A photograph of a Zen garden with raked sand patterns and a smooth stone. The sand is light-colored and has been raked into concentric, wavy lines. A smooth, light-colored stone is placed in the center of the garden. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

# Relaxation, a non-singular bounce, the cosmological constant problem, and blah blah blah

with Peter Graham and Surjeet Rajendran

PASCOS 2017, Madrid

# Fine-tuning in the Standard Model

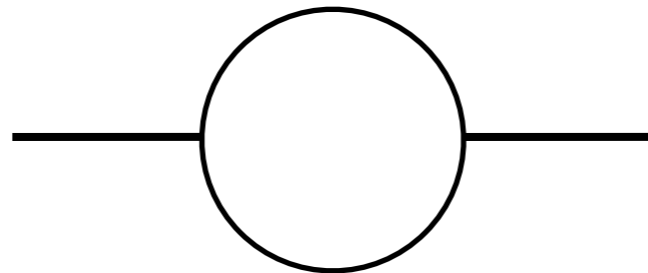
The **Higgs mass** and the **cosmological constant** are sensitive to the ultraviolet. Explanation of scales?

<b>Approach</b>	$m_h^2$	$\Lambda$
Symmetry	LHC?	Looks bad (Ramanism?)
Anthropics	atomic principle — heavy handed?	Weinberg (other parameters fixed)
Relaxation	yes, but should solve the CC too.	Getting there...

# Warm up: The Hierarchy “Problem”

The Higgs mass in the standard model is sensitive to the ultraviolet.

Instead of a new symmetry or new dynamics realized at the electroweak scale to cut off loops,  
(SUSY, composite Higgs, EOFT)



Can a small EW scale come from dynamical relaxation?

$$m_h^2(t)$$

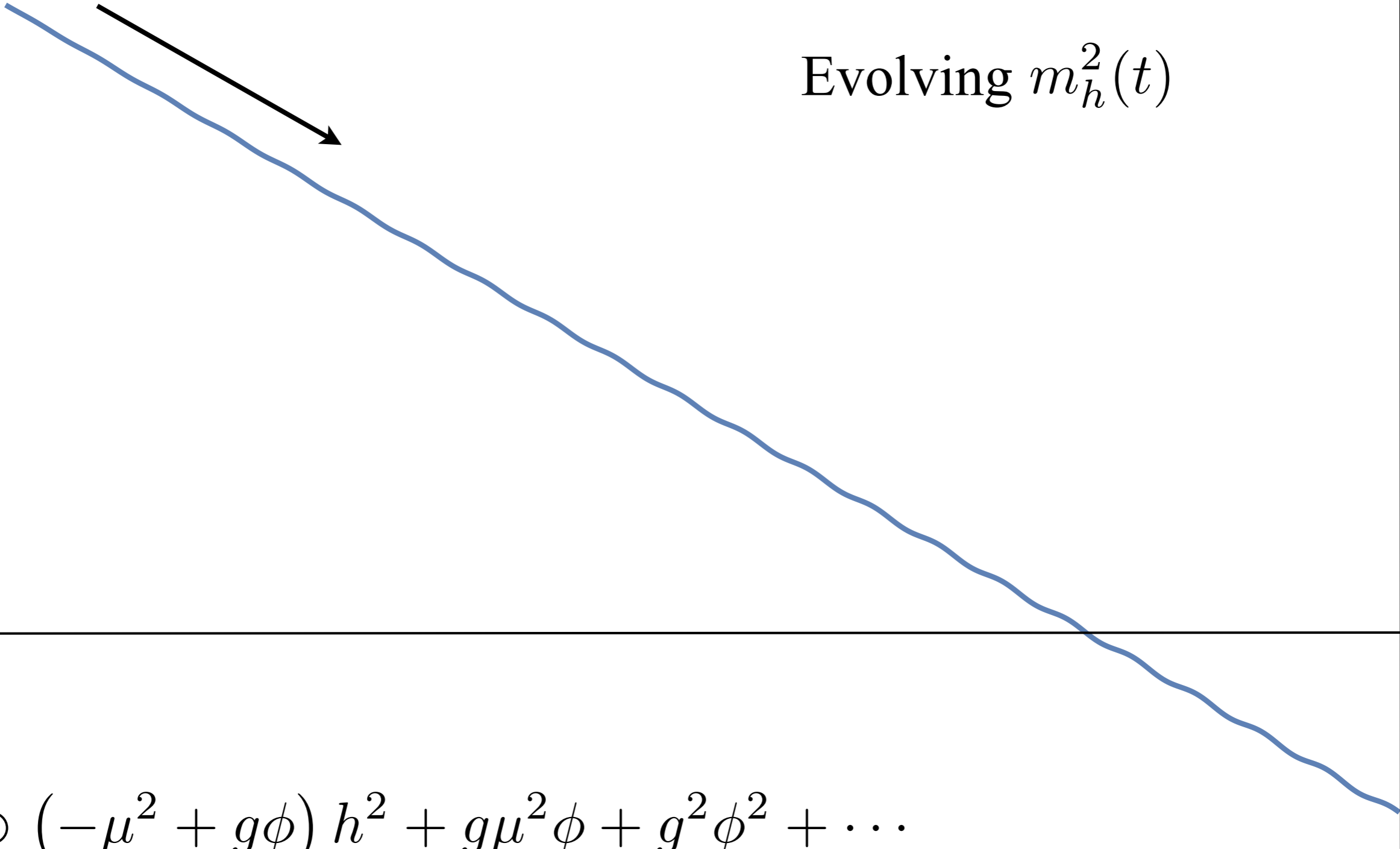
# Relaxing the Higgs

$V(\phi)$

Evolving  $m_h^2(t)$

$\phi$

$$\mathcal{L} \supset (-\mu^2 + g\phi) h^2 + g\mu^2\phi + g^2\phi^2 + \dots$$



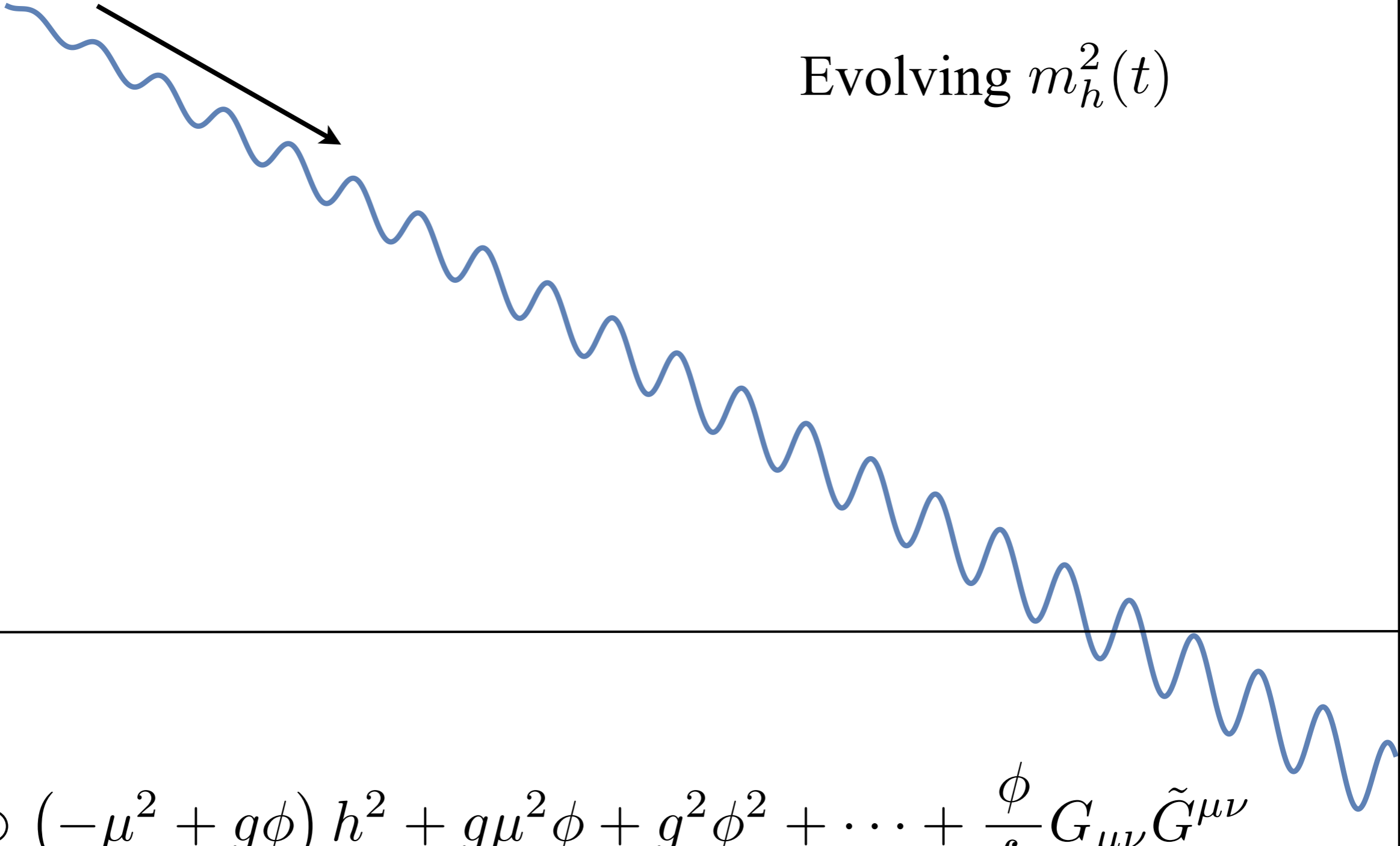
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$$\mathcal{L} \supset (-\mu^2 + g\phi) h^2 + g\mu^2\phi + g^2\phi^2 + \dots + \frac{\phi}{f_a} G_{\mu\nu} \tilde{G}^{\mu\nu}$$



# Higgs vev and the Periodic Potential

Barrier height (axion potential) can be approximated in the chiral Lagrangian (2 flavors):

$$V_{\text{axion}} \left( \frac{\phi}{f} \right) \sim \Lambda^4 \mathcal{F} \left( \frac{\phi}{f} \right) \sim f_\pi^2 m_\pi^2 \sqrt{1 - \frac{4m_u m_d}{(m_u + m_d)^2} \sin^2 \frac{\phi}{2f}}$$

Around the normal EW scale:

$$\Lambda^4 \sim 4\pi f_\pi^3 m_u \sim 4\pi f_\pi^3 y_u \langle h \rangle$$

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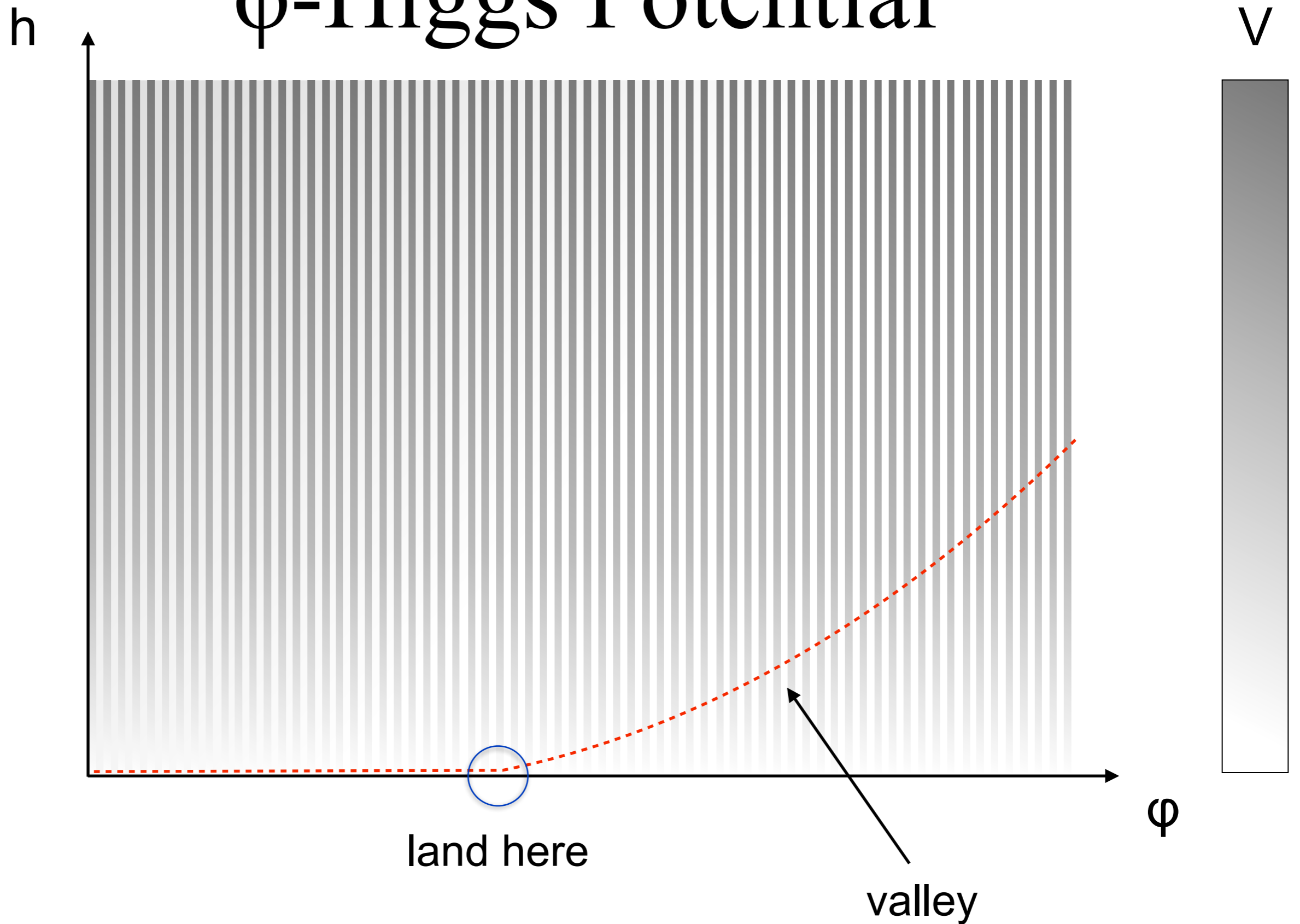
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Higgs vev grows barriers and STOPS evolution

# $\phi$ -Higgs Potential



# Solve Strong CP

Use the axion - just stop it earlier!

Relaxion **relaxes Higgs vev to much smaller values.**  
A second rolling increases the Higgs vev to the weak scale (perhaps from inflation).

Slope much smaller:  $gM^2 f \sim \theta \Lambda^4$

$$\mathcal{L} \supset (-M^2 + \kappa\sigma^2 + g\phi)|h|^2 + gM^2\phi + \dots + \Lambda^4 \cos \frac{\phi}{f}$$

↑  
e.g., waterfall field from inflation

Can couple to one of many operators in the standard model — will contribute to the Higgs via loops!

# Bound on cutoff!

$$M^6 < \theta \frac{\Lambda^4 M_{\text{pl}}^3}{f}$$

or

$$M < 100 \text{ TeV} \left( \frac{\theta}{10^{-10}} \right)^{\frac{1}{6}} \left( \frac{10^{10} \text{ GeV}}{f} \right)^{\frac{1}{6}}$$

# For another time/talk: Thermal Relaxion

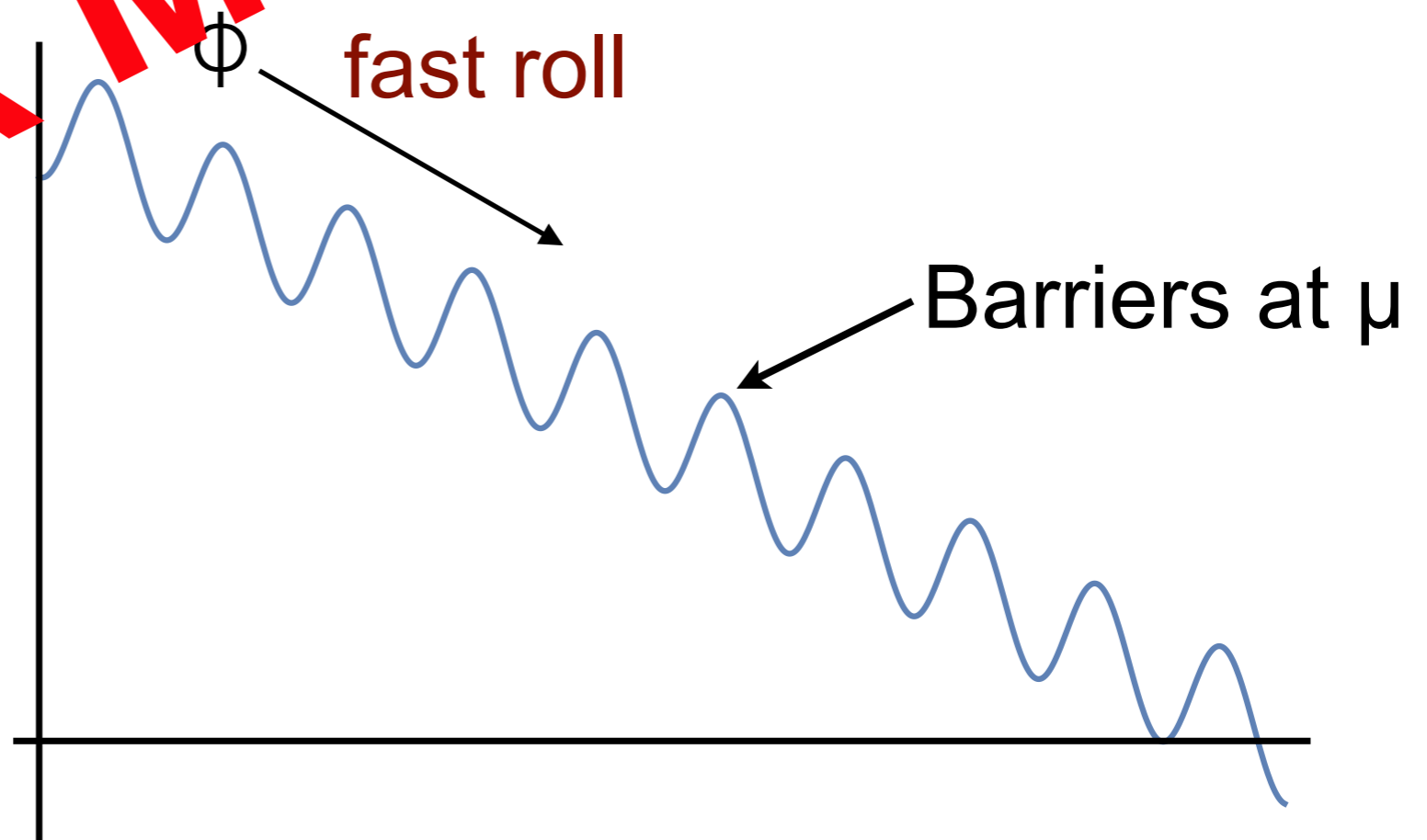
## Constant Barriers, Variable Dissipation?

same structure:  $\mathcal{L} \supset (-\mu^2 + g\phi) h^2 + g\mu^2 \phi + \dots + \frac{\phi}{f_a} G_{\mu\nu} \tilde{G}^{\mu\nu}$

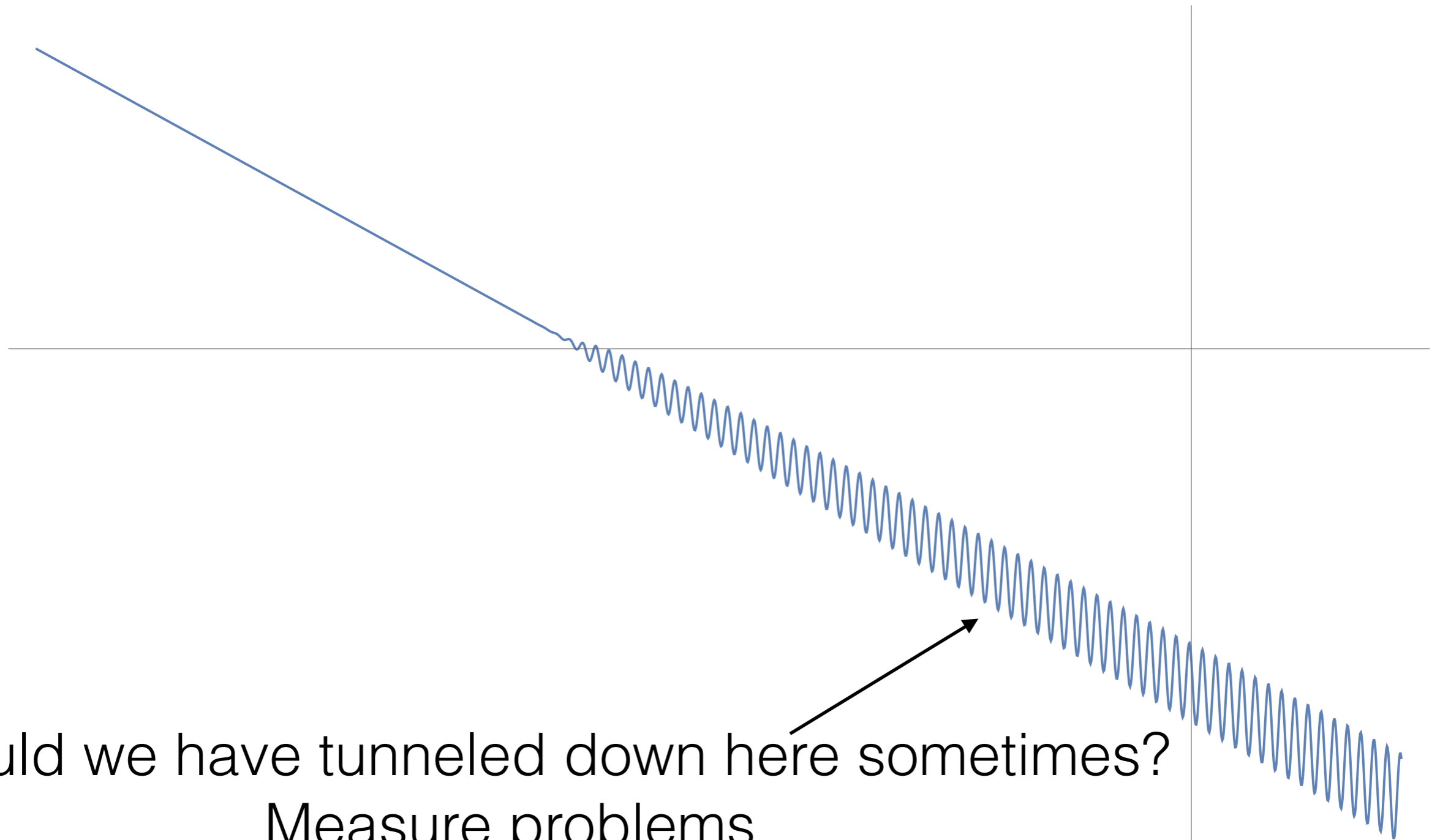
not QCD

- Take initial value of  $\phi$  so that  $m_h^2 < 0$
- $\Phi$  fast rolls. Cold universe, dominated by  $\Phi$  rolling.
- $m_\phi > m_h \Rightarrow \Phi$  decays to higgs

**ASK ME LATER**



# Many vacua consistent with anthropic CC?



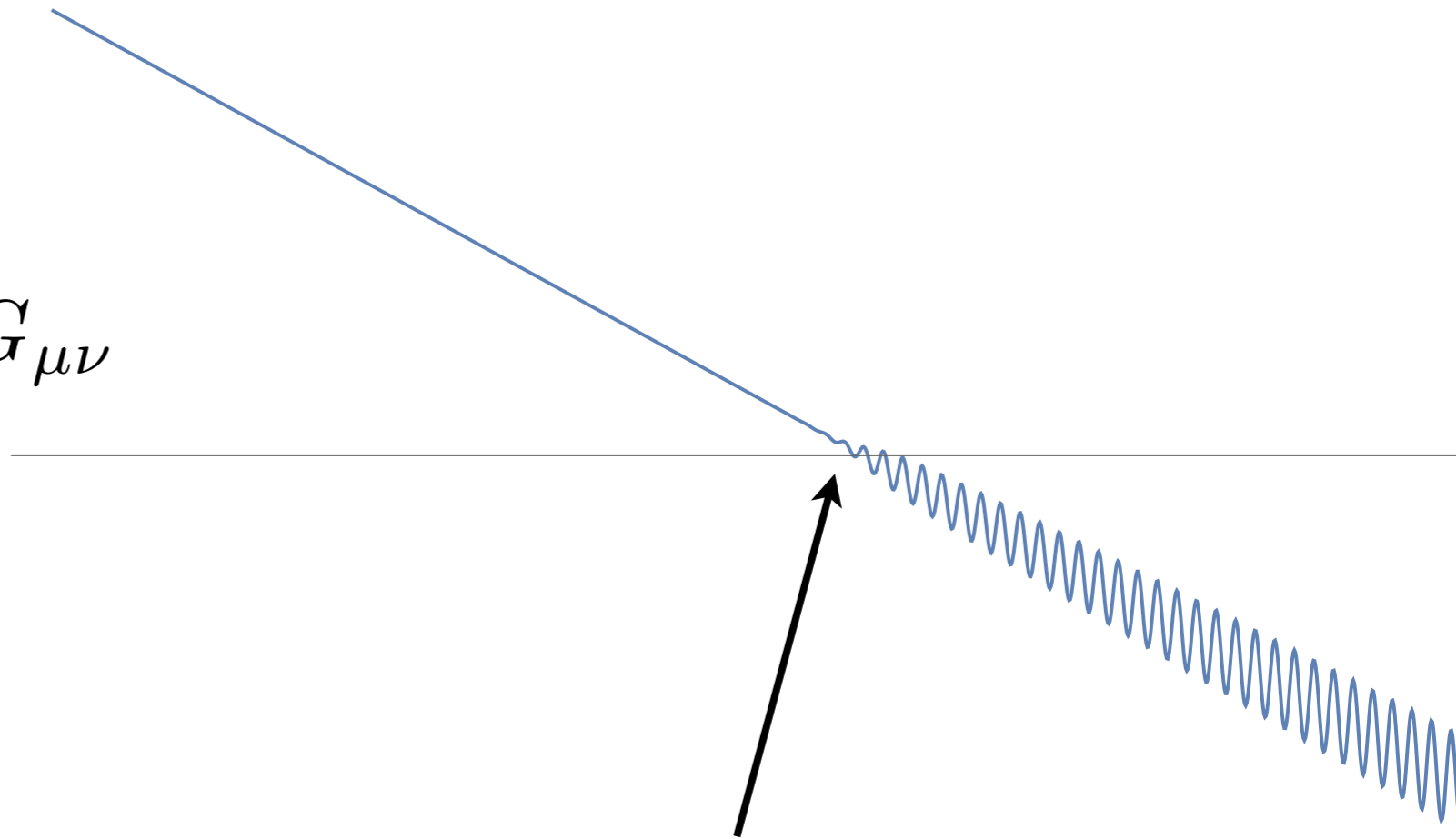
Could we have tunneled down here sometimes?  
Measure problems...

# Rest of Talk

- CC solution a la Abbott
- The Born Again Universe
- To Do

# The Abbott Model

$$\mathcal{L} = \Lambda + g^3 \phi + \frac{1}{g^2} G^{\mu\nu} G_{\mu\nu}$$



$$R \sim H^2 \sim (10^{-43} \text{ GeV})^2$$

# Sensing the CC

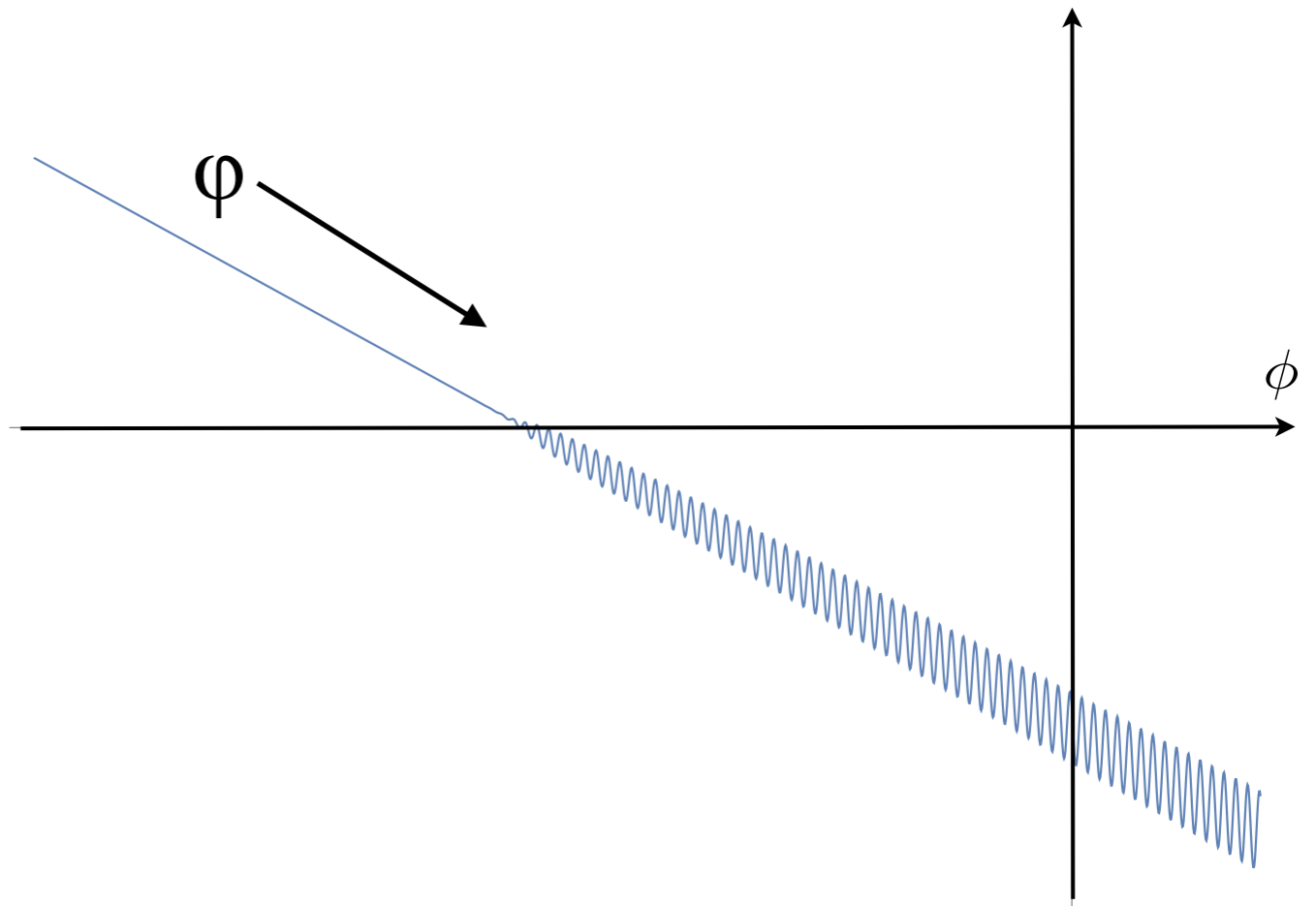
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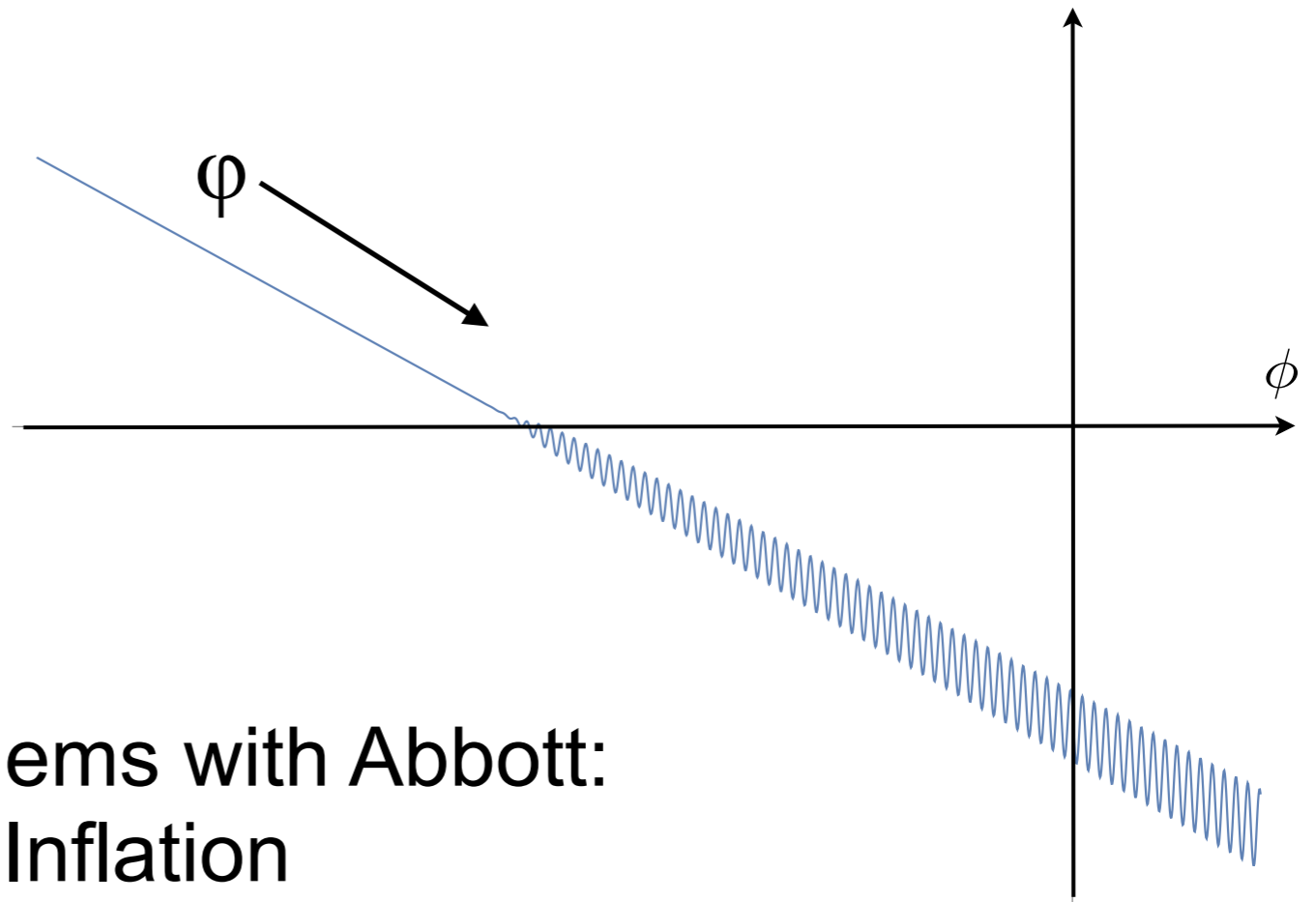
Universal Gravitation:  
Only sensitive to cosmological  
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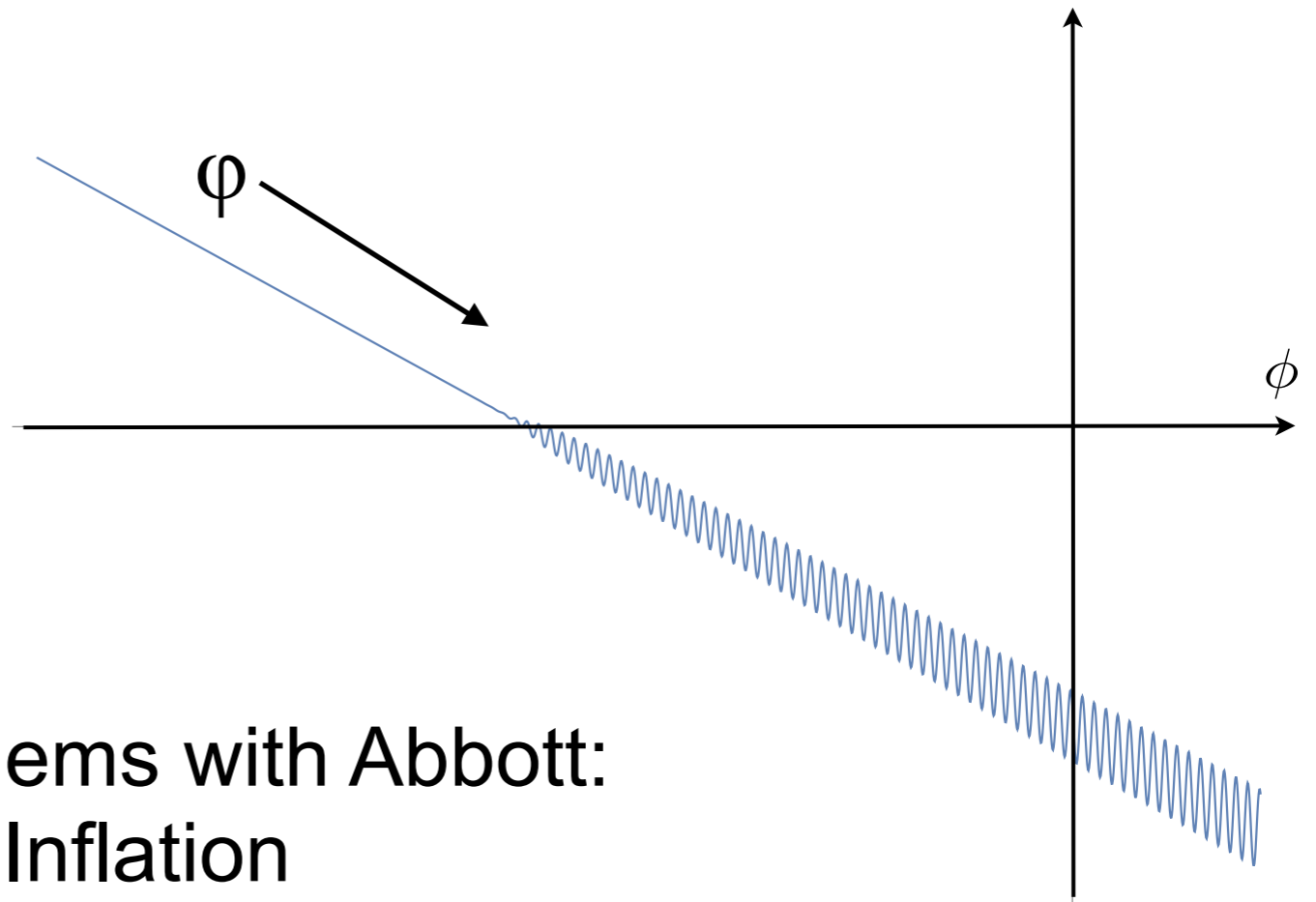
Two Problems with Abbott:

- Eternal Inflation
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Two Problems with Abbott:

- Eternal Inflation
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**How do we reheat?**

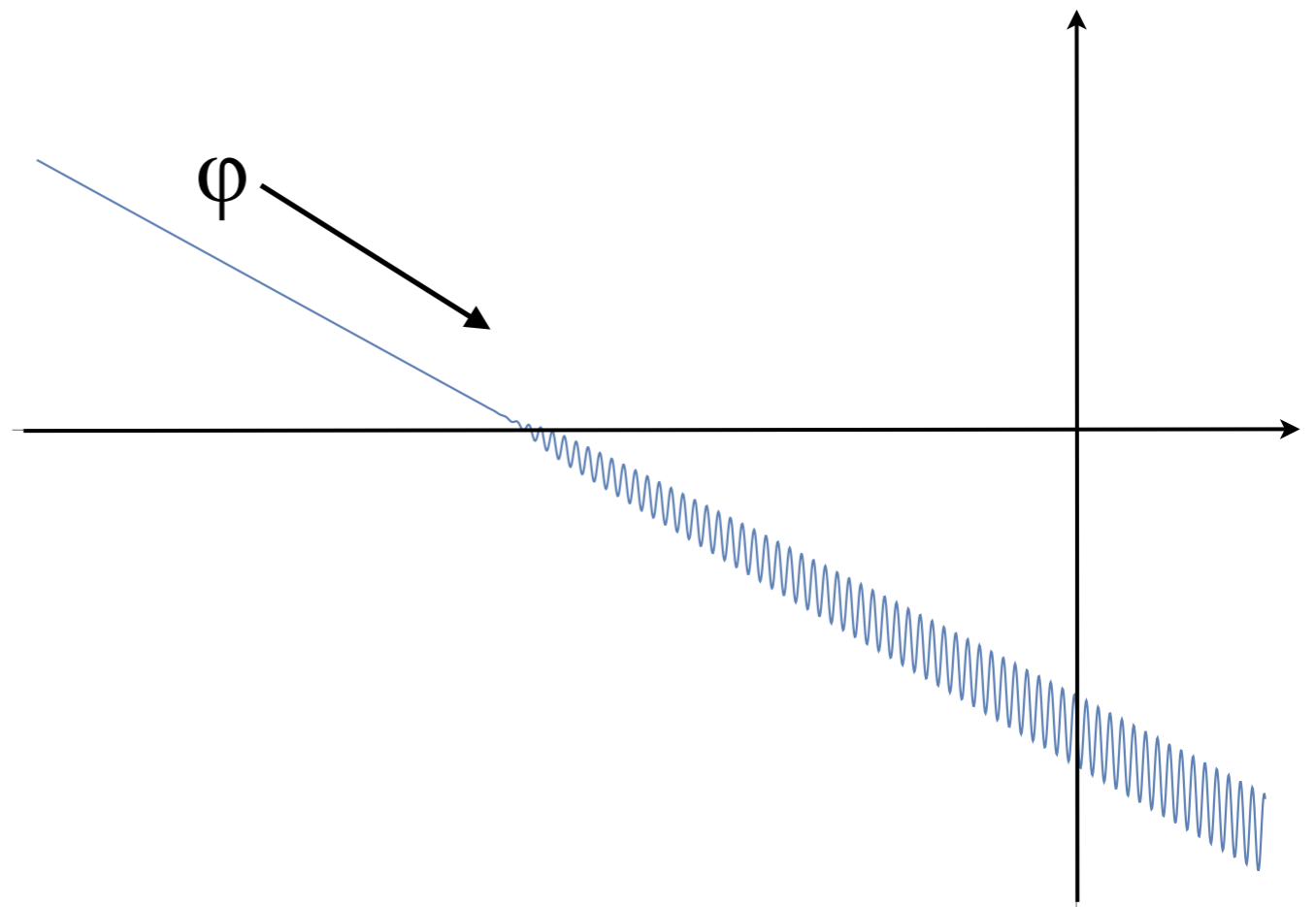
# Reheating Abbott

Can we simply inject energy?

Would violate the Null Energy Condition (NEC):

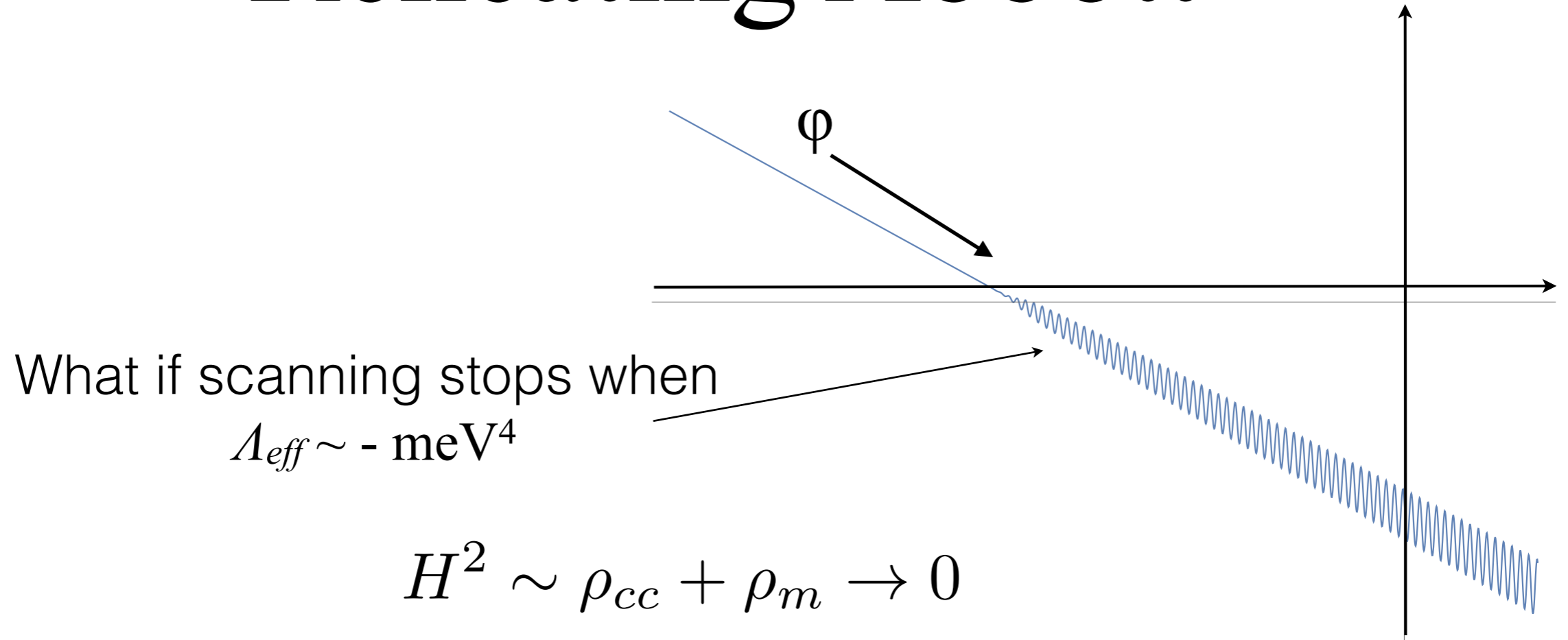
$$n^\mu n^\nu T_{\mu\nu} < 0$$

$$\rho + p < 0$$

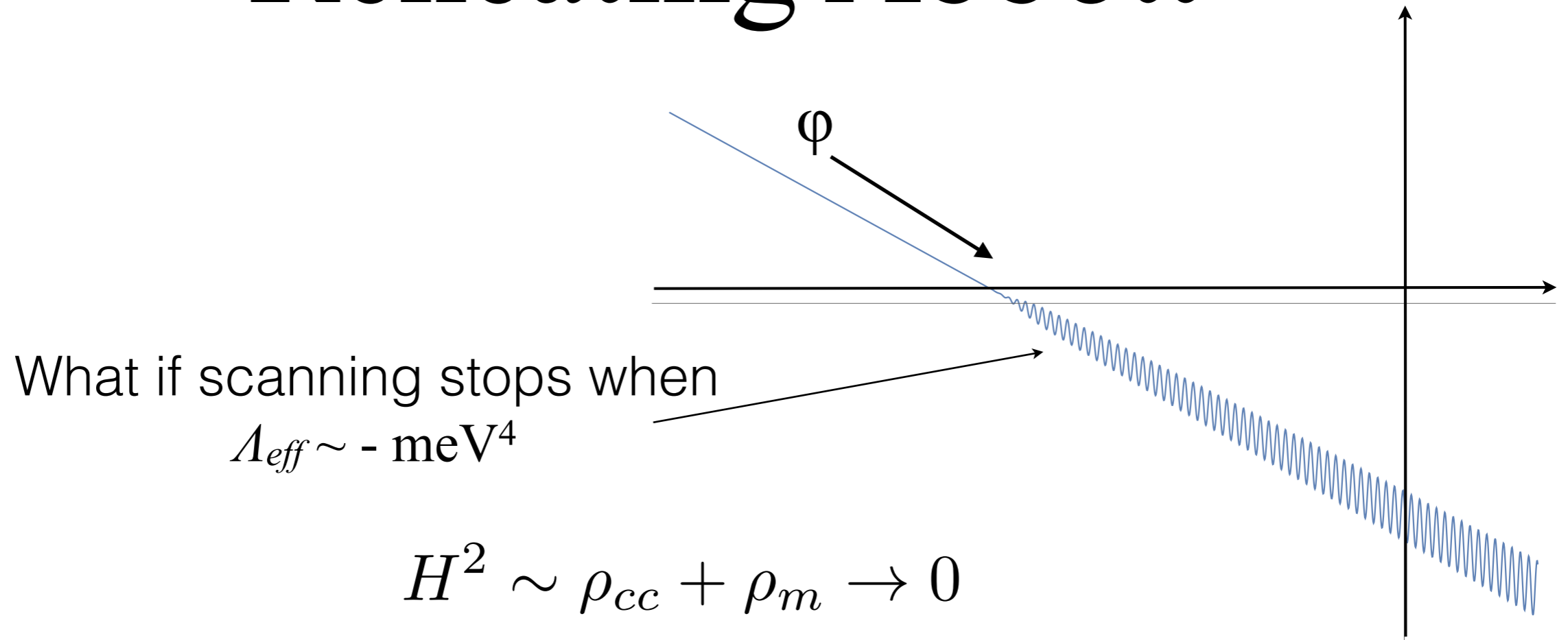


May be true (see Alberte, et al, 2016), but so far only a very low-energy EFT and not clear how to UV complete.

# Reheating Abbott

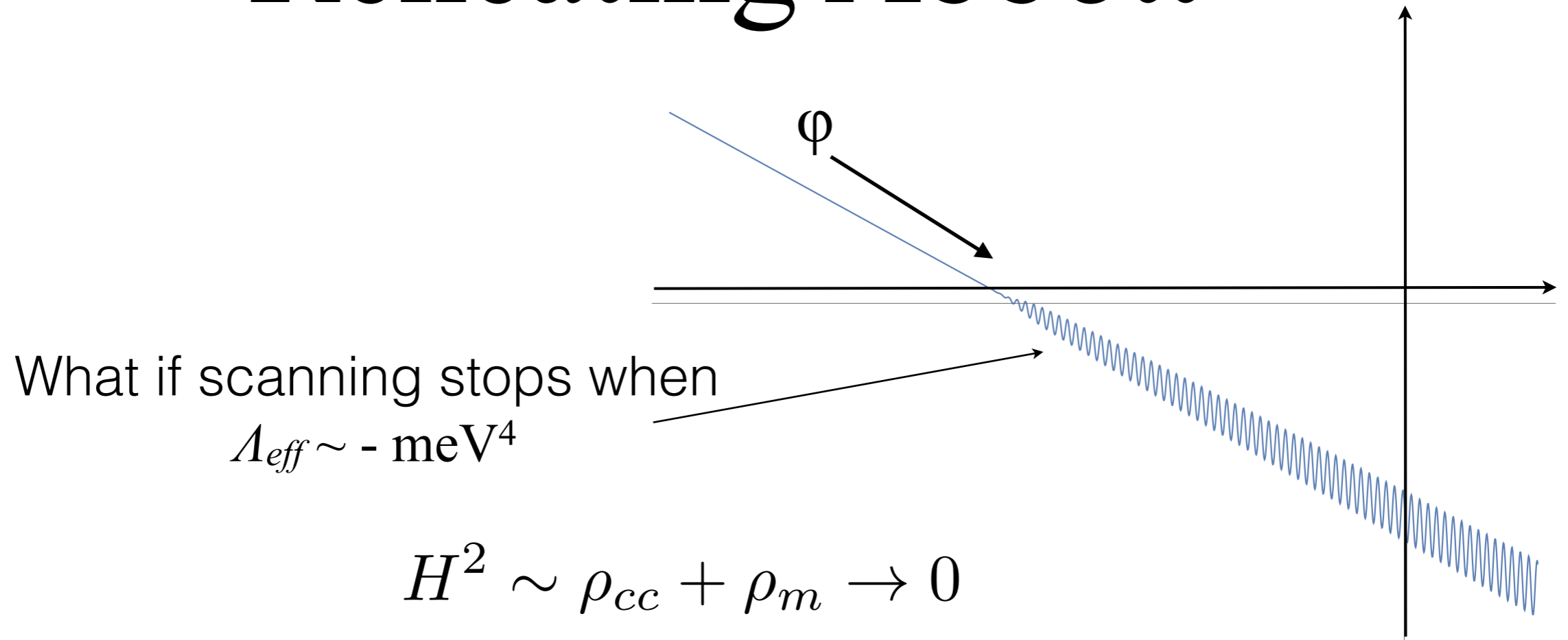


# Reheating Abbott



Universe starts crunching. Initial matter density  $\sim \text{meV}^4$

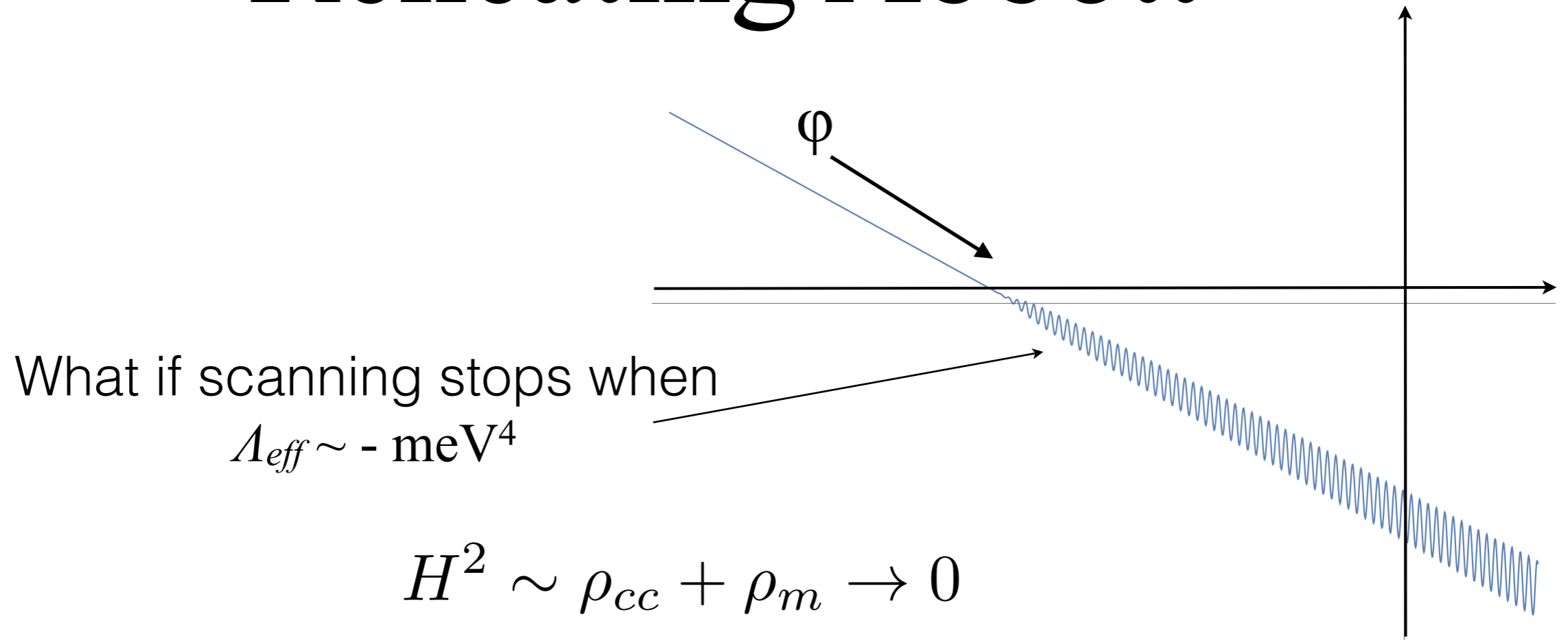
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Tantalizing Possibility: Make the Universe undergo a calculable, non-singular bounce (But how???)

Sets small  $\Lambda_{eff}$ . Reheats to hot big bang.

# Advantage of this solution

$\Phi$  rolls, tunes cosmological constant in empty universe.  
Reheat with a bounce.

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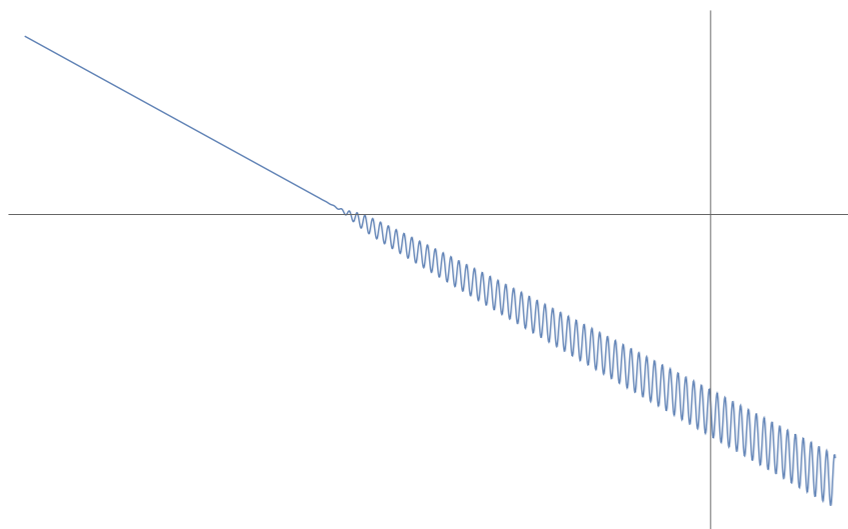
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Weinberg?

$$V, V' \approx 0$$

Like Relaxion = Large  
Number of Minima



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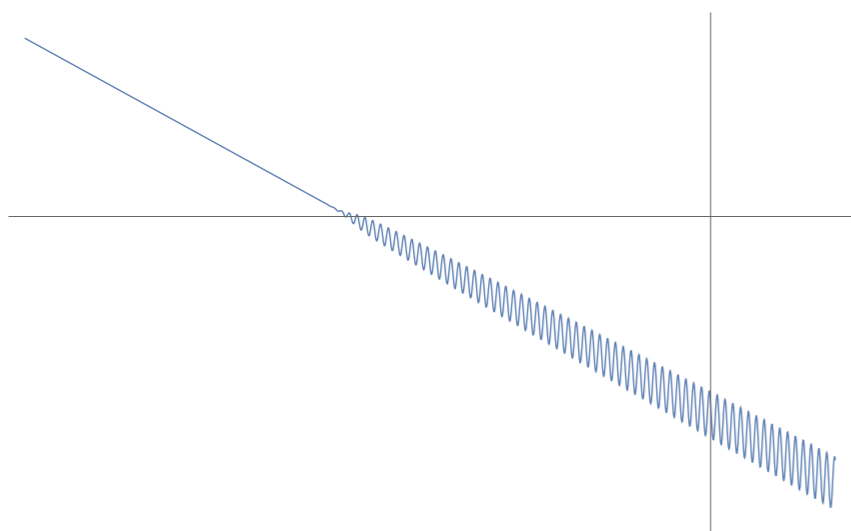
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Transitions?

Tuned in SM  
vacuum!

Reheating => hot  
universe, vacuum  
energy goes up,  
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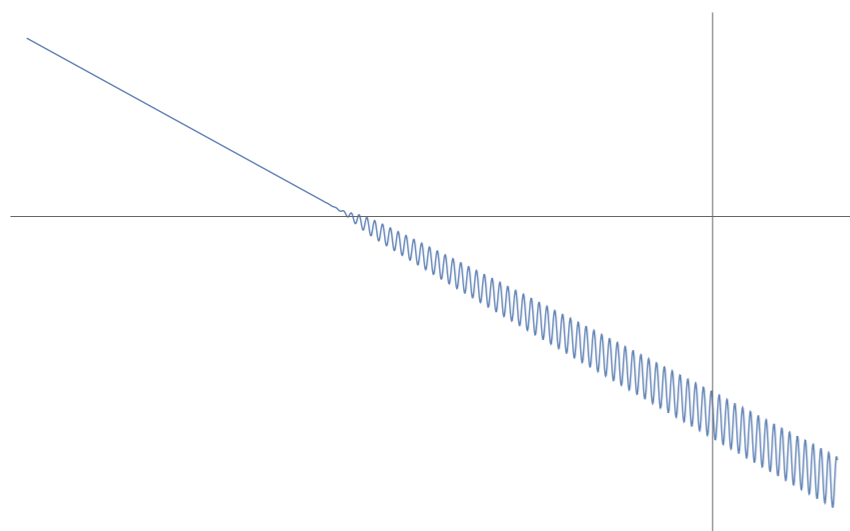
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Bounce +  
Tuning?

$$\tau_{\text{tuning}} \gg \tau_{\text{bounce}} \sim H_0^{-1}$$

Hot universe =>  $\phi$   
rolls.  $\Lambda_{\text{eff}}$  changes

Observable: Likely  
leads to changing  
 $\Lambda_{\text{eff}}$  today.

# Bouncing

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$$\left(\frac{\dot{a}}{a}\right)^2 = \frac{8\pi}{3}G\rho \qquad \frac{\ddot{a}}{a} = -\frac{4\pi}{3}G(\rho + 3p)$$

$$\frac{\ddot{a}}{a} - \left(\frac{\dot{a}}{a}\right)^2 = -\frac{12\pi}{3}G(\rho + p)$$

At minimum,  $\dot{a} = 0, \ddot{a} > 0 \implies \rho + p < 0$

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Matter needs to violate the Null Energy  
Condition

# Energy Conditions

## Null Energy Condition

Perfect Fluid:  $\rho + p > 0$ , or  $w > -1$

Potential Issue: Negative energy states - vacuum decay

# Energy Conditions

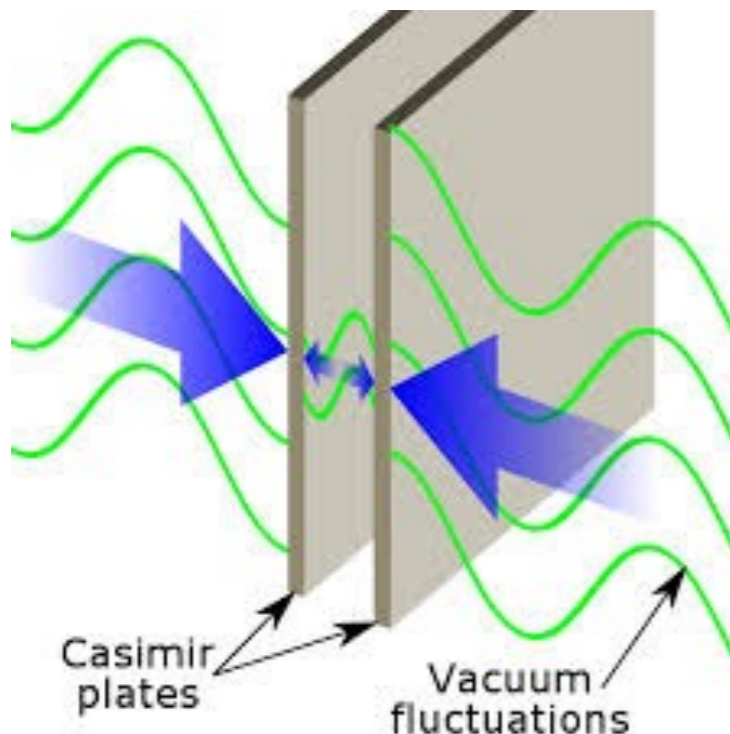
## Null Energy Condition

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## Known Stable Violations

Local Casimir energy



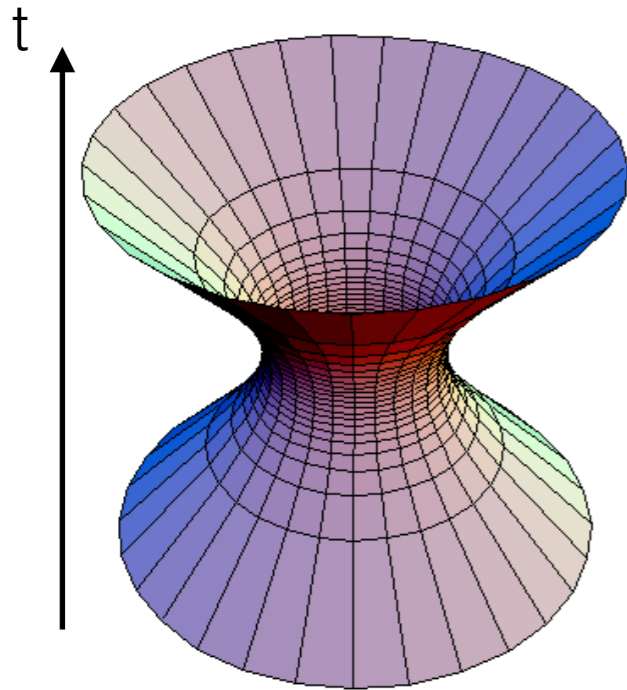
Casimir in compact dimensions.

$$T_{\mu\nu} = \rho \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{1}{3} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \frac{1}{3} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \frac{1}{3} \end{pmatrix}$$

# Bouncing Cosmology

Generic Requirement?

Need congruence of converging geodesics to diverge



Raychaudhuri's Equation for  $\hat{\theta} = \hat{g}_{\mu\nu} \nabla^\mu U^\nu$

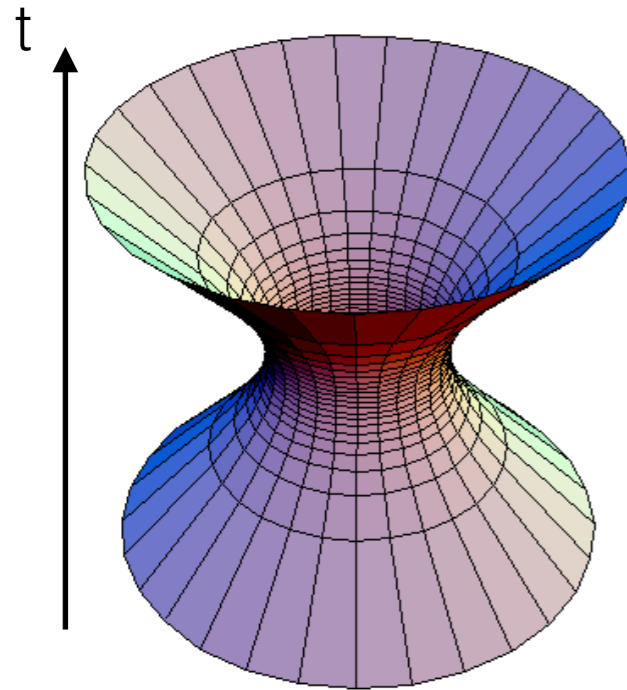
$$\frac{d\hat{\theta}}{d\lambda} = -\frac{1}{2}\hat{\theta}^2 - 2\hat{\sigma}^2 + 2\hat{\omega}^2 - T_{\mu\nu}U^\mu U^\nu$$

$$\text{Divergence} \implies \frac{d\hat{\theta}}{d\lambda} > 0$$

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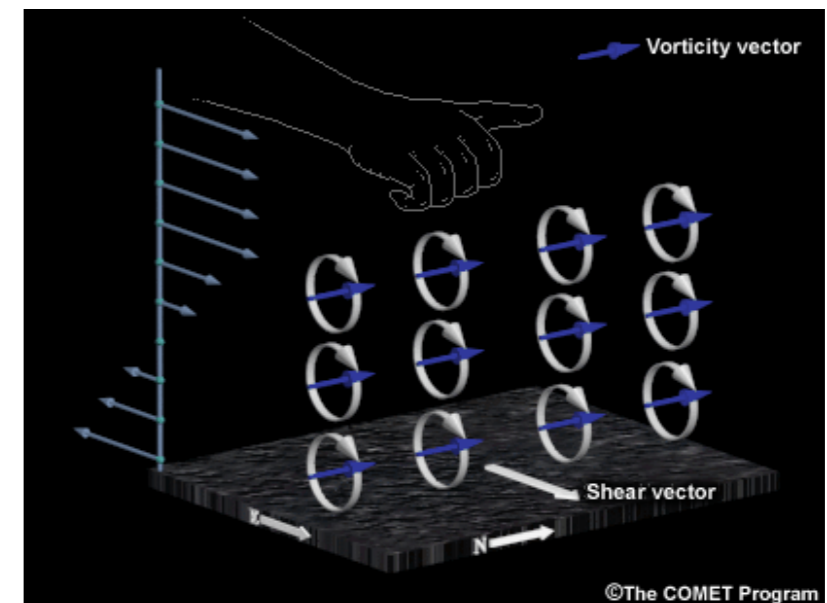
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Divergence  $\implies \frac{d\hat{\theta}}{d\lambda} > 0$

Need  $T_{\mu\nu}U^\mu U^\nu < 0$  or  $\hat{\omega} \neq 0$

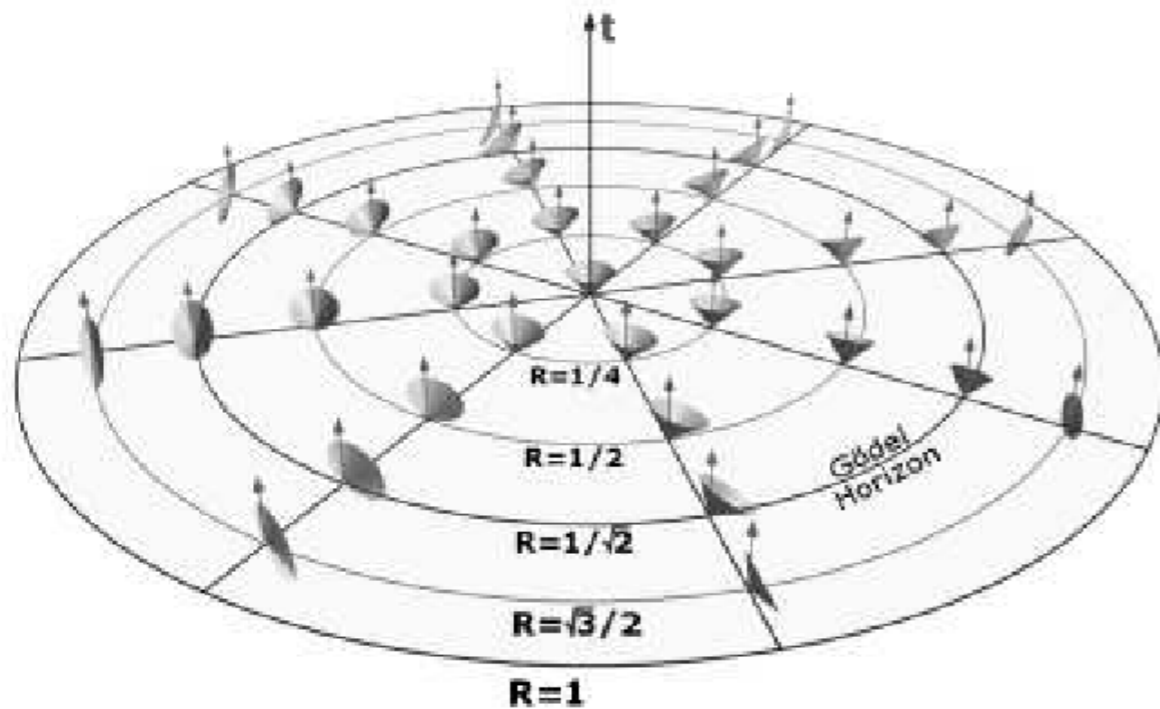
↓  
Null Energy Violation

↓  
Vorticity



# Gödel Metric

$$ds^2 = \frac{2}{\omega^2} \left( -dt^2 + dr^2 + dy^2 - (\sinh^4 r - \sinh^2 r) d\phi^2 - 2\sqrt{2} \sinh^2 r d\phi dt \right)$$

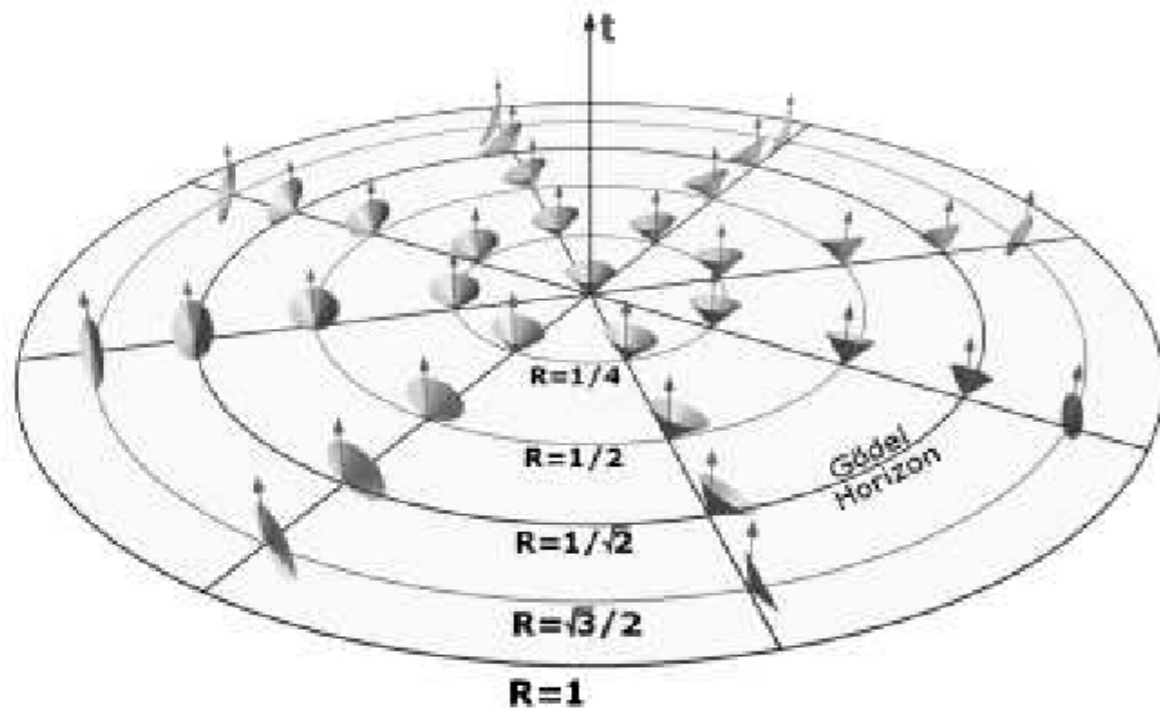


Cosmological Constant +  
Spinning Dust

Stationary Universe:  
Gravity balanced by  
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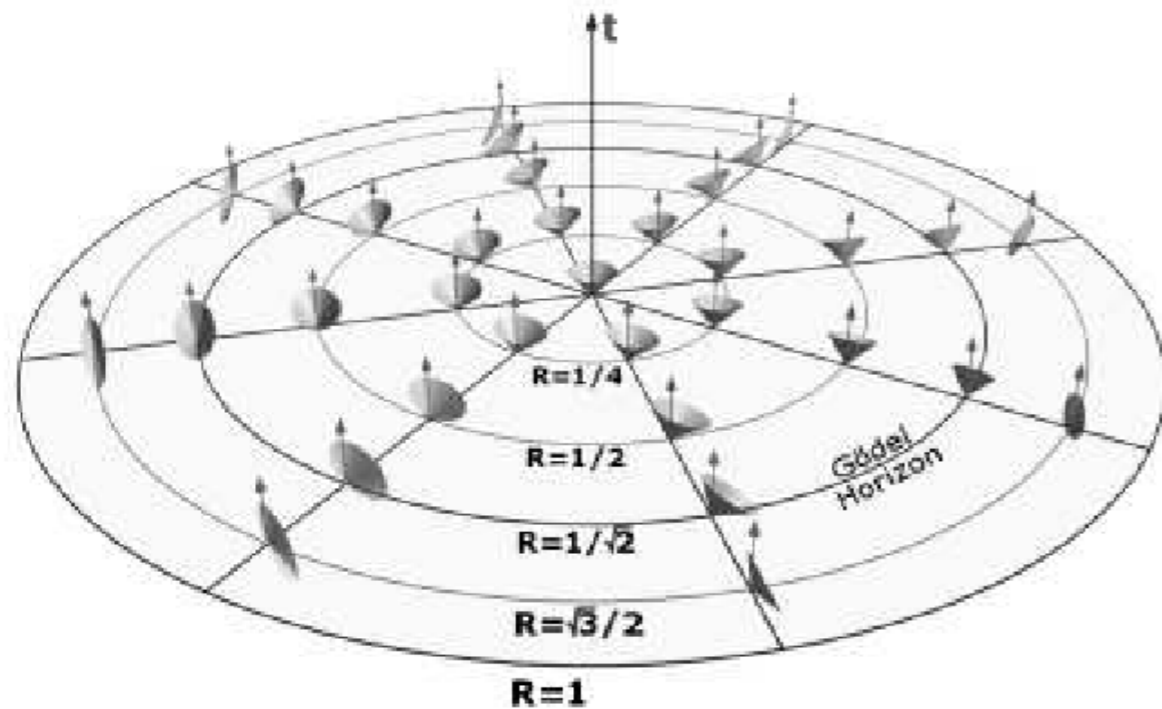
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Put vorticity in compact dimensions!

# Our Ansatz

Space-Time:  $\mathbb{R}^4 \times \mathbb{T}^3$

$$ds^2 = -dt^2 + a(t)^2 d\vec{x}^2 + b^2 (d\theta^2 + d\phi_1^2 + d\phi_2^2) - 2\epsilon b (\sin \theta dt d\phi_1 + \cos \theta dt d\phi_2)$$

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↓  
FRW

↓  
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↓  
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**Vorticity**  
Geodesics along  
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Plug in a bouncing  $a(t)$  and use Einstein's Equations to get energy-momentum tensor

# The E-M Tensor

$$ds^2 = -dt^2 + a(t)^2 d\vec{x}^2 + b^2 (d\theta^2 + d\phi_1^2 + d\phi_2^2) - 2\epsilon b (\sin\theta dt d\phi_1 + \cos\theta dt d\phi_2)$$

$$T_{tt} = -M_7^5 \left( \frac{3\epsilon^2 a''(t)}{a(t)} + \frac{3(\epsilon^2 - 1) a'(t)^2}{a(t)^2} - \frac{3\epsilon^2}{4b^2} \right)$$

$$T_{xx} = T_{yy} = T_{zz} = -M_7^5 \left( -2(\epsilon^2 - 1) a(t) a''(t) - (\epsilon^2 - 1) a'(t)^2 + \frac{\epsilon^2 a(t)^2}{4b^2} \right)$$

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Consider 4D geodesic during bounce. NEC?

$$\text{for } \frac{b^2 a''}{a}, \epsilon^2 \ll 1 \quad \Rightarrow \quad T_{tt} + \frac{T_{xx}}{a(t)^2} \approx M_7^5 \left( \frac{\epsilon^2}{2b^2} - 2 \frac{\ddot{a}}{a} \right)$$

**Vorticity combats gravity, for weak bounce**

# The E-M Tensor

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NEC not violated for 4D geodesics

However, violated for geodesics into extra-dimensions

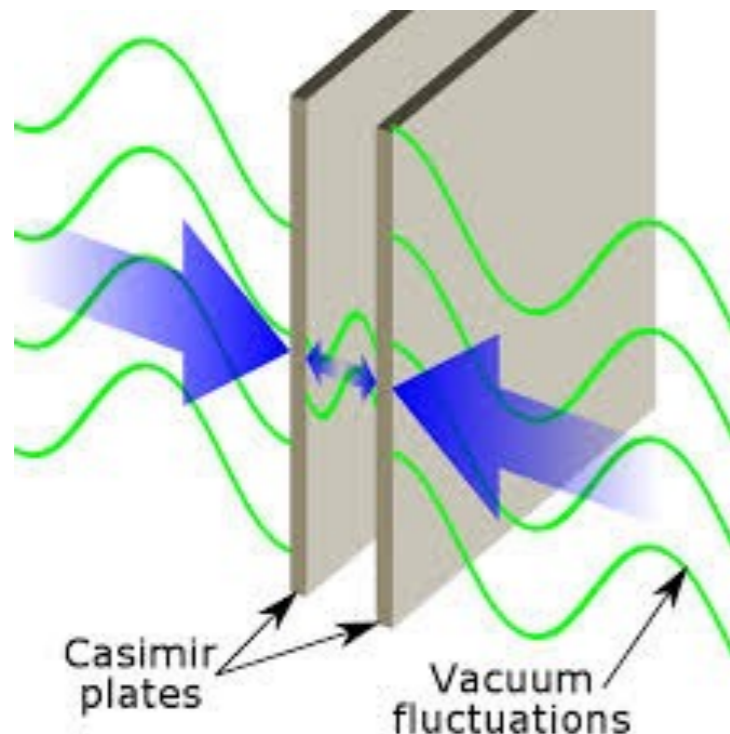
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NEC not violated for 4D geodesics

However, violated for geodesics into extra-dimensions

**But can use Casimir!**



$$T_{\mu\nu} = T_C + T_M$$

Can shown:  $T_M$  preserves Dominant Energy Condition

**Don't know: Microphysics of  $T_M$**

# The Effective Theory

$$g_{AB}^{(7)} = (\det\Phi)^{-1/5} \begin{pmatrix} g_{\mu\nu} + B_{\mu}^a B_{\nu}^b \Phi_{ab} & B_{\mu}^c \Phi_{ca} \\ B_{\nu}^c \Phi_{cb} & \Phi_{ab} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$G_{tt}^{(7)} = G_{tt} - \frac{1}{4}((\partial_{\theta} B_t^{\phi 1})^2 + (\partial_{\theta} B_t^{\phi 2})^2) - (B_t^{\phi 1} \partial_{\theta}^2 B_t^{\phi 1} + B_t^{\phi 2} \partial_{\theta}^2 B_t^{\phi 2}) + \dots$$

$$G_{xx}^{(7)} = G_{xx} + \frac{a(t)^2}{4}((\partial_{\theta} B_t^{\phi 1})^2 + (\partial_{\theta} B_t^{\phi 2})^2) + \dots$$

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Can Show: KK mode of source + KK gravivector = 4D null-energy violation!

Density of NEC violating particles - causes bounce

Instabilities pushed to KK scale - UV completed!

# The Effective Theory

Massive vector coupled to background current:

$$\mathcal{L} \supset \frac{1}{g^2} F^{\mu\nu} F_{\mu\nu} - m^2 A^\mu A_\mu - e A_\mu J^\mu$$

E.O.M. give a vev for  $t$ -component of  $A$ , which produces  
NEC violation.

Source's microscopic description, however, may include  
large positive contributions to NEC to remove global  
violation.

# To Do

Have shown bounce possible using casimir + DEC matter

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Experimental consequences of light field

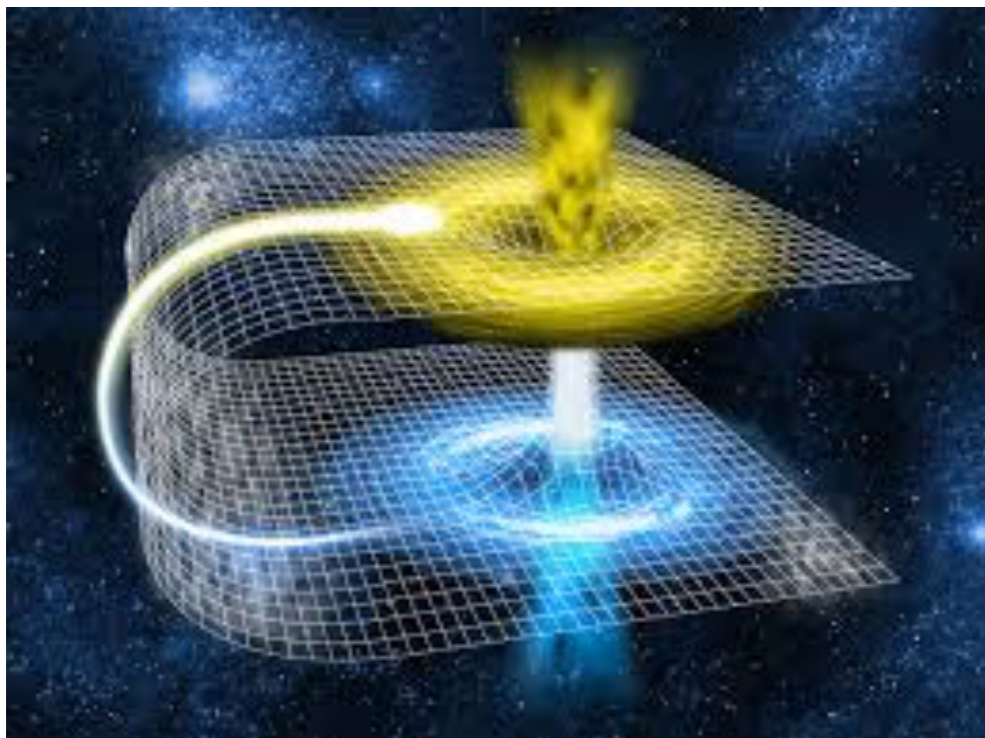
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Similar construction provides  
**traversable wormholes**

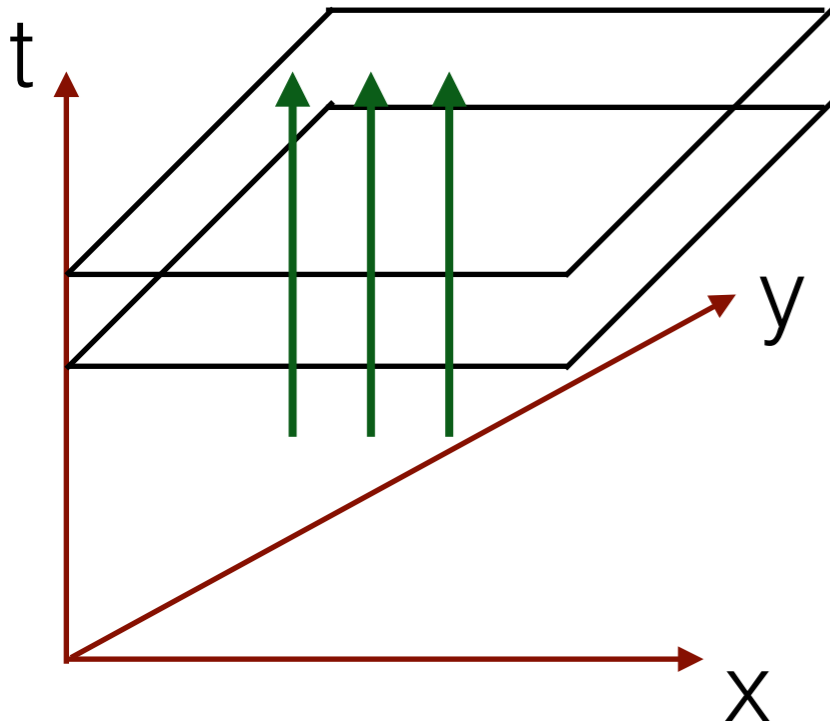
Other consequences?

A photograph of a Zen garden. The left side of the image shows a close-up of light-colored sand with several parallel, wavy lines raked into it, creating a rhythmic pattern. In the lower center, a smooth, rounded, light-colored stone sits on the sand. The right side of the image is a plain, light-colored background.

Thanks

“Ask Me Later” Slides

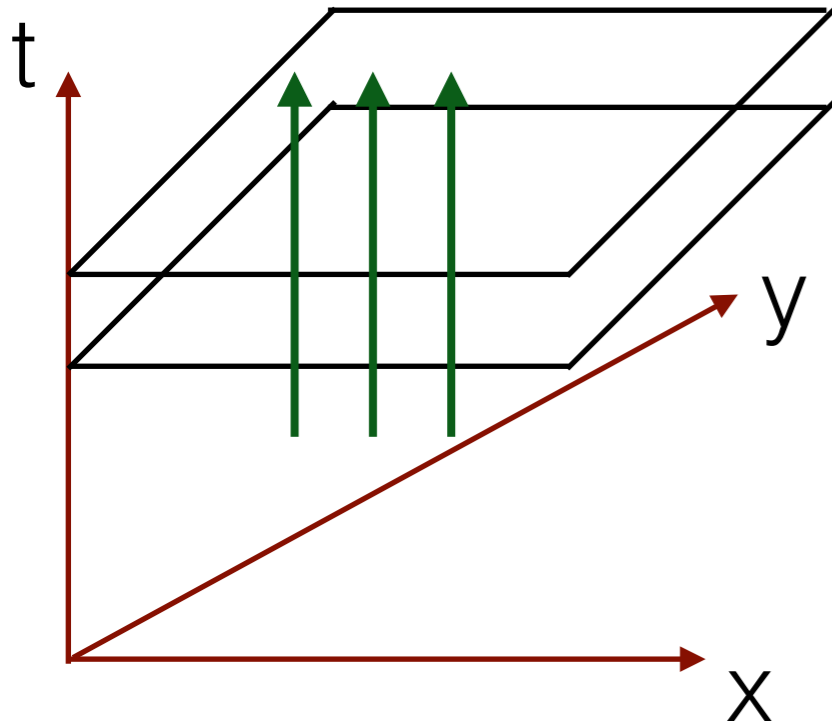
# Why we needed NECv? Global Hyperbolicity



Nice Time Slices: Time-like geodesic  
orthogonal to space-like hyper surface

Provides Cauchy Surface

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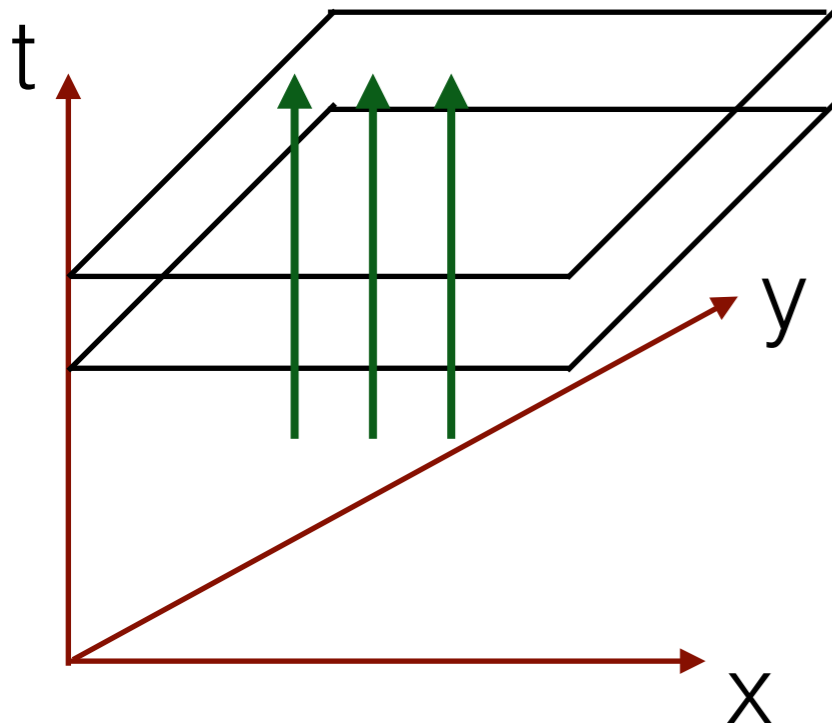


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# Why we needed NECv? Global Hyperbolicity



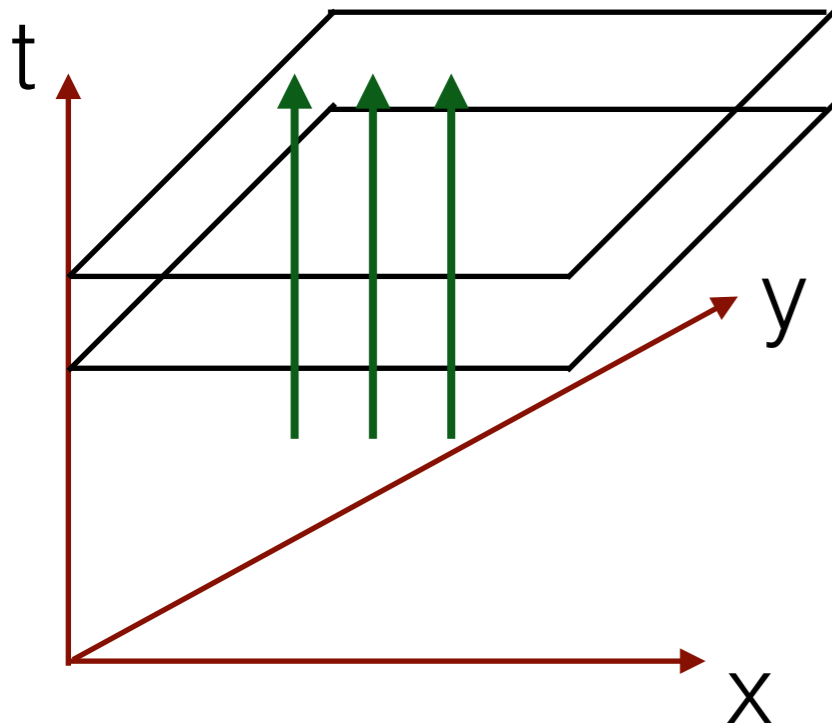
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Geodesics that generate time direction cannot diverge without null energy violation

# Why we needed NECv? Global Hyperbolicity



Nice Time Slices: Time-like geodesic orthogonal to space-like hyper surface

Provides Cauchy Surface

**For these geodesics, can show vorticity is zero**

Geodesics that generate time direction cannot diverge without null energy violation

Caveat: Time-like curves could generate time direction

# The Loophole

$$\frac{d\hat{\theta}}{d\lambda} = -\frac{1}{2}\hat{\theta}^2 - 2\hat{\sigma}^2 + 2\hat{\omega}^2 - T_{\mu\nu}U^\mu U^\nu$$

Null Energy Condition safely violated in extra-dimensions  
(Casimir Energies, Orientifolds)

# The Loophole

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Null Energy Condition safely violated in extra-dimensions  
(Casimir Energies, Orientifolds)

Closed-time like curve requires long distance - cut off using  
compact extra-dimensions

$$ds^2 = \frac{2}{\omega^2} \left( -dt^2 + dr^2 + dy^2 - (\sinh^4 r - \sinh^2 r) d\phi^2 - 2\sqrt{2} \sinh^2 r d\phi dt \right)$$

# The Loophole

$$\frac{d\hat{\theta}}{d\lambda} = -\frac{1}{2}\hat{\theta}^2 - 2\hat{\sigma}^2 + 2\hat{\omega}^2 - T_{\mu\nu}U^\mu U^\nu$$

$$ds^2 = -dt^2 + a(t)^2 d\vec{x}^2 + b^2 (d\theta^2 + d\phi_1^2 + d\phi_2^2) - 2\epsilon b (\sin\theta dt d\phi_1 + \cos\theta dt d\phi_2)$$

$$T_{\mu\nu} = T_C + T_M$$

Null Energy Condition in extra-dimensions

4D geodesics carry vorticity into extra-dimensions,  
avoiding focusing. Need  $T^3$ .

Metric clearly globally hyperbolic

# Solve Strong CP

Use the axion - just stop it earlier!

Relaxion **relaxes Higgs vev to much smaller values.**  
A second rolling increases the Higgs vev to the weak scale (perhaps from inflation).

Slope much smaller:  $gM^2 f \sim \theta \Lambda^4$

$$\mathcal{L} \supset (-M^2 + \kappa\sigma^2 + g\phi)|h|^2 + gM^2\phi + \dots + \Lambda^4 \cos \frac{\phi}{f}$$



e.g., waterfall field from inflation

Can couple to one of many operators in the standard model — will contribute to the Higgs via loops!

QCD breaks EW Symmetry and mixes  
with the Higgs — barriers even with  
positive squared mass

$$m_h^2 > 0 \quad \Lambda^4 \sim 16\pi^2 \frac{f_\pi^6}{m_h^2} \frac{\text{Tr}Y \text{Det}Y}{\sum \text{subDet}Y}$$


$$\Lambda^4 \sim 16\pi^2 \frac{f_\pi^6}{m_h^2} y_u$$

positive Higgs mass  $\sim 400$  GeV produces a tiny  
enough barrier

# For another time/talk: Thermal Relaxion

Constant Barriers, Variable Dissipation?

same structure:


  
not QCD

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## Constant Barriers, Variable Dissipation?

same structure:  $\mathcal{L} \supset (-\mu^2 + g\phi) h^2 + g\mu^2\phi + g^2\phi^2 + \dots + \frac{\phi}{f_a} G_{\mu\nu} \tilde{G}^{\mu\nu}$

not QCD



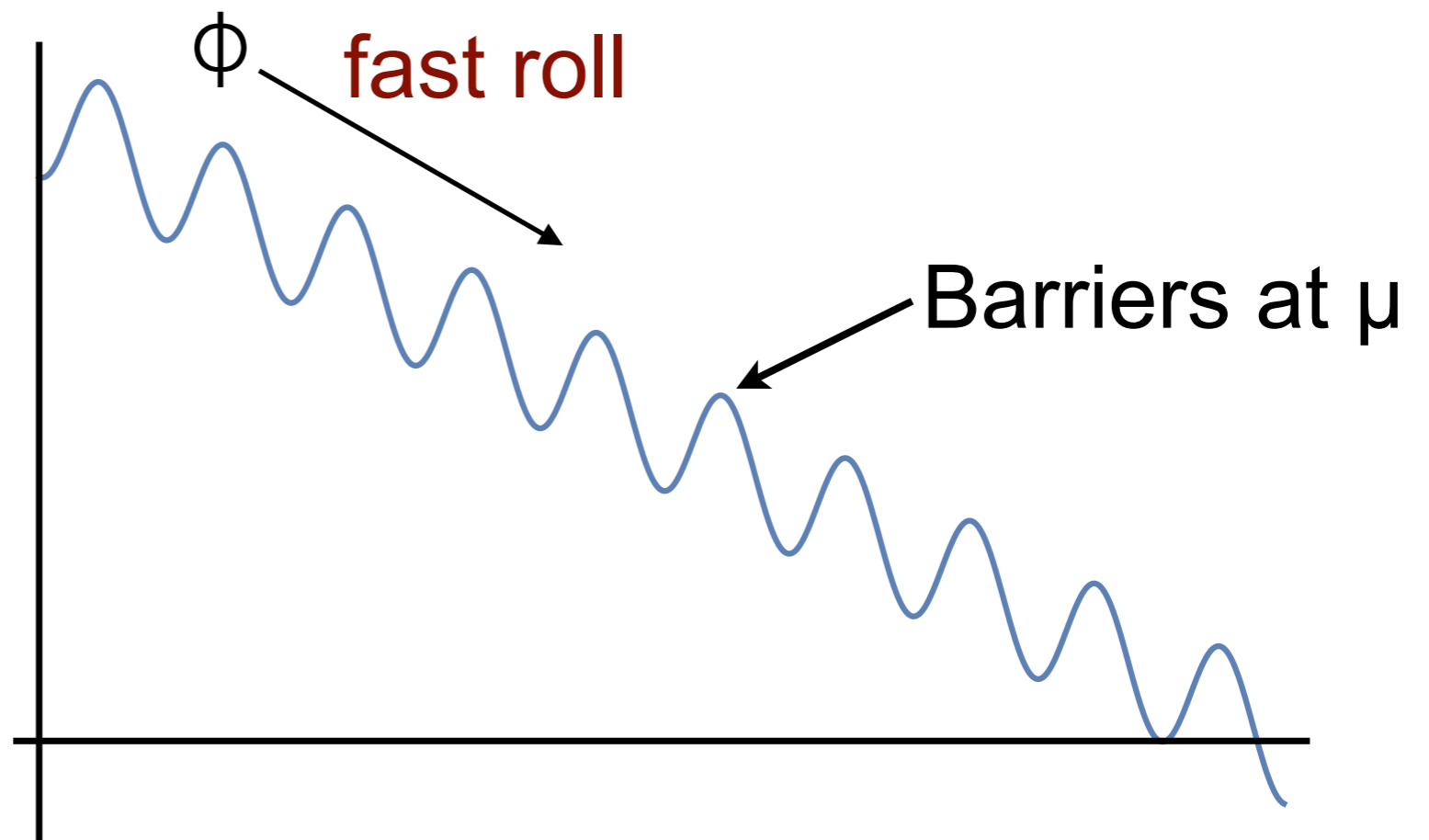
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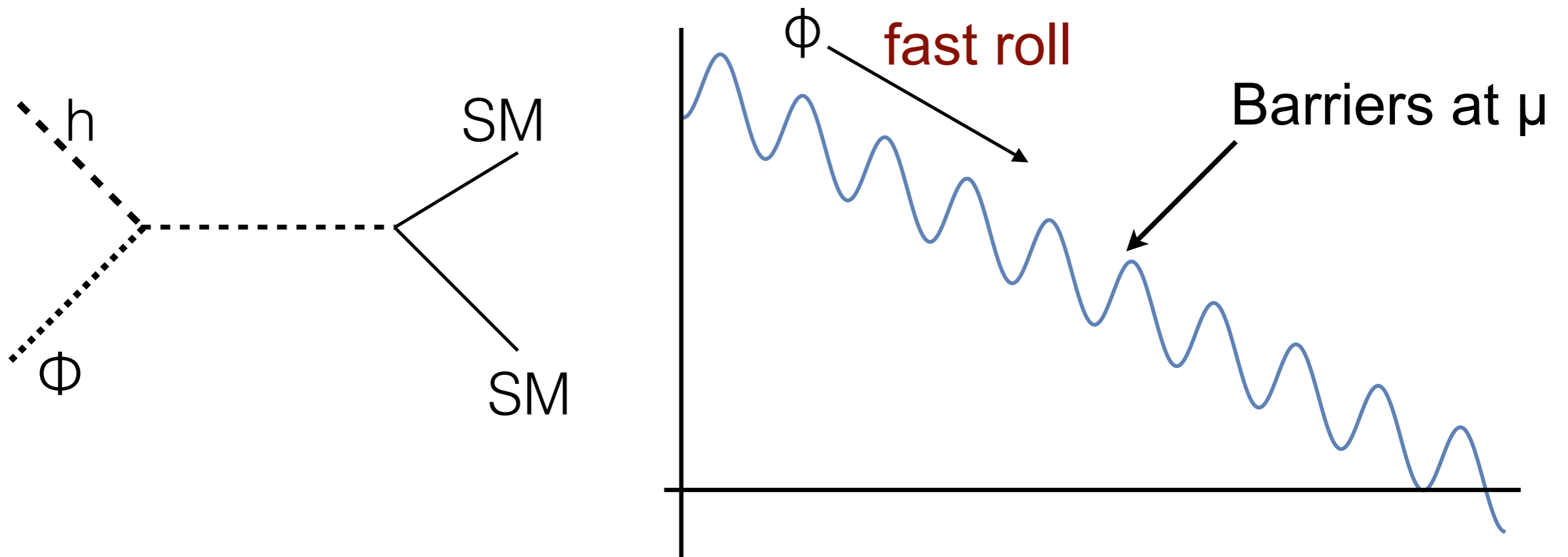
- Take initial value of  $\Phi$  so that  $m_h^2 < 0$
- $\Phi$  fast rolls. Cold universe, dominated by  $\Phi$  rolling.
- $m_\Phi > m_h \Rightarrow \Phi$  decays to higgs



# Thermal Relaxion

Constant Barriers, Variable Dissipation?

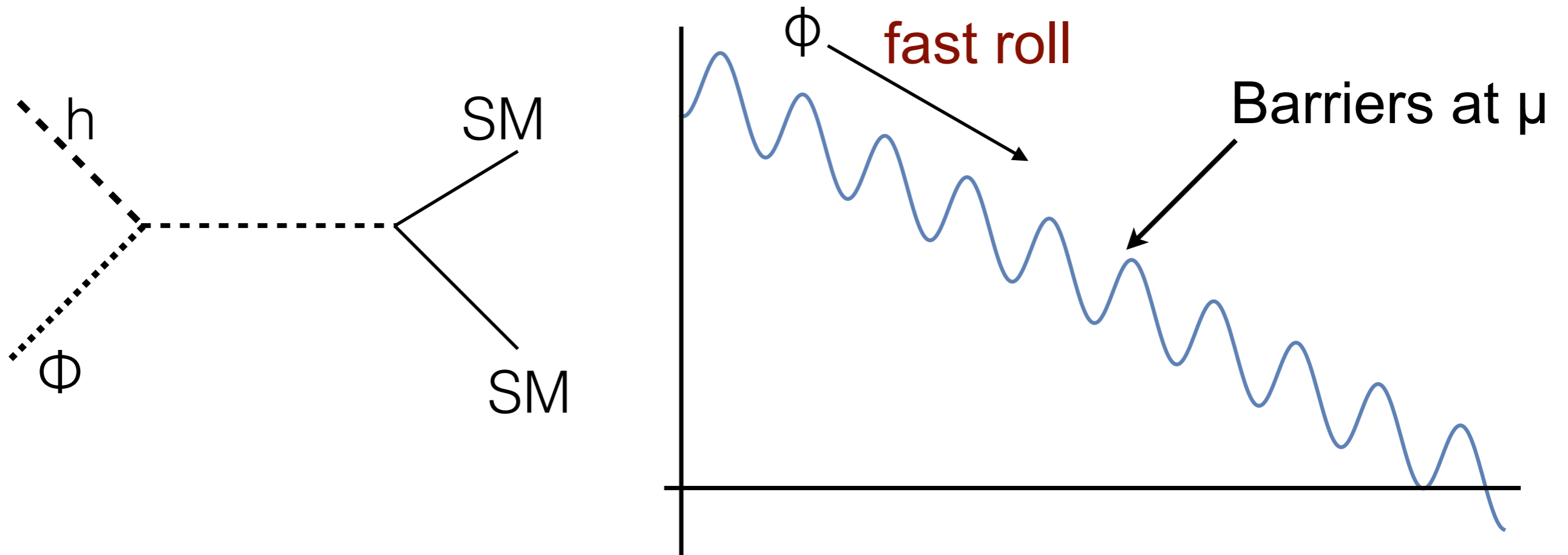
$\Phi$  decays to higgs.



# Thermal Relaxion

Constant Barriers, Variable Dissipation?

$\Phi$  decays to higgs.



Efficient Reheating.  
Removes kinetic energy from  $\Phi$

$\mu \sim 100$  TeV. Within one Hubble time.