

# Conformal defects: A bridge between local and nonlocal physics

Connor Behan

ICTP-SAIFR

2024-10-11

[1703.03430, 1703.05325] with L. Rastelli, S. Rychkov, B. Zan

[1810.07199]

[2009.03336, 2111.04747] with L. Di Pietro, E. Lauria, B. C. van Rees

[2311.02742] with E. Lauria, M. Nocchi, P. van Vliet

Why do we like conformal field theories (CFTs)?

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1. They are more symmetric than “typical” QFTs.
2. They describe **universal** end points of RG flows.

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Rotations	$x'_\mu = \Lambda_\mu{}^\nu x_\nu$
Dilations	$x'_\mu = \lambda x_\mu$
Special	$x'_\mu = \frac{x_\mu - b_\mu x^2}{1 - 2b \cdot x + b^2 x^2}$

$$H = -J \sum_{i,j} \sigma_i \sigma_j$$

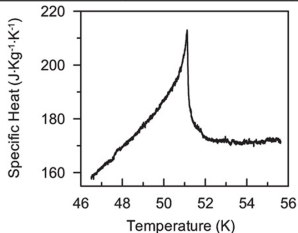
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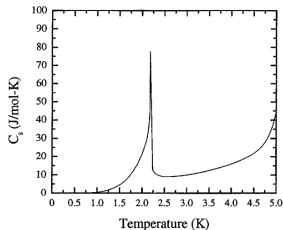


[Olega, Salazar, Bunkov; 2014]

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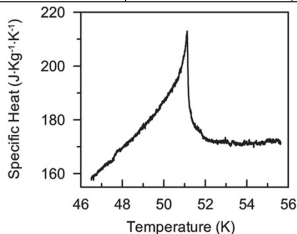
[Donnelly, Barenghi; 1998]

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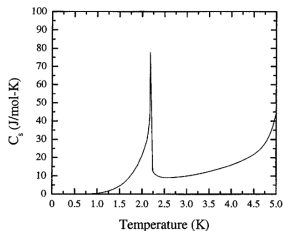
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What should we do with CFTs... bootstrap them!

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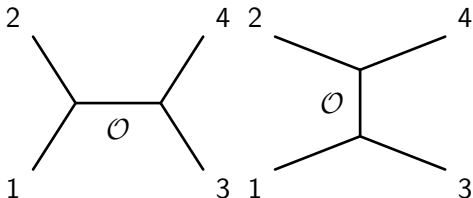
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[Rattazzi, Rychkov, Tonni, Vichi; 0807.0004]

[Kos, Poland, Simmons-Duffin, Vichi; 1603.04436]

$$\Delta_{\sigma} = 0.518149(1)$$

$$\Delta_{\varepsilon} = 1.412625(10)$$

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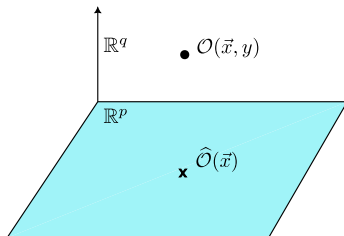
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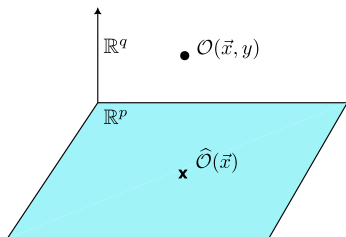


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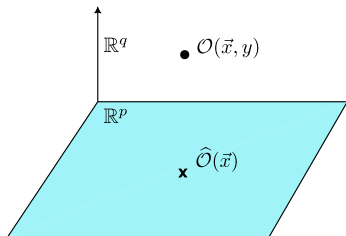
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Consider bulk-defect OPE:

$$\phi(\vec{x}, y) = \sum_{\hat{\mathcal{O}}} \frac{b_{\phi \hat{\mathcal{O}}}}{|y|^{\Delta - \hat{\Delta}}} B(y, \partial_x) \hat{\mathcal{O}}(\vec{x})$$

# The defect bootstrap



[Liendo, Rastelli, van Rees; 1210.04258]  
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1. Embed system into a matrix equation with positivity properties.

$$\sum_{\mathcal{O}, \hat{\mathcal{O}}} \begin{bmatrix} a_{\mathcal{O}} & b_{\hat{\phi}\hat{\mathcal{O}}} & \lambda_{\phi\phi\mathcal{O}} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} M_{11} & M_{12} & M_{13} \\ M_{12} & M_{22} & M_{23} \\ M_{13} & M_{23} & M_{33} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} a_{\mathcal{O}} \\ b_{\hat{\phi}\hat{\mathcal{O}}} \\ \lambda_{\phi\phi\mathcal{O}} \end{bmatrix} = C?$$

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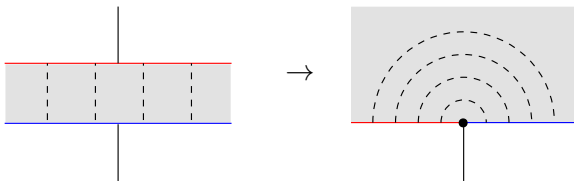
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[Collier, Mazac, Wang; 2112.00750] [Meineri, Radhakrishnan; ?] .

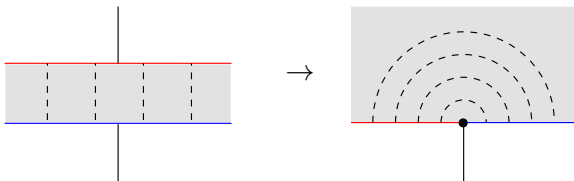
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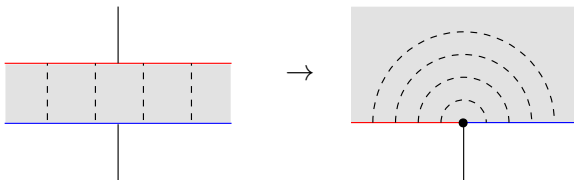
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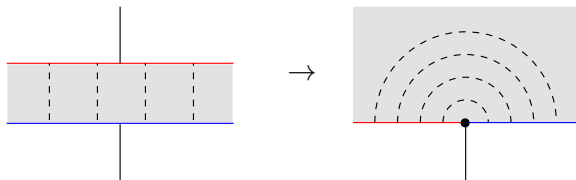
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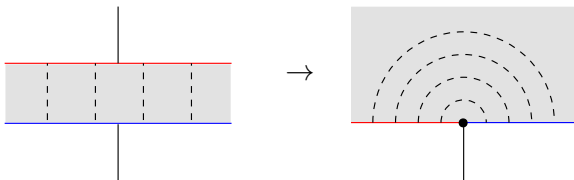
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Has been explored in free scalar theory (**this talk**) and Maxwell theory:

[Herzog, Shrestha; 2202.09180] [Bartlett-Tisdall, Herzog, Schaub; 2312.07692]

# Free boson near a defect

□  $\phi(\vec{x}, y) = 0$  has two solutions for each  $SO(q)$  spin  $s$ .

$$\phi(\vec{x}, y) = \sum_{s=0}^{\infty} y_{i_1} \dots y_{i_s} \left[ b_+^{(s)} |y|^s \hat{\psi}_+^{i_1 \dots i_s}(\vec{x}) + b_-^{(s)} |y|^{2-q-s} \hat{\psi}_-^{i_1 \dots i_s}(\vec{x}) \right] + \dots$$

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Starting with D or N, we can couple to **any**  $CFT_p$  with relevant  $\hat{\Phi}$ .

$$S_{int} = g \int_{\mathbb{R}^p} \hat{\psi}_{\pm}^{(0)} \hat{\Phi} d^p \vec{x}, \quad \partial_\mu T^{\mu\nu} \propto g \psi_+^{(0)} \partial^\nu \psi_-^{(0)}$$

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Special operators:

Boundary ( $q = 1, s = 0$ ) example:

$$\widehat{\Delta}_+^{(s)} = \frac{d-2}{2} + s \qquad \hat{\psi}_+^{(0)} = \hat{\phi}, \qquad D : b_+^{(0)} = 0$$

$$\widehat{\Delta}_-^{(s)} = p - \frac{d-2}{2} - s \qquad \hat{\psi}_-^{(0)} = \partial_y \hat{\phi}, \qquad N : b_-^{(0)} = 0$$

Starting with D or N, we can couple to **any**  $CFT_p$  with relevant  $\hat{\Phi}$ .

$$S_{int} = g \int_{\mathbb{R}^p} \hat{\psi}_{\pm}^{(0)} \hat{\Phi} d^p \vec{x}, \quad \partial_\mu T^{\mu\nu} \propto g \psi_+^{(0)} \partial^\nu \psi_-^{(0)}$$

Key relations for bootstrapping  $b_{\pm}^{(s)} \neq 0$  defects:

$$\lambda_{++\hat{\mathcal{O}}} = \kappa_+(\hat{\Delta}, \ell) \lambda_{+-\hat{\mathcal{O}}} \text{ and } \lambda_{--\hat{\mathcal{O}}} = \kappa_-(\hat{\Delta}, \ell) \lambda_{+-\hat{\mathcal{O}}}$$

# OPE relations in a different context

Consider **long range Ising** model  $H = -J \sum_{i,j} \sigma_i \sigma_j / |i - j|^{d+s}$ .

Action

$$S = \int \frac{\phi(x)\phi(y)}{|x-y|^{d+s}} d^d x d^d y + \lambda \int \phi^4 d^d x$$

[Fisher, Ma, Nickel; 72]

Nonlocal EOM

$$\begin{aligned} \phi^3(x) &= \int \frac{\phi(y) d^d y}{|x-y|^{d+s}} \\ \Delta_\phi + \Delta_{\phi^3} &= d \end{aligned}$$



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$$S = S_{SRI} + \int \frac{\chi(x)\chi(y)}{|x-y|^{d-s}} d^d x d^d y + g \int \sigma \chi d^d x$$

[CB, Rastelli, Rychkov, Zan; 1703.05325]

Nonlocal EOM

$$\phi^3(x) = \int \frac{\phi(y) d^d y}{|x-y|^{d+s}}$$

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Action (same fixed point for both!)

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Can derive  $\lambda_{\sigma\sigma\mathcal{O}} = \kappa_\sigma(\Delta, \ell) \lambda_{\sigma\chi\mathcal{O}}$  and  $\lambda_{\chi\chi\mathcal{O}} = \kappa_\chi(\Delta, \ell) \lambda_{\sigma\chi\mathcal{O}}$  since  $\langle \sigma\chi\mathcal{O} \rangle$  and  $\langle \chi\chi\mathcal{O} \rangle$  are shadow integral transforms of each other

[Paulos, Rychkov, van Rees, Zan; 1509.00008] [CB; 1810.07199] .

# OPE relations in a different context

Consider **long range Ising** model  $H = -J \sum_{i,j} \sigma_i \sigma_j / |i - j|^{p+s}$ .

Action (same fixed point for both!)	Nonlocal EOM
$S = \int \frac{\hat{\phi}(\vec{x})\hat{\phi}(\vec{y})}{ \vec{x}-\vec{y} ^{p+s}} d^p \vec{x} d^p \vec{y} + \lambda \int \hat{\phi}^4 d^p \vec{x}$ <p>[Fisher, Ma, Nickel; 72]</p>	$\hat{\phi}^3(\vec{x}) = \int \frac{\hat{\phi}(\vec{y}) d^p \vec{y}}{ \vec{x}-\vec{y} ^{p+s}}$ $\hat{\Delta}_\phi + \hat{\Delta}_{\phi^3} = p$
$S = S_{SRI} + \int \frac{\hat{\chi}(\vec{x})\hat{\chi}(\vec{y})}{ \vec{x}-\vec{y} ^{p-s}} d^p \vec{x} d^p \vec{y} + g \int \hat{\sigma} \hat{\chi} d^p \vec{x}$ <p>[CB, Rastelli, Rychkov, Zan; 1703.05325]</p>	$\hat{\sigma}(\vec{x}) = \int \frac{\hat{\chi}(\vec{y}) d^p \vec{y}}{ \vec{x}-\vec{y} ^{p-s}}$ $\hat{\Delta}_\sigma + \hat{\Delta}_\chi = p$

Can derive  $\lambda_{\hat{\sigma}\hat{\sigma}\hat{\sigma}} = \kappa_\sigma(\hat{\Delta}, \ell) \lambda_{\hat{\sigma}\hat{\chi}\hat{\sigma}}$  and  $\lambda_{\hat{\chi}\hat{\chi}\hat{\sigma}} = \kappa_\chi(\hat{\Delta}, \ell) \lambda_{\hat{\sigma}\hat{\chi}\hat{\sigma}}$  since  $\langle \hat{\sigma}\hat{\chi}\hat{\sigma} \rangle$  and  $\langle \hat{\chi}\hat{\chi}\hat{\sigma} \rangle$  are shadow integral transforms of each other

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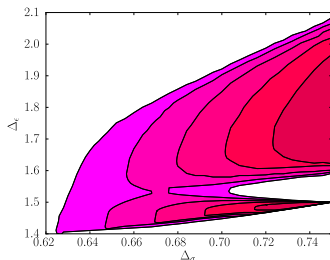
$$\begin{array}{lll} \hat{\phi} = \hat{\psi}_+^{(0)}, & \hat{\phi}^3 = \hat{\psi}_-^{(0)}, & q = 2 - s \\ \hat{\chi} = \hat{\psi}_+^{(0)}, & \hat{\sigma} = \hat{\psi}_-^{(0)}, & q = 2 + s \end{array}$$

$$\frac{\lambda_{++\hat{\mathcal{O}}}}{\lambda_{-+\hat{\mathcal{O}}}} = R \frac{\Gamma[\frac{1}{2}(\ell + \hat{\Delta})]\Gamma[\frac{1}{2}(\ell + \rho + q - 2 - \hat{\Delta})]}{\Gamma[\frac{1}{2}(\ell + 2 - q + \hat{\Delta})]\Gamma[\frac{1}{2}(\ell + \rho - \hat{\Delta})]}$$
$$\frac{\lambda_{--\hat{\mathcal{O}}}}{\lambda_{+-\hat{\mathcal{O}}}} = R^{-1} \frac{\Gamma[\frac{1}{2}(\ell + \hat{\Delta})]\Gamma[\frac{1}{2}(\ell + \rho - q + 2 - \hat{\Delta})]}{\Gamma[\frac{1}{2}(\ell - 2 + q + \hat{\Delta})]\Gamma[\frac{1}{2}(\ell + \rho - \hat{\Delta})]}$$

# General OPE relations

$$\frac{\lambda_{++\hat{\mathcal{O}}}}{\lambda_{-+\hat{\mathcal{O}}}} = R \frac{\Gamma[\frac{1}{2}(\ell + \hat{\Delta})]\Gamma[\frac{1}{2}(\ell + p + q - 2 - \hat{\Delta})]}{\Gamma[\frac{1}{2}(\ell + 2 - q + \hat{\Delta})]\Gamma[\frac{1}{2}(\ell + p - \hat{\Delta})]}$$
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[CB; 1810.07199]



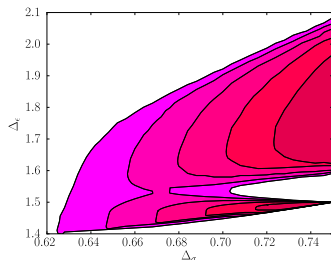
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$$R = -\frac{b_-^{(0)}\Gamma[(4-q)/2]}{b_+^{(0)}\Gamma[q/2]}$$

[CB; 1810.07199]



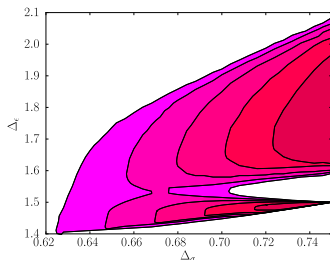
# General OPE relations

$$\frac{\lambda_{++\hat{O}}^{s_1, s_2, -s_1 - s_2}}{\lambda_{-+\hat{O}}^{s_1, s_2, -s_1 - s_2}} = R \frac{\Gamma[\frac{1}{2}(\ell + s_{12} + \hat{\Delta})]\Gamma[\frac{1}{2}(\ell + s_1 + s_2 + p + q - 2 - \hat{\Delta})]}{\Gamma[\frac{1}{2}(\ell - s_1 - s_2 + 2 - q + \hat{\Delta})]\Gamma[\frac{1}{2}(\ell - s_{12} + p - \hat{\Delta})]}$$

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[CB; 1810.07199]





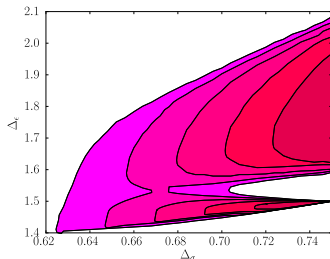
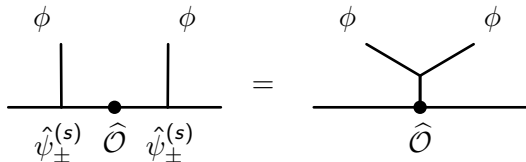
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Right side is regular so we get constraints on the left side.

# Targets

Most  $\hat{\psi}_-^{(s)}(\vec{x})$  are non-unitary ( $s \geq \frac{4-g}{2}$ ).

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Allowed cases (besides fractional):

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Bootstrap  $\langle \hat{\psi}_+ \hat{\psi}_+ \hat{\psi}_+ \hat{\psi}_+ \rangle$ ,  $\langle \hat{\psi}_- \hat{\psi}_- \hat{\psi}_- \hat{\psi}_- \rangle$ ,  $\langle \hat{\psi}_+ \hat{\psi}_+ \hat{\psi}_- \hat{\psi}_- \rangle$  where OPE relations reduce  $\{\lambda_{++\hat{\mathcal{O}}}, \lambda_{+-\hat{\mathcal{O}}}, \lambda_{--\hat{\mathcal{O}}}\} \rightarrow \{\lambda_{+-\hat{\mathcal{O}}}\}$ .

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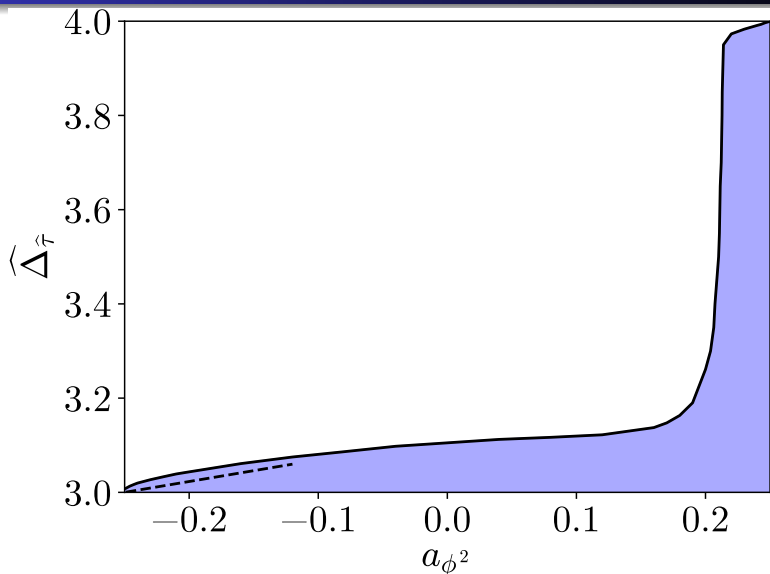
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Odd spin: If  $\hat{\Delta} \neq d - 1 + 2n + \ell$  ( $\hat{\mathcal{O}} \neq [\psi_+ \psi_-]_{n,\ell}$ ) then  $\lambda_{**\hat{\mathcal{O}}} = 0$

Even spin: If  $\hat{\Delta} = d - 2 + 2n + \ell$  ( $\hat{\mathcal{O}} = [\psi_+ \psi_+]_{n,\ell}, [\psi_- \psi_-]_{n,\ell}$ ) then  $\lambda_{+-\hat{\mathcal{O}}} = 0$  while  $\lambda_{++\hat{\mathcal{O}}}$  and  $\lambda_{--\hat{\mathcal{O}}}$  are unconstrained

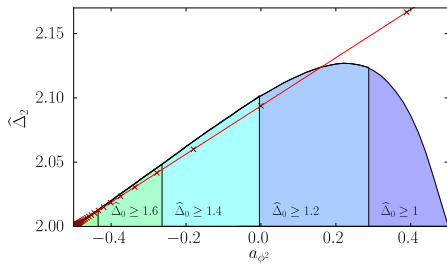
[CB, Di Pietro, Lauria, van Rees; 2009.03336]

## Results, 4d



Maximizing the gap for spin-2 operators from left (Dirichlet) to right (Neumann) [CB, Di Pietro, Lauria, van Rees; 2009.03336] .

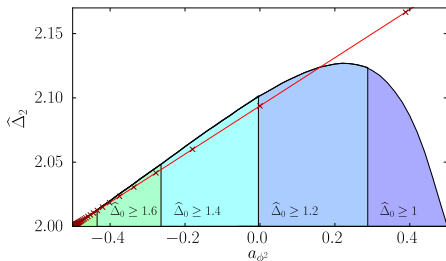
# Results, 3d



[CB, Di Pietro, Lauria, van Rees; 2111.04747]



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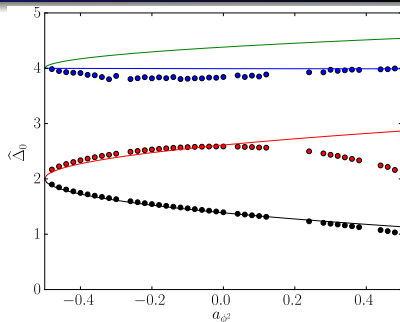
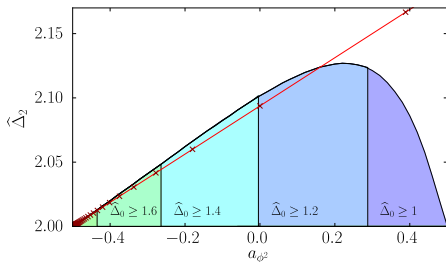
Use large  $m$  **minimal model** w/  $\widehat{\Delta}_{(1,2)} \sim \frac{1}{2} - \frac{3}{2m}$ ,  $\widehat{\Delta}_{(1,3)} \sim 2 - \frac{4}{m}$  in

$$S_{int} = g \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} \widehat{\psi} - \widehat{\Phi}_{(1,2)} d^2 \vec{x} + h \int_{\mathbb{R}^2} \widehat{\Phi}_{(1,3)} d^2 \vec{x}.$$

Plug fixed point into

$$\delta a_{\phi^2} = g^2 \pi^{d/2} \frac{2^{3-d}}{\Gamma[\frac{d}{2}]}, \quad \gamma_{\tau} = g^2 \pi^{d/2-1} \frac{d-1}{d+1} \frac{\Gamma[\frac{d}{2}+1]}{\Gamma[\frac{d+1}{2}]^2}.$$

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# The displacement operator

Displacement  $\hat{D}(\vec{x}) \equiv T_{\perp\perp}(\vec{x}, 0)$  is a protected  $\hat{\Delta} = d$  scalar.

Normalization  $\langle \hat{D}(\vec{x}) \hat{D}(0) \rangle = C_D / |\vec{x}|^{2d}$  guarantees

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^{d-1}} \langle \phi(x_1) \phi(x_2) \hat{D}(\vec{x}) \rangle d^{d-1} \vec{x} = (\partial_{y_1} + \partial_{y_2}) \langle \phi(x_1) \phi(x_2) \rangle .$$

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Use bulk-defect crossing for this correlator to derive

$$\frac{\lambda_{++D}}{d-2} = \frac{2C_D S_d^2 + 2^d a_{\phi^2}}{4(d-1)S_d b_+^2}, \quad \frac{\lambda_{--D}}{d-2} = \frac{2C_D S_d^2 - 2^d a_{\phi^2}}{2S_d b_-^2}.$$

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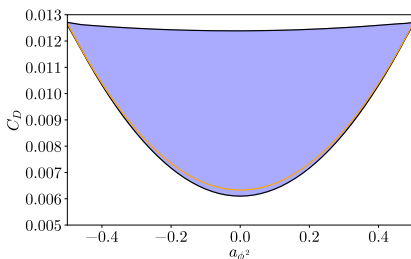
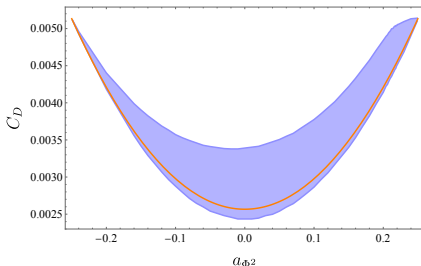
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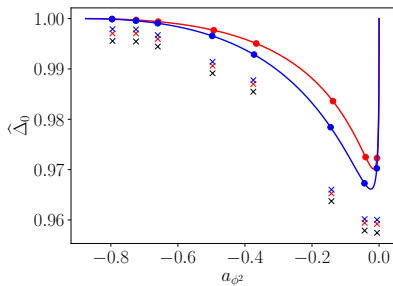
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Lower edge is the solvable deformation in [\[Witten; hep-th/0112258\]](#) .

# Back to long-range Ising



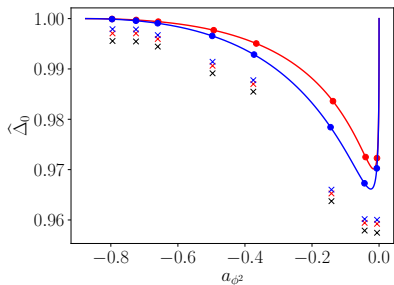
## 3-loop results from

[Benedetti, Gurau, Harribey, Suzuki; 2007.04603]

are close to numerical kinks from

[CB, Lauria, Nocchi, van Vliet; 2311.02742] .

# Back to long-range Ising

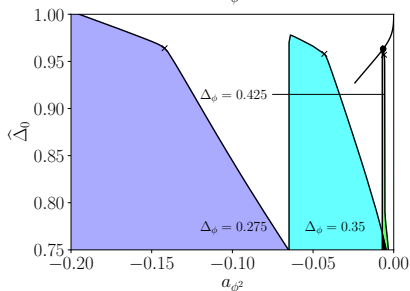


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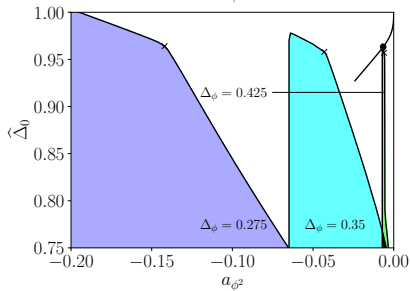
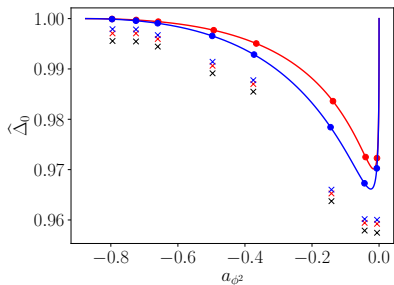
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# Back to long-range Ising

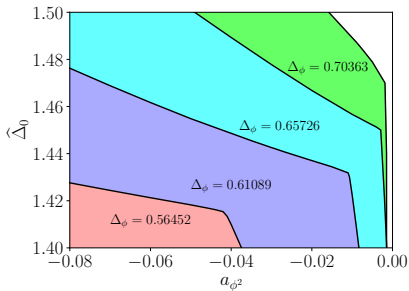


## 3-loop results from

[Benedetti, Gurau, Harribey, Suzuki; 2007.04603]

are close to numerical kinks from

[CB, Lauria, Nocchi, van Vliet; 2311.02742].





# More structure

LRI admits OPE relations and  
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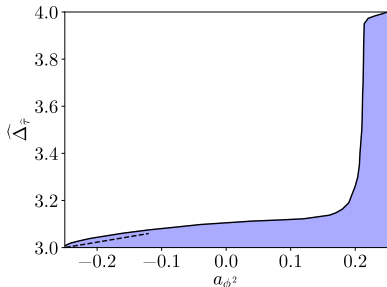
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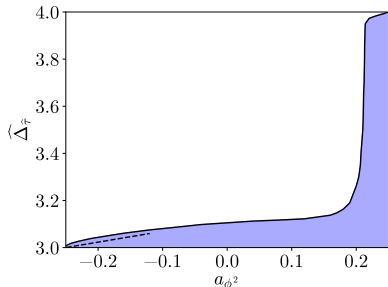
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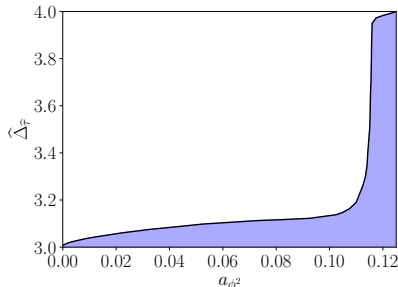
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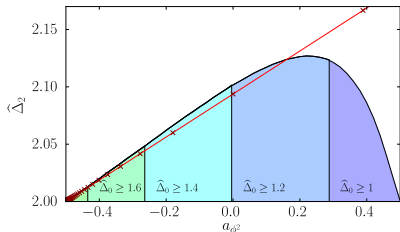
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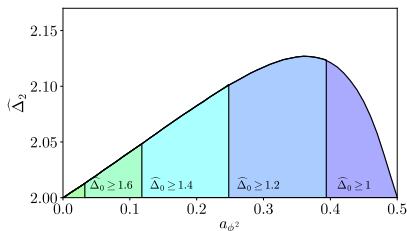
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Thanks for your attention!