



Particle creation dynamics during inflation and reheating

Mathias Pierre

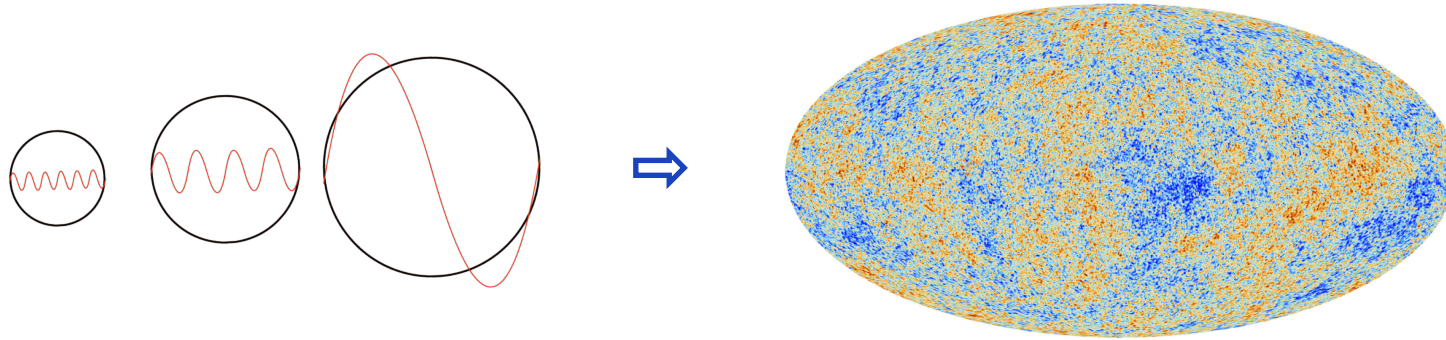
Deutsches Elektronen-Synchrotron (DESY)

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4th EuCAPT Annual Symposium – CERN



Introduction: inflation – circa 2024

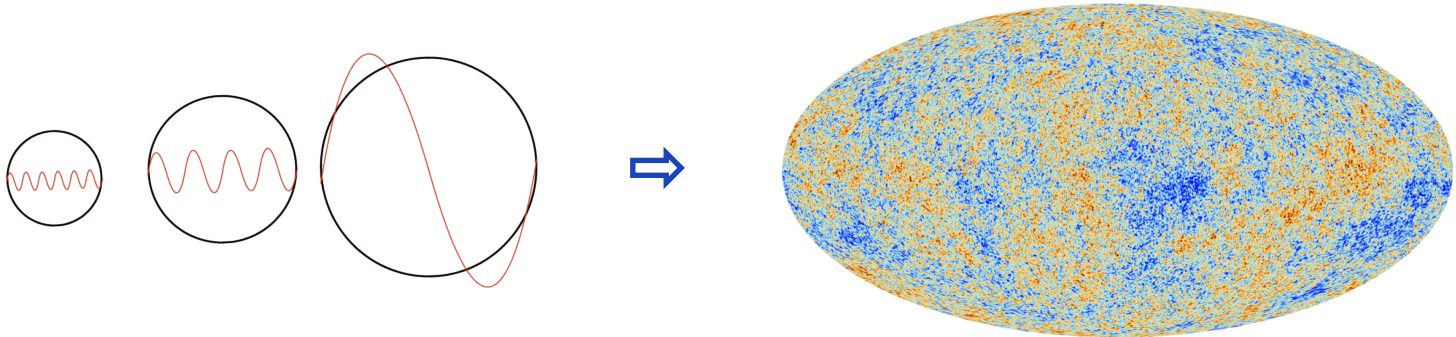


$$\mathcal{P}_{\mathcal{R}} = \frac{H_*^4}{4\pi^2 \dot{\phi}_*^2} \left(\frac{k}{aH} \right)^{n_s - 1}$$

$$\mathcal{P}_{\mathcal{T}} = \frac{2H_*^2}{\pi^2} \left(\frac{k}{aH} \right)^{n_t}$$

$$r \equiv \frac{\mathcal{P}_{\mathcal{T}}(k = k_*)}{\mathcal{P}_{\mathcal{R}}(k = k_*)}$$

Introduction: inflation – circa 2024



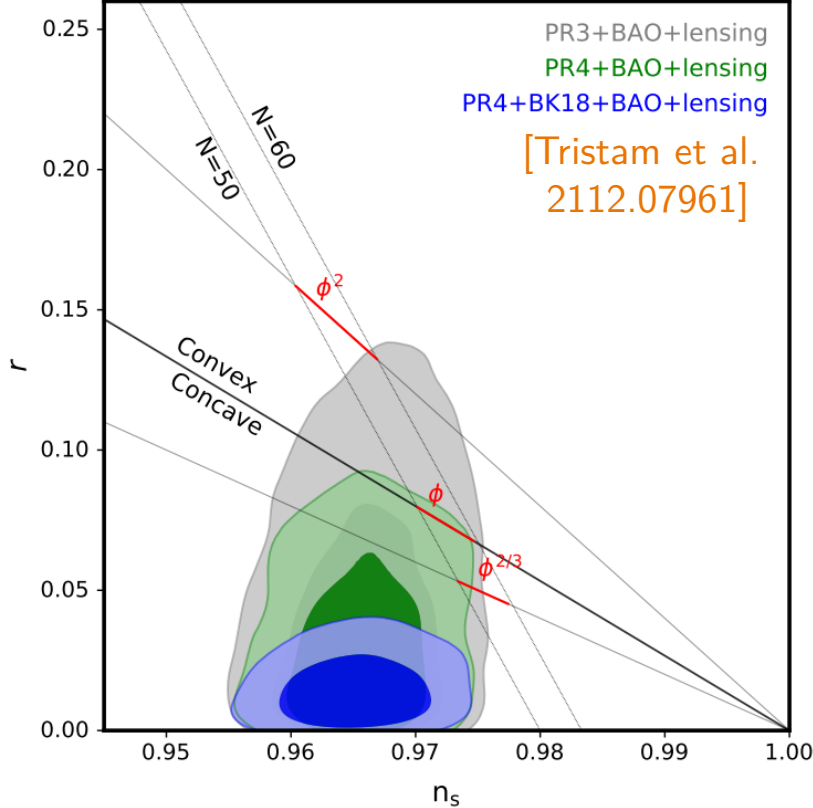
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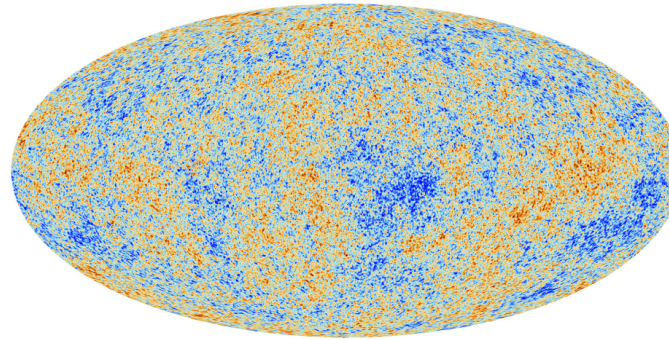
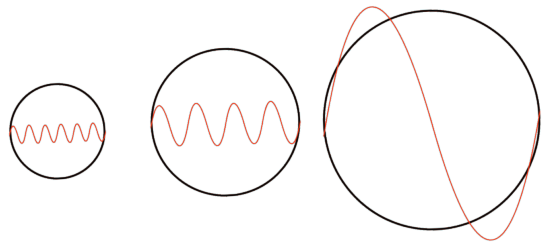
$$r \equiv \frac{\mathcal{P}_{\mathcal{T}}(k = k_*)}{\mathcal{P}_{\mathcal{R}}(k = k_*)}$$

$$A_s(k_*) \simeq 2.1 \times 10^{-9}$$

$$f_{\text{NL}}^{\text{local}} = -0.9 \pm 5.1 \quad [\text{Planck '18}]$$



Introduction: inflation – circa 2024



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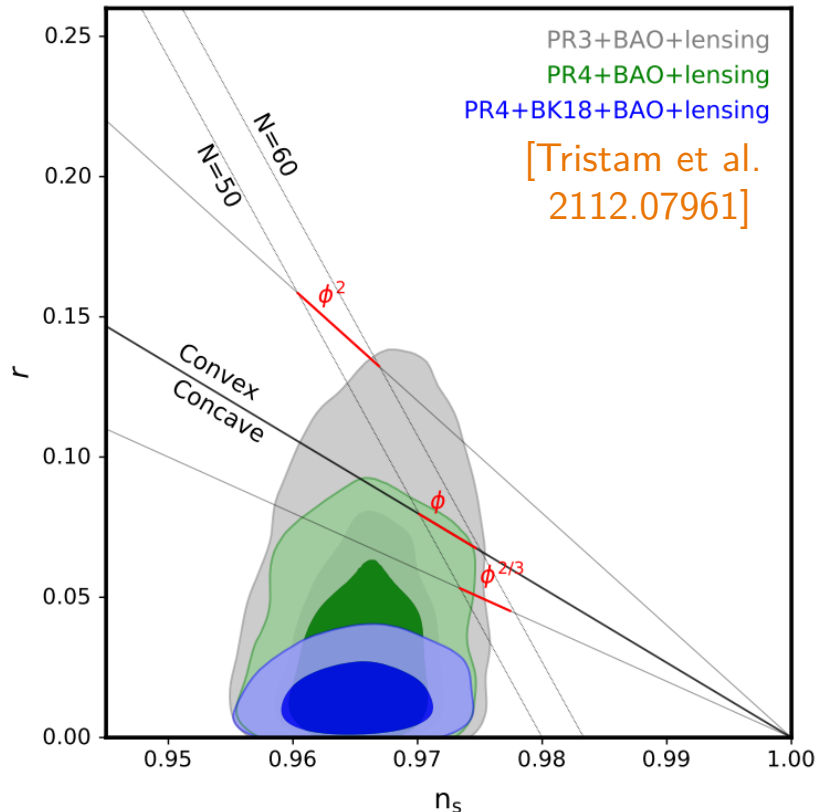
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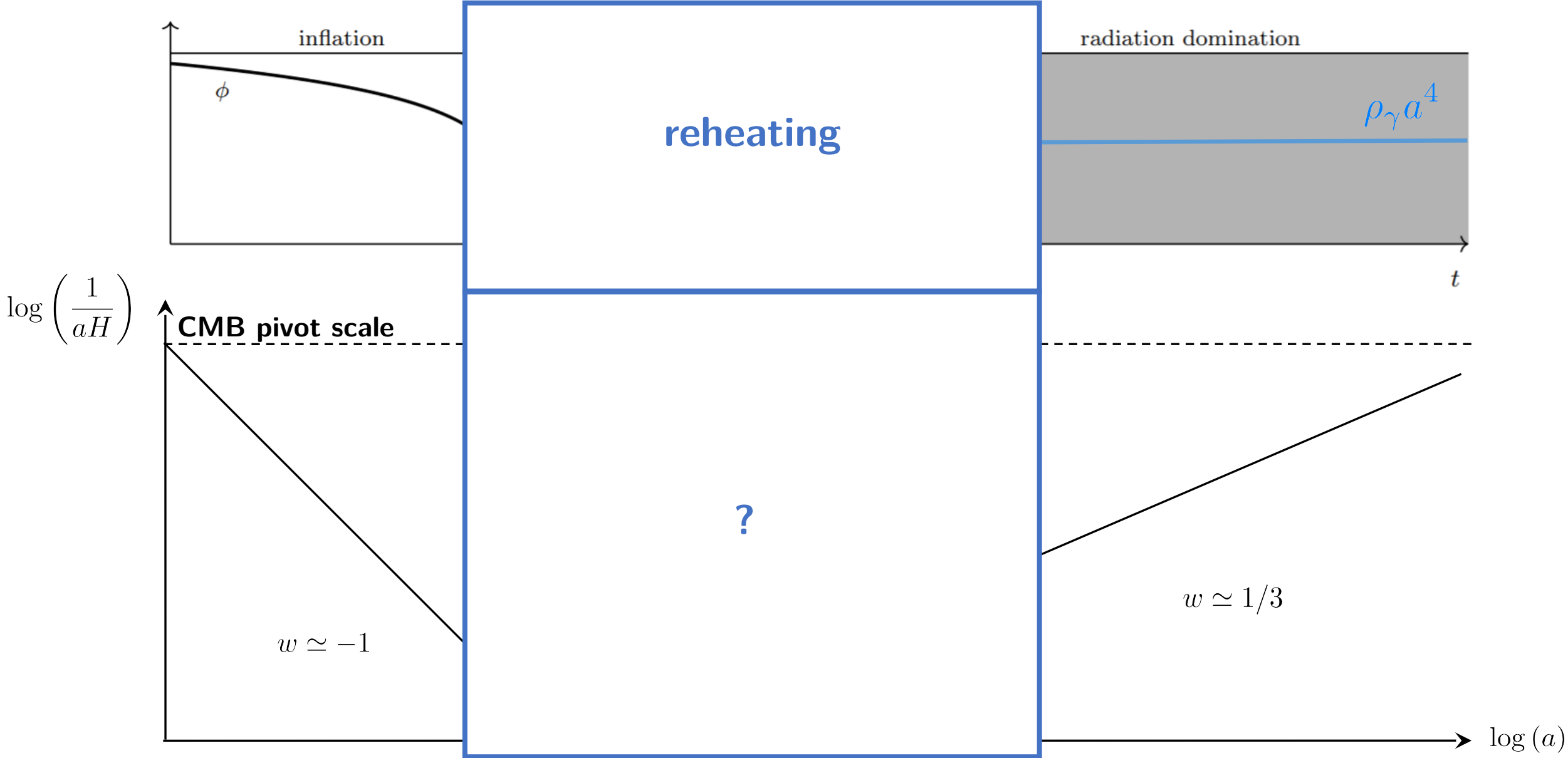
$$f_{\text{NL}}^{\text{local}} = -0.9 \pm 5.1 \quad [\text{Planck '18}]$$

Slow-roll is a remarkable solution

- attractor solution
- predicts $n_s < 1$
- **adiabatic perturbations** frozen on super-horizon scales
- Non-gaussianities suppressed $f_{\text{NL}} \sim n_s - 1$ [Maldacena '03]
→ weak (self)interactions



Introduction



Outline



1. Particle production during inflation

2. Particle production during reheating

DISCLAIMER

This talk is biased

1. Particle production during inflation

1.1 Production of a thermal bath during inflation

Warm inflation

- Production of relativistic particles: **allows for smooth transition to reheating**
- Any initially produced amount of particle dilutes **exponentially** $e^{-3 \times 50} \simeq 10^{-66}$
→ **Production has to be sustained**
- Sizable interactions among particles induce thermalization $\rho_r = \frac{\pi^2}{30} g_* T^4$ $T \gg H$

A broad literature:

[A. Berera & L. Z. Fang - arXiv:astro-ph/9501024]

[M. Bastero-Gil, A. Berera - arXiv:0902.0521]

[A. Berera, I. G. Moss & R. O. Ramos - arXiv:0808.1855]

[M. Bastero-Gil, A. Berera, R. O. Ramos & J. G. Rosa - arXiv:1604.08838]

[V. Kamali, M. Motaharfar & R. O. Ramos - arXiv:2302.02827] → recent review

+ many more!

Warm inflation

- Production of relativistic particles: **allows for smooth transition to reheating**

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→ **Production has to be sustained**

- Sizable interactions among particles induce thermalization $\rho_r = \frac{\pi^2}{30} g_* T^4 \quad T \gg H$

- Interaction between inflaton and thermal plasma can manifest as a **local dissipation rate** $\Gamma(\phi, T)$

$$\nabla_\mu T_{(\phi)}^{\mu\nu} = Q^\nu,$$

$$\ddot{\phi} + (3H + \Gamma)\dot{\phi} + V_\phi = 0,$$

$$\rho_r^{1/4} > H$$

$$\nabla_\mu T_{(r)}^{\mu\nu} = -Q^\nu$$

$$\dot{\rho}_r + 4H\rho_r = \Gamma\dot{\phi}^2,$$

$$\rho_r \ll \rho_\phi$$

radiation **subdominant**

- Initial conditions irrelevant: **warm inflation attractor solution** $\Gamma\dot{\phi}^2 \simeq 4H\rho_r$

- Fluctuation-dissipation $Q_\mu = -\Gamma u^\nu \nabla_\nu \phi \nabla_\mu \phi + \sqrt{\frac{2\Gamma T}{a^3}} \xi_t \nabla_\mu \phi \quad \xi_t : \text{white noise} \rightarrow \text{perturbed level}$

Warm inflation

- At first order in perturbation theory:

$$\delta\ddot{\phi} + \dots = \sqrt{\frac{2\Gamma T}{a^3}} \xi_t, \quad \longrightarrow \text{stochastic source}$$

$$\delta\dot{\rho}_r + \dots = -\sqrt{\frac{2\Gamma T}{a^3}} \dot{\phi} \xi_t,$$

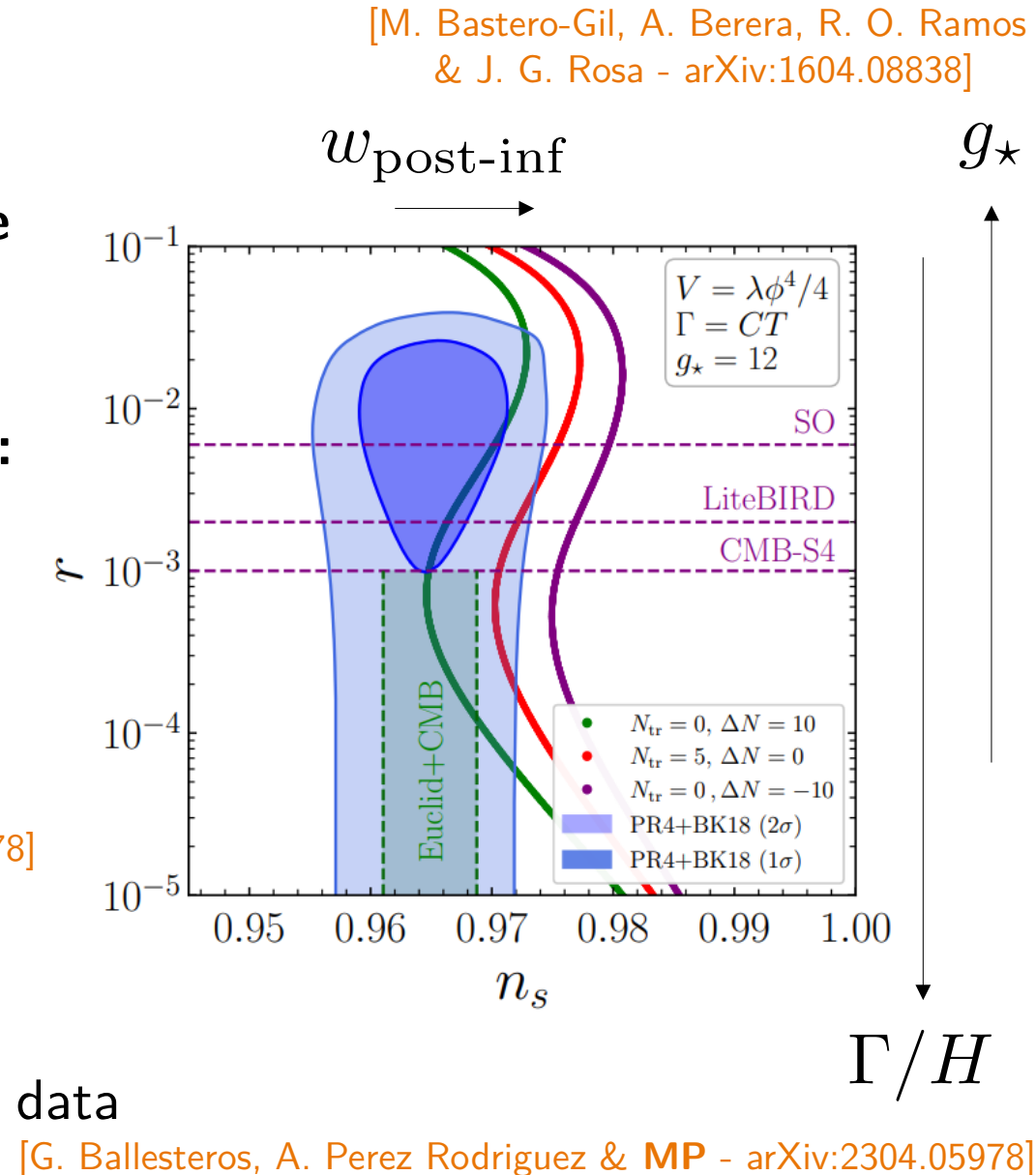
- Estimate power spectrum for **curvature perturbations**:

→ Solve (**stochastic**) equations with frequentist approach: **requires $O(10^4)$ realizations for reasonable accuracy**

→ Use Fokker-Planck approach to derive **deterministic** equation for **2-point correlation function** $\langle |\mathcal{R}|^2 \rangle$

[G. Ballesteros, M. A. G. Garcia, A. Perez Rodriguez, **MP** & J. Rey - arXiv:2208.14978]

- At **large dissipation**, insensitive to **initial conditions**
- Can **reconcile monomial inflation models** with CMB data



[G. Ballesteros, A. Perez Rodriguez & **MP** - arXiv:2304.05978]

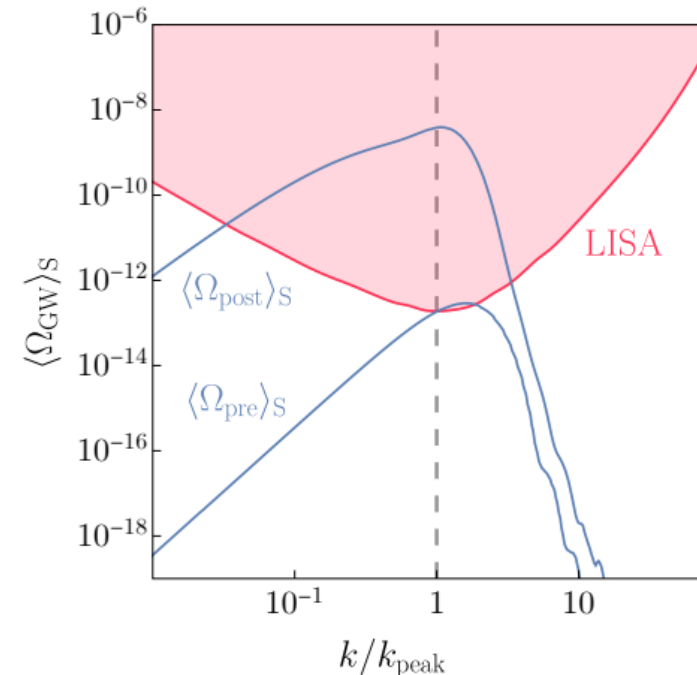
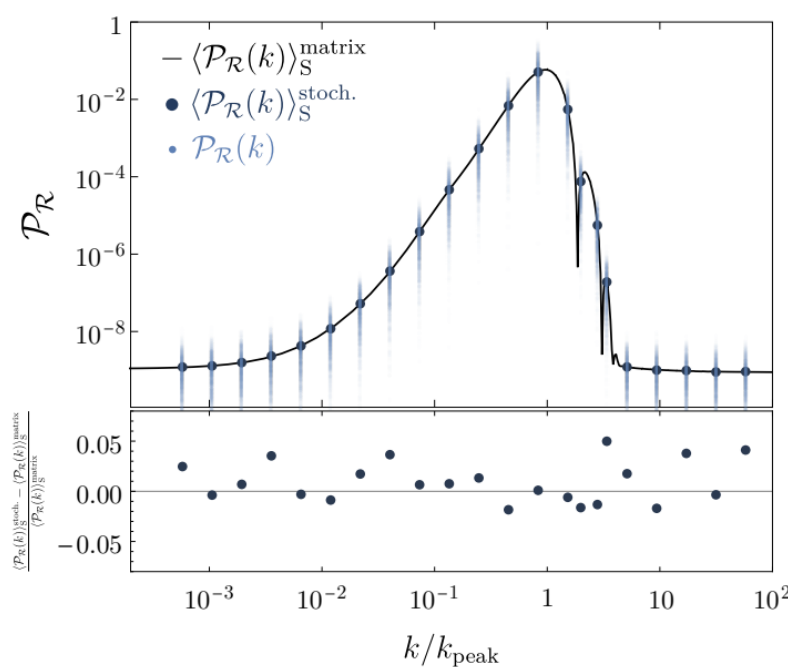
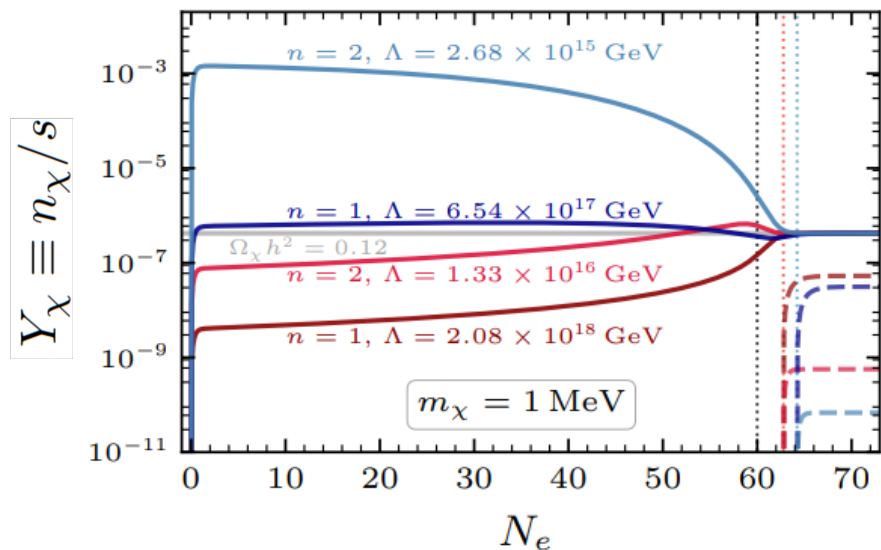
Dynamics of warm inflation: consequences for dark matter

- **Transient** dissipative effects during warm inflation:

- source large curvature perturbations
→ **PBH formation**: account for the DM
- generate GW signal **observable** by LISA

[G. Ballesteros, M. A. G. Garcia, A. Perez Rodriguez, MP & J. Rey - arXiv:2208.14978]

[M. Bastero-Gil, M. S. Diaz-Blanco - arXiv:2105.08045]



- Dark matter production via UV freeze-in from non-renormalizable couplings to thermal bath

$$\dot{n}_\chi + 3Hn_\chi = T^{2n+4} / \Lambda^{2n}$$

[K. Freese, G. Montefalcone, B. Shams Es Haghi - arXiv:2401.17371]

→ Isocurvature perturbations?

1. Particle production during inflation

1.1 Production of a thermal bath during inflation

1.2 Inflationary background as source for particle production

A (scalar) spectator field during inflation

Consider:

$$S = \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} \left[-\frac{1}{2}(M_P^2 - \xi\chi^2)R + \frac{1}{2}(\partial_\mu\chi)^2 - \frac{1}{2}m_\chi^2\chi^2 - \frac{1}{2}\sigma\phi^2\chi^2 \right]$$

non-minimal coupling → $\xi\chi^2$ ϕ -coupling → $\sigma\phi^2\chi^2$

Equation of motion $\left(\frac{d^2}{dt^2} - \frac{\nabla^2}{a^2} + 3H \frac{d}{dt} + m_\chi^2 + \sigma\phi^2 - \xi R \right) \chi = 0$

- **Quantize** the (rescaled) field $X(\tau, \mathbf{x}) \equiv a\chi = \int \frac{d^3\mathbf{p}}{(2\pi)^{3/2}} e^{-i\mathbf{p}\cdot\mathbf{x}} \left[X_p(\tau)\hat{a}_{\mathbf{p}} + X_p^*(\tau)\hat{a}_{-\mathbf{p}}^\dagger \right]$

- **Harmonic oscillator** with **time-dependent** frequency $X_p'' + \omega_p^2 X_p = 0$

$$\omega_p^2(t) = p^2 + a^2(t)\hat{m}_{\text{eff}}^2(t) \quad \hat{m}_{\text{eff}}^2 = m_\chi^2 + \sigma\phi^2 + \frac{1}{6}(1 - 6\xi)R$$

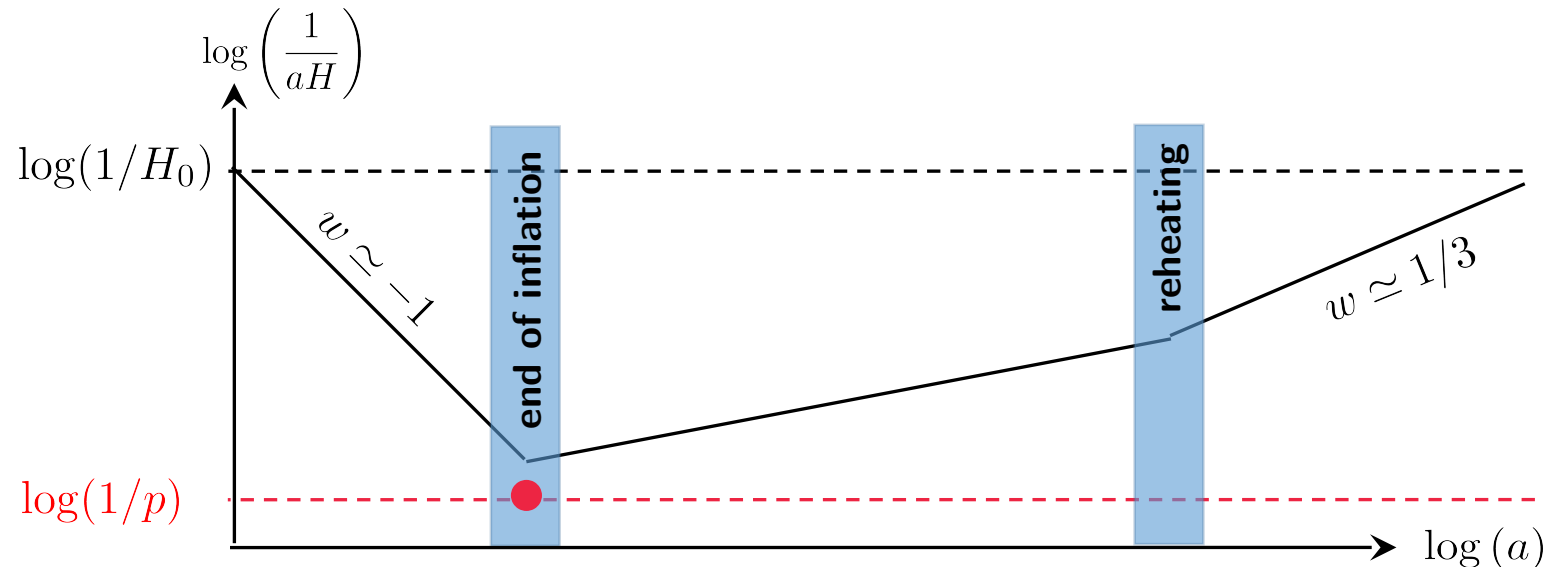
Gravity!

$\xi = 1/6$: **Conformal** coupling

$$\begin{aligned} ' &\equiv \frac{d}{d\tau} \\ dt &= a d\tau \end{aligned}$$

A (scalar) spectator field during inflation

- **Initial conditions: Bunch-Davies vacuum** $X_p(\tau_0) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\omega_p}}$ $X'_p(\tau_0) = -\frac{i\omega_p}{\sqrt{2\omega_p}}$
- **Light scalar fields unstable during inflation!** $\omega_p^2 = p^2 + 2(aH)^2 \left[\frac{m_\chi^2}{2H^2} + \frac{\sigma\phi^2}{2H^2} + 6\xi - 1 \right]$
- **For small physical scales: modes** always **inside** horizon $p/(aH) \gg 1$ $\omega_p^2 > 0$ $\bullet \tau_0 = \tau_{\text{end}}$



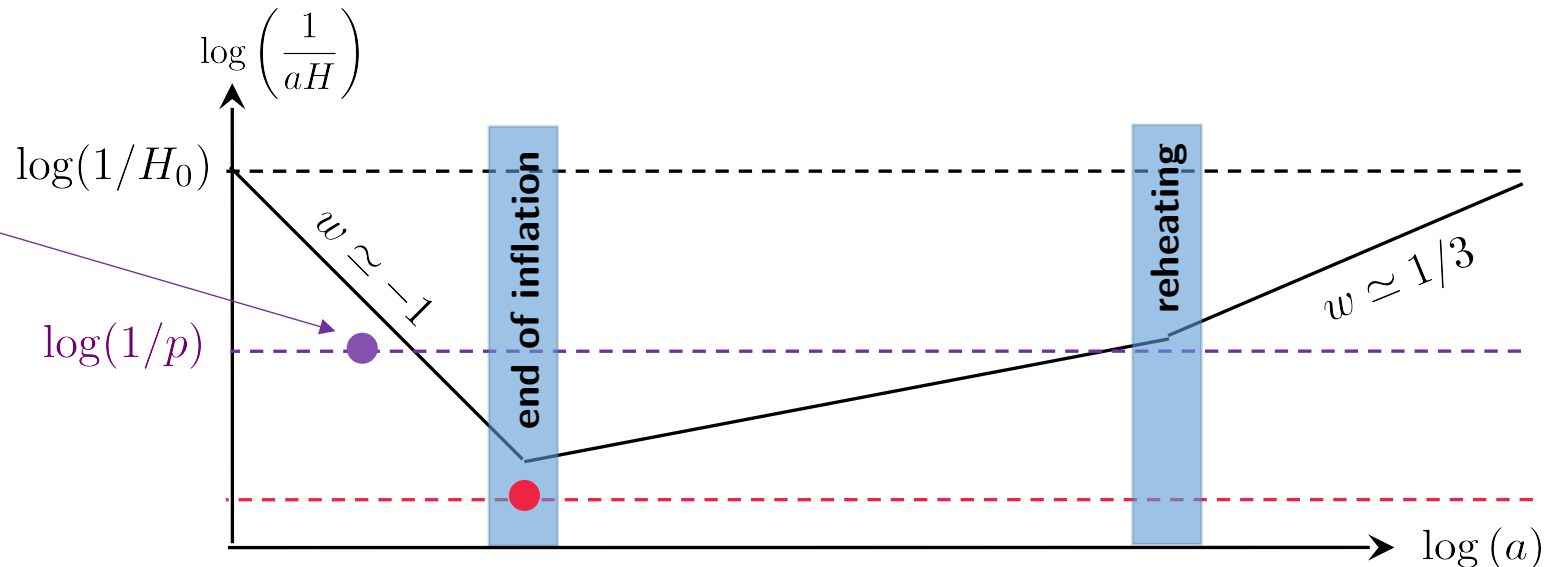
A (scalar) spectator field during inflation

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- **For small physical scales: modes** always **inside** horizon $p/(aH) \gg 1$ $\omega_p^2 > 0$ ● $\tau_0 = \tau_{\text{end}}$
- **For** $m_\chi^2 < 2H^2, \sigma/\lambda \ll 1, \xi < 1/6$ superhorizon **modes** experience $\omega_p^2(t_{\text{end}}) < 0$

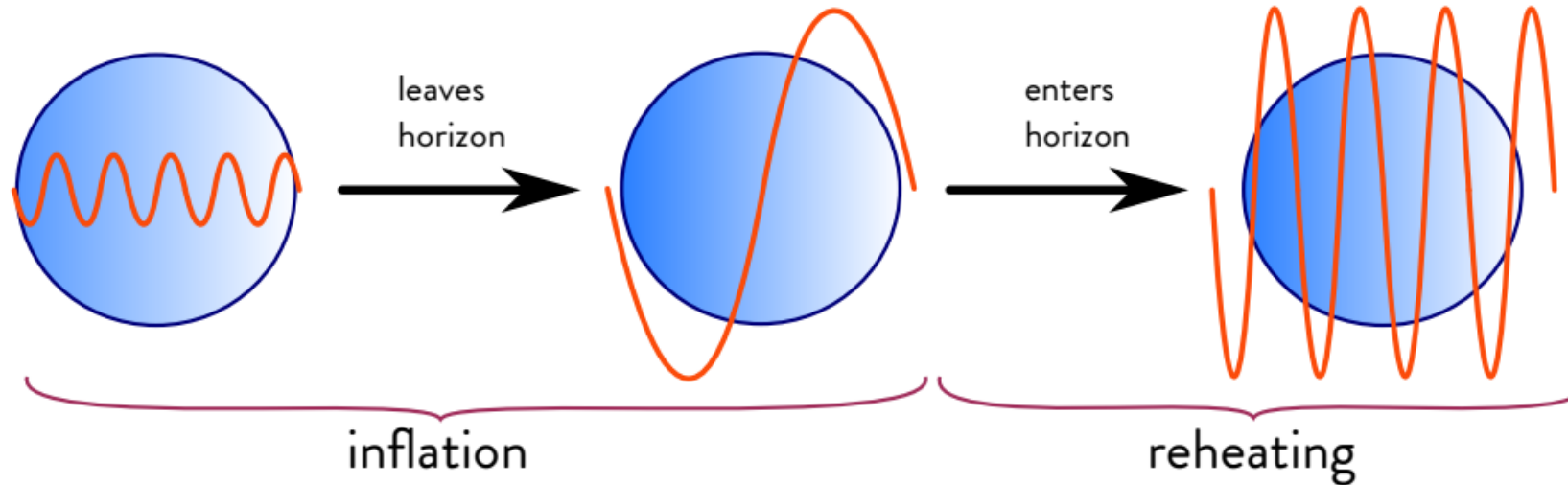
● $\tau_0 < \tau_{\text{end}}$

$$p^2 \gg a(\tau_0)^2 H(\tau_0)^2$$

➔ **Particle production!**



A (scalar) spectator field during inflation



$$\langle \chi \rangle = 0$$

$$\langle \chi^2 \rangle = 0$$

“Random walk”

$$\langle \chi \rangle = 0$$

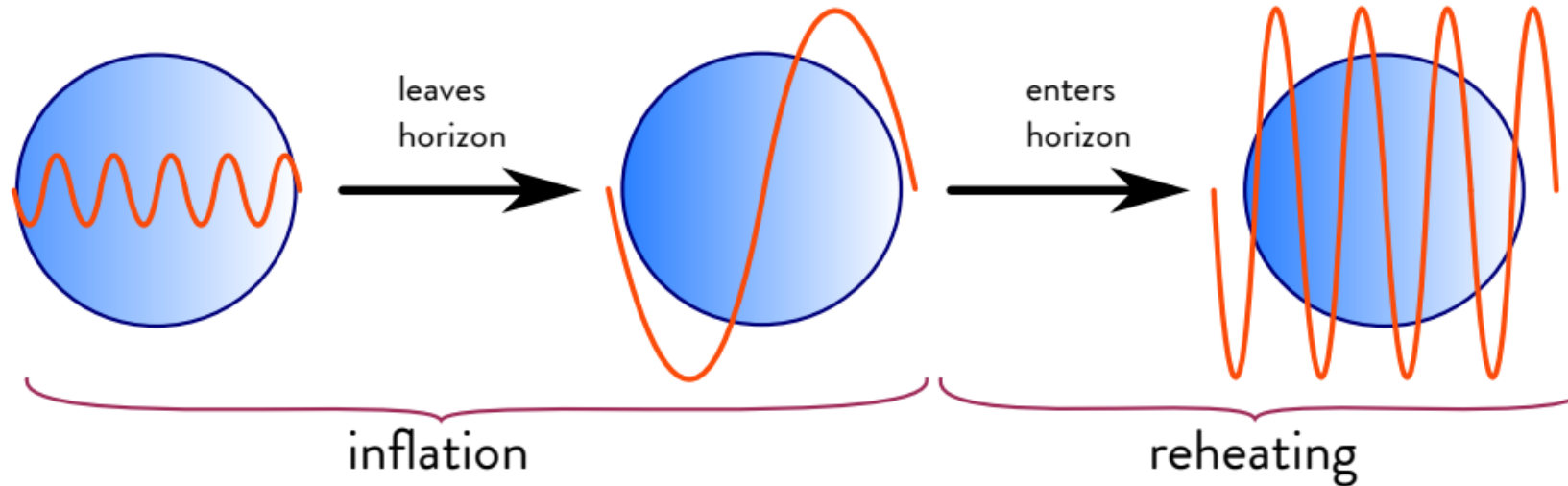
$$\langle \chi^2 \rangle \neq 0$$

$$\longrightarrow |\beta_p|^2 = \frac{1}{2\omega_p} |\omega_p X_p - iX'_p|^2$$

Bogolubov coefficient

In curved space one must rely on **correlation functions!**

A (scalar) spectator field during inflation



$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 \langle \chi \rangle = 0 & \longrightarrow & \langle \chi \rangle = 0 \\
 \langle \chi^2 \rangle = 0 & \text{"Random walk"} & \langle \chi^2 \rangle \neq 0 \\
 & & \longrightarrow \quad |\beta_p|^2 = \frac{1}{2\omega_p} |\omega_p X_p - i X_p'|^2 \\
 & & \text{Bogolubov coefficient}
 \end{array}$$

→ Match **particle interpretation** only at **later times**

Phase space distribution

$$f_\chi(p) = |\beta_p|^2$$

Comoving number density

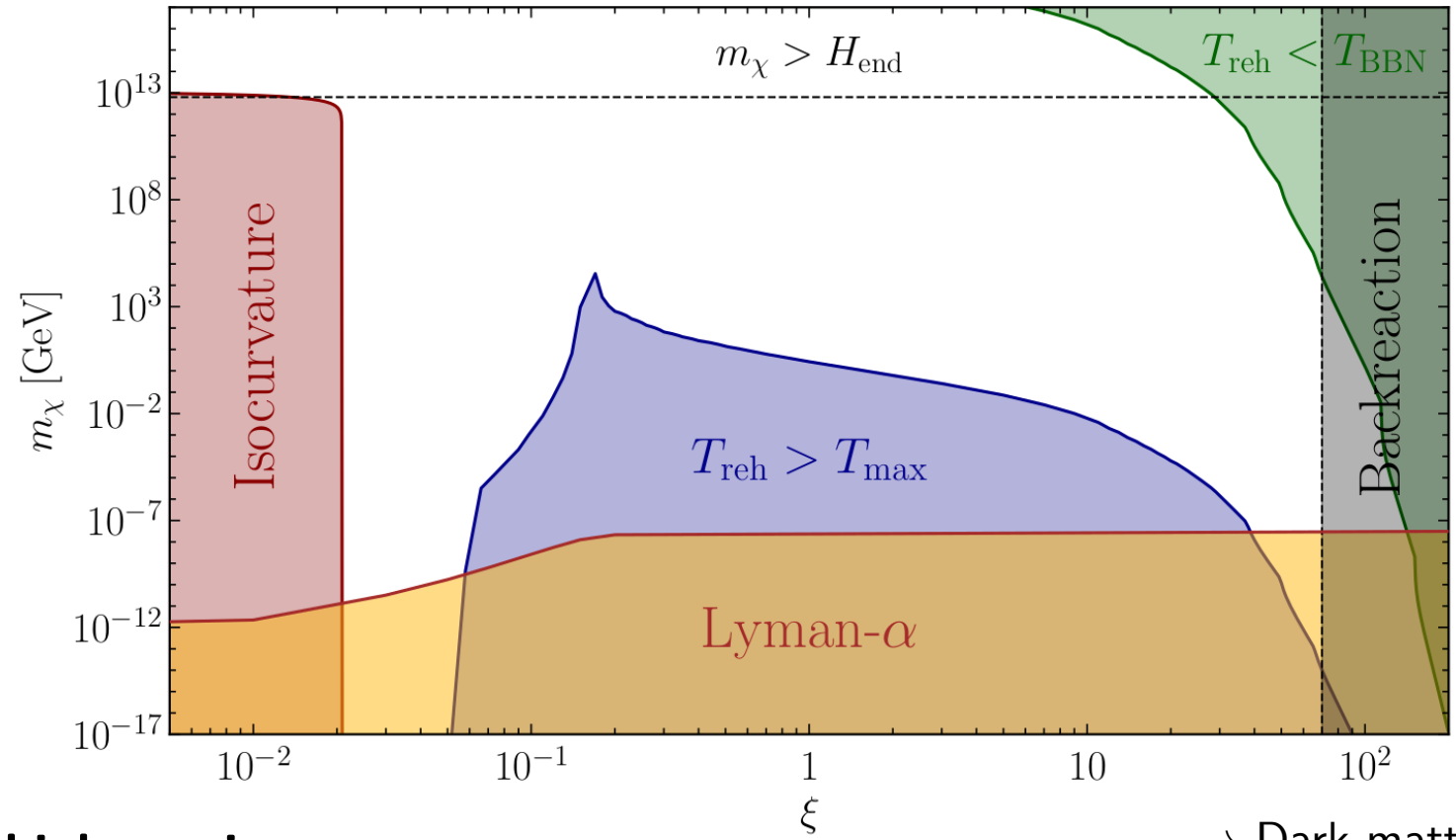
$$a^3 n_\chi = \int d \log p \frac{p^3}{2\pi^2} |\beta_p|^2$$

Energy density

$$\rho_\chi \simeq \frac{m_\chi^2}{2} \langle \chi^2 \rangle$$

Gravitational production of dark matter

[M. A. G. Garcia, MP & S.Verner, arXiv:2305.14446]



WIMPZILLAS
[E.W. Kolb, D.J.H. Chung, A. Riotto]

- **Generalization to higher spins**

Spin 1/2: if $m_\chi \rightarrow 0$: **conformally** coupled to gravity \leftrightarrow scalar $\xi=1/6$

Spin 1: Transverse: \leftrightarrow **conformally** coupled scalar $\xi=1/6$

Longitudinal: \leftrightarrow **minimally** coupled scalar $\xi=0$ if $m_\chi \rightarrow 0$

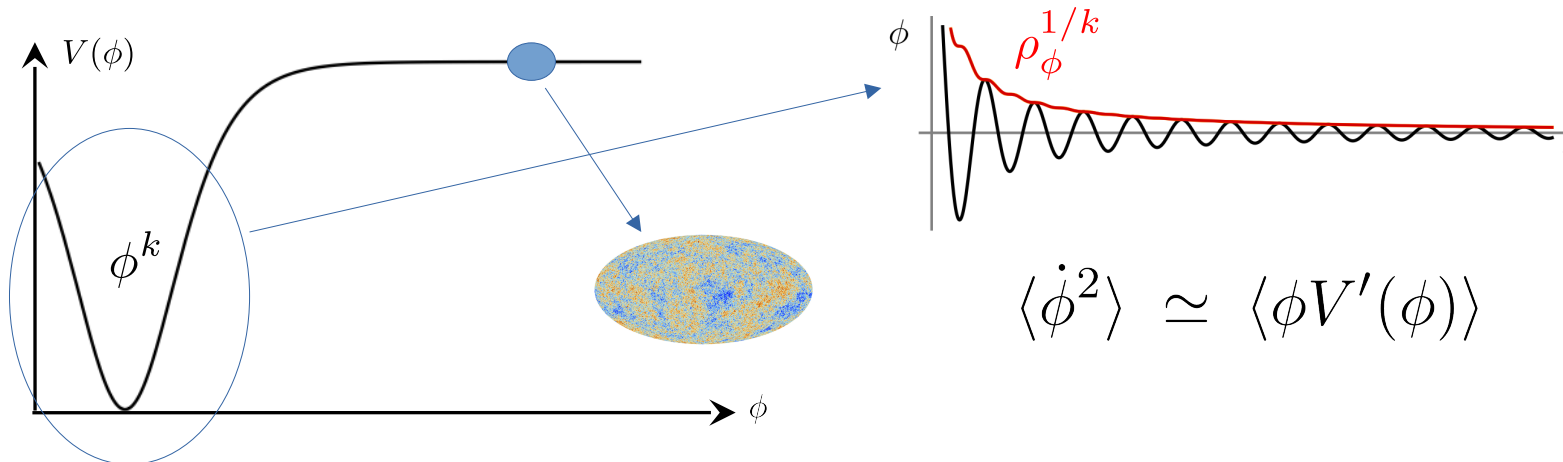
Spin 3/2, 2: [E. W. Kolb & A. Long arXiv:2312.09042]

\rightarrow Dark matter **can** be produced **gravitationally**

\rightarrow Non-minimal coupling to gravity **mimics** direct coupling to the inflation
 $\xi \leftrightarrow \sigma/\lambda$

2. Particle production during reheating

Reheating: transition to radiation domination



$$\rho_\phi \equiv \frac{1}{2} \langle \dot{\phi}^2 \rangle + \langle V(\phi) \rangle \simeq \left(\frac{k+2}{2} \right) \langle V(\phi) \rangle$$

$$P_\phi \equiv \frac{1}{2} \langle \dot{\phi}^2 \rangle - \langle V(\phi) \rangle \simeq \left(\frac{k-2}{2} \right) \langle V(\phi) \rangle$$

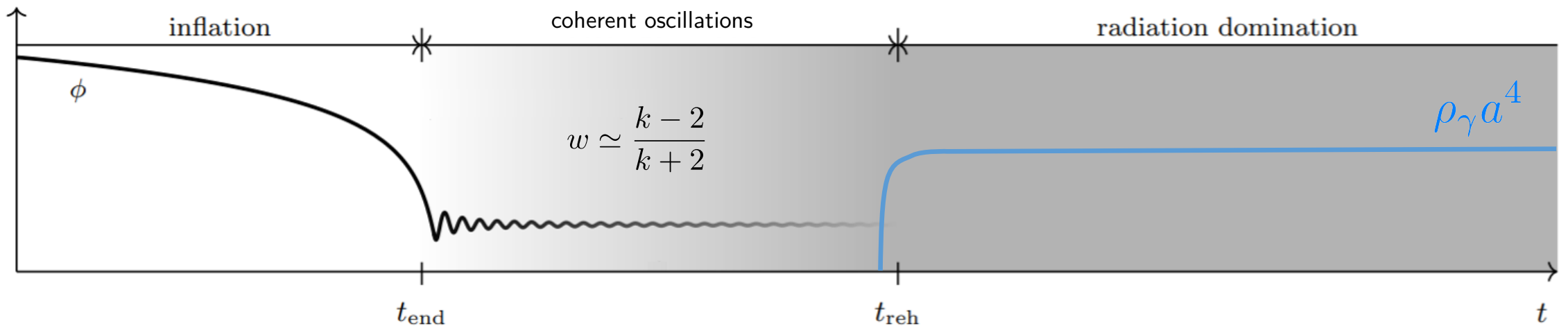
$$\langle \dot{\phi}^2 \rangle \simeq \langle \phi V'(\phi) \rangle$$

$$w = \frac{k-2}{k+2}$$

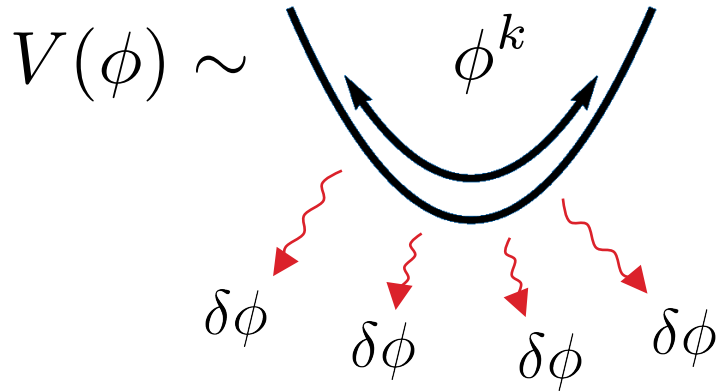
Coupling to radiation required to achieve reheating

$$\dot{\rho}_\phi + 3H(1 + w_\phi)\rho_\phi = -\Gamma_\phi \rho_\phi(1 + w_\phi)$$

$$\dot{\rho}_\gamma + 4H\rho_\gamma = \Gamma_\phi \rho_\phi(1 + w_\phi)$$



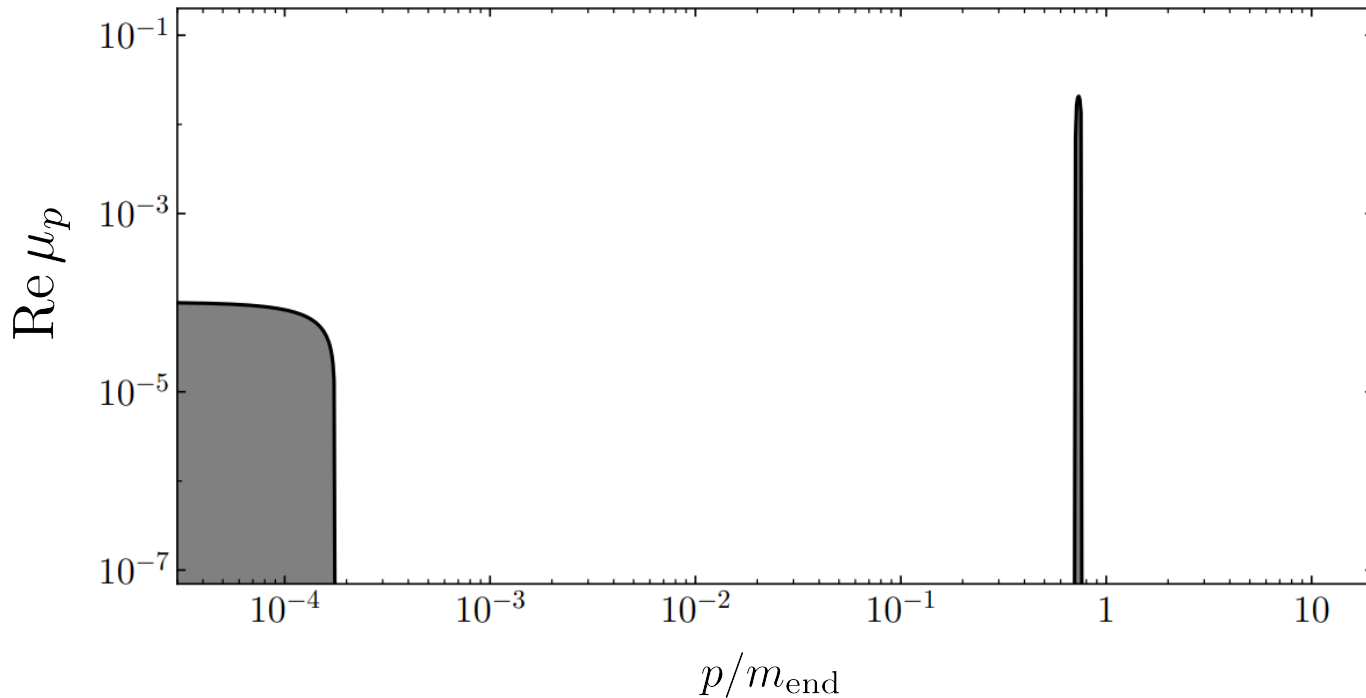
Resonances post-inflation



- Considering $k = 4$ and dimensionless time $z \equiv m_{\text{end}}(\tau - \tau_{\text{end}})$ with $m_{\text{end}}^2 \equiv V_{\phi\phi}(\phi_{\text{end}})$ the EOM for **inflaton fluctuations** is

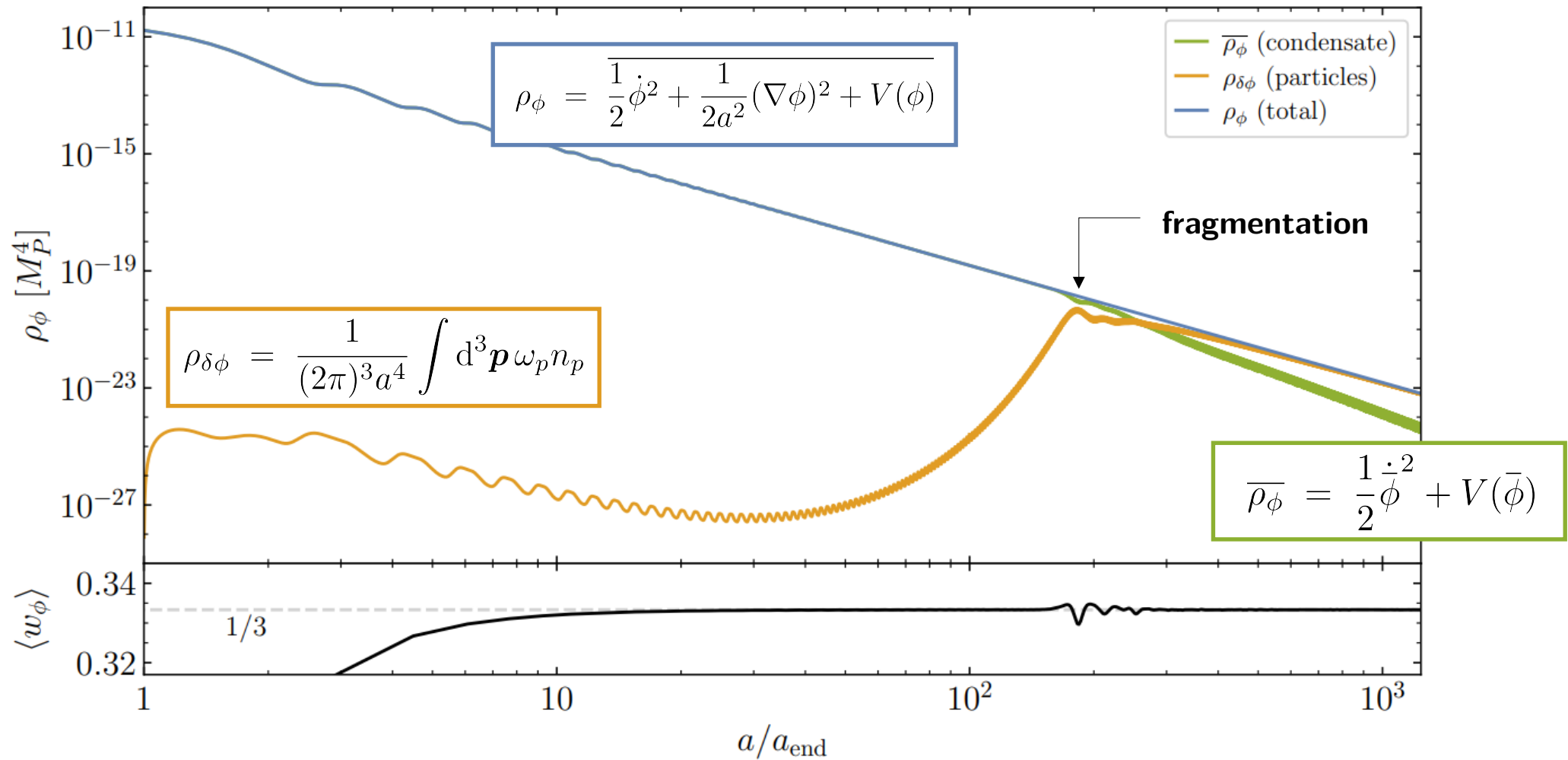
$$\frac{d^2 X_p}{dz^2} + \left[\left(\frac{p}{m_{\text{end}}} \right)^2 + \text{sn}^2 \left(\frac{z}{\sqrt{6}}, -1 \right) \right] X_k = 0$$

Jacobi elliptic function



- Solutions given in terms of **Floquet index** $X_p(\tau) = e^{\mu_p \tau} g_1(\tau) + e^{-\mu_p \tau} g_2(\tau)$
- Floquet chart is **time-dependent** for **non-quartic** potentials $k \neq 4$
- Parametric resonances affect all **scalar quantities** (“preheating”)

Self-fragmentation of the inflaton condensate $k = 4$



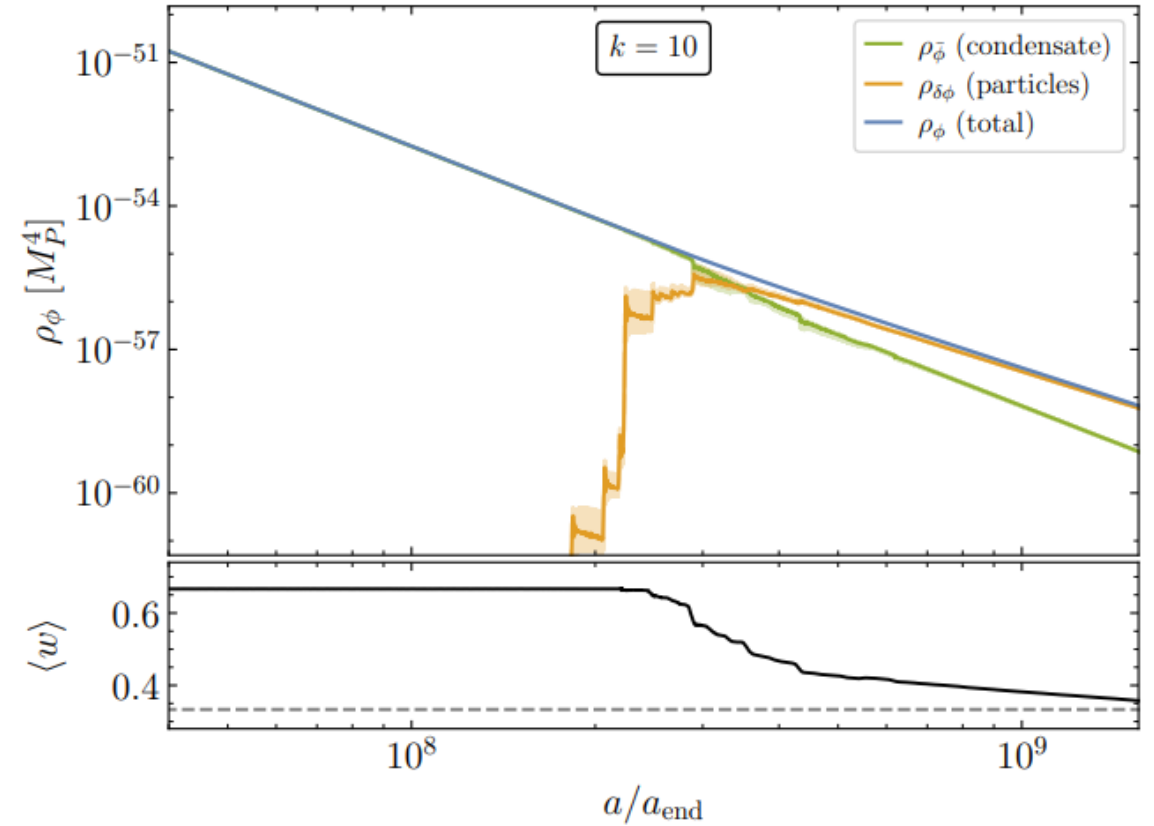
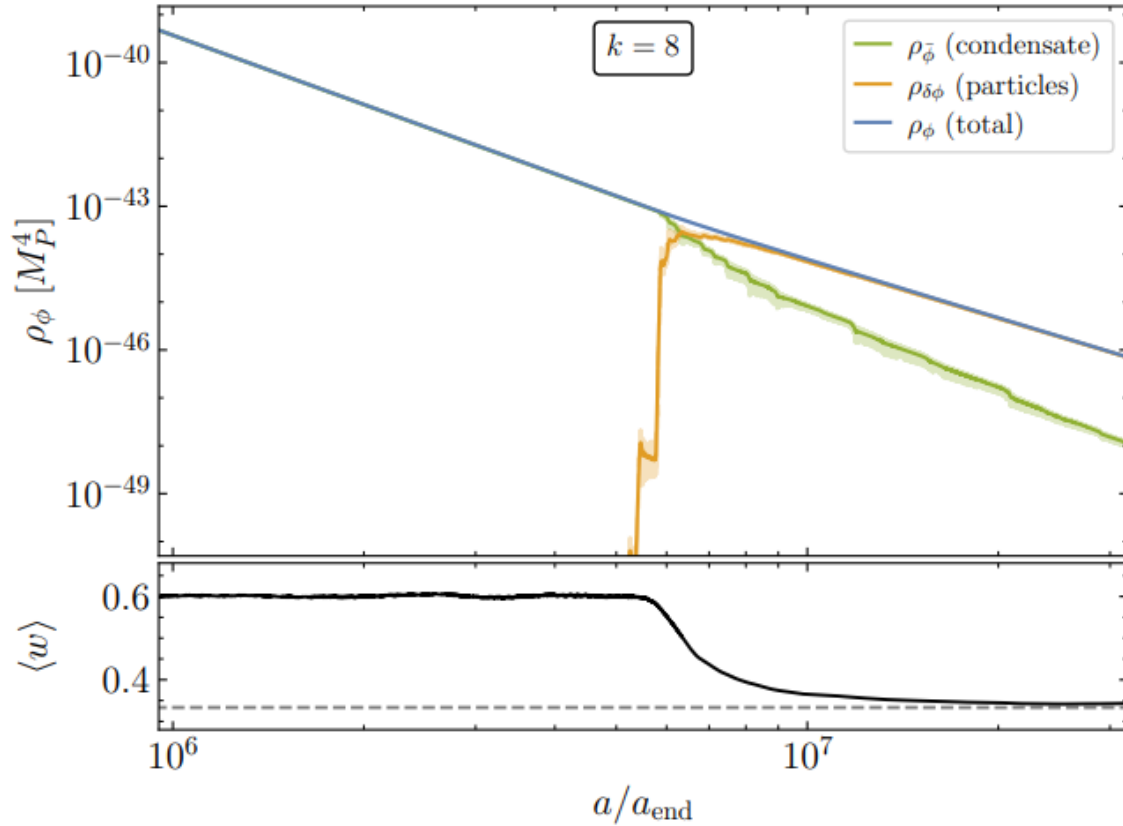
- Lattice simulations with *CosmoLattice*

[D G. Figueroa, A. Florio, F. Torrenti, W. Valkenburg, arXiv:2102.01031]

$$V(\phi) = \lambda M_P^4 \left[\sqrt{6} \tanh\left(\frac{\phi}{\sqrt{6} M_P}\right) \right]^k$$

Self-fragmentation of the inflaton condensate

[M. A. G. Garcia, M. Gross, Y. Mambrini, K. Olive, **MP** & J-H Yoon, JCAP 12 (2023) 028]



- Fragmentation occurs later for **larger k**
- **The condensate subsists!** \rightarrow generic for any k

$$V(\phi) = \lambda M_P^4 \left[\sqrt{6} \tanh \left(\frac{\phi}{\sqrt{6} M_P} \right) \right]^k$$

Reheating and inflaton fragmentation

Consider **coupling to fermions**

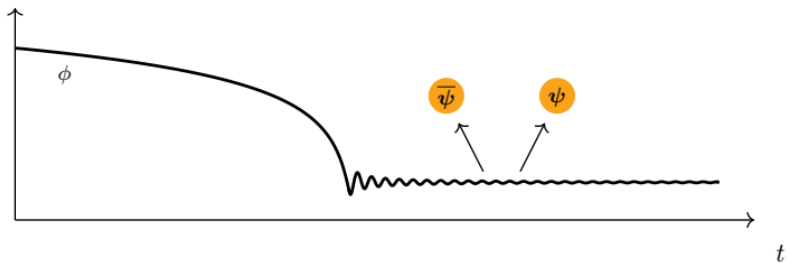
$$\mathcal{L} \supset -y\phi\bar{\psi}\psi$$

production rate

$$\dot{\rho}_\psi + 4H\rho_\psi = \overbrace{R_\phi + R_{\delta\phi}}$$

$$\dot{\rho}_\phi + 3H(1 + w_\phi)\rho_\phi = -(R_\phi + R_{\delta\phi})$$

Condensate contribution

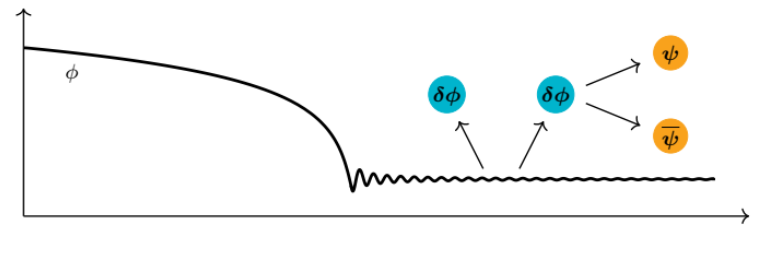


$$\Gamma_\phi = \frac{1}{8\pi(1 + w_\phi)\rho_\phi} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \langle |\mathcal{M}_n|^2 E_n \beta_n \rangle \simeq \alpha^2 \frac{y^2}{8\pi} m_\phi(t)$$

↑ efficiency

$$R_\phi = \frac{4}{3} \Gamma_\phi \overline{\rho_\phi}$$

Quanta contribution

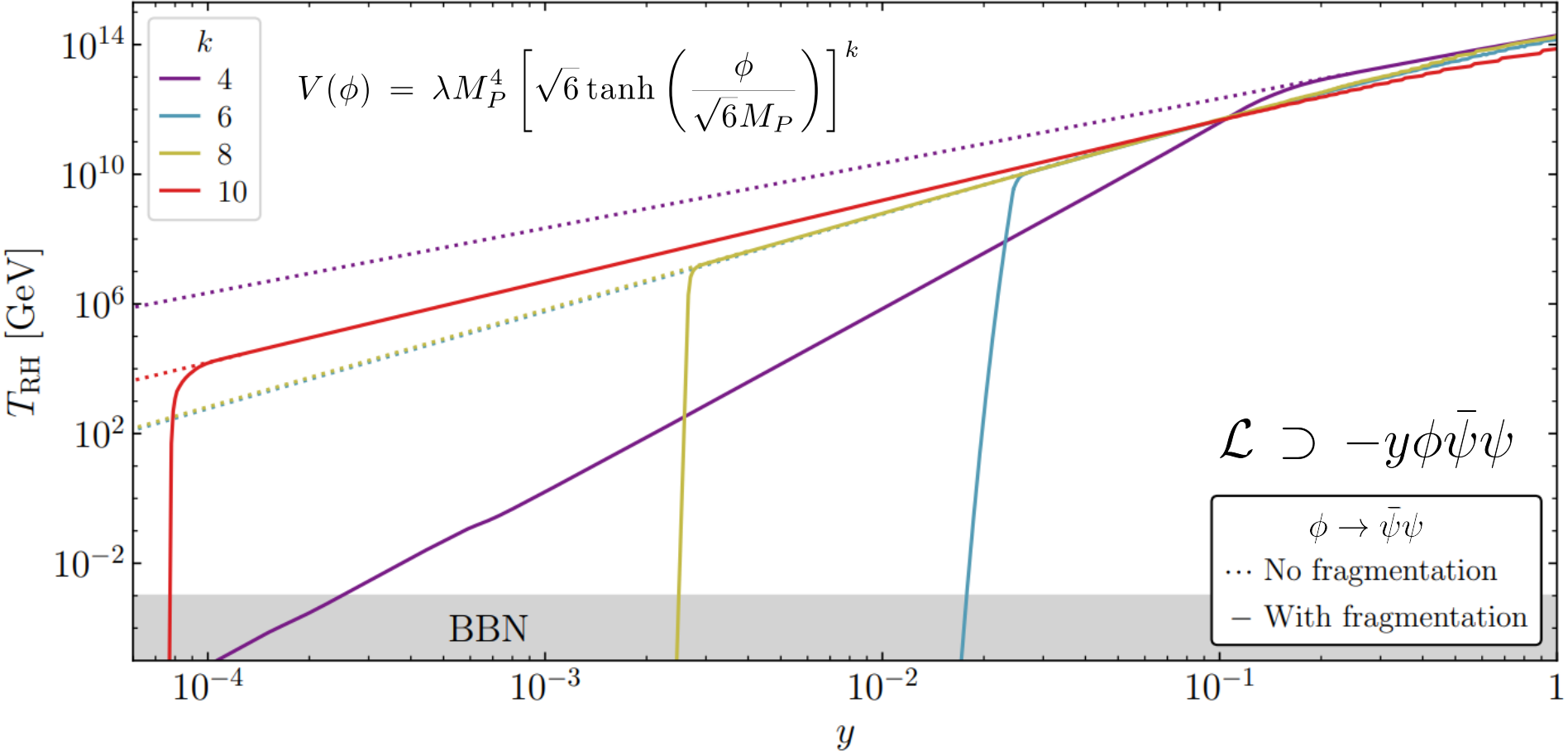


$$R_{\delta\phi}(t) = \Gamma_{\delta\phi} m_\phi n_{\delta\phi}$$

$$\Gamma_{\delta\phi} = \frac{|\mathcal{M}_{\delta\phi \rightarrow \bar{\psi}\psi}|^2}{16\pi m_\phi} \sqrt{1 - \frac{4m_\psi^2}{m_\phi^2}} \simeq \frac{y^2}{8\pi} m_\phi(t)$$

- Estimate **number density** from the **lattice**
- **Mass term** induced by **leftover condensate**:
 → allow quanta to decay!

Effect on reheating temperature



- **Large** (non-perturbative) **couplings** required: could backreact and cause early fragmentation?
- At large **k**, **post-fragmentation** decays **extremely suppressed**

[M. A. G. Garcia, M. Gross, Y. Mambrini, K. Olive, **MP** & J-H Yoon, JCAP 12 (2023) 028]

Gravitational waves

- **Tensor** perturbations of the metric $ds^2 = a(\tau)^2 \left[d\tau^2 - \left(\delta_{ij} + h_{ij} \right) dx^i dx^j \right]$
- Sourced by Transverse-Traceless (TT) scalar **inhomogeneities**

$$h''_{ij}(\mathbf{p}, \tau) + 2\mathcal{H}h'_{ij}(\mathbf{p}, \tau) + k^2 h_{ij}(\mathbf{p}, \tau) = \frac{2}{M_P^2} \left[\int \frac{d^3\mathbf{q}}{(2\pi)^{3/2}} q_i q_j \phi(\mathbf{q}, \tau) \phi(\mathbf{p} - \mathbf{q}, \tau) \right]^{\text{TT}}$$

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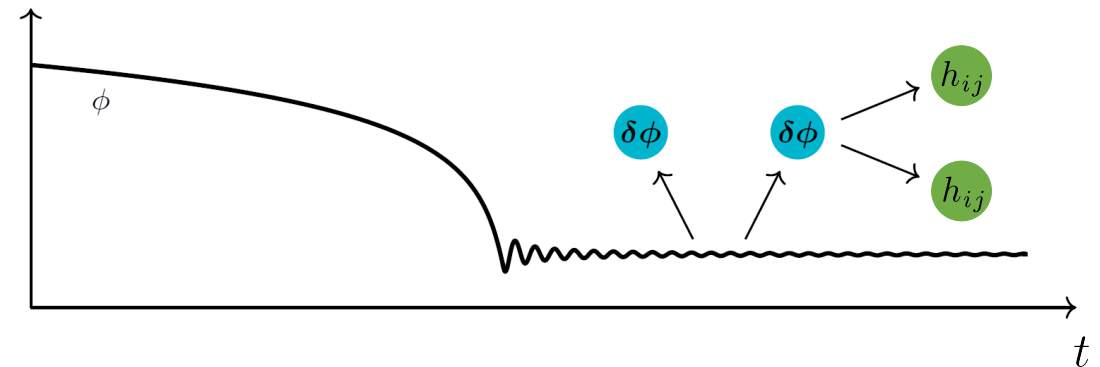
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- Homogeneous solution:

- depends **only** on **expansion**
- flat tensor power spectrum generated from **inflation enhanced by stiff equation-of-state era**

- Inhomogeneous solution:

- depends on dynamics of the **inflaton** and **inhomogeneities**



Gravitational waves: quartic case $k = 4$

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- Use Boltzmann **approach** to predict spectrum of inflaton fluctuations $\phi \rightarrow \delta\phi \delta\phi$

$$f_{\delta\phi}(|\mathbf{p}|, t) \simeq \frac{\pi}{c^2} \left(\frac{m_{\text{end}}}{H_{\text{end}}} \right) \left(\frac{a(t)}{a_{\text{end}}} - 1 \right) \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{|\hat{\mathcal{P}}_n|^2}{n^2 \beta_n} \delta \left(\frac{|\mathbf{p}|}{m_{\text{end}}} - \frac{1}{2} n c \beta_n \right)$$

series of peaks!

energy levels of inflaton potential

$$\beta_n \equiv \sqrt{1 - \frac{4m_\phi^2}{n^2\omega_\phi^2}} = \sqrt{1 - \left(\frac{2}{nc} \right)^2}$$

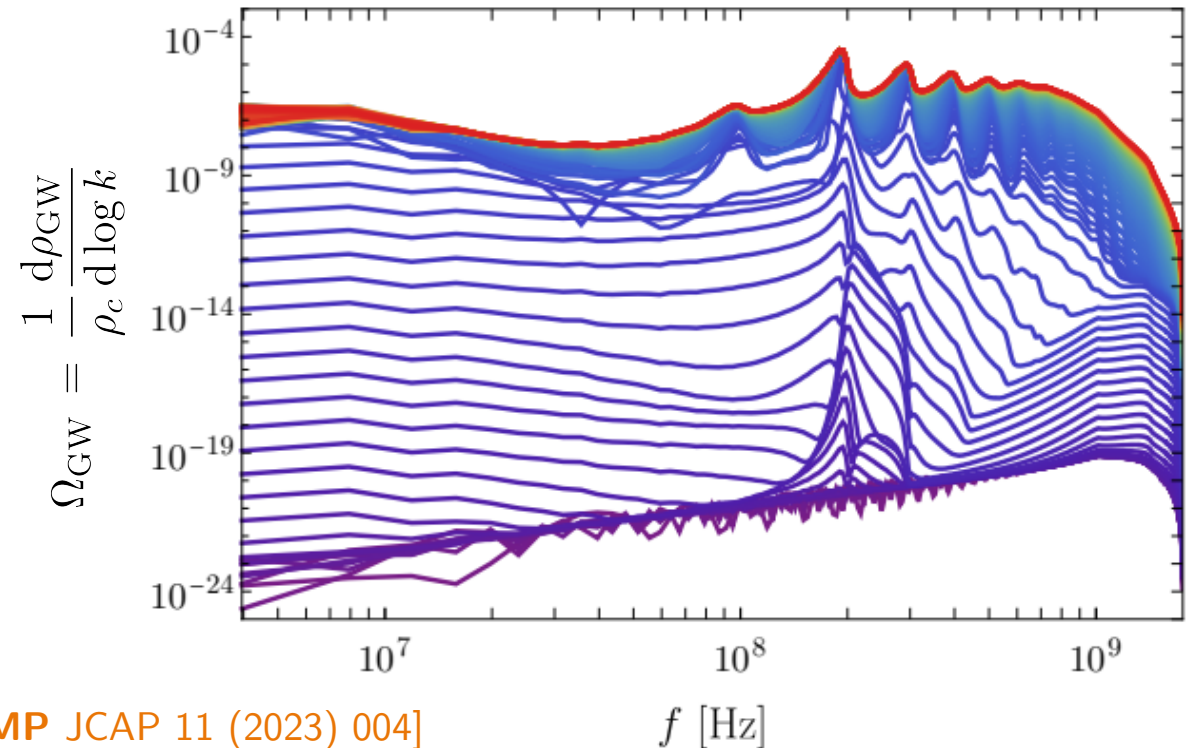
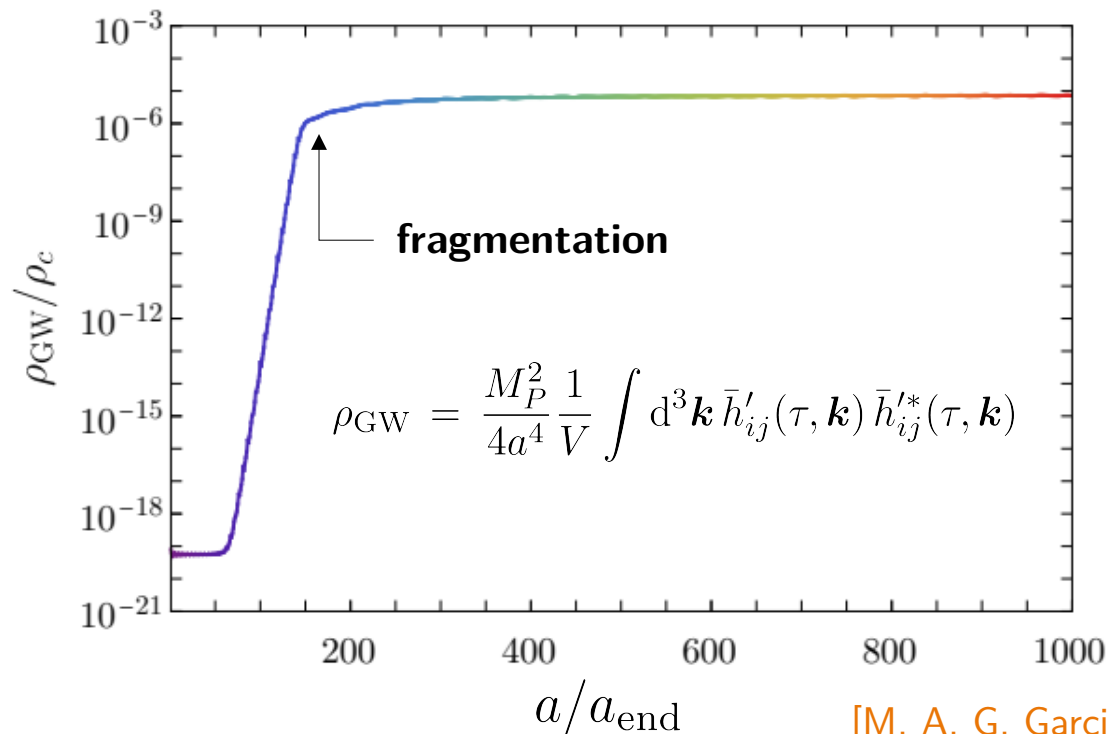
$$c \equiv \sqrt{\frac{2\pi}{3} \frac{\Gamma(3/4)}{\Gamma(1/4)}}$$

[M. A. G. Garcia & MP
JCAP 11 (2023) 004]

Gravitational waves: quartic case $k = 4$

- **Tensor** perturbations of the metric $ds^2 = a(\tau)^2 \left[d\tau^2 - \left(\delta_{ij} + h_{ij} \right) dx^i dx^j \right]$
- Sourced by Transverse-Traceless (TT) scalar **inhomogeneities**

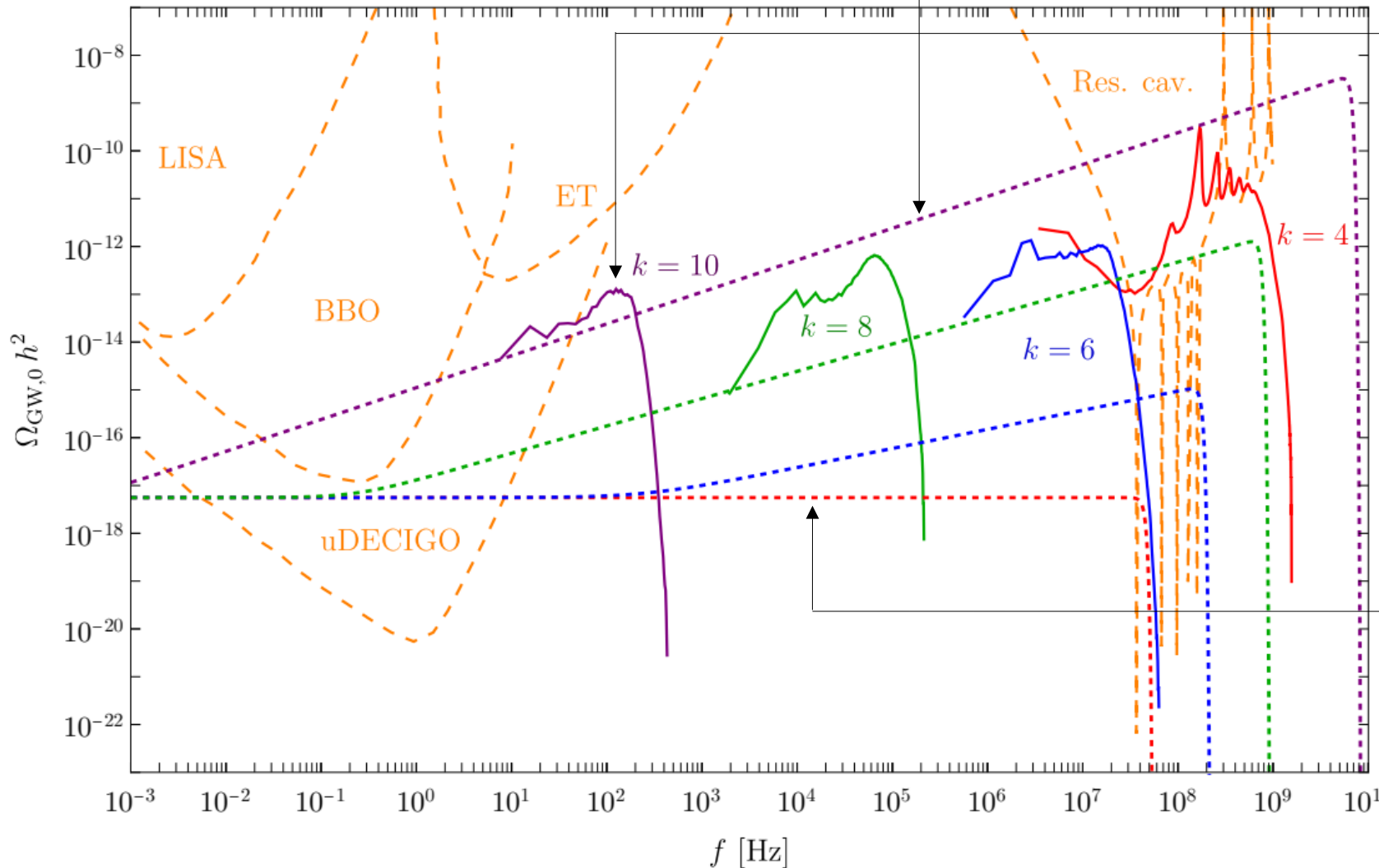
$$h''_{ij}(\mathbf{p}, \tau) + 2\mathcal{H}h'_{ij}(\mathbf{p}, \tau) + k^2 h_{ij}(\mathbf{p}, \tau) = \frac{2}{M_P^2} \left[\int \frac{d^3\mathbf{q}}{(2\pi)^{3/2}} q_i q_j \phi(\mathbf{q}, \tau) \phi(\mathbf{p} - \mathbf{q}, \tau) \right]^{\text{TT}}$$



[M. A. G. Garcia & MP JCAP 11 (2023) 004]

Gravitational waves from post-fragmentation reheating

$$V(\phi) = \lambda M_P^4 \left[\sqrt{6} \tanh\left(\frac{\phi}{\sqrt{6}M_P}\right) \right]^k \sim \phi^k \quad [\phi \ll M_P]$$



stiff EOS era

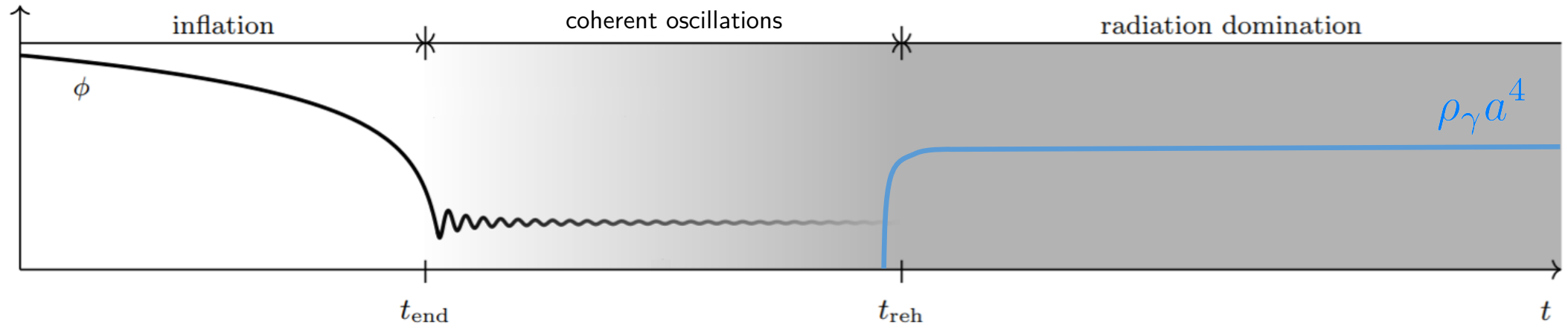
fragmentation

Multi-wavelength GW detectors as probe of (post)inflation history

(almost) flat spectrum from inflation

[M. A. G. Garcia & MP
arXiv:2404.16932]

Take home message



- The **expanding universe** as a **source** for **particle production**
- (Post)inflation **dynamics** offers a **rich spectrum** of phenomenological implications
- **Inhomogeneities** might **reveal** (post-)inflationary history

Thank you for your attention