

Stochastic inflation and primordial black holes

Valencia, 14 May 2021

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Based on 2012.06551, in collaboration with D. Figueroa,
S. Raatikainen, S. Räsänen

Concepts

Cosmic inflation

- Accelerating expansion of space in the early universe

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Cosmological perturbations

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Primordial black holes

- Dark matter candidate

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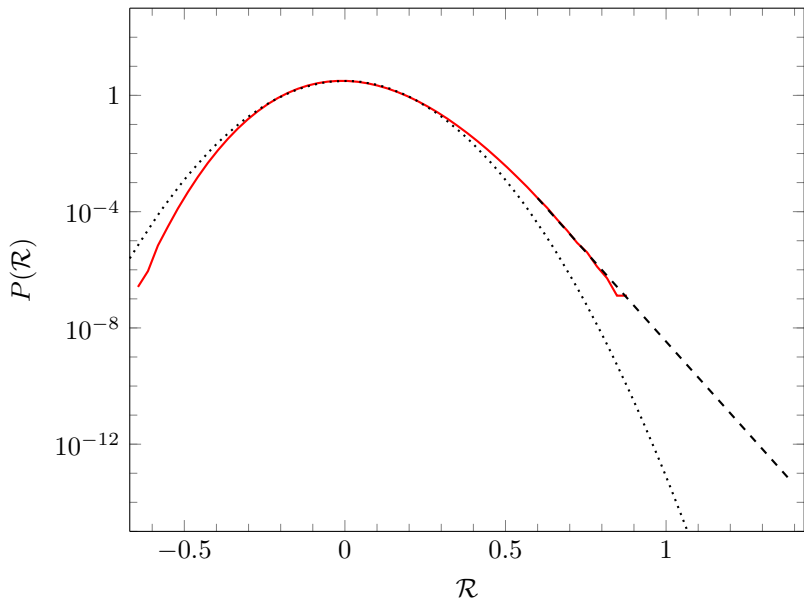
Stochastic inflation

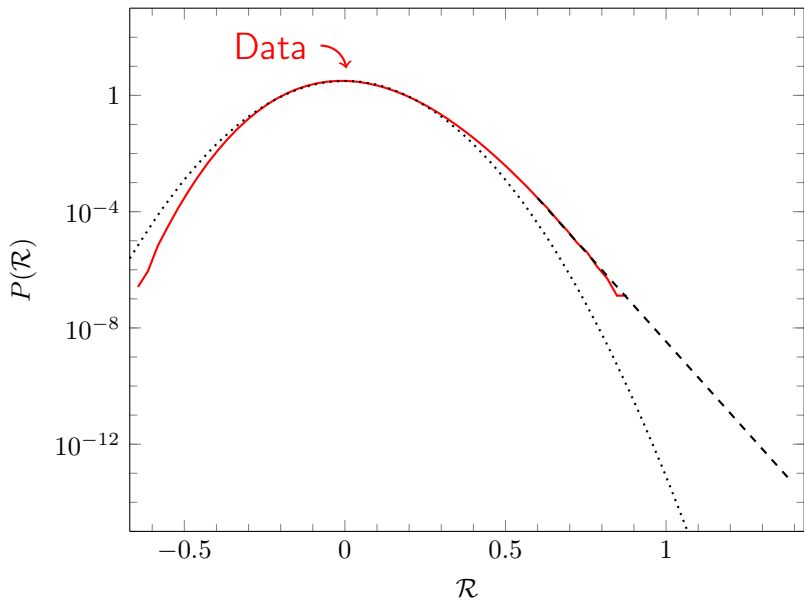
- Includes non-linear effects

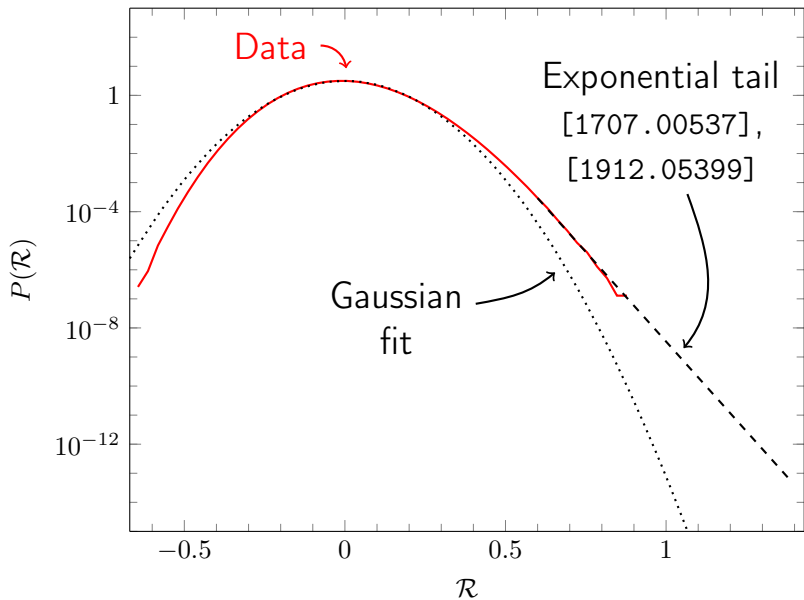
Concepts

Stochastic inflation

- Includes non-linear effects
- Numerical method: even more non-linearities







Cosmic inflation

Hypothetical era in the early universe with accelerating expansion: $\ddot{a}(t) > 0$

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Explains origin of cosmological perturbations

Cosmic inflation with a scalar field

$\ddot{a}(t) > 0$ accomplished by scalar field matter

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

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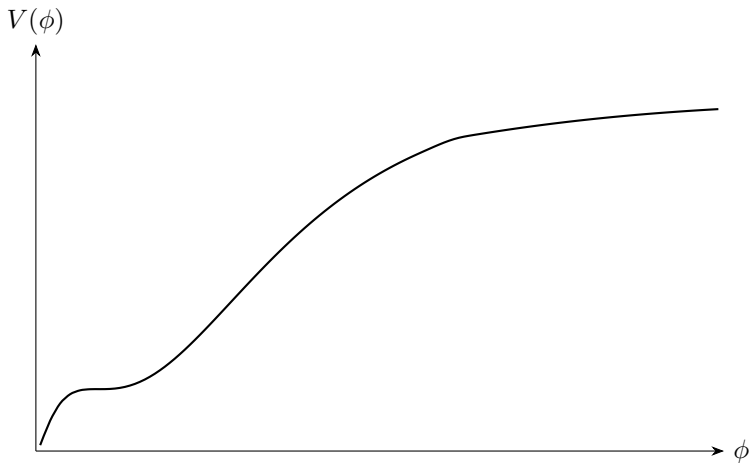
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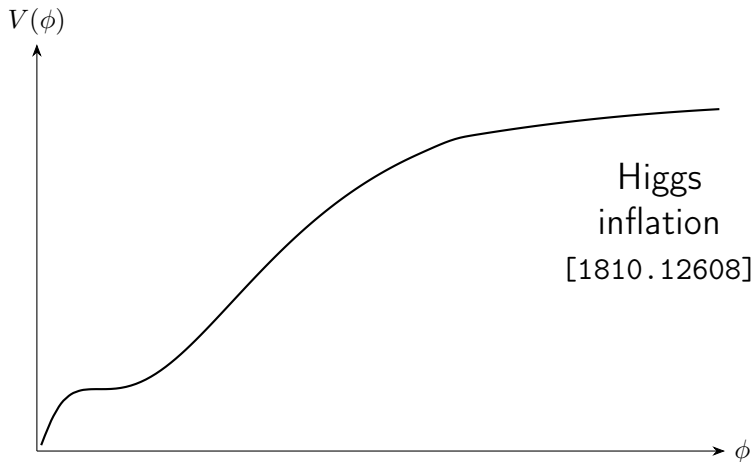
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Inflation happens when $V(\phi)$ dominates over $\dot{\phi}^2$

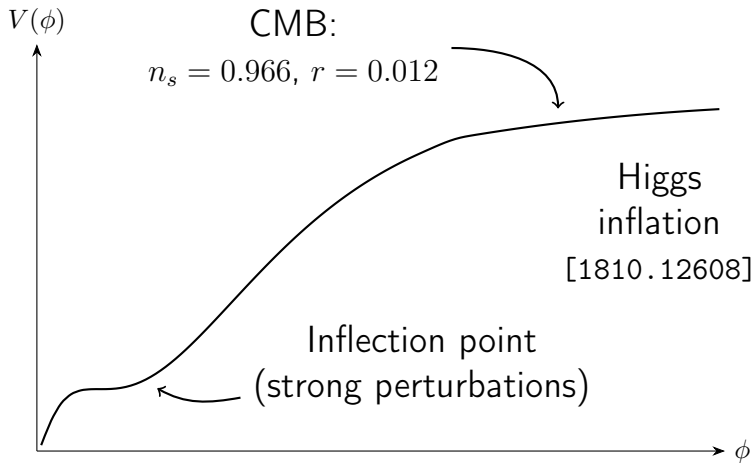
Our example model is typical



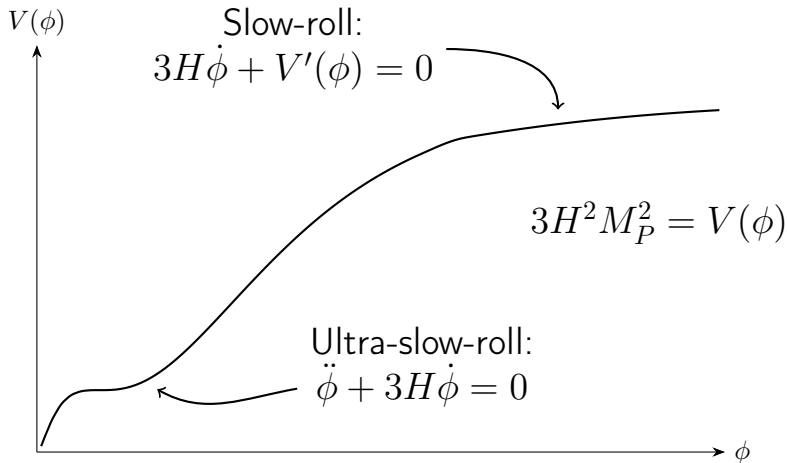
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Perturbations depend on scale

Origin of perturbations: fluctuations of quantum vacuum

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Space expands and perturbations get stretched

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Strong perturbations from ultra-slow-roll inflation

Linear perturbation theory

Expand to linear order:

$$\delta\ddot{\phi}_{\vec{k}} + 3H\delta\dot{\phi}_{\vec{k}} + V''(\phi)\delta\phi_{\vec{k}} = 0$$

Comoving curvature perturbation and its power spectrum:

$$\mathcal{R}_{\vec{k}} = \frac{\delta\phi_{\vec{k}}H}{\dot{\phi}}, \quad \mathcal{P}_{\mathcal{R}}(k) = \frac{k^3}{2\pi^2} |\mathcal{R}_{\vec{k}}|^2$$

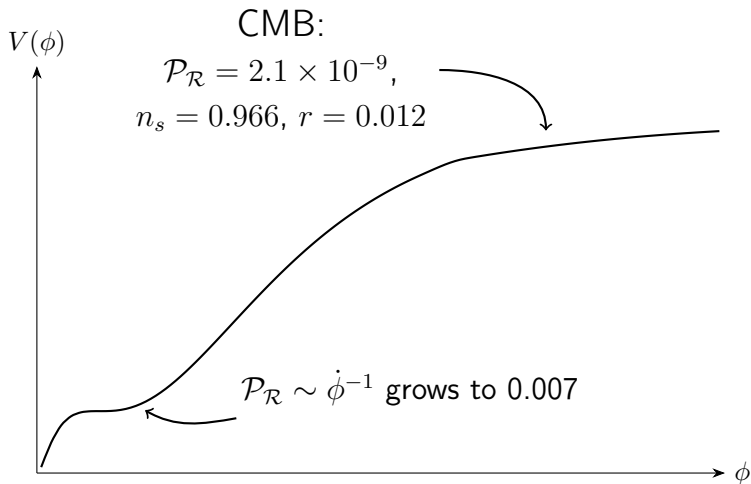
CMB observables in slow-roll

$$\mathcal{P}_{\mathcal{R}}(k) = A_s \left(\frac{k}{k_*} \right)^{n_s - 1}, \quad A_s = \frac{V}{24\pi^2 \epsilon_V},$$
$$n_s = 1 - 6\epsilon_V + 2\eta_V, \quad r = 16\epsilon_V,$$
$$\epsilon_V = \frac{M_P^2}{2} \left(\frac{V'}{V} \right)^2, \quad \eta_V = M_P^2 \frac{V''}{V}.$$

Observations (Planck):

$$k_* = 0.05 \text{Mpc}^{-1}, \quad A_s \approx 2.1 \times 10^{-9},$$
$$n_s \approx 0.96, \quad r \lesssim 0.08$$

Our example model



Must go beyond linear perturbations

Coarse-grain perturbations over super-Hubble scales

Gradient expansion: to leading order, coarse-grained perturbations follow locally (non-linear)

FLRW equations [Class.Q.Grav.9,1943(1992)]

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ΔN formalism: from FLRW variables to perturbation variables [astro-ph/9507001]

- Change in e-folds of expansion $\Delta N = \Delta \ln a =$ curvature perturbation \mathcal{R}

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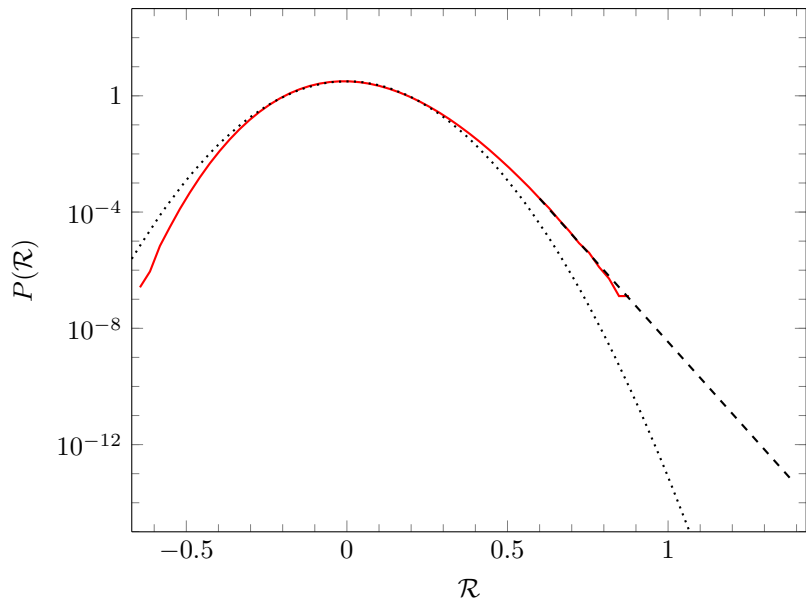
Result: 'kicks' to coarse-grained field.
Random due to quantum initial conditions

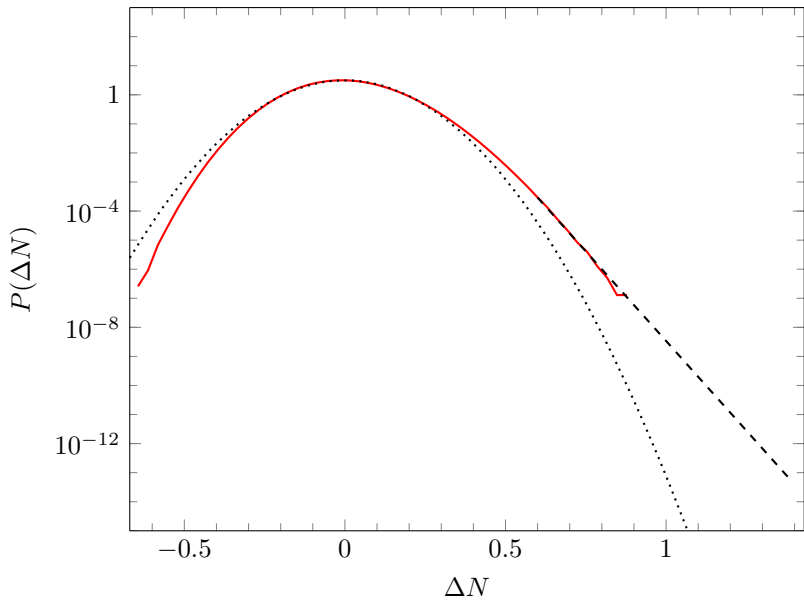
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Stochastic evolution of local coarse-grained field
[Lect.Notes Phys.246,107(1986)]





PBHs form from strong perturbations

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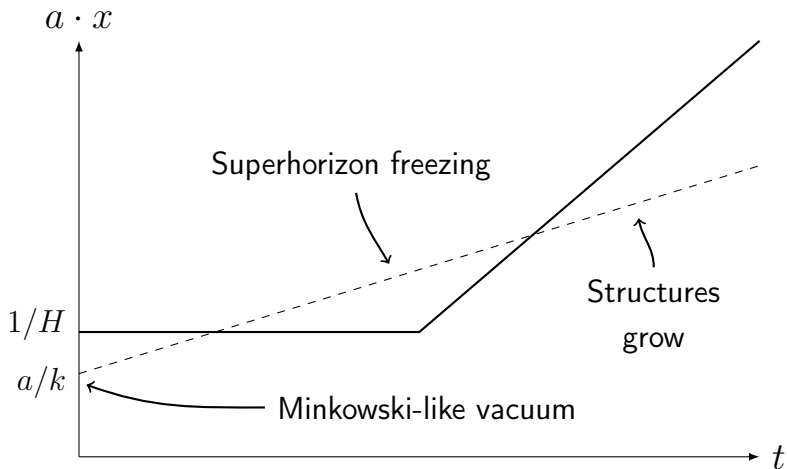
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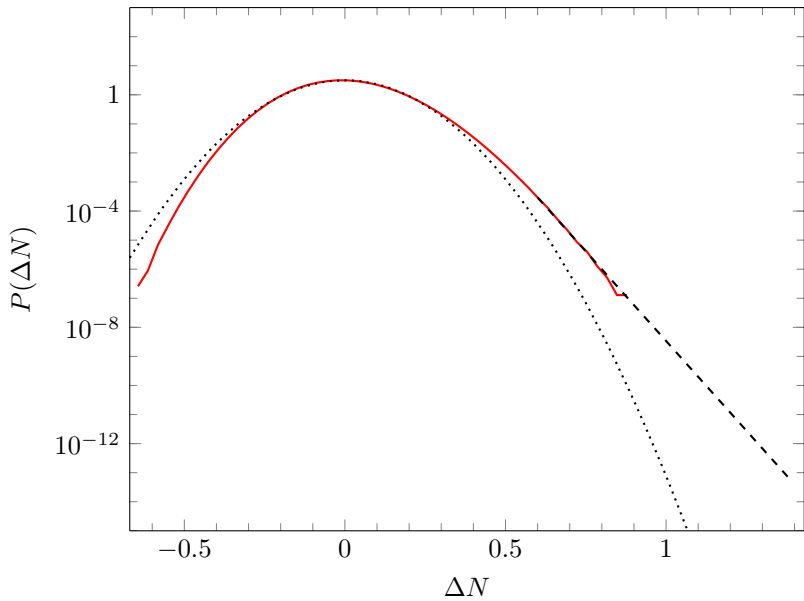
Perturbation collapses to black hole if it exceeds threshold

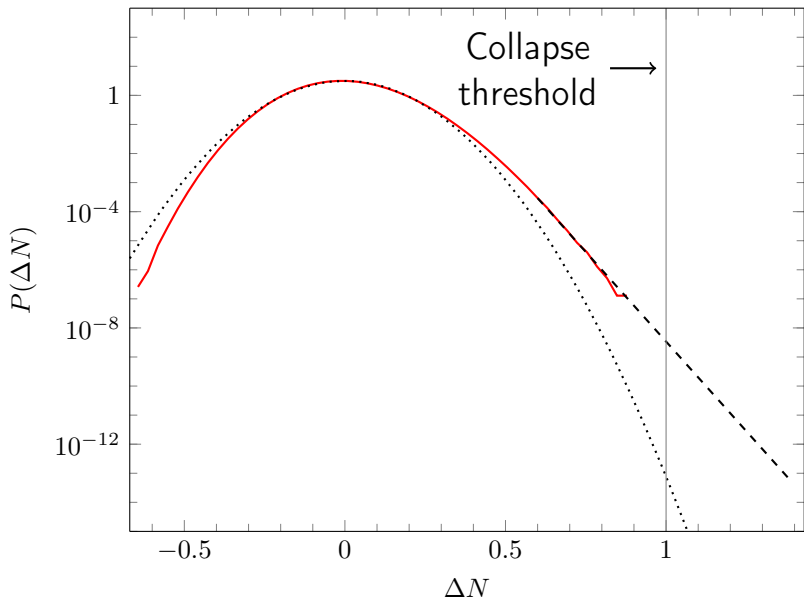
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BH mass = all the mass inside one Hubble radius when the scale re-enters

Evolution of length scales







Dividing the field

Divide inflaton field ϕ into coarse-grained and short wavelength perturbations:

$$\phi = \underbrace{\int_{k < k_c} \frac{d^3k}{(2\pi)^{3/2}} \phi_{\vec{k}} e^{-i\vec{k}\cdot\vec{x}}}_{\bar{\phi}} + \underbrace{\int_{k > k_c} \frac{d^3k}{(2\pi)^{3/2}} \phi_{\vec{k}} e^{-i\vec{k}\cdot\vec{x}}}_{\delta\phi}$$

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Define coarse-grained field momentum:

$$\bar{\pi} = \int_{k < k_c} \frac{d^3 k}{(2\pi)^{3/2}} \frac{\partial}{\partial N} \phi_{\vec{k}} e^{-i\vec{k}\cdot\vec{x}}$$

Coarse-graining induces noise

Time derivatives:

$$\bar{\phi}' = \bar{\pi} + \xi_{\phi}$$

$$\bar{\pi}' = \int_{k < k_c} \frac{d^3k}{(2\pi)^{3/2}} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial N^2} \phi_{\vec{k}} e^{-i\vec{k}\cdot\vec{x}} + \xi_{\pi}$$

ξ_{ϕ} , ξ_{π} are noise from drifting Fourier-modes
(random due to quantum initial conditions)

Field equations become stochastic

Full scalar field equation:

$$\partial^\mu \partial_\mu \phi - V'(\phi) = 0$$

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Full scalar field equation:

$$\phi'' + \left(3 + \frac{H'}{H}\right)\phi' - \frac{1}{a^2 H^2} \nabla^2 \phi + \frac{V'(\phi)}{H^2} = 0$$

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Full scalar field equation:

$$\begin{aligned} & \int \frac{d^3k}{(2\pi)^{3/2}} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial N^2} \phi_{\vec{k}} e^{-i\vec{k}\cdot\vec{x}} + \left(3 + \frac{H'}{H}\right) (\bar{\pi} + \delta\pi) \\ & - \frac{1}{a^2 H^2} \nabla^2 \bar{\phi} - \frac{1}{a^2 H^2} \nabla^2 \delta\phi \\ & + \frac{1}{H^2} \left(V'(\bar{\phi}) + \frac{1}{2} V''(\bar{\phi}) \delta\phi + \frac{1}{6} V'''(\bar{\phi}) \delta\phi^2 + \dots \right) \\ & = 0 \end{aligned}$$

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$$\bar{\phi}' = \bar{\pi} + \xi_\phi$$

$$\delta\phi''_{\vec{k}} + \left(3 + \frac{H'}{H}\right)\delta\phi'_{\vec{k}} + \left(\frac{k^2}{a^2H^2} + \frac{1}{H^2}V''(\bar{\phi})\right)\delta\phi_{\vec{k}} = 0$$

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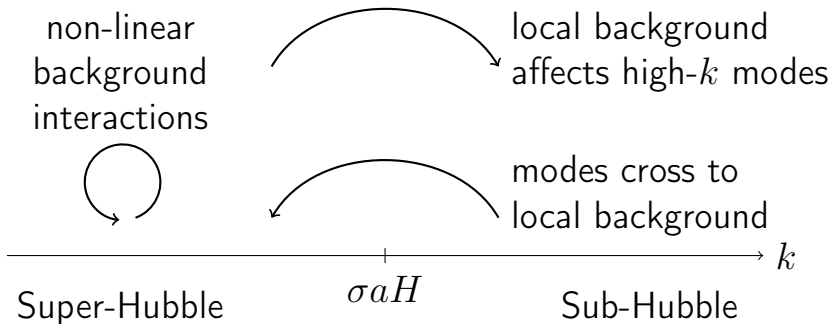
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$$3H^2 = \frac{1}{2}\bar{\pi}^2 + V(\bar{\phi})$$

Non-linear interactions included



Perturbations start in Bunch-Davies vacuum

Perturbation initial conditions are

$$\delta\phi_{\vec{k}} = \frac{1}{a\sqrt{2k}}, \quad \delta\phi'_{\vec{k}} = -\left(1 + i\frac{k}{aH}\right)\delta\phi_{\vec{k}}$$

We follow modes from deep within the Hubble radius to coarse-graining scale to get the kicks

Discrete time steps give finite kicks

Free quantum scalar field: Gaussian statistics,
white noise,

$$\langle \xi_\phi^2 \rangle = \langle (\Delta \bar{\phi})^2 \rangle = dN \frac{k^3}{2\pi^2} \left(1 + \frac{H'}{H}\right) |\delta\phi_{\vec{k}}|^2$$

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Squeezed state: ξ_ϕ and ξ_π are highly correlated, so that $\Delta \bar{\pi} = \frac{\delta\phi'_{\vec{k}}}{\delta\phi_{\vec{k}}} \Delta \bar{\phi}$

Kicks are turned off when target
scale reached

We are interested in PBHs with $M_{\text{PBH}} = 10^{-14} M_{\odot}$,
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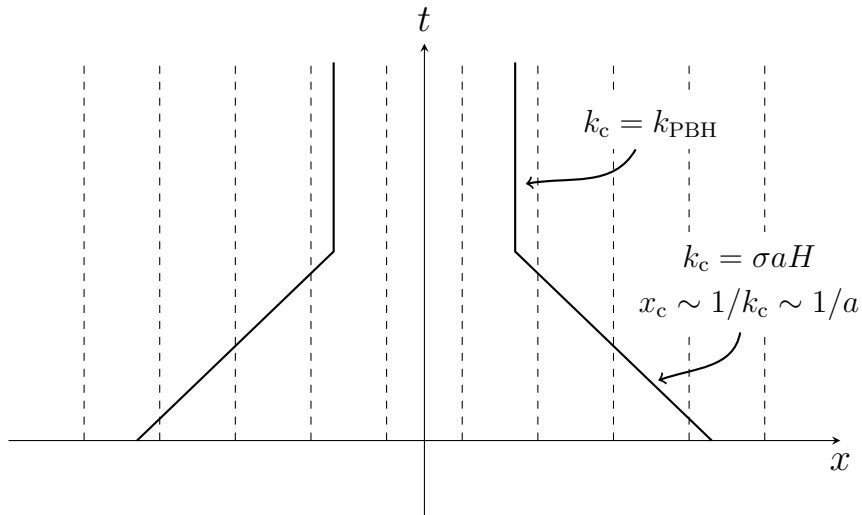
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Continue evolution to a fixed field value and store $\Delta N = \mathcal{R}$

Evolution of patch size



Algorithm 1: Evolution for each run

Set initial values for N , $\bar{\phi}$, $\bar{\pi}$. Set $k_{\text{next}} = k_*$. Set current kick coefficient to zero.

while $\bar{\phi} > \bar{\phi}_f$ **do**

Evolve N , $\bar{\phi}$, $\bar{\pi}$.

for all modes k in the simulation **do**

if $k > \sigma aH$ **then**

 Evolve $\delta\phi_{\vec{k}}$, $\delta\phi'_{\vec{k}}$.

else

 Evolve $\delta\phi_{\vec{k}}$, $\delta\phi'_{\vec{k}}$ to $k = \sigma aH$. Set the current kick coefficient from $\delta\phi_{\vec{k}}$, $\delta\phi'_{\vec{k}}$. Remove mode k from the simulation.

if $k_{\text{next}} \leq k_{\text{PBH}}$ **then**

if $k_{\text{next}} \leq \alpha aH$ **then**

 Add mode $k = k_{\text{next}}$ to the simulation. Set initial values for $\delta\phi_{\vec{k}}$, $\delta\phi'_{\vec{k}}$. Evolve $\delta\phi_{\vec{k}}$, $\delta\phi'_{\vec{k}}$ from $k = \alpha aH$. Set

$k_{\text{next}} = e^{1/32} k_{\text{next}}$.

else

if $k_{\text{next}} \leq \sigma aH$ **then**

 Set the current kick coefficient to zero.

 Add stochastic kick to $\bar{\phi}$, $\bar{\pi}$ using the current kick coefficient.

Want tiny initial PBH fraction

PBH fraction today:

$$\Omega_{\text{PBH}} \approx 9 \times 10^7 \gamma^{\frac{1}{2}} \beta \left(\frac{M}{M_{\odot}} \right)^{-\frac{1}{2}} \sim 0.3$$

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Need initial fraction $\beta \sim 10^{-16}$

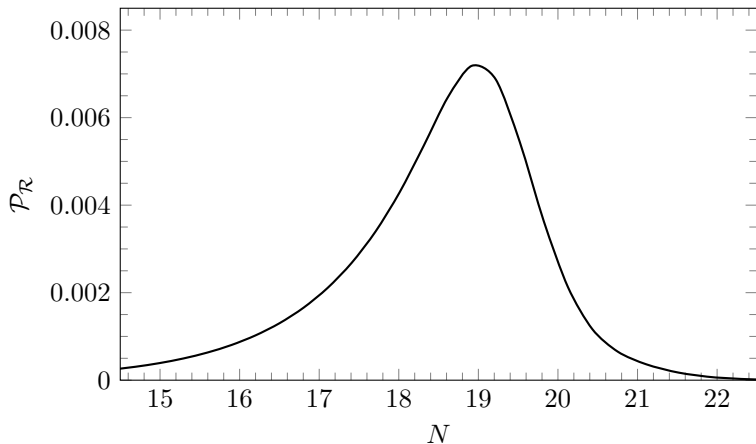
Model fitted by Gaussian approximation

With Gaussian statistics:

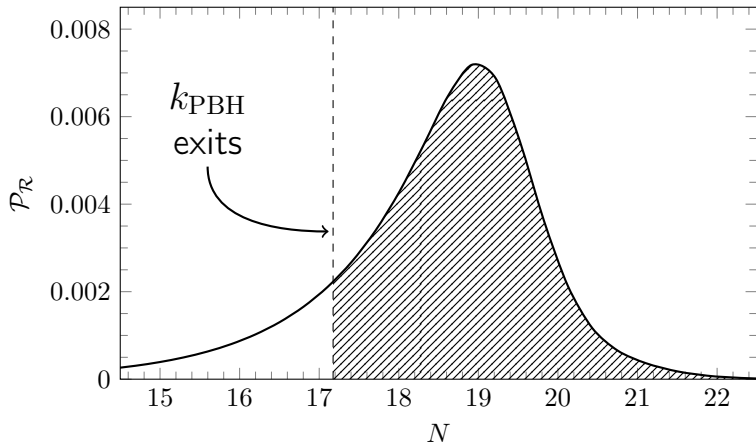
$$\sigma_{\mathcal{R}}^2 \equiv \int^{k_{\text{PBH}}} d(\ln k) \mathcal{P}_{\mathcal{R}}(k)$$

$$\beta = 2 \int_{\mathcal{R}_c}^{\infty} d\mathcal{R} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma_{\mathcal{R}}} e^{-\frac{\mathcal{R}^2}{2\sigma_{\mathcal{R}}^2}} \approx \frac{\sqrt{2}\sigma_{\mathcal{R}}}{\sqrt{\pi}\mathcal{R}_c} e^{-\frac{\mathcal{R}_c^2}{2\sigma_{\mathcal{R}}^2}}$$

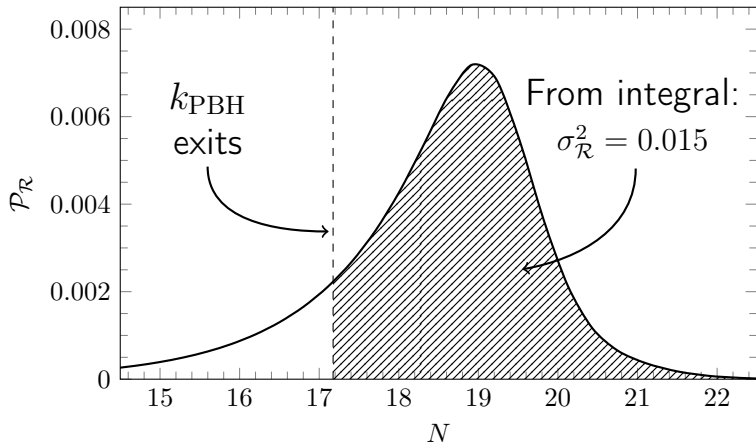
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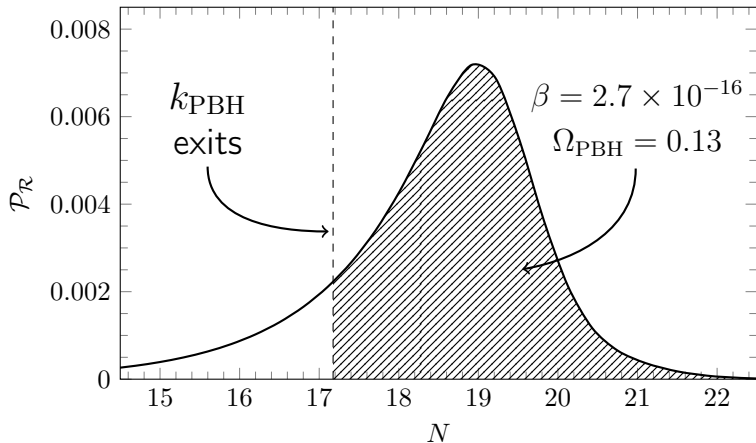
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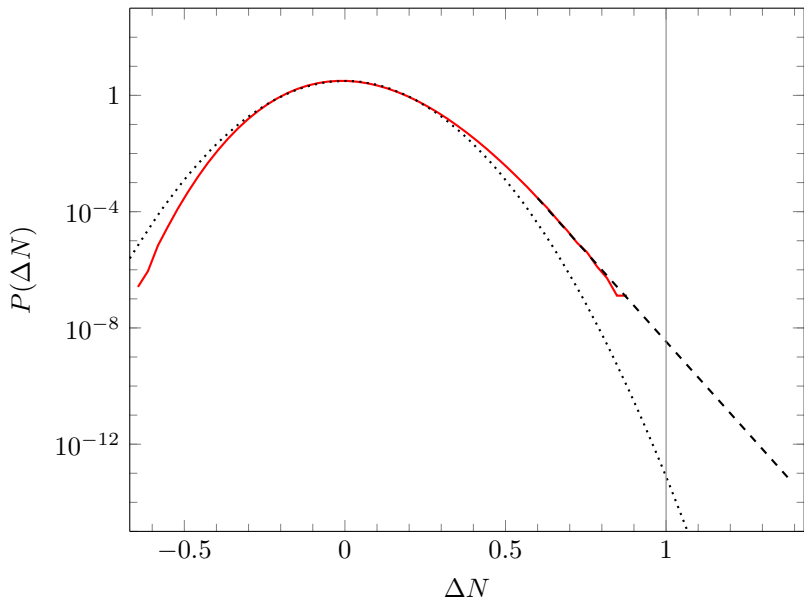


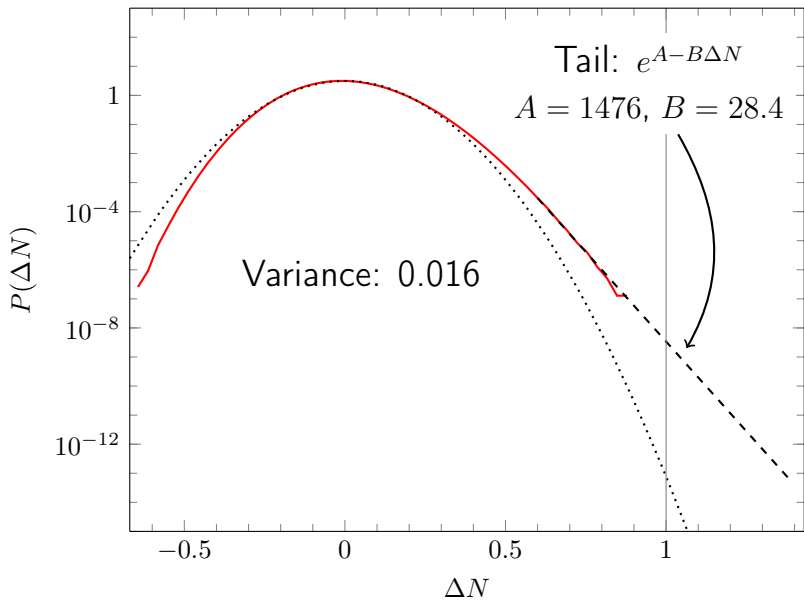
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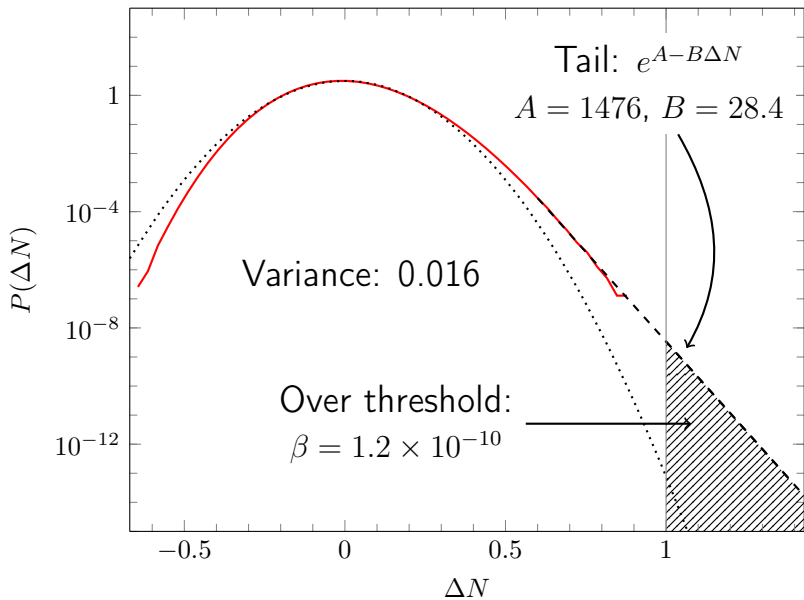


Model fitted by Gaussian approximation









...true abundance much higher

Numerics: exponential tail, with

$$\beta = 1.2 \times 10^{-10}, \quad \Omega_{\text{PBH}} = 5.4 \times 10^4$$

Larger than Gaussian result by factor 10^5 !

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Other sources of error: uncertainty in \mathcal{R}_c ,
window functions, different Gaussian
computation schemes, ...

Future directions

More statistics

More models

Full mass spectrum

Correlations between different scales

Conclusions

Inflation produces cosmological perturbations

Strongest perturbations collapse to black holes

Non-Gaussian tail of probability distribution
important for black hole statistics

Stochastic inflation allows us to probe this

Thank you!

[2012.06551]

What about σ ?

Coarse-graining parameter $\sigma < 1$ is a free parameter

- Results may depend on it

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Want to make a physically well-motivated choice

- Want a lot of non-linear interactions: large σ
- Want kicks to be classical: small σ

Demanding high squeezing sets σ

Classicality measured by squeezing of quantum state

- Squeezed state: phase space probability distribution classical
- Also, ξ_ϕ and ξ_π correlated

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$$\cosh(2r_k) = a^3 \left(\frac{k}{a} |\delta\phi_k|^2 + \frac{a}{k} H^2 |\delta\phi'_k|^2 \right)$$

Our choice: $\sigma = 0.01$ ensures $\cosh(2r_k) > 100$ for all modes when they exit k_c

What about gauge issues?

$\delta\phi$ and thus kicks solved in spatially flat gauge

- Easy to solve

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To have no kicks in scale factor, need uniform- N gauge

Tests and theory: no significant difference
[1905.06300]

Model details

$$V = \frac{\lambda(h)}{4} F(h)^4$$

$$F(h) = \frac{Ah}{\sqrt{1+B\xi(h-C)^2}}, \quad \frac{dh}{d\chi} = \frac{1+\xi h^2}{\sqrt{1+\xi h^2+6\xi^2 h^2}}$$

$$\xi = 38.8$$

$$n_s = 0.966, \quad r = 0.012, \quad A_s = 2.1 \times 10^{-9}$$

USR between 17.2 and 20.8 e-folds

[1810.12608]

Evolution of patch size

