

Strong Mixing at the Cosmological Collider:

A glimpse of quantum particle production in
cosmological data

Arthur Poisson, Sébastien Renaux-Petel



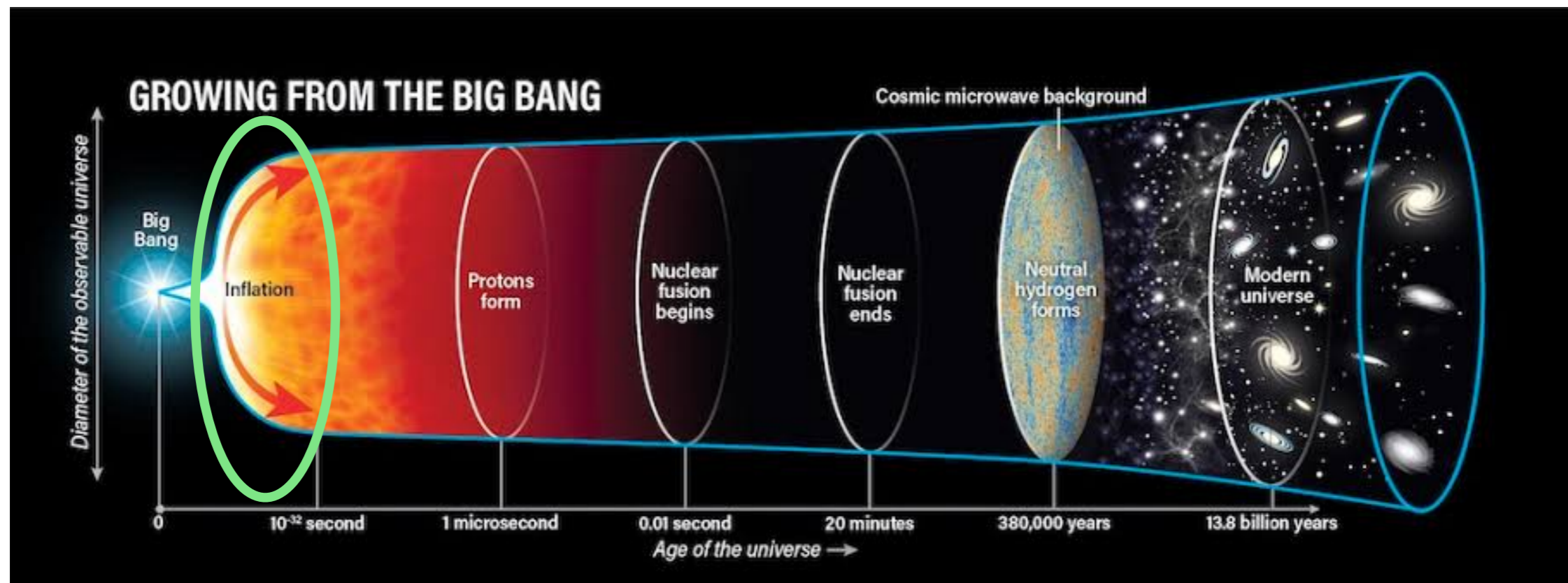
ELBERETH 2025

Outline

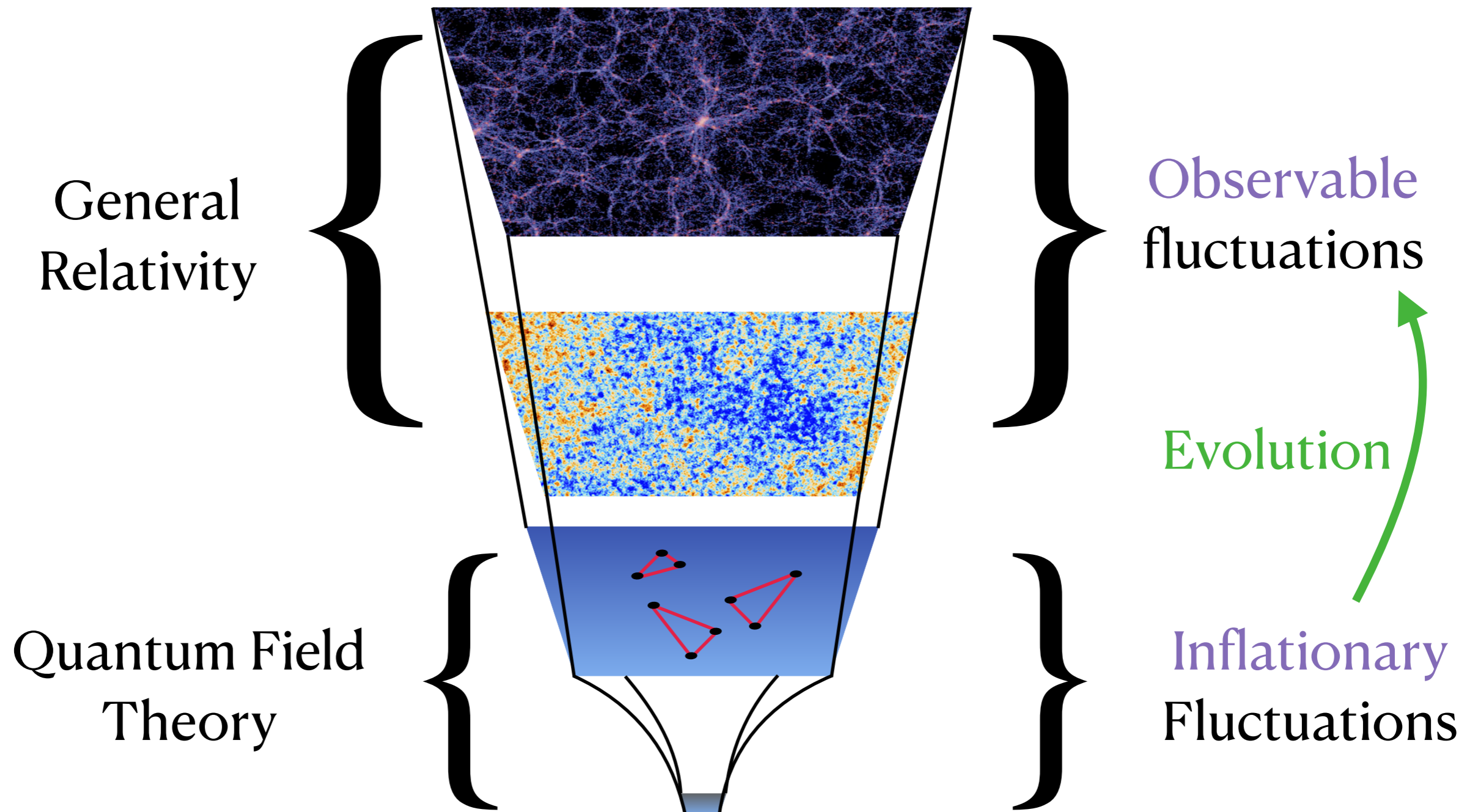
- Inflation can probe the physics at **high energies**.
- **Cosmological Collider** Phenomenon: **quantum** particle production.
- **Cosmological Collider** at **Strong Mixing**

Cosmology: History of the Universe

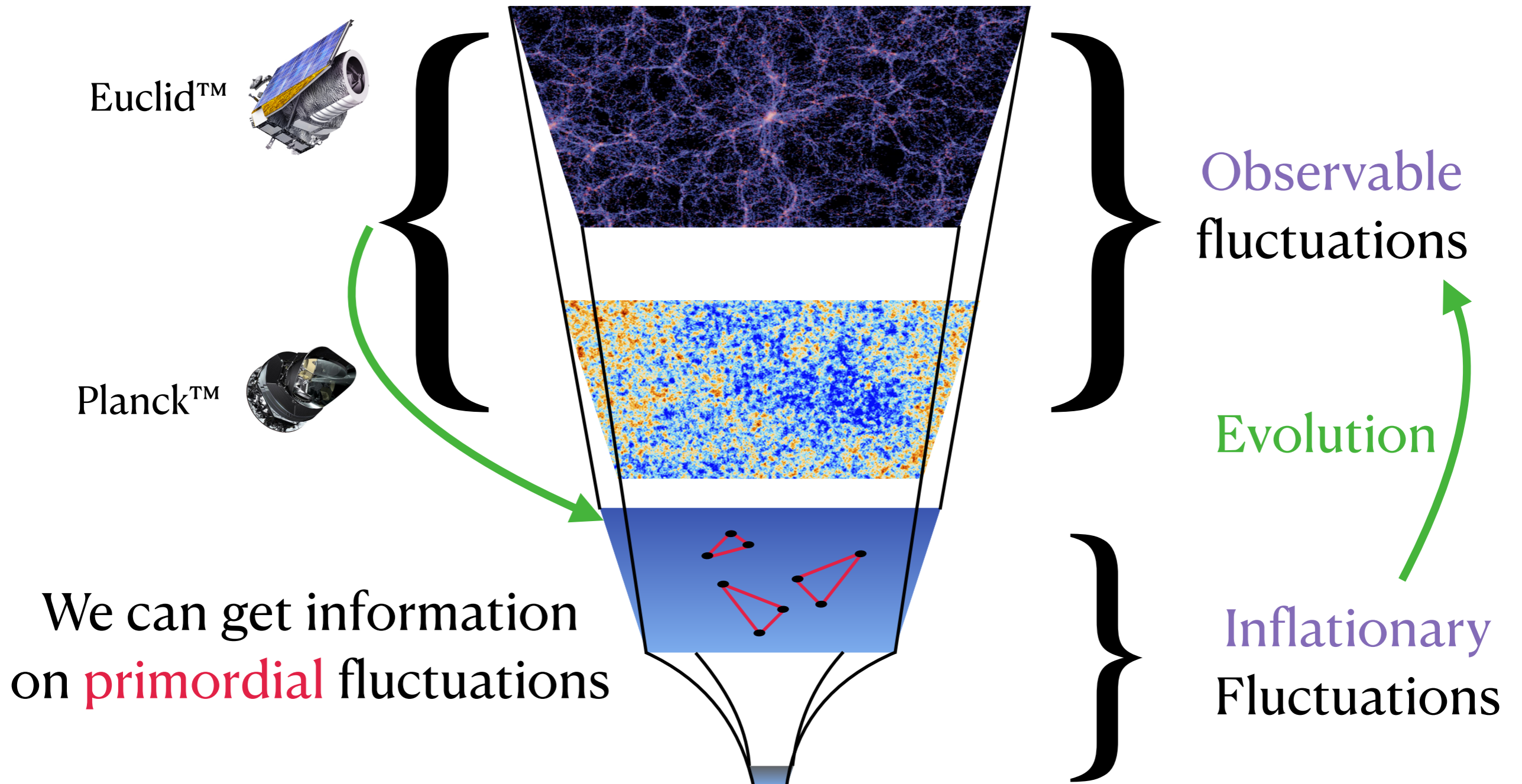
- Universe is **approximately** homogeneous and isotropic.
- Inflation: **accelerated** phase of **expansion** after the big bang.
- Study of **density fluctuations**: seeded by inflation.



Inflation As Origine of Structure



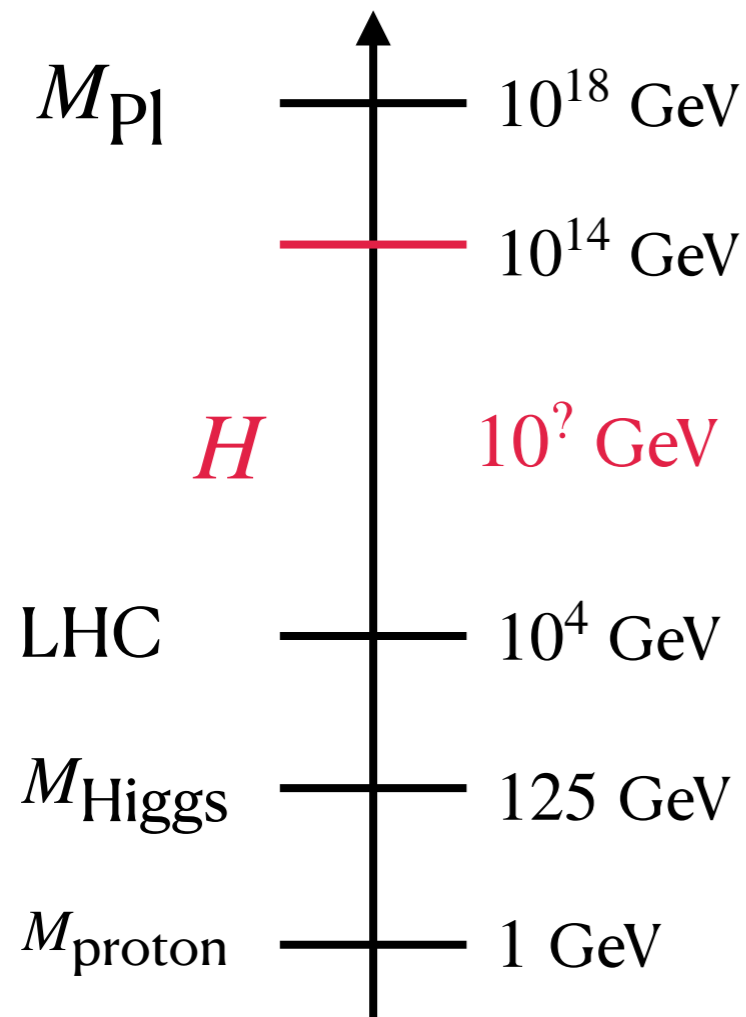
Inflation As Origine of Structure



Inflationary physics left imprints in cosmological data.

Energy Scales

- **Inflation** = Very High energy scales.

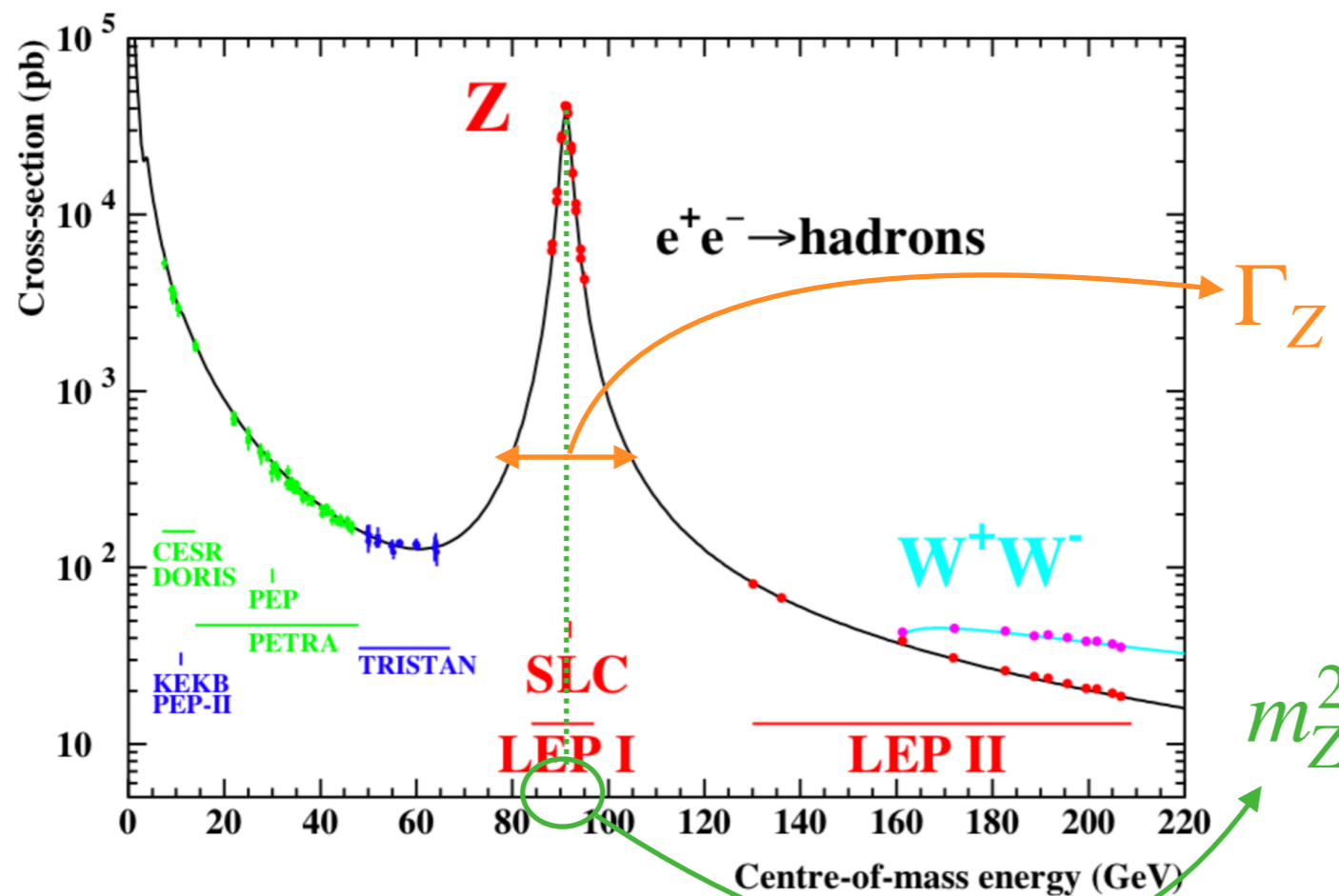


- **PLANCK** constraints: $H \lesssim 10^{14} \text{ GeV}$
- **Energy Conservation**: we cannot produce on-shell particles heavier than 10^4 GeV at the LHC.
- **High-energy theories**: often rely on the existence of very massive particles.

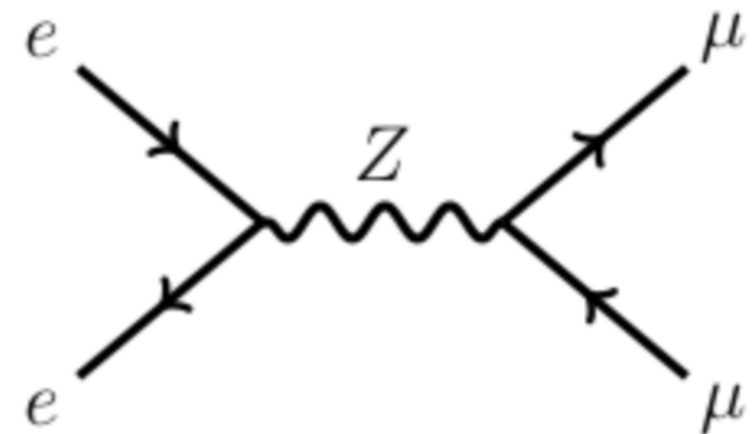
Idea: Use Inflation as a **Cosmological Collider**

High Energy Physics on Earth

- New physics at high energy usually means new **massive particles**.
- **Collider Resonance:** **mass/lifetime** of exchanged particles.



Exchange of a massive boson after the e^+e^- collision.

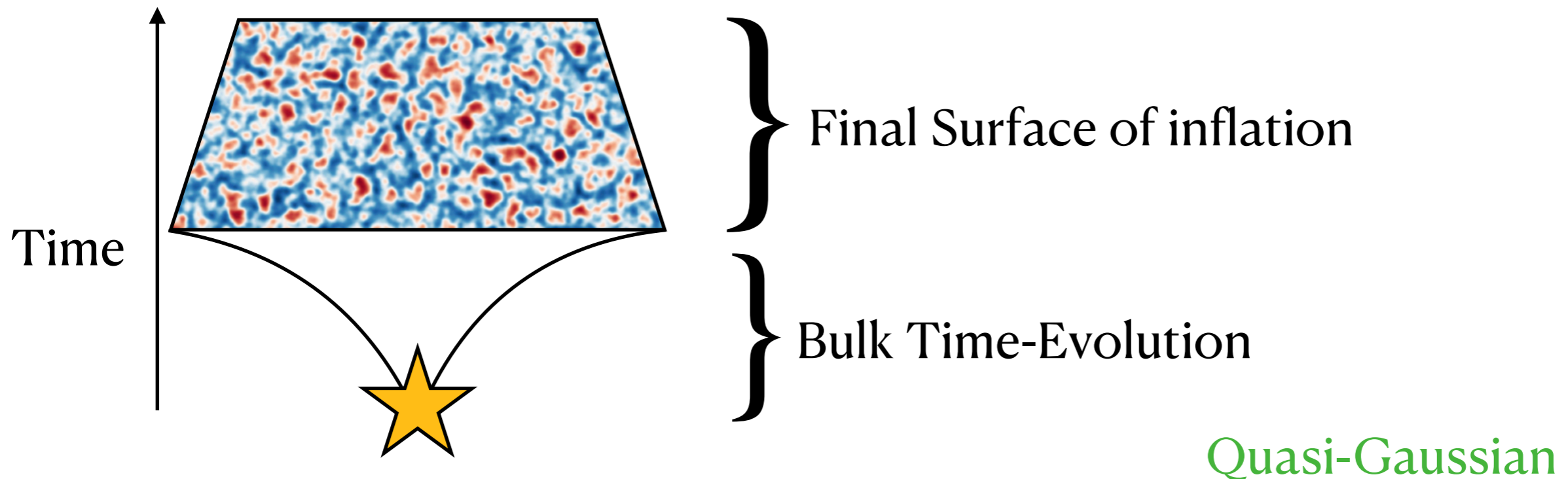


Is there an inflationary equivalent ?

Which Observable in Cosmology?

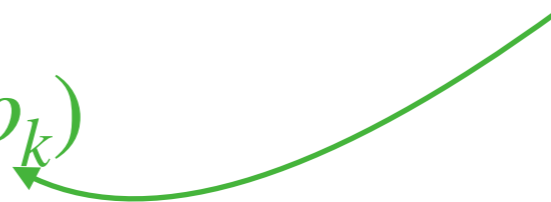
- We **observe** the primordial **density** fluctuations.

« Observable Surface »



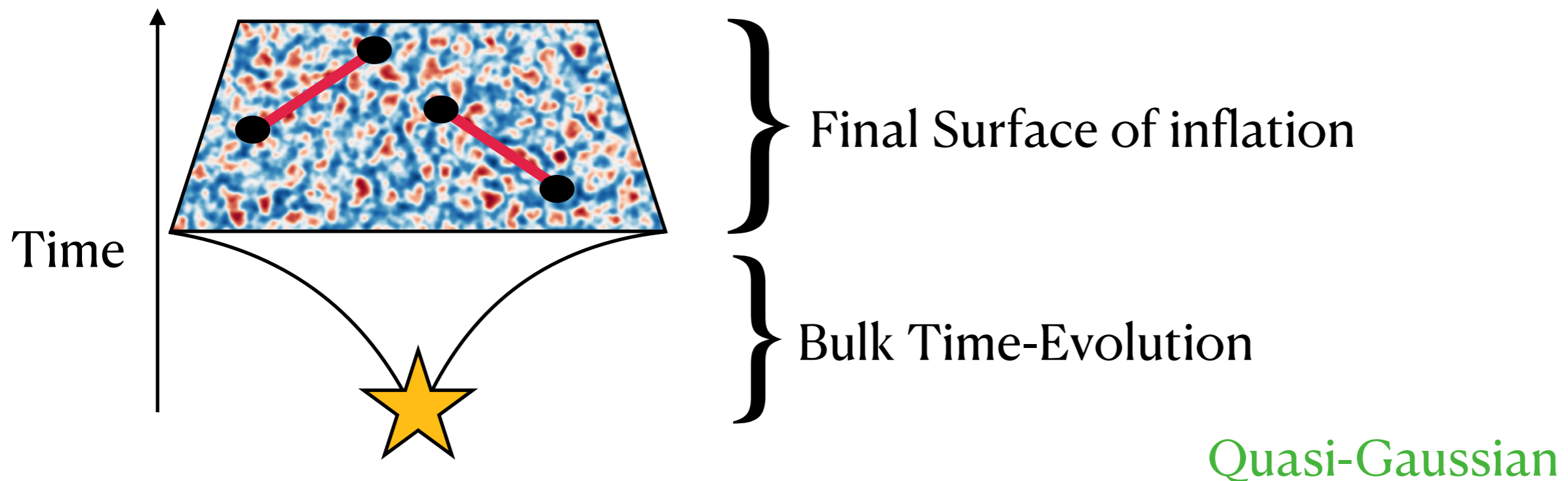
- We predict their **distribution** $\mathbb{P}(\delta\rho_k)$

Quasi-Gaussian



Which Observable in Cosmology?

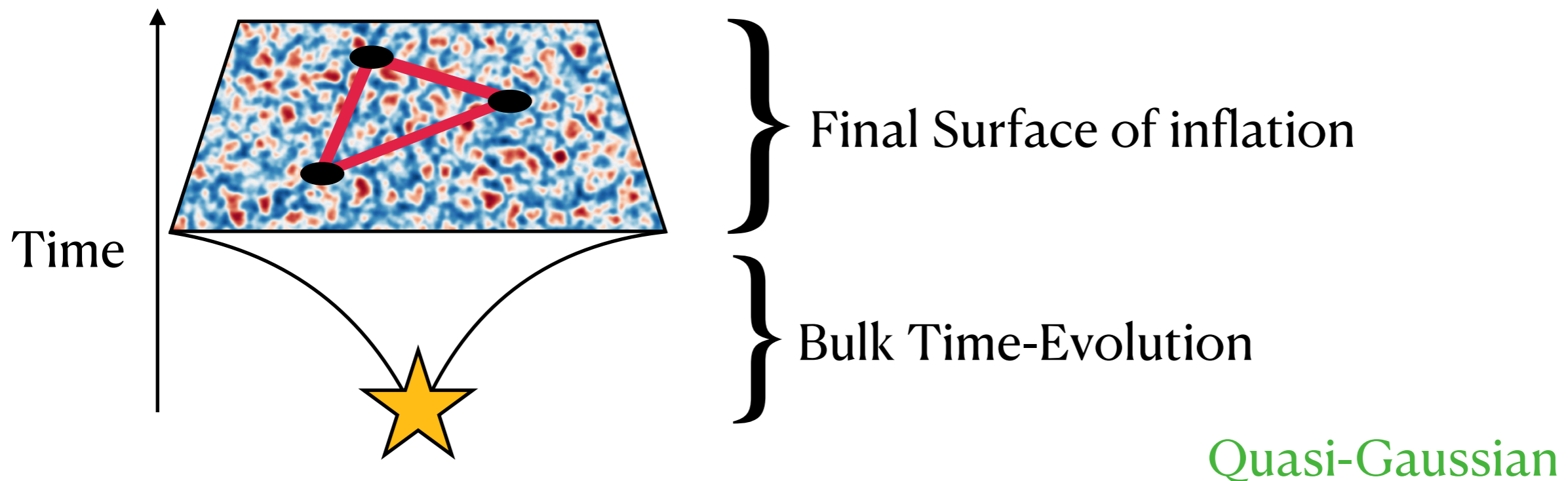
- We **observe** the primordial **density** fluctuations.



- We predict their **distribution** $\mathbb{P}(\delta\rho_k)$
- Characterised by the **two-point correlations**.

Which Observable in Cosmology?

- We **observe** the primordial **density** fluctuations.



- We predict their **distribution** $\mathbb{P}(\delta\rho_k)$
- The physics we want = encoded in the **higher point correlators**:

The Non-Gaussianities.

Particle Physics In Inflation

- We can build a **general** theory of inflationary fluctuation:

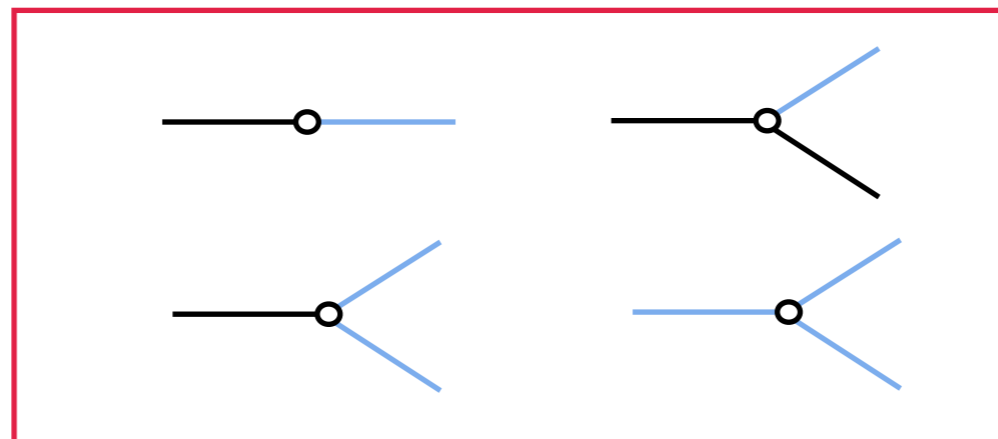
Density fluctuations = massless particle



- We can build the most generic **interaction** with some **massive** particle.



- Here is the list of **ALL** the possible **interactions**:



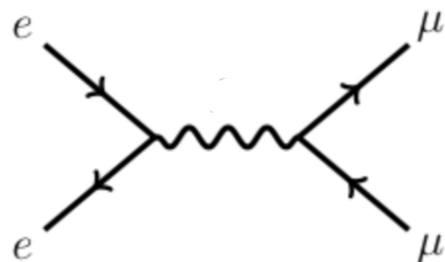
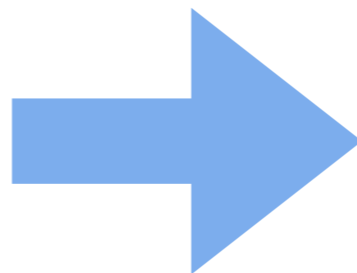
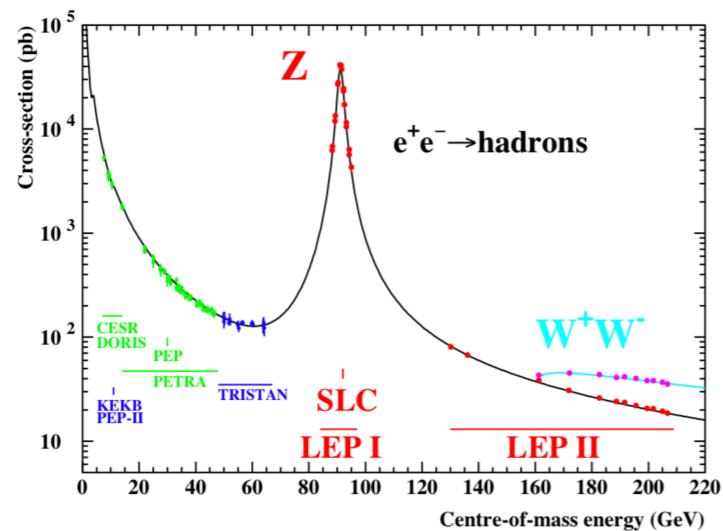
A Cosmological Collider?

- Sign of **new physics**: exchange of **massive** particles.

Particle Colliders

Cosmological Collider

Observable =
Scattering Amplitudes

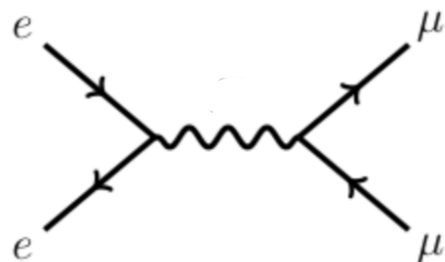
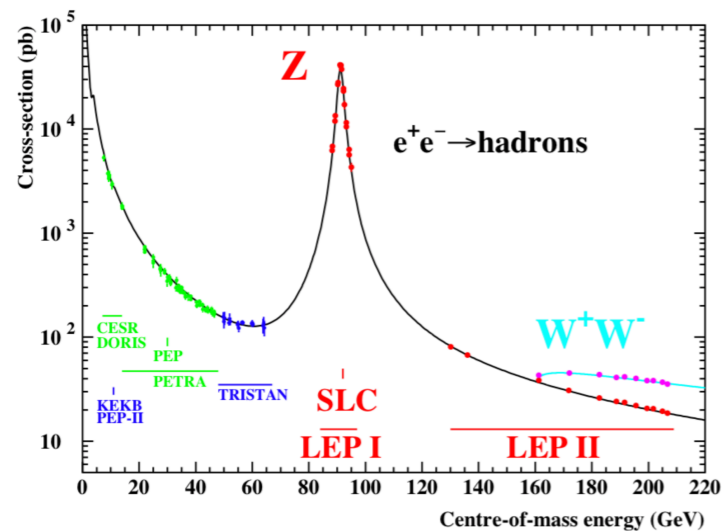


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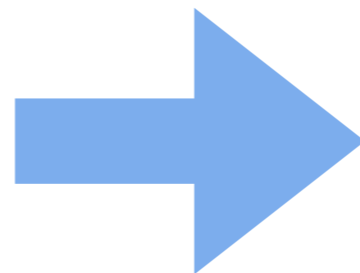
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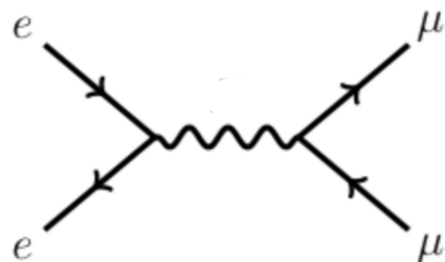
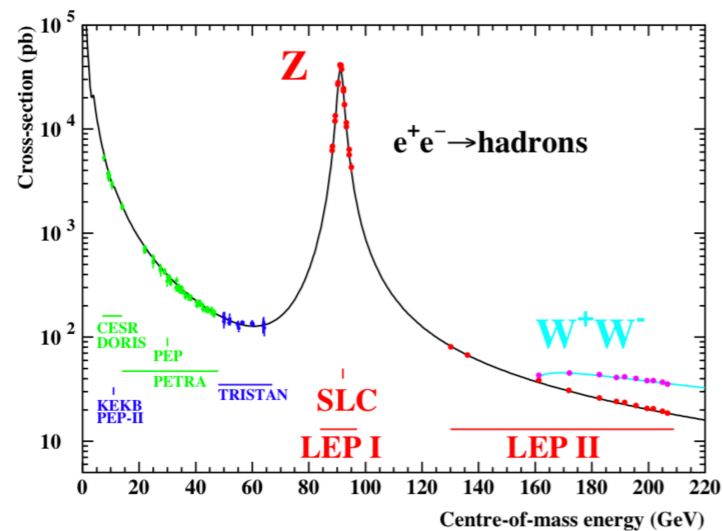


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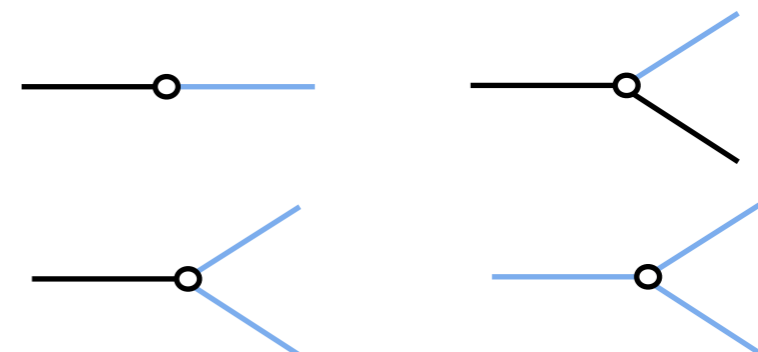
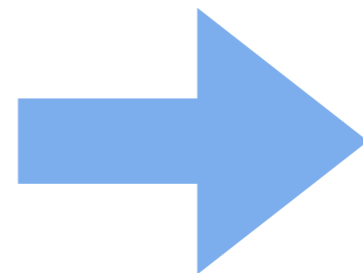
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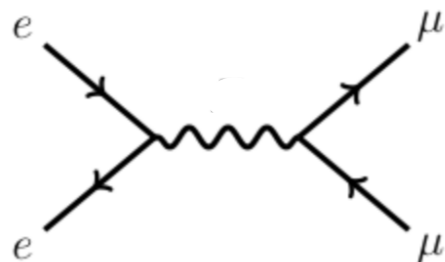
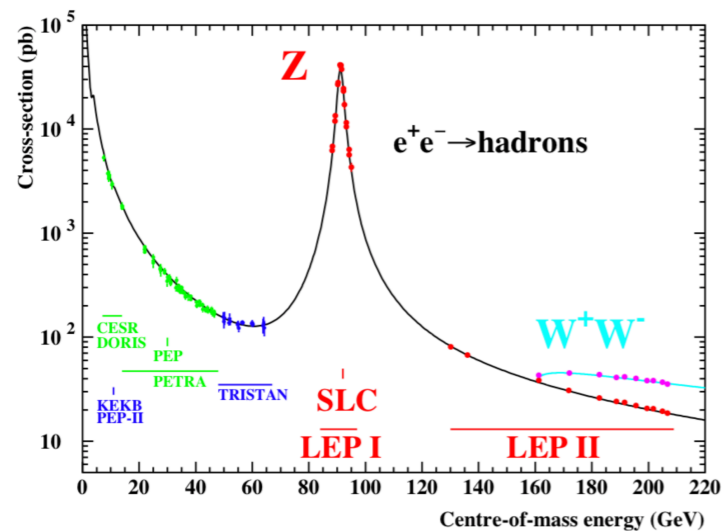


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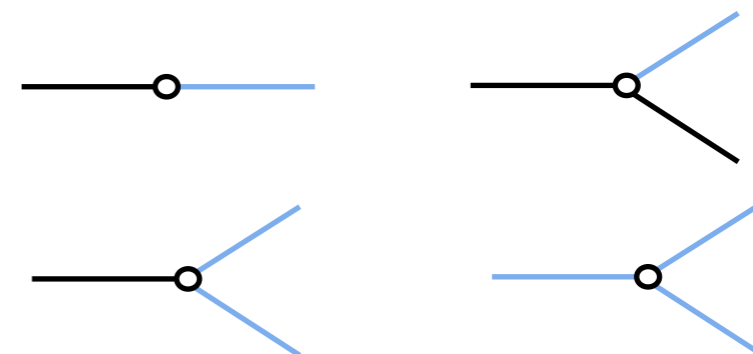
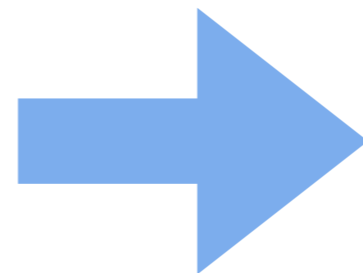
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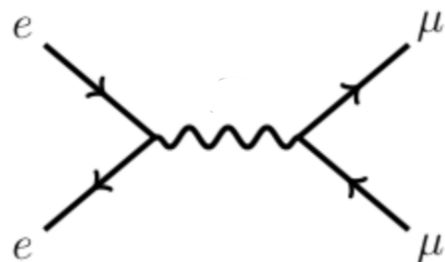
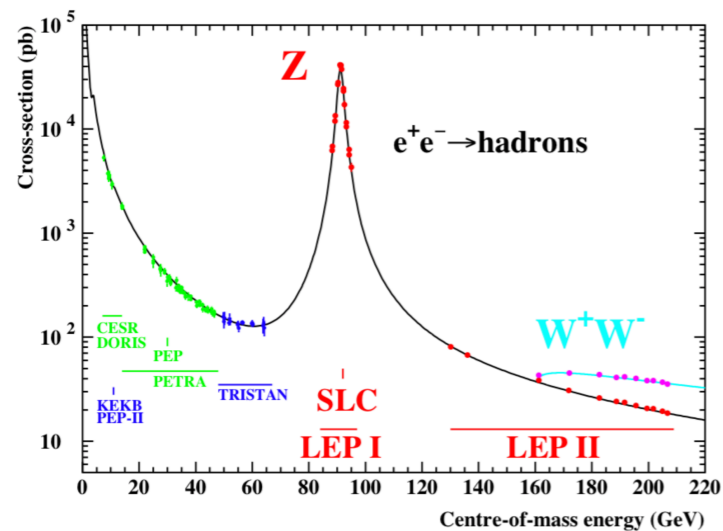


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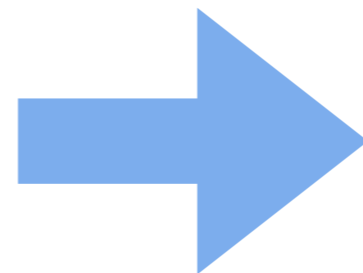
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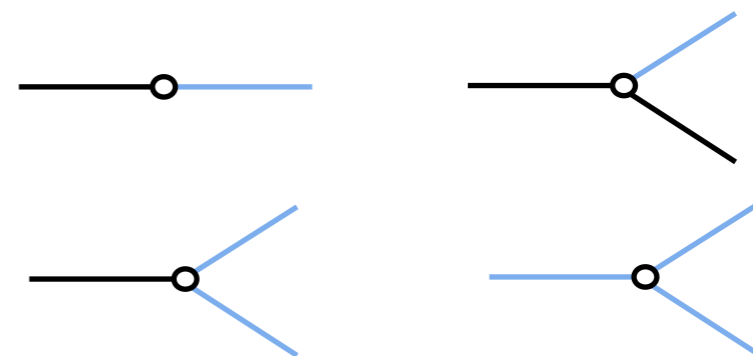


Cosmological Collider

Observable =
Non-Gaussianities



??



Which process???

Spontaneous Particle Production

- Expansion = **time dependent** background: No energy **conservation**.
- **Massive** particles are spontaneously **produced**!

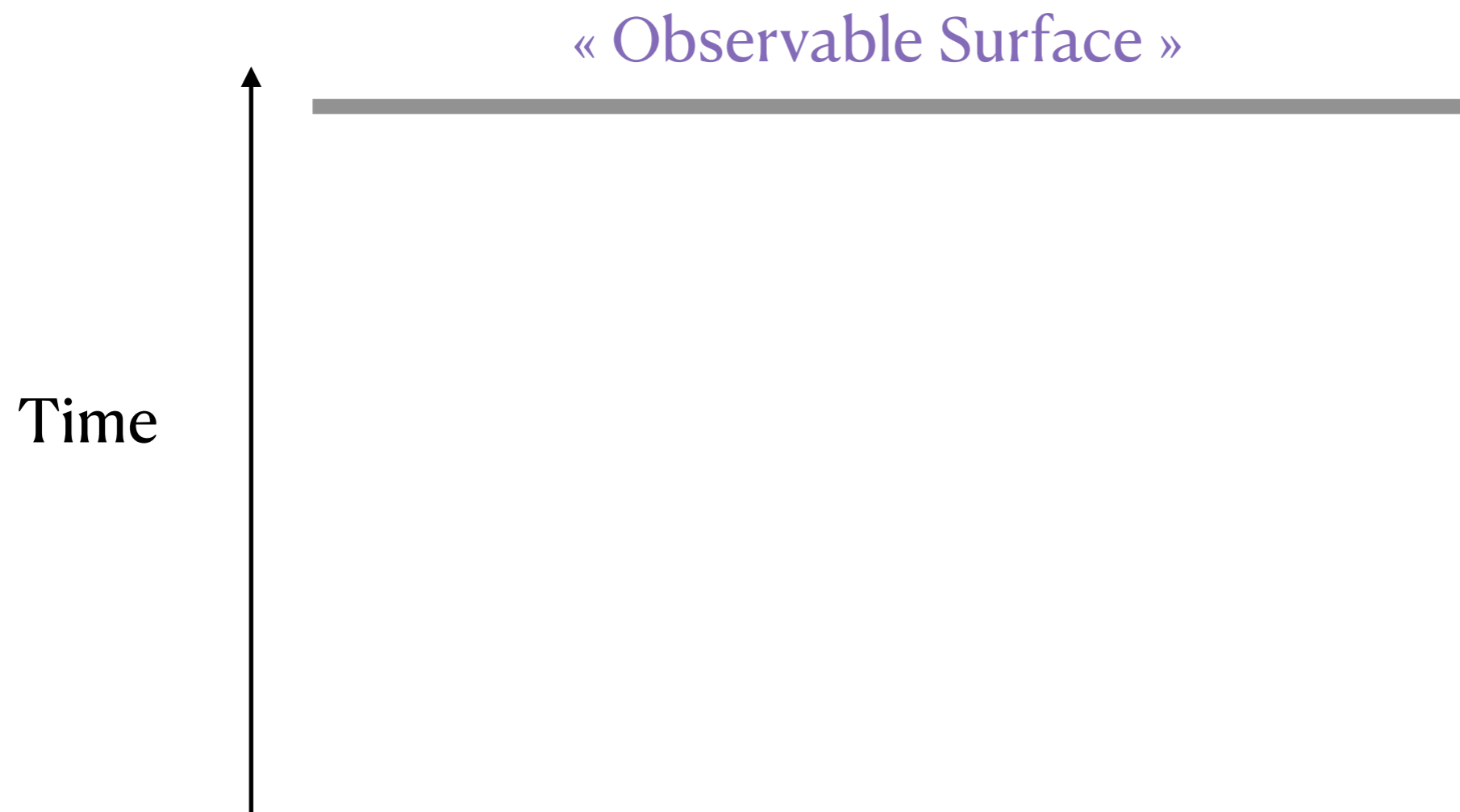
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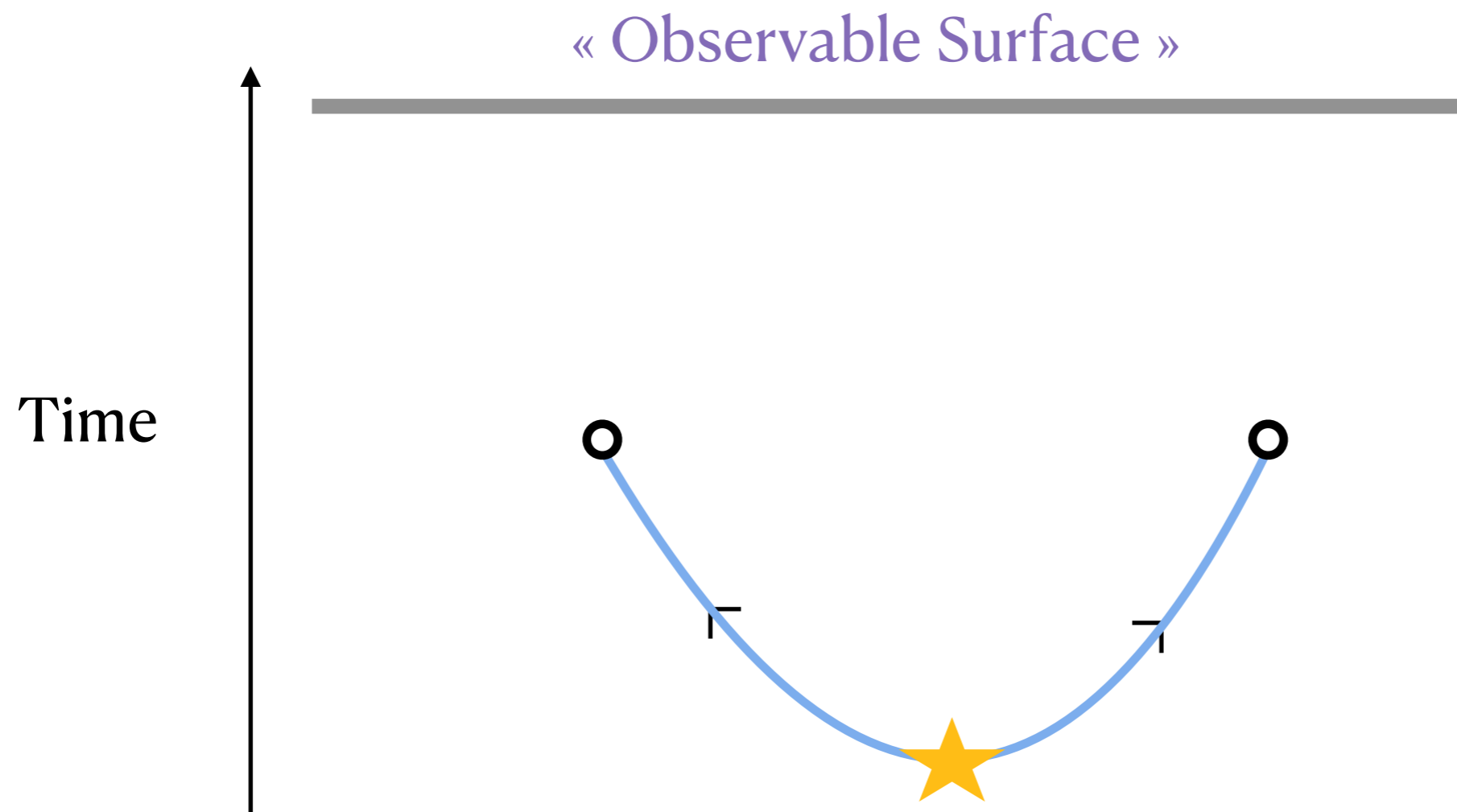
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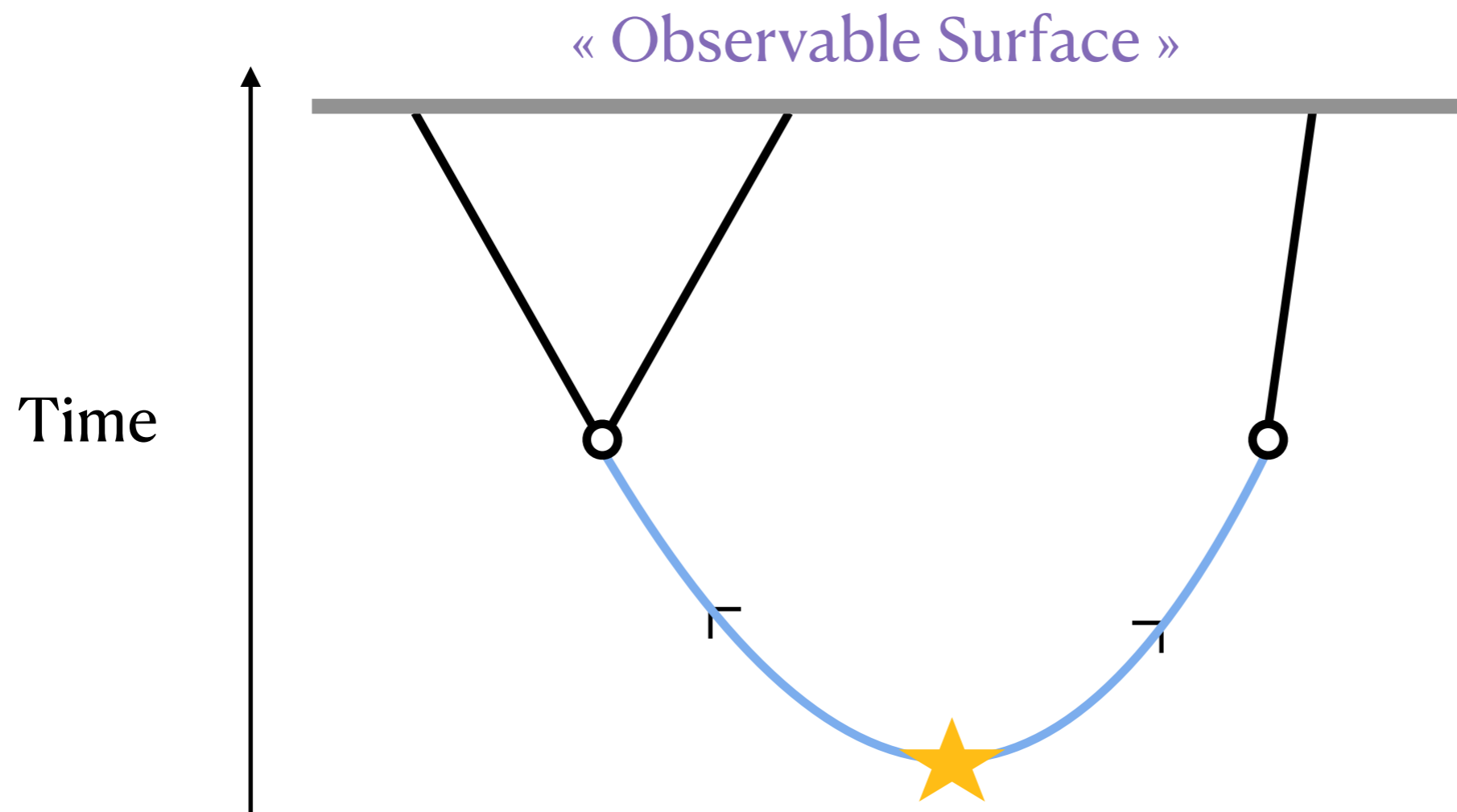
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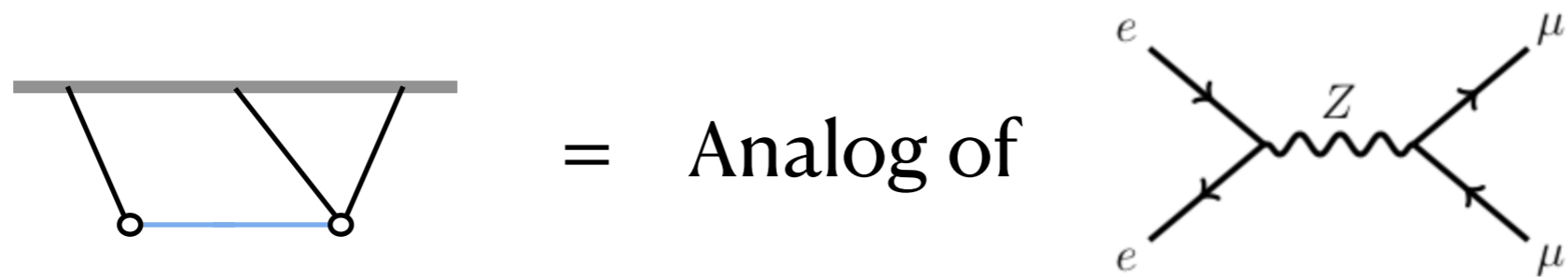
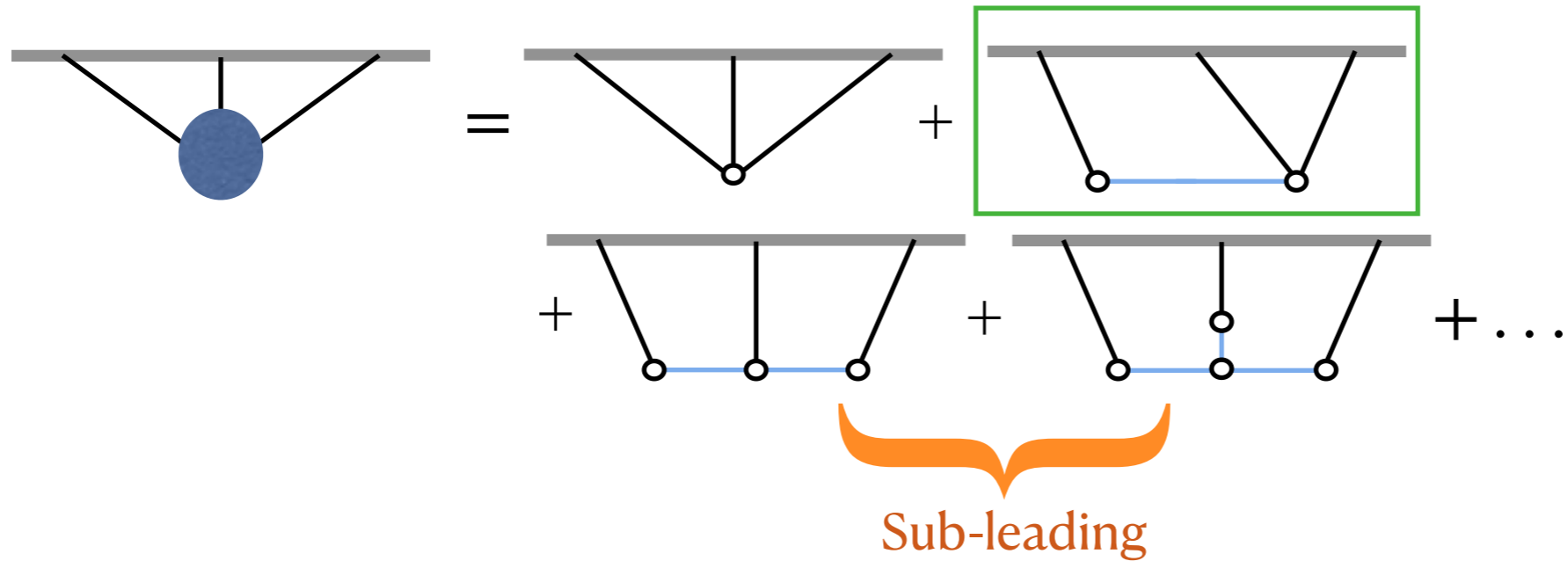
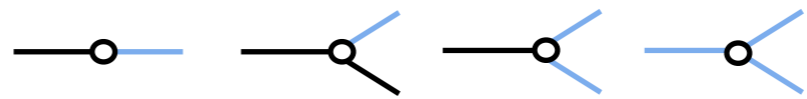
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Inflationary 3-Points Function

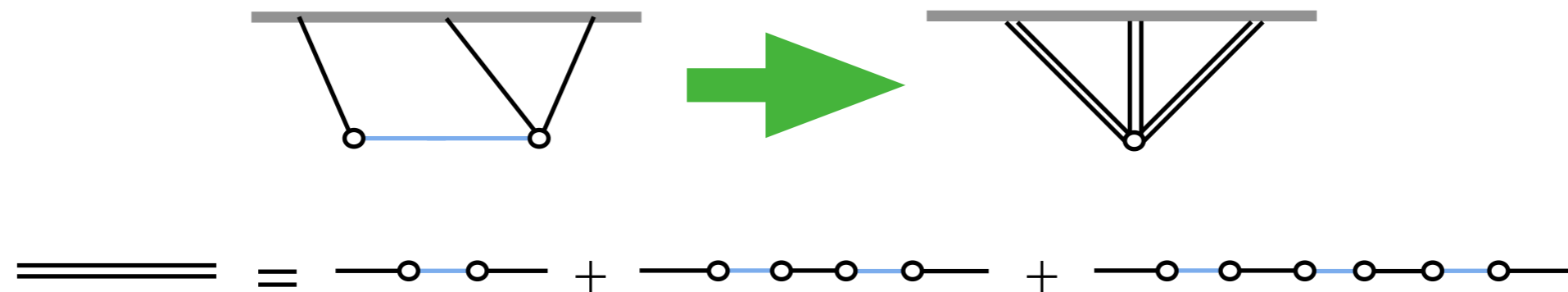
- Allowed Interactions:



Cosmological Collider Signal!

Strong Mixing: Current Project

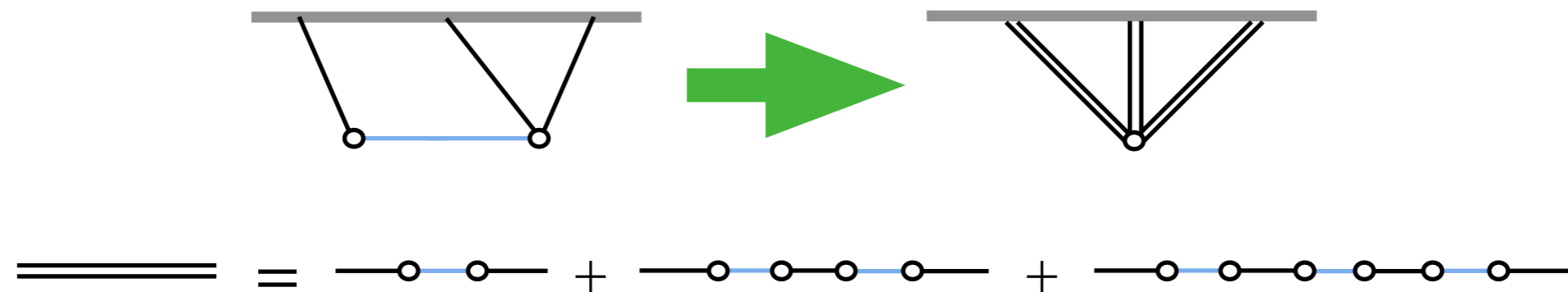
- **Strong Mixing:** $\text{---}\circ\text{---}$ is given a **strong** contribution.
- We cannot rely on the **simpler** diagrams!



- Lack of **analytic** understanding.

Strong Mixing: Current Project

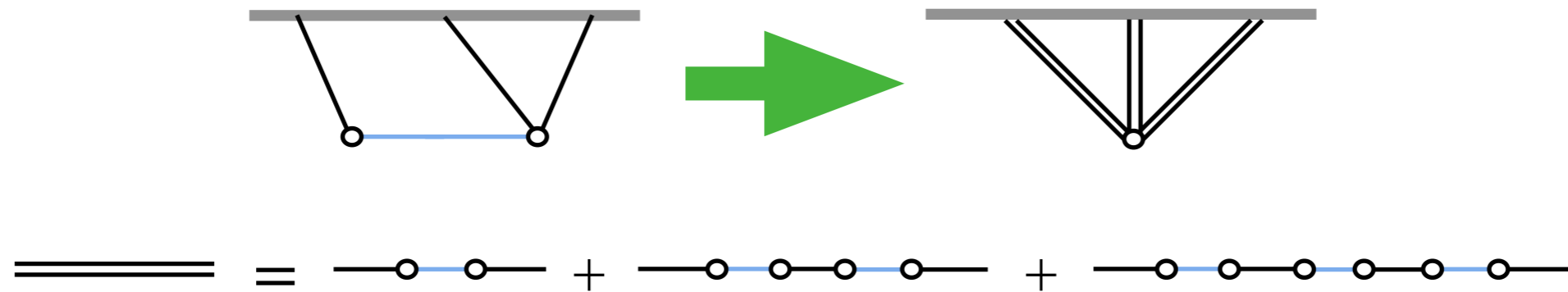
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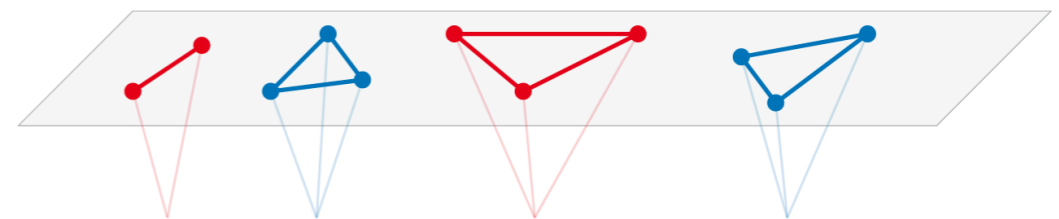


- Lack of **analytic** understanding: **goal of my current project !**

- Can be computed **numerically:**

CosmoFlowTM

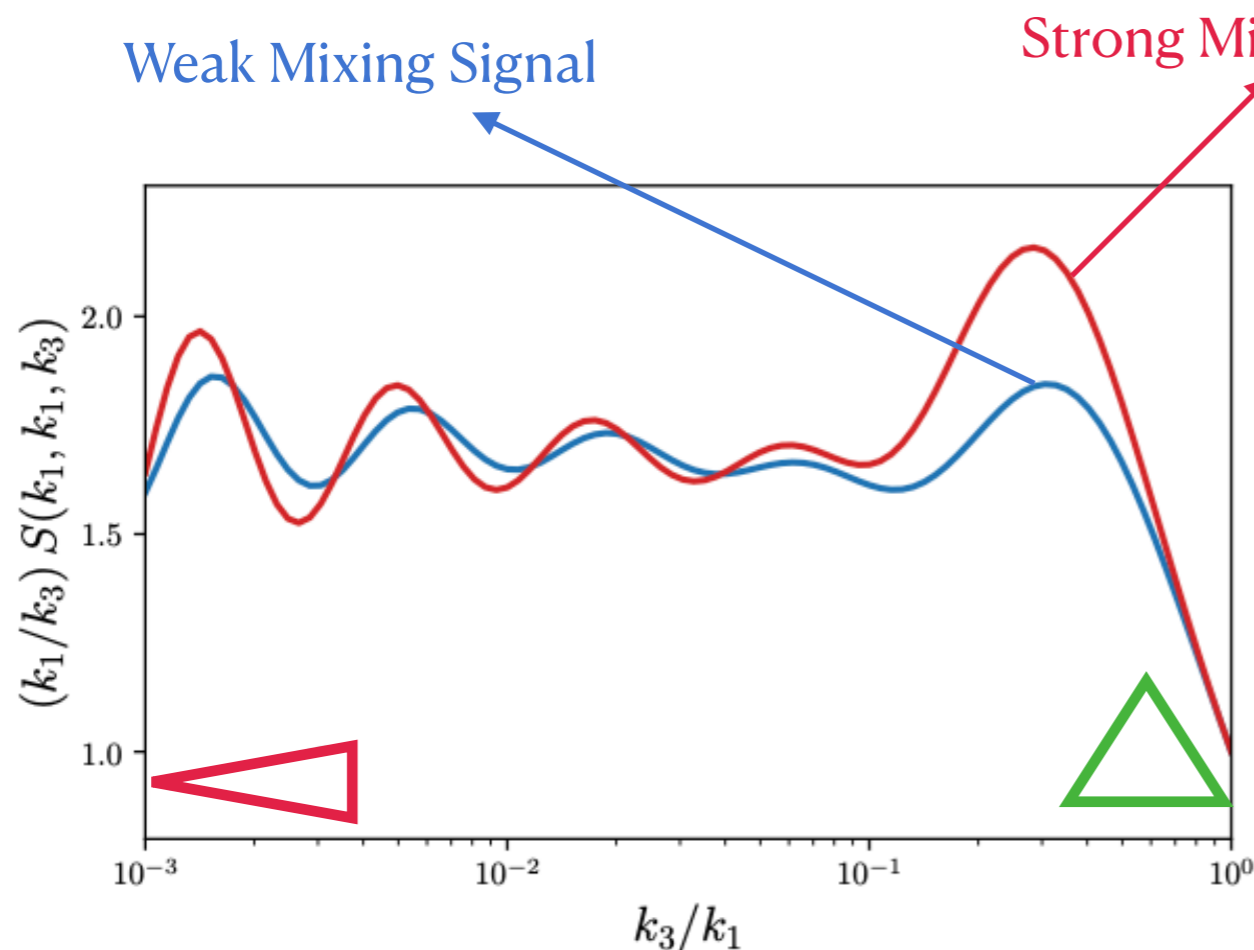
Python Package for Cosmological Correlators



Cosmological Collider Signal

- Exchange of massive particles leads to **oscillating** behavior in the **squeezed limit**:

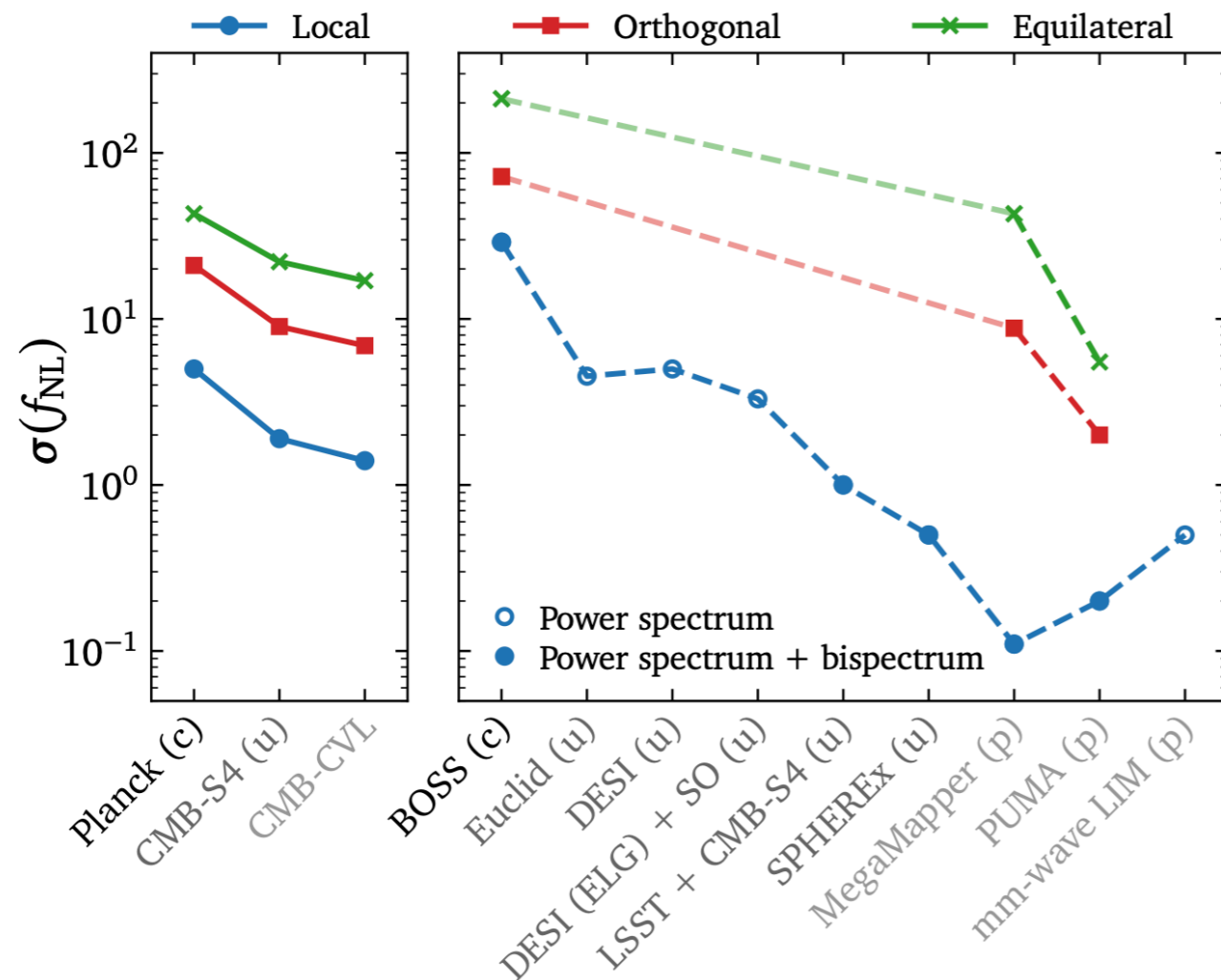
$$B(k_1, k_2, k_3) \sim \left(\frac{k_3}{k_2}\right)^{1/2} e^{-\pi m/H} \cos(m/H \log(k_3/k_1) + \varphi)$$



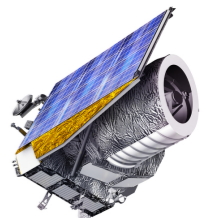
- Oscillation in $\log(k_3/k_1)$.
- Frequency = mass of the new particle.
- Amplitude suppressed by the mass \implies Small signal

What about observations?

- **Amplitude** of three-point function $B \sim f_{NL}$.
- Current constraints, PLANCK 2018: $f_{NL} \lesssim \mathcal{O}(10)$



- **Improved** sensitivity from **next surveys**.

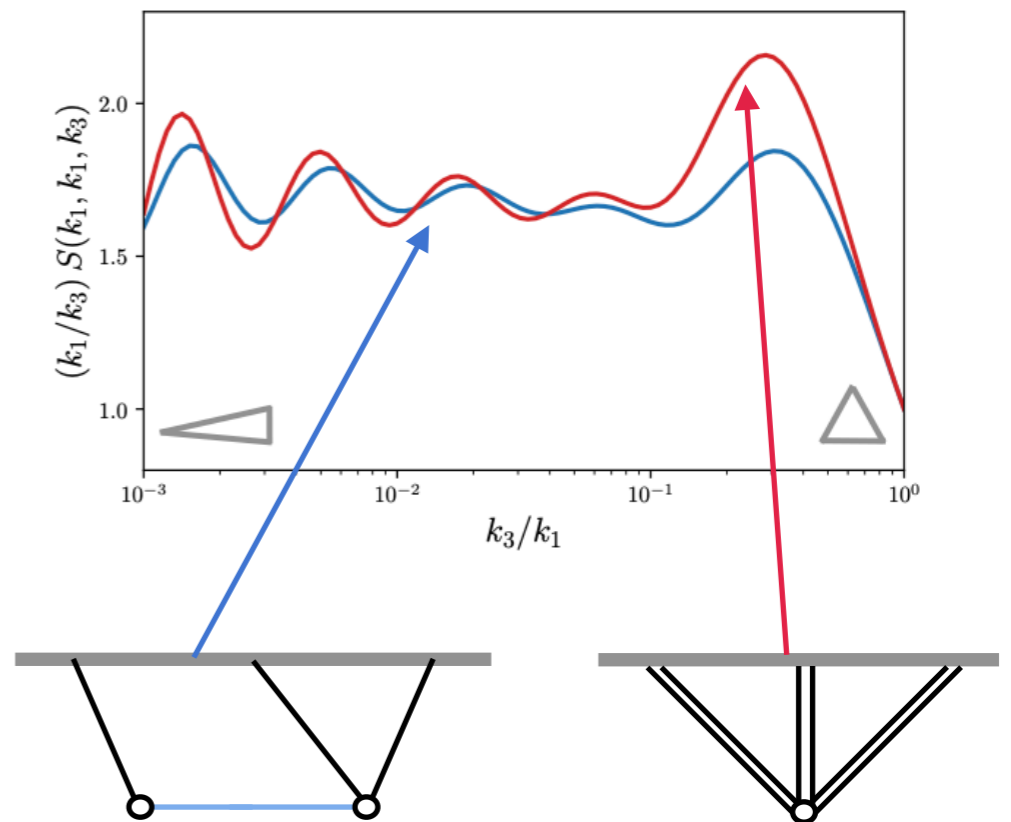
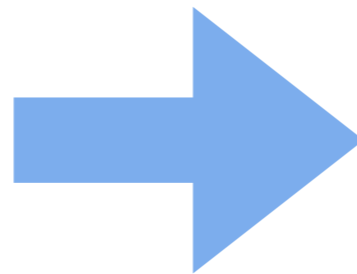
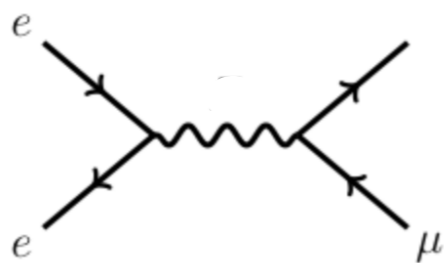
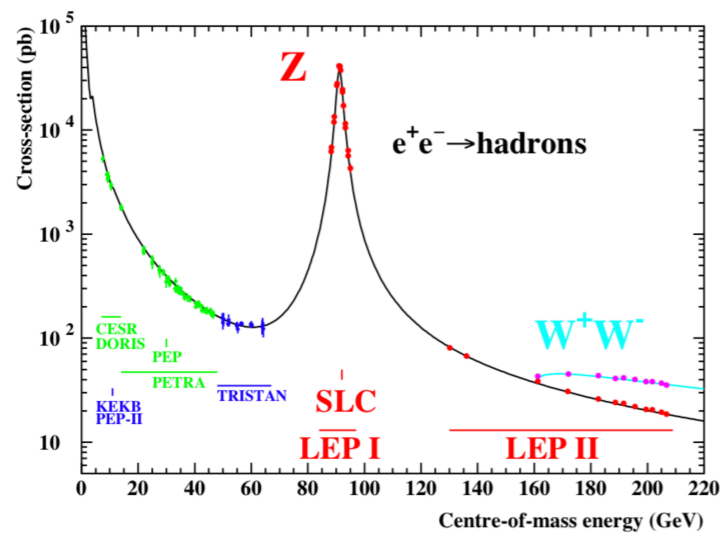


- **Weak Mixing:** smaller signal

- Need for **analytical** templates for **strong mixing**.

Conclusion

- **Particles** of mass $m \gg E_{LHC}$ can be produced on-shell in inflation.
- **Exchange** of massive particles leave **distinctive imprints** in non-gaussianities: **Cosmological Collider Signal**.



- **Strong Mixing** leads to a **larger signal**: needs to be understood!
- Very promising way of **probing high-energy physics**!