

# Primordial Black Holes

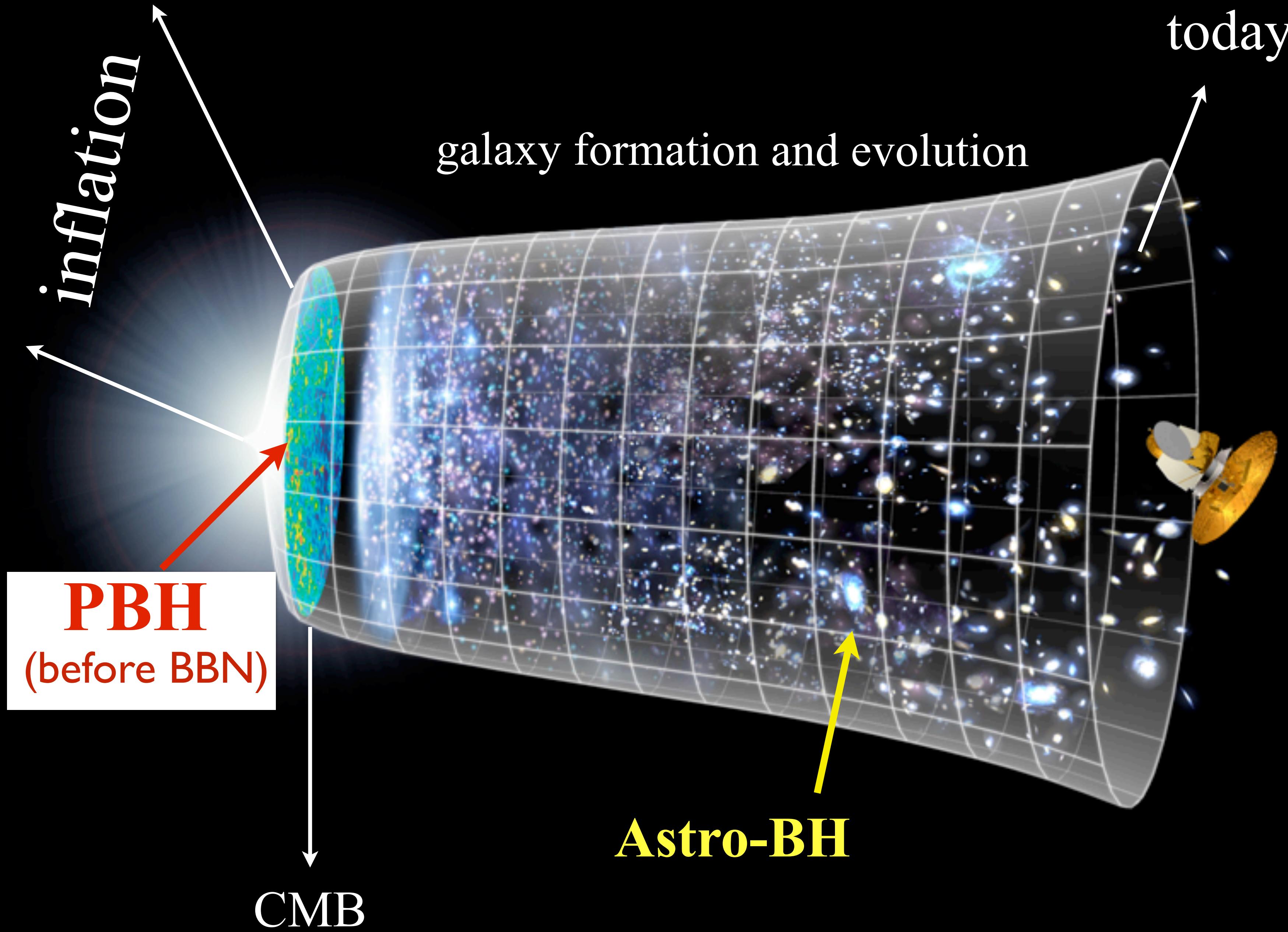
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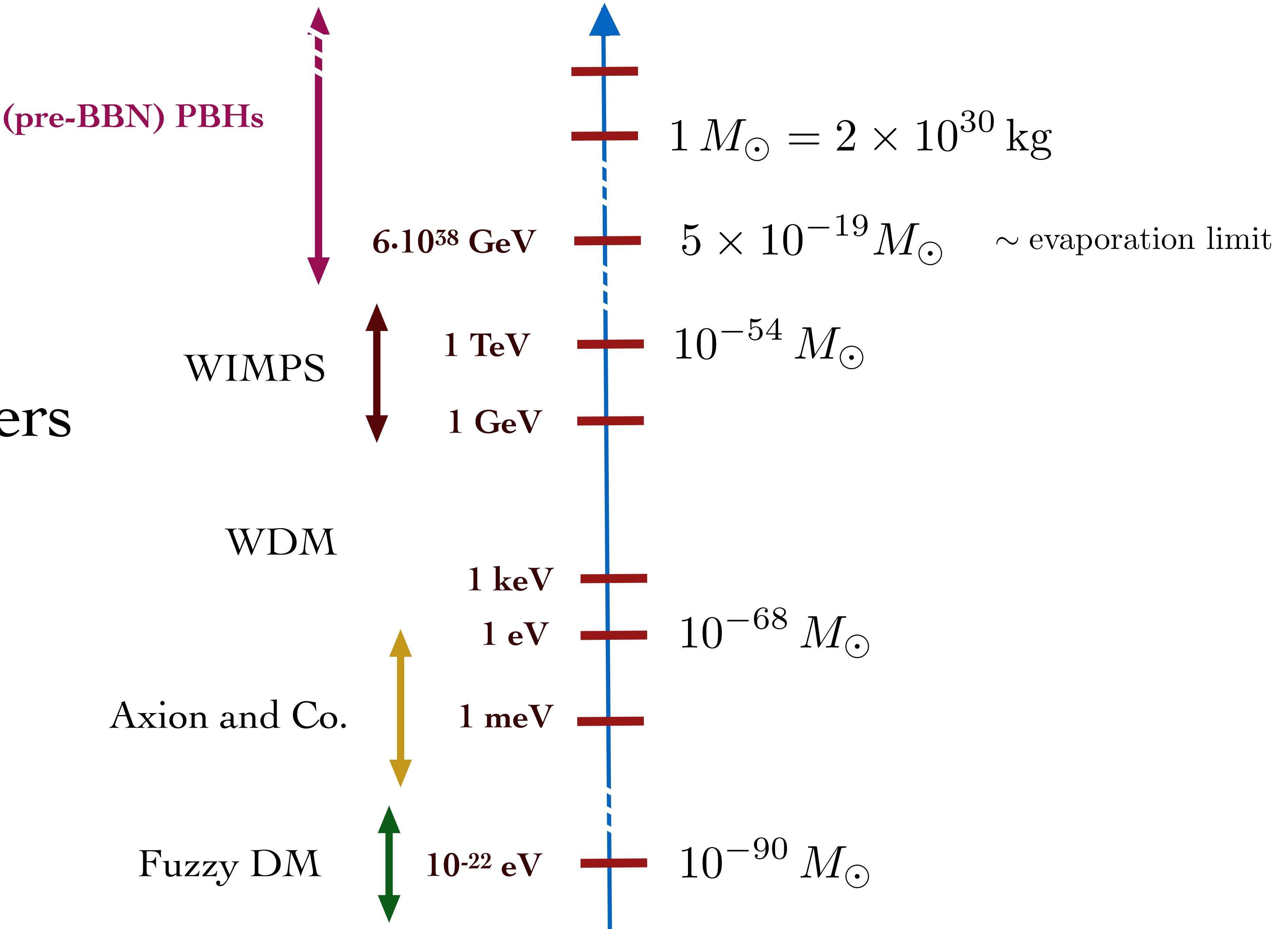
Adapted from NASA/WMAP Science Team

# Primordial black holes

Zeldovich and Novikov 1967, Hawking 1971, Hawking & Carr 1974, ...

- **Dark matter candidate**
- Reheat the universe after inflation
- Catalysts for particle dark matter or other BSM production
- Baryogenesis
- Seeds of supermassive black holes
- Possible BH merger outliers in LIGO/Virgo/Kagra
- Possible BH microlensing events
- PTA indications of a stochastic GW background
- Window into the early universe

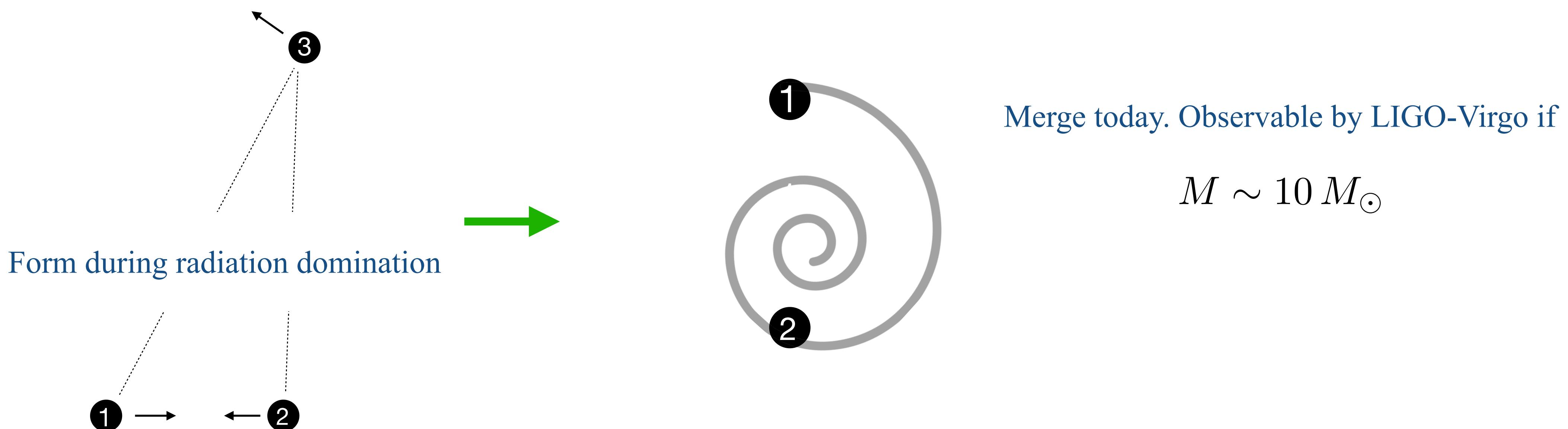
# Dark Matters



## PBHs and other dark matter candidates

- \* WIMPs: possibly largely incompatible (absence of annihilation signals)  
(e.g. Lacki+ 2018, Adamek+2019, Gaggero+2019)
- \* axions: no problem

- 2016: LIGO: merger with **~30 Solar masses BH**
- Did LIGO detect (THE) dark matter? (Bird et al 2016...)
- Most likely **NO**. Or at least, most likely not the main component of it.
- Two mechanisms to form PBHs binaries:
  - Late Universe (in dark matter halos)
  - Early Universe (before matter radiation equality). **Nakamura et al 1997**
- **MAX 0.1% – 1% of the DM in the range 1-100 Solar Masses**



binary BH mergers

100 Hz

Courtesy  
Caltech/MIT/LIGO Laboratory



$$M \uparrow r_s = \frac{2GM}{c^2}$$

$100 M_\odot$

300 km

$M_\odot$

3 km

$0.1 M_\odot$

0.3 km



100% of the  
Dark Matter  
possible  
asteroid  
mass  
window

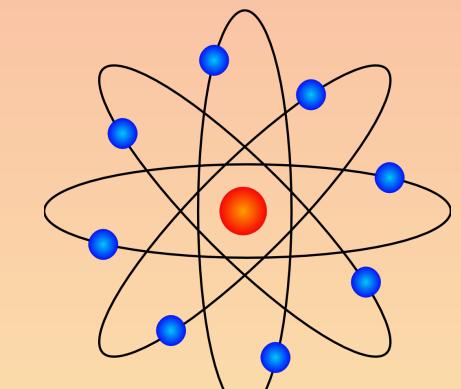
$10^{-12} M_\odot$

3 nm



$10^{-16} M_\odot$

$3 \times 10^{-4}$  nm

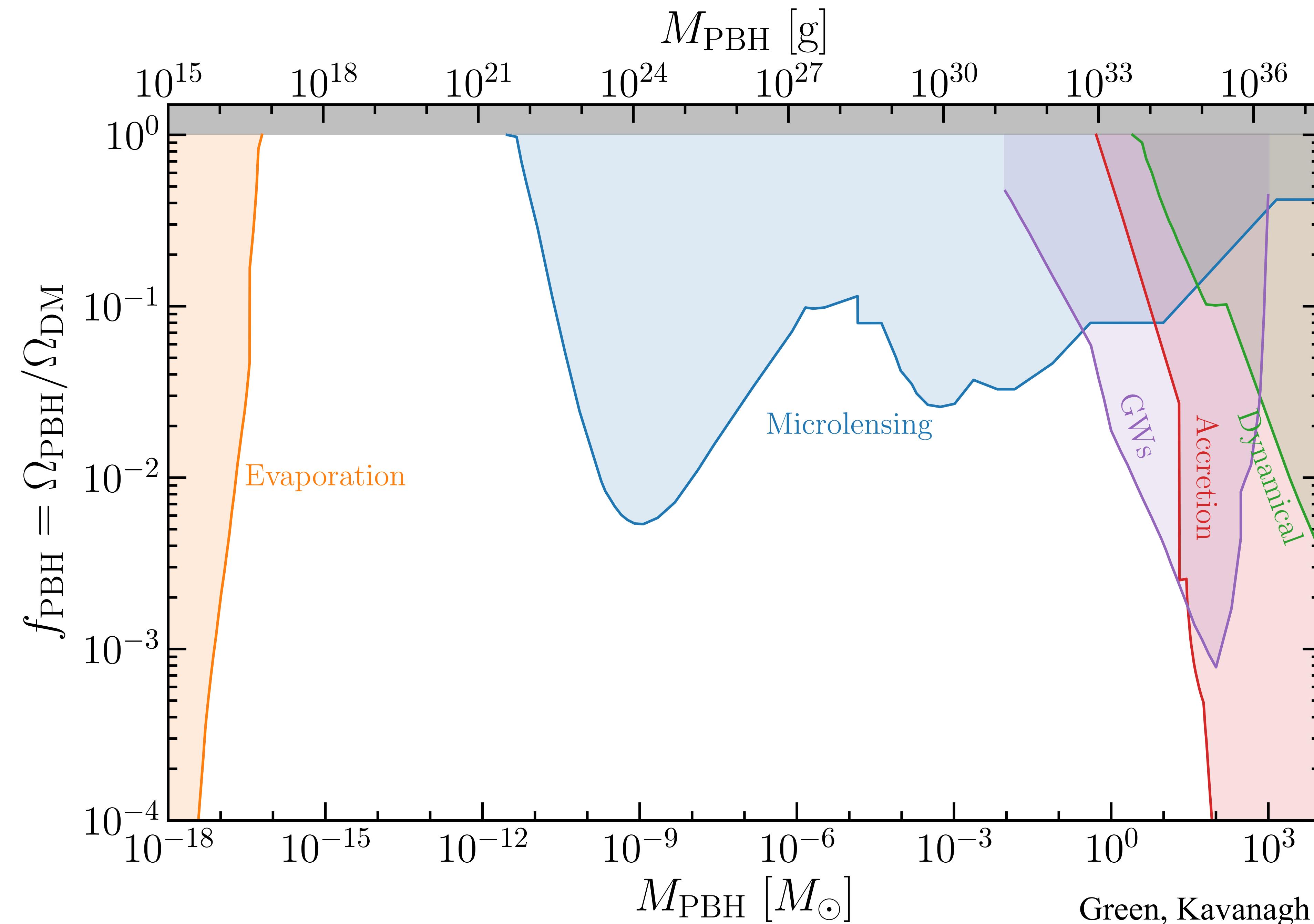


$\sim 0.1$  nm

PTA  $\sim$  nHz

Possible Stochastic  
GW backgrounds  
from inflation

0.03 Hz – 3 Hz  
e.g. LISA



# Evaporation by Hawking radiation

$$T = \frac{\hbar c^2}{8\pi G k_B M} = 6 \times 10^{-8} \frac{M_\odot}{M} K$$

Bound for  $M \lesssim 10^{17} g \simeq 5 \times 10^{-17} M_\odot$

Carr+ 2009

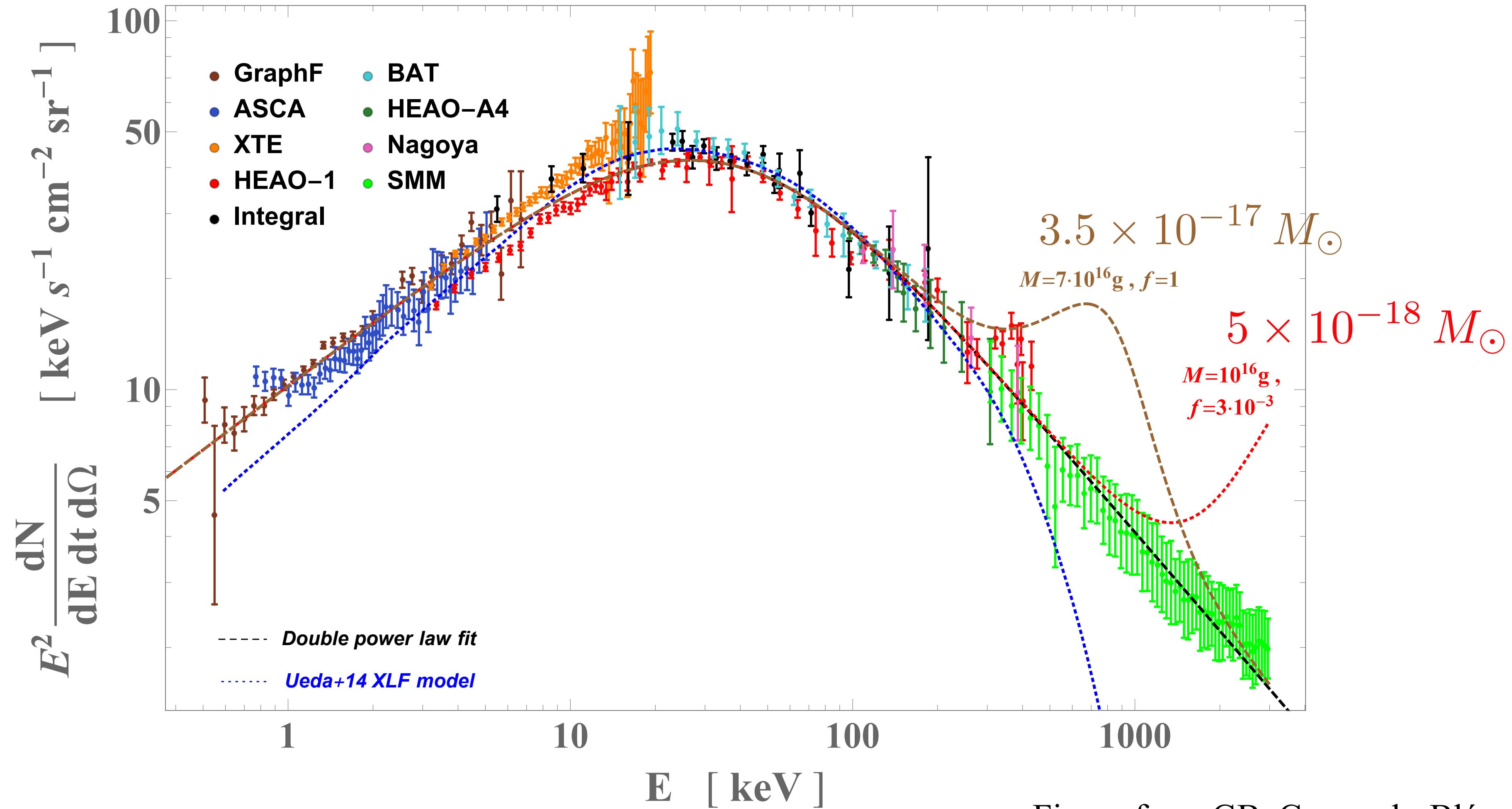


Figure from GB, Coronado-Blázquez, Gaggero, 2019

Situation before ~2019

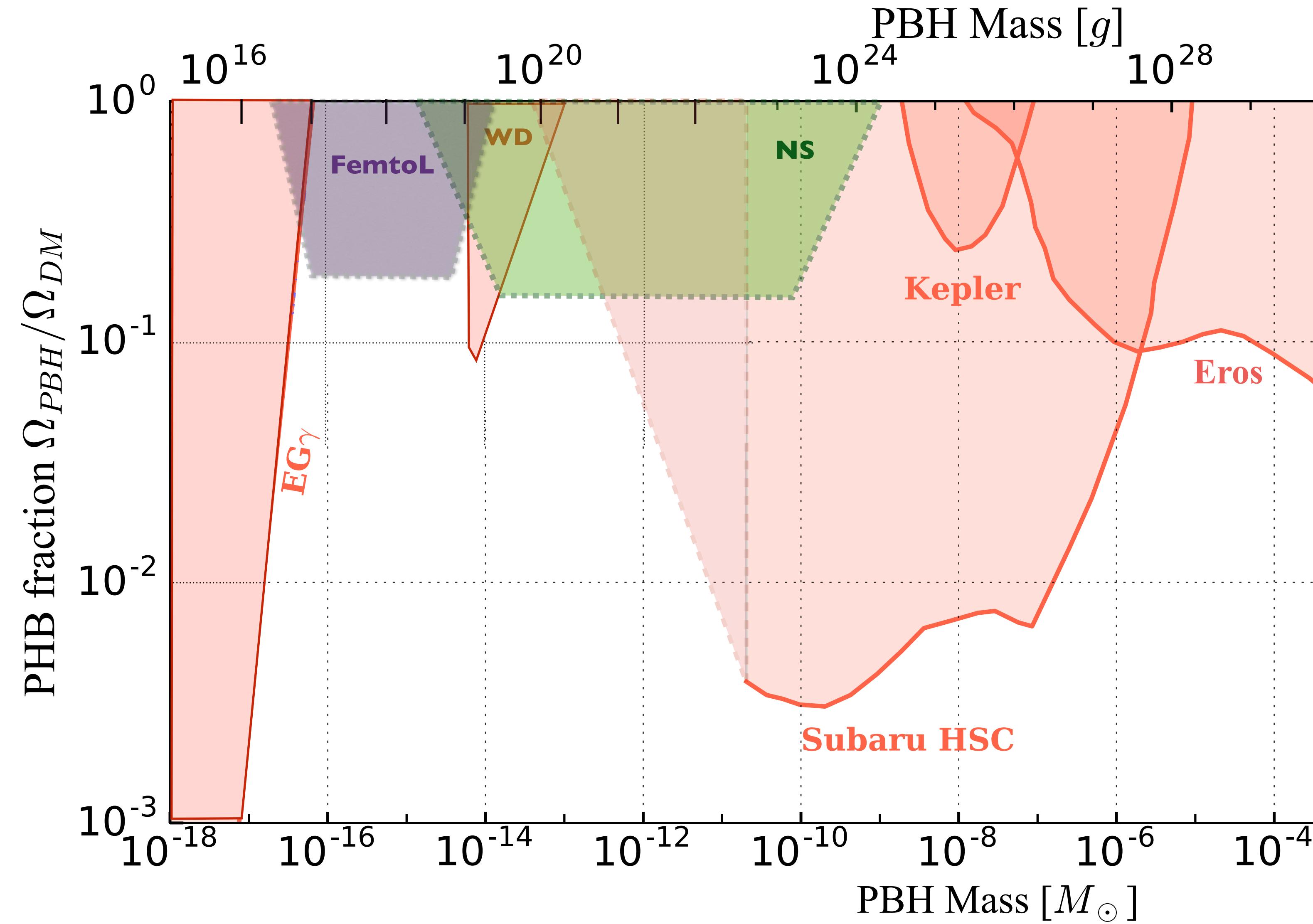


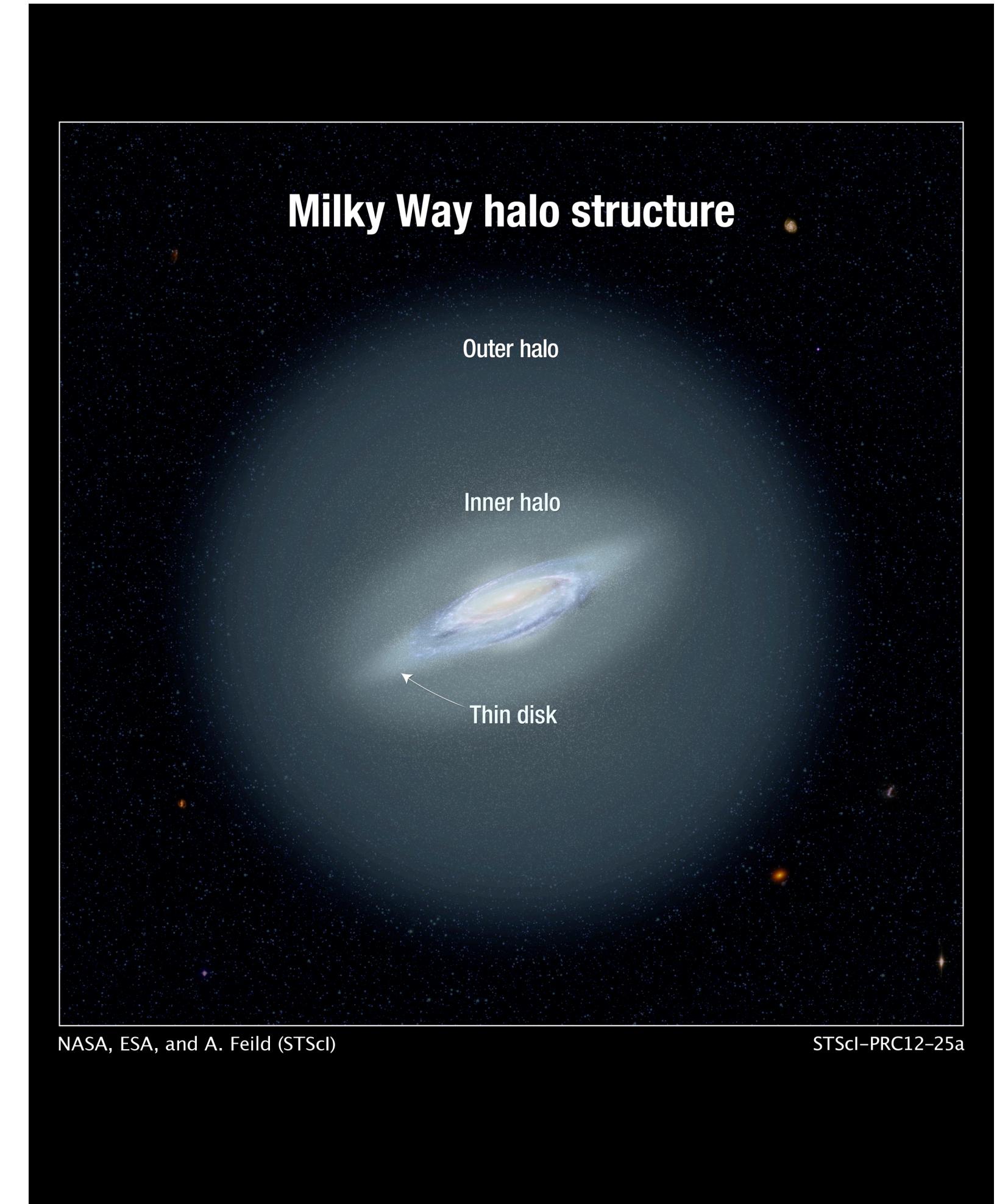
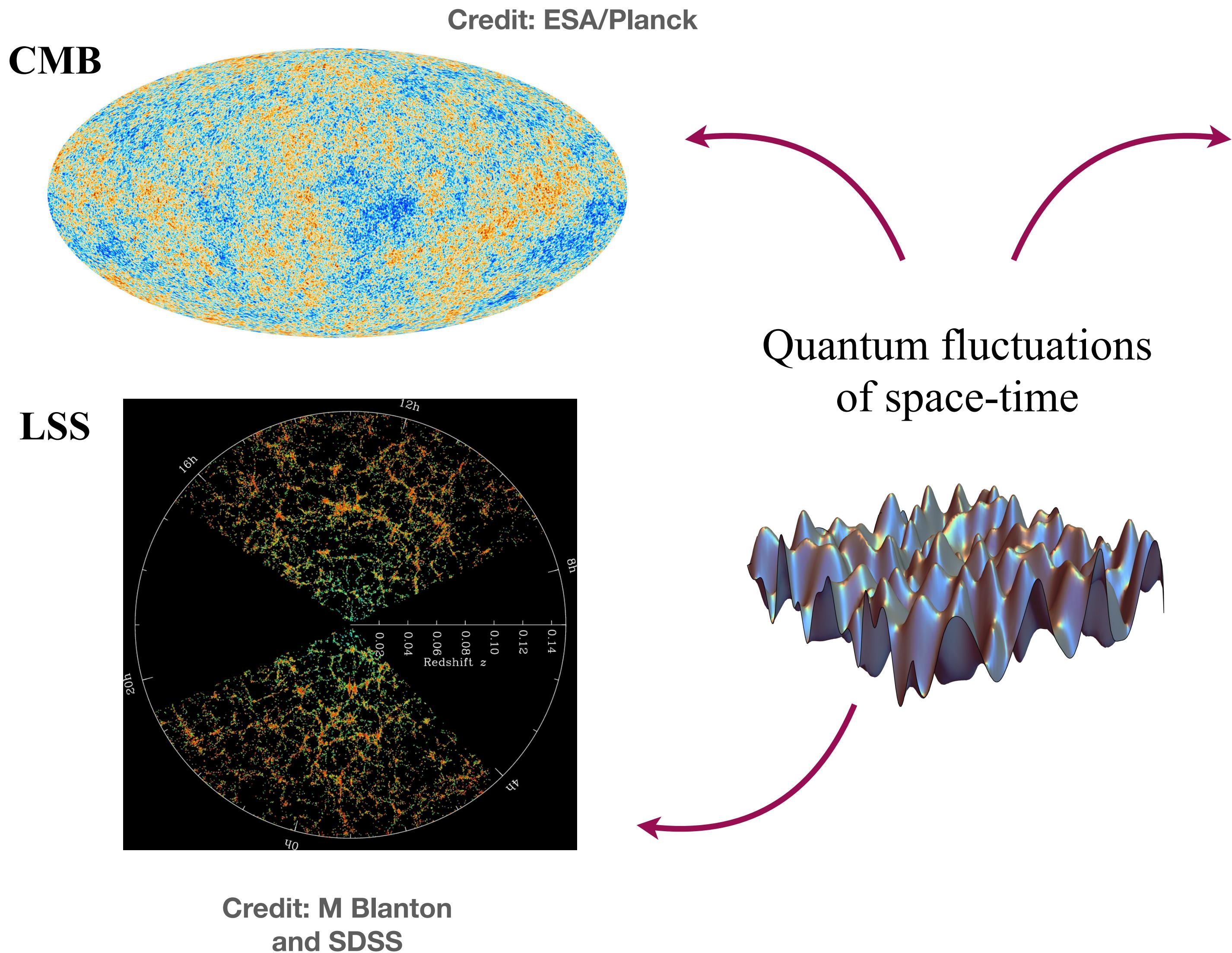
Figure from Katz et al. 2018  
(modified)

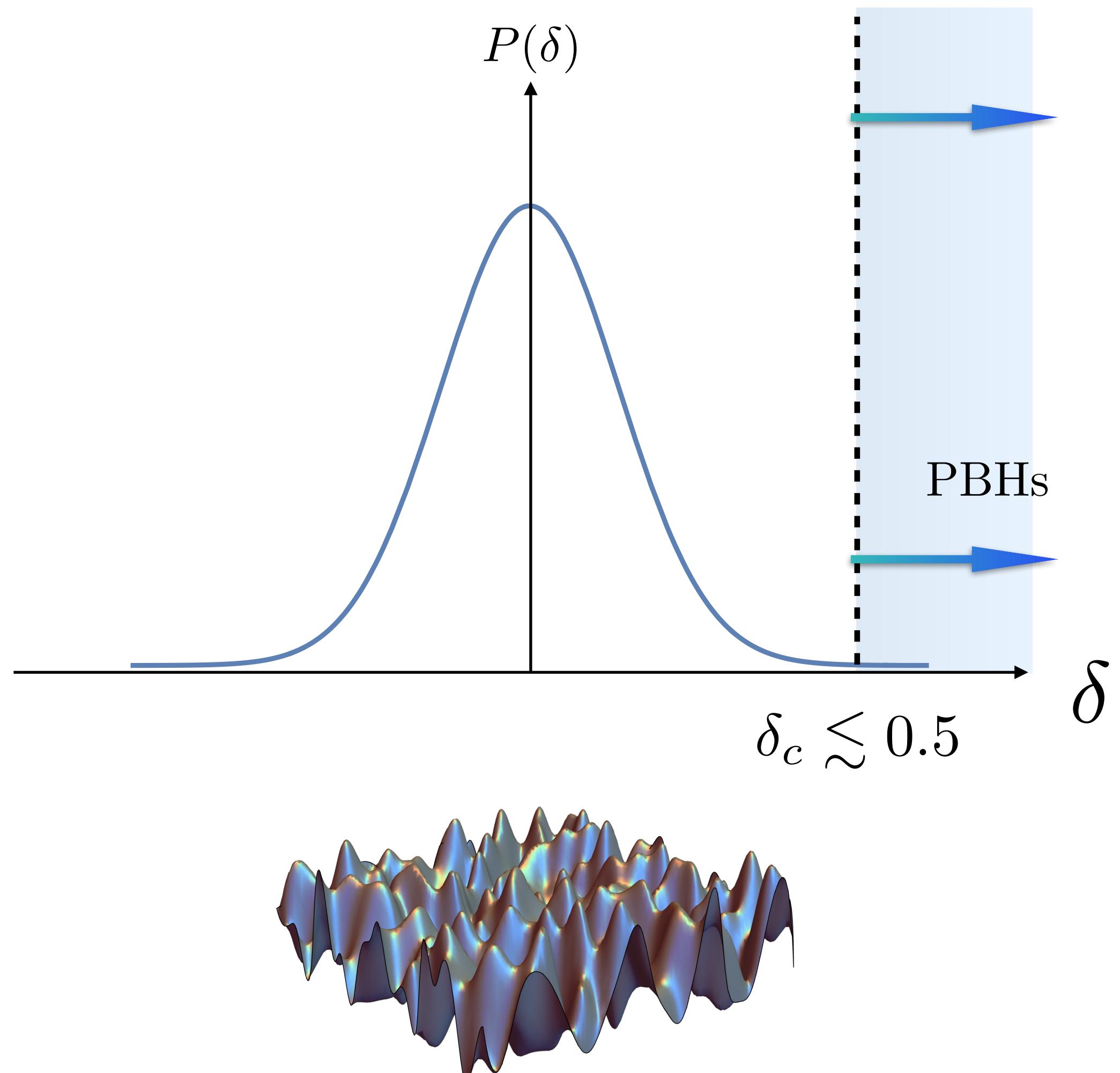
See also Montero-Camacho et al. 2019  
Smyth et al. 2019

# Mechanisms for PBH formation

- Large primordial fluctuations (inflation)
- Reheating after inflation
- 1st order phase transitions
- Collapse of topological defects
- False vacuum decay
- ...

# PBH dark matter (from inflation)





**Mass:**

$$M \sim 10^{-14} \left( \frac{10^{13} \text{ Mpc}^{-1}}{k} \right)^2 M_{\odot}$$

$$N_e \simeq 18 - \frac{1}{2} \log \frac{M}{M_{\odot}}$$

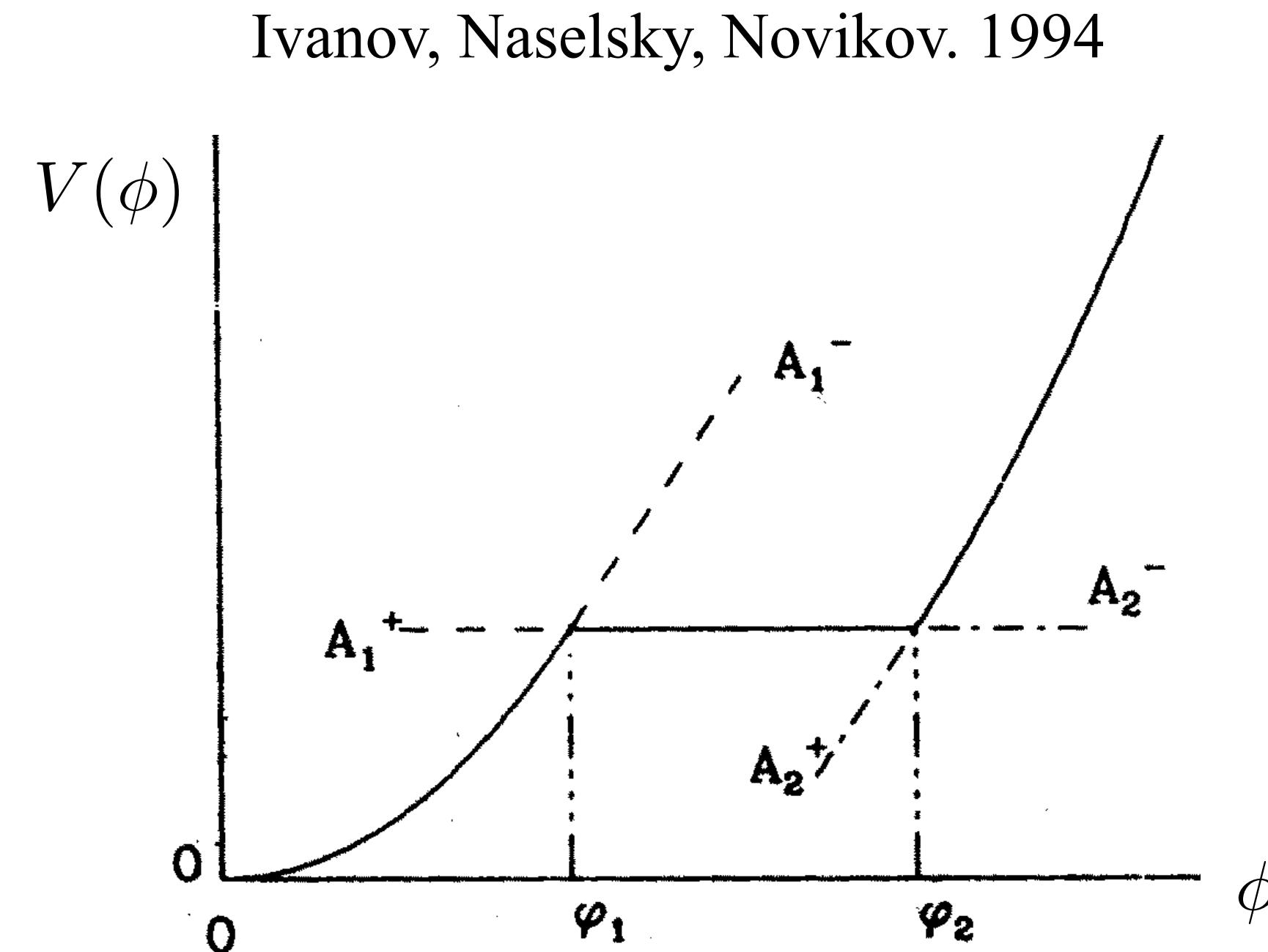
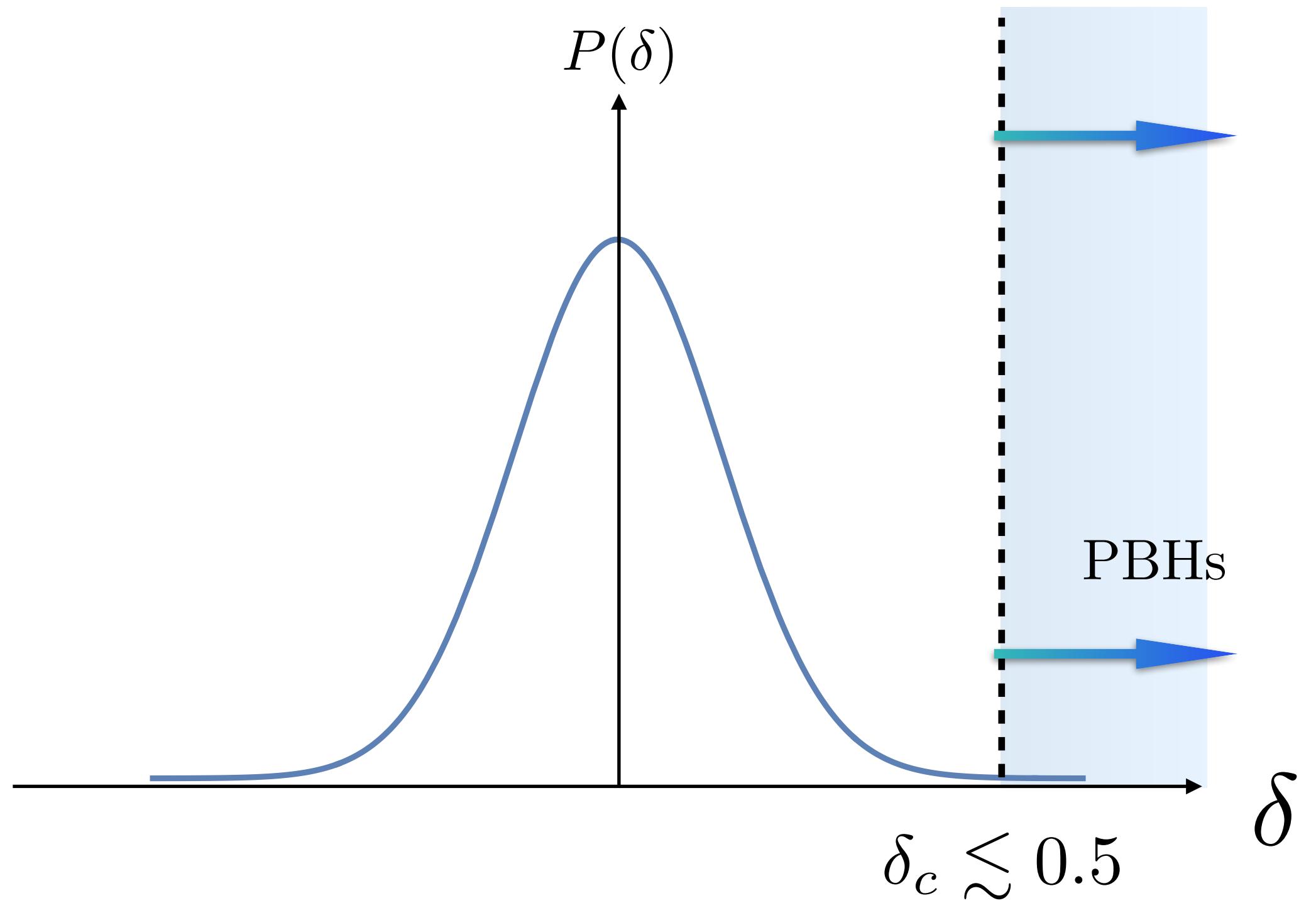
(for PBHs formed during radiation domination)

**Abundance (naive Gaussian estimate):**

$$f_{\text{PBH}} = \frac{\Omega_{\text{PBH}}}{\Omega_{\text{DM}}} \propto \int_{\delta_c}^{\infty} \exp \left( -\frac{\delta^2}{2\sigma^2} \right) d\delta$$

$$\sigma \sim \mathcal{P}_{\mathcal{R}} \sim 10^{-2} \implies \frac{\Omega_{\text{PBH}}}{\Omega_{\text{DM}}} \sim 1$$

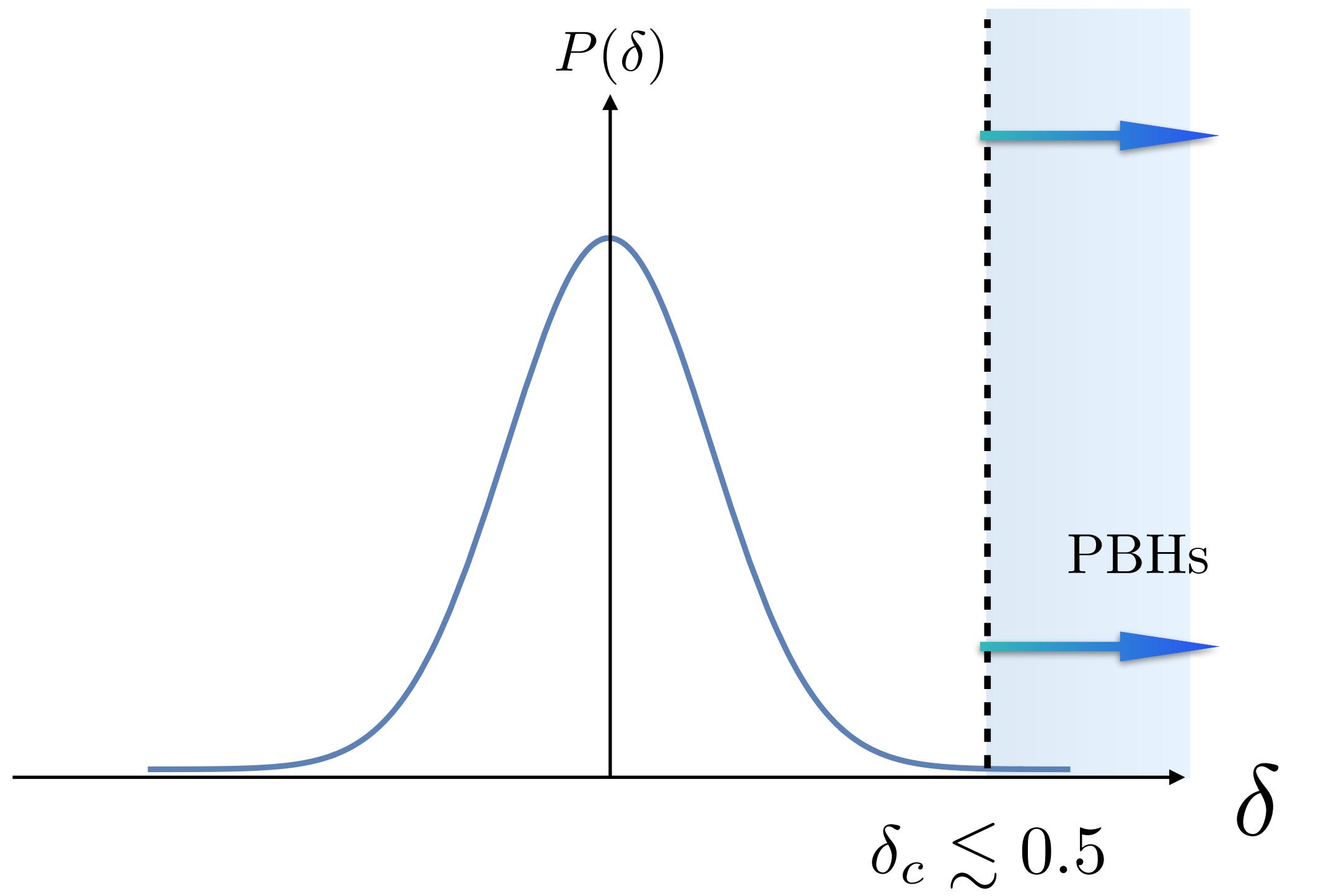
## Inflation and primordial black holes as dark matter



$$\mathcal{P}_{\mathcal{R}} \sim \left(\frac{H}{m_P}\right)^2 \left(\frac{H}{\dot{\phi}}\right)^2 \sim \frac{1}{m_P^2} \left(\frac{V}{V'}\right)^2 \frac{V}{m_P^4}$$

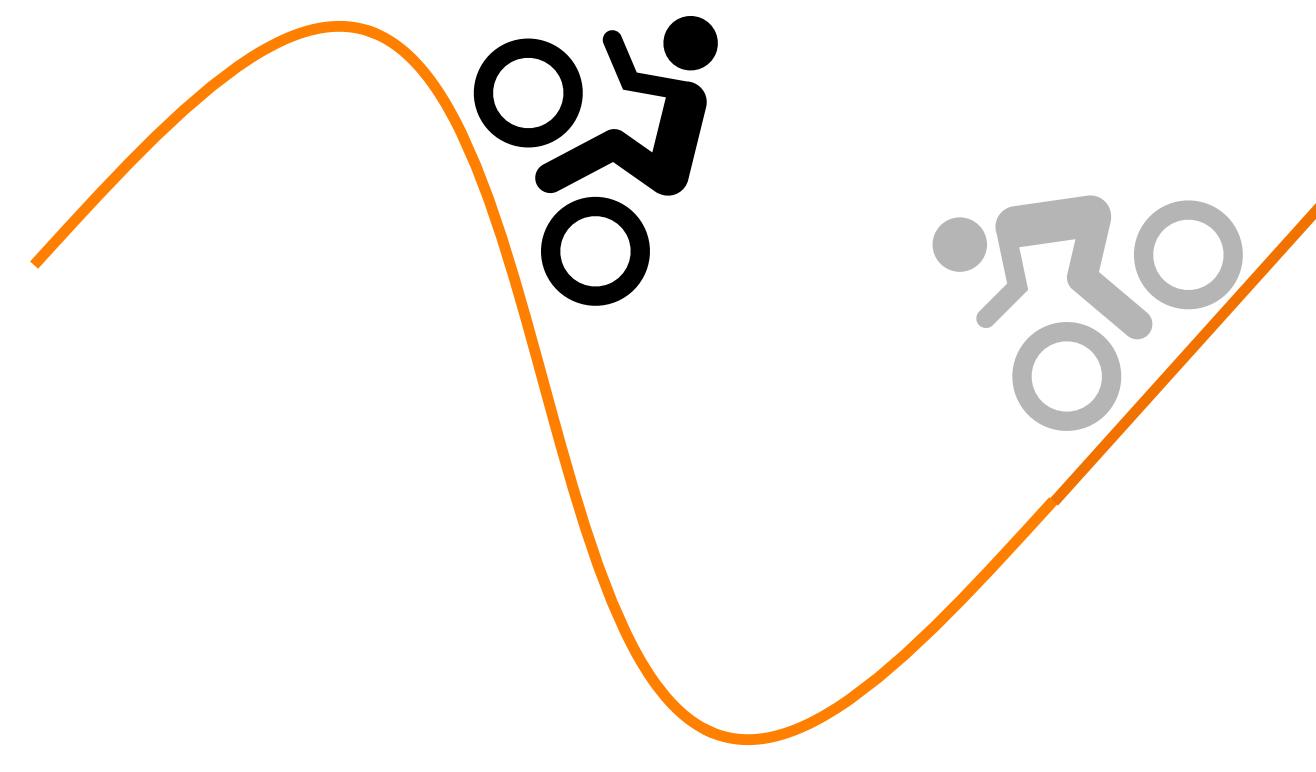
$$V(\phi) = \begin{cases} V_0 + A_+(\phi - \phi_0) & \text{for } \phi > \phi_0 \\ V_0 + A_-(\phi - \phi_0) & \text{for } \phi < \phi_0 \end{cases}$$

Starobinsky 1994



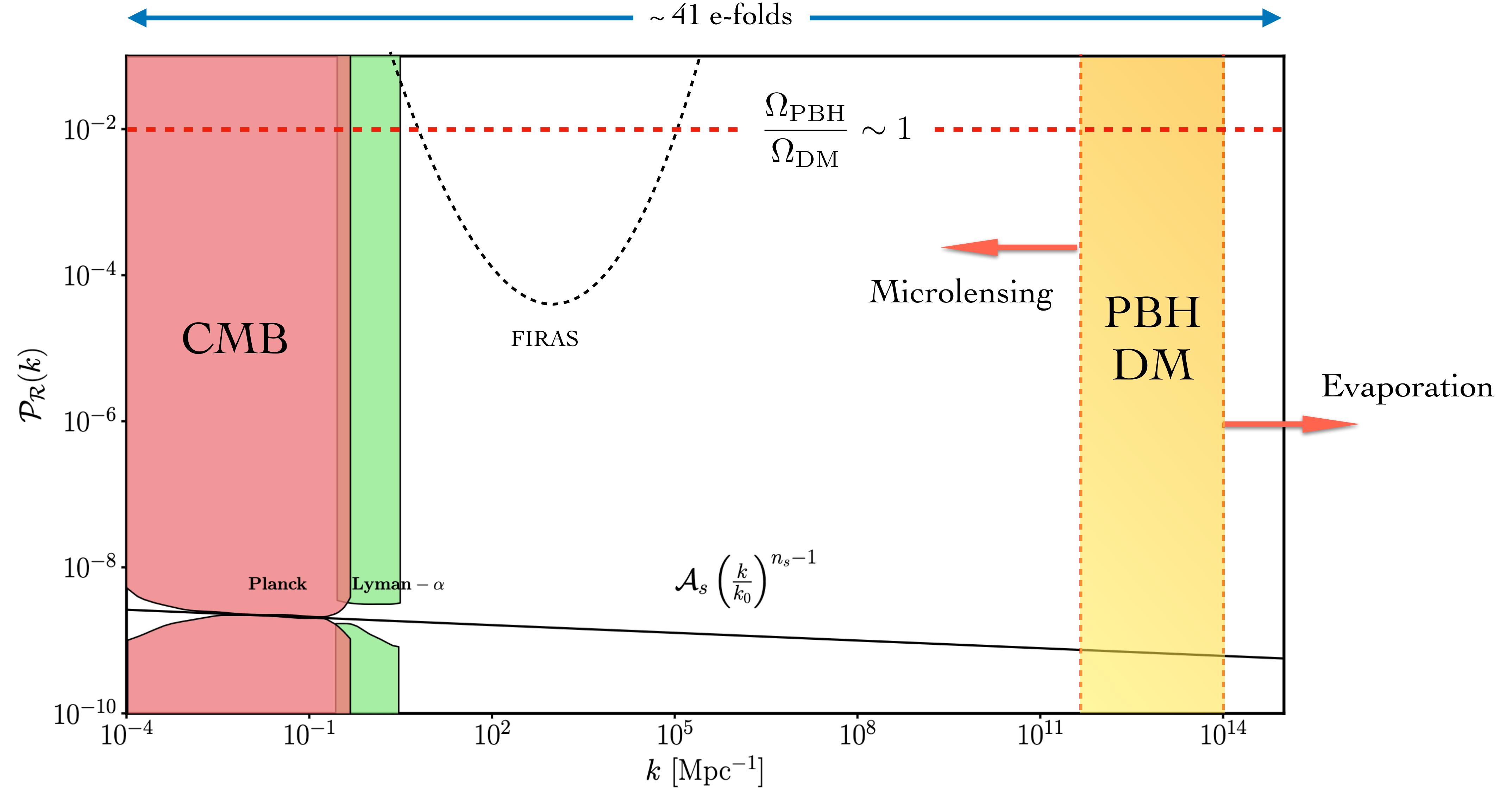
Ultra Slow-Roll (USR)

$$\ddot{\phi} + 3H\dot{\phi} \simeq 0$$



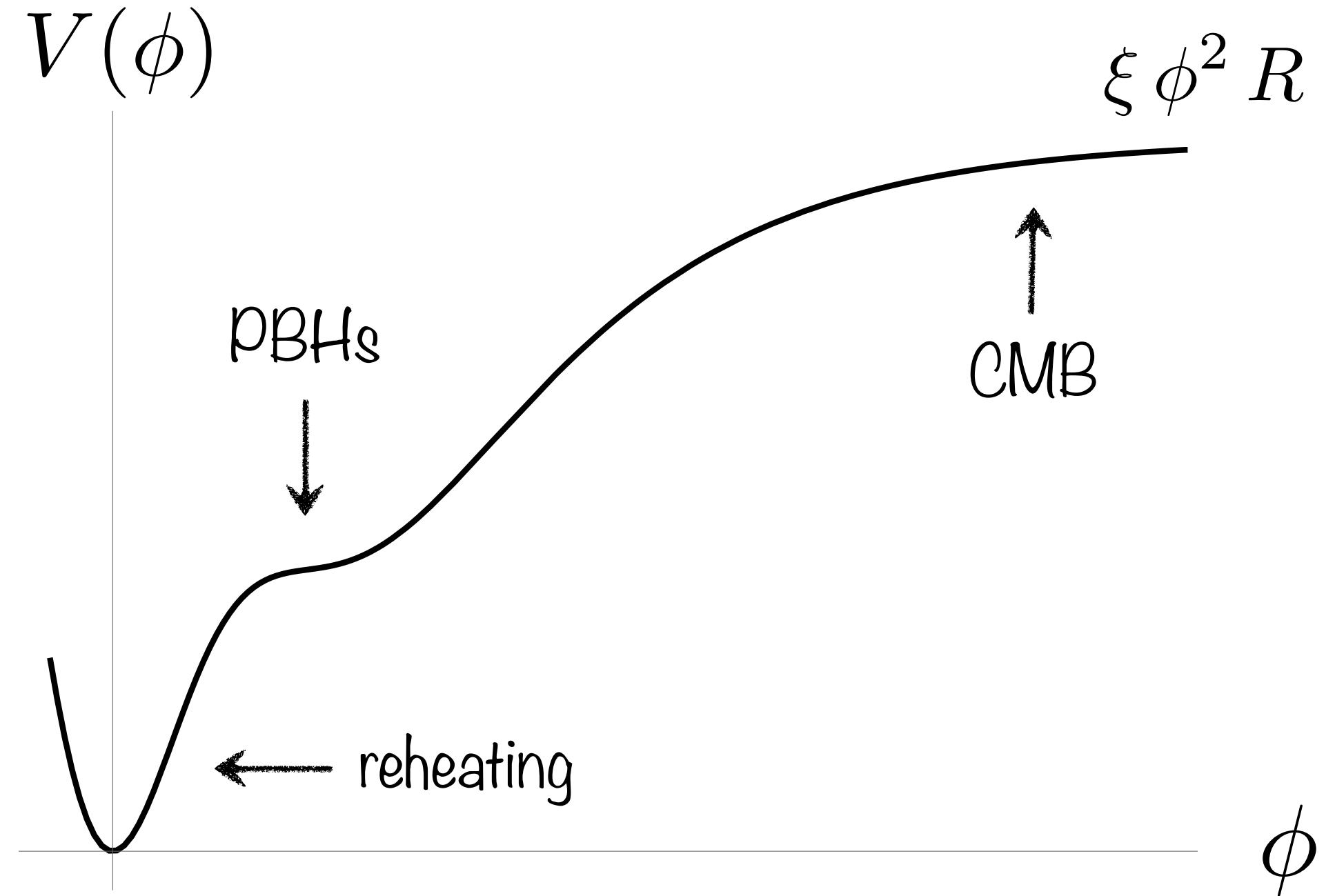
$$\mathcal{P}_{\mathcal{R}} \sim \left(\frac{H}{m_P}\right)^2 \left(\frac{H}{\dot{\phi}}\right)^2 \sim \frac{1}{m_P^2} \left(\frac{V}{V'}\right)^2 \frac{V}{m_P^4}$$

$$\eta \sim \frac{\ddot{\phi}}{\dot{\phi} H} \sim -3$$



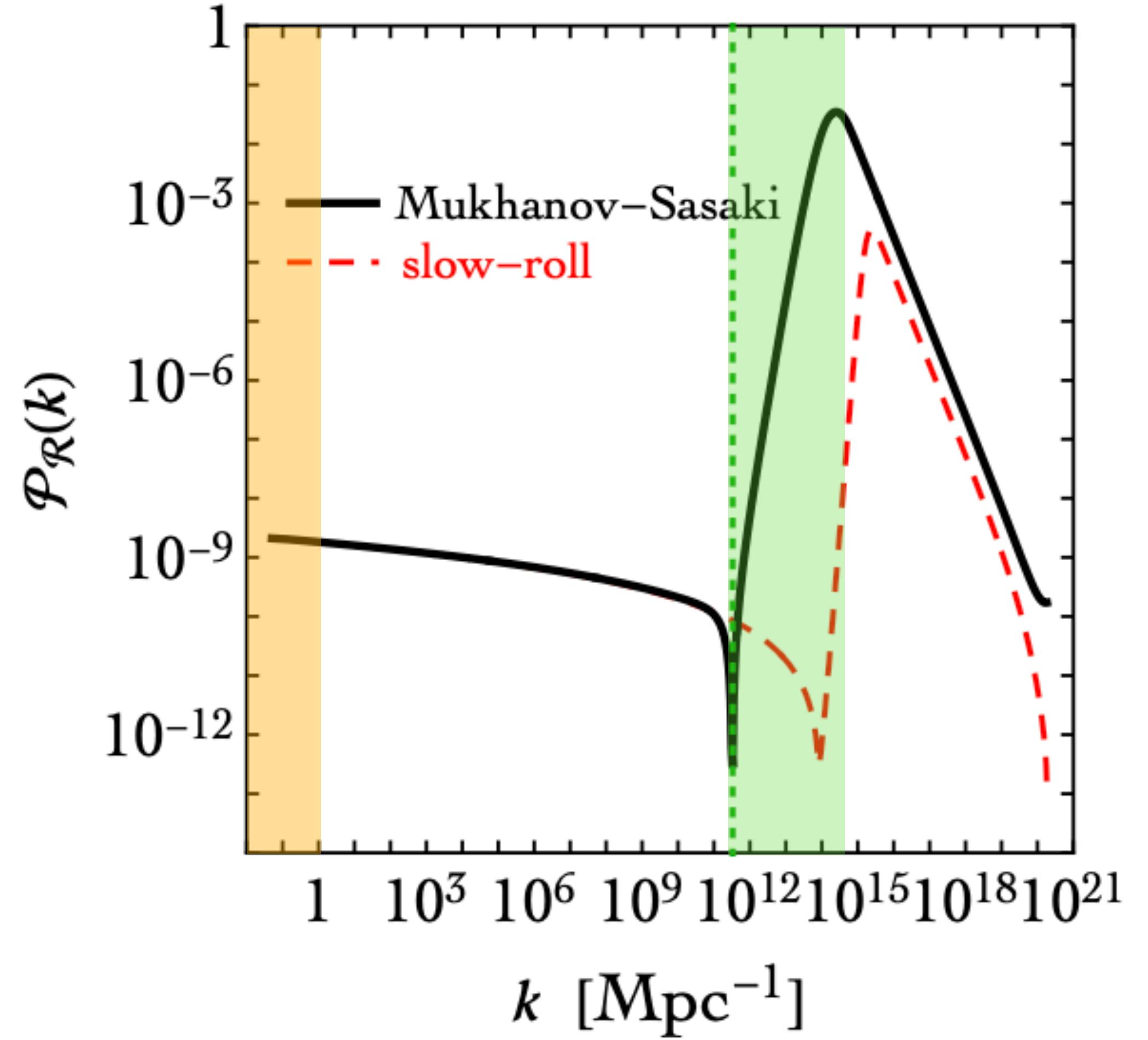
+ enough inflation & successful reheating

Franco-Abellán, EUCAPT symposium 2023 (modified)



$$V = \sum_{n=2}^{4+\epsilon \mathcal{O}(5)} a_n \phi^n$$

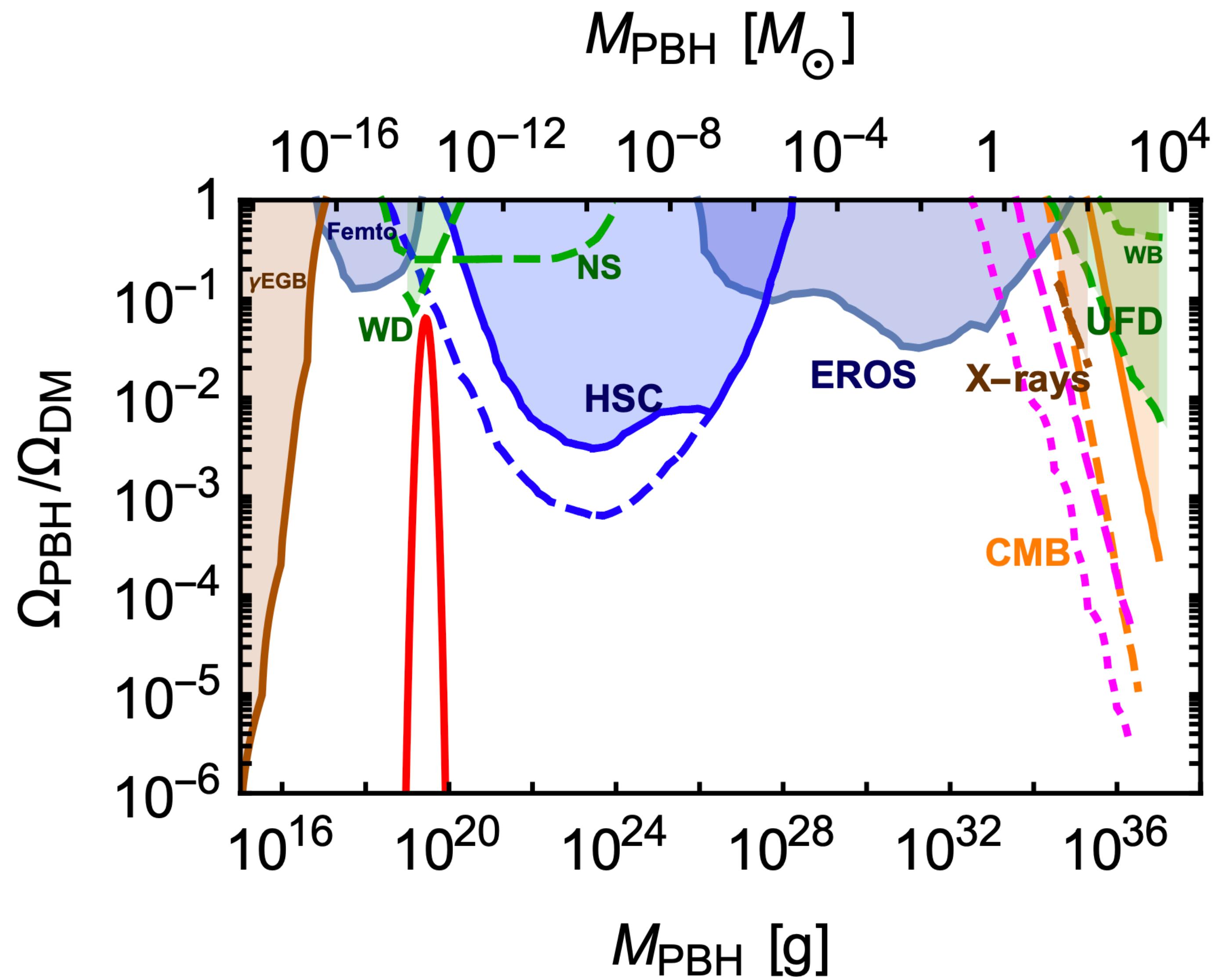
$$\frac{V(\phi)}{\phi^4} = \lambda(\phi_0) + \frac{1}{2}\beta_\lambda(\phi_0) \log \frac{\phi^2}{\phi_0^2} + \frac{1}{8}\beta'_\lambda(\phi_0) \left( \log \frac{\phi^2}{\phi_0^2} \right)^2 + \dots$$



GB, Taoso 2017  
GB, Rey, Taoso, Urbano 2020

- Enough inflation
- Agreement with the CMB  
(  $n_s$  within  $3\sigma$  )
- $\frac{\Omega_{\text{PBH}}}{\Omega_{\text{DM}}} \sim 1$  (Gaussian, RD)

$$10^{-16} M_\odot \leftrightarrow 10^{-12} M_\odot$$

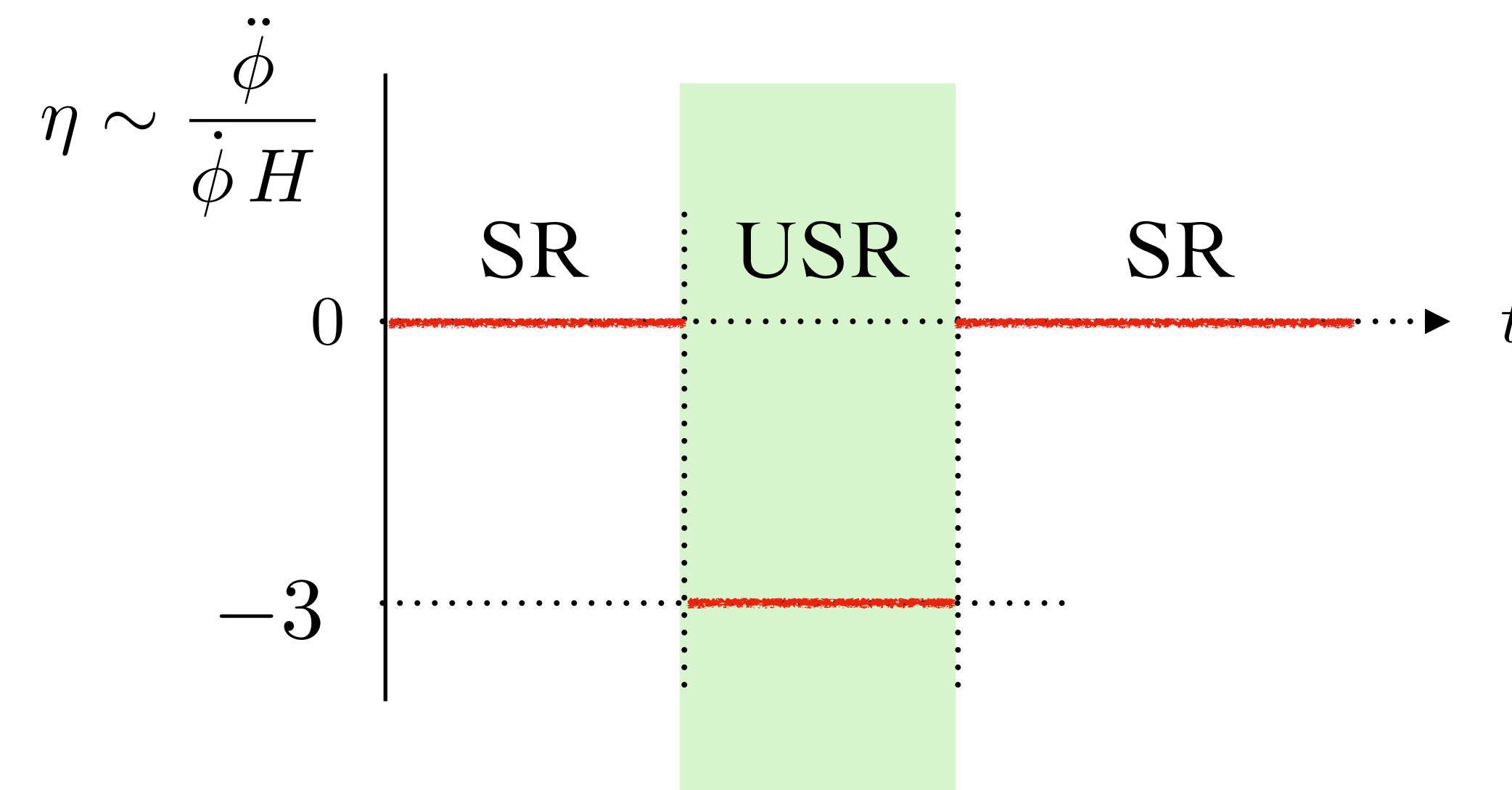


# Breakdown of perturbation theory in USR inflation?

Claim: *a large enough tree-level primordial spectrum for PBH DM implies perturbation theory breaks at CMB scales.*

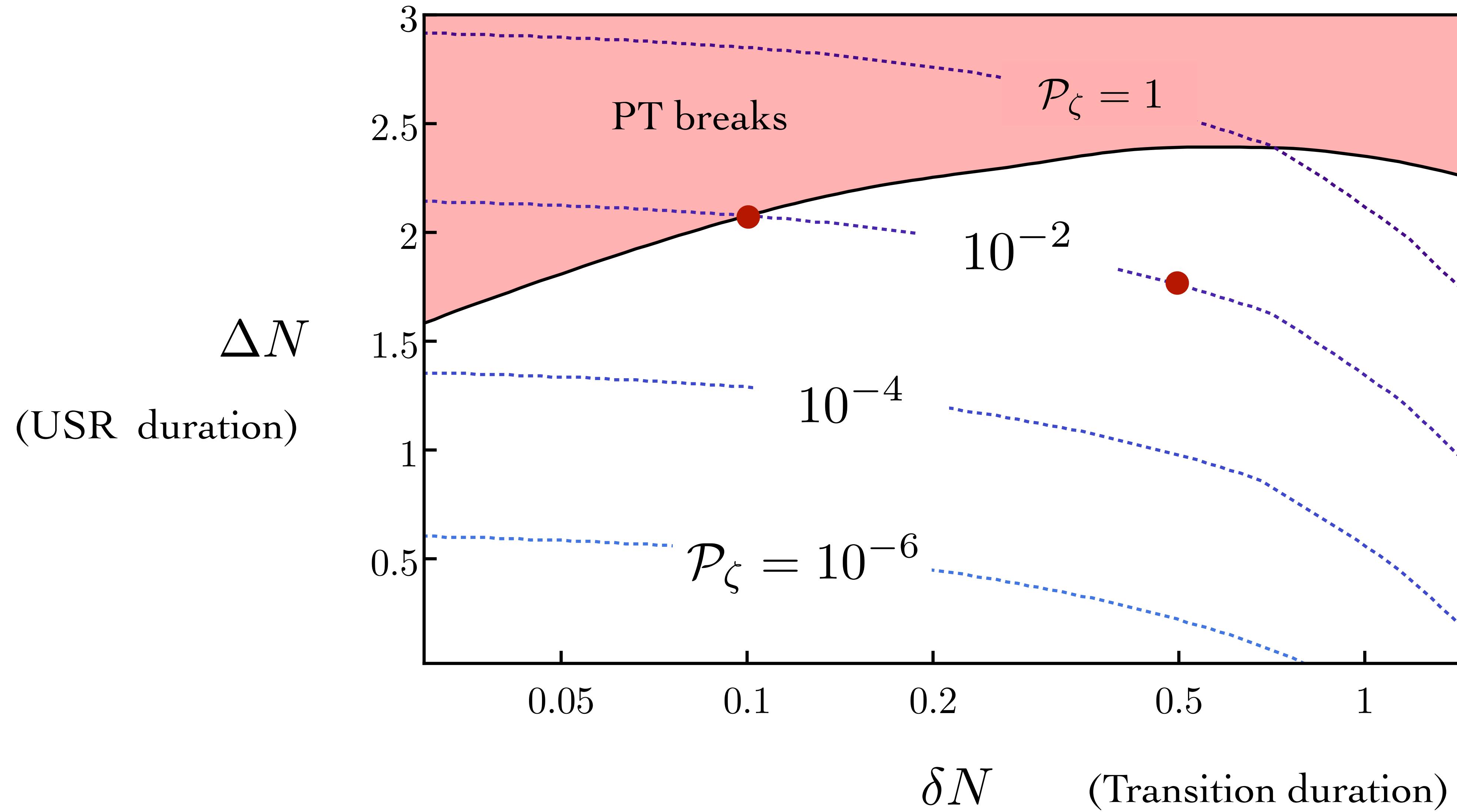
Kristiano and Yokoyama, 2022 & 2023

Toy model: SR  $\rightarrow$  USR  $\rightarrow$  SR (with sharp transitions)



$$\mathcal{P}_\zeta \ll \frac{1}{(\Delta\eta)^2} \simeq 0.03$$

(for perturbation theory to hold)



## Other mechanisms to form PBH

- ＊ Single-field inflation other than USR
- ＊ Transient Dissipation during inflation



## Single-field inflation other than USR

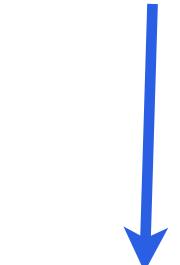
$$\mathcal{S} = \int d^4x M \frac{a^3 \epsilon}{c_s^2} \left( \dot{\mathcal{R}}^2 - \frac{c_s^2}{a^2} |\nabla \mathcal{R}|^2 \right)$$

$$\mathcal{R} \simeq C_1 + C_2 \int \frac{c_s^2}{a^3 M^2 \epsilon H} dN$$

Rate of change of  $\epsilon$

$$\frac{d\mathcal{R}}{dN} \propto \exp \left[ - \int (3 + \epsilon - 2\eta - 2s + \mu) \right] dN$$

Rate of change of  $c_s$



Rate of change of  $M$



## (Transient) Dissipation during inflation

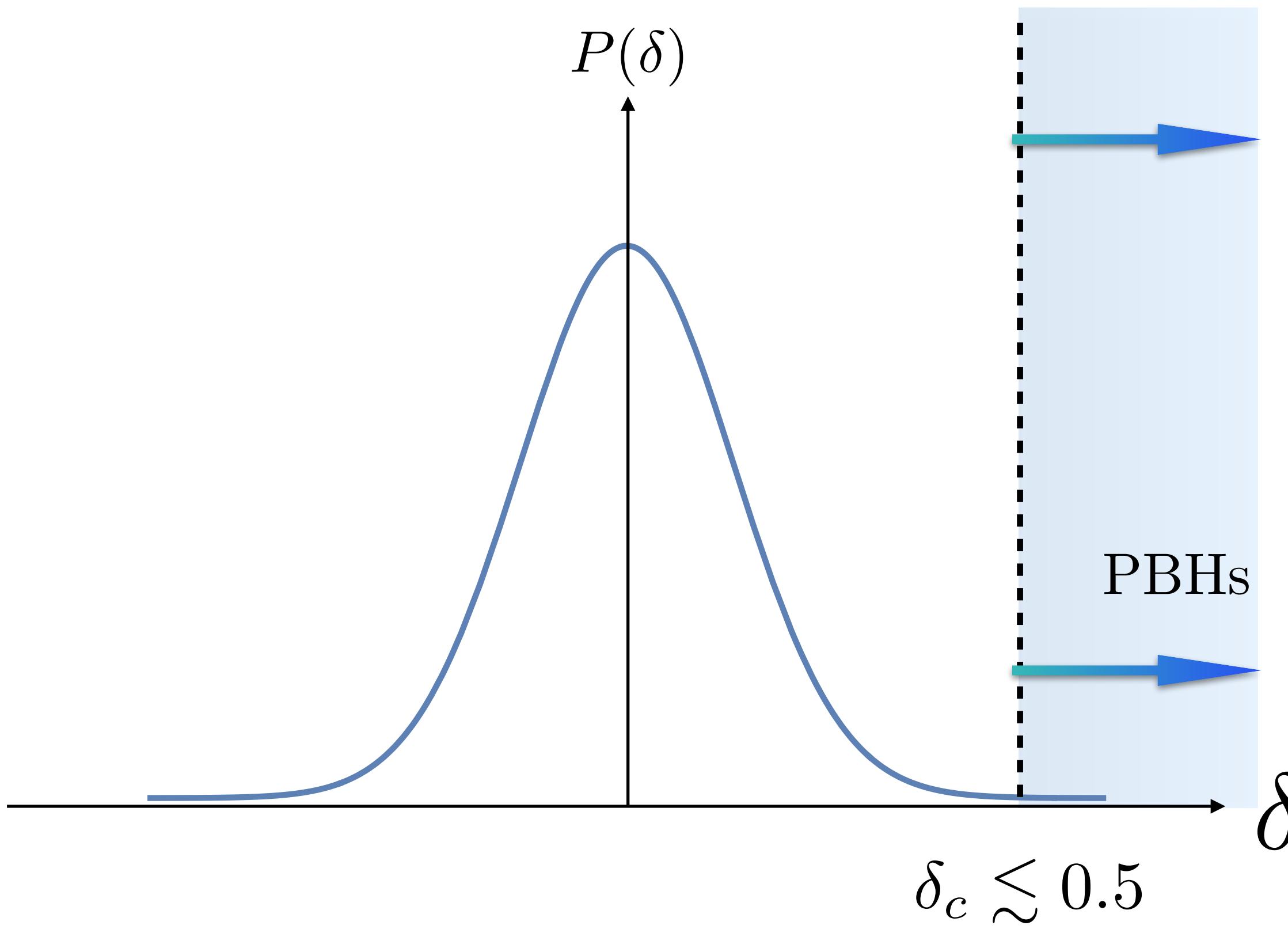
Background:  $\ddot{\phi} + (3H + \Gamma)\dot{\phi} + V' = 0$

Fluctuations  
(schematically):

$$\delta\ddot{\phi}_{\mathbf{k}} + (3H + \Gamma)\delta\dot{\phi}_{\mathbf{k}} + \left( \frac{k^2}{a^2} + \dot{\phi}\Gamma_{\phi} \right) \delta\phi_{\mathbf{k}} \propto \sqrt{\frac{2\Gamma T}{a^3}} \xi_{\mathbf{k}}(t)$$

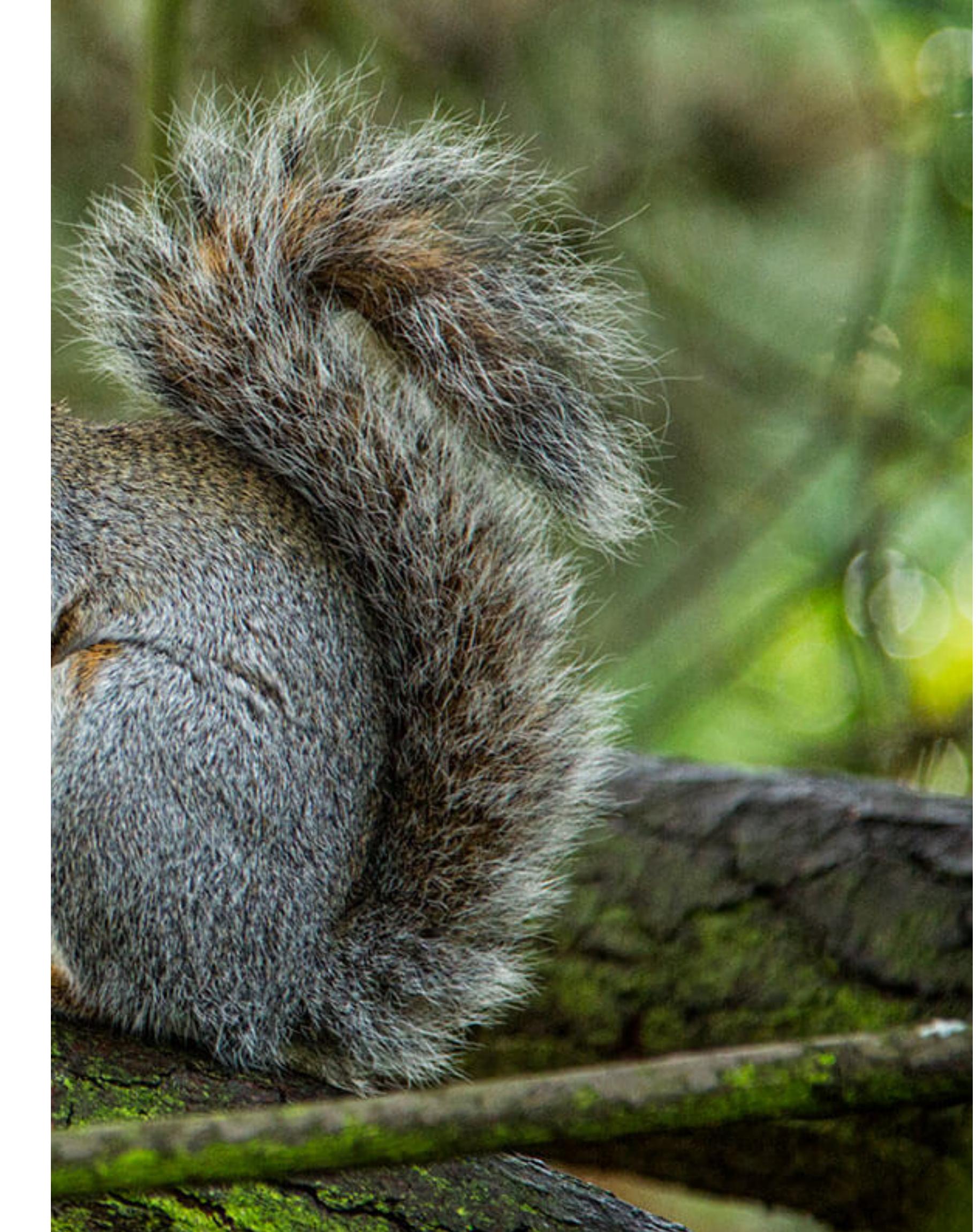
(Stochastic thermal noise)

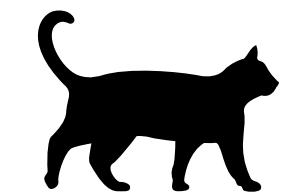
# The problem of the abundance



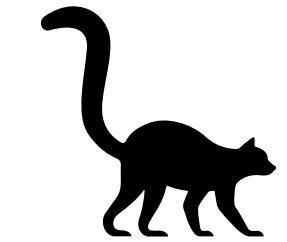
$$\frac{\Omega_{\text{PBH}}}{\Omega_{\text{DM}}} = \int_{\delta_c}^{\infty} f(\delta) d\delta$$

# How does the tail of the PDF look like?





The relation between  $\zeta$  and  $\delta$  is non-linear



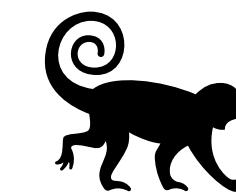
$\zeta$  is, in general, intrinsically non-gaussian



The abundance may require more than an integral

$$f(\delta) \sim \exp\left(-\frac{\zeta}{2\mathcal{P}_\zeta} + \frac{\langle\zeta\zeta\zeta\rangle}{\mathcal{P}_\zeta^3}\zeta^3 + \dots\right)$$

Small corrections for small  $\zeta$



Several indications of non-gaussian tails, for large  $\zeta$

Non-linear saddle point for  $\dot{\zeta}^4$

Celoria, Creminelli, Tambalo, Yingcharoenrat 2021

USR {	Stochastic inflation, numerically	Figueroa, Raatikainen, Rasanen, Tomberg 2020
	Stochastic $\delta N$ formalism	Pattison, Vennin, Wands, Assadullahi 2021

$$\frac{\dot{\phi}}{H} \gg \frac{H}{2\pi} \quad \xrightarrow{\text{blue arrow}} \quad \mathcal{P}_\zeta \ll 1 \quad \text{Quantum diffusion?}$$

Non-Gaussian tails in the PDF of curvature perturbations arise in USR inflation without invoking stochastic inflation.

GB, Konstandin, Pérez Rodríguez, Pierre, Rey 2024

# Gravitational wave signatures of PBH DM

- \* Second order induced gravitational waves
- \* Gravitational wave emission from PBH mergers

## \* Second-order induced gravitational waves

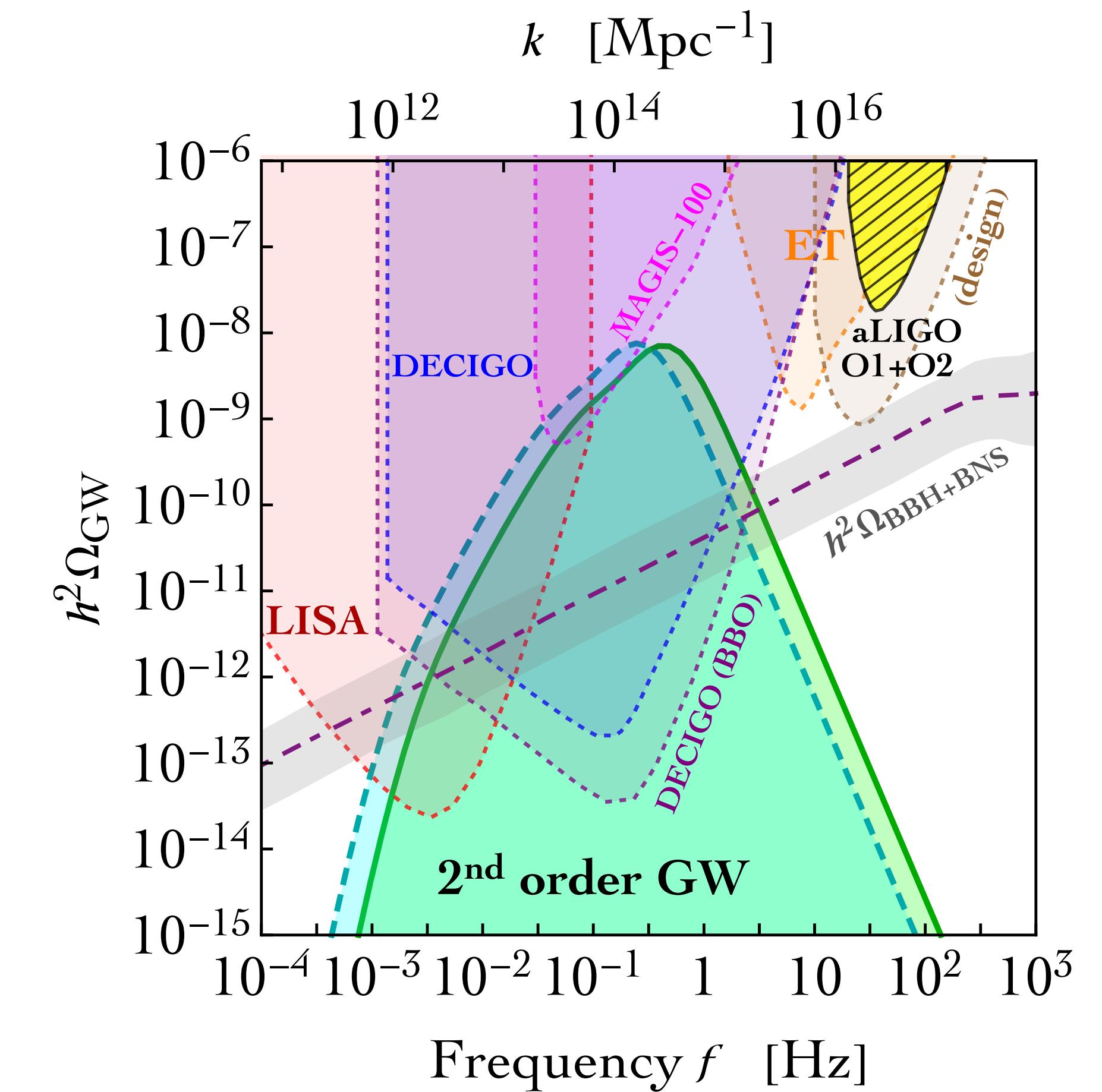
$$h''_{ij} + 2 \frac{H'}{h} h_{ij} - \nabla^2 h_{ij} = S_{ij} \sim \partial_i \mathcal{R} \partial_j \mathcal{R} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \Omega_{\text{GW}} \sim \mathcal{P}_h \sim (\mathcal{P}_{\mathcal{R}})^2$$

$$\left( \frac{M_{\text{PBH}}}{10^{17} \text{ g}} \right)^{-1/2} \sim \frac{k}{2 \cdot 10^{14} \text{ Mpc}^{-1}} \sim \frac{f}{0.3 \text{ Hz}}$$

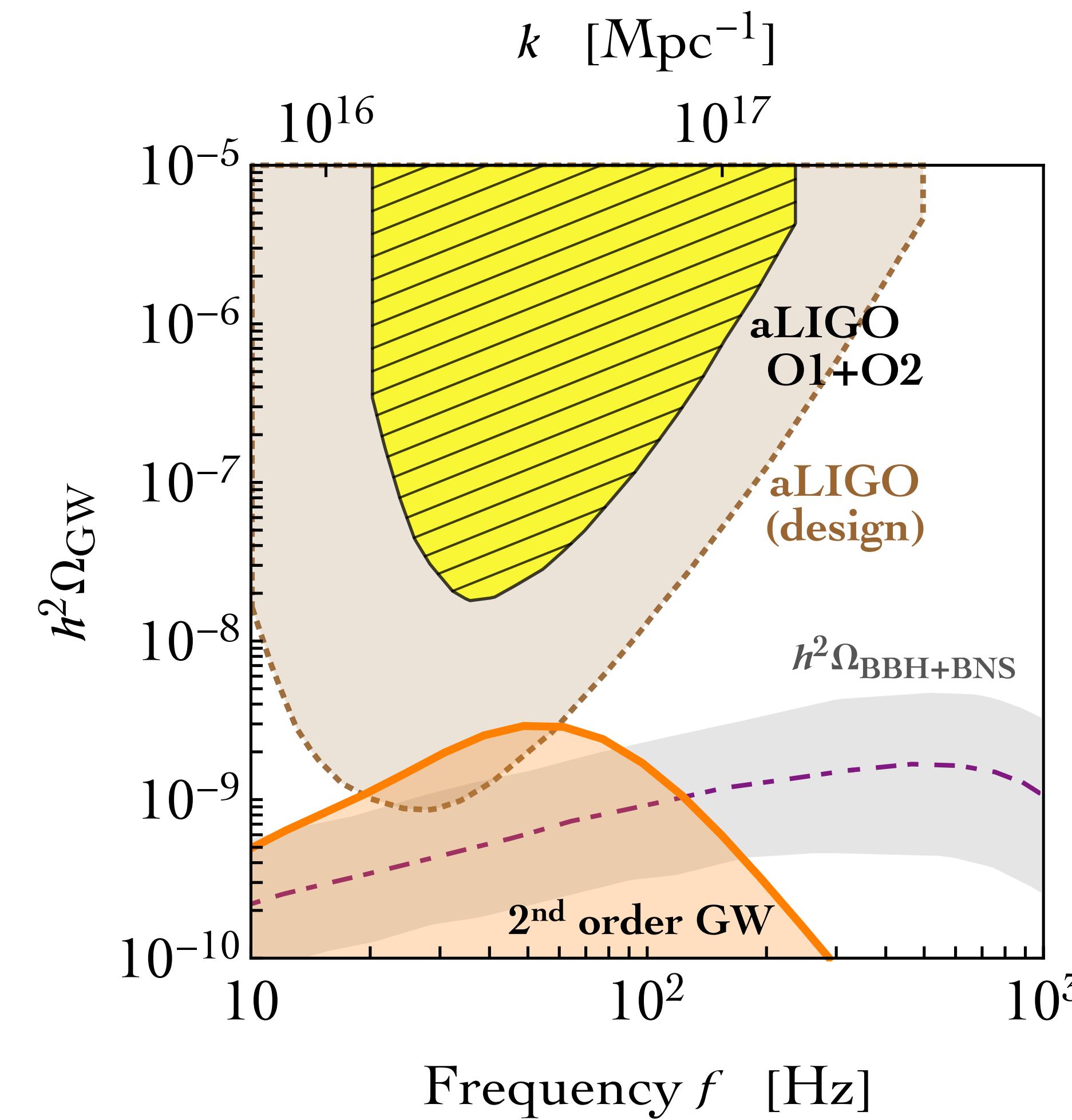
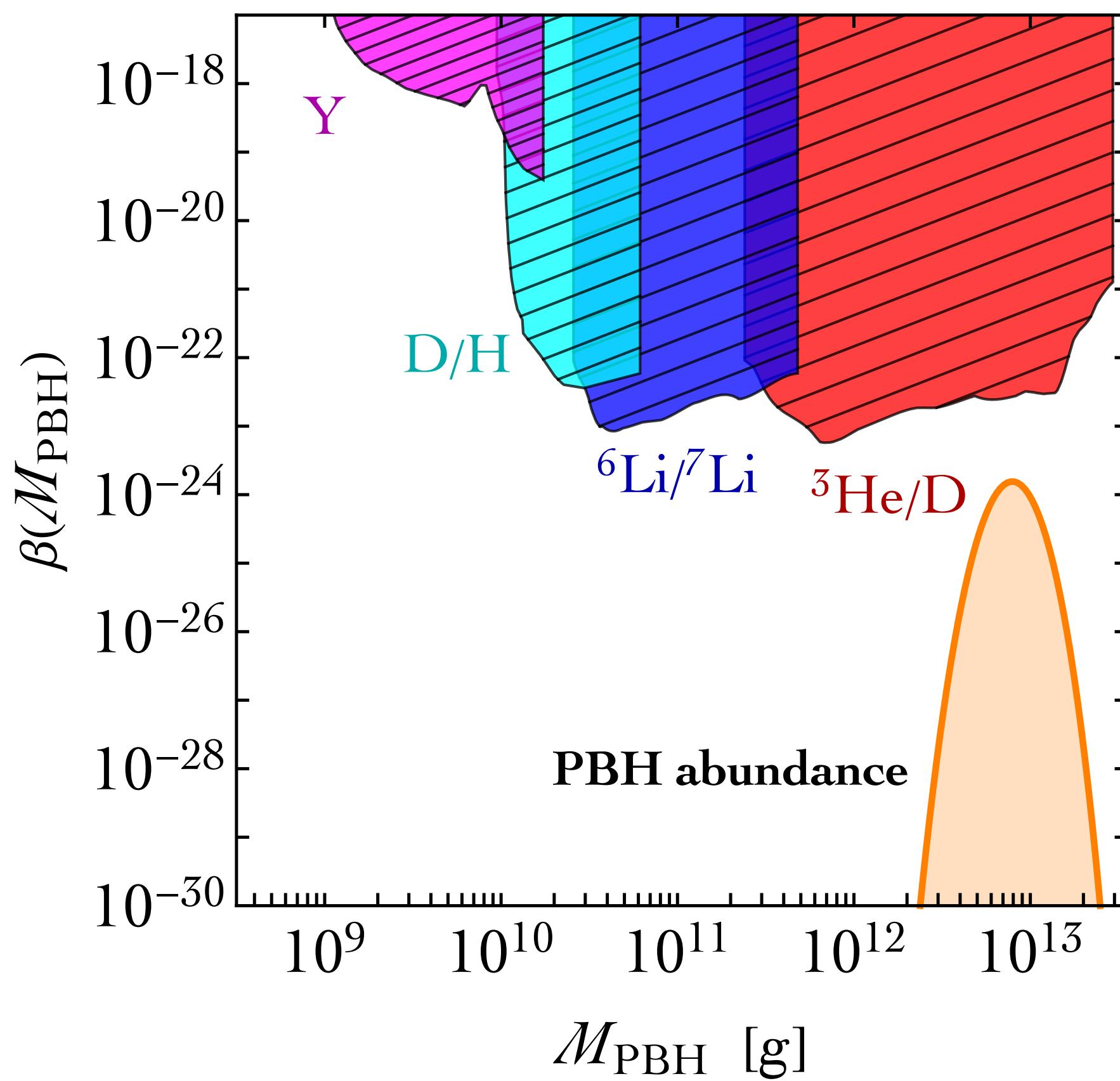
\* LISA: for PBH DM

\* LIGO/Virgo/KAGRA: if PBHs already evaporated

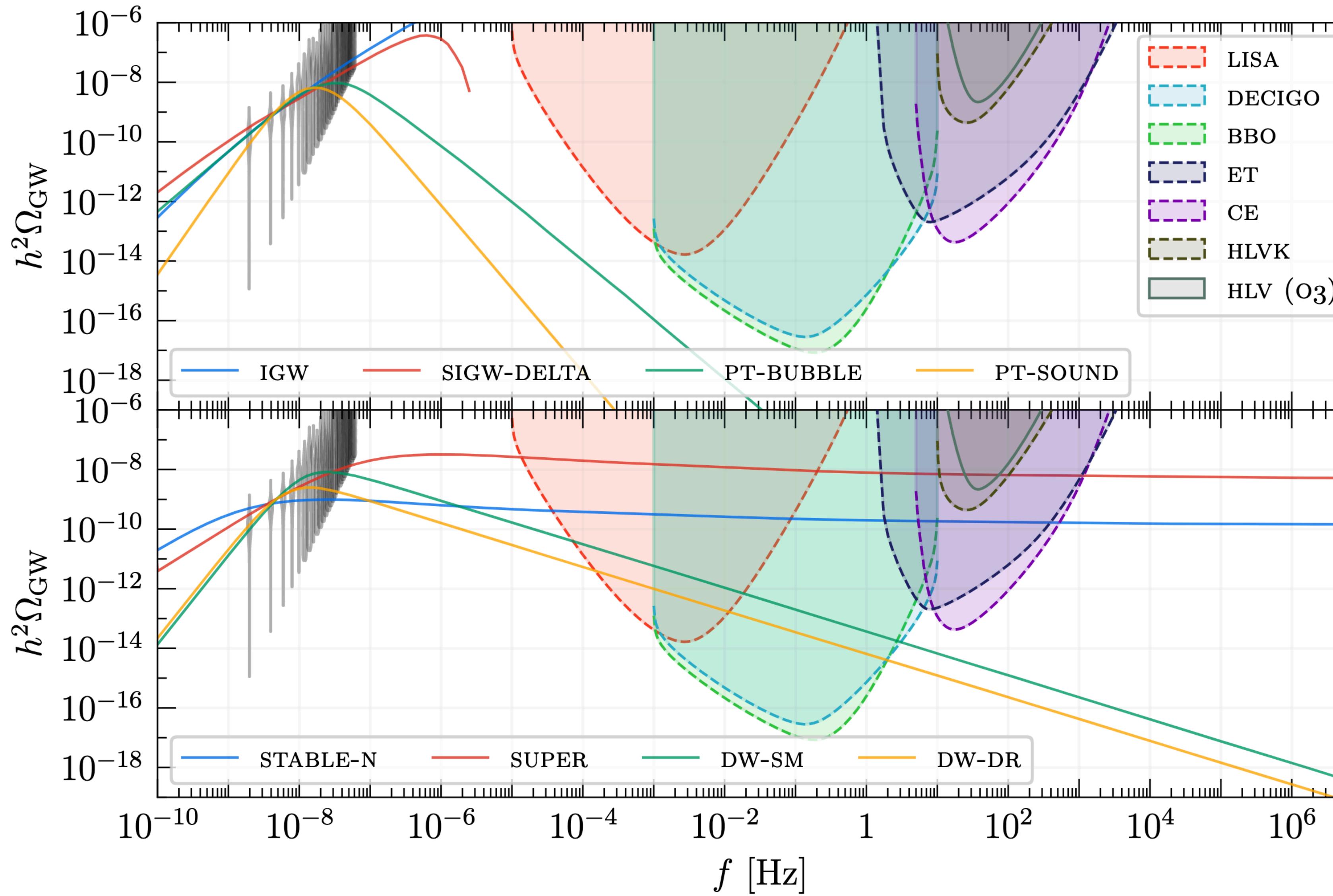
\* PTA: if PBHs of  $\sim 0.1$  Solar masses



\* Second-order induced gravitational waves



# \* Second-order induced gravitational waves



PTA

$\sim \text{NHz} \sim 10 M_\odot$

## \* High frequency GW from PBH DM mergers

No known astrophysical sources at GHz

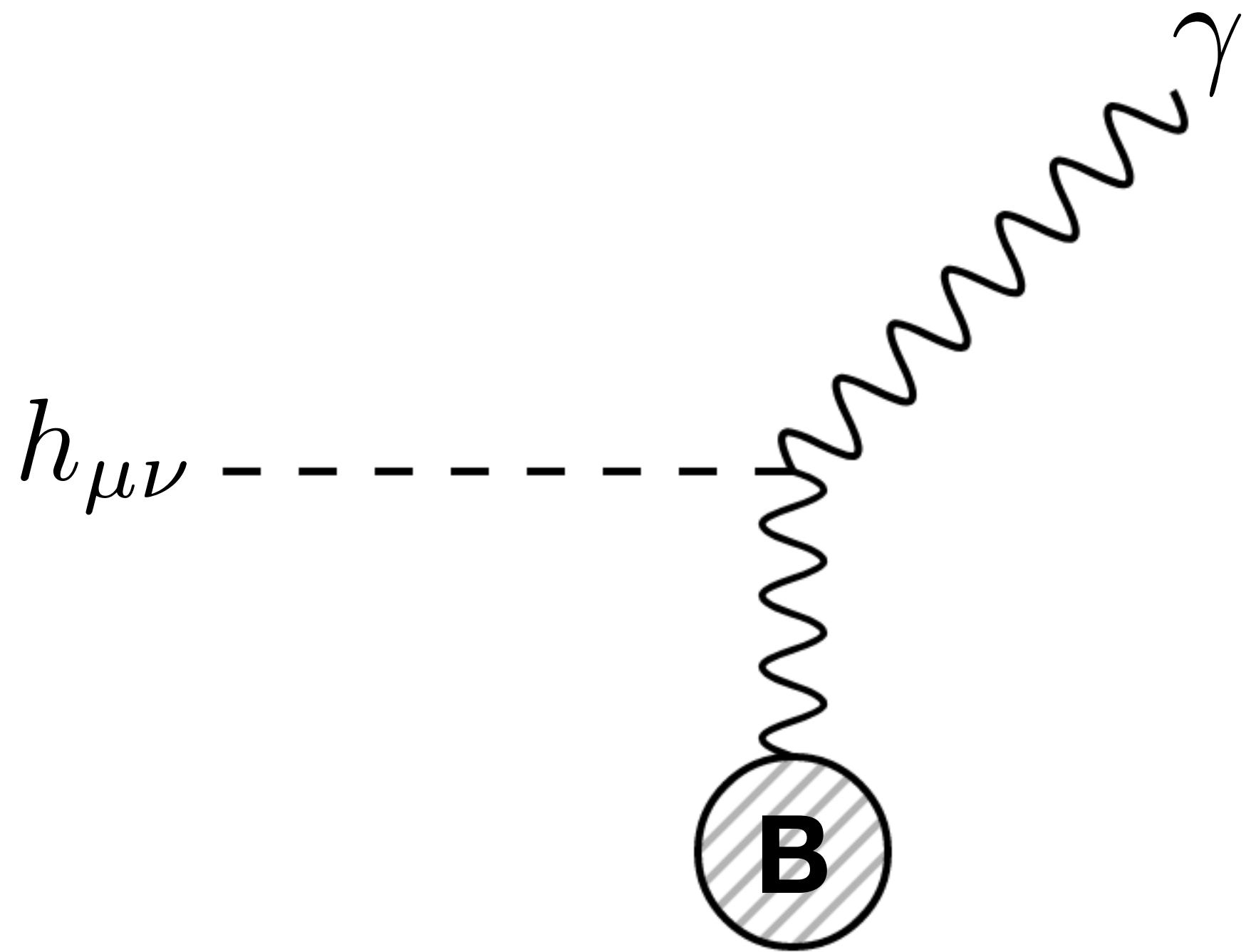
Asteroid mass PBH mergers. GW frequency  $\gtrsim$  GHz

Small characteristic strain  $\sim 10^{-25}$

- Very strong clustering
- Enhanced local DM density for  $\sim 10$  Kpc

# \* High frequency GW from PBH DM mergers

Inverse Gertsenshtein effect. Connection with axion physics



ALPS II. DESY / Heiner Müller-Elsner

## Summary

- Asteroid-mass PBHs are a strong contender to explain the DM.
- PBH from inflation. Interesting for phenomenology and theory playground
- GW: indirect probes of PBH DM. Technical challenges.
- Goal: detect subsolar BH with lensing, GW interferometry, etc.