

# The Theory and Practice of Cosmological Perturbations

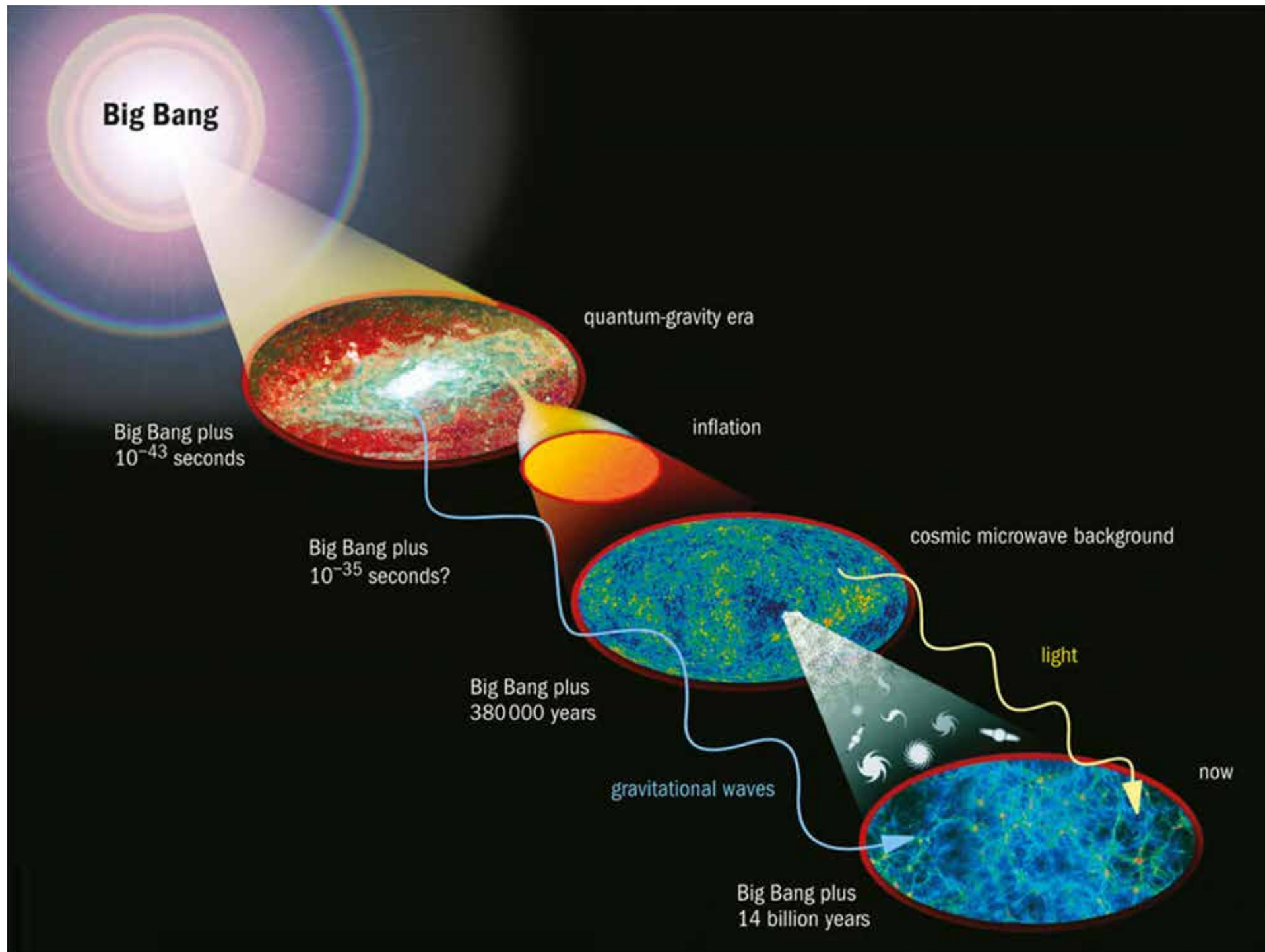
## Part I -- Linear Fluctuations

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Where does structures in our universe come from?



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What can we learn from those structures?

- Better understanding of the late universe

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What can we learn from those structures?

- Better understanding of the late universe
- Understanding the primordial universe
- Understanding the particle physics of the primordial universe

Plan:

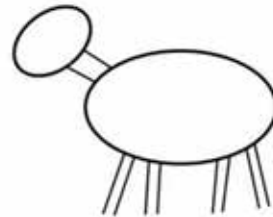
Part I – Linear Fluctuations

Part II – Computer Assisted Computation

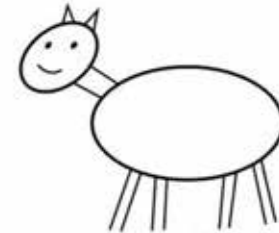
Lecture notes:  
How to draw a horse?



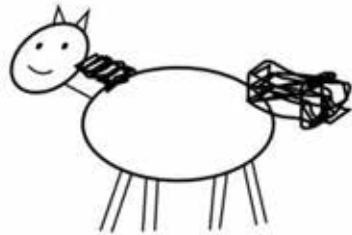
1. draw two circles



2. add neck and feet



3. add face



4. add hair



5. finally add some details,  
That's it!



Plan:

Part I – Linear Fluctuations

Part II – Computer Assisted Computation

Part III – Nonlinear Fluctuations

Part IV – Inflationary Massive Fields

Part V – Computational Techniques

Apologize for the incompleteness of references.

Most references can be found at 1303.1523.

## Part I – Linear Fluctuations

Fluctuations:

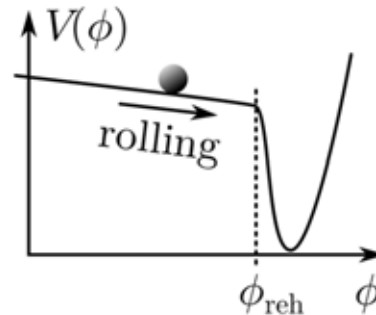
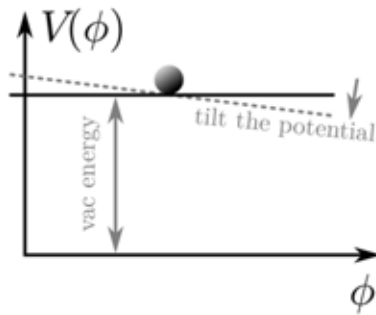
on top of homogeneous & isotropic background

$$\phi(\mathbf{x}, t) = \phi_0(t) + \delta\phi(\mathbf{x}, t), \text{ similarly for } g_{\mu\nu}(\mathbf{x}, t)$$

Linear:

- Linear equation of motion (EoM)
- Variation of 2nd order action
- Results in a Gaussian random field
- The statistics is 2-point correlation function

## A brief review of the inflationary background



Minimal model: 
$$\mathcal{L}_\phi = \sqrt{-g} \left[ -\frac{1}{2} g^{\mu\nu} \partial_\mu \phi \partial_\nu \phi - V(\phi) \right] = a^3 \left[ \frac{1}{2} \dot{\phi}^2 - V(\phi) \right]$$

Metric: 
$$ds^2 = -dt^2 + a(t)^2 d\mathbf{x}^2 = a(\tau)^2 (-d\tau^2 + d\mathbf{x}^2)$$

Scale factor: 
$$a(t) \approx e^{Ht} \approx -1/(H\tau) \quad \text{Early: } \tau \rightarrow -\infty, \text{ late: } \tau \rightarrow 0$$

EoM: 
$$3M_p^2 H^2 = \rho = \frac{1}{2} \dot{\phi}^2 + V(\phi) \quad \ddot{\phi} + 3H\dot{\phi} + V'(\phi) = 0$$

Slow roll: 
$$\epsilon \equiv -\frac{\dot{H}}{H^2}, \quad \eta \equiv \frac{\dot{\epsilon}}{H\epsilon}$$



# A Spectator Field in de Sitter

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Overview

Spectator

Metric

Gauge

$\delta\phi$  &  $\zeta$

Power

GWs

# A Spectator Field in de Sitter

warm-up exercise

Two approximations:

- de Sitter:  $a = e^{Ht}$

- Ignore slow roll:  $\epsilon \propto \dot{H} = 0$

- Ignore the end of inflation

- Spectator:

- No back-reaction to FRW

- Massless  $S = \int d^3x dt a^3 \left[ \frac{1}{2} \dot{\sigma}^2 - \frac{1}{a^2} (\partial_i \sigma)^2 \right]$

# A Spectator Field in de Sitter

---

$$S = \int d^3x dt a^3 \left[ \frac{1}{2} \dot{\sigma}^2 - \frac{1}{a^2} (\partial_i \sigma)^2 \right]$$

Roughly: quantum fluctuations  $\rightarrow$  classical fluctuations

May be understood in a few ways:

- Cosmological Schwinger effect
- Stretch of the vacuum wave function of  $\sigma$
- Broken of WKB & particle production
- Quantum fluctuation in a “finite” box (outside: frozen)
- Explicit calculations (will do now)



# A Spectator Field in de Sitter

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$$S = \int d^3x dt a^3 \left[ \frac{1}{2} \dot{\sigma}^2 - \frac{1}{a^2} (\partial_i \sigma)^2 \right]$$

Fourier transform

$$S = \int \frac{d^3k}{(2\pi)^3} dt a^3 \left[ \frac{1}{2} \dot{\sigma}_{\mathbf{k}} \dot{\sigma}_{-\mathbf{k}} - \frac{k^2}{a^2} \sigma_{\mathbf{k}} \sigma_{-\mathbf{k}} \right]$$

$$\sigma_{\mathbf{k}}(t) = v_{\mathbf{k}}(t) a_{\mathbf{k}} + v_{\mathbf{k}}^*(t) a_{-\mathbf{k}}^\dagger$$

Expand into “mode function” +  
creation/annihilation operators

$$[a_{\mathbf{k}}, a_{\mathbf{k}'}] = 0, \quad [a_{\mathbf{k}}, a_{\mathbf{k}'}^\dagger] = (2\pi)^3 \delta^3(\mathbf{k} - \mathbf{k}')$$

# A Spectator Field in de Sitter

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$$[a_{\mathbf{k}}, a_{\mathbf{k}'}] = 0, \quad [a_{\mathbf{k}}, a_{\mathbf{k}'}^\dagger] = (2\pi)^3 \delta^3(\mathbf{k} - \mathbf{k}')$$

$$(av_{\mathbf{k}})'' + \left( k^2 - \frac{a''}{a} \right) (av_{\mathbf{k}}) = 0$$

$$v_{\mathbf{k}} = c_1 (1 + ik\tau) e^{-ik\tau} + c_2 (1 - ik\tau) e^{ik\tau} \quad \text{How to decide } c_1 \text{ and } c_2?$$

# A Spectator Field in de Sitter

$$\sigma_{\mathbf{k}}(t) = v_{\mathbf{k}}(t)a_{\mathbf{k}} + v_{\mathbf{k}}^*(t)a_{-\mathbf{k}}^\dagger$$

$$v_{\mathbf{k}} = c_1(1 + ik\tau)e^{-ik\tau} + c_2(1 - ik\tau)e^{ik\tau} \quad \text{How to decide } c_1 \text{ and } c_2?$$

Method 1: Compare with flat QFT

Method 2:

$$\left. \begin{aligned} [a_{\mathbf{k}}, a_{\mathbf{k}'}^\dagger] &= (2\pi)^3 \delta^3(\mathbf{k} - \mathbf{k}') \\ \pi_{\mathbf{k}} \equiv \frac{\delta S}{\delta \dot{\sigma}_{\mathbf{k}}} &= a^3 \dot{\sigma}_{-\mathbf{k}}, \quad [\sigma_{\mathbf{k}}, \pi_{\mathbf{k}'}] = i(2\pi)^3 \delta^3(\mathbf{k} - \mathbf{k}') \end{aligned} \right\} \text{consistent}$$

$$|c_1| = \frac{H}{\sqrt{2k^3}}, \quad c_2 = 0$$

$$v_{\mathbf{k}}(\tau) = \frac{H}{\sqrt{2k^3}}(1 + ik\tau)e^{-ik\tau}$$

$$c_1 c_1^* - c_2 c_2^* = \frac{H^2}{2k^3}$$

Vacuum has lowest energy

$$\mathcal{H} \propto c_1 c_1^* + c_2 c_2^* \text{ at } \tau \rightarrow -\infty$$

# A Spectator Field in de Sitter

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$$\sigma_{\mathbf{k}}(t) = v_{\mathbf{k}}(t)a_{\mathbf{k}} + v_{\mathbf{k}}^*(t)a_{-\mathbf{k}}^\dagger$$

$$v_{\mathbf{k}}(\tau) = \frac{H}{\sqrt{2k^3}}(1 + ik\tau)e^{-ik\tau}$$

The 1-point statistics vanishes:  $\langle 0|\sigma_{\mathbf{k}}|0\rangle = 0$

The 2-point statistics is non-trivial:

$$\langle \sigma_{\mathbf{k}}\sigma_{\mathbf{k}'} \rangle = (2\pi)^3 \delta^3(\mathbf{k} + \mathbf{k}') \frac{2\pi^2}{k^3} P_\sigma(k), \quad P_\sigma(k) = \left(\frac{H}{2\pi}\right)^2$$

space (but not FRW time)

translation symmetry

power spectrum

scale-invariant

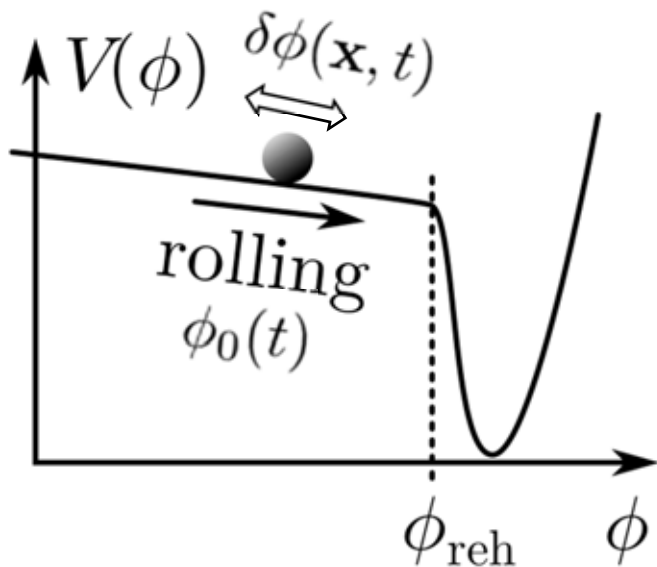
(of dS space)

# From Spectator to Inflaton (Roughly)

$$\langle \sigma_{\mathbf{k}} \sigma_{\mathbf{k}'} \rangle = (2\pi)^3 \delta^3(\mathbf{k} + \mathbf{k}') \frac{2\pi^2}{k^3} P_\sigma(k), \quad P_\sigma(k) = \left( \frac{H}{2\pi} \right)^2$$

$$\phi(\mathbf{x}, t) = \phi_0(t) + \delta\phi(\mathbf{x}, t)$$

$$P_\zeta = \frac{H^2}{\dot{\phi}^2} P_\phi = \frac{H^4}{4\pi^2 \dot{\phi}^2} = \frac{H^2}{8\pi^2 \epsilon M_p^2}$$



Fluctuate down with  $\delta\phi$

→ shorter e-fold  $\zeta \equiv \delta N = -H\delta t = -H\delta\phi/\dot{\phi}_0$

→ earlier reheating → energy drop faster

→ lower energy density → hotter spot on CMB

# Massive Spectator Fields

$$\ddot{v}_k + 3H\dot{v}_k + \frac{k^2}{a^2}v_k + m^2v_k = 0$$

$$v_k = -ie^{i(\nu+\frac{1}{2})\frac{\pi}{2}}\frac{\sqrt{\pi}}{2}H(-\tau)^{3/2}H_\nu^{(1)}(-k\tau)$$

coefficient,  
and choice of  $H^{(1)}$ :  
match massless  
at  $\tau \rightarrow -\infty$

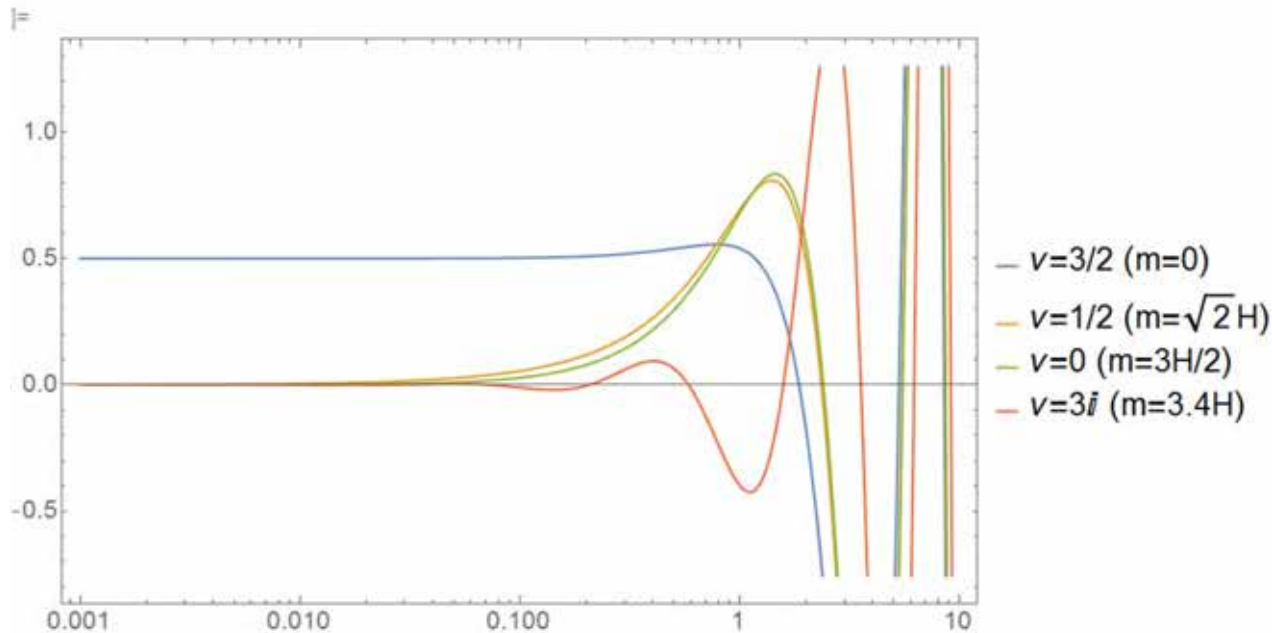
$$\nu = \sqrt{\frac{9}{4} - \frac{m^2}{H^2}}$$
$$H_\nu^{(1)}(x) \equiv J_\nu(x) + iY_\nu(x)$$

# Massive Spectator Fields

$$\ddot{v}_k + 3H\dot{v}_k + \frac{k^2}{a^2}v_k + m^2v_k = 0$$

```
LogLinearPlot[
  Evaluate[Re[e^{i\pi\nu/2} * \frac{\sqrt{\pi}}{2} (x)^{3/2} HankelH1[\nu, x]] /.
    {{\nu -> 3/2}, {\nu -> 1/2}, {\nu -> 0}, {\nu -> 3 i}}], {x, 0.001, 10},
  PlotLegends -> {"\nu=3/2 (m=0)", "\nu=1/2 (m=\sqrt{2}H)", "\nu=0 (m=3H/2)",
    "\nu=3 i (m=3.4H)"}]
```

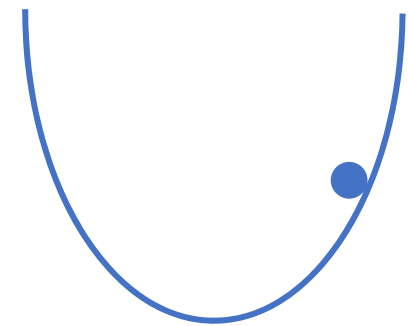
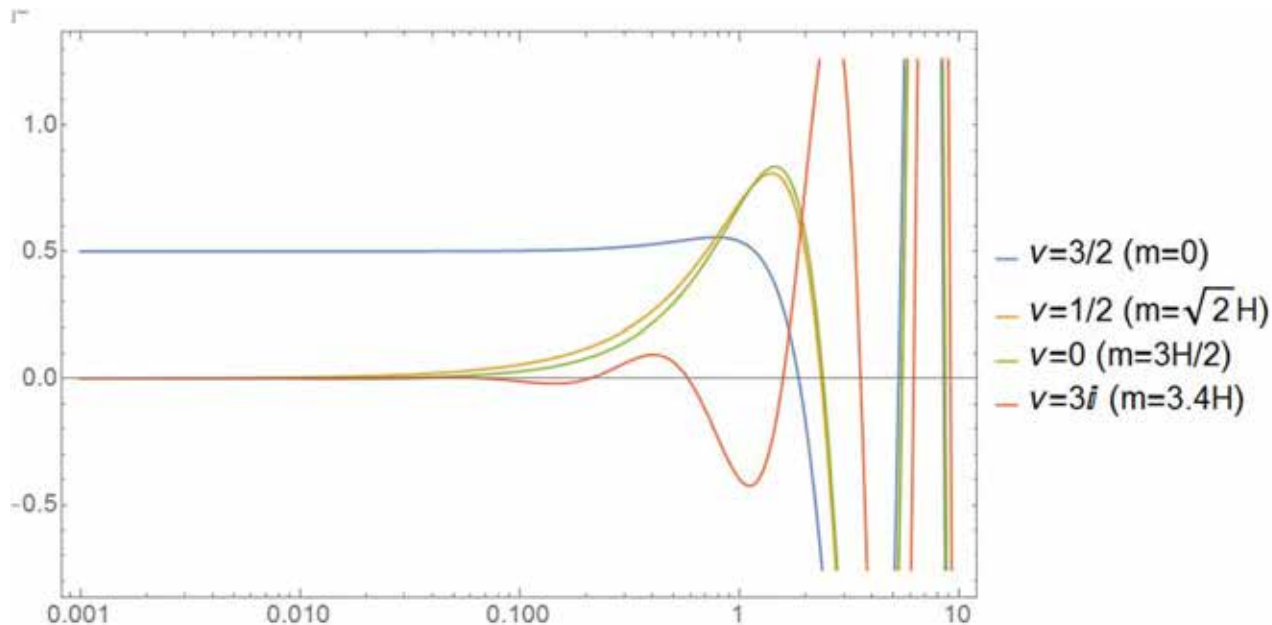
$$v_k = -ie^{i(\nu+\frac{1}{2})\frac{\pi}{2}} \frac{\sqrt{\pi}}{2} H(-\tau)^{3/2} H_\nu^{(1)}(-k\tau)$$



# Massive Spectator Fields

$\frac{m^2}{H^2} < O(\epsilon, \eta)$ : Field fluctuation exists until the end of inflation

$\frac{m^2}{H^2} > O(\epsilon, \eta)$ : Field fluctuation decays away before the end of inflation

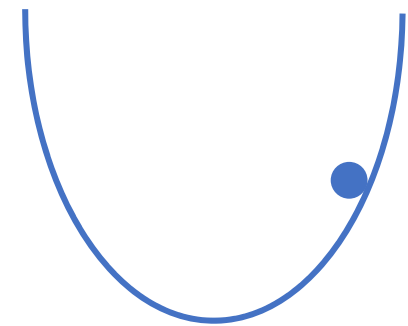
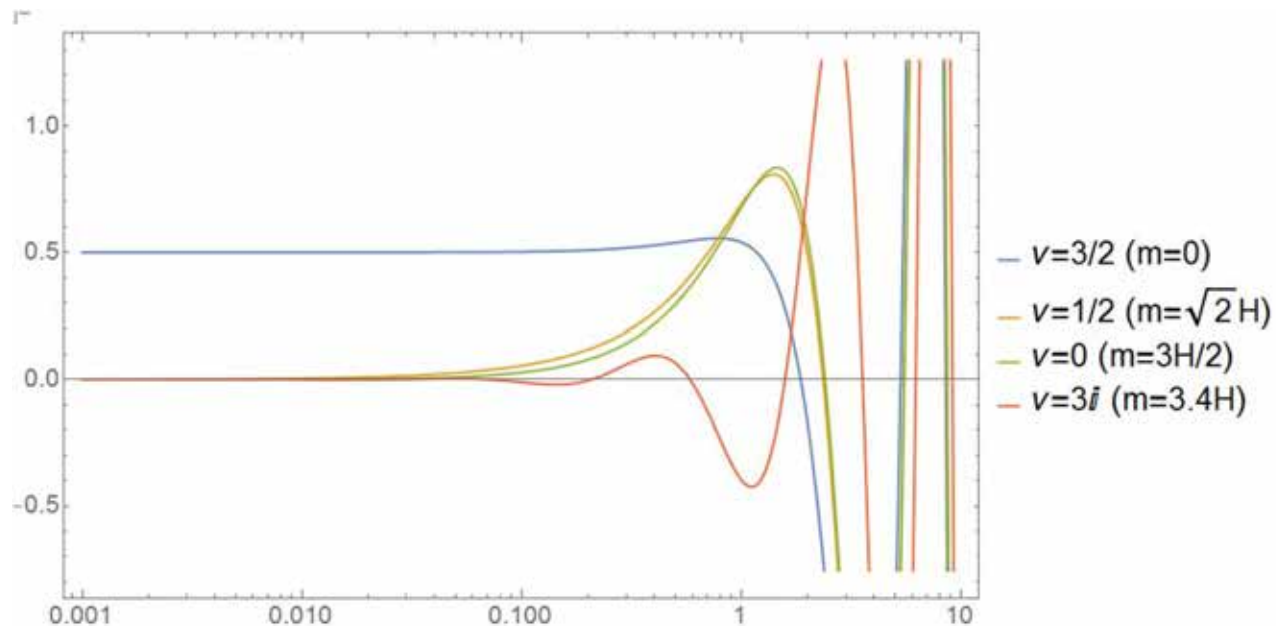




# Massive Spectator Fields

$O(\epsilon, \eta) < \frac{m^2}{H^2} < \frac{9}{4}$  : Over-damped oscillator

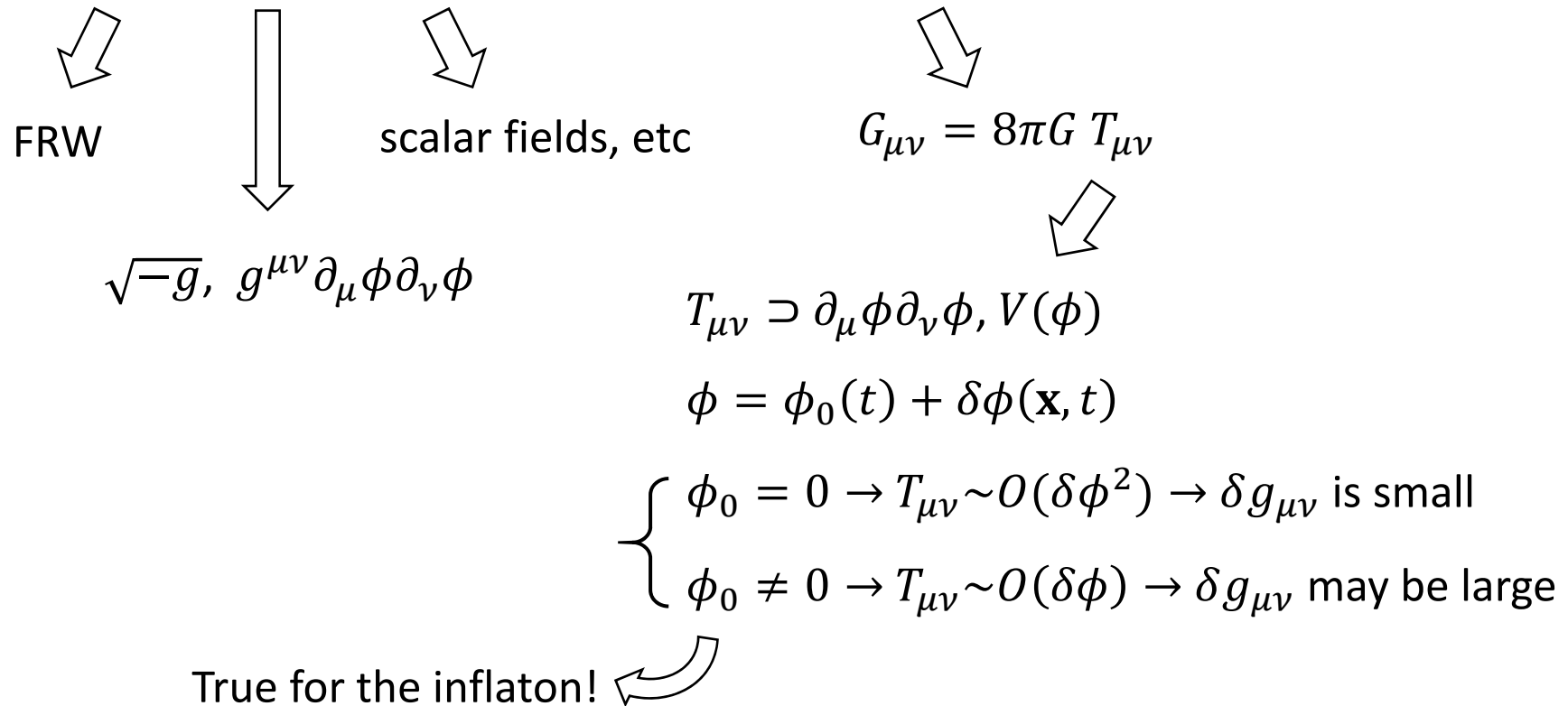
$\frac{m^2}{H^2} > \frac{9}{4}$  : Under-damped oscillator



# The Metric Fluctuations

Motivation:

Gravity tells matter how to move; Matter tells gravity how to curve.



# How to Perturb the Metric?

---

Consider  $g_{\mu\nu}(\mathbf{x}, t) = g_{\mu\nu}^{(0)}(t) + \delta g_{\mu\nu}(\mathbf{x}, t)$ , where  $g_{\mu\nu}^{(0)}$  is the FRW metric.

We need to further decompose  $\delta g_{\mu\nu}(\mathbf{x}, t)$ ,

because the space-time symmetry is spontaneously broken by  $\phi_0(t)$  and  $a(t)$ .

How to decompose  $\delta g_{\mu\nu}(\mathbf{x}, t)$ ?

# How to Perturb the Metric?

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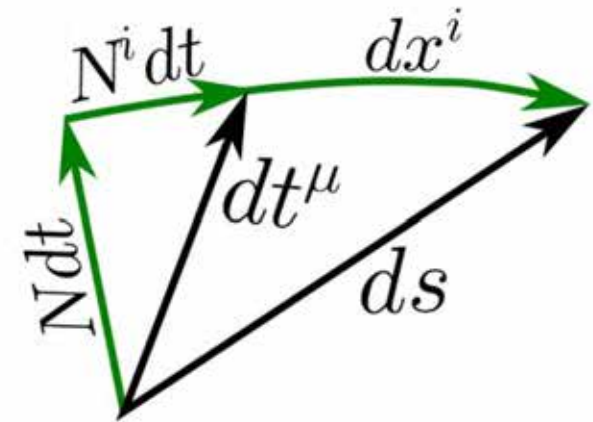
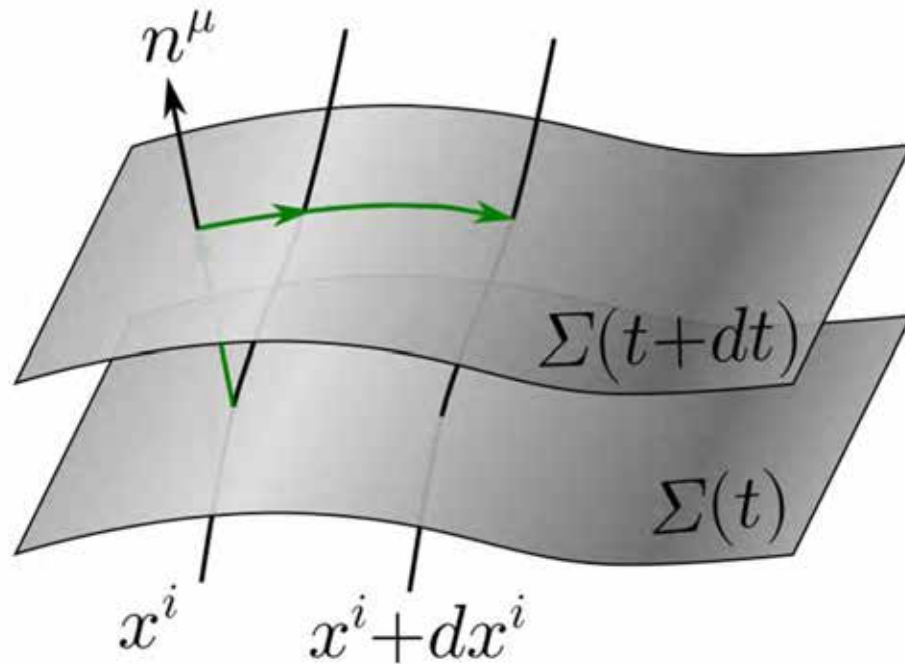
Remaining 3d symmetry.

(4D tensor)  $\rightarrow$  (3D scalar)  $\times$  4 + (3D div-free vector)  $\times$  2 + (3D tensor)  $\times$  1

Here we use the ADM decomposition.

# ADM Decomposition of $g_{\mu\nu}$

$$ds^2 = -N^2 dt^2 + h_{ij}(N^i dt + dx^i)(N^j dt + dx^j)$$



# ADM Decomposition of $g_{\mu\nu}$

---

$$ds^2 = -N^2 dt^2 + h_{ij}(N^i dt + dx^i)(N^j dt + dx^j)$$

Some quantities can be calculated in closed form:

$$\sqrt{-g} = N\sqrt{h}$$

$$g_{\mu\nu} = \begin{pmatrix} -N^2 + N^k N_k & N_i \\ N_j & h_{ij} \end{pmatrix} \quad \rightarrow \quad g^{\mu\nu} = \begin{pmatrix} -1/N^2 & N^i/N^2 \\ N^j/N^2 & h^{ij} - N^i N^j/N^2 \end{pmatrix}$$

where  $N_i \equiv h_{ij}N^j$ , and  $h^{ij}$  is the inverse matrix of  $h_{ij}$  (note that in general  $h^{ij} \neq g^{ij}$ )

# ADM Decomposition of $g_{\mu\nu}$

---

$$ds^2 = -N^2 dt^2 + h_{ij}(N^i dt + dx^i)(N^j dt + dx^j)$$

The Ricci scalar has a convenient form:

$$n_\mu = (-N, 0, 0, 0) = -\delta_\mu^0 / \sqrt{-g^{00}}, \quad n^\mu = (1/N, -N^i/N)$$

$$K_{\mu\nu} = (\delta_\mu^\sigma + n^\sigma n_\mu) \nabla_\sigma n_\nu = \frac{1}{2} \mathcal{L}_n (g_{\mu\nu} + n_\mu n_\nu)$$

$$K^{0\mu} = 0, \quad K_{ij} = \frac{1}{2N} [\dot{h}_{ij} - \mathcal{D}_i N_j - \mathcal{D}_j N_i]$$

$$R = \underline{\underline{{}^{(3)}R - K^2 + K_\nu^\mu K_\mu^\nu - 2\nabla_\mu (-K n^\mu + n^\nu \nabla_\nu n^\mu)}}$$

Much easier to compute, if the boundary term can be dropped.

# ADM Decomposition of $g_{\mu\nu}$

---

$$ds^2 = -N^2 dt^2 + h_{ij}(N^i dt + dx^i)(N^j dt + dx^j)$$

No time derivative on  $N$  and  $N_i$   
In the Einstein-Hilbert action.  
Thus  $N$  and  $N_i$  can be solved as constraints.

$$K^{0\mu} = 0, \quad K_{ij} = \frac{1}{2N} \left[ \dot{h}_{ij} - \mathcal{D}_i N_j - \mathcal{D}_j N_i \right]$$

$$R = {}^{(3)}R - K^2 + K_\nu^\mu K_\mu^\nu - 2\nabla_\mu (-K n^\mu + n^\nu \nabla_\nu n^\mu)$$



# ADM Decomposition of $g_{\mu\nu}$

---

$$ds^2 = -N^2 dt^2 + h_{ij}(N^i dt + dx^i)(N^j dt + dx^j)$$

Further decomposing  $h_{ij}$ :

$$N_i = \partial_i \beta + b_i, \quad h_{ij} = e^{2\zeta} a^2 [\delta_{ij} + \gamma_{ij} + \mathcal{D}_i \mathcal{D}_j E + \mathcal{D}_i F_j + \mathcal{D}_j F_i]$$

$$\mathcal{D}_i b^i = 0, \quad \mathcal{D}_i F^i = 0, \quad \mathcal{D}_i \gamma^{ij} = 0, \quad \gamma_i^i = 0$$

Scalar sector:  $\alpha, \beta, \zeta, E$

Vector sector:  $b_i, F_i$

Tensor sector:  $\gamma_{ij}$

# Gauge Invariance and Fixing

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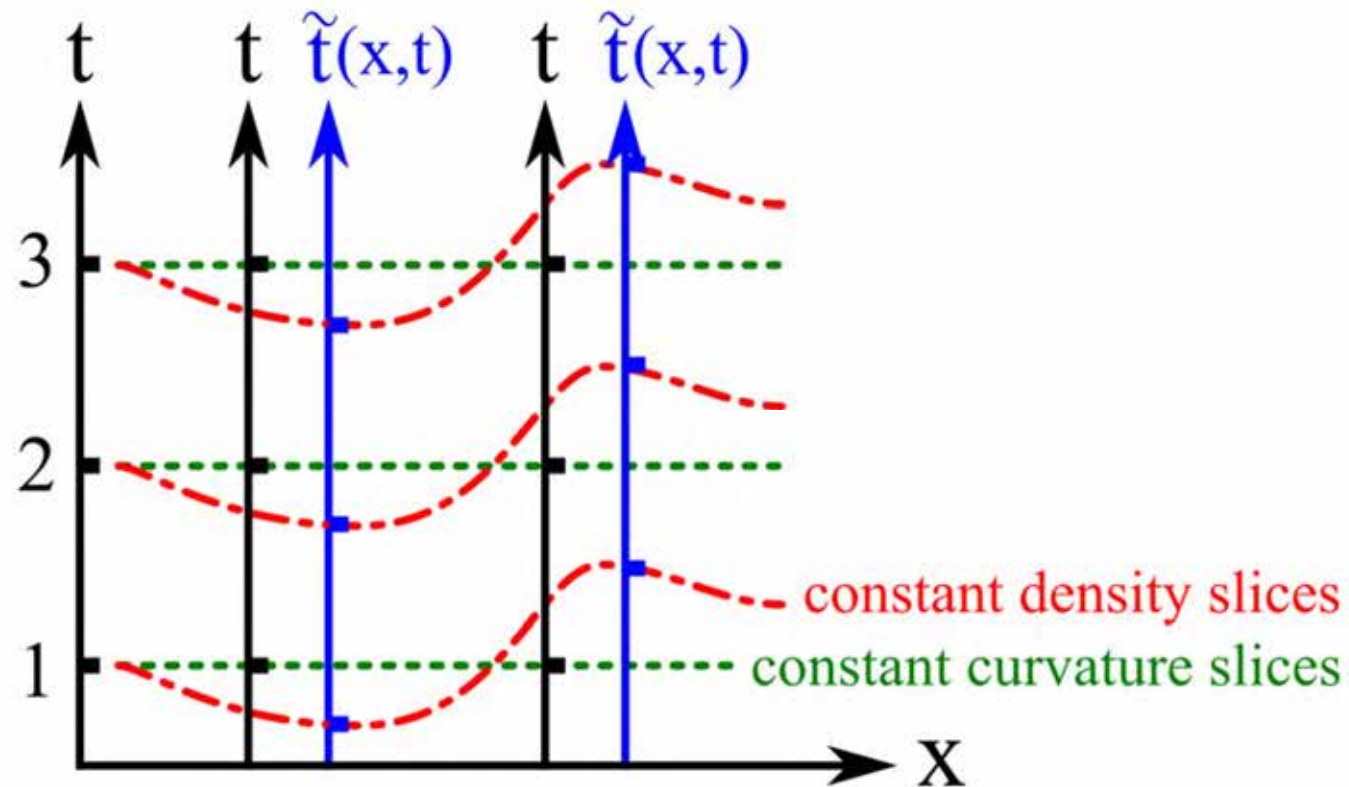
GR: we are free to choose coordinates (“gauge”):  $\tilde{x}^\mu = x^\mu + \xi^\mu(x)$

$$\delta_\xi g_{\alpha\beta}(x) \equiv \tilde{g}_{\alpha\beta}(x) - g_{\alpha\beta}(x) = \tilde{g}_{\alpha\beta}(x) - (\delta_\alpha^\mu + \partial_\alpha \xi^\mu)(\delta_\beta^\nu + \partial_\beta \xi^\nu) \tilde{g}_{\mu\nu}(x + \xi)$$

$$\delta_\xi \phi(x) \equiv \tilde{\phi}(x) - \phi(x) = \tilde{\phi}(x) - \tilde{\phi}(x + \xi)$$

# Gauge Invariance and Fixing

An explicit example: freedom of choosing equal-time slices



# Gauge Invariance and Fixing

---

How to get gauge (coordinate choice) independent predictions?

Method 1: Choose gauge invariant combinations.

For example, under  $t \rightarrow \tilde{t} = t + \delta t(t, x)$ , we have

$$\tilde{\zeta} = H\delta t, \quad \tilde{\delta\phi} = -\dot{\phi}_0\delta t$$

Thus the combination  $\zeta^{\text{gi}} \equiv \zeta + H\frac{\delta\phi}{\dot{\phi}}$

is gauge invariant at linear order.

# Gauge Invariance and Fixing

---

How to get gauge (coordinate choice) independent predictions?

Method 2: To fix a gauge. Typically, we choose  $E = 0$ .

Many choices for the other gauge condition:

- Spatial flat gauge ( $\delta\phi$ -gauge): Choose  $\zeta = 0$ .

Pros: intuitive and simple (minimize metric fluctuations)

- Uniform inflaton gauge ( $\zeta$ -gauge): Choose  $\delta\phi = 0$ .

Pros:  $\zeta$  is conserved on super-Hubble (if no isocurvature)

- Newtonian gauge: scalar part of shift vector  $\beta = 0$

$$ds^2 = -(1 + 2\Phi)dt^2 + a^2(1 - 2\Psi)d\mathbf{x}^2$$

Pros:  $\Phi$  is Newtonian potential  $\rightarrow$  connect to astrophysics

# Gravitational Perturbations

The way of calculating linear cosmological perturbations with gravity:

1. Choose a gauge, identify the perturbation variables
  2. Expand the action to second order in perturbations
  3. Transform into Fourier space, with  $\partial_i \rightarrow -ik_i$
  4. Solve the constraints  $N$  and  $N_i$
  5. Insert the constraints into the second order action
  6. Do IBP to bring the action into standard form
  7. Quantize the fields using  $u_k(\tau)a_{\mathbf{k}} + u_k^*(\tau)a_{\mathbf{k}}^\dagger$
  8. Derive and solve the classical EoM for  $u_k(\tau)$
  9.  $[a_{\mathbf{k}}, a_{\mathbf{k}}^\dagger]$ ,  $[\phi, \Pi]$ , and vacuum  $\rightarrow$  integration constants
  10. Calculate the 2-point correlation function
- } Done with a spectator field

# Perturbations in the $\delta\phi$ -Gauge

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$$\delta\phi \equiv \phi(x) - \phi_0(t) , \quad N \equiv 1 + \alpha , \quad N_i \equiv \partial_i\beta$$

$$S_2 = \int dt \frac{d^3k}{(2\pi)^3} \left[ a^3(\epsilon - 3)M_p^2 H^2 \alpha^2 + 2k^2 M_p^2 a H \alpha \beta - a^3 V' \alpha \delta\phi - a^3 \dot{\phi}_0 \alpha \dot{\delta\phi} - k^2 a \dot{\phi}_0 \beta \delta\phi + \frac{1}{2} a^3 \dot{\delta\phi}^2 - \frac{1}{2} a (k^2 + a^2 V'') \delta\phi^2 \right] .$$

$$\alpha = \frac{\dot{\phi}_0 \delta\phi}{2H} , \quad \beta = \frac{a^2}{2Hk^2} (\dot{\phi}_0 \dot{\delta\phi} - H\epsilon \dot{\phi}_0 \delta\phi - a^2 \ddot{\phi}_0 \delta\phi)$$

$$S = \int dt \frac{d^3k}{(2\pi)^3} \left\{ \frac{1}{2} a^3 \dot{\delta\phi}^2 - \frac{1}{2} k^2 a \delta\phi^2 - \frac{1}{2} a^3 [V'' - 2H^2(3\epsilon - \epsilon^2 + \epsilon\eta)] \delta\phi^2 \right\}$$

# Perturbations in the $\delta\phi$ -Gauge

---

$$S = \int dt \frac{d^3k}{(2\pi)^3} \left\{ \frac{1}{2} a^3 \dot{\delta\phi}^2 - \frac{1}{2} k^2 a \delta\phi^2 - \frac{1}{2} a^3 [V'' - 2H^2(3\epsilon - \epsilon^2 + \epsilon\eta)] \delta\phi^2 \right\}$$

Effective mass:  $m_{\text{eff}}^2 = V'' - 2H^2(3\epsilon - \epsilon^2 + \epsilon\eta)$

1. This is different from  $V'' \sim \eta_V H^2$ , if  $\epsilon$  is not too small (wait for GW to tell!)
2. Still small compared to  $H^2$  (energy scale of the perturbations).
3. Can we neglect this small mass?

Should be careful on super-Hubble, because  $N_e \times \eta \sim O(1)$

Will return to this issue in  $\zeta$ -gauge

Power spectrum (under slow roll approximation):  $P_{\delta\phi} = \left(\frac{H}{2\pi}\right)^2$



# Perturbations in the $\zeta$ -Gauge

---

$$S_2 = M_p^2 \int dt \frac{d^3k}{(2\pi)^3} \left[ -a^3(3 - \epsilon)H^2\alpha^2 + (2aHk^2\beta + 2ak^2\zeta + 6a^3H\dot{\zeta})\alpha - 2k^2a\beta\dot{\zeta} - 3a^3\dot{\zeta}^2 - 18a^3H\zeta\dot{\zeta} + a(-9(3 - \epsilon)a^2H^2 + k^2)\zeta^2 \right].$$

$$\alpha = \frac{\dot{\zeta}}{H}, \quad \beta = -\frac{\zeta}{H} - \frac{a^2\epsilon\dot{\zeta}}{k^2}$$

$$S = M_p^2 \int dt \frac{d^3k}{(2\pi)^3} \epsilon (a^3\dot{\zeta}^2 - k^2a\zeta^2)$$

Exactly massless (Goldstone, see Prof. Senatore's lectures)

# Perturbations in the $\zeta$ -Gauge

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$$S = M_p^2 \int dt \frac{d^3k}{(2\pi)^3} \epsilon (a^3 \dot{\zeta}^2 - k^2 a \zeta^2)$$

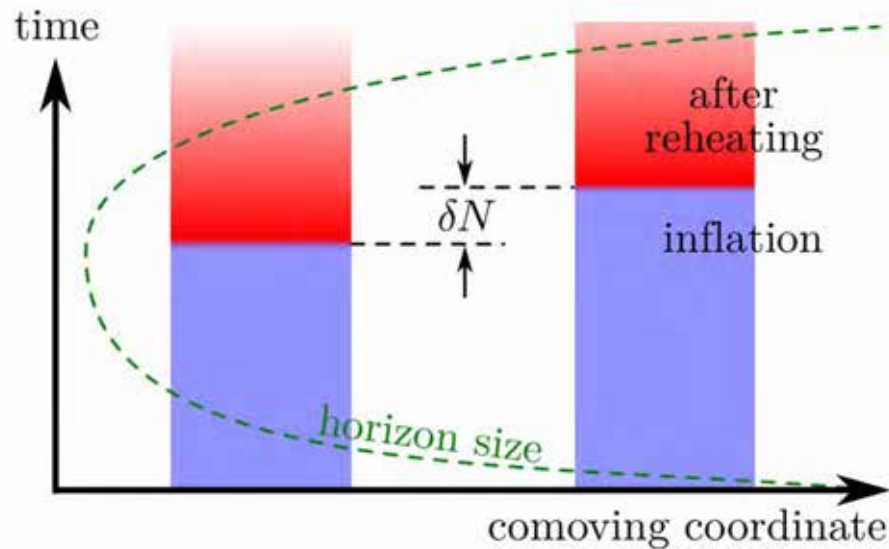
$$\ddot{\zeta} + (3 + \eta)H\dot{\zeta} + \frac{k^2}{a^2}\zeta = 0$$

$$\zeta = \frac{H}{M_p \sqrt{4\epsilon k^3}} (1 + ik\tau) e^{-ik\tau}$$

$$\zeta_{\mathbf{k}} = u_k a_{\mathbf{k}} + u_k^* a_{-\mathbf{k}}^\dagger, \quad u_k = \frac{H}{M_p \sqrt{4\epsilon k^3}} (1 + ik\tau) e^{-ik\tau}$$

# From $\zeta$ to $\delta N$ -formalism

The separate universe assumption (for long wavelength modes)



$$\tilde{a}(t, \mathbf{x}) = a(t)e^{\zeta(t, \mathbf{x})}$$

$$\dot{\rho} + 3\tilde{H}(\rho + p) = 0$$

$$\frac{\dot{a}}{a} + \dot{\zeta} = -\frac{1}{3} \frac{\dot{\rho}}{\rho + p}$$

$$\dot{\zeta} = 0 \quad \text{if } \rho = \rho(t)$$

$$p = p(\rho)$$

$$\tilde{N}(t_2, t_1, \mathbf{x}) = \int_{t_1}^{t_2} dt \tilde{H} = \int_{t_1}^{t_2} dt \left( \frac{\dot{a}}{a} + \dot{\zeta} \right) = \ln \left[ \frac{a(t_2)}{a(t_1)} \right] + \zeta(t_2, \mathbf{x}) - \zeta(t_1, \mathbf{x})$$

$$\zeta(t_2, \mathbf{x}) = \tilde{N}(t_2, t_1, \mathbf{x}) - N(t_2, t_1) \equiv \delta N$$

$$\zeta^{(\text{gi})}(t) = \delta N(t) + \frac{1}{3} \int_{\bar{\rho}(t)}^{\rho(t, \mathbf{x})} \frac{d\rho}{\rho + p}$$

# The Power Spectrum

Calculated at  
Hubble-crossing

$$\langle \zeta_{\mathbf{k}} \zeta_{\mathbf{k}'} \rangle = (2\pi)^3 \delta^3(\mathbf{k} + \mathbf{k}') \frac{2\pi^2}{k^3} P_\zeta(k), \quad P_\zeta(k) = \frac{H^4}{4\pi^2 \dot{\phi}^2} = \frac{H^2}{8\pi^2 \epsilon M_p^2}$$

The power spectrum is well measured:  $P_\zeta \simeq 2 \times 10^{-9}$  (COBE).

Sometimes  $\Delta_{\mathcal{R}} \equiv \sqrt{P_\zeta}$  is used.

Spectral index:  $n_s - 1 \equiv \frac{d \ln P_\zeta(k)}{d \ln k}$

Observed value:  $n_s - 1 = -0.032 \pm 0.006$  (non-zero at  $> 5\sigma$  CL)

Running (not yet observed):  $\alpha_s \equiv \frac{d \ln n_s}{d \ln k} = -2\eta\epsilon - \frac{\dot{\eta}}{H\eta}$

Observed bound:  $\alpha_s = -0.0065 \pm 0.0076$

# Beyond the Curvature Perturbation

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Can we directly observe other primordial fluctuations (other than  $\zeta$ )?

There *may* be additional light scalars (isocurvature fluctuations).

There *must* be gravitational waves (tensor mode of the metric).

# Primordial Gravitational Waves

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$$N_i = \partial_i \beta + b_i, \quad h_{ij} = e^{2\zeta} a^2 [\delta_{ij} + \gamma_{ij} + \mathcal{D}_i \mathcal{D}_j E + \mathcal{D}_i F_j + \mathcal{D}_j F_i]$$

$$\mathcal{D}_i \gamma^{ij} = 0, \quad \gamma_i^i = 0$$

$$S = \frac{M_p^2}{8} \int \frac{d^3 k}{(2\pi)^3} d\tau a^2 \left( \gamma_j^{i'} \gamma_i^{j'} - k^2 \gamma_j^i \gamma_i^j \right)$$

$$\gamma_{ij}(\mathbf{k}) = \frac{\sqrt{2}}{M_p} [\gamma_+(\mathbf{k}) e_{ij}^+(\mathbf{k}) + \gamma_\times(\mathbf{k}) e_{ij}^\times(\mathbf{k})]$$

$$e_{ij}^{+, \times} = e_{ji}^{+, \times}, \quad k^i e_{ij}^{+, \times} = 0, \quad e_{ii}^{+, \times} = 0$$

$$e_{ij}^{+, \times}(-\mathbf{k}) = (e_{ij}^{+, \times}(\mathbf{k}))^* \quad e_+^+(e_+^{ij})^* + e_\times^\times(e_\times^{ij})^* = 4$$

# Primordial Gravitational Waves

---

$$S = \frac{1}{2} \int \frac{d^3k}{(2\pi)^3} d\tau a^2 [(\gamma'_+ \gamma_{+'} - k^2 \gamma_+ \gamma_+) + (\gamma'_{\times} \gamma_{\times}' - k^2 \gamma_{\times} \gamma_{\times})]$$

$$P_{\gamma}^{+, \times} = \left( \frac{H}{2\pi} \right)^2$$

$$\bar{h}^{ik} \bar{h}^{jl} \langle \gamma_{ij}(\mathbf{k}) \gamma_{kl}(\mathbf{k}') \rangle = (2\pi)^3 \delta^3(\mathbf{k} + \mathbf{k}') \frac{2\pi^2}{k^3} P_{\gamma} \qquad P_{\gamma} = \frac{2H^2}{\pi^2 M_p^2}$$

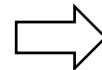
# Primordial Gravitational Waves

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$$P_\gamma = \frac{2H^2}{\pi^2 M_p^2}$$

Assuming:

- GW from vacuum fluctuation
- Expansion (constant mode dominate)



GW only “cares” the energy scale of inflation in Planck unit



# Primordial Gravitational Waves

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c.f.  $P_\zeta(k) = \frac{H^4}{4\pi^2 \dot{\phi}^2}$  : “cares” about  $H$  and  $\dot{\phi}$ .

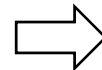
Thus see GW (unfortunately not yet)

→ know energy scale of inflation

$$P_\gamma = \frac{2H^2}{\pi^2 M_p^2}$$

Assuming:

- GW from vacuum fluctuation
- Expansion (constant mode dominate)



GW only “cares” the energy scale of inflation in Planck unit

# Primordial Gravitational Waves

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$$S = \frac{1}{2} \int \frac{d^3k}{(2\pi)^3} d\tau a^2 [(\gamma'_+ \gamma_{+'} - k^2 \gamma_+ \gamma_+) + (\gamma'_{\times} \gamma_{\times}' - k^2 \gamma_{\times} \gamma_{\times})]$$

$$P_{\gamma}^{+, \times} = \left( \frac{H}{2\pi} \right)^2$$

$$\bar{h}^{ik} \bar{h}^{jl} \langle \gamma_{ij}(\mathbf{k}) \gamma_{kl}(\mathbf{k}') \rangle = (2\pi)^3 \delta^3(\mathbf{k} + \mathbf{k}') \frac{2\pi^2}{k^3} P_{\gamma} \quad P_{\gamma} = \frac{2H^2}{\pi^2 M_p^2}$$

$$r \equiv \frac{P_{\gamma}}{P_{\zeta}} = 16\epsilon = 16\epsilon_V \quad r < 0.07 \quad (\text{Planck} + \text{BICEP2} + \text{Keck})$$

Future:  $\Delta r \sim 10^{-3}$  (LiteBIRD, CMB stage 4, see also Ali)

# Primordial Gravitational Waves

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$$S = \frac{1}{2} \int \frac{d^3k}{(2\pi)^3} d\tau a^2 [(\gamma'_+ \gamma_{+'} - k^2 \gamma_+ \gamma_+) + (\gamma'_{\times} \gamma_{\times}' - k^2 \gamma_{\times} \gamma_{\times})]$$

$$P_{\gamma}^{+, \times} = \left( \frac{H}{2\pi} \right)^2$$

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$$r \equiv \frac{P_{\gamma}}{P_{\zeta}} = 16\epsilon \quad r < 0.07 \quad (\text{Planck} + \text{BICEP2} + \text{Keck})$$

$$n_T \equiv \frac{d \ln P_{\gamma}}{d \ln k} = -2\epsilon = -r/8 \quad \text{consistency relation for single field inflation}$$

# Primordial Gravitational Waves

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Recall:

$P_\gamma$  tells energy scale

$P_\zeta$  tells (energy scale) / (rolling speed of the inflaton)

Thus  $r$  tells rolling speed of the inflaton

$$\frac{d\phi}{dN} = \frac{\dot{\phi}}{H} = \frac{M_p}{4} \sqrt{2r}$$

For 60 e-folds of inflation:  $\Delta\phi \simeq 15M_p^2 \sqrt{2r}$ .

Detectable  $r$  → challenge for the EFT of inflationary background

# Summary of This Lecture

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Fluctuations, from quantum to classical

Spectator: Lagrangian, quantization, EoM, solution, power spectrum

Curvature ( $\delta\phi, \zeta$ )  
Gravitational waves } similar to spectator field