

Non-linear dynamics of Axion Inflation

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in collaboration with

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From 2303.17436 (Phys.Rev.Lett.) and 24XX.XXXXX



Motivation

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- **Inflationary cosmology** has demonstrated **remarkable success** in predicting CMB anisotropies.

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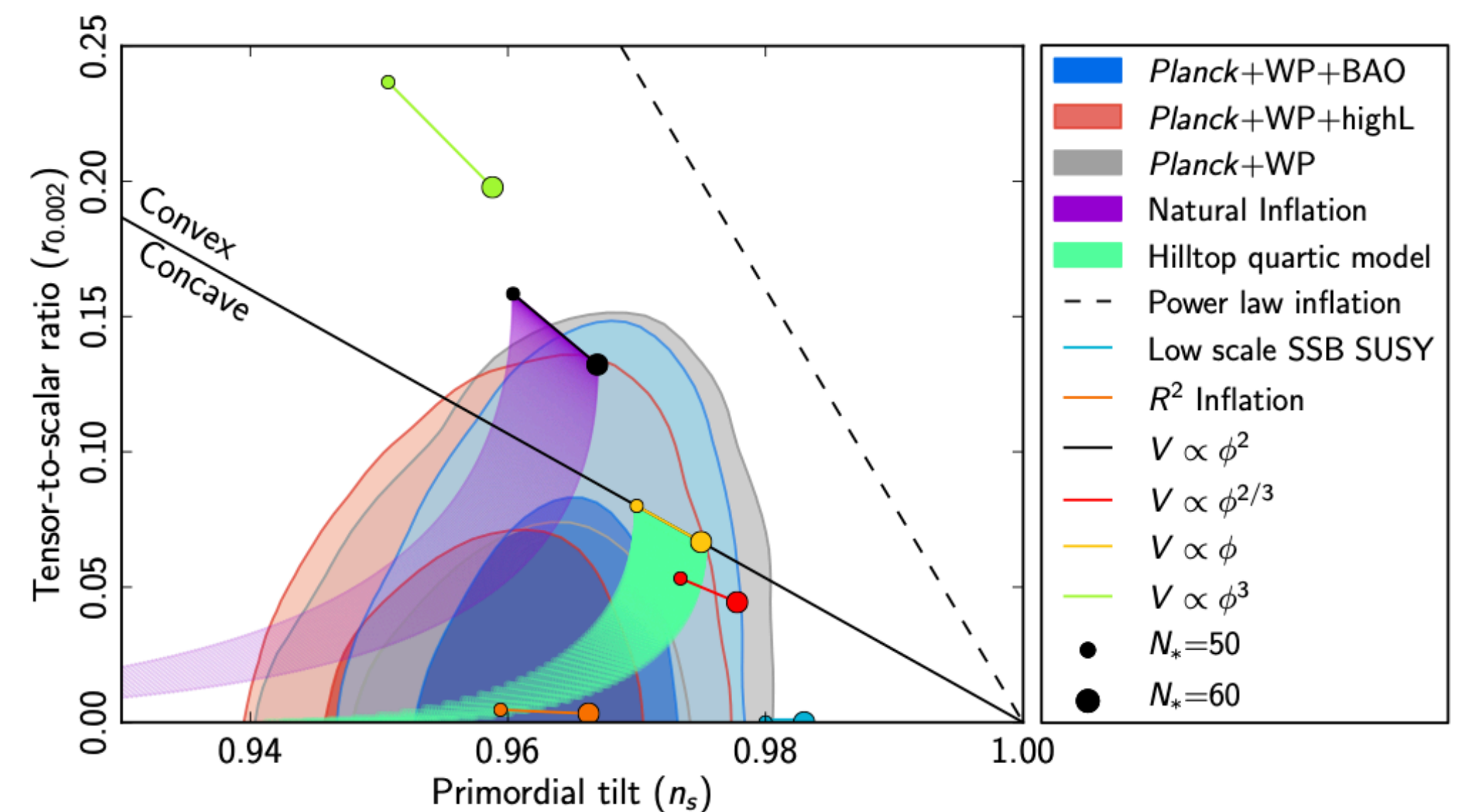
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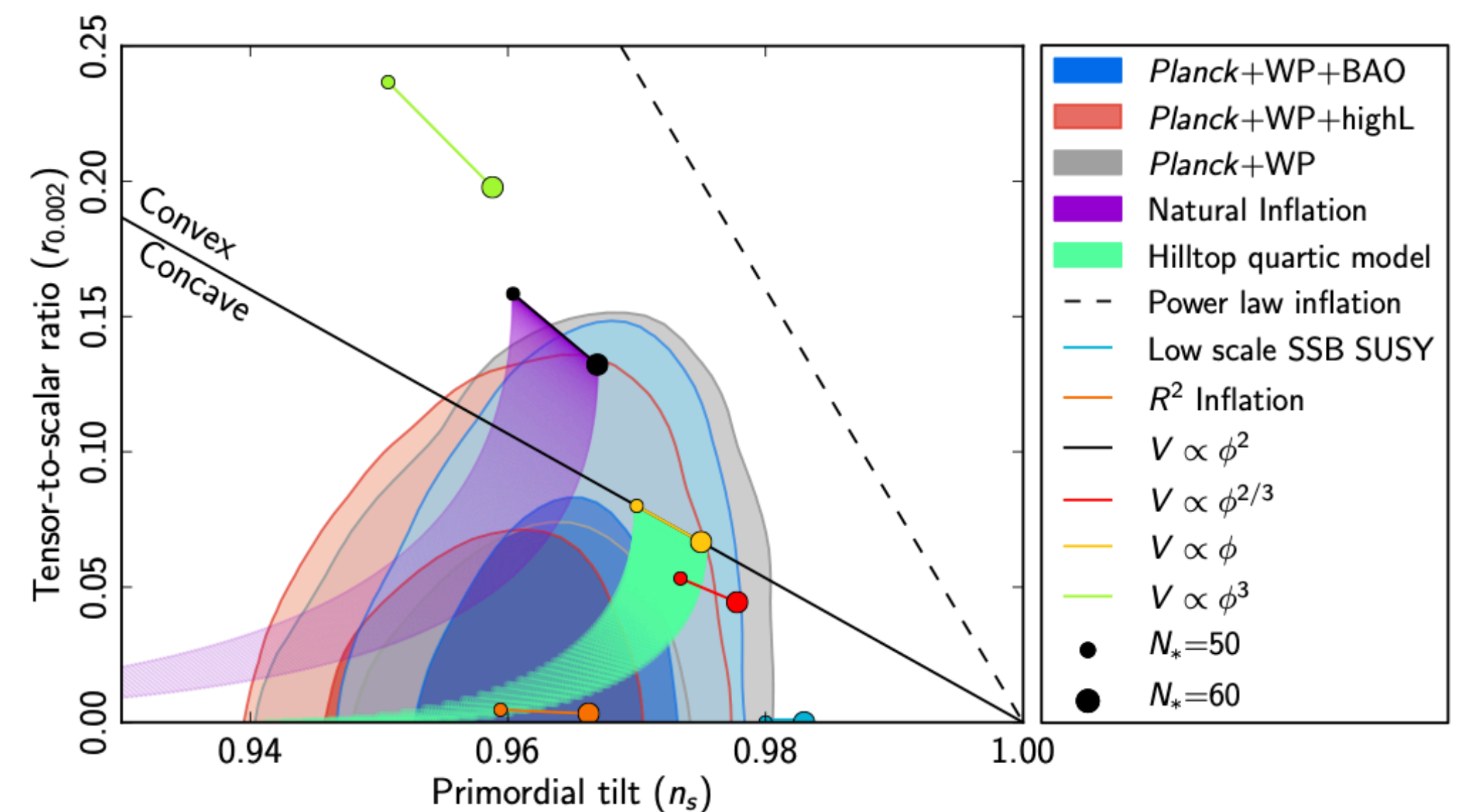
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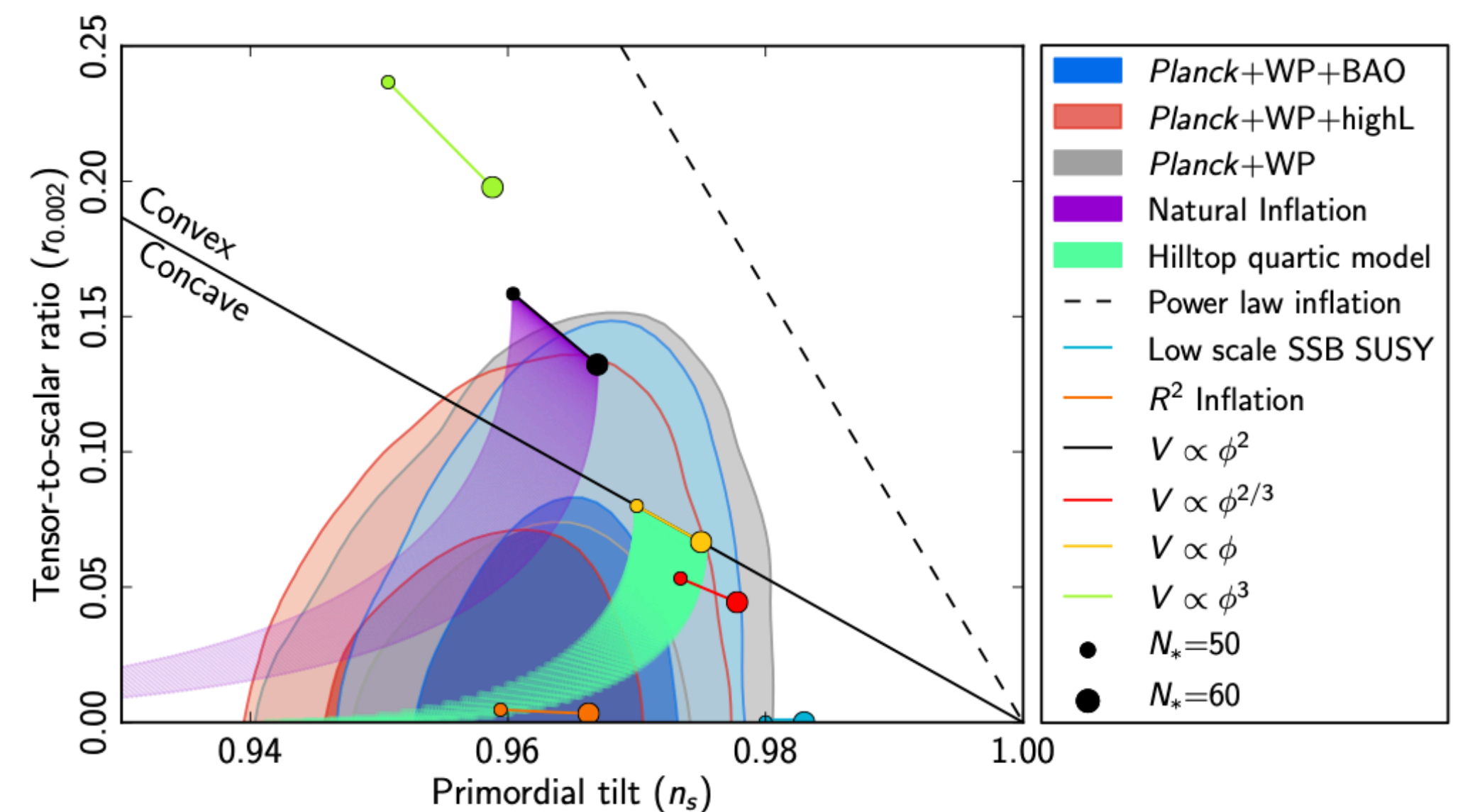
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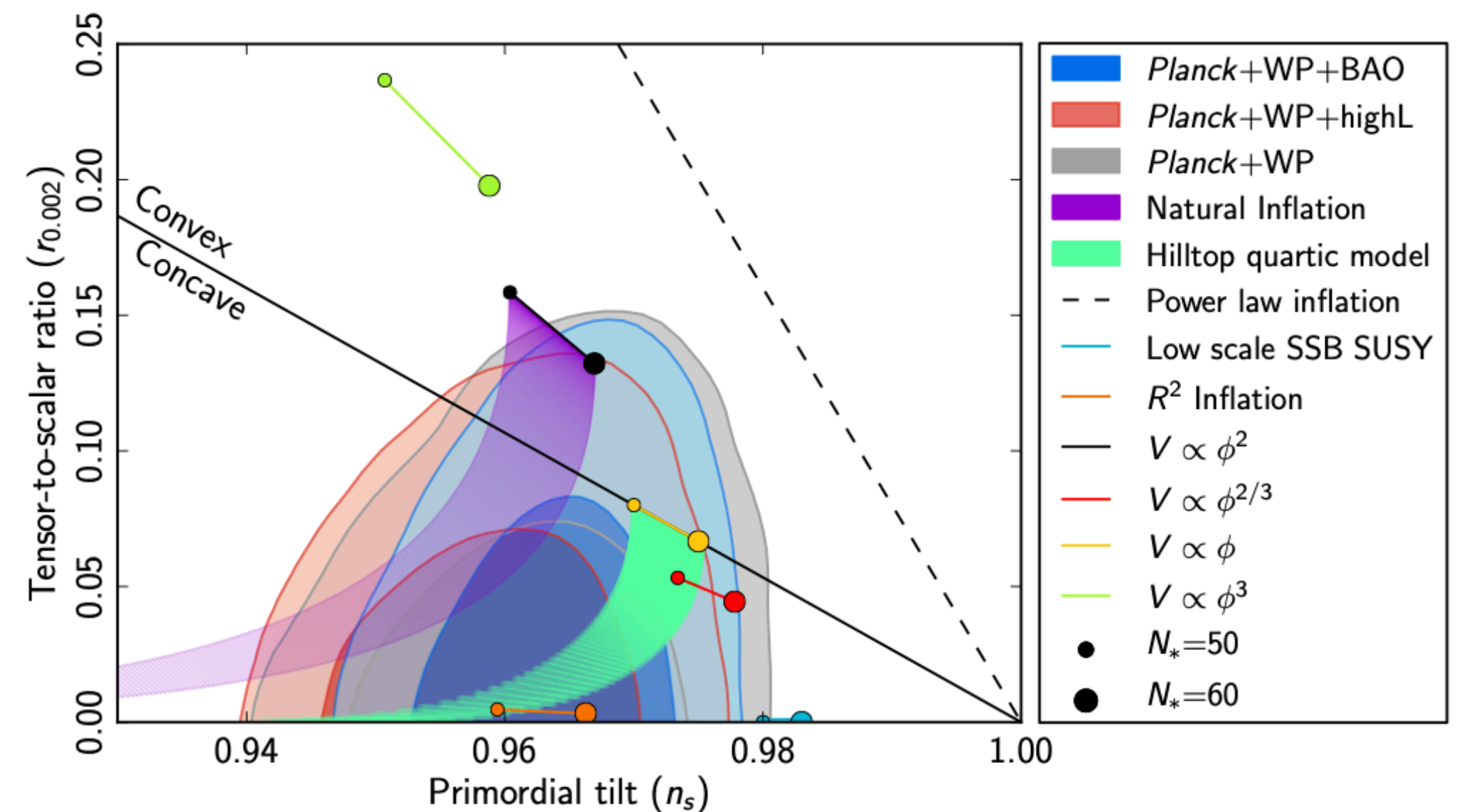
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- In our case **coupled** to a **U(1) gauge** field.
- **Why?** Very **efficient energy transport** between both.
- Leads to interesting **phenomenology**: metric perturbations that produce **PBHs** and **GWs**, for example.



Model

$$S = \int dx^4 \sqrt{-g} \left(\frac{1}{2} m_p^2 R - \frac{1}{2} \partial_\mu \phi \partial^\mu \phi - \frac{1}{2} m \phi^2 - \frac{1}{4} F_{\mu\nu} F^{\mu\nu} - \frac{\alpha_\Lambda}{4} \frac{\phi}{m_p} F_{\mu\nu} \tilde{F}^{\mu\nu} \right)$$

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Gravity

Model

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Gravity

Matter

Model

$$S = \int dx^4 \sqrt{-g} \left(\frac{1}{2} m_p^2 R - \frac{1}{2} \partial_\mu \phi \partial^\mu \phi - \frac{1}{2} m \phi^2 - \frac{1}{4} F_{\mu\nu} F^{\mu\nu} - \frac{\alpha_\Lambda}{4} \frac{\phi}{m_p} F_{\mu\nu} \tilde{F}^{\mu\nu} \right)$$

Gravity

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$$S = \int dx^4 \sqrt{-g} \left(\underbrace{\frac{1}{2} m_p^2 R}_{\text{Gravity}} - \underbrace{\frac{1}{2} \partial_\mu \phi \partial^\mu \phi - \frac{1}{2} m \phi^2}_{\text{Axion Like Particle acting as the inflaton}} - \frac{1}{4} F_{\mu\nu} F^{\mu\nu} - \frac{\alpha_\Lambda}{4} \frac{\phi}{m_p} F_{\mu\nu} \tilde{F}^{\mu\nu} \right)$$

Gravity

Axion Like Particle
acting as the
inflaton
 $\phi \rightarrow \phi + C$

Model

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Quadratic potential

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U(1) gauge field
 $F_{\mu\nu} = \partial_\mu A_\nu - \partial_\nu A_\mu$

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U(1) gauge field
 $F_{\mu\nu} = \partial_\mu A_\nu - \partial_\nu A_\mu$

Coupling between both
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 $\tilde{F}_{\mu\nu} = \epsilon_{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} F^{\rho\sigma} / 2$

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FLRW
spacetime



Model

FLRW
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$$S_m = \int dx^4 \left(\frac{1}{2} a^3 \dot{\phi}^2 - \frac{1}{2} a (\vec{\nabla} \phi)^2 - \frac{1}{2} a^3 m^2 \phi^2 + \frac{1}{2} a (\vec{E}^2 - a^{-2} \vec{B}^2) + \frac{\alpha_\Lambda}{m_p} \phi \vec{E} \cdot \vec{B} \right)$$

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Dynamics

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Dynamics

ALP inflaton

Model

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$$\ddot{\phi} = -3H\dot{\phi} + \frac{1}{a^2} \vec{\nabla}^2 \phi - m^2 \phi$$

Model

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$$S_m = \int dx^4 \left(\underbrace{\frac{1}{2}a^3\dot{\phi}^2 - \frac{1}{2}a(\vec{\nabla}\phi)^2 - \frac{1}{2}a^3m^2\phi^2}_{\text{Dynamics}} + \underbrace{\frac{1}{2}a(\vec{E}^2 - a^{-2}\vec{B}^2)}_{\text{U(1) Gauge field}} + \frac{\alpha_\Lambda}{m_p}\phi\vec{E}\cdot\vec{B} \right)$$

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Constraints

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Friedmann 1

$$\ddot{a} = -\frac{a}{3m_p^2} (2\rho_K - \rho_V + \rho_{EM})$$

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Backreaction

Model

FLRW
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Backreaction

1st approach: Linear Regime

FLRW
spacetime

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Dynamics

ALP inflaton

$$\ddot{\phi} = -3H\dot{\phi} + \frac{1}{a^2}\vec{\nabla}^2\phi - m^2\phi + \frac{\alpha_\Lambda}{a^3m_p}\vec{E}\cdot\vec{B}$$

U(1) Gauge field

$$\dot{\vec{E}} = -H\vec{E} - \frac{1}{a^2}\vec{\nabla}\times\vec{B} - \frac{\alpha_\Lambda}{am_p}\left(\dot{\phi}\vec{B} - \vec{\nabla}\phi\times\vec{E}\right)$$

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Backreaction

1st approach: Linear Regime

Backreaction

FLRW
spacetime

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$$\ddot{a} = -\frac{a}{3m_p^2} (2\rho_K - \rho_V + \rho_{EM})$$

Constraints

U(1) Gauge field

$$\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{E} = 0 - \frac{\alpha_\Lambda}{a m_p} \vec{\nabla} \phi \cdot \vec{B}$$

Friedmann 2

$$H^2 = \frac{1}{3m_p^2} (\rho_K + \rho_G + \rho_V + \rho_{EM})$$

1st approach: Linear Regime

Backreaction

FLRW
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Linear regime

1st approach: Linear Regime

Backreaction

FLRW
spacetime

$$S_m = \int dx^4 \left(\frac{1}{2} a^3 \dot{\phi}^2 - \frac{1}{2} a (\vec{\nabla} \phi)^2 - \frac{1}{2} a^3 m^2 \phi^2 + \frac{1}{2} a (\vec{E}^2 - a^{-2} \vec{B}^2) + \frac{\alpha_\Lambda}{m_p} \phi \vec{E} \cdot \vec{B} \right)$$

Dynamics

ALP inflaton

$$\ddot{\phi} = -3H\dot{\phi} + \frac{1}{a^2} \vec{\nabla}^2 \phi - m^2 \phi + \frac{\alpha_\Lambda}{a^3 m_p} \vec{E} \cdot \vec{B}$$

U(1) Gauge field

$$\dot{\vec{E}} = -H\vec{E} - \frac{1}{a^2} \vec{\nabla} \times \vec{B} - \frac{\alpha_\Lambda}{a m_p} \left(\dot{\phi} \vec{B} - \vec{\nabla} \phi \times \vec{E} \right)$$

Friedmann 1

$$\ddot{a} = -\frac{a}{3m_p^2} (2\rho_K - \rho_V + \rho_{EM})$$

Constraints

U(1) Gauge field

$$\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{E} = 0 \quad \frac{\alpha_\Lambda}{a m_p} \vec{\nabla} \phi \cdot \vec{B}$$

Friedmann 2

$$H^2 = \frac{1}{3m_p^2} (\rho_K + \rho_G + \rho_V + \rho_{EM})$$

Linear regime

- Backreactionless inflaton dynamics

1st approach: Linear Regime

Backreaction

FLRW
spacetime

$$S_m = \int dx^4 \left(\frac{1}{2} a^3 \dot{\phi}^2 - \frac{1}{2} a (\vec{\nabla} \phi)^2 - \frac{1}{2} a^3 m^2 \phi^2 + \frac{1}{2} a (\vec{E}^2 - a^{-2} \vec{B}^2) + \frac{\alpha_\Lambda}{m_p} \phi \vec{E} \cdot \vec{B} \right)$$

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ALP inflaton

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Friedmann 1

$$\ddot{a} = -\frac{a}{3m_p^2} (2\rho_K - \rho_V + \rho_{EM})$$

Constraints

U(1) Gauge field

$$\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{E} = 0 - \frac{\alpha_\Lambda}{a m_p} \vec{\nabla} \phi \cdot \vec{B}$$

Friedmann 2

$$H^2 = \frac{1}{3m_p^2} (\rho_K + \rho_G + \rho_V + \rho_{EM})$$

Linear regime

- Backreactionless inflaton dynamics
- Inflaton velocity backreacts on the gauge modes

1st approach: Linear Regime

Backreaction

FLRW
spacetime

$$S_m = \int dx^4 \left(\frac{1}{2} a^3 \dot{\phi}^2 - \frac{1}{2} a (\vec{\nabla} \phi)^2 - \frac{1}{2} a^3 m^2 \phi^2 + \frac{1}{2} a (\vec{E}^2 - a^{-2} \vec{B}^2) + \frac{\alpha_\Lambda}{m_p} \phi \vec{E} \cdot \vec{B} \right)$$

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ALP inflaton

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U(1) Gauge field

$$(\partial_\tau^2 + k^2 \mp 2k\xi/\tau) A^\pm(\tau, k) = 0 \quad \text{with} \quad \xi = \frac{\alpha_\Lambda \dot{\phi}}{2H m_p}$$

Friedmann 1

$$\ddot{a} = -\frac{a}{3m_p^2} (2\rho_K - \rho_V + \rho_{EM})$$

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$$\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{E} = 0 \quad \frac{\alpha_\Lambda}{a m_p} \vec{\nabla} \phi \cdot \vec{B}$$

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Linear regime

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1st approach: Linear Regime

Backreaction

FLRW
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$$S_m = \int dx^4 \left(\frac{1}{2} a^3 \dot{\phi}^2 - \frac{1}{2} a (\vec{\nabla} \phi)^2 - \frac{1}{2} a^3 m^2 \phi^2 + \frac{1}{2} a (\vec{E}^2 - a^{-2} \vec{B}^2) + \frac{\alpha_\Lambda}{m_p} \phi \vec{E} \cdot \vec{B} \right)$$

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$$H^2 = \frac{1}{3m_p^2} (\rho_K + \rho_G + \rho_V + \rho_{EM})$$

Linear regime

- Backreactionless inflaton dynamics
- Inflaton velocity backreacts on the gauge modes
- Tachyonic growth of the positive helicity

2nd approach: Homo backreaction

Backreaction

FLRW
spacetime

$$S_m = \int dx^4 \left(\frac{1}{2} a^3 \dot{\phi}^2 - \frac{1}{2} a (\vec{\nabla} \phi)^2 - \frac{1}{2} a^3 m^2 \phi^2 + \frac{1}{2} a (\vec{E}^2 - a^{-2} \vec{B}^2) + \frac{\alpha_\Lambda}{m_p} \phi \vec{E} \cdot \vec{B} \right)$$

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ALP inflaton

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2nd approach: Homo backreaction

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spacetime

$$S_m = \int dx^4 \left(\frac{1}{2} a^3 \dot{\phi}^2 - \frac{1}{2} a (\vec{\nabla} \phi)^2 - \frac{1}{2} a^3 m^2 \phi^2 + \frac{1}{2} a (\vec{E}^2 - a^{-2} \vec{B}^2) + \frac{\alpha_\Lambda}{m_p} \phi \vec{E} \cdot \vec{B} \right)$$

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2nd approach: Homo backreaction

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2nd approach: Homo backreaction

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FLRW
spacetime

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$$H^2 = \frac{1}{3m_p^2} (\rho_K + \rho_G + \rho_V + \rho_{EM})$$

Homogeneous backreaction

- Homogenous backreaction in the inflaton dynamics: lengthening of inflation

2nd approach: Homo backreaction

Backreaction

FLRW
spacetime

$$S_m = \int dx^4 \left(\frac{1}{2} a^3 \dot{\phi}^2 - \frac{1}{2} a (\vec{\nabla} \phi)^2 - \frac{1}{2} a^3 m^2 \phi^2 + \frac{1}{2} a (\vec{E}^2 - a^{-2} \vec{B}^2) + \frac{\alpha_\Lambda}{m_p} \phi \vec{E} \cdot \vec{B} \right)$$

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Homogeneous backreaction

- Homogenous backreaction in the inflaton dynamics: lengthening of inflation
- Oscillatory inflaton velocity

2nd approach: Homo backreaction

Backreaction

FLRW
spacetime

$$S_m = \int dx^4 \left(\frac{1}{2} a^3 \dot{\phi}^2 - \frac{1}{2} a (\vec{\nabla} \phi)^2 - \frac{1}{2} a^3 m^2 \phi^2 + \frac{1}{2} a (\vec{E}^2 - a^{-2} \vec{B}^2) + \frac{\alpha_\Lambda}{m_p} \phi \vec{E} \cdot \vec{B} \right)$$

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Homogeneous backreaction

- Homogenous backreaction in the inflaton dynamics: lengthening of inflation
- Oscillatory inflaton velocity
- Still tachyonic growth of the positive helicity

Our approach: Full backreaction

Backreaction

FLRW
spacetime

$$S_m = \int dx^4 \left(\frac{1}{2} a^3 \dot{\phi}^2 - \frac{1}{2} a (\vec{\nabla} \phi)^2 - \frac{1}{2} a^3 m^2 \phi^2 + \frac{1}{2} a (\vec{E}^2 - a^{-2} \vec{B}^2) + \frac{\alpha_\Lambda}{m_p} \phi \vec{E} \cdot \vec{B} \right)$$

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ALP inflaton

$$\ddot{\phi} = -3H\dot{\phi} + \frac{1}{a^2} \vec{\nabla}^2 \phi - m^2 \phi + \frac{\alpha_\Lambda}{a^3 m_p} \vec{E} \cdot \vec{B}$$

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Our approach: Full backreaction

Backreaction

FLRW
spacetime

$$S_m = \int dx^4 \left(\frac{1}{2} a^3 \dot{\phi}^2 - \frac{1}{2} a (\vec{\nabla} \phi)^2 - \frac{1}{2} a^3 m^2 \phi^2 + \frac{1}{2} a (\vec{E}^2 - a^{-2} \vec{B}^2) + \frac{\alpha_\Lambda}{m_p} \phi \vec{E} \cdot \vec{B} \right)$$

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Our approach: Full backreaction

Backreaction

FLRW
spacetime

$$S_m = \int dx^4 \left(\frac{1}{2} a^3 \dot{\phi}^2 - \frac{1}{2} a (\vec{\nabla} \phi)^2 - \frac{1}{2} a^3 m^2 \phi^2 + \frac{1}{2} a (\vec{E}^2 - a^{-2} \vec{B}^2) + \frac{\alpha_\Lambda}{m_p} \phi \vec{E} \cdot \vec{B} \right)$$

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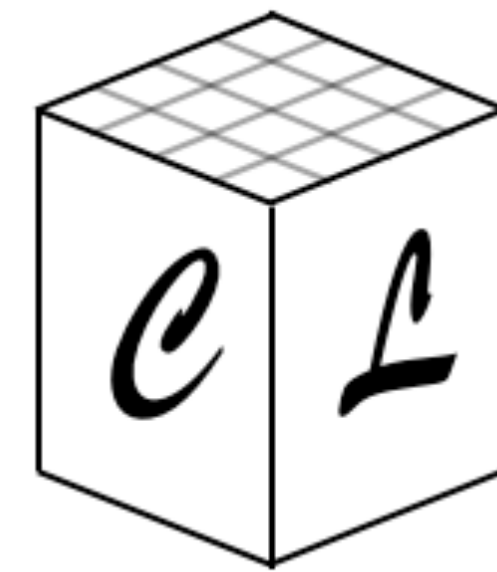
Constraints

U(1) Gauge field

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Friedmann 2

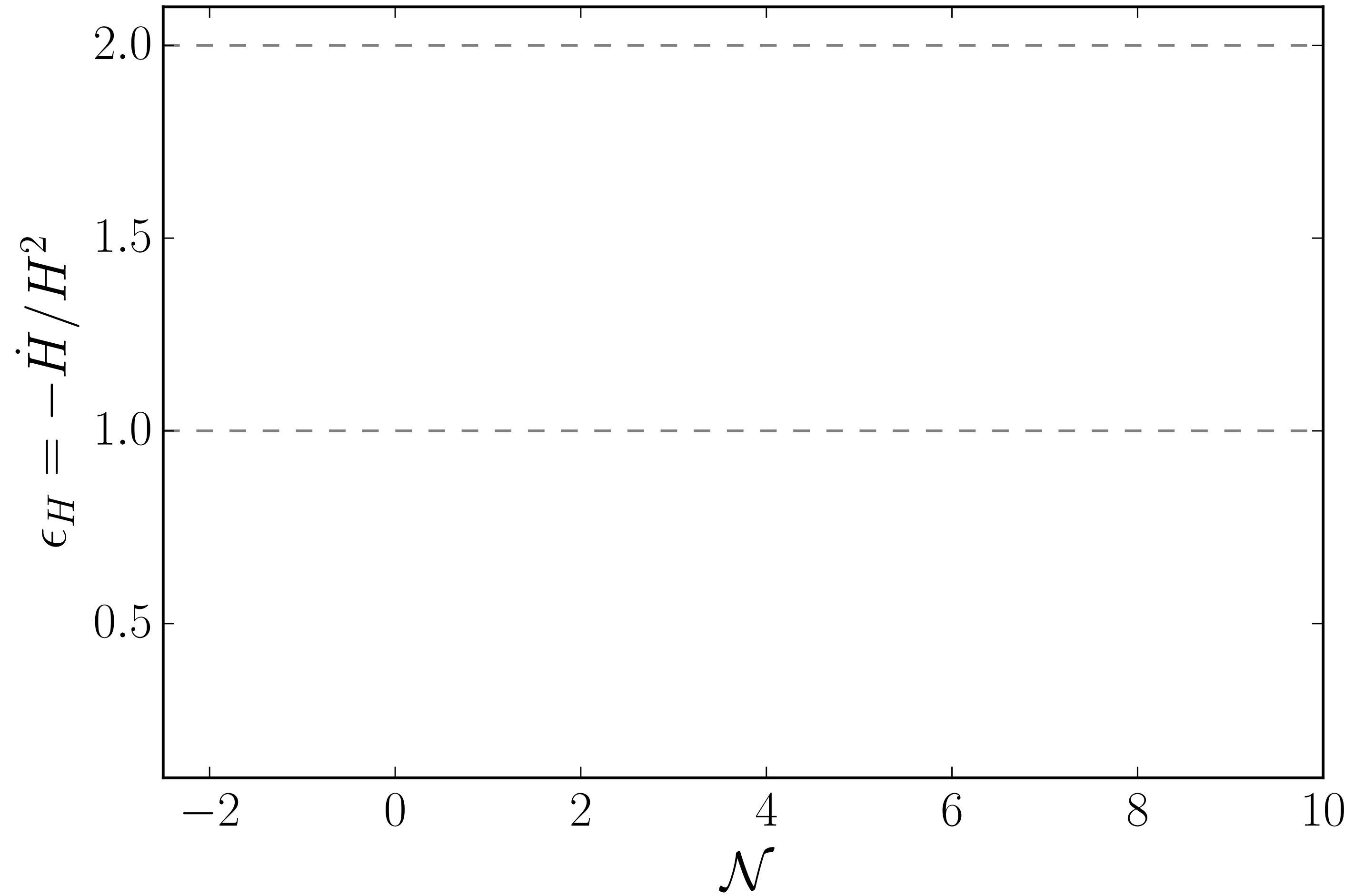
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CosmoLattice

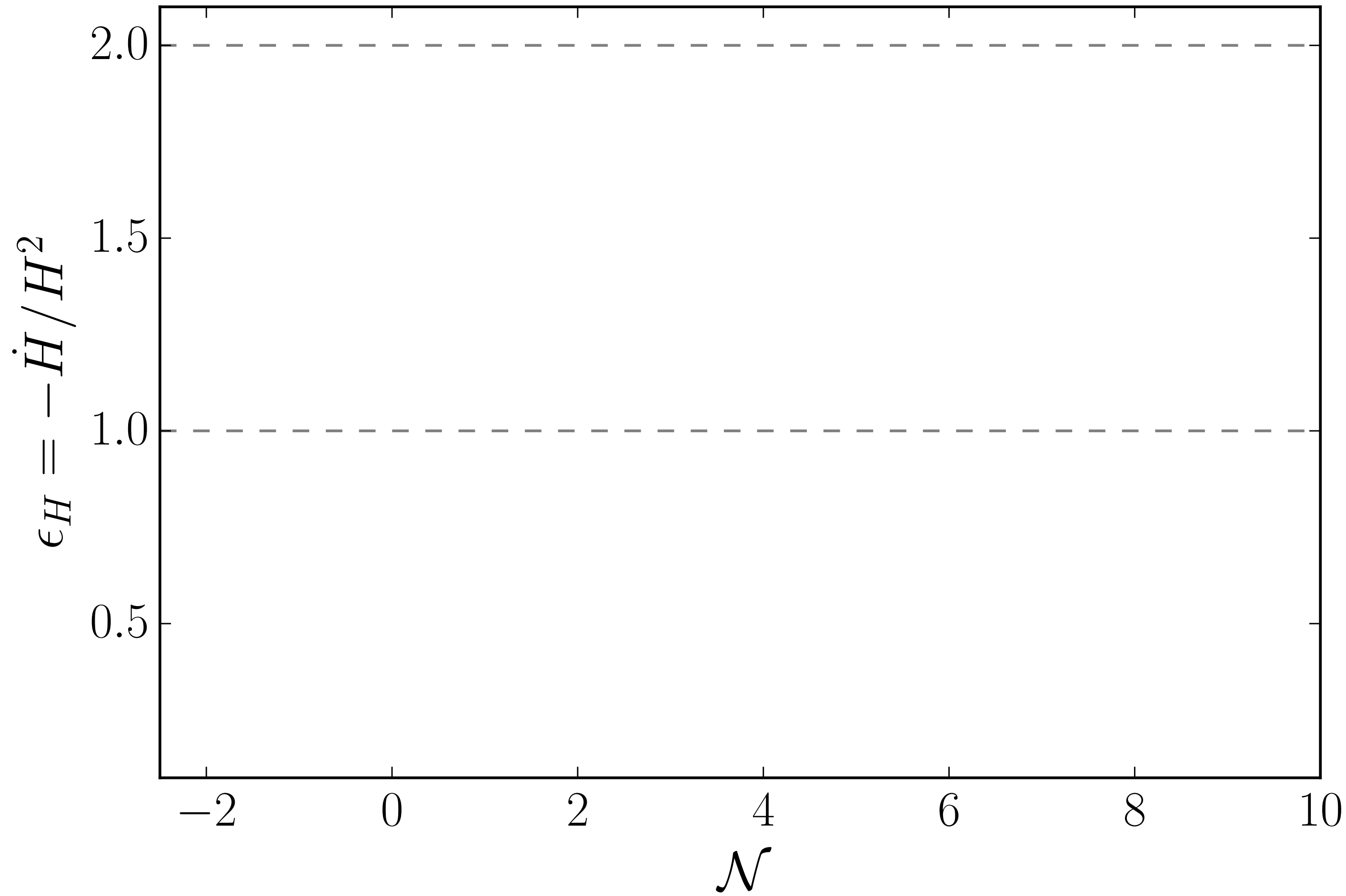
[D. G. Figueroa, A. Florio, F. Torrenti & W. Valkenburg (2006.15122)]
[D. G. Figueroa, A. Florio, F. Torrenti & W. Valkenburg (2102.01031)]

Inflation duration



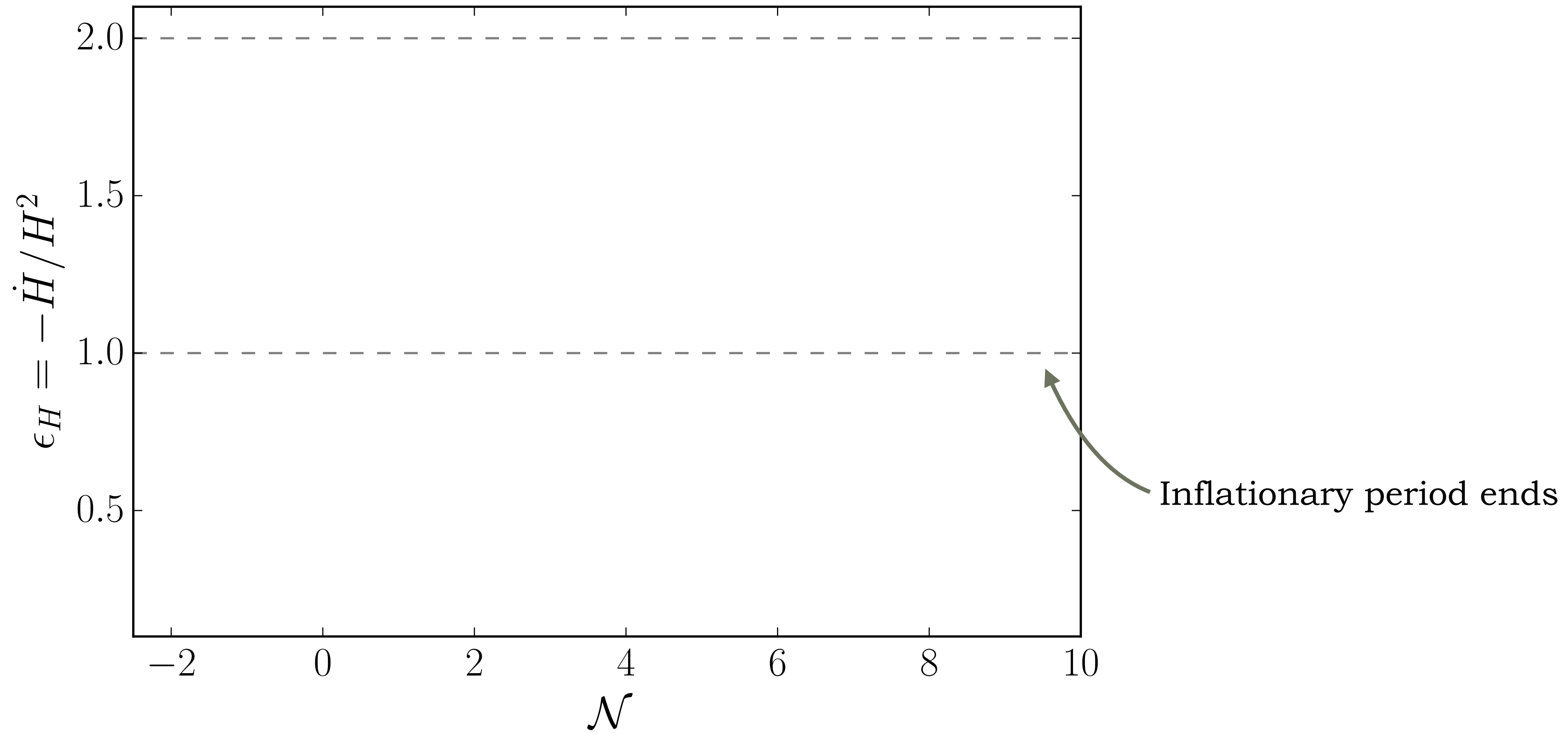
Inflation duration

Also: $\epsilon_H = 1 + (2\rho_K - \rho_V + \rho_{EM})/\rho_{\text{tot}}$



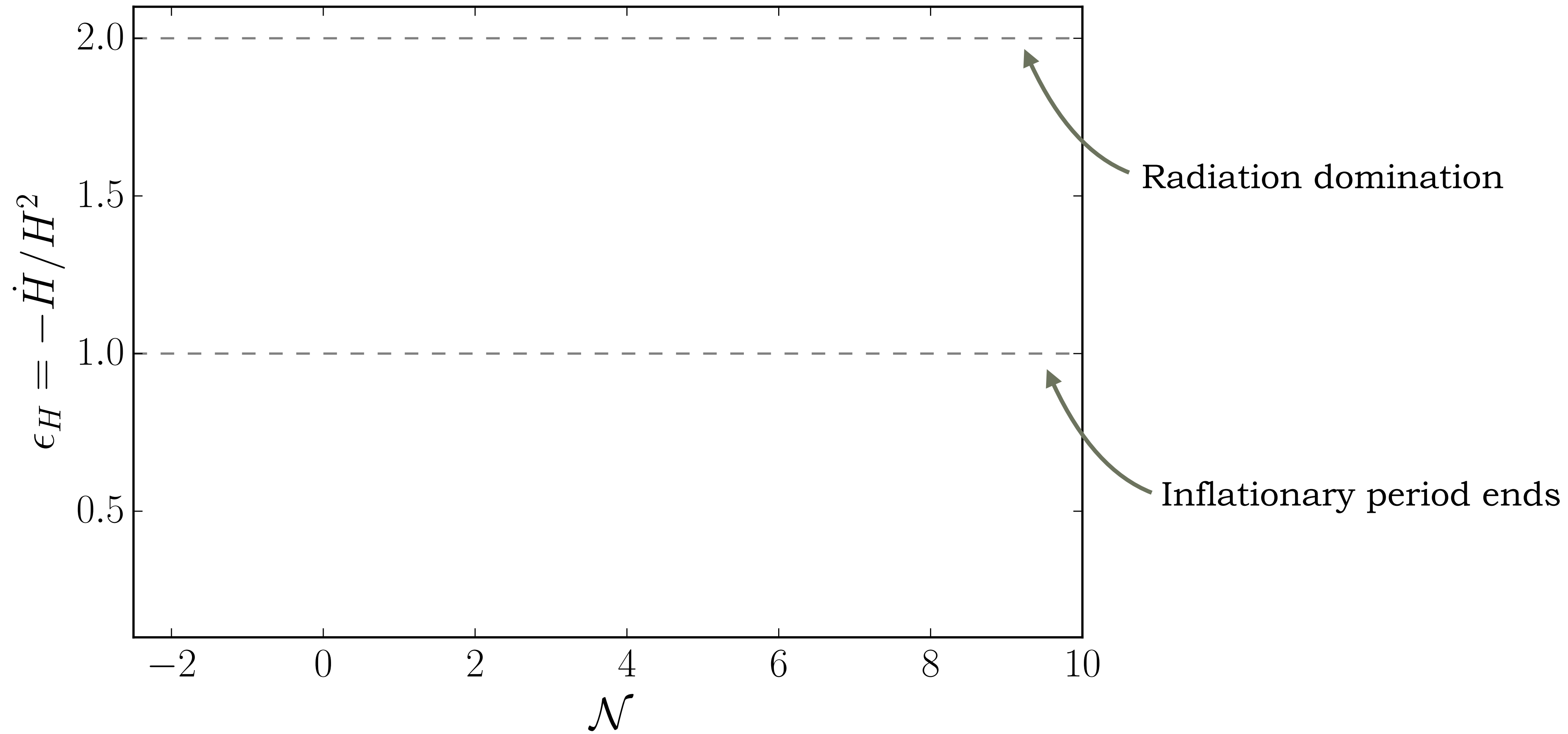
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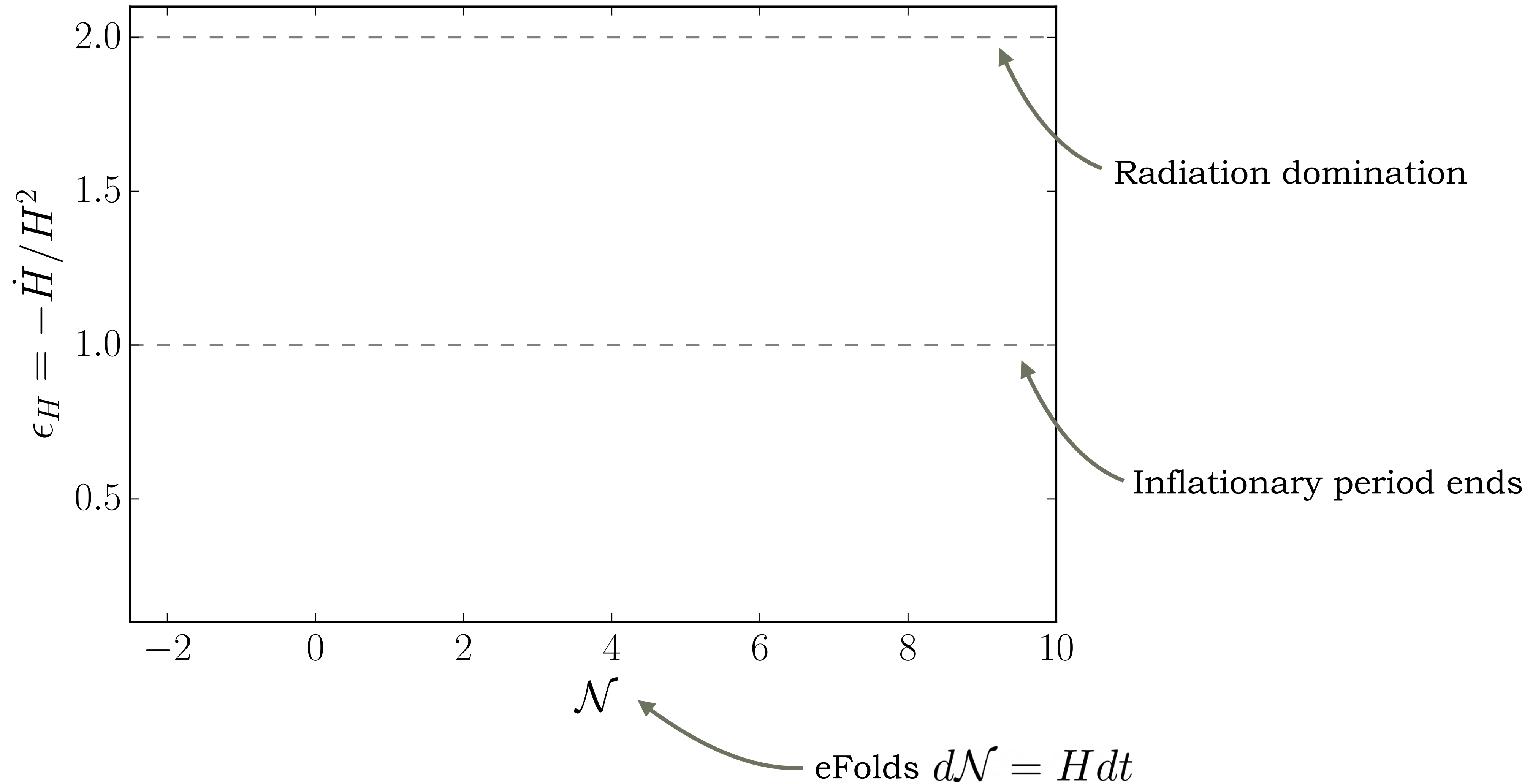
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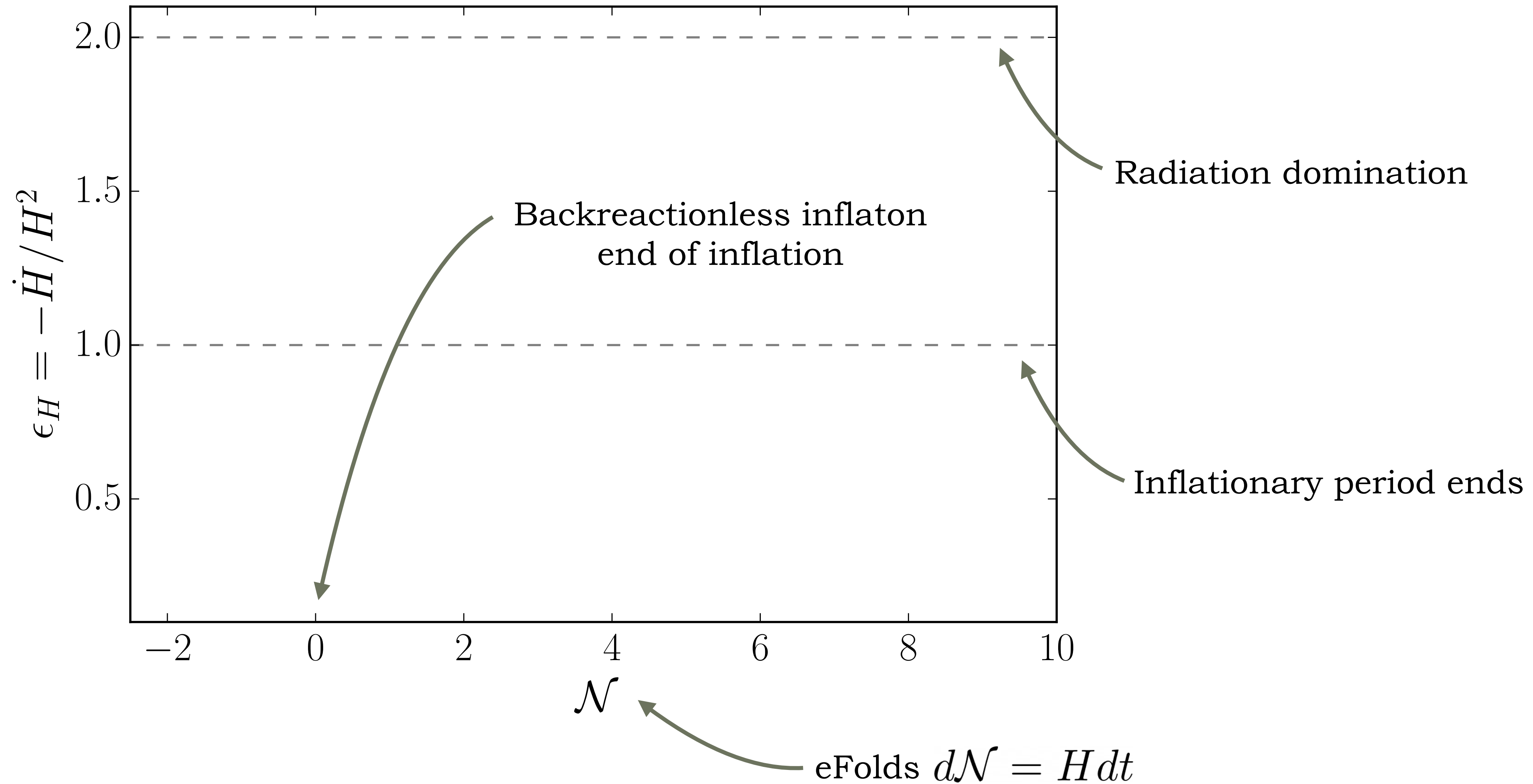
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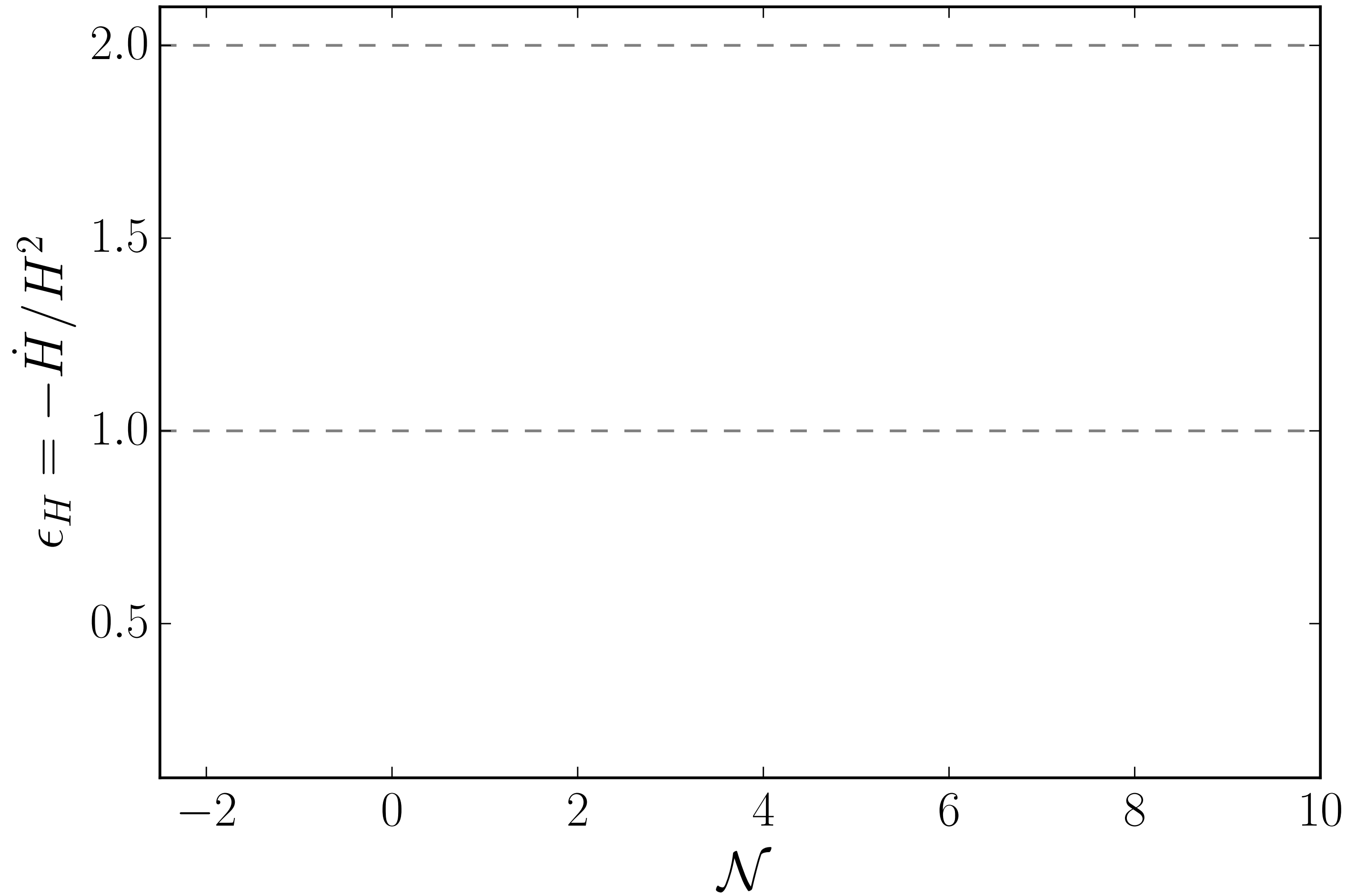
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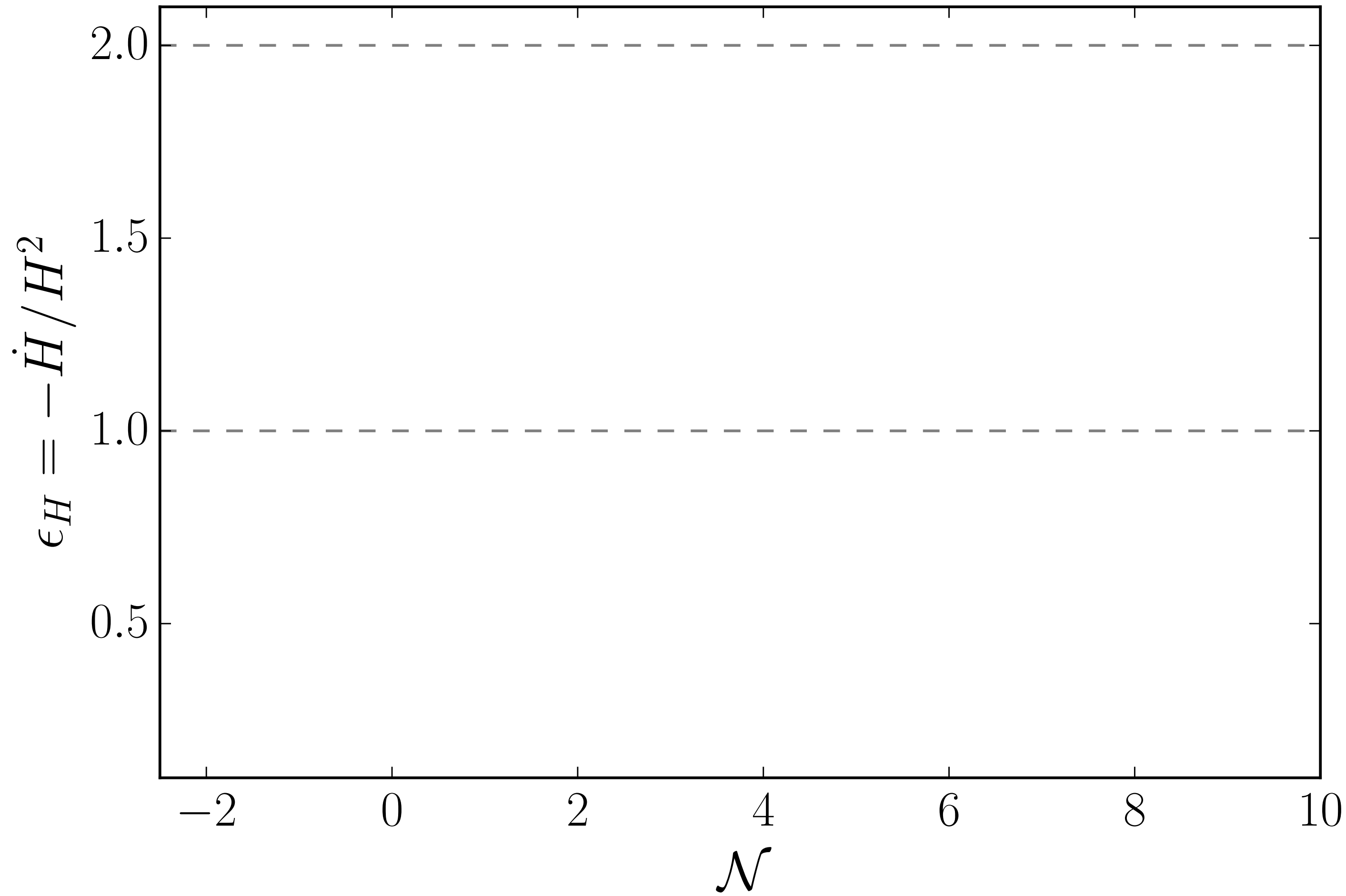
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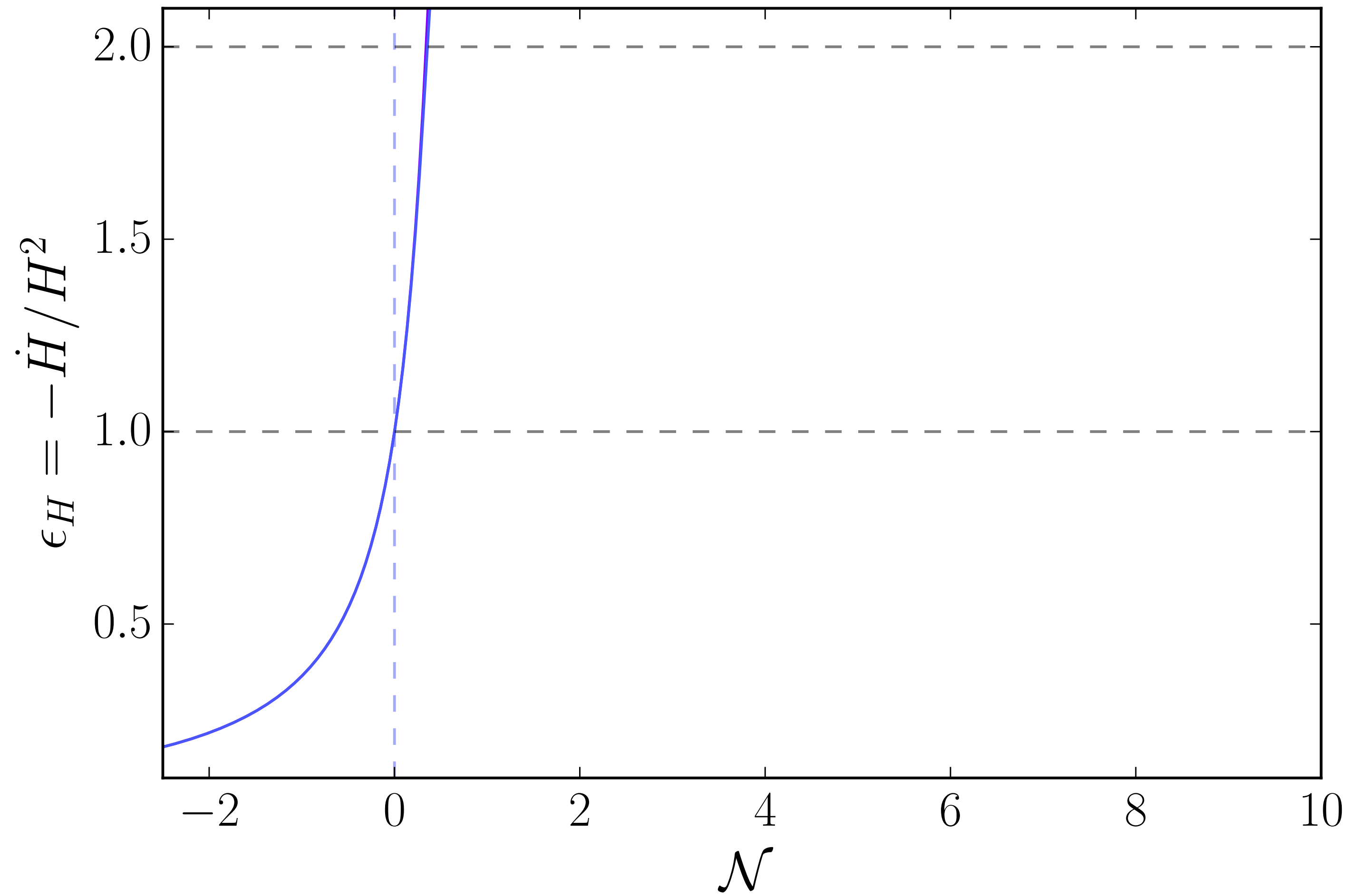
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Our free parameter is α_Λ : controls the strength of the backreaction!

Inflation duration

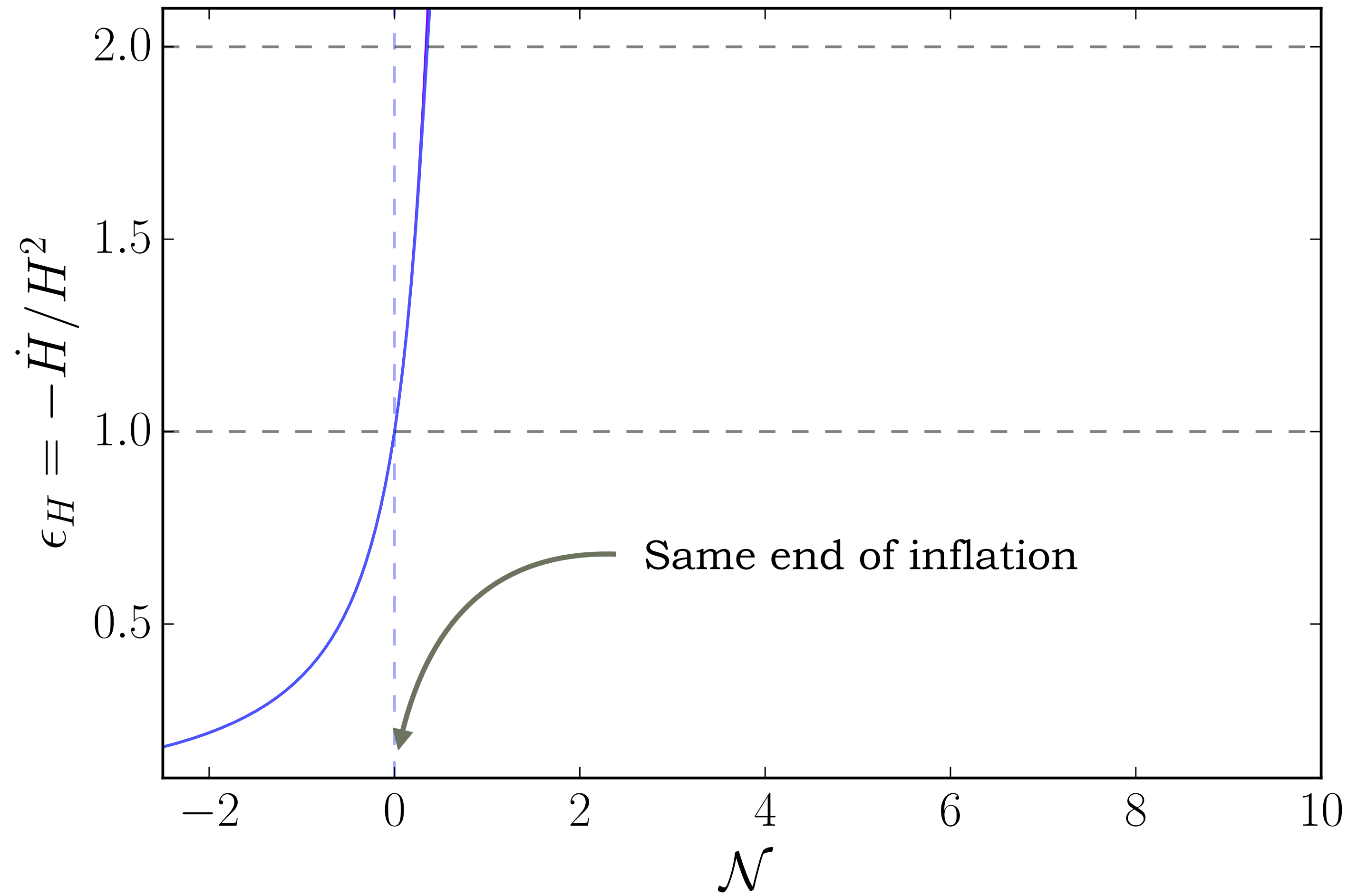
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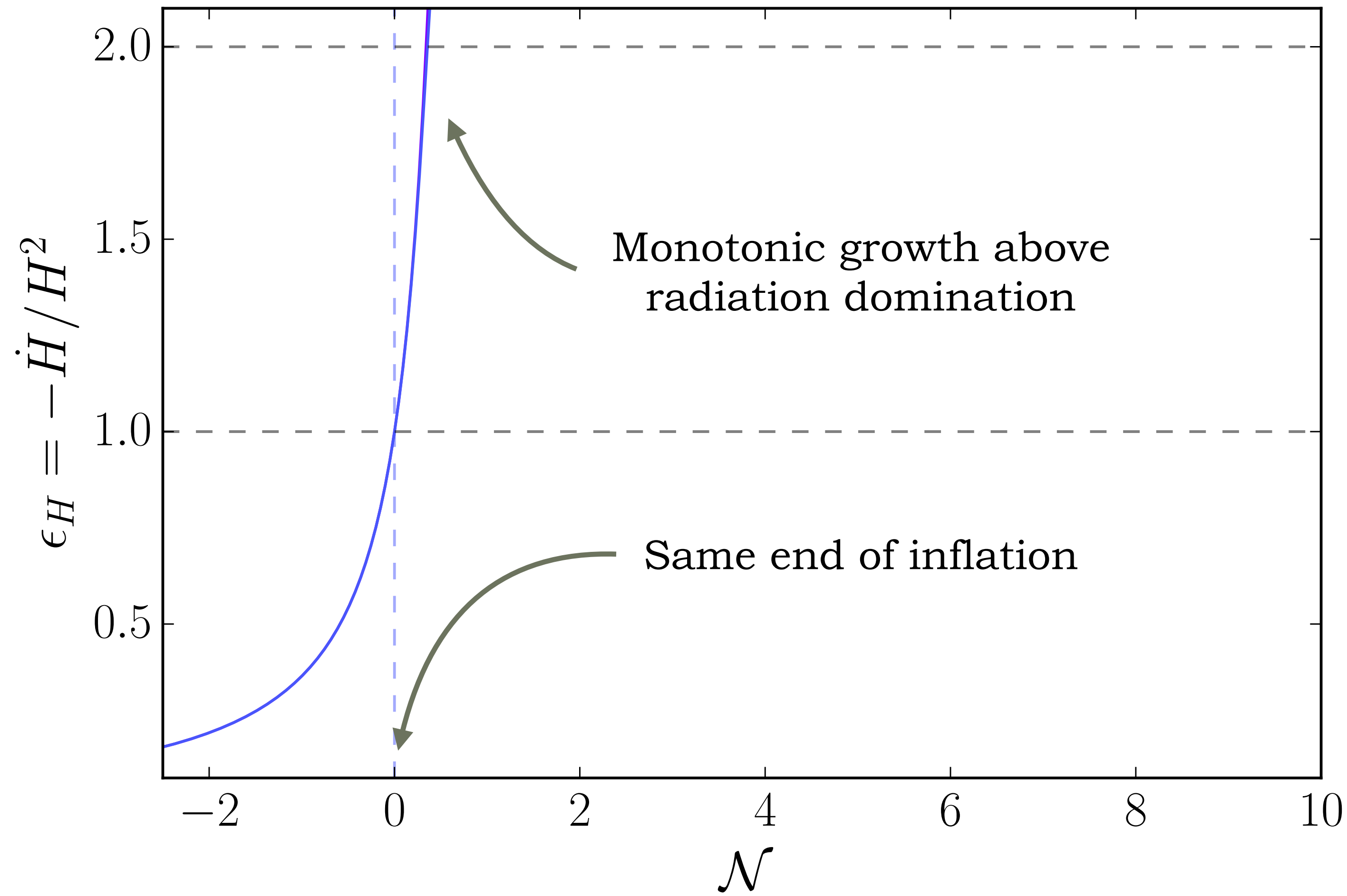
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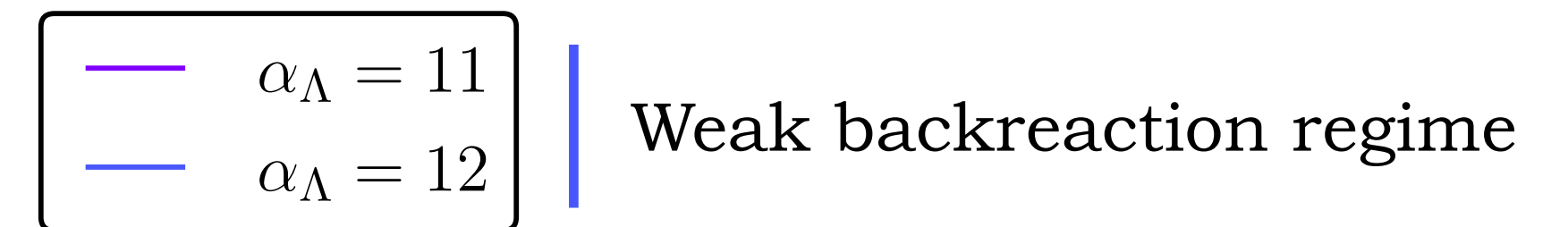
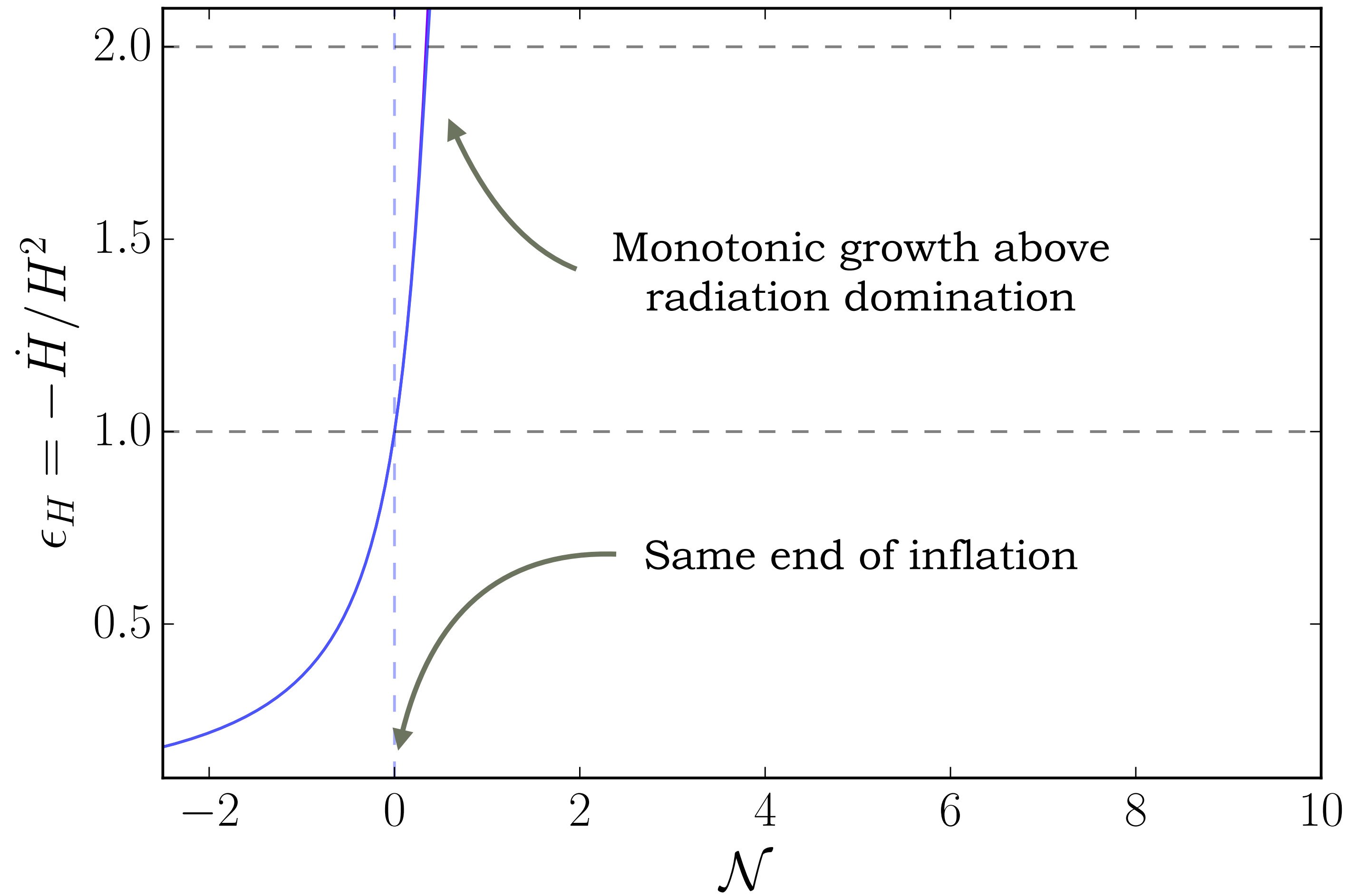
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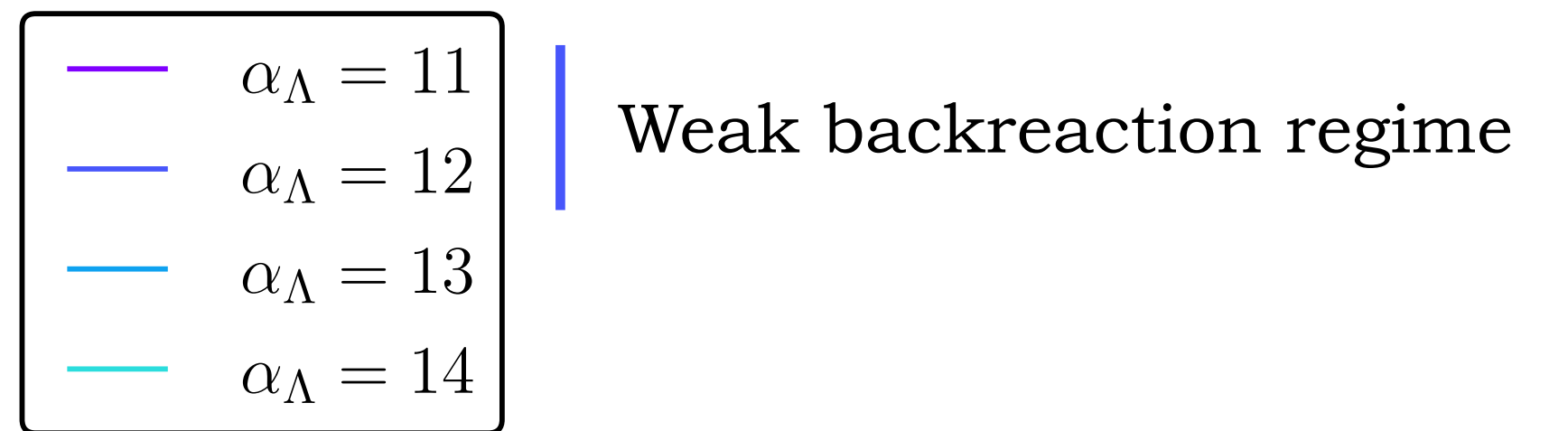
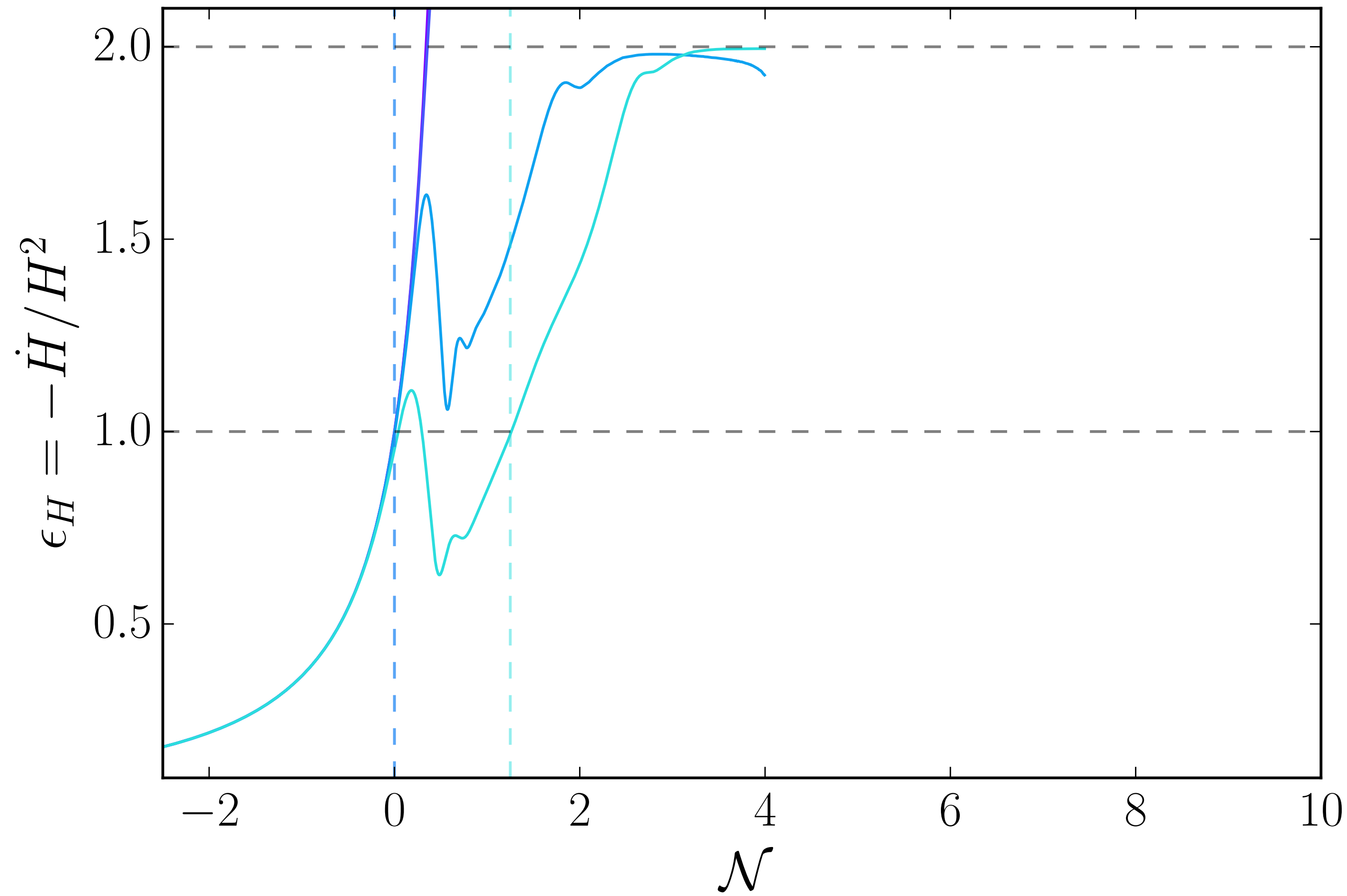
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Inflation duration

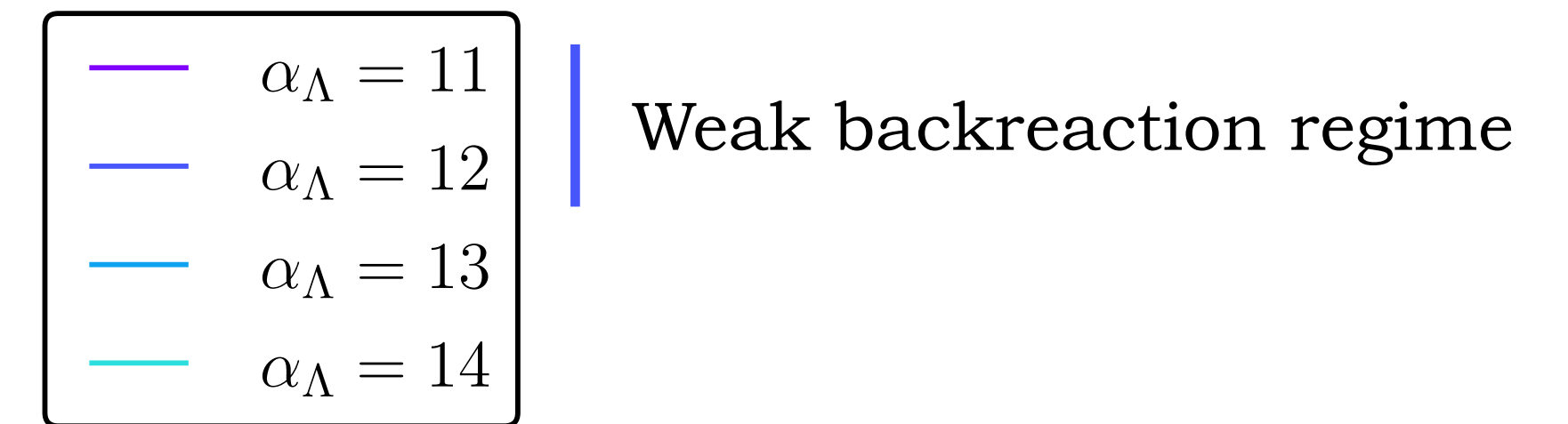
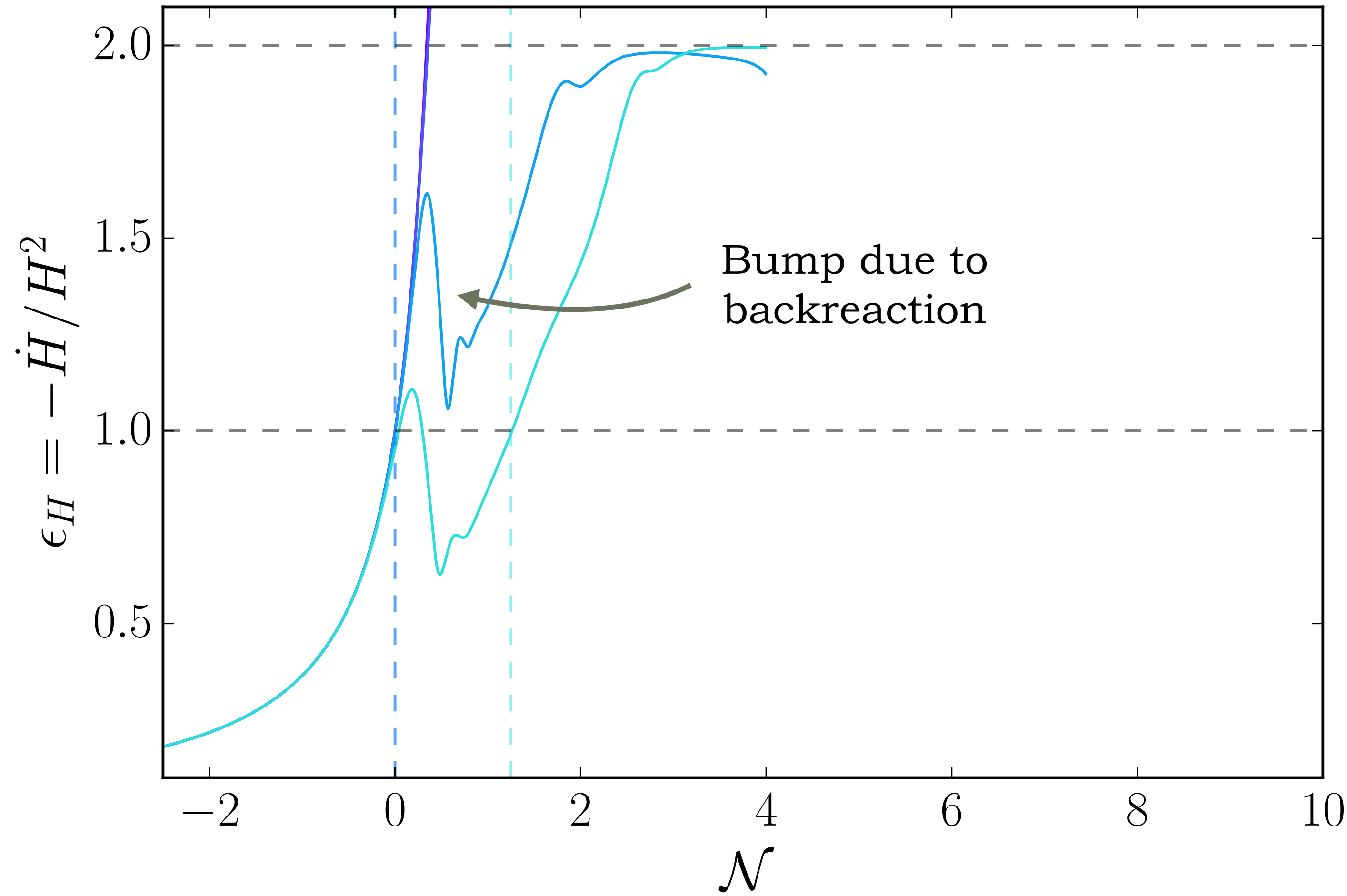
$$\text{Also: } \epsilon_H = 1 + (2\rho_K - \rho_V + \rho_{EM})/\rho_{\text{tot}}$$



Our free parameter is α_Λ : controls the strength of the backreaction!

Inflation duration

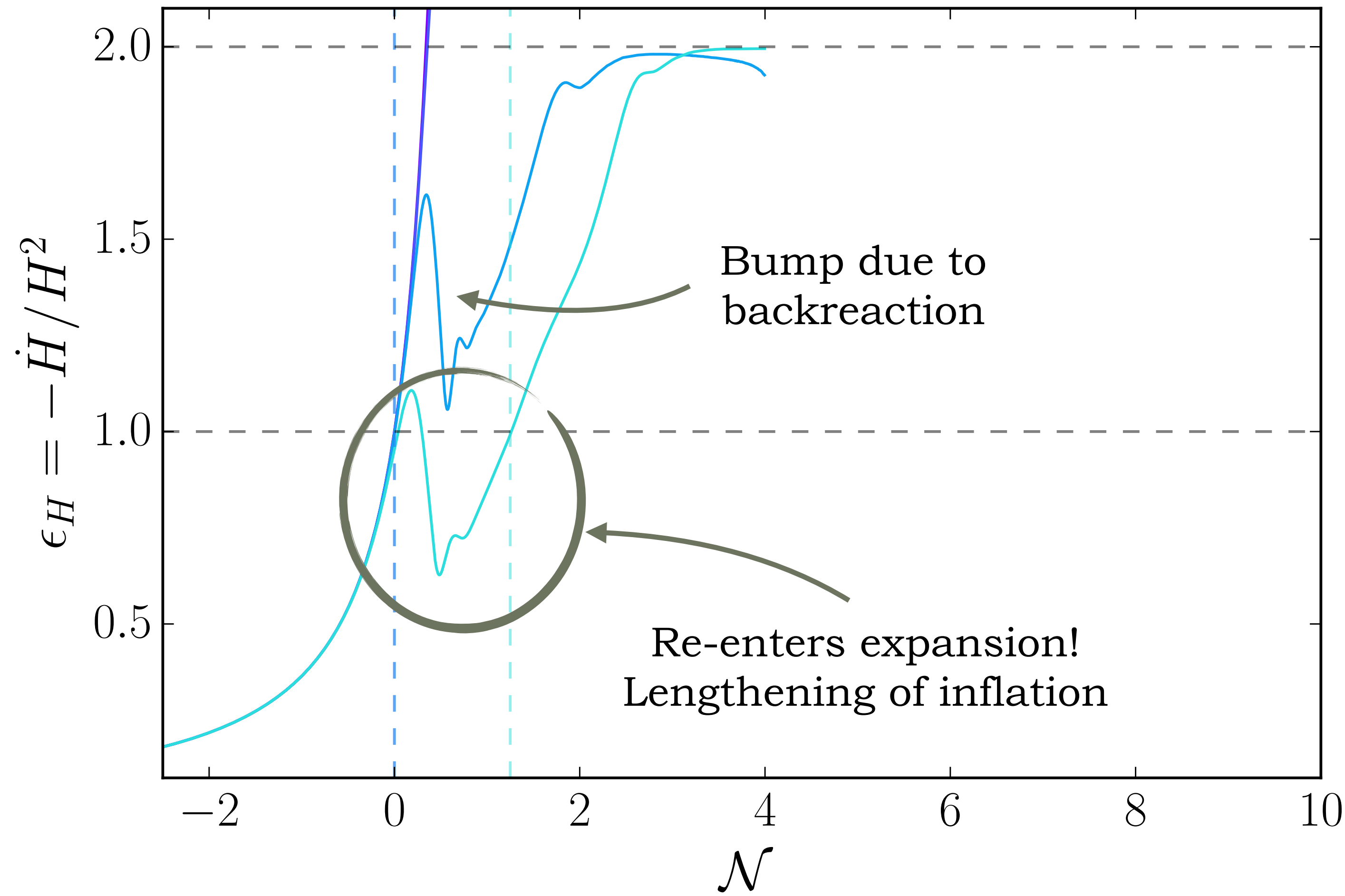
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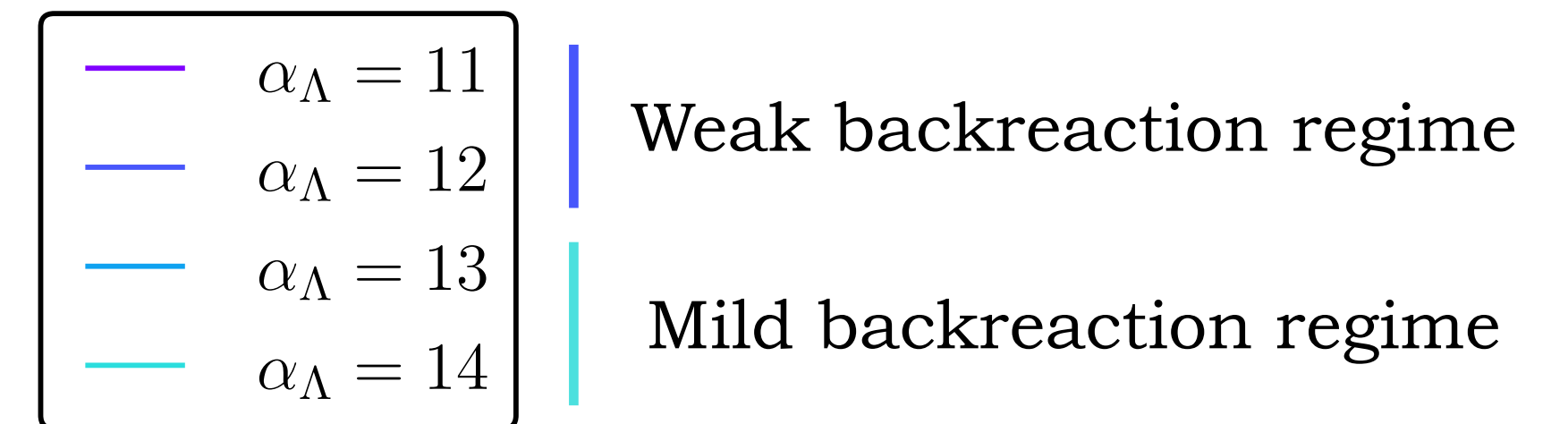
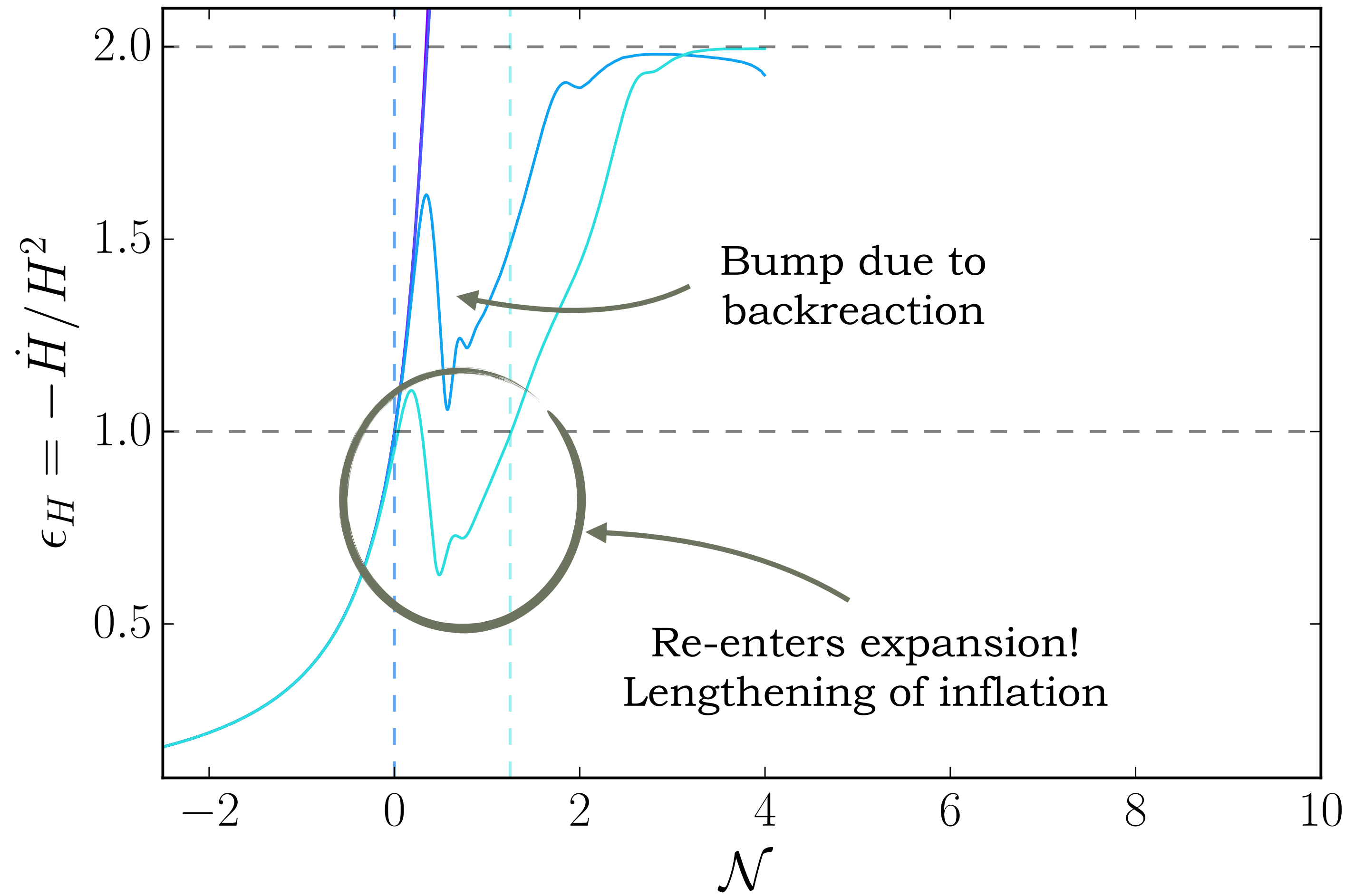


Weak backreaction regime

Our free parameter is α_Λ : controls the strength of the backreaction!

Inflation duration

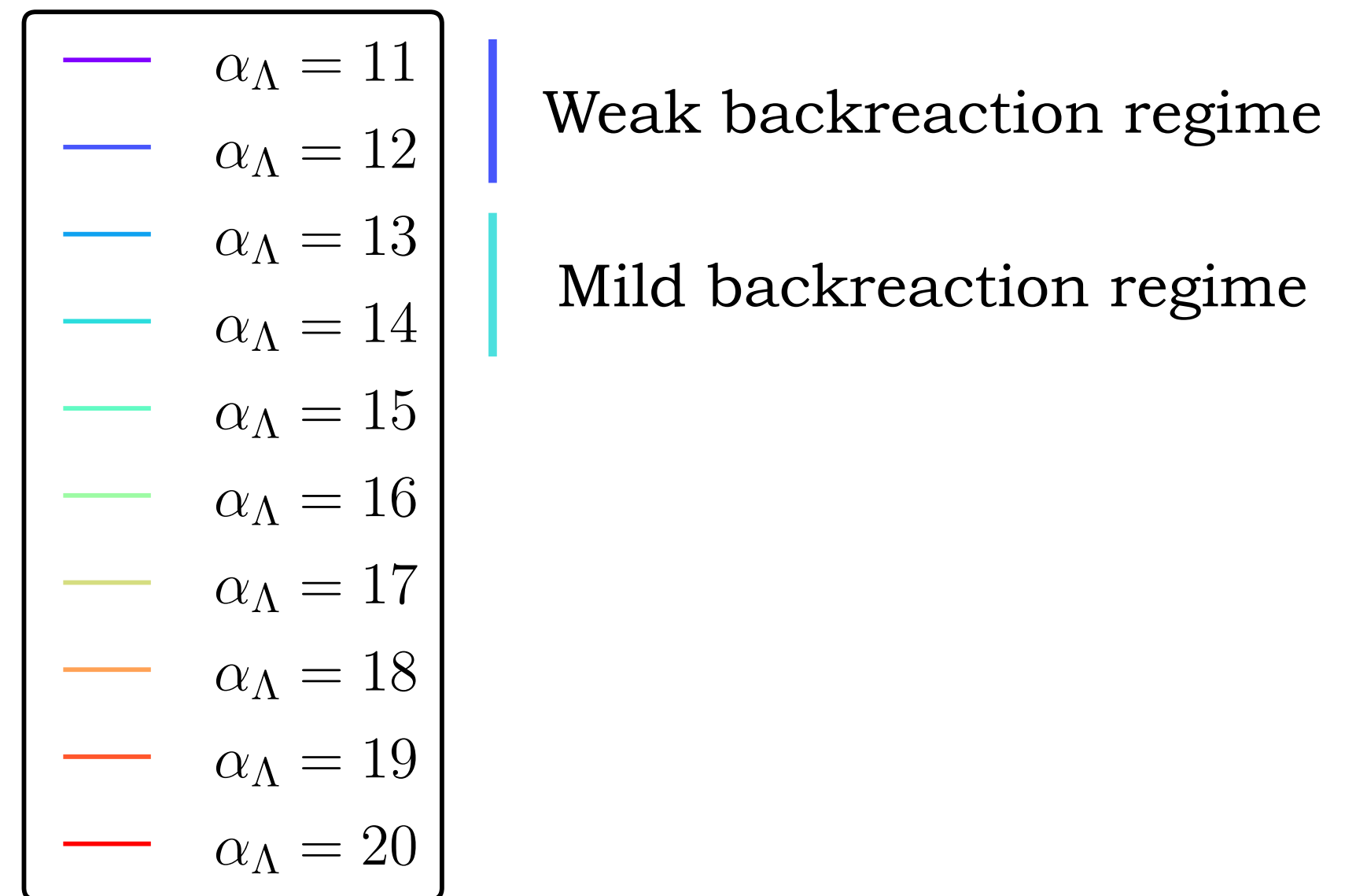
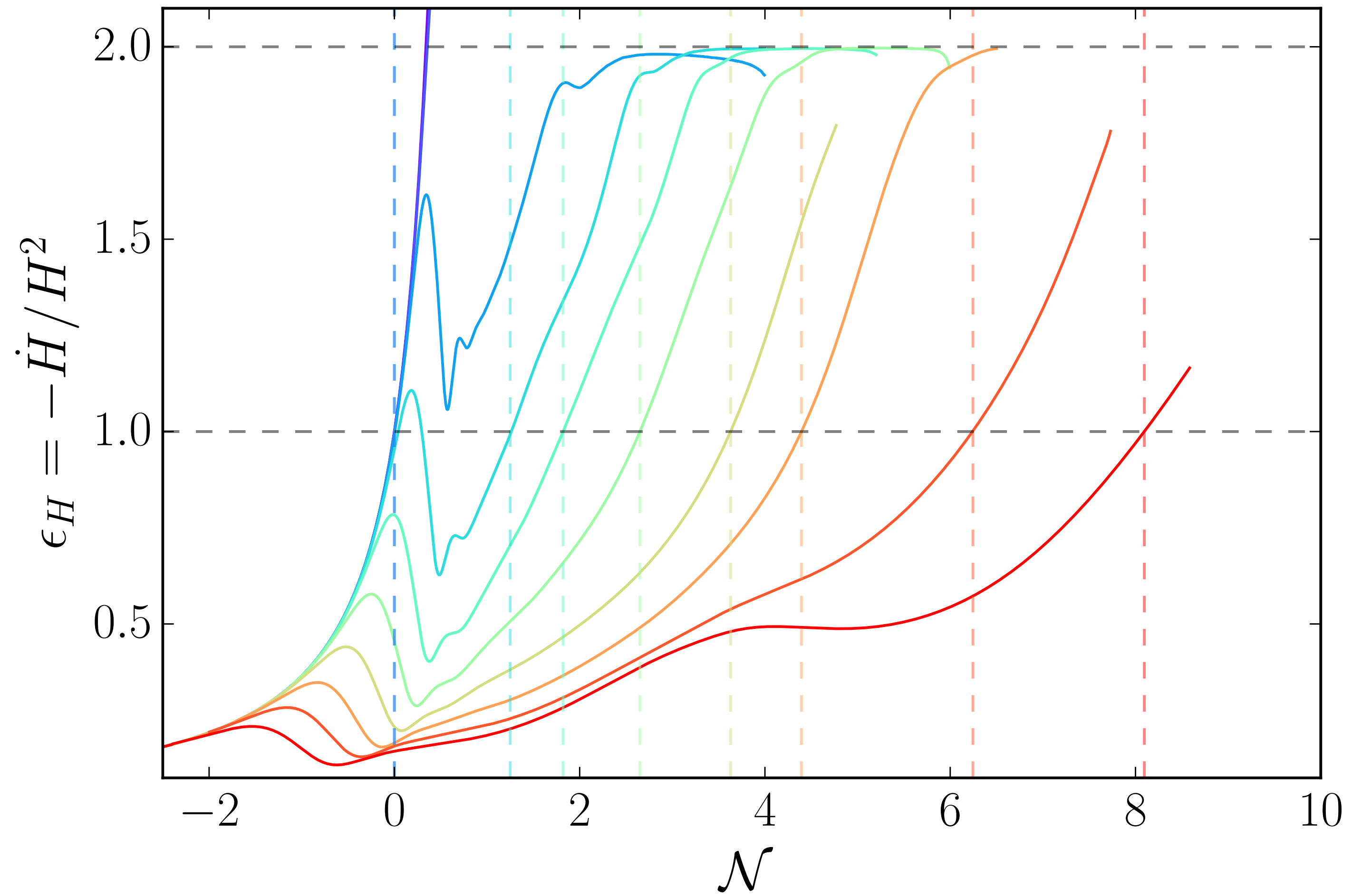
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Inflation duration

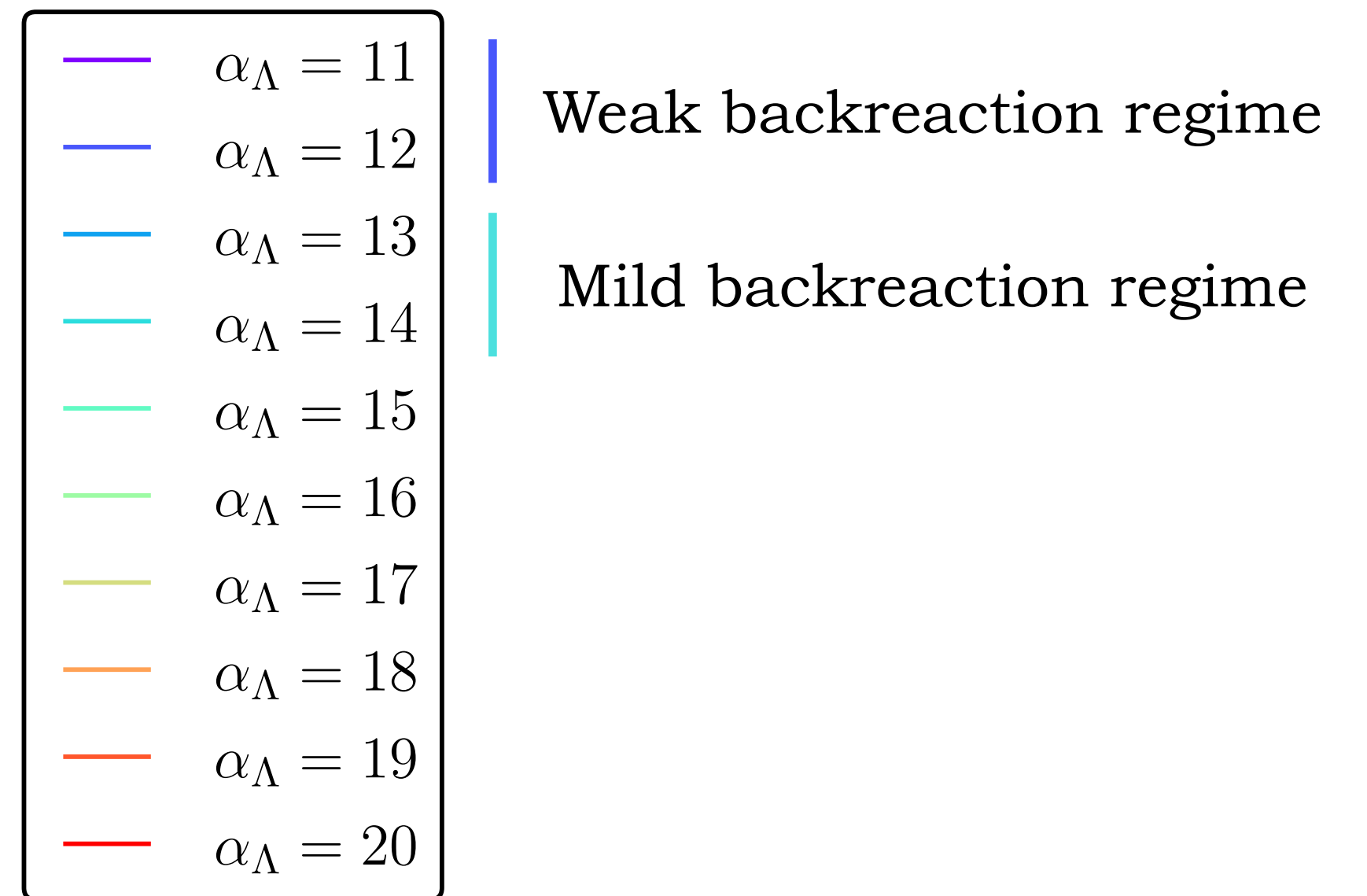
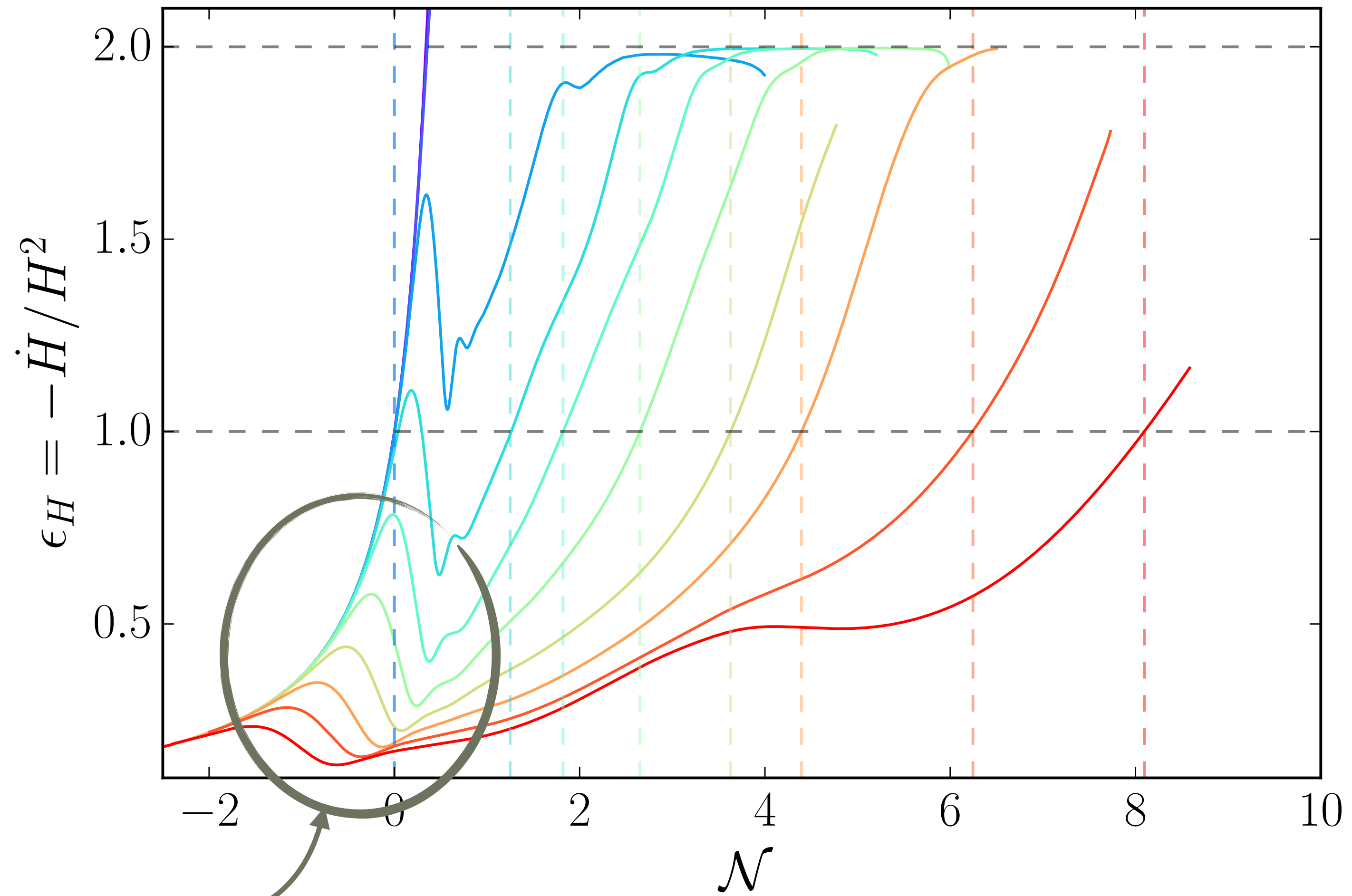
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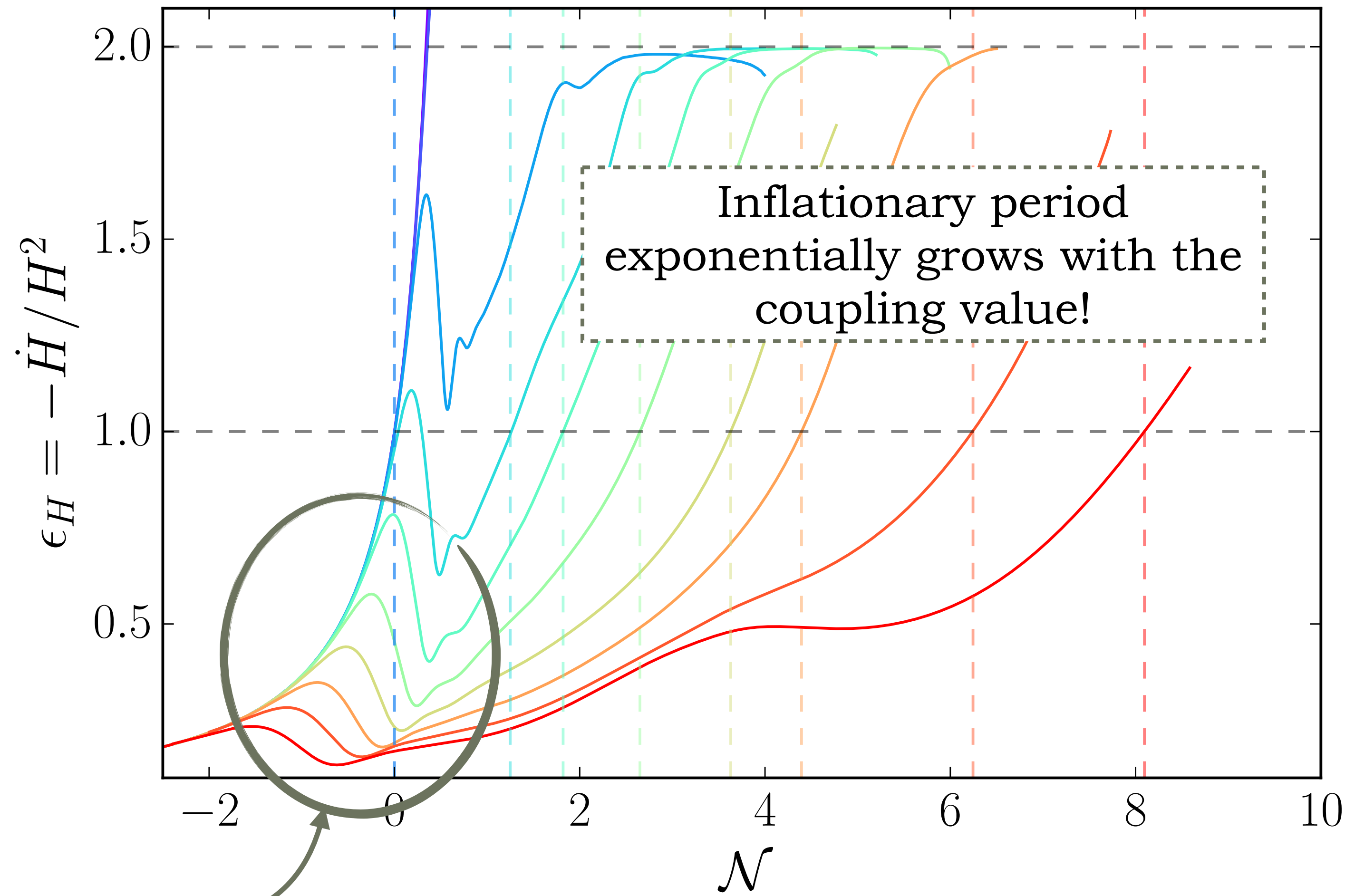


Our free parameter is α_Λ : controls the strength of the backreaction!

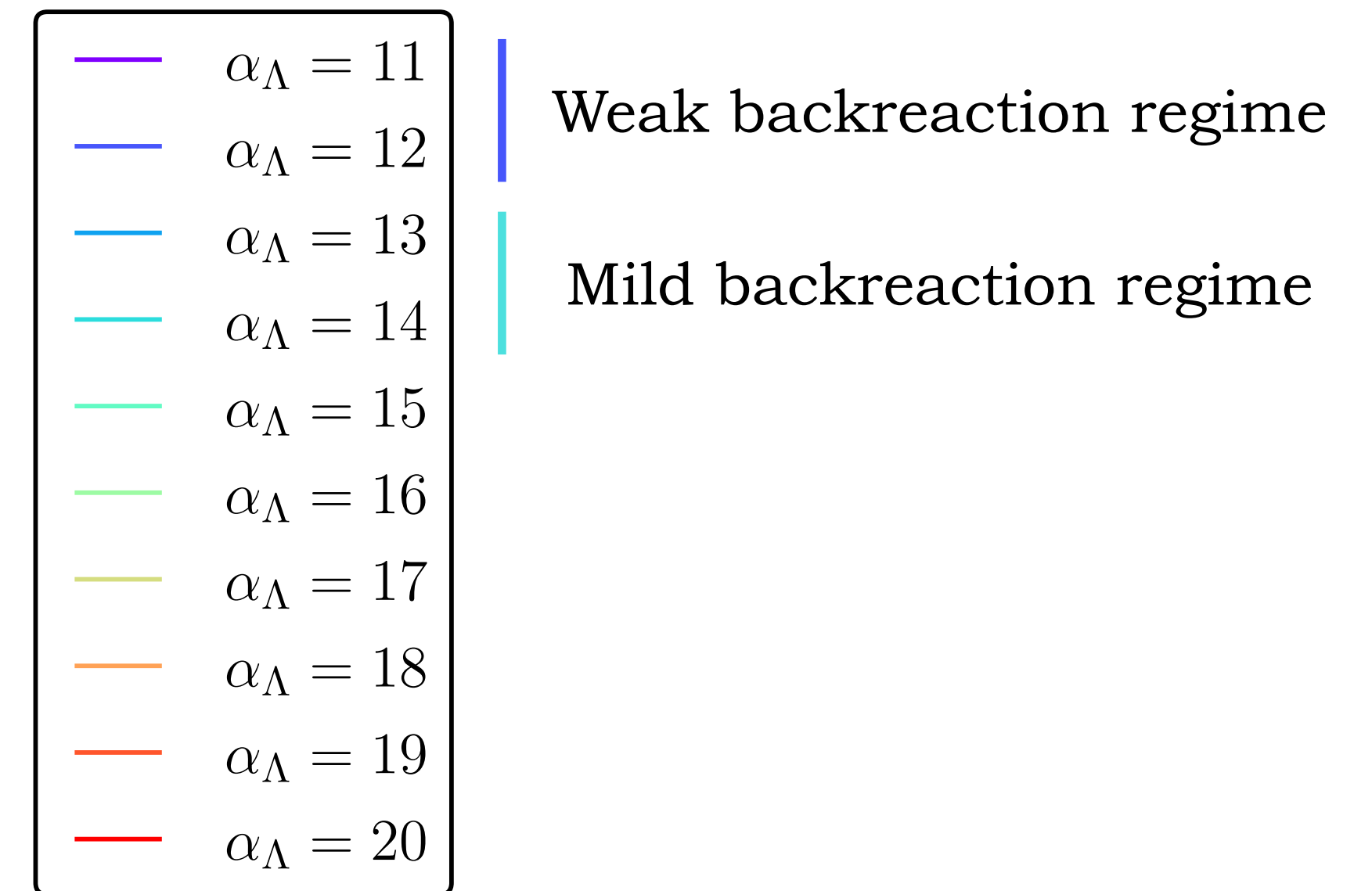
Bump before inflation end
Earlier for higher couplings

Inflation duration

$$\text{Also: } \epsilon_H = 1 + (2\rho_K - \rho_V + \rho_{EM})/\rho_{\text{tot}}$$



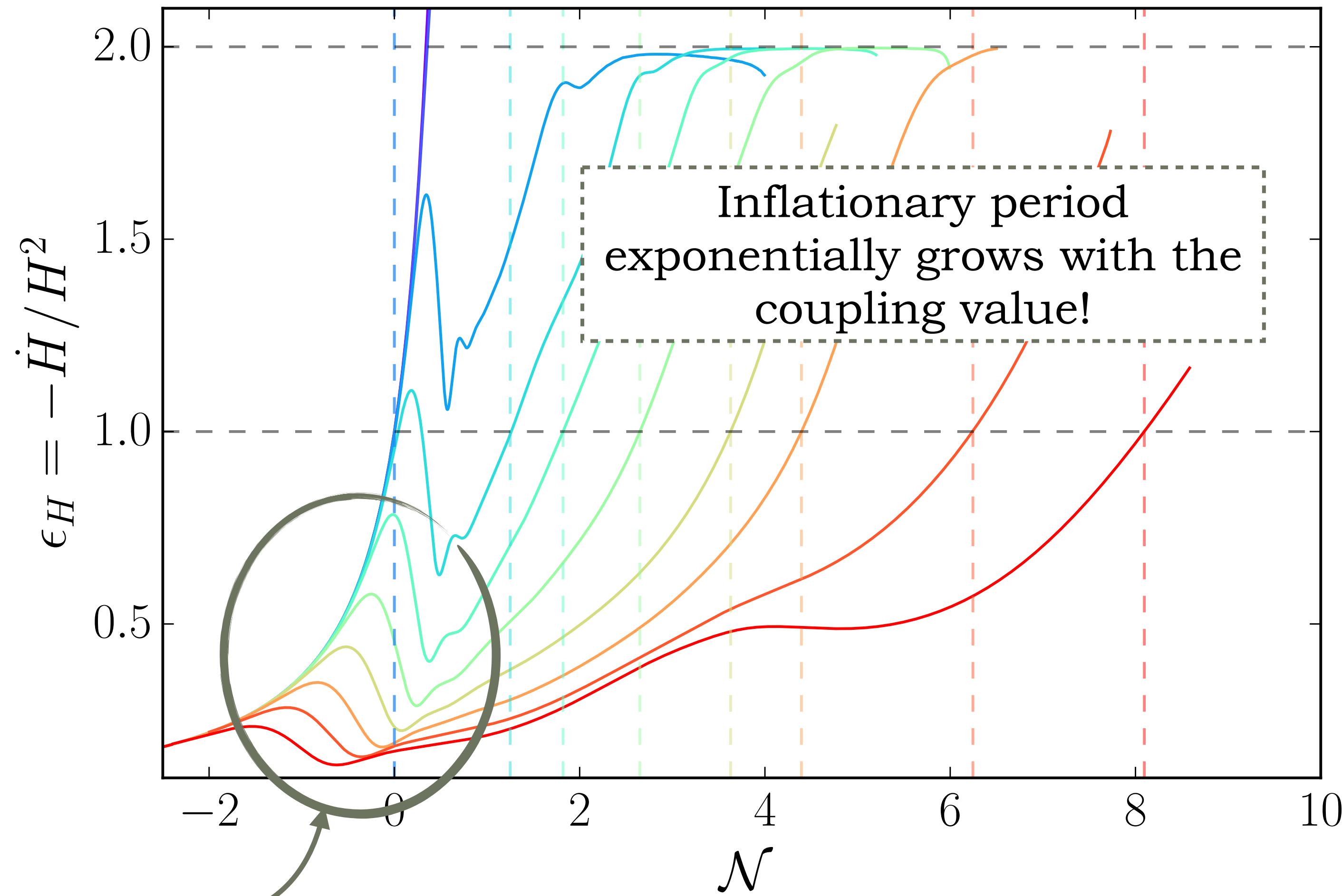
Bump before inflation end
Earlier for higher couplings



Our free parameter is α_Λ : controls the strength of the backreaction!

Inflation duration

Also: $\epsilon_H = 1 + (2\rho_K - \rho_V + \rho_{EM})/\rho_{tot}$



- $\alpha_\Lambda = 11$
- $\alpha_\Lambda = 12$
- $\alpha_\Lambda = 13$
- $\alpha_\Lambda = 14$
- $\alpha_\Lambda = 15$
- $\alpha_\Lambda = 16$
- $\alpha_\Lambda = 17$
- $\alpha_\Lambda = 18$
- $\alpha_\Lambda = 19$
- $\alpha_\Lambda = 20$

| Weak backreaction regime

| Mild backreaction regime

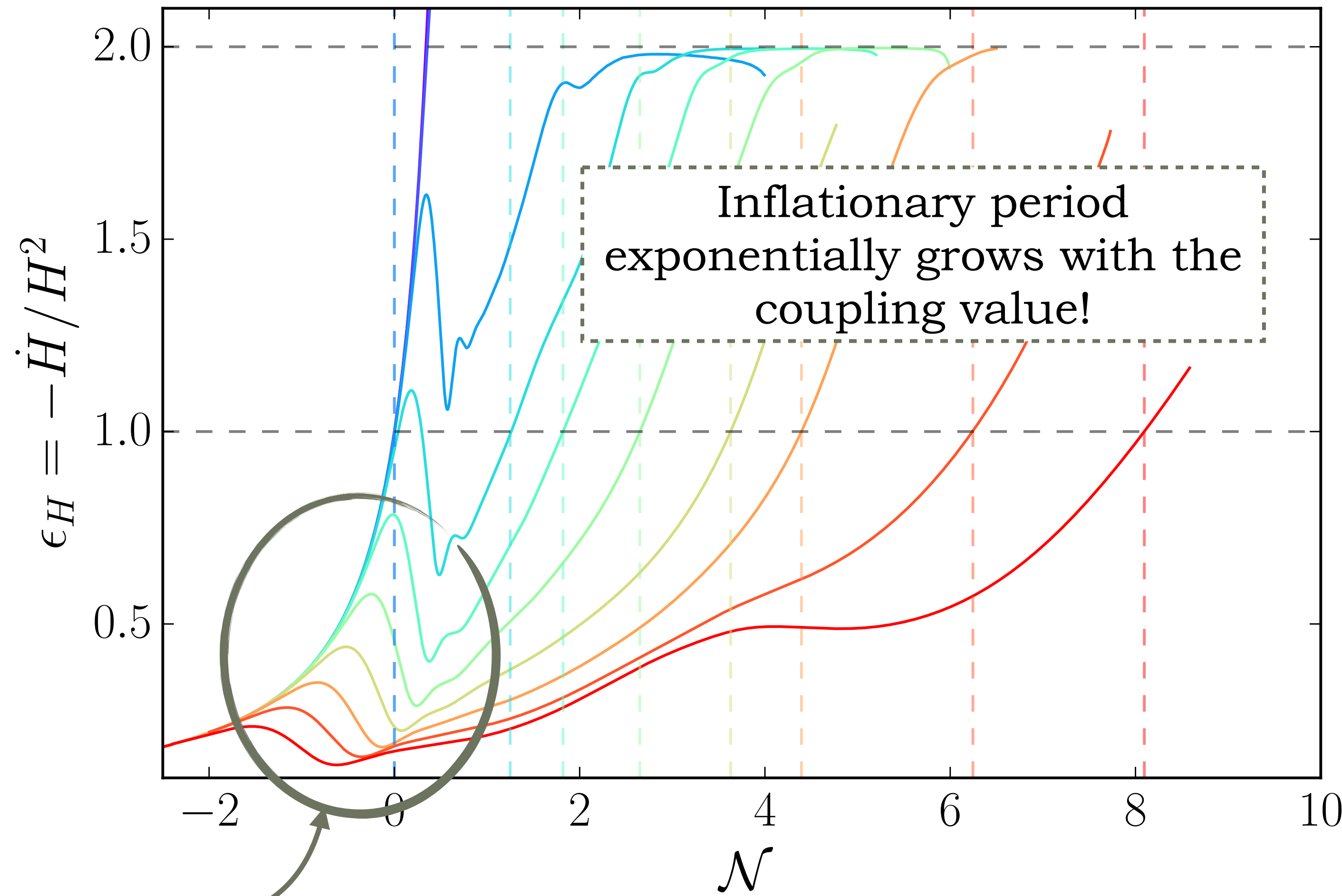
| Strong backreaction regime

Our free parameter is α_Λ : controls the strength of the backreaction!

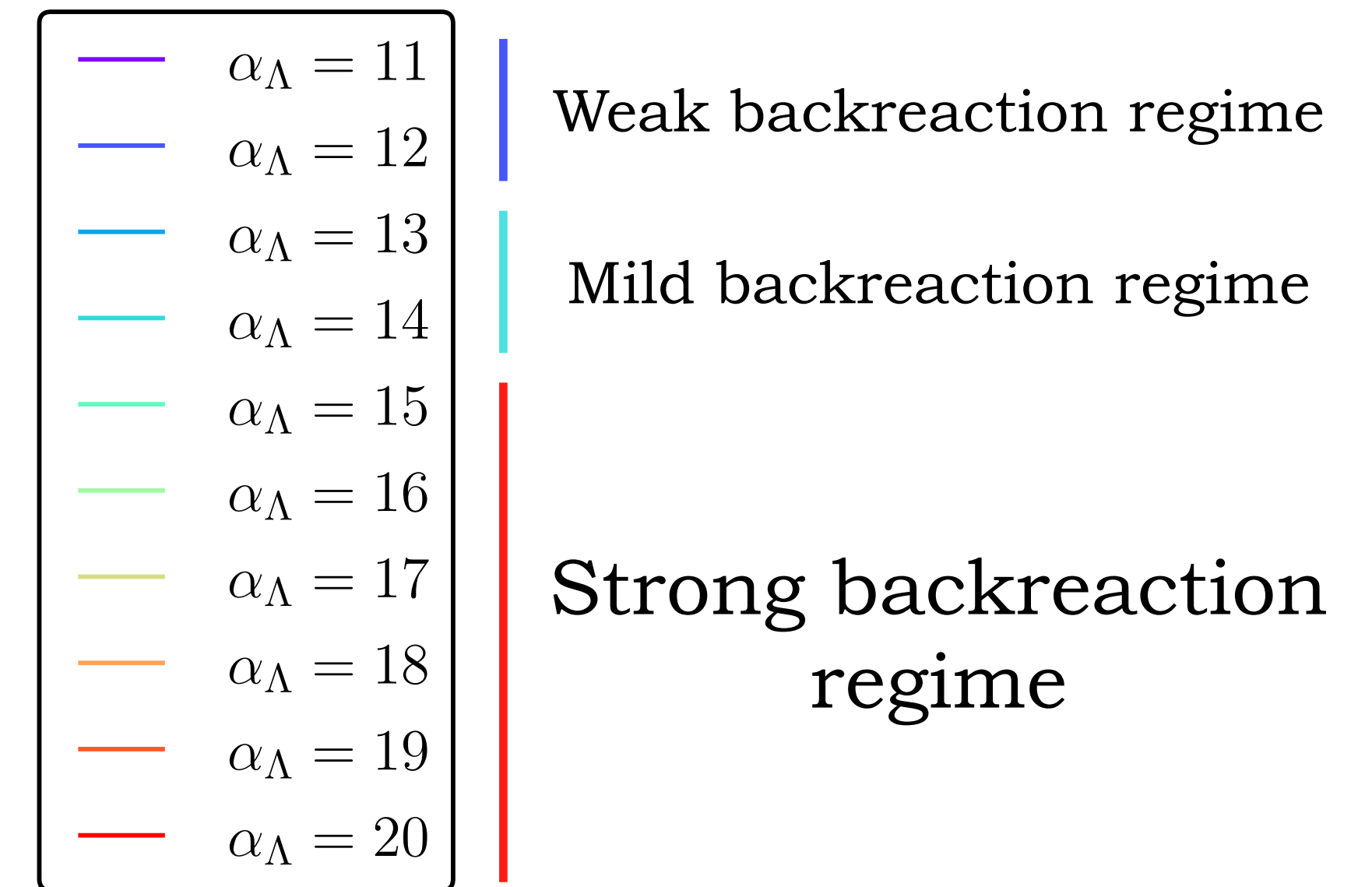
Bump before inflation end
Earlier for higher couplings

Inflation duration

Also: $\epsilon_H = 1 + (2\rho_K - \rho_V + \rho_{EM})/\rho_{tot}$



Bump before inflation end
Earlier for higher couplings

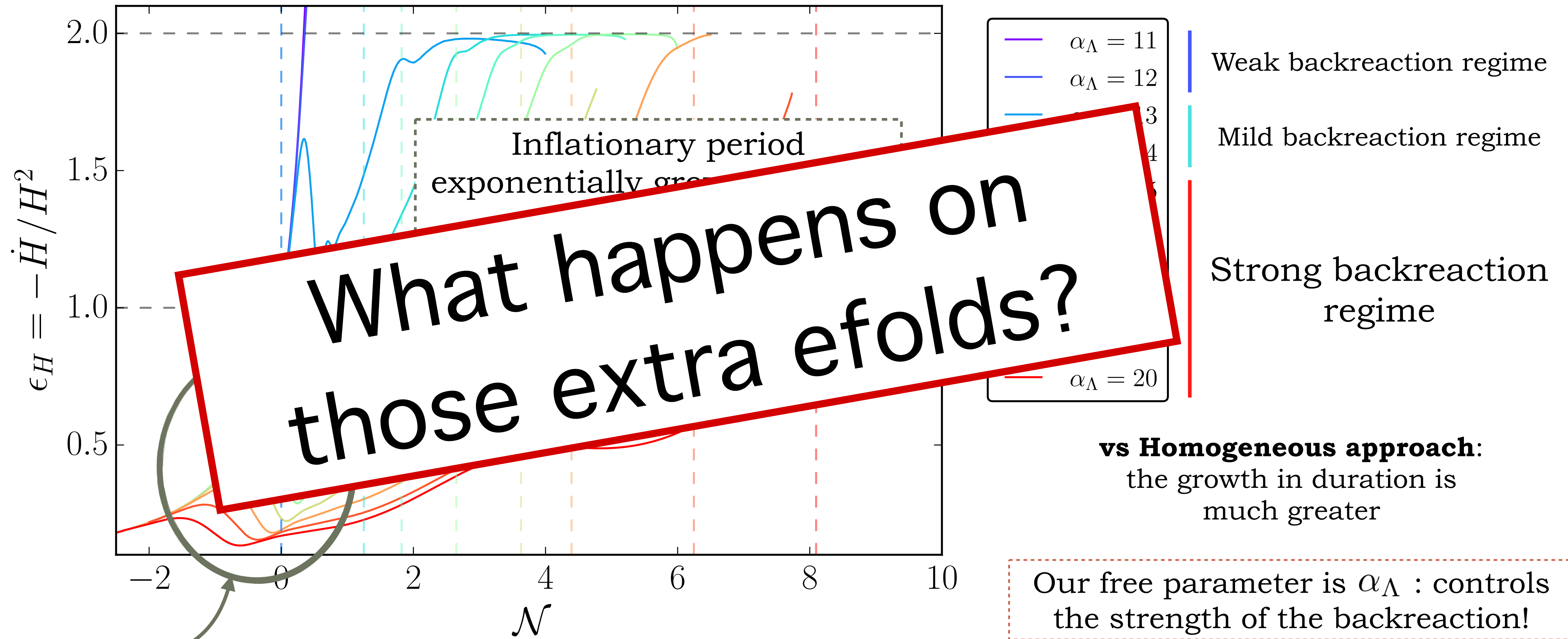


vs Homogeneous approach:
the growth in duration is
much greater

Our free parameter is α_Λ : controls
the strength of the backreaction!

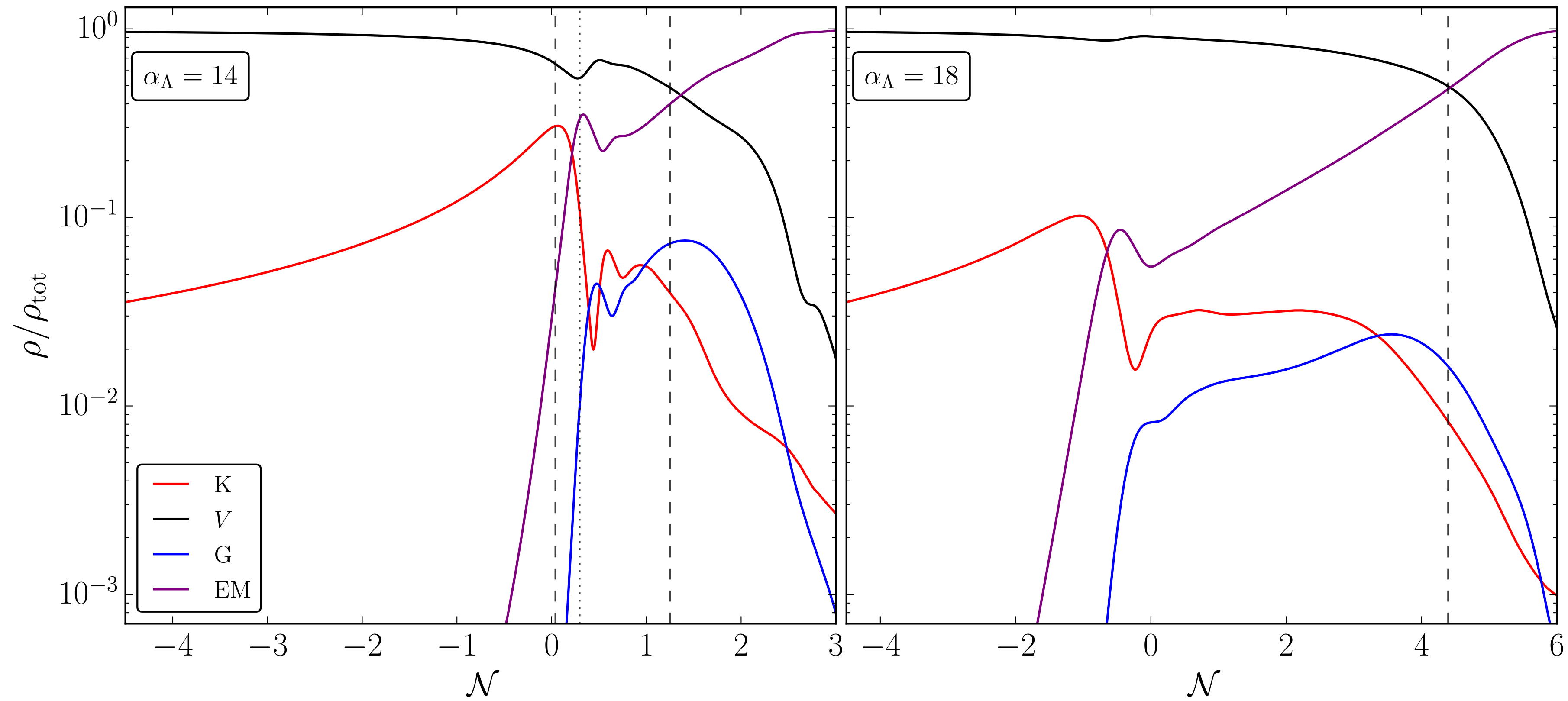
Inflation duration

Also: $\epsilon_H = 1 + (2\rho_K - \rho_V + \rho_{EM})/\rho_{tot}$



Bump before inflation end
Earlier for higher couplings

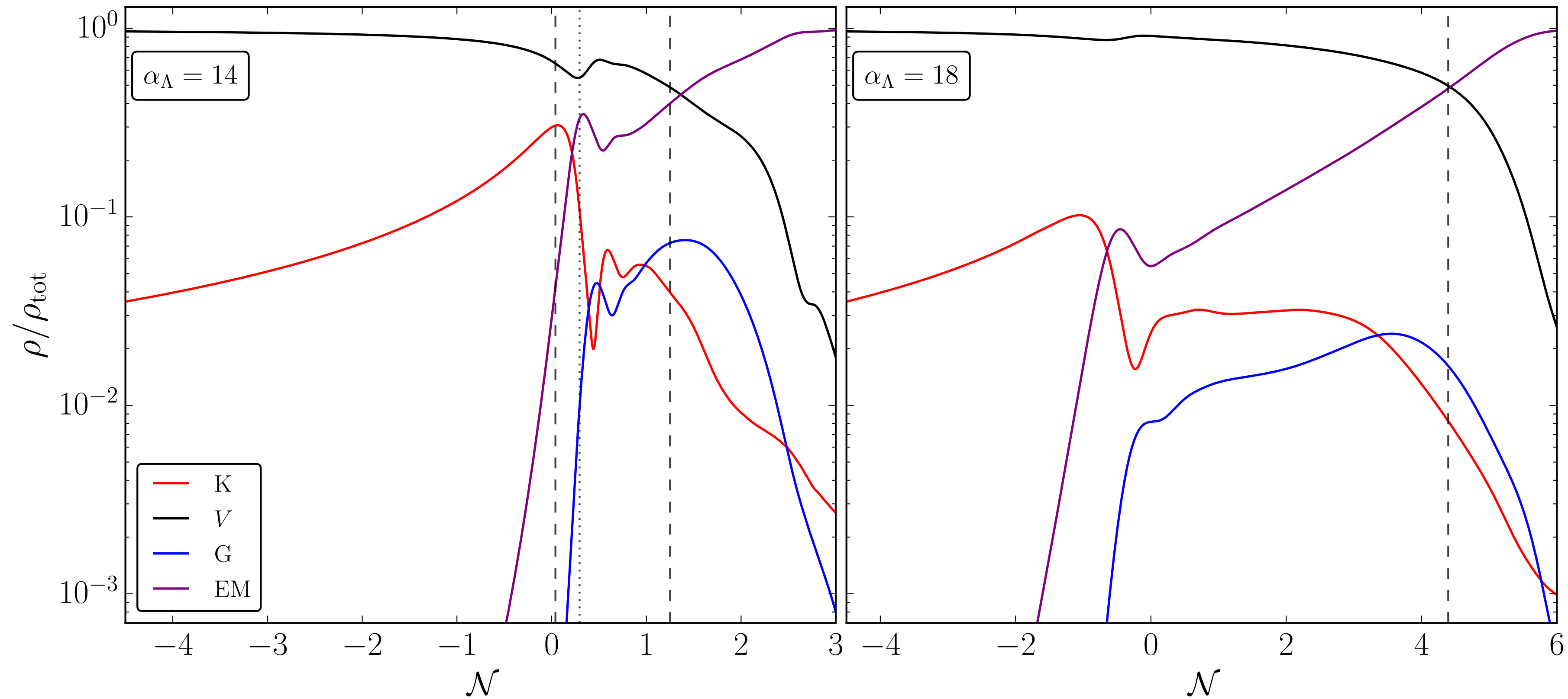
Energy density evolution



Energy density evolution

Mild backreaction regime

Strong backreaction regime

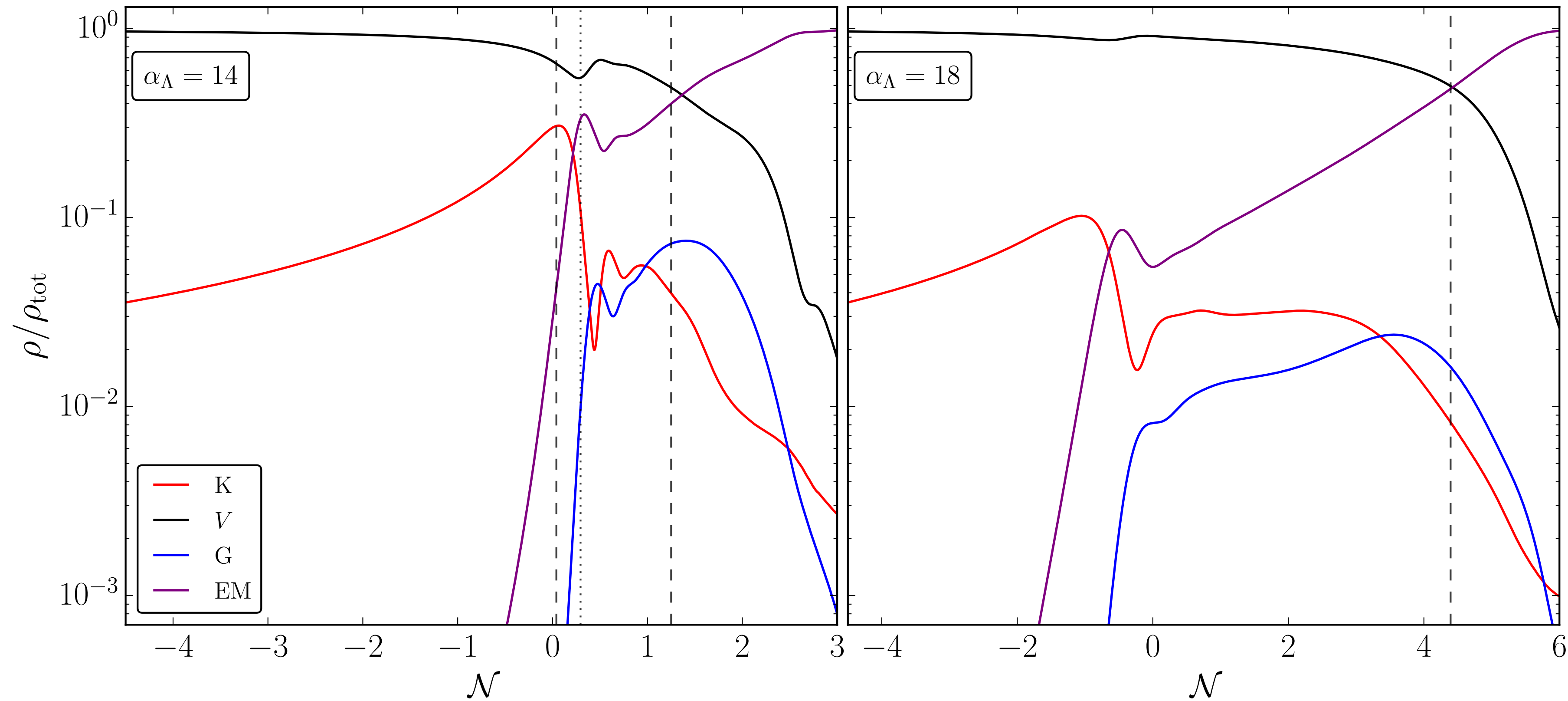


Energy density evolution

$$\epsilon_H = 1 + (2\rho_K - \rho_V + \rho_{EM})/\rho_{\text{tot}}$$

Mild backreaction regime

Strong backreaction regime

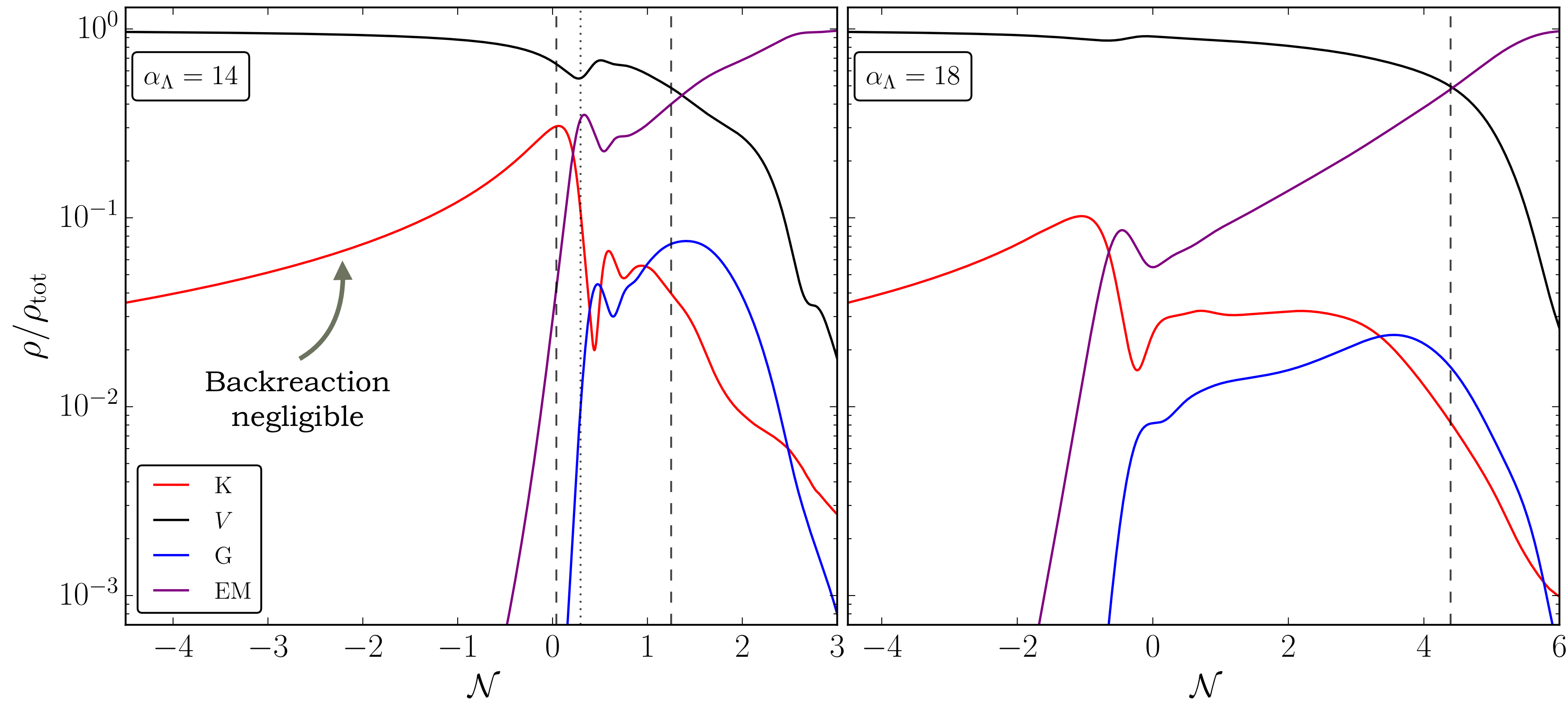


Energy density evolution

$$\epsilon_H = 1 + (2\rho_K - \rho_V + \rho_{EM})/\rho_{tot}$$

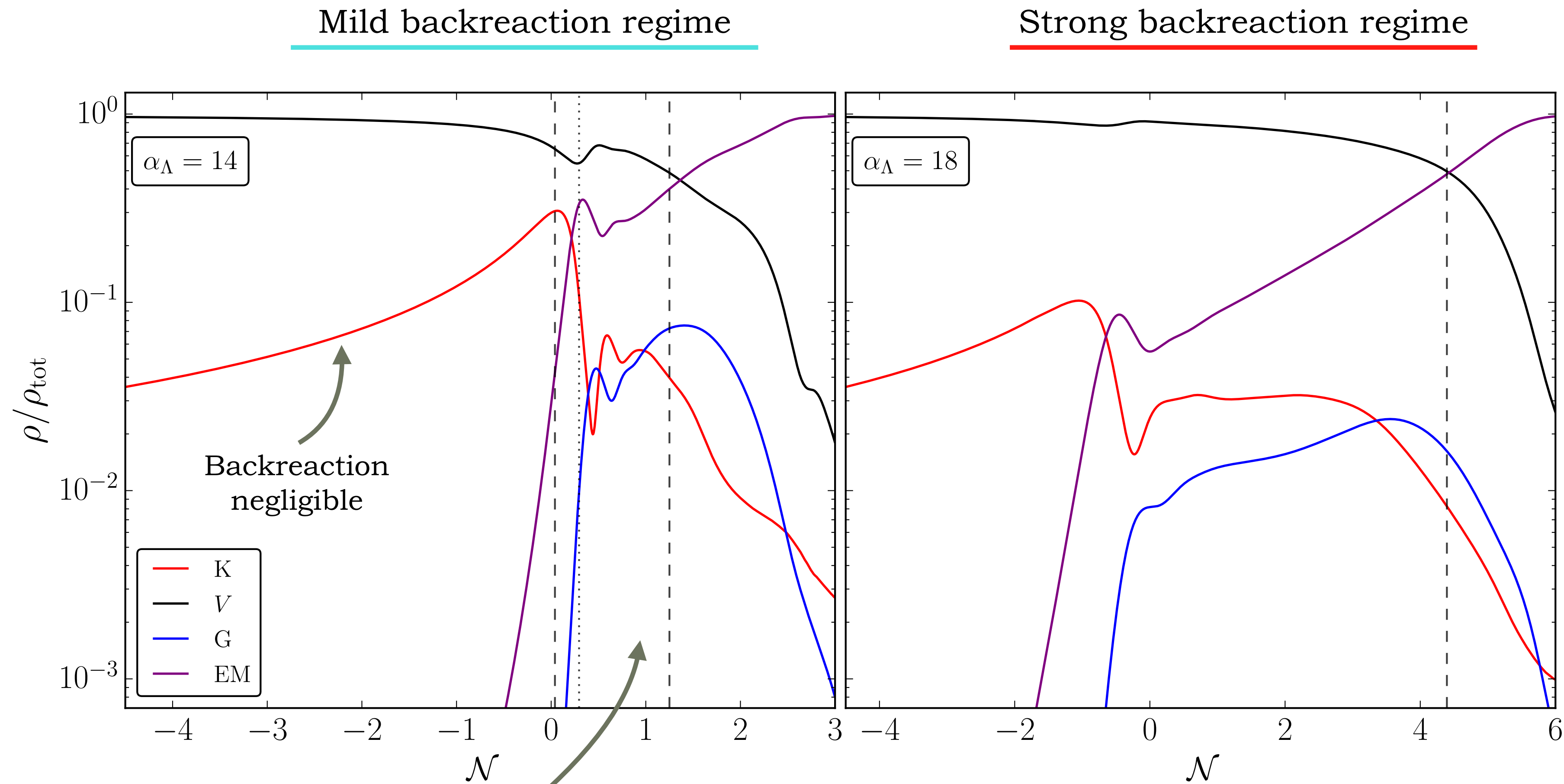
Mild backreaction regime

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Energy density evolution

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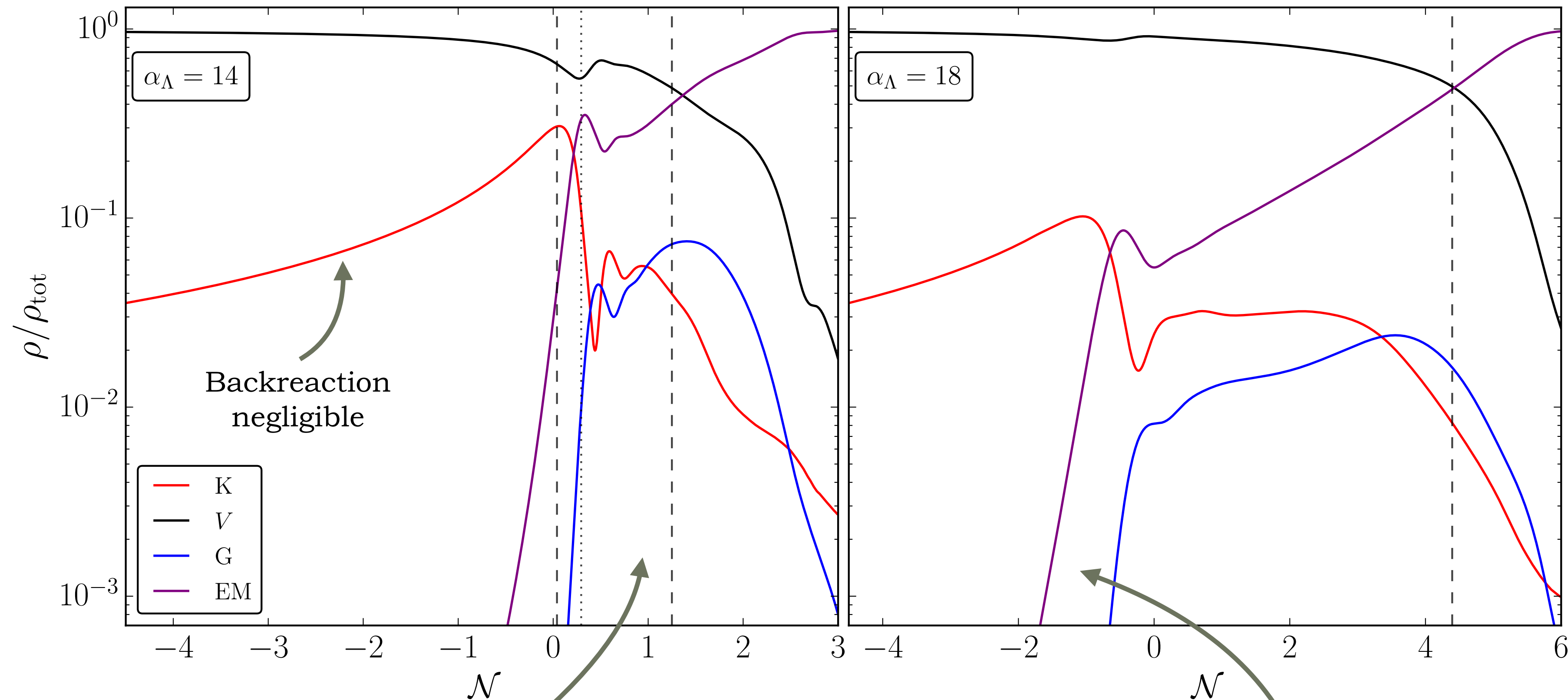
Re-enters inflation with EM dominating and gradients slowing down kinetic energy density

Energy density evolution

$$\epsilon_H = 1 + (2\rho_K - \rho_V + \rho_{EM})/\rho_{tot}$$

Mild backreaction regime

Strong backreaction regime

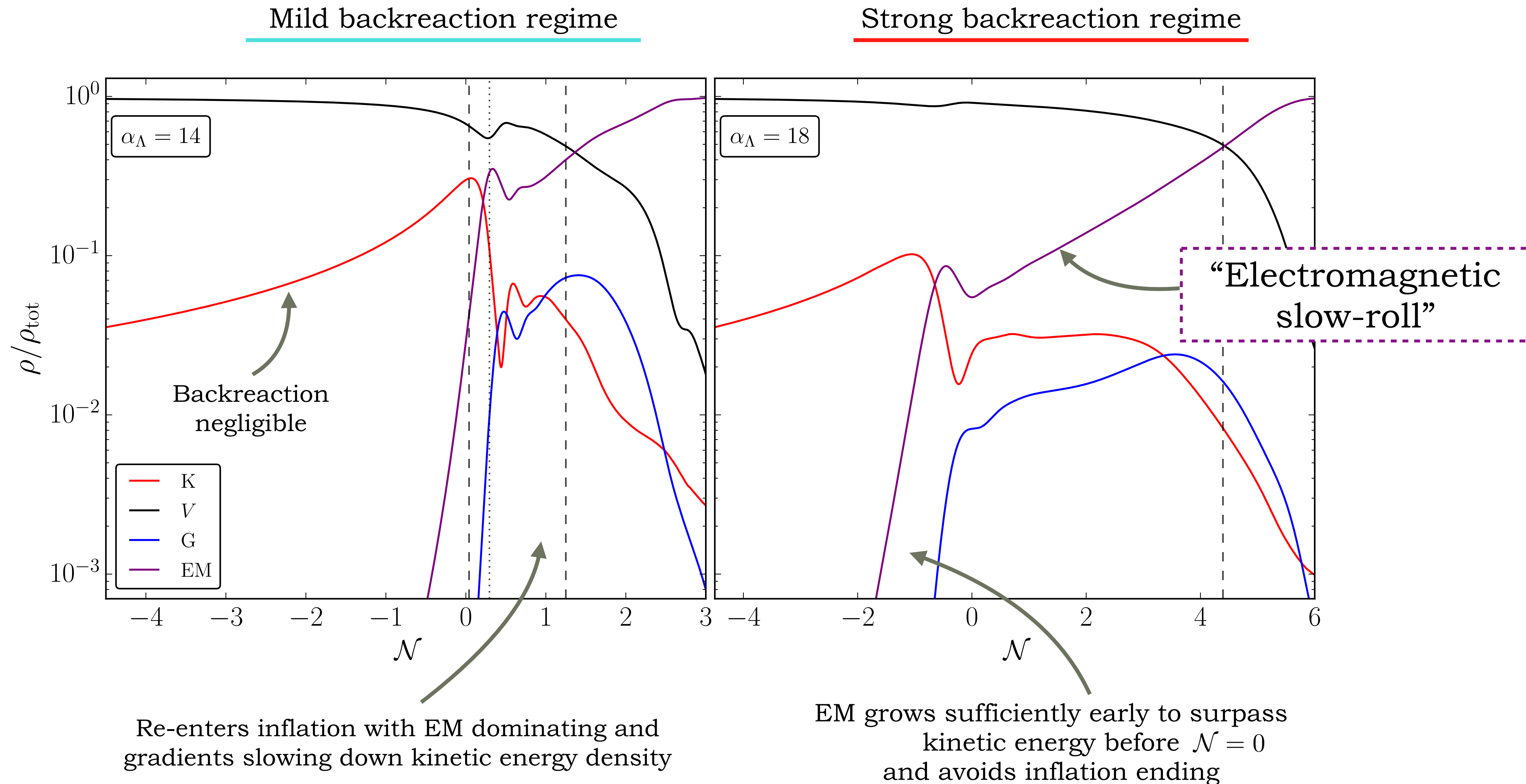


Re-enters inflation with EM dominating and gradients slowing down kinetic energy density

EM grows sufficiently early to surpass kinetic energy before $\mathcal{N} = 0$ and avoids inflation ending

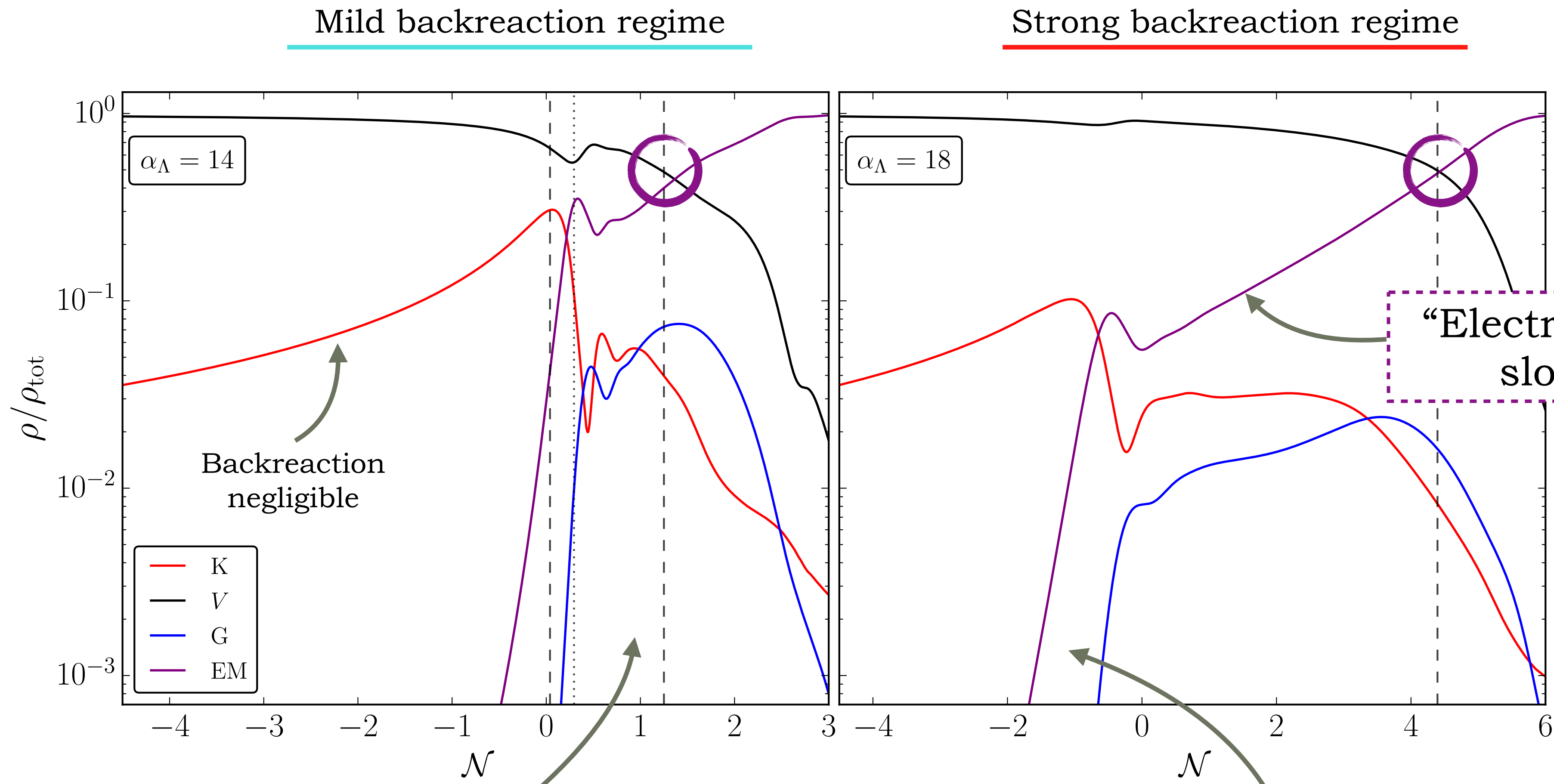
Energy density evolution

$$\epsilon_H = 1 + (2\rho_K - \rho_V + \rho_{EM})/\rho_{tot}$$



Energy density evolution

$$\epsilon_H = 1 + (2\rho_K - \rho_V + \rho_{EM})/\rho_{tot}$$



Mild backreaction regime

Strong backreaction regime

Inflation ends when the U(1) gauge field meets the potential

“Electromagnetic slow-roll”

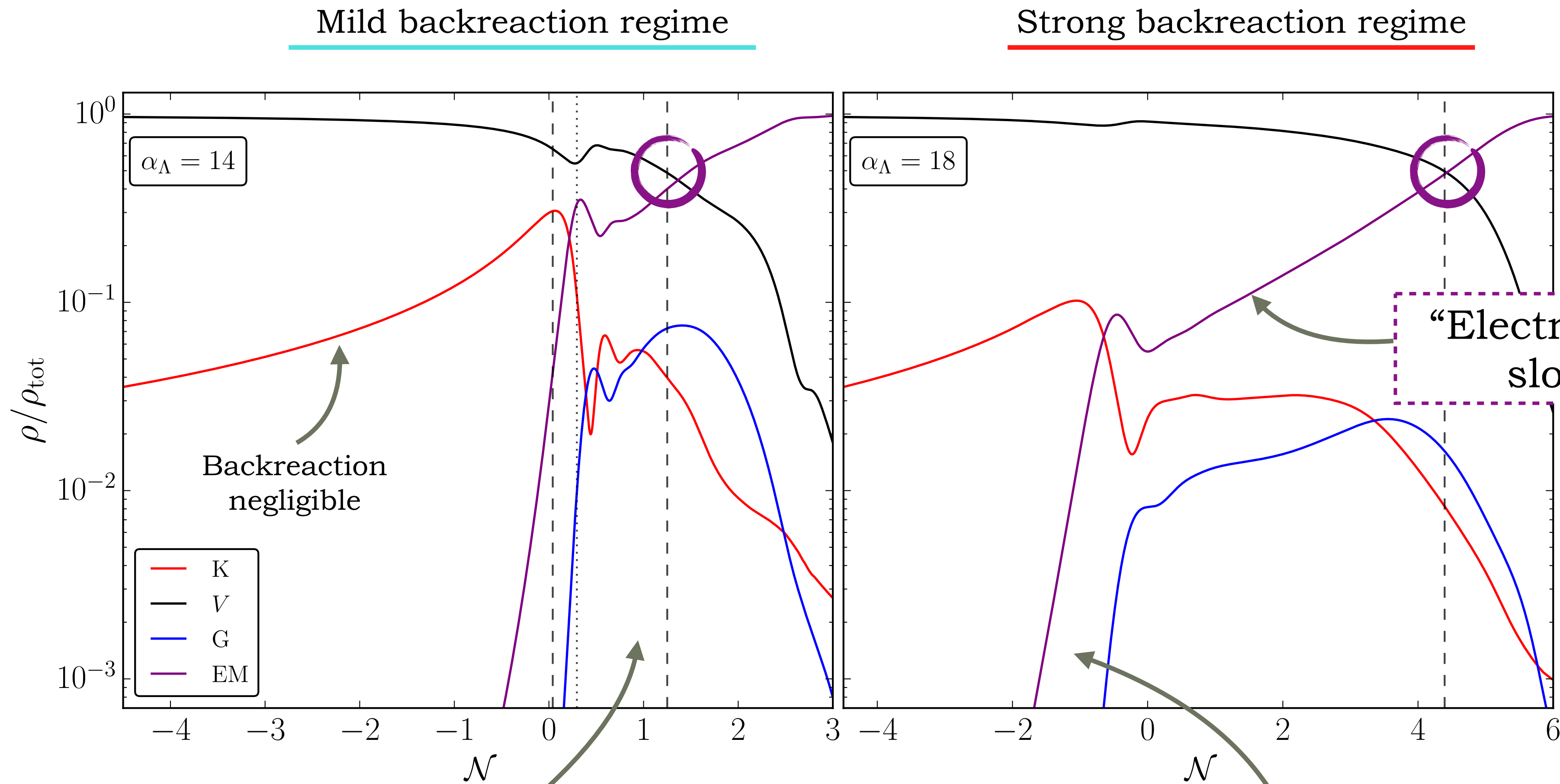
Backreaction negligible

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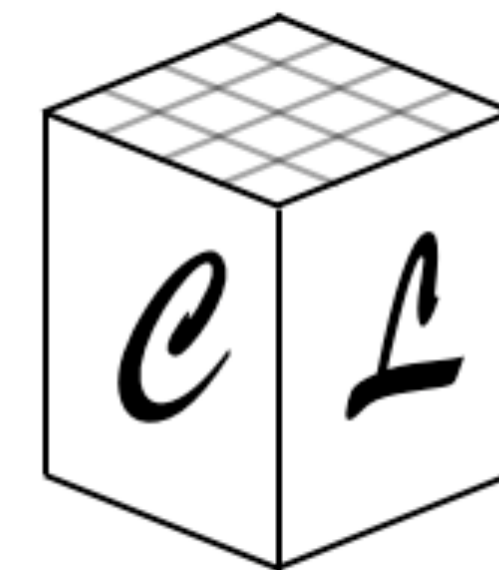
- vs Homogeneous approach:**
- Magnetic energy dominates in the inflation: “Magnetic slow-roll”
 - No oscillatory behavior on the inflaton velocity

Re-enters inflation with EM dominating and gradients slowing down kinetic energy density

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Conclusions

- In the **full backreaction** approach, which includes the contribution of the inhomogeneities, when in the the strong **backreaction** regime we can see:
 1. **Exponential lengthening** of the **inflationary period** with increasing coupling.
 2. **“Magnetic slow-roll”** behavior during the extra efoldings.
 3. **Power** in the gauge field spectrum is **transferred** to the **UV scales**, implying that a **wide dynamical range** is necessary to fully **capture** the **physics** for the highest couplings considered.
- **Homogenous** approach is **not sufficient** to fully capture the non-linear dynamics
- **Phenomenological results** should be **re-studied** in the full backreaction regime: ongoing work!
- As for now, the only way is to make use of **“Lattice cosmology”**.

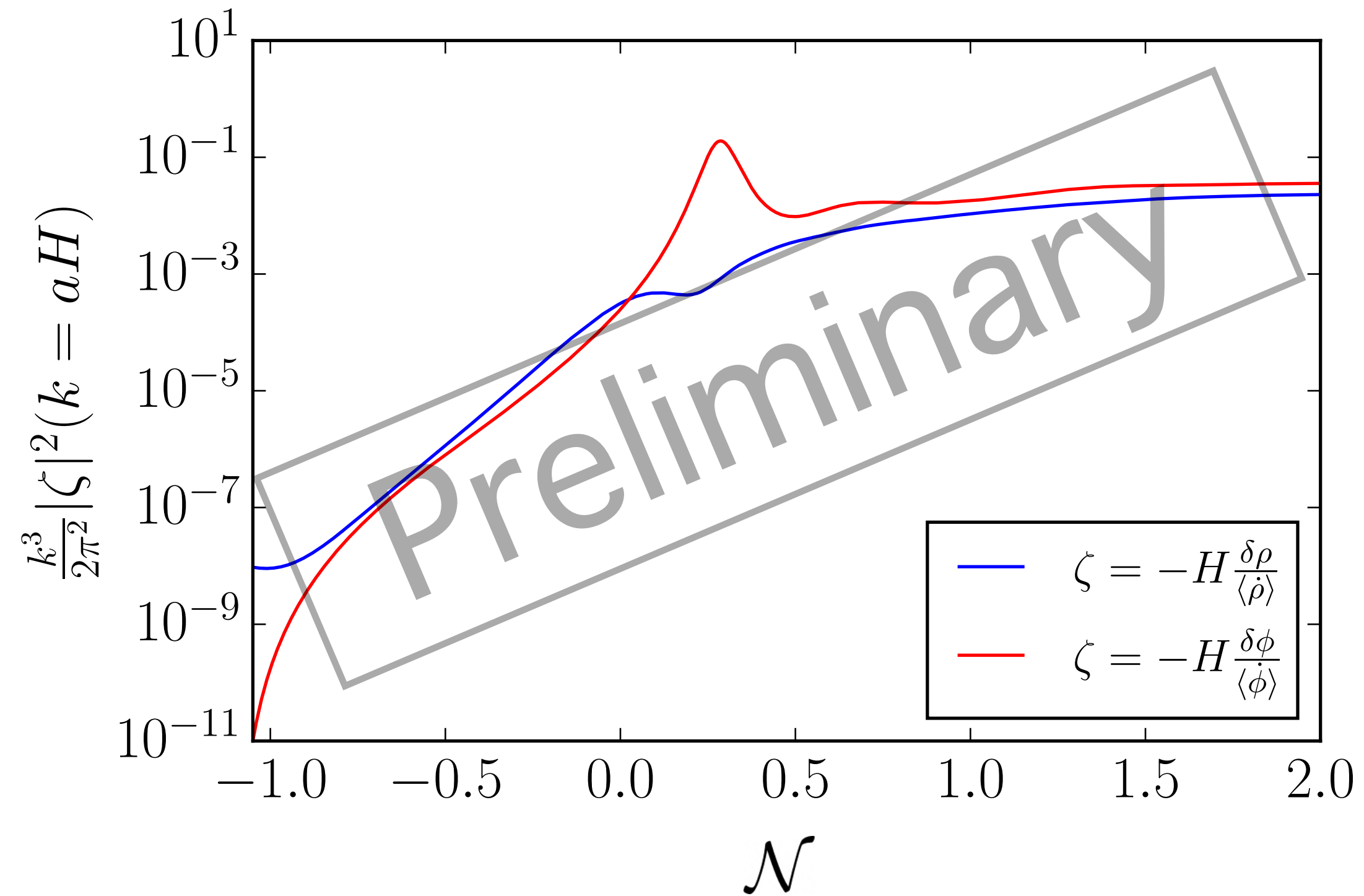


CosmoLattice

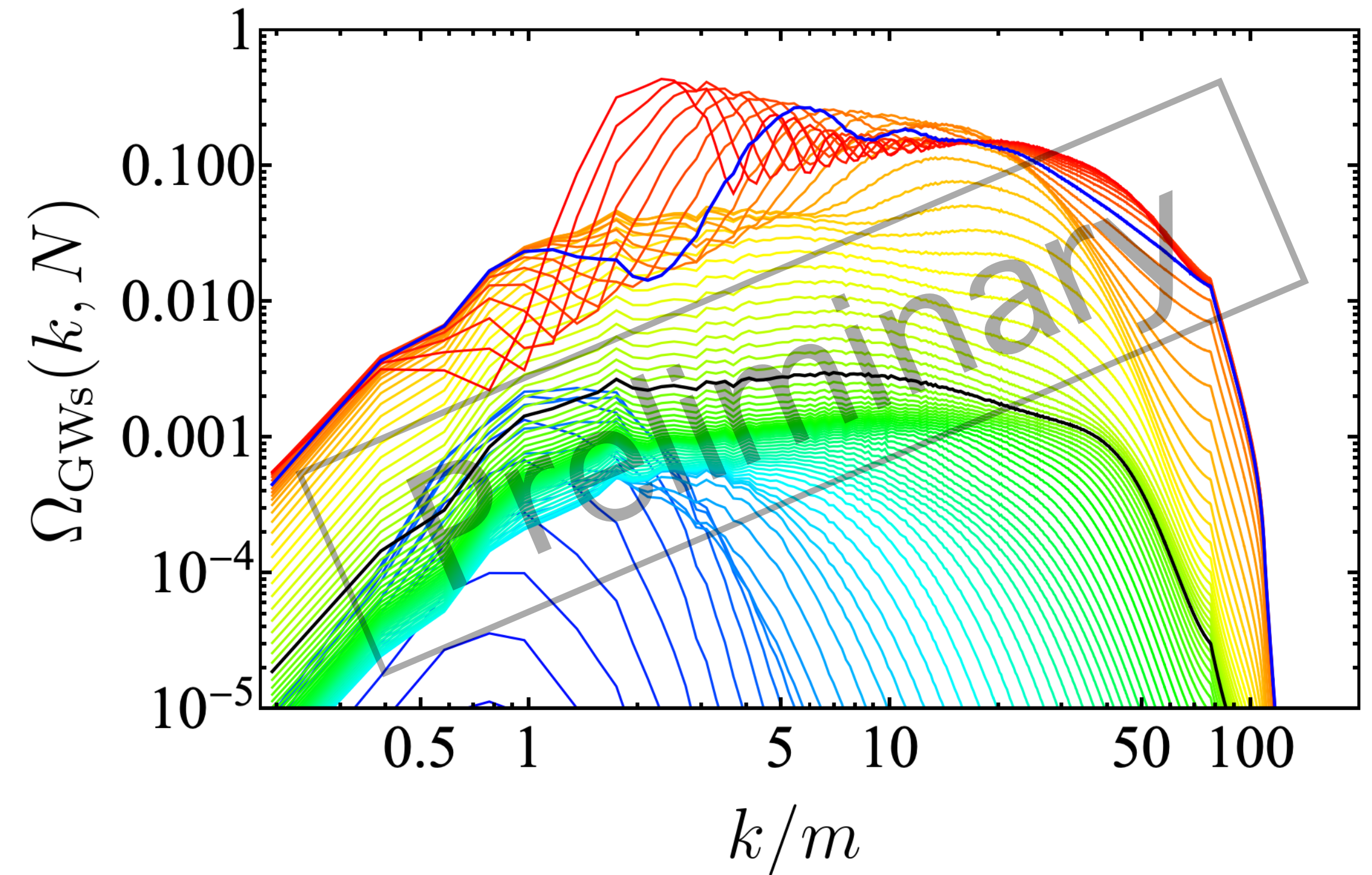
Ongoing work

**What about the the phenomenology in
the full strong backreaction?**

Scalar perturbations of the metric and
PBH formation (in collab with V. Domcke)



Tensorial perturbations of the metric and
production GWs (in collab with N. Loayza)



Backup slides

Our approach: Full backreaction

Backreaction

FLRW
spacetime

$$S_m = \int dx^4 \left(\frac{1}{2} a^3 \dot{\phi}^2 - \frac{1}{2} a (\vec{\nabla} \phi)^2 - \frac{1}{2} a^3 m^2 \phi^2 + \frac{1}{2} a (\vec{E}^2 - a^{-2} \vec{B}^2) + \frac{\alpha_\Lambda}{m_p} \phi \vec{E} \cdot \vec{B} \right)$$

Dynamics

ALP inflaton

$$\ddot{\phi} = -3H\dot{\phi} + \frac{1}{a^2} \vec{\nabla}^2 \phi - m^2 \phi + \frac{\alpha_\Lambda}{a^3 m_p} \vec{E} \cdot \vec{B}$$

U(1) Gauge field

$$\dot{\vec{E}} = -H\vec{E} - \frac{1}{a^2} \vec{\nabla} \times \vec{B} - \frac{\alpha_\Lambda}{a m_p} \left(\dot{\phi} \vec{B} - \vec{\nabla} \phi \times \vec{E} \right)$$

Friedmann 1

$$\ddot{a} = -\frac{a}{3m_p^2} (2\rho_K - \rho_V + \rho_{EM})$$

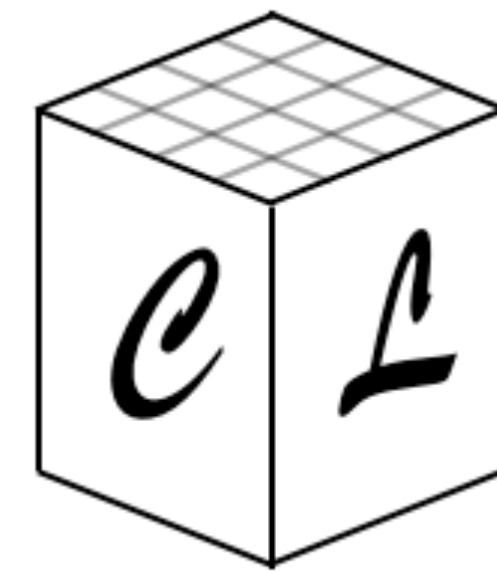
Constraints

U(1) Gauge field

$$\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{E} = -\frac{\alpha_\Lambda}{a m_p} \vec{\nabla} \phi \cdot \vec{B}$$

Friedmann 2

$$H^2 = \frac{1}{3m_p^2} (\rho_K + \rho_G + \rho_V + \rho_{EM})$$

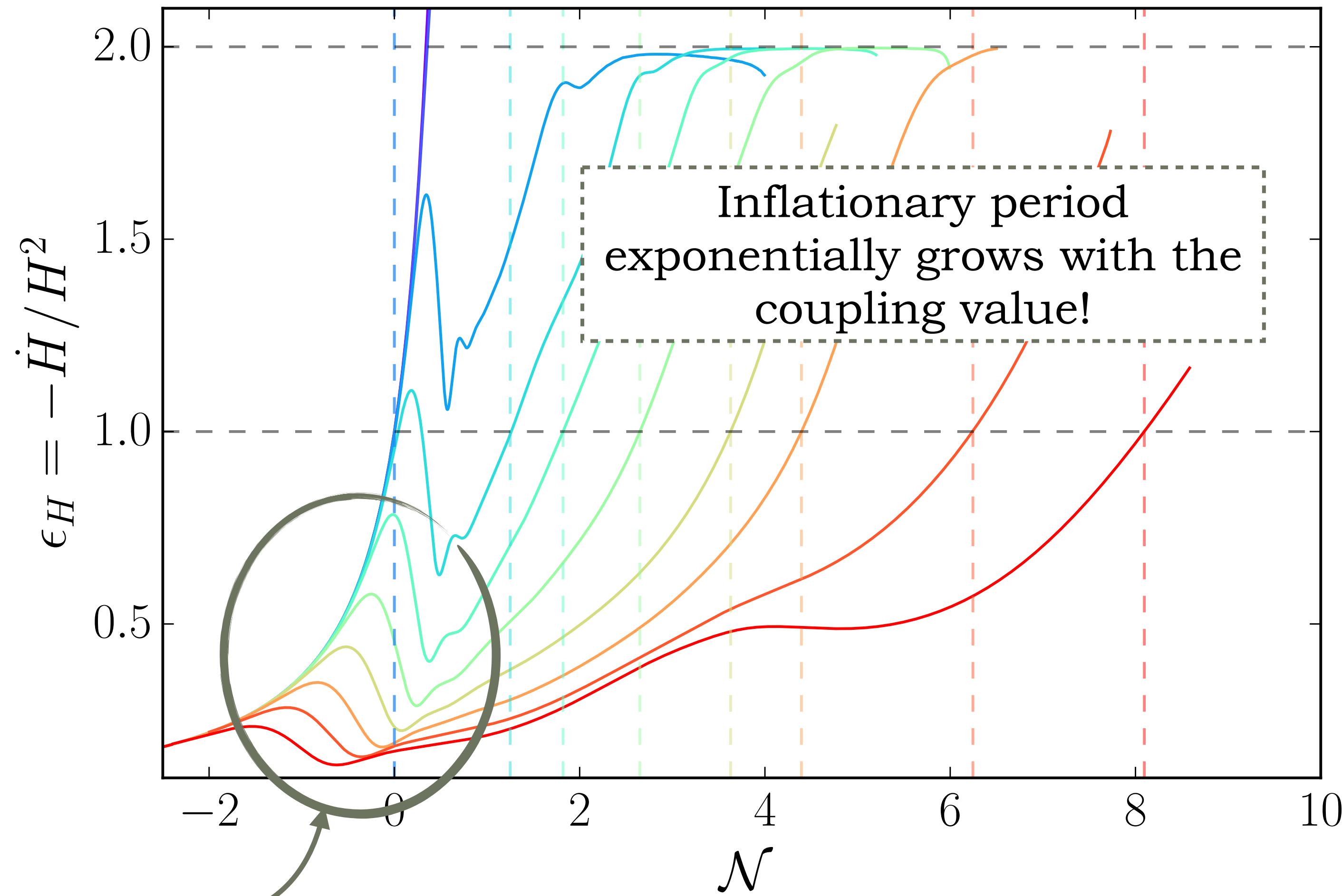


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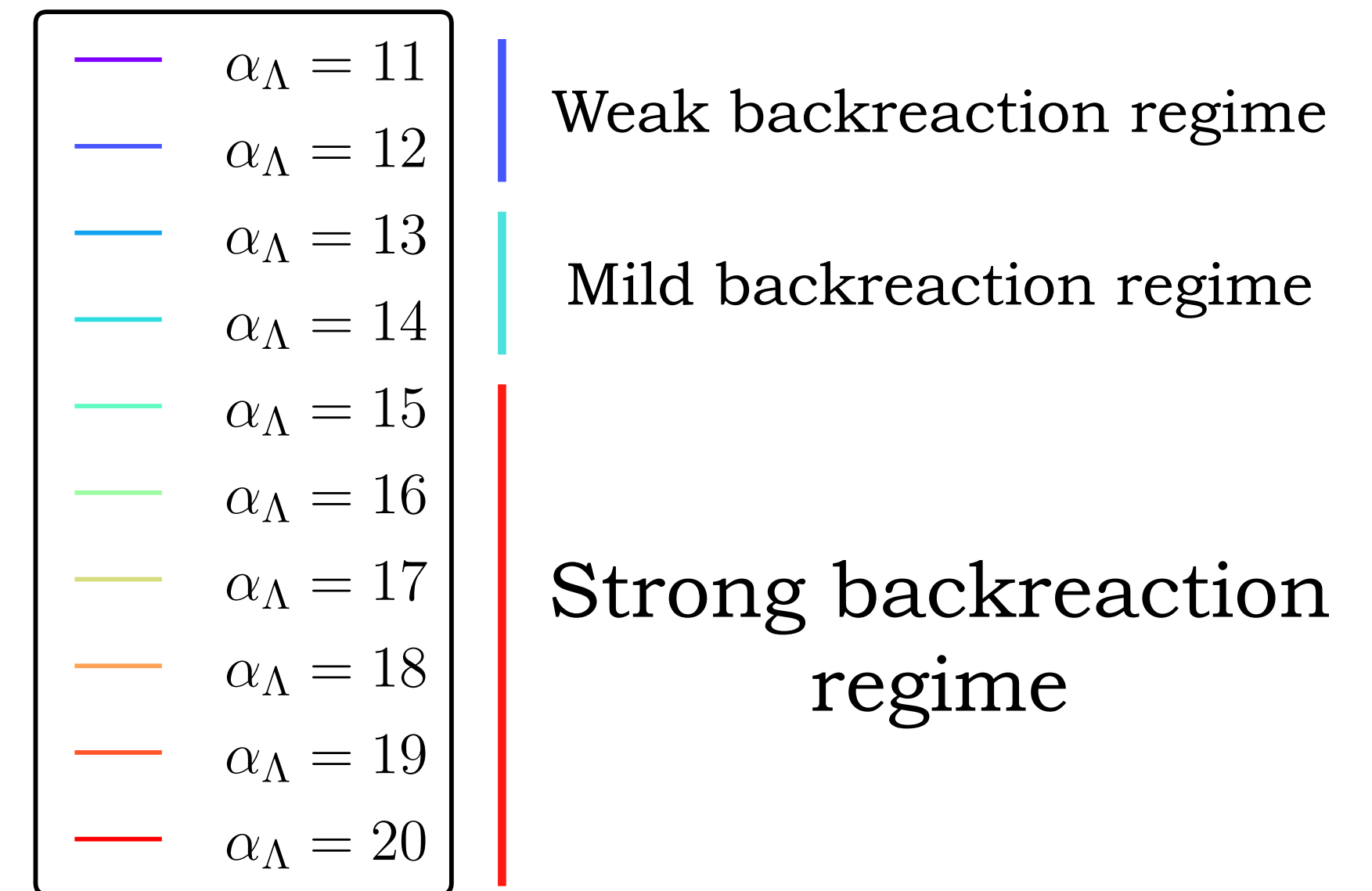
[D. G. Figueroa, A. Florio, F. Torrenti & W. Valkenburg (2006.15122)]
[D. G. Figueroa, A. Florio, F. Torrenti & W. Valkenburg (2102.01031)]

Inflation duration

Also: $\epsilon_H = 1 + (2\rho_K - \rho_V + \rho_{EM})/\rho_{tot}$



Bump before inflation end
Earlier for higher couplings

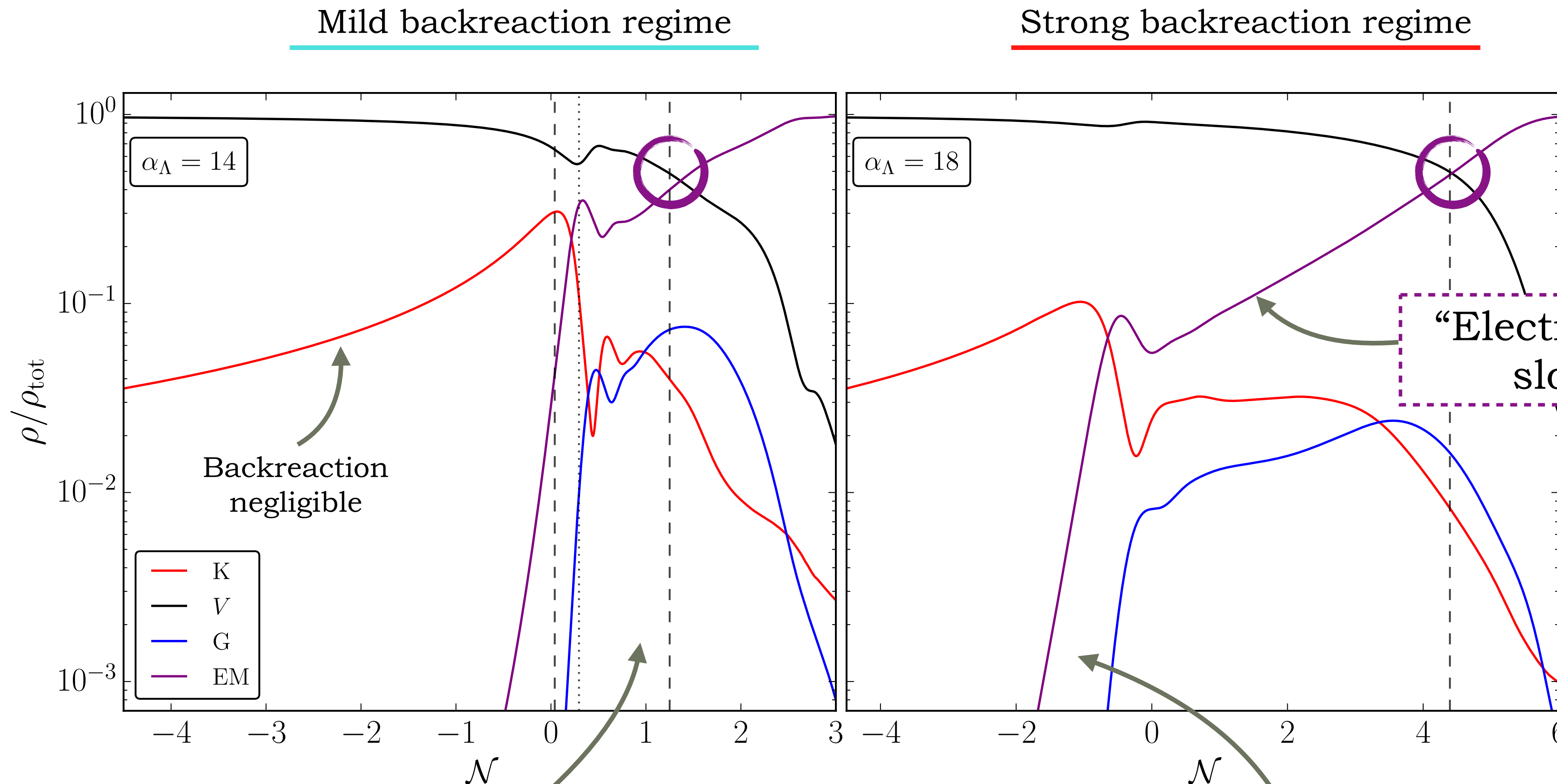


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Mild backreaction regime

Strong backreaction regime

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“Electromagnetic slow-roll”

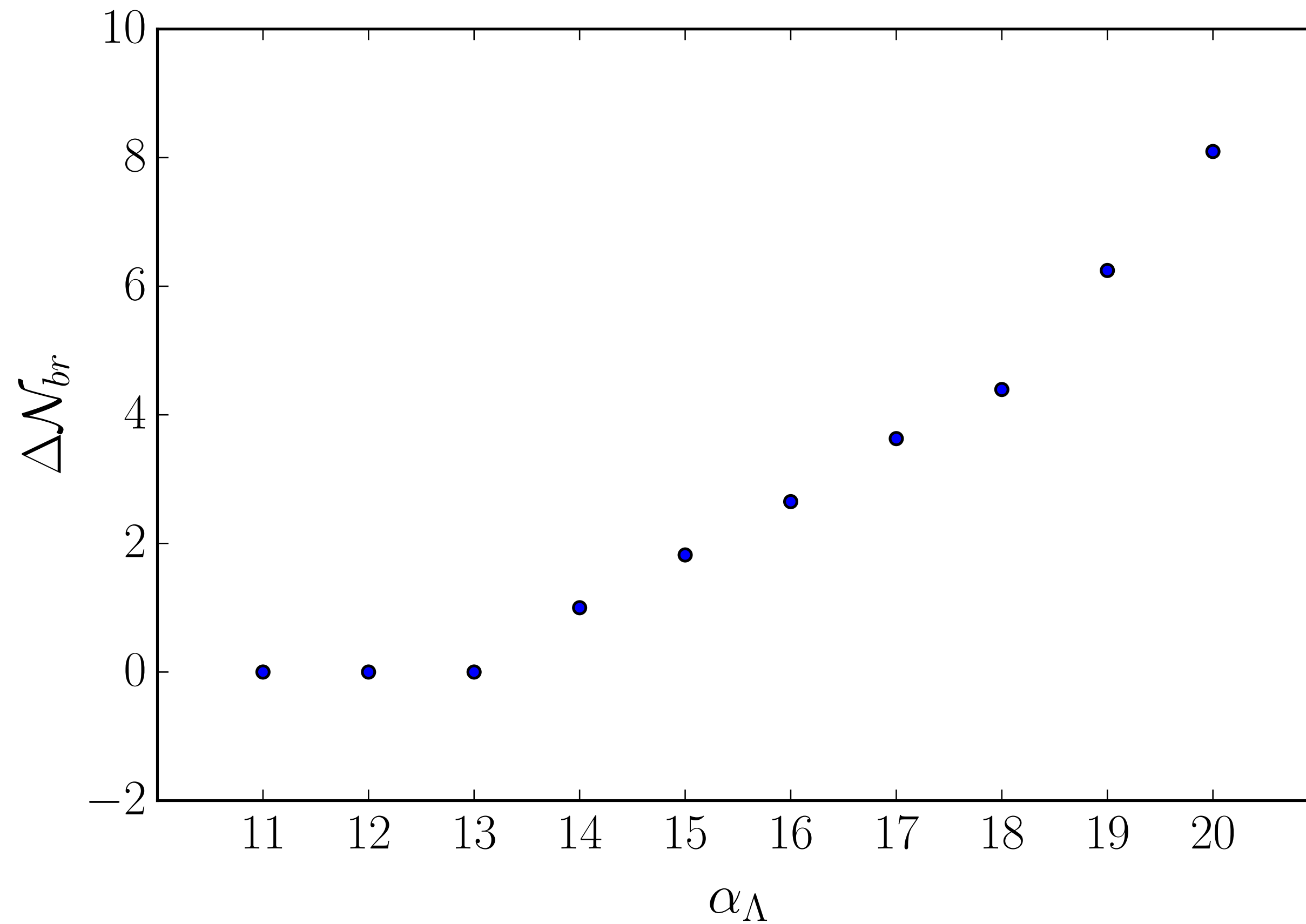
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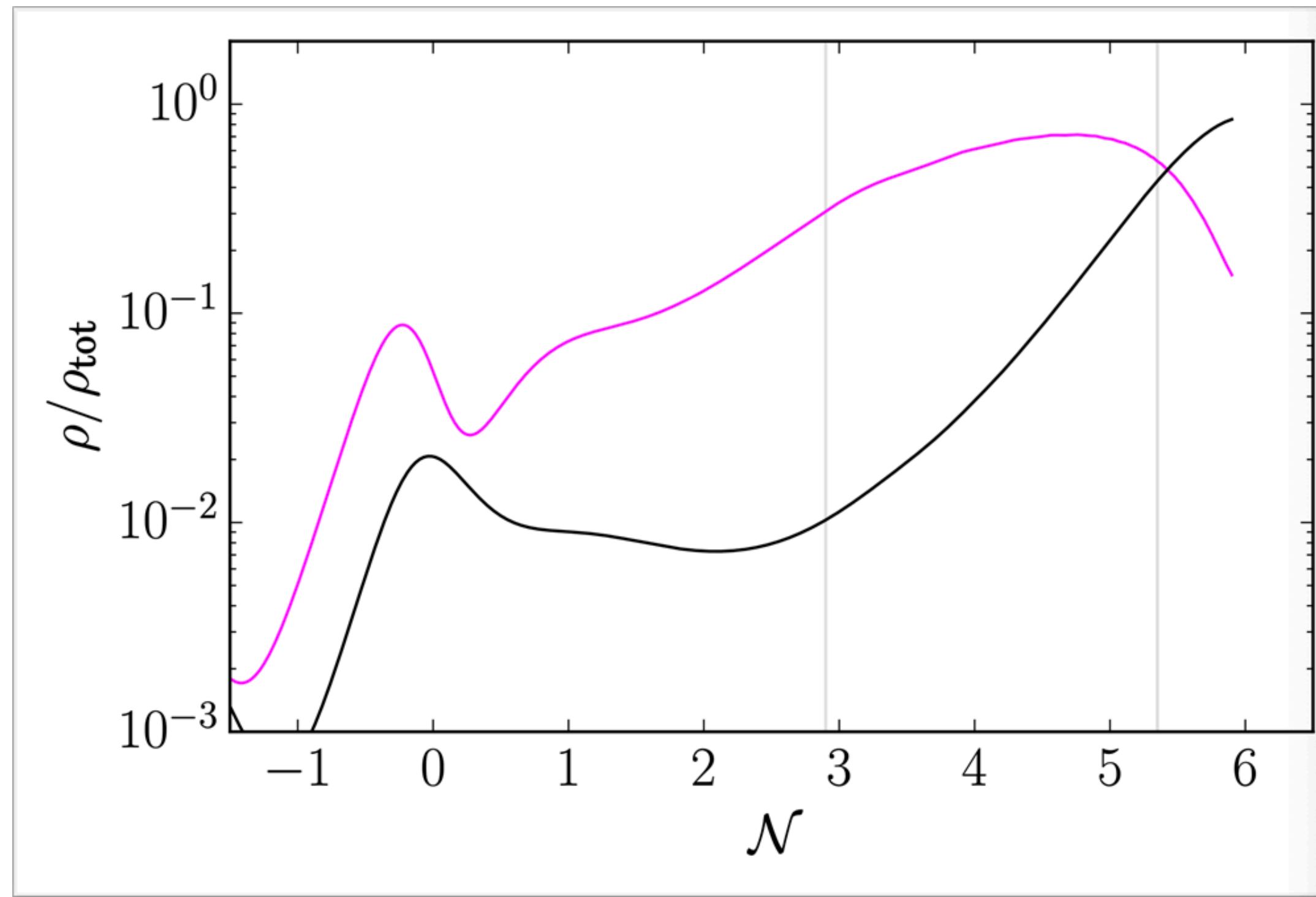
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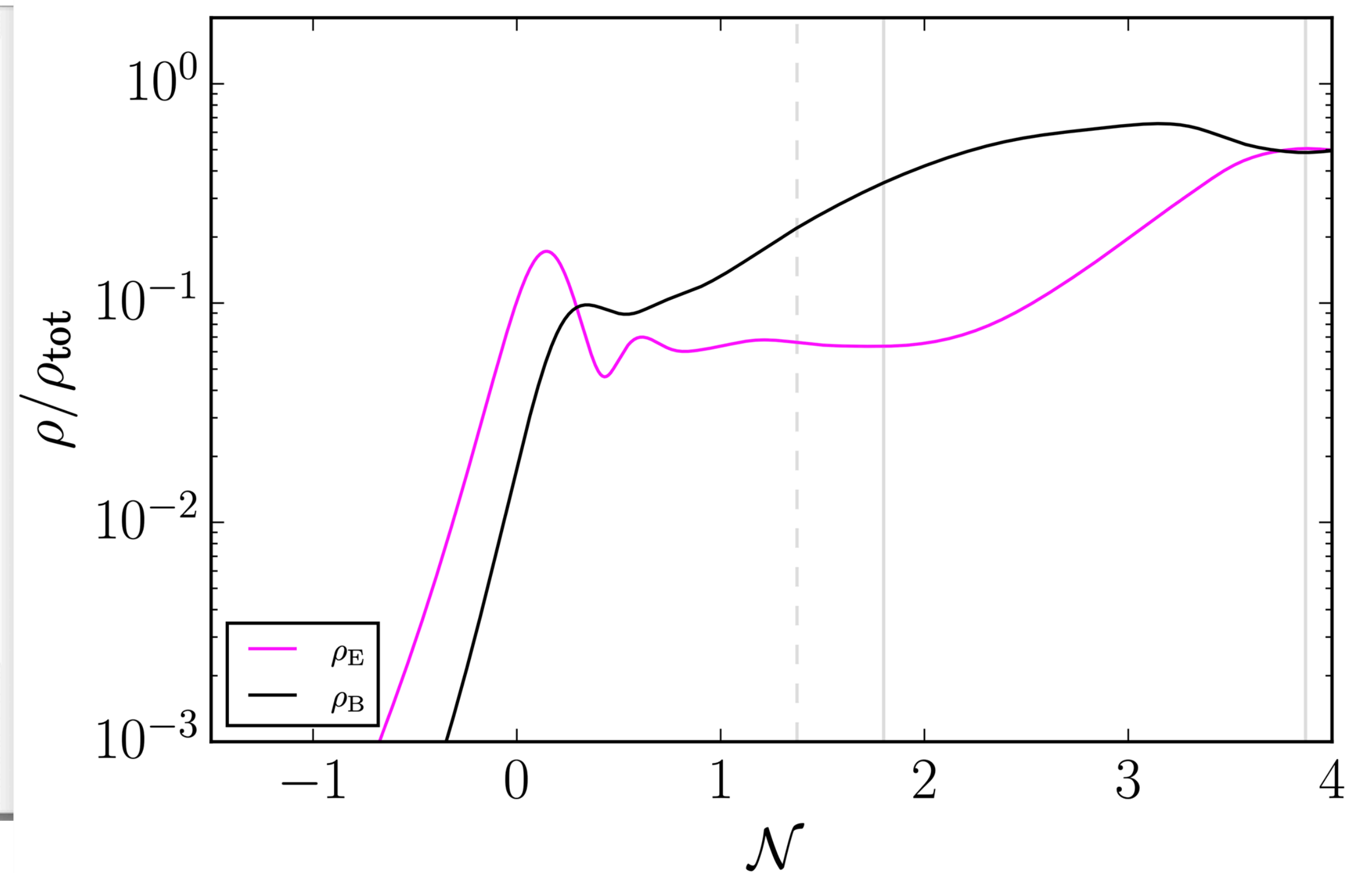
Extra efoldings vs couplings



Magnetic slow-roll

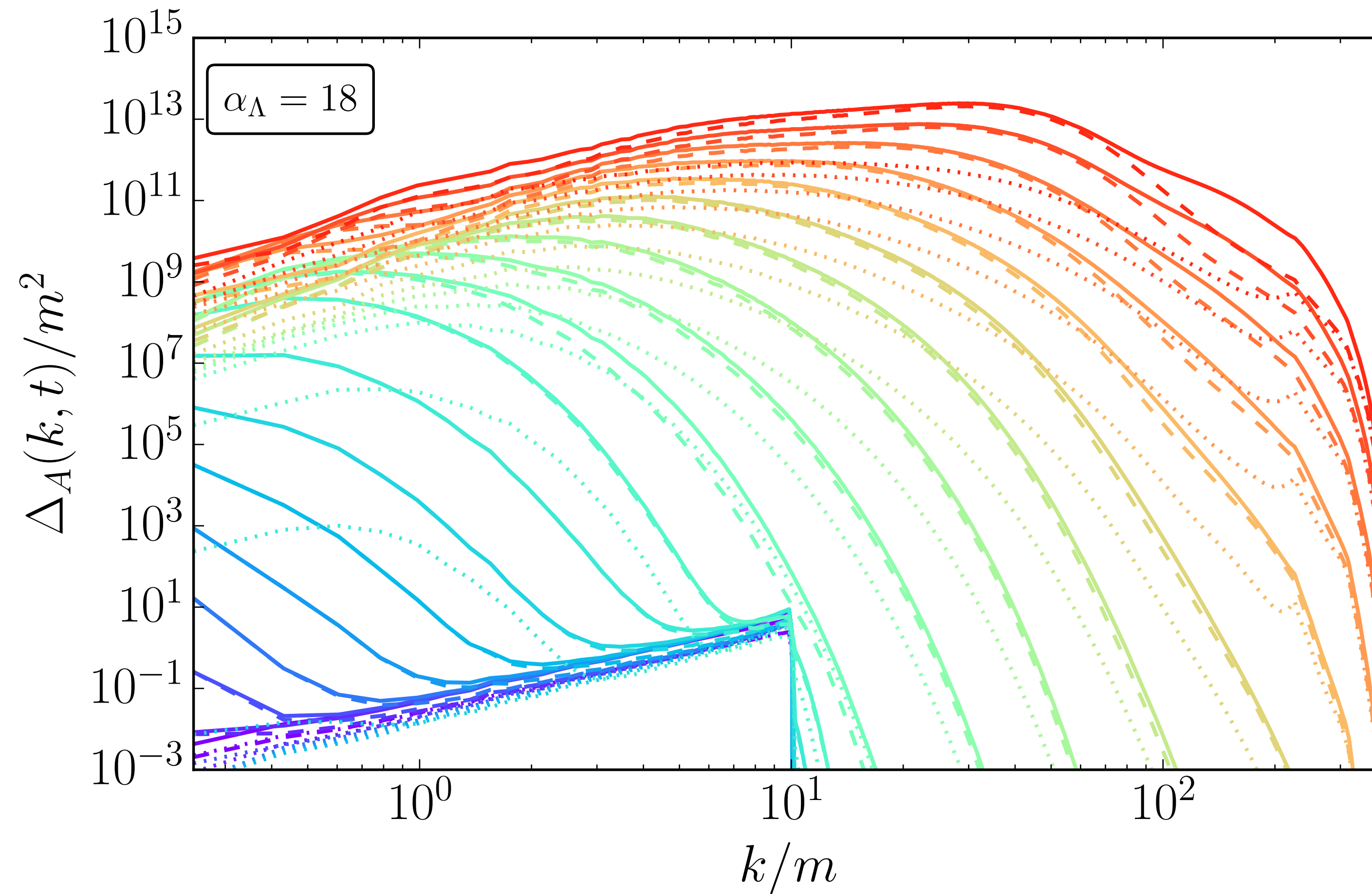


Homogeneous backreaction approach

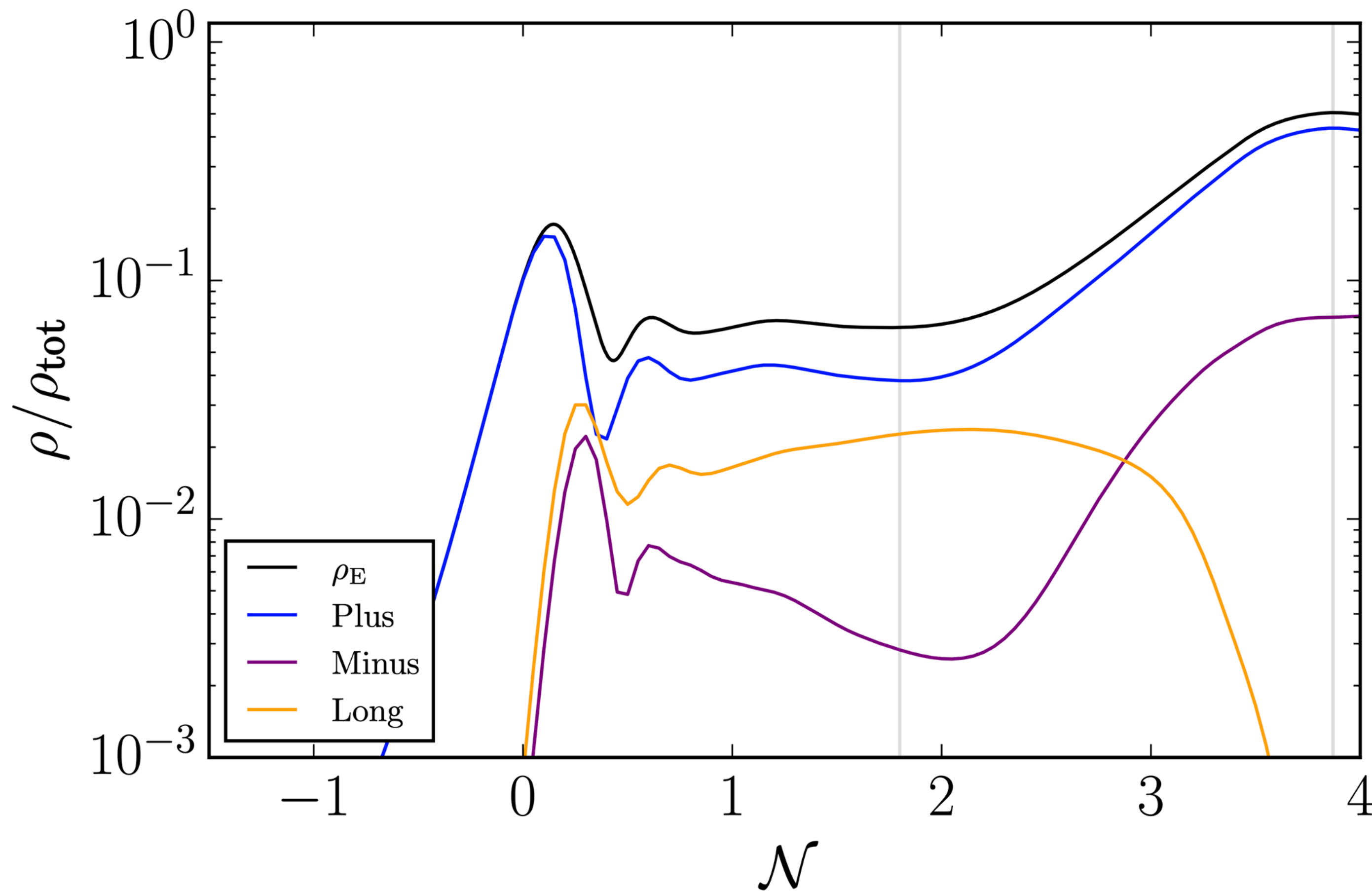


Full backreaction approach

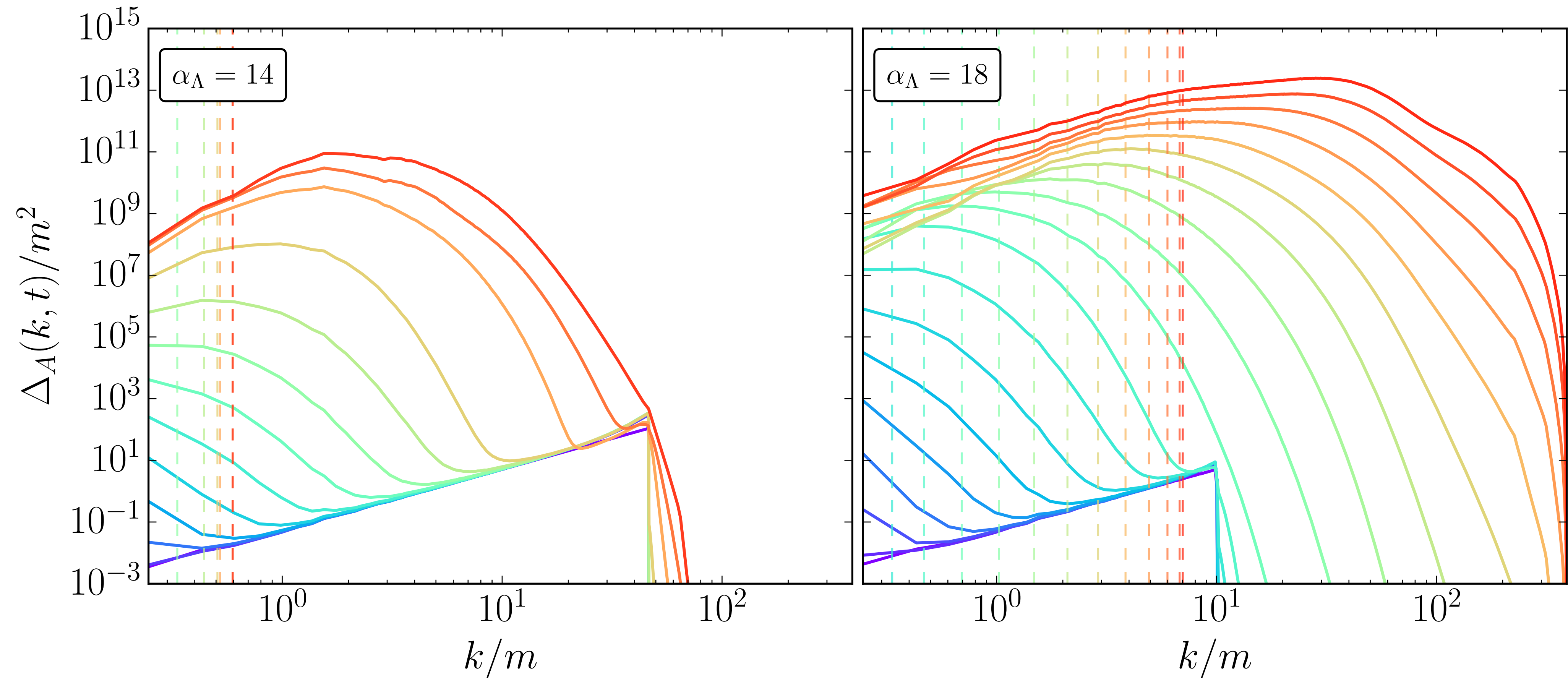
Spectra of the gauge modes: helicities



Helicities and longitudinal mode



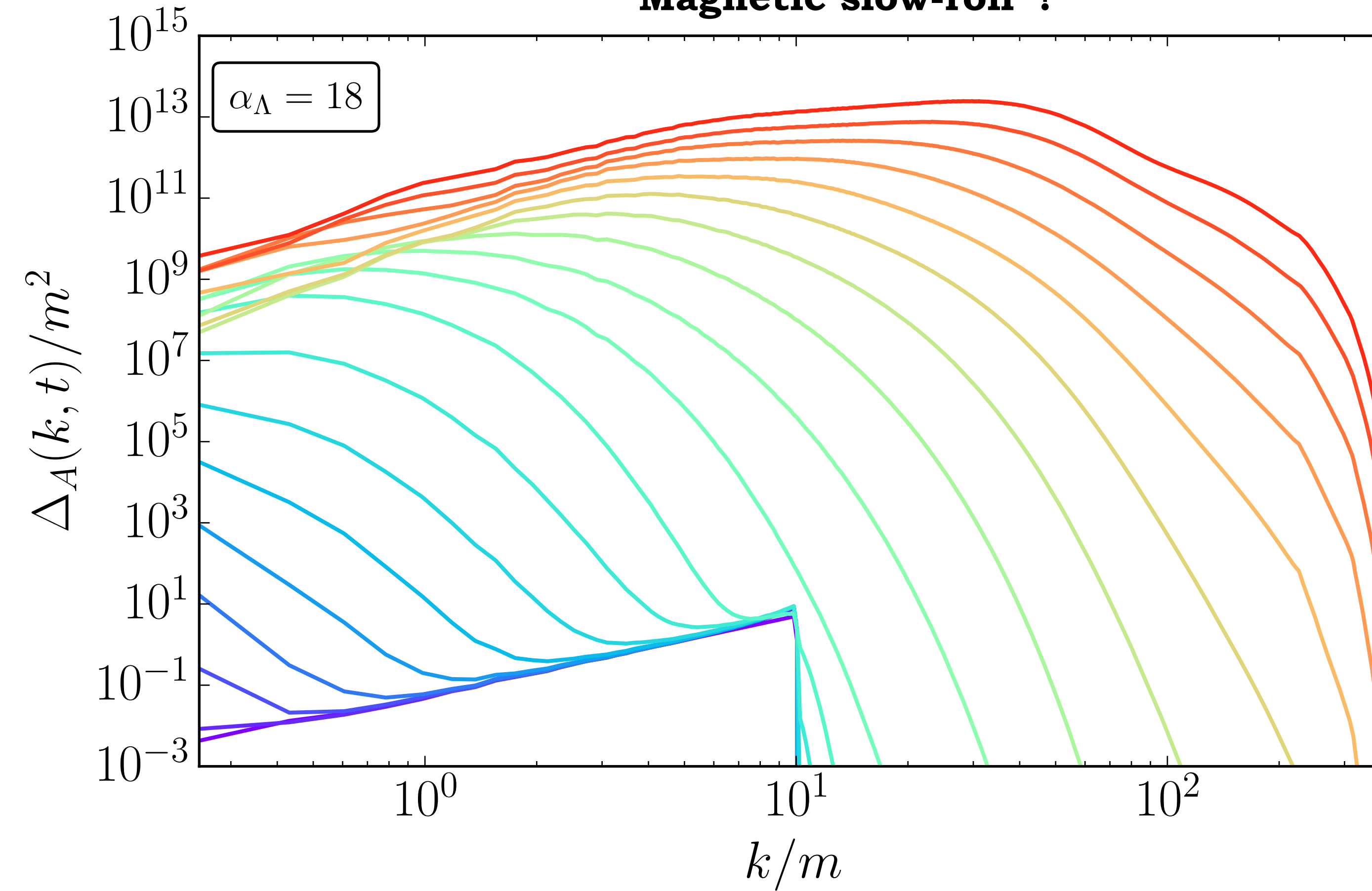
Spectra of the gauge modes: mild vs strong



Spectra of the gauge modes

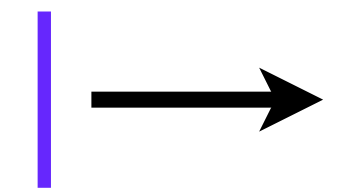
Spectra of the gauge modes

What happens in the
“Magnetic slow-roll”?

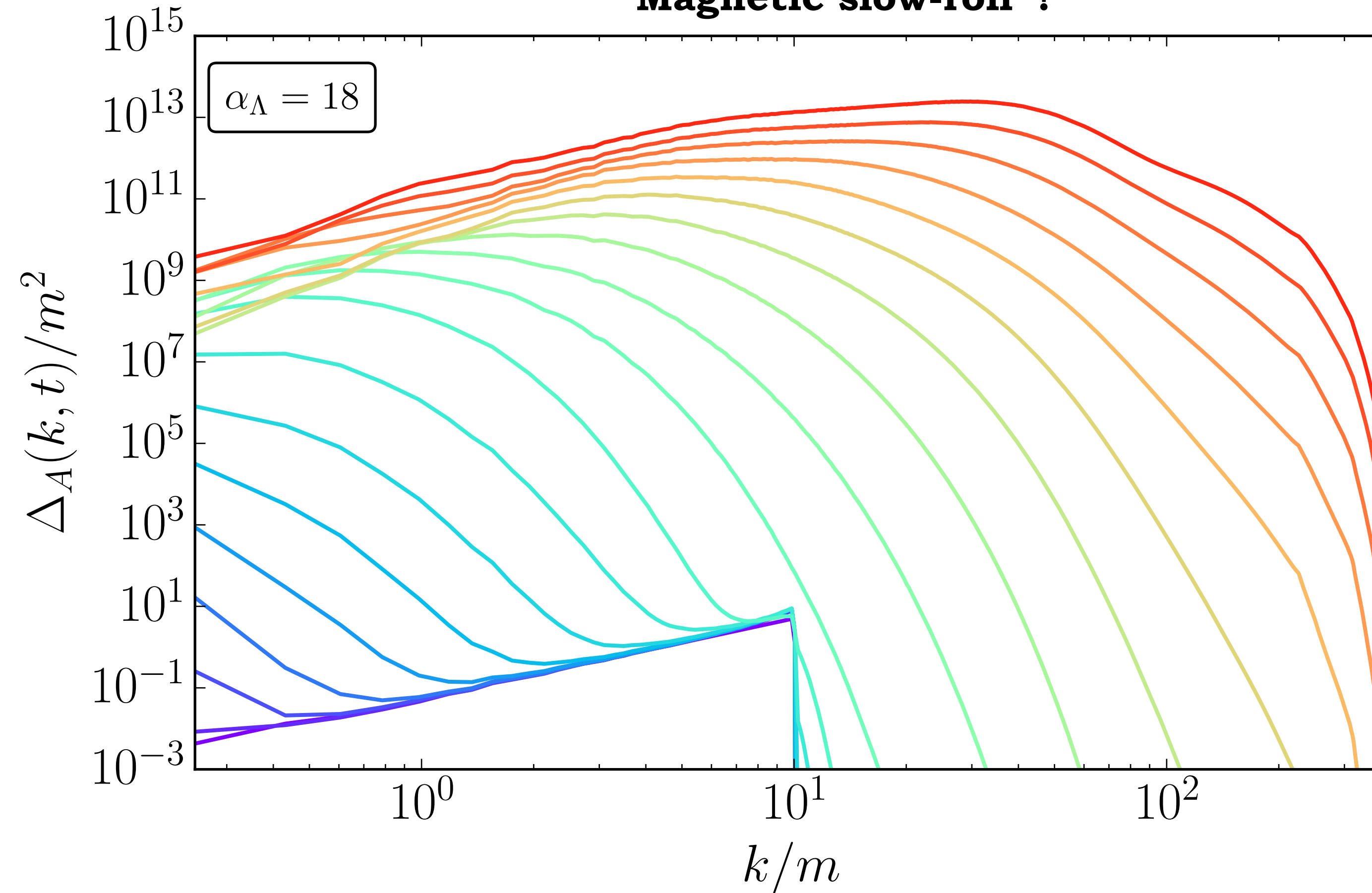


Spectra of the gauge modes

Evolution in
0.5 e-folding gaps

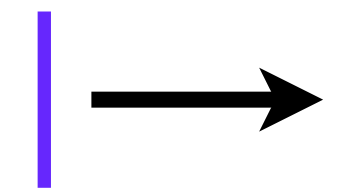


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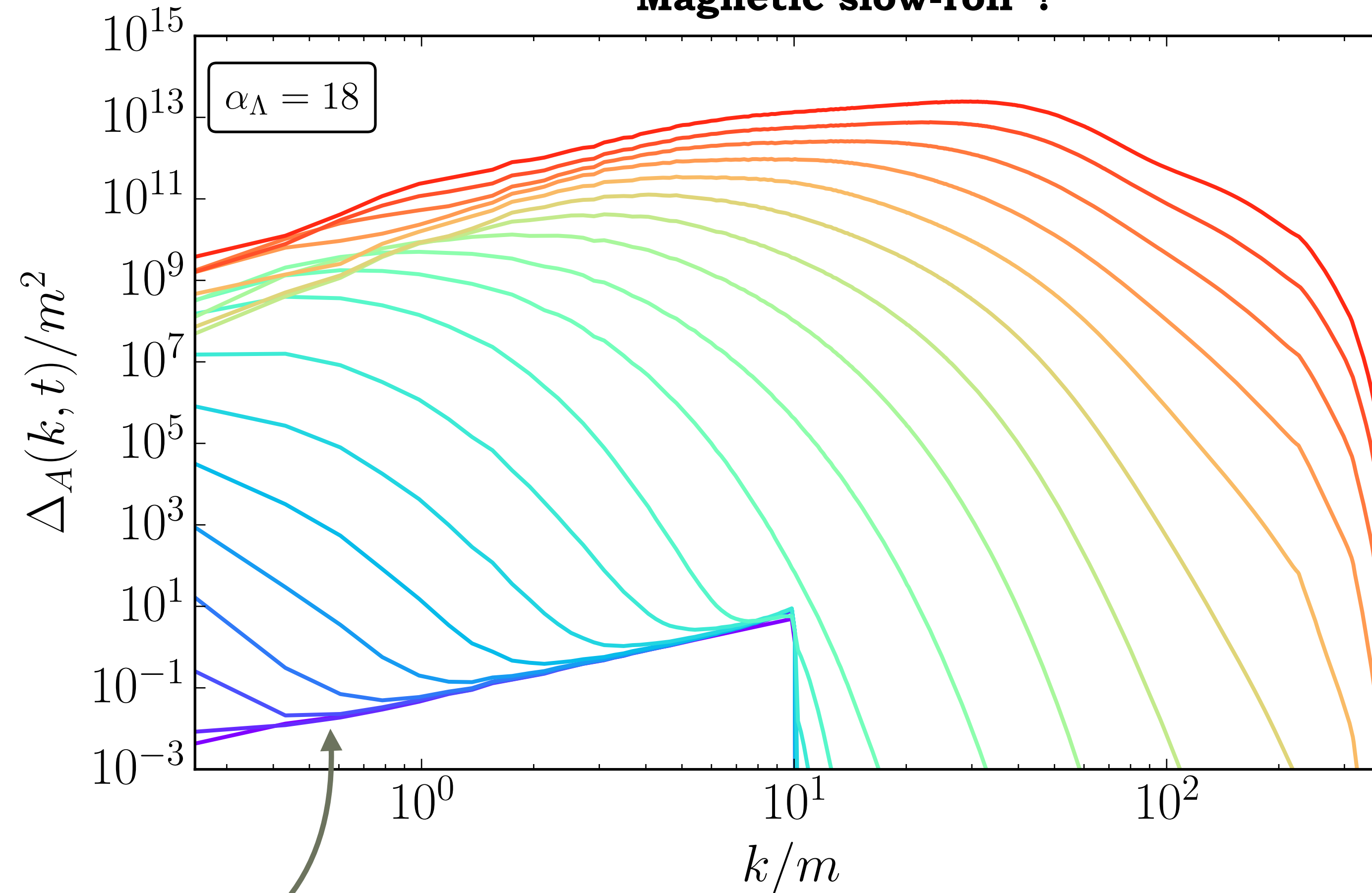


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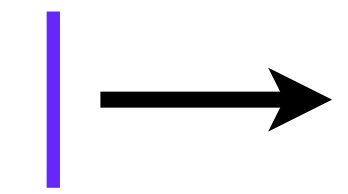
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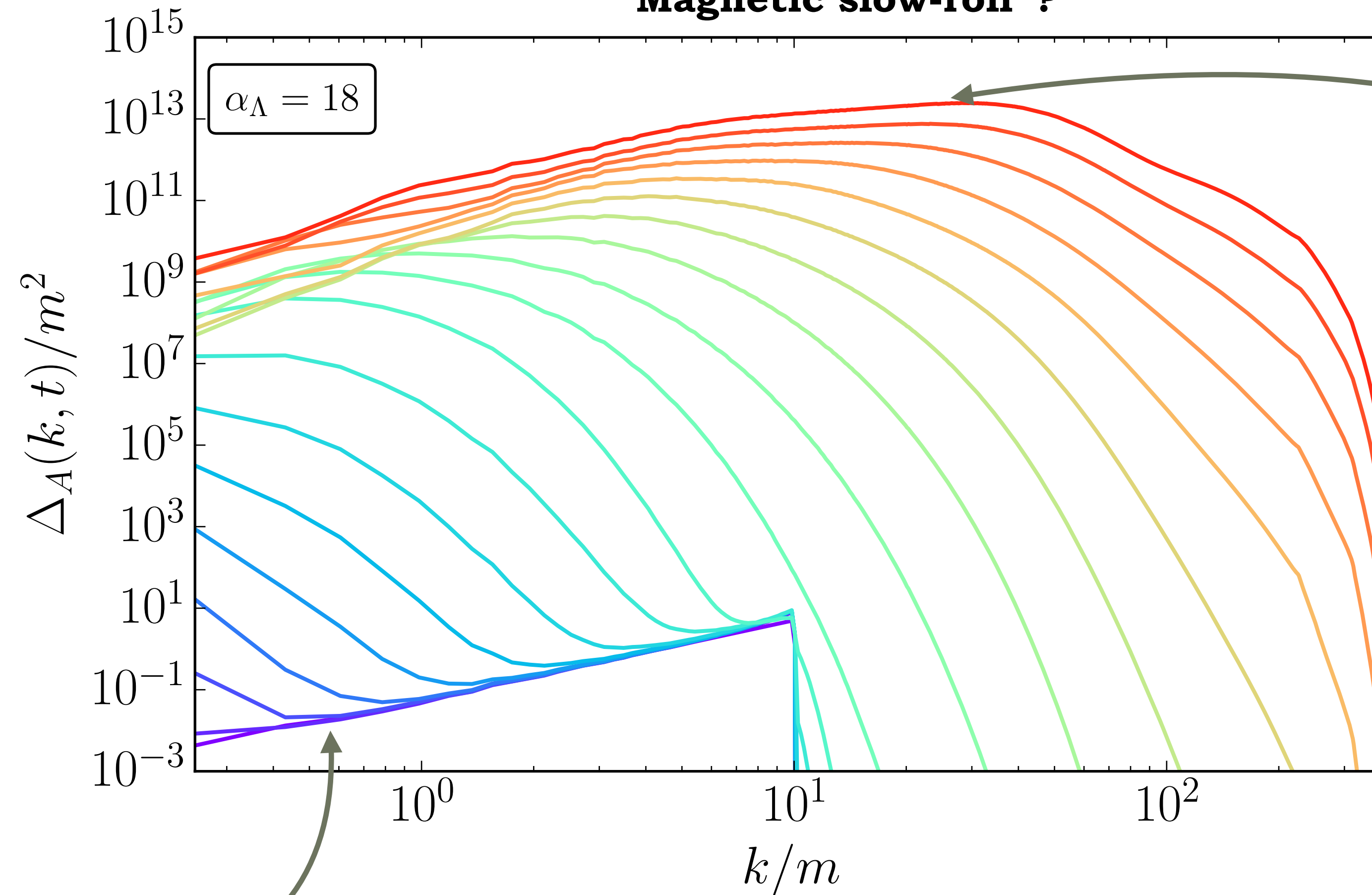
Bunch-Davis
vacuum solution at
 $\mathcal{N} = -4.5$ e-foldings

Spectra of the gauge modes

Evolution in
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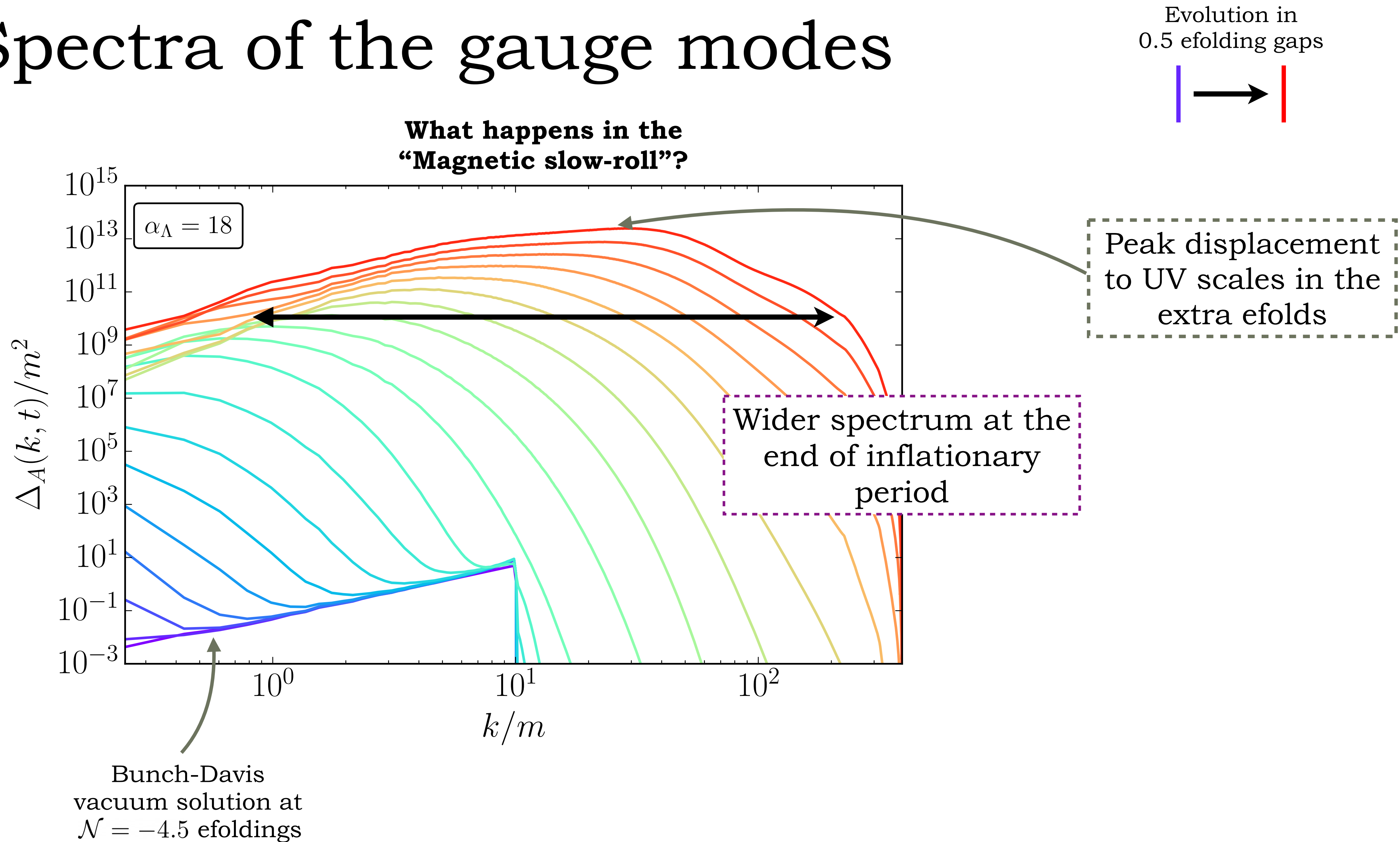
What happens in the
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Peak displacement
to UV scales in the
extra e-folds

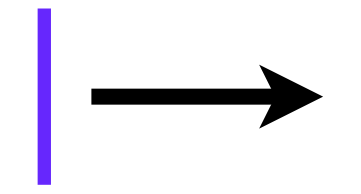
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Spectra of the gauge modes

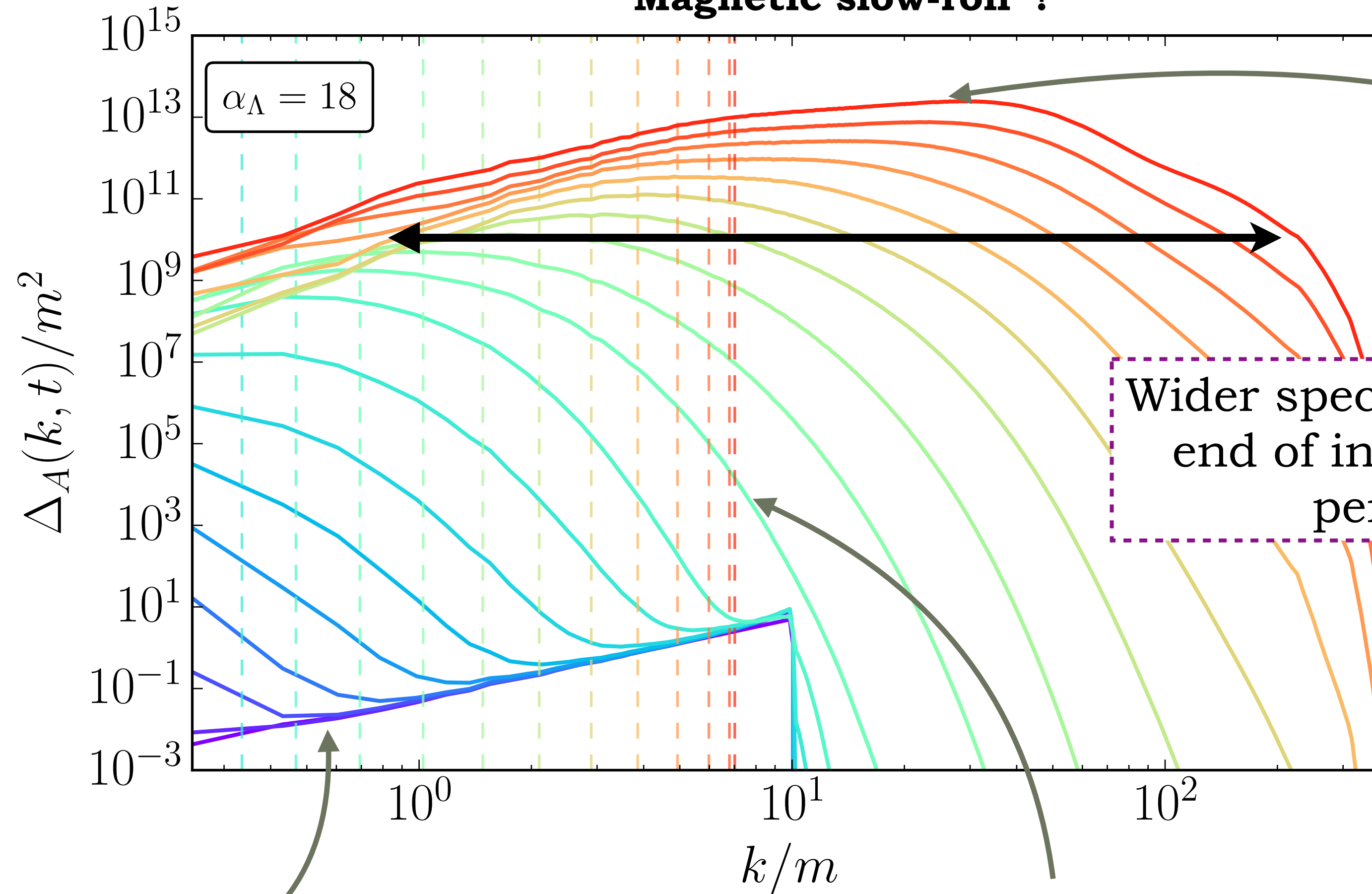


Spectra of the gauge modes

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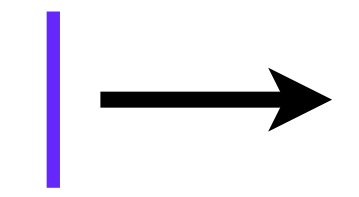
Wider spectrum at the
end of inflationary
period

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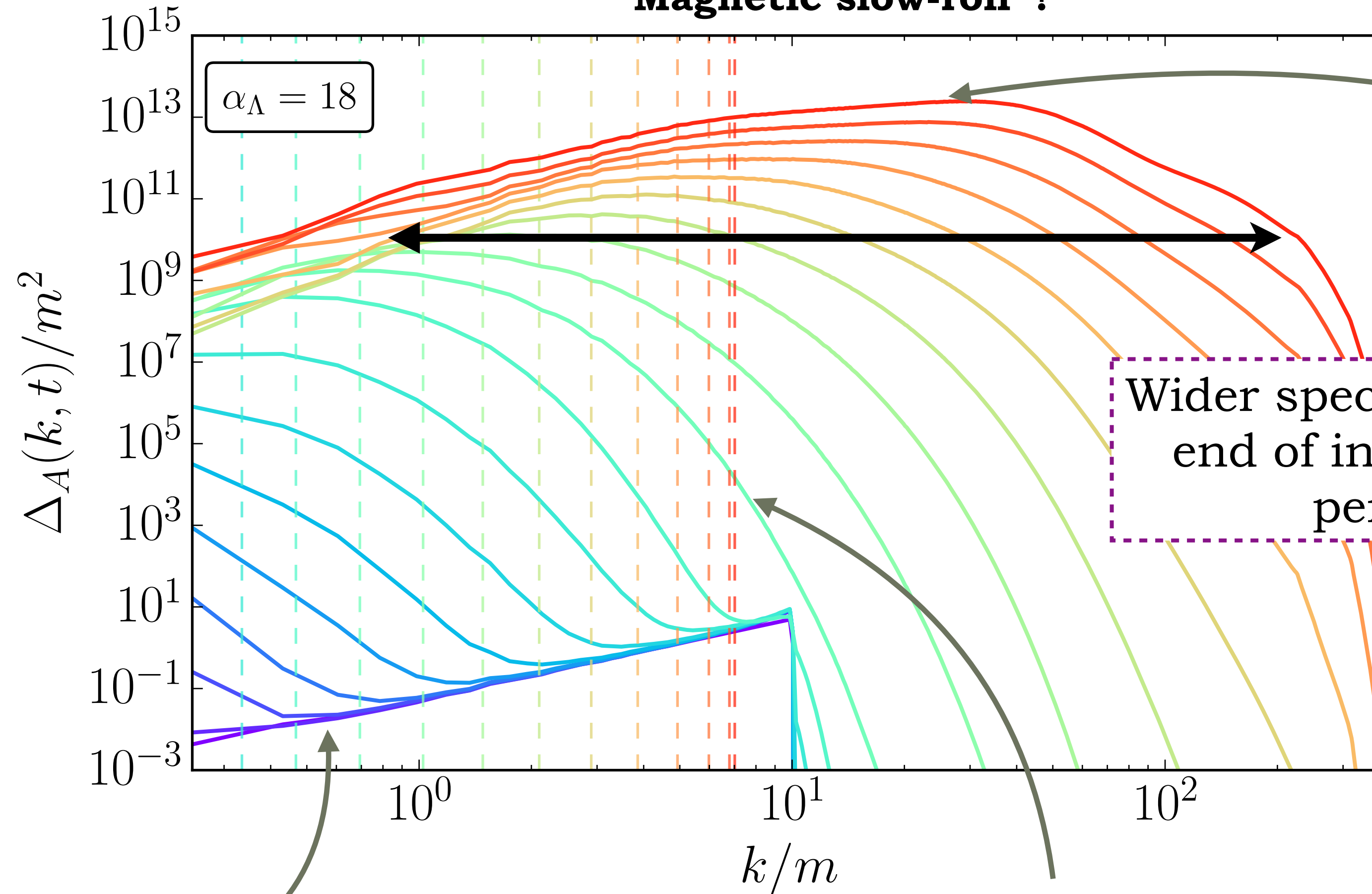
Comoving Hubble
 $k = aH$

Spectra of the gauge modes

Evolution in
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What happens in the
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Peak displacement
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Wider spectrum at the
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period

- vs Homogeneous approach:**
- Sub-hubble peak at the end of inflation
 - No oscillatory features in the spectra

Bunch-Davis
vacuum solution at
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Comoving Hubble
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