

# Dynamical Tunneling-Induced Cosmological Bounce

Jean Alexandre,<sup>1</sup> Drew Backhouse<sup>a,1</sup> and Silvia Pla<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>*Theoretical Particle Physics and Cosmology, King's College London, WC2R 2LS, UK*

---

<sup>a</sup> [drew.backhouse@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:drew.backhouse@kcl.ac.uk)

## I. MOTIVATION

### A. Null Energy Condition

---

$$p = \omega\rho$$

**NUL ENERGY CONDITION**  
 $\rho + p \geq 0$

Matter/Radiation

$$\omega > -1 \implies \rho + p > 0$$

Dark Energy

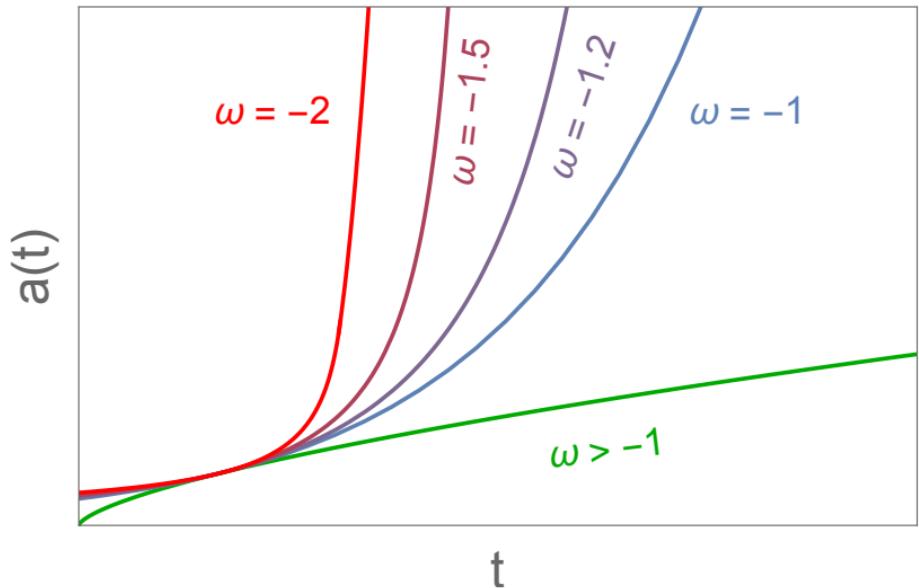
$$\omega = -1 \implies \rho + p = 0$$

Phantom

$$\omega < -1 \implies \rho + p < 0$$

## I. MOTIVATION

### B. Phantom Dark Energy



#### Matter/Radiation

$$a(t, \omega > -1) = \left[ (1 + \omega) \frac{t}{t_0} - \omega \right]^{\frac{2}{3(1+\omega)}}$$

#### Dark Energy

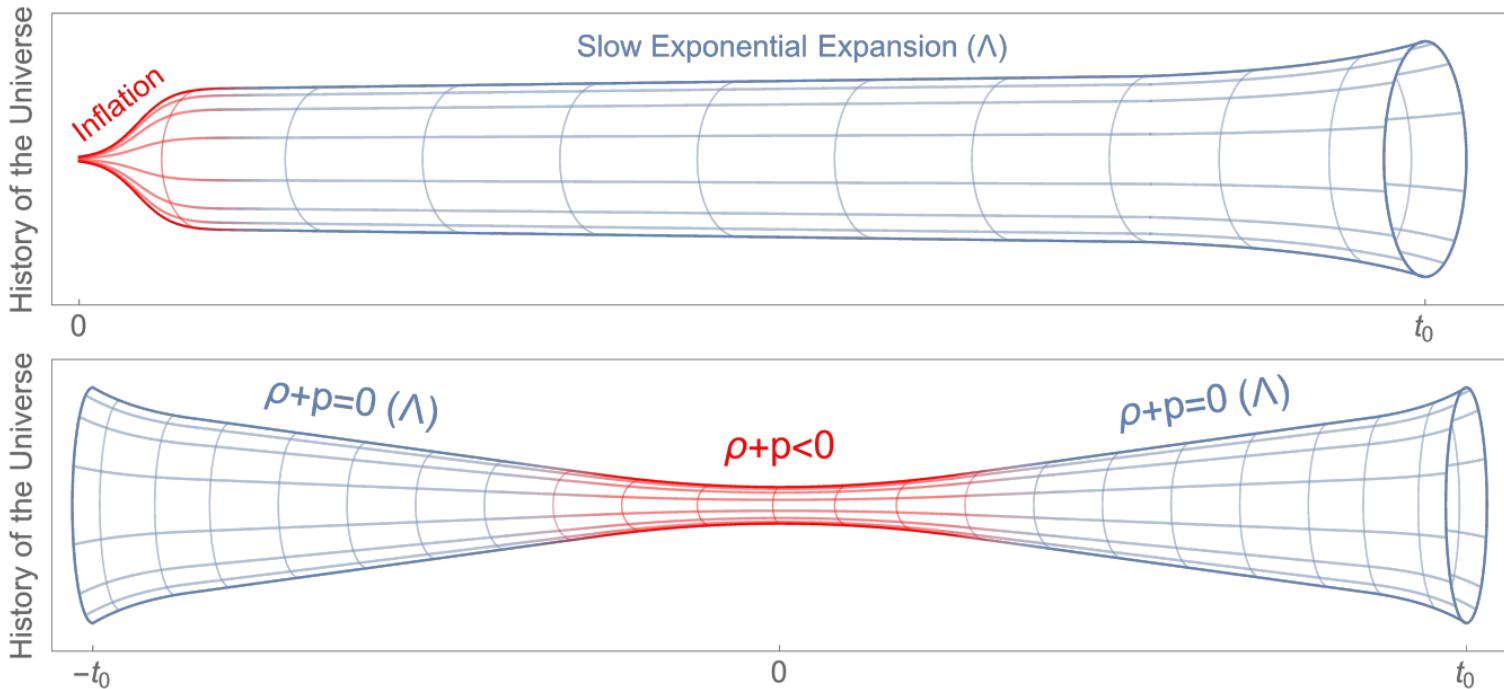
$$a(t, \omega = -1) = e^{\frac{2}{3t_0}(t-t_0)}$$

#### Phantom

$$a(t, \omega < -1) = \left[ (1 + \omega) \frac{t}{t_0} - \omega \right]^{\frac{2}{3(1+\omega)}}$$

## I. MOTIVATION

### C. The Cosmological Bounce



[1] S. W. Hawking and R. Penrose (1970)

## II. INTRODUCTION

### A. Finite Volume

---

4D Spacetime Box



#### Time Boundary Conditions

$$\varphi(0, \mathbf{x}) = \varphi(\beta, \mathbf{x}) \quad , \quad \beta \equiv 1/T$$

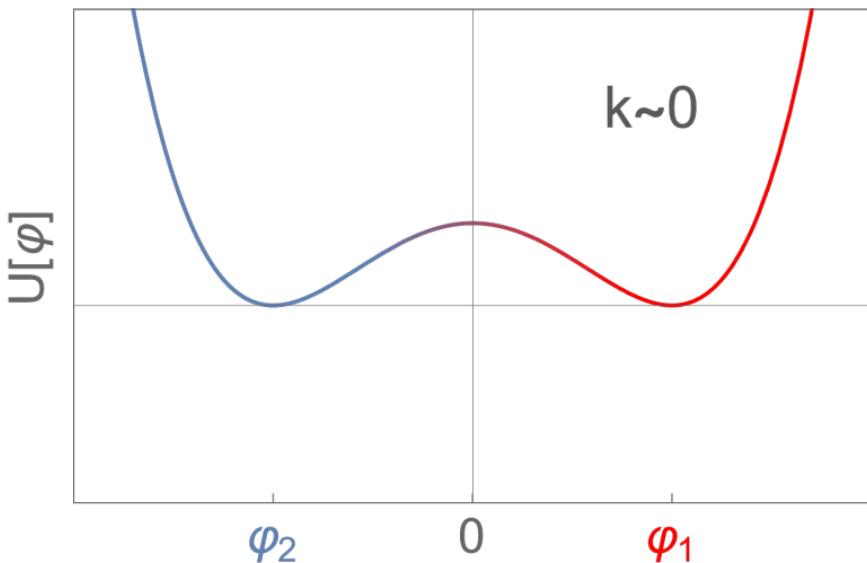
#### Spatial Boundary Conditions

Assume continuous momentum

## II. INTRODUCTION

### B. Real Scalar Field

---

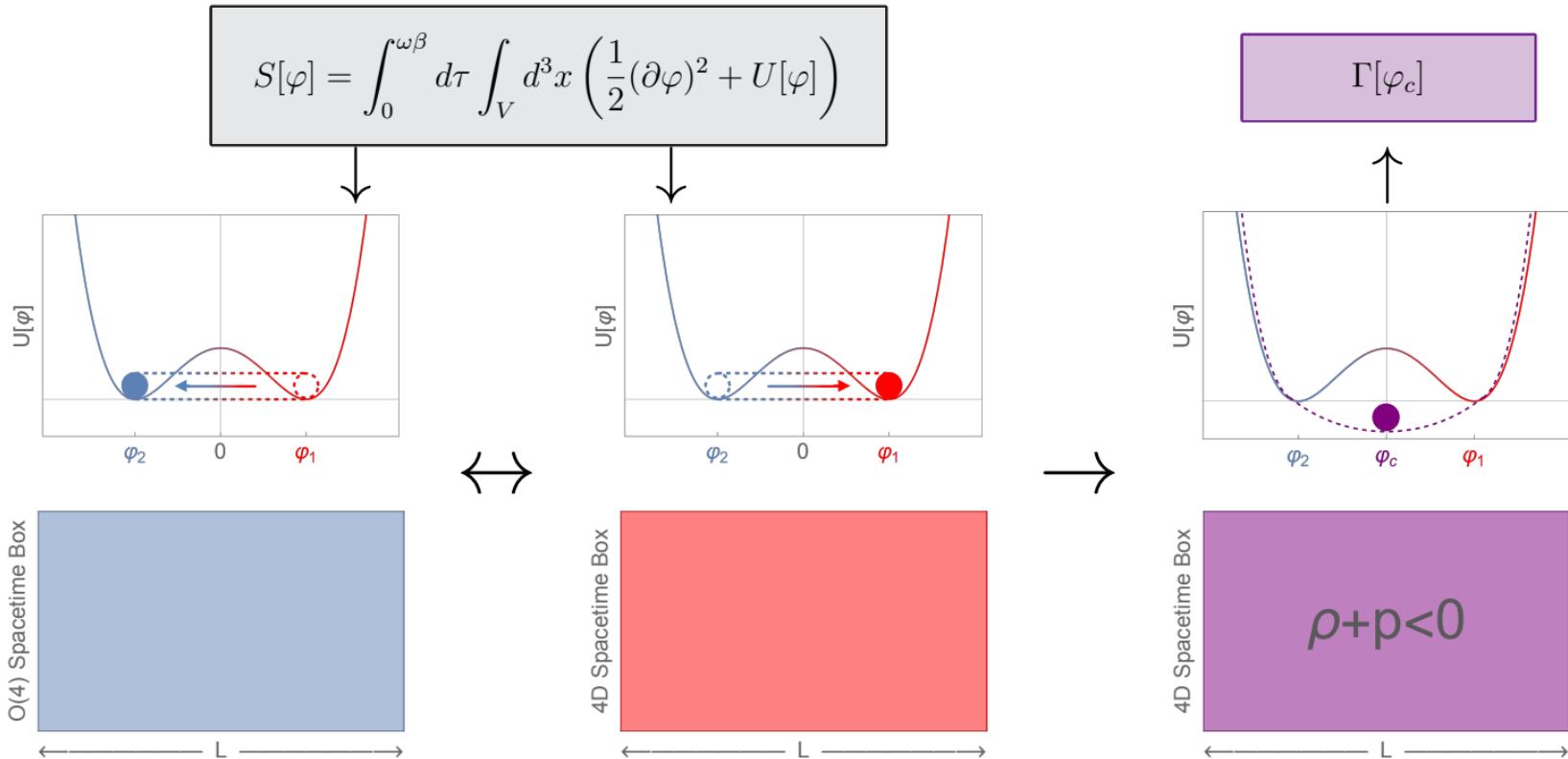


$$S[\varphi] = \int_0^{\omega\beta} d\tau \int_V d^3x \left( \frac{1}{2} (\partial\varphi)^2 + U[\varphi] \right)$$

$$U[\varphi] = \frac{\lambda v^4}{24} \left( (\varphi^2 - 1)^2 + 4k\varphi \right)$$

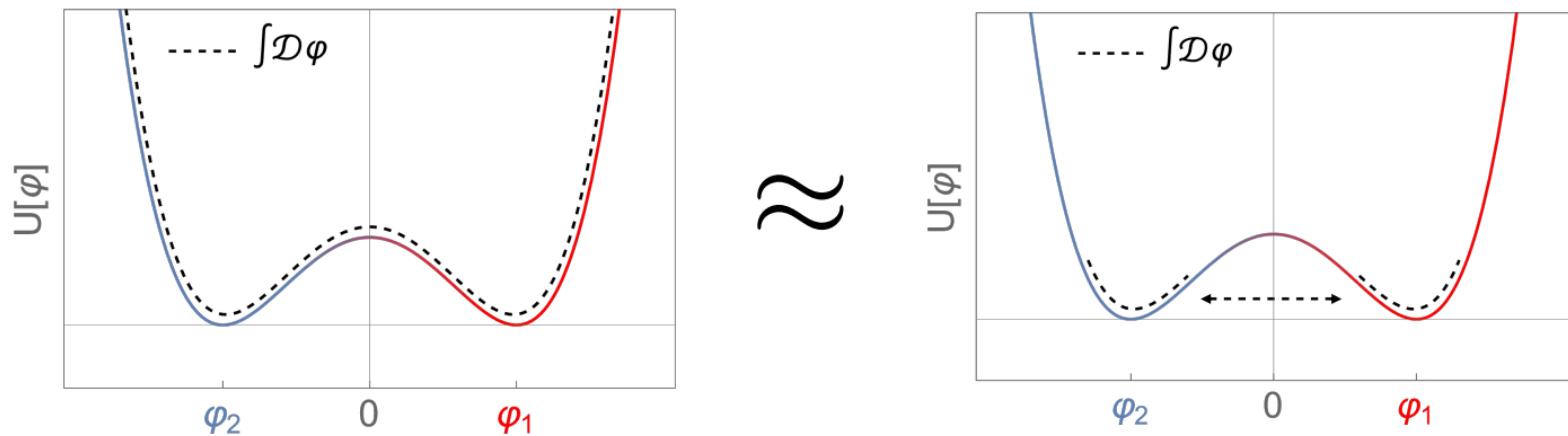
## II. INTRODUCTION

### C. Overview



### III. SEMI-CLASSICAL APPROXIMATION

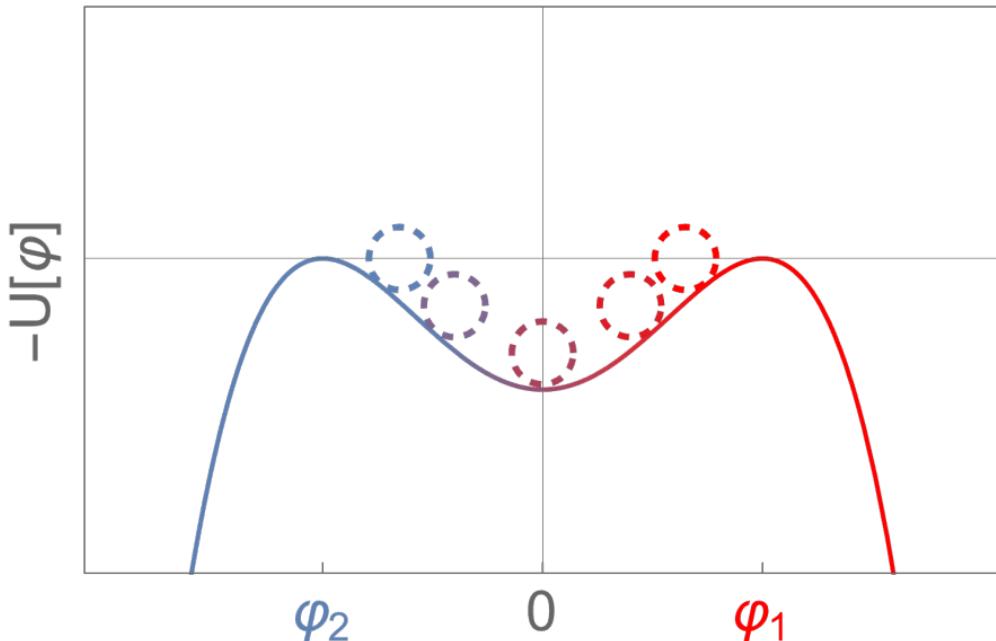
#### A. Model



$$Z[j] = \int \mathcal{D}\varphi \exp \left( -S[\varphi] \right) \approx \sum_i F_i \exp \left( -S[\varphi_i] \right)$$

### III. SEMI-CLASSICAL APPROXIMATION

#### B. Saddle Points



$$\varphi'' - \frac{1}{\omega^2} \nabla^2 \varphi - \varphi^3 + \varphi - k = 0$$

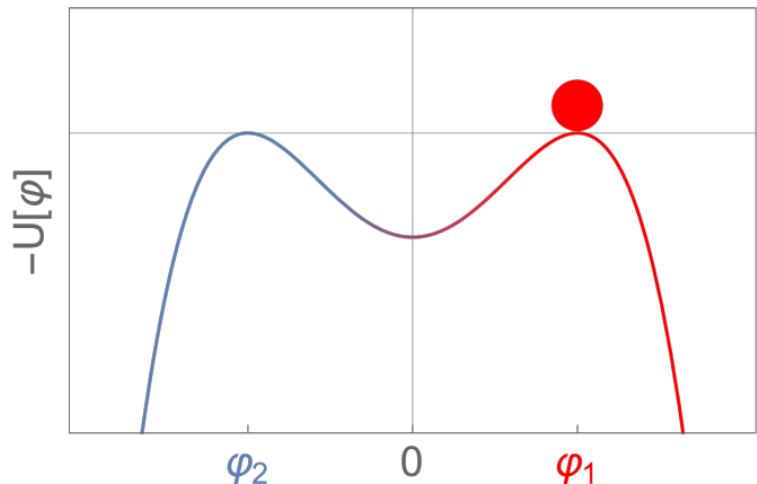
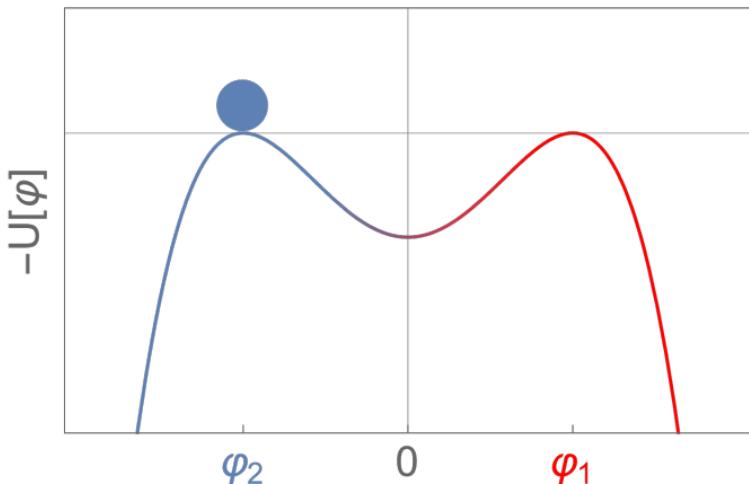
$$-U[\varphi] = -\frac{\lambda v^4}{24} (\varphi^2 - 1)^2$$

[2] S. R. Coleman (1977); [3] C. G. Callan, Jr. and S. R. Coleman (1977)

### III. SEMI-CLASSICAL APPROXIMATION

#### C. Static Saddle Points

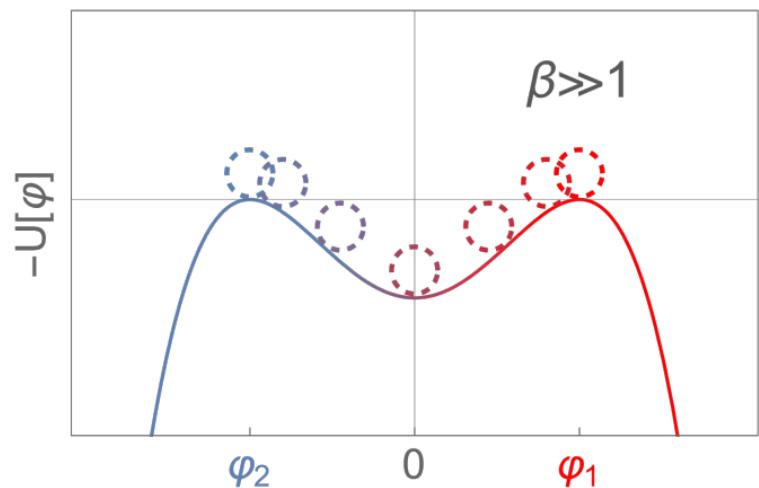
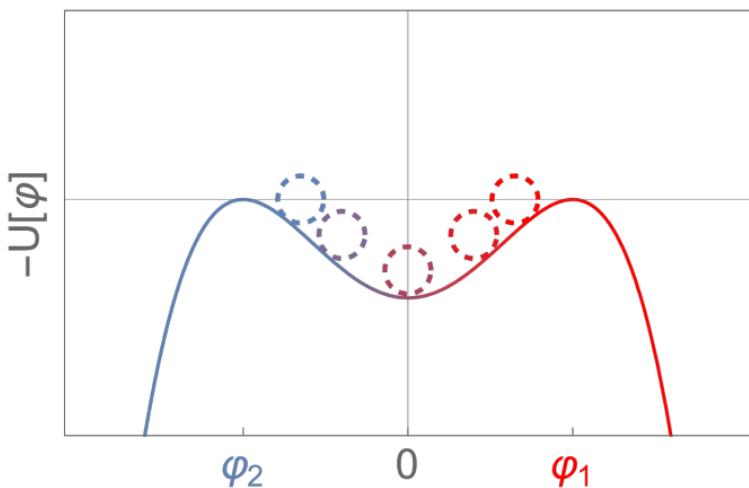
$$\varphi'' - \varphi^3 + \varphi = 0$$



### III. SEMI-CLASSICAL APPROXIMATION

#### D. Time-Dependent Saddle Points

$$\varphi'' - \varphi^3 + \varphi = 0, \quad \text{where: } \varphi(0, \mathbf{x}) = \varphi(\beta, \mathbf{x})$$

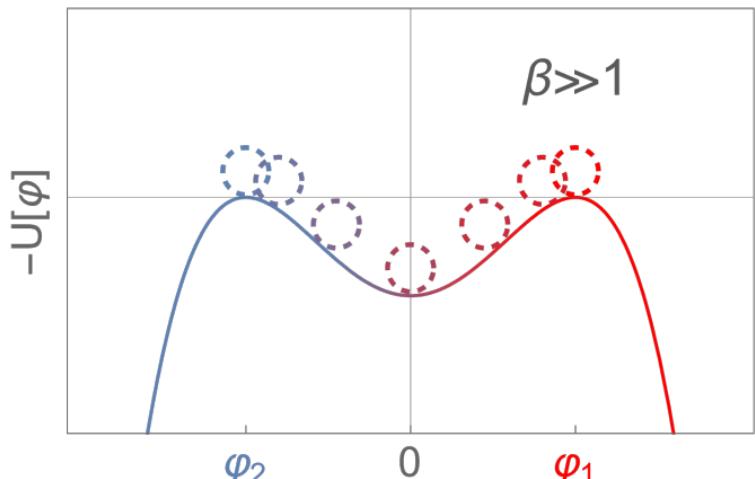
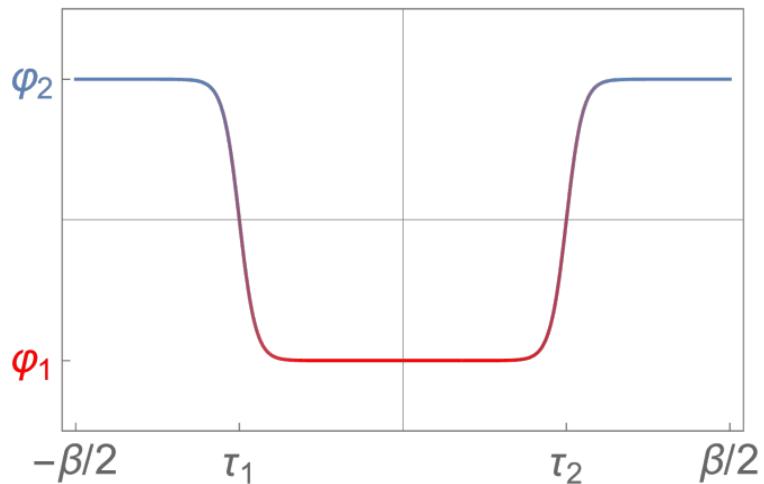


[4] T. W. B. Kibble (1976); [5] W. H. Zurek (1985)

### III. SEMI-CLASSICAL APPROXIMATION

#### E. Instantons

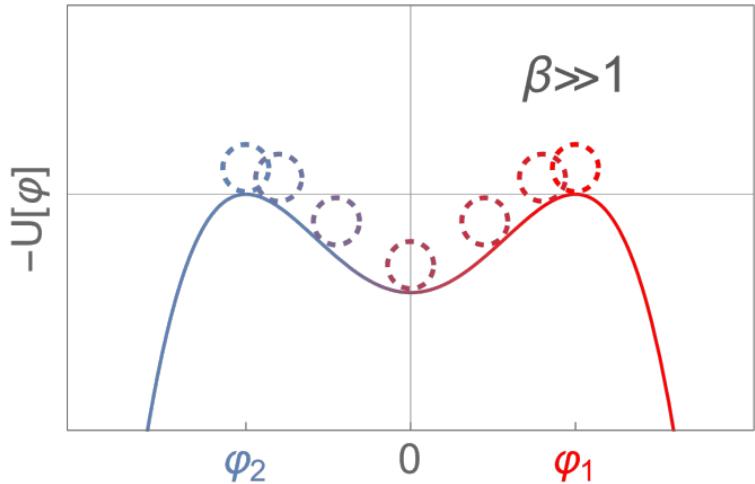
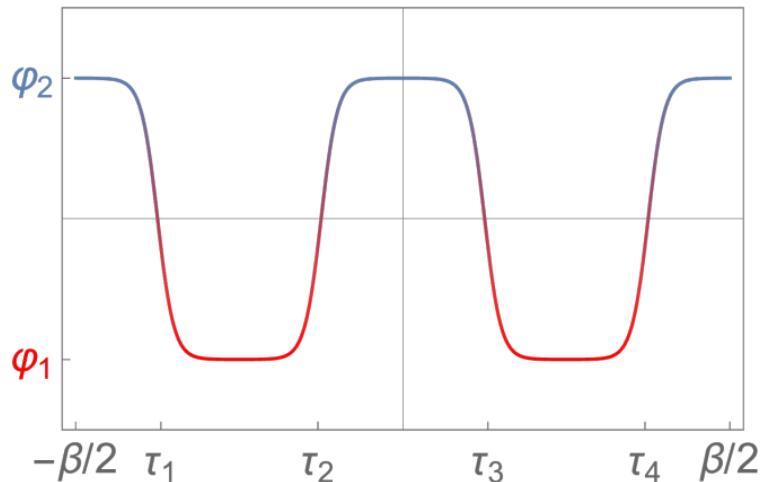
---



$$\varphi_{\text{pair}}(\tau) \simeq \tanh\left(\frac{\tau - \tau_1}{\sqrt{2}}\right) \tanh\left(\frac{\tau - \tau_2}{\sqrt{2}}\right)$$

### III. SEMI-CLASSICAL APPROXIMATION

#### F. Instanton/Anti-Instanton Gas

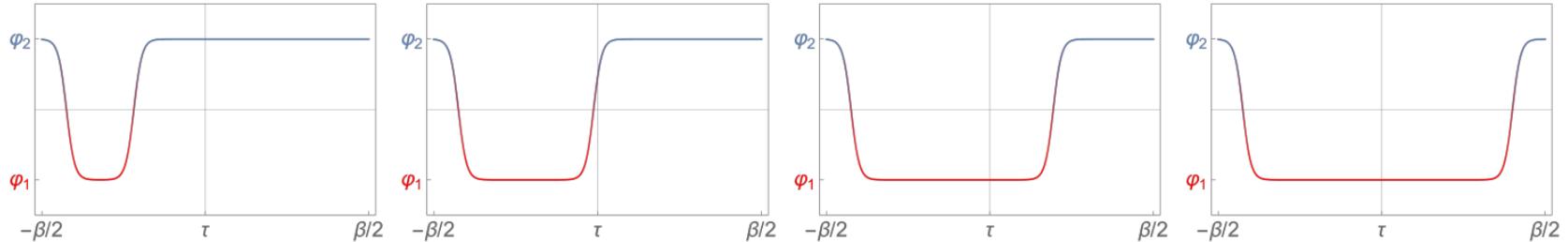


$$\varphi_{n\text{-pairs}}(\tau) = \prod_{i=1}^{2n} \tanh\left(\frac{\tau - \tau_i}{\sqrt{2}}\right)$$

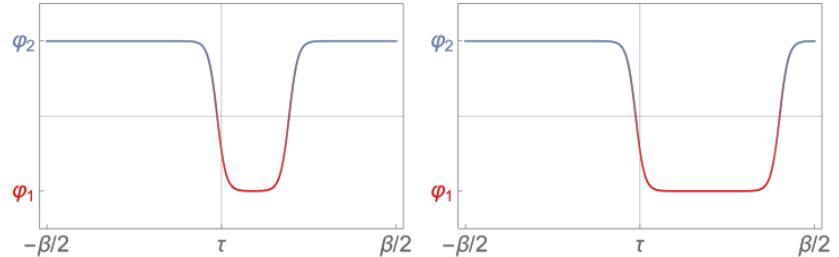
### III. SEMI-CLASSICAL APPROXIMATION

#### G. Translational Invariance

---



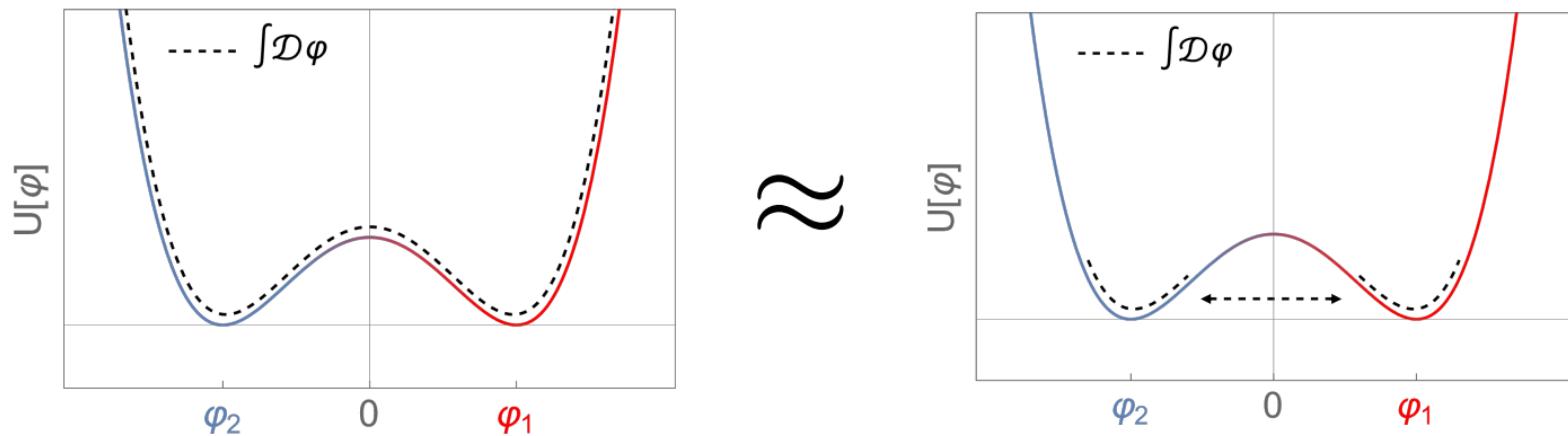
$$Z_{\text{Inst}} = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left( \prod_{i=1}^{2n} \int_{\tau_{i-1}}^{\omega_R \beta} \tau_i \right) F_n \exp \left( -S[\varphi_{\text{n-pairs}}] \right)$$



### III. SEMI-CLASSICAL APPROXIMATION

#### H. Partition Function

---

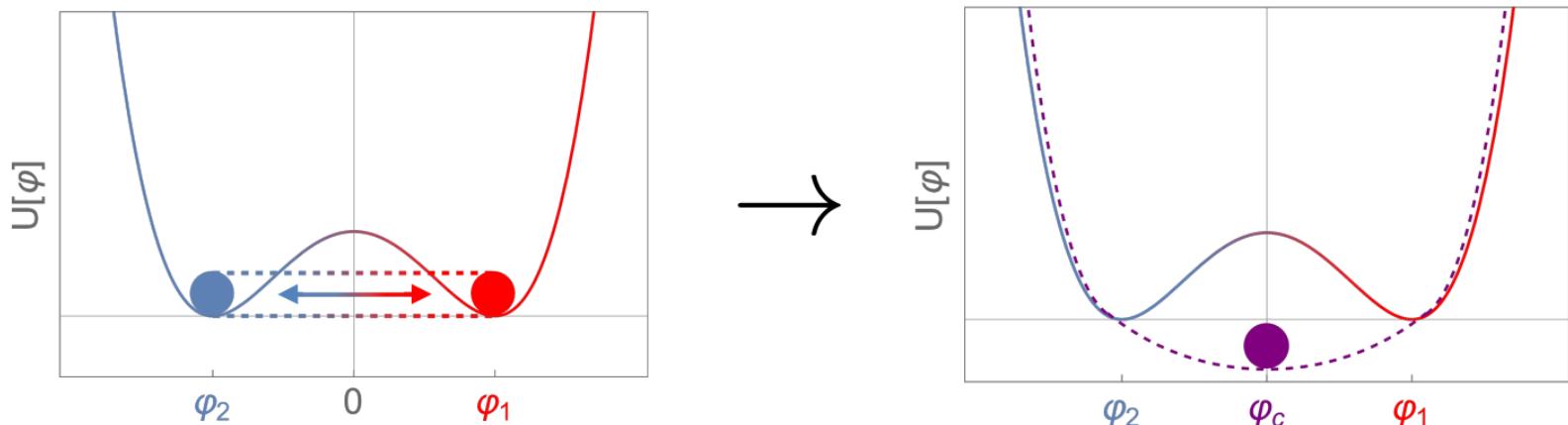


$$Z[k] \approx F_2 \exp \left( -S[\varphi_2] \right) + F_1 \exp \left( -S[\varphi_1] \right) + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left( \prod_{i=1}^{2n} \int_{\tau_{i-1}}^{\omega_R \beta} \tau_i \right) F_n \exp \left( -S[\varphi_{n\text{-pairs}}] \right)$$

## IV. NON-EXTENSIVE GROUND STATE

### A. Legendre Transformation

$$Z[k] \approx F_2 \exp(-S[\varphi_2]) + F_1 \exp(-S[\varphi_1]) + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left( \prod_{i=1}^{2n} \int_{\tau_{i-1}}^{\omega_R \beta} \tau_i \right) F_n \exp(-S[\varphi_{n\text{-pairs}}]) = \exp(-W[k])$$



$$\Gamma(\varphi_c) = -\ln Z(k(\varphi_c)) - 4B_r \omega_r \beta \int k(\varphi_c) d\varphi_c$$

## IV. NON-EXTENSIVE GROUND STATE

### B. One-loop 1PI effective action

#### CONVEX, NON-EXTENSIVE

$$\Gamma(\varphi_c) = \Gamma(0) + \color{magenta} B_r \omega_r \beta \left( g_0 + \frac{\lambda}{16\pi^2} g_1 \right) \varphi_c^2 + \mathcal{O}(\varphi_c^4)$$

$$g_0 \equiv \frac{4 \left( 1 + \cosh(\bar{N}) \right)}{1 + 16 \color{magenta} B_r \omega_r \beta + \cosh(\bar{N})}$$

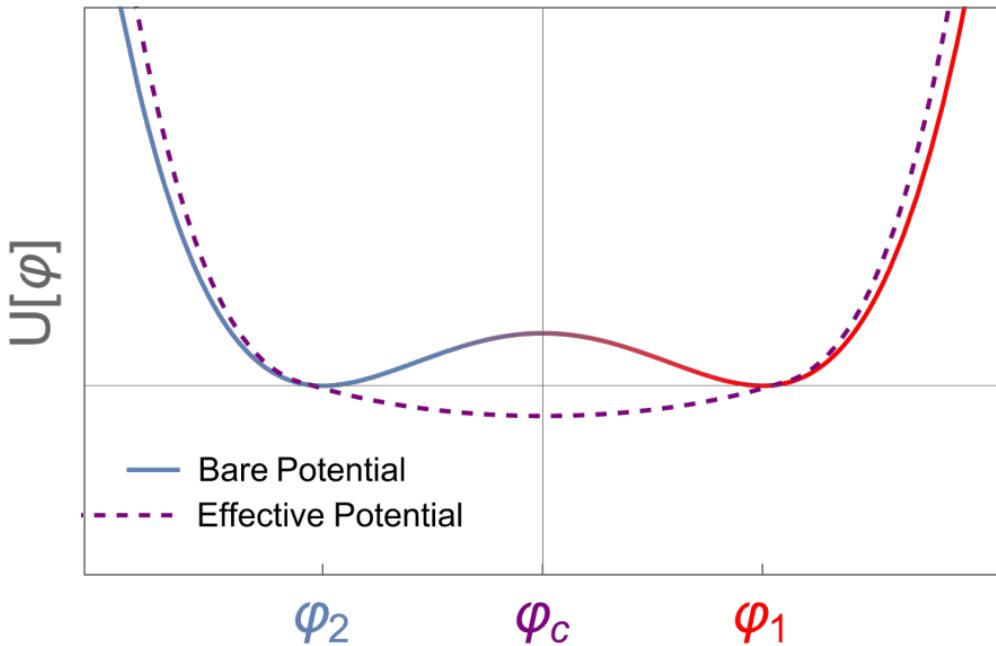
$$\bar{N} \equiv \omega_r \beta \sqrt{\frac{6}{\pi} S_{\text{inst}}} e^{-S_{\text{inst}}}, \quad S_{\text{inst}} \equiv \frac{8\sqrt{2}}{3} B_r$$

$$g_1 \equiv \frac{\left( 1 + \cosh(\bar{N}) \right) \left( 7 + 32 \color{magenta} B_r \omega_r \beta + 7 \cosh(\bar{N}) \right)}{\left( 1 + 16 \color{magenta} B_r \omega_r \beta + \cosh(\bar{N}) \right)^2}$$

$$B_r \equiv \frac{\lambda_r v_r^4 V}{24\omega}$$

## IV. NON-EXTENSIVE GROUND STATE

### C. Effective Potential

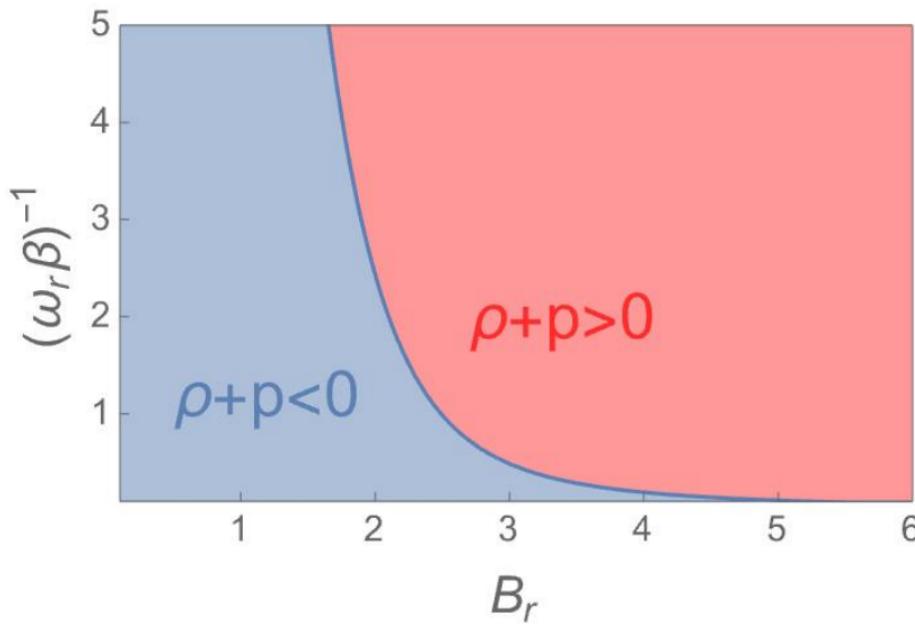


$$U[\varphi] = \frac{\lambda v^4}{24}(\varphi^2 - 1)^2$$

$$U_{\text{eff}}(\varphi_c) = \frac{1}{V\beta} \Gamma[\varphi_c]$$

## IV. NON-EXTENSIVE GROUND STATE

### D. NEC Violation



$\rho + p > 0$  : Finite T, Infinite V

$\rho + p < 0$  : Zero T, Finite V

$\rho + p = 0$  : Zero T, Infinite V

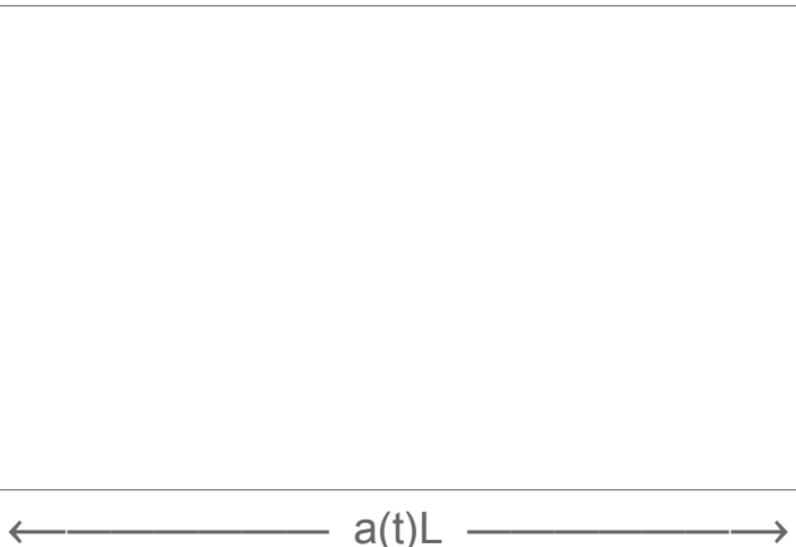
For Low T:  $\rho + p \approx \frac{4\omega_R^{5/2}}{(\sqrt{2}\pi\beta)^{3/2}} e^{-\omega_R\beta/\sqrt{2}} - \frac{\omega_R}{V} \left( S_{\text{inst}} + \frac{1}{2} \right) \sqrt{\frac{6}{\pi} S_{\text{inst}}} e^{-S_{\text{inst}}}$

## V. COSMOLOGY

### A. FLRW Volume

---

FLRW Co-Moving Volume



$$V \rightarrow a^3(t)V$$

$$T \rightarrow 0$$

Assume Adiabatic Expansion

$\implies a = \text{constant}$  in QFT calculations

## V. COSMOLOGY

### B. NEC Violation

---

#### FLAT SPACETIME

$$\rho + p = -\frac{\omega_R}{V} \left( S_{\text{inst}} + \frac{1}{2} \right) \sqrt{\frac{6}{\pi} S_{\text{inst}}} e^{-S_{\text{inst}}} < 0$$

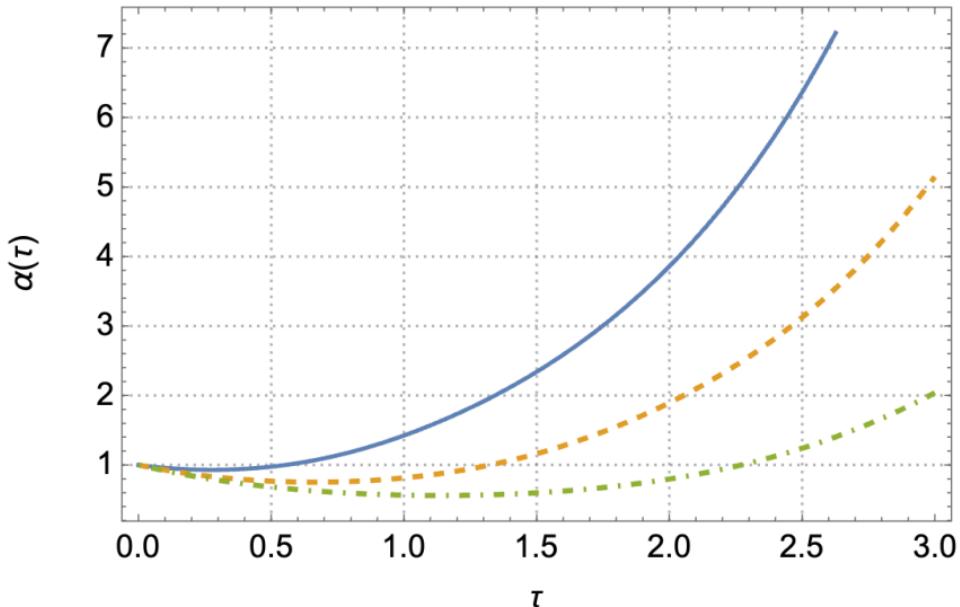
#### FLRW SPACETIME

$$\rho + p = -\frac{\omega_R}{a^3 V} \left( a^3 S_{\text{inst}} + \frac{1}{2} \right) \sqrt{\frac{6}{\pi} a^3 S_{\text{inst}}} e^{-a^3 S_{\text{inst}}} < 0$$

$$V \rightarrow a^3(t)V \quad , \quad S_{\text{inst}} \propto V$$

## V. COSMOLOGY

### C. Friedmann Equations



$$H^2 = \frac{\kappa_R}{3}\rho$$

$$\frac{\ddot{a}}{a} = -\frac{\kappa_R}{6}(\rho + 3p)$$

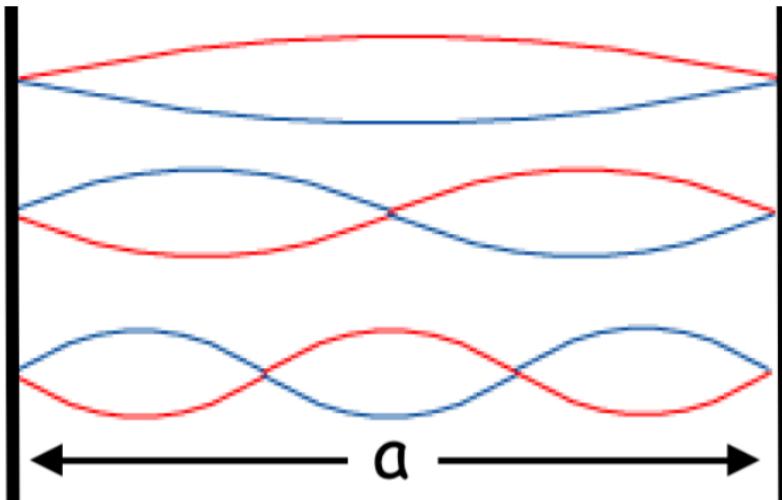
Larger NEC Violation

Smaller NEC Violation

## VI. DISCRETE MOMENTUM CORRECTIONS

### A. The Casimir Effect

---



$$E_{\text{Discrete}}(a) = \frac{\hbar}{2} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \omega_n$$

$$E_{\text{Continuum}}(a) = \frac{\hbar a}{2\pi} \int_0^{\infty} \omega dk$$

$$E_{\text{Casimir}}(a) = E_{\text{Discrete}}(a) - E_{\text{Continuum}}(a) = -\frac{\pi \hbar c}{24a}$$

[8] M. Bordag, U. Mohideen and V. M. Mostepanenko (2001)

## VI. DISCRETE MOMENTUM CORRECTIONS

### B. The Casimir Effect in Different Geometries

---

Dirichlet plates of separation  $a$ :  $E_{\text{Cas}} \simeq -\frac{A}{8\sqrt{2}} \left(\frac{m}{\pi a}\right)^{3/2} e^{-2ma}$

Periodic Box of length  $L$ :  $E_{\text{Cas}} \simeq -\frac{(mL)^{3/2}}{L} \exp(-mL)$

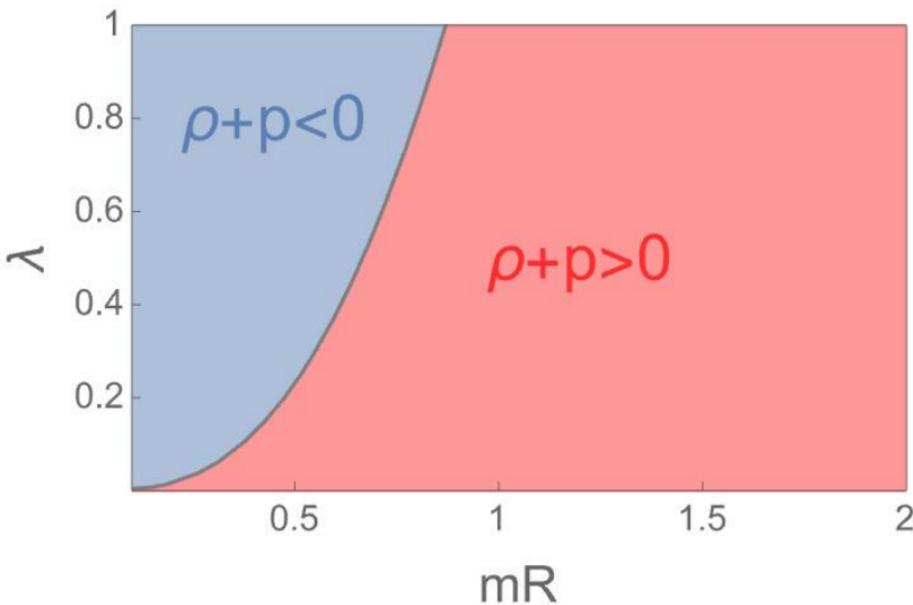
3-sphere with radius of curvature  $R$ :  $E_{\text{Cas}} \simeq +\frac{(mR)^{5/2}}{R} \exp(-2\pi mR)$

$$a, L, R \gg 1/m$$

## VI. DISCRETE MOMENTUM CORRECTIONS

### C. NEC Violation

---



Casimir:  $\rho + p \sim e^{-R}$

Tunneling:  $\rho + p \sim e^{-R^3}$

$\rho + p = 0 : mR \sim \sqrt{\lambda}$

$$\rho + p = \frac{E_{\text{Cas}}}{V} - \frac{\partial E_{\text{Cas}}}{\partial V} - \frac{\omega_R}{V} \left( S_{\text{inst}} + \frac{1}{2} \right) \sqrt{\frac{6S_{\text{inst}}}{\pi}} e^{-S_{\text{inst}}}$$

## VI. CONCLUSIONS

---

Dynamical NEC Violation via Tunneling at Finite Temperature

NEC Violation Occurs at Sufficiently Low Temperatures at Finite Volumes

Tunneling in an FRLW Volume Dynamically Generates a Cosmological Bounce

Tunneling and the Casimir Effect Compete on de Broglie Length Scales

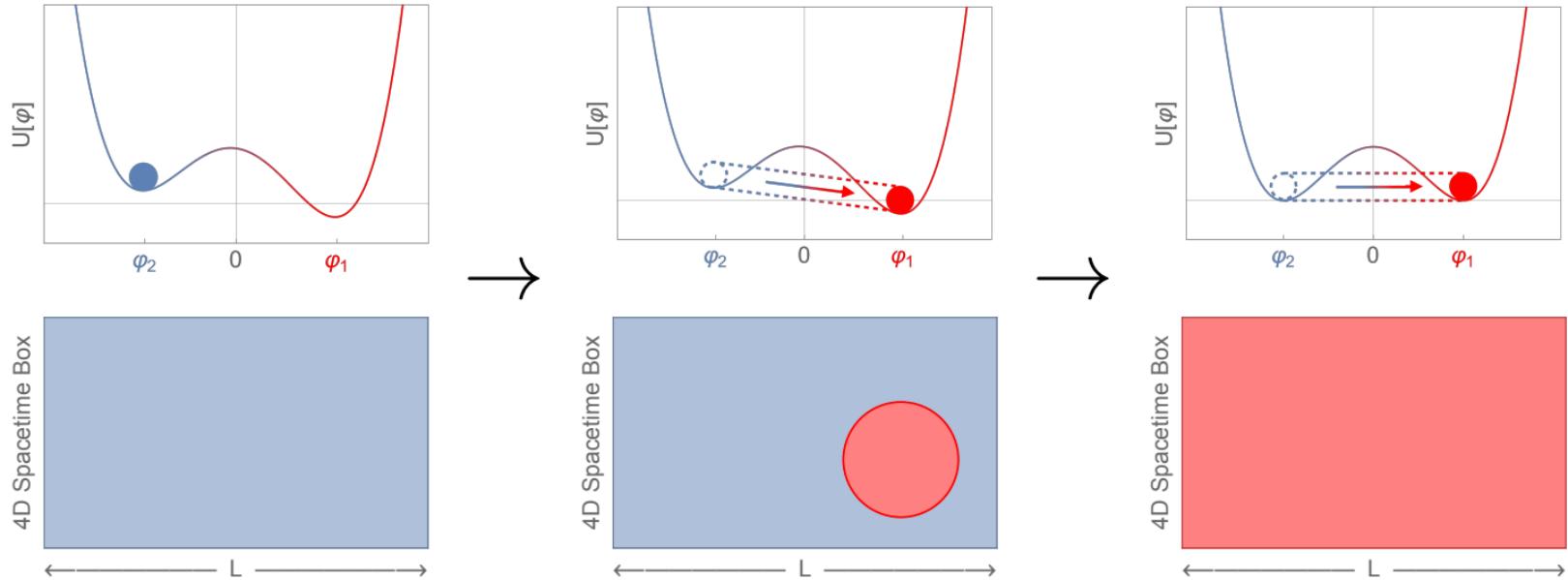
## VII. REFERENCES

---

- [1] S. W. Hawking and R. Penrose, Proc. Roy. Soc. Lond. A **314**, 529 (1970).
- [2] S. R. Coleman, Phys. Rev. D **15**, 2929 (1977), [Erratum: Phys.Rev.D 16, 1248 (1977)].
- [3] C. G. Callan, Jr. and S. R. Coleman, Phys. Rev. D **16**, 1762 (1977).
- [4] T. W. B. Kibble, J. Phys. A **9**, 1387 (1976).
- [5] W. H. Zurek, Nature **317**, 505 (1985).
- [6] J. Alexandre and D. Backhouse, (2023), arXiv:2301.02455 [hep-th].
- [7] J. Alexandre and S. Pla, (2023), arXiv:2301.08652 [hep-th].
- [8] M. Bordag, U. Mohideen, and V. M. Mostepanenko, Phys. Rept. **353**, 1 (2001), arXiv:quant-ph/0106045.
- [9] H. Kleinert, (2004), 10.1142/5057.

## . APPENDIX A: SPATIALLY-DEPENDENT SADDLE POINTS

---



$$\varphi'' + \frac{1}{\omega^2} \nabla^2 \varphi - \varphi^3 + \varphi - \kappa = 0$$

## . APPENDIX B: LEGENDRE TRANSFORMATION

---

$$\phi_c = \langle \phi \rangle = \frac{1}{Z} \int \mathcal{D}\phi \, \phi \exp(-S[\phi]) = -\frac{\hbar}{Z} \frac{\delta Z[j]}{\delta j(x)}$$

$$\varphi_c(k) = \left( -f_0 + \frac{\lambda_r}{128\pi^2} f_1 \right) k + \mathcal{O}(k^3)$$

$$k(\varphi_c) = -\frac{1}{2} \left( g_0 + \frac{\lambda}{16\pi^2} g_1 \right) \varphi_c + \mathcal{O}(\varphi_c^3)$$

$$\Gamma(\varphi_c) = -\ln Z\left(k(\varphi_c)\right) - 4B_r\omega_r\beta \int k(\varphi_c) \, d\varphi_c$$

## APPENDIX C: FLUCTUATION FACTORS

### A. Static Saddle Points

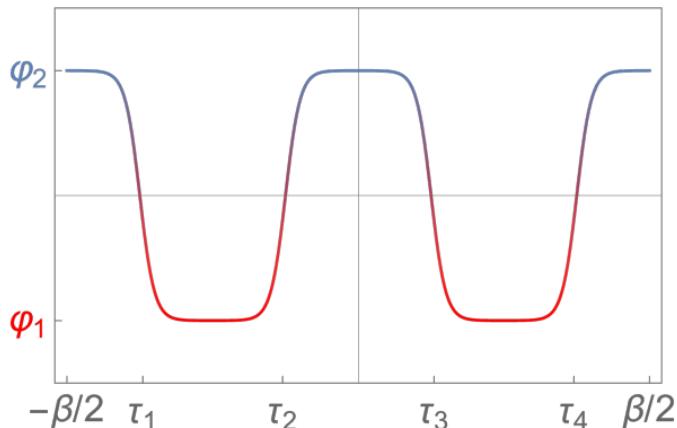
$$Z[j] \approx F_2 \exp(-S[\varphi_2]) + F_1 \exp(-S[\varphi_1]) + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left( \prod_{i=1}^{2n} \int_{\tau_{i-1}}^{\omega_R \beta} \tau_i \right) F_n \exp(-S[\varphi_{n\text{-pairs}}])$$

$$\ln(F_{L,R}) = B_r \omega_r \beta \left( + \frac{\lambda_r}{96\pi^2} (3\varphi_{L,R}^2 - 1)^2 \ln \left( \frac{3}{2}\varphi_{L,R}^2 - \frac{1}{2} \right) - \frac{\lambda_r(3\varphi_{L,R}^2 - 1)}{3\pi^2} \sum_{l=1}^{\infty} \frac{K_2(l\omega_r \beta \sqrt{3\varphi_{L,R}^2 - 1})}{(l\omega_r \beta)^2} \right)$$

. APPENDIX C: FLUCTUATION FACTORS  
B. Instantons

---

$$Z[j] \approx F_2 \exp(-S[\varphi_2]) + F_1 \exp(-S[\varphi_1]) + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left( \prod_{i=1}^{2n} \int_{\tau_{i-1}}^{\omega_R \beta} \tau_i \right) F_n \exp(-S[\varphi_{n-pairs}])$$



$$F_n = F_L(\beta/2) F_R(\beta/2) \left( \frac{6S_{int}}{\pi} \right)^n$$