

# Phase transitions for $\phi_3^4$

Hendrik Weber  
University of Bath

Based on joint work with

A. Chandra (Imperial), T. Gumaratnam (Genève)

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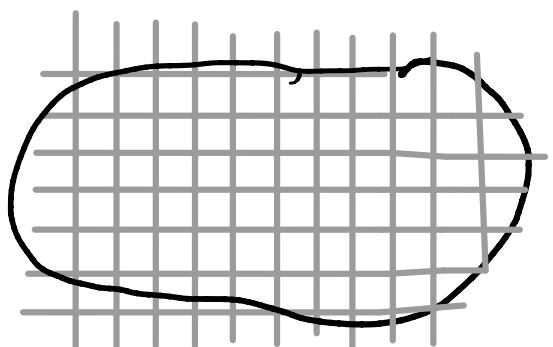
## $\phi^4$ Theory

Formally: Probability distribution on "functions" over set  $\Lambda \subseteq \mathbb{R}^d$

$$\sim \exp \left( - \int_{\Lambda} \frac{|\nabla \phi|^2(x)}{2} + |\phi|^4(x) dx \right) \prod_{x \in \Lambda} d\phi(x)$$

Doesn't make sense as it stands!!

Interpretation: take discretisation



$$\sim \exp \left( - \sum_{x \in \Lambda_\varepsilon} \varepsilon^d |\nabla_\varepsilon \phi(x)|^2 - \sum_{x \in \Lambda_\varepsilon} \varepsilon^d |\phi(x)|^4 \right) \prod_{x \in \Lambda_\varepsilon} d\phi(x)$$

$$\Lambda_\varepsilon = \Lambda \cap \varepsilon \mathbb{Z}^d$$

- take limit  $\varepsilon \downarrow 0$  (ultraviolet).  
(Renormalisation...)

## $\phi^4$ measure and SPDEs

Over  $\mathbb{R}^d$ : measure  $\sim \exp(-V(x)dx)$  reversible for

$$dx_t = -\nabla V(x) dt + \sqrt{2} dw_t$$

Langevin dynamic

Infinite dimensional analogue:

$$\frac{\partial_t \phi_t = (\Delta \phi - \phi^3)}{-\nabla \mathcal{H}} + \frac{\sqrt{2} \xi}{dW_t}$$

Space-time  
white noise.

SPDEs of this type studied recently:

- Hairer (regularity structures) 2014,...
- Gubinelli et al (paracontrolled distributions) 2015.

## Construction of measures

Gaussian case (no nonlinearity)  $\rightarrow$  always possible.

$$\sim \exp \left( - \int |\nabla \phi|^2(x) dx \right) \prod_x d\phi(x)$$

So called Gaussian free field.

E.g. on  $T^d$ , representation as "iid" Gaussian

$$\sum_{k \in \mathbb{Z}^d} \frac{x_k}{|k|} e^{ik \cdot x}$$

(modulo 0-th Fourier mode)

Converges in space of low regularity

$$< \frac{2-d}{2}.$$

## Non-Gaussian case

$$\sim \exp \left( - \int_{\Lambda} \frac{|\nabla \phi|^2(x)}{2} + \phi^4(x) dx \right) \prod_{x \in \Lambda} d\phi(x)$$

$d=1$ : OK, define through density w.r.t. Gaussian.

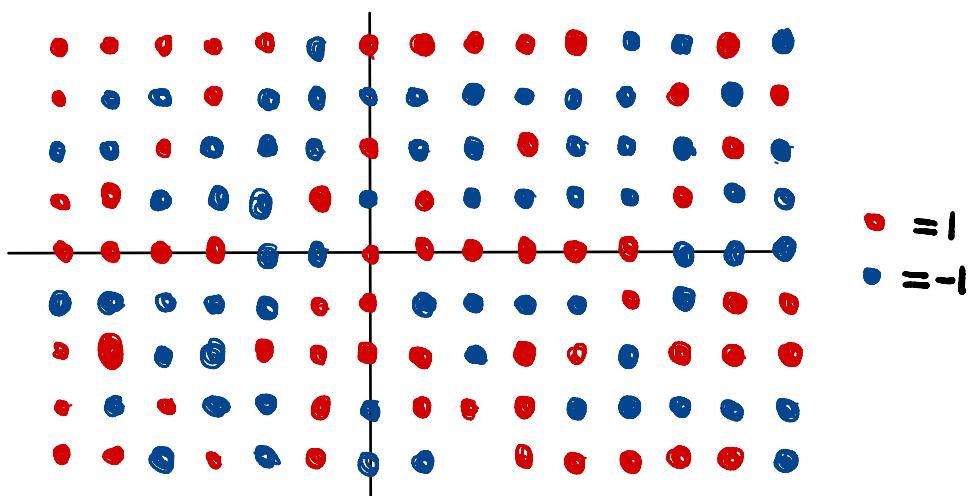
$d \geq 2$  Low regularity, need for renormalisation.  
(Nelson '66)

$d=3$  Non-linear measure singular w.r.t. GFF  
(Barashkov - Gubinelli 2019)

$d \geq 4$  Triviality.  $d > 4$  Aizenman '82, Fröhlich '82.  
 $d=4$  Aizenman - Duminil-Copin 2019.

# $\phi^4$ as continuous Ising model:

Ising model



$\Delta \subset \mathbb{Z}^d$ , configurations in  $\{\pm 1\}^\Delta$

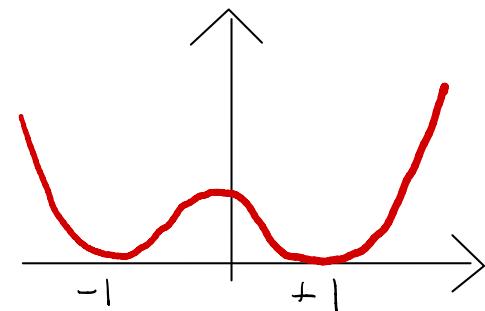
Hamiltonian:  $\mathcal{H}(\sigma) = -\frac{1}{2} \sum_{i,j} K_{ij} \sigma_i \sigma_j$  interaction > 0

Gibbs measure:  $\mu_\beta(\sigma) = \frac{1}{Z} \exp(-\beta \mathcal{H}(\sigma))$

\uparrow "inverse temperature"

- Continuous spin

$$\delta_{-1} + \delta_{+1} \sim \exp(-\lambda (\phi^2 - 1)^2) d\phi$$



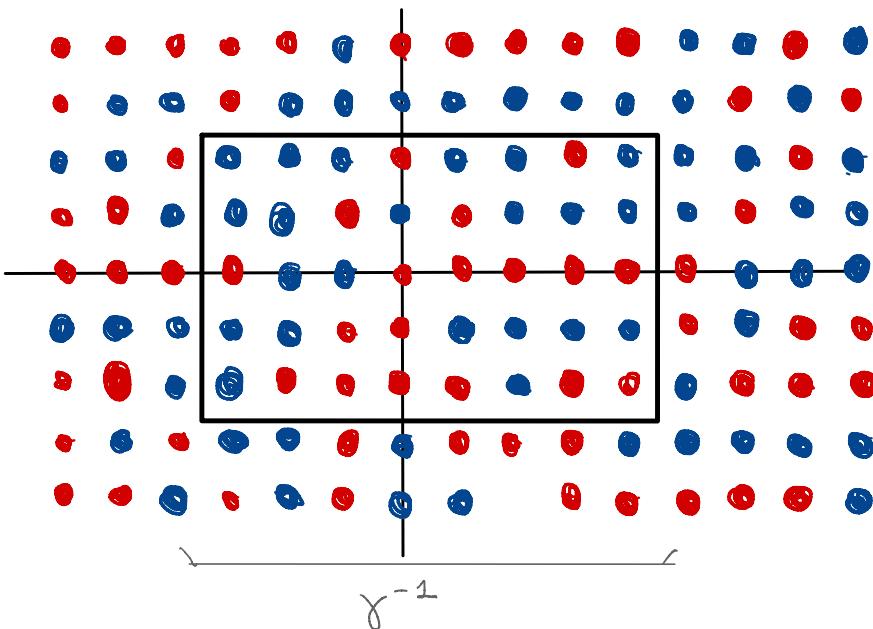
- interaction:

$$-\frac{1}{2} \sigma_i \sigma_j \sim \frac{1}{2} (\phi_i - \phi_j)^2$$

# $\phi^4$ as scaling limit

Classical : Griffith - Simon '73.

Kac-Interaction:



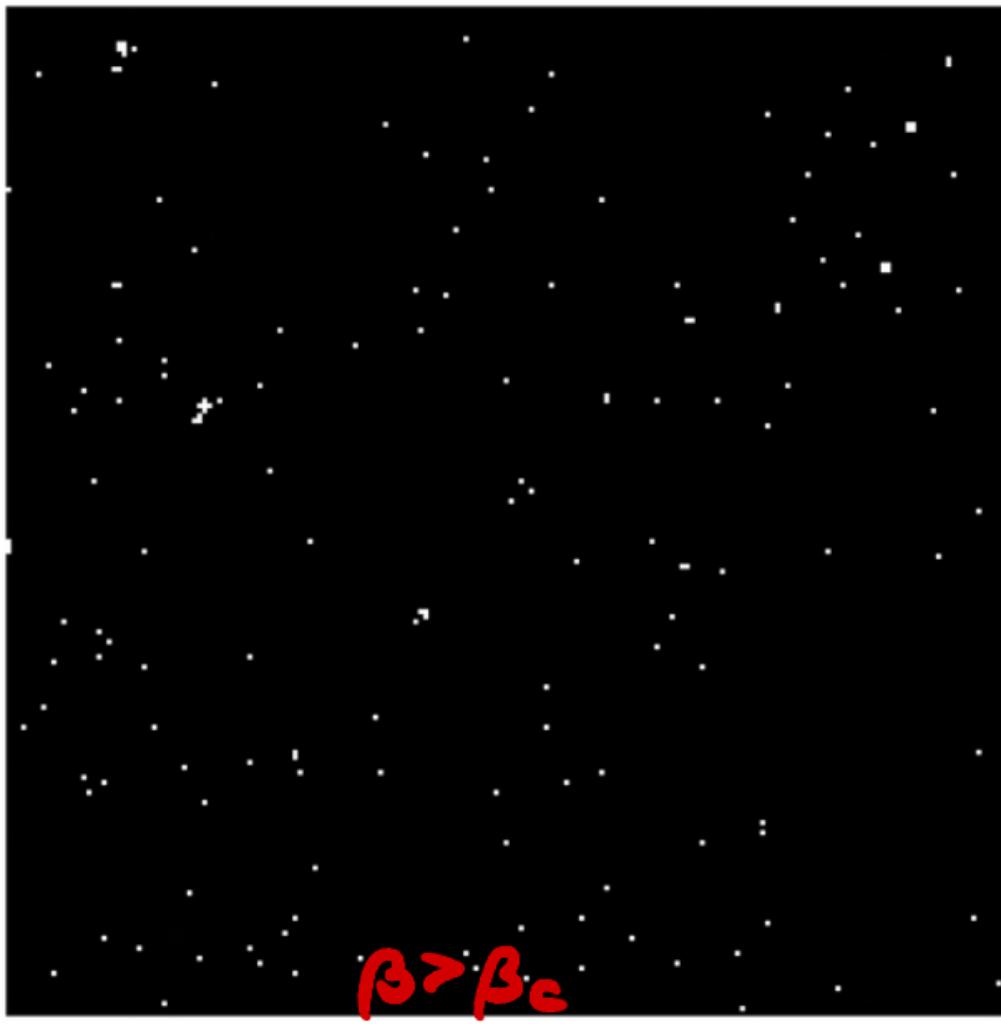
$$K_{ij} \sim \gamma^d \delta(\gamma^{(i-j)})$$

local mean field.

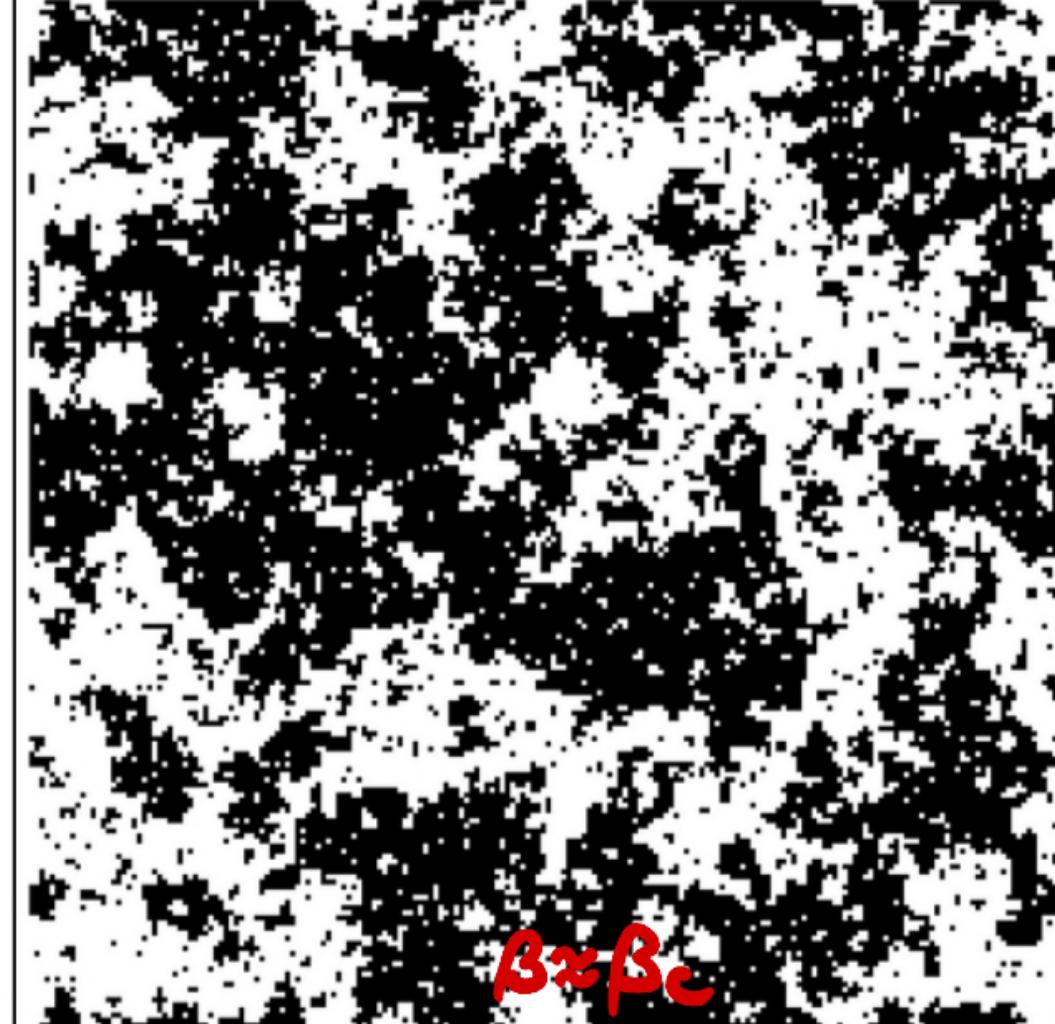
- Near critical temperature :  $\beta = 1 + (\text{correction})$
- On correct scales :  $\hat{x} = \gamma^{\frac{4}{4-d}} x$

$$\sim \gamma^{-\frac{d}{4-d}} \sigma \Rightarrow \phi^4$$

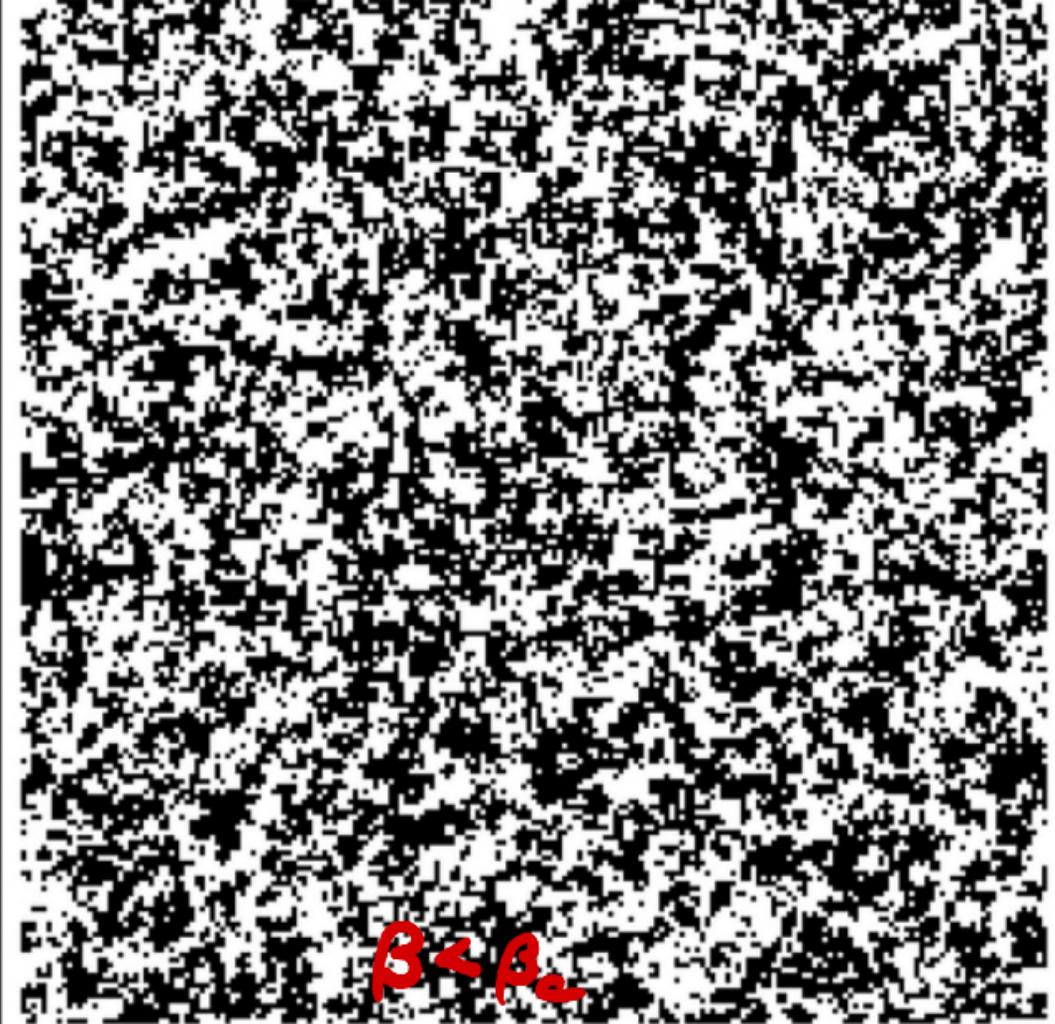
$d=2$  Cassandro, Mama, Presutti 95  
Hairer, Iberi 2018



$\beta > \beta_c$



$\beta \approx \beta_c$

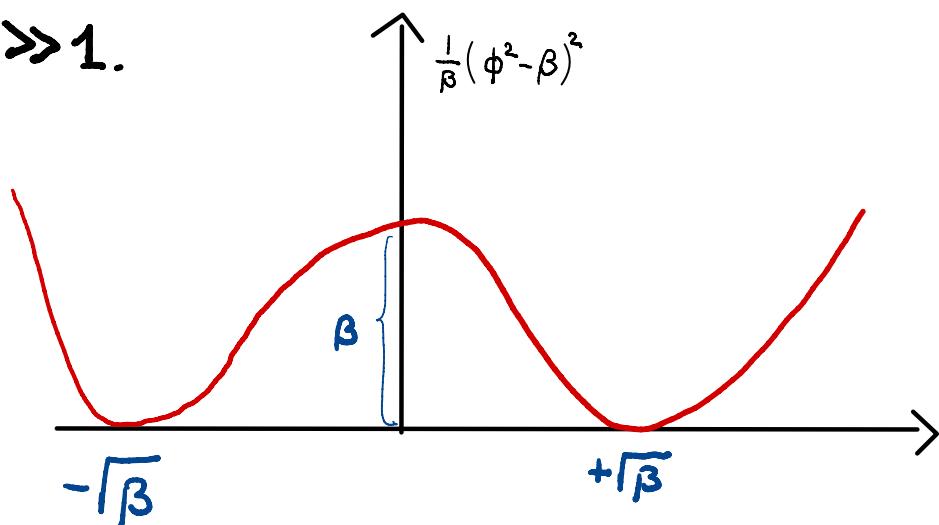


$\beta < \beta_c$

# Low temperature $\phi^4$

$$V_{BN} \sim \exp \left( - \int \frac{|\nabla \phi|^2(x)}{2} + \frac{1}{\beta} (\phi^2 - \beta)^2 + c.t. dx \right) \pi \underset{x \in NT^3}{d\phi(x)} \quad (1).$$

$\beta \gg 1.$



Intuition:

transition from  $\pm \sqrt{\beta}$  costs  
more for  $|\nabla \phi|^2$ .

Thm: Chandra - Gunaratnam - W. arXiv:2006.15933

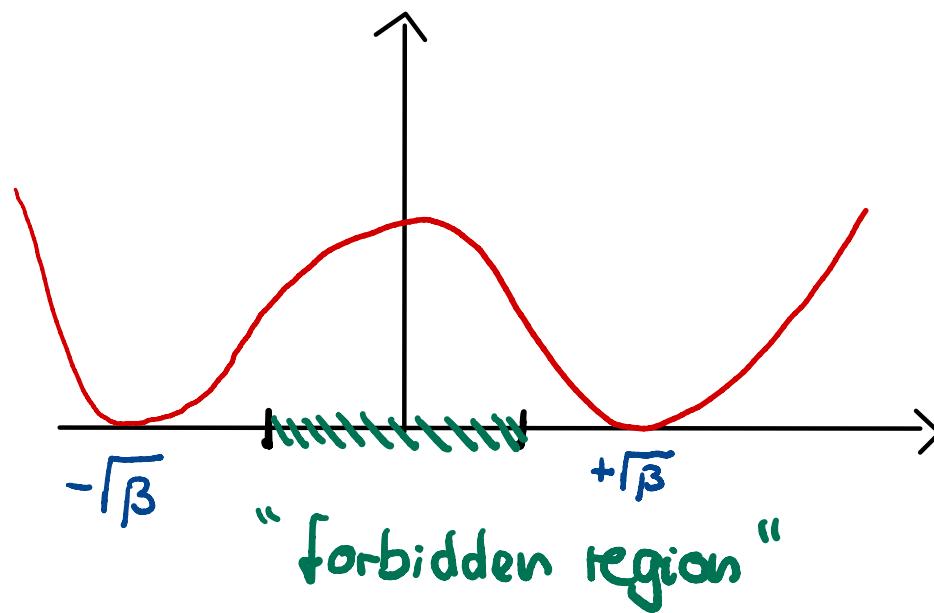
Assume  $\beta \gg 1$ ,  $N \geq 4$  dyadic

any number in  $(0,1)$  is OK.

$$\frac{1}{N^2} \log \gamma_{\beta,N} \left( \left| \int_{NT^3} f_\phi \right| \leq \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{\beta} \right) \leq -C\sqrt{\beta}$$

"mean magnetisation"

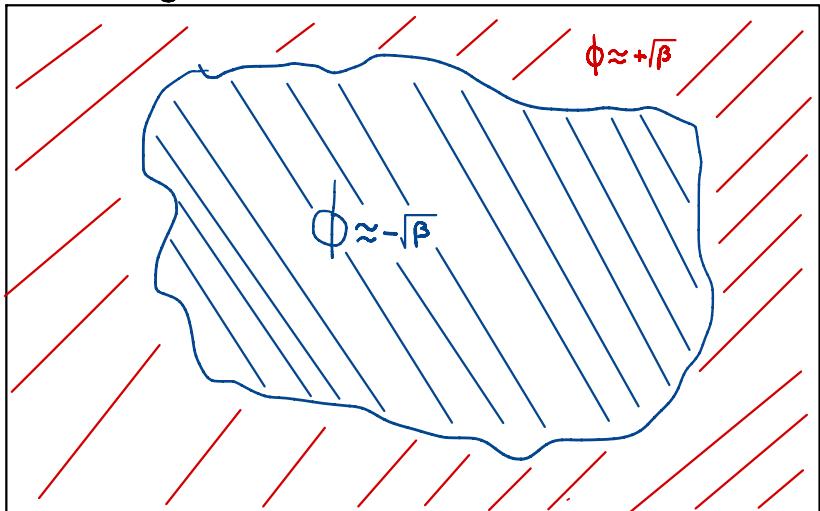
$\beta \gg 1$ .



## Surface order bounds

$$\frac{1}{N^2} \log \nu_{\beta, N} \left( \left| \int_{N\mathbb{T}^3} \phi \right| \leq \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{\beta} \right) \leq -C\sqrt{\beta}$$

Configuration with  $\int \phi \approx 0$



Interface  $\gtrsim N^2$   
(by Isoperimetric inequality)

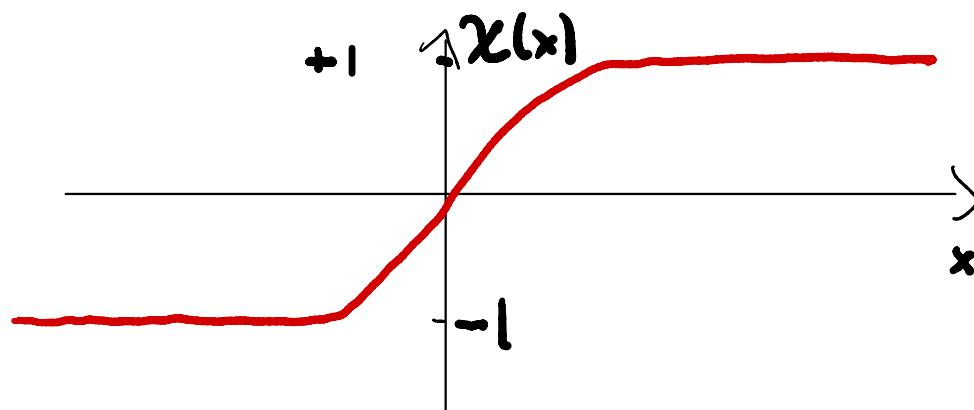
Corollary: (breakdown of ergodicity)

$\lambda_{\beta,N}$  = spectral gap of  $\phi^4$  SPDE (associated to  $\nu_{\beta,N}$ )

Then

$$\frac{1}{N^2} \log \lambda_{\beta,N} \leq -C\sqrt{\beta}$$

Proof: plug  $\chi(f\phi)$  into Dirichlet form.



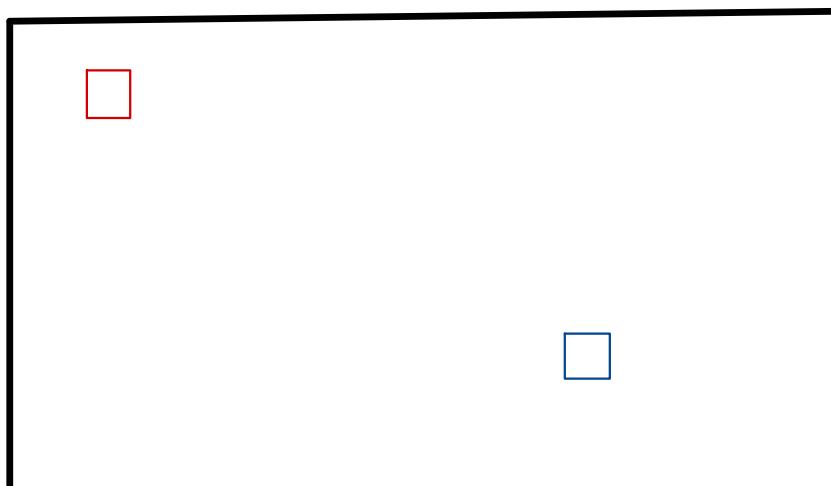
## Related results:

- Glimm - Jaffe - Spencer '75

Long range order  $d=2$   $\beta$  large enough

$\square = \text{box } (k, k+1) \times (k', k'+1)$ ,  $\phi(\square) := \int_{\square} \phi$  average over box

$$\langle 1_{\phi(\square) > 0} 1_{\phi(\square') < 0} \rangle - \langle 1_{\phi(\square) > 0} \rangle \langle 1_{\phi(\square') < 0} \rangle \geq 1/8$$



Strong interaction even if  
□ and □ far apart

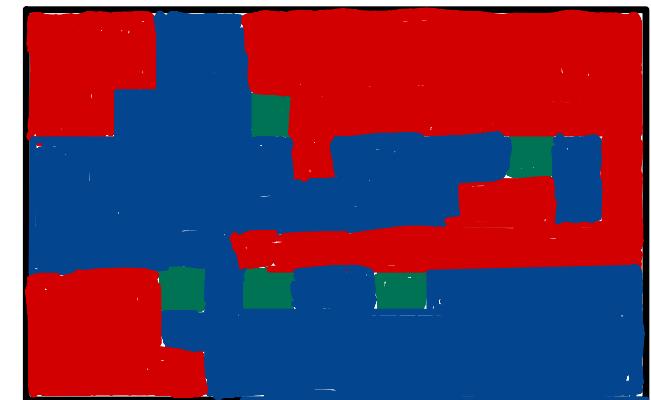
## Key technical step Peierls type estimate

Def : Block  $\square = (k, k+1) \times (k', k'+1)$  plus (resp. minus) valued if

$$|\phi(\square) - \sqrt{\beta}| < \sqrt{\beta} s \quad (\text{resp. } |\phi(\square) + \sqrt{\beta}| < \sqrt{\beta} s)$$

small fixed

- Block  $\square$  plus good if it and all \*-neighbours plus valued.  
... minus good ...
- $\square$  bad if not plus/minus good.



Prop: For any collection  $\mathcal{B}$  of boxes

$$\gamma_{\beta, N}(\forall \square \in \mathcal{B}, \square \text{ bad}) \leq \exp(-C\sqrt{\beta}|\mathcal{B}|)$$

↑ extensive in  $|\mathcal{B}|$

## Punishing bad boxes

fixed box:

$$Q_1(\square) := \frac{1}{\sqrt{\beta}} \int_{\square} |\phi|^2$$

$$Q_2(\square) := \frac{1}{\sqrt{\beta}} \int_{\square} |\phi|^2 - \phi(\square)^2$$

$$Q_3(\square, \square') := |\phi(\square) - \phi(\square')|$$

intuitively controlled  
by potential

controlled by Gaussian  
covariance

Prop:  $B_1, B_2, B_3$  collection of boxes,  $\beta$  large enough

$$\left\langle \prod_{i=1}^3 \cosh(Q_i(B_i)) \right\rangle \leq \exp(C(|B_1| + |B_2| + |B_3|))$$

↑ extensive in  $B_i$

Implies Peierls bound

# Calculating generalised partition functions

$$Z' := \int \exp(Q_i(B_i)) \exp\left(\int \frac{1}{\beta} (\phi^2 - \beta)^2 + c.t.\right) \mu(d\phi)$$

Gaussian

- $d=2$  Nelson trick (Nelson '66)
- $d=3$  phase cell localization (Glimm - Jaffe '73)  
RG (Benfatto, Cassandro, ... '80,  
Brydges, Dimock, Hurd '95)
- Stochastic PDE don't help
- New method, Boué-Dupuis, Barashkov - Gubinelli: Duke '26.

Thm (Baué-Dupuis' 98) (or  $\mathbb{C}^d$ )

Let  $(B_t)_{t \in [0,1]}$  standard  $\mathbb{R}^d$  valued BM.

$H : C([0,1], \mathbb{R}^d) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  bdd. measurable . Then

$$-\log \mathbb{E} \exp(-\mathcal{J}_L(B))$$

$$= \inf_{\begin{subarray}{l} v \text{ adapted} \\ \text{bdd} \end{subarray}} \mathbb{E} \left[ \mathcal{J}_L \left( B + \int_0^\cdot v_t dt \right) + \frac{1}{2} \int_0^1 v_t^2 dt \right]$$

Version of Gibbs variational principle :

$$-\log \mathbb{E}_P \exp(-H(B)) = \inf_Q \mathbb{E}_Q \mathcal{J}_L(B) + \underline{R(Q|P)}$$

Q proba measure on  $C([0,1], \mathbb{R}^d)$

Wicher measure  
↓  
relative entropy.

How is this useful? / Where is the Brownian motion?

- $\mu(d\varphi)$  Gaussian measure ( covariance operator  $(-\Delta)^{-\frac{1}{2} + \eta}$  ).

Barashkov-Gubinelli introduce auxiliary time!

- Introduce function valued Brownian motion  $\{\varphi(t, x)\}_{\substack{t \in [0, 1] \\ x \in \mathbb{T}}}$  s.t. law of  $\varphi(1, \cdot)$  is  $\mu$ .
- Can be done easily: Fourier series:

$$\varphi(t, x) = \sum_{k \in \mathbb{Z}/L} \frac{1}{L} \frac{\tilde{B}_k(t)}{\sqrt{(\pi k)^2 + \eta}} e^{i\pi k x}$$

- Flexibility here.

Then for  $\mathcal{H}$  reasonable:

$$-\log E_{\mu} \left[ \exp(-\mathcal{J}(\varphi)) \right]$$

$$= -\log E_{\mu} \left[ \exp(-\mathcal{J}(\varphi(t))) \right] \quad (\text{by definition})$$

$$= \inf_V E \left[ \mathcal{J}(\varphi(t) + V(t)) + \frac{1}{2} \int_0^t \int |\nabla \dot{V}|^2 + \eta V^2 dx dt \right]$$

Barashkov - Gubinelli arXiv'18 Use to show UV stability of  $\phi_3^4$ .  
Dubz'20

Main challenge for us: get  $\beta$  dependence right.

## Conclusion:

- $\phi_3^4$  theory in "low temperature" regime.
- we get "large deviation bound" for atypical magnetization.  
Correct surface-order scaling in  $L$ .
- Implies decay of spectral gap for dynamics.
- Method inspired by Glimm - Jaffe - Spencer - compare with lattice spin model.
- Key technical tool: Barashkov - Gubinelli variational approach to UV stability