

Micro Black Holes may be Dark Matter of the Universe

CQeST workshop on
Cosmology and Quantum Spacetime
July 21, 2026

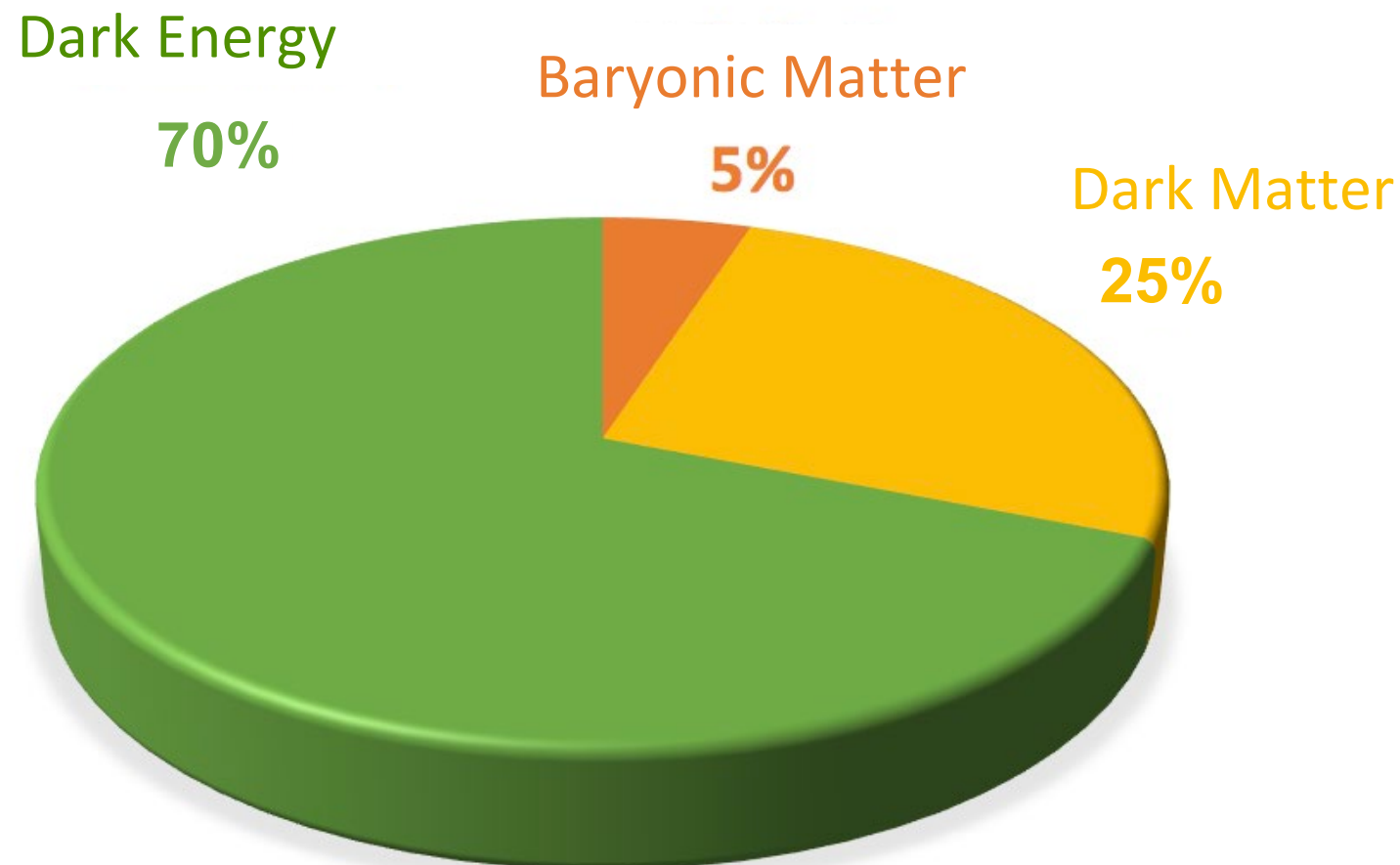
Kavli IPMU/APCTP/YITP/LeCosPA

Misao Sasaki

Constituents of the Universe

- normal (baryonic) matter occupies **only ~ 5 percent**
- dominant component is **Dark Energy**: completely unknown
→ future issue
- next dominant component is **Dark Matter**: undiscovered particles?

black holes?



Properties of Dark Matter

necessary properties:

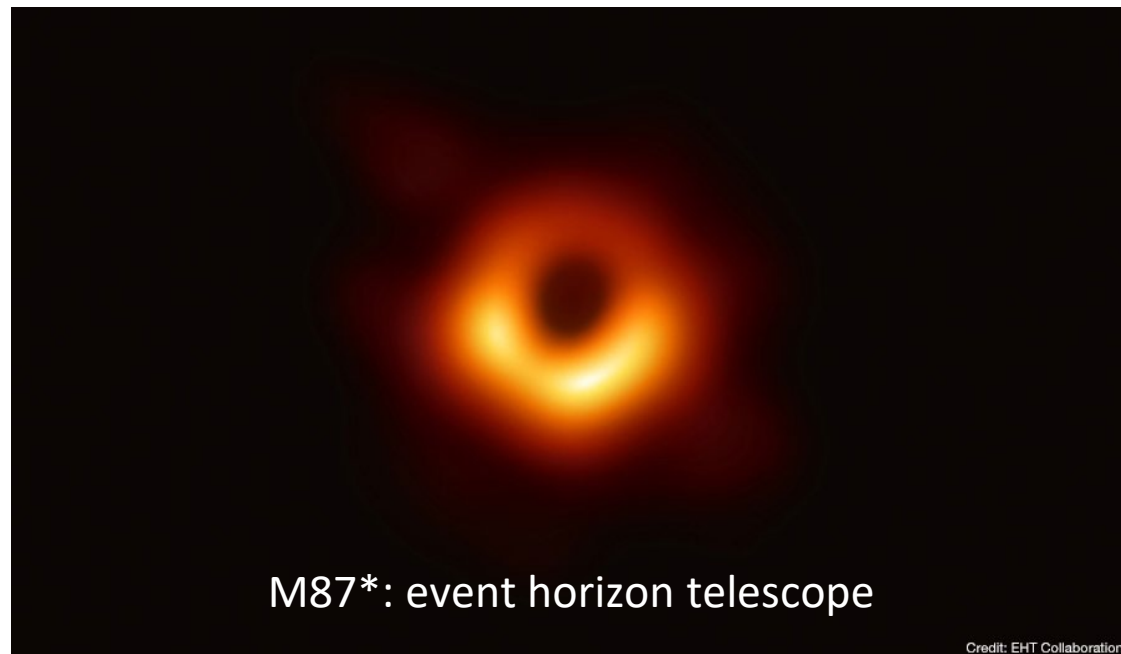
- **transparent** to light: **T**ransparent matter rather than **D**ark matter
 - CMB, galactic rotation curves, gravitational lensing, ...almost **non-interacting** with normal (baryonic) matter
- **halo formation** due to gravity: **no pressure** to stop contraction
 - Large scale structure formation, ...very cold $\Rightarrow$ **Cold Dark Matter**: $w \equiv \frac{p}{\rho} \ll 1$

candidates:

- WIMPs
- ALPs, extremely light bosons
- dark photons, dark gravitons, ...
- **Black Holes (BHs)!**

BHs are one of the best candidates, as they interact only through gravity

“observed” BHs



BH mass = $6.5 \times 10^9 M_{\odot}$

size=100 AU

1AU=1.5x10⁸km

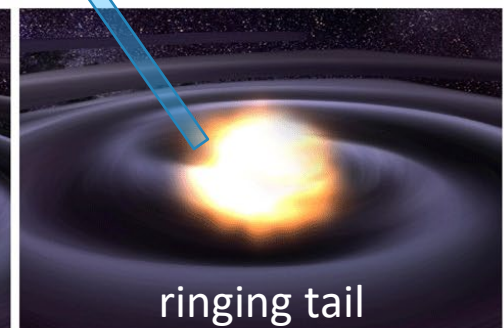
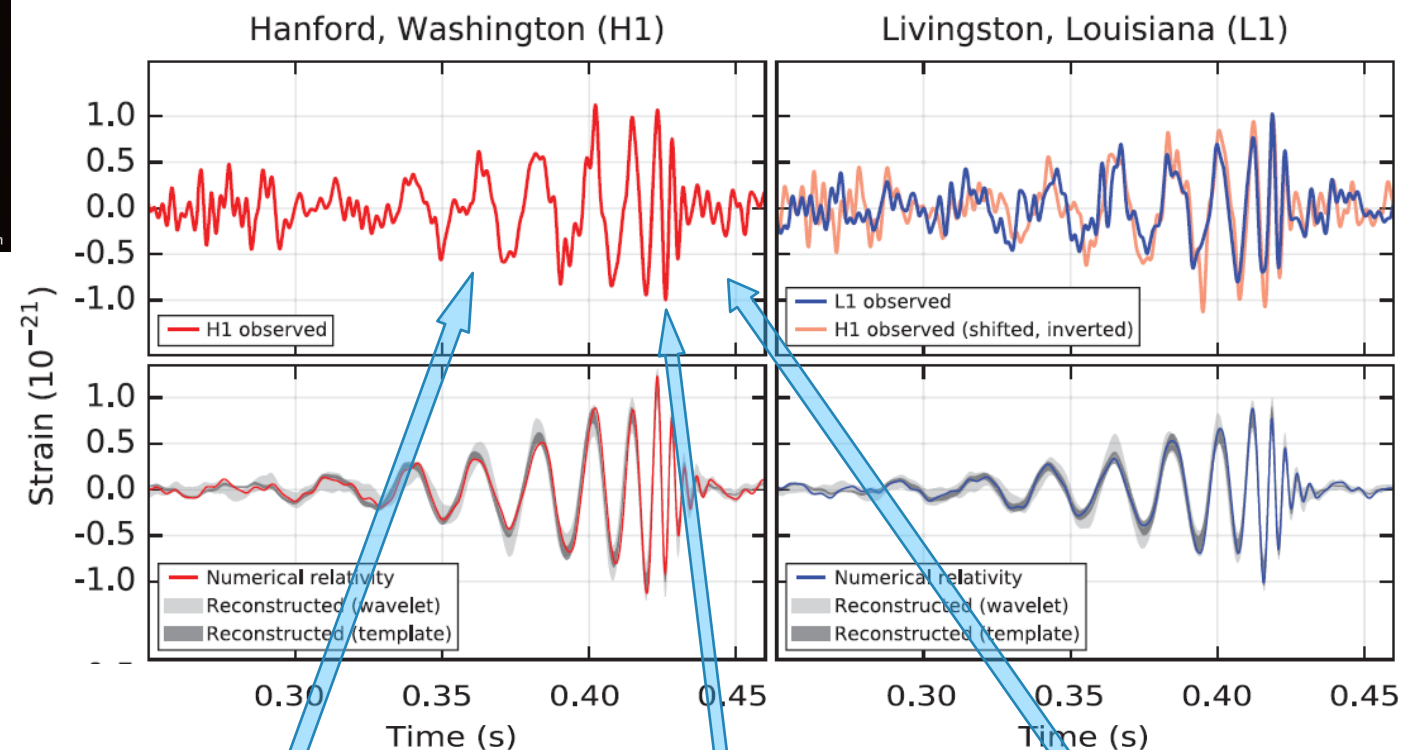
distance btw Sun and Earth

super massive BH

Origin ?

massive BH

BH mass = $30 M_{\odot} \times 2$
size = 200 km



GW140914: LIGO

Primordial BH (PBH)

- BH formed in the **very early** Universe
at least, $t < 10^5$ yr or $T > 1$ eV
- most probably, due to **large spacetime fluctuations (curvature perturbation)** produced from **Inflation**

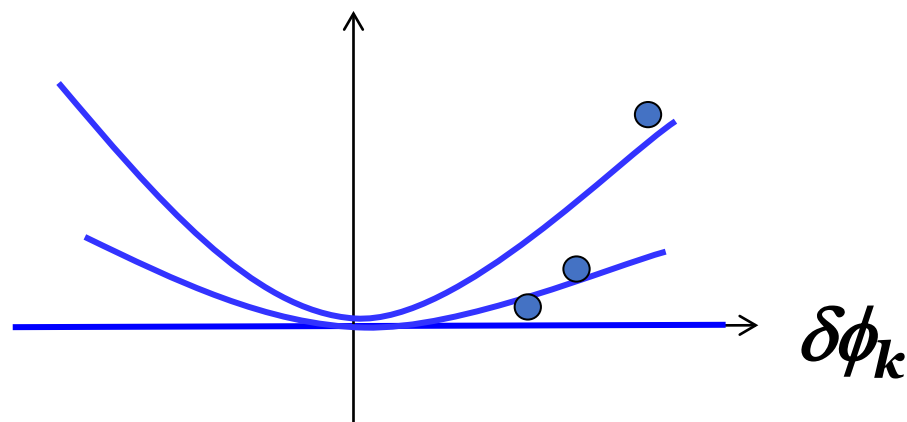
Seed of curvature perturbations

Mukhanov & Chibisov '81,

Zero-point (vacuum) fluctuations of ϕ : $\delta\phi = \sum_k \delta\phi_k(t) e^{i\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{x}}$

$$\delta\ddot{\phi}_k + 3H\delta\dot{\phi}_k + \omega^2(t)\delta\phi_k = 0; \quad \omega^2(t) = \frac{k^2}{a^2(t)}$$

harmonic oscillator with friction term and time-dependent ω



$$\delta\phi_k \rightarrow \text{const.}$$

... frozen when $\omega < H$
(on superhorizon scales)

$\delta\phi$ obeys Gaussian distribution: $P(\phi) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma} \exp\left[-\frac{\delta\phi^2}{2\sigma^2}\right]$

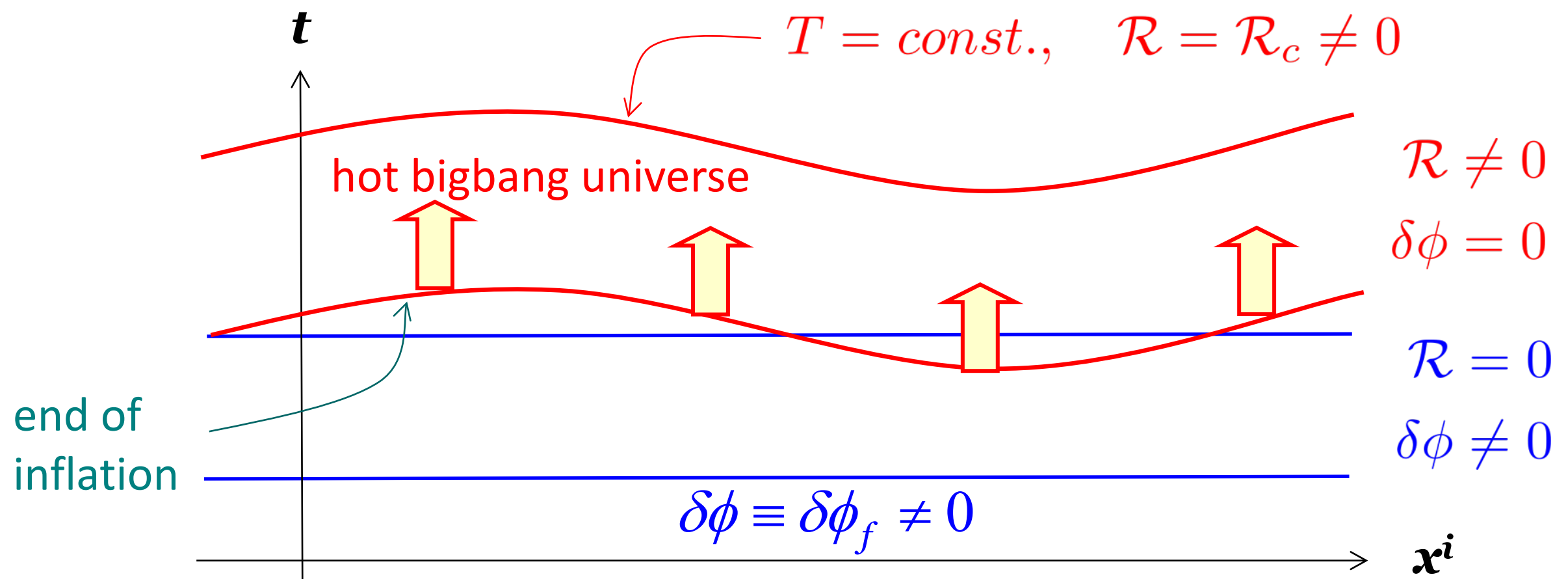
$$\sigma \approx \frac{H}{2\pi}$$

curvature perturbation from quantum fluctuations

curvature (potential) perturbation $\mathcal{R}$: $\delta R^{(3)} = -\frac{4}{a^2} \nabla^2 \mathcal{R}$

curvature perturbation on comoving ($\delta\phi=0$) slices $\mathcal{R}_c \sim$ Newton potential

- $\delta\phi$ is frozen on “flat” ($\mathcal{R}=0$) 3-surface ($t=\text{const.}$ hypersurface) $\mathcal{R}_c = -\frac{H}{\dot{\phi}} \delta\phi_f$
- Inflation ends/damped osc starts on “comoving” ($\phi=\text{const.}$) 3-surface.



- The above is for single-field slow-roll inflation. In general, $\mathcal{R}_c = F(\delta\phi_f)$
non-Gaussianity $\leftarrow$ NL fcn $\rightarrow$

probability density function (PDF) of curvature perturbation

($R_c \rightarrow R$ here and below)

β : fraction that turns into PBH

$$\beta = \int_{\mathcal{R}_{\text{cr}}}^{\infty} d\mathcal{R} P[\mathcal{R}] \approx \sqrt{\frac{2}{\pi}} \frac{\sigma}{\mathcal{R}_{\text{cr}}} \exp\left(-\frac{\mathcal{R}_{\text{cr}}^2}{2\sigma^2}\right)$$

for Gaussian PDF

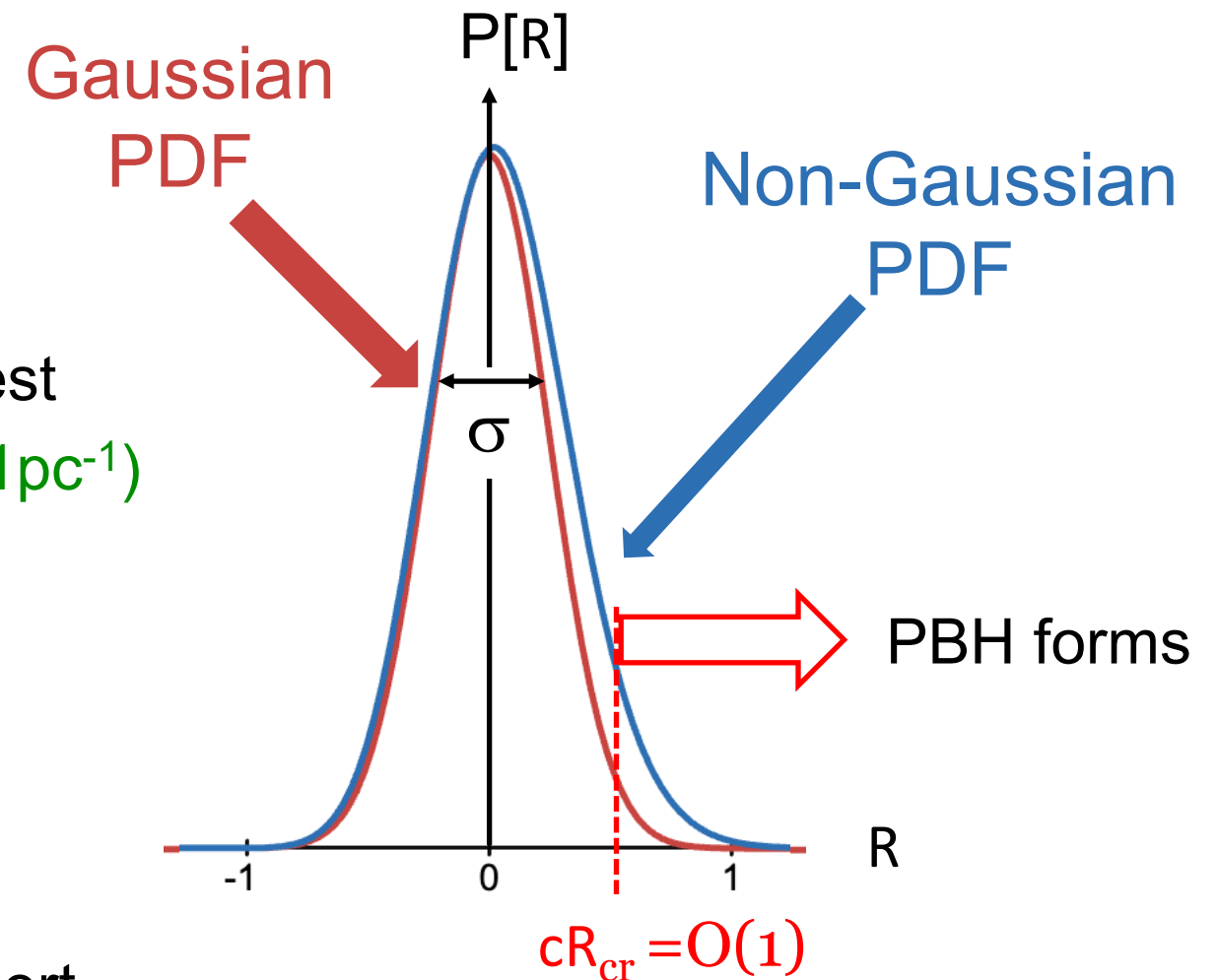
$\sigma^2 \approx \mathcal{P}(k)$: power spec at scale of interest
(say, $\mathcal{P}(k) \sim 10^{-2}$ at $k=1\text{pc}^{-1}$)

- perturbed Einstein eq.

$$^{(3)}R \approx 6H^2 \frac{\delta\rho}{\rho} : \quad ^{(3)}R \approx \frac{4k^2}{a^2} \mathcal{R}$$

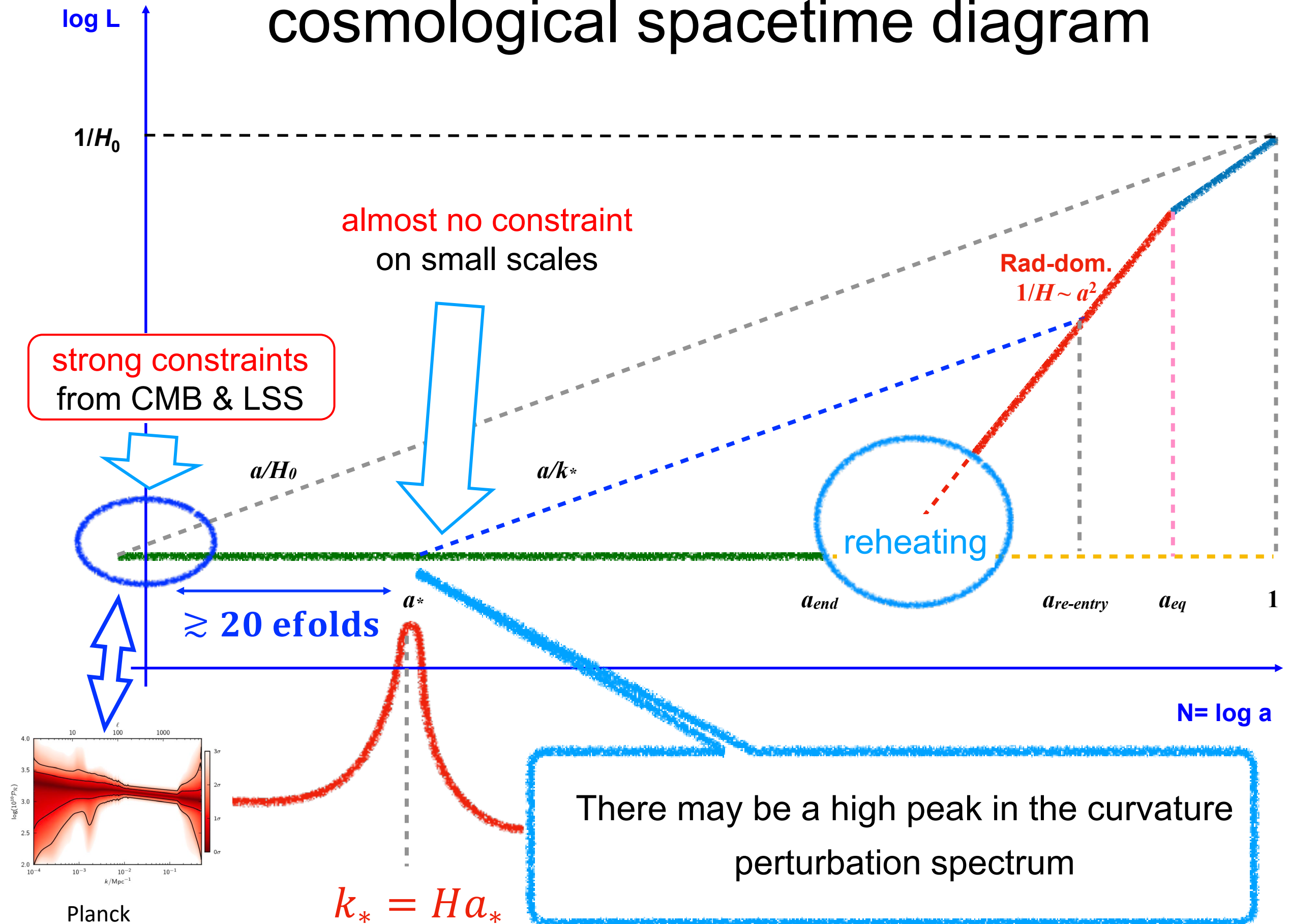
curvature pert. $\approx$ density pert.

$$\mathcal{R} \approx \delta\rho/\rho \quad \text{at } k^2/a^2 = H^2$$

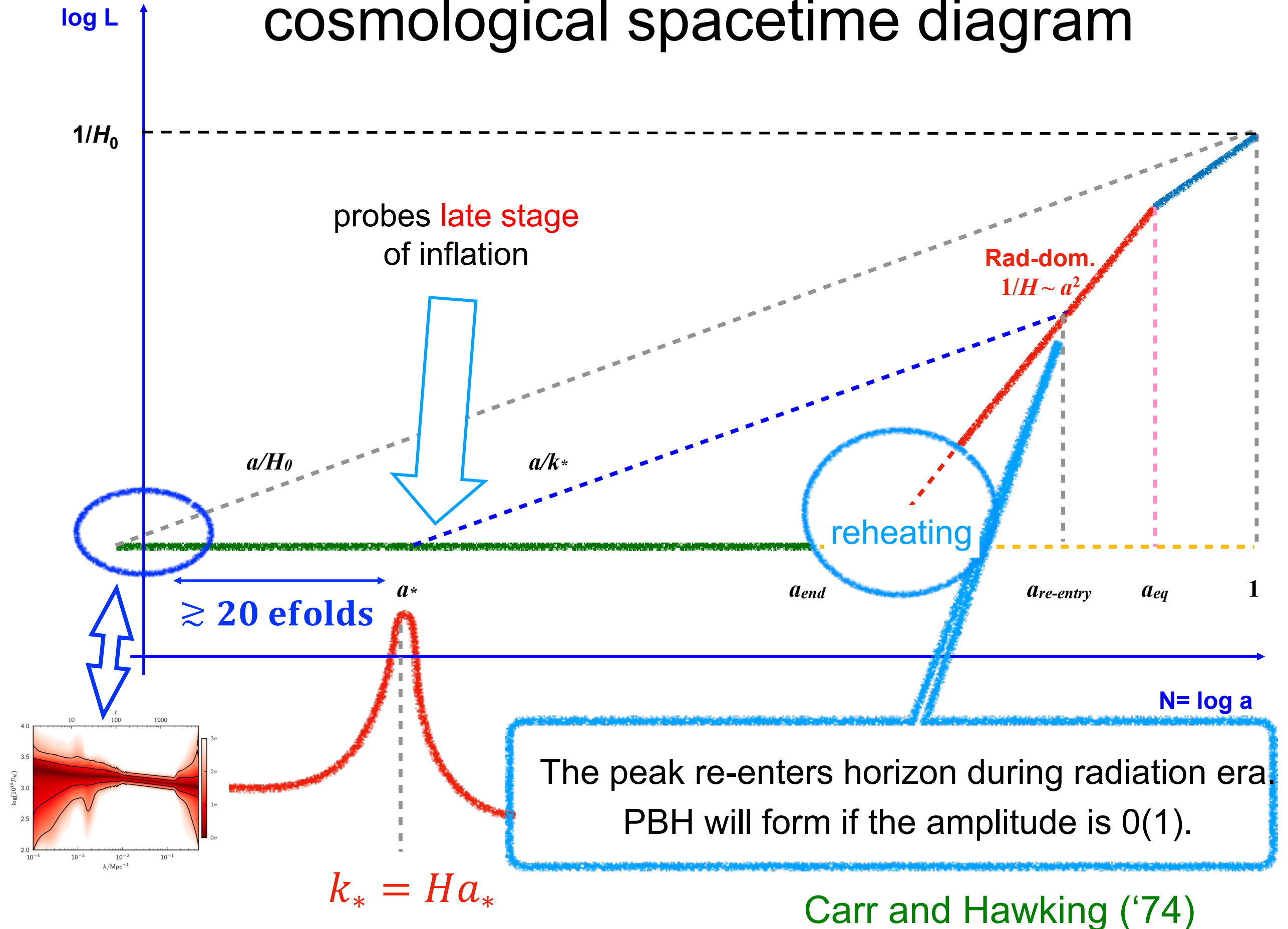


Non-Gaussian **tail** significantly affects β

cosmological spacetime diagram



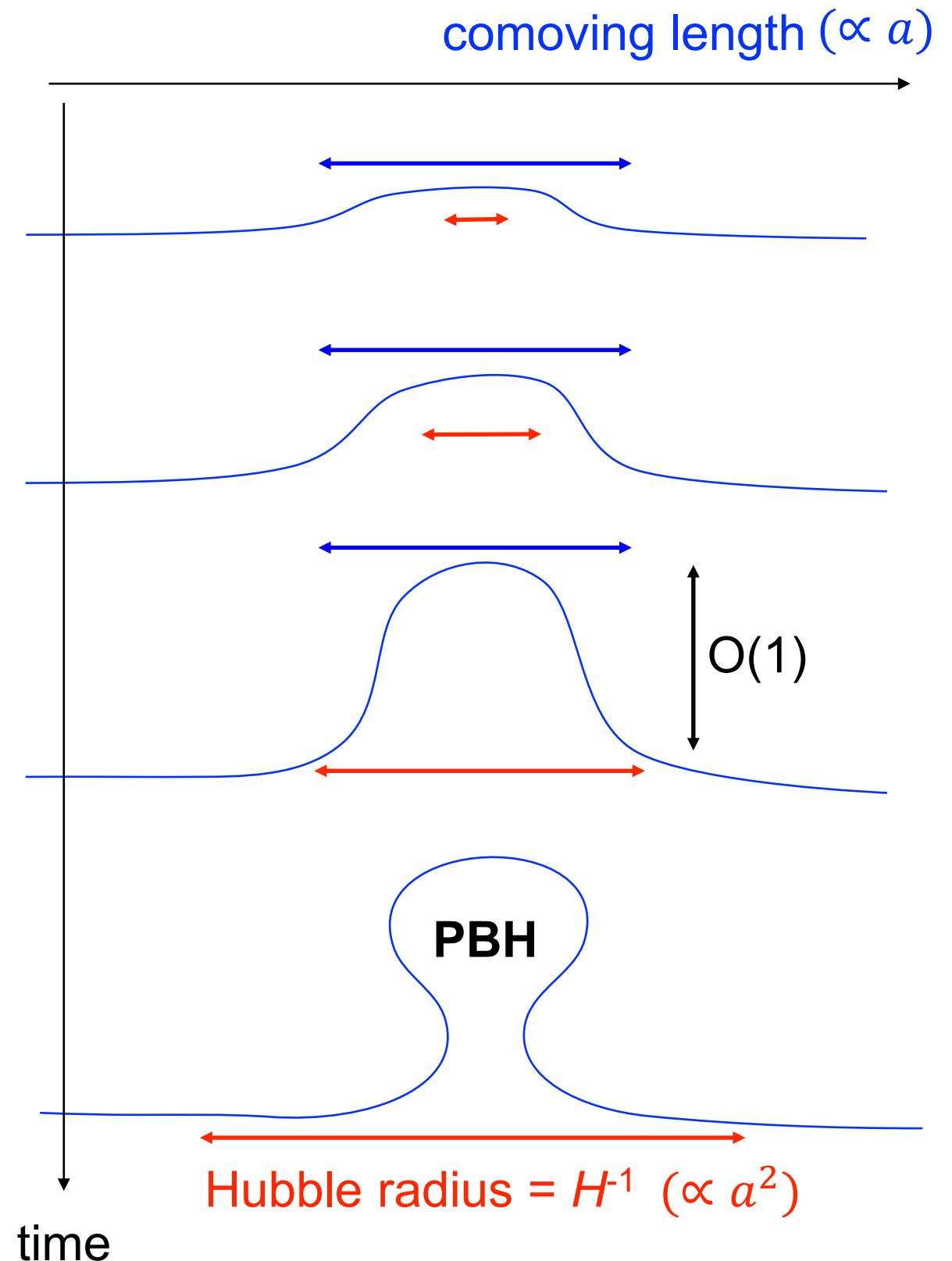
cosmological spacetime diagram



PBH in a nutshell

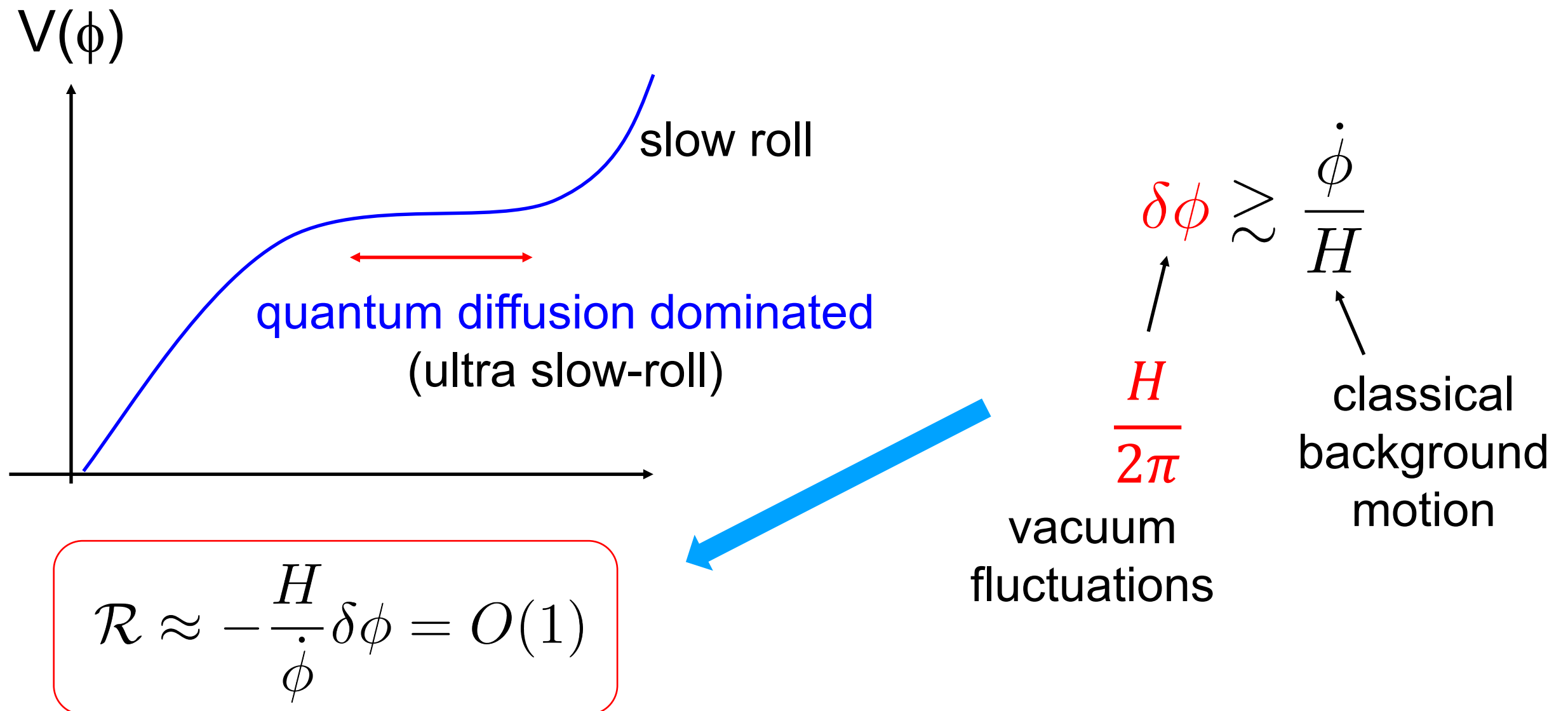
- Primordial Black Holes (**PBHs**) are those formed in the very early universe, conventionally when the universe was **radiation-dominated**.
- Presumably they originate from a large **positive curvature** perturbation **produced during inflation** (which hence should be a rare event).
- For a BH to form during radiation dominance, the perturbation must be **$O(1)$ on the Hubble horizon scale**.

$$M_{\text{PBH}} \sim M_{\text{horizon}} \\ \sim \left(\frac{100 \text{ MeV}}{T} \right)^2 M_{\odot} \sim \left(\frac{\ell}{1 \text{ pc}} \right)^2 M_{\odot}$$



model with enhanced power spectrum

Pattison, Vennin, Wands & Assadullahi, 2101.05741, ...



tail of the PDF can be exponentially enhanced: $e^{-c\mathcal{R}}$ instead of $e^{-c\mathcal{R}^2}$

→ non-Gaussian PBH formation

Gaussian
PDF

exponential tail is quite common in featured potentials

Pi & MS, 2211.13932

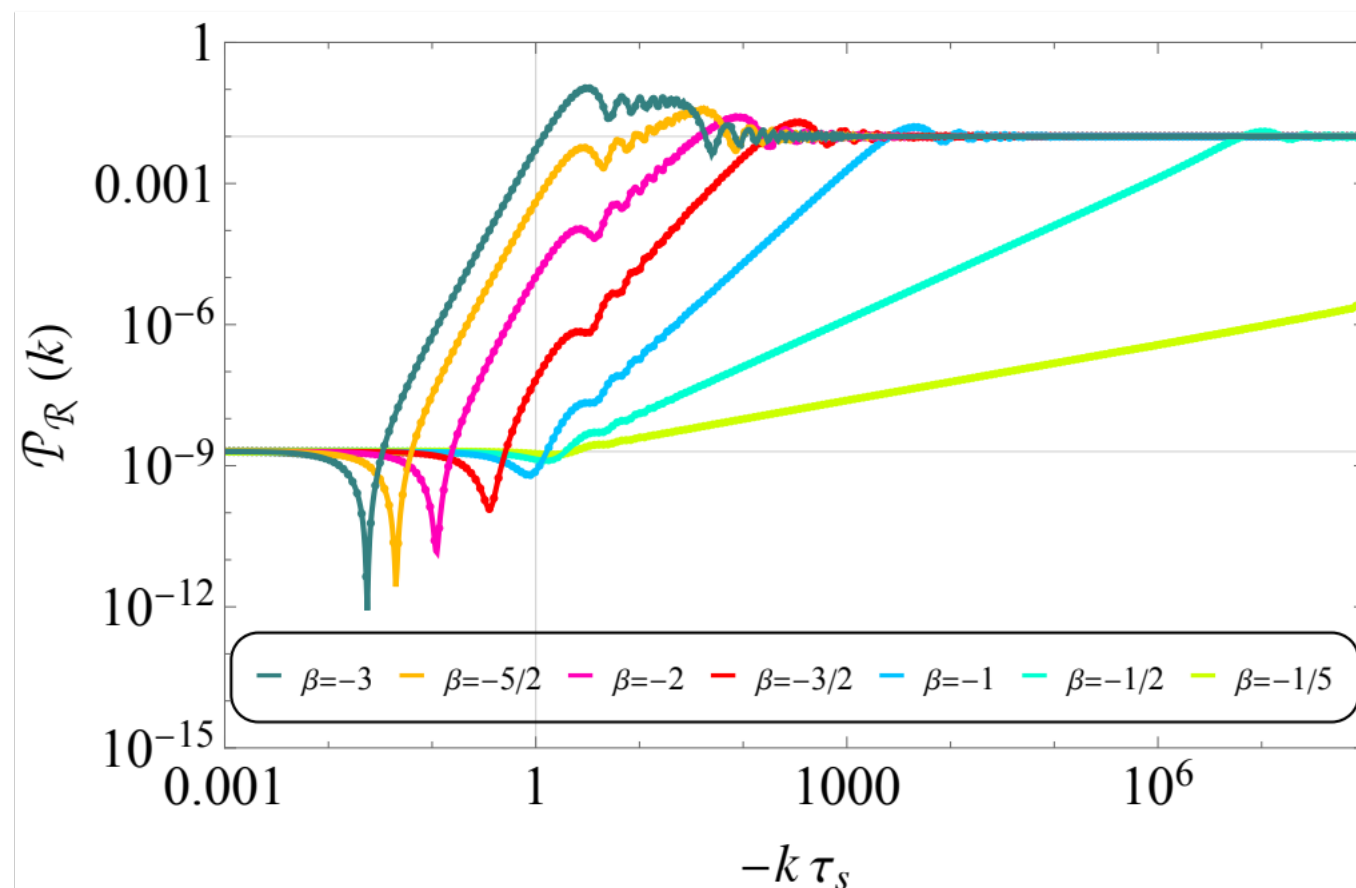
PDF & Power spectrum for featured potential

$$\text{PDF: } P(\mathcal{R}) = \frac{|\lambda_- \varphi| e^{\lambda_- \mathcal{R}}}{\sqrt{2\pi} \sigma_{\delta\varphi}} \exp \left[-\frac{\varphi^2 (e^{\lambda_- \mathcal{R}} - 1)^2}{2\sigma_{\delta\varphi}^2} \right]$$

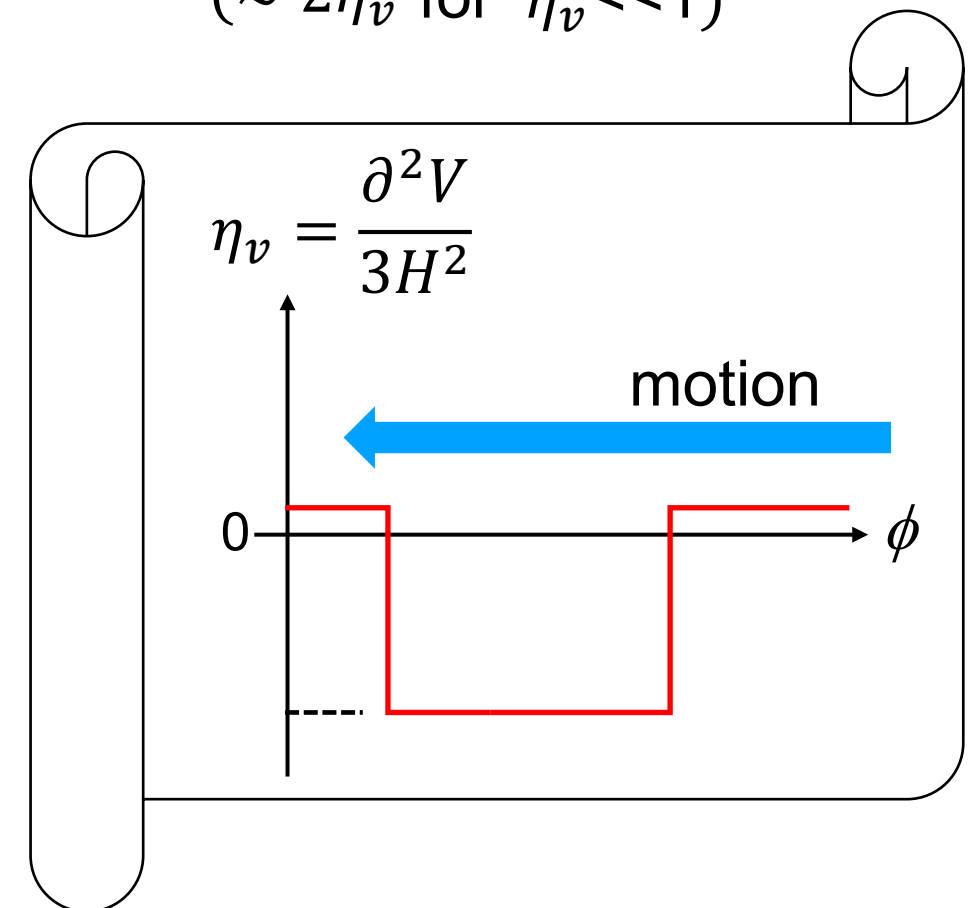
Pi & MS, 2211.13932

dominates the tail when $\lambda_- < 0$

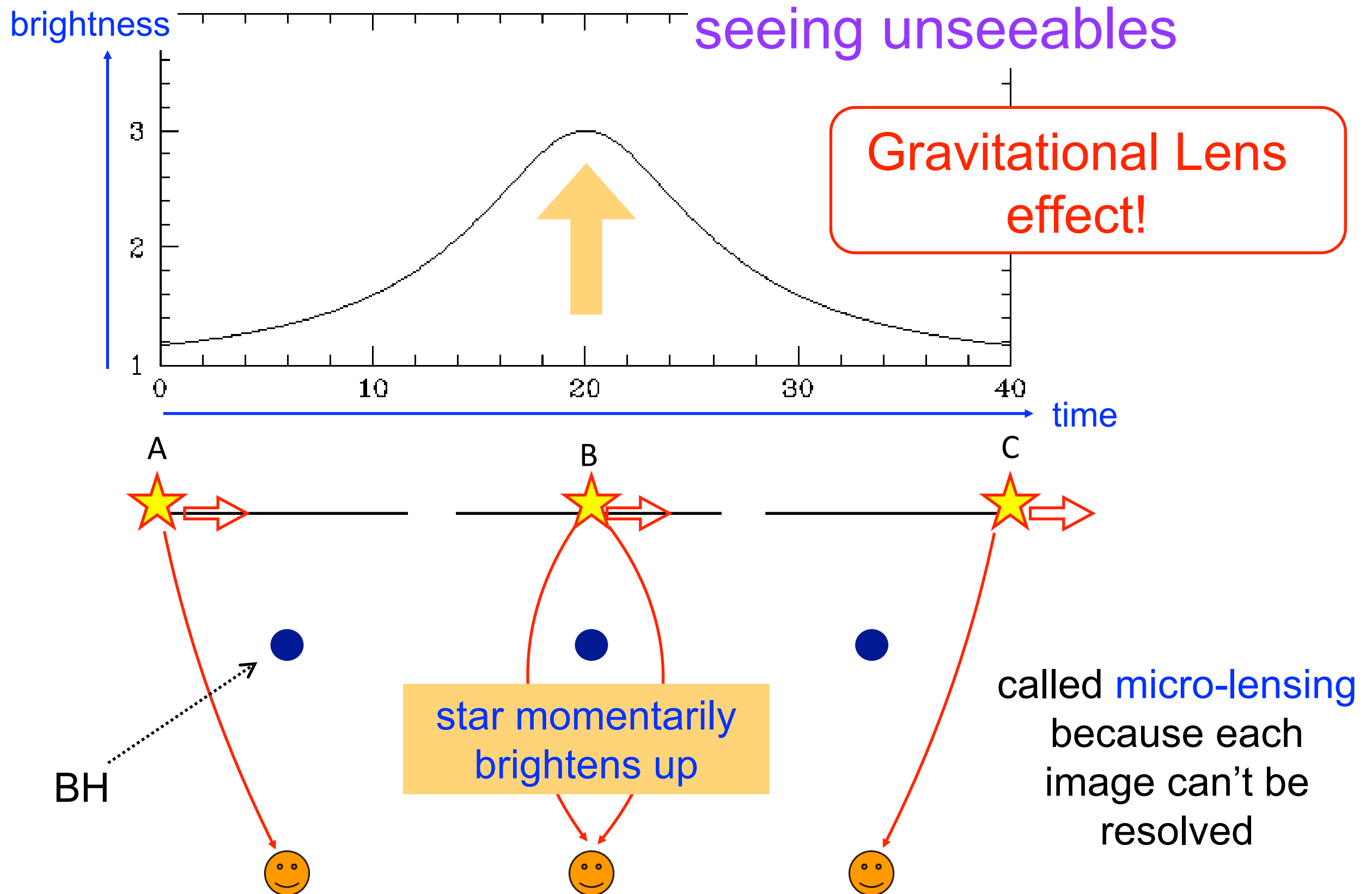
Power spectrum: $\beta = \lambda_- = \frac{3 - \sqrt{9 - 12\eta_v}}{2} \quad (\approx 2\eta_v \text{ for } \eta_v \ll 1)$



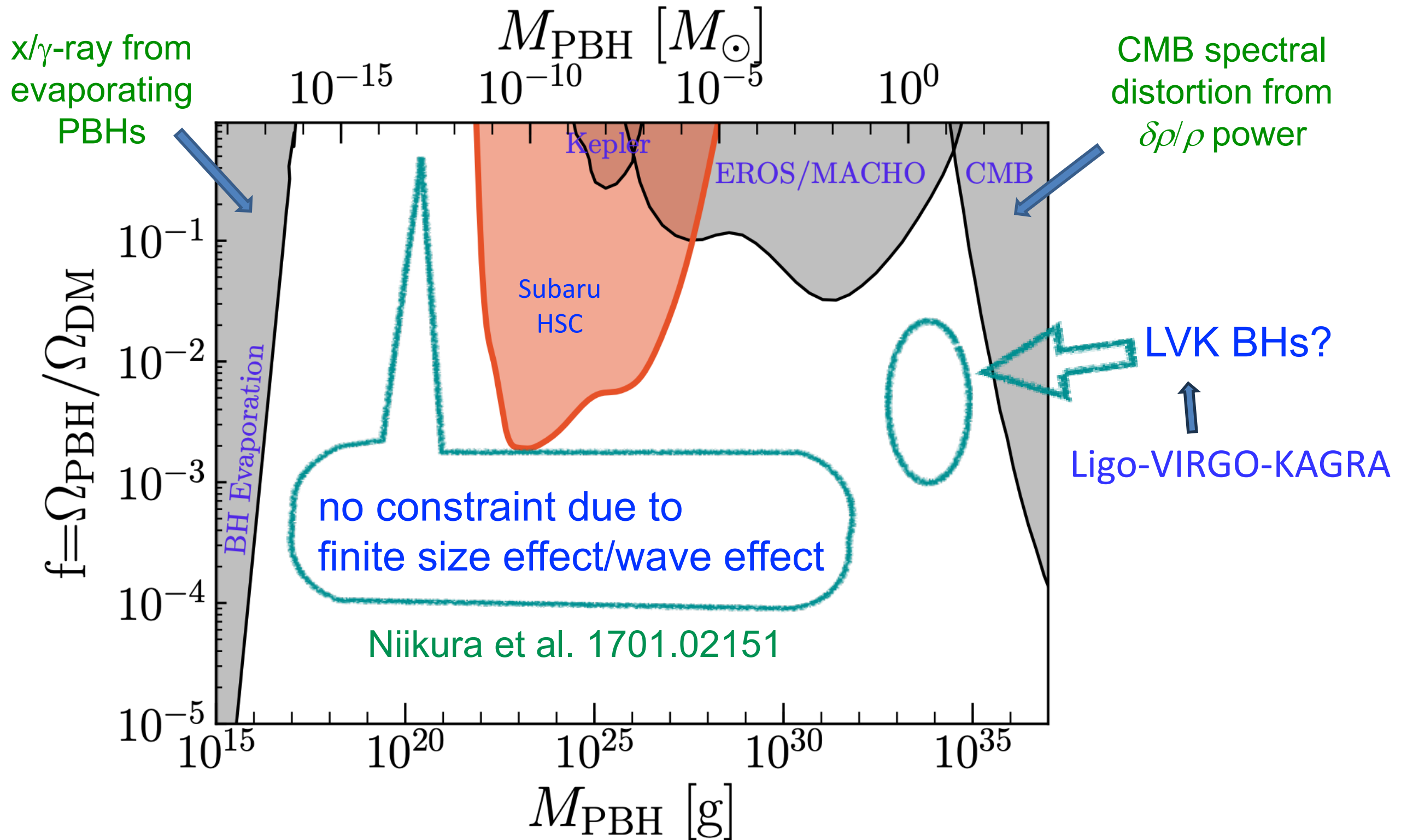
Motohashi, Pi, Tada, Wang, 2606.24111



Searching for PBHs



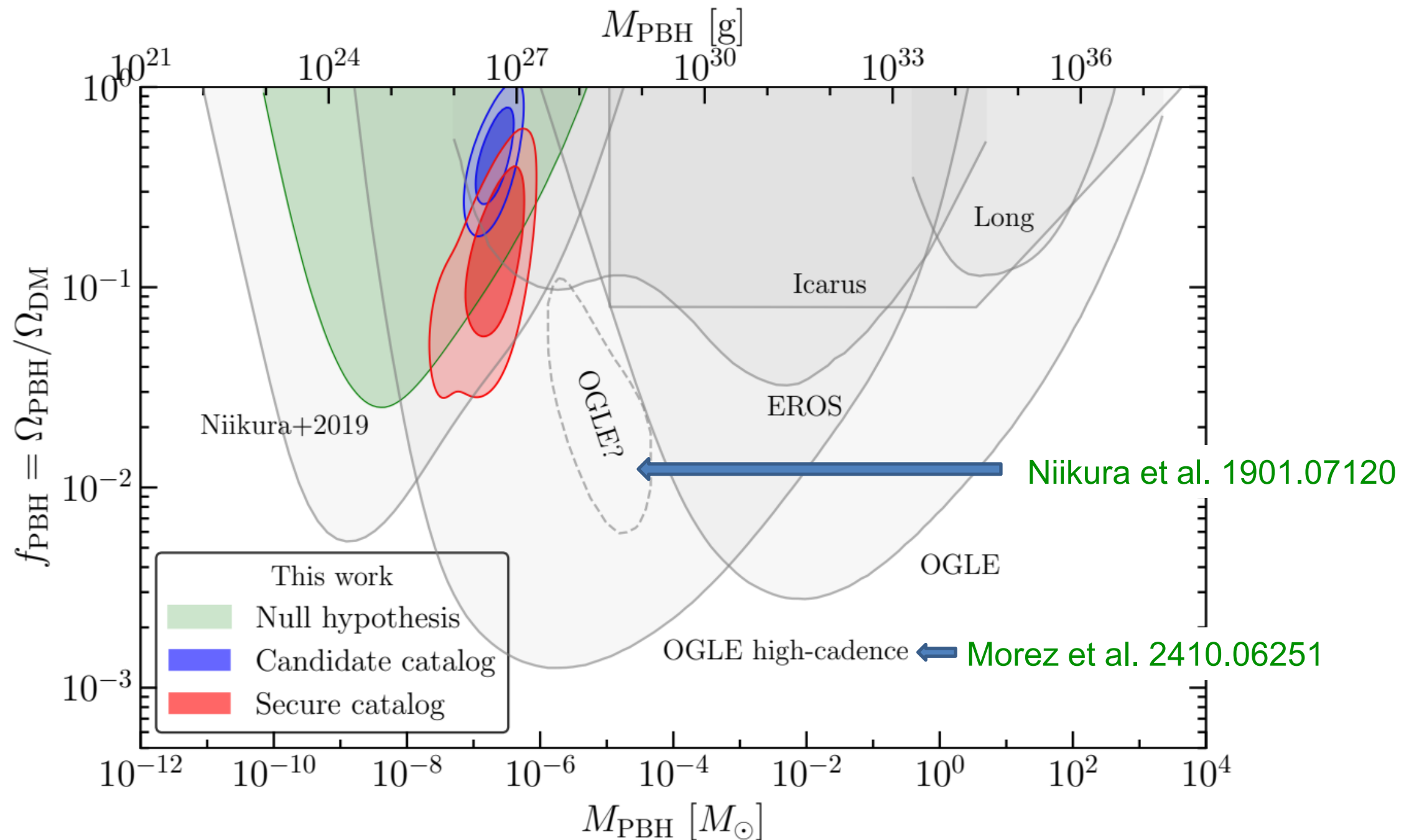
observational constraints



big window at $M_{\text{PBH}} \approx 10^{17} - 10^{22} \text{ g}$ $\leftrightarrow$ $T_{\text{re-entry}} \sim 10^4 - 10^8 \text{ GeV}$

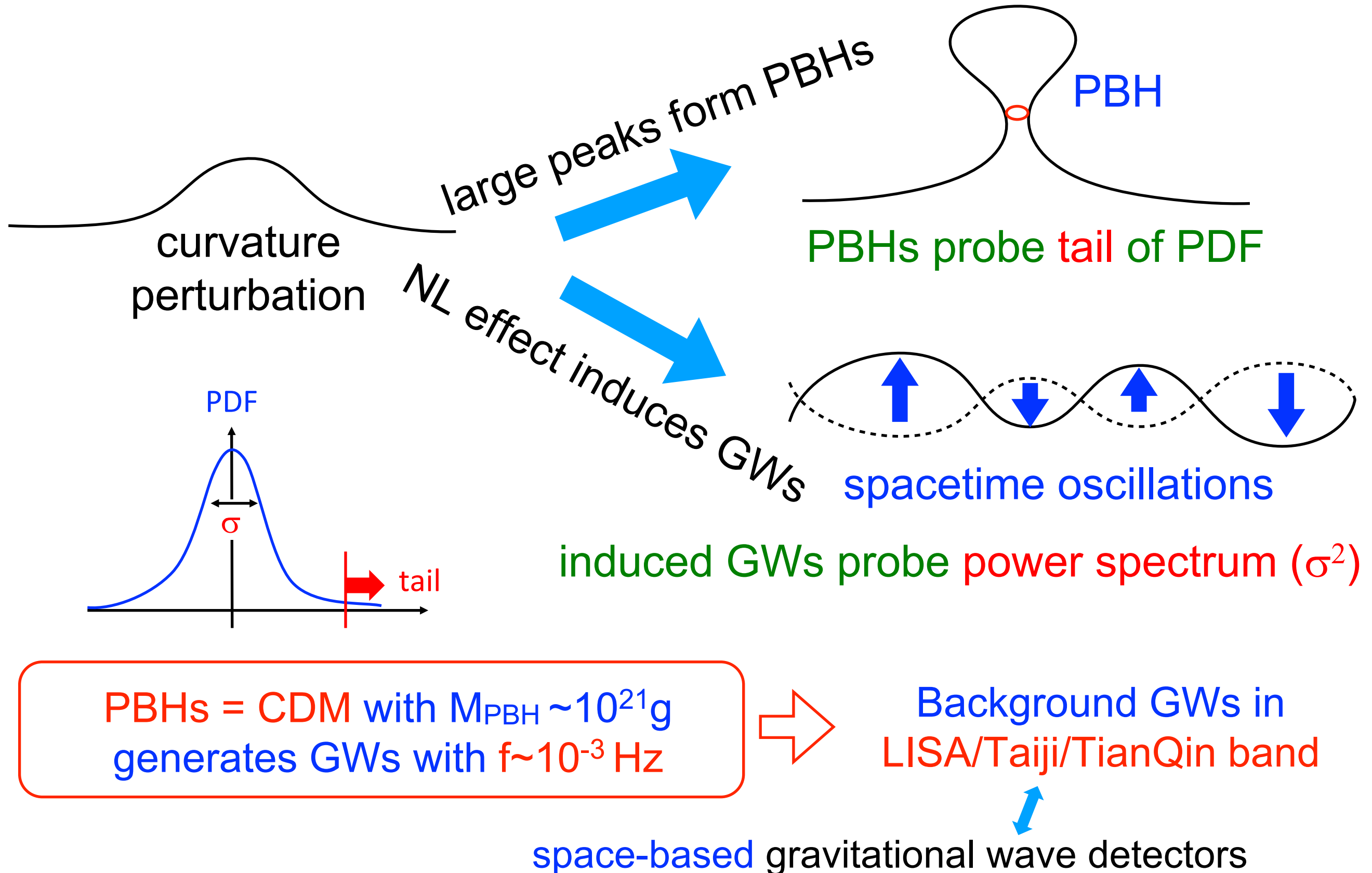
recent updates

Sugiyama et al. 2602.05840

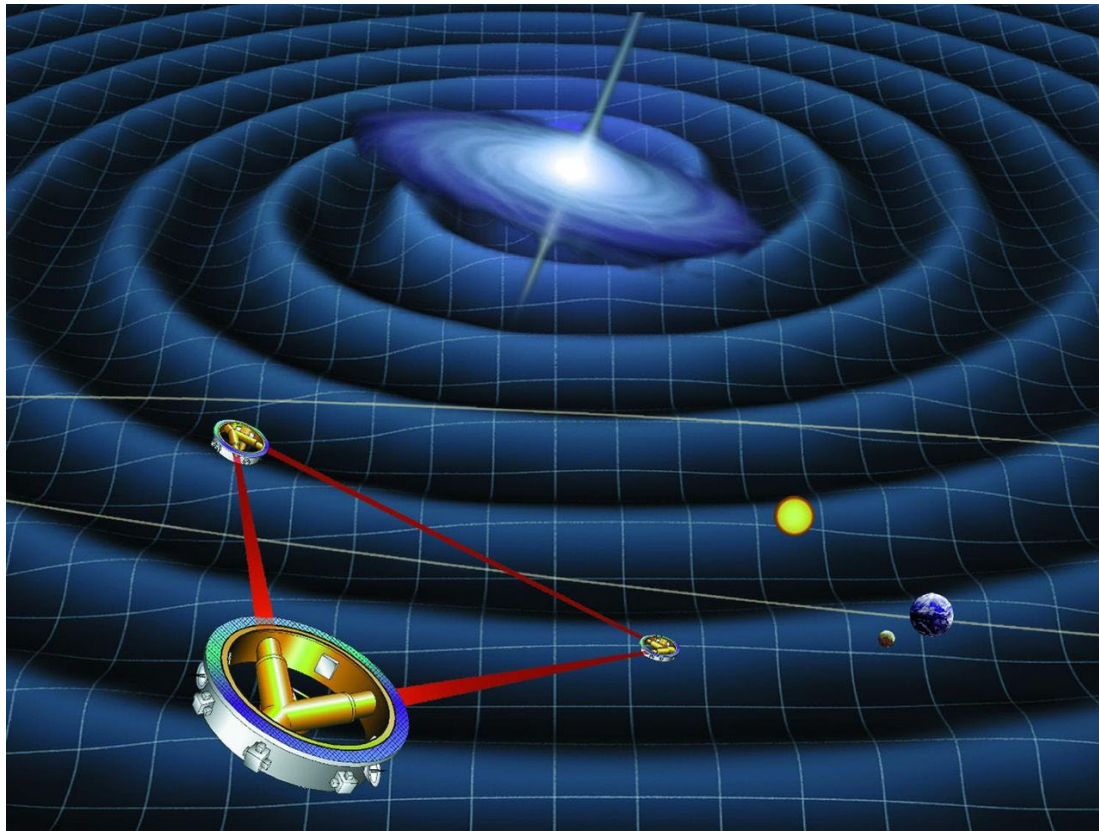


- Sugiyama et al. found 12 (4 secure) microlensing candidates.
- Earth mass PBHs could be CDM of the Universe!

GWs capture PBHs!

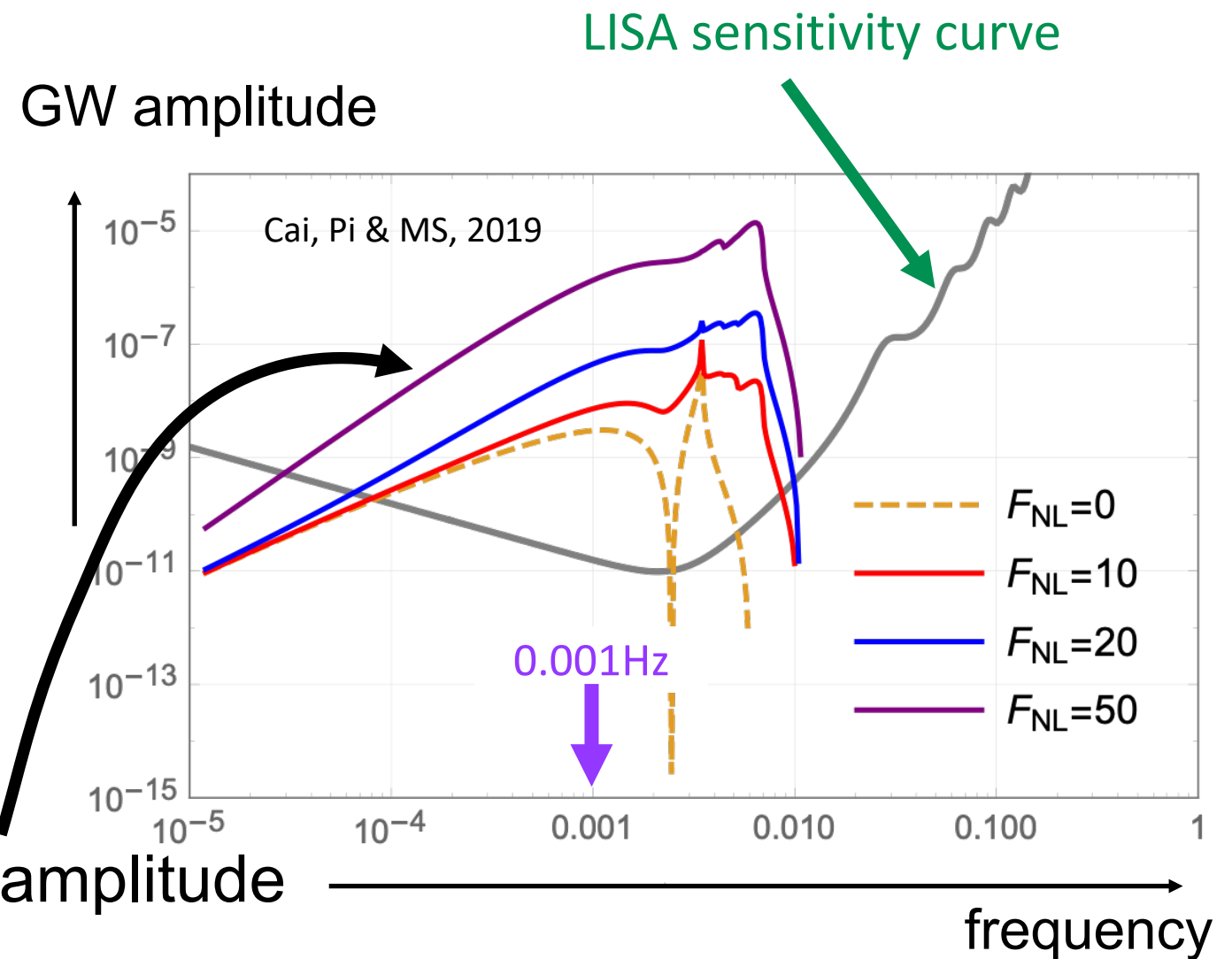


GW Observatory in Space



Taiji/TianQin 203X ? (China)
arm length:
3,000,000 km/1,732,000 km

LISA 2035? (ESA+NASA)
arm length: 5,000,000 km



PBH=CDM scenario will be proved/disproved!

Summary

Micro PBHs may be Dark Matter of the Universe

- normal (baryonic) matter constitutes only 5%
visible components like stars and galaxies

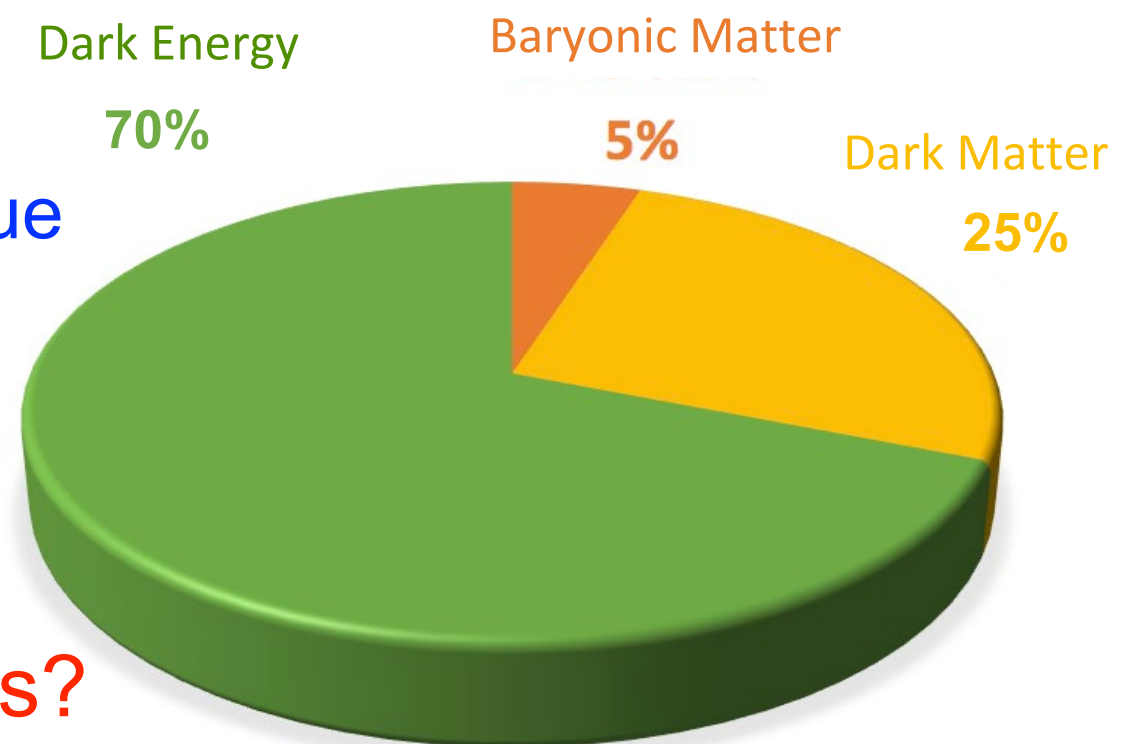
- 70% is Dark Energy
completely unidentified: future issue

- 25% is Dark Matter
unidentified: WIMPs? ALPs?

or

microscopic PBHs?

$10^{-6} - 10^{-4} \text{ mm}$
 $10^{18} - 10^{20} \text{ kg}$



Obs of GW background will tell us the answer!