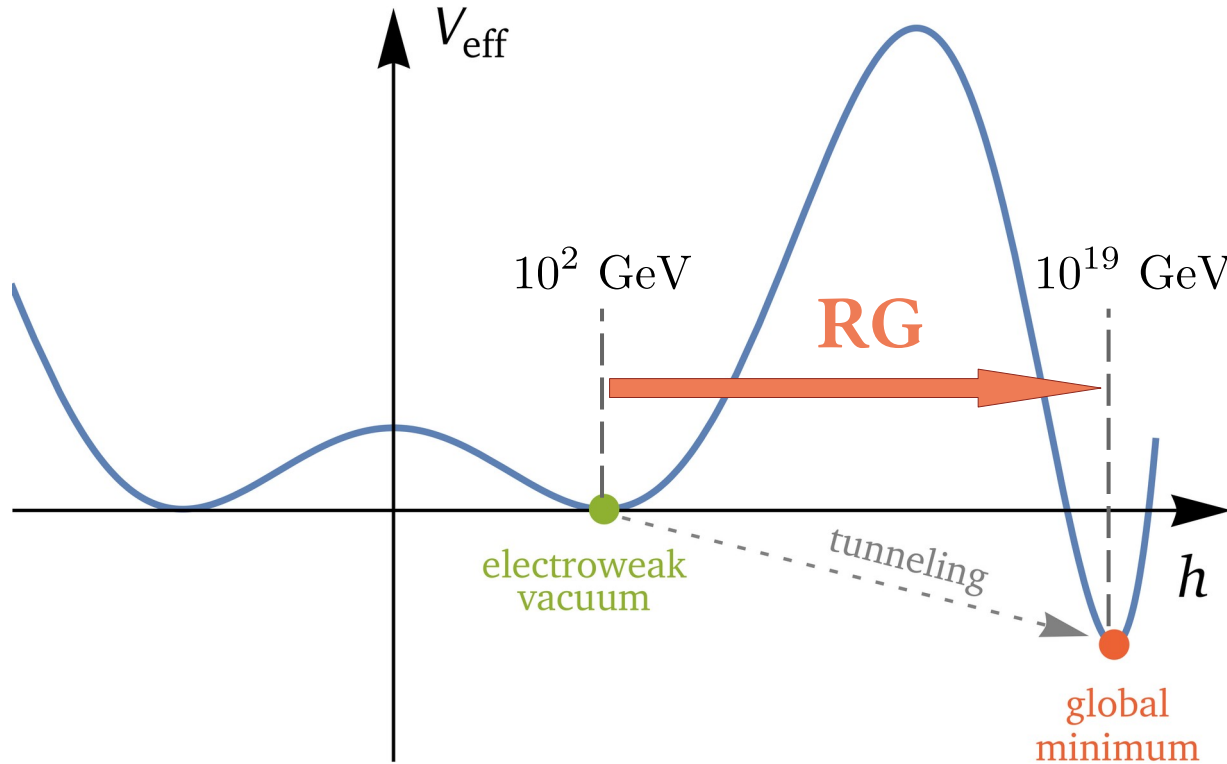
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→ minima

~~4. Compute Decay Rate for Metastability~~

only interested in absolute stability

How to compute vacuum stability



$$\log \frac{h}{\mu_{\text{ref}}} \approx \log 10^{17}$$

→ use RG for resummation

Effective Potential

- potential of classical field h & quantum effects, RG invariant, physical extrema

$$V_{\text{eff}}(h, \mu) = \frac{1}{4}\lambda(\mu)h^4 + \mathcal{O}(\alpha^2)$$

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4L gauge (+ 5L QCD)

[Davies, Herren, Poole, Steinhauser, Thomsen, 2019]

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→ completely resum all logs $\ln h/\mu_{\text{ref}}$

What Observables impact vacuum stability?

1. Observables

- Higgs mass
- Strong coupling
- Top mass

- Z mass M_Z
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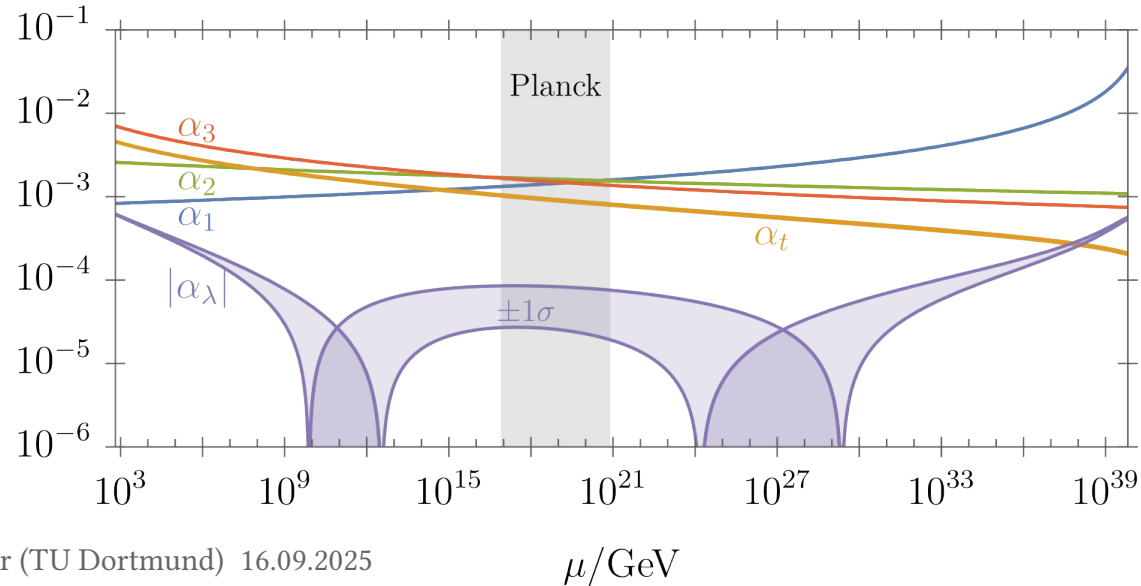
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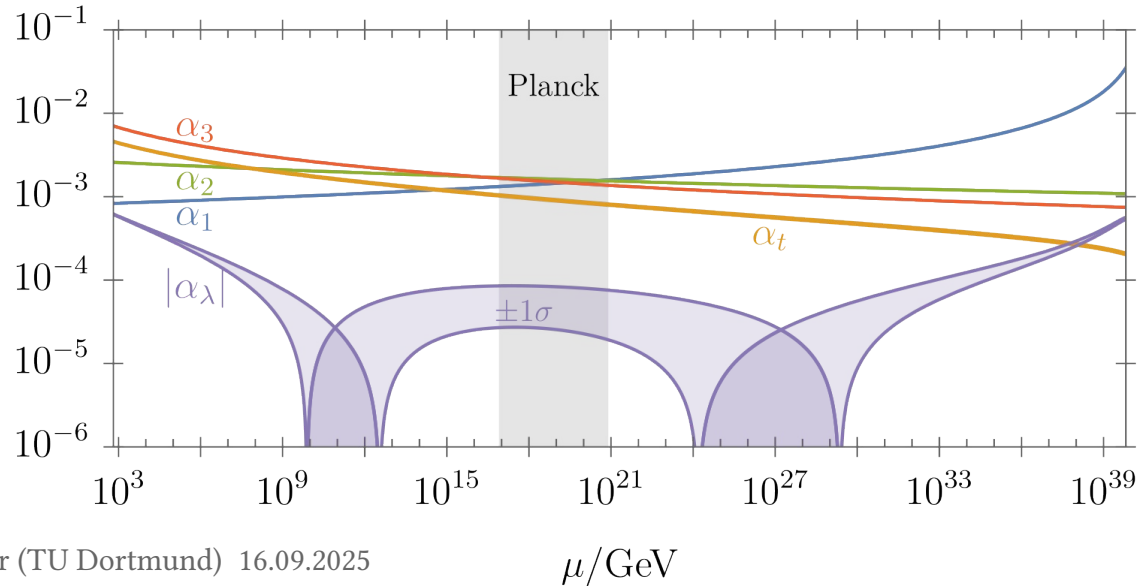


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Impact small



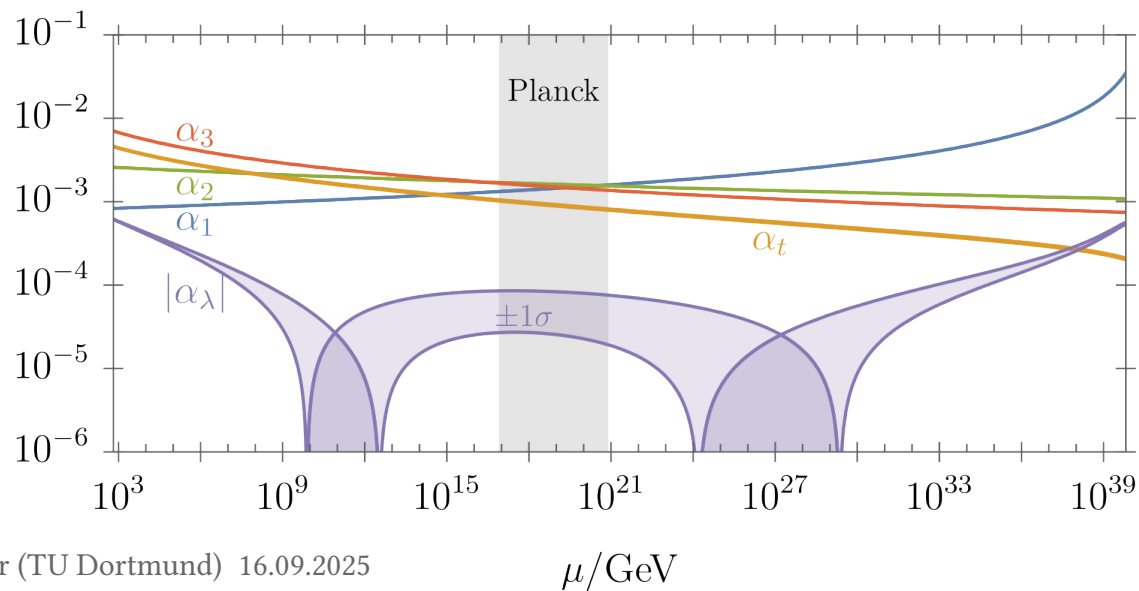
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What Observables impact vacuum stability?

1. Observables PDG 2024

- Higgs mass $M_h = 125.20(11)$ GeV
- Strong coupling
- Top mass

Uncertainty small $+24 \sigma$

~~– Z mass M_Z~~

~~– Fermi constant G_F~~

Uncertainty small

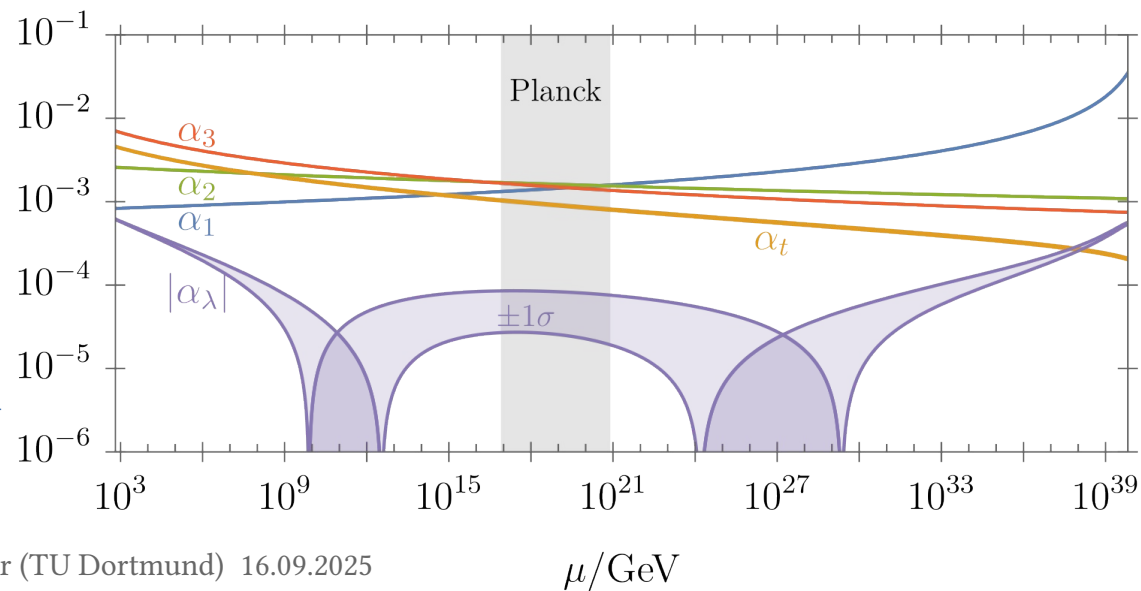
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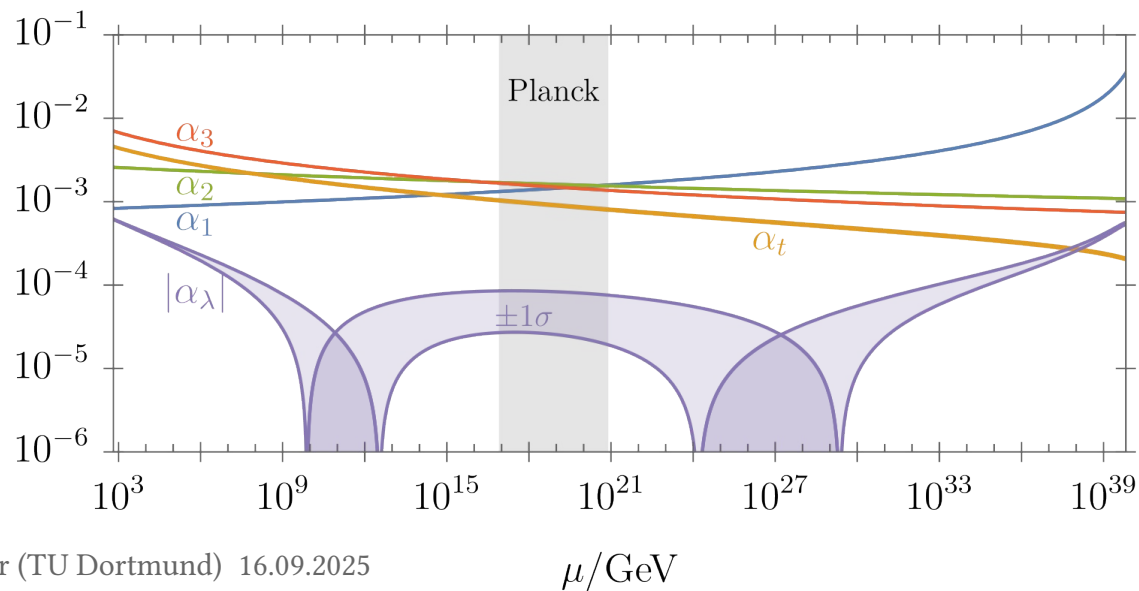
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- Higgs mass $M_h = 125.20(11)$ GeV
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 $M_t^{\text{MC}} = 172.57(29)$ GeV

Uncertainty small $+24 \sigma$

$+3.7 \sigma$

-1.9σ

which one?

-5.1σ

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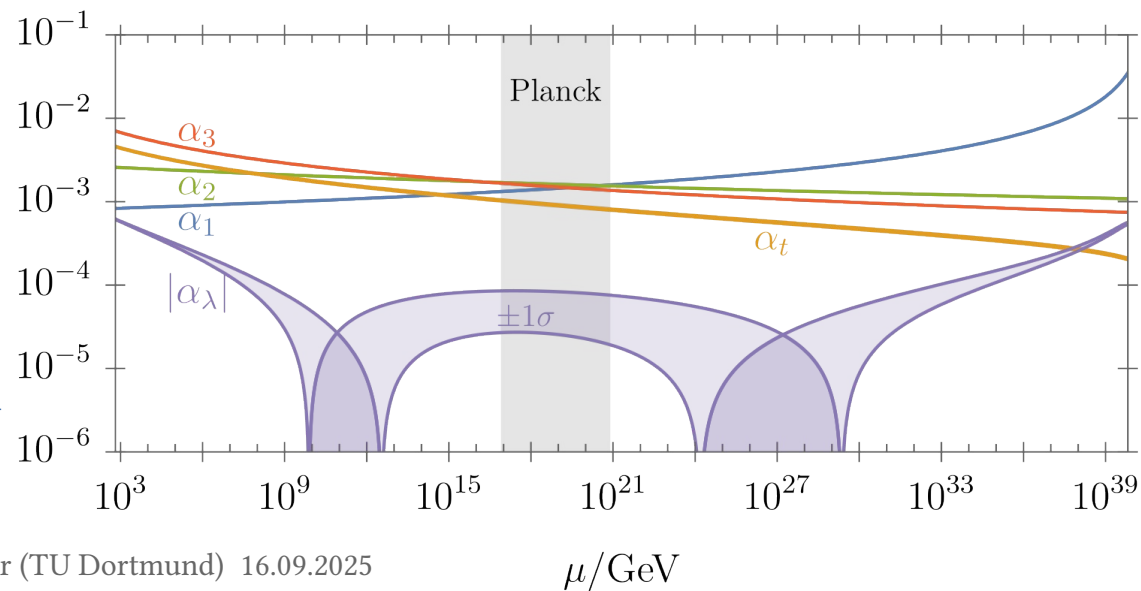
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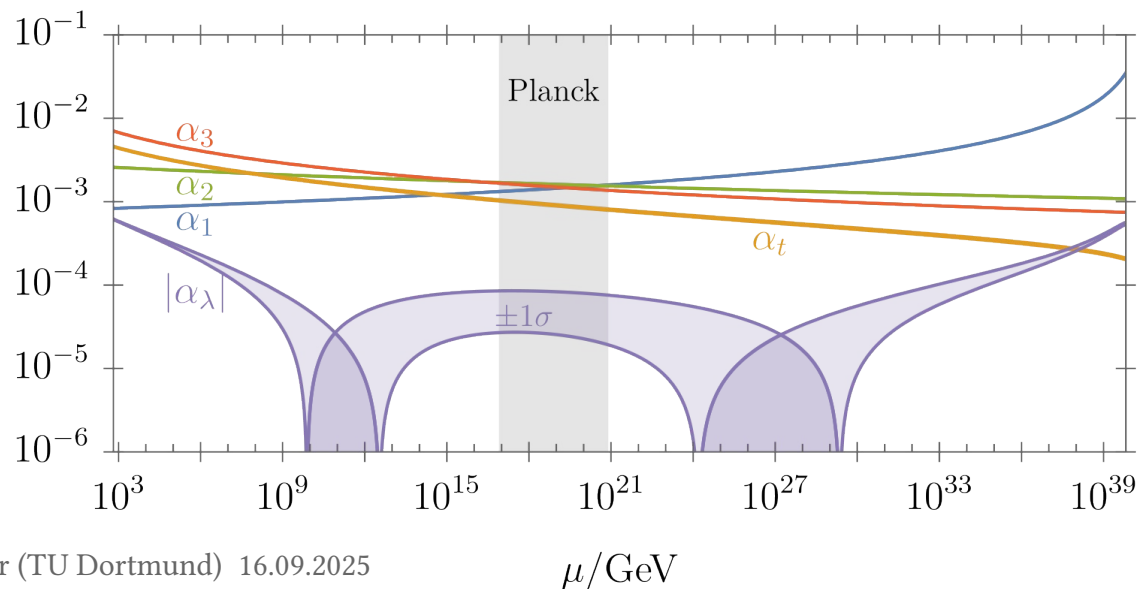
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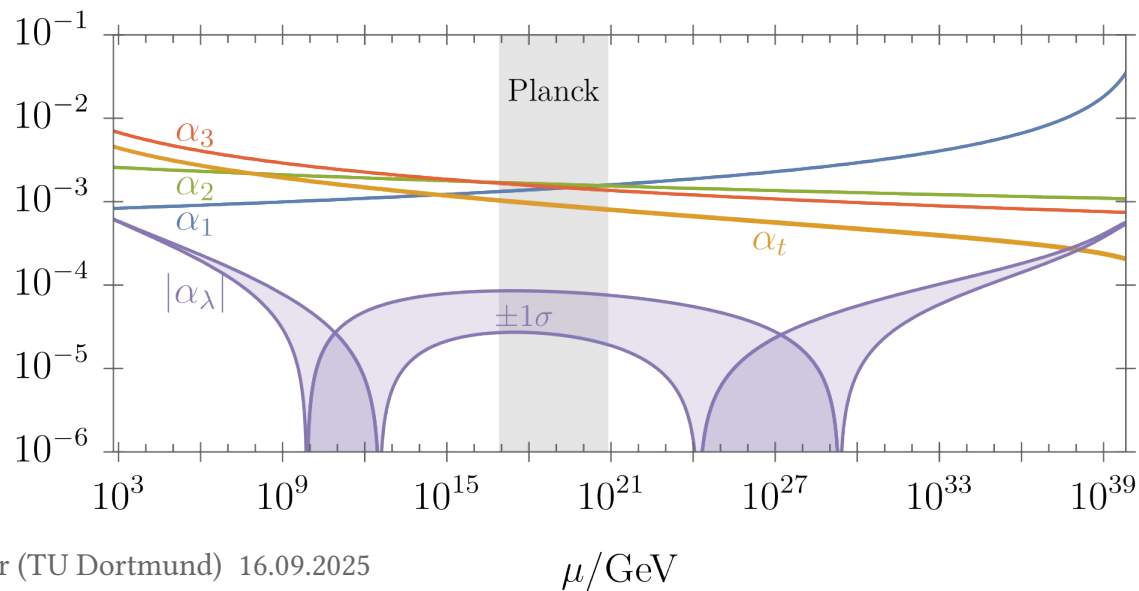
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 interpretation? MC modeling

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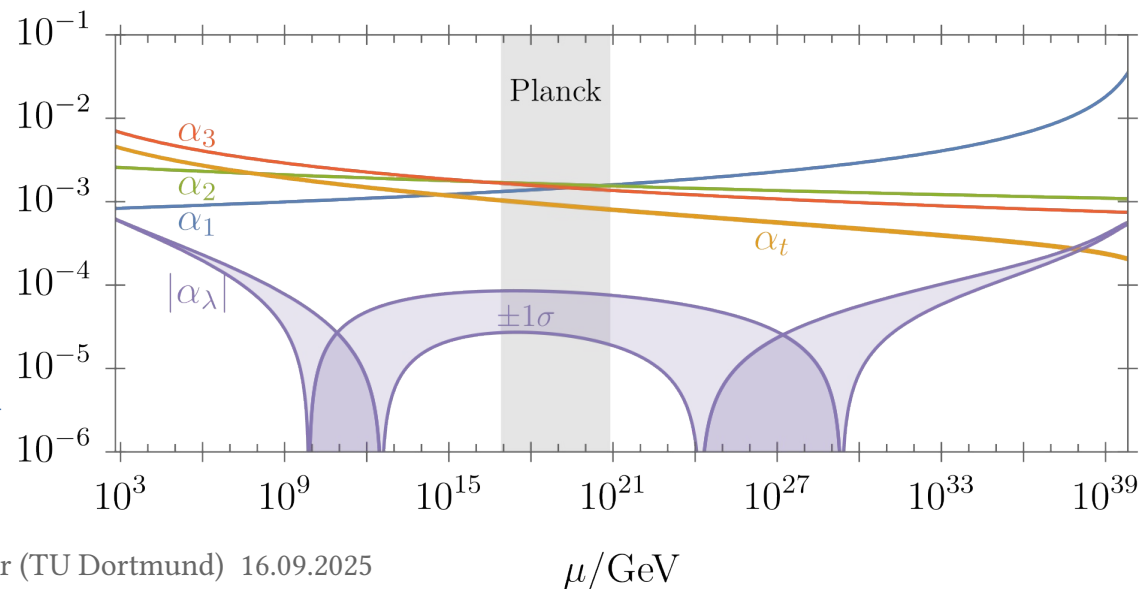
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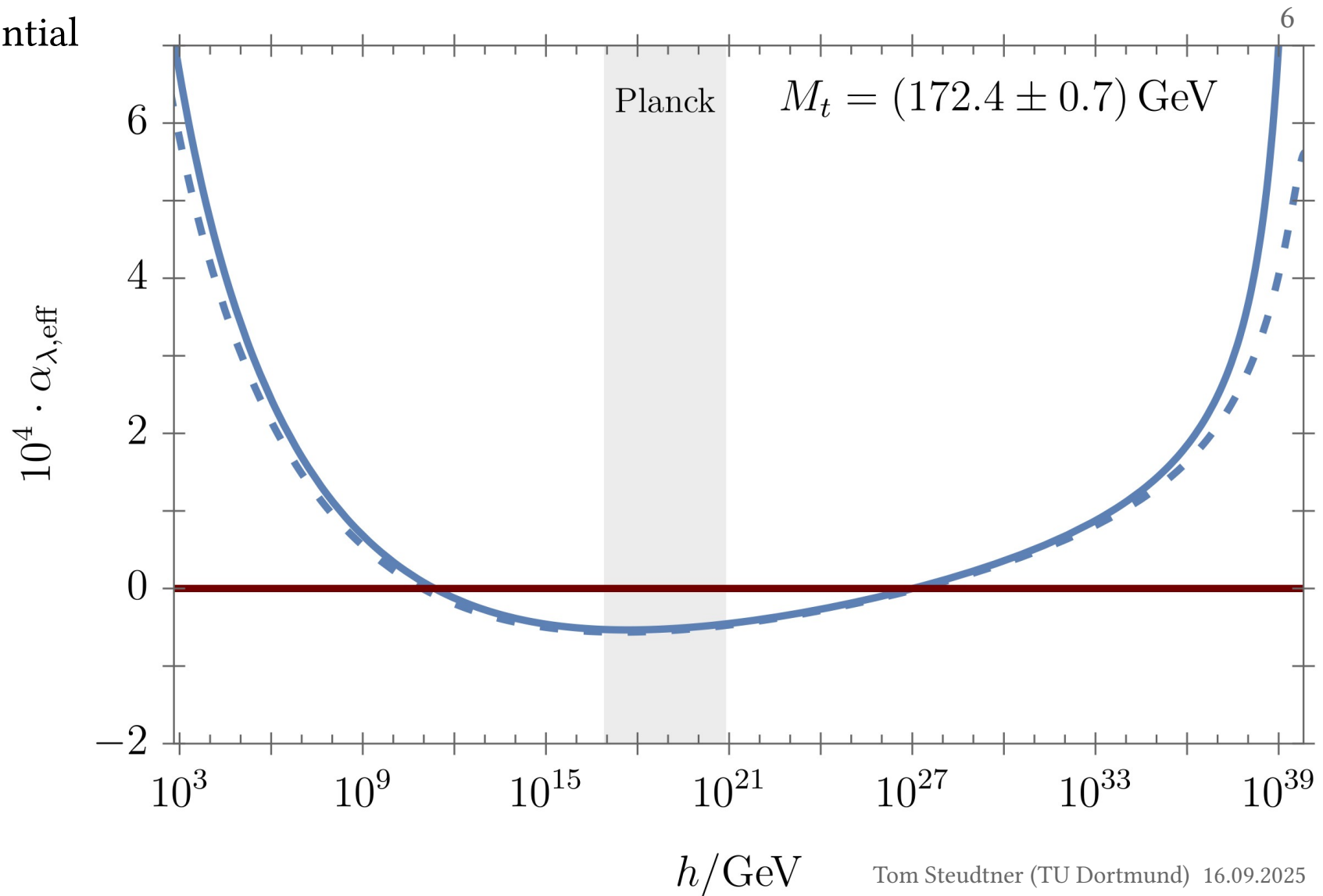
pole mass: non-perturbative effects
 $\pm \Lambda_{\text{QCD}}$

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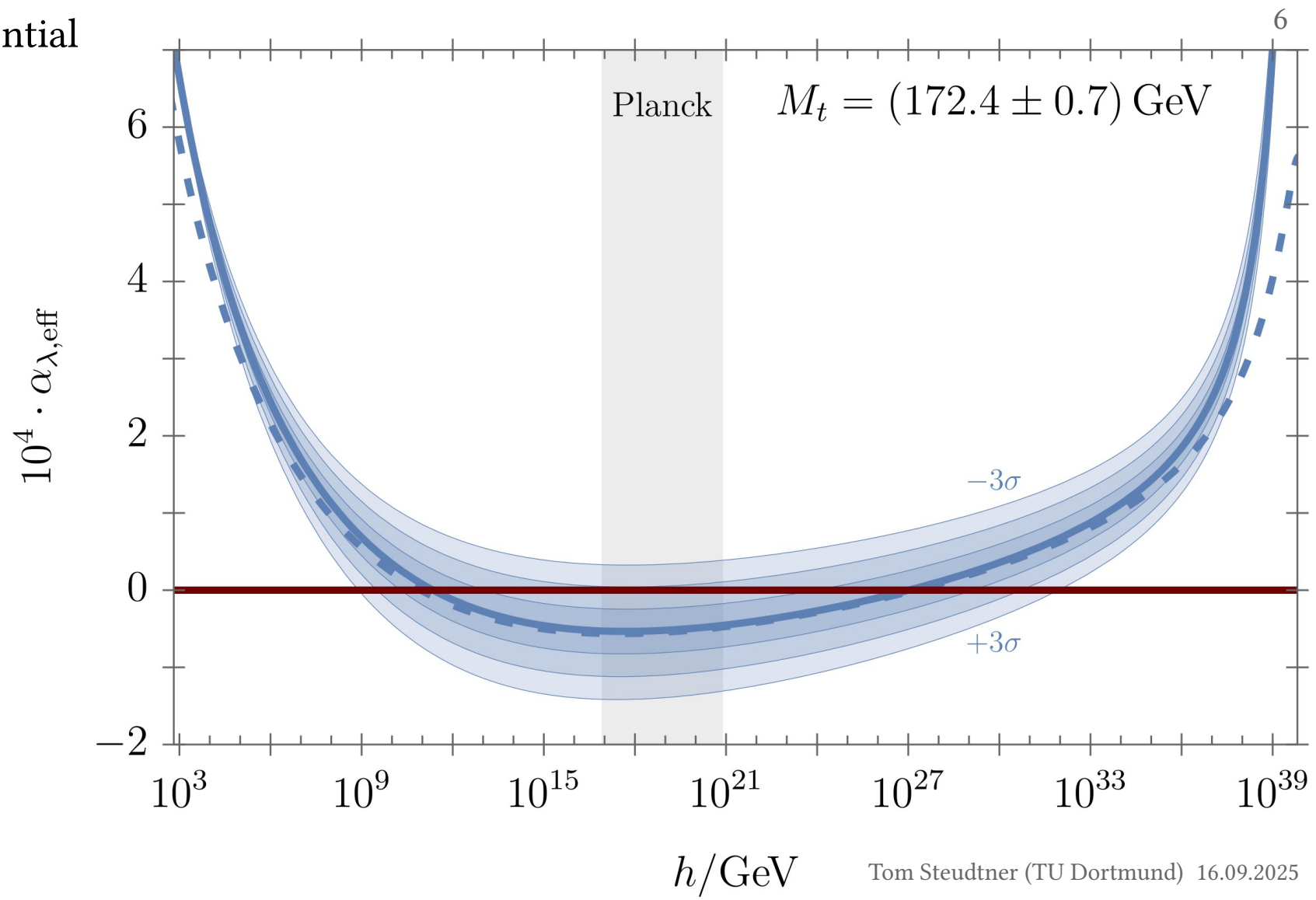
- Lepton masses $M_{e,\mu,\tau}$
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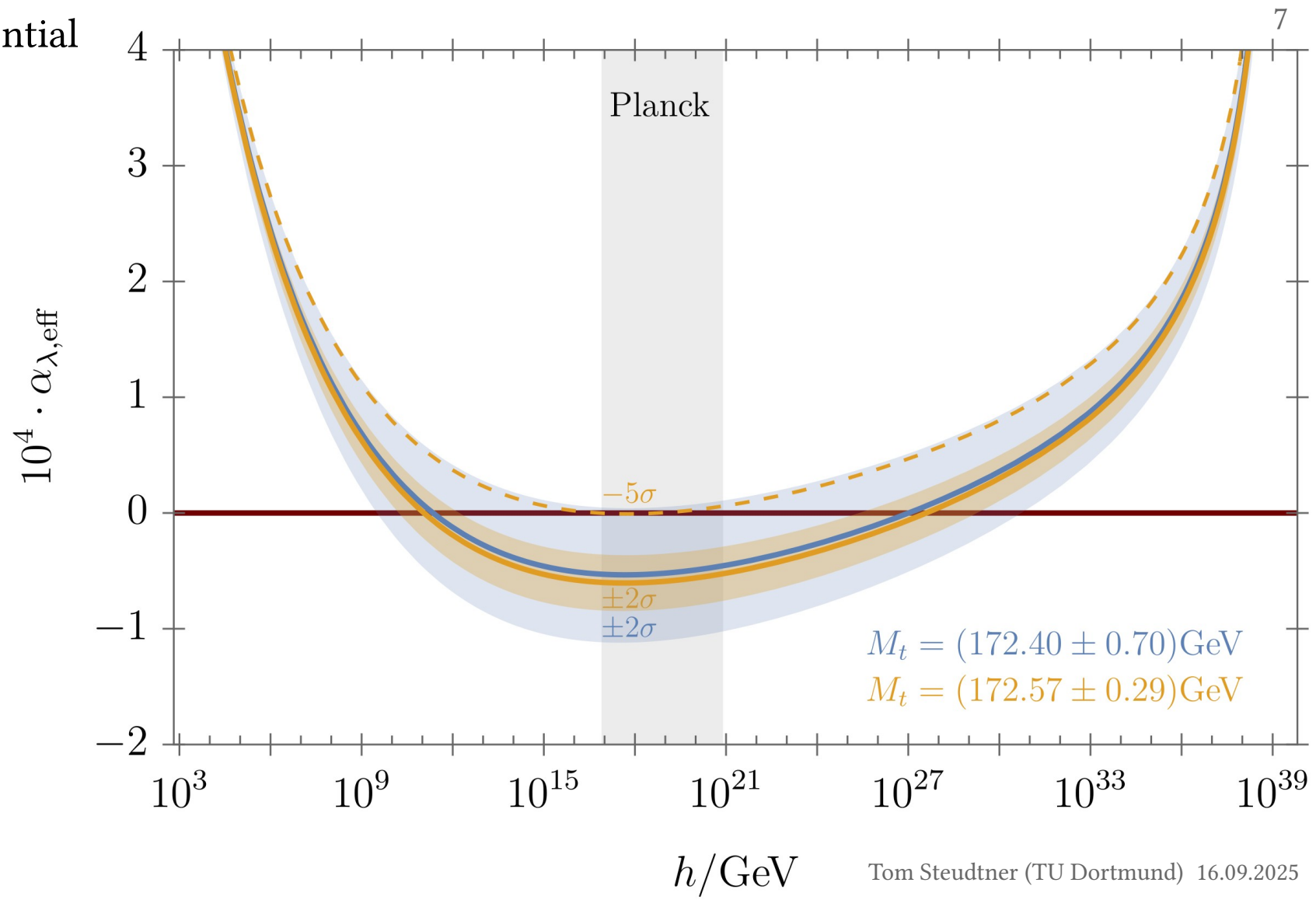
Effective Potential



Effective Potential



Effective Potential



α_s vs. M_t

$\alpha_s^{(5)}(M_Z)$

absolute Stability

σ

168

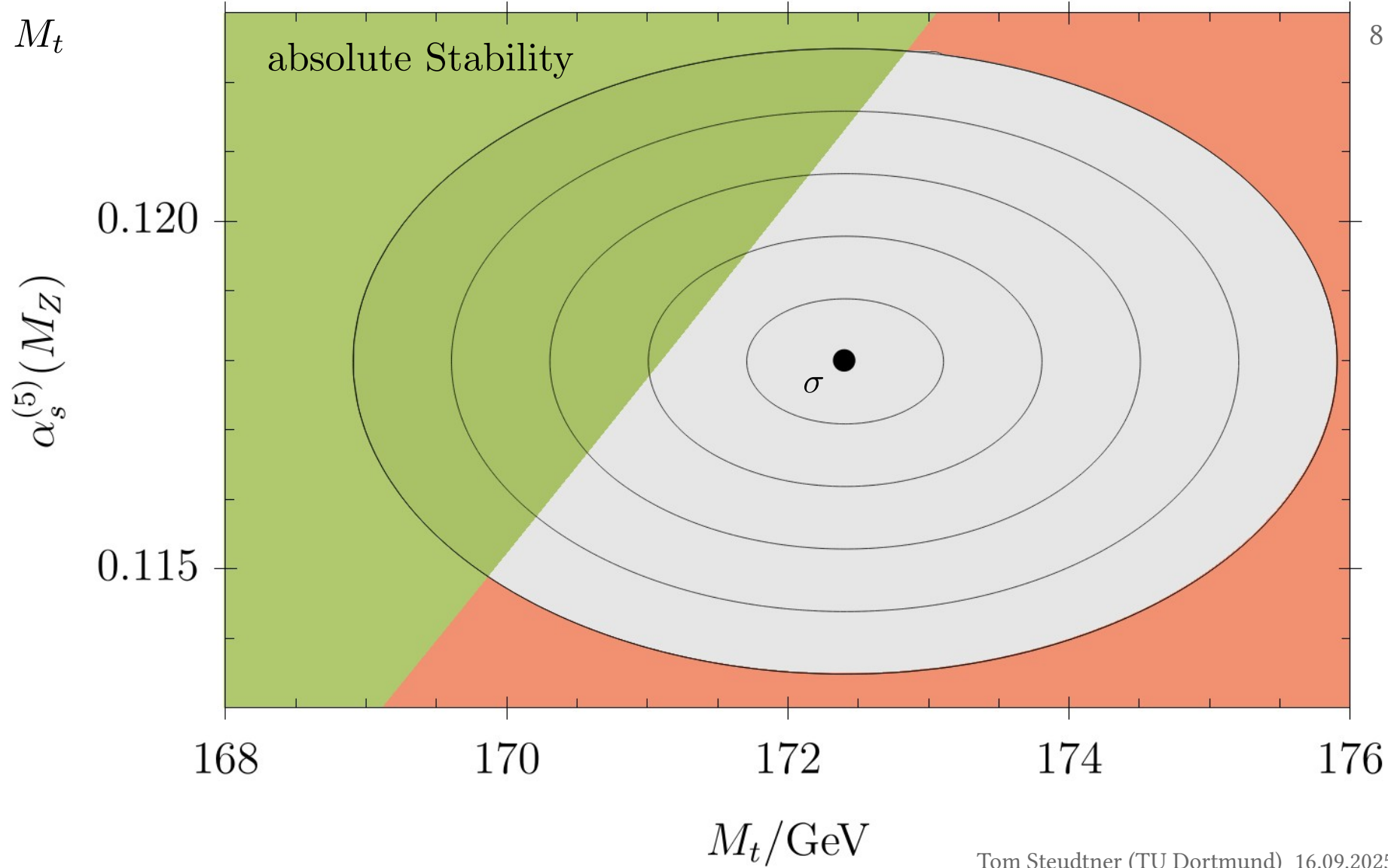
170

172

174

176

M_t/GeV



α_s vs. M_t

$\alpha_s^{(5)}(M_Z)$

absolute Stability

0.120

0.115

168

170

172

174

176

M_t/GeV

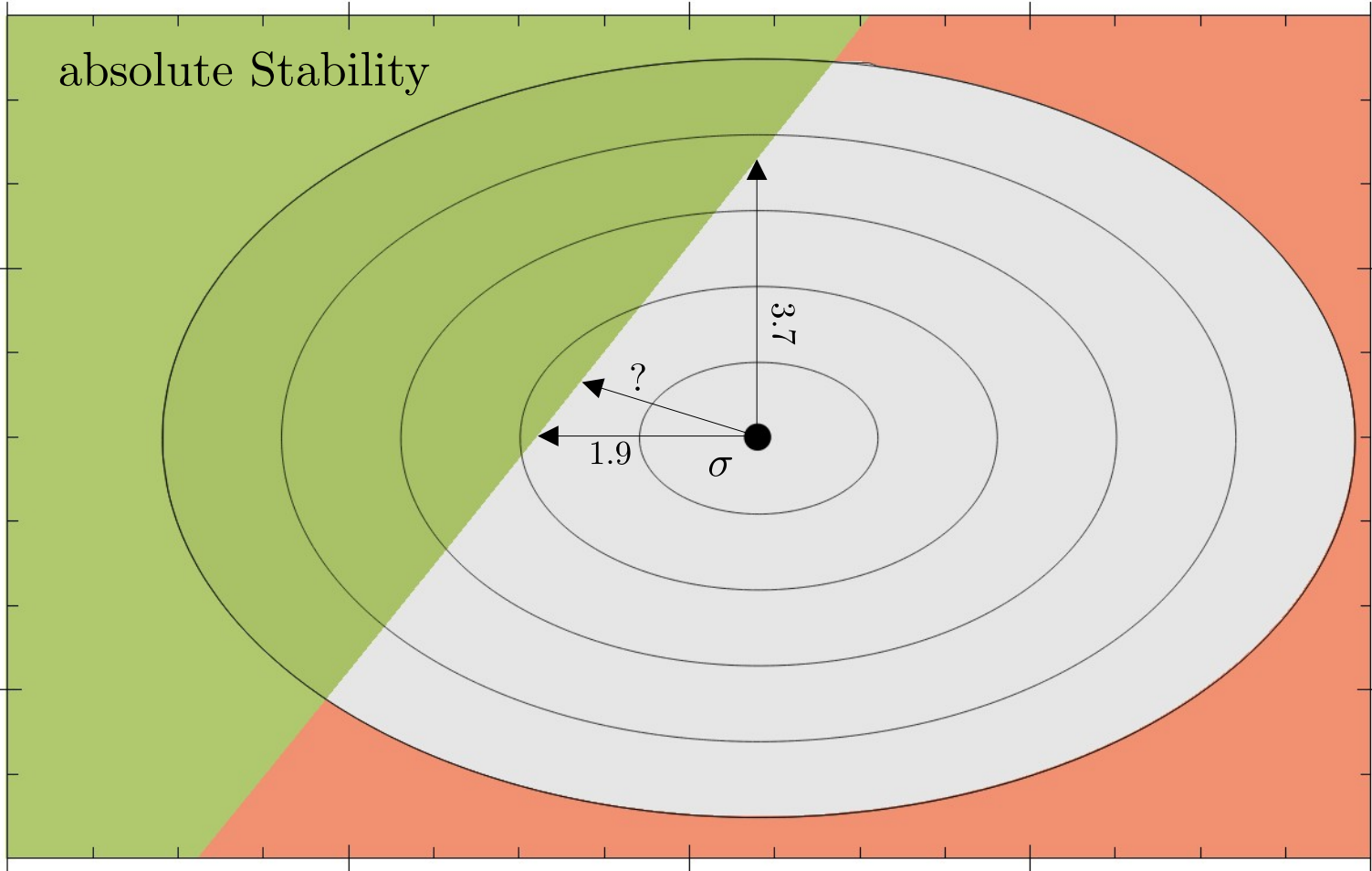
3.7

?

1.9

σ

8



α_s vs. M_t

$\alpha_s^{(5)}(M_Z)$

absolute Stability

0.120

0.115

168

170

172

174

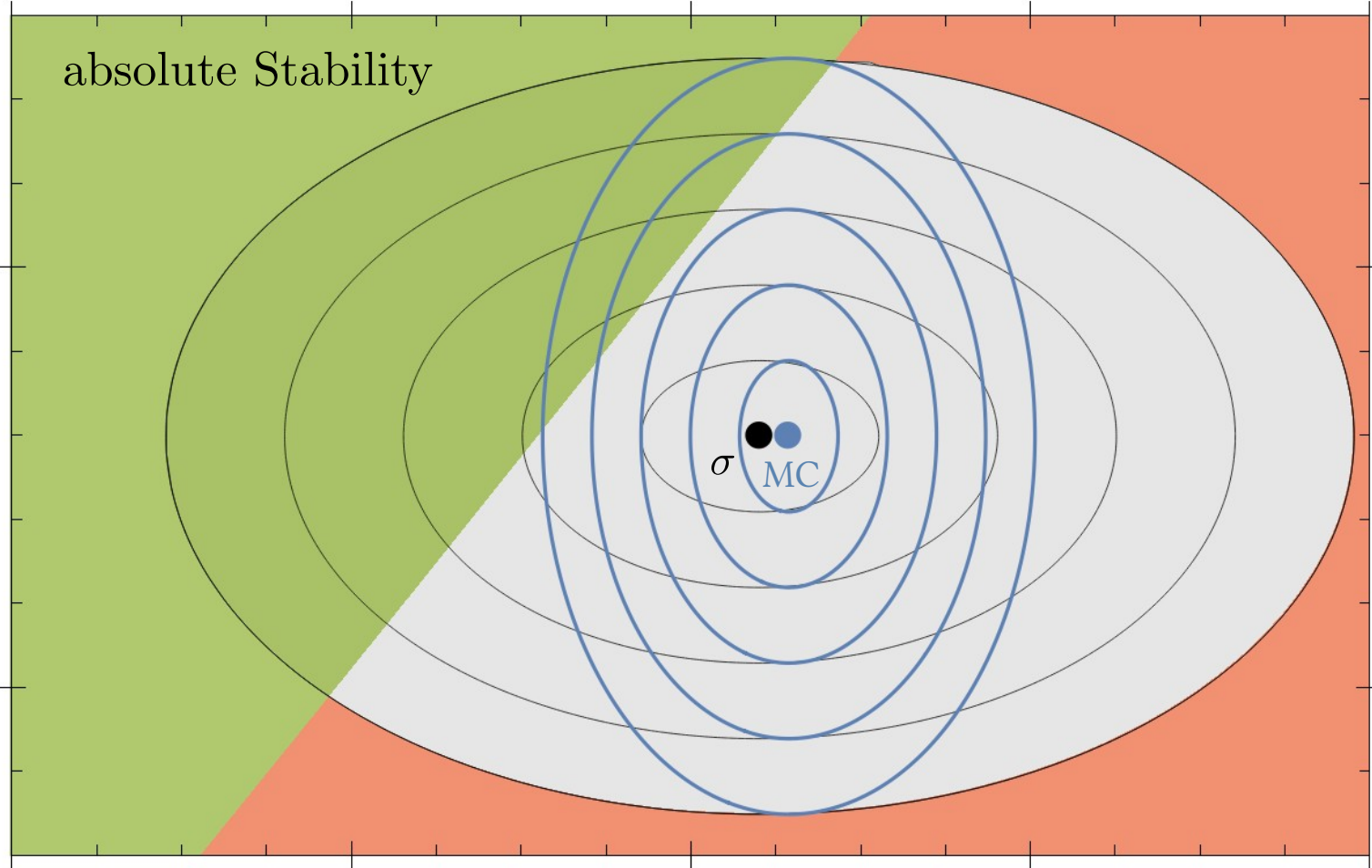
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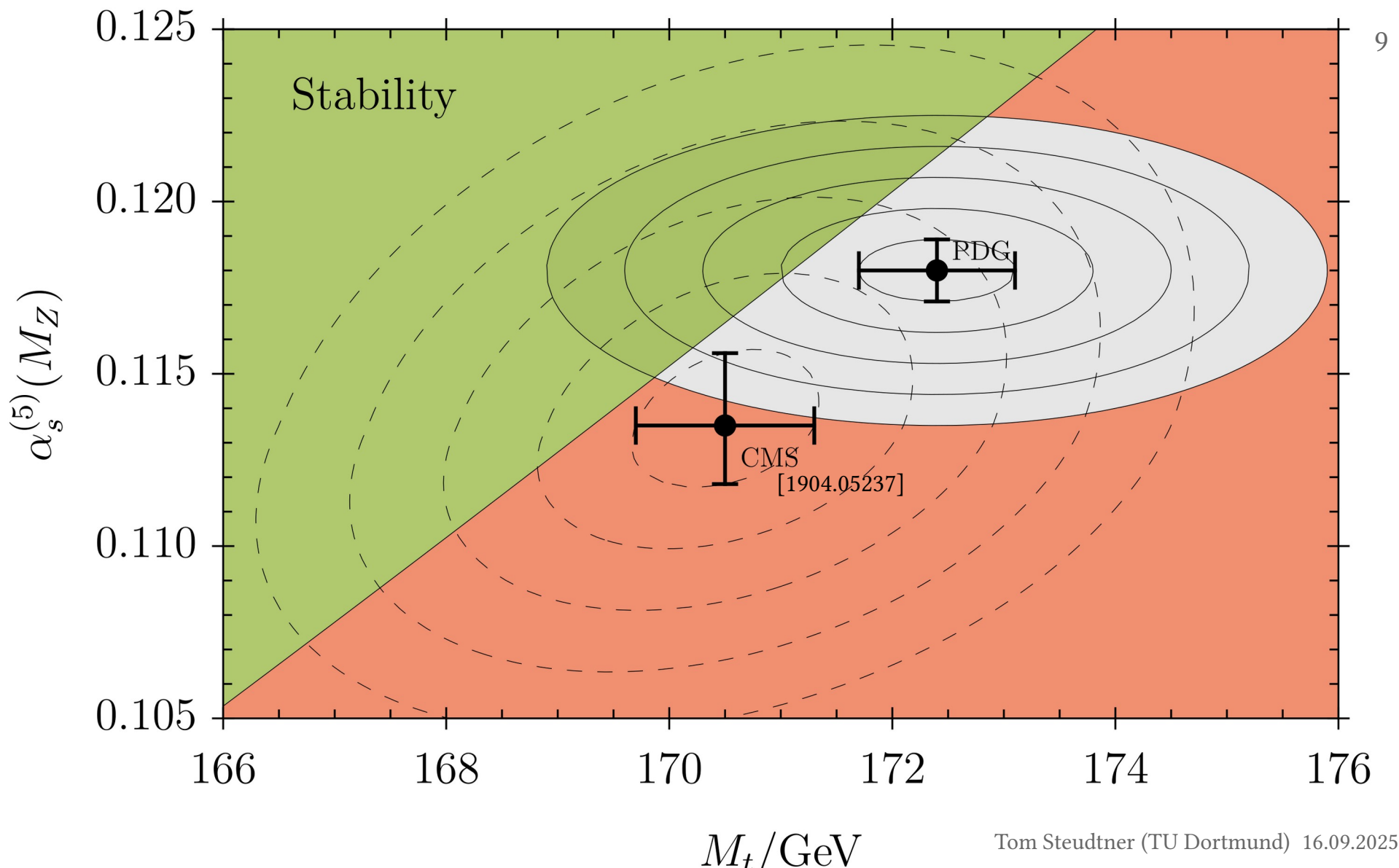
M_t/GeV

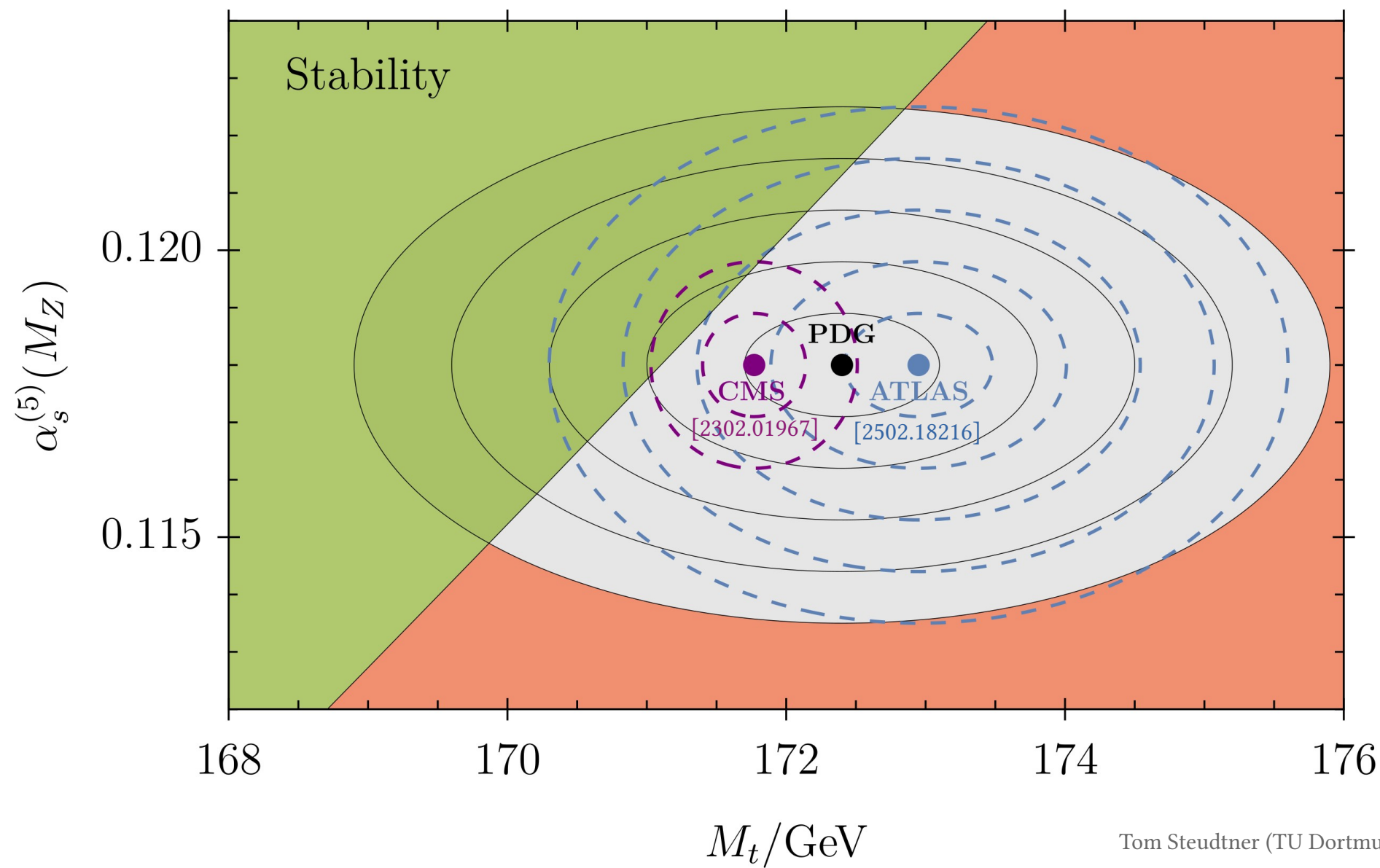
σ

MC

8







Stability is still within reach / not excluded!

How to stabilise the Higgs potential?

- » Scalar Portal [Hiller, Hühne, Litim, TS 2024]
- » Gauge Portal [Hiller, Hühne, Litim, TS 2022]
- » Yukawa Portal [Hiller, Hühne, Litim, TS 2022]

» Scalar Portal: Additional scalar fields (uncharged)

[Hiller, Höhne, Litim, TS 2024]

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$$V_{H,S} = \lambda (H^\dagger H)^2 + \delta (H^\dagger H)(S^T S) + v (S^T S)^2$$

Portal coupling

$$\beta_\lambda = \beta_\lambda^{\text{SM}} + \mathcal{N} \delta^2$$

Scalar Portal

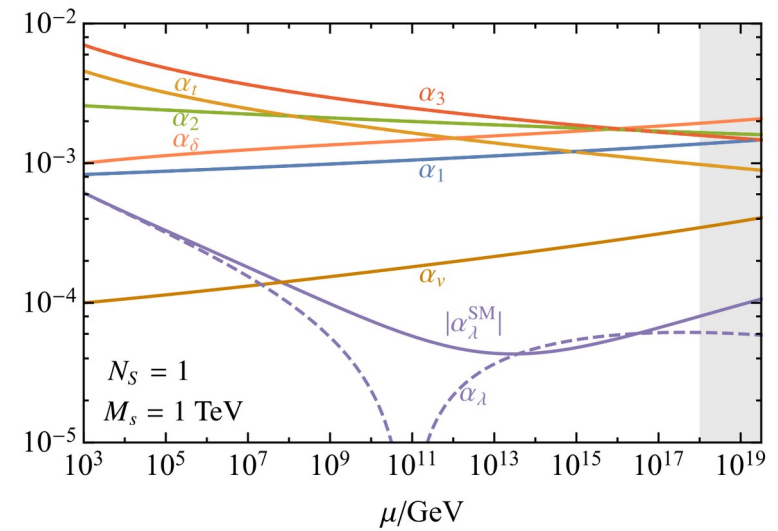
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[Hiller, Höhne, Litim, TS 2024]

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Scalar Portal

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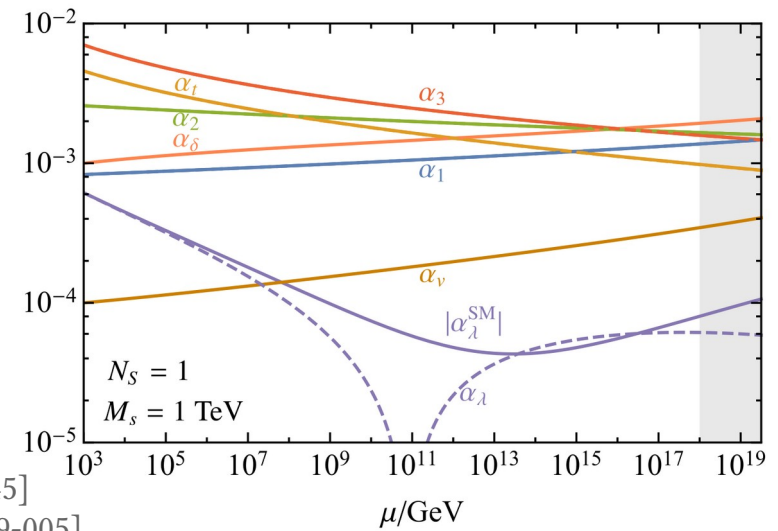
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» BSM vev: mixing with SM Higgs

→ signal strength measurement $|\sin \beta| \leq 0.2$ [ATLAS 1909.02845]
[CMS PAS HIG-19-005]



Scalar Portal

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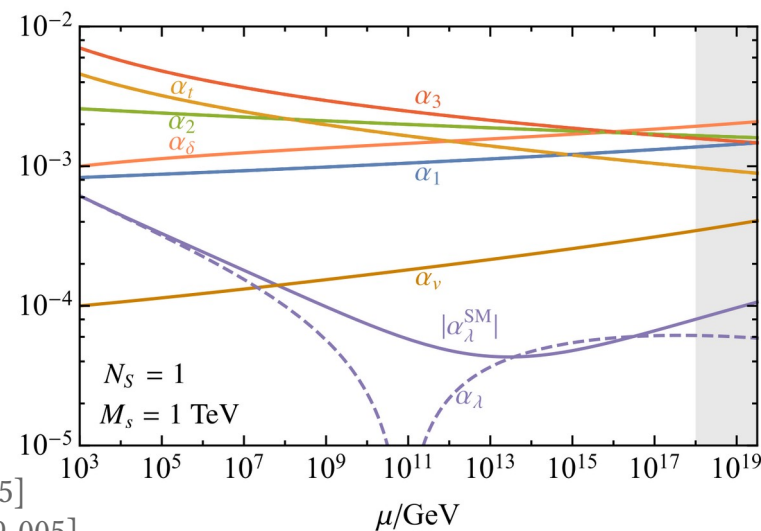
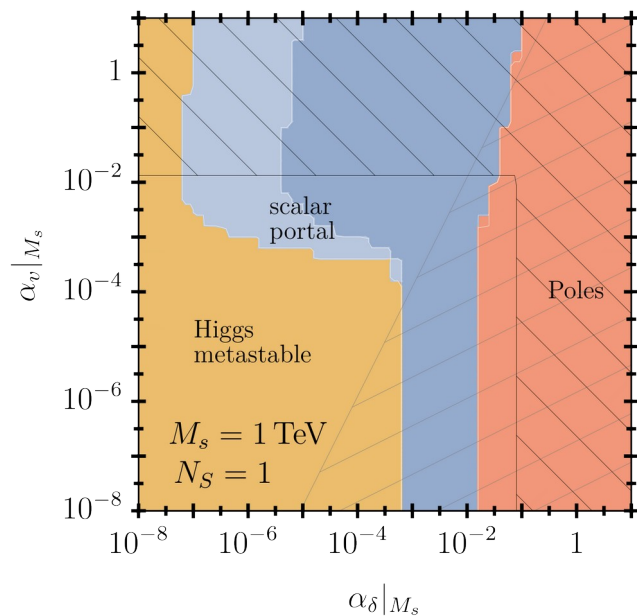
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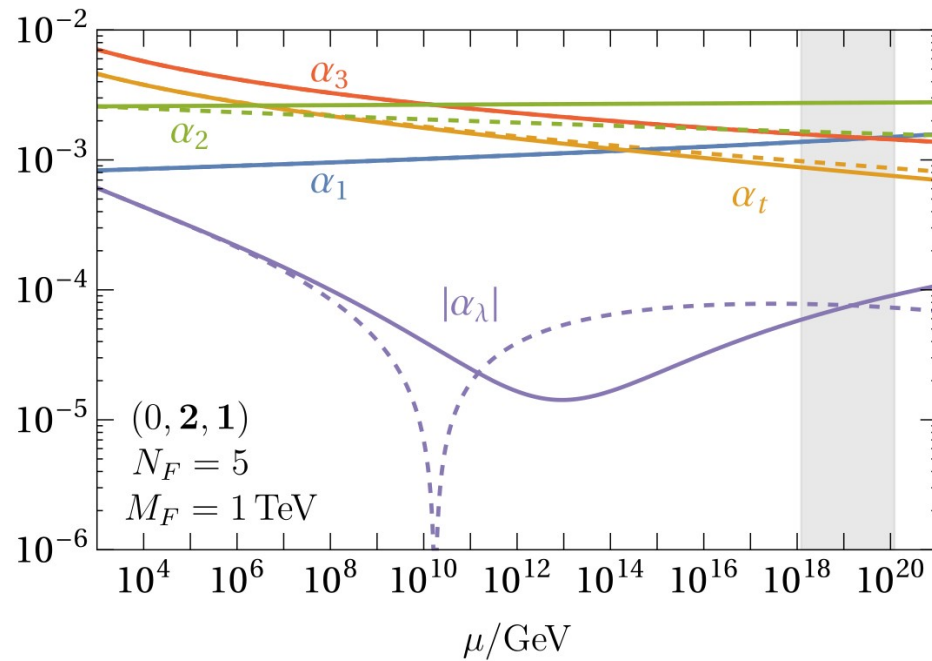
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» Stabilisation through RG effects, no new scalars required

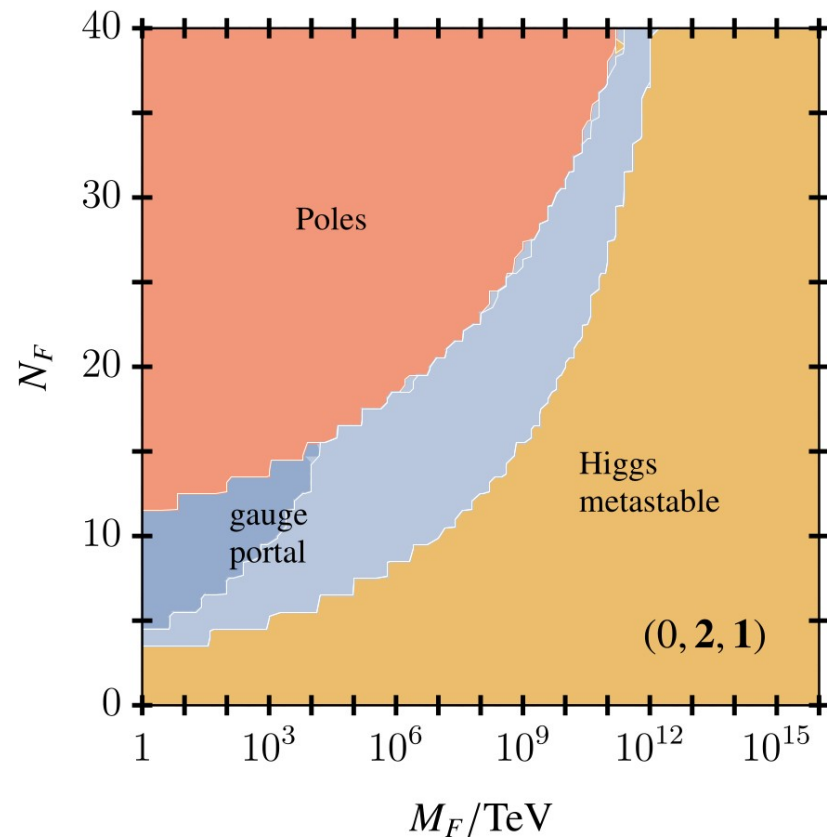
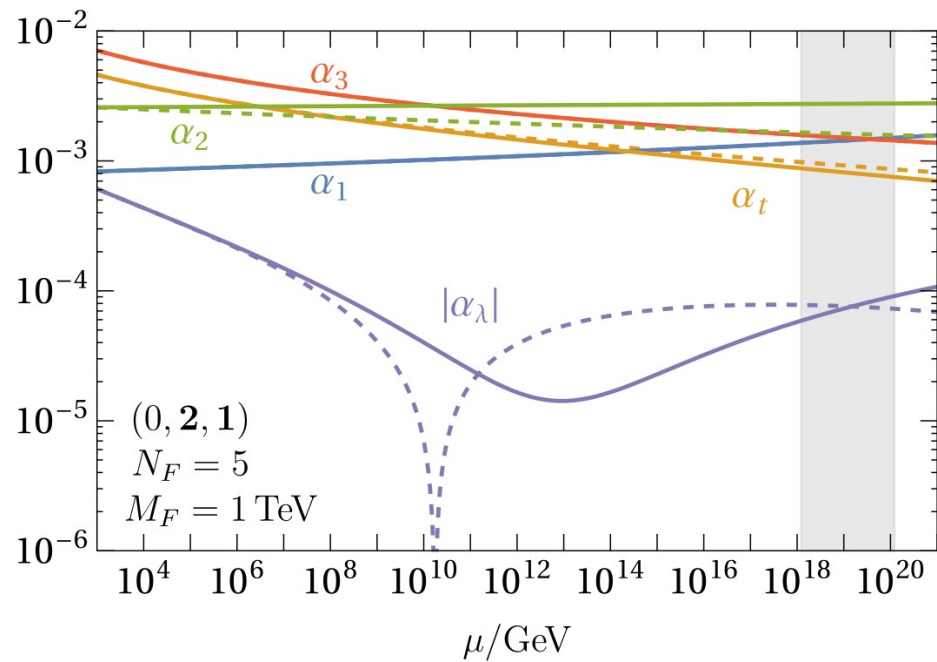
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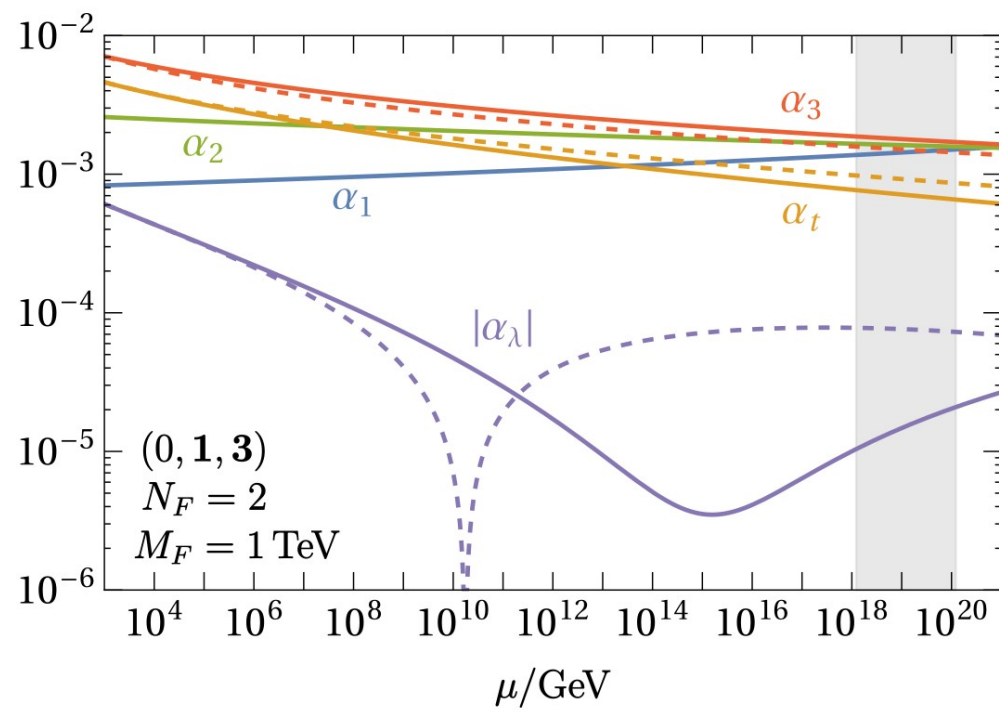
Gauge Portal

13

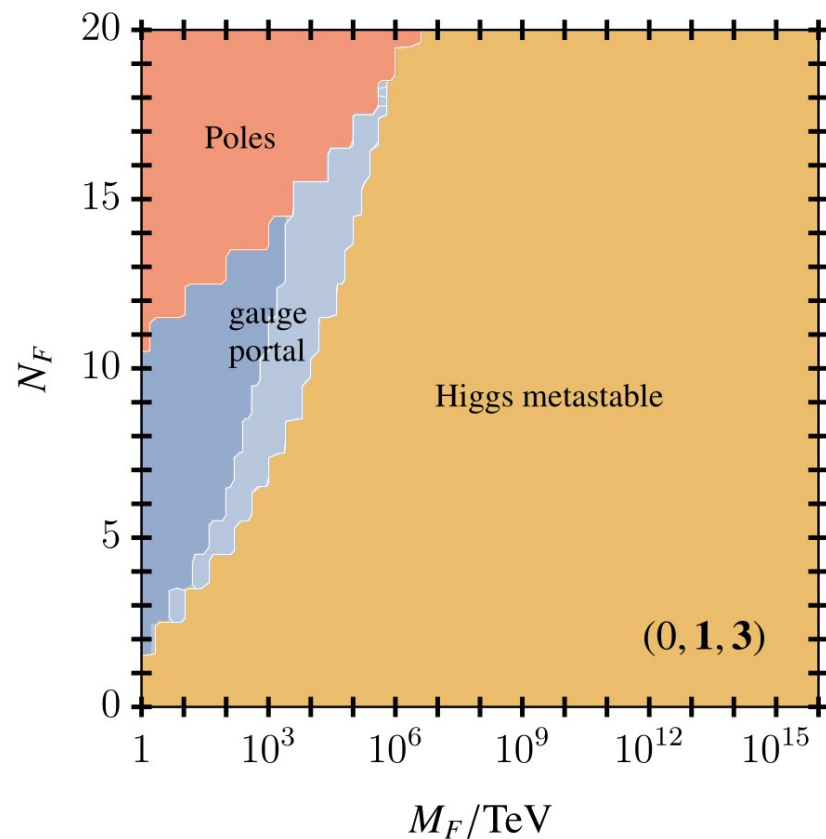
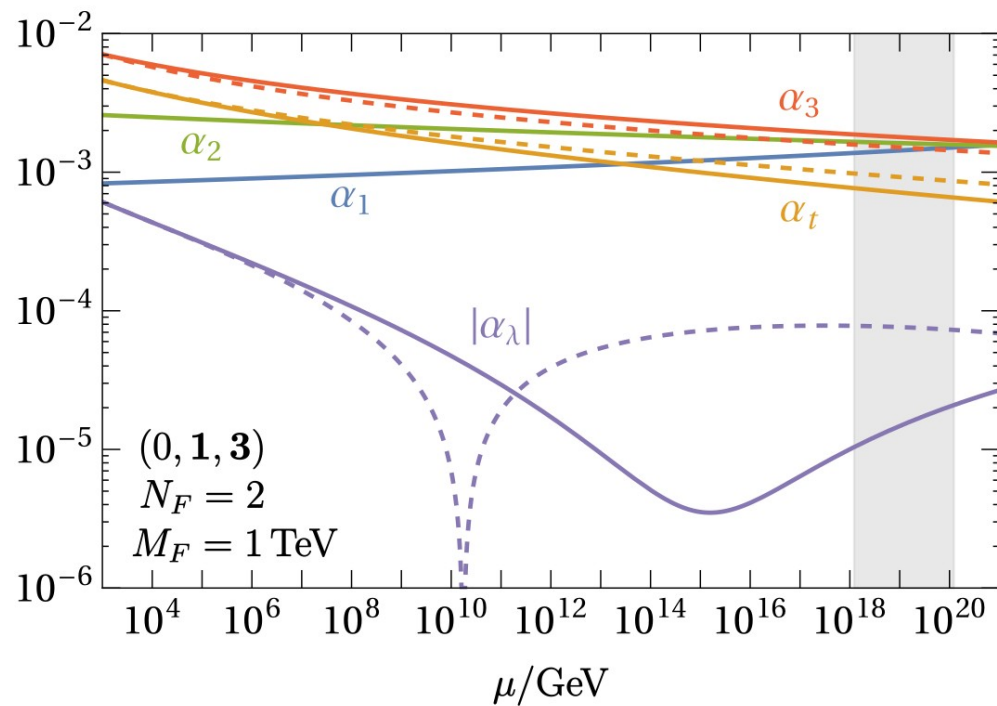
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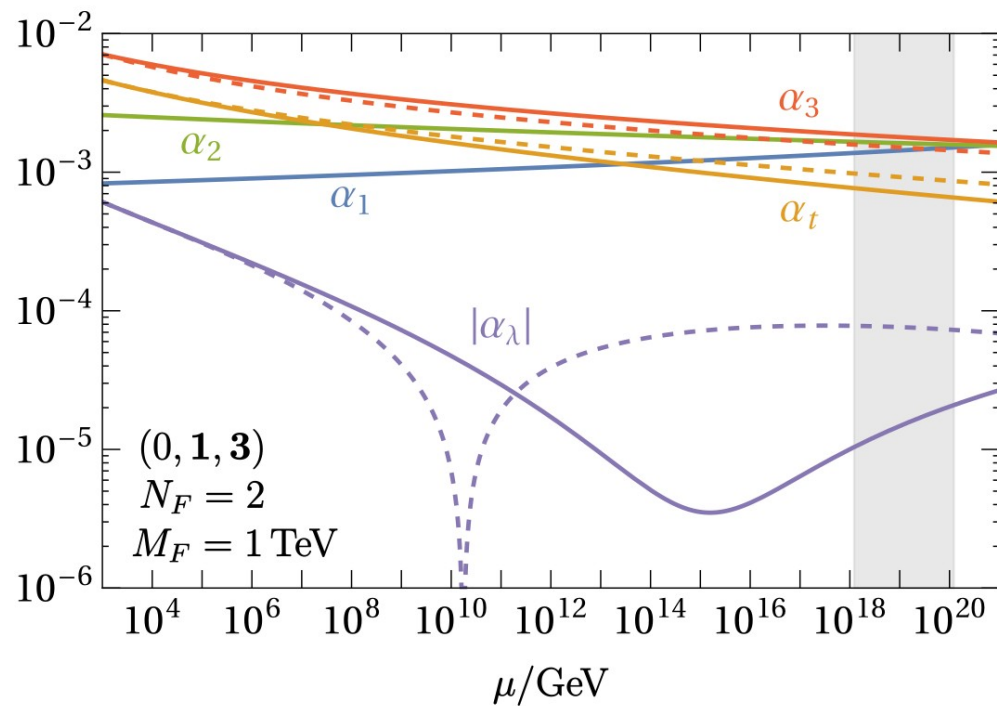
» VLQ



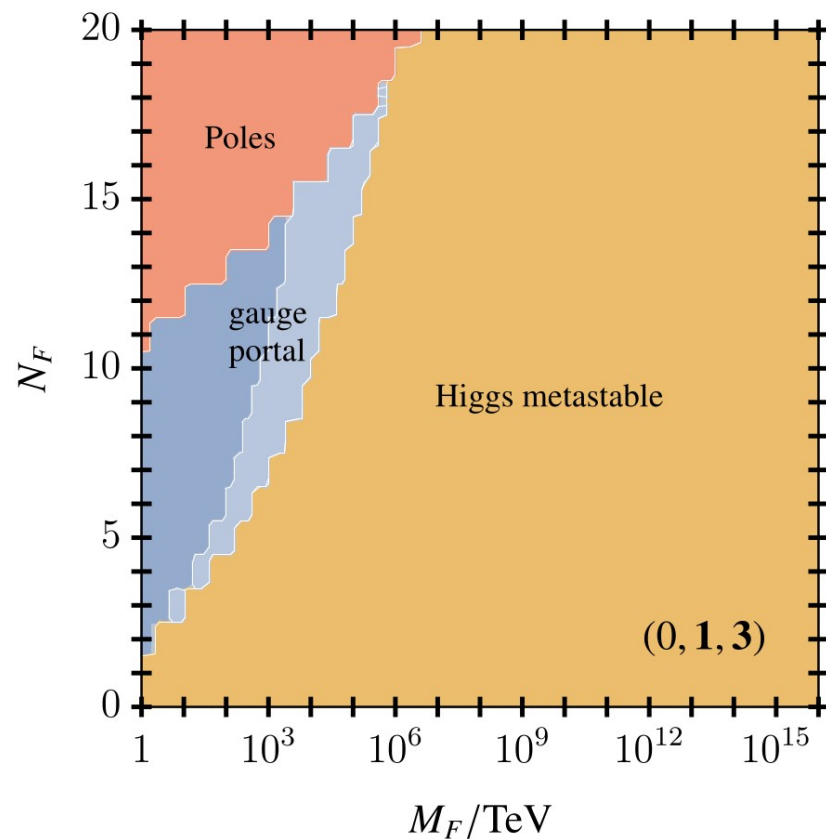
» VLQ



» VLQ



» VLF searches, oblique corrections



» new Yukawa with SM Higgs and VLF

$$\kappa_{ij} \bar{\psi}_L^i H^c D^j + \text{h.c.}$$

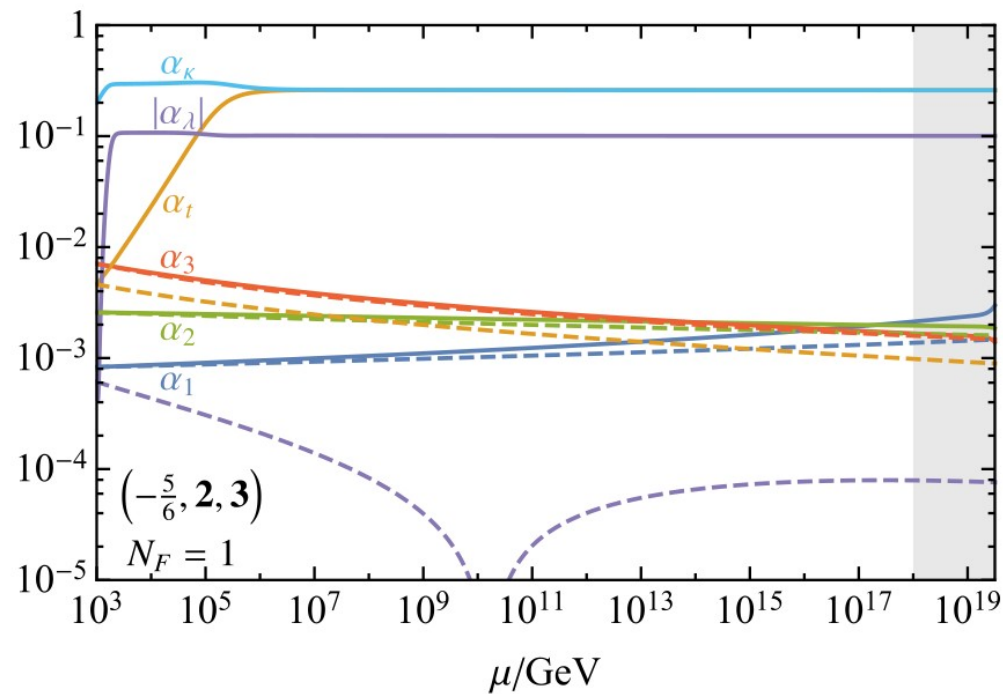
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- » destabilising for small BSM Yukawas
- » intermediate BSM Yukawas: opportunity beyond gauge portals Landau poles

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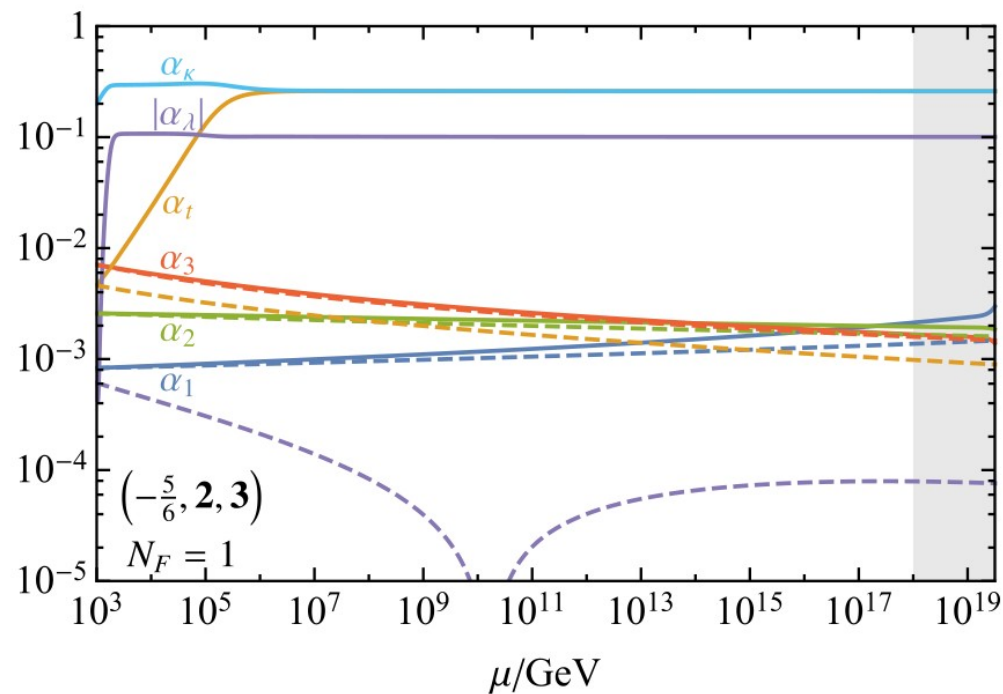


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← walking regime

» requires higher loops to confirm

Summary

- » evidence for metastability of SM persists
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- » understanding of MC Top mass required
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 - » understanding of MC Top mass required
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-
- » many BSM approaches to address SM instability
 - » can be valid until Planck scale
 - » testable at current and future colliders