

Primordial Black Holes (PBHs) as a dark matter candidate

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Motivation & history

Formation

Observational constraints/signatures

Open questions

Reviews

Green & Kavanagh, J. Phys. G. [arXiv:2007.10722](https://arxiv.org/abs/2007.10722), 'PBHs as a dark matter candidate'

Bradley Kavanagh's PBH abundance constraint plotting code: <https://github.com/bradkav/PBHbounds>

Carr & Kuhnel, Ann. Rev. Nuc. Part. Sci. [arXiv:2006.02838](https://arxiv.org/abs/2006.02838), 'PBHs as dark matter: recent developments'

Future prospects

Bird et al., Phys. Dark. Univ. [arXiv:2203.08967](https://arxiv.org/abs/2203.08967), 'Snowmass2001 Cosmic Frontier White Paper: PBH dark matter'

Prelude

Postdoc in the Field and Particle group 2001-2003

Worked on dark matter (WIMPs and MACHOs) and early Universe cosmology:

Dynamics of a large extra dimension inspired hybrid inflation model

Anne M. Green and Anupam Mazumdar
Phys. Rev. D **65**, 105022 – Published 15 May 2002

A&A 395, 31-35 (2002)

Are there MACHOs in the Milky Way halo?

A. M. Green^{1,2} and K. Jedamzik^{3,4}

Effect of halo modeling on weakly interacting massive particle exclusion limits

Anne M. Green
Phys. Rev. D **66**, 083003 – Published 11 October 2002

The power spectrum of SUSY-CDM on subgalactic scales FREE

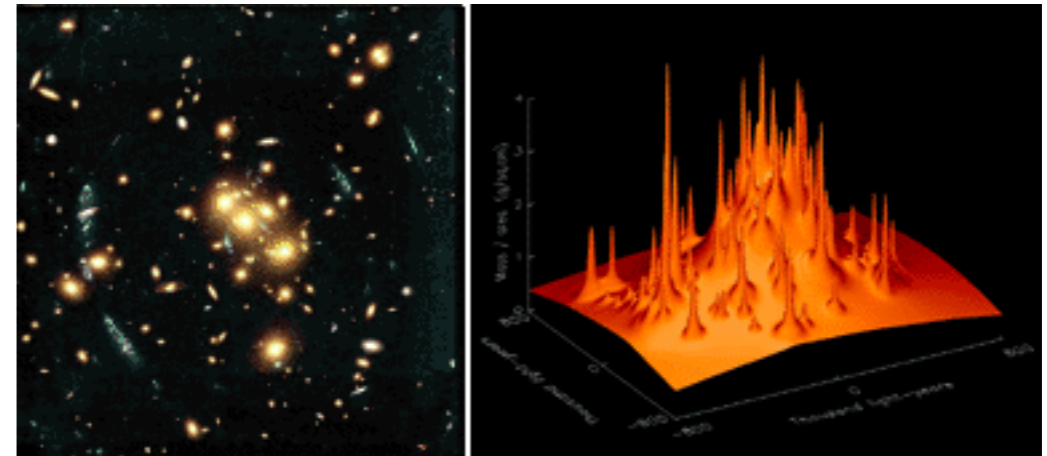
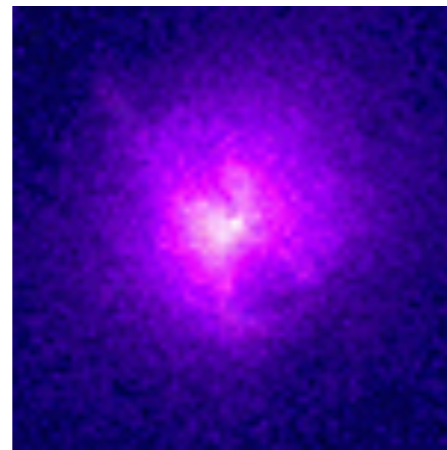
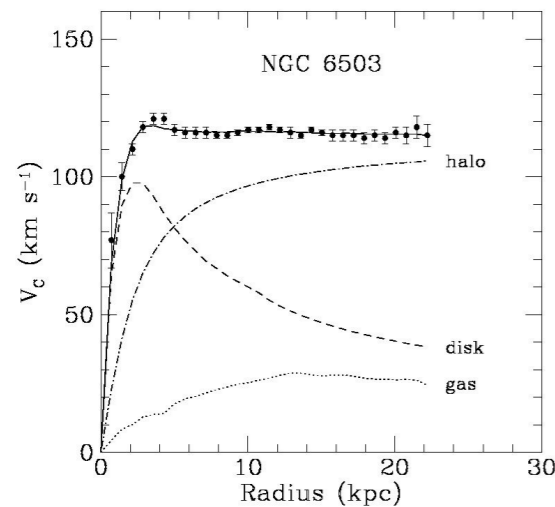
Anne M. Green ✉, Stefan Hofmann ✉, Dominik J. Schwarz

Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society, Volume 353, Issue 3, September 2004, Pages L23–L27, <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1365-2966.2004.08232.x>

And had a lot of fun (in particular in the snow):



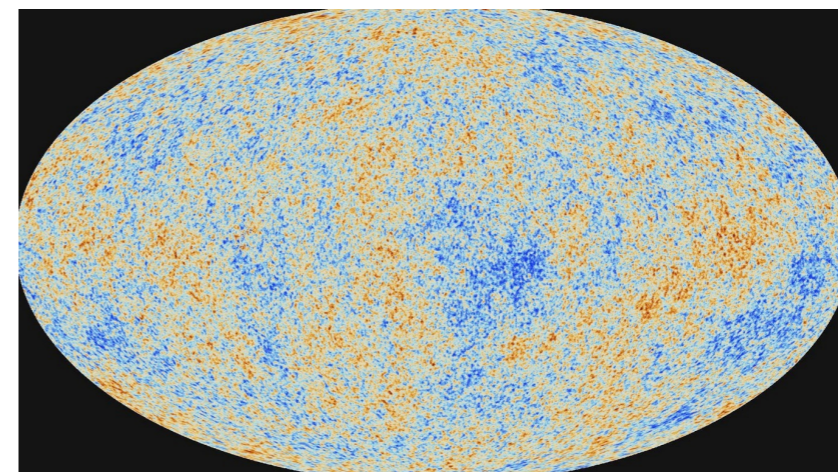
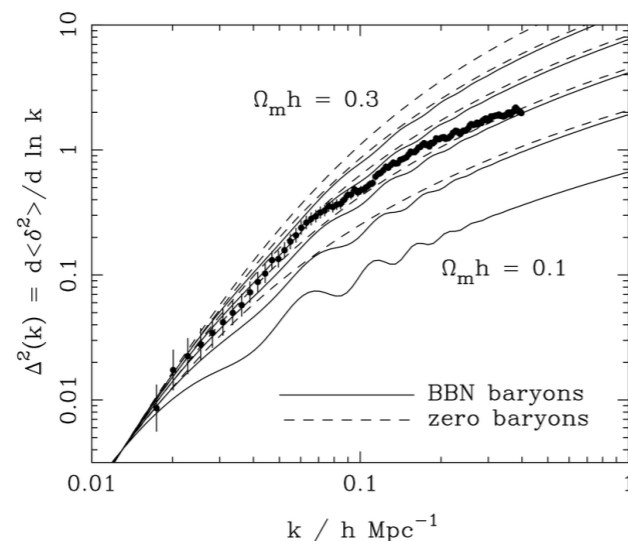
Motivation & history



Lots of evidence for **non-baryonic cold dark matter** from diverse astronomical and cosmological observations

[galaxy rotation curves, galaxy clusters (galaxy velocities, X-ray gas, lensing), galaxy red-shift surveys, Cosmic Microwave Background]

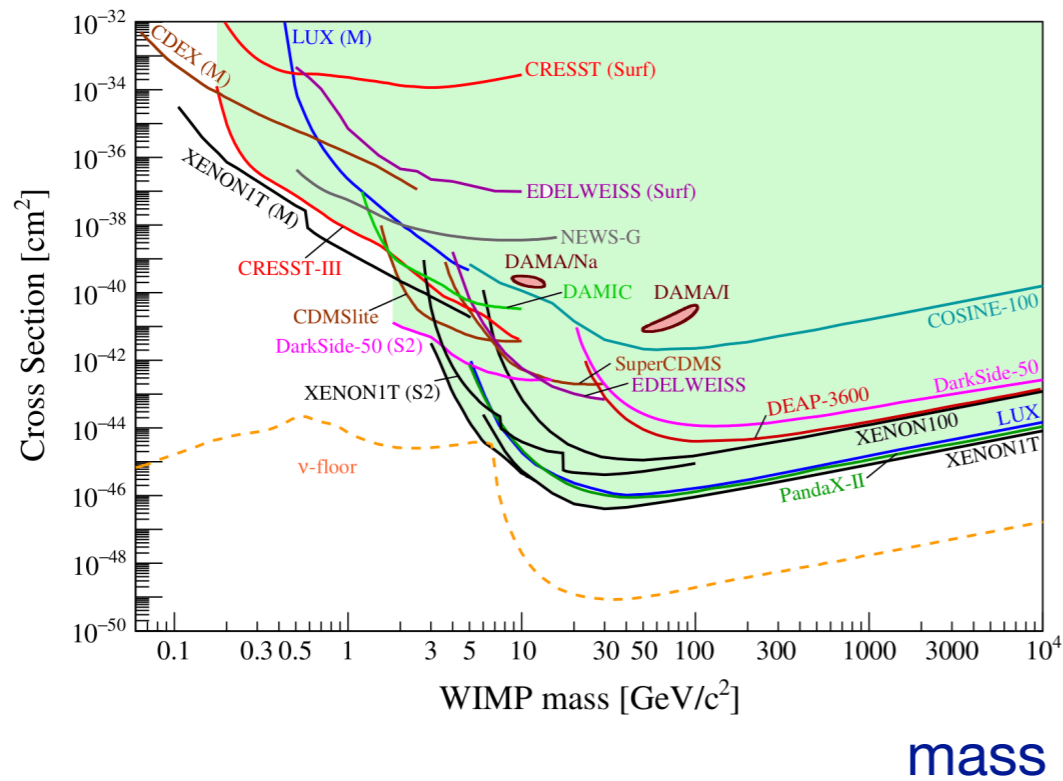
assuming Newtonian gravity/GR is correct.



No sign (yet...) of well-motivated particle dark matter candidates in 'direct detection' experiments:

Weakly Interacting Massive Particles

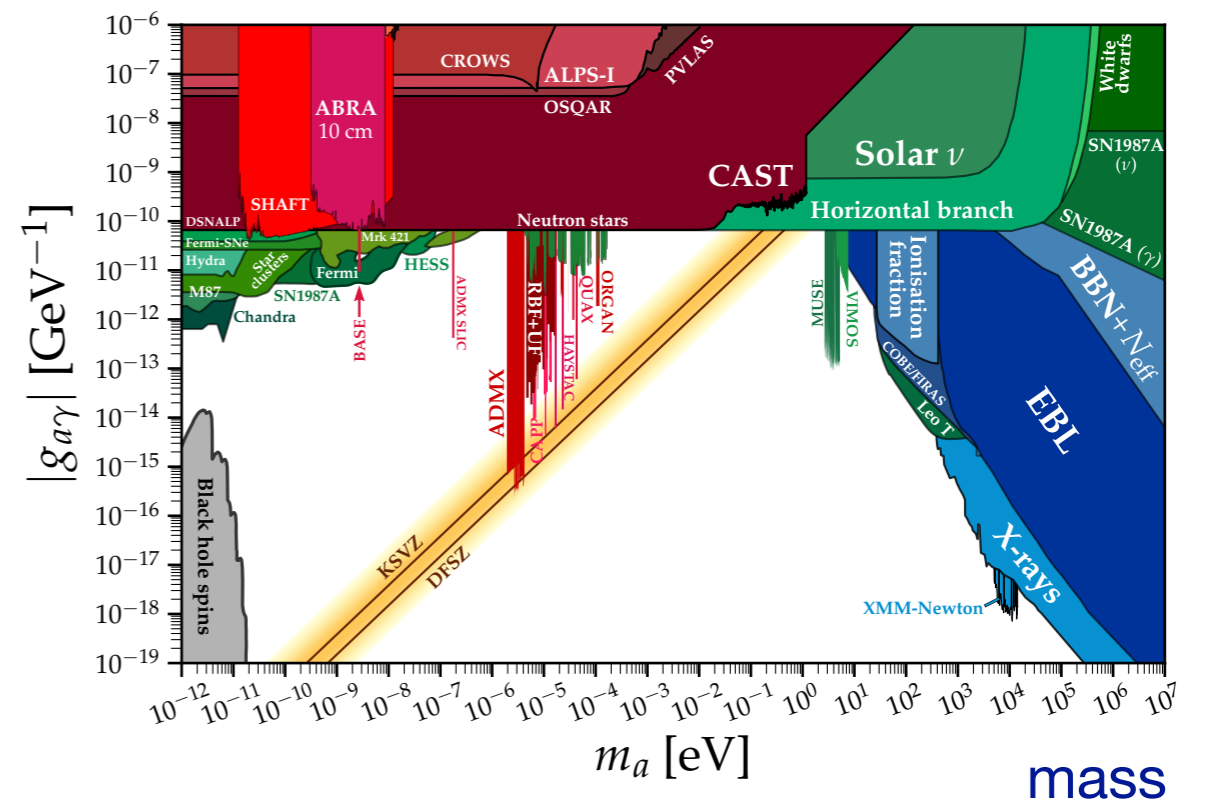
elastic scattering cross section



APPEC committee report

axions/axion like particles

coupling with photons



O'Hare

Primordial Black Holes (PBHs) may form from over densities in the early Universe (before nucleosynthesis) and are therefore non-baryonic. [Zel'dovich and Novikov](#); [Hawking](#)

PBHs evaporate ([Hawking radiation](#)), lifetime longer than the age of the Universe for $M \gtrsim 10^{15} \text{ g}$.

[MacGibbon](#)



A DM candidate which (unlike WIMPs, axions, sterile neutrinos,...) isn't a new particle, however their formation does usually require Beyond the Standard Model physics, e.g. inflation.

Was realised that PBHs are a cold dark matter (DM) candidate in the 1970s [Hawking; Chapline](#)

Wave of interest in ~Solar mass PBHs as DM in late 1990s, generated by excess of LMC microlensing events in [MACHO collaboration's 2 year data set](#).

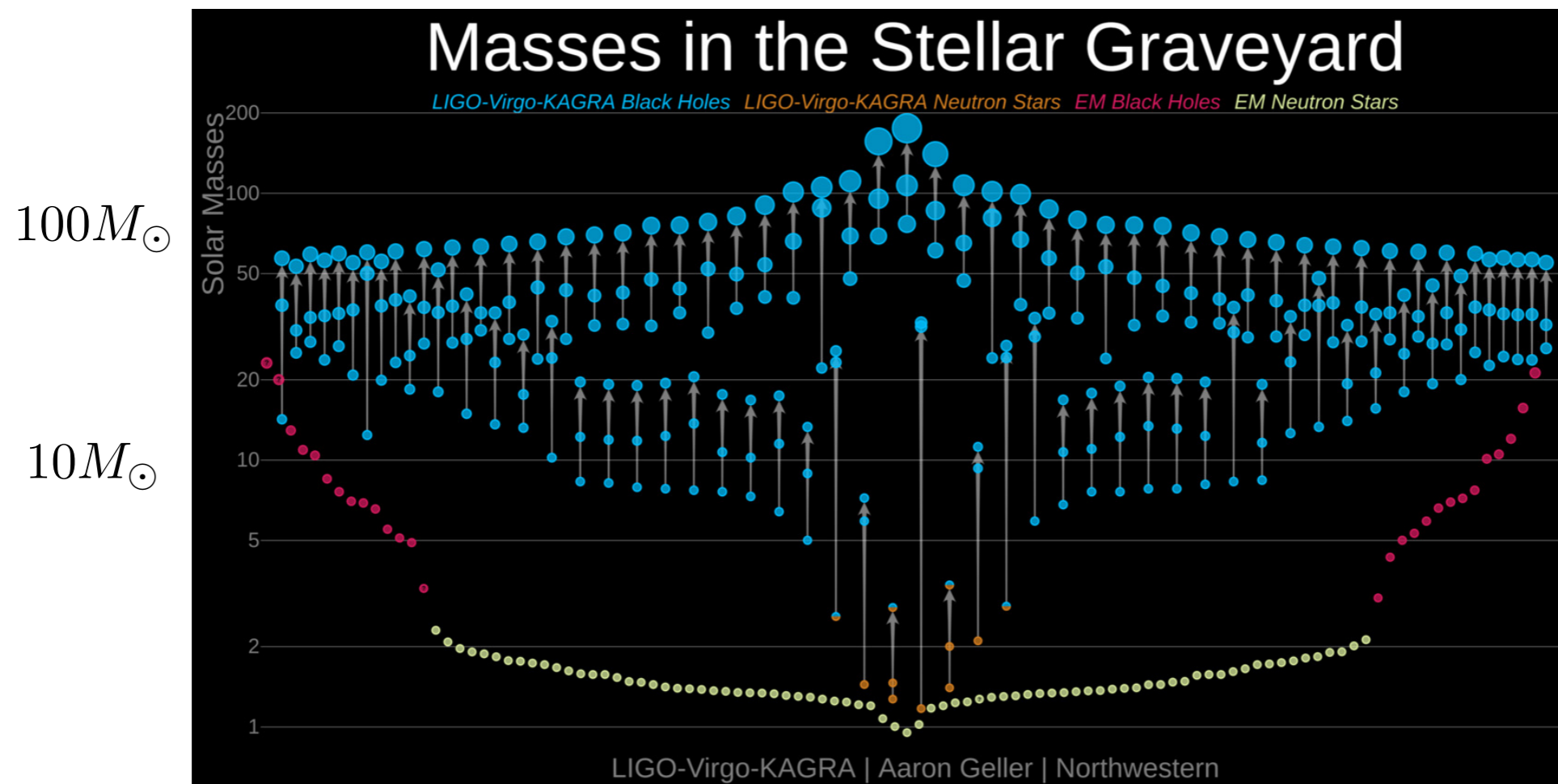
[Nakamura et al. \(1997\)](#): PBH binaries form in the early Universe and (if they survive to the present day) GWs from their coalescence detectable by LIGO.

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Could (some of) the BHs in the LIGO-Virgo BH binaries be primordial? (and also a significant component of the DM?) [Bird et al.](#); [Clesse & Garcia-Bellido](#); [Sasaki et al.](#)



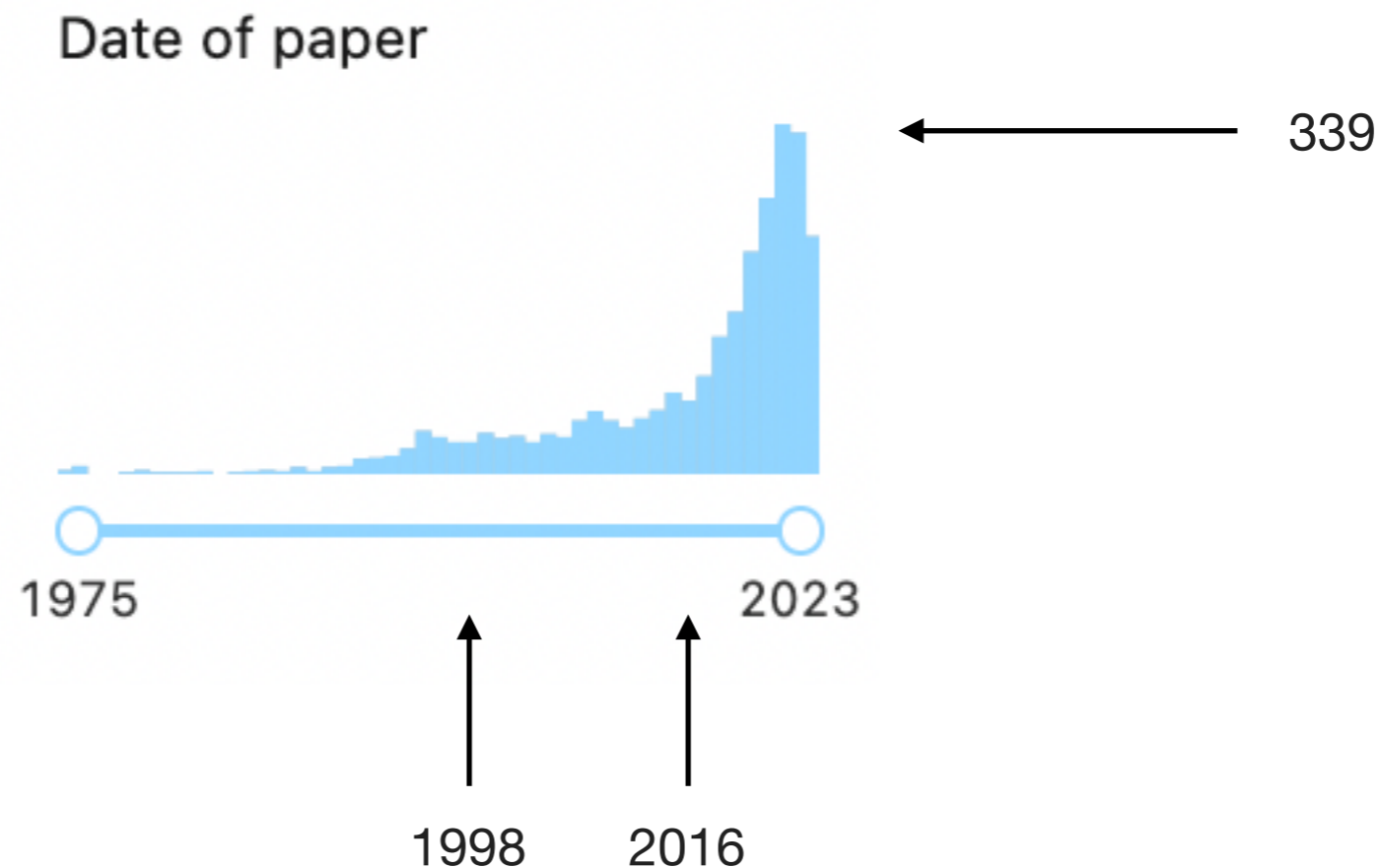
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result of an inSPIRE search for 'primordial black hole'



Formation

Most 'popular' mechanism: collapse of large density perturbations during radiation domination. [Zeldovich & Novikov](#); [Hawking](#); [Carr & Hawking](#)

If a region is sufficiently over-dense, gravity overcomes pressure and it collapse to form a BH shortly after 'horizon entry'.

essential analysis: [Carr](#)

threshold for PBH formation: $\delta \geq \delta_c \sim w = \frac{p}{\rho} = \frac{1}{3}$

$$\delta \equiv \frac{\rho - \bar{\rho}}{\bar{\rho}} \quad \text{density contrast (at horizon crossing)}$$

PBH mass roughly equal to horizon mass:

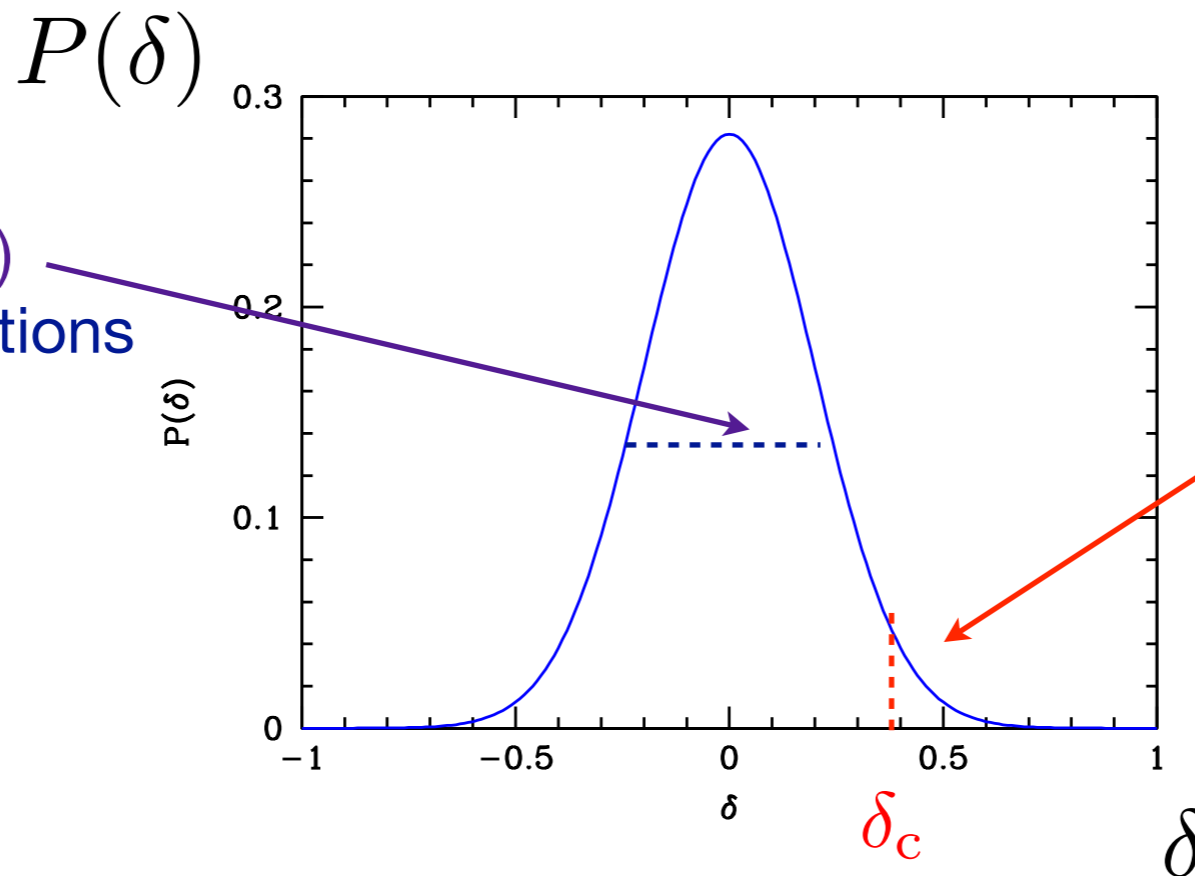
$$M_{\text{PBH}} \sim 10^{15} \text{ g} \left(\frac{t}{10^{-23} \text{ s}} \right) \sim M_{\odot} \left(\frac{t}{10^{-6} \text{ s}} \right)$$

Threshold in fact depends on shape of perturbation (which depends on primordial power spectrum). [Harada, Yoo & Kohri](#); [Germani & Musco](#); [Musco](#); [Escriv, Germani & Sheth](#)

initial PBH mass fraction (fraction of universe in regions dense enough to form PBHs):

$$\beta(M) \sim \int_{\delta_c}^{\infty} P(\delta(M_H)) d\delta(M_H)$$

assuming a gaussian probability distribution: $\beta(M) = \text{erfc} \left(\frac{\delta_c}{\sqrt{2}\sigma(M_H)} \right)$



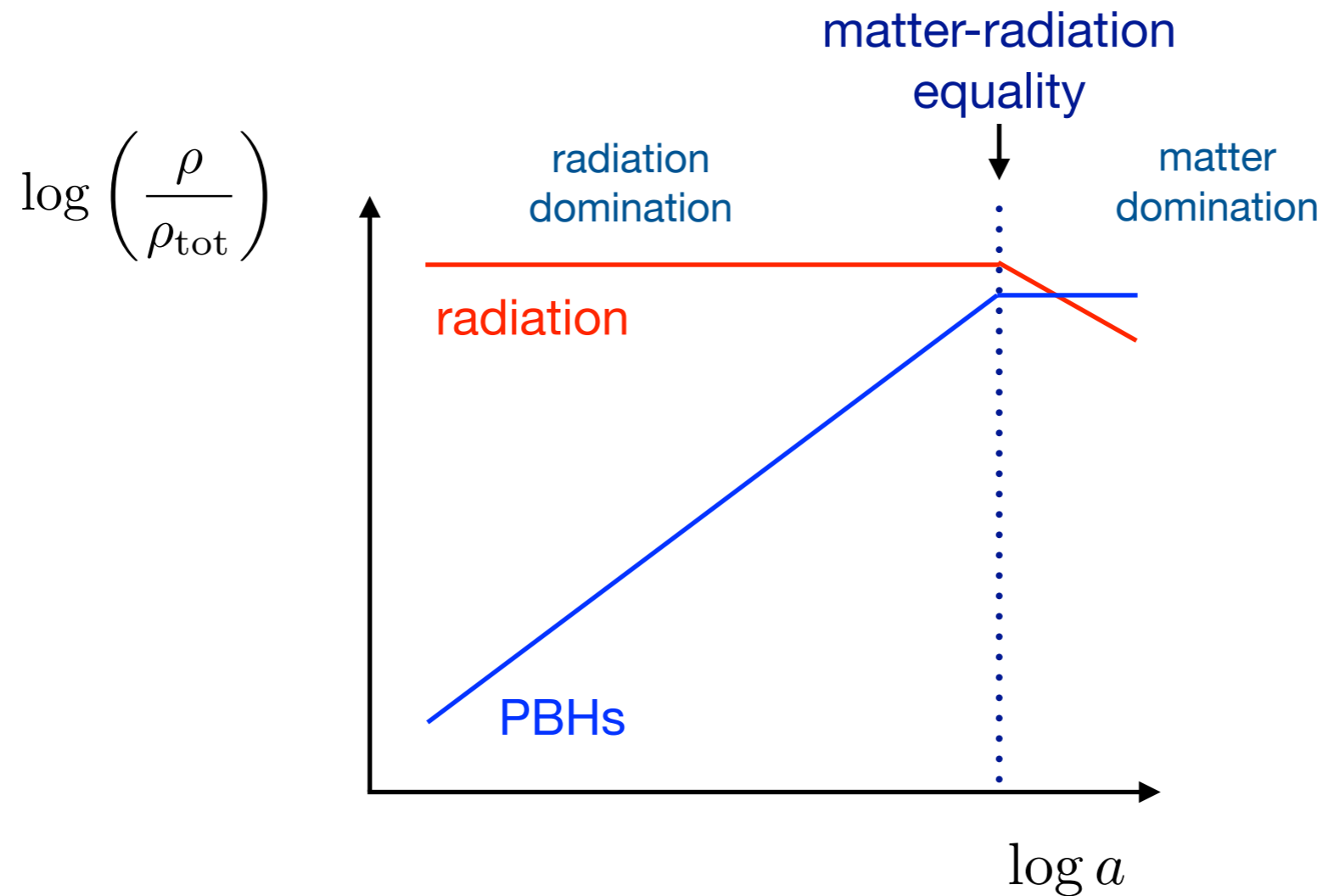
$\sigma(M_H)$ (mass variance)
typical size of fluctuations

PBH forming
fluctuations

but in fact β must be small, hence $\sigma \ll \delta_c$ and $\beta(M) \sim \sigma(M_H) \exp \left(-\frac{\delta_c^2}{2\sigma^2(M_H)} \right)$

Since PBHs are matter, during radiation domination the fraction of energy in PBHs grows with time:

$$\frac{\rho_{\text{PBH}}}{\rho_{\text{rad}}} \propto \frac{a^{-3}}{a^{-4}} \propto a$$



Relationship between **PBH initial mass fraction, β** , and **fraction of DM in form of PBHs, f** :

$$\beta(M) \sim 10^{-9} f \left(\frac{M}{M_{\odot}}\right)^{1/2}$$

i.e. initial mass fraction must be small.

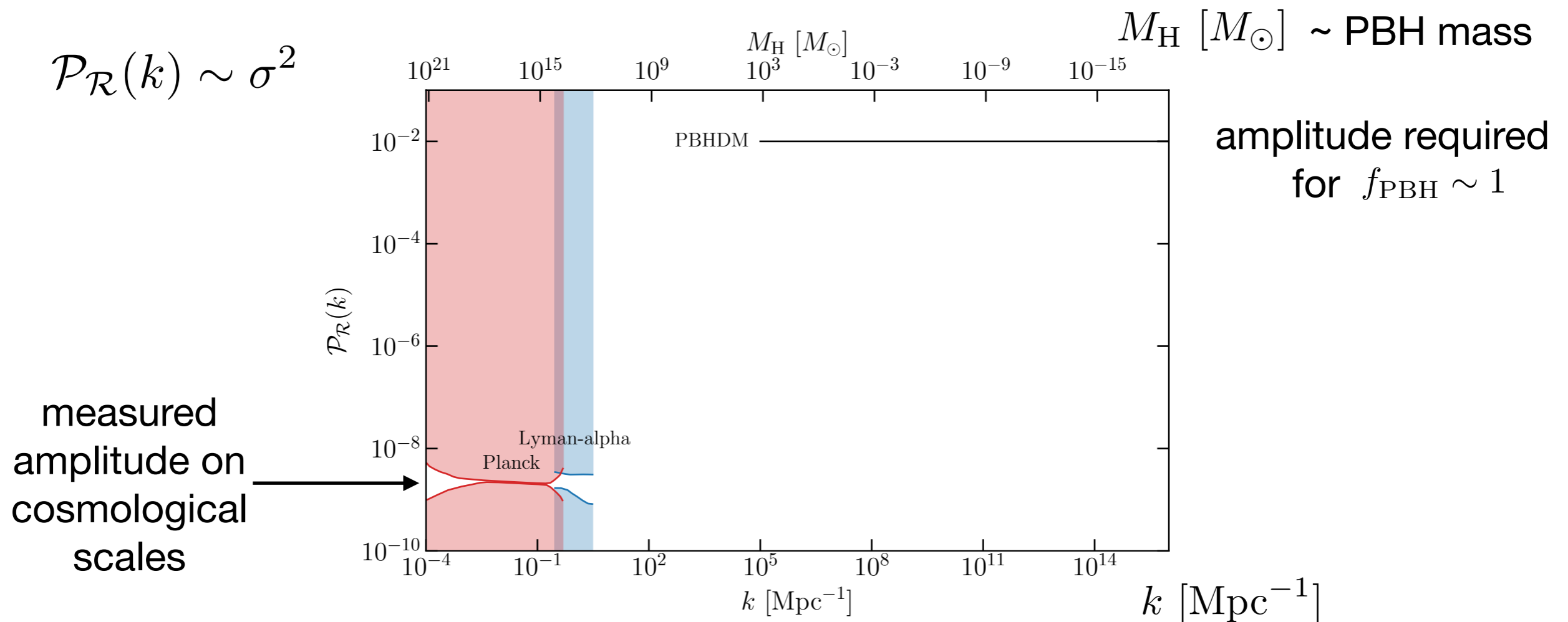
On CMB scales the primordial perturbations have amplitude $\sigma(M_H) \sim 10^{-5}$

If the primordial perturbations are very close to scale-invariant the number of PBHs formed will be completely negligible:

$$\beta(M) = \text{erfc} \left(\frac{\delta_c}{\sqrt{2}\sigma(M_H)} \right)$$

$$\beta(M) \sim \text{erfc}(10^5) \sim \exp(-10^{10})$$

To form an interesting number of PBHs the primordial perturbations must be significantly larger ($\sigma^2(M_H) \sim 0.01$) on small scales than on cosmological scales.



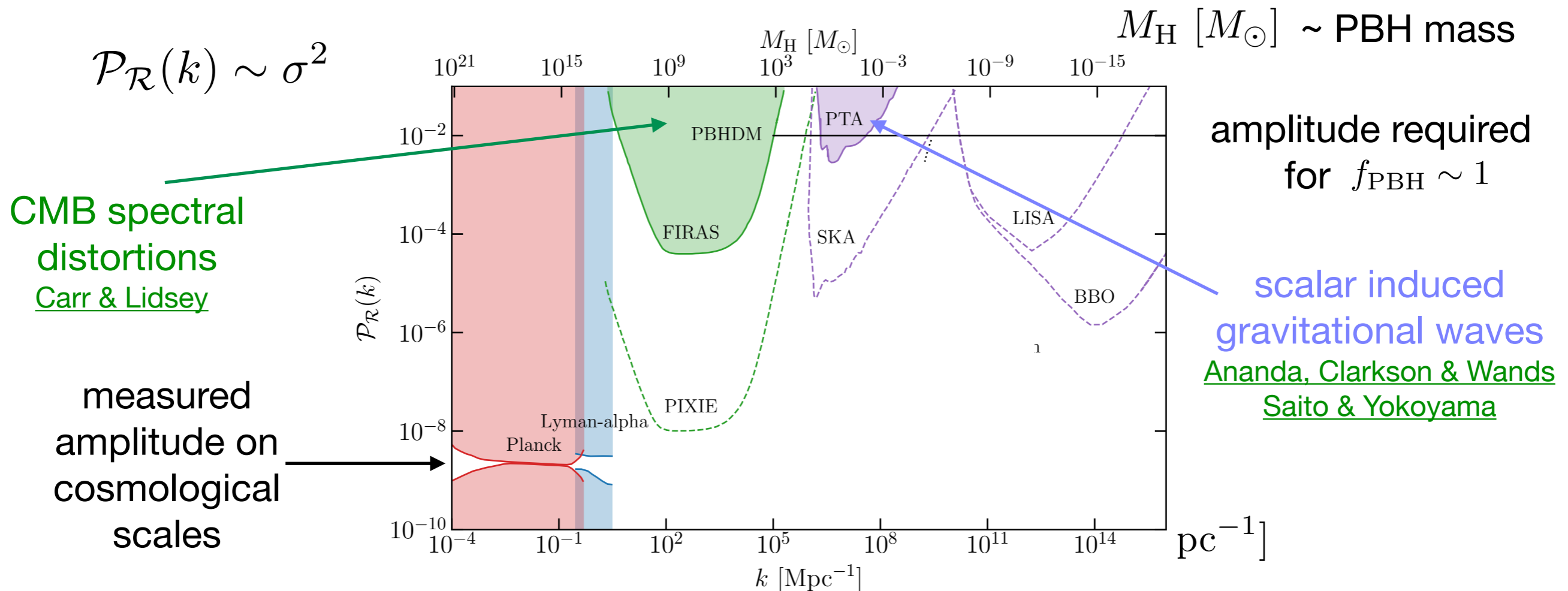
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deviations from simple scenario:

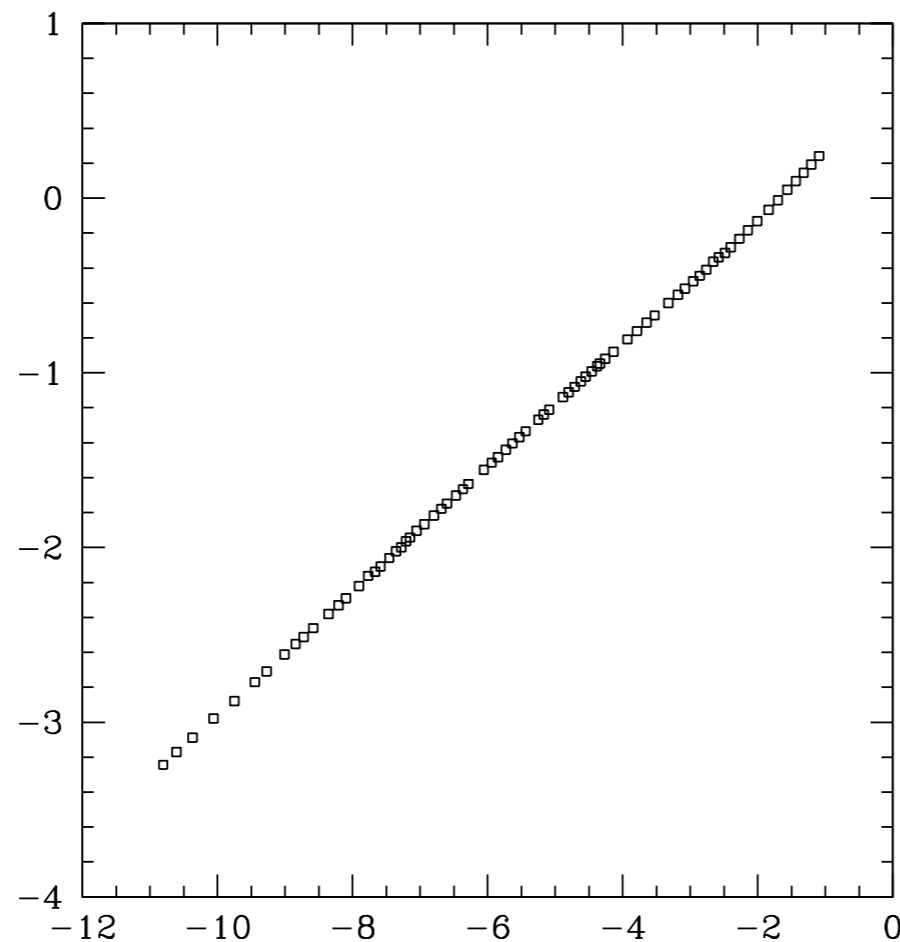
i) critical collapse

Niemeyer & Jedamzik

BH mass depends on size of fluctuation it forms from:

$$M = kM_{\text{H}}(\delta - \delta_{\text{c}})^{\gamma}$$

$$\log \left(\frac{M_{\text{BH}}}{M_{\text{H}}} \right)$$



Musco, Miller & Polnarev

using numerical simulations
(with appropriate initial conditions)
find $k=4.02$, $\gamma=0.357$, $\delta_{\text{c}} = 0.45$

Get PBHs with range of masses produced even if they all form at the same time
i.e. we don't expect the PBH MF to be a delta-function

ii) non-gaussianity

Since PBHs are formed from rare large density fluctuations, changes in the shape of the tail of the probability distribution (i.e. non-gaussianity) can significantly affect the PBH abundance. [Bullock & Primack](#); [Ivanov](#);... [Francolini et al.](#)

Relationship between density perturbations and curvature perturbations is non-linear, so even if curvature perturbations are gaussian (large) density perturbations won't be. [Kawasaki & Nakatsuka](#); [De Luca et al.](#); [Young, Musco & Byrnes](#)

Inflation: a brief crash course

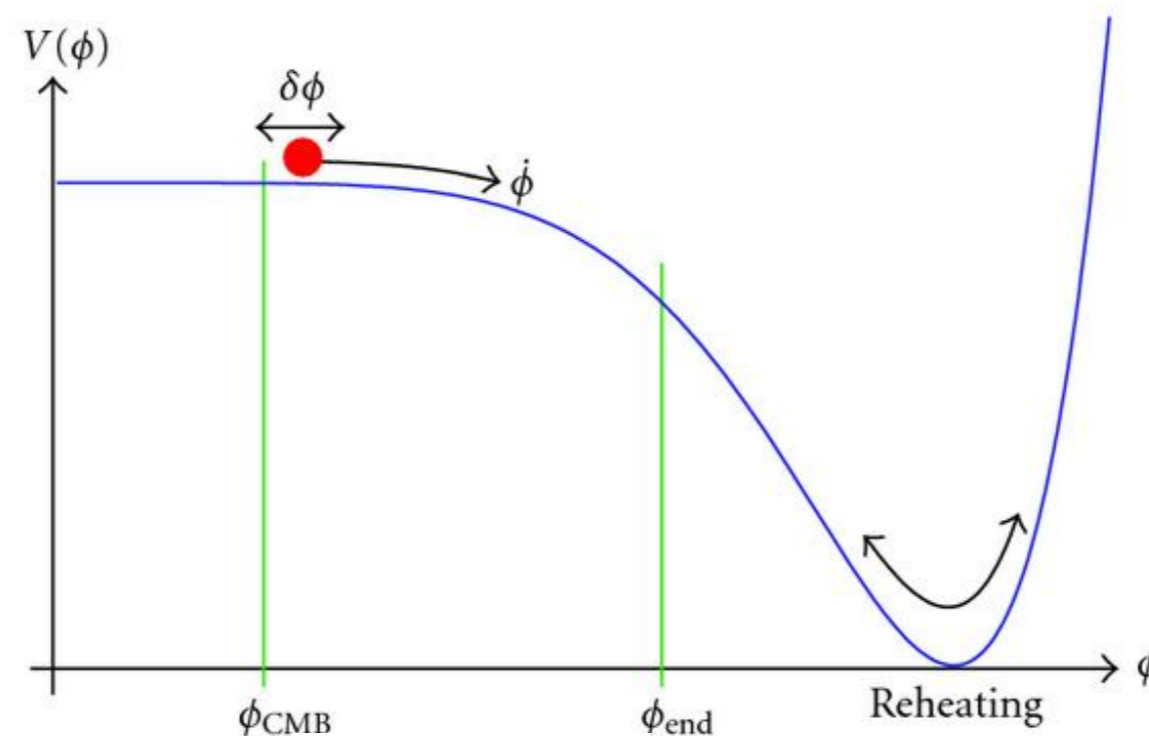
A postulated period of accelerated expansion in the early Universe, proposed to solve various problems with the Big Bang (flatness, horizon & monopole).

Driven by a 'slowly rolling' scalar field.

Quantum fluctuations in scalar field generate density perturbations.

Scale dependence of primordial perturbations depends on shape of potential:

Yadav & Wandelt



in slow-roll approx

$$\sigma^2(M_H) \propto \frac{V^3}{(V')^2}$$

Scales probed by:



Large scale structure
& the CMB

Primordial Black Holes

inflation models that produce large perturbations

In slow-roll approx*:

$$\sigma \propto \frac{V^{3/2}}{V'}$$

A plateau in the potential can generate large perturbations which form an interesting abundance of PBHs. [Ivanov, Naselsky, Novikov](#)

* in ‘ultra-slow-roll’ limit, $V' \rightarrow 0$, this expression isn’t accurate (and USR also affects probability distribution of fluctuations - more later).

Requirements for a PBH producing inflation model:

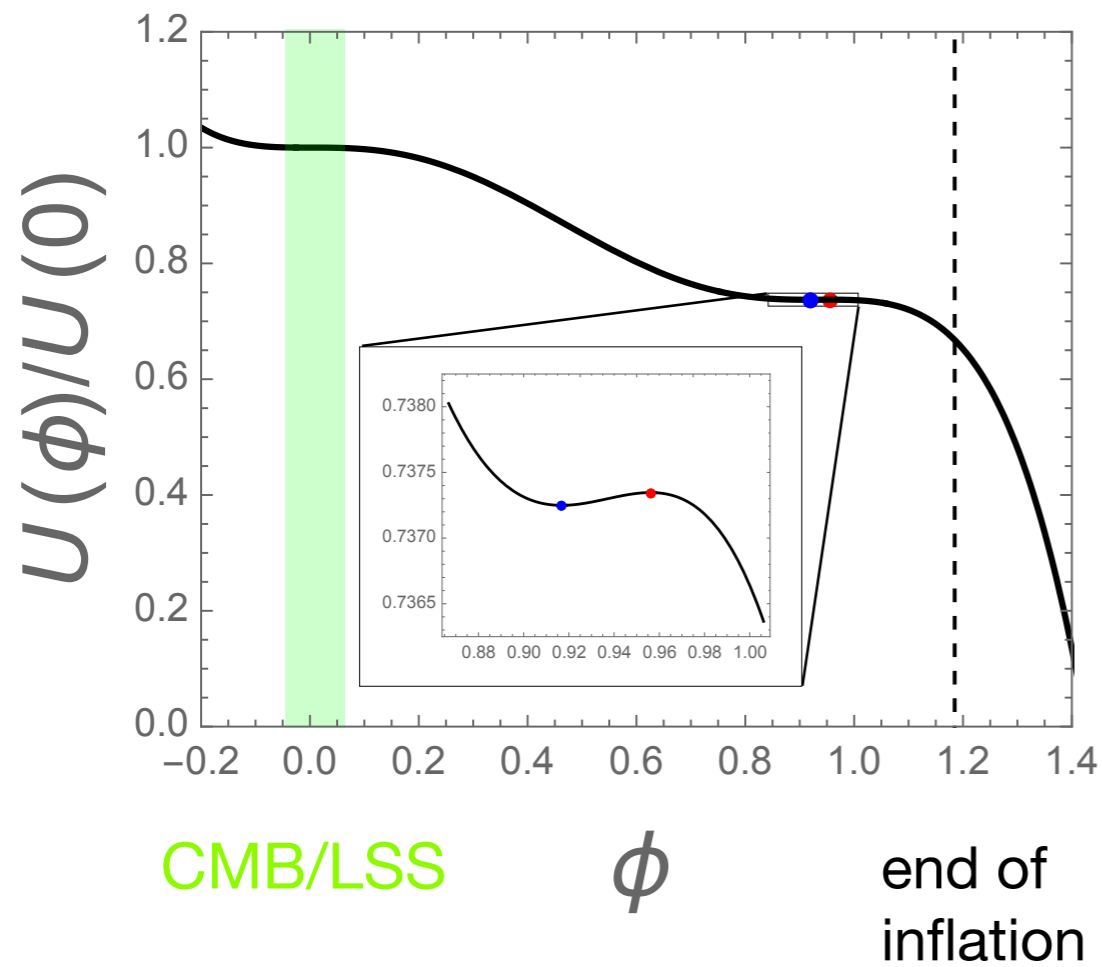
- i) produce measured power spectrum (amplitude and scale dependence) on cosmological scales,
- ii) amplitude of perturbations ~ 3.5 orders of magnitude larger on some smaller scale,
- iii) inflation ends.

single field

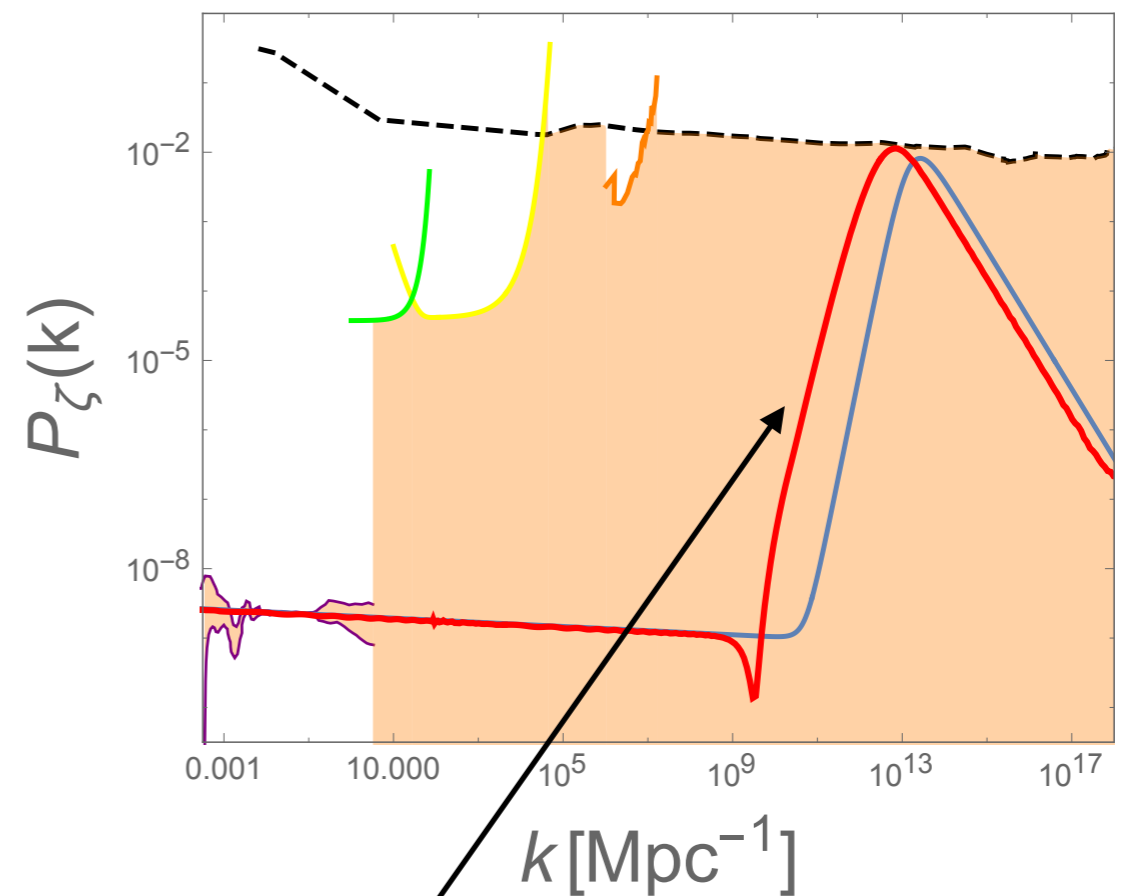
Potential needs to be fine-tuned so that field goes past local min, but with reduced speed.

Ballesteros & Taoso; Herzberg & Yamada

potential



primordial power spectrum

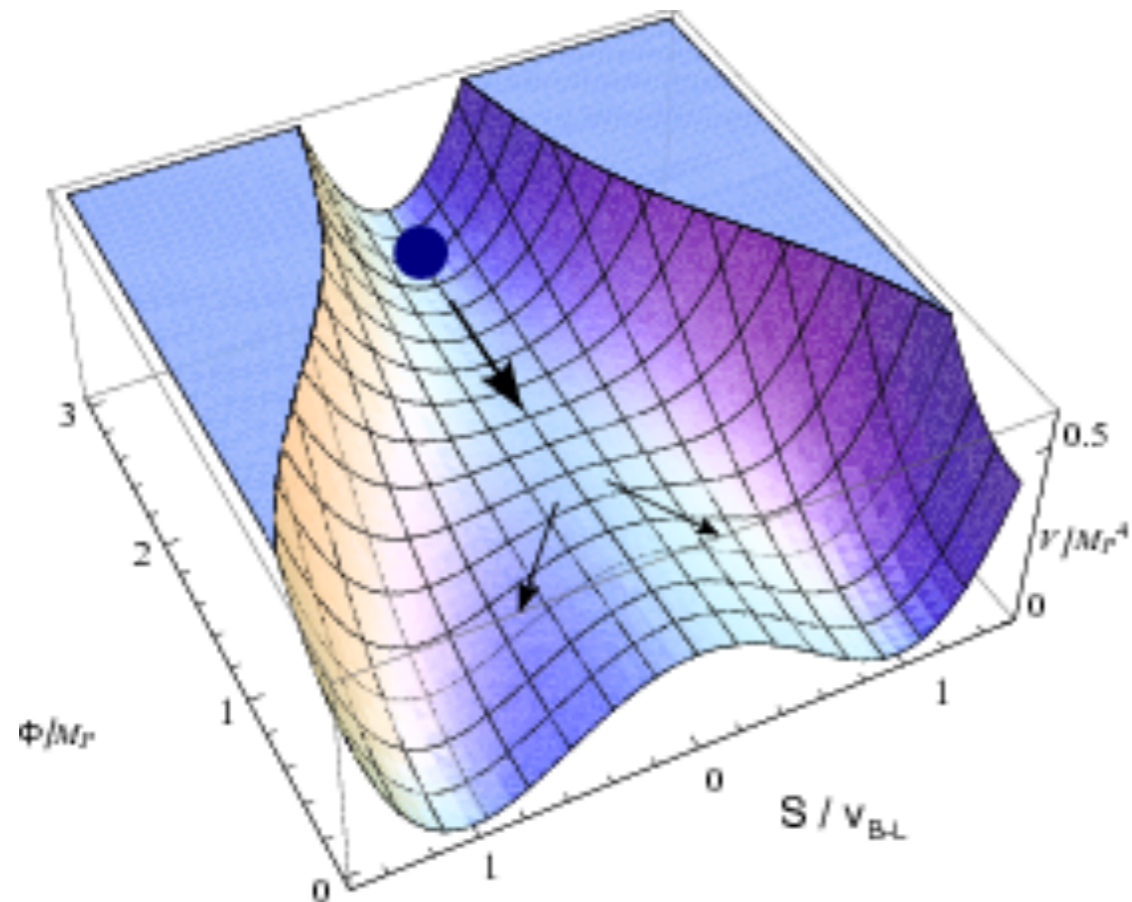


$\sim k^4$ Byrnes, Cole & Patil

multi-field models

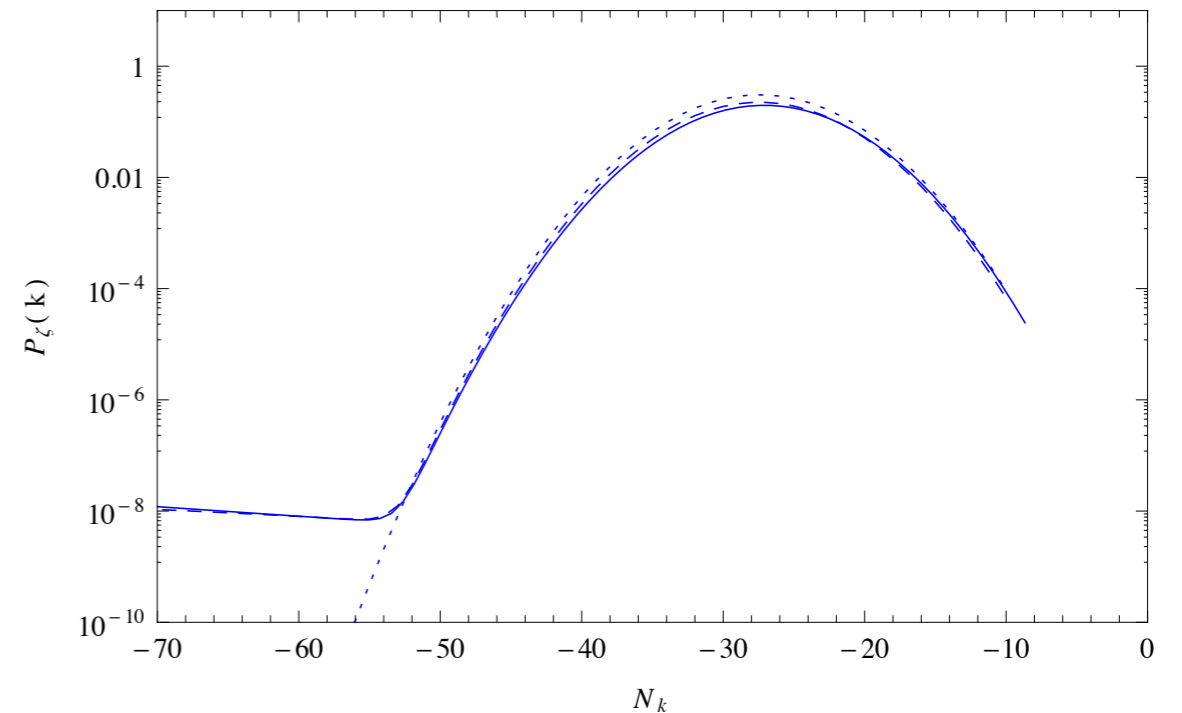
e.g. hybrid inflation with a mild waterfall transition [Garcia-Bellido, Linde & Wands](#)

potential



[Buchmuller](#)

primordial power spectrum



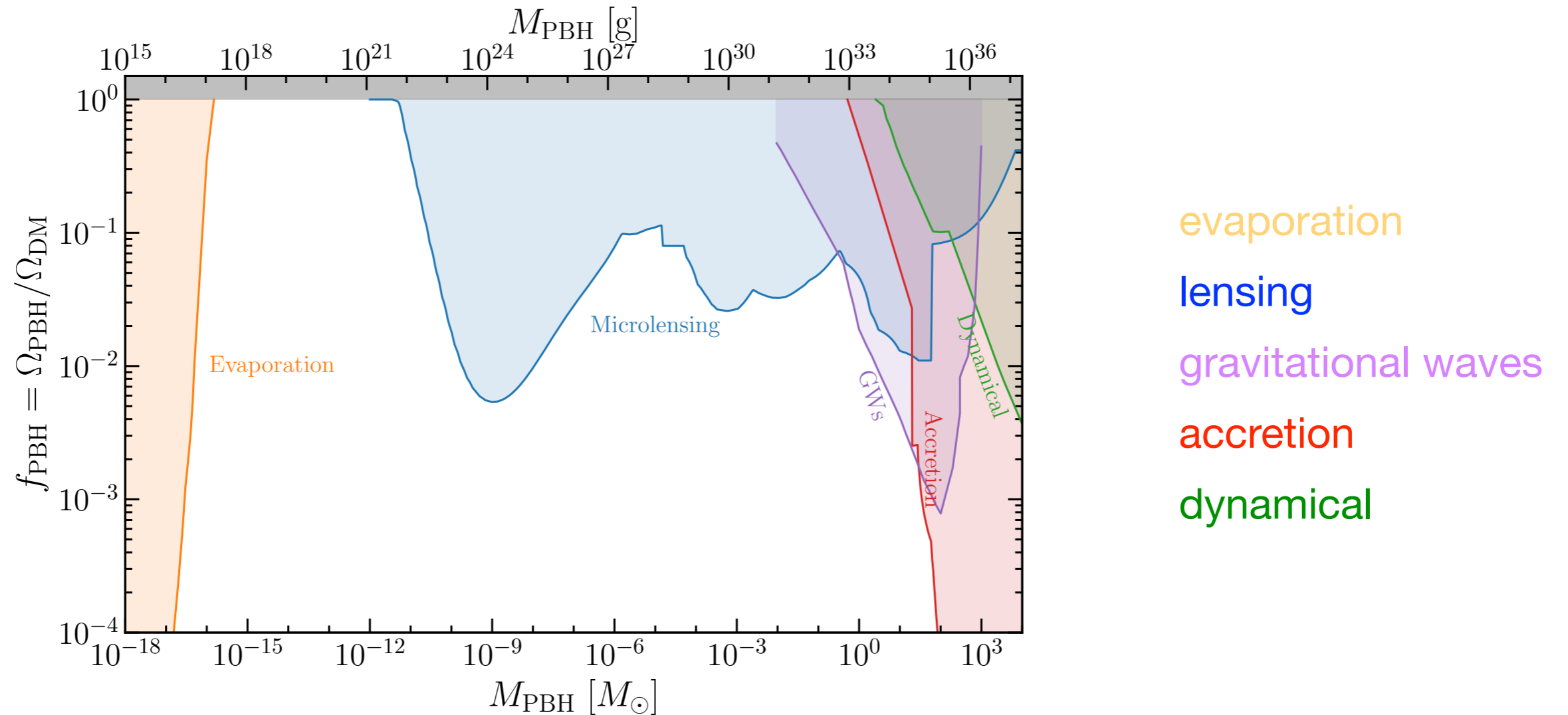
[Clesse & Garcia-Bellido](#)

various others for reviews see [Özsoy & Tasinato](#); [Escriva, Kuhnel & Tada](#)

running mass, double inflation, axion-like curvaton, reduced sound speed, multi-field models with rapid turns in field space,...

Observational constraints

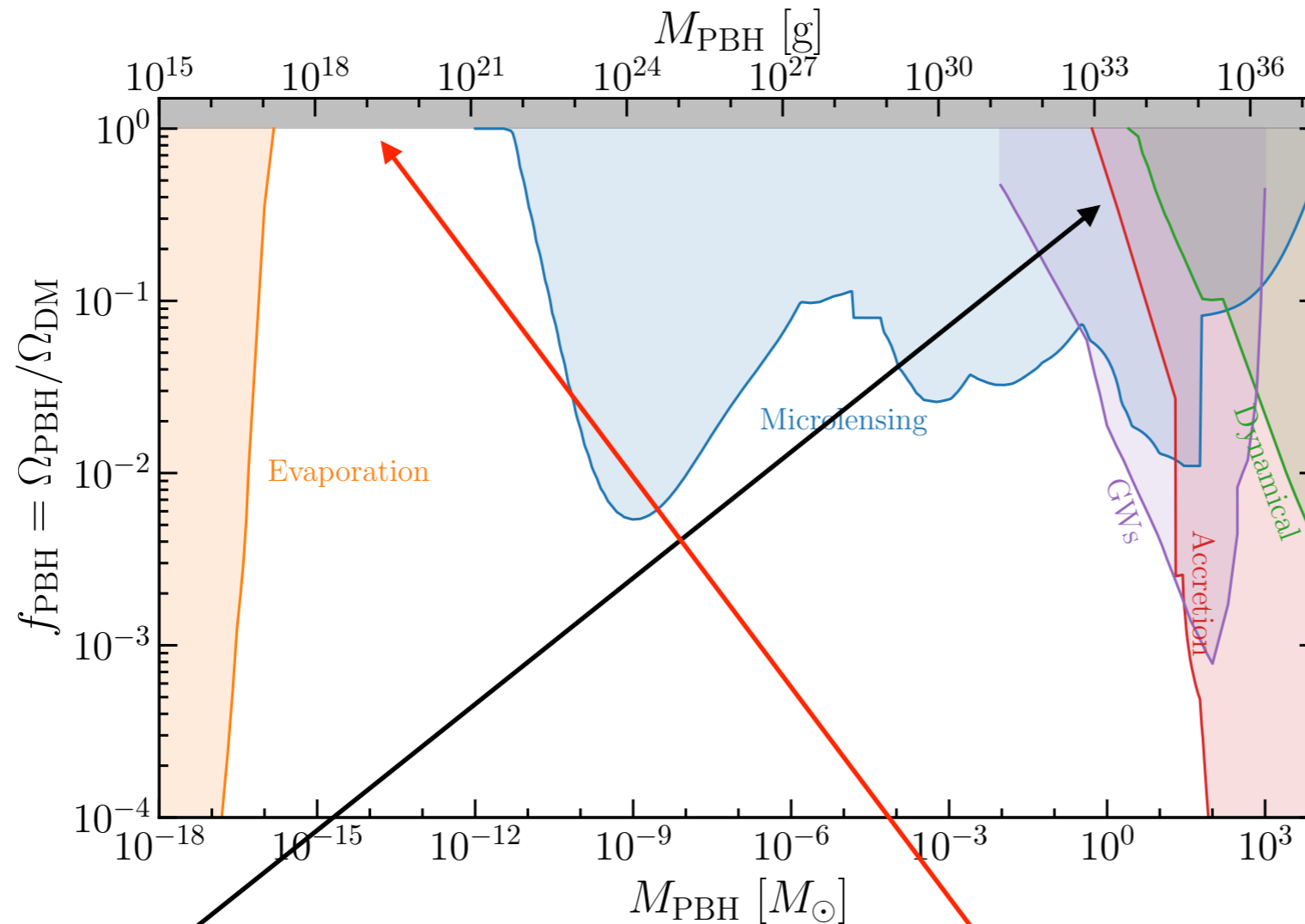
(assuming a delta-function PBH mass function)



<https://github.com/bradkav/PBHbounds>

Observational constraints

(assuming a delta-function PBH mass function)



- evaporation
- lensing
- gravitational waves
- accretion
- dynamical

<https://github.com/bradkav/PBHbounds>

multi-Solar mass Primordial Black Holes making up all of the DM appears to be excluded.

However there is a hard to probe, open window for very light (asteroid mass) PBHs.

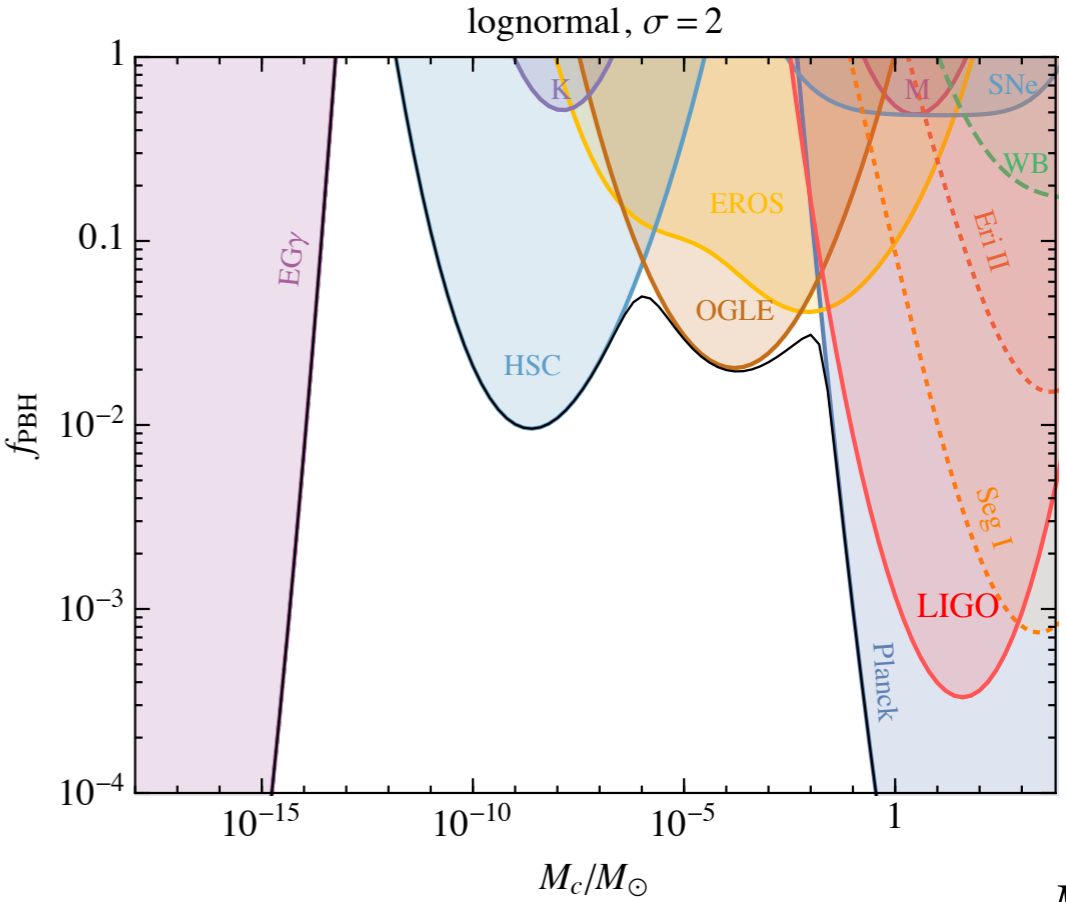
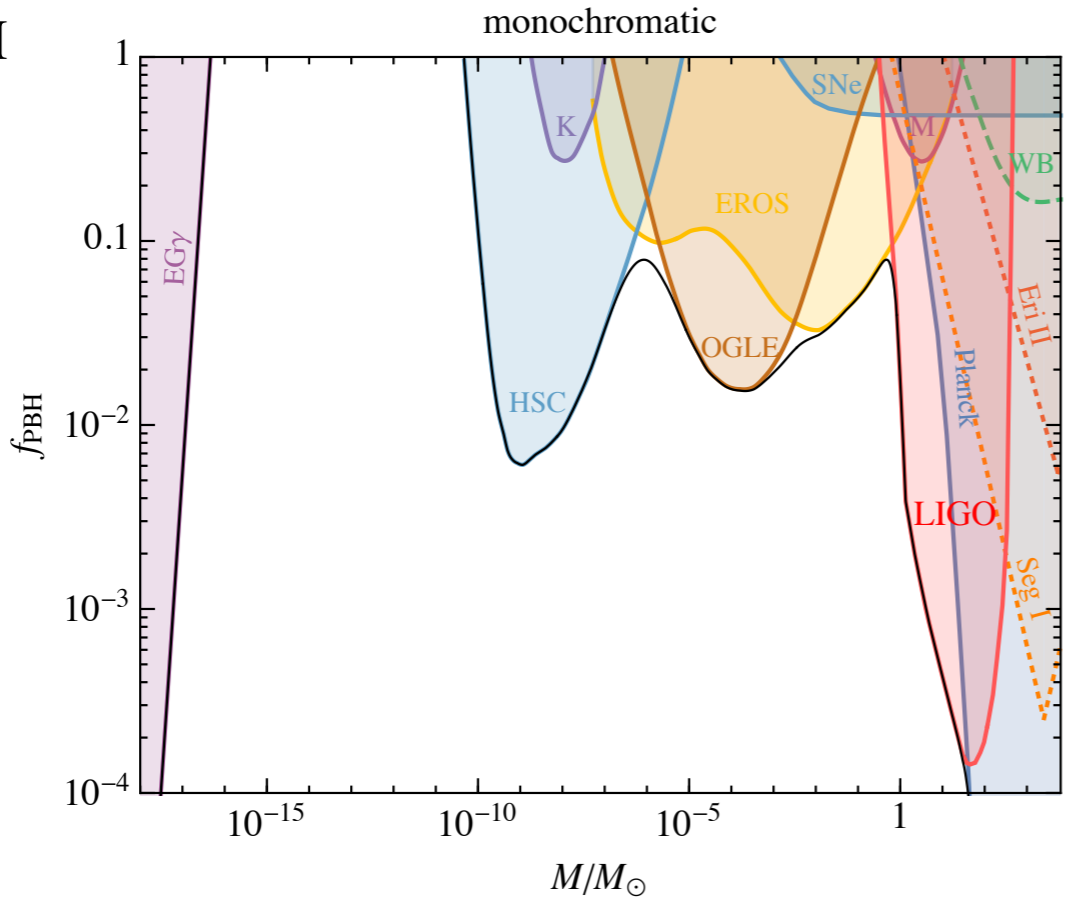
For more realistic extended mass functions, constraints on f are smeared out, and gaps between constraints are 'filled in':

[Green](#); [Carr et al.](#)

monochromatic

log-normal
(fixed width)

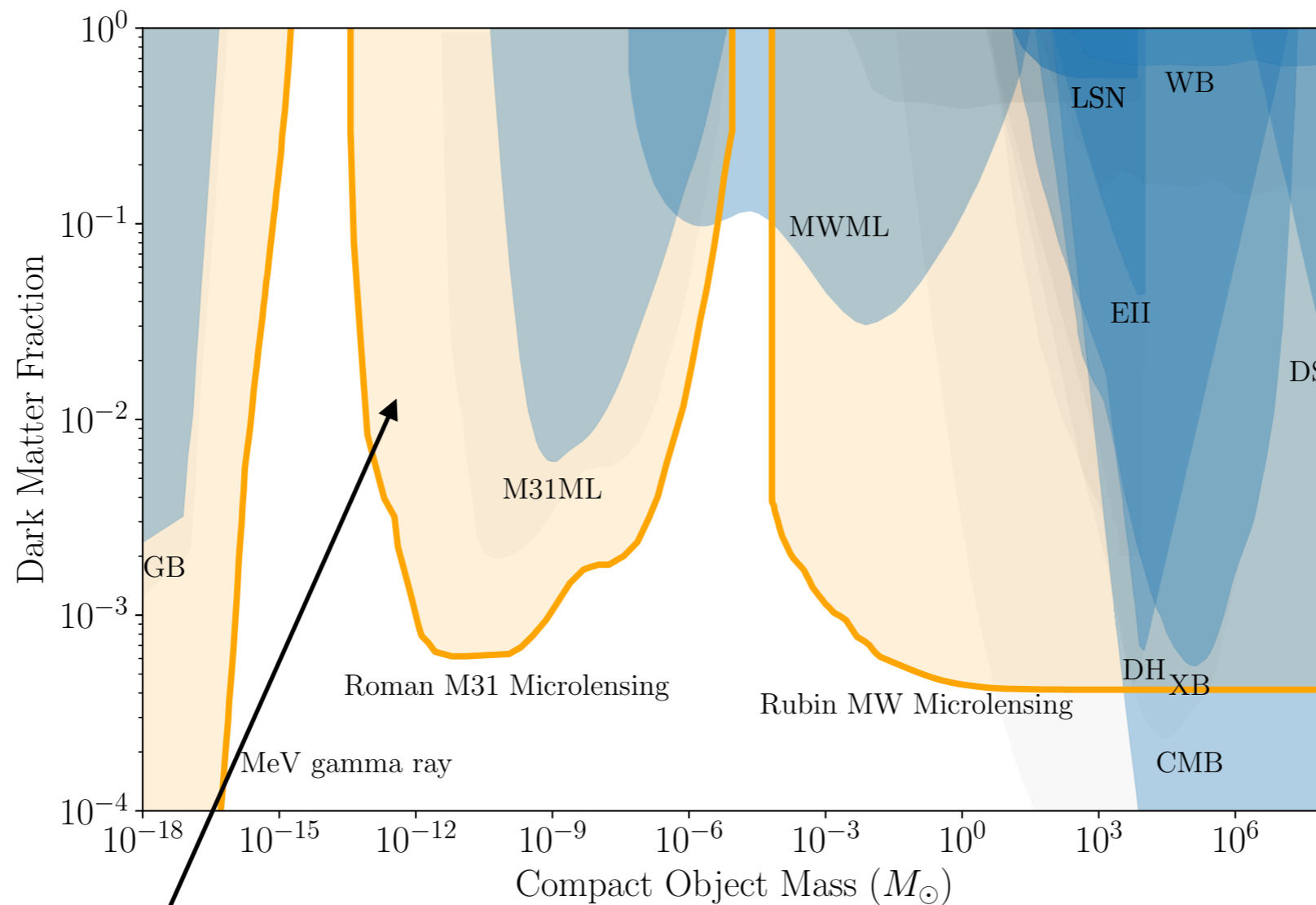
f_{PBH}



[Carr et al.](#)

$\frac{M_c}{M_\odot}$

Future constraints



[Bird et al. \(Snowmass PBH white paper\)](#)

But for $M \lesssim 10^{-12} M_{\odot}$ microlensing amplification reduced due to:

i) finite source size

ii) wave optics (wavelength of light similar to Schwarzschild radius of PBH).

[Sugiyama et al. and references therein.](#)

Open questions

i) how to probe asteroid mass PBHs?

femtolensing of GRBs [Gould](#) need small GRBs [Katz et al.](#)

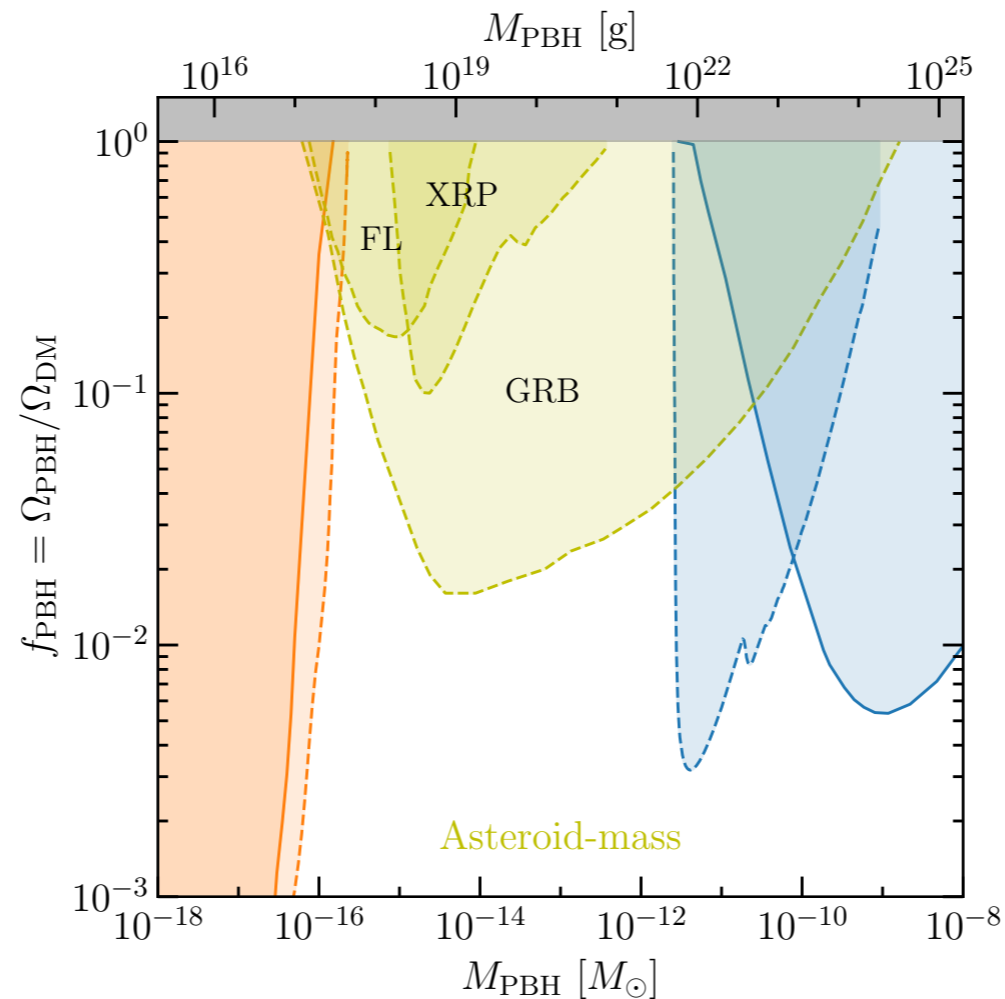
GRB lensing parallax [Nemiroff & Gould](#); [Jung & Kim](#)

microlensing of X-ray pulsars [Bai & Orlofsky](#)

interactions with stars? see e.g. [Montero-Camacho et al.](#)

evaporation

future:
MeV gamma-rays
[Coogan et al.](#)



stellar microlensing

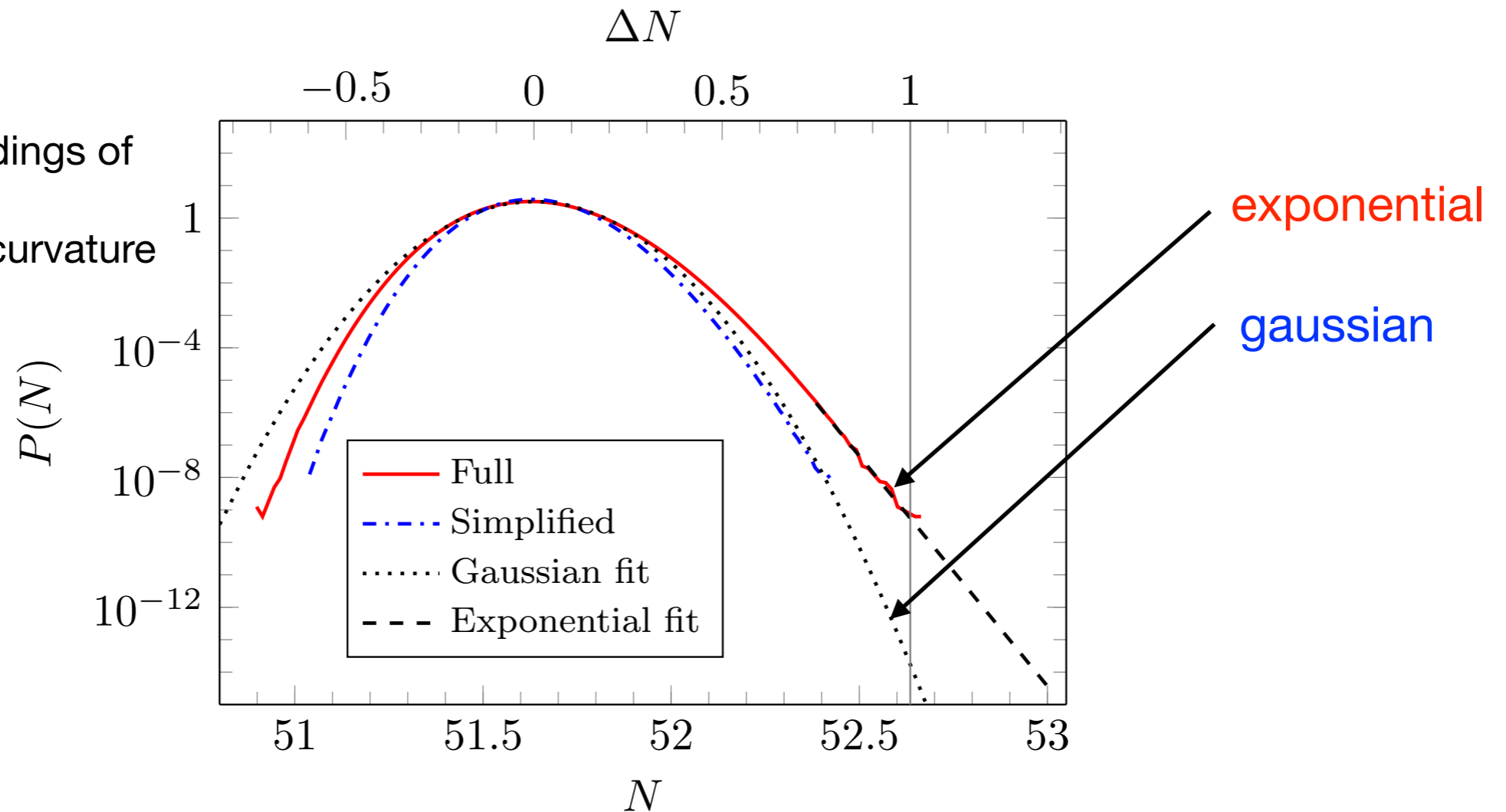
future:
white dwarfs in LMC
[Sugiyama et al.](#)

ii) probability distribution of density perturbations produced during ultra slow-roll inflation

[Pattinson et al.](#) ... [Figueroa et al.](#); [Tada & Vennin](#)...

In ultra-slow-roll inflation (i.e. for $V' \rightarrow 0$ as required in single-field inflation to produce large amplitude, PBH-forming, perturbations) stochastic effects are important, and can generate exponential rather than gaussian tail for probability distribution.

Prob. dist. of
number of e-foldings of
inflation
~ prob. dist. of curvature
perturbation



[Figueroa et al.](#)

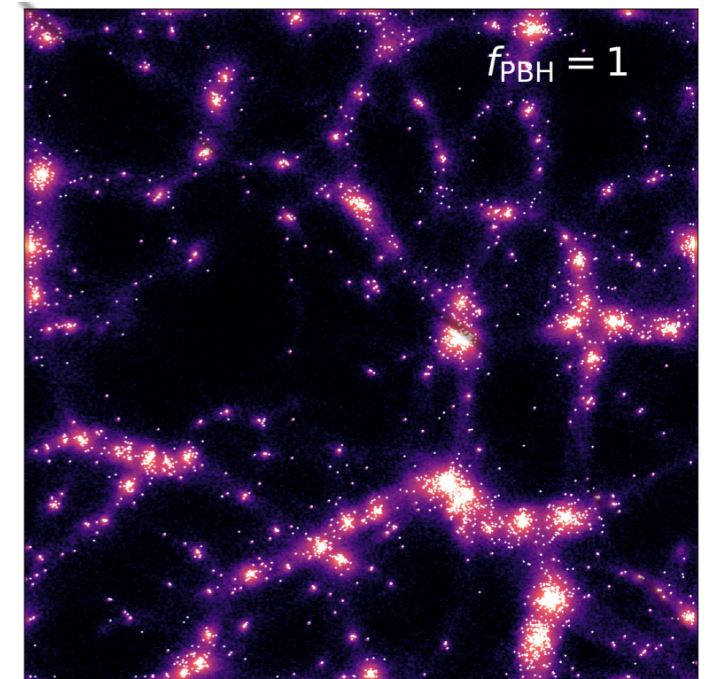
iii) clustering

Potentially extremely important (affects PBH binary merger rate and potentially other constraints too).

If PBHs make up a large fraction of the DM, PBH clusters form shortly after matter-radiation equality.

[Afshordi, Macdonald & Spergel;... Inman & Ali-Haïmoud](#)

Evolution of PBH clusters (and in particular PBH binaries within them and hence the merger rate) through to the present day is a challenging open problem. e.g. [Jedamzik; Trashorras et al....](#)



PBH-DM dist at $z=100$

[Inman & Ali-Haïmoud](#)

If PBHs don't make up all of the DM they accrete a halo of particle DM during matter domination. [Mack, Ostriker & Ricotti; ... Adamek et al.](#)

DM = WIMPs + PBHs essentially excluded (large flux of gamma-rays from WIMP annihilation). [Lacki & Beacom,...](#)

Summary

Primordial Black Holes can form in the early Universe, for instance from the collapse of large density perturbations during radiation domination.

- To produce an interesting number of PBHs, amplitude of perturbations must be ~ 3 orders of magnitude larger on small scales than on cosmological scales.
- This can be achieved in inflation models (e.g. with a feature in the potential or multiple fields). However it's not natural/generic.

There are numerous constraints on the abundance of PBHs from gravitational lensing, their evaporation, dynamical effects, accretion and other astrophysical processes.

- Solar mass PBHs probably can't make up all of the dark matter, but lighter, $(10^{17}-10^{22})g$, PBHs could.
- Limits are collectively tighter for (realistic) extended mass functions than for delta-function which is usually assumed when calculating constraints.

Open questions: how to probe light PBHs,
perturbations in ultra-slow roll inflation,
clustering...

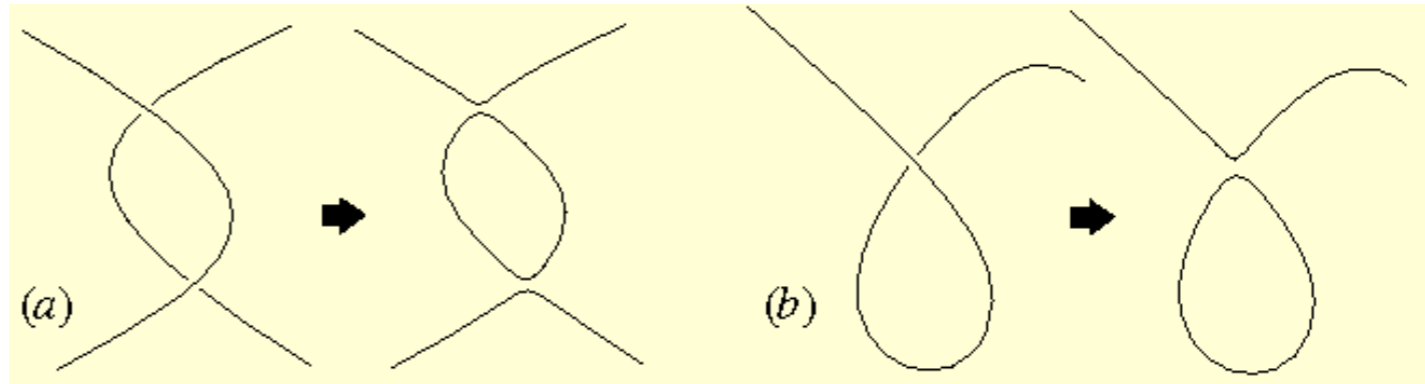
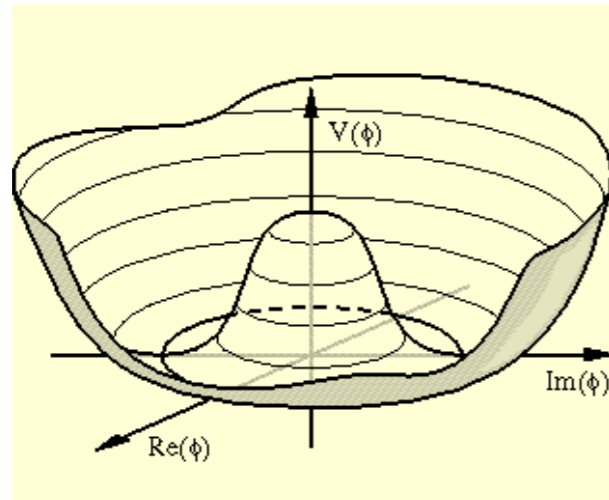
Back-up slides

PBH formation: (some) other mechanisms

Collapse of cosmic string loops Hawking; Polnarev & Zemboricz;

Cosmic strings are 1d topological defects formed during symmetry breaking phase transition.

String intercommute producing loops.

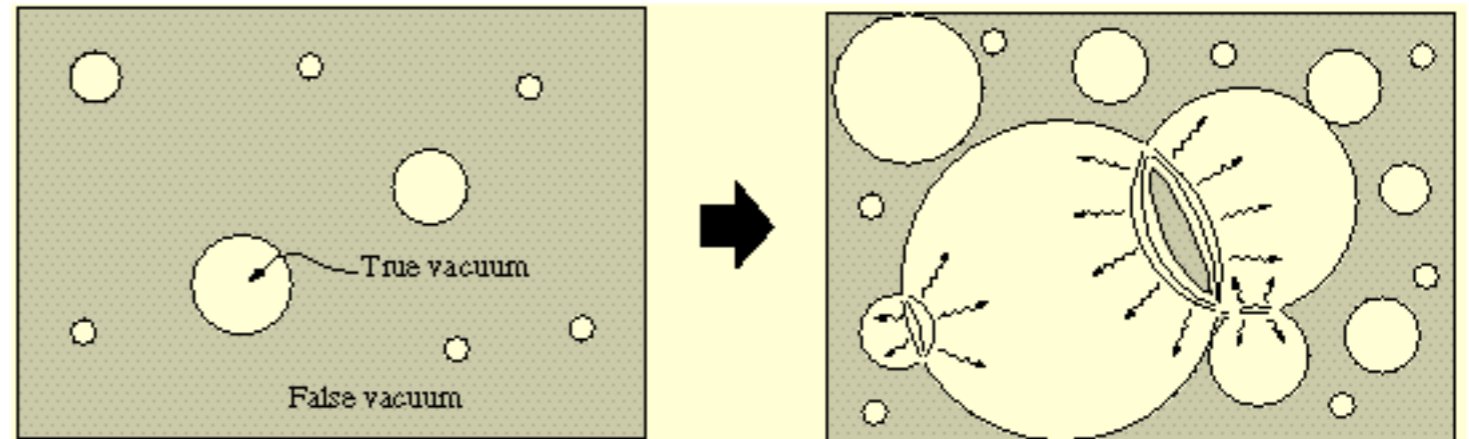
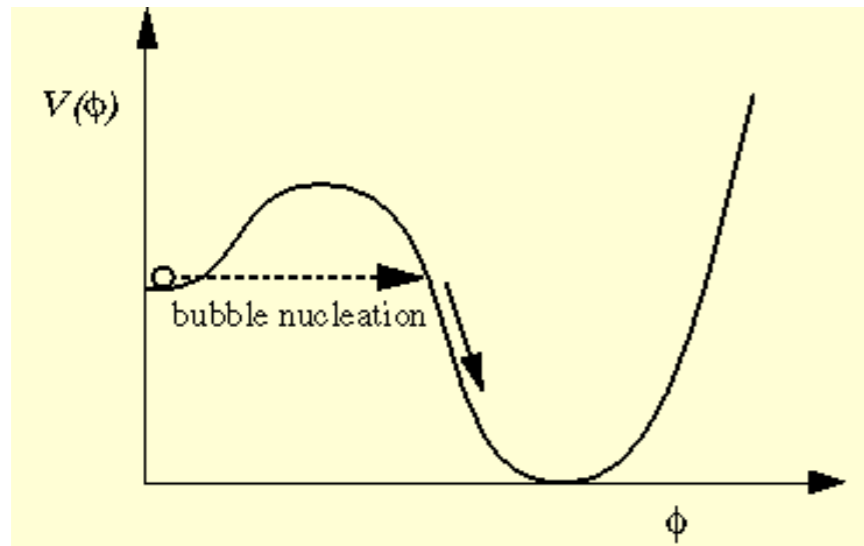


Small probability that loop will get into configuration where all dimensions lie within Schwarzschild radius (and hence collapse to form a PBH with mass of order the horizon mass at that time).

Probability is time independent, therefore PBHs have extended mass spectrum.

Bubble collisions Hawking

1st order phase transitions occur via the nucleation of bubbles.



PBHs can form when bubbles collide (but bubble formation rate must be fine tuned).

PBH mass is of order horizon mass at phase transition.

Fragmentation of inflaton scalar condensate into oscillons/Q-balls

Cotner & Kusenko; Cotner, Kusenko & Takhistov

Scalar field with flat potential forms condensate at end of inflation, fragments into lumps (oscillons/Q-balls) which can come to dominate universe and have large density fluctuations that can produce PBHs.

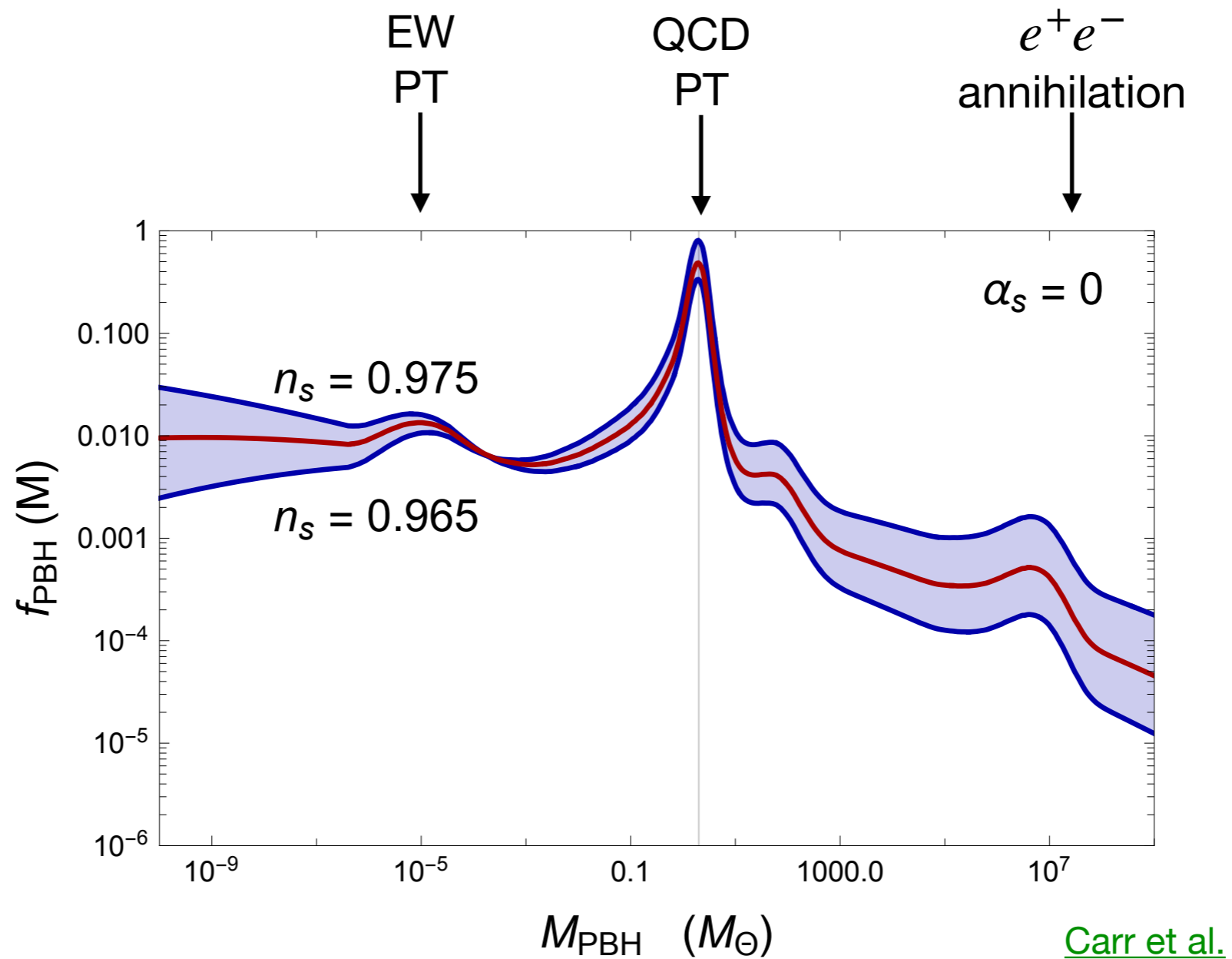
Mass smaller than horizon mass and spin can be of order 1.

ii) effect of phase transitions

Decrease in pressure leads to reduction in threshold for collapse and hence increase in PBH abundance

e.g. the QCD phase transition when the horizon mass is \sim Solar mass. [Jedamzik](#)

fraction of DM
in PBHs



n.b. amplitude of power spectrum $A \approx 0.02$ assumed.

PBH formation during an early (pre nucleosynthesis) period of matter domination

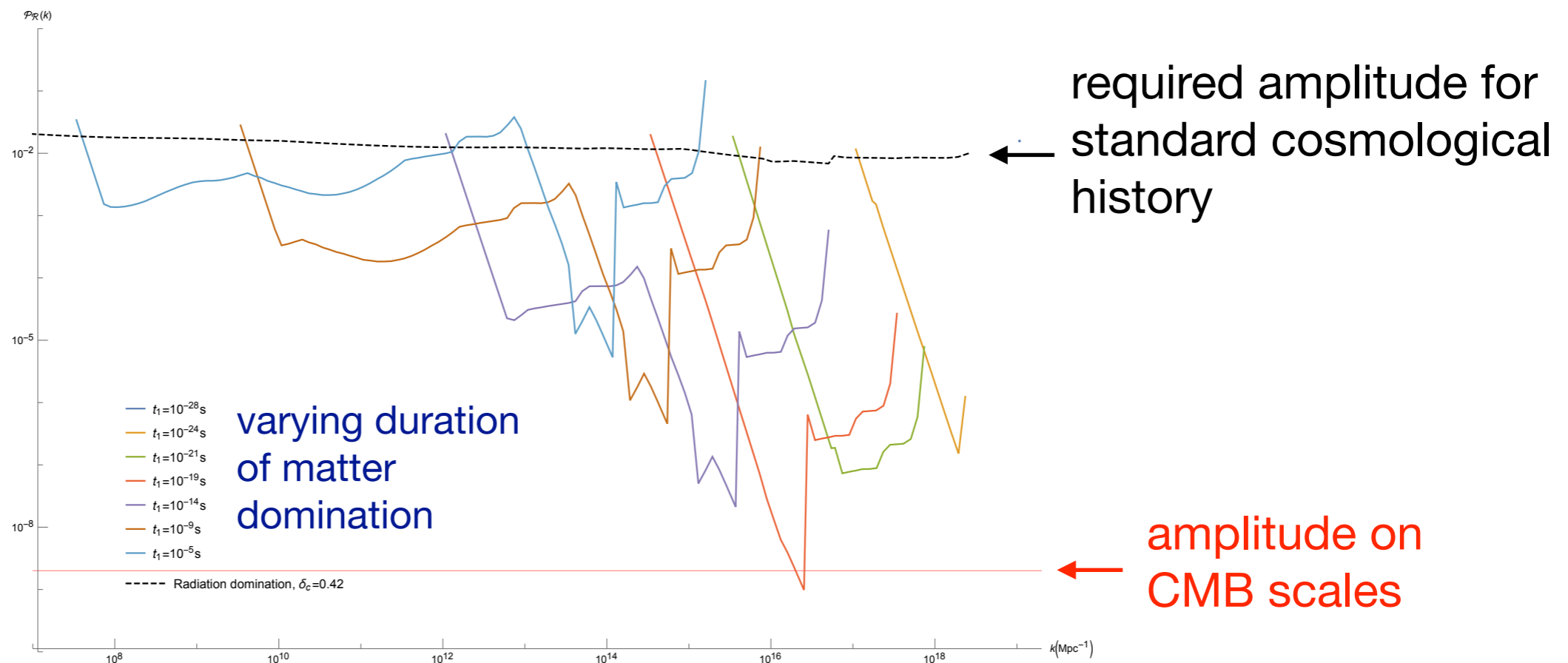
During matter domination PBHs can form from smaller fluctuations (no pressure to resist collapse) in this case fluctuations must be sufficiently spherically symmetric

Yu, Khlopov & Polnarev; Harada et al. and

$$\beta(M) \approx 0.056\sigma^{5(+1.5?)}$$

The required increase in the amplitude of the perturbations is reduced Georg, Sengör & Watson; Georg & Watson; Carr, Tenkanen & Vaskonen; Cole & Byrnes:

Primordial
curvature
perturbation
power
spectrum



Cole & Byrnes

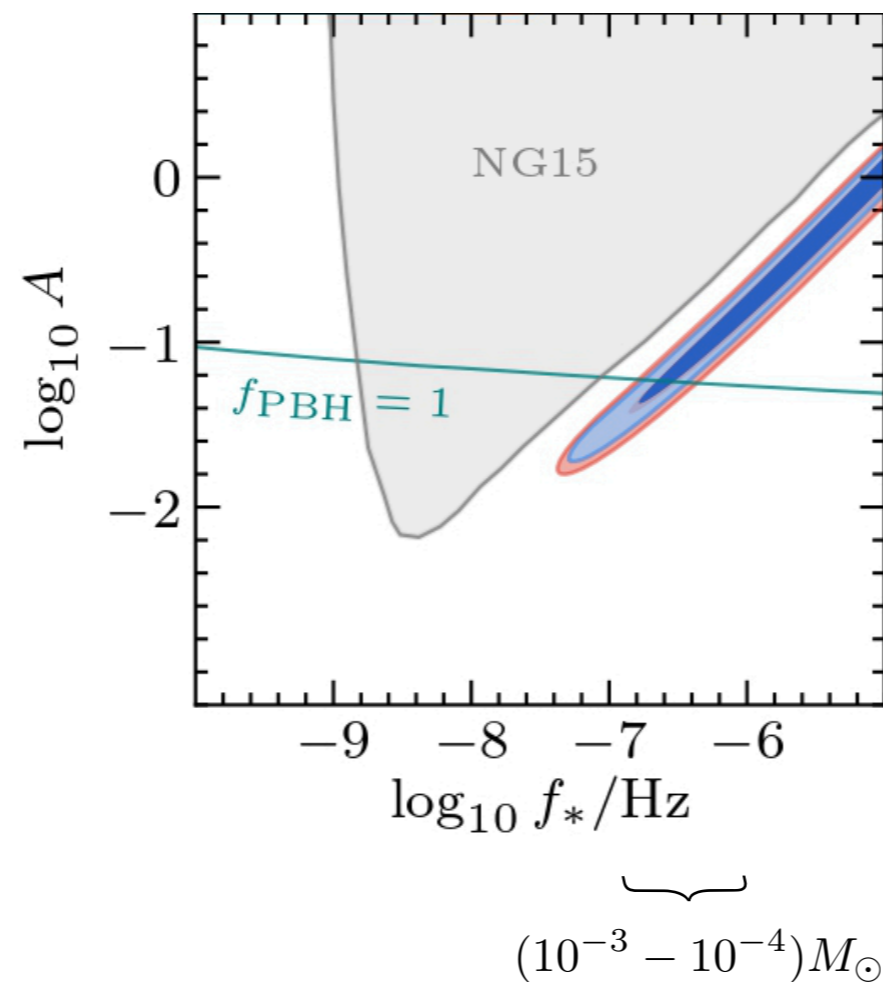
k

NANOGrav (pulsar timing array) 15 year data set

Interpretation in terms of scalar-induced gravitational waves [Afzal et al.](#)

for delta function primordial power spectrum

$$\mathcal{P}_{\mathcal{R}}(k) = A \delta(\ln k - \ln k_{\star})$$



axion-like curvaton

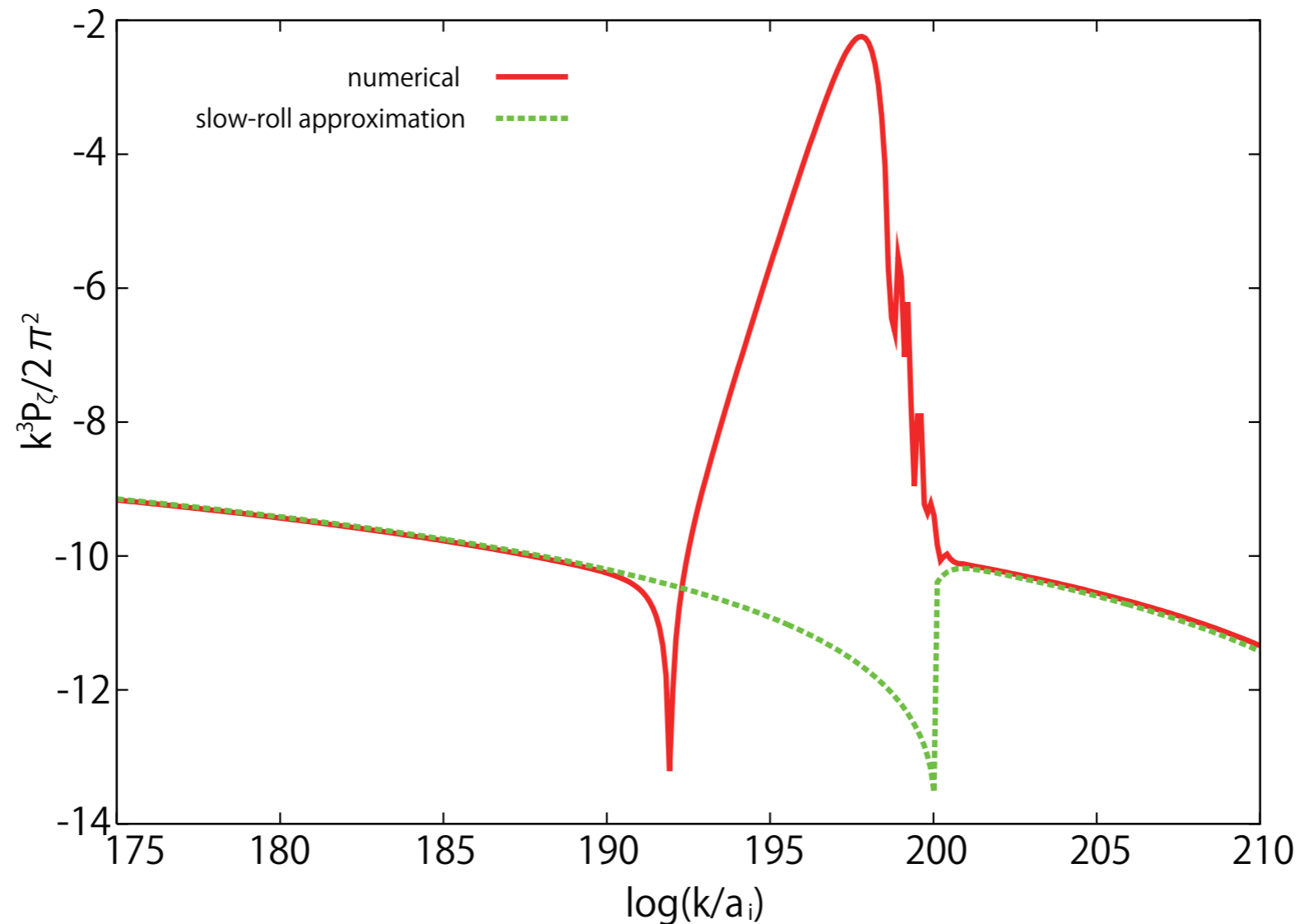
Kawasaki, Kitajima & Yanagida

Large scale perturbations generated by inflaton, small scale (PBH forming) perturbations by curvaton (a spectator field during inflation gets fluctuations and decays afterwards producing perturbations Lyth & Wands)

b) double inflation

Saito, Yokoyama & Nagata; Kannike et al.

Perturbations on scales which leave the horizon close to the end of the 1st period, of inflation get amplified during the 2nd period.



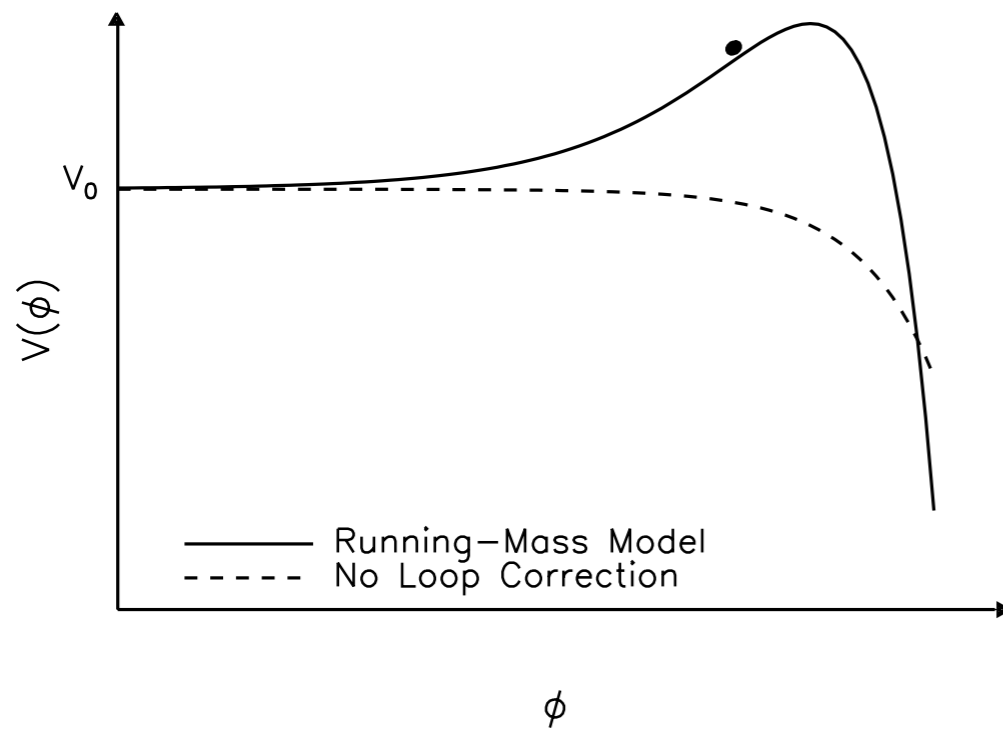
Also double inflation models where large scale perturbations are produced during 1st period, and small scale (PBH forming) perturbations during 2nd (Kawasaki et al.; Kannike et al.; Inomata et al.)

ii) monotonically increasing power spectrum

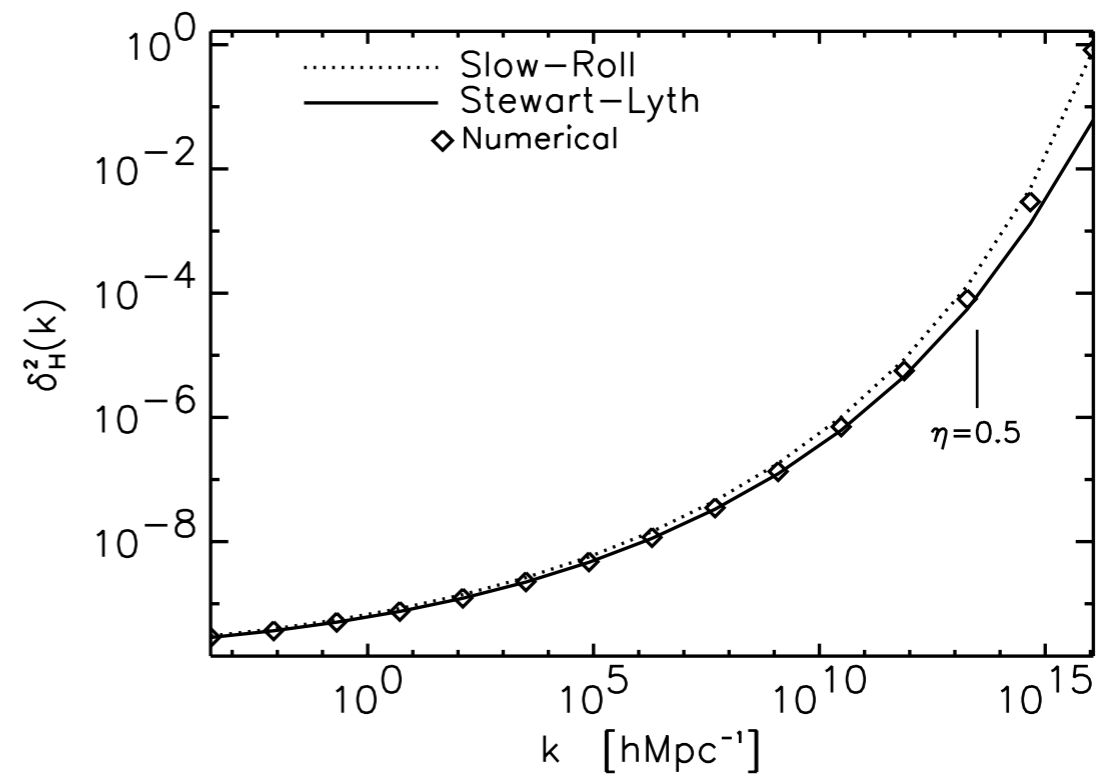
running-mass inflation Stewart

$$V(\phi) = V_0 + \frac{1}{2}m_\phi^2(\phi)\phi^2$$

potential



primordial power spectrum



Leach, Grivell, Liddle

An aside: 'Pitfalls of a power-law parameterisation of the primordial power spectrum for primordial black hole formation' 1805.05178

It is common to parameterise the primordial power spectrum as:

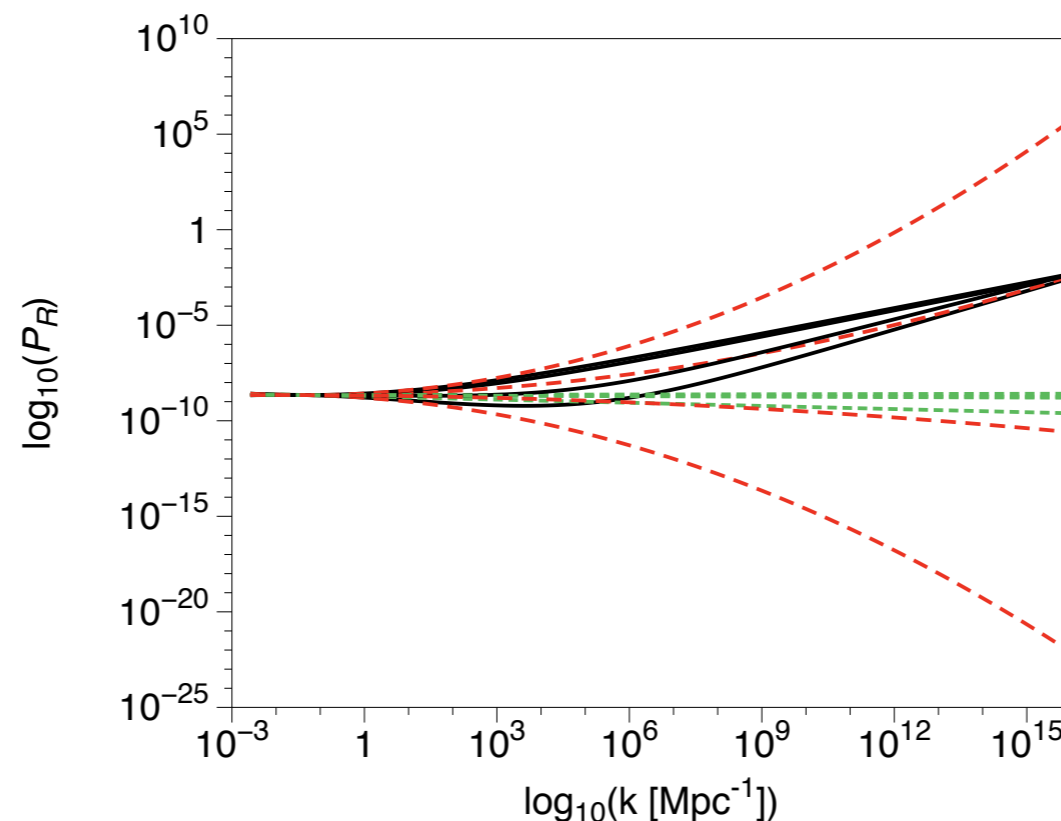
$$\mathcal{P}_{\mathcal{R}}(k) = A_s \left(\frac{k}{k_0} \right)^{n_s(k)-1} \quad \text{with} \quad n_s(k) = n_s|_{k_0} + \alpha_s \ln \left(\frac{k}{k_0} \right) + \beta_s \ln^2 \left(\frac{k}{k_0} \right) + \dots,$$

For slow-roll inflation $(n_s - 1) \sim \mathcal{O}(\epsilon)$, $\alpha_s \sim \mathcal{O}(\epsilon^2)$, $\beta_s \sim \mathcal{O}(\epsilon^3)$ where $\epsilon < 1$

The expansion of n_s is therefore valid only if $\epsilon \ln \left(\frac{k}{k_0} \right) \ll 1$

This holds over cosmological scales, but not down to PBH forming scales:

Power spectra of some PBH producing inflation models:



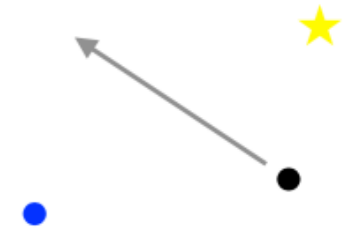
full calculation

1st order in expansion

2nd order in expansion

stellar microlensing

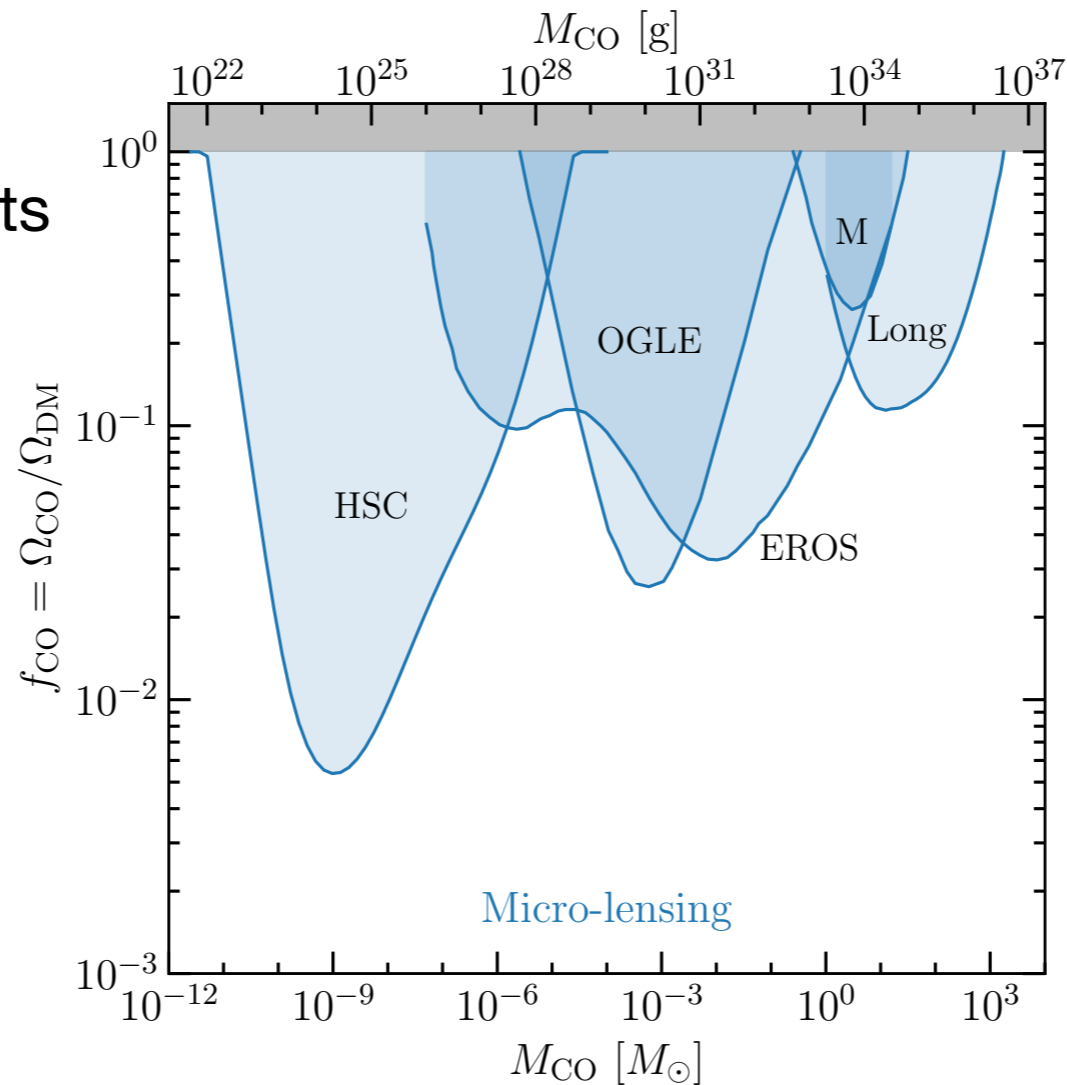
Gravitational lensing where separation of images is micro-arcsecond, too small to resolve, but can detect variations in magnification.



M31 ([HSC](#), [Croon et al.](#)), Galactic bulge ([OGLE](#)), LMC/SMC ([MACHO](#), [EROS](#), [OGLE](#), [combined long duration](#)).

fraction of dark matter
in form of compact objects

$$f_{\text{CO}} = \frac{\Omega_{\text{CO}}}{\Omega_{\text{DM}}}$$

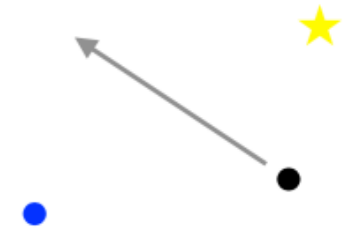


mass in grams

mass in Solar masses

other microlensing

Gravitational lensing where separation of images is micro-arcsecond, too small to resolve, but can detect variations in magnification.



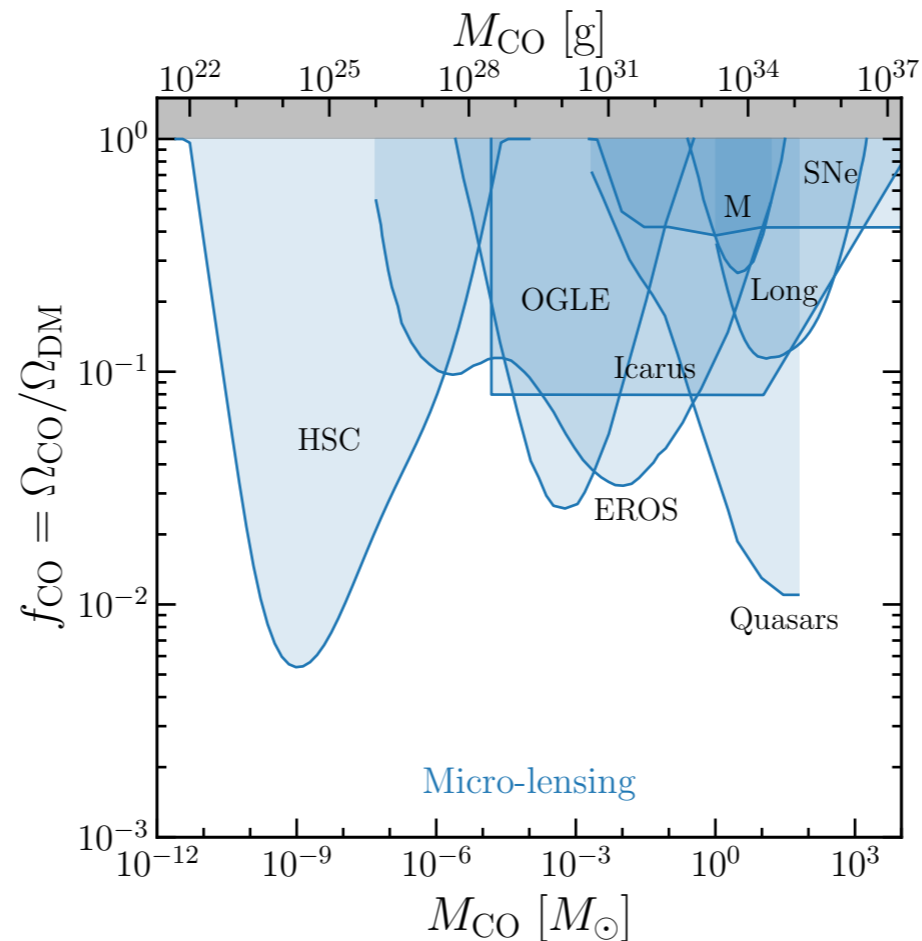
supernovae: magnification distribution [Zumalacarregui & Seljak](#)
luminosity-redshift relation [Dhawan & Mörtzell](#)

Icarus: caustic crossing event [Oguri et al.](#)

quasars: flux ratios of multiply-lensed systems [Esteban-Gutierrez et al.](#)

fraction of dark matter
in form of compact objects

$$f_{\text{CO}} = \frac{\Omega_{\text{CO}}}{\Omega_{\text{DM}}}$$



mass in grams

mass in Solar masses

gravitational waves from PBH-PBH binary mergers

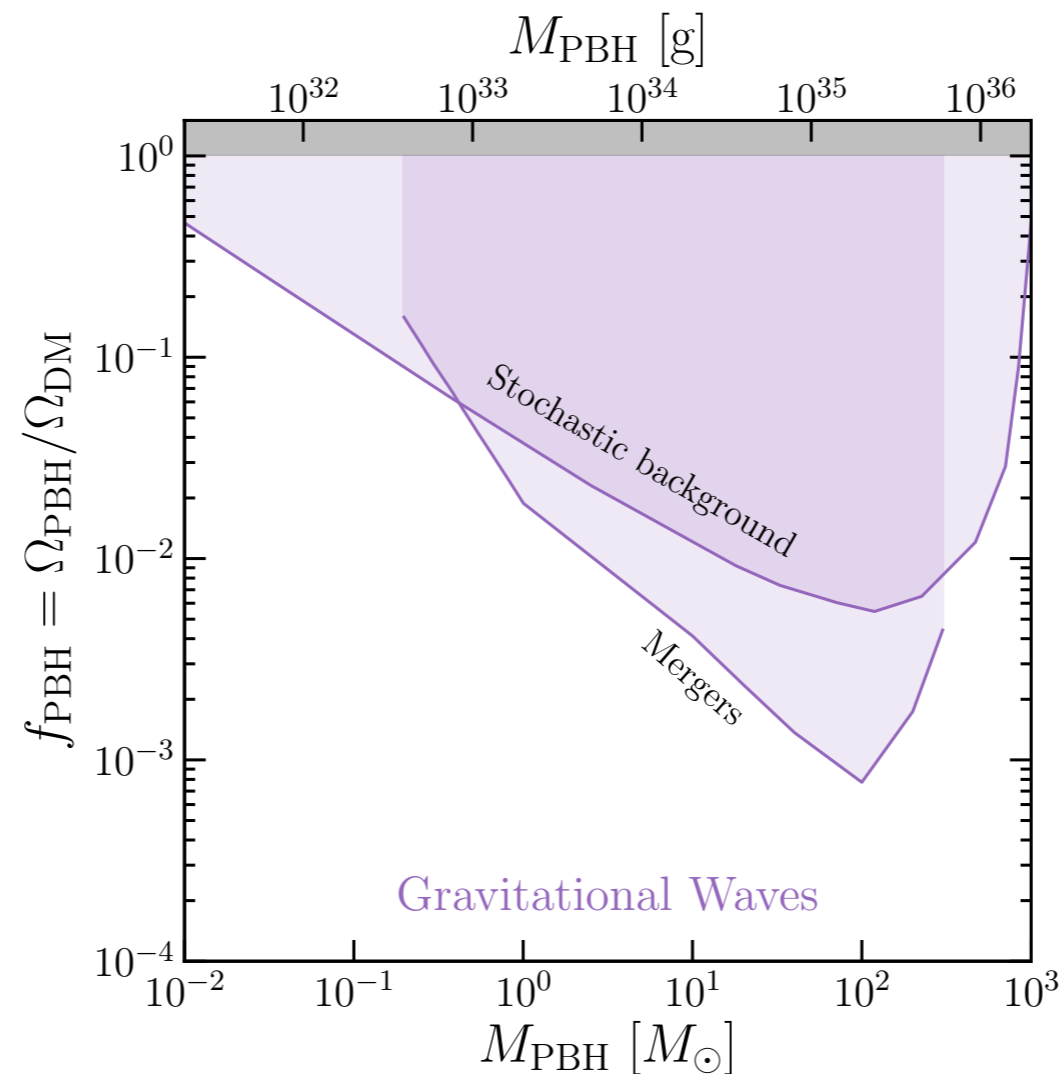


PBH binaries can form at early times (from chance proximity). [Nakamura et al.](#)

If orbits aren't significantly perturbed subsequently, then their mergers are orders of magnitude larger than the merger rate measured by LIGO. [Ali-Haïmoud, Kovetz & Kamionkowski](#)

Also comparable constraints from stochastic GW from mergers. [Wang et al.](#)

$$f_{\text{PBH}} = \frac{\Omega_{\text{PBH}}}{\Omega_{\text{DM}}}$$



dynamical effects

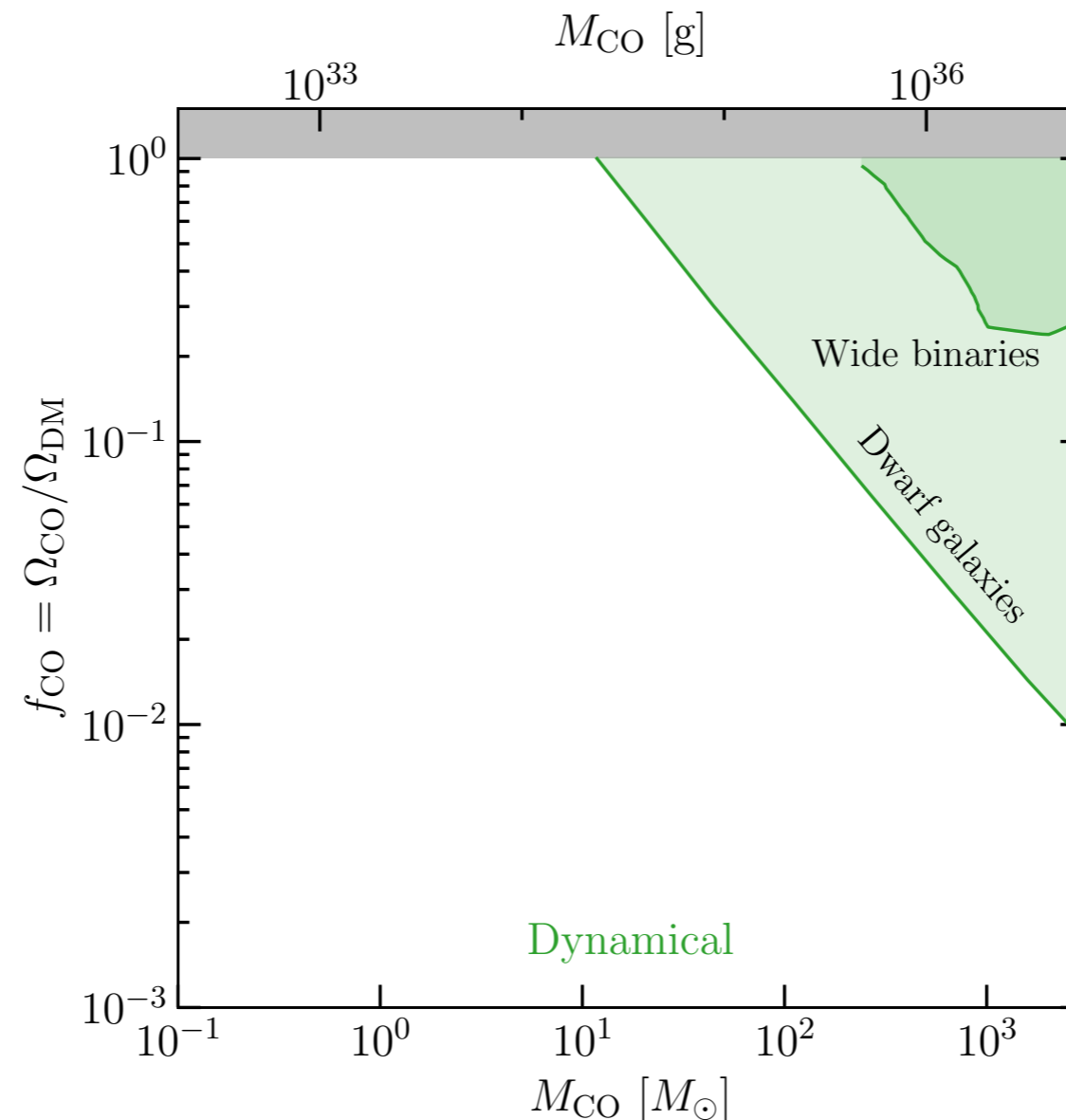


dwarf galaxies: stars are dynamically heated and size of stellar component increased

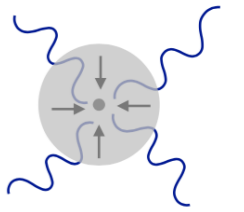
[Brandt](#); [Koushiappas & Loeb](#); [Zhu et al.](#); [Stegmann et al.](#)

wide binaries: dynamically heated, separations increased, and widest binaries

disrupted. [Yoo, Chaname & Gould](#); ... [Monroy-Rodriguez & Allen](#); [Tyler, Green & Goodwin](#)



accretion



Radiation emitted due to gas accretion onto PBHs can modify the recombination history of the universe, constrained by

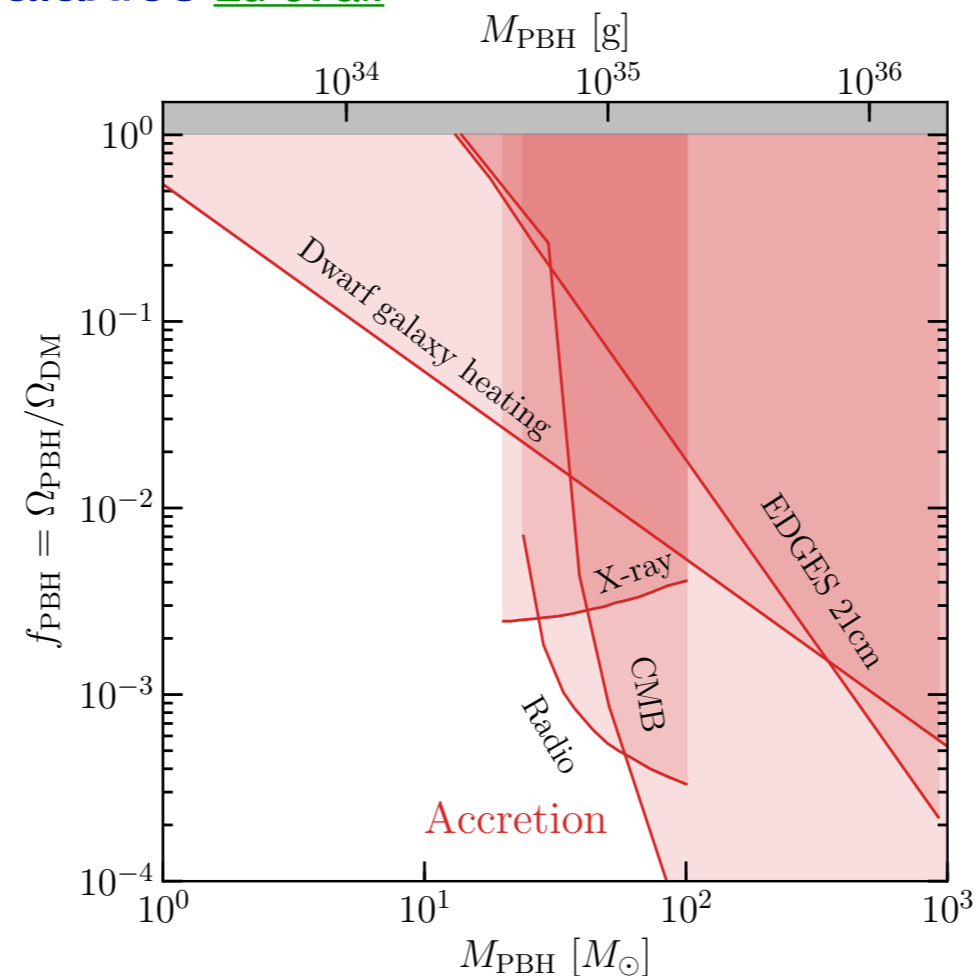
distortion of CMB anisotropies [Ricotti et al](#); [Ali-Haïmoud & Kamionkowski](#); ... [Poulin et al....](#)

EDGES 21cm measurements [Hektor et al.](#);

Accretion onto PBHs today constrained by

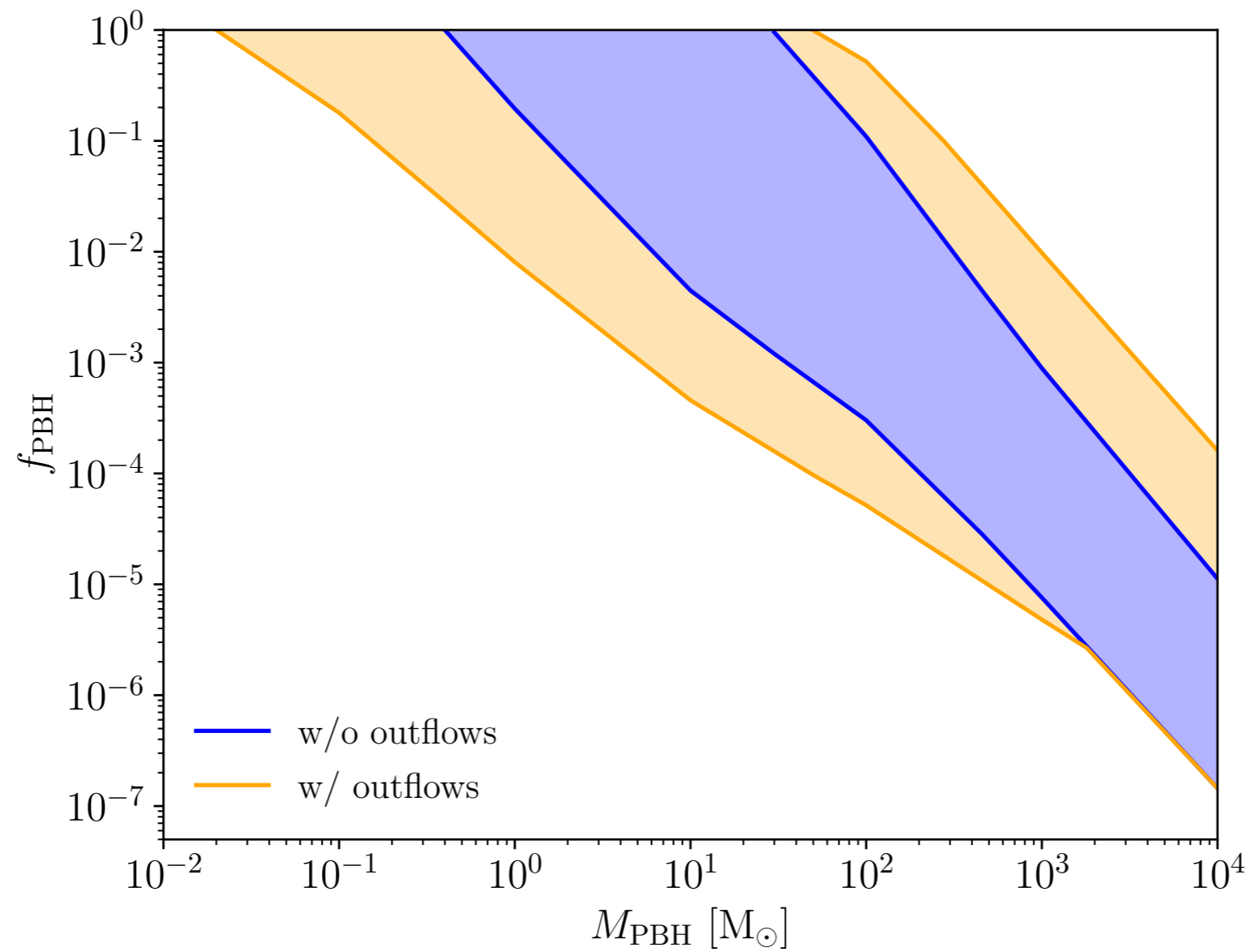
X-ray and radio emission in MW [Gaggero et al](#); [Inoue & Kusenko](#); [Manshanden et al.](#)

gas-heating in dwarf galaxies [Lu et al.](#)



uncertainty in constraint from distortion of CMB anisotropies

from geometry of accretion (spherical or disc) [Poulin et al.](#) and outflows [Piga et al.](#)



[Piga et al.](#)

constraints on asteroid mass PBHs from interactions with stars



Stars can capture asteroid mass PBHs through dynamical friction, accretion onto PBH can then destroy the star. [Capela, Pshirkov & Tinyakov](#); [Pani & Loeb](#); [Montero-Camacho et al.](#)

Transit of asteroid mass PBH through white dwarf heats it, due to dynamical friction, causing it to explode. [Graham, Rajendran & Varela](#)

[Montero-Camacho et al.](#) **No current constraints**, but potential future constraints from

i) survival of neutron stars in globular cluster **if** it has DM halo (need high DM density, low velocity-dispersion environment),

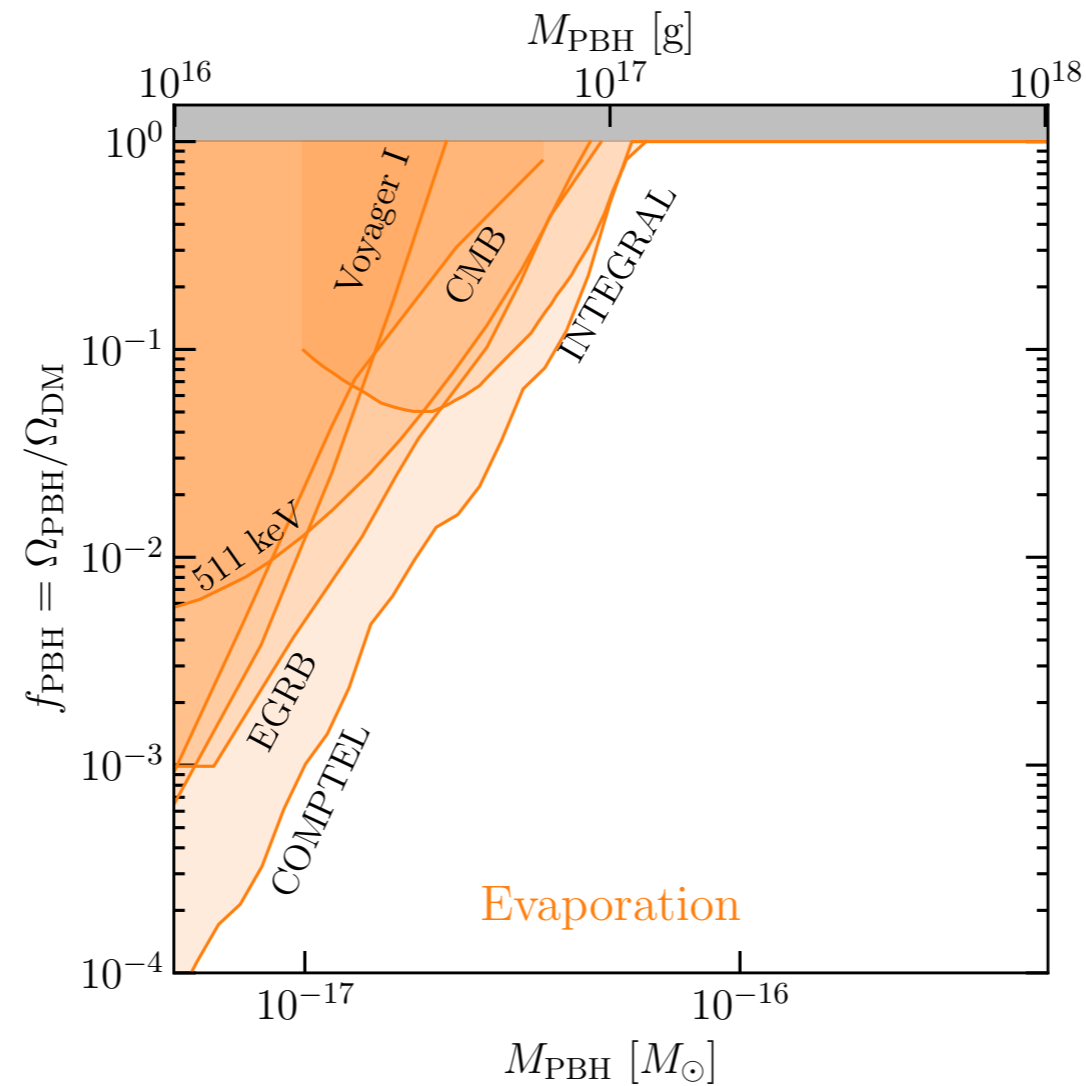
ii) signatures of star being destroyed.

[Esser & Tinyakov](#) potential constraints from disruption of main sequence stars in dwarf galaxies, due to PBH capture during star formation.

constraints on light PBHs from evaporation products



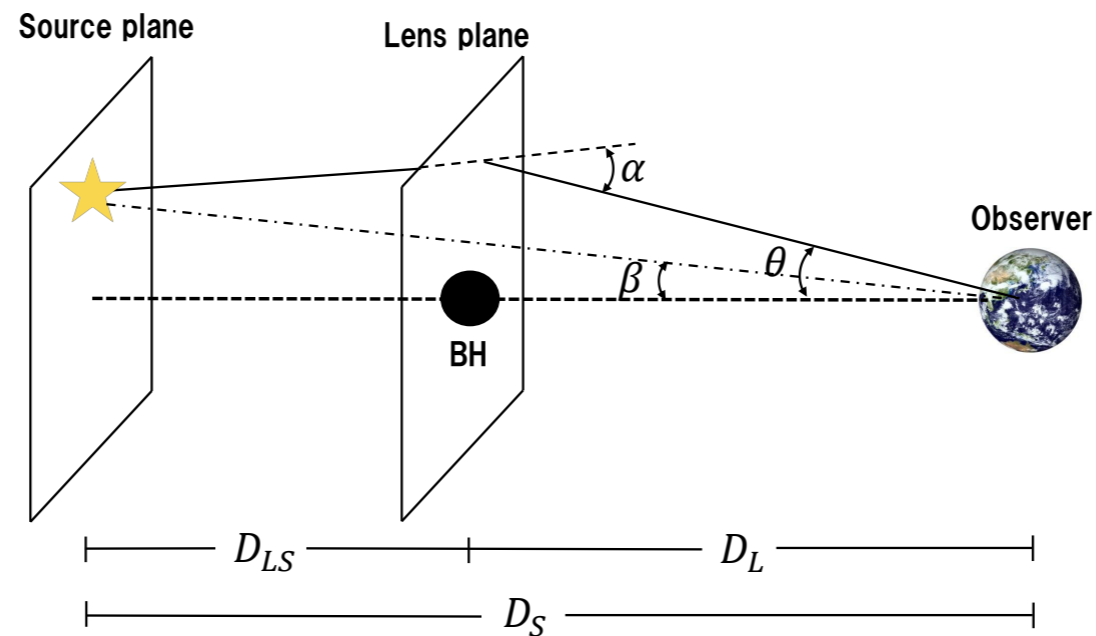
Evaporation products (gamma rays, e^\pm , ...) from PBHs reaching the end of their lifetime would be detectable/have observable consequences.



See also [Auffinger](#) review.

gravitational lensing

for an intro see e.g. Sasaki et al.



$$x = \frac{D_L}{D_S}$$

Sasaki et al.

Lens equation:

$$\theta D_S = D_S \beta + D_{LS} \alpha$$

deflection $\alpha = \frac{4GM_{\text{BH}}}{D_L \theta}$

Lens equation on lens plane:

$$r^2 - r_0 r - R_E^2 = 0$$

$$r = D_L \theta$$

$$r_0 = D_L \beta$$

Einstein radius: $R_E = \sqrt{\frac{4GM D_L D_{LS}}{D_S}}$

Image positions:

$$r_{1,2} = \frac{1}{2} \left(r_0 \pm \sqrt{r_0^2 + 4R_E^2} \right)$$

Angular separation:

$$\Delta \sim \frac{R_E}{D_L} = 0.3 \text{ mas} \left(\frac{M}{10 M_\odot} \right)^{1/2} \left(\frac{D_S}{100 \text{ kpc}} \right)^{-1/2} \sqrt{\frac{1-x}{x}}$$

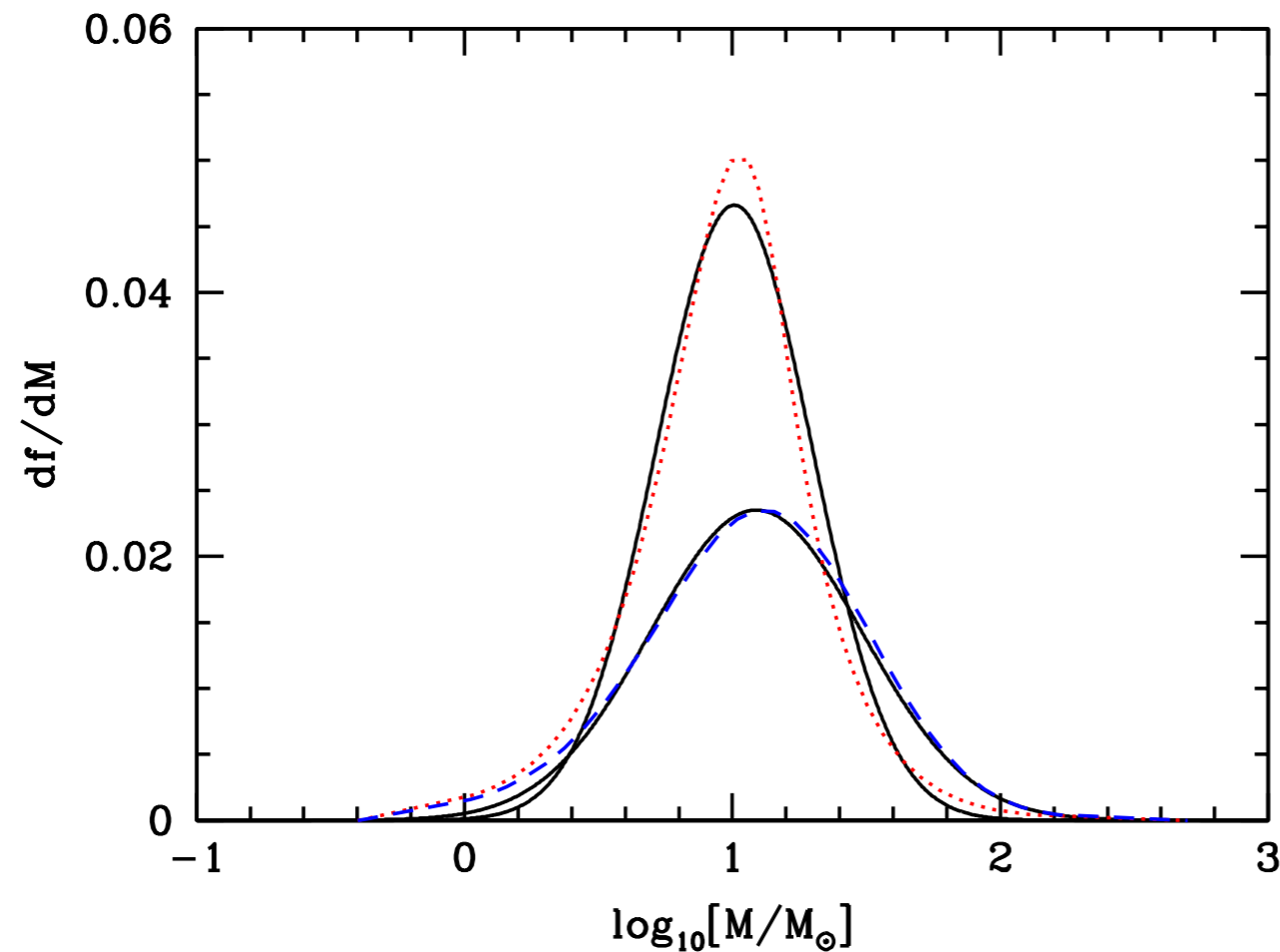
axion-like curvaton

Kawasaki, Kitajima & Yanagida

Large scale perturbations generated by inflaton, small scale (PBH forming) perturbations by curvaton (a spectator field during inflation gets fluctuations and decays afterwards producing perturbations Lyth & Wands)

Extended MFs produced by broad peak in power spectrum, moderately well approximated by a **log-normal distribution**: [Green](#); [Kannike et al.](#)

$$M \frac{dn}{dM} \propto \exp \left\{ -\frac{[\log(M/M_c)]^2}{2\sigma^2} \right\}$$



axion-like curvaton

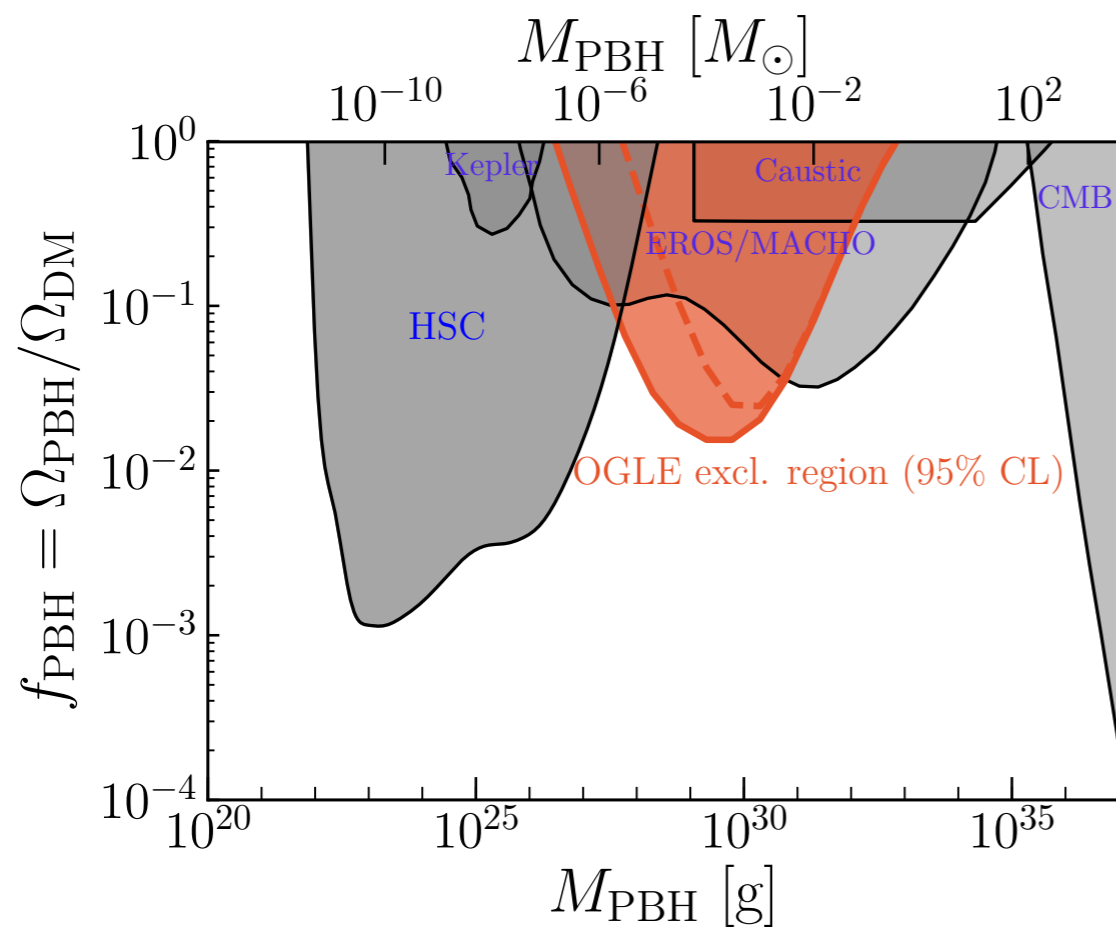
running mass inflation

stars in Galactic bulge

Observed events consistent with expectations from stars (except for 6 ultra-short (0.1-0.3) day events)

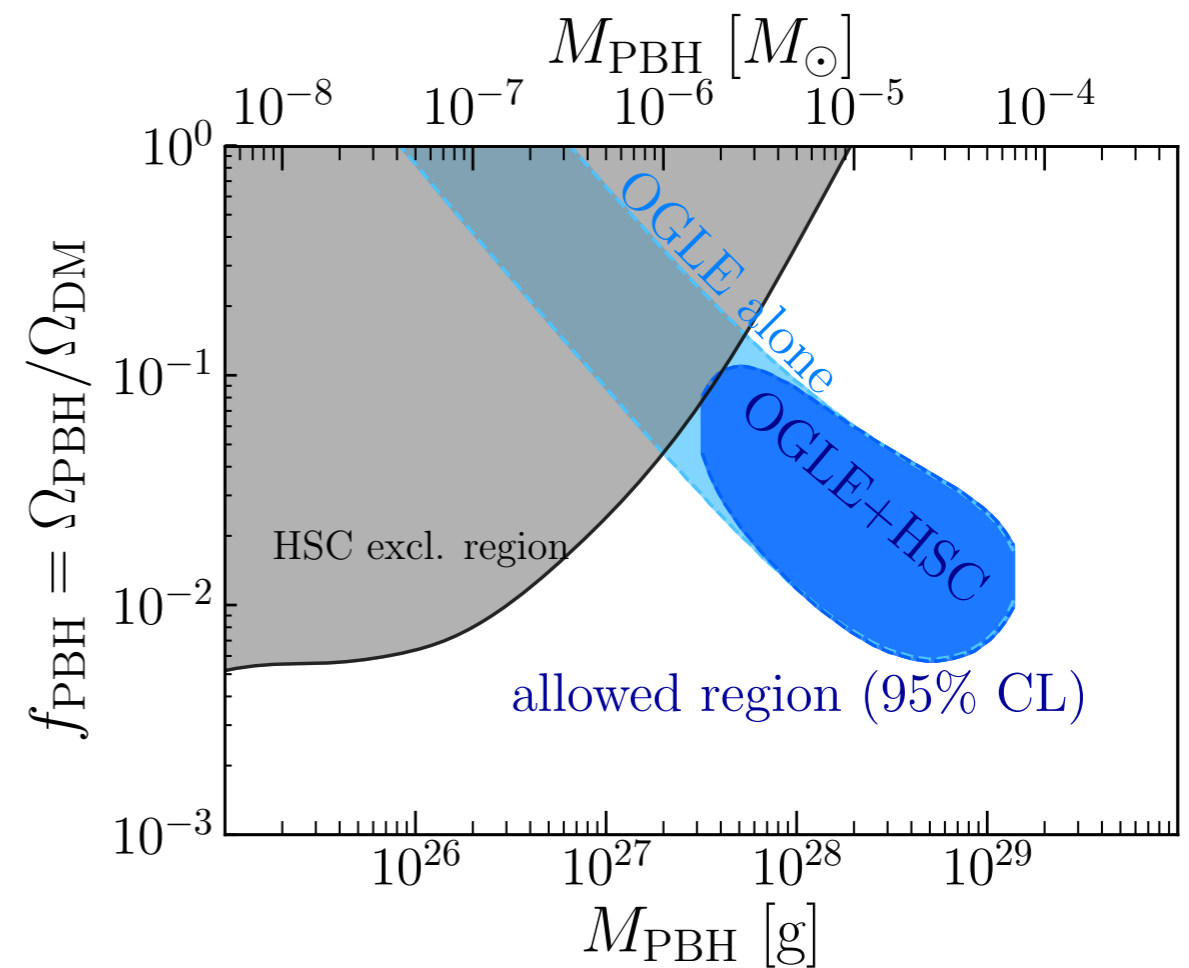
Exclusion limit

assuming no PBH lensing observed



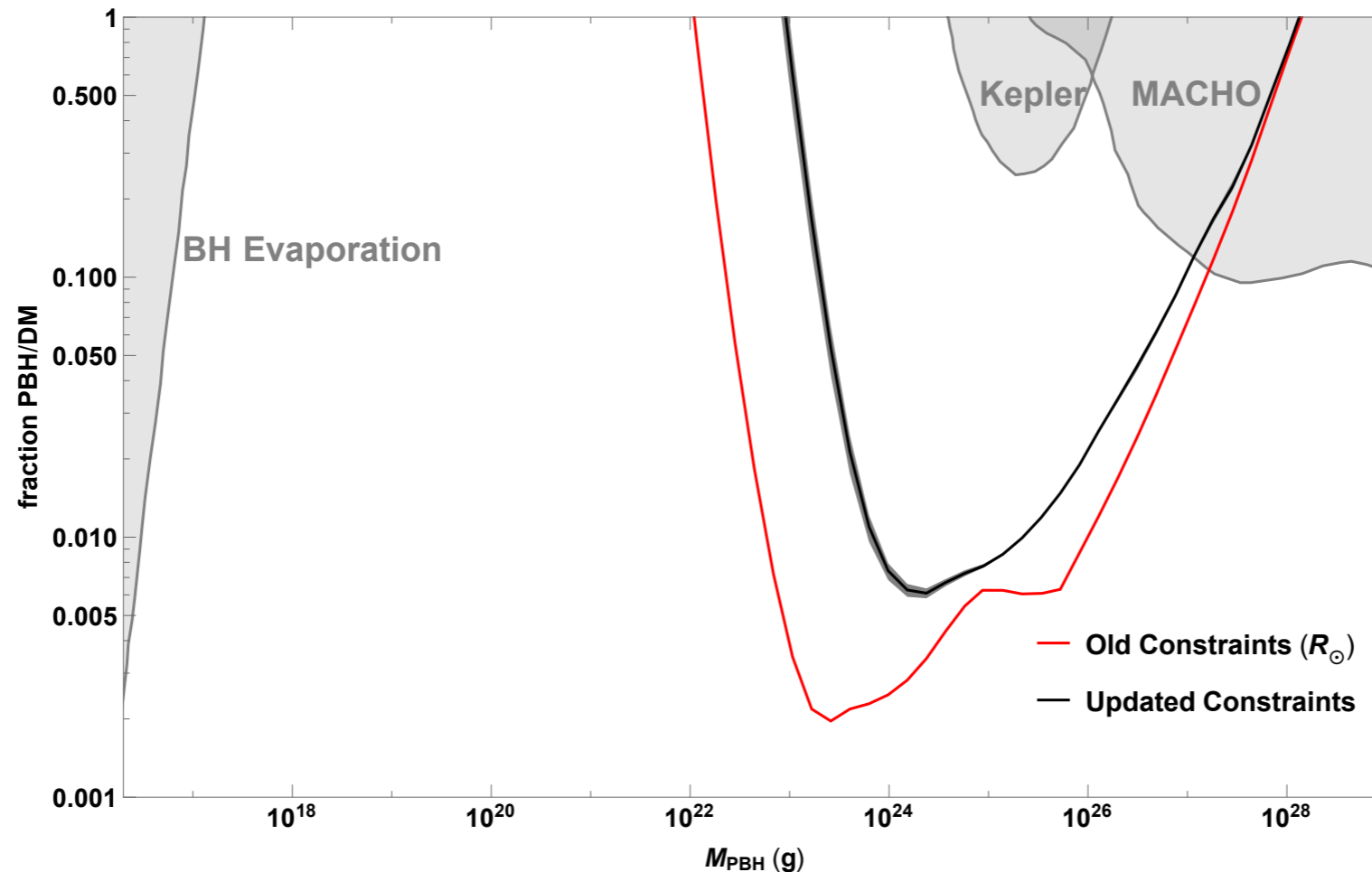
Allowed region

assuming 6 ultra-short events are due to PBHs



stars in M31

Subaru HSC observations have higher cadence than EROS/MACHO, so sensitive to shorter duration events and hence lighter compact objects. Niikura et al.



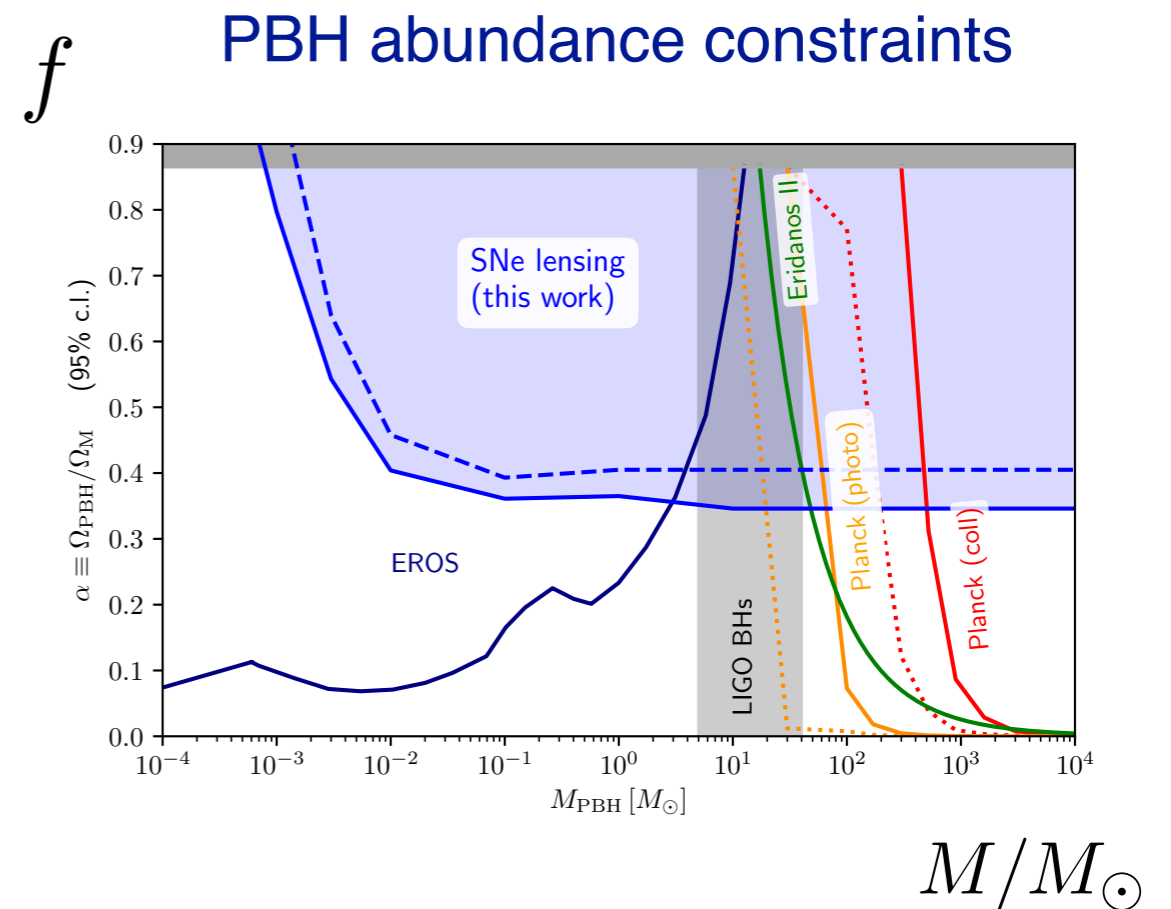
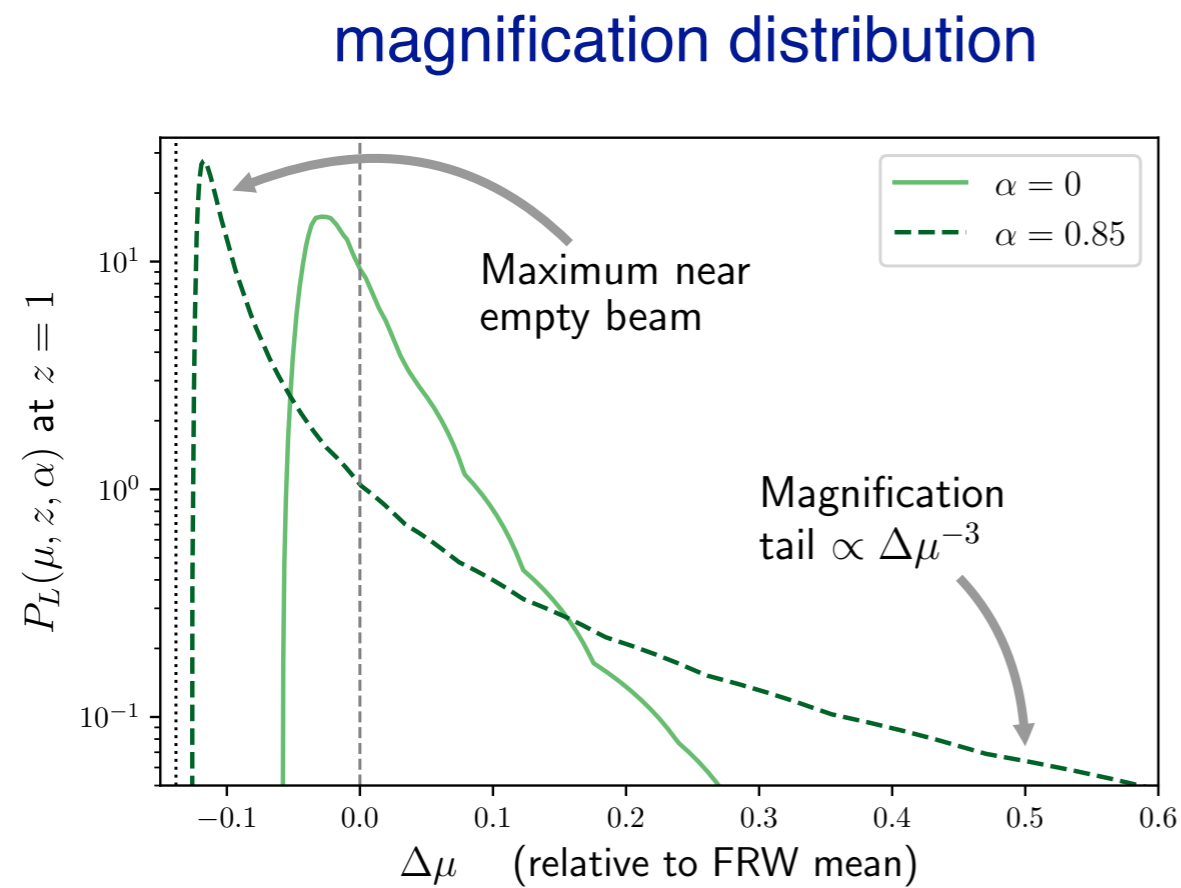
Smyth et al.

Finite size of source stars and effects of wave optics (Schwarzschild radius of BH comparable to wavelength of light) leads to reduction in maximum magnification for $M \lesssim 10^{-7} M_{\odot}$ and $M \lesssim 10^{-11} M_{\odot}$ respectively. Witt & Mao; Gould; Nakamura; Sugiyama, Kurita & Takada

And only large stars are bright enough for microlensing to be observed. Montero-Camacho et al.; Smyth et al.

supernova microlensing

Lensing magnification distribution of type 1a SNe affected (most lines of sight are demagnified relative to mean, plus long-tail of high magnifications): Zumalacarregui & Seljak

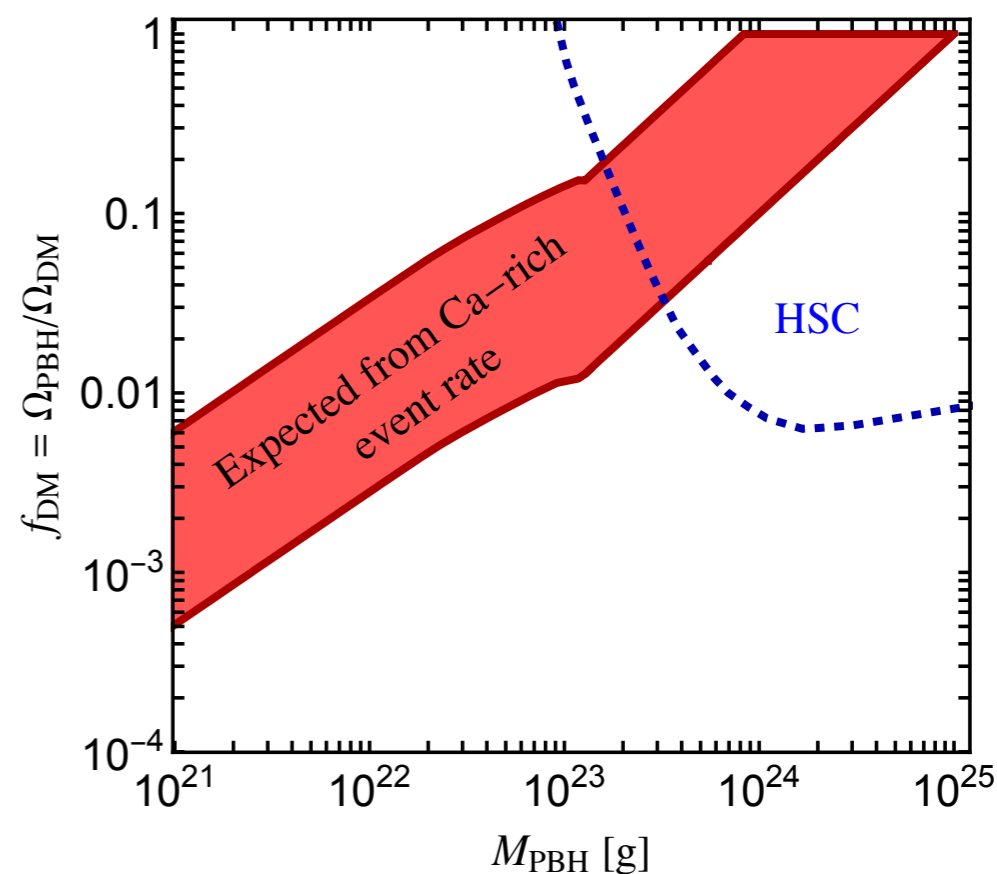


Garcia-Bellido, Clesse & Fleury argue priors on cosmological parameters are overly restrictive and physical size of supernovae have been underestimated.

Transit of asteroid mass PBH through white dwarf heats it, due to dynamical friction, causing it to explode. [Graham, Rajendran & Varela](#).

Population of faint, Calcium-rich supernovae mostly located at large distances from centre of host galaxy, could be due to PBHs interacting with low mass white dwarfs in dwarf galaxies??

[Smirnov et al.](#)



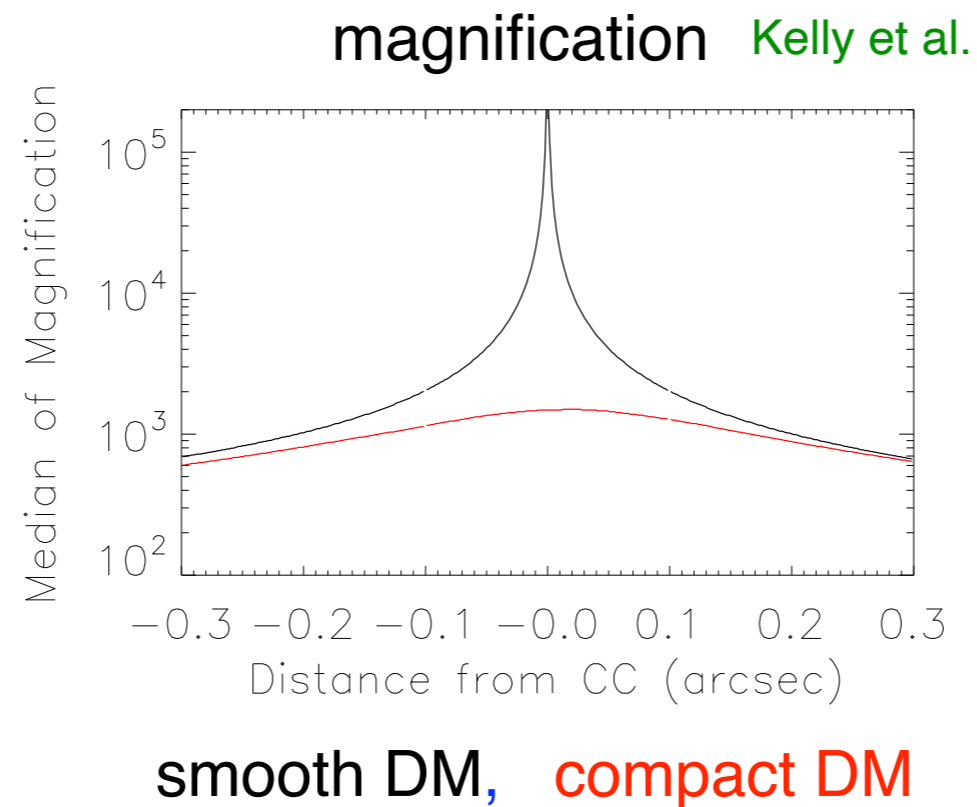
[Smirnov et al.](#)

But observational signature of PBH-induced white dwarf explosion not yet reliably calculated. [Montero-Camacho et al.](#)

Icarus

When a distant star crosses a galaxy cluster caustic get huge magnification which can be increased by microlensing by compact objects (stars, black holes,..) in cluster. [Miralda-Escude](#).

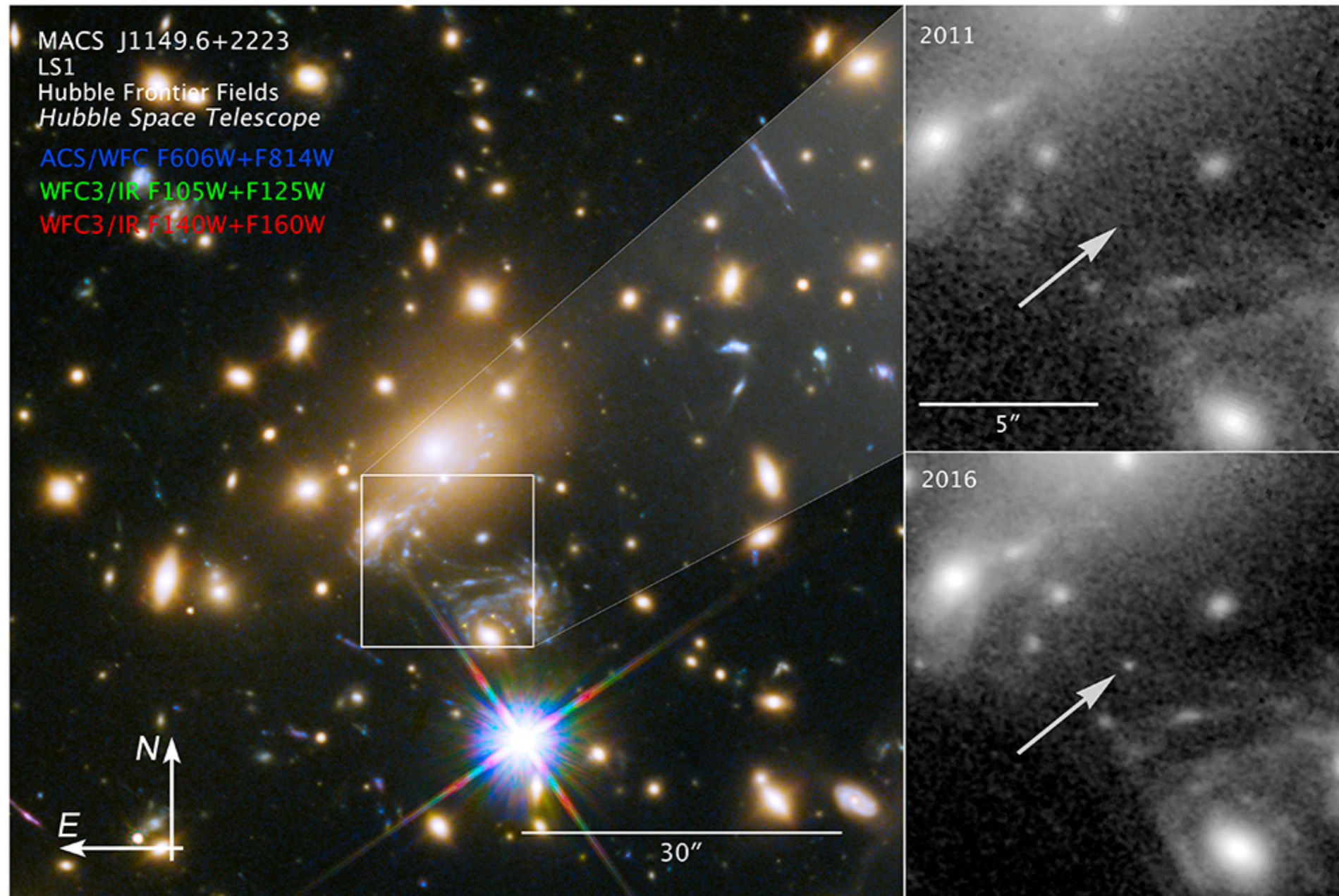
However if large fraction of DM is in compact objects magnification is reduced.



Icarus is first (serendipitously) observed event involving a star at red-shift 1.5. [Kelly et al.](#)

Constraint from Icarus: $f < 0.08$ (but factor of 2 uncertainty in transverse velocity leads to similar uncertainty on f). [Oguri et al.](#)

Icarus is first (serendipitously) observed event involving a star at red-shift 1.5. Kelly et al.



Kelly et al.

Constraint from Icarus: $f < 0.08$ (but factor of 2 uncertainty in transverse velocity leads to similar uncertainty on f). Oguri et al.

constraints on light PBHs from evaporation products

Extragalactic gamma-rays background (EGRET/Fermi) [Carr, Kohri, Sendouda & Yokoyama](#)

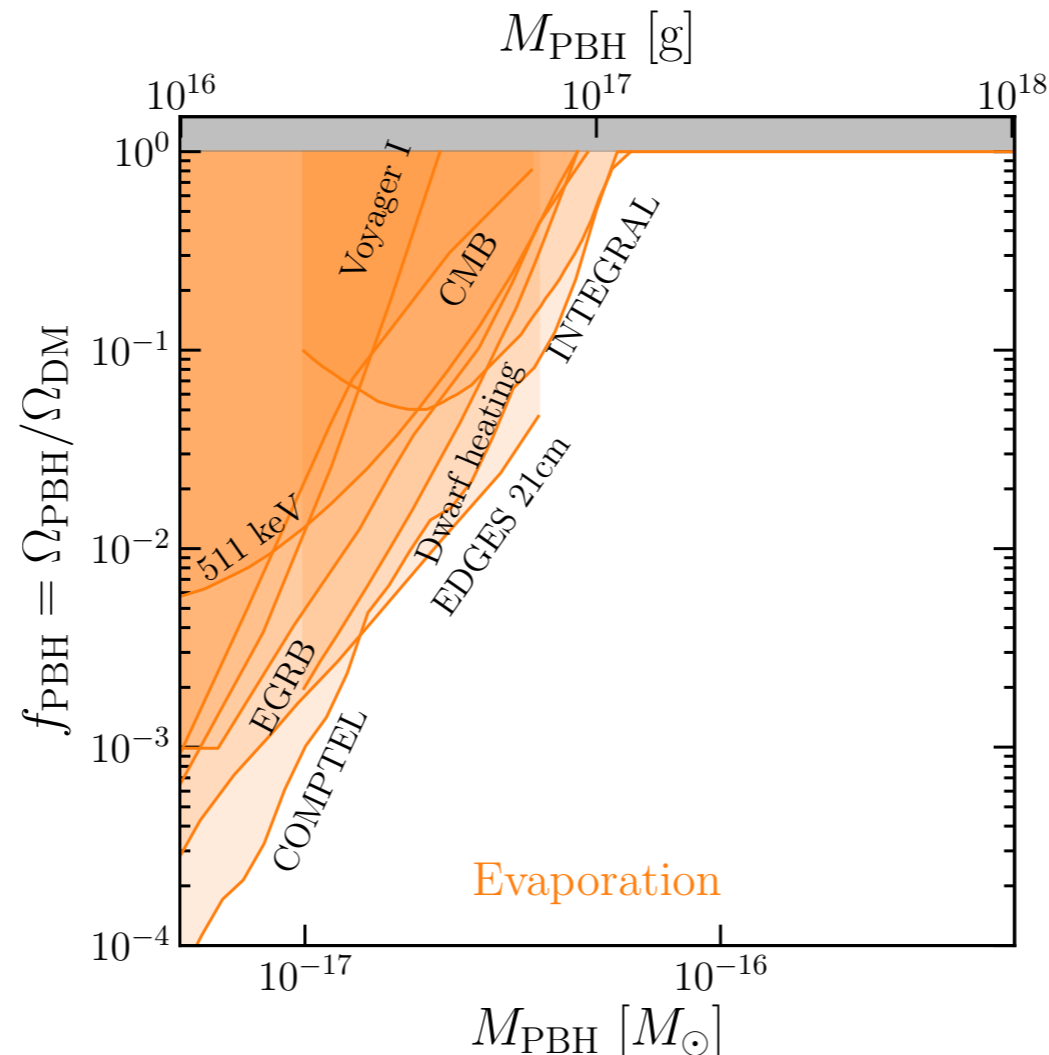
MeV galactic diffuse flux (INTEGRAL) [Laha, Munoz & Slatyer](#) (COMPTEL) [Coogan, Morrison & Profumo](#)

damping of CMB anisotropies during recombination (Planck) [Poulin et al.](#); [Clark et al.](#)

e^\pm flux (Voyager 1) [Boudaud & Cirelli](#)

511 keV line from e^\pm annihilation (INTEGRAL) [DeRocco & Graham](#); [Laha](#)

heating of ISM in dwarf galaxy [Kim](#)



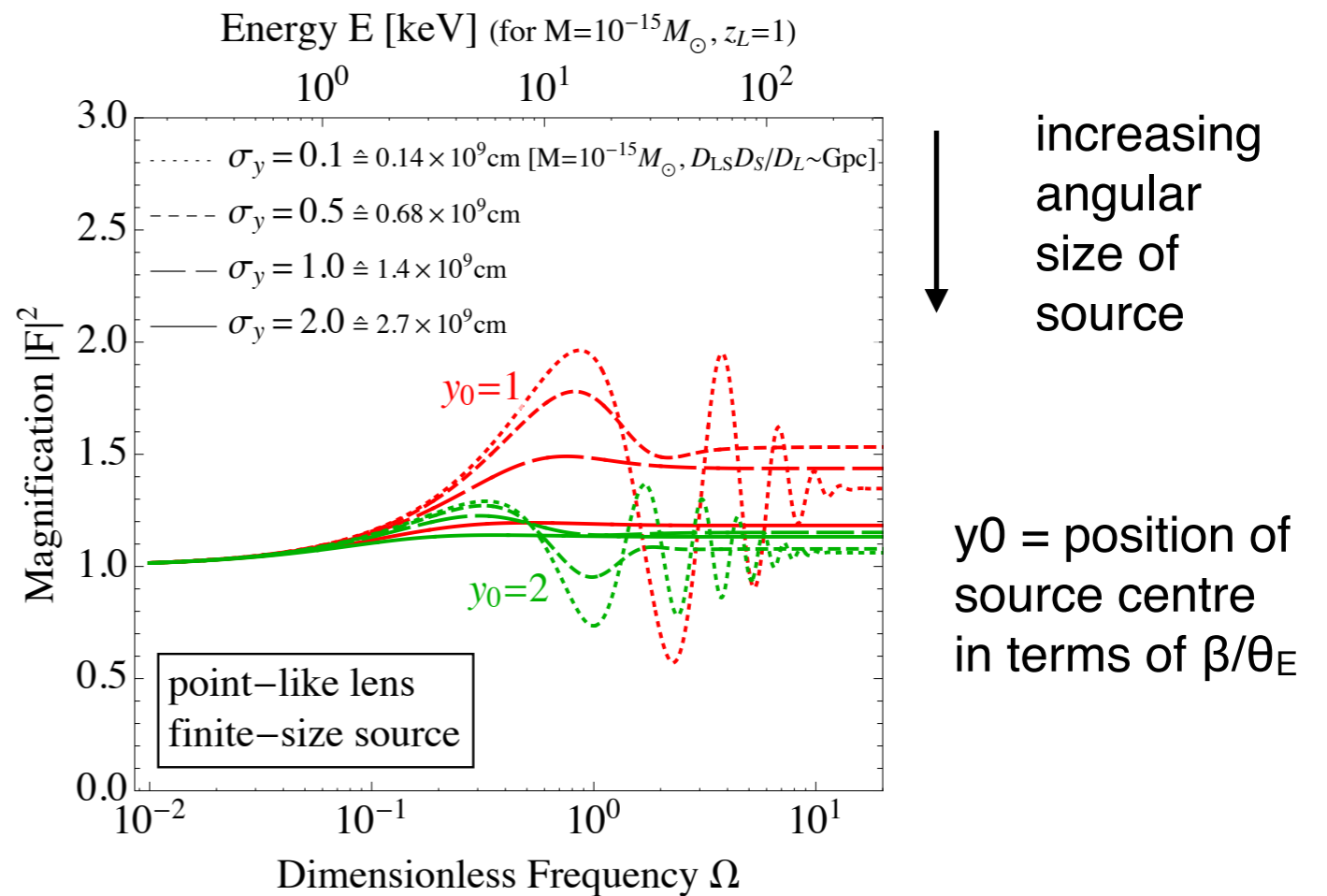
how to constrain asteroid mass PBHs??

Femtolensing of GRBs

Different path lengths lead to phase differences, and hence interference fringes in energy spectrum of lensed GRBs. Gould

Barnacka, Glickenstein & Moderski constraints from Fermi Gamma Ray Burst monitor.

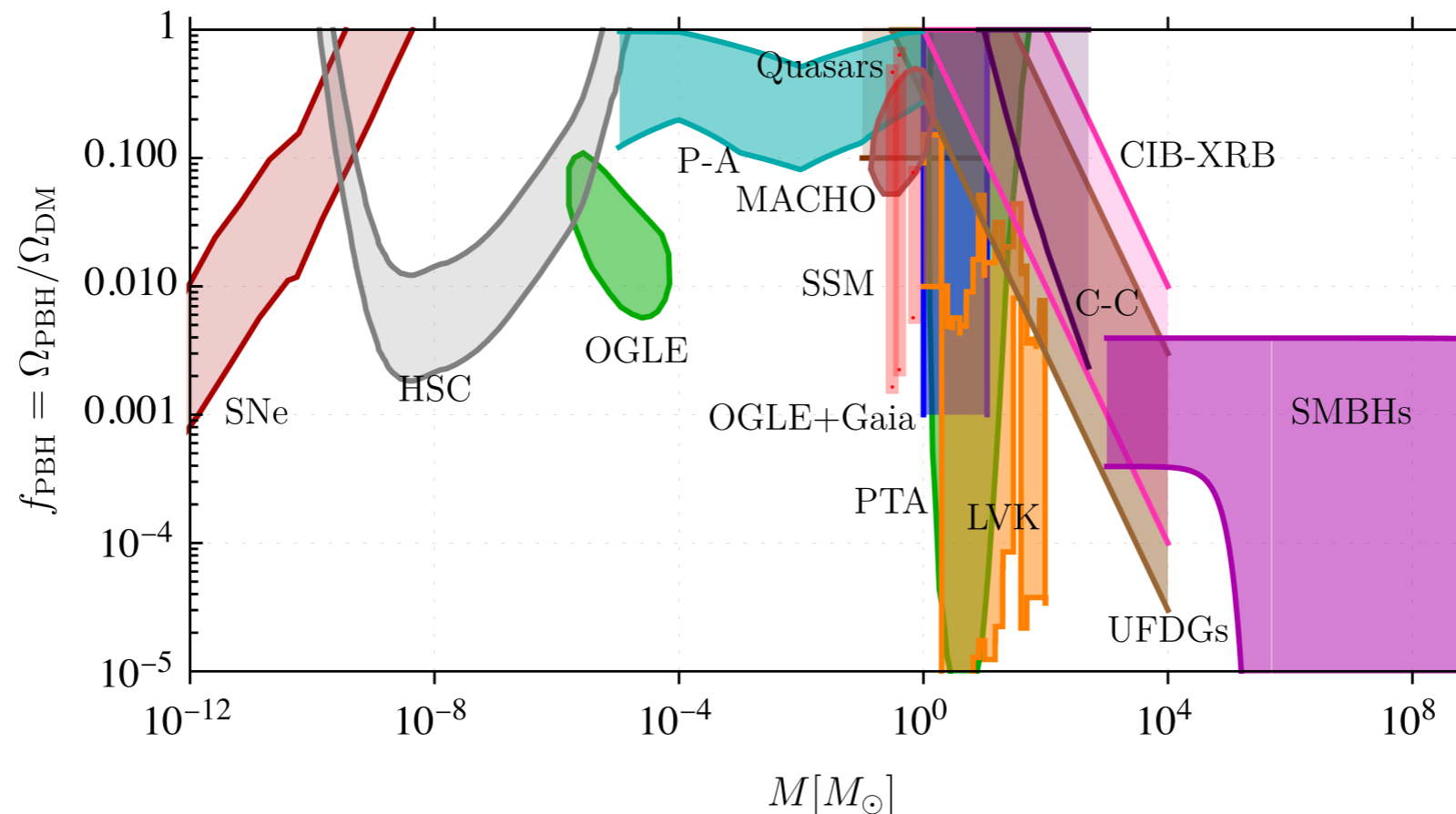
BUT Katz, Kopp, Sibiryakov, Xue most GRBs not point-like, and (less significantly) geometric optics approximation also breaks down:



Constraints could be achieved in a future with a sample of GRBs with well-measured red-shift and spectra, and small size (which is expected to correspond to sub-milli-second variability).

Observational signatures ???

Carr, Clesse, Garcia-Bellido, Hawkins & Kuhnel, [arXiv:2306.03903](https://arxiv.org/abs/2306.03903), 'Observational evidence for PBHs: a positivist perspective' and references therein.



SNe: trigger explosions of white dwarfs → calcium-rich supernovae

HSC, OGLE, PA, MACHO, OGLE-Gaia: microlensing

PTA: scalar induced gravitational waves detected by pulsar timing arrays

LVK: LIGO-Virgo-Kagra gravitational wave events

C-C: producing cores in density profiles of dwarf galaxies

CIB-XRB: accretion + clustering explains correlations in infra-red and X-ray backgrounds

UFDGs: clustering explains minimum mass & size of ultra faint dwarf galaxies

SMBHs: provide seeds for super massive black holes

Method for applying delta-function constraints to extended mass functions:

Carr, Raidal, Tenkanen, Vaskonen & Veermae, see also Bellomo, Bernal, Raccanelli & Verde:

If $f_{\max}(M)$ is the maximum allowed PBH fraction for a delta-function MF, an extended mass function $\psi(M)$ has to satisfy:

$$\int dM \frac{\psi(M)}{f_{\max}(M)} \leq 1$$

recent debate: do large amplitude small scale perturbations lead to significant one-loop corrections to perturbations on CMB scales?

[Kristiano & Yokoyama](#)

Consensus seems to be 'no'. e.g. [Firouzjahi & Riotto](#); [Fumagalli](#)

Probing origin of BH binaries using their spins

Farr, Holtz & Farr;... Fernandez & Profumo

Dimensionless spin of individual BH:

$$\chi = \frac{|\mathbf{S}|}{GM^2}$$

Effective spin parameter:

$$\chi_{\text{eff}} = \frac{M_1 \chi_1 \cos \theta_1 + M_2 \chi_2 \cos \theta_2}{M_1 + M_2}$$

θ_i =tilt angle between \mathbf{S}_i and orbital AM \mathbf{L}

Astrophysical BH binaries:

- i) formed in dense stellar environments, spins uncorrelated with orbit: $\chi_{\text{eff}} \approx 0$
- ii) formed in isolation, spins generally aligned with orbital AM: $\chi_{\text{eff}} \approx 1$

Primordial BH binaries:

small intrinsic spins, $\chi_i \approx 0 \rightarrow \chi_{\text{eff}} \approx 0$

de Luca et al.

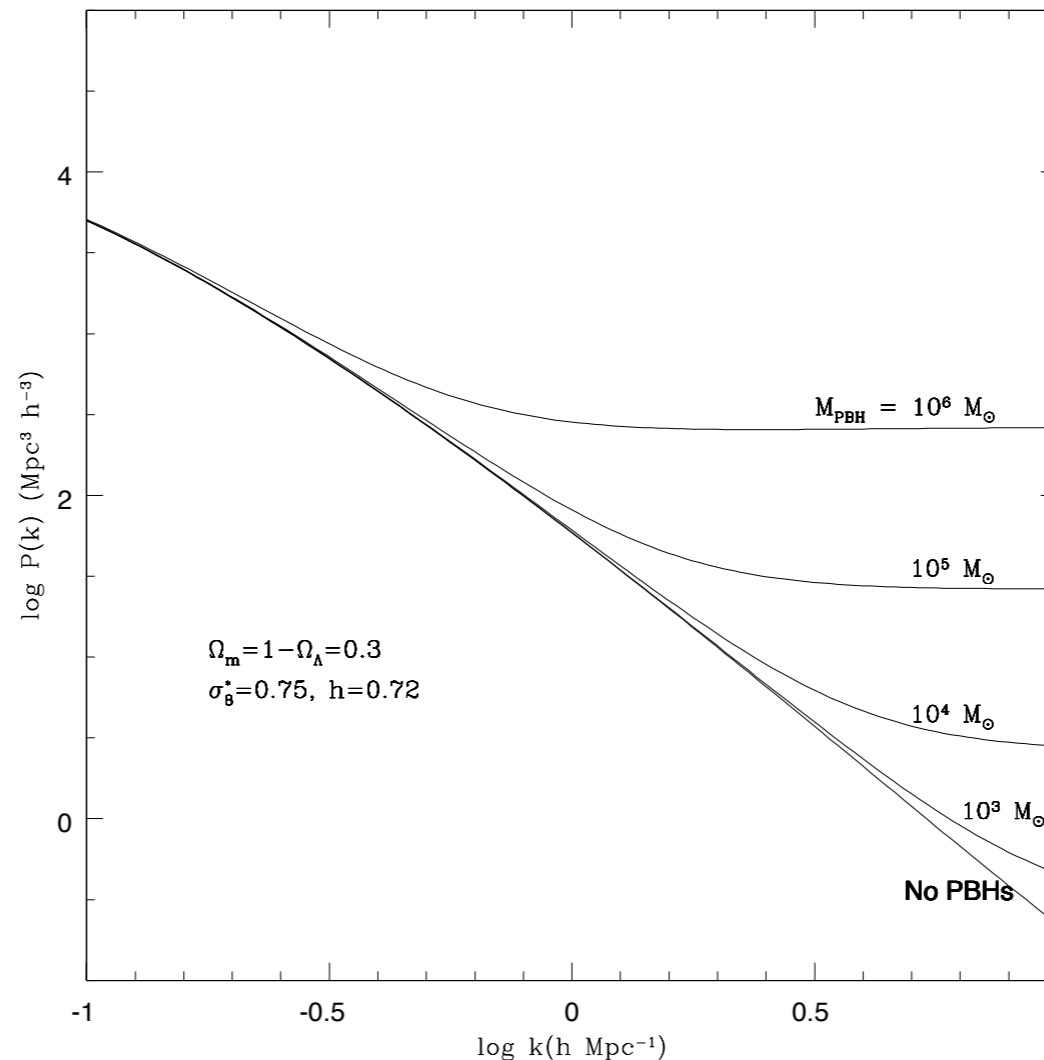
Structure formation with PBH dark matter

PBHs don't form in clusters [Ali-Haïmoud](#) (previous work [Chisholm](#) extrapolated an expression for the correlation function beyond its range of validity).

But if PBHs make up a large fraction of the DM, PBH clusters form shortly after matter-radiation equality. [Afshordi, Macdonald & Spergel](#); [Raidal et al.](#); [Inman & Ali-Haïmoud](#); [Jedamzik](#)

power spectrum

$$P(k)$$
$$(\propto k^{n_s})$$



↑
increasing
PBH mass

no PBHs

k = comoving wavenumber

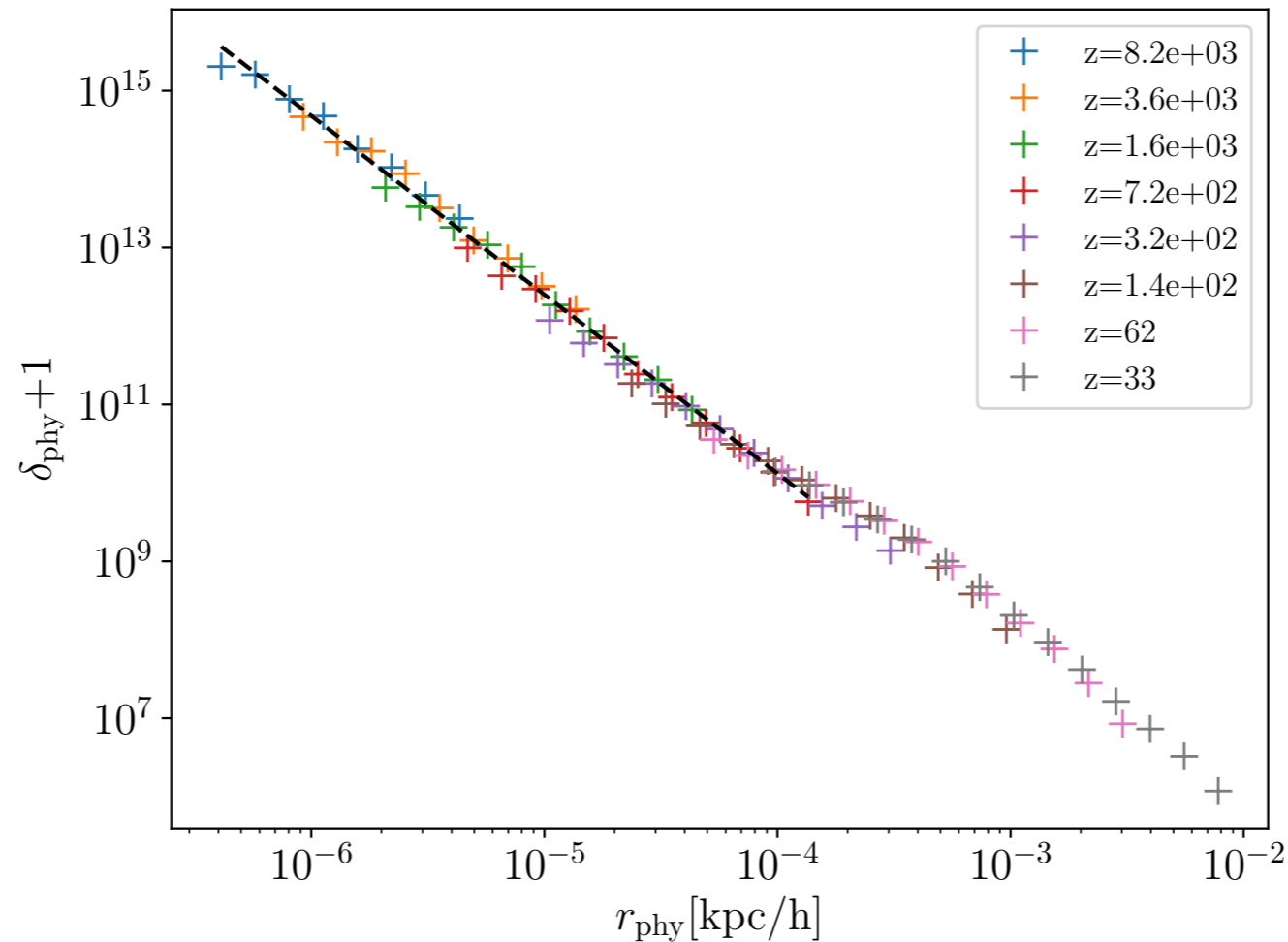
[Afshordi, Macdonald & Spergel](#)

mixed PBH-particle dark matter

If PBHs don't make up all of the DM ($0 < f_{\text{PBH}} < 1$) then isolated PBHs accrete a halo of particle DM with a steep density profile: $\rho(r) \propto r^{-9/4}$

Mack, Ostriker & Ricotti; Adamek et al.; Inman & Ali-Haïmoud

Density profile, in physical units, formed around a $30M_{\odot}$ PBH



Adamek et al

If the DM were a mixture of PBHs and WIMPs would get large flux of gamma-rays (and neutrinos and positrons) from WIMP annihilation in halos around PBHs: all of the DM being a mixture of WIMPs and PBHs is excluded. Lacki & Beacom

If $f_{\text{WIMP}} \sim 1$ then $f_{\text{PBH}} \lesssim 10^{-9}$.

If $f_{\text{PBH}} \sim 10^{-3}$ (if LIGO-Virgo events are PBH binary mergers) then $f_{\text{WIMP}} \lesssim 10^{-6}$.

Adamek, Byrnes, Gosenca, Hotchkiss

Clusters are sufficiently extended that PBHs microlens individually, & change in **microlensing** constraints is negligible, apart (possibly) for $M \gtrsim 10^3 M_\odot$

[Peta, Lavallo & Jedamzik; Gorton & Green.](#)

Non-local non-gaussianity can lead to more compact clusters, however in this case $\sim M_\odot$ PBHs with $f_{\text{PBH}} \sim 1$ still excluded by microlensing + Lyman- α obs. [de Luca et al.](#)