

**Melting Domain Walls in the Early Universe  
as the origin of the NANOGrav signal  
and Dark Matter**

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**Workshop on Standard Model  
and Beyond**

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# Dark Matter Properties

$$p = 0$$

(If) particles:

- 1 **stable** on cosmological time-scale
- 2 **nonrelativistic** long before RD/MD-transition (either **Cold** or **Warm**, free-streaming is limited  $v_{RD/MD} \lesssim 10^{-3}$ )
- 3 (almost) **collisionless**
- 4 (almost) electrically **neutral**
- 5 **adiabatic** matter perturbations

If were in **thermal equilibrium**:

$$M_x \gtrsim 1 \text{ keV}$$

If not:

for bosons

$$\lambda = 2\pi / (M_x v_x), \text{ in a galaxy } v_x \sim 0.5 \cdot 10^{-3} \rightarrow M_x \gtrsim 3 \cdot 10^{-22} \text{ eV}$$

for fermions

**Pauli blocking:**

$$M_x \gtrsim 750 \text{ eV}$$

$$f(\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{x}) = \frac{\rho_x(\mathbf{x})}{M_x} \cdot \frac{1}{\left(\sqrt{2\pi} M_x v_x\right)^3} \cdot e^{-\frac{\mathbf{p}^2}{2M_x^2 v_x^2}} \Big|_{\mathbf{p}=0} \leq \frac{g_x}{(2\pi)^3}$$

# Microscopic processes in the expanding Universe

A **competition** between **scattering, decays, etc** and **expansion**

for general processes one should solve kinetic equations

$$\frac{dn_{X_i}}{dt} + 3Hn_{X_i} = \sum (\text{production} - \text{destruction})$$

Boltzmann equation in a comoving volume:  $\frac{d}{dt} (na^3) = a^3 \int \dots$

*production:*

$$\sigma(A + B \rightarrow X + C)n_A n_B, \quad \Gamma(D \rightarrow E + X)n_D \cdot M_D/E_D, \quad \text{etc}$$

*destruction:*

$$\sigma(A + X \rightarrow C + B)n_A n_X, \quad \Gamma(X \rightarrow F + G)n_X \cdot M_X/E_X, \quad \text{etc}$$

Fast direct and inverse processes,  $\Gamma \gtrsim H$ , are in equilibrium,  
 $\Sigma(\ ) = 0$  and thermalize particles

# Freeze-out of nonrelativistic Dark Matter

## Assumptions:

- 1 no  $X - \bar{X}$  asymmetry
  - 2 @  $T \lesssim M_X$  in thermal equilibrium with plasma
- either  $X = \bar{X}$  or  $n_X = n_{\bar{X}}$  (e.g. neutrons)

$$n_X = n_{\bar{X}} = g_X \left( \frac{M_X T}{2\pi} \right)^{3/2} e^{-M_X/T}$$

$X\bar{X} \rightarrow$  light particles

freeze-out temperature  $T_f$   $H \equiv T^2/M_{\text{Pl}}^*$ ,  $M_{\text{Pl}}^* = M_{\text{Pl}}/1.66\sqrt{g^*}$

$$n_X \langle \sigma_{\text{ann}} v \rangle = H(T_f) \rightarrow T_f = \frac{M_X}{\ln \left( \frac{g_X M_X M_{\text{Pl}}^* \sigma_0}{(2\pi)^{3/2}} \right)}.$$

Bethe formula:

s-wave:  $\sigma_{\text{ann}} = \frac{\sigma_0}{v}$

# Weakly Interacting Massive Particles

density after freeze-out:  $n_X(T_f) = \frac{T_f^2}{M_{\text{Pl}}^* \sigma_0}$

present density:  $n_X(T_0) = \left(\frac{a(T_f)}{a(T_0)}\right)^3 n_X(T_f) = \left(\frac{s_0}{s(T_f)}\right) n_X(T_f) \propto \frac{1}{T_f}$

$X + \bar{X}$  contribution to critical density:

$$\begin{aligned} \Omega_X &= 2 \frac{M_X n_X(T_0)}{\rho_c} = 7.6 \frac{s_0 \ln \left( \frac{g_X M_{\text{Pl}}^* M_X \sigma_0}{(2\pi)^{3/2}} \right)}{\rho_c \sigma_0 M_{\text{Pl}} \sqrt{g_*(T_f)}} \\ &= 0.1 \cdot \left( \frac{(10 \text{ TeV})^{-2}}{\sigma_0} \right) \frac{10}{\sqrt{g_*(T_f)}} \ln \left( \frac{g_X M_{\text{Pl}}^* M_X \sigma_0}{(2\pi)^{3/2}} \right) \cdot \frac{1}{2h^2} \end{aligned}$$

# Dark Matter: many well-motivated candidates

- WIMPs related to EW scale, SUSY
- sterile neutrinos active neutrino oscillations
- light scalar field string theory
- axion strong CP-problem
- gravitino local SUSY
- Heavy relics GUTs
- (Topological) defects GUTs
- Massive Astrophysical Compact Heavy Objects
- Primordial black hole (remnants) Phase transitions  
exotic inflation, reheating

Multicomponent Dark Matter ?

$\gamma$ ,  $\nu$ , H, He

# A simple example of scalar DM

most general renormalizable coupled to SM:

$Z_2$ -invariant Higgs ( $\Phi$ ) portal

$$\Delta\mathcal{L} = \frac{1}{2}g^{\mu\nu}\partial_\mu X\partial_\nu X - \frac{1}{2}M^2X^2 + g^2X^2\Phi^\dagger\Phi - \frac{\lambda}{4}X^4$$

Options:

- freeze-out: sufficiently large  $g^2$

$$v\sigma_{XX\rightarrow hh} \times n_h \sim H \rightarrow \Omega_X \propto \frac{1}{\sigma_0}, \text{ with } \frac{g^4}{(4\pi\dots)^2 M^2} = \sigma_0 \equiv \sigma v$$

- freeze-in: intermediate  $g^2$

$$\dot{n}_X + 3Hn_X = \sigma_{hh\rightarrow XX}n_h^2 \rightarrow \frac{n_X}{s} = \# \int dT \frac{n_h^2}{sHT} \times \frac{g^4}{T^2} \sim g^4 \frac{M_{Pl}}{M} \rightarrow$$

$$\Omega_X \propto g^4 \rightarrow g^2 \approx 10^{-11} \quad \text{still natural...}$$



# Freeze in via gravitational scatterings..?

any particles  $A$  in plasma

$$\sigma_{AA \rightarrow XX} \propto \frac{T^2}{M_{Pl}^4} \rightarrow \Omega_X \propto M_X \frac{T_i^3}{M_{Pl}^3} \dots$$

assuming  $m \ll T_i$

called “unnatural” being dependent on the initial conditions

## Free massive scalar field

$$g^2 = 0$$

$$\mathcal{L} = \frac{1}{2} g^{\mu\nu} \partial_\mu \phi \partial_\nu \phi - \frac{1}{2} m_\phi^2 \phi^2$$

Homogeneous scalar field in the expanding Universe

$$\ddot{\phi} + 3H\dot{\phi} + m_\phi^2 \phi = 0$$

Two-stage evolution:

$$m_\phi < H(t) \implies \phi = \phi_i = \text{const}$$

$$m_\phi > H(t) \implies \rho = \langle E_k \rangle - \langle E_p \rangle = 0, \quad \rho \sim m_\phi^2 \phi^2 \propto 1/a^3$$

- dust-like substance in the late Universe,  $\Omega \propto m_\phi^{1/2} \phi_i^2$   
depends on initial conditions  
fuzzy DM

# DM from oscillating scalar

$$0 \neq g^2 < 10^{-11}$$

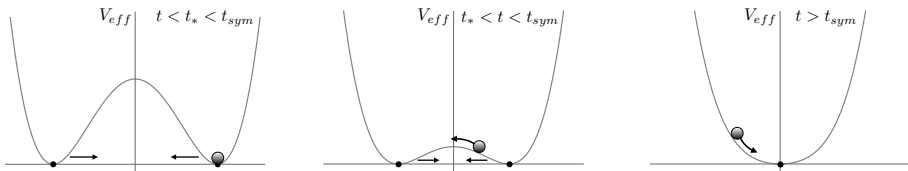
$Z_2$ -invariant Higgs ( $\Phi$ ) portal

$$\Delta\mathcal{L} = \frac{1}{2}g^{\mu\nu}\partial_\mu X\partial_\nu X - \frac{1}{2}M^2X^2 + g^2X^2\Phi^\dagger\Phi - \frac{\lambda}{4}X^4$$

Higgs particles in plasma change the potential:

$$g^2X^2\Phi^\dagger\Phi \rightarrow g^2X^2T^2/3$$

$Z_2$  symmetry is broken after reheating by the plasma contribution

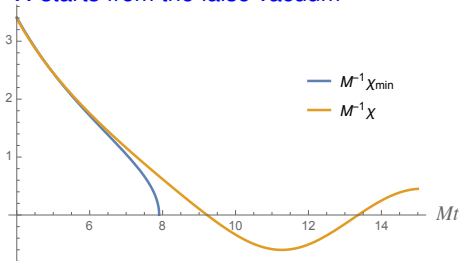


# Temperature decrease restores $Z_2$

2004.03410

$$\Delta\mathcal{L} = \frac{1}{2}g^{\mu\nu}\partial_\mu X\partial_\nu X - \frac{1}{2}M^2X^2 + g^2X^2T^2/3 - \frac{\lambda}{4}X^4$$

$X$  starts from the false vacuum



at  $g^2 T_*^2 \simeq M^2$  sign changes  
and  $X$  starts to oscillate  
gravitational misalignment

$$\rho_{DM}(t_*) = \frac{M^2 \cdot S_*^2}{2} \simeq \frac{(M^5 H_*)^{2/3}}{4\lambda}$$

And the correct amount of DM by classical oscillating field

$$p = \langle E_{kin} \rangle - \langle E_p \rangle = 0$$

$$g^2 \simeq 10^{-12} \times \left(\frac{\lambda}{10^{-6}}\right)^{6/5} \times \left(\frac{10^6 \text{ GeV}}{M}\right)^2$$

Dark Matter  
with general setup:  
white area

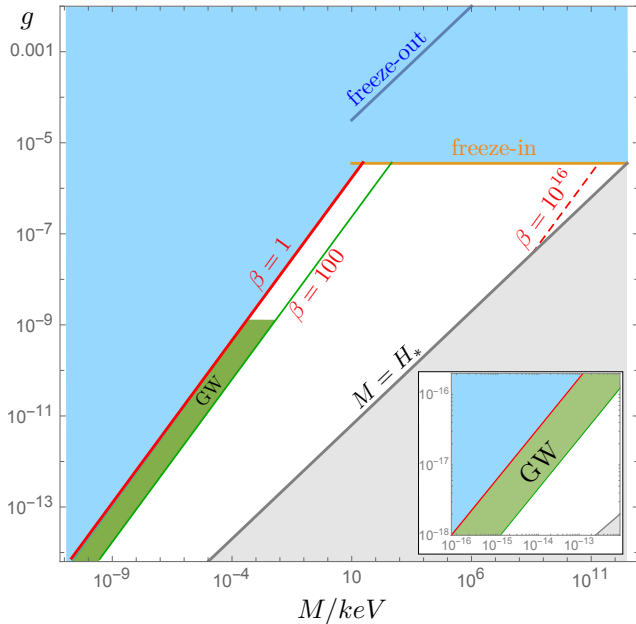
$$\beta \equiv \lambda/g^4 < 1$$

$$V = \frac{1}{2} M^2 X^2 + \frac{\lambda}{4} X^4 - \frac{g^2 T^2}{12} X^2$$

The inverse phase transition  
may be accompanied by the  
production of GW

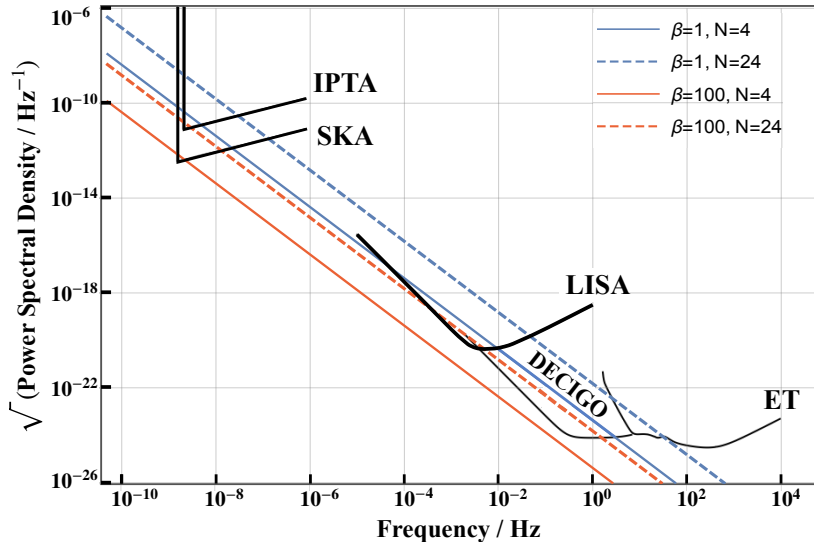
strong enough to be  
detected by the present or  
next generation  
experiments

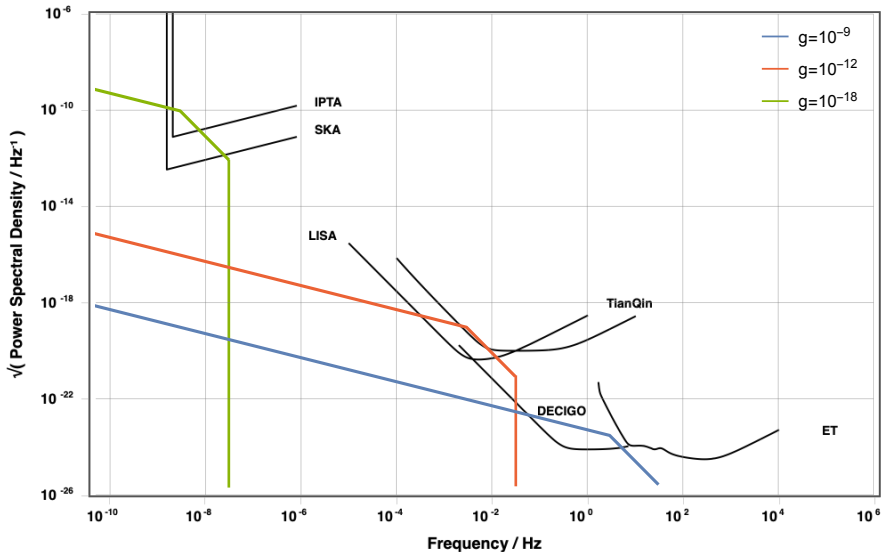
2104.13722



## GW signals from dissipating DWs ...

2104.13722





strain:  $\Omega_{GW} H_0^2 \equiv 2\pi^2 f^3 S/3$

2104.13722

# Analog of a well-known effect in CMB: by Rubakov, Sazhin and Veryaskin

From linear approximation to  
the geodesic equation. . .  
for tensor perturbations

$$\frac{\delta T}{T}(\mathbf{n}, \eta_0) = \frac{1}{2} \int_{\eta_r}^{\eta_0} d\eta n_i h_{ij}^{TT'} n_j,$$

strongest limit on primordial  
GW and Inflation scale:

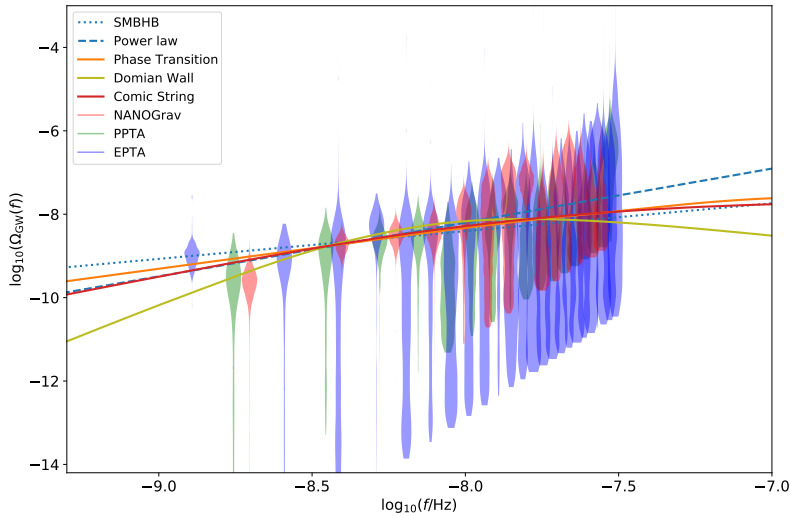
$$h_{init} \sim H_{inf} / M_{Pl} \propto \sqrt{\rho_{infl}}$$

Pulsar frequencies are  
different but stable, and we  
observe its' time variation

NANOGrav, T. Klein

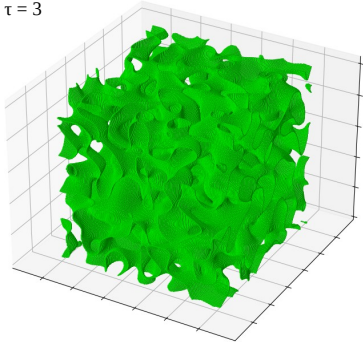
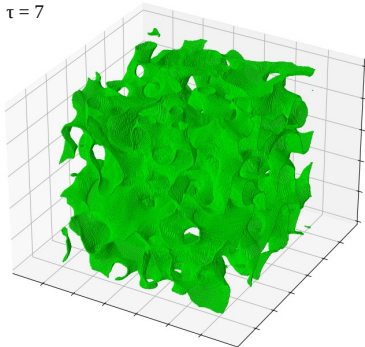




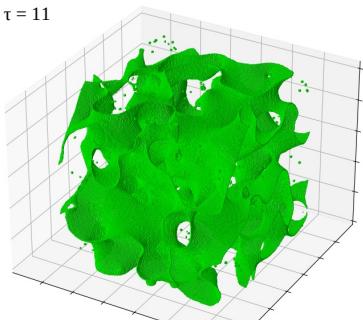
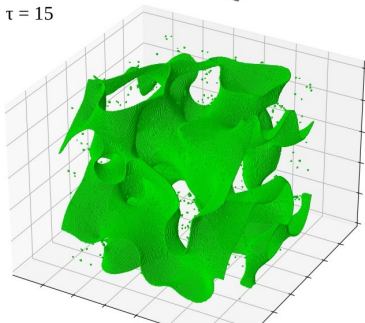


$$\Omega_{GW} h^2 = 6.3 \cdot 10^{-10} A^2 \left( \frac{f}{\text{yr}^{-1}} \right)^d, \quad A = \{6.4^{+4.2}_{-2.7}, 2.9^{+2.6}_{-1.8}, 3.1^{+1.3}_{-0.9}\}, \quad d = \{1.8 \pm 0.6, 0.81^{+0.63}_{-0.73}, 1.1 \pm 0.4\}$$

2307.03141, 2406.02288

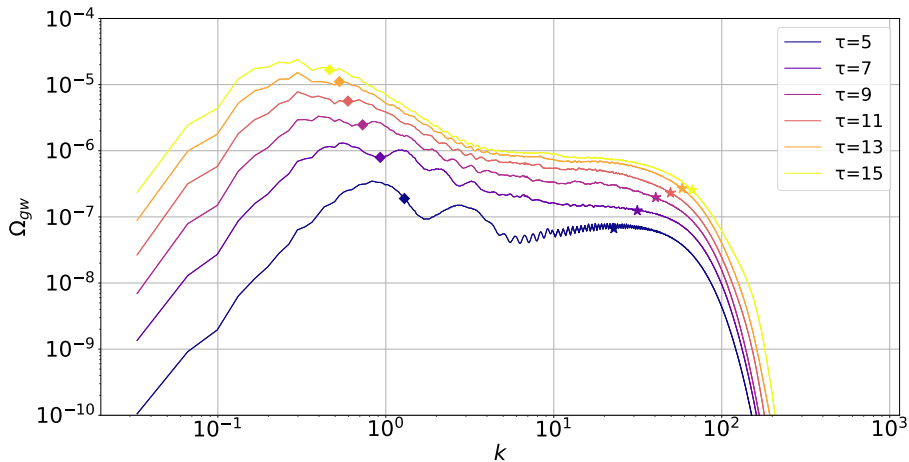
$\tau = 3$  $\tau = 7$ 

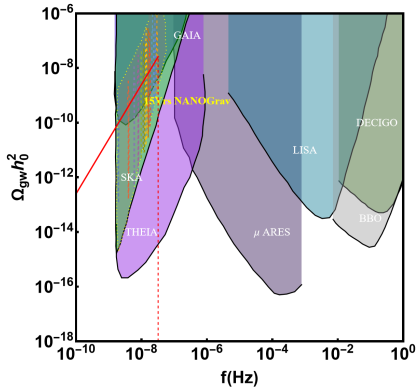
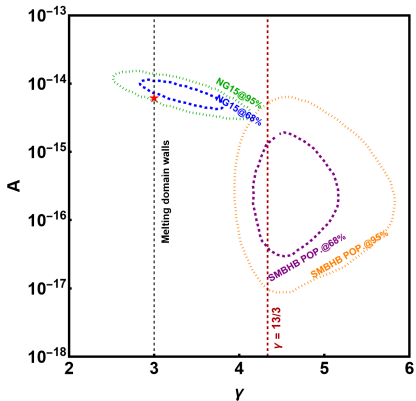
2406.17053

 $\tau = 11$  $\tau = 15$ 

## GW spectra: simulation with CosmoLattice

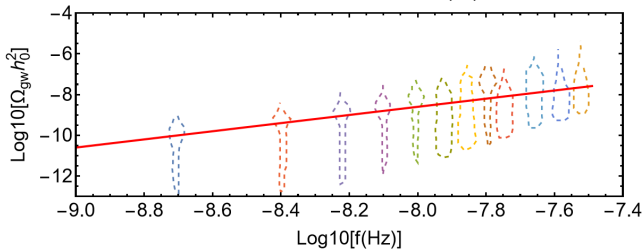
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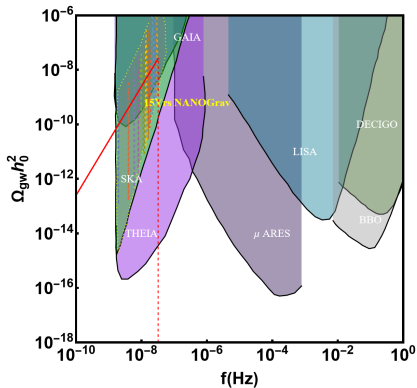
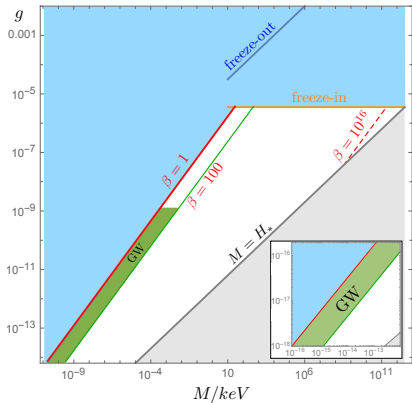




$$\gamma \equiv d + 1$$

2307.04582



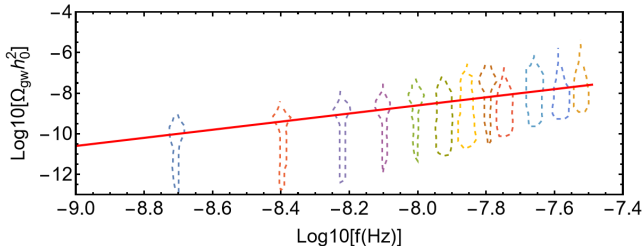


2104.13722

$$\beta \equiv \lambda / g^4$$

$$V = \frac{1}{2} M^2 X^2 + \frac{\lambda}{4} X^4 - \frac{g^2 T^2}{12} X^2$$

2307.04582



# Conclusion

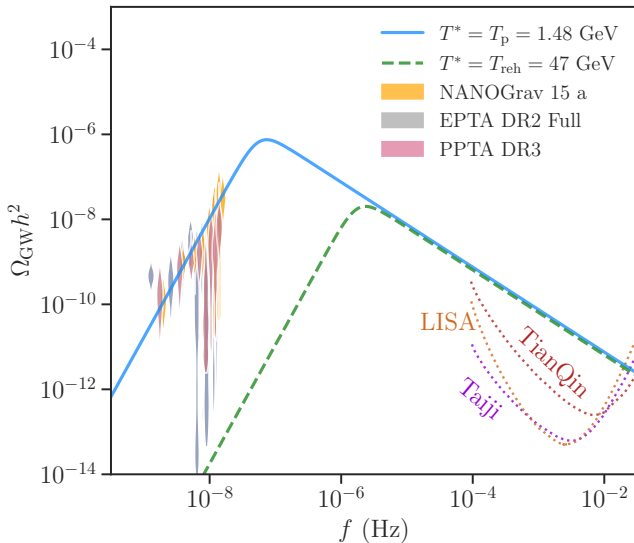
- What NANOGrav and others observe might be explained by the GW from melting domain walls
  - they are expected in models with inverse phase transition
  - which may induce light scalar dark matter production
  - In realistic models its mass is of order  $10^{-15}$ - $10^{-11}$  eV
  - That predicts super-radiance instability of rotating black holes with astrophysical masses  $10$ - $10^5 M_{\odot}$  see e.g. 0905.4720
- Might explain why the BH in binary system are not with  $J \approx 1$

Large based on the results from  
2004.03410, 2104.13722, 2112.12608, 2307.04582, 2406.17053

with Evgeny Babichev, Ivan Dankovsky, Sabir Ramazanov, Rome Samanta and Alex Vikman

# Example: EW 1st order Phase Transition

2307.01072



# Free massive scalar field

$$g^2 = 0$$

$$\mathcal{L} = \frac{1}{2} g^{\mu\nu} \partial_\mu \phi \partial_\nu \phi - \frac{1}{2} m_\phi^2 \phi^2$$

Homogeneous scalar field in the expanding Universe

$$\ddot{\phi} + 3H\dot{\phi} + m_\phi^2 \phi = 0$$

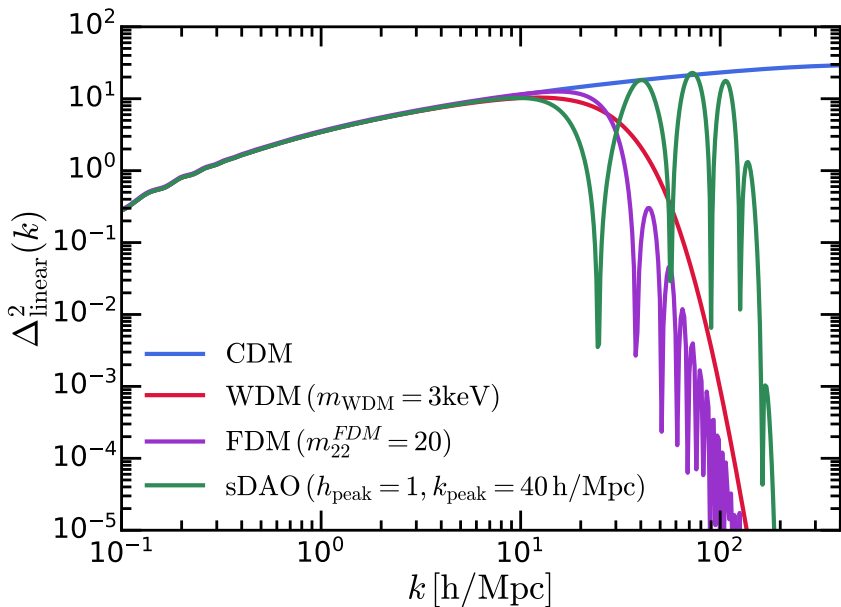
Two-stage evolution:

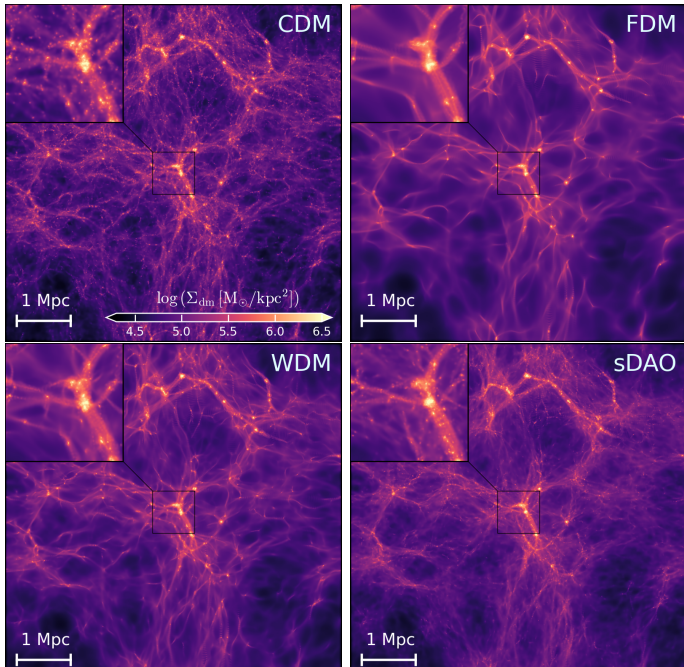
$$m_\phi < H(t) \implies \phi = \phi_i = \text{const}$$

$$m_\phi > H(t) \implies \rho = \langle E_k \rangle - \langle E_p \rangle = 0, \quad \rho \sim m_\phi^2 \phi^2 \propto 1/a^3$$

- dust-like substance in the late Universe,  $\Omega \propto m_\phi^{1/2} \phi_i^2$   
at scales  $l > 2\pi/m_\phi$  depends on initial conditions  
perturbations are suppressed at  $l > M_{Pl}^{1/2} / (m_\phi^{1/2} \rho^{1/4})$  fuzzy DM

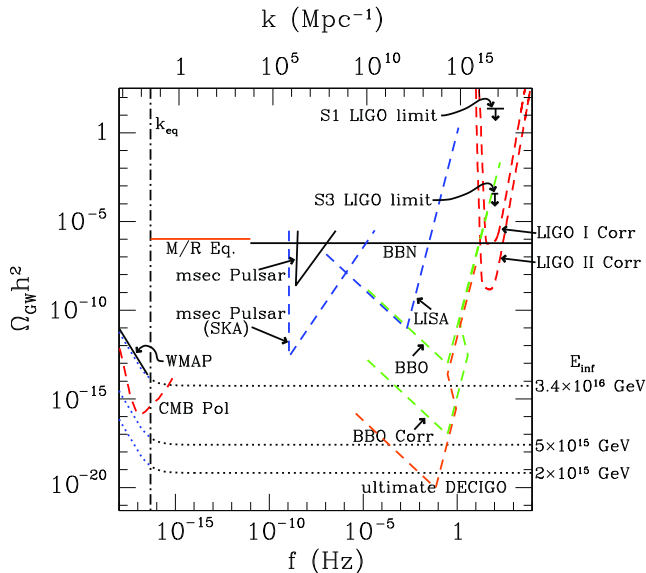






2304.06742

# Prospects in 2014



# Conclusion

- What NANOGrav and others observe might be explained by the GW from melting domain walls
- they are expected in models with inverse phase transition
- which may induce light scalar dark matter production
- In realistic models it's mass is of order  $10^{-16}$ - $10^{-12}$  eV
- That predicts super-radiance instability of rotating black holes with astrophysical masses

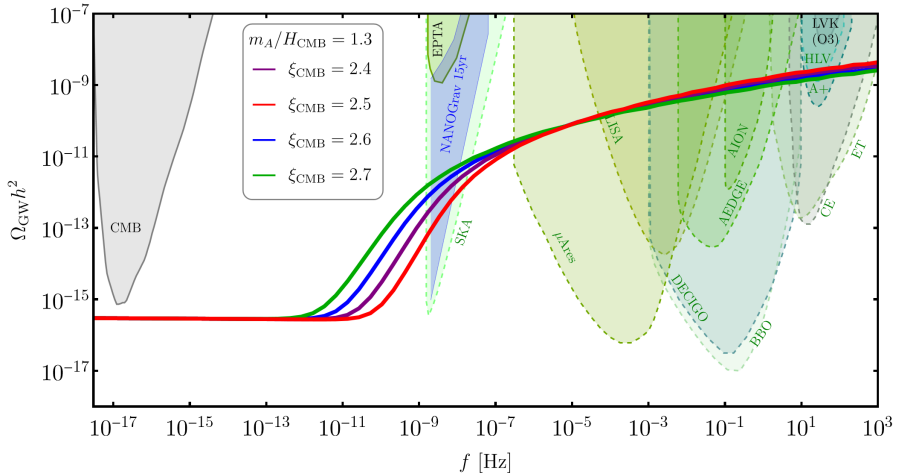
see e.g. 0905.4720

## Other possible sources:

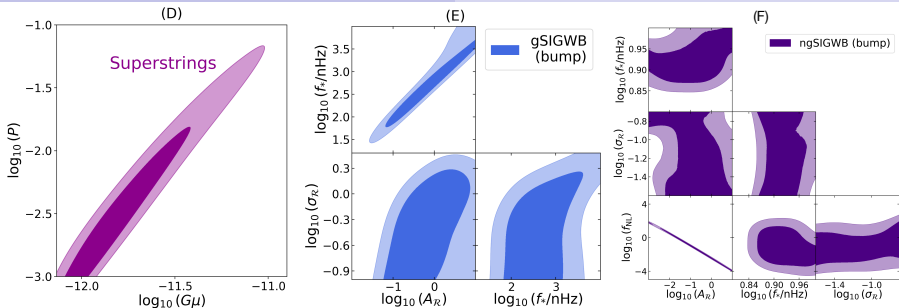
- scalar perturbations (but BH overproduction!)
- cosmic strings
- super heavy BH binaries (does not fit...)
- phase transitions
- violent reheating

$$\Omega_{GW} h^2 = 6.5_{-2.8}^{+4.1} \times 10^{-9} \text{ at } \nu \approx 1 \text{ yr}^{-1}$$

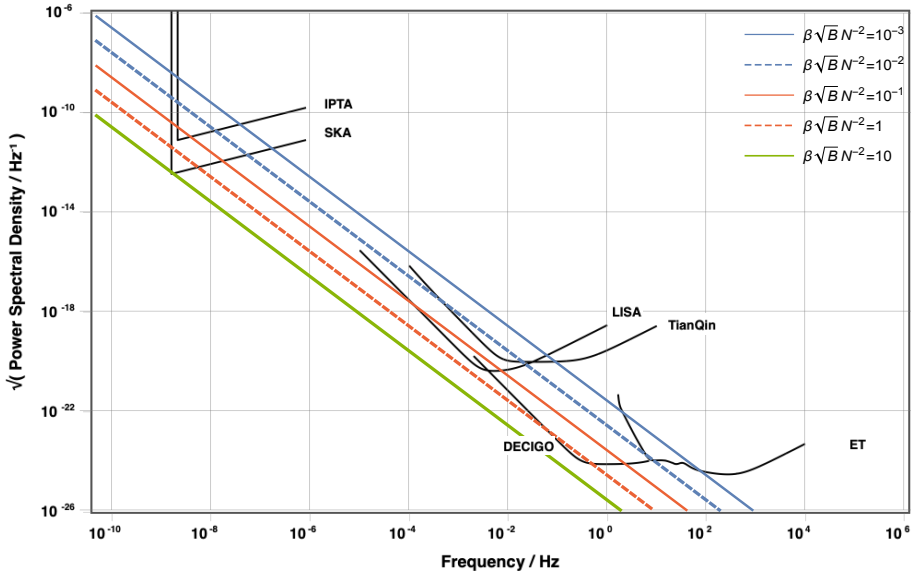
2306.17841



2307.01192



Template	$\text{BF}_{\text{NANO}}$	$\text{BF}_{\text{EPTA}}$	$\text{BF}_{\text{comb}}$	$\Delta\text{AIC}_{\text{comb}}$
<b>PL</b> ( $n_t = 0$ )	0.02	0.62	0.0014	10.24
<b>PL</b> ( $n_t = 2/3$ )	2.6	3.1	1.9	-5.20
<b>PL</b> ( $n_t, \mathcal{A}_*$ )	16	4.1	180	-12.25
<b>field th. CS</b>	0.18	1.3	0.019	5.22
<b>super CS</b>	29	3.3	58	-11.11
<b>gSIGWB</b>	110	14	1200	<b>-13.53</b>
<b>ngSIGWB</b>	0.00017	0.001	$5 \cdot 10^{-6}$	4.34
<b>AA</b>	36	2.7	130	-12.36
<b>BPL</b>	17	1.6	120	-0.19
<b>PhTNR</b>	8.5	8.1	150	-12.85
<b>PhTRV</b>	37	13	110	-12.34
<b>MHD</b>	26	3.9	210	-8.77



strain:  $\Omega_{GW} H_0^2 \equiv 2\pi^2 f^3 S/3$

2104.13722