

# Tunneling in Collapsing "Boson/ALP" Stars



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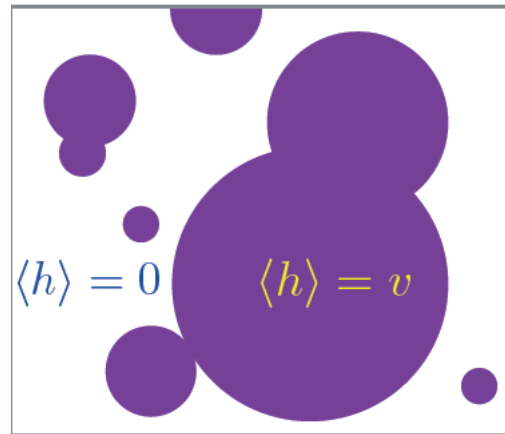
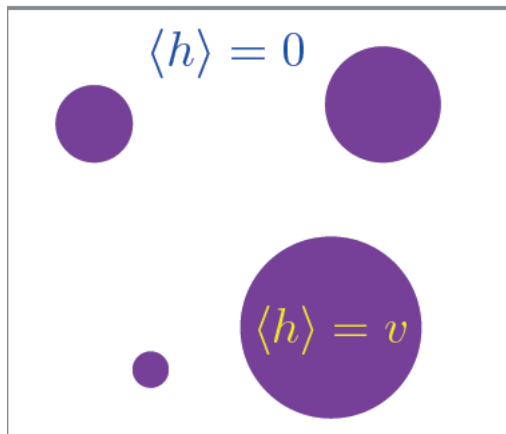
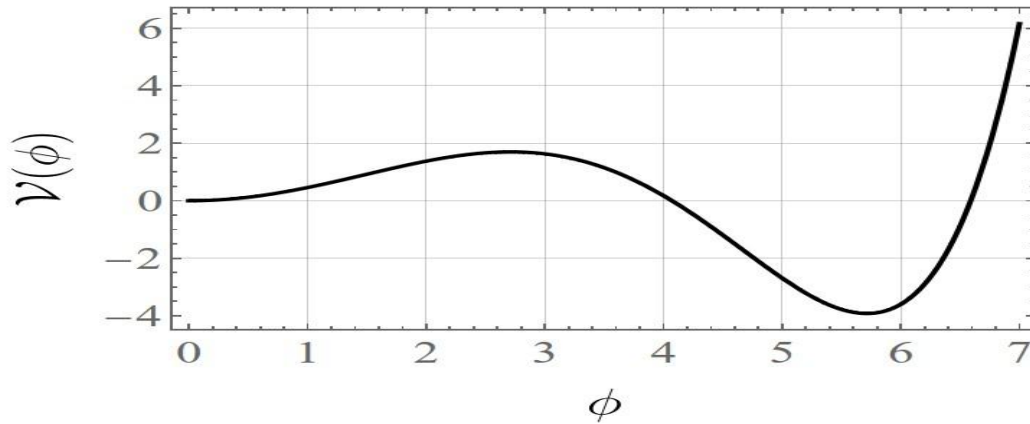
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Axions in Stockholm 1/7 2025

To appear on arxiv soon 250X.XXXXX

# First Order Phase Transitions

## The Usual Story



## The New Story

- Consider a Boson/ALP-like Star in the dense branch.
- During Star Collapse higher order terms in potential become relevant. -> Bosenova
- In the case when the different vacua are non degenerate during star collapse -> Star collapse Induced Tunneling.

# "Boson/ALP" Stars

Boson Star Generalities, Consider  
chunk of bosons of total mass  $M = mN$

$$E \sim \frac{N}{8mR^2} - \frac{3}{5} \frac{GM^2}{R}$$

$$\frac{\partial E}{\partial R} = 0 \rightarrow R_{BS} \sim \frac{\alpha_k}{2Gm^2M}$$



ALP Star Considerations

$$\mathcal{L} = \sqrt{-g} \left[ \frac{1}{2} g^{\mu\nu} \nabla_\mu \phi \nabla_\nu \phi - V(\phi) \right].$$

$$V(\phi) = \frac{1}{2} m^2 \phi^2 + m^2 f^2 \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} g_n \frac{(-1)^n}{(2n)!} \left( \frac{\phi}{f} \right)^{2n}$$

Decompose field in terms of NR wave function

$$\phi = \frac{f_a}{\sqrt{2}} \left( \psi(\vec{r}, t) e^{-imt} + \psi^*(\vec{r}, t) e^{imt} \right)$$

$$i\partial_t \psi = -\frac{\Delta \psi}{2m_a} + m \left( \Phi - \frac{g_2 |\psi|^2}{8} \right) \psi$$

$$\Delta \Phi = \frac{4\pi\rho}{M_p^2}$$



# Self Similar Solution/Bosenova (Tkatchev)

Neglect Gravity and higher order terms in potential in GPP

$$i\partial_t\psi = -\frac{\Delta\psi}{2m_a} - \frac{g_2|\psi|^2}{8}m\psi$$

$$\psi(r,t) \rightarrow \gamma\psi(\gamma r, \gamma^2 t)$$

$$\psi = (-tm)^{-i\omega} \frac{\chi\left(\frac{rm}{\sqrt{-tm}}\right)}{m\sqrt{g_2}r}$$

Field Value at time t=0 of star collapse

$$\psi_{\text{collapse}} \sim \frac{2.82}{\sqrt{g_2}mr}$$

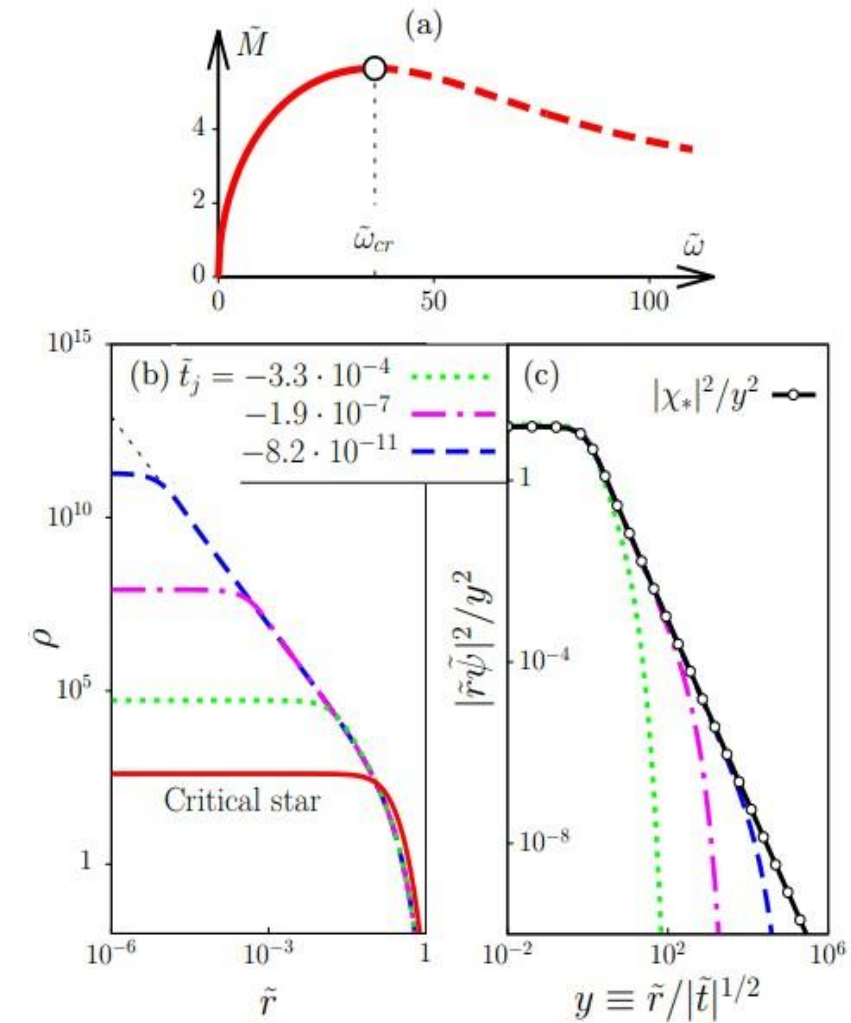


Figure 1 from 1609.03611

# Boson Star Collapse Induced Tunneling

Main Question: Can these large field values trigger a phase transition?

Case Study

$$\mathcal{V}(\phi) = \frac{m_a^2}{2!} \phi^2 - \frac{\lambda}{4!} \phi^4 + \frac{\epsilon}{6!} \phi^6$$

User Case definition of Critical Bubble

$$\phi_B(R_B) = \frac{\phi_B(0)}{2}$$

Naive Collapse Condition

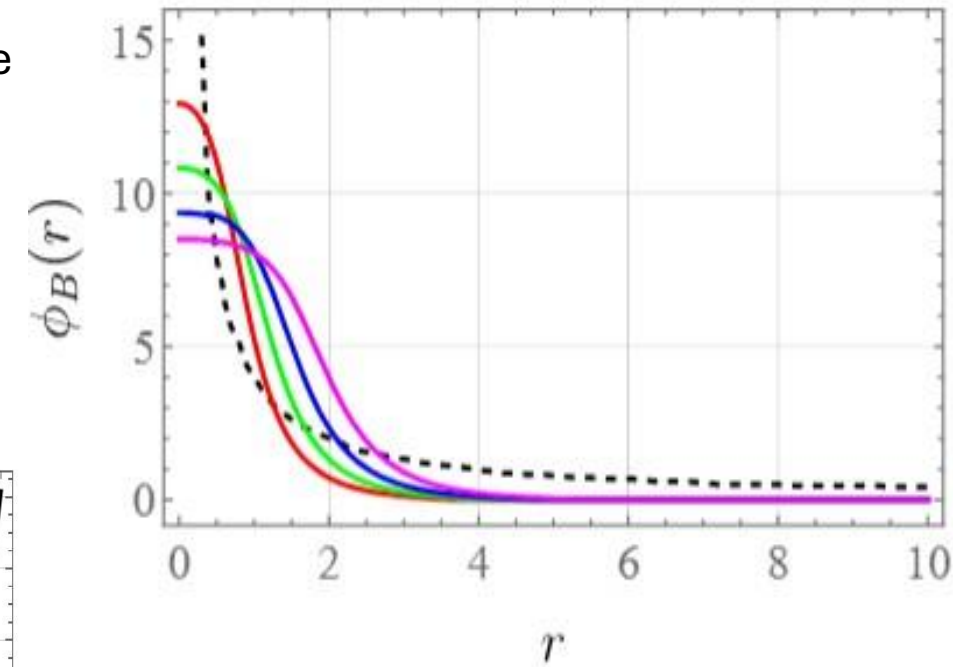
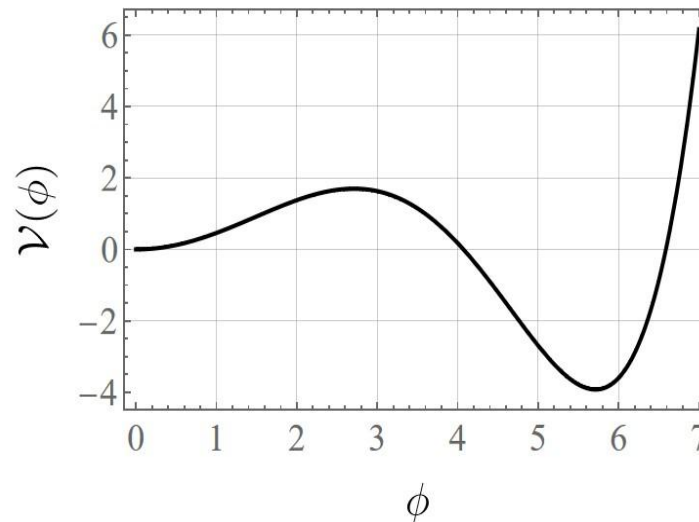
$$\phi_B(0)R_B\sqrt{\lambda} \lesssim 8$$

Field Value at Collapse

$$\phi_{collapse}(r, t = t_{collapse}) \simeq \frac{2.82\sqrt{2}}{\sqrt{\lambda}r}$$

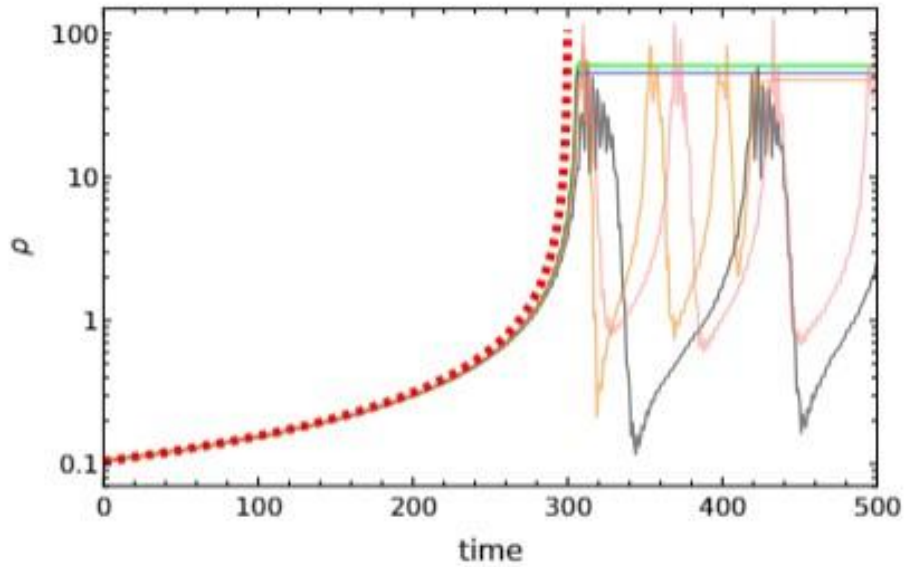
Condition for growth of bubble

$$\phi_B(R_B) \lesssim \phi_{collapse}(R_B, t = t_{collapse})$$



Field profiles of critical bubbles, O(4)  
Bounces Black Dashed is Tkatchev solution  
close to Bosenova

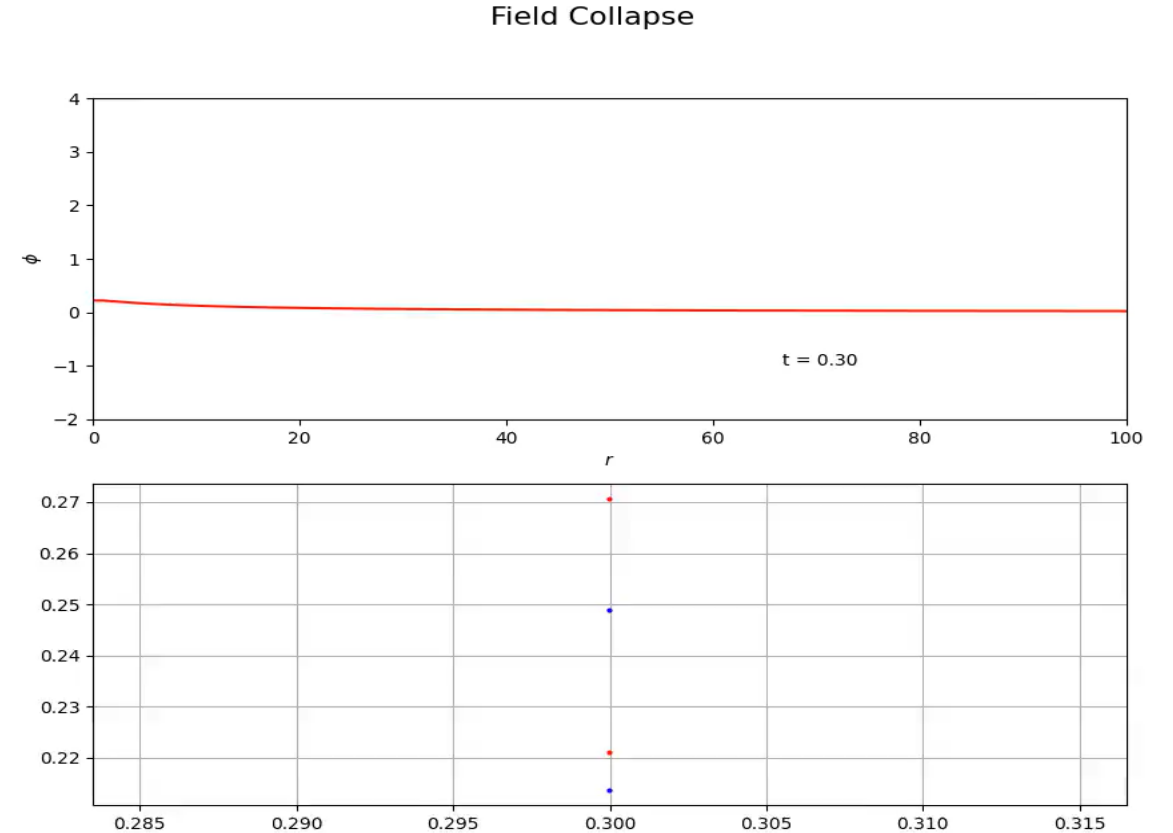
# Numerical Results



$$\rho = \frac{\dot{\phi}^2}{2} + \phi^2$$

$$g_{\text{num}} = 0.3, 0.33, 0.6$$

Tkatchev Attractor in Red Dashed. Evolution of energy density starting far away from critical collapse



Field Evolution during collapse  $g = 0.1$   
tunneling appears at  $t=230$ ,

# Phenomenological Consequences

- No-Go Theorem for the transition in thin wall limit?
- PT during star collapse -> field in false vacuum, Our current universe in true vacuum.

$$\Delta V \sim \frac{m^4}{\lambda} \left( \frac{5}{g^2} \right)$$

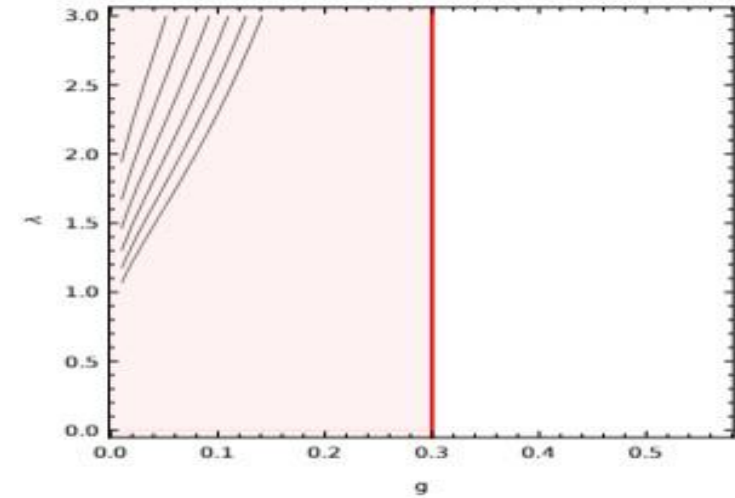
- Star formation prone in matter domination  $\rho \sim m^2 \phi^2$

$$\rho_D^m \sim \frac{m^4}{\lambda} \left( \frac{g}{3} \right)$$

- Landscape of ALP models/potentials realizing our setup?

$$V(\phi) = \Lambda_1^4 \left( 1 - \cos \left( \frac{\phi}{f_1} \right) \right) + \Lambda_2^4 \left( 1 - \cos \left( \frac{\phi}{f_2} + \pi \right) \right)$$

- Emergent Dark Energy Model by Ferreira Kobayashi 2018



Parameter space where the PT can happen  
varying  $m_\phi$  from 1 GeV to  $10^{10}$  GeV

- Such UV theory may enable models for CC
- Late Trapping of Axion field "Up Tunneling"
- Dynamical change in DM particle mass

## New mechanism for producing bubbles

- Large field excursions
- Core of collapsing stars
- Only Thick bubbles can be produced

## The key ingredients

- Non degenerate minima
- Negative quartic coupling
- Relying on Tkachev attractor solution

## Phenomonology

- Emergence of cosmological constant
- Constrain Gravo-thermal collapse
- May also be applicable in BHSR

