

# Vides cosmologiques : défauts et structures



 **SFP** Société Française de Physique

## Le vide dans tous ses états

Journée thématique organisée par la Division  
Champs & Particules de la Société Française de Physique

Avec la participation de :

- Emilie Klein (CEA/IN2P3)
- Philippe Brar (CEA/IN2P3)
- Audrey de Wit (LJL)
- Patrick Peter (IAP)
- Stéphane Escoffier (CPHM)
- Virginie Spataro (IPCMS)
- Yaelle Seznec (JCLab)

La journée comprendra la remise  
du Prix de thèse Violette Brissot 2025

**31 mars 2026**  
Amphi Charpak, LDM/IN2P3, Paris



<https://indico.in2p3.fr/e/sfp2026>

*Chacun a son défaut, où toujours il revient*  
J. de la Fontaine, Fables, 1668

# Overview

- **Topological defects**
  - **Symmetry breaking: Higgs mechanism**
  - **Phase transition: early Universe**
  - **Monopoles, strings, walls... constraints**
    - **String network formation and evolution**
    - **Gravitational radiation**
    - **PBHs**
- **Quantum vacuum fluctuations and large scale structures**
  - **Large scale structure formation = gravitational collapse**
  - **Inflation**
    - **Early Universe initial conditions: vacuum!**
  - **Quantizing gravity (perturbations)**
    - **Varying mass scalar fields**
    - **Quantum vacuum fluctuations → squeezed states...**
      - **Power spectrum, CMB and all that.**

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## ● Quantum vacuum fluctuations and large scale structures

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Symmetry breaking:

$$G \rightarrow H$$

$$\mathcal{L} = -D_\mu \Phi (D^\mu \Phi)^\dagger - \frac{1}{4} F_{\mu\nu}^a F_a^{\mu\nu} - V(\Phi)$$

Covariant derivative

$$D_\mu \Phi = (\partial_\mu + ig \mathbf{A}_\mu \cdot \mathbf{T}) \Phi$$

$$[T^a, T^b] = if_{ab}^c T^c$$

Field strength tensor

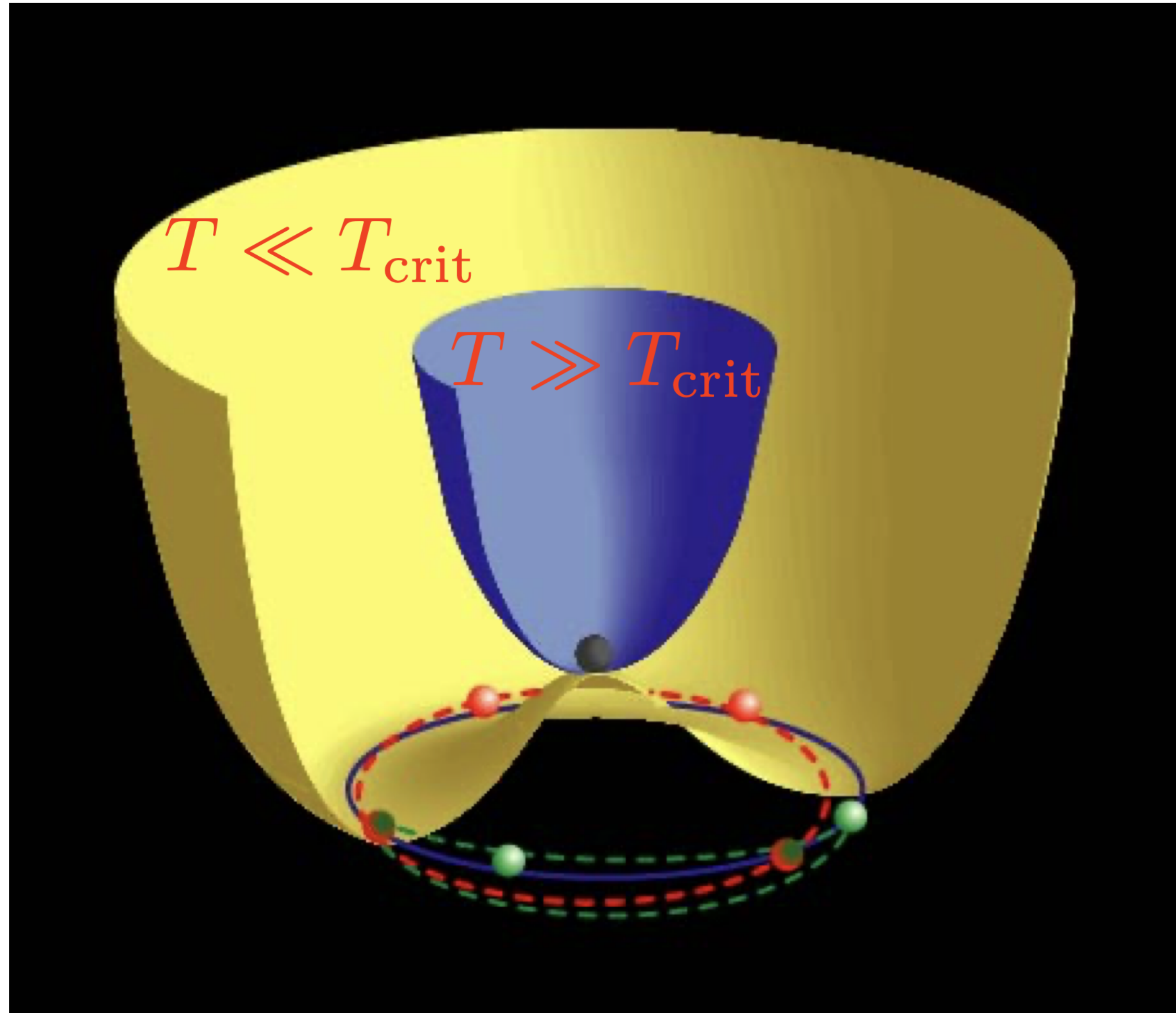
$$F_{\mu\nu}^a = \partial_\mu A_\nu^a - \partial_\nu A_\mu^a + gf_{bc}^a A_\mu^b A_\nu^c$$

$G$  structure constants

Temperature dependent potential  $V(\Phi, T)$

# Higgs field and potential

$V(\phi)$



$\phi$

Simplest possible Model:

real scalar field

$G = Z_2$

$$\mathcal{L} = \frac{1}{2} \partial_\mu \varphi \partial^\mu \varphi - V(\varphi)$$

Potential  $V(\varphi) = \lambda(\varphi^2 - \eta^2)^2$

Next-to-simplest possible Model: complex scalar field: Abelian Higgs mechanism

$$G = U(1)$$

$$\mathcal{L} = -D_\mu \phi (D^\mu \phi)^* - \frac{1}{4} F_{\mu\nu} F^{\mu\nu} - V(\phi)$$

Covariant derivative

$$D_\mu \phi = (\partial_\mu + iqA_\mu)\phi$$

Field strength tensor

$$F_{\mu\nu} = \partial_\mu A_\nu - \partial_\nu A_\mu$$

Potential  $V(\phi) = \lambda(|\phi|^2 - \eta^2)^2$

Simplest non Abelian Model:

$$SU(2) \rightarrow \{\text{Id}\}$$

$$\mathcal{L} = -D_\mu \Phi (D^\mu \Phi)^\dagger - \frac{1}{4} F_{\mu\nu}^a F_a^{\mu\nu} - V(\Phi)$$

Covariant derivative

$$D_\mu \Phi = \left( \partial_\mu + i \frac{g}{2} \mathbf{A}_\mu \cdot \boldsymbol{\sigma} \right) \Phi$$

$$\left[ \frac{\sigma^a}{2}, \frac{\sigma^b}{2} \right] = i \varepsilon_{abc} \frac{\sigma^c}{2}$$

Field strength tensor

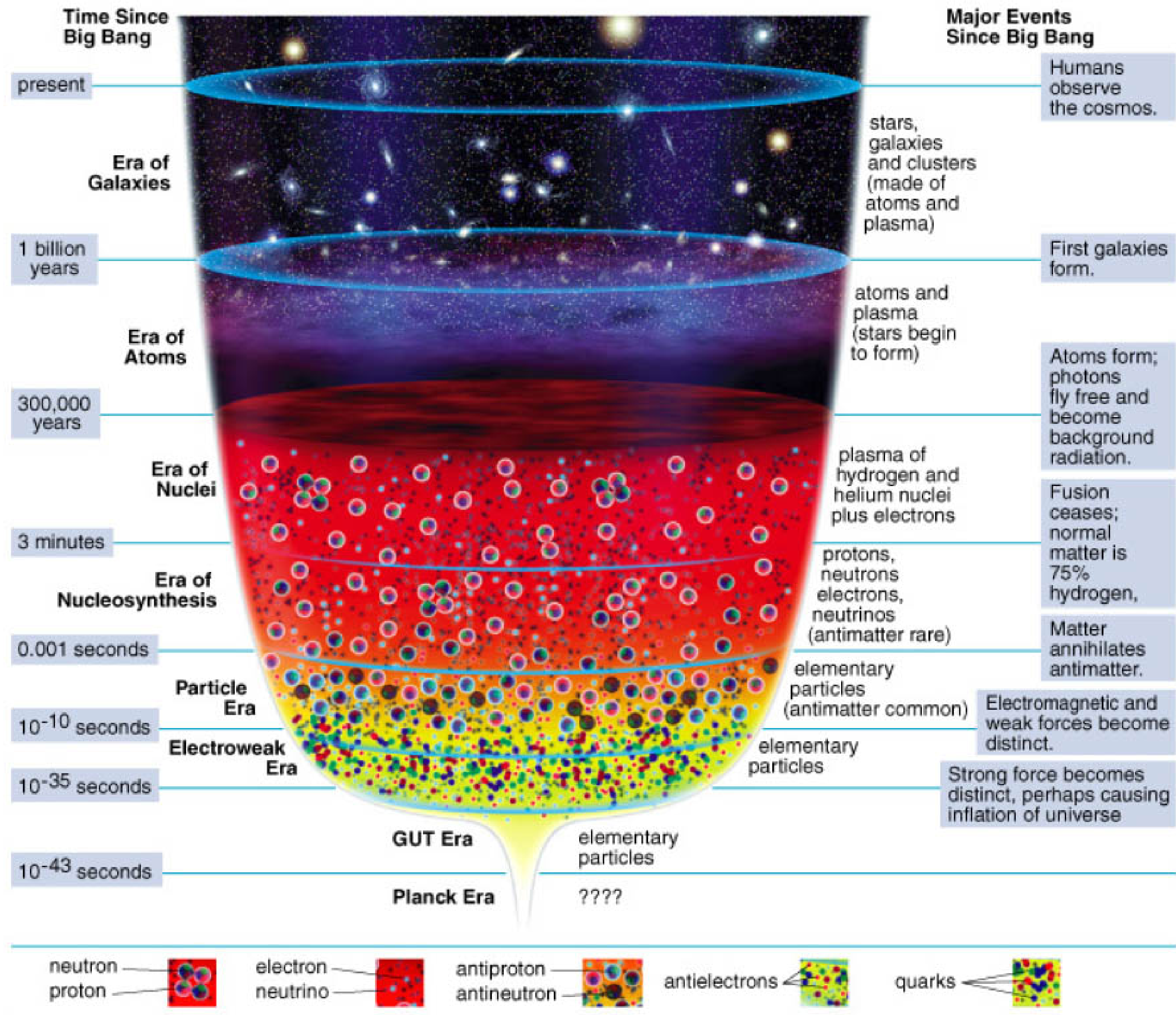
$$F_{\mu\nu}^a = \partial_\mu A_\nu^a - \partial_\nu A_\mu^a + g \varepsilon^a_{bc} A_\mu^b A_\nu^c$$

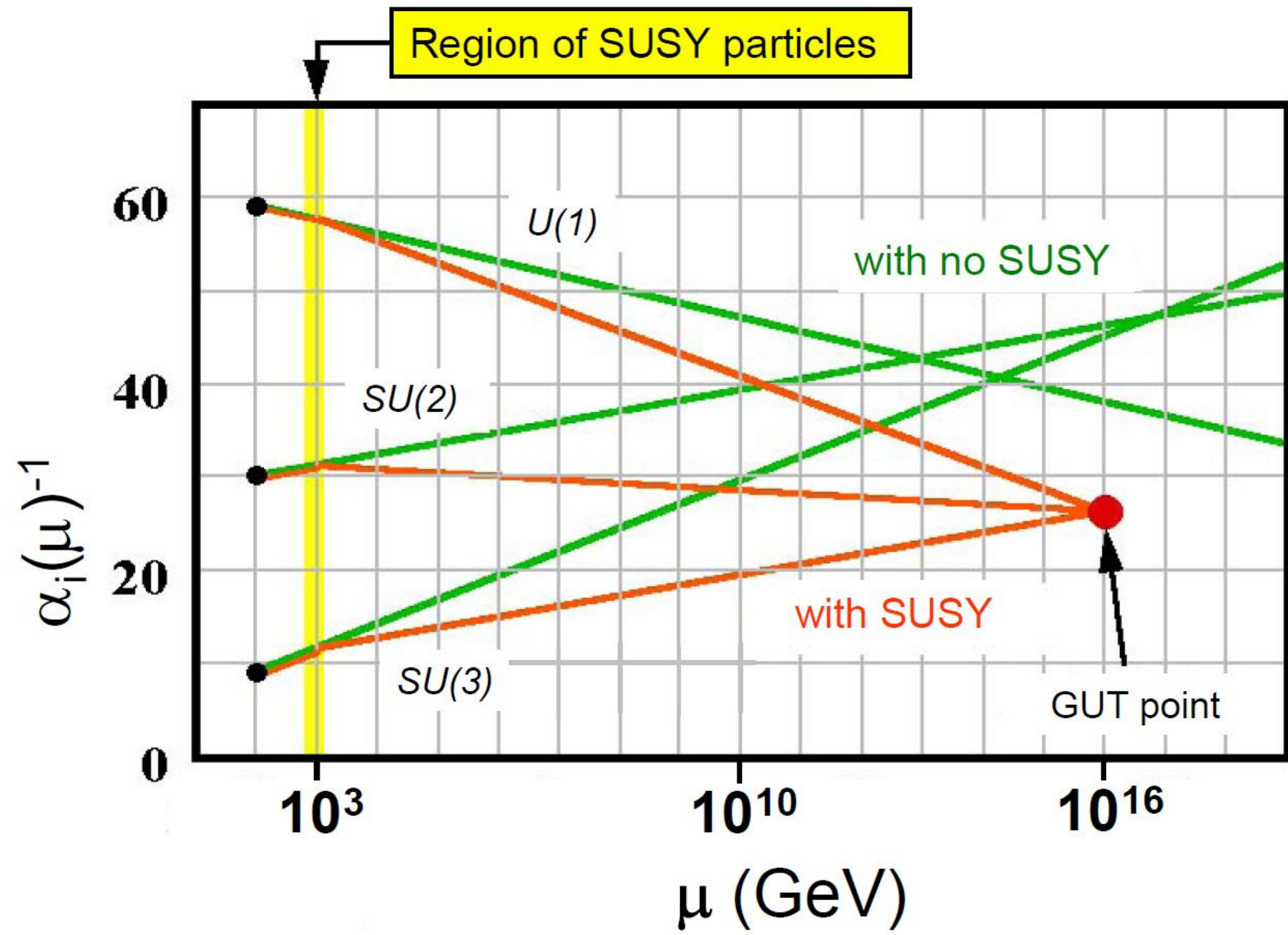
$SU(2)$  structure constants

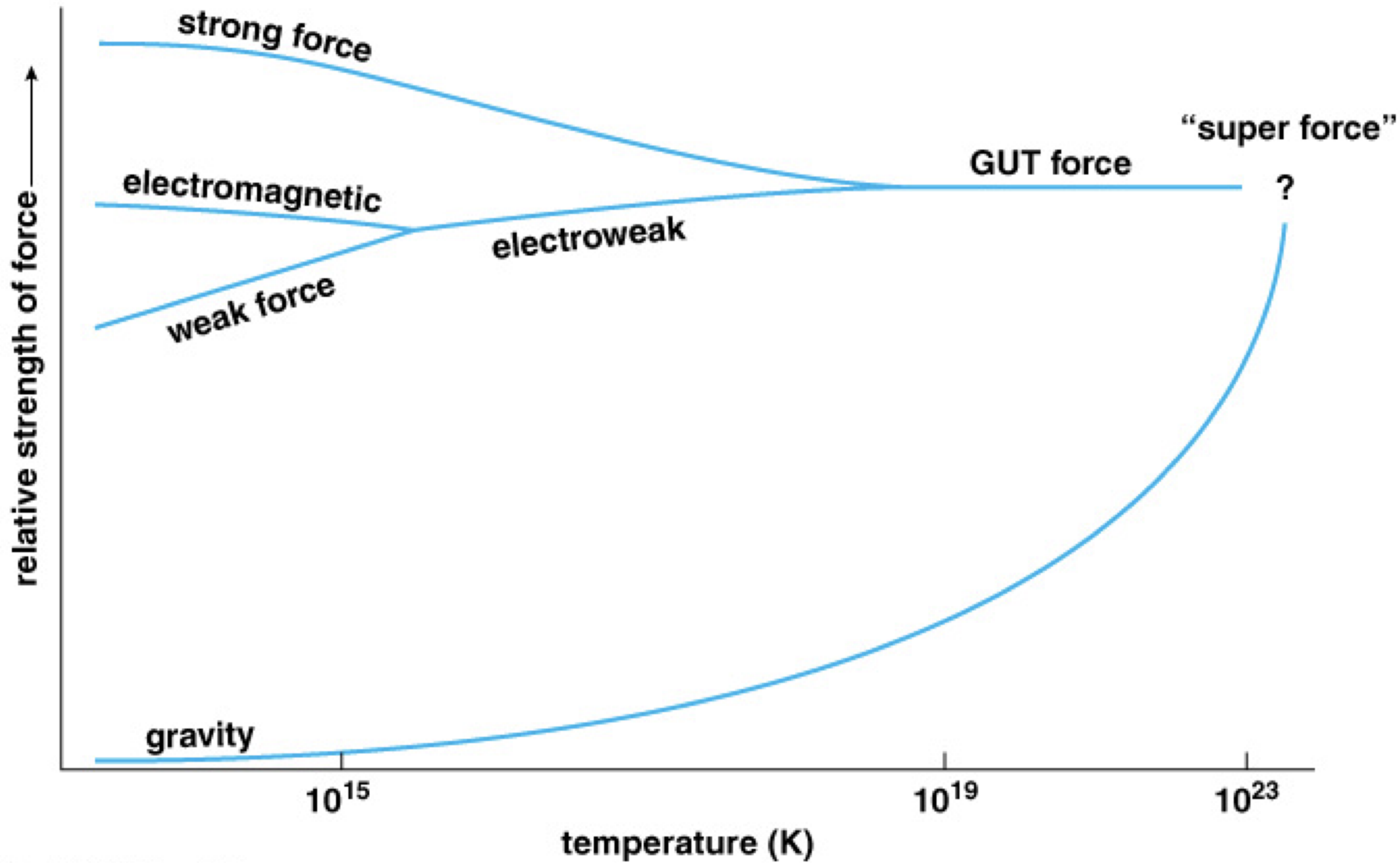
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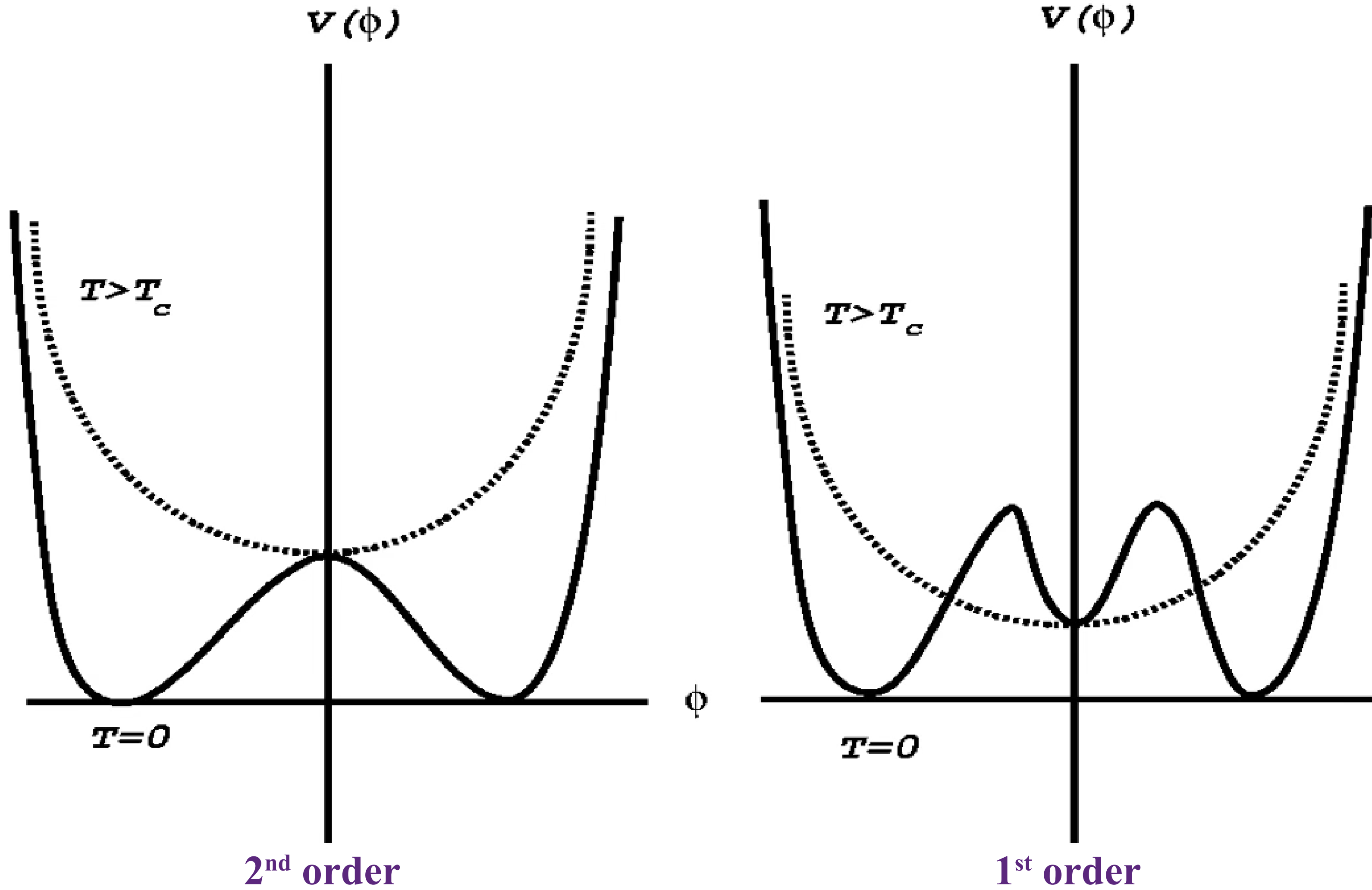




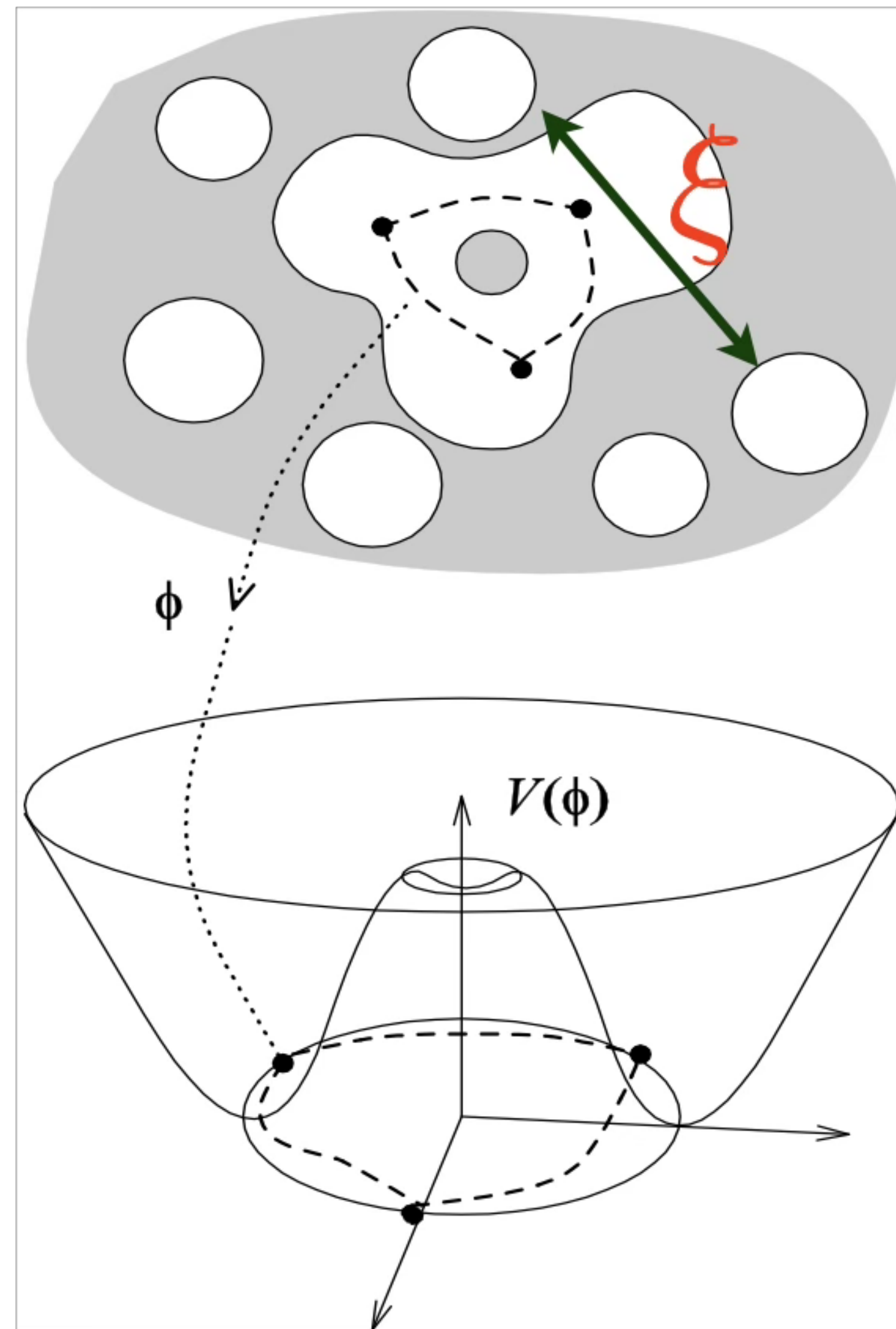


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Symmetry breaking  $\implies$  phase transition



# Phase transition



## Correlation length

$$\langle 0 | \phi(\vec{x}) \phi(\vec{x} + \vec{r}) | 0 \rangle \propto e^{-|\vec{r}|/\xi}$$

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Simplest possible Model:

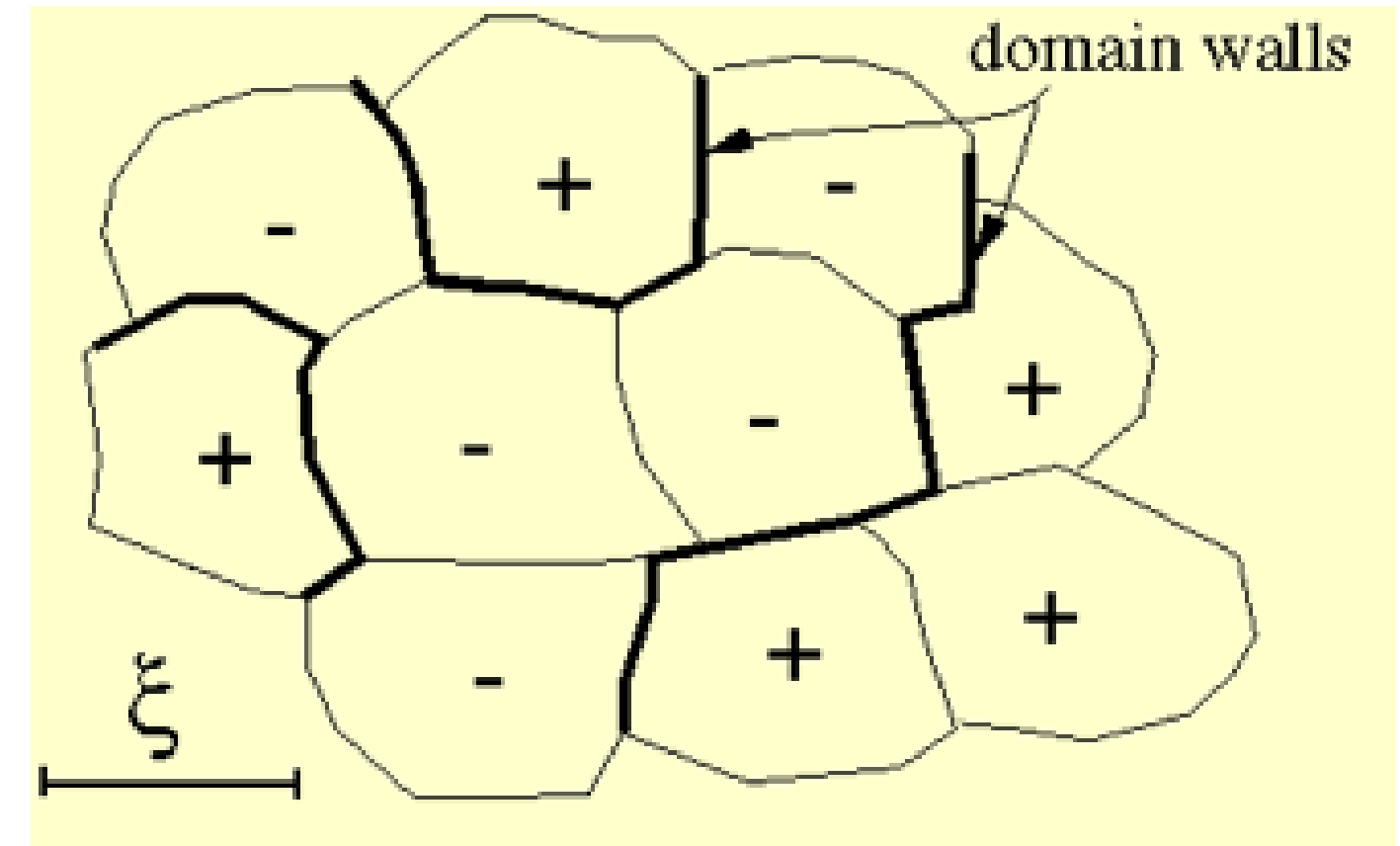
real scalar field

$$G = Z_2$$

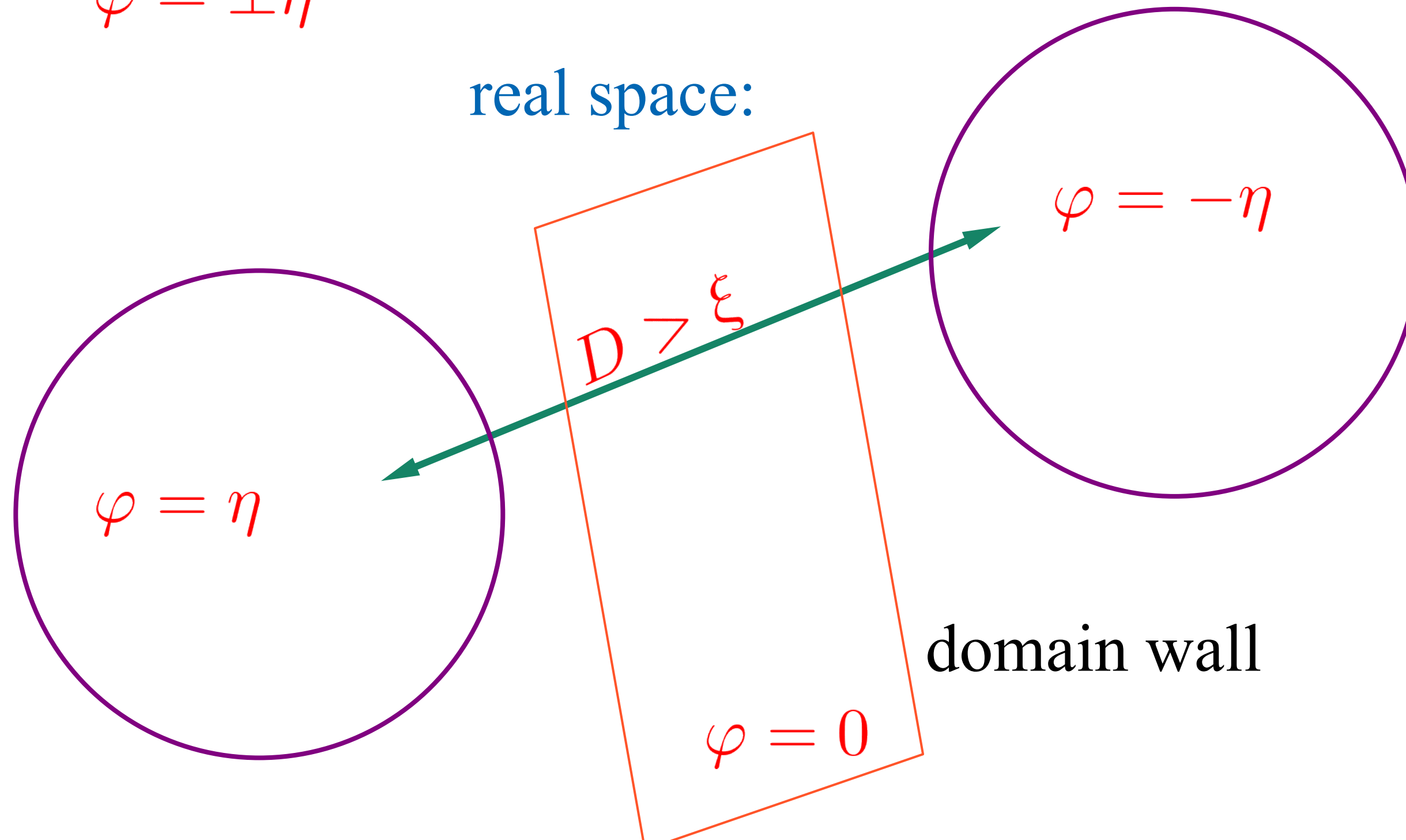
$$\mathcal{L} = \frac{1}{2} \partial_\mu \varphi \partial^\mu \varphi - V(\varphi)$$

Potential  $V(\varphi) = \lambda(\varphi^2 - \eta^2)^2$

minimum:  $\varphi = \pm\eta$



real space:



1 DW @ 100 GeV:

$$\Omega_{\text{DW}} \sim 10^8$$

network = perturbations

$$\frac{\delta\rho}{\rho} \sim 10^{12} \frac{\sigma}{\text{GeV}^3}$$

$$\Rightarrow \sigma^{1/3} \lesssim \text{MeV}$$

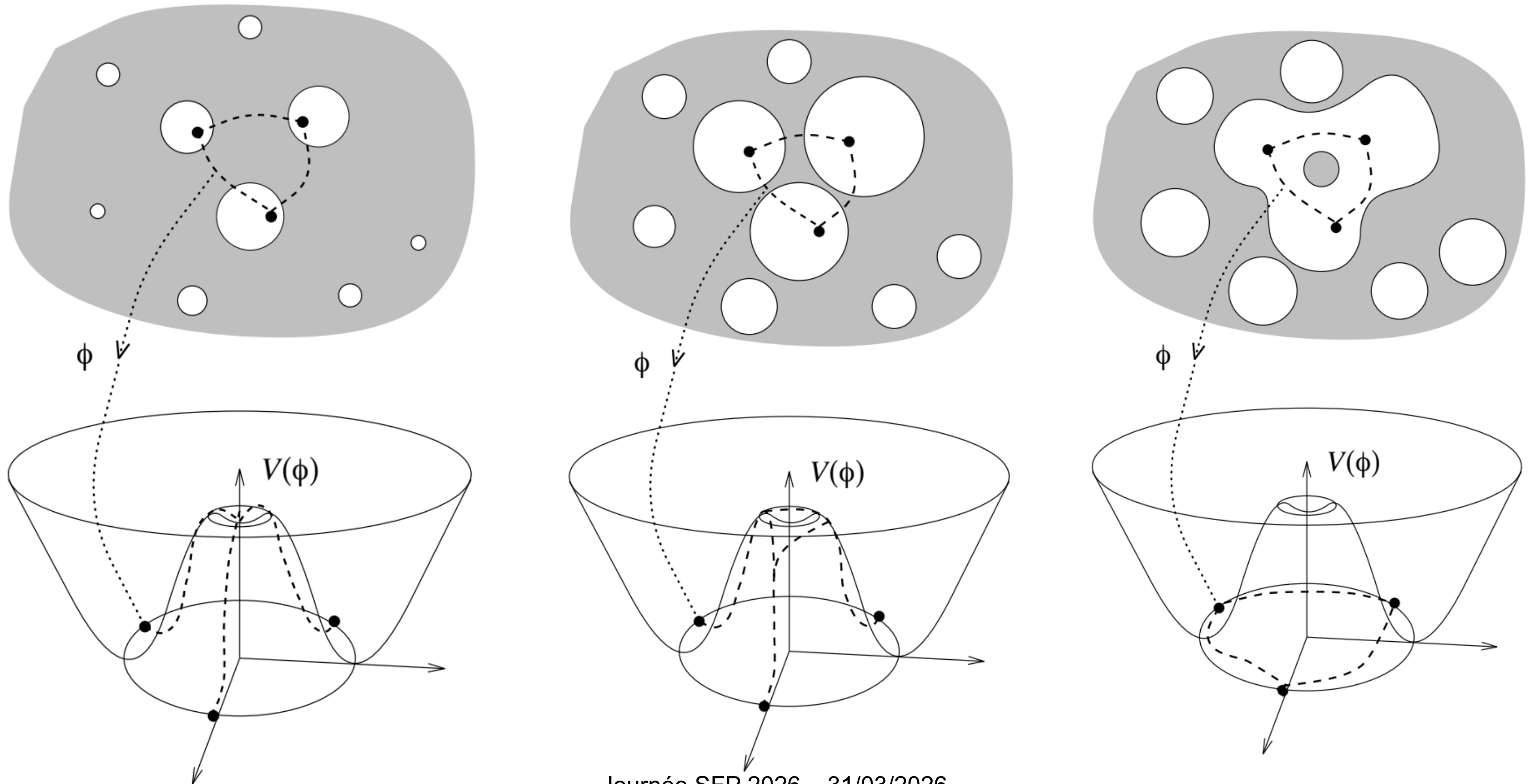
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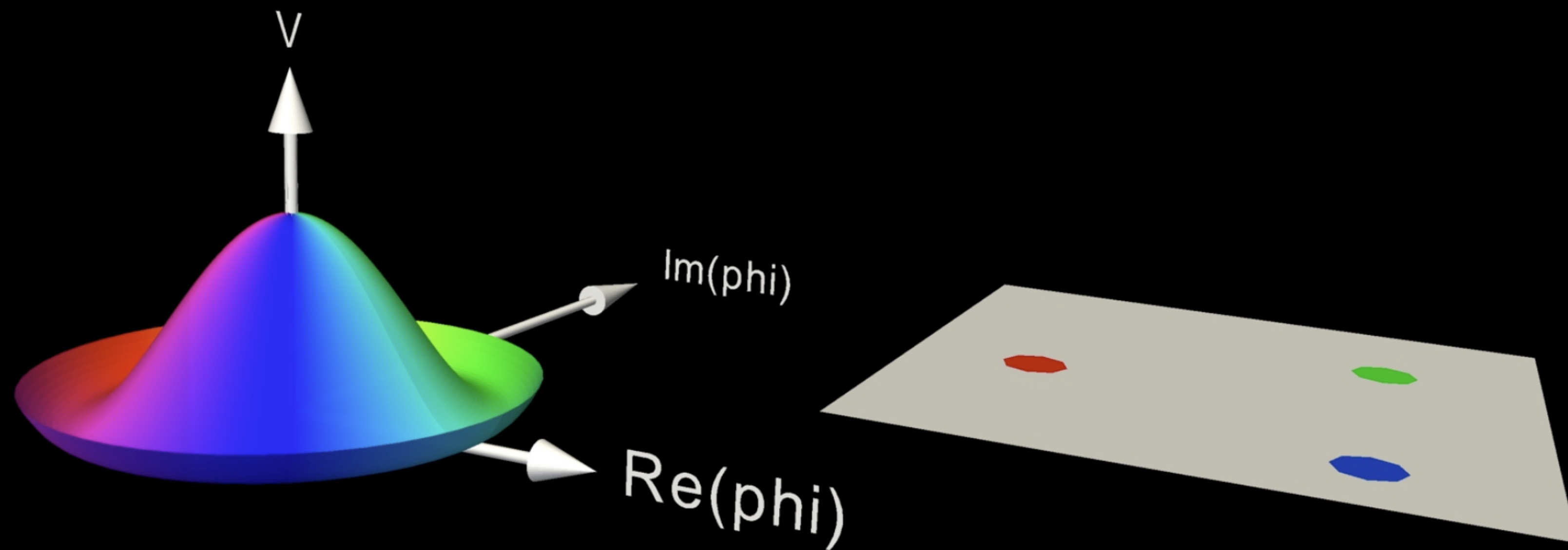
T.W.B. Kibble, *J. Phys. A* **9**, 1387 (1976)

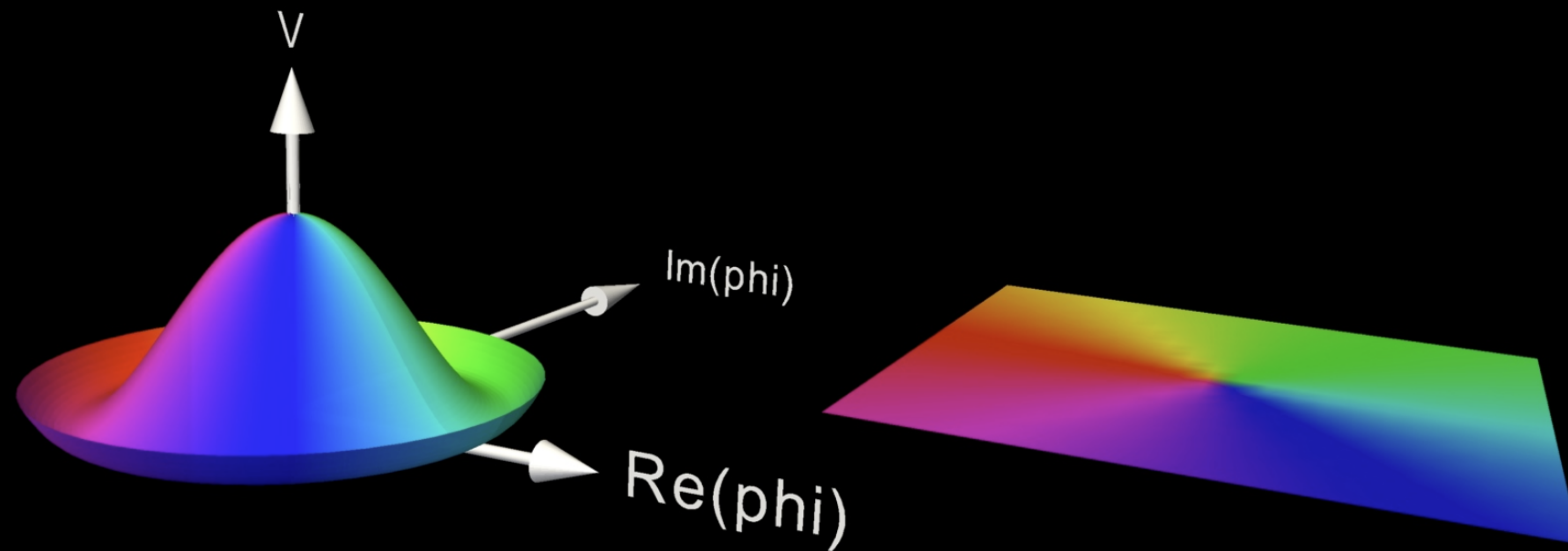
M.B. Hindmarsh and T.W.B. Kibble, *Rep. Prog. Phys.* **58**, 477 (1995)

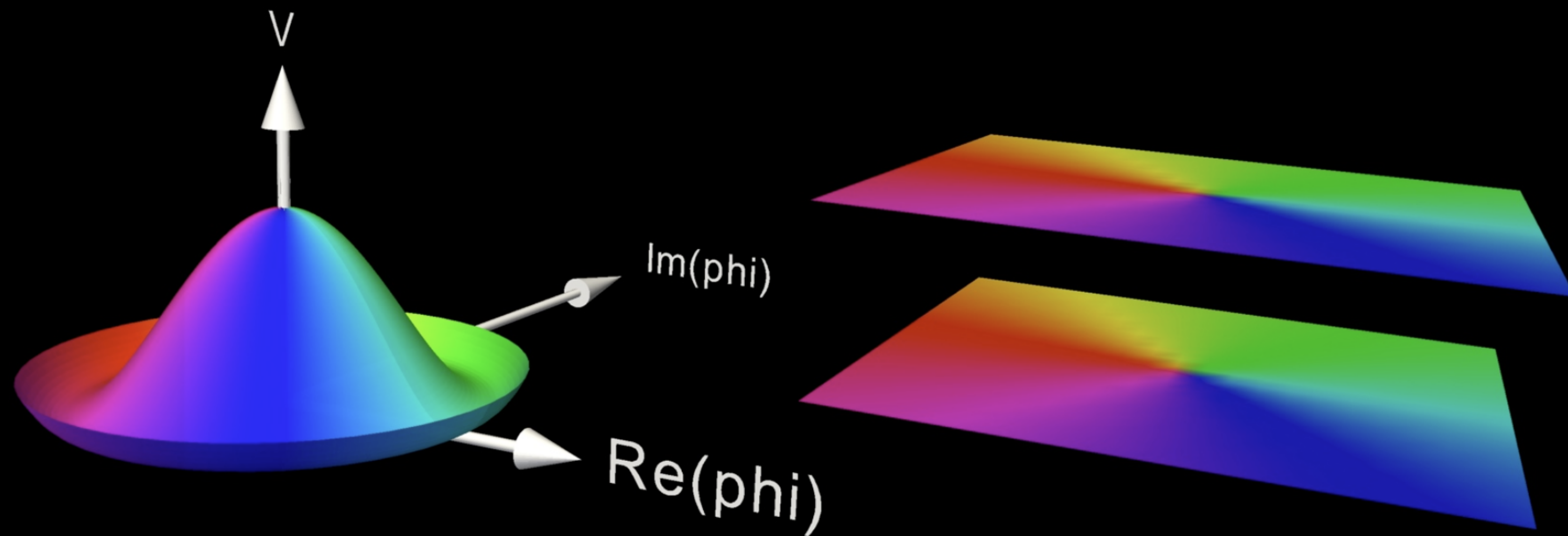
$$\mathcal{L} = -\frac{1}{4}G_{\mu\nu}G^{\mu\nu} + \frac{1}{2}D_{\mu}\Phi (D^{\mu}\Phi)^* - V(\Phi)$$

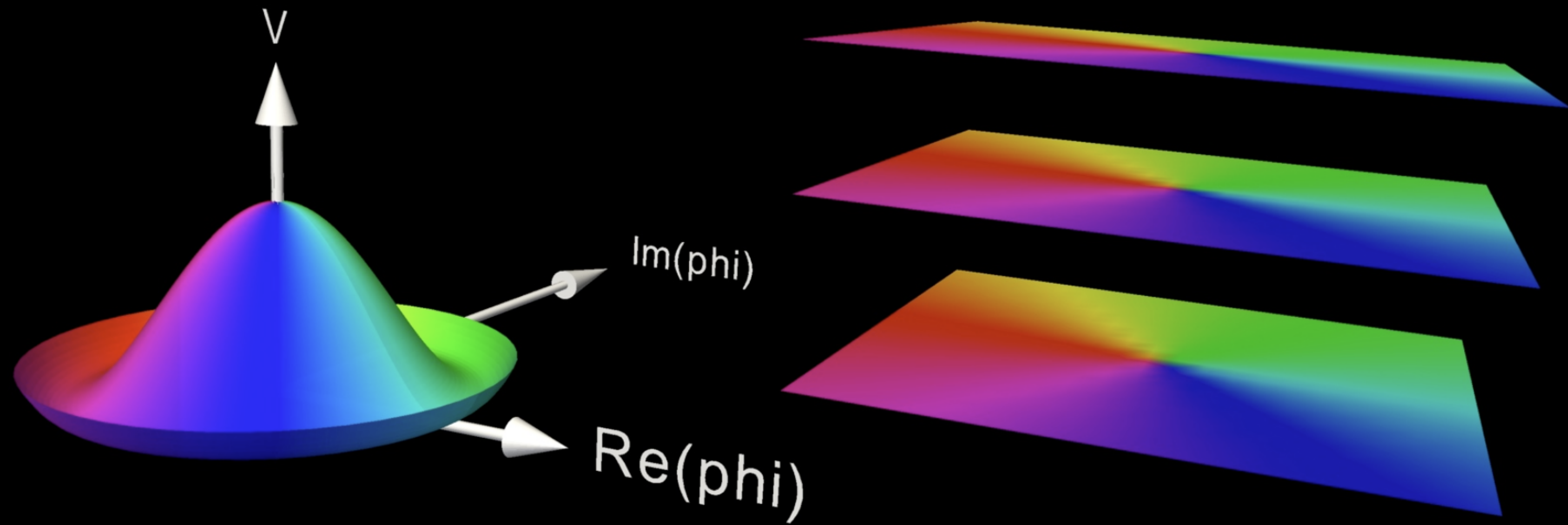
cosmic string

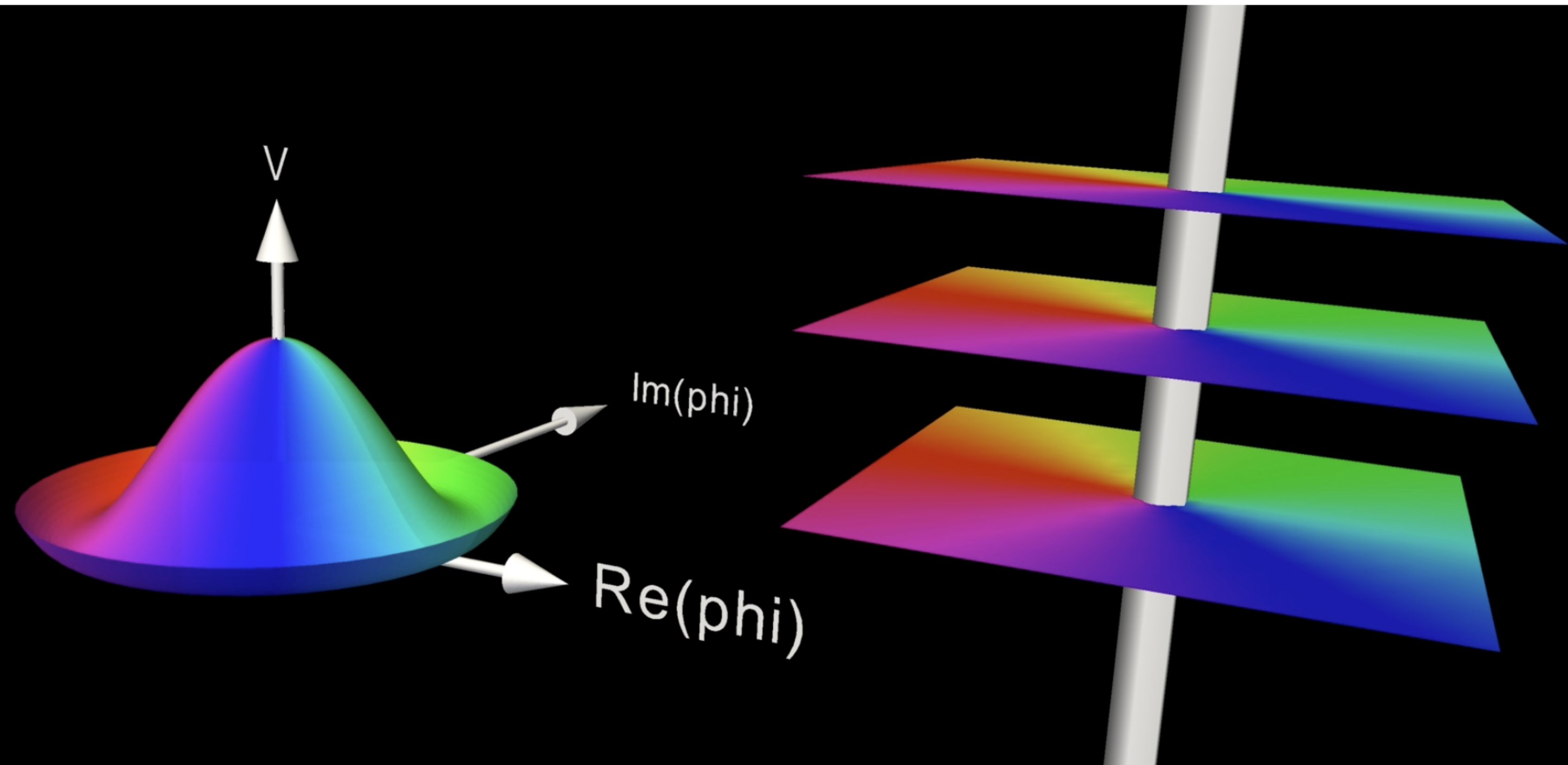












Thx Jose J. Blanco-Pillado

# Next-to-simplest possible Model:

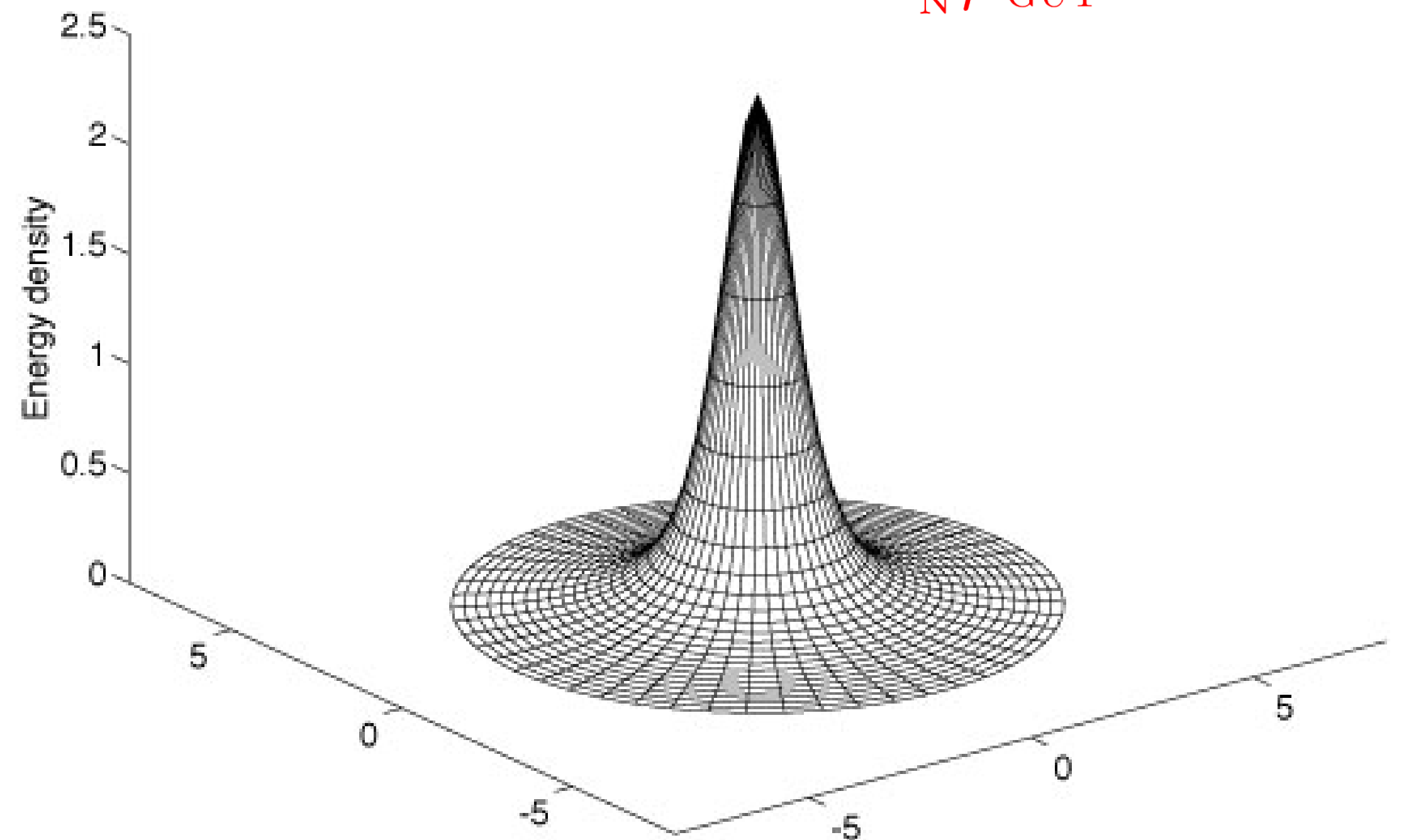
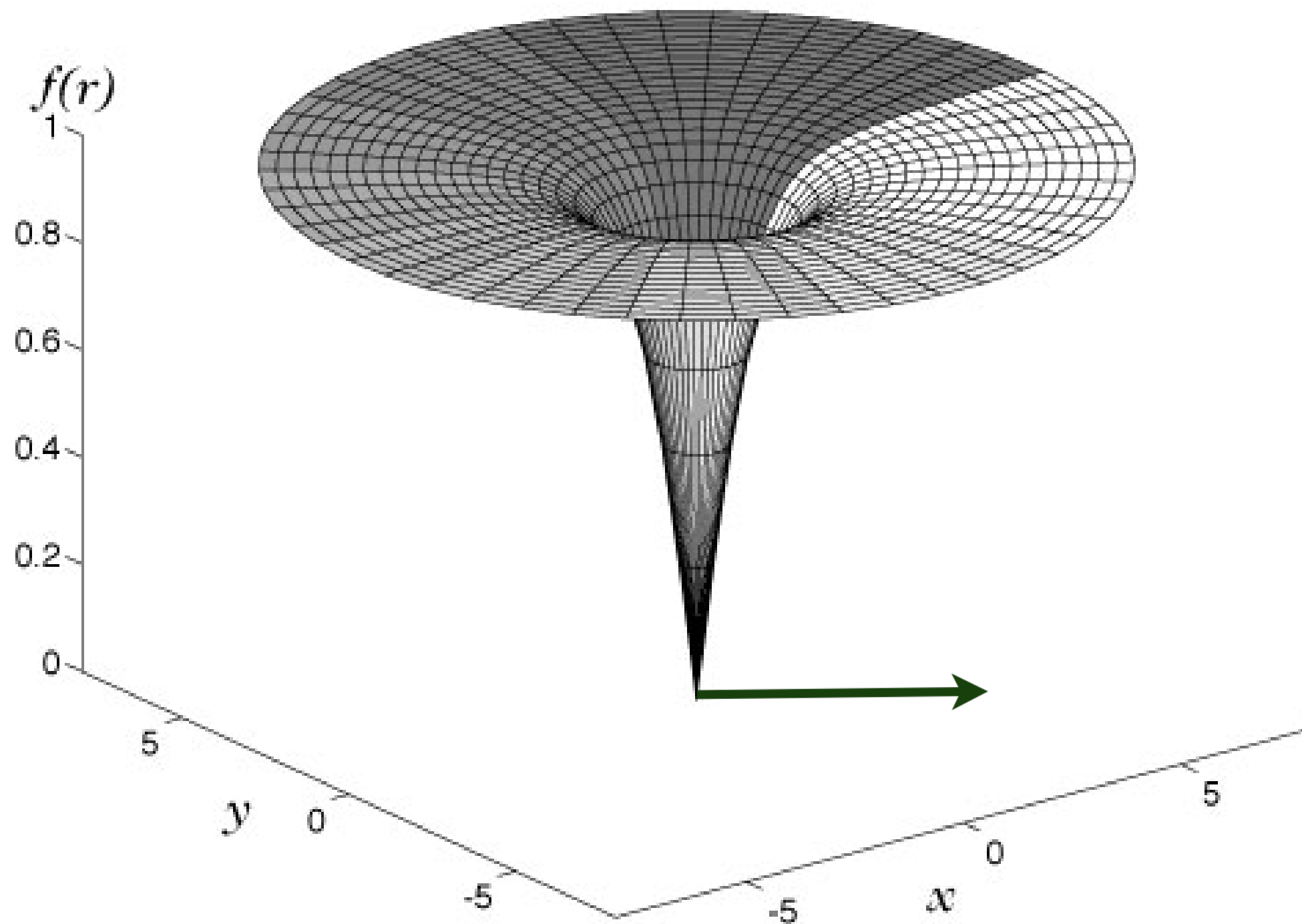
# cosmic string

T.W.B. Kibble, *J. Phys.* **A9**, 1387 (1976)

M.B. Hindmarsh and T.W.B. Kibble, *Rep. Prog. Phys.* **58**, 477 (1995)

$$\mathcal{L} = -\frac{1}{4}G_{\mu\nu}G^{\mu\nu} + \frac{1}{2}D_{\mu}\Phi (D^{\mu}\Phi)^* - V(\Phi)$$

$$\eta \sim \eta_{\text{GUT}} \implies \mu_{\text{GUT}} \sim 10^{15} \text{ tons/cm}$$
$$G_{\text{N}} \mu_{\text{GUT}} \sim 10^{-6}$$



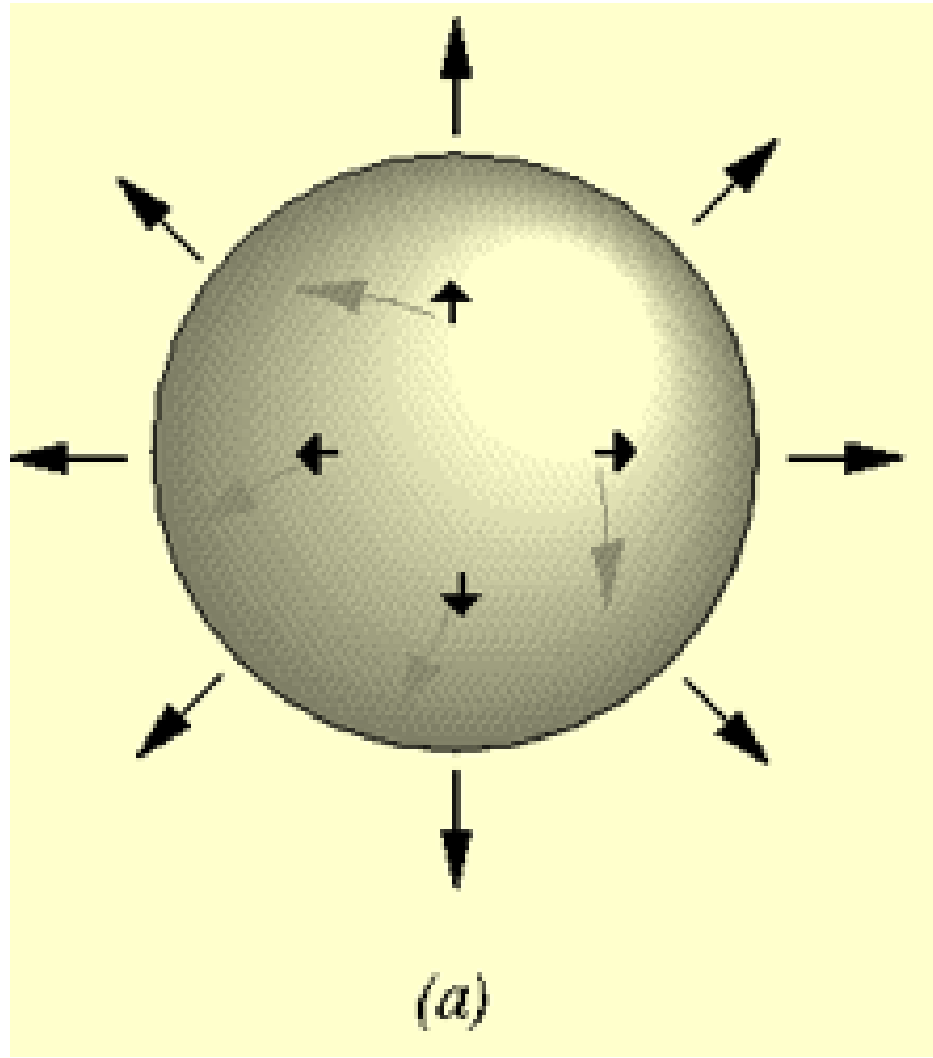
$$\Phi \rightarrow f(r)e^{in\theta}$$

Nielsen-Olesen ansatz

# Simplest non Abelian Model:

$$SU(2) \rightarrow \{\text{Id}\}$$

$$\mathcal{L} = -D_\mu \Phi (D^\mu \Phi)^\dagger - \frac{1}{4} F_{\mu\nu}^a F_a^{\mu\nu} - V(\Phi)$$



monopole

- **Unavoidable:**

$$G \rightarrow SU_c(3) \times SU_{EW}(2) \times U_Y(1) \rightarrow SU(3)_c \times U_{em}(1)$$

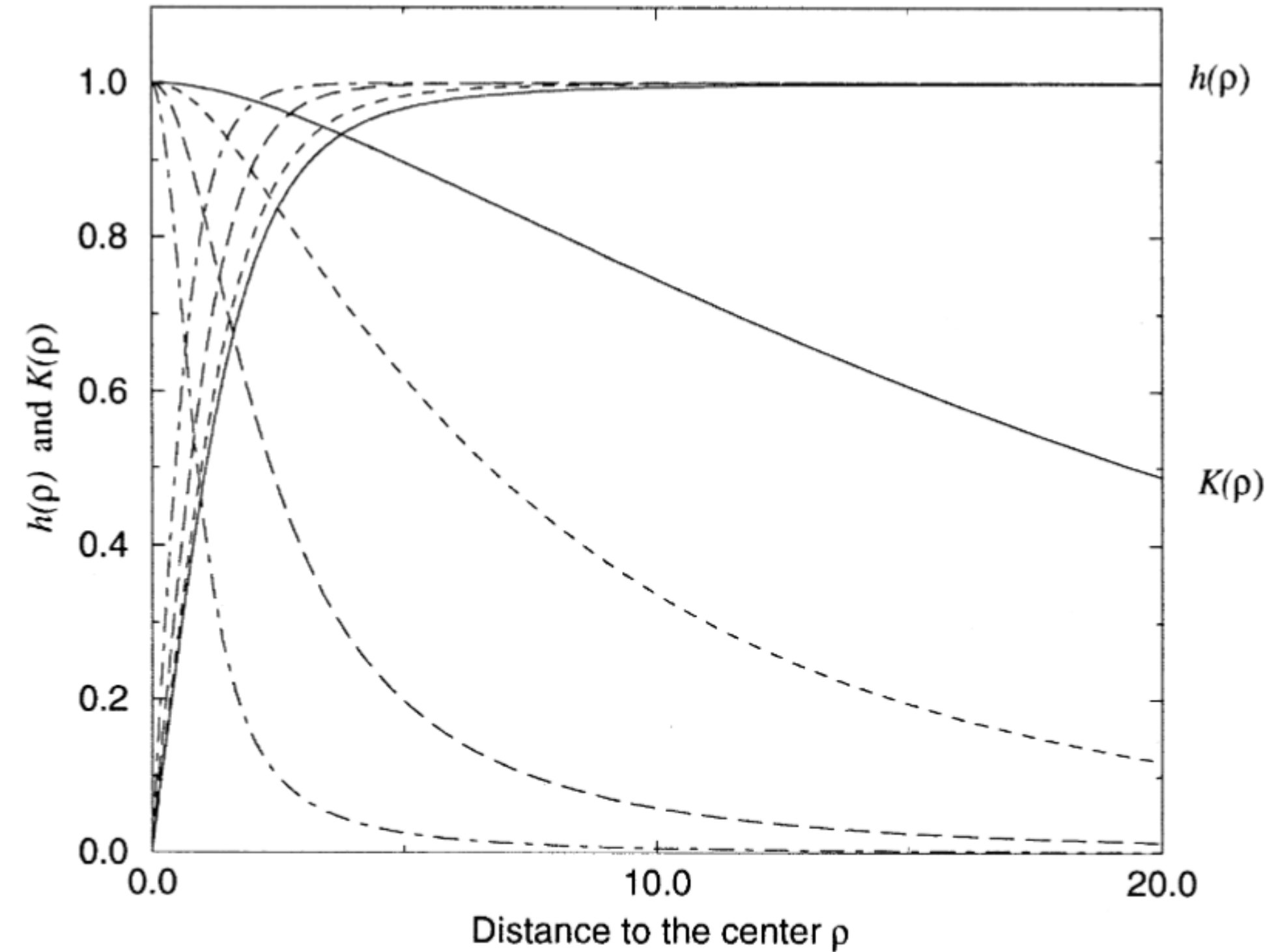
$$\implies G/H \supset U(1) \implies \pi_2(G/H) \sim \pi_1(H) \supset \mathbb{Z}$$

- $\Omega_{\text{mon}} \gg 1$

**The monopole problem:  
inflation!**

$$\Phi^a = \eta h(r) \frac{x^a}{r}$$

$$A_a^i = \frac{K(r) - 1}{qr^2} \varepsilon^a_{ij} x^j$$



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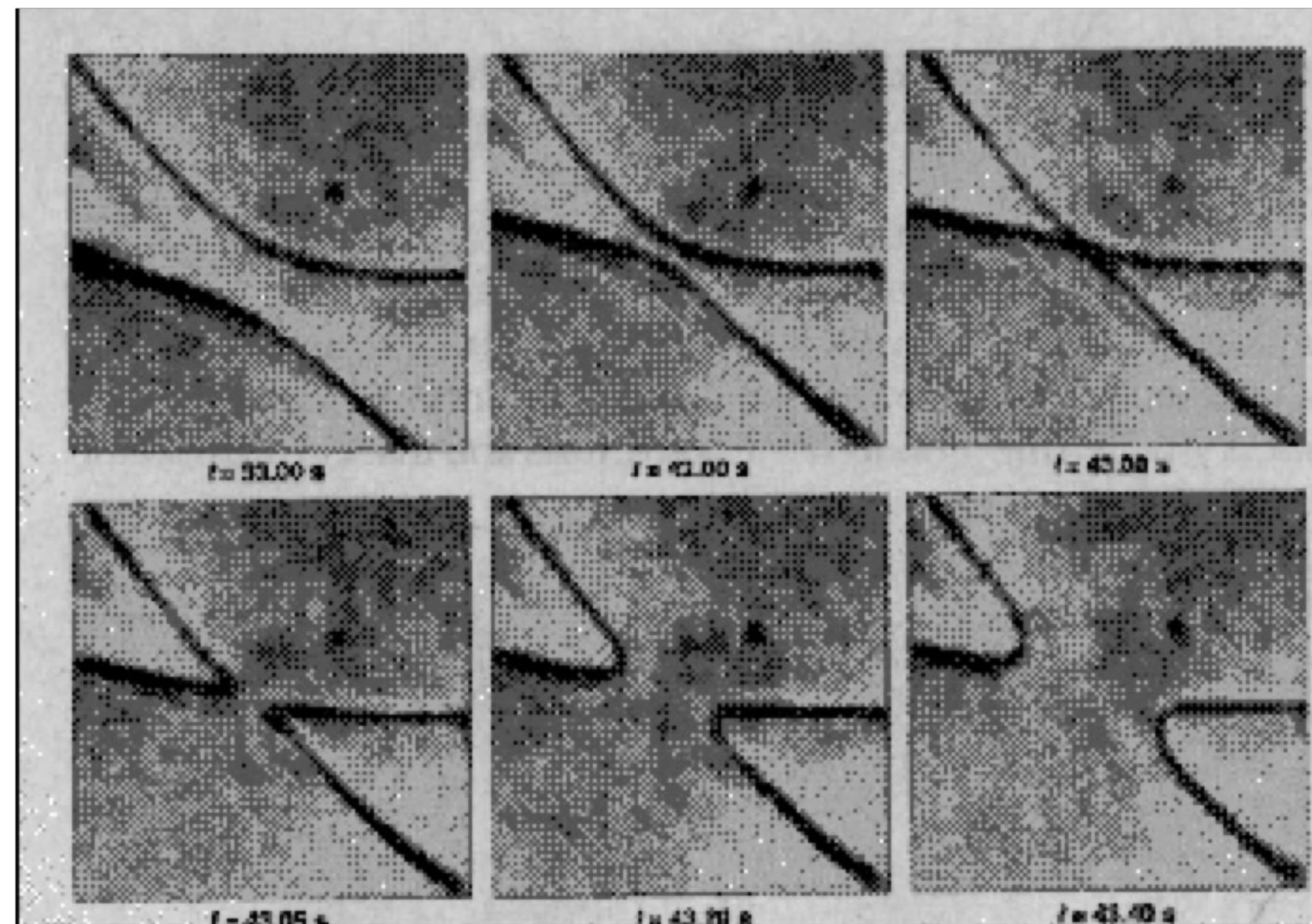
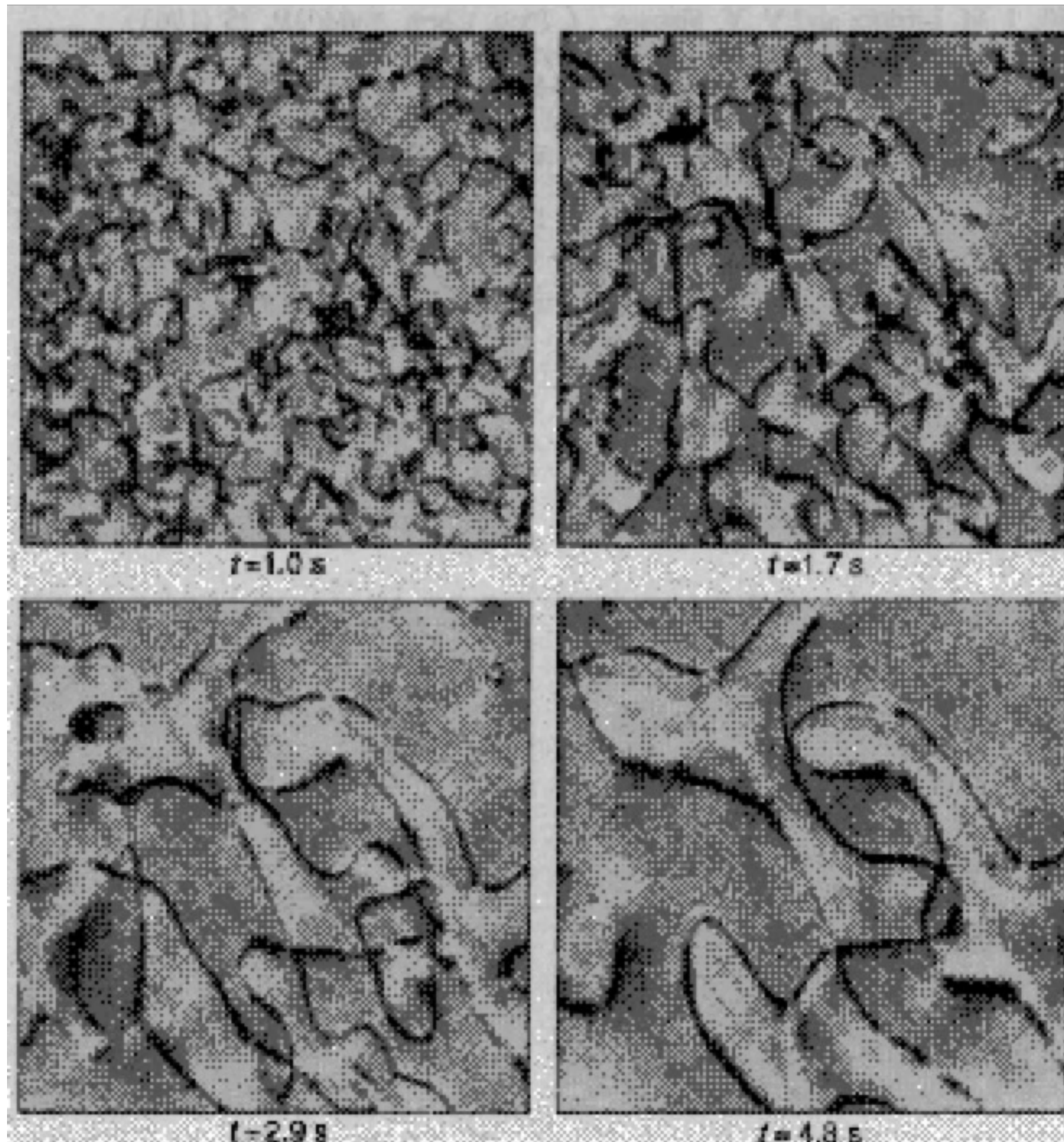
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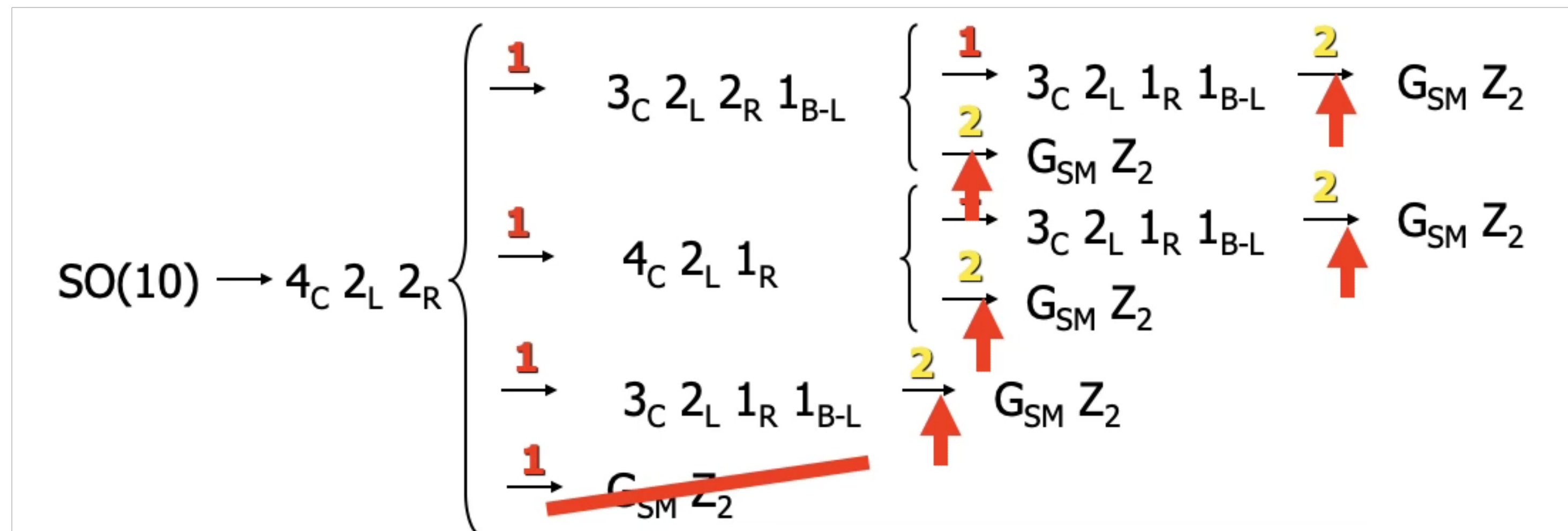
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# Not so exotic objects ...



# SUSY GUT example: $SO(10)$



**1:** Monopoles    **2:** Cosmic strings

**↑ INFLATION**

$SO(10)$  : 34 possible schemes

$E_6$  : 1024 ...

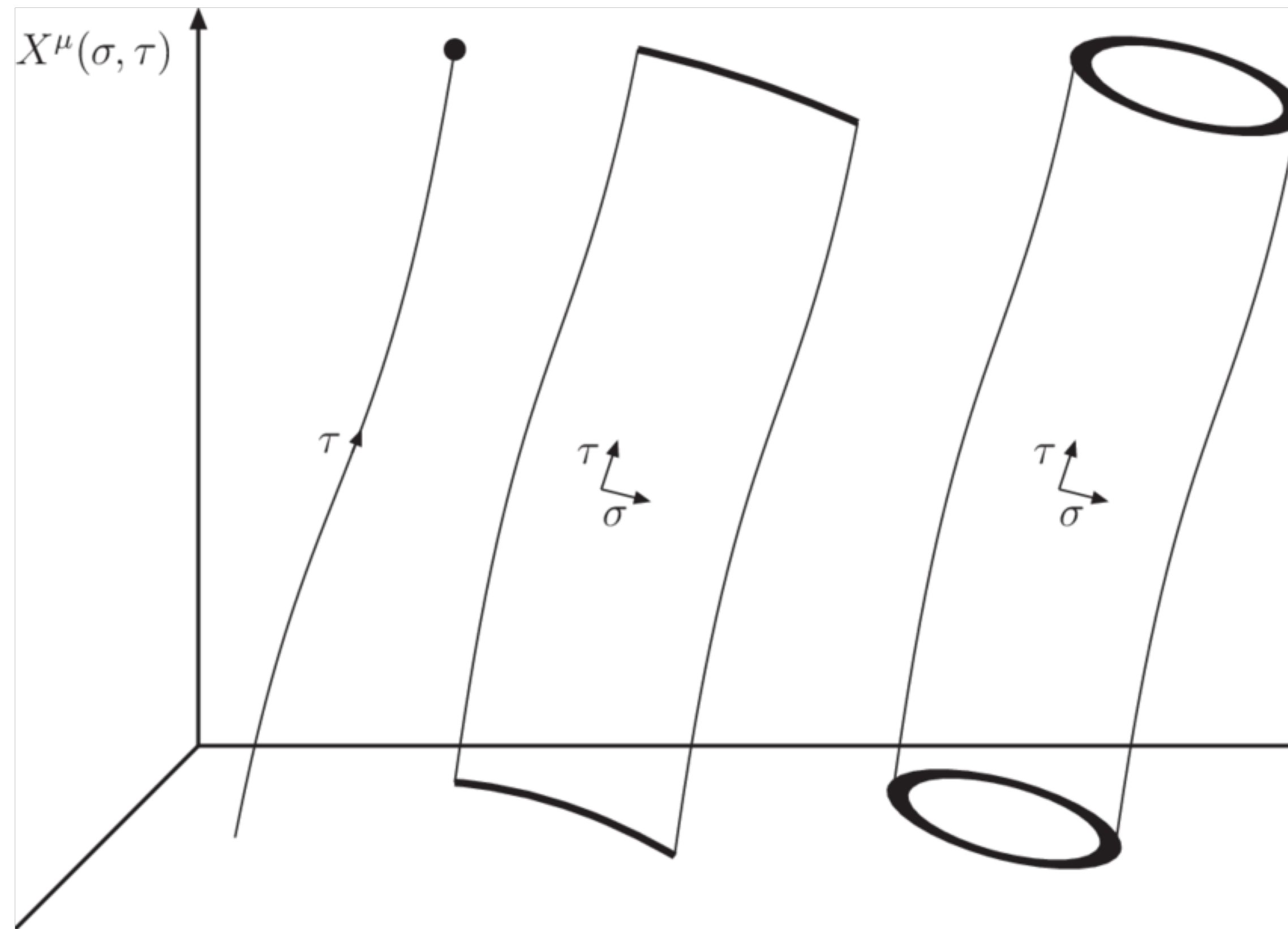
+ SUSY breaking and R-parity

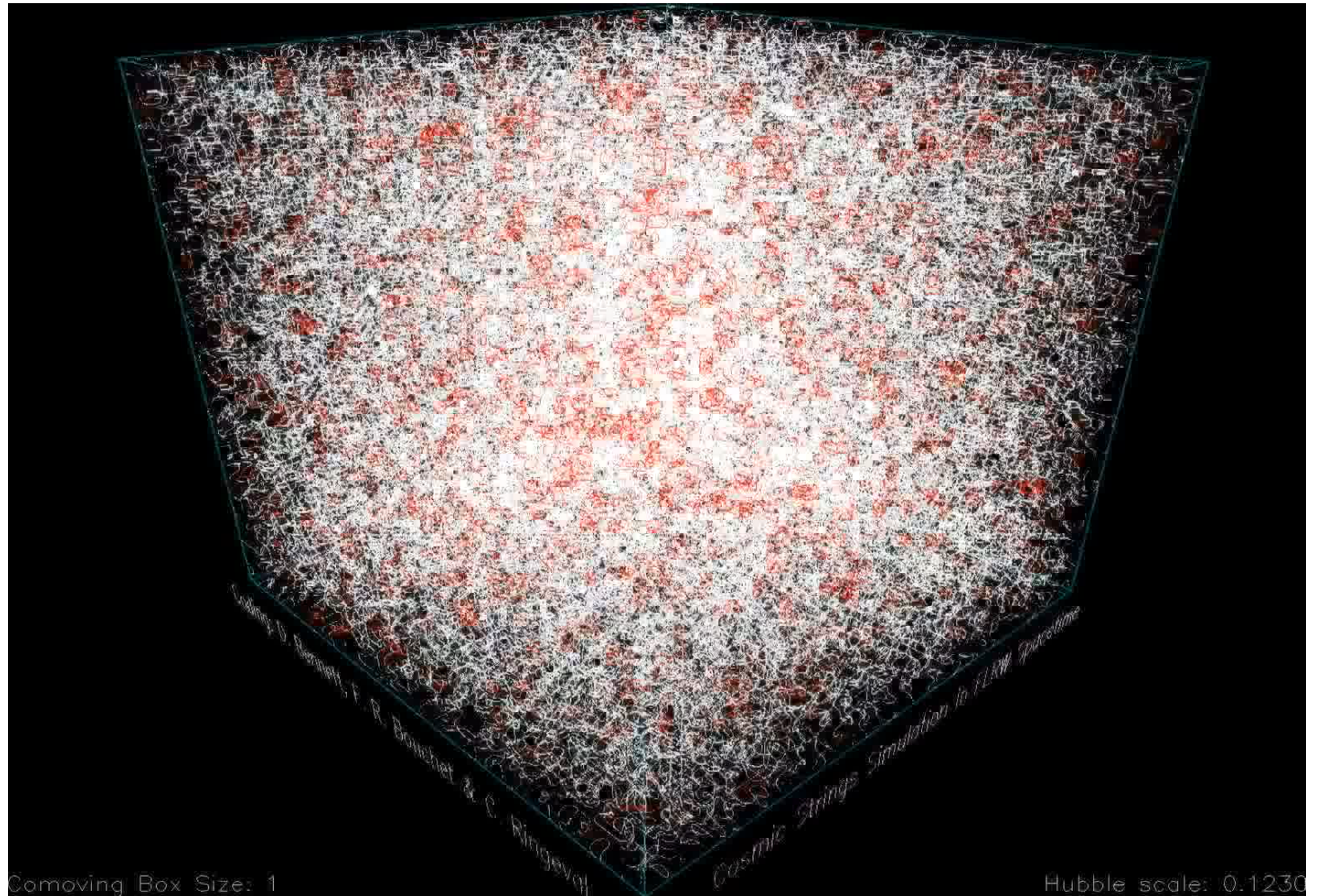
Hybrid Inflation ...

**Many fields  $\Rightarrow$  many possible couplings**

# Nambu-Goto strings

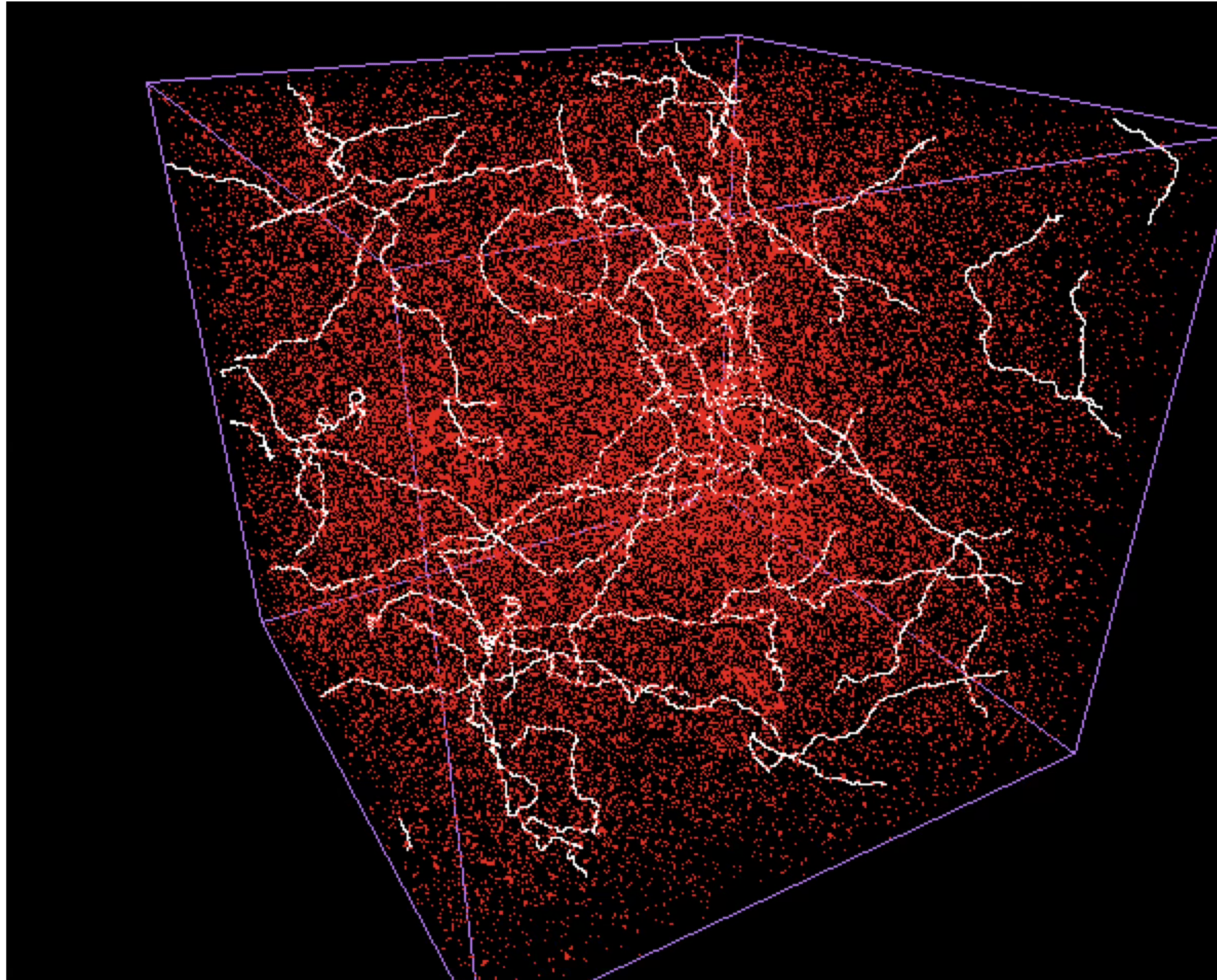
$$\mathcal{S} = \int \sqrt{-\gamma} d\sigma d\tau \quad \Rightarrow \quad \ddot{\mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{x}''$$



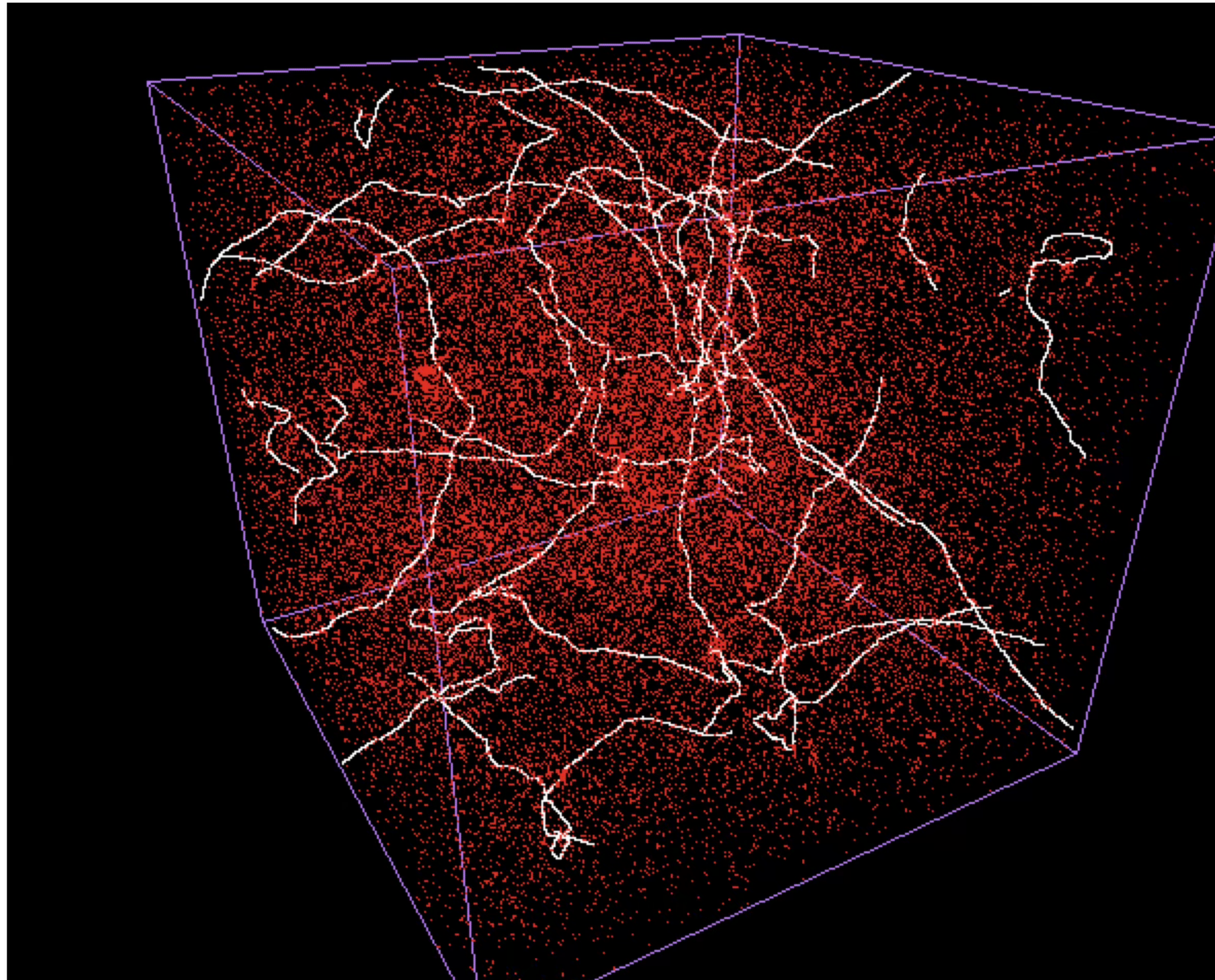


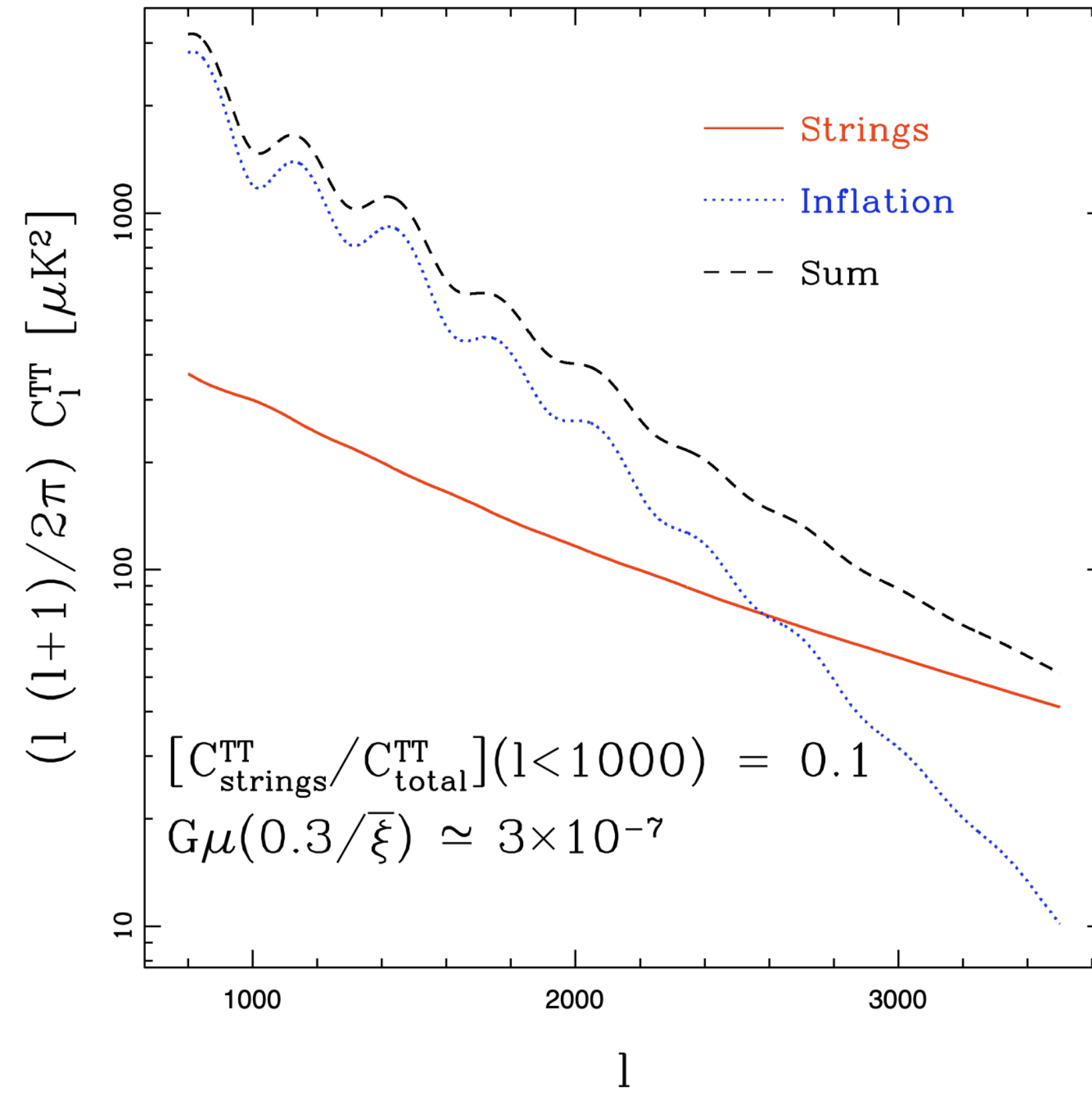
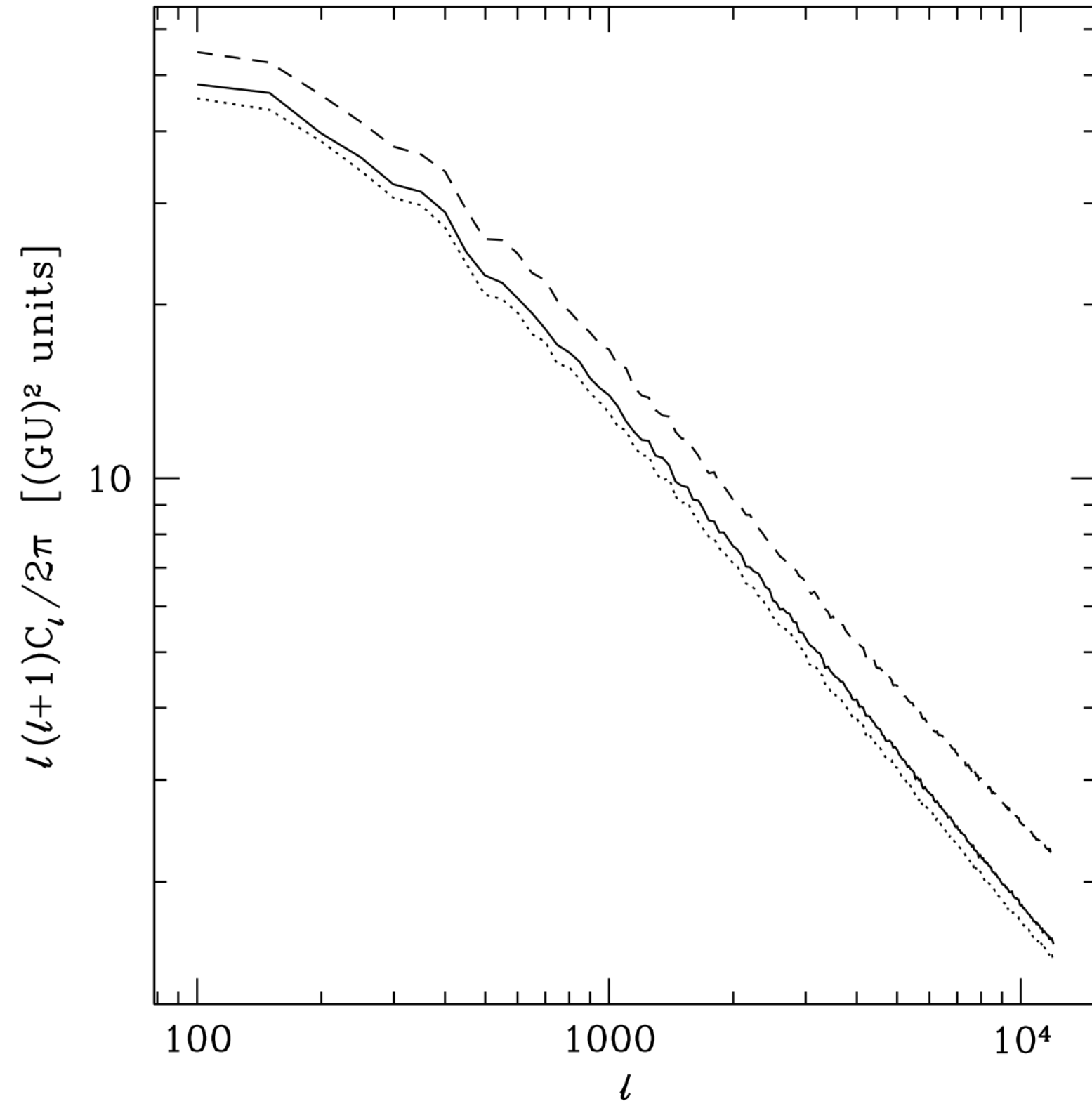
[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Cosmic\\_strings\\_evolution\\_during\\_the\\_expansion\\_of\\_the\\_Universe.webm](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Cosmic_strings_evolution_during_the_expansion_of_the_Universe.webm)

# End of radiation dominated era

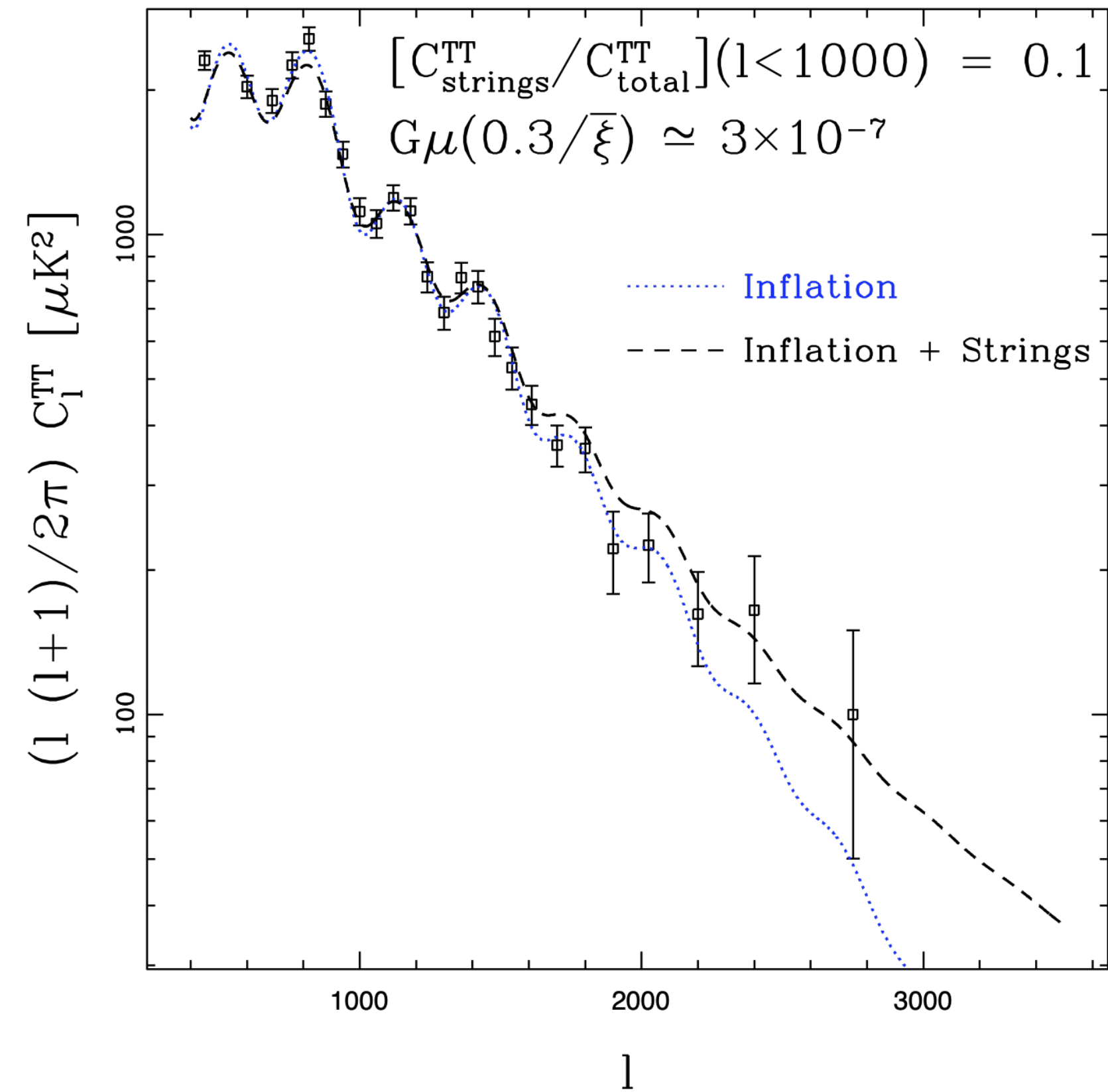
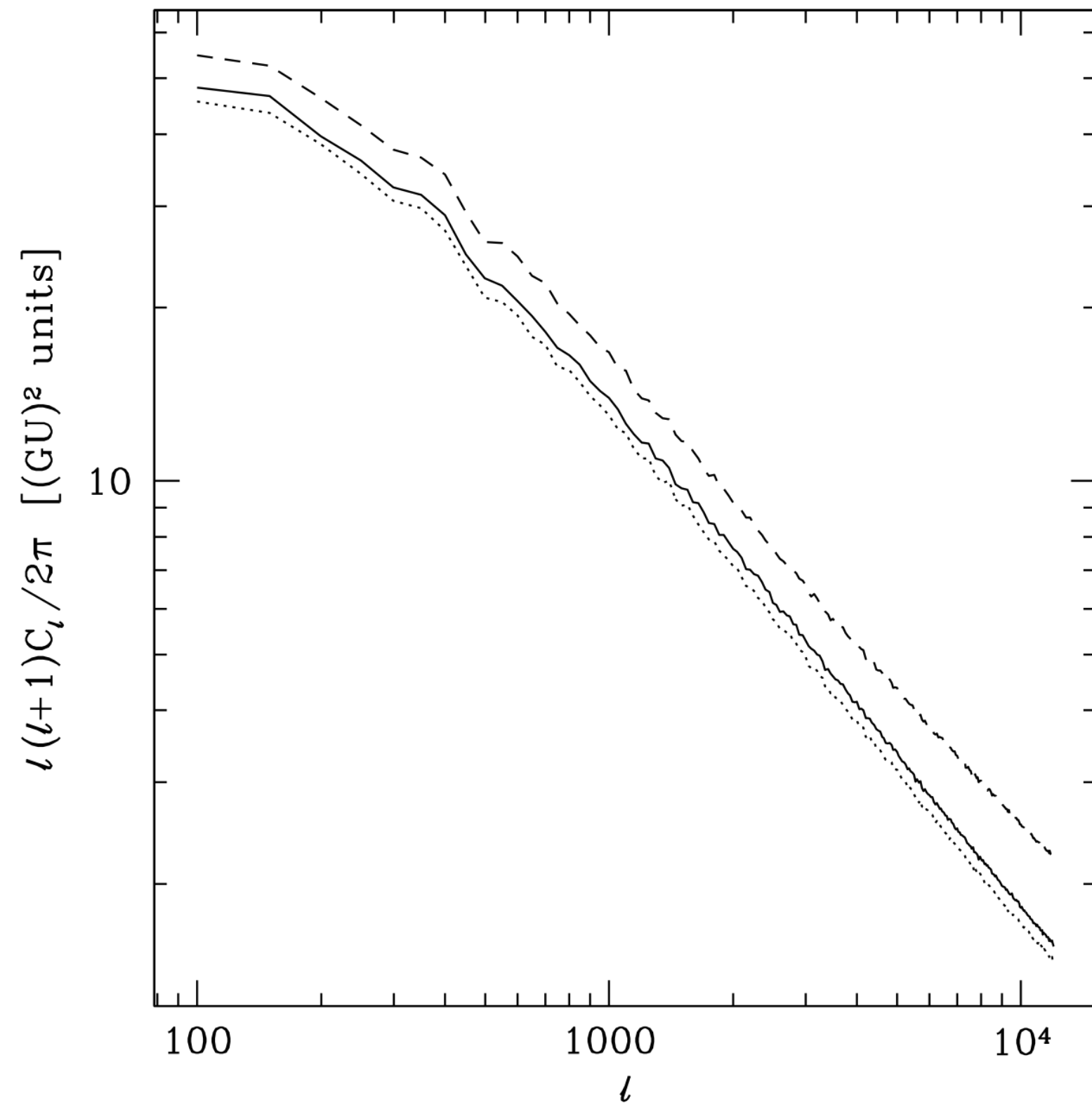


# End of matter dominated era





Fraisse, Ringeval, Spergel & Bouchet (2008)



Pogosian et al. (2008)

# Overview

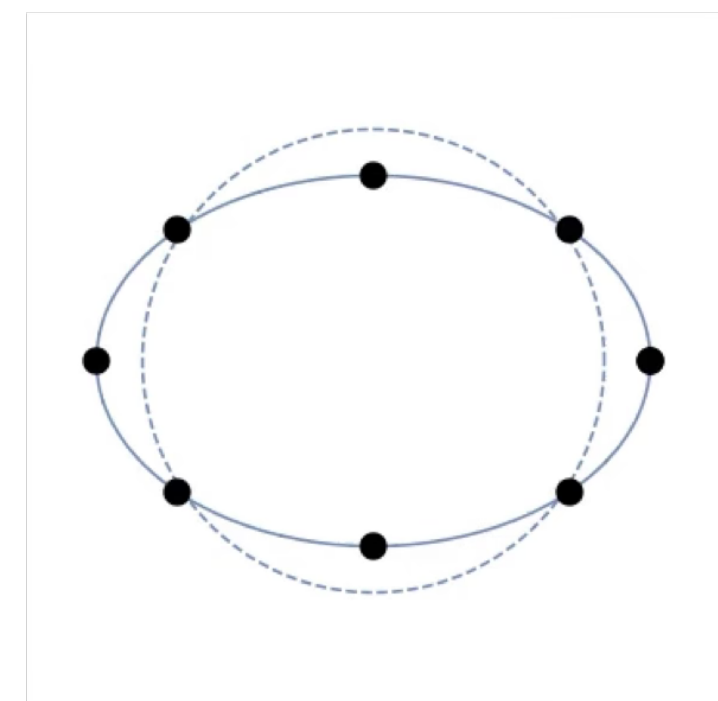
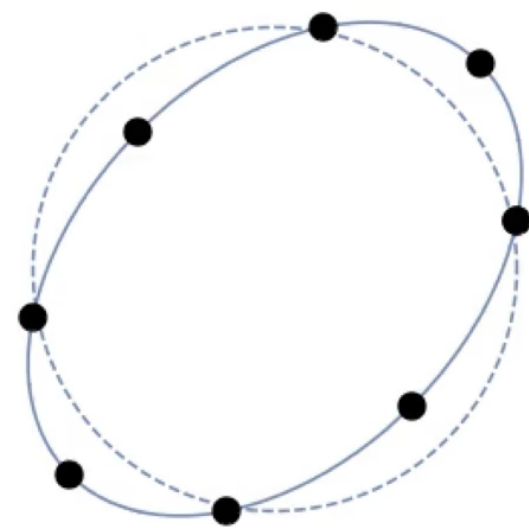
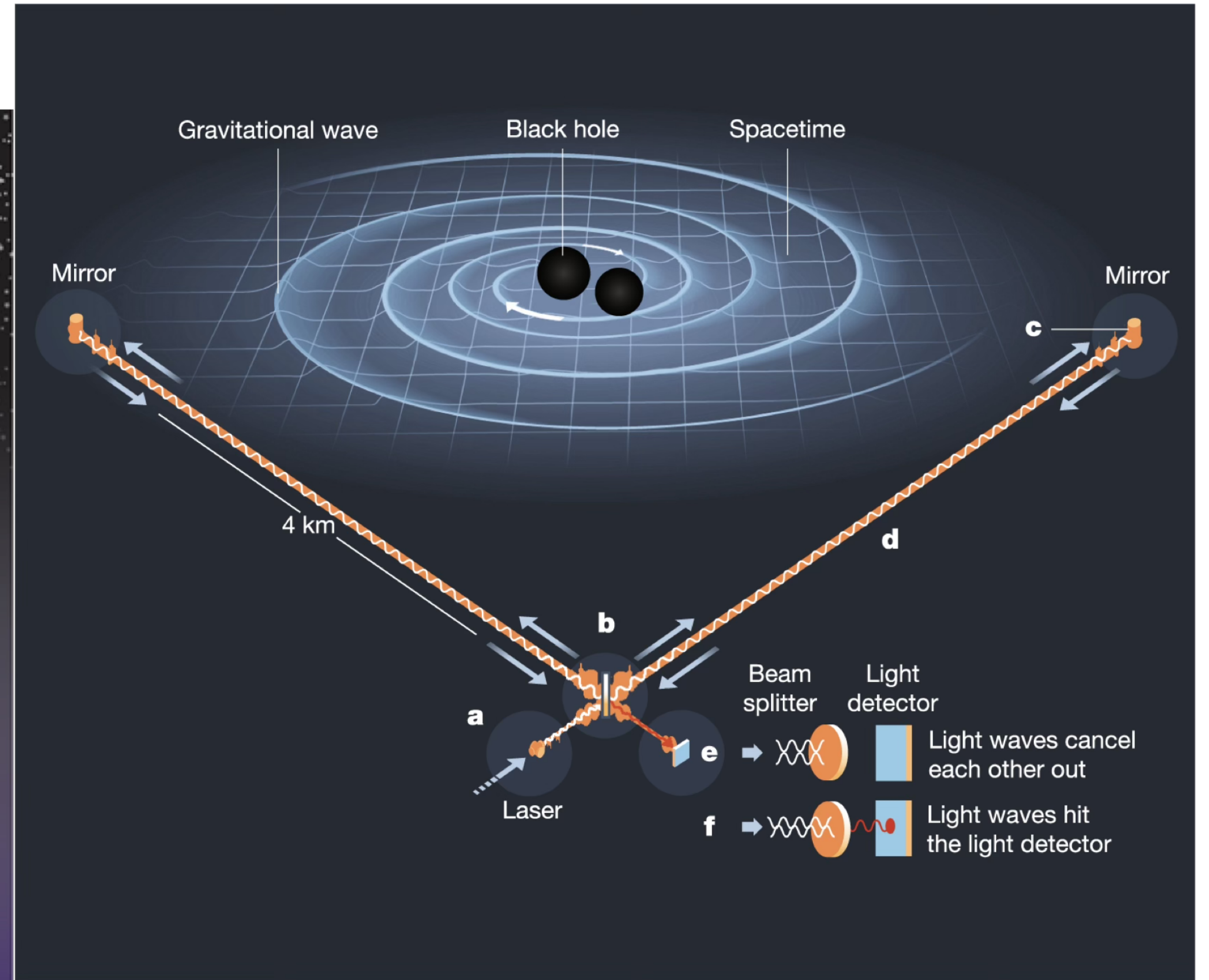
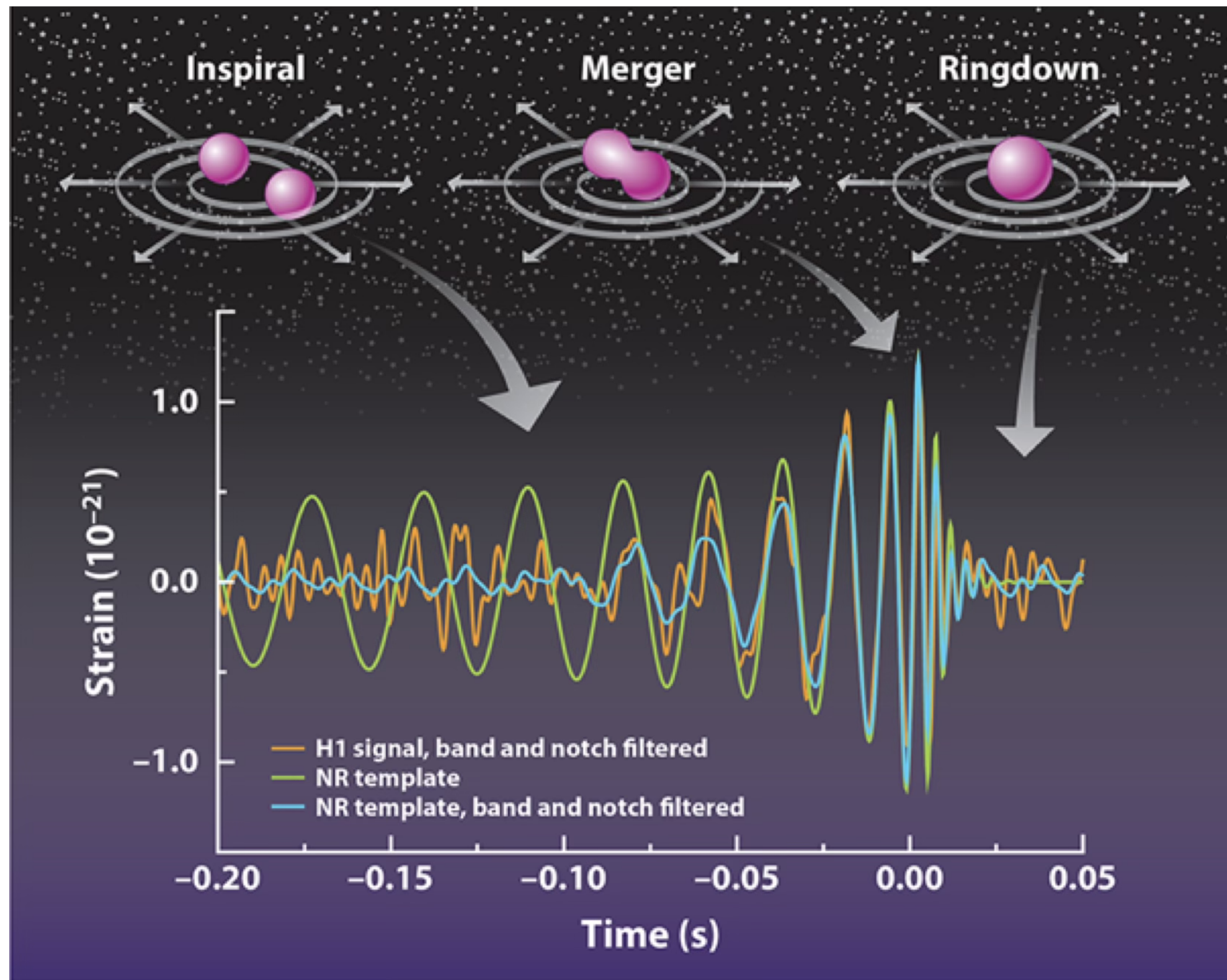
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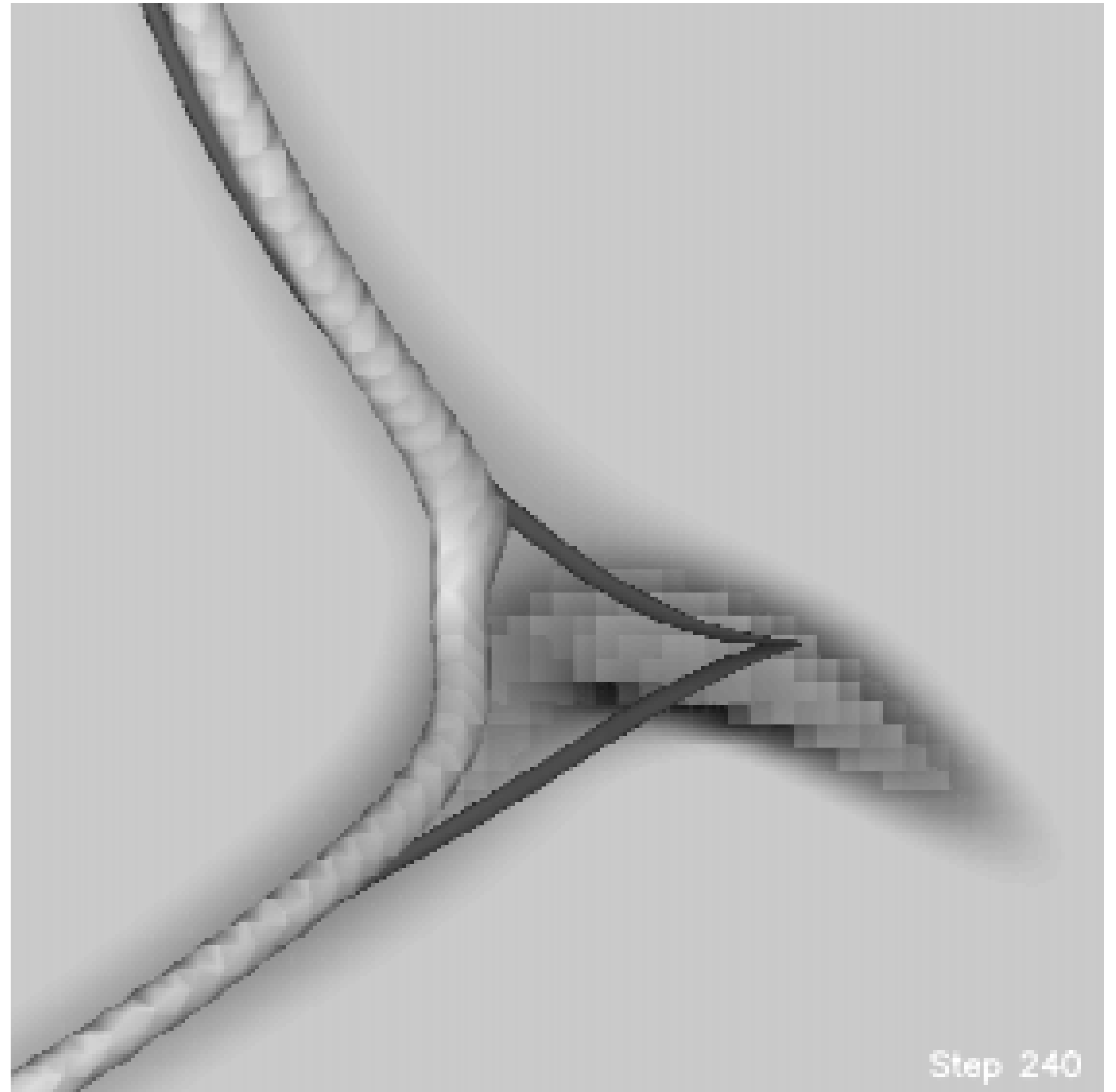
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# Gravitational wave



GW stochastic background

Mostly based on existence of cusps...



K. D. Olum & J. J. Blanco-Pillado, *Phys. Rev.* **D60**, 023503 (1999)

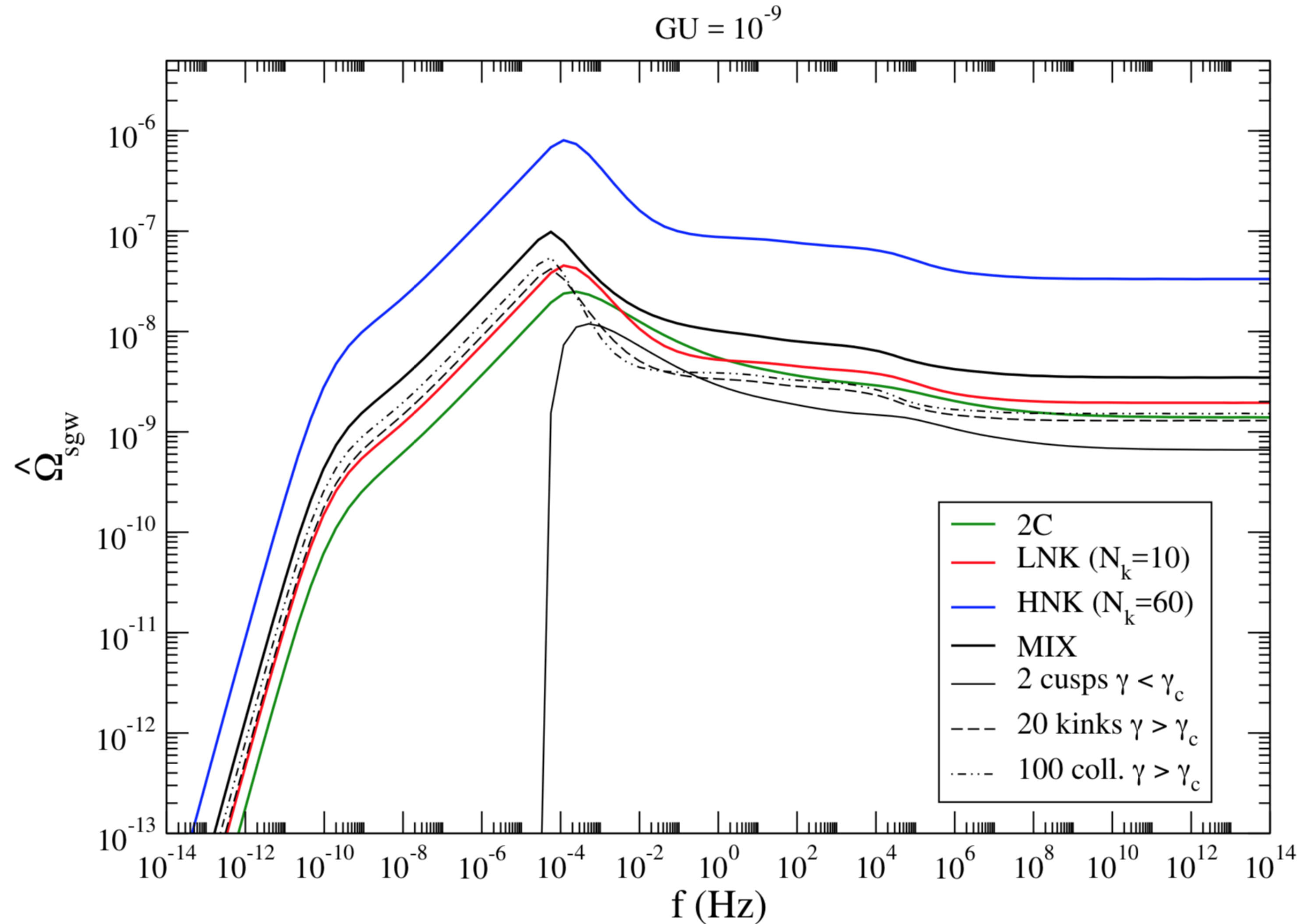
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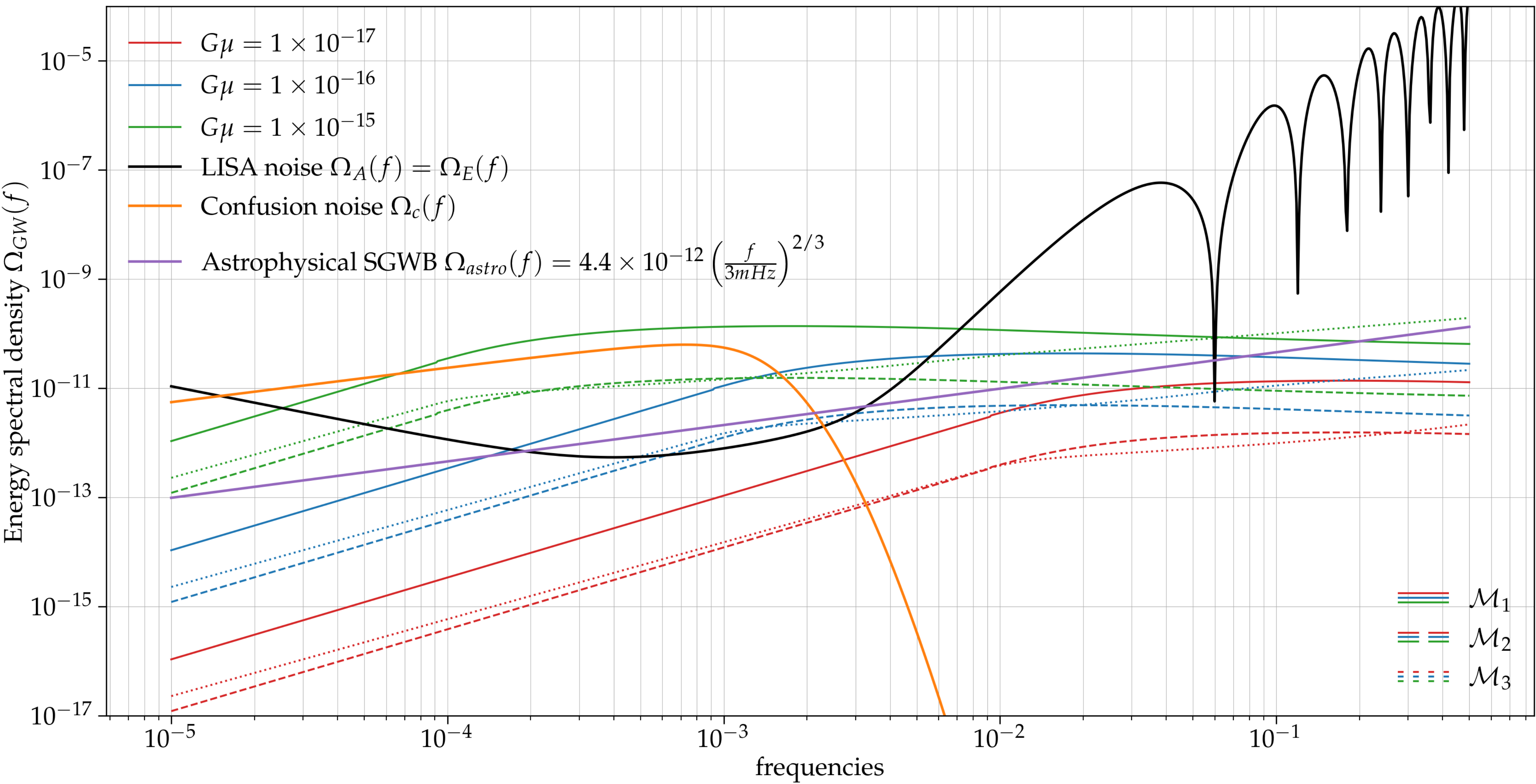
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C. Ringeval & T. Suyama, *JCAP* **17**, 12 (2017)

J. J. Blanco-Pillado & K. D. Olum, *Phys. Rev.* **D96**, 104046 (2017)

J. J. Blanco-Pillado K. D. Olum & X. Siemens, *Phys. Lett.* **B778**, 392 (2018)





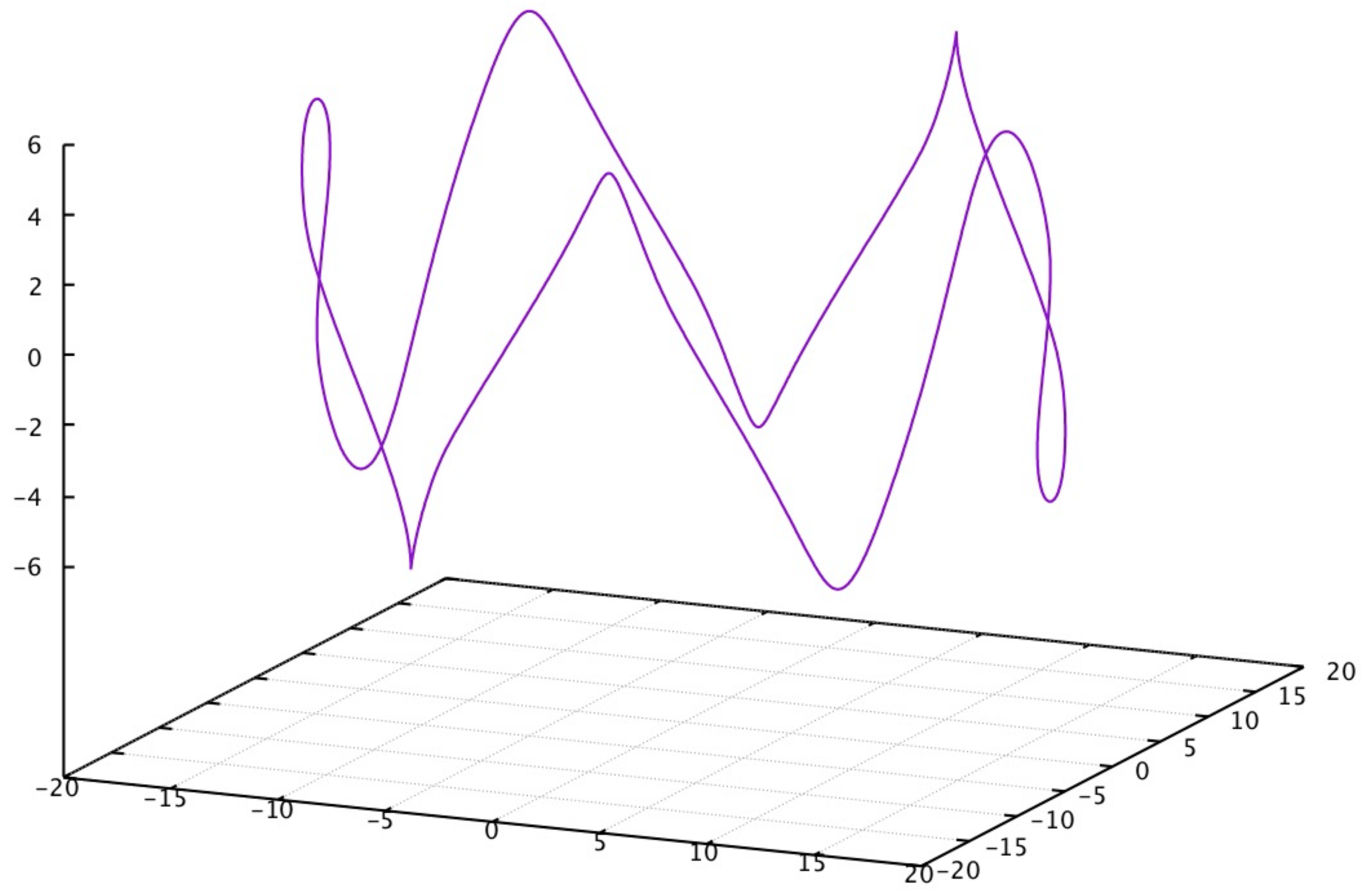
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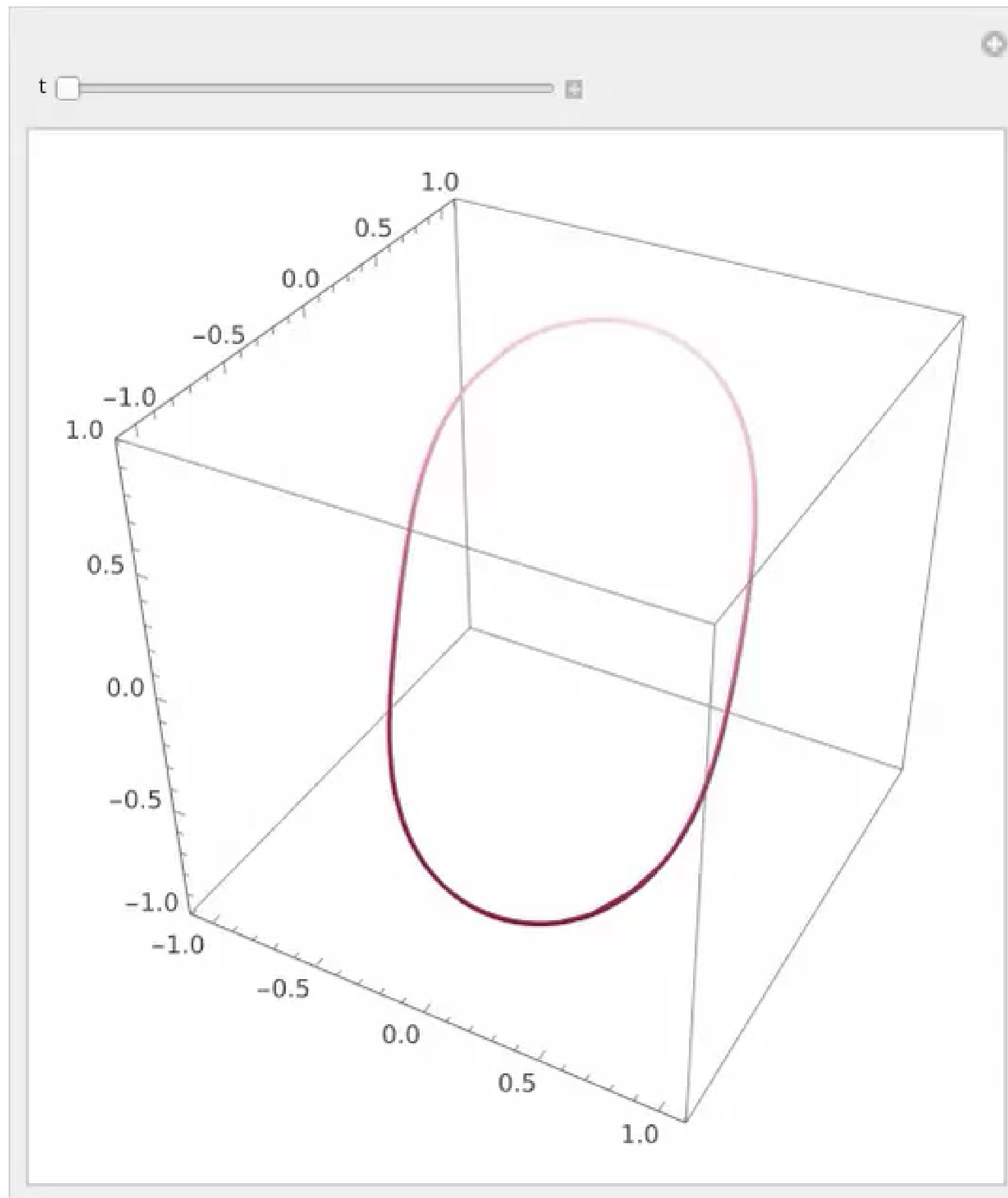
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Thx Maria Eduarda da Silva Inacio  
UNESP - Universidade Estadual Paulista

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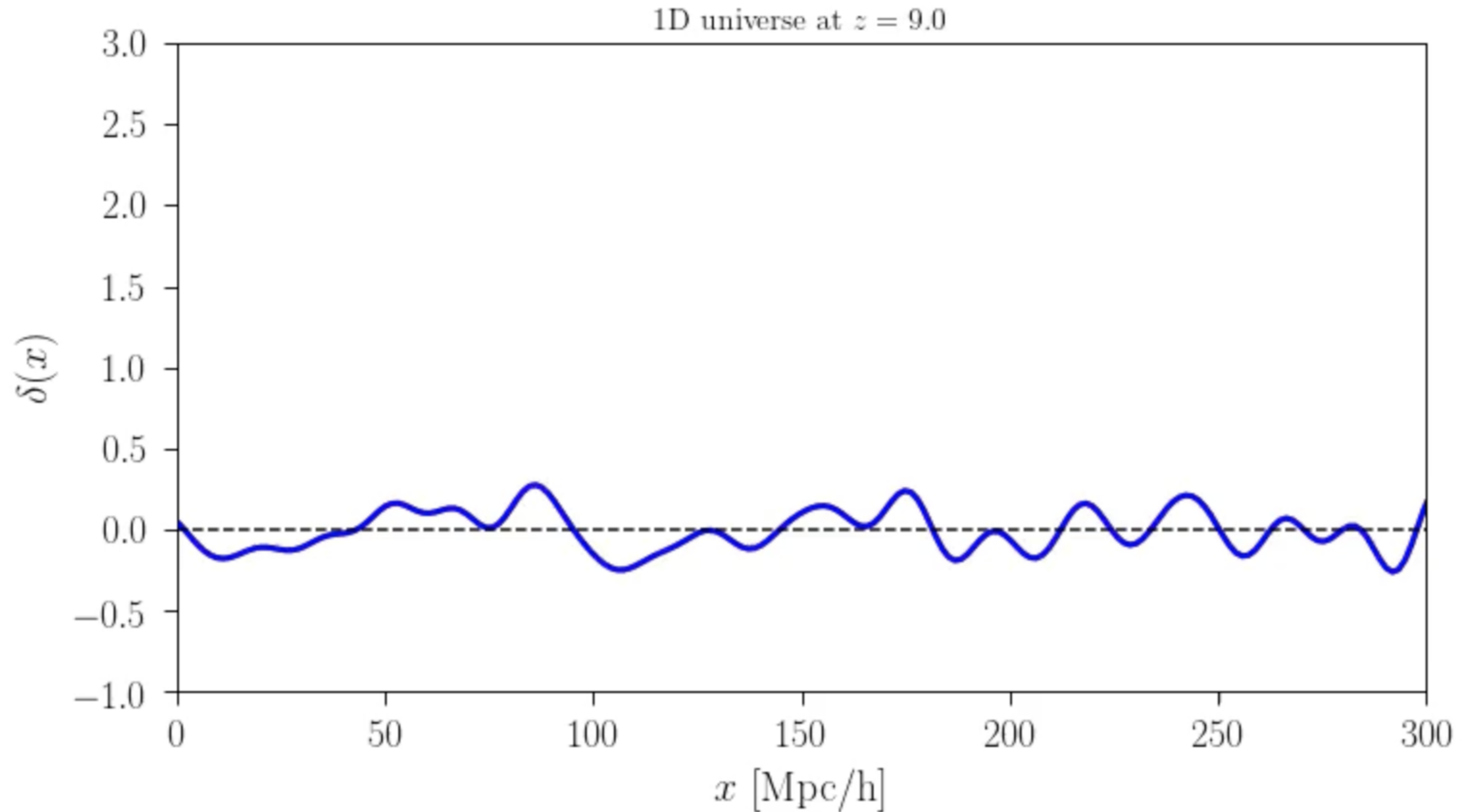
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small perturbations (geometry & matter):

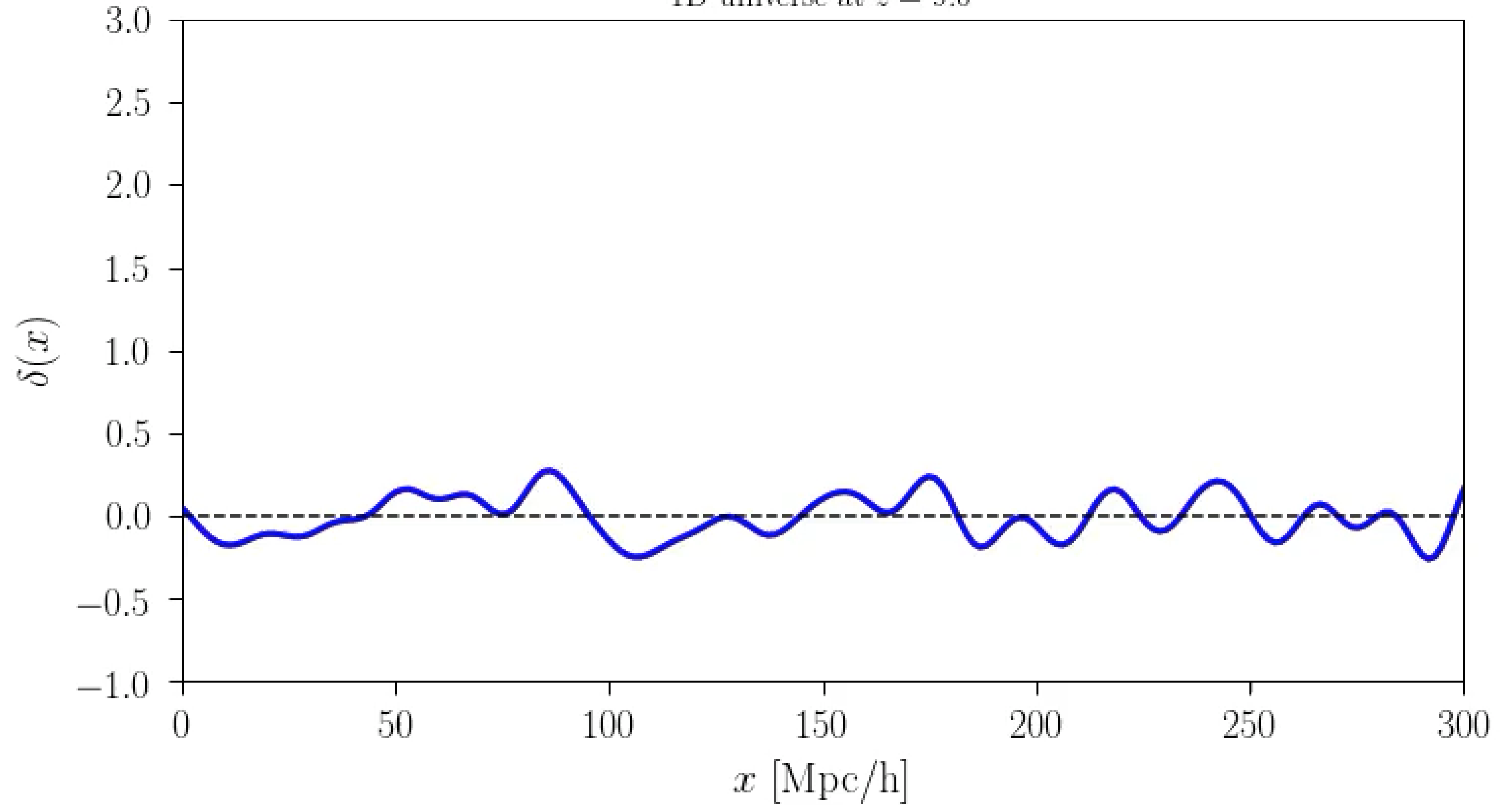
$$\delta(x) := \frac{\rho(x) - \bar{\rho}}{\bar{\rho}}$$



small perturbations (geometry & matter):

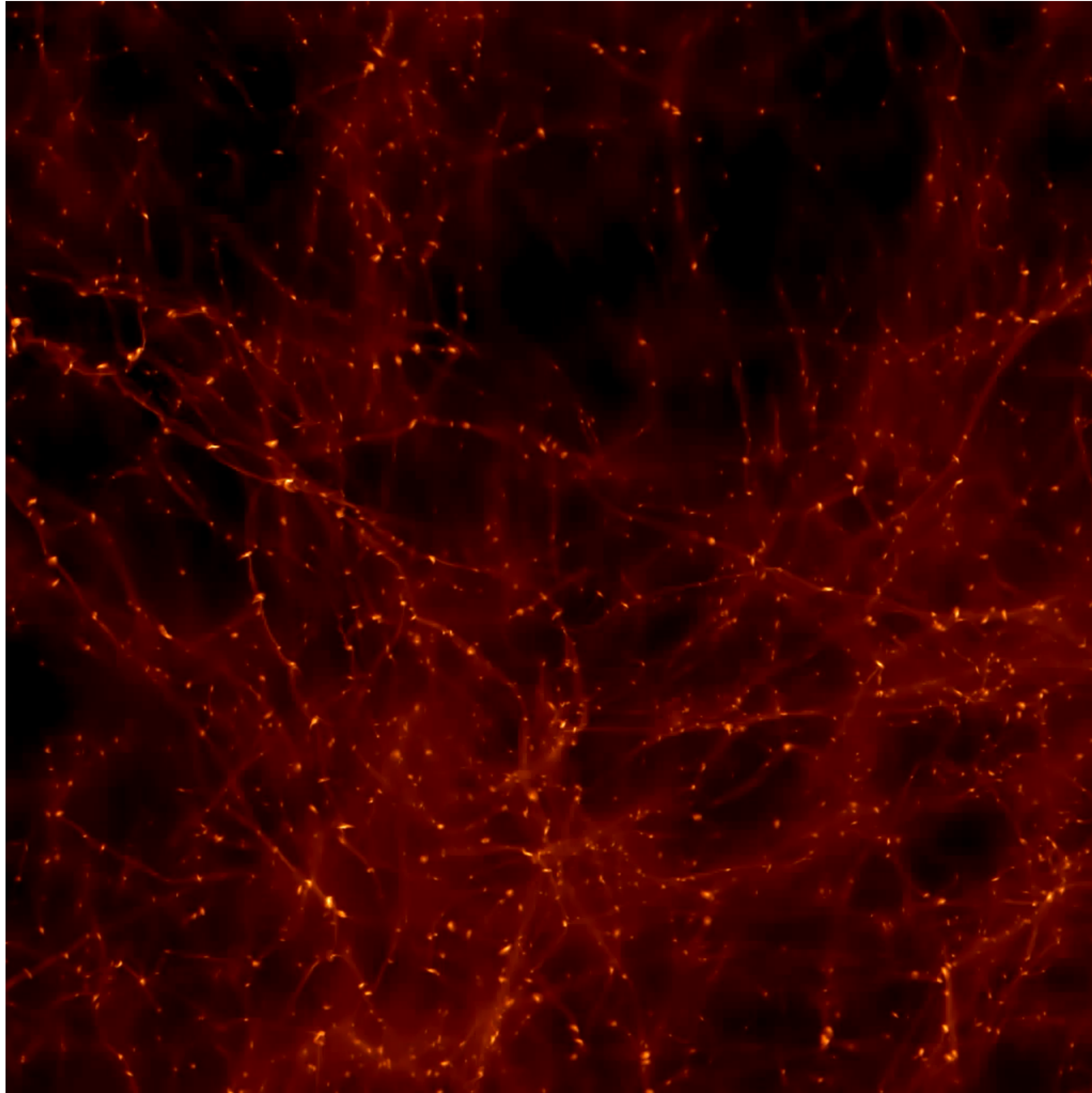
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1D universe at  $z = 9.0$



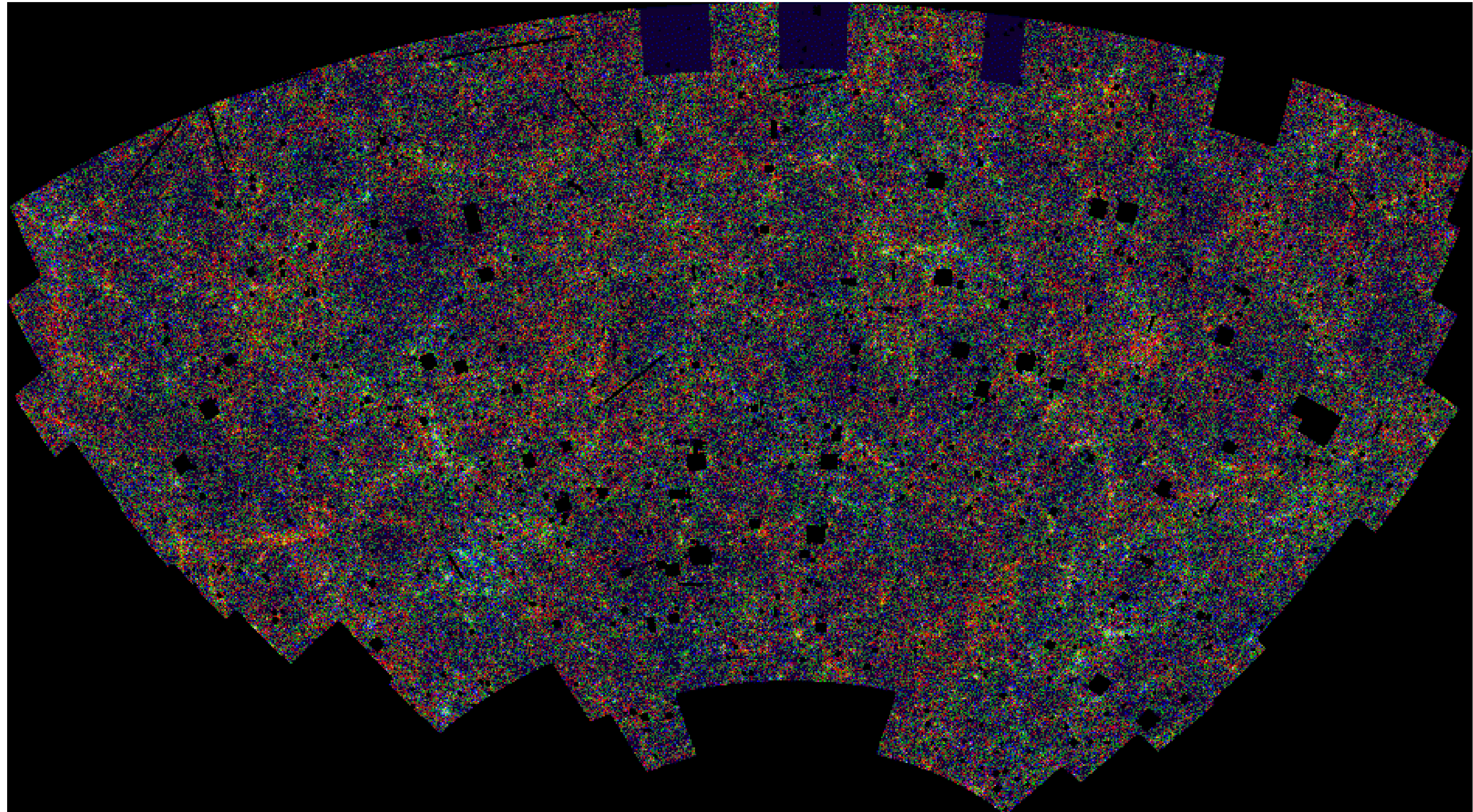
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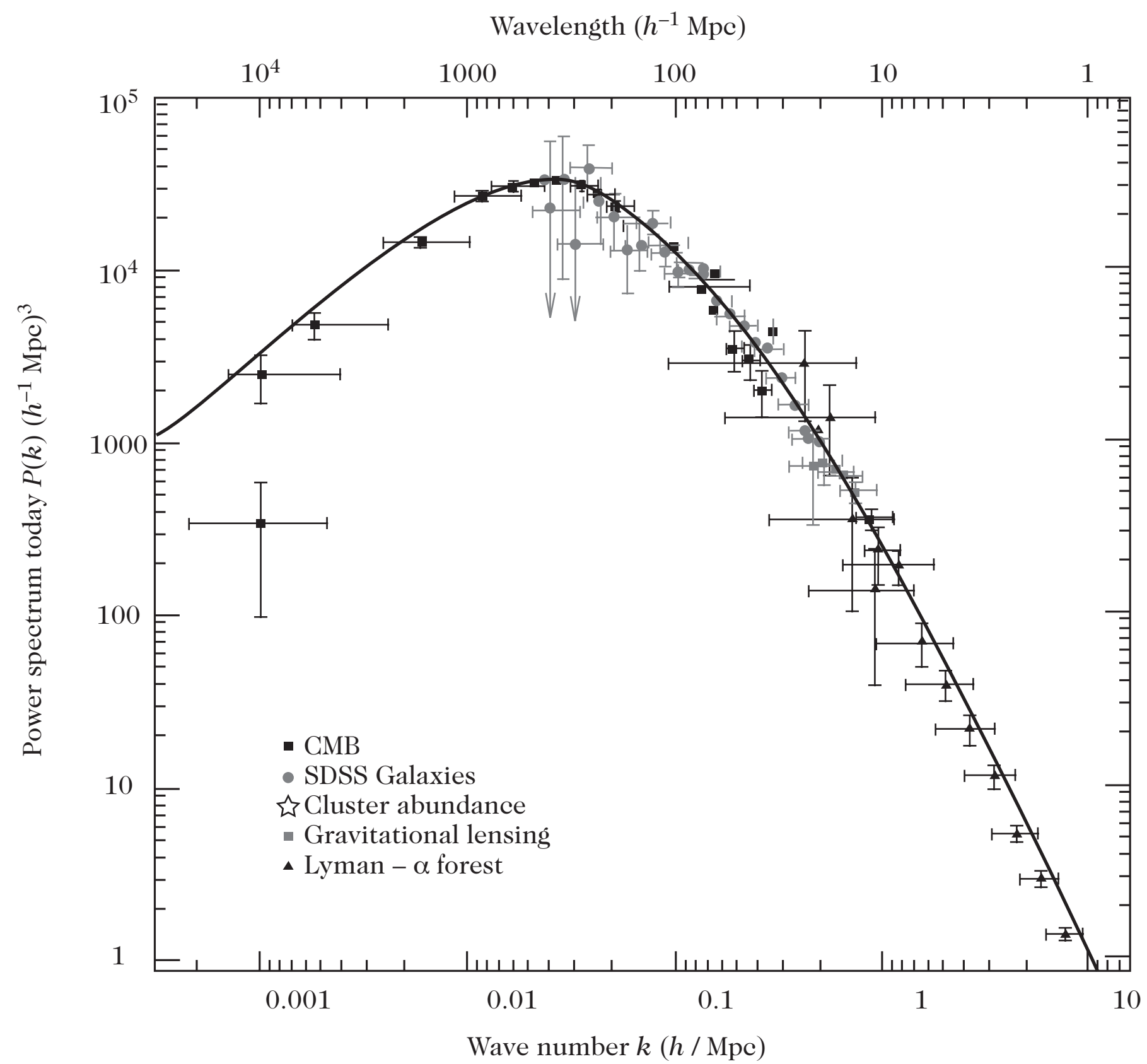




Predictions...

... to compare with actual observations!

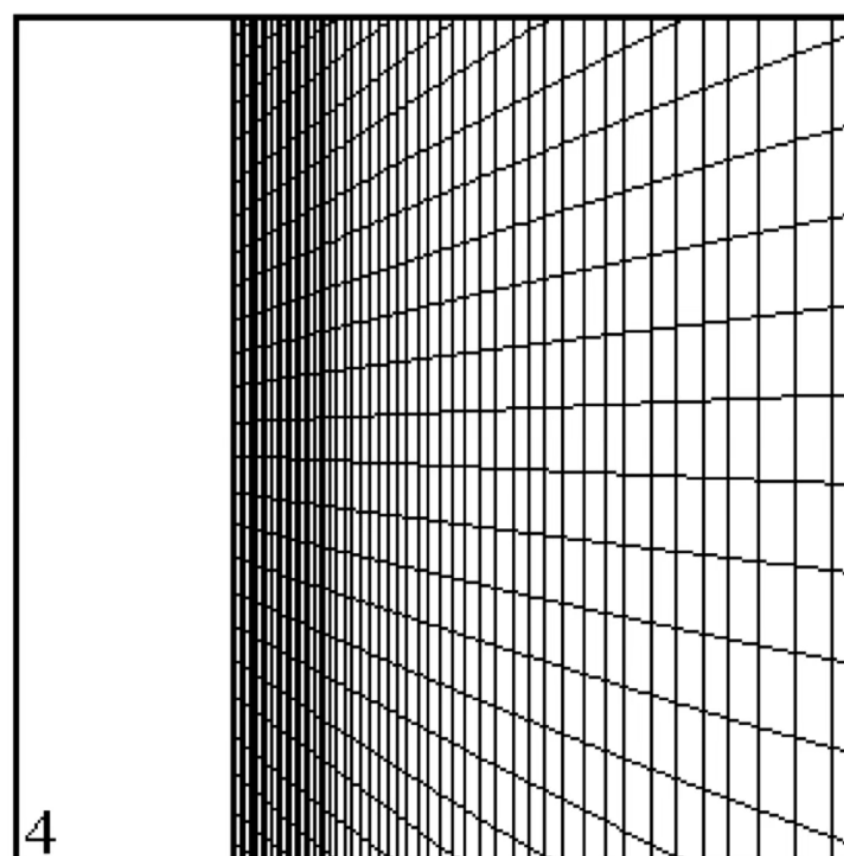
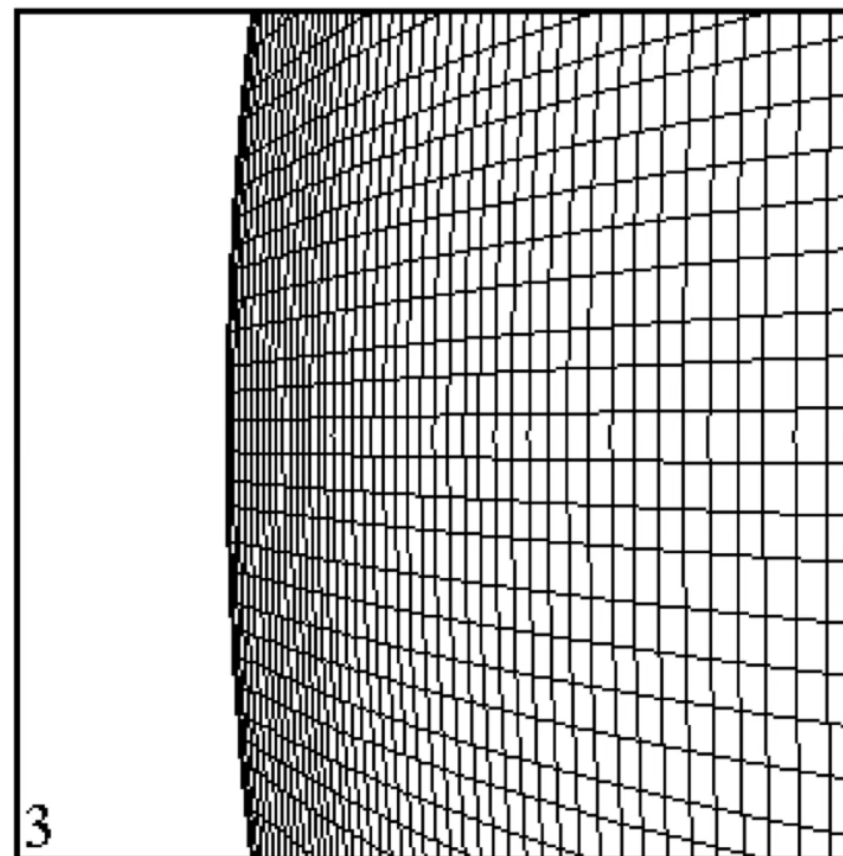
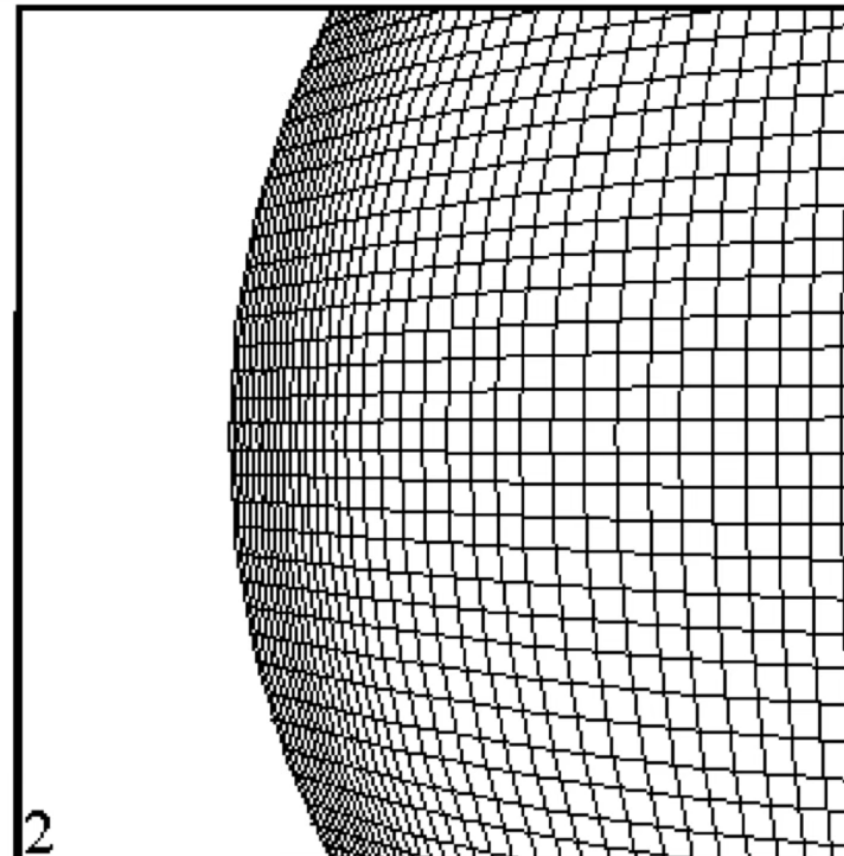
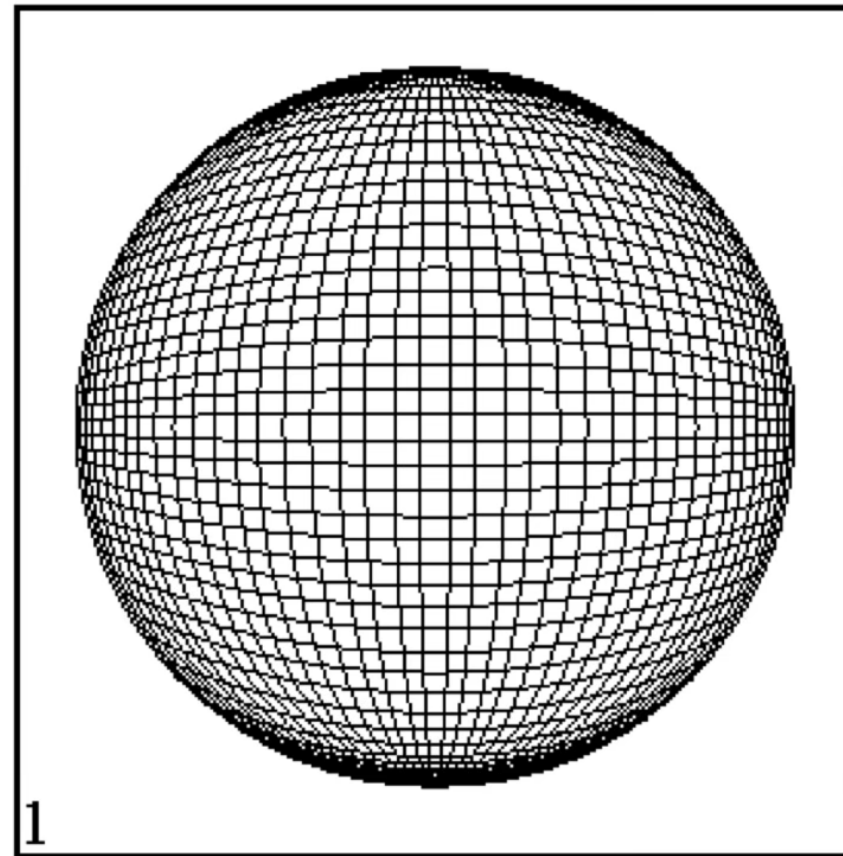




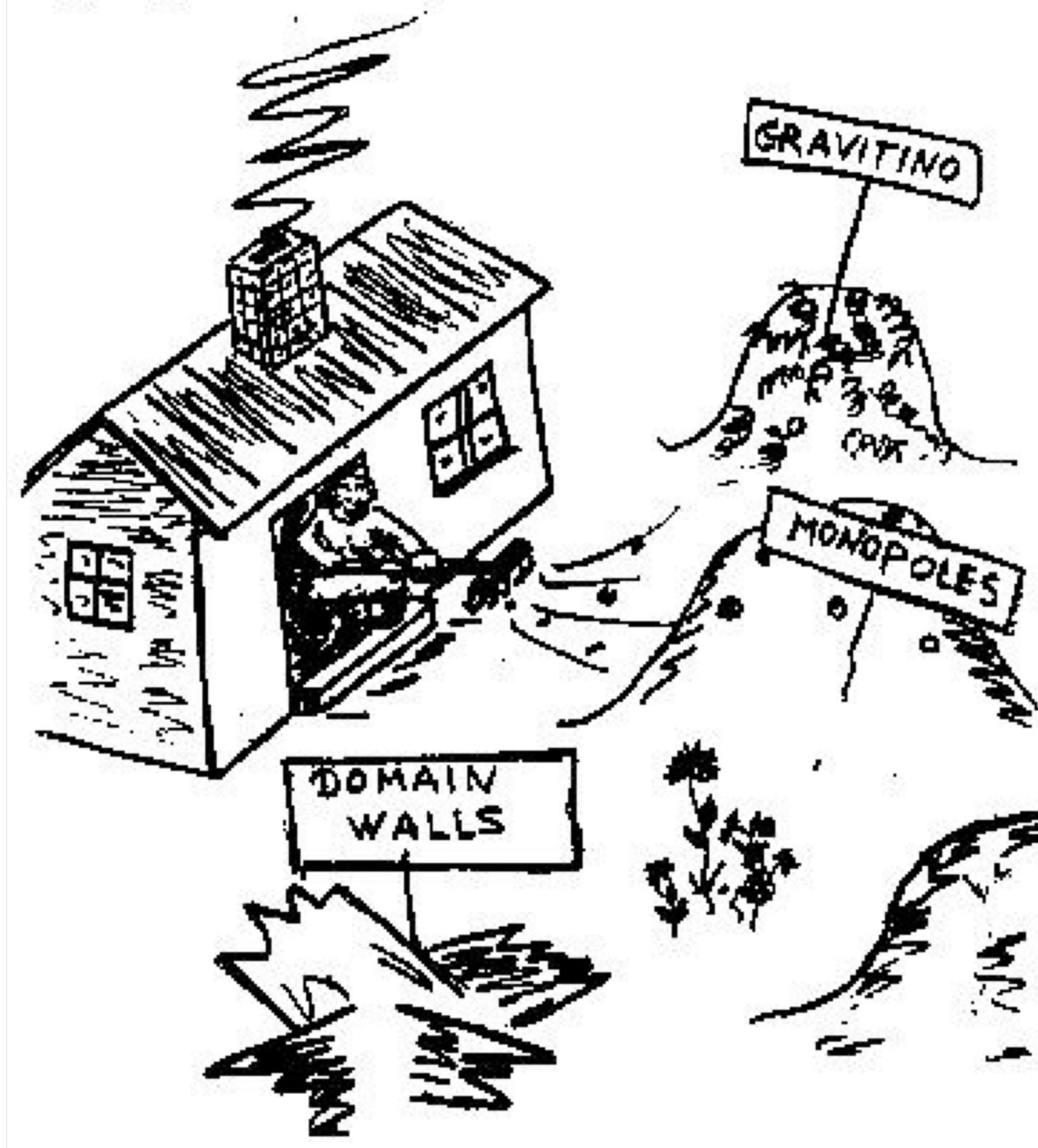
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Standard paradigm: inflation!  
Phase of accelerated expansion



THE MAIN IDEA OF THE  
INFLATIONARY UNIVERSE SCENARIO



# Implementing inflation

$$S = \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} \left[ \frac{M_P^2}{2} R - \frac{1}{2} g^{\mu\nu} \partial_\mu \phi \partial_\nu \phi - V(\phi) \right]$$

$$T_{\mu\nu} = -\frac{2}{\sqrt{-g}} \frac{\delta S}{\delta g^{\mu\nu}} \Rightarrow T_{\mu\nu} = \partial_\mu \phi \partial_\nu \phi - \left[ \frac{1}{2} g^{\alpha\beta} \partial_\alpha \phi \partial_\beta \phi + V(\phi) \right] \rightarrow \begin{cases} \rho = \frac{1}{2} \dot{\phi}^2 + V \\ P = \frac{1}{2} \dot{\phi}^2 - V \end{cases}$$

$$\text{inflation} \iff \frac{d^2 a}{dt^2} > 0$$

$$\rho + 3P = 2(\dot{\phi}^2 - V)$$

$$\text{Friedmann} \quad \frac{\ddot{a}}{a} = \dot{H} + H^2 = -\frac{\kappa}{3} (\dot{\phi}^2 - V)$$

Potential energy must dominate over kinetic energy

$$V > \dot{\phi}^2 \quad \dots \text{ in practice: } V \gg \dot{\phi}^2$$

$$\text{Limit } \dot{\phi}^2 \rightarrow 0 \implies V \rightarrow V_0 \implies H^2 = \frac{\kappa V_0}{3} \quad \& \quad \frac{\ddot{a}}{a} = \frac{\kappa V_0}{3} \quad a \propto \exp\left(\sqrt{\frac{\kappa V_0}{3}} t\right)$$

Friedmann  $\frac{\ddot{a}}{a} = \dot{H} + H^2 = -\frac{\kappa}{3} (\dot{\phi}^2 - V)$   
 Potential energy must dominate over kinetic energy

formally define

$$\epsilon := -\frac{\dot{H}}{H^2} = 3 \frac{\frac{1}{2}\dot{\phi}^2}{\frac{1}{2}\dot{\phi}^2 + V} \ll 1$$

slow roll parameters

Klein-Gordon

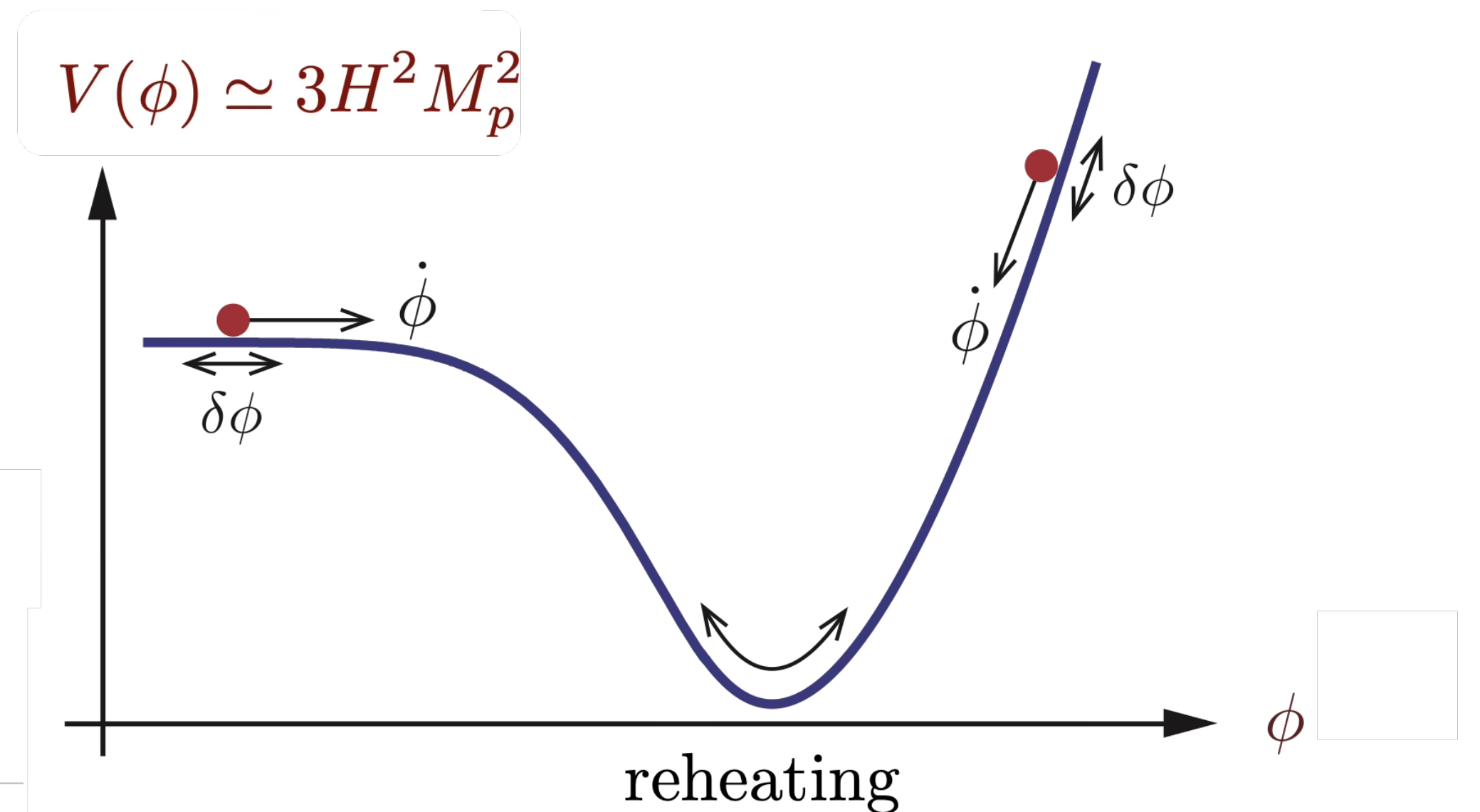
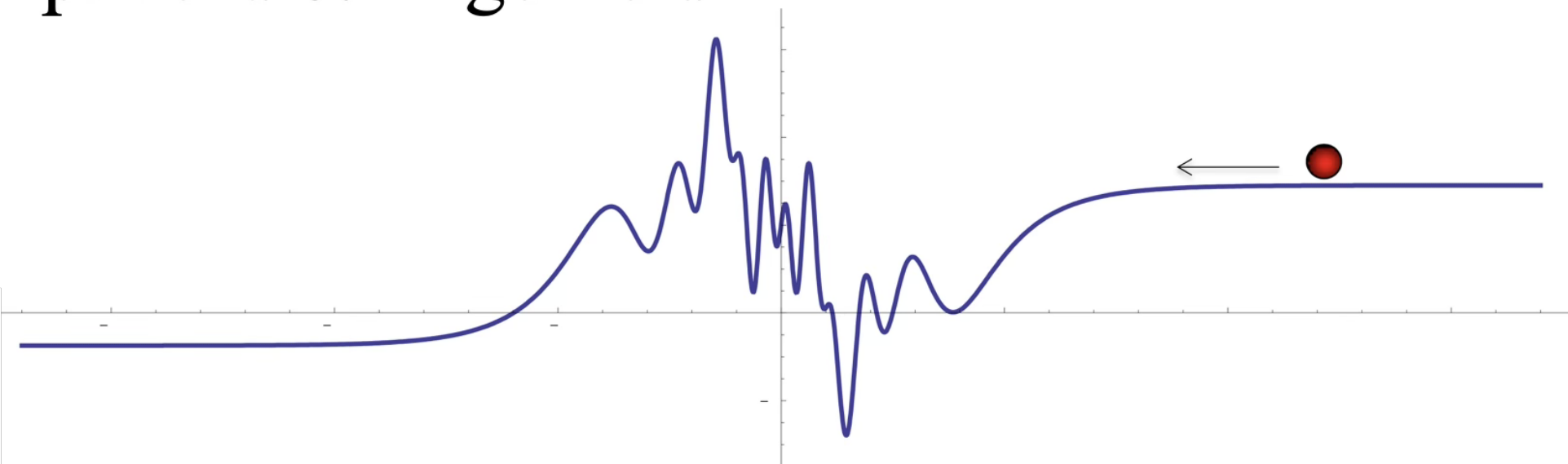
$$\underbrace{\ddot{\phi} + 3H\dot{\phi}} + \frac{dV}{d\phi} = 0$$

$$\delta := -\frac{\ddot{\phi}}{H\dot{\phi}} = -\frac{\dot{\epsilon}}{2H\epsilon} + \epsilon$$

→  $\epsilon \approx \frac{1}{16\pi G} \left( \frac{V_{,\phi}}{V} \right)^2$

$$\delta \approx -\frac{1}{16\pi G} \left( \frac{V_{,\phi}}{V} \right)^2 + \frac{1}{8\pi G} \frac{V_{,\phi\phi}}{V}$$

plateau & large field



Background equations  $H^2 = \frac{\kappa V}{3 - \epsilon} \approx \frac{\kappa}{3} V(\phi) + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon)$  &  $\frac{d\phi}{dt} = -\frac{V_{,\phi}}{(3 - \delta)H} \approx -\frac{V_{,\phi}}{3H} + \mathcal{O}(\delta)$

concrete example  $V(\phi) = \alpha \left( \frac{\phi}{M_p} \right)^n$

$\Rightarrow \epsilon = \frac{n^2 M_p^2}{16\pi\phi^2}$  slow-roll  $\epsilon \ll 1$  demands  $\phi > \phi_{\text{end}} = \frac{n}{4\sqrt{\pi}} M_p$

solve eom:  $\phi(t) \propto (A + Bt)^{2/(4-n)}$

and  $a(t) \propto \exp \left\{ \frac{4\pi}{nM_p^2} [\phi_{\text{ini}}^2 - \phi^2(t)] \right\}$

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# Standard Failures and inflationary solutions

Singularity

Not solved... actually not addressed!

Horizon

$$d_H \equiv a(t) \int_{t_i}^t \frac{d\tau}{a(\tau)}$$

can be made as big as one wishes

Flatness

$$\frac{d}{dt} |\Omega - 1| = -2 \frac{\ddot{a}}{\dot{a}^3}$$

$$\ddot{a} > 0 \quad \& \quad \dot{a} > 0$$

accelerated expansion (**inflation**)

## Homogeneity & Isotropy

Initial Universe = very small patch

Accelerated expansion drives the shear to zero...



vacuum state!

+ attractor

Perturbations

Bonus of the theory: superb predictions!!!

Others

dark matter/energy, baryogenesis, ...

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# Origin of perturbations: quantum fluctuations / time-varying background

Classical temperature fluctuations promoted to quantum operators


$$\frac{\widehat{\Delta T}}{T} \propto \hat{v} \sim \Phi \sim \delta g_{00}$$

second order perturbed Einstein action  $(2)\delta S = \frac{1}{2} \int d^4x \left[ (v')^2 - \delta^{ij} \partial_i v \partial_j v + \frac{(a\sqrt{\epsilon_1})''}{a\sqrt{\epsilon_1}} v^2 \right]$

variable-mass scalar field in Minkowski spacetime

+ Fourier transform  $v(\eta, \mathbf{x}) = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^{3/2}} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} d^3\mathbf{k} v_{\mathbf{k}}(\eta) e^{i\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{x}}$

$\epsilon_1 = 1 - \mathcal{H}'/\mathcal{H}^2$   
slow-roll parameter

  $(2)\delta S = \int d\eta \int d^3\mathbf{k} \left\{ v'_{\mathbf{k}} v_{\mathbf{k}}^*{}' + v_{\mathbf{k}} v_{\mathbf{k}}^* \left[ \frac{(a\sqrt{\epsilon_1})''}{a\sqrt{\epsilon_1}} - k^2 \right] \right\}$

Lagrangian formulation...

## Canonical quantisation

$$v(\mathbf{x}, \eta) = \int \frac{d^3 \mathbf{k}}{(2\pi)^{3/2}} \left[ v_{\mathbf{k}}(\eta) e^{i\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{x}} a_{\mathbf{k}} + v_{\mathbf{k}}^*(\eta) e^{-i\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{x}} a_{\mathbf{k}}^\dagger \right]$$

$$[\hat{a}_{\mathbf{k}}, \hat{a}_{\mathbf{q}}^\dagger] = \delta^{(3)}(\mathbf{k} - \mathbf{q})$$

$$[\hat{v}(\mathbf{x}, \eta), \hat{v}(\mathbf{y}, \eta)] = 0 = [\hat{\pi}(\mathbf{x}, \eta), \hat{\pi}(\mathbf{y}, \eta)] \quad \text{and} \quad [\hat{v}(\mathbf{x}, \eta), \hat{\pi}(\mathbf{y}, \eta)] = i\delta^{(3)}(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y})$$

Vacuum state  $\hat{a}_{\mathbf{k}}|0\rangle = 0$  for all  $\mathbf{k}$    $v_{\mathbf{k}} \xrightarrow{|k\eta| \rightarrow \infty} \frac{e^{-ik\eta}}{\sqrt{2k}}$

# Hamiltonian

$$H = \int d^3 \mathbf{k} \left\{ p_{\mathbf{k}} p_{\mathbf{k}}^* + v_{\mathbf{k}} v_{\mathbf{k}}^* \left[ k^2 - \frac{\overbrace{\left( a \sqrt{\epsilon_1} \right)''}^{\omega^2(\eta, \mathbf{k})}}{a \sqrt{\epsilon_1}} \right] \right\}$$

collection of parametric oscillators with time dependent frequency

## factorization of the full wave function

$$\Psi [v(\eta, \mathbf{x})] = \prod_{\mathbf{k}} \Psi_{\mathbf{k}} (v_{\mathbf{k}}^{\text{R}}, v_{\mathbf{k}}^{\text{I}}) = \prod_{\mathbf{k}} \Psi_{\mathbf{k}}^{\text{R}} (v_{\mathbf{k}}^{\text{R}}) \Psi_{\mathbf{k}}^{\text{I}} (v_{\mathbf{k}}^{\text{I}})$$

real and imaginary parts

$$i \frac{\partial \Psi_{\mathbf{k}}^{\text{R,I}}}{\partial \eta} = \hat{\mathcal{H}}_{\mathbf{k}}^{\text{R,I}} \Psi_{\mathbf{k}}^{\text{R,I}}$$

$$\hat{\mathcal{H}}_{\mathbf{k}}^{\text{R,I}} = -\frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial (v_{\mathbf{k}}^{\text{R,I}})^2} + \frac{1}{2} \omega^2(\eta, \mathbf{k}) \left( \hat{v}_{\mathbf{k}}^{\text{R,I}} \right)^2$$

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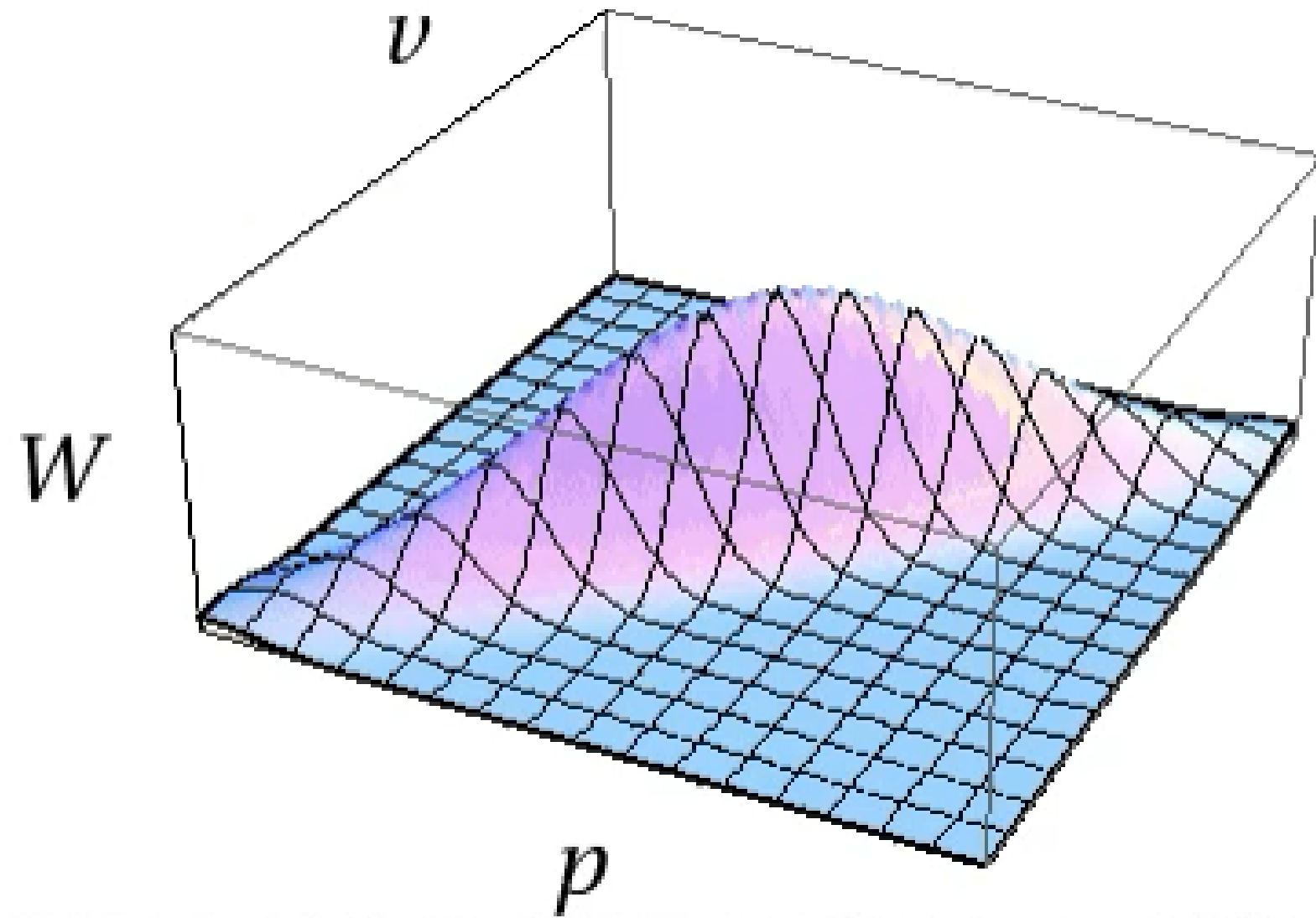
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Gaussian state solution  $\Psi(\eta, v_{\mathbf{k}}) = \left[ \frac{2\Re \Omega_{\mathbf{k}}(\eta)}{\pi} \right]^{1/4} e^{-\Omega_{\mathbf{k}}(\eta)v_{\mathbf{k}}^2}$

Wigner function  $W(v_{\mathbf{k}}, p_{\mathbf{k}}) = \int \frac{dx}{2\pi^2} \Psi^* \left( v_{\mathbf{k}} - \frac{x}{2} \right) e^{-ip_{\mathbf{k}}x} \Psi \left( v_{\mathbf{k}} + \frac{x}{2} \right)$

large squeezing limit  $\rightarrow W \propto \delta(p_{\mathbf{k}} + k \tan \phi_{\mathbf{k}} v_{\mathbf{k}})$

Stochastic distribution of classical processes



Ergodicity

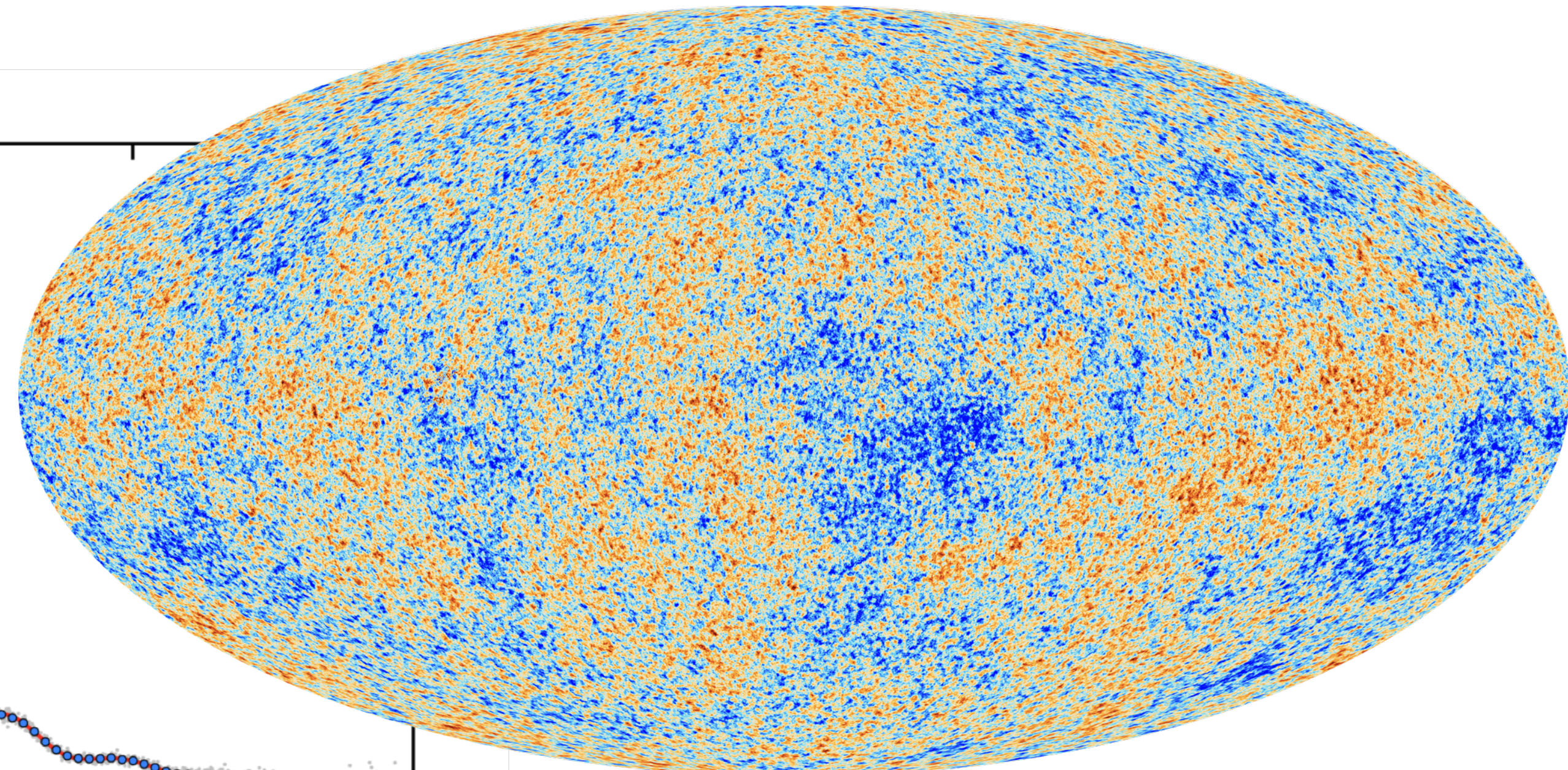
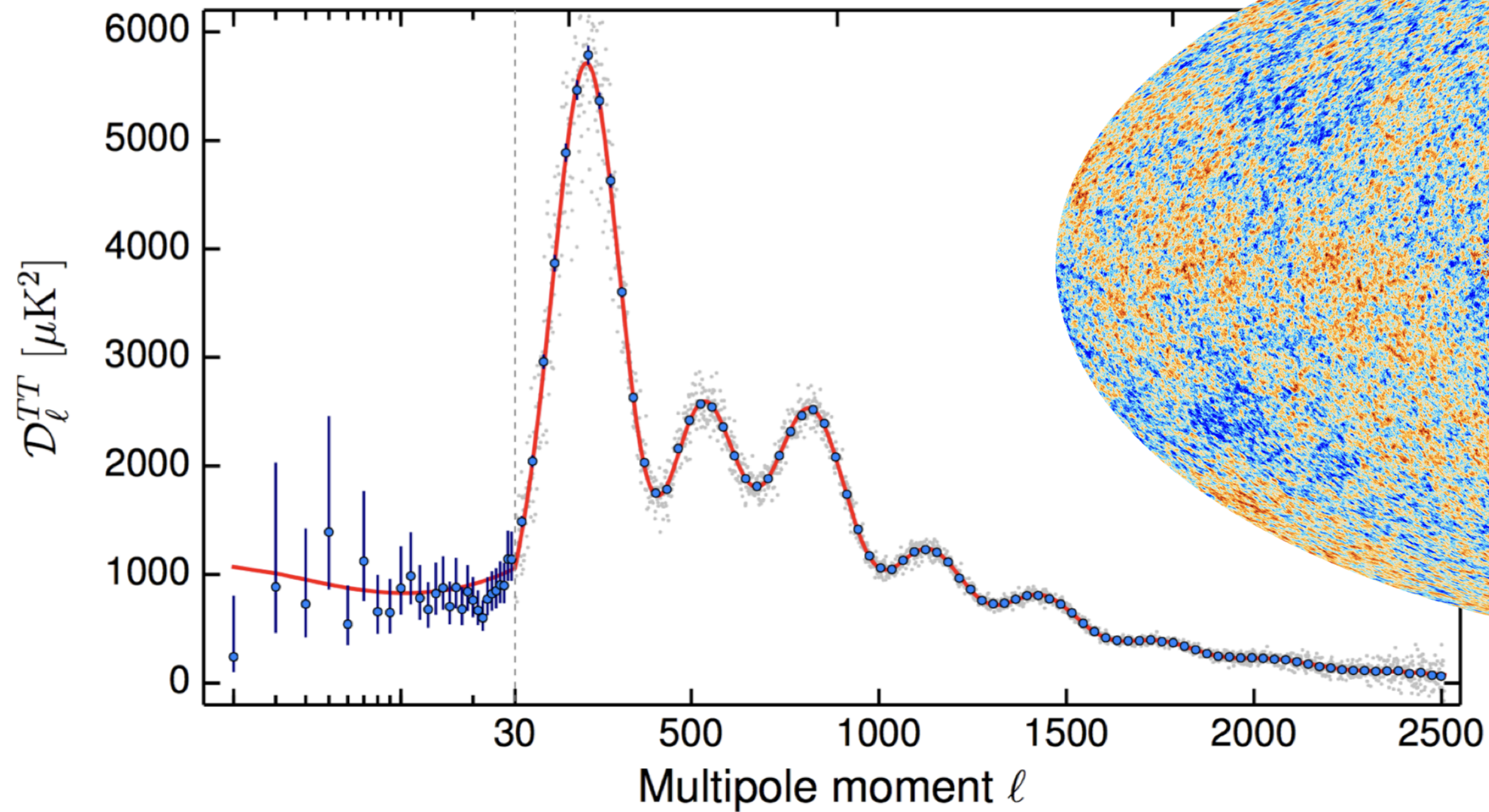
realization  $\swarrow$   $\nwarrow$  spatial direction

$$\left\langle \frac{\Delta T(\xi, \mathbf{e})}{T} \right\rangle_{\xi} \simeq \left\langle \frac{\Delta T(\xi, \mathbf{e})}{T} \right\rangle_{\mathbf{e}}$$

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# Planck 2018



$$\Omega_{\mathcal{H}} = 0.000 \pm 0.005$$

$$n_s = 0.9639 \pm 0.0047 \quad \text{almost scale invariant}$$

$$f_{\text{NL}}^{\text{loc}} = 0.8 \pm 5$$

$$f_{\text{NL}}^{\text{eq}} = -4 \pm 43$$

$$f_{\text{NL}}^{\text{ort}} = -26 \pm 21$$

$$r < 0.08$$

Gaussian signal

Isocurvature  $\lesssim 1\%$

excluded

quantum vacuum fluctuations of a single scalar d.o.f

compatible with  
INFLATION

***THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION***