

Intro to Cosmology and OQS

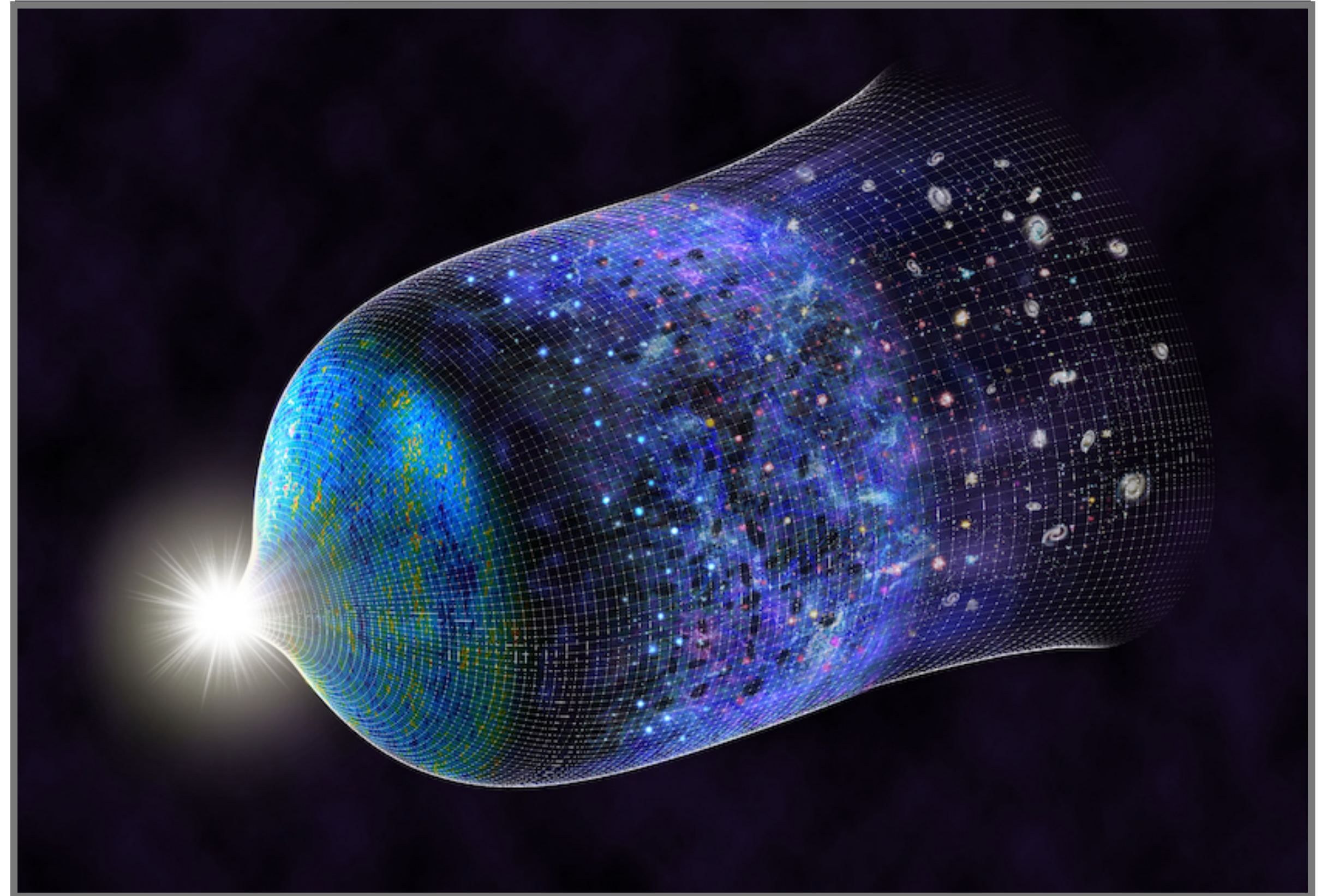
Sarah Shandera
MITP April 2026



Primordial cosmology

Would like a 'natural' explanation for correlations on large scales

Early-time inhomogeneities were small (definitely perturbative)



Goals and tools of elementary-particle cosmology

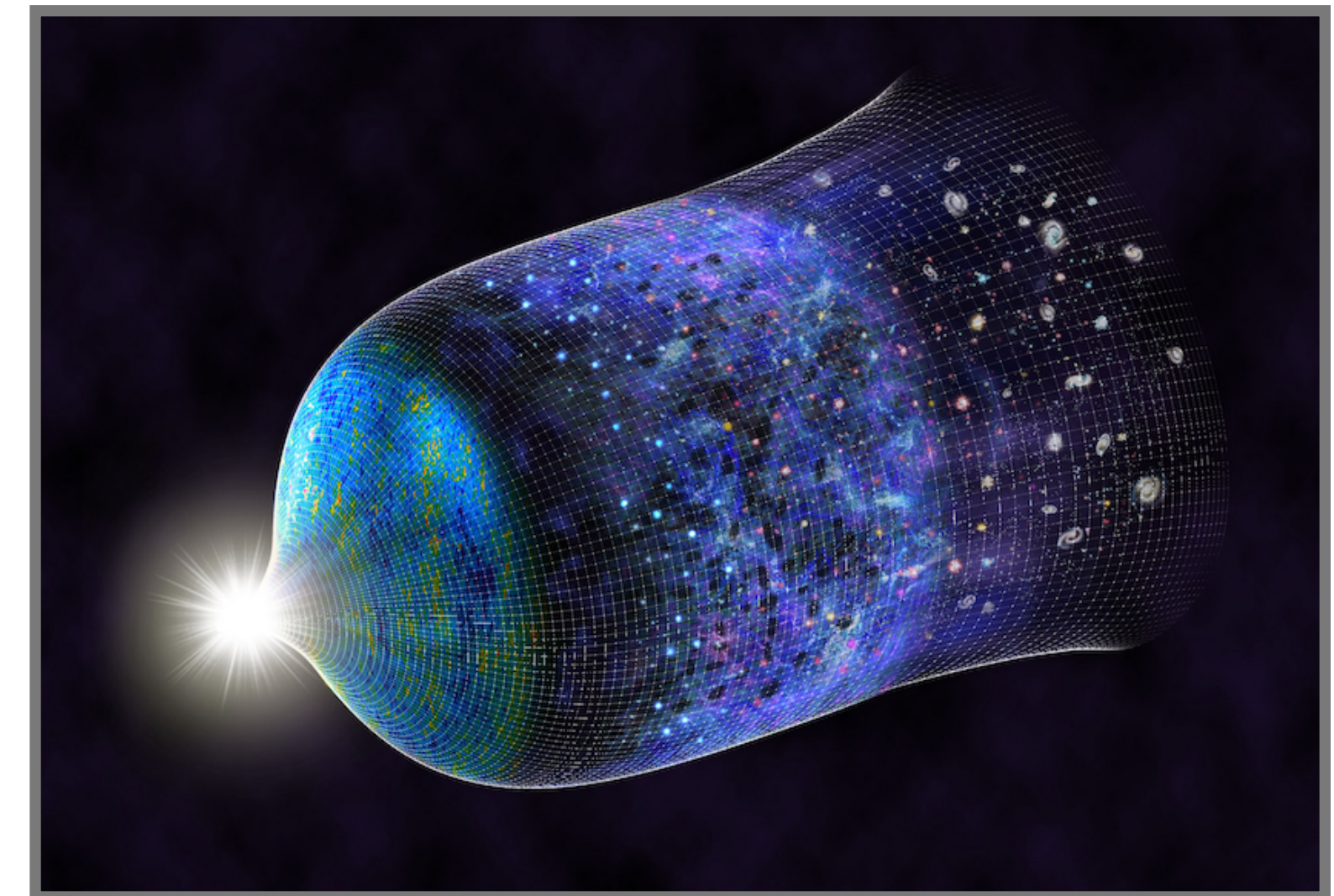
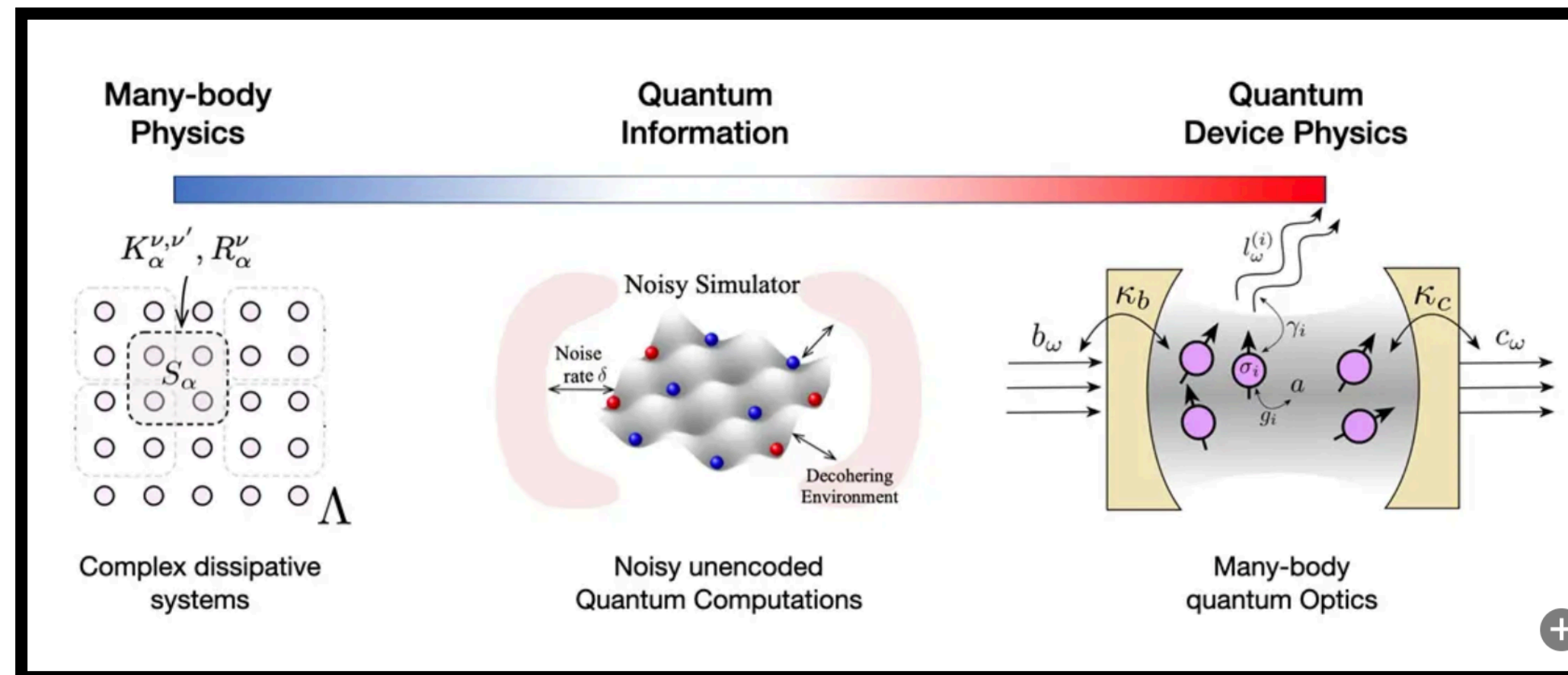
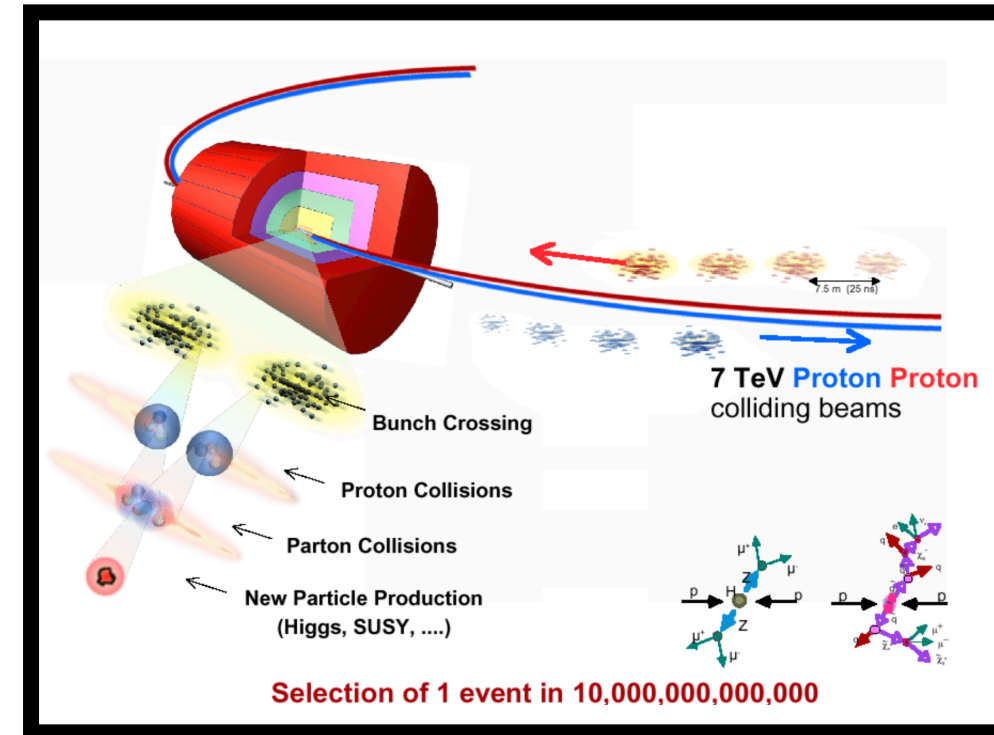
- What matter was responsible for the evolution of the primordial universe?
- What is the origin of the density inhomogeneities in the universe?
- How can (early universe) cosmology constrain beyond-standard model physics?
- What does (early universe) cosmology say about quantum gravity?

Goals and tools of elementary-particle cosmology

- What matter was responsible for the evolution of the primordial universe?
- What is the origin of the density inhomogeneities in the universe?
- How can (early universe) cosmology constrain beyond-standard model physics?
- What does (early universe) cosmology say about quantum gravity?

For decades, we've based our Beyond-Standard-Model ideas on successes of collider physics (low-energy EFTs, SUSY, strings, ...)

Updating our theory framework



Goals and tools of elementary-particle cosmology

- What matter was responsible for the evolution of the primordial universe?
- What is the origin of the density inhomogeneities in the universe?
- How can (early universe) cosmology constrain beyond-standard model physics?
- What does (early universe) cosmology say about quantum gravity?

Primary tool: semi-classical gravity, where metric perturbations are treated as usual quantum fields (mostly scalar curvature, tensor gravitational waves)

Classical gravity for the non-linear evolution

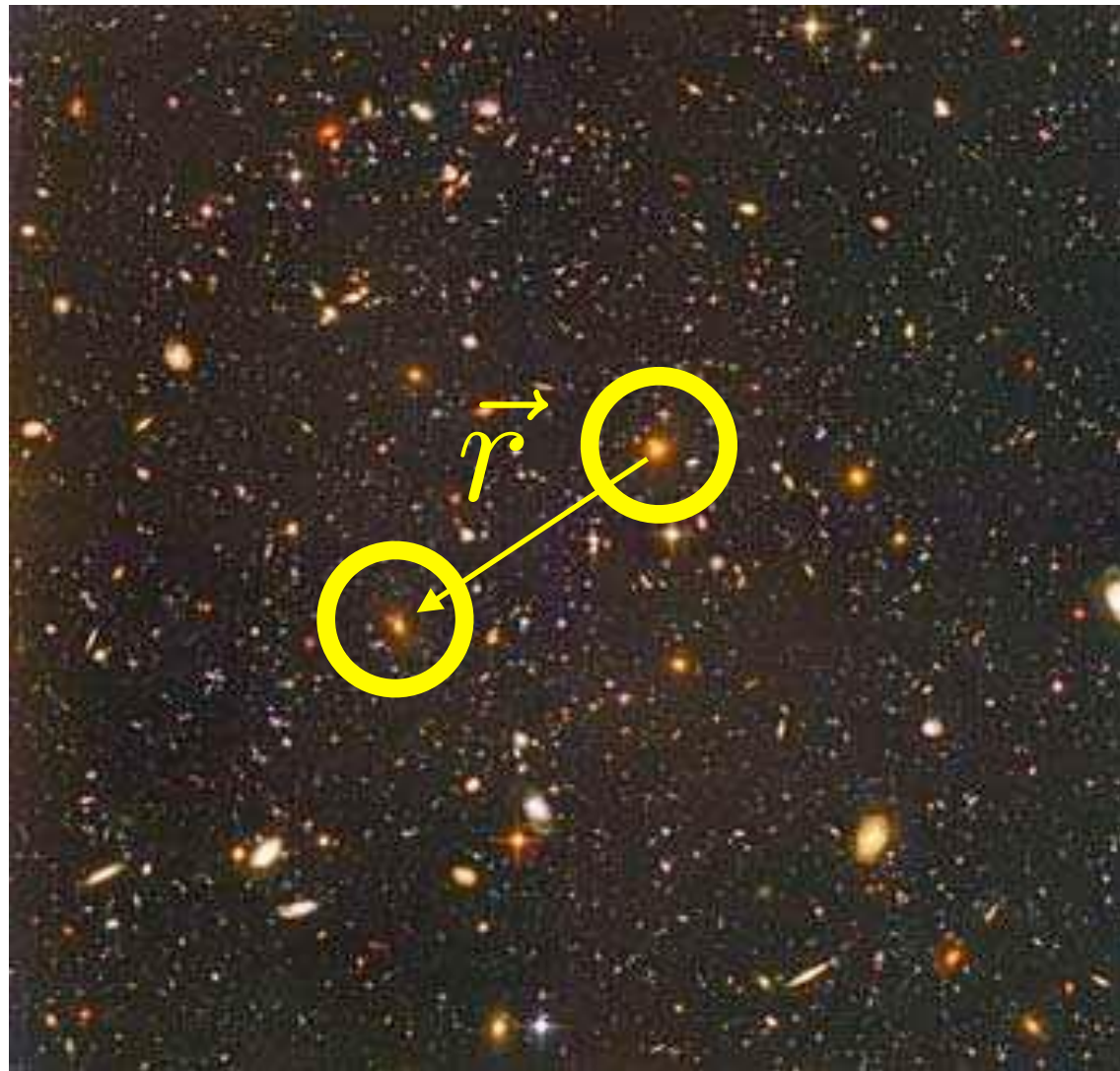
How do we test an early universe model?

Statistically

Correlation function:

Consider galaxy at position \vec{x} .

Is there also a galaxy at position $\vec{x} + \vec{r}$?



Hubble Telescope image

How do we test an early universe model?

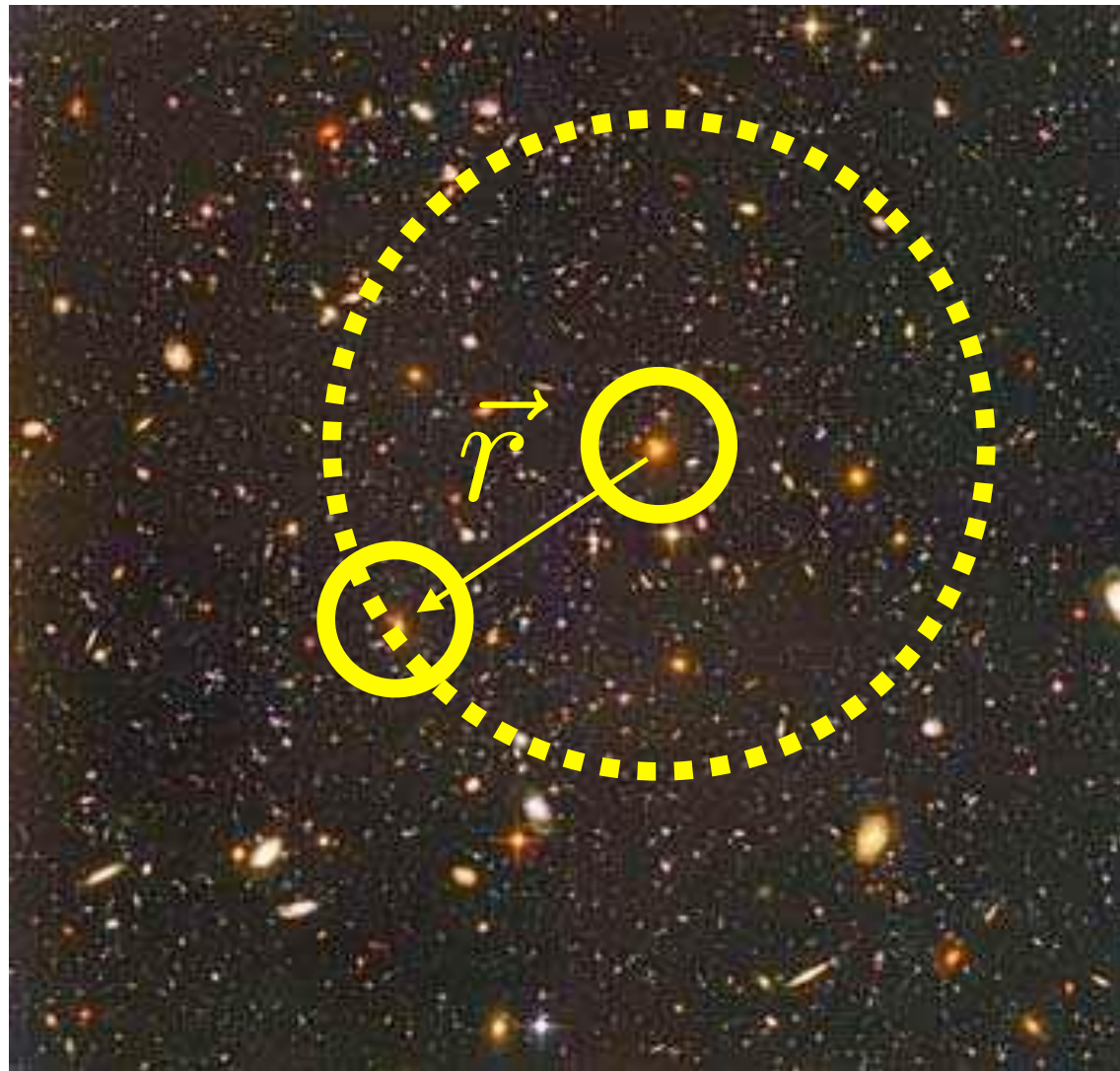
Statistically

Correlation function:

Consider galaxy at position \vec{x} .

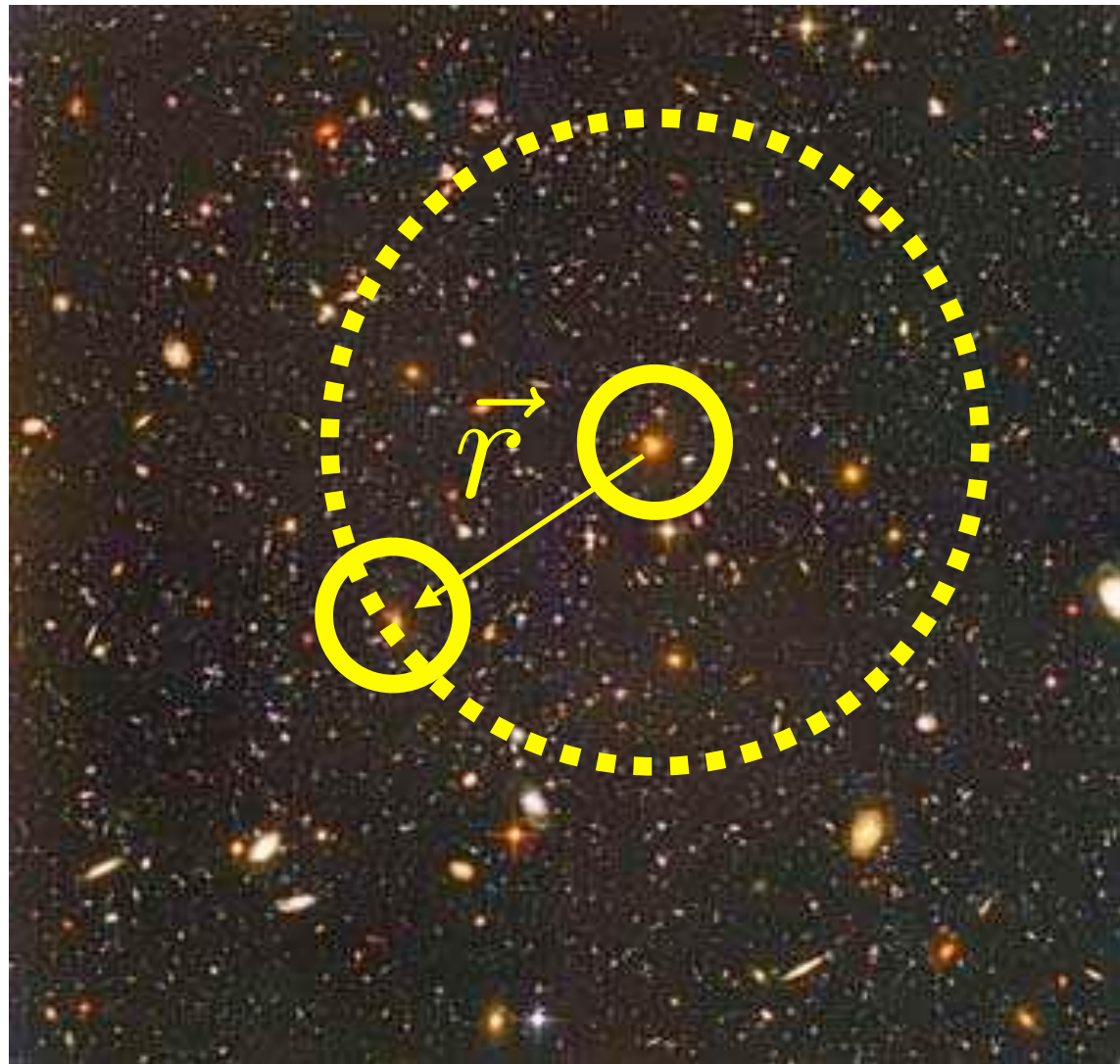
Is there also a galaxy at position $\vec{x} + \vec{r}$?

Repeat for all pairs of points to find the probability (subtracting random) of finding a galaxy pair separated by \vec{r} .



Hubble Telescope image

How do we test an early universe model?



Hubble Telescope image

Statistically

Correlation function:

Consider galaxy at position \vec{x} .

Is there also a galaxy at position $\vec{x} + \vec{r}$?

Repeat for all pairs of points to find the probability (subtracting random) of finding a galaxy pair separated by \vec{r} .

$$\langle \delta(\vec{x}) \delta(\vec{x} + \vec{r}) \rangle$$

How do we test an early universe model?

Statistically

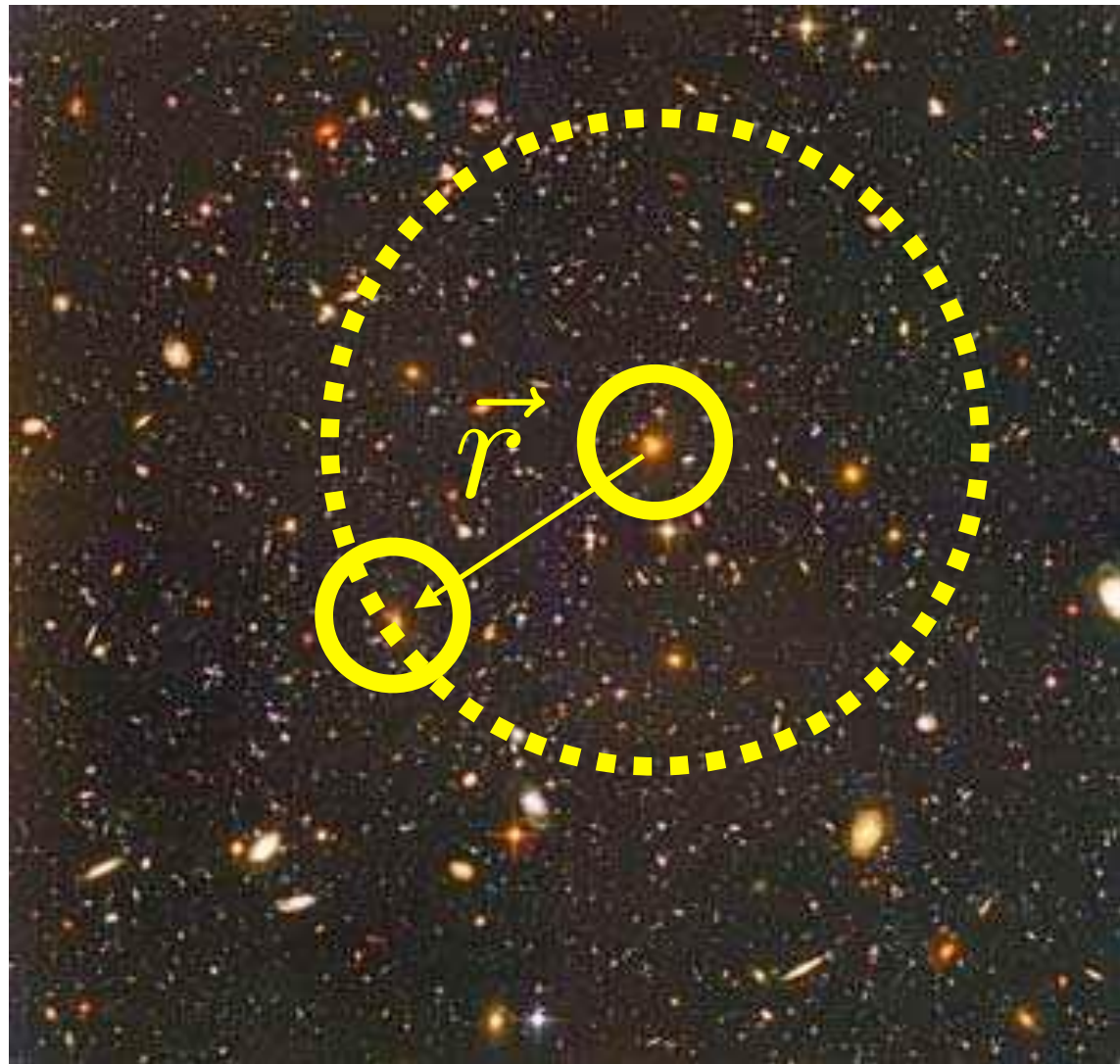
Correlation function:

Consider galaxy at position \vec{x} .

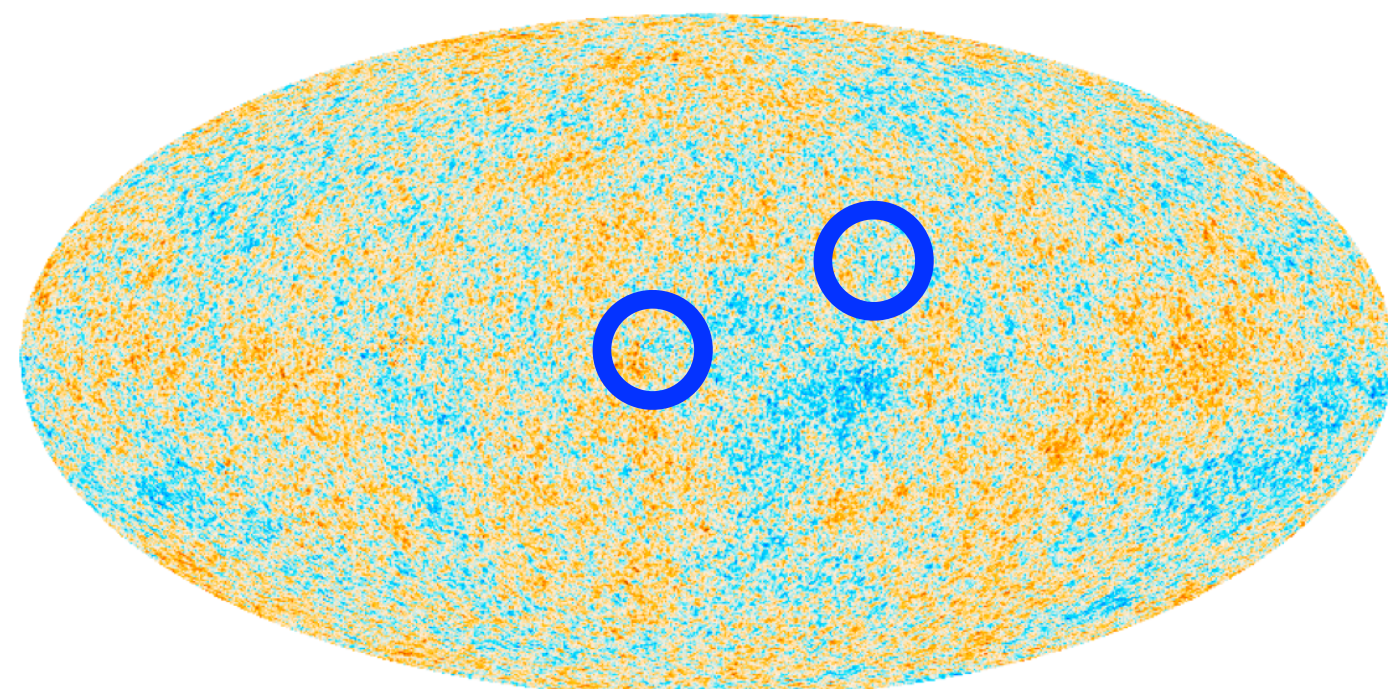
Is there also a galaxy at position $\vec{x} + \vec{r}$?

Repeat for all pairs of points to find the probability (subtracting random) of finding a galaxy pair separated by \vec{r} .

$$\langle \delta(\vec{x}) \delta(\vec{x} + \vec{r}) \rangle$$

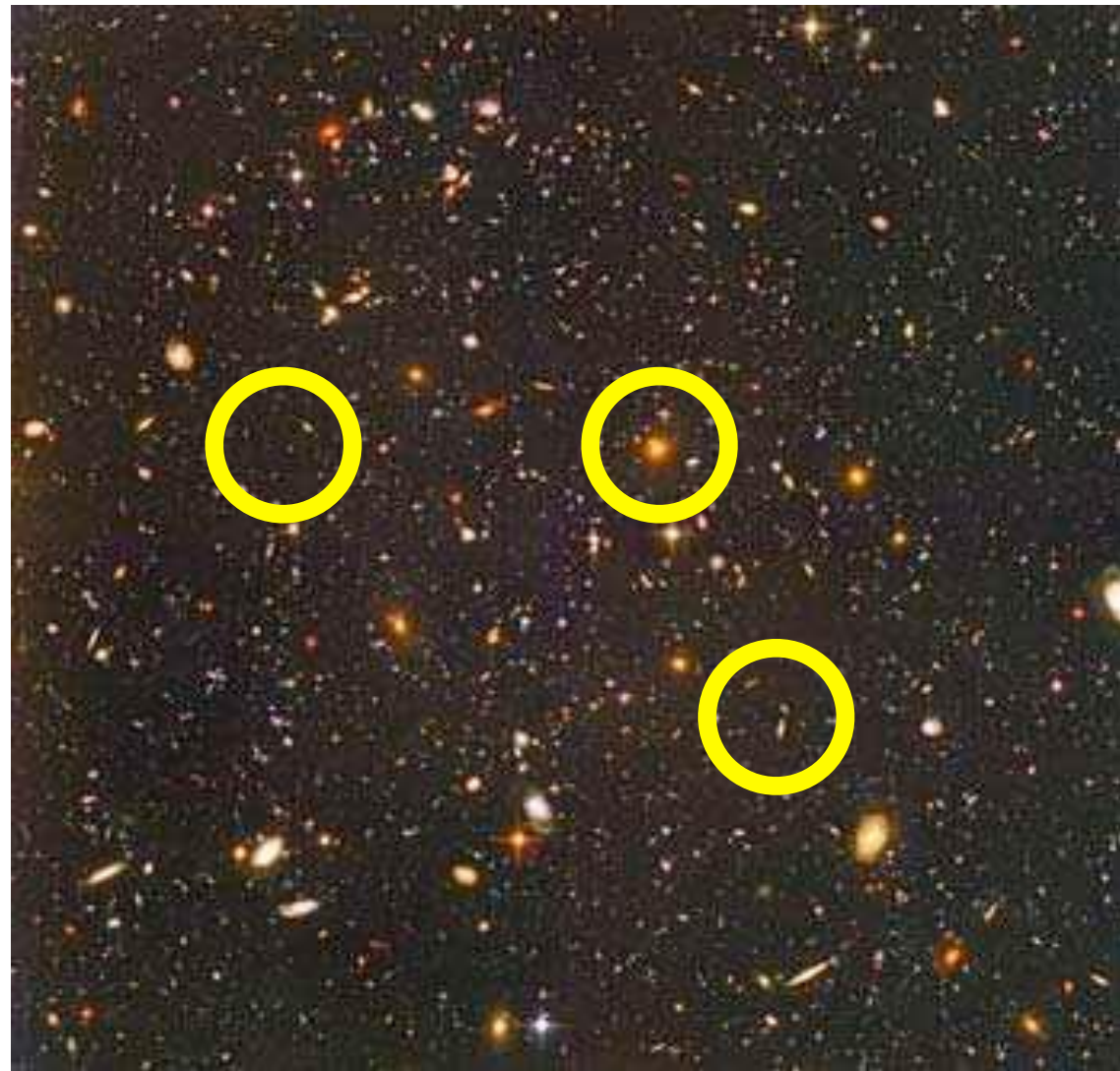


Hubble Telescope image



-500 μK_{CMB} 500 μK_{CMB}
Planck satellite CMB temperature fluctuation map

Statistics, cont'd



Higher order correlation functions:

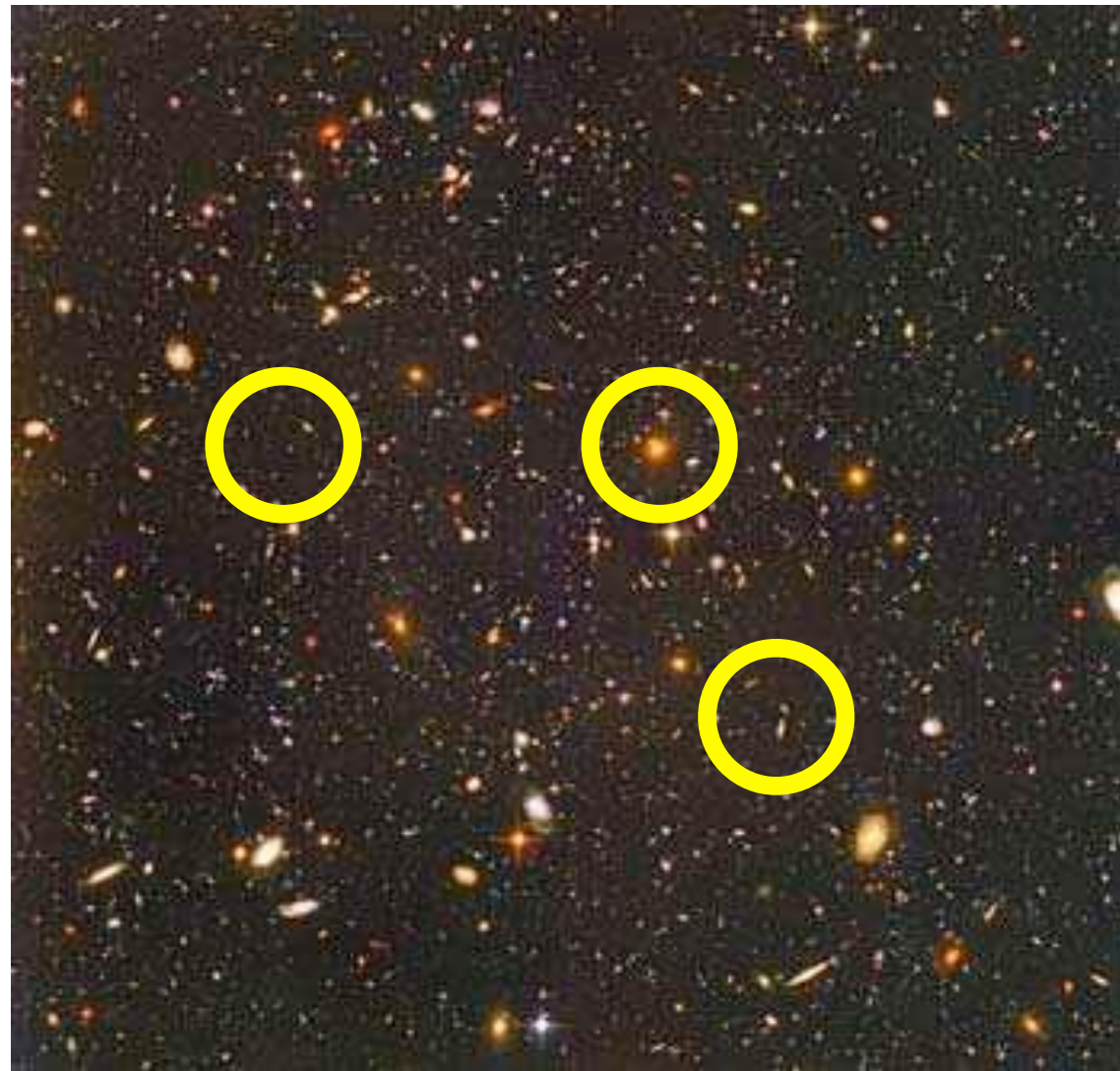
3-point:

$$\langle \delta(\vec{x}_1) \delta(\vec{x}_2) \delta(\vec{x}_3) \rangle$$

n-point:

$$\langle \delta(\vec{x}_1) \delta(\vec{x}_2) \dots \delta(\vec{x}_n) \rangle$$

Statistics, cont'd



Higher order correlation functions:

3-point:

$$\langle \delta(\vec{x}_1) \delta(\vec{x}_2) \delta(\vec{x}_3) \rangle$$

n-point:

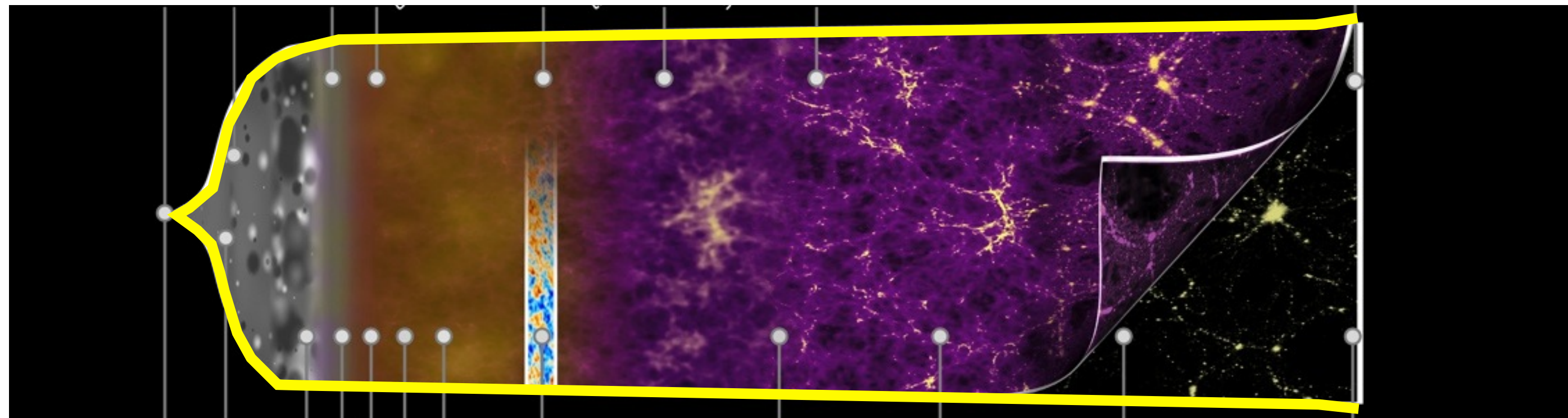
$$\langle \delta(\vec{x}_1) \delta(\vec{x}_2) \dots \delta(\vec{x}_n) \rangle$$

Fourier space statistics:

$$\langle \tilde{\delta}(\vec{k}_1) \tilde{\delta}(\vec{k}_2) \dots \tilde{\delta}(\vec{k}_n) \rangle$$

How do we model the physics?

General relativity: (Geometry) = (Matter)



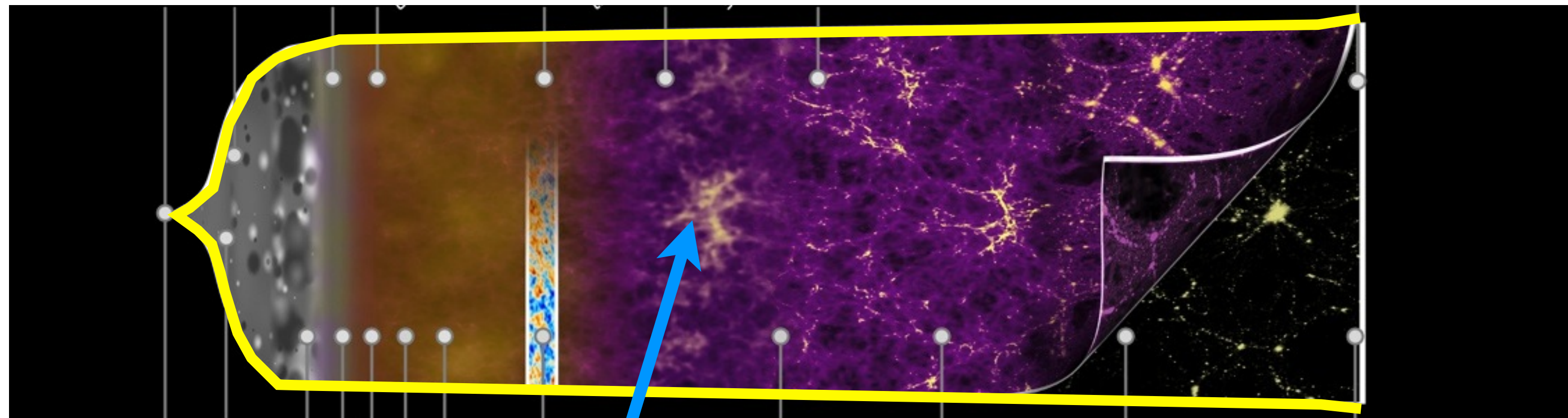
(Rule for defining how far
apart things are)

Background metric

$$ds^2 = -dt^2 + a^2(t)d\vec{x}^2$$

How do we model the physics?

General relativity: (Geometry) = (Matter)



(Rule for defining how far apart things are)

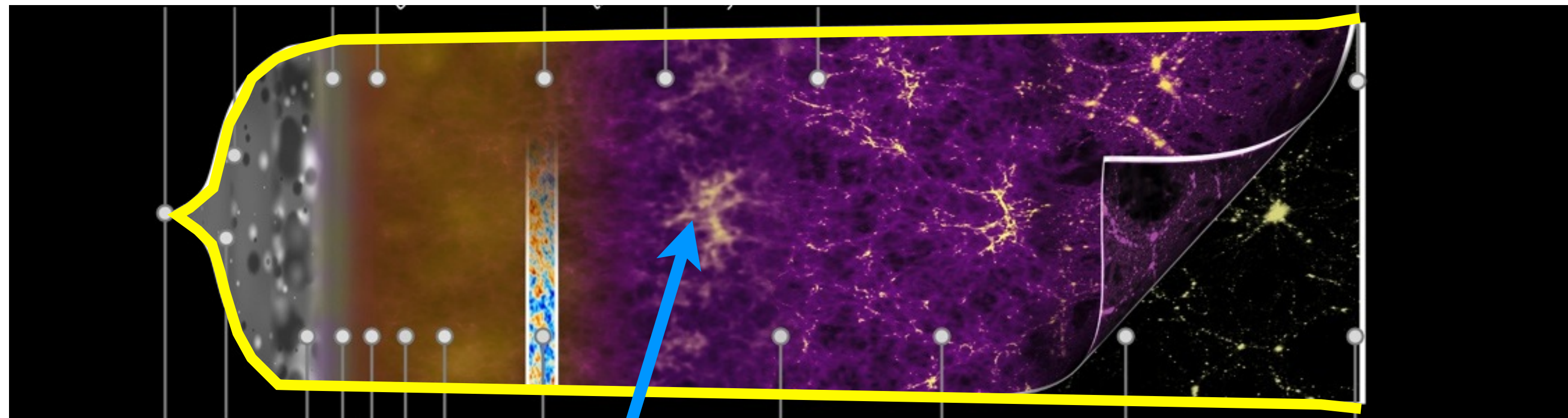
Background metric

$$ds^2 = -dt^2 + a^2(t)d\vec{x}^2$$

All late-universe matter responds to gravity....
Source of CMB, galaxy, etc fluctuations can be written

How do we model the physics?

General relativity: (Geometry) = (Matter)



(Rule for defining how far apart things are)

Background metric

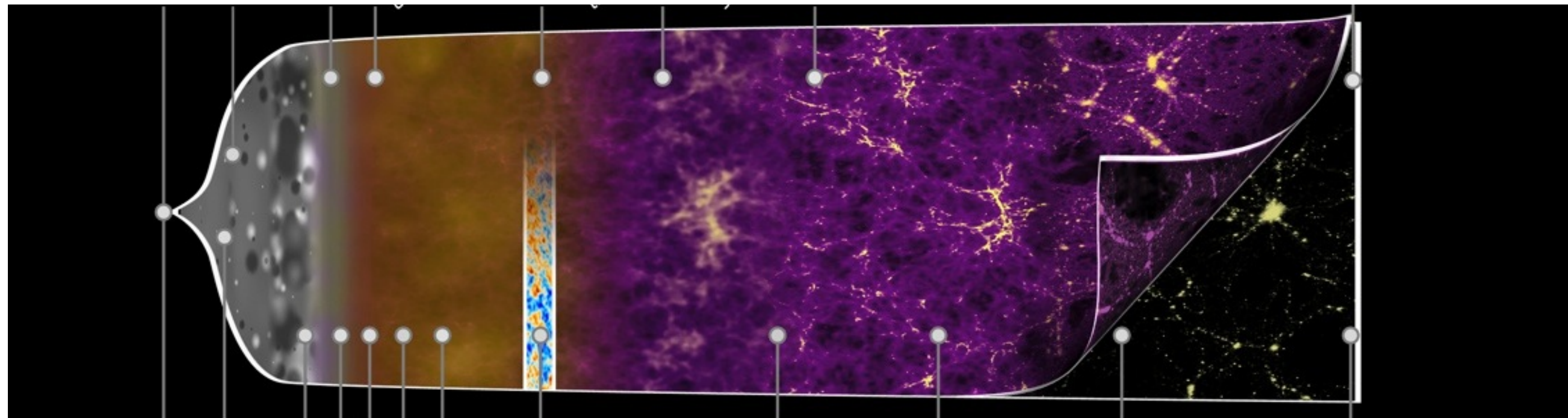
$$ds^2 = -dt^2 + a^2(t)d\vec{x}^2$$

All late-universe matter responds to gravity....
Source of CMB, galaxy, etc fluctuations can be written

$$a(t) \rightarrow a(t)[1 + \zeta(\vec{x}, t)]$$

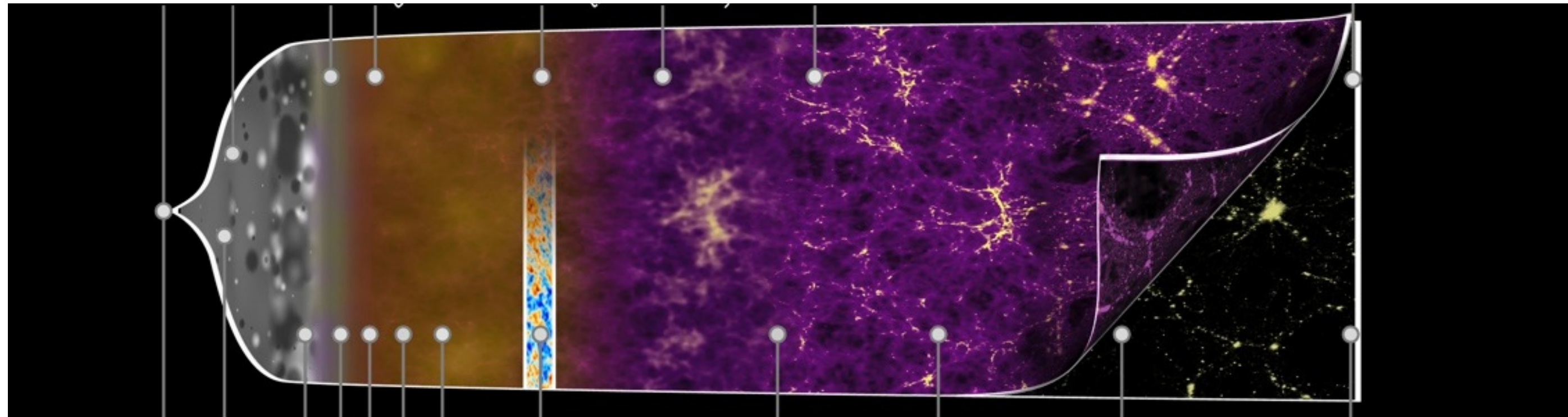
$$\langle \zeta(\vec{k}_1)\zeta(\vec{k}_2) \dots \zeta(\vec{k}_n) \rangle$$

How do we model the physics?



Use data to **reconstruct**
gravitational potential at
time t_*

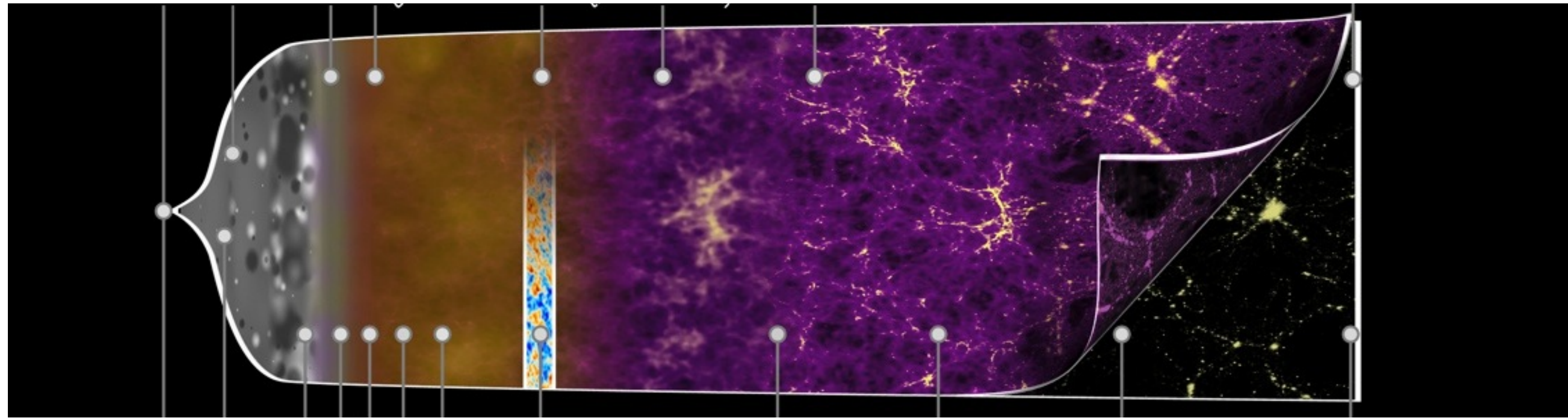
How do we model the physics?



Use theory to **predict**
gravitational
potential at time t_*

Use data to **reconstruct**
gravitational potential at
time t_*

How do we model the physics?



Use theory to **predict**
gravitational
potential at time t_*

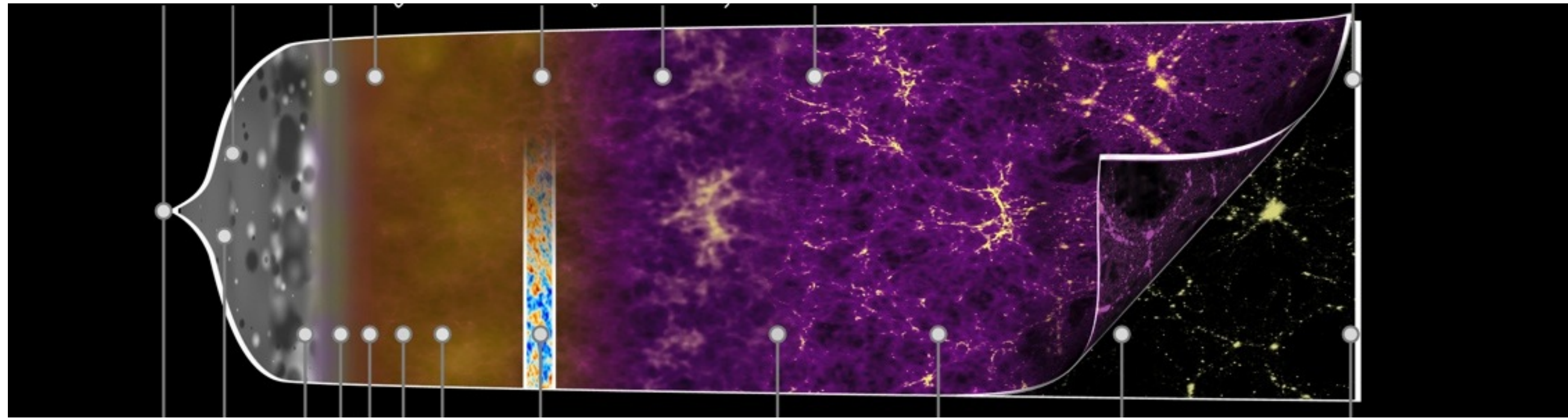
Use data to **reconstruct**
gravitational potential at
time t_*

$$\langle \zeta(\vec{k}_1) \zeta(\vec{k}_2) \dots \zeta(\vec{k}_n) \rangle$$

?
=

$$\langle \zeta(\vec{k}_1) \zeta(\vec{k}_2) \dots \zeta(\vec{k}_n) \rangle$$

How do we model the physics?



Use theory to **predict**
gravitational
potential at time t_*

Use data to **reconstruct**
gravitational potential at
time t_*

$$\langle \zeta(\vec{k}_1) \zeta(\vec{k}_2) \dots \zeta(\vec{k}_n) \rangle$$

?
=

$$\langle \zeta(\vec{k}_1) \zeta(\vec{k}_2) \dots \zeta(\vec{k}_n) \rangle$$

actually, can only ask for statistical consistency

Parameterize the observed statistics

The observed power spectrum:

$$\langle \zeta(\vec{k}_1) \zeta(\vec{k}_2) \rangle = \delta(\vec{k}_1 + \vec{k}_2) k_1^{-3} P(k_1)$$

$$P(k_1) = A_0 \left(\frac{k}{k_0} \right)^{n_s - 1}$$

Parameterize the observed statistics

The observed power spectrum:

$$\langle \zeta(\vec{k}_1) \zeta(\vec{k}_2) \rangle = \delta(\vec{k}_1 + \vec{k}_2) k_1^{-3} P(k_1)$$

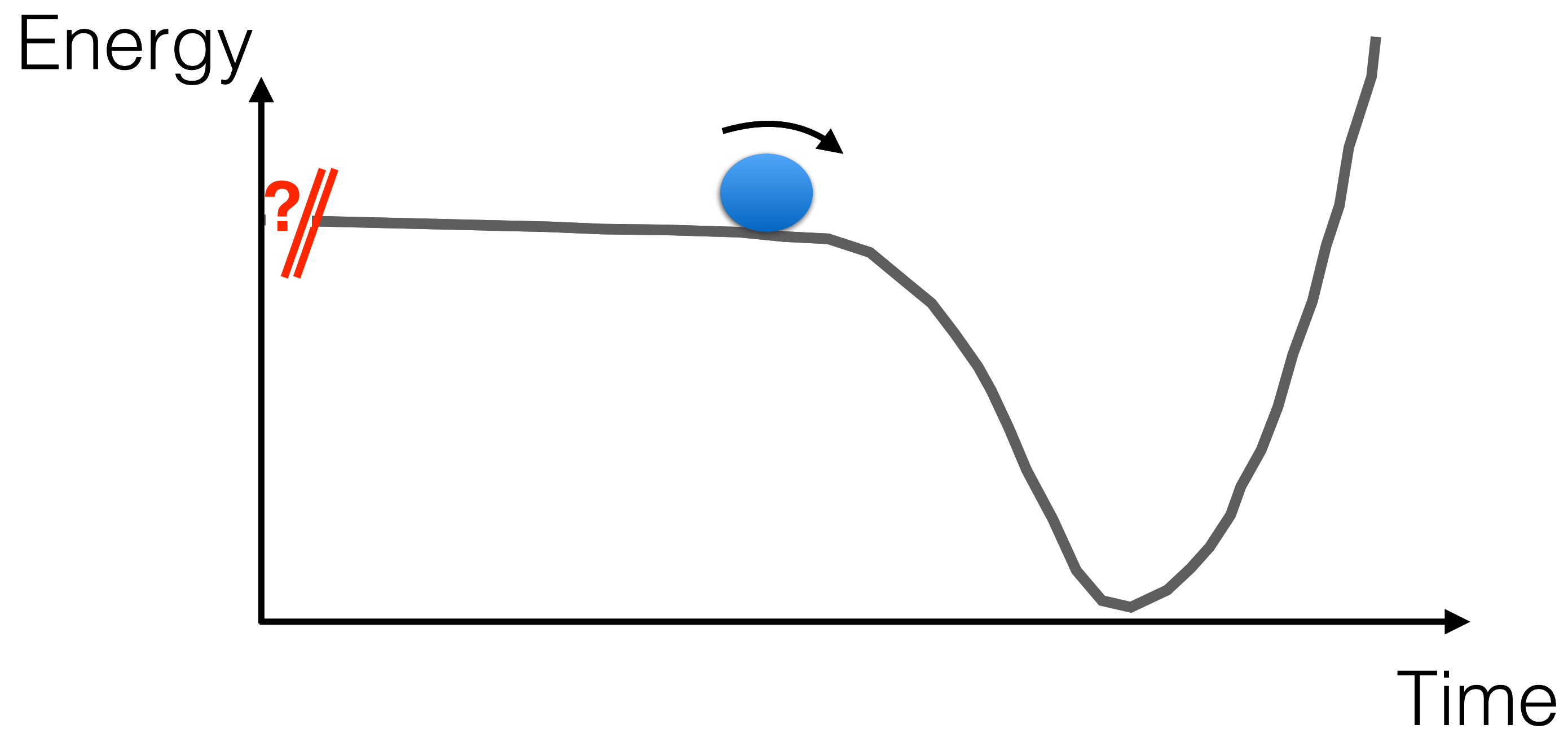
$$P(k_1) = A_0 \left(\frac{k}{k_0} \right)^{n_s - 1}$$

What theory of matter + gravity can give us the same statistics, “naturally”?

Inflation (?)

Inflation:

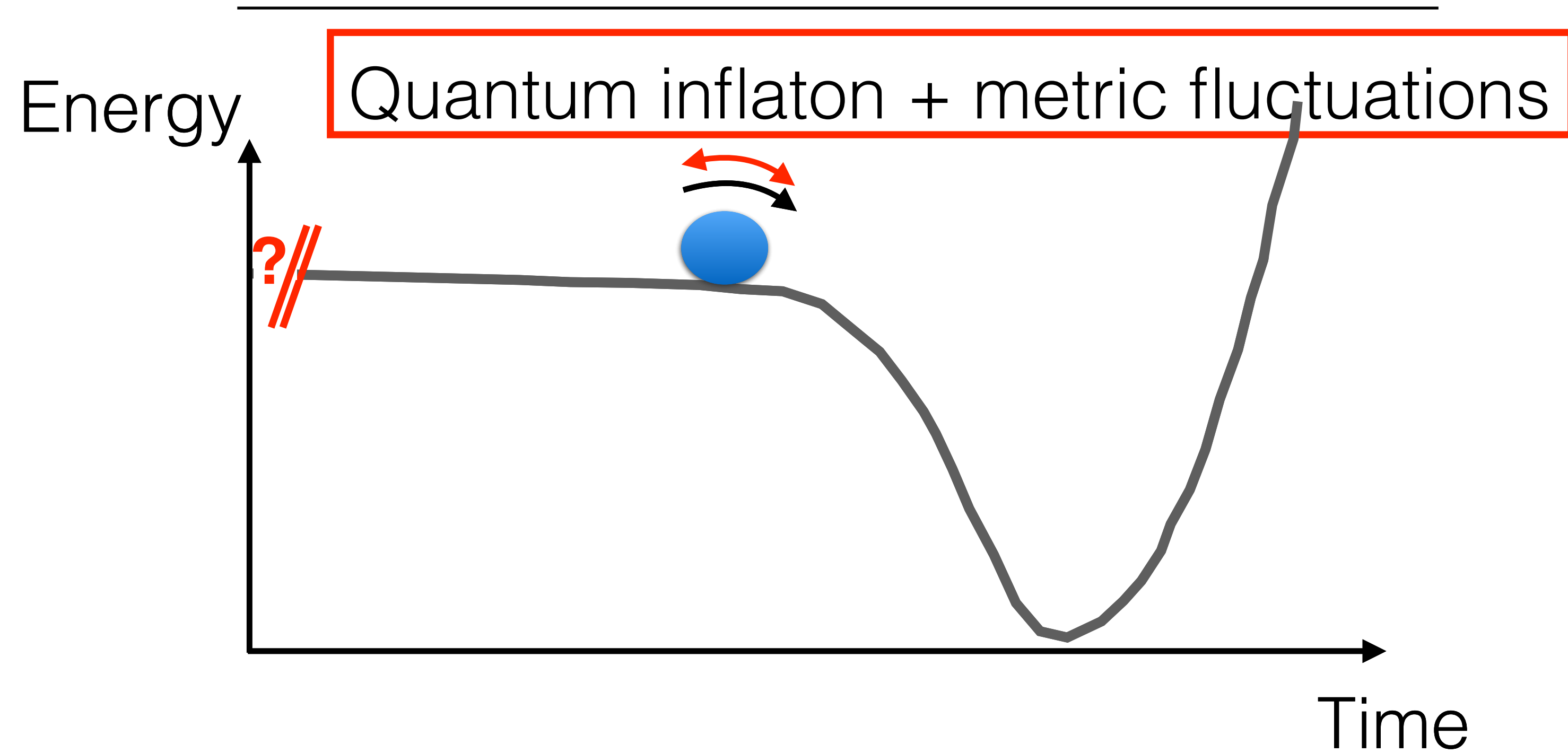
The canonical cartoon



Earlier times
Larger length scales

Inflation:

The canonical cartoon

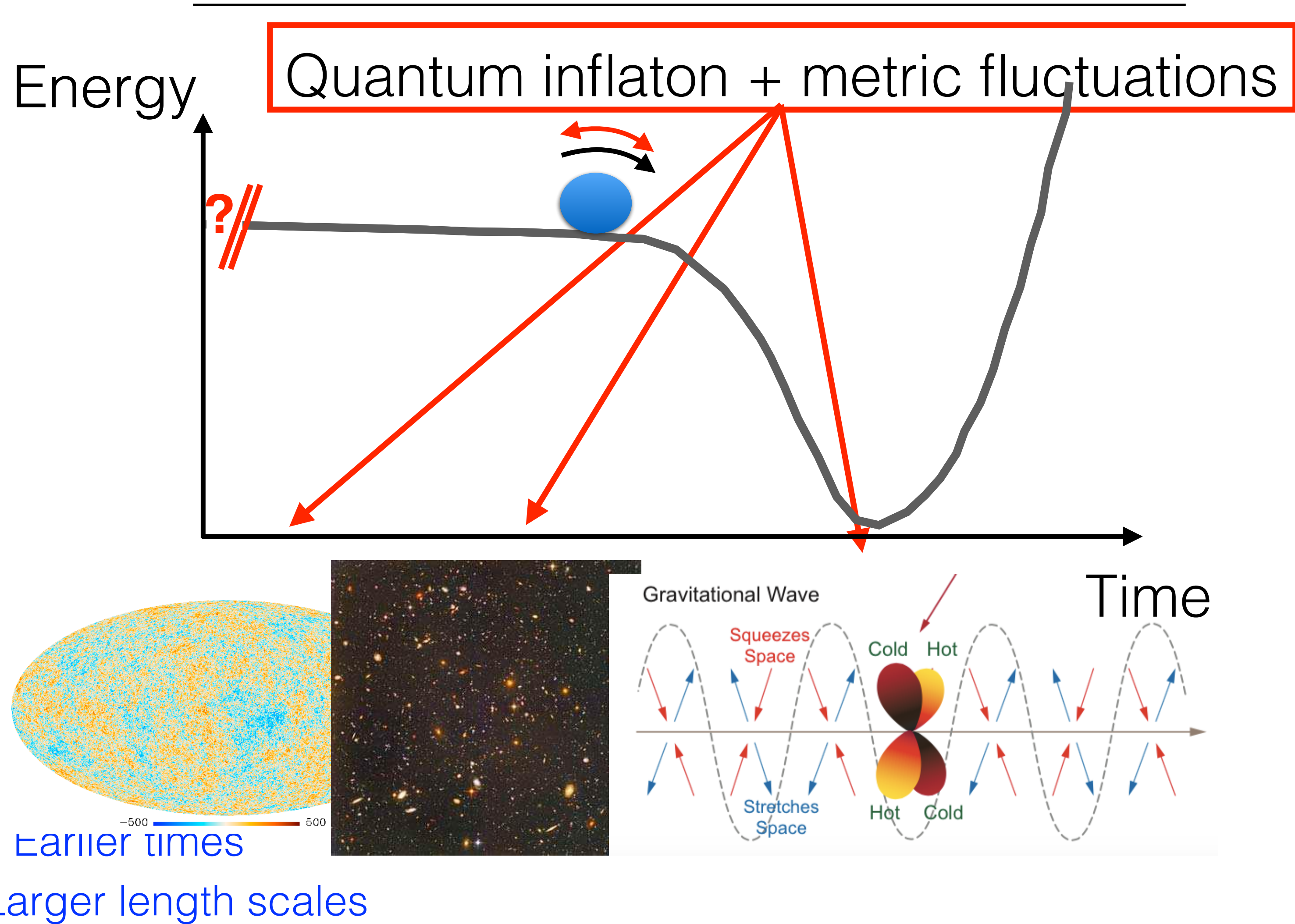


Earlier times

Larger length scales

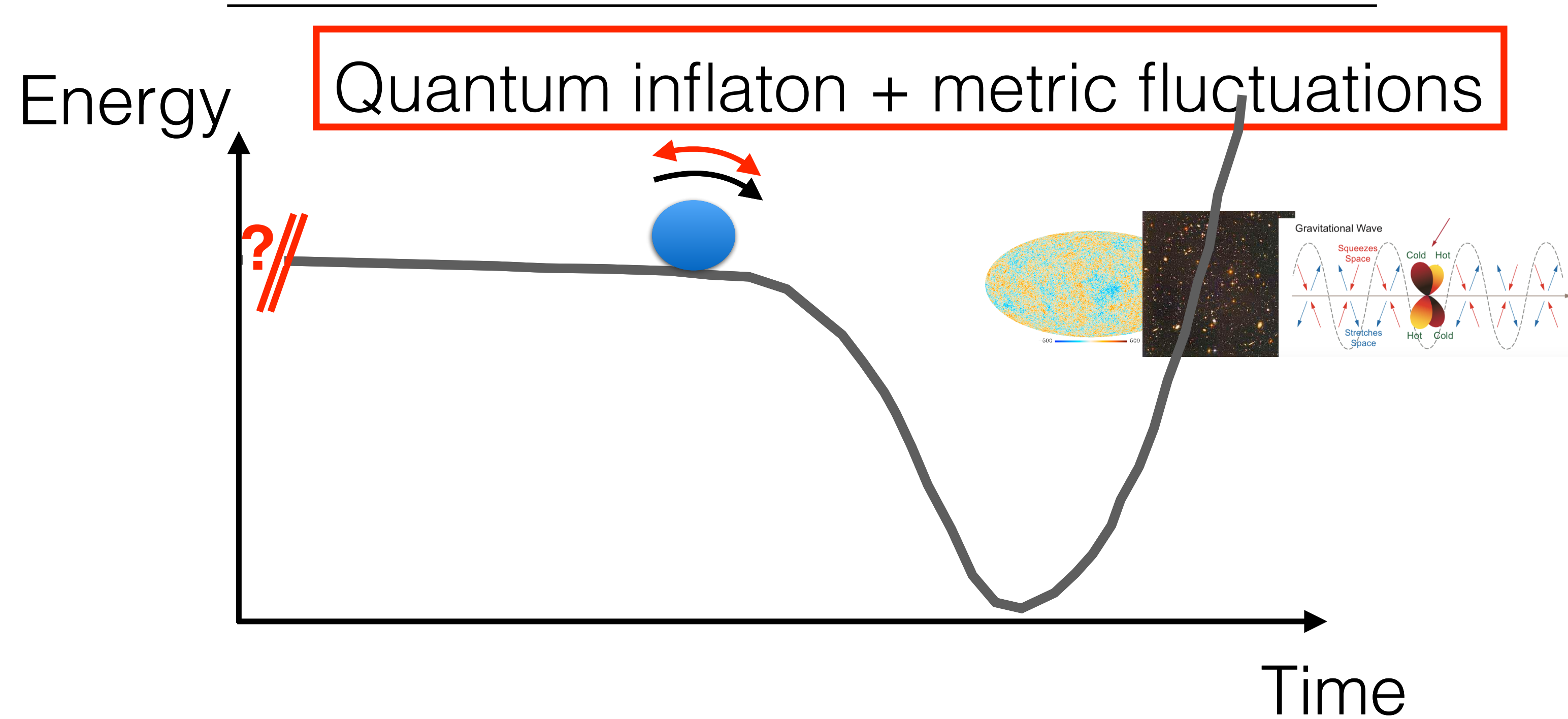
Inflation:

The canonical cartoon



Inflation:

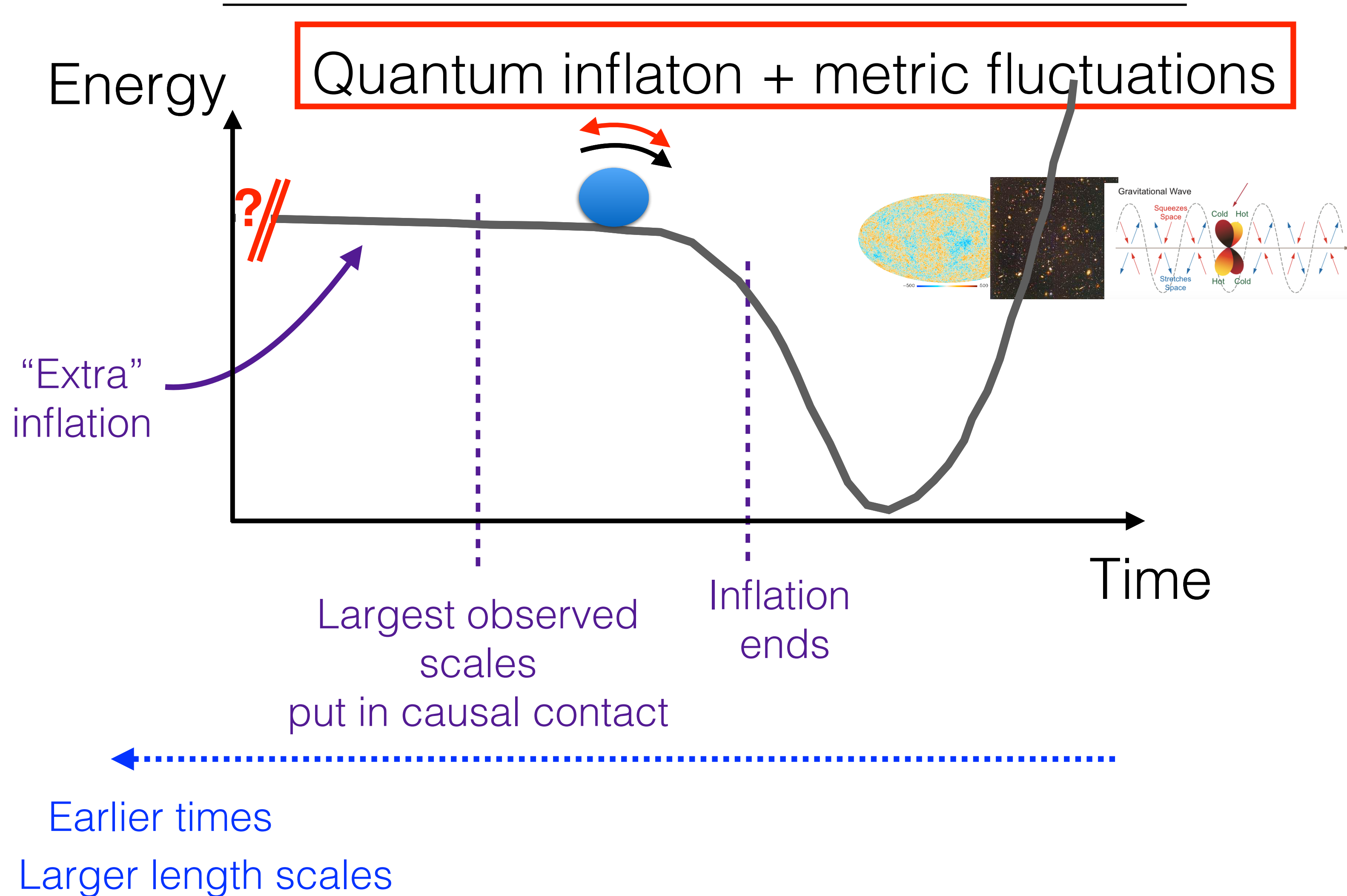
The canonical cartoon



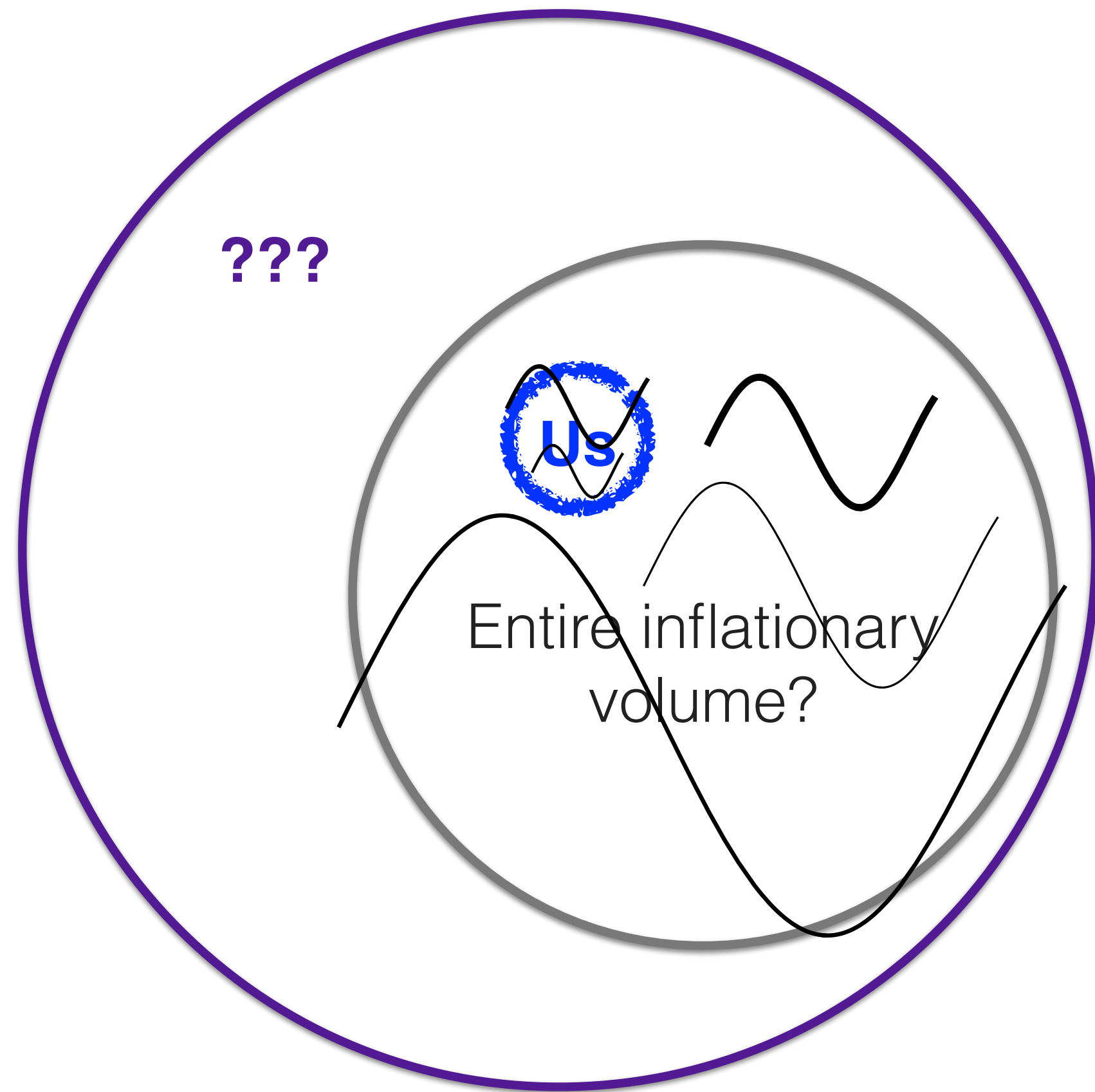
Earlier times
Larger length scales

Inflation:

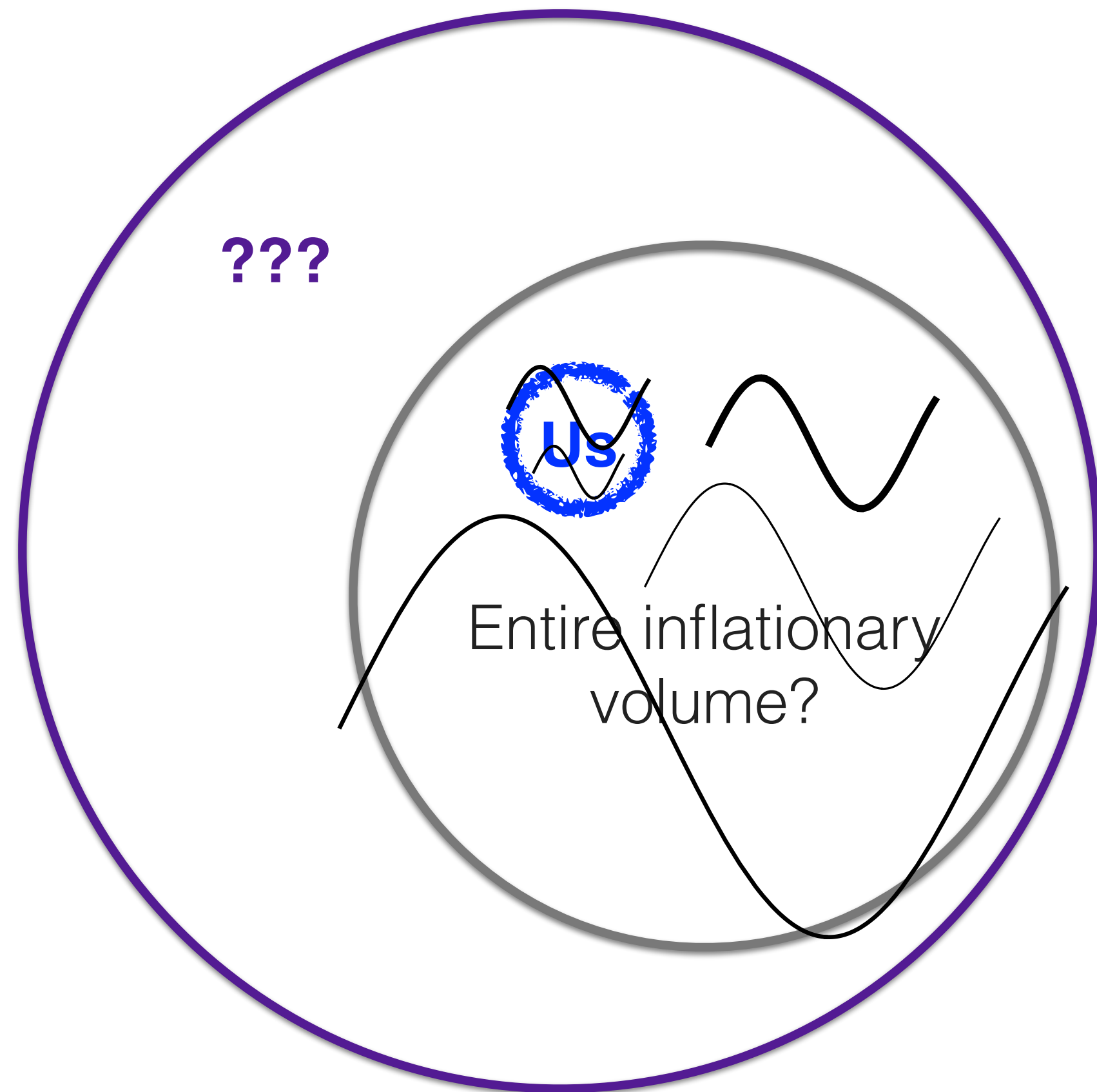
The canonical cartoon



Then, the universe....



Then, the universe....



We can observe fluctuations on scales spanning about 10 e-folds (~ 4 decades in k-modes)

Total inflation is ~ 60 e-folds

Few prospects for accessing much smaller scales

What we can learn

- Scalar amplitude (two-point): quadratic action for gravity (perturbed metric) + scalar field (background + perturbations)
- At quadratic order, each Fourier mode is independent

$$A_0 \propto \frac{H^2}{M_p^2} \epsilon \quad \epsilon = -\frac{\dot{H}}{H^2}$$

One representation of the physics at quadratic order (standard single-field slow-roll)

$$\chi = z\zeta = \frac{\sqrt{2\epsilon}a}{c_s}\zeta$$

$$\hat{H} = \frac{1}{2} \int \frac{d^3k}{(2\pi)^3} \left[c_s k \left(\hat{c}_{\vec{k}} \hat{c}_{\vec{k}}^\dagger + \hat{c}_{-\vec{k}} \hat{c}_{-\vec{k}}^\dagger \right) - i \frac{z'}{z} \left(\hat{c}_{\vec{k}} \hat{c}_{-\vec{k}} - \hat{c}_{\vec{k}}^\dagger \hat{c}_{-\vec{k}}^\dagger \right) \right]$$

Two-mode squeezing
Gravity is a zero-momentum pump

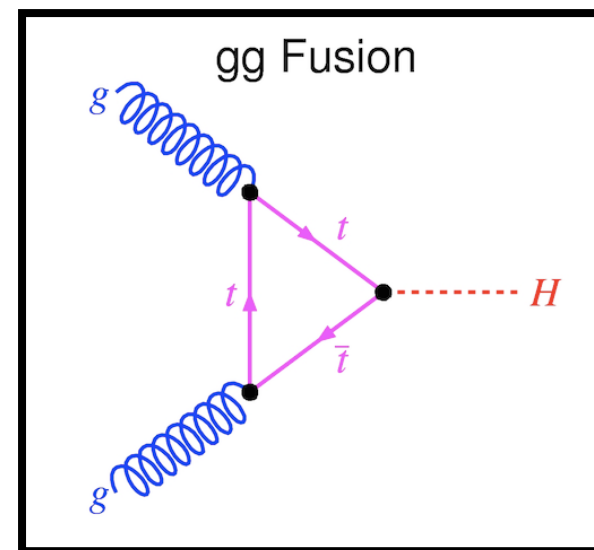
Beyond quadratic

- Gravity is non-linear, and matter can have interaction terms

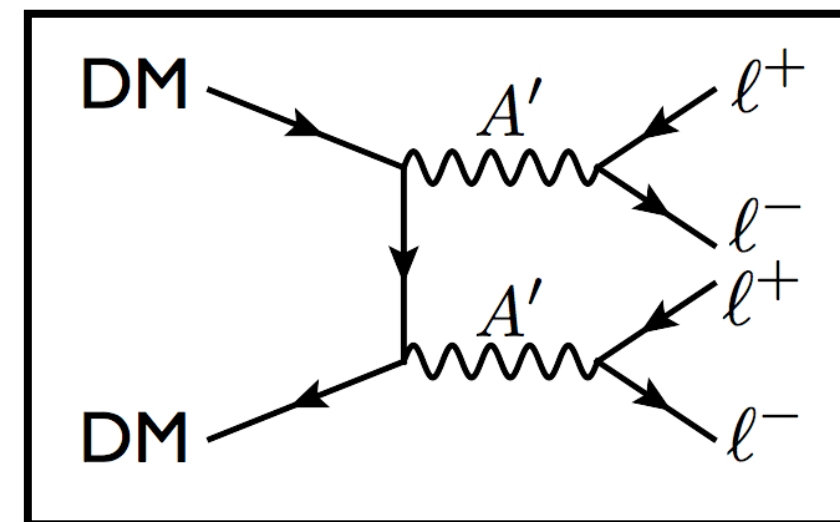
Beyond quadratic

- Gravity is non-linear, and matter can have interaction terms

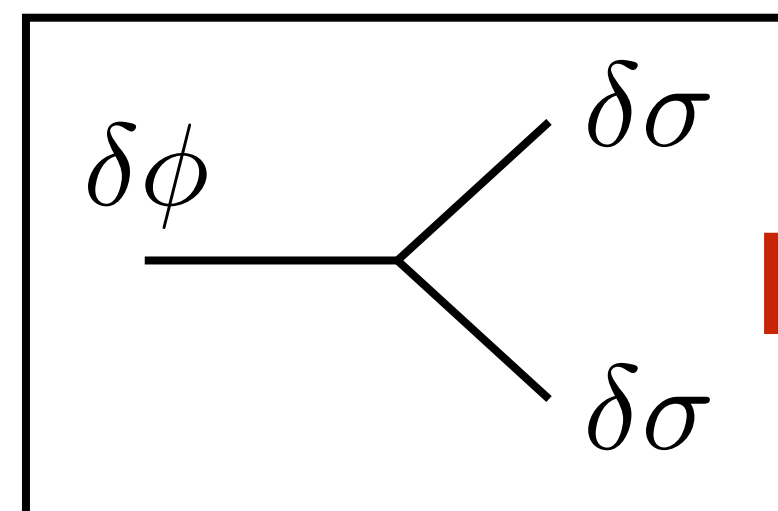
- Higgs



- Dark Matter



- Cosmology



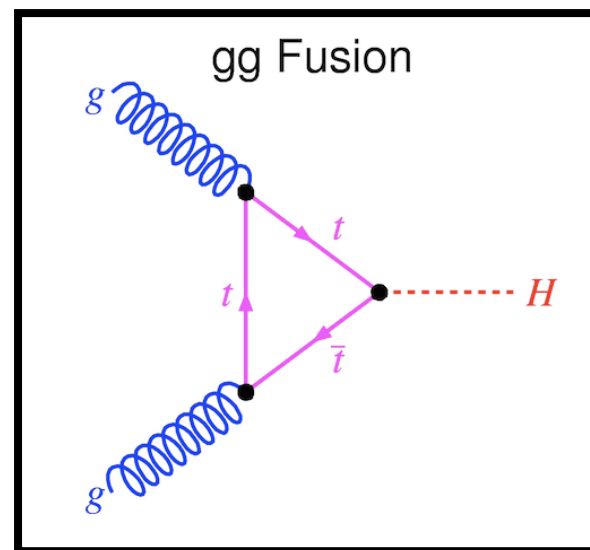
Dynamical
Repeatable

Observational
One sky

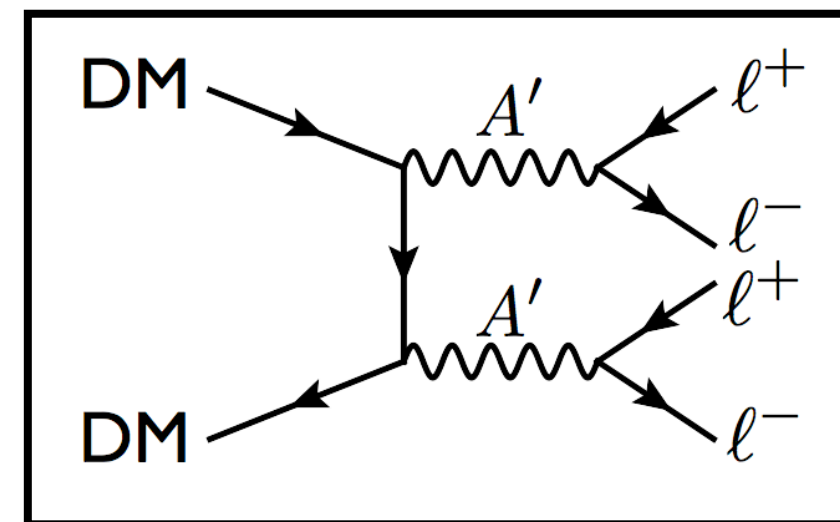
Beyond quadratic

- Gravity is non-linear, and matter can have interaction terms

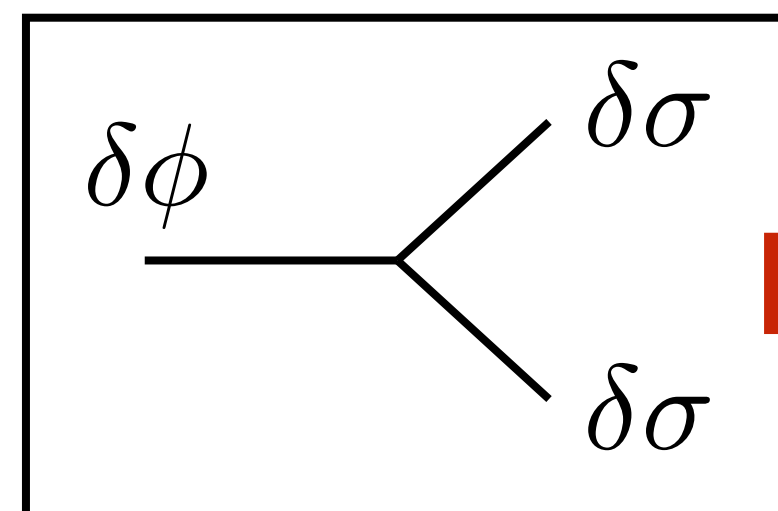
- Higgs



- Dark Matter



- Cosmology



Dynamical
Repeatable

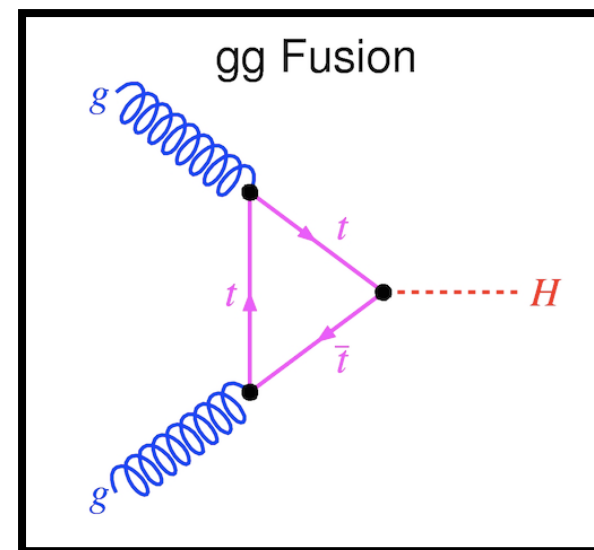
Observational
One sky

Non-Gaussian statistics

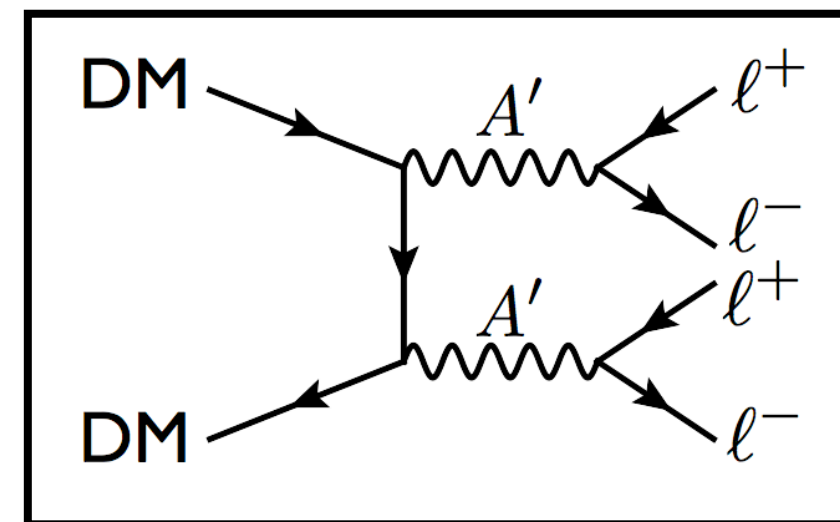
Beyond quadratic

- Gravity is non-linear, and matter can have interaction terms

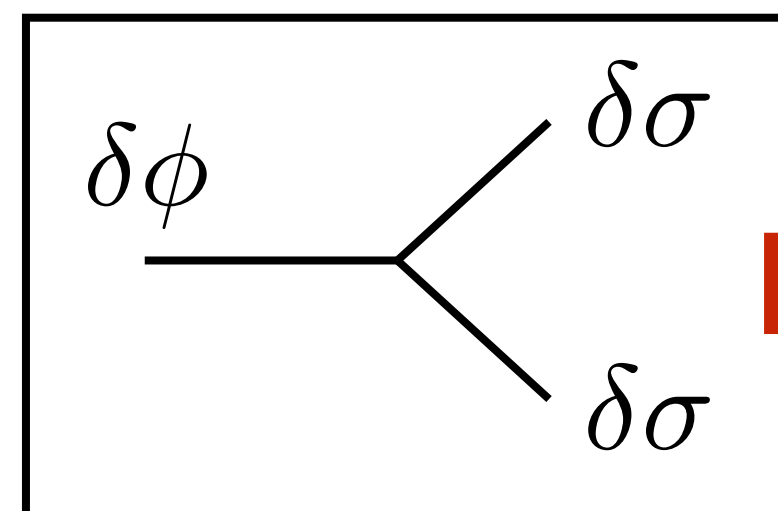
- Higgs



- Dark Matter



- Cosmology



Dynamical
Repeatable

Observational
One sky

Non-Gaussian statistics

We use in-in formalism to
compute correlations from
inflation

Open systems in inflation

- One approach for **vacuum** fluctuations: choose some Fourier modes to be system, some to be environment
- Choose some interaction between system and environment
- We can solve for all the behavior of all the modes. So, a choice of system + environment should correspond to some relevant scale for processes after inflation
- Generally, there is no natural separation of scales corresponding to the system/environment split: non-Markovianity is generic

A classical consequence of interactions: Non-Gaussian sample variance

A classical consequence of interactions: Non-Gaussian sample variance

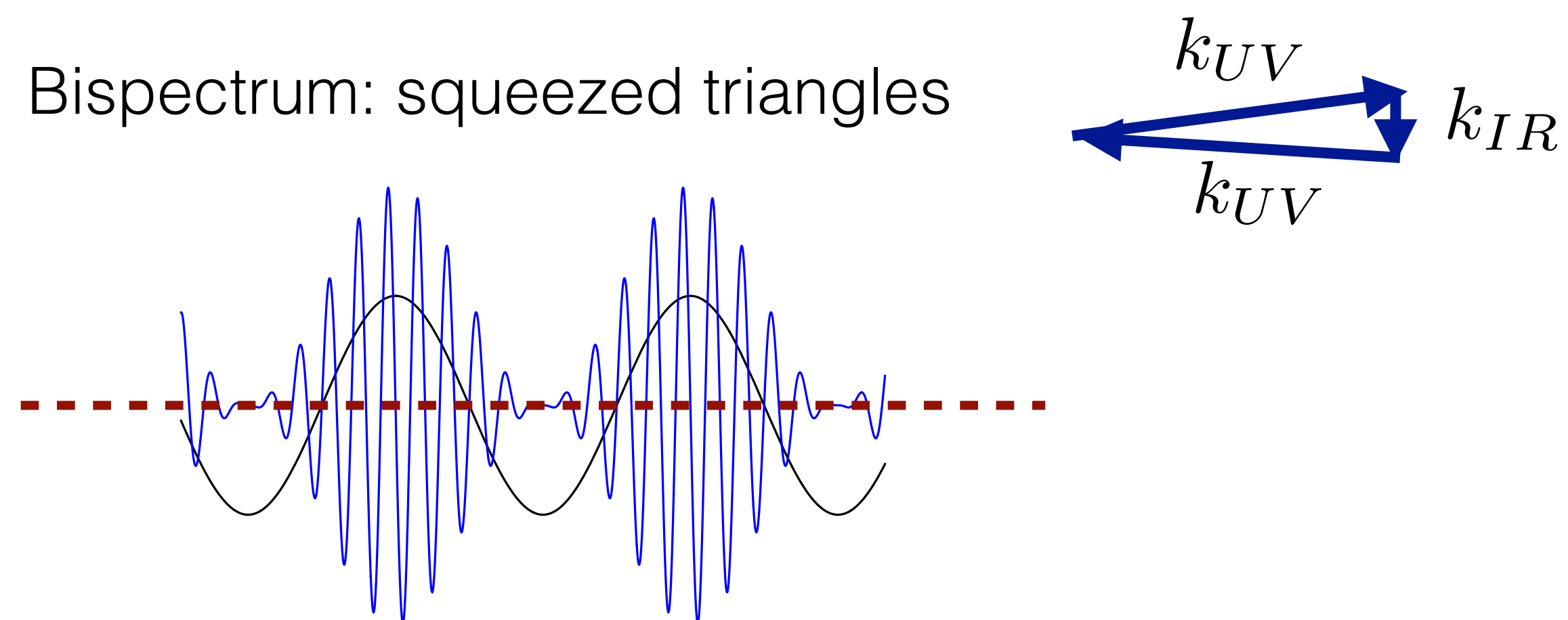
Consider classical statistics of a non-Gaussian field where only a sub-region is observed

Suppose modes of very different wavelengths are correlated

A classical consequence of interactions: Non-Gaussian sample variance

Consider classical statistics of a non-Gaussian field where only a sub-region is observed

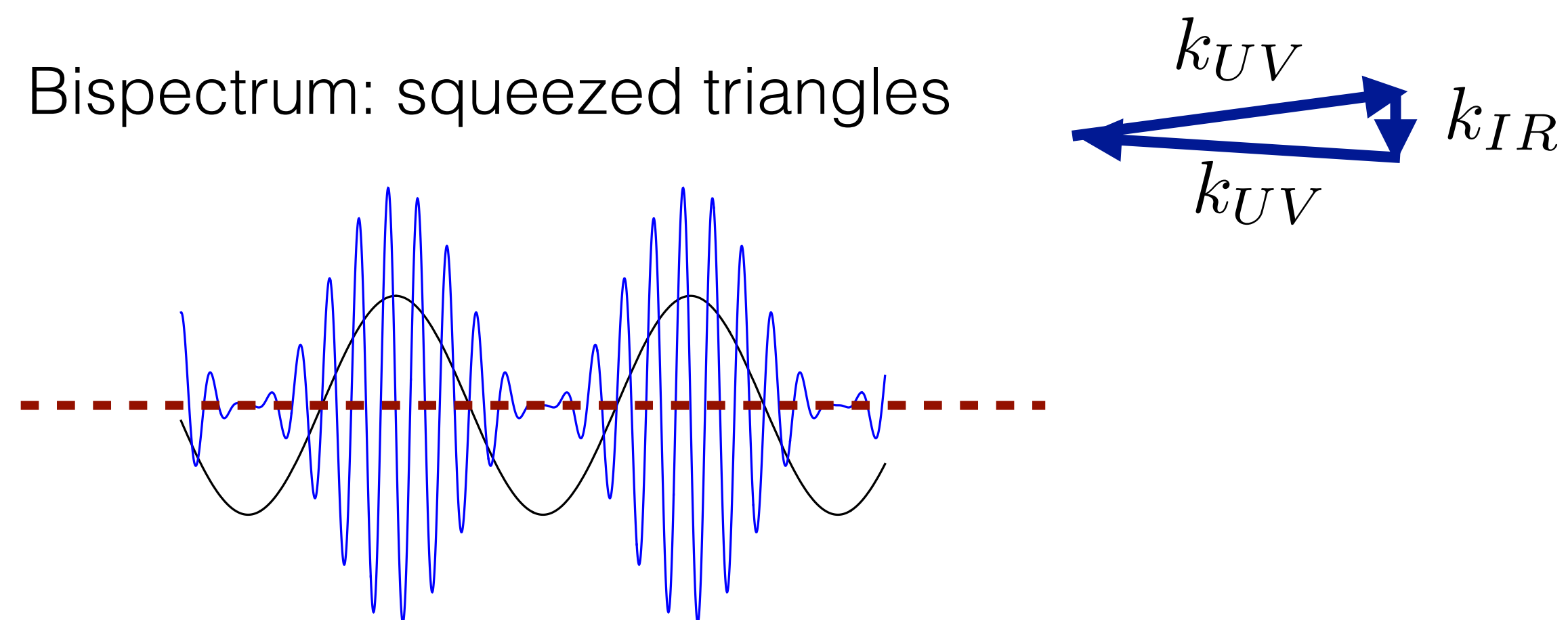
Suppose modes of very different wavelengths are correlated



A classical consequence of interactions: Non-Gaussian sample variance

Consider classical statistics of a non-Gaussian field where only a sub-region is observed

Suppose modes of very different wavelengths are correlated



Then local statistics tend to be biased by unobservable long-wavelength modes

Shifting the amplitude of fluctuations

$$\Delta_{\zeta}^2 = A_0 \left(\frac{k}{k_0} \right)^{n_s - 1}$$

Phenomenology (an ansatz)

Shifting the amplitude of fluctuations

$$\Delta_{\zeta}^2 = A_0 \left(\frac{k}{k_0} \right)^{n_s - 1}$$

Phenomenology (an ansatz)

$$A_0 \sim \mathcal{O}(10^{-9})$$
$$\sigma(A_0) \sim \mathcal{O}(10^{-10})$$

Data

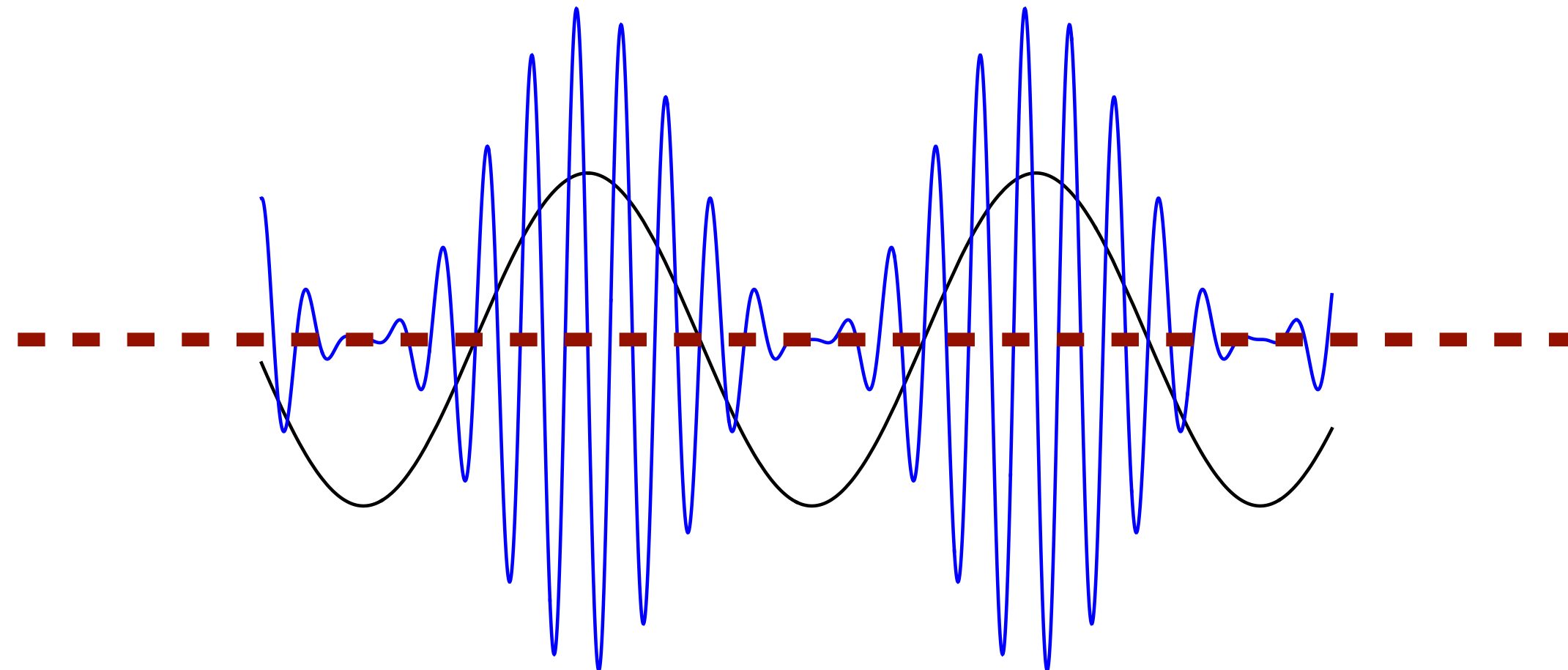
Shifting the amplitude of fluctuations

$$\Delta_{\zeta}^2 = A_0 \left(\frac{k}{k_0} \right)^{n_s - 1}$$

Phenomenology (an ansatz)

$$A_0 \sim \mathcal{O}(10^{-9})$$
$$\sigma(A_0) \sim \mathcal{O}(10^{-10})$$

Data



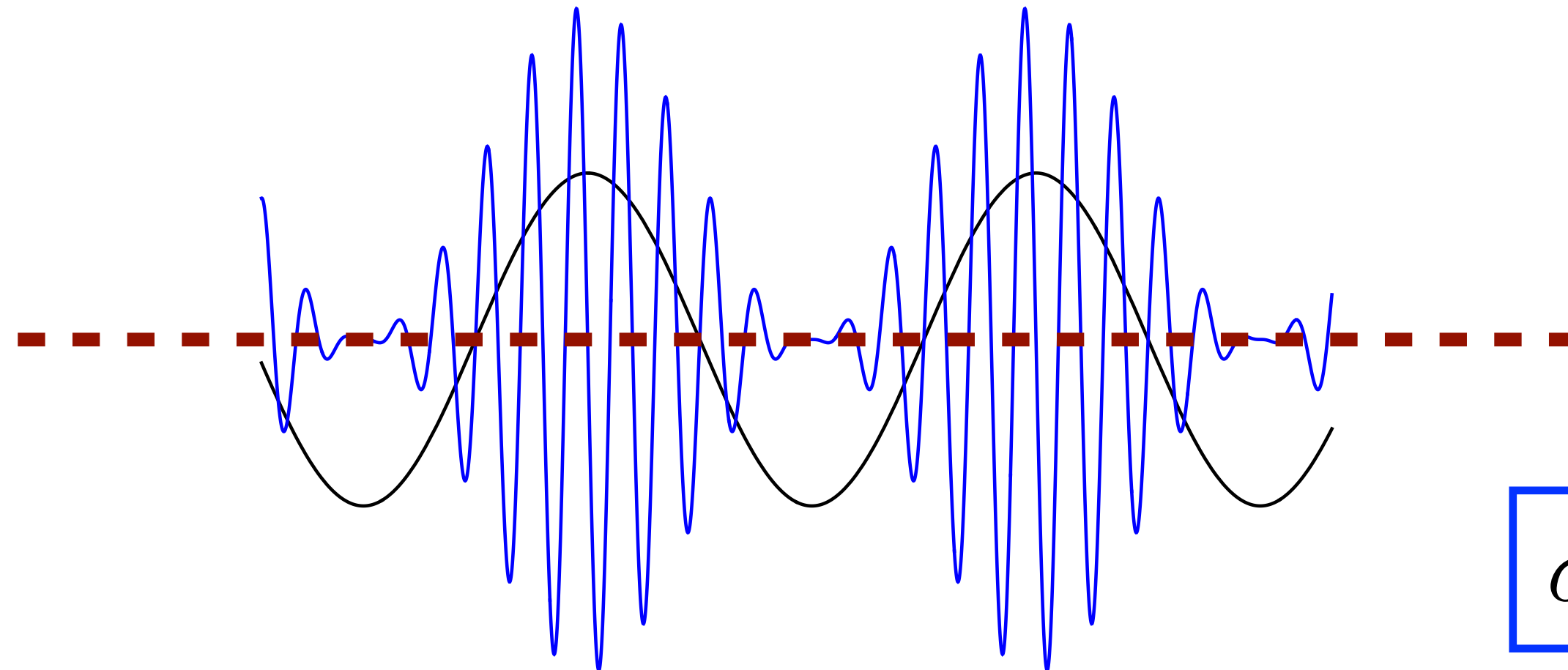
Shifting the amplitude of fluctuations

$$\Delta_{\zeta}^2 = A_0 \left(\frac{k}{k_0} \right)^{n_s - 1}$$

Phenomenology (an ansatz)

$$A_0 \sim \mathcal{O}(10^{-9})$$
$$\sigma(A_0) \sim \mathcal{O}(10^{-10})$$

Data



$$\sigma_{C.V.}(A_0) \sim \mathcal{O}(10^{-9})$$

Model/theory dependent (C.V.=cosmic variance)

And everything else...

Scalar spectral index:

$$\sigma(n_s) \sim 0.005$$

$$\sigma_{C.V.}(n_s) \sim 0.04$$

Amplitude for a particular shape can depend on long-wavelength modes:

$$\sigma(f_{\text{NL}}^{\text{local}}) \sim 6$$

$$\sigma_{C.V.}(f_{\text{NL}}^{\text{local}}) \lesssim 10^4$$

Shape of bispectrum depends on long-wavelength modes:

$$\sigma(f_{\text{NL}}^{\text{equil}}) \sim 40$$

$$\sigma_{C.V.}(f_{\text{NL}}^{\text{equil}}) \sim 10^3$$

Nelson, Shandera, 1212.4550

LoVerde, Nelson, Shandera, 1303.3549;

Bramante, Kumar, Nelson, Shandera (1307.5083)

Baytas, Kesavan, Nelson, Park, Shandera, 1502.01009;

Adhikari, Jeong, Shandera, 1608.05139; Isotropy breaking: Adhikari,

Shandera, Erickcek 1508.06489; Adhikari, Deutsch, Shandera

1805.00037;

And everything else...

Give me an n -point correlation.....
.....I'll give you a family of $(n+1)$ -point
correlations that induces it in biased sub-
volumes

Nelson, Shandera, 1212.4550
LoVerde, Nelson, Shandera, 1303.3549;
Bramante, Kumar, Nelson, Shandera (1307.5083)

Baytas, Kesavan, Nelson, Park, Shandera, 1502.01009;
Adhikari, Jeong, Shandera, 1608.05139; Isotropy breaking: Adhikari,
Shandera, Erickcek 1508.06489; Adhikari, Deutsch, Shandera
1805.00037;

Trace this back to inflation

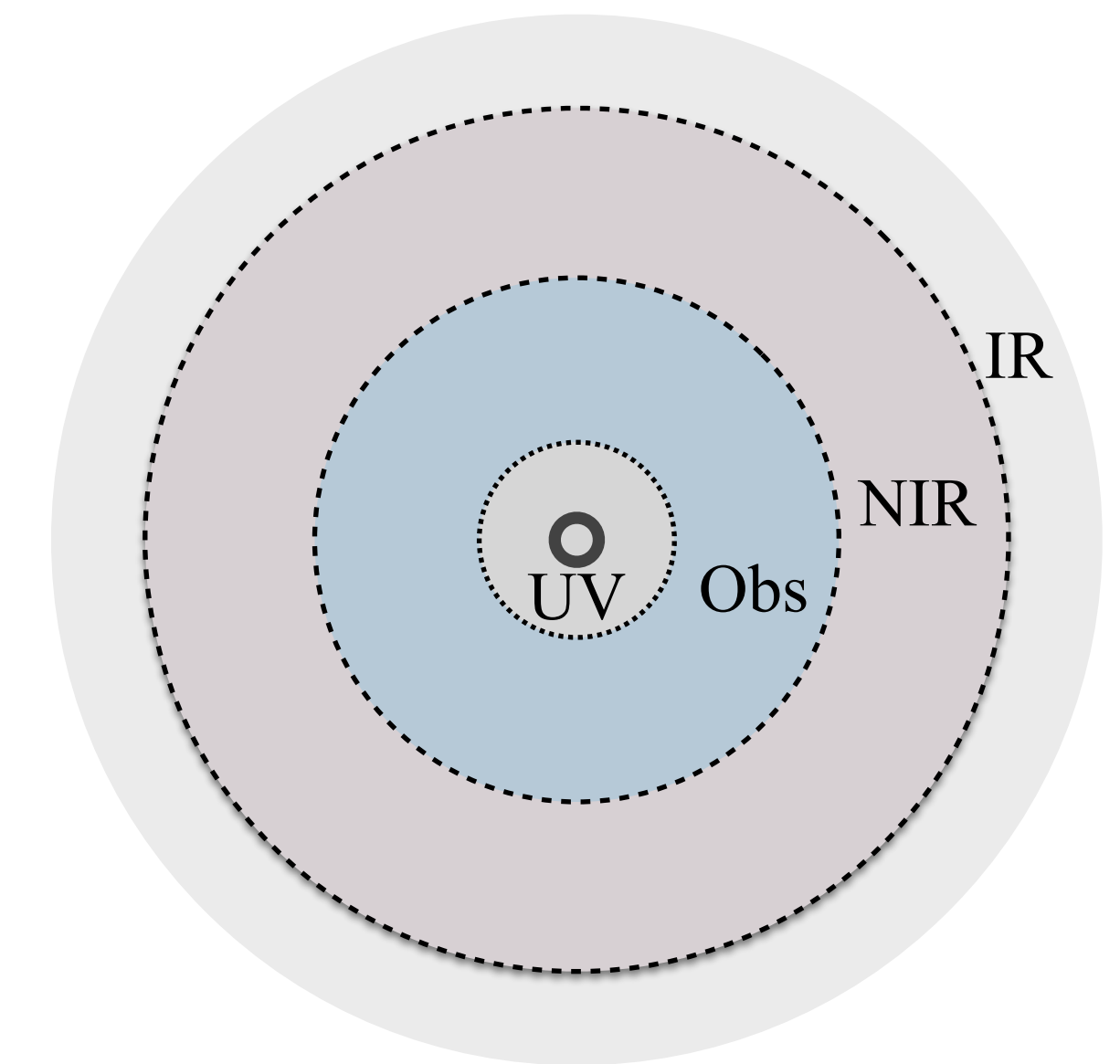
An open system with time-dependent dynamics at quadratic order,
time-dependent interaction

Trace this back to inflation

An open system with time-dependent dynamics at quadratic order,
time-dependent interaction

System: modes inside the Hubble scale today;

Environment: near IR modes



$$\eta \gg \eta_0$$

$$(aH)^{-1} \ll k_{UV}^{-1}$$

Trace this back to inflation

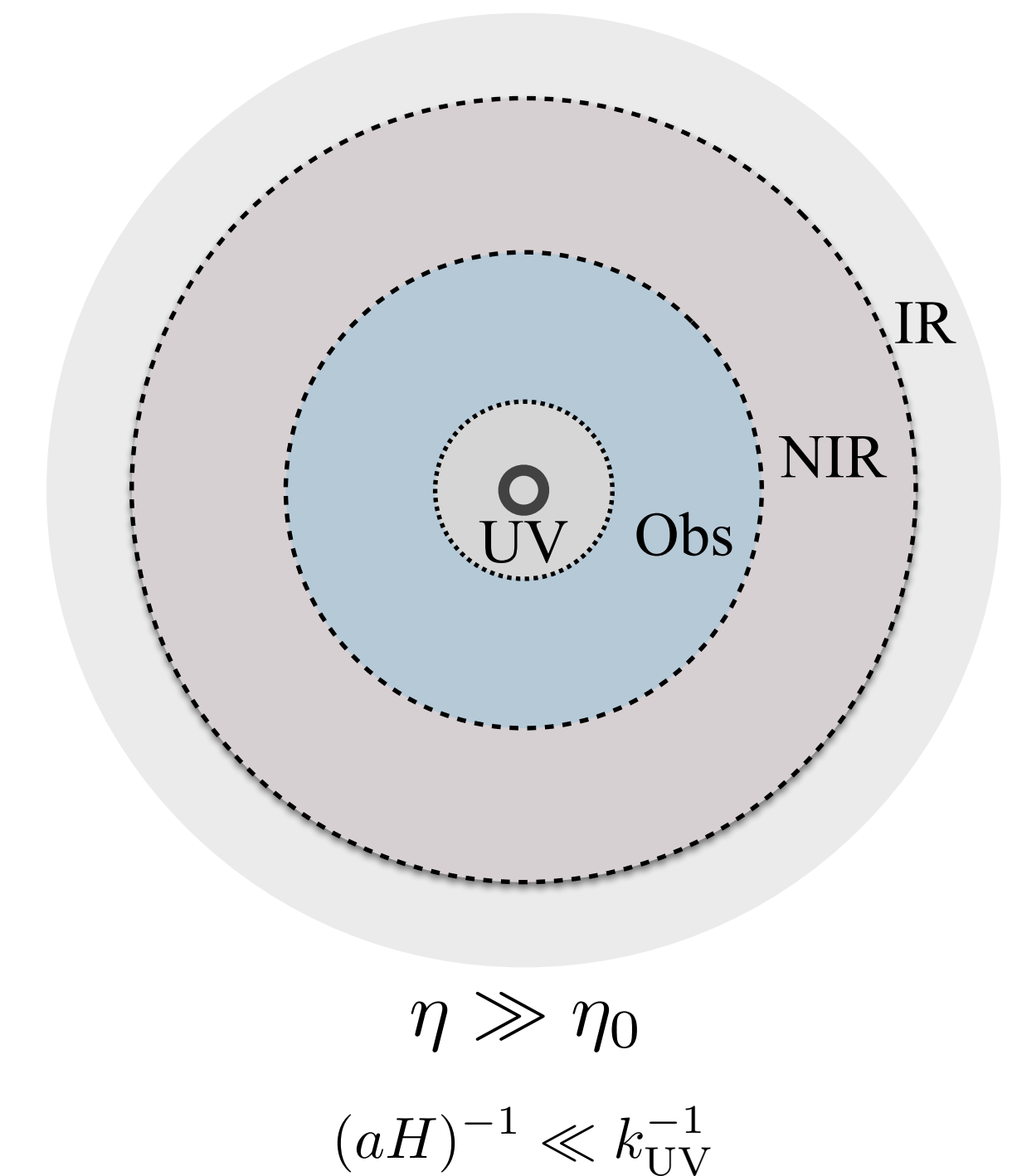
An open system with time-dependent dynamics at quadratic order,
time-dependent interaction

System: modes inside the Hubble scale today;

Environment: near IR modes

Look at a single interaction term:

$$S_3 = \int d^3x d\eta a^4 \frac{3\epsilon(c_s^2 - 1)}{c_s^2} \zeta \dot{\zeta}^2$$



Trace this back to inflation

An open system with time-dependent dynamics at quadratic order,
time-dependent interaction

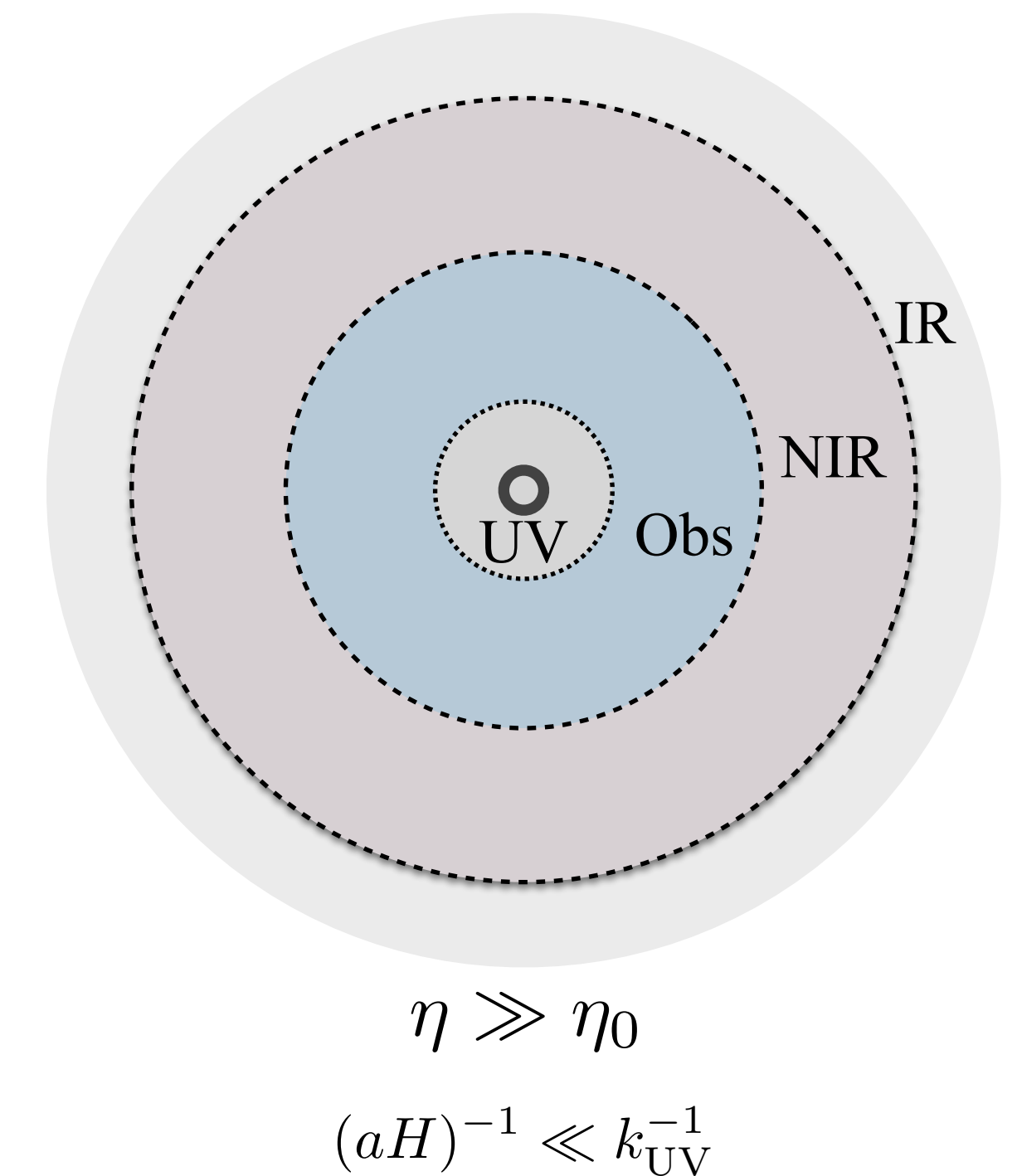
System: modes inside the Hubble scale today;

Environment: near IR modes

Look at a single interaction term:

$$S_3 = \int d^3x d\eta a^4 \frac{3\epsilon(c_s^2 - 1)}{c_s^2} \zeta \dot{\zeta}^2$$

But two different inflationary dynamics that
change the relevance of the interaction



Simplest context to try it:

slow-roll:

$\epsilon \approx \text{constant},$

$$\frac{z'}{z} \approx \frac{a'}{a}$$

non-attractor:

W. Kinney (ultra-slow-roll)

$$\dot{\phi} + 3H\phi = \text{constant}$$

$$\epsilon \propto a^{-6}$$

$$\frac{z'}{z} \approx -2\frac{a'}{a}$$

$$\hat{H}^{\text{sq.}} = \frac{1}{2} \int \frac{d^3 k}{(2\pi)^3} \left[-i \left(\frac{z'}{z} \right) \left(\hat{c}_{\vec{k}} \hat{c}_{-\vec{k}} - \hat{c}_{\vec{k}}^\dagger \hat{c}_{-\vec{k}}^\dagger \right) \right]$$

- Squeezing parameters have a different time dependence in two cases

A single interaction term:

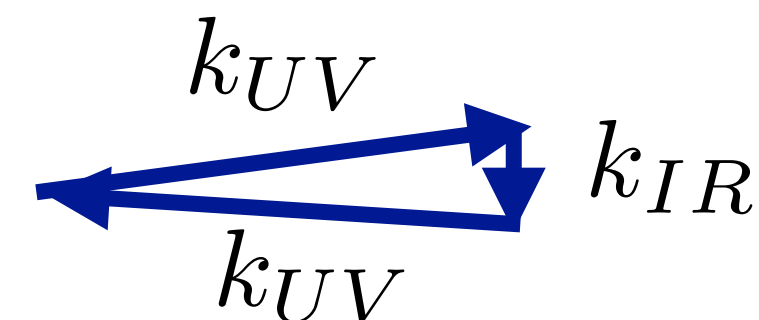
$$\lambda(\eta)\hat{H}_I = \frac{3(c_s^2 - 1)}{8M_p c_s^2 a \sqrt{\epsilon}} \int \frac{d^3 k_1}{(2\pi)^3} \frac{d^3 k_2}{(2\pi)^3} \frac{d^3 k_3}{(2\pi)^3} \delta^3(\vec{k}_1 + \vec{k}_2 + \vec{k}_3) \\ \times \left[\sqrt{\frac{k_2 k_3}{k_1}} \left(\hat{c}_{-\vec{k}_1}^\dagger \hat{c}_{-\vec{k}_2}^\dagger \hat{c}_{-\vec{k}_3}^\dagger + \hat{c}_{\vec{k}_1} \hat{c}_{-\vec{k}_2}^\dagger \hat{c}_{-\vec{k}_3}^\dagger + \dots \right) + \text{symm} \right]$$

Time-dependence differs in slow-roll vs non-attractor

Long-short mode-coupling differs...

Namjoo et al 2012
Chen et al 2013;

$$\frac{3}{5} f_{\text{NL}}^{\text{local}} = \frac{3}{4c_s^2} (1 + c_s^2)$$



Deriving the “Lindblad” operators

Calculate $\frac{d\rho}{dt}$, given

$$\rho(t) = \sum_n \langle B_n | \sigma(t) | B_n \rangle$$
$$\sigma(t) = \hat{U}(t, t_0) \sigma(t_0) \hat{U}^\dagger(t, t_0)$$

* Treat in perturbation theory....first interesting stuff happens at second order

The “Lindblad”-like operators

$$\hat{L}_{N1}(\eta) = \lambda(\eta) \langle N | \hat{H}_I(\eta_0) | SQ(\eta) \rangle$$

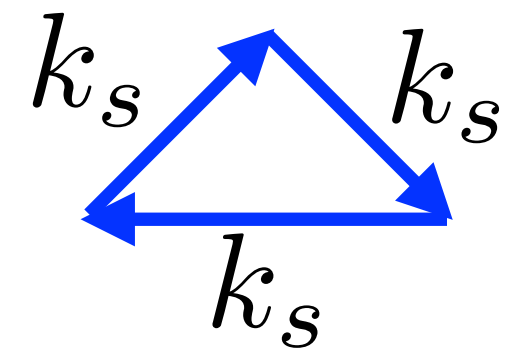
$$\hat{L}_{N2}(\eta) = \int_{\eta_0}^{\eta} d\eta_1 \lambda(\eta_1) \langle N | \hat{H}_{I,int}(\eta_1 - \eta) | SQ(\eta) \rangle$$

These will take a different form depending on how many of the interaction modes are in the system (observable) vs the bath (near-infrared)

Evolution depends on terms like: $\sum_N \hat{L}_N \rho^{(0)}(\eta) \hat{L}_N^\dagger$

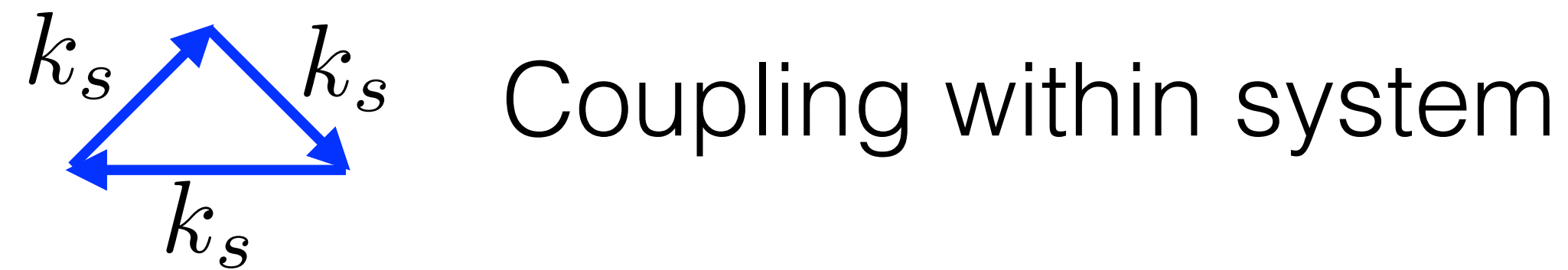
The upshot

1. Correlation function shapes tell us how the system and bath are coupled:
(Large momentum, short wavelength system)



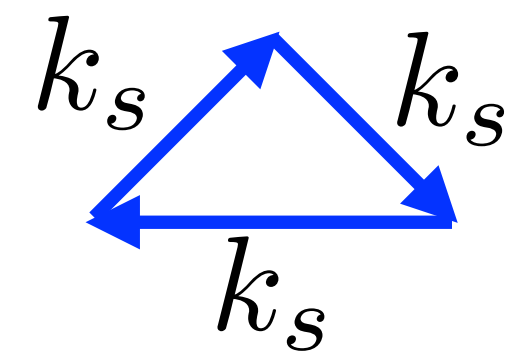
The upshot

1. Correlation function shapes tell us how the system and bath are coupled:
(Large momentum, short wavelength system)

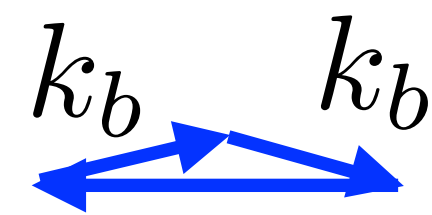


The upshot

1. Correlation function shapes tell us how the system and bath are coupled:
(Large momentum, short wavelength system)



Coupling within system

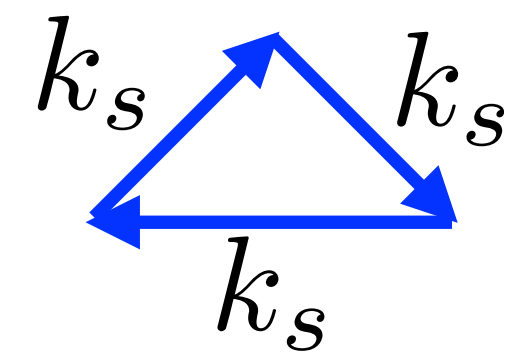


Coupling of one system mode (near boundary)
to two bath modes (linear dissipation)

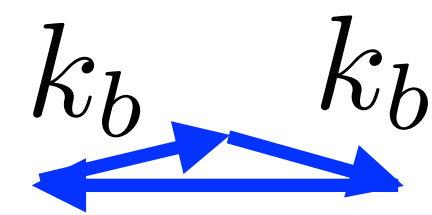
The upshot

1. Correlation function shapes tell us how the system and bath are coupled:

(Large momentum, short wavelength system)



Coupling within system



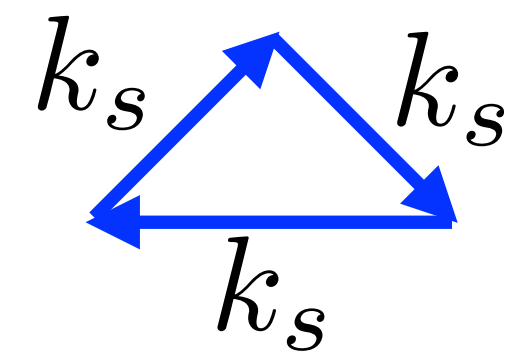
Coupling of one system mode (near boundary) to two bath modes (linear dissipation)



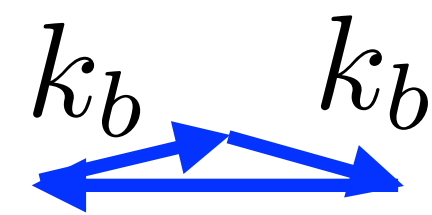
Coupling of two system modes to one bath modes (non-linear dissipation)

The upshot

1. Correlation function shapes tell us how the system and bath are coupled:
(Large momentum, short wavelength system)



Coupling within system



Coupling of one system mode (near boundary) to two bath modes (linear dissipation)



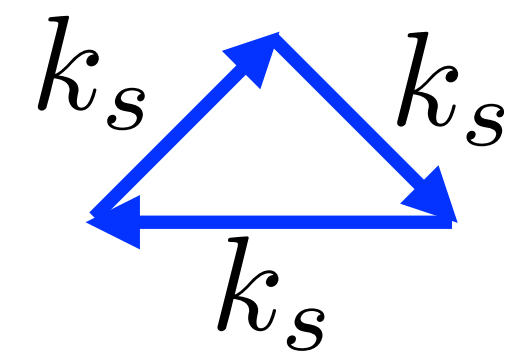
Coupling of two system modes to one bath modes (non-linear dissipation)

2. System-bath correlations do not rapidly dissipate; dissipators oscillate in sign

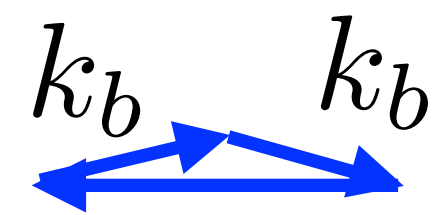
The upshot

1. Correlation function shapes tell us how the system and bath are coupled:

(Large momentum, short wavelength system)



Coupling within system



Coupling of one system mode (near boundary) to two bath modes (linear dissipation)



Coupling of two system modes to one bath modes (non-linear dissipation)

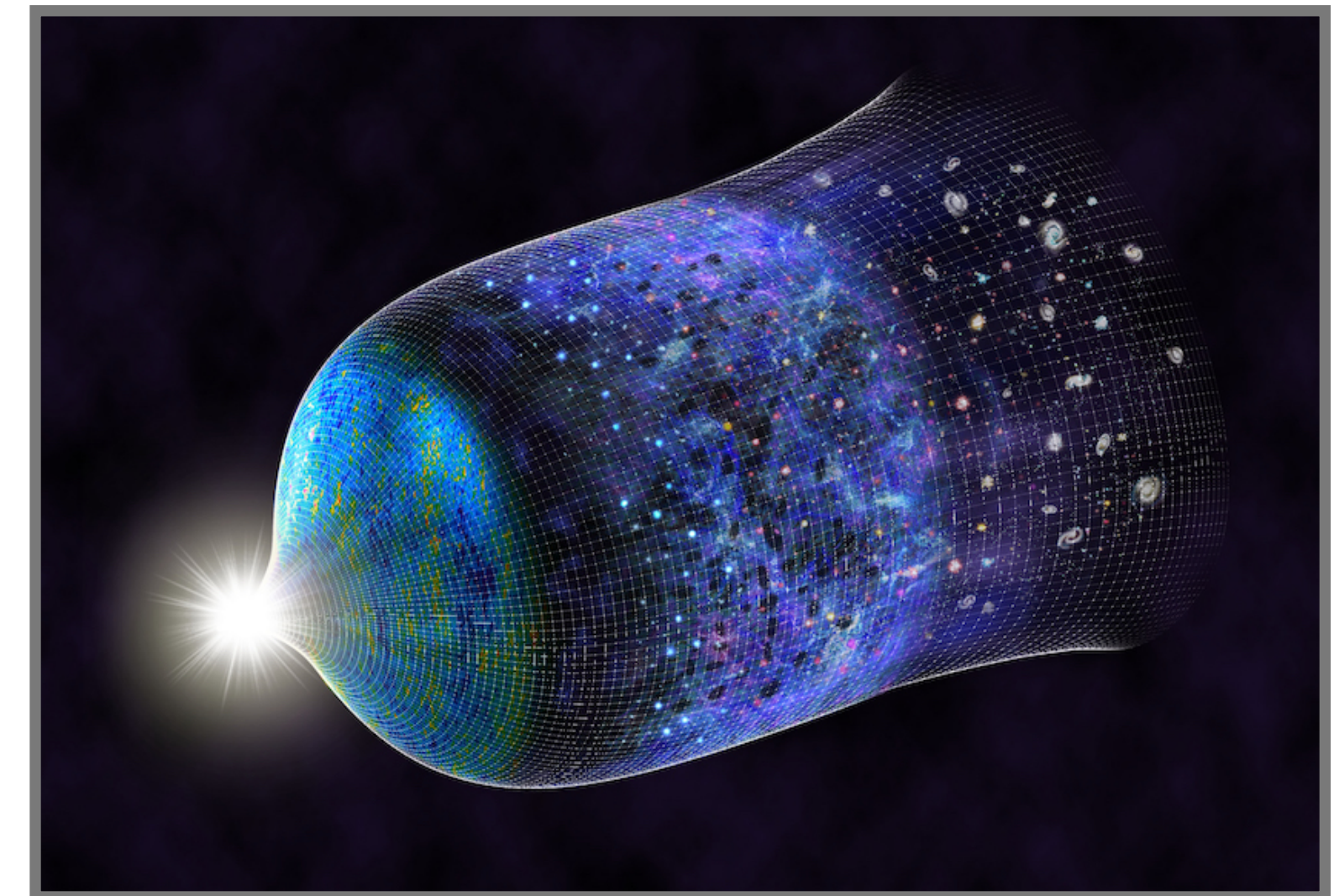
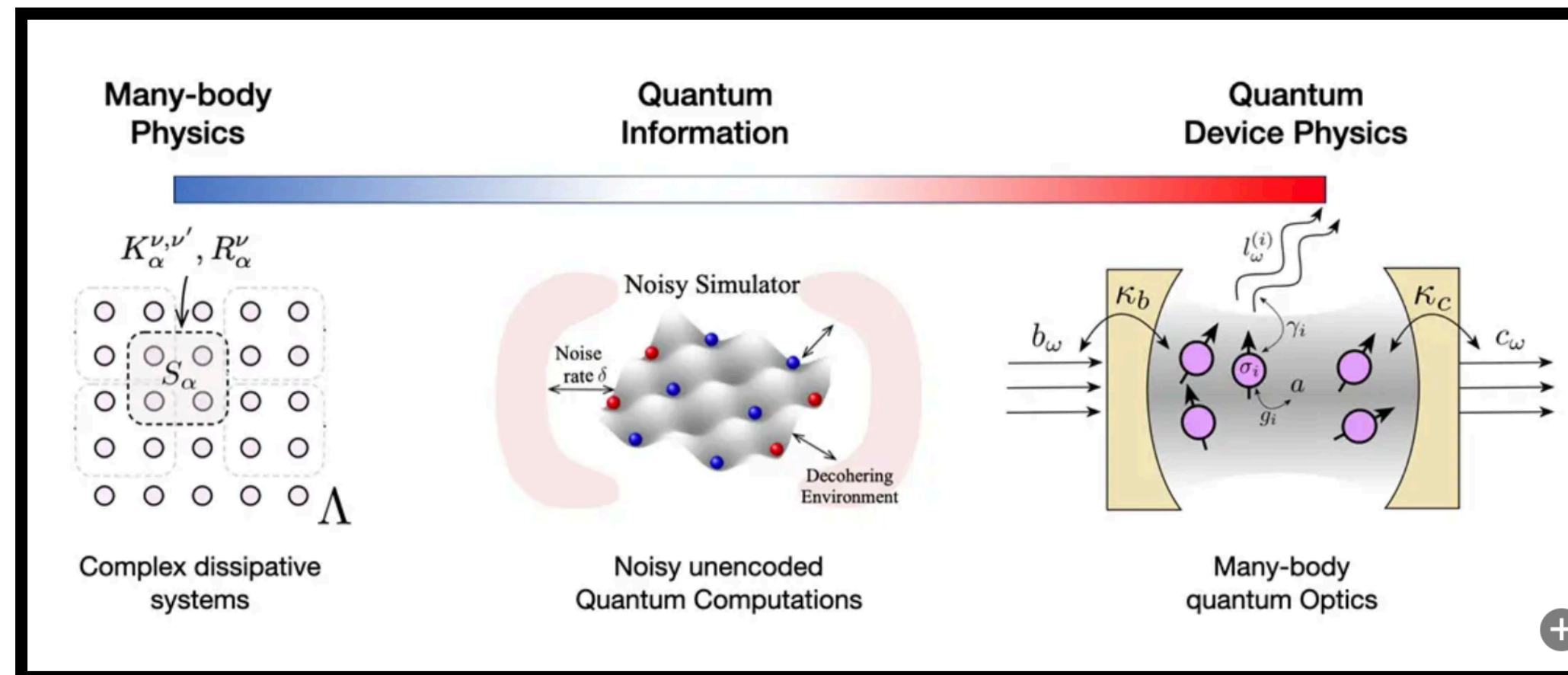
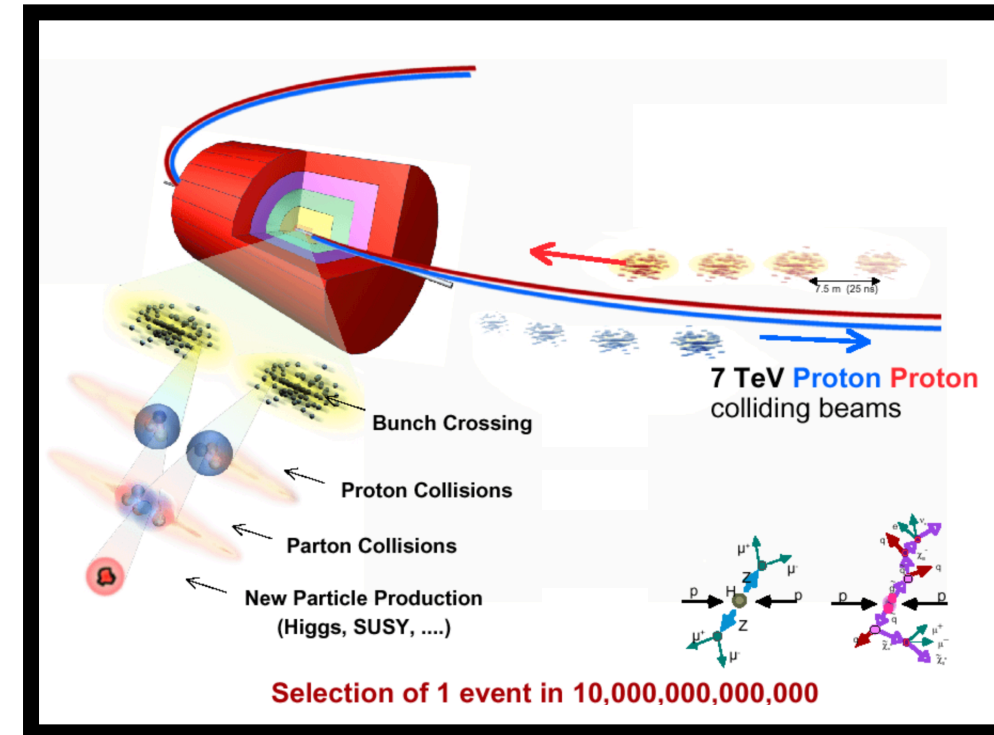
2. System-bath correlations do not rapidly dissipate; dissipators oscillate in sign

3. Different scalar field dynamics change the length of time for which the “Lindbladian” terms are relevant

Cosmology: inference to discover elementary matter, laws of physics

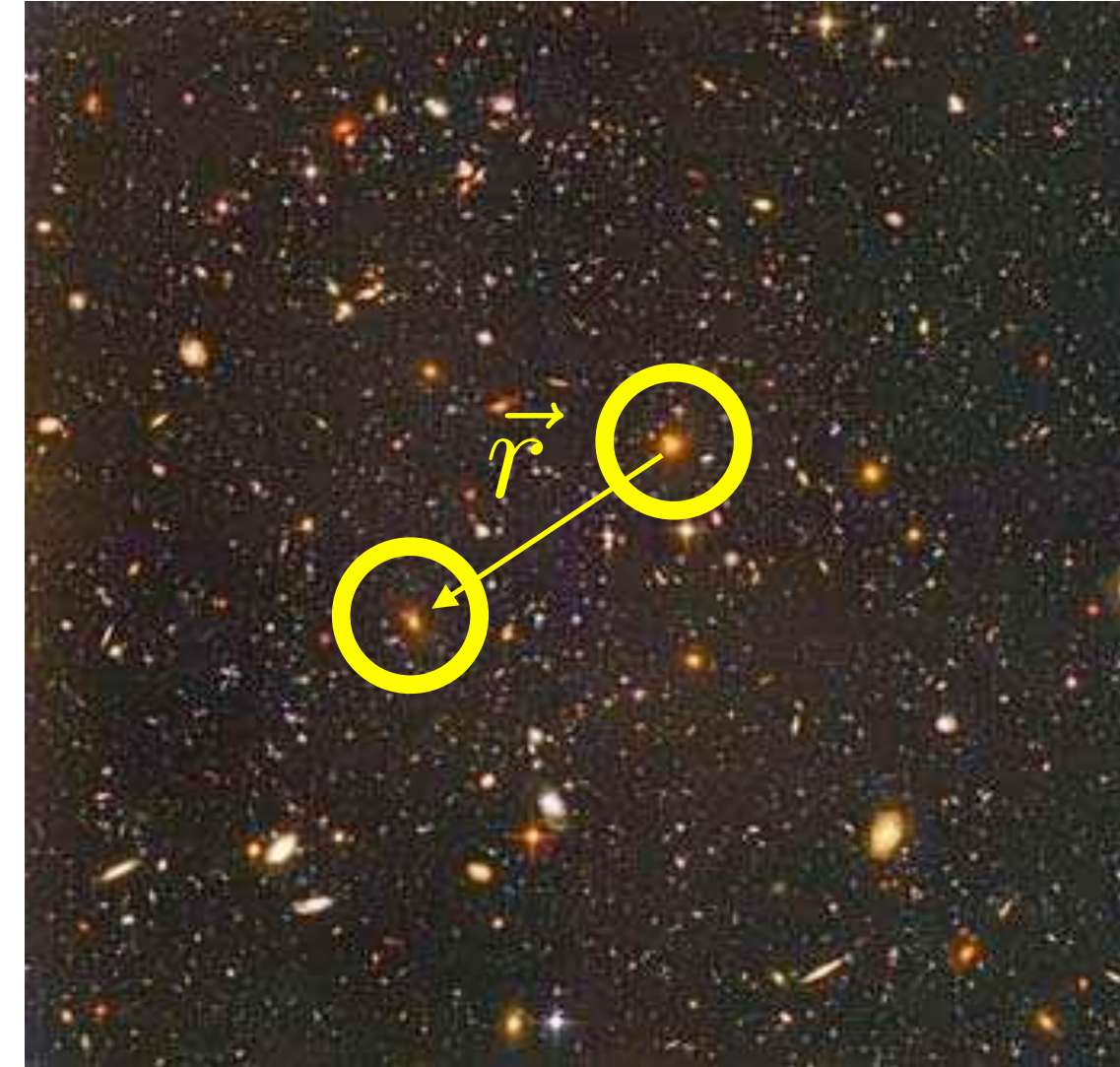
- OQS is the right framework for this inference: even more, need how to put partial observations together for inference in quantum systems
- What can be gained for inflation? (Fluctuations, vacuum + other; background?)
- What can be gained beyond inflation?
- How much do we need to understand how to go beyond 'simple' open systems? (Role of correlations, non-Markovianity, inference)
- What techniques/principles do we need to develop to do so?

Updating our theory framework



Correlation functions assuming homogeneity and isotropy

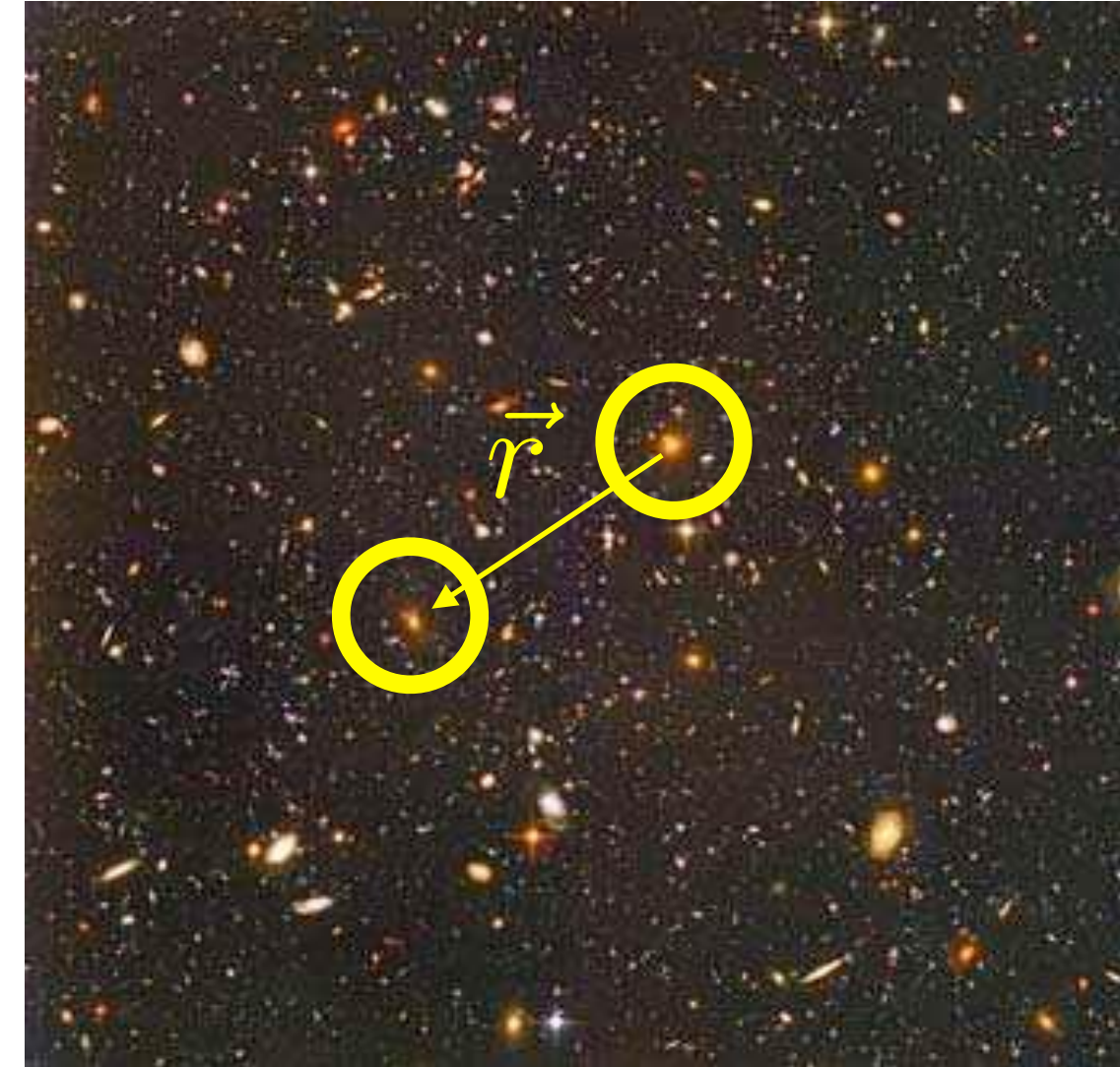
$$\langle \delta(\vec{x}) \delta(\vec{x} + \vec{r}) \rangle$$



Hubble Telescope image

Correlation functions assuming homogeneity and isotropy

$$\langle \delta(\vec{x}) \delta(\vec{x} + \vec{r}) \rangle \propto f(|\vec{r}|)$$

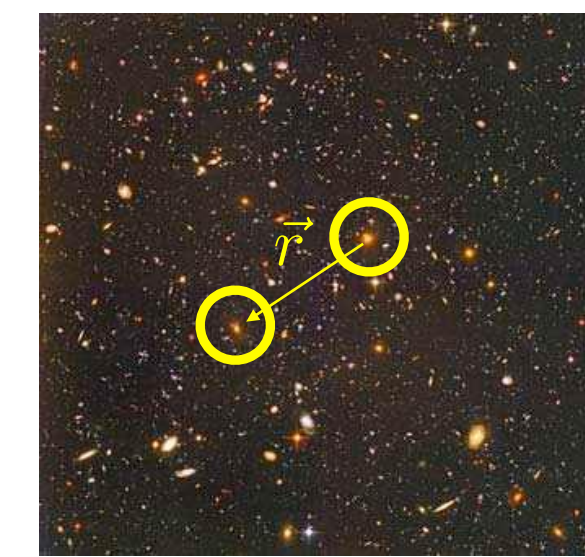


Hubble Telescope image

Correlation functions assuming homogeneity and isotropy

Power spectrum

$$\langle \zeta_{\vec{k}_1} \zeta_{\vec{k}_2} \rangle = (2\pi)^3 \delta^3(\vec{k}_1 + \vec{k}_2) P(k_1)$$



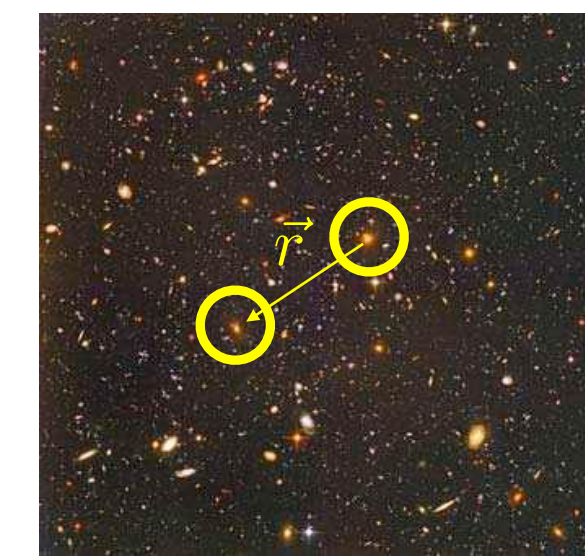
Hubble Telescope image

Correlation functions assuming homogeneity and isotropy

Power spectrum

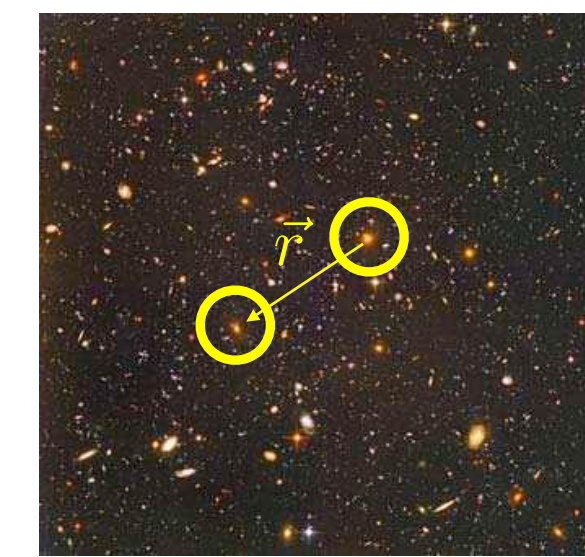
$$\langle \zeta_{\vec{k}_1} \zeta_{\vec{k}_2} \rangle = (2\pi)^3 \delta^3(\vec{k}_1 + \vec{k}_2) P(k_1)$$

$$P(k) \propto \frac{\Delta^2(k)}{k^3}$$



Hubble Telescope image

Correlation functions assuming homogeneity and isotropy



Hubble Telescope image

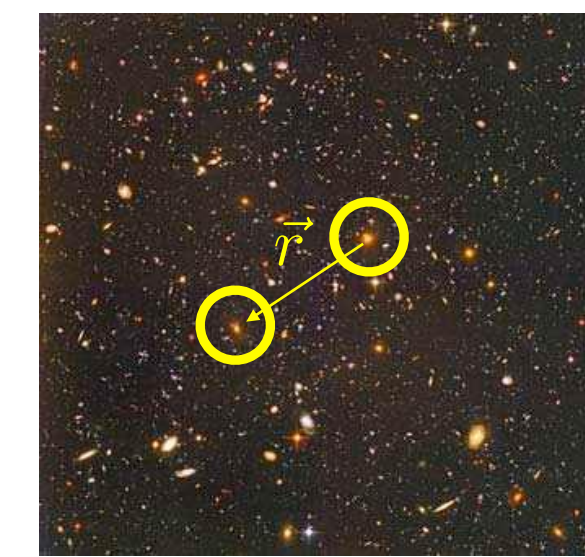
Power spectrum

$$\langle \zeta_{\vec{k}_1} \zeta_{\vec{k}_2} \rangle = (2\pi)^3 \delta^3(\vec{k}_1 + \vec{k}_2) P(k_1)$$

$$P(k) \propto \frac{\Delta^2(k)}{k^3}$$

$$\Delta_{\zeta}^2 = A_0 \left(\frac{k}{k_0} \right)^{n_s - 1}$$

Correlation functions assuming homogeneity and isotropy



Hubble Telescope image

Power spectrum

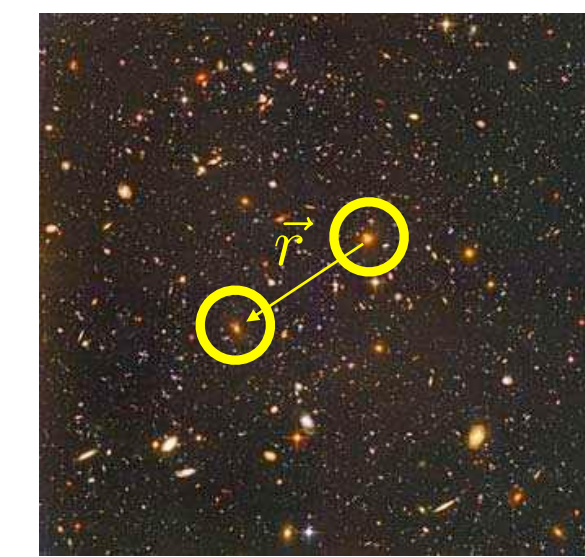
$$\langle \zeta_{\vec{k}_1} \zeta_{\vec{k}_2} \rangle = (2\pi)^3 \delta^3(\vec{k}_1 + \vec{k}_2) P(k_1)$$
$$P(k) \propto \frac{\Delta^2(k)}{k^3}$$

$$\Delta_{\zeta}^2 = A_0 \left(\frac{k}{k_0} \right)^{n_s - 1}$$

“Bispectrum”

$$\langle \zeta_{\vec{k}_1} \zeta_{\vec{k}_2} \zeta_{\vec{k}_3} \rangle = (2\pi)^3 \delta^3(\vec{k}_1 + \vec{k}_2 + \vec{k}_3) B(\vec{k}_1, \vec{k}_2, \vec{k}_3)$$
$$B(k, k, k) \propto f_{\text{NL}} \frac{[\Delta^2(k)]^2}{k^6}$$

Correlation functions assuming homogeneity and isotropy



Hubble Telescope image

Power spectrum

$$\langle \zeta_{\vec{k}_1} \zeta_{\vec{k}_2} \rangle = (2\pi)^3 \delta^3(\vec{k}_1 + \vec{k}_2) P(k_1)$$

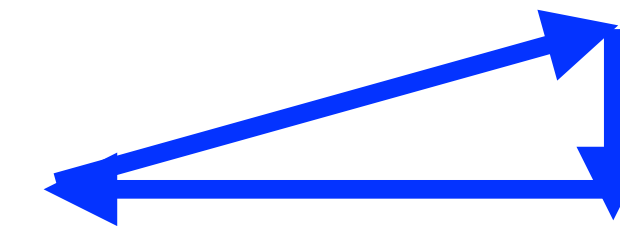
$$P(k) \propto \frac{\Delta^2(k)}{k^3}$$

$$\Delta_{\zeta}^2 = A_0 \left(\frac{k}{k_0} \right)^{n_s - 1}$$

“Bispectrum”

$$\langle \zeta_{\vec{k}_1} \zeta_{\vec{k}_2} \zeta_{\vec{k}_3} \rangle = (2\pi)^3 \delta^3(\vec{k}_1 + \vec{k}_2 + \vec{k}_3) B(\vec{k}_1, \vec{k}_2, \vec{k}_3)$$

$$B(k, k, k) \propto f_{\text{NL}} \frac{[\Delta^2(k)]^2}{k^6}$$



Inflationary quadratic evolution

$$\hat{U}_0(\eta, \eta_0) |0_{\vec{k}}, 0_{-\vec{k}}\rangle = e^{-i \int_{\eta_0}^{\eta} \hat{H}_0(k, \eta_1) d\eta_1} |0_{\vec{k}}, 0_{-\vec{k}}\rangle$$

Inflationary quadratic evolution

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{U}_0(\eta, \eta_0) |0_{\vec{k}}, 0_{-\vec{k}}\rangle &= e^{-i \int_{\eta_0}^{\eta} \hat{H}_0(k, \eta_1) d\eta_1} |0_{\vec{k}}, 0_{-\vec{k}}\rangle \\ &= \hat{S}_k(\eta) \hat{R}_k(\eta) |0_{\vec{k}}, 0_{-\vec{k}}\rangle\end{aligned}$$

Inflationary quadratic evolution

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{U}_0(\eta, \eta_0) |0_{\vec{k}}, 0_{-\vec{k}}\rangle &= e^{-i \int_{\eta_0}^{\eta} \hat{H}_0(k, \eta_1) d\eta_1} |0_{\vec{k}}, 0_{-\vec{k}}\rangle \\ &= \hat{S}_k(\eta) \hat{R}_k(\eta) |0_{\vec{k}}, 0_{-\vec{k}}\rangle \\ &= \frac{1}{\cosh r_k} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} e^{-2in\phi_k} \tanh^n r_k |n_{\vec{k}}, n_{-\vec{k}}\rangle \\ &\equiv |SQ(k, \eta)\rangle = \sum_n c_n^{(sq)}(\eta) |n_{\vec{k}}, n_{-\vec{k}}\rangle\end{aligned}$$

Inflationary quadratic evolution

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{U}_0(\eta, \eta_0) |0_{\vec{k}}, 0_{-\vec{k}}\rangle &= e^{-i \int_{\eta_0}^{\eta} \hat{H}_0(k, \eta_1) d\eta_1} |0_{\vec{k}}, 0_{-\vec{k}}\rangle \\ &= \hat{S}_k(\eta) \hat{R}_k(\eta) |0_{\vec{k}}, 0_{-\vec{k}}\rangle \\ &= \frac{1}{\cosh r_k} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} e^{-2in\phi_k} \tanh^n r_k |n_{\vec{k}}, n_{-\vec{k}}\rangle \\ &\equiv |SQ(k, \eta)\rangle = \sum_n c_n^{(sq)}(\eta) |n_{\vec{k}}, n_{-\vec{k}}\rangle\end{aligned}$$

$r_k(\eta), \phi_k(\eta)$ differ in slow-roll vs non-attractor

The evolution:

Evolution of the full system:

$$\sigma(\eta) = \hat{U}(\eta, \eta_0) \sigma(\eta_0) \hat{U}^\dagger(\eta, \eta_0)$$

$$\hat{U}(\eta, \eta_0) = e^{-i \int_{\eta_0}^{\eta} \hat{H}_0(\eta_1) d\eta_1} T e^{-i \int_{\eta_0}^{\eta} \hat{H}_{I,i}(\eta_1) d\eta_1}$$

Describing only the observable modes

The full density matrix:

$$\sigma(\eta_0) = |\overline{NIR}\rangle |\psi_{\text{obs.}}(\eta_0)\rangle \langle \psi_{\text{obs.}}(\eta_0) | \langle \overline{NIR}|$$

The reduced density matrix:

$$\begin{aligned} \rho(\eta) &= \text{Tr}_{NIR} \sigma(\eta) \\ &= \sum_N \langle N | \hat{U}(\eta, \eta_0) | \overline{NIR}\rangle |\psi_{\text{obs.}}(\eta_0)\rangle \langle \psi_{\text{obs.}}(\eta_0) | \langle \overline{NIR} | \hat{U}^\dagger(\eta, \eta_0) | N \rangle \end{aligned}$$

The evolution:

For just the observable modes, interesting part is second order in interaction strength:

$$\begin{aligned}\partial_{\eta}\rho^{(2)}(\eta) &= -i \left[\hat{H}_0^{\text{obs}}, \rho^{(2)}(\eta) \right] - i \left[\hat{H}_{eff}^{(2)}, \rho^{(0)}(\eta) \right] \\ &+ \{ \hat{A}(\eta), \rho^{(0)}(\eta) \} \\ &+ \sum_N \left[\hat{L}_{N1} \rho^{(0)}(\eta) \hat{L}_{N2}^{\dagger} + \hat{L}_{N2} \rho^{(0)}(\eta) \hat{L}_{N1}^{\dagger} \right]\end{aligned}$$

$$\hat{H}_{eff}^{(2)} = -\frac{i}{2} \sum_N (\hat{L}_{N1}^{\dagger} \hat{L}_{N2} - \hat{L}_{N2}^{\dagger} \hat{L}_{N1})$$

$$\hat{A}(\eta) = -\frac{1}{2} \sum_N (\hat{L}_{N1}^{\dagger} \hat{L}_{N2} + \hat{L}_{N2}^{\dagger} \hat{L}_{N1})$$

(H.P. Breuer)