

# Axion Fragmentation

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N. Fonseca, E. Morgante, RS, G. Servant, 1911.08472, JHEP 04 (2020) 010  
N. Fonseca, E. Morgante, RS, G. Servant, 1911.08473, JHEP 05 (2020) 080  
E. Morgante, W. Ratzinger, RS, B.A. Stefanek, 2109.13823, JHEP 12 (2021) 037

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# Axion (-like) particle

## Axion field : $\phi$

- Shift symmetry (NG boson) + Chern-Simons coupling

$$\phi \rightarrow \phi + \delta\phi$$

$$\frac{1}{f} \phi G_{\mu\nu} \widetilde{G}^{\mu\nu}$$



- Shift symmetry breaking by strong dynamics

$$V(\phi) = \Lambda_b^4 \cos \frac{\phi}{f}$$

- Theoretical motivation, interesting phenomenology, ...
  - Strong CP problem, QCD axion
  - Naturalness of electroweak scale, Relaxion
  - Axion monodromy
  - Axion inflation
  - ...

# Axion (-like) particle & cosmology

Dynamics of axion field is interesting

- Axion dark matter
- Relaxion : dynamical expansion of electroweak scale
- ...

Solving EOM  $\ddot{\phi} + 3H\dot{\phi} + V'(\phi) = 0$  with some initial condition

# ex1) Axion (-like) particle DM scenario

- Misalignment mechanism**

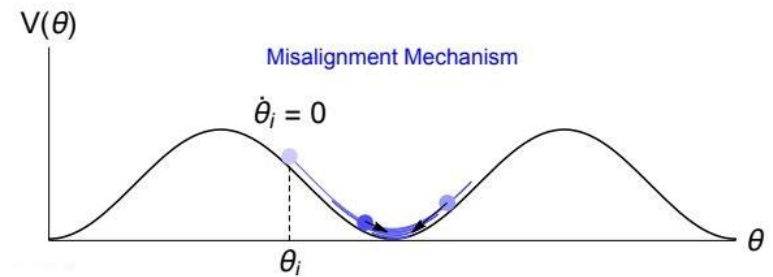
[Preskill, Wise, Wilczek (1983)]

[Abbott, Sikivie (1983)]

[Dine, Fischler (1983)]

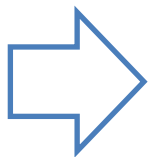
Initial condition  $\phi = \phi_0 \neq 0$   
 $\dot{\phi} = 0$

EOM  $\ddot{\phi} + 3H\dot{\phi} + \frac{\Lambda_b^4(T)}{f} \sin \frac{\phi}{f} = 0$



[taken from Co, Hall, Harigaya (2019)]

The axion starts to oscillate when  $3H(T) \sim m(T)$



$$\rho_{DM} \sim m_a \times \left( \frac{a(T_{osc})}{a_0} \right)^3 \times \frac{\Lambda_b(T_{osc})^4 \theta_i^2}{m_a(T_{osc})}$$

w/  $m_a(T_{osc}) \sim 3H(T_{osc})$

mass

Dilution factor

Number density at  $T = T_{osc}$

# ex1) Axion (-like) particle DM scenario

- Misalignment mechanism

[Preskill, Wise, Wilczek (1983)]

[Abbott, Sikivie (1983)]

[Dine, Fischler (1983)]

Initial condition

$$\begin{aligned} \phi &= \phi_0 \neq 0 \\ \dot{\phi} &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

What happens if  $\dot{\phi} > \Lambda_b^2$ ?

EOM

The axion starts to oscillate



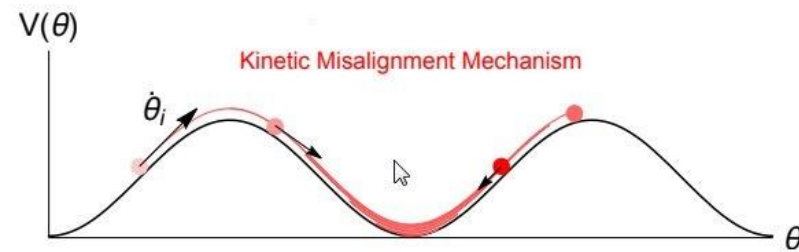
# ex1) Axion (-like) particle DM scenario

- Kinetic Misalignment mechanism**

[Co, Hall, Harigaya (2019)]  
[Chang, Cui (2019)]

Initial condition  $\dot{\phi} > \Lambda_b^2$

EOM 
$$\ddot{\phi} + 3H\dot{\phi} + \frac{\Lambda_b^4(T)}{f} \sin \frac{\phi}{f} = 0$$



[taken from Co, Hall, Harigaya (2019)]

The axion starts to oscillate when  $\dot{\phi}^2(T) \sim \Lambda_b^4(T)$



$$\rho_{DM} \sim m_a \times \left( \frac{a(T_{osc})}{a_0} \right)^3 \times \frac{\Lambda_b(T_{osc})^4 \theta_i^2}{m_a(T_{osc})}$$

w/  $\dot{\phi}^2(T_{osc}) \sim \Lambda_b^4(T_{osc})$

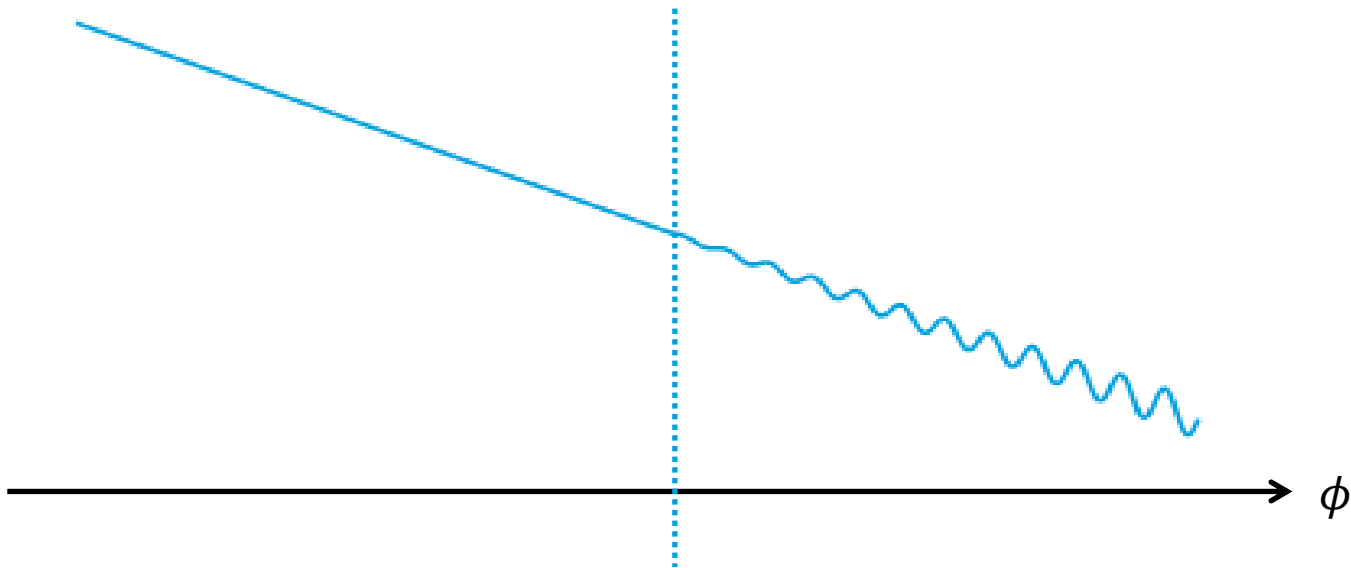
mass      Dilution factor      Number density at  $T = T_{osc}$

Delay of onset of oscillation  $\rightarrow$  **larger**  $\rho_{DM}$

# ex2) Relaxion scenario

[Graham, Kaplan, Rajendran (2015)]

$$V = \underbrace{-\left(\Lambda^2 - g'\Lambda\phi\right)H^2 + \lambda H^4}_{\text{Higgs potential}} + \underbrace{g\Lambda^3\phi}_{\text{slope}} + \underbrace{\Lambda_b^4(H) \cos\frac{\phi}{f}}_{\text{Wiggles}}$$



$$\Lambda^2 - g'\Lambda\phi < 0$$

$$\Lambda_b(H) = 0$$

$$H = 0$$

$$\Lambda^2 - g'\Lambda\phi > 0$$

$$\Lambda_b(H) > 0$$

$$|H| > 0$$

# Axion fluctuation?

## What people usually do

Solving EOM for spatially **homogeneous** field :  $\ddot{\phi} + 3H\dot{\phi} + V'(\phi) = 0$

## However...

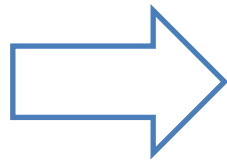
Even we start from (almost) homogeneous field configuration, fluctuations **can grow** later.



# Velocity as U(1) charge

Velocity  $\dot{\phi}$  is U(1) charge :  $\rho_{\text{shift}} = f \frac{\partial L}{\partial_0 \phi} = f \dot{\phi}$   $\phi \rightarrow \phi + f \delta$   
Shift transf.

Explicit breaking of U(1) :  $V(\phi) = \Lambda_b^4 \cos \frac{\phi}{f} + \dots$



U(1) charge will be lose = energy dissipation

## Axion fragmentation

[Fonseca, Morgante, RS, Servant (2019)]

1. Introduction
- 2. Axion Fragmentation**
3. Axion Fragmentation on the lattice

# Axion fragmentation

Let us investigate the simplest case.

- $H = 0$  (no cosmic expansion)
- $V(\phi) = \Lambda_b^4 \cos(\phi/f)$

We have only **three** parameters :  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \dot{\phi}_0 \\ f \\ \Lambda_b^4 \end{array} \right.$  : initial velocity  
: decay constant  
: height of barrier

EOM of axion :

$$\frac{d^2 \phi}{dt^2} - \nabla^2 \phi - \frac{\Lambda_b^4}{f} \sin \frac{\phi}{f} = 0$$

# EOM of axion

We decompose  $\phi(\vec{x}, t) = \bar{\phi}(t) + \left[ \int \frac{d^3k}{(2\pi)^3} \delta\phi_k(t) e^{ikx} + h.c. \right]$

$$\frac{d^2\phi}{dt^2} - \nabla^2\phi - \frac{\Lambda_b^4}{f} \sin\frac{\phi}{f} = 0$$

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At the leading order of  $\delta\phi_k$ ,

$$\frac{d^2 \bar{\phi}}{dt^2} - \frac{\Lambda_b^4}{f} \sin \frac{\bar{\phi}}{f} = \underbrace{\frac{1}{2} \frac{\Lambda_b^4}{f^3} \sin \frac{\bar{\phi}}{f} \int \frac{d^3x}{V_{vol}} \langle \delta\phi(x) \rangle^2}_{\text{Back reaction}}$$

$$\frac{d^2 \delta\phi}{dt^2} - \nabla^2 \delta\phi - \frac{\Lambda_b^4}{f^2} \cos \frac{\bar{\phi}}{f} \delta\phi = 0$$

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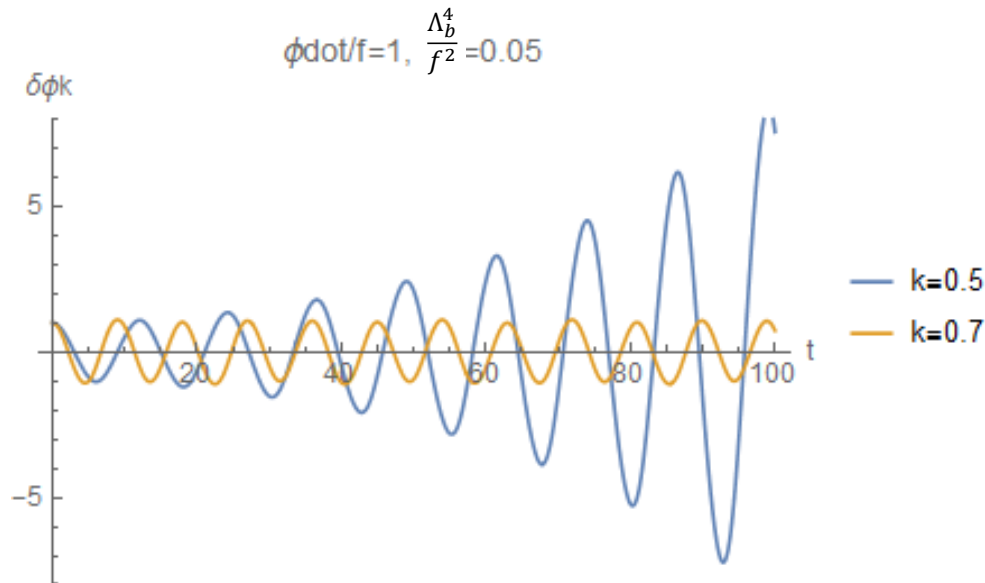
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$$\frac{d^2 \delta\phi_k}{dt^2} + \left( k^2 - \frac{\Lambda_b^4}{f^2} \cos \frac{\dot{\bar{\phi}} t}{f} \right) \delta\phi_k = 0$$

**Mathieu equation**

# EOM of axion

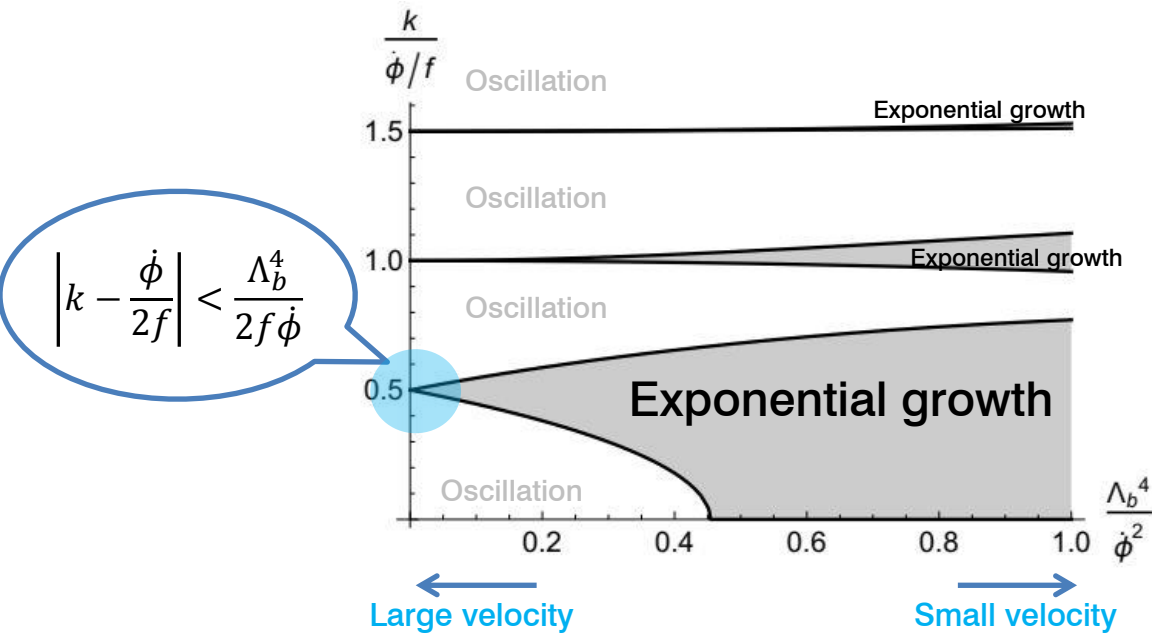


There exist resonant solutions for this.  
It's like a swing!

$$\frac{d^2 \delta \phi_k}{dt^2} + \left( k^2 - \frac{\Lambda_b^4}{f^2} \cos \frac{\dot{\phi} t}{f} \right) \delta \phi_k = 0$$

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**Mathieu equation**



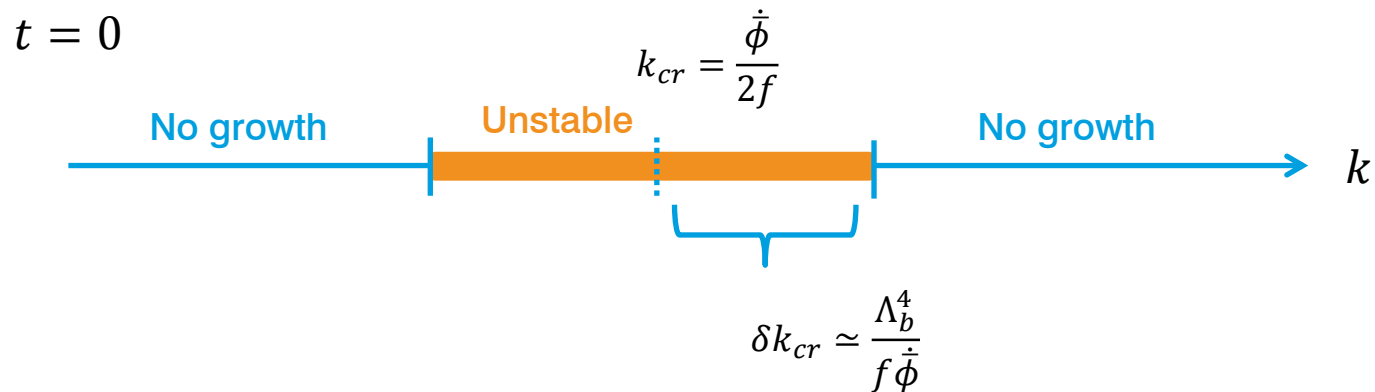
**Growth of fluctuation**



**Back reaction to zeromode**

# Naïve estimation on back reaction

As long as  $\dot{\phi}$  is constant,  $\delta\phi_k \sim \exp\left(\frac{\Lambda_b^4 t}{f\dot{\phi}}\right)$  for  $\left|k - \frac{\dot{\phi}}{2f}\right| < \frac{\Lambda_b^4}{2f\dot{\phi}}$

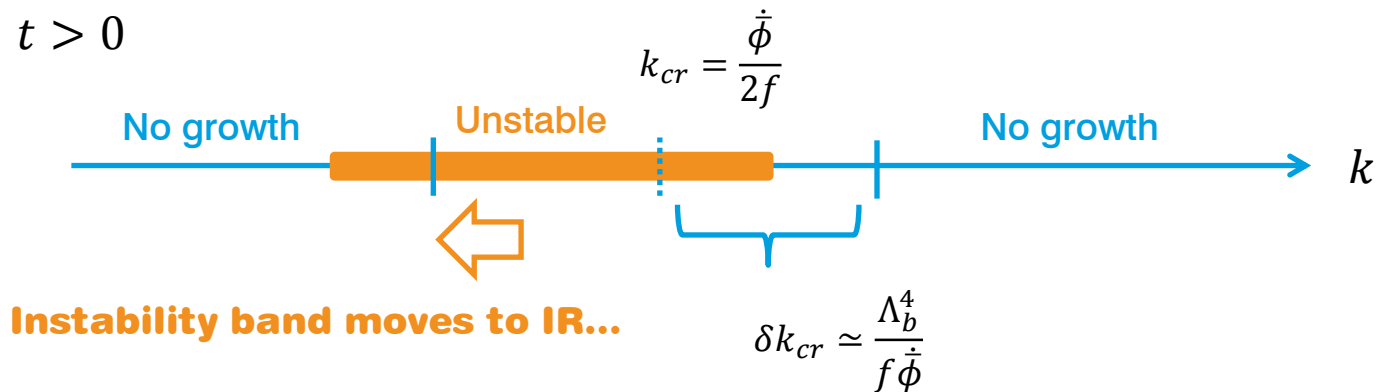


By using dimensional analysis

$$\rho_{fluc}(t) \sim k_{cr}^3 \delta k_{cr} \exp\left(\frac{\Lambda_b^4 t}{f\dot{\phi}}\right)$$

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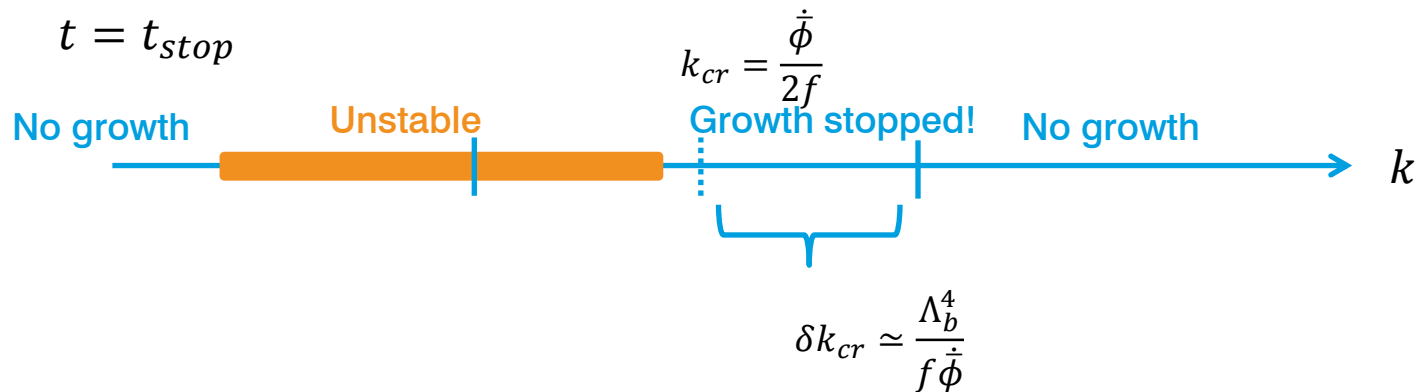


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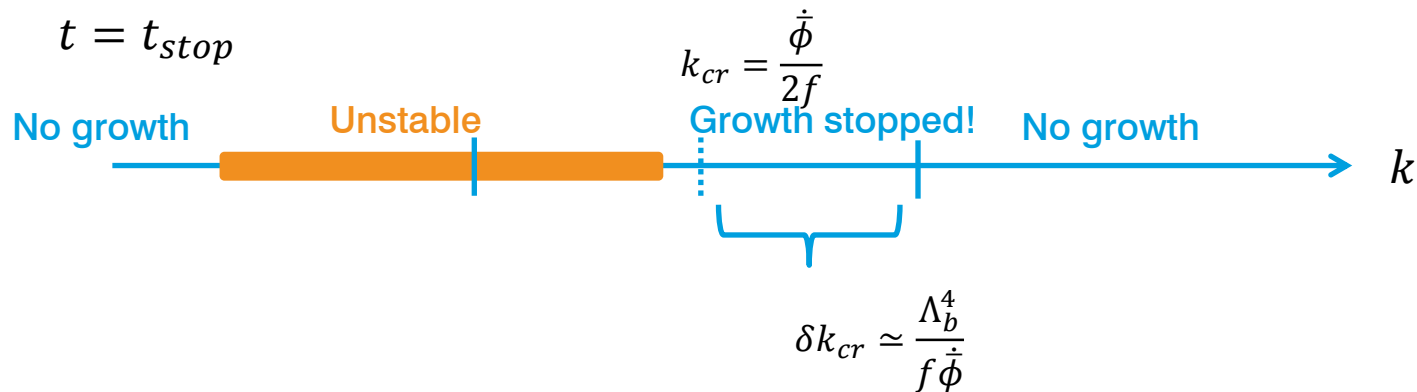
$$\rho_{fluc}(t) \sim k_{cr}^3 \delta k_{cr} \exp\left(\frac{\Lambda_b^4 t}{f\dot{\phi}}\right)$$

of mode with  $k=k_{cr}$   
The growth stops when

$$\rho_{fluc}(t_{stop}) \sim \frac{1}{2} \dot{\phi}^2 - \frac{1}{2} \left(\dot{\phi} - 2f\delta k_{cr}\right)^2$$

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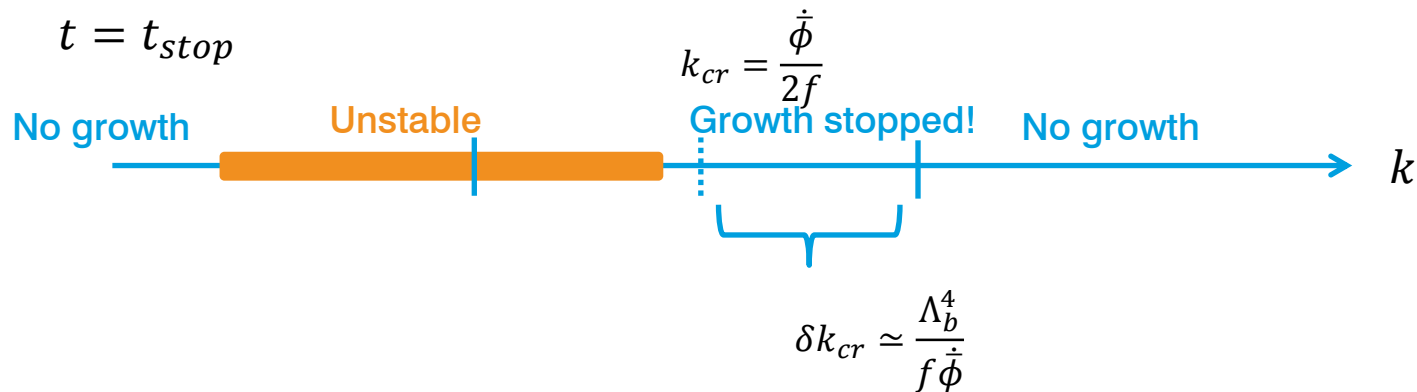
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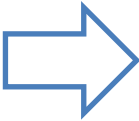
The growth stops when

$$\rho_{fluc}(t_{stop}) \sim \dot{\phi}^2 \times \frac{\delta k_{cr}}{k_{cr}}$$

$$\Rightarrow t_{stop} \sim \frac{f\dot{\phi}}{\Lambda_b^4} \log \frac{f^4}{\dot{\phi}^2}$$

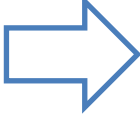
# Naïve estimation on back reaction

$$\rho_{fluc}(t_{stop}) \sim \dot{\phi}^2 \times \frac{\delta k_{cr}}{k_{cr}}, \quad t_{stop} \sim \frac{f \dot{\phi}}{\Lambda_b^4} \log \frac{f^4}{\dot{\phi}^2}$$


$$\frac{d}{dt} \dot{\phi}^2 \sim - \frac{\rho_{fluc}(t_{stop})}{t_{stop}}$$

# Naïve estimation on back reaction

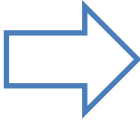
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$$\frac{d}{dt} \dot{\phi}^2 \sim -\frac{\Lambda_b^8}{f \dot{\phi}} \left( \log \frac{f^4}{\dot{\phi}^2} \right)^{-1}$$



# Naïve estimation on back reaction

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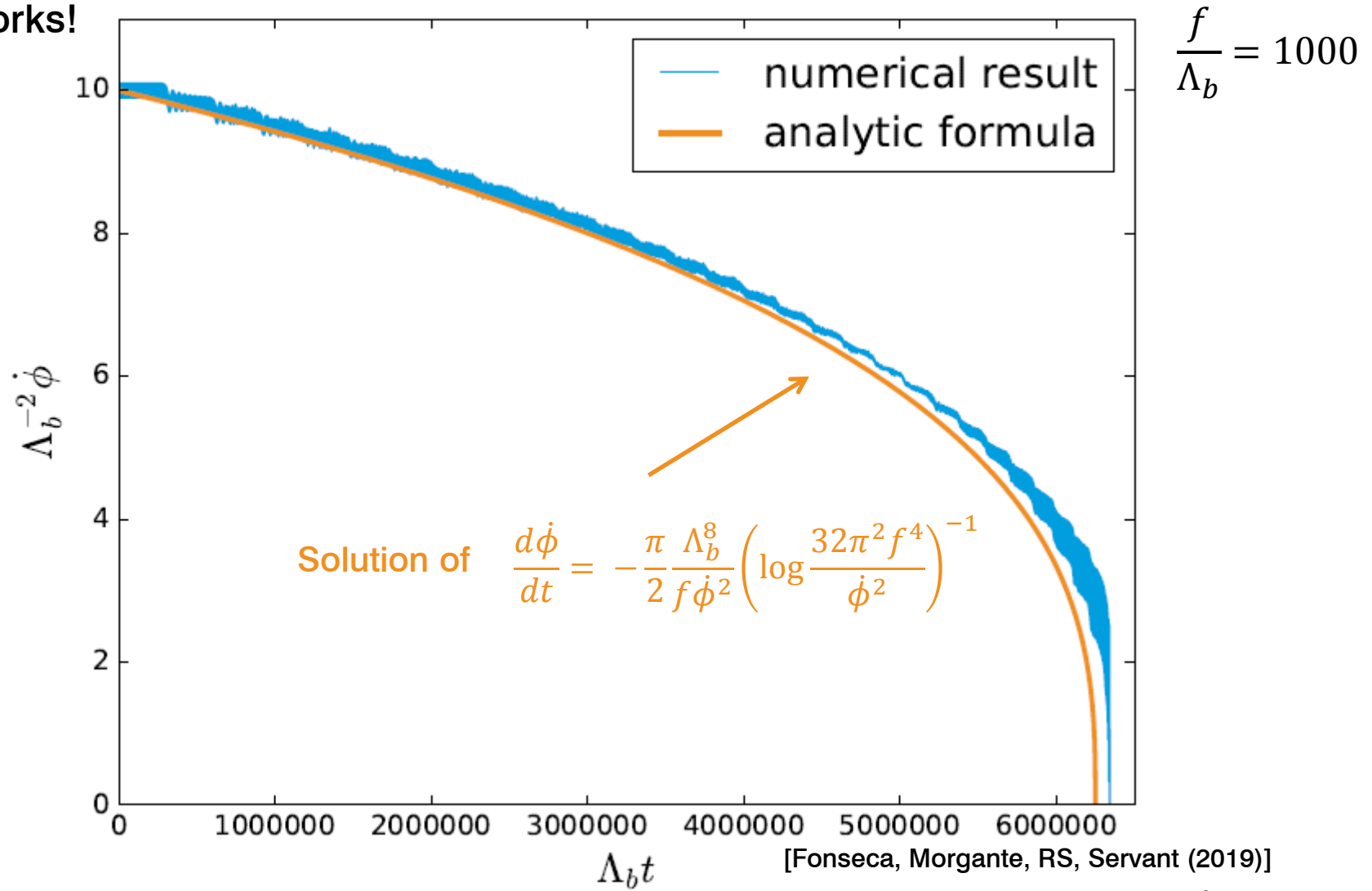
c.f.) WKB approx. with  $\dot{\phi} \gg \Lambda_b^2$  gives

$$\frac{d\dot{\phi}}{dt} = - \frac{\pi}{2} \frac{\Lambda_b^8}{f \dot{\phi}^2} \left( \log \frac{32\pi^2 f^4}{\dot{\phi}^2} \right)^{-1}$$

(see 1911.08472 for details)

# Numerical Example

It works!



# Field excursion

- Field excursion  $\Delta\phi_{frag}$
- time scale of relaxation  $\Delta t_{frag}$

are given as a function of  $\Lambda_b, f, \dot{\phi}_0$

$$\frac{d\dot{\phi}}{dt} \sim -\frac{\Lambda_b^8}{f\dot{\phi}^2} \left( \log \frac{f^4}{\dot{\phi}^2} \right)^{-1} \quad \Rightarrow$$

$$\Delta t_{frag} \sim f \frac{\dot{\phi}_0^3}{\Lambda_b^8} \log \frac{f^4}{\dot{\phi}_0^2}$$

$$\Delta\phi_{frag} \sim \dot{\phi}_0 \Delta t_{frag} \sim f \frac{\dot{\phi}_0^4}{\Lambda_b^8} \log \frac{f^4}{\dot{\phi}_0^2}$$

Number of wiggles :  $n \sim \frac{\Delta\phi_{frag}}{f} \sim \frac{\dot{\phi}_0^4}{\Lambda_b^8} \log \frac{f^4}{\dot{\phi}_0^2}$

# Non-zero slope & Hubble expansion

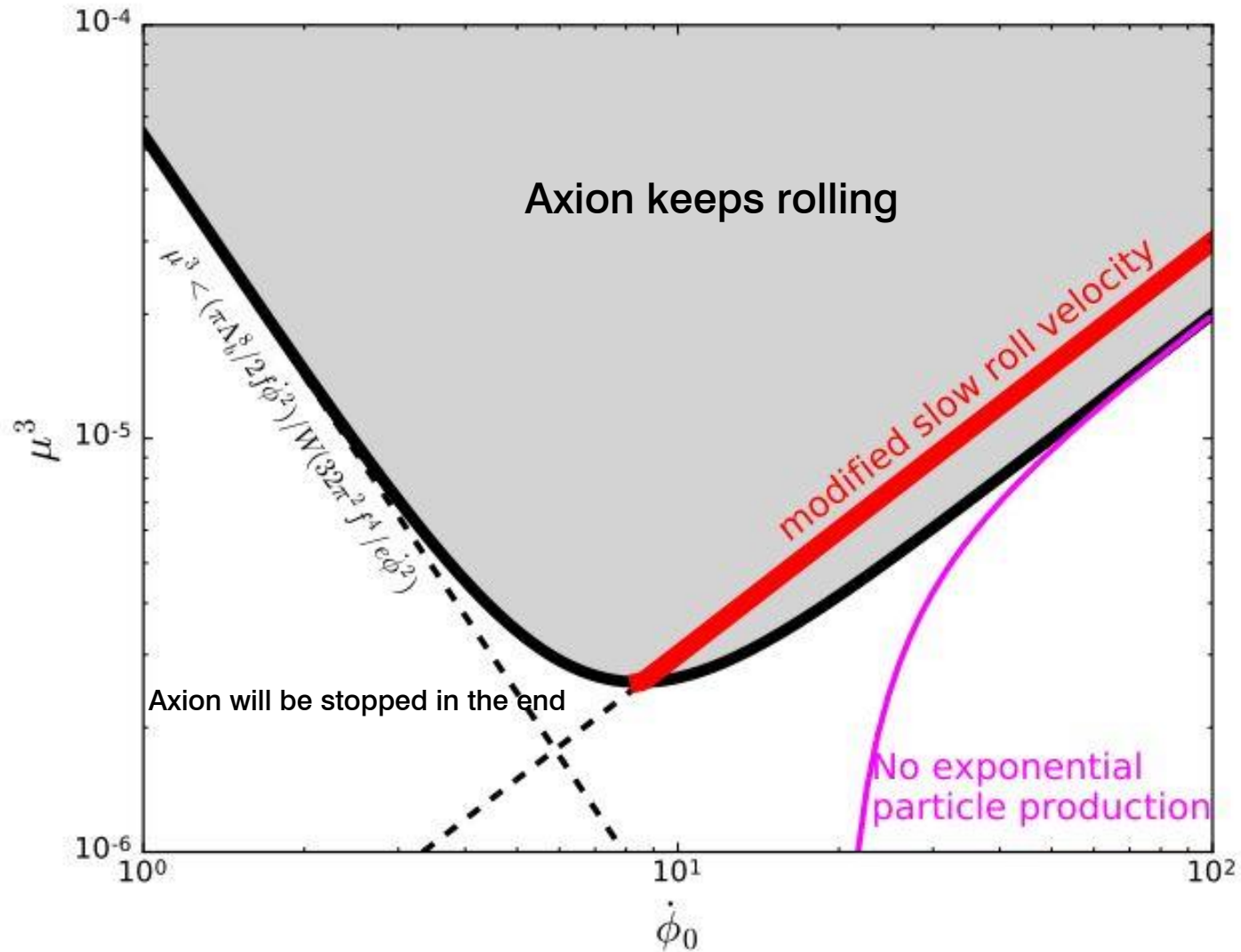
What happens for non-zero  $\mu^3$  & non-zero  $H$ ?

- Fragmentation  $\ddot{\phi}_{frag} = -\frac{\pi\Lambda_b^8}{2f\dot{\phi}^2} \left( \log \frac{32\pi^2 f^4}{\dot{\phi}^2} \right)^{-1}$
- Acceleration by slope  $\mu^3$
- Hubble expansion  $3H\dot{\phi}$

Fragmentation works if

- During inflation ( $3H\dot{\phi} \sim \mu^3$ )  
 $3H\dot{\phi} < \sim |\ddot{\phi}_{frag}|$  If not, axion keeps rolling with slow-roll velocity
- Not during inflation ( $3H\dot{\phi} \ll \mu^3$ )  
 $\mu^3 < \sim |\ddot{\phi}_{frag}|$  If not, axion is just accelerated by slope

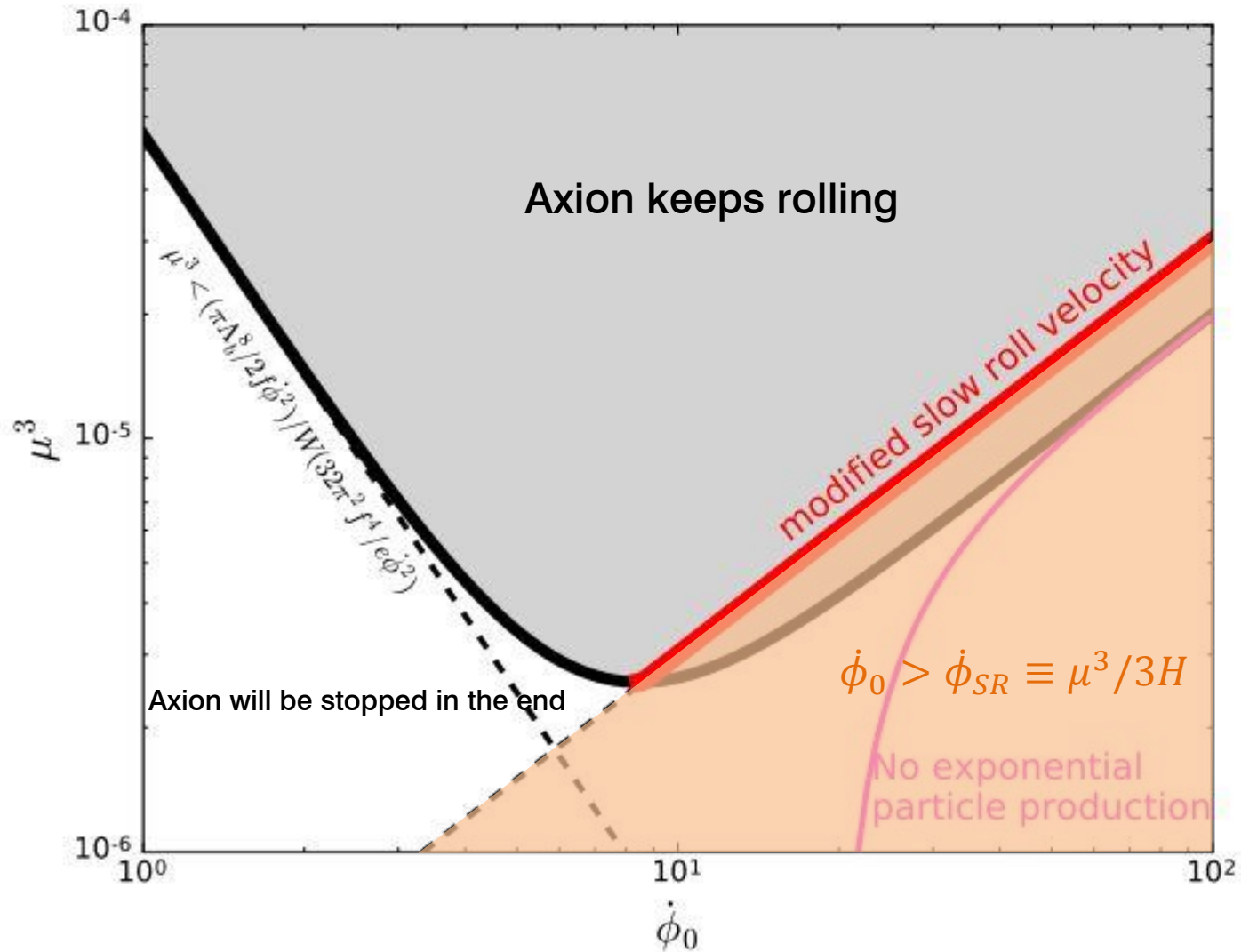
# Fragmentation



$$f = 10^3 \Lambda_b,$$
$$H = 10^{-7} \Lambda_b$$

[Fonseca, Morgante, RS, Servant (2019)]

# Fragmentation



$$f = 10^3 \Lambda_b,$$

$$H = 10^{-7} \Lambda_b$$

[Fonseca, Morgante, RS, Servant (2019)]

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# Non-linear analysis

## In perturbative analysis OK?

Initial kinetic energy :  $\dot{\phi}_0^2/2$

Typical wavenumber :  $\dot{\phi}_0/f$

Energy conservation :  $(\delta\phi)^2 \times (\dot{\phi}_0/f)^2 \sim \dot{\phi}_0^2$



Typical field variation :  $\delta\phi \sim f$

## Classical lattice simulation

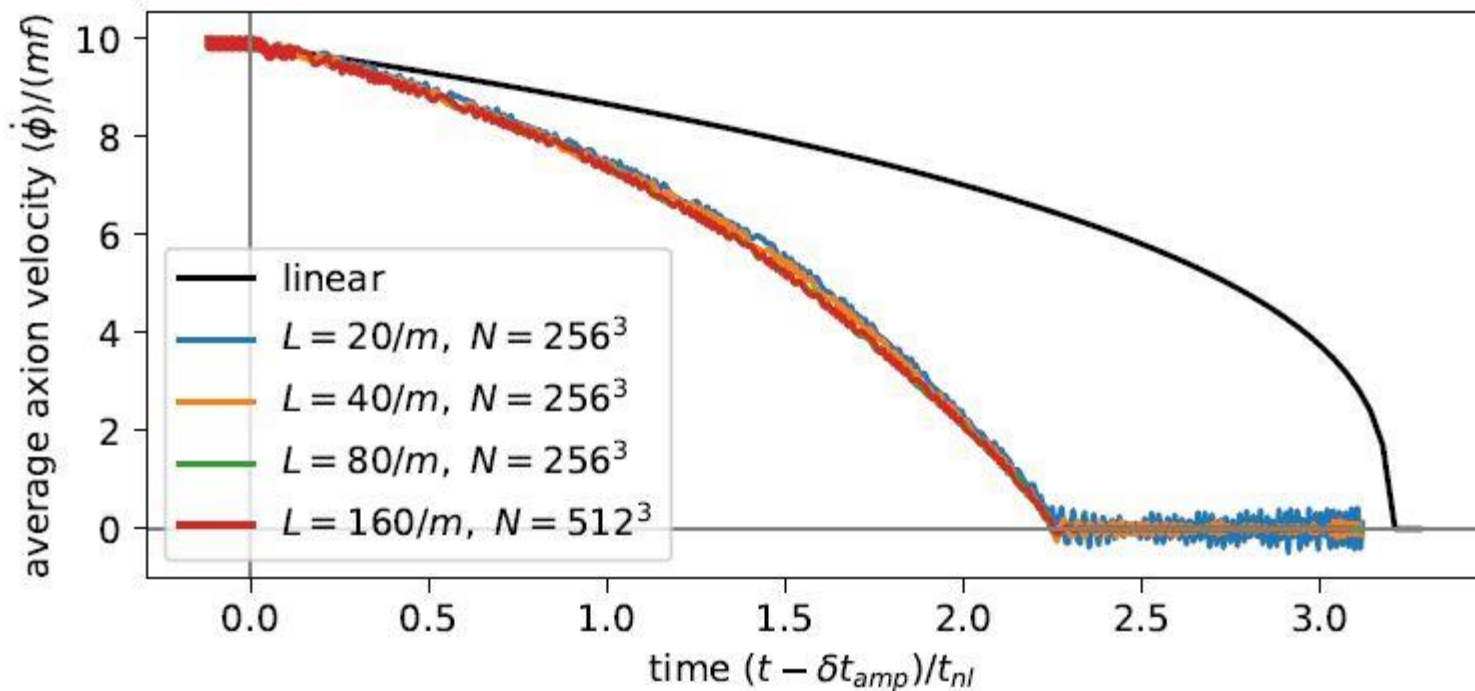
$$\ddot{\phi} = \nabla^2 \phi + \frac{\Lambda_b^4}{f} \sin \frac{\phi}{f}$$



$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d^2 \phi_{i,j,k}}{dt^2} = & \frac{1}{a^2} (\phi_{i+1,j,k} - 2\phi_{i,j,k} + \phi_{i-1,j,k}) \\ & + \frac{1}{a^2} (\phi_{i,j+1,k} - 2\phi_{i,j,k} + \phi_{i,j-1,k}) \\ & + \frac{1}{a^2} (\phi_{i,j,k+1} - 2\phi_{i,j,k} + \phi_{i,j,k-1}) \\ & + \frac{\Lambda_b^4}{f} \sin \frac{\phi_{i,j,k}}{f}. \end{aligned}$$



# Velocity of zeromode



$$\left( t_{nl} = \frac{f \dot{\phi}_0^3}{\Lambda_b^8} \right)$$

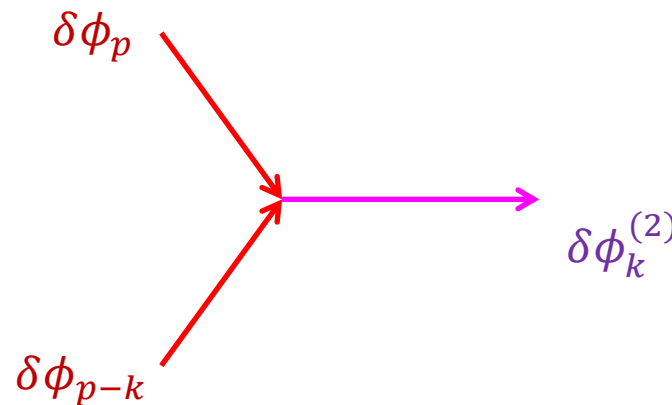
- Confirmed energy dissipation in non-linear calculation.
- Dissipation effect is stronger than linear analysis.

# 2 to 1 process

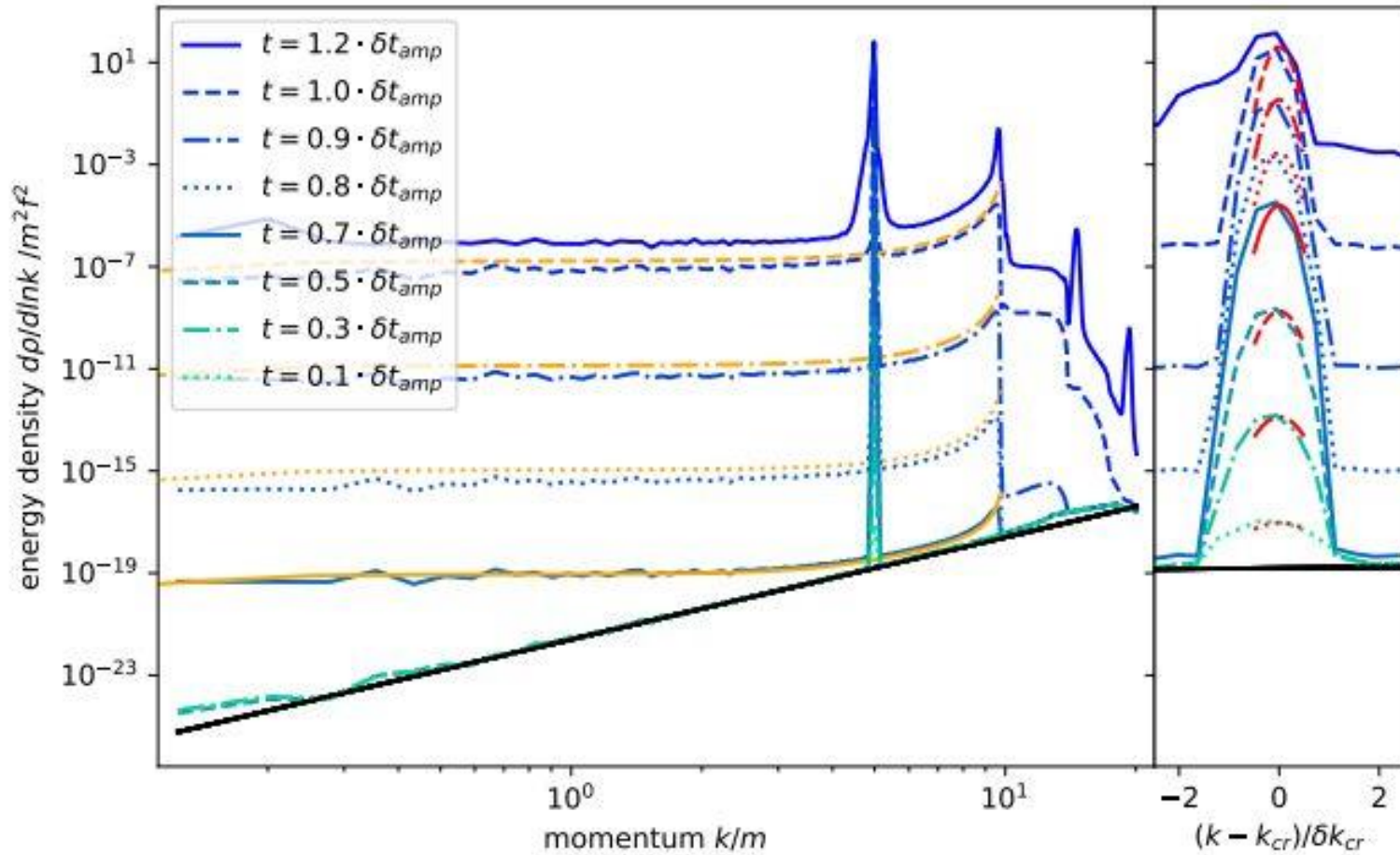
$$\phi(x, t) = \phi(t) + \delta\phi(x, t) + \delta\phi^{(2)}(x, t) + \dots$$

$$\ddot{\phi} - \nabla^2\phi = V'(\phi) \quad \Rightarrow \quad \delta\ddot{\phi}^{(2)} + (k^2 + V'')\delta\phi^{(2)} = -\frac{1}{2}V''' \int d^3p \delta\phi_p \delta\phi_{k-p}$$

- $\delta\phi_p$  with  $|p| = \dot{\phi}/2f$  is amplified by resonance
- $\delta\phi$  becomes source term for  $\delta\phi^{(2)}$

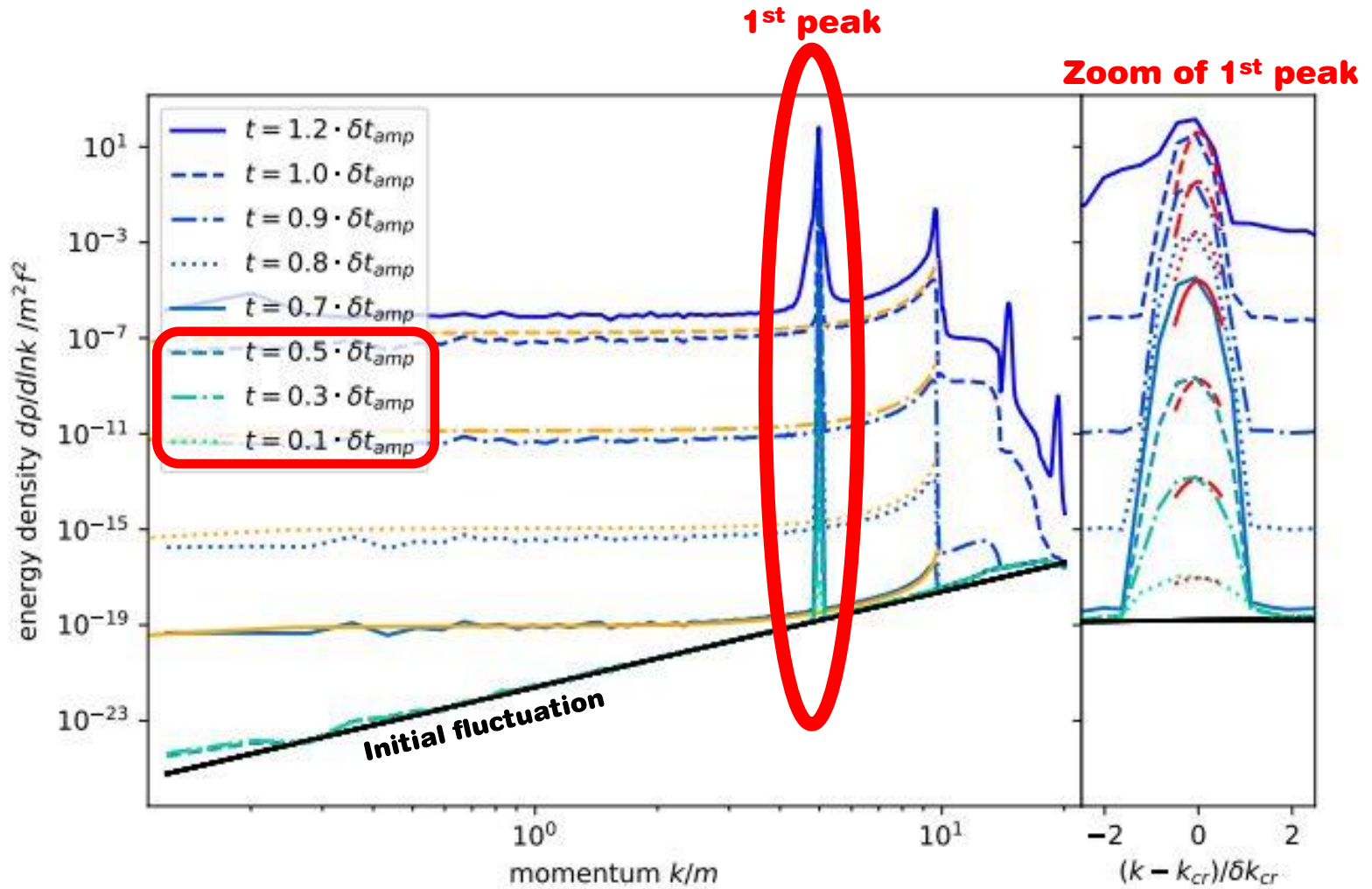


# Growth of spectrum (early stage)



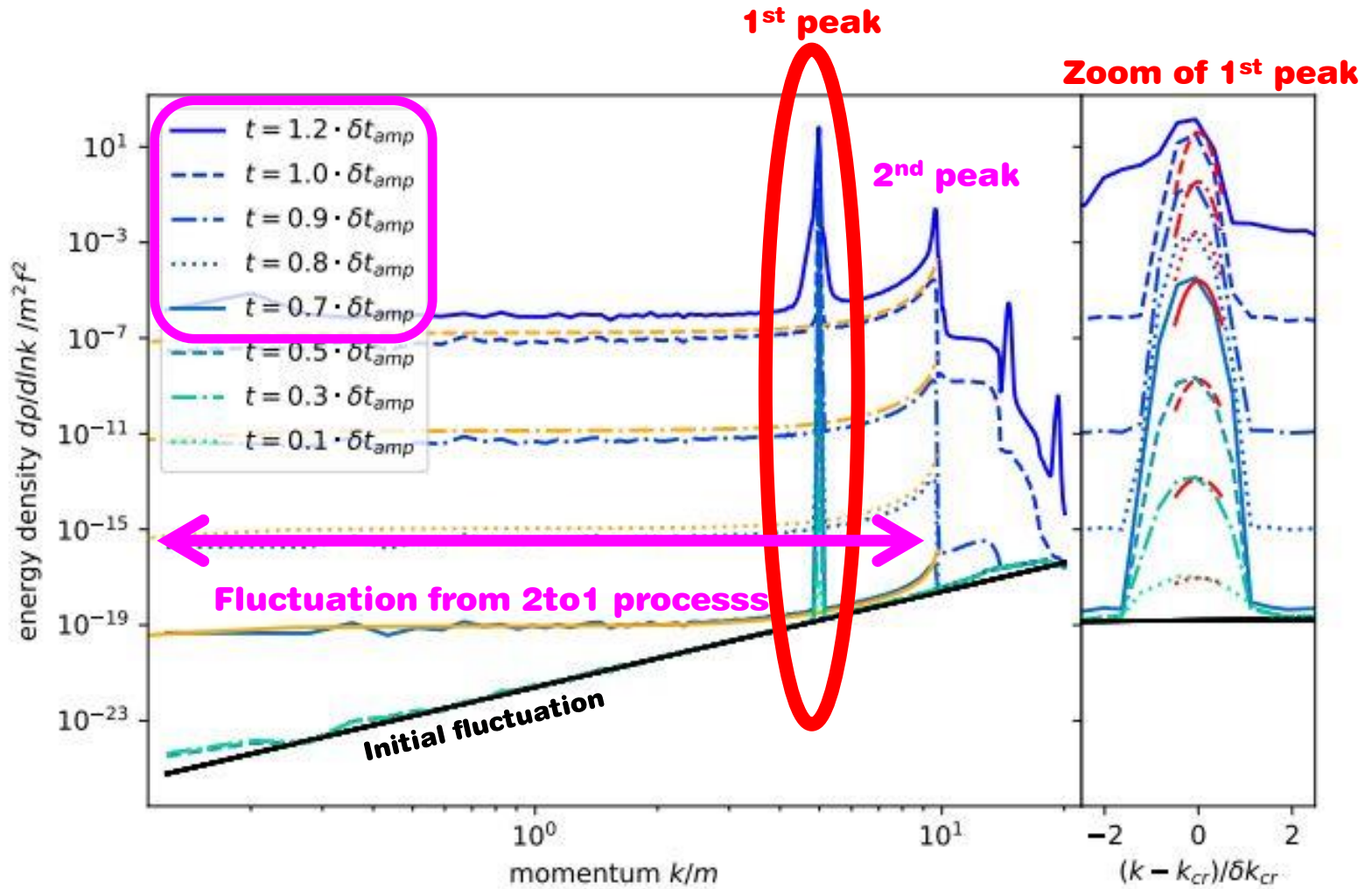
$$\delta t_{amp} \equiv \frac{f\dot{\phi}}{\Lambda_b^4} \log \frac{16f^4}{\dot{\phi}^2}$$

# Growth of spectrum (early stage)



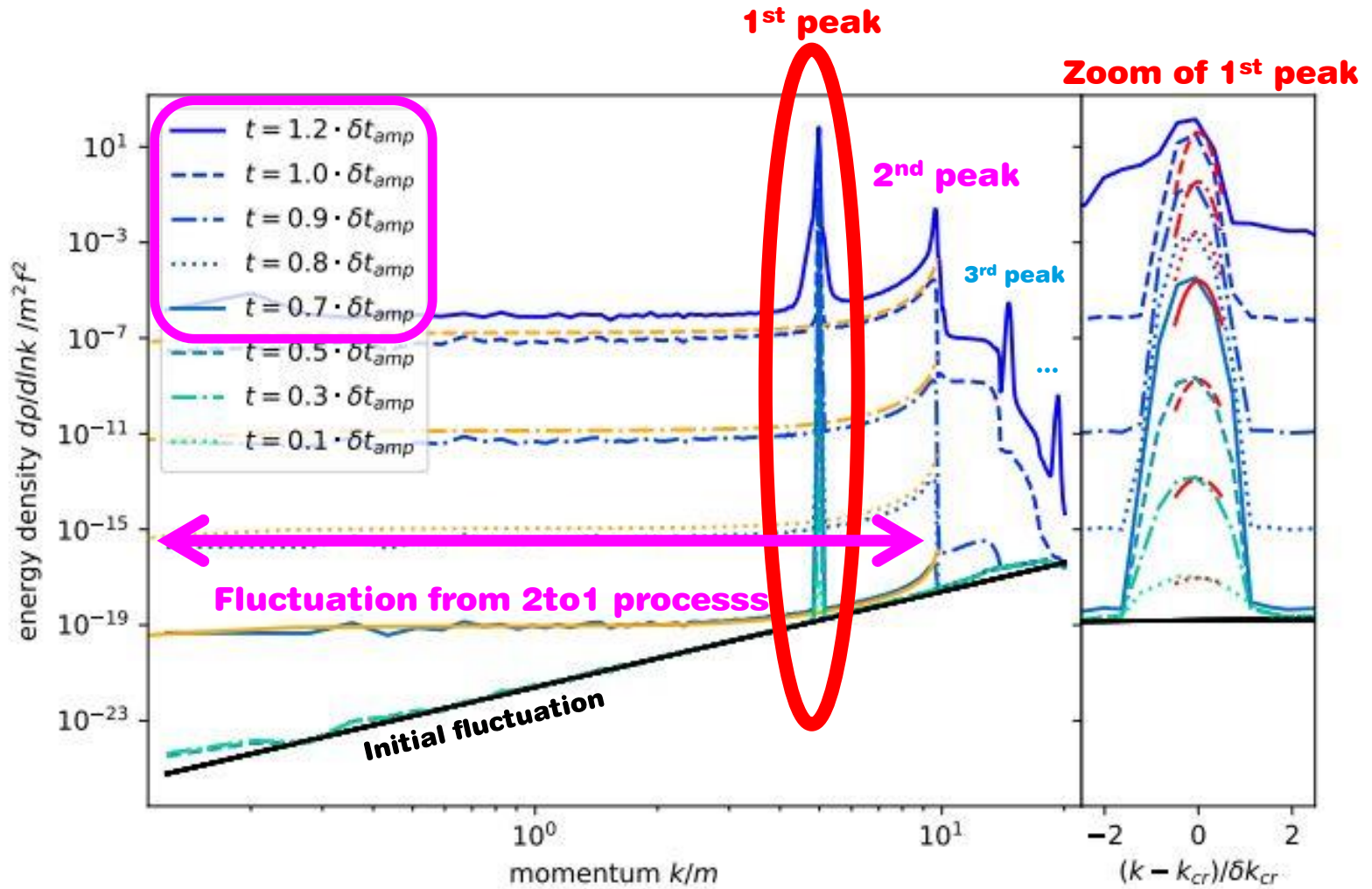
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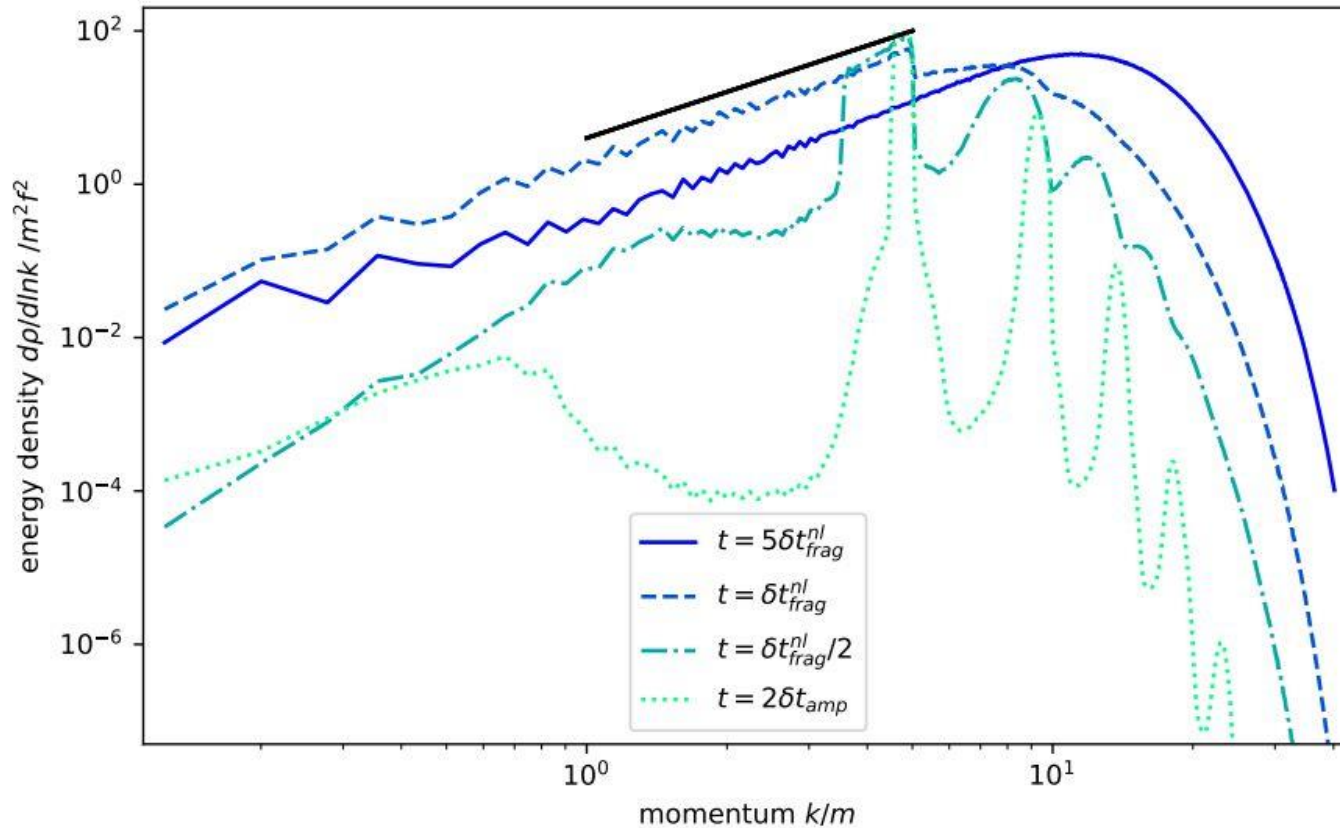
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# Growth of spectrum (early stage)



$$\delta t_{amp} \equiv \frac{f\phi}{\Lambda_b^4} \log \frac{16f^4}{\phi^2}$$

# Growth of spectrum (late stage)



$$\delta t_{amp} \equiv \frac{f\dot{\phi}}{\Lambda_b^4} \log \frac{16f^4}{\dot{\phi}^2}$$

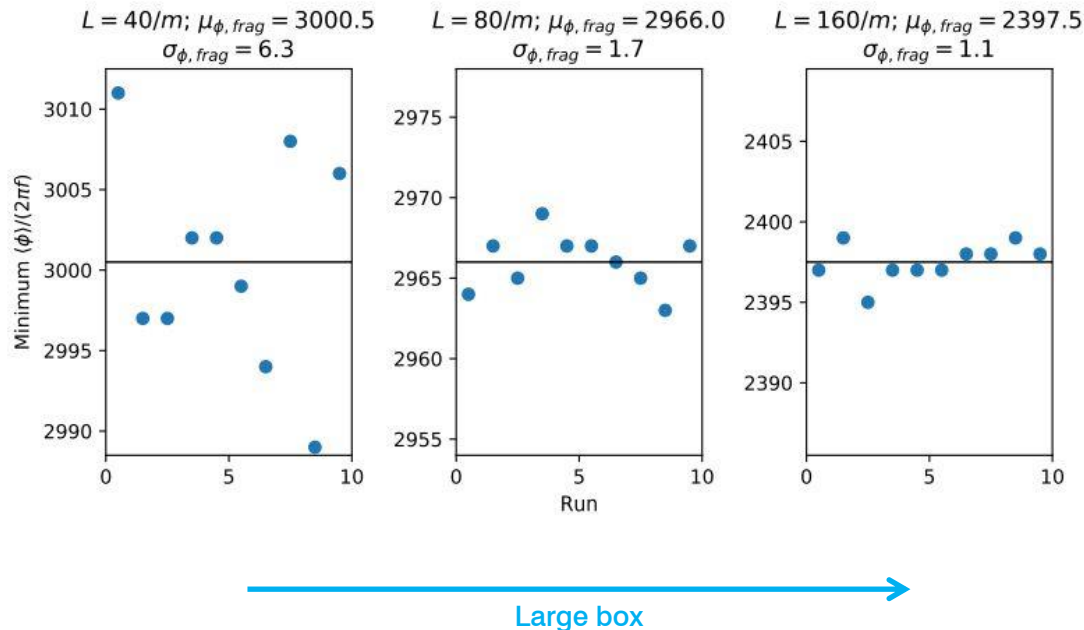
- We can see peak-like structure in the early stage
- The spectrum becomes broad
- Cascading towards UV (early stage of thermalization)

# Domain wall?

Field variance after fragmentation is not so small :  $\delta\phi \sim f$

Multiple run with finite size box

- $\delta\phi$  in multiple run =  $\delta\phi$  of causally disconnected area
- Extrapolation to  $V^{1/3} \approx \delta t_{\text{frag}}$



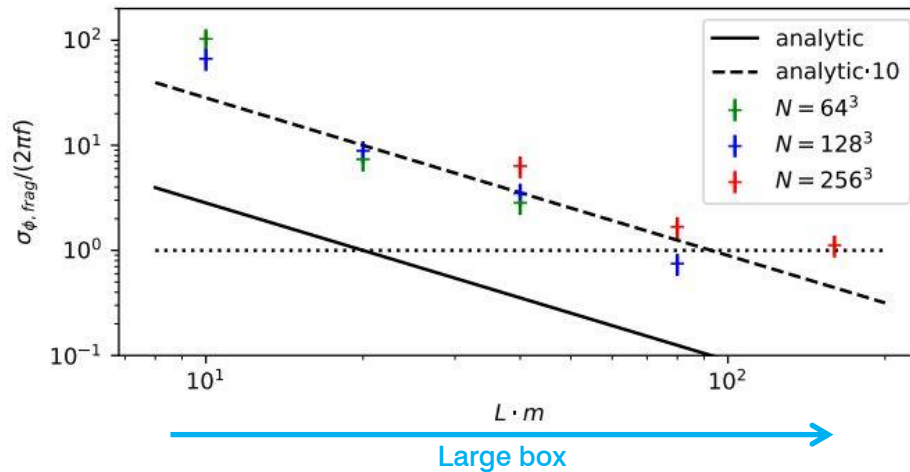


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Empirical formula of variance:

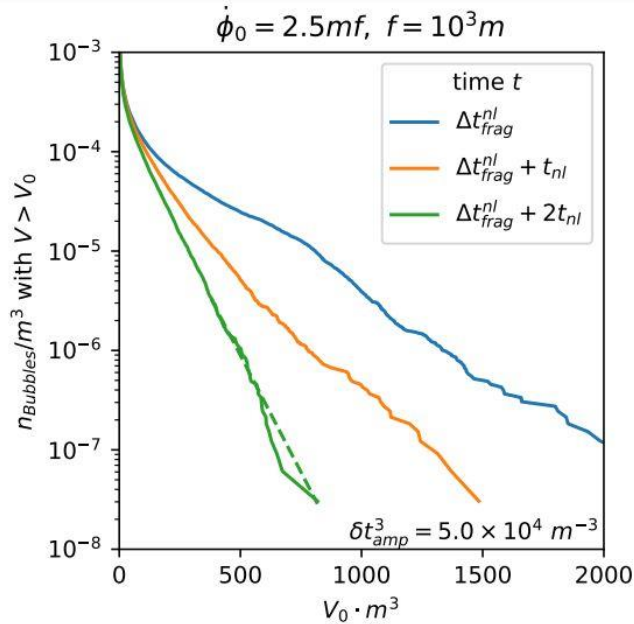
$$\frac{\delta\phi}{2\pi f} \sim O(10) \times V^{-1/2} \times \left( \frac{f\phi_0}{\Lambda_b^2} \right)^{3/2}$$

Naïve extrapolation to  $V^{1/3} \sim t_{\text{amp}}$  :  $\frac{\sigma}{2\pi f} \sim O(10) \times \left( \log \frac{8\pi f^2}{\phi_0} \right)^{-\frac{3}{2}} \sim 0.01 - 0.1$

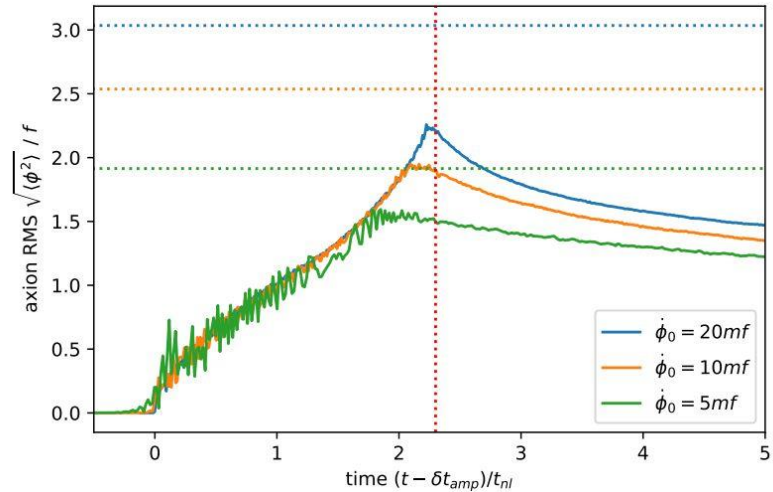
Domain wall formation probability is  $\sim e^{-100} - e^{-10}$

# Energy cascade into UV

Number counting of “bubble”



Time evolution of variance  $\langle \delta\phi^2 \rangle$



- Fluctuation with long wave-length is exponentially suppressed.
- The size of variance decreases in time.

# Summary

- Large axion velocity  $\rightarrow$  growth of fluctuation
- Zeromode kinetic energy dissipates into fluctuations
- Domain wall formation is unlikely
  
- Generic phenomena w/ periodic potential and large velocity.
- Applications
  - Relaxion
  - Axion dark matter scenario
  - ...

**Backup**

# References

**Green, Kofman, Starobinsky, hep-ph/9808477**

Parametric resonance from large amplitude

**Flauger, McAllister, Pajer, Westphal, Xu, 0907.2916**

Cosine + linear term, monodromy infl.

**Jaeckel, Mehta, Witkowski, 1605.01367**

Cosine + quadratic term, linear

**Berges, Chatrchyan, Jaeckel, 1903.03116**

Cosine + quadratic term, non-perturbative

**Arvanitaki, Dimopoulos, Galanis, Lehner, Thompson, Van Tilburg, 1909.11665**

Parametric resonance from large amplitude

# Details on back reaction (1).

$$\phi(x, t) = \bar{\phi}(t) + \delta\phi(x, t) \qquad \delta\phi(x, t) = \int \frac{d^3k}{(2\pi)^3} a_k u_k(t) e^{ikx} + h.c.$$

Creation annihilation op :

$$[a_k, a_{k'}^*] = (2\pi)^3 \delta^{(3)}(k - k')$$

Boundary condition for Wave function :

$$t \rightarrow -\infty \quad u_k \rightarrow \frac{e^{-ikt}}{\sqrt{2k}}$$

Bunch-Davies vacuum:

$$a|0\rangle = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \int \frac{dx^3}{V_{vol}} \langle \delta\phi(x)^2 \rangle = \int \frac{d^3k}{(2\pi)^3} |u_k|^2$$

# Details on back reaction (2).

Asymptotic behavior of wave function  $u_k$  :

$$t \rightarrow -\infty \quad u_k \rightarrow \frac{e^{-ikt}}{\sqrt{2k}}$$

$$t \rightarrow +\infty \quad u_k \rightarrow \frac{1}{\sqrt{2k}} 2 \exp\left(-\frac{\pi}{4} \frac{\Lambda_b^8}{\dot{\phi}^2 \ddot{\phi} f^4}\right) \times \cos kt$$

1)  $d\rho/dt$  from  $u_k$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d\rho}{dt} &= -\left(\frac{d}{dt} \frac{\dot{\phi}}{2f}\right) \times \frac{4\pi k^2}{(2\pi)^3} \left(\frac{1}{2} |u_k|^2 + \frac{1}{2} k^2 |u_k|^2\right) \\ &= -\frac{\dot{\phi}^3 \ddot{\phi}}{32\pi^2 f^4} \exp\left(-\frac{\pi}{2} \frac{\Lambda_b^8}{\dot{\phi}^2 \ddot{\phi} f^4}\right) \end{aligned}$$

2)  $d\rho/dt$  from definition

$$\frac{d\rho}{dt} = \dot{\phi} \ddot{\phi}$$

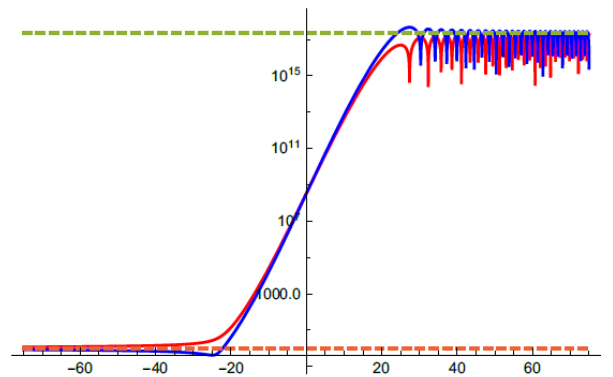
Consistency between 1) and 2) gives  $\ddot{\phi} = -\frac{\pi \Lambda_b^8}{2 \dot{\phi}^2 f} \left(\log \frac{32\pi^2 f^4}{\dot{\phi}^2}\right)^{-1}$

# “Modified” Mathieu equation.

$$\frac{d^2 u_k}{dt^2} + \left( k^2 + m^2 \cos \frac{\bar{\phi}}{f} \right) u_k = 0 \quad \text{with} \quad \dot{\bar{\phi}} = \bar{\dot{\phi}}_0 + \ddot{\bar{\phi}} t$$

Boundary condition at  $t \rightarrow -\infty$  :  $u_k \rightarrow \frac{e^{-ikt}}{\sqrt{2k}}$

Behavior at  $\dot{\bar{\phi}}/f \simeq 2k$  :  $u_k \simeq \frac{1}{\sqrt{2k}} \left( A(t) \cos \frac{\bar{\phi}}{2f} + B(t) \sin \frac{\bar{\phi}}{2f} \right)$



— Abs[A<sub>1</sub>]  
— Abs[B<sub>1</sub>]  
- - - 2 exp(π/2z)  
- - - 1

$$(1 + z\tau)A + \frac{dB}{d\tau} = 0$$

$$(1 - z\tau)B + \frac{dA}{d\tau} = 0$$

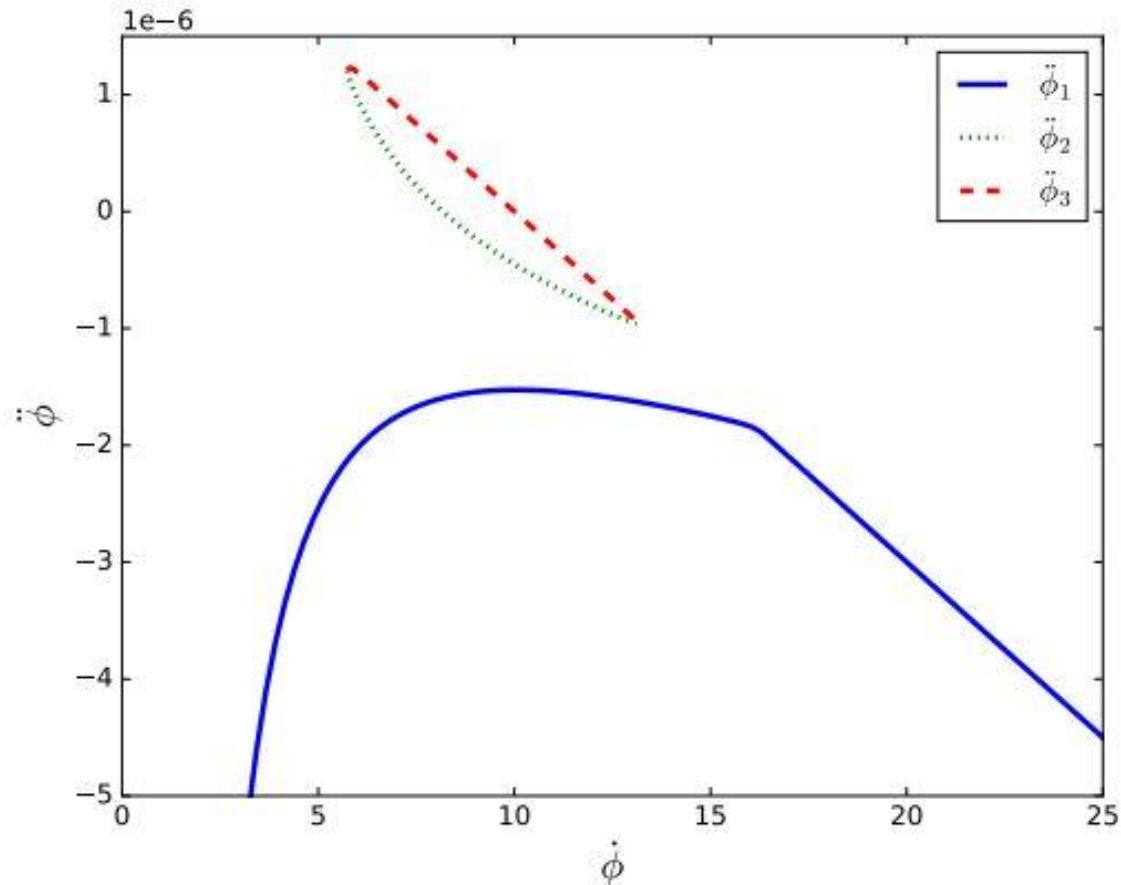
$$\tau = \frac{fm^2 t}{2\dot{\bar{\phi}}}$$

$$z = -\frac{2\dot{\bar{\phi}}_0 \ddot{\bar{\phi}}}{f^3 m^4}$$

Asymptotic behavior at  $t \rightarrow +\infty$  :  $u_k \rightarrow \frac{1}{\sqrt{2k}} 2 \exp\left(-\frac{\pi}{4} \frac{\Lambda_b^8}{\dot{\bar{\phi}}_0^2 \ddot{\bar{\phi}} f^4}\right) \times \cos kt$



$$d^2 \phi / dt^2.$$



**Figure 23.**  $\ddot{\phi}$  as a function of  $\dot{\phi}$ . Here we take  $f = 10^3$ ,  $H = 10^{-7}$ , and  $\mu^3 = 3 \times 10^{-6}$  in the unit of  $\Lambda_b = 1$ .

## > The original GKR (non-QCD) model [Graham, Kaplan, Rajendran (2015)]

$$V = \underbrace{-(\Lambda^2 - g'\Lambda\phi)H^2 + \lambda H^4}_{\text{Higgs potential}} + \underbrace{g\Lambda^3\phi}_{\text{slope}} + \underbrace{\Lambda_b^4(H) \cos \frac{\phi}{f}}_{\text{Wiggles}}$$

New strong dynamics gives wiggle

$$L_{eff} = m_N \bar{N}N + m_L \bar{L}L + yH\bar{N}L + \tilde{y}H^*\bar{L}N + \frac{\phi}{f} G'\tilde{G}'$$

$$\Rightarrow V \simeq \frac{y\tilde{y}\Lambda_s^3}{m_L} |H|^2 \cos \frac{\phi}{f}$$

$$(m_L > \Lambda_s > m_N)$$

# Parameter space.

$f$  is set to give correct EW scale : 
$$f \simeq \frac{2\pi\lambda\Lambda_b^8 v_{ew}}{g'\Lambda\dot{\phi}_0^4 \times O(10)}$$

We also impose the following consistency conditions:

- Wiggle makes local minima
- Potential stability against rad. corr.
- Consistency of EFT
- Initial kinetic energy is large enough
- Particle production is fast enough

$$g\Lambda^3 < \sim \frac{\Lambda_b^4}{f}$$

$$\Lambda_b < \sim v_{ew}$$

$$f > \sim \Lambda$$

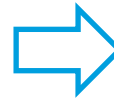
$$\frac{\dot{\phi}_0}{2} > \sim \Lambda_b^2$$

$$\Delta t_{pp} < \sim H^{-1}$$

# Relic abundance of relaxion.

- Relaxion particle production

Energy density of relaxion  $\dot{\phi}_0^2$   
Typical energy of particle  $\dot{\phi}_0/f$



$$n_\phi \sim \dot{\phi}_0^2 \times \left(\frac{\dot{\phi}_0}{f}\right)^{-1} = f\dot{\phi}_0,$$
$$m_\phi n_\phi \sim \Lambda_b^2 \dot{\phi}_0,$$

- Coherent oscillation (after particle production)

$$\rho \sim \frac{\Lambda_b^4}{f^2} \times f^2 = \Lambda_b^4,$$

If there is no inflation during/after relaxation,

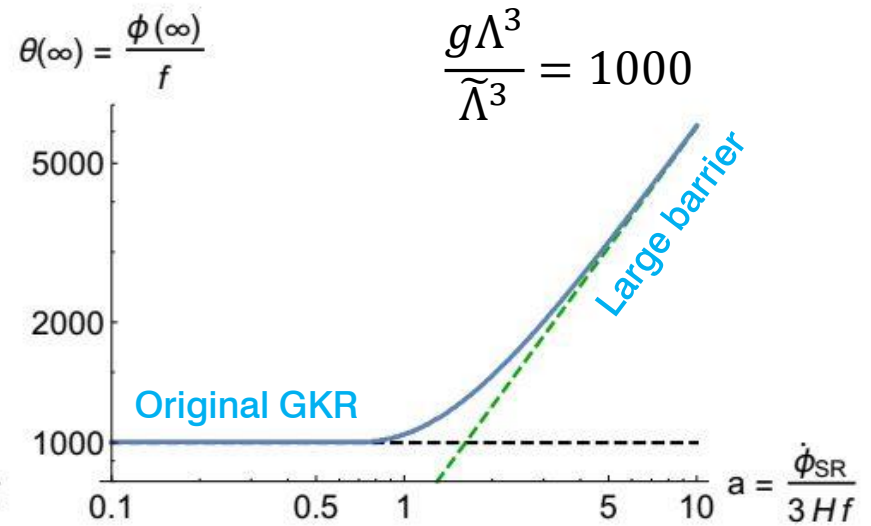
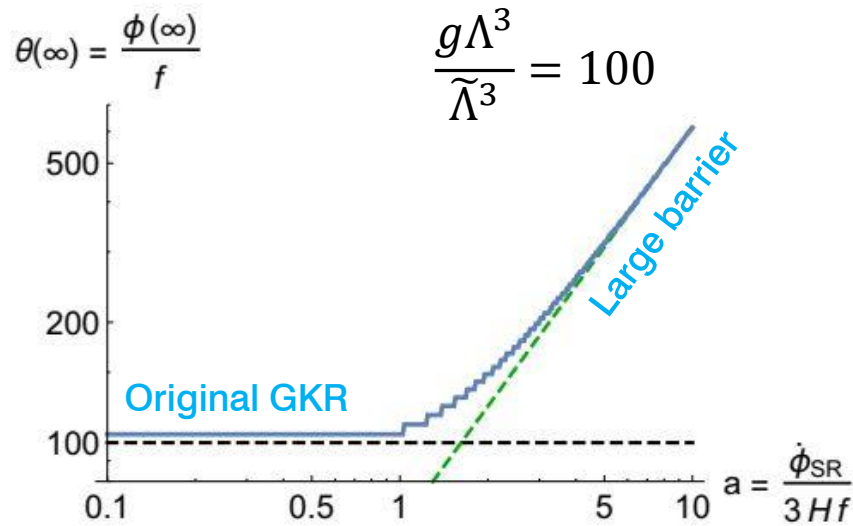
$$\Omega_\phi \sim \frac{g_0 T_0^3}{g_* T_*^3} \Lambda_b^2 \dot{\phi} \times \frac{1}{\rho_{cr}} \sim 10^5 \times \left(\frac{\Lambda}{10 \text{ TeV}}\right)^2 \left(\frac{\Lambda_b}{10 \text{ GeV}}\right)^2 \left(\frac{T_*}{10 \text{ TeV}}\right)^{-3}$$

( $T_{RH}$  is reheating temperature of SM plasma)

BBN constraint is very severe.

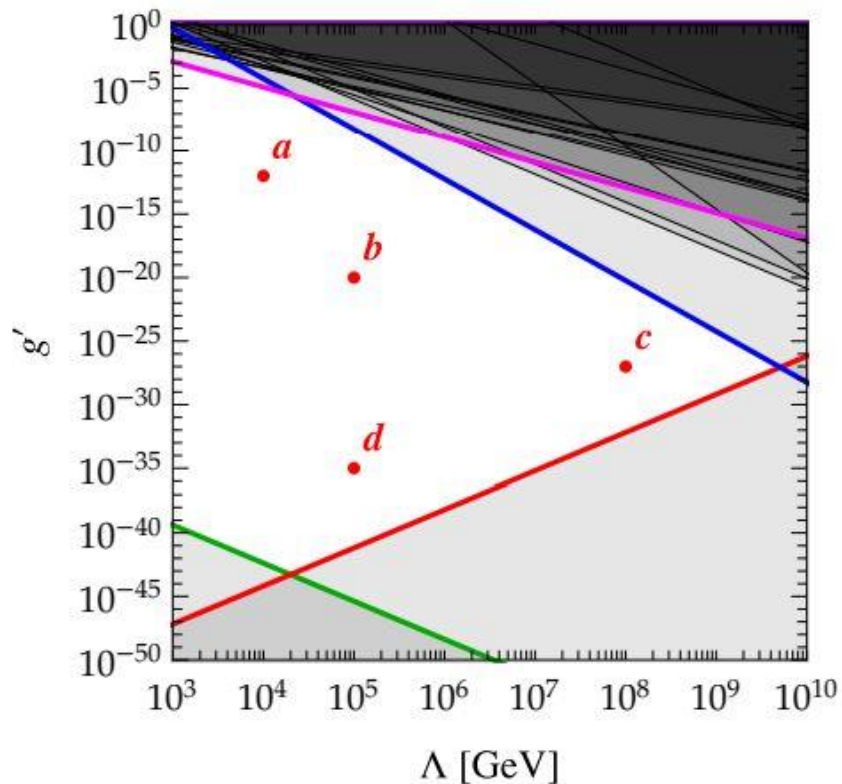
We need dilution by inflation!

# Stopping condition during inflation.



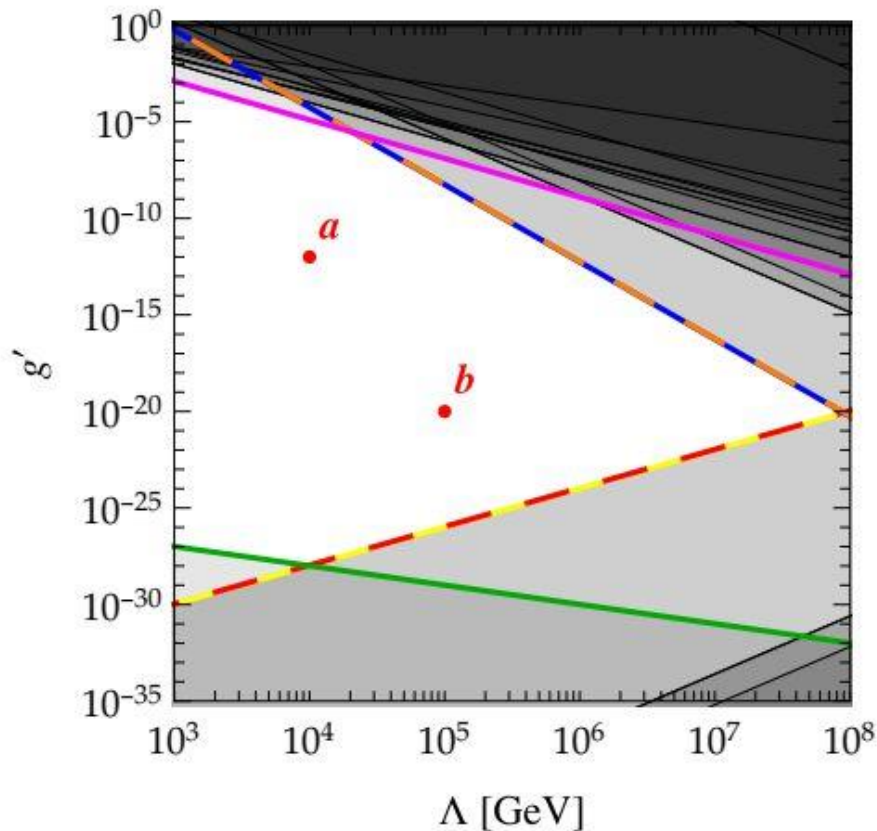
$$\ddot{\phi} + 3H\dot{\phi} - \frac{1}{f}\tilde{\Lambda}^3\phi \sin\frac{\phi}{f} - g\Lambda^3 = 0$$

# GKR (Hubble friction).



- Symmetry breaking pattern Eq. (3.5) and microscopic origin of the barriers Eq. (3.6)
- Classical rolling Eq. (3.16) and relaxation subdominant with respect to the inflaton Eq. (3.13)
- Reheating Eq. (3.9) and sub-Planckian decay constant Eq. (3.8)
- Eq. (3.5) and precision of the Higgs mass scanning Eq. (3.3)

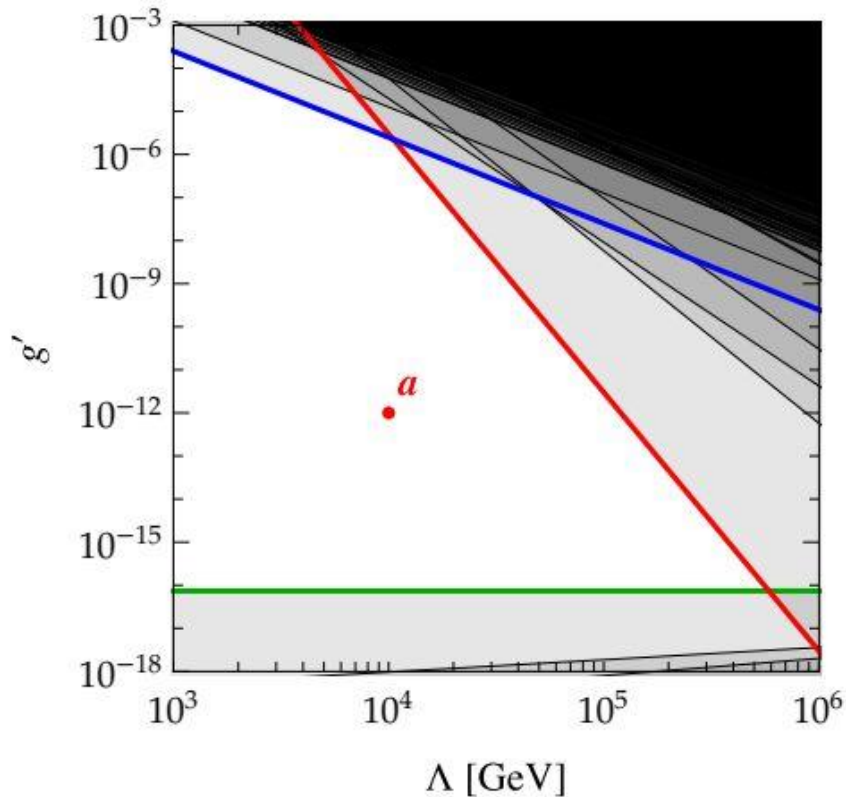
# GKR (large barrier).



- Symmetry breaking pattern Eq. (3.5), going over 1 wiggle in less than 1 Hubble time Eq. (3.19) and microscopic origin of the barriers Eq. (3.6)
- Eq. (3.5), large barriers Eq. (3.4) and Eq. (3.6)
- Eq. (3.5), Eq. (3.19) and relaxion subdominant with respect to inflaton Eq. (3.13)
- Eq. (3.5), large barriers Eq. (3.4) and Eq. (3.13)

- Eq. (3.5) and precision of the Higgs mass scanning Eq. (3.3)
- Reheating Eq. (3.9) and Eq. (3.13)

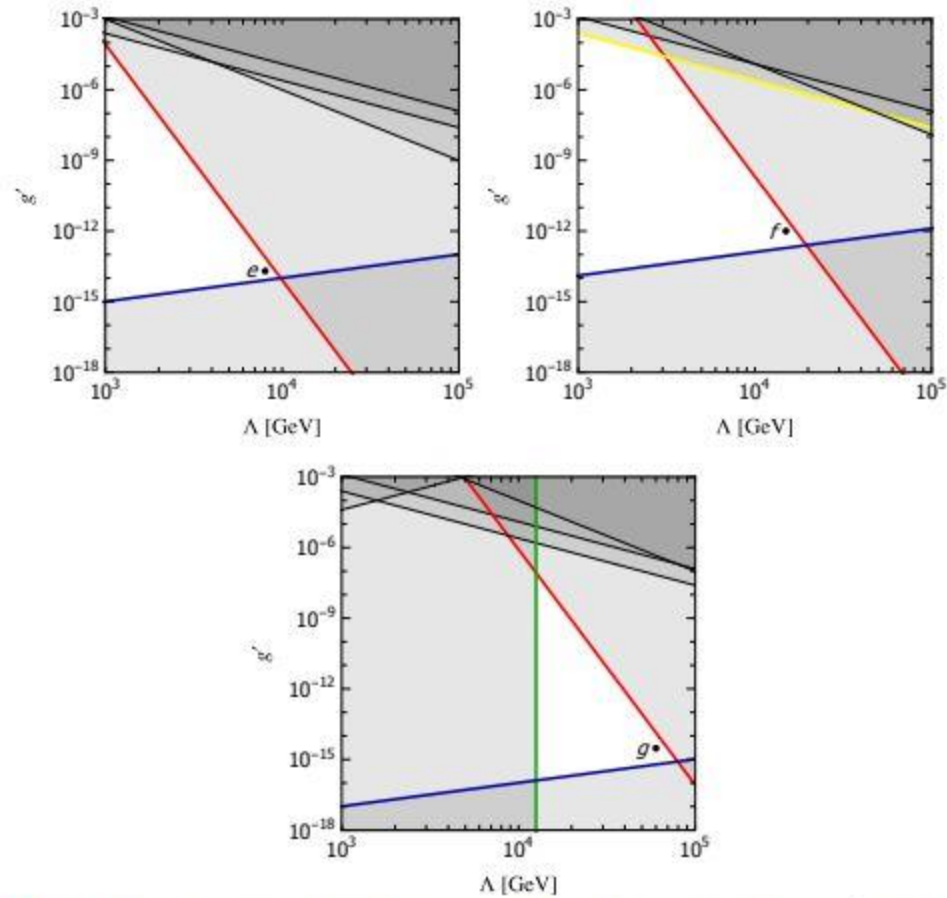
# GKR (relaxion fragmentation w/ inflation).



- Symmetry breaking pattern Eq. (3.5) and large velocity Eq. (3.22)
- Eq. (3.5), efficient fragmentation Eq. (2.16) and microscopic origin of the barriers Eq. (3.6)
- Relaxion subdominant with respect to inflaton Eq. (3.13) and Eq. (2.16)

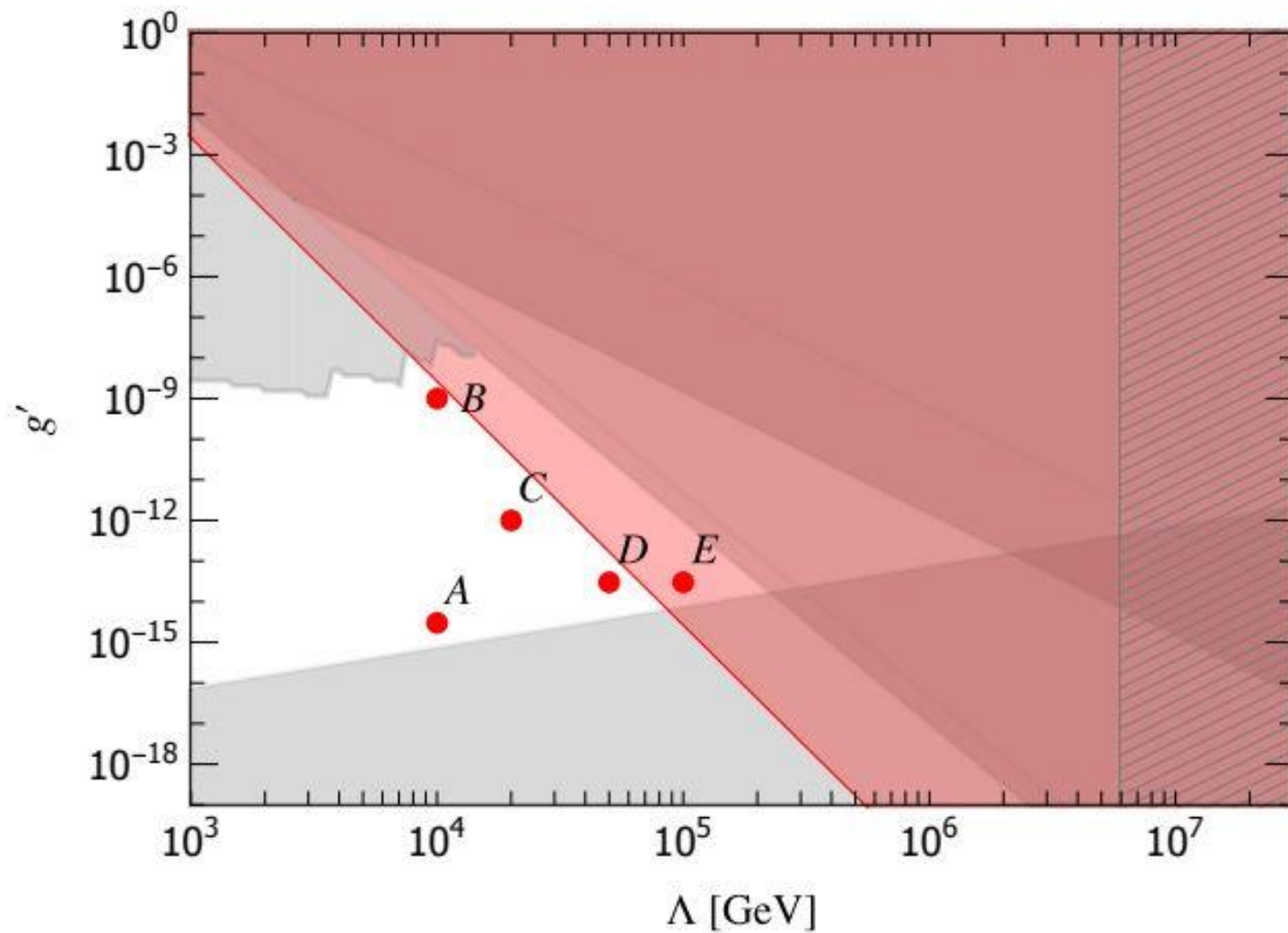


# GKR (relaxion fragmentation w/o inflation)

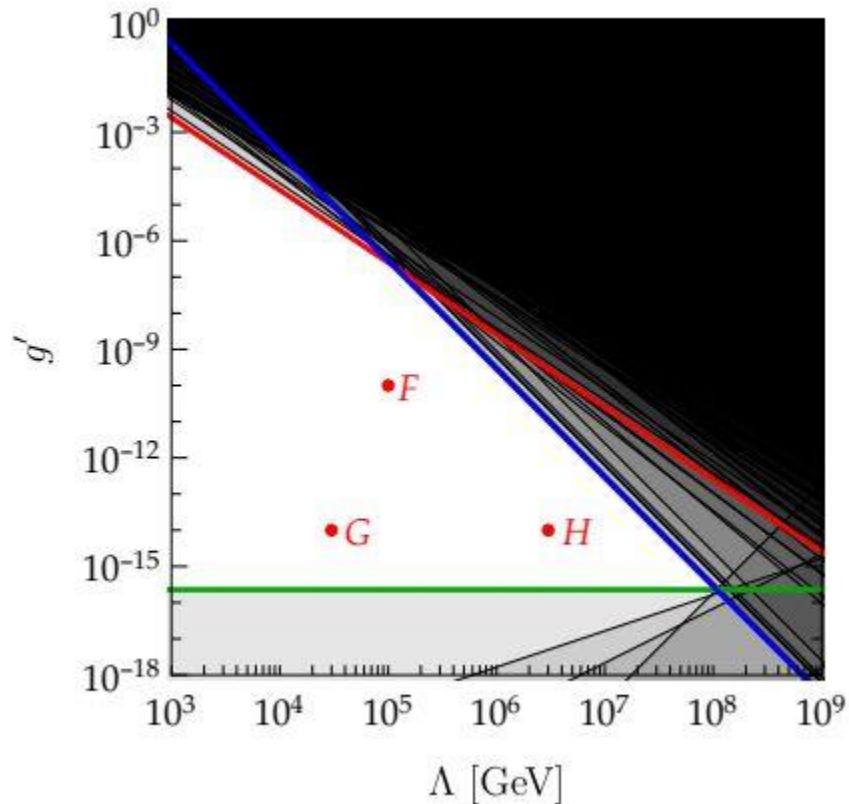


- Microscopic origin of the barriers Eq. (3.6) and Symmetry breaking pattern Eq. (3.5)
- Velocity larger than  $\Lambda_b^2$  and Symmetry breaking pattern Eq. (3.5)
- No slow-roll Eq. (3.26)
- Slope can be neglected Eq. (2.17)

# HMT w/o inflation.

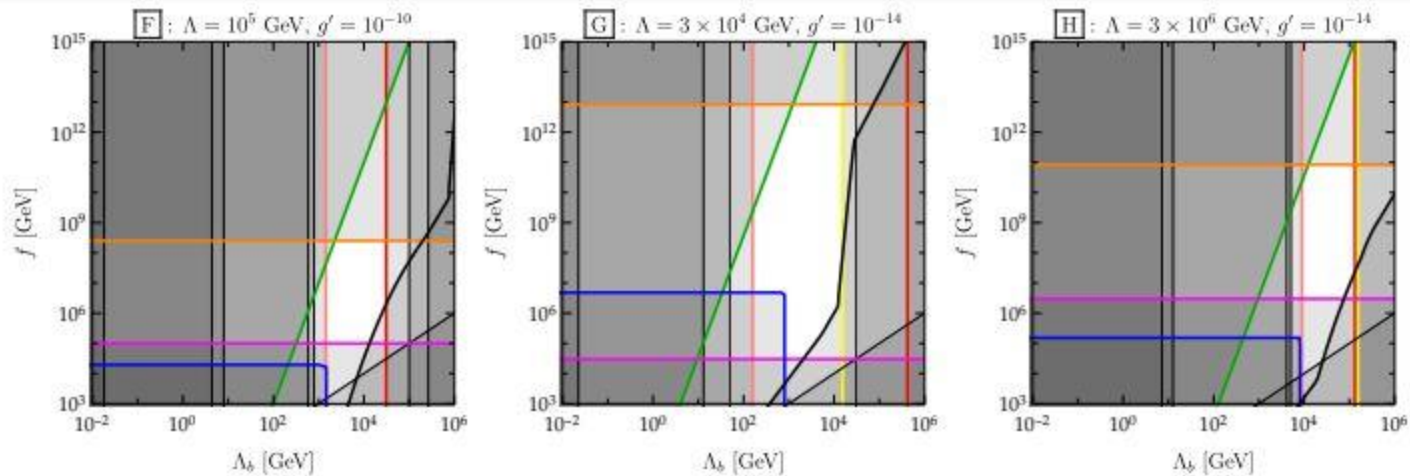


# HMT w/ inflation.



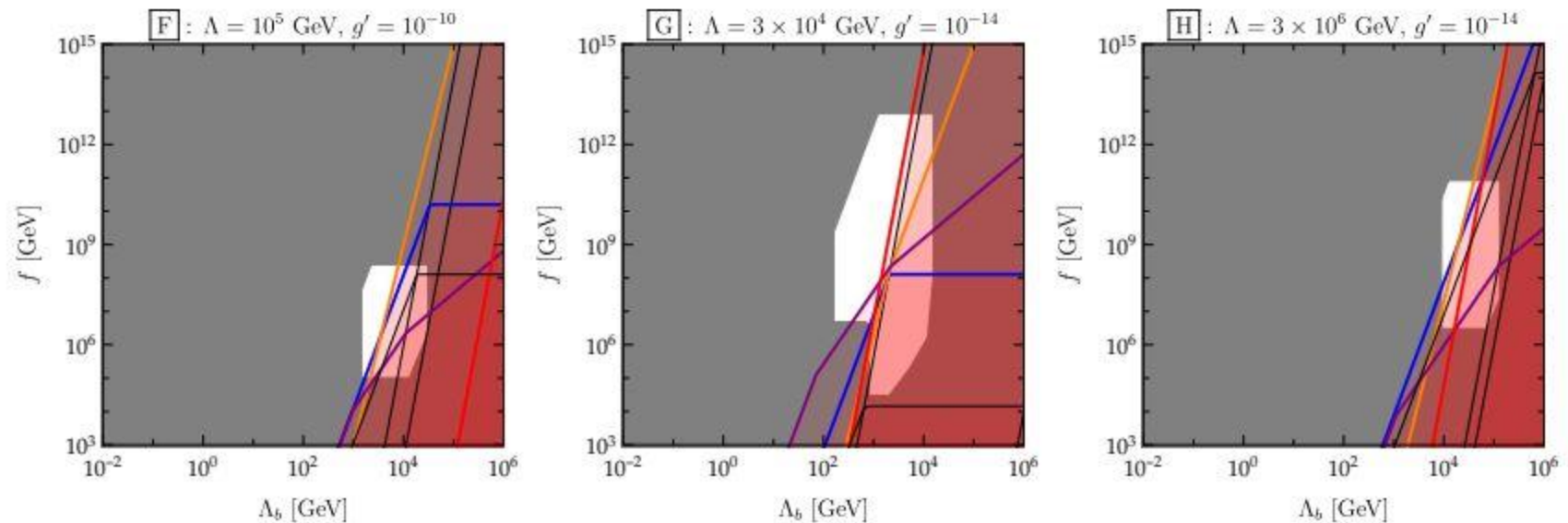
- Small variation of the Higgs mass Eq. (4.19), consistency of the EFT Eq. (4.24) and large velocity Eq. (4.15)
- Symmetry breaking pattern Eq. (4.28) and precision of the Higgs mass scanning Eq. (4.27)
- Relaxion subdominant with respect to inflaton Eq. (4.36) and Eq. (4.24)

# HMT w/ inflation.



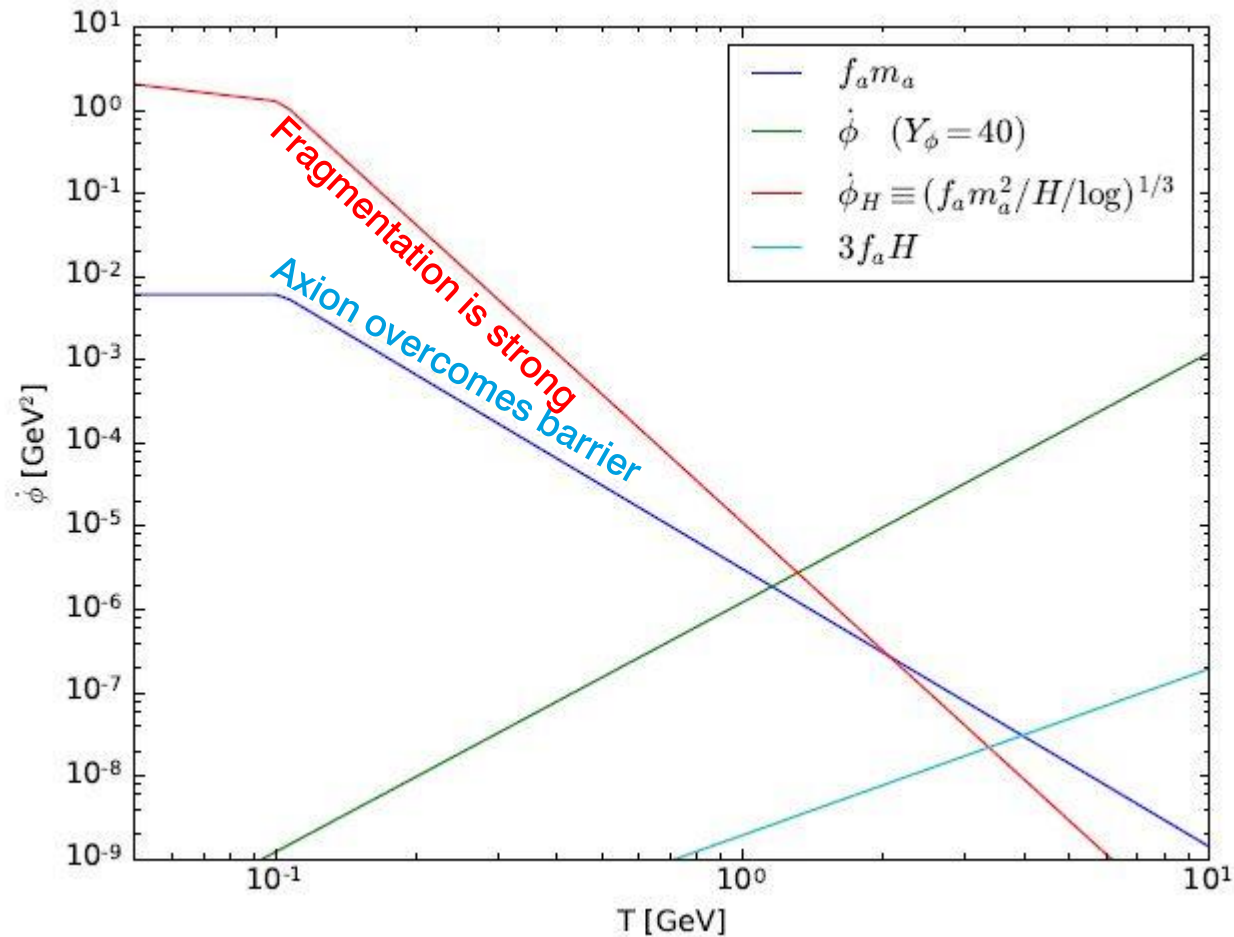
- Efficient energy dissipation Eq. (4.18) and consistency of the EFT Eq. (4.24)
- Small variation of the Higgs mass Eq. (4.19) and large velocity Eq. (4.15)
- Relaxion subdominant with respect to inflaton Eq. (4.36) and Eq. (4.15)
- Large barriers Eq. (4.26)
- Precision of the Higgs mass scanning Eq. (4.27)
- Symmetry breaking pattern Eq. (4.28)
- No restoration of the shift symmetry Eq. (4.21) and Eq. (4.24)
- Suppressed coupling to photons Eq. (4.23)

# HMT w/ inflation.



- Efficient energy dissipation Eq. (4.18) and inefficient fragmentation Eq. (4.33)
- No restoration of the shift symmetry Eq. (4.21) and Eq. (4.33)
- Small variation of the Higgs mass Eq. (4.19) and Eq. (4.33)
- Relaxion subdominant with respect to inflaton Eq. (4.36) and Eq. (4.33)

# QCD axion fragmentation.



- Impact on relic abundance might be not so large
- Fragmentation could change momentum distribution (work in progress)

# Technical difficulty

Computer power limits the size of the lattice:

$O(100)$  points in one side is maximal value.

Lattice spacing should be  $\ll f/\dot{\phi}$

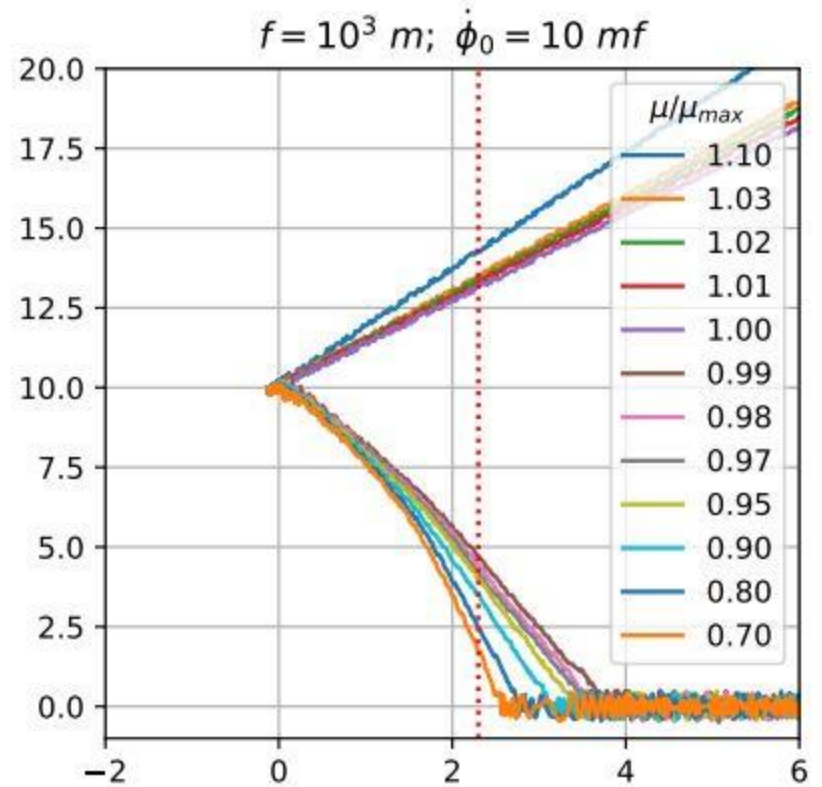
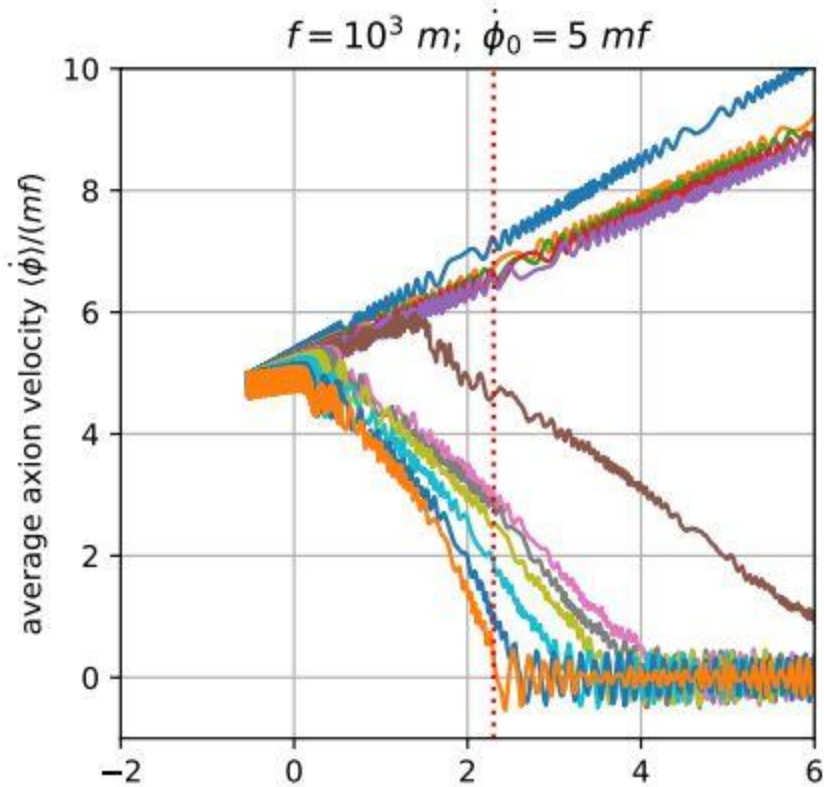
Fragmentation time is  $\sim f\dot{\phi}^3/\Lambda_b^8$

In order to estimate the size of long-wave length fluctuation, we did multiple-run with given size of box  $L$ .

The variance depends on  $L$ .

The scaling of  $L$  tells us that long-wave length fluctuation

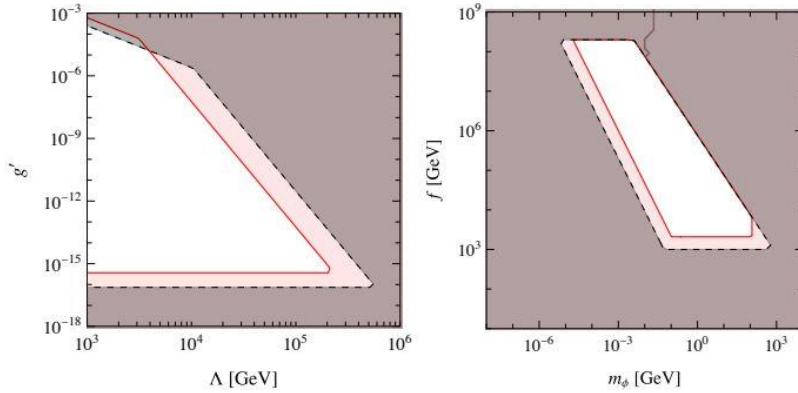
# Lattice calc. w/ slope term



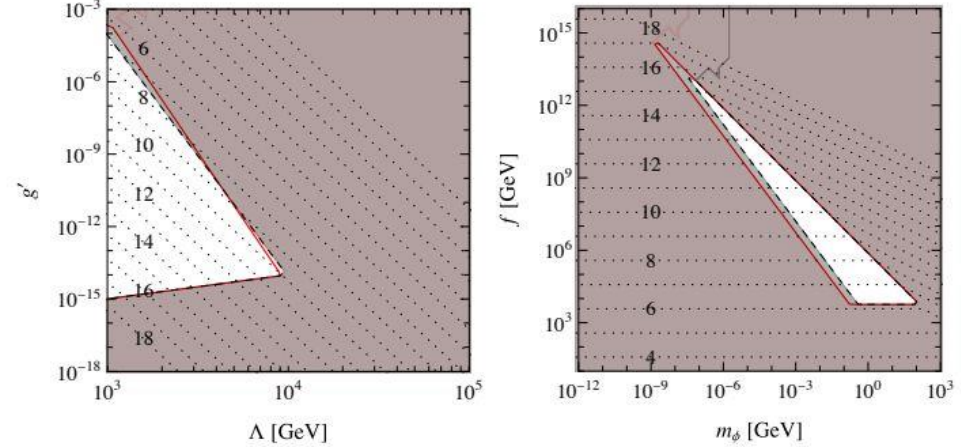


# How non-linear effect changes?

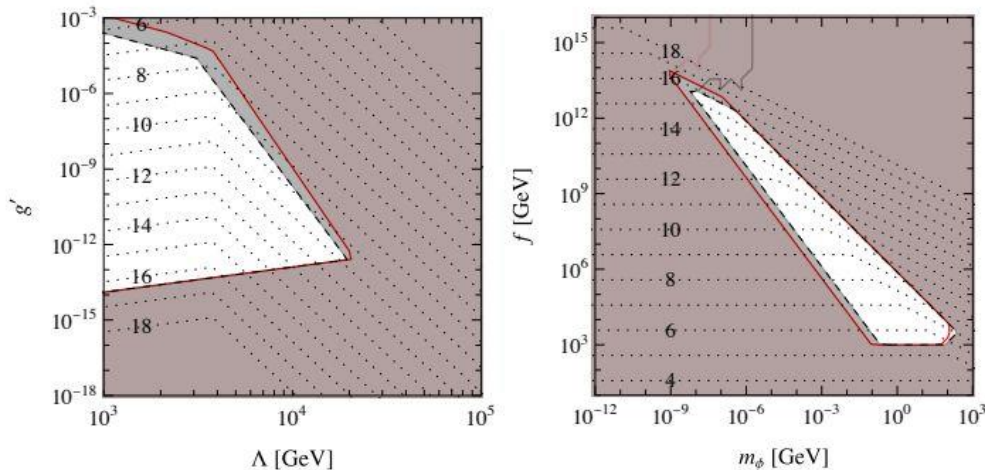
During inflation (Sec. 3.1 of [51])



After inflation,  $g/g' = 1$  (Sec. 3.2 of [51])



After inflation,  $g/g' = 1/(4\pi)^2$  (Sec. 3.2 of [51])



1. Introduction
2. Axion Fragmentation
3. Axion Fragmentation on the lattice
- 4. Impact on Relaxion scenario**

# Relaxion scenarios

- Graham-Kaplan-Rajendran model (original relaxion model)

**Higgs-dependent wiggles** :  $V(\phi) = -g\Lambda^3\phi + \Lambda_b^4 \frac{h^2}{v^2} \cos\frac{\phi}{f}$

- Hook--Marques-Tavares model

**Higgs-independent wiggles** :  $V(\phi) = -g\Lambda^3\phi + \Lambda_b^4 \cos\frac{\phi}{f}$

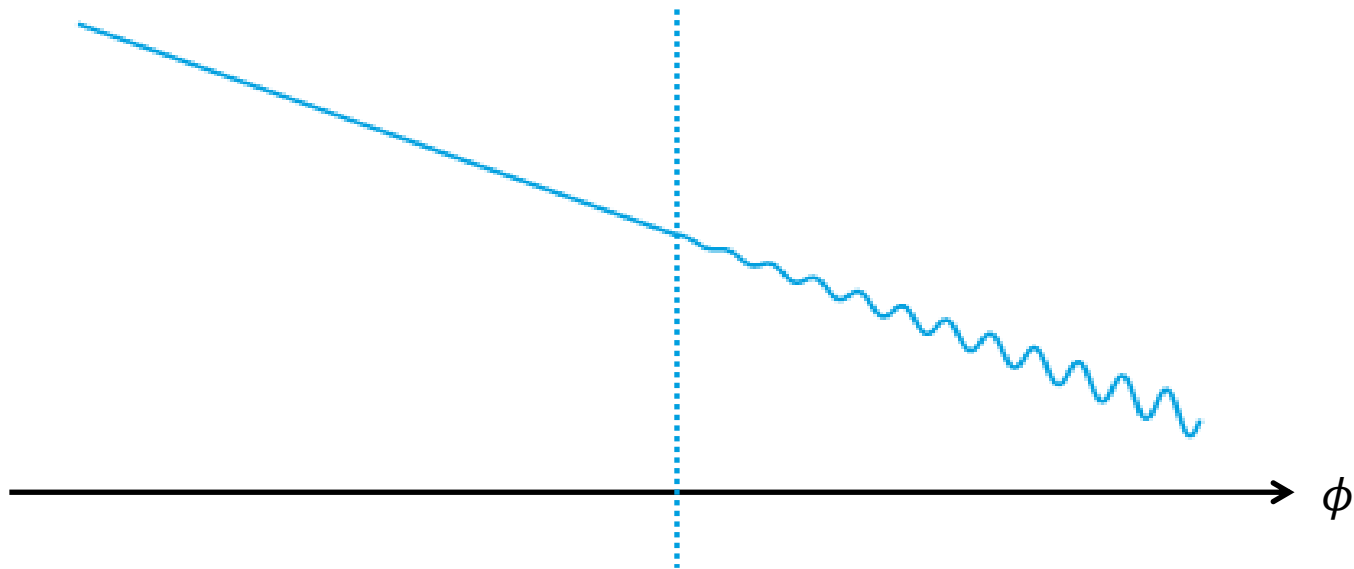
EW gauge boson production gives friction

←  $\frac{\phi}{4F} V_{\mu\nu} \tilde{V}^{\mu\nu}$

	w/ inflation	w/o inflation
GKR model	New parameter region	New scenario
HMT model	constrained but still available	killed

# Graham-Kaplan-Rajendran model

$$V = \underbrace{-(\Lambda^2 - g'\Lambda\phi)H^2 + \lambda H^4}_{\text{Higgs potential}} + \underbrace{g\Lambda^3\phi}_{\text{slope}} + \underbrace{\Lambda_b^4(H) \cos\frac{\phi}{f}}_{\text{Wiggles}}$$



$$\Lambda^2 - g'\Lambda\phi < 0$$

$$\Lambda_b(H) = 0$$

$$H = 0$$

$$\Lambda^2 - g'\Lambda\phi > 0$$

$$\Lambda_b(H) > 0$$

$$|H| > 0$$

# Graham-Kaplan-Rajendran model

Friction is required to stop relaxion scanning (because of energy conservation)

Why relaxion stops?

when/where relaxion stops?

## Hubble friction (original GKR model)

Velocity  $\dot{\phi}$  always tracks  $V'/3H$

$$g\Lambda^3 \sim \Lambda_b^4(\phi)/f$$

## Large barrier (mild Hubble friction)

Velocity  $\dot{\phi}$  does not track  $V'/3H$

But the average velocity is maintained as  $\dot{\phi}_{SR} = g\Lambda^3/3H$



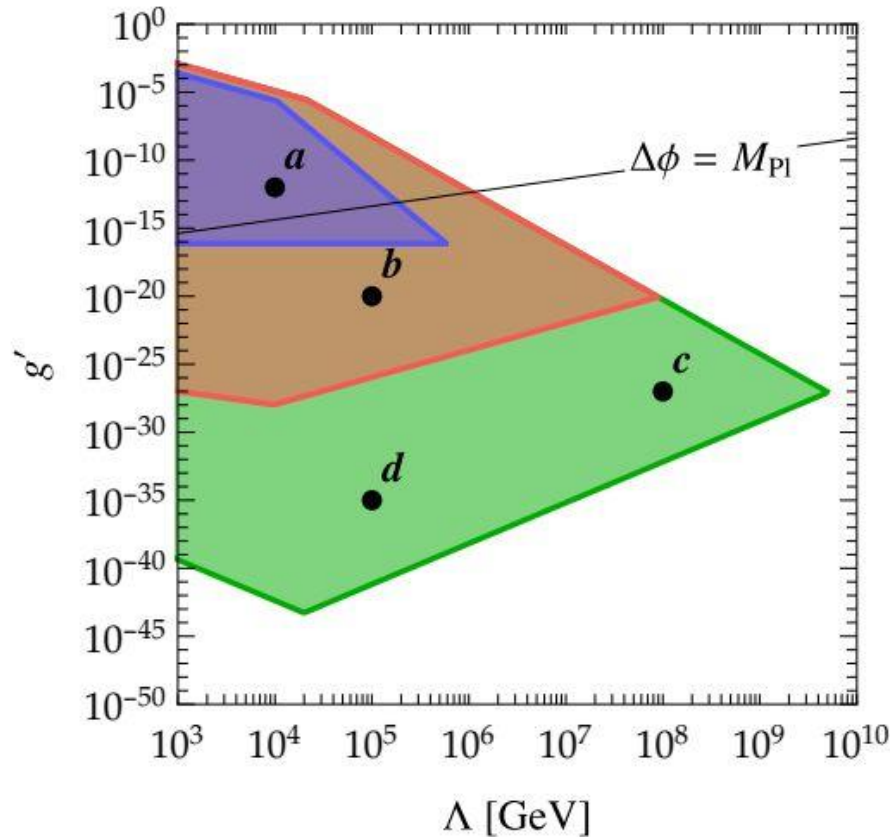
$$\dot{\phi}_{SR}^2 \sim \Lambda_b^4(\phi)$$

## Axion Fragmentation



$$\Delta\phi_{frag} \sim f \frac{\dot{\phi}_0^4}{\Lambda_b^8} \log \frac{f^4}{\dot{\phi}_0^2}$$

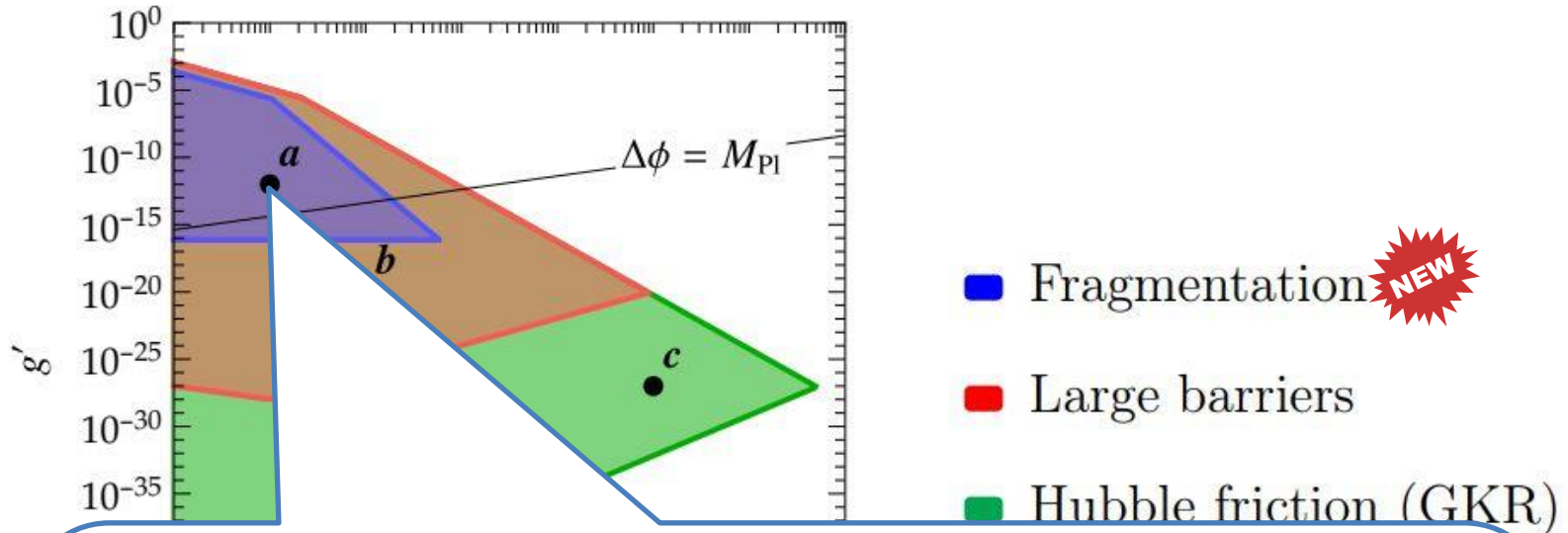
# GKR model w/ inflation



- Fragmentation **NEW**
- Large barriers
- Hubble friction (GKR)

[Fonseca, Morgante, RS, Servant (2019)]

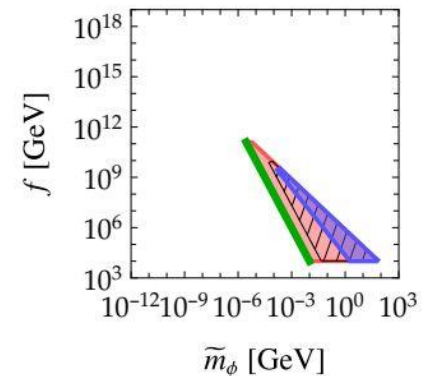
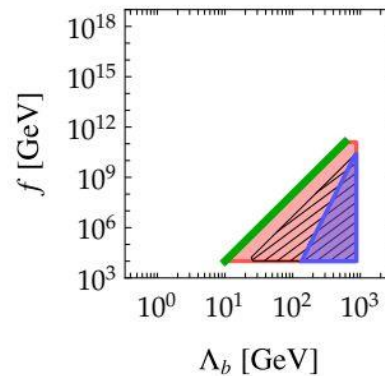
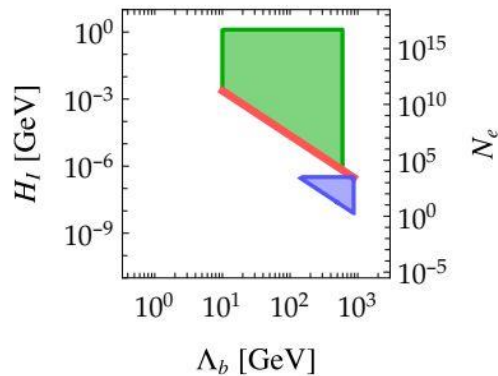
# GKR model w/ inflation



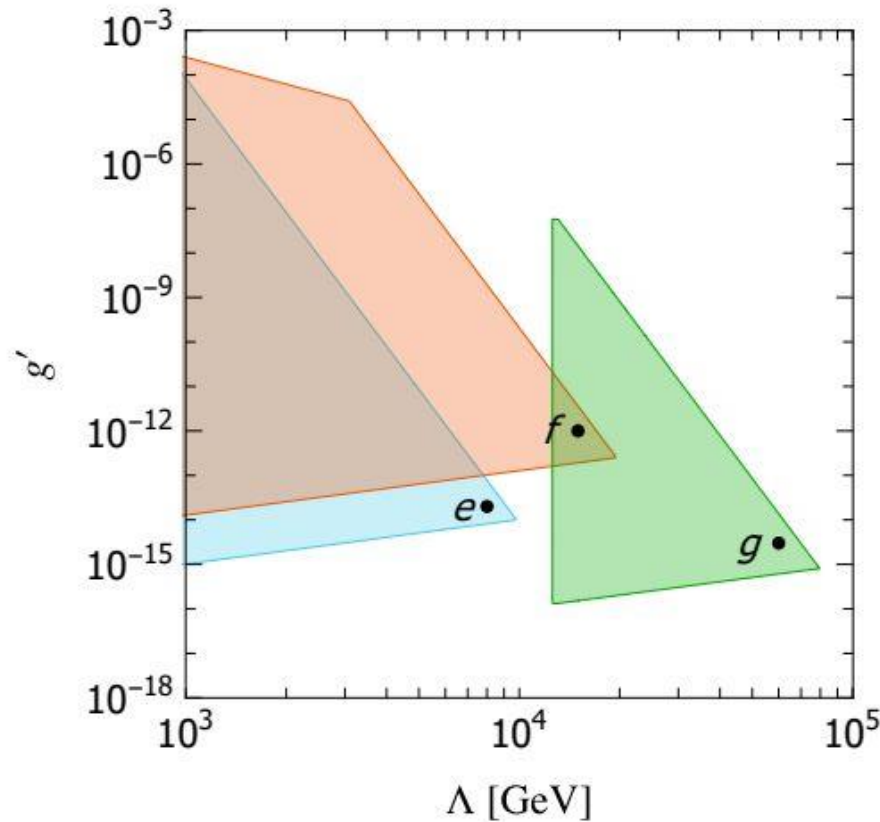
**a** :  $\Lambda = 10^4$  GeV,  $g' = 10^{-12}$

**a** :  $\Lambda = 10^4$  GeV,  $g' = 10^{-12}$

**a** :  $\Lambda = 10^4$  GeV,  $g' = 10^{-12}$



# GKR model w/o inflation



$\blacksquare$   $\dot{\phi} = \sqrt{2 g/g'} \Lambda^2, g/g' = 1$

$\blacksquare$   $\dot{\phi} = \sqrt{2 g/g'} \Lambda^2, g/g' = 1/(4\pi)^2$

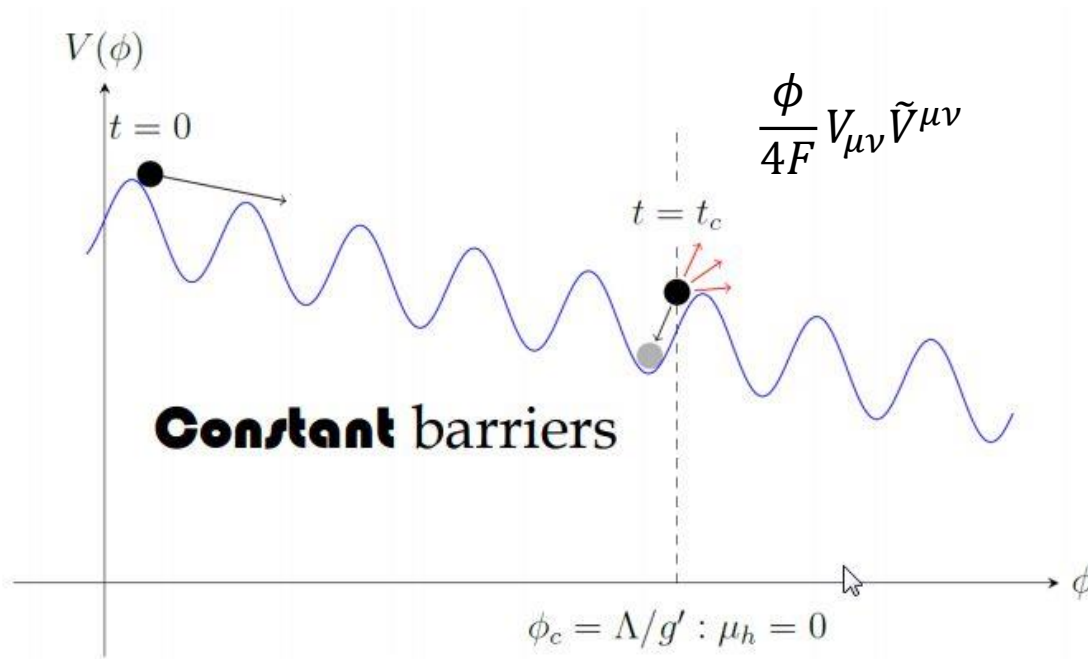
$\blacksquare$   $\dot{\phi} = 10^{-2} \sqrt{2} \Lambda^2$

[Fonseca, Morgante, RS, Servant (2019)]



# Hook—Marques-Tavares Model

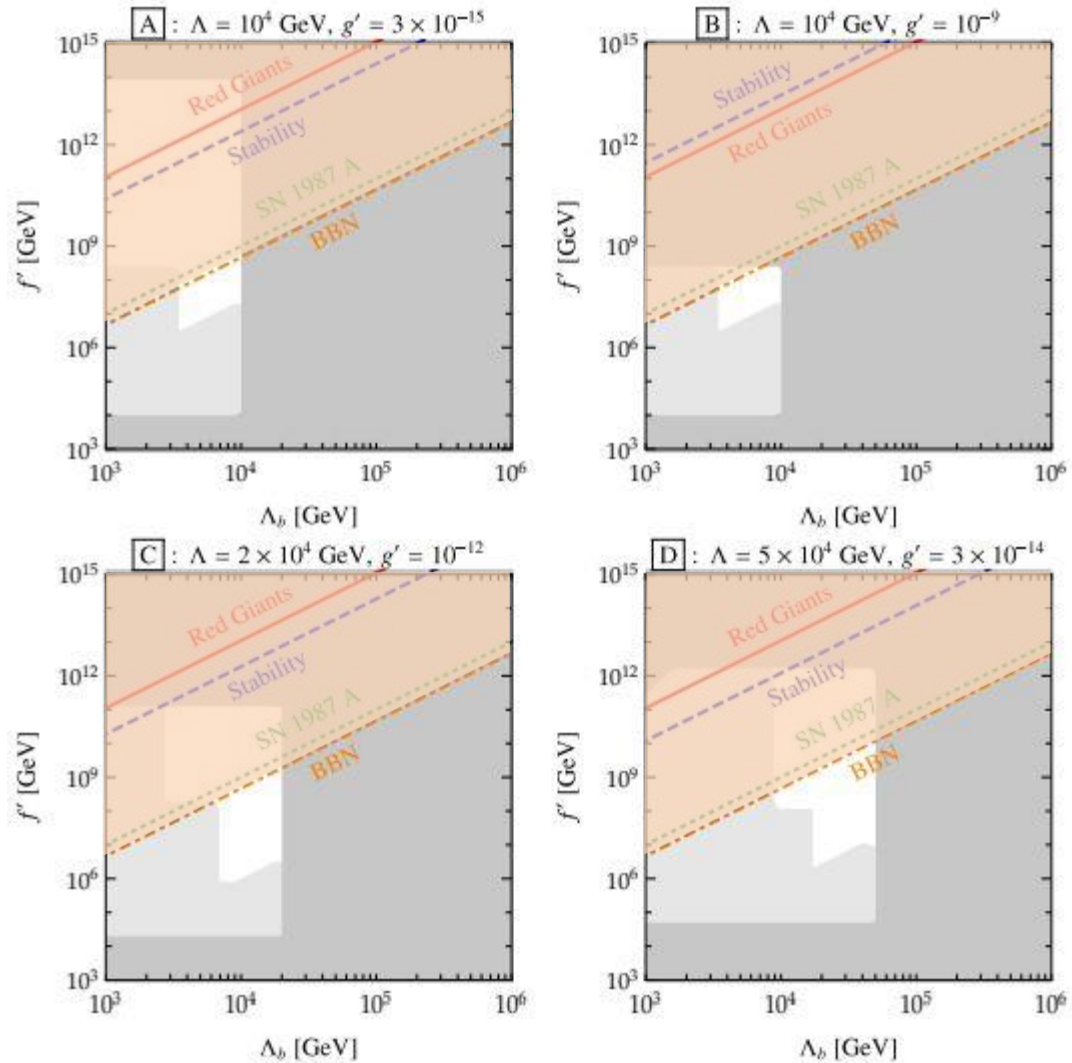
- EW gauge boson production gives friction
- Higgs independent barrier  $\rightarrow$  axion fragmentation always works



[Fonseca, Berlin COST BSM workshop 2020]

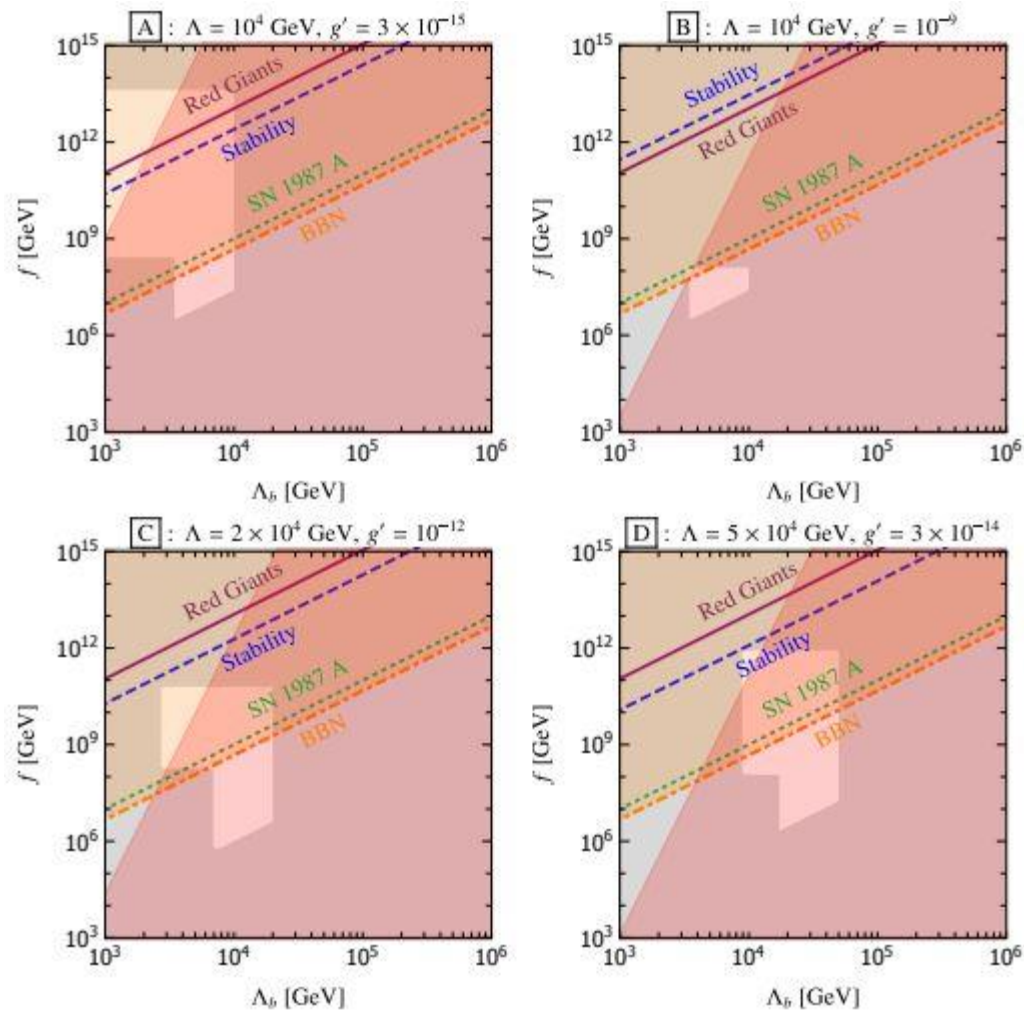
Relaxion rolling could be stopped before the right position.

# HMT model w/o inflation



[Fonseca, Morgante, Servant (2018)]

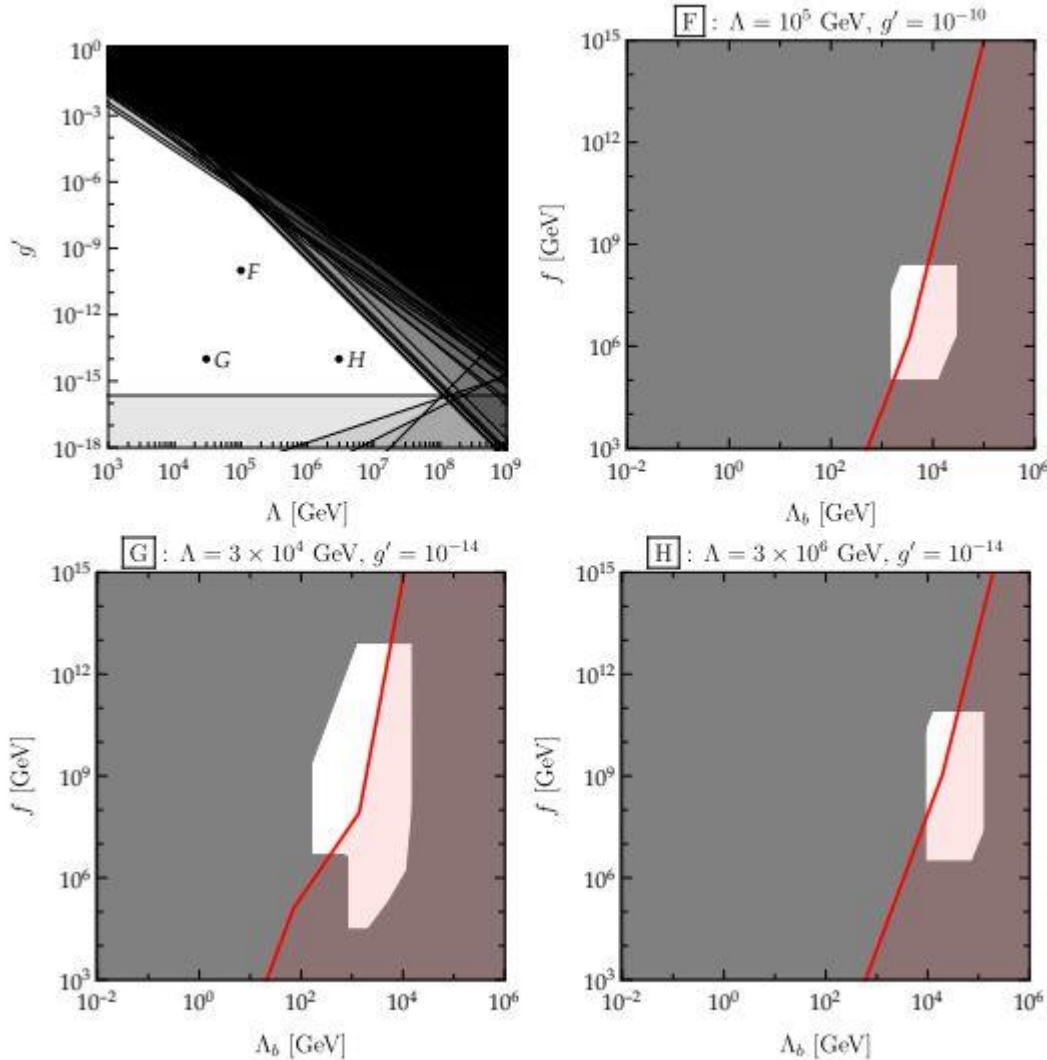
# HMT model w/o inflation



Fragmentation kills parameter space!

[Fonseca, Morgante, RS, Servant (2019)]

# HMT model w/ inflation



Still there is available parameter region

[Fonseca, Morgante, RS, Servant (2019)]