Primordial gravitational waves revealed by a spinning axion

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with Yann Gouttenoire (Tel Aviv U.), Géraldine Servant (UHH/DESY) (To appear)

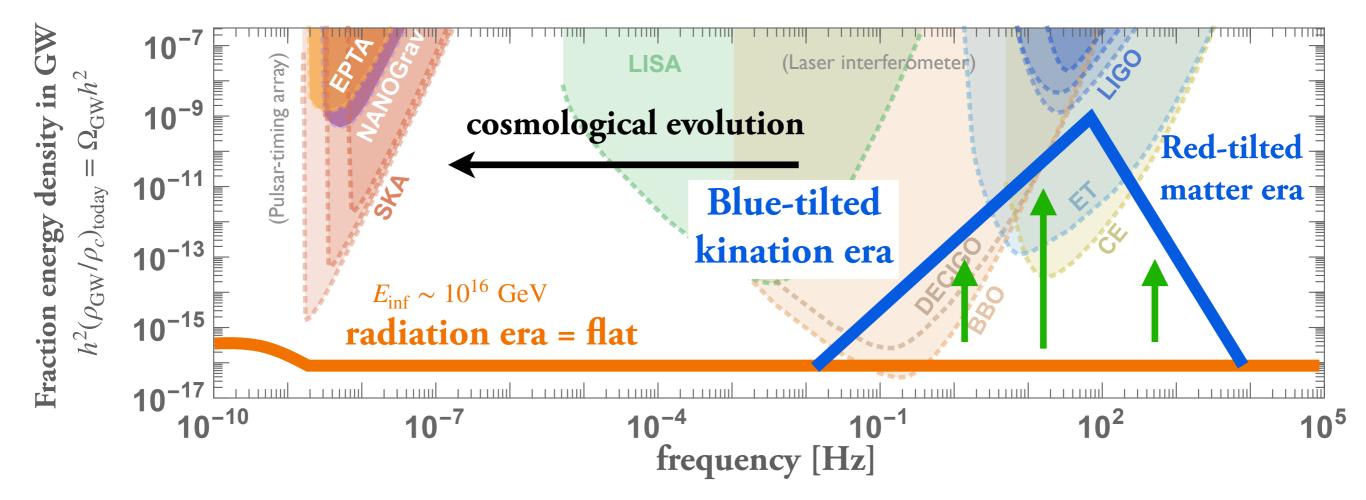
Invisibles 21 PhD forum, 03.06.2021



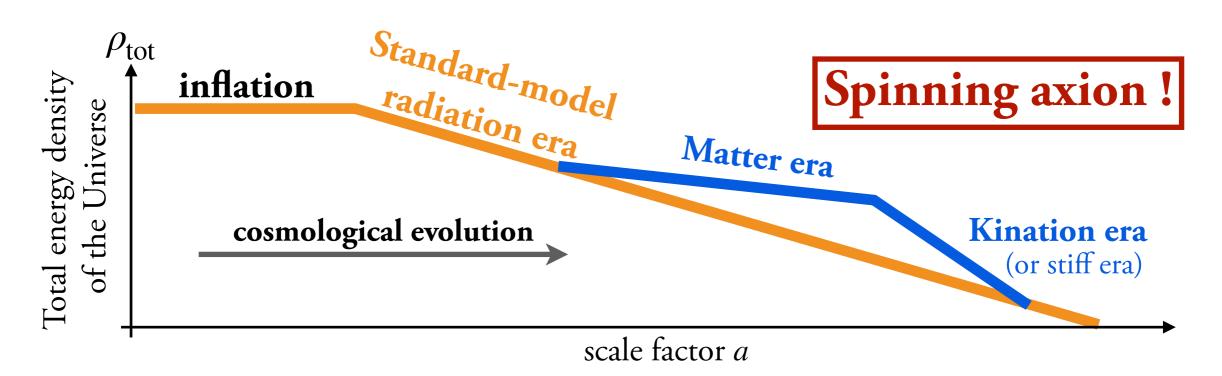
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Irreducible GW background from quantum fluctuation during inflation is typically small.



Spectral distortion of the primordial GW provide a hint of the cosmological history.



Going beyond the assumption of vanishing velocity of axion.

e.g. Kinetic-misalignment (Axiogenesis / Trapped-misalignment)

[Harigaya et al, '19 '20] [Chang & Cui, '19] [Di Luzio, Gavela, Quilez, Ringwald, '21]

Talk by Pablo Quilez

 $\phi \cos(\theta)$

 $\phi_{\rm ini}$

-1.0

-0.5

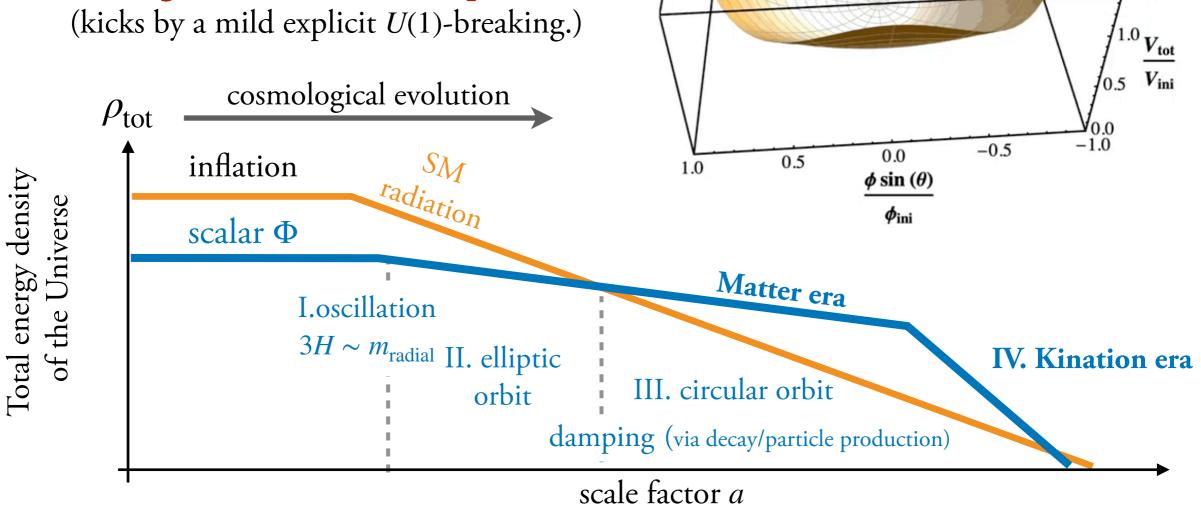
0.5

 $l = 4, \epsilon = 0.8, a/a_{\rm osc} = 0.3$

Example: spinning scalar field with U(1)-symmetry: $\Phi \sim \phi e^{i\theta}$

Radial mode ϕ oscillates in potential with mass $m_{\rm radial}$

Angular mode θ "axion" spins,



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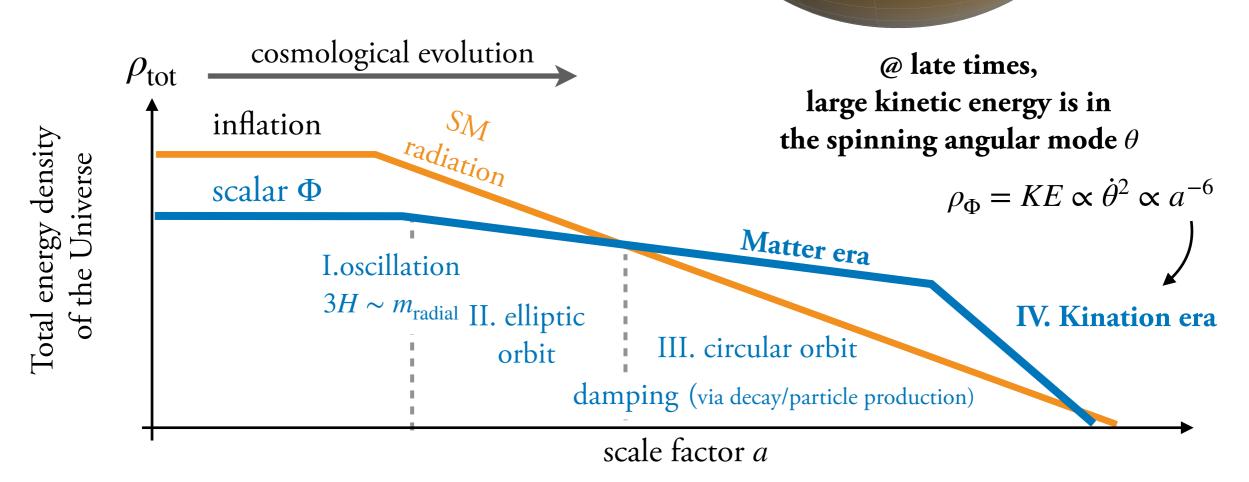
circle of $\phi = f_a$

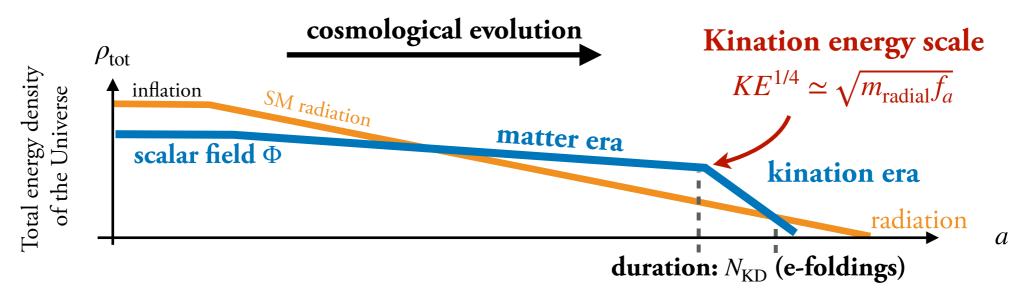
Example: spinning scalar field

with U(1)-symmetry: $\Phi \sim \phi e^{i\theta}$

Radial mode ϕ oscillates in potential with mass m_{radial}

Angular mode θ "axion" spins, (kicks by a mild explicit U(1)-breaking.)



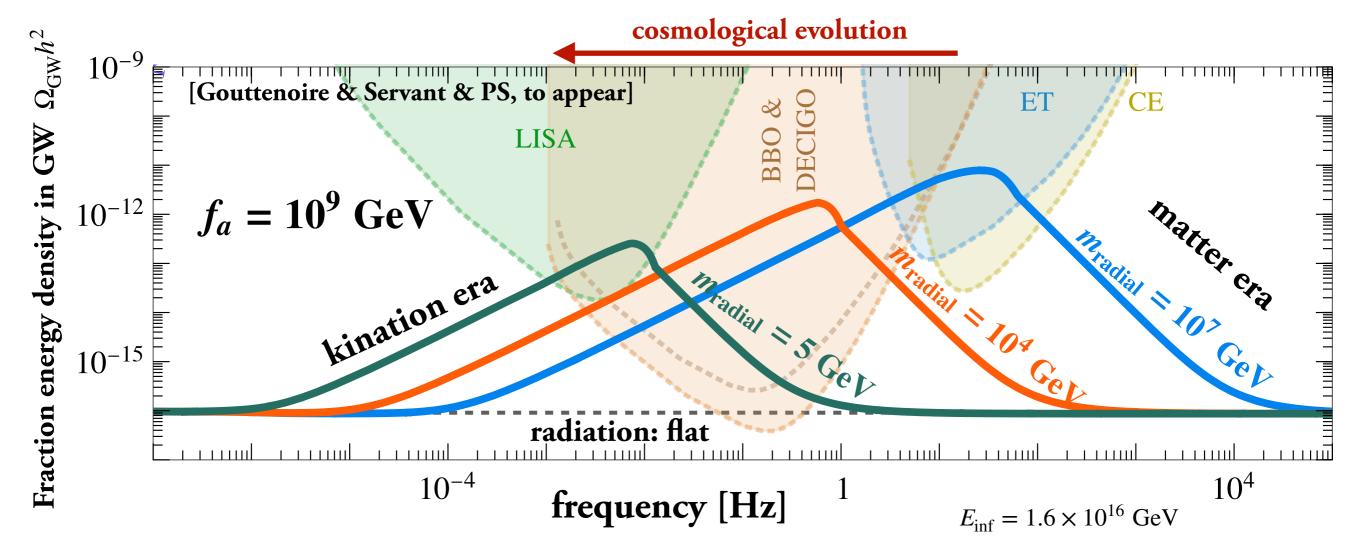


Peak frequency:
$$f_{\text{peak}} \approx 10 \text{ Hz} \left(\frac{\sqrt{m_{\text{radial}} f_a}}{10^8 \text{ GeV}} \right) \left[\frac{\exp(N_{\text{KD}}/2)}{10} \right]$$

Peak amplitude: $\Omega_{\text{peak}}h^2 \approx 10^{-12} \left(\frac{E_{\text{inf}}}{1.6 \times 10^{16} \text{ GeV}}\right)^4 \left[\frac{\exp(2N_{\text{KD}})}{10^4}\right]$

"Peaked GW signature"

ET & CE probes $\sim 10^8$ GeV kination LISA probes ~ 10 TeV kination



In summary...

Any GW from early times are amplified by a kination era — induced by a scalar field with large kinetic energy.

e.g. inflationary GW spectrum gets blue-tilted. (We also look at a peak in cosmic-string GW spectrum.)

A spinning axion

e.g. from complex scalar field (generic in SM extensions)

can generate a short and low-scale kination during the pre-BBN epoch.

(Axion kinetic misalignment or Affleck-Dine mechanism)

"Peaked GW signature"

LISA for $\sqrt{m_{\rm radial}f_a} \sim 10$ TeV kination | ET & CE for $\sqrt{m_{\rm radial}f_a} \sim 10^8$ GeV kination.

