



UNIVERSITÉ
DE GENÈVE

Acoustic fluid perturbations in first-order phase transitions

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Work (*in preparation*) in collaboration with:
Chiara Caprini, Simona Procacci & Alberto Roper Pol

Nordita – January 22nd 2026



Swiss National
Science Foundation

«Exploring the early Universe with Gravitational Waves and Primordial Magnetic Fields»

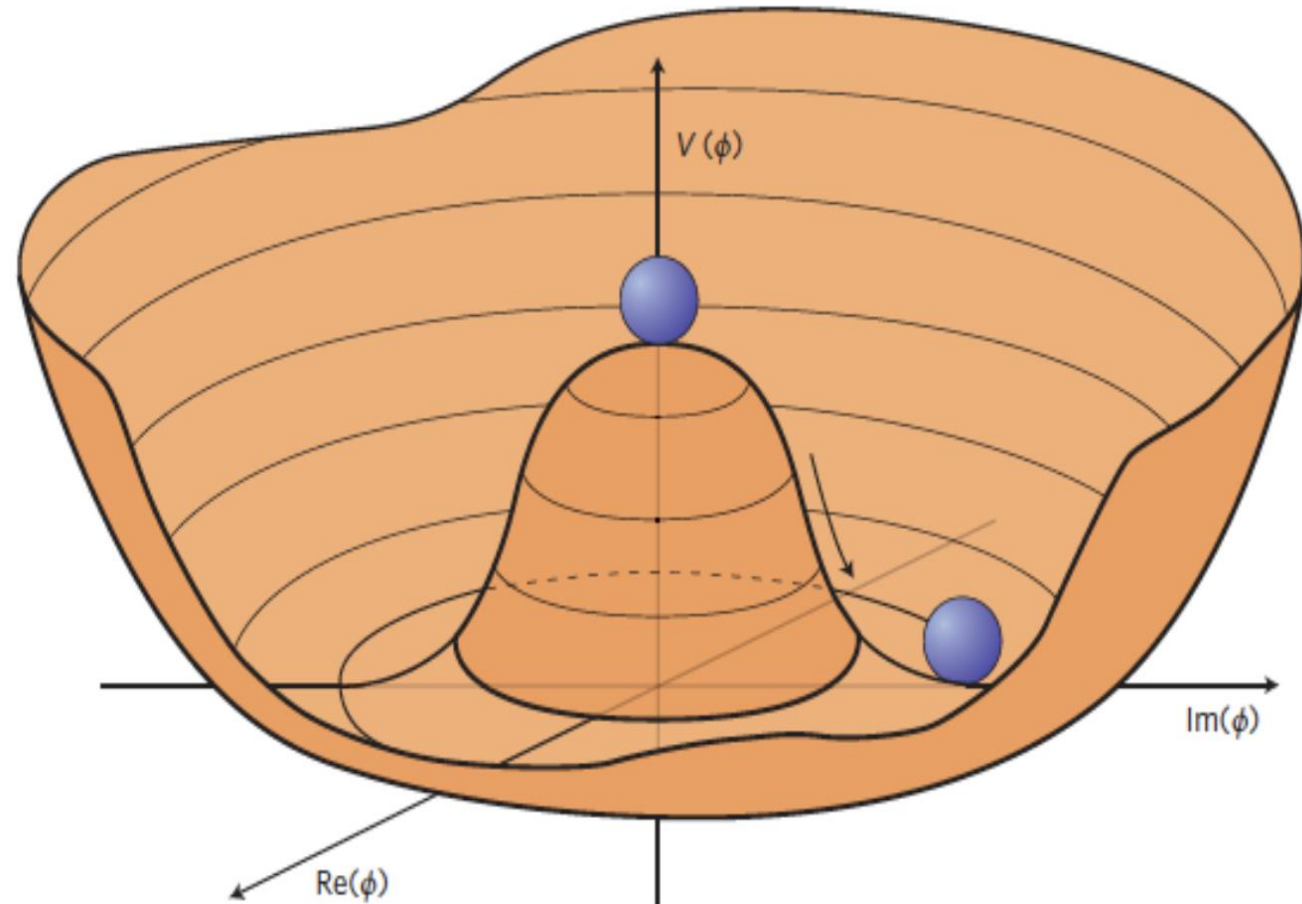
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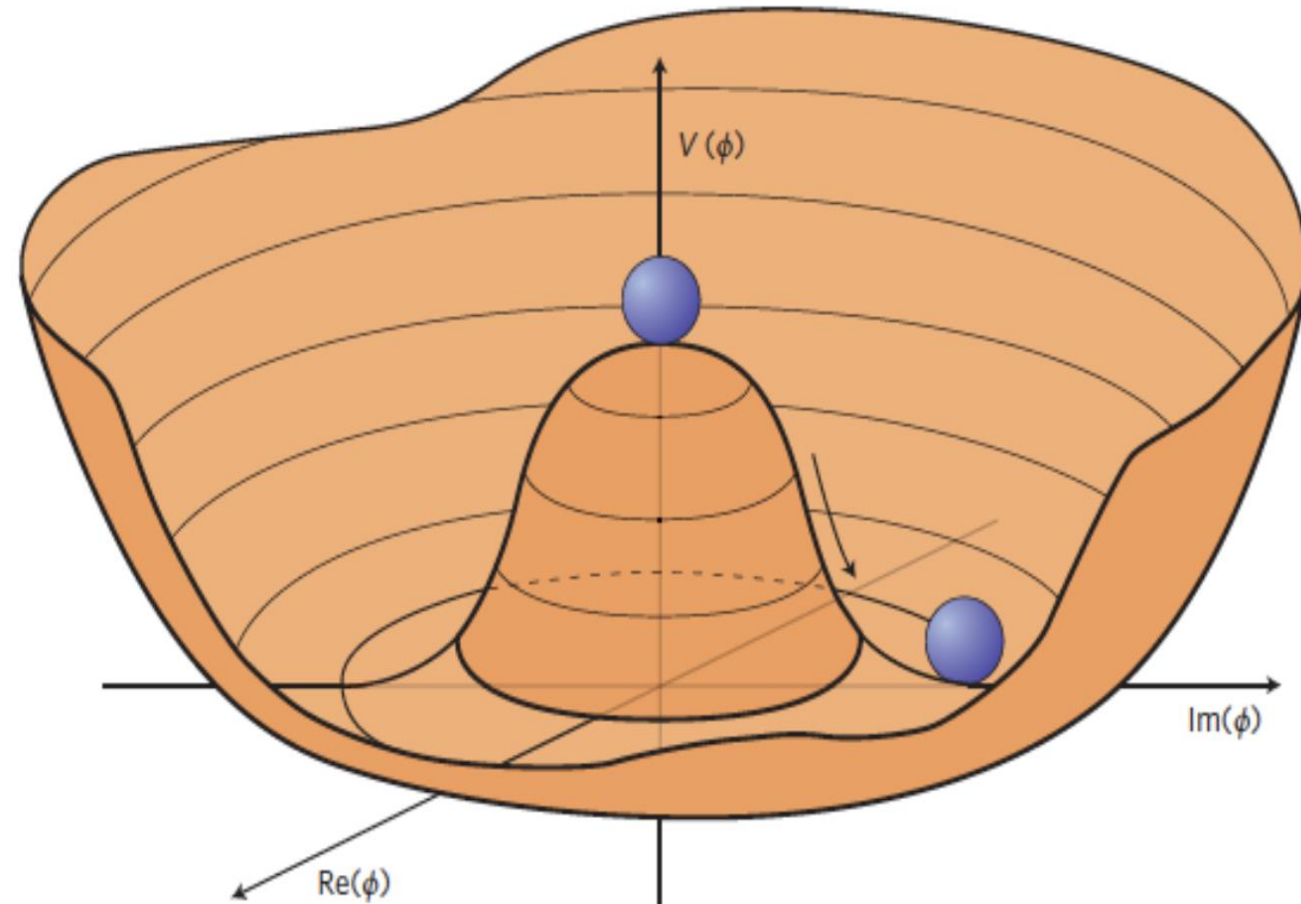
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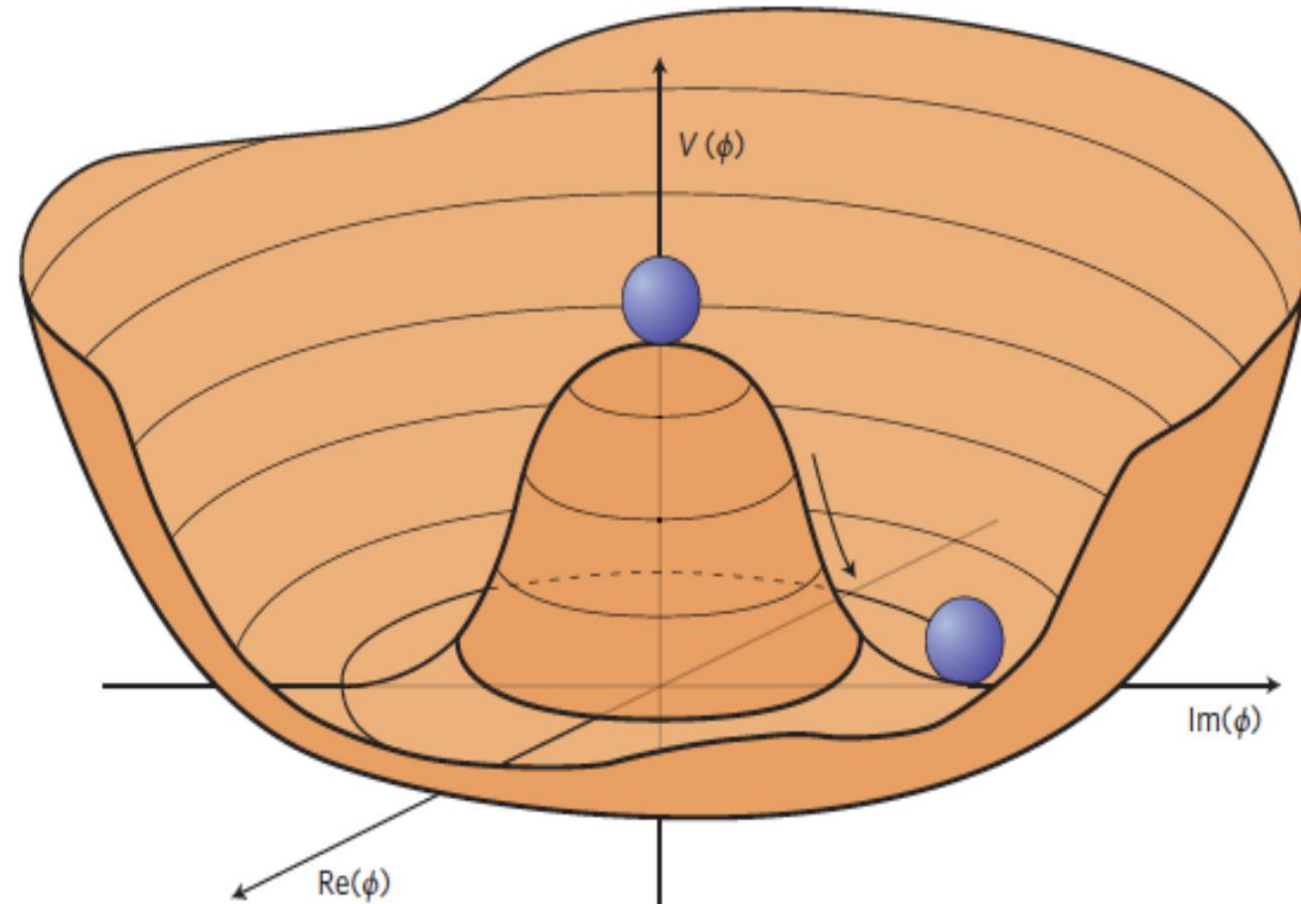
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$\xrightarrow{\text{vev}}$ $|\phi| = \sqrt{\mu^2/\lambda^2} \equiv v \neq 0$



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Electroweak Spontaneous Symmetry Breaking (EWSSB)

$$SU(3)_C \otimes SU(2)_L \otimes U(1)_Y \rightarrow SU(3)_C \otimes U(1)_{em}$$

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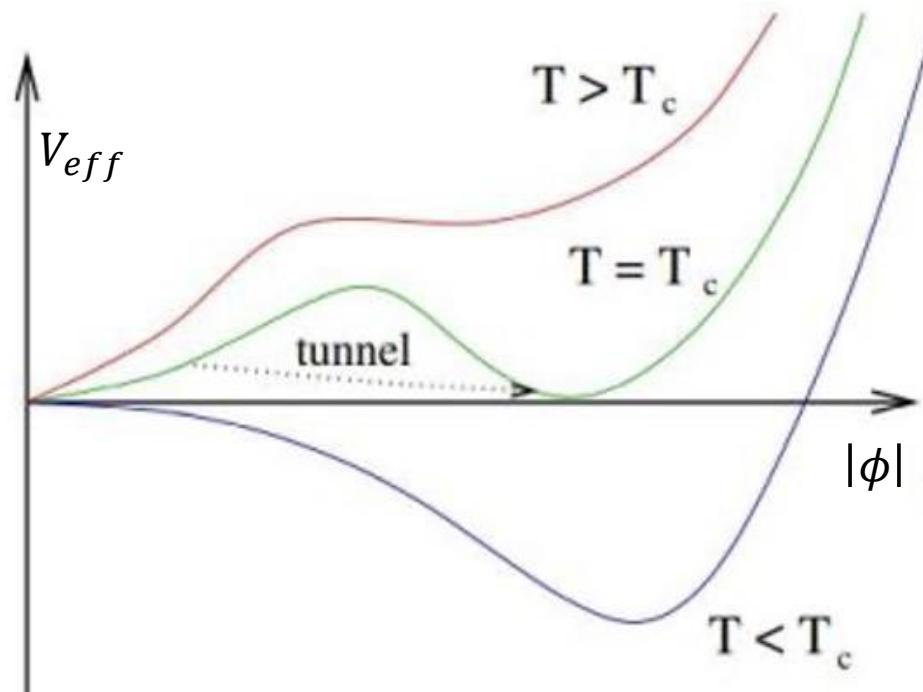
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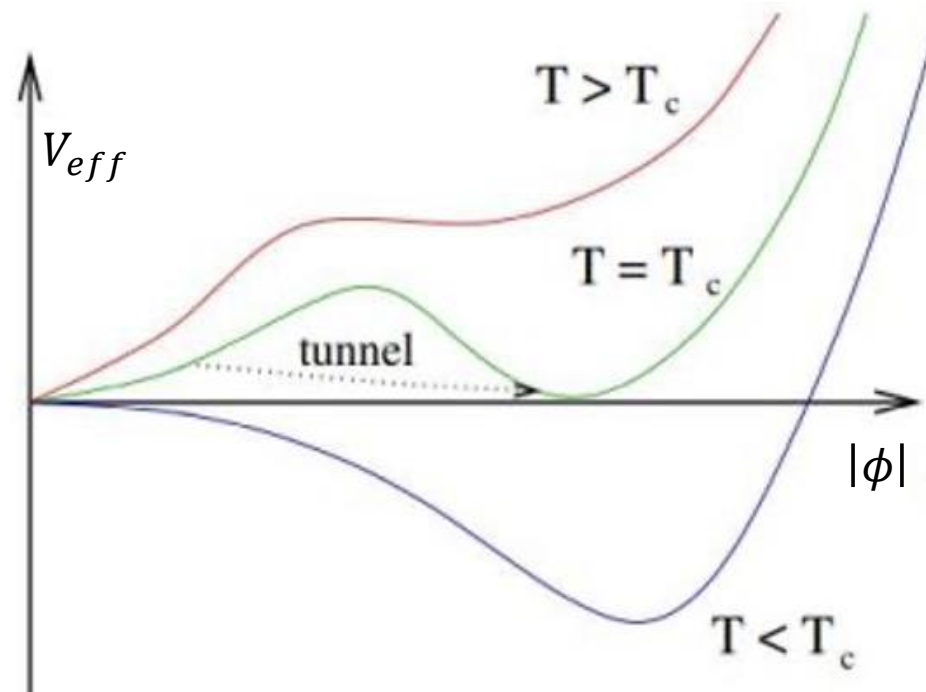
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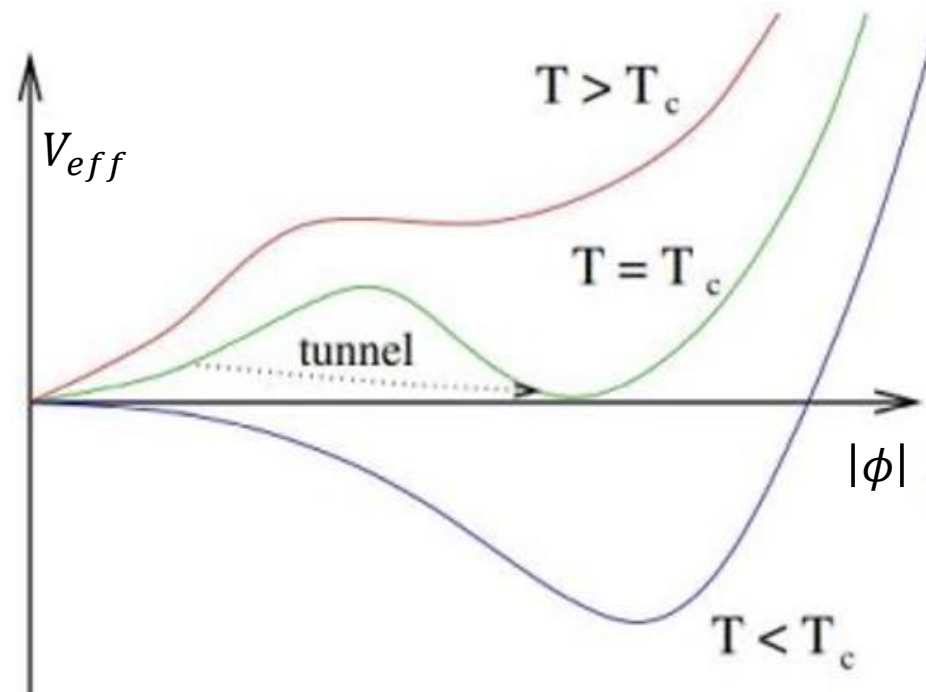
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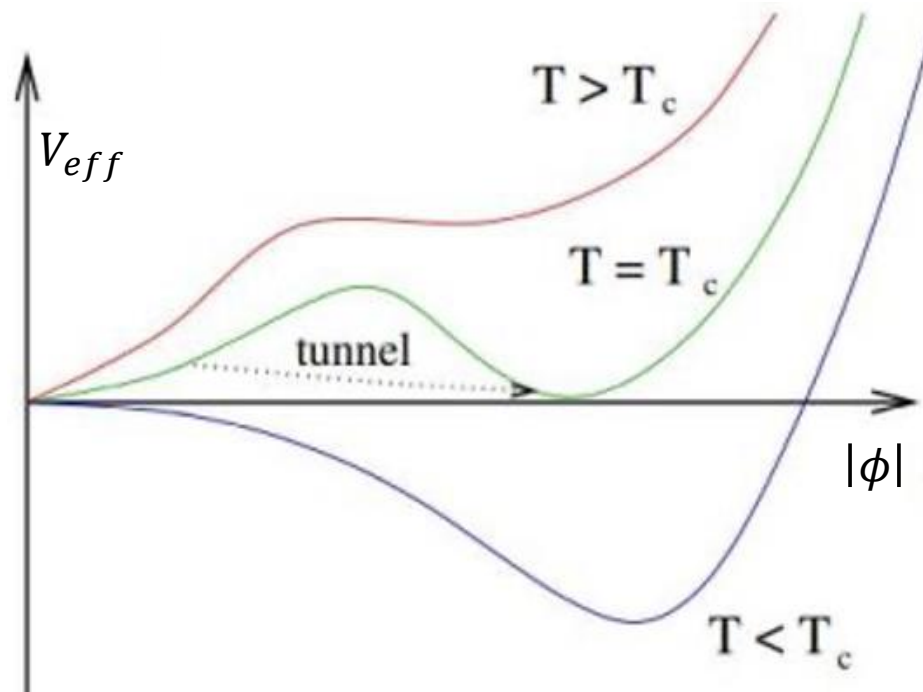
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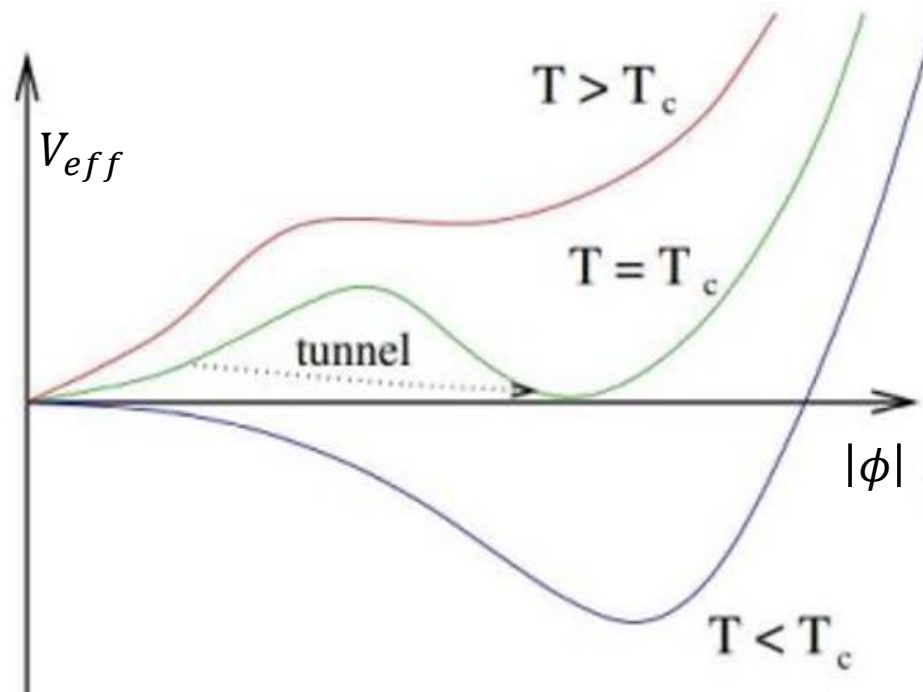
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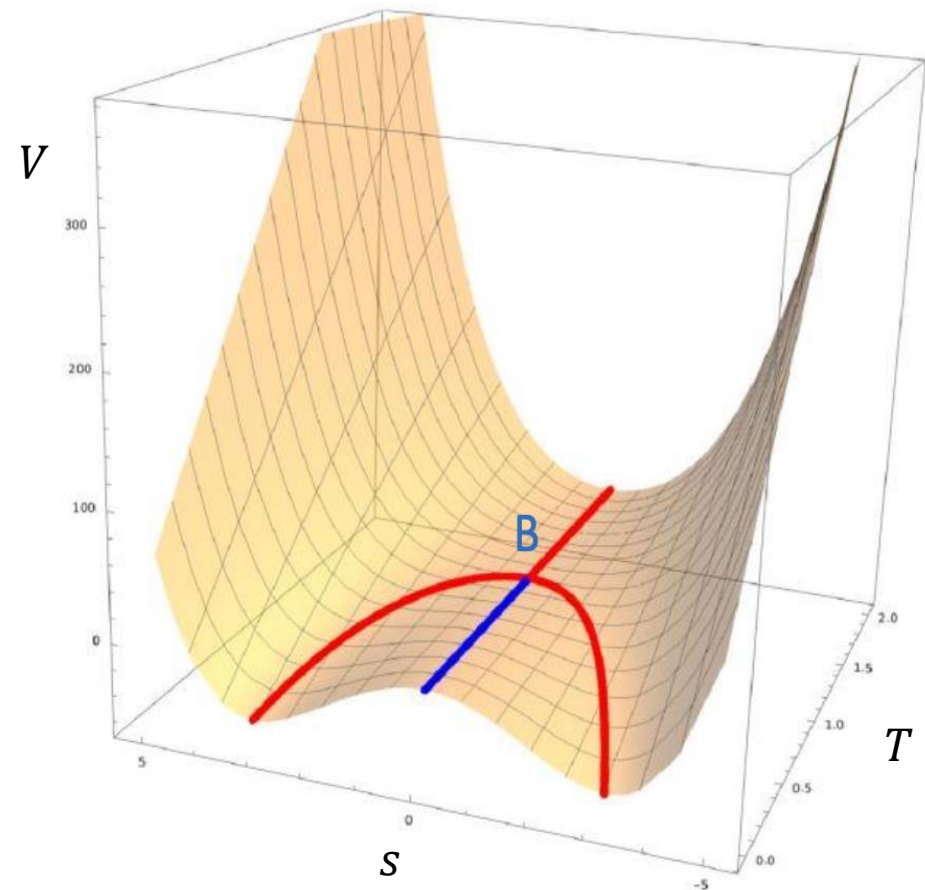


In the Standard Model the EW phase transition is a crossover ($E \neq 0$ but small)

However in BSM theories we can easily have first-order phase transitions (e. g. in SUSY already at tree level)

Second-Order Phase Transition

$$V(T, s) = 10(T - 1)s^2 + \frac{s^4}{2}$$



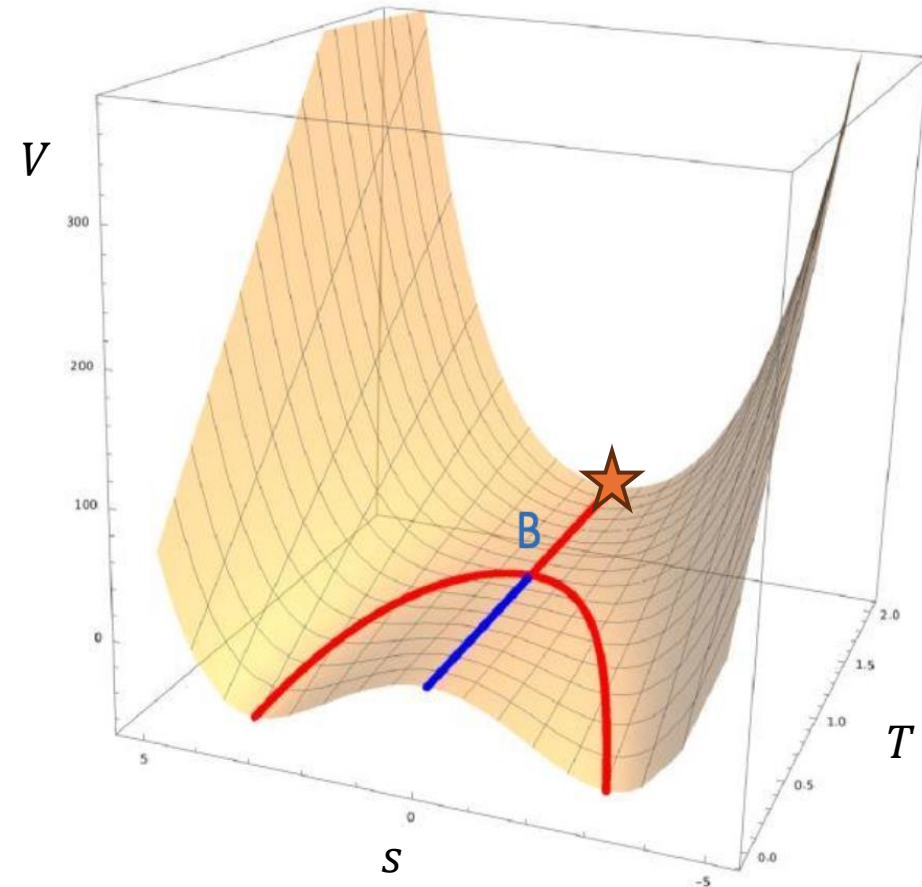
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$$T > T_0$$



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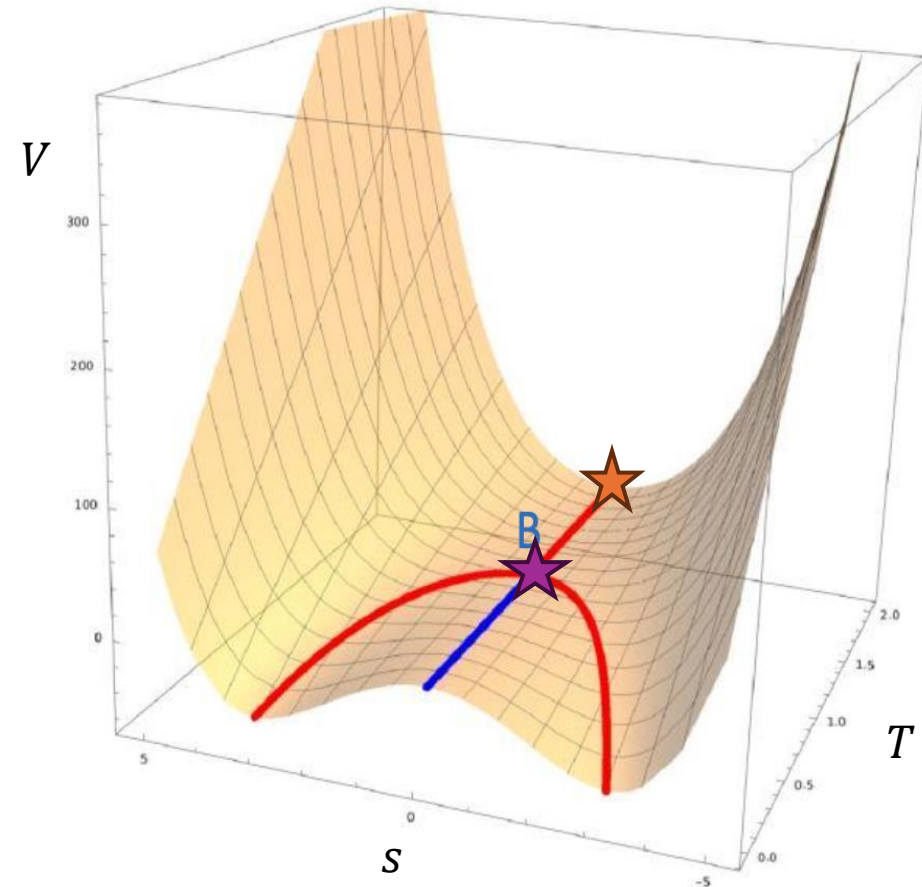
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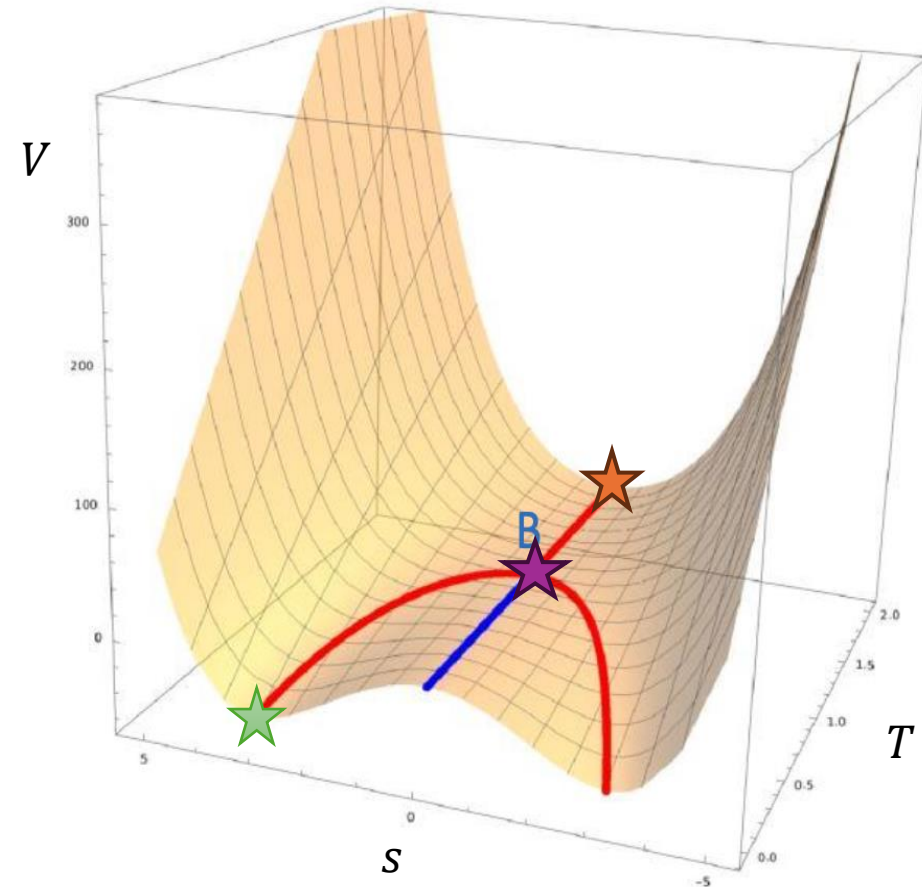
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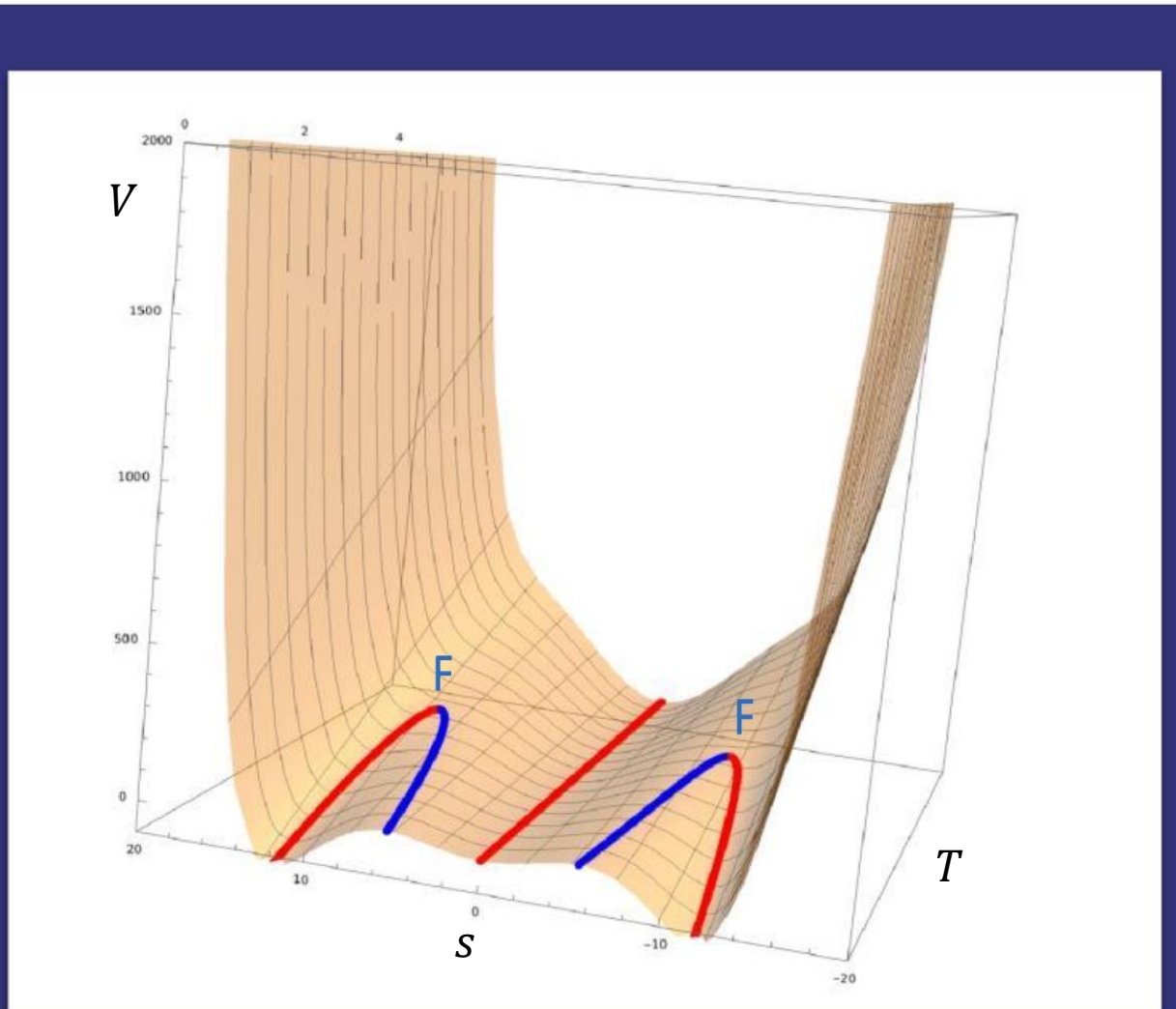
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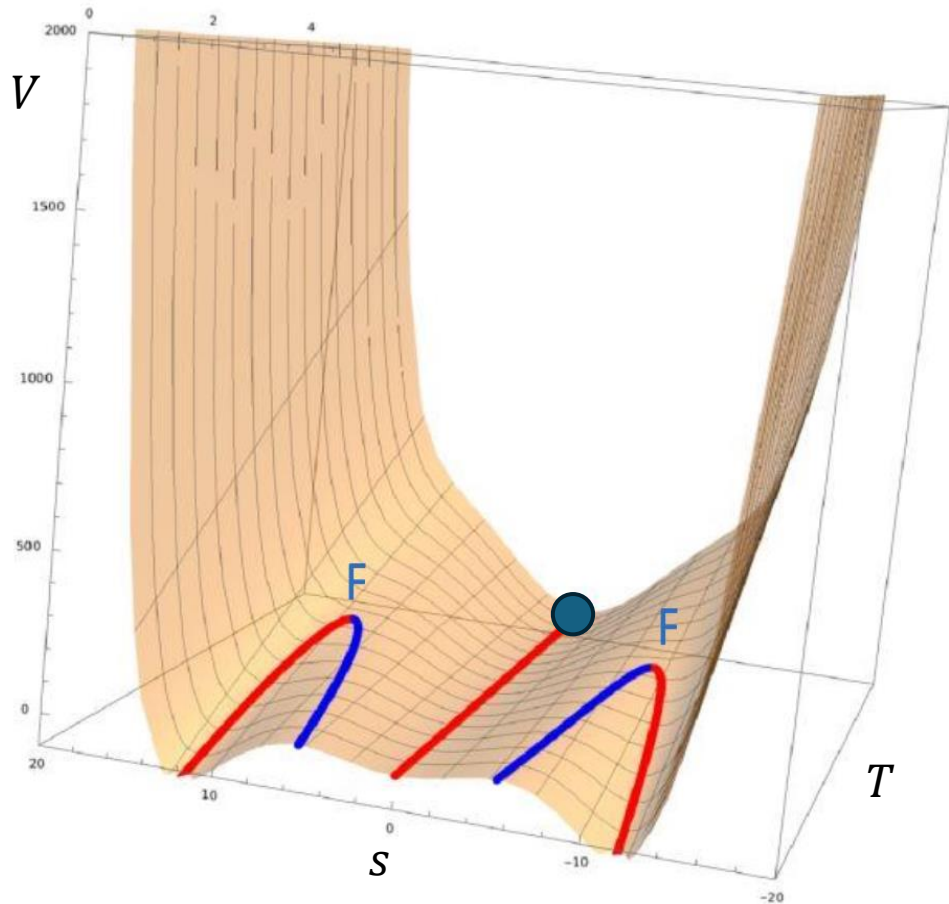
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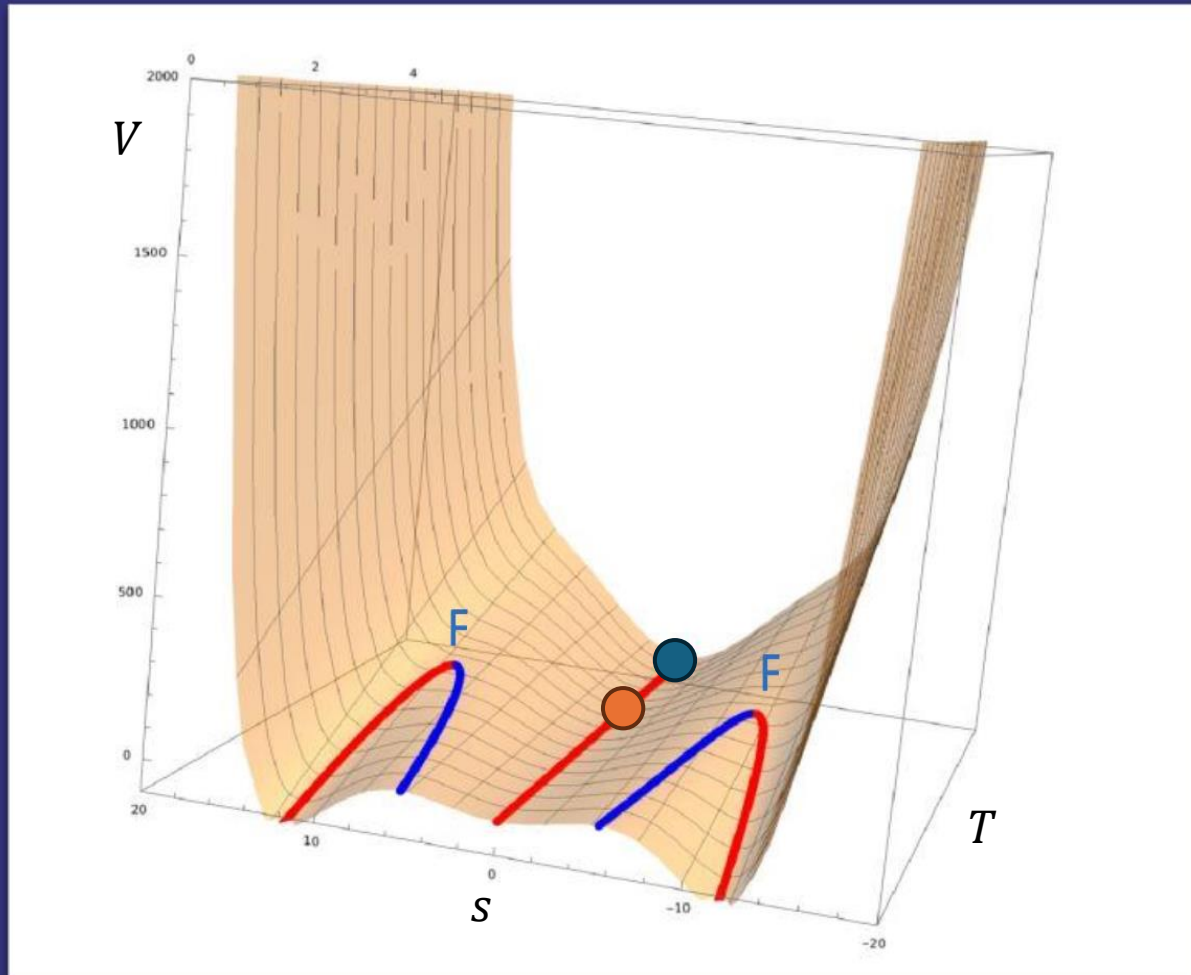
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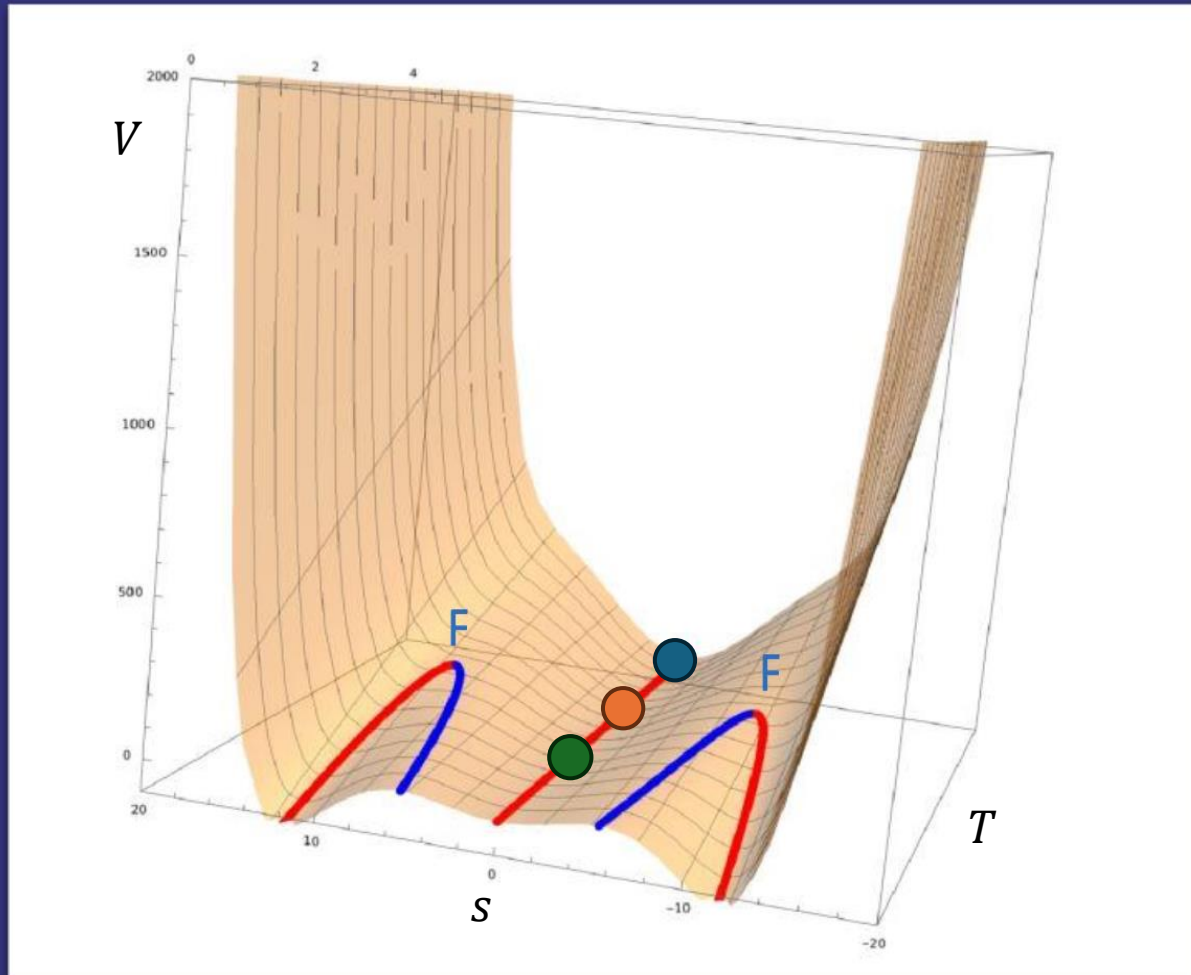
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Temperature at which local minima
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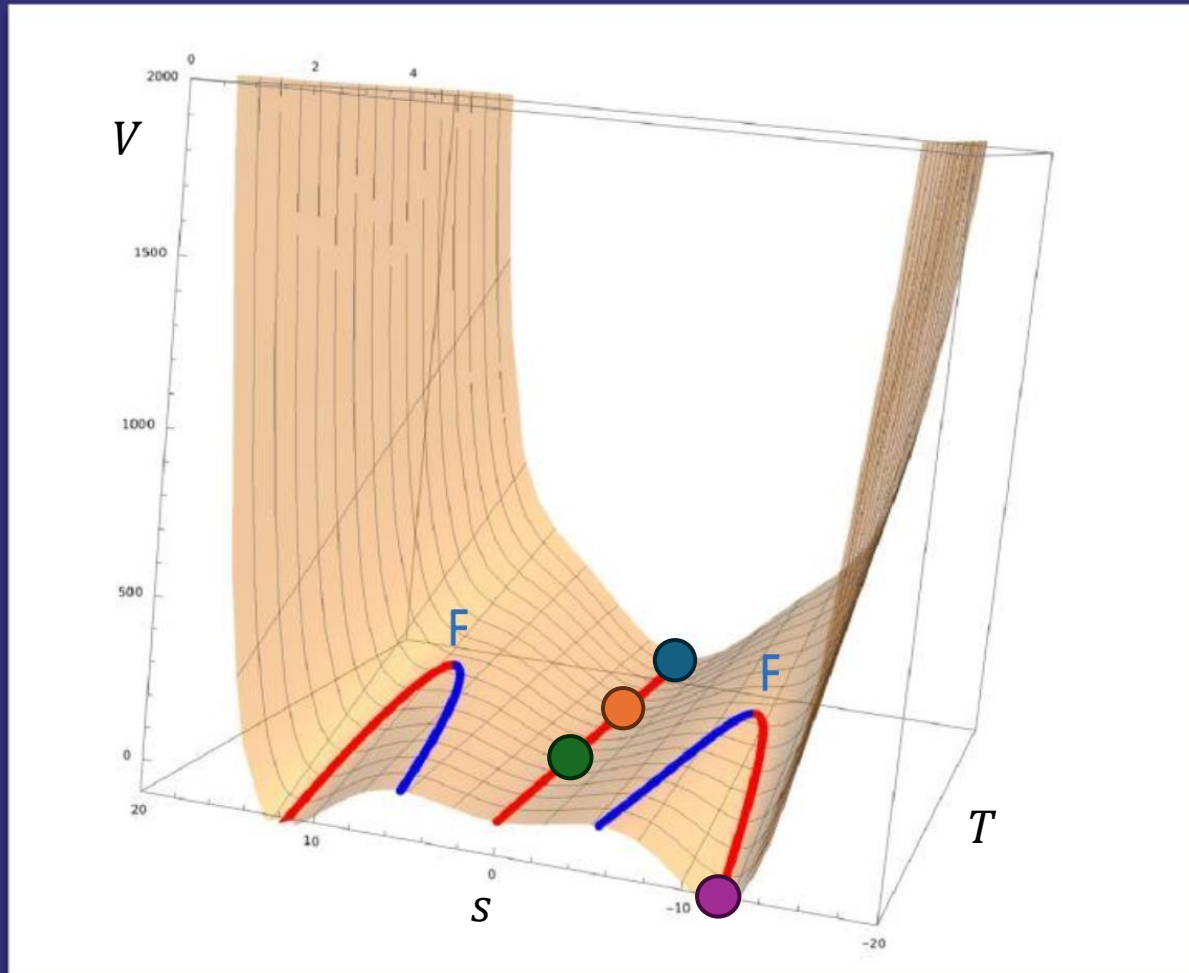
Temperature at which local minima appear outside the origin

$$T = T_C$$

Critical temperature (minima outside and at the origin are degenerate)

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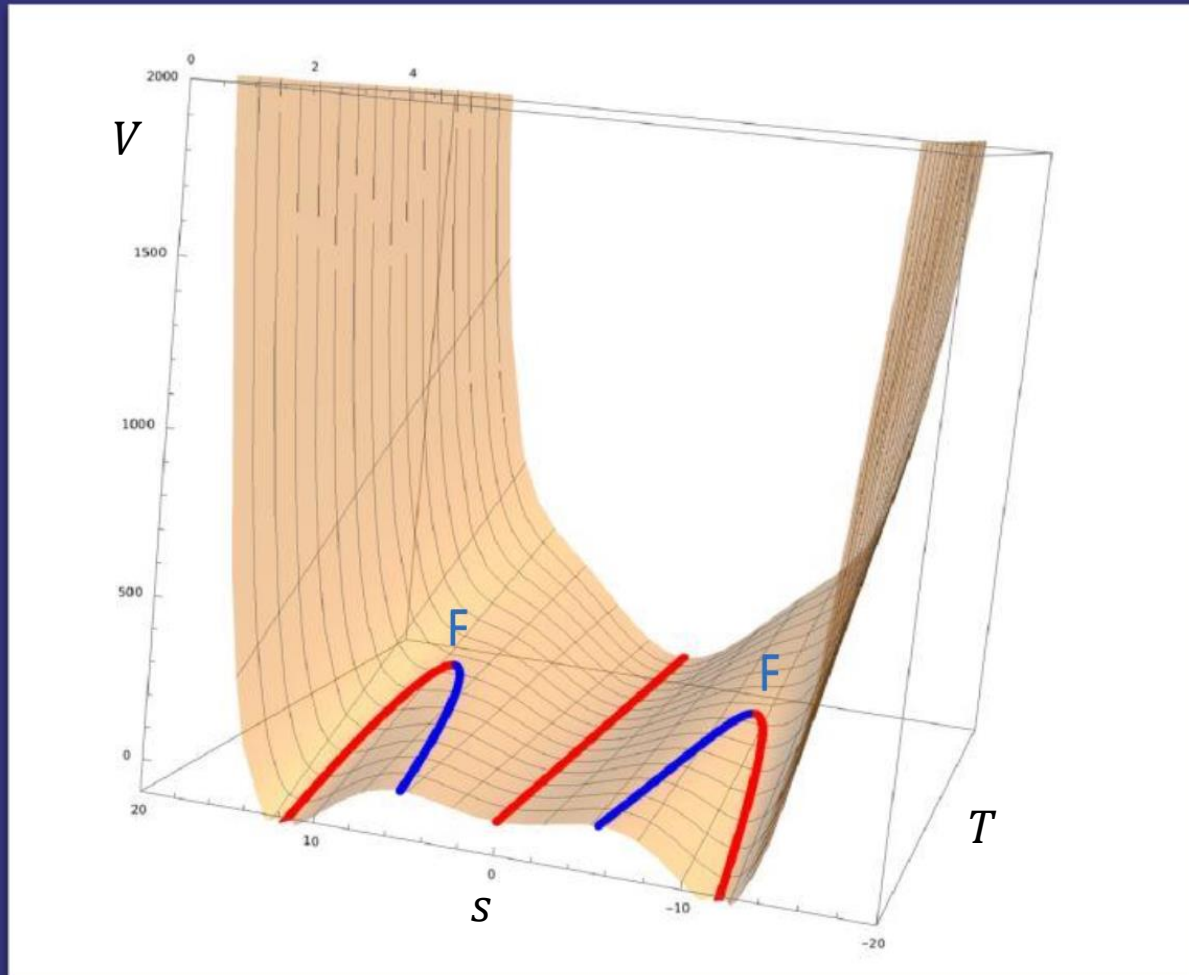
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$$T = T_N$$

Nucleation temperature (at which the phase transition occurs)

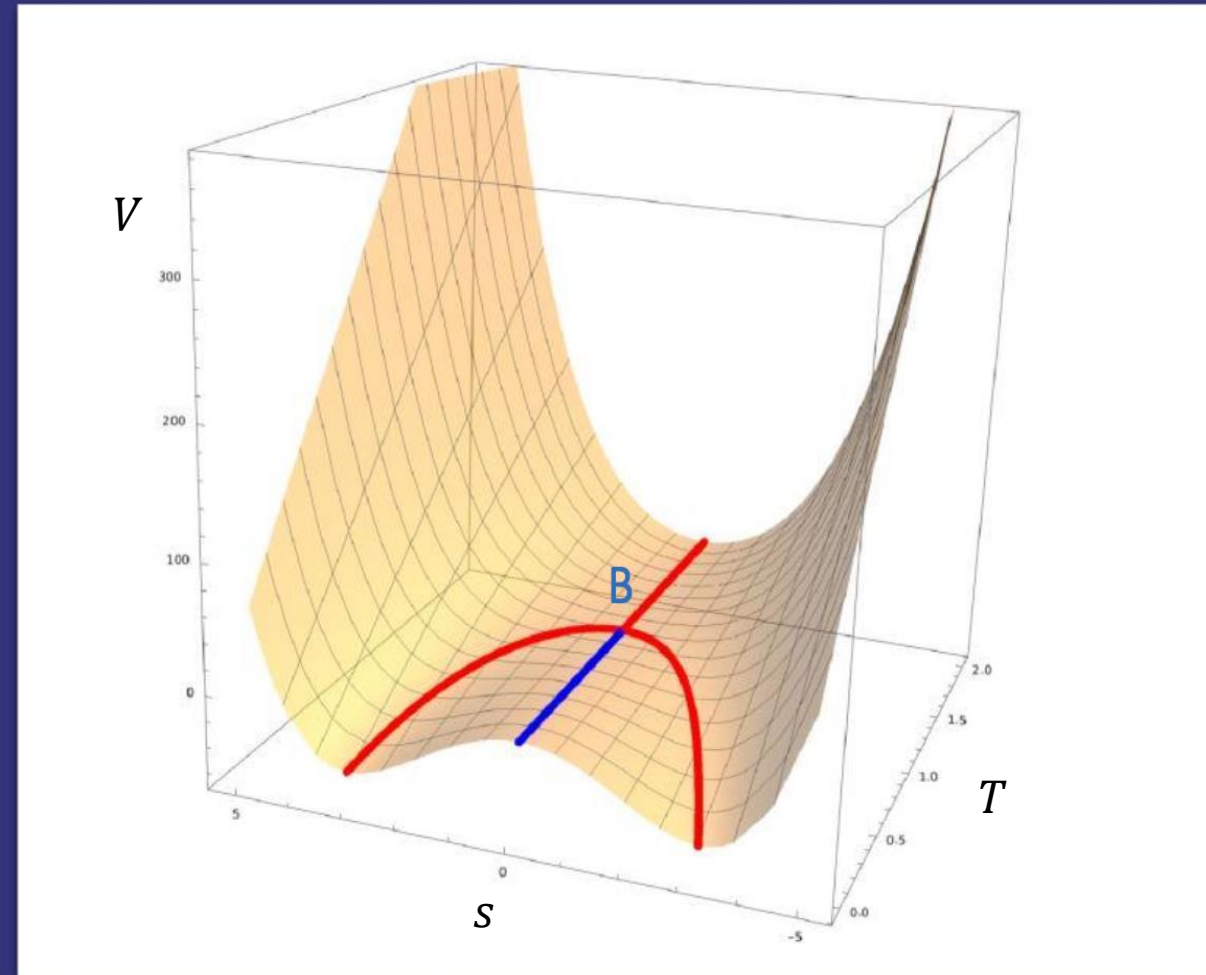
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Introduction: first-order phase transitions and baryogenesis

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Explaining matter excess over antimatter requires baryon asymmetry (BAU problem)

$$\frac{n_b - \bar{n}_b}{s} = \frac{1}{7.04} \frac{n_b - \bar{n}_b}{n_\gamma} = \begin{cases} 8.2 - 9.4 \times 10^{-11}, & (\text{BBN}), \\ 8.65 \pm 0.09 \times 10^{-11}, & (\text{CMB}). \end{cases}$$

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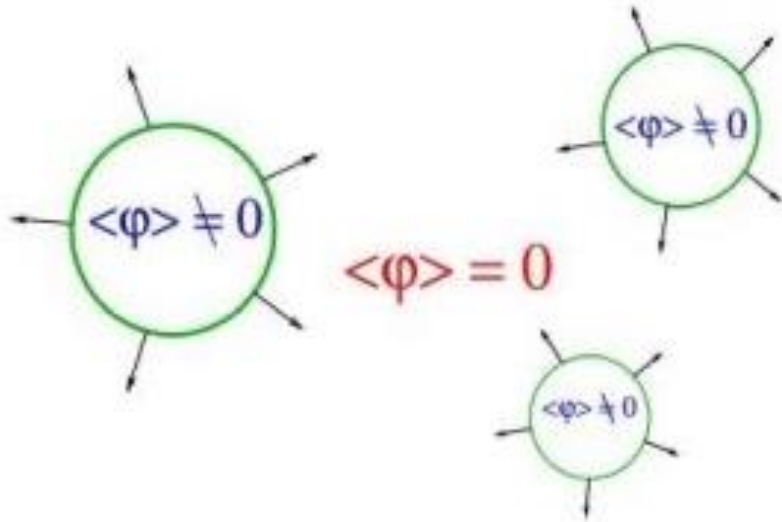
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A possible solution → **EW baryogenesis**

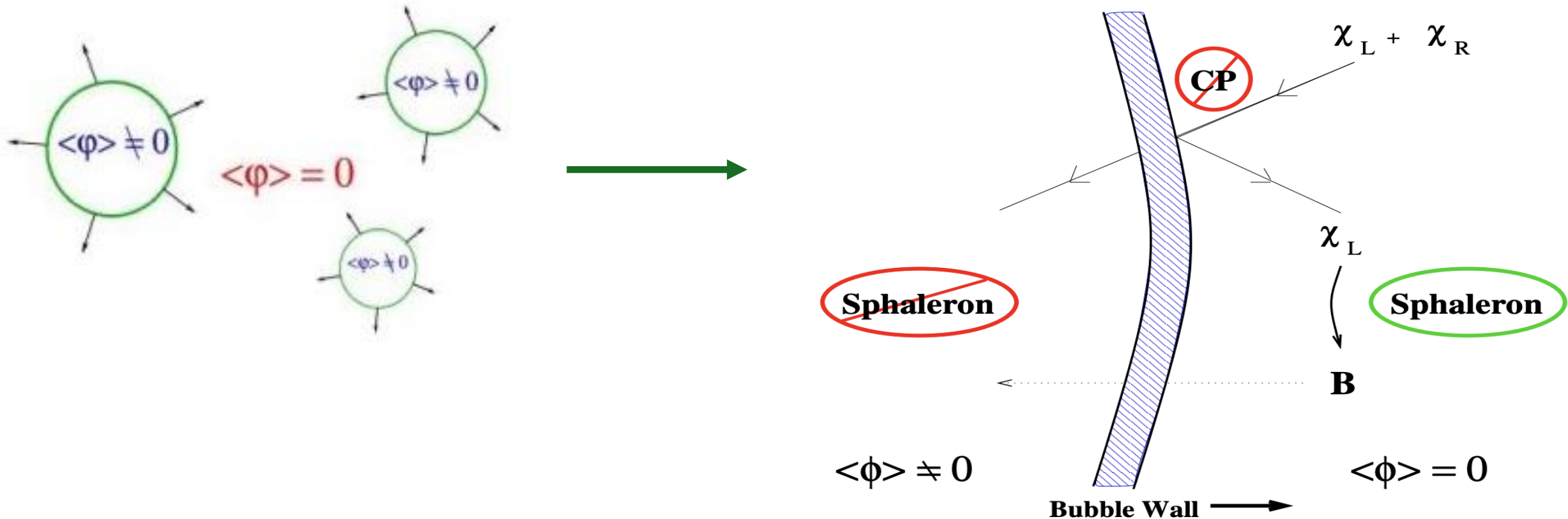
Introduction: first-order phase transitions and baryogenesis

First-Order Phase Transitions occur through the nucleation of broken phase bubbles



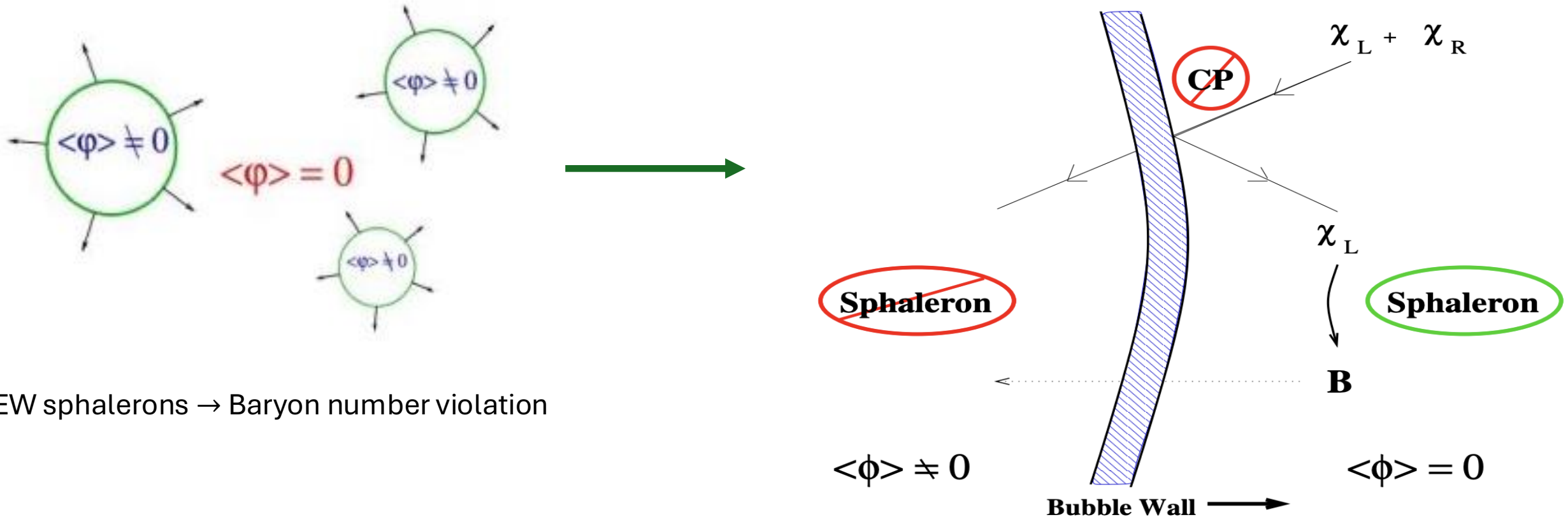
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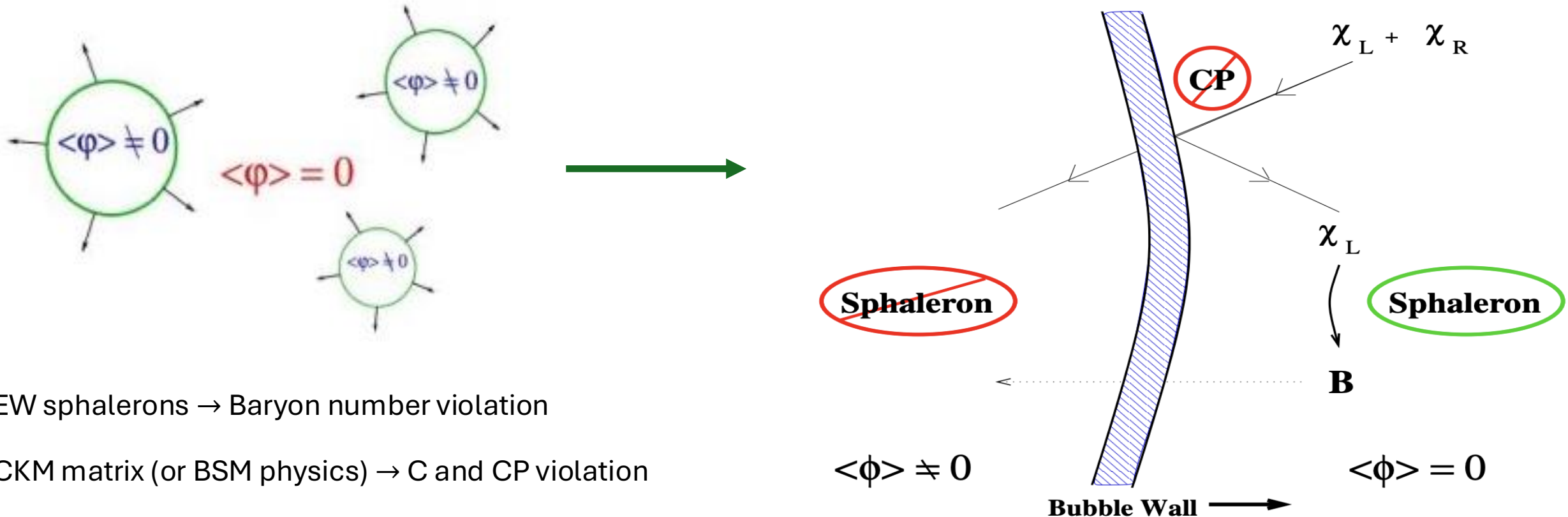
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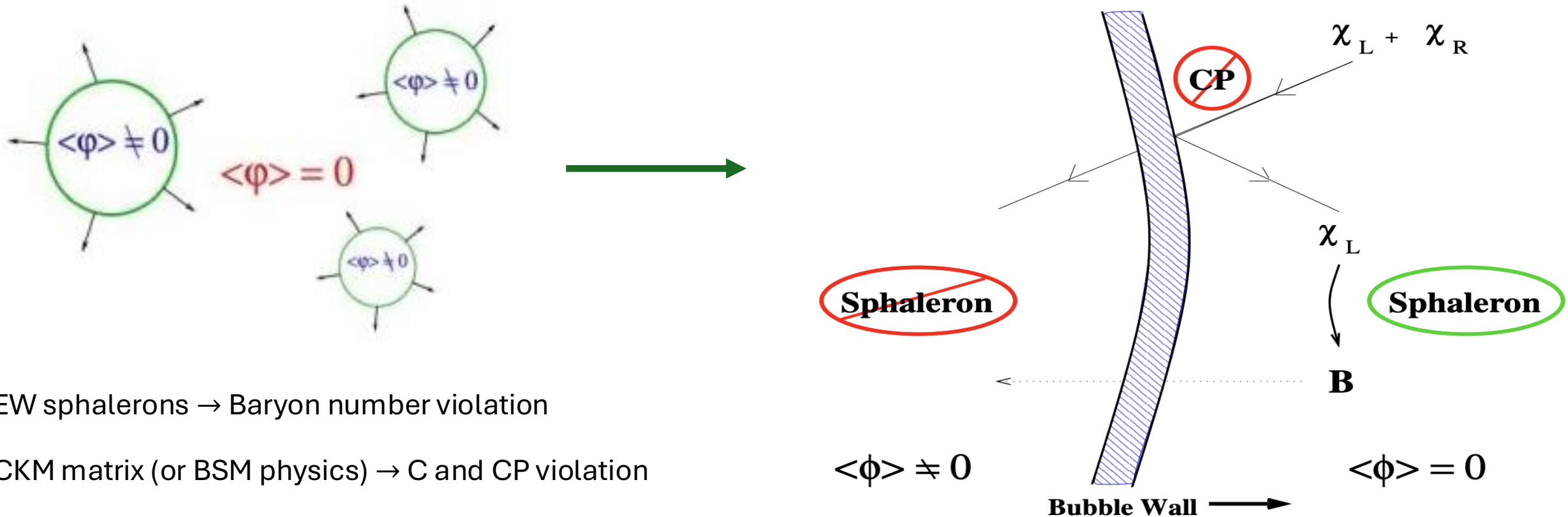
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First-Order Phase Transitions occur through the nucleation of broken phase bubbles



EW sphalerons \rightarrow Baryon number violation

CKM matrix (or BSM physics) \rightarrow C and CP violation

Bubble wall motion \rightarrow departure from thermal equilibrium

Introduction: phase transitions and primordial magnetic fields

$10^{-16}G < B < 10^{-9}G$ on Mpc scales
(lower bounds from blazars and upper from CMB)

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EW Magnetogenesis: Kibble Mechanism

$$\text{EWSSB} \rightarrow |\phi|^2 = \phi_1^2 + \phi_2^2 + \phi_3^2 + \phi_4^2 = \eta^2$$

Higgs takes different values in causally disconnected zones
 \rightarrow Vacuum Manifold $S^2 \times S^1$

Introduction: phase transitions and primordial magnetic fields

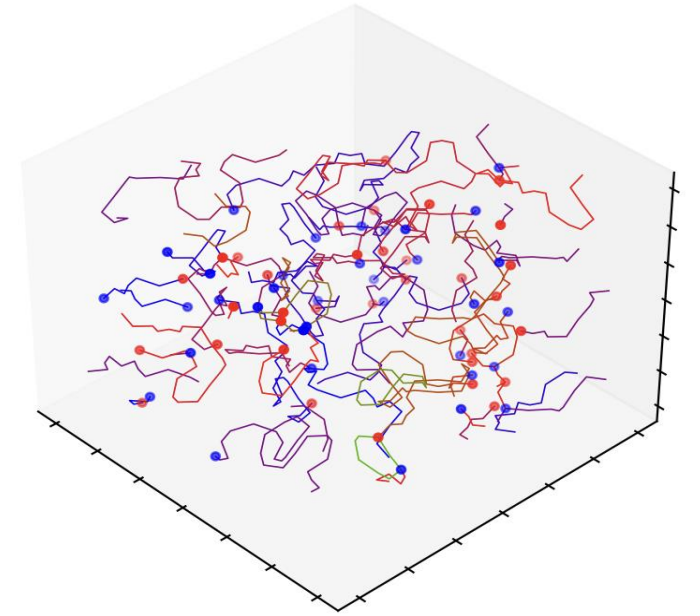
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Monopoles and Strings $\rightarrow \vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{B} \neq 0$



[2010.10525, 2108.05357, 2302.00512]

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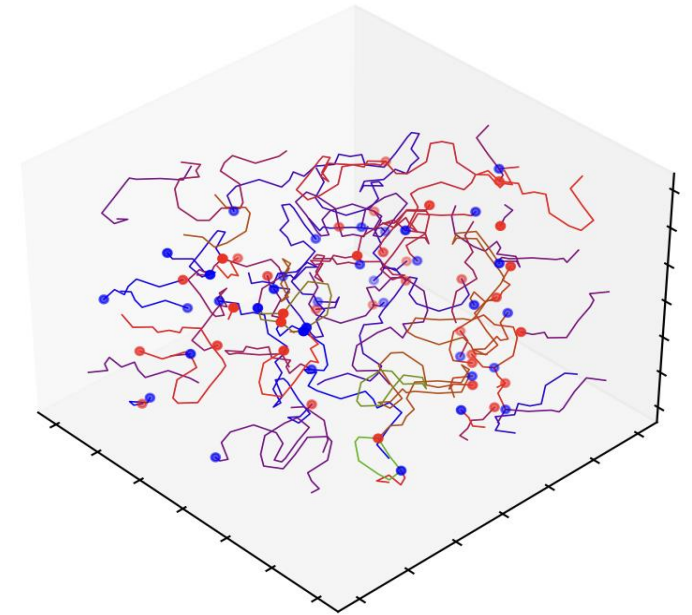
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$$\text{'t Hooft, Vachaspati et al.} \rightarrow A_{\mu\nu} = \partial_\mu A_\nu - \partial_\nu A_\mu - i \frac{2 \sin \theta_w}{g} (\partial_\mu \hat{\Phi}^\dagger \partial_\nu \hat{\Phi} - \partial_\nu \hat{\Phi}^\dagger \partial_\mu \hat{\Phi})$$



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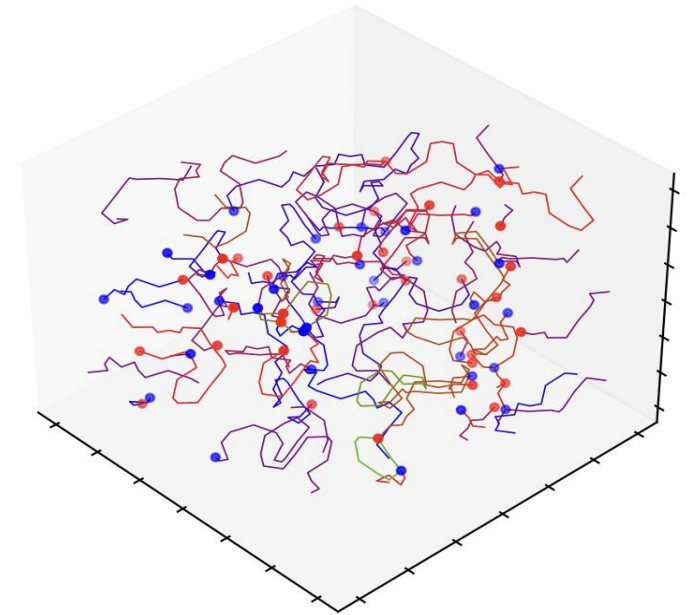
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Annihilation of monopoles-antimonopoles pairs with residual $\vec{B} \neq 0$



Introduction: *first-order* phase transitions and primordial magnetic fields

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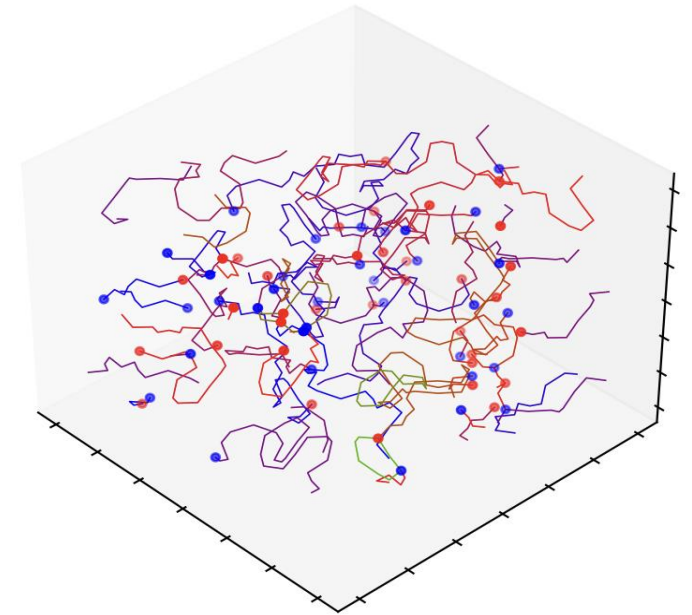
Higgs takes different values in *different broken phase bubbles*

→ Vacuum Manifold $S^2 \times S^1$

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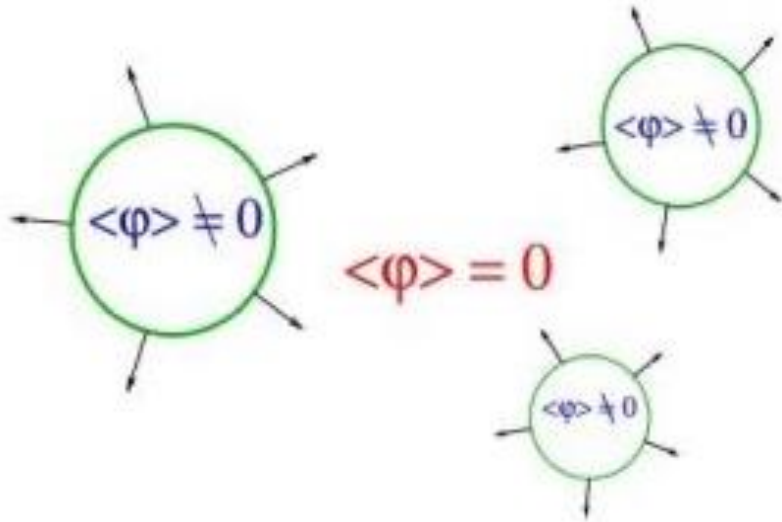
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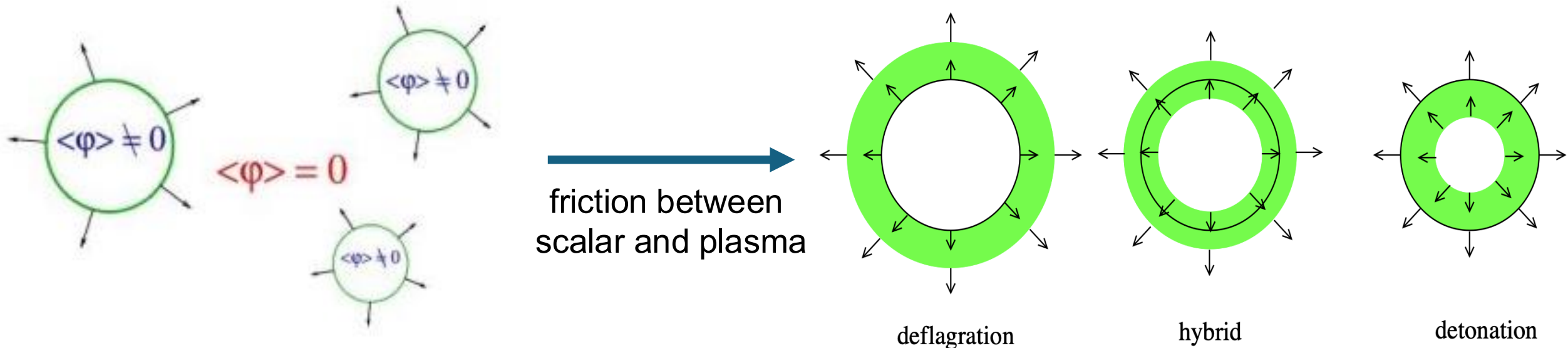
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Introduction: first-order phase transitions and gravitational waves

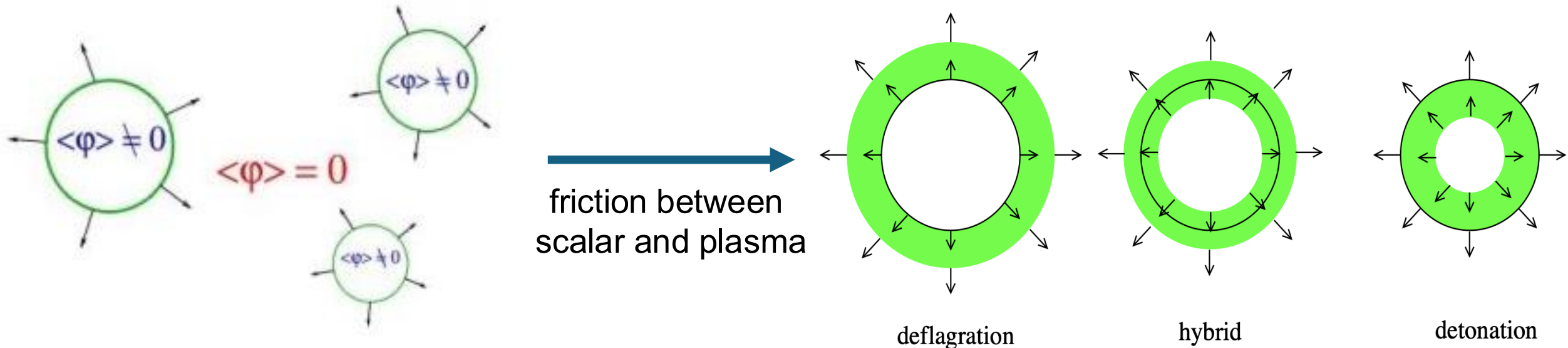
First-Order Phase Transitions occur through the nucleation of broken phase bubbles



Espinosa et al. [1004.4187]

Introduction: first-order phase transitions and gravitational waves

First-Order Phase Transitions occur through the nucleation of broken phase bubbles

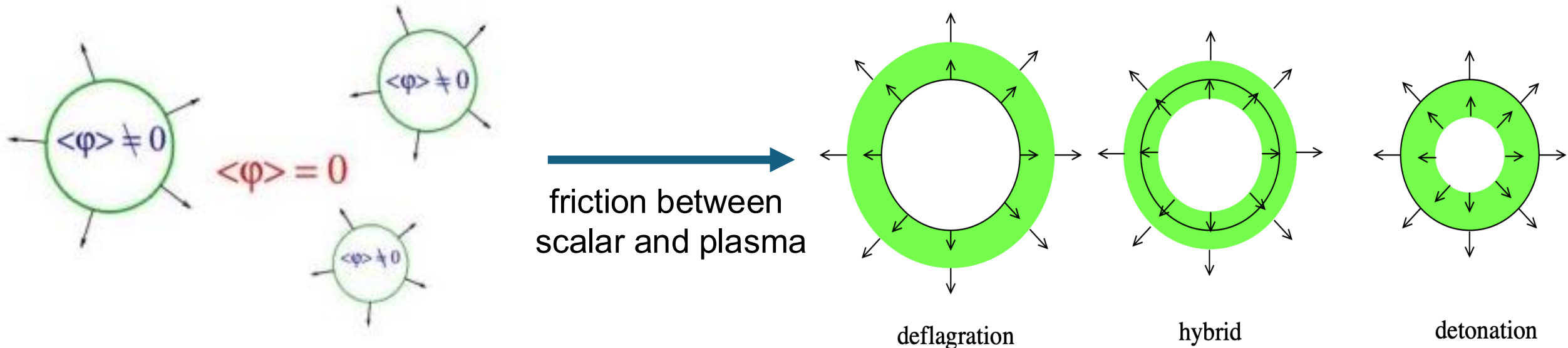


Espinosa et al. [1004.4187]

Bubble expansion phase → scalar and fluid profiles are spherically symmetric

Introduction: first-order phase transitions and gravitational waves

First-Order Phase Transitions occur through the nucleation of broken phase bubbles



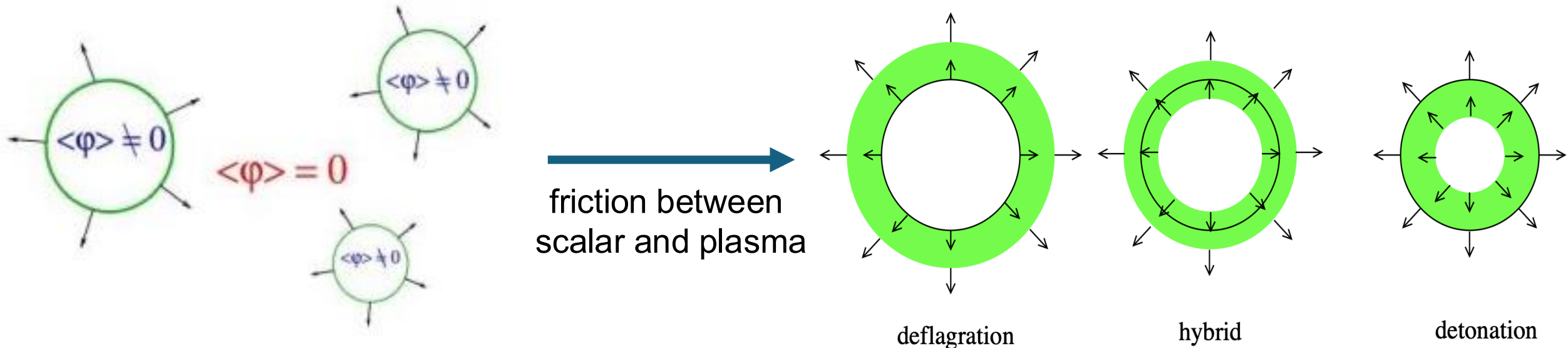
Espinosa et al. [1004.4187]

Bubble expansion phase → scalar and fluid profiles are spherically symmetric

No anisotropic stresses → No gravitational wave production

Introduction: first-order phase transitions and gravitational waves

First-Order Phase Transitions occur through the nucleation of broken phase bubbles

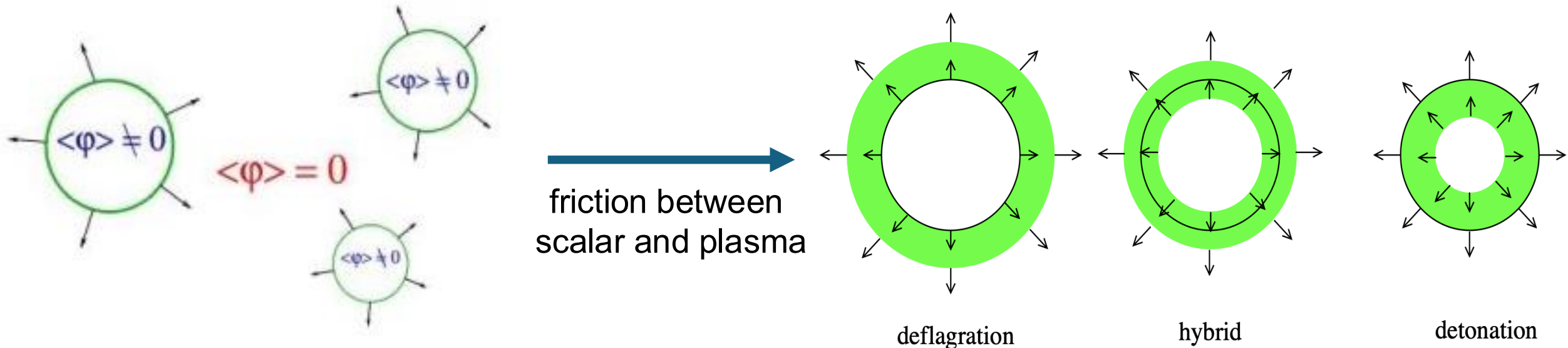


Espinosa et al. [1004.4187]

Bubble collisions break spherical symmetry

Introduction: first-order phase transitions and gravitational waves

First-Order Phase Transitions occur through the nucleation of broken phase bubbles

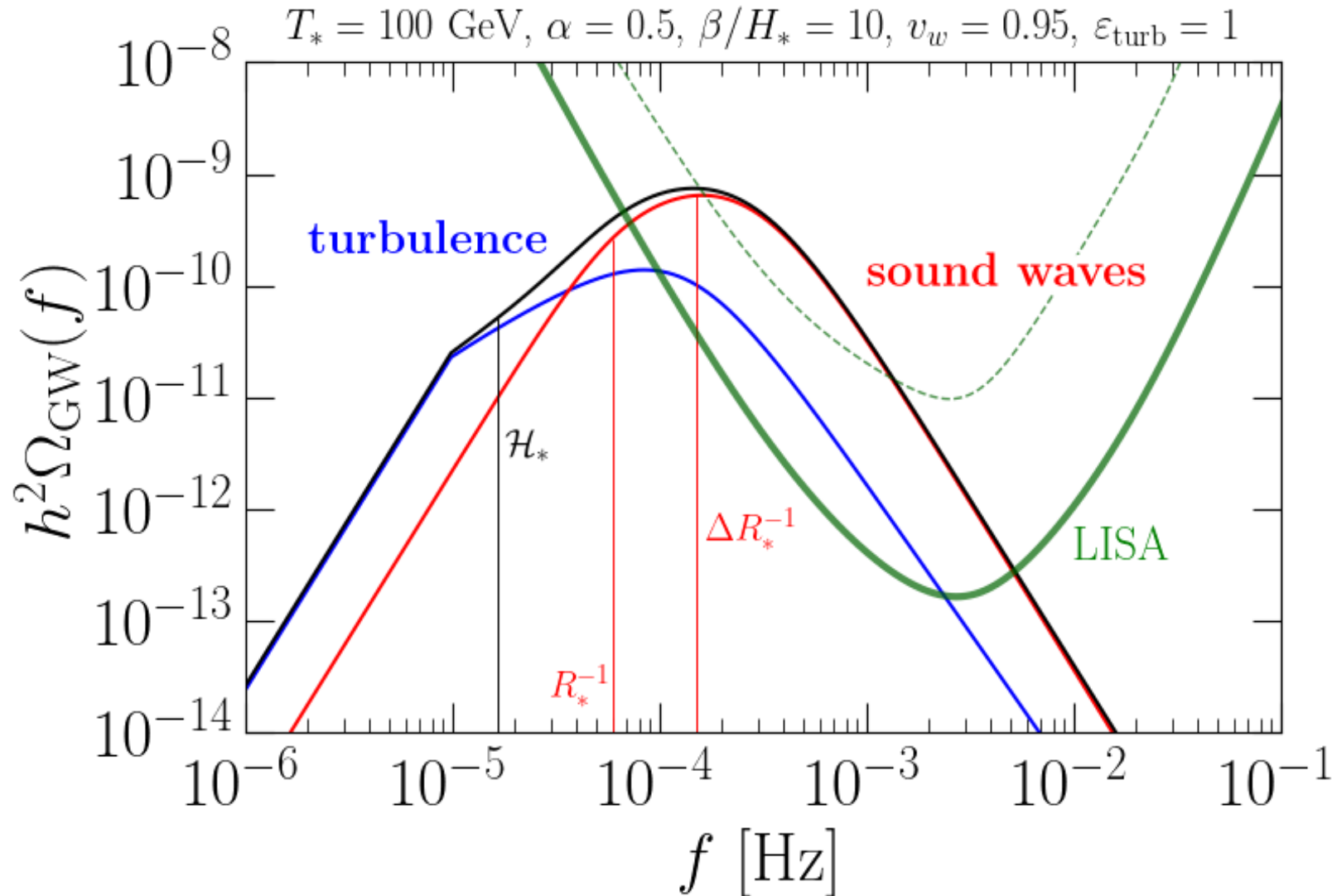


Espinosa et al. [1004.4187]

Bubble collisions break spherical symmetry

Nonzero anisotropic stresses \rightarrow scalar and fluid can produce gravitational waves

Introduction: first-order phase transitions and gravitational waves

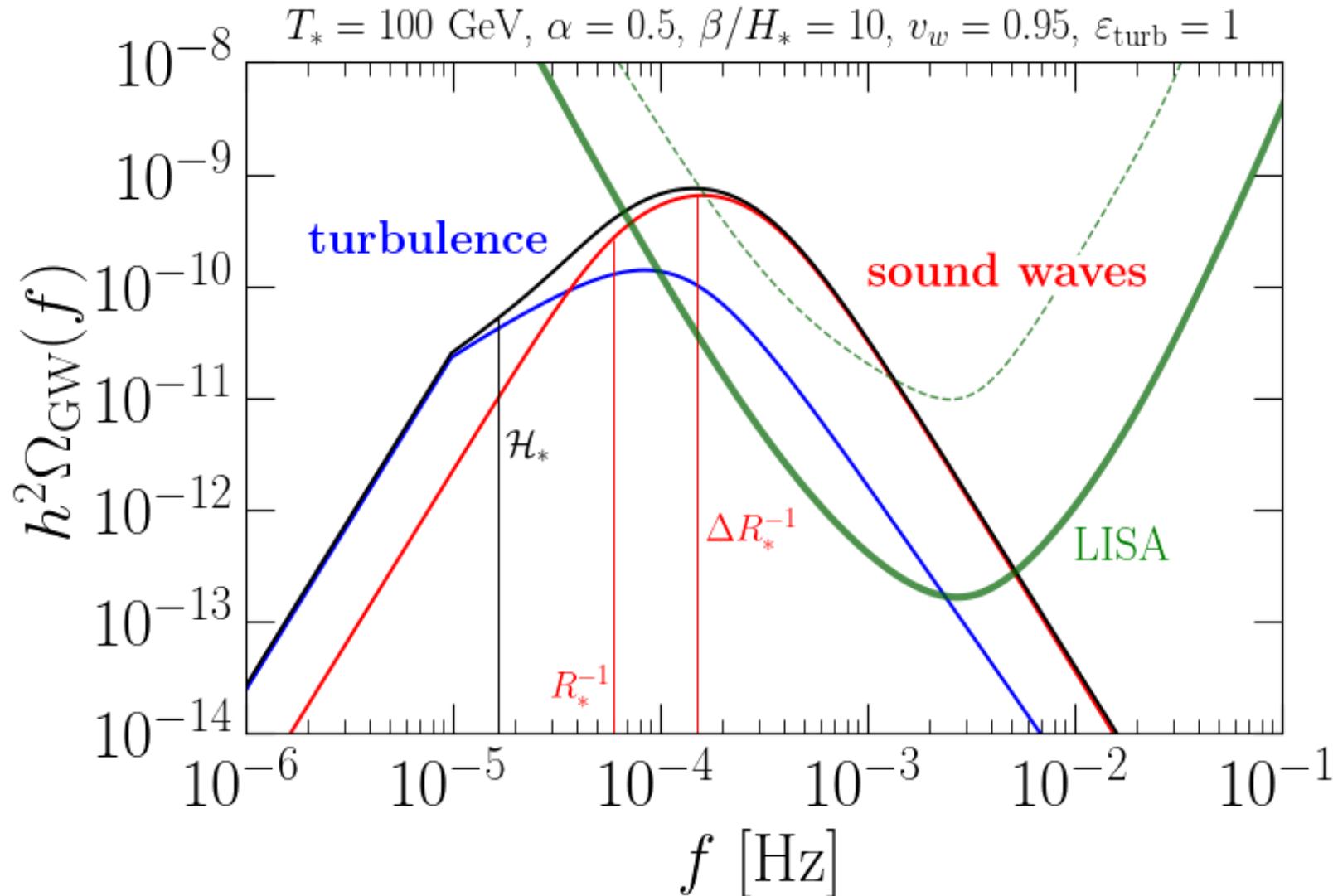


GW background from EW phase transition in the **LISA sensitivity band!**

← Credits: Alberto Roper Pol

Lisa Cosmology Working Group [2403.03723]

Introduction: first-order phase transitions and gravitational waves



Sound-shell model

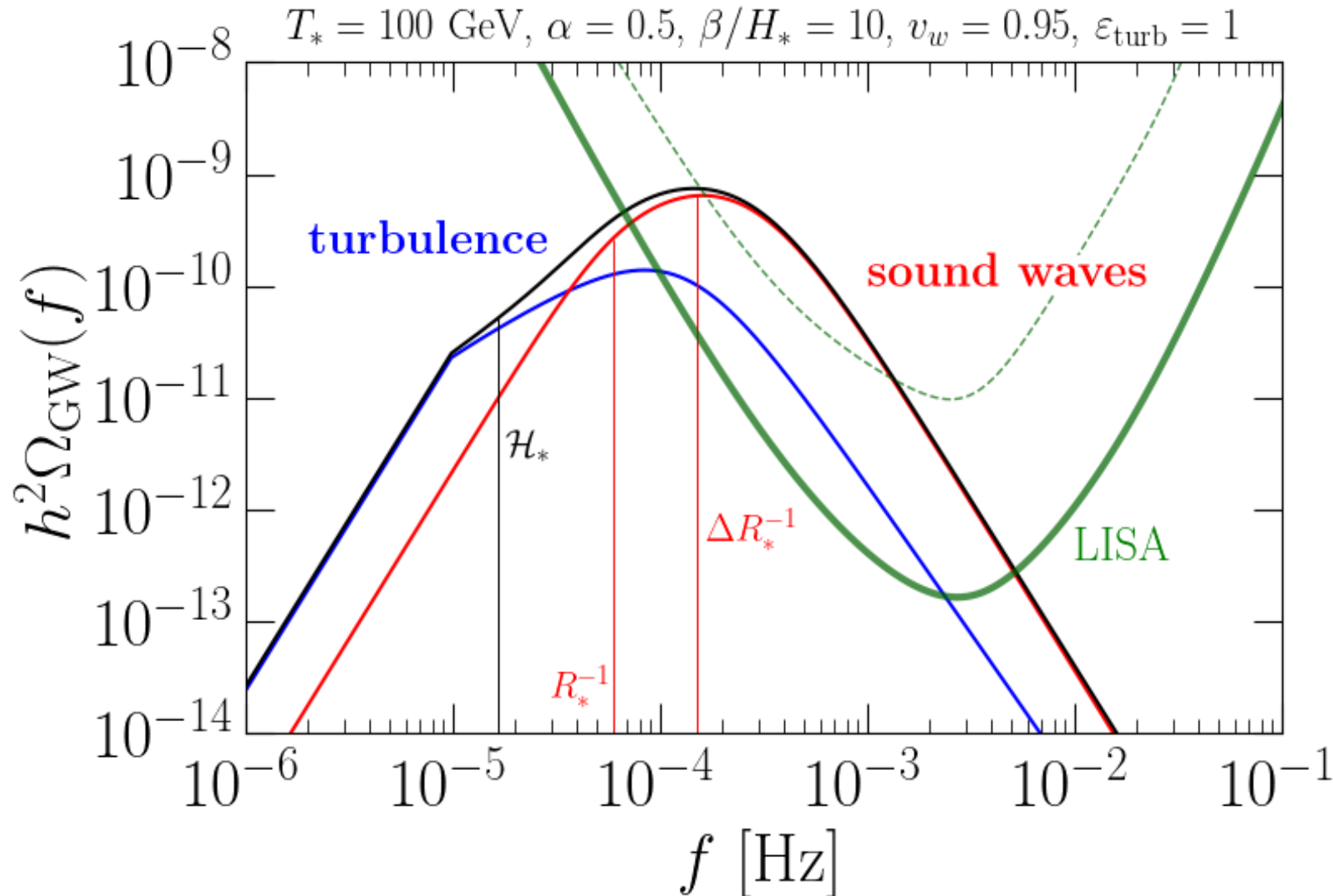
Hindmarsh & Hijazi [1909.10040]

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Introduction: first-order phase transitions and gravitational waves



Sound-shell model

Hindmarsh & Hijazi [1909.10040]

Constant-in-time model

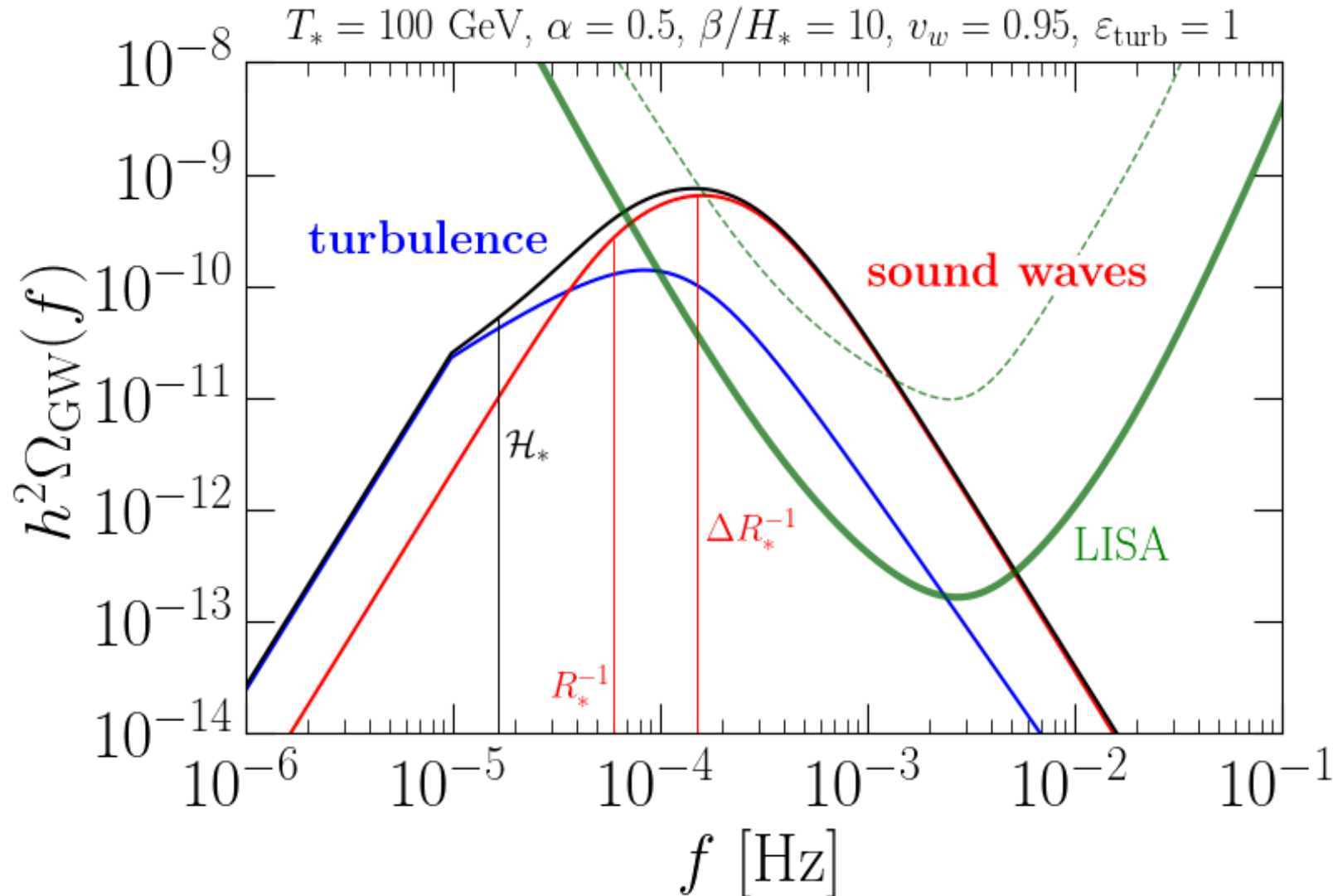
Roper Pol, Caprini et al. [2201.05630]

GW background from EW phase
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Lisa Cosmology Working Group [2403.03723]

Introduction: first-order phase transitions and gravitational waves

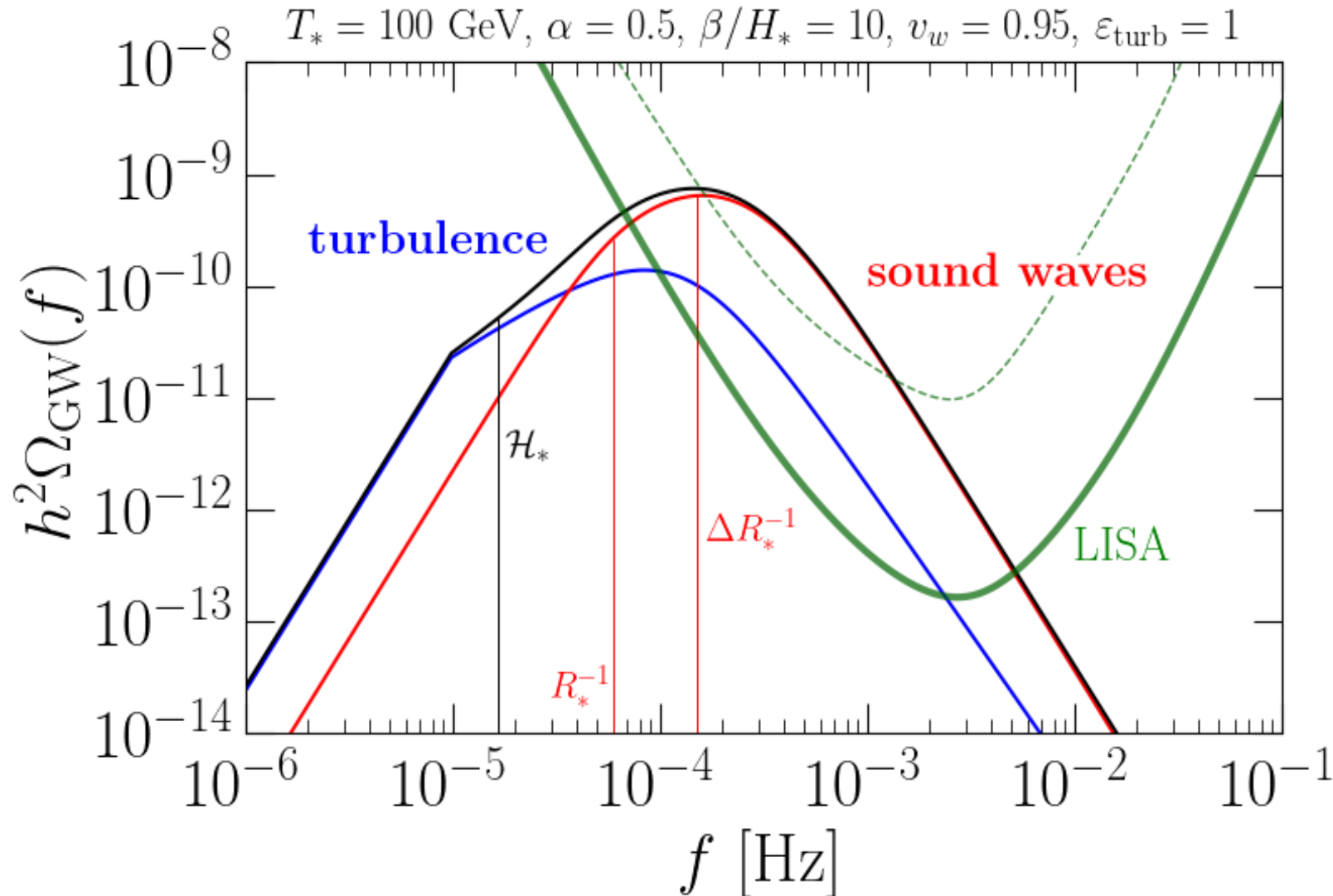


What is the origin of the peak scales in the GW spectrum from sound waves?

← Credits: Alberto Roper Pol

Lisa Cosmology Working Group [2403.03723]

Introduction: first-order phase transitions and gravitational waves



What is the origin of the peak scales in the GW spectrum from sound waves?

Are they actually related to R_* & ΔR_* ?

← Credits: Alberto Roper Pol

Lisa Cosmology Working Group [2403.03723]

Outline



Fluid perturbations from expanding scalar bubbles

Evolution of the fluid perturbations:
before, across and after bubble collisions

Consequences for the gravitational wave spectrum

Fluid perturbations from expanding scalar bubbles

$$T_{\mu\nu}^{\text{tot}} = w_{\text{tot}} u_{\mu} u_{\nu} + p_{\text{tot}} g_{\mu\nu} + \partial_{\mu} \phi \partial_{\nu} \phi - g_{\mu\nu} \left(\frac{1}{2} \partial_{\sigma} \phi \partial^{\sigma} \phi \right)$$

$$w_{\text{tot}} = w - T \frac{\partial V_{\text{eff}}(\phi, T)}{\partial T}$$

$$p_{\text{tot}} = p - V_{\text{eff}}(\phi, T)$$

Fluid perturbations from expanding scalar bubbles

$$T_{\mu\nu}^{\text{tot}} = w_{\text{tot}} u_{\mu} u_{\nu} + p_{\text{tot}} g_{\mu\nu} + \partial_{\mu} \phi \partial_{\nu} \phi - g_{\mu\nu} \left(\frac{1}{2} \partial_{\sigma} \phi \partial^{\sigma} \phi \right)$$

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Fluid perturbations from expanding scalar bubbles

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$$\eta u^{\mu} \partial_{\mu} \phi$$

Fluid perturbations from expanding scalar bubbles

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$$\eta u^{\mu} \partial_{\mu} \phi$$

Understanding the full picture requires lattice simulations

[2407.05826] [1504.03291] [2409.03651] [2505.17824]

But how far can we go analytically?

Fluid perturbations from expanding scalar bubbles

$$T_{\mu\nu}^{\text{tot}} = w_{\text{tot}} u_{\mu} u_{\nu} + p_{\text{tot}} g_{\mu\nu} + \partial_{\mu} \phi \partial_{\nu} \phi - g_{\mu\nu} \left(\frac{1}{2} \partial_{\sigma} \phi \partial^{\sigma} \phi \right)$$

Simplifying assumptions:

Fluid perturbations from expanding scalar bubbles

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Simplifying assumptions:

- Flat spacetime $g_{\mu\nu} \rightarrow \eta_{\mu\nu}$

Beyond? See Giombi et al. [\[2504.08037\]](#)

Fluid perturbations from expanding scalar bubbles

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- Flat spacetime $g_{\mu\nu} \rightarrow \eta_{\mu\nu}$
- Bag equation of state \longrightarrow $\begin{matrix} (+) \text{ Symmetric phase} \\ (-) \text{ Broken phase} \end{matrix} \longrightarrow$
$$\begin{aligned} p_{\text{tot}}^{\pm} &= \frac{1}{3} a_{\pm} T_{\pm}^4 - \epsilon_{\pm} \\ e_{\text{tot}}^{\pm} &= a_{\pm} T_{\pm}^4 + \epsilon_{\pm} \\ w_{\text{tot}}^{\pm} &= e_{\text{tot}}^{\pm} + p_{\text{tot}}^{\pm} = \frac{4}{3} a_{\pm} T_{\pm}^4 \end{aligned}$$

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Fluid perturbations from expanding scalar bubbles

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- Neglect scalar field profiles

Beyond? See Giombi et al. [\[2504.08037\]](#) [\[2409.01426\]](#)

Fluid perturbations from expanding scalar bubbles

$$T_{\mu\nu}^{\text{tot}} = w_{\text{tot}} u_{\mu} u_{\nu} + p_{\text{tot}} \eta_{\mu\nu}$$

Perfect fluid

$$\partial_{\mu} T_{\text{tot}}^{\mu\nu} = 0$$

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$$\epsilon_{+} = \epsilon > 0$$

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$$\gamma^2 = 1/(1 - v^2)$$

- Solutions with spherical fluid velocity profile $u^{\mu} = \gamma(1, v \hat{r})$

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- Solutions with spherical fluid velocity profile $u^{\mu} = \gamma(1, v \hat{r})$
- Be $r^{(n)} = |\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{x}_0^{(n)}|$ the distance to the nucleation center of the n-th bubble $\mathbf{x}_0^{(n)}$, $t^{(n)} = t - t_0^{(n)}$ the time since it nucleated at $t_0^{(n)}$ and $\xi = r^{(n)}/t^{(n)}$

Fluid perturbations from expanding scalar bubbles

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- For a superposition of bubbles we have $\mathbf{v} = \sum_{n=1}^{N_b} v_{ip}(\xi) \hat{r}^{(n)}$

Fluid perturbations from expanding scalar bubbles

$$T_{\mu\nu}^{\text{tot}} = w_{\text{tot}} u_{\mu} u_{\nu} + p_{\text{tot}} \eta_{\mu\nu}$$

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- Impose boundary conditions across the wall
using the **bag equation of state**

Fluid perturbations from expanding scalar bubbles

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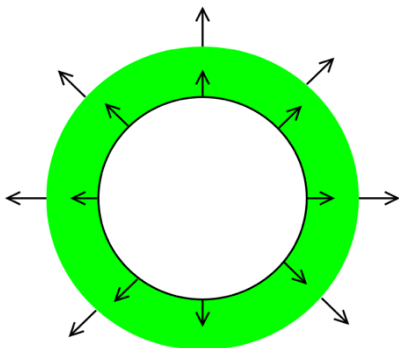


- Impose boundary conditions across the wall using the **bag equation of state**
- Depending on the wall velocity ξ_w and the phase transition strenght $\alpha = \epsilon/e_n$ we find three types of solution

Fluid perturbations from expanding scalar bubbles

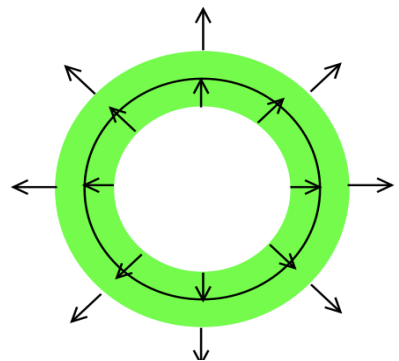
DEFLAGRATIONS

$$\xi_w < c_s$$



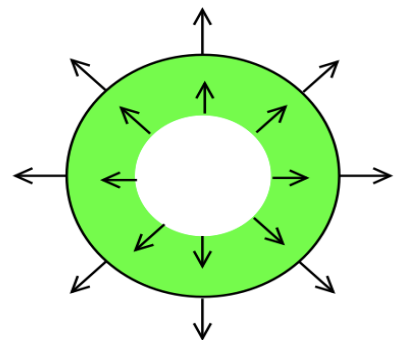
HYBRIDS

$$c_s < \xi_w < v_{CJ}(\alpha)$$



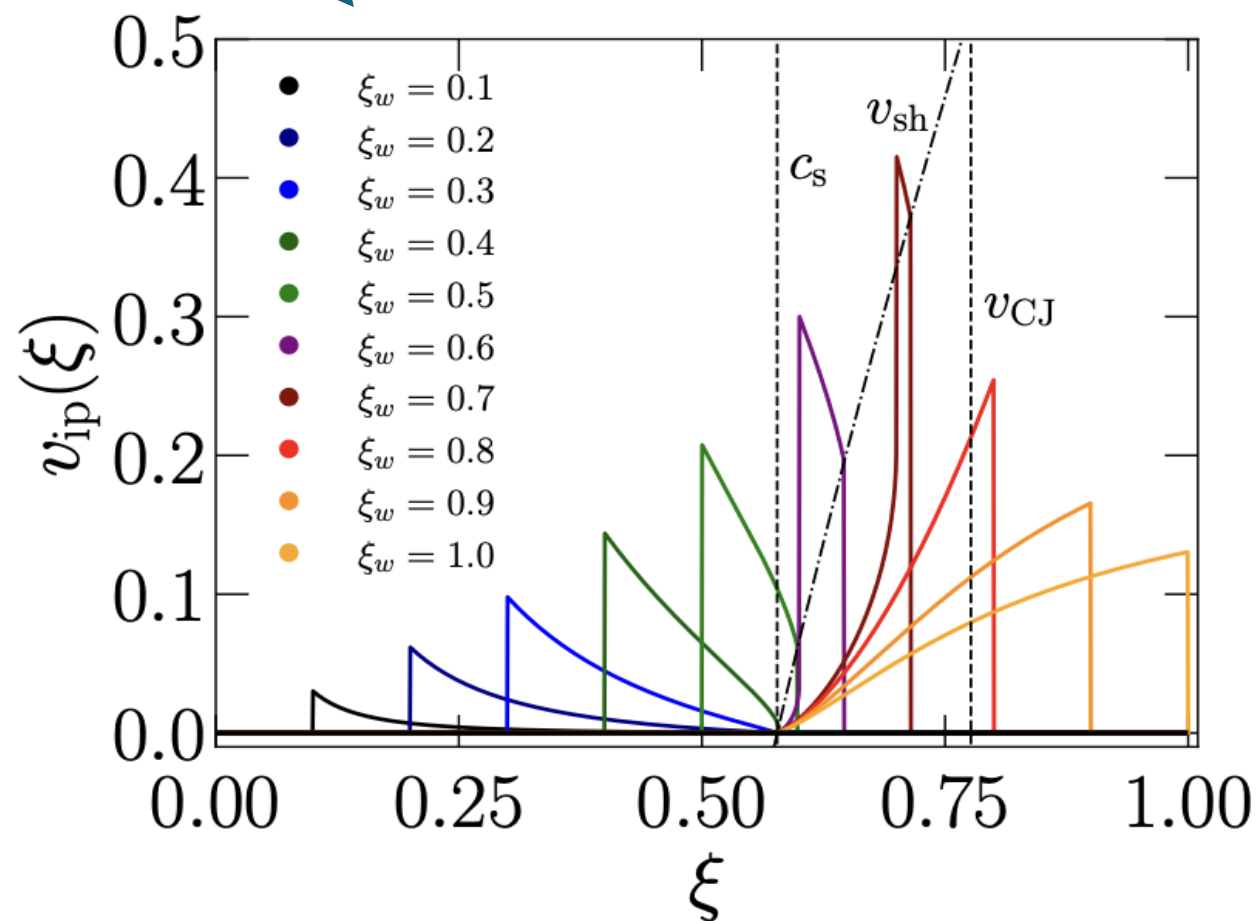
DETONATIONS

$$\xi_w > v_{CJ}(\alpha)$$



`pip install cosmoGW`

$$v_{CJ}(\alpha) = \frac{1 + \sqrt{\alpha(2 + 3\alpha)}}{\sqrt{3}(1 + \alpha)}$$



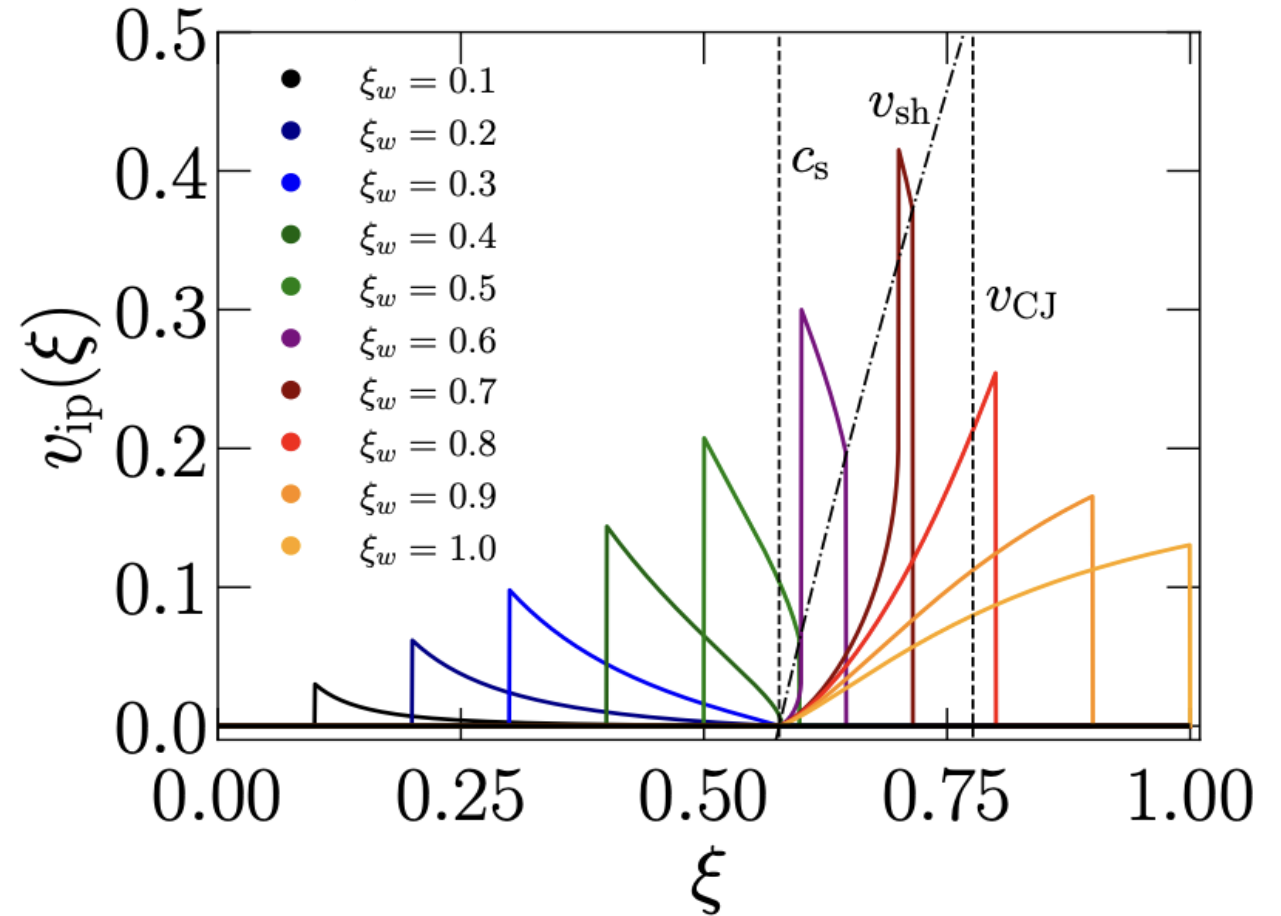
Fluid perturbations from expanding scalar bubbles

Properties of the profiles:

- Compact support
 $v_{ip}(\xi) \neq 0$ for $\xi_b < \xi < \xi_f$

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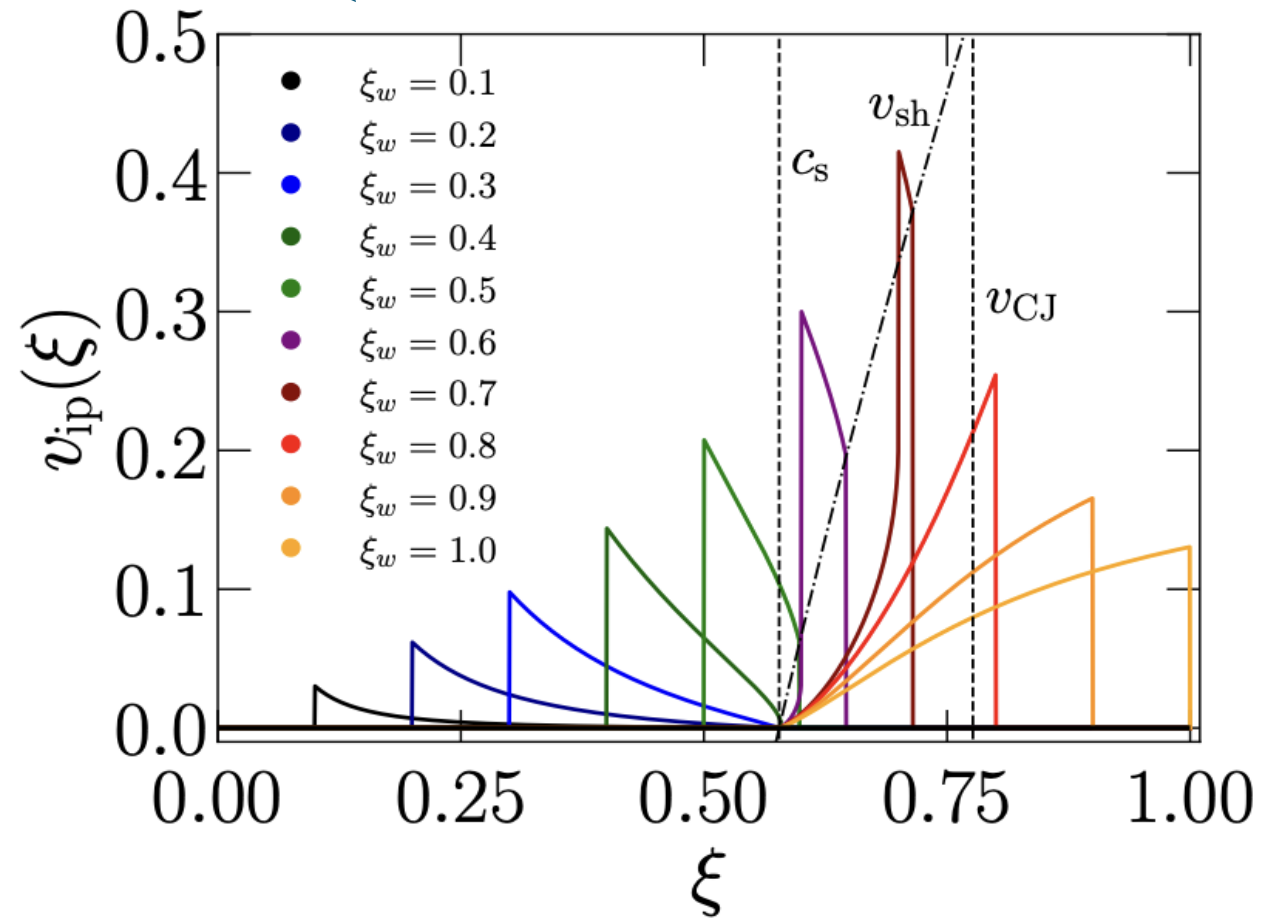
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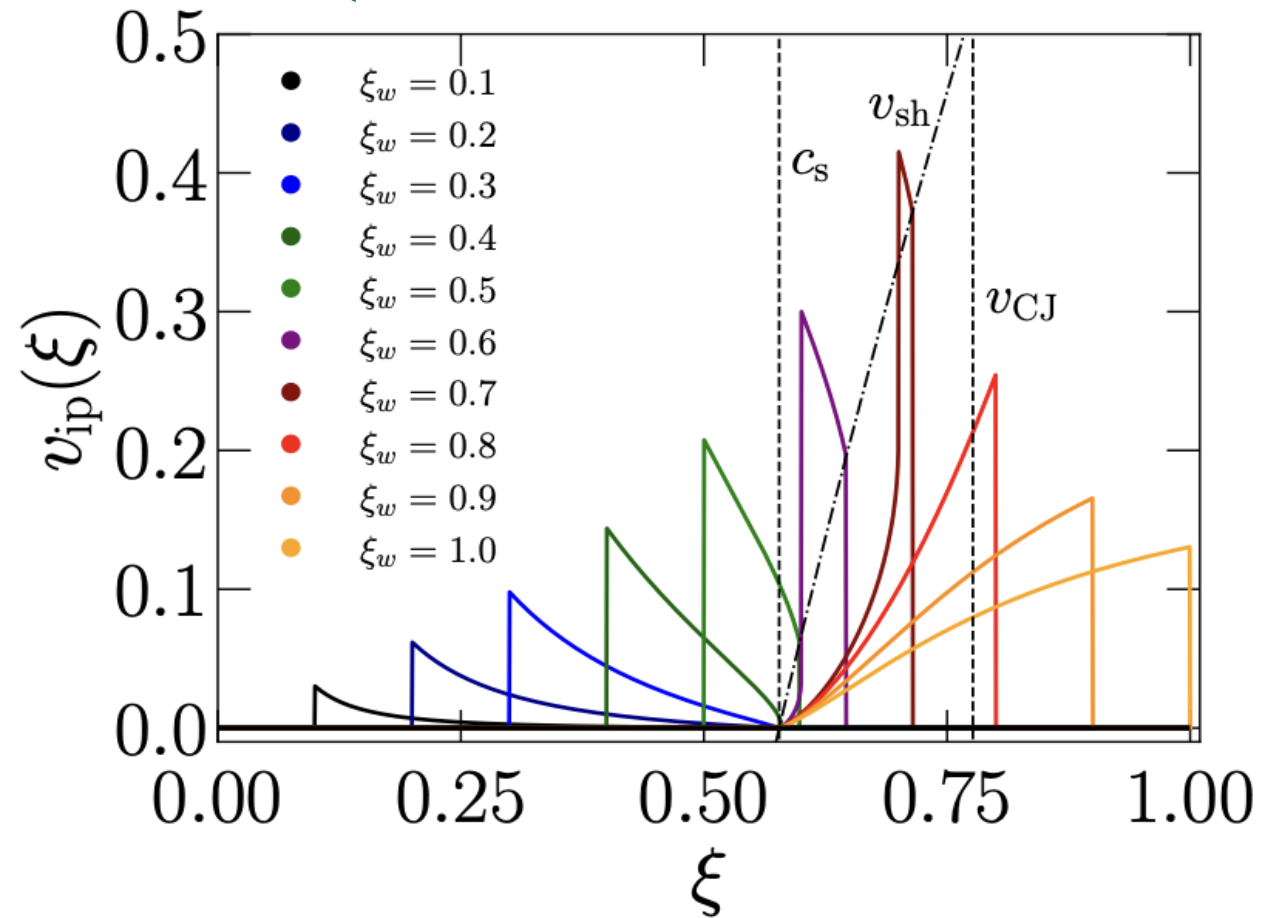
Fluid perturbations from expanding scalar bubbles

Properties of the profiles:

- Compact support
 $v_{ip}(\xi) \neq 0$ for $\xi_b < \xi < \xi_f$
- Discontinuity at ξ_w
- Deflagrations with ξ_w close to c_s and hybrids have an additional discontinuity at $\xi = v_{sh}$

`pip install cosmoGW`

$$v_{CJ}(\alpha) = \frac{1 + \sqrt{\alpha(2 + 3\alpha)}}{\sqrt{3}(1 + \alpha)}$$



Fluid perturbations from expanding scalar bubbles

Self-similar profiles in Fourier space

$$\mathbf{v}^{(n)}(t, \mathbf{k}) = -i \left[t^{(n)} \right]^3 e^{i\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{x}_0^{(n)}} \hat{\mathbf{k}} f'(z)$$

$$f(z \equiv k t^{(n)}) = 4\pi \int_0^\infty j_0(z\xi) \xi v_{ip}(\xi) d\xi$$

$$\mathbf{v} = \sum_{n=1}^{N_b} \mathbf{v}^{(n)} = \sum_{n=1}^{N_b} v_{ip}(\xi) \hat{\mathbf{r}}^{(n)}$$

$$j_0(x) = \sin x / x$$

Kinetic spectrum in Fourier space $\propto \langle v_i(t, \mathbf{k}) v_i(t, \mathbf{k}') \rangle \propto |f'(z)|^2$

Fluid perturbations from expanding scalar bubbles

Self-similar profiles in Fourier space

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Self-similar profiles $\rightarrow |f'(z)|^2 \rightarrow$ Kinetic spectrum in the bubble expansion phase

↑
Average over stochastic realizations

Fluid perturbations from expanding scalar bubbles

$$\mathbf{v}^{(n)}(t, \mathbf{k}) = -i [t^{(n)}]^3 e^{i\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{x}_0^{(n)}} \hat{\mathbf{k}} f'(z)$$

$$f'(z \equiv k t^{(n)}) = -4\pi \int_0^\infty j_1(z\xi) \xi^2 v_{ip}(\xi) d\xi$$

Properties of $|f'(z)|^2$

Fluid perturbations from expanding scalar bubbles

$$\mathbf{v}^{(n)}(t, \mathbf{k}) = -i [t^{(n)}]^3 e^{i\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{x}_0^{(n)}} \hat{\mathbf{k}} f'(z)$$

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Properties of $|f'(z)|^2$

Large scales $k = z/t^{(n)} \rightarrow 0$

$$f'(z) \rightarrow z \left[-\frac{4\pi}{3} \int_{\xi_b}^{\xi_f} \xi^3 v_{ip}(\xi) d\xi \right] \longrightarrow |f'(z)|^2 \rightarrow |f'_0|^2 z^2$$

Related to causality

Compact support of $v_{ip}(\xi)$

Fluid perturbations from expanding scalar bubbles

$$\mathbf{v}^{(n)}(t, \mathbf{k}) = -i [t^{(n)}]^3 e^{i\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{x}_0^{(n)}} \hat{\mathbf{k}} f'(z)$$

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Properties of $|f'(z)|^2$

Small scales $k = z/t^{(n)} \rightarrow \infty$

$$f'(z) \rightarrow z^{-2} \left\{ -4\pi \left[\xi_{sh} \sin z \xi_{sh} \Delta v_{ip}(\xi_{sh}) + \xi_w \sin z \xi_w \Delta v_{ip}(\xi_w) \right] \right\}$$

From the discontinuities of $v_{ip}(\xi)$

$$\longrightarrow |f'(z)|^2 \rightarrow |f'_{\infty}|^2 z^{-4}$$

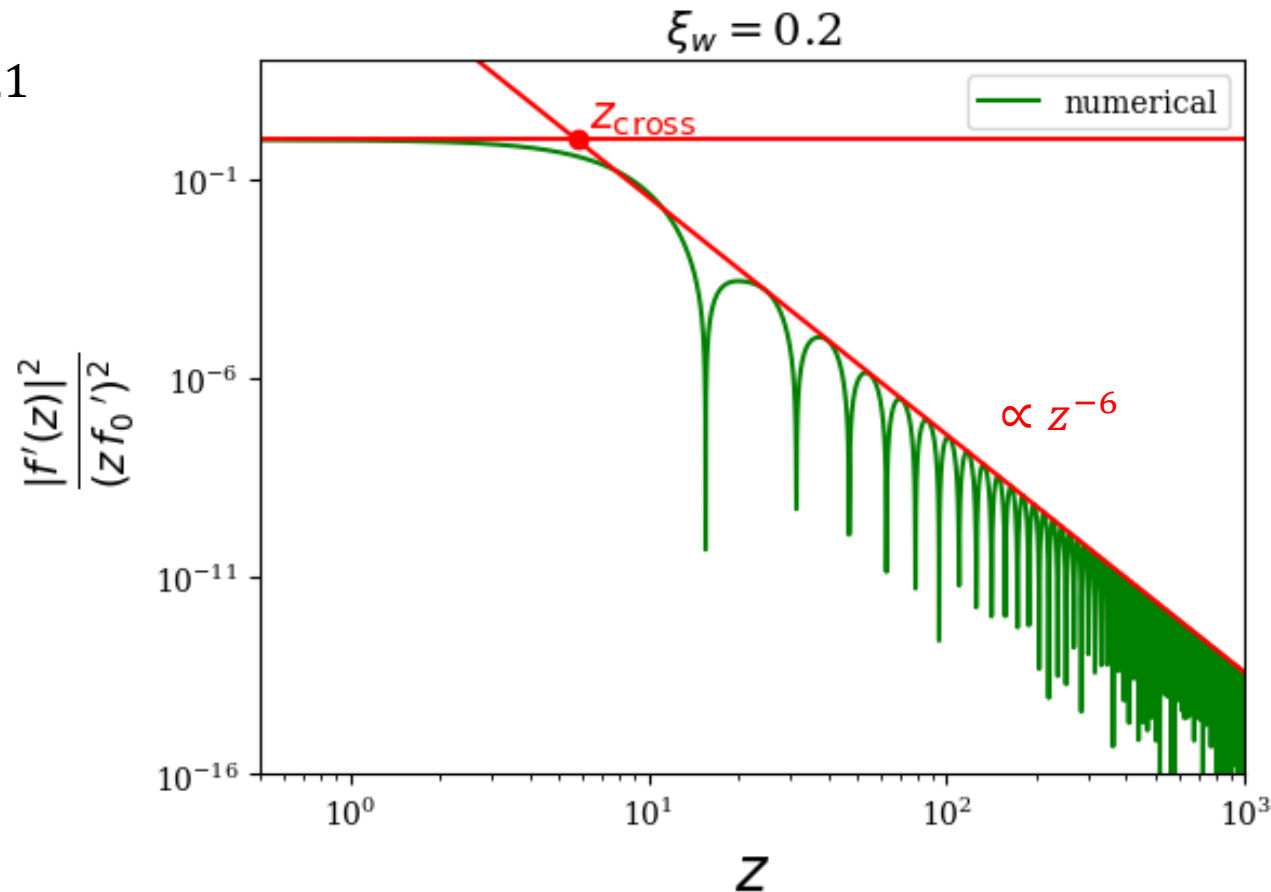
$$\longrightarrow |f'(z)|_{env}^2 \rightarrow |f'_{env}|^2 z^{-4}$$

$$f'_{env} = 4\pi [\xi_{sh} v_{sh}^- + \xi_w |\Delta v_{ip}(\xi_w)|]$$

Fluid perturbations from expanding scalar bubbles

Properties of $|f'(z)|^2$

$\alpha = 0.1$



$$\mathbf{v}^{(n)}(t, \mathbf{k}) = -i \left[t^{(n)} \right]^3 e^{i\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{x}_0^{(n)}} \hat{\mathbf{k}} f'(z)$$

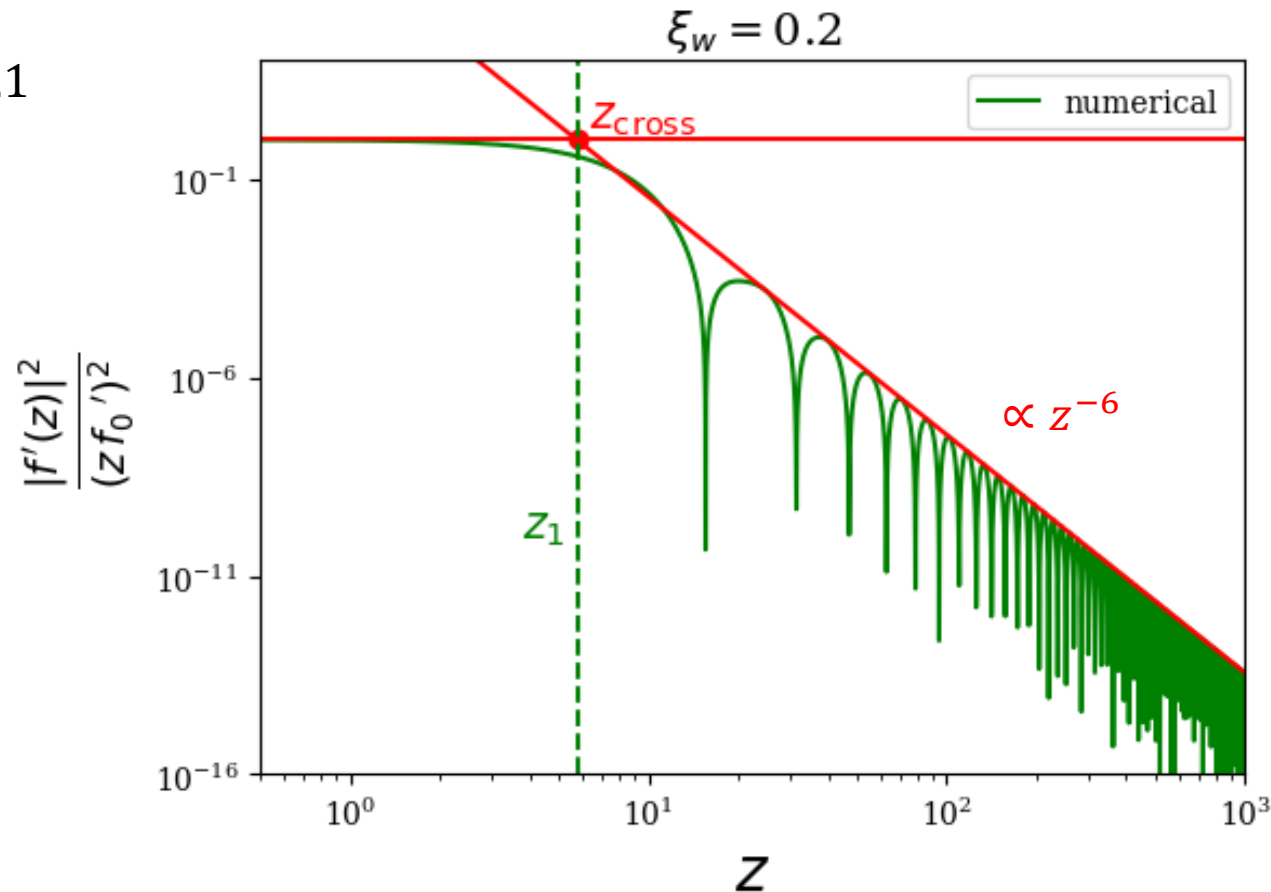
$$f'(z) = -4\pi \int_0^\infty j_1(z\xi) \xi^2 v_{ip}(\xi) d\xi$$

$$z_{cross} = \left| \frac{f'_{env}}{f'_0} \right|^{1/3}$$

Fluid perturbations from expanding scalar bubbles

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Significant deviations from $\sim z^2$ begin around

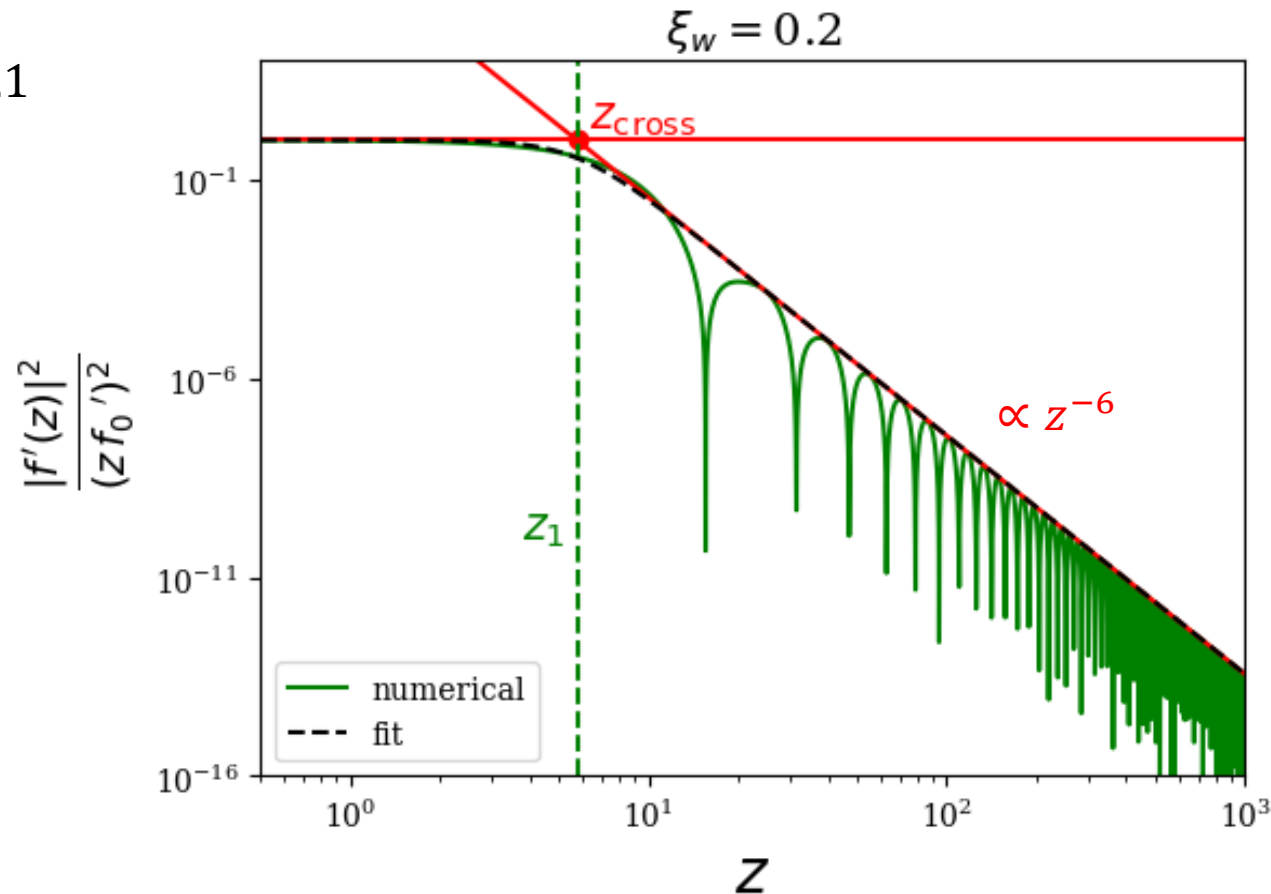
$$z_1 \approx \frac{3\pi}{2} (\xi_f + \xi_b)^{-1}$$

(for generic α & ξ_w)

Fluid perturbations from expanding scalar bubbles

Properties of $|f'(z)|^2$

$\alpha = 0.1$



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$$z_1 \approx \frac{3\pi}{2} (\xi_f + \xi_b)^{-1}$$

$$|f'(z)|_{env}^2 \approx |f_0'|^2 z^2 \left[1 + \left(\frac{z}{z_1} \right)^{a_1} \right]^{-\frac{6}{a_1}}$$

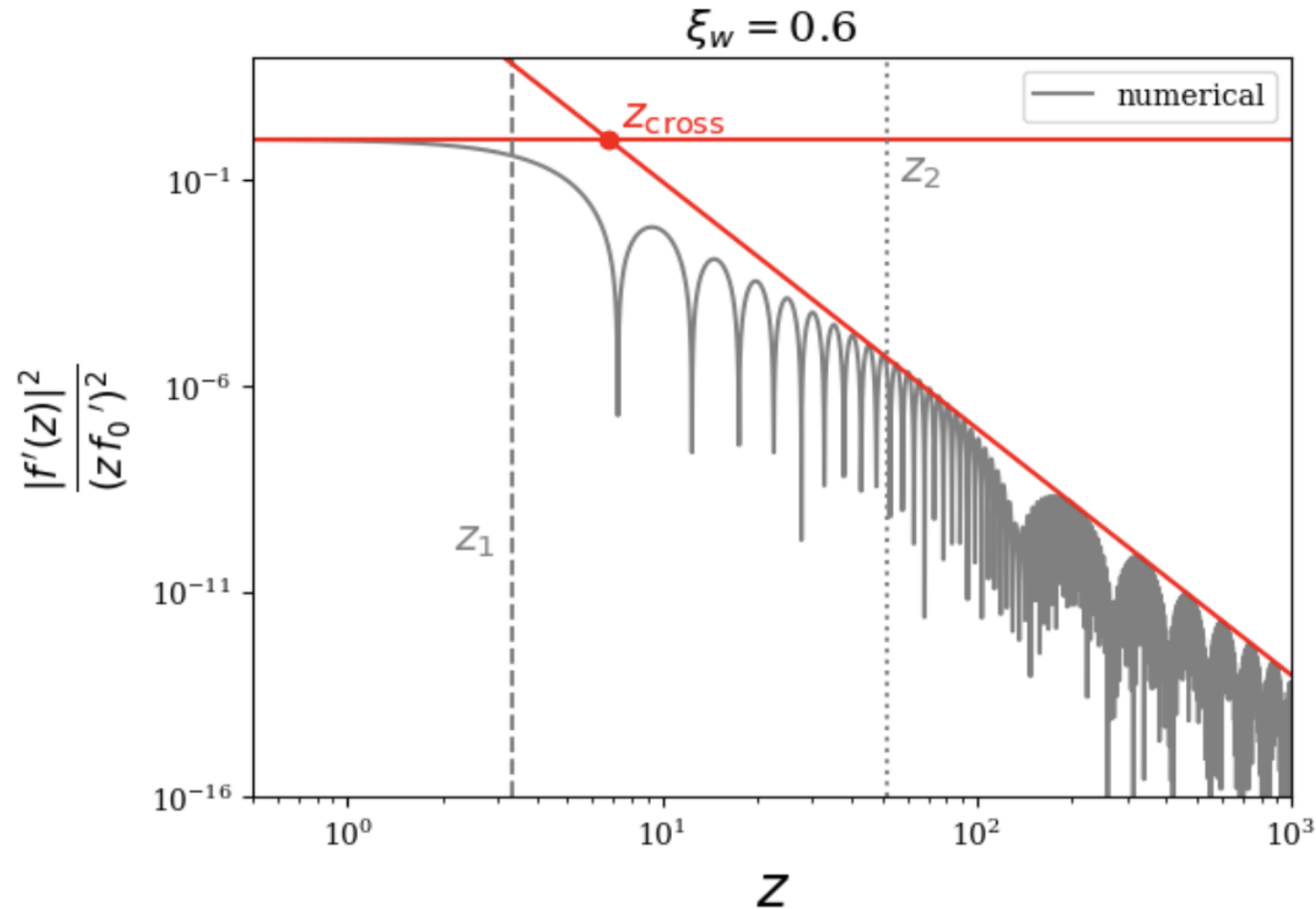
$$(\xi_w \lesssim v_{cJ}(\alpha)/2)$$

$$a_1 = 4$$

Fluid perturbations from expanding scalar bubbles

Properties of $|f'(z)|^2$

$\alpha = 0.1$



$$z_1 \approx \frac{3\pi}{2} (\xi_f + \xi_b)^{-1}$$

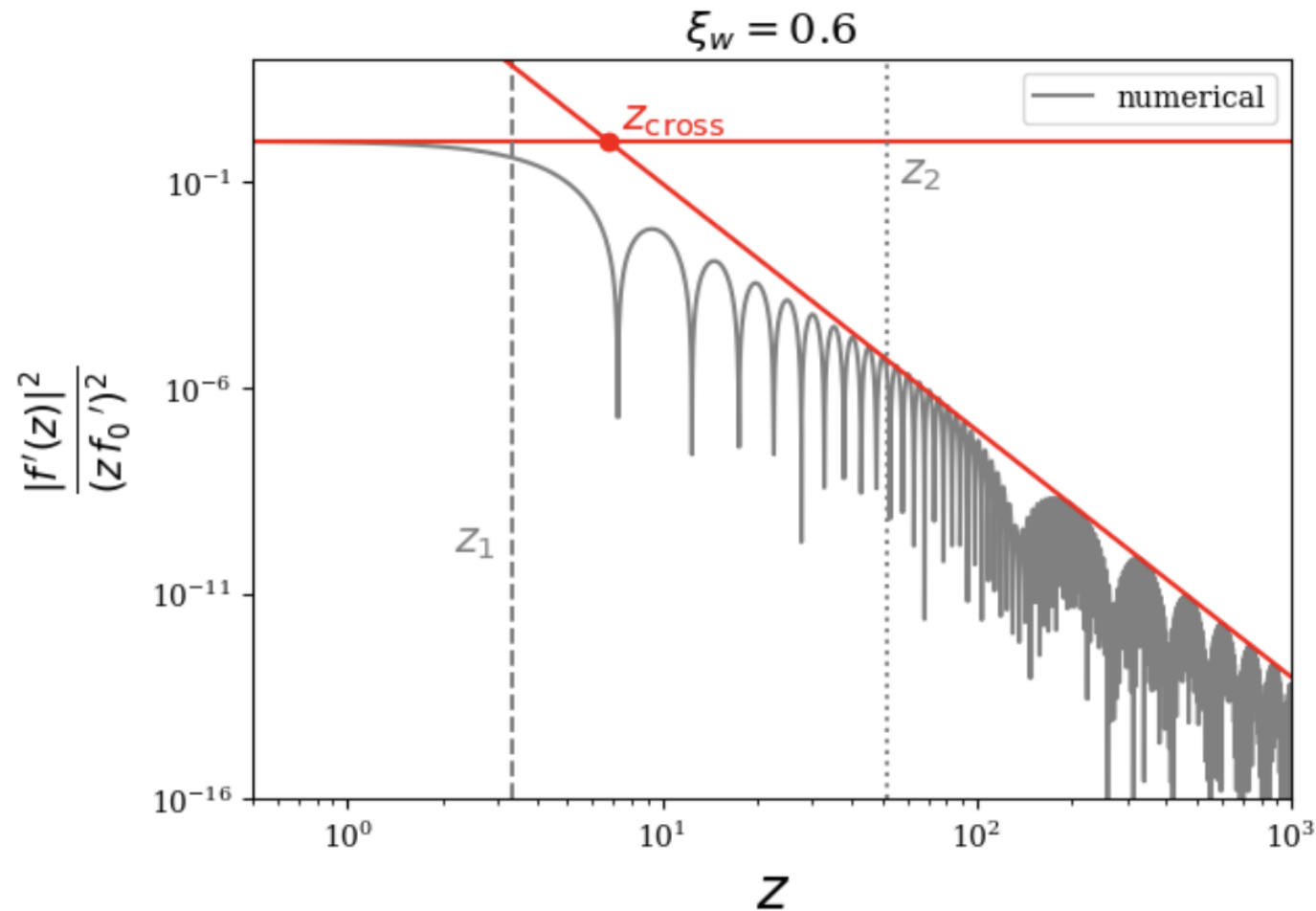
The $\sim z^{-4}$ begins around

$$z_2 \approx \pi \times \begin{cases} (\xi_f - \xi_b)^{-1} & (\xi_w < c_s) \\ (\xi_f - \xi_w)^{-1} & (c_s < \xi_w < v_{CJ}) \\ (\xi_f - \xi_b)^{-1} & (\xi_w > v_{CJ}) \end{cases}$$

Fluid perturbations from expanding scalar bubbles

Properties of $|f'(z)|^2$

$\alpha = 0.1$



$$z_1 \approx \frac{3\pi}{2} (\xi_f + \xi_b)^{-1}$$

The $\sim z^{-4}$ begins around

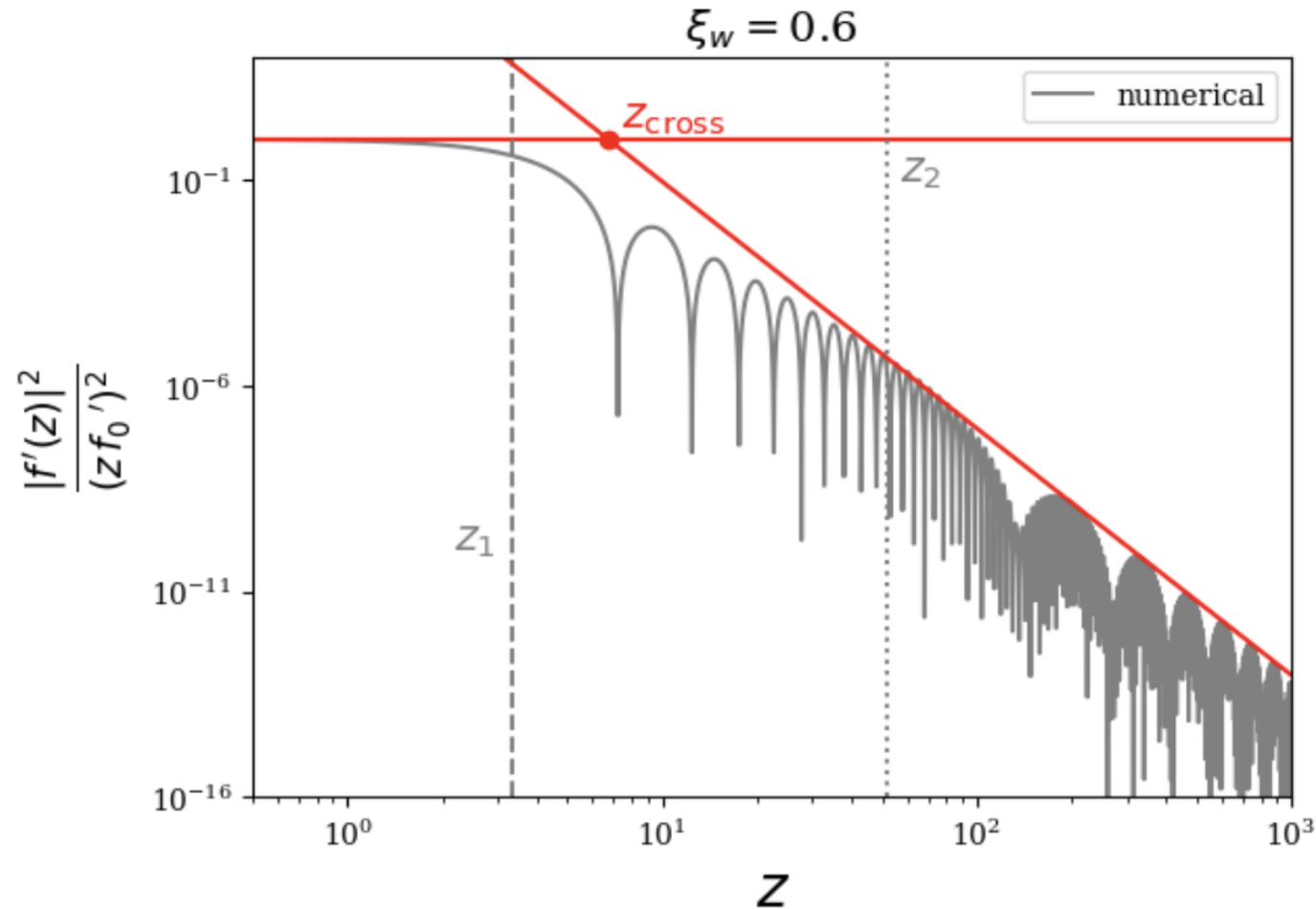
$$z_2 \approx \pi \times \begin{cases} (\xi_f - \xi_b)^{-1} & (\xi_w < c_s) \\ (\xi_f - \xi_w)^{-1} & (c_s < \xi_w < v_{CJ}) \\ (\xi_f - \xi_b)^{-1} & (\xi_w > v_{CJ}) \end{cases}$$

$$\xi_f - \xi_b \propto \Delta R_* \quad (\text{sound shell thickness})$$

Fluid perturbations from expanding scalar bubbles

Properties of $|f'(z)|^2$

$\alpha = 0.1$



$$z_1 \approx \frac{3\pi}{2} (\xi_f + \xi_b)^{-1}$$

The $\sim z^{-4}$ begins around

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$$\xi_f - \xi_b \propto \Delta R_* \quad (\text{sound shell thickness})$$

$$\xi_f - \xi_w = \xi_{sh} - \xi_w \quad \begin{array}{l} \text{distance between} \\ \text{discontinuities} \\ \text{(for hybrids)} \end{array}$$

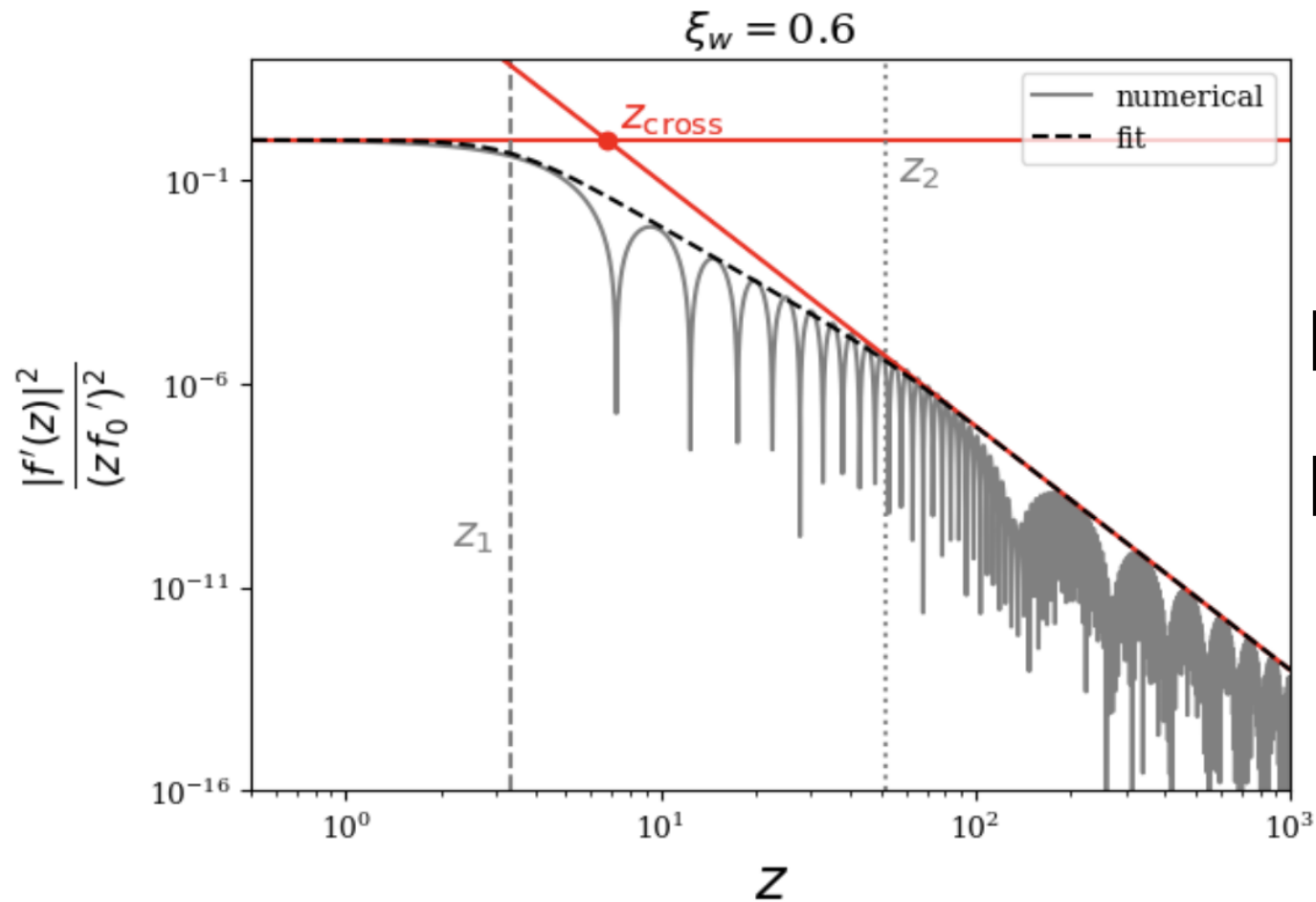
Fluid perturbations from expanding scalar bubbles

Properties of $|f'(z)|^2$

$\alpha = 0.1$

$$z_1 \approx \frac{3\pi}{2} (\xi_f + \xi_b)^{-1}$$

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$$|f'(z)|_{env}^2 \approx$$

$$|f_0'|^2 z^2 \left[1 + \left(\frac{z}{z_1} \right)^{a_1} \right]^{\frac{\gamma-2}{a_1}} \left[1 + \left(\frac{z}{z_2} \right)^{a_2} \right]^{\frac{-\gamma-4}{a_2}}$$

$$(\xi_w \gtrsim v_{CJ}(\alpha)/2)$$

$$\gamma = 2 \left[1 - 3 \frac{\log(z_2/z_{cross})}{\log(z_2/z_1)} \right]$$

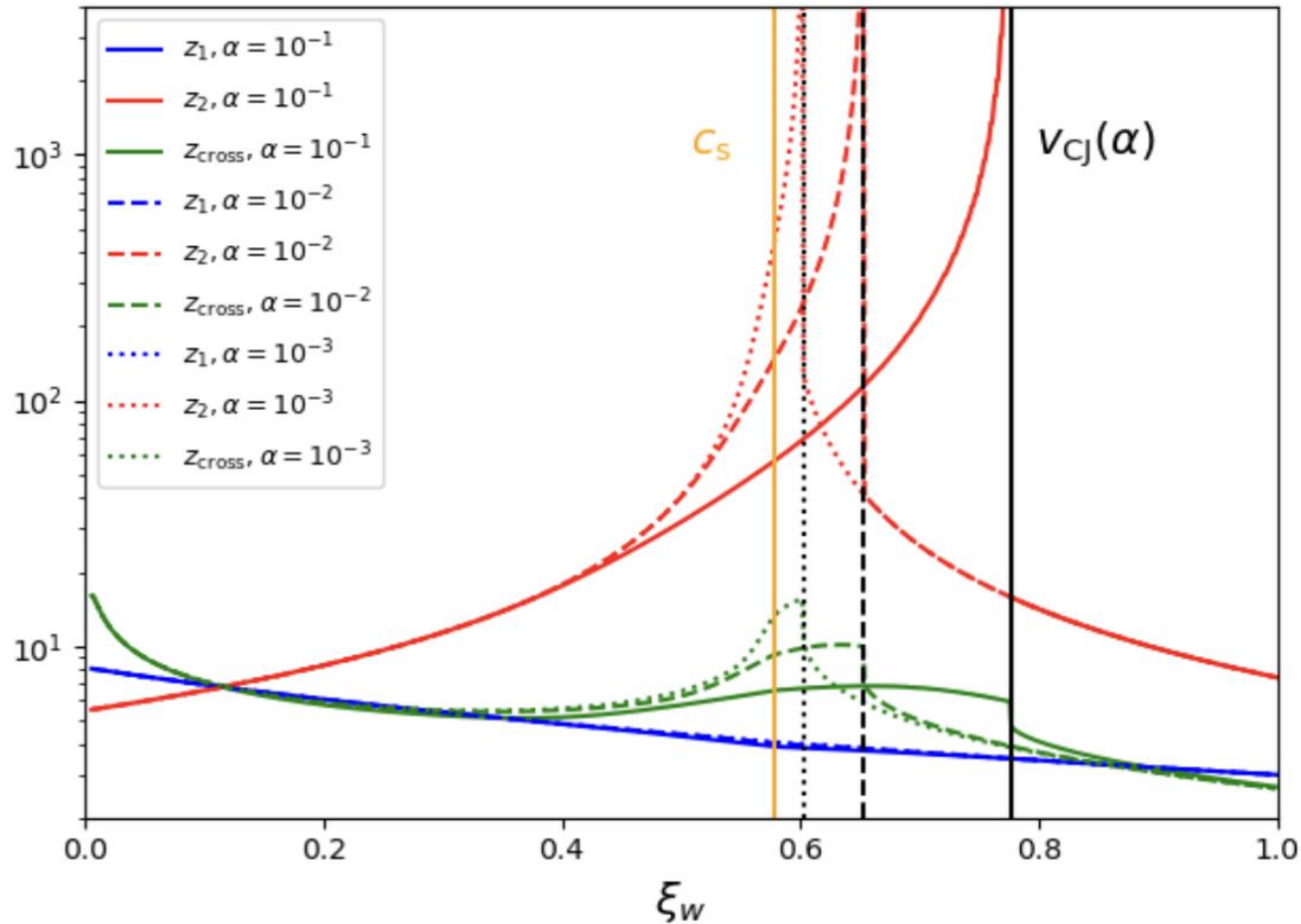
$$a_1 = a_2 = 4$$

Fluid perturbations from expanding scalar bubbles

Scales of $|f'(z)|^2$

$$z_1 \approx \frac{3\pi}{2} (\xi_f + \xi_b)^{-1}$$

$$z_2 \approx \pi \times \begin{cases} (\xi_f - \xi_b)^{-1} & (\xi_w < c_s) \\ (\xi_f - \xi_w)^{-1} & (c_s < \xi_w < v_{CJ}) \\ (\xi_f - \xi_b)^{-1} & (\xi_w > v_{CJ}) \end{cases}$$



$$|f'(z)|_{env}^2 \approx$$

$$|f'_0|^2 z^2 \left[1 + \left(\frac{z}{z_1} \right)^{a_1} \right]^{\frac{\gamma-2}{a_1}} \left[1 + \left(\frac{z}{z_2} \right)^{a_2} \right]^{\frac{-\gamma-4}{a_2}}$$

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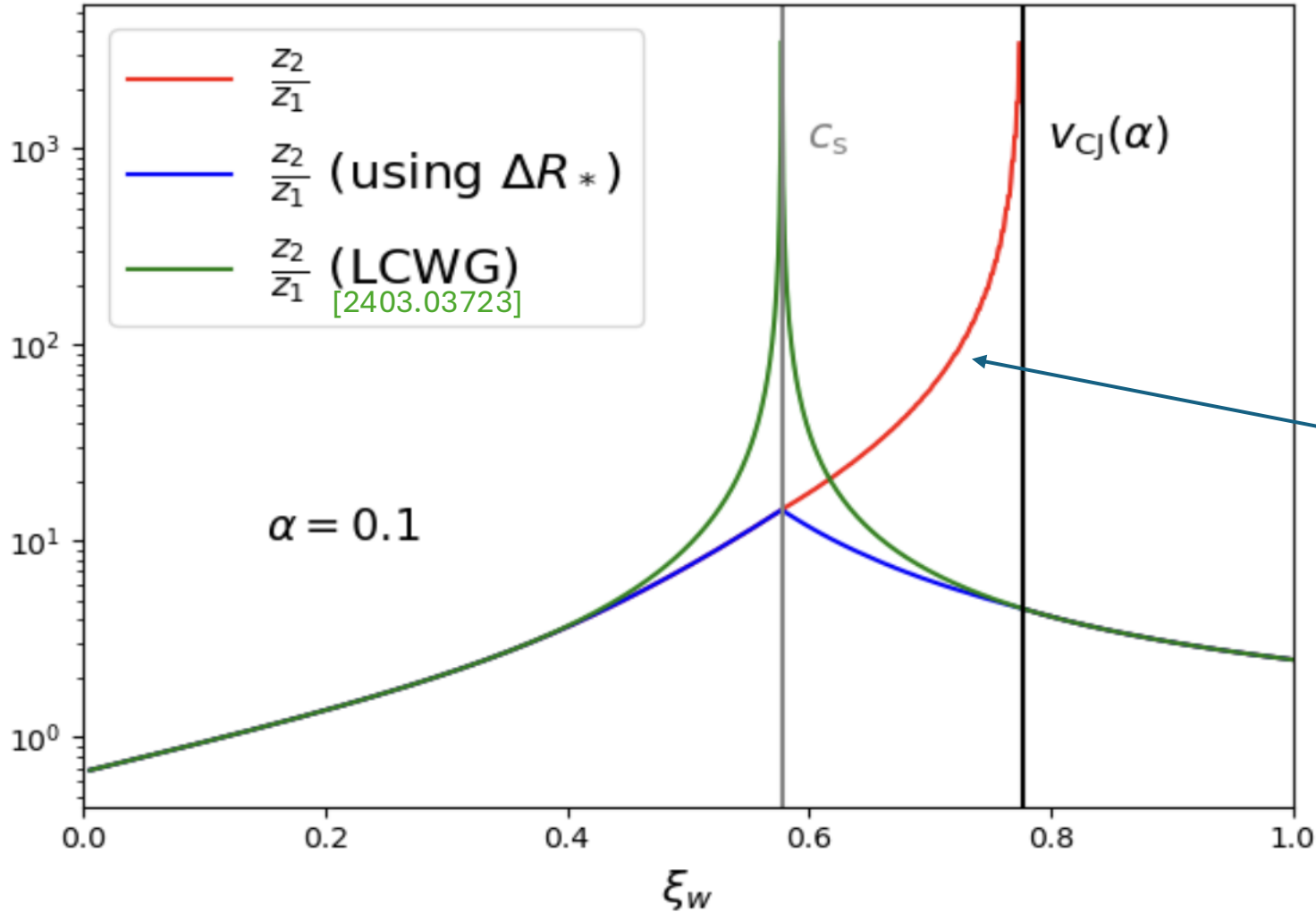
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Fluid perturbations from expanding scalar bubbles

Scales of $|f'(z)|^2$

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Much broader spectrum for hybrids than using

$$z_2 = \pi \times (\xi_f - \xi_b)^{-1} \propto \Delta R_*^{-1}$$

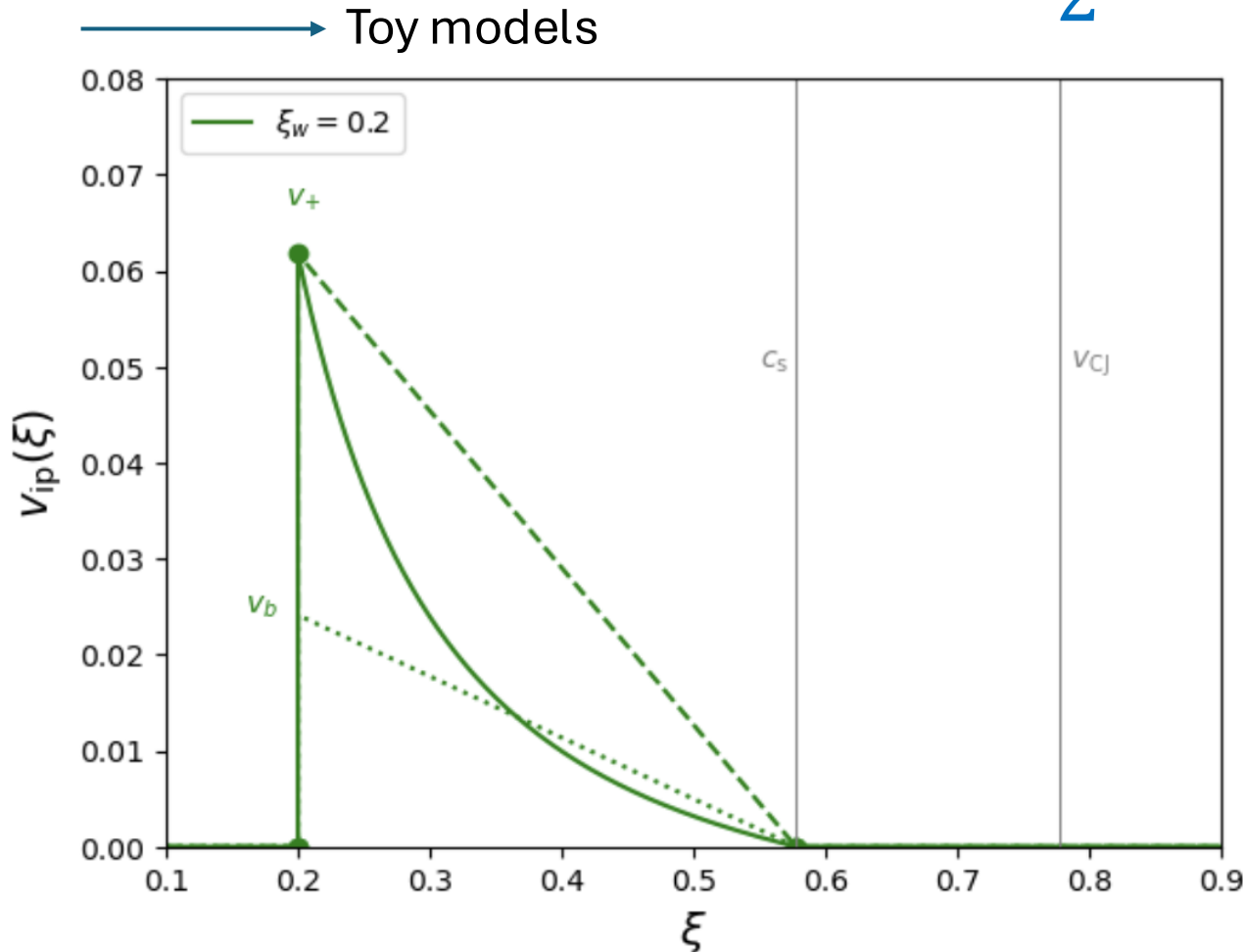
$$z_2 = \pi \times |c_s - \xi_w|^{-1} \quad (\text{Lisa Cosmology Working Group})$$

Fluid perturbations from expanding scalar bubbles

Scales of $|f'(z)|^2$

$$z_1 \approx \frac{3\pi}{2} (\xi_f + \xi_b)^{-1}$$

$$z_2 \approx \pi \times \begin{cases} (\xi_f - \xi_b)^{-1} & (\xi_w < c_s) \\ (\xi_f - \xi_w)^{-1} & (c_s < \xi_w < v_{CJ}) \\ (\xi_f - \xi_b)^{-1} & (\xi_w > v_{CJ}) \end{cases}$$



Approximate the deflagrations with a linearly decreasing velocity profile

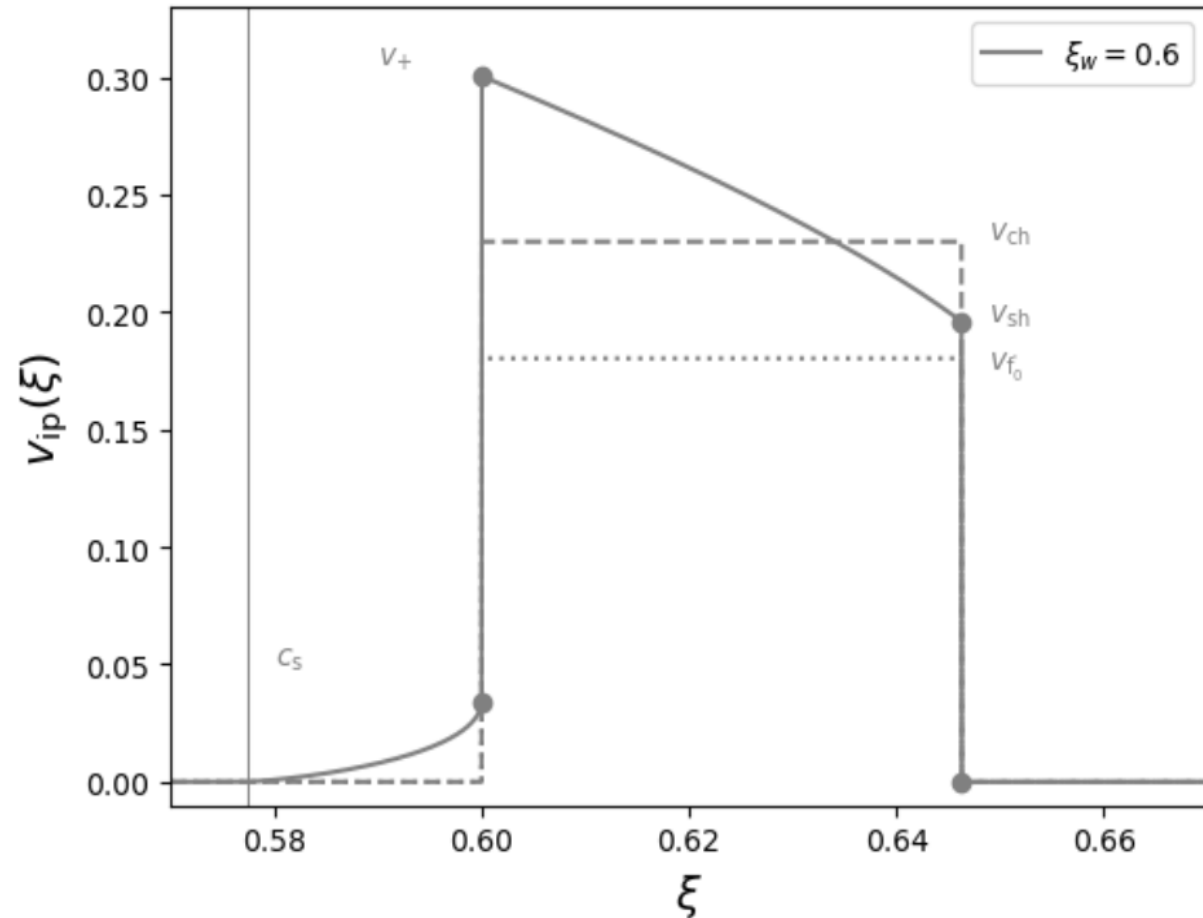
$$v(\xi) = v_{const} \frac{\xi_f - \xi}{\xi_f - \xi_b} \quad (\xi_b < \xi < \xi_f)$$

v_{const} can be chosen in order to reproduce either the small scales (v_+) or the large scales (v_b) limit of $|f'(z)|^2$

Fluid perturbations from expanding scalar bubbles

Scales of $|f'(z)|^2$

→ Toy models



$$z_1 \approx \frac{3\pi}{2} (\xi_f + \xi_b)^{-1}$$

$$z_2 \approx \pi \times \begin{cases} (\xi_f - \xi_b)^{-1} & (\xi_w < c_s) \\ (\xi_f - \xi_w)^{-1} & (c_s < \xi_w < v_{cJ}) \\ (\xi_f - \xi_b)^{-1} & (\xi_w > v_{cJ}) \end{cases}$$

Approximate the hybrids with a constant velocity profile only between discontinuities

$$v(\xi) = v_{const} \quad (\xi_w < \xi < \xi_f)$$

v_{const} can be chosen in order to reproduce either the small scales (v_{ch}) or the large scales (v_{f_0}) limit of $|f'(z)|^2$

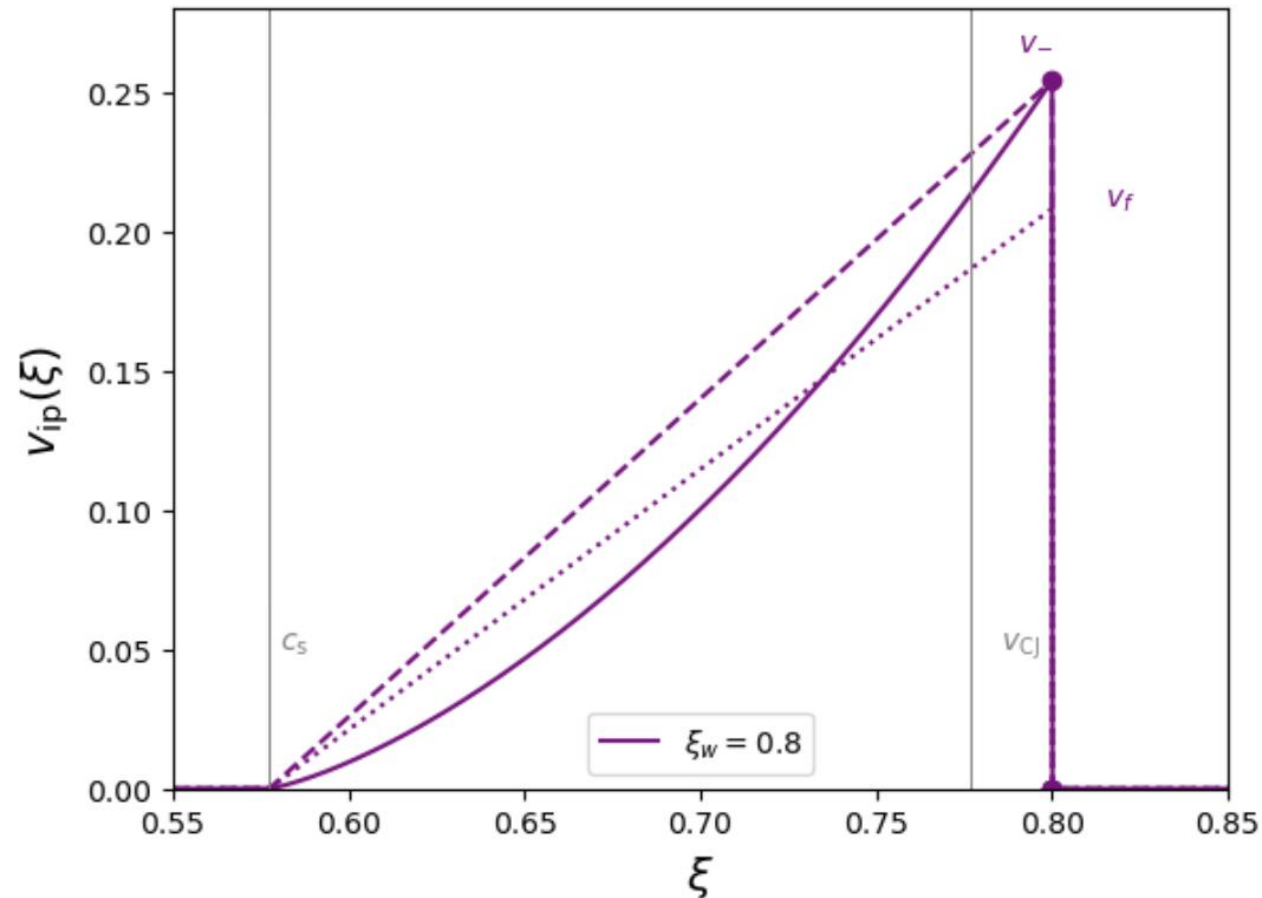
Fluid perturbations from expanding scalar bubbles

Scales of $|f'(z)|^2$

→ Toy models

$$z_1 \approx \frac{3\pi}{2} (\xi_f + \xi_b)^{-1}$$

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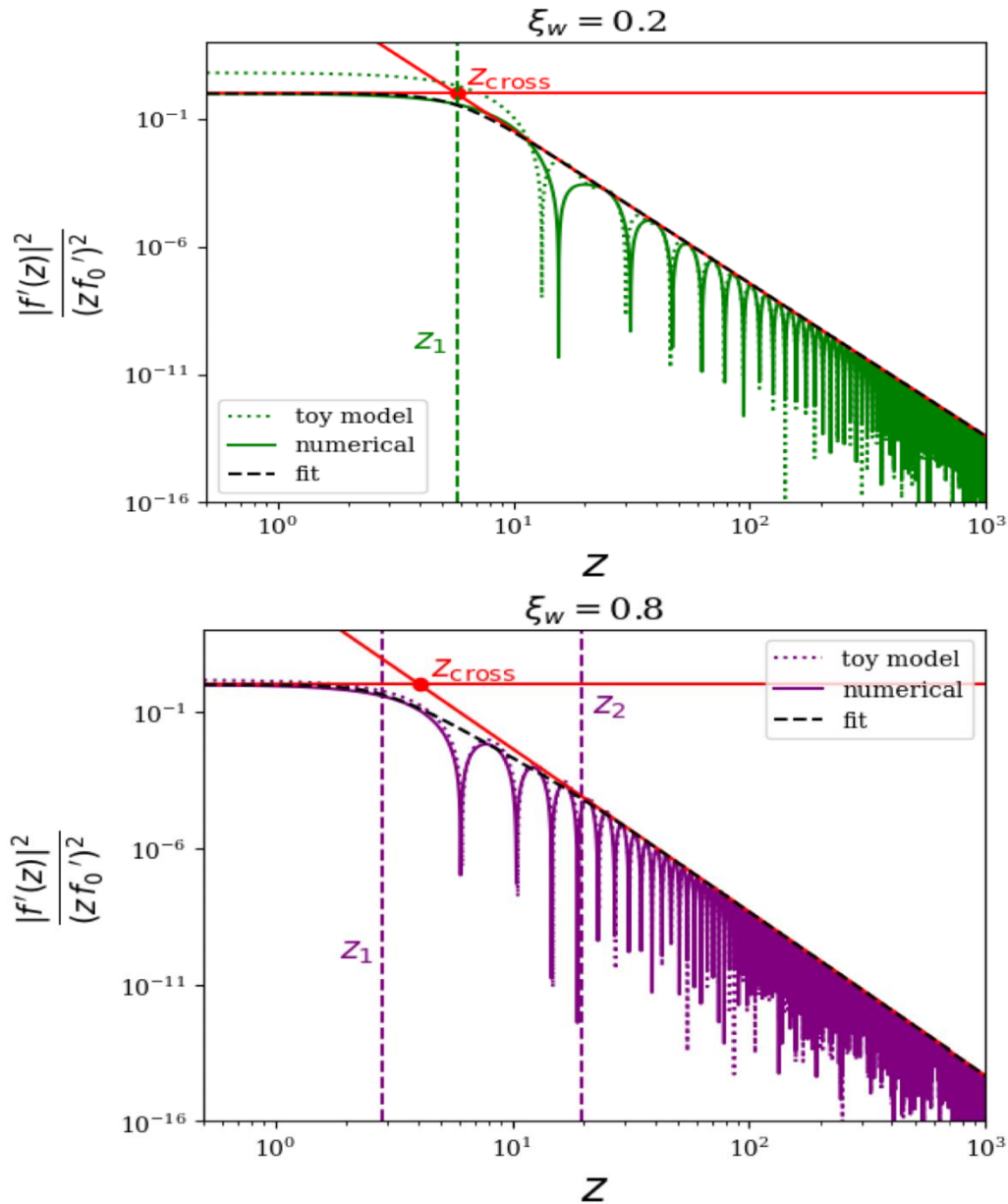


Approximate the detonations with a linearly increasing velocity profile

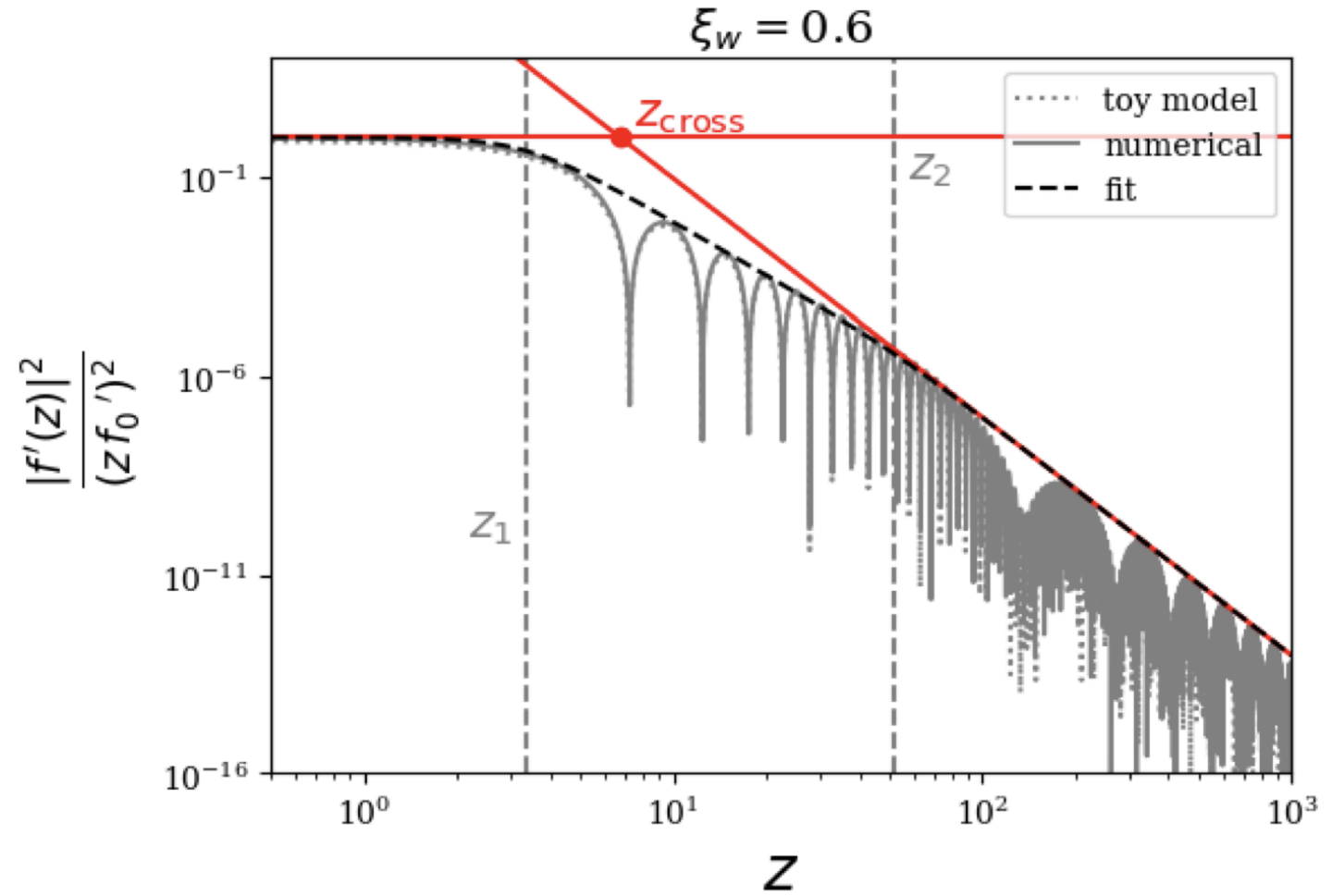
$$v(\xi) = v_{const} \frac{\xi - \xi_b}{\xi_f - \xi_b} \quad (\xi_b < \xi < \xi_f)$$

v_{const} can be chosen in order to reproduce either the small scales (v_-) or the large scales (v_f) limit of $|f'(z)|^2$

Fluid perturbations from expanding scalar bubbles



Numerical vs Fits vs Toy models



Evolution of the fluid perturbations: *before* collisions

Computing the kinetic spectrum in the bubble expansion phase requires averaging over stochastic realizations

$$\langle v_i(t, \mathbf{k}) v_j^*(t, \mathbf{k}') \rangle_{x_0^{(n)}, t_0^{(n)}}$$

$$\mathbf{v}^{(n)}(t, \mathbf{k}) = -i [t^{(n)}]^3 e^{i\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{x}_0^{(n)}} \hat{\mathbf{k}} f'(z)$$

$$f'(z) = -4\pi \int_0^\infty j_1(z\xi) \xi^2 v_{ip}(\xi) d\xi$$

Evolution of the fluid perturbations: *before* collisions

Computing the kinetic spectrum in the bubble expansion phase requires averaging over stochastic realizations

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$$\langle v_i(t, \mathbf{k}) v_j^*(t, \mathbf{k}') \rangle_{x_0^{(n)}} = \hat{\mathbf{k}}_i \hat{\mathbf{k}}_j \delta^{(3)}(\mathbf{k} - \mathbf{k}') n_b(t) (t - t_0)^6 |f'(z)|^2$$



Average over nucleation locations (homogeneously distributed)

Evolution of the fluid perturbations: *before* collisions

Computing the kinetic spectrum in the bubble expansion phase requires averaging over stochastic realizations

$$\mathbf{v}^{(n)}(t, \mathbf{k}) = -i [t^{(n)}]^3 e^{i\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{x}_0^{(n)}} \hat{\mathbf{k}} f'(z)$$

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Average over nucleation times

nucleation rate

$$z = k(t - t_0)$$

Evolution of the fluid perturbations: *before* collisions

$$\langle v_i(t, \mathbf{k}) v_j^*(t, \mathbf{k}') \rangle_{x_0^{(n)}, t_0^{(n)}} = \hat{\mathbf{k}}_i \hat{\mathbf{k}}_j \delta^{(3)}(\mathbf{k} - \mathbf{k}') n_b(t) \int_{t_c}^t dt_0 \Gamma(t_0) (t - t_0)^6 |f'(z)|^2$$

$$\Gamma(t_0) = p(t_0) h(t_0) \longleftarrow \text{volume fraction in the symmetric phase}$$

$$h(t) = \exp \left[-\frac{4\pi}{3} \int_{t_c}^t dt_0 p(t_0) \xi_w^3 (t - t_0)^3 \right]$$

nucleation probability per unit volume

$$p(t) \sim e^{-S(t)}$$

Evolution of the fluid perturbations: *before* collisions

$$\langle v_i(t, \mathbf{k}) v_j^*(t, \mathbf{k}') \rangle_{x_0^{(n)}, t_0^{(n)}} = \hat{\mathbf{k}}_i \hat{\mathbf{k}}_j \delta^{(3)}(\mathbf{k} - \mathbf{k}') n_b(t) \int_{t_c}^t dt_0 \Gamma(t_0) (t - t_0)^6 |f'(z)|^2$$

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nucleation probability per unit volume

$$p(t) \sim e^{-S(t)}$$

Exponential nucleation $S(t) \simeq S(t_*) - \beta(t - t_*) \rightarrow p(t) \simeq p_* e^{\beta(t-t_*)}$

Gaussian nucleation $S(t) \simeq S(t_*) + \frac{1}{2} \beta^2 (t - t_*)^2 \rightarrow p(t) \simeq p_* e^{-\frac{\beta^2}{2} (t-t_*)^2}$

Evolution of the fluid perturbations: *across* collisions

$$\langle v_i(t, \mathbf{k}) v_j^*(t, \mathbf{k}') \rangle_{x_0^{(n)}, t_0^{(n)}} = \hat{\mathbf{k}}_i \hat{\mathbf{k}}_j \delta^{(3)}(\mathbf{k} - \mathbf{k}') \underbrace{\frac{n_b(\tilde{t})}{\beta^6} \int_{\tilde{t}_c}^{\tilde{t}} d\tilde{t}_0 \Gamma(\tilde{t}_0) (\tilde{t} - \tilde{t}_0)^6 |f'(z)|^2}_{F_L(\tilde{t} < \tilde{t}_{sw}, \tilde{k})}$$

$$\tilde{t} = \beta t, \quad \tilde{k} = k/\beta$$

- Need to average over nucleation and collision times
- We can introduce a normalized lifetime distribution $\nu(\tilde{T})$

Evolution of the fluid perturbations: *across* collisions

$$\langle v_i(t, \mathbf{k}) v_j^*(t, \mathbf{k}') \rangle_{x_0^{(n)}, t_0^{(n)}} = \hat{\mathbf{k}}_i \hat{\mathbf{k}}_j \delta^{(3)}(\mathbf{k} - \mathbf{k}') \underbrace{\frac{n_b(\tilde{t})}{\beta^6} \int_{\tilde{t}_c}^{\tilde{t}} d\tilde{t}_0 \Gamma(\tilde{t}_0) (\tilde{t} - \tilde{t}_0)^6 |f'(z)|^2}_{F_L(\tilde{t} < \tilde{t}_{sw}, \tilde{k})}$$

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$$F_L(\tilde{t}_{sw}^+, \tilde{k}) = \frac{n_b(\tilde{t})}{\beta^6} \int_0^\infty d\tilde{T} \nu(\tilde{T}) \tilde{T}^6 |f'(\tilde{k}\tilde{T})|^2$$

Hindmarsh & Hijazi [1909.10040] \longrightarrow $\nu(\tilde{T}) = -\frac{1}{\beta n_b} \int_{\tilde{t}_c}^\infty d\tilde{t} p(\tilde{t}) \frac{dh}{d\tilde{t}}(\tilde{t} + \tilde{T})$ Probability for a bubble to nucleate at \tilde{t} and disappear at $\tilde{t} + \tilde{T}$

Evolution of the fluid perturbations: *across* collisions

$$\langle v_i(t, \mathbf{k}) v_j^*(t, \mathbf{k}') \rangle_{x_0^{(n)}, t_0^{(n)}} = \hat{\mathbf{k}}_i \hat{\mathbf{k}}_j \delta^{(3)}(\mathbf{k} - \mathbf{k}') F_L(t, k)$$

Hindmarsh & Hijazi [1909.10040]

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$$\nu(\tilde{T}) = -\frac{1}{\beta n_b} \int_{\tilde{t}_c}^{\infty} d\tilde{t} p(\tilde{t}) \frac{dh}{d\tilde{t}}(\tilde{t} + \tilde{T})$$

Evolution of the fluid perturbations: *across* collisions

$$\langle v_i(t, \mathbf{k}) v_j^*(t, \mathbf{k}') \rangle_{x_0^{(n)}, t_0^{(n)}} = \hat{\mathbf{k}}_i \hat{\mathbf{k}}_j \delta^{(3)}(\mathbf{k} - \mathbf{k}') F_L(t, k)$$

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$$v(\tilde{T}) = -\frac{1}{\beta n_b} \int_{\tilde{t}_c}^{\infty} d\tilde{t} p(\tilde{t}) \frac{dh}{d\tilde{t}}(\tilde{t} + \tilde{T})$$

$$\int_0^{\infty} d\tilde{T} \tilde{T}^3 v(\tilde{T}) = -\frac{3\beta^3}{4\pi \xi_w^3 n_b(\tilde{t}_{sw})}$$

For any $p(t)$!

Evolution of the fluid perturbations: *across* collisions

$$\langle v_i(t, \mathbf{k}) v_j^*(t, \mathbf{k}') \rangle_{x_0^{(n)}, t_0^{(n)}} = \hat{\mathbf{k}}_i \hat{\mathbf{k}}_j \delta^{(3)}(\mathbf{k} - \mathbf{k}') F_L(t, k)$$

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$$v(\tilde{T}) = -\frac{1}{\beta n_b} \int_{\tilde{t}_c}^\infty d\tilde{t} p(\tilde{t}) \frac{dh}{d\tilde{t}}(\tilde{t} + \tilde{T})$$

$$v_{rms}^2(\tilde{t}_{sw}^+) = \int_0^\infty dk \frac{k^2}{2\pi^2} F_L(\tilde{t}_{sw}^+, \tilde{k}) = \underbrace{\frac{4\pi}{\beta^3 V_b} \int_0^\infty \xi^2 v_{ip}^2(\xi) d\xi}_{v_{rms}^2 \text{ of a single velocity profile}}$$

$$V_b = \frac{4\pi}{3} \left(\frac{\xi_w}{\beta} \right)^3$$

$$\int_0^\infty d\tilde{T} \tilde{T}^3 v(\tilde{T}) = -\frac{3\beta^3}{4\pi \xi_w^3 n_b(\tilde{t}_{sw})}$$

For any $p(t)$!

Evolution of the fluid perturbations: *across* collisions

$$\langle v_i(t, \mathbf{k}) v_j^*(t, \mathbf{k}') \rangle_{x_0^{(n)}, t_0^{(n)}} = \hat{\mathbf{k}}_i \hat{\mathbf{k}}_j \delta^{(3)}(\mathbf{k} - \mathbf{k}') F_L(t, k)$$

$$F_L(\tilde{t} < \tilde{t}_{sw}, \tilde{k}) = \frac{n_b(\tilde{t})}{\beta^6} \int_{\tilde{t}_c}^{\tilde{t}} d\tilde{t}_0 \Gamma(\tilde{t}_0) (\tilde{t} - \tilde{t}_0)^6 |f'(\tilde{k}\tilde{T})|^2$$

$$V_b = \frac{4\pi}{3} \left(\frac{\xi_w}{\beta} \right)^3$$

$$F_L(\tilde{t}_{sw}^+, \tilde{k}) = \frac{n_b(\tilde{t}_{sw})}{\beta^6} \int_0^\infty d\tilde{T} \nu(\tilde{T}) \tilde{T}^6 |f'(\tilde{k}\tilde{T})|^2$$

v_{rms}^2 of a single velocity profile

$$v_{rms}^2(\tilde{t}_{sw}^+) = \frac{4\pi}{\beta^3 V_b} \int_0^\infty \xi^2 v_{ip}^2(\xi) d\xi$$

$$v_{rms}^2(\tilde{t}_{sw}^-) = 4\pi \int_0^\infty \xi^2 v_{ip}^2(\xi) d\xi \int_{\tilde{t}_c}^{\tilde{t}_{sw}^-} d\tilde{t}_0 \Gamma(\tilde{t}_0) (\tilde{t}_{sw}^- - \tilde{t}_0)^3 = v_{rms}^2(\tilde{t}_{sw}^+)$$

Conservation of v_{rms}^2
across collisions?

Evolution of the fluid perturbations: *across* collisions

$$v_{rms}^2(\tilde{t}_{sw}^+) = \frac{4\pi}{\beta^3 V_b} \int_0^\infty \xi^2 v_{ip}^2(\xi) d\xi$$

$$V_b = \frac{4\pi}{3} \left(\frac{\xi_w}{\beta} \right)^3$$

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Evolution of the fluid perturbations: *across* collisions

$$v_{rms}^2(\tilde{t}_{sw}^+) = \frac{4\pi}{\beta^3 V_b} \int_0^\infty \xi^2 v_{ip}^2(\xi) d\xi$$

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The lifetime distribution average implies conservation of v_{rms}^2 across collisions (as the value after collisions is the same as in the single velocity profile). We can also in general define **an effective initial time of the sound wave phase \tilde{t}_{sw}** at which v_{rms}^2 reaches the single-profile value as

Evolution of the fluid perturbations: *across* collisions

$$v_{rms}^2(\tilde{t}_{sw}^+) = \frac{4\pi}{\beta^3 V_b} \int_0^\infty \xi^2 v_{ip}^2(\xi) d\xi$$

$$V_b = \frac{4\pi}{3} \left(\frac{\xi_w}{\beta} \right)^3$$

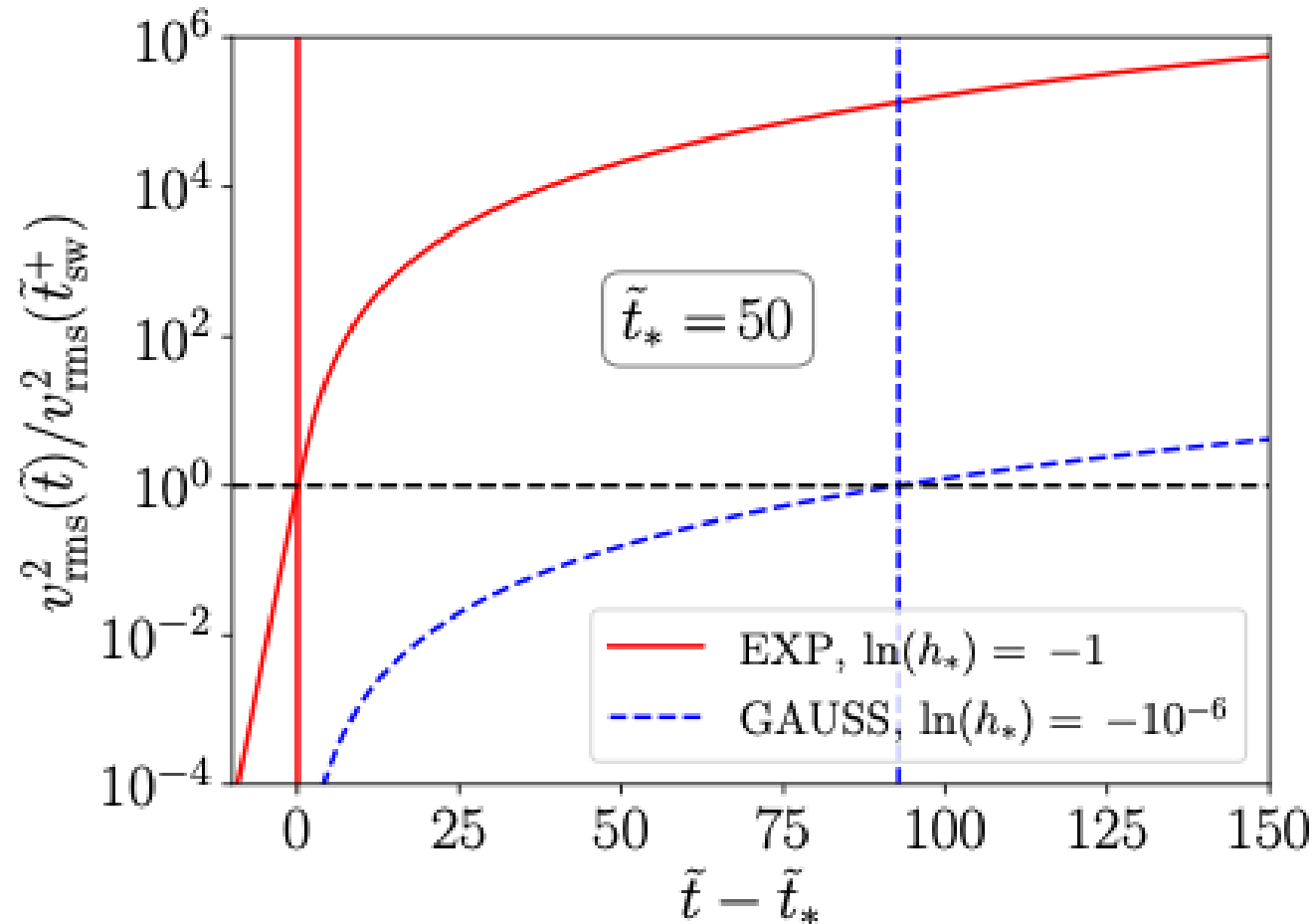
$$v_{rms}^2(\tilde{t}_{sw}^-) = 4\pi \int_0^\infty \xi^2 v_{ip}^2(\xi) d\xi \int_{\tilde{t}_c}^{\tilde{t}_{sw}^-} d\tilde{t}_0 \Gamma(\tilde{t}_0) (\tilde{t}_{sw}^- - \tilde{t}_0)^3 = v_{rms}^2(\tilde{t}_{sw}^+)$$

The lifetime distribution average implies conservation of v_{rms}^2 across collisions (as the value after collisions is the same as in the single velocity profile). We can also in general define **an effective initial time of the sound wave phase \tilde{t}_{sw}** at which v_{rms}^2 reaches the single-profile value as

$$\frac{4\pi \xi_w^3}{3} \int_{\tilde{t}_c}^{\tilde{t}_{sw}} d\tilde{t}_0 \Gamma(\tilde{t}_0) (\tilde{t}_{sw} - \tilde{t}_0)^3 = 1 \quad \longleftrightarrow \quad \frac{v_{rms}^2(\tilde{t}_{sw}^-)}{v_{rms}^2(\tilde{t}_{sw}^+)} = 1$$

Evolution of the fluid perturbations: *across* collisions

$$\frac{4\pi\xi_w^3}{3} \int_{\tilde{t}_c}^{\tilde{t}_{sw}} d\tilde{t}_0 \Gamma(\tilde{t}_0) (\tilde{t}_{sw} - \tilde{t}_0)^3 = 1 \quad \longleftarrow \text{Effective initial time of the sound wave phase}$$



Numerically we see that in the limit $\tilde{t}_* - \tilde{t}_c \gg 1$

$$(\tilde{t}_{\text{sw}} - \tilde{t}_c) / (\tilde{t}_* - \tilde{t}_c) \rightarrow 1$$

Evolution of the fluid perturbations: *across* collisions

Properties of the kinetic spectrum at the time of collisions

$$F_L(\tilde{t}_{sw}, \tilde{k}) = \frac{n_b(\tilde{t}_{sw})}{\beta^6} \int_0^\infty d\tilde{T} \, \nu(\tilde{T}) \tilde{T}^6 |f'(\tilde{k}\tilde{T})|^2$$

Large scales $k \rightarrow 0$ $F_L \rightarrow k^2 F_L^{(0)}$

Small scales $k \rightarrow \infty$ $F_L \rightarrow k^{-4} F_L^{(env)}$

$F_L^{(0)}$ & $F_L^{(env)}$ can be computed from $|f'_0|^2, |f'_{env}|^2, p(t)$

Evolution of the fluid perturbations: *across* collisions

Properties of the kinetic spectrum at the time of collisions

$$F_L(\tilde{t}_{sw}, \tilde{k}) = \frac{n_b(\tilde{t}_{sw})}{\beta^6} \int_0^\infty d\tilde{T} \, v(\tilde{T}) \tilde{T}^6 |f'(\tilde{k}\tilde{T})|^2$$

$$k_{cross} = \left(\frac{F_L^{(env)}}{F_L^{(0)}} \right)^{1/6}$$

Large scales $k \rightarrow 0$ $F_L \rightarrow k^2 F_L^{(0)}$

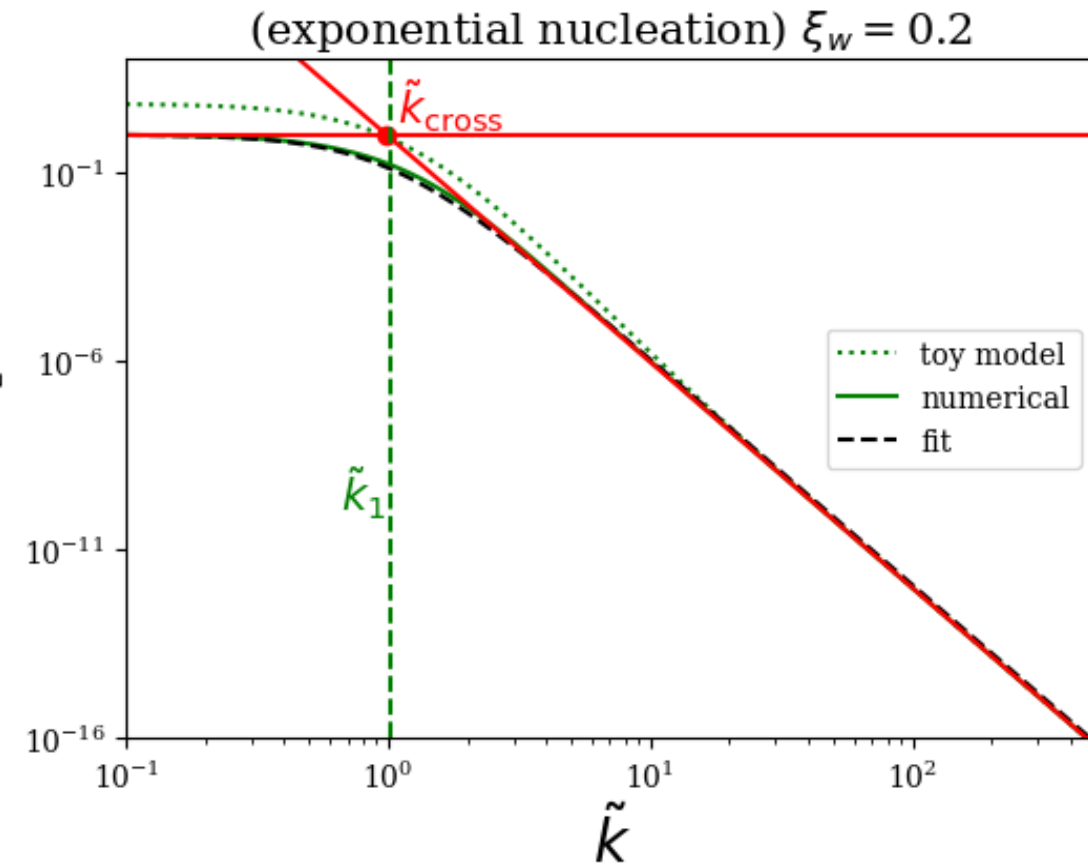
Small scales $k \rightarrow \infty$ $F_L \rightarrow k^{-4} F_L^{(env)}$

$F_L^{(0)}$ & $F_L^{(env)}$ can be computed from $|f'_0|^2, |f'_{env}|^2, p(t)$

$$\tilde{k}_1 \simeq \frac{Z_1}{5.7} \quad \text{exponential nucleation}$$

$$\tilde{k}_1 \simeq \frac{Z_1}{2.5} \quad \text{simultaneous nucleation}$$

$$\frac{F_L(\tilde{k})}{\tilde{k}^2 F_L^{(0)}}$$



Evolution of the fluid perturbations: *across* collisions

Properties of the kinetic spectrum at the time of collisions

$$F_L(\tilde{t}_{sw}, \tilde{k}) = \frac{n_b(\tilde{t}_{sw})}{\beta^6} \int_0^\infty d\tilde{T} \, v(\tilde{T}) \tilde{T}^6 |f'(\tilde{k}\tilde{T})|^2$$

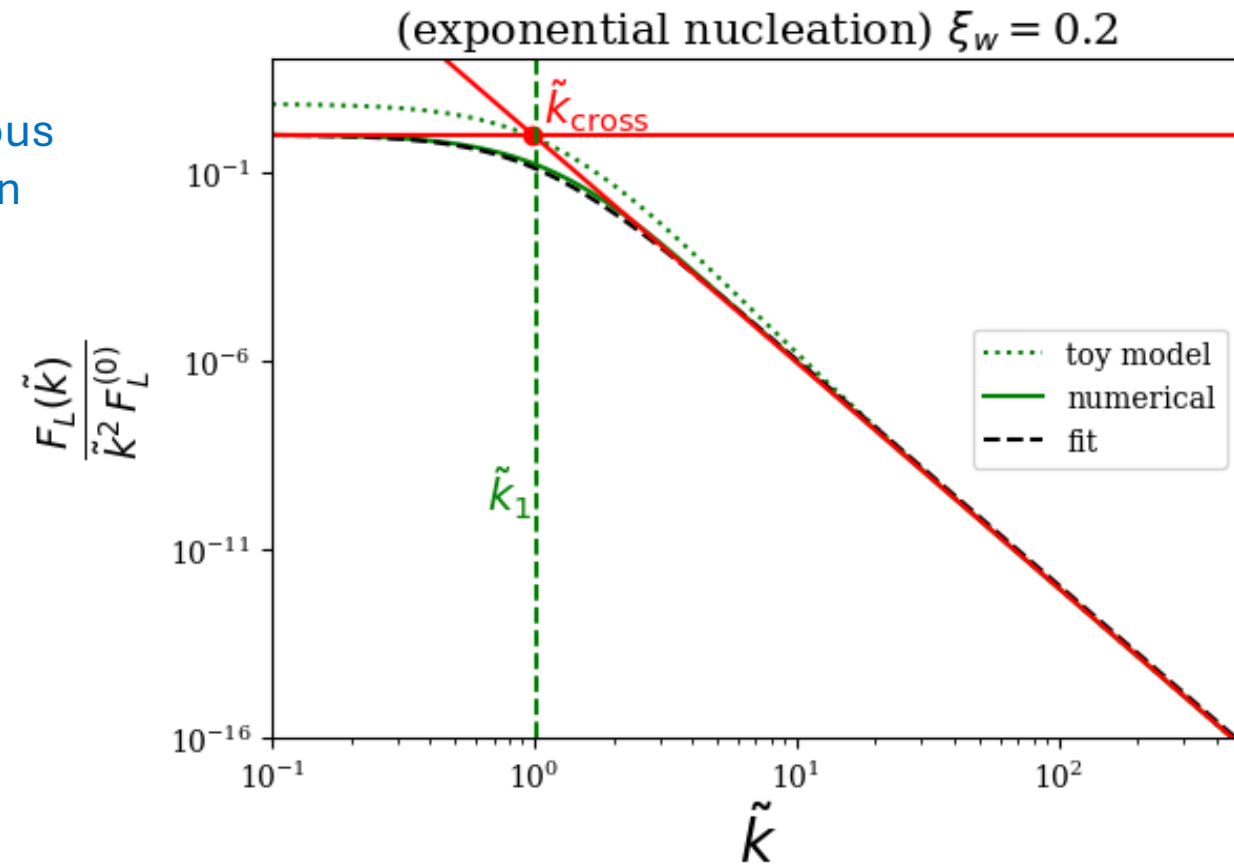
$$k_{cross} = \left(\frac{F_L^{(env)}}{F_L^{(0)}} \right)^{1/6}$$

$$\tilde{k}_1 \simeq \frac{Z_1}{5.7} \quad \text{exponential nucleation} \quad \tilde{k}_1 \simeq \frac{Z_1}{2.5} \quad \text{simultaneous nucleation}$$

$$F_L \approx F_L^{(0)} k^2 \left[1 + \left(\frac{k}{k_1} \right)^{b_1} \right]^{-\frac{6}{b_1}}$$

$(\xi_w \lesssim v_{CJ}/2)$

$b_1 = 2$



Evolution of the fluid perturbations: *across* collisions

Properties of the kinetic spectrum at the time of collisions

$$F_L(\tilde{t}_{sw}, \tilde{k}) = \frac{n_b(\tilde{t}_{sw})}{\beta^6} \int_0^\infty d\tilde{T} \, v(\tilde{T}) \tilde{T}^6 |f'(\tilde{k}\tilde{T})|^2$$

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$$\tilde{k}_1 \simeq \frac{Z_1}{5.7}$$

exponential
nucleation

$$\tilde{k}_2 \simeq \frac{Z_2}{2.4}$$

$$\tilde{k}_1 \simeq \frac{Z_1}{2.5}$$

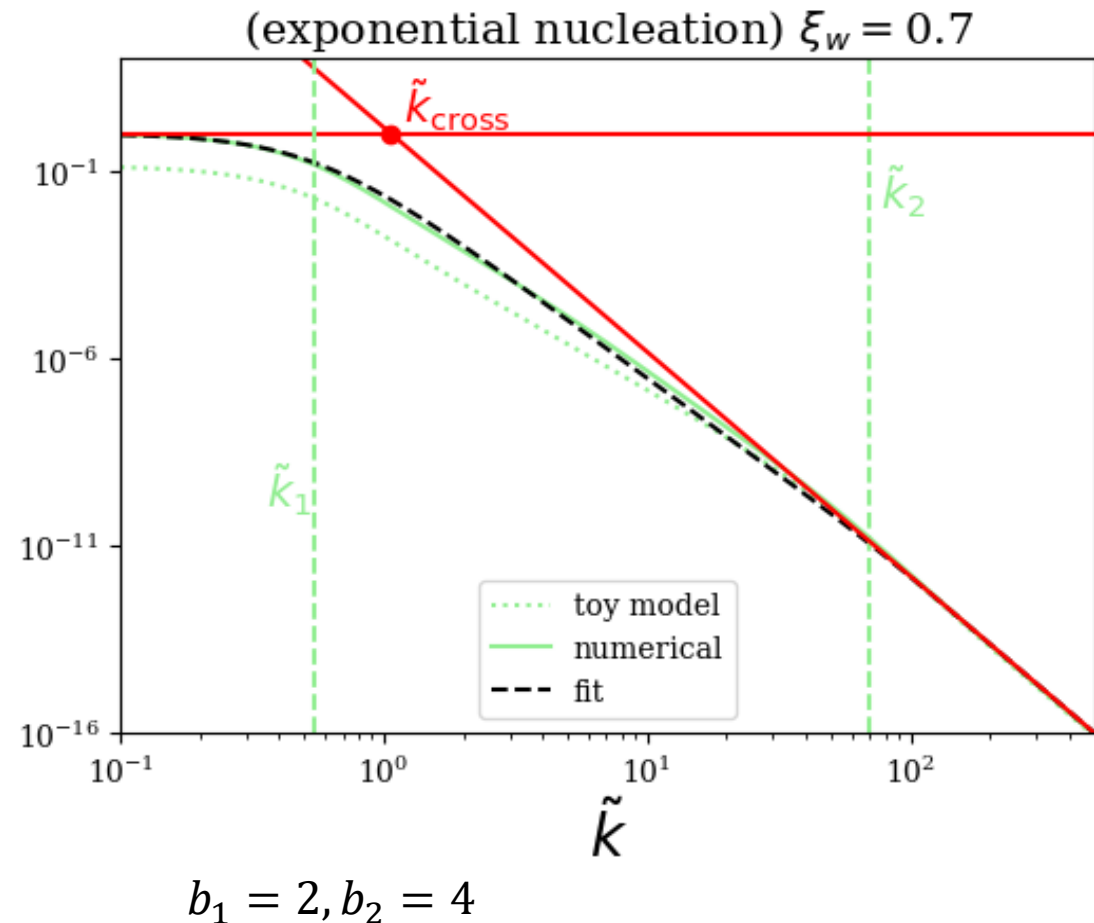
simultaneous
nucleation

$$\tilde{k}_2 \simeq \frac{Z_2}{1.3}$$

$$F_L \approx F_L^{(0)} k^2 \left[1 + \left(\frac{k}{\tilde{k}_1} \right)^{b_1} \right]^{\frac{\sigma-2}{b_1}} \left[1 + \left(\frac{k}{\tilde{k}_2} \right)^{b_2} \right]^{\frac{-\sigma-4}{b_2}}$$

$$(\xi_w \gtrsim v_{CJ}/2)$$

$$\sigma = 2 \left[1 - 3 \frac{\log(k_2/k_{cross})}{\log(k_2/k_1)} \right]$$



Consequences for the gravitational wave spectrum

$$\Omega_{GW}(\tau_0, k) = 3 \mathcal{T}_{GW} \iint_{\tau_*}^{\min[\tau_0, \tau_{fin}]} \frac{d\tau_1}{\tau_1} \frac{d\tau_2}{\tau_2} \cos k(\tau_0 - \tau_1) \cos k(\tau_0 - \tau_2) E_{\Pi}(k, \tau_1, \tau_2)$$

UETC for sound-waves with full $F_L(t, k)$

Hindmarsh & Hijazi [1909.10040]

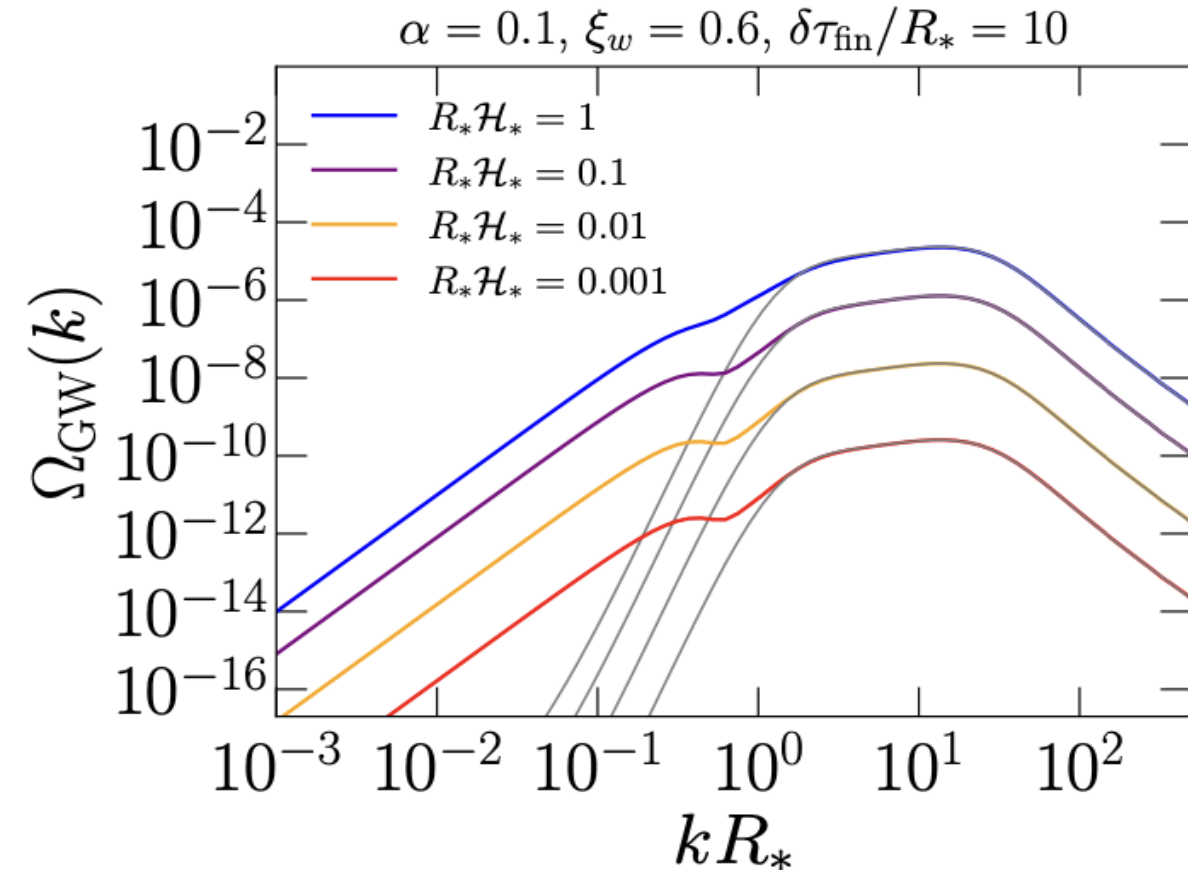
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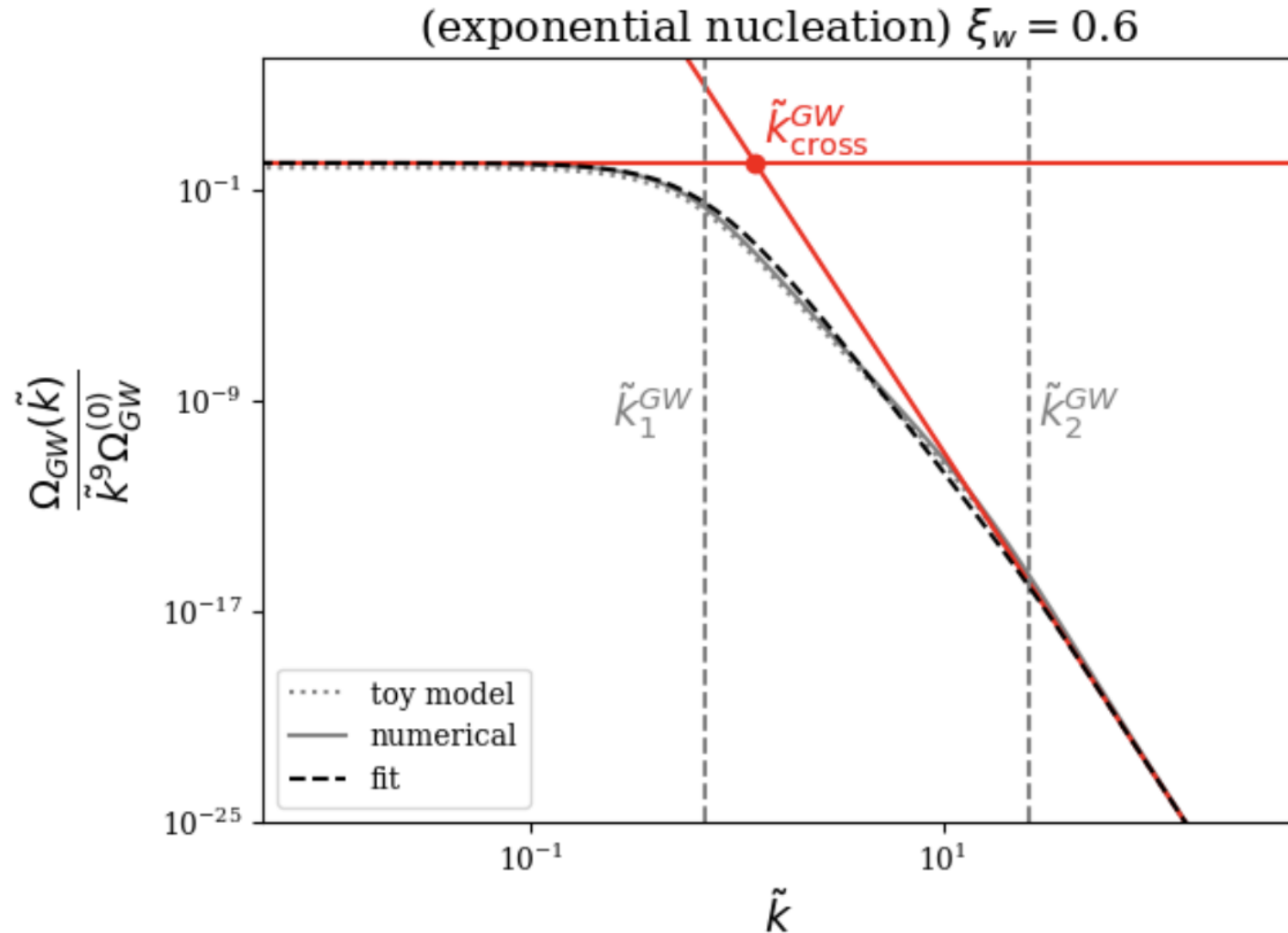
In the limit of long duration of the sound-waves a good approximation for the spectral peak is given by

$$\Omega_{GW}^{HH19}(K) = \frac{3\pi}{2} K^2 \Upsilon(\tau_{fin}) \frac{\mathcal{H}_* R_*}{c_s} \bar{w}^2 \mathcal{T}_{GW} \left(\frac{\Omega_K}{\mathcal{K}} \right)^2 \times \int_{P_-}^{P_+} P \zeta_{kin}(P) (1 - z^2)^2 \times \frac{\zeta_{kin}(K/c_s - P)}{(K/c_s - P)^3} dP. \quad (B3)$$



Roper Pol, Procacci, Caprini [2308.12943]

Consequences for the gravitational wave spectrum



$$\tilde{k}_1^{GW} \approx 1.2 \times \tilde{k}_1$$

$$\tilde{k}_2^{GW} \approx 1.2 \times \tilde{k}_2$$

Peak in the GW spectrum related to
(long sound-wave duration limit):

- sound-shell thickness
(deflagrations & detonations)
- discontinuities in the
self-similar profiles
(hybrids)

[Preliminary results]

Conclusions

- The GW spectrum from sound waves (in the sound shell model) can be understood from the properties of the self-similar profiles and of the bubble nucleation history
- For hybrids the GW peak scale is related to the distance between discontinuities instead of the sound-shell thickness (broader spectrum around the peak)
- An accurate characterization of the full GW spectrum in terms of phase transition parameters is necessary for parameter reconstruction at future experiments (e. g. LISA)

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Thanks for your attention!