

Cosmic strings parameter reconstruction

Ivan Rybak

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[arXiv:2405.03740]

17/06/2024 [Departamento de Física e Astronomia - Universidade do Porto](#)

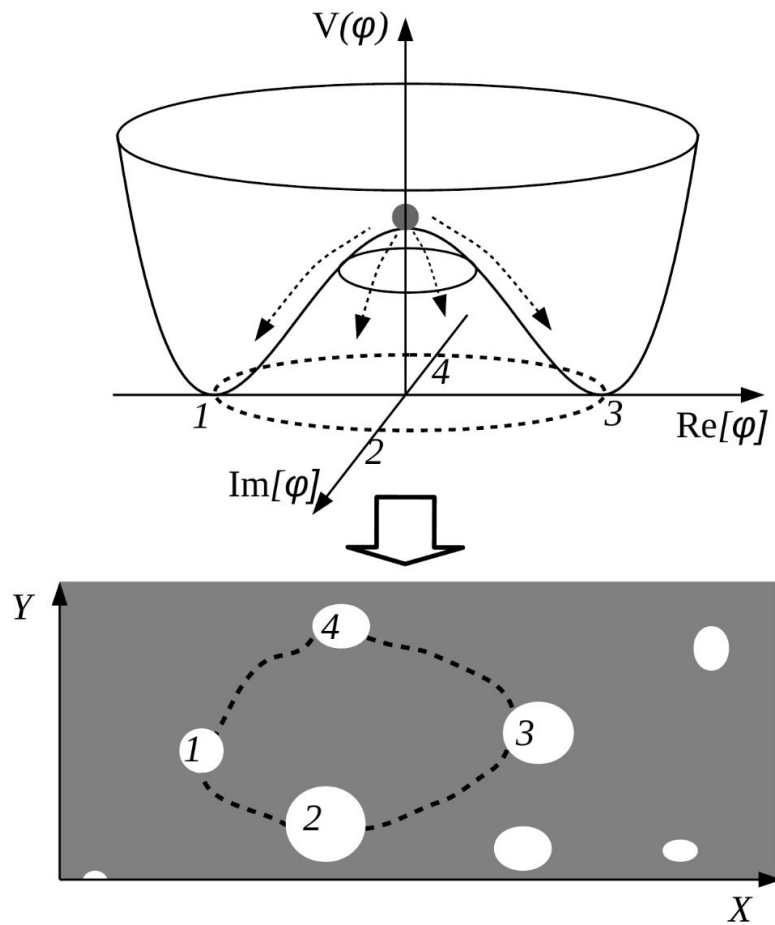
The goal:

To create a template databank of possible sources that can generate the stochastic gravitational wave background (SGWB, particularly from **cosmic strings**).

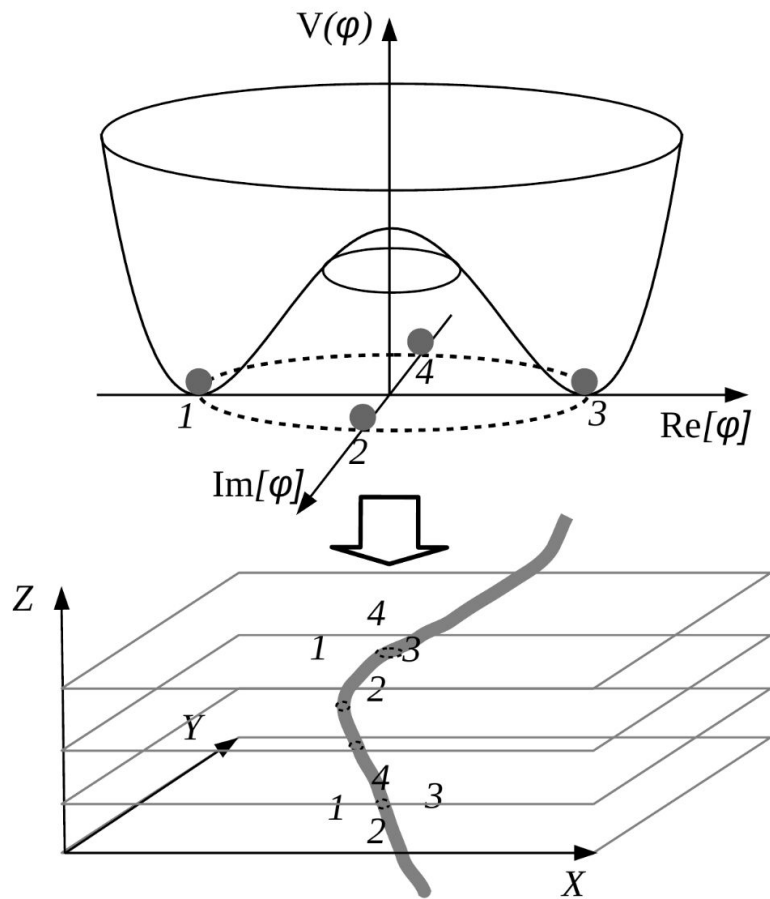
Content

- What are cosmic strings, and why do we care about them?
- Approach for understanding the cosmic string network evolution
(Model I , Model II).
- SGWBinner pipeline with instrumental noise, (extra)galactic foreground.
- Results of the signal reconstruction.
- Non-standard cosmology.
- Further steps?

Cosmic strings



(Kibble mechanism)



Are cosmic strings common?

[TWB Kibble, J. Phys. A, 1976.]

Classification:

$\pi_0(G/K) \neq I$ - walls;

$\pi_1(G/K) \neq I$ - strings;

$\pi_2(G/K) \neq I$ - monopoles;

$\pi_3(G/K) \neq I$ - textures.

- ❖ The dynamical generation of right-handed-neutrino masses in the early Universe naturally entails the formation of cosmic strings.

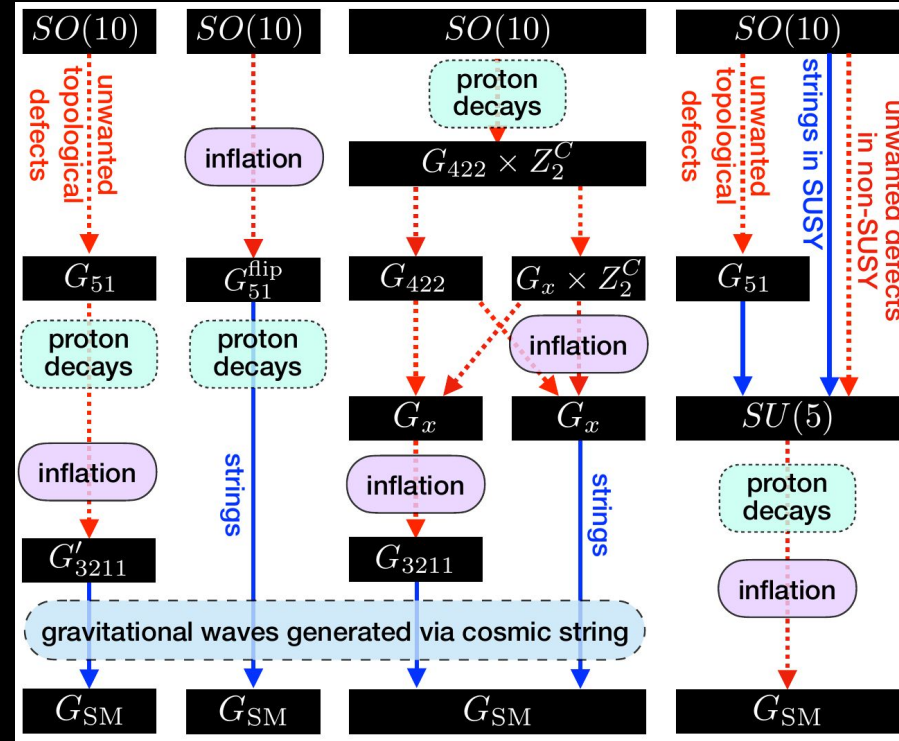
[Blasi, Brdar, Schmitz, Phys.Rev.Research 2, 043321 (2020)]

- ❖ QCD color fluxes (deconfinement to confinement)

[Yamada, Yonekura, PRD 106 (2022) 12]

- ❖ Complementarity to proton decay to probe viability of GUT $SO(10)$

[King, Pascoli, Turner, Zhou, JHEP 10 (2021) 225]



[King, Pascoli, Turner, Zhou, PRL. 126, 021802 (2021)]

[Lazarides, vMaji, Shafi, PRD 104, 095004 (2021)]

... and many others

Cosmic string network

We assume that cosmic strings are described by Nambu-Goto (NG) action.

It represents Abelian Higgs strings with critical coupling, though see discussion

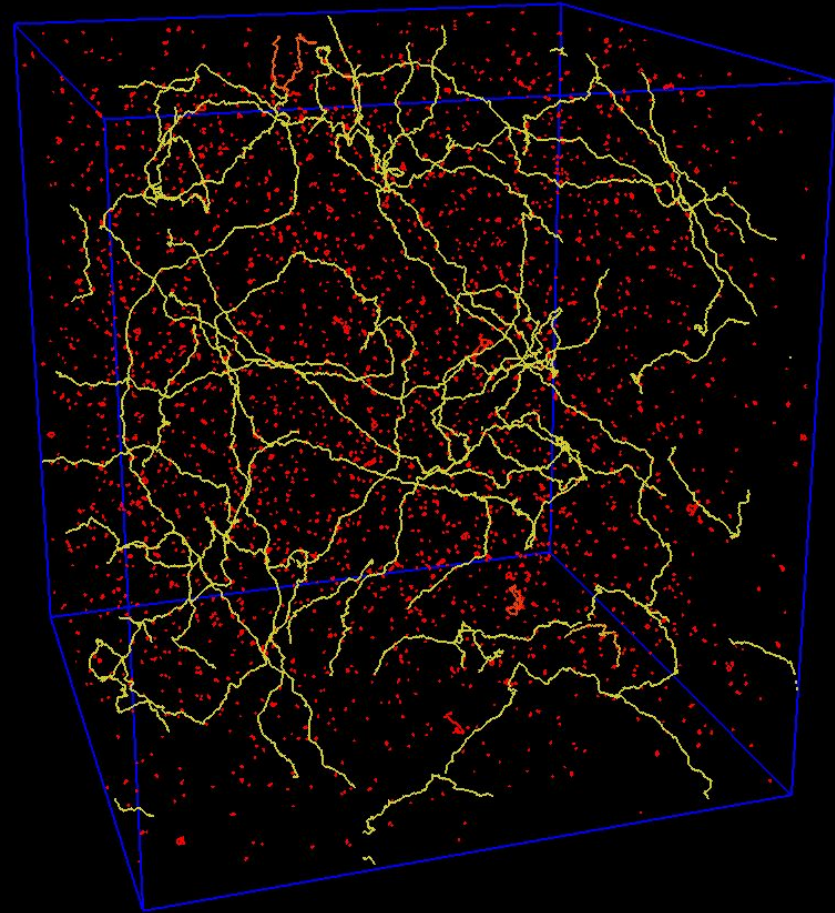
[Hindmarsh,Lizarraga,Urrestilla, Daverio,Kunz, PRD 96 (2017)]

Energy density: $\rho = \frac{\mu_0}{L^2}$ μ_0 - tension

Characteristic length: $L \sim t$

Root mean square velocity: v

NG simulations of networks:



https://www.ctc.cam.ac.uk/outreach/origins/cosmic_structures_four.php

Model I

(semi-analytical model)

Evolution according to the velocity-dependent one-scale (VOS) model

[Martins, Shellard PRD 54 (1996) 2535-2556, PRD 65 (2002) 043514]

$$\frac{d\bar{v}}{dt} = (1 - \bar{v}^2) \left[\frac{k(\bar{v})}{L} - 2H\bar{v} \right]$$

$$k(\bar{v}) = \frac{2\sqrt{2}}{\pi} (1 - \bar{v}^2) \left(1 + 2\sqrt{2}\bar{v}^3 \right) \frac{1 - 8\bar{v}^6}{1 + 8\bar{v}^6}$$

$$\frac{dL}{dt} = (1 + \bar{v}^2) HL + \frac{\tilde{c}}{2}\bar{v},$$

loop chopping efficiency
(fixed from simulations)

If the scale factor $a \propto t^\beta$ scaling solution: $L = \xi_\beta t$ $\bar{v} = v_\beta$

[Caldwell, Battye, Shellard, PRD 54 (1996) 7146-7152,
Sousa, Avelino, PRD 88 (2013) 2, 023516]

Here we assume that the length of produced loops is a fraction of characteristic length:

$$\int_0^\infty x f(x) dx = \tilde{c} \frac{\bar{v}}{\xi^3}$$

$$f(x) = \tilde{C} \delta(x - \alpha_L \xi)$$

Model I

(semi-analytical model)

[Sousa, Avelino, Guedes, PRD 101 (2020) 10, 103508]

The stochastic gravitational wave background (SGWB) generated by cosmic strings as a density parameter for a frequency f

$$\Omega_{\text{gw}}(f) = \frac{8\pi}{3} \left(\frac{G\mu}{H_0} \right)^2 f \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} P_j \Omega_{\text{gw}}^j(f)$$

power spectrum: $P_j = \frac{\Gamma}{\zeta(q)} j^{-q}$

$$\Omega_{\text{gw}}^j(f) = \frac{2j}{f^2} \int_{t_i}^{t_0} \mathbf{n} \left(\frac{2j}{f} \frac{a(t)}{a_0}, t \right) \left(\frac{a(t)}{a_0} \right)^5 dt$$

spectral index: $q = 4/3$ (cusps)
 $q = 5/3$ (kinks)
 $q = 2$ (kink-kink)

loop number density: $n(l, t) = \frac{A_\beta C_\beta(\alpha)}{t^{3\beta} (l + \Gamma G\mu t)^{4-3\beta}}$

We obtained an analytical approximation for $\Omega_{\text{gw}}(f)$

(assumptions: network at scaling, loops are produced of one size and at scaling, power law spectrum)

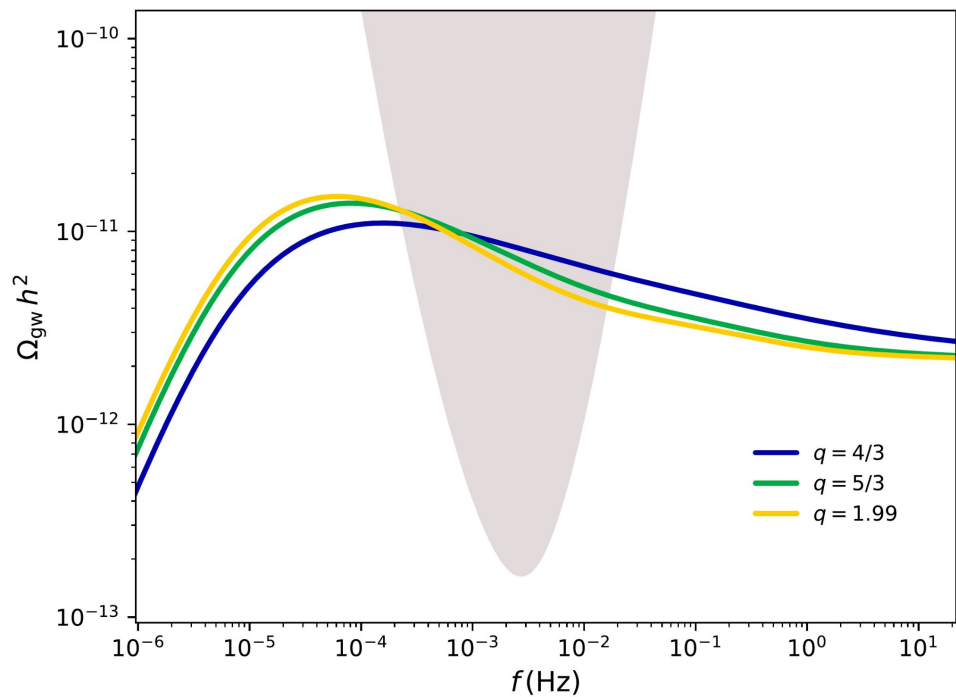
where $A_\beta = \frac{\tilde{c}}{\sqrt{2}} \frac{v_\beta}{\xi_\beta^3} \mathcal{F}$

$$C_\beta(\alpha) = \frac{(\alpha \xi_\beta + \Gamma G\mu)^{3(\beta-1)}}{\alpha \xi_\beta}$$

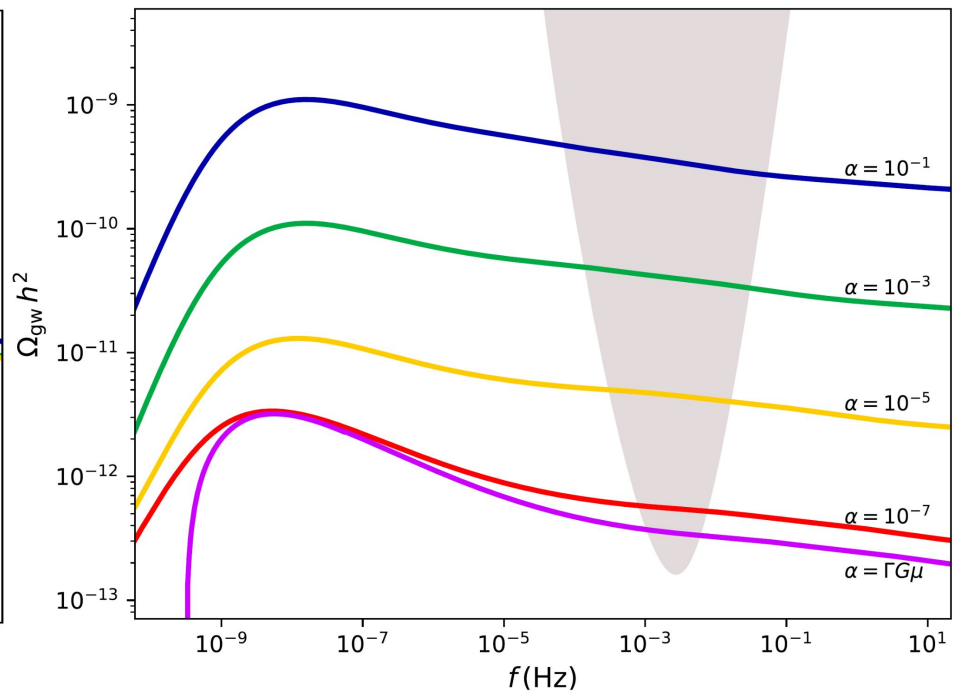
Model I

(semi-analytical model)

Variation of the spectral index



Variation of the loop size



Model II

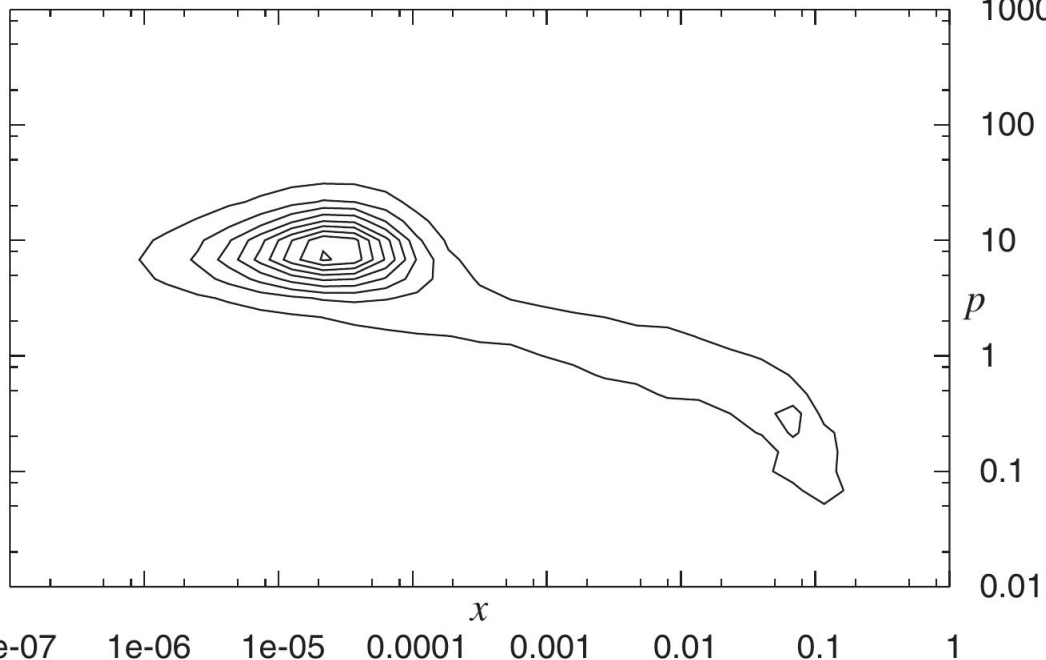
(BOS model)

[Blanco-Pillado, Olum, Shlaer, PRD 83 (2011) 083514]

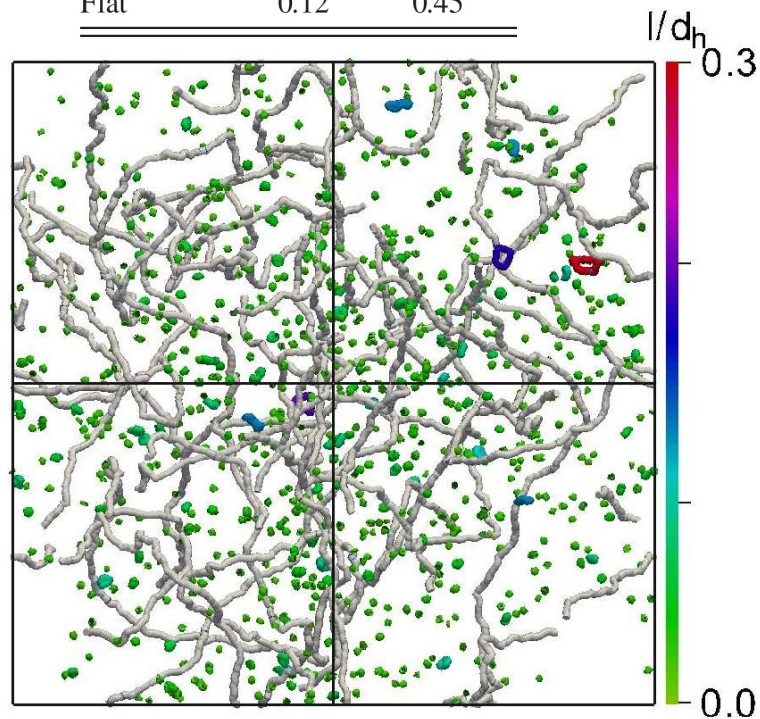
Nambu-Goto string network scaling at radiation and matter dominated epochs.

Distribution of loops power p (radiation)

$$x^2 p f(x,p) \quad x = l/d_h$$



	γ	$\langle v_\infty^2 \rangle$
Matter	0.17	0.35
Radiation	0.15	0.40
Flat	0.12	0.45



Model II

(BOS model)

[Blanco-Pillado, Olum, Shlaer, PRD 83 (2011) 083514]

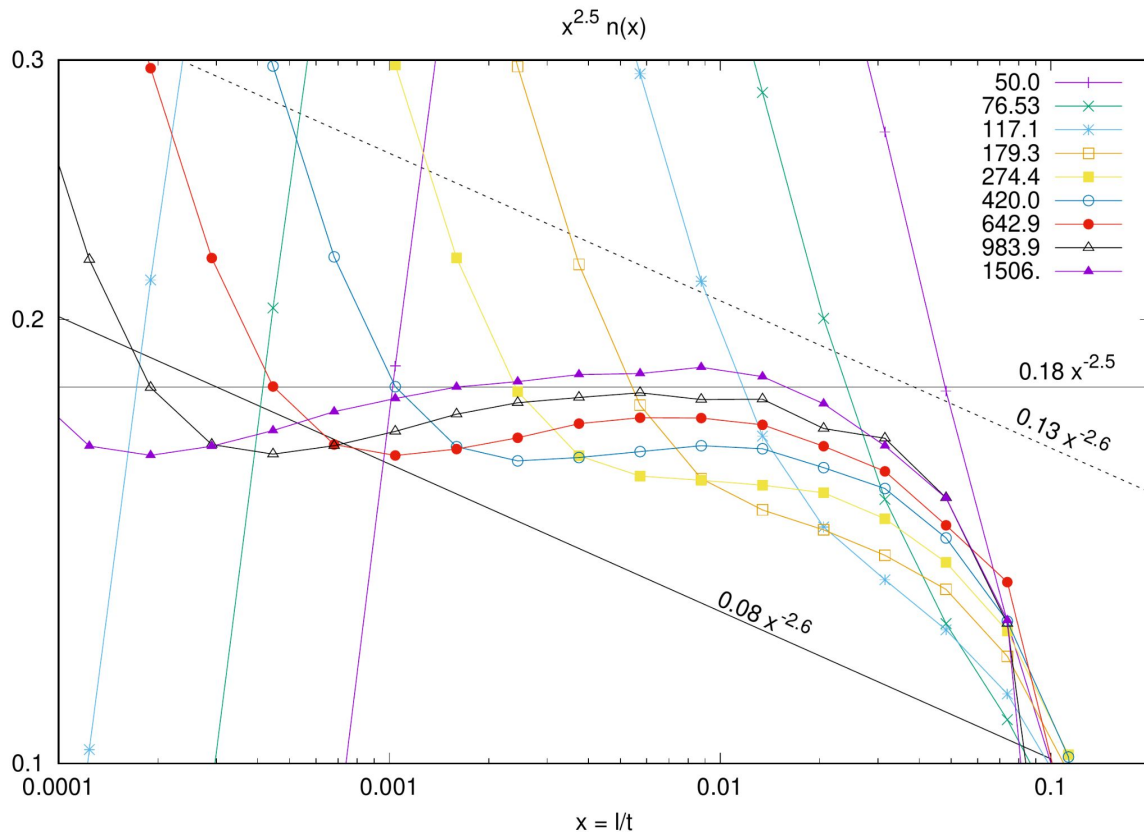
The loop number densities are obtained directly from a scaling population of non-self-intersecting loops

[Blanco-Pillado, Olum, Shlaer, PRD 89 (2014) 023512, PRD 92 (2015) 063528]

$$\mathbf{n}_r(l, t) = \frac{0.18}{t^{3/2}(l + \Gamma G \mu t)^{5/2}},$$

$$\mathbf{n}_{rm}(l, t) = \frac{0.18(2\sqrt{\Omega_r})^{3/2}}{(l + \Gamma G \mu t)^{5/2}} \left(\frac{a_0}{a}\right)^3,$$

$$\mathbf{n}_m(l, t) = \frac{0.27 - 0.45(l/t)^{0.31}}{t^2(l + \Gamma G \mu t)^2}.$$



[Blanco-Pillado, Olum, PRD 101 (2020) 103018]

Model II

(BOS model)

[Blanco-Pillado, Olum, Shlaer, PRD 83 (2011) 083514]

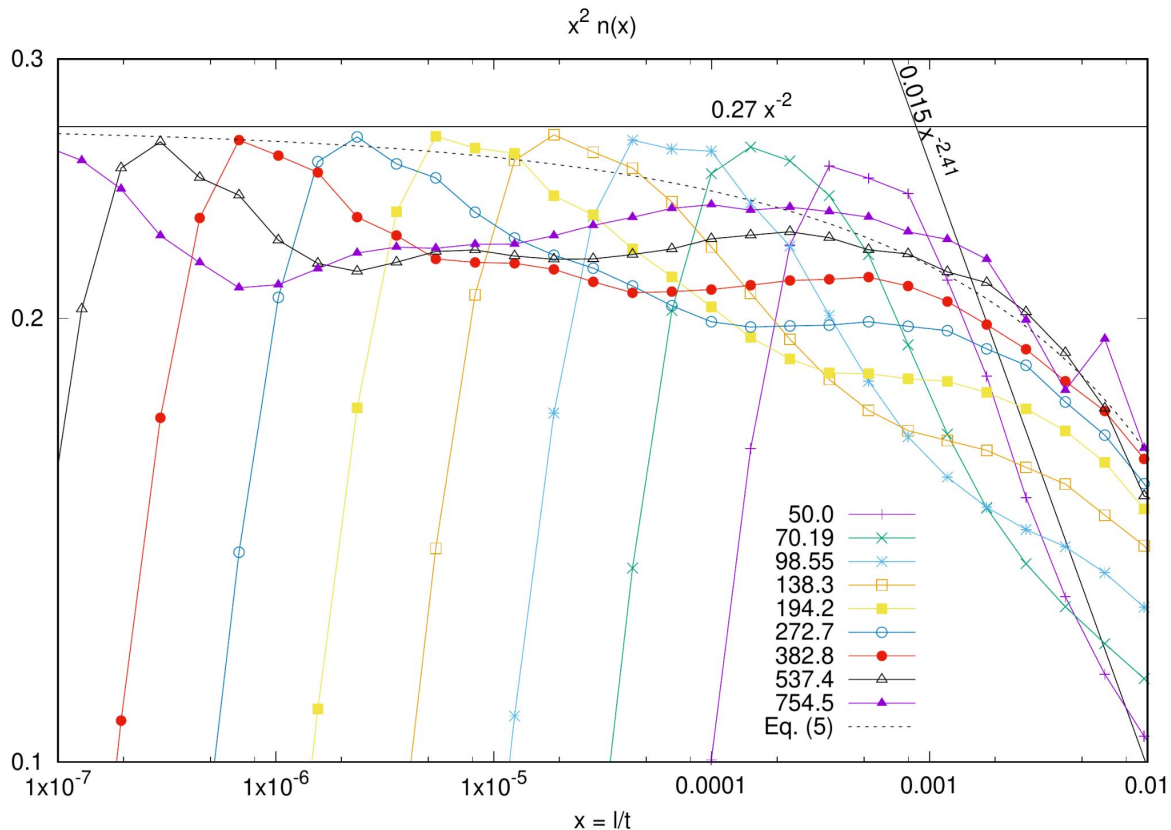
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Model II

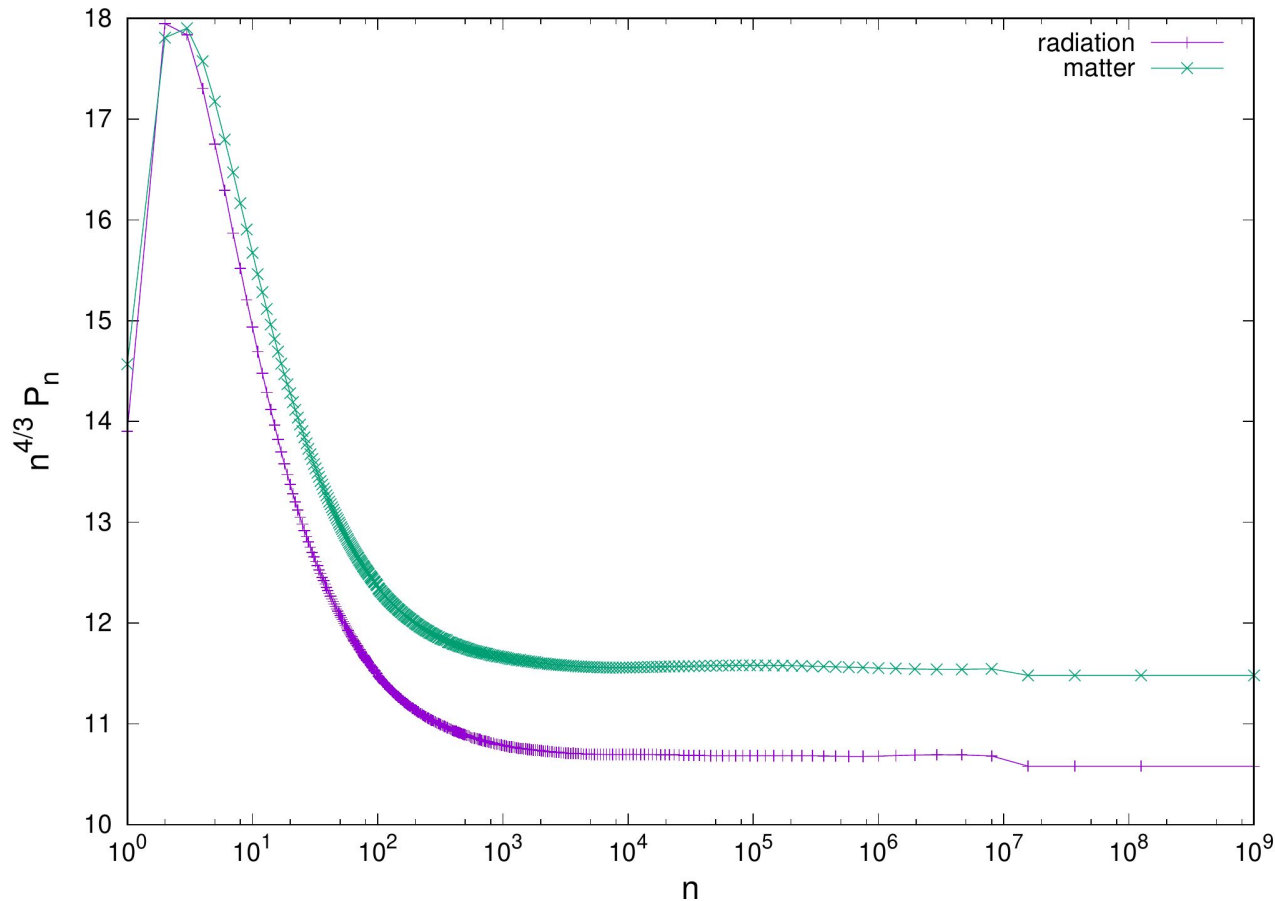
(BOS model)

[Blanco-Pillado, Olum, Shlaer, PRD 83 (2011) 083514]

The spectrum is from around 1000 non-self-intersecting scaling loops and includes gravitational backreaction.

[Blanco-Pillado, D. Olum, PRD 96 (2017) 104046]

(see Jeremy's talk for updates)



Model I and Model II agree when we fix $\alpha = 0.1$, $q = 4/3$, and $\mathcal{F} = 0.1$

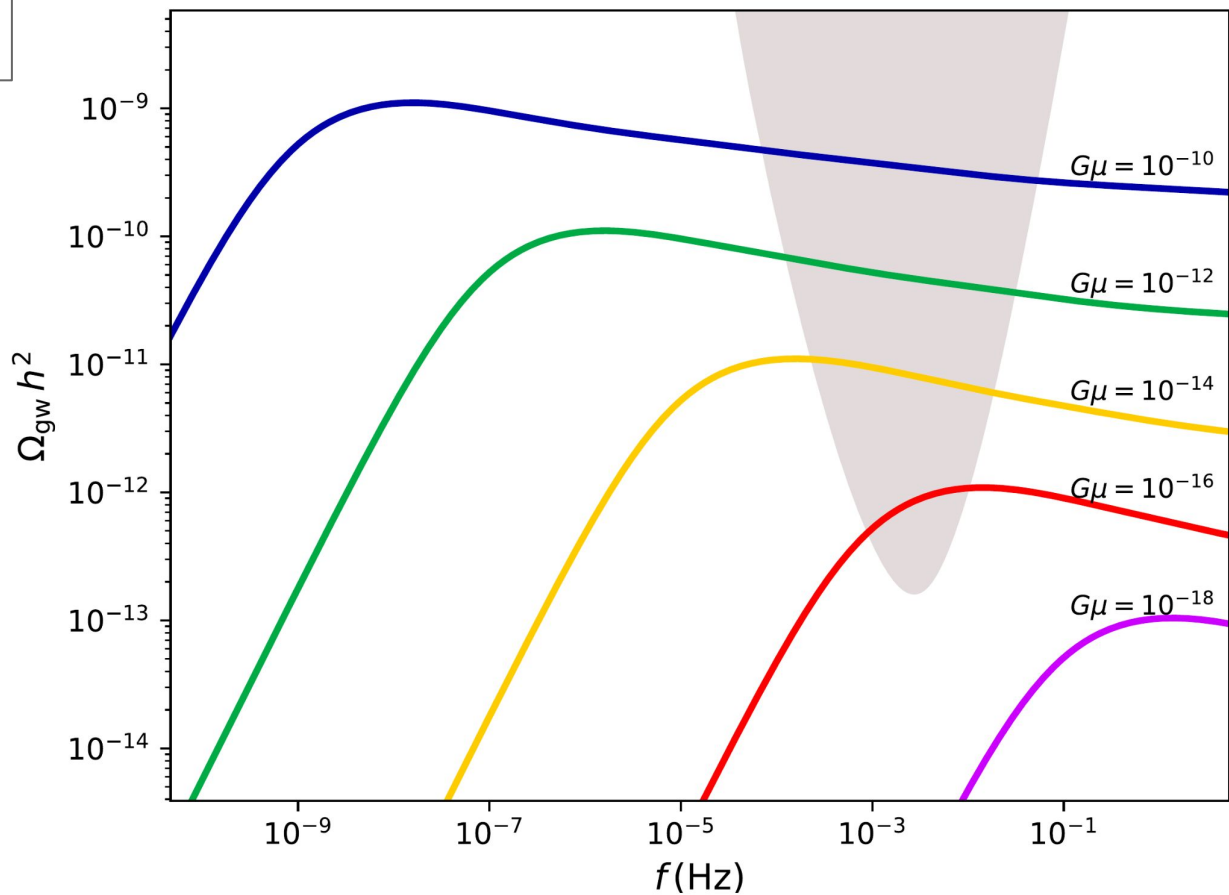
Variation of the string tension

The difference mostly appears in implementation of the Standard Model degrees of freedom (DOF).

[Bélanger, Boudjema, Pukhov, Semenov,
Comput. Phys. Commun. 192 (2015) 322]

micrOMEGAs 3.6.9.2

(the Model I tries to take into account the “out of scaling” behavior)



We utilize the `SGWBinner` code to carry out reconstruction of the signal.

[Chiara Caprini et al JCAP11(2019)017]

Optical Measurement
System (OMS) and
Test Mass (TM) errors

$$S_{ii}^{\text{OMS}}(f) = P^2 \left(1 + \left(\frac{2 \times 10^{-3} \text{ Hz}}{f} \right)^4 \right) \times \left(\frac{2\pi f}{c} \right)^2 \times \left(\frac{\text{pm}^2}{\text{Hz}} \right)$$

[M. Colpi et al., LISA
Definition Study Report]

$$S_{ii}^{\text{TM}}(f) = A^2 \left(1 + \left(\frac{0.4 \text{ mHz}}{f} \right)^2 \right) \left(1 + \left(\frac{f}{8 \text{ mHz}} \right)^4 \right) \left(\frac{1}{2\pi f c} \right)^2 \left(\frac{\text{fm}^2}{\text{s}^3} \right)$$

$P = 15$ and $A = 3$

Extragalactic noise

[Babak, Caprini, Figueroa, Karnesis, Marcoccia, Nardini et al., JCAP 08 (2023) 034]

$$h^2 \Omega_{\text{gw}}^{\text{Ext}} = (h^2 \Omega_{\text{Ext}}) \left(\frac{f}{\text{mHz}} \right)^{2/3}$$

Galactic noise

[Karnesis, Babak, Pieroni, Cornish, Littenberg, PRD 104 (2021) 043019]

$$h^2 \Omega_{\text{gw}}^{\text{Gal}}(f) = h^2 \Omega_{\text{Gal}} \frac{f^3}{2} \left(\frac{f}{\text{Hz}} \right)^{-\frac{7}{3}} \left[1 + \tanh \left(\frac{f_{\text{knee}} - f}{f_2} \right) \right] e^{-(f/f_1)^v}$$

SGWBinner reconstruction for the Model I

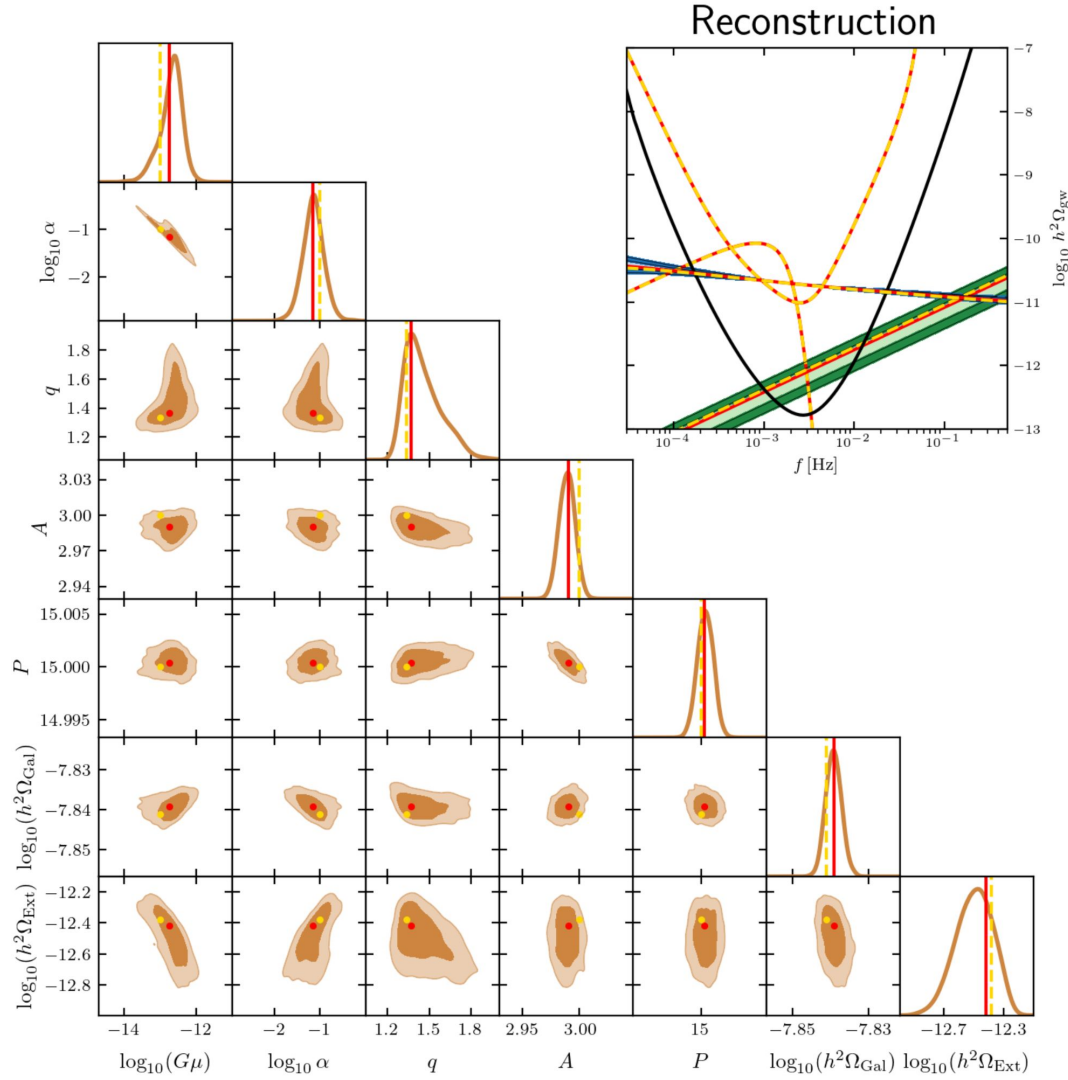
1σ and 2σ posterior distribution of parameters.

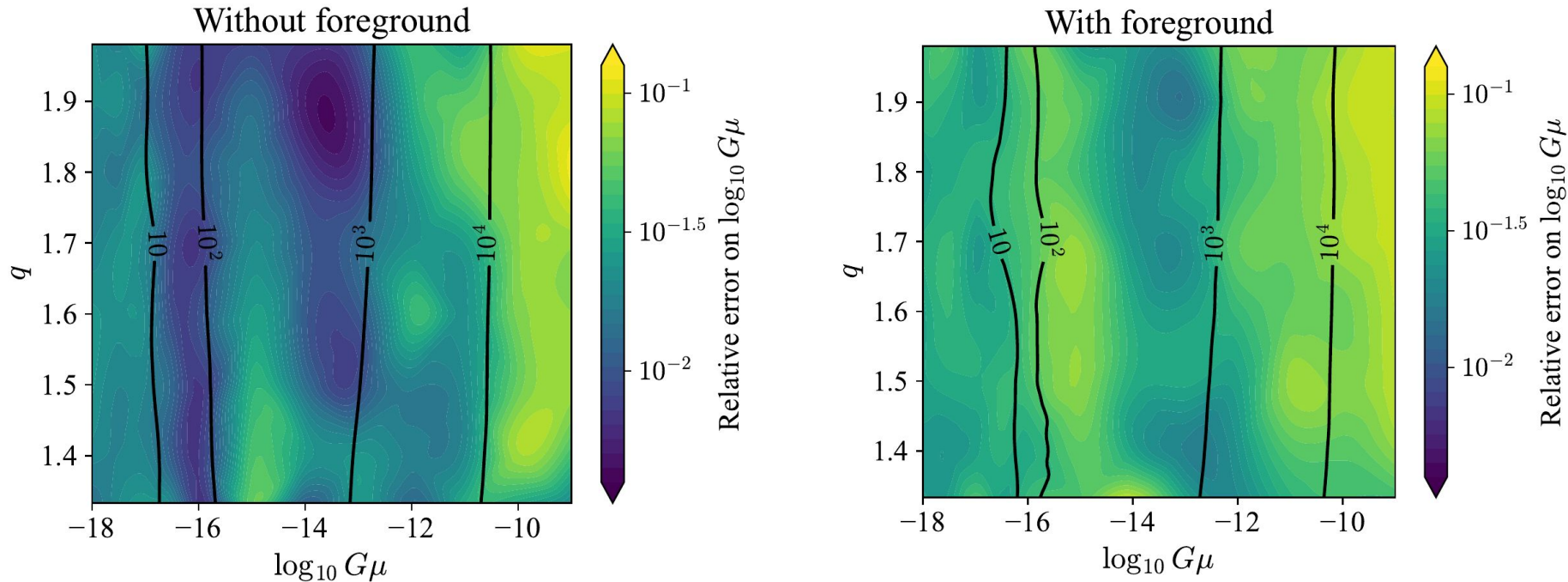
Fiducial parameters (yellow color):
 $\log_{10}(G\mu) = -13.0$, $\log_{10} \alpha = -1.0$, $q = 4/3$

The recovered spectrum is depicted by red color.

String parameters: q - spectral index
 α - loops size
 $G\mu$ - tension

Strong correlation between loops size α and string tension $G\mu$





Relative error in the reconstruction of parameters for the Model I with and without Extragalactic and Galactic foregrounds. The solid black line represents Signal-to-Noise Ratio (SNR).

Error is smallest at the intermediate values of the tension:

- for $G\mu < 10^{-17}$ the error increases because the signal lower than LISA sensitivity;
- for $G\mu > 10^{-13}$ the error increases due to degeneracy between parameters.

SGWBinner reconstruction for the Model II

The template uses data table for interpolation in the range:

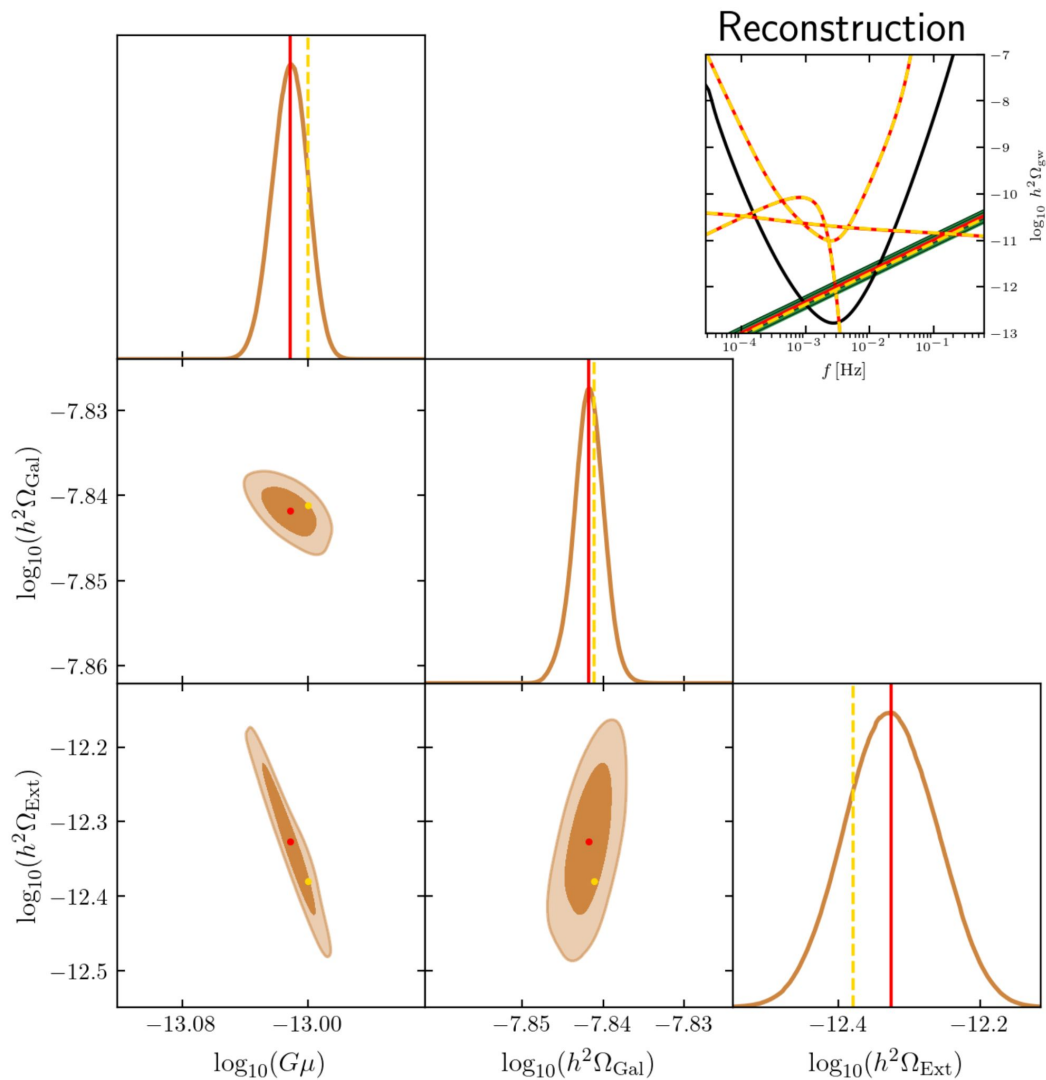
$\log_{10}(\Omega_{\text{gw}} h^2)$ values for

- $\log_{10}(f) \in [-5,0]$ with step 1/20
- $\log_{10}(G\mu) \in [-18,-9.5]$ with step 1/10

1σ and 2σ posterior distribution of parameters.

String parameter: $G\mu$ - tension

Recovery of a string tension $G\mu$ is better



SGWBinner reconstruction for the Model II

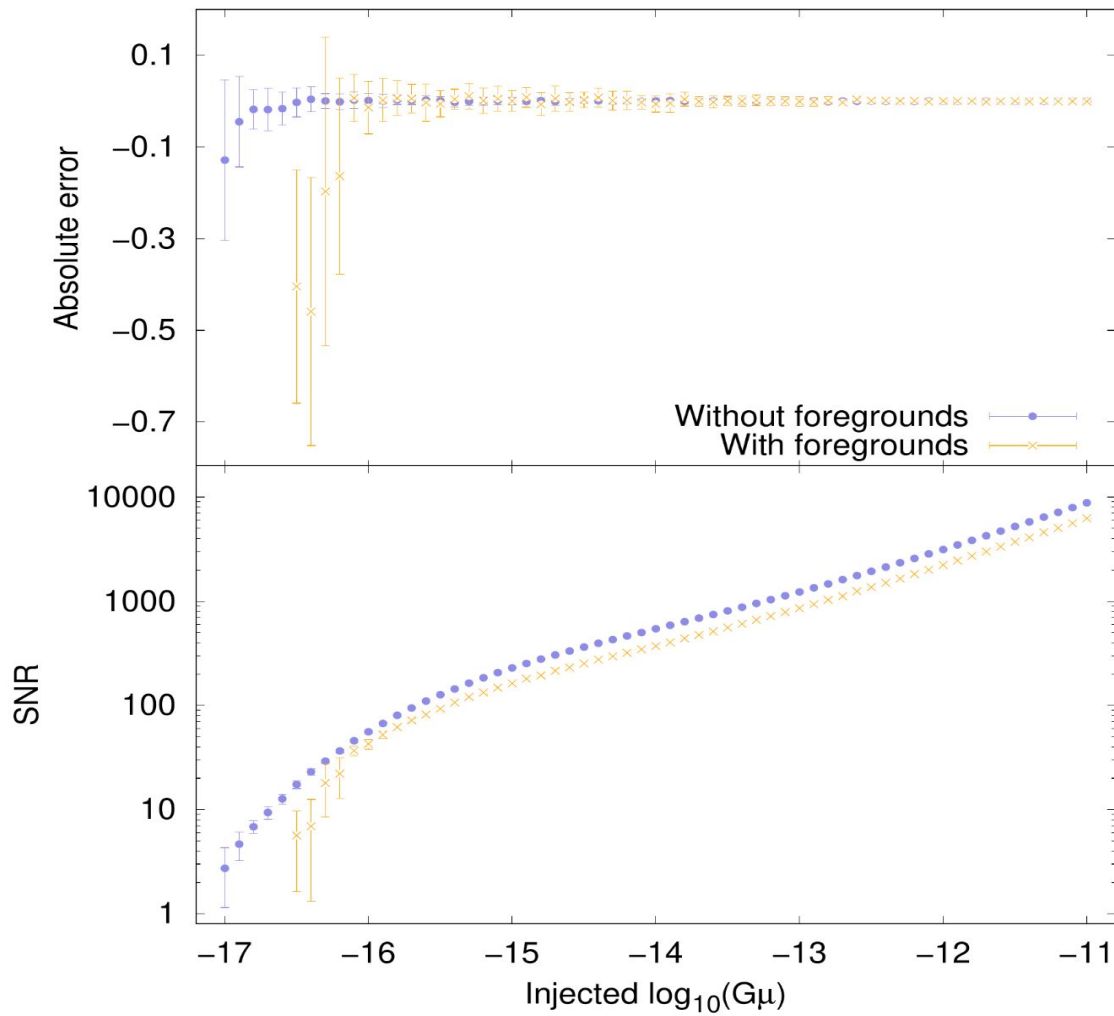
Absolute error and SNR in the
reconstruction of an injected Model II

-without foreground ($10^{-17} < G\mu < 10^{-11}$)

-with foregrounds ($10^{-16.5} < G\mu < 10^{-11}$)

30 trials performed at each tension
value.

Effects of foregrounds on reconstructing $\log_{10}(G\mu)$, CS model II, BOS P_j

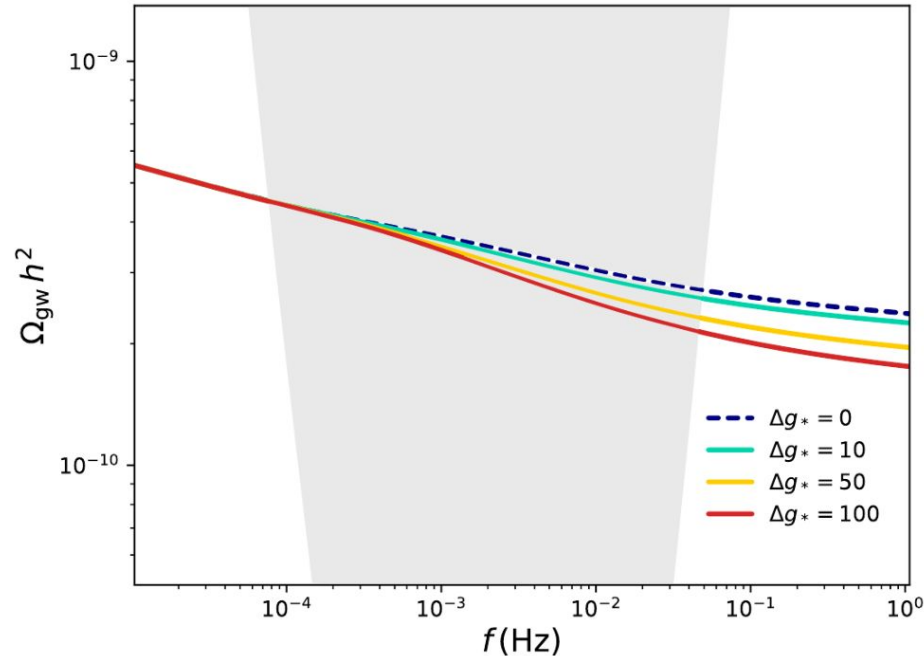


Non-standard cosmology (extra degrees of freedom)

Universe expansion is affected by change of DOF: $H^2 = H_0^2 \left[\Delta_r(a) \Omega_r \left(\frac{a}{a_0} \right)^{-4} + \Omega_m \left(\frac{a}{a_0} \right)^{-3} + \Omega_\Lambda \right]$

$$\Delta_r(a) = \frac{g_*(a)}{g_*(a_0)} \left(\frac{g_{*S}(a_0)}{g_{*S}(a)} \right)^{4/3}$$

Extra DOF brings changes in the spectrum.



Non-standard cosmology (extra degrees of freedom)

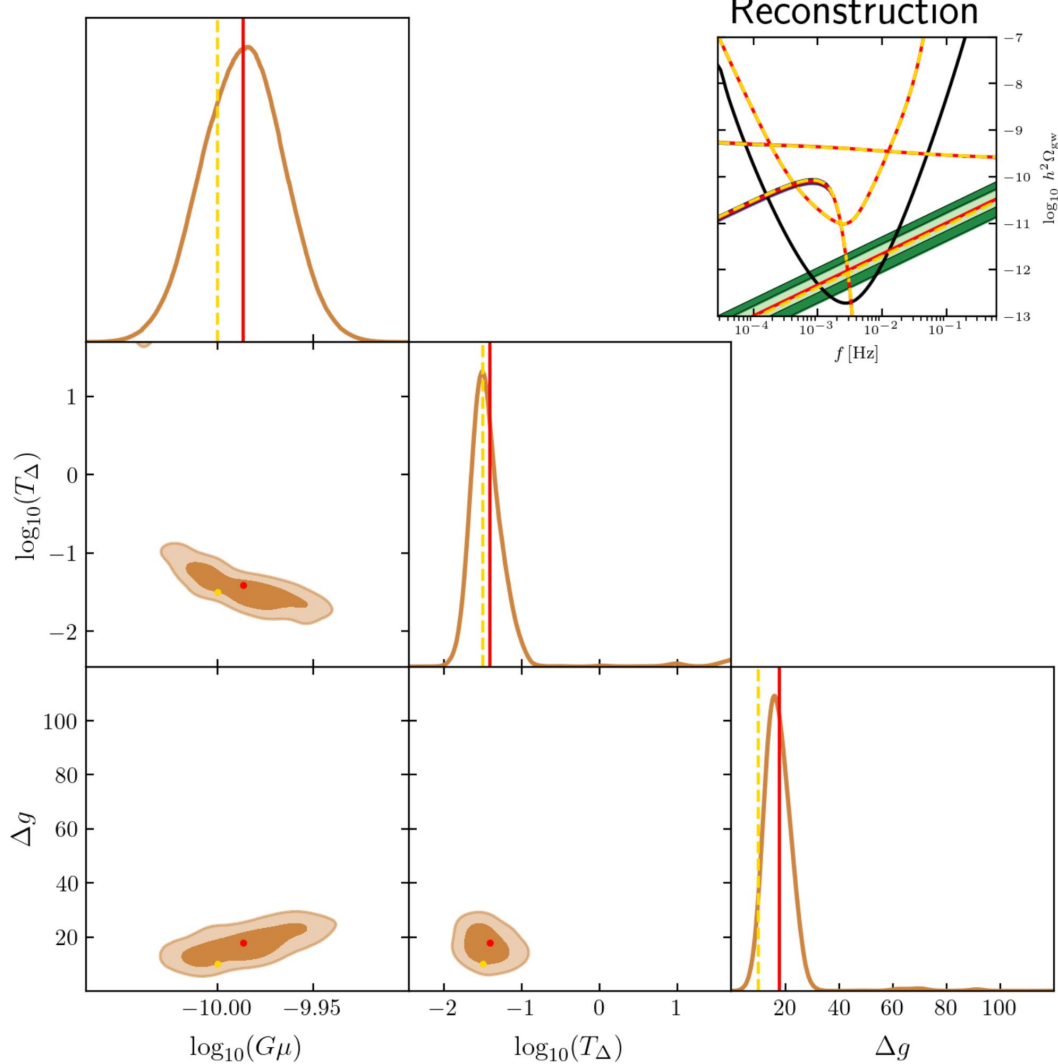
Reconstruction of an injected Model II
signal with extra DOF.

10 extra DOF at

$T_{\Delta} = 10^{-1.5}$ GeV and

tension $G\mu = 10^{-10}$.

For tension $G\mu = 10^{-10}$, the
Model II (with fixed by
simulations parameters), can
distinguish 10 extra DOF by
LISA



Non-standard cosmology (extra degrees of freedom)

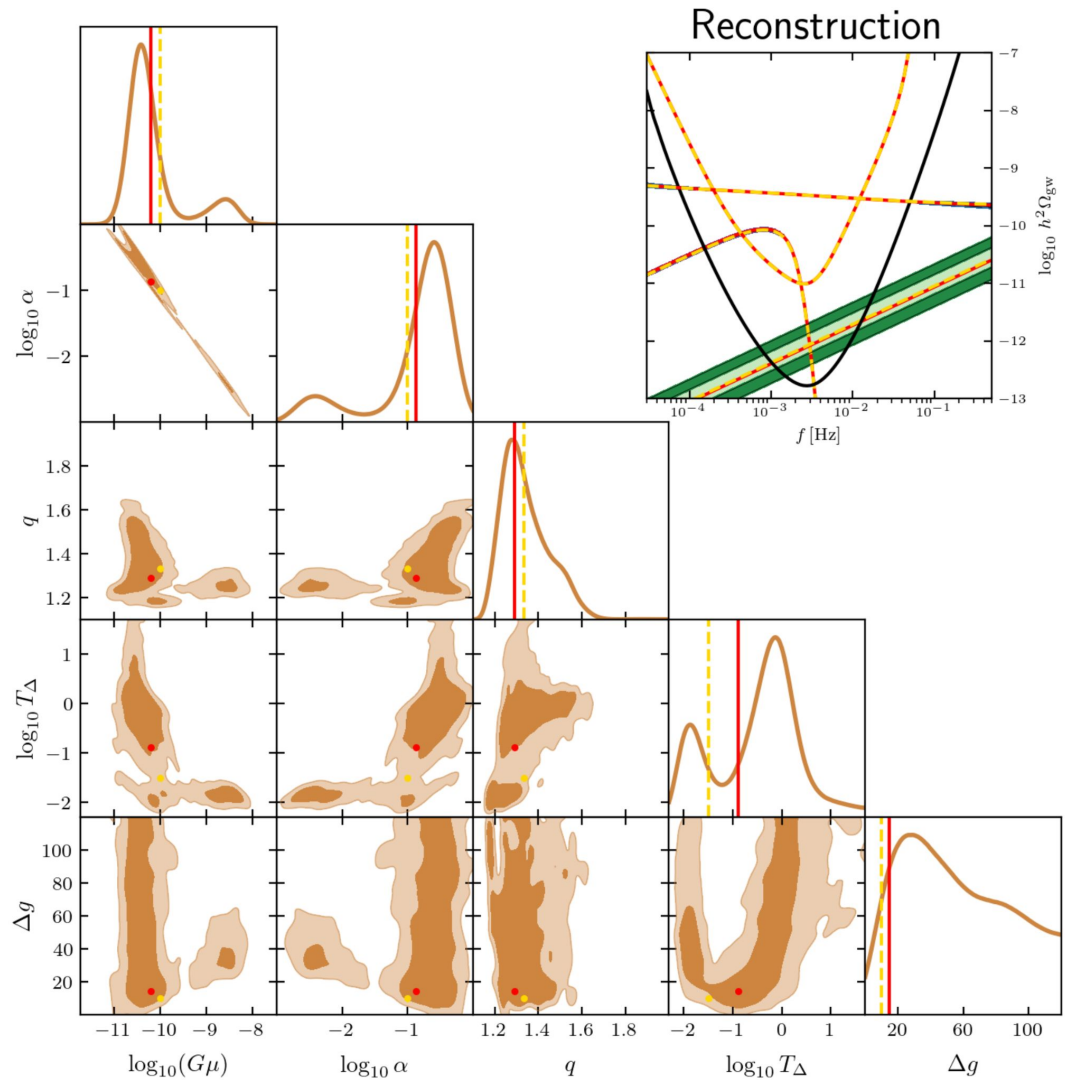
Reconstruction of an injected Model I
signal with extra DOF.

10 extra DOF at

$T_{\Delta} = 10^{-1.5}$ GeV and

tension $G\mu = 10^{-10}$.

Due to generacy in
parameters, Model I does
not provide such sensitive
test for extra DOF in
comparison with Model II.



Non-standard cosmology (extra degrees of freedom)

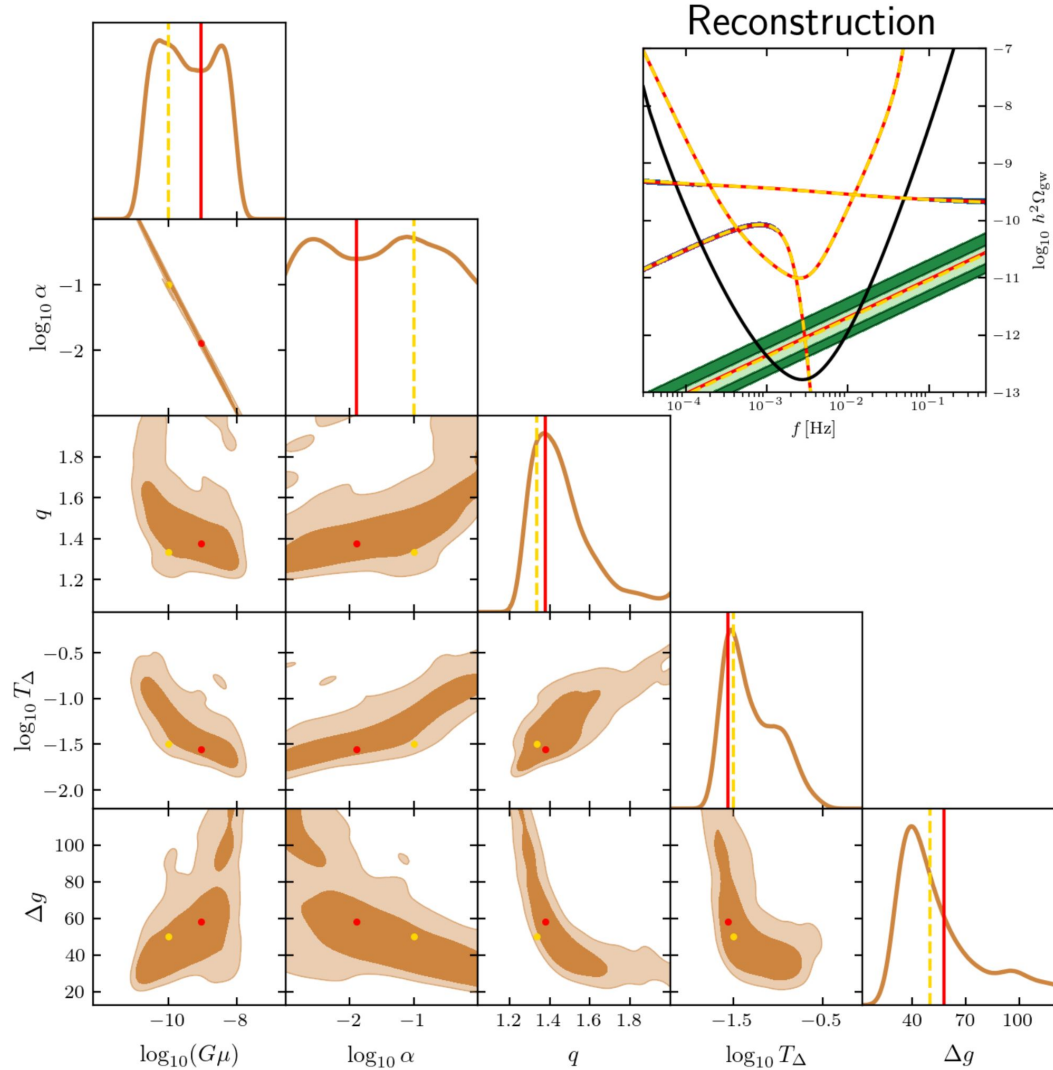
Reconstruction of an injected Model I
signal with extra DOF.

50 extra DOF at

$T_{\Delta} = 10^{-1.5}$ GeV and

tension $G\mu = 10^{-10}$.

Due to generacy in
parameters, Model I does
not provide such sensitive
test for extra DOF in
comparison with Model II.

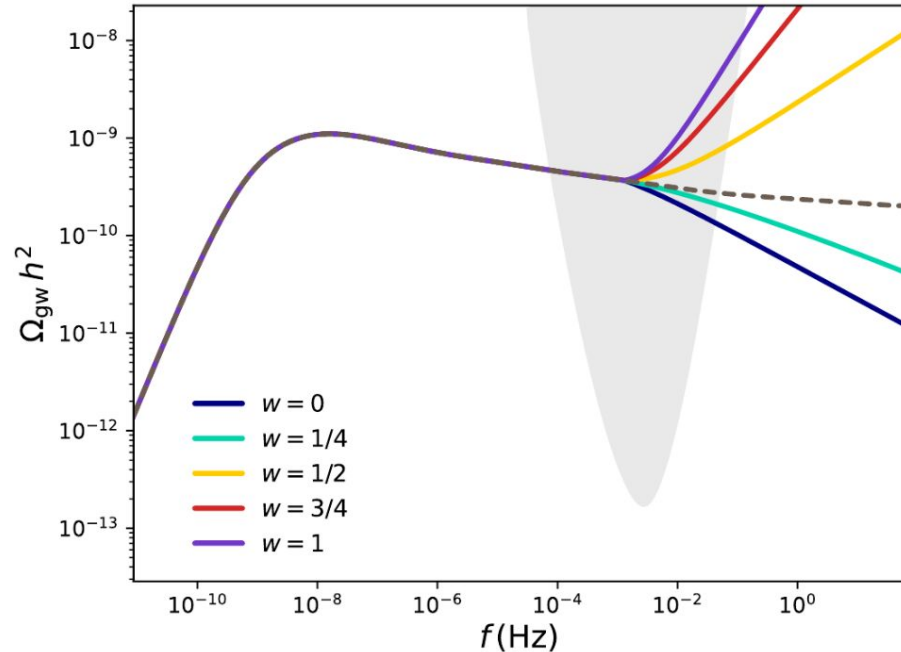


Non-standard cosmology (additional component of energy domination)

If we assume that the early universe is dominated by by the energy component: $\rho \propto a^{-3(1+w)}$
 for temperature $T > T_{\text{rd}}$. The slope has corresponding change:

$$\Omega_{\text{gw}}^*(f \gg f_{\text{rd}}, q, G\mu, \alpha, f_{\text{rd}}, d) \propto \left(\frac{f_{\text{rd}}}{f}\right)^{d_*}, \quad \text{with} \quad d_* = \begin{cases} d & , w > \frac{1}{3} \frac{3-q}{q+1} \\ q-1 & , w \leq \frac{1}{3} \frac{3-q}{q+1} \end{cases}.$$

Spectrum for any $w < 1/9$
 are the same and similar
 to the inflation influence.



Non-standard cosmology
(additional component of energy
domination)

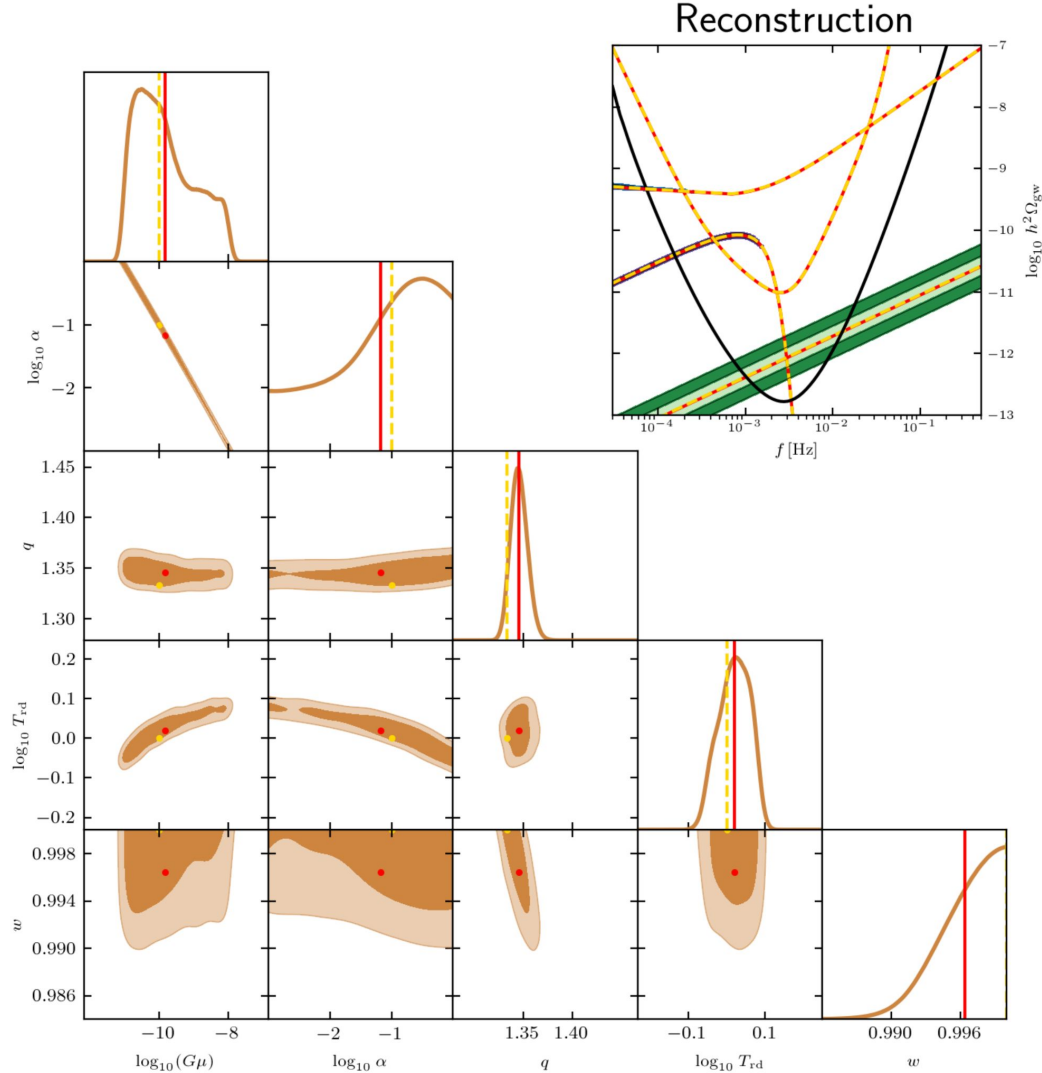
Reconstruction of an injected Model I
signal with kination period in the early
stage of the universe evolution.

$w=1$ until

$T_{\text{rd}}=10^{-1.5}$ GeV and

tension $G\mu = 10^{-10}$.

Reconstruction for $w=1$
successful, but won't work for
 $w < 1/3$, because of negative slope.



Conclusions and further steps

- We created templates for SGWB generated by cosmic strings
- Using `SGWBinner` we reconstructed signal from cosmic strings with astrophysical and instrumental noise (up to $G\mu = 10^{-16}$ - 10^{-17}).
- In the optimistic case we can probe BSM up to $T_{\Delta}=0.05$ GeV.

- Modelling:

AH effects (type I, II), gravitational backreaction, Y-junctions, superconductivity, ...

- Analyses:

Can we distinguish cosmic strings from other possible sources of SGWB?

[Thank you for your attention!](#)

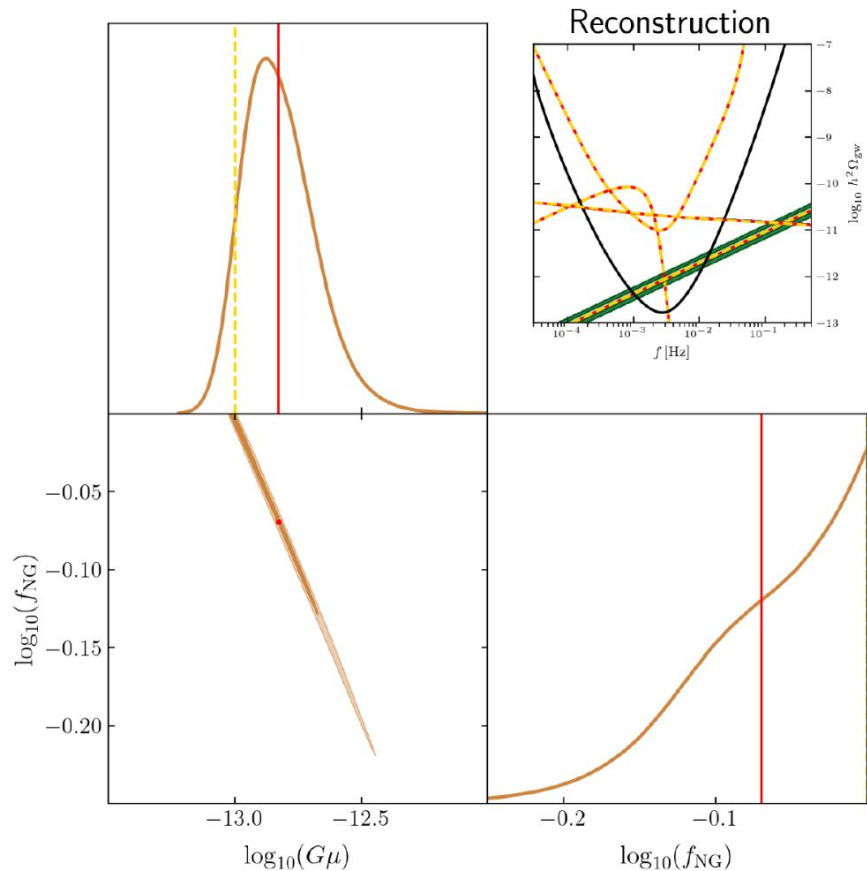
Backup slides

Parameter name	Parameter symbol	Range
String tension (Model I)	$\log_{10}(G\mu)$	$[-18.0, -7.0]$
String tension (Model II)	$\log_{10}(G\mu)$	$[-18.0, -9.5]$
Power spectral index	q	$[1.10, 1.99]$
Loop size	$\log_{10}(\alpha)$	$[-3, 0]$
New degrees of freedom (DoF)	Δg	$[0, 120]$
Temperature of new DoF decoupling	$\log_{10}(T_{\Delta}/1 \text{ GeV})$	$[-2.3, 1.7]$
Equation-of-state	w	$[0, 1]$
Temperature of radiation domination	$\log_{10}(T_{rd}/1 \text{ GeV})$	$[-2.3, 1.7]$

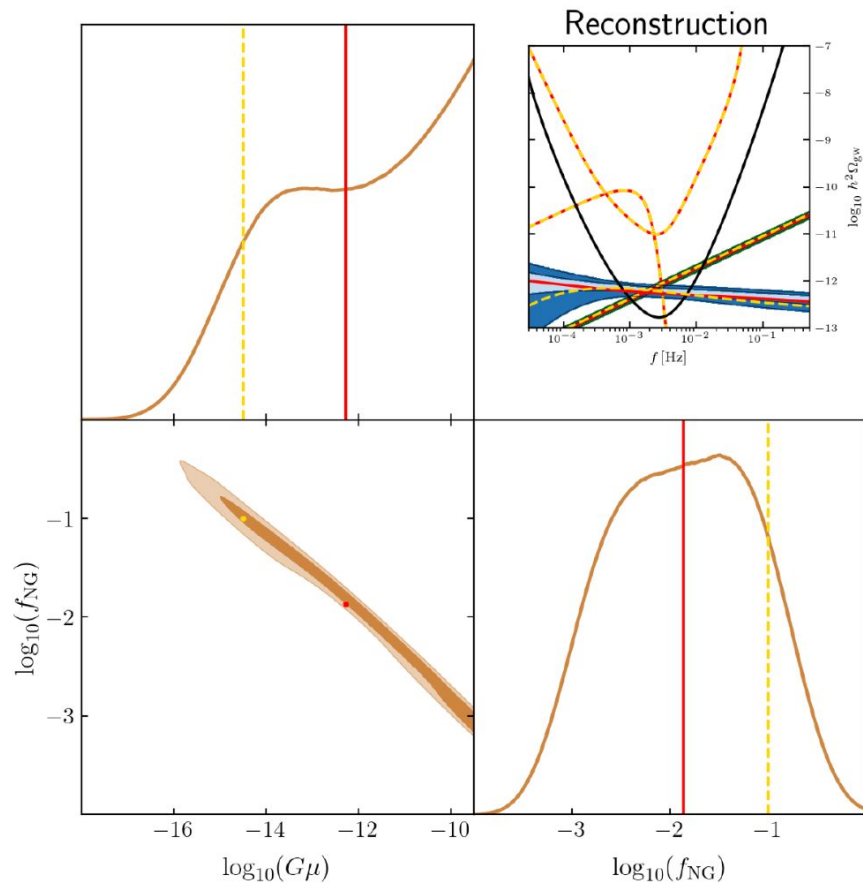
Parameters have flat priors during reconstruction.

Abelian Higgs

$$\Omega_{\text{gw}}^{(\text{AH})} = f_{\text{NG}} \Omega_{\text{gw}}^{(\text{NG})}$$



Tension $G\mu = 10^{-13}$, $f_{\text{NG}} = 1$



Tension $G\mu = 10^{-14.5}$,

Extragalactic noise:

[Babak, Caprini, Figueroa, Karnesis, Maccoccia, Nardini et al., JCAP 08 (2023) 034]

$$h^2 \Omega_{\text{gw}}^{\text{Ext}} = (h^2 \Omega_{\text{Ext}}) \left(\frac{f}{\text{mHz}} \right)^{2/3}$$

$$h^2 \Omega_{\text{Ext}} = 10^{-12.38}$$

$$h^2 \Omega_{\text{Gal}} = 10^{-7.84}$$

Galactic noise:

[Karnesis, Babak, Pieroni, Cornish, Littenberg, PRD 104 (2021) 043019]

$$h^2 \Omega_{\text{gw}}^{\text{Gal}}(f) = h^2 \Omega_{\text{Gal}} \frac{f^3}{2} \left(\frac{f}{\text{Hz}} \right)^{-\frac{7}{3}} \left[1 + \tanh \left(\frac{f_{\text{knee}} - f}{f_2} \right) \right] e^{-(f/f_1)^v}$$

$$\log_{10}(f_1/\text{Hz}) = a_1 \log_{10}(T_{\text{obs}}/\text{year}) + b_1$$

$$\log_{10}(f_{\text{knee}}/\text{Hz}) = a_k \log_{10}(T_{\text{obs}}/\text{year}) + b_k$$

$$a_1 = -0.15, \quad b_1 = -2.72, \quad a_k = -0.37$$

$$b_k = -2.49, \quad v = 1.56, \quad f_2 = 6.7 \times 10^{-4} \text{ Hz}$$