

# Depinning of Domain Walls, Contact Lines...and Cracks?

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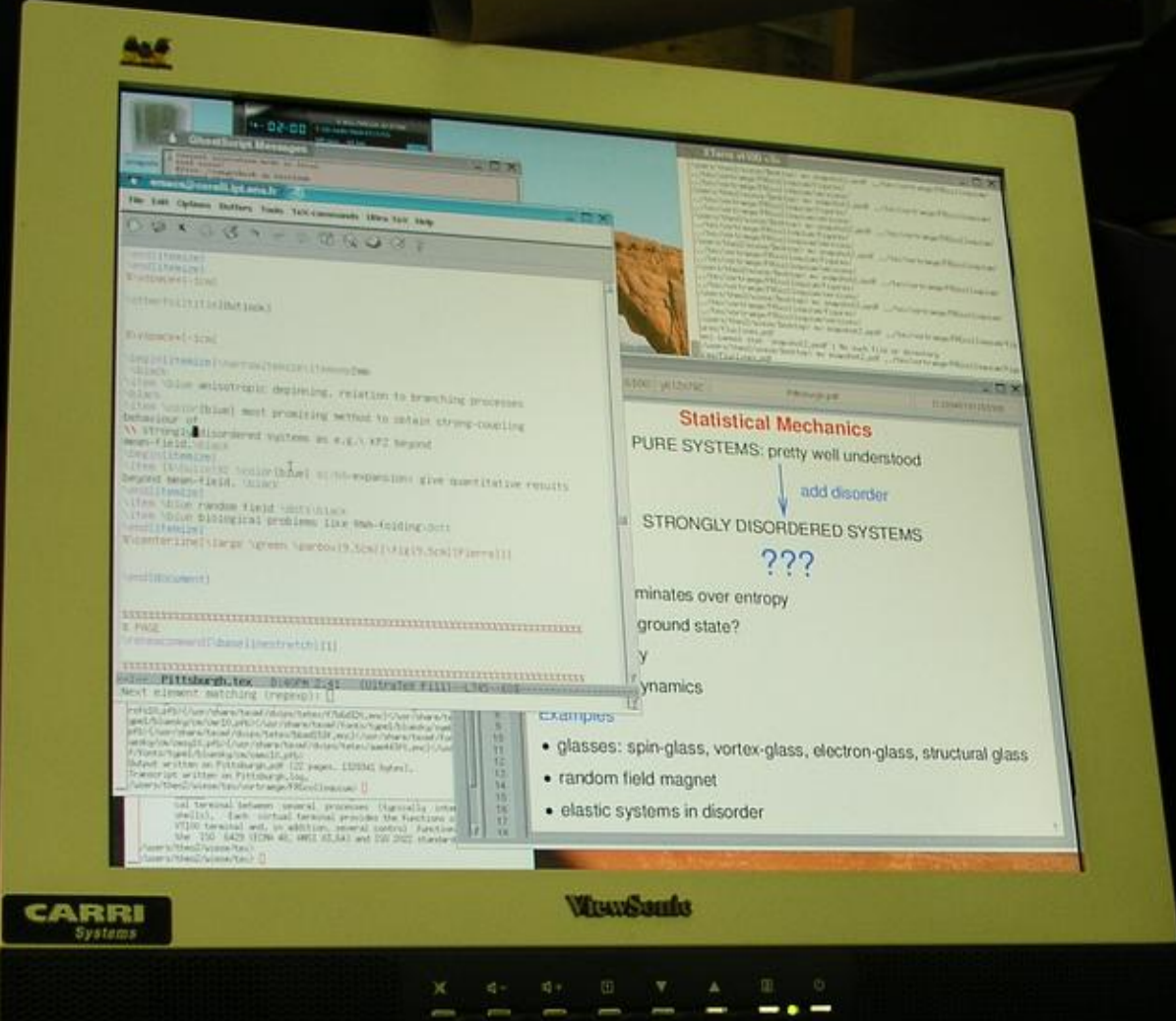
References: PRL 86 (2001) 1785: 2 loop  
cond-mat/0302322 : intro + review

⋮

<http://www.phys.ens.fr/~wiese/>

# Disorder ?





**Statistical Mechanics**

PURE SYSTEMS: pretty well understood

↓ add disorder

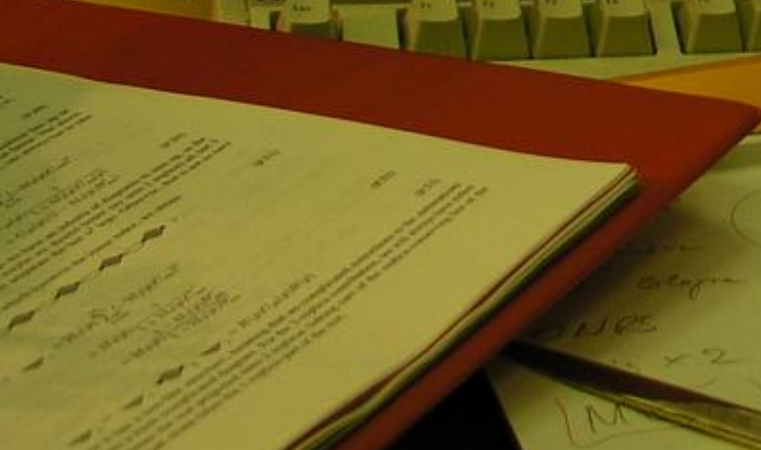
STRONGLY DISORDERED SYSTEMS

???

minimizes over entropy ground state?

dynamics

- examples
- glasses: spin-glass, vortex-glass, electron-glass, structural glass
  - random field magnet
  - elastic systems in disorder

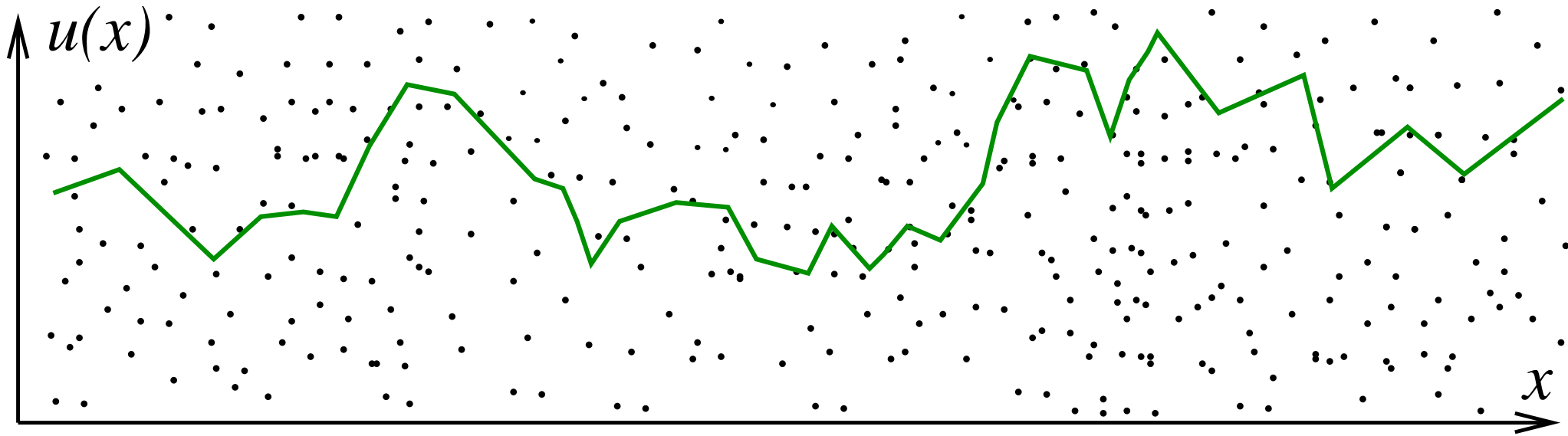




**Disorder and dirt are  
necessary  
for our survival!**

- disorder prevents our harddisk from self-erasing
- disorder makes for so diverse phenomena as quantum Hall effect, glasses, friction, . . .

# Elastic Manifolds in Disorder



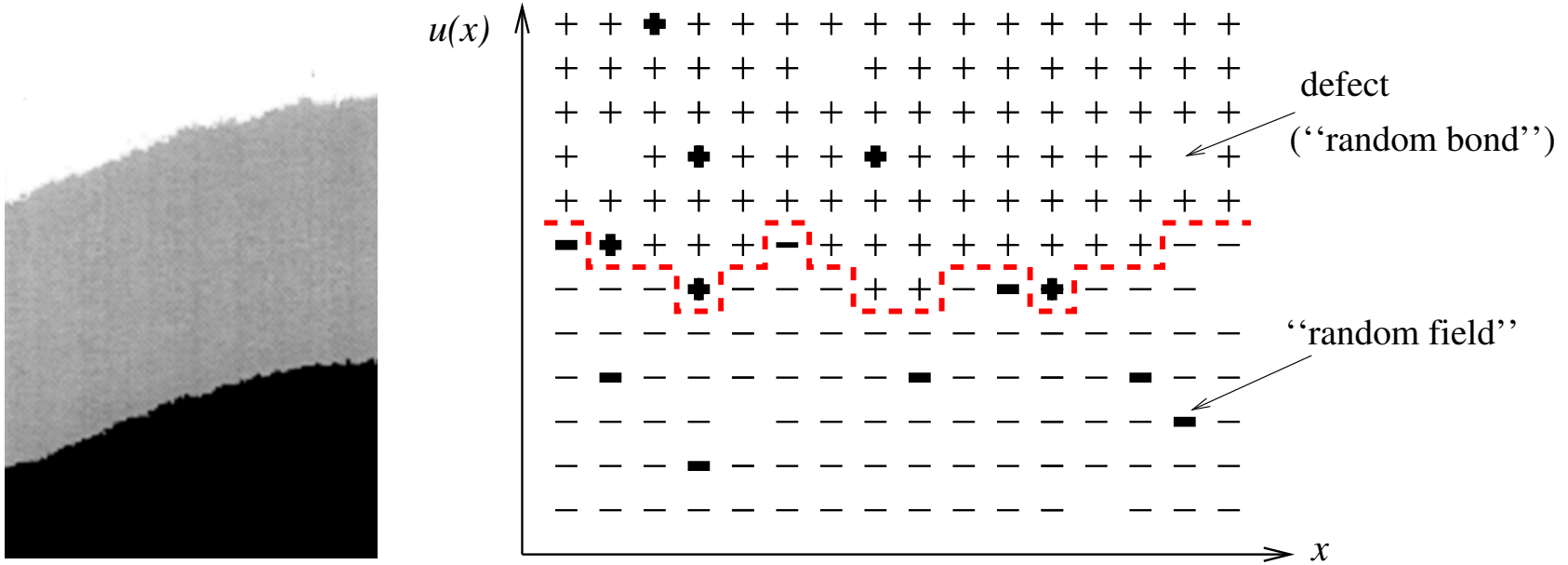
- elastic manifold in a random potential
- disorder dominates over thermal fluctuations:  $T = 0$  fixed point
- search for minimum-energy configuration
- attention: multiple minima may exist
- prototype for strongly disordered systems

## What do we know?

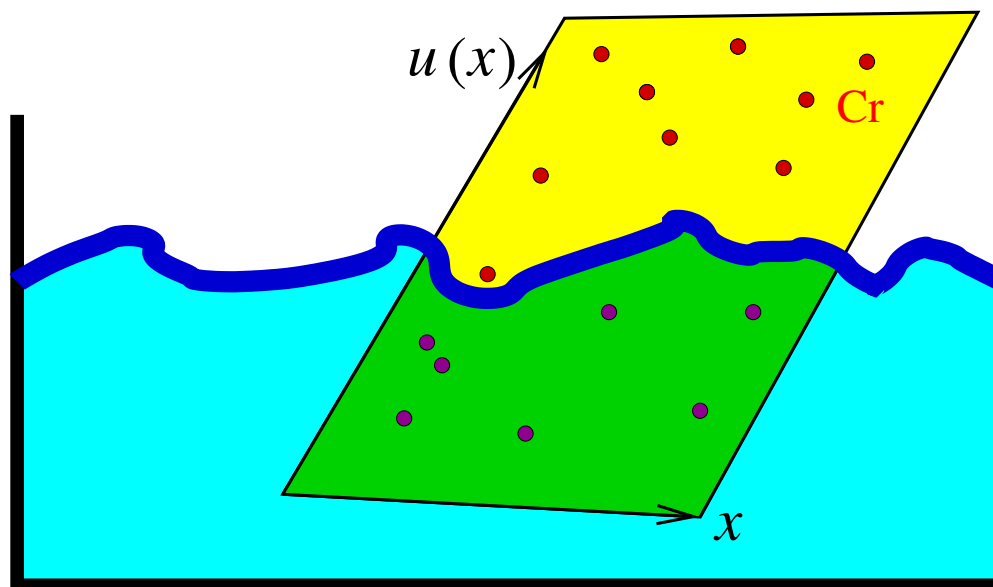
- experiments and simulations available
- phenomenological models (droplet picture)
- mean-field approximation (replica-symmetry breaking)

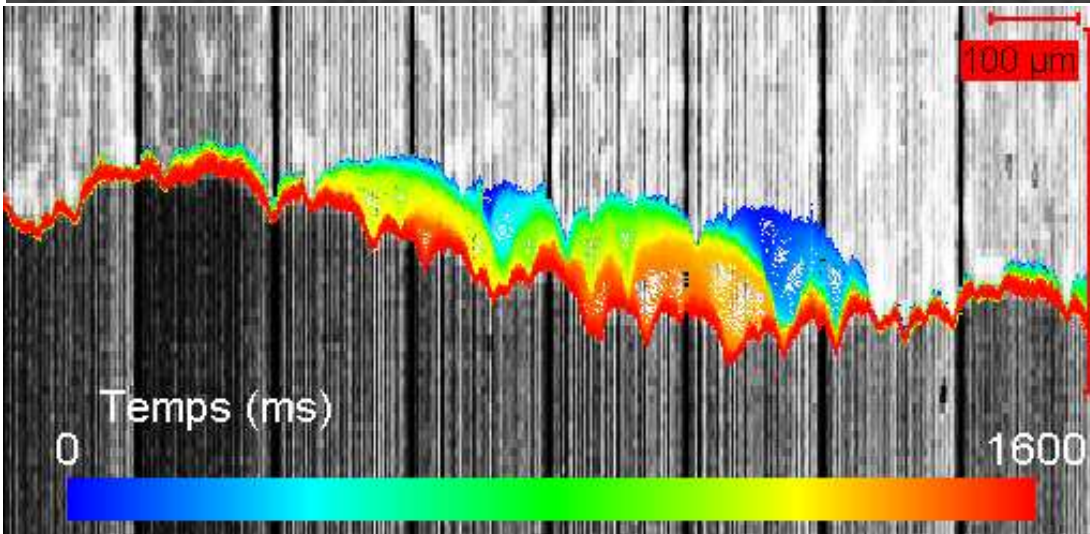
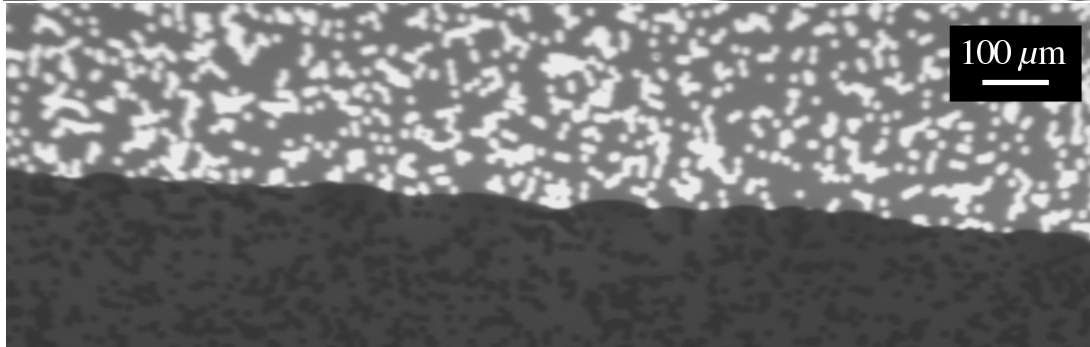
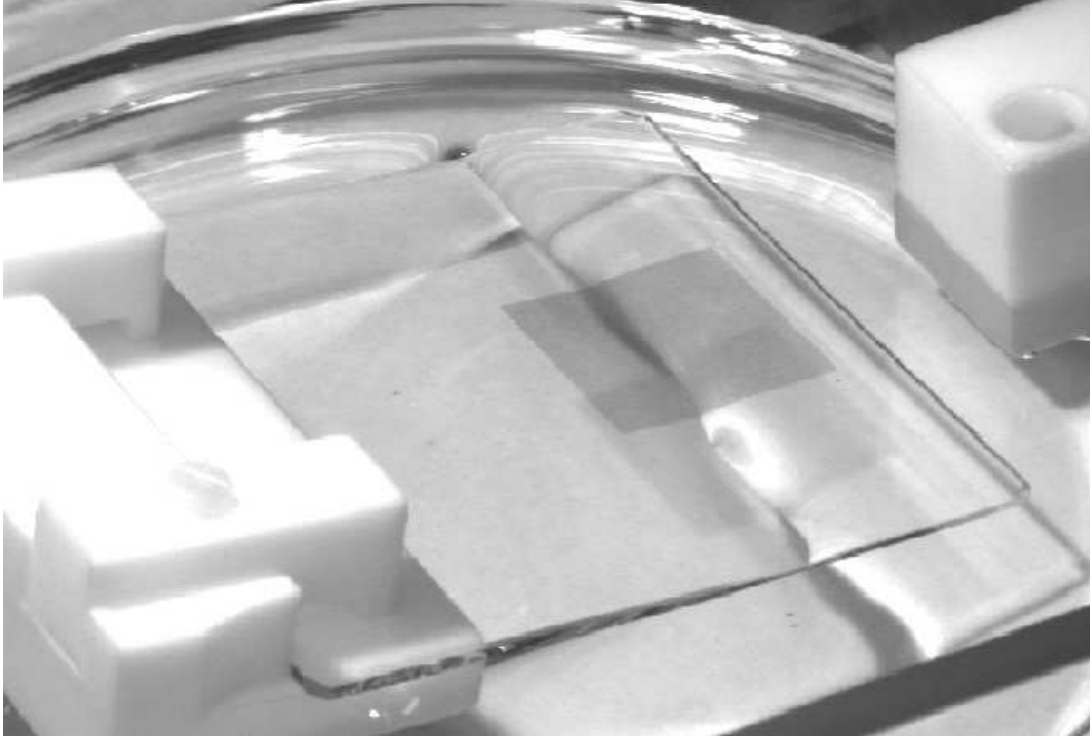
# Physical Realizations

## Domain-walls in magnets



## Contact line of liquid Helium/water



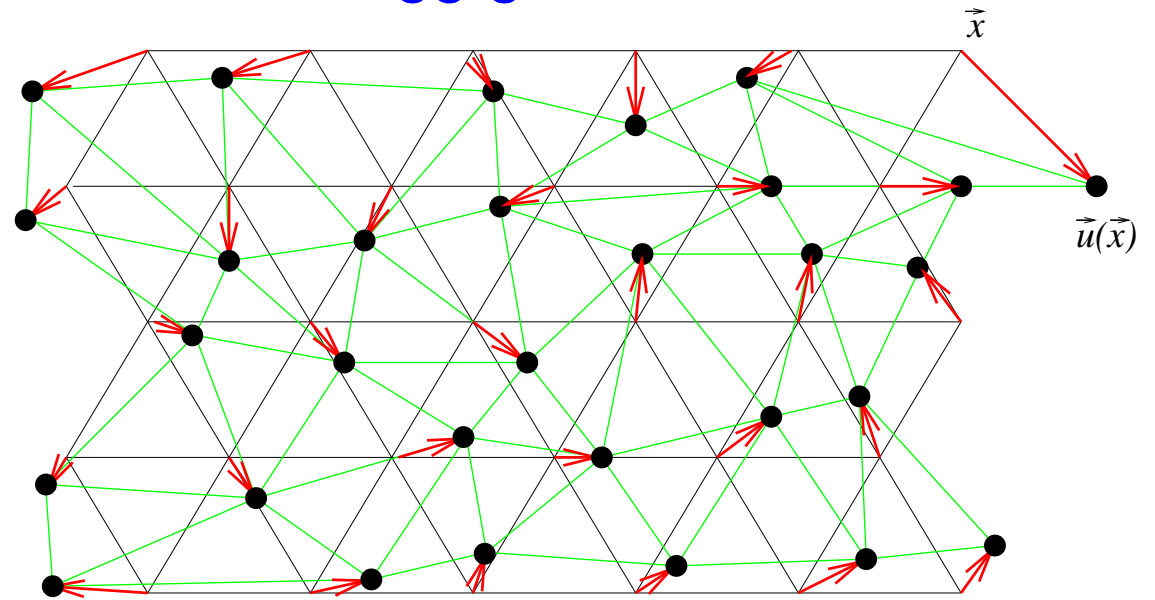
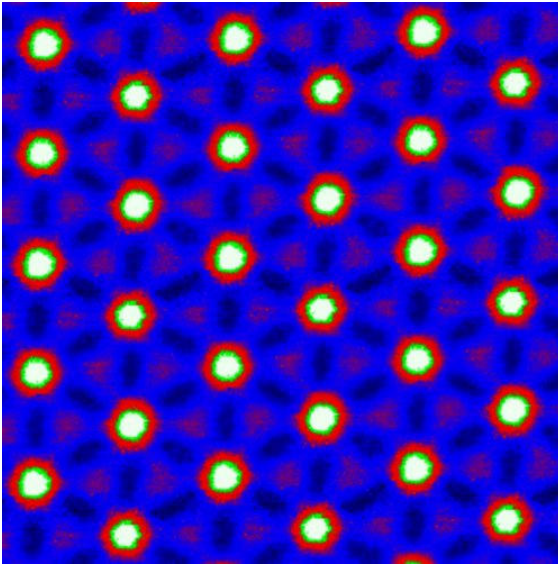


## Depinning of contact line

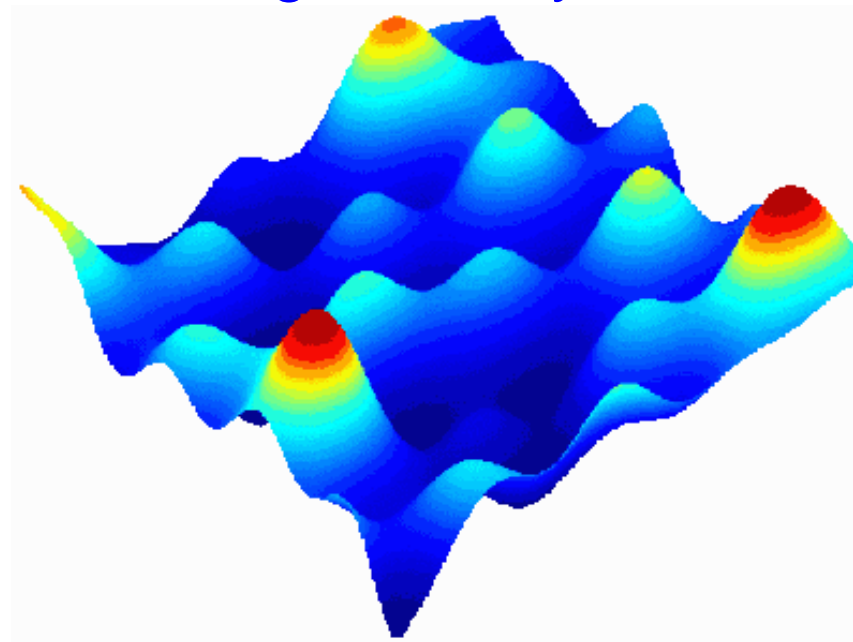
Eur. Phys. J. A 8 (2002) 437

Pictures courtesy of  
S. Moulinet, E. Rolley

## Vortex-lattice/Bragg glass



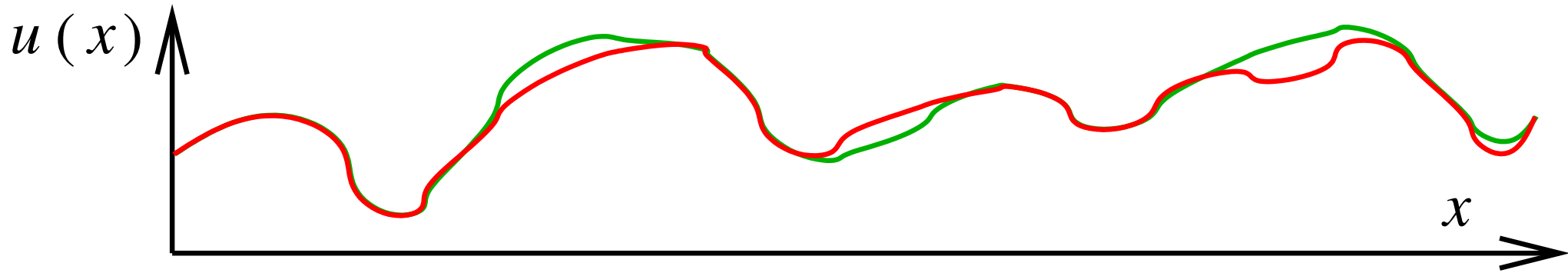
## Charge Density wave



Cracks, earthquakes, directed polymer (KPZ), ...



# Model and Observables



Displacement field

$$x \in \mathbb{R}^d \longrightarrow u(x) \in \mathbb{R}^N$$

↑  
coordinate

↑  
displacement-field

Elastic energy:

$$\mathcal{H}_{\text{el}} = \int d^d x \frac{1}{2} [\nabla u(x)]^2$$

Disorder energy

$$\mathcal{H}_{\text{DO}} = \int d^d x V(x, u(x))$$

with correlations ( $N = 1$ )

$$\overline{V(x, u)V(x', u')} = \delta^d(x - x')R(u - u')$$

## Observables

roughness  $\zeta$

$$\overline{[u(x) - u(x')]^2} \sim |x - x'|^{2\zeta}$$

full probability-distribution function

# The problem in the treatment of disorder: dimensional reduction

“Theorem” (Efetov, Larkin 1977): A  $d$ -dimensional disordered system at zero temperature ( $T = 0$ ) is equivalent to all orders in perturbation theory to a pure system in  $d - 2$  dimensions at finite temperature. (“Holds” under quite general assumptions.)

## Example: Elastic manifolds in disorder

The thermal 2-point function becomes

$$\left\langle [u(x) - u(0)]^2 \right\rangle \sim |x|^{2-d} \quad \longrightarrow \quad \overline{[u(x) - u(0)]^2} \sim x^{4-d}$$

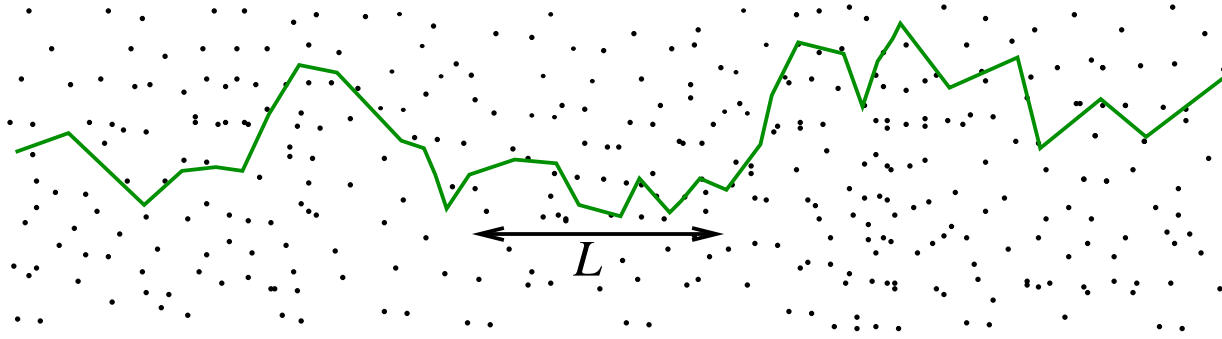
roughness exponent

$$\zeta = \frac{4-d}{2}$$

## Counter-example:

3d disordered Ising-model at  $T = 0$  is ordered; in contrast to the 1d Ising-model without disorder at  $T > 0$ .

# The Larkin-length



Be the disorder force  $F_x$  gaussian, with correlation length  $r$ . Typical energy due to disorder on segment

$$\mathcal{E}_{\text{DO}} = \bar{f} \left( \frac{L}{r} \right)^{d/2}$$

Elastic energy

$$\mathcal{E}_{\text{el}} = cL^{d-2}$$

Balance energies  $\mathcal{E}_{\text{DO}} = \mathcal{E}_{\text{el}}$  at  $L = L_c$  (Larkin-length)

$$L_c = \left( \frac{c^2}{\bar{f}^2} r^d \right)^{\frac{1}{4-d}}$$

$d < 4$ : Membrane pinned by disorder on scales larger than the  $L_c$ :

$d = 4$  is upper critical dimension

# Functional renormalization group (FRG)

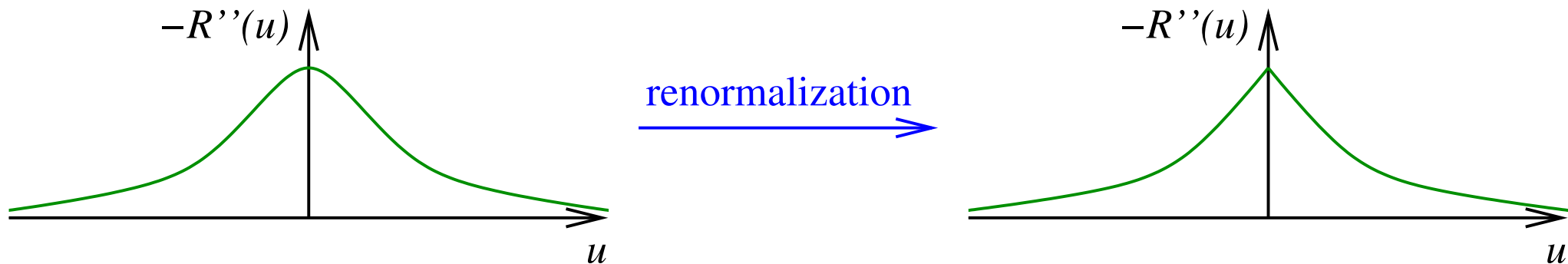
(D. Fisher 1986)

$$\mathcal{H}[u] = \int_x \frac{1}{2T} \sum_{a=1}^n [\nabla u_a(x)]^2 - \frac{1}{2T^2} \sum_{a,b=1}^n R(u_a(x) - u_b(x))$$

Functional renormalization group equation (FRG) for the disorder correlator  $R(u)$  at 1-loop order:

$$\partial_\ell R(u) = (\varepsilon - 4\zeta)R(u) + \zeta u R'(u) + \frac{1}{2} R''(u)^2 - R''(u)R''(0)$$

Solution for force-force correlator  $-R''(u)$ :



Cusp:  $R''''(0) = \infty$  appears after finite RG-time (at Larkin-length)

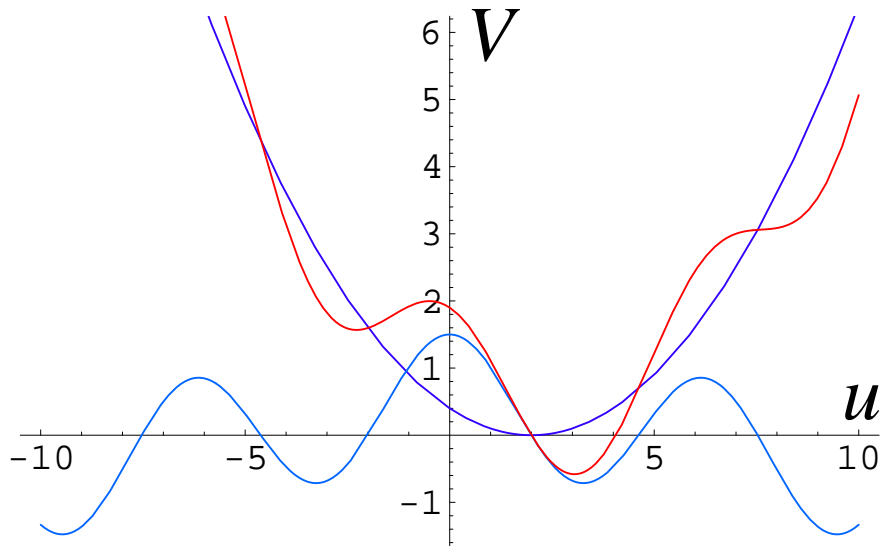
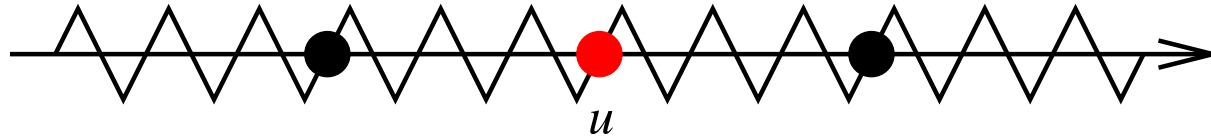
$R''_{L>L_c}(0) \neq \text{dim.red.}$   
eventhough formally

$\partial_\ell R''(0) = (\varepsilon - 2\zeta)R''(0)$   
( $\equiv \text{dim.red.}$ )

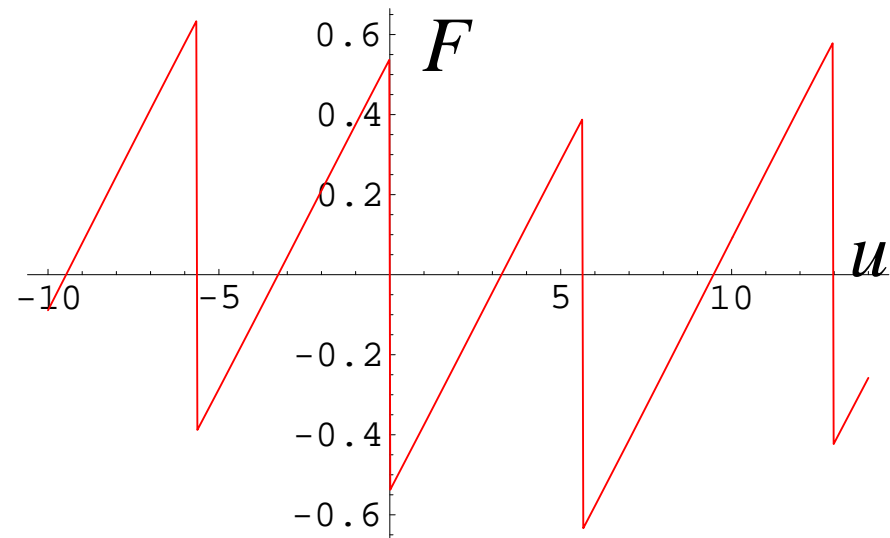
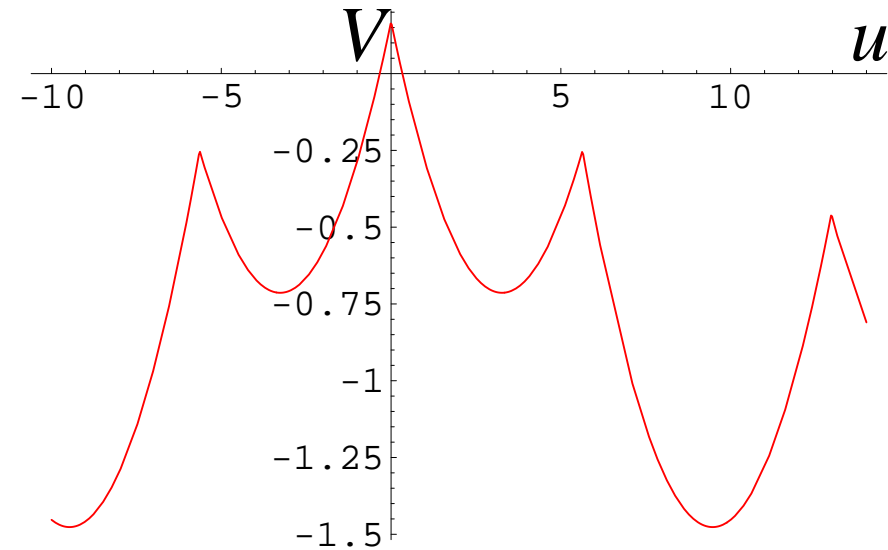
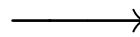
Renormalization of  
whole function overcomes  
dimensional reduction

# Why is a cusp necessary?

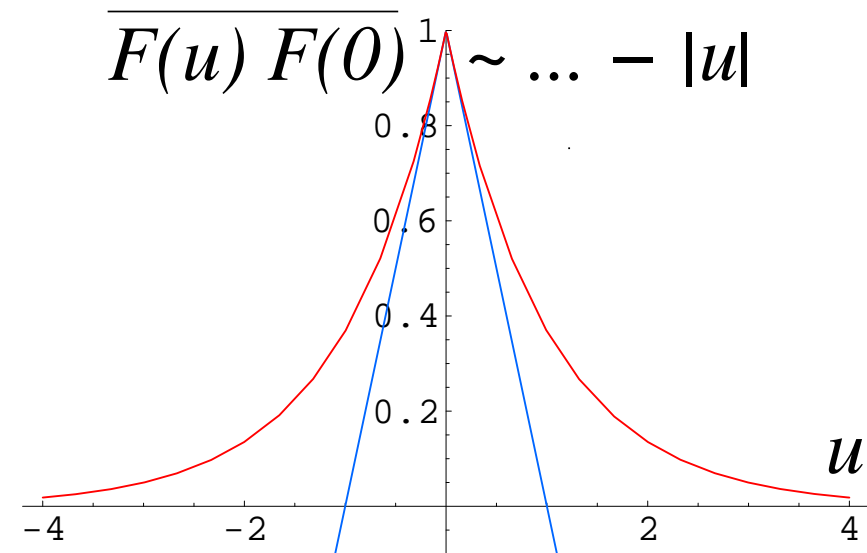
... suppose I want to integrate out a single degree of freedom...



Min



average

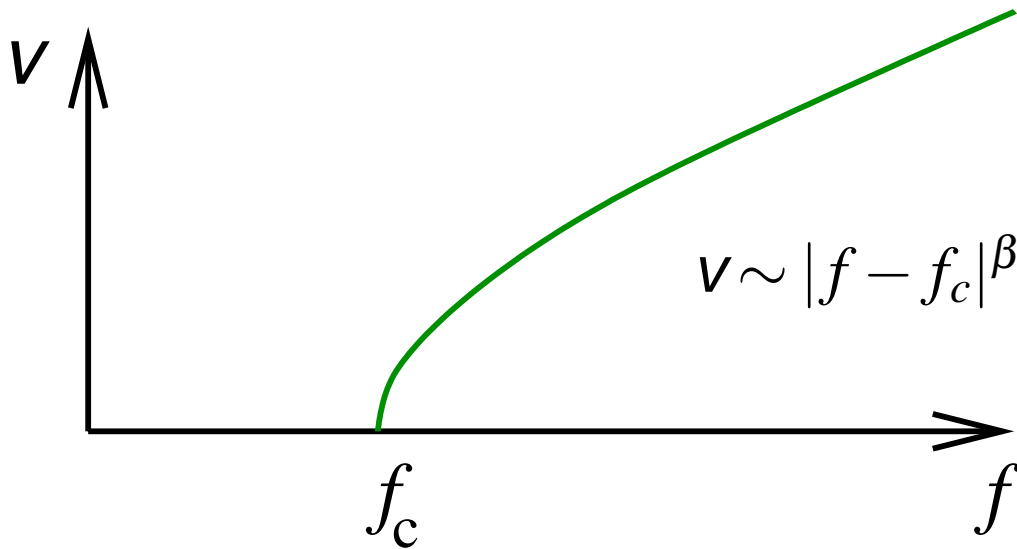


# Isotropic Depinning

- roughness

$$\overline{[u(x) - u(0)]^2} \sim |x|^{2\zeta}$$

- velocity-force-characteristics, pinning



- dynamic exponent  $z$

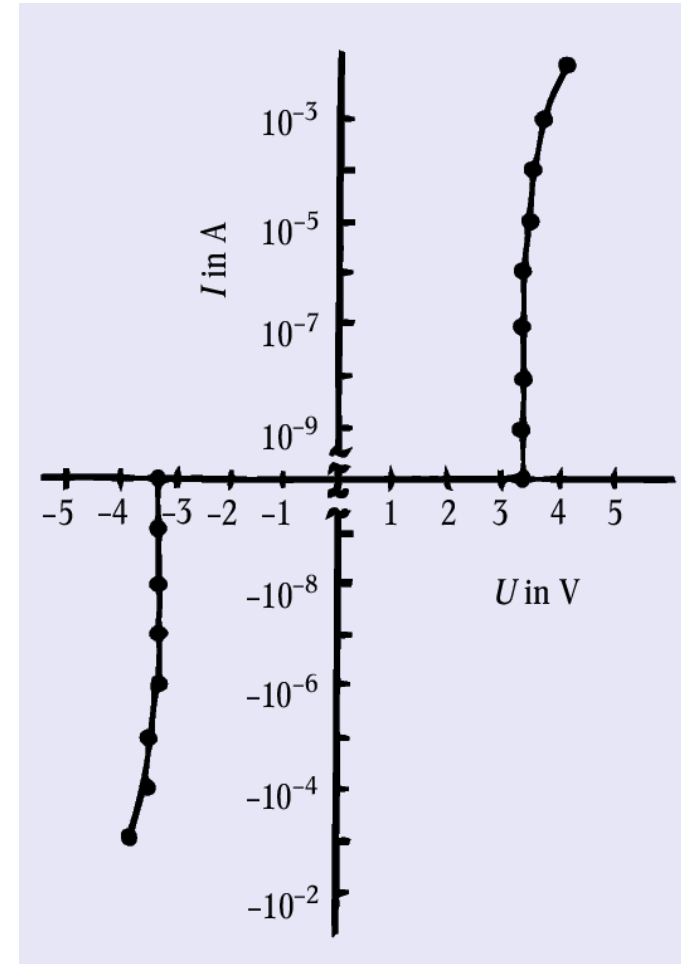
$$t \sim x^z$$

- correlation length  $\xi$

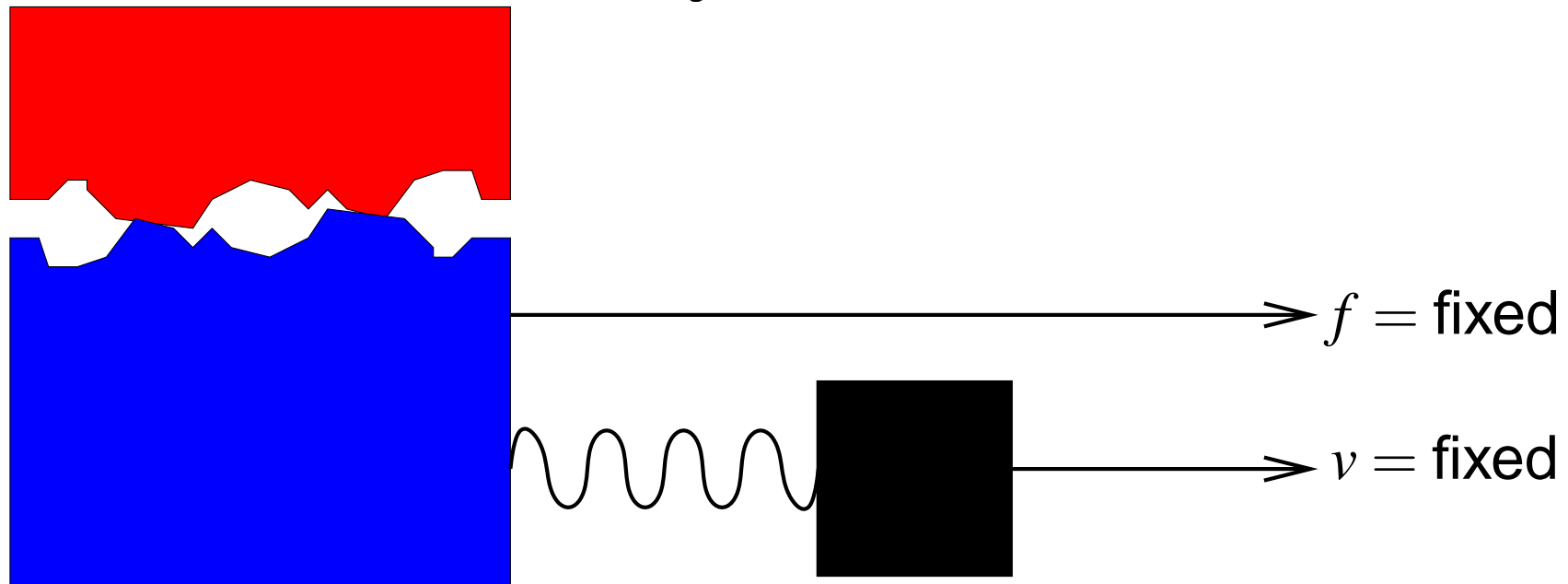
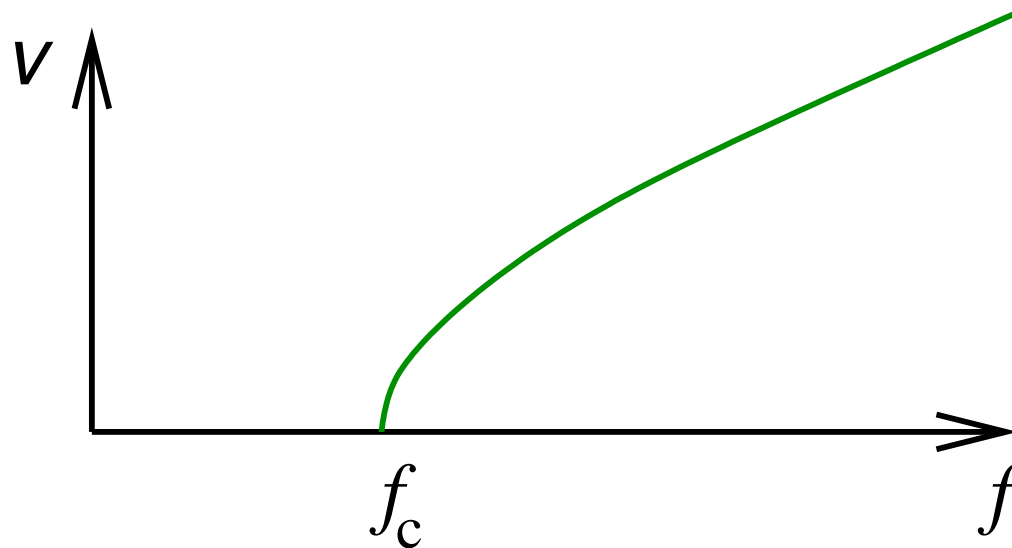
$$\xi \sim |f - f_c|^{-\nu}$$

- exponent relations

$$\beta = \nu(z - \zeta) \qquad \nu = \frac{1}{2 - \zeta}$$



# Different drivings...



Drive with fixed  $f$  (mode 1): tune  $f$  to  $f_c$  for scale-invariance

Drive with velocity  $f$  (mode 1): tune  $v$  to 0 for scale-invariance

Avalanches are observed in mode 2.

# RG-treatment, 1loop

Nattermann et al., Narayan & Fisher, 1992

- same RG-equation as in the statics, even though physics should be different: Not a consistent theory
- claim:  $\zeta = \frac{\varepsilon}{3}$  is exact to all orders;  
in contradiction with experiments and simulations

## 2 loop

PRL 86 (2001) 1785, PRB 66 (2002) 174201

- Membrane only jumps ahead ( $T = 0$ ):

$$t > t' \quad \Longrightarrow \quad u(x, t) \geq u(x, t')$$

- renders perturbation theory unique

$$\begin{aligned} \partial_\ell R(u) = & (\varepsilon - 4\zeta)R(u) + \zeta uR'(u) + \frac{1}{2}R''(u)^2 - R''(u)R''(0) \\ & + \frac{1}{2}[R''(u) - R''(0)]R'''(u)^2 + \frac{1}{2}R'''(0^+)^2R''(u) \end{aligned}$$

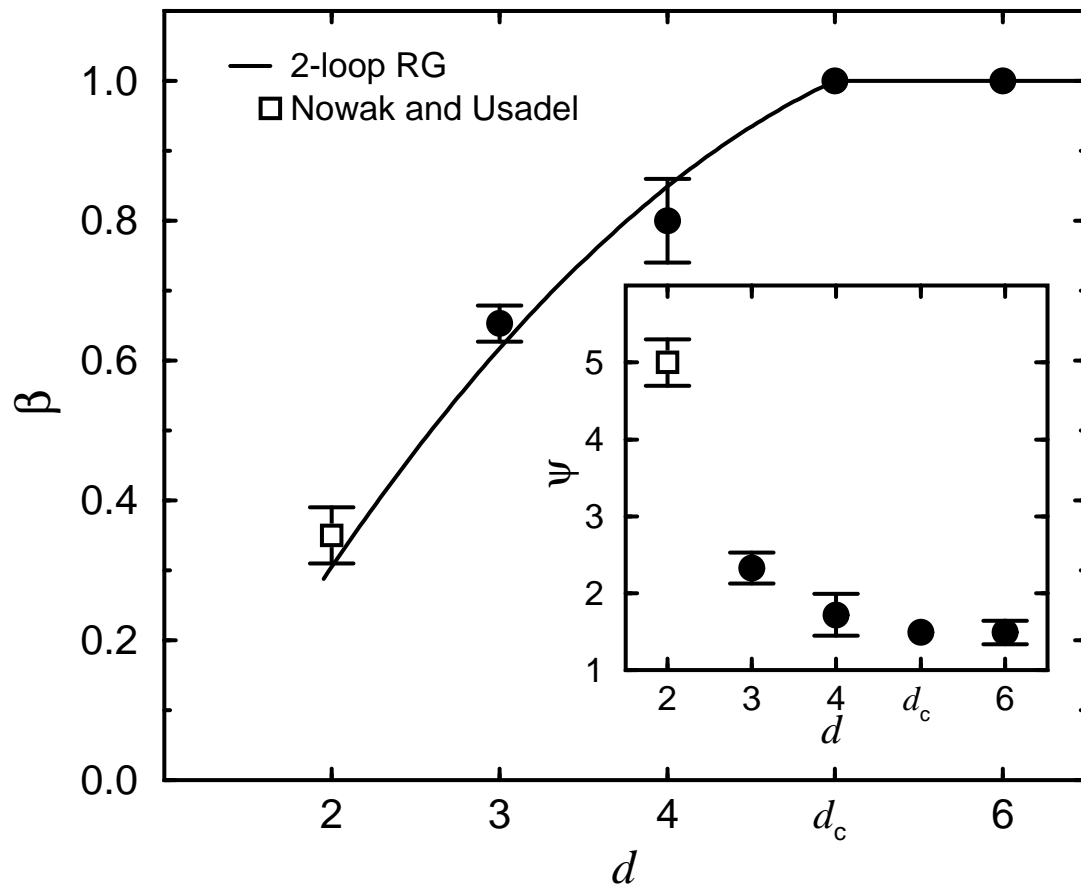
- results for RF:  
 $\zeta = \frac{\varepsilon}{3}(1 + 0.14331\varepsilon + \dots)$   
 $z = 2 - \frac{2}{9}\varepsilon - 0.04321\varepsilon^2 + \dots$



# Depinning

Rosso, Krauth, et al. (2001)

	$d$	$\varepsilon$	$\varepsilon^2$	estimate	simulation
	3	0.33	0.38	$0.38 \pm 0.02$	$0.34 \pm 0.01$
$\zeta$	2	0.67	0.86	$0.82 \pm 0.1$	$0.75 \pm 0.02$
	1	1.00	1.43	$1.2 \pm 0.2$	$1.25 \pm 0.01$

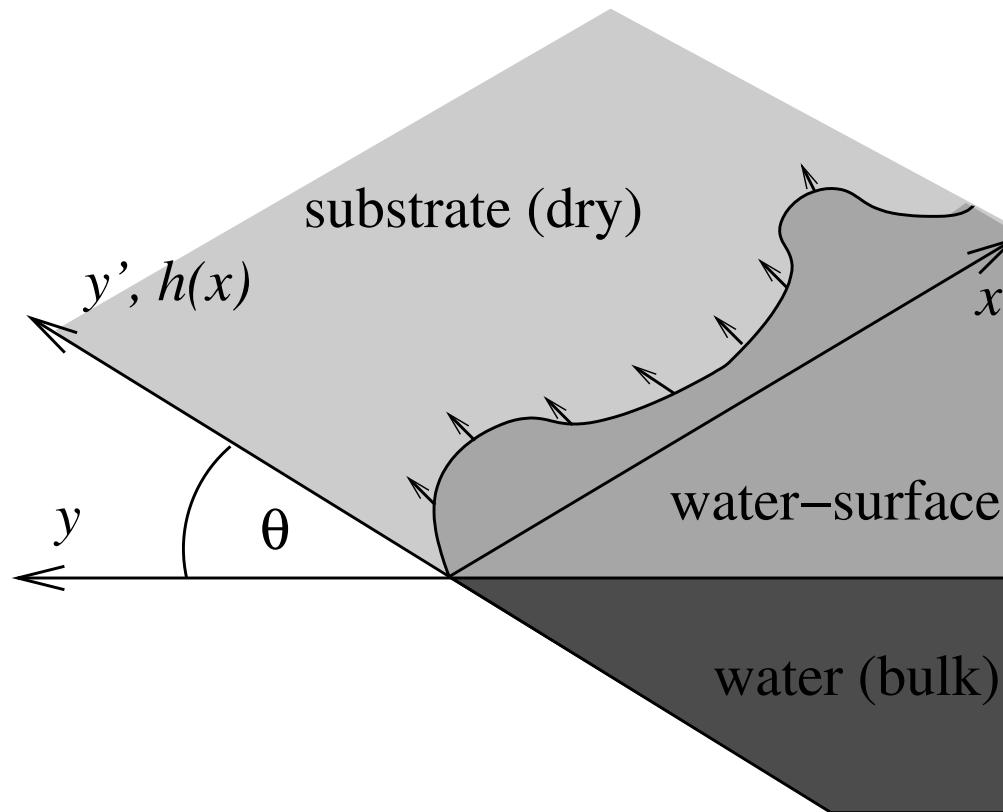


Domain-wall in RF-magnet  
Roters et al. PRE 60 (1999) 5202

**Depinning,  $d = 1$ ,  
long-range elasticity**

	$\varepsilon$	$\varepsilon^2$	estimate	simulation
$\zeta$	0.33	0.47	$0.47 \pm 0.1$	$0.39 \pm 0.002$

# Depinning of contact line – long-range elasticity



Elastic Energy of liquid air interface

$$E_{\text{LA}}[z] \sim \text{area of liquid air interface}$$

It can be written as a function of height  $h(x)$  at boundary

$$E_{\text{LA}}[h] = \frac{c_1}{2} \int_q |q| h_q h_{-q} + \frac{\lambda}{2} \int_{q,k} [ |q||k| + qk ] h_k h_q h_{-q-k} + O(h^4)$$

# More ... long-range elasticity

$$E_{\text{LA}}[h] = \frac{c_1}{2} \int_q |q| h_q h_{-q} + \frac{\lambda}{2} \int_{q,k} [ |q||k| + qk ] h_k h_q h_{-q-k} + O(h^4)$$

Linear elasticity leads to roughness  $\zeta \approx 0.39$  (numerics + FRG)

Experiments on contact line:  $\zeta \approx 0.5$

Non-linear terms can not be neglected.

Non-linear terms become relevant under FRG.

This is also relevant to earthquakes, and cracks.

For earthquakes, the elasticity is like above but the dimension is  $d = 2$ . The system is in its “critical dimension”. Instead of power-laws there are logarithmic dependences on systems size etc.

# Avalanches

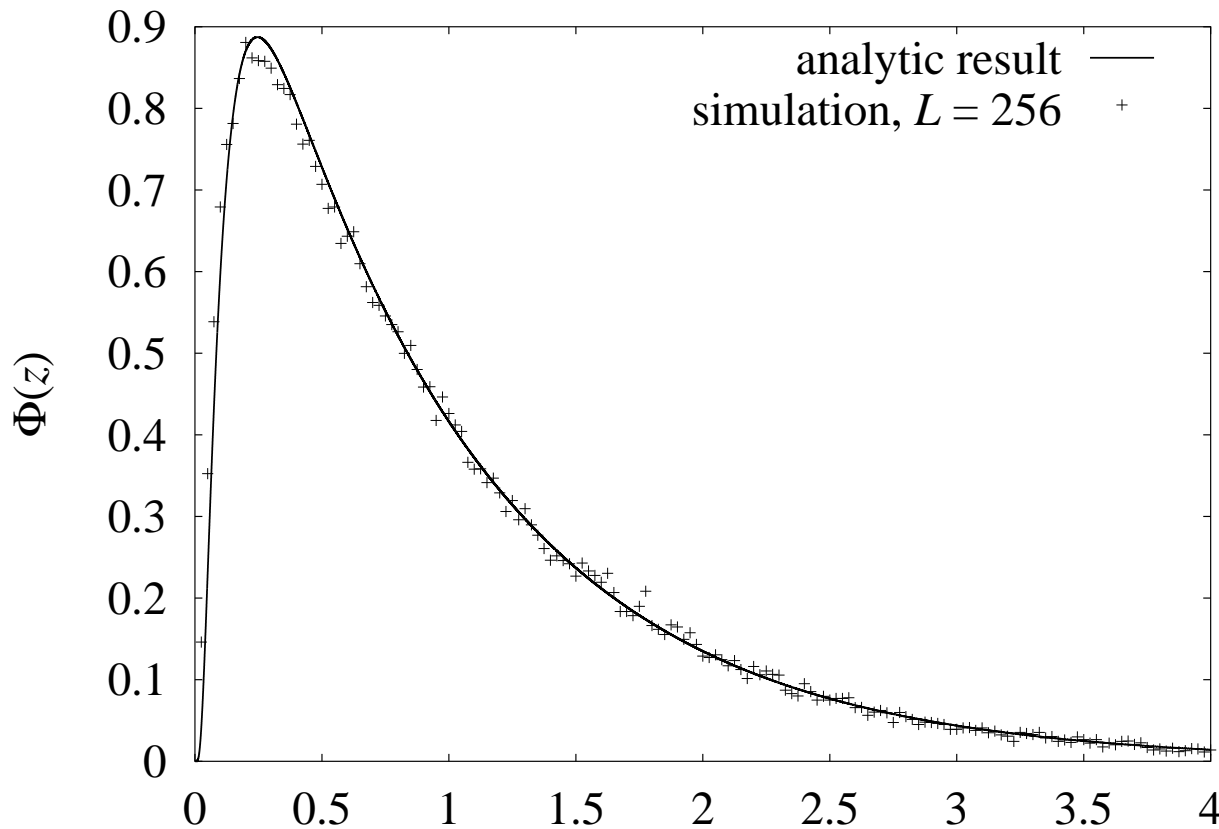
FRG knows about two independent renormalizations: roughness  $\zeta$  and dynamics exponent  $z$ . All other exponents should be related to these by scaling relations, e.g. avalanche-size distribution

$$\mathcal{P}(s) = s^{-\tau} f_s \left( \frac{s}{s_0} \right), \quad \tau = 2 \left[ 1 - \frac{1}{d + \zeta} \right]$$

Avalanche-time distribution

$$\mathcal{P}(t) = t^{-\alpha} f_t \left( \frac{t}{t_0} \right), \quad \alpha = \frac{d + \zeta + z - 2}{z}$$

# Probability distribution function for the interface width



A. Rosso, W. Krauth, P. Le Doussal,  
J. Vannimenus, K.J. Wiese  
PRE 68 (2003) 036128

$$z = \frac{w^2}{\langle w^2 \rangle} := \frac{1}{\text{Vol}} \int_x (u(x) - \langle u \rangle)^2$$

Probability distribution function

$$\mathcal{P}(w^2) = \Phi\left(\frac{w^2}{\langle w^2 \rangle}\right) \quad \Phi(z) \text{ is universal, depending only on } \zeta.$$

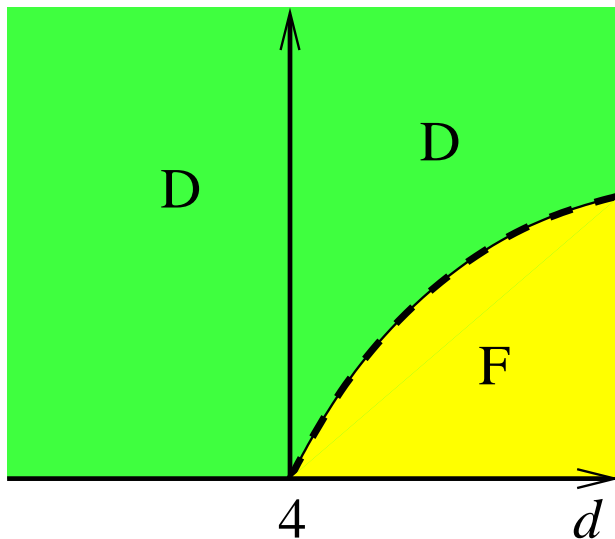
# Random Field Systems

Expansion about the ordered phase, i.e. with constraint  $|\vec{n}| = 1$ .

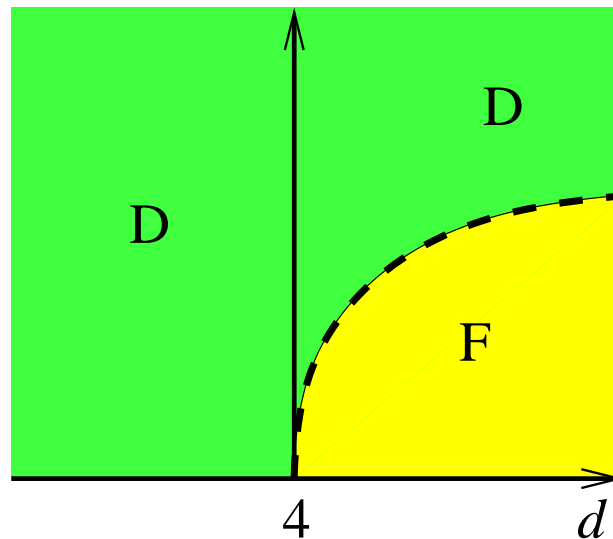
$$\mathcal{H}[\vec{n}] = \int d^d x \left[ \frac{1}{2T} \sum_a (\nabla \vec{n}_a)^2 - \frac{1}{T} \sum_a \vec{M} \vec{n}_a - \frac{1}{2T^2} \sum_{ab} \hat{R}(\vec{n}_a \vec{n}_b) \right]$$

$$\begin{aligned} \partial_\ell R(\phi) = & \varepsilon R(\phi) + \frac{1}{2} R''(\phi)^2 - R''(0) R''(\phi) \\ & + (N-2) \left[ \frac{1 R'(\phi)^2}{2 \sin^2 \phi} - \cot \phi R'(\phi) R''(0) \right] + \text{2 loop terms} \end{aligned}$$

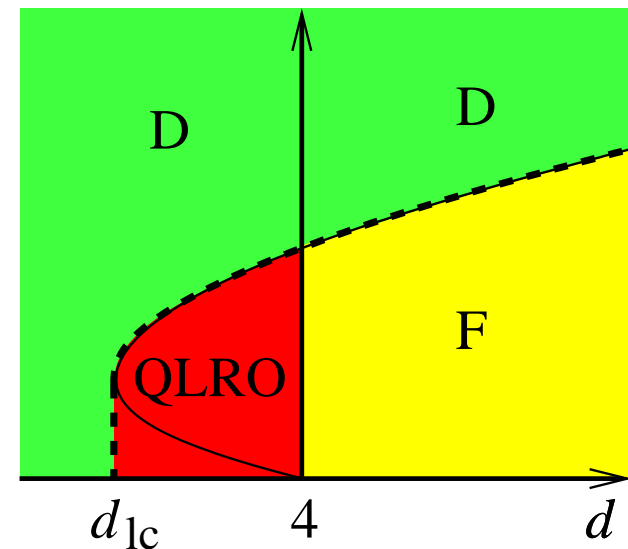
$N > N_c$



$N = N_c$

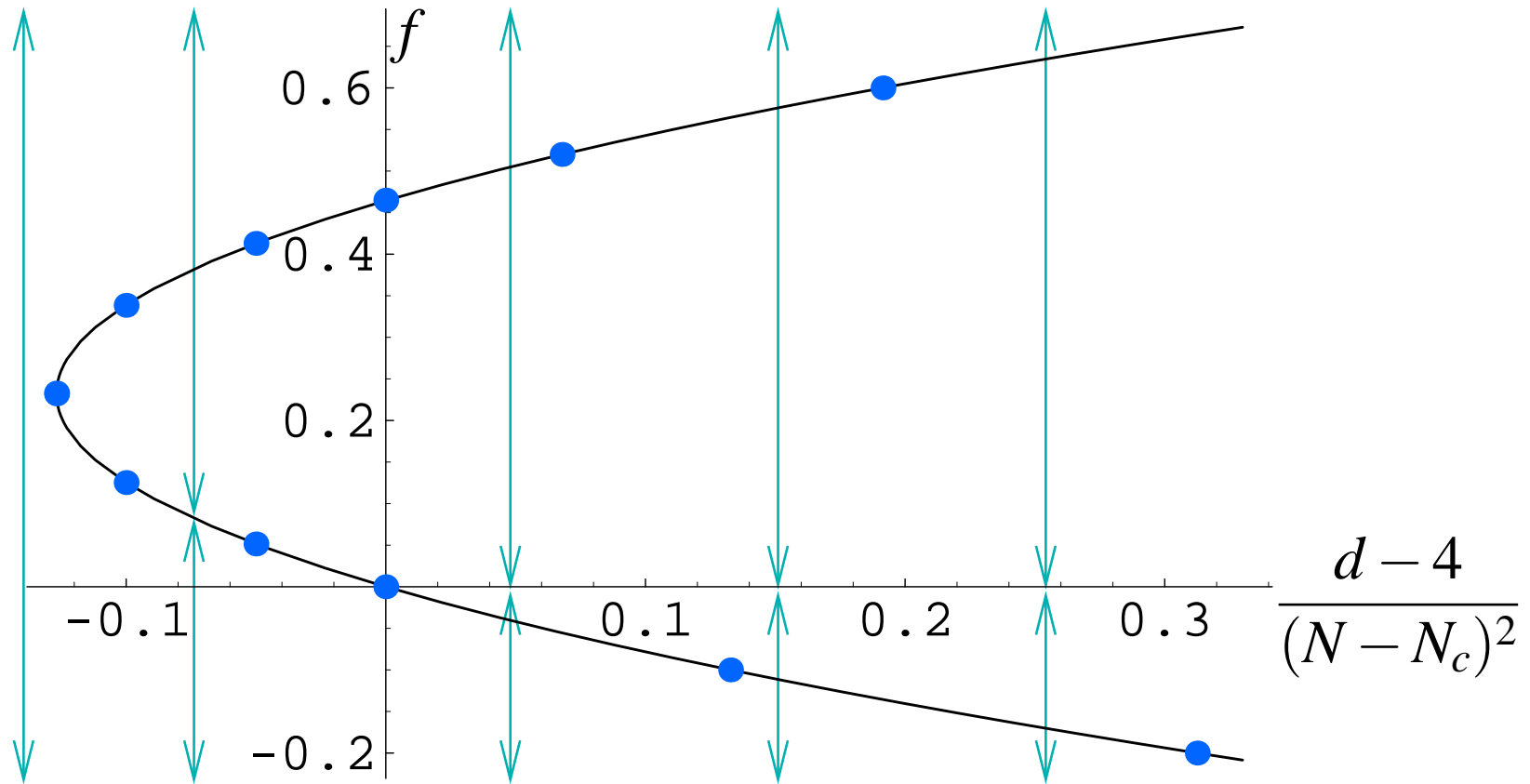


$N < N_c$



# Functional RG expansion around $N_c$

$$R(\phi) = gR_c(\phi) + g^2\delta R(\phi), \quad g = f(N_c - N)$$



$N_c = 2.8347$  for Random Field

$N_c = 9.441$  for Random Anisotropy

# Summary

- New analytical method to treat strongly disordered systems
  - higher order calculations: cumbersome, but under control
  - exact solution of the large- $N$  limit, precise relation to RSB
  - cusp analytically under control

# Outlook

- most promising method to obtain strong-coupling behaviour of strongly disordered systems as e.g. KPZ beyond mean-field.
  - $1/N$ -expansion: give quantitative results beyond mean-field.
- random field . . .
- biological problems like RNA-folding. . .
- quantum problems ?