

# Cosmic Inflation and Quantum Mechanics

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# Fundamental Problems of Quantum Physics

ICTS, Bangalore

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## Outline

- ❑ The theory of cosmic inflation in brief: basic principles & observational status
- ❑ Cosmological fluctuations of quantum-mechanical origin
- ❑ Quantum Mechanics in the sky? Can we show that inflationary perturbations are of quantum-mechanical origin?
- ❑ Conclusions



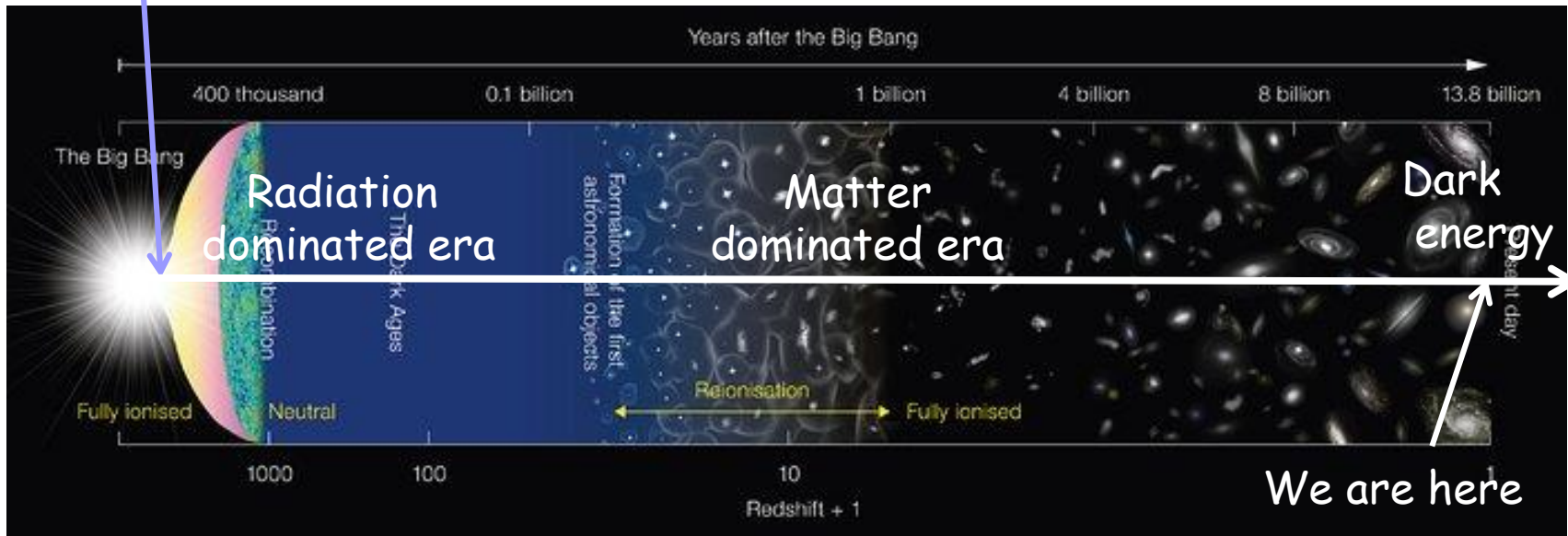
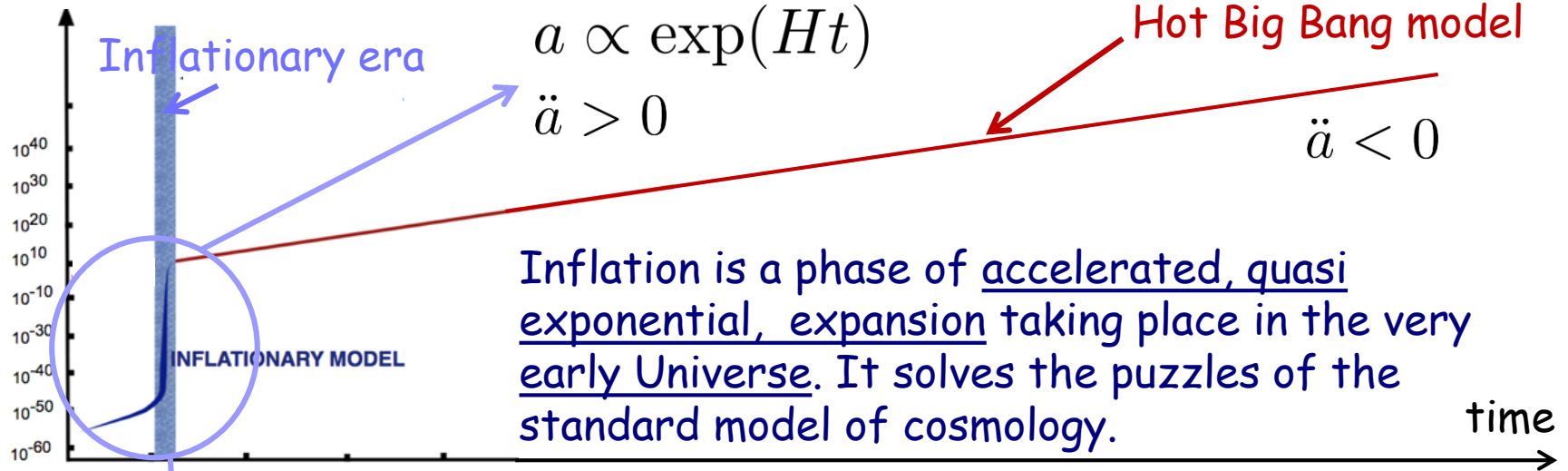
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# Inflation in brief

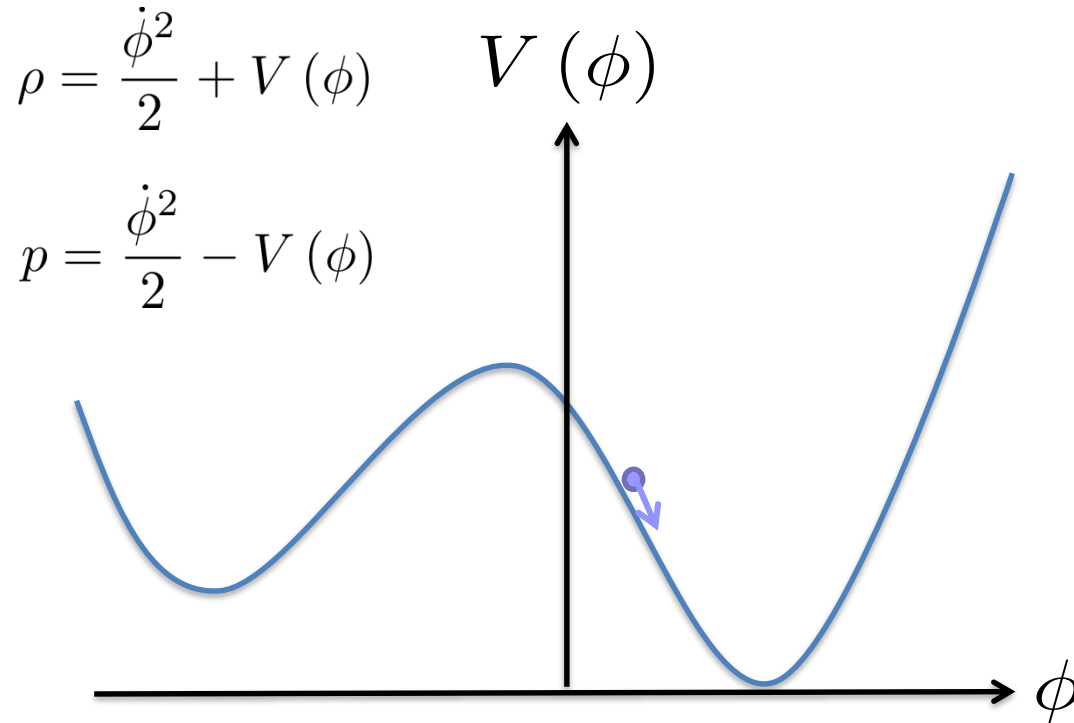


Scale factor  $a(t)$





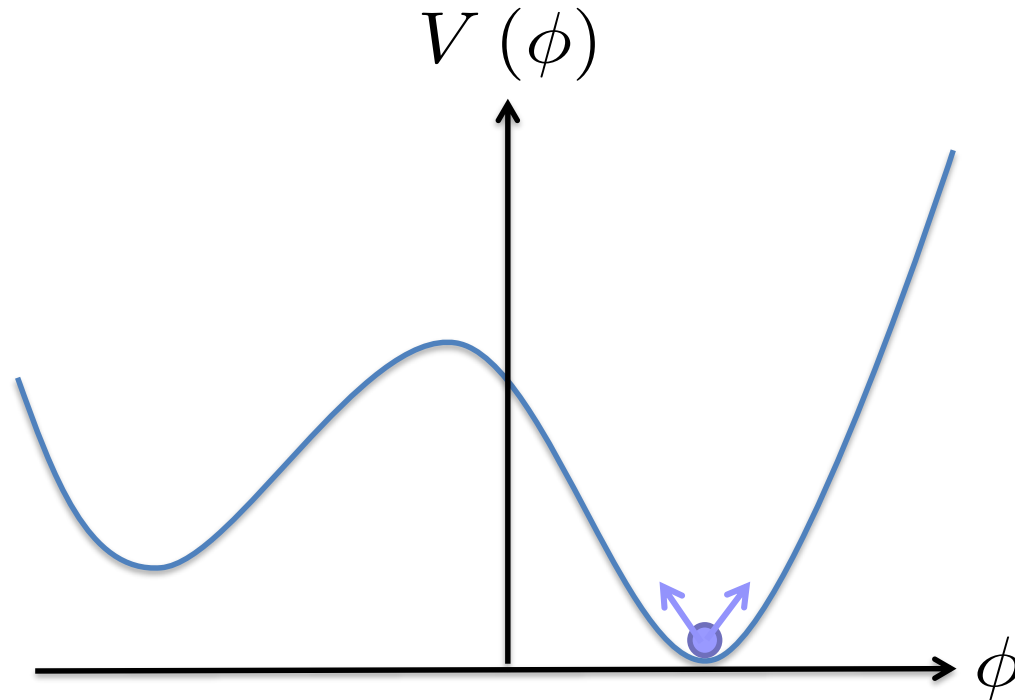
Inflation is (usually) realized with one (or many) scalar field(s)



If the scalar field moves slowly (the potential is flat), then pressure is negative which, in the context of GR, means accelerated expansion and, hence, inflation takes place.



Inflation (usually) stops when the field reaches the bottom of the potential



The field oscillates, decays and the decay products thermalize ... Then the radiation dominated era starts ...





One important scale in the problem, the Hubble parameter or the Hubble radius

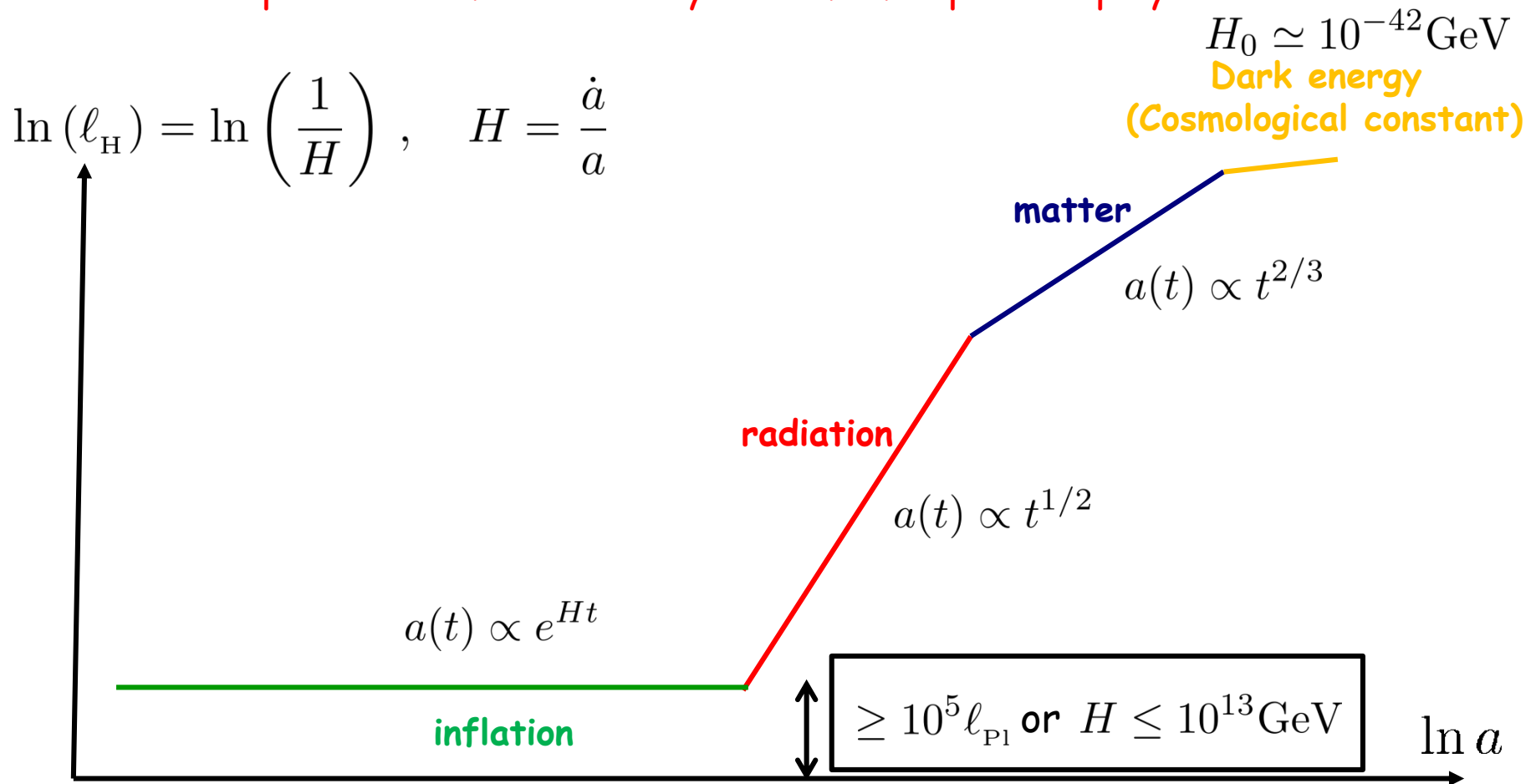
$$H = \frac{\dot{a}}{a}, \quad \ell_{\text{H}} = \frac{1}{H}$$

it represents the radius beyond which expansion plays a role

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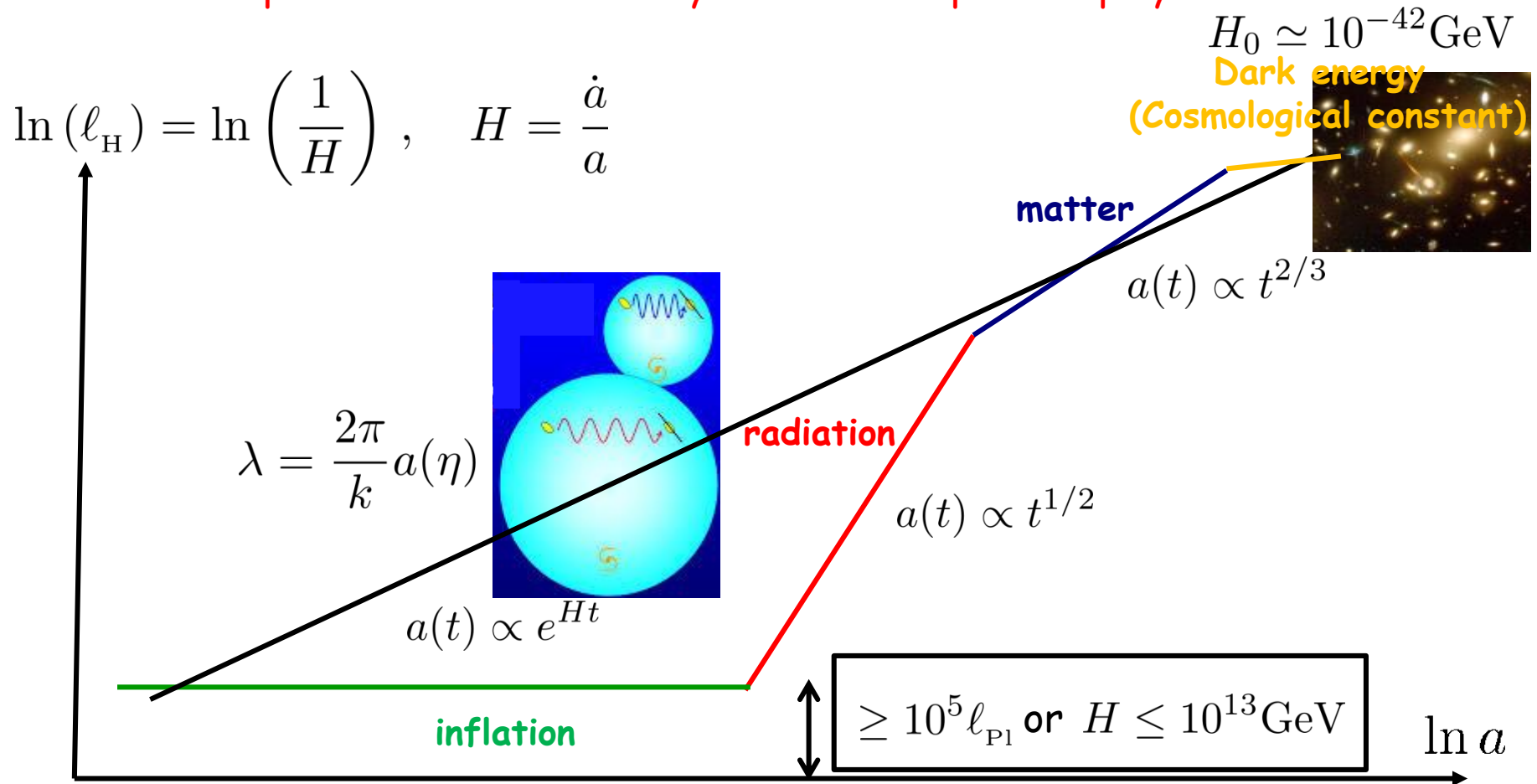




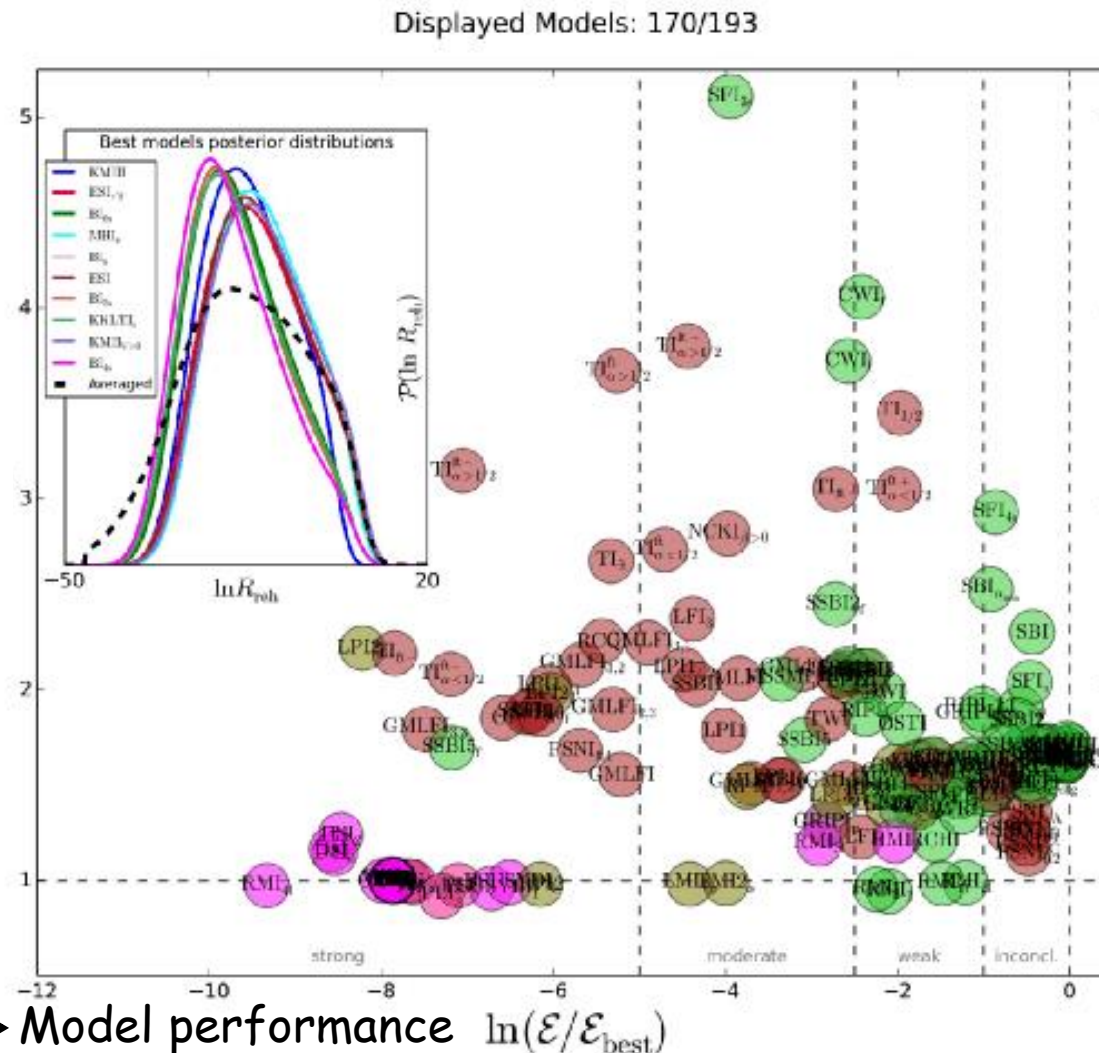
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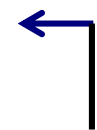
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Constraints  
on reheating



No constraint  
on reheating

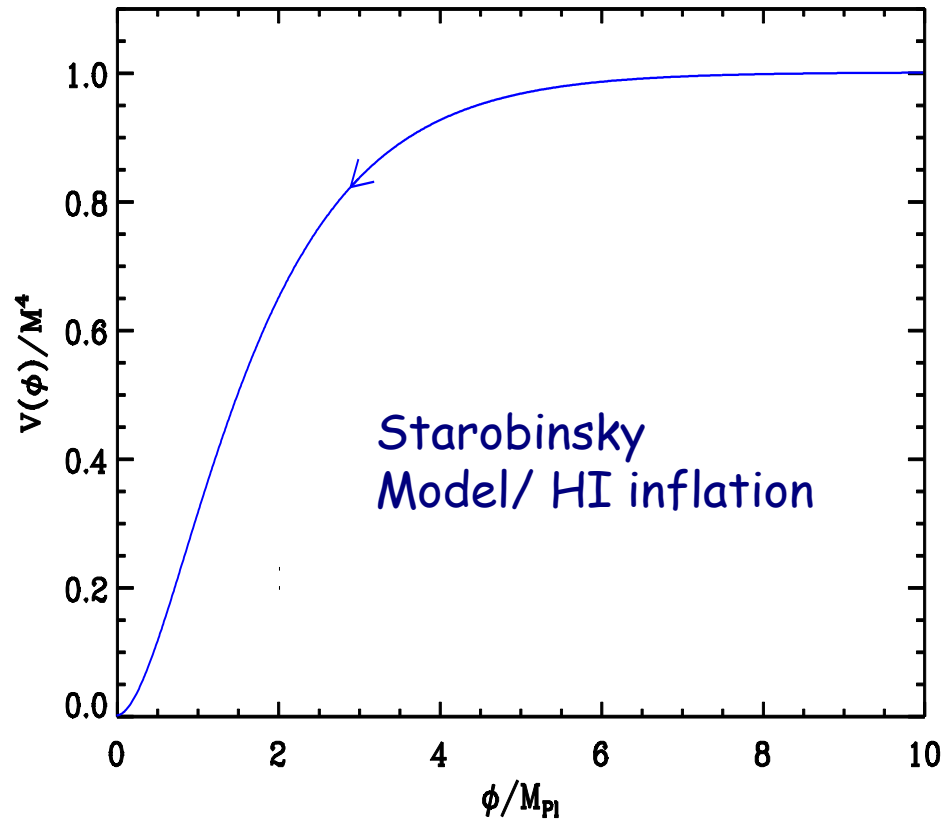


J. Martin, C. Ringeval & V. Vennin, Phys. Dark Univ. 5-6 (2014), 75, arXiv:1303.3787

J. Martin, C. Ringeval & V. Vennin, Phys. Rev. Lett. 114 (2015), 081303, arXiv:1410.7958

## Plateau inflationary models are the winners!

J. Martin, C. Ringeval R. Trotta & V. Vennin, JCAP1403 (2014), 039, arXiv:1312.3529



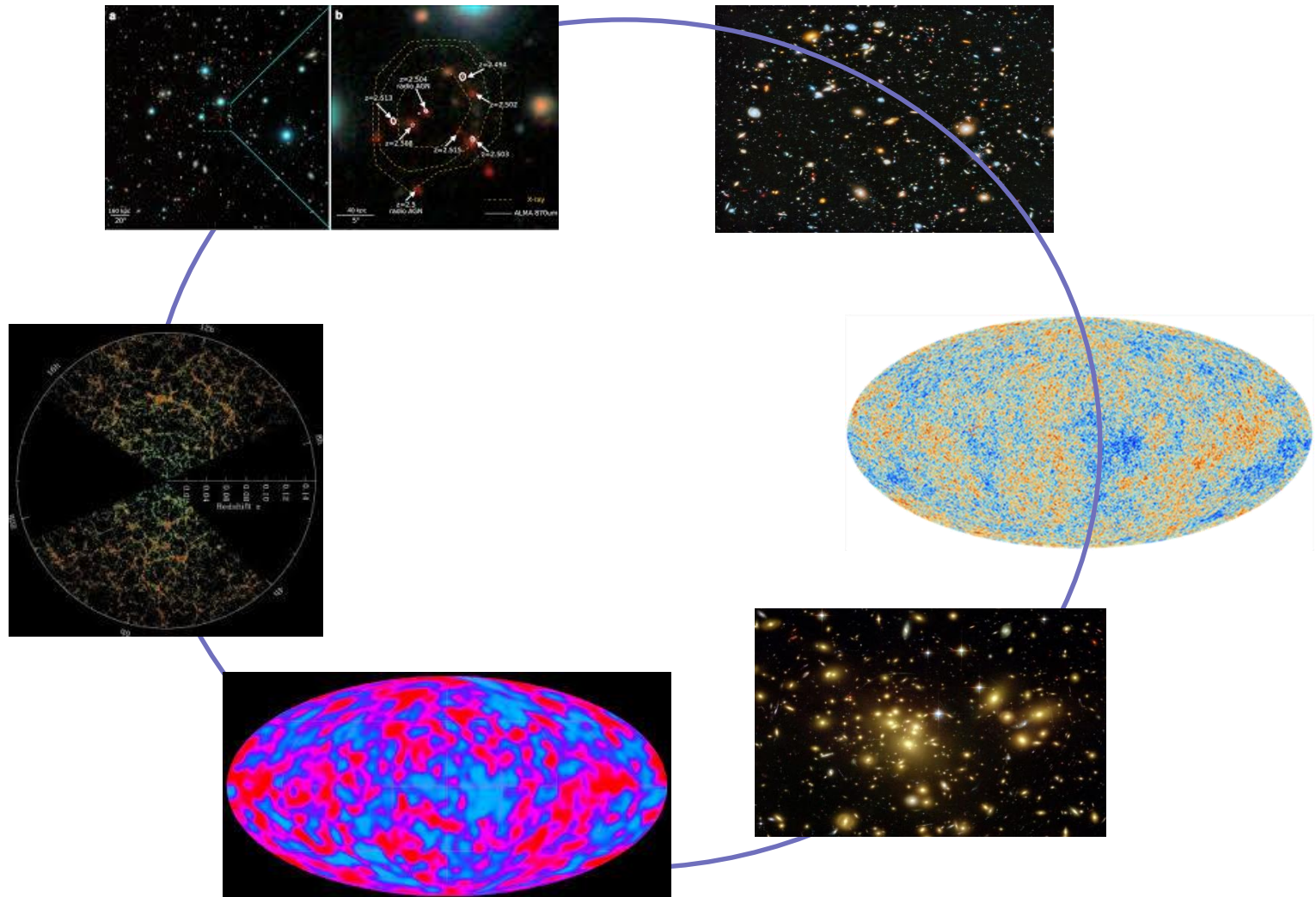
$$V(\phi) = M^4 \left( 1 - e^{-\sqrt{2/3}\phi/M_{Pl}} \right)^2$$

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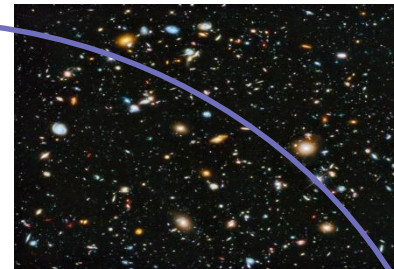
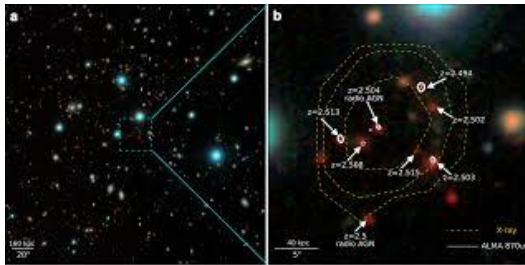
# Structure formation

There are inhomogeneities (structures=galaxies, galaxy clusters, CMB anisotropies etc ...) in the Universe ...

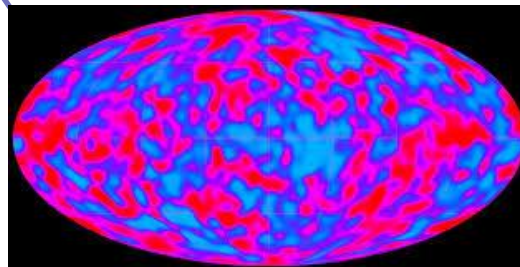
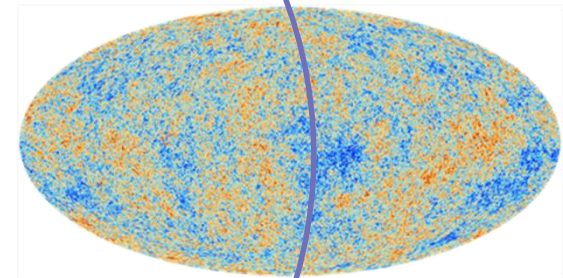
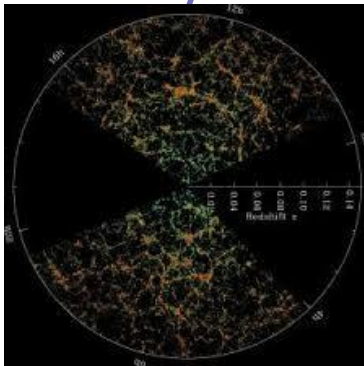




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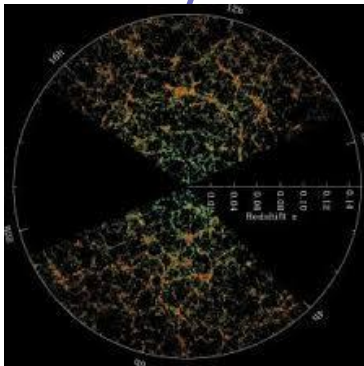
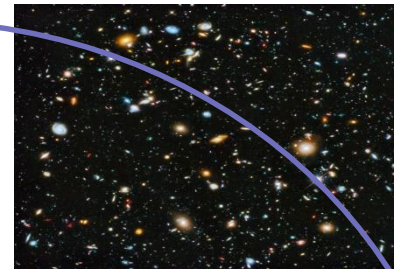
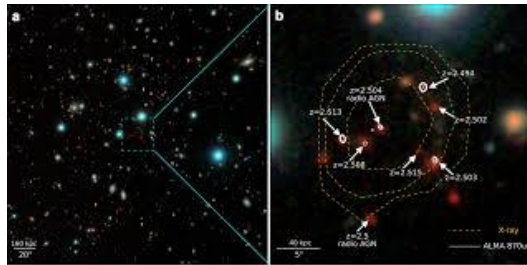


How do they grow?



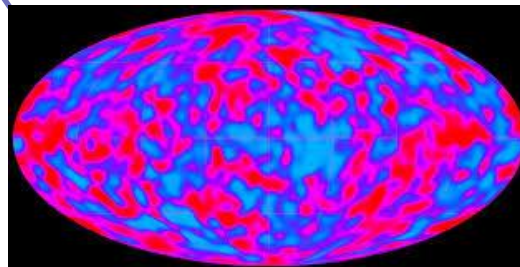
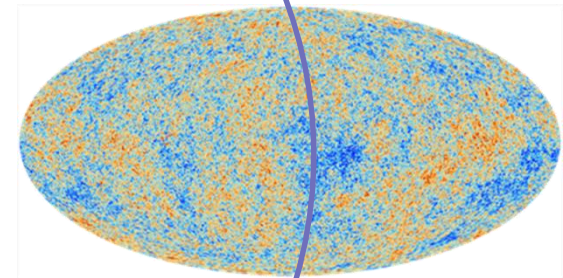
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How do they grow?

What is their origin?





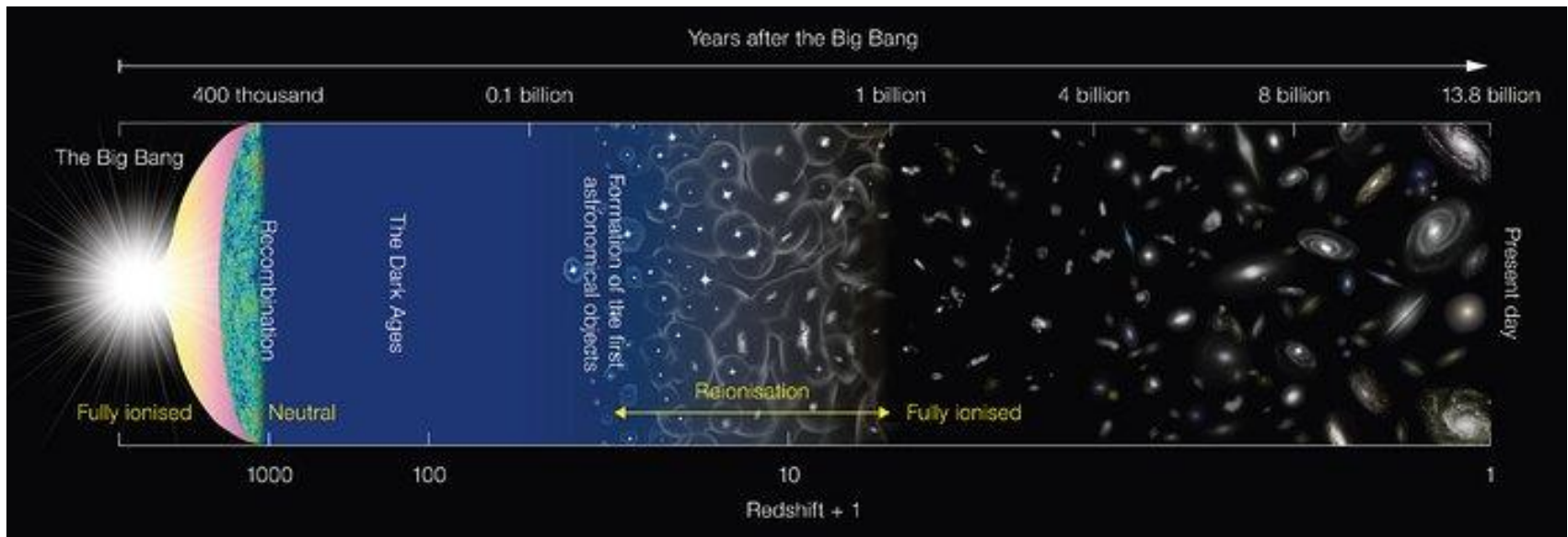
## How do they grow?

Gravitational instability

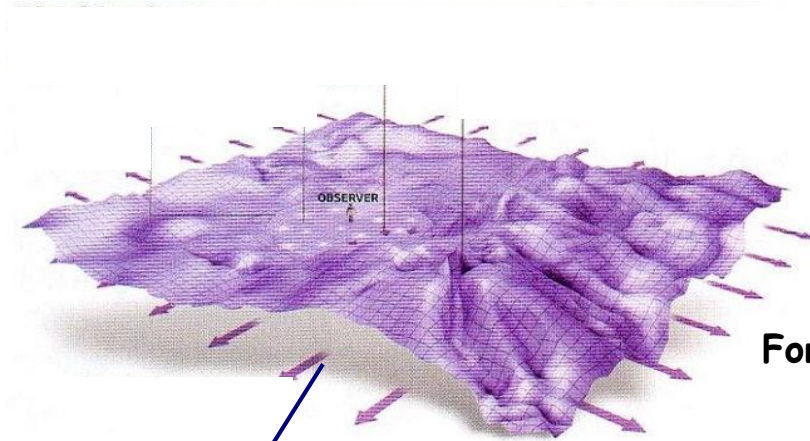
$$\frac{\delta\rho}{\rho} \simeq 10^{-5}$$



$$\frac{\delta\rho}{\rho} \simeq 1$$

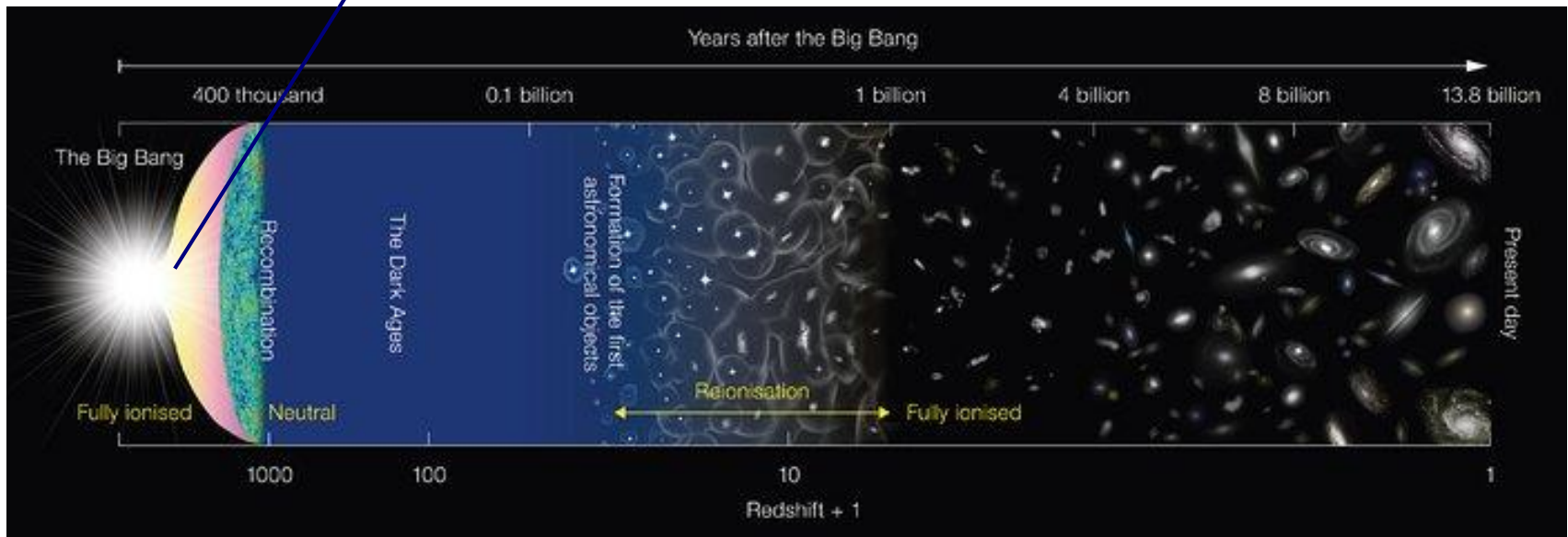


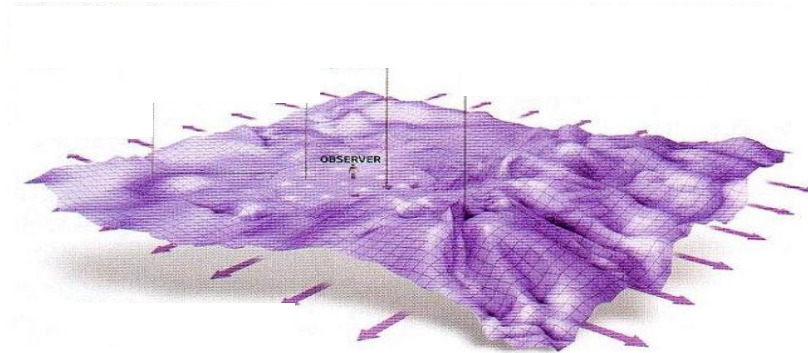
## What is their origin?



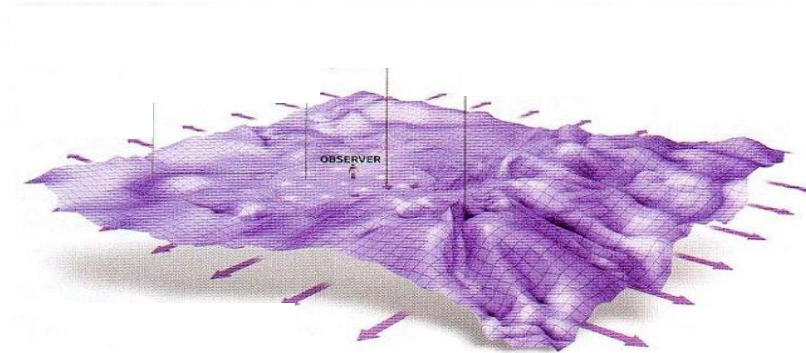
Quantum fluctuations during inflation

For a review, see J. Martin, Lect. Notes Phys. 669 (2005), 199, hep-th/040611





- 1- In the early Universe, the fluctuations are small and, hence, a linear approach is possible

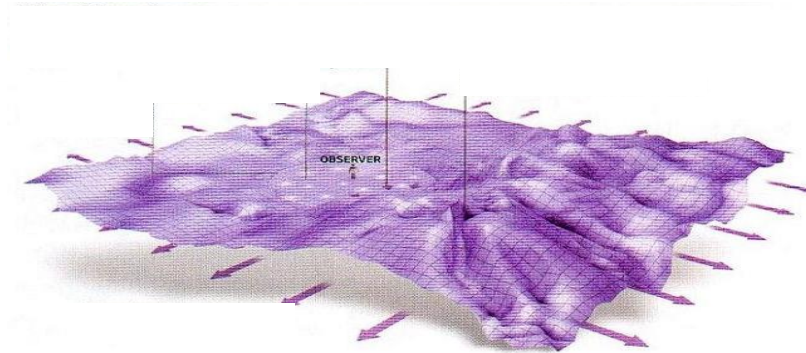


1- In the early Universe, the fluctuations are small and, hence, a linear approach is possible

2- One perturbs the inflaton field and the metric

$$\phi(\eta) \rightarrow \phi(\eta) + \delta\phi(\eta, \mathbf{x})$$

$$a(\eta) \rightarrow a(\eta) [1 + \Phi_B(\eta, \mathbf{x})]$$



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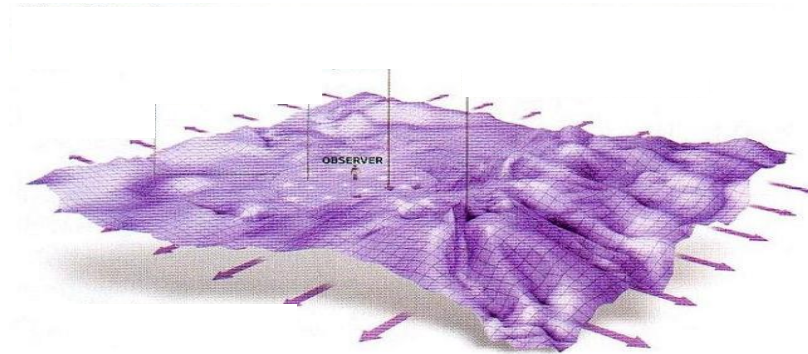
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3- The fluctuations of the system Gravity + Inflaton field can be described by a single variable, the so-called Mukhanov-Sasaki variable

$$v(\eta, \mathbf{x}) = a(\eta) \left( \delta\phi + \frac{\phi'}{a'/a} \Phi_B \right) = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^{3/2}} \int d\mathbf{k} v_{\mathbf{k}}(\eta) e^{i\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{x}}$$



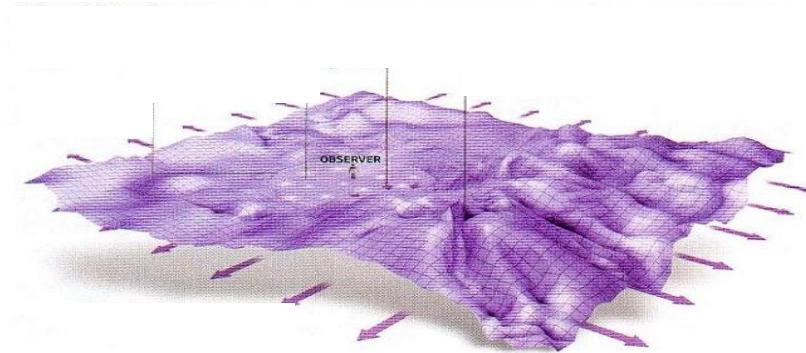
4- Expansion of the action GR + scalar field (inflaton field) leads to

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

$$\omega^2(k, \eta) \equiv k^2 - \frac{(a\sqrt{\epsilon_1})''}{a\sqrt{\epsilon_1}} = \mathcal{F}(k, a, a', a'', a''', a''''')$$

$$\epsilon_1 = 2 - \frac{a''a}{a'^2}$$





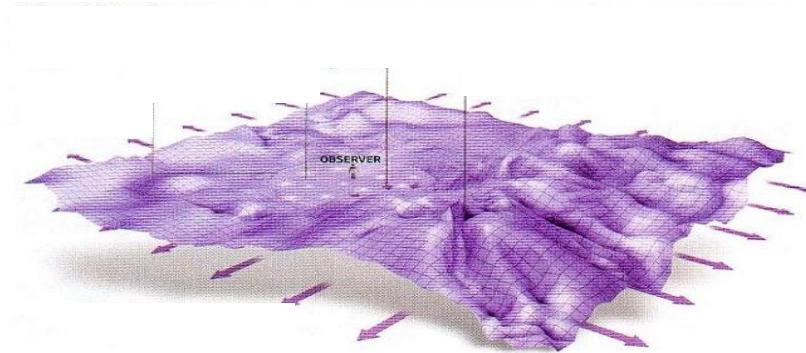
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5- The equation of motion is that of a parametric oscillator, the time dependence of the frequency being given by the background

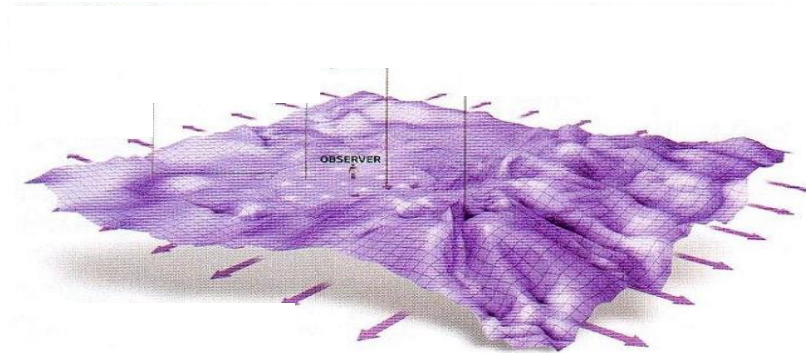
$$v_{\mathbf{k}}''(\eta) + \omega^2(k, \eta) v_{\mathbf{k}}(\eta) = 0$$





6- Finally the fluctuations are quantized in the standard fashion, namely

$$\Psi [v(\eta, \mathbf{x})] = \prod_{\mathbf{k}} \Psi (v_{\mathbf{k}}^{\text{R}}) \Psi (v_{\mathbf{k}}^{\text{I}}) \longrightarrow i \frac{\partial}{\partial \eta} \Psi (v_{\mathbf{k}}) = - \frac{\partial^2}{\partial v_{\mathbf{k}}^2} \Psi (v_{\mathbf{k}}) + \omega^2(k, \eta) \Psi (v_{\mathbf{k}})$$

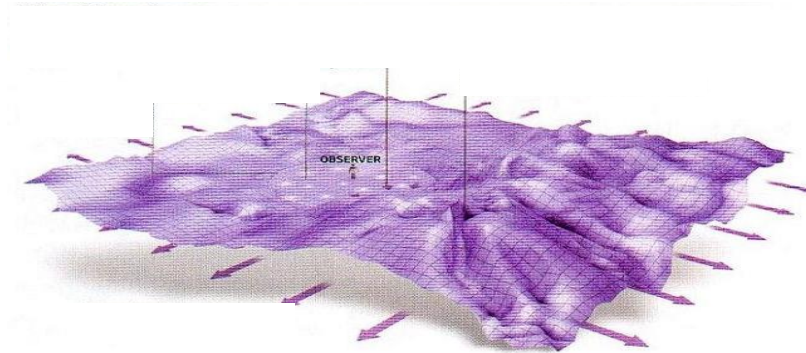


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7- The quantum state of the system is a Gaussian state with a time-dependent variance, the time dependence being determined by the dynamics of the background

$$\Psi(v_{\mathbf{k}}) = \left[ \frac{2\Re\Omega_{\mathbf{k}}(\eta)}{\pi} \right]^{1/4} e^{-\Omega_{\mathbf{k}}(\eta)v_{\mathbf{k}}^2} \quad \text{with} \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \Omega_{\mathbf{k}}(\eta) = -\frac{i}{2} \frac{f'_{\mathbf{k}}}{f_{\mathbf{k}}} \\ f''_{\mathbf{k}} + \omega^2(k, \eta)f_{\mathbf{k}} = 0 \end{array} \right.$$

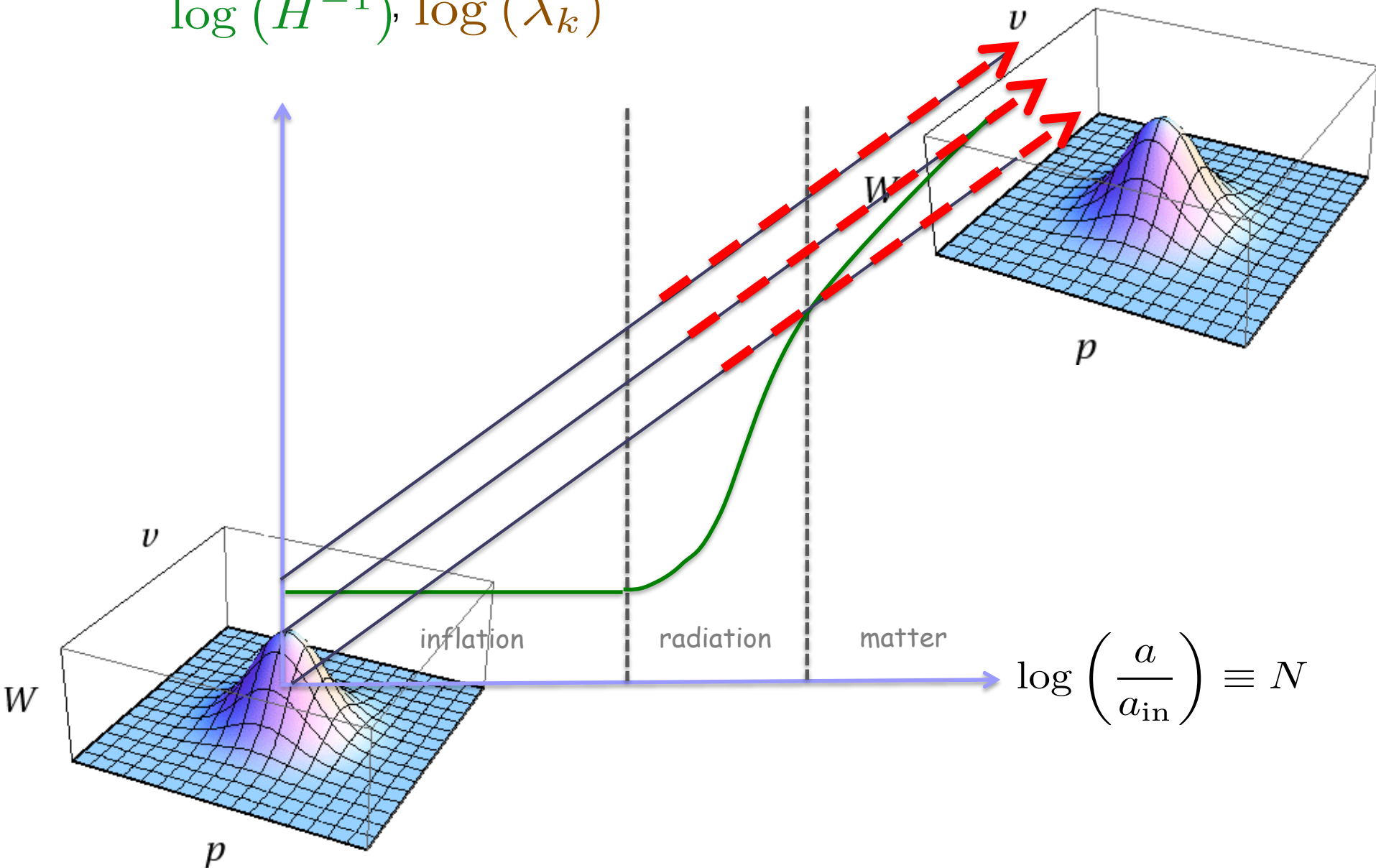


8- Initially, at the beginning of inflation, the quantum state is the vacuum state

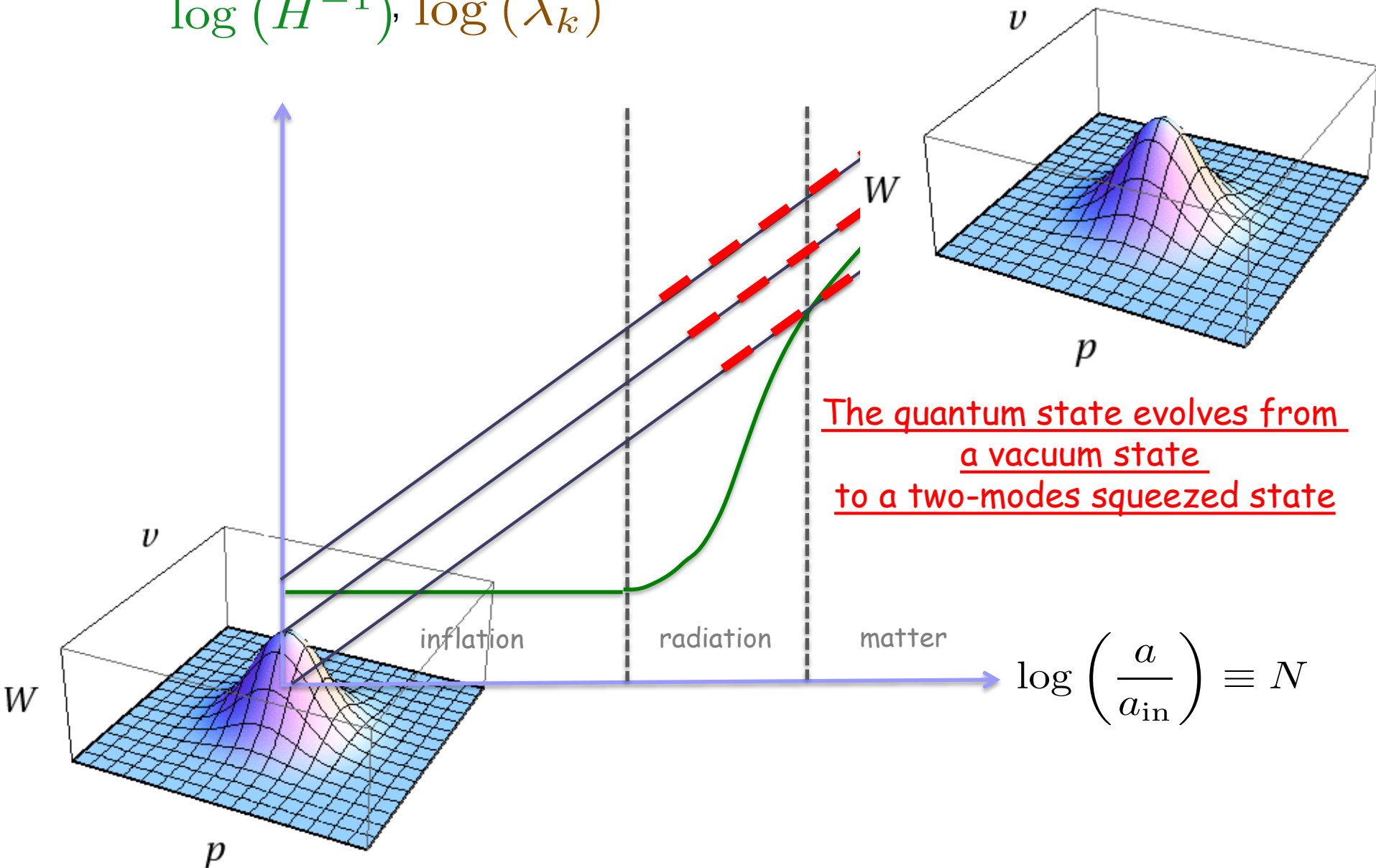
$$\Psi(v_{\mathbf{k}}) = \left[ \frac{2\Re\Omega_{\mathbf{k}}(\eta)}{\pi} \right]^{1/4} e^{-\Omega_{\mathbf{k}}(\eta)v_{\mathbf{k}}^2}$$

$$\lim_{k/(aH) \rightarrow \infty} \Omega_{\mathbf{k}}(\eta) = \frac{k}{2}$$

$$\log(H^{-1}), \log(\lambda_k)$$



$$\log(H^{-1}), \log(\lambda_k)$$

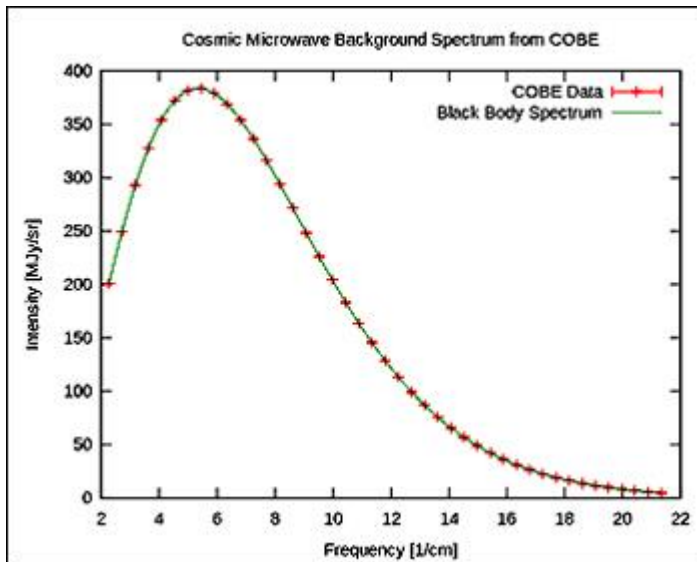


The cosmological two-mode squeezed state is (very!) strongly squeezed

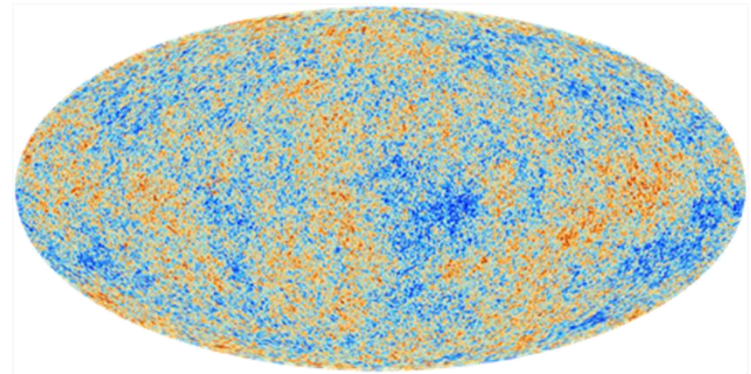
$$|\Psi_{\mathbf{k}}\rangle = \frac{1}{\cosh r_k} \sum_{n=0}^{+\infty} e^{2in\varphi_k} (-1)^n \tanh^n r_k |n_{\mathbf{k}}, n_{-\mathbf{k}}\rangle$$

CMB is the most accurate black body ever produced in Nature

CMB anisotropy is the strongest squeezed state ever produced in Nature



$$r_k = \mathcal{O}(10^2)$$

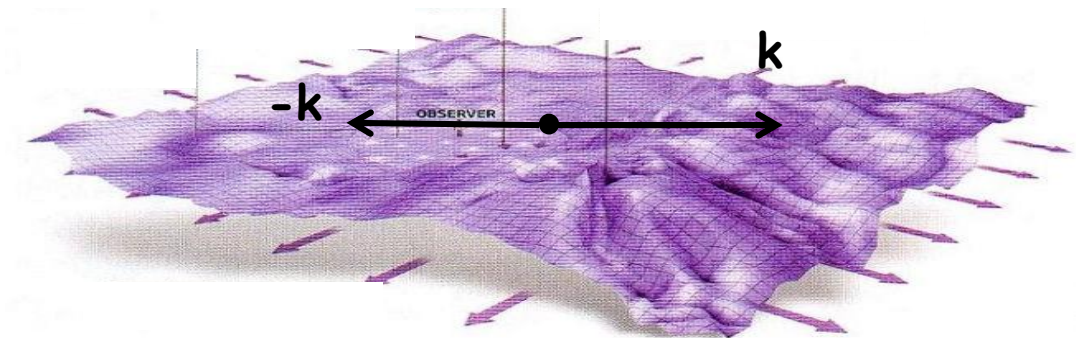




In the Heisenberg picture, this corresponds to creation of particle out of the vacuum (with opposite momenta), thanks to the dynamical background

$$\hat{H} = \int d^3\mathbf{k} \left[ \frac{k}{2} \left( \hat{c}_{\mathbf{k}} \hat{c}_{\mathbf{k}}^\dagger + \hat{c}_{-\mathbf{k}} \hat{c}_{-\mathbf{k}}^\dagger \right) - \frac{i}{2} \frac{(a\sqrt{\epsilon_1})'}{a\sqrt{\epsilon_1}} \left( \hat{c}_{\mathbf{k}} \hat{c}_{-\mathbf{k}} - \hat{c}_{-\mathbf{k}}^\dagger \hat{c}_{\mathbf{k}}^\dagger \right) \right]$$

The pump source  
vanishes if space-time  
is not dynamical,  $a'=0$







This is similar to the Schwinger effect: interaction of a quantum field with a classical source

J. Martin, Lect. Notes Phys. 738 (2008), 195  
arXiv:0704.3540

### Schwinger effect

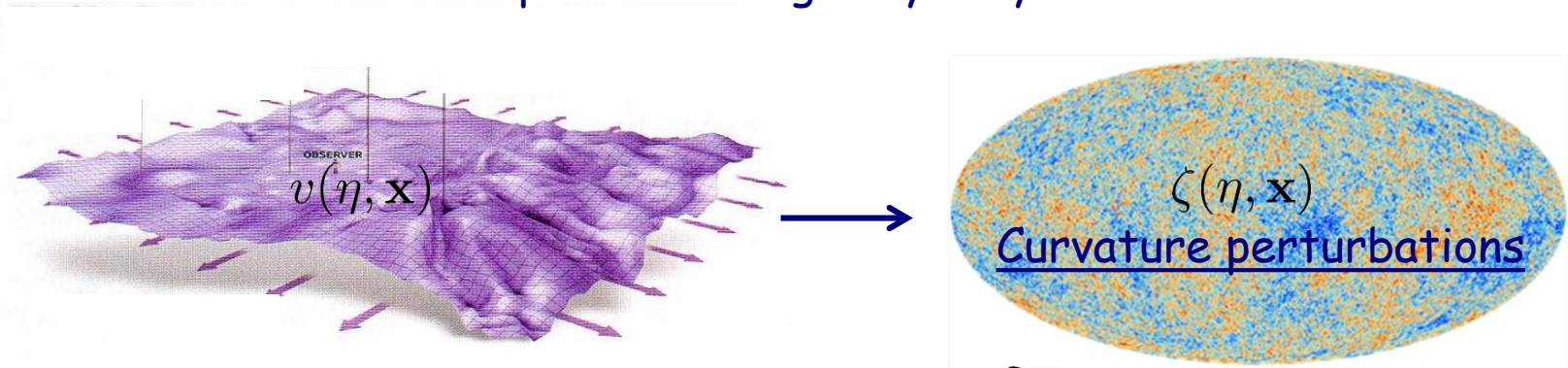
- Electron and positron fields
- Classical electric field
- Amplitude of the effect controlled by  $E$

### Inflationary cosmological perturbations

- Inhomogeneous gravity field
- Background gravitational field: scale factor
- Amplitude controlled by the Hubble parameter  $H$

See also dynamical Schwinger effect, dynamical Casimir effect etc ...

Inflation is phenomenologically very successful



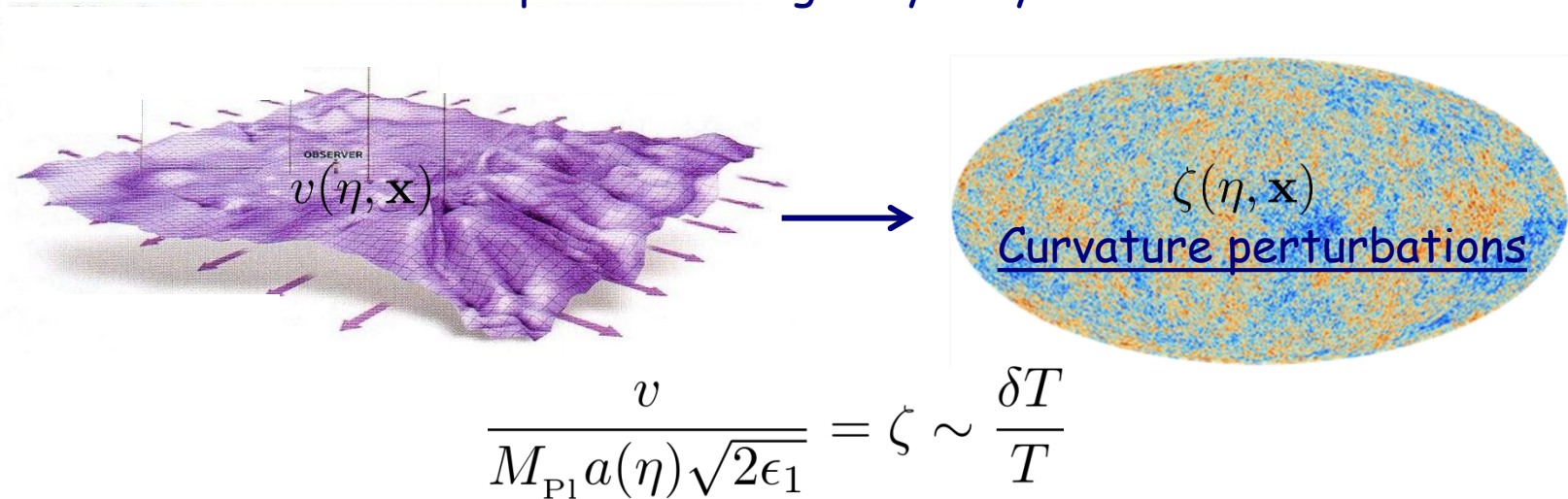
$$\frac{v}{M_{\text{Pl}} a(\eta) \sqrt{2\epsilon_1}} = \zeta \sim \frac{\delta T}{T}$$

## Two-point correlation function

$$\langle \hat{\zeta}(\eta, \mathbf{x}) \hat{\zeta}(\eta, \mathbf{x} + \mathbf{r}) \rangle = \int_0^{+\infty} \frac{dk}{k} P_\zeta(k) \frac{\sin(kr)}{kr}$$

$$P_\zeta(k) = A_s \left( \frac{k}{k_P} \right)^{n_s - 1} \quad \text{with} \quad n_s \simeq 1$$

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## Two-point correlation function

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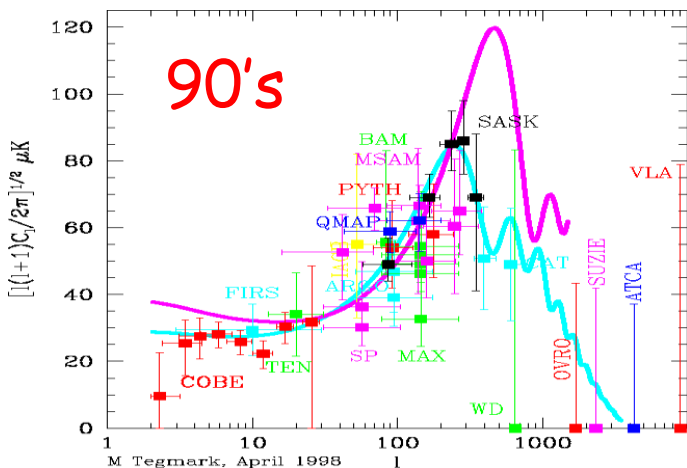
Planck data (2015)

$$n_s = 0.9655 \pm 0.0062$$

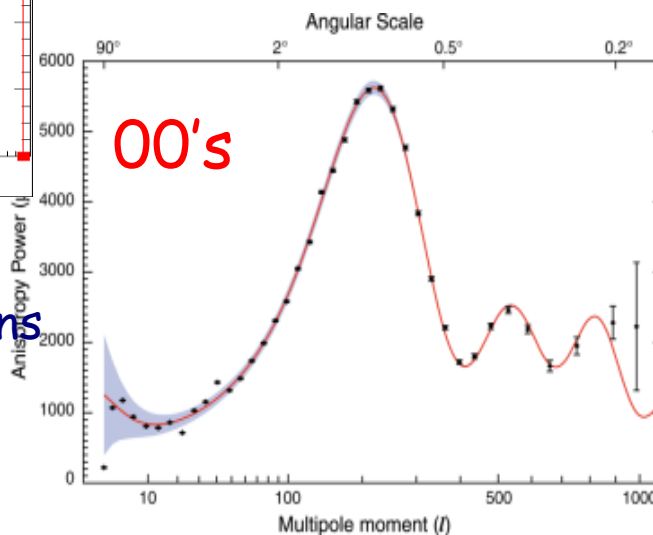
$$\ln(10^{10} A_s) = 3.08 \pm 0.03$$

**J. Martin, *Astrophys. Space Sci*,  
45 (2016), 41, arXiv:1502.05733**

## Inflation is phenomenologically very successful



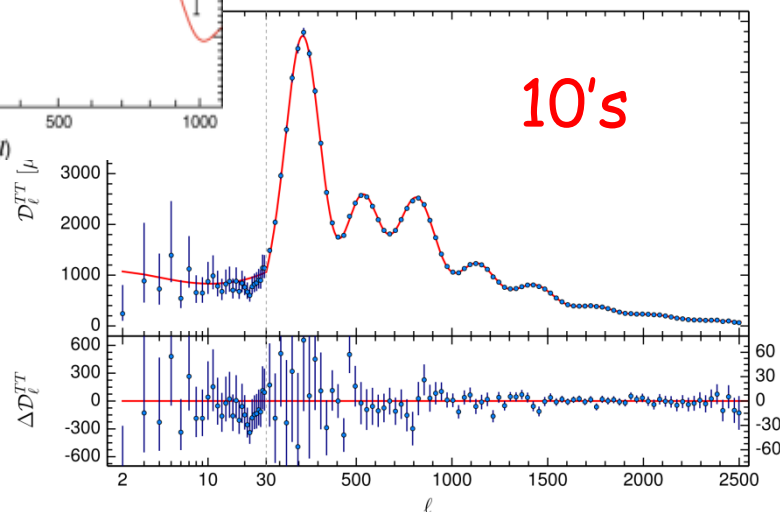
$$\left\langle 0 \left| \frac{\delta T}{T}(\vec{e}_1) \frac{\delta T}{T}(\vec{e}_2) \right| 0 \right\rangle = \sum_{\ell=2}^{+\infty} \frac{2\ell+1}{4\pi} C_{\ell} P_{\ell}(\cos \theta)$$



- The curvature perturbations is constant on large scales

$$\zeta' \simeq e^{-N_*} \simeq e^{-50}$$

- The constancy of curvature perturbations is responsible for the oscillatory pattern



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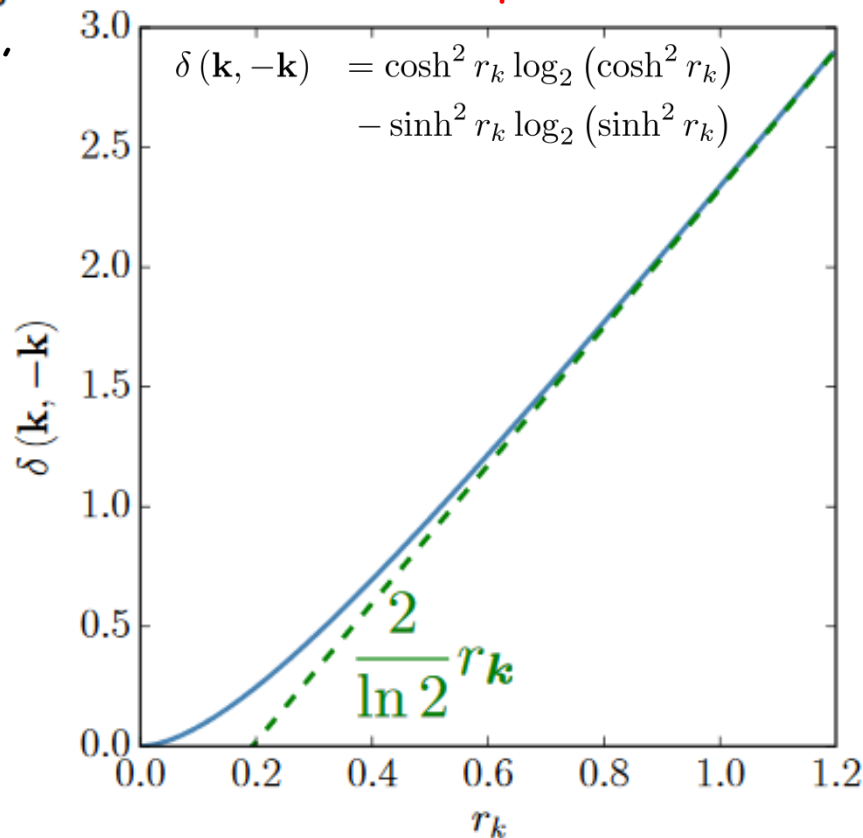


## Discord of a two-mode squeezed state

Discord: find a way to calculate the mutual information which coincides for classical correlations but may differ for quantum systems

H. Ollivier & W. Zurek,  
Phys. Rev. Lett. 88 (201),  
017901.

For two-mode squeezed states



J. Martin & V. Vennin,  
PRD93 (2016), 1023505,  
arXiv:1510.04038

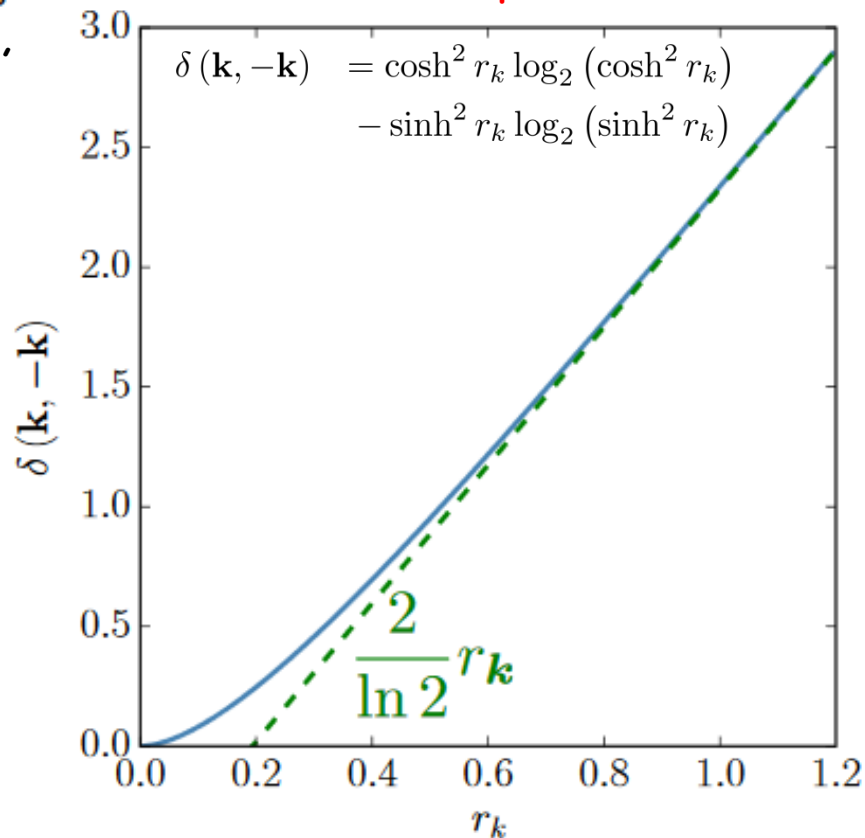
So there should be large quantum correlations (entanglement) in the sky and revealing them would be a mean to find a signature of the quantum mechanical origin of the perturbations

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arXiv:1510.04038

But, in many instances, the quantum correlations are hidden in the decaying mode of the perturbations





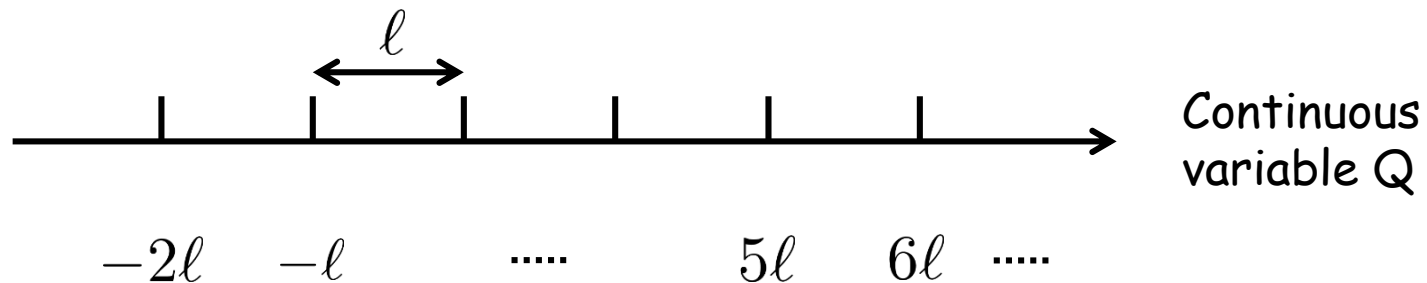
Can we observe quantum correlations in a cosmological (CHSH) Bell experiments?

How to construct a spin operator out of a continuous variable

Can we observe quantum correlations in a cosmological (CHSH) Bell experiments?

How to construct a spin operator out of a continuous variable

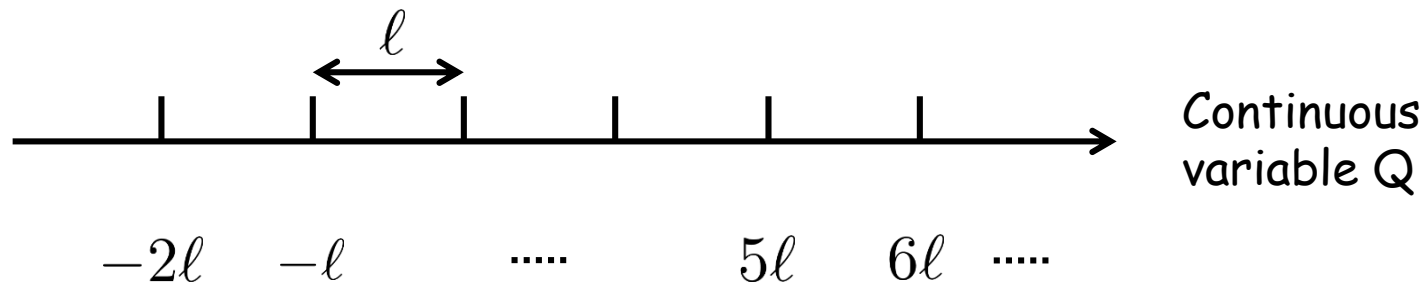
1- Coarse grain the continuous variable



Can we observe quantum correlations in a cosmological (CHSH) Bell experiments?

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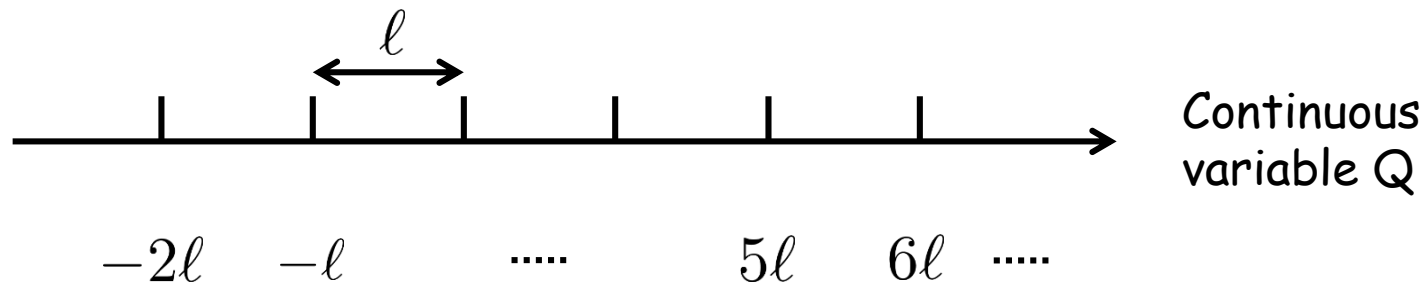
2- Introduce the operator

$$\hat{S}_z(\ell) = \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} (-1)^n \int_{n\ell}^{(n+1)\ell} dQ |Q\rangle \langle Q|$$

## Can we observe quantum correlations in a cosmological (CHSH) Bell experiments?

How to construct a spin operator out of a continuous variable

1- Coarse grain the continuous variable



2- Introduce the operator

$$\hat{S}_z(\ell) = \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} (-1)^n \int_{n\ell}^{(n+1)\ell} dQ |Q\rangle \langle Q|$$

$$\hat{S}_z^2(\ell) = 1 \quad \text{It is a spin!}$$



Can we observe quantum correlations in a cosmological (CHSH) Bell experiments?

How to construct a spin operator out of a continuous variable

3- The other components are introduced with

$$\hat{S}_+(\ell) = \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} (-1)^n \int_{2n\ell}^{(2n+1)\ell} dQ |Q\rangle \langle Q + \ell|$$



$$\hat{S}_x(\ell) = \hat{S}_+(\ell) + S_+^\dagger(\ell)$$

$$\hat{S}_y(\ell) = -i \left[ \hat{S}_+(\ell) - S_+^\dagger(\ell) \right]$$



## Bell's operator for two-mode squeezed state (1 is k and 2 is -k)

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{B}(\ell) &= \left[ \mathbf{n} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{S}}^{(1)}(\ell) \right] \otimes \left[ \mathbf{m} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{S}}^{(2)}(\ell) \right] + \left[ \mathbf{n} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{S}}^{(1)}(\ell) \right] \otimes \left[ \mathbf{m}' \cdot \hat{\mathbf{S}}^{(2)}(\ell) \right] \\ &+ \left[ \mathbf{n}' \cdot \hat{\mathbf{S}}^{(1)}(\ell) \right] \otimes \left[ \mathbf{m} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{S}}^{(2)}(\ell) \right] - \left[ \mathbf{n}' \cdot \hat{\mathbf{S}}^{(1)}(\ell) \right] \otimes \left[ \mathbf{m}' \cdot \hat{\mathbf{S}}^{(2)}(\ell) \right]\end{aligned}$$

Classically

$$-2 \leq B \leq 2$$

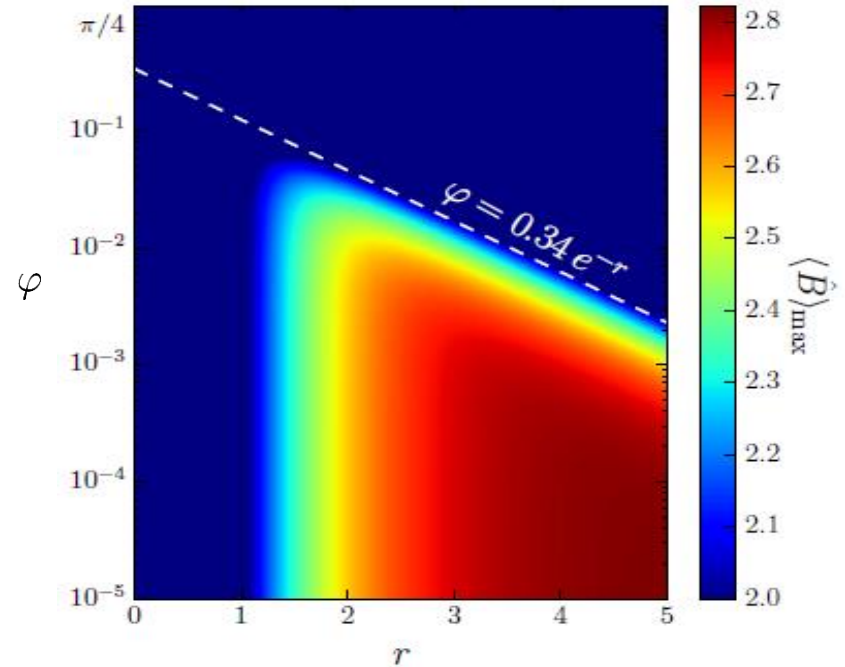
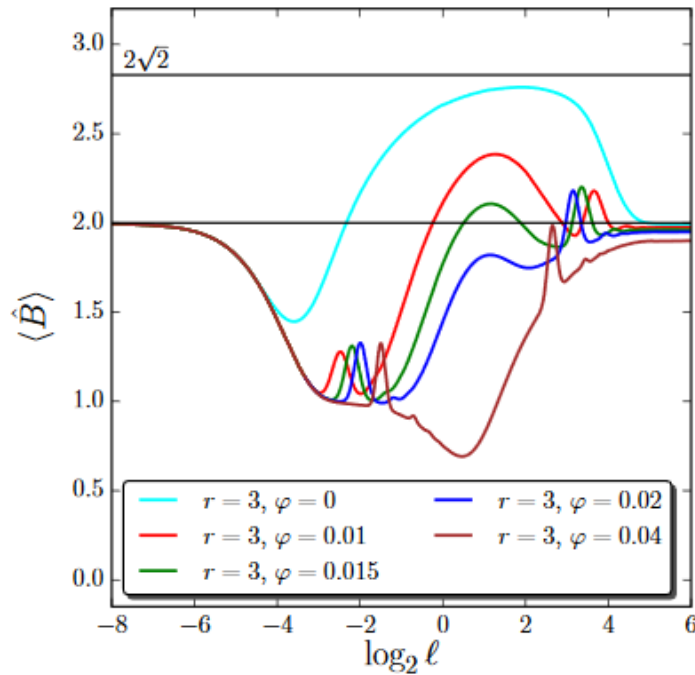
Quantum-mechanically

$$\langle \hat{B}(\ell) \rangle = \langle \Psi_{2\text{-squeezed}} | \hat{B} | \Psi_{2\text{-squeezed}} \rangle$$



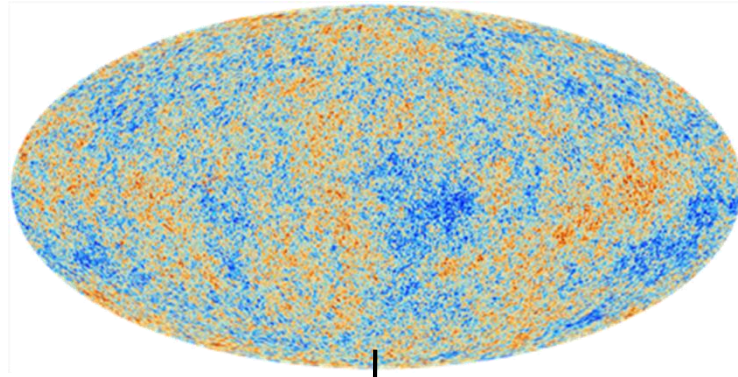
## Bell's operator for two-mode squeezed state (1 is k and 2 is -k)

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{B}(\ell) &= \left[ \mathbf{n} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{S}}^{(1)}(\ell) \right] \otimes \left[ \mathbf{m} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{S}}^{(2)}(\ell) \right] + \left[ \mathbf{n} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{S}}^{(1)}(\ell) \right] \otimes \left[ \mathbf{m}' \cdot \hat{\mathbf{S}}^{(2)}(\ell) \right] \\ &+ \left[ \mathbf{n}' \cdot \hat{\mathbf{S}}^{(1)}(\ell) \right] \otimes \left[ \mathbf{m} \cdot \hat{\mathbf{S}}^{(2)}(\ell) \right] - \left[ \mathbf{n}' \cdot \hat{\mathbf{S}}^{(1)}(\ell) \right] \otimes \left[ \mathbf{m}' \cdot \hat{\mathbf{S}}^{(2)}(\ell) \right]\end{aligned}$$



J. Martin & V. Vennin, PRA93 (2016), 062117,  
arXiv:1605.02944

## How can we measure the fictitious spin?

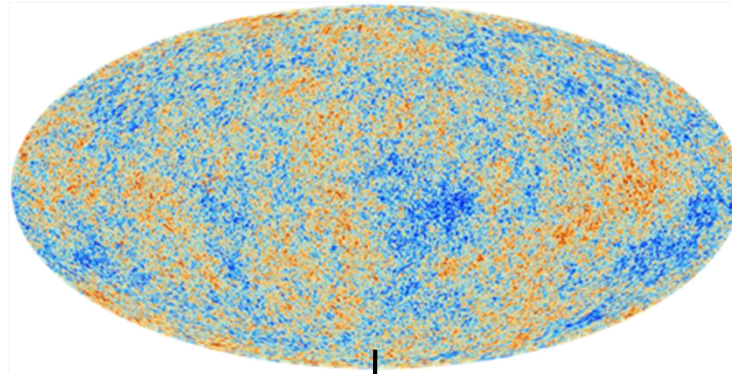


$$Q \sim v_{\mathbf{k}}$$

Find  $n$  such that  $n\ell < v_{\mathbf{k}} < (n+1)\ell$

$$S_z(\ell) = (-1)^n$$

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But this also requires a measurement of the x-component of the spin which means measuring  $p \sim Q' \sim e^{-N_*}$  that is to say the decaying mode ...



## Outline

- ❑ The theory of cosmic inflation in brief: basic principles & observational status
- ❑ Cosmological fluctuations of quantum-mechanical origin
- ❑ Quantum Mechanics in the sky? Can we show that inflationary perturbations are of quantum-mechanical origin?
- ❑ Conclusions



### Recap

- According to cosmic inflation, the CMB fluctuations are placed in a strongly two- mode squeezed state which a discordant and entangled state



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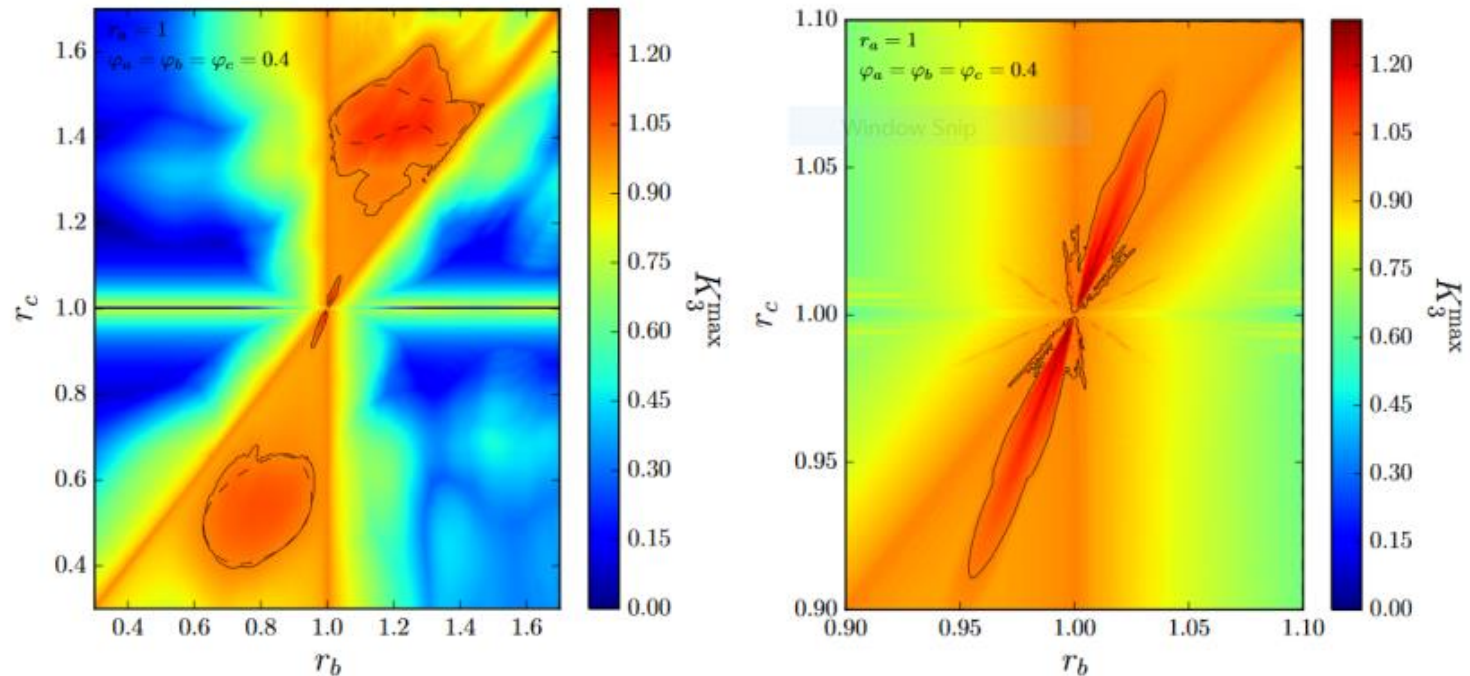


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## Recap

Measure the z-component only but at different times= Leggett-Garg inequalities



J. Martin & V. Vennin, PRA94 (2016), 052135,  
arXiv:1611.0185

The Leggett-Garg inequalities are violated for a two-mode squeezed state



### Recap

- ❑ According to cosmic inflation, the CMB fluctuations are placed in a strongly two- mode squeezed state which a discordant and entangled state
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- ❑ Inflation can also be used to test theories beyond QM such as CSL, de Broglie Bohm formulation etc ...

P. Canate, P. Pearle & D. Sudarsky, PRD87 (2013), 104024, arXiv:1211.3463

S. Das, S. Sahu, S. Banerjee & TP Singh, PRD90 (2014), 043503, arXiv:1404.5740

J. Martin, V. Vennin & P. Peter, PRD86 (2012), 103524, arXiv:1207.2086



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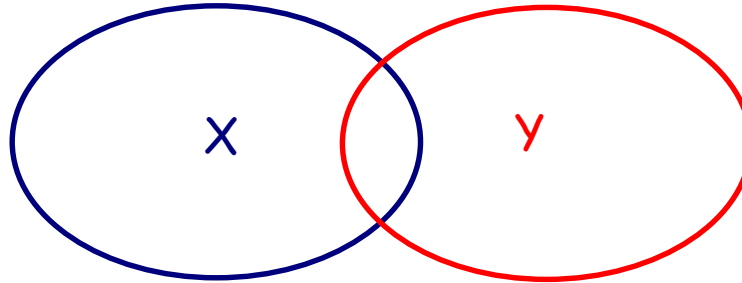
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- Take away message: inflation is not only a successful scenario of the early Universe, it is also a very interesting playground for foundational issues of quantum mechanics



$$J(X, Y) \equiv S(X) - S(X|Y)$$



1) The bipartite system is characterized by the pdf:  $p(X = x, Y = y)$

2) The "individual" pdf's are the marginalized pdf's :

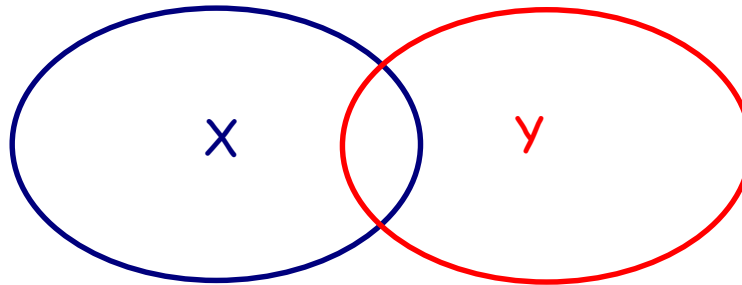
$$p(X = x) = \sum_y p(X = x, Y = y)$$

$$p(Y = y) = \sum_x p(X = x, Y = y)$$

3) Conditional entropy is defined by:

$$S(X|Y = b) = \sum_x p(X = x|Y = b) \ln [p(X = x|Y = b)]$$

$$S(X|Y) = \sum_b p(Y = b) S(X|Y = b)$$



1) The bipartite system is characterized by the density matrix:  $\hat{\rho}(X, Y)$

2) Then, one measures an observable of the system  $Y$ , characterized by the operator

$$\text{Id}(X) \otimes \hat{\Pi}_j(Y) \quad \text{with} \quad \sum_j \hat{\Pi}_j(Y) = 1$$

The state of the system becomes  $\hat{\rho}(X, Y) \rightarrow \hat{\rho}(X, Y) \frac{\text{Id}(X) \otimes \hat{\Pi}_j(Y)}{p_j}$

$$p_j = \text{Tr} \left[ \hat{\rho}(X, Y) \text{Id}(X) \otimes \hat{\Pi}_j(Y) \right]$$

3) If we only have access to  $X$ :

$$\hat{\rho}(X; \hat{\Pi}_j) = \text{Tr} \left[ \hat{\rho}(X, Y) \frac{\text{Id}(X) \otimes \hat{\Pi}_j(Y)}{p_j} \right]$$

$$\longrightarrow J(X, Y) = S[\hat{\rho}(X)] - \sum_j p_j S[\hat{\rho}(X; \hat{\Pi}_j)]$$





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A non-discordant state has necessarily the following form

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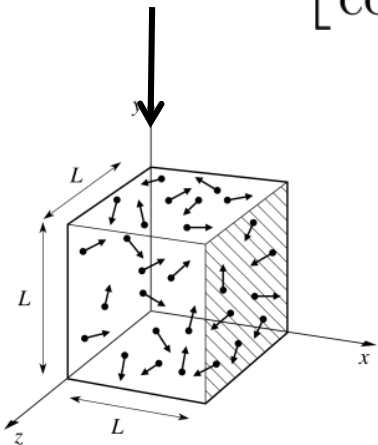
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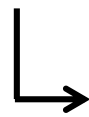
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$$\hat{\rho}_{\text{cl}} = (1 - e^{\beta_k}) \sum_{n=0}^{+\infty} e^{-\beta_k n} |n_{\mathbf{k}}, n_{-\mathbf{k}}\rangle \langle n_{\mathbf{k}}, n_{-\mathbf{k}}|$$



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One reproduces exactly the power spectrum of curvature perturbations



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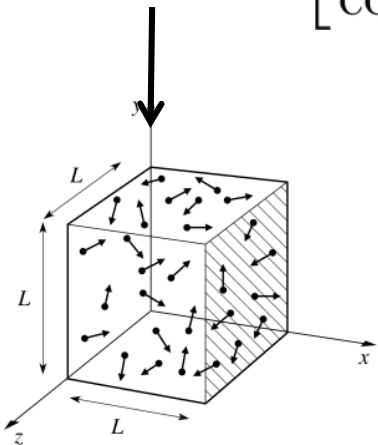
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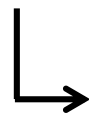
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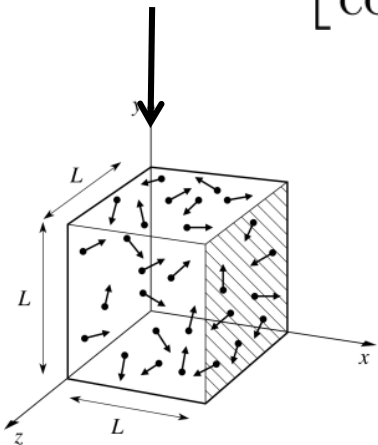
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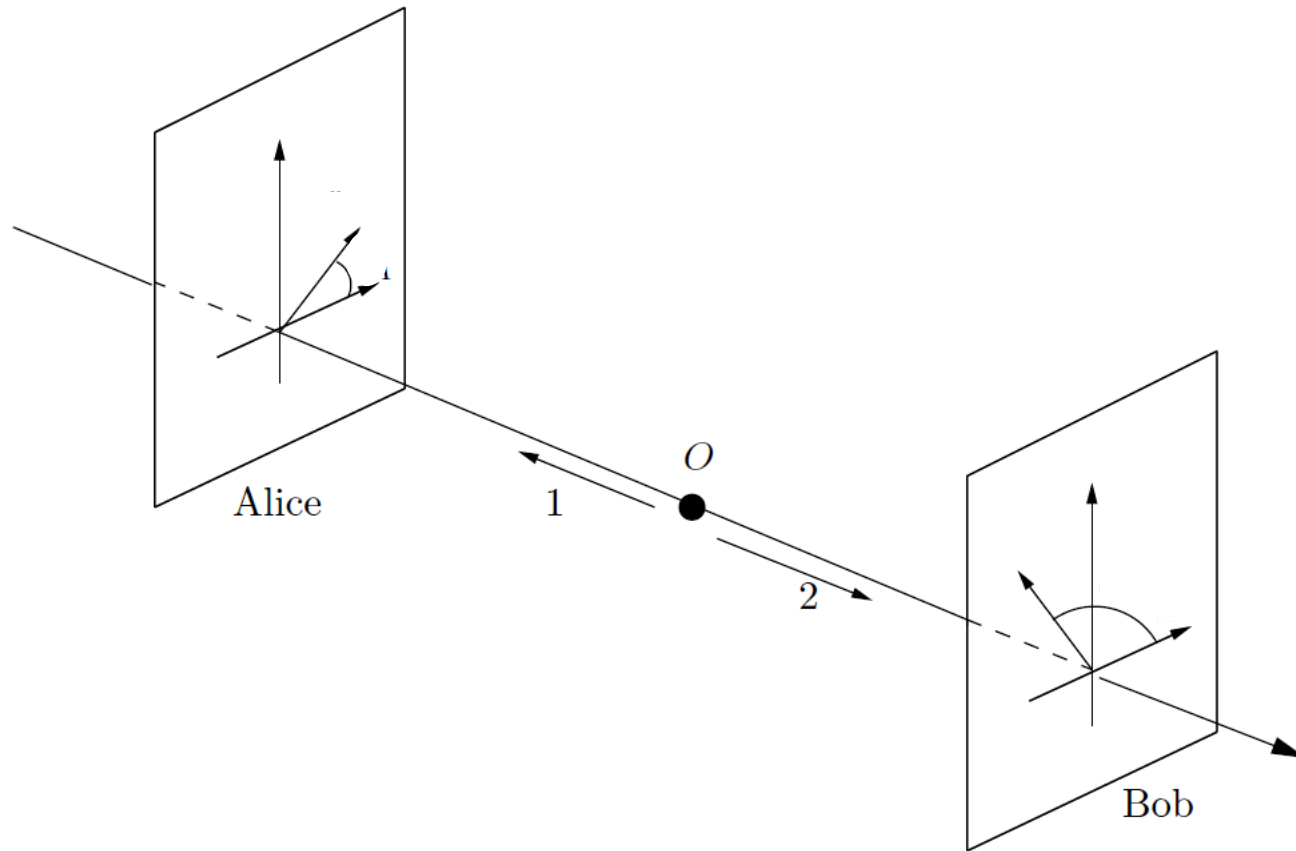
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For the other correlation function

$$\left. \begin{aligned} \langle \hat{\zeta}'_{\mathbf{k}} \hat{\zeta}'_{\mathbf{k}} \rangle_{\text{cl}} &= e^{-4N_*} \\ \langle \hat{\zeta}'_{\mathbf{k}} \hat{\zeta}'_{\mathbf{k}} \rangle &= e^{-2N_*} \end{aligned} \right\} \frac{\langle \hat{\zeta}'_{\mathbf{k}} \hat{\zeta}'_{\mathbf{k}} \rangle}{\langle \hat{\zeta}'_{\mathbf{k}} \hat{\zeta}'_{\mathbf{k}} \rangle_{\text{cl}}} = e^{2N_*} \gg 1$$

The difference is hidden in the decaying mode ...







A two-mode squeezed state is also an entangled state

$$|\Psi_{\mathbf{k}}\rangle = \frac{1}{\cosh r_k} \sum_{n=0}^{+\infty} e^{2in\varphi_k} (-1)^n \tanh^n r_k |n_{\mathbf{k}}, n_{-\mathbf{k}}\rangle$$

We have quantum correlations between modes with wave-numbers  $k$  and  $-k$