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Hubble-induced phase transitions: Walls are not forever

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If inflation is followed by a period of kinetic domination, as is common in quintessential inflation scenarios, internal symmetries of non-minimally coupled spectator fields will be generically broken. This generates a complex dynamics for this field and leads to the formation of defects. One of the most relevant consequences is that this mechanism will tend to produce a, potentially detectable, gravitational waves background. Interestingly, the symmetry will be eventually restored implying the eventual decay of the defects.

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