

# Primordial black hole formation from inflation

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DSU 2024, Corfú

# Primordial black holes

Zeldovich and Novikov 1967, Hawking 1971, Hawking & Carr 1974, etc...

- **Dark matter candidate**
- Reheat the universe after inflation
- Catalysers for particle dark matter production
- Baryogenesis
- Seeds of supermassive black holes
- Possible BH merger outliers
- PTA indications of a stochastic GW background
- Window into the early universe



# Outline

- Bounds on the PBH abundance
- Basic formation mechanism
- Most studied single-field inflation scenario
- Breakdown of perturbation theory?
- Other inflationary possibilities
- (The problem of the abundance)

binary BH mergers

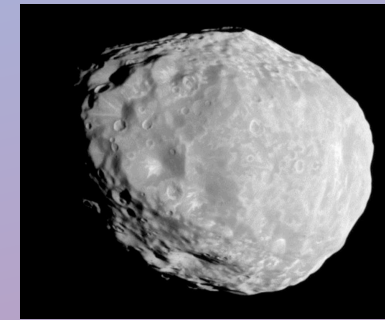
100 Hz



Courtesy  
Caltech/MIT/LIGO Laboratory

$$M \quad \uparrow \quad r_s = \frac{2GM}{c^2}$$

$100 M_{\odot}$  — 300 km



$M_{\odot}$  — 3 km

$0.1 M_{\odot}$  — 0.3 km

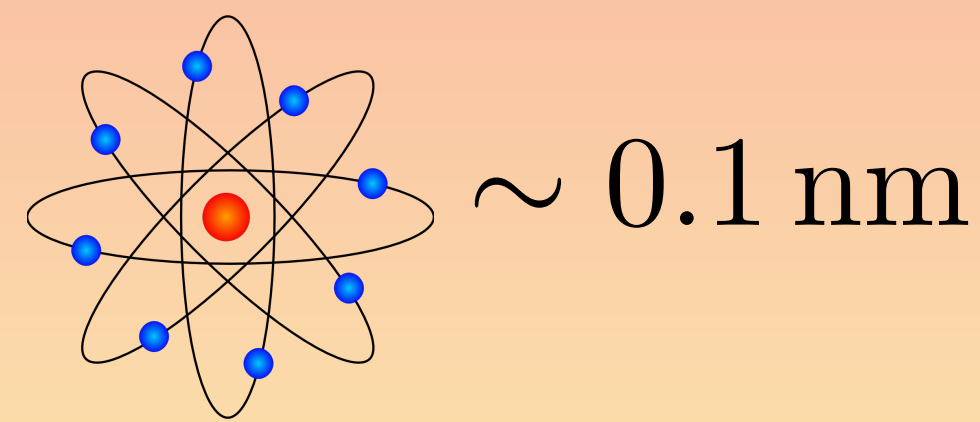
PTA ~ nHz  
e.g. NANOGRRAV

100% of the  
Dark Matter

$10^{-12} M_{\odot}$  — 3 nm



asteroid  
mass  
window

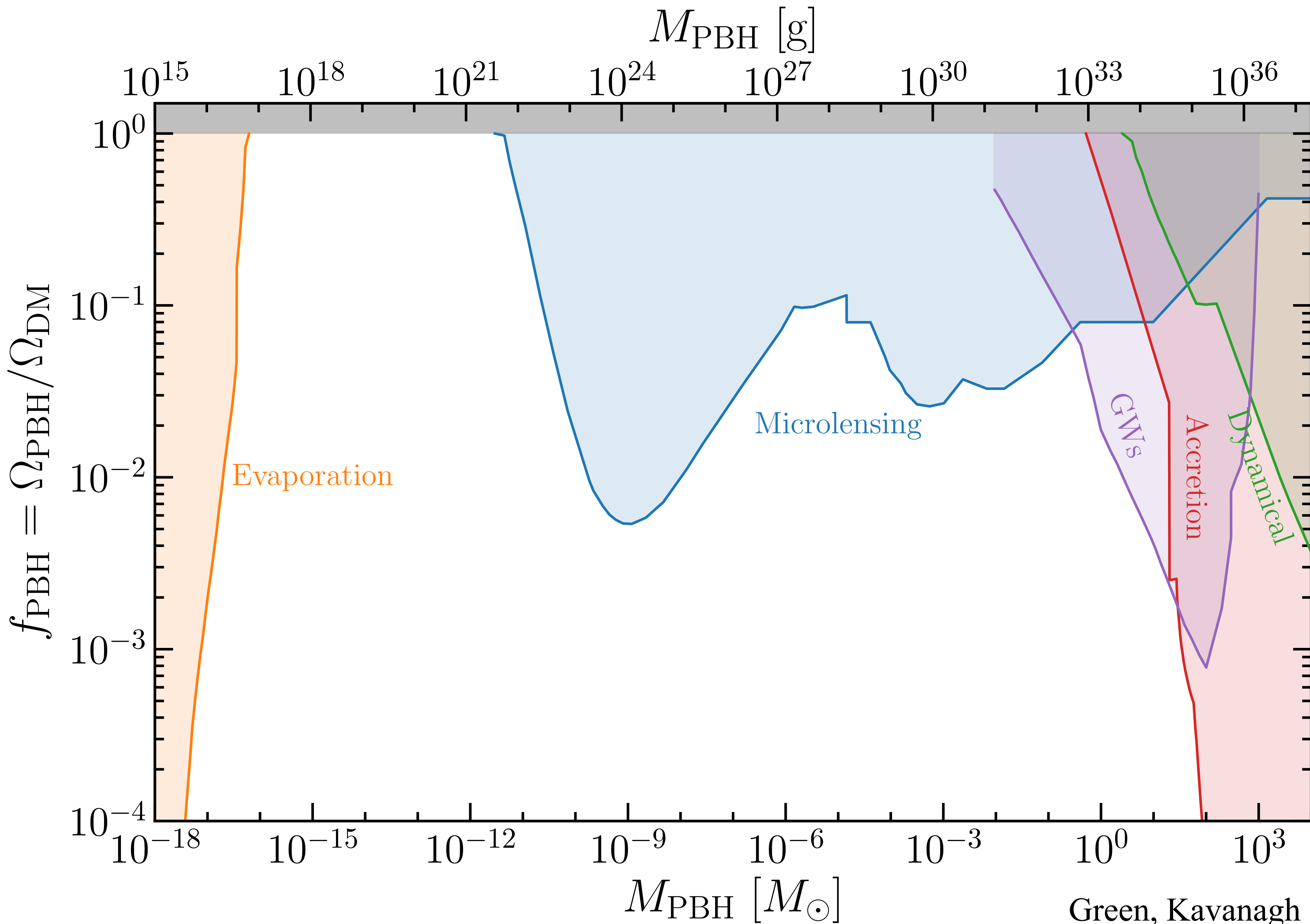


~ 0.1 nm

$10^{-16} M_{\odot}$  —  $3 \times 10^{-4}$  nm

0.03 Hz — 3 Hz  
e.g. LISA

Possible Stochastic  
GW backgrounds  
from inflation

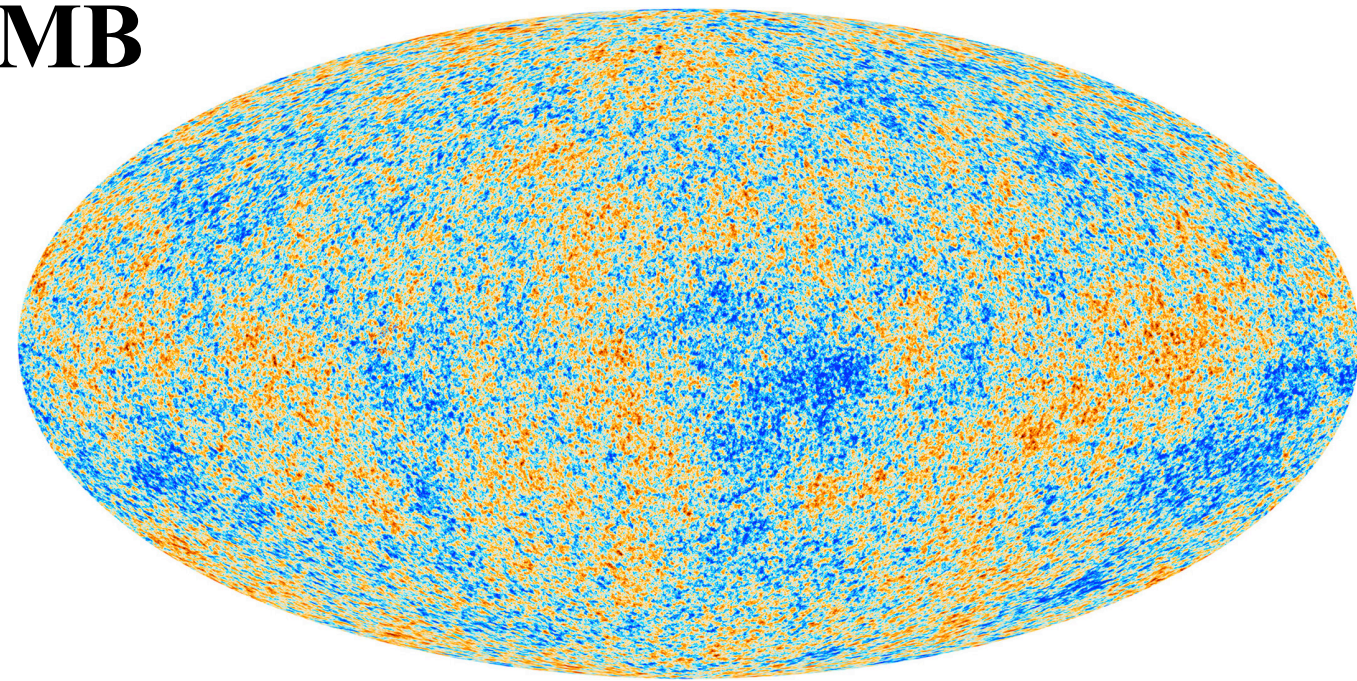




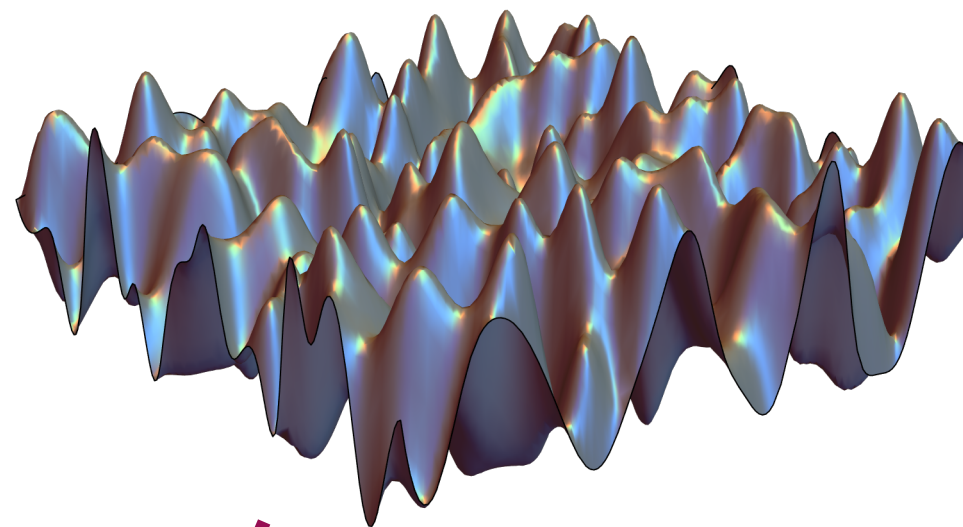
# PBH dark matter (from inflation)

Credit: ESA/Planck

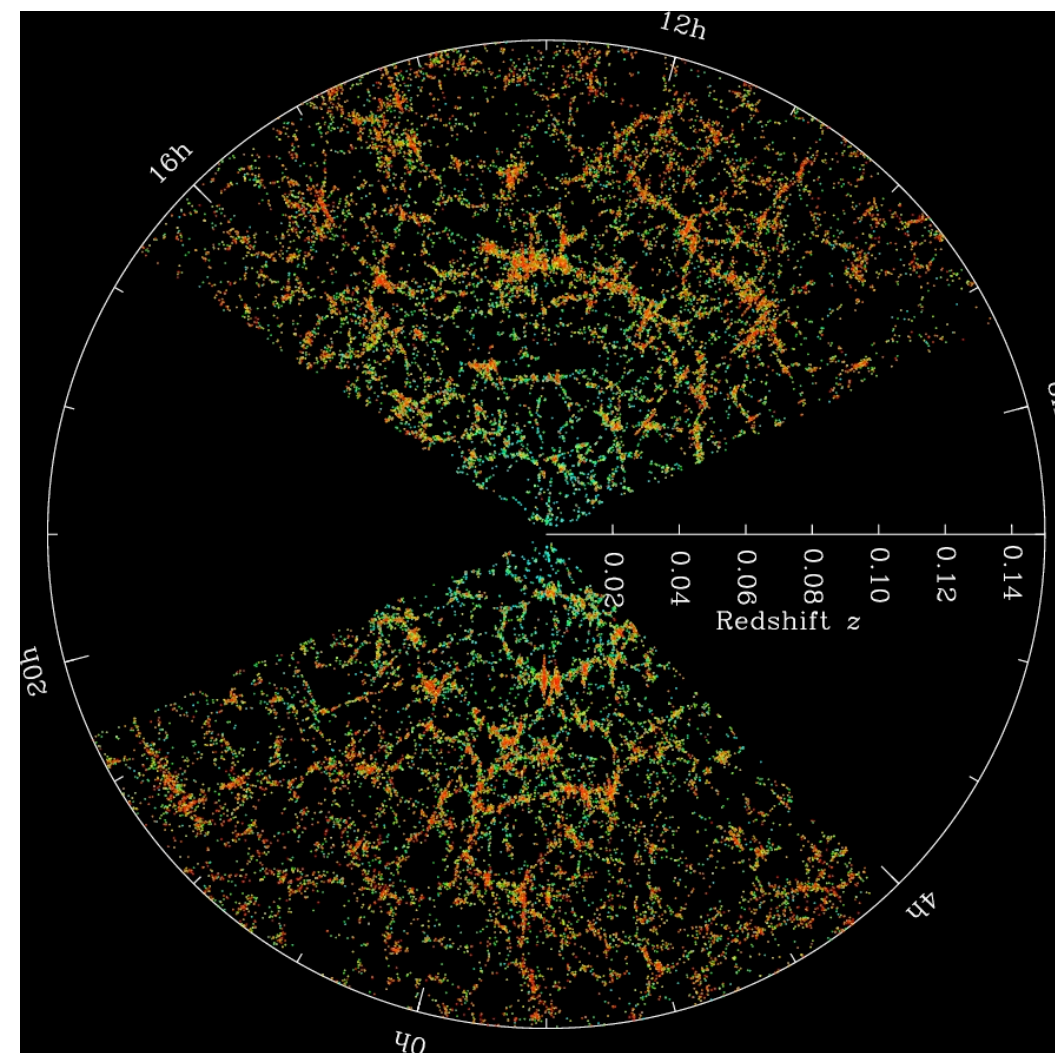
CMB



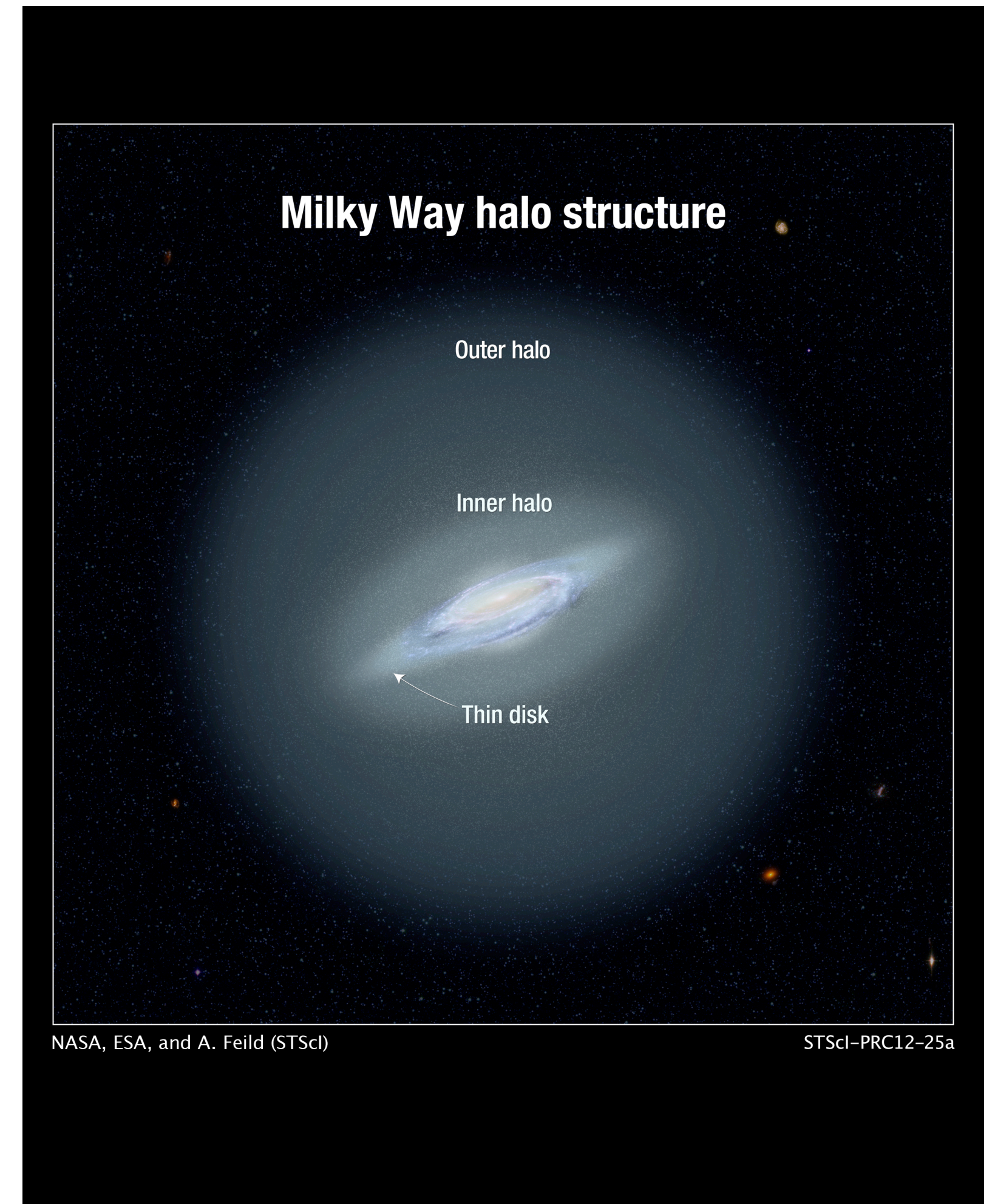
Quantum fluctuations  
of space-time



LSS



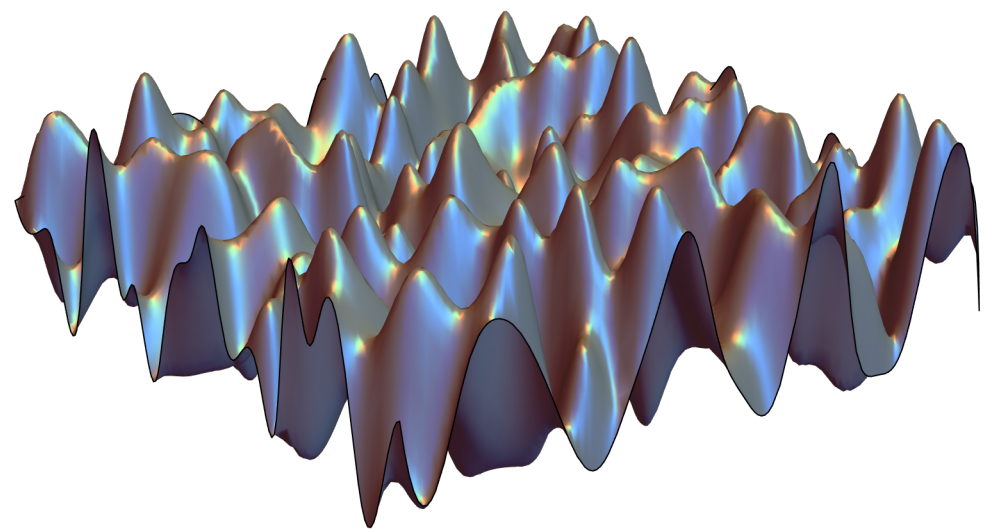
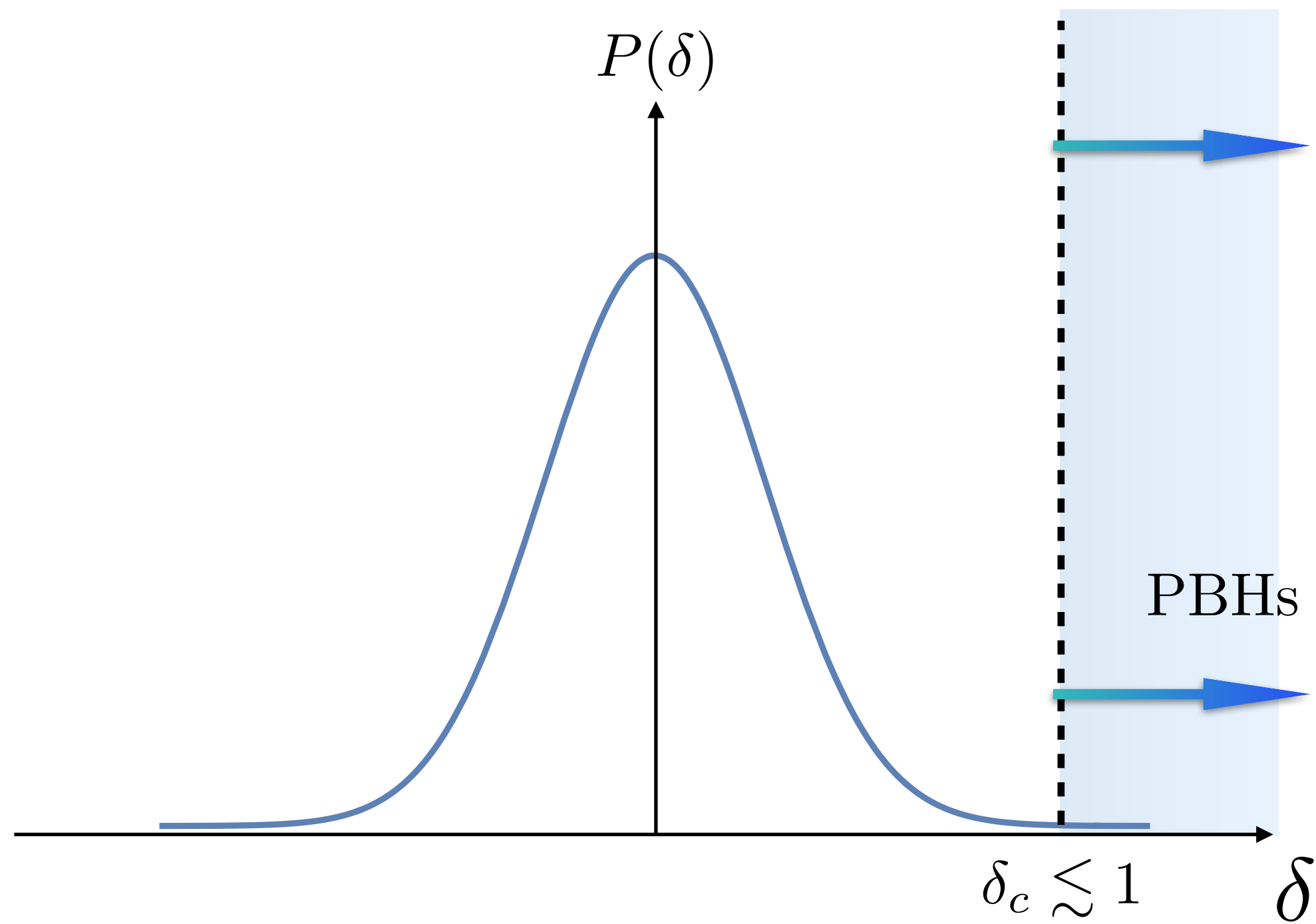
Credit: M Blanton  
and SDSS



NASA, ESA, and A. Feild (STScI)

STScI-PRC12-25a





**Mass:**

$$M \sim 10^{-14} \left( \frac{10^{13} \text{ Mpc}^{-1}}{k} \right)^2 M_{\odot}$$

$$N_e \simeq 18 - \frac{1}{2} \log \frac{M}{M_{\odot}}$$

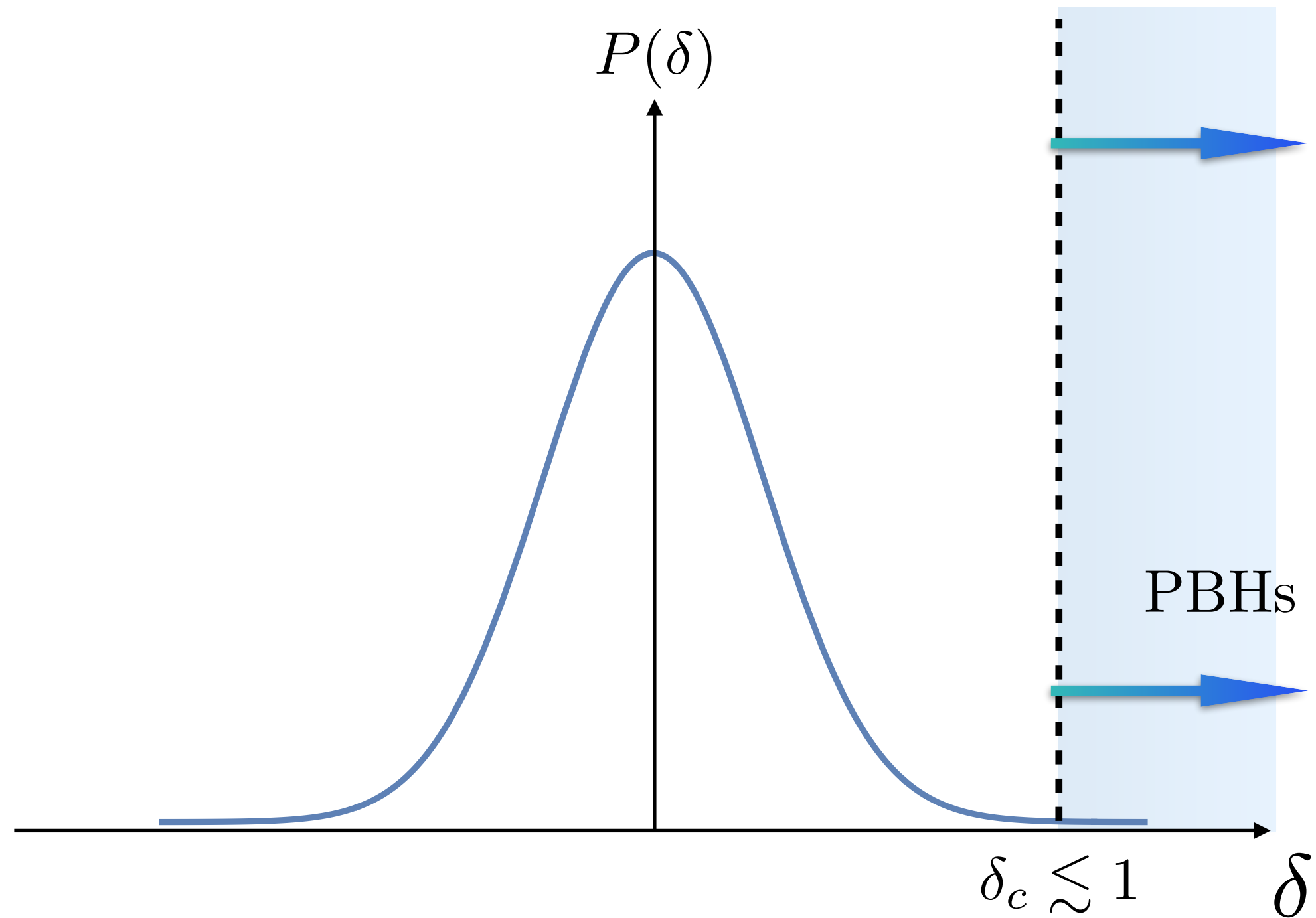
(for PBHs formed during radiation domination)

**Abundance (naive Gaussian estimate):**

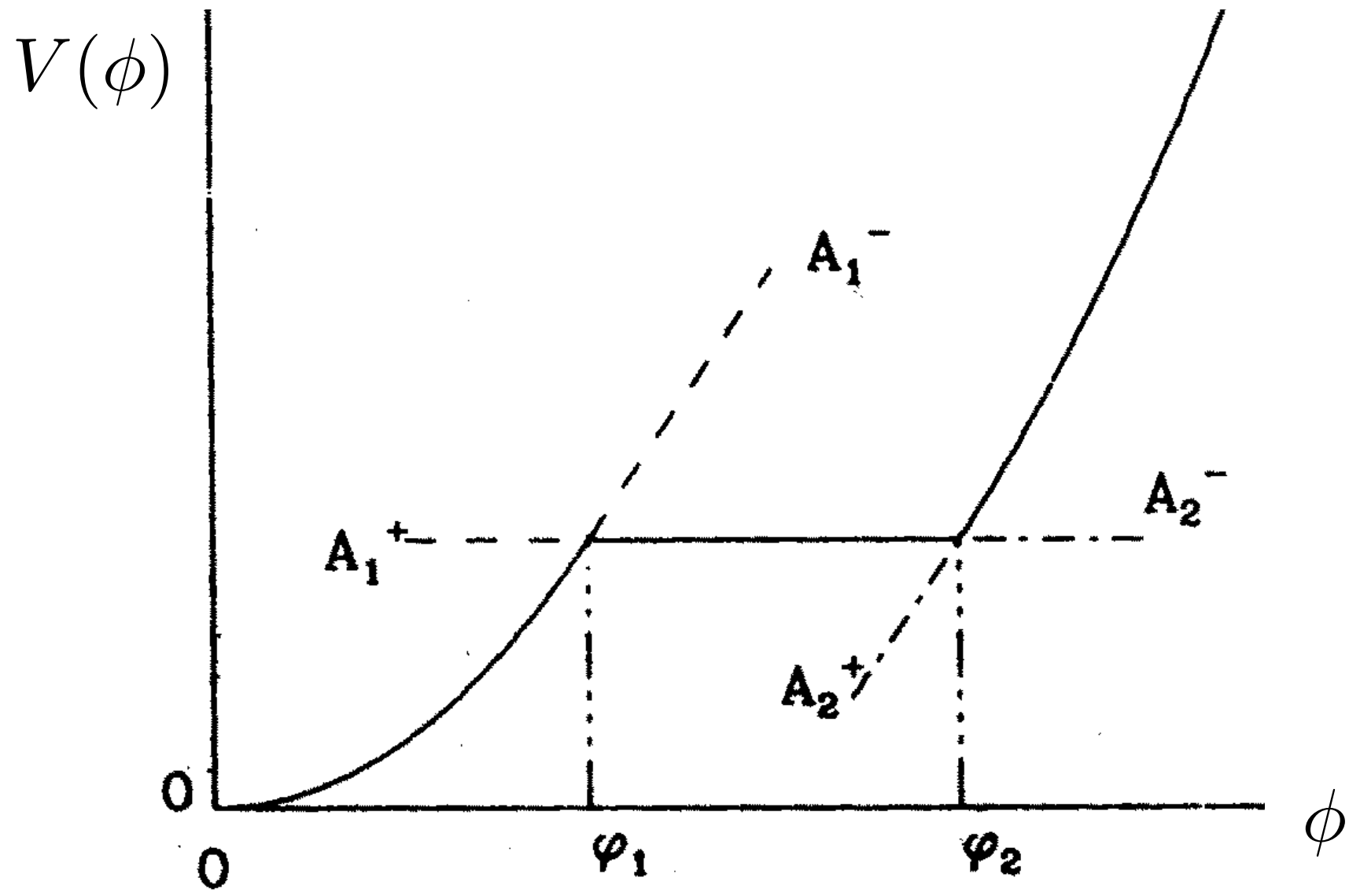
$$f_{\text{PBH}} = \frac{\Omega_{\text{PBH}}}{\Omega_{\text{DM}}} \propto \int_{\delta_c}^{\infty} \exp\left(-\frac{\delta^2}{2\sigma^2}\right) d\delta$$

$$\sigma \sim \mathcal{P}_{\mathcal{R}} \sim 10^{-2} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \frac{\Omega_{\text{PBH}}}{\Omega_{\text{DM}}} \sim 1$$

# Inflation and primordial black holes as dark matter

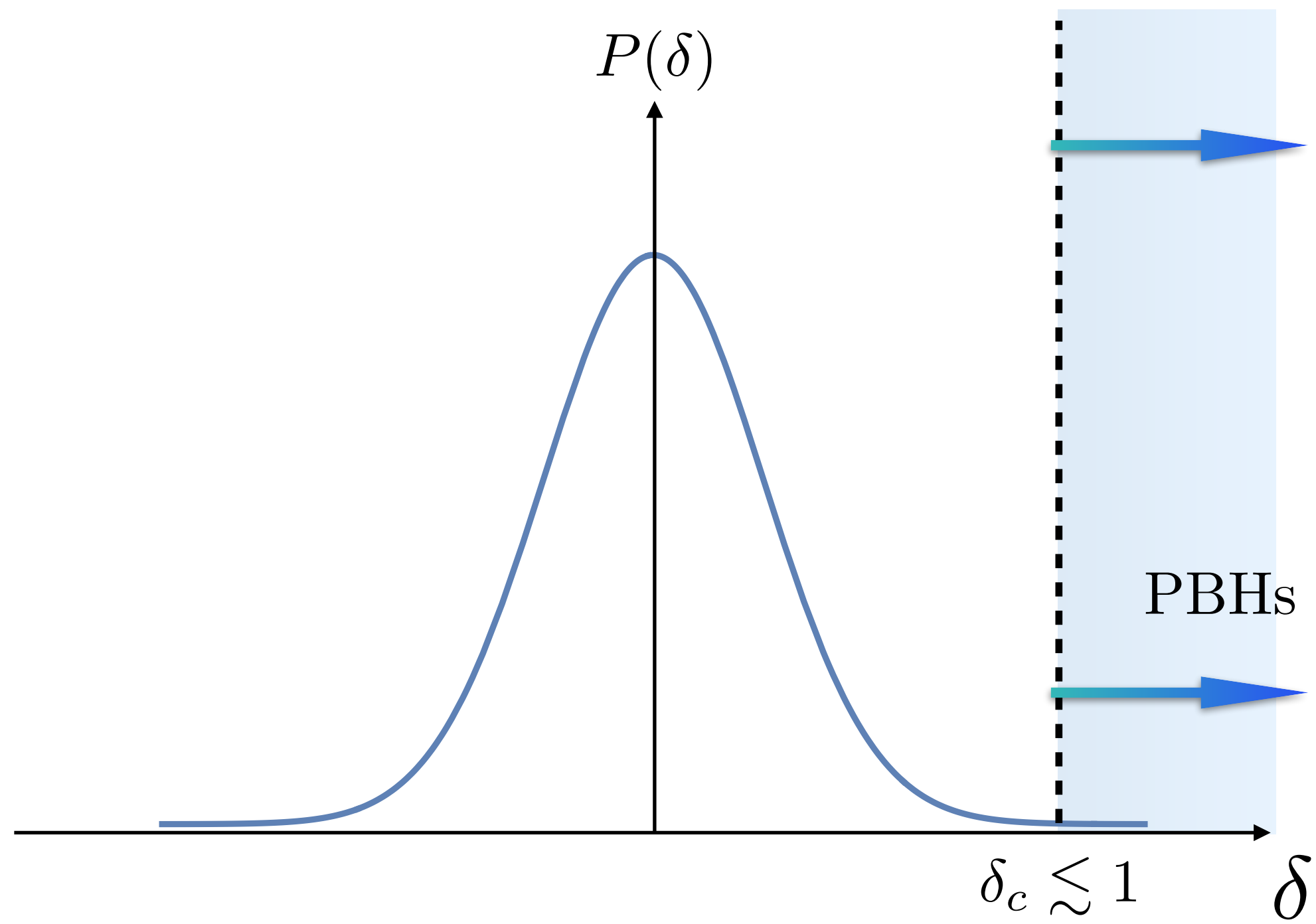


Ivanov, Naselsky, Novikov. 1994



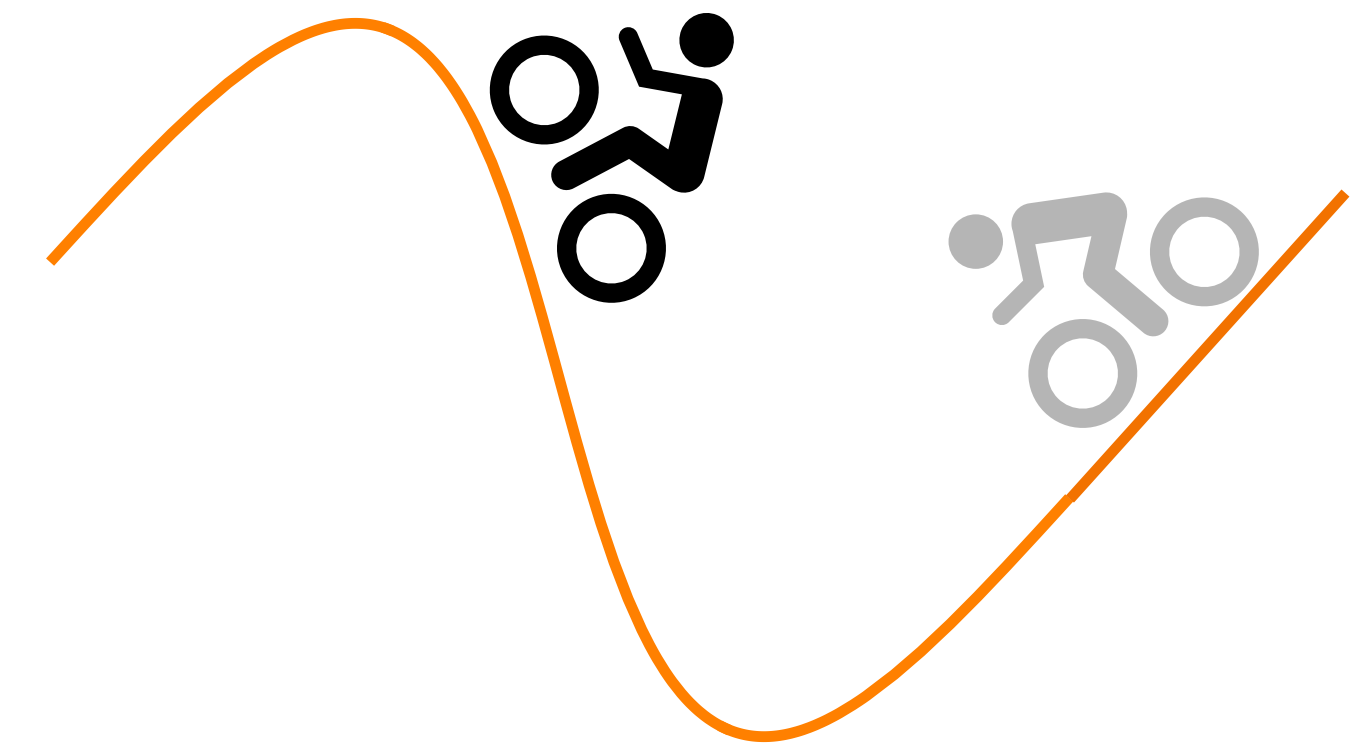
$$\mathcal{P}_{\mathcal{R}} \sim \left(\frac{H}{m_P}\right)^2 \left(\frac{H}{\dot{\phi}}\right)^2 \sim \frac{1}{m_P^2} \left(\frac{V}{V'}\right)^2 \frac{V}{m_P^4}$$

$$V(\phi) = \begin{cases} V_0 + A_+(\phi - \phi_0) & \text{for } \phi > \phi_0 \\ V_0 + A_-(\phi - \phi_0) & \text{for } \phi < \phi_0 \end{cases}$$



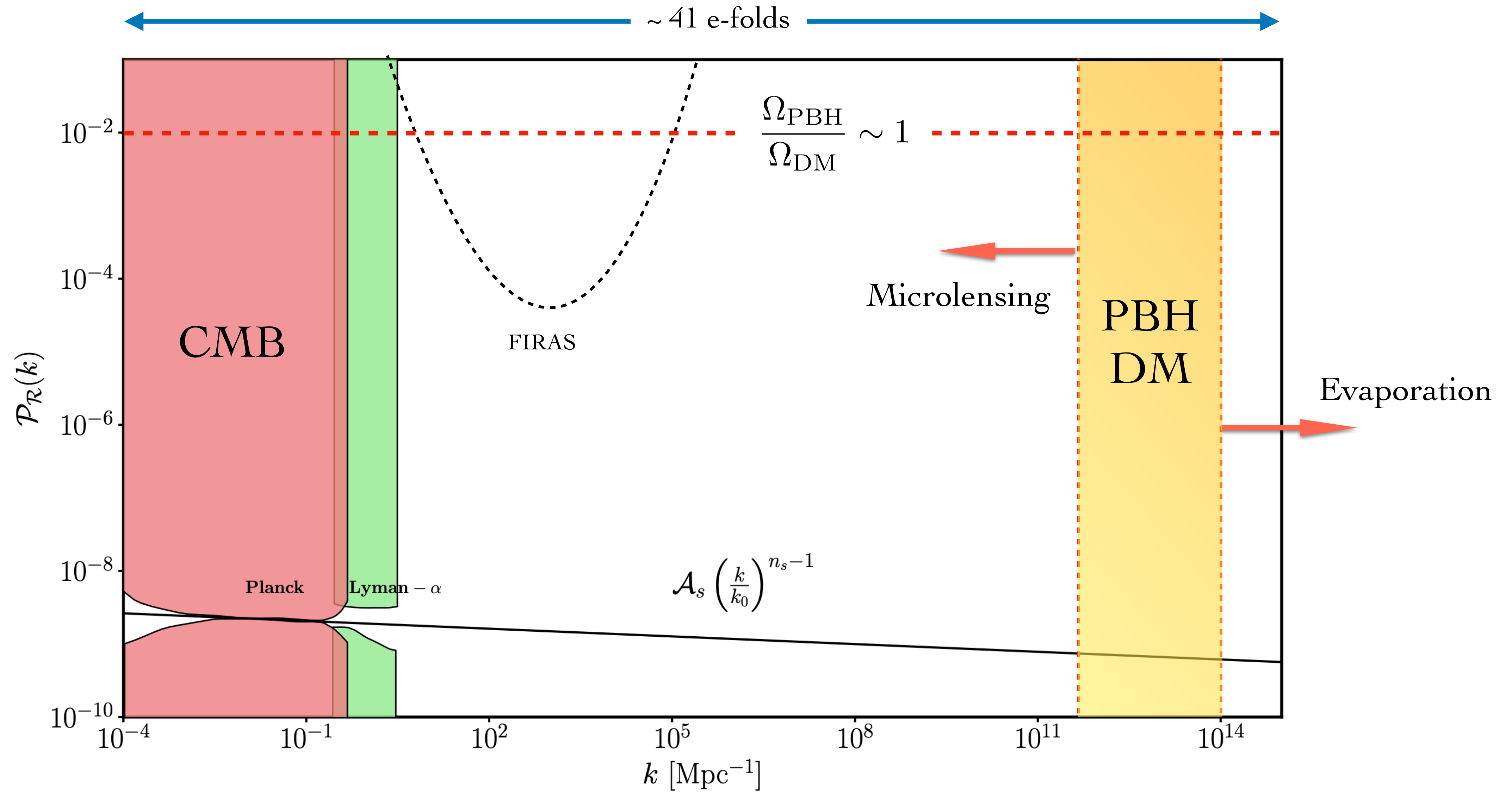
Ultra Slow-Roll (USR)

$$\ddot{\phi} + 3H\dot{\phi} \simeq 0$$



$$\mathcal{P}_{\mathcal{R}} \sim \left(\frac{H}{m_P}\right)^2 \left(\frac{H}{\dot{\phi}}\right)^2 \sim \frac{1}{m_P^2} \left(\frac{V}{V'}\right)^2 \frac{V}{m_P^4}$$

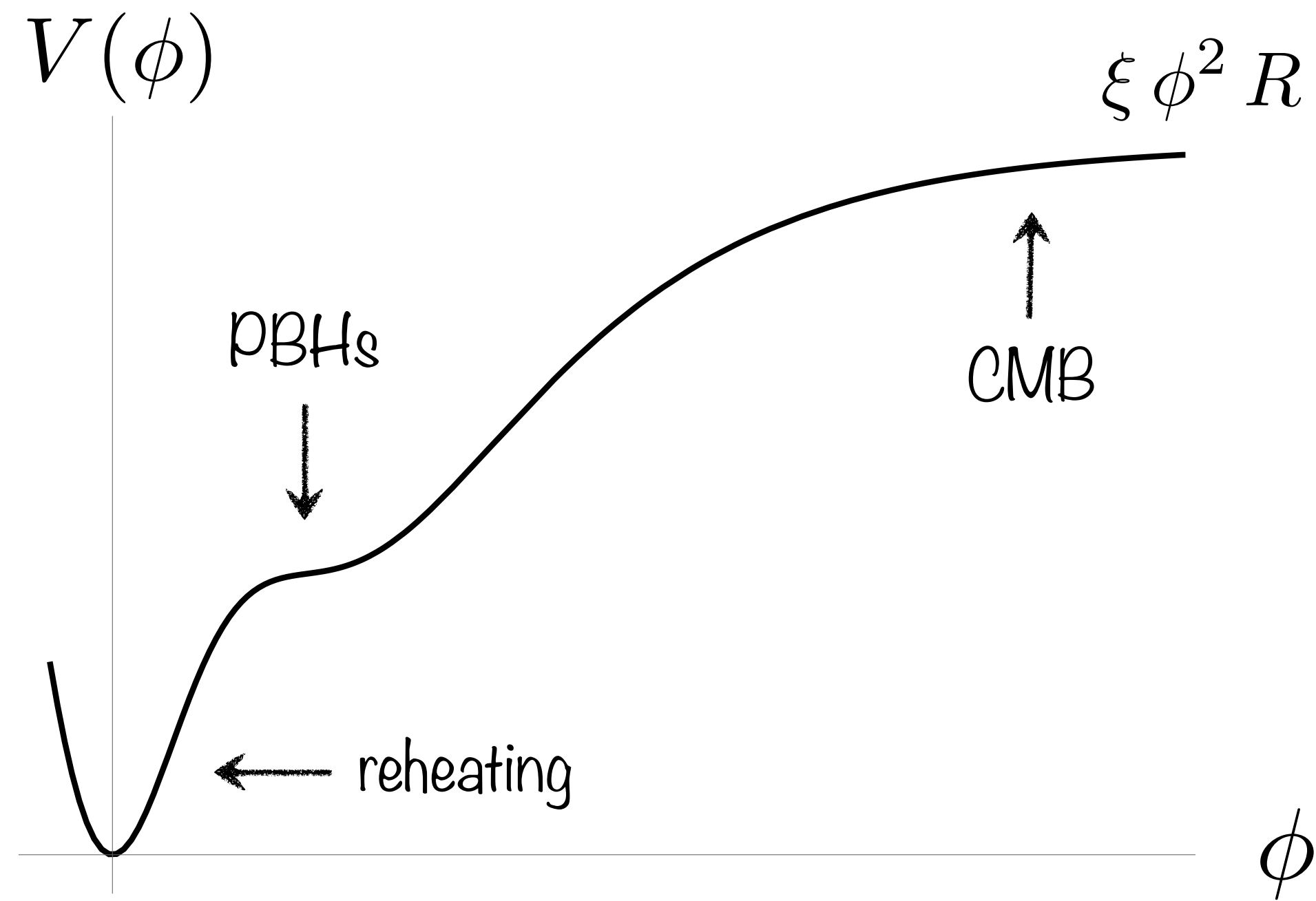
$$\eta \sim \frac{\ddot{\phi}}{\dot{\phi} H} \sim -3$$



Franco-Abellán, EUCAPT symposium 2023 (modified)

+ enough inflation & successful reheating

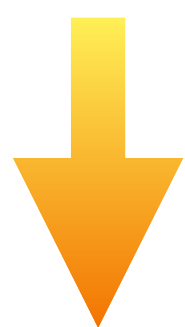




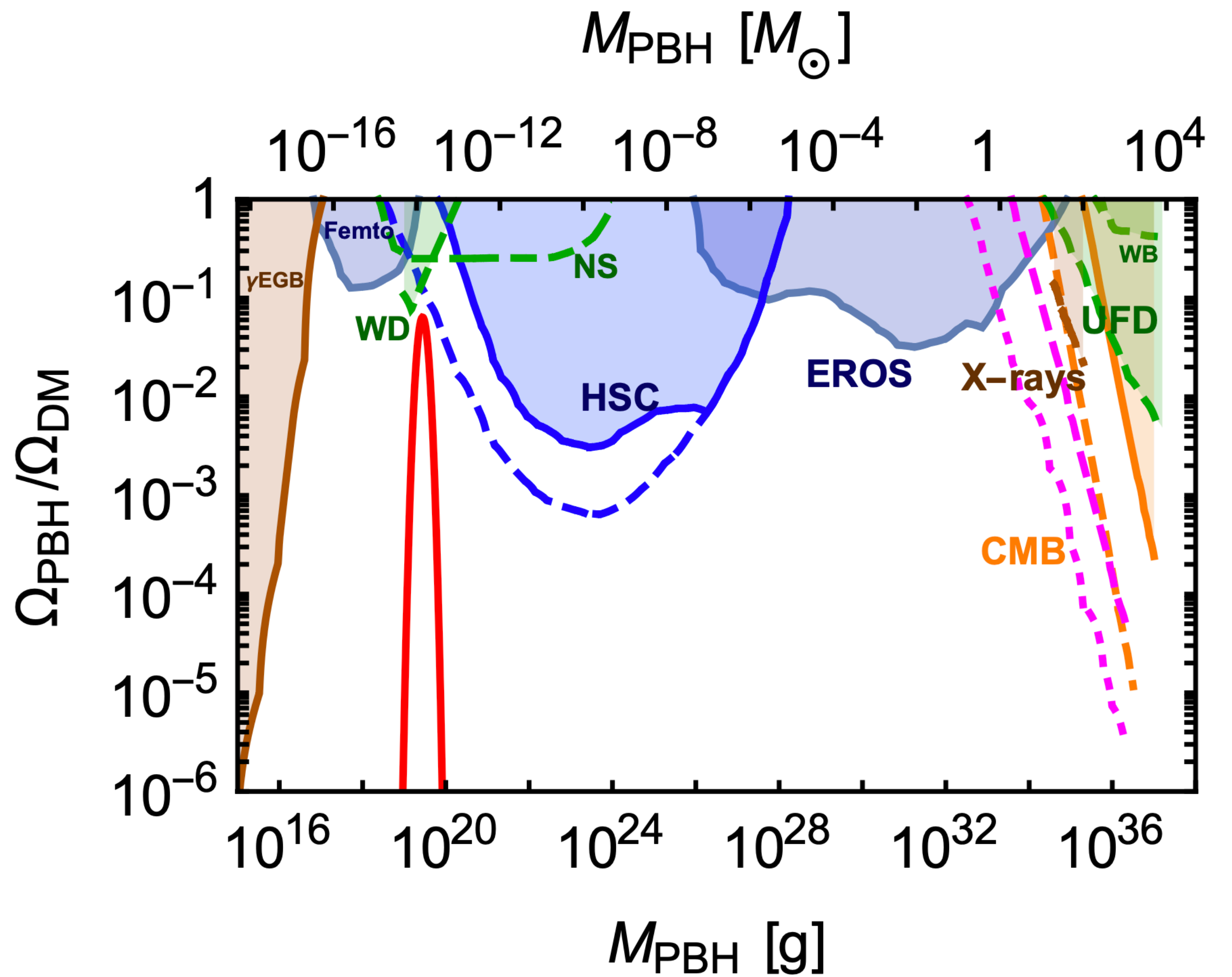
$$V = \lambda(\phi) \phi^4$$

$$\lambda(\phi) = \lambda(\phi_0) + \frac{1}{2} \beta_\lambda(\phi_0) \log \frac{\phi^2}{\phi_0^2} + \frac{1}{8} \beta'_\lambda(\phi_0) \left( \log \frac{\phi^2}{\phi_0^2} \right)^2 + \dots$$

- Enough inflation
- Agreement with the CMB  
(  $n_s$  within  $3\sigma$  )
- $\frac{\Omega_{\text{PBH}}}{\Omega_{\text{DM}}} \sim 1$  (Gaussian, RD)

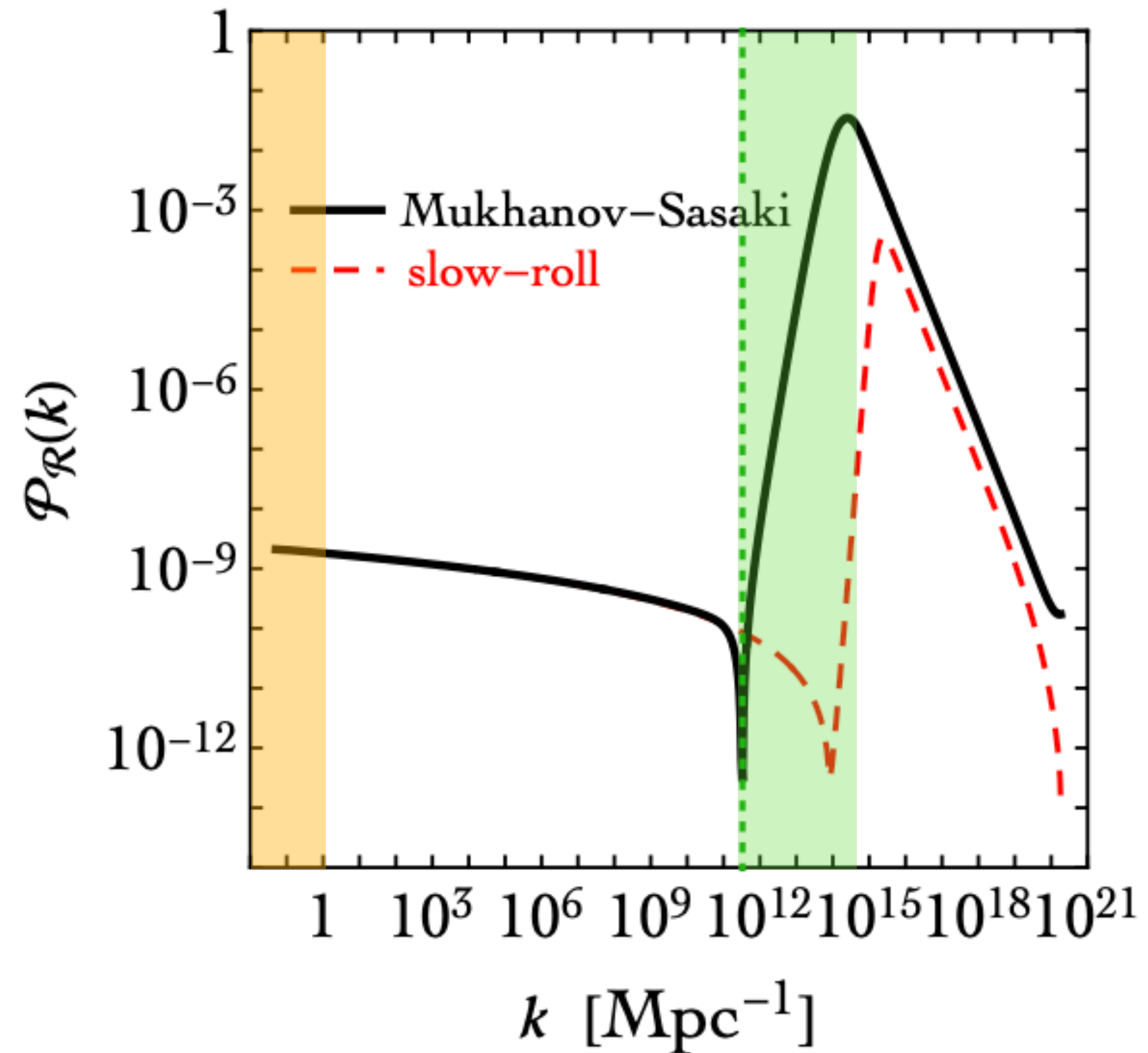


$$10^{-16} M_{\odot} \leftrightarrow 10^{-12} M_{\odot}$$



$$V = \sum_{n=2}^{4+\epsilon \mathcal{O}(5)} a_n \phi^n \quad (+ \xi \phi^2 R)$$

GB, Taoso 2017  
 GB, Rey, Taoso, Urbano 2020

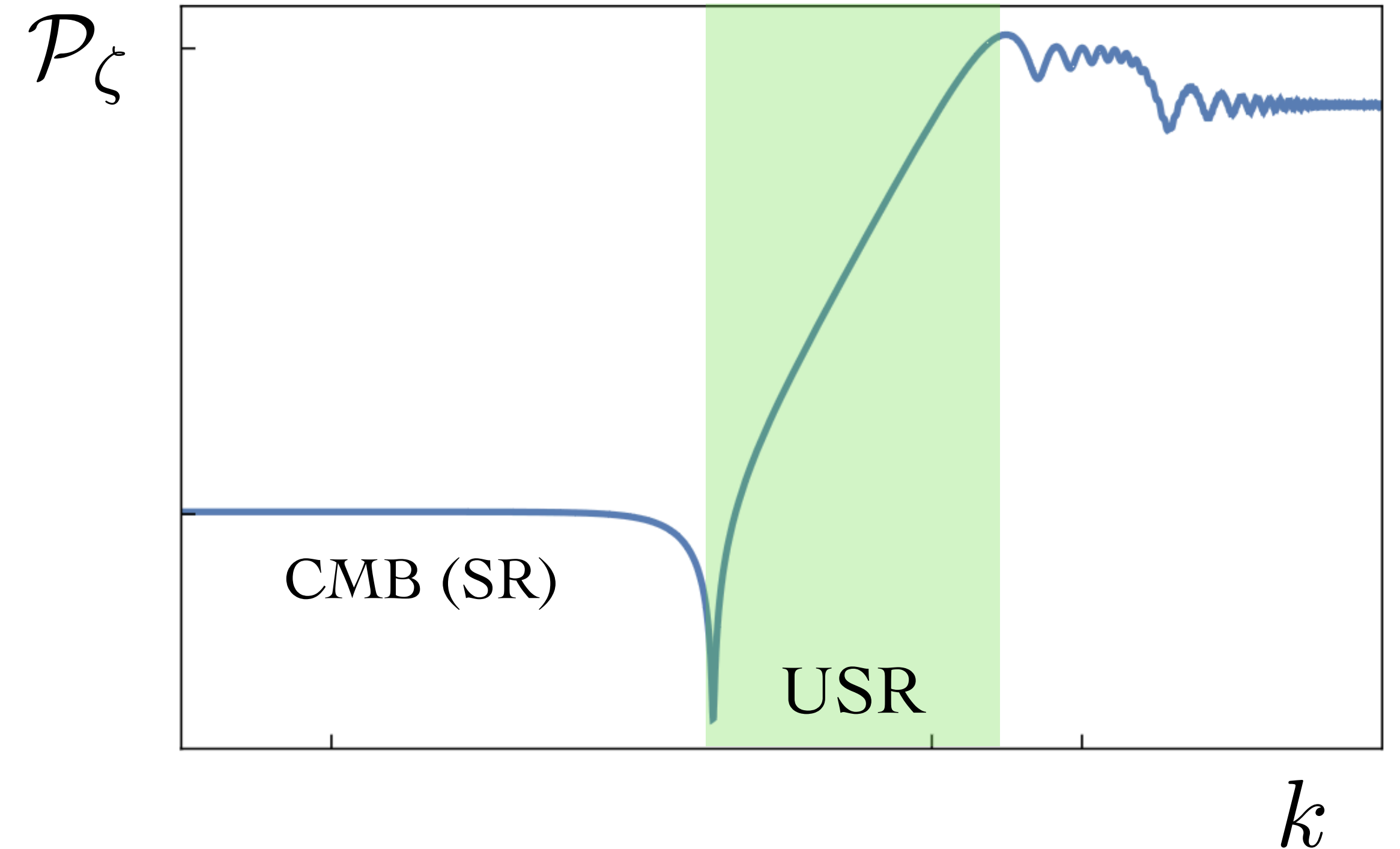
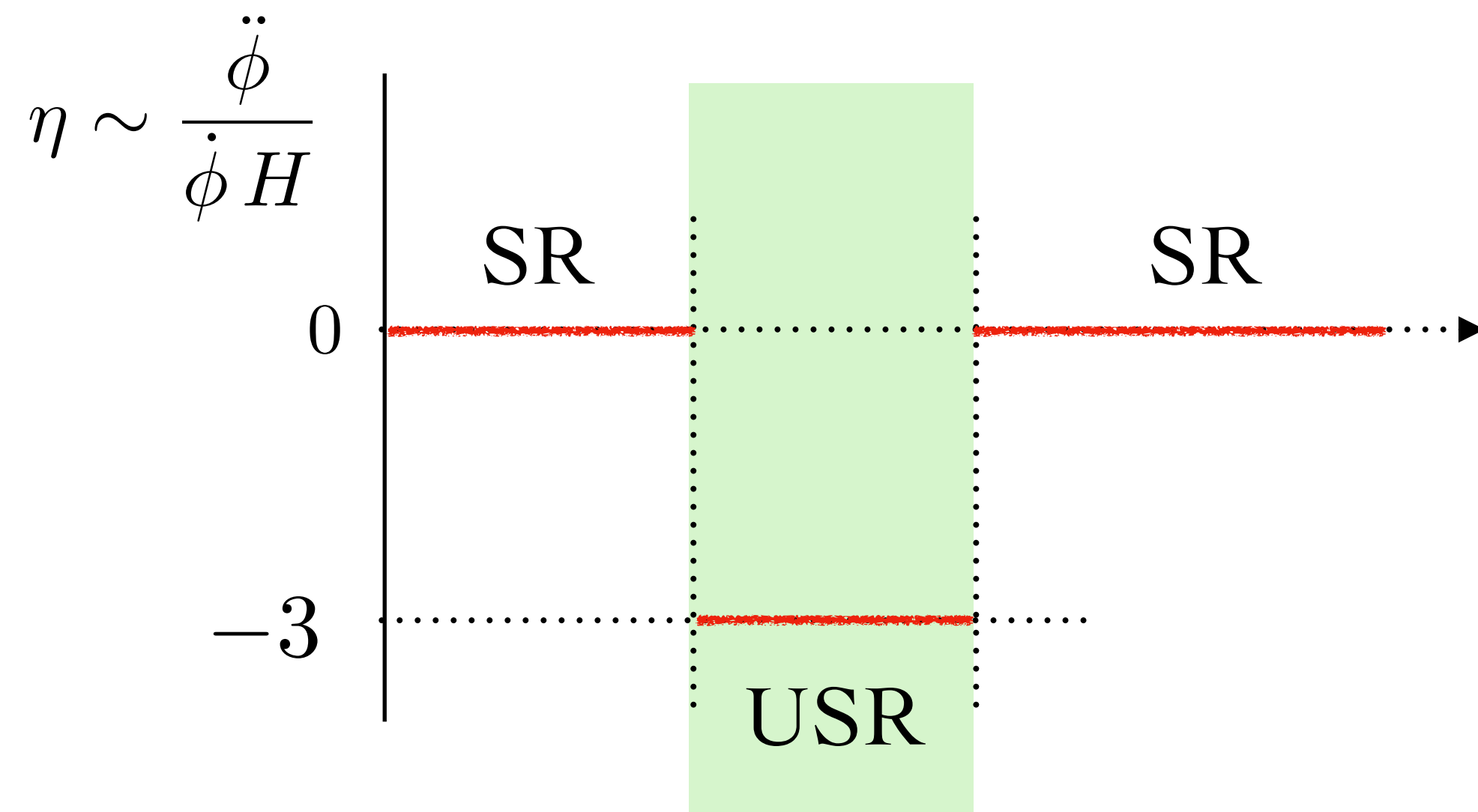


# Breakdown of perturbation theory in USR inflation?

Claim: *a large enough tree-level primordial spectrum for PBH DM implies perturbation theory breaks at CMB scales.*

Kristiano and Yokoyama, 2022 & 2023

Toy model: SR  $\rightarrow$  USR  $\rightarrow$  SR  
(with sharp transitions)



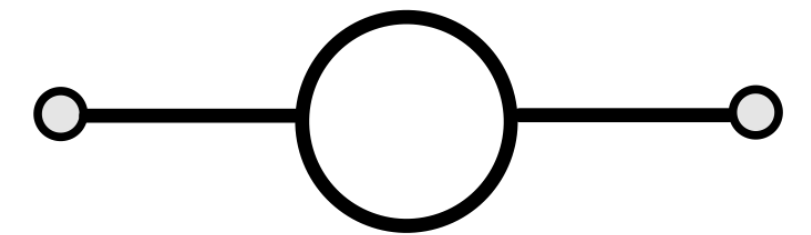
# Breakdown of perturbation theory in USR inflation?

Claim: *a large enough tree-level primordial spectrum for PBH DM implies perturbation theory breaks at CMB scales*

Kristiano and Yokoyama, 2022 & 2023

Method: Primordial spectrum at one-loop with the in-in formalism. SR approximation.

A single cubic interaction: 
$$H_{\text{int}} = -\frac{M_P^2}{2} \int d^3x \epsilon \eta' a^2 \zeta' \zeta^2$$



UV divergence: Cut-off given by location of spectral peak

$$\mathcal{P}_\zeta \ll \frac{1}{(\Delta\eta)^2} \simeq 0.03 \quad (\text{for perturbation theory to hold})$$

# Breakdown of perturbation theory in USR inflation?

It has been argued that the one-loop power spectrum at large scales is small (even zero)

Riotto 2023. Firouzjahi and Riotto 2023. Iacconi, Mulryne and Seery 2023. Inomata 2024.

E.g. Tada, Terada, Tokuda 2023:

*“We find that Maldacena's consistency relation is satisfied and guarantees the cancellation of contributions from the short-scale modes.”*



E.g. Franciolini, Iovino, Taoso, Urbano 2023

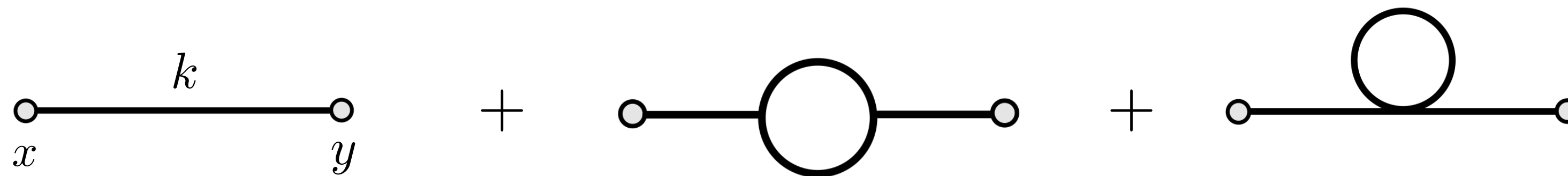
*“Loop corrections of short modes on the power spectrum of long modes are not large enough to violate perturbativity, but remain appreciable.”*

$\delta\phi$  – gauge at lowest order in  $\epsilon$

$$S = \int d\tau d^3\mathbf{x} \left[ \frac{a^2}{2} \left( (\partial_\tau \delta\phi)^2 - (\partial_i \delta\phi)^2 \right) - a^4 \sum_{n \geq 2} \frac{V_n \delta\phi^n}{n!} \right]$$

$$a^2 V_2 = -(aH)^2 (\nu^2 - 9/4), \quad a^2 V_3 = -\frac{aH(\nu^2)'}{\sqrt{2\epsilon} M_P}, \quad a^2 V_4 = -\frac{1}{2\epsilon M_P^2} \left( (\nu^2)'' - aH(\nu^2)' \left( 1 + \frac{\eta}{2} \right) \right)$$

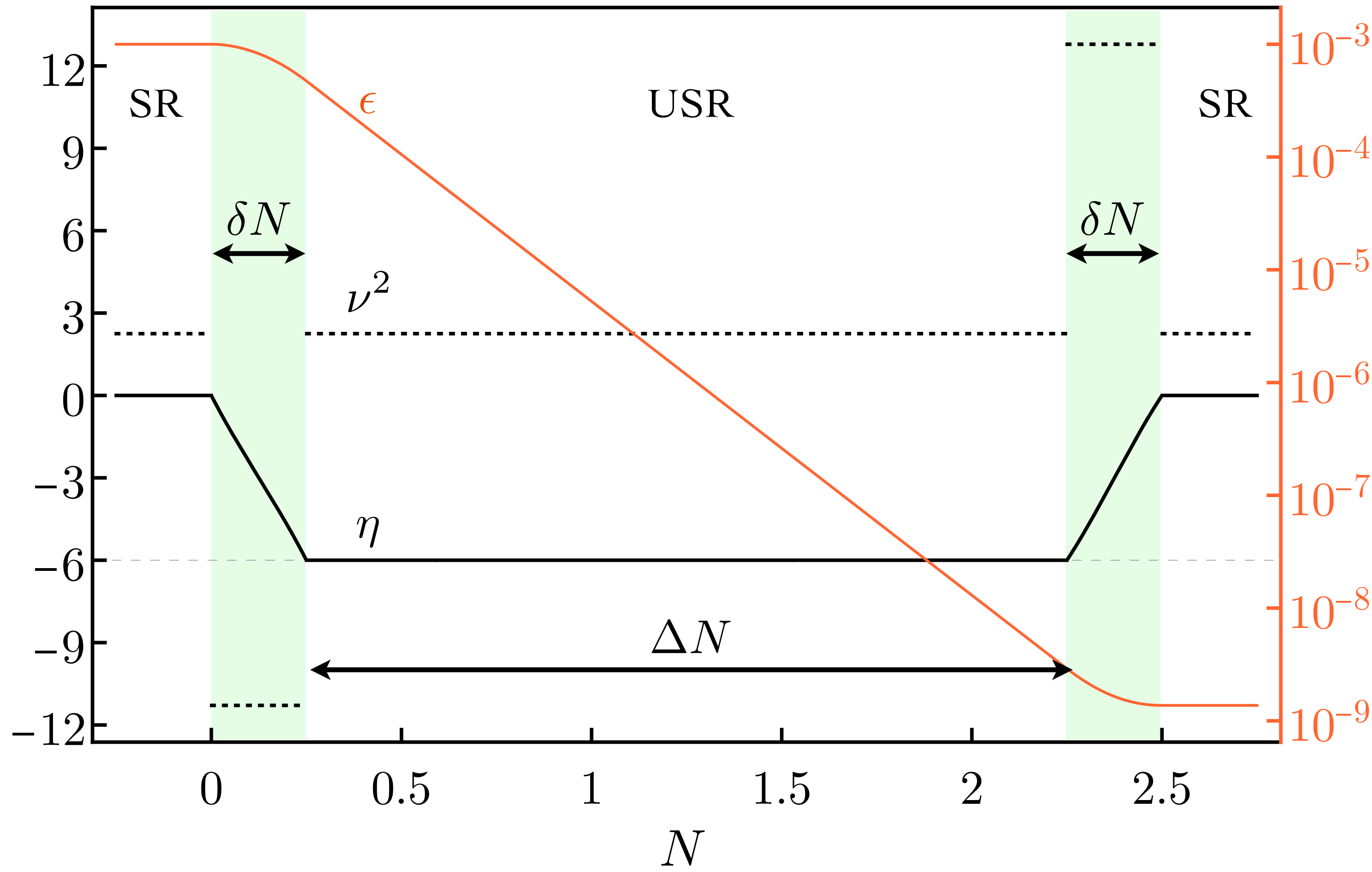
$$\nu^2 = \frac{9}{4} + \frac{1}{2} \left( 3\eta + \frac{\eta^2}{2} + \frac{\eta'}{aH} \right)$$



$$\mathcal{P}_\zeta = \frac{1}{2\epsilon M_P^2} \mathcal{P}_{\delta\phi}$$

Two-parameter model.

$$\nu^2 = \frac{9}{4} + \frac{1}{2} \left( 3\eta + \frac{\eta^2}{2} + \frac{\eta'}{aH} \right) \quad \text{is piece-wise constant.}$$



$$V_{3,4} \sim \Delta\nu^2 \delta(N - N_*)$$

$$|\nu^2| \rightarrow \frac{3}{\delta N} \quad \text{when} \quad \delta N \rightarrow 0$$



$$S = \int d\tau d^3\mathbf{x} M_P^2 a^2 \epsilon \left( (\zeta')^2 - (\partial\zeta)^2 + \frac{\eta'}{2} \zeta' \zeta^2 \right)$$

Interaction Hamiltonian *in the interaction picture*:  
(in which the conjugate momentum only sees the free action)

$$H_I(\tau) = \int d^3\mathbf{x} M_P^2 a^2 \epsilon \left( -\frac{\eta'}{2} \zeta' \zeta^2 + \frac{(\eta')^2}{16} \zeta^4 \right)$$

(See also Firouzjahi, 2023)

1. Same two-point function computed in both gauges in the limit of instantaneous transitions.
2. The consistency relation holds (checked at tree-level) by direct calculation in both gauges:

$$B_\zeta(\tau; \mathbf{k}, \mathbf{p}, -\mathbf{p}) = -\frac{d \log \mathcal{P}_\zeta(\tau, p)}{d \log p} P_\zeta(\tau, p) P_\zeta(\tau, k)$$

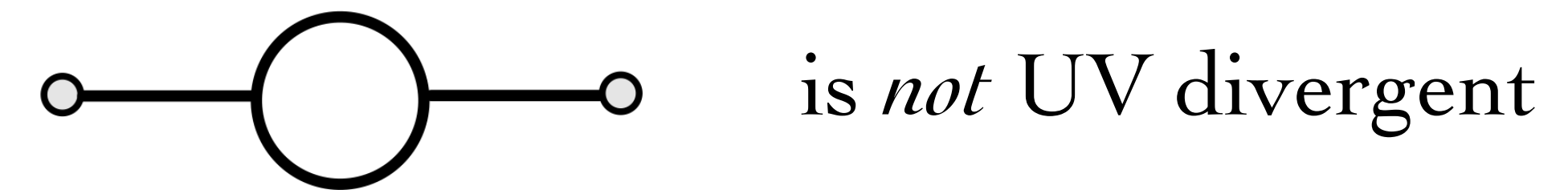
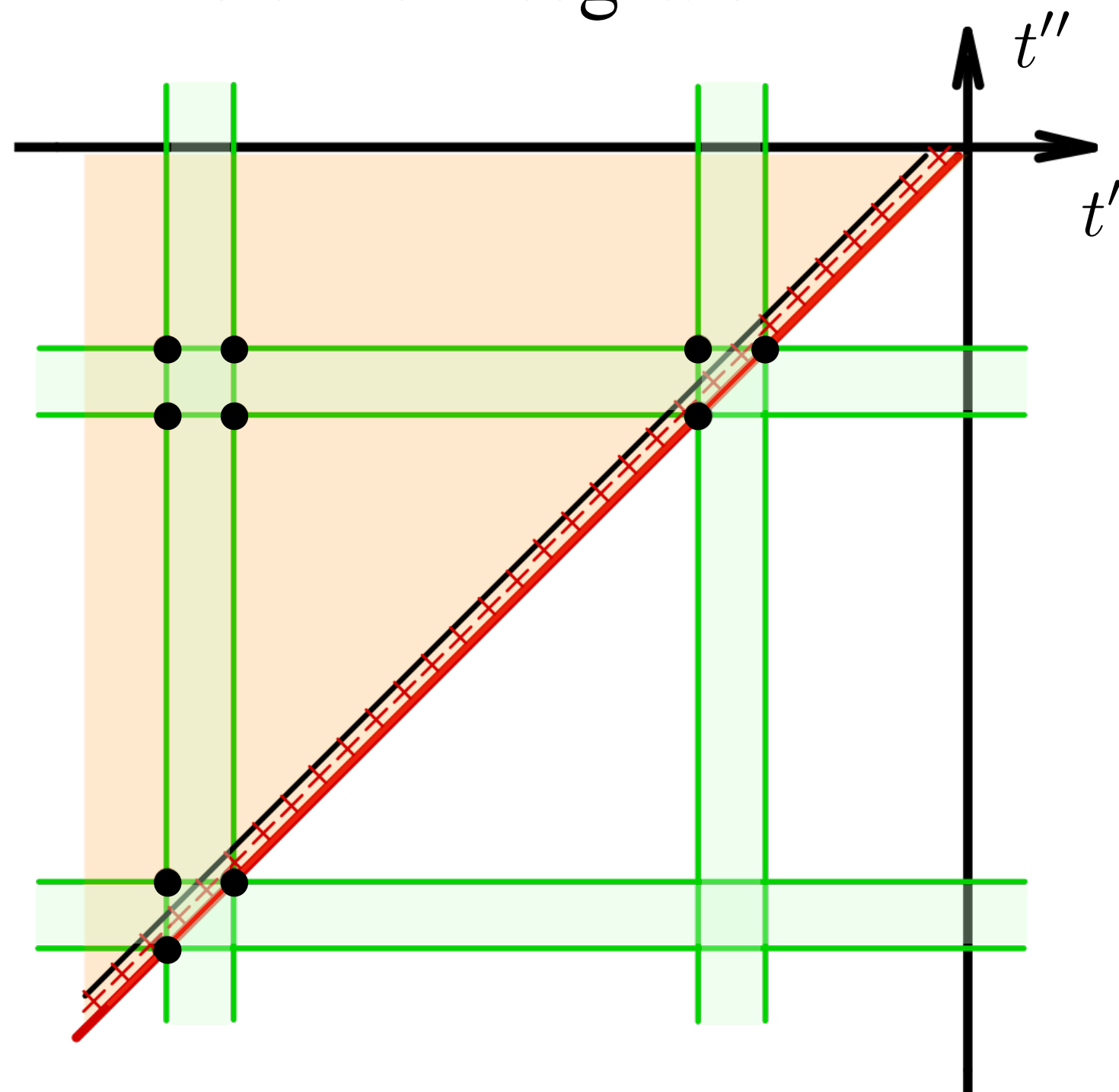
(Finite tree-level bispectrum for instantaneous transitions)

# Two point function in the In-In Formalism (at 1-loop) in flat gauge

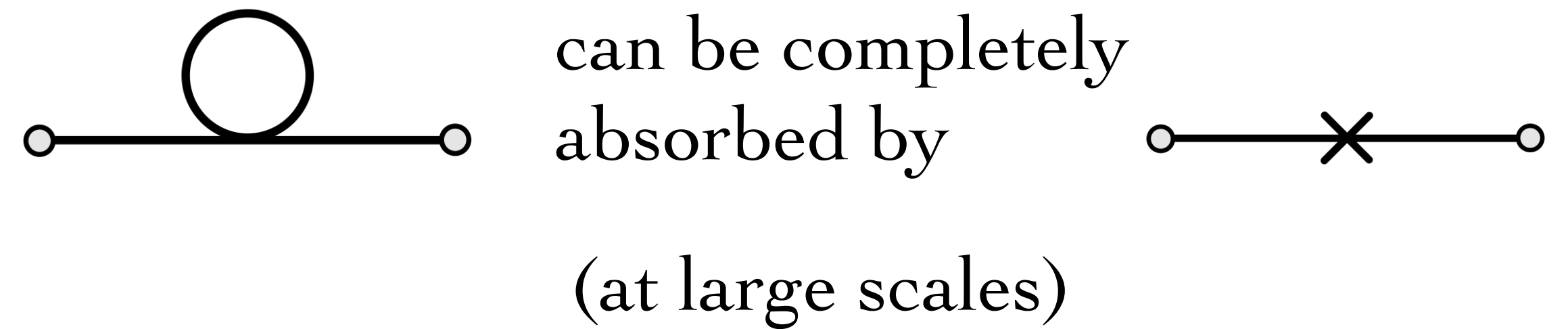
One momentum integral:

$$\int^{\infty} d^3\mathbf{p} \rightarrow \int^{\Lambda} d^3\mathbf{p}$$

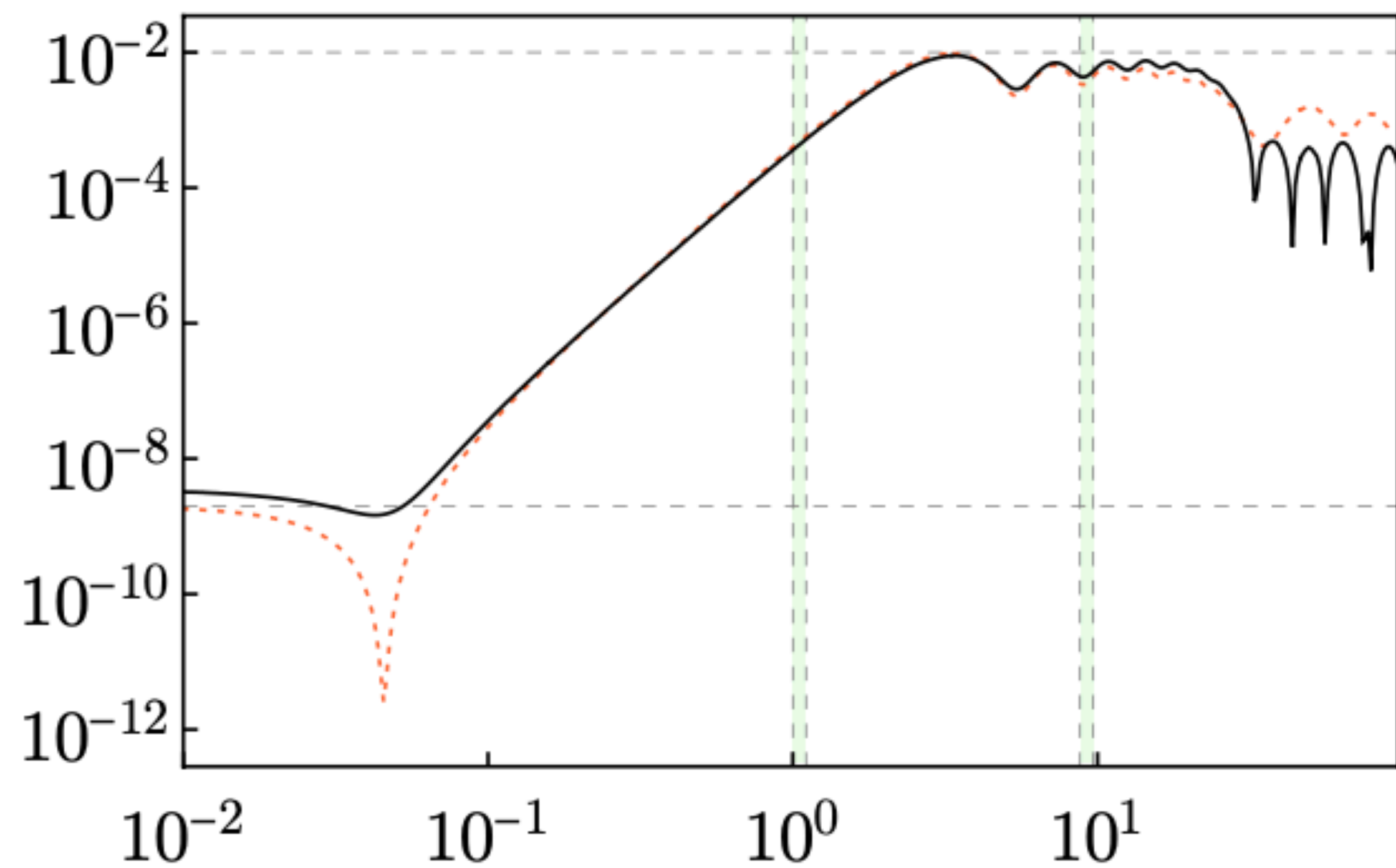
Two time integrals:



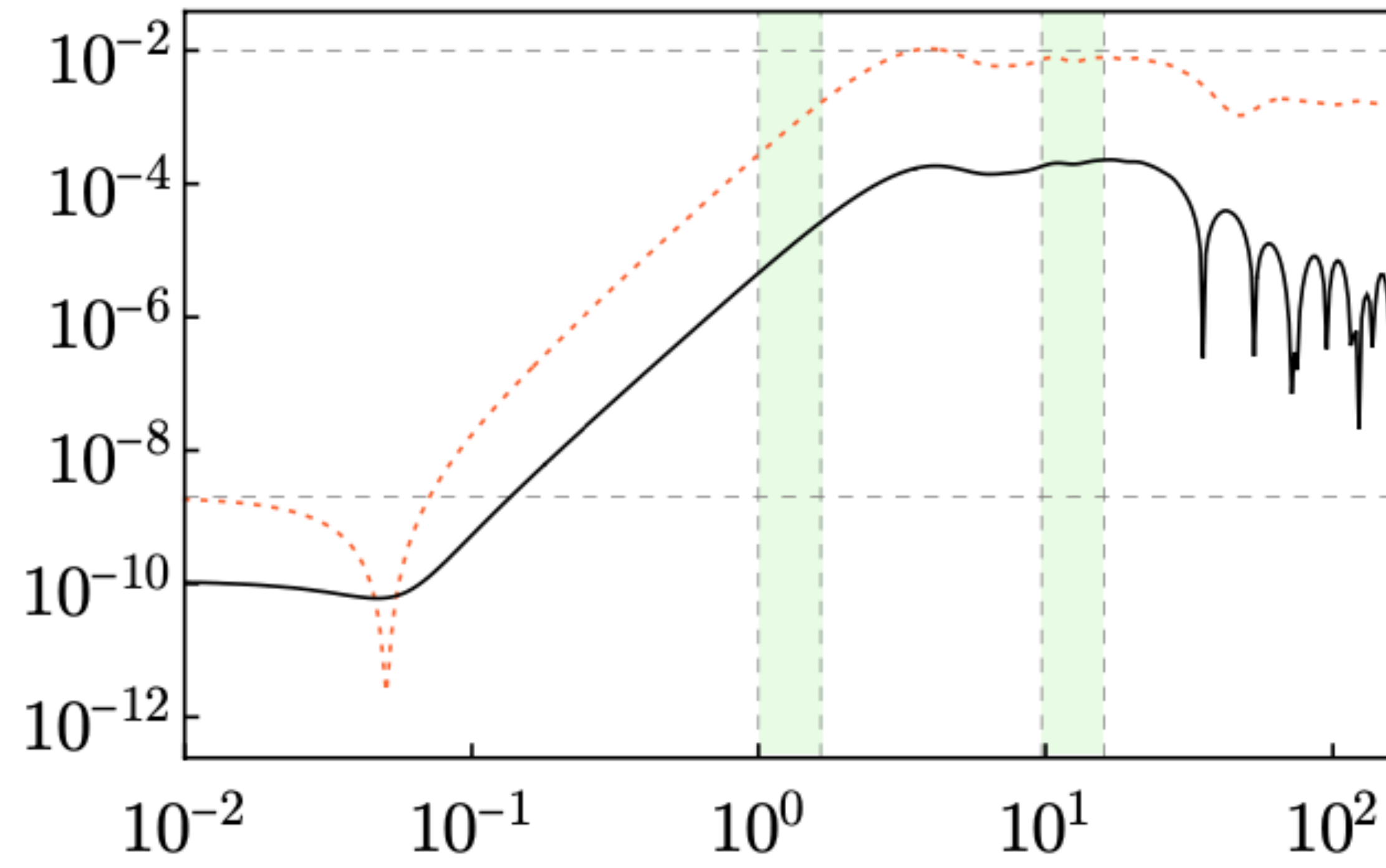
$$\tau_{\pm} \equiv \tau(1 \pm i\omega) \quad \text{prescription is key}$$

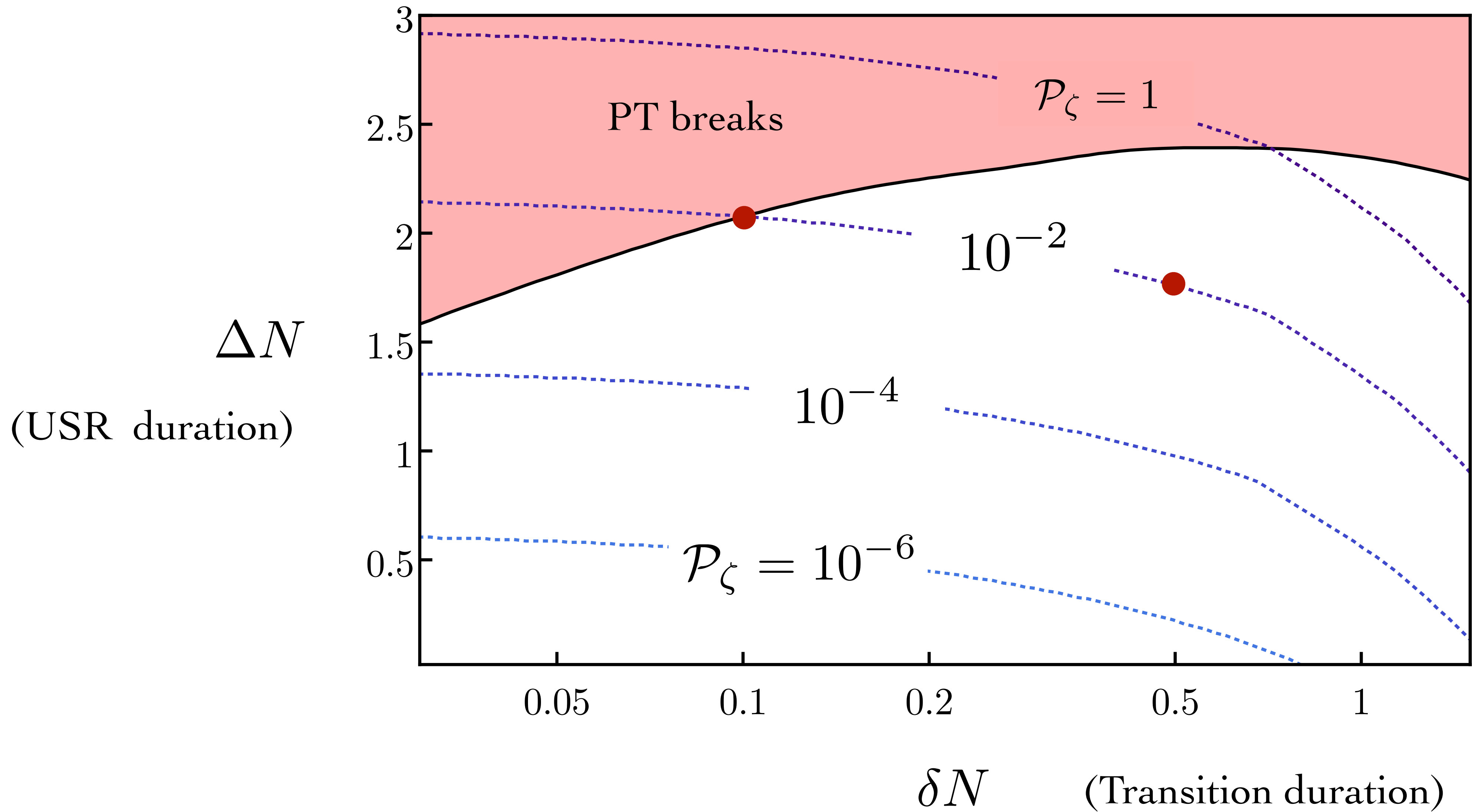


$$\delta N = 0.1, \quad \Delta N = 2$$

 $k/k_0$ 

$$\delta N = 0.5, \quad \Delta N = 1.8$$

 $k/k_0$



## Other mechanisms to form PBH

- \* Single-field inflation other than USR
- \* Transient Dissipation during inflation

\* Single-field inflation other than USR

$$\mathcal{S} = \int d^4x M \frac{a^3 \epsilon}{c_s^2} \left( \dot{\mathcal{R}}^2 - \frac{c_s^2}{a^2} |\nabla \mathcal{R}|^2 \right) \quad \mathcal{R} \simeq C_1 + C_2 \int \frac{c_s^2}{a^3 M^2 \epsilon H} dN$$

Rate of change of  $\epsilon$

$$\frac{d\mathcal{R}}{dN} \propto \exp \left[ - \int (3 + \epsilon - 2\eta - 2s + \mu) dN \right]$$

Rate of change of  $c_s$

Rate of change of  $M$

✱ Dissipation during inflation

Background:  $\ddot{\phi} + (3H + \mathbf{\Gamma})\dot{\phi} + V' = 0$

Fluctuations (schematically):  $\delta\ddot{\phi}_{\mathbf{k}} + (3H + \Gamma)\delta\dot{\phi}_{\mathbf{k}} + \left(\frac{k^2}{a^2} + \dot{\phi}\Gamma_{\phi}\right)\delta\phi_{\mathbf{k}} \propto \sqrt{\frac{2\Gamma T}{a^3}}\xi_{\mathbf{k}}(t)$

(Stochastic thermal noise)



## Dissipation during inflation

Langevin approach

$$\Phi \equiv \left( \psi, \delta\rho_r, \frac{d\delta\phi}{dN}, \delta\phi \right)^T$$

$$d\Phi + \mathbf{A} \Phi dN = \mathbf{B} \xi dN$$

System of stochastic differential equations

10000 realizations required for a  $\sim 1\%$  relative error  
in the primordial spectrum

$\sim 1$  day (in a 50-core cluster)

Matrix formalism

$$\mathbf{Q} \equiv \langle \Phi \Phi^\dagger \rangle_S$$

$$\frac{d\mathbf{Q}}{dN} = -\mathbf{A}\mathbf{Q} - \mathbf{Q}\mathbf{A}^T + \mathbf{B}\mathbf{B}^T.$$

System of ODE for two-point functions

Exact solution (in a single “realization”)

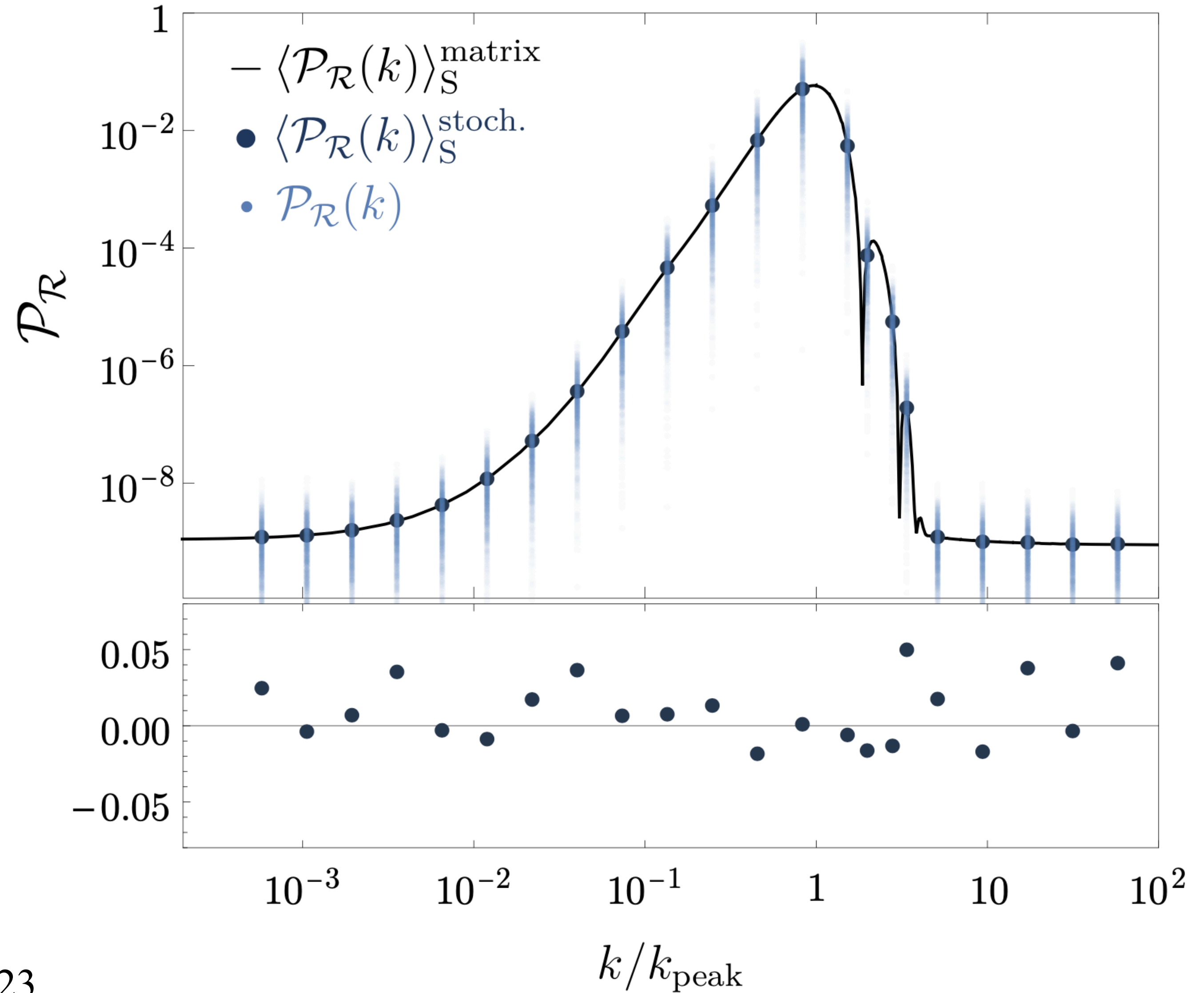
$\sim 1$  minute (in a 4-core laptop)





# Dissipation during inflation

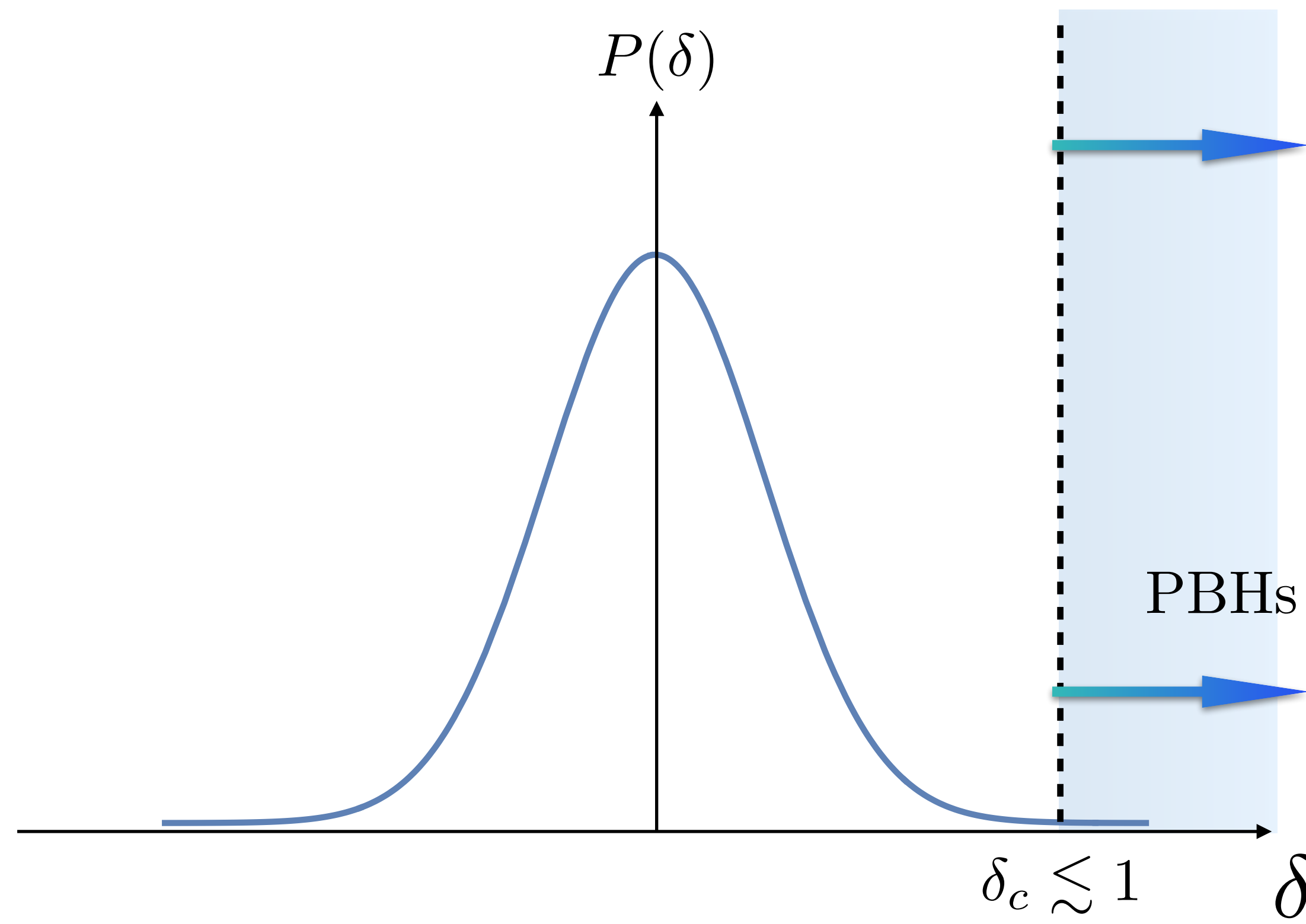
Each blue vertical band  
=  
About 2000 realizations per k-mode



# Summary

- Asteroid-mass PBHs are a strong contender to explain DM
- Ultra-slow roll inflation: alive
- Other ideas worth exploring (e.g. EFT of inflation, transient dissipation)
- PBH studies are leading to new insights and methods for inflation

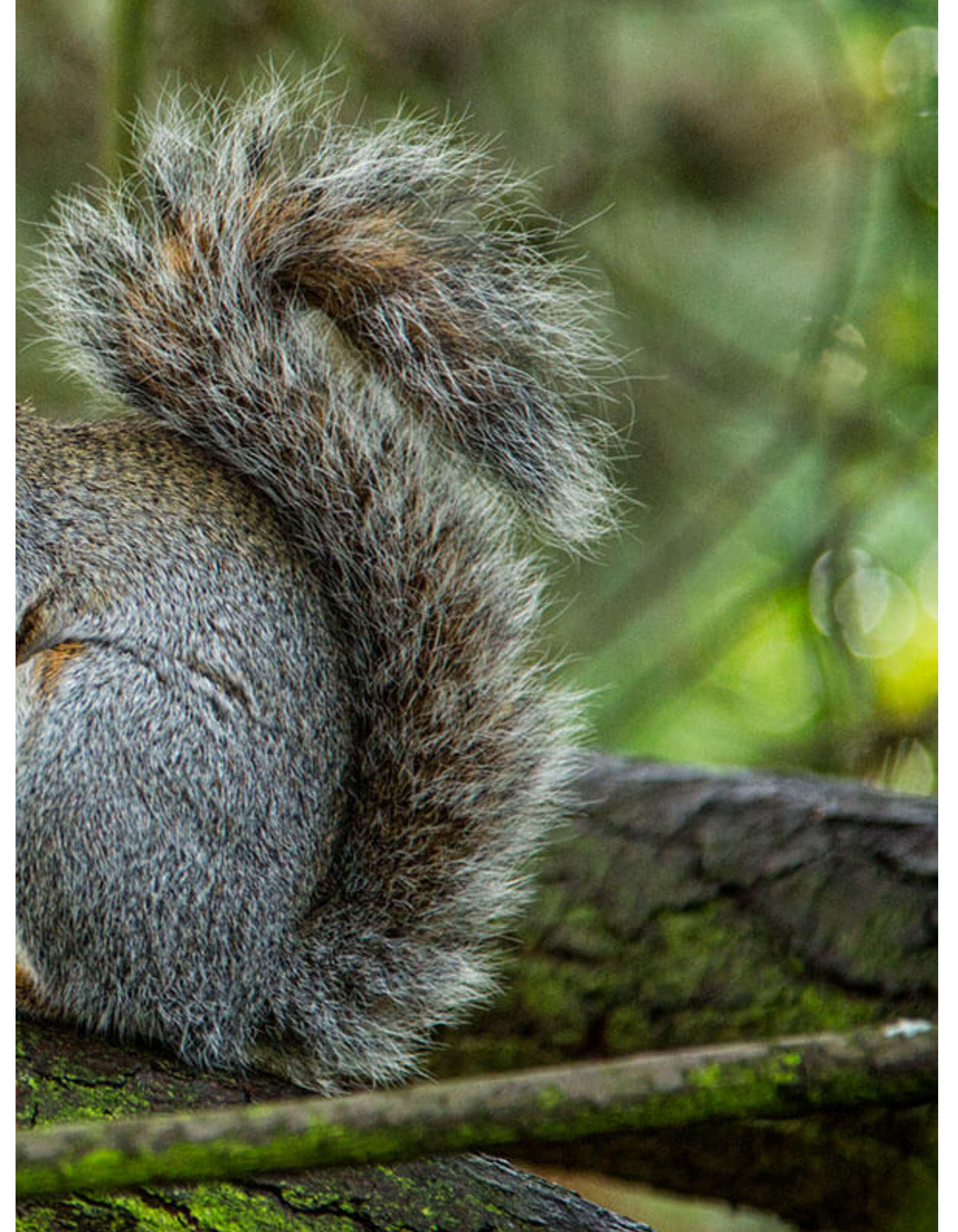
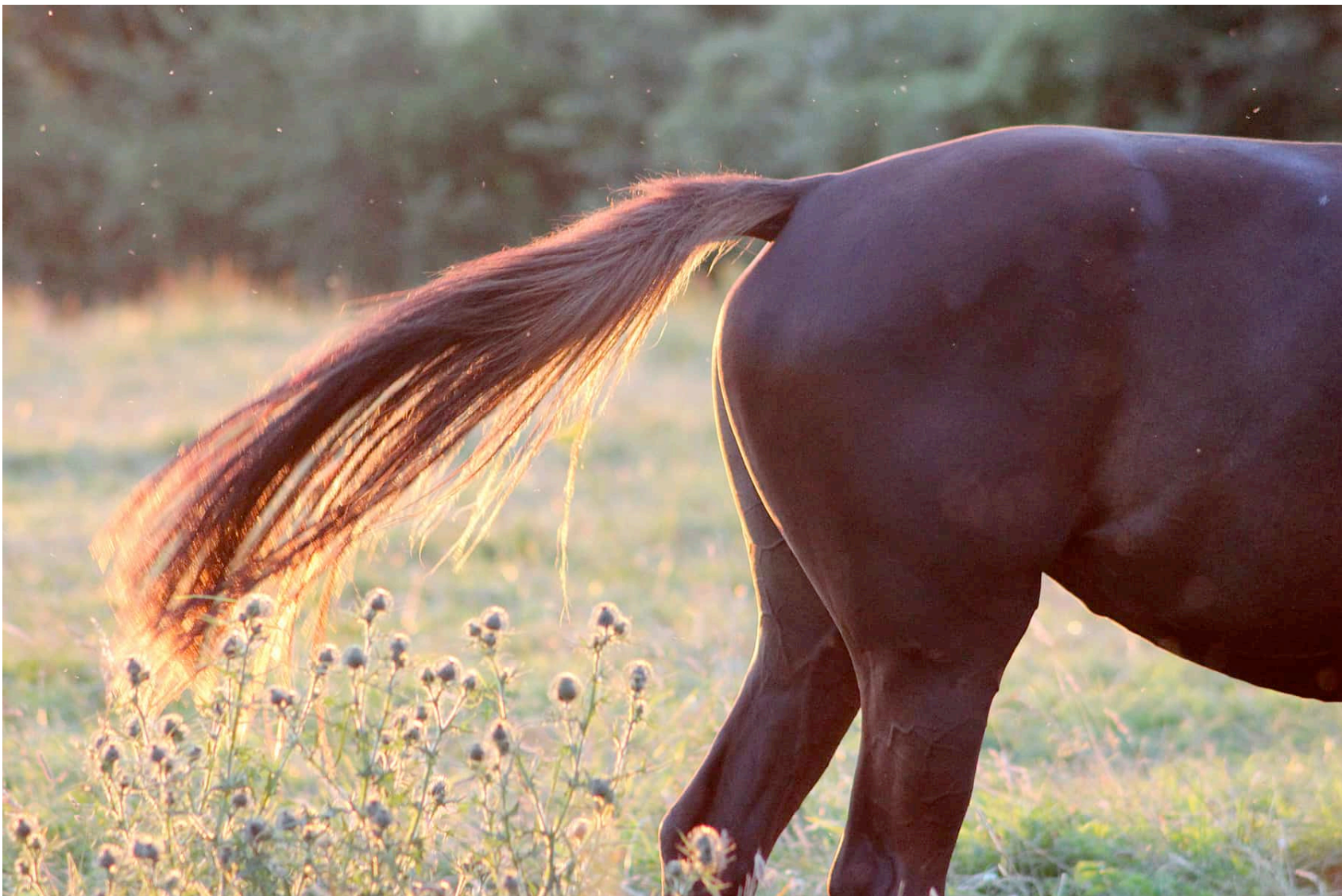
# The problem of the abundance



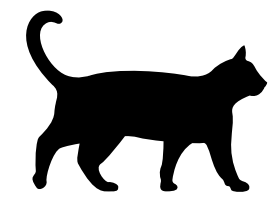
$$\frac{\Omega_{\text{PBH}}}{\Omega_{\text{DM}}} = \int_{\delta_c}^{\infty} f(\delta) d\delta$$



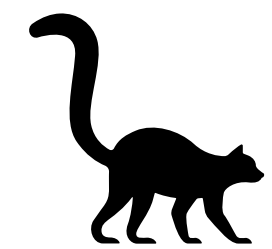
How does the tail of the PDF look like?





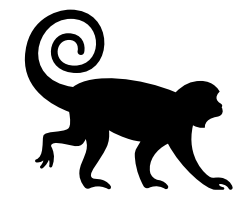


The relation between  $\zeta$  and  $\delta$  is non-linear



$\zeta$  is, in general, intrinsically non-gaussian

$$f(\delta) \sim \exp\left(-\frac{\zeta}{2\mathcal{P}_\zeta} + \frac{\langle\zeta\zeta\zeta\rangle}{\mathcal{P}_\zeta^3}\zeta^3 + \dots\right) \quad \text{Small corrections for small } \zeta$$



Several indications of non-gaussian tails, for large  $\zeta$

Non-linear saddle point for  $\zeta^4$

Celoria, Creminelli, Tambalo, Yingcharoenrat 2021

USR { Stochastic inflation, numerically  
Stochastic  $\delta N$  formalism

Figuera, Raatikainen, Rasanen, Tomberg 2020

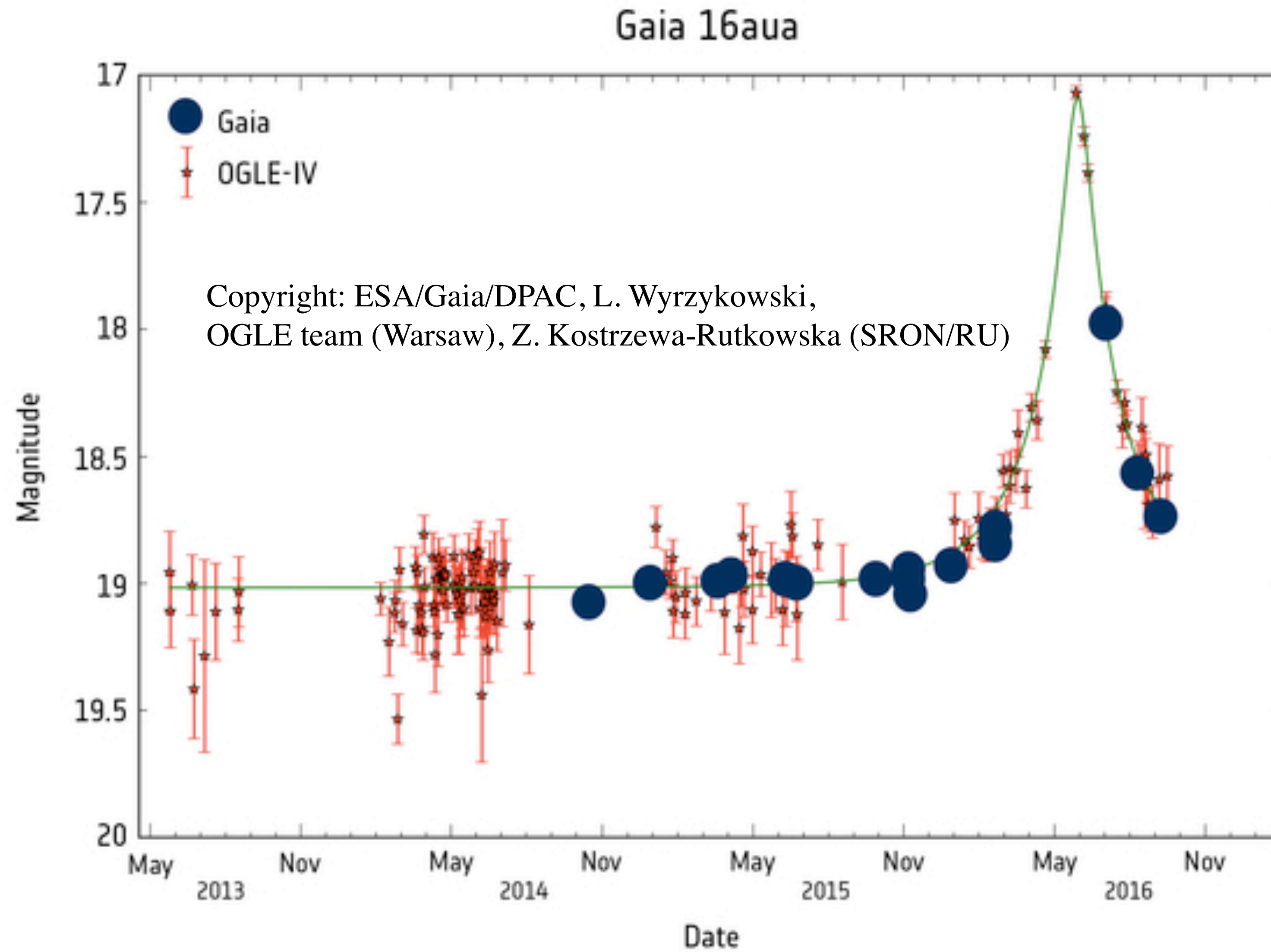
Pattison, Vennin, Wands, Assadullahi 2021

$$\frac{\dot{\phi}}{H} \gg \frac{H}{2\pi} \quad \longrightarrow \quad \mathcal{P}_\zeta \ll 1 \quad \text{Quantum diffusion}$$

Non-Gaussian tails in the PDF of curvature perturbations arise in USR inflation without invoking stochastic inflation.

GB, Konstandin, Pérez Rodríguez, Pierre, Rey 2024

# Microlensing



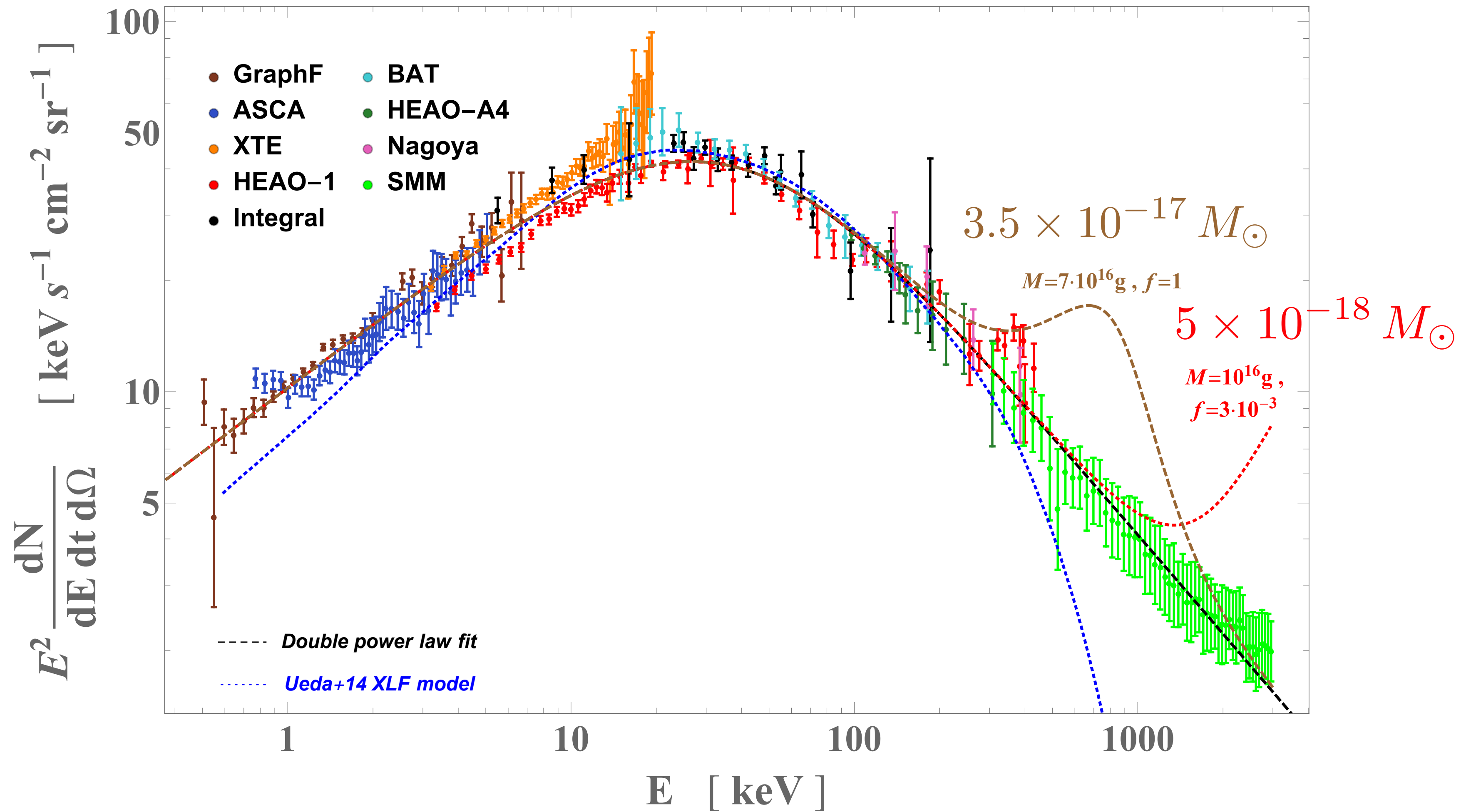
Eros, OGLE: Galactic Bulge and Magellanic Clouds.  
Subaru HSC: M31 (finite source and wave optics effects)

$$\text{For } M \sim 10^{-10} M_{\odot}, \quad r_s \sim \lambda$$

# Evaporation by Hawking radiation

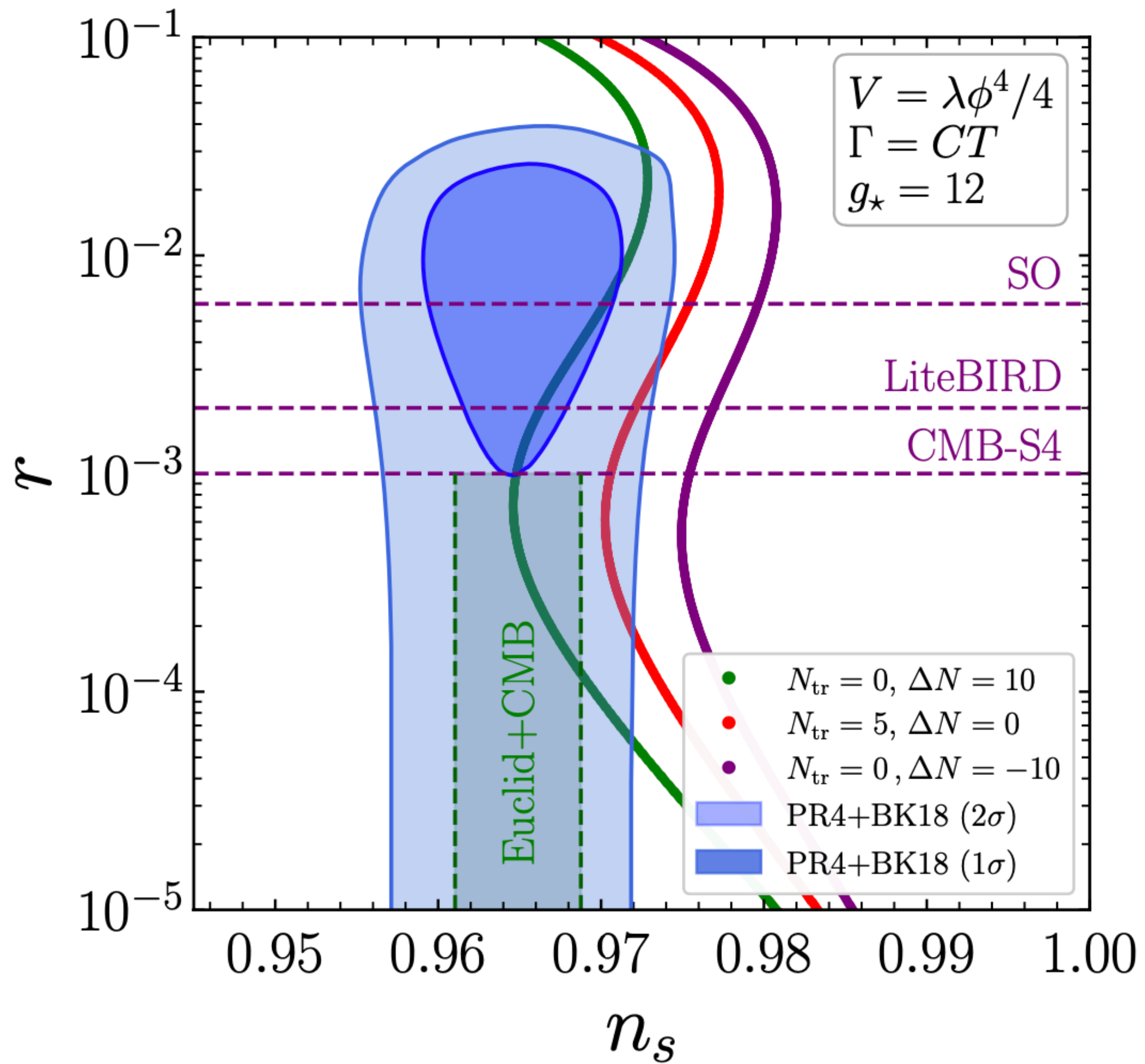
$$T = \frac{\hbar c^2}{8\pi G k_B M} = 6 \times 10^{-8} \frac{M_\odot}{M} K$$

Bound for  $M \lesssim 10^{17} \text{ g} \simeq 5 \times 10^{-17} M_\odot$





# Warm inflation



	$\phi^6$	$\phi^4$	$\phi^2$
Warm little inflation Bastero-Gil et al. 2016	✓	✓	✗
Minimal warm inflation Berghaus et al. 2019	✗	✓	✗
Bastero-Gil et al. 2012	✗	✗	✗