

# Adam Falkowski

## Which EFT

Zurich, 19 October 2020

Based on 1902.05936 with Riccardo Rattazzi





**Two papers for a price of one!**

- Part 1: General model-independent constraints on deformations of the cubic Higgs coupling in theories where new physics decouples ( $h^3$  in SMEFT)
- Part 2: Physical difference between linearly and non-linearly realized electroweak symmetry breaking ( $h^3$  in SMEFT vs.  $h^3$  in HEFT)

*This talk*

**Related paper:**

Chang, Luty  
1902.05556

# Linear vs non-linear

Two mathematical formulations for effective theories with SM spectrum

**Linear**



**Non-linear**

$$SU(3)_c \times SU(2)_L \times U(1)_Y$$

$$SU(3)_c \times U(1)_{em}$$

$$L \in SU(2)_L \quad R \in U(1)_Y$$

$$H \rightarrow LH$$

$$U \rightarrow LUR^\dagger \quad h \rightarrow h$$

$$H = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} iG_1 + G_2 \\ v + h + iG_3 \end{pmatrix}$$

125 GeV Higgs boson  $\rightarrow$   $G_2$   
 Goldstone bosons eaten by W and Z  $\rightarrow$   $G_1, G_3$

$$U = \exp \left( \frac{i\pi^a \sigma^a}{v} \right)$$

In general, the two formulations lead to two distinct effective theories

Higgs VEV  
 $v \approx 246$  GeV

**SMEFT**



**HEFT**

Expansion parameter  
 $v \approx 246$  GeV

# Linear vs non-linear: Higgs self-couplings

In the SM  
self-coupling  
completely fixed...

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{SM}} \supset m^2 |H|^2 - \lambda |H|^4$$

$$\rightarrow -\frac{1}{2} m_h^2 h^2 - \frac{m_h^2}{2v} h^3 - \frac{m_h^2}{8v^2} h^4$$

...but they can be deformed by BSM effects

**SMEFT**

**HEFT**

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{SMEFT}} = \mathcal{L}_{\text{SM}} - \frac{c_6}{\Lambda^2} |H|^6 + \mathcal{O}(\Lambda^{-4})$$

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{HEFT}} \supset -c_3 \frac{m_h^2}{2v} h^3 - c_4 \frac{m_h^2}{8v^2} h^4 - \frac{c_5}{v} h^5 - \frac{c_6}{v^2} h^6 + \dots$$

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{SMEFT}} \supset -\frac{m_h^2}{2v} (1 + \delta\lambda_3) h^3 - \frac{m_h^2}{8v^2} (1 + \delta\lambda_4) h^4 - \frac{\lambda_5}{v} h^5 - \frac{\lambda_6}{v^2} h^6$$

$$\delta\lambda_3 = \frac{2c_6 v^4}{m_h^2 \Lambda^2}, \quad \delta\lambda_4 = \frac{12c_6 v^4}{m_h^2 \Lambda^2}, \quad \lambda_5 = \frac{3c_6 v^2}{4\Lambda^2}, \quad \lambda_6 = \frac{c_6 v^2}{8\Lambda^2}$$

**SMEFT: Predicts correlations between self-couplings  
as long as  $\Lambda \gg v$**

**HEFT: no correlations between self-couplings**

# Linear vs non-linear

**SMEFT**



**HEFT**

**Higgs boson coupling to WW**

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{SMEFT}} \supset m_W^2 W_\mu^+ W_\mu^- + 2m_W^2 \left( 1 + c \frac{g_*^2 v^2}{\Lambda^2} \right) \frac{h}{v} W_\mu^+ W_\mu^-$$

free O(1) parameter

**Parametric limit  $\Lambda \rightarrow \infty$  where  
Higgs boson couplings become SM-like**

**Higgs boson coupling to WW**

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{HEFT}} \supset m_W^2 W_\mu^+ W_\mu^- + 2m_W^2 (1 + \delta) \frac{h}{v} W_\mu^+ W_\mu^-$$

free O(1) parameter

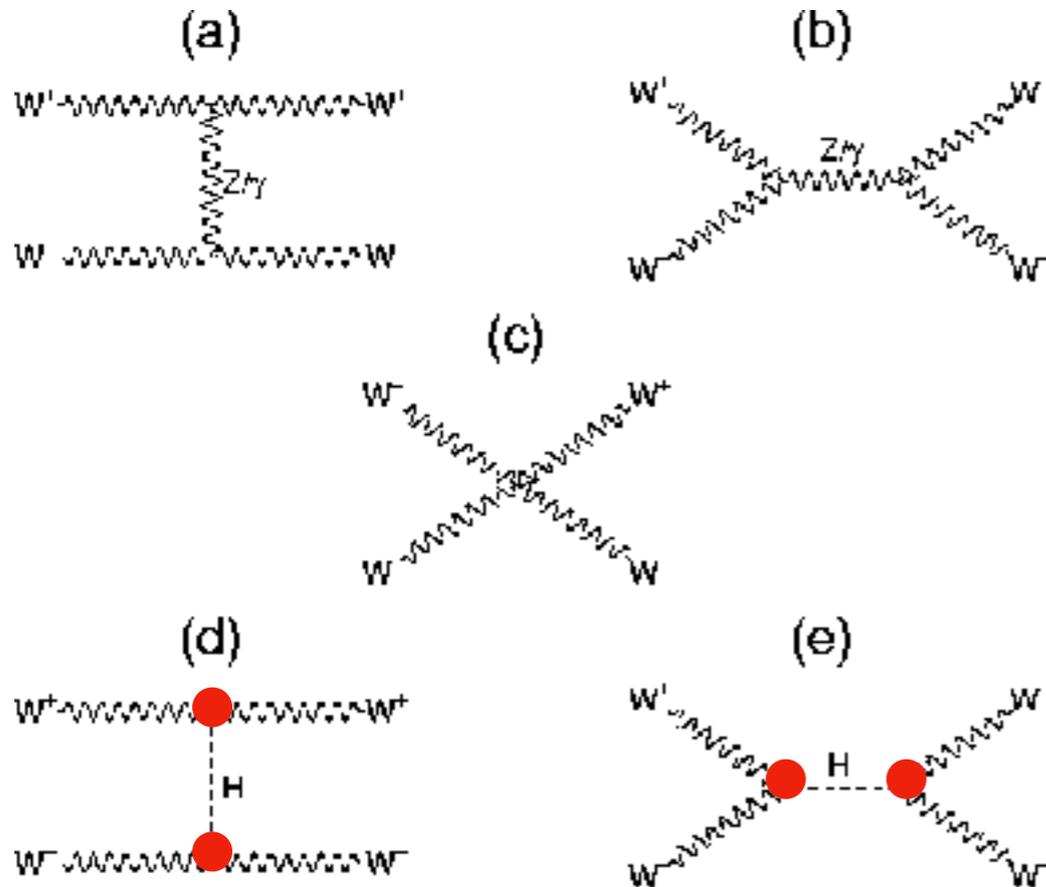
**No parametric limit where  
Higgs boson couplings become SM-like**

**Intuitively, no physical difference between SMEFT and HEFT if  $\Lambda \sim v$**

**What is the difference between SMEFT with  $\Lambda \gg v$  and HEFT with  $\delta \ll 1$  ?**

# HEFT in the decoupling limit?

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{HEFT}} \supset m_W^2 W_\mu^+ W_\mu^- + 2m_W^2 (1 + \delta) \frac{h}{v} W_\mu^+ W_\mu^-$$



- One may think of a reason for  $\delta \ll 1$  in HEFT describing new physics is much heavier than EW scale
- As is well known, in the SM Higgs boson is crucial for unitarization of 2-to-2 WW scattering amplitudes
- For that to work, the Higgs boson coupling to WW has to be fixed such that  $\delta = 0$
- More generally, if  $\delta \ll 1$ , tree level WW scattering avoids hitting strong coupling until far above the electroweak scale

# Linear vs non-linear

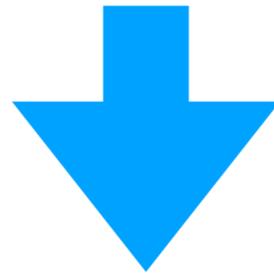
## Summary of the following ~10 slides:

- SMEFT and HEFT lead to a dramatically different phenomenology at the electroweak scale
- Choosing SMEFT or HEFT as our EFT above the electroweak scale implicitly entails an assumption about a class of BSM theories that we want to characterize
- SMEFT is appropriate to describe BSM theories which can be parametrically decoupled, that is to say, where the mass scale of the new particles depends on a free parameter(s) that can be taken to infinity
- Conversely, HEFT is appropriate to describe non-decoupling BSM theories, where the masses of the new particles vanish in the limit  $v \rightarrow 0$

## Example: cubic Higgs deformation

Consider toy EFT model where Higgs cubic (and only that) deviates from the SM

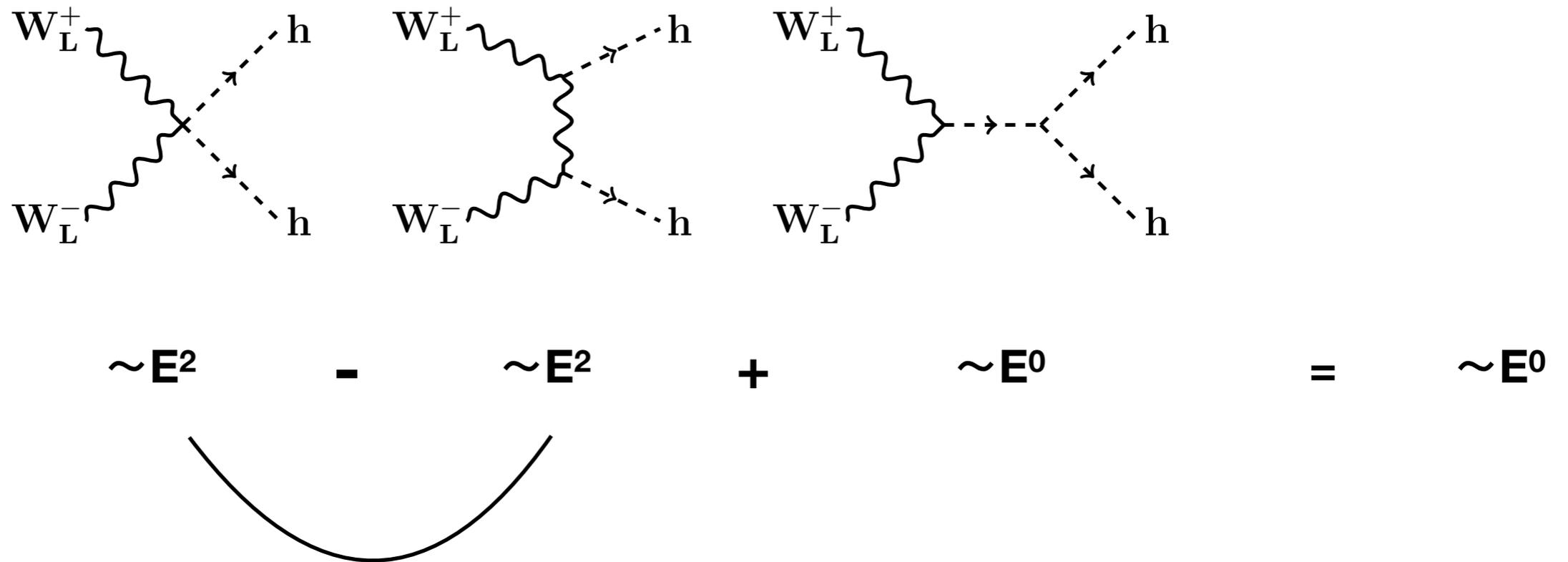
$$\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{L}_{\text{SM}} - \Delta_3 \frac{m_h^2}{2v} h^3$$



$$V(h) = \frac{m_h^2}{2} h^2 + \frac{m_h^2}{2v} (1 + \Delta_3) h^3 + \frac{m_h^2}{8v^2} h^4$$

This EFT belongs to HEFT but not SMEFT parameter space

# Elastic channels



**In this model the Higgs cubic is modified, but not Higgs couplings to W bosons.  
In 2-to-2 scattering at tree level only the latter are important for unitarity**

**In this model, no problems at the level of tree-level 2-to-2 amplitudes**

# Non-analytic Higgs potential

$$V(h) = \frac{m_h^2}{2} h^2 + \frac{m_h^2}{2v} (1 + \Delta_3) h^3 + \frac{m_h^2}{8v^2} h^4 \quad (1)$$

Given Lagrangian for Higgs boson  $h$ , one can always uplift it to manifestly  $SU(2) \times U(1)$  invariant form replacing

$$h \rightarrow \sqrt{2H^\dagger H} - v$$

After this replacement, Higgs potential contains terms non-analytic at  $H=0$

$$V(H) = \frac{m_h^2}{8v^2} (2H^\dagger H - v^2)^2 + \Delta_3 \frac{m_h^2}{2v} \left( \sqrt{2H^\dagger H} - v \right)^3 \quad (2)$$

(1) and (2) are equal in the unitary gauge

$$H \rightarrow \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ v + h \end{pmatrix}$$

Thus, (1) and (2) describe the same physics

# Non-analytic Higgs potential

$$V(H) = \frac{m_h^2}{8v^2} (2H^\dagger H - v^2)^2 + \Delta_3 \frac{m_h^2}{2v} \left( \sqrt{2H^\dagger H} - v \right)^3$$

In the unitary gauge, the Higgs potential looks totally healthy and renormalizable...

Going away from the unitary gauge:

$$H = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} iG_1 + G_2 \\ v + h + iG_3 \end{pmatrix} \quad \rightarrow \quad V \supset \Delta_3 \frac{m_h^2}{2v} \left( \sqrt{(h+v)^2 + G^2} - v \right)^3$$

$$G^2 \equiv \sum_i G_i^2$$

Away from the unitary gauge, it becomes clear that the Higgs potential contains non-renormalizable interactions suppressed only by the EW scale  $v$

$$V \supset \Delta_3 \frac{3m_h^2}{4v} \frac{G^2 h^2}{h+v} + \mathcal{O}(G^4) = \Delta_3 \frac{3m_h^2}{4} G^2 \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \left( \frac{-h}{v} \right)^n + \mathcal{O}(G^4)$$

# Multi-Higgs production

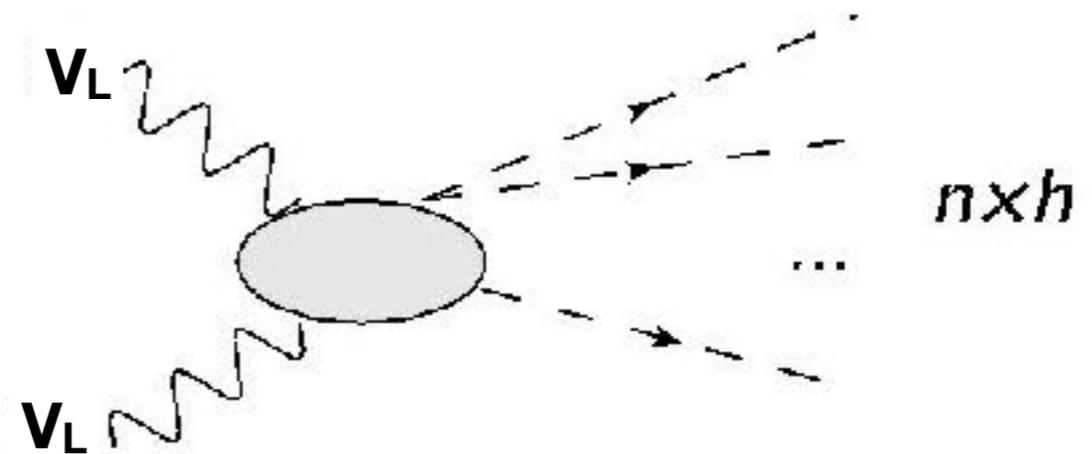
Consider VBF production of  $n \geq 2$  Higgs bosons:  $V_L V_L \rightarrow n \times h$

By equivalence theorem,  
at high energies the same as  $GG \rightarrow n \times h$

Expanded  $V$  contains interactions

$$V \supset = \Delta_3 \frac{3m_h^2}{4} G^2 \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \left( \frac{-h}{v} \right)^n$$

leading to interaction vertices with  
arbitrary number of Higgs bosons



**s-wave isospin-0 amplitude for  $GG \rightarrow h^n$  is momentum-independent  
constant proportional to the non-analytic deformation**

$$\mathcal{M}([GG]_{I=0}^{l=0} \rightarrow \underbrace{h \dots h}_n) \approx \frac{(-1)^{n+1}}{4\sqrt{\pi}} \Delta_3 \frac{3\sqrt{3} n! m_h^2}{2v^n}$$

**Amplitudes for multi-Higgs production in W/Z boson fusion are only  
suppressed by scale  $v$  and not decay with growing energy, leading to  
unitarity loss at some scale above  $v$**

# Unitarity primer

**S matrix unitarity**  $S^\dagger S = 1$

symmetry factor  
for n-body final state



**implies relation between forward scattering amplitude,  
and elastic and inelastic production cross sections**

$$2\text{Im}\mathcal{M}(p_1 p_2 \rightarrow p_1 p_2) = S_2 \int d\Pi_2 |\mathcal{M}^{\text{elastic}}(p_1 p_2 \rightarrow k_1 k_2)|^2 + \sum S_n \int d\Pi_n |\mathcal{M}^{\text{inelastic}}(p_1 p_2 \rightarrow k_1 \dots k_n)|^2$$

**Equation is “diagonalized” after  
initial and final 2-body state are projected into partial waves**

$$a_l(s) = \frac{S_2}{16\pi} \sqrt{1 - \frac{4m^2}{s}} \int_{-1}^1 d\cos\theta P_l(\cos\theta) \mathcal{M}(s, \cos\theta),$$

$$2\text{Im}a_l = a_l^2 + \sum S_n \int d\Pi_n |\mathcal{M}_l^{\text{inelastic}}|^2$$

**This can be rewritten as the Argand circle equation**

$$(\text{Re}a_l)^2 + (\text{Im}a_l - 1)^2 = R_l^2, \quad R_l^2 = 1 - \sum S_n \int d\Pi_n |\mathcal{M}_l^{\text{inelastic}}|^2$$

# Unitarity primer

## Argand circle equation

$$(\operatorname{Re} a_l)^2 + (\operatorname{Im} a_l - 1)^2 = R_l^2, \quad R_l^2 = 1 - \sum S_n \int d\Pi_n |\mathcal{M}_l^{\text{inelastic}}|^2$$

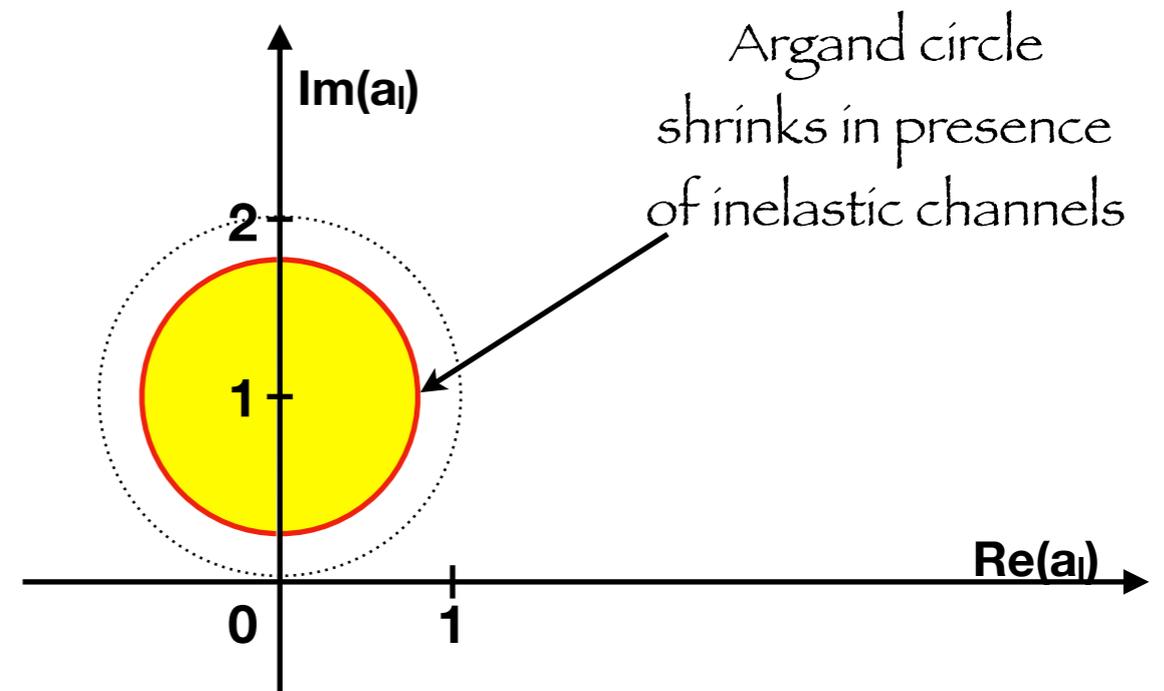
implies constraints on both  
elastic and inelastic amplitudes

*Often used*

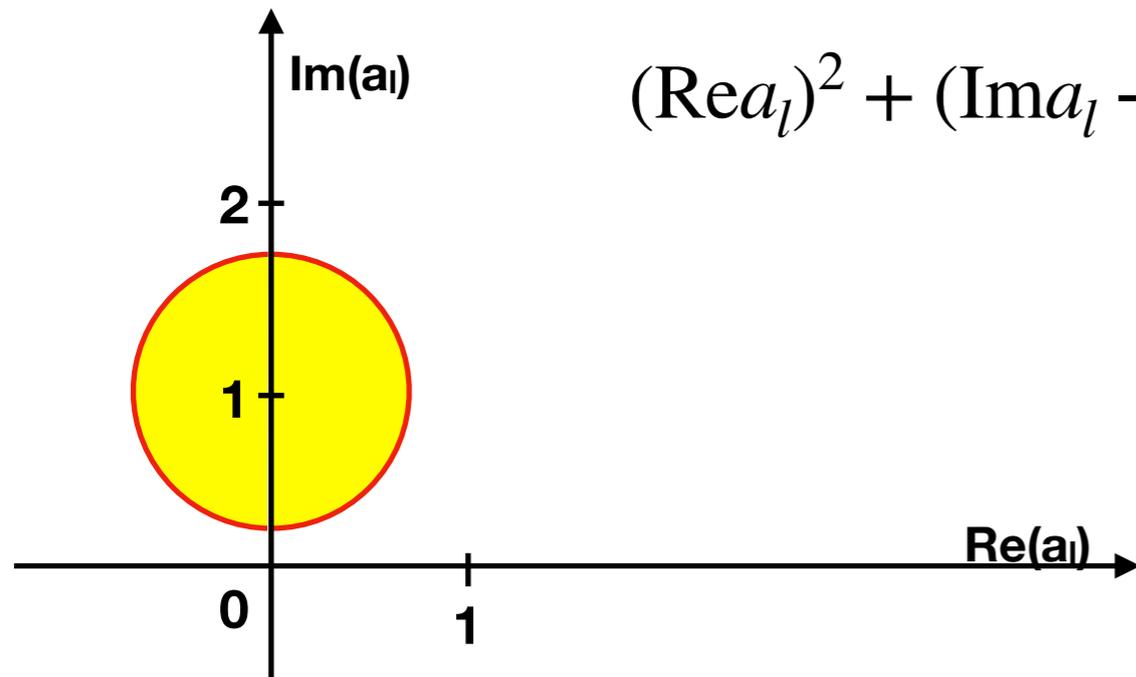
$$|\operatorname{Re} a_l| \leq 1$$

$$\sum S_n \int d\Pi_n |\mathcal{M}_l^{\text{inelastic}}|^2 \leq 1$$

*Often forgotten*



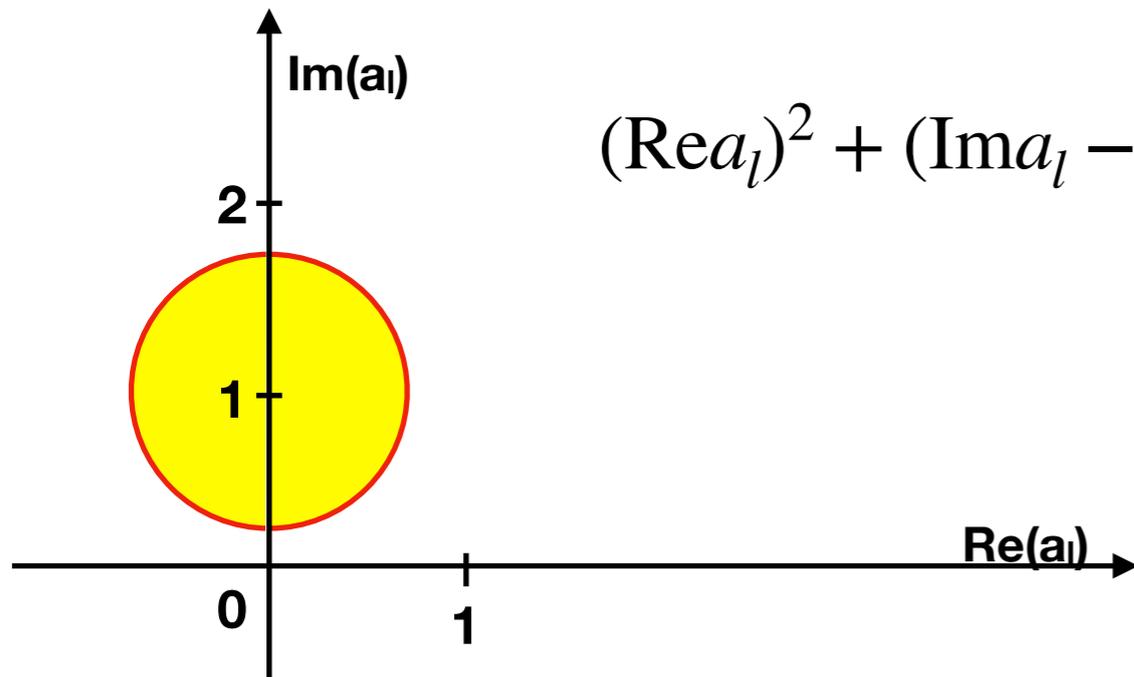
# Unitarity primer



$$(\text{Re}a_l)^2 + (\text{Im}a_l - 1)^2 = R_l^2, \quad R_l^2 = 1 - \sum S_n \int d\Pi_n |\mathcal{M}_l^{\text{inelastic}}|^2$$

- In a unitary theory, all partial wave amplitudes must lie on the boundary of the Argand circle
- Amplitudes calculated in perturbation theory may violate this condition, which signals that higher order corrections are non-negligible
- This goes under the name of perturbative unitarity violation
- New degrees of freedom must appear around the scale of perturbative unitarity violation, either as a UV completion of the effective theory, or as a strong coupling transition

# Unitarity primer



$$(\text{Re}a_l)^2 + (\text{Im}a_l - 1)^2 = R_l^2, \quad R_l^2 = 1 - \sum S_n \int d\Pi_n |\mathcal{M}_l^{\text{inelastic}}|^2$$

**Scale  $\Lambda_u$  where perturbative predictions are no longer reliable**

$$(\text{Re}a_l)^2 + \sum S_n \int d\Pi_n |\mathcal{M}_l^{\text{inelastic}}|^2 \Big|_{\sqrt{s}=\Lambda_u} = 1$$

**Estimated scale  $\Lambda_*$  where new degrees of freedom must appear**

$$(\text{Re}a_l)^2 + \sum S_n \int d\Pi_n |\mathcal{M}_l^{\text{inelastic}}|^2 \Big|_{\sqrt{s}=\Lambda_*} \sim \pi^2$$

# Unitarity constraints on inelastic channels

**Unitarity (strong coupling) constraint on inelastic multi-Higgs production**

$$\sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n!} \int d\Pi_n |\mathcal{M}([GG]_{I=0}^{l=0} \rightarrow h^n)|^2_{\sqrt{s}=\Lambda_*} = \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n!} V_n(\Lambda_*) |\mathcal{M}([GG]_{I=0}^{l=0} \rightarrow h^n)|^2 \sim \pi^2$$

**Volume of phase space in massless limit:**  $V_n(\sqrt{s}) = \int d\Pi_n = \frac{s^{n-2}}{2(n-1)!(n-2)!(4\pi)^{2n-3}}$

**In a unitary theory,  $2 \rightarrow n$  amplitude must decay as  $1/s^{n/2-1}$  in order to maintain unitarity up to arbitrary high scales**

<i>Process</i>	<i>Unitary behavior</i>
<b>2 → 2</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2 → 3</b>	<b>1/s<sup>1/2</sup></b>
<b>2 → 4</b>	<b>1/s</b>
...	...

# Unitarity constraints on HEFT

Unitarity equation

$$\sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n!} V_n(\sqrt{s}) |\mathcal{M}(GG \rightarrow h^n)|^2 \lesssim \mathcal{O}(\pi^2)$$

Our amplitude

$$\mathcal{M}(GG \rightarrow \underbrace{h \dots h}_n) \sim \Delta_3 \frac{n! m_h^2}{v^n}$$

$$\mathcal{O}(1) \gtrsim \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n!} V_n(\sqrt{s}) |\mathcal{M}(GG \rightarrow h^n)|^2 \sim \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n!} \frac{s^{n-2}}{(n!)^2 (4\pi)^{2n}} \Delta_3^2 \frac{(n!)^2 m_h^4}{v^{2n}} \sim \frac{\Delta_3^2 m_h^4}{s^2} \exp\left[\frac{s}{(4\pi v)^2}\right]$$

In model with deformed Higgs cubic, multi-Higgs amplitude do not decay with energy leading to unitarity loss at a finite value of energy

$$\Lambda \lesssim (4\pi v) \log^{1/2} \left( \frac{4\pi v}{m_h |\Delta_3|^{1/2}} \right)$$

Unless  $\Delta_3$  is unobservably small, unitarity loss happens at the scale  $4\pi v \sim 3 \text{ TeV}$  !

# Multi-Higgs production

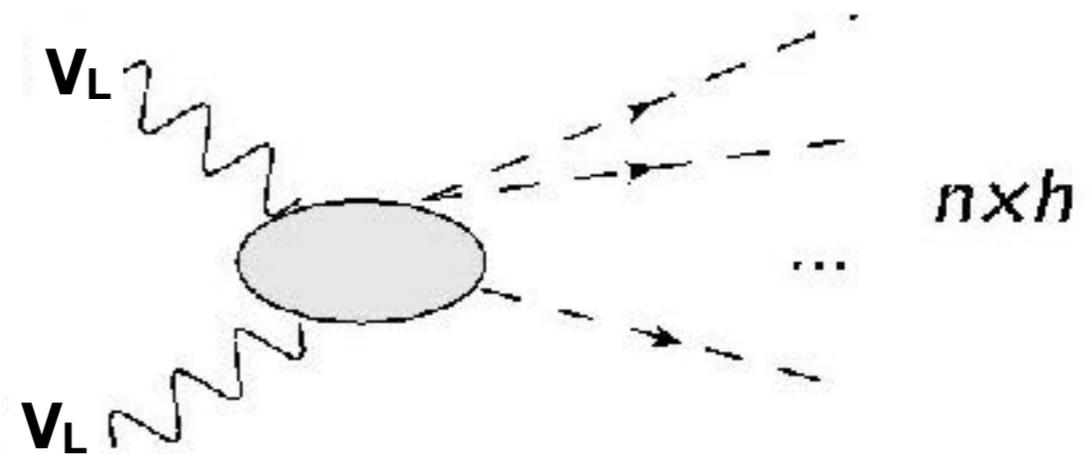
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leading to interaction vertices with  
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**s-wave isospin-0 amplitude for  $GG \rightarrow h^n$  is momentum-independent  
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**Amplitudes for multi-Higgs production in W/Z boson fusion are only  
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# Multi-Higgs production

Same calculation can be performed (much more painfully) without resorting to equivalence theorem

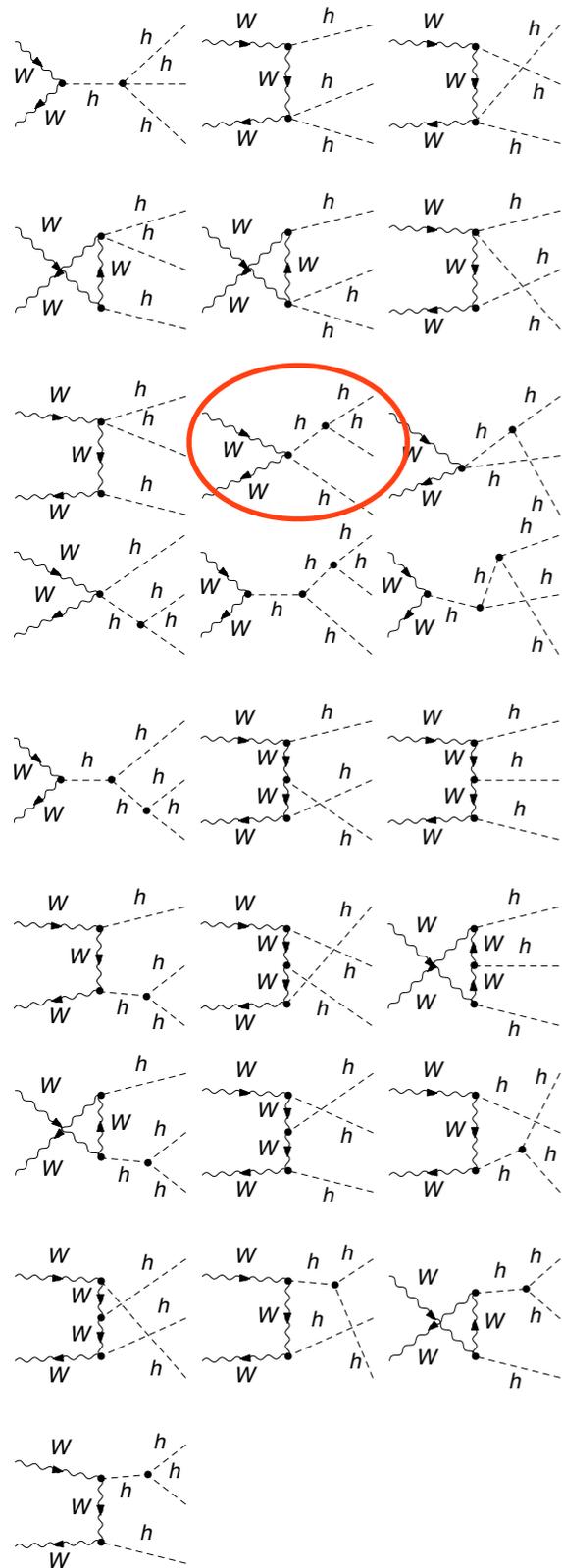
Consider  $V_L V_L \rightarrow hhh$  which depends on triple and other Higgs couplings.

Diagrams with one triple Higgs vertex contribute

$$\mathcal{M}(W_L W_L \rightarrow hhh) \sim \underbrace{\frac{m_W^2}{v^2}}_{\text{hhWW vertex}} \underbrace{\frac{m_h^2}{v}}_{\text{Triple Higgs vertex}} (1 + \Delta_3) \underbrace{\left(\frac{\sqrt{s}}{m_W}\right)^2}_{\text{Longitudinal polarization}} \underbrace{\frac{1}{s - m_h^2}}_{\text{Higgs Propagator}}$$

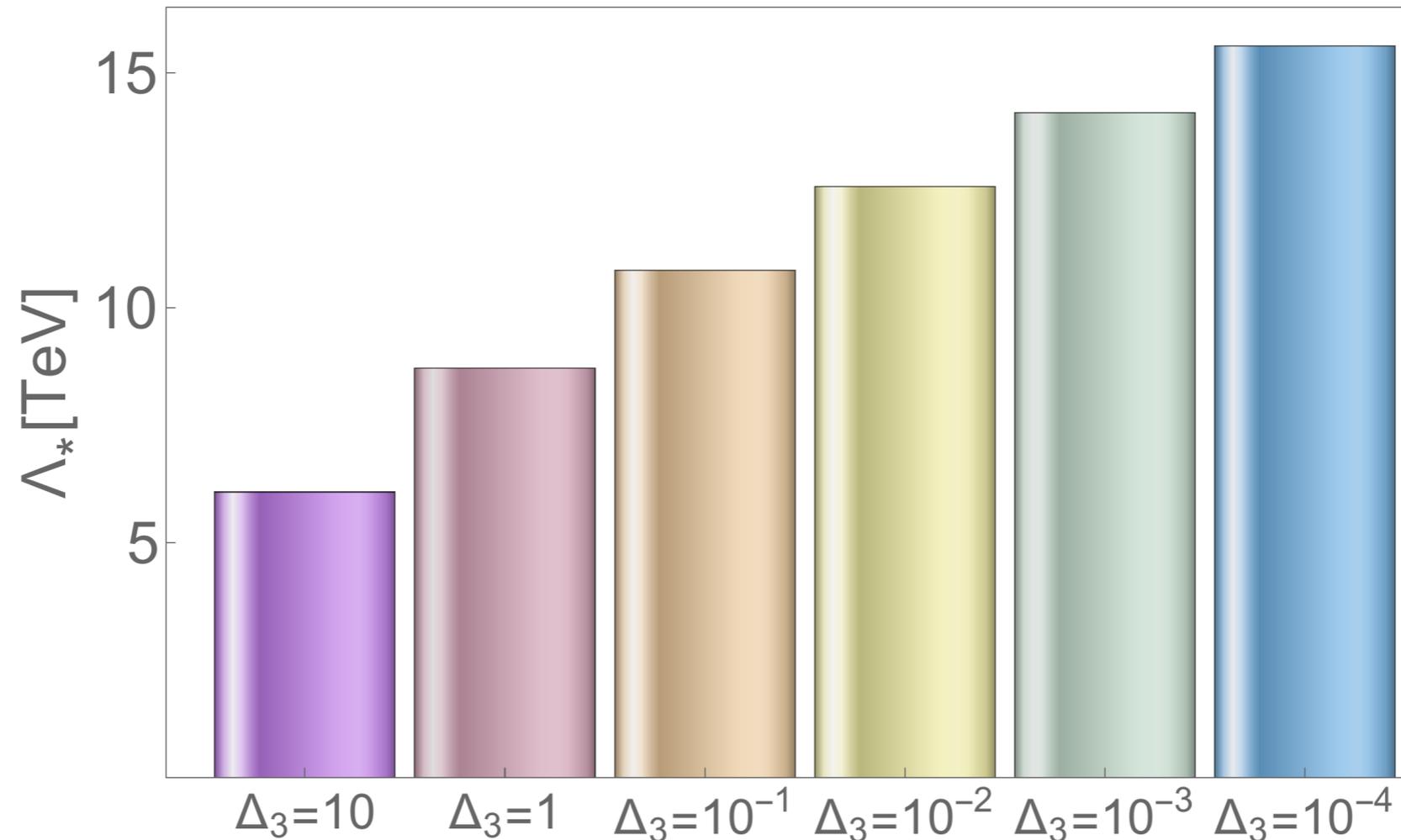
In SM, various contributions that go like  $E^0$  cancel against each other so that full amplitude behaves as  $1/E$  at high energy, consistently with perturbative unitarity

However, as soon as  $\Delta_3 \neq 0$ , cancellation is no longer happening, and then tree level  $V_L V_L \rightarrow hhh$  cross section explodes at high energies



# Unitarity constraints

## Maximum new physics scale for different $\Delta_3$

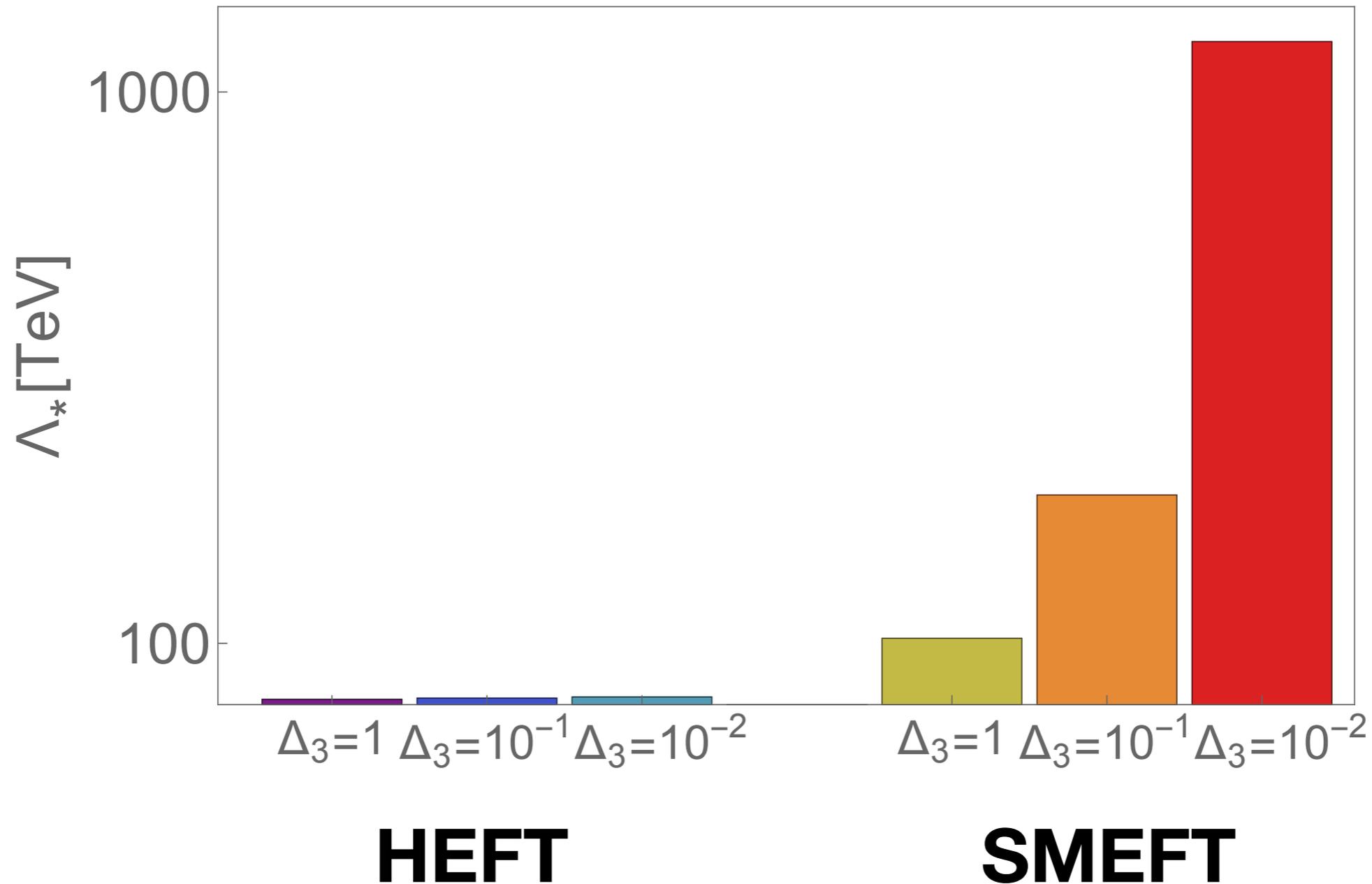


**For observable deformations of Higgs cubic,  
new degrees of freedom must appear below a few TeV**

**This conclusion does not change much even if cubic deformations  
are so small so as to be unobservable in practice**

# HEFT vs SMEFT

## Maximum new physics scale for different $\Delta_3$

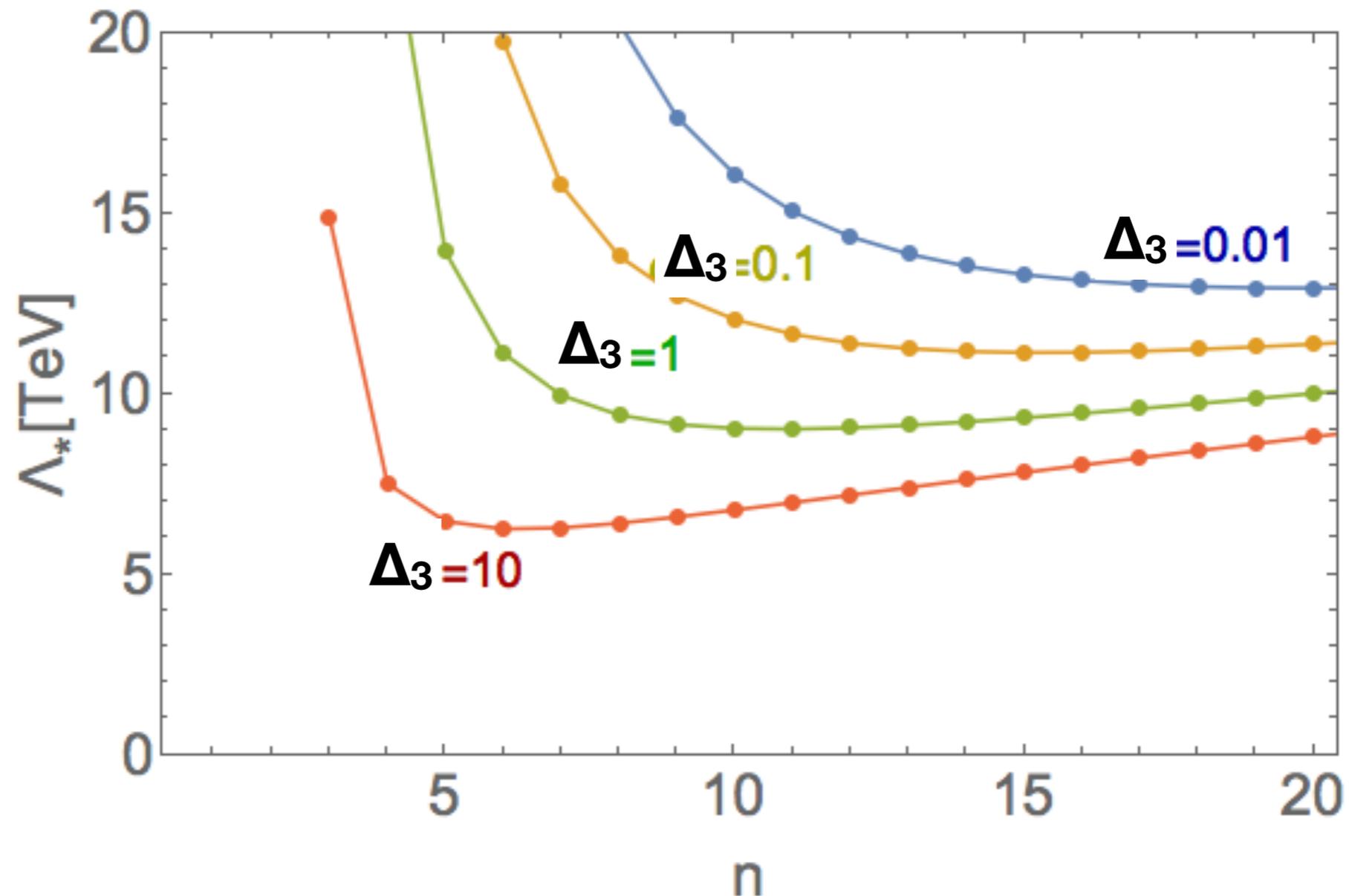


For SMEFT maximum new physics scale increases as  $(\Delta_3)^{-1/2}$

$$\Delta_3 \sim \frac{c}{\Lambda^2} \Rightarrow \Lambda_* = \frac{4\pi}{\sqrt{|\Delta_3|}}$$

# Unitarity constraints

## Unitarity bounds separately for each n



**The smaller  $\Delta_3$ , the larger multiplicity  $n$  which dominates unitarity bounds. But even for tiny  $\Delta_3$ , dominant  $n$  is order 10, so neglecting Higgs masses in phase space is justified a posteriori**

## Summary of unitarity constraints

- SM with deformed cubic loses perturbative unitarity at the scale of order  $4 \pi v$ , and has to be UV completed around that scale
- This is true even if the deformation is tiny and unobservable in practice
- The same lesson applies to any HEFT theory that is not part of the SMEFT parameter space, even when it is a continuous and small deformation of the SM Lagrangian!

**Unitarity arguments extended to other Higgs couplings in**

**Abu-Ajamieh et al  
2009.11293**

## Perspective on HEFT

- In effective theories, non-analytic terms in Lagrangian appear due to integrating out light or massless degrees of freedom
- More precisely, non-analyticity at  $H \rightarrow 0$  signals that particle whose mass vanishes as  $H \rightarrow 0$  has been integrated out
- Thus, HEFT is effective theory for UV models containing particles who get their masses from EW symmetry breaking. This explains why the cutoff cannot be parametrically raised above  $4\pi v$ .
- In contrast, SMEFT is the effective theory for UV models where new particles can be decoupled in the limit  $v \rightarrow 0$ , that is they have mass independent of EW symmetry breaking

# Perspective on HEFT

**Example of UV model leading to non-analytic terms in low-energy effective theory**

**Consider a funny version of the 2-Higgs-double model:**

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{UV}} = \mathcal{L}_{\text{SM}} - \frac{\kappa}{2} |\Phi|^4 + \mu^2 (\Phi^\dagger H + \text{h.c.})$$

**Eqs of motion:**

$$\Phi = \left( \frac{\mu^2}{\kappa H^\dagger H} \right)^{1/3} H$$

**Effective Lagrangian:**

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{EFT}} \approx \mathcal{L}_{\text{SM}} + \frac{3\mu^{8/3}}{2\kappa^{1/3}} (H^\dagger H)^{2/3}$$

**Non-analyticity appears because of integrating out a particle that would be massless in the absence of EW symmetry breaking**

More familiar example is integrating out 4th chiral generation at one loop, which produces  $\text{Log}|H|^2$  terms in the Coleman-Weinberg potential

**Another example is integrating out tachyonic electroweak doublets or triplets**

Cohen et al  
2008.08597

# HEFT vs SMEFT

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{HEFT}} = \frac{1}{2} f_h(h) (\partial_\mu h)^2 - V(h) + \frac{v^2}{4} f_1(h) \text{Tr}[\partial_\mu U^\dagger \partial_\mu U] + v^2 f_2(h) (\text{Tr}[U^\dagger \partial_\mu U \sigma_3])^2 + \dots$$

$$U = \exp\left(\frac{i\pi^a \sigma^a}{v}\right)$$

One can always re-express non-linear Lagrangian in linear language by replacing:

$$U \rightarrow \frac{(\tilde{H}, H)}{\sqrt{H^\dagger H}}$$

$$h \rightarrow \sqrt{2H^\dagger H} - v$$

After this substitution, Lagrangian has linearly realized electroweak symmetry but, for a generic point in parameter space, it contains terms that are **non-analytic** (that is, not continuously differentiable) at  $H=0$

A HEFT Lagrangian belongs to the SMEFT class, if, after this substitution, non-analytic terms cancel up to equations of motion and field redefinitions

# HEFT vs SMEFT

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{HEFT}} = \frac{1}{2} f_h(h) (\partial_\mu h)^2 - V(h) + \frac{v^2}{4} f_1(h) \text{Tr}[\partial_\mu U^\dagger \partial_\mu U] + v^2 f_2(h) (\text{Tr}[U^\dagger \partial_\mu U \sigma_3])^2 + \dots$$

Geometric criterion to distinguish HEFT from SMEFT introduced in

Alonso et al  
1511.00724

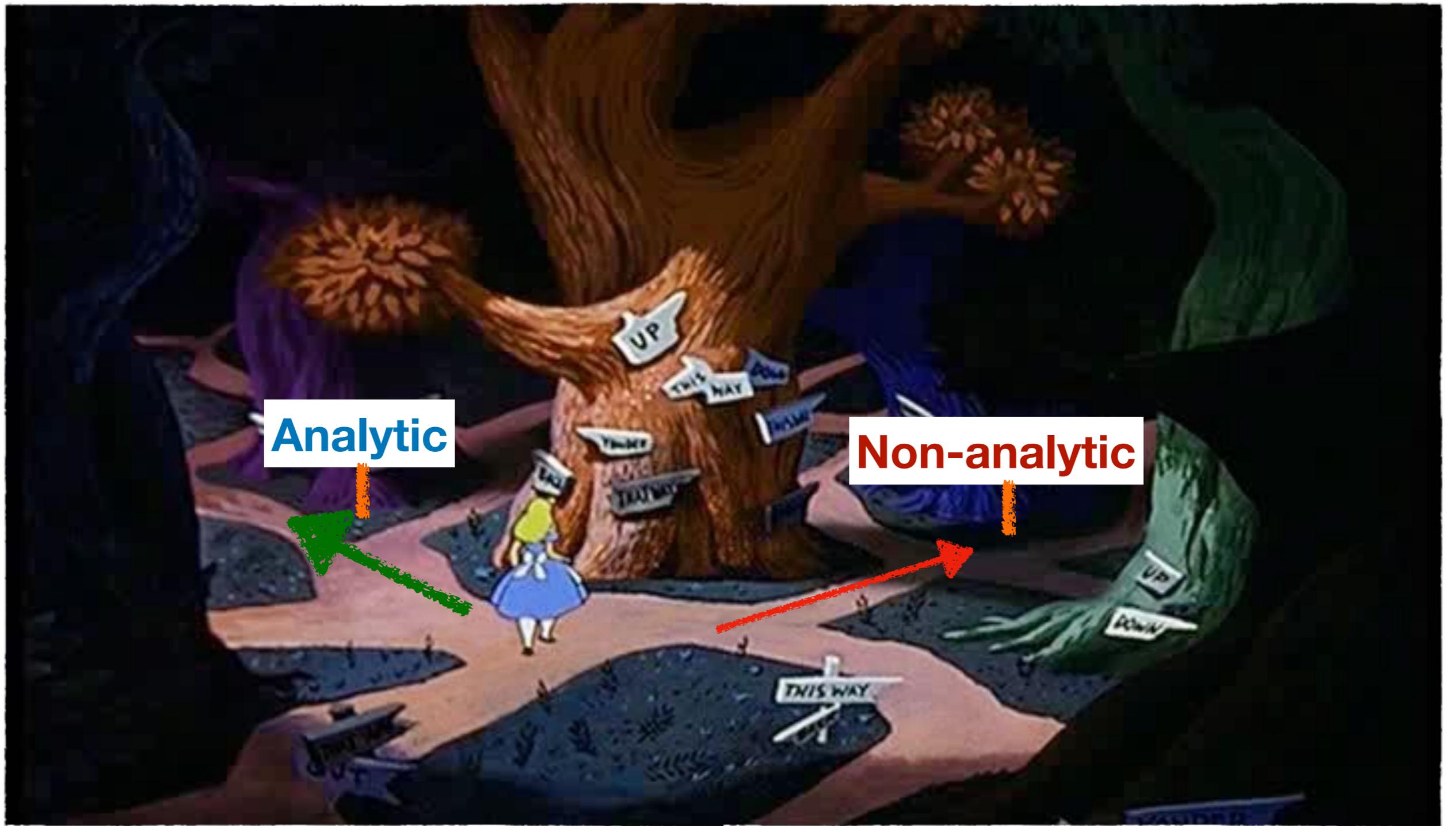
**For  $f_h(h)=1$  and  $f_2(h)=0$ , the Lagrangian belongs to the SMEFT class if the scalar manifold has an  $O(4)$  fixed point, that is if exists  $h_f$  such that  $f_1(h_f)=0$**

As it stands, this is not equivalent to the analyticity condition advertised in the previous slide

Geometric criterion recently clarified in

Cohen et al  
2008.08597

**For the candidate  $O(4)$  fixed point  $h_f$  such that  $f_1(h_f)=0$ , the potential  $V(h)$  has to be analytic at  $h_f$  (it has convergent Taylor expansion at  $h_f$ ), and the metric of the scalar manifold has to be analytic at  $h_f$ , in particular the curvature and its covariant derivatives have to be finite at  $h_f$**



Analytic

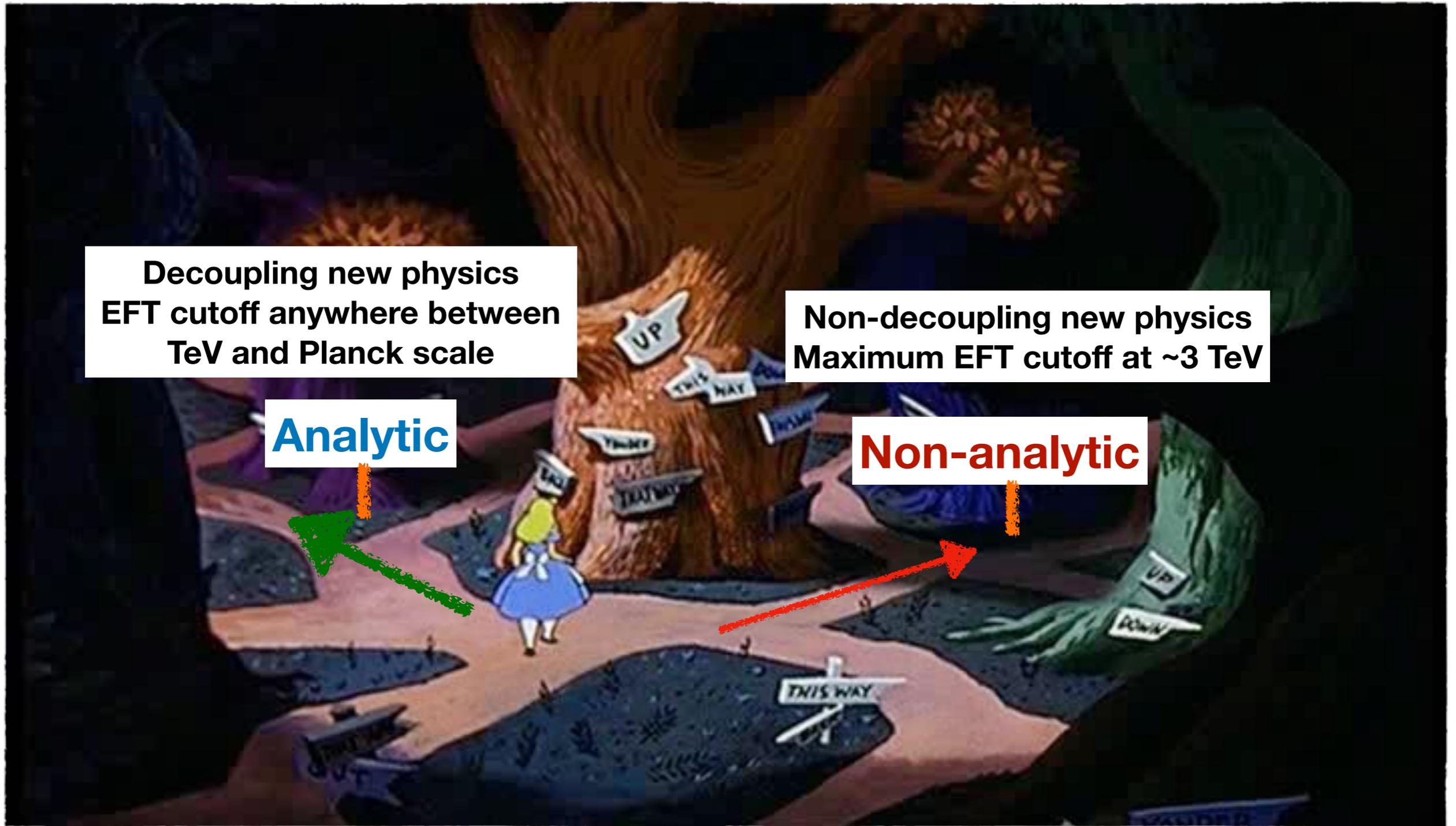
Non-analytic

Decoupling new physics  
EFT cutoff anywhere between  
TeV and Planck scale

Non-decoupling new physics  
Maximum EFT cutoff at  $\sim 3$  TeV

Analytic

Non-analytic



# Summary

- HEFT = SMEFT + non-analytic interactions
- Non-analytic term  $\rightarrow$  infinite series of interactions suppressed by  $v^n \rightarrow$  cut-off near  $4\pi v$
- Manifested as  $n>2$ -body Higgs production violating perturbative unitarity bounds around that scale
- Non-analytic terms can be understood as effective description of BSM models where new particles get their masses only from the Higgs VEV