

# **What is the appropriate field theory?**

**Kay Wiese**

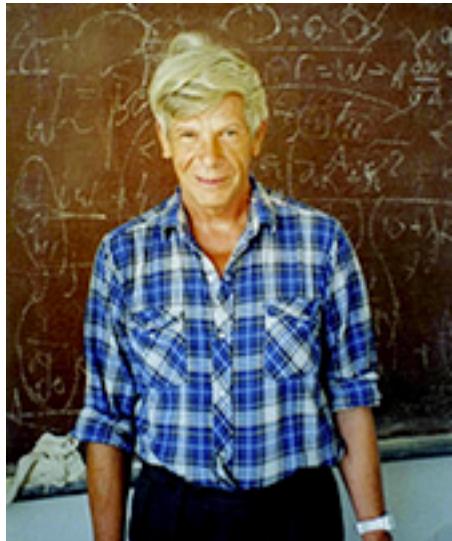
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**Sankt Petersburg, October 2022**

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

**Review: arXiv:2102.01215**

**...dedicated to my Russian and Ukrainian  
friends and colleagues...**



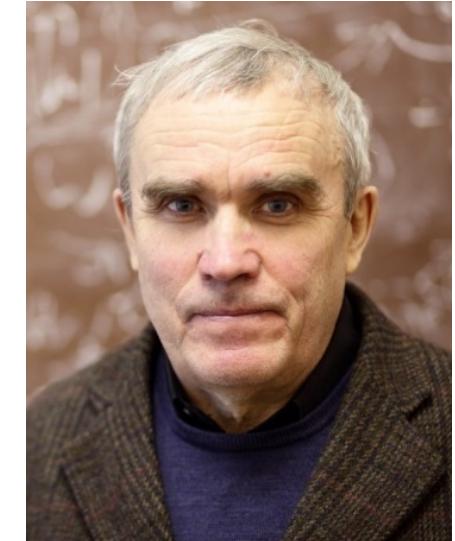
**Sasha**



**Misha**



**Andrei**



**Juri**



**Nicolai**



**Kolya**



**Boris**



**Mykola**

# What is the appropriate field theory?

- Ising model:  $\phi^4$ -theory ✓
- quantum gravity ?
- turbulence ?
- KPZ equation ?

we believe that for KPZ

$$\mathcal{S} = \int_{x,t} \tilde{h}(x,t) \left[ \partial_t h(x,t) + \nabla^2 h(x,t) + \lambda [\nabla h(x,t)]^2 + 2D\tilde{h}(x,t) \right]$$

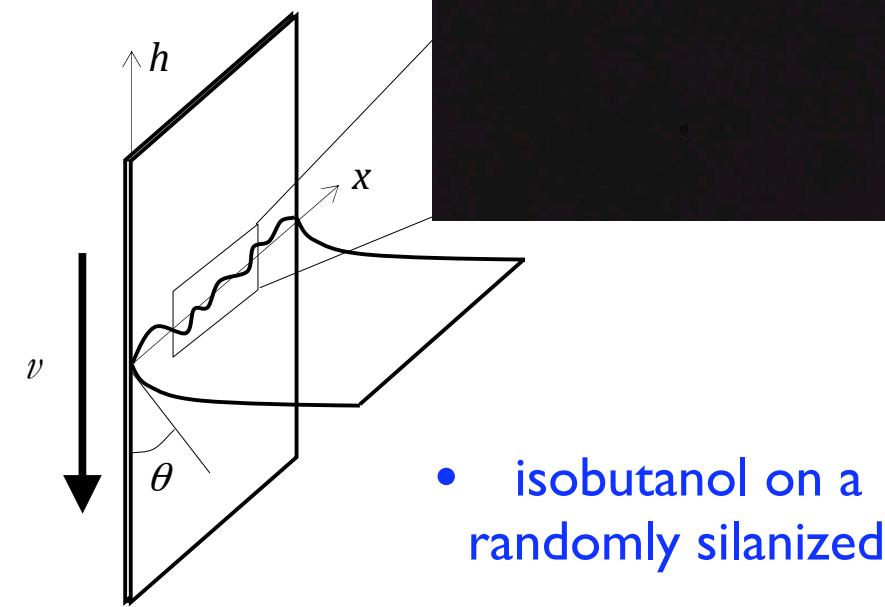
- but the perturbative expansion describes weak-strong coupling crossover in  $d = 2 + \epsilon$  dimensions.  
Something is missing here...
- strong-coupling regime accessible via the directed polymer, but in completely different variables!

# How to find the appropriate field theory?

- how to get out of this dilemma?
- try to measure the effective theory!
- here: disordered elastic systems

(C) E. Rolley

## Contact line wetting

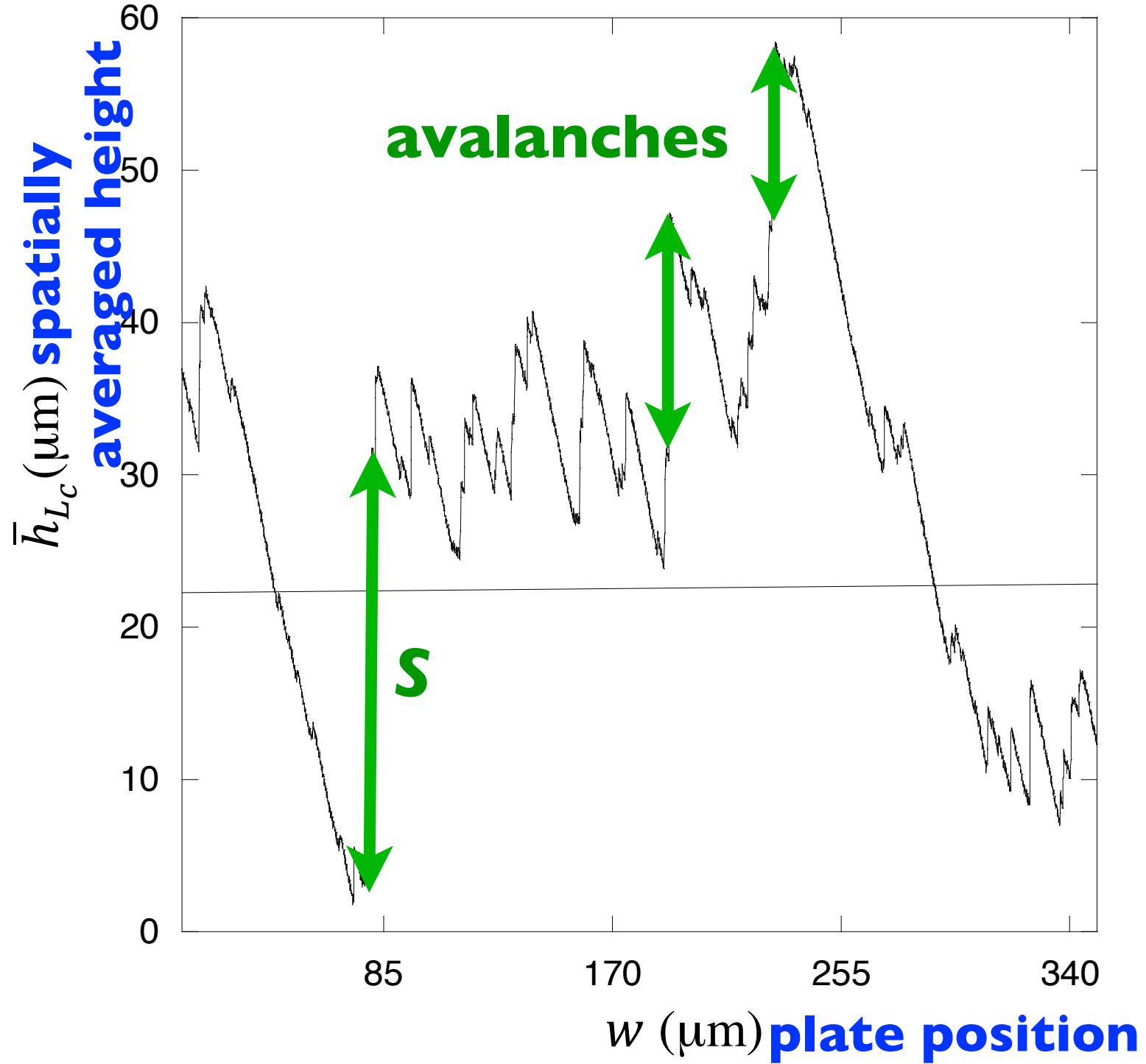


- isobutanol on a randomly silanized



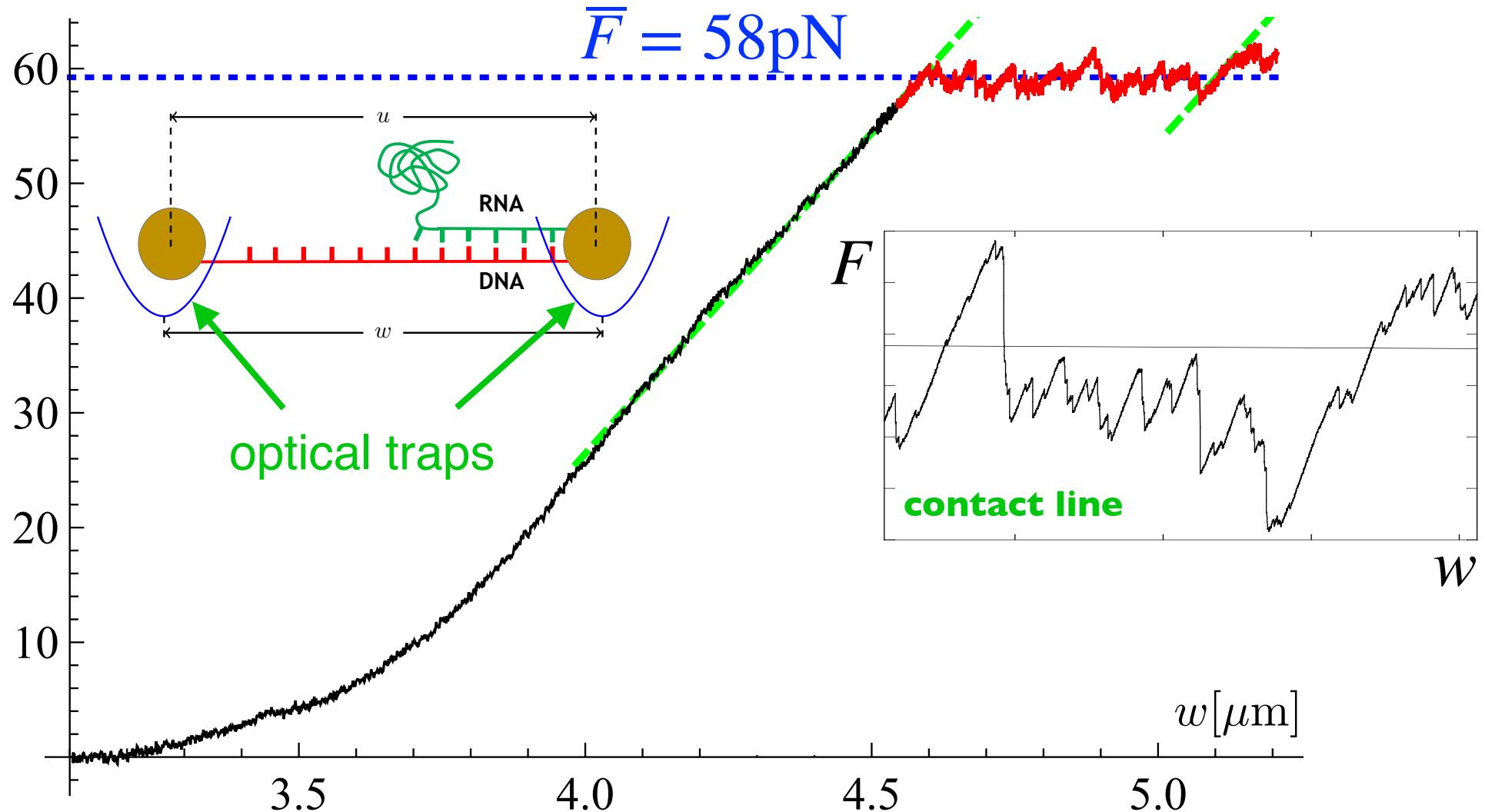
avalanche

**height jumps = avalanches**



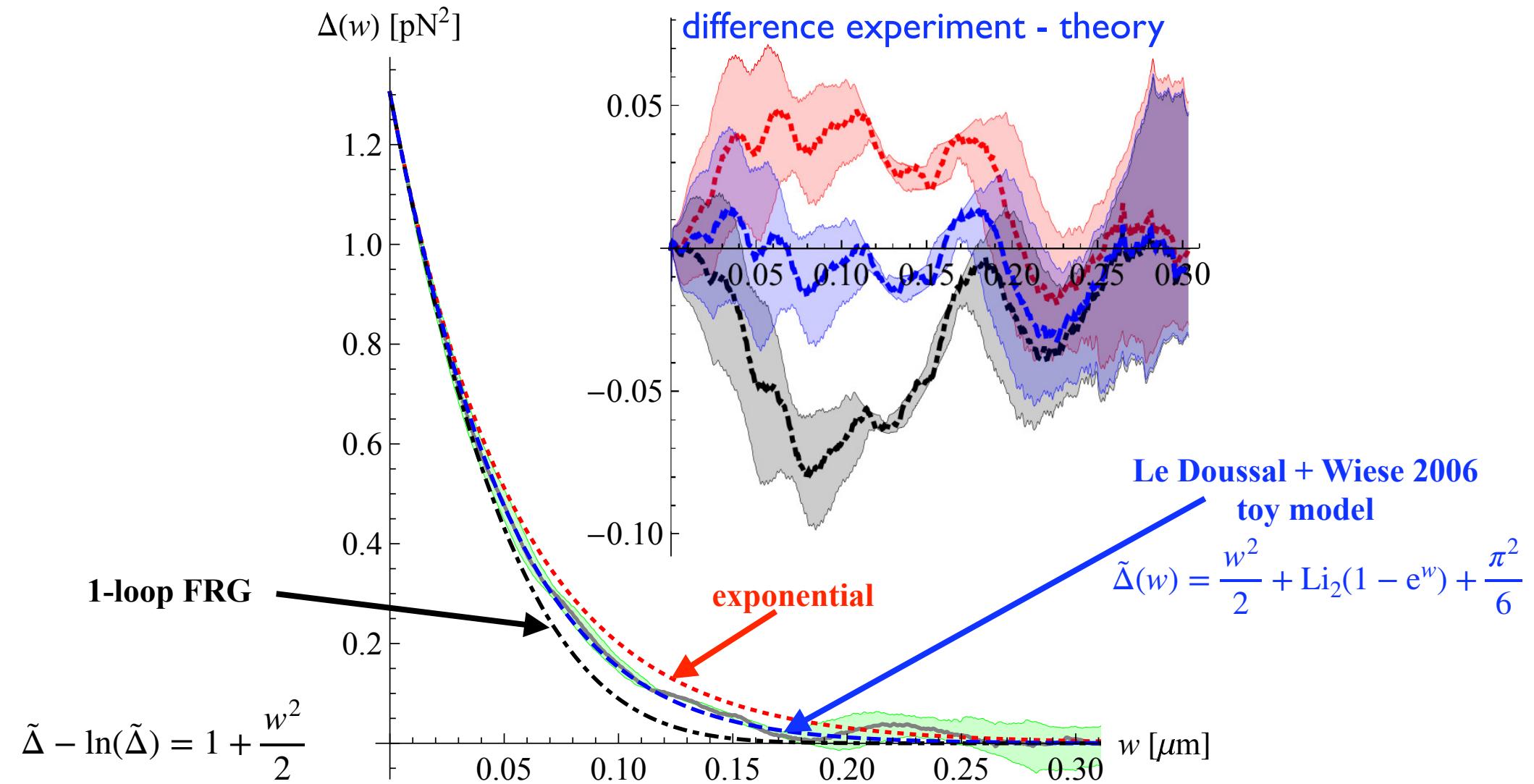
# Force as a function of distance for RNA/DNA peeling

$F$ [pN]



# Force-force correlations

$$\Delta(w - w') := \overline{F_w F_{w'}}^c \equiv \overline{F_w F_{w'}} - \overline{F_w} \overline{F_{w'}}$$



# Field theory

Equation of motion (for SR elasticity for simplicity)

height of the interface



$$w = vt$$

$$\partial_t u(x, t) = \nabla^2 u(x, t) + m^2[w - u(x, t)] + F(x, u(x, t))$$

Forces are drawn from a Gaussian, and have correlations

$$\overline{F(x, u)F(x', u')}^c = \delta^d(x - x')\Delta(u - u')$$

Field theory (MSR=classical limit  $\hbar \rightarrow 0$  of Keldysh)

$$\mathcal{S}[\tilde{u}, u] = \int_{x,t} \tilde{u}(x, t) \left[ \partial_t u(x, t) - \nabla^2 u(x, t) + m^2(u(x, t) - w) \right]$$

$$-\frac{1}{2} \int_{x,t,t'} \tilde{u}(x, t)\tilde{u}(x, t') \Delta(u(x, t) - u(x, t'))$$

was measured

# Why did we measure $\Delta$ ?

action

$$\mathcal{S}[\tilde{u}, u] = \int_{x,t} \tilde{u}(x, t) \left[ \partial_t u(x, t) - \nabla^2 u(x, t) + m^2 (u(x, t) - w) \right]$$

unrenormalized

$$-\frac{1}{2} \int_{x,t,t'} \tilde{u}(x, t) \tilde{u}(x, t') \Delta(u(x, t) - u(x, t'))$$

want to measure

$$u_w := \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{L^d} \int_x u(x, t) \Big|_w$$

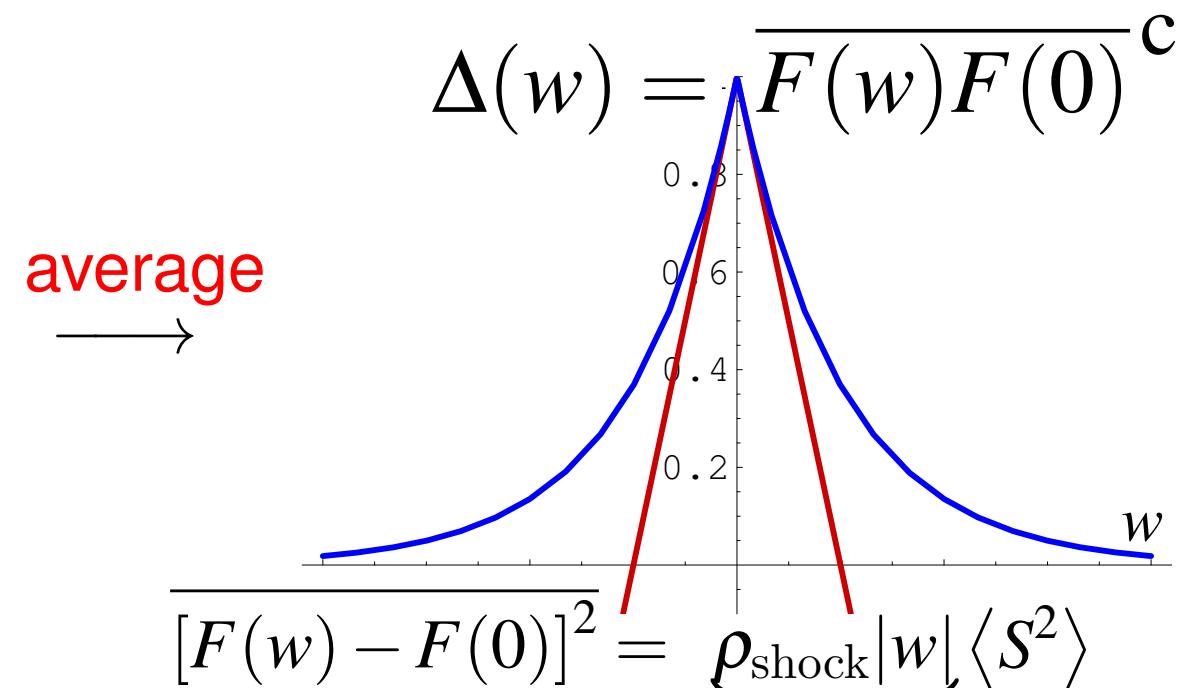
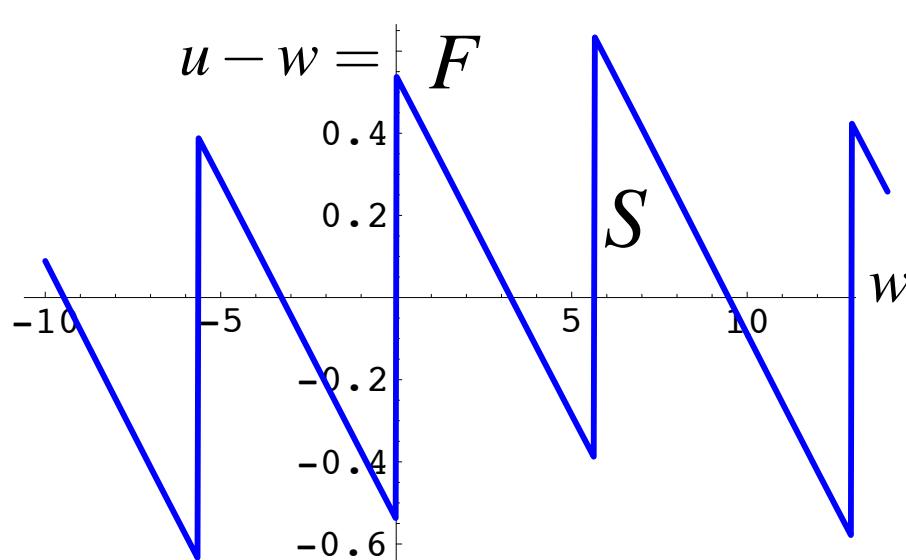
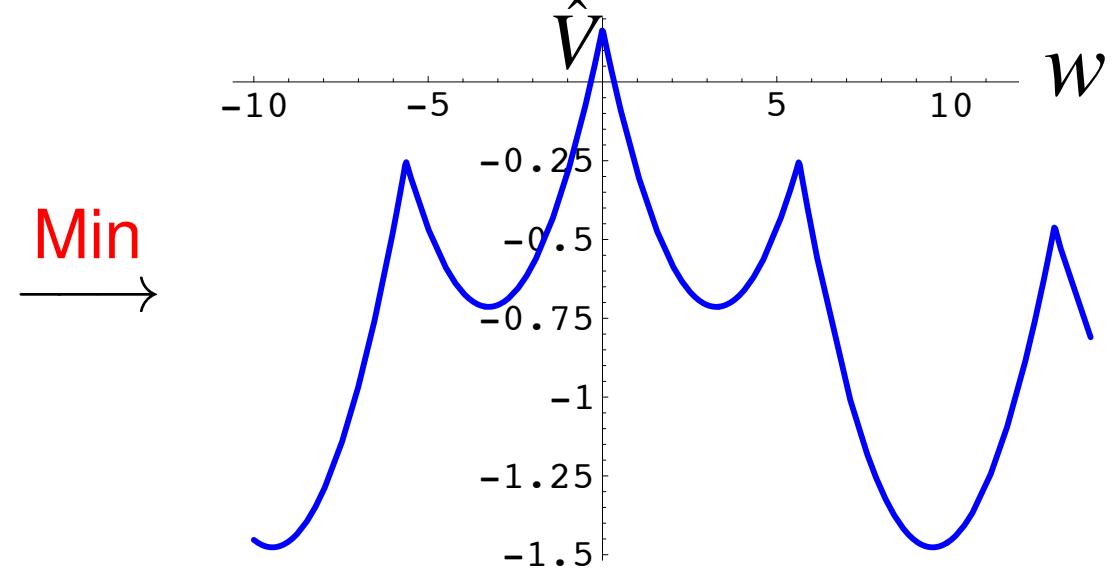
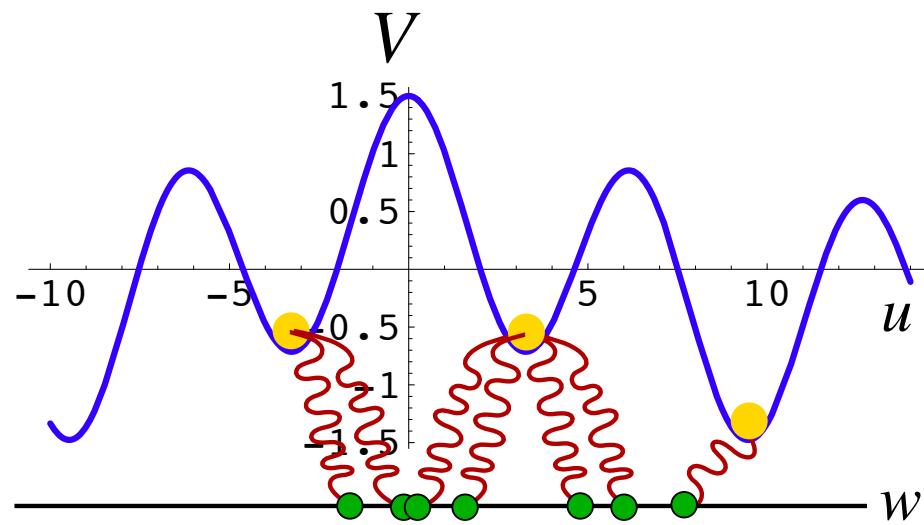
center of mass at large  $t$ , i.e.  $\omega \rightarrow 0$

$$\Delta(w - w') \equiv \Gamma^{(2)} = \mathcal{L} \circ \overline{u_w u_{w'}} = [\mathcal{R}^{-1}]^2 \overline{u_w u_{w'}} = (m^2)^2 \overline{u_w u_{w'}}$$

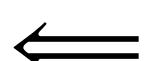
Legendre transform

amputate 2-point function (response)

# Why a cusp in the effective action?



$$-\Delta'(0^+) = \frac{\langle S^2 \rangle}{2 \langle S \rangle}$$



$$\rho_{\text{shock}} = \langle S \rangle^{-1}$$

$$[F(w) - F(0)]^2 = \underbrace{\rho_{\text{shock}} |w| \langle S^2 \rangle}_{p_{\text{shock}}}$$

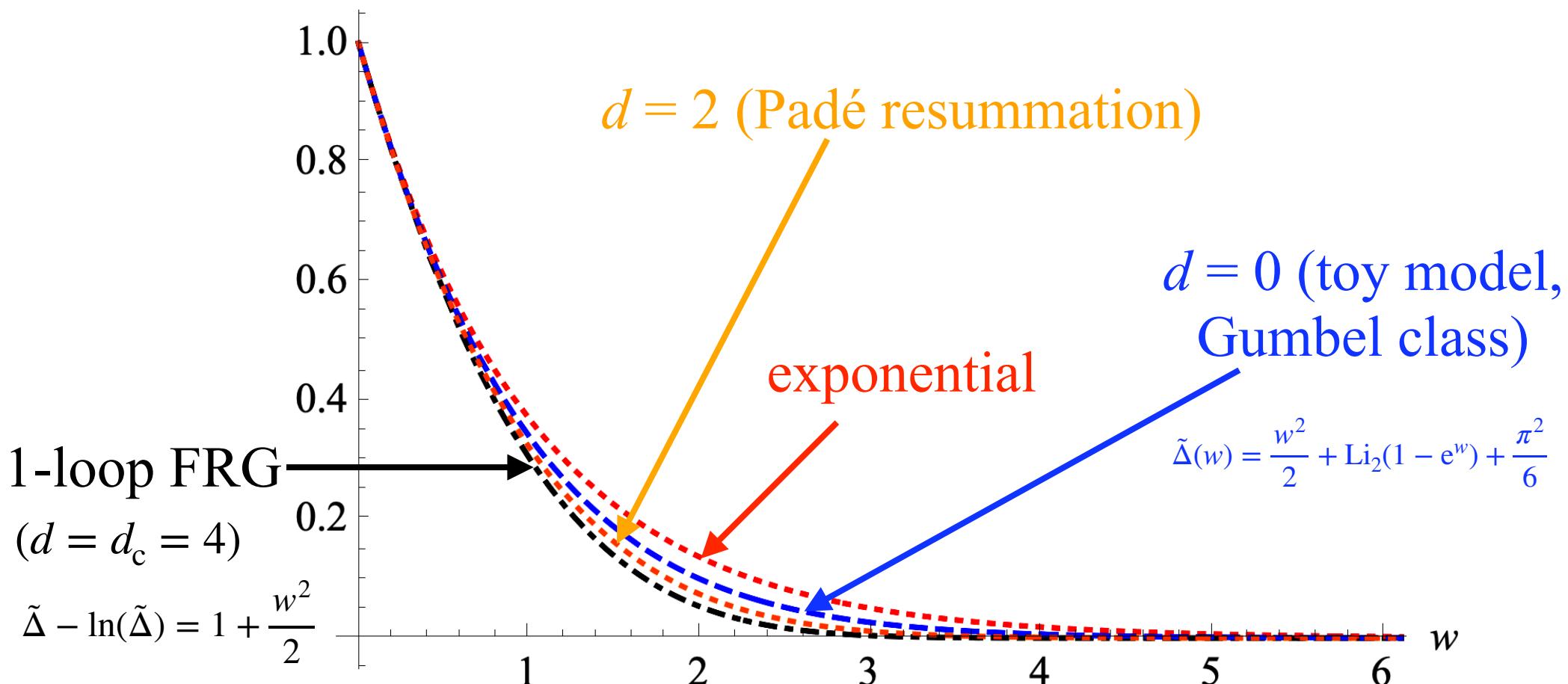
↑  
 $p_{\text{shock}}$

# Renormalization of disorder

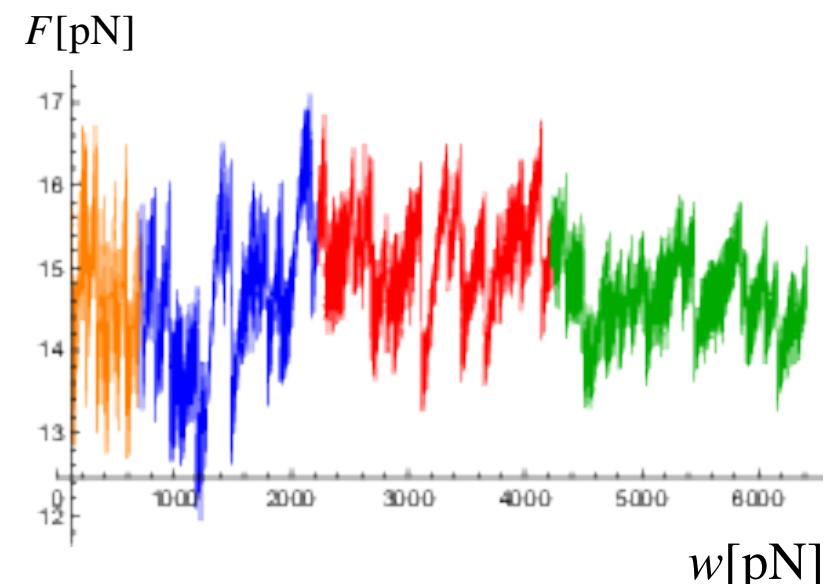
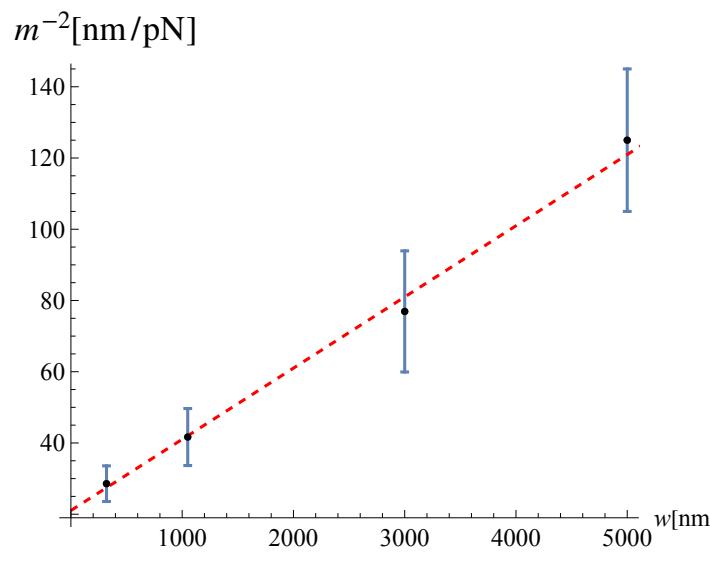
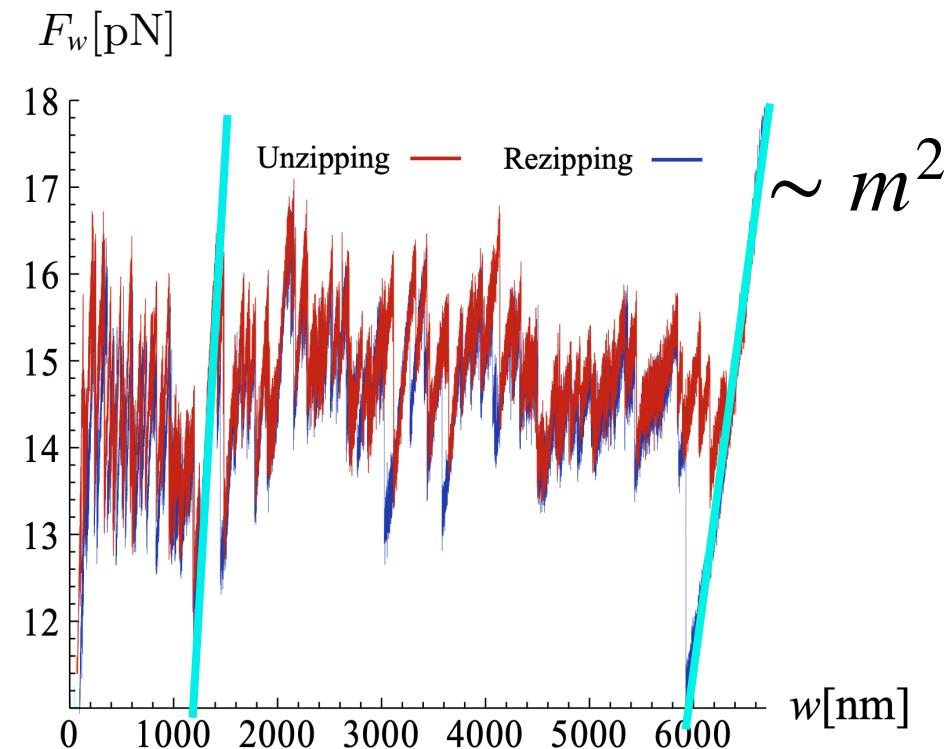
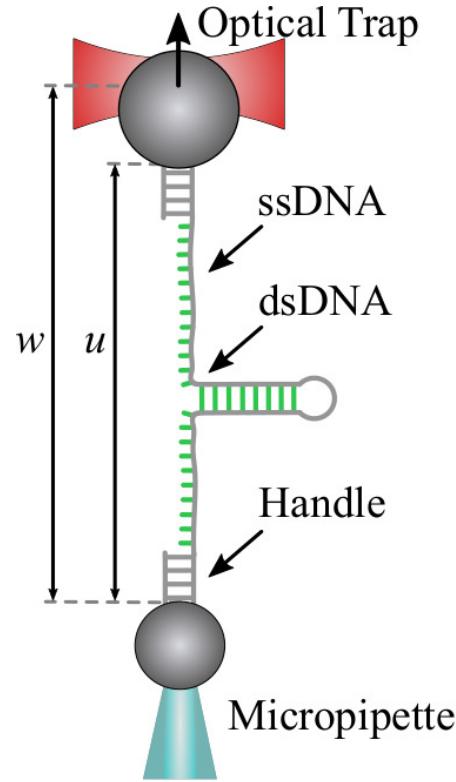
FRG

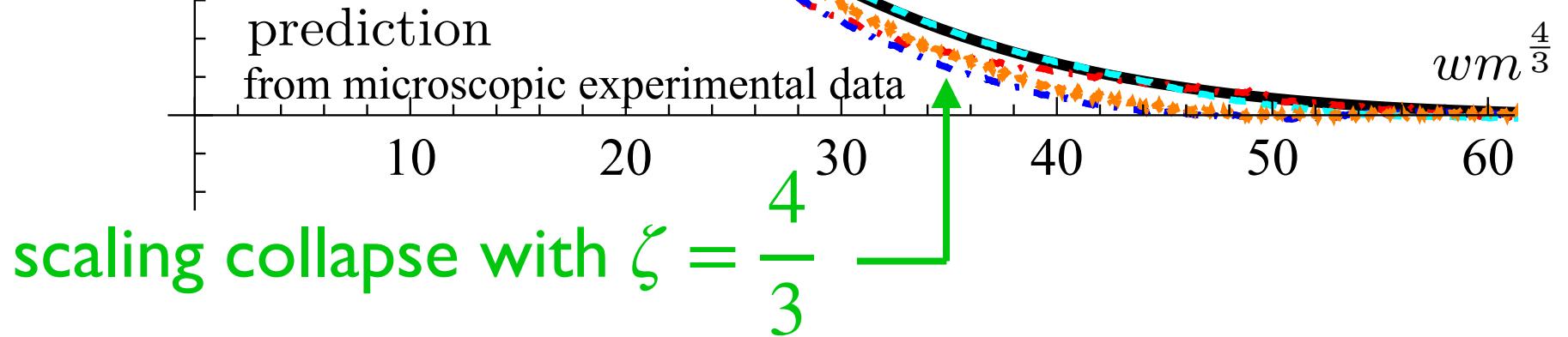
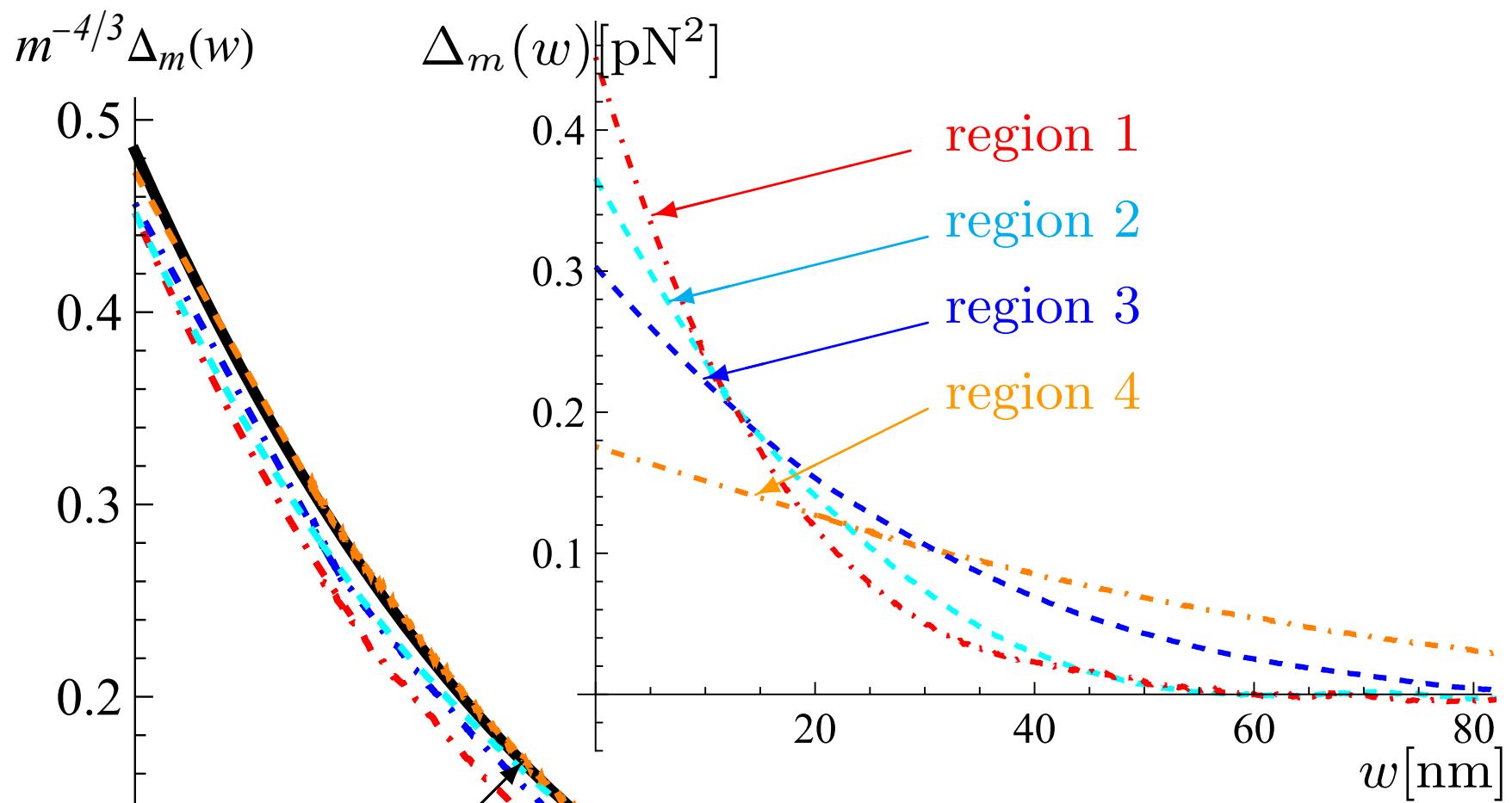
$$\begin{aligned}
 -\frac{md}{dm} \tilde{\Delta}(w) = & (\epsilon - 2\zeta) \tilde{\Delta}(w) + \zeta w \tilde{\Delta}'(w) - \frac{1}{2} \partial_w^2 [\tilde{\Delta}(w) - \tilde{\Delta}(0)]^2 \\
 & + \frac{1}{2} \partial_w^2 \left\{ [\tilde{\Delta}(w) - \tilde{\Delta}(0)] \tilde{\Delta}'(w)^2 + \tilde{\Delta}'(0^+)^2 \tilde{\Delta}(u) \right\}
 \end{aligned}$$

**Chauve, Le Doussal, Wiese 2004**



# Renormalization in DNA-unzipping

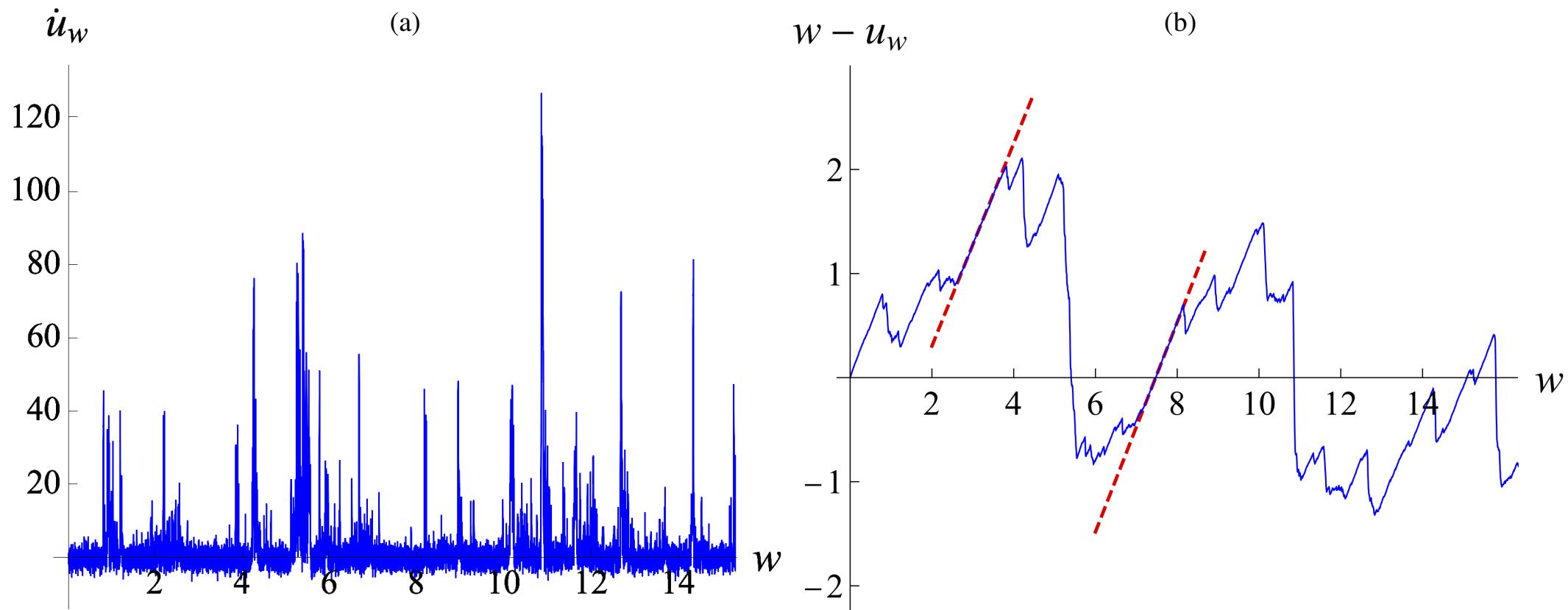




# Magnetic domain walls ( $d = 2$ )

(data by F. Bohn, G. Durin, R.L. Sommer)

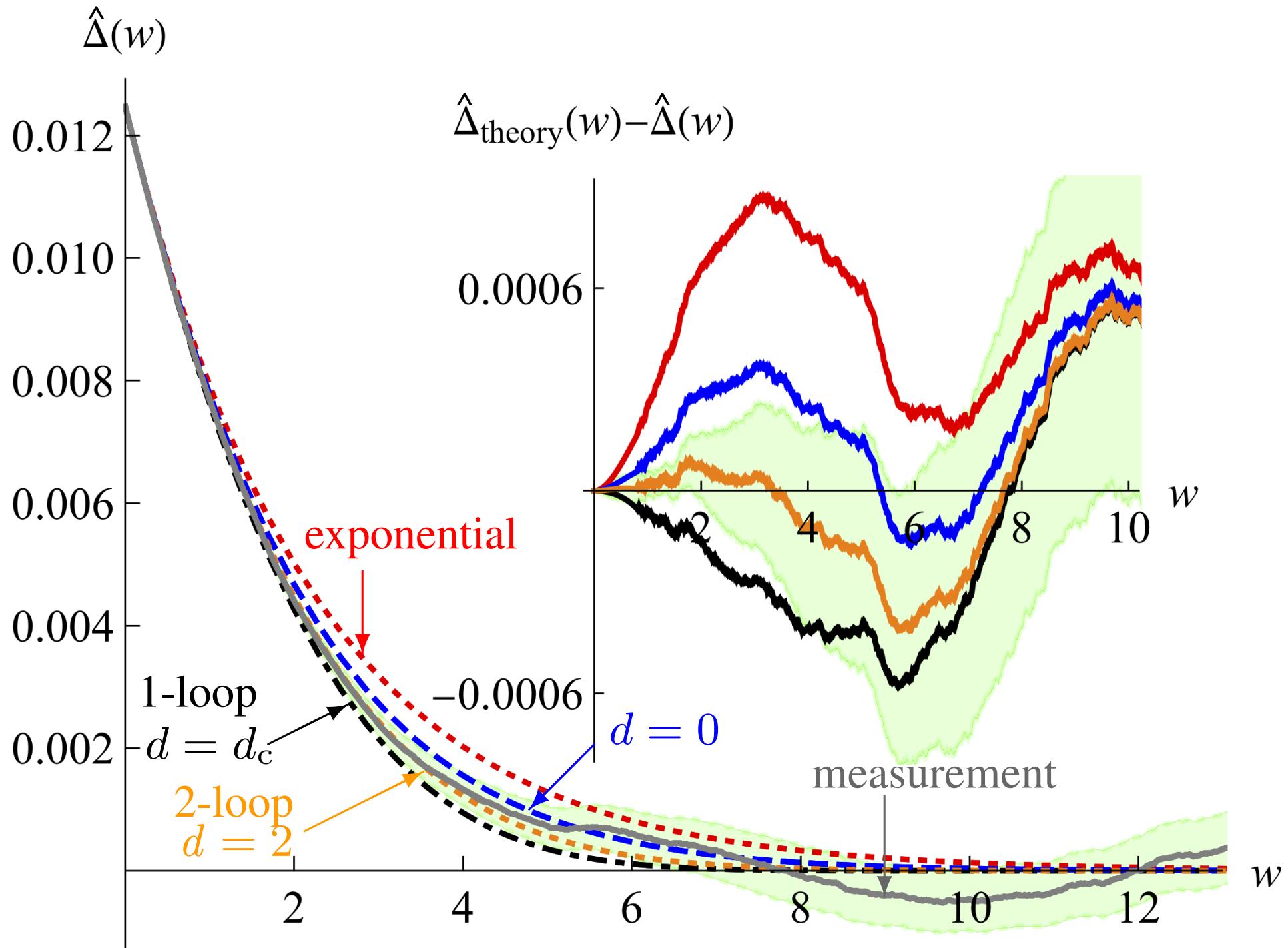
current in a pickup coil ..... allows to construct :



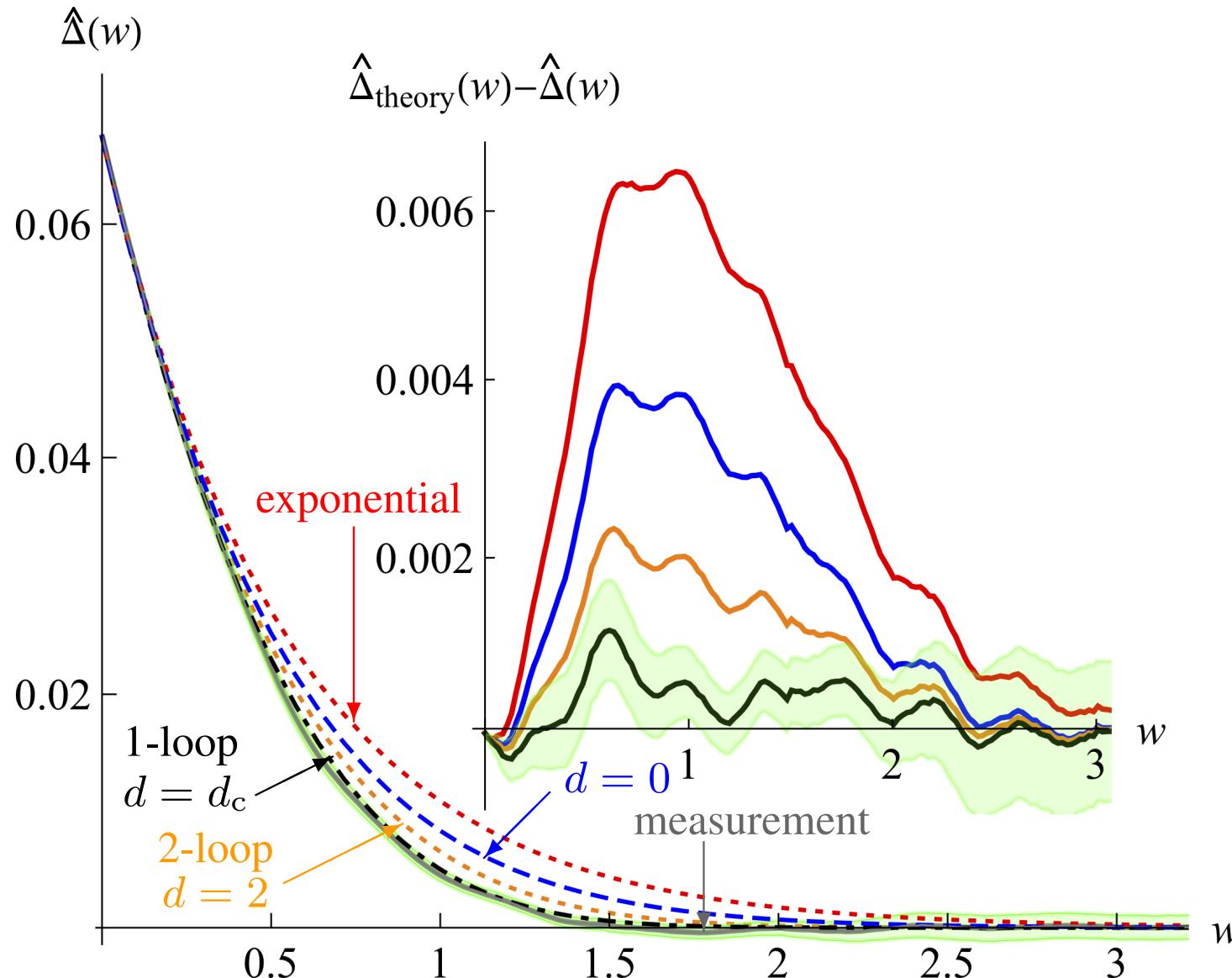
eliminate one unknown scale by the definition

$$\hat{\Delta}_v(w - w') := \overline{[w - u_w] [w' - u_{w'}]}^c = \frac{1}{m^4} \overline{F_w F_{w'}}^c$$

# Magnetic domain walls SR elasticity ( $d = 2$ )

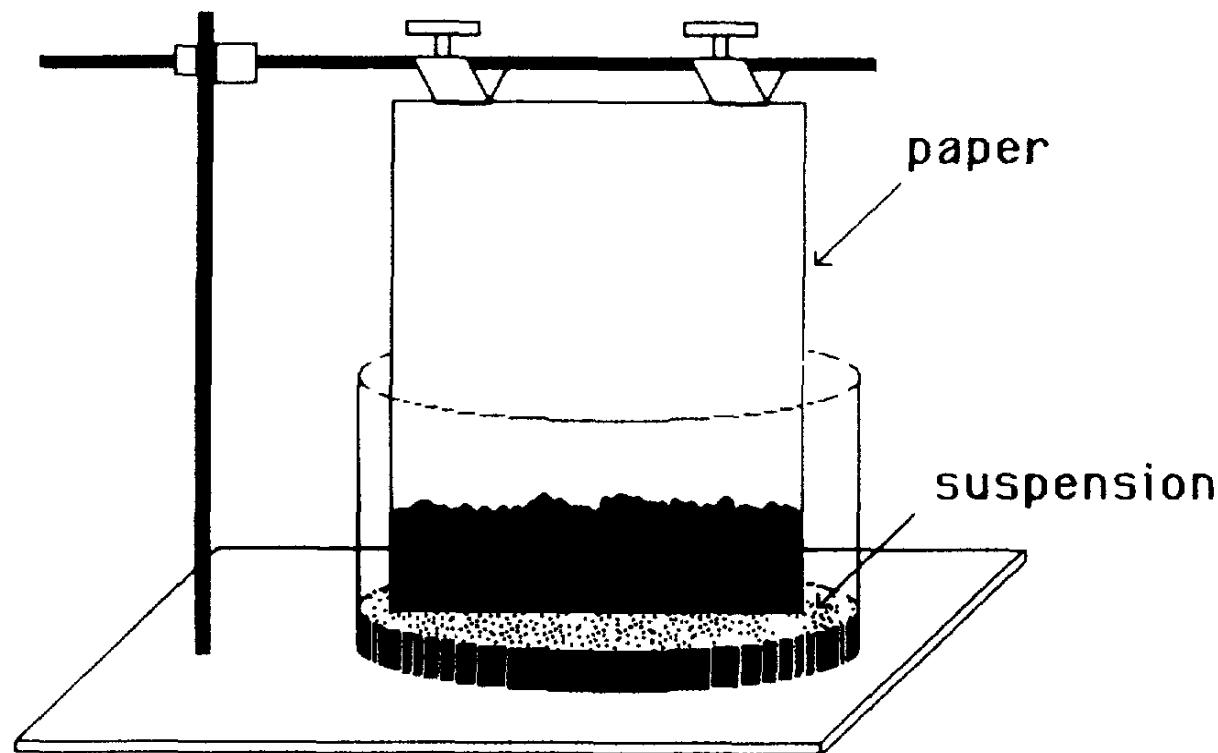


# Domain walls ( $d = 2$ ) with long-range elasticity



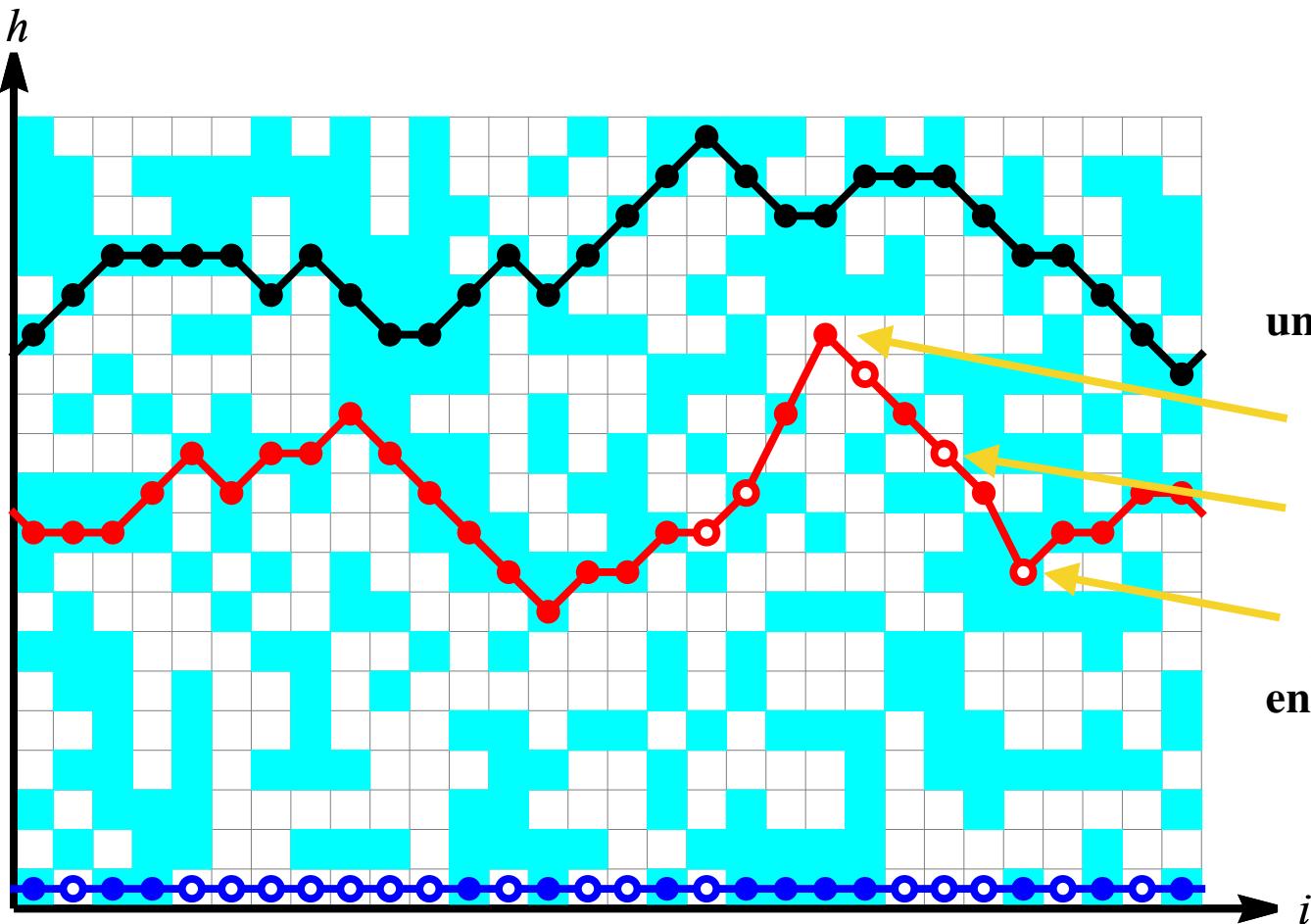
- 1-loop FRG gives fixed point.
- this is not ABBM disorder:  $\Delta(0) - \Delta(w) \neq \sigma |w|$
- ABBM only gives short-scale behavior correctly

# Imbibition



# The Tang-Leschhorn cellular automaton of 1992

## TL92



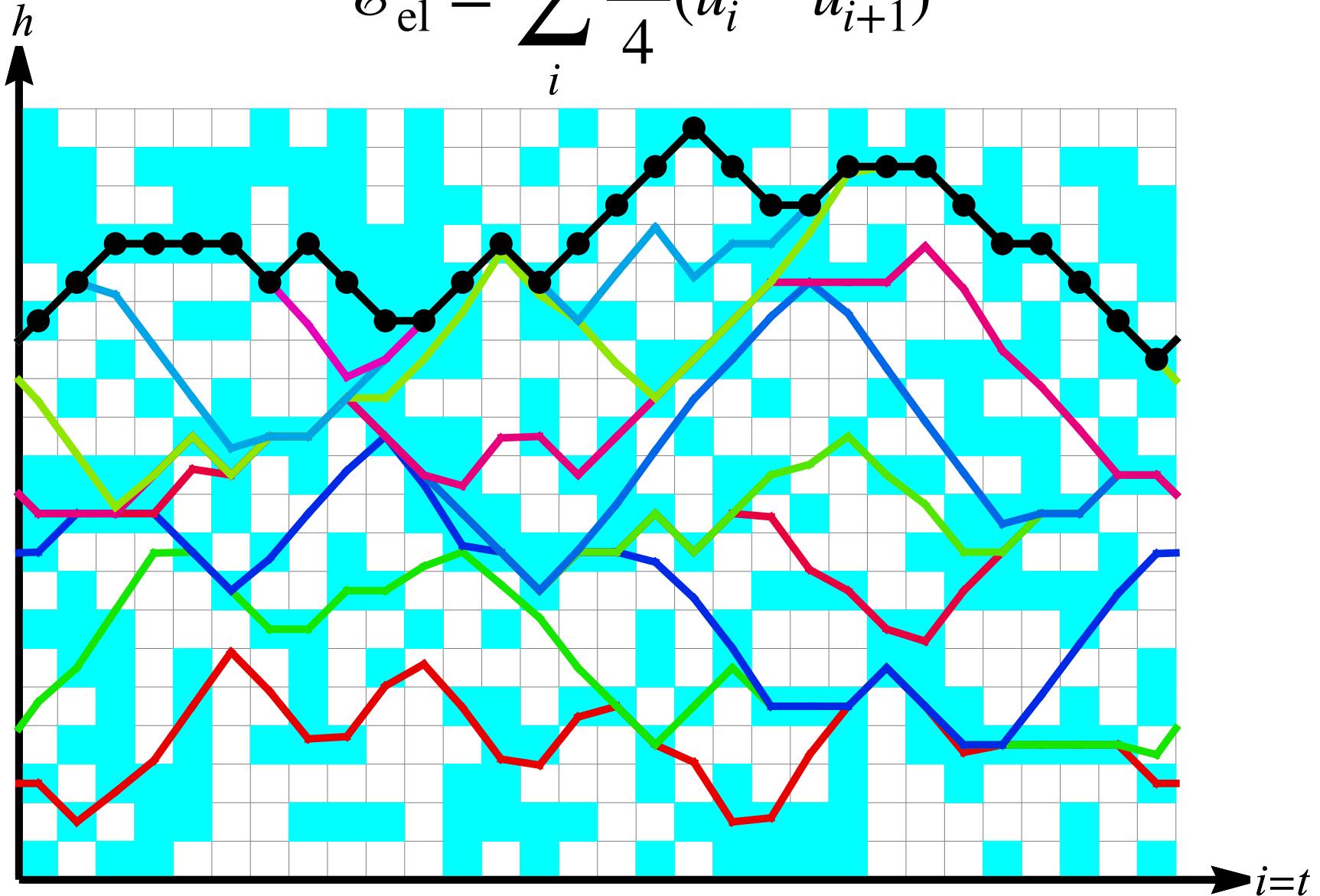
**unstable( $i$ )**

```
# links cannot be longer than 2  
if  $h(i) - h(\text{neighbor}) \geq 2$  return false  
# move forward if open  
if  $f(i, h(i)) > f_c$  return true  
# move forward if a neighbor is 2 ahead  
if  $h(\text{neighbor}) - h(i) \geq 2$  return true  
end
```

variants: Buldyrev, S. Havlin and H.E. Stanley 1992

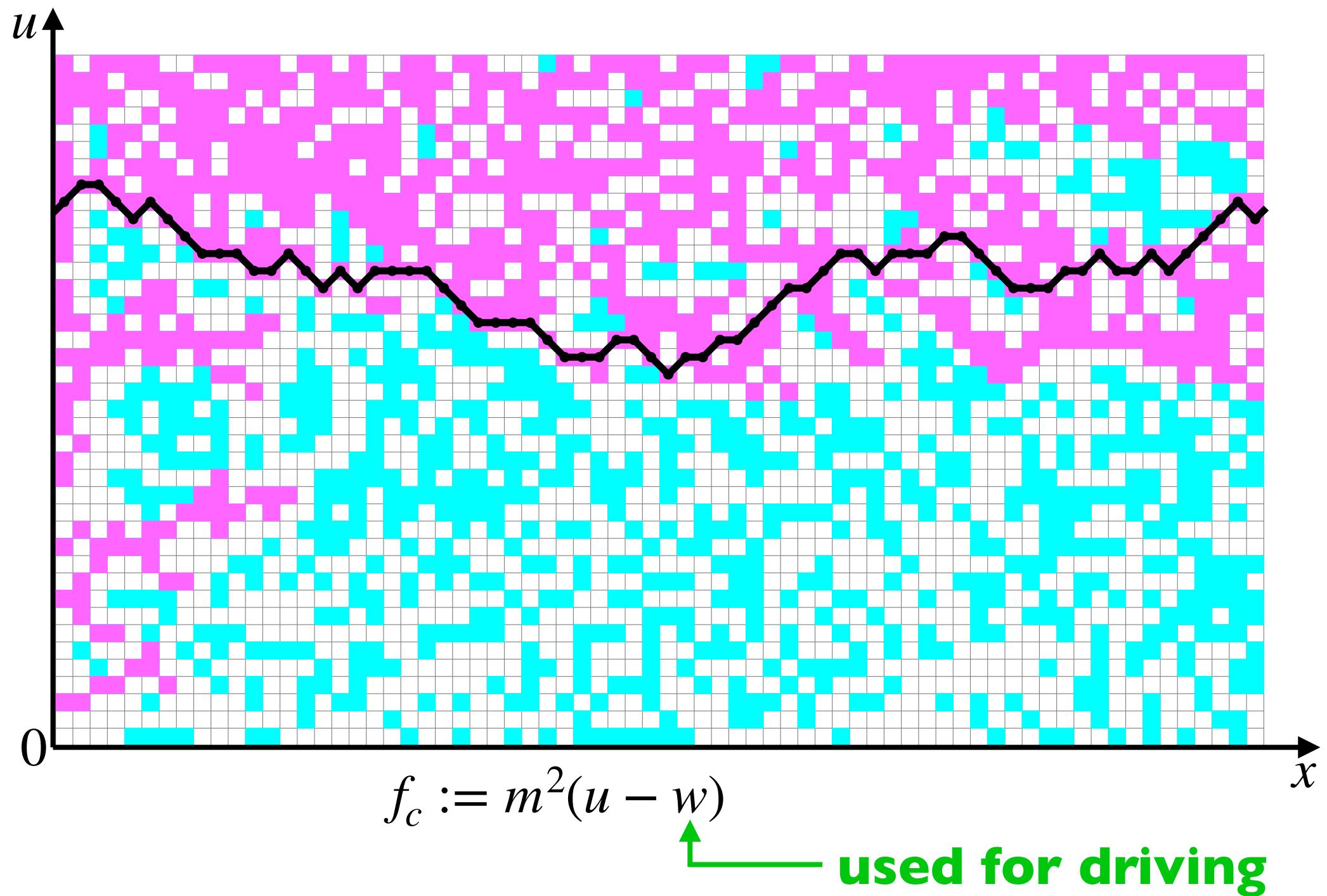
# Anharmonic depinning = TL92

$$\mathcal{E}_{\text{el}} = \sum_i \frac{c_4}{4} (u_i - u_{i+1})^4$$



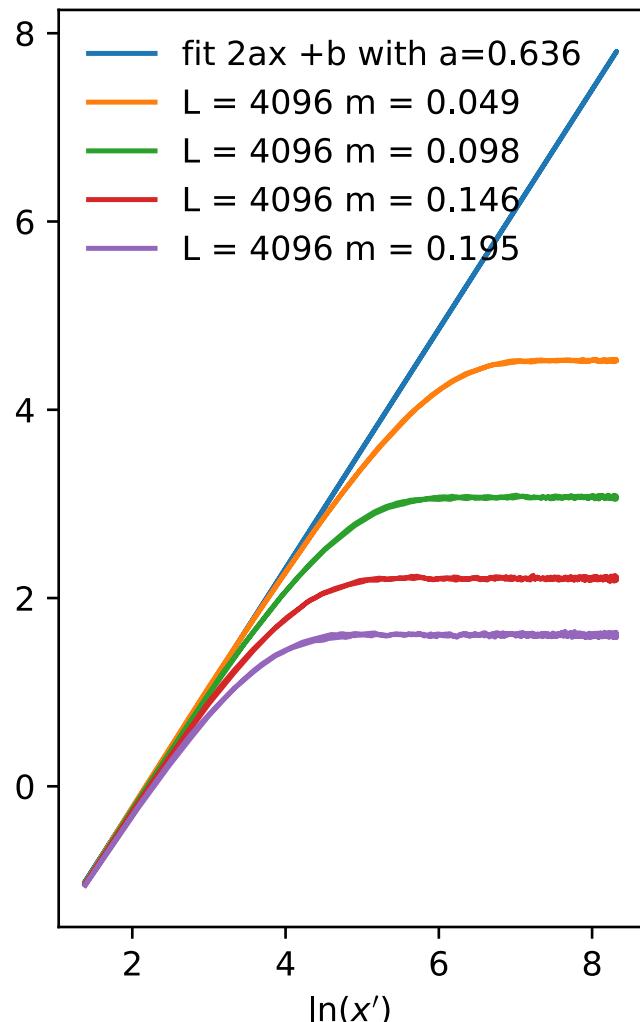
anharmonic depinning respects the Middleton theorem  
= return point memory (not guaranteed for qKPZ)

# TL92 and directed percolation ( $d = 1$ )



## 2-point function

$$\frac{1}{2} \frac{1}{[u(x) - u(y)]^2} \sim \begin{cases} A |x - y|^{2\zeta}, & |x - y| < \xi \\ B m^{-2\zeta_m}, & |x - y| > \xi \end{cases}$$



**from directed percolation**

$$\zeta^{d=1} = \frac{\nu_{\perp}}{\nu_{\parallel}} = 0.632613(3)$$

$$\zeta_m^{d=1} = \frac{2\nu_{\perp}}{1 + \nu_{\perp}} = 1.046190(4)$$

**two distinct exponents in all  $d$**

$$\zeta_m > \zeta$$

# What is the appropriate long-distance theory?

## Can we measure it?

standard elasticity

$$c \rightarrow 0$$

$$\eta \partial_t u(x, t) = c \nabla^2 u(x, t)$$

non-linear elasticity

$$\begin{aligned} & + c_4 \nabla [\nabla u(x, t)]^3 - m^2 [u(x, t) - w] \\ & + F(x, u(x, t)) \end{aligned}$$

disorder force

confining potential

background field



# What is the appropriate long-distance theory?

## Can we measure it?

standard elasticity      non-linear elasticity

$$\eta \partial_t u(x, t) = c \nabla^2 u(x, t) + c_4 \nabla [\nabla u(x, t)]^3 - m^2 [u(x, t) - w(x, t)]$$
$$+ \lambda [\nabla u(x, t)]^2 + F(x, u(x, t))$$

KPZ term      disorder force

confining potential  
(unrenormalized)

background field  
(modulated)

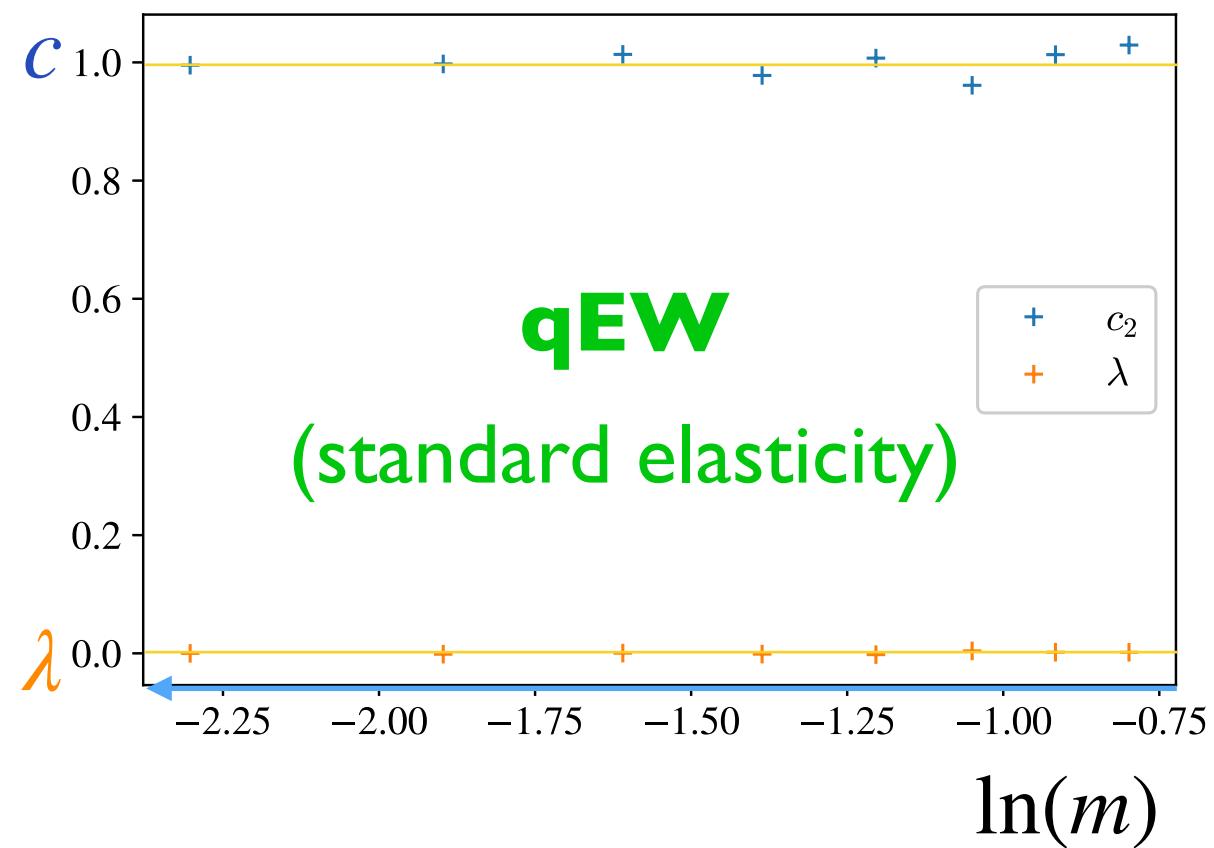
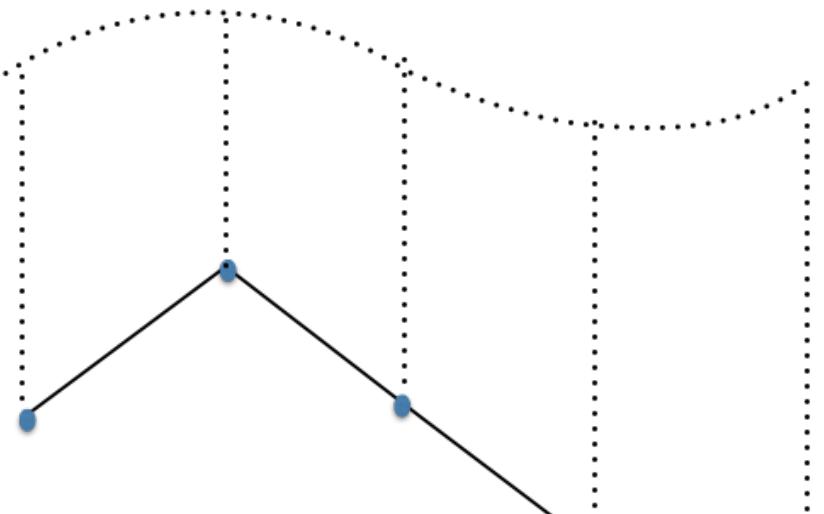
Arrows point from the labels to their respective terms in the equation:

- A green arrow points from "standard elasticity" to the term  $c \nabla^2 u(x, t)$ .
- A green arrow points from "non-linear elasticity" to the term  $c_4 \nabla [\nabla u(x, t)]^3$ .
- A green arrow points from "confining potential (unrenormalized)" to the term  $m^2 [u(x, t) - w(x, t)]$ .
- A green arrow points from "disorder force" to the term  $\lambda [\nabla u(x, t)]^2$ .
- A green arrow points from "background field (modulated)" to the term  $F(x, u(x, t))$ .
- A green arrow points from "KPZ term" to the term  $\eta \partial_t u(x, t)$ .

# Measuring the elastic constants for harmonic depinning (qEW)

$$\eta \partial_t u(x, t) = c \nabla^2 u(x, t) - m^2 [u(x, t) - w(x, t)] + F(x, u(x, t))$$

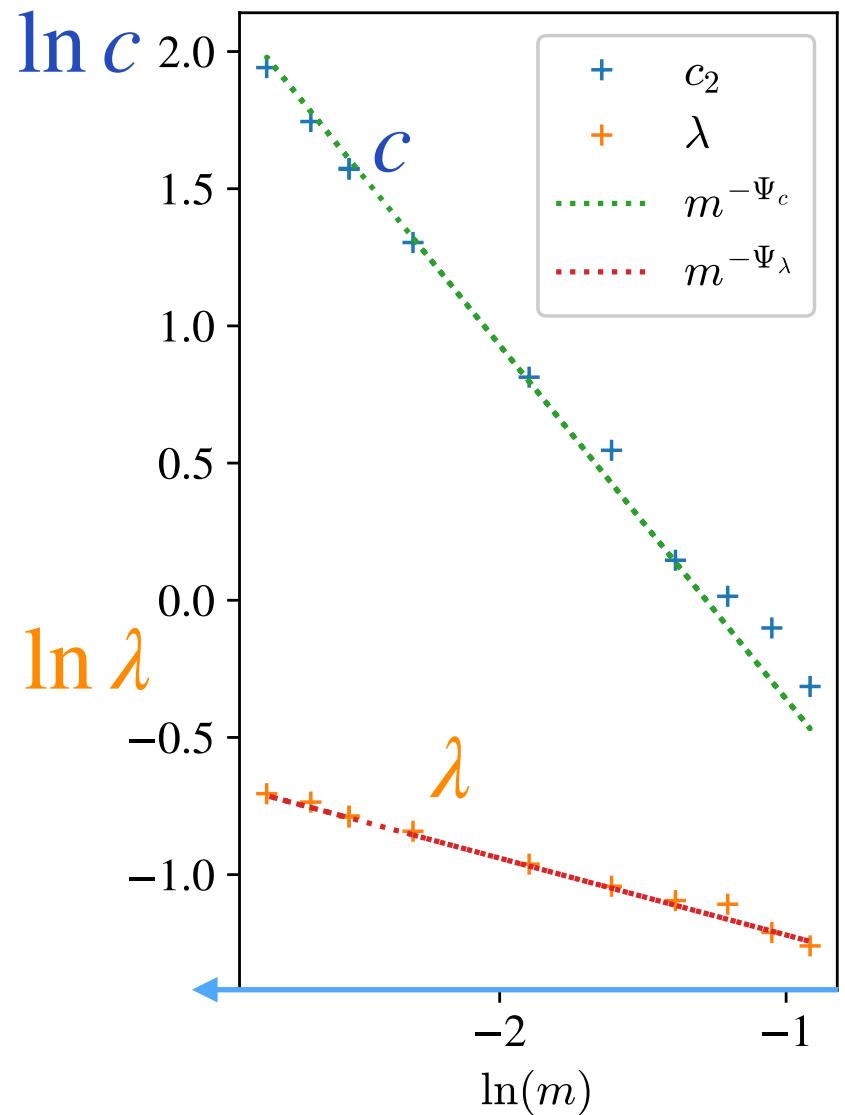
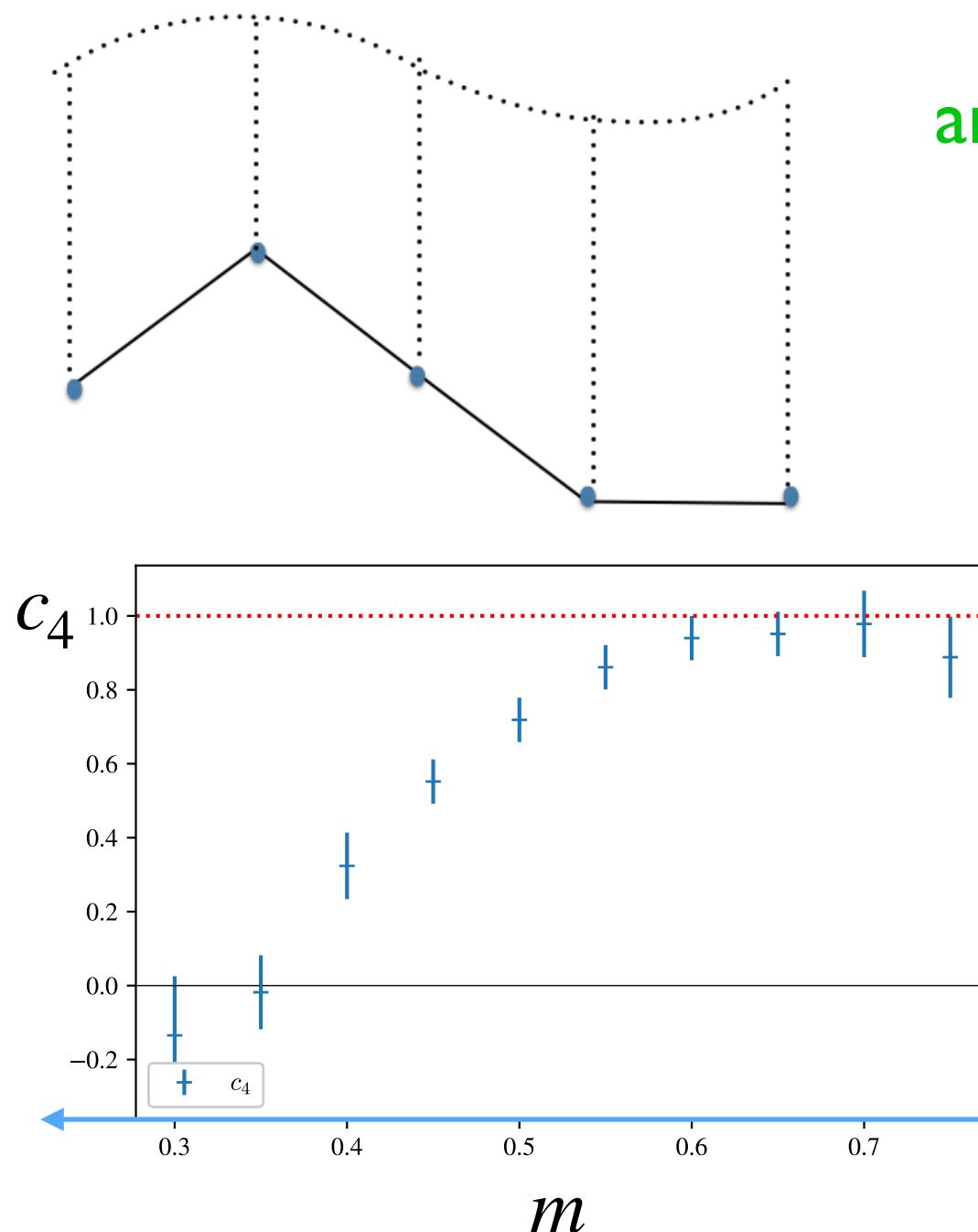
$$w(x) = w_0 + A \sin\left(\frac{\pi x}{L}\right)$$



$$w(x) = w_0 + A \sin\left(\frac{\pi x}{L}\right)$$

# Measuring the elastic constants

anharmonic depinning ( $c_4 > 0$ )

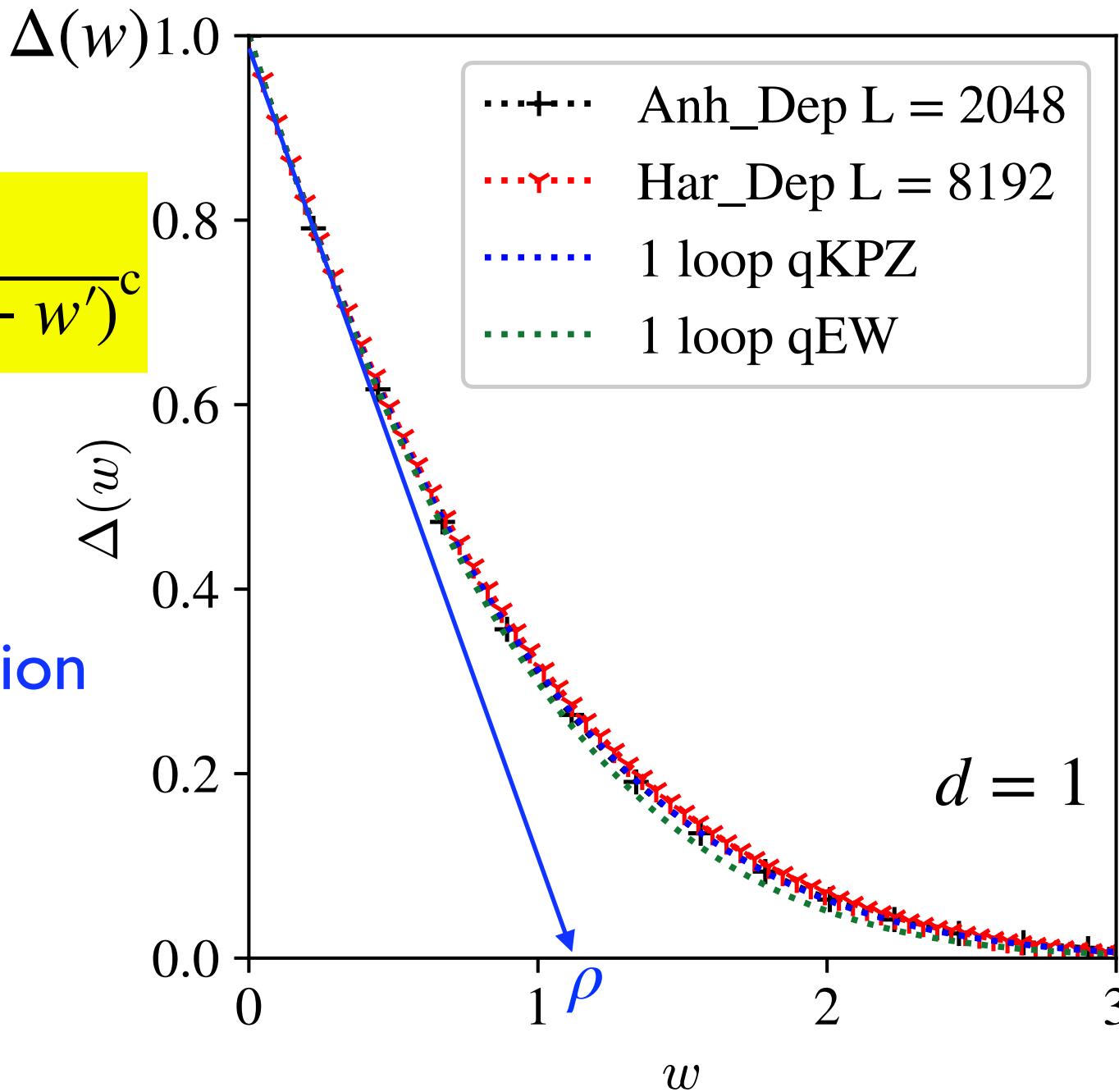


# Measuring the effective force correlator

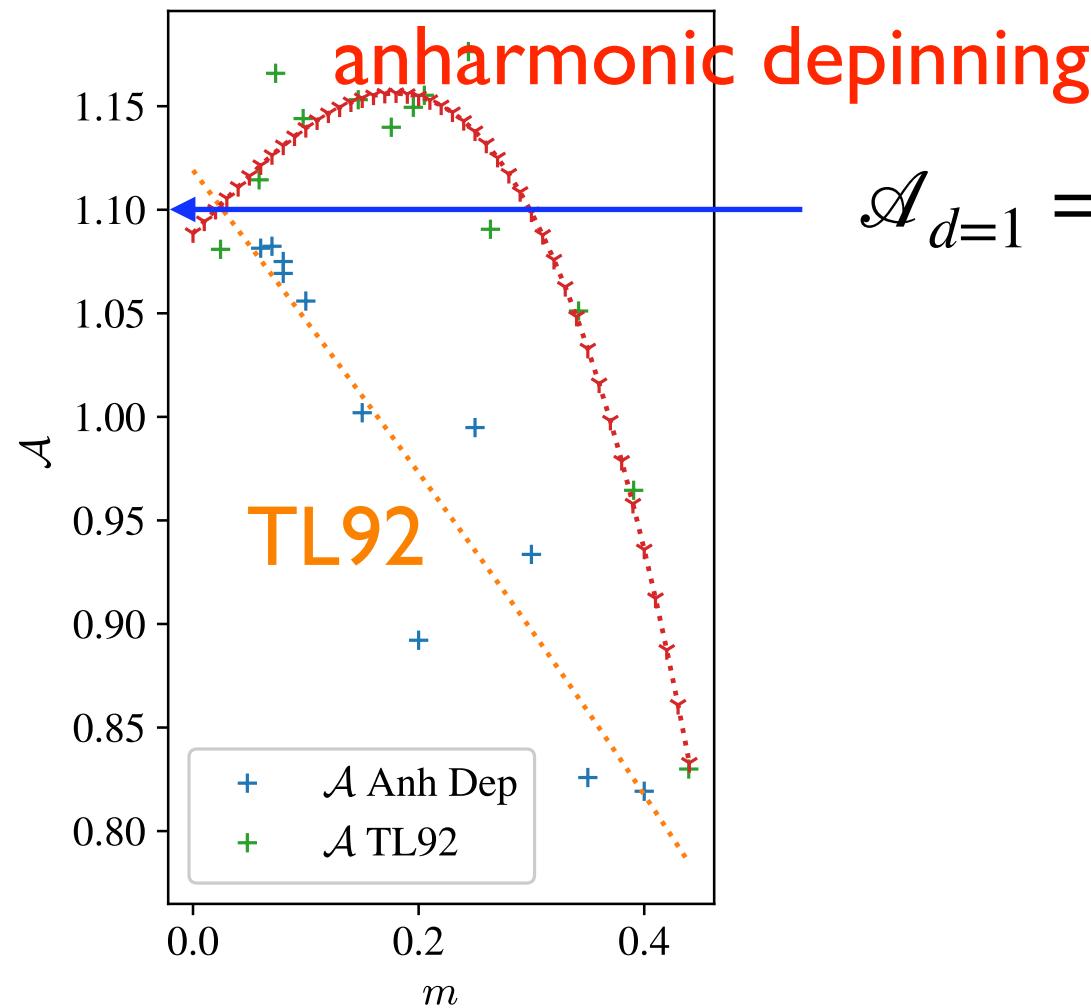
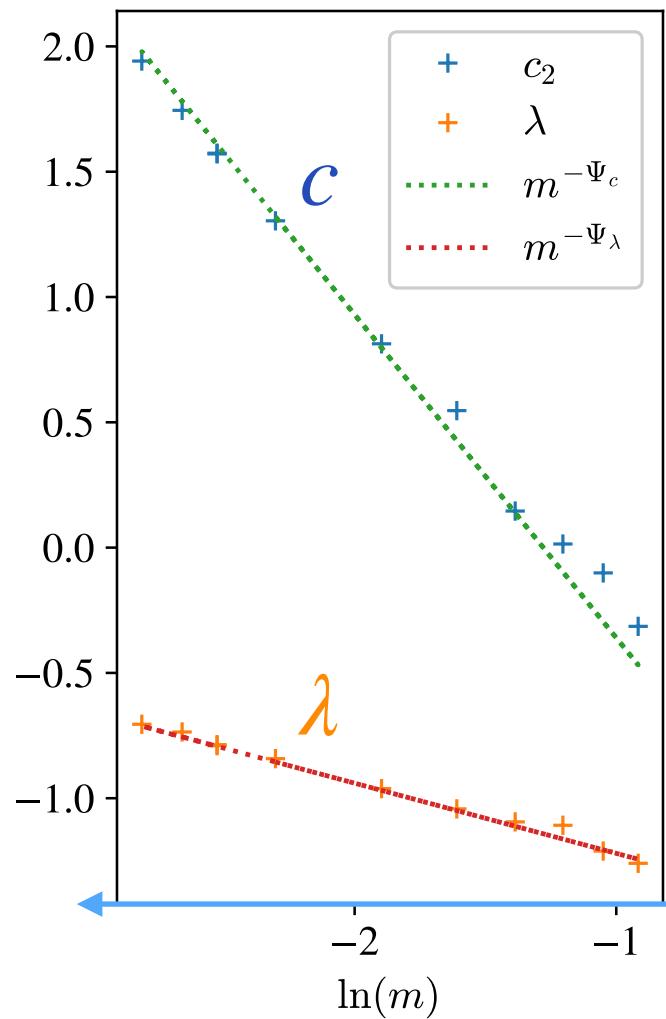
$$\Delta(w - w') = m^4 L^d \overline{(u_w - w)(u_{w'} - w')}^c$$

$$u_w = \frac{1}{L^d} \int_x u_w(x)$$

↑  
centre-of-mass position  
given  $w$



# Coupling constant for qKPZ



scale-free universal  
KPZ amplitude

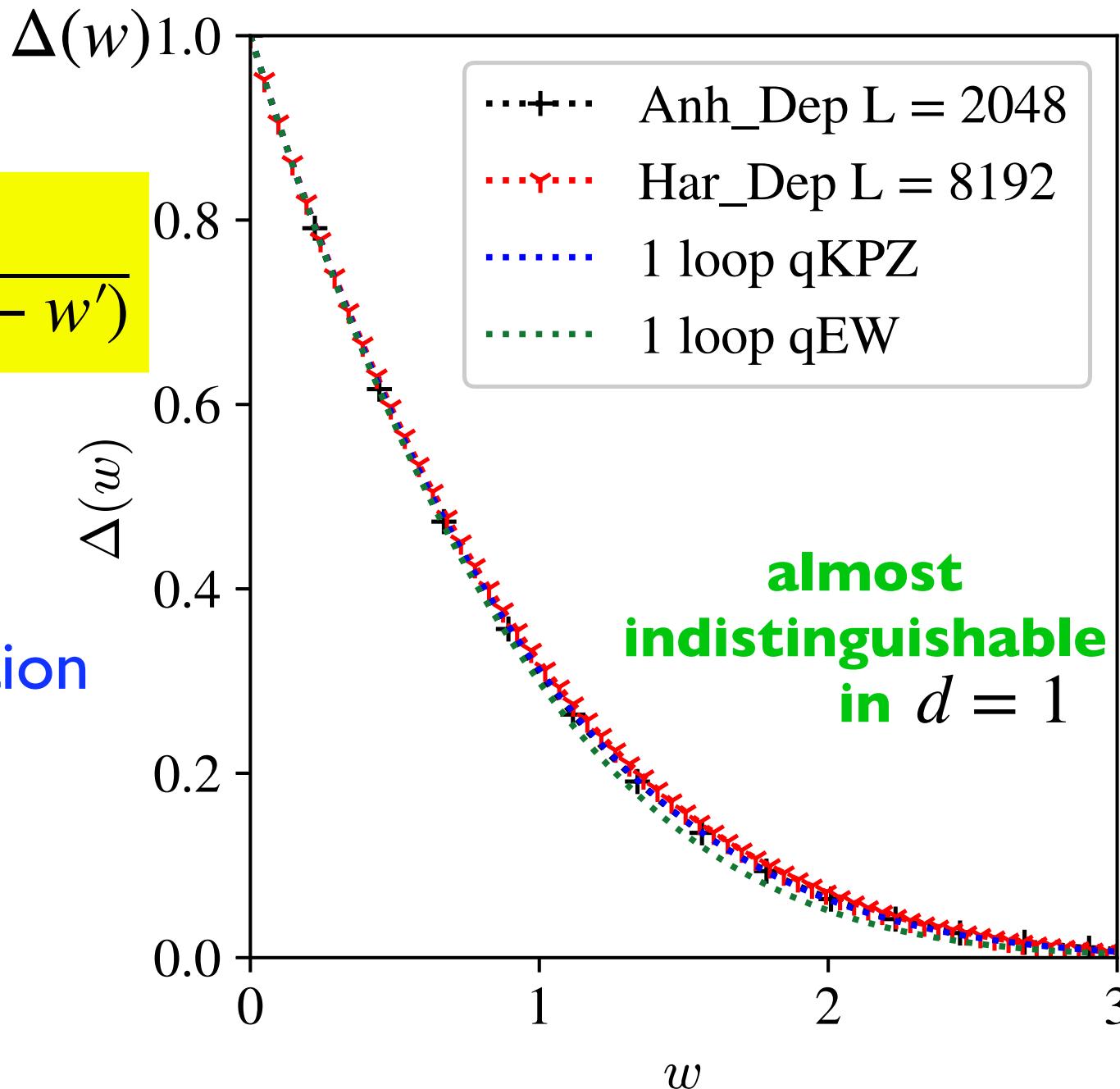
$$\mathcal{A} := \rho \frac{\lambda}{c} \equiv \frac{\Delta(0)}{|\Delta'(0^+)|} \frac{\lambda}{c}$$

# Measuring the effective force correlator

$$\Delta(w - w') = m^4 L^d \overline{(u_w - w)(u_{w'} - w')}$$

$$u_w = \frac{1}{L^d} \int_x u_w(x)$$

↑  
centre-of-mass position  
given  $w$



# Universality classes for depinning

qKPZ  
SR-elasticity

qEW  
SR-elasticity

qEW  
LR-elasticity

$$d = 4$$



$$d = 3$$



$$d = 2$$

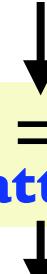
magnetic domain wall



$$d = 1$$

imbition

$$d = 4$$



$$d = 3$$

vortex lattice/CDW



$$d = 2$$

magnetic domain wall



$$d = 1$$

magnetic domain wall



$$d = 0$$

analytically solvable: dragged particle (RNA/DNA peeling)

$d = 2$   
magnetic domain walls,  
earthquakes, knitting

$d = 1$   
contact line,  
fracture

# FRG flow equations

Flow of the disorder for qKPZ

shooting parameter



$$\begin{aligned} \partial_\ell \tilde{\Delta}(u) = & \left( 4 - d \frac{\zeta_m}{\zeta} - 2\zeta_m \right) \tilde{\Delta}(u) + u \zeta_m \tilde{\Delta}'(u) \\ & + \frac{d(d+2)}{12} \tilde{\lambda}^2 \tilde{\Delta}(u)^2 - \tilde{\Delta}'(u)^2 - \tilde{\Delta}''(u) [\tilde{\Delta}(u) - \tilde{\Delta}(0)] \end{aligned}$$

replace  $\zeta_m/\zeta$

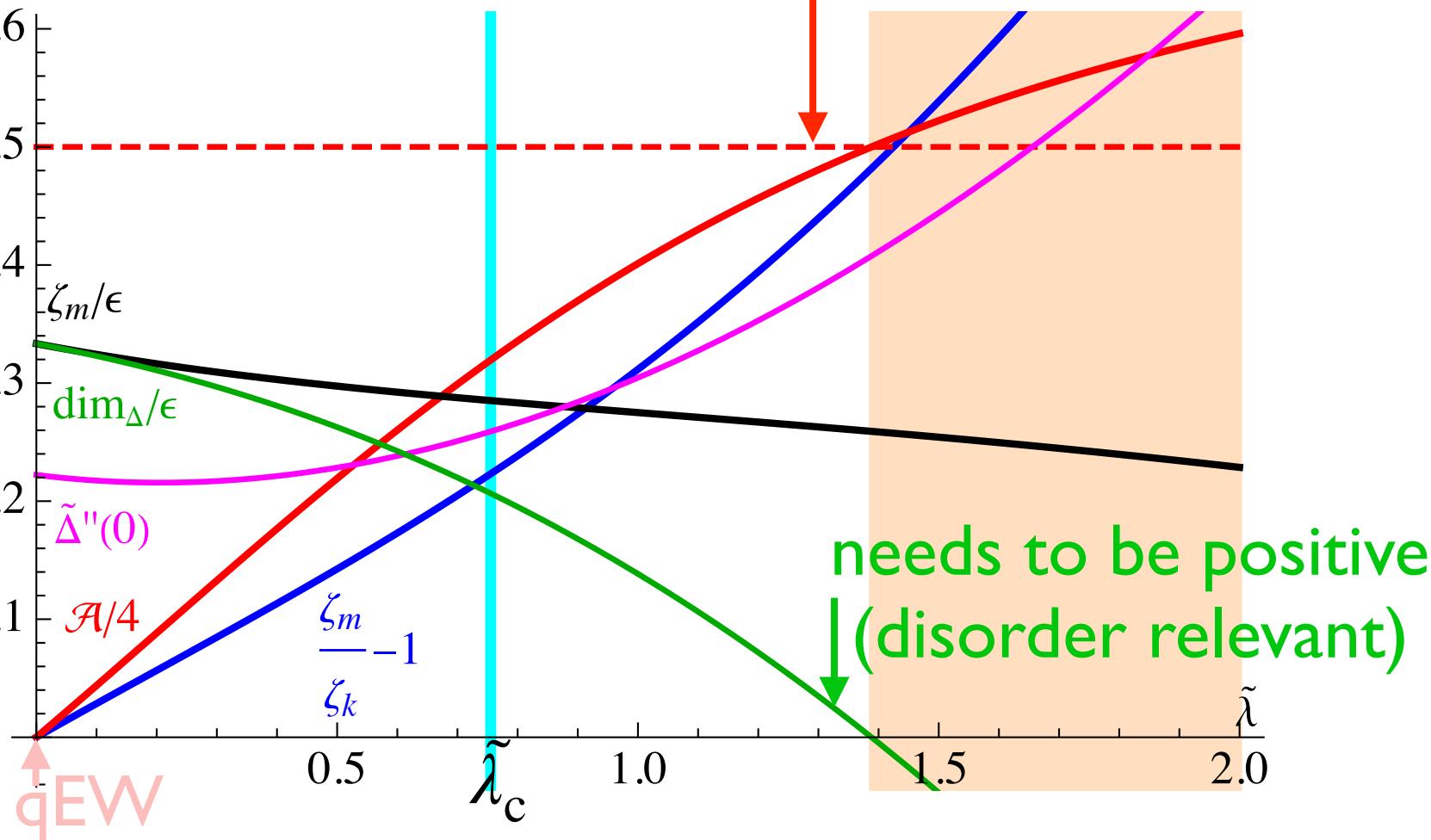
$$\frac{\zeta_m}{\zeta} = 1 + \frac{1}{2} \left[ -\tilde{\lambda} \tilde{\Delta}'(0^+) - \frac{d-1}{3} \tilde{\lambda}^2 \tilde{\Delta}(0) \right].$$

flow for  $\lambda$  (with confining potential, i.e. massive theory)

$$-m \partial_m \tilde{\lambda} = \zeta_m \tilde{\lambda} - \frac{4-d}{6} \tilde{\lambda}^3 \tilde{\Delta}(0) \implies \tilde{\lambda}_c = \sqrt{\frac{6\zeta_m}{(4-d)\tilde{\Delta}(0)}}$$

# Solution in $d = 1$

$\mathcal{A} < 2$  (critical force positive)



$$\zeta_m^{d=1} = 0.86$$

$$RG: \quad \zeta_m^{d=1} = 0.69$$

$$z^{d=1} = 1.27$$

$$\mathcal{A}^{d=1} = 1.27$$

numerics:

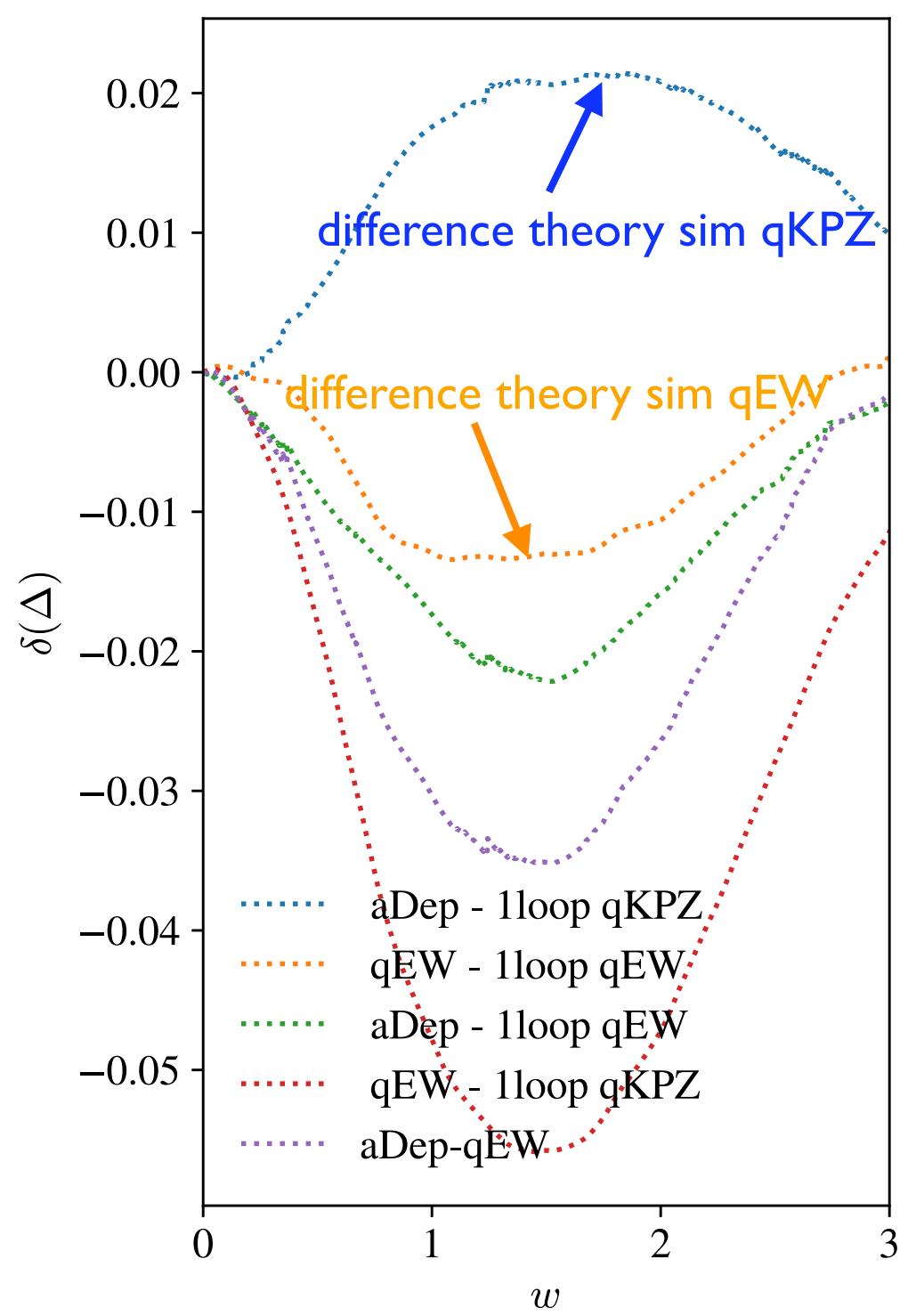
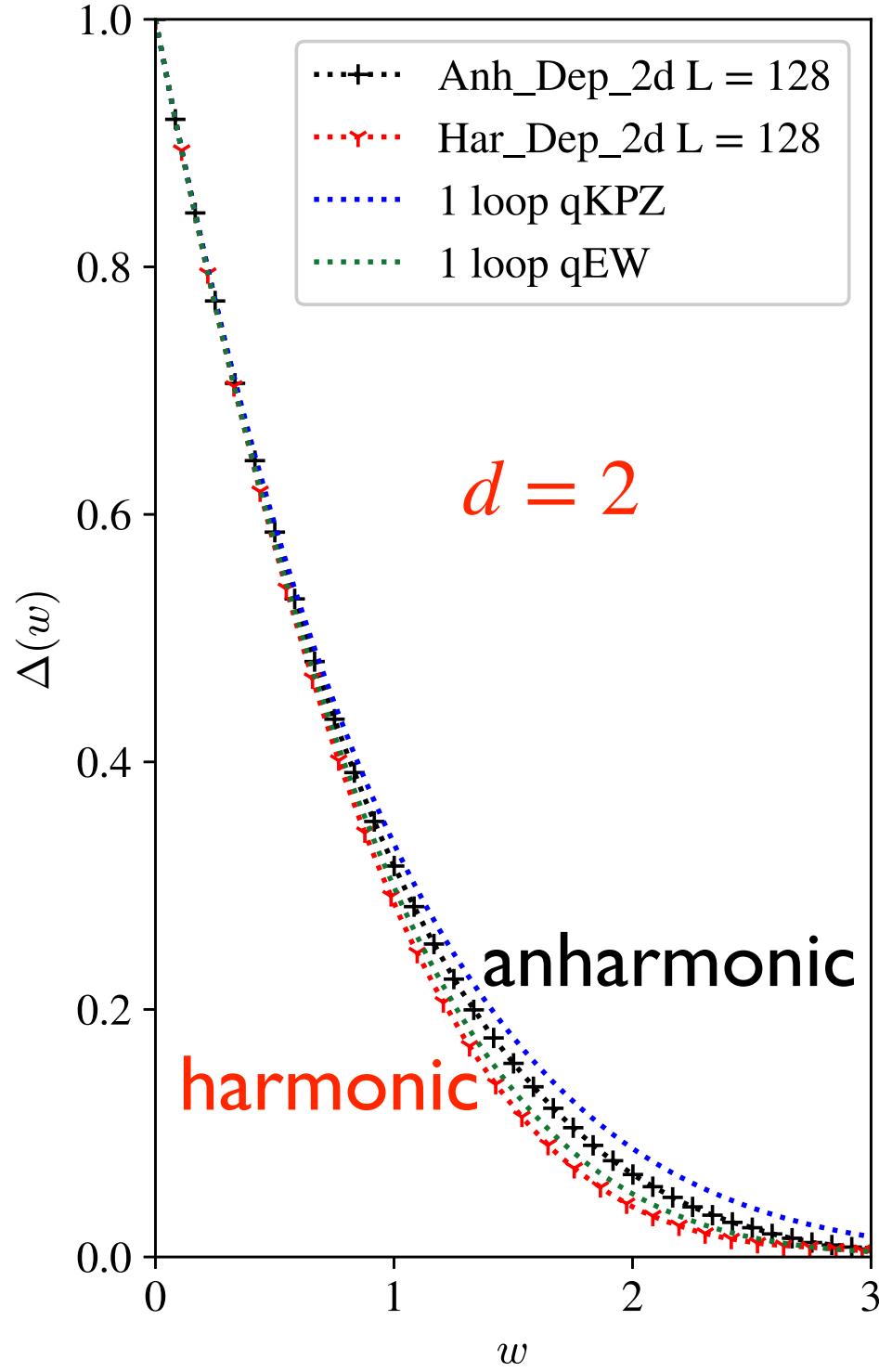
$$\zeta_m^{d=1} = 1.05$$

$$\zeta_m^{d=1} = 0.63$$

$$z^{d=1} = 1.10(2)$$

$$\mathcal{A}^{d=1} = 1.10(2)$$

# Shape of $\Delta(w)$ different in $d = 2$



# Conclusions

- when in doubt: measure effective long-distance action (= theory/description)
- standard elastic depinning (**qEW**) has non-trivial disorder correlator given by FRG
- imbibition (e.g. TL92), anharmonic depinning and qKPZ all belong to the same universality class: the effective long-wavelength theory is **qKPZ**
- you need to introduce a confining potential  $m^2[w - u(x, t)]$  to measure disorder correlations
  - ⇒ give up the Cole-Hopf transform
  - ⇒ yields an RG fixed point
- a field theory can be build