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# Echoes of the early Universe

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Work in collaboration with Mercedes Martin-Benito and Luis J. Garay

In preparation

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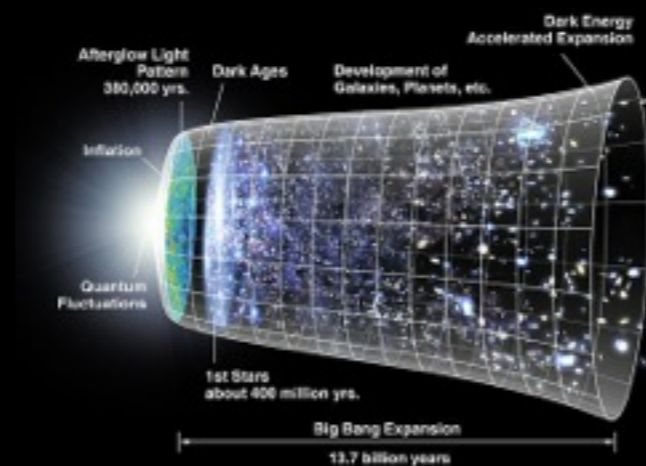


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# Looking for Signatures of QG today

- To test proposals for Quantum Gravity we need
  - i) predictions
  - ii) experimental data encoding QG effects
- QG scales out of reach of experiments on earth
- Most promising window: **COSMOLOGY**





# Looking for Signatures of QG today

- Have QG signatures really survived from the early Universe all the way to our current era?
- If so, how strong are they?
- Will it be possible to validate or falsify different QG proposals by looking at the data? Is the information RECOVERABLE?

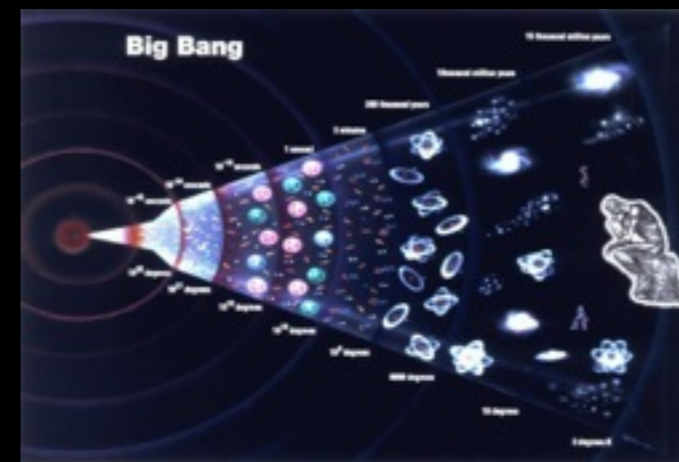
We explore a simple way, based on a toy model, to assess the strength of the quantum signatures of the early Universe that might be observed nowadays



# Setting

- Particle detector coupled to matter fields from the early stages of the Universe until today:

Would the detector conserve any information from the time when it witnessed the very early Universe dynamics?



$$t_{Pl} \sim 10^{-44} s \quad ; \quad T \sim 10^{17} s$$

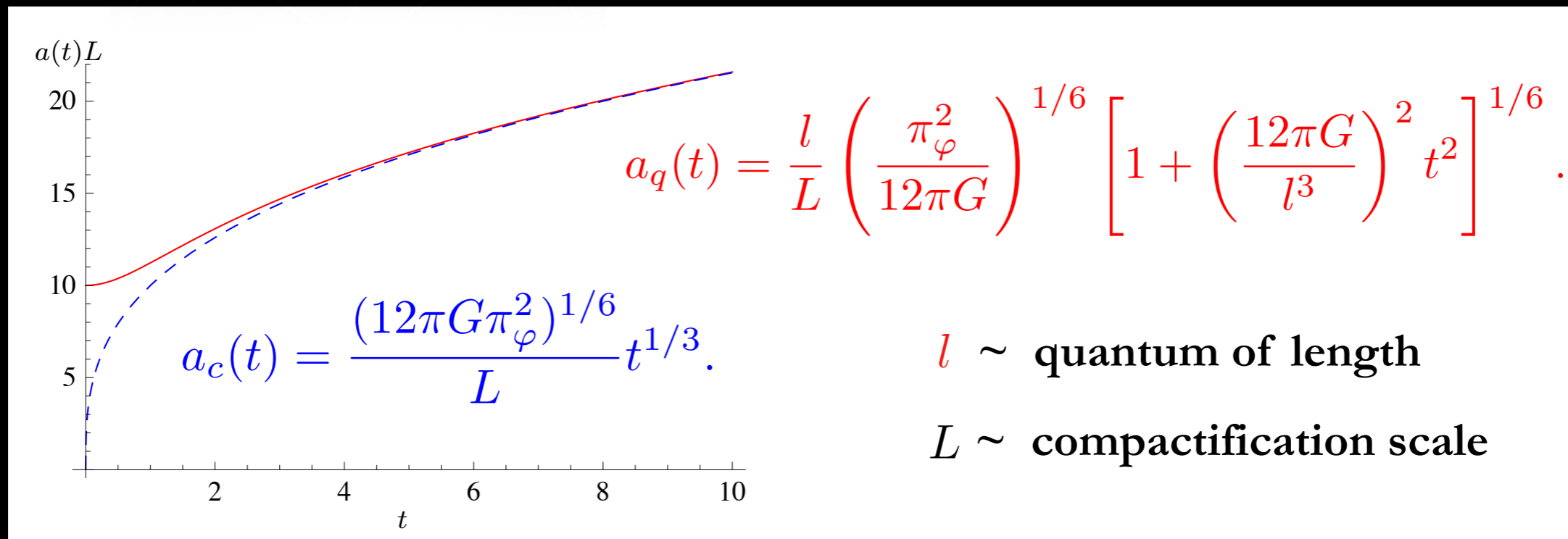


# Early Universe dynamics



$$\left(\frac{\dot{a}}{a}\right)^2 = \frac{8\pi G}{3}\rho\left(1 - \frac{\rho}{\rho_\star}\right), \quad \rho_\star := \frac{6\pi G}{l^6}.$$

## GR vs Effective LQC

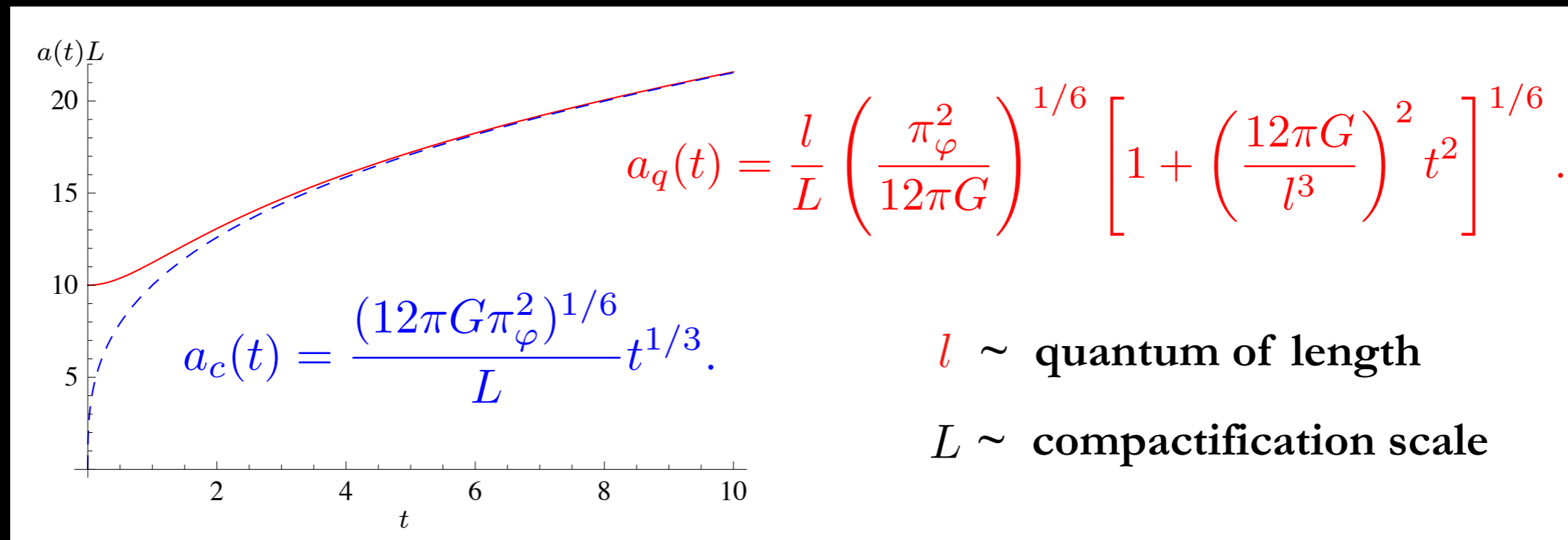




# Early Universe dynamics

- Flat FRW with 3-Torus topology and matter source a massless scalar  $\varphi$
- We will compare the response of the detector evolving under two different Universe dynamics which disagree only during the short time when matter-energy densities are of the order the Planck scale

## GR vs Effective LQC





# Gibbons-Hawking effect

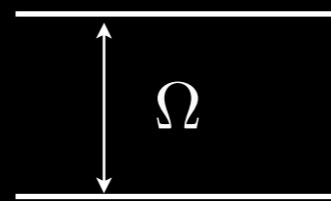
- We consider a massless scalar field  $\phi$  in the conformal vacuum
- The proper time of comoving observers (who see an isotropic expansion) does not coincide with conformal time

$$\eta_c(t) = \frac{3L t^{2/3}}{2(12\pi G \pi_\varphi^2)^{1/6}}$$

$$\eta_q(t) = \frac{L}{l} \left( \frac{12\pi G}{\pi_\varphi^2} \right)^{1/6} t \cdot {}_2F_1 \left[ \frac{1}{6}, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{3}{2}, - \left( \frac{12\pi G}{l^3} t \right)^2 \right] \xrightarrow[t \gg l^3/(12\pi G)]{} \eta_c(t) + \beta$$



# The Unruh -De Witt model



$$|e\rangle = \sigma^+ |0\rangle$$

$$|0\rangle = \sigma^- |e\rangle$$

$$\hat{H}_I(t) = \lambda \chi(t) (\sigma^+ e^{i\Omega t} + \sigma^- e^{-i\Omega t}) \hat{\phi}[\vec{x}_0, \eta(t)]$$

$t$  proper time of the detector (comoving)

$\lambda$  coupling strength

$\chi(t)$  switching function

$[\vec{x}_0, \eta(t)]$  world-line of the detector (stationary)



# Probability of excitation

- $T_0$  : field in the conformal vacuum and detector in its ground state
- Transition probability for the detector to be excited at time  $T$  :  
At leading order ( $\lambda$  small enough)

$$P_e(T_0, T) = \lambda^2 \sum_{\vec{n}} |I_{\vec{n}}(T_0, T)|^2 + \mathcal{O}(\lambda^4)$$

$$I_{\vec{n}}(T_0, T) = \int_{T_0}^T dt \frac{\chi(t)}{a(t) \sqrt{2\omega_{\vec{n}} L^3}} e^{-\frac{2\pi i \vec{n} \cdot \vec{x}_0}{L}} e^{i[\Omega t + \omega_{\vec{n}} \eta(t)]}$$

$$\vec{n} = (n_x, n_y, n_z) \in \mathbb{Z}^3 - \vec{0} \qquad \omega_{\vec{n}} = \frac{2\pi}{L} |\vec{n}|$$



# Do the effects wash out?

- **Difference of probabilities**  $\Delta P_e(T_0, T) \equiv P_e^q(T_0, T) - P_e^c(T_0, T)$

- **We split the integrals**

$$I_{\vec{n}}^c(T_0, T) = I_{\vec{n}}^c(T_0, T_m) + I_{\vec{n}}^c(T_m, T) \quad \eta_q(T_m) \approx \eta_c(T_m) + \beta$$

$$I_{\vec{n}}^q(T_0, T) = I_{\vec{n}}^q(T_0, T_m) + e^{i\omega_{\vec{n}}\beta} I_{\vec{n}}^c(T_m, T)$$



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$$\Delta P_e(T_0, T) = \lambda^2 \sum_{\vec{n}} \left[ |I_{\vec{n}}^q(T_0, T_m)|^2 - |I_{\vec{n}}^c(T_0, T_m)|^2 \right. \\ \left. + 2\text{Re} \left( I_{\vec{n}}^{c*}(T_m, T) \left[ e^{-i\beta\omega_{\vec{n}}} I_{\vec{n}}^q(T_0, T_m) - I_{\vec{n}}^c(T_0, T_m) \right] \right) \right]$$



# Probabilities: GR vs effective LQC

- **Difference of probabilities**  $\Delta P_e(T_0, T) \equiv P_e^q(T_0, T) - P_e^c(T_0, T)$

- **We split the integrals**

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The relative difference on the detector's particle counting in both scenarios will be appreciably different even for long  $T$



# Sensitivity to the quantum parameters

- Any observations we may make on particle detectors will be averaged in time over many Planck times

$$\langle P_e(T_0, T) \rangle_{\mathcal{T}} = \frac{1}{\mathcal{T}} \int_{T-\mathcal{T}}^T P_e(T_0, T') dT' \quad \mathcal{T} \gg l^3 / (12\pi G)$$

- Sub-Planckian detector  $\Omega \ll 12\pi G / l^3$

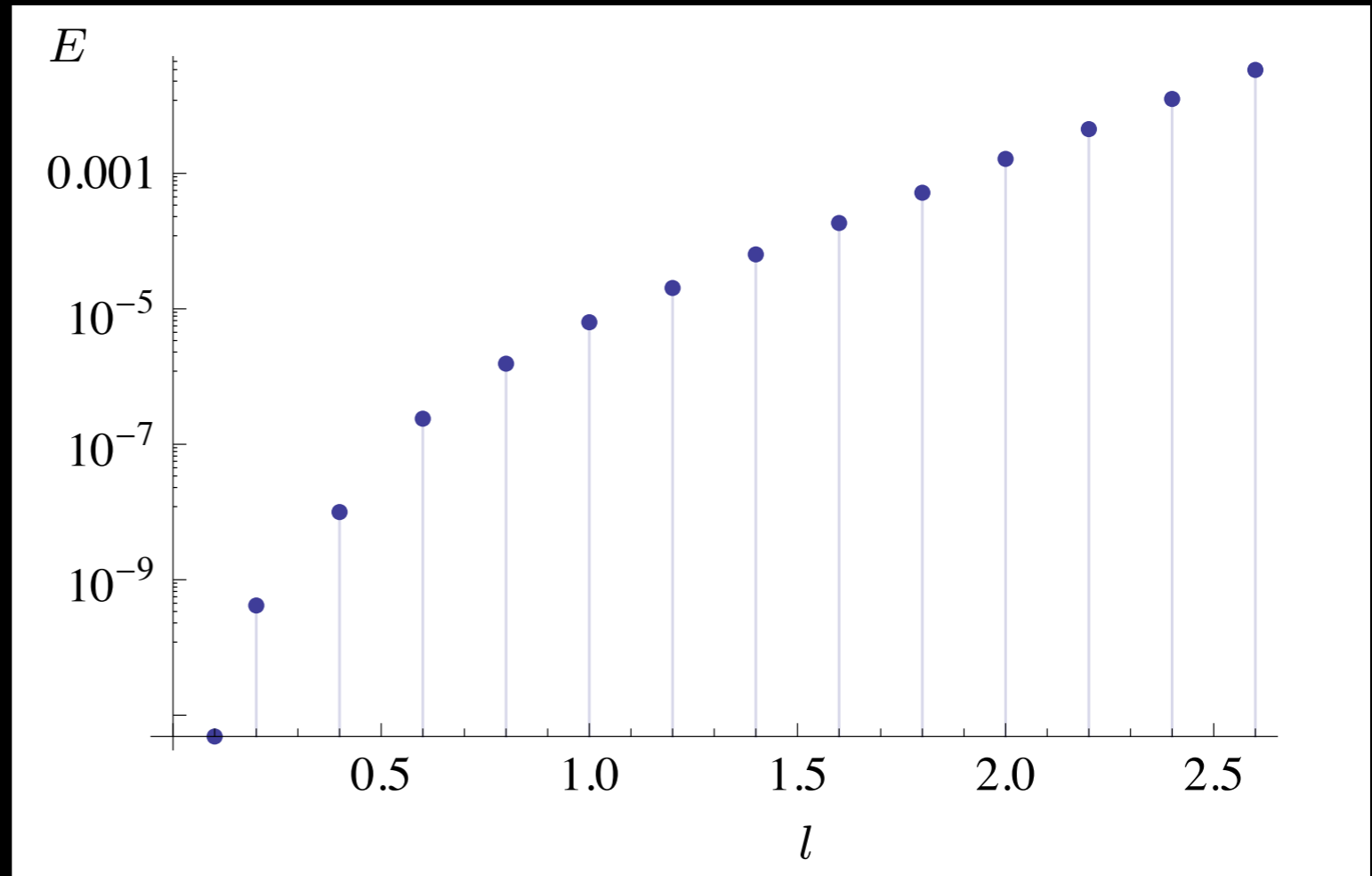
- Estimator to study sensitivity with quantum of length

$$E = \left\langle \frac{\langle \Delta P_e(T_0, T) \rangle_{\mathcal{T}}}{\langle P_e^{\text{GR}}(T_0, T) \rangle_{\mathcal{T}}} \right\rangle_{\Delta T} \quad \Delta T = T - T_{\text{late}}$$
$$\Delta T, T_{\text{late}} \gg l^3 / (12\pi G)$$



# Sensitivity to the quantum parameters

$$E = \left\langle \frac{\langle \Delta P_e(T_0, T) \rangle_{\mathcal{T}}}{\langle P_e^{\text{GR}}(T_0, T) \rangle_{\mathcal{T}}} \right\rangle_{\Delta T}$$



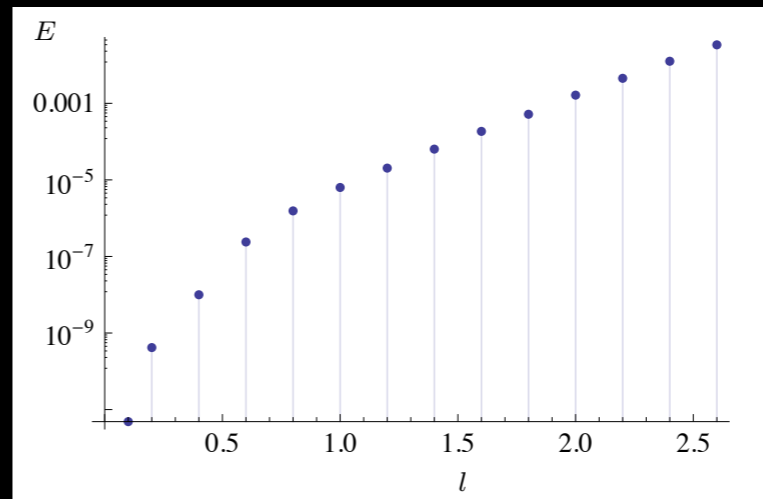
Exponential with the size of the spacetime quantum

- Cosmological observations could put stringent upper bounds to  $l$



# Sensitivity to the quantum parameters

$$E = \left\langle \frac{\langle \Delta P_e(T_0, T) \rangle_{\mathcal{T}}}{\langle P_e^{\text{GR}}(T_0, T) \rangle_{\mathcal{T}}} \right\rangle_{\Delta T}$$



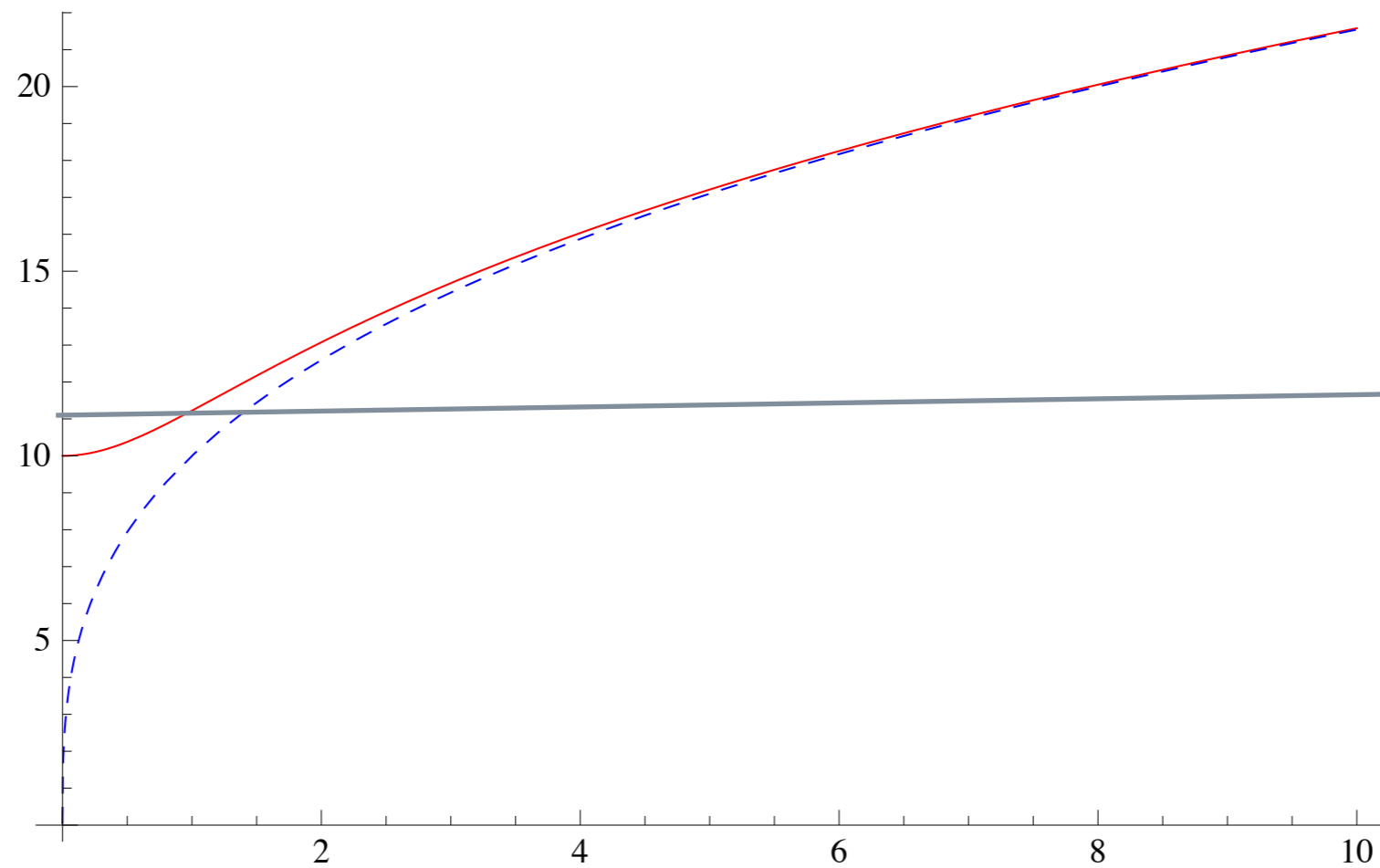
Sub-Planckian detector:

- Low Energy gap (as compared to the Planck scale)
- Observed nowadays (far from the Planck scale)
- Long Detection time (as compared to the Planck scale)



# Stability of the results

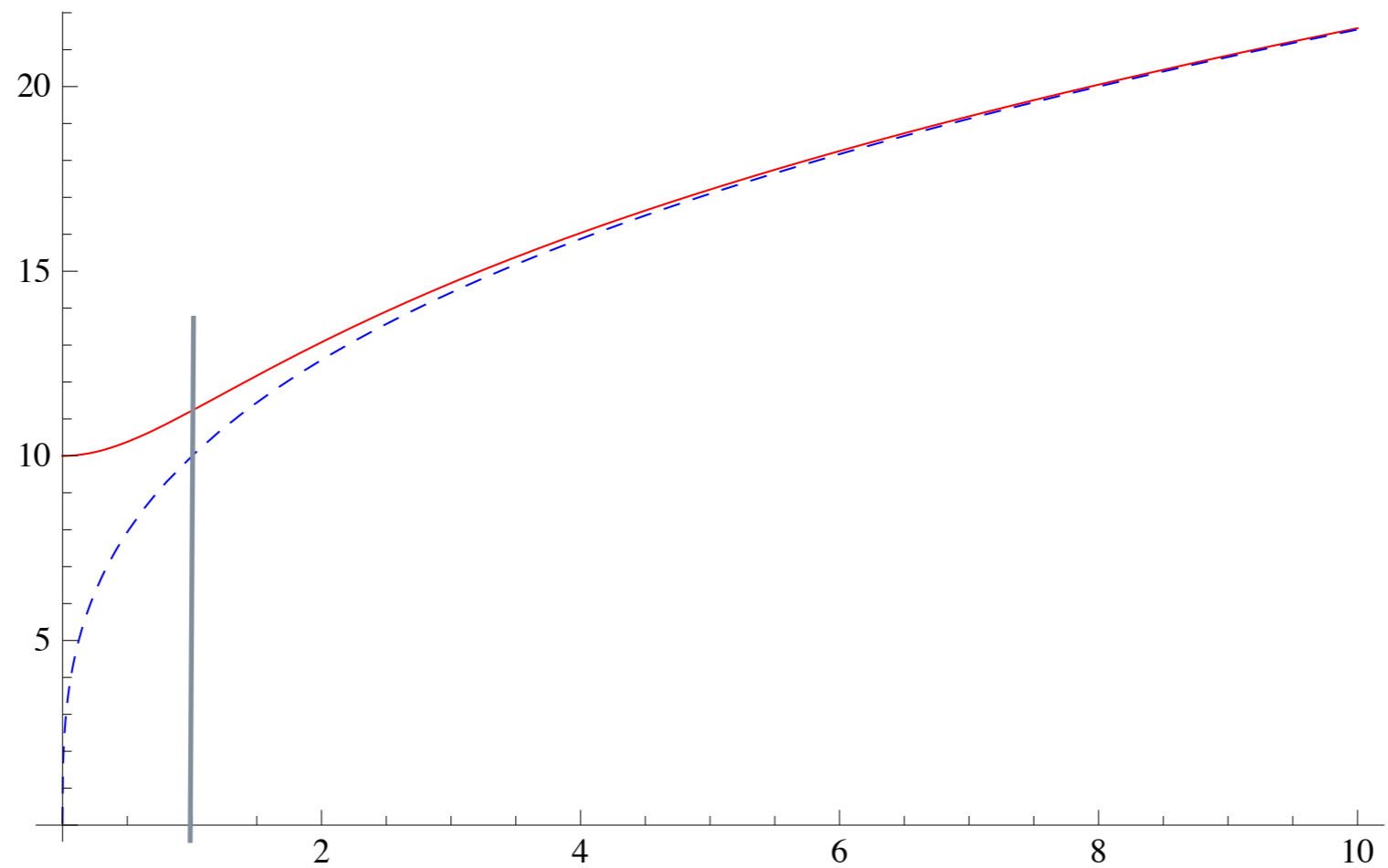
Scenario 1: The detectors were switched on at a given total volume of the Universe





# Stability of the results

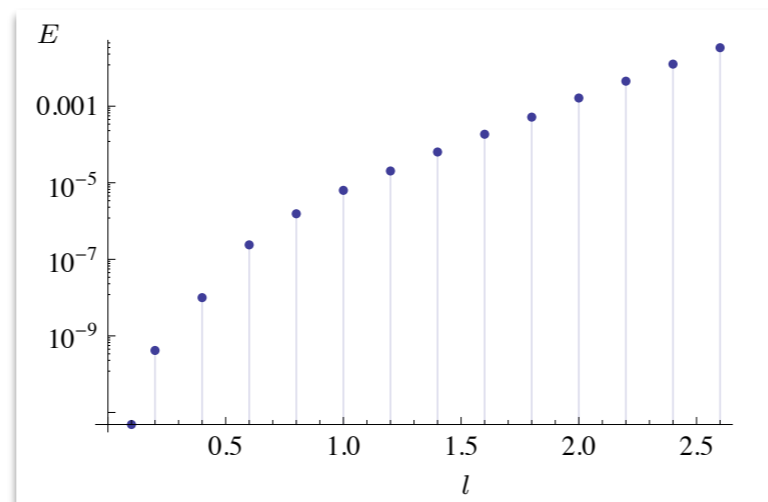
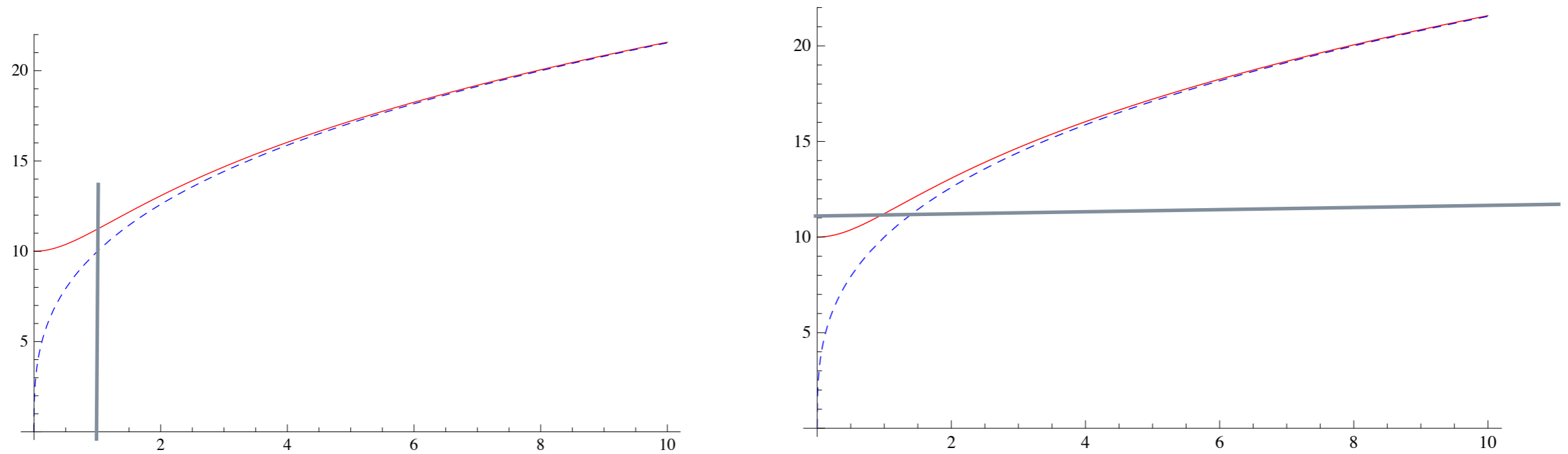
Scenario 2: The detectors have been switched on for the same amount of (proper) time





# Stability of the results

Identical results in both scenarios





# Early Universe dynamics



$$\left(\frac{\dot{a}}{a}\right)^2 = \frac{8\pi G}{3}\rho\left(1 - \frac{\rho}{\rho_\star}\right), \quad \rho_\star := \frac{6\pi G}{l^6}.$$

## GR vs Post-Einsteinian gravity

- In the early universe there might not even be any notion of geometry
- There has to be an intermediate regime where we have effective (perturbed) Friedmann equations.
- Information about these corrections makes it all the way to nowadays in the noise spectrum of vacuum fluctuations and its recoverable at low energy.



# Conclusions

- Although this is a toy model, it captures the essence of a key phenomenon: Quantum field fluctuations are extremely sensitive to the physics of the early Universe.
- The signatures of these fluctuations survive in the current era with a significant strength.
- We showed how the existence (or not) of a quantum bounce leaves a trace in the background quantum noise that is not damped and would be non-negligible even nowadays.
- The use of LQC in this derivation is anecdotal, and we believe that our main result is general:

The response of a particle detector today carries the imprint of the specific dynamics of the spacetime in the early Universe



The response of a particle detector today carries the imprint of the specific dynamics of the spacetime in the early Universe

## Decoherence mechanisms?

MOSTLY UNKNOWN

Quantum information lost, how about classical information?





## Ongoing Work:

Can quantum information survive a cosmological cataclysm?

Work in collaboration with

Luis J. Garay, Mercedes Martin-Benito, Ana Blasco

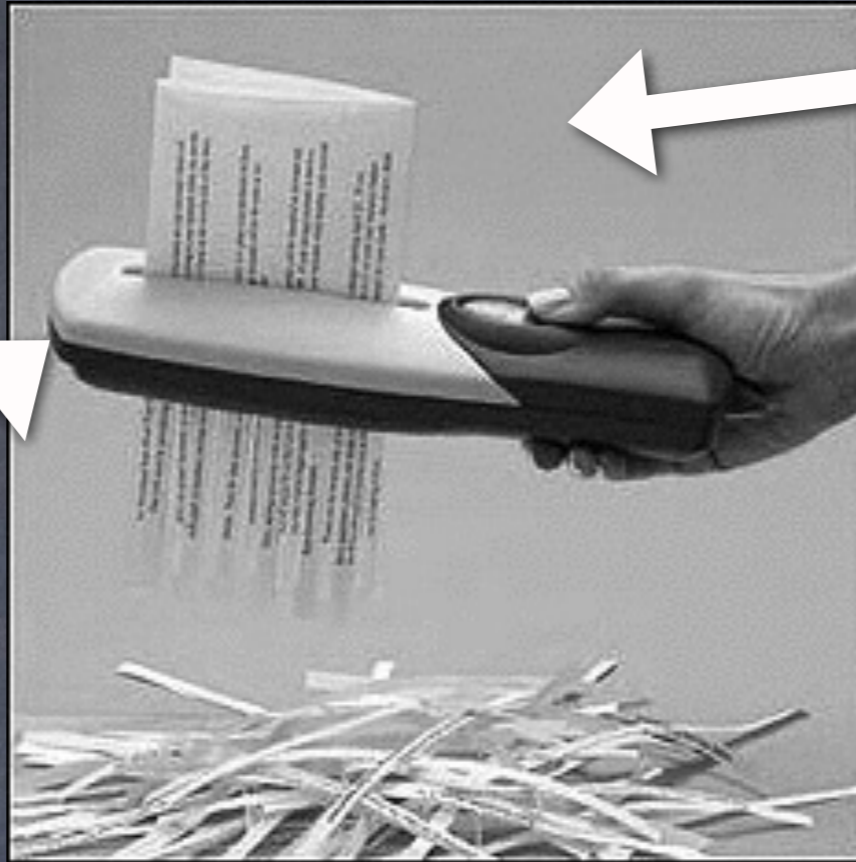


How much information survives a Cosmological  
cataclysm!!!!





Cosmological  
cataclysm!!!!

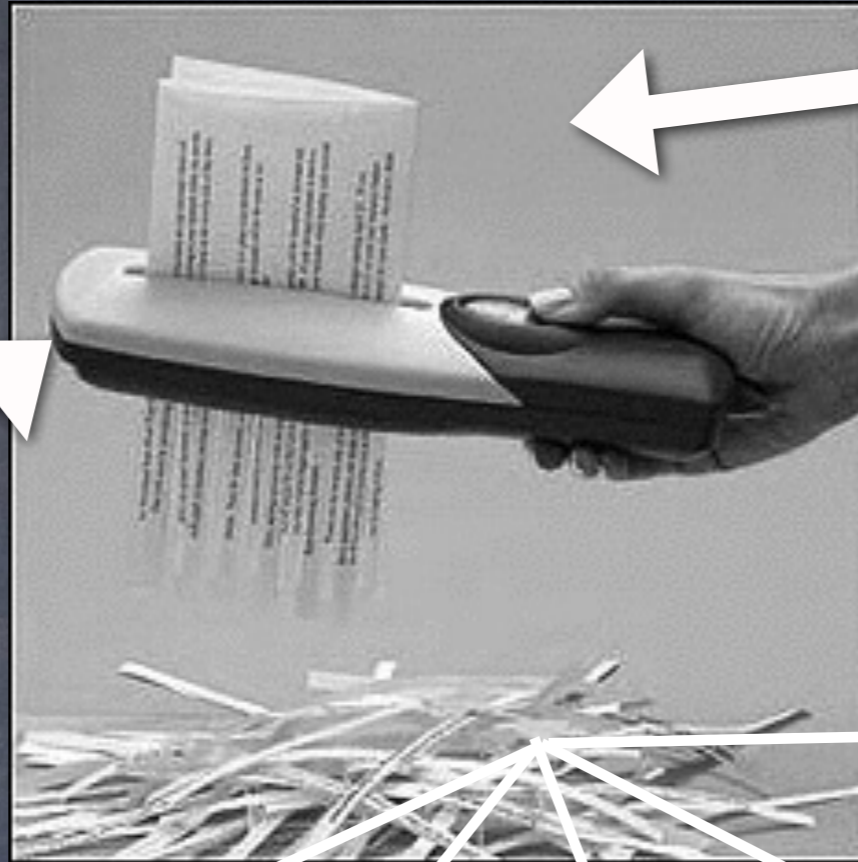


information

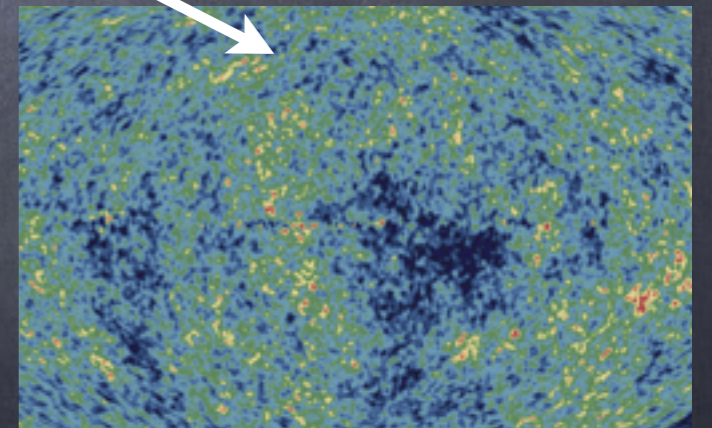


Cosmological  
cataclysm!!!!

information

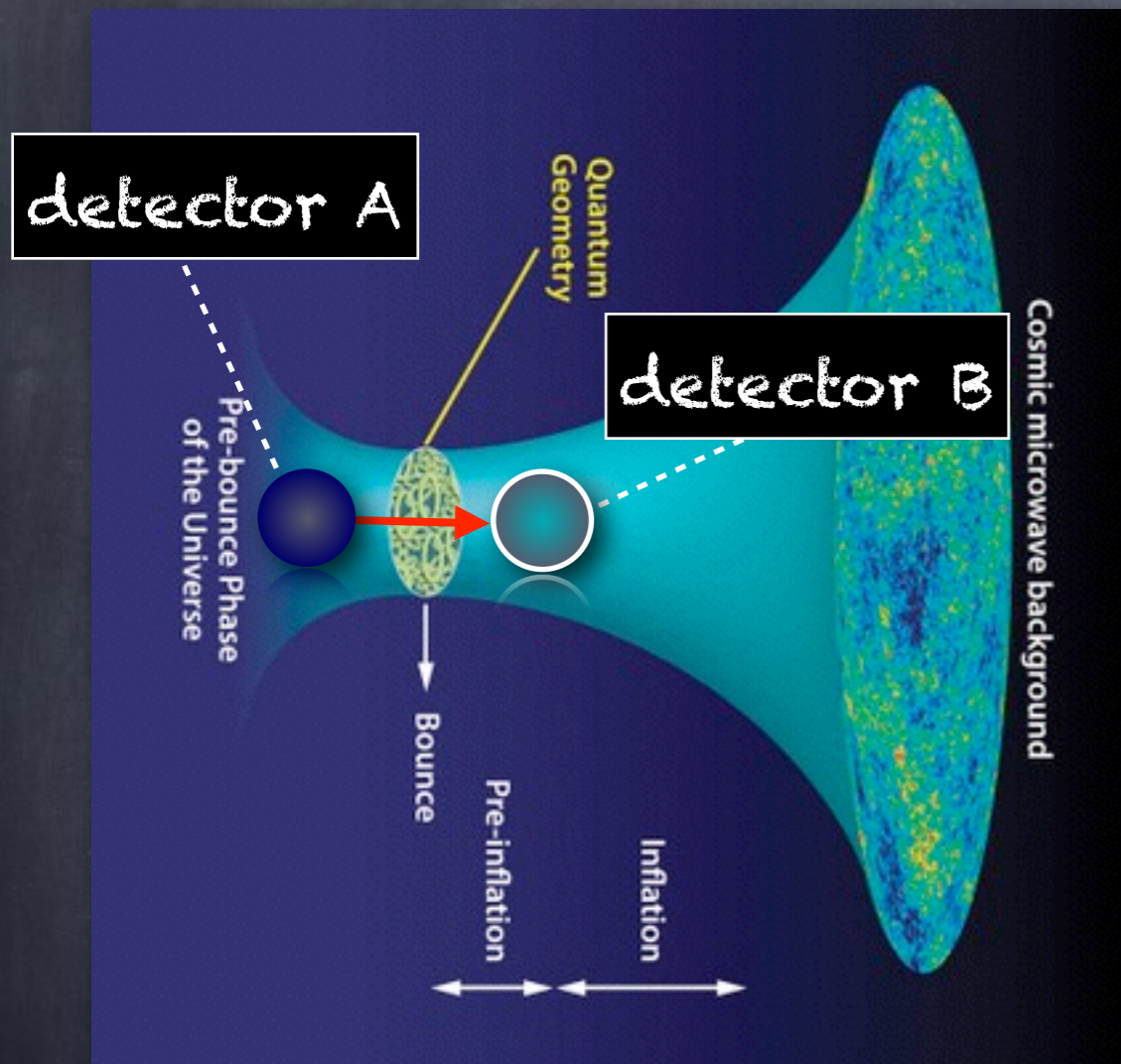


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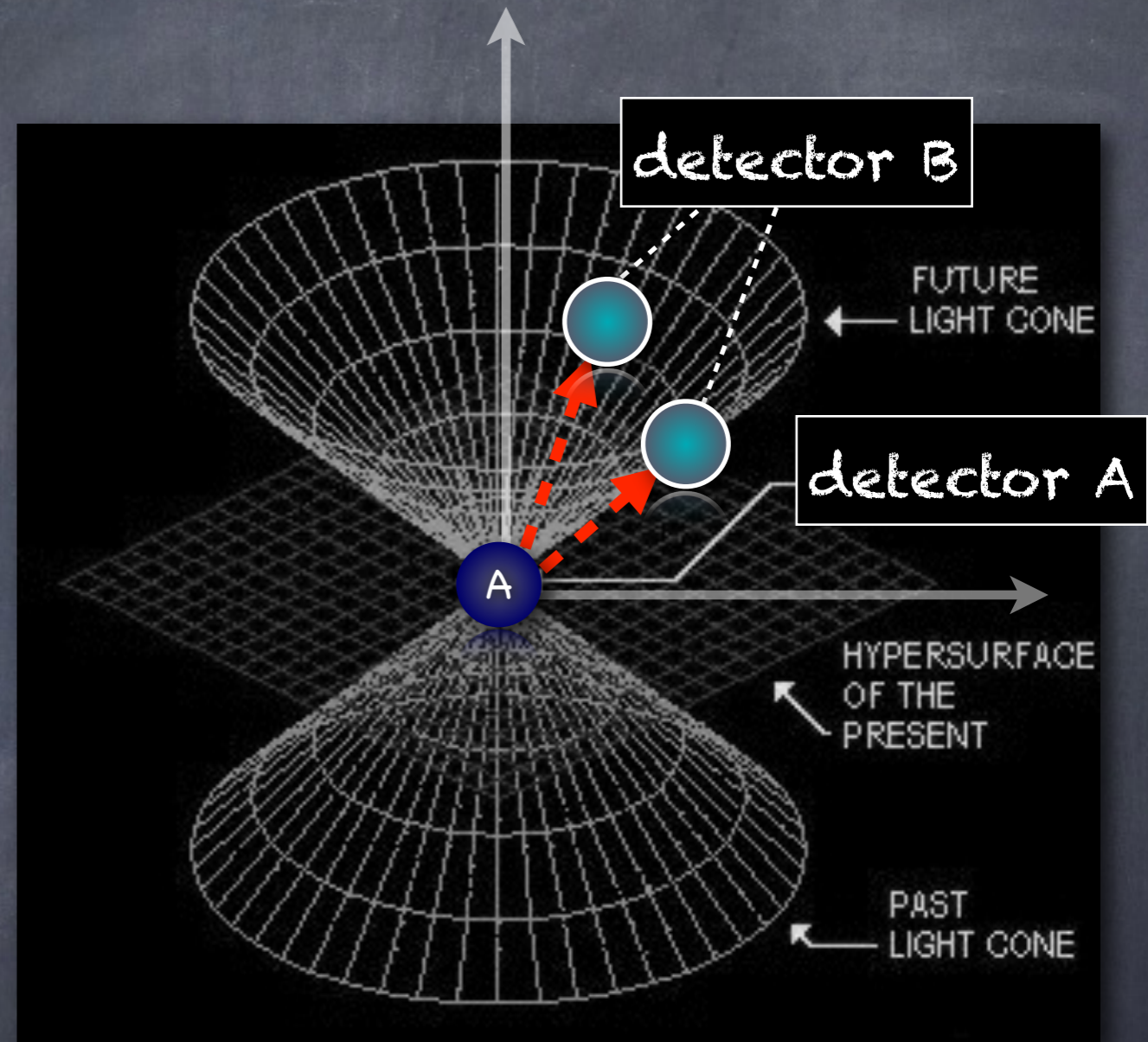




# Two detectors: setting



A before the bounce  
B after the bounce



A and B timelike separated



$$H_I = \sum_{\nu=A,B} \lambda_\nu \chi_\nu(t) \sigma(\Omega_\nu, t) \sum_n \frac{1}{a(t) \sqrt{2L_c^3 \omega_n}} \times \left( \hat{a}_n e^{-i\omega_n \eta(t)} e^{ik_n \cdot x_\nu} + \hat{a}_n^\dagger e^{i\omega_n \eta(t)} e^{-ik_n \cdot x_\nu} \right)$$

$$U = 1 + U^{(1)} + U^{(2)} + O(\lambda^3) \quad \left| \begin{array}{l} U^{(1)} = -i \int_0^t dt_1 H_I(t_1) \\ U^{(2)} = - \int_0^t dt_1 \int_0^{t_1} dt_2 H_I(t_1) H_I(t_2) \end{array} \right.$$

$$\rho_T = U \rho_0 U^\dagger = (1 + U^{(1)} + U^{(2)} + O(\lambda^3)) \rho_0 (1 + U^{(1)} + U^{(2)} + O(\lambda^3))^\dagger$$

$$\rho_T = \rho_0 + \cancel{\rho_T^{(1)}} + \rho_T^{(2)} + O(\lambda^3)$$

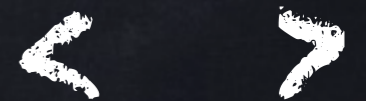
$$\rho_0 = \rho_{A0} \otimes \rho_{B0} \otimes |0\rangle\langle 0|$$

$$\rho_T^{(1)} = U^{(1)} \rho_0 + \rho_0 U^{(1)\dagger}$$

$$\rho_T^{(2)} = U^{(2)} \rho_0 + \rho_0 U^{(2)\dagger} + U^{(1)} \rho_0 U^{(1)\dagger}$$



-How much information is RECOVERABLE?





Thanks!!

