

# Tachyonic Production of Primordial Black Holes and Gravitational Waves in Higgs- $R^2$ Inflation

*“The Inflaton that Could”*

Dhong Yeon Cheong (Yonsei University)  
(in collab. with Kazunori Kohri, Seong Chan Park)

[DYC, K.Kohri, S.C.Park, arXiv 2205.14813](#)

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“Fundamental Forces from Colliders to Gravitational Waves”,  
June. 23rd, 2022



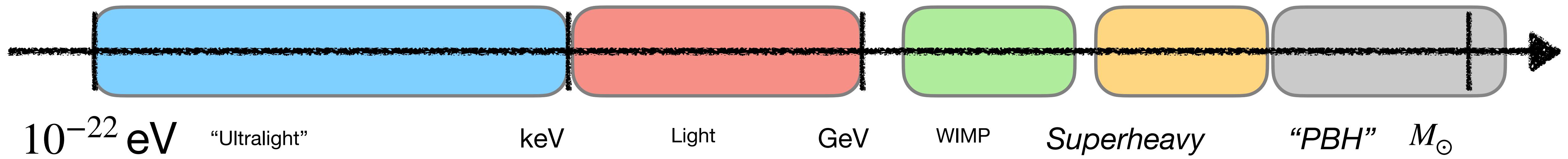
**연세대학교**  
YONSEI UNIVERSITY

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- ❖ Higgs- $R^2$  model
- ❖ Ultra-slow-roll in Higgs- $R^2$ .
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- ❖ Phenomenological Consequences, Primordial Black Holes, Gravitational Waves
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# Introduction - Dark Matter



# Introduction - Primordial Black Holes

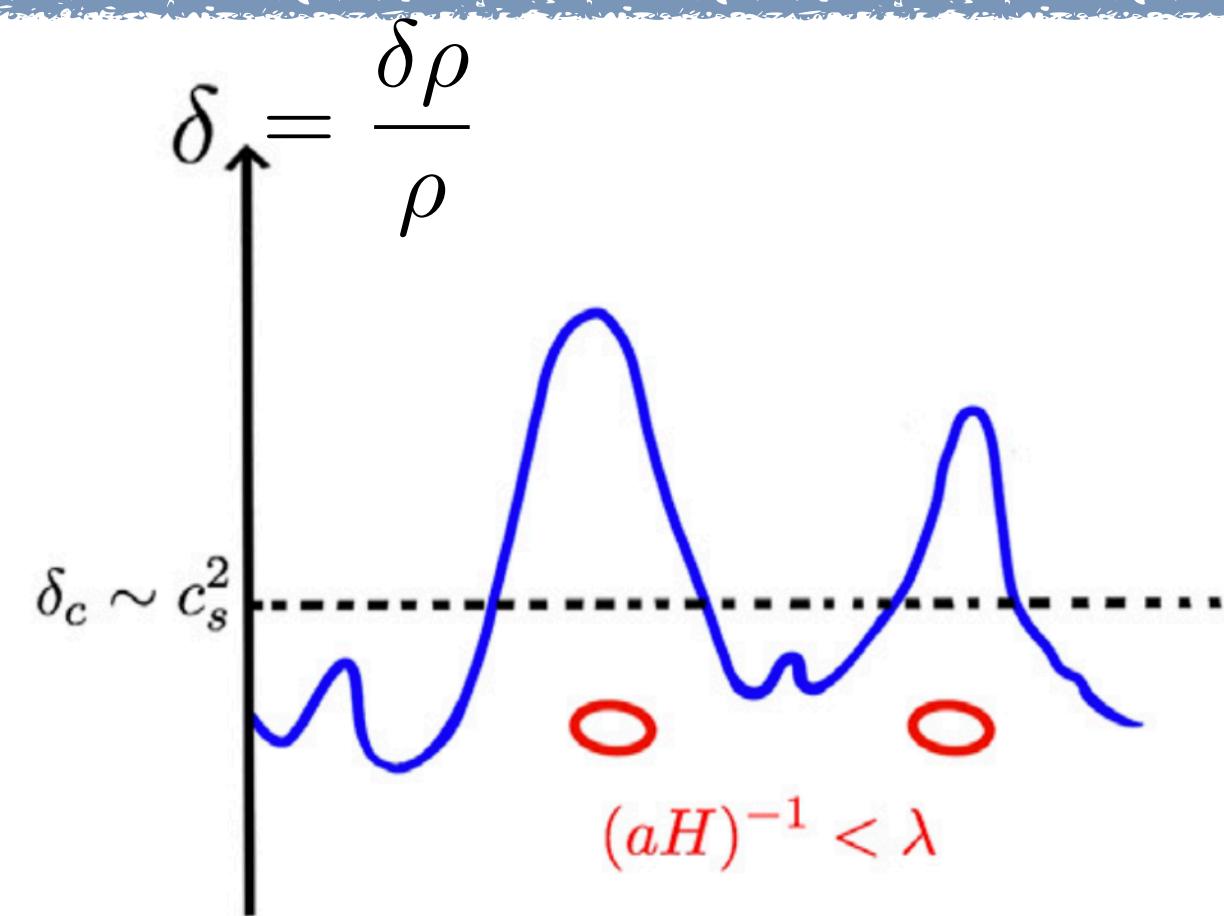


Figure from [P. Villanueva-Domingo *et. al.*, arXiv:2103.12087]

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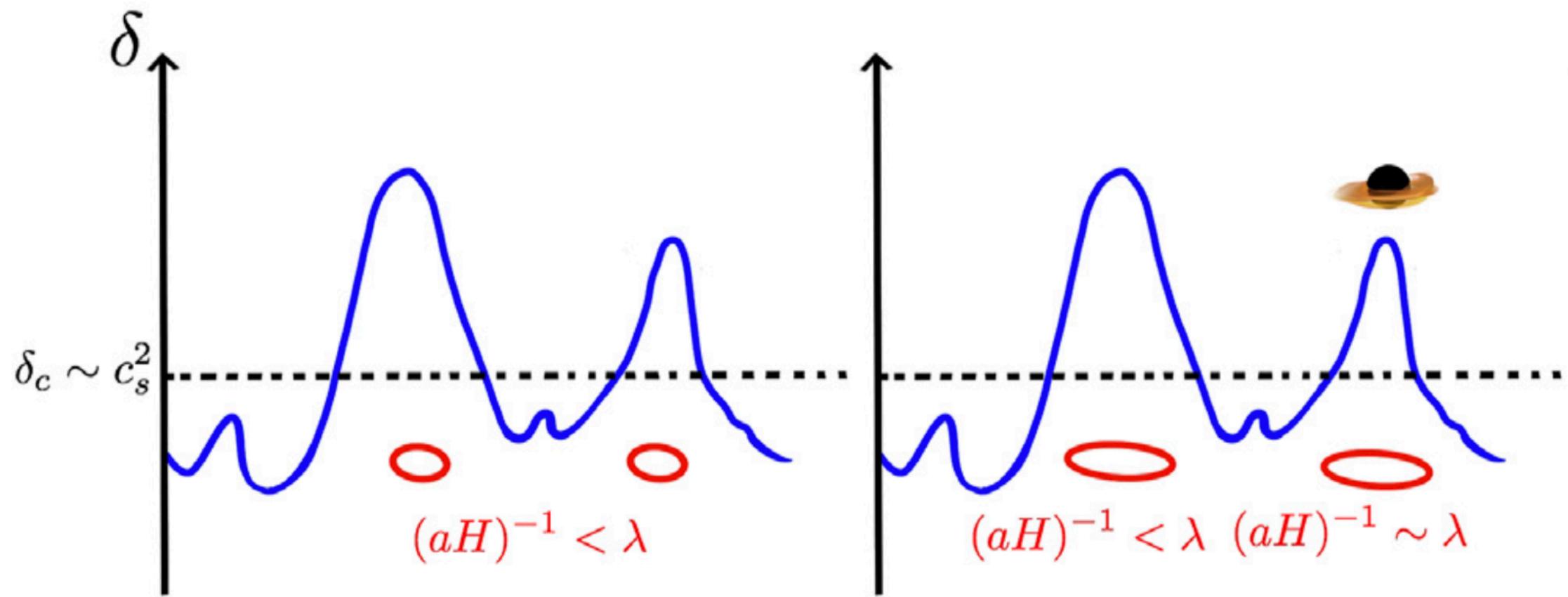


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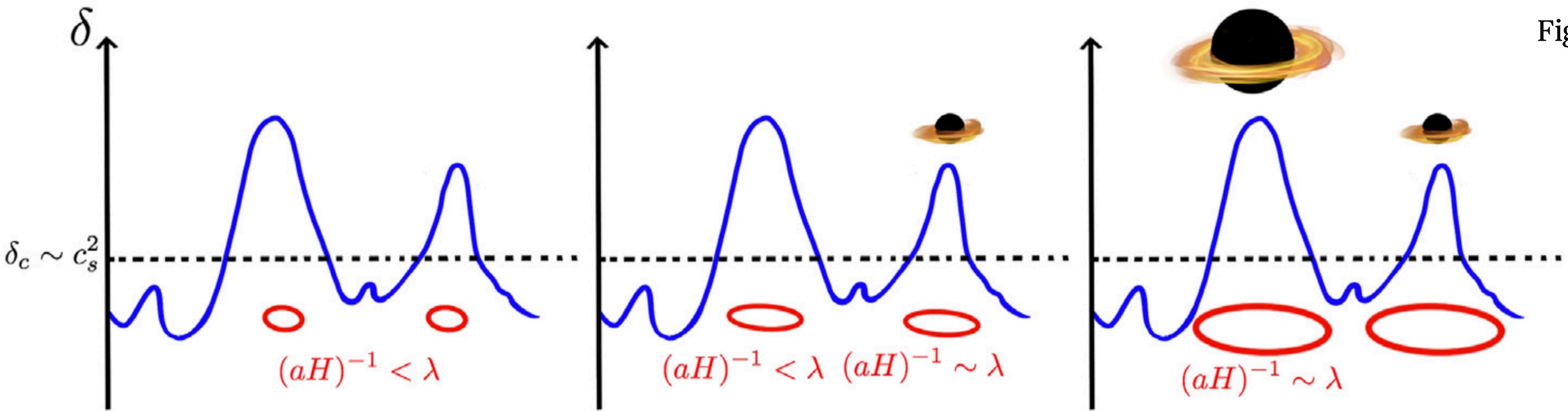


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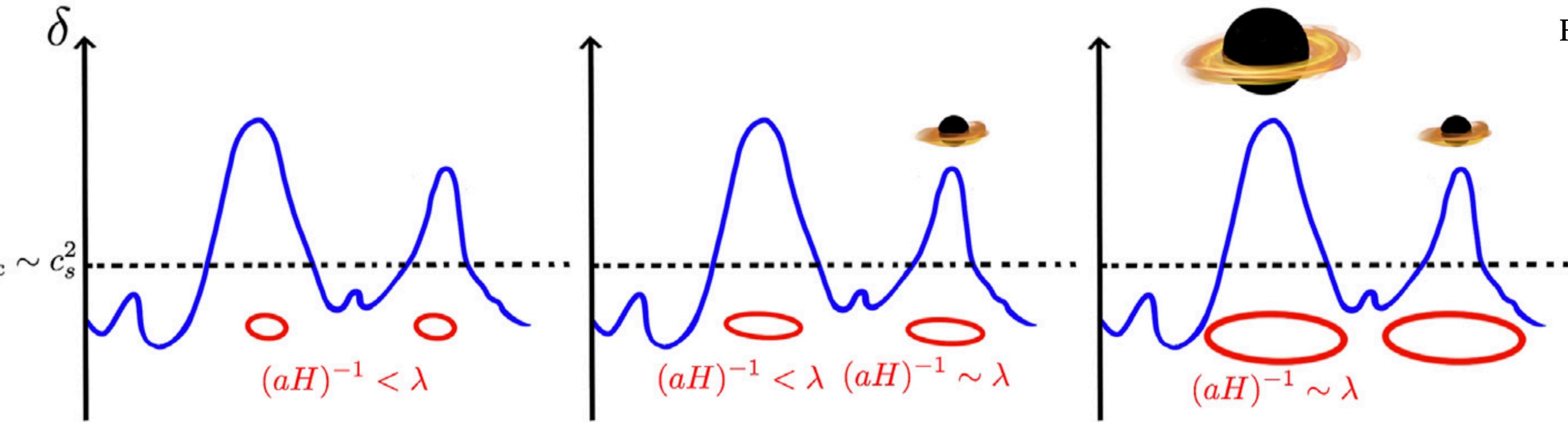


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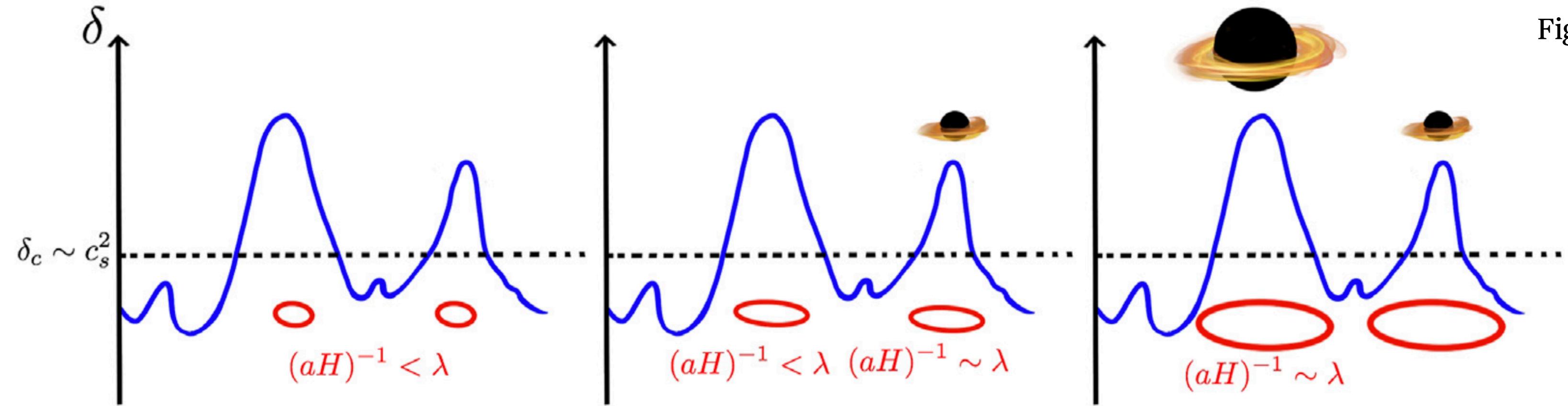


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$k$

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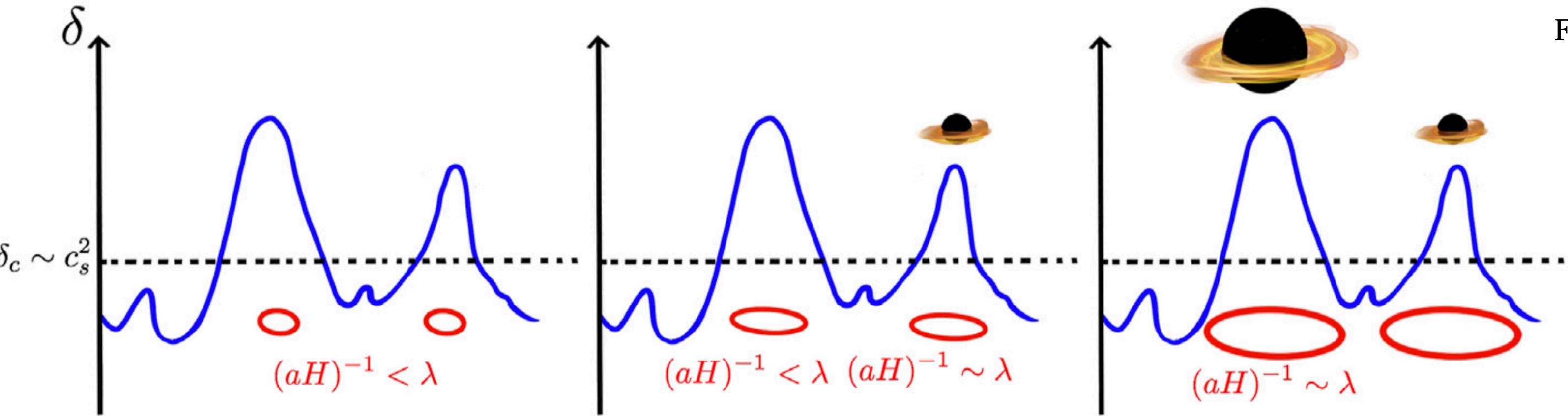


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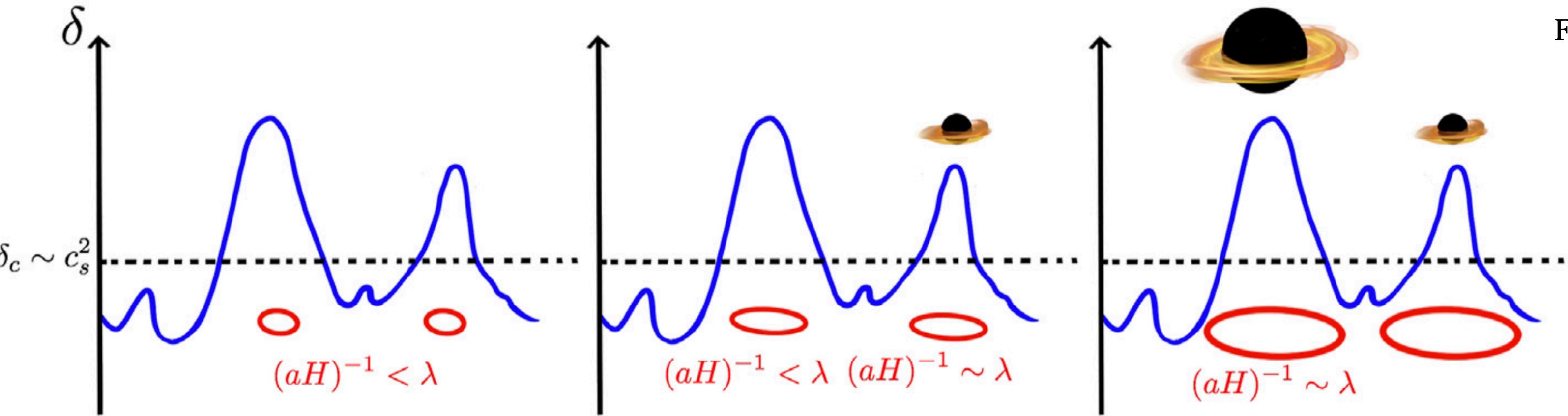


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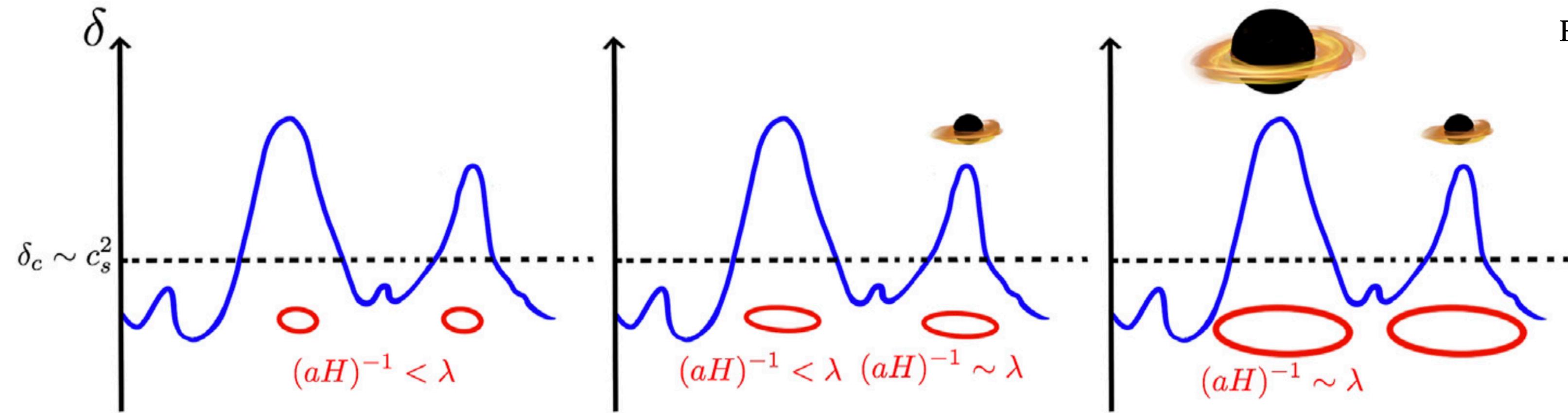


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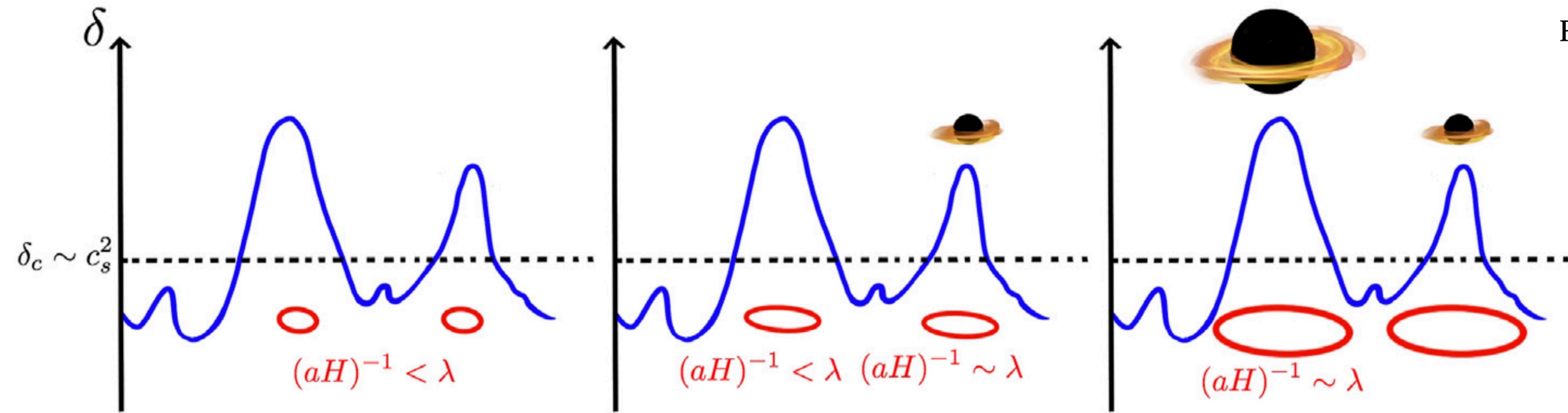
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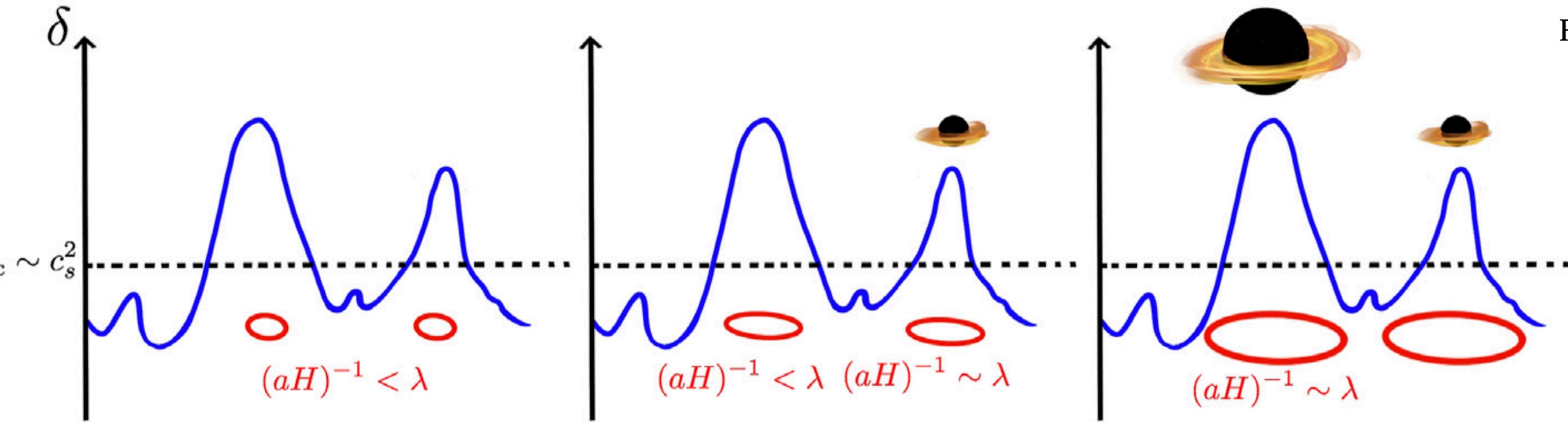
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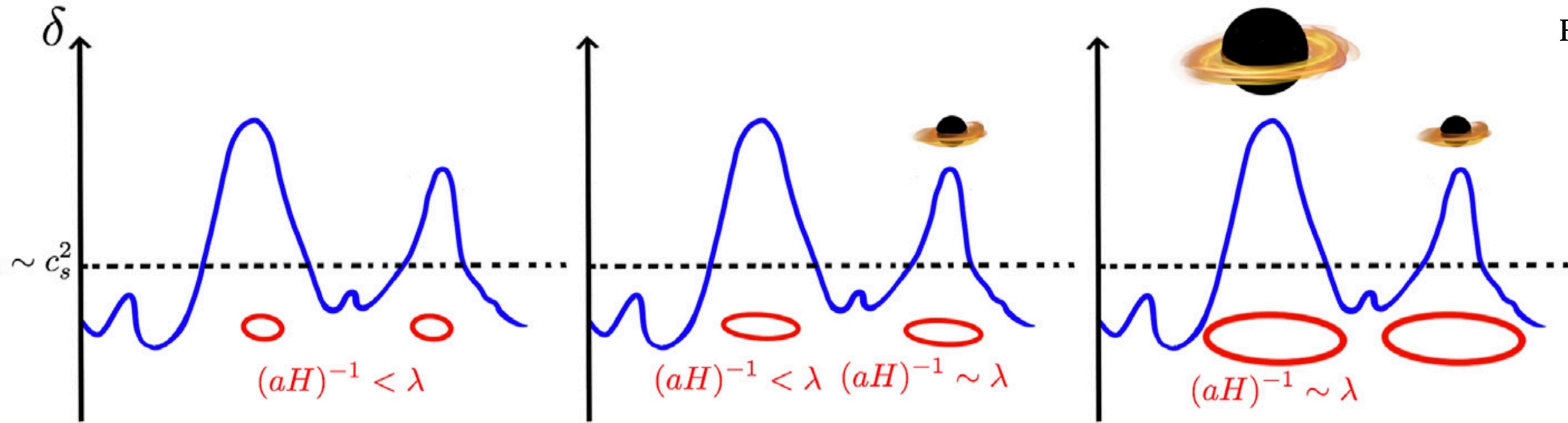
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Many mechanisms to produce large density perturbations —> Inflation is appealing!

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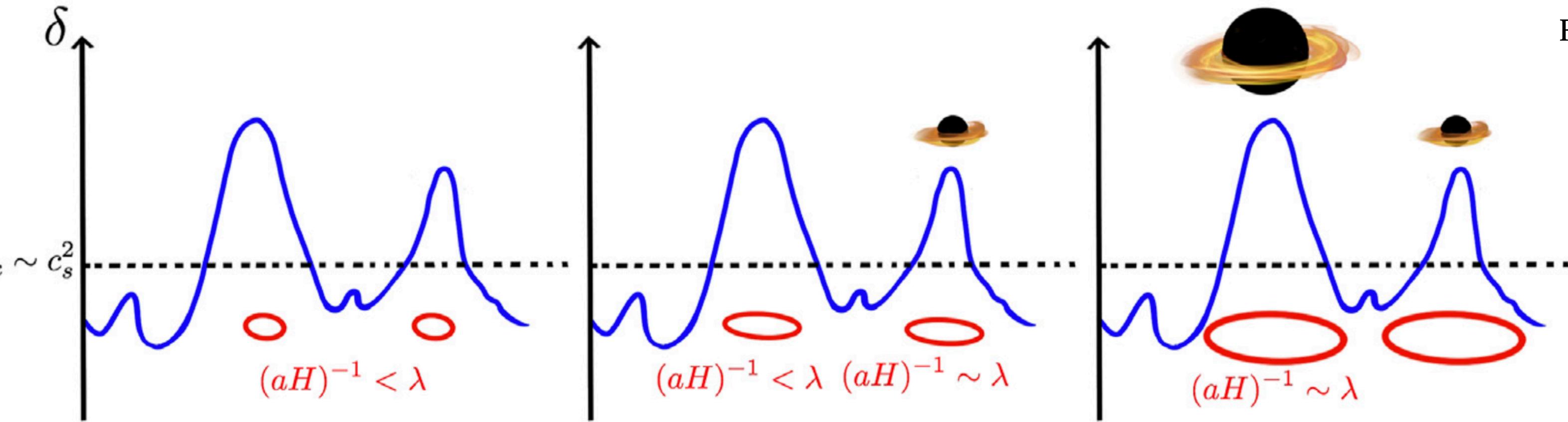


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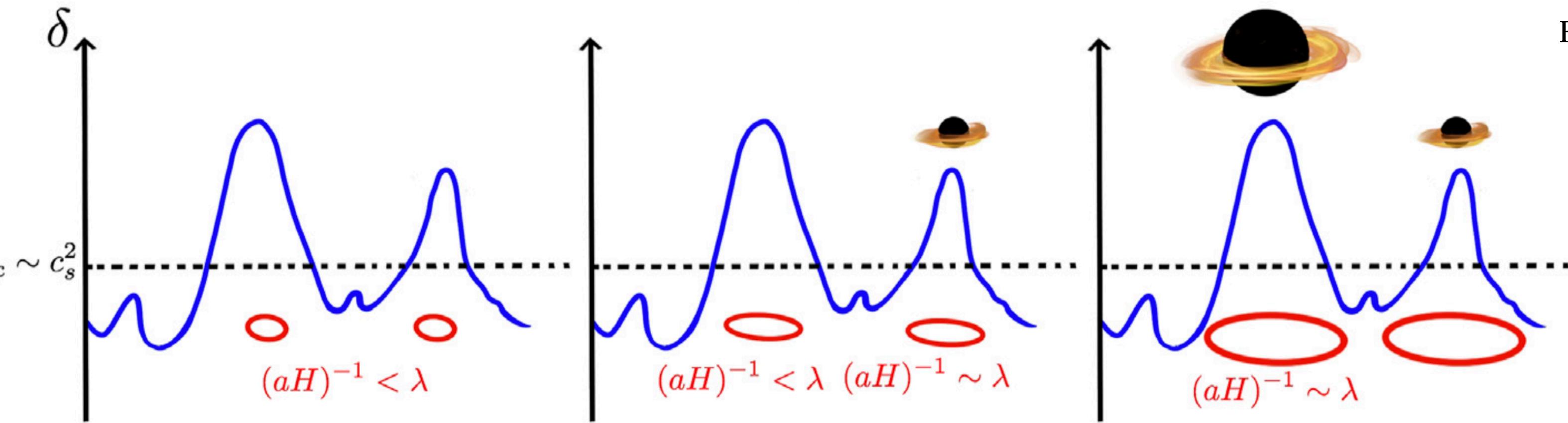
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Many mechanisms to produce large density perturbations —> Inflation is appealing!



Inflation, phase transition, cosmic strings, reheating..

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$$\beta \sim \frac{\sigma}{\sqrt{2\pi}\delta_c} e^{-\delta_c^2/(2\sigma^2)} \sim e^{-\delta_c^2/\mathcal{P}_{\mathcal{R}}} \quad \leftarrow \frac{\rho_{\text{PBH}}}{\rho_{\text{tot}}} \Big|_{\text{form}}$$

$\uparrow$

Variance, Naive!  $\sigma^2 \sim \mathcal{P}_{\mathcal{R}}$  Exponential dependence

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$$f_{\text{PBH}} \equiv \frac{\rho_{\text{PBH}}}{\rho_{\text{DM}}} = \left( \frac{a_{\text{eq}}}{a_{\text{form}}} \right) \beta(M)$$

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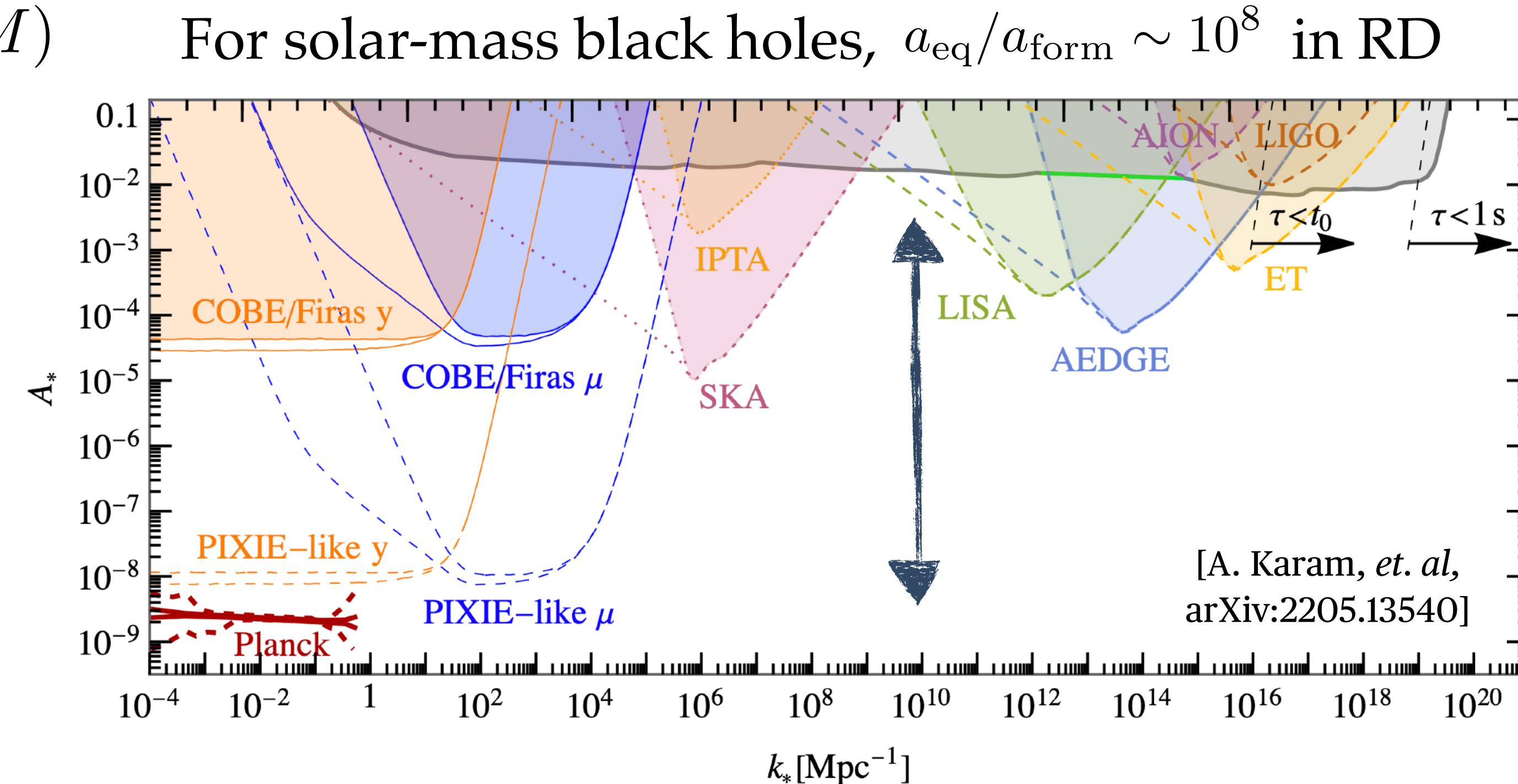
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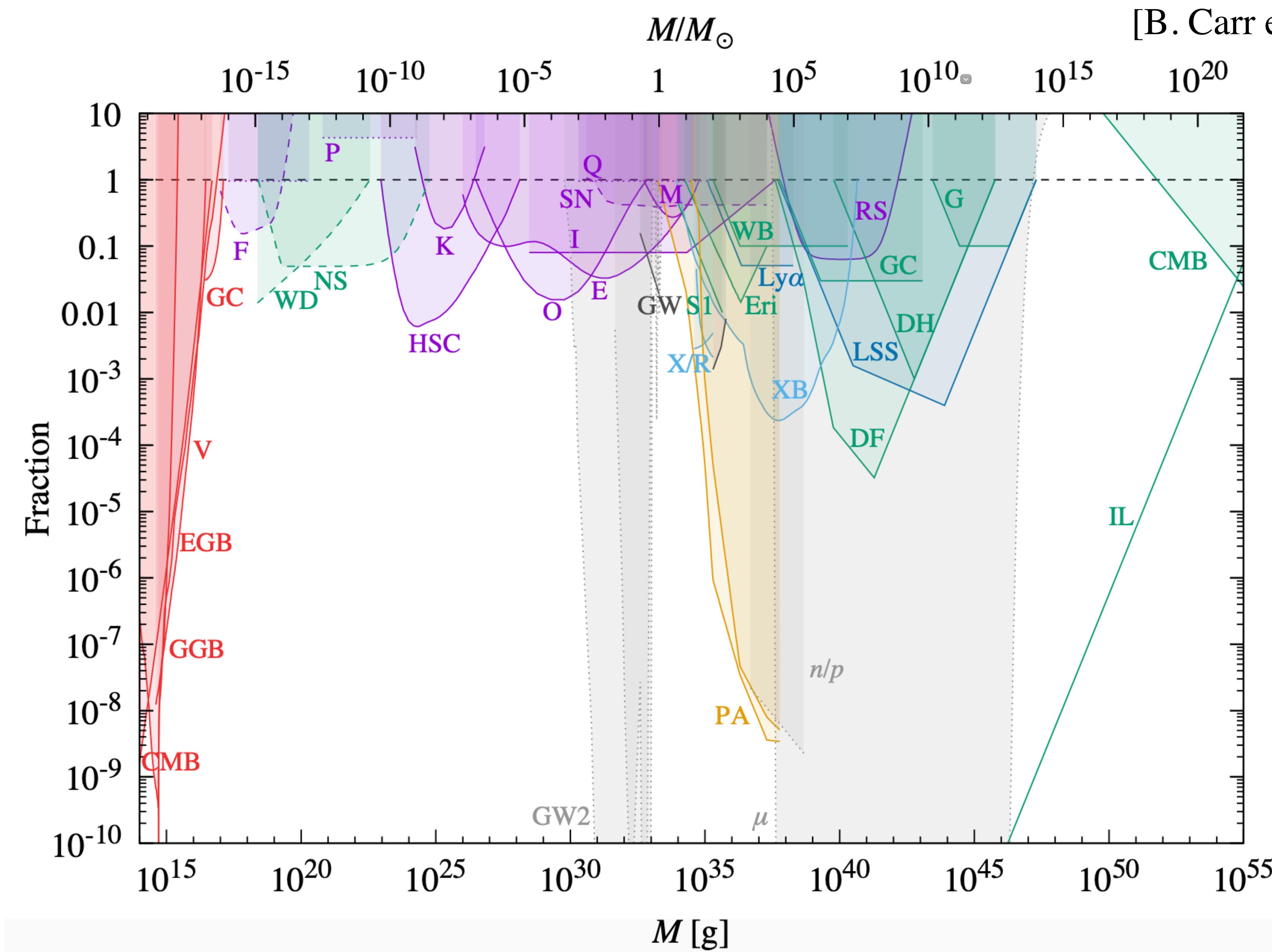
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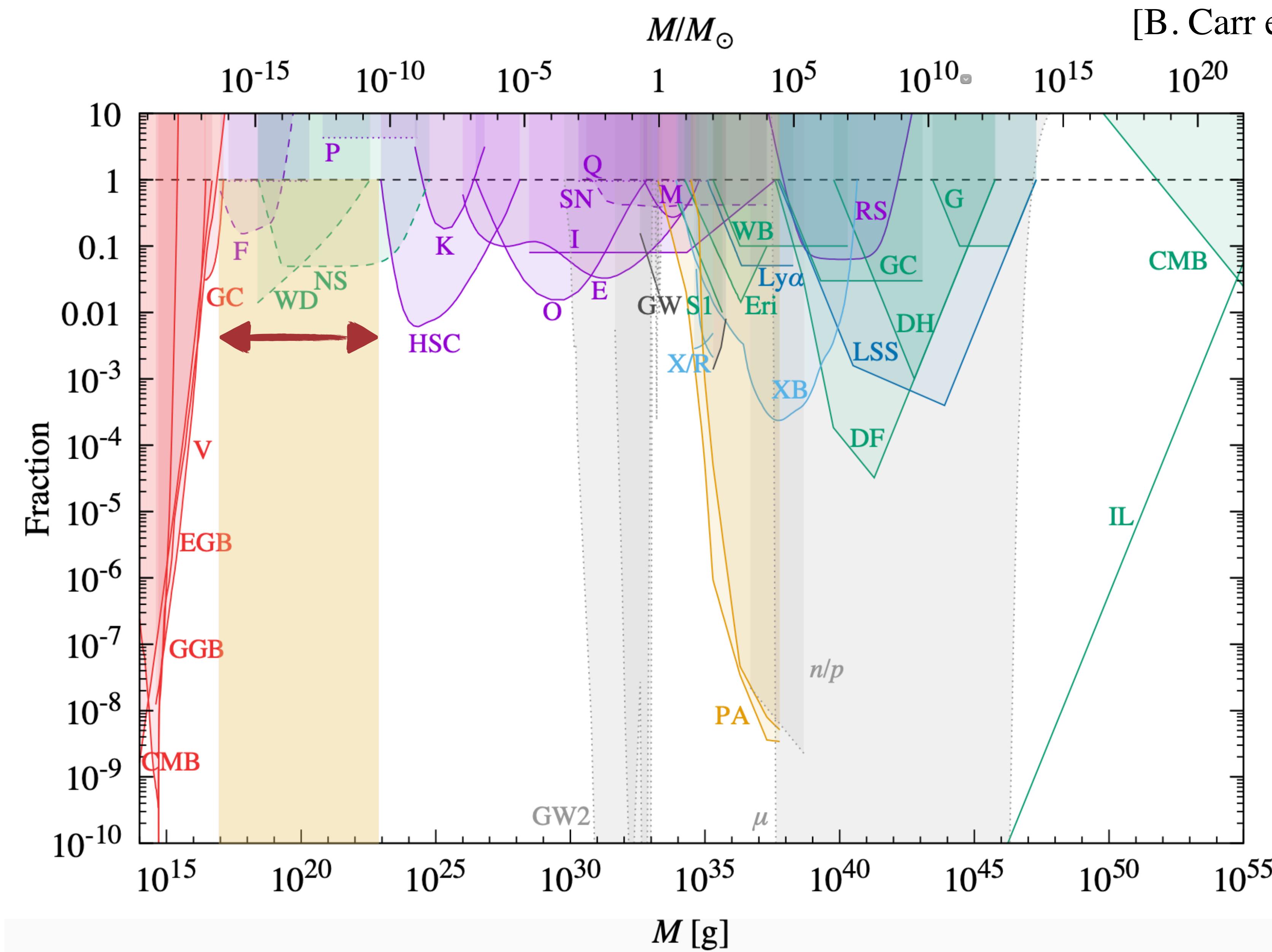
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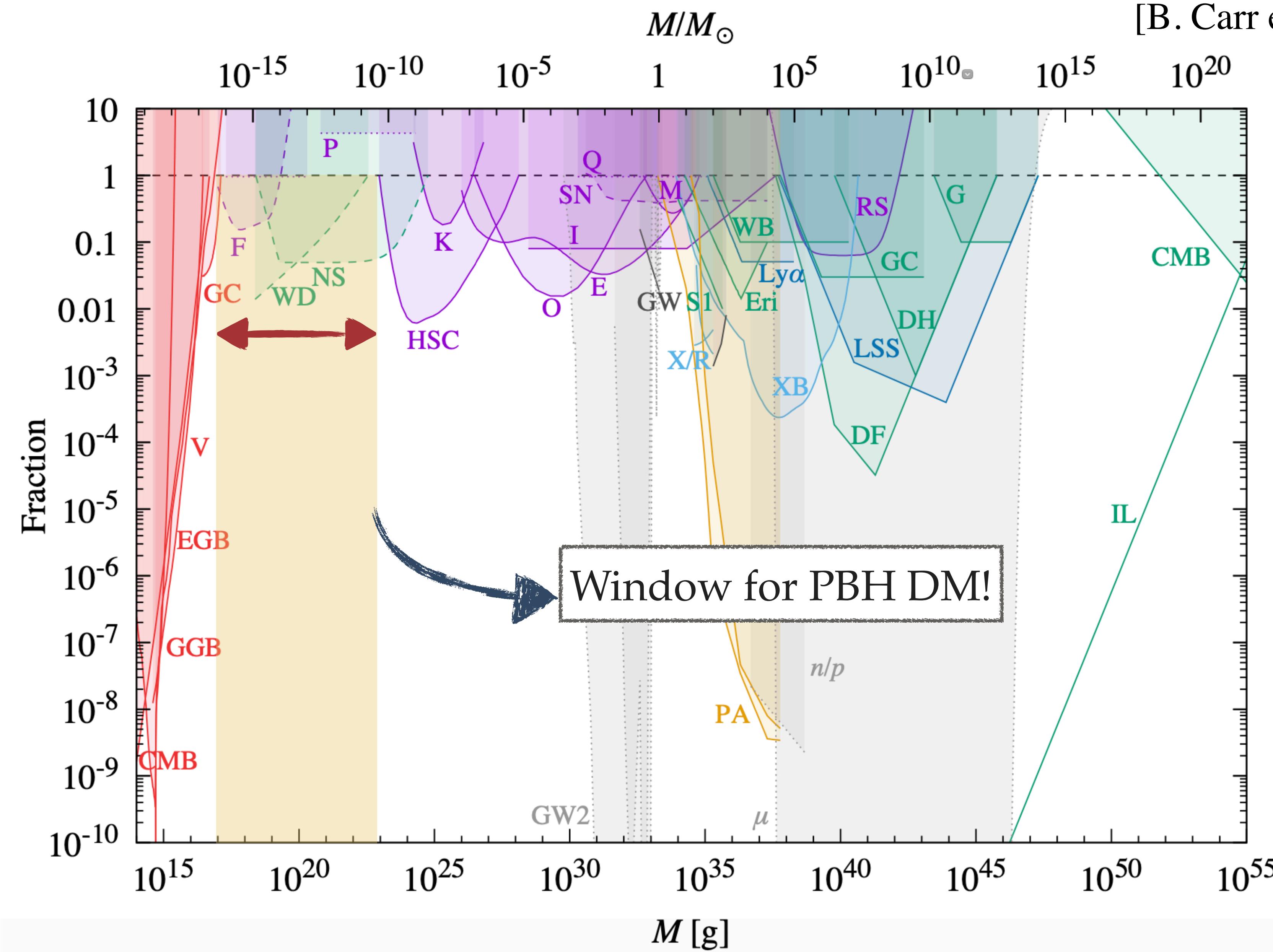


# Introduction - Primordial Black Holes



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[B. Carr et.al, arXiv: 2002.12778]



# Introduction - Second Order GWs

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Scalar and tensor perturbations couple at “second order metric perturbations”.

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$$\Omega_{\text{GW}}(\eta_0, k) = c_g \frac{\Omega_{r,0}}{6} \int_0^\infty dv \int_{|1-v|}^{1+v} du \left( \frac{4v^2 - (1+v^2-u^2)^2}{4uv} \right)^2 \overline{\mathcal{I}^2(v,u)} \mathcal{P}_{\mathcal{R}}(kv) \mathcal{P}_{\mathcal{R}}(ku)$$

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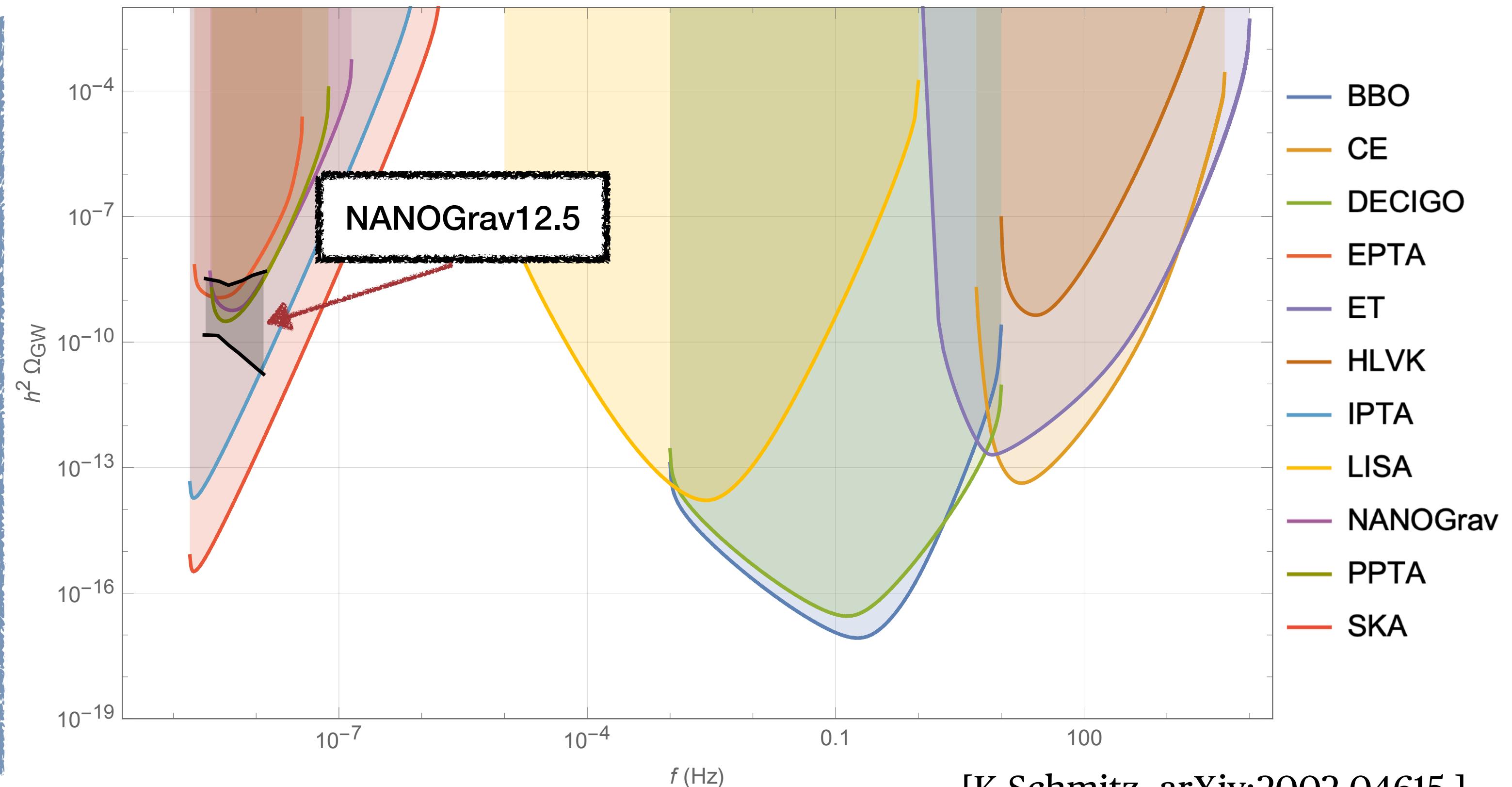
$$\Omega_{\text{GW}} h^2 \sim \frac{1}{12} \Omega_{r,0} h^2 \times \mathcal{P}_{\mathcal{R}}^2 \sim 10^{-6} \mathcal{P}_{\mathcal{R}}^2$$

$$\text{DECIGO, SKA : } \mathcal{P}_{\mathcal{R}} \sim 10^{-5}$$

$$\text{LISA, CE, ET : } \mathcal{P}_{\mathcal{R}} \sim 10^{-4}$$

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Future GW observatories well involved  
in probing the small scale.



[K.Schmitz, arXiv:2002.04615 ]

[Z. Arzoumanian et al , arXiv:2009.04496]

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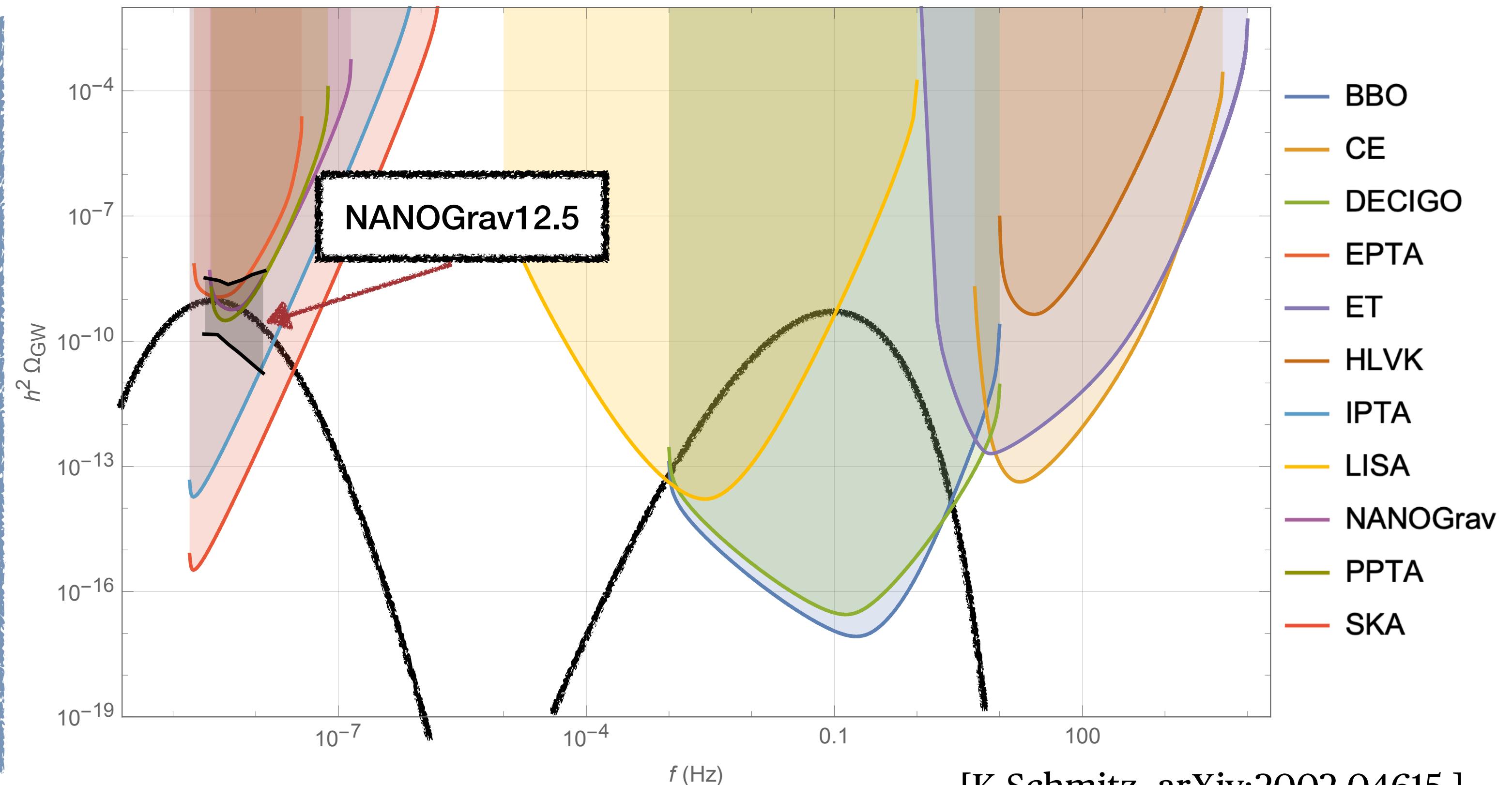
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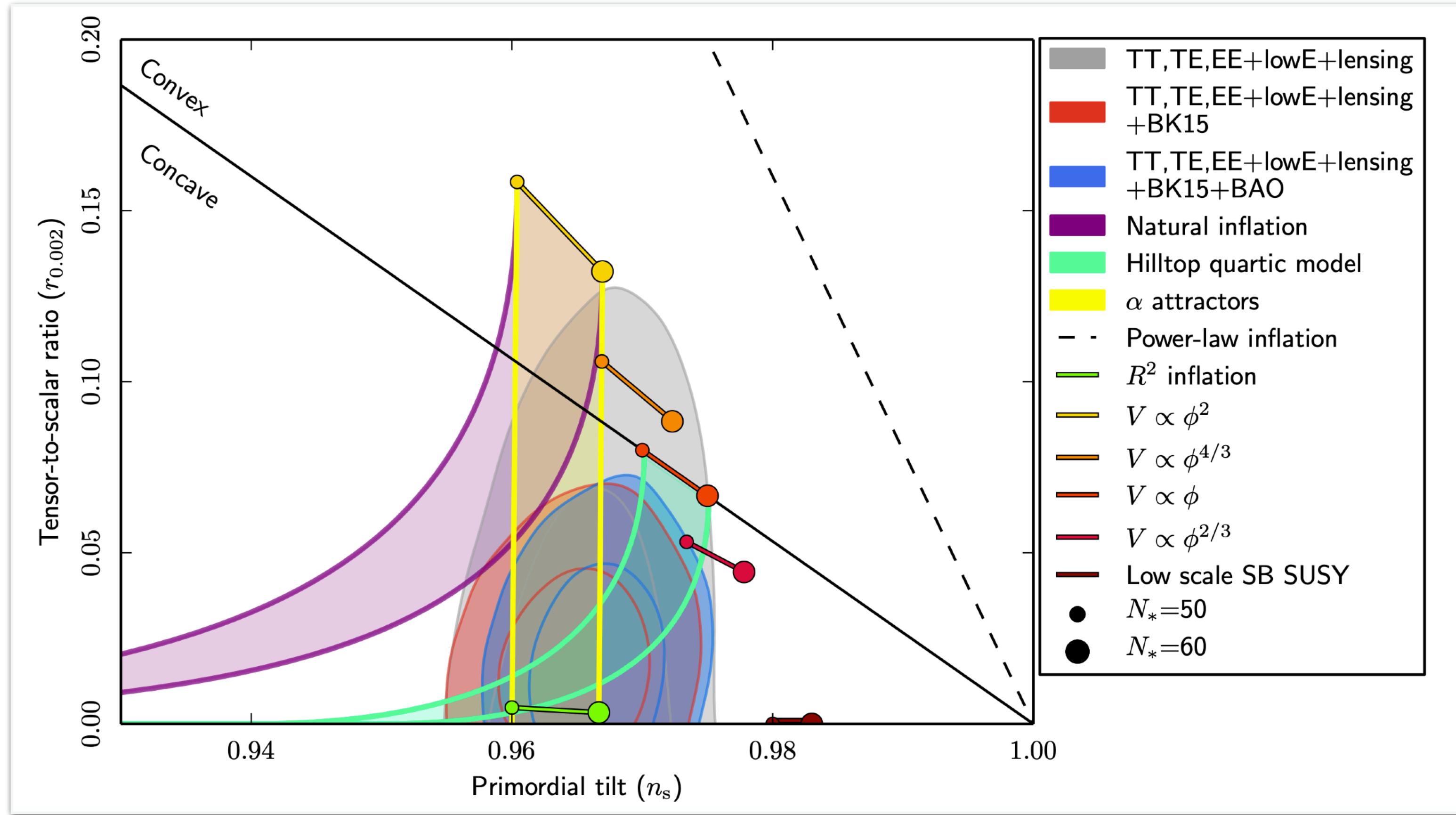
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# Introduction

Inflation paradigm very successful! CMB observations attempt constraining inflationary models.

[Planck Collaboration., arXiv:1807.06211]



Characterized by *slow-roll parameters*

$$\epsilon \equiv -\frac{\dot{H}}{H^2} = \frac{\dot{\phi}^2}{2H^2}$$
$$\eta \equiv -\frac{\ddot{\phi}}{\dot{\phi}H}$$

$$n_s \simeq 1 - 6\epsilon + 2\eta$$

Q1) What can be our inflaton?

Q2) Phenomenology induced by inflation in smaller scales?

# Introduction

Q1) What can be our inflaton?

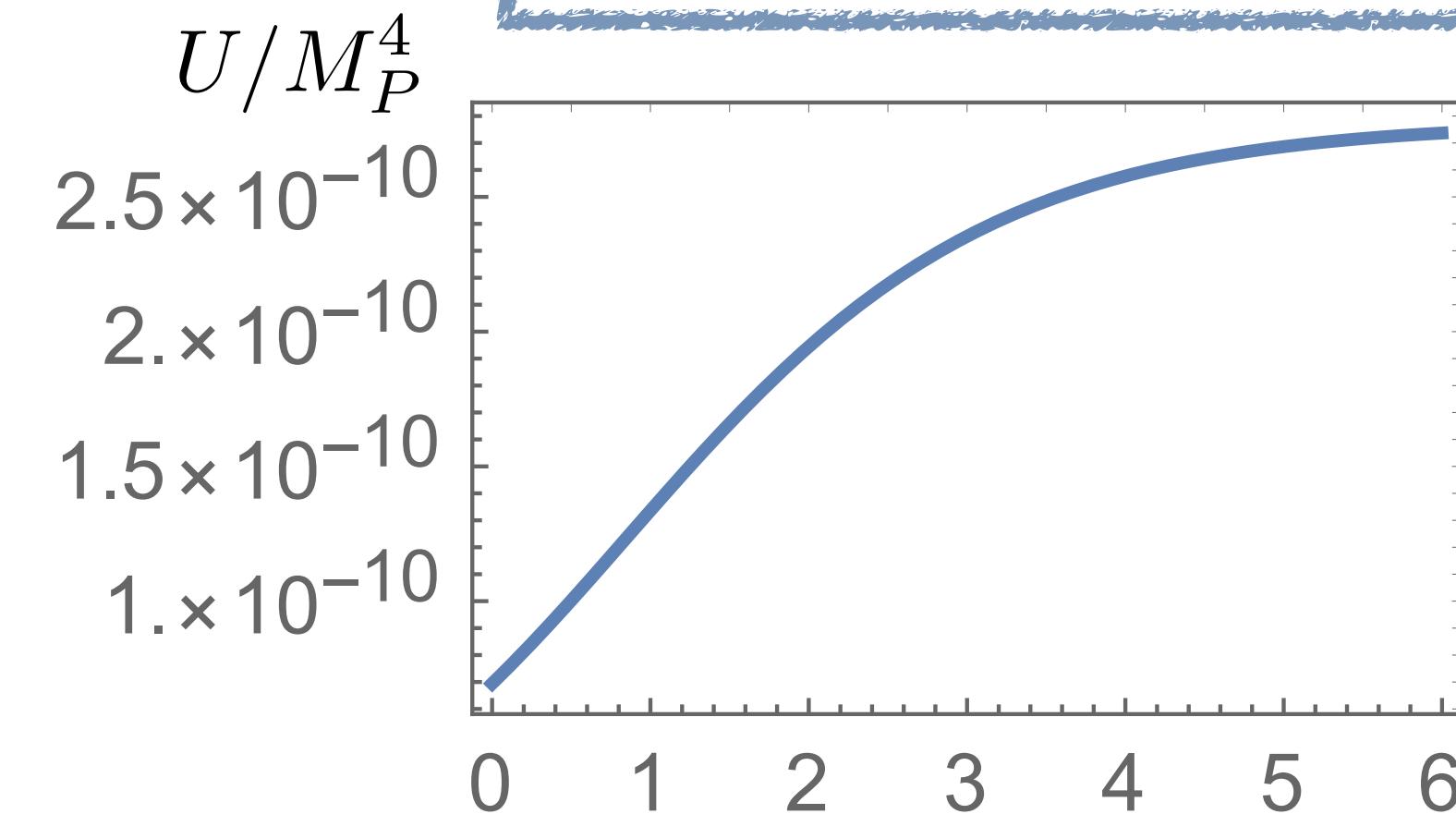
[F. Bezrukov, M. Shaposhnikov, 0710.3755]

→ Sole scalar particle in our Standard Model, the Higgs (with a non-minimal coupling to gravity)

$$S_J = \int d^4x \sqrt{-g_J} \left[ \frac{1}{2} \left( M_P^2 + \xi h_J^\dagger h_J \right) R_J - \frac{1}{2} |\partial_\mu h_J|^2 - V(h_J) \right]$$

$$g_{\mu\nu} = \Omega(h_J)^2 g_{J\mu\nu} \quad \downarrow \quad \Omega(h_J)^2 = 1 + \frac{\xi h_J^2}{M_P^2}$$

$$S = \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} \left[ \frac{1}{2} M_P^2 R - \frac{1}{2} |\partial_\mu h|^2 - U(h) \right] \quad U(h) \simeq \frac{\lambda M_P^4}{4\xi^2} \left( 1 + e^{-\sqrt{\frac{2}{3}} \frac{h}{M_P}} \right)^{-2}$$



- Theoretical issues reside? :  $\frac{\lambda}{\xi^2} \sim 10^{-10}$   
→  $\lambda \ll 1$  achievable when considering SM running
- Naive cutoff scale appears at  $\Lambda \sim \frac{M_P}{\xi}$  for  $\xi \sim \mathcal{O}(10^3)$   
→ Issues in the (p)reheating era, unitarity problem?

# Introduction

Q1) What can be our inflaton?

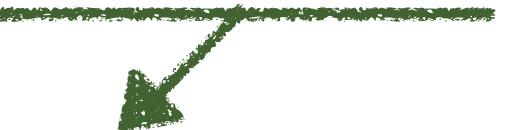
Considering dim-4 operators,  $R^2$  present as well!

[Y. Ema, Phys. Lett. B770:403-411, 2017]

[Y-C. Wang, T. Wang, Phys. Rev. D96(12):123506, 2017]

[M.He, A. A. Starobinsky, J. Yokoyama, JCAP, 1805(05):064, 2018]

$$S_J = \int d^4x \sqrt{-g_J} \left[ \frac{M_P^2}{2} \left( R_J + \frac{\xi h^2}{M_P^2} R_J + \frac{R_J^2}{6M^2} \right) - \frac{1}{2} g^{\mu\nu} \nabla_\mu h \nabla_\nu h - \frac{\lambda}{4} h^4 \right],$$

 non minimal coupling

  $R^2$  term

 Higgs

Conformal transformation into Einstein frame

$$S_E = \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} \left[ \frac{M_P^2}{2} R - \frac{1}{2} g^{\mu\nu} \nabla_\mu s \nabla_\nu s - \frac{1}{2} e^{-\sqrt{\frac{2}{3}} \frac{s}{M_P}} g^{\mu\nu} \nabla_\mu h \nabla_\nu h - U(s, h) \right]$$

$$U(s, h) \equiv e^{-2\sqrt{\frac{2}{3}} \frac{s}{M_P}} \left\{ \frac{3}{4} M_P^2 M^2 \left( e^{\sqrt{\frac{2}{3}} \frac{s}{M_P}} - 1 - \frac{\xi h^2}{M_P^2} \right)^2 + \frac{\lambda_{\text{eff}}(\mu)}{4} h^4 \right\}$$

# Introduction

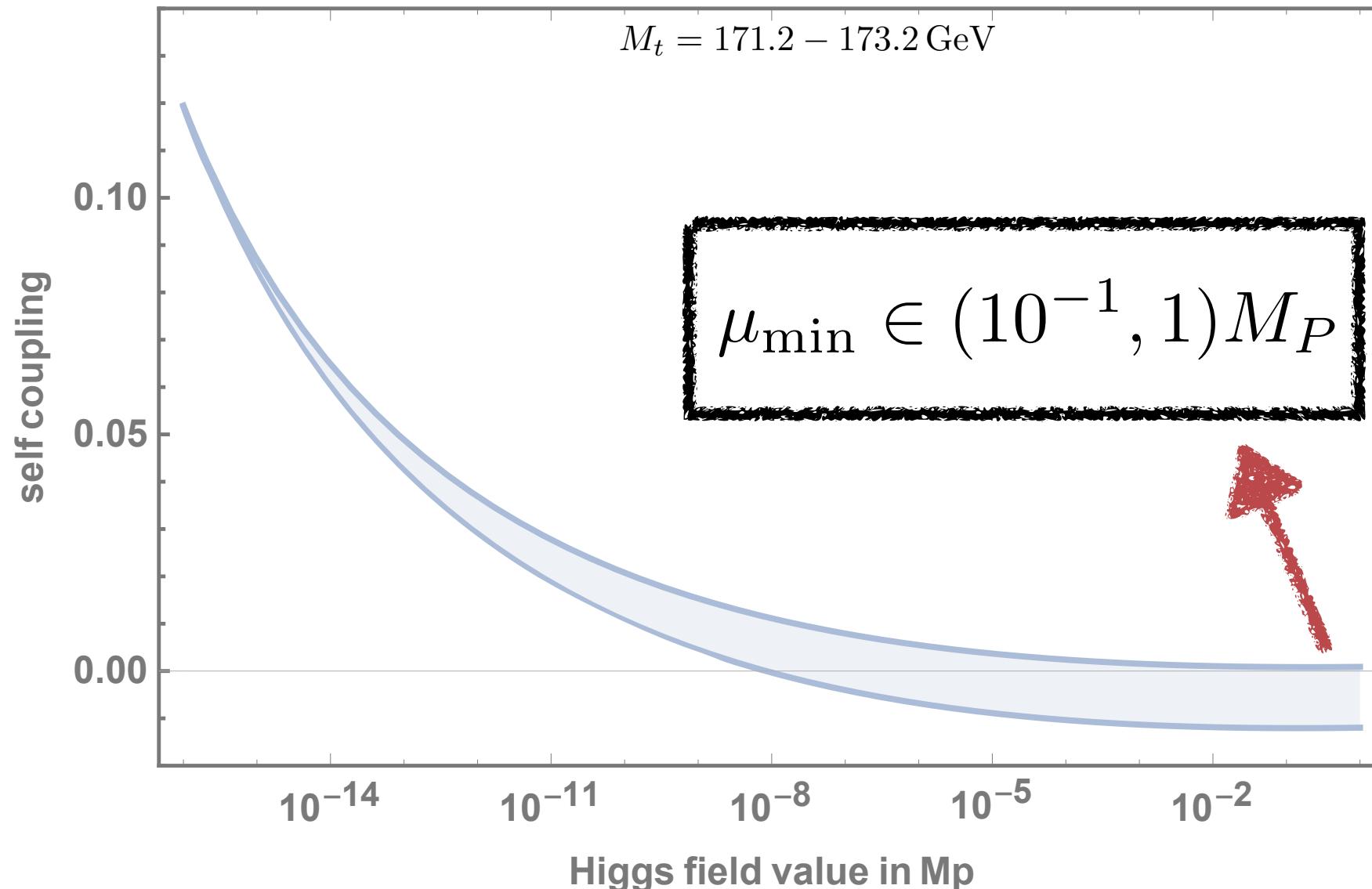
Q1) What can be our inflaton?  $\rightarrow$  Higgs +  $R^2$

$$U(s, h) \equiv e^{-2\sqrt{\frac{2}{3}}\frac{s}{M_P}} \left\{ \frac{3}{4} M_P^2 M^2 \left( e^{\sqrt{\frac{2}{3}}\frac{s}{M_P}} - 1 - \frac{\xi h^2}{M_P^2} \right)^2 + \frac{\lambda}{4} h^4 \right\}$$

$$(s, h) \simeq (0, 0)$$

$$\simeq \frac{\lambda}{4} h^4 + \frac{3\xi^2 M^2}{4M_P^2} h^4 + \frac{1}{2} M^2 s^2 + \dots - \frac{\lambda}{\sqrt{6}M_P} s h^4 - \frac{M^2}{6\sqrt{6}M_P^3} s^5 + \left( \frac{\lambda}{3M_P^2} + \frac{\xi^2 M^2}{M_P^4} \right) h^4 s^2 + \dots$$

$$\Lambda \sim \mathcal{O}\left(\frac{M_P^2}{\xi^2 M^2}\right) M_P > M_P \quad \text{Theory unitarized through the scalaron!}$$



Choosing  $\mu \simeq \sqrt{h^2}$

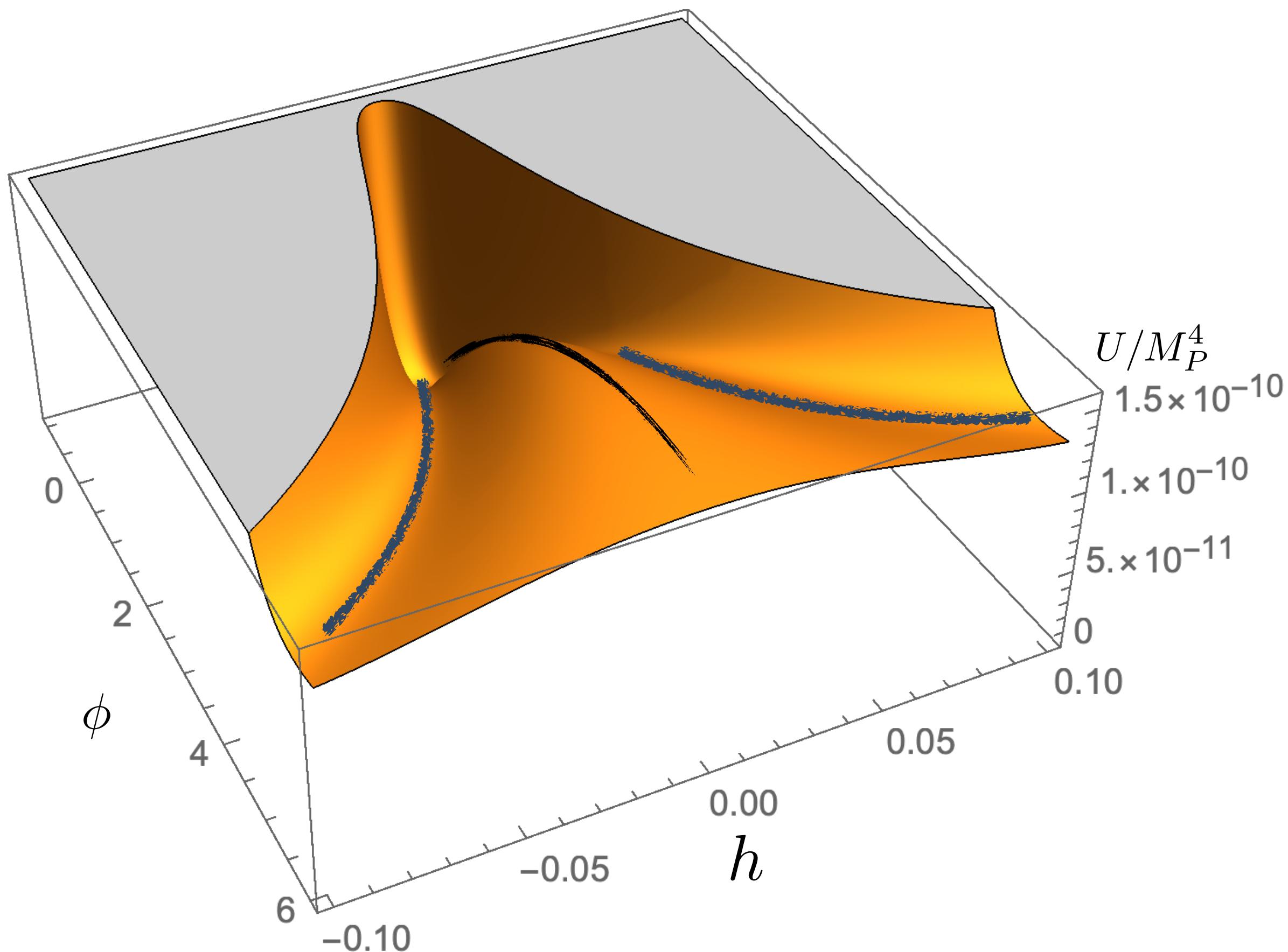
$$\lambda(\mu)|_{\mu=h} = \lambda_m + \frac{\beta_2^{\text{SM}}}{(16\pi^2)^2} \ln^2 \left( \sqrt{\frac{h^2}{h_m^2}} \right) = \lambda_m + b \ln^2 \left( \sqrt{\frac{h^2}{h_m^2}} \right)$$

$$\beta_2^{\text{SM}} \simeq 0.5$$

Critical values where  $\lambda_m \sim \mathcal{O}(10^{-6})$  possible

# Higgs- $R^2$ Inflation

- Shape of the potential? Focus on constant  $\lambda$  for simplicity



- “Valley” structure, trajectory (initially) follows,

$$\frac{\partial U(s, h)}{\partial h} = 0 \quad h_v^2 = \frac{e^{\sqrt{\frac{2}{3}} \frac{\phi}{M_P}} - 1}{\frac{\xi}{M_P^2} + \frac{\lambda}{3\xi M^2}} \text{ for } \phi > 0$$

→ Isocurvature mass heavier than the Hubble scale, suppression in perturbations

→ Flat plateau induced in the large  $s$  limit.

- “Tachyonic Direction” at  $h = 0$  for  $s > 0$

→ Studies focused on a “tachyonic instability” during (p)reheating

- Previous studies focused on inflationary dynamics *inside the valley, but rich phenomena also on the hill.*

[M. He, *et. al.*, *PLB*, 791, 36-42 (2019).]

[F. Bezrukov, *et. al.*, *PLB*, 795, 657-665 (2019).]

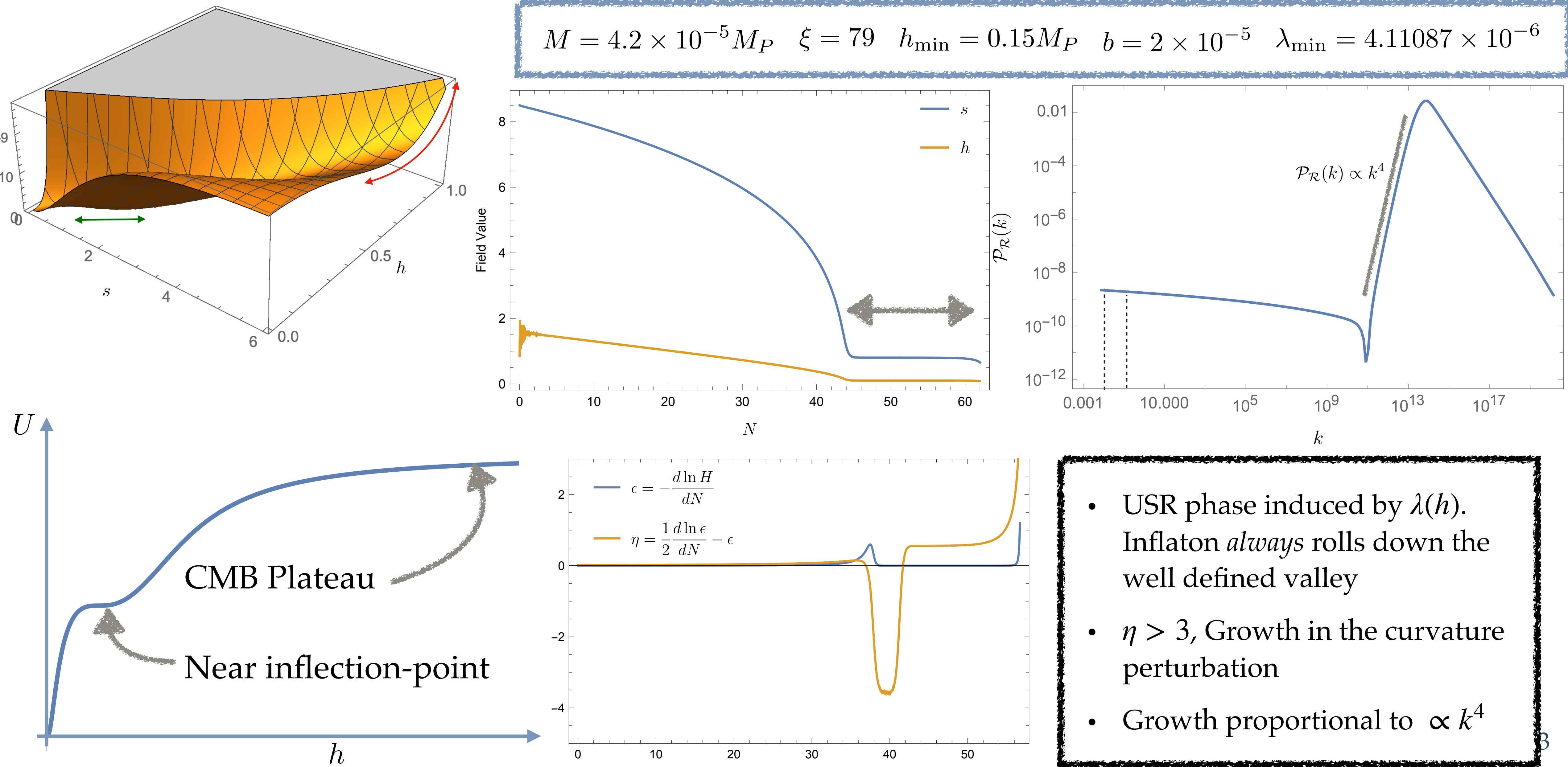
[M. He, *et. al.*, *JCAP* 01 (2021) 066.]

[F. Bezrukov, C. Shepherd *JCAP* 12 (2020) 028.]

[S. Aoki *et. al.*, arXiv:2202.13063 ], and many more

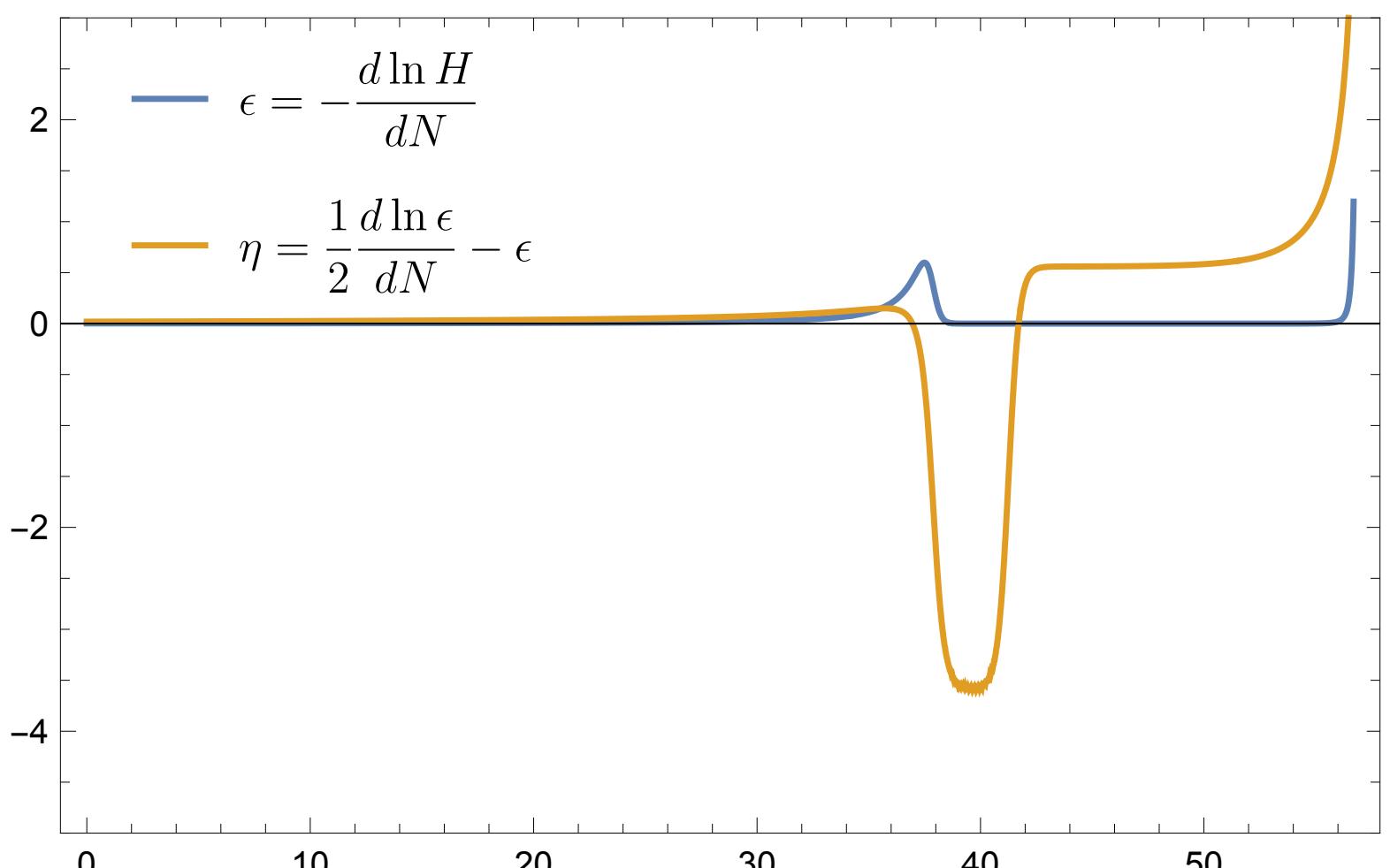
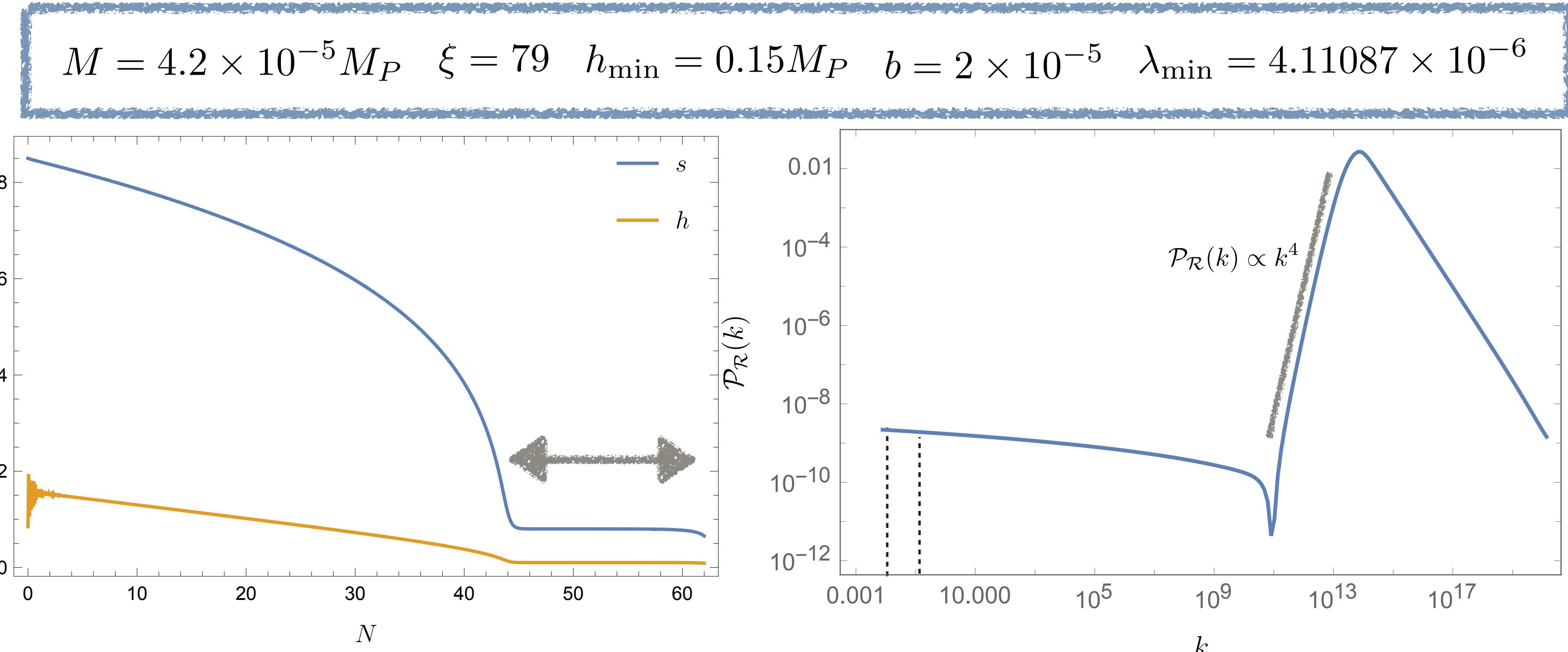
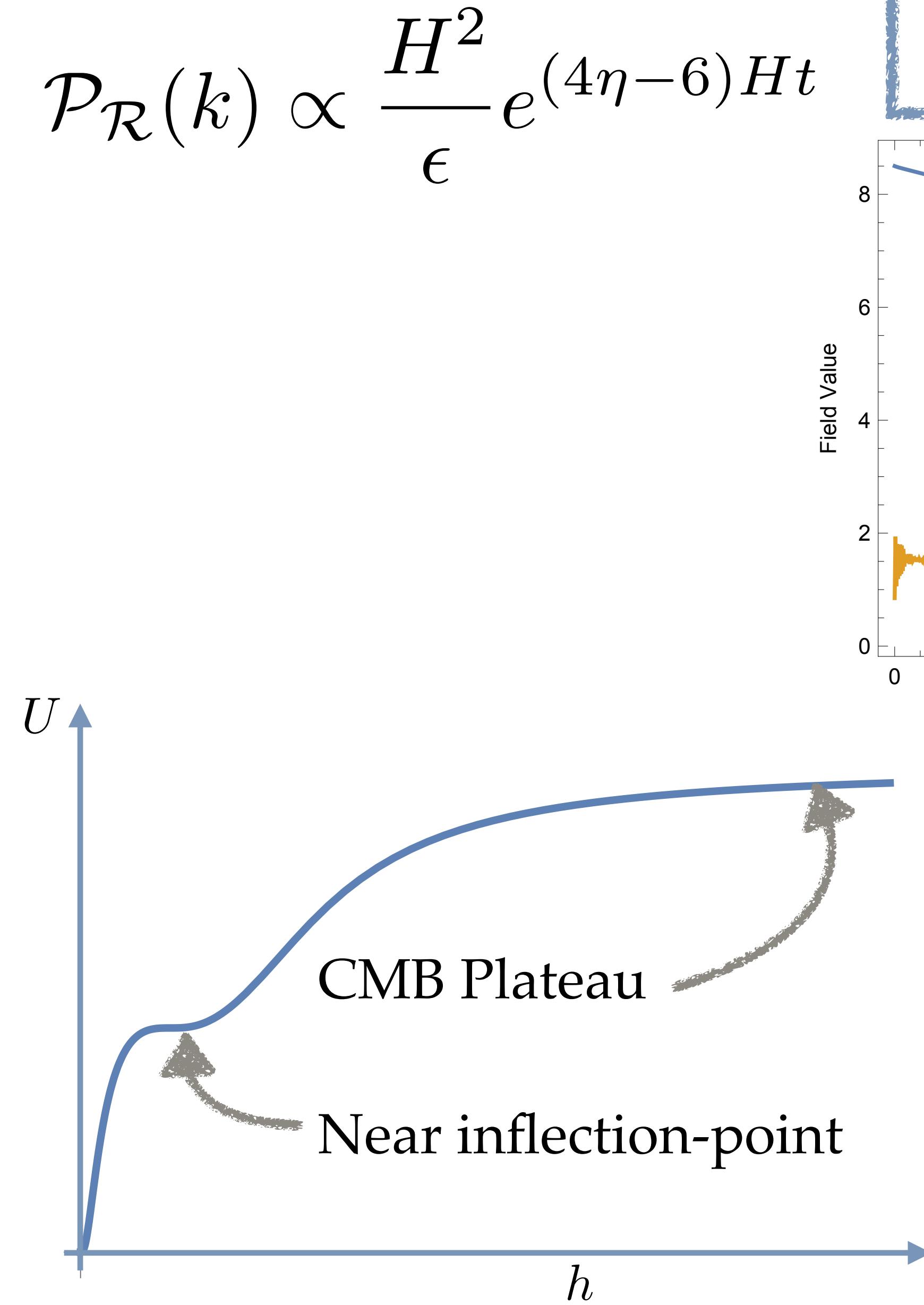
# Higgs- $R^2$ Inflation - Ultra Slow-Roll

[DYC, S.M. Lee, S.C. Park, JCAP 01 (2021), 032]



# Higgs- $R^2$ Inflation - Ultra Slow-Roll

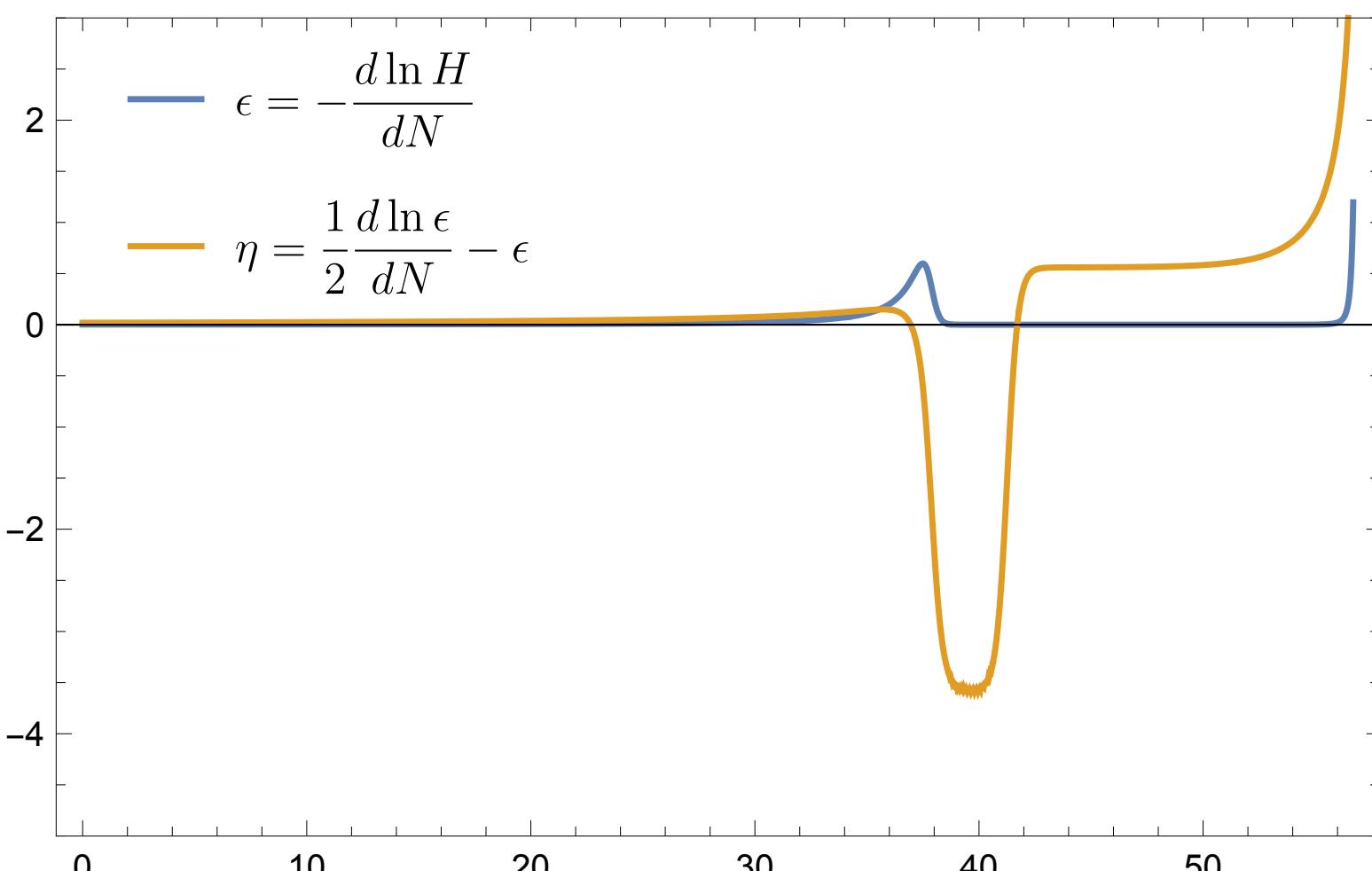
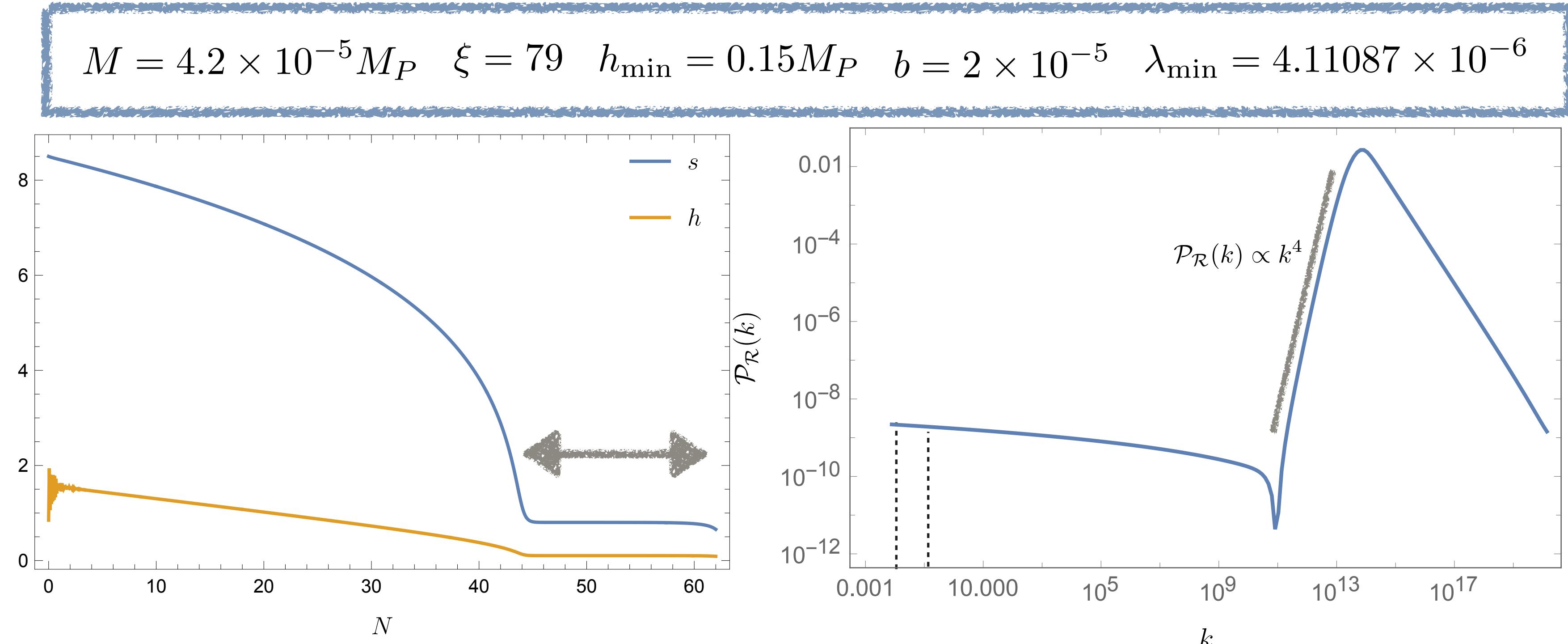
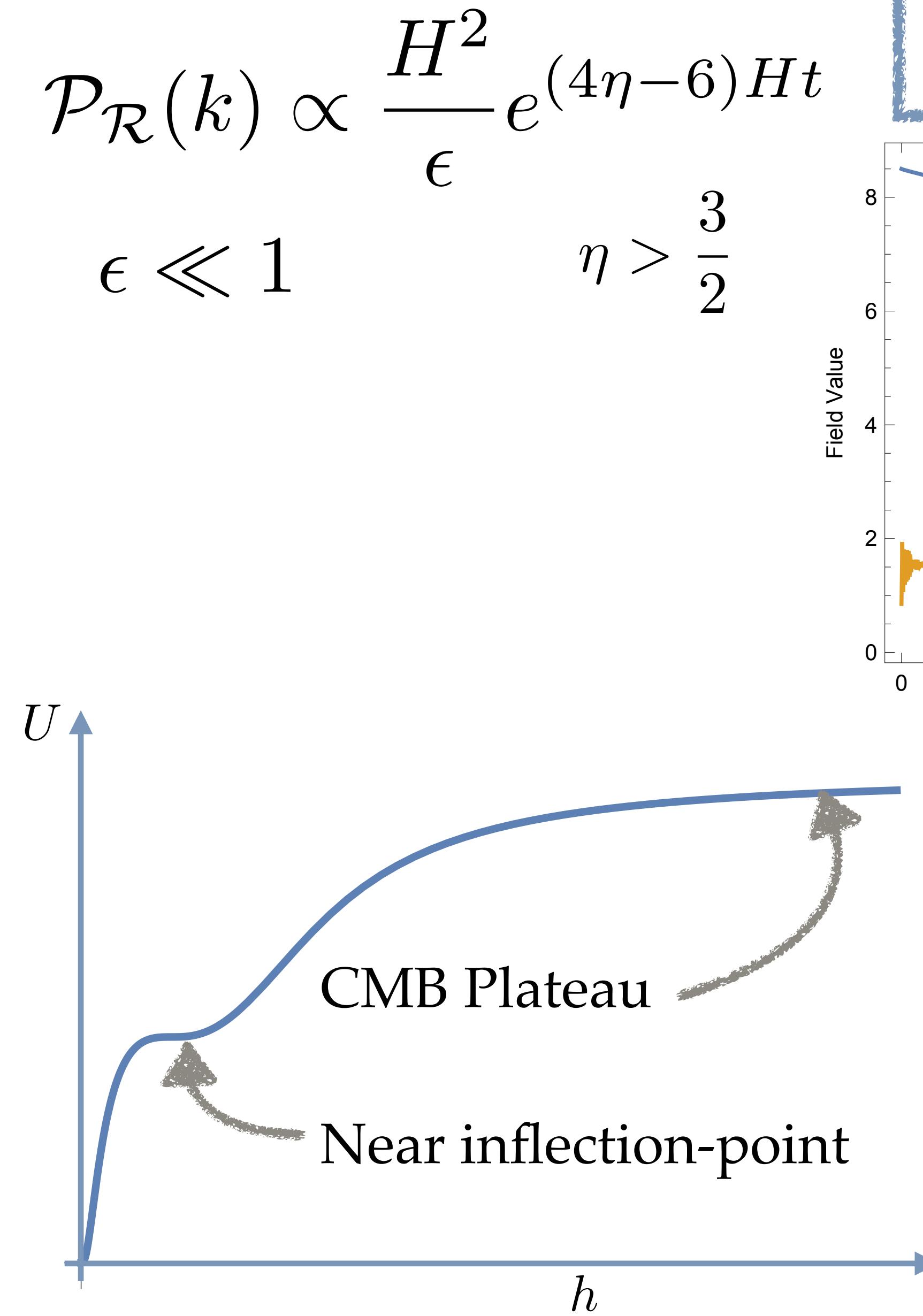
[DYC, S.M. Lee, S.C. Park, JCAP 01 (2021), 032]



- USR phase induced by  $\lambda(h)$ . Inflaton *always* rolls down the well defined valley
- $\eta > 3$ , Growth in the curvature perturbation
- Growth proportional to  $\propto k^4$

# Higgs- $R^2$ Inflation - Ultra Slow-Roll

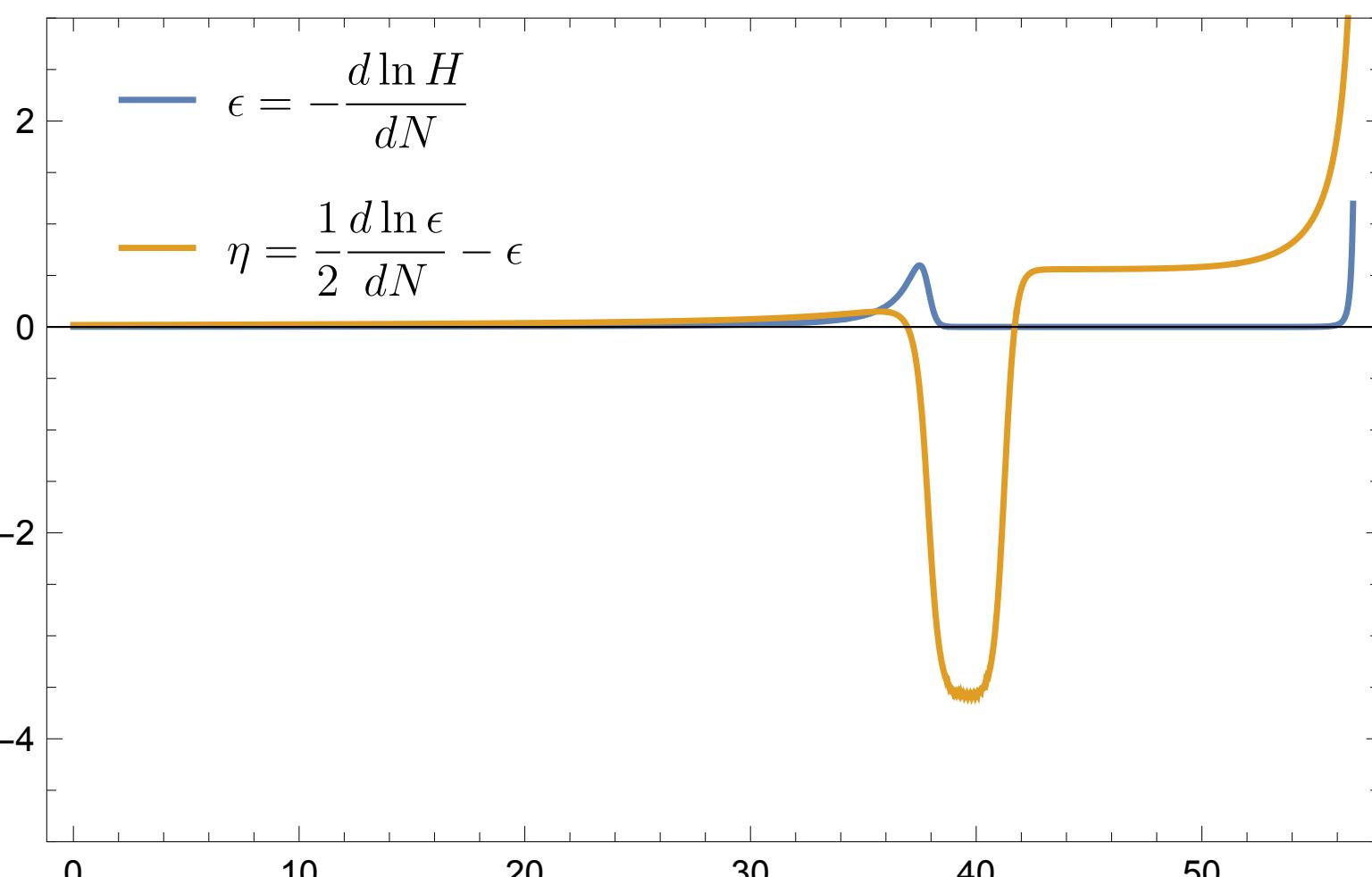
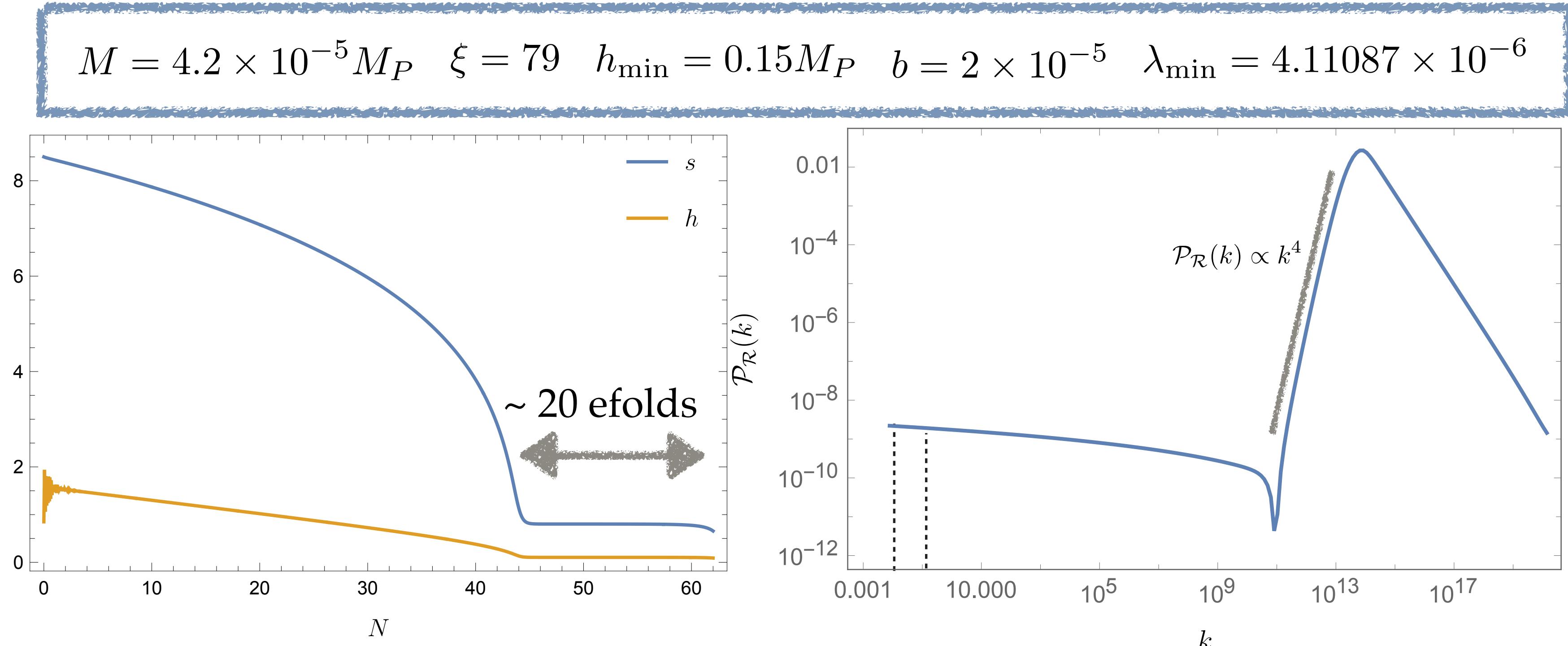
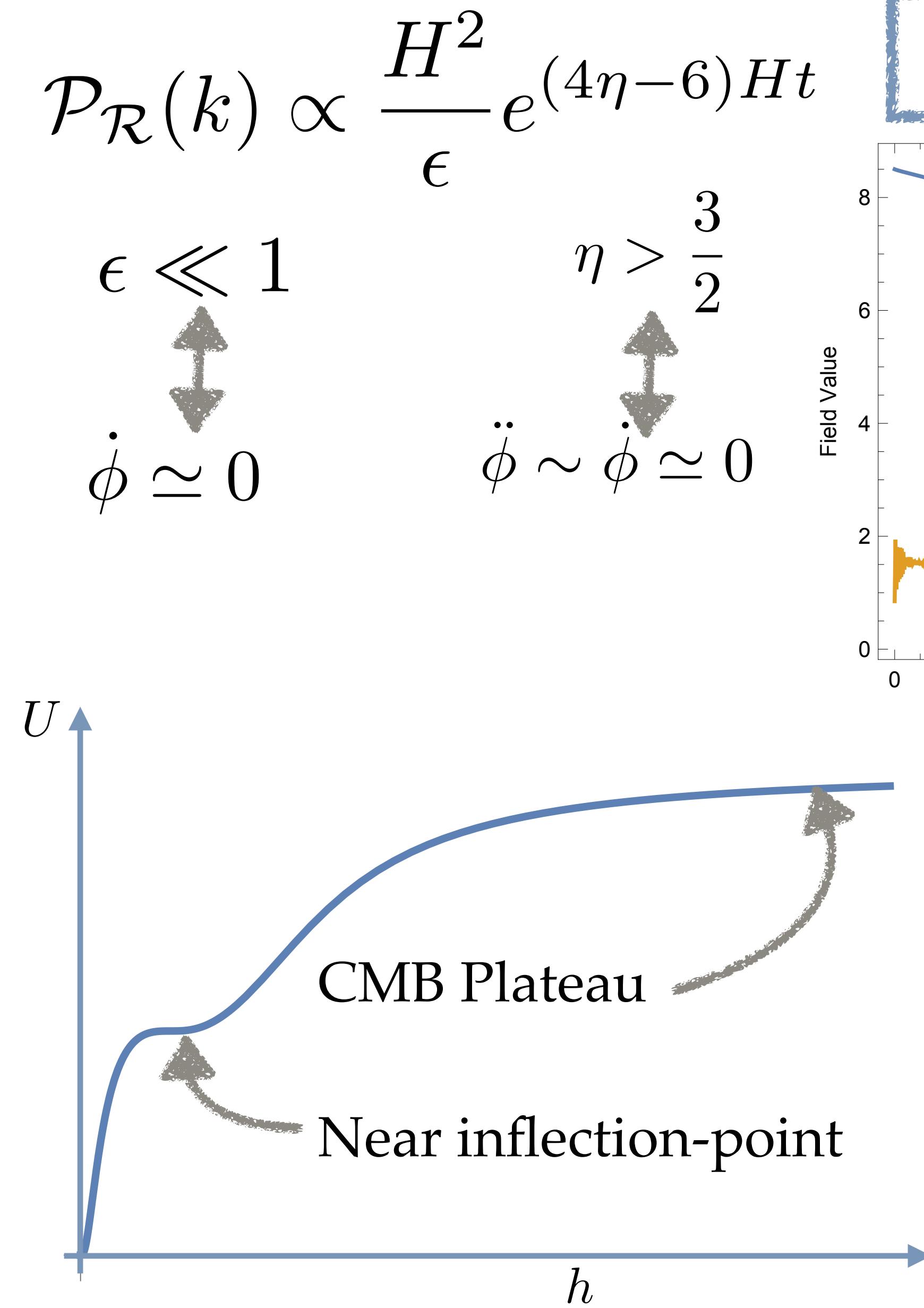
[DYC, S.M. Lee, S.C. Park, JCAP 01 (2021), 032]



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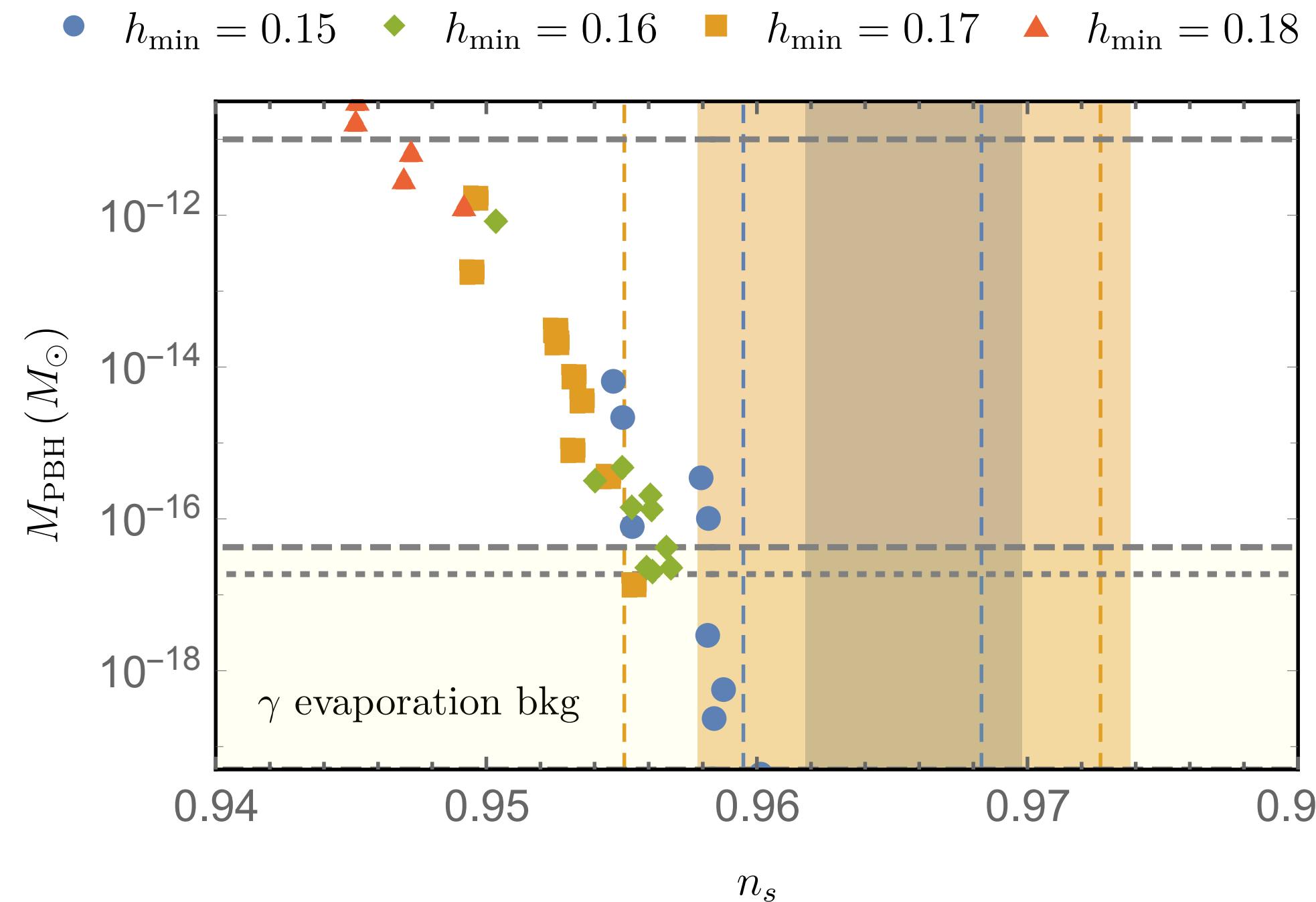
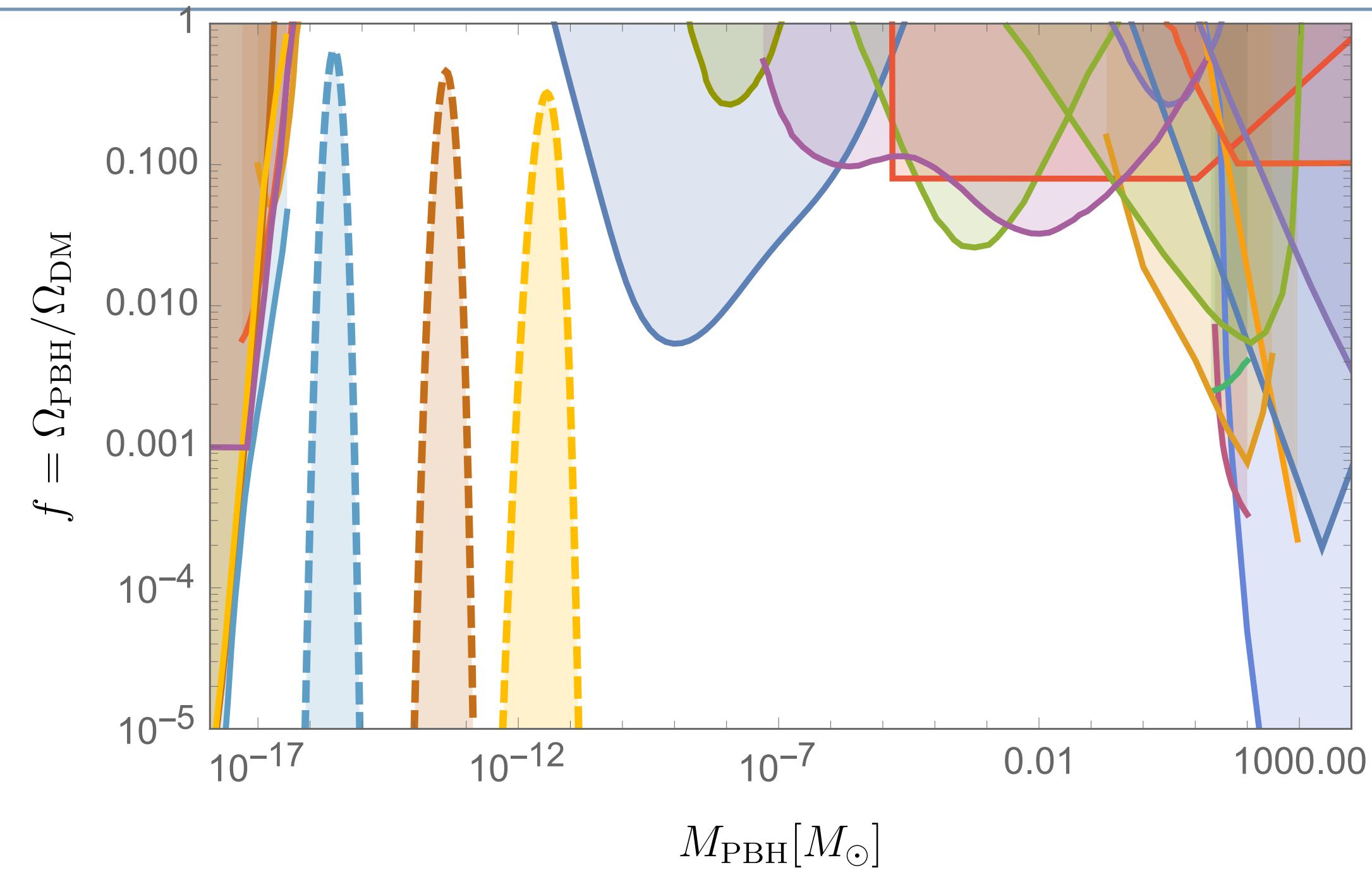
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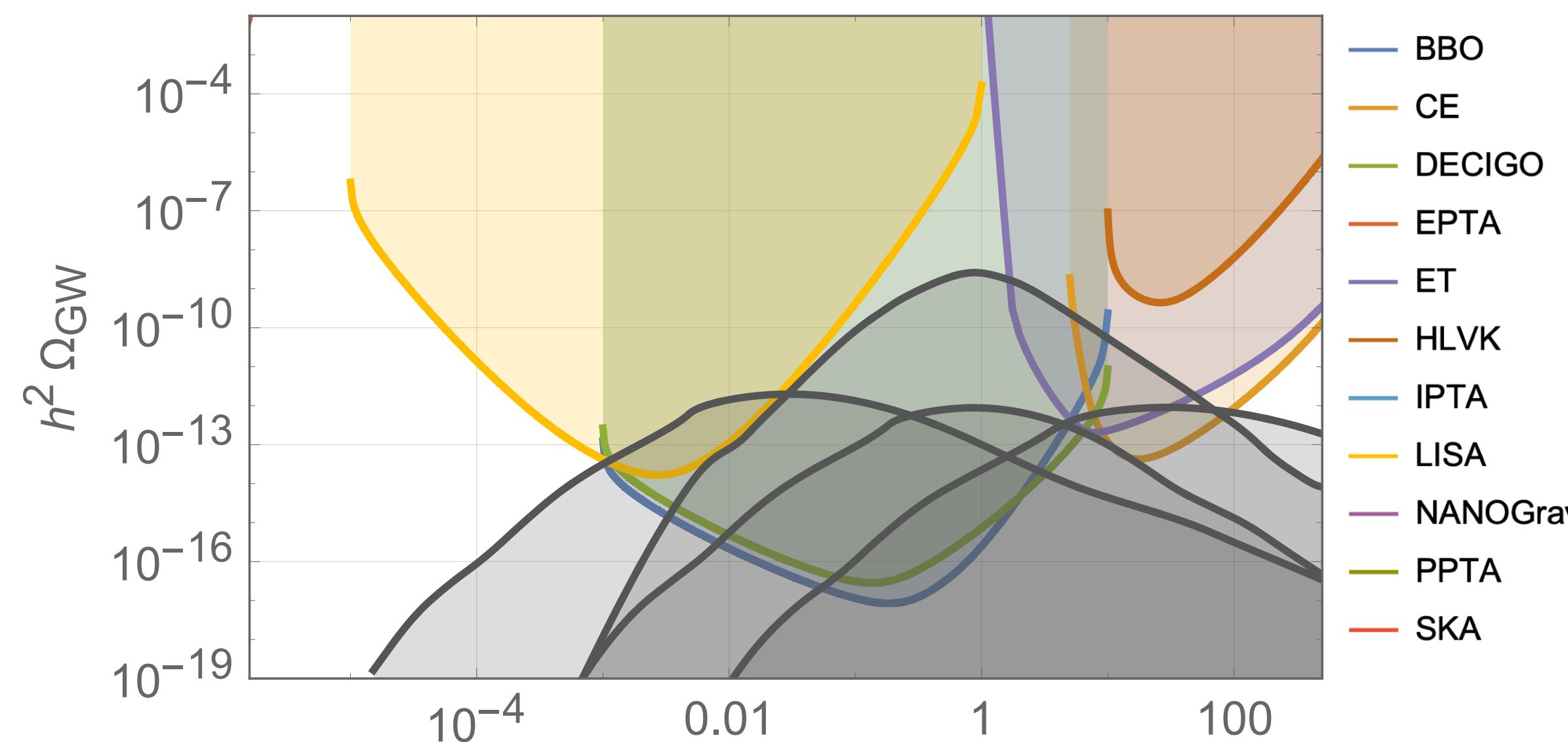


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# Higgs- $R^2$ Inflation - Ultra Slow-Roll



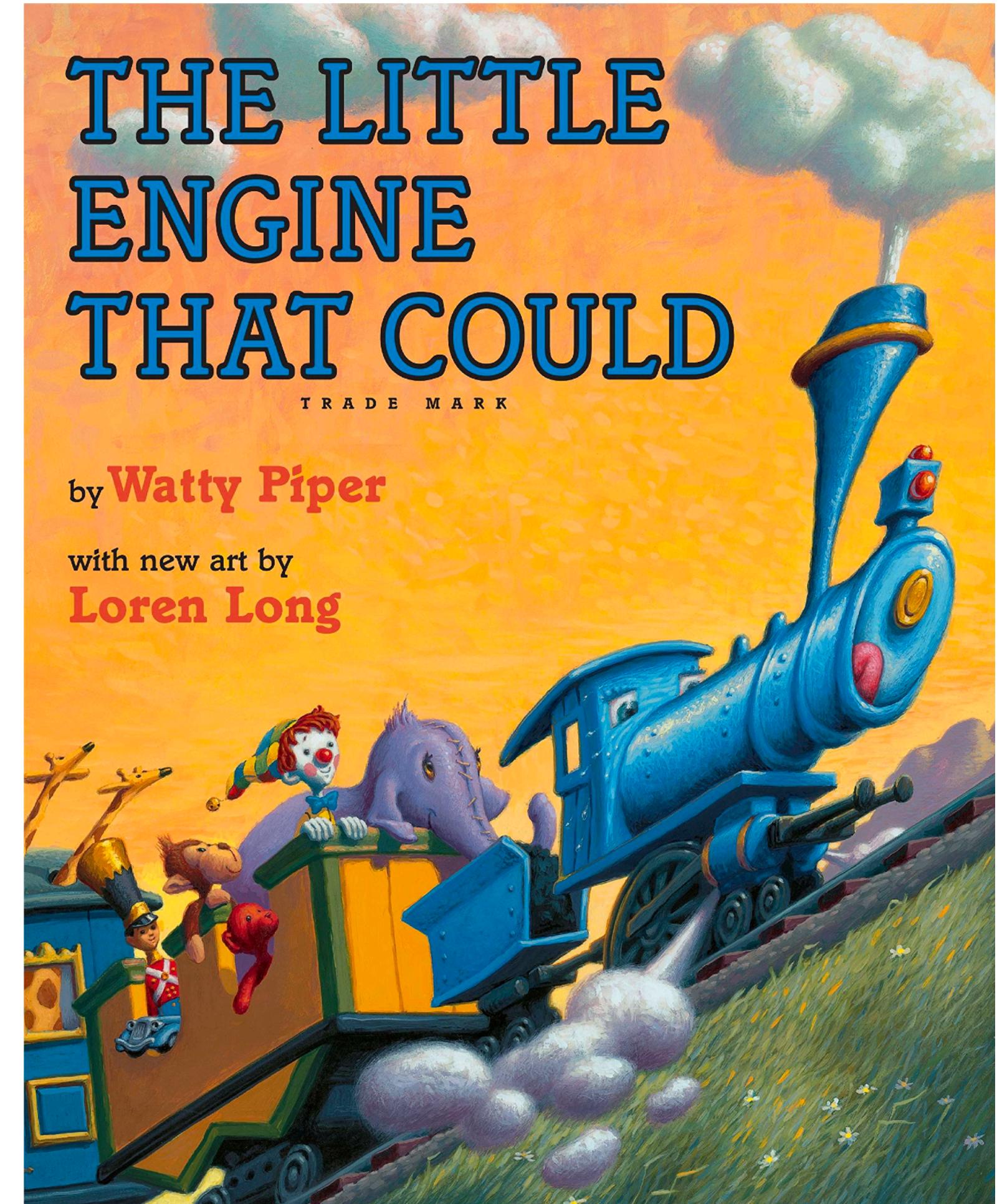
[DYC, S.M. Lee,  
S.C. Park, JCAP 01  
(2021), 032]



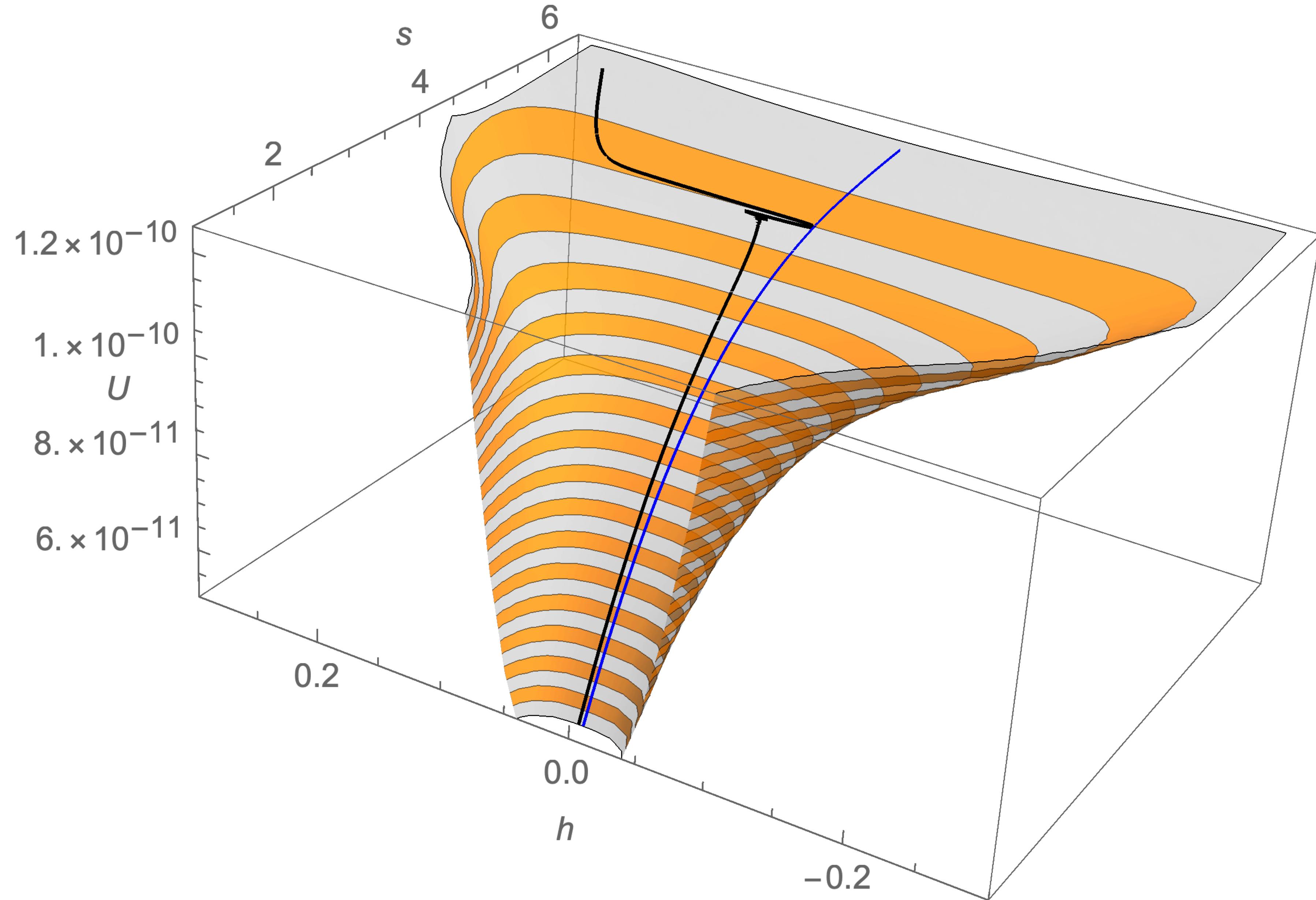
- PBHs compatible for a suitable amount of DM.
- Slight tension with CMB due to the prolonged USR.  
→ can be resolved with additional  $R^n$   
[DYC, H.M. Lee, S.C. Park, Phys. Lett. B 805 (2020) 135453]
- LISA, DECIGO, CE, ET available to probe wider parameter range compared to PBHs.

# So, is this the end of the story?

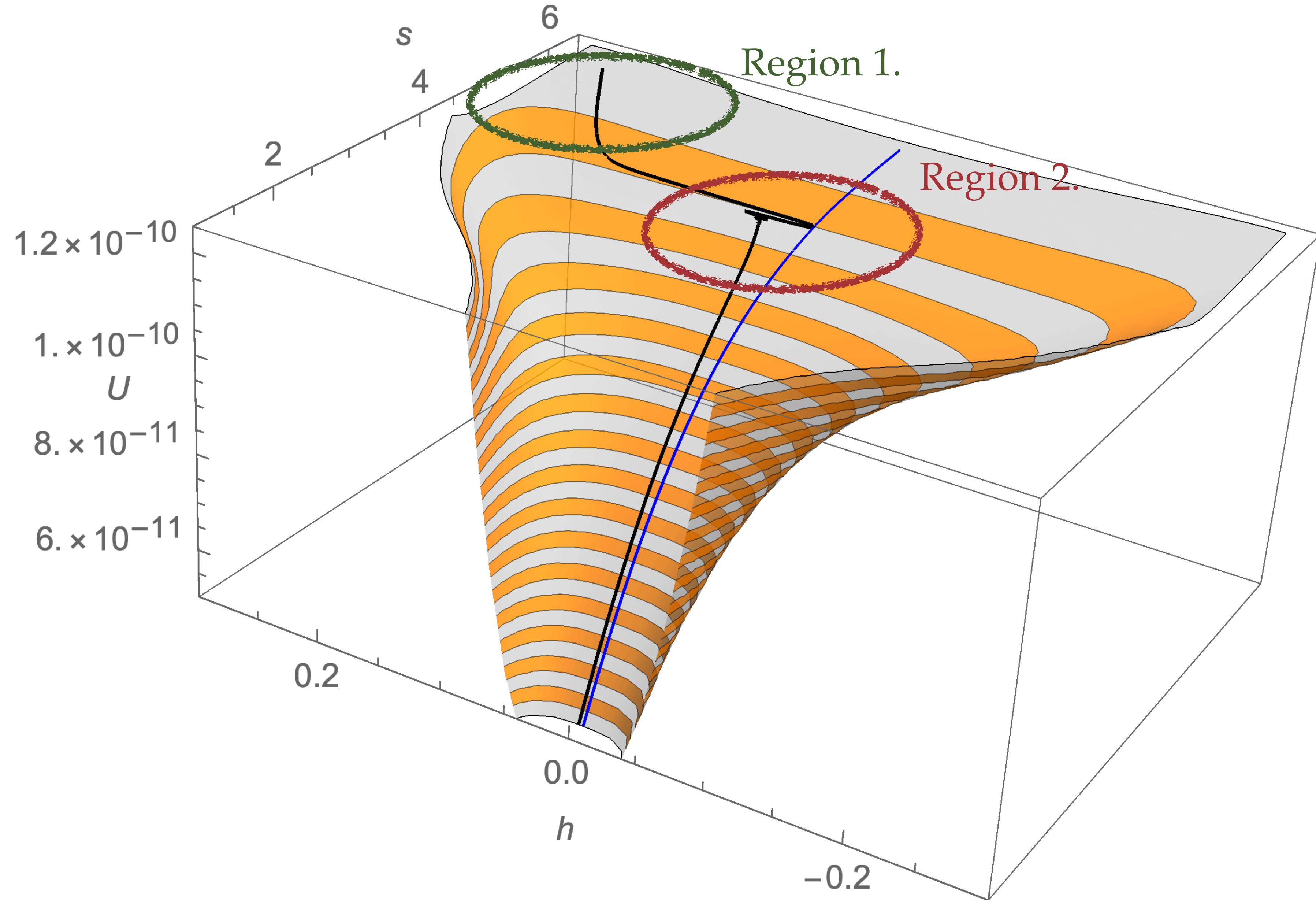
- Apparently, this is not the end of the phenomenology the critical Higgs- $R^2$  inflation can exhibit.
- Critical Higgs- $R^2$  inflation can exhibit *turns in the trajectory*.
- Inflaton *rides* towards the hill at  $h = 0$ , leading to *tachyonic perturbation growth!*



# Higgs- $R^2$ Inflation, Trajectory

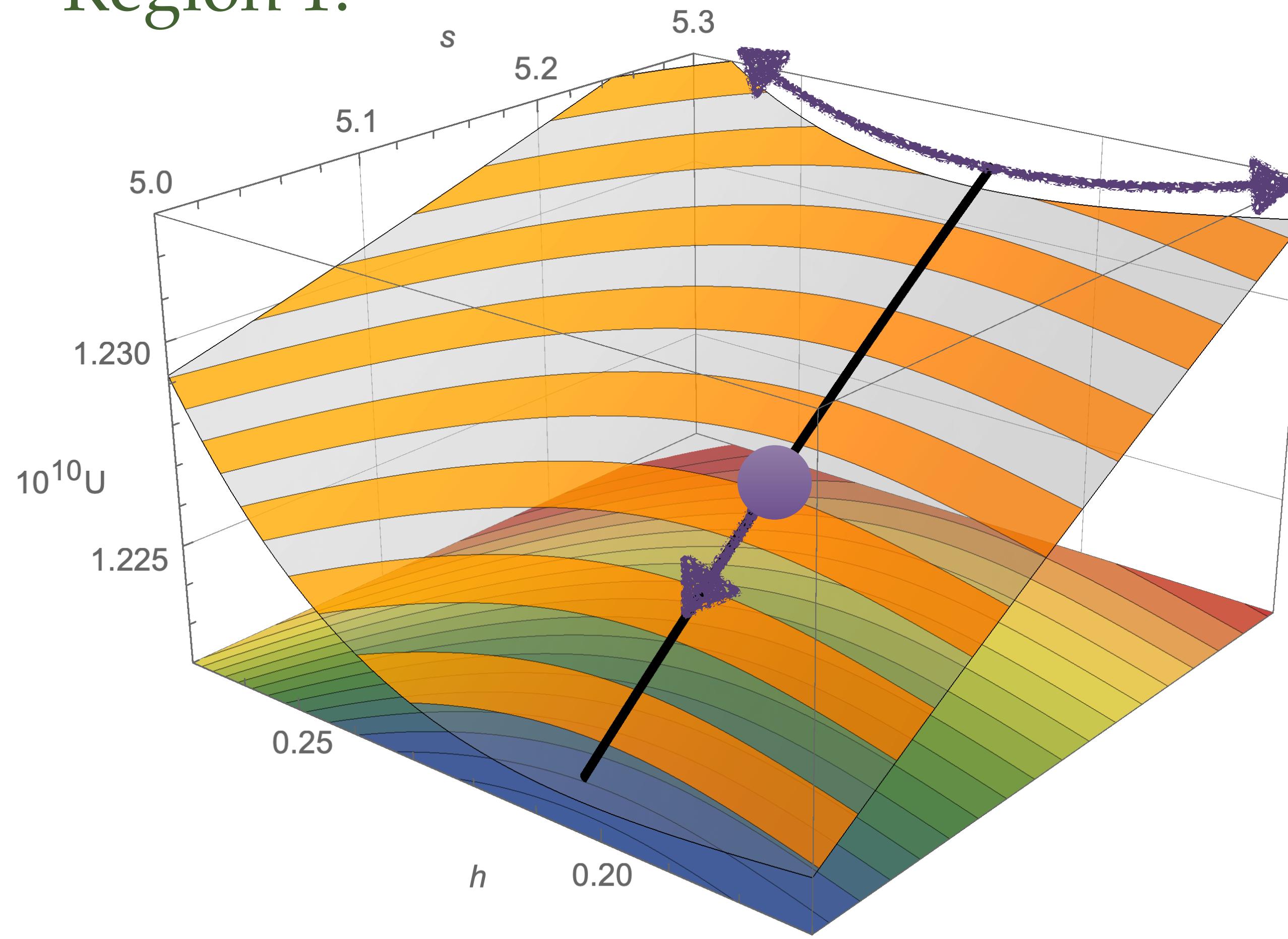


# Higgs- $R^2$ Inflation, Trajectory



# Higgs- $R^2$ Inflation, Trajectory

Region 1.



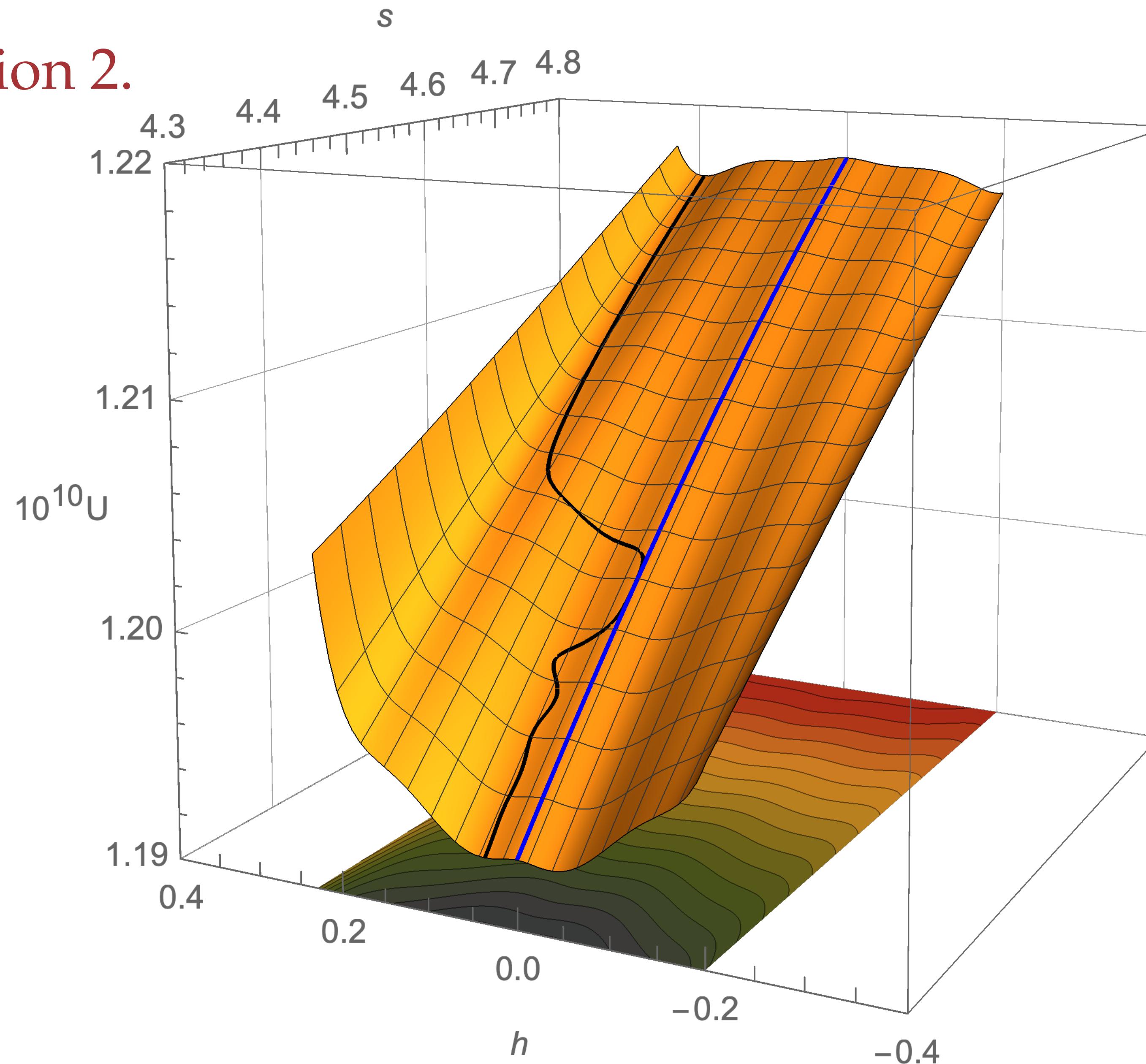
[DYC, K. Kohri, S.C. Park, arXiv:2205.14813]

- “Valley” structure persists, exhibits an “attractor” behavior.
- *Isocurvature perturbations suppressed*
- CMB observables resemble the predictions of an “effective single-field” setup.
- “Slightly larger”  $n_s$ ,  $r$  compared to constant  $\lambda$ .

$$n_s \approx 1 - \frac{2}{N_{\inf}} - \frac{9}{2N_{\inf}^2} + \frac{2M^2\xi^2 b}{\lambda_m (\lambda_m + 3M^2\xi^2)} + \dots \quad r \approx \frac{12}{N_{\inf}^2} + \frac{24M^2\xi^2 b}{\lambda_m(\lambda_m + 3M^2\xi^2)N_{\inf}} \ln \left( \frac{4M^2\xi N_{\inf}}{(\lambda_m + 3M^2\xi^2) h_m^2} \right) + \dots$$

# Higgs- $R^2$ Inflation, Trajectory

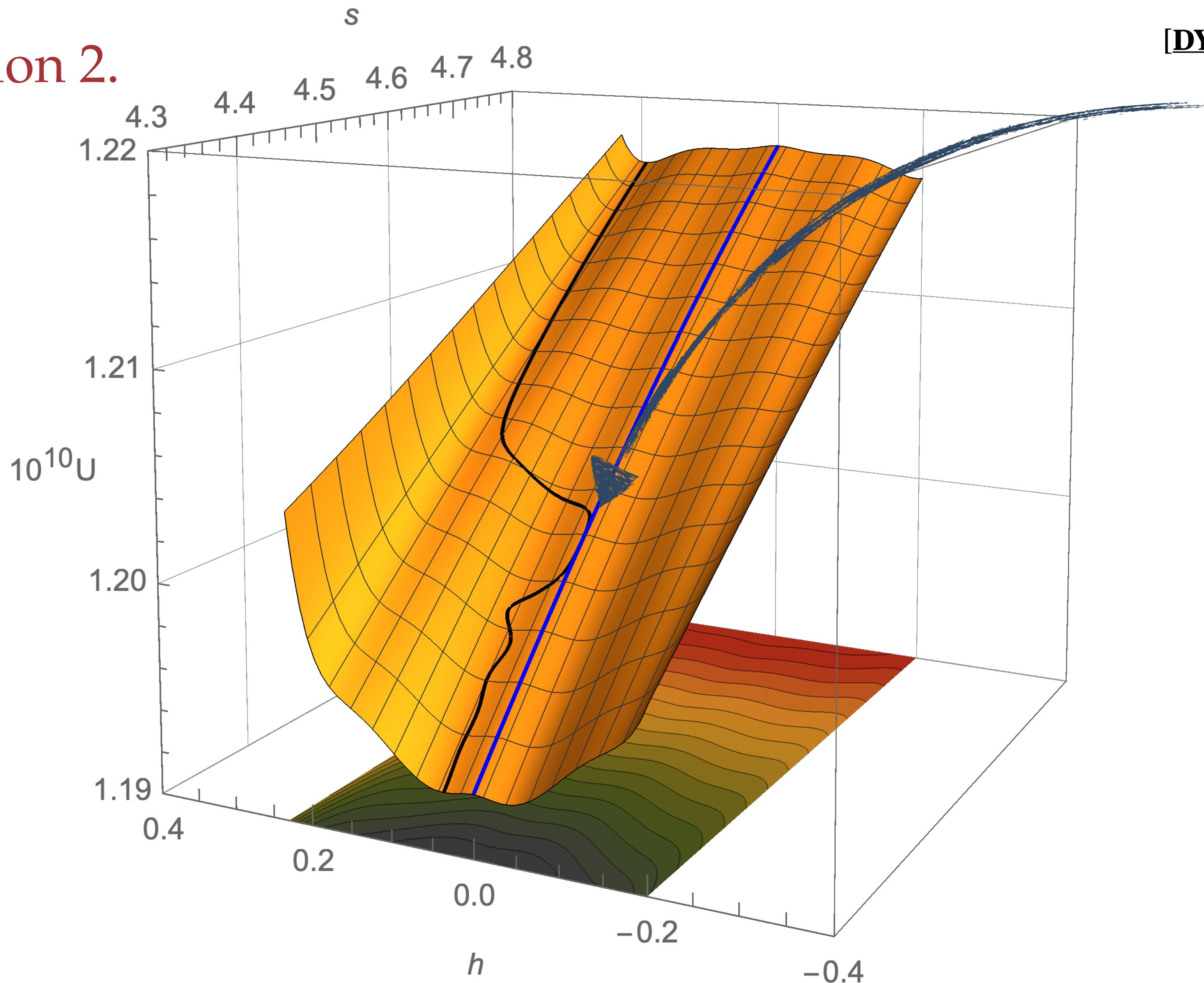
Region 2.



[DYC, K. Kohri, S.C. Park, arXiv:2205.14813]

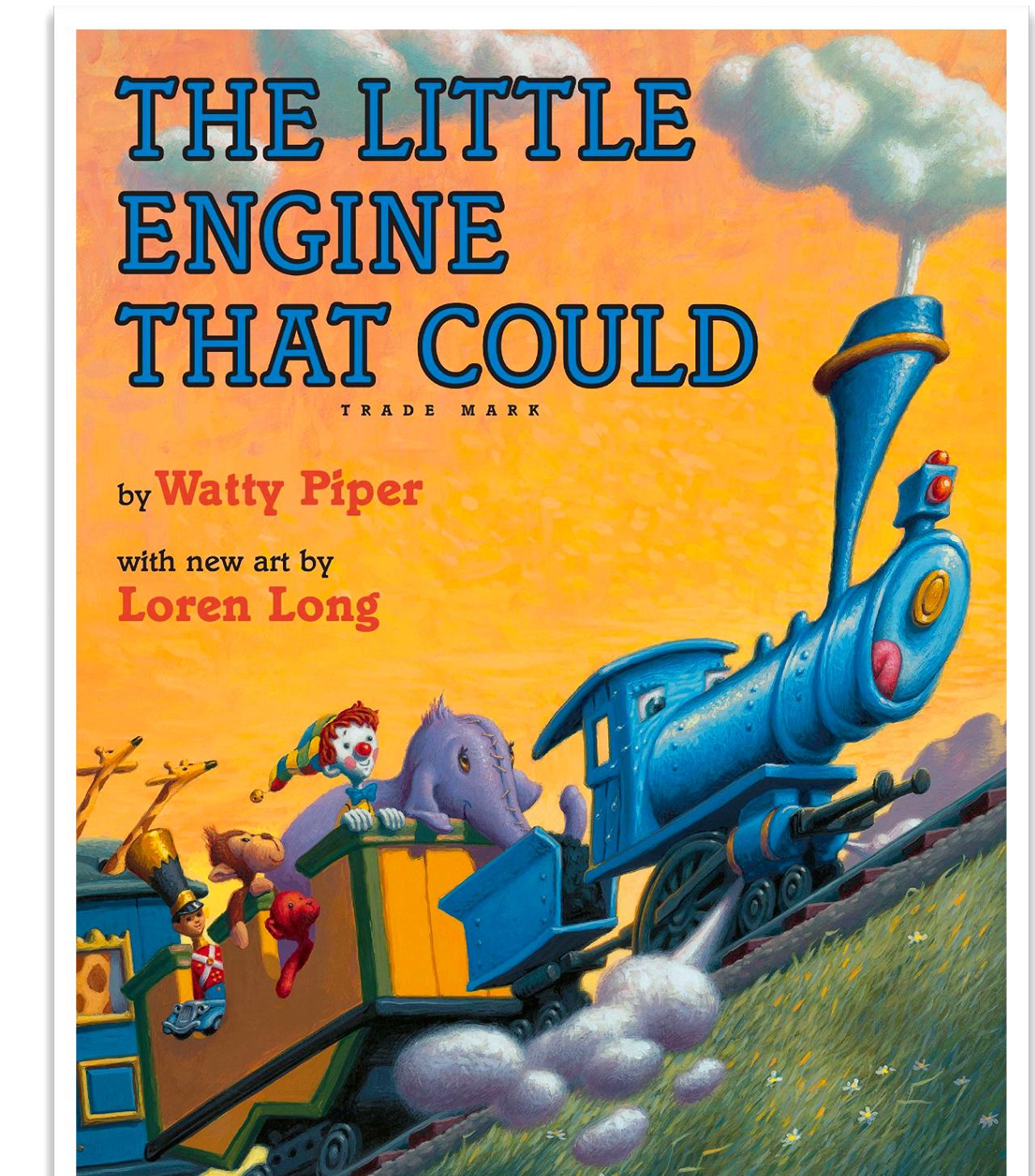
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Region 2.



[DYC, K. Kohri, S.C. Park, arXiv:2205.14813]

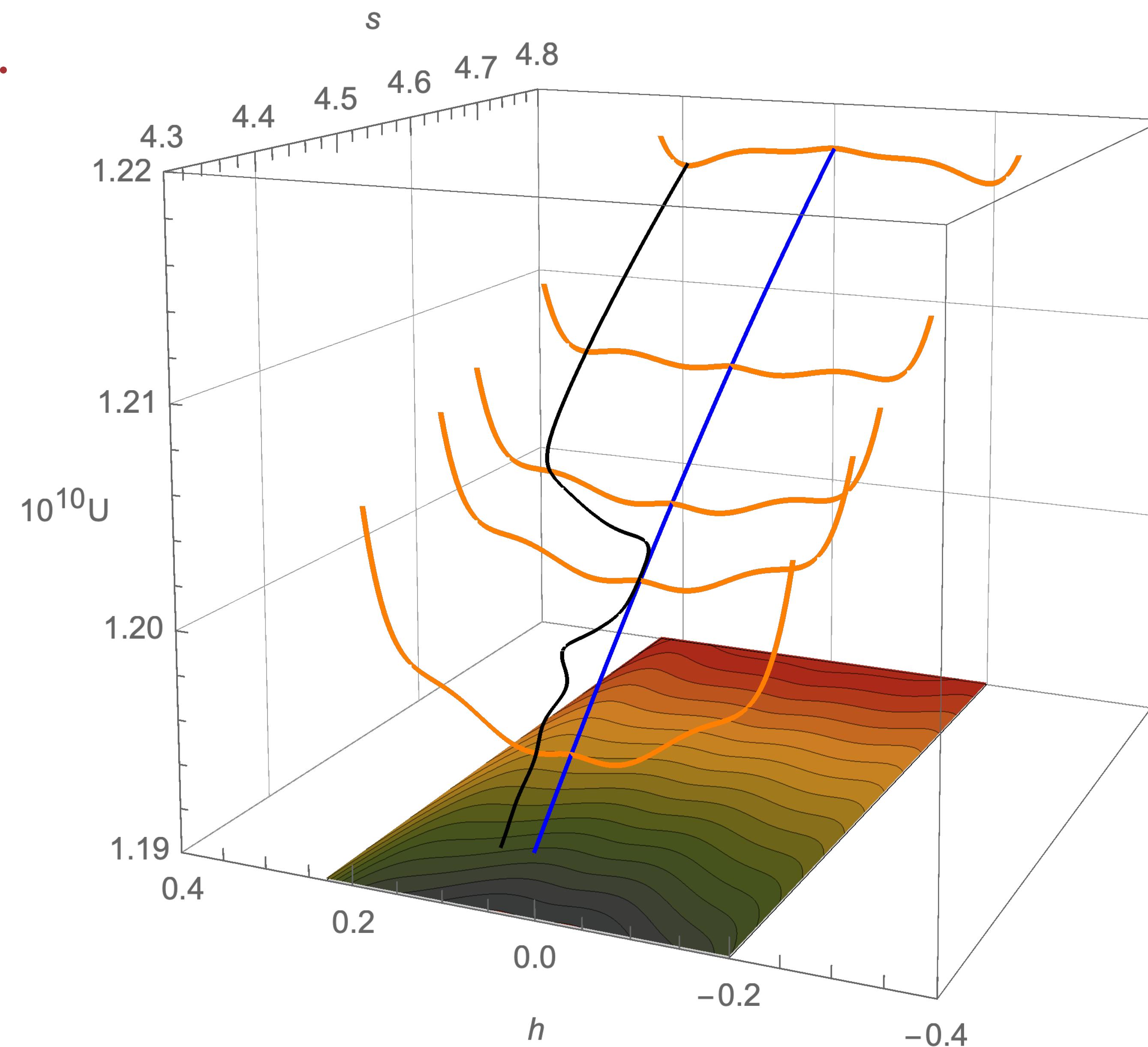
Inflaton “*approaching*” the  
 $h = 0$  hill.



# Higgs- $R^2$ Inflation, Trajectory

[DYC, K. Kohri, S.C. Park, arXiv:2205.14813]

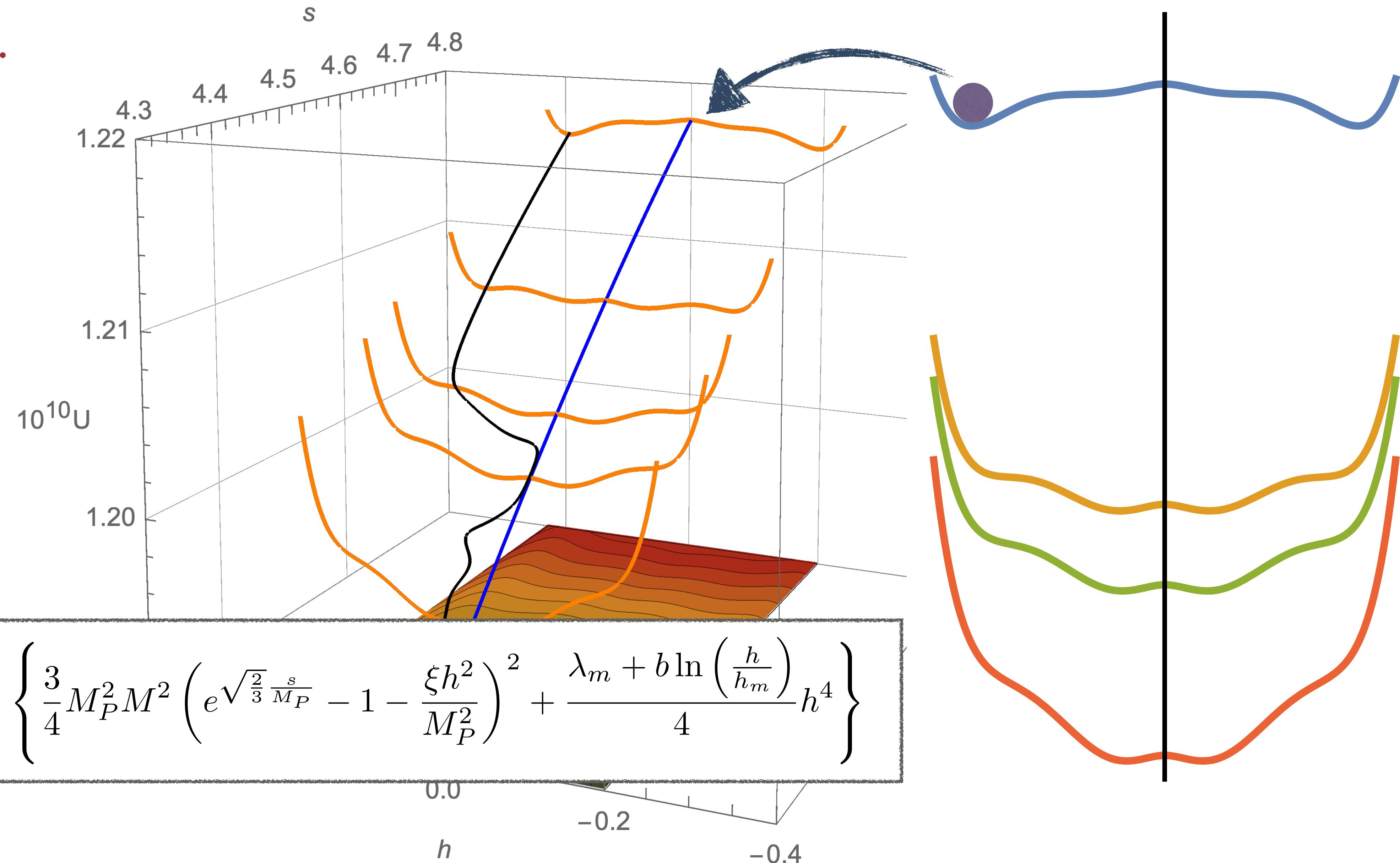
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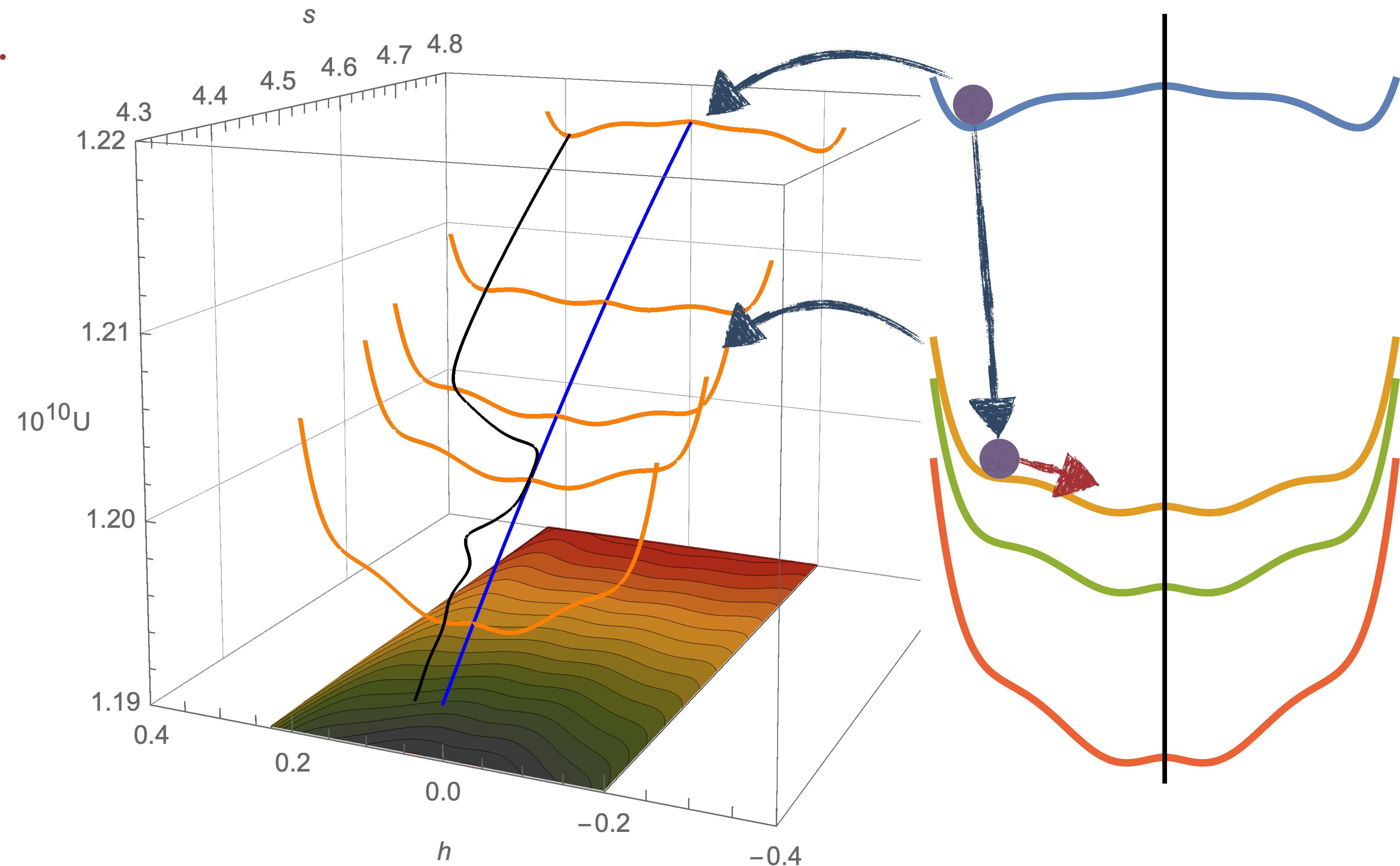
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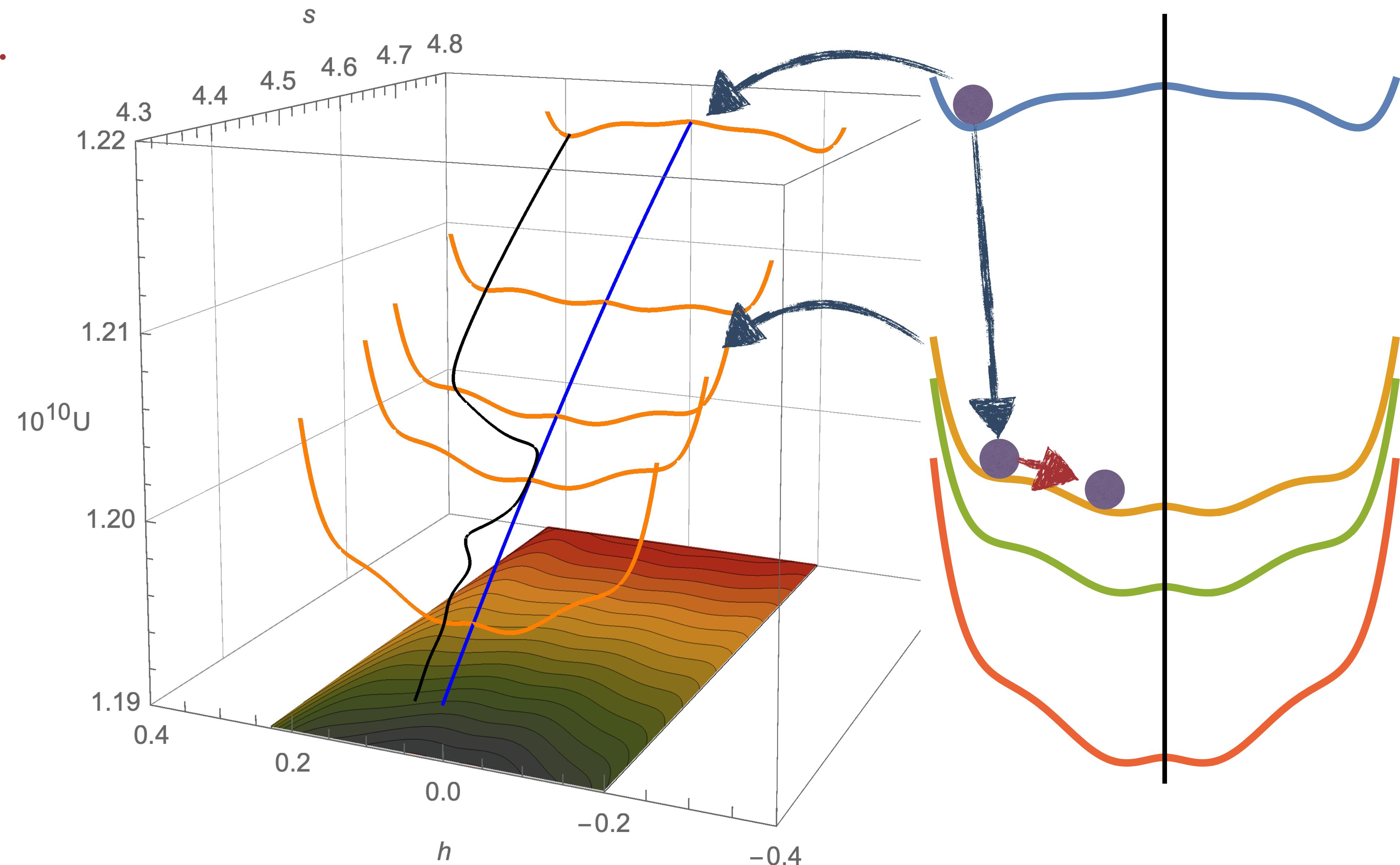
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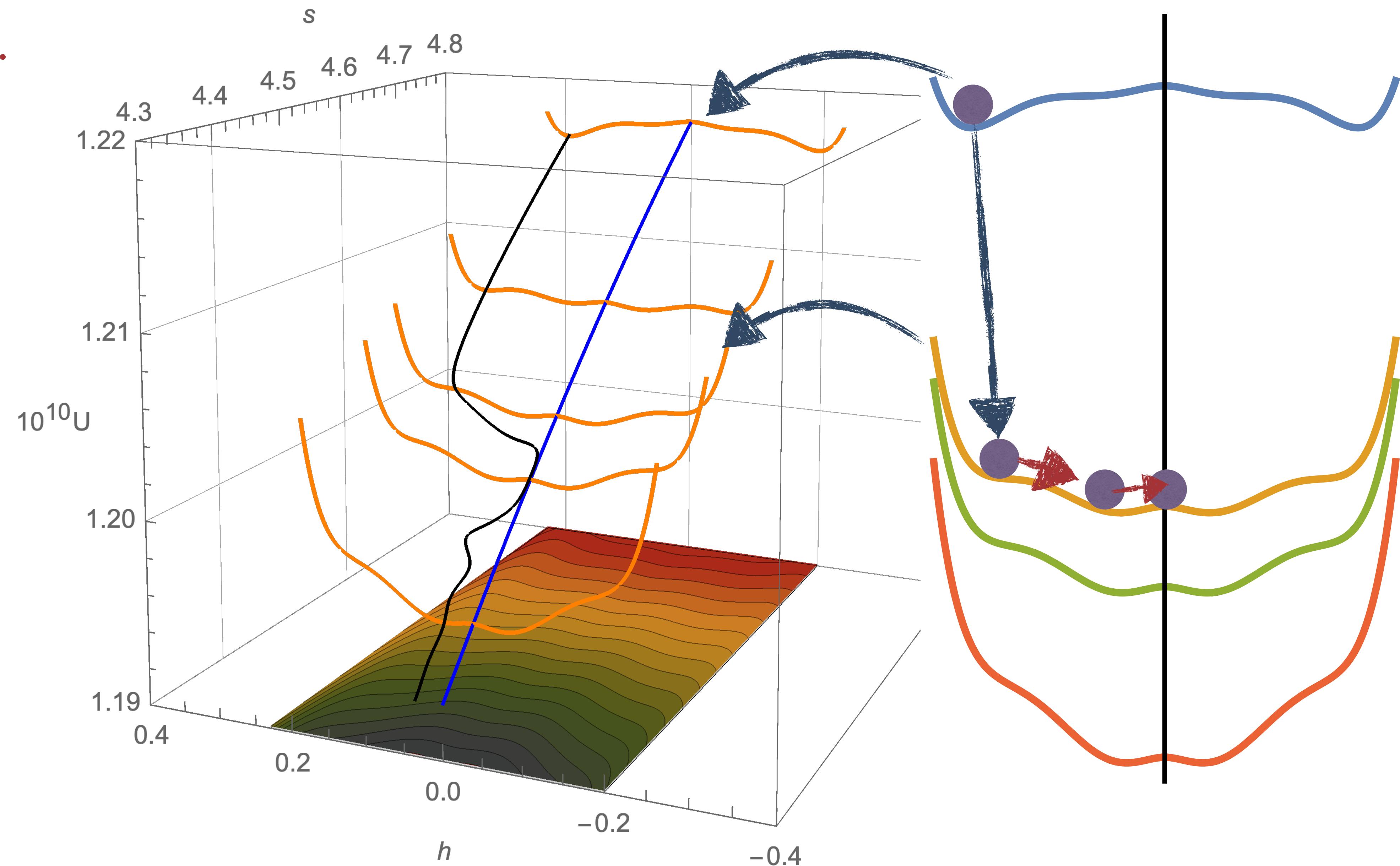
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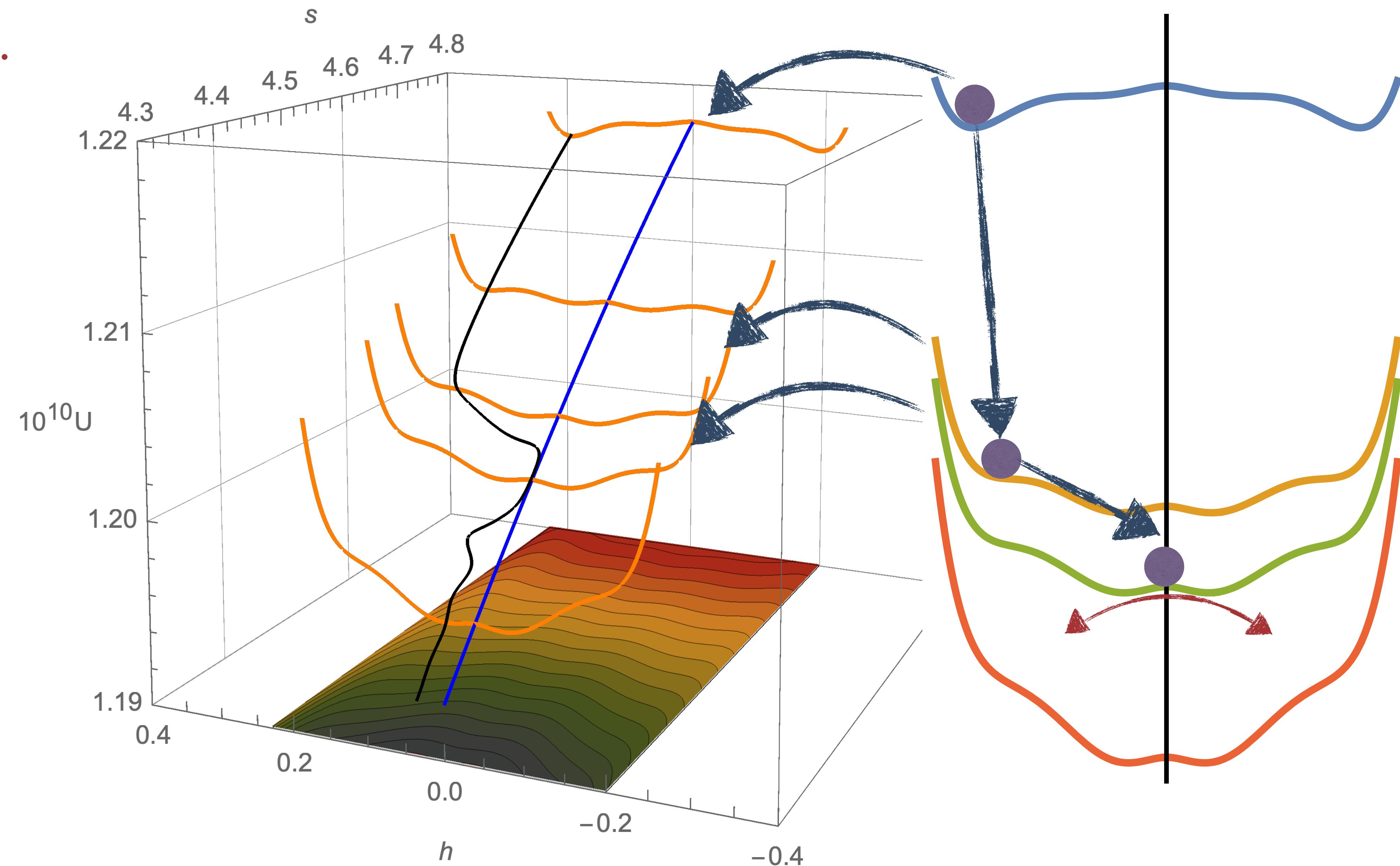
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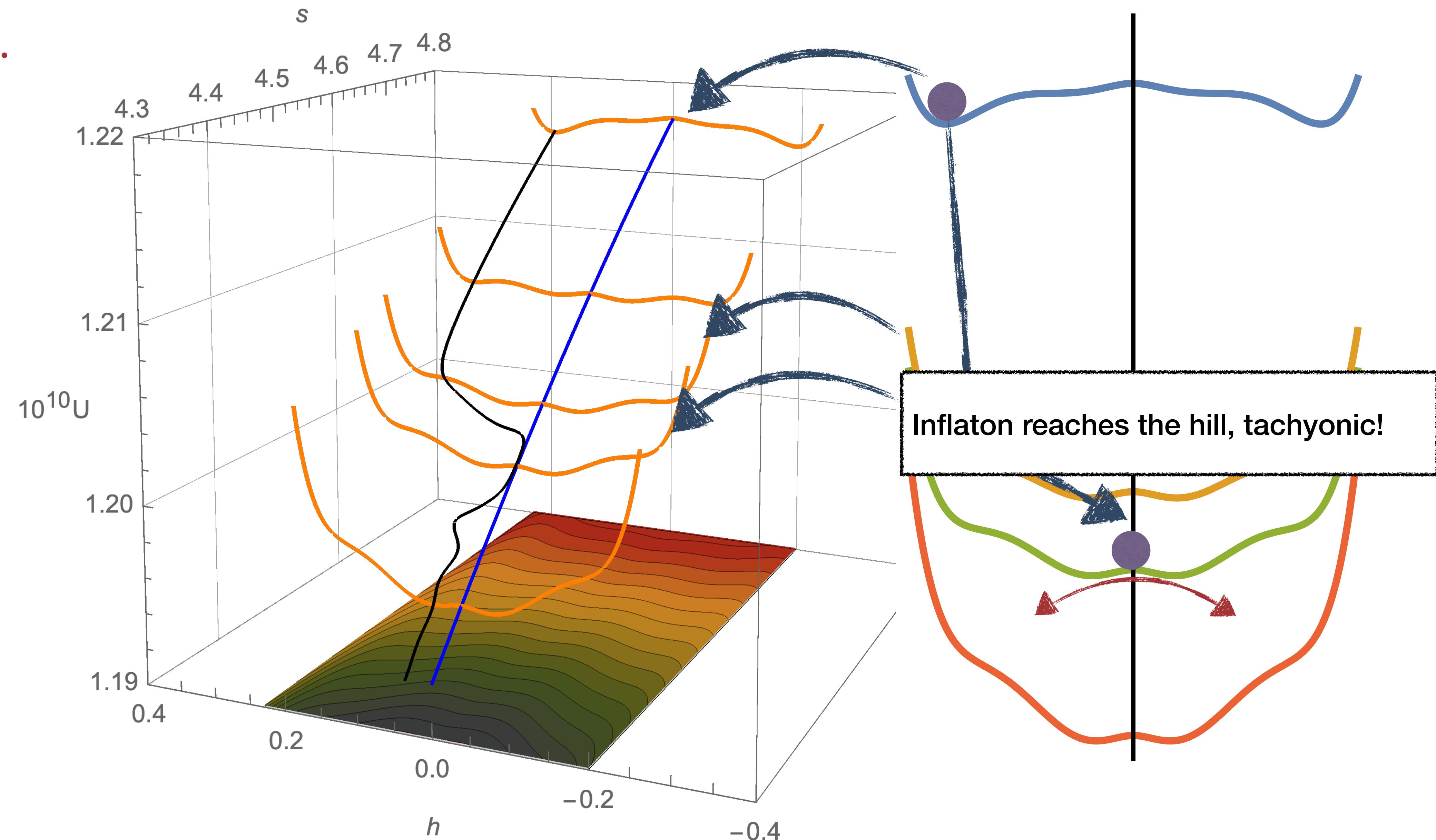
Region 2.



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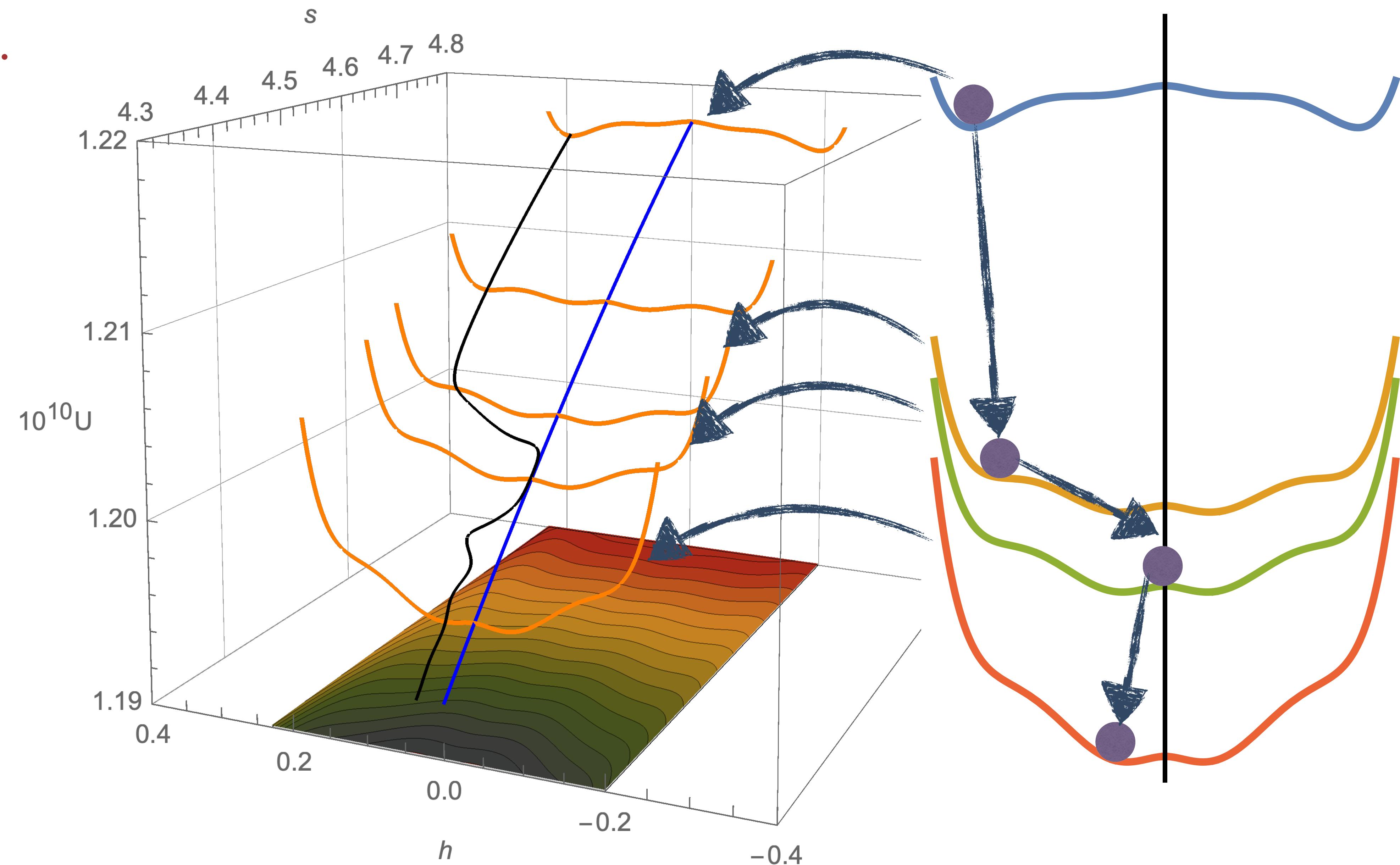
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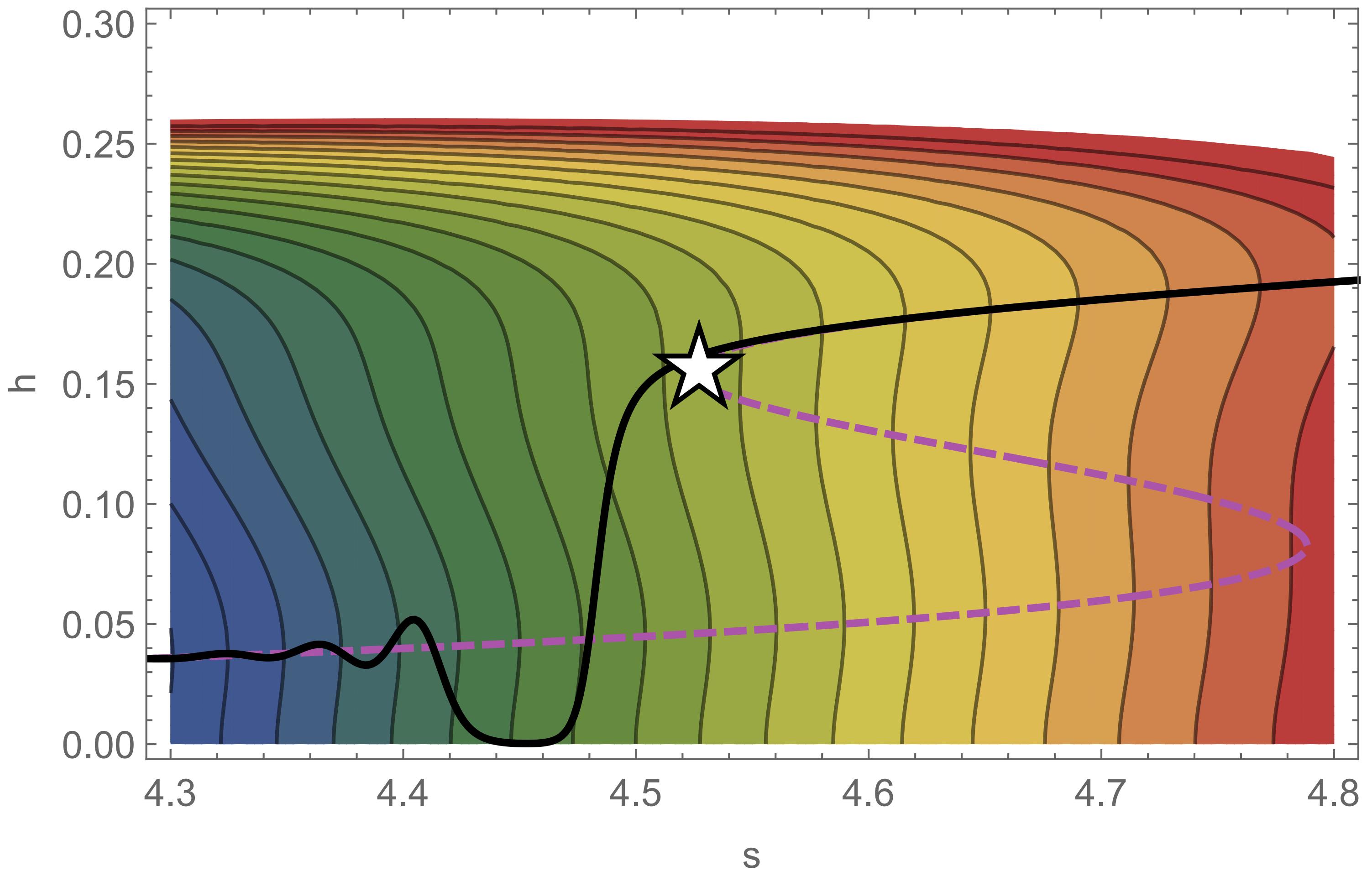
Region 2.



# Higgs- $R^2$ Inflation, Trajectory

Region 2.

[DYC, K. Kohri, S.C. Park, arXiv:2205.14813]



Dashed, Purple :  $\frac{\partial U}{\partial h} = 0$

*Valley structure departure, second valley emerges at smaller  $h$ .*

$$\frac{h_{local \ min}}{h_m} = e^{-\frac{3}{4} + \frac{\sqrt{5b^2 - 16b\lambda_m - 48bM^2\xi^2}}{4b}}$$

$$0 \leq \xi < \frac{1}{4\sqrt{3}M} \sqrt{5b - 16\lambda_m}, \quad \lambda_m < \frac{5b}{16}.$$

*Departure induced by the nonzero  $b$ , differs from constant  $\lambda$ !*

*Nonminimal coupling  $\xi$  determines position of the hill-reaching.*

# Higgs- $R^2$ Inflation, Perturbations

Second order perturbed action with  $\phi^a(t, \vec{x}) = \phi_0^a(t) + \delta\phi^a(t, \vec{x})$ ,  $ds^2 = -(1 + 2\psi)dt^2 + a(t)^2(1 - 2\psi)\delta_{ij}dx^i dx^j$ . with the perturbation equations

$$\ddot{\mathcal{R}} + (3 + 2\epsilon - 2\eta_{||}) H\dot{\mathcal{R}} + \frac{k^2}{a^2}\mathcal{R} = -2\frac{H^2}{\dot{\phi}_0}\eta_{\perp} \left[ \dot{Q}_N + \left( 3 - \eta_{||} + \frac{\dot{\eta}_{\perp}}{H\eta_{\perp}} \right) HQ_N \right]$$

$$\ddot{Q}_N + 3H\dot{Q}_N + \left( \frac{k^2}{a^2} + M_{\text{eff}}^2 \right) Q_N = 2\dot{\phi}_0\eta_{\perp}\dot{\mathcal{R}}.$$

$$\eta_{||} \equiv -\frac{\ddot{\phi}_0}{\dot{\phi}_0 H}$$

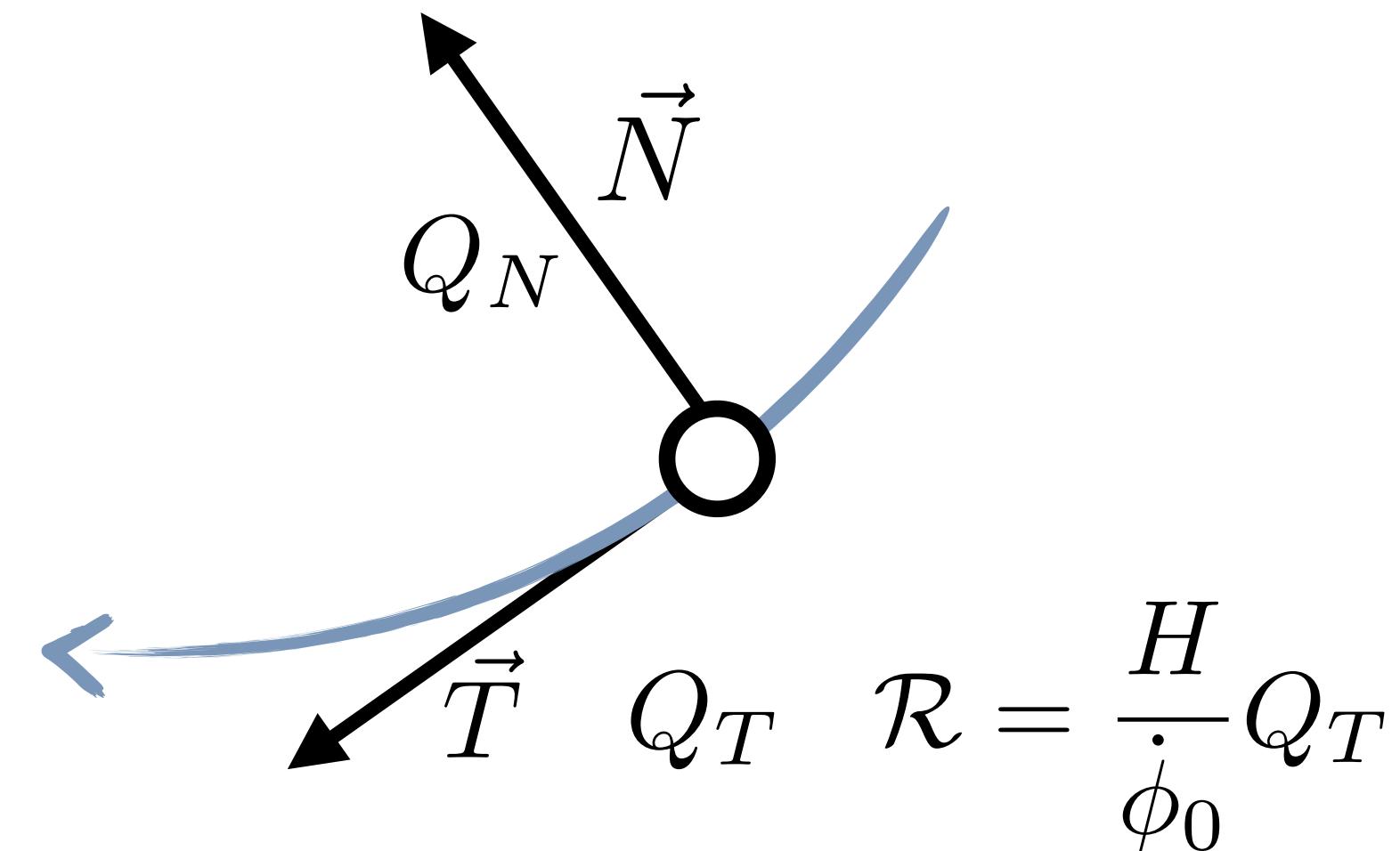
$$\eta_{\perp} \equiv \frac{U_N}{\dot{\phi}_0 H}$$

$$Q^a \equiv \delta\phi^a + \frac{\dot{\phi}^a}{H}\psi$$

$$\dot{\theta} \equiv H\eta_{\perp}$$

$$M_{\text{eff}}^2 = U_{NN} + H^2\epsilon\mathbb{R} - \dot{\theta}^2.$$

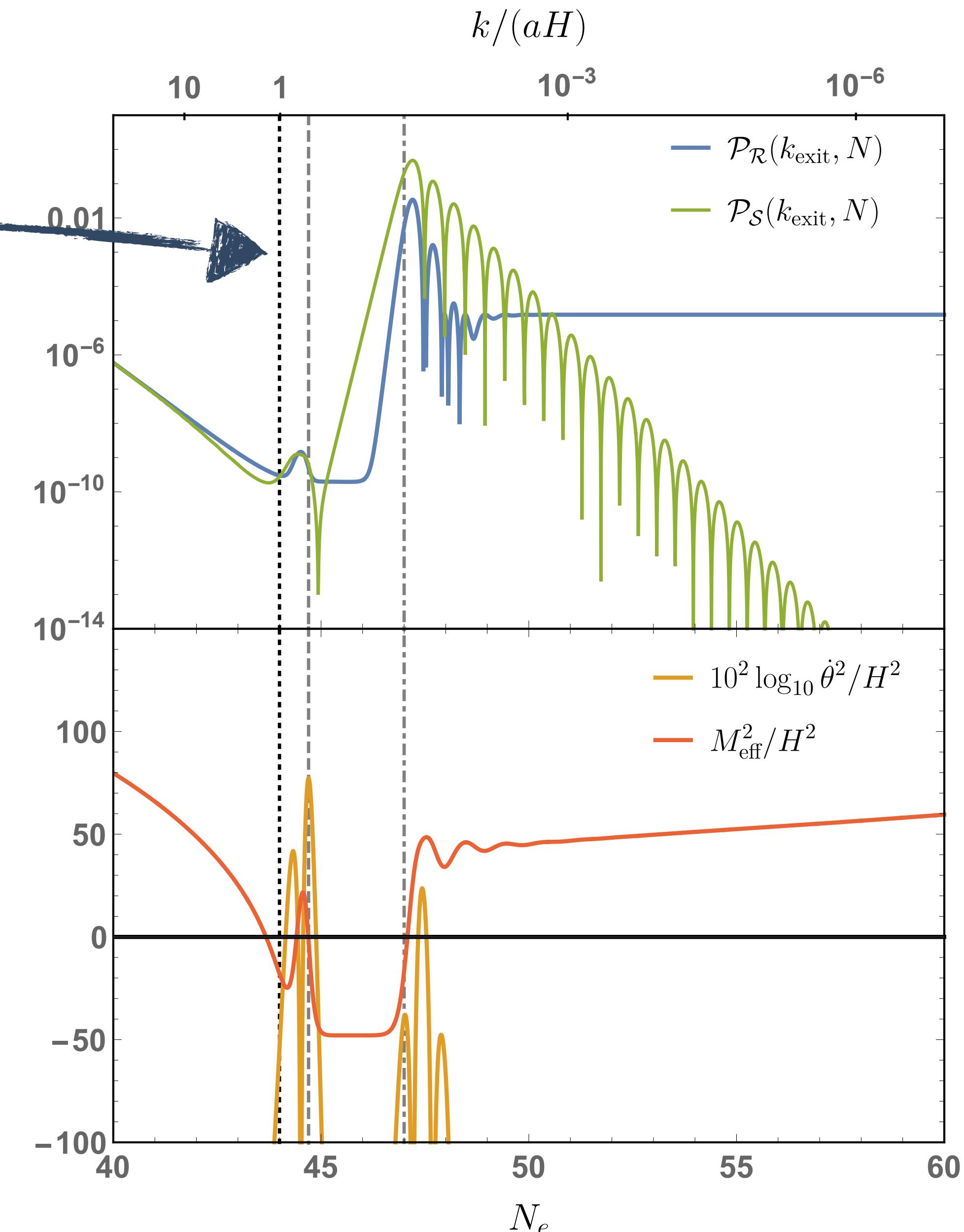
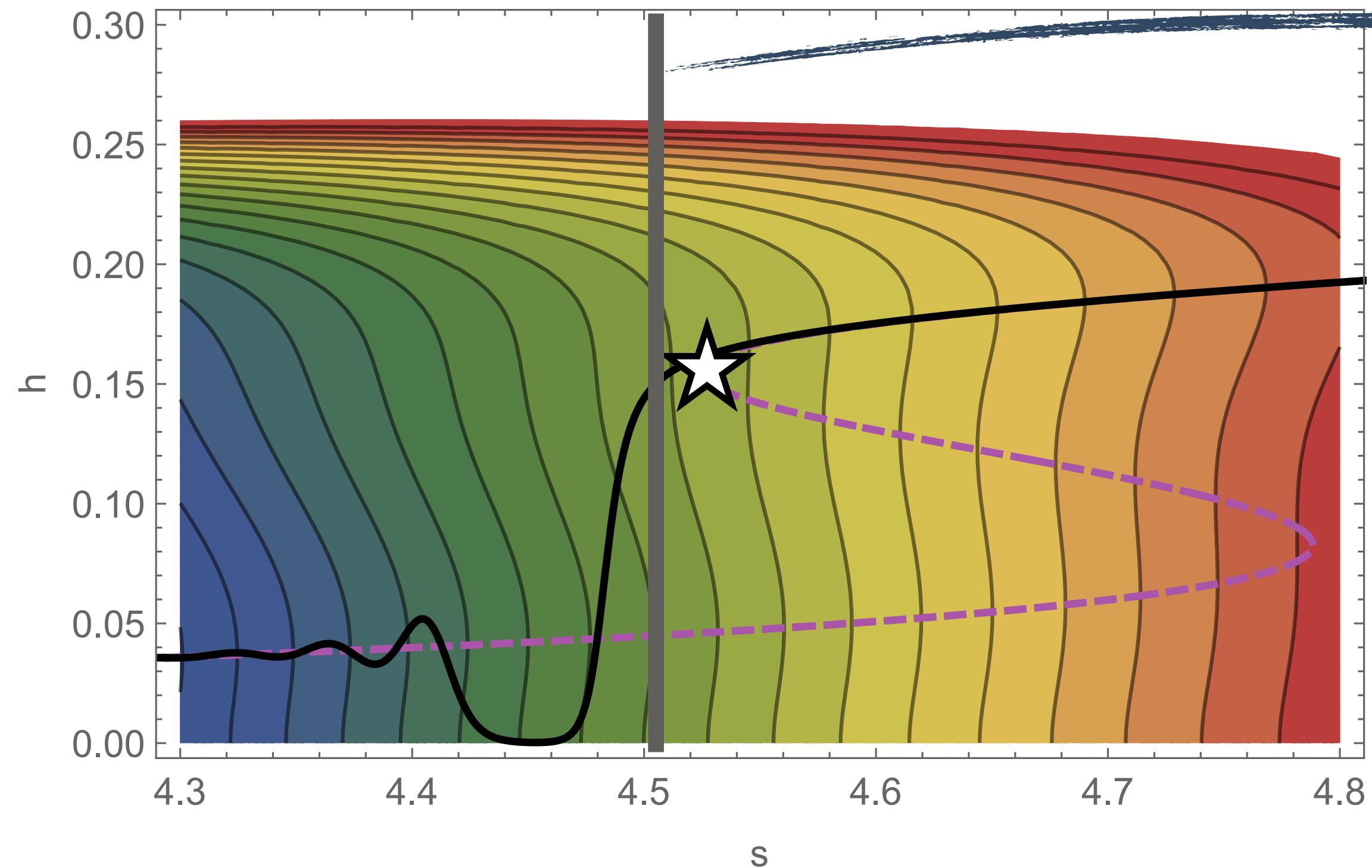
[S. Cespedes et. al, JCAP 05 (2012) 008]  
 [A. Achucarro et. al, Phys. Rev. D86 (2012) 121301]  
 [S. Groot Nibbelink and B.J.W. van Tent, Class. Quant. Grav. 19 (2002) 613] and many more...



- $M_{\text{eff}}^2 < 0$  leads to *tachyonic growth of  $Q_N$* , then gets *sourced to  $\mathcal{R}$*  through *turns in the trajectory*.
- Tachyonic mass at the “hill” of the potential at  $h = 0$ ,  $M_{\text{eff}}^2 \simeq -3M^2\xi \left( 1 - e^{-\sqrt{\frac{2}{3}}s} \right)$

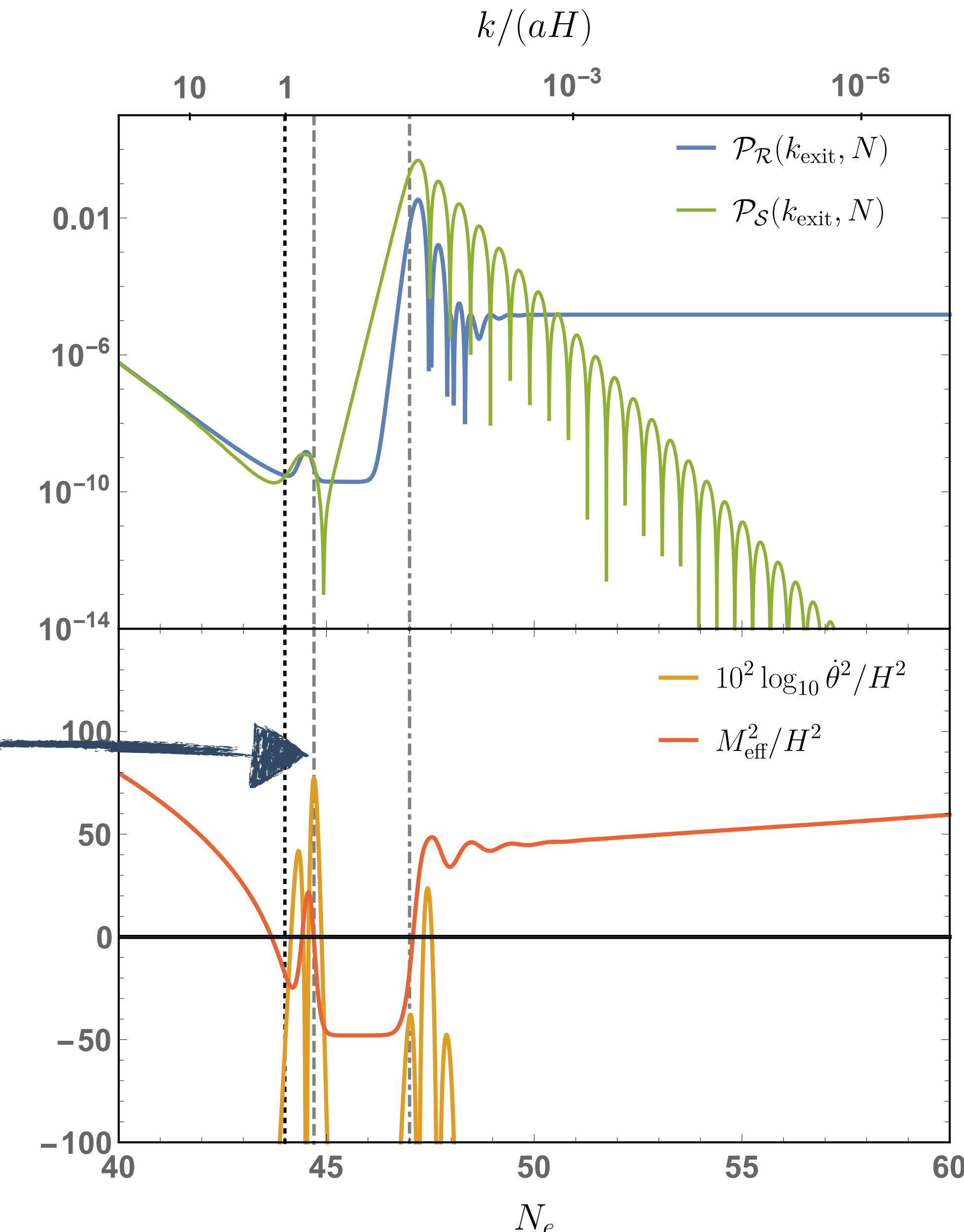
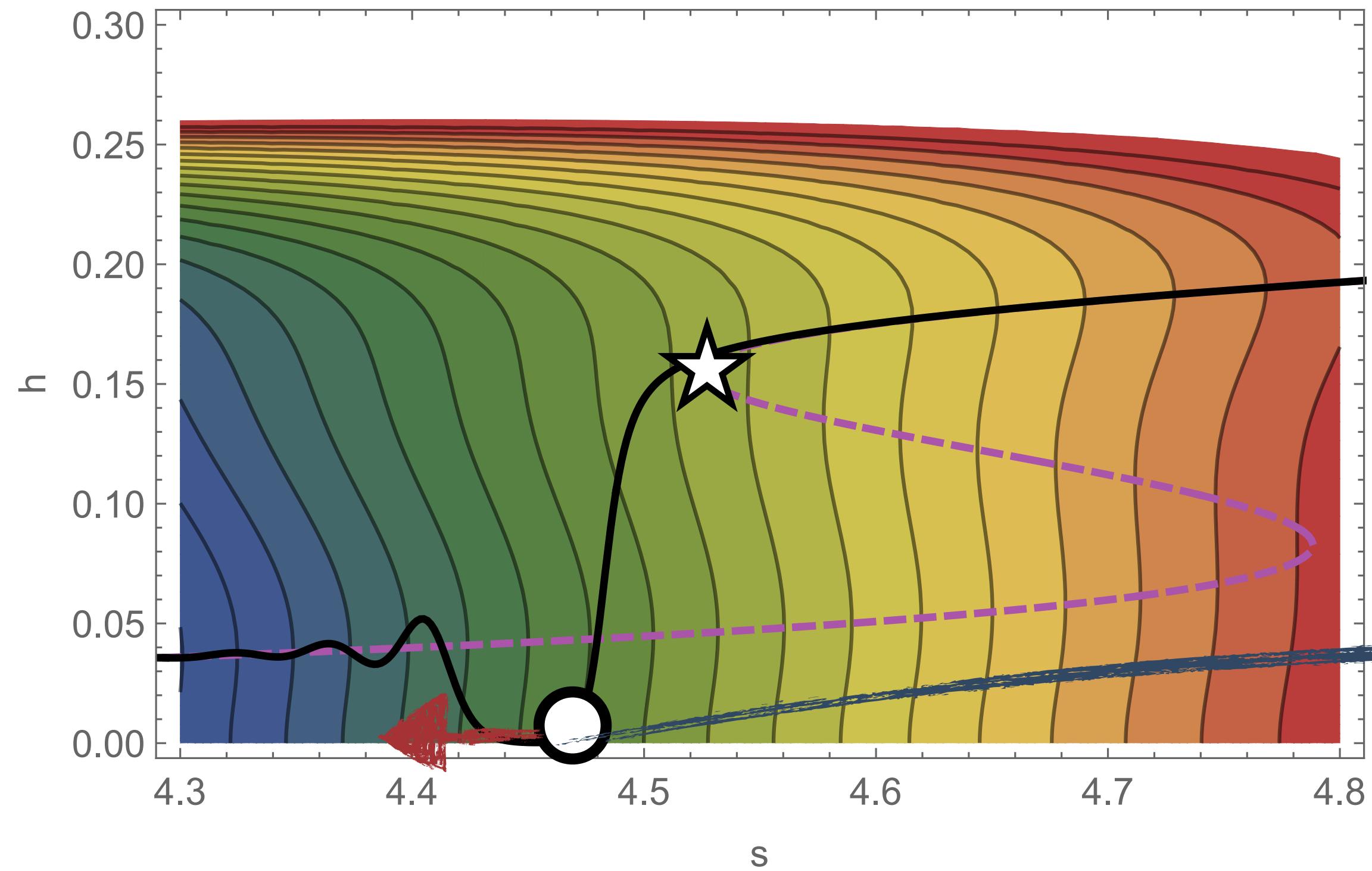
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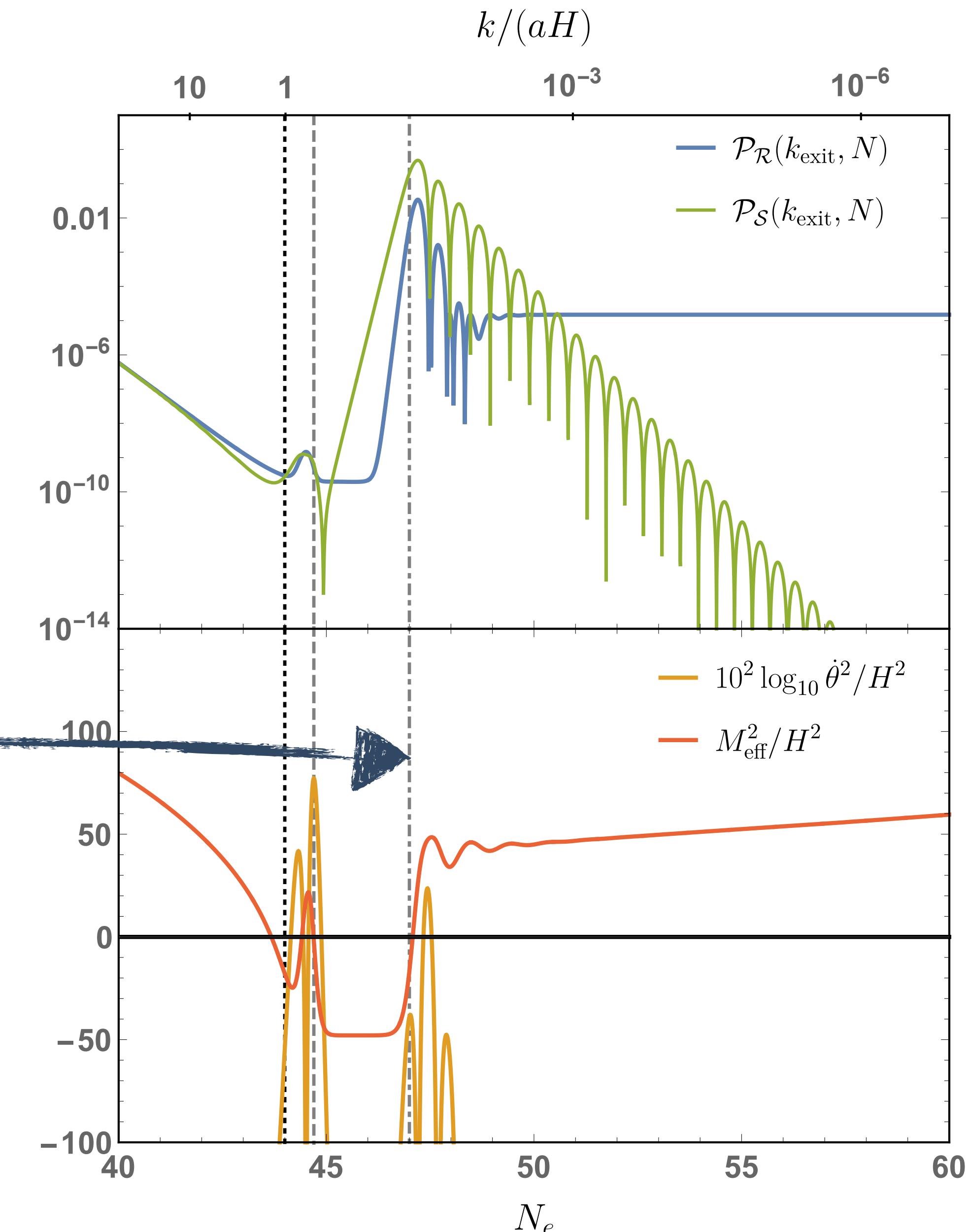
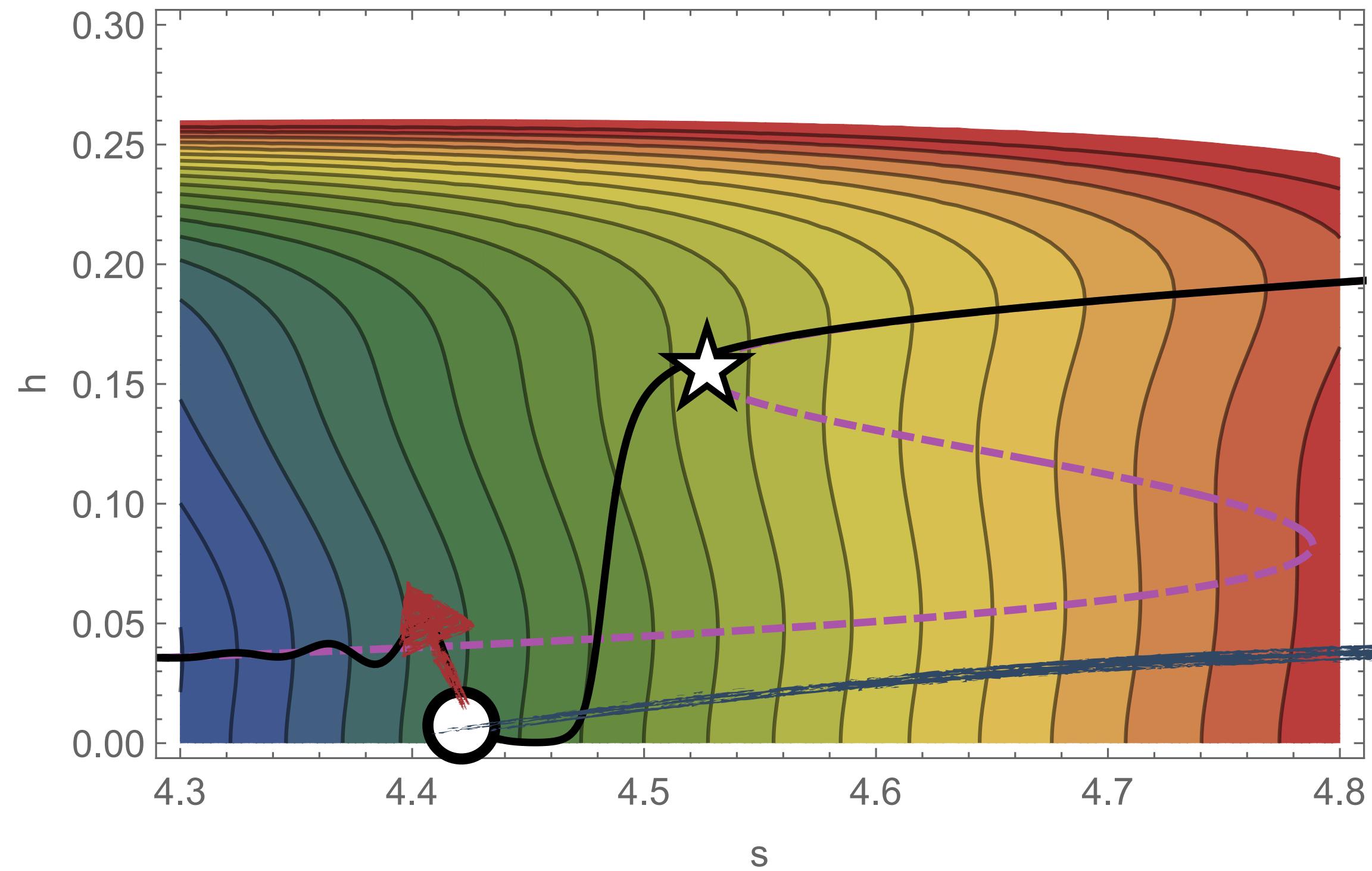
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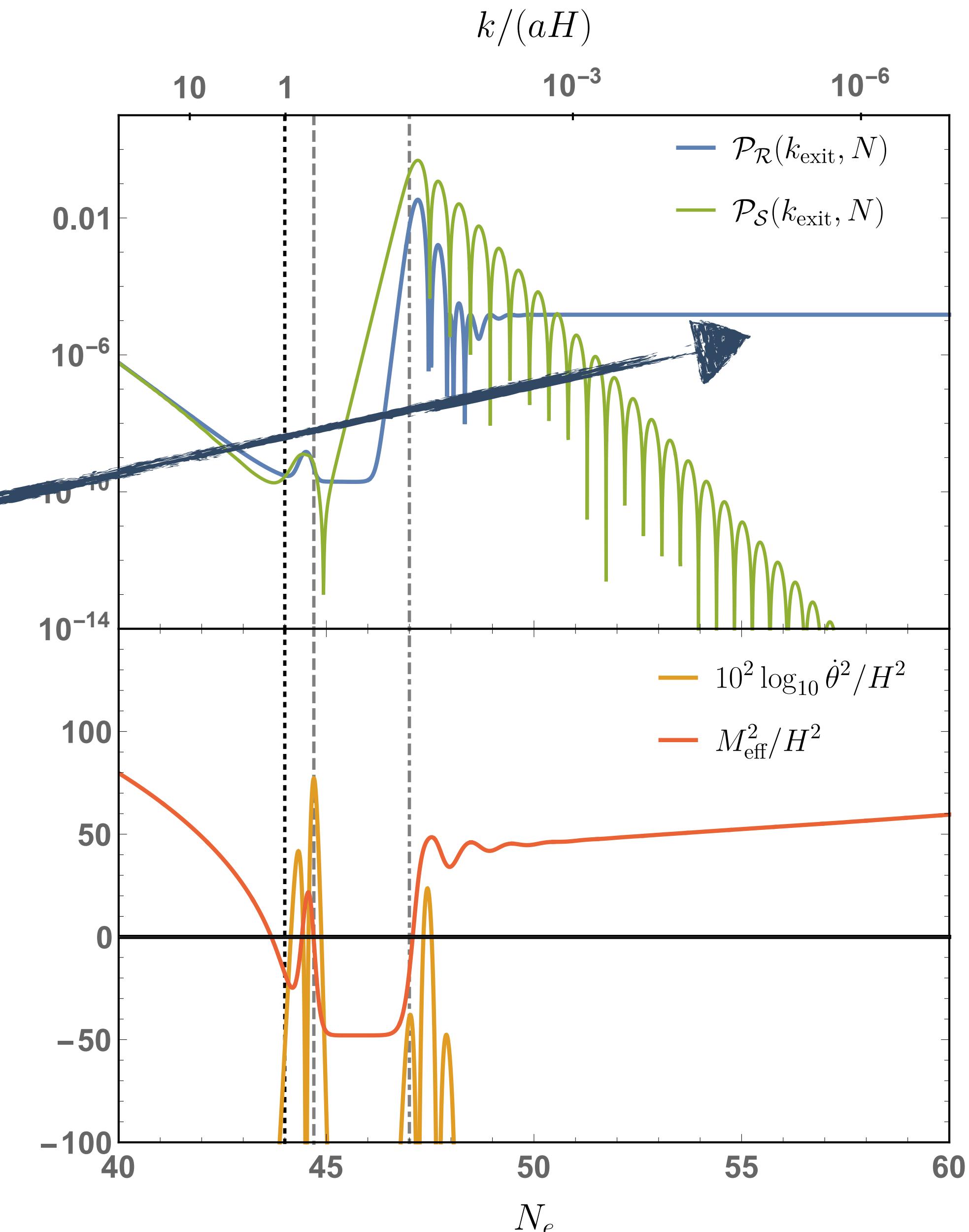
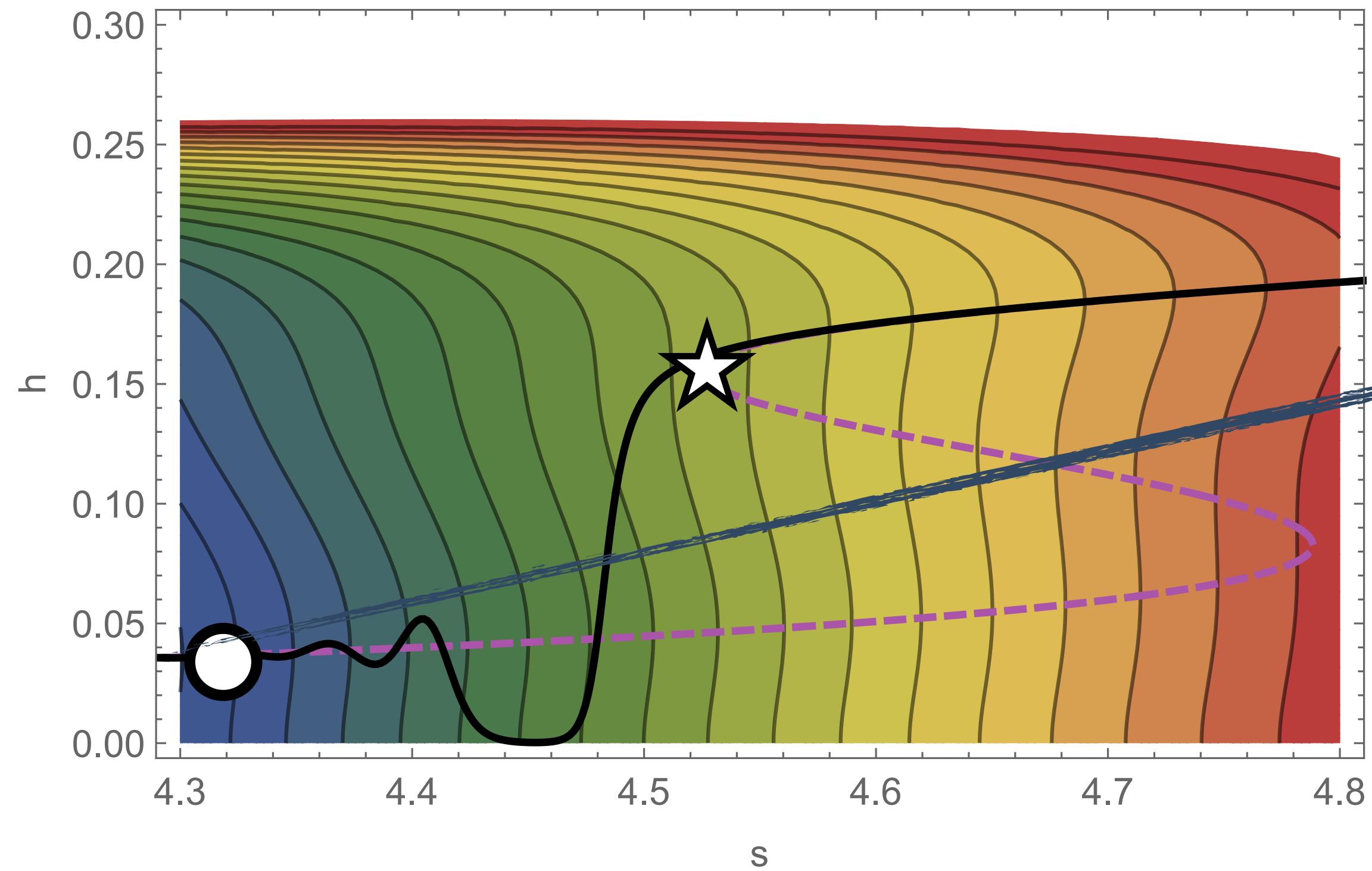
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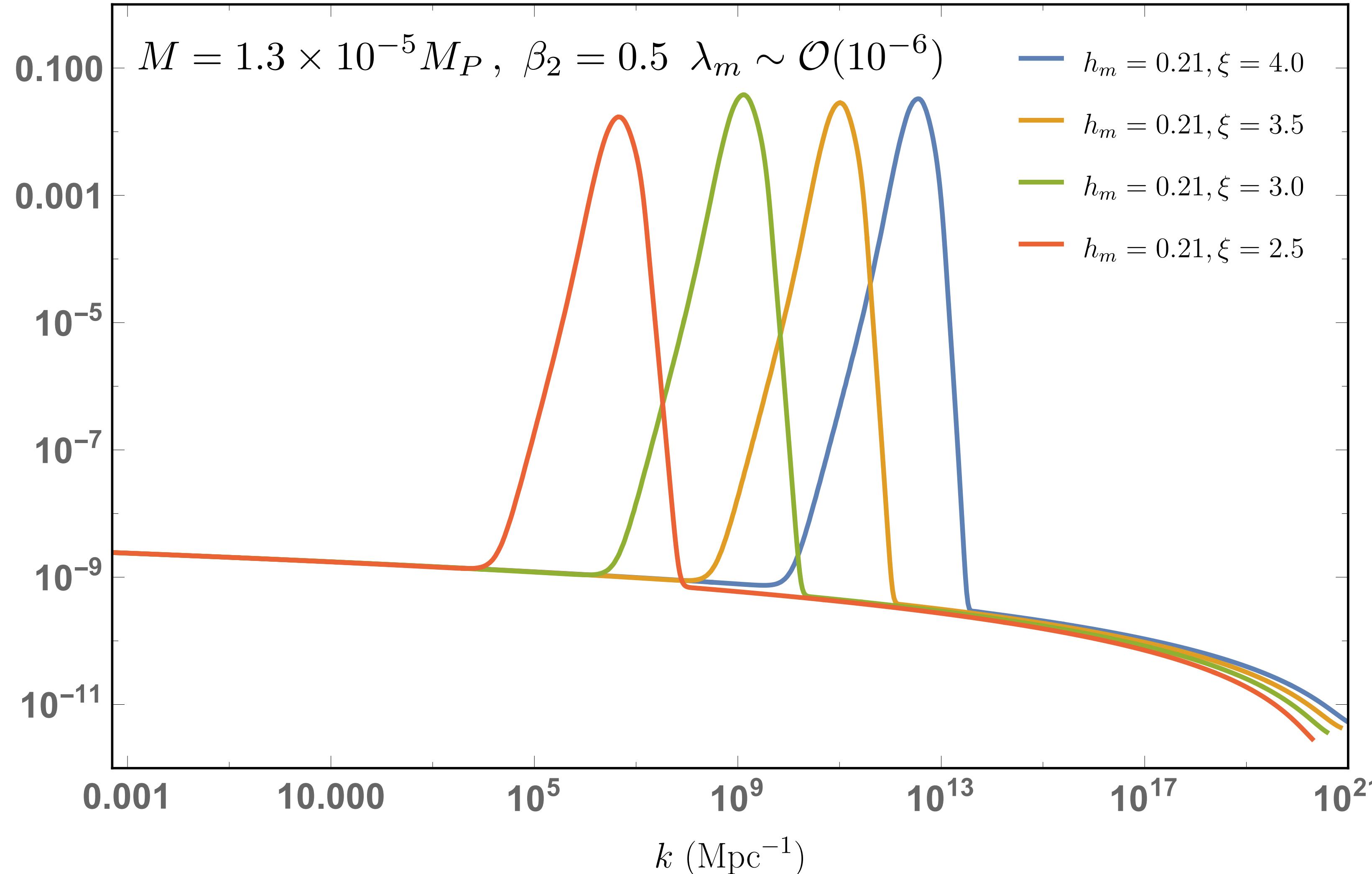
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# Higgs- $R^2$ Inflation, Power Spectrum

$\mathcal{P}_{\mathcal{R}}(k, N_{\text{end}})$

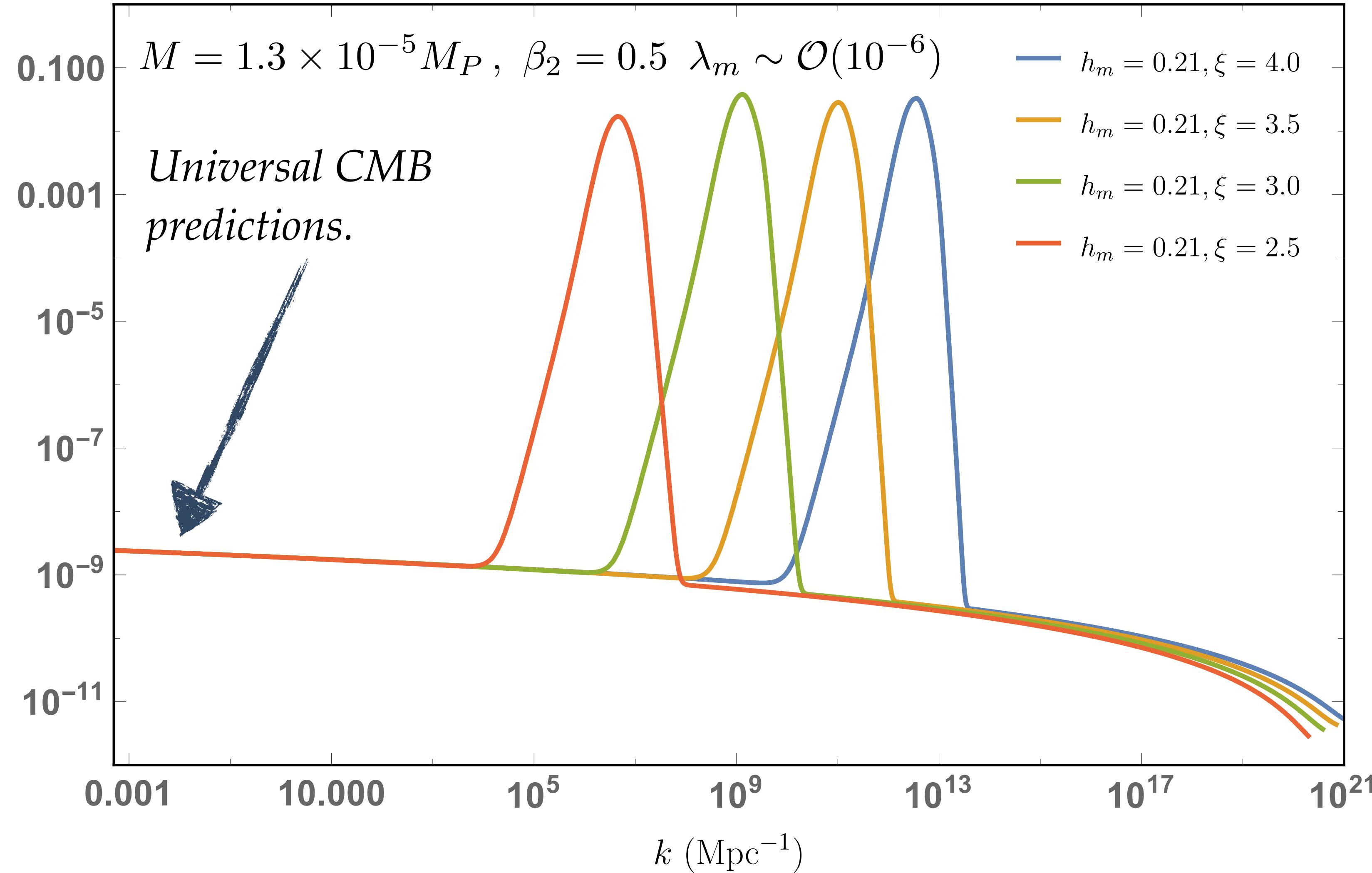
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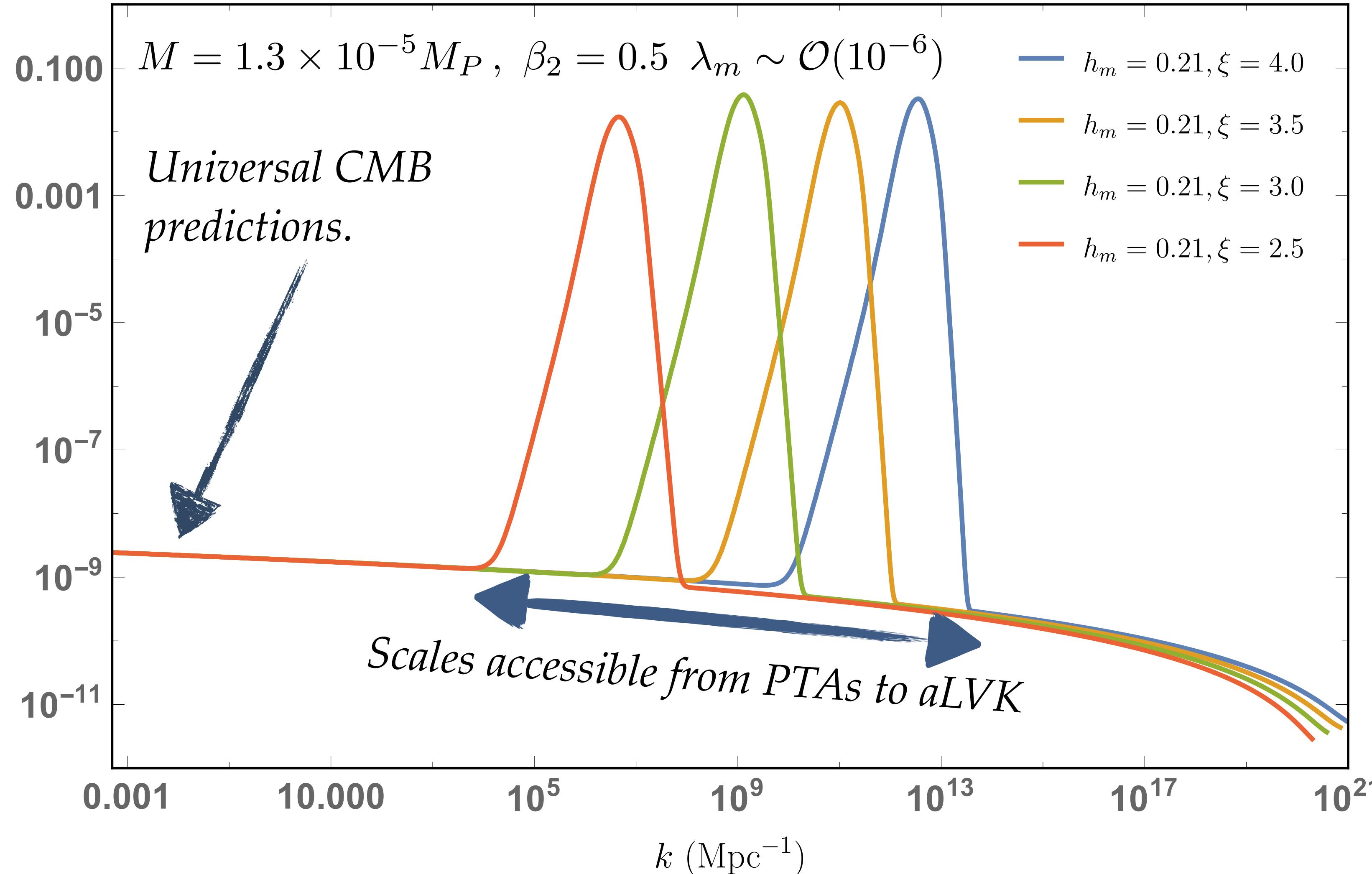
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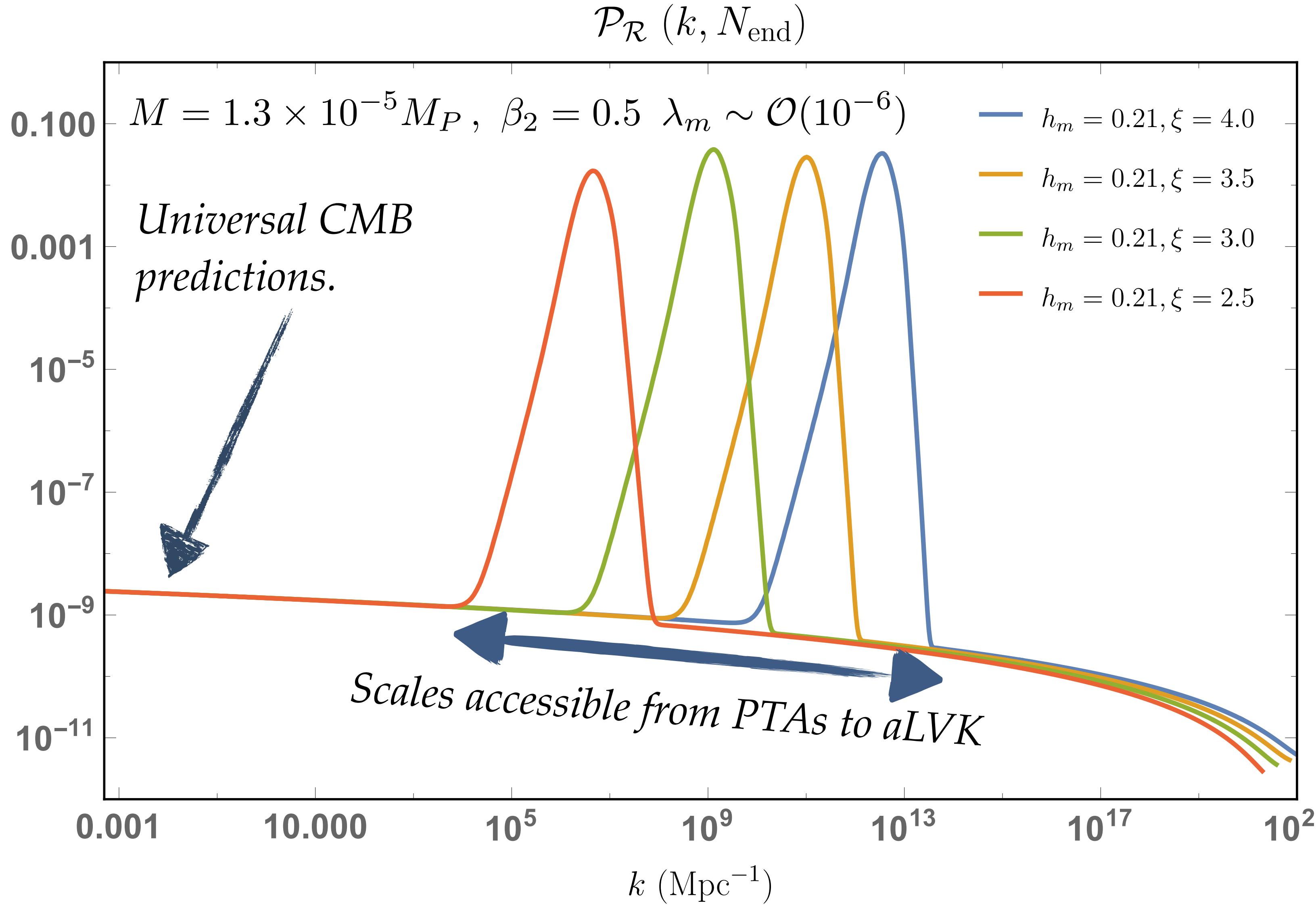
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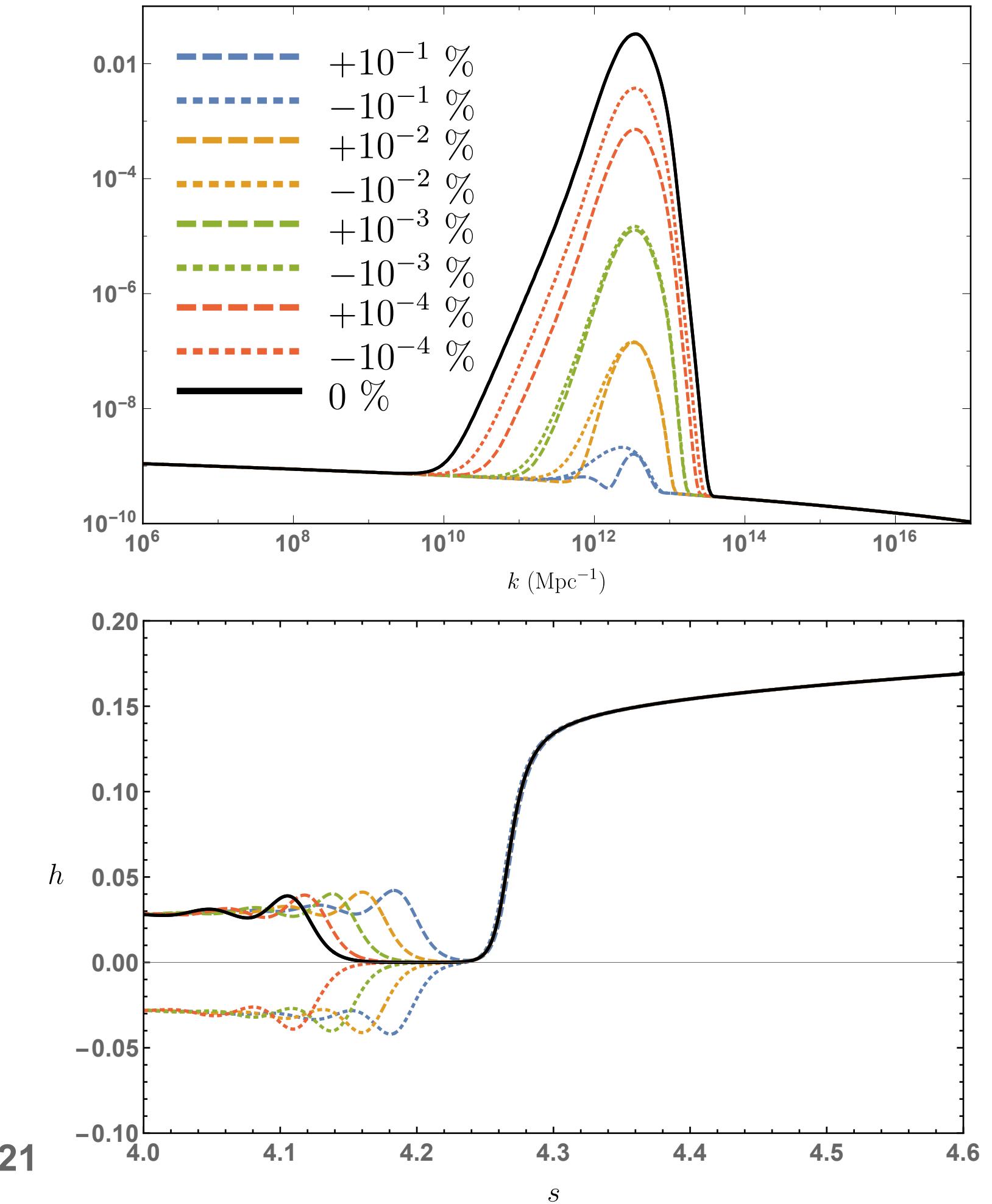
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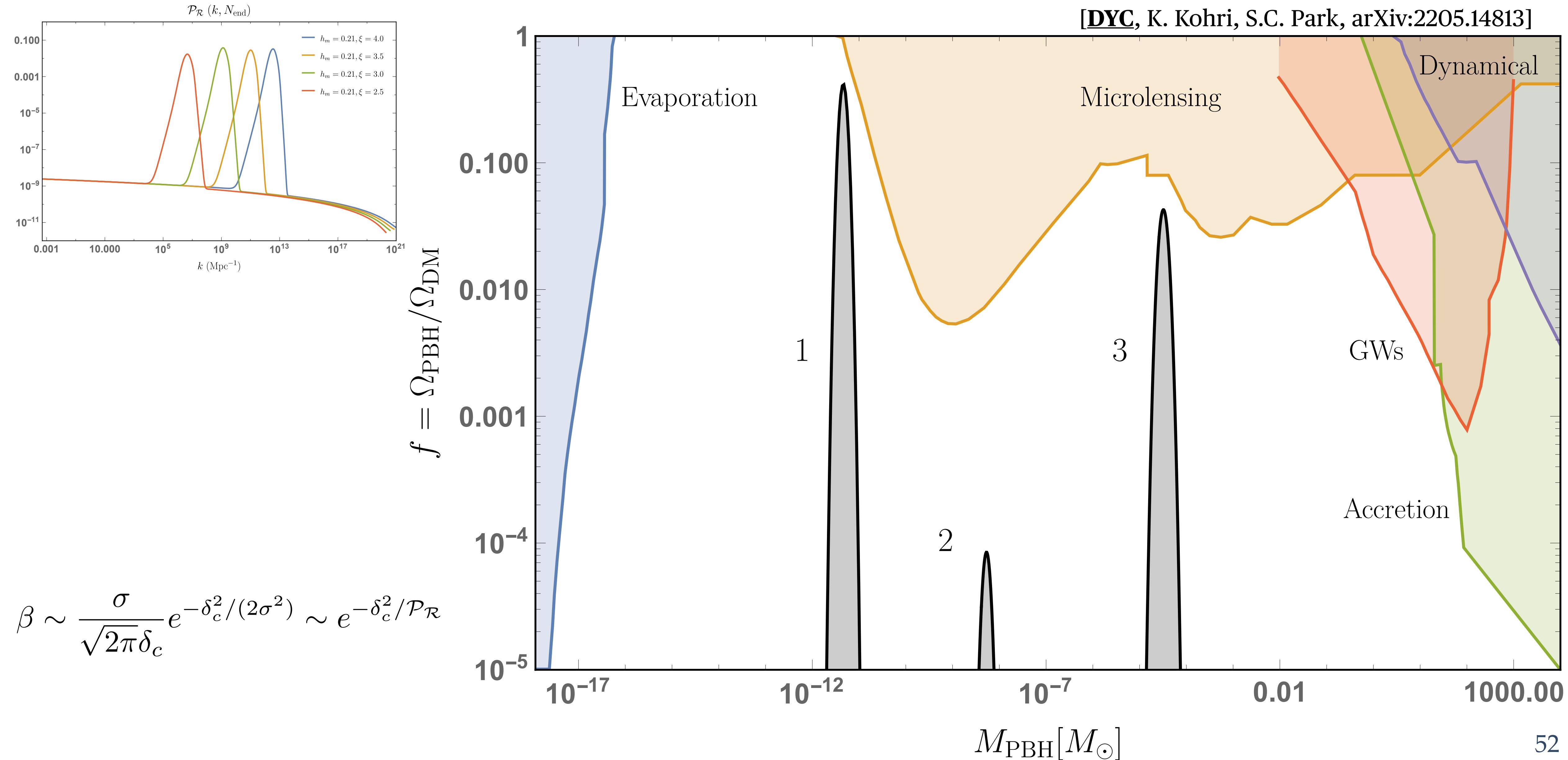
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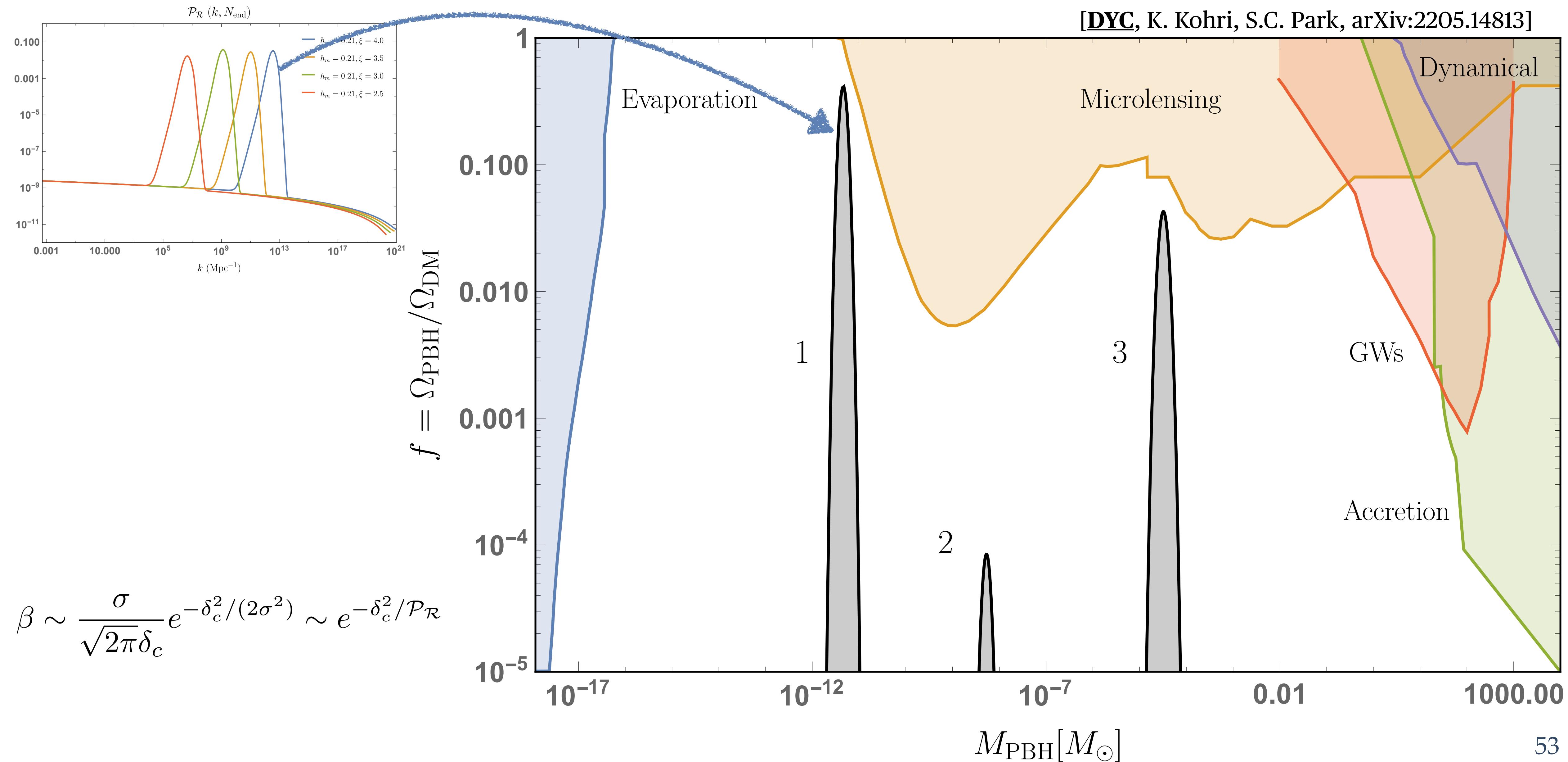
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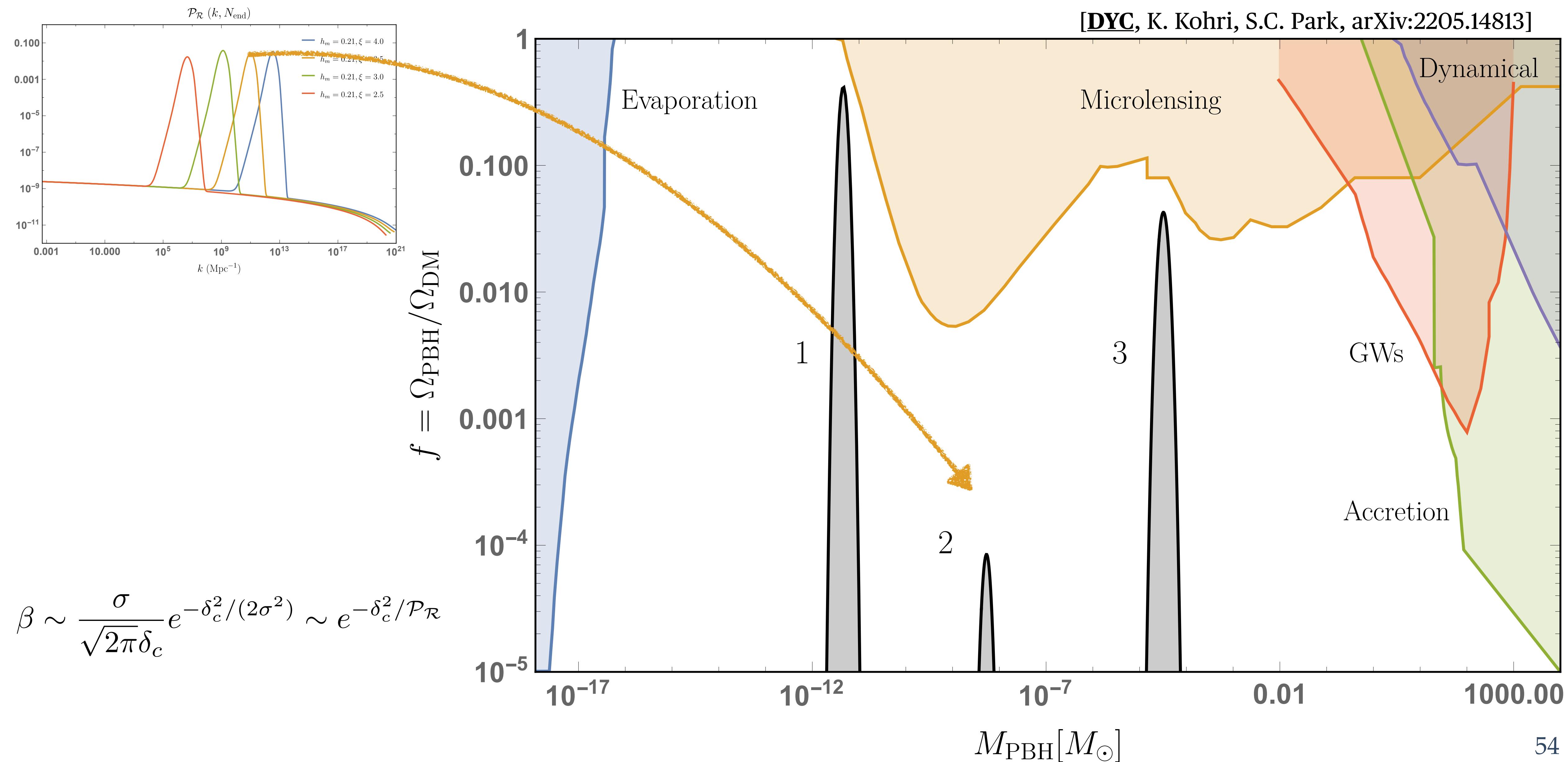
# Phenomena – Primordial Black Holes



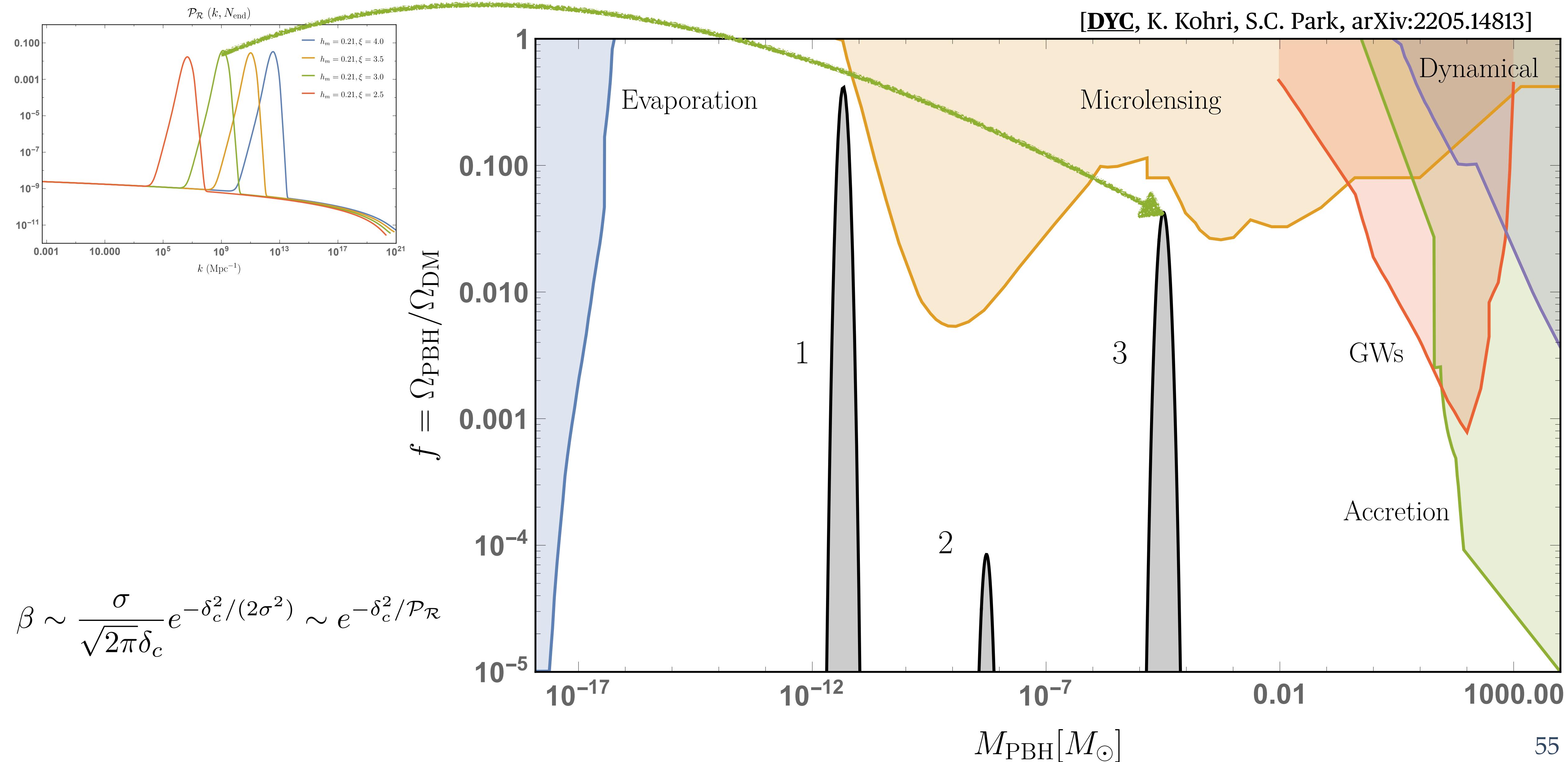
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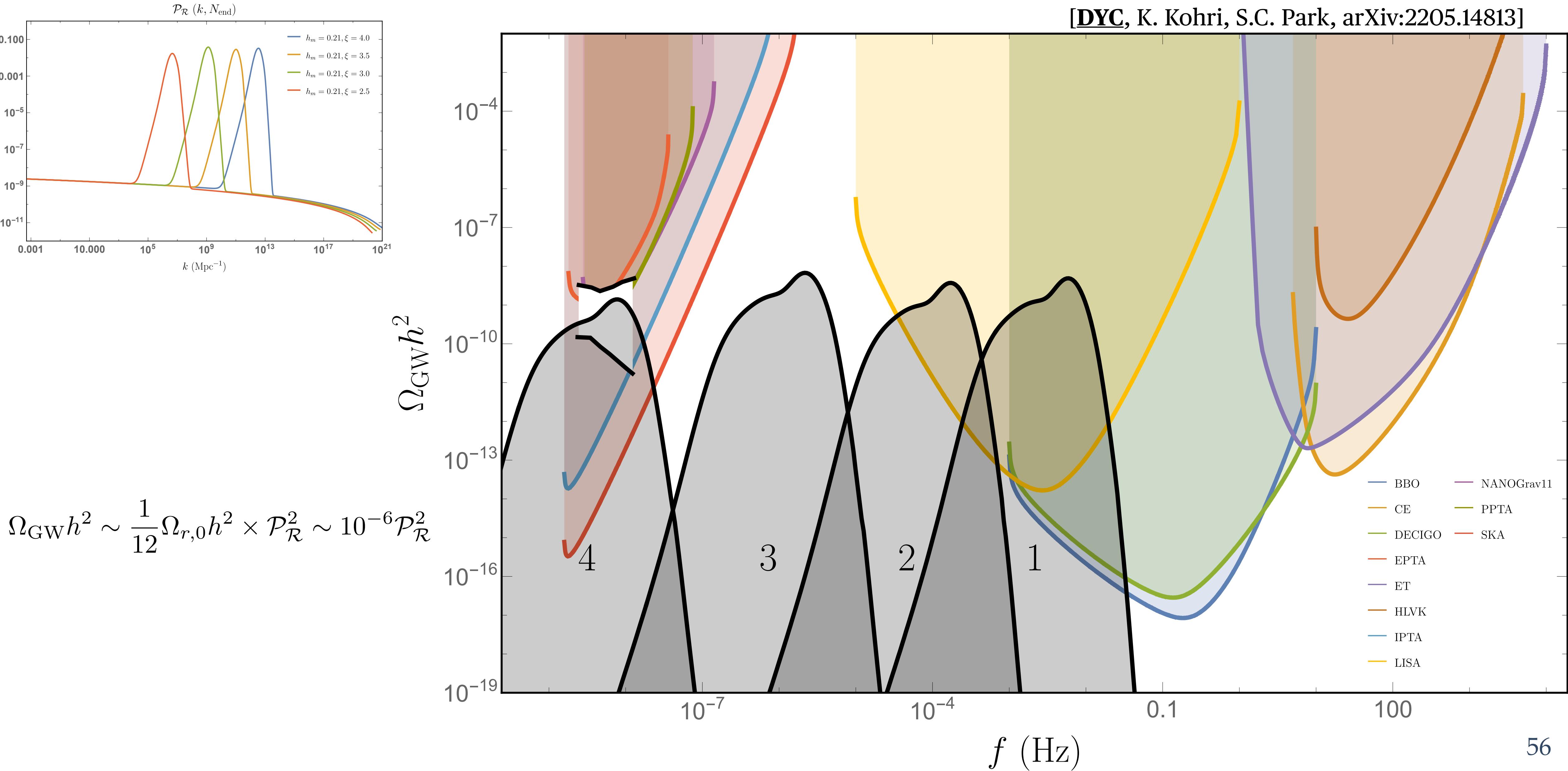
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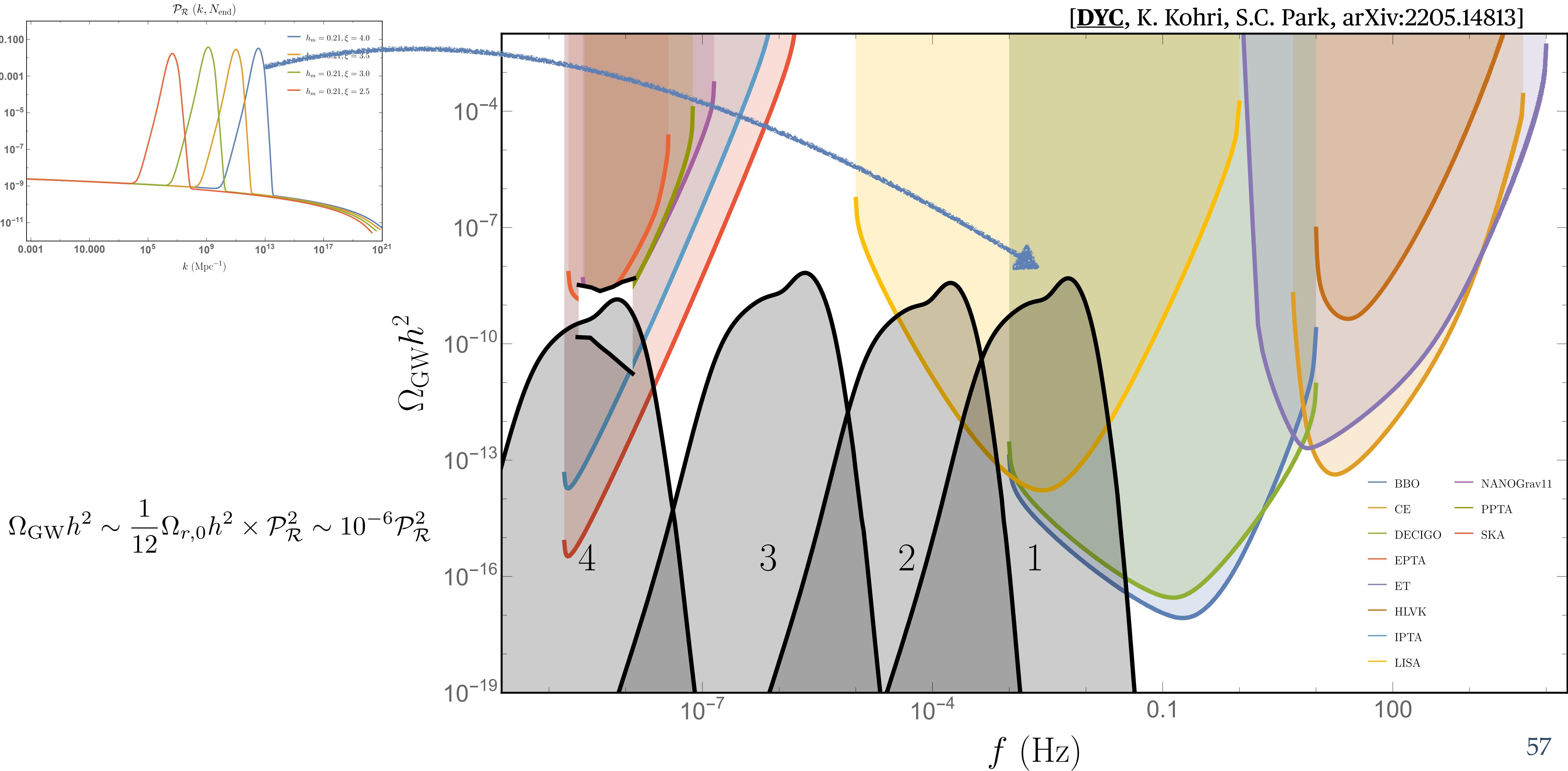
# Phenomena – Primordial Black Holes



# Phenomena – Second order GWs

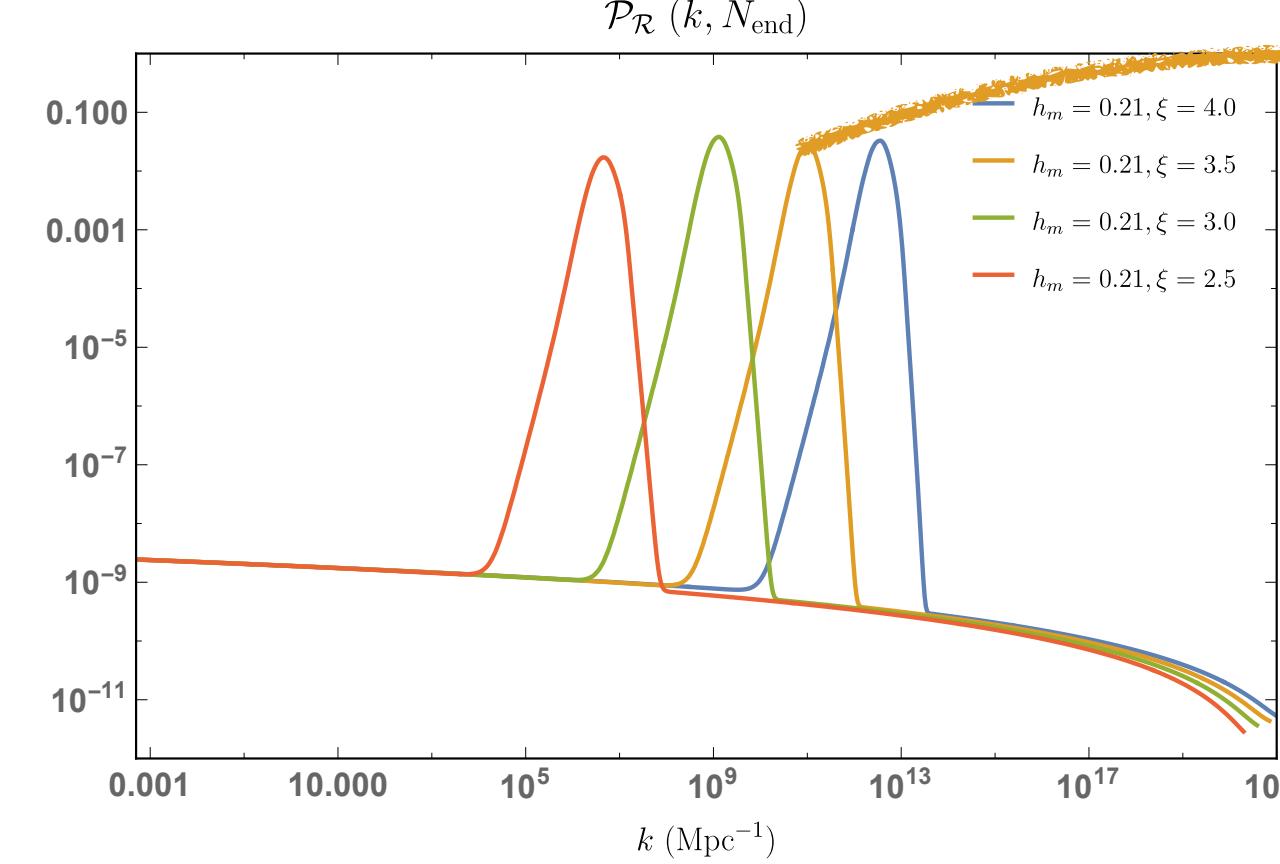


# Phenomena – Second order GWs

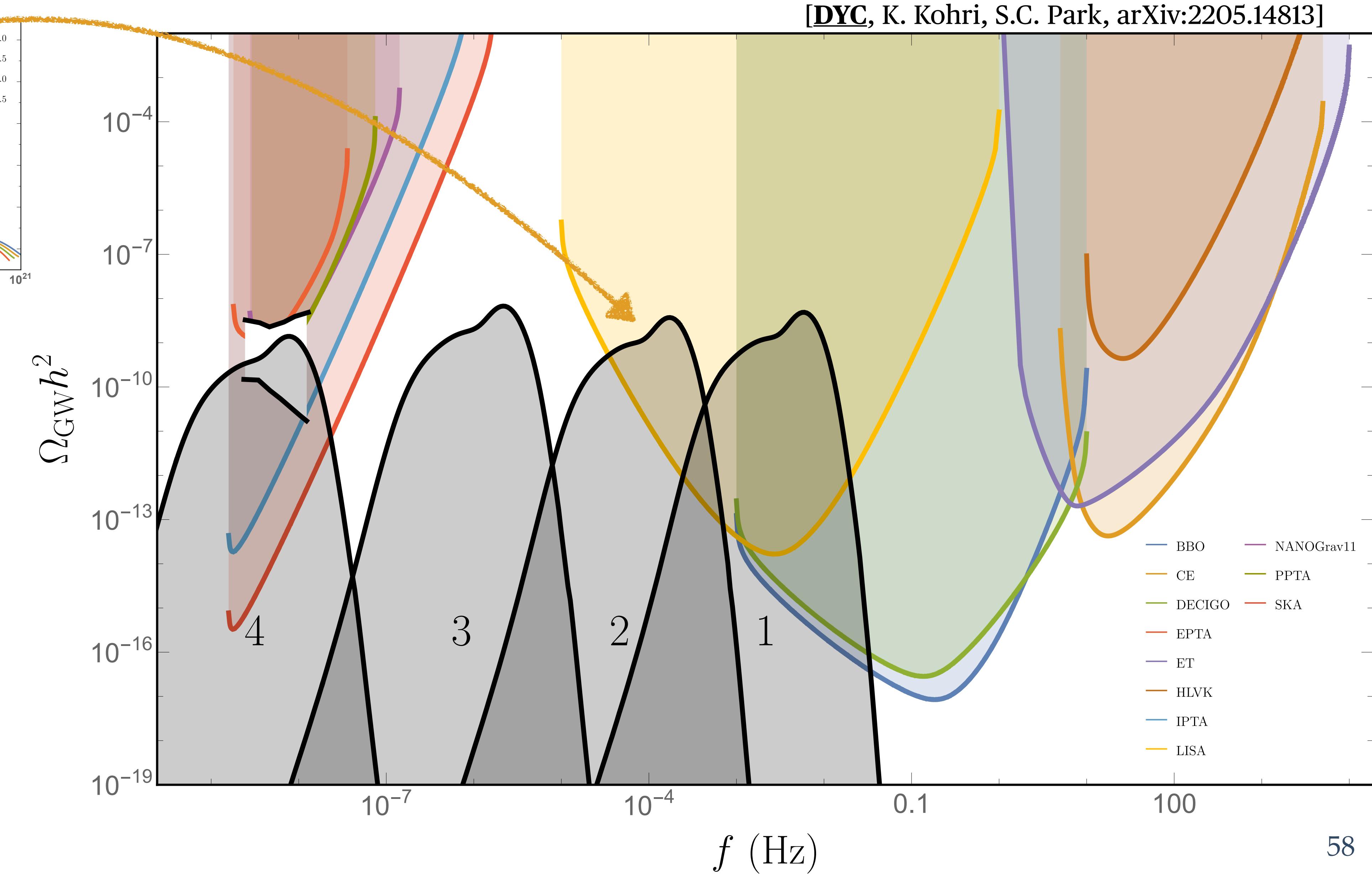


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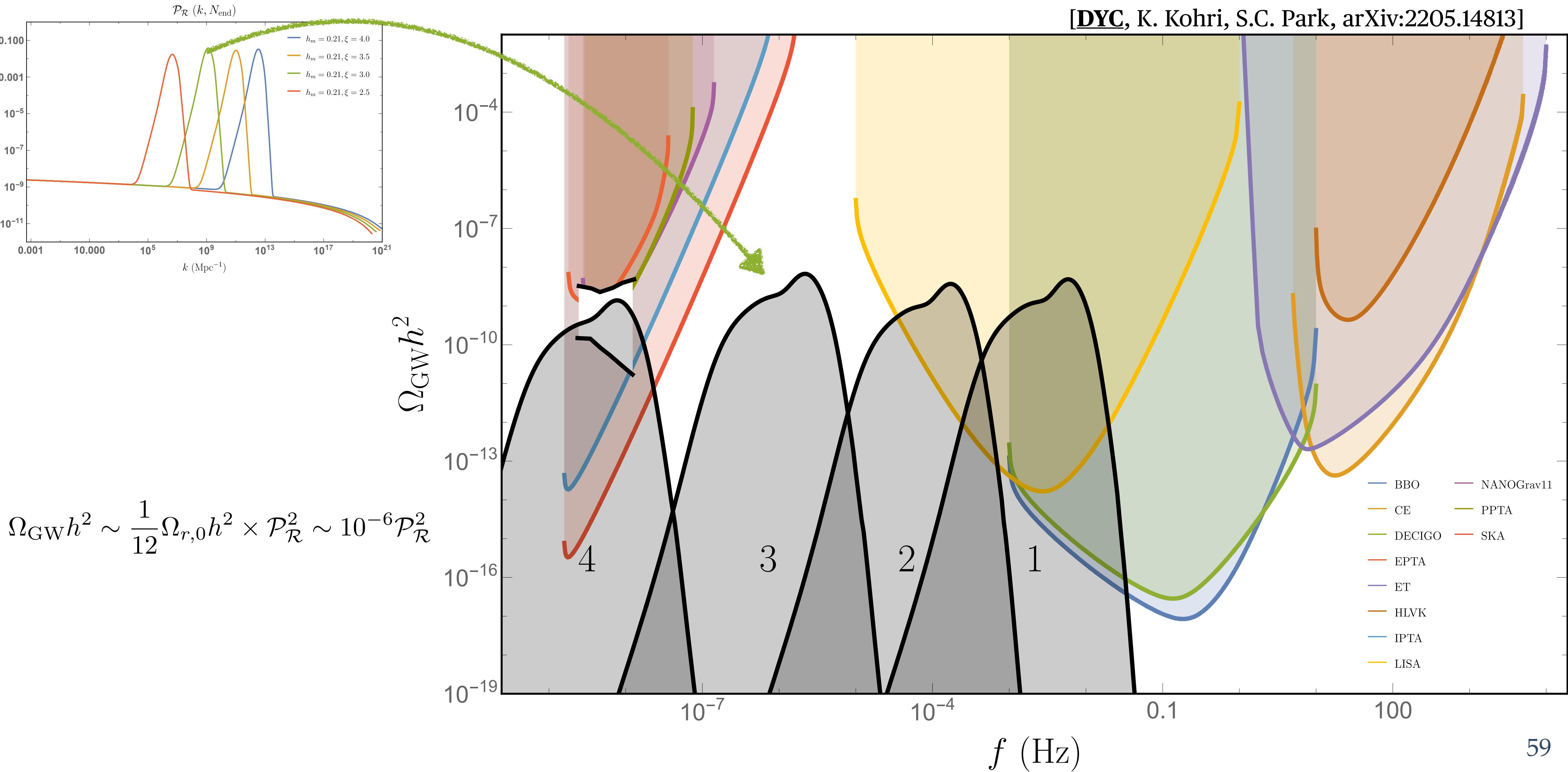
$\mathcal{P}_R(k, N_{\text{end}})$



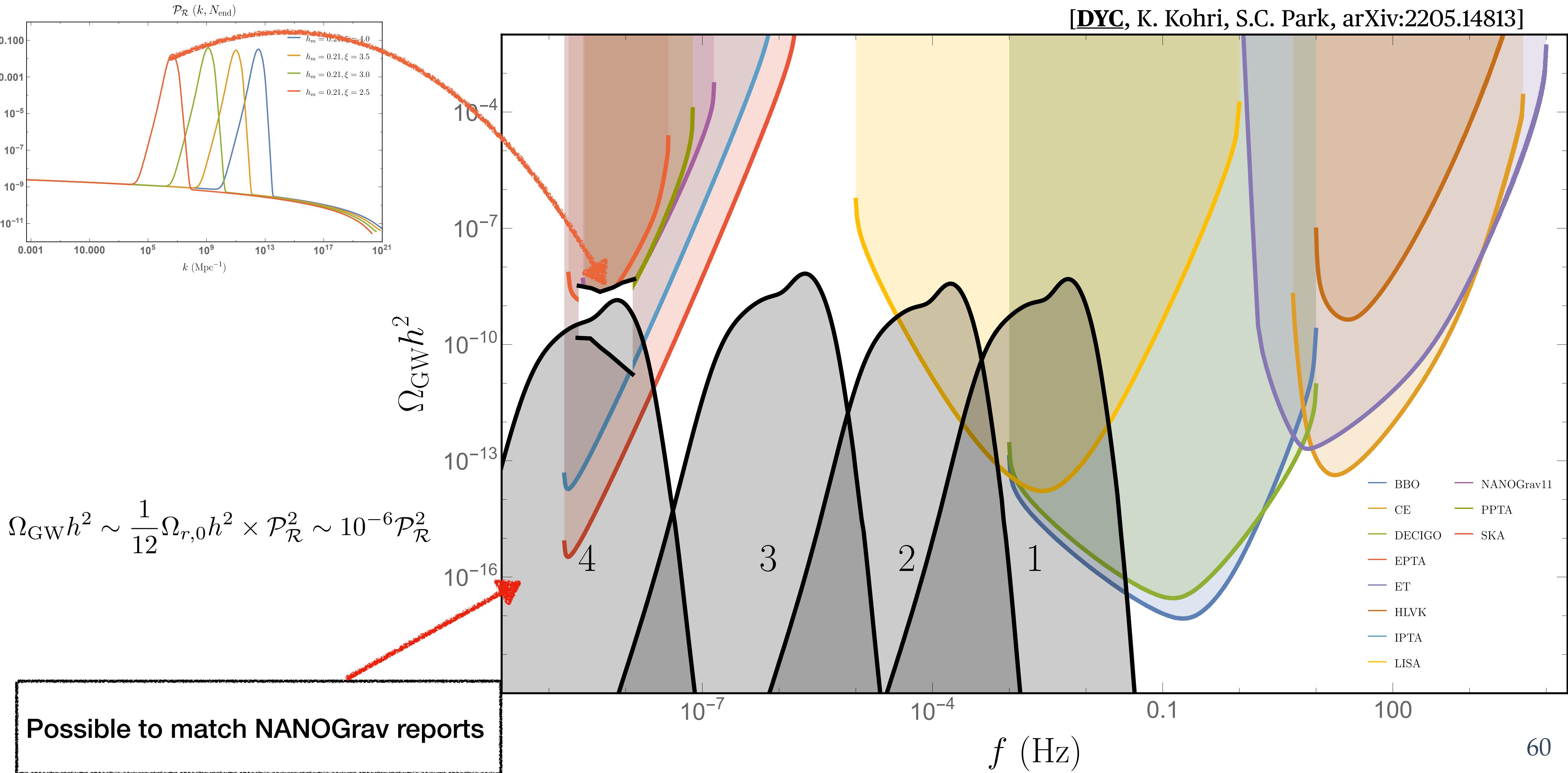
[DYC, K. Kohri, S.C. Park, arXiv:2205.14813]



# Phenomena – Second order GWs



# Phenomena – Second order GWs



# Summary & Outlooks

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- ❖ Primordial Black Holes, an appealing DM candidate, can be produced through large curvature perturbations, that can be associated with second order gravitational waves.
- ❖ The Higgs- $R^2$  model, featuring both a *distinctive valley* and a *noticeable hill*, can exhibit a near inflection point USR phase and/or a tachyonic instability induced by the running  $\lambda$ .
- ❖ Apart from USR induced PBHs/GWs, that limit a significant PBH abundance within the mass range  $M_{\text{PBH}} \in (10^{-16}, 10^{-15})M_\odot$ , the *tachyonic instability* can produce a wide range of PBHs/GWs from *LIGO/Virgo* to *PTA frequencies*.
- ❖ Further distinguishable features? Direct correlation to collider observables? ( $m_{top}$ )

“Thank you!”