

Primordial black holes and stochastic inflation

University of Nottingham, 15 October 2024

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Based on

2012.06551, 2111.07437, 2210.17441, 2304.10903, 2312.12911, 2409.12950

in collaboration with D. Figueroa, S. Raatikainen, S. Räsänen, et al

Why primordial black holes (PBHs)?

Black holes formed in early Universe

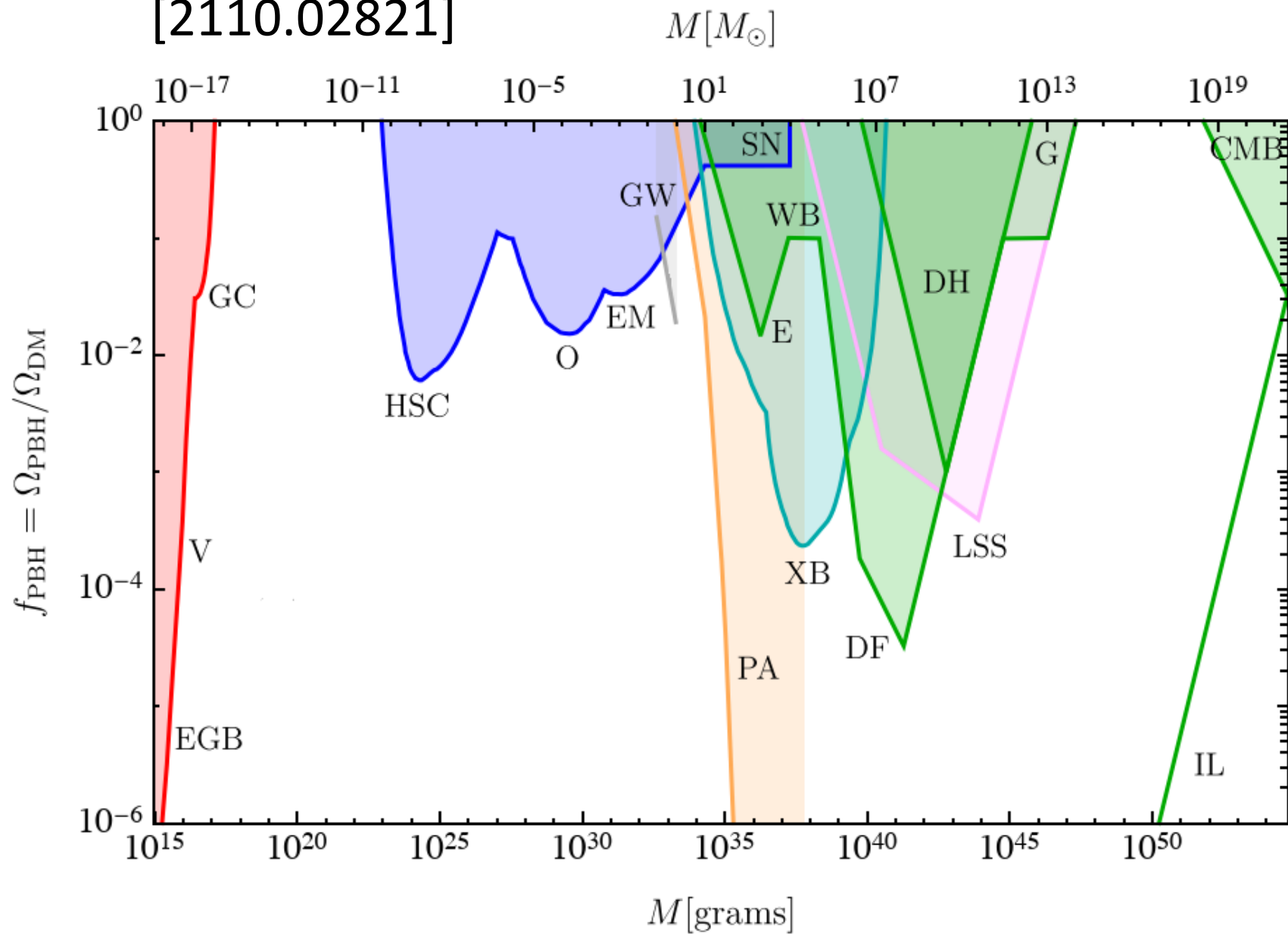
- Carry information of conditions there (small-scale perturbations)
- Any mass (Hawking evaporation?)

Applications in cosmology

- Dark matter candidate
- Seeds of supermassive black holes
- GW source



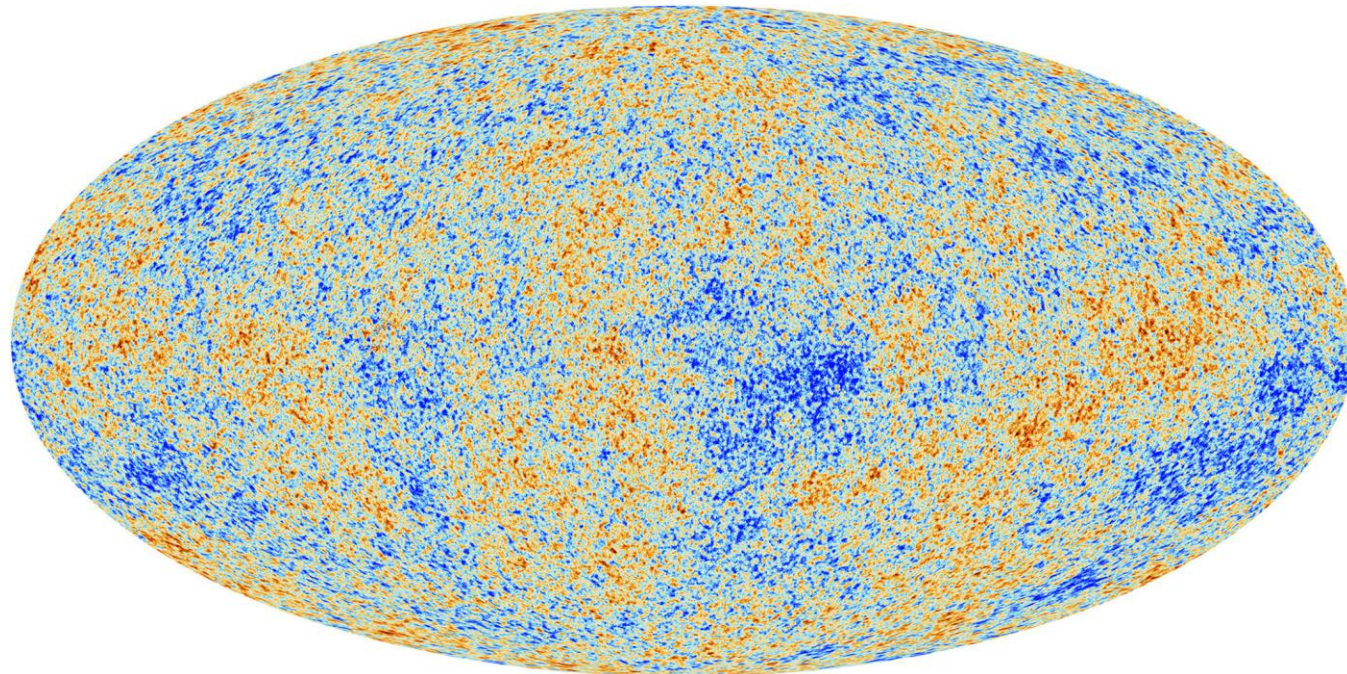
[2110.02821]



Black holes from primordial perturbations

Cosmic inflation: quantum fluctuations

Later: strongest collapse into black holes



I. (Semi-)inflection point inflation

II. Stochastic inflation

III. Black hole statistics

IV. An axion-curvaton model

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Single-field inflation is simple

Action:

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

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Background equations of motion:

$$\ddot{\varphi} + 3H\dot{\varphi} + V'(\varphi) = 0, \quad 3H^2 = \frac{1}{2}\dot{\varphi}^2 + V(\varphi)$$

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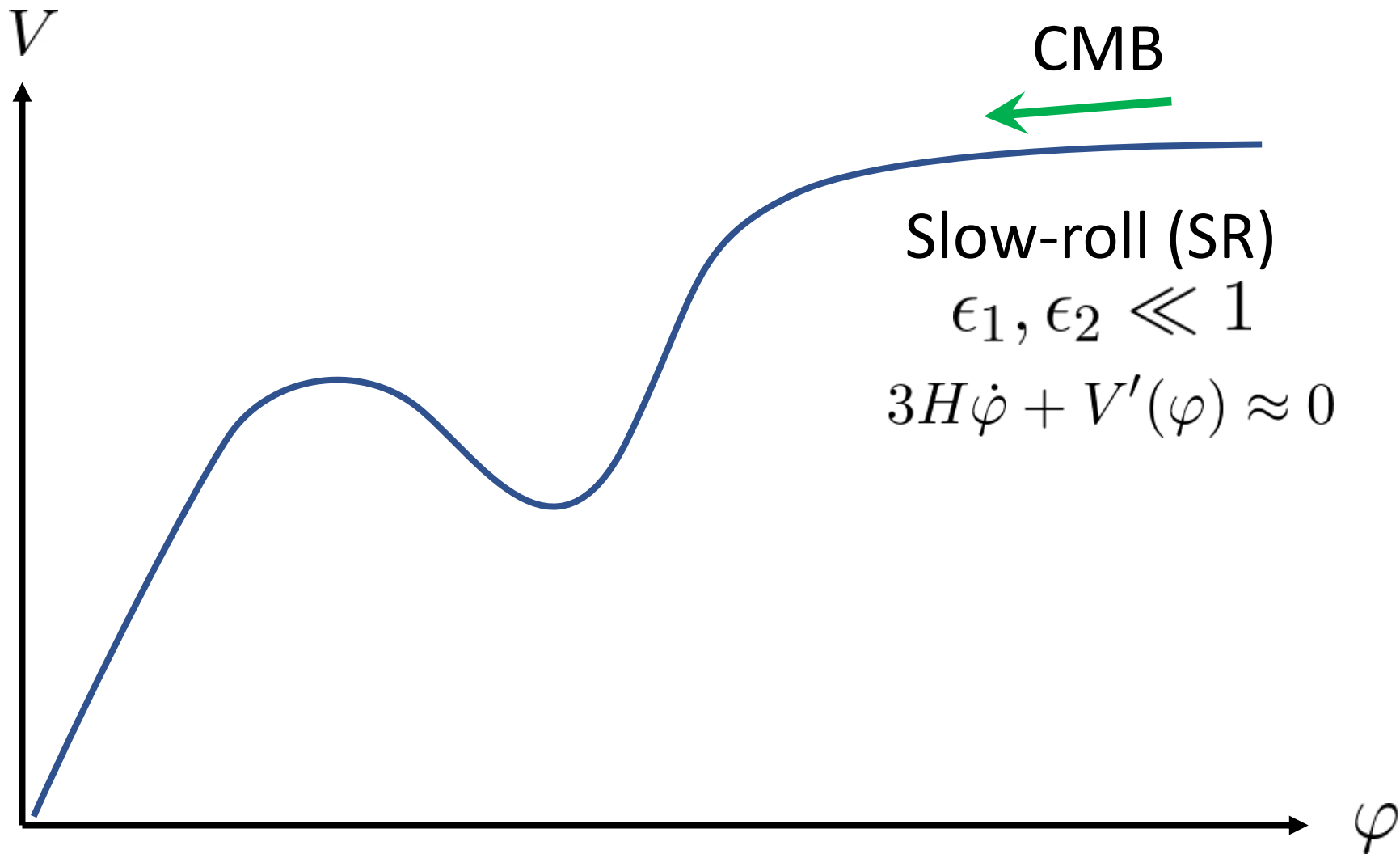
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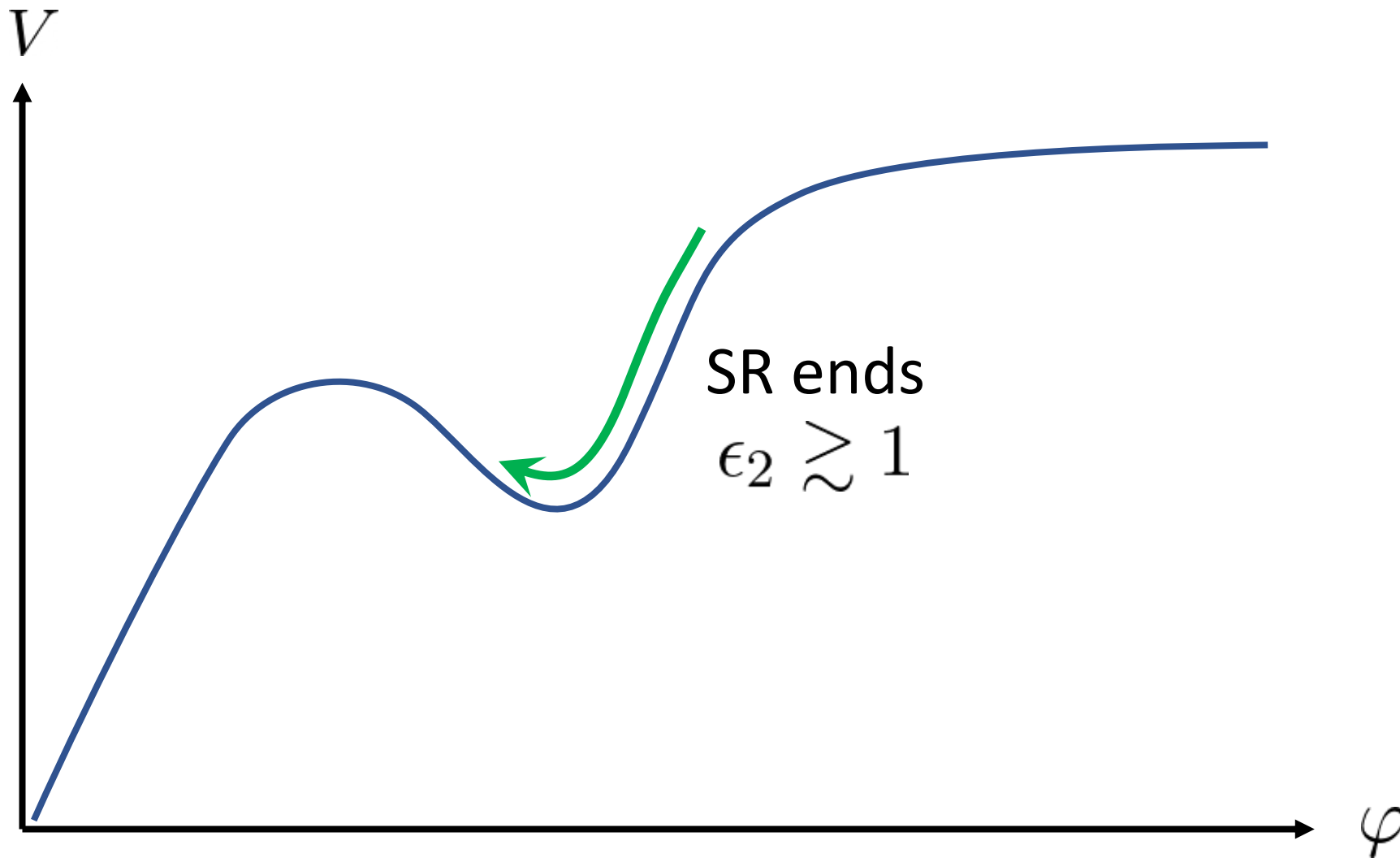
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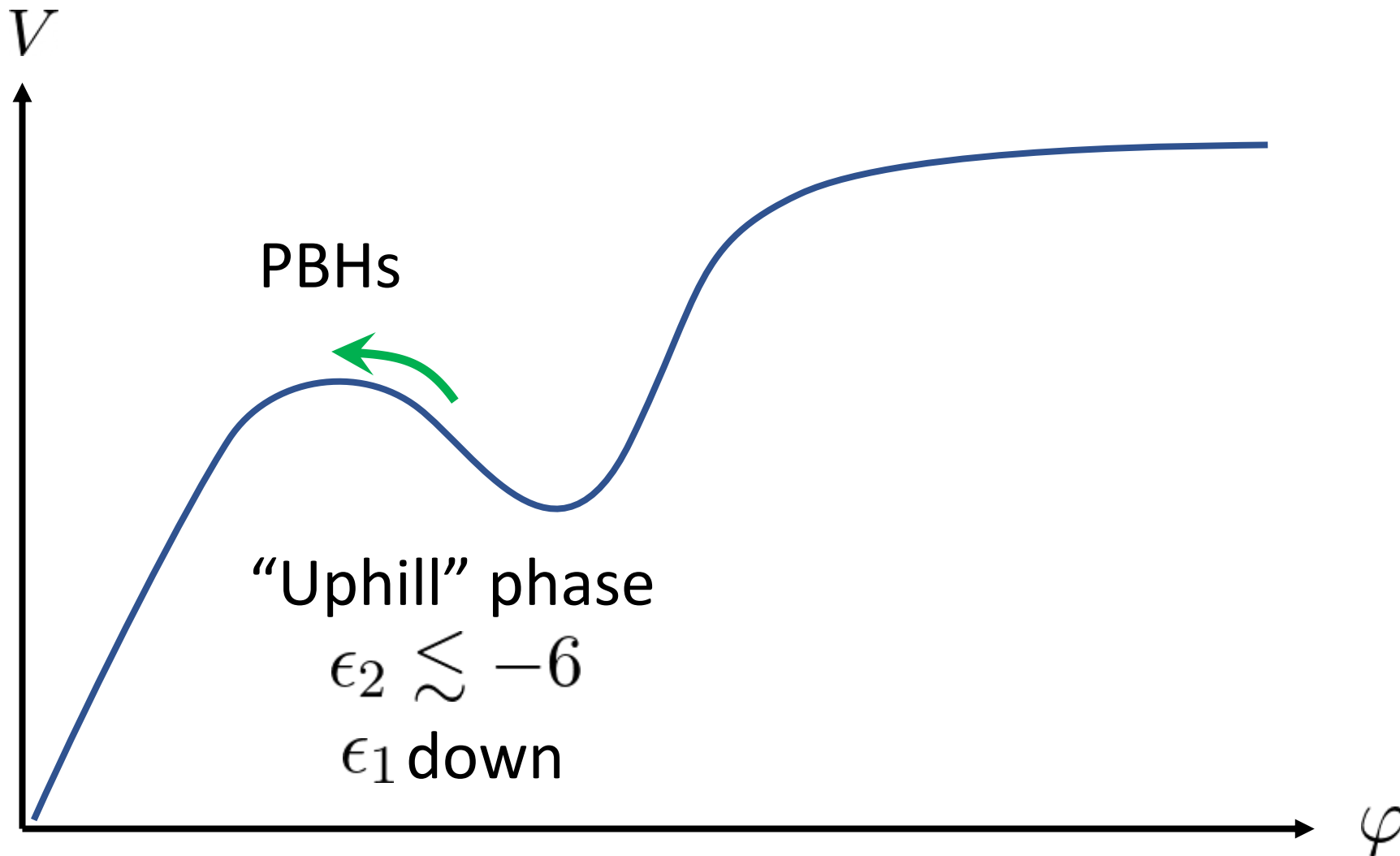
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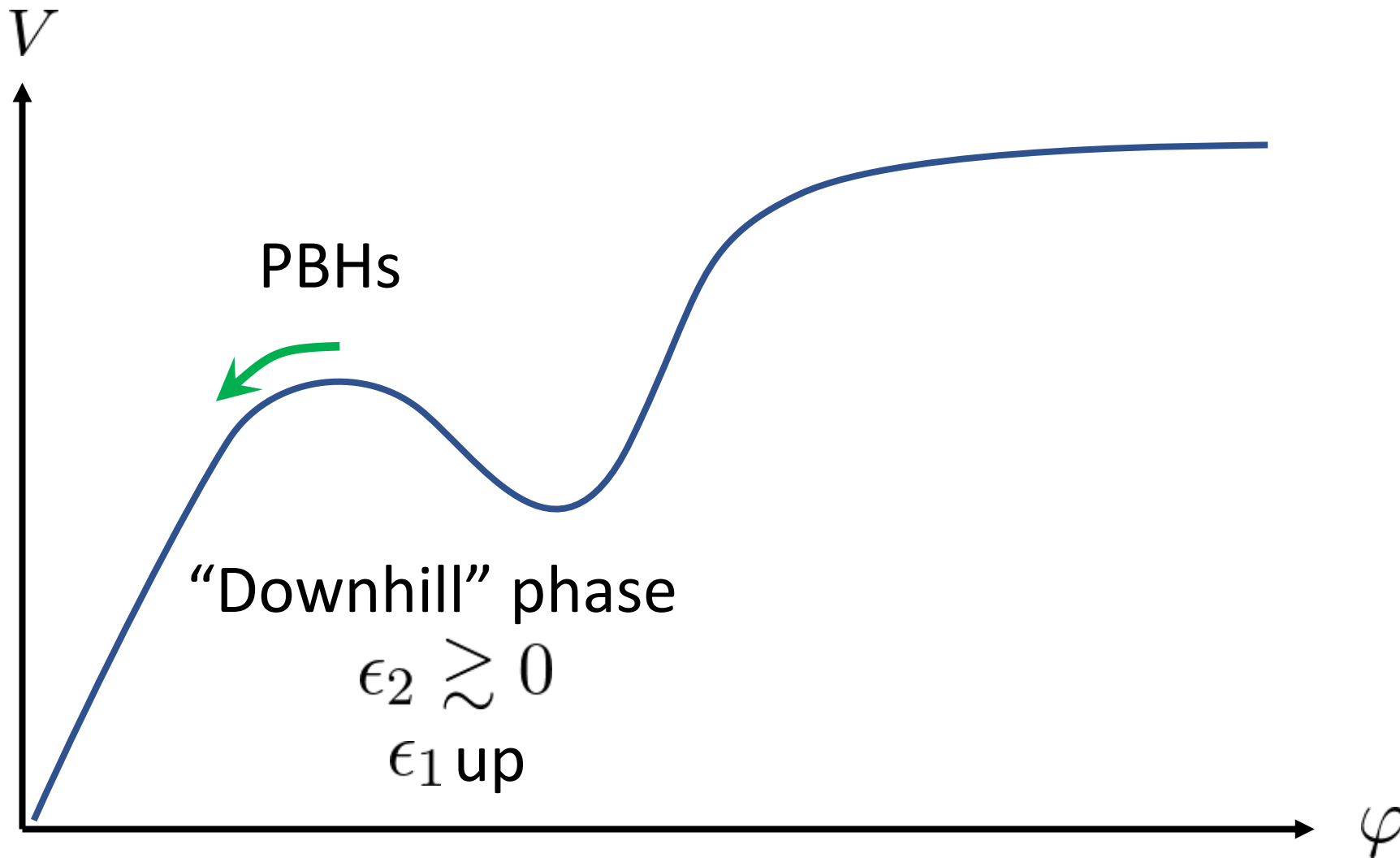
Slow-roll parameters:

$$\epsilon_1 \equiv -\partial_N \ln H, \quad \epsilon_2 \equiv \partial_N \ln \epsilon_1$$









Linear perturbations grow near feature

Comoving curvature perturbation $\mathcal{R} = \frac{\delta\varphi}{\sqrt{2\epsilon_1}}$

$$\ddot{\mathcal{R}}_k + H(3 + \epsilon_2)\dot{\mathcal{R}}_k + \frac{k^2}{a^2}\mathcal{R}_k = 0$$

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Vacuum initial conditions:

$$\mathcal{R}_k = \frac{1}{2a\sqrt{k\epsilon_1}}e^{ik/(aH)}$$

Late times:

$$\mathcal{R}_k \rightarrow \text{const. if } \epsilon_2 > -3$$

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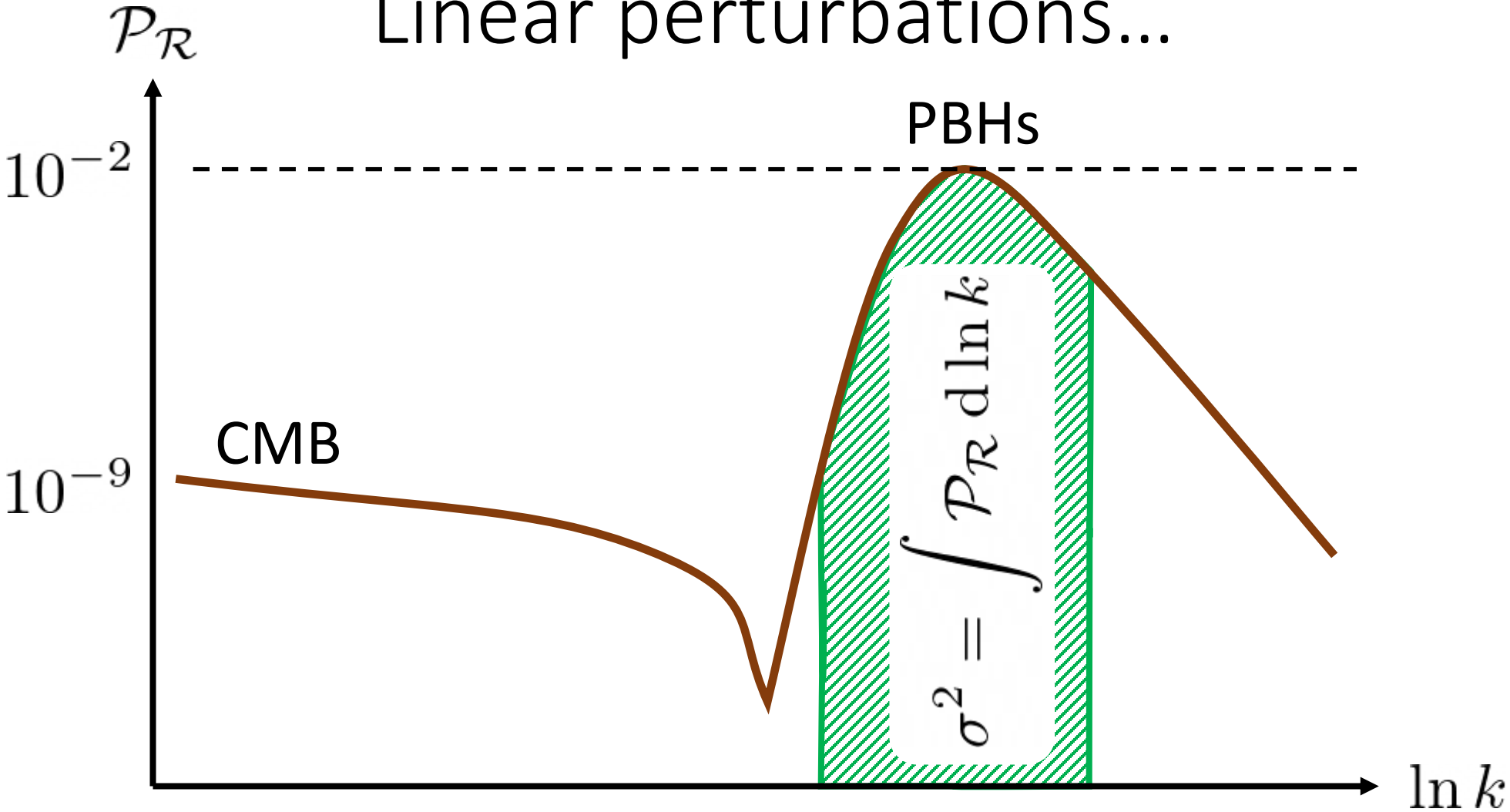
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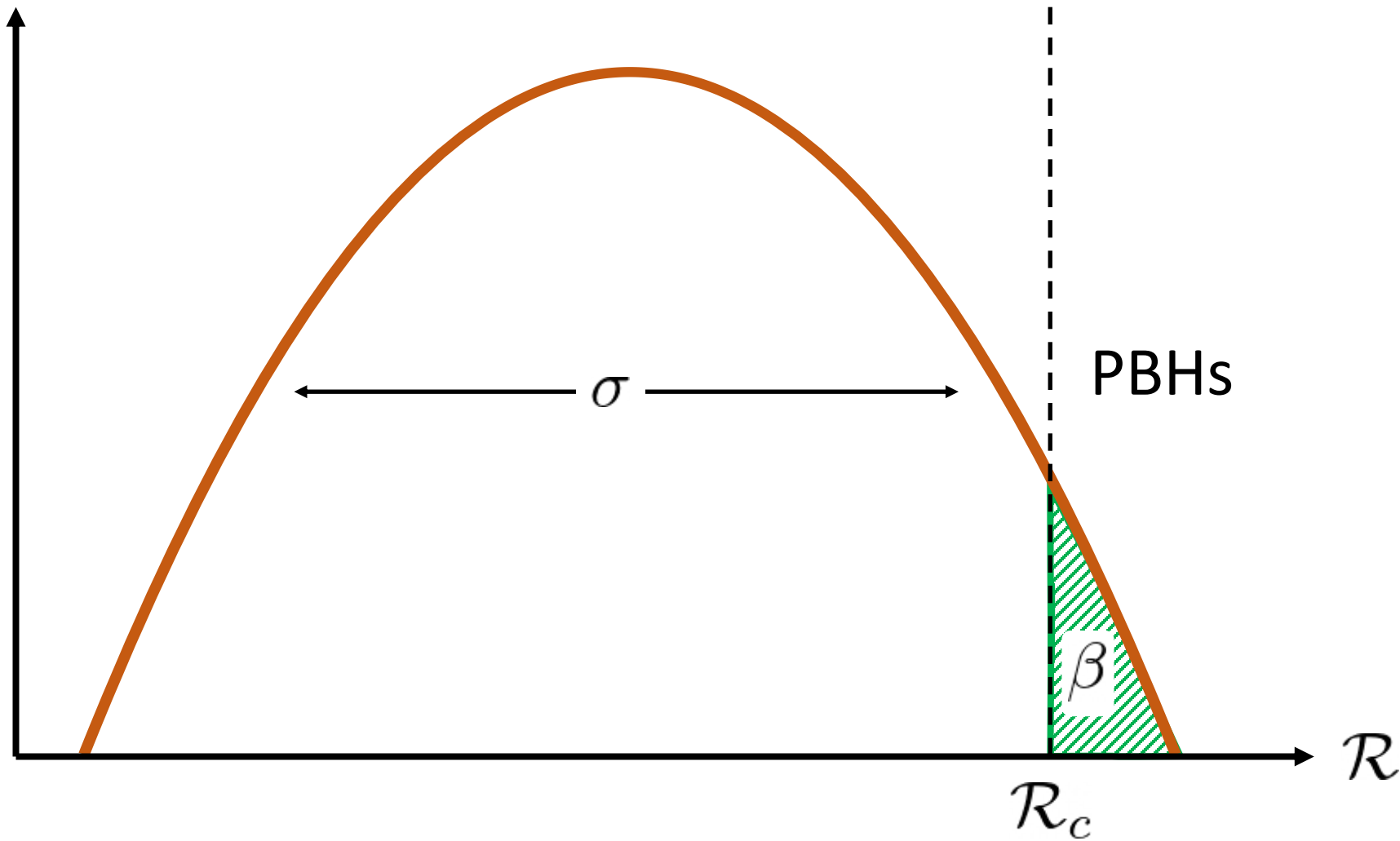
$$\mathcal{R}_k \rightarrow \text{const. if } \epsilon_2 > -3$$

Define power spectrum: $\mathcal{P}_{\mathcal{R}}(k) \equiv \frac{k^3}{2\pi^2}|\mathcal{R}_k|^2$

Linear perturbations...



$\log p(\mathcal{R})$...Gaussian distribution



Why this picture is wrong

\mathcal{R} is not the correct statistic for PBH formation

Perturbations in the tail are not Gaussian

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Approximations in two regimes

Sub-Hubble scales:

Linear perturbation theory good; neglect mode couplings

$$\delta\ddot{\varphi}_k + 3H\delta\dot{\varphi}_k + H^2 \left(\frac{k^2}{a^2 H^2} - \frac{3}{2}\epsilon_2 + \frac{1}{2}\epsilon_1\epsilon_2 - \frac{1}{4}\epsilon_2^2 - \frac{1}{2}\epsilon_2\epsilon_3 \right) \delta\varphi_k = 0$$

Super-Hubble scales:

Local FLRW equations good; neglect gradient terms

$$\ddot{\varphi} + 3H\dot{\varphi} + V'(\varphi) = 0$$

Approximations in two regimes

Inflaton field: $\varphi = \phi + \delta\phi$

Coarse-grained:
FLRW

Short-wavelength:
linear perturbation theory

$$\phi \equiv \int_{k < k_\sigma} \frac{d^3k}{(2\pi)^{2/3}} \varphi_k(N) e^{-i\vec{k}\cdot\vec{x}} \quad \delta\phi \equiv \int_{k > k_\sigma} \frac{d^3k}{(2\pi)^{2/3}} \varphi_k(N) e^{-i\vec{k}\cdot\vec{x}}$$

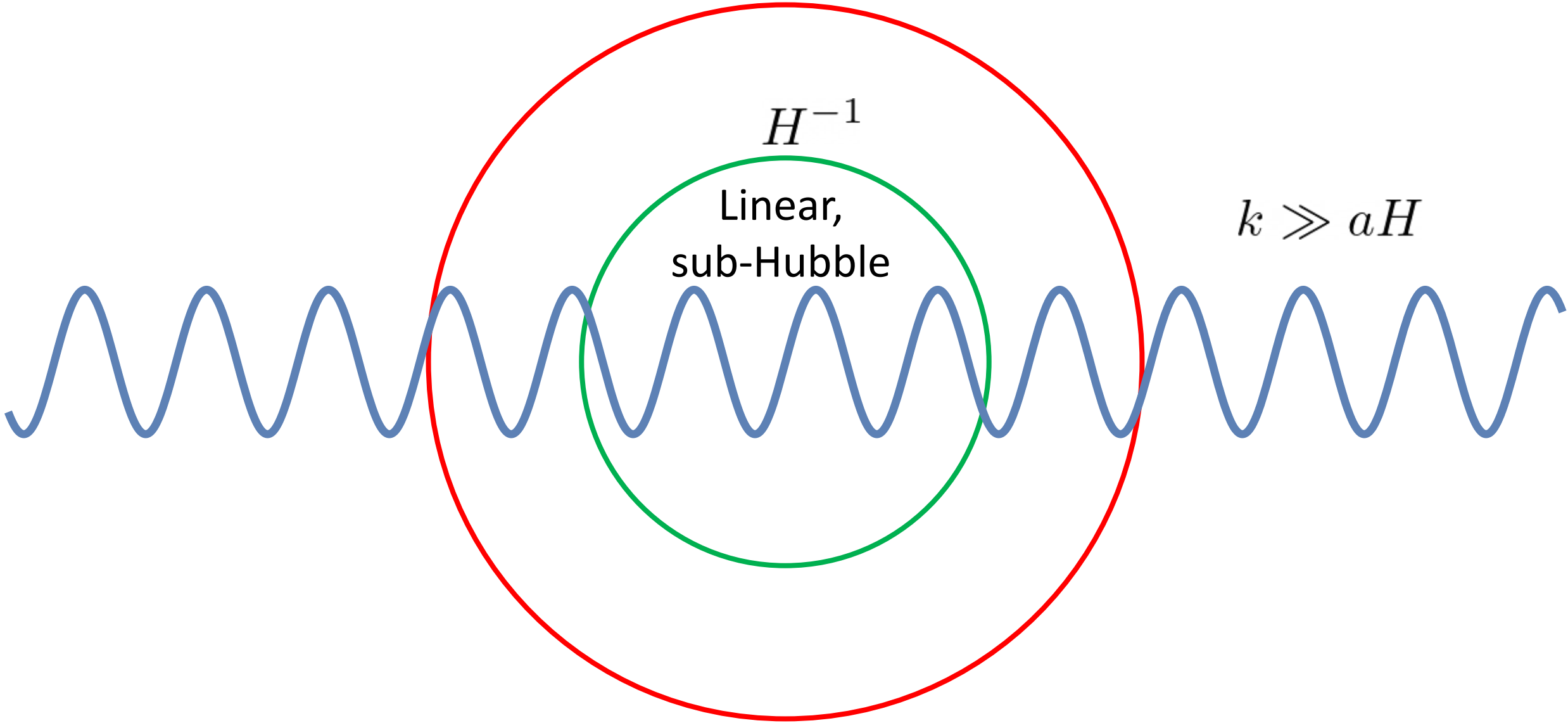
Patched together at the coarse-graining scale $k = k_\sigma \equiv \sigma aH$

$$(\sigma H)^{-1}$$

$$H^{-1}$$

Linear,
sub-Hubble

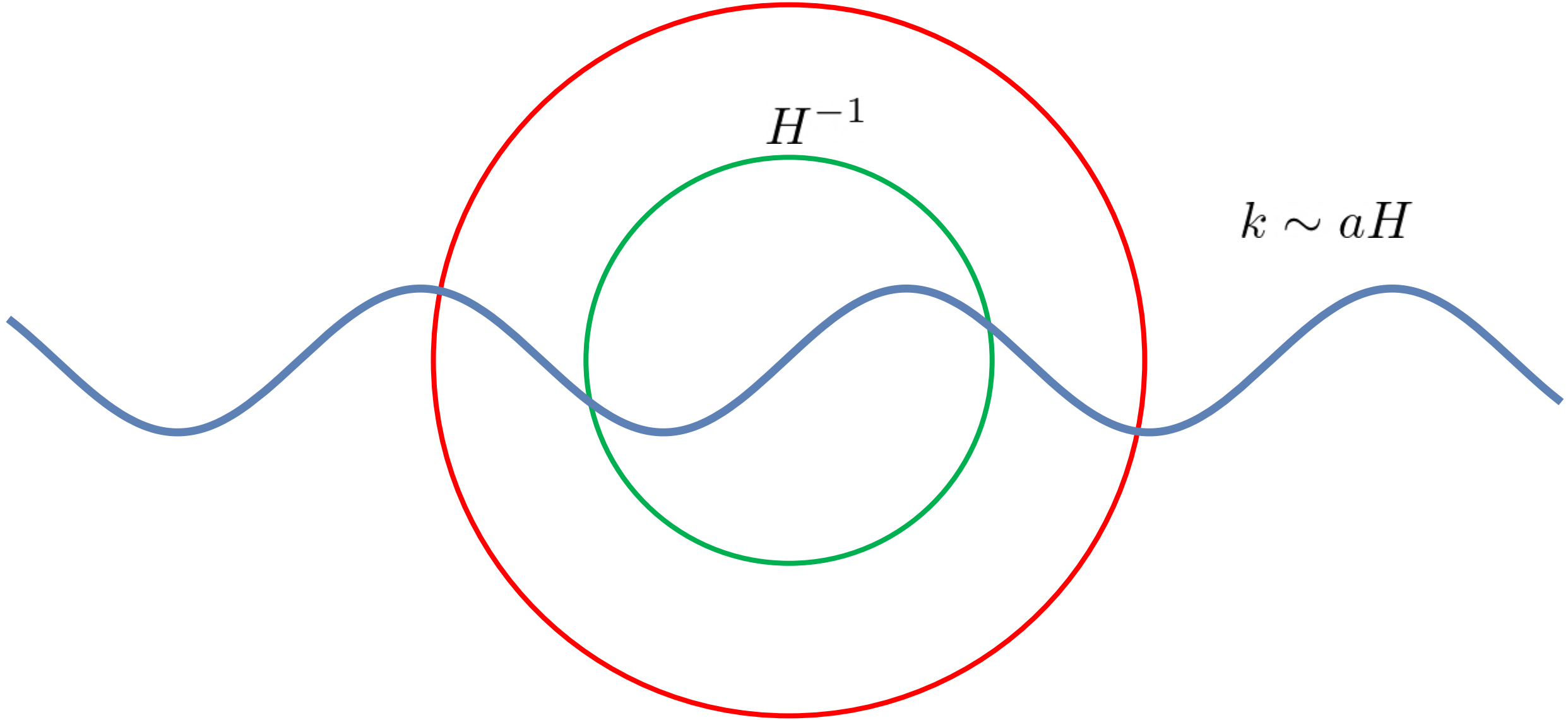
$$k \gg aH$$



$$(\sigma H)^{-1}$$

$$H^{-1}$$

$$k \sim aH$$



$$(\sigma H)^{-1}$$

$$H^{-1}$$

$$k = \sigma a H \ll a H$$

Coarse-graining exit:
Stochastic kick

Stochastic inflation

$$\phi' = \pi + \xi_\phi, \quad \pi' = - \left(3 - \frac{1}{2}\pi^2 \right) \pi - \frac{V'(\phi)}{H^2} + \xi_\pi, \quad H^2 = \frac{V(\phi)}{3 - \frac{1}{2}\pi^2}$$

$$\delta\phi_k'' = - \left(3 - \frac{1}{2}\pi^2 \right) \delta\phi_k' - \left[\frac{k^2}{a^2 H^2} + \pi^2 \left(3 - \frac{1}{2}\pi^2 \right) + 2\pi \frac{V'(\phi)}{H^2} + \frac{V''(\phi)}{H^2} \right] \delta\phi_k$$

$$\langle \xi_\phi(N) \xi_\phi(N') \rangle = \frac{1}{6\pi^2} \frac{dk_\sigma^3}{dN} |\delta\phi_{k_\sigma}(N)|^2 \delta(N - N')$$

$$\langle \xi_\pi(N) \xi_\pi(N') \rangle = \frac{1}{6\pi^2} \frac{dk_\sigma^3}{dN} |\delta\phi_{k_\sigma}'(N)|^2 \delta(N - N')$$

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$$\mathcal{R}_{<k} = \Delta N = N - \bar{N}$$

ΔN formalism

$$ds^2 = -dt^2 + a^2(t)e^{2\zeta(x,t)}dx^2$$

$$\Delta N \equiv N - \bar{N} = \mathcal{R} = \zeta$$

Stochastic ΔN formalism:

- solve stochastic system many times; include kicks up to scale k
- collect N on each run
- build statistics for coarse-grained curvature perturbation $\mathcal{R}_{<k}$

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Stochastic inflation

$$\phi' = \pi + \xi_\phi, \quad \pi' = -\left(3 - \frac{1}{2}\pi^2\right)\pi - \frac{V(\phi)}{H^2} = \frac{V(\phi)}{3 - \frac{1}{2}\pi^2}$$

$$\delta\phi_k'' = -\left(3 - \frac{1}{2}\pi^2\right)\delta\phi_k' - \left[\frac{k^2}{\sigma^2} + 2\pi\frac{V'(\phi)}{H^2} + \frac{V''(\phi)}{H^2}\right]\delta\phi_k$$

$$\langle \xi_\phi(N)\xi_\phi(N') \rangle = \frac{1}{\sigma^2} \delta(N - N')$$

$$\langle \xi_\pi(N)\xi_\pi(N') \rangle = |k_\sigma(N)|^2 \delta(N - N')$$

$$\langle \xi_\phi(N)\xi_\pi(N') \rangle = \frac{c_\sigma}{H^2} \frac{dN}{dN} \delta\phi_{k_\sigma}(N)\delta\phi_{k_\sigma}'^*(N)\delta(N - N')$$

$$\mathcal{R}_{<k} = \Delta N = N - \bar{N}$$

COMPLICATED

How to move forward?

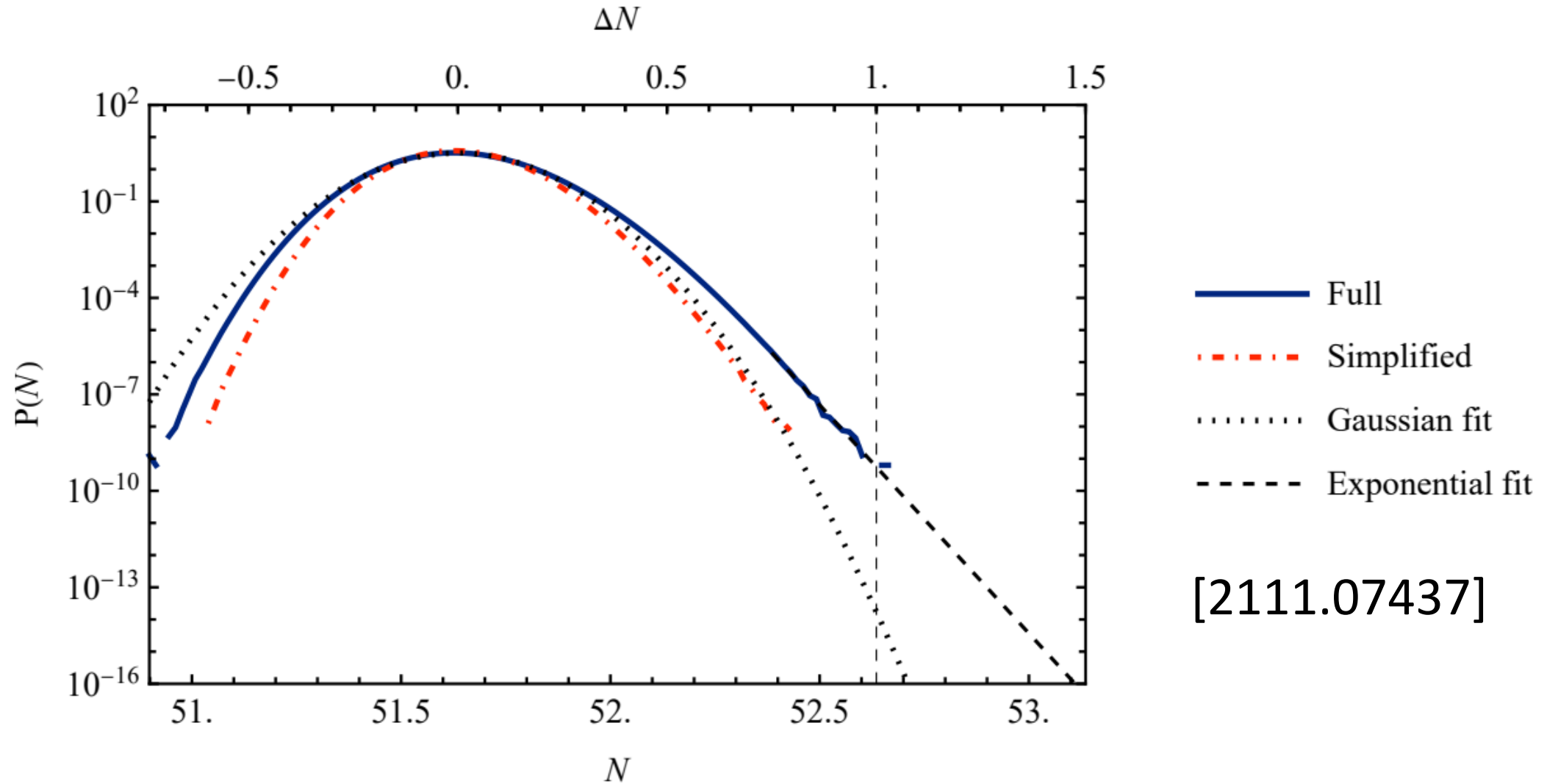
Analytical approximations?

$$\langle \xi_\phi(N) \xi_\phi(N') \rangle \approx \frac{H^2}{4\pi^2} \delta(N - N')$$

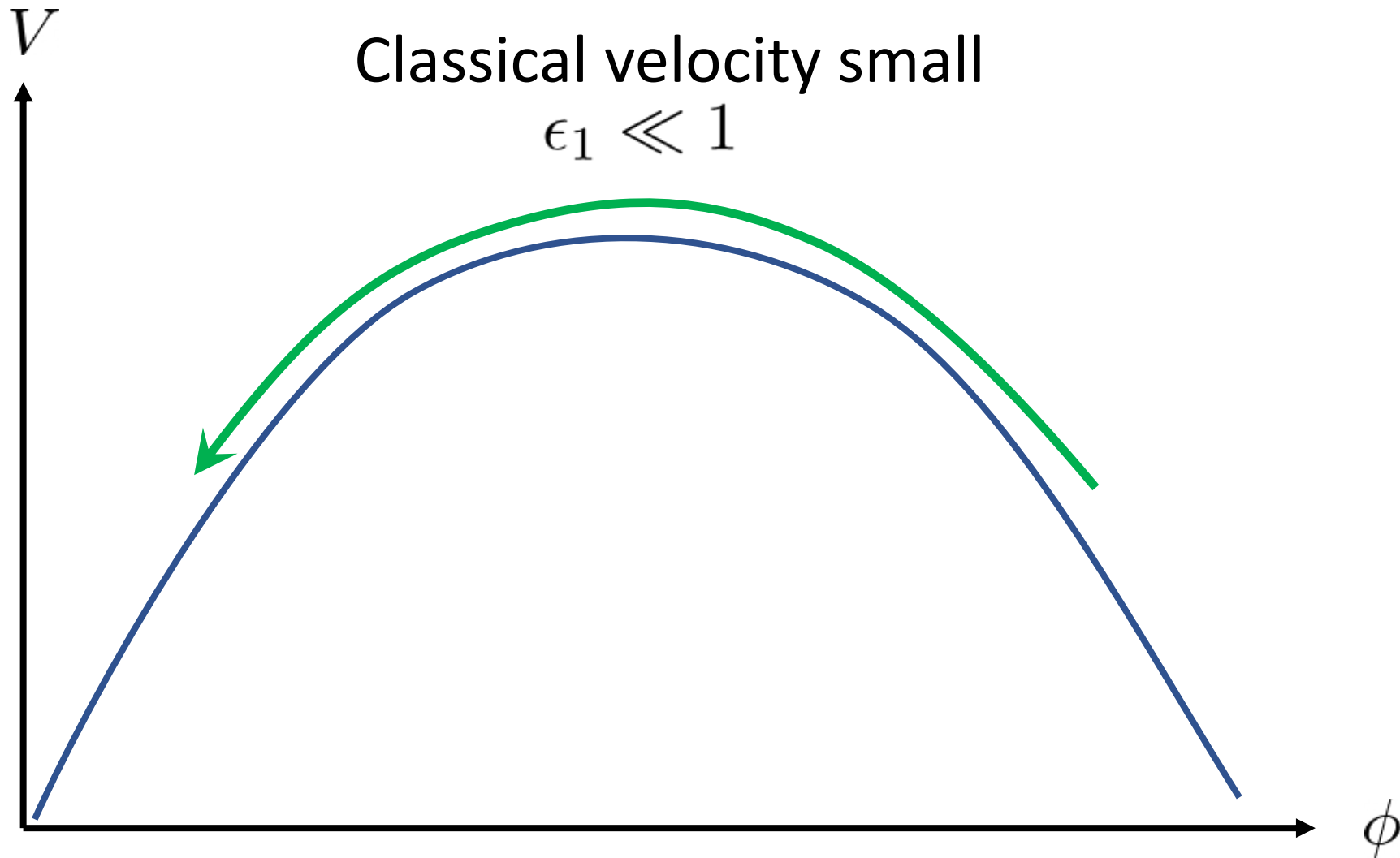
Full numerical computations?

Full numerical computations

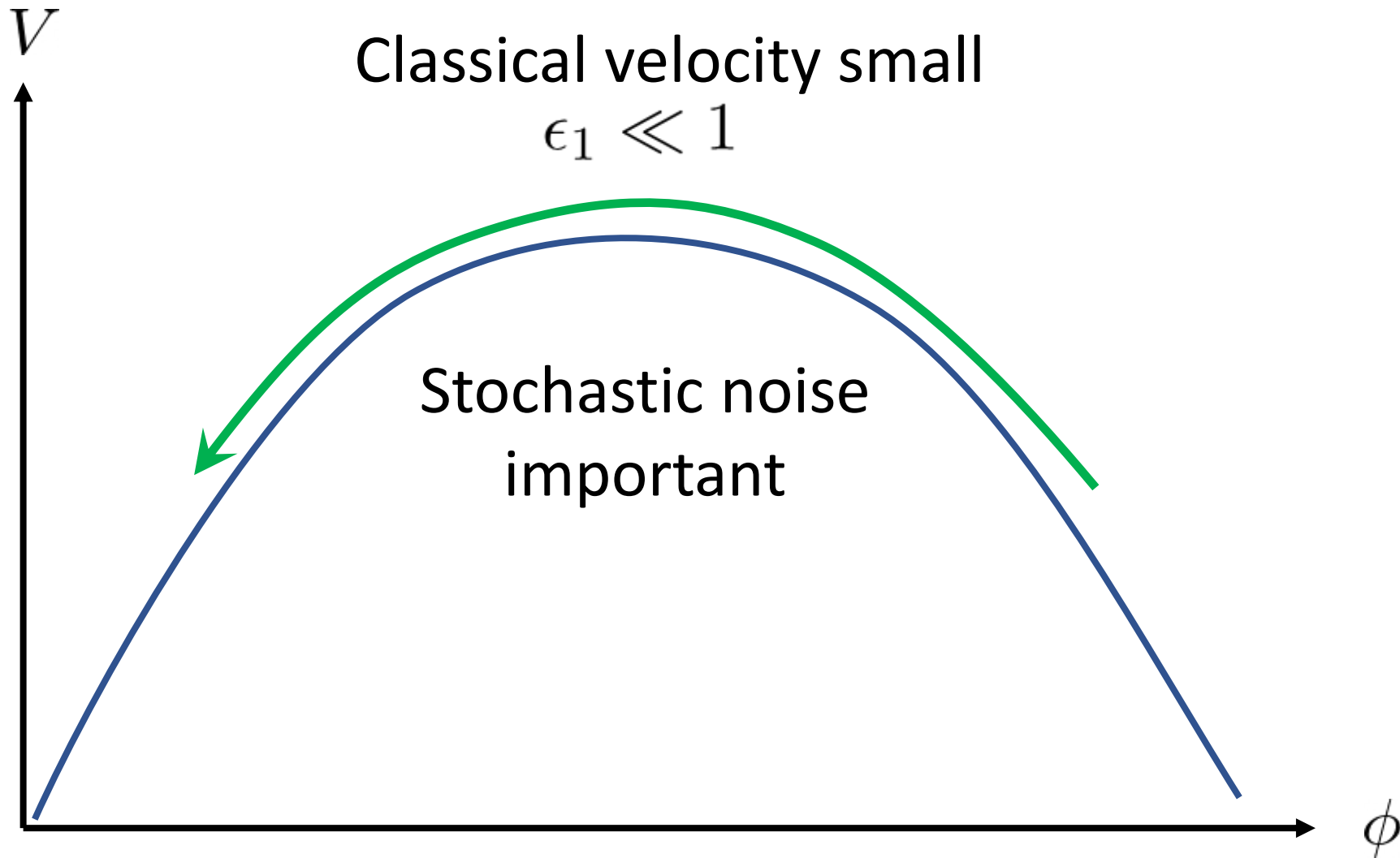
One million CPU hours



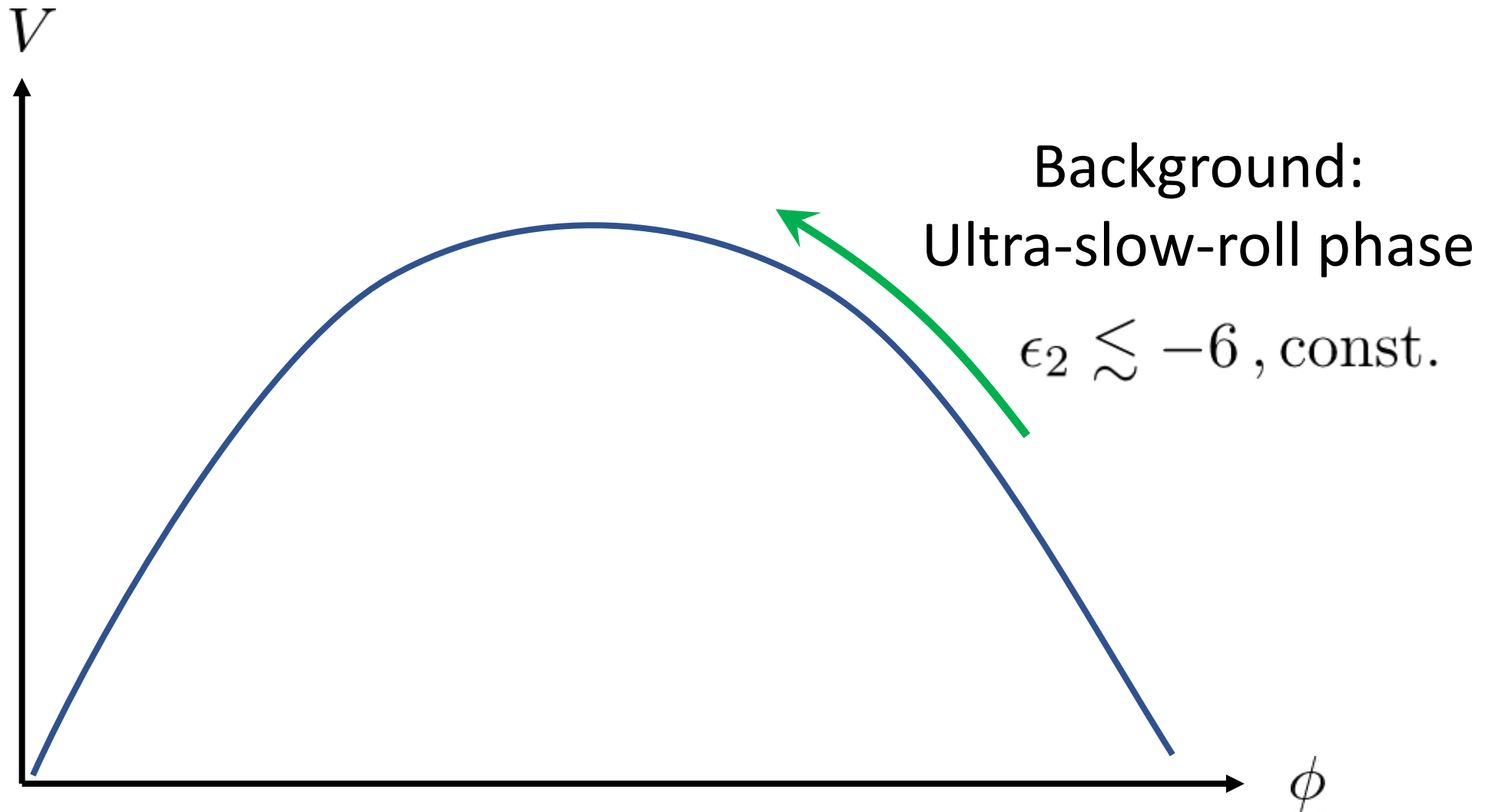
Zoom into the hilltop



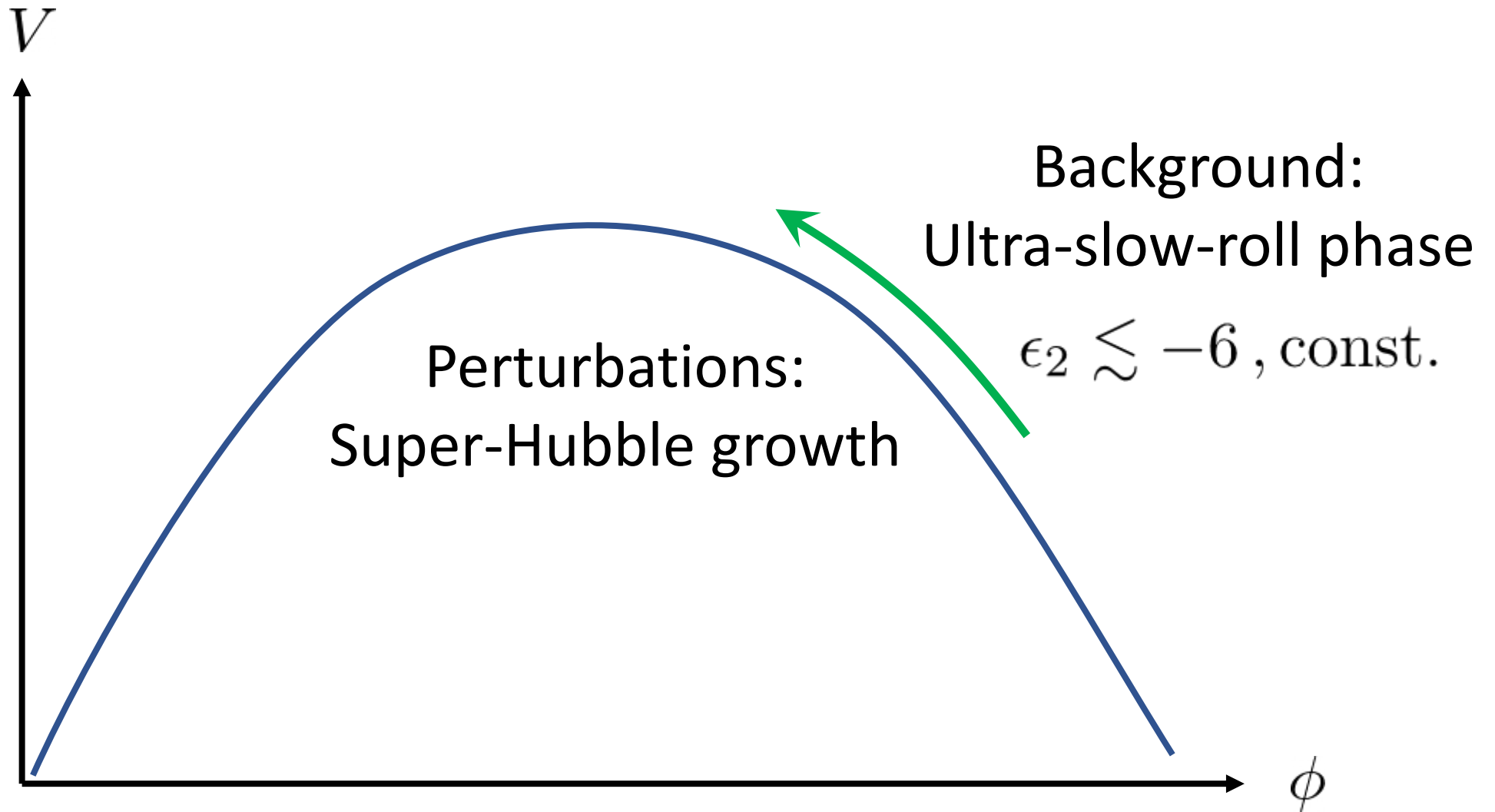
Zoom into the hilltop



Zoom into the hilltop



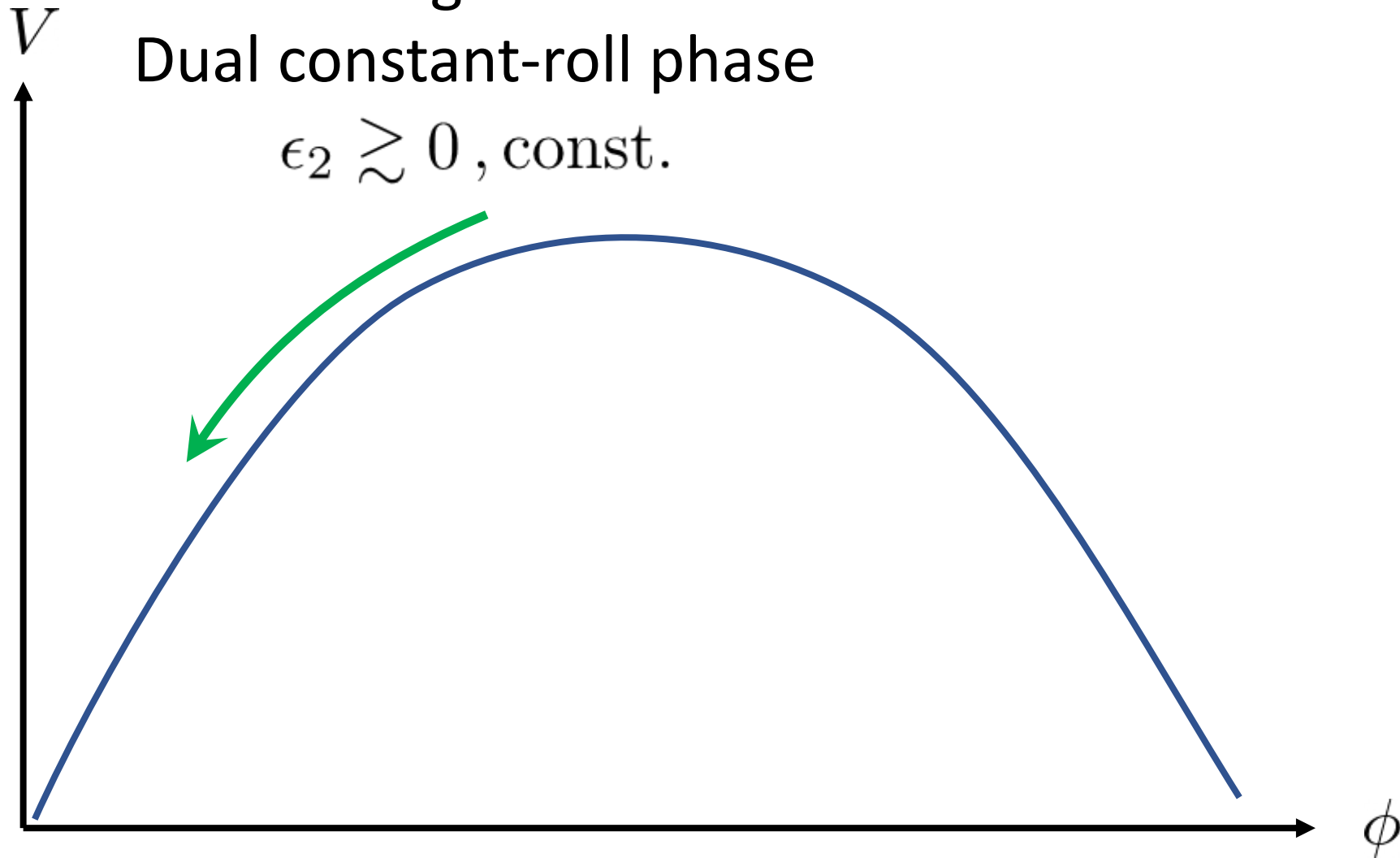
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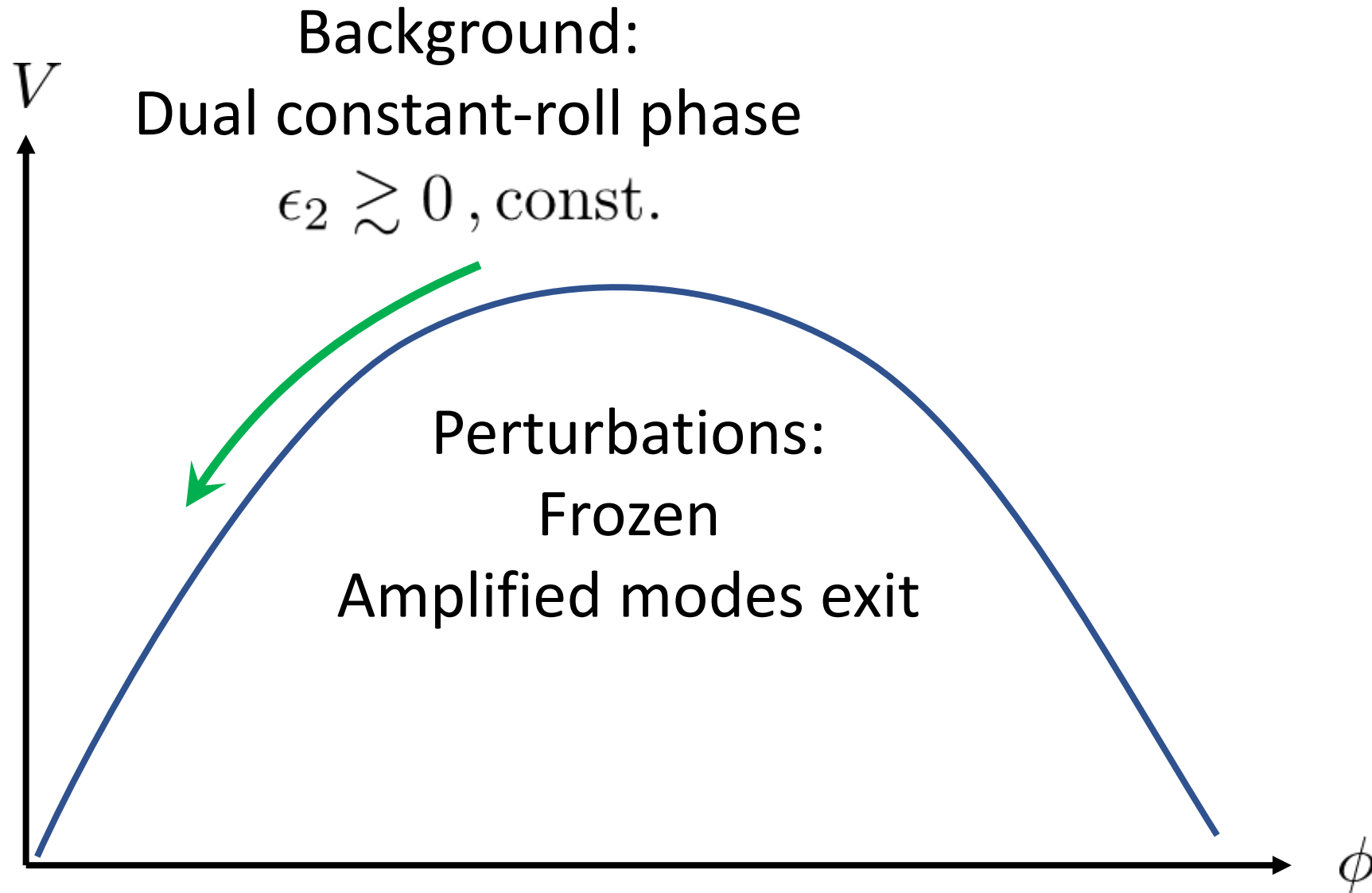
Zoom into the hilltop

Background:
Dual constant-roll phase

$$\epsilon_2 \gtrsim 0, \text{ const.}$$



Zoom into the hilltop



Equations simplify in dual constant-roll phase

Adiabatic perturbations:


motion along classical trajectory only

Noise independent of background stochasticity:

pre-compute power spectrum

Simplified stochastic equation:


$$d\phi = \frac{\epsilon_2}{2}(\phi - \phi_0)dN + \frac{\epsilon_2}{2}\phi_0 e^{\frac{\epsilon_2}{2}N} \sqrt{\mathcal{P}_{\mathcal{R}}(k_\sigma)} dN \hat{\xi}_N$$


$$\langle \hat{\xi}_N \hat{\xi}_{N'} \rangle = \delta_{NN'}$$

Simplified stochastic equation:

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$$\phi(N) = \phi_0 \left(1 - e^{\frac{\epsilon_2}{2}N}\right) + \frac{\epsilon_2}{2}\phi_0 e^{\frac{\epsilon_2}{2}N} X_{<k_\sigma}$$

$$\langle \hat{\xi}_N \hat{\xi}_{N'} \rangle = \delta_{NN'}$$


$$X_{<k} \equiv \sum_{\tilde{k}=k_{\text{ini}}}^k \sqrt{\mathcal{P}_{\mathcal{R}}(\tilde{k})} d \ln k \hat{\xi}_{\tilde{k}}$$

ΔN distribution

$$p(X_{<k}) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma_k} e^{-\frac{X_{<k}^2}{2\sigma_k^2}}, \quad \sigma_k^2 \equiv \int_{k_{\text{ini}}}^k \mathcal{P}_{\mathcal{R}}(\tilde{k}) d \ln \tilde{k}$$

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$$X_{<k} = \frac{2}{\epsilon_2} \left(1 - e^{-\frac{\epsilon_2}{2} \Delta N_{<k}} \right)$$

ΔN distribution

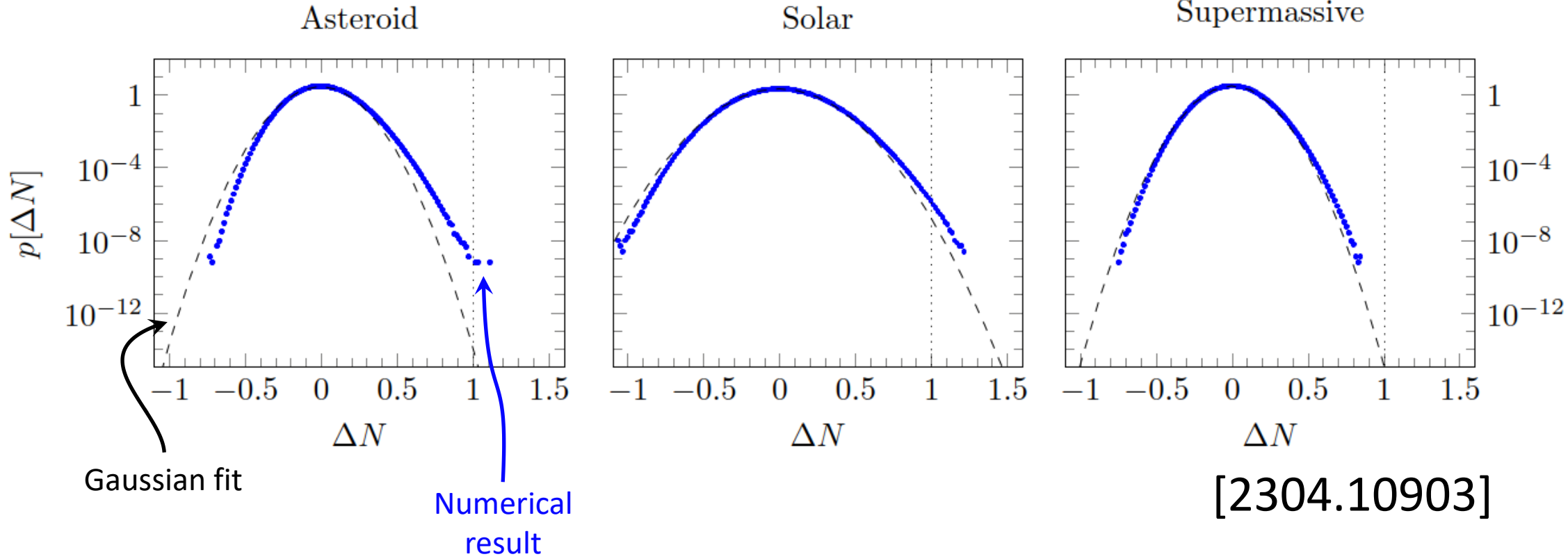
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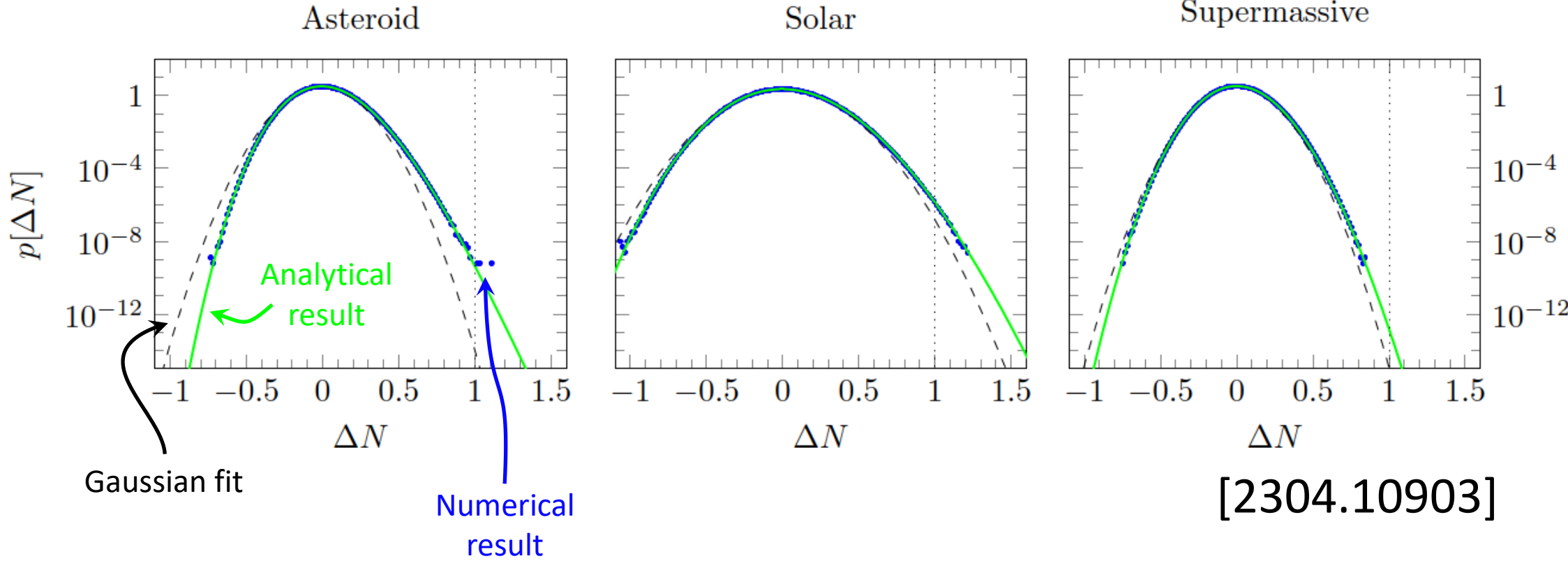
$$p(\Delta N_{<k}) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma_k} \exp \left[-\frac{2}{\sigma_k^2 \epsilon_2^2} \left(1 - e^{-\frac{\epsilon_2}{2} \Delta N_{<k}} \right)^2 - \frac{\epsilon_2}{2} \Delta N_{<k} \right]$$

$$\Delta N_{<k} = \mathcal{R}_{<k}$$

Comparison to numerics



Comparison to numerics



I. (Semi-)inflection point inflation

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Compaction function: right tool for determining the collapse threshold

$$C \equiv 2 \frac{M_{\text{MS}} - M_{\text{bg}}}{R}$$

Collapse: $C_{\text{max}} > C_c \approx 0.4$

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$$\mathcal{C} \equiv 2 \frac{M_{\text{MS}} - M_{\text{bg}}}{R}$$

Collapse: $\mathcal{C}_{\text{max}} > \mathcal{C}_c \approx 0.4$

In inflationary variables:

$$\mathcal{C}(r) = \frac{2}{3} (1 - [1 + r\zeta'(r)]^2)$$

Assume spherical symmetry

$$r\zeta'(r) = \sum_k \frac{2k^2 dk}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \zeta_k \left[\cos(kr) - \frac{\sin(kr)}{kr} \right]$$

$$\zeta_k = \frac{\sqrt{2\pi}}{2k^3} \frac{d\zeta_{<k}}{d \ln k}$$

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Vary k:
Full profile
in one patch of space!



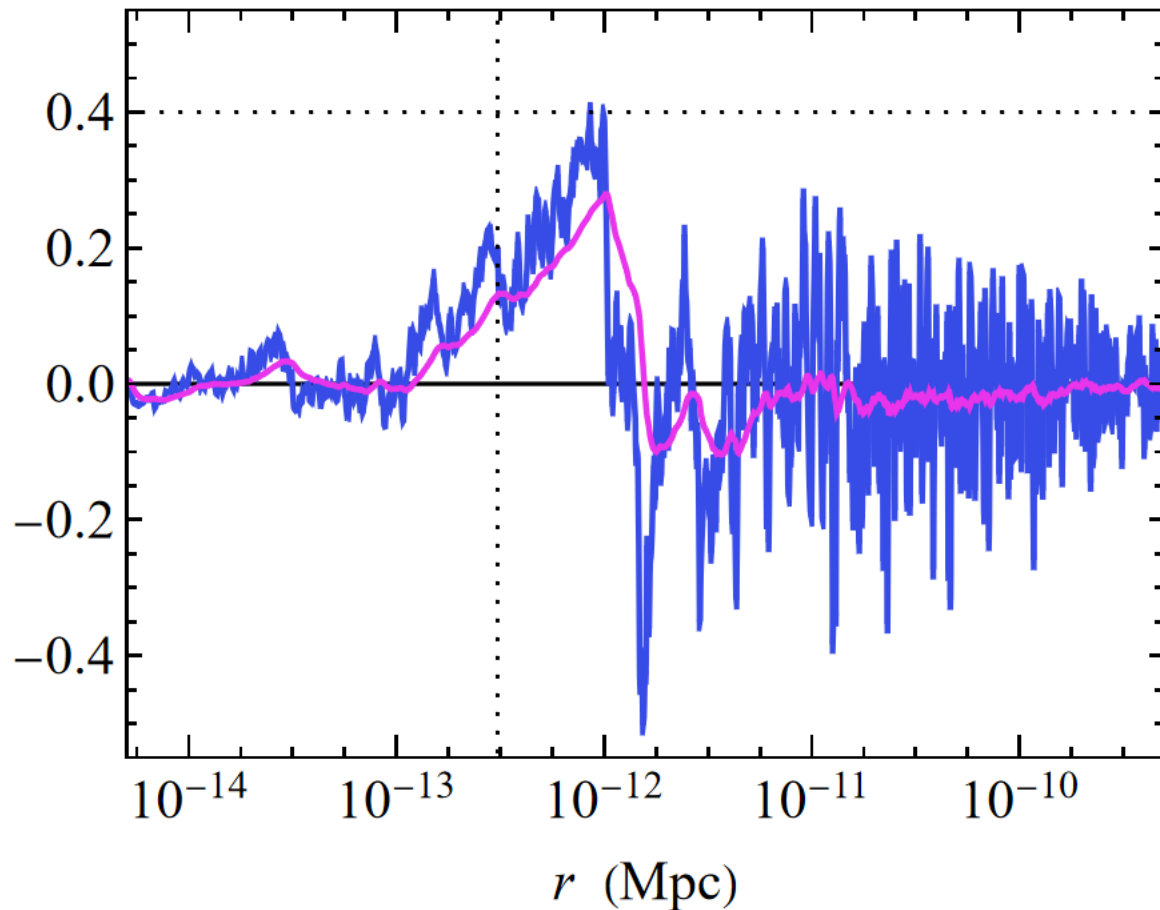
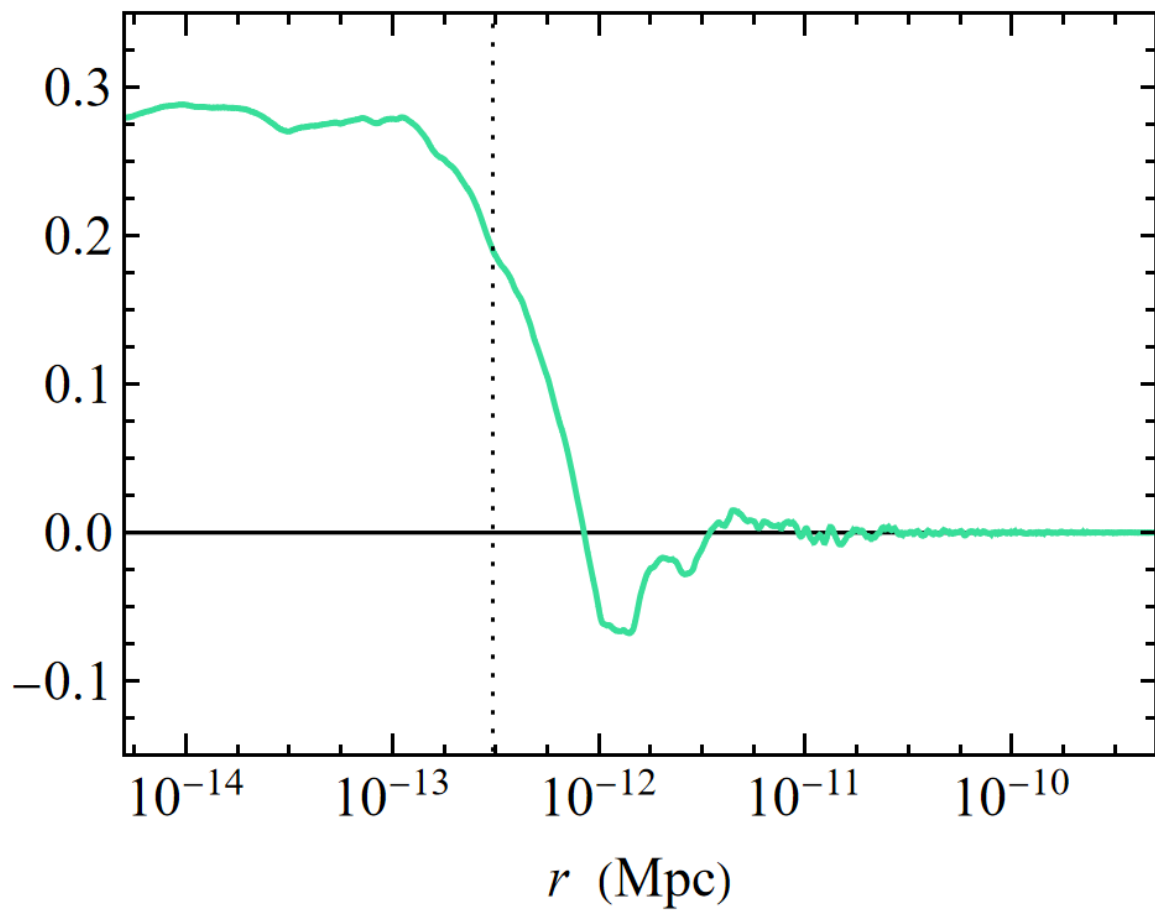
Recall: in the stochastic picture,

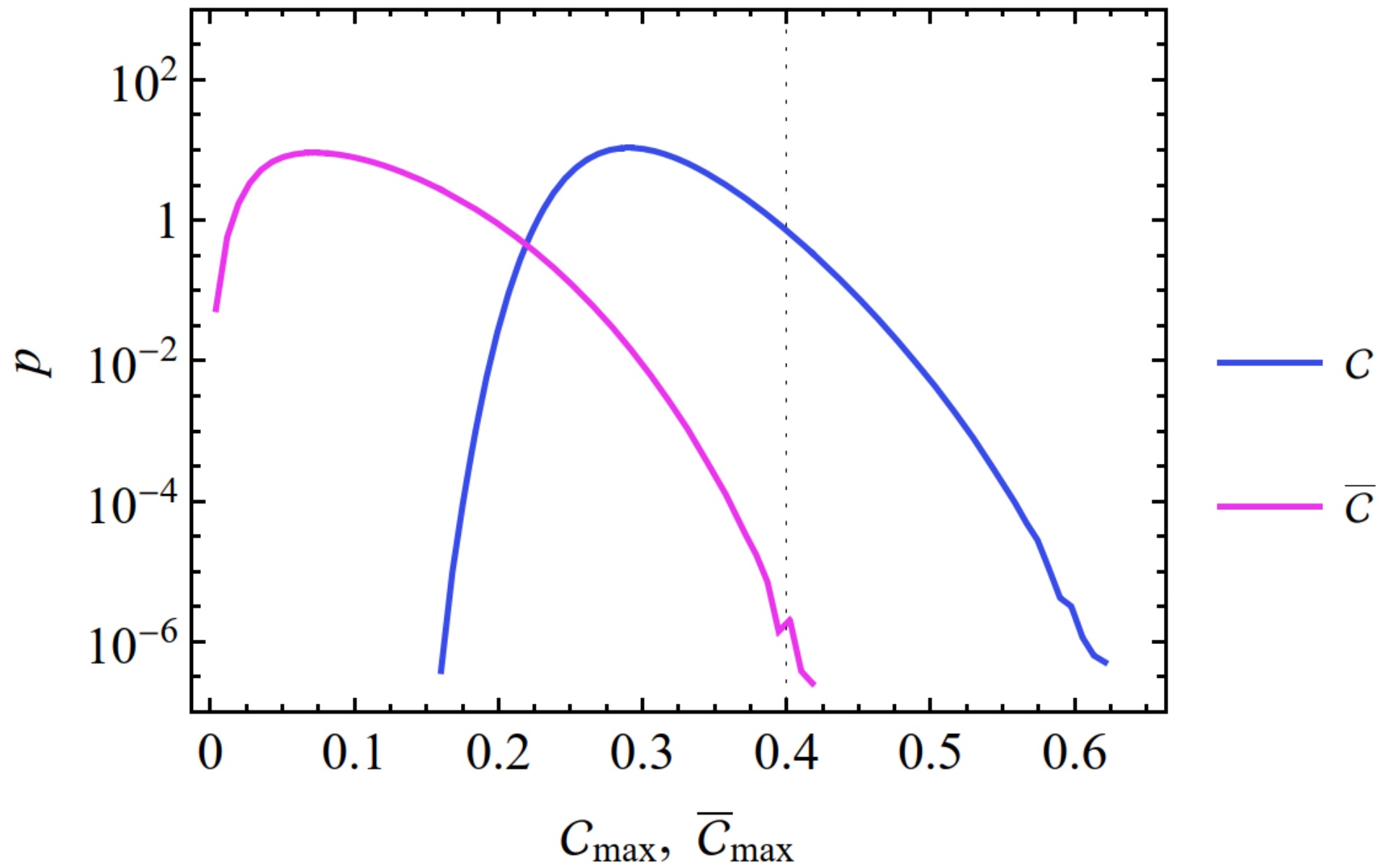
$$\zeta_{<k} = \Delta N_{<k} = -\frac{2}{\epsilon_2} \ln \left(1 - \frac{\epsilon_2}{2} X_{<k} \right) = -\frac{2}{\epsilon_2} \ln \left(1 - \frac{\epsilon_2}{2} \sum_{\tilde{k}=k_{\text{ini}}}^k \sqrt{\mathcal{P}_{\mathcal{R}}(\tilde{k})} d \ln \tilde{k} \hat{\xi}_{\tilde{k}} \right)$$

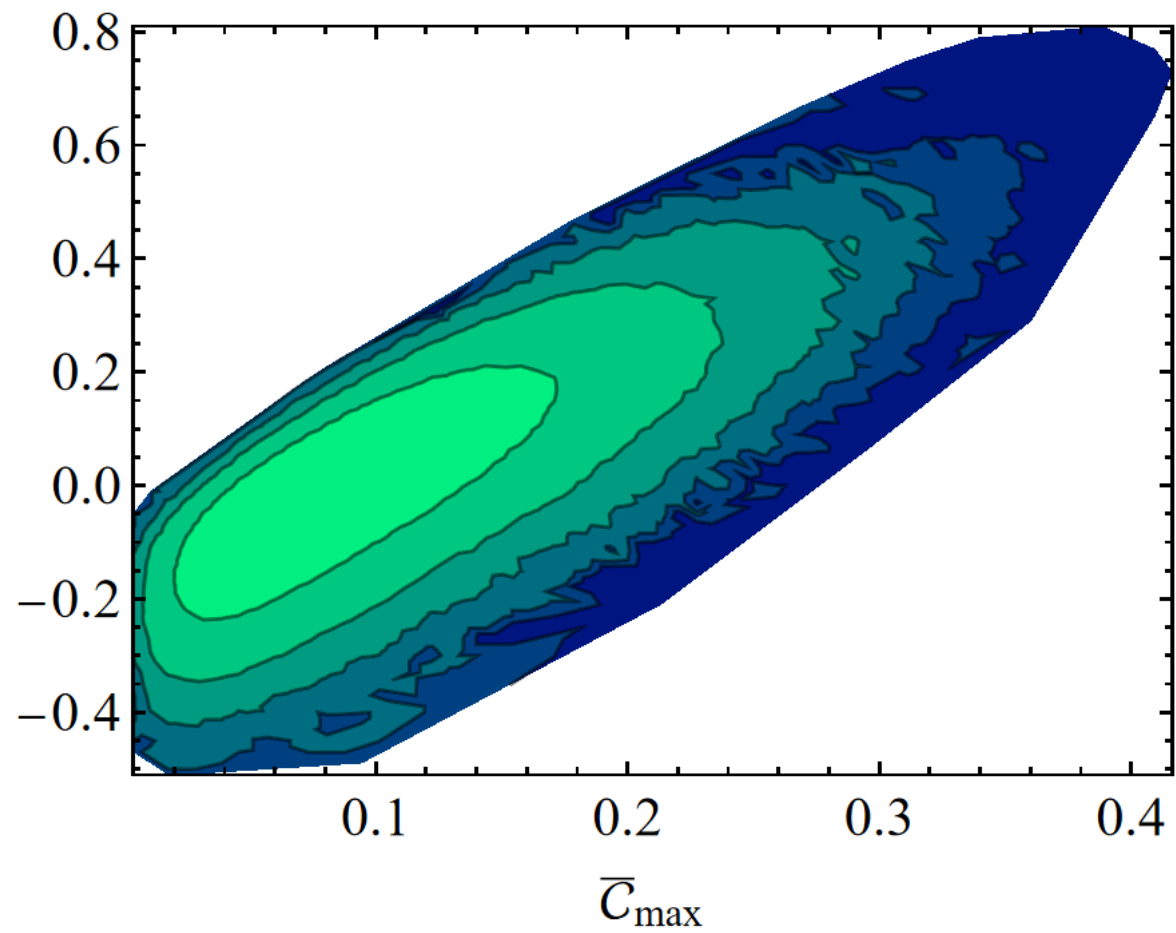
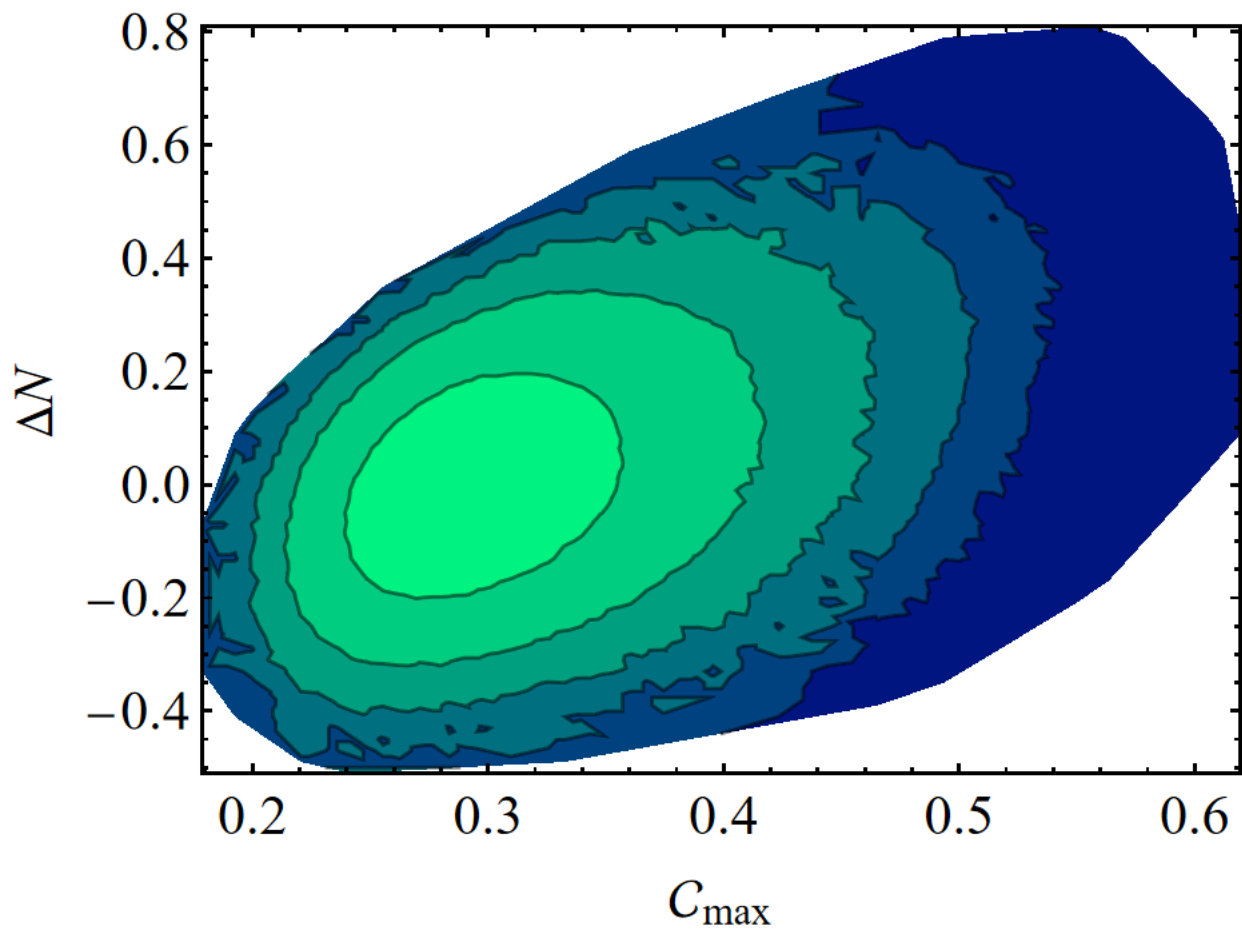
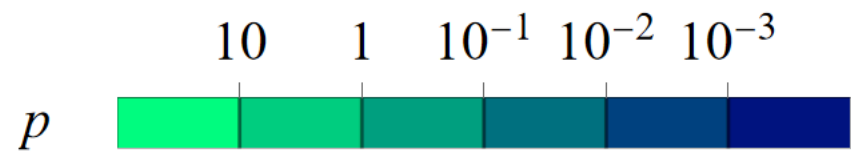
Master formula

$$r\zeta'(r) = \sum_k \left[- \frac{\hat{\xi}_k}{1 - \frac{\epsilon_2}{2} X_{<k}} \sqrt{\mathcal{P}_\zeta(k)} d \ln k \right. \\ \left. + \frac{\epsilon_2}{4 \left(1 - \frac{\epsilon_2}{2} X_{<k}\right)^2} \mathcal{P}_\zeta(k) d \ln k \right] \\ \times \left[\cos(kr) - \frac{\sin(kr)}{kr} \right]$$

— ζ — c — \bar{c}







Initial PBH fractions

Gaussian approximation, $\mathcal{R}_{<k} > 1$, fixed k : $\beta \approx 5 \times 10^{-16}$

Non-Gaussian statistics, $\mathcal{R}_{<k} > 1$, fixed k : $\beta \approx 2.2 \times 10^{-11}$

$\bar{\mathcal{C}}_{\max} > 0.4$: $\beta \approx 1.4 \times 10^{-8}$

$\mathcal{C}_{\max} > 0.4$: $\beta \approx 0.016$

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Axion-like curvaton

$$V(\psi) = \Lambda_a^4 \left[1 - \cos\left(\frac{N_{\text{DW}}\psi}{f_a}\right) \right]$$

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During inflation:

$$d\psi = \sigma_N \sqrt{dN} \xi_N, \quad \sigma_N \equiv \frac{H_*}{2\pi}, \quad \langle \xi_N \xi_{N'} \rangle = \delta(N - N')$$

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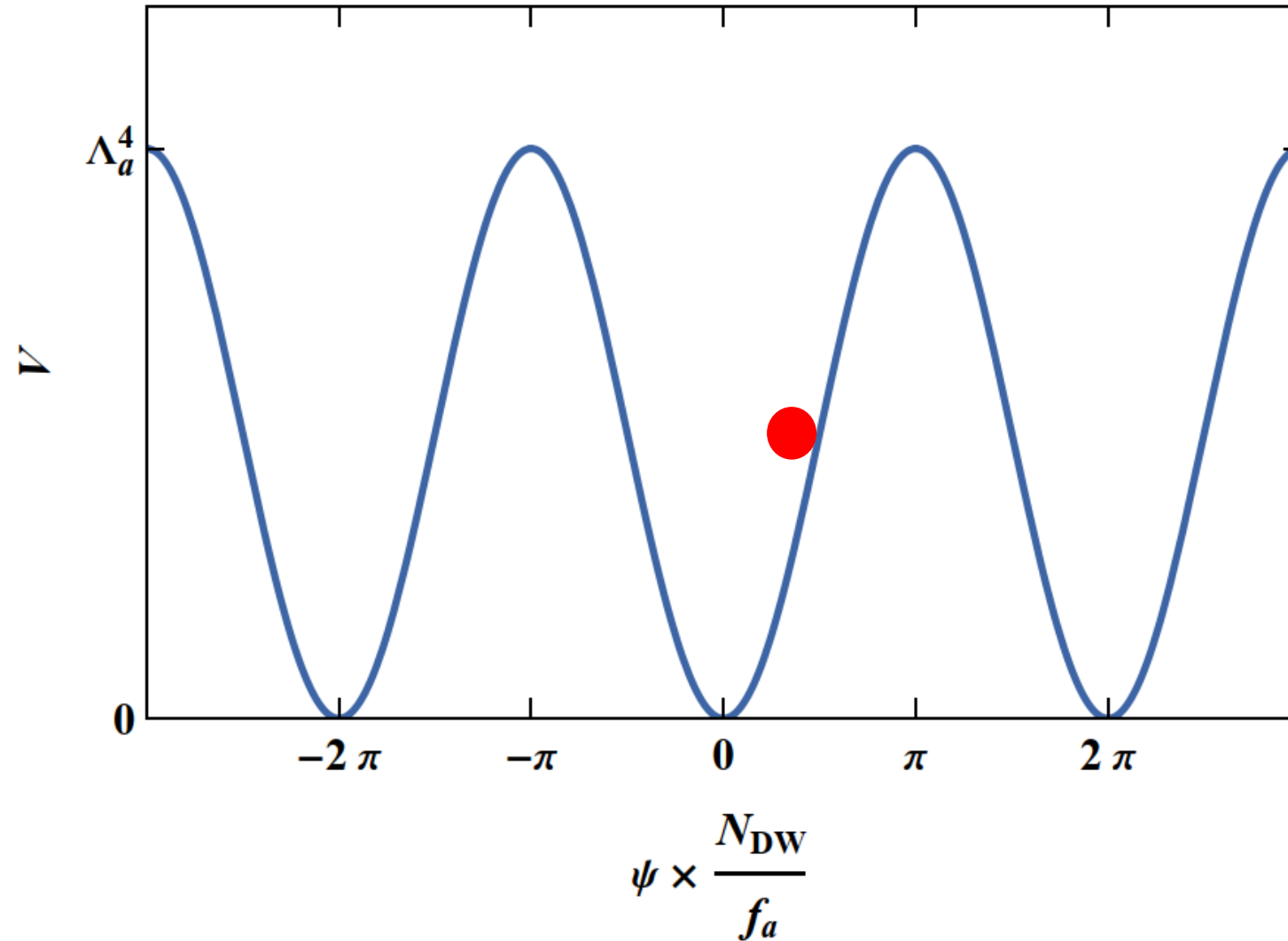
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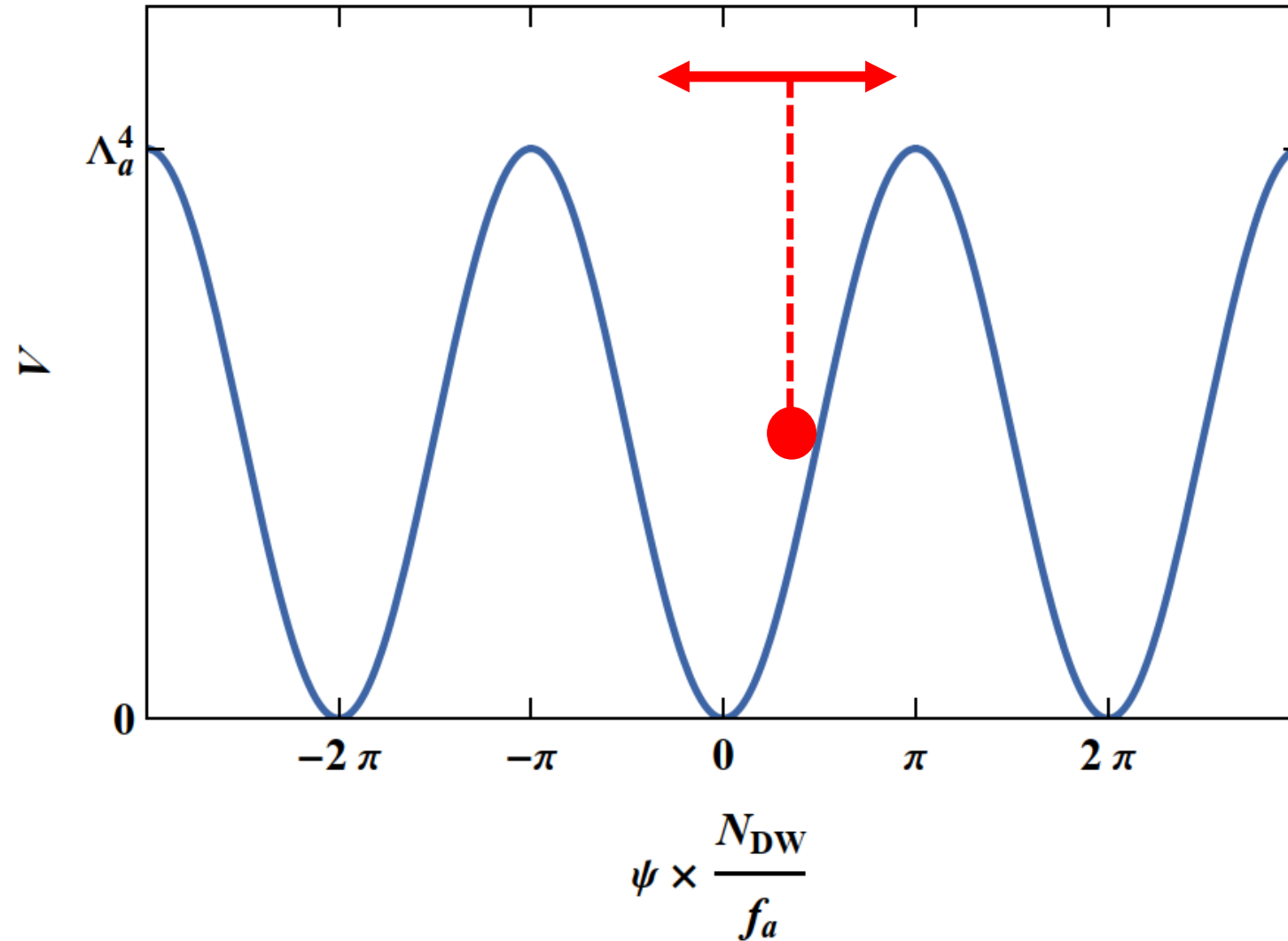
After inflation:

$$\psi'' + \left[\left(3 - \frac{1}{2} \psi'^2 \right) - \frac{2}{3} \frac{\rho_r}{H^2} \right] \psi' + \frac{V'}{H^2} = 0, \quad H^2 = \frac{V + \rho_r}{3 - \frac{1}{2} \psi'^2}, \quad \rho_r = \rho_{\text{dec}} e^{-4N_p}$$

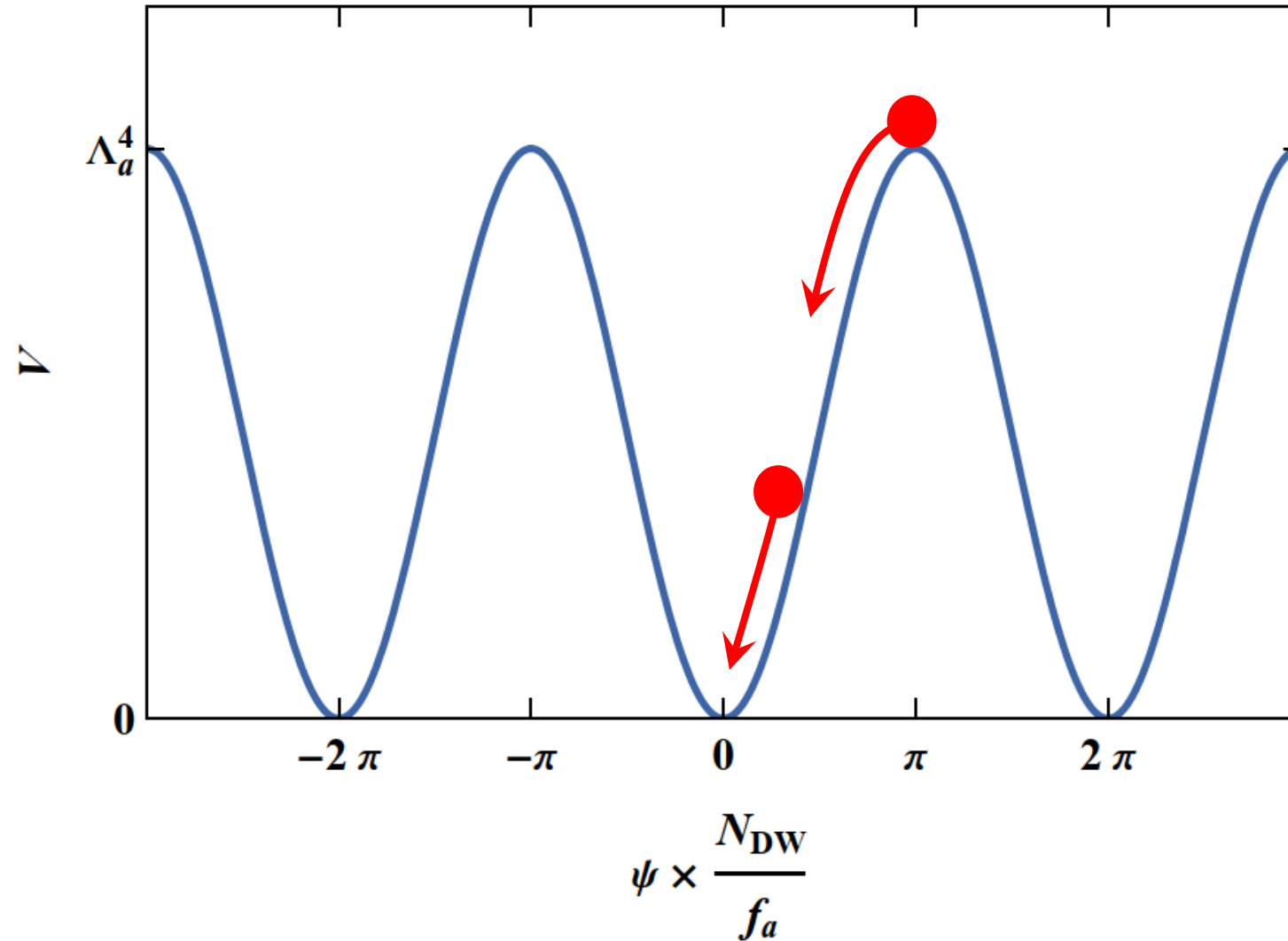
Axion-like curvaton



Axion-like curvaton



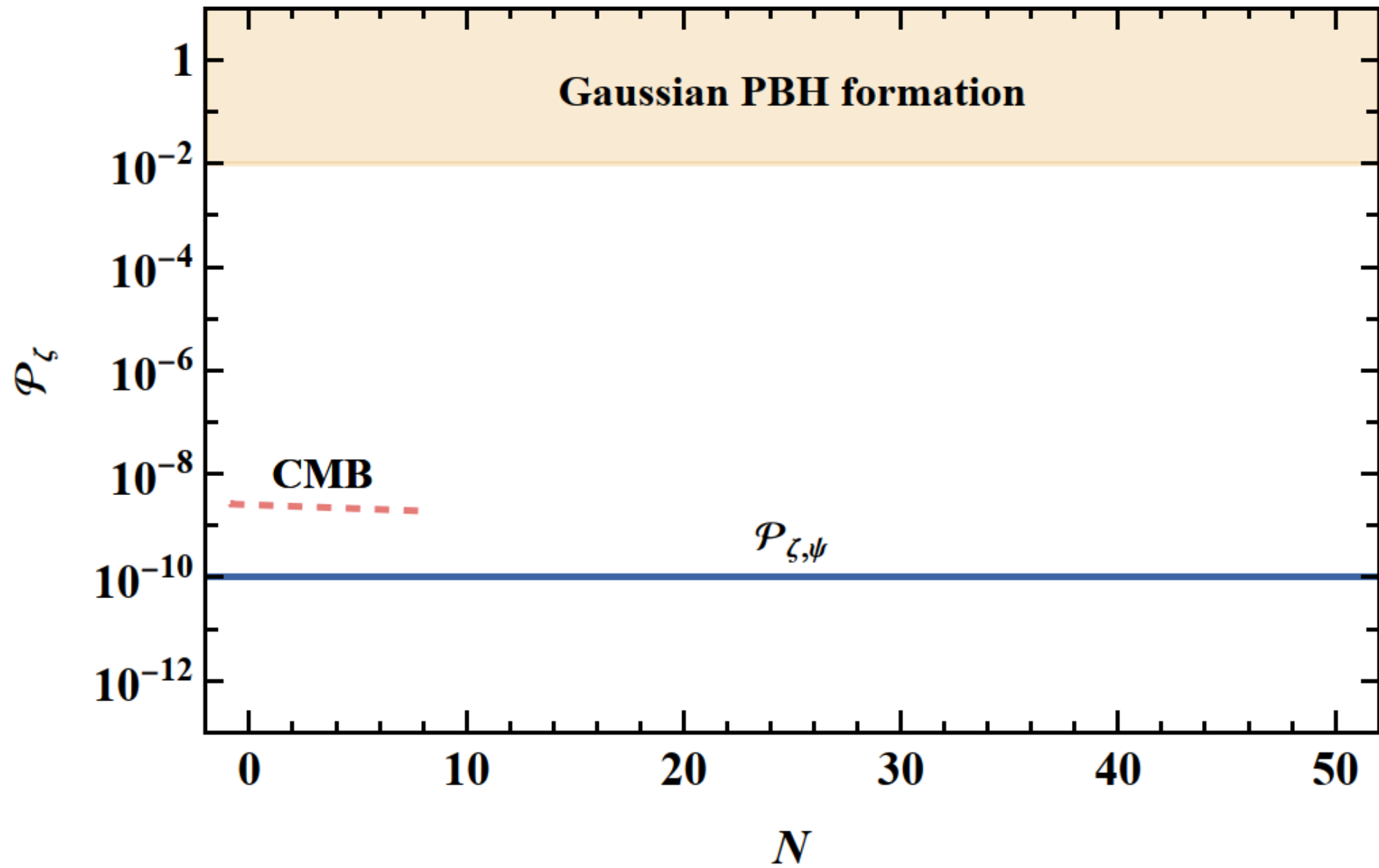
Axion-like curvaton



Cosmological perturbations

Curvaton decays;
curvature perturbation through ΔN formalism


$$\mathcal{P}_{\zeta,\psi}(k) = \mathcal{P}_{\psi}(k) \tilde{N}_{\psi_0}^2 = \frac{H^2(k)}{4\pi^2} \tilde{N}_{\psi_0}^2$$



Cosmological perturbations

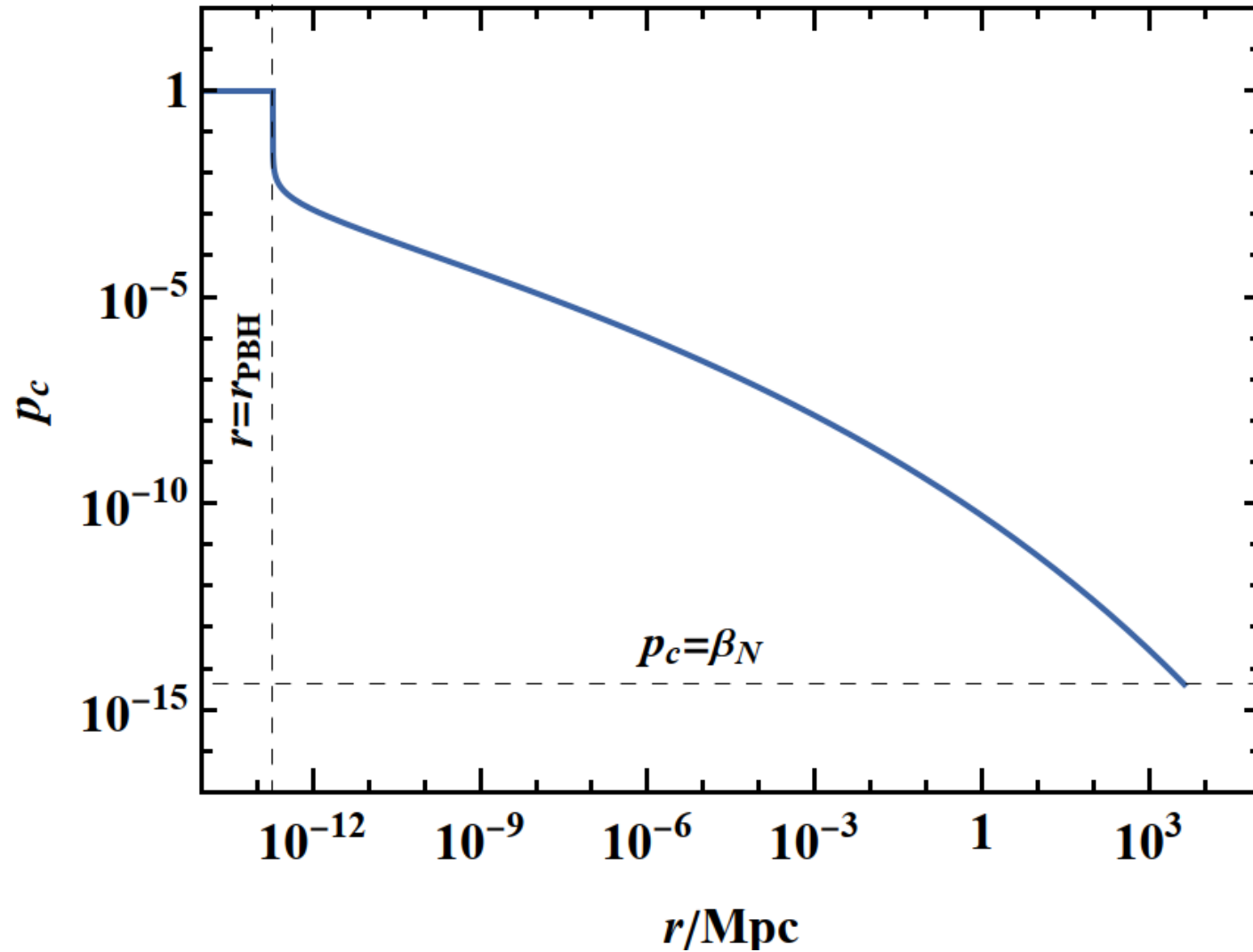
Curvaton decays;

curvature perturbation through ΔN formalism

$$c = \frac{2}{3} \left[1 - \left(1 + \frac{d\zeta(r)}{d \ln r} \right)^2 \right]$$


$$P(C_l, N) = \frac{b}{2\sqrt{N}\pi C_l^2} e^{-\frac{(\pi - \theta_0)^2}{2q^2 N} - \frac{1}{2}}$$

Clustering of PBHs

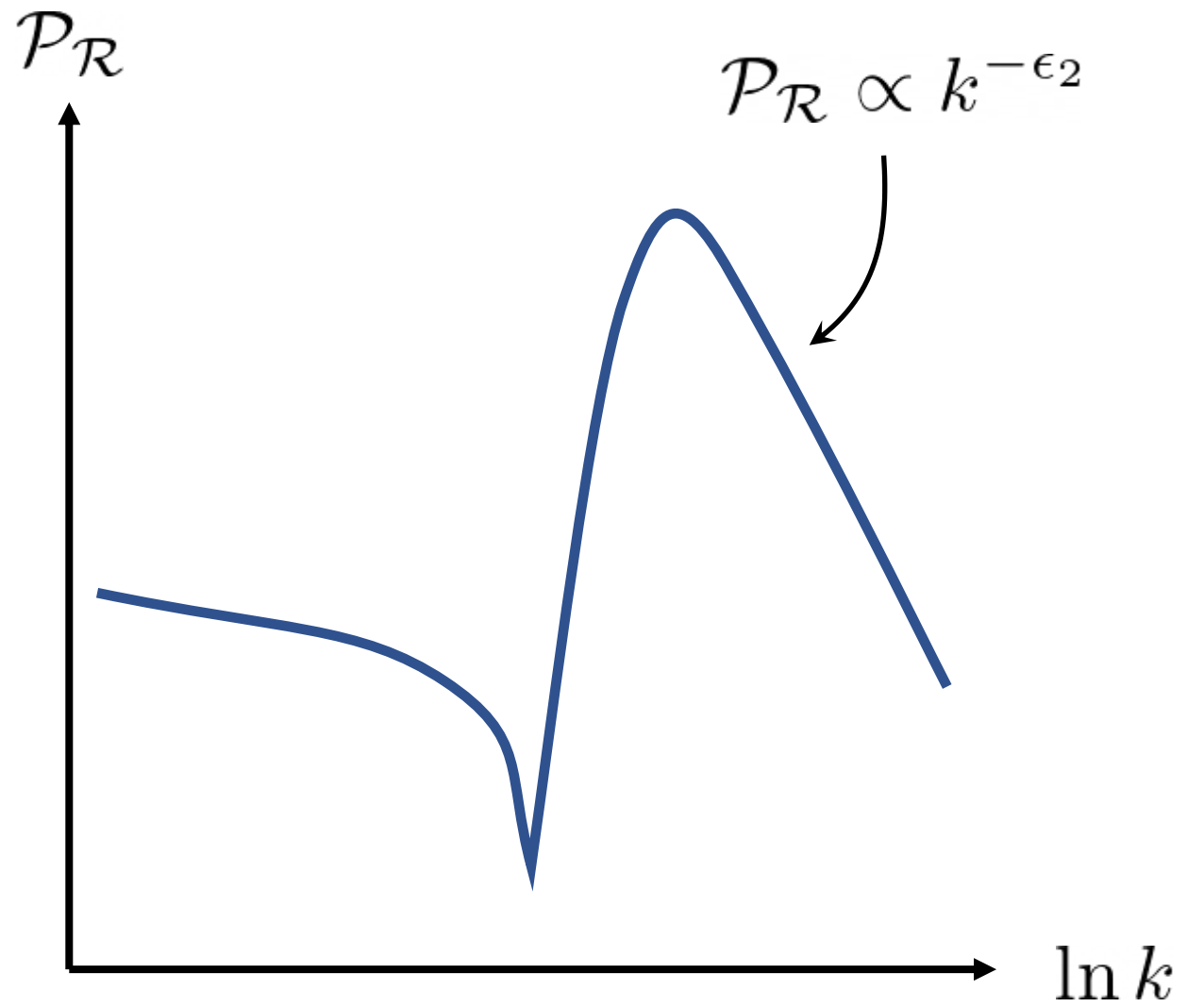
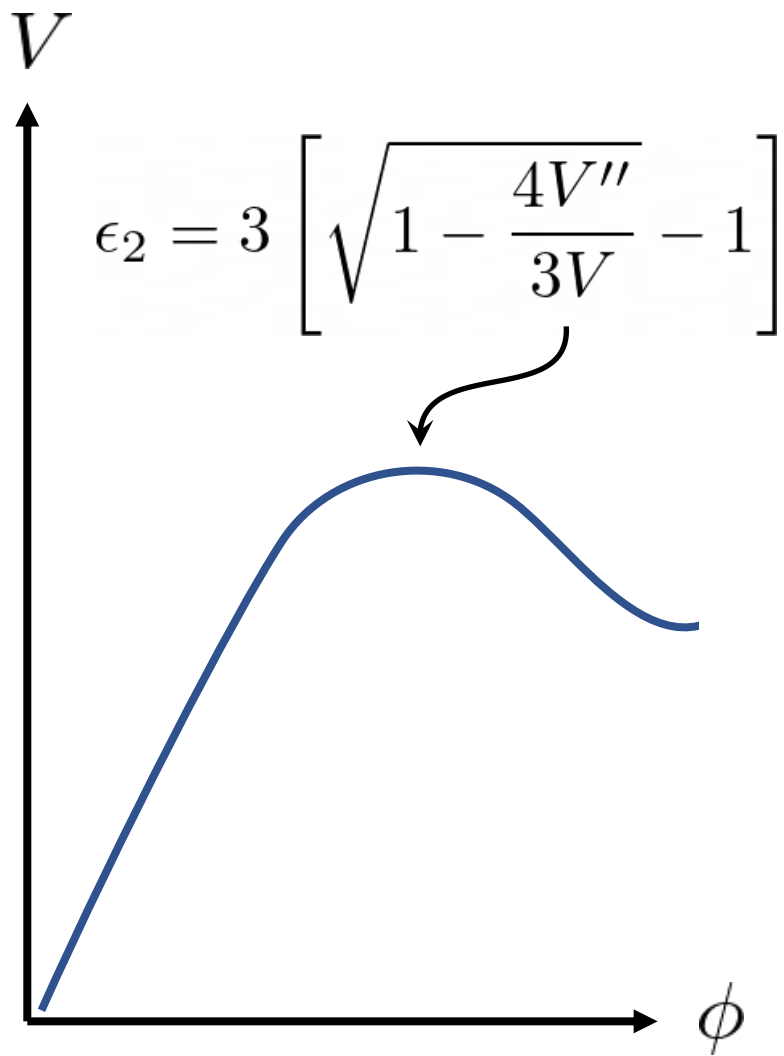


Conclusions

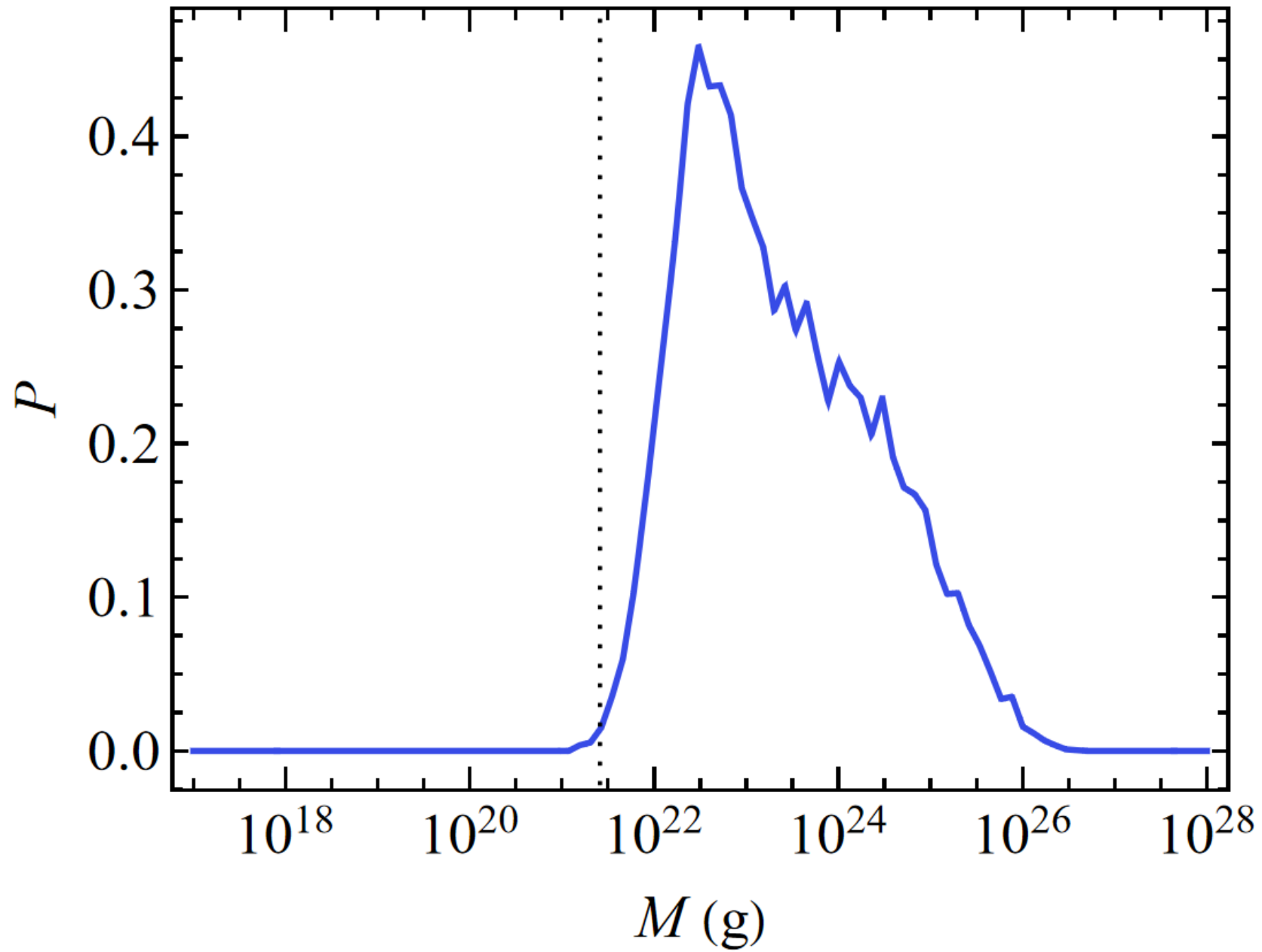
Stochastic inflation introduces non-Gaussian corrections to PBH statistics

Compaction function formalism needed for accurate results

Future directions:
resolving sharp peaks, considering PBH clustering



[2205.13540]



Alternative collapse measure:
averaged compaction function

$$\begin{aligned}\bar{\mathcal{C}}(r) &\equiv \frac{3}{R(r)^3} \int_0^{R(r)} d\tilde{R} \tilde{R}^2 \mathcal{C} \\ &= -\frac{2}{r^3 e^{3\zeta(r)}} \int_0^r d\tilde{r} \tilde{r}^2 e^{3\zeta} [2\tilde{r}\zeta' + 3(\tilde{r}\zeta')^2 + (\tilde{r}\zeta')^3]\end{aligned}$$

$R = a r e^\zeta$