



# Non-Gaussianities from primordial quantum diffusion

**Vincent Vennin**

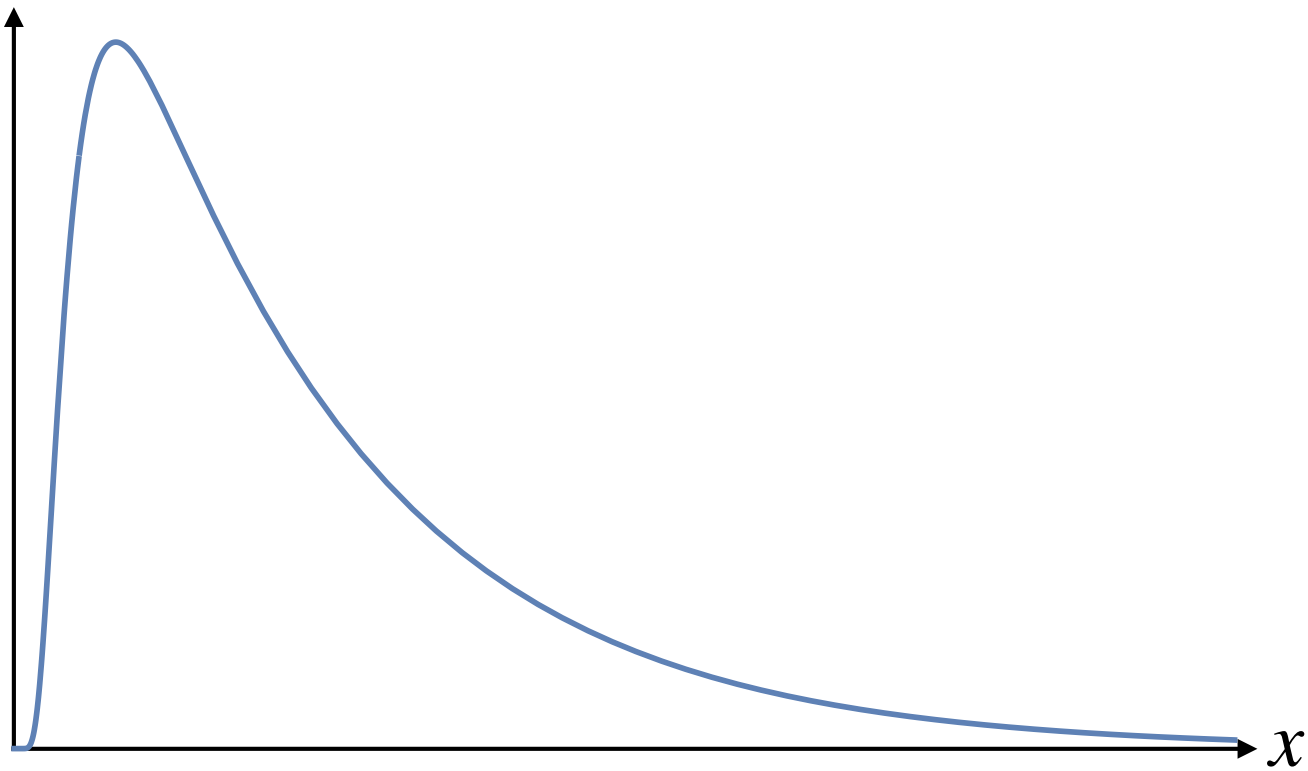


2022 Workshops and Programs  
Instituto de Física Teórica UAM-CSIC Madrid

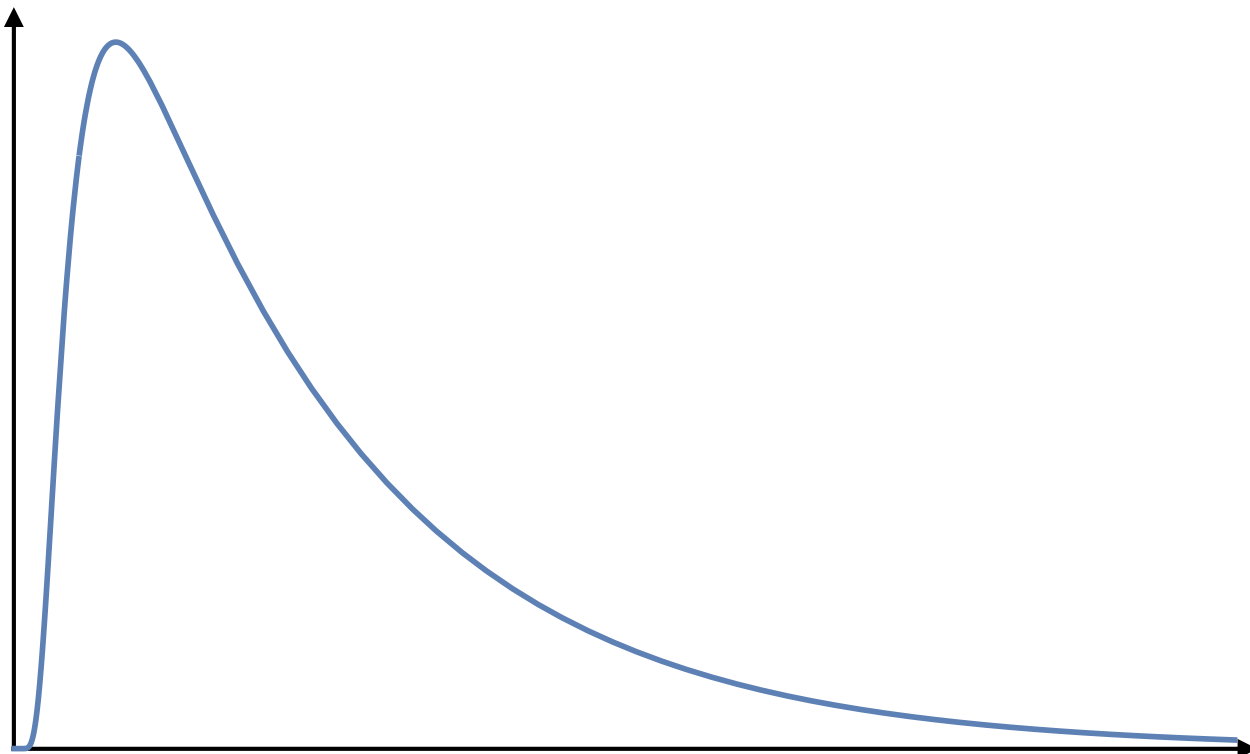
20 September 2022

PNG workshop, Madrid

$P(x)$



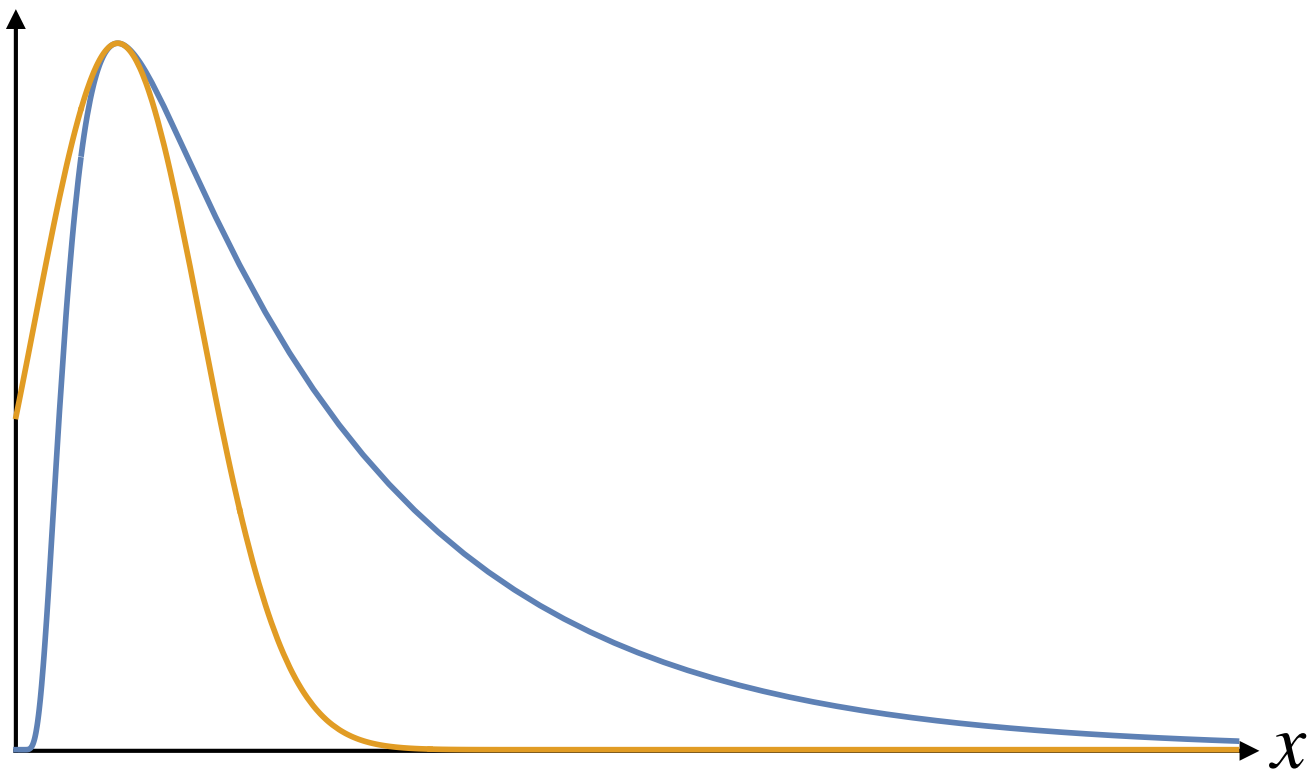
$P(x)$



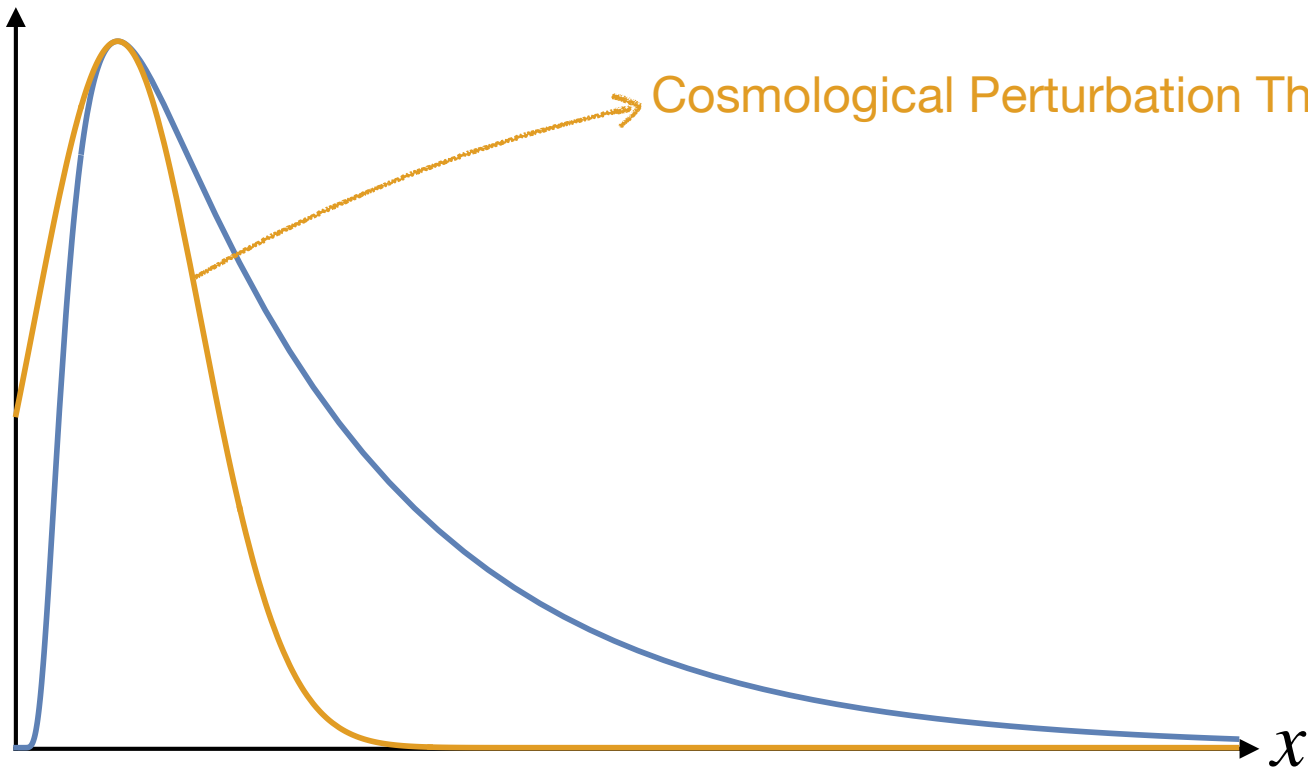
$x$

- Local curvature
- energy density
- maximum compaction
- etc

$P(x)$



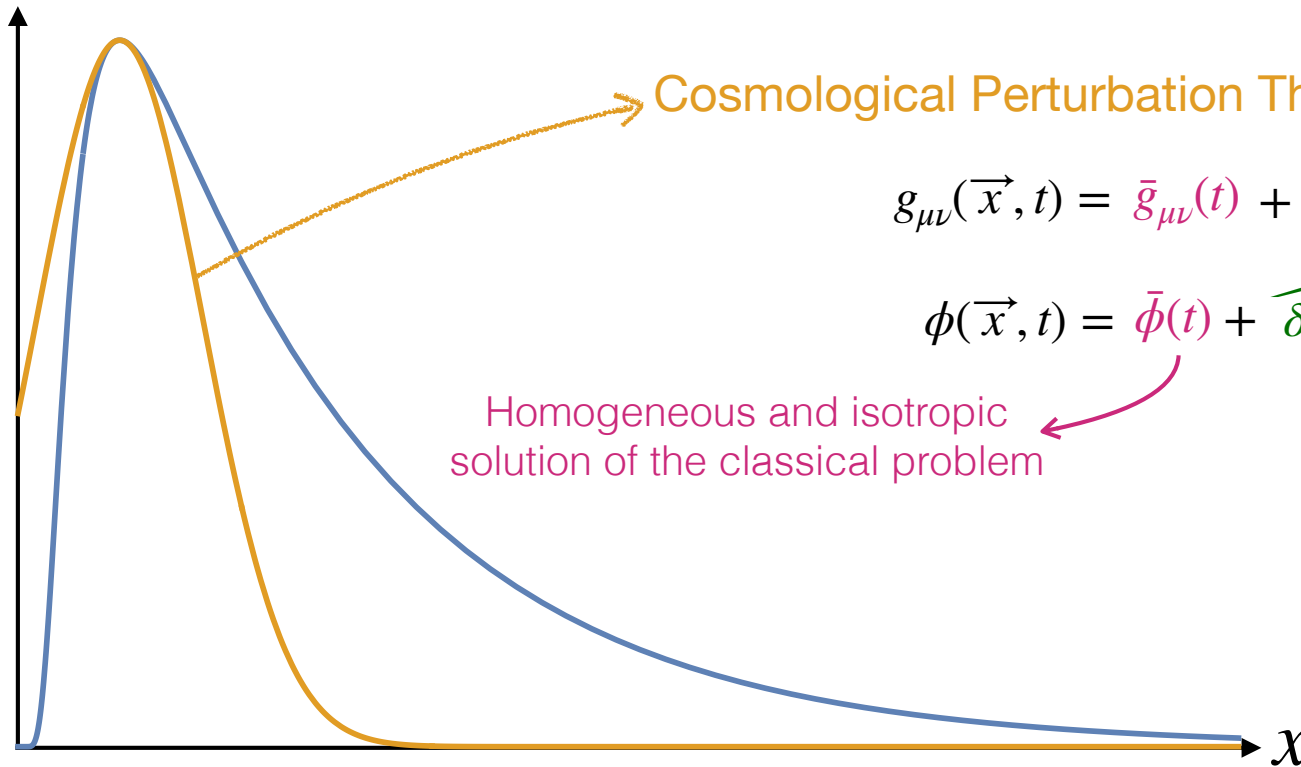
$P(x)$



Cosmological Perturbation Theory, leading order

$x$

$P(x)$



Cosmological Perturbation Theory, leading order

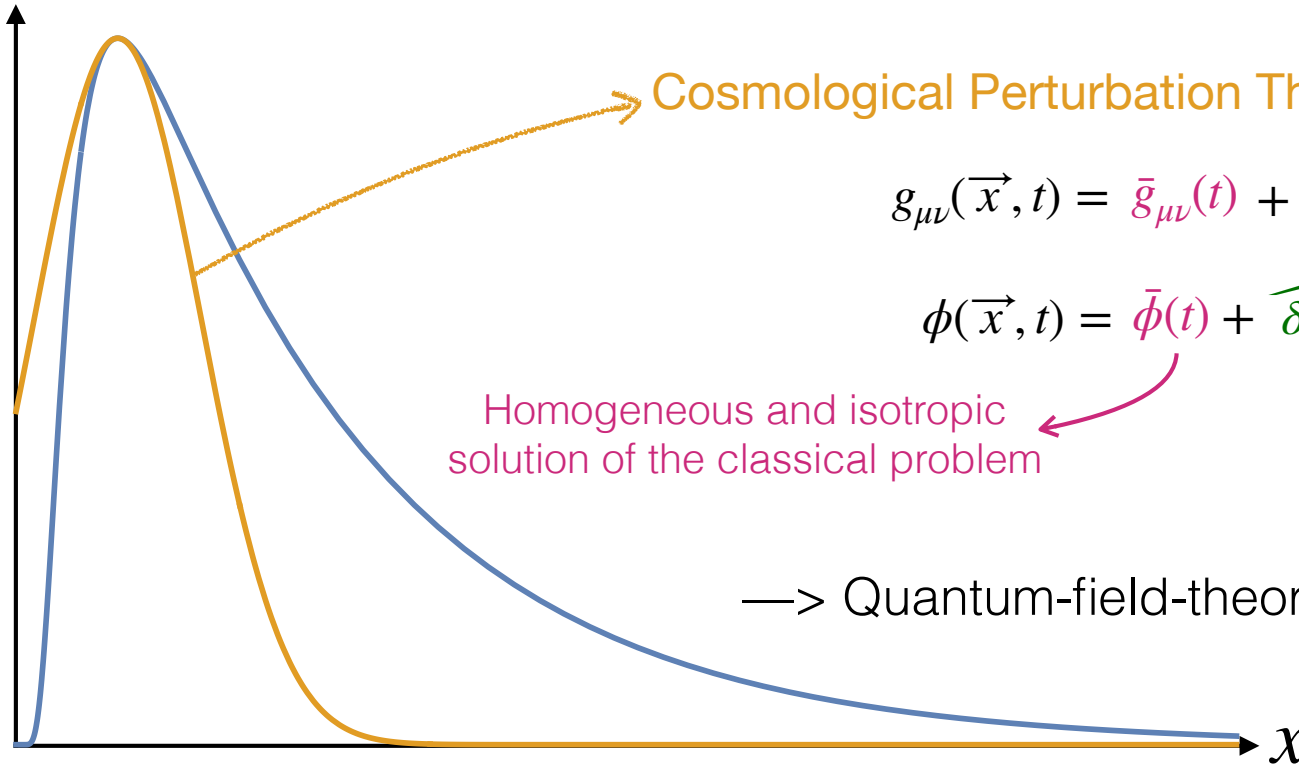
$$g_{\mu\nu}(\vec{x}, t) = \bar{g}_{\mu\nu}(t) + \widehat{\delta g}_{\mu\nu}(\vec{x}, t)$$

$$\phi(\vec{x}, t) = \bar{\phi}(t) + \widehat{\delta\phi}(\vec{x}, t)$$

Homogeneous and isotropic  
solution of the classical problem

Quantised fluctuation

$P(x)$



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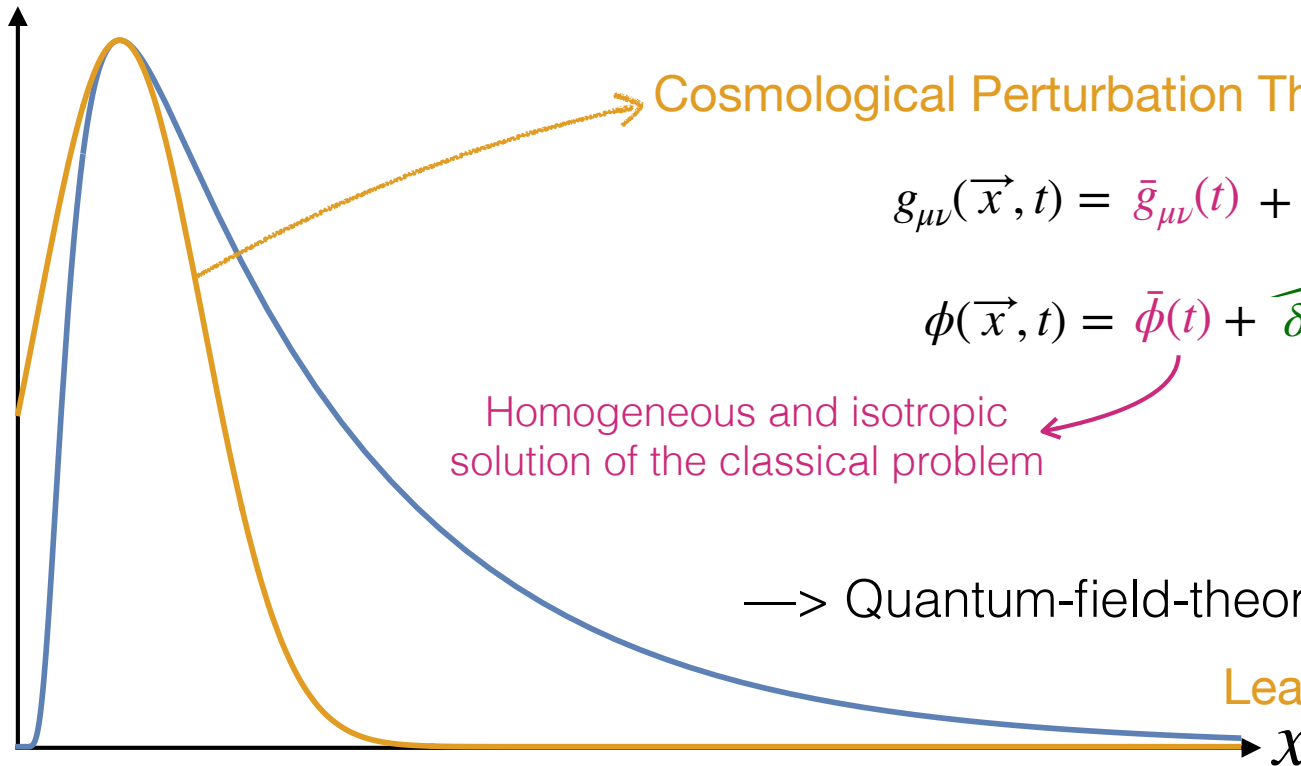
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Quantised fluctuation

—> Quantum-field-theory on curved space-time

$P(x)$



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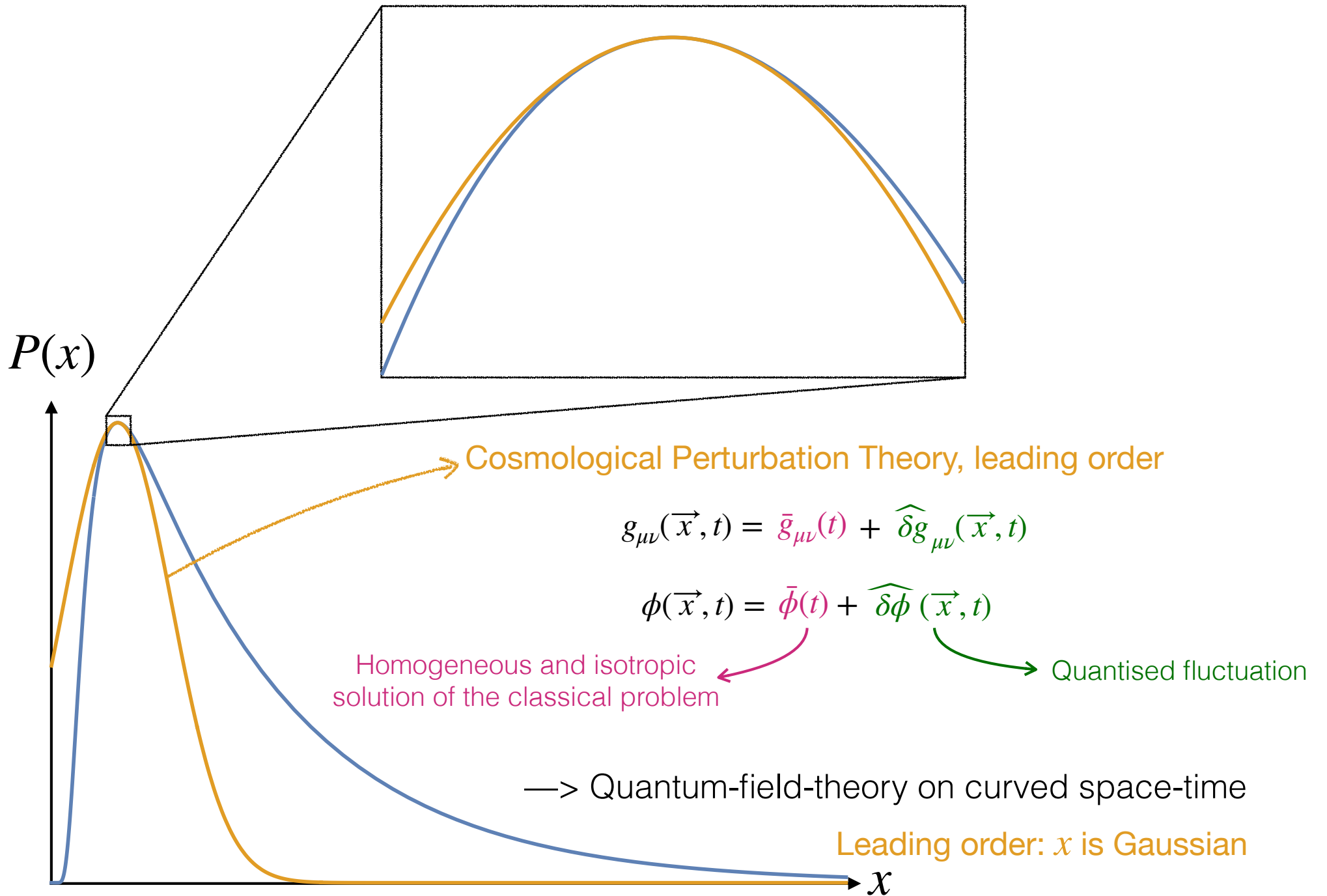
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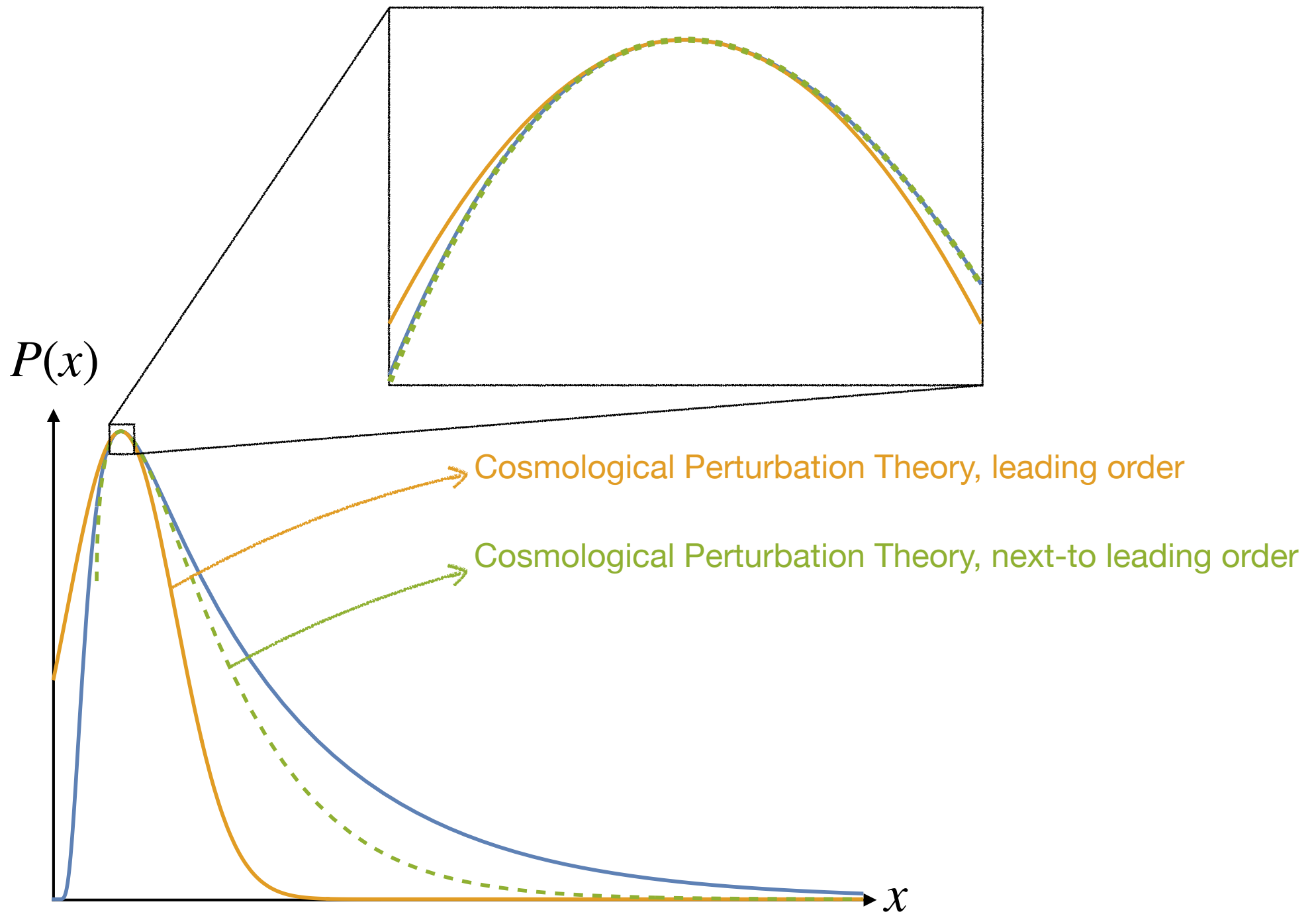
Quantised fluctuation

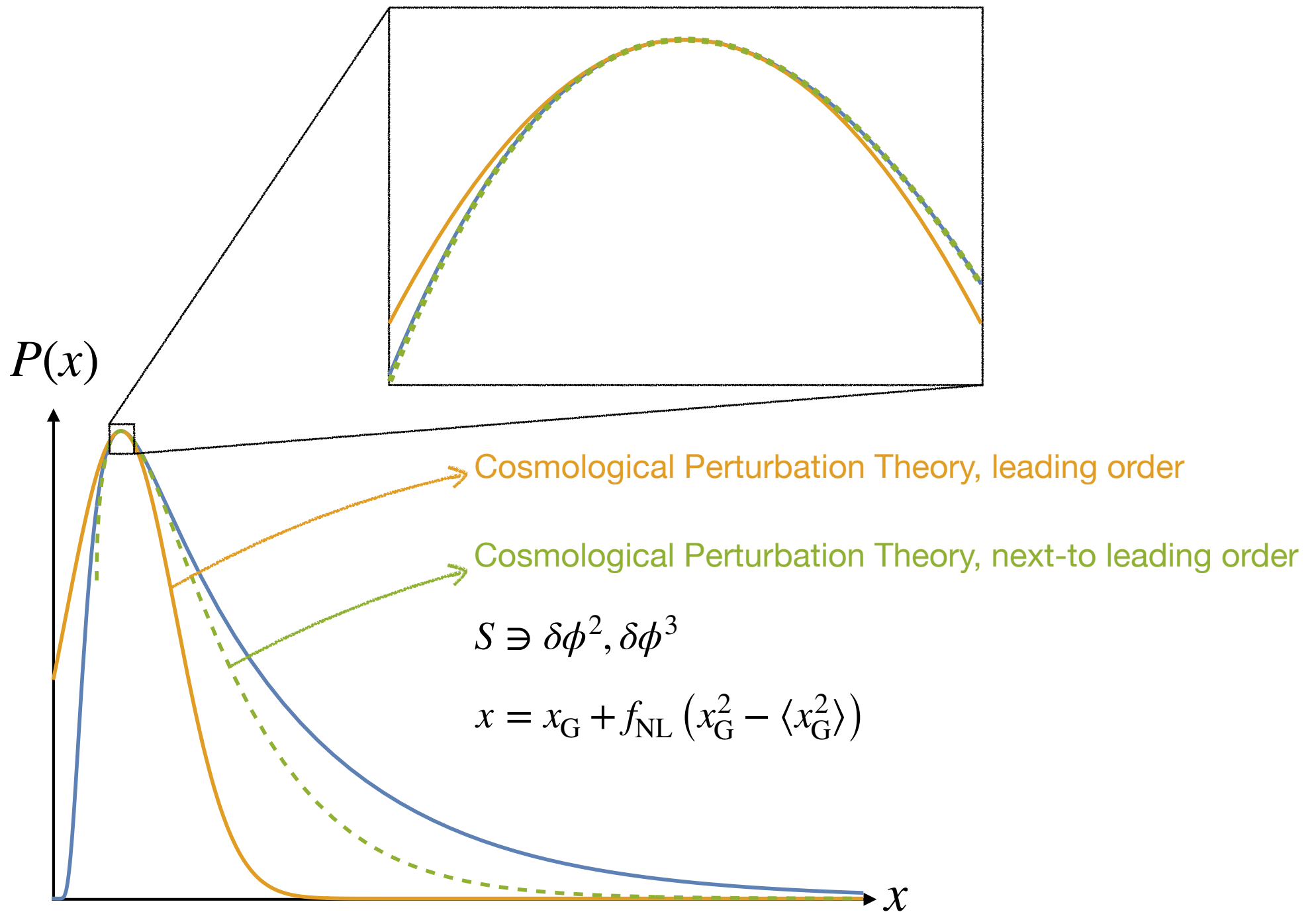
→ Quantum-field-theory on curved space-time

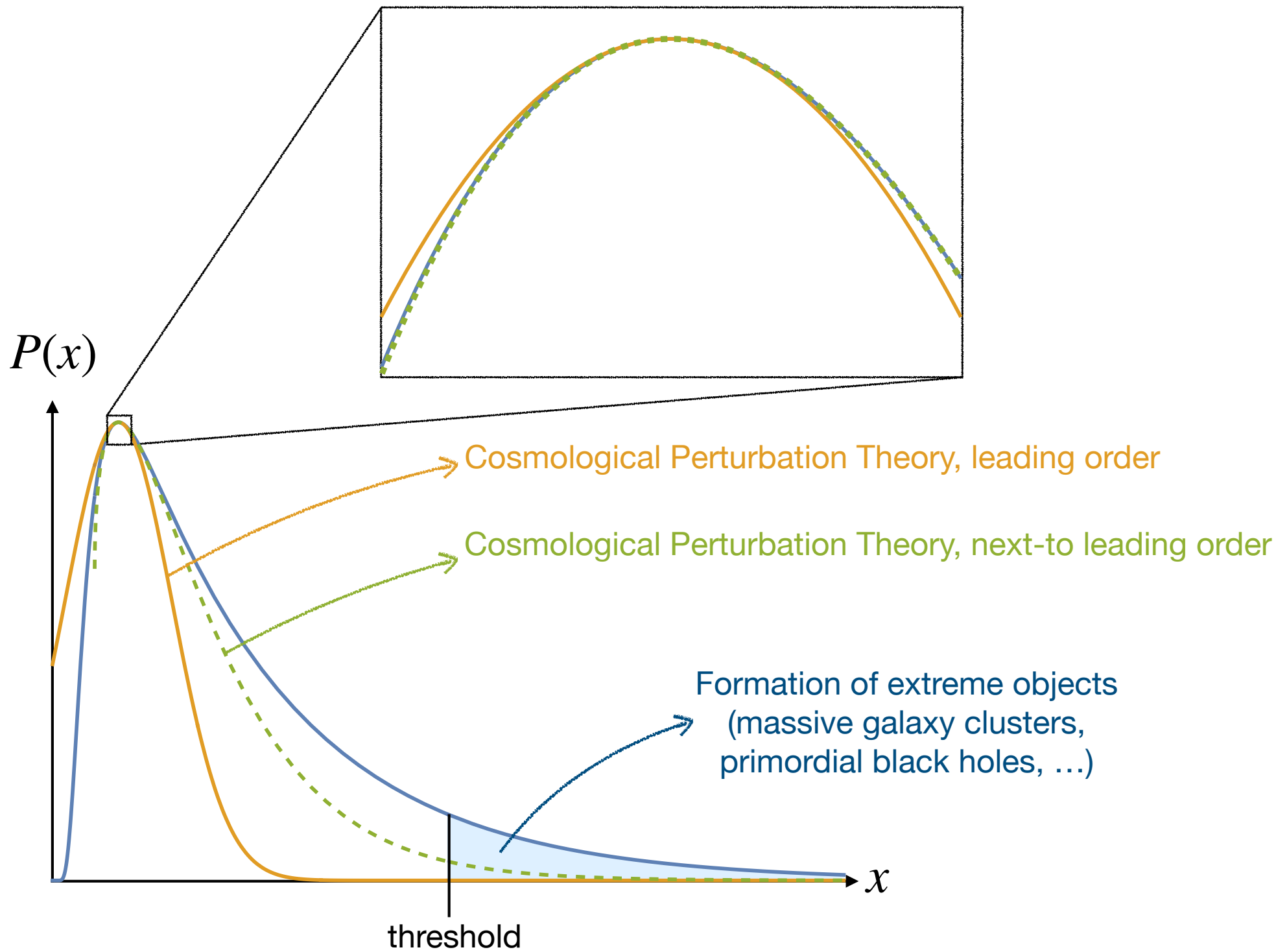
Leading order:  $x$  is Gaussian

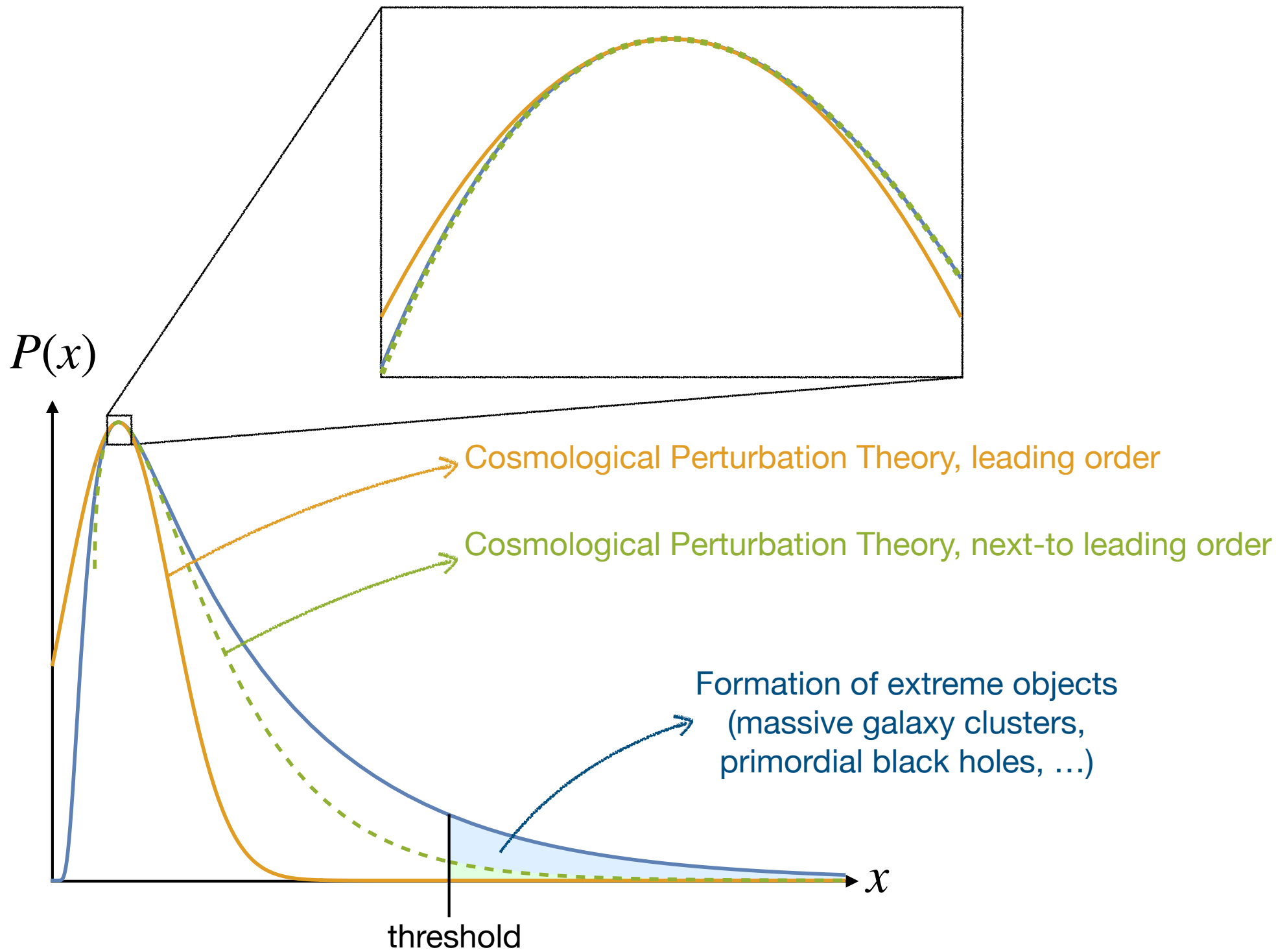


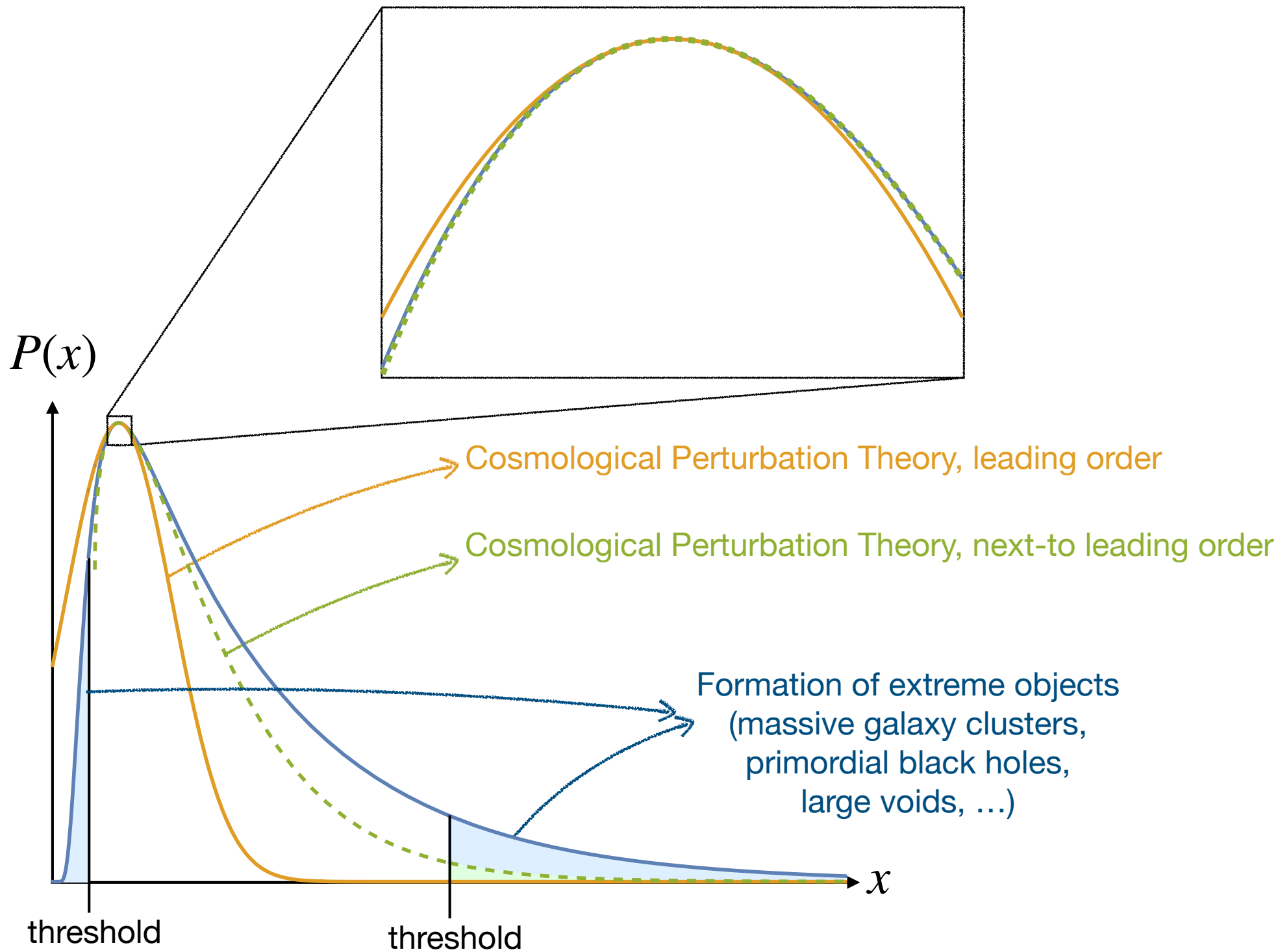






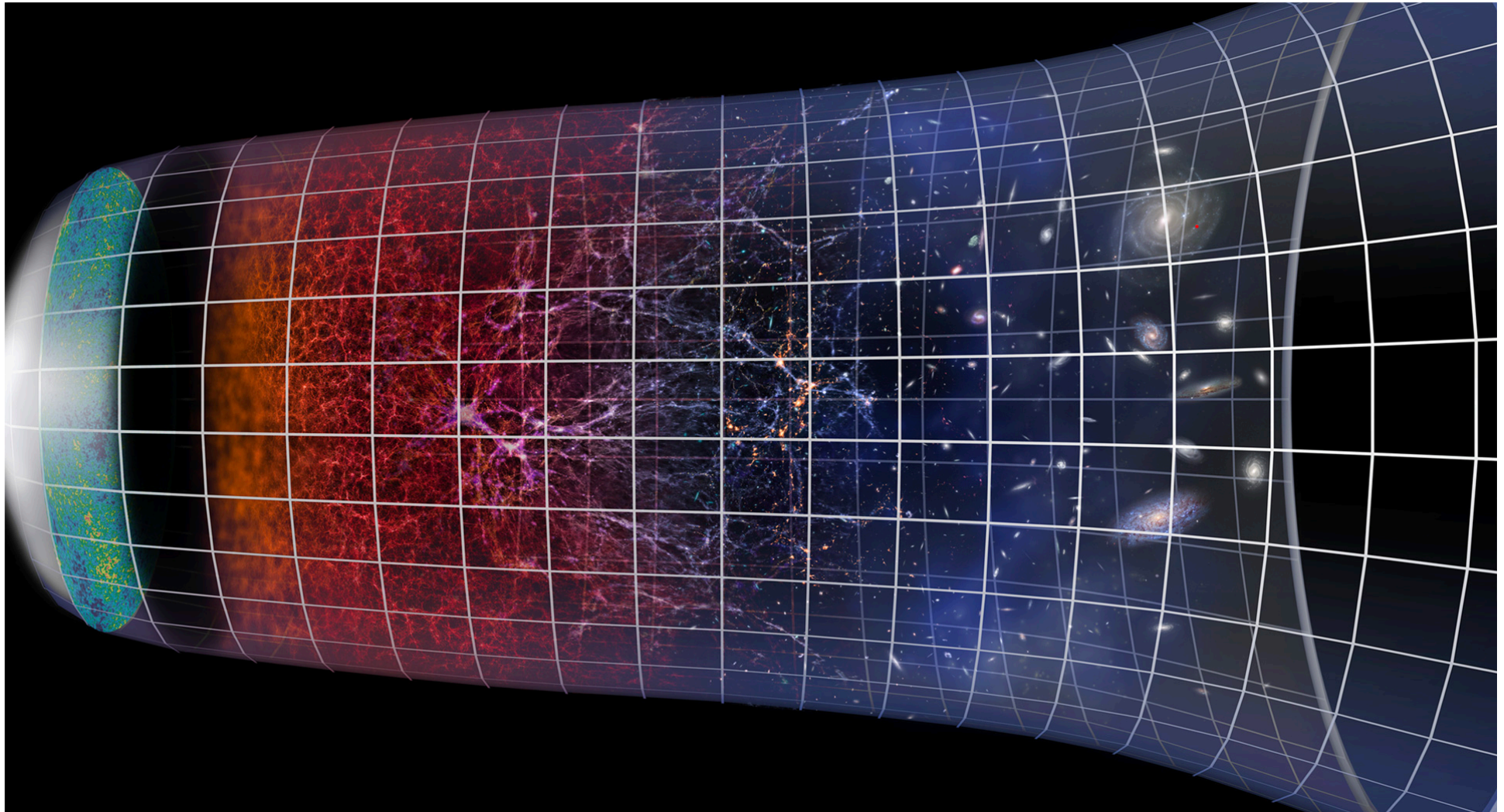






# Cosmic Inflation

$$ds^2 = -dt^2 + a^2(t) d\vec{x}^2 \quad \text{with} \quad \ddot{a} > 0 \quad \text{and} \quad (10 \text{ MeV})^4 < \rho < (10^{16} \text{ GeV})^4$$



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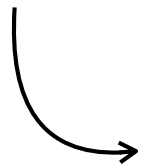
Hubble parameter  $H = \dot{a}/a$



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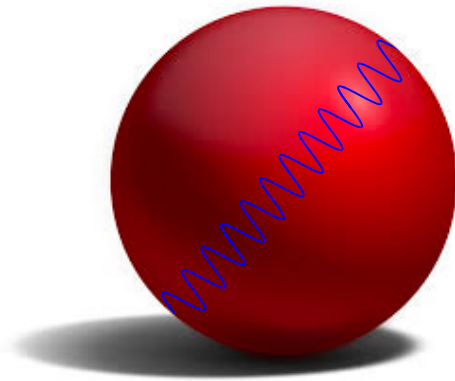
  $H^{-1}$  : characteristic time scale, or length scale ( $c = 1$ ), of the expansion

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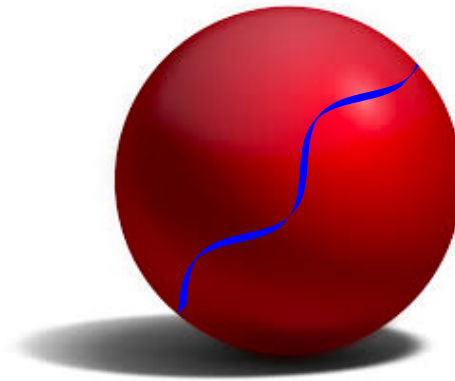
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$$\lambda \ll H^{-1}$$

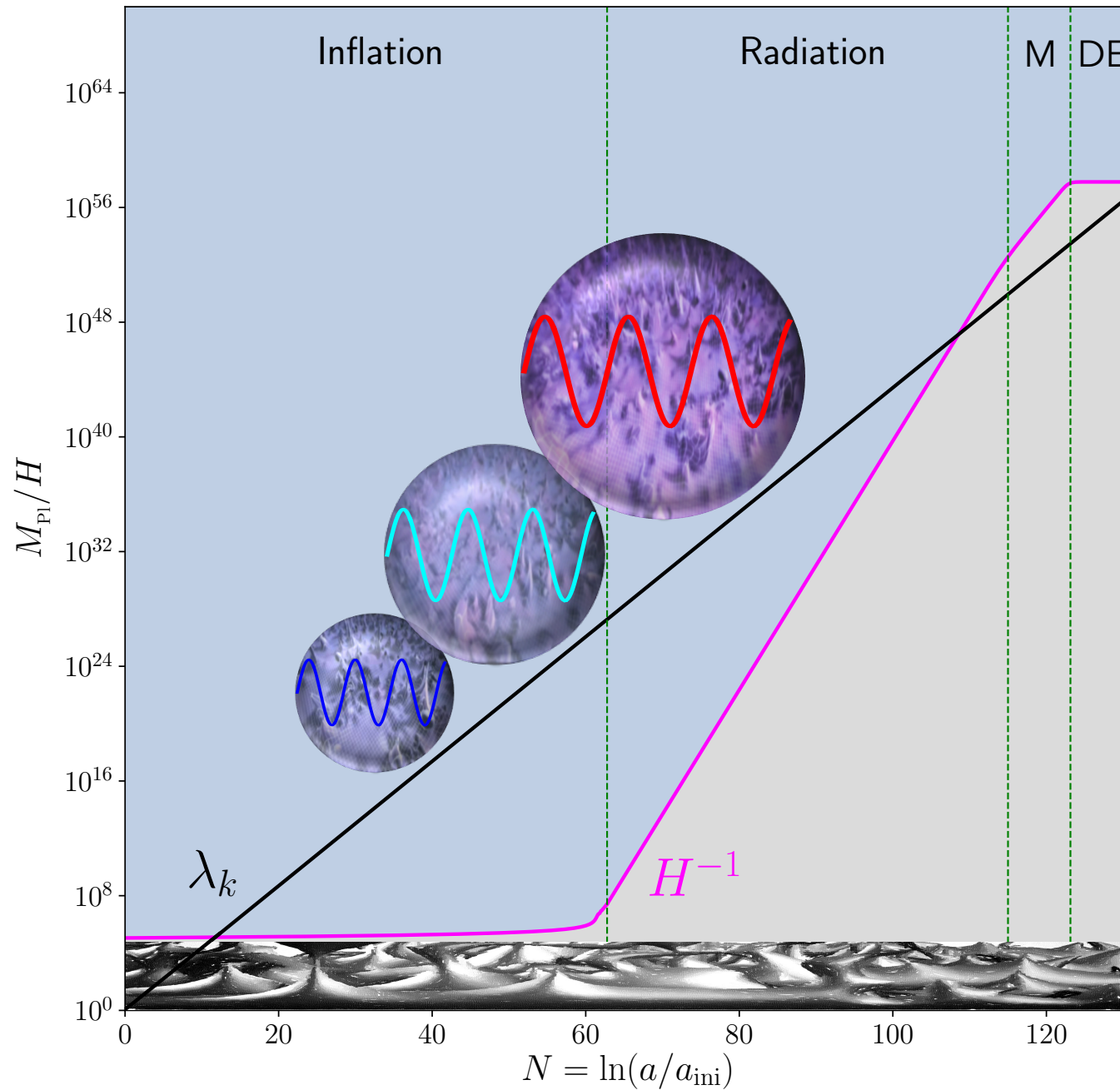
Insensitive to space-time curvature



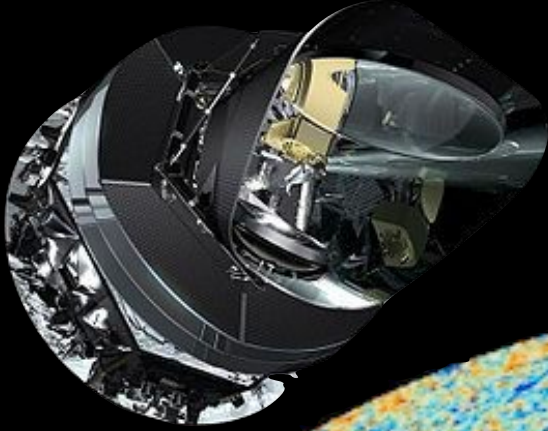
$$\lambda \gtrsim H^{-1}$$

Feels space-time curvature

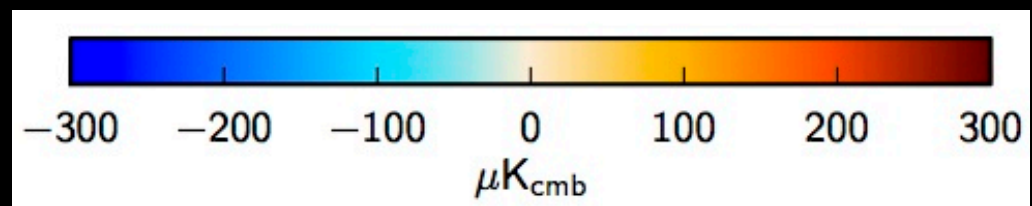
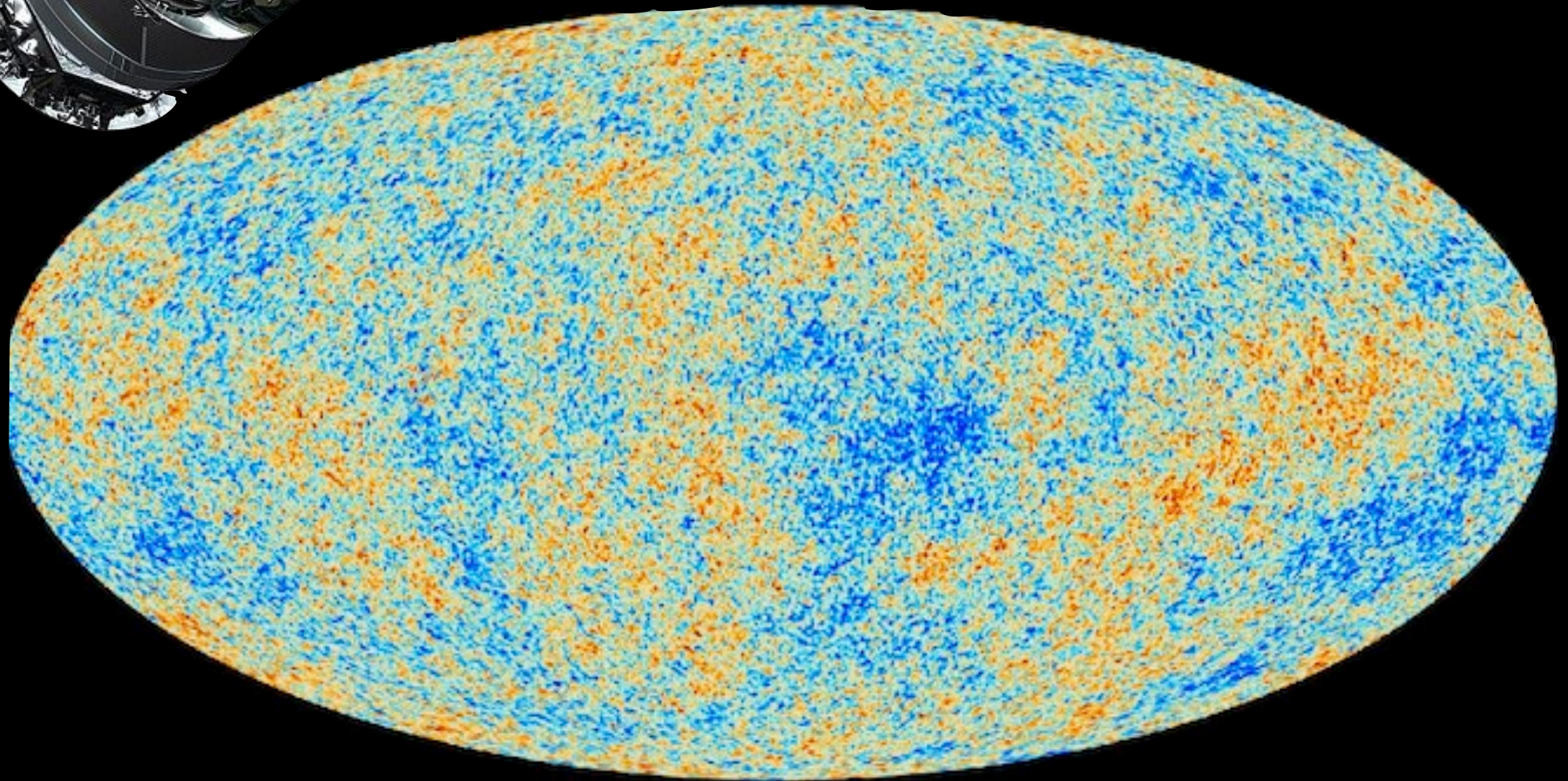
# Cosmic Inflation



Planck satellite



$$\frac{\delta T}{T} \sim 10^{-5} \ll 1$$



# Separate Universe

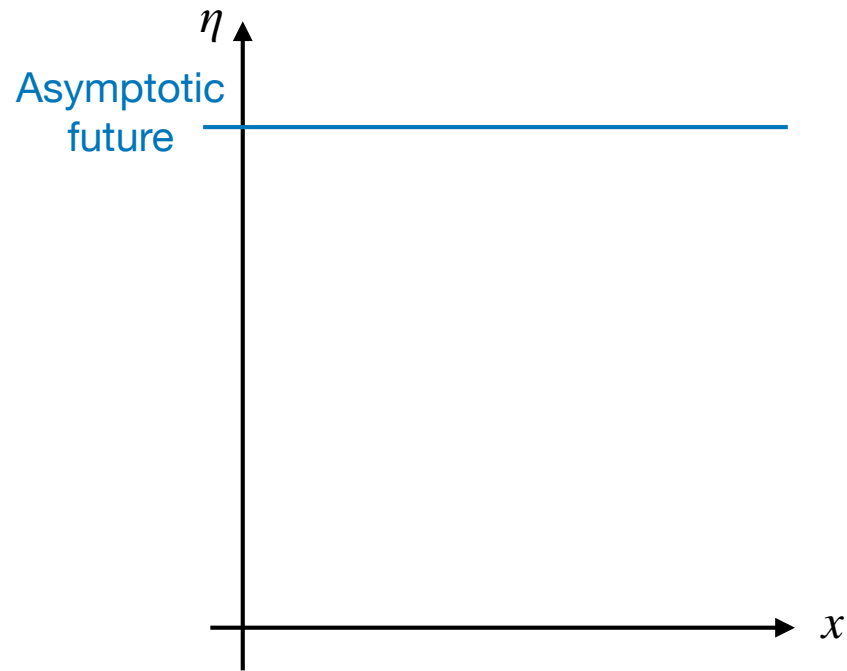
$$ds^2 = a^2 (-d\eta^2 + d\vec{x}^2)$$

de-Sitter universe:  $a = -1/(H\eta)$ ,  $-\infty < \eta < 0$

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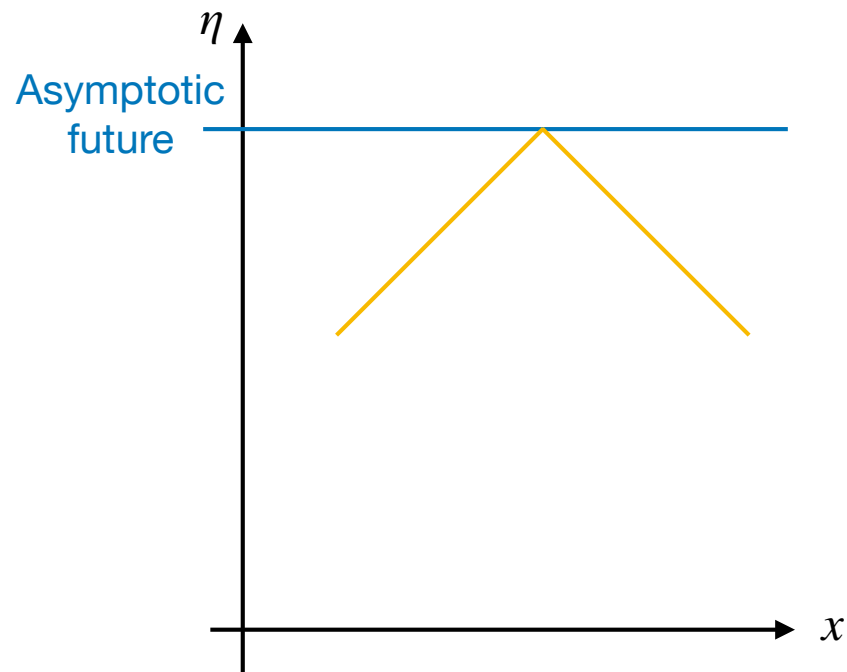
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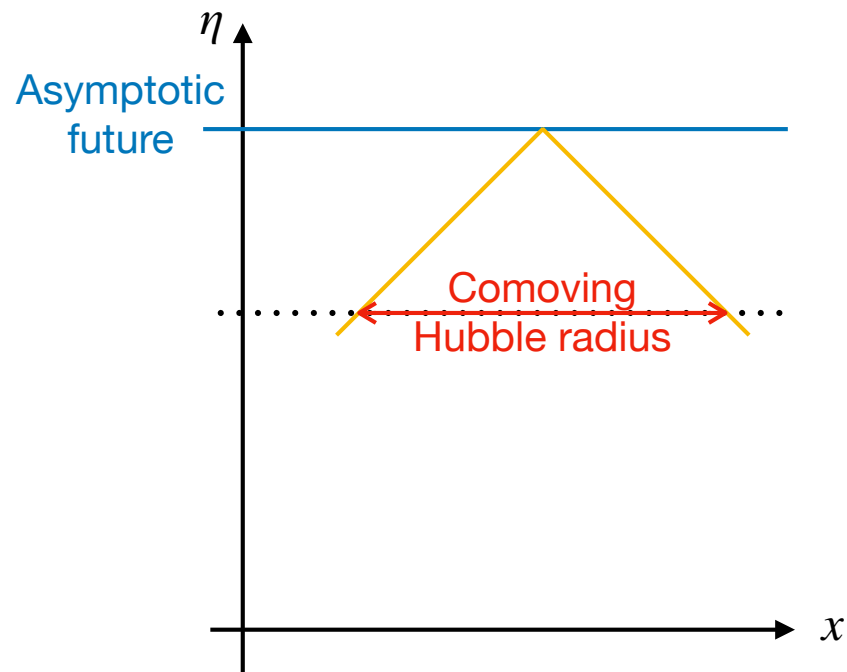
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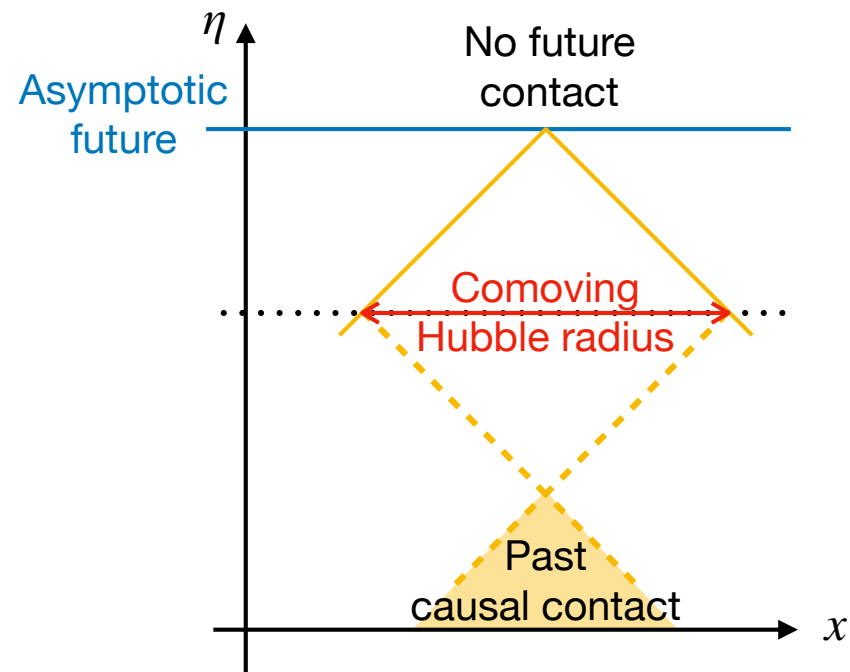




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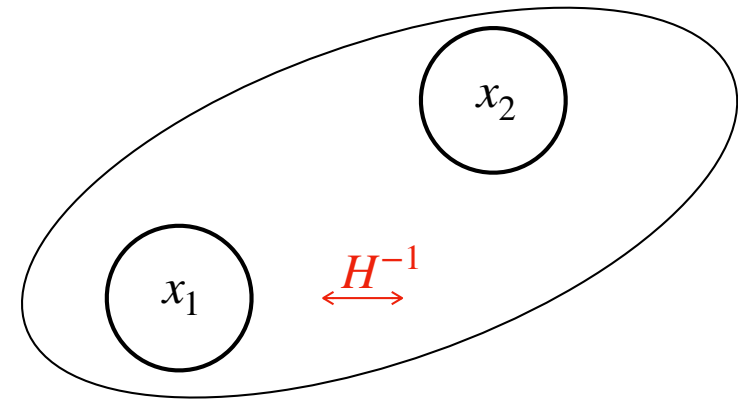
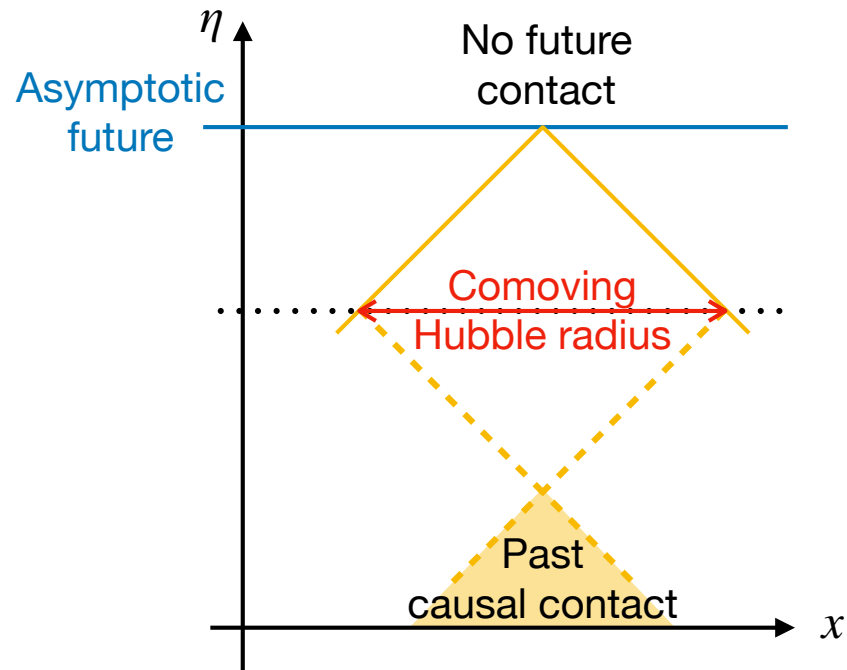
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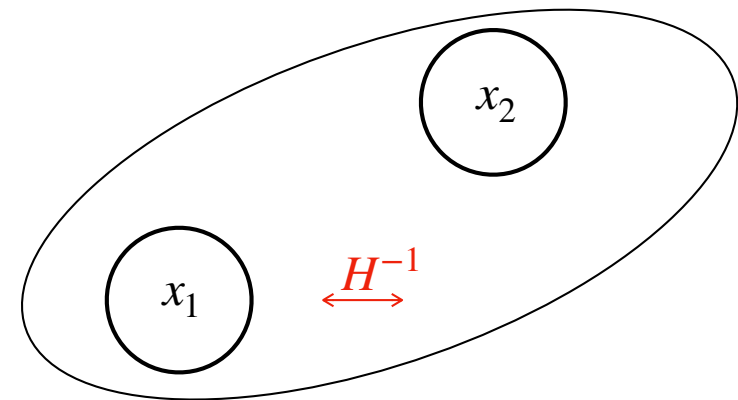
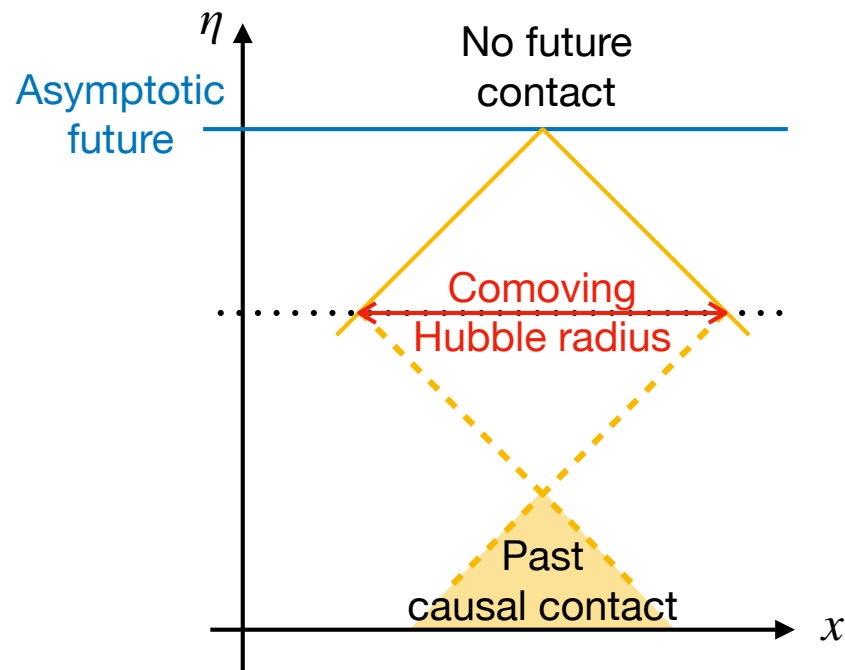


If a large fluctuation develops at  $x_1$ , this cannot affect the local geometry at  $x_2$

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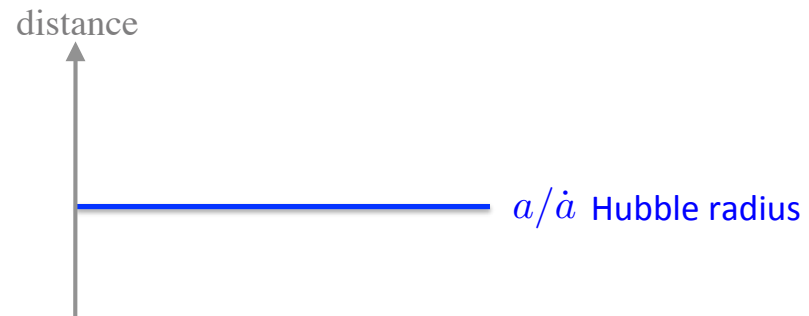
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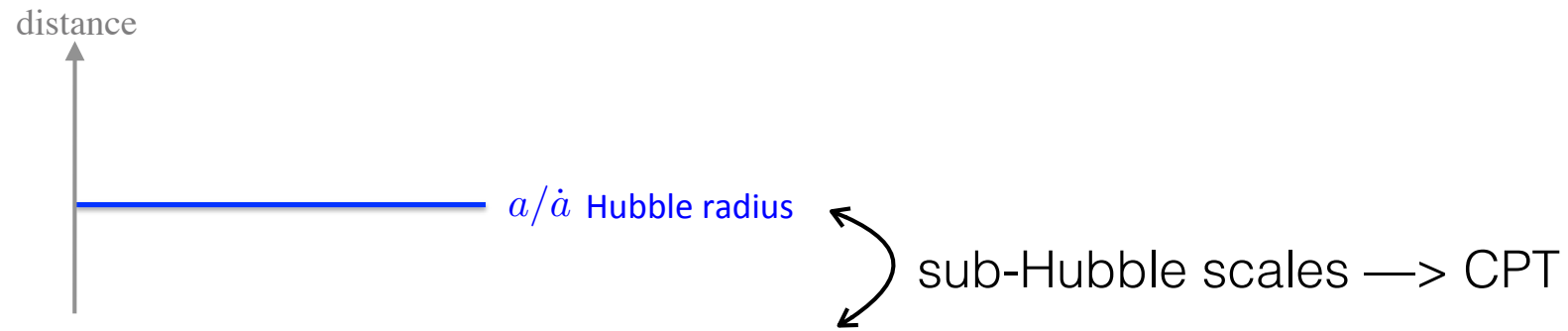
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Separate universe: On large scales, the universe can be described by an ensemble of independent, locally homogeneous and isotropic patches

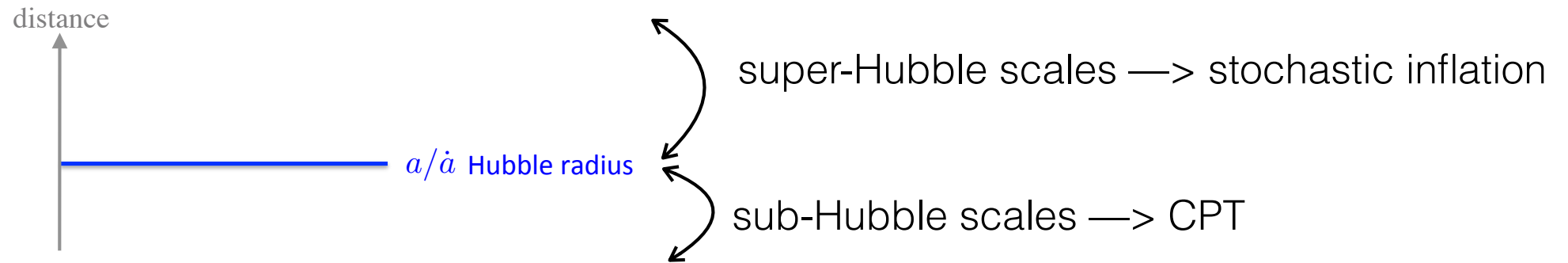
# Stochastic Inflation



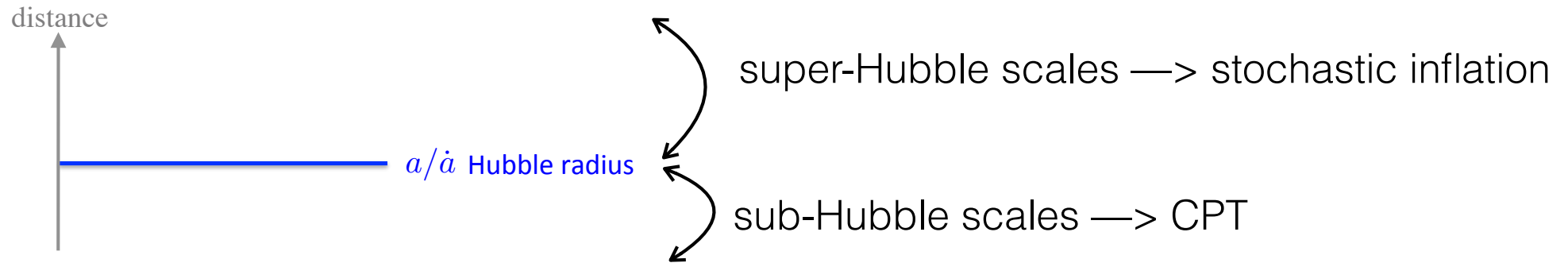
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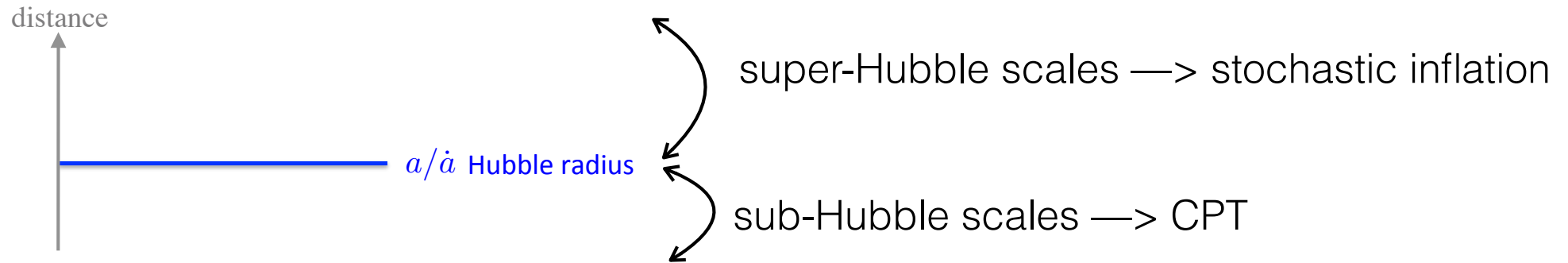
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Coarse-grained field  $\hat{\Phi}_{\text{cg}}(N, \vec{x}) = \int_{k < \sigma H a(N)} d\vec{k} \left[ \Phi_{\vec{k}}(N) e^{-i\vec{k} \cdot \vec{x}} \hat{a}_{\vec{k}} + \Phi_{\vec{k}}^*(N) e^{i\vec{k} \cdot \vec{x}} \hat{a}_{\vec{k}}^\dagger \right]$

$N = \ln(a)$

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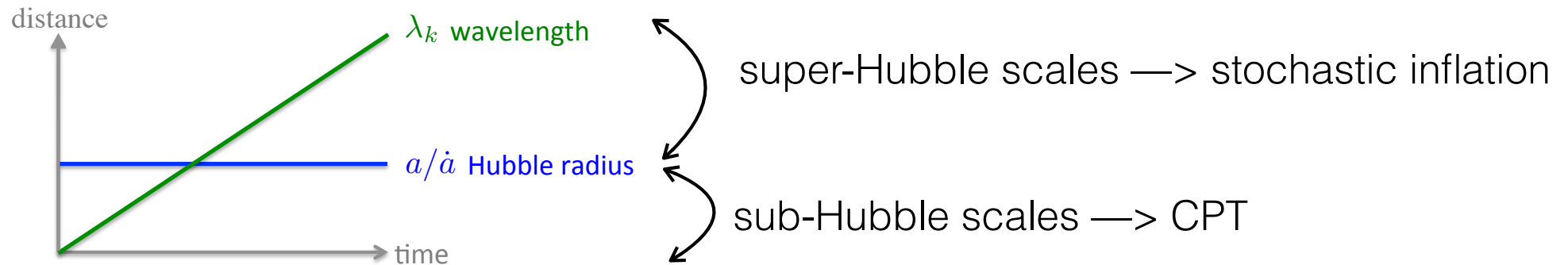
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Equation of motion  $\frac{d}{dN} \Phi_{\text{cg}} = \mathcal{D}_{\text{background}}(\Phi_{\text{cg}}) + \xi$



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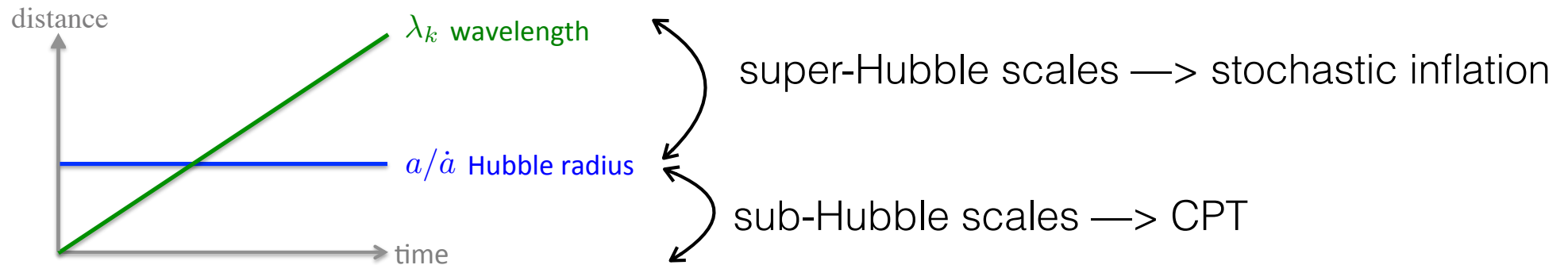


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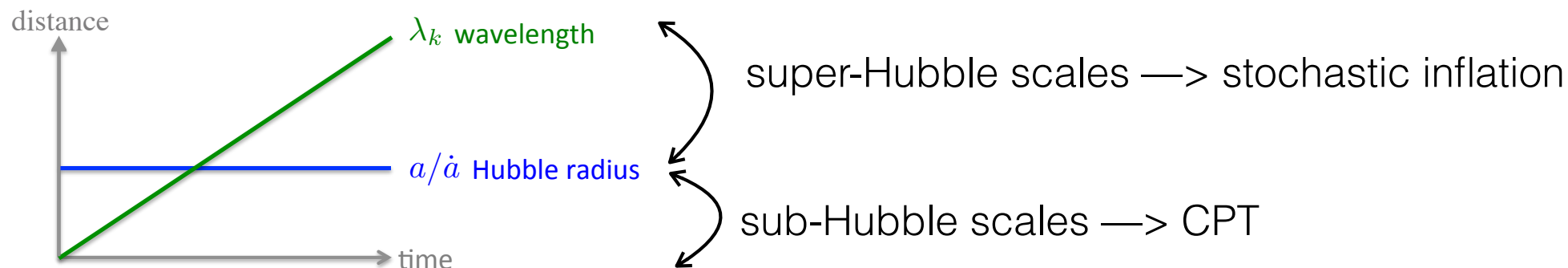
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Quantum fluctuations  
source the background

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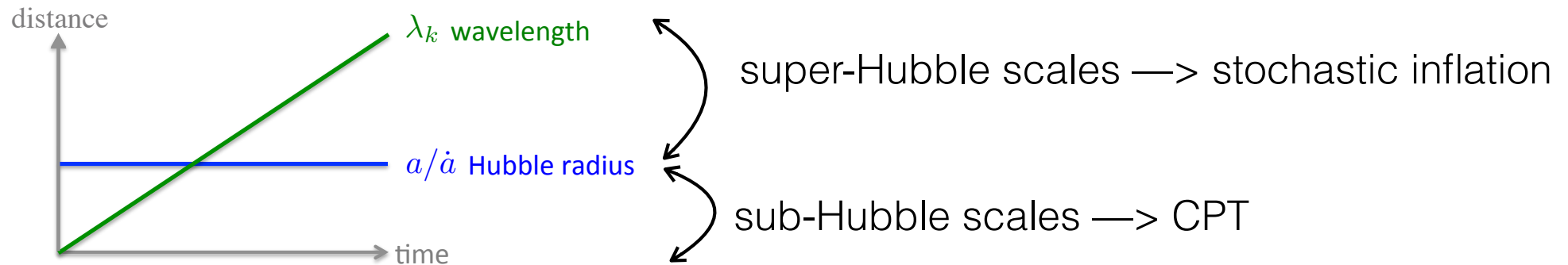
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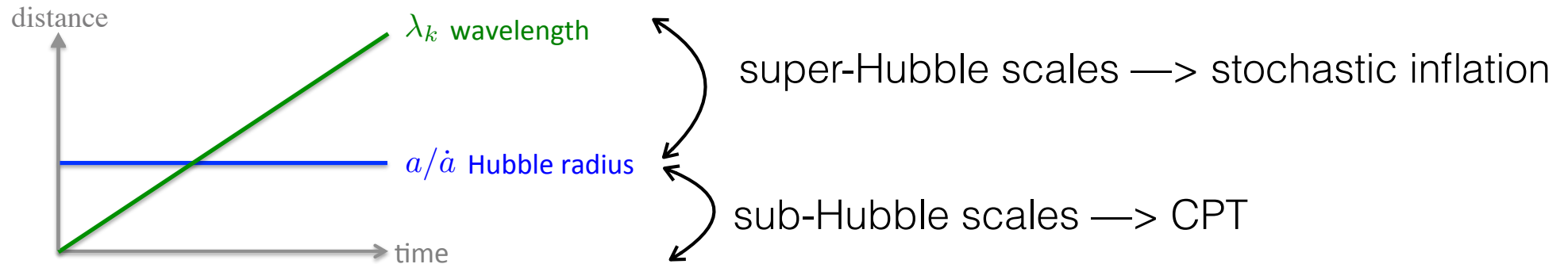
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Over one e-fold:  $\frac{\Delta\phi_{\text{quant}}}{\Delta\phi_{\text{classical}}} \sim \zeta_{\text{classical}}$

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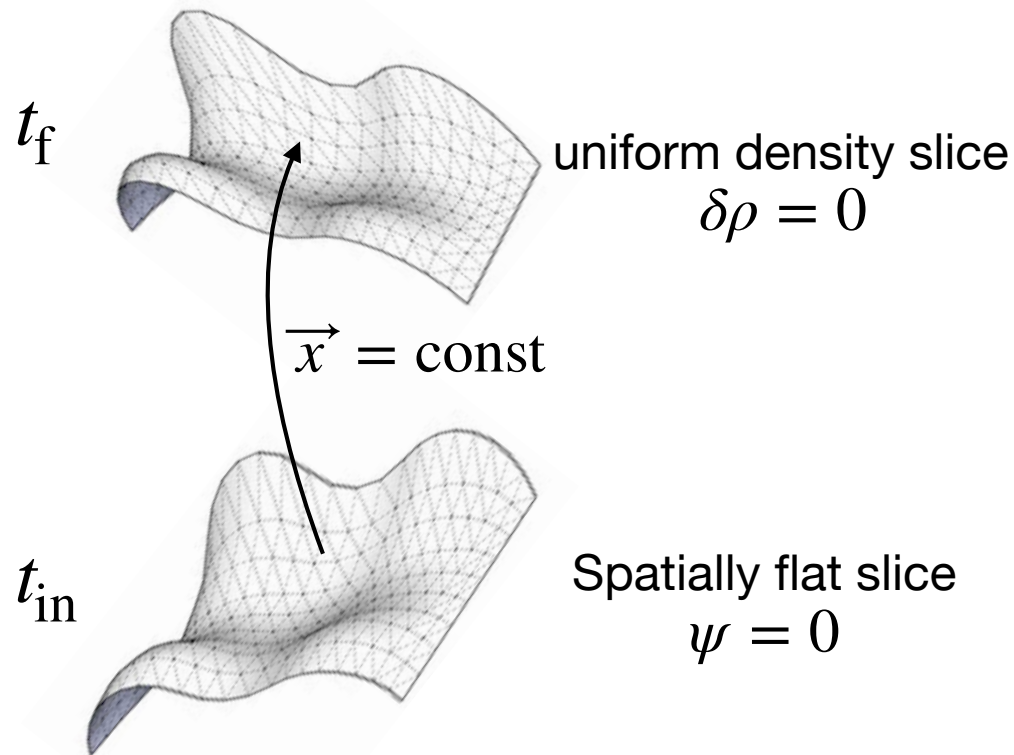
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What about far from the classical regime?

What about tail effects?

# Stochastic- $\delta N$ formalism



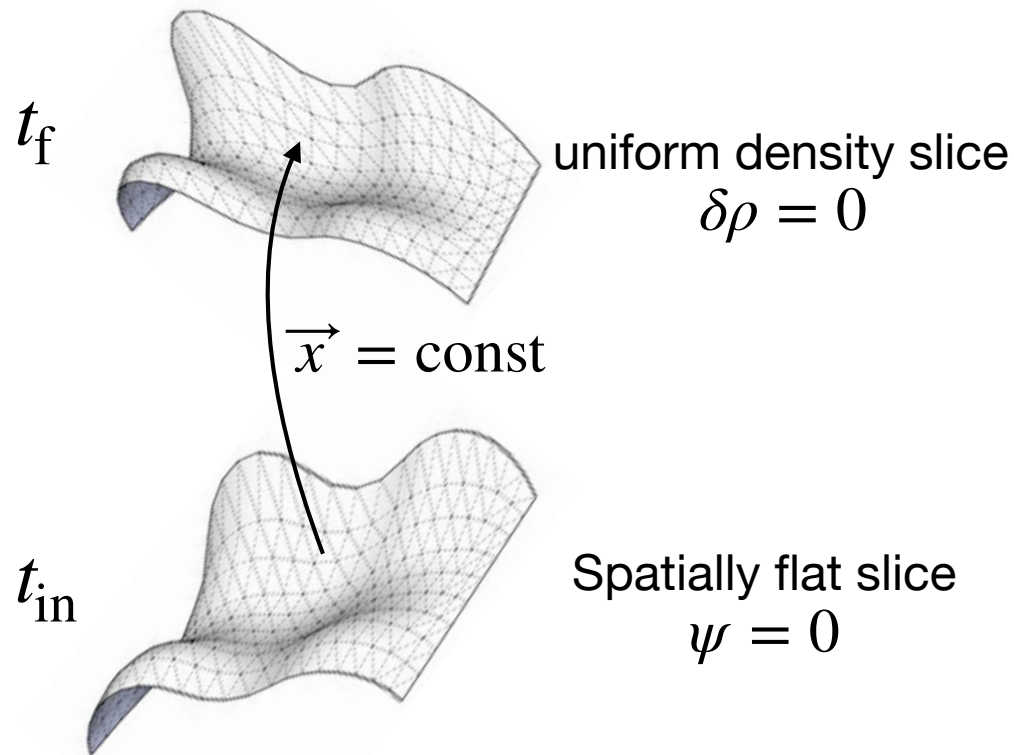
$$\zeta(t, x) = N(t, x) - N_0(t) \equiv \delta N$$

Lifshitz, Khalatnikov (1960)

Starobinsky (1983)

Wands, Malik, Lyth, Liddle (2000)

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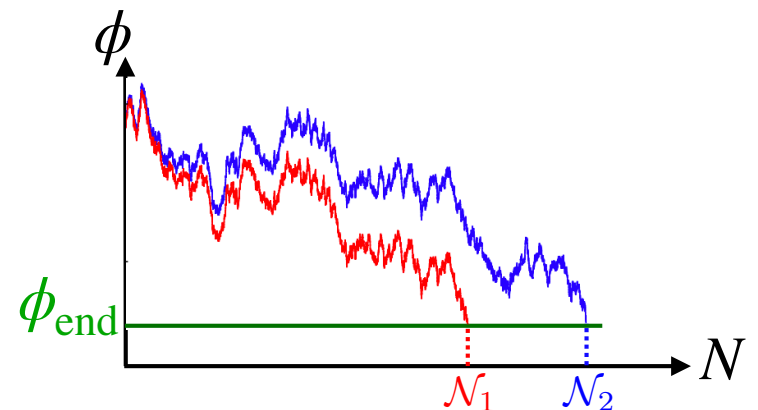
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The realised number of e-folds  
is a stochastic quantity:

$$\zeta_{\text{coarse grained}} = \mathcal{N} - \langle \mathcal{N} \rangle$$



# Stochastic- $\delta N$ formalism



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$$\frac{d\phi}{dN} = -\frac{V'}{3H^2} + \frac{H}{2\pi}\xi(N)$$

Langevin equation

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$$\frac{d\phi}{dN} = -\frac{V'}{3H^2} + \frac{H}{2\pi}\xi(N) \longrightarrow \frac{d}{dN}P(\phi; N) = \frac{\partial}{\partial\phi} \left( \frac{V'}{3H^2}P \right) + \frac{\partial^2}{\partial\phi^2} \left( \frac{H^2}{8\pi^2}P \right)$$

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Fokker-Planck equation

Equation for the PDF of the first passage time

$$\frac{d}{d\mathcal{N}}P_{\text{FPT}}(\mathcal{N}; \phi) = \mathcal{L}_\phi^\dagger \cdot P_{\text{FPT}}$$

VV, Starobinsky (2015)  
Pattison, VV, Assadullahi, Wands (2017)

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Computational program:

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Computational program:

- Solve the first-passage-time problem

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Equation for the PDF of the first passage time

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Computational program:

- Solve the first-passage-time problem  $\longrightarrow$  **See talk by Joe Jackson**



# Stochastic- $\delta N$ formalism

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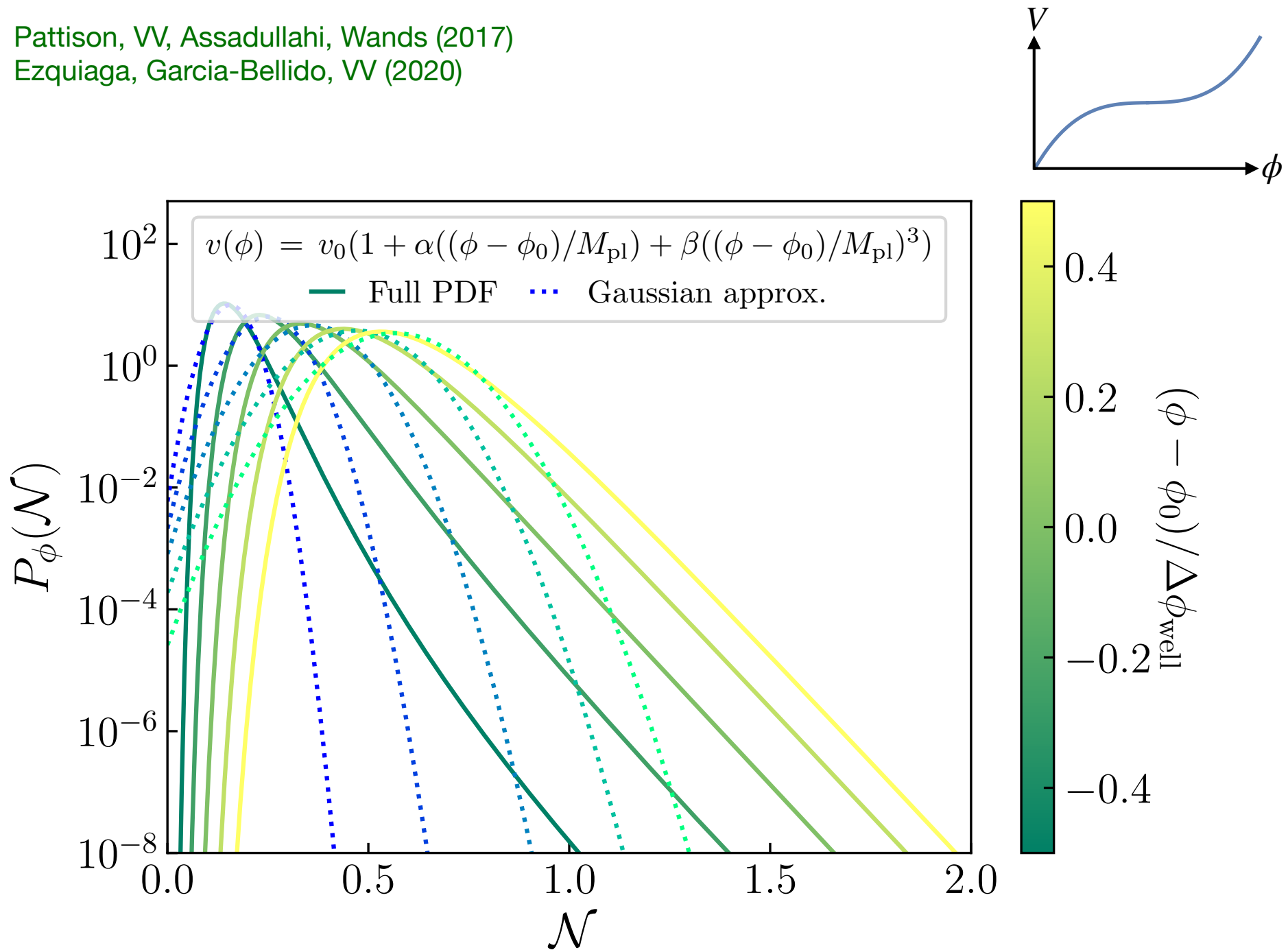
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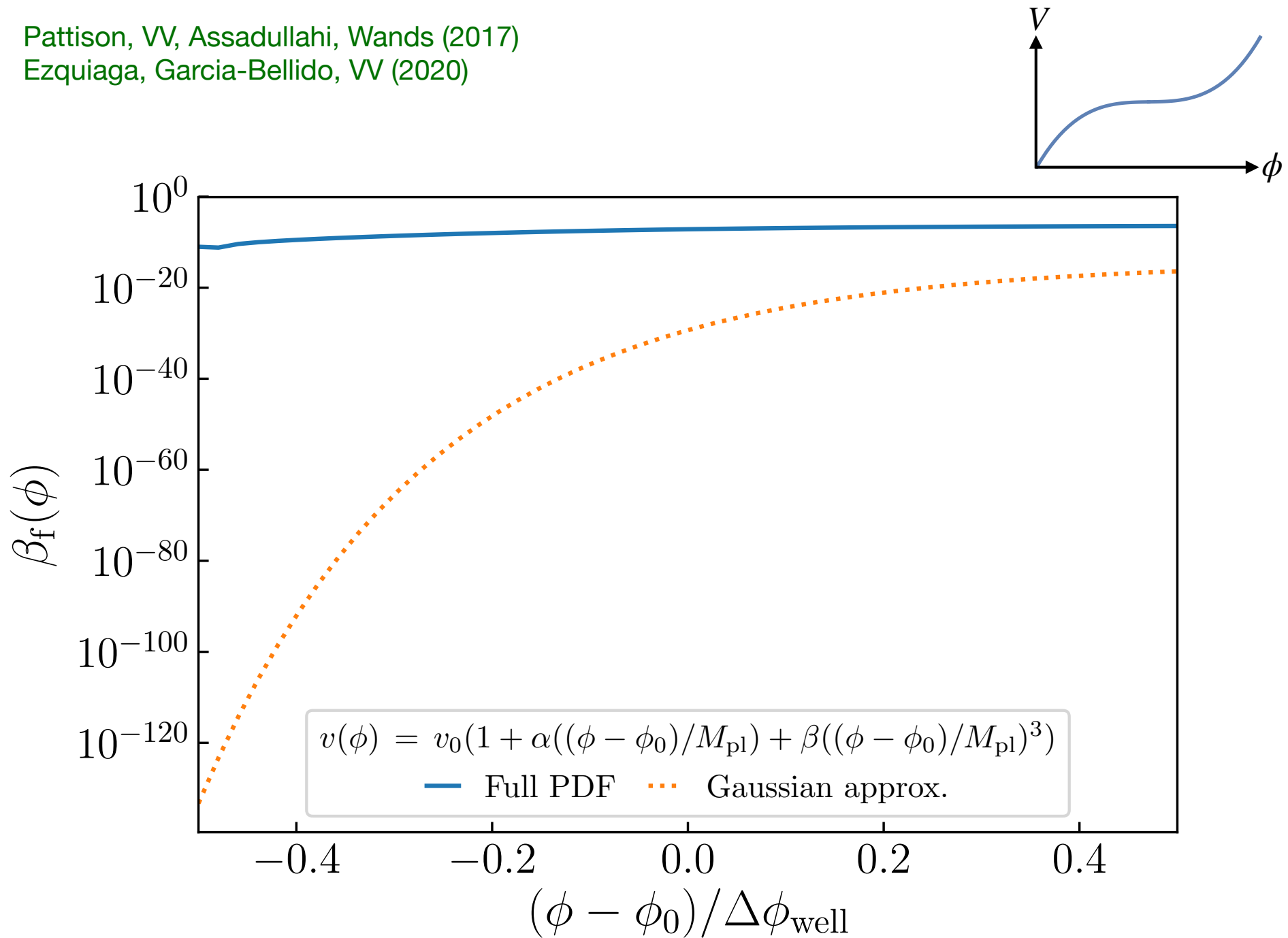
# Exponential tails

Pattison, VV, Assadullahi, Wands (2017)  
Ezquiaga, Garcia-Bellido, VV (2020)



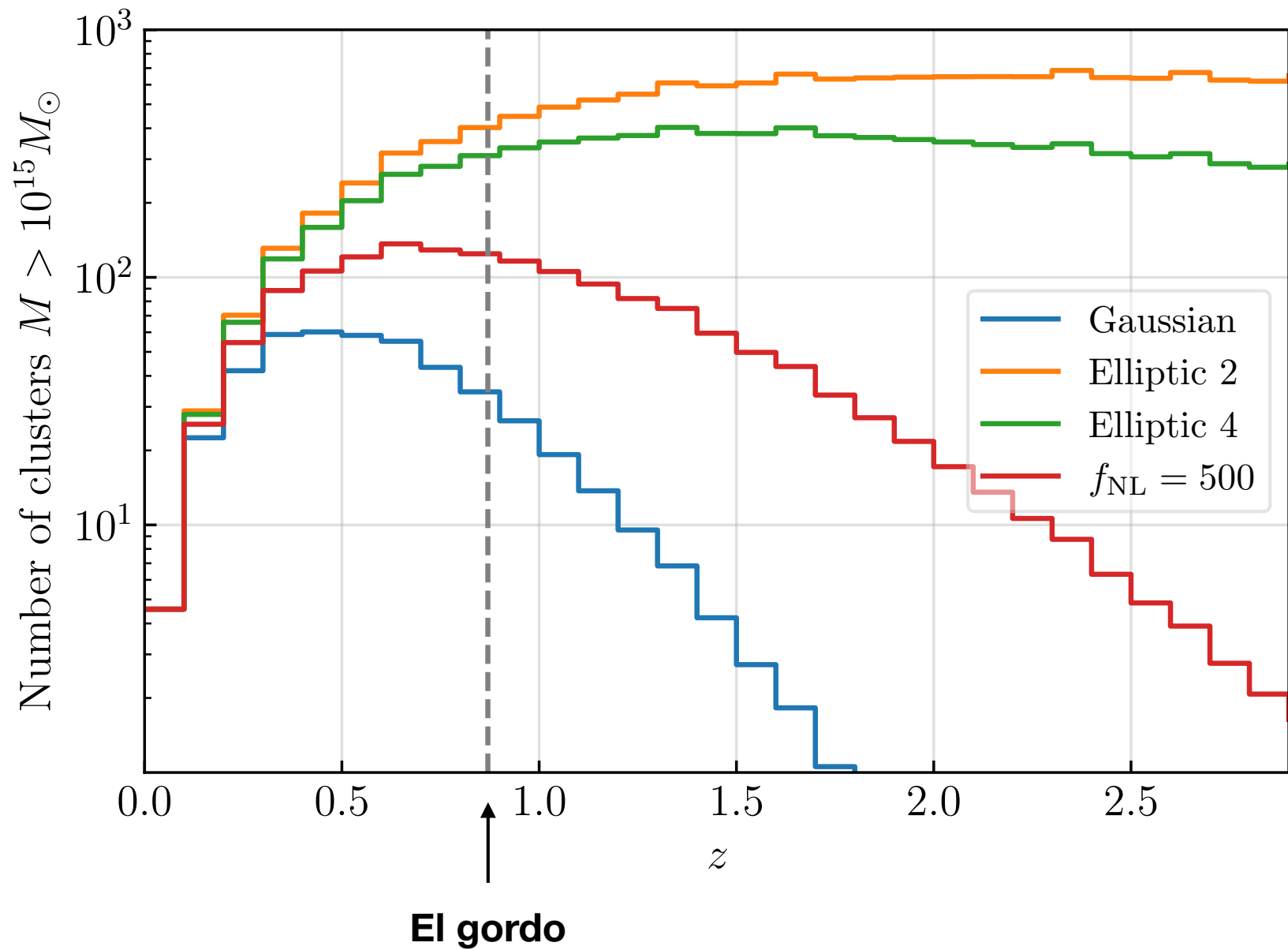
# Impact on PBHs

Pattison, VV, Assadullahi, Wands (2017)  
Ezquiaga, Garcia-Bellido, VV (2020)



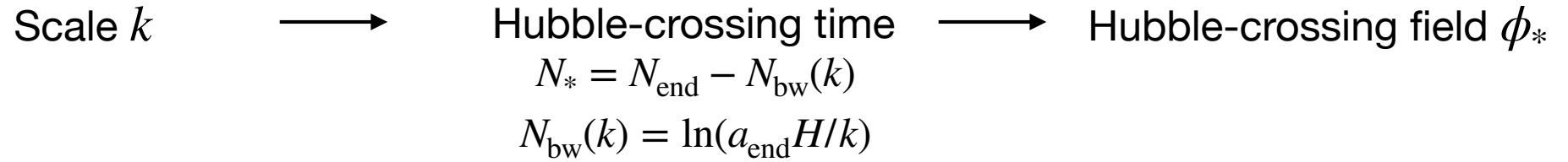
# Impact on LSS

Ezquiaga, Garcia-Bellido, VV (2022)



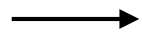


# Extracting cosmological observables

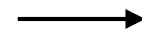


# Extracting cosmological observables

Scale  $k$



Hubble-crossing time

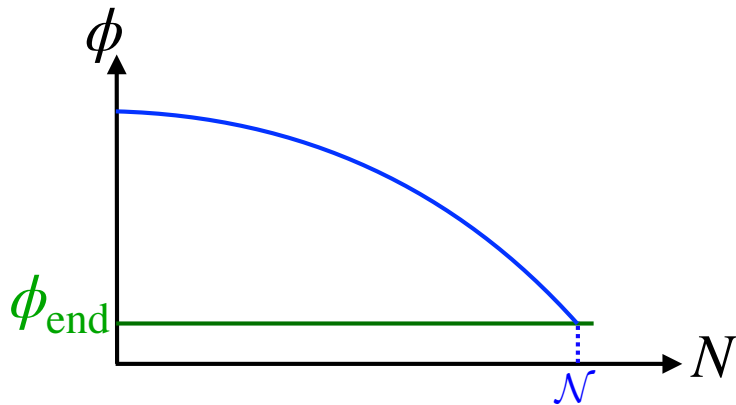


Hubble-crossing field  $\phi_*$

$$N_* = N_{\text{end}} - N_{\text{bw}}(k)$$

$$N_{\text{bw}}(k) = \ln(a_{\text{end}}H/k)$$

Classical picture



# Extracting cosmological observables

Scale  $k$



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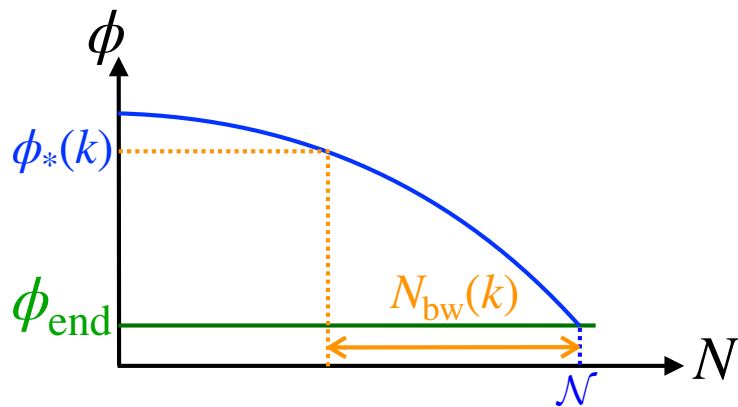


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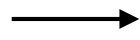
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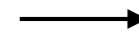
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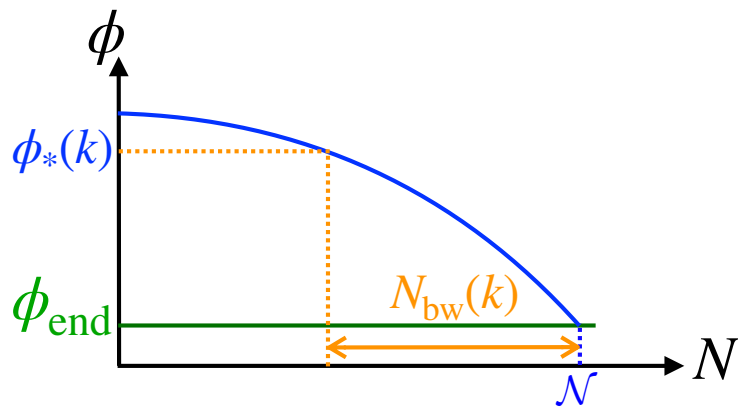
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Observables (power spectrum etc) at scale  $k$  depend on **local properties** of the potential at location  $\phi_*(k)$

# Extracting cosmological observables

Scale  $k$



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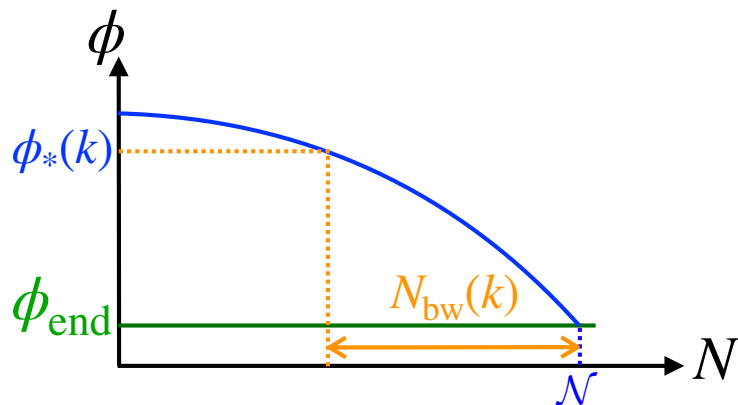


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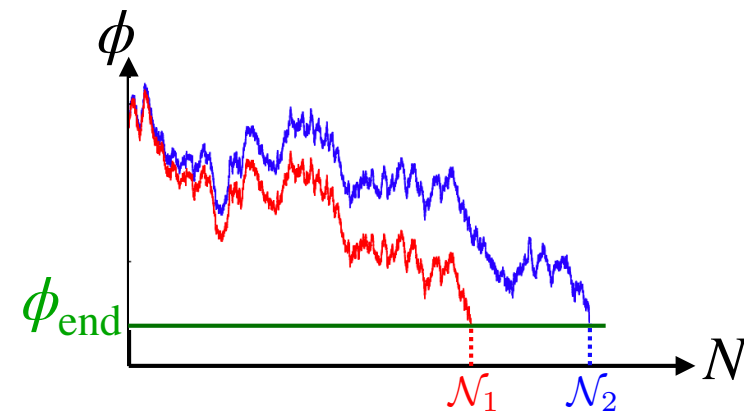
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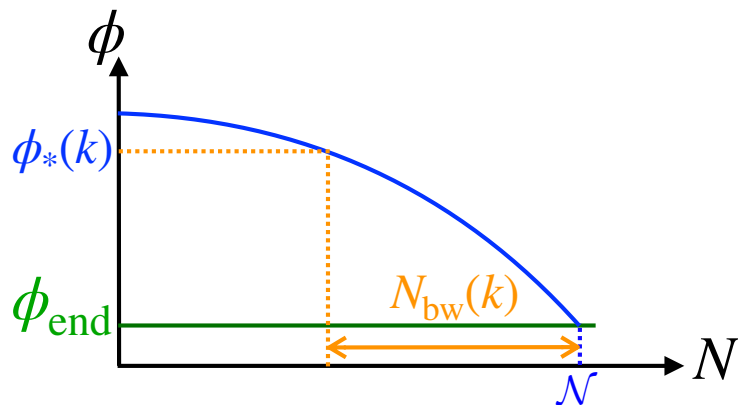


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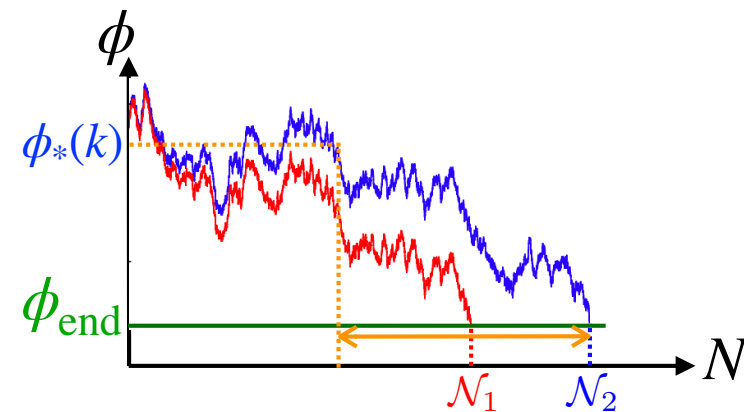
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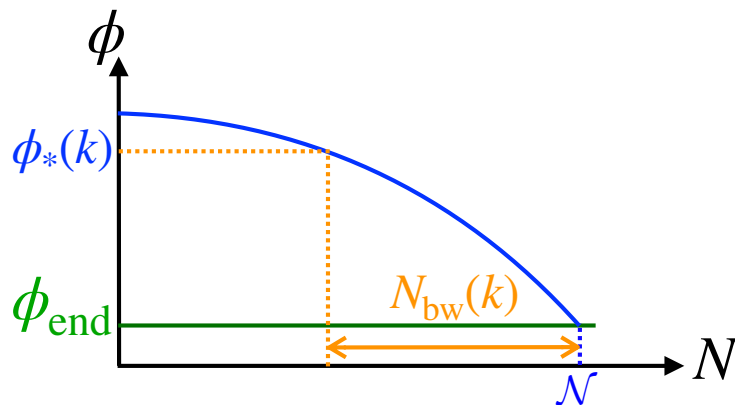


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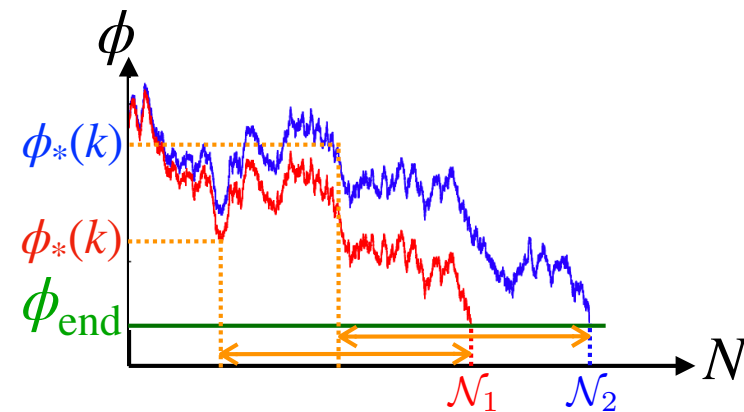
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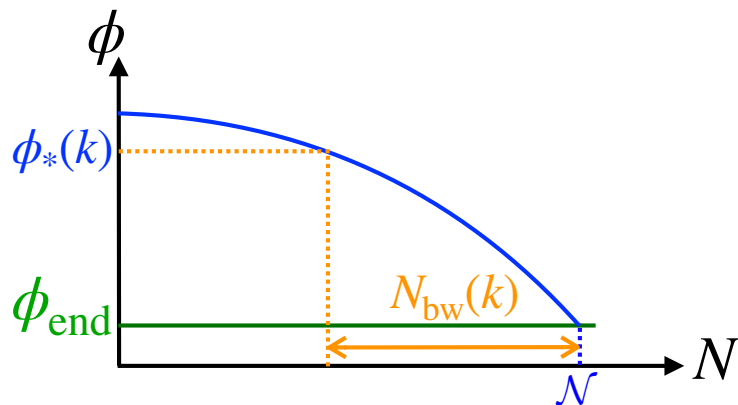


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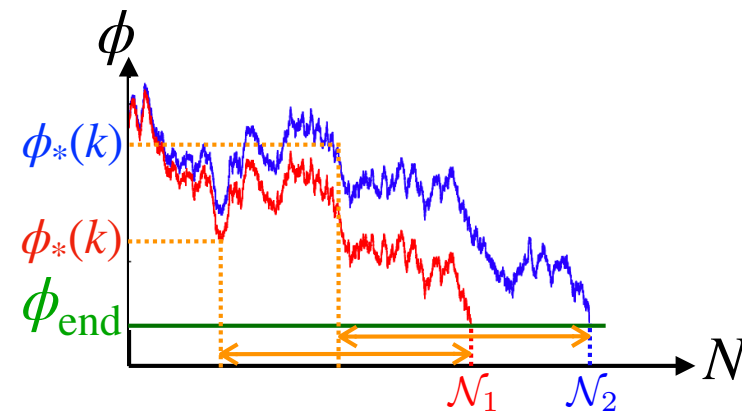
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Stochastic picture



$$P_{\text{bw}}(\phi_*; k) = P_{\text{FPT}} [N_{\text{bw}}(k); \phi_*] \frac{\int_0^\infty P(\phi_*; N) dN}{\int_{N_{\text{bw}}(k)}^\infty P_{\text{FPT}}(\mathcal{N}; \phi_{\text{in}}) d\mathcal{N}}$$

Kenta Ando, VV (2020)

Observables (power spectrum etc) at scale  $k$  depend on **local properties** of the potential at location  $\phi_*(k)$



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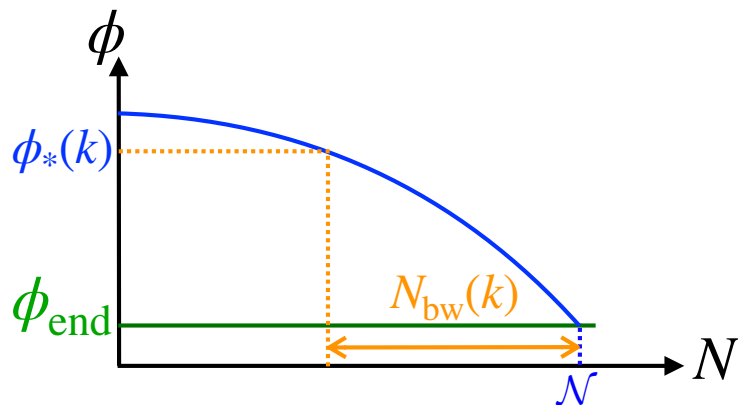


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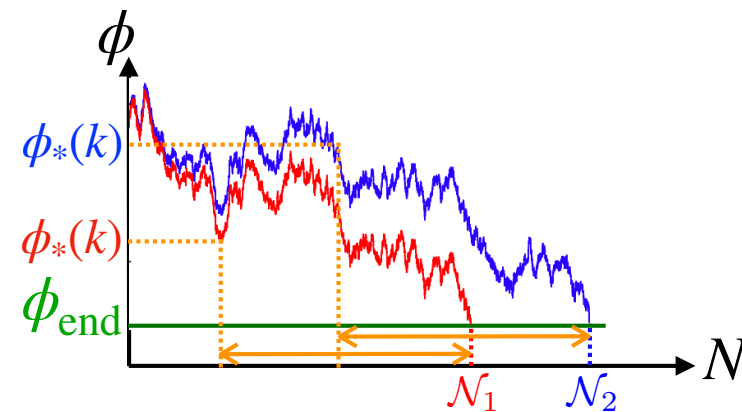
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Observables (power spectrum etc) at scale  $k$  depend on local properties of the potential at location  $\phi_*(k)$

Observables at scale  $k$  depend on the whole potential and on the initial condition

# Extracting cosmological observables

Power Spectrum  
Kenta Ando, VV (2020)

$$\mathcal{P}_\zeta(k) = - \int_{\Omega} d\mathbf{\Phi}_* \left. \frac{\partial P_{\text{bw}}(\mathbf{\Phi}_*; N_{\text{bw}})}{\partial N_{\text{bw}}} \right|_{N_{\text{bw}}(k)} \langle \delta \mathcal{N}^2(\mathbf{\Phi}_0 \rightarrow \mathbf{\Phi}_*) \rangle$$

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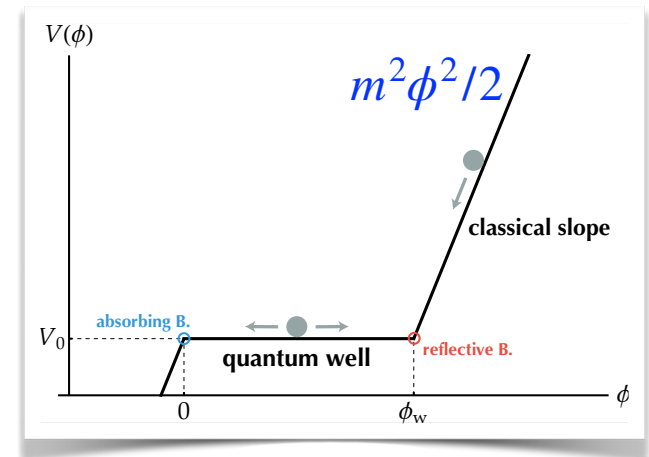
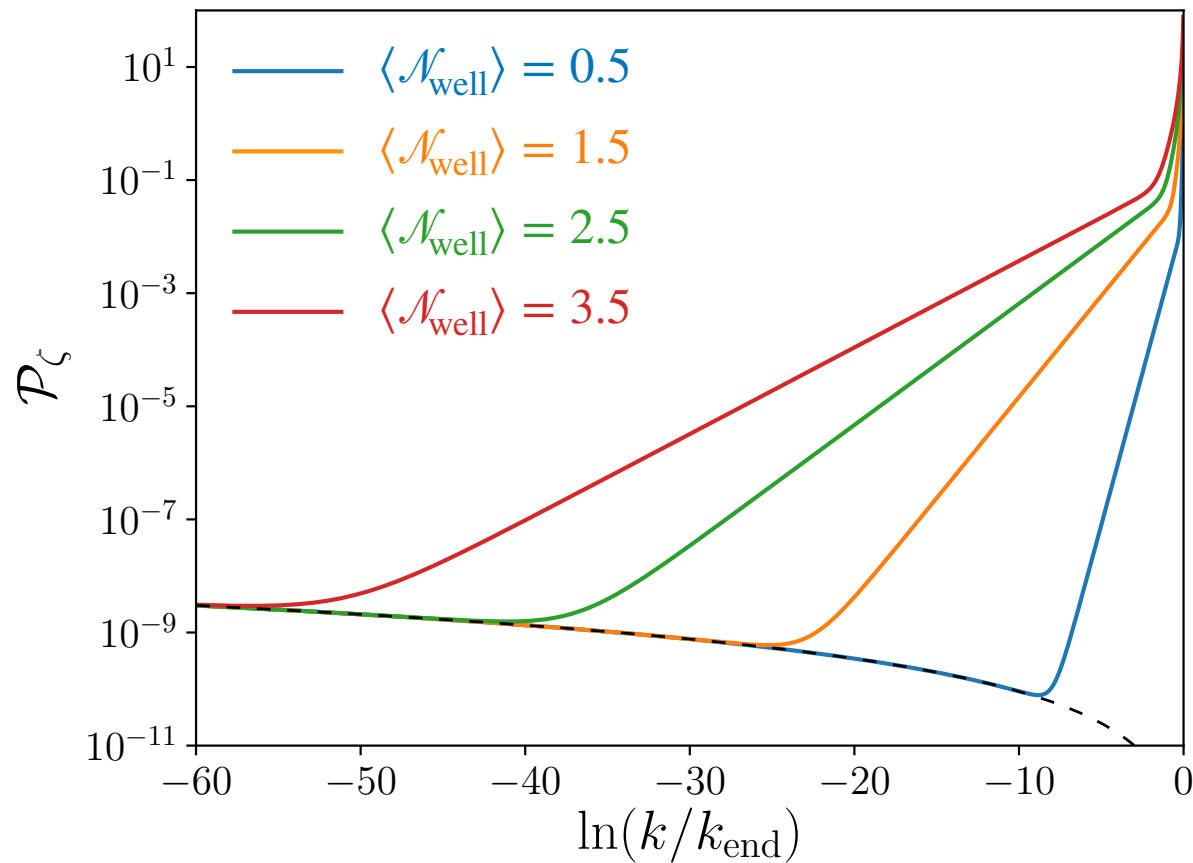
Integration over the full inflating domain

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# Extracting cosmological observables

One-point function at arbitrary scale

Yuichiro Tada, VV (2021)

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$$P(\zeta_R) = \int_{\Omega} d\Phi_* P_{\text{bw}}[\Phi_* | N_{\text{bw}}(R)] P_{\text{FPT}, \Phi_0 \rightarrow \Phi_*}[\zeta_R - \langle \mathcal{N}(\Phi_*) \rangle + \langle \mathcal{N}(\Phi_0) \rangle]$$

$R$

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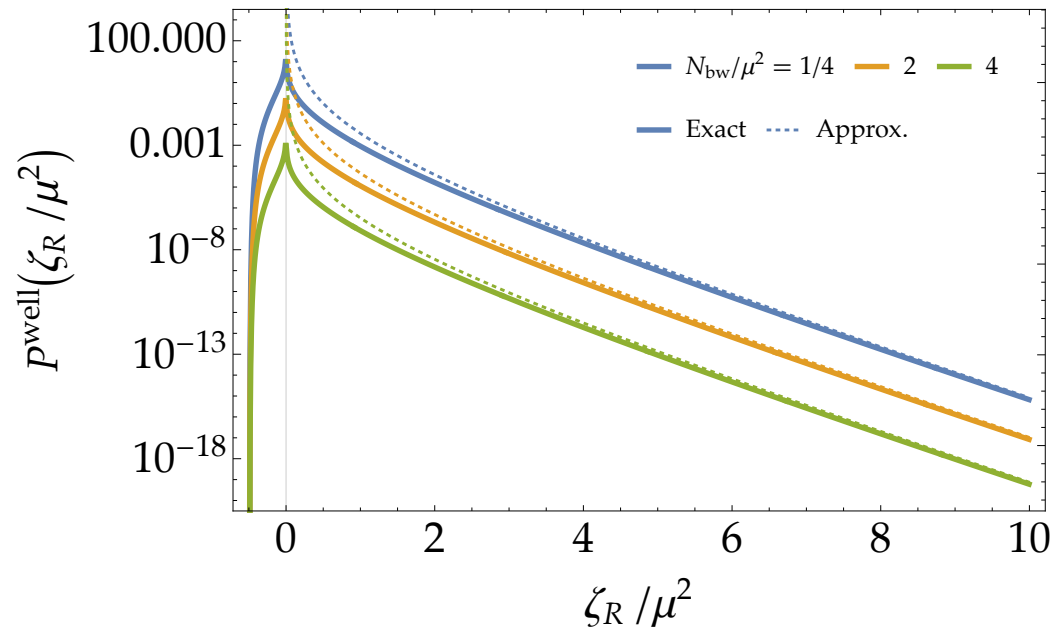
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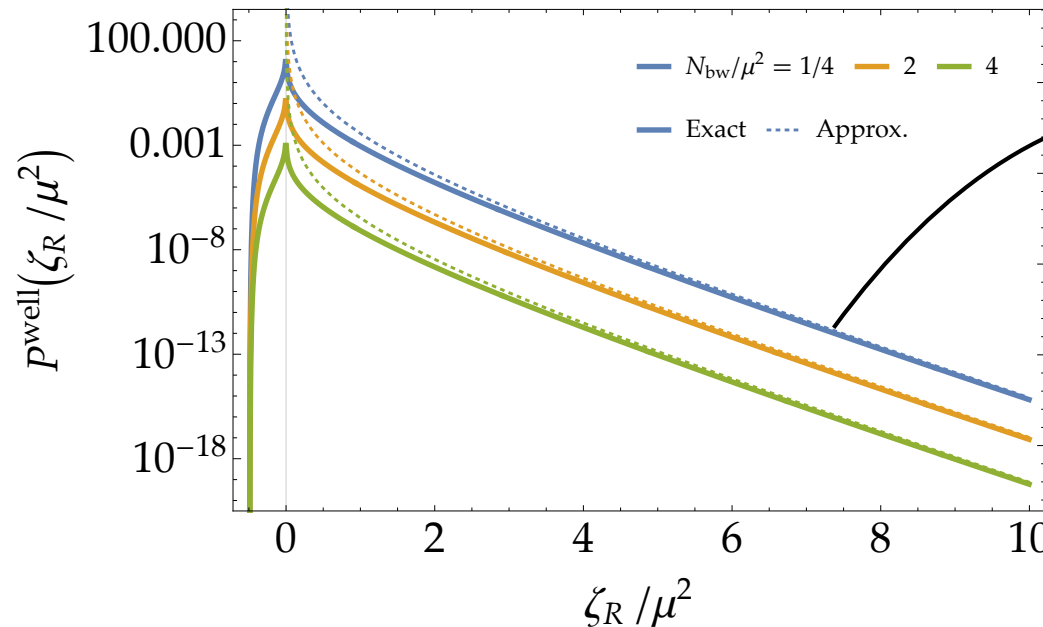
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$$P(\zeta_R) \propto \frac{e^{-\frac{\pi^2}{4} \frac{\zeta_R}{\mu^2}}}{(\zeta_R/\mu^2)^3}$$

Quasi-exponential tail

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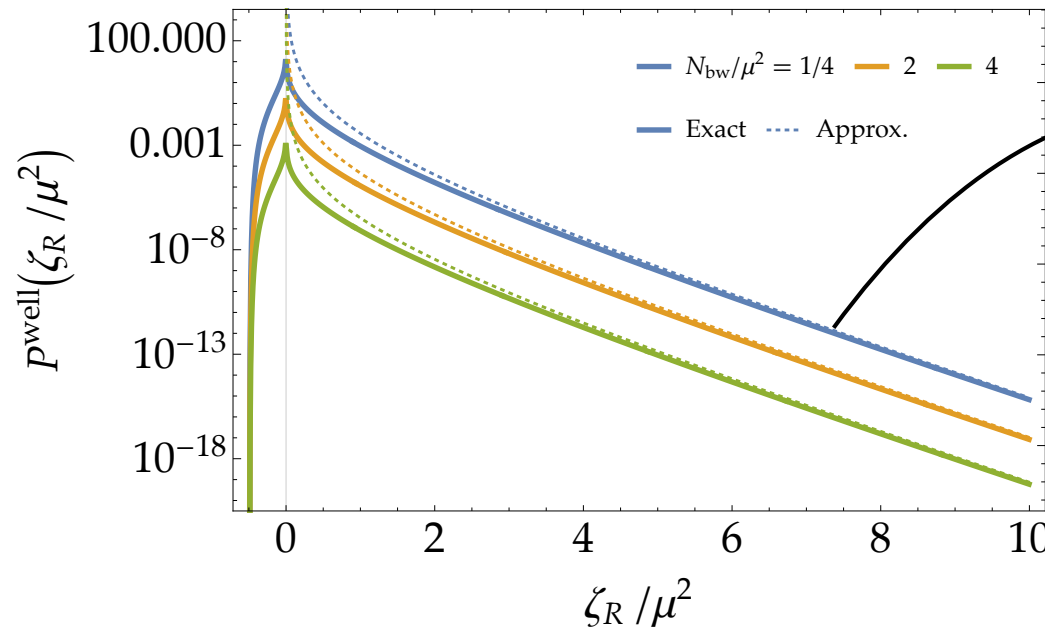
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$R^{(1)}$

$R^{(2)}$

→ Comoving density contrast

→ Compaction function



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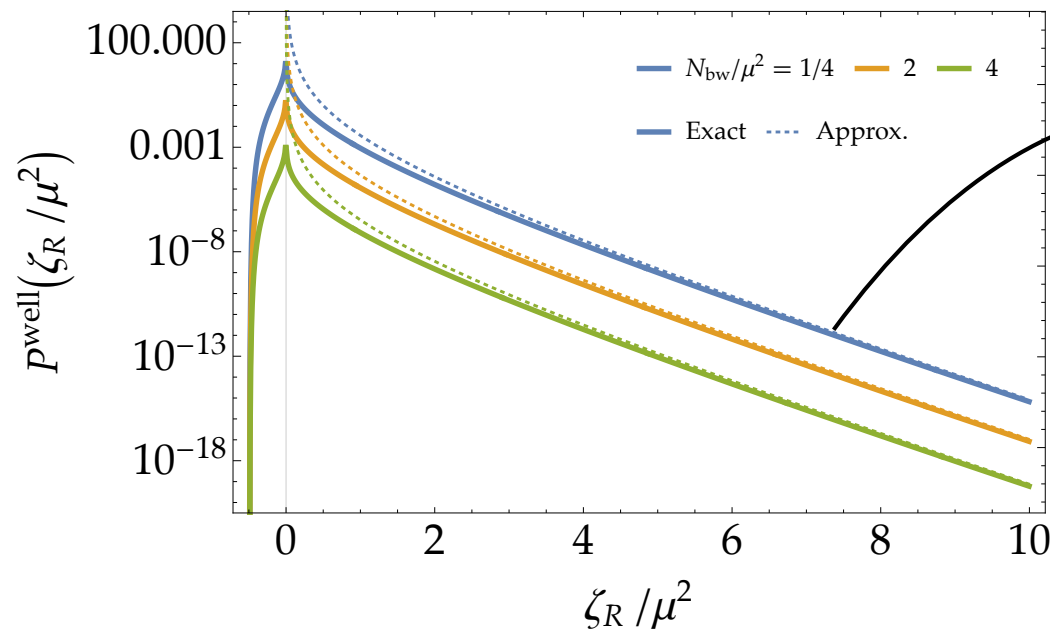
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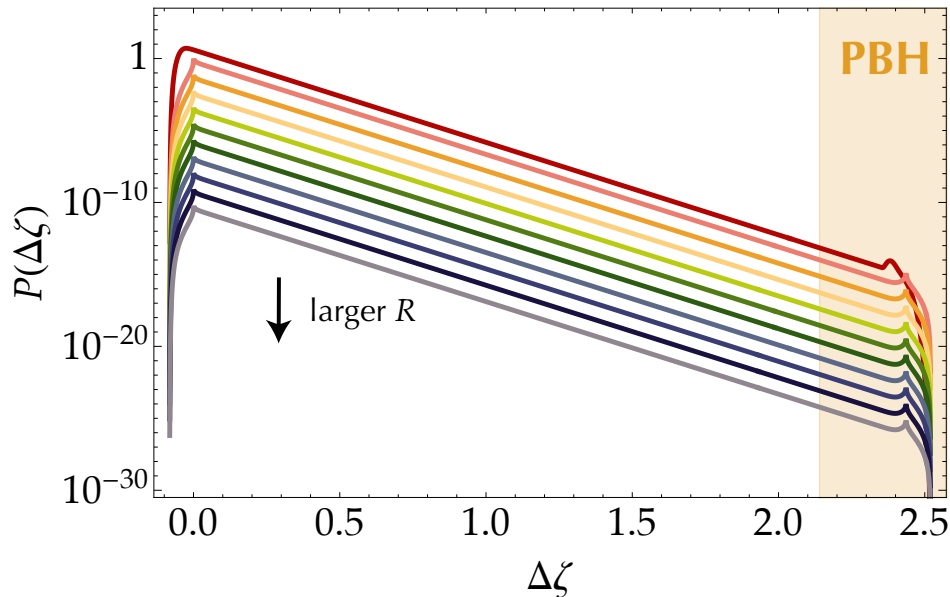
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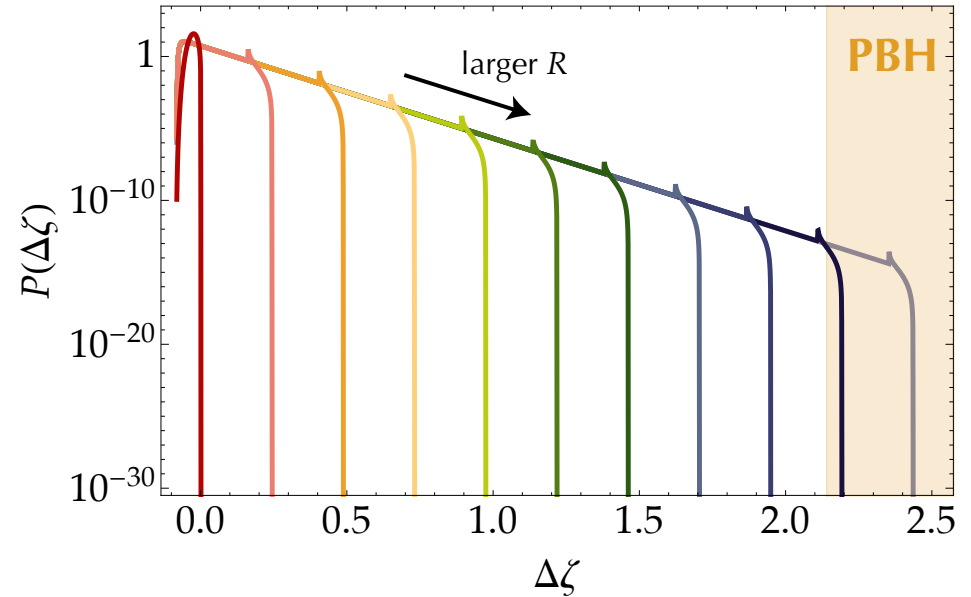
$R^{(2)}$

$$\mu = \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}}, N_{\text{bw}}^{(2)} > 0$$

$$\mu = \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}}, N_{\text{bw}}^{(2)} < 0$$



$R_2$  exits within the quantum well



$R_2$  exits below the quantum well

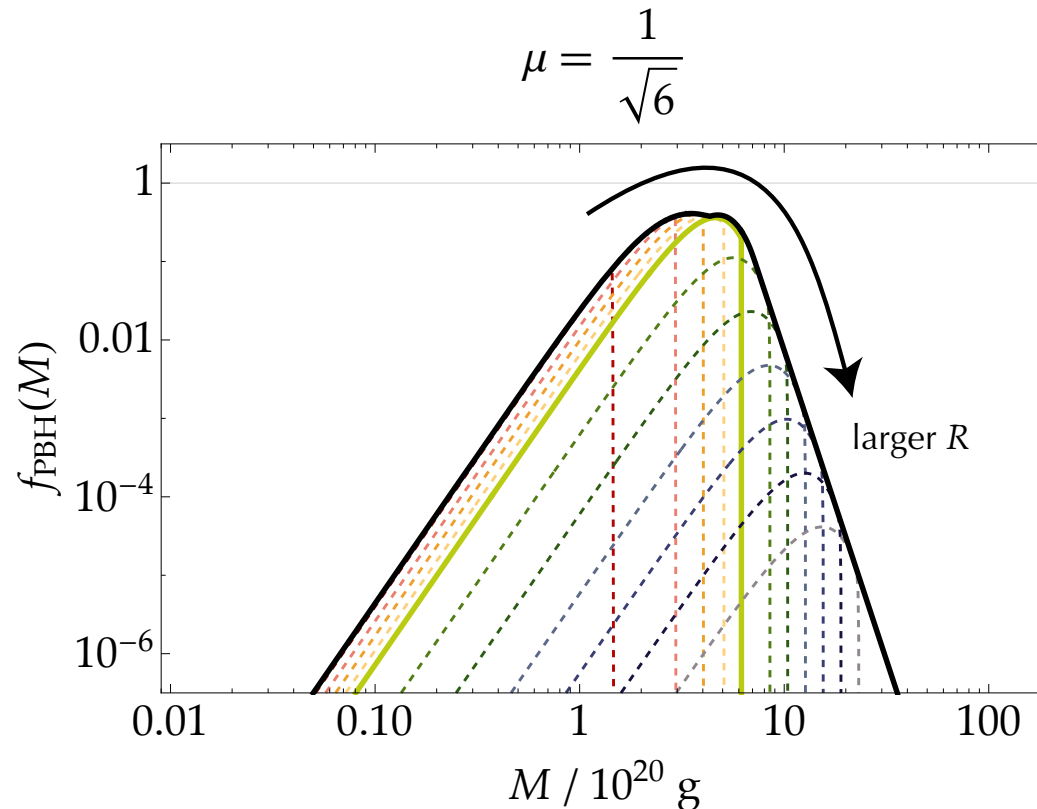
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# Conclusions

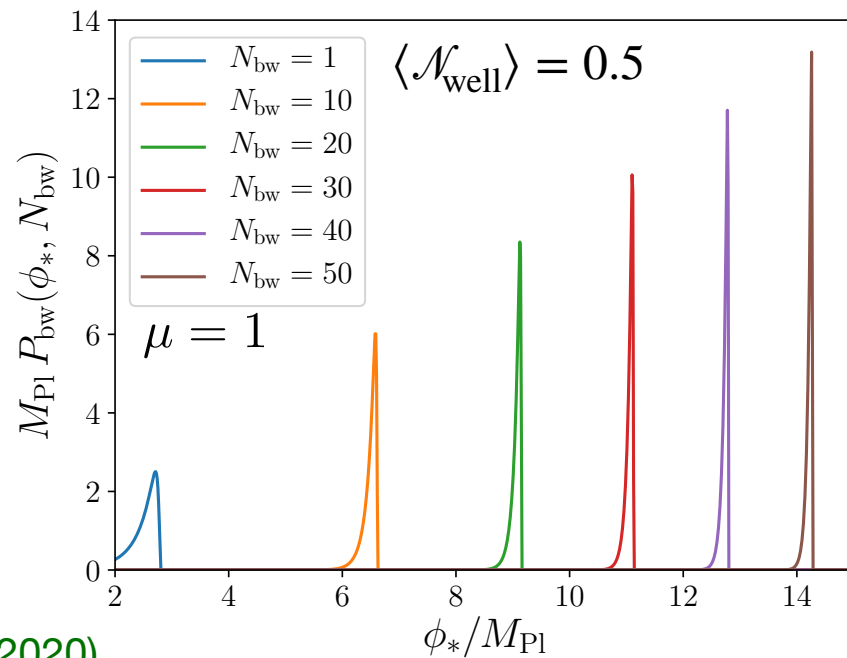
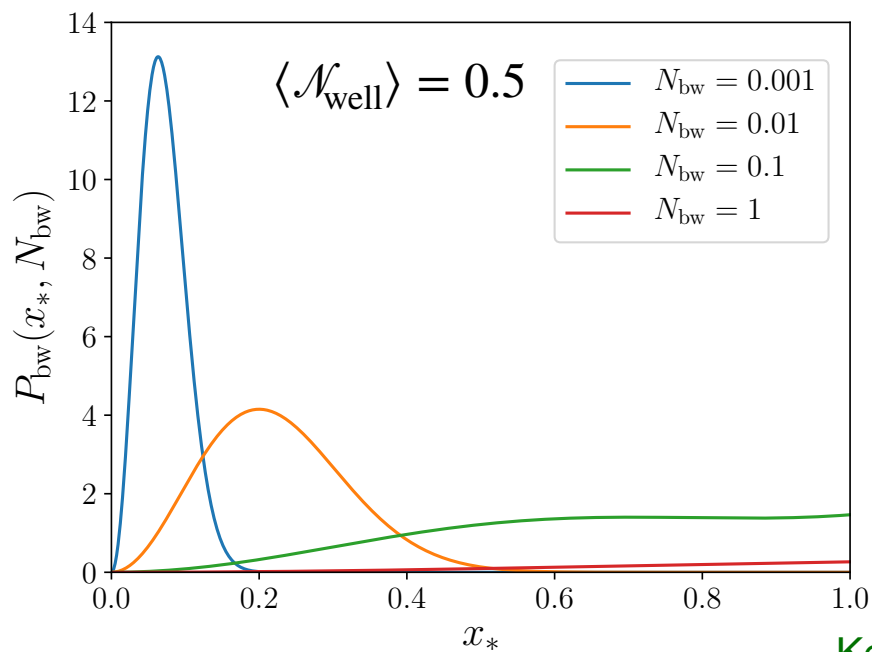
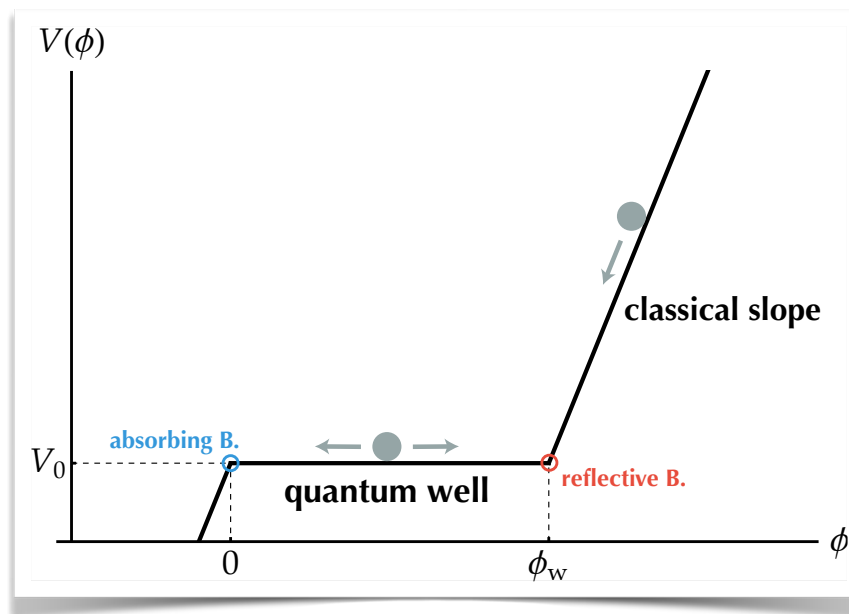
- The back-reaction of vacuum quantum fluctuations on the background dynamics can be incorporated within the formalism of stochastic inflation
- This is necessary to describe regimes leading to large fluctuations, such as those yielding primordial black holes
- **Quantum diffusion leads to exponential tails: non-perturbative breakdown of Gaussian statistics**
- Most cosmological observables can be reconstructed from first-passage time analysis (power spectrum, mass functions, n-point functions?)
- Quantum diffusion makes the CMB probe the whole potential: models leading to PBHs are constrained by the CMB, even if those two sets of scales are well separated
- **What is the best strategy to look for exponential tails in the data?**

Thank you for your attention

Back-up slides



# CMB probes the full potential



# Stochastic- $\delta N$ formalism

Moments obey an interactive equation [VV, Starobinsky \(2015\)](#)

$$v = V/(24\pi^2 M_{\text{Pl}}^4)$$

$$\langle \mathcal{N}^n \rangle''(\phi) - \frac{v'}{v^2} \langle \mathcal{N}^n \rangle'(\phi) = -\frac{n}{v M_{\text{Pl}}^2} \langle \mathcal{N}^{n-1} \rangle(\phi)$$

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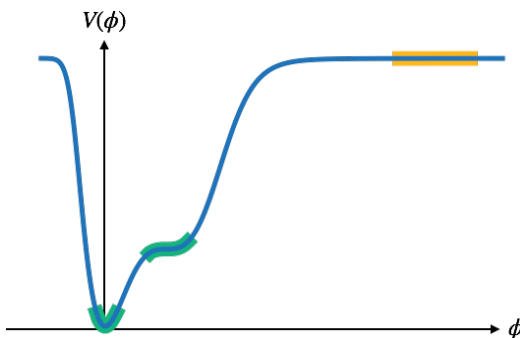
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# Stochastic- $\delta N$ formalism

Second moment and power spectrum [VV, Starobinsky \(2015\)](#)

$$\mathcal{P}_\zeta(\phi) = 2 \frac{\int_\phi^{\phi_{UV}} \frac{dx}{M_{\text{Pl}}} \left\{ \int_x^{\phi_{UV}} \frac{dy}{M_{\text{Pl}}} \frac{1}{v(y)} \exp \left[ \frac{1}{v(y)} - \frac{1}{v(x)} \right] \right\}^2 \exp \left[ \frac{1}{v(x)} - \frac{1}{v(\phi)} \right]}{\int_\phi^{\phi_{UV}} \frac{dx}{M_{\text{Pl}}} \frac{1}{v(x)} \exp \left[ \frac{1}{v(x)} - \frac{1}{v(\phi)} \right]}$$

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Third moment and local non-Gaussianity

$$f_{\text{NL}} = \frac{5}{24} M_{\text{Pl}}^2 \left[ 6 \frac{v'^2}{v^2} - 4 \frac{v''}{v} + v \left( 11 \frac{v'^2}{v^2} - 158 \frac{v''}{v} - 9 \frac{v'''}{v'} + 118 \frac{v''^2}{v'^2} \right) + \dots \right]$$