

# Universality in ultra-cold fermionic atom gases

# Universality in ultra-cold fermionic atom gases

with

S. Diehl , H.Gies , J.Pawlowski

# BEC – BCS crossover

Bound molecules of two atoms  
on microscopic scale:

**Bose-Einstein condensate (BEC )** for low T

Fermions with attractive interactions  
(molecules play no role ) :

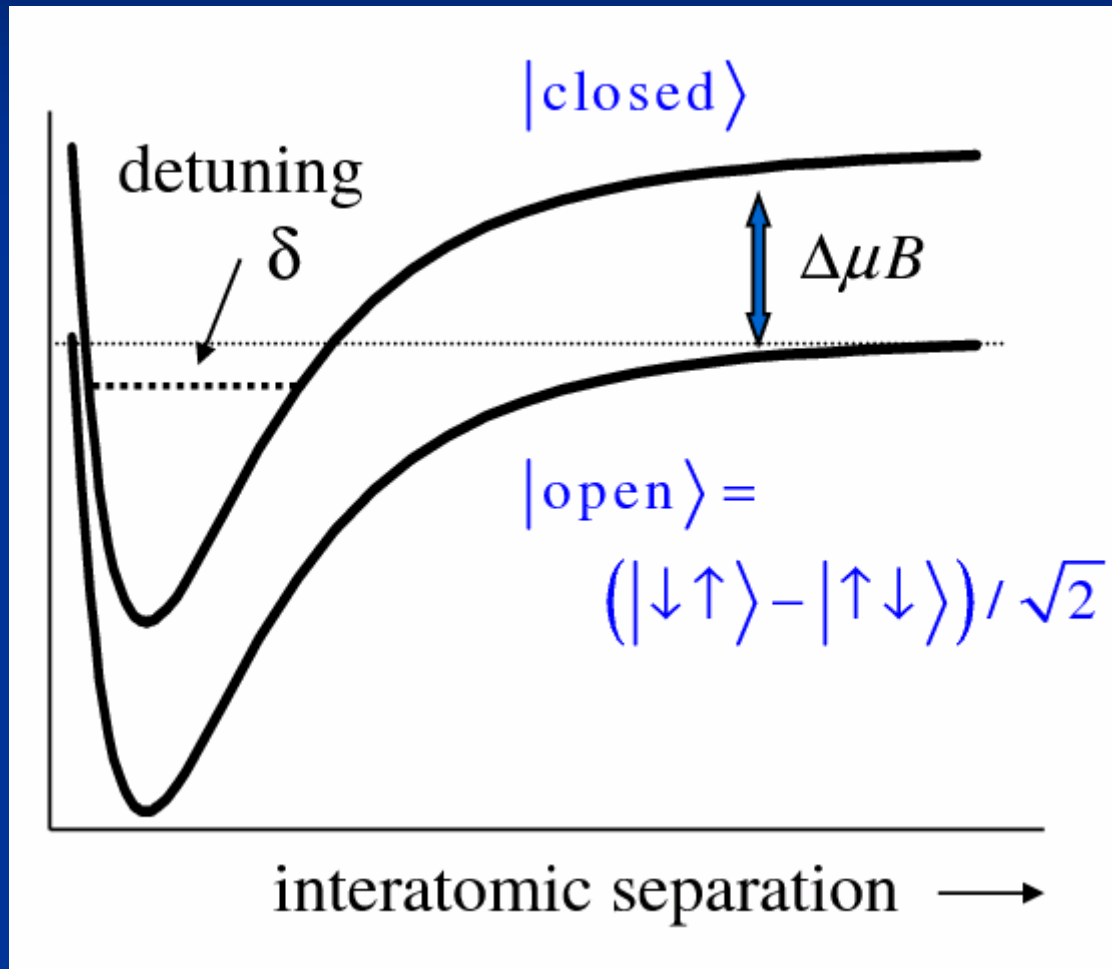
**BCS – superfluidity at low T**  
by condensation of Cooper pairs

**Crossover** by Feshbach resonance  
as a transition in terms of external magnetic field

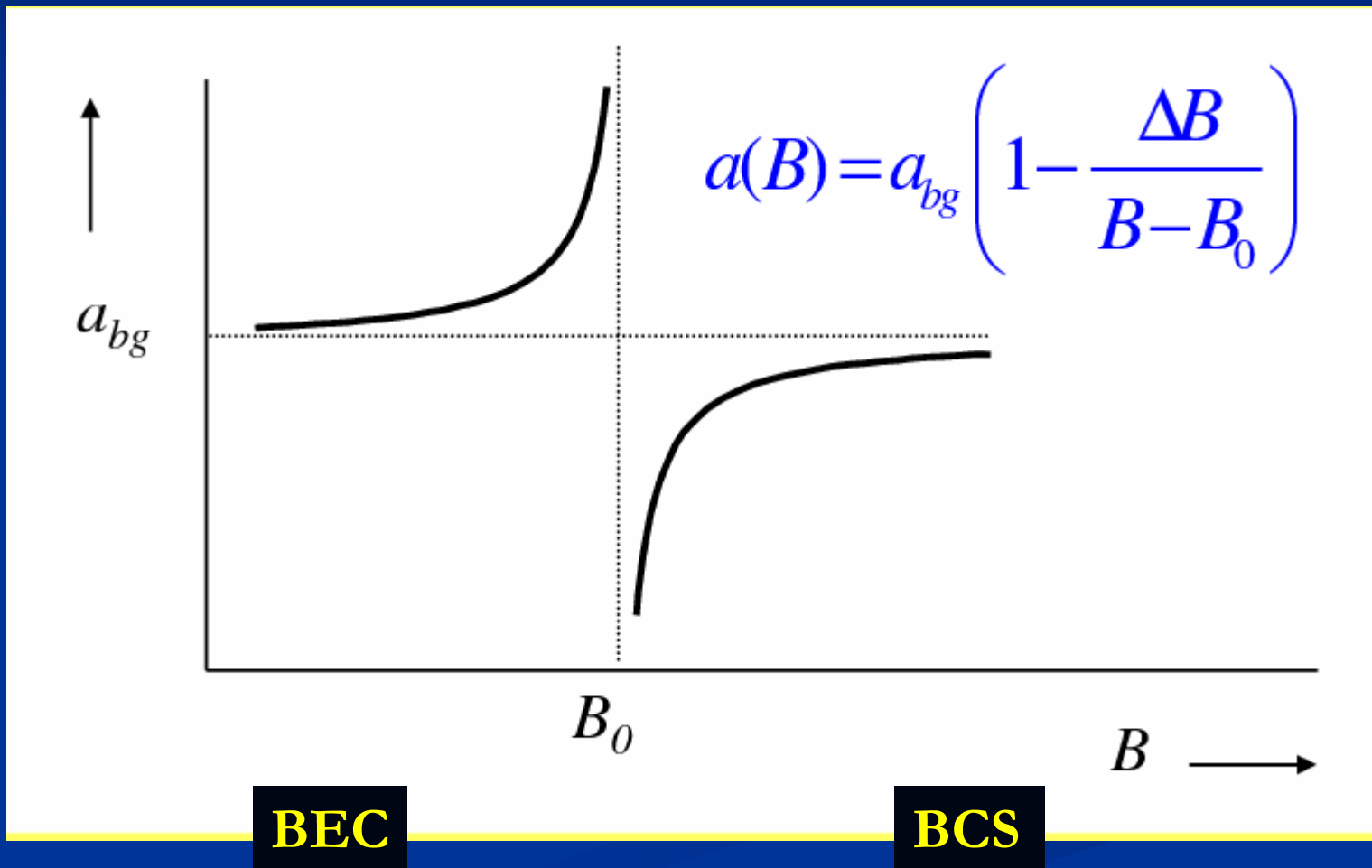
# microphysics

- determined by interactions between two atoms
- length scale : atomic scale

# Feshbach resonance



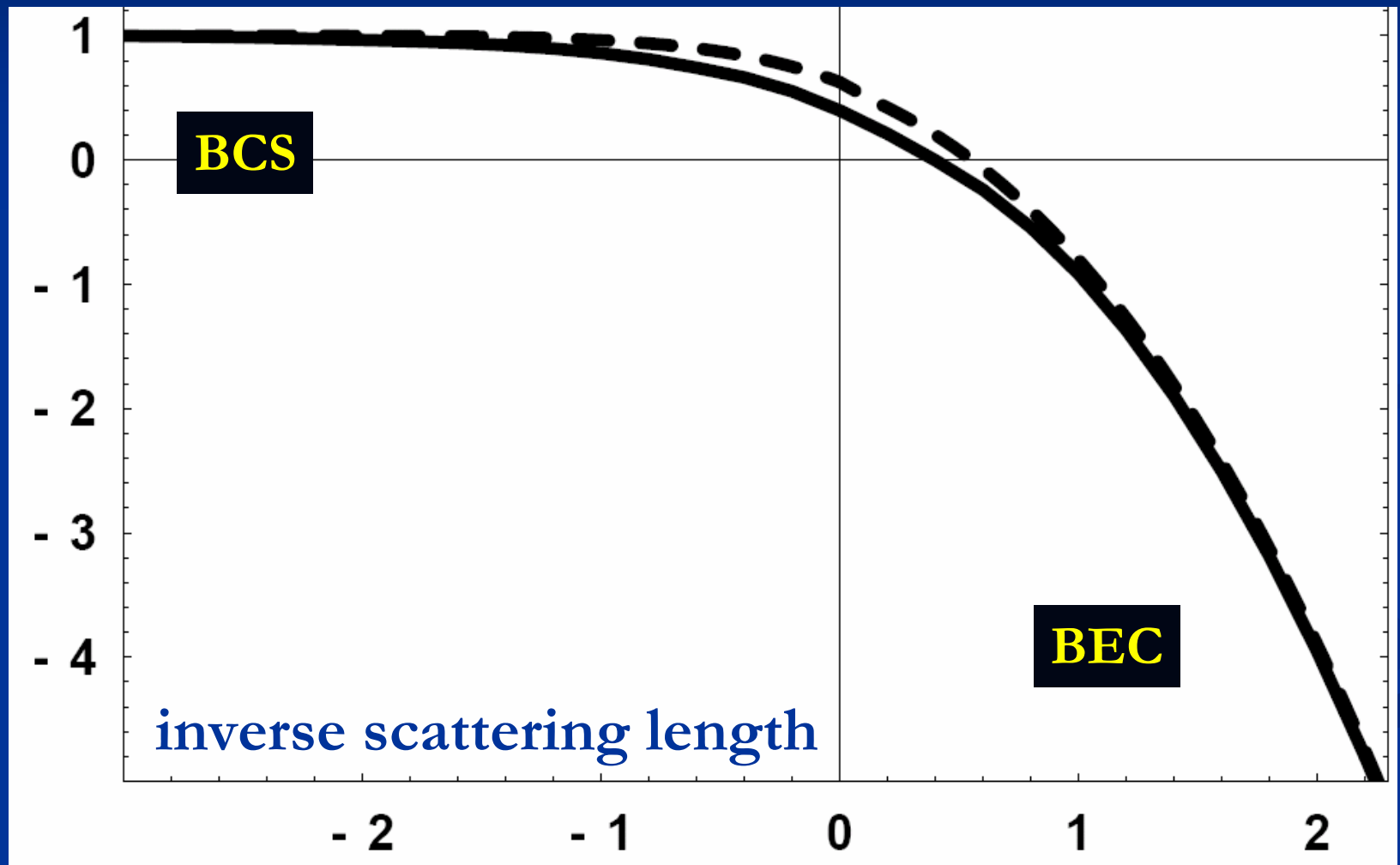
# scattering length



# many body physics

- dilute gas of ultra-cold atoms
- length scale : distance between atoms

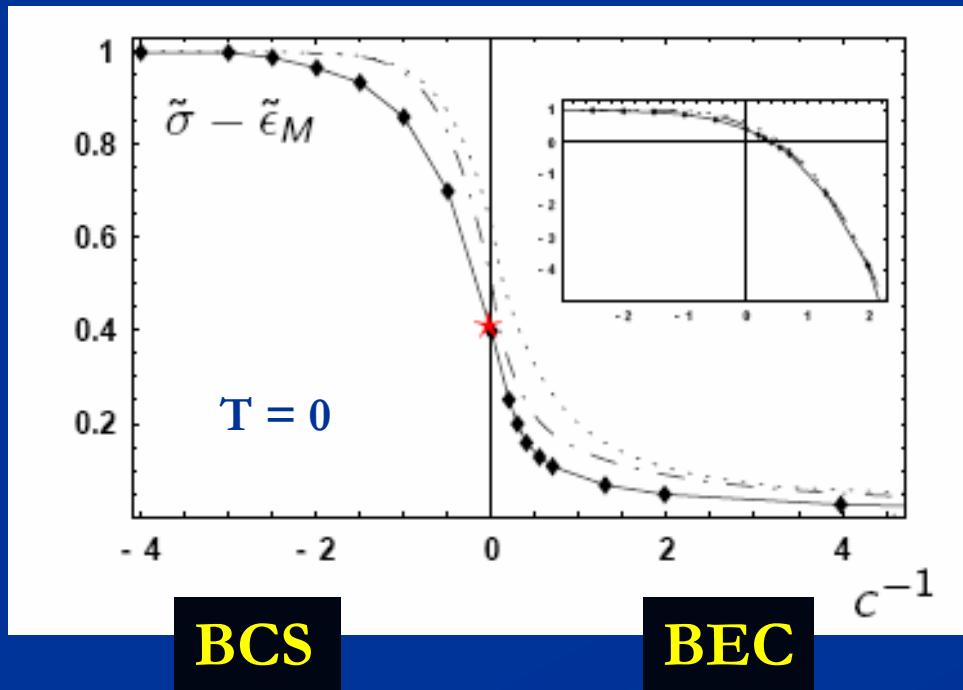
# chemical potential





# BEC – BCS crossover

- qualitative and partially quantitative theoretical understanding
- mean field theory (MFT) and first attempts beyond



concentration :  $c = a k_F$   
 reduced chemical  
 potential :  $\tilde{\sigma} = \mu/\epsilon_F$

Fermi momentum :  $k_F$

Fermi energy :  $\epsilon_F$

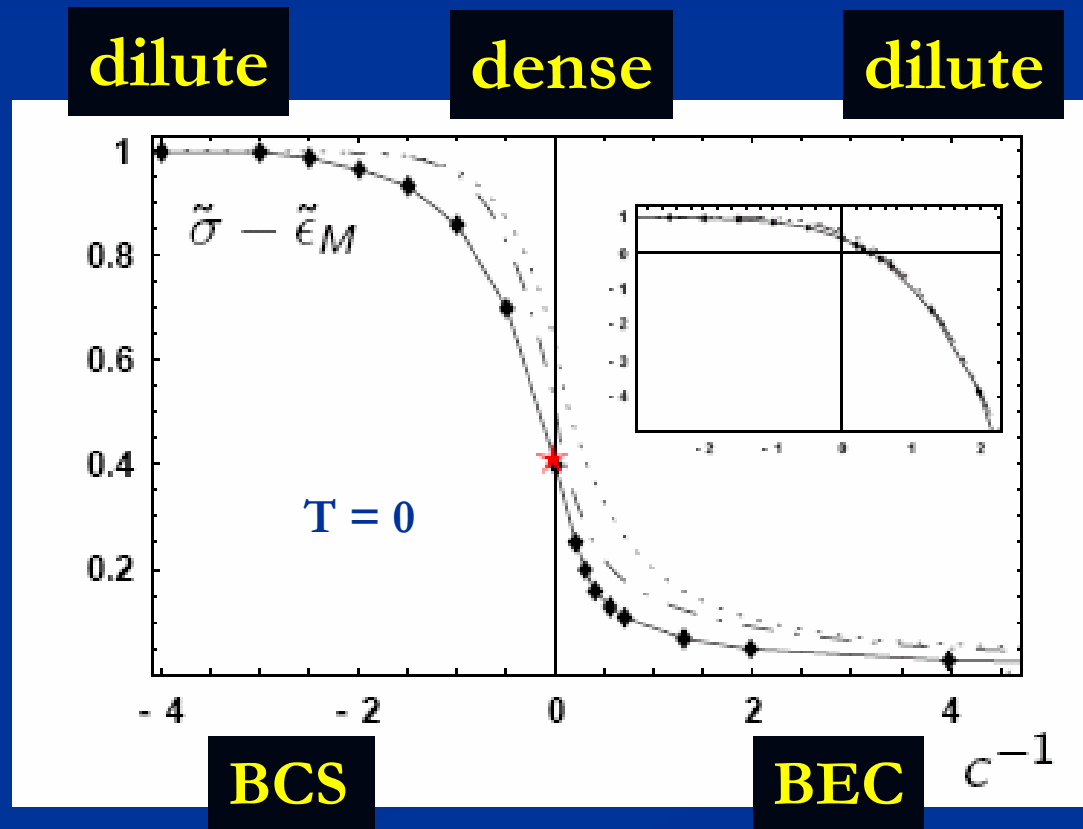
binding energy :

$$\tilde{\epsilon}_M = -\theta(c^{-1})c^{-2}$$

# concentration

- $c = a k_F$  ,  $a(B)$  : scattering length
- needs computation of density  $n = k_F^3 / (3\pi^2)$

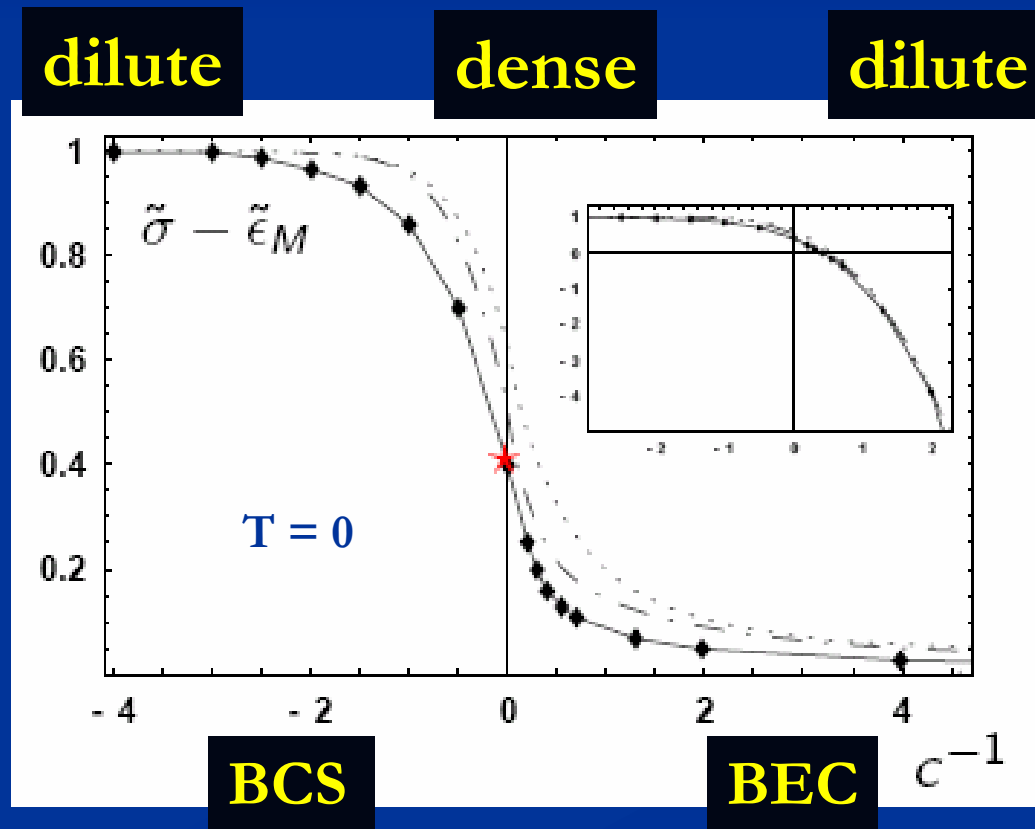
←  
non-  
interacting  
Fermi gas



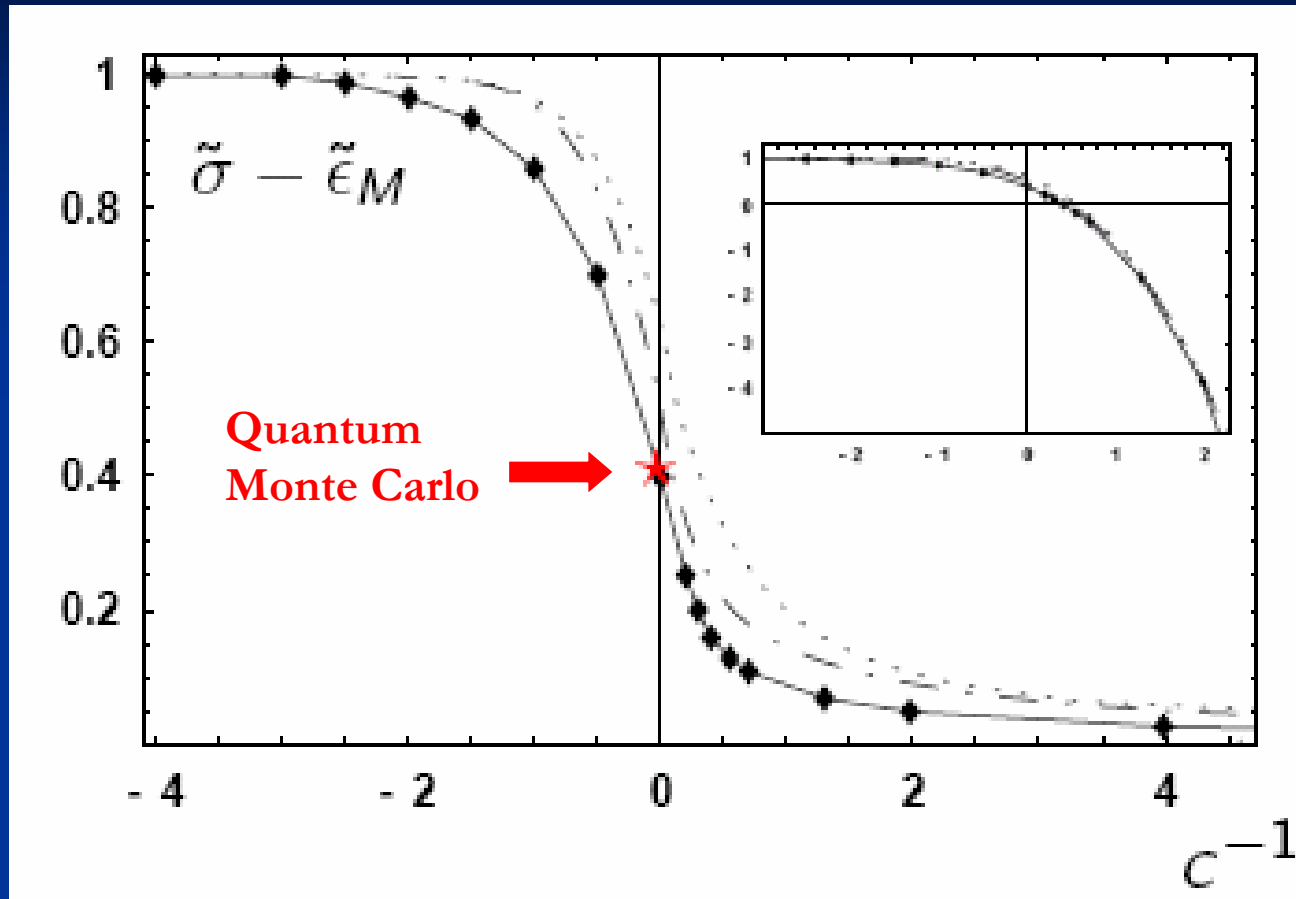
→  
non-  
interacting  
Bose gas

# universality

same curve for Li and K atoms ?



# different methods



- Compare RGE (diamonds), SDE (dashed-dotted) and MFT (dashed) approximation schemes.

- Compare to QMC calculations at  $c^{-1} = 0$

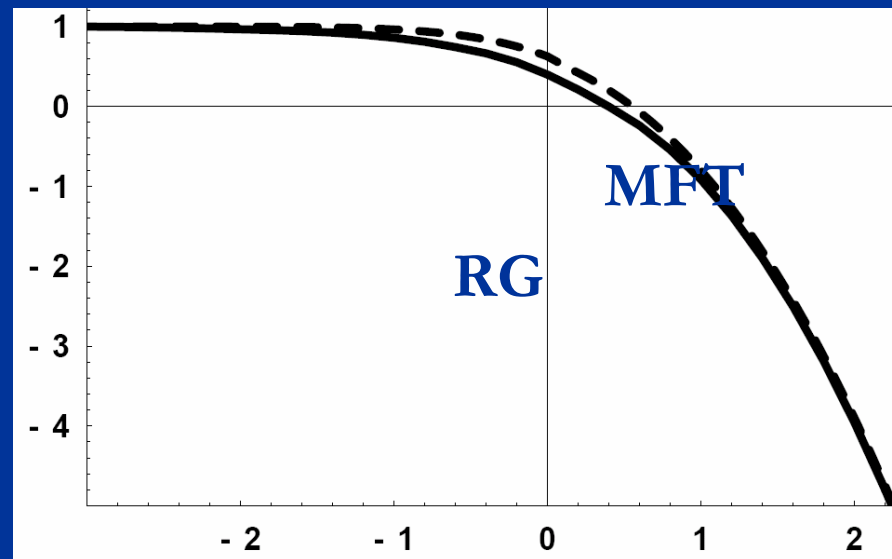
	QMC	RGE	SDE	MFT
$\tilde{\sigma}$	0.44(2)*, 0.42(2)†	0.40	0.50	0.63

(\* Carlson *et al.*, PRL 91, 050401 (2003),

† Giorgini *et al.*, PRL 93, 200404 (2004)).

who cares about details ?

a theorists game ...?



a theorists dream :

reliable method for strongly interacting  
fermions

“ solving fermionic quantum field theory “

**experimental precision tests  
are crucial !**

# precision many body theory - quantum field theory -

so far :

- particle physics : **perturbative calculations**

magnetic moment of electron :

$$g/2 = 1.001\,159\,652\,180\,85\,(76) \quad (\text{Gabrielse et al.})$$

- statistical physics : universal critical exponents for second order phase transitions :  $\nu = 0.6308(10)$

**renormalization group**

- **lattice simulations** for bosonic systems in particle and statistical physics ( e.g. QCD )



# QFT with fermions

needed:

universal theoretical tools for complex  
fermionic systems

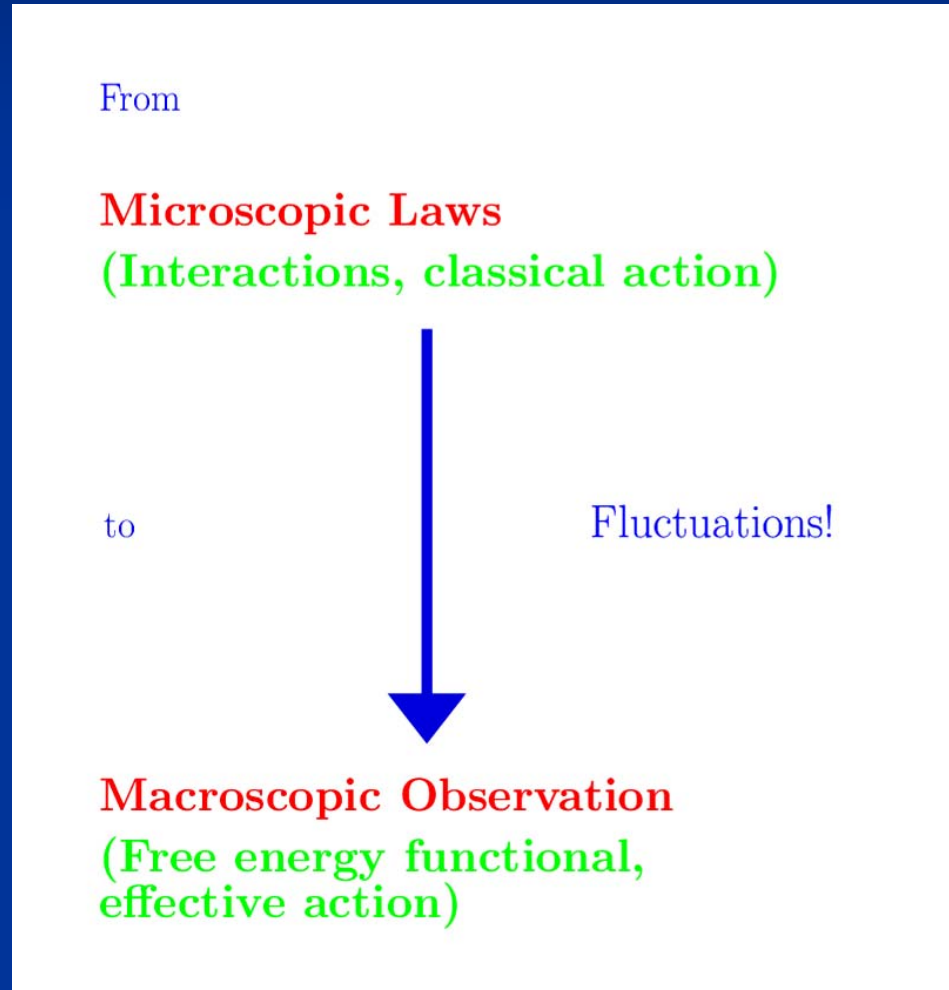
wide applications :

electrons in solids ,

nuclear matter in neutron stars , ....

problems

# (1) bridge from microphysics to macrophysics



## (2) different effective degrees of freedom

microphysics : single atoms

(+ molecules on BEC – side )

macrophysics : bosonic collective degrees of freedom

compare QCD : from quarks and gluons to mesons and hadrons

(3) no small coupling

# ultra-cold atoms :

- microphysics known
- coupling can be tuned
- for tests of theoretical methods these are important advantages as compared to solid state physics !

# challenge for ultra-cold atoms :

Non-relativistic fermion systems with precision  
similar to particle physics !

( QCD with quarks )

# functional renormalization group

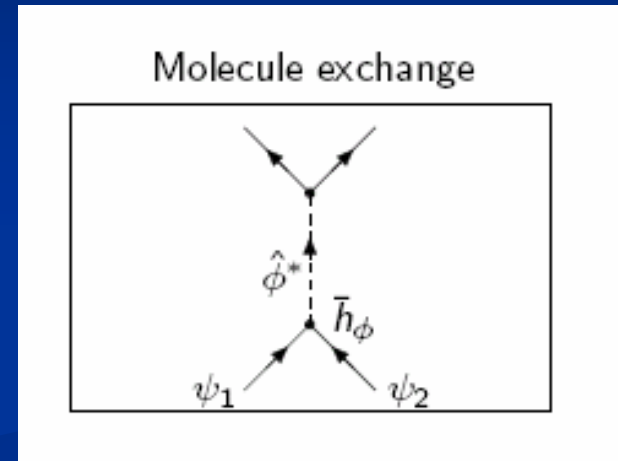
- conceived to cope with the above problems
- should be tested by ultra-cold atoms



# QFT for non-relativistic fermions

- functional integral, action

$$S = \int_x \left\{ \psi^\dagger \left( \partial_\tau - \frac{\Delta}{2M} - \sigma \right) \psi \right. \\ \left. + \varphi^* \left( \partial_\tau - \frac{\Delta}{4M} + \bar{\nu}_\Lambda - 2\sigma \right) \varphi \right. \\ \left. - \bar{h}_\varphi (\varphi^* \psi_1 \psi_2 - \varphi \psi_1^* \psi_2^*) \right\}$$



perturbation theory:  
Feynman rules

$\tau$  : euclidean time on torus with circumference  $1/T$   
 $\sigma$  : effective chemical potential

# variables

- $\psi$  : Grassmann variables
- $\varphi$  : bosonic field with atom number two

What is  $\varphi$  ?

microscopic molecule,  
macroscopic Cooper pair ?

All !

# parameters

- detuning  $\nu(B)$

$$\bar{\nu}_\Lambda = \bar{\nu}_{\Lambda,0} + \bar{\mu}_B(B - B_0)$$

$$\frac{\partial \bar{\nu}_\Lambda}{\partial B} = \bar{\mu}_B$$

$$\begin{aligned} S = \int_x \{ & \psi^\dagger (\partial_\tau - \frac{\Delta}{2M} - \sigma) \psi \\ & + \varphi^* (\partial_\tau - \frac{\Delta}{4M} + \bar{\nu}_\Lambda - 2\sigma) \varphi \\ & - \bar{h}_\varphi (\varphi^* \psi_1 \psi_2 - \varphi \psi_1^* \psi_2^*) \} \end{aligned}$$

- Yukawa or Feshbach coupling  $h_\varphi$

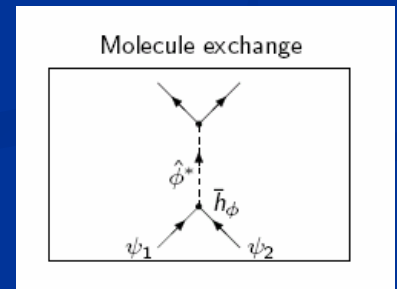
# fermionic action

equivalent fermionic action , in general not local

$$S_F = \int_x \psi^\dagger (\partial_\tau - \frac{\Delta}{2M} - \sigma) \psi + S_{\text{int}}$$

$$S_{\text{int}} = -\frac{1}{2} \int_{Q_1, Q_2, Q_3} (\psi^\dagger(-Q_1) \psi(Q_2)) (\psi^\dagger(Q_4) \psi(-Q_3))$$

$$\frac{\bar{h}_\varphi^2}{\bar{\nu}_\Lambda - 2\sigma + (\vec{q}_1 - \vec{q}_4)^2/4M + 2\pi iT(n_1 - n_4)}$$



# scattering length $a$

$$\bar{\lambda} = -\frac{\bar{h}_\varphi^2}{\bar{\nu}_\Lambda}$$

$$a = M \lambda / 4\pi$$

- broad resonance : pointlike limit
- large Feshbach coupling

$$\bar{h}_\varphi^2 \rightarrow \infty, \bar{\nu}_\Lambda \rightarrow \infty, \bar{\lambda} \text{ fixed}$$

$$S_{\text{int}} = -\frac{1}{2} \int_{Q_1, Q_2, Q_3} (\psi^\dagger(-Q_1) \psi(Q_2)) (\psi^\dagger(Q_4) \psi(-Q_3)) \frac{\bar{h}_\varphi^2}{\bar{\nu}_\Lambda - 2\sigma + (\vec{q}_1 - \vec{q}_4)^2 / 4M + 2\pi i T(n_1 - n_4)}$$

# parameters

- Yukawa or Feshbach coupling  $h_\phi$
- scattering length  $a$

Set of microscopic parameters:

$$\{\nu(B), \quad h_{\phi,0}\} \leftrightarrow \{a(B), \quad h_{\phi,0}\}.$$

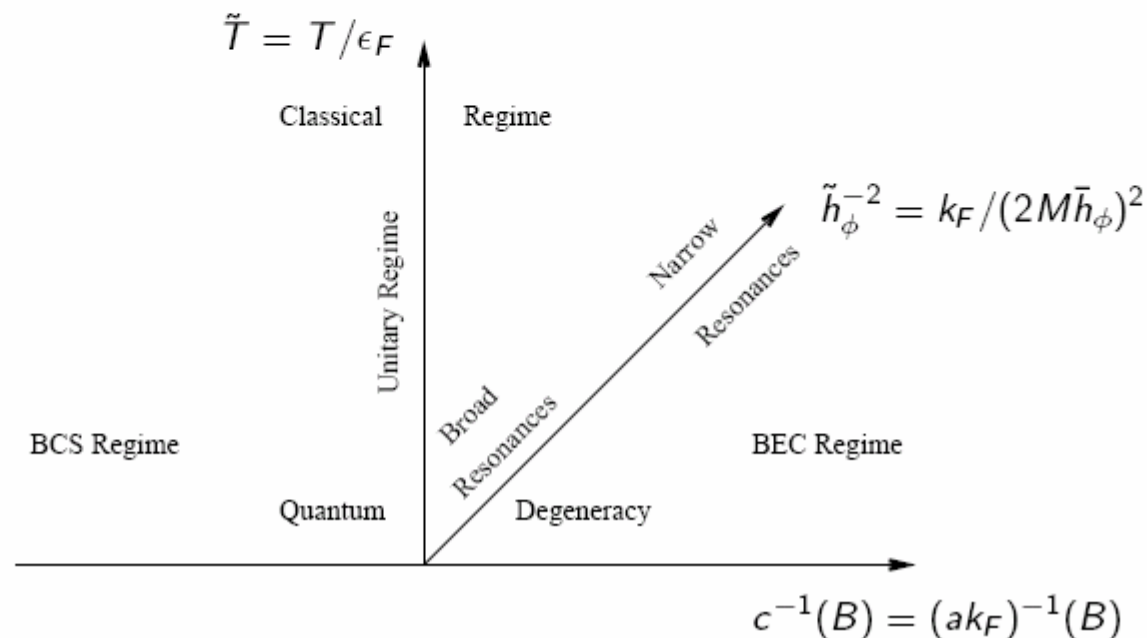
- **broad resonance :  $h_\phi$  drops out**

# concentration $c$

$$c = ak_F = -\frac{Mk_F\bar{h}_\varphi^2}{4\pi\bar{\mu}_B(B - B_0)}$$

$$n = \frac{k_F^3}{3\pi^2}$$

- ▶ **Dimensionless axes:** measure in units of Fermi momentum,  $k_F = (3\pi^2 n)^{1/3}$  and Fermi energy,  $\epsilon_F = k_F^2/(2M)$ .
- ▶ Crossover induced by magnetic field ( $B$ ) dependence of scattering length: **Feshbach resonance**.
- ▶ Narrow resonances: Nonlocal interactions, exact solution possible (S. Diehl, C. Wetterich, Phys. Rev. A **73** 033615 (2006)).
- ▶ Focus on the **broad resonance** limit  $\tilde{h}_\phi \rightarrow \infty$ : pointlike interactions.





# universality

- Are these parameters enough for a quantitatively precise description ?
- Have Li and K the same crossover when described with these parameters ?
- Long distance physics loses memory of detailed microscopic properties of atoms and molecules !

universality for  $c^{-1} = 0$  : Ho,...( valid for broad resonance)  
here: whole crossover range

# analogy with particle physics

microscopic theory not known -  
nevertheless “macroscopic theory” characterized  
by a finite number of  
“renormalizable couplings”

$m_e, \alpha; g_w, g_s, M_w, \dots$

here :  $c, h_\varphi$  ( only  $c$  for broad resonance )

# analogy with universal critical exponents

only one relevant parameter :

$$T - T_c$$

# universality

- issue is not that particular Hamiltonian with two couplings  $v$ ,  $h_\varphi$  gives good approximation to microphysics
- large class of different microphysical Hamiltonians lead to a macroscopic behavior described only by  $v$ ,  $h_\varphi$
- difference in length scales matters !

# units and dimensions

- $c = 1 ; \hbar = 1 ; k_B = 1$
- momentum  $\sim \text{length}^{-1} \sim \text{mass} \sim \text{eV}$
- energies :  $2ME \sim (\text{momentum})^2$   
(  $M$  : atom mass )
- typical momentum unit : Fermi momentum
- typical energy and temperature unit : Fermi energy
- time  $\sim (\text{momentum})^{-2}$
- **canonical dimensions different from relativistic QFT !**

# rescaled action

$$S = \int_{\hat{x}} \{ \hat{\psi}^\dagger (\hat{\partial}_\tau - \hat{\Delta} - \hat{\sigma}) \hat{\psi} \\ + \hat{\varphi}^* (\hat{\partial}_\tau - \frac{1}{2} \hat{\Delta} + \hat{\nu} - 2\hat{\sigma}) \hat{\varphi} \\ - \hat{h}_\varphi (\hat{\varphi}^* \hat{\psi}_1 \hat{\psi}_2 - \hat{\varphi} \hat{\psi}_1^* \hat{\psi}_2^*) \}$$

$$\hat{\psi} = \hat{k}^{-3/2} \psi, \quad \hat{\varphi} = \hat{k}^{-3/2} \varphi, \\ \hat{x} = \hat{k} x, \quad \hat{\tau} = \frac{\hat{k}^2}{2M} \tau, \\ \hat{\sigma} = \frac{2M\sigma}{\hat{k}^2}, \quad \hat{h}_\varphi = \frac{2M\bar{h}_\varphi}{\sqrt{\hat{k}}}$$

- M drops out
- all quantities in units of  $k_F, \varepsilon_F$  if

$$\hat{k} = k_F$$

# what is to be computed ?

Inclusion of fluctuation effects  
via functional integral  
leads to effective action.

This contains all relevant information  
for arbitrary  $T$  and  $n$  !

# effective action

- integrate out all quantum and thermal fluctuations
- quantum effective action
- generates full propagators and vertices
- richer structure than classical action

$$\Gamma = \int_x \{ \psi^\dagger (\partial_\tau - A_\psi \Delta - \sigma) \psi + \varphi^* (\partial_\tau - A_\varphi \Delta) \varphi + u(\varphi) - h_\varphi (\varphi^* \psi_1 \psi_2 - \varphi \psi_1^* \psi_2^*) + \dots \}$$



# effective potential

minimum determines order parameter

$$u = m_\varphi^2 \rho + \frac{\lambda_\varphi}{2} \rho^2 \quad , \quad SYM$$
$$u = \frac{\lambda_\varphi}{2} (\rho - \rho_0)^2 \quad , \quad SSB$$

$$\rho = \varphi^* \varphi$$

condensate fraction

$$\Omega_c = 2 \varrho_0 / n$$

$$\Gamma = \int_x \{ \psi^\dagger (\partial_\tau - A_\psi \Delta - \sigma) \psi \\ + \varphi^* (\partial_\tau - A_\varphi \Delta) \varphi + u(\varphi) \\ - h_\varphi (\varphi^* \psi_1 \psi_2 - \varphi \psi_1^* \psi_2^*) + \dots \}$$

# renormalized fields and couplings

$$\psi = Z_\psi^{1/2} \hat{\psi} , \quad \varphi = Z_\varphi^{1/2} \hat{\varphi}$$

$$h_\varphi = Z_\varphi^{-1/2} Z_\psi^{-1} \hat{h}_\varphi$$

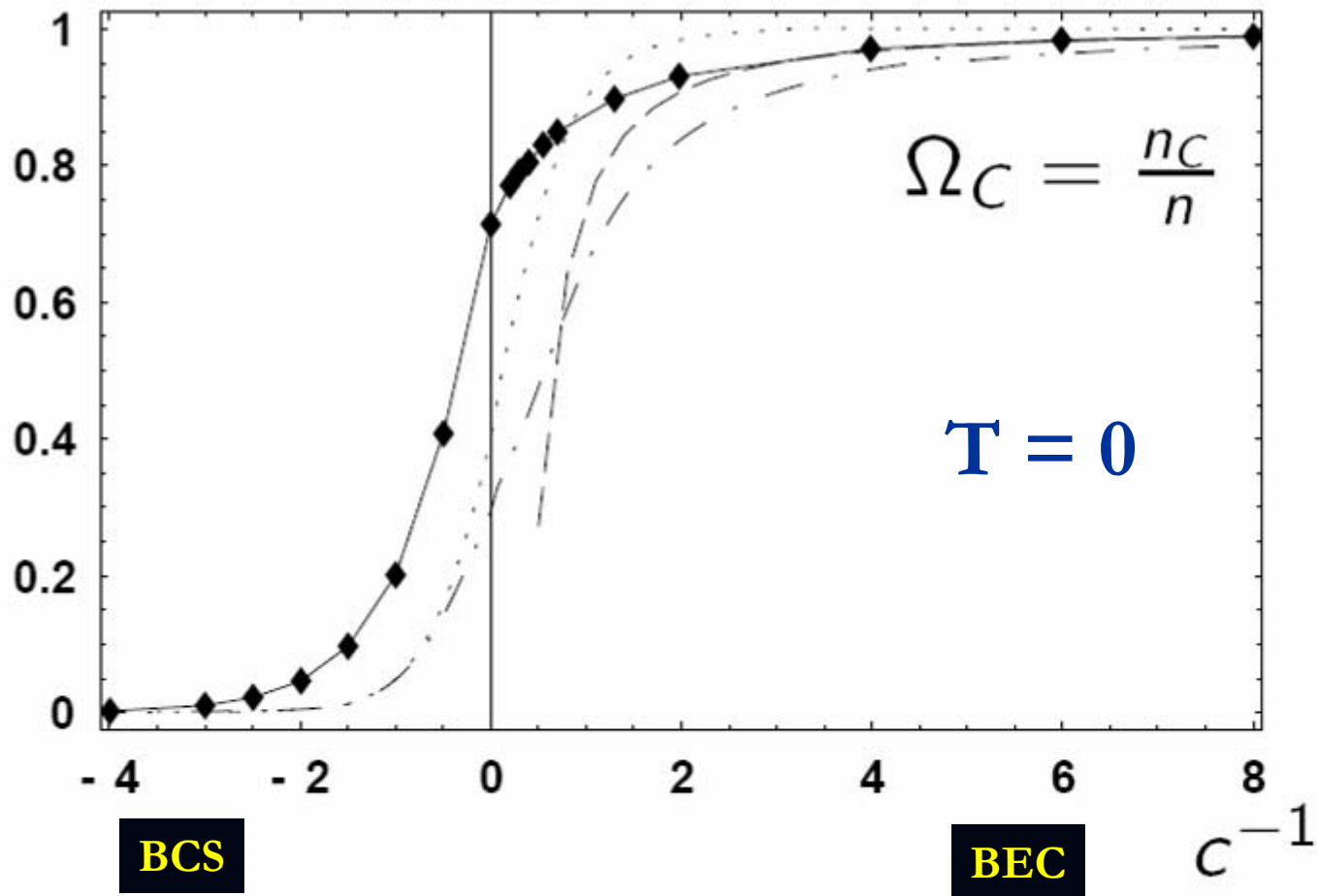
$$\Gamma = \int_x \{ \psi^\dagger (\partial_\tau - A_\psi \Delta - \sigma) \psi \\ + \varphi^* (\partial_\tau - A_\varphi \Delta) \varphi + u(\varphi) \\ - h_\varphi (\varphi^* \psi_1 \psi_2 - \varphi \psi_1^* \psi_2^*) + \dots \}$$

results

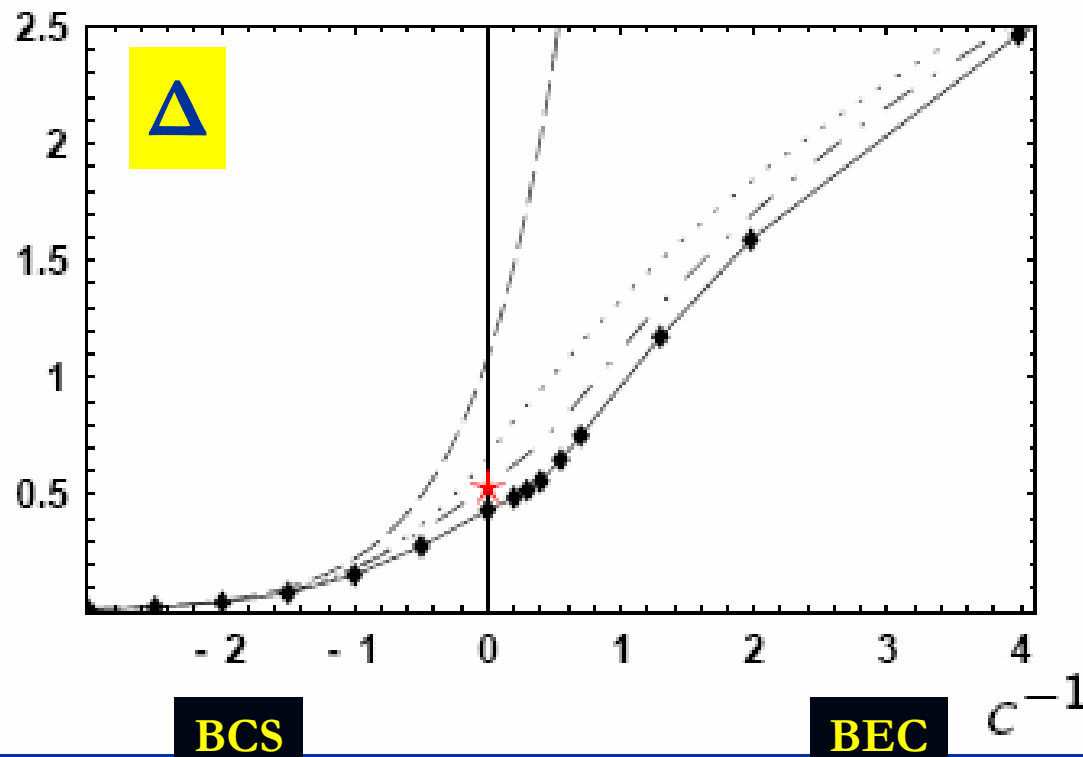
from

functional renormalization group

# condensate fraction



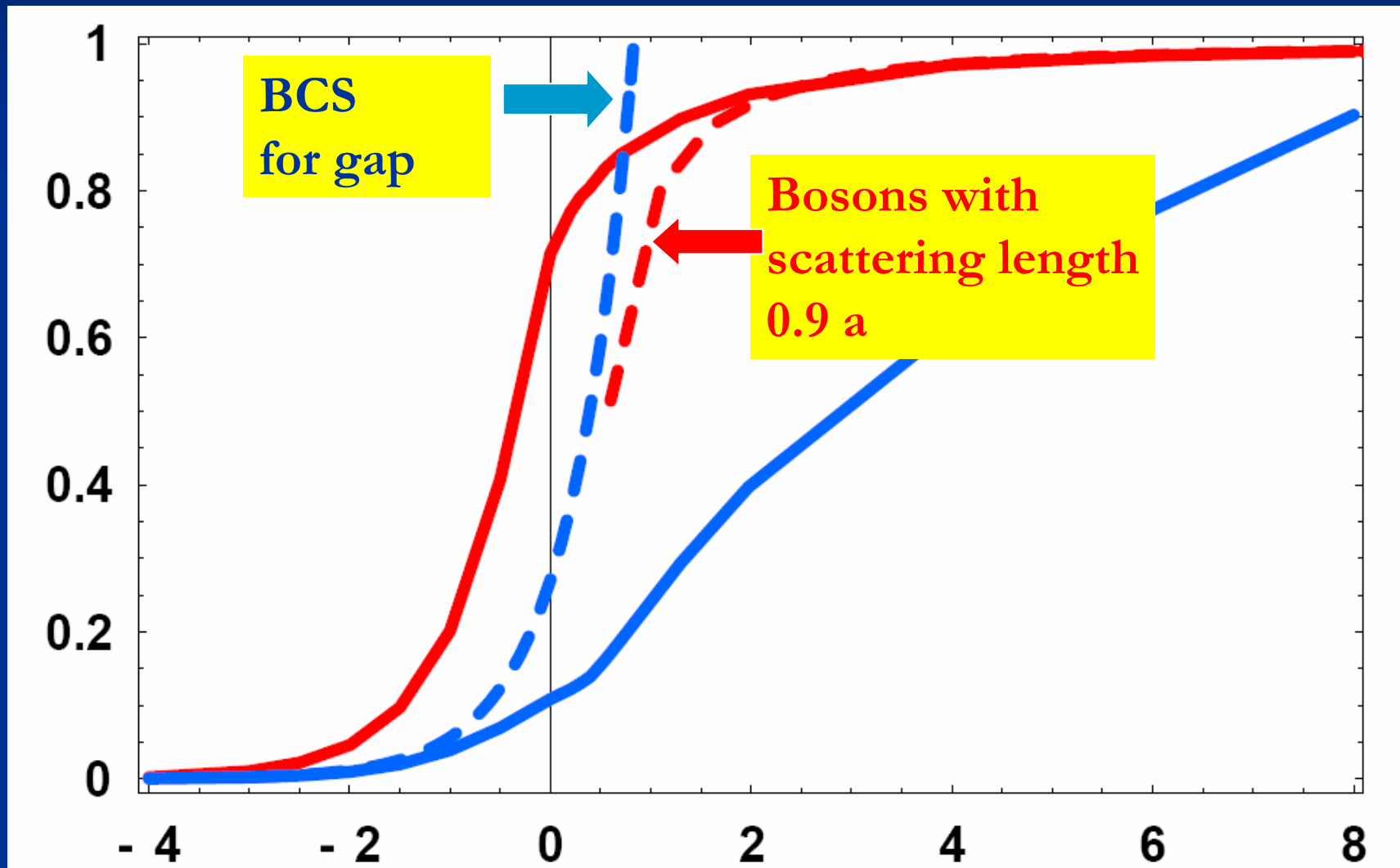
# gap parameter



BCS regime: recover BCS gap result  
 $\Delta/\Delta^{BCS}(c^{-1}) \approx 0.9$  for  $c^{-1} < -2$ .

MFT (dashed): No boson interactions.  
SDE (dashed-dotted): Overestimates  
interactions,  $a_M = 2$ .

# limits



# Yukawa coupling

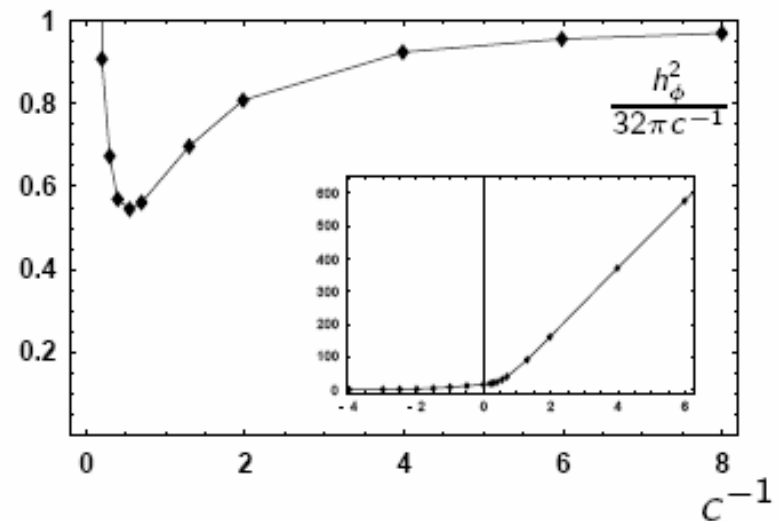
Extract both **BCS-type gap parameter**  $\tilde{\Delta}$  and **BEC-type condensate fraction**  $\Omega_C$ .

- Both quantities intimately connected by **renormalized Yukawa coupling**

$$h_\phi^2 = \frac{\tilde{h}_{\phi,0}^2}{Z_\phi}, \quad \Omega_C = 6\pi^2 \left( \frac{\tilde{\Delta}}{h_\phi} \right)^2.$$

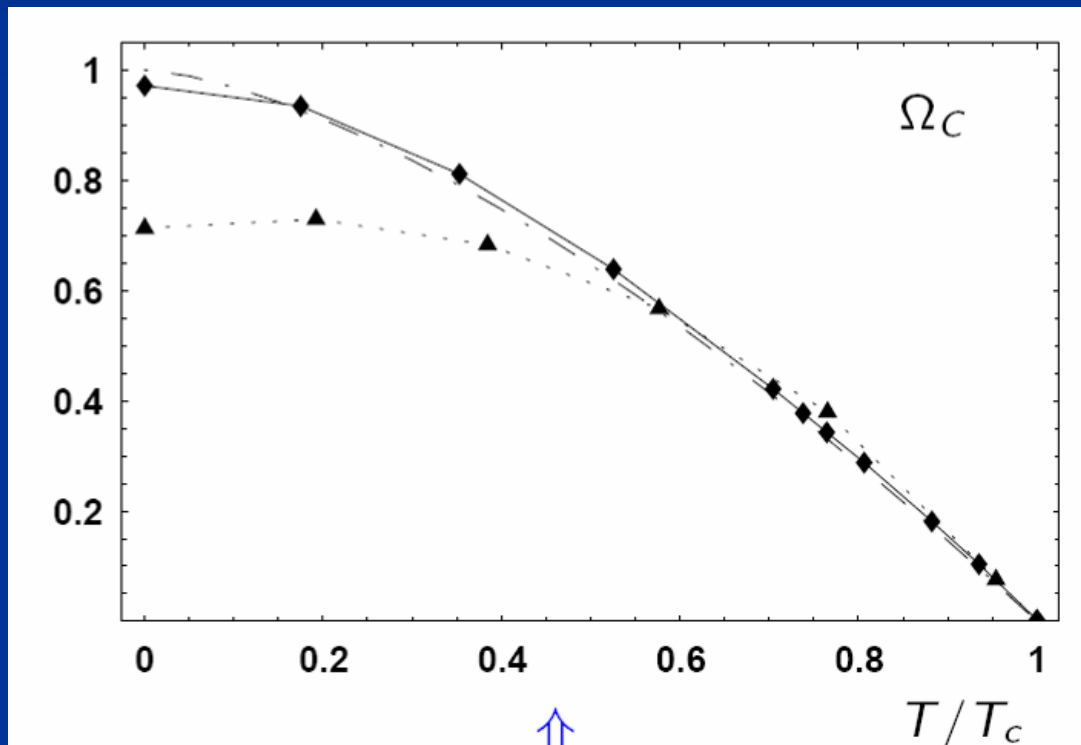
- Broad resonance universality confirmed:  $\tilde{h}_{\phi,0} \rightarrow \infty$  drops out as physical scale.

Reduced Yukawa coupling on BEC side



- Reduced Yukawa coupling settles to 2-body **fixed point**  $32\pi c^{-1}$ .

# temperature dependence of condensate



Compare free BE condensate fraction to result for  $c^{-1} = 0$  (resonance, triangles) and  $c^{-1} = 1$  (BEC regime, diamonds).

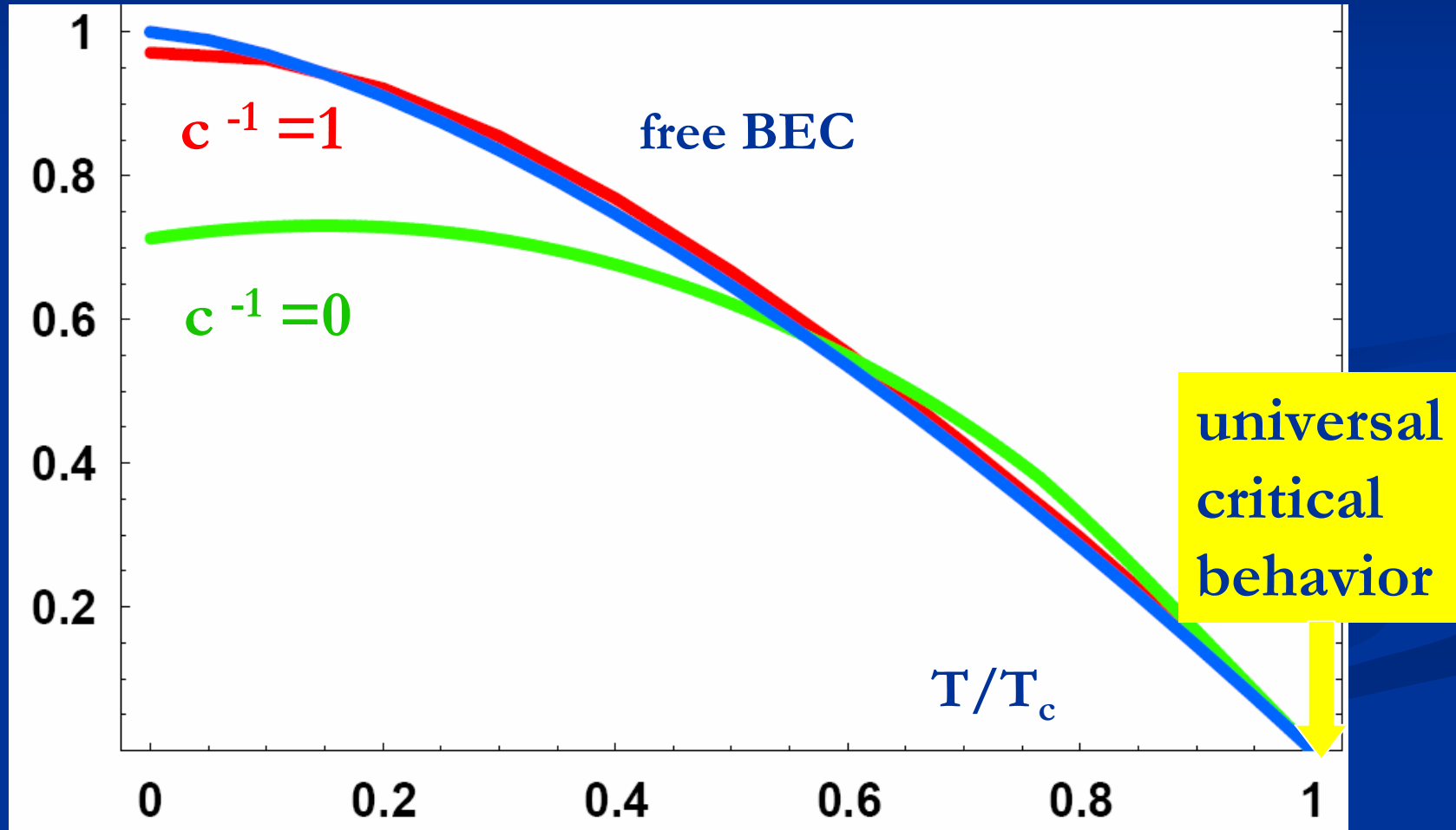
Low temperature: Condensate fraction strongly depends on  $c^{-1}$ .

Close to criticality:

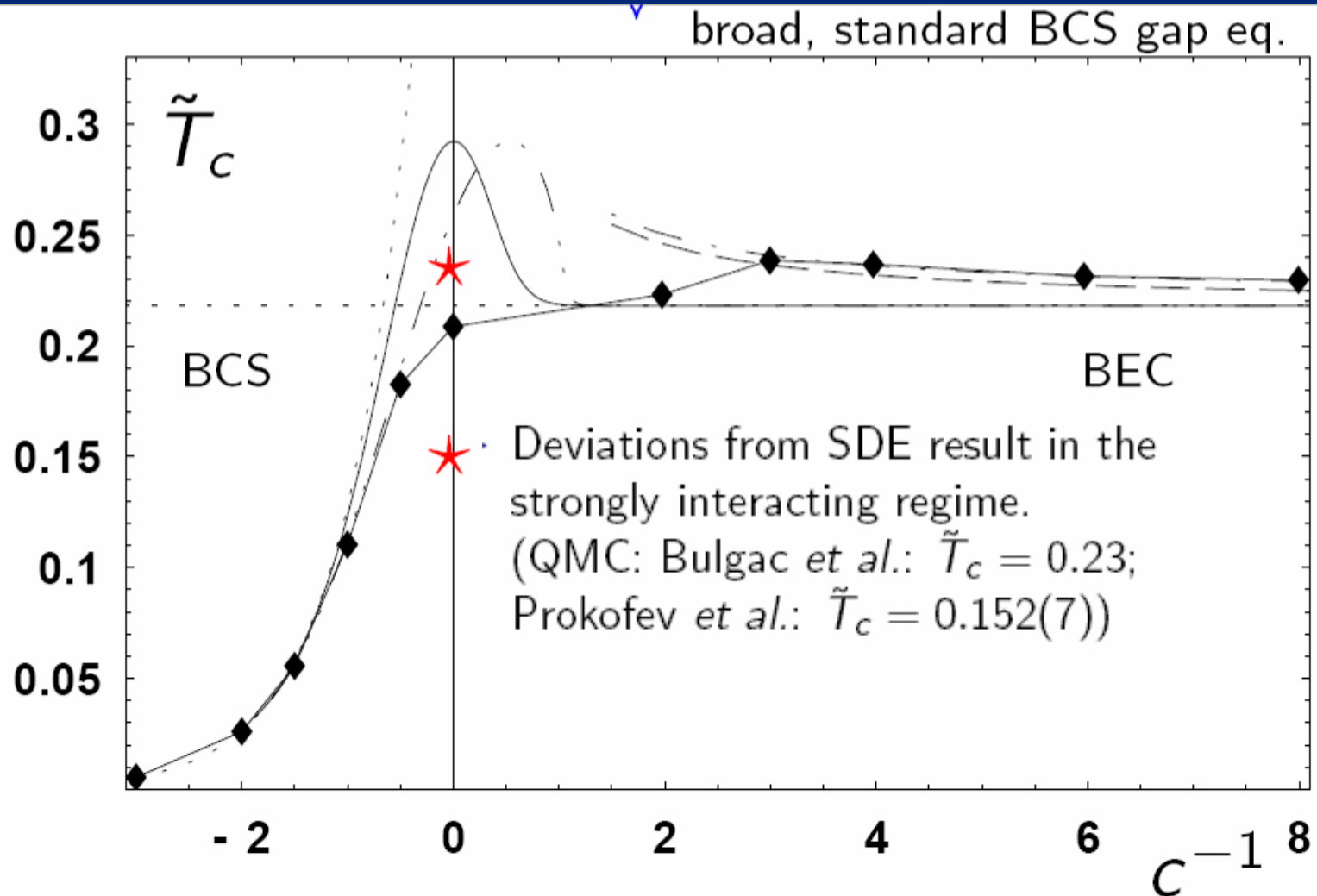
- ▶ **Second order** phase transition.
- ▶ Similar approach to  $T_c$ : dominance of boson fluctuations, system attracted to universal critical point.



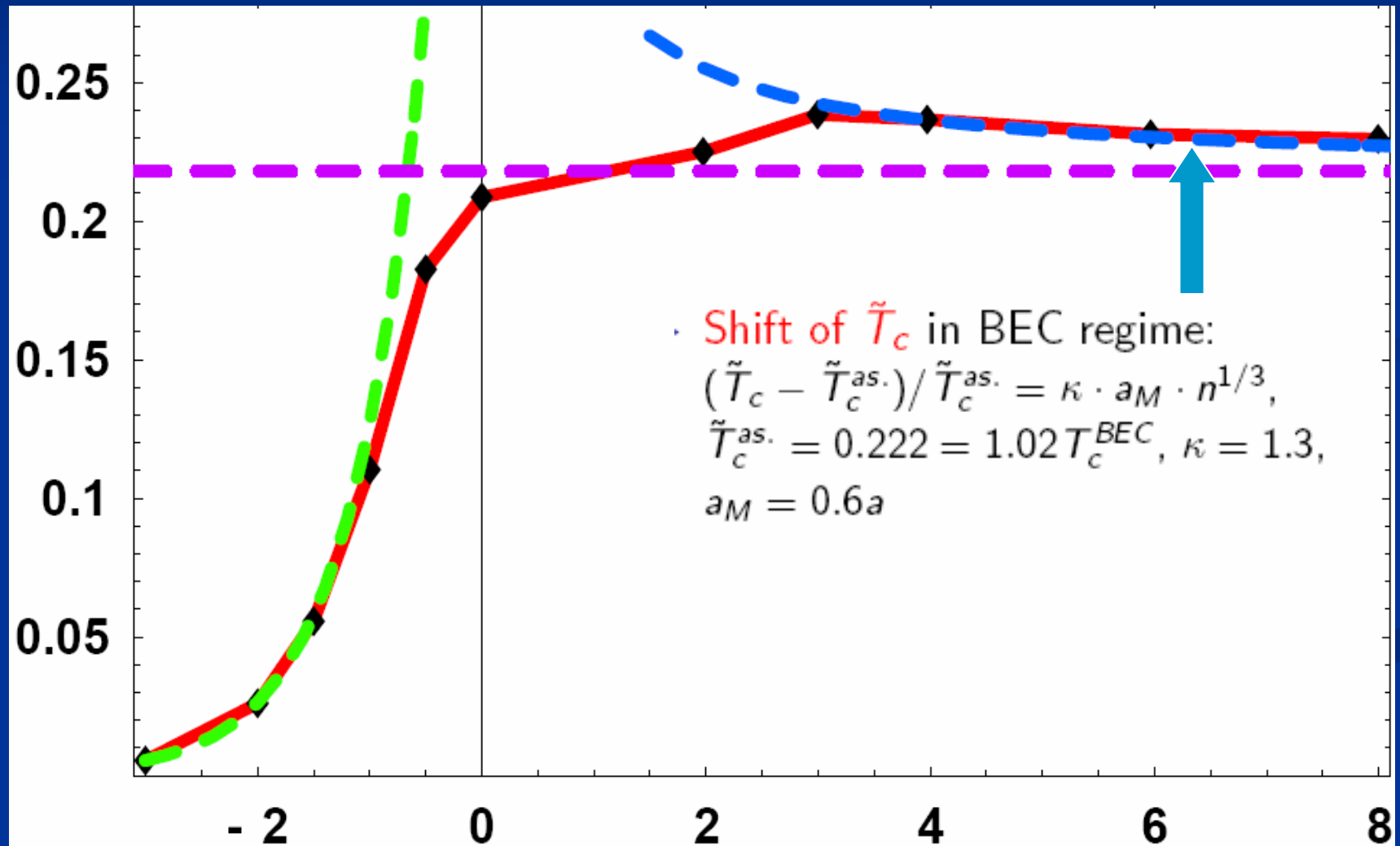
# condensate fraction : second order phase transition



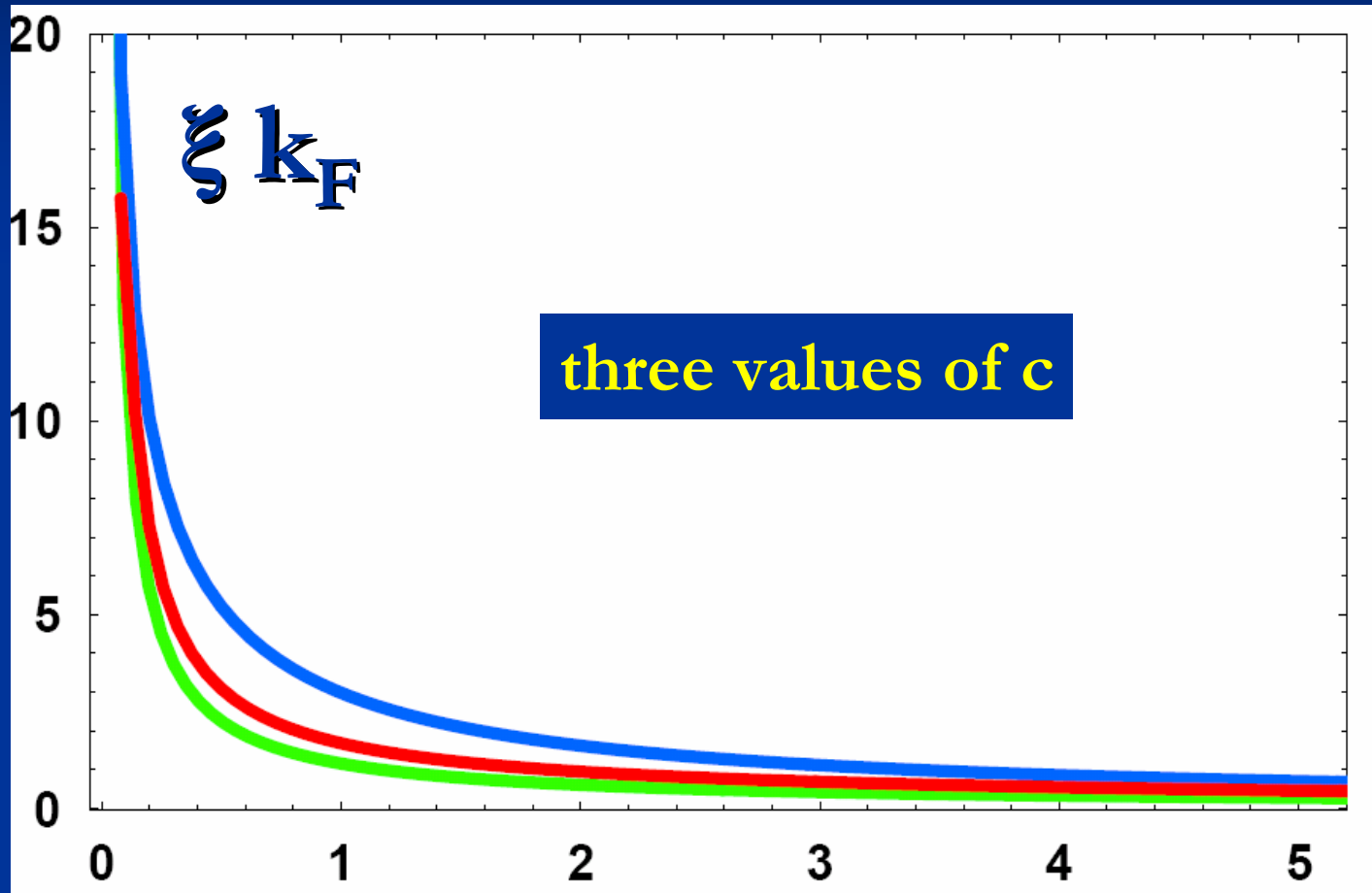
# crossover phase diagram



# shift of BEC critical temperature



# correlation length



$(T-T_c)/T_c$

universality

# universality for broad resonances

for large Yukawa couplings  $h_\varphi$  :

- only one relevant parameter  $c$
- all other couplings are strongly attracted to partial fixed points
- macroscopic quantities can be predicted in terms of  $c$  and  $T/\varepsilon_F$   
( in suitable range for  $c^{-1}$  ; density sets scale )

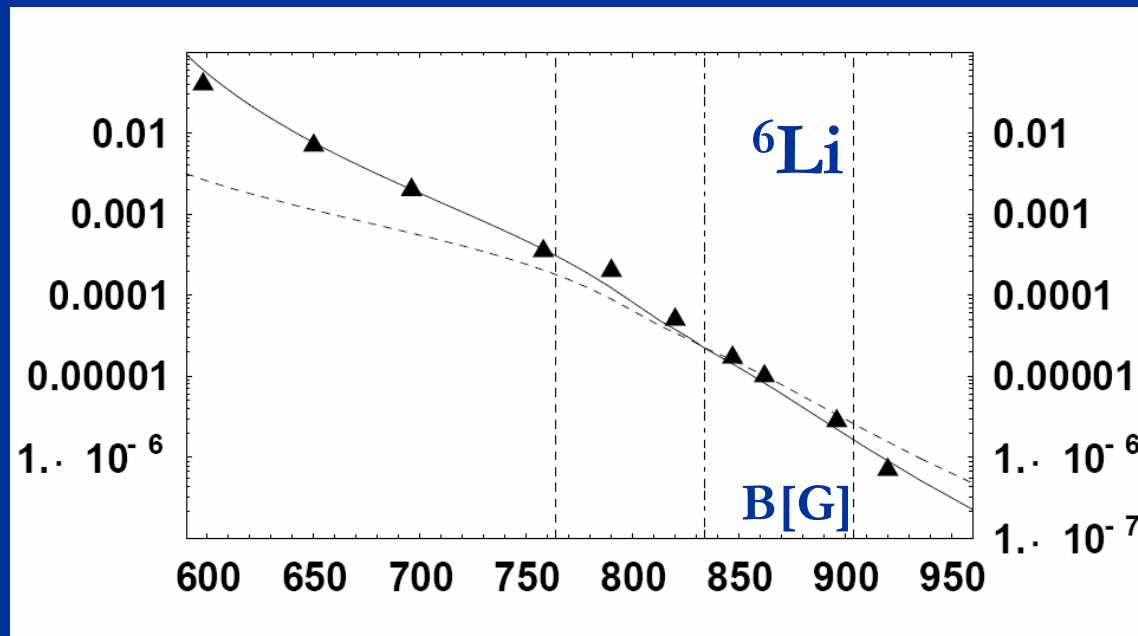
# universality for narrow resonances

- Yukawa coupling becomes additional parameter  
( marginal coupling )
- also background scattering important

# bare molecule fraction

(fraction of microscopic closed channel molecules )

- not all quantities are universal
- bare molecule fraction involves wave function renormalization that depends on value of Yukawa coupling



Experimental  
points by  
Partridge et al.



method

# effective action

$$\Gamma[\psi, \phi] = \int_0^{1/T} d\tau \int d^3x \left\{ \psi^\dagger (\partial_\tau - A_\psi \Delta - \sigma) \psi + \right.$$

$$\left. \phi^* (\partial_\tau - A_\phi \Delta) \phi + U(\phi^* \phi) - \frac{h_\phi}{2} \left( \phi^* \psi^T \epsilon \psi - \phi \psi^\dagger \epsilon \psi^* \right) + \dots \right\}.$$

- includes all quantum and thermal fluctuations
- formulated here in terms of renormalized fields
- involves renormalized couplings

# effective potential

- value of  $\varphi$  at potential minimum :  
order parameter , determines condensate fraction
- second derivative of  $U$  with respect to  $\varphi$  yields correlation length
- derivative with respect to  $\sigma$  yields density

Quartic truncation for bosonic potential (displayed in symmetric phase):

$$U(\phi^* \phi) = (\nu(B) + \Delta m_\phi^2) \phi^* \phi + \frac{\lambda_\phi}{2} (\phi^* \phi)^2 + \dots$$

# functional renormalization group

- make effective action depend on scale  $k$  :  
include only fluctuations with momenta larger than  $k$   
( or with distance from Fermi-surface larger than  $k$  )
- $k$  large : no fluctuations , classical action
- $k \rightarrow 0$  : quantum effective action
- effective average action ( same for effective potential )
- running couplings

# microscope with variable resolution

From

**Microscopic Laws**  
(Interactions, classical action)

to

Fluctuations!



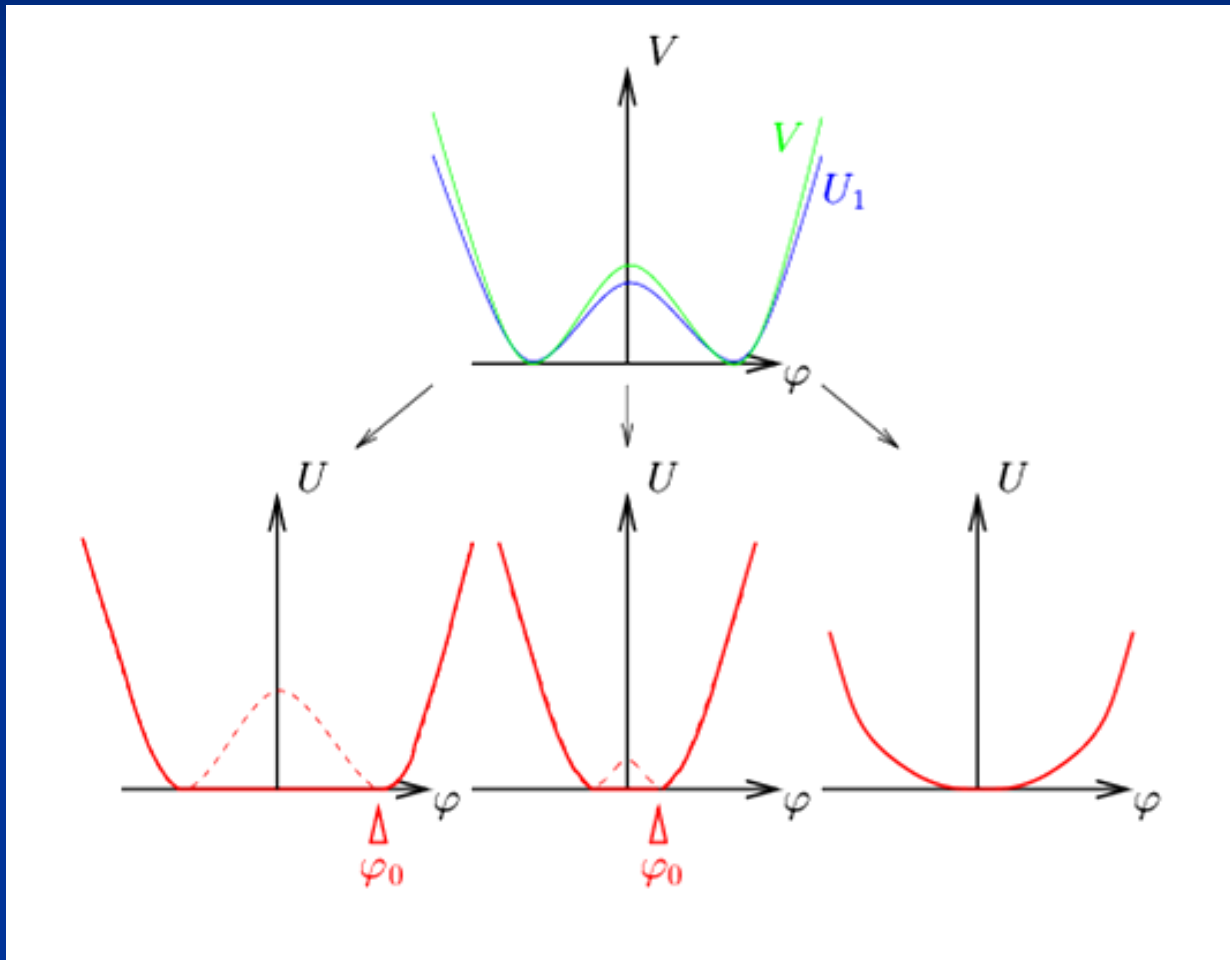
**Macroscopic Observation**  
(Free energy functional,  
effective action)

# running couplings : crucial for universality

for large Yukawa couplings  $h_\varphi$  :

- only one relevant parameter  $c$
- all other couplings are strongly attracted to **partial fixed points**
- macroscopic quantities can be predicted in terms of  $c$  and  $T/\varepsilon_F$   
( in suitable range for  $c^{-1}$  )

# running potential



micro

macro

here for scalar theory

# physics at different length scales

- microscopic theories : where the laws are formulated
- effective theories : where observations are made
- effective theory may involve different degrees of freedom as compared to microscopic theory
- example: microscopic theory only for fermionic atoms , macroscopic theory involves bosonic collective degrees of freedom (  $\varphi$  )



# Functional Renormalization Group

describes flow of effective action from small to large length scales

perturbative renormalization : case where only couplings change , and couplings are small

# conclusions

the challenge of precision :

- substantial theoretical progress needed
- “phenomenology” has to identify quantities that are accessible to precision both for experiment and theory
- dedicated experimental effort needed

# challenges for experiment

- study the simplest system
- identify quantities that can be measured with precision of a few percent and have clear theoretical interpretation
- precise thermometer that does not destroy probe
- same for density

# functional renormalization group

- block spins

Kadanoff, Wilson

- exact renormalization group equations

Wegner, Houghton

Wagner, Houghton

Weinberg

Polchinski

Hasenfratz<sup>2</sup>

- Lattice finite size scaling

Lüscher,...

- coarse grained free energy/average action

# effective average action

here only for bosons , addition of fermions straightforward

# Flow equation for average potential

$$\partial_k U_k(\varphi) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_i \int \frac{d^d q}{(2\pi)^d} \frac{\partial_k R_k(q^2)}{Z_k q^2 + R_k(q^2) + \bar{M}_{k,i}^2(\varphi)}$$

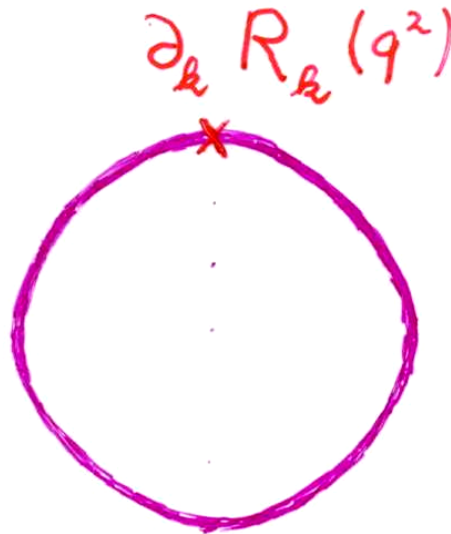
$$\bar{M}_{k,ab}^2 = \frac{\partial^2 U_k}{\partial \varphi_a \partial \varphi_b} \quad : \quad \text{Mass matrix}$$

$$\bar{M}_{k,i}^2 \quad : \quad \text{Eigenvalues of mass matrix}$$

+ contribution from fermion fluctuations

Simple one loop structure –  
nevertheless (almost) exact

$$\partial_k U_k = \frac{1}{2}$$



$$(Z_k q^2 + M_k^2 + R_k(q^2))^{-1}$$

# Infrared cutoff

$R_k$  : IR-cutoff

e.g. 
$$R_k = \frac{Z_k q^2}{e^{q^2/k^2} - 1}$$

or 
$$R_k = Z_k (k^2 - q^2) \Theta(k^2 - q^2) \quad (\text{Litim})$$

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow 0} R_k = 0$$

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} R_k \rightarrow \infty$$



Flow equation for  $U_k$

$$\partial_k U_k(\varphi) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_i \int \frac{d^d q}{(2\pi)^d} \frac{\partial_k R_k(q^2)}{Z_k q^2 + R_k(q^2) + \bar{M}_{k,i}^2(\varphi)}$$

'91

$$\bar{M}_{k,ab}^2 = \frac{\partial^2 U_k}{\partial \varphi_a \partial \varphi_b} \quad : \quad \text{Mass matrix}$$

$$\bar{M}_{k,i}^2 \quad : \quad \text{Eigenvalues of mass matrix}$$

$R_k$  : IR-cutoff

$$\text{e.g.} \quad R_k = \frac{Z_k q^2}{e^{q^2/k^2} - 1}$$

$$\text{or} \quad R_k = Z_k (k^2 - q^2) \Theta(k^2 - q^2) \quad (\text{Litim})$$

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow 0} R_k = 0$$

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} R_k \rightarrow \infty$$

Partial differential  
equation for function  
 $U(k, \varphi)$  depending on  
two variables

$$Z_k = c k^{-\eta}$$

# Regularisation

For suitable  $R_k$ :

$$R_k = \frac{Z_k q^2}{e^{q^2/k^2} - 1}$$
$$R_k = Z_k (k^2 - q^2) \Theta(k^2 - q^2)$$

- Momentum integral is ultraviolet and infrared finite
- Numerical integration possible
- Flow equation defines a regularization scheme ( ERGE –regularization )

$$\partial_k U_k(\varphi) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_i \int \frac{d^d q}{(2\pi)^d} \frac{\partial_k R_k(q^2)}{Z_k q^2 + R_k(q^2) + \bar{M}_{k,i}^2(\varphi)}$$

# Integration by momentum shells

Momentum integral  
is dominated by

$$q^2 \sim k^2.$$

$$\partial_k U_k(\varphi) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_i \int \frac{d^d q}{(2\pi)^d} \frac{\partial_k R_k(q^2)}{Z_k q^2 + R_k(q^2) + \bar{M}_{k,i}^2(\varphi)}$$

Flow only sensitive to  
physics at scale  $k$

# Wave function renormalization and anomalous dimension

$Z_k$ : wave function renormalization

$$k\partial_k Z_k = -\eta_k Z_k$$

$\eta_k$ : anomalous dimension

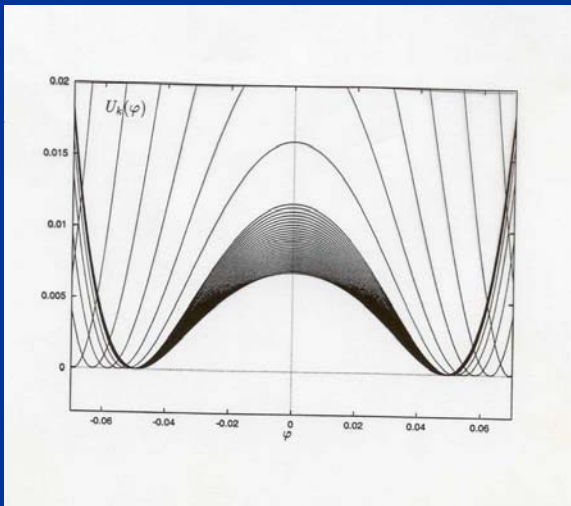
$$t = \ln(k/\Lambda)$$

$$\partial_t \ln Z = -\eta$$

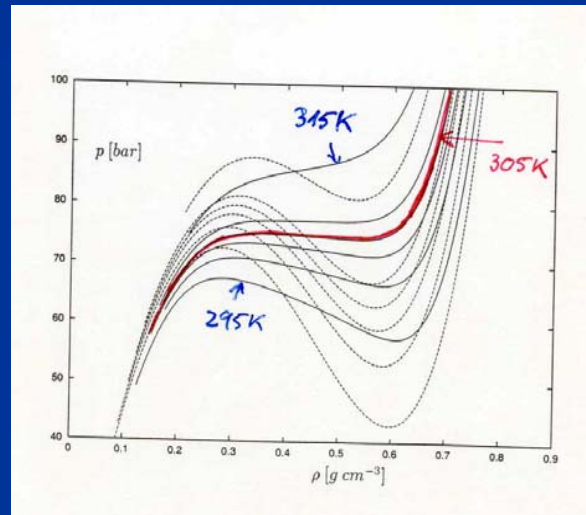
for  $Z_k(\varphi, q^2)$  : flow equation is **exact** !

# Flow of effective potential

## Ising model



## CO<sub>2</sub>



## Critical exponents

$d = 3$

Critical exponents  $\nu$  and  $\eta$

$N$	$\nu$		$\eta$	
0	0.590	0.5878	0.039	0.0292
1	0.6307	0.6308	0.0467	0.0356
2	0.666	0.6714	0.049	0.0385
3	0.704	0.7102	0.049	0.0380
4	0.739	0.7474	0.047	0.0363
10	0.881	0.886	0.028	0.025
100	0.990	0.980	0.0030	0.003

“average” of other methods  
(typically  $\pm(0.0010 - 0.0020)$ )

Experiment :

$$T_* = 304.15 \text{ K}$$

$$p_* = 73.8 \text{ bar}$$

$$\rho_* = 0.442 \text{ g cm}^{-3}$$

S.Seide ...

# Critical exponents , $d=3$

$N$
0
1
2
3
4
10
100

$\nu$
0.590
0.6307
0.666
0.704
0.739
0.881
0.990

ERGE world

$\eta$
0.039
0.0467
0.049
0.049
0.047
0.028
0.0030

ERGE world

“average” of other methods  
(typically  $\pm(0.0010 - 0.0020)$ )

# Solution of partial differential equation :

yields highly nontrivial non-perturbative results despite the one loop structure !

Example:

Kosterlitz-Thouless phase transition

# Exact renormalization group equation

Exact flow equation

for scale dependence of average action

$$\partial_k \Gamma_k[\varphi] = \frac{1}{2} \text{Tr} \left\{ \left( \Gamma_k^{(2)}[\varphi] + R_k \right)^{-1} \partial_k R_k \right\}$$

'92

$$\left( \Gamma_k^{(2)} \right)_{ab} (q, q') = \frac{\delta^2 \Gamma_k}{\delta \varphi_a(-q) \delta \varphi_b(q')}$$

$$\text{Tr} : \sum_a \int \frac{d^d q}{(2\pi)^d}$$

(fermions : STr)





Effective average action

and

exact renormalization group equation

# Generating functional

generating functional for connected Green's functions in presence of quadratic infrared cutoff

$$W_{\textcolor{red}{k}}[j] = \ln \int \mathcal{D}\chi \exp \left( -S[\chi] - \Delta_{\textcolor{red}{k}} S[\chi] + \int d^d x j_a \chi_a \right)$$

$$\Delta_{\textcolor{red}{k}} S = \frac{1}{2} \int \frac{d^d q}{(2\pi)^d} R_{\textcolor{red}{k}}(q^2) \chi_a(-q) \chi_a(q)$$

$$\text{e.g. } R_k = \frac{Z_k q^2}{e^{q^2/k^2} - 1}$$

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow 0} R_k = 0$$

$$R_{k \rightarrow \infty} \rightarrow \infty$$

# Effective average action

$$\Gamma_k[\varphi] = -W_k[j] + \int d^d x j_a \varphi_a - \Delta_k S[\varphi]$$

$\Gamma_0[\varphi]$ : quantum effective action  
generates 1PI vertices  
free energy:  $F = \Gamma T + \mu n V$

$\Gamma_k$  includes all fluctuations (quantum, thermal)  
with  $q^2 > k^2$

$\Gamma_\Lambda$  specifies microphysics

$$\varphi_a = \langle \chi_a \rangle = \frac{\delta W_k}{\delta j_a}$$

Loop expansion :  
perturbation theory  
with  
infrared cutoff  
in propagator

# Quantum effective action

for  $k \rightarrow 0$

all fluctuations (quantum + thermal)  
are included

knowledge of  $\Gamma_{k \rightarrow 0} \hat{=}$  solution of model

# Truncations

Functional differential equation –  
cannot be solved exactly

Approximative solution by truncation of  
most general form of effective action

# Exact flow equation for effective potential

- Evaluate exact flow equation for homogeneous field  $\varphi$  .
- R.h.s. involves exact propagator in homogeneous background field  $\varphi$ .

# two body limit ( vacuum )

- **Motivation** – Physical parameters measured in low energy scattering experiments → include vacuum fluctuations.
- Project on **physical vacuum** by

$$\Gamma_k(vak) = \lim_{k_F \rightarrow 0} \Gamma_k |_{\tilde{T} > \tilde{T}_c}$$

⇒ massive simplification of full diagrammatic structure.

- Picture: Smooth crossover terminates in **second order vacuum phase transition**

- (i) Atom phase ( $a^{-1} < 0$ ):  $\sigma_A = 0, \bar{m}_\phi^2 > 0,$
- (ii) Molecule phase ( $a^{-1} > 0$ )  $\sigma_A < 0, \bar{m}_\phi^2 = 0,$
- (iii) Resonance ( $a^{-1} = 0$ )  $\sigma_A = 0, \bar{m}_\phi^2 = 0.$

with “order parameter”  $\sigma_A = \epsilon_M/2$ : half the binding energy  $\epsilon_M$  of a molecule.

- Nontrivial vacuum physics: **scaling** of molecular scattering length  $a_M$  with fermion scattering length  $a$  ( $a_M/a$ )

Fermion fluct.s    Fermion and boson fluct.s    Four-body Schrödinger eq.\*

2

0.81

0.6

(\* Shlyapnikov *et al.*, PRL **93**,090404 (2004))