



UNIVERSITÀ DI PISA

LPENS

LABORATOIRE DE PHYSIQUE
DE L'ÉCOLE NORMALE SUPÉRIEURE

cnrs

Primordial black holes from stochastic tunnelling

Chiara Animalì

Dark CosmoGruu Conference

24 January 2023, Pisa

Primordial Black Holes

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- Black holes which could have formed in the early Universe through a non-stellar way

Hawking [1971] : *Gravitationally collapsed objects of very low mass*

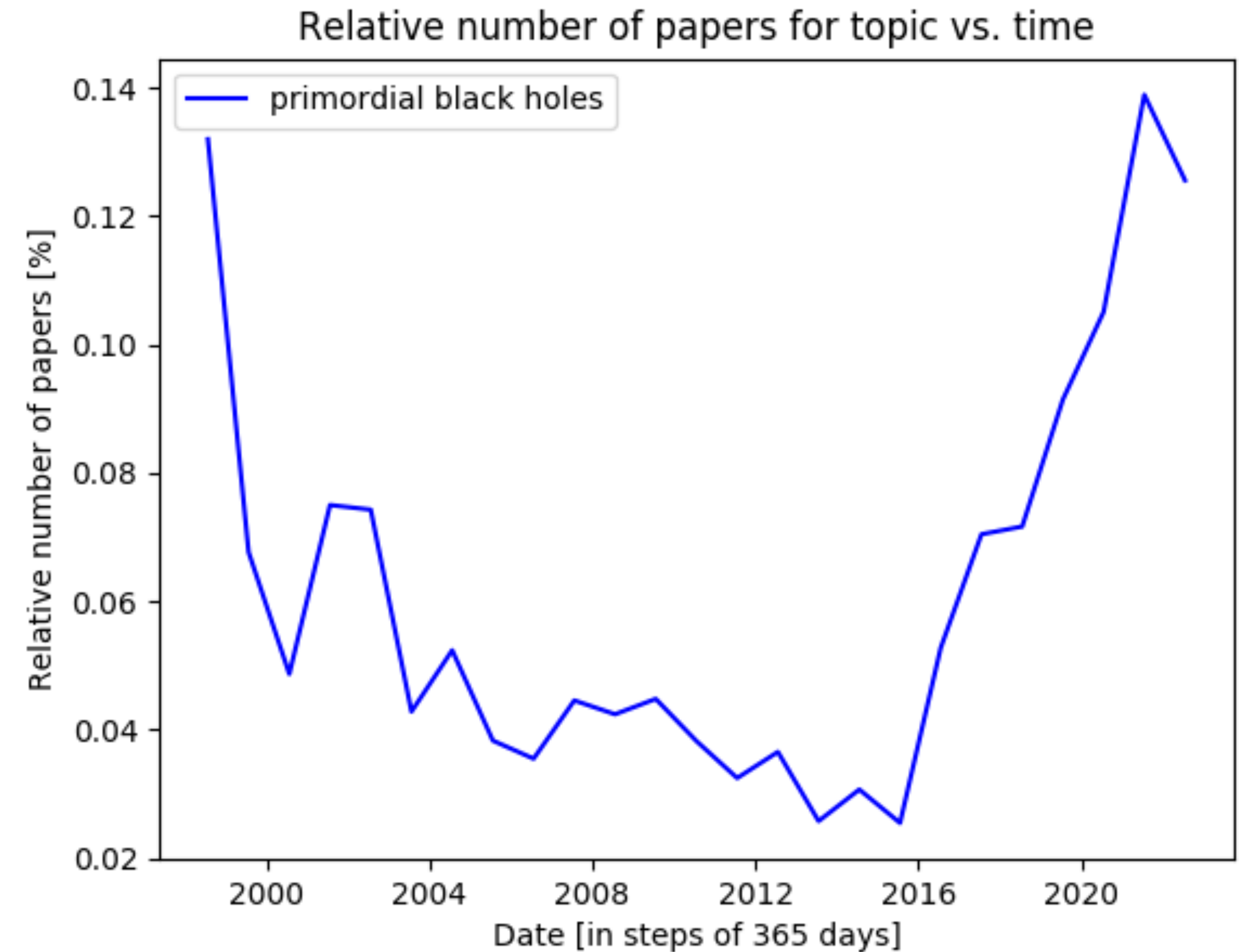
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[Plot realised via www.benty-fields.com/trending]

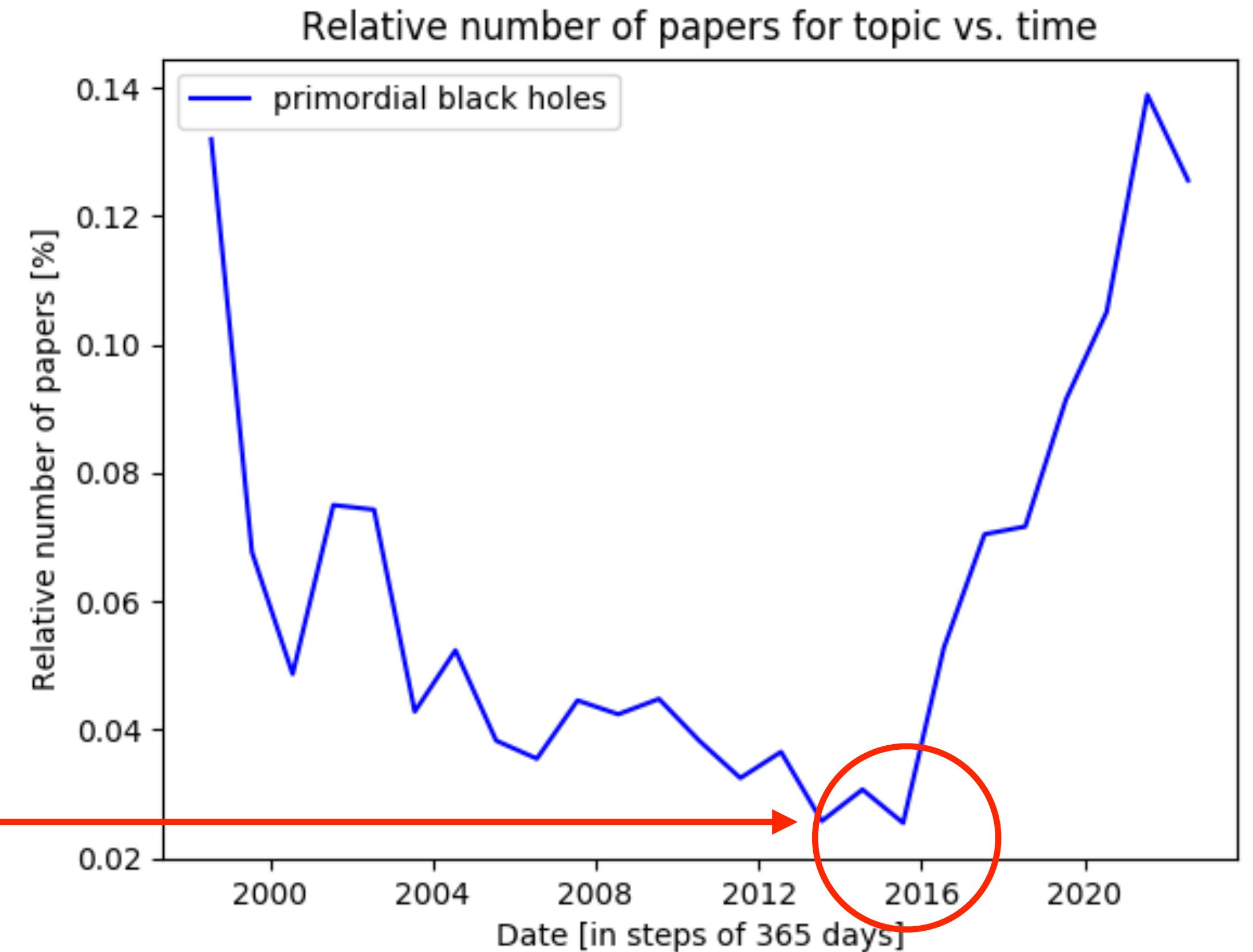
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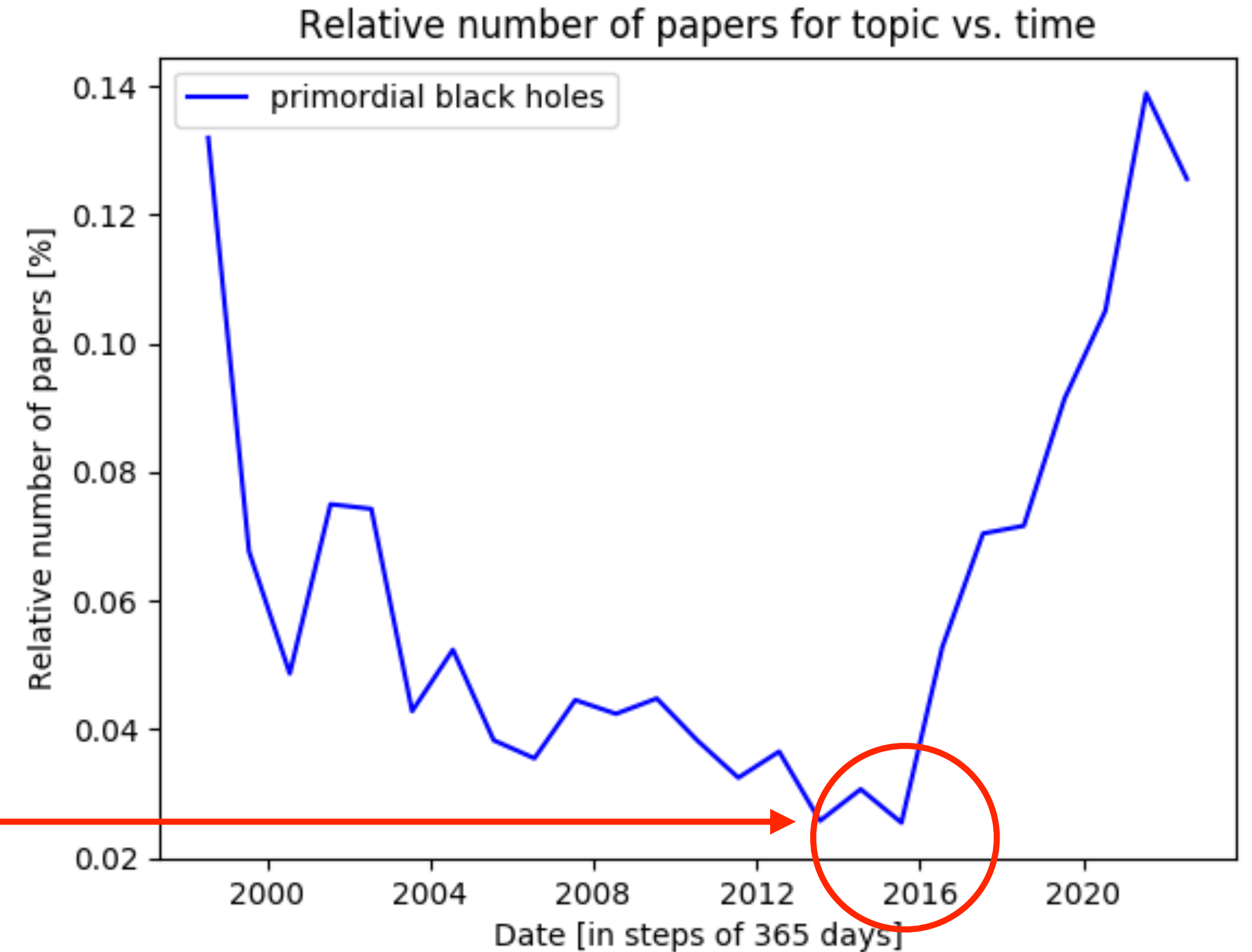
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S. Bird, I. Cholis, J.B. Muñoz, Y. Ali-Haïmoud,

M. Kamionkowski, E. D. Kovetz, A. Raccanelli, A. G. Riess [2016]:

Did LIGO detect dark matter?

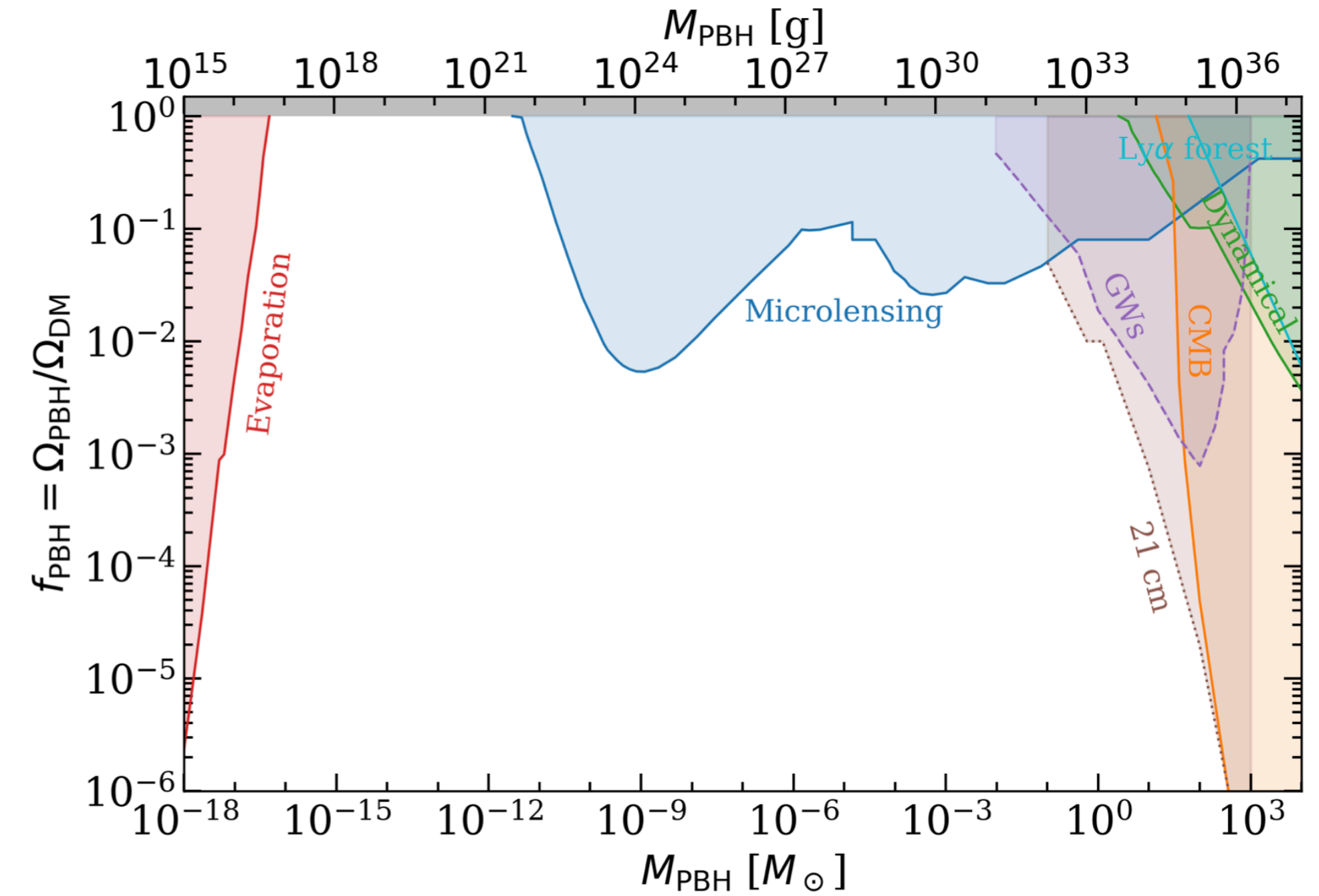
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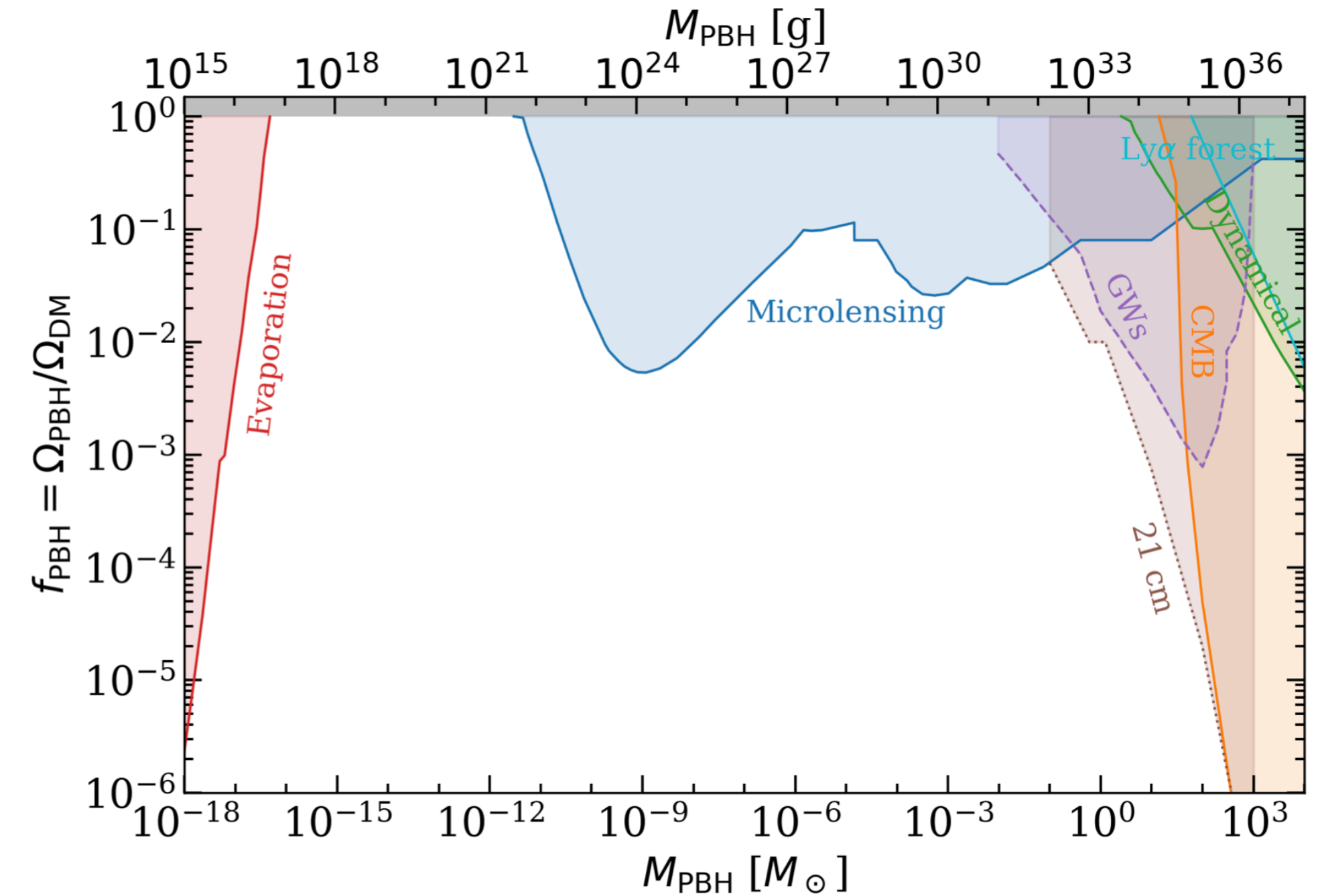
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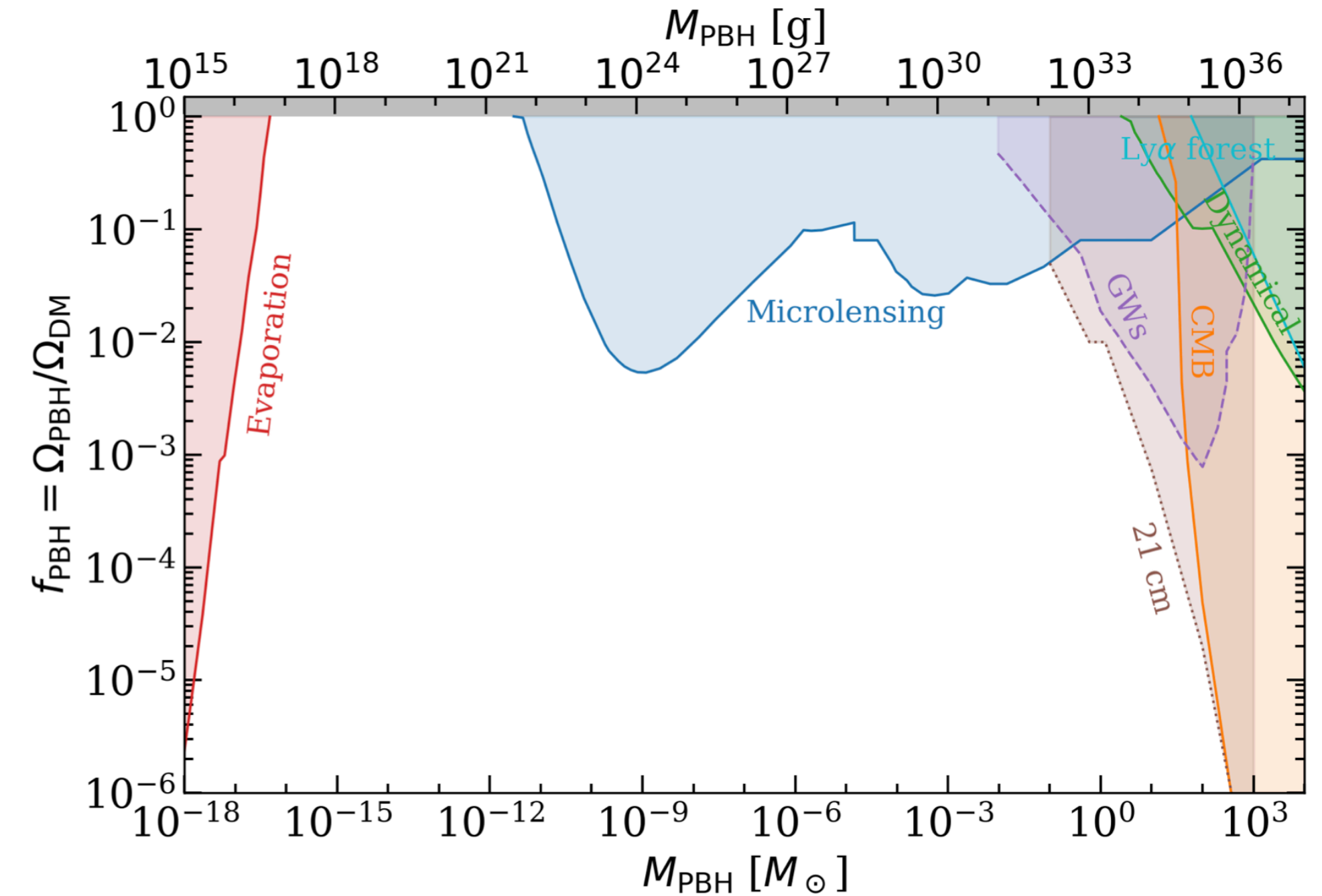
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- They could extend the region of the inflationary potential we can probe
- They provide a place to look for quantum effects (such as quantum diffusion)



Inflation

Inflation

- High energy phase of accelerated expansion of spacetime

$$ds^2 = g_{\mu\nu} dx^\mu dx^\nu = - dt^2 + a^2(t) d\vec{x}^2 \quad \dot{a}, \ddot{a} > 0$$

$$(10 \text{ MeV})^4 < \rho < (10^{16} \text{ GeV})^4$$

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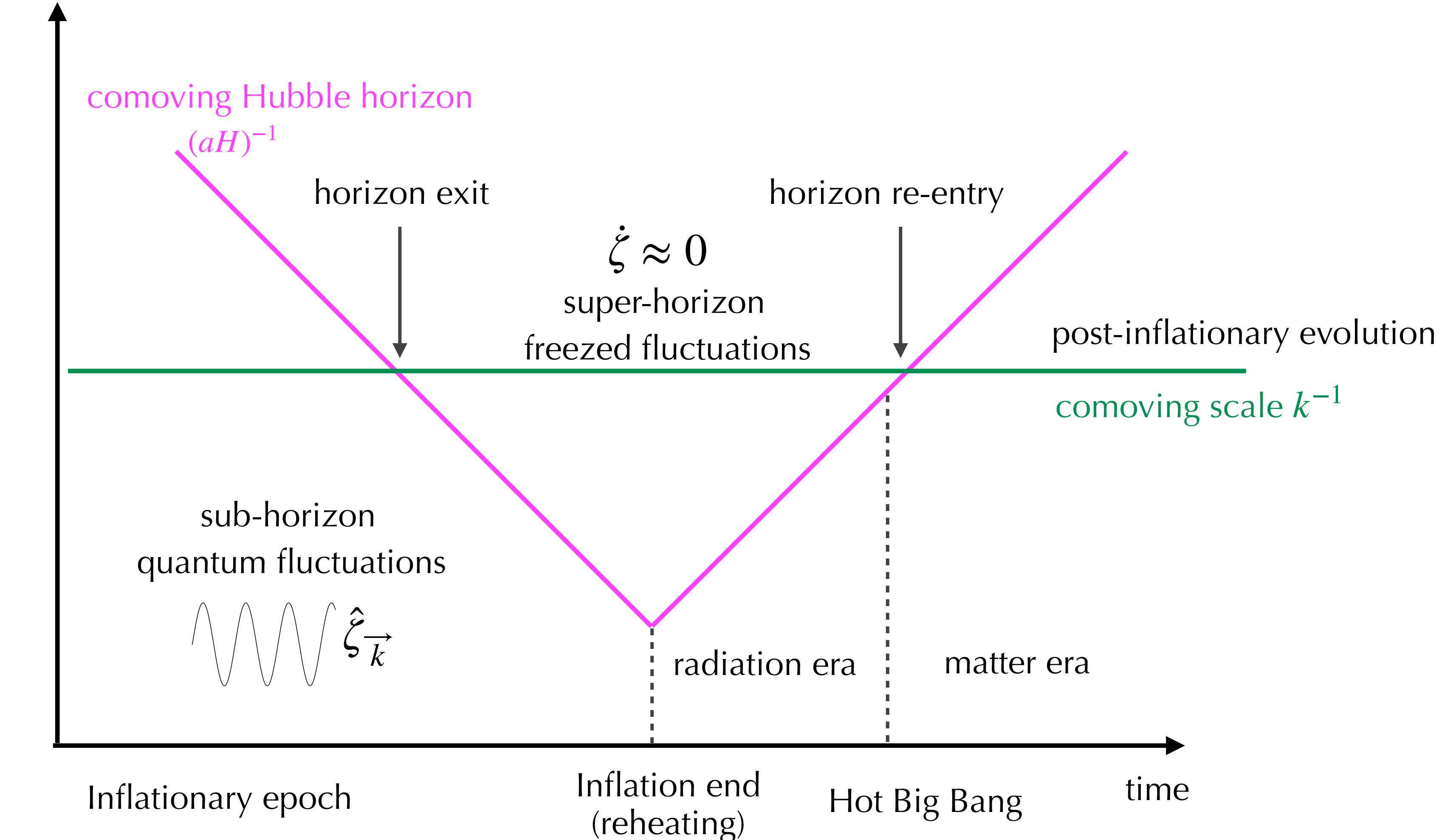
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comoving scales



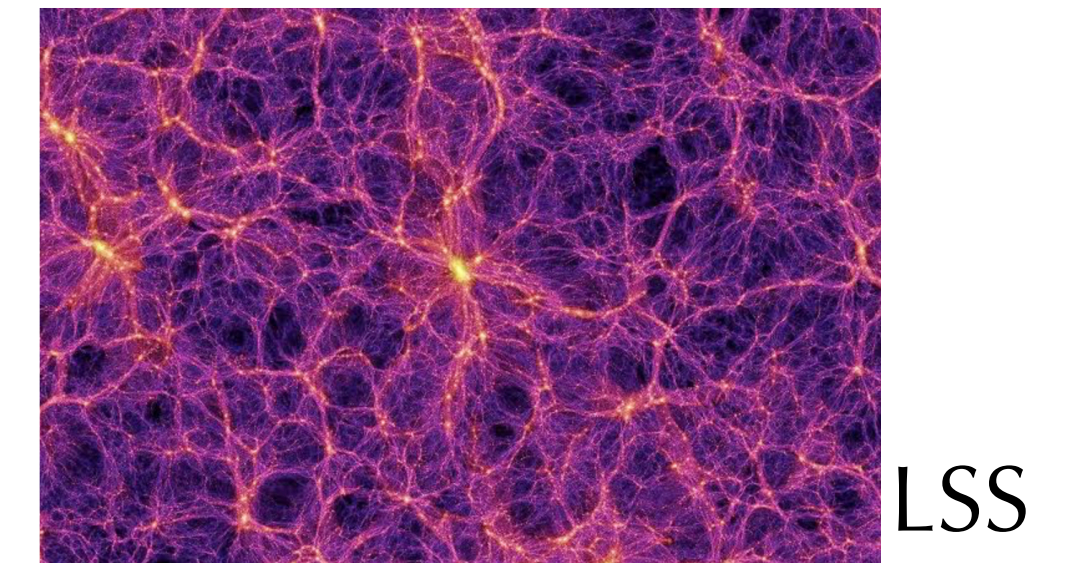
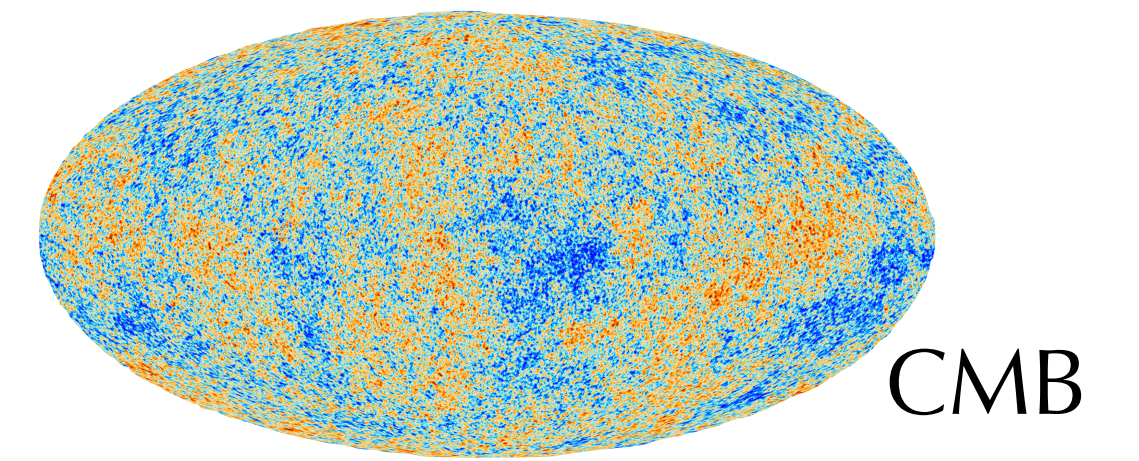
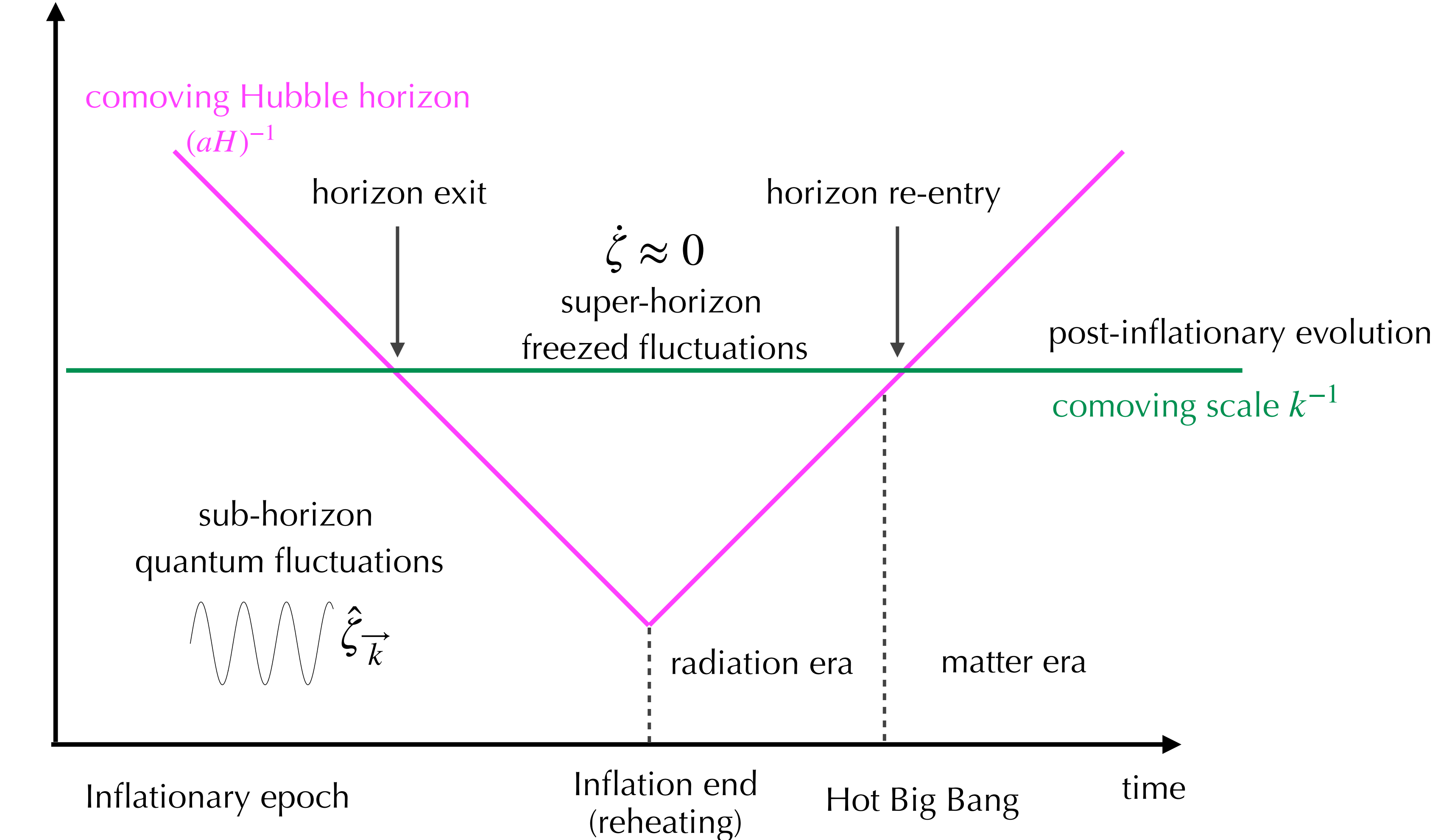
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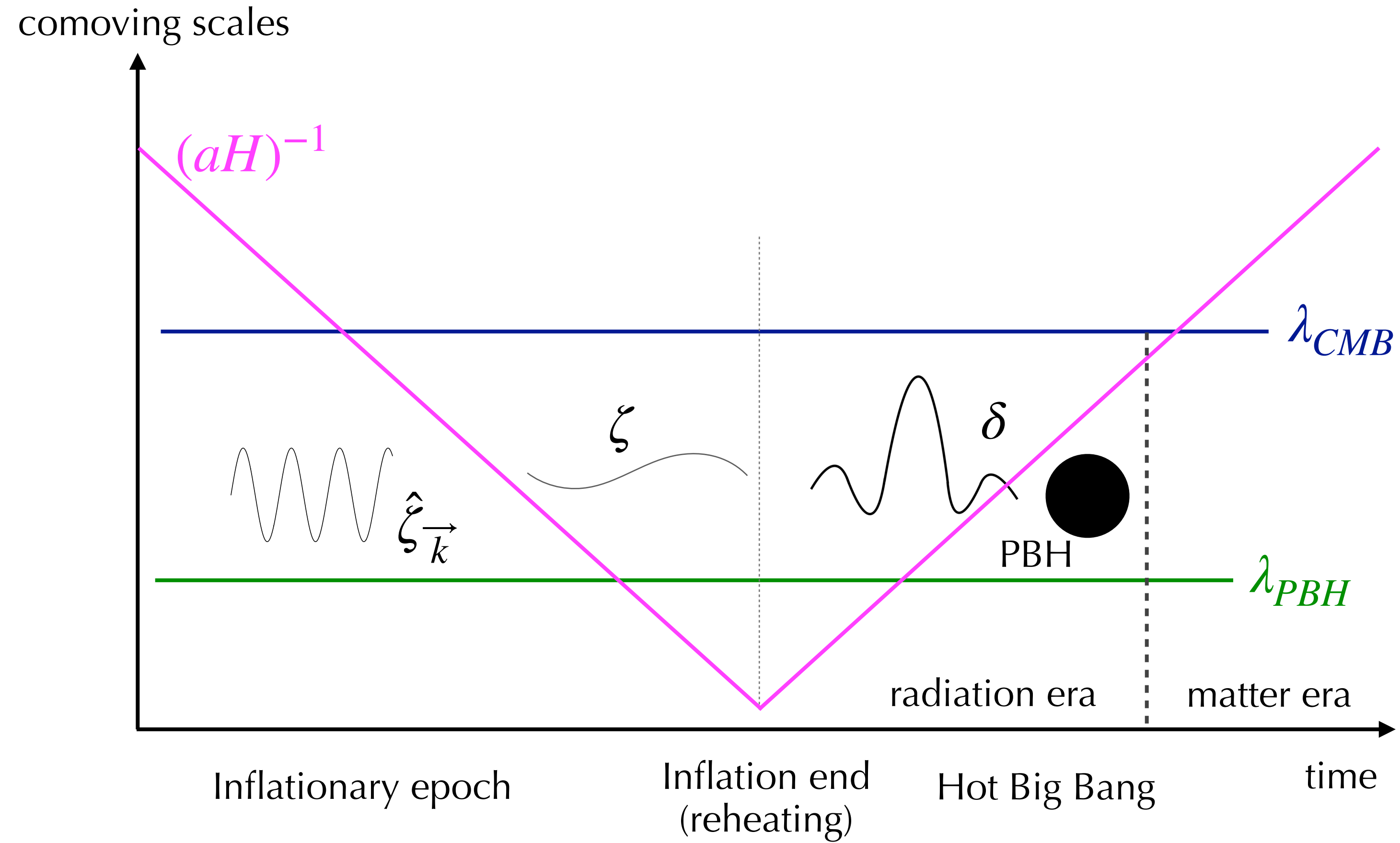
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Primordial Black Holes : How?

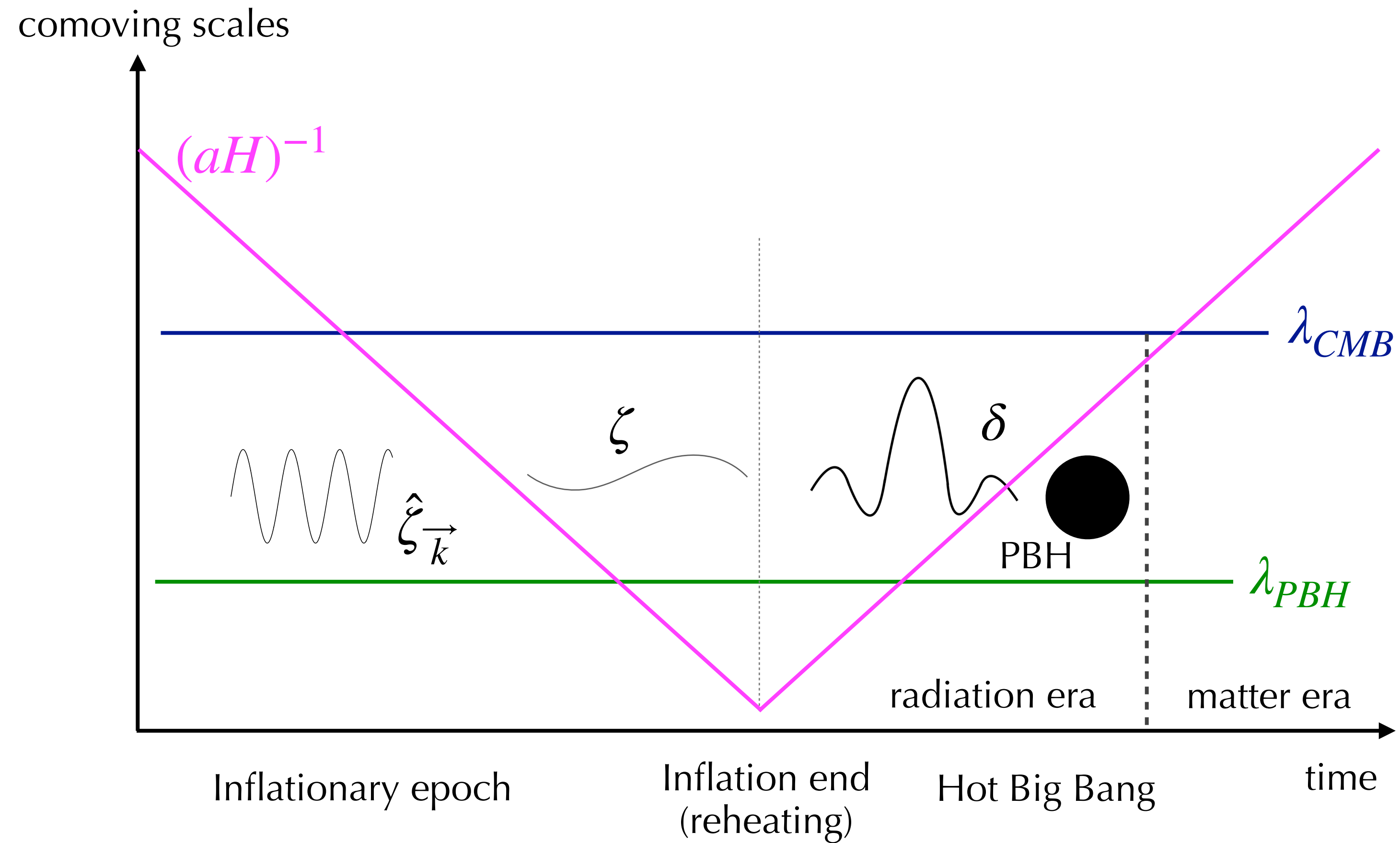
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- Can inflation give rise to such enhanced perturbations?

Inflation

Inflation

- Simplest realisation: slow-roll inflation

scalar field ϕ (inflaton) slowly rolling towards the minimum of its potential

$$S_\phi = \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} \left(\frac{1}{2} g^{\mu\nu} \partial_\mu \phi \partial_\nu \phi - V(\phi) \right)$$

$$\epsilon = -\frac{\dot{H}}{H^2} = \frac{1}{16\pi G} \left(\frac{V_{,\phi}}{V} \right)^2$$

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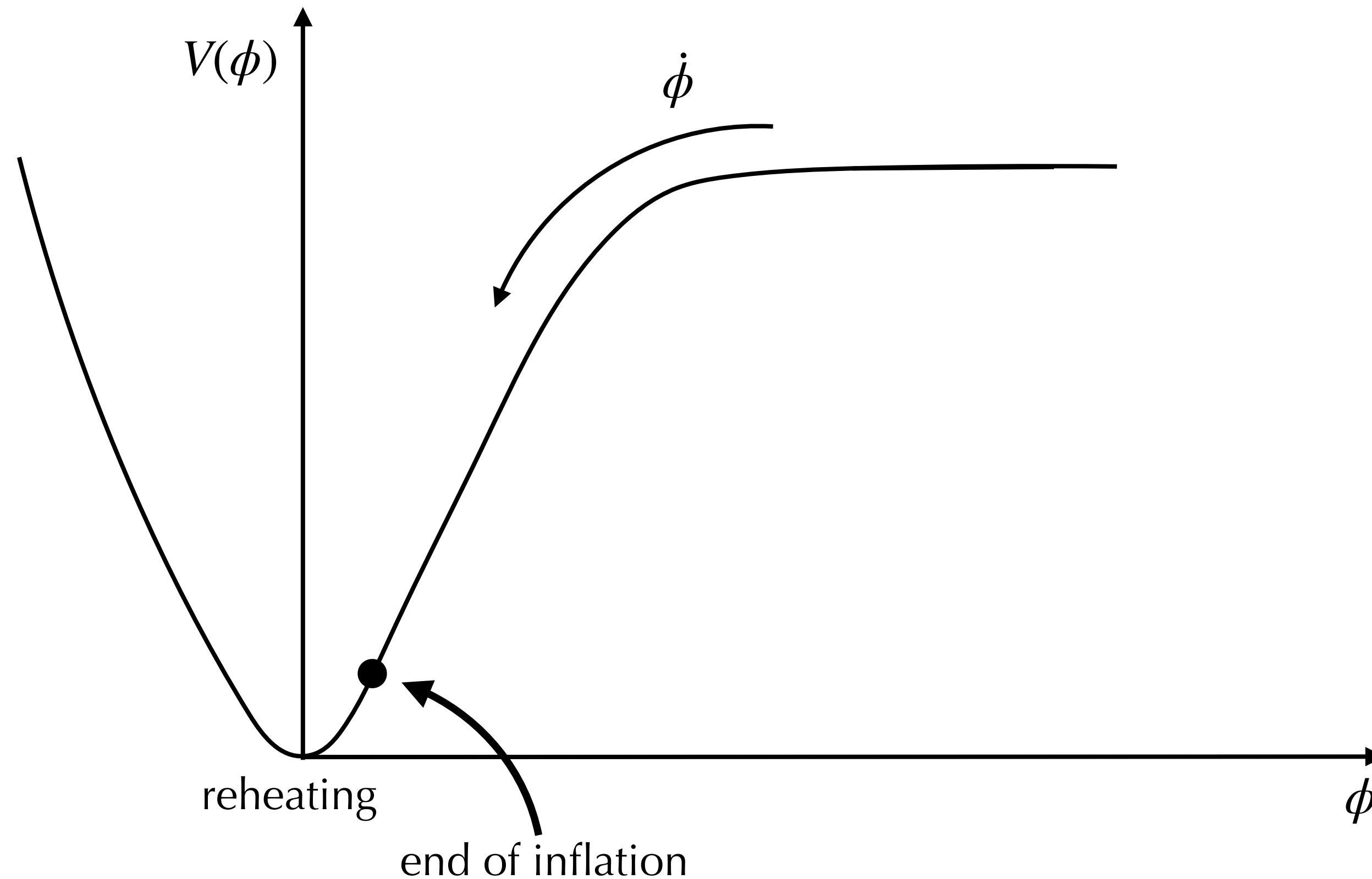
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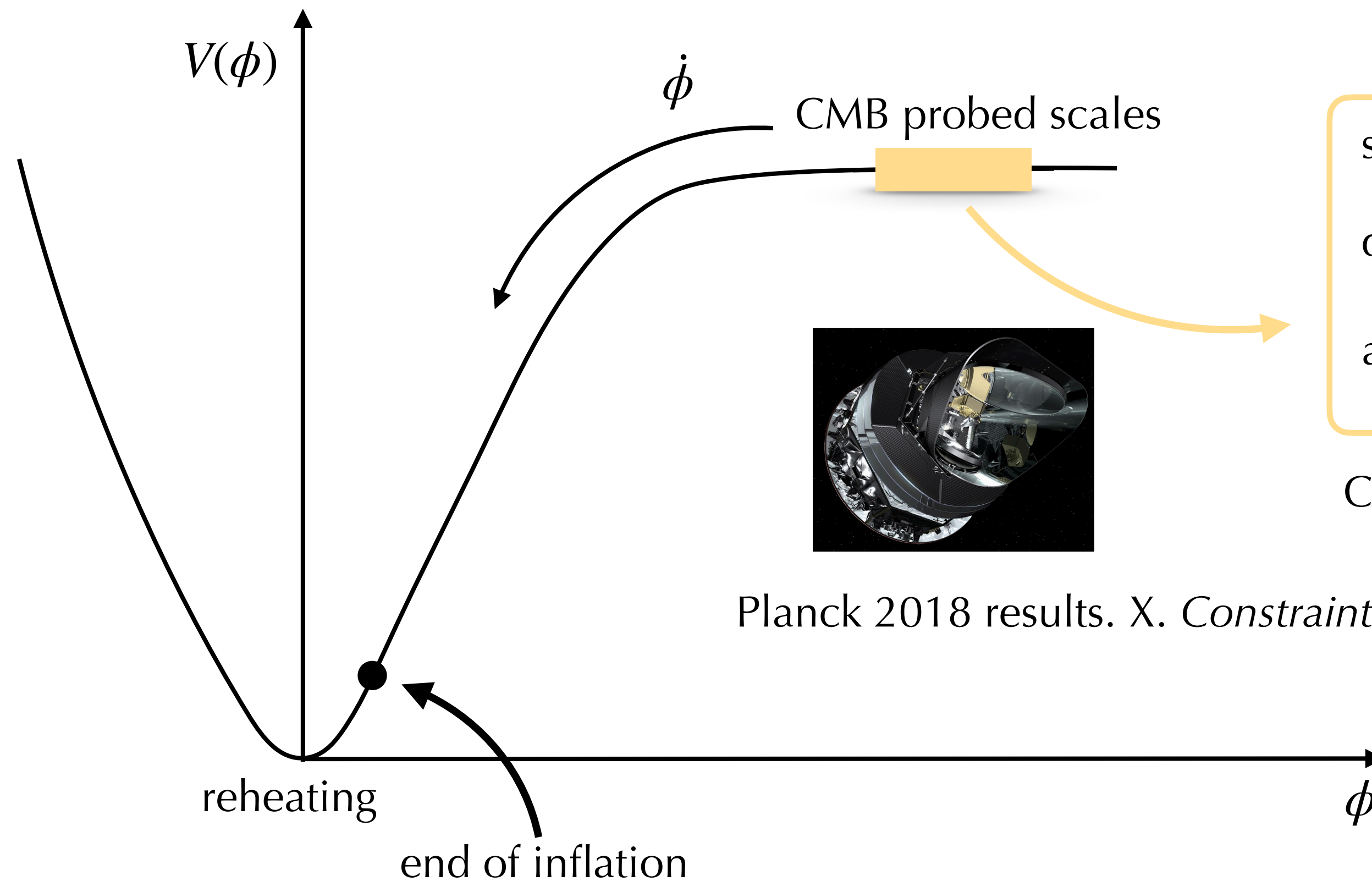
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 quasi-Gaussian
 almost scale invariant

Constrained window ~ 7 e-folds

Planck 2018 results. X. *Constraints on inflation*

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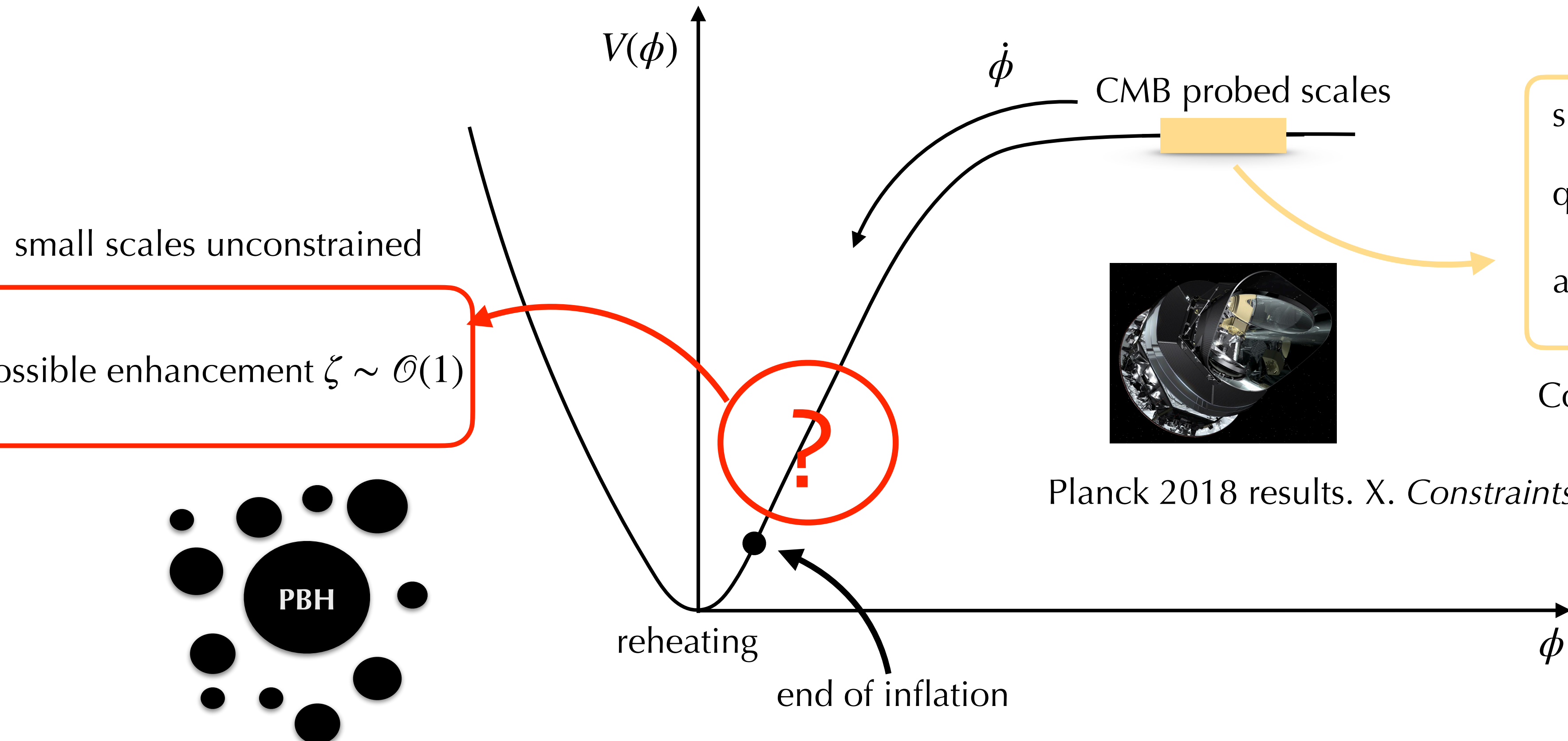
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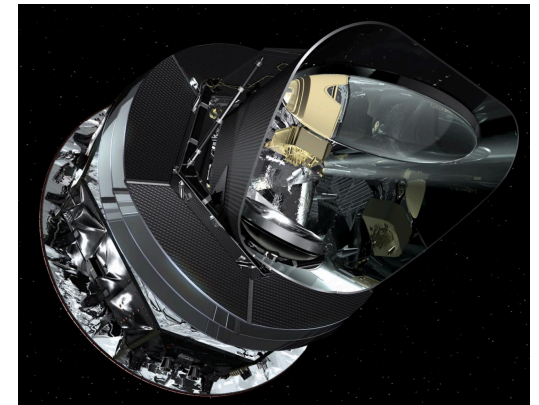
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- Large fluctuations are needed to form PBHs

They could backreact on the expansion dynamics

Backreaction can be incorporated in an effective (stochastic) theory

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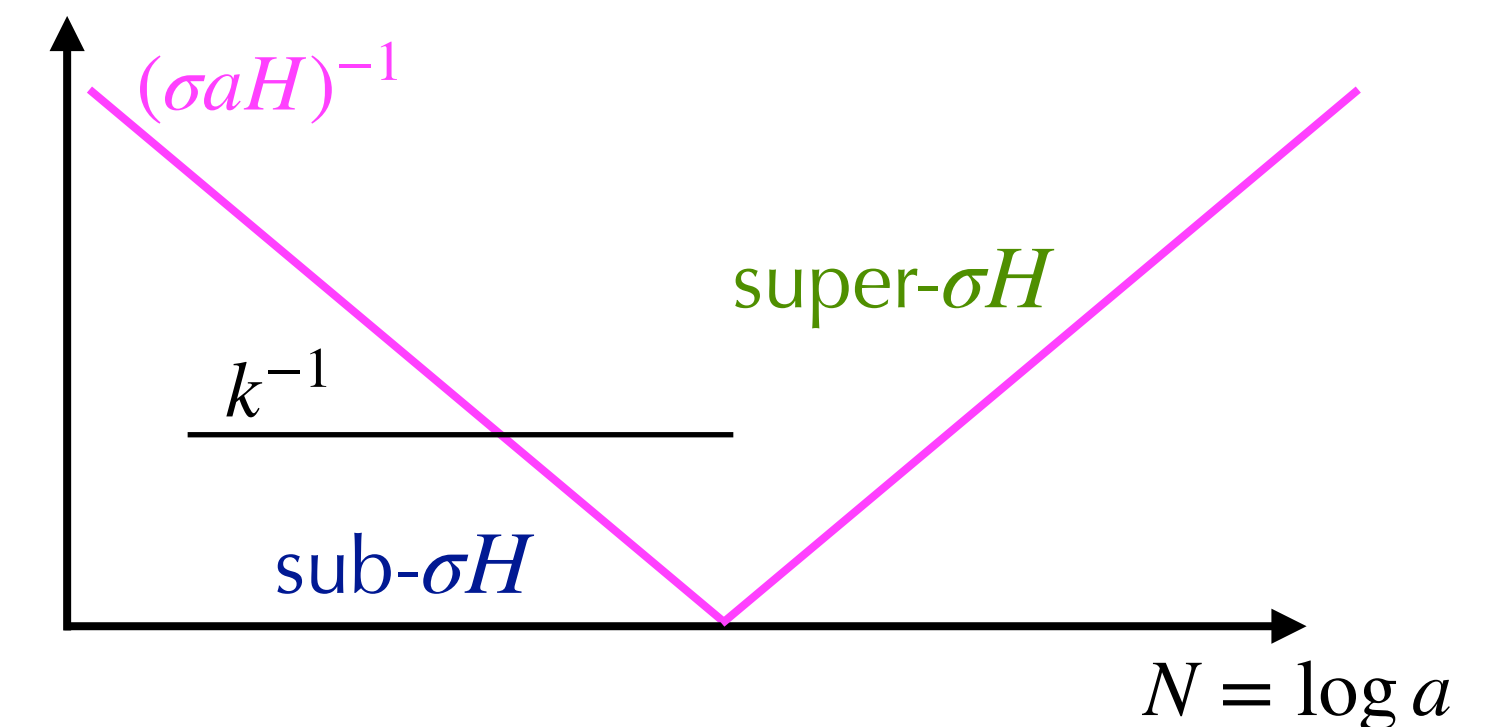
Backreaction can be incorporated in an effective (stochastic) theory

- **Stochastic inflation** A. Starobinsky [1986] *Stochastic de Sitter (inflationary) stage in the early universe*

Splitting fields into UV and IR part: coarse-graining scale $k_{cg} = \sigma a H$

$$\phi(x) = \phi_{cg} + \int \frac{dk}{(2\pi)^{3/2}} \theta\left(\frac{k}{\sigma a H}\right) \left[\phi_k(N) e^{-i\vec{k}\cdot\vec{x}} \hat{a}_{\vec{k}} + h.c. \right]$$

Quantum subhorizon fluctuations source the background



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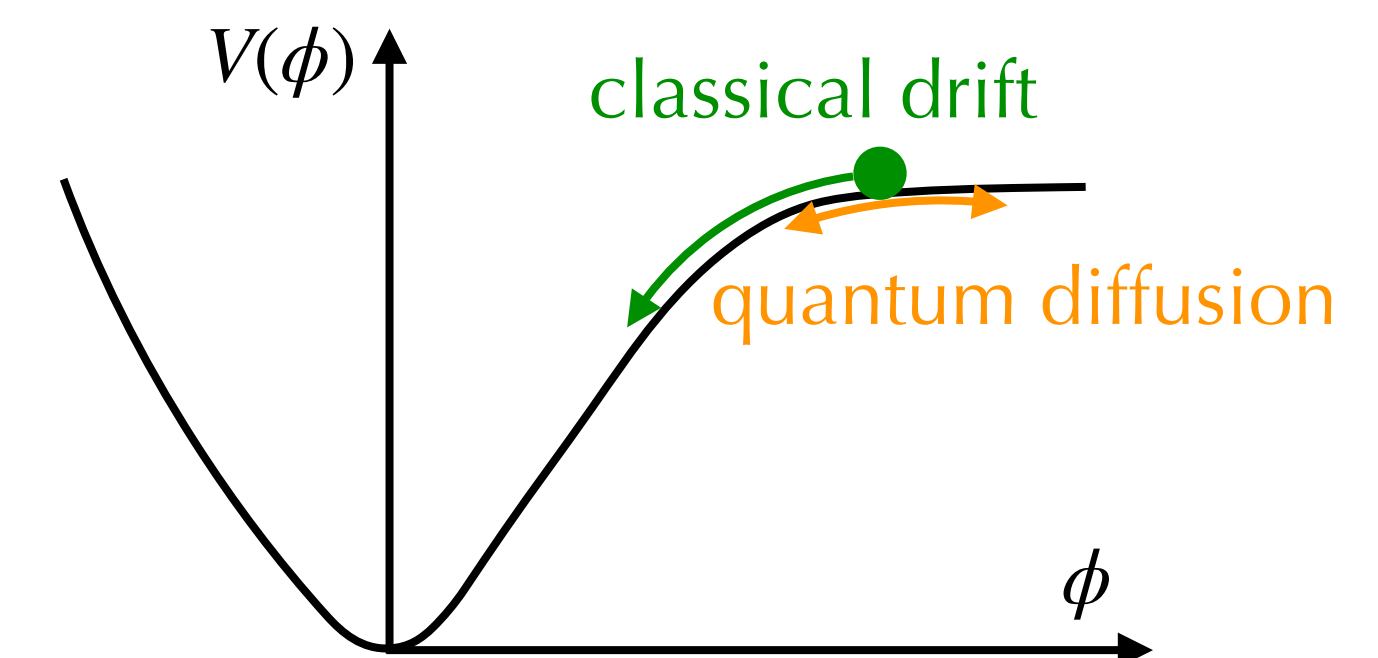
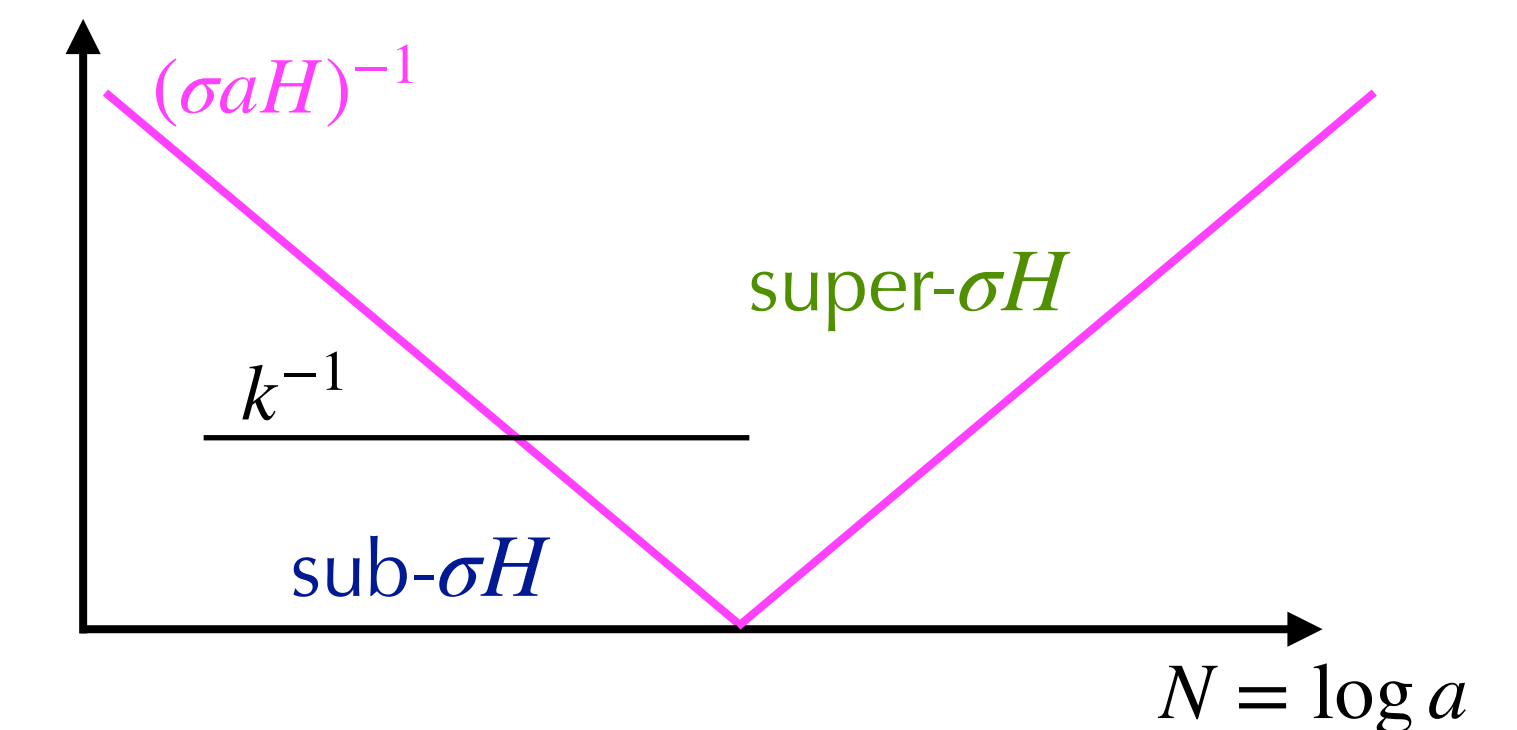
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Quantum subhorizon fluctuations source the background

Dynamics at leading order in slow roll:

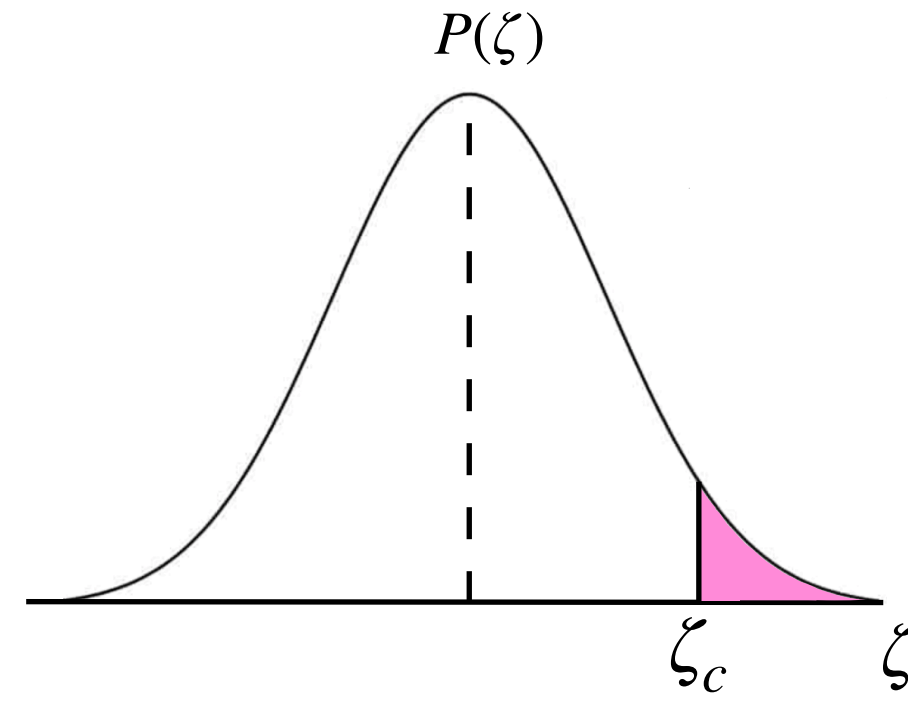
$$\frac{d}{dN} \phi_{cg} = -\frac{V_{,\phi}(\phi_{cg})}{3H^2(\phi_{cg})} + \frac{H(\phi_{cg})}{2\pi} \xi(N)$$



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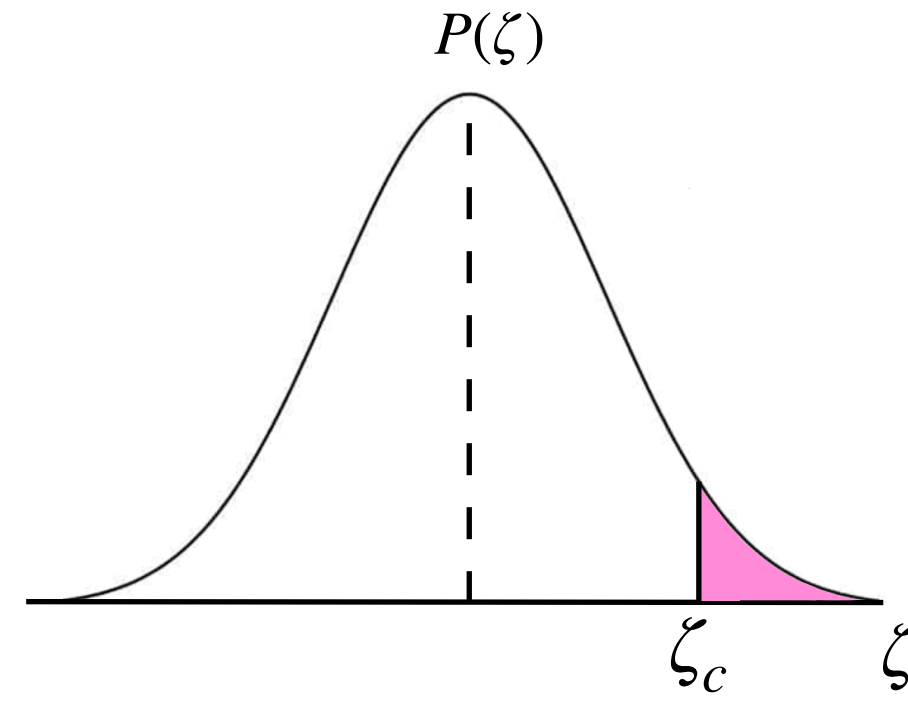
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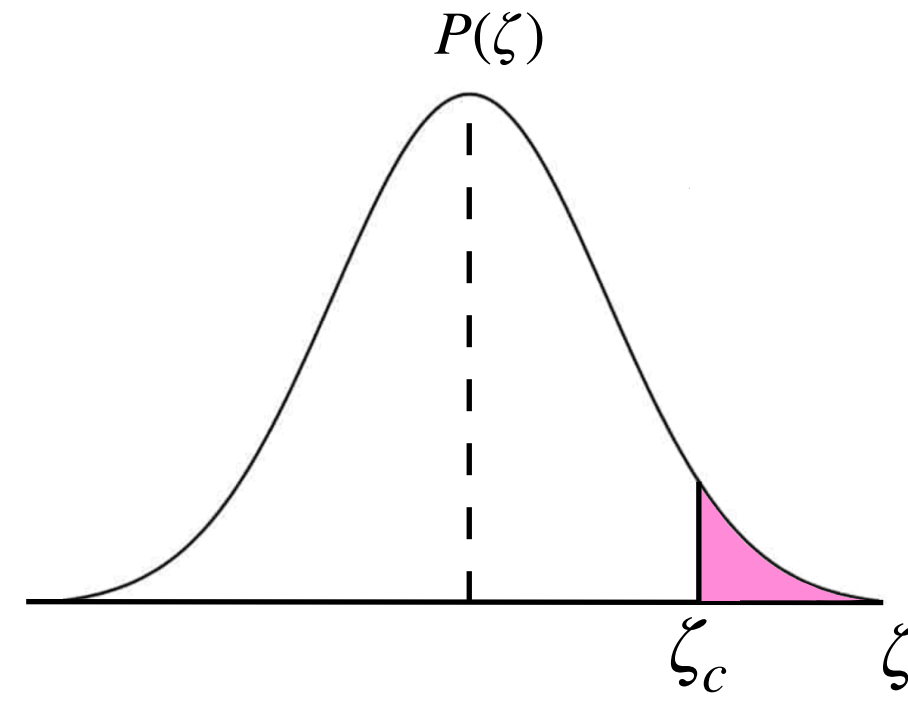
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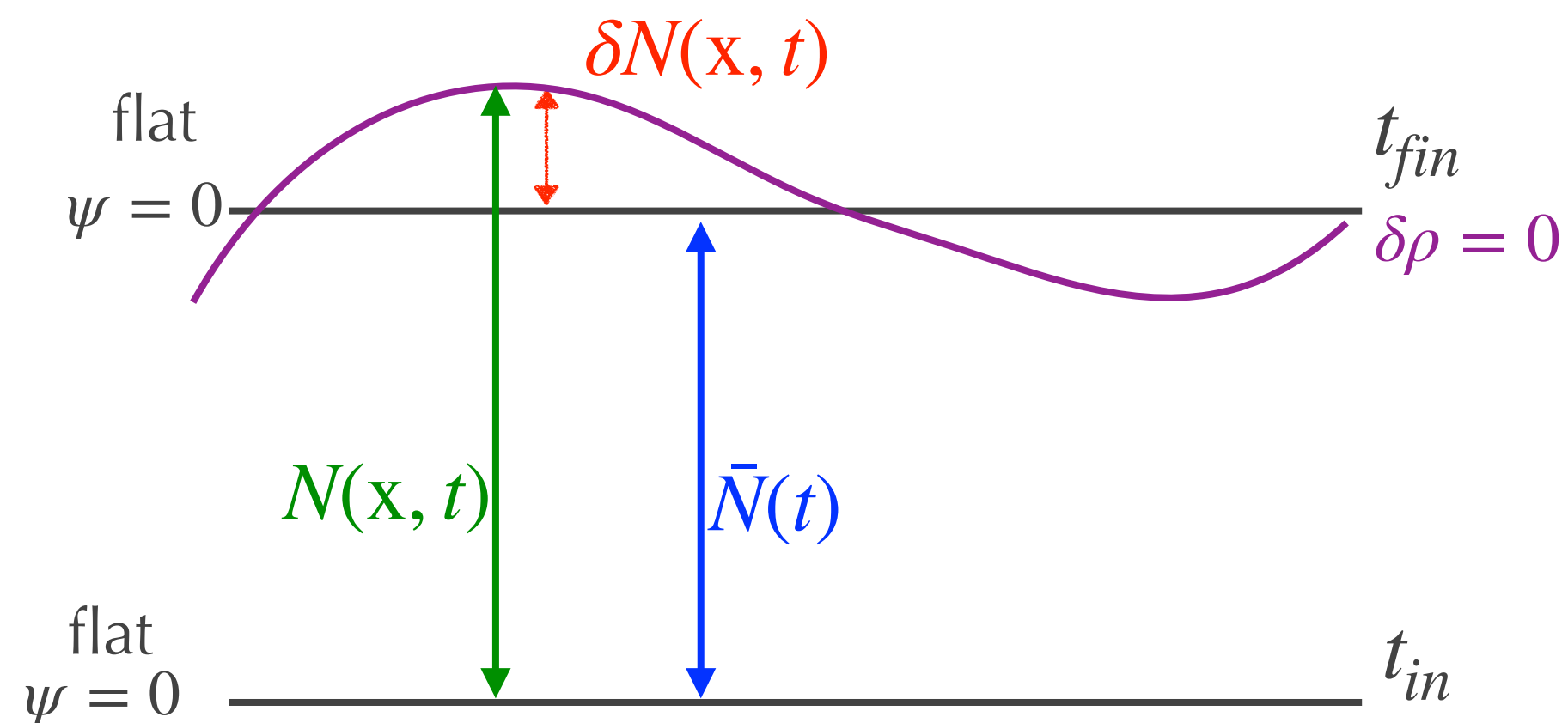
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- δN formalism



$$\zeta(t, \mathbf{x}) = N(t, \mathbf{x}) - \bar{N}(t) \equiv \delta N$$

Lifshitz, Khalatnikov [1960]

Starobinsky [1983]

Wands, Malik, Lyth, Liddle [2000]

Primordial Black Holes and Quantum Diffusion

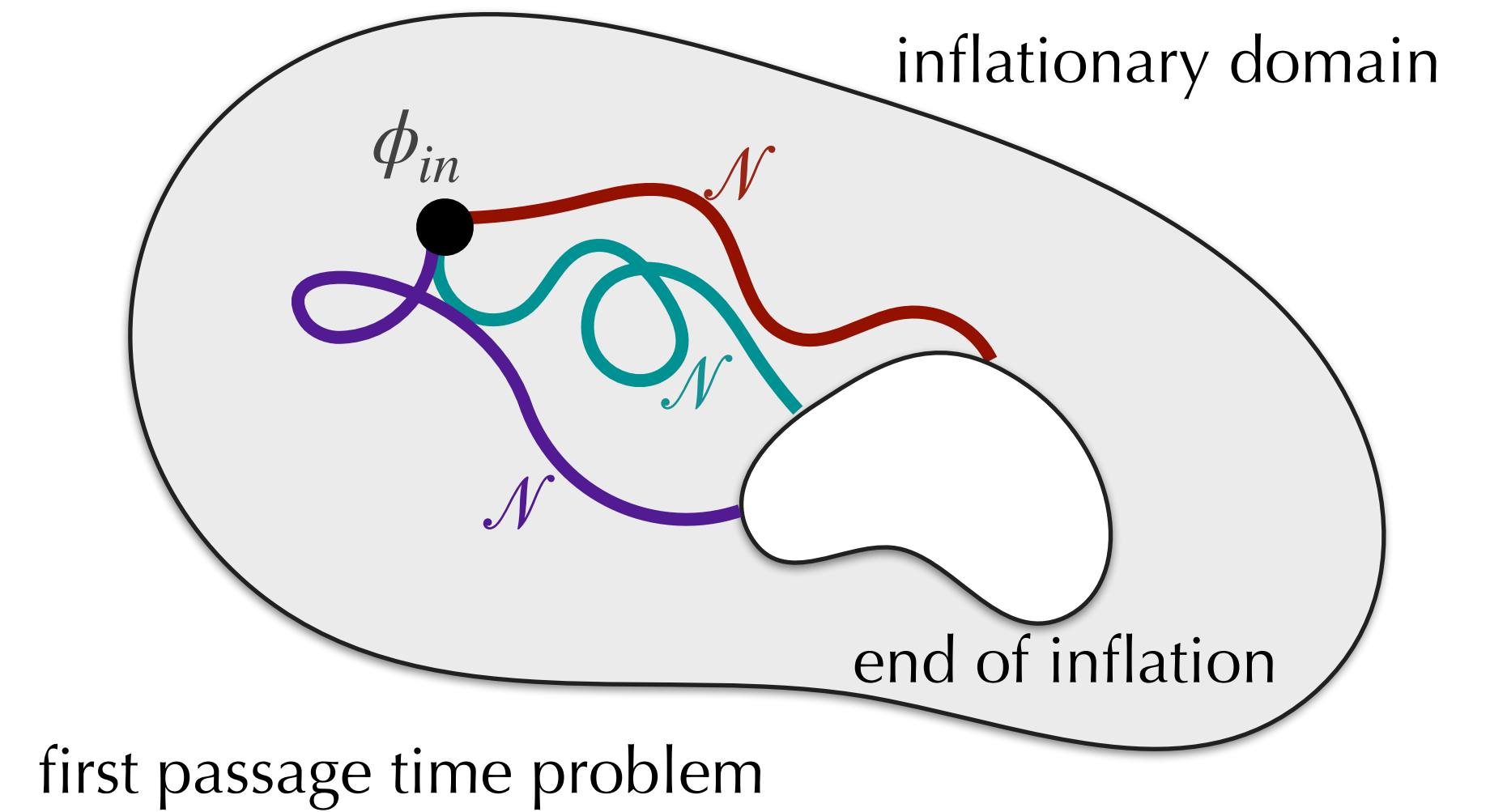
Primordial Black Holes and Quantum Diffusion

- Stochastic- $\delta\mathcal{N}$ formalism

Number of e -folds is a stochastic variable \mathcal{N}

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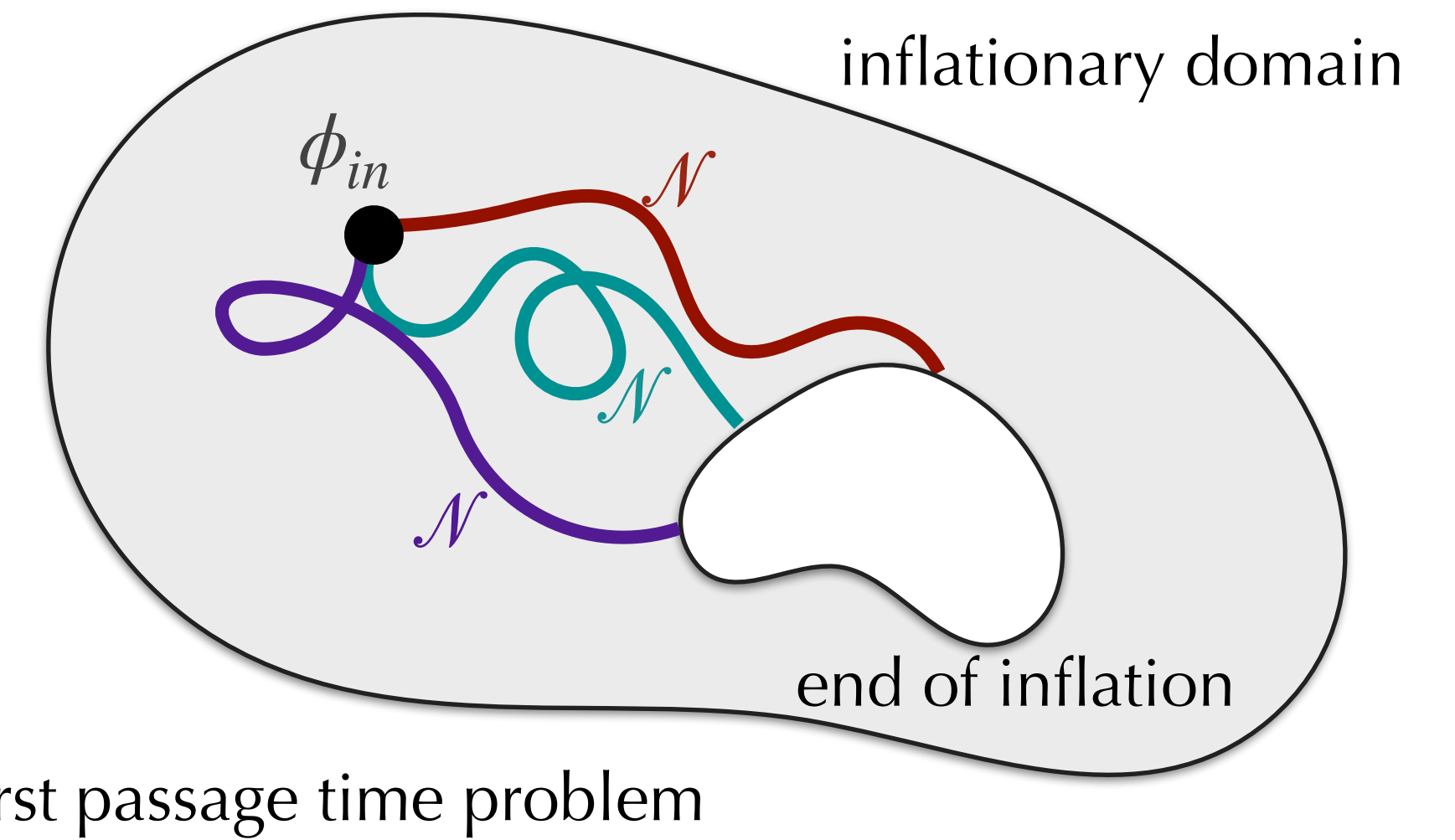
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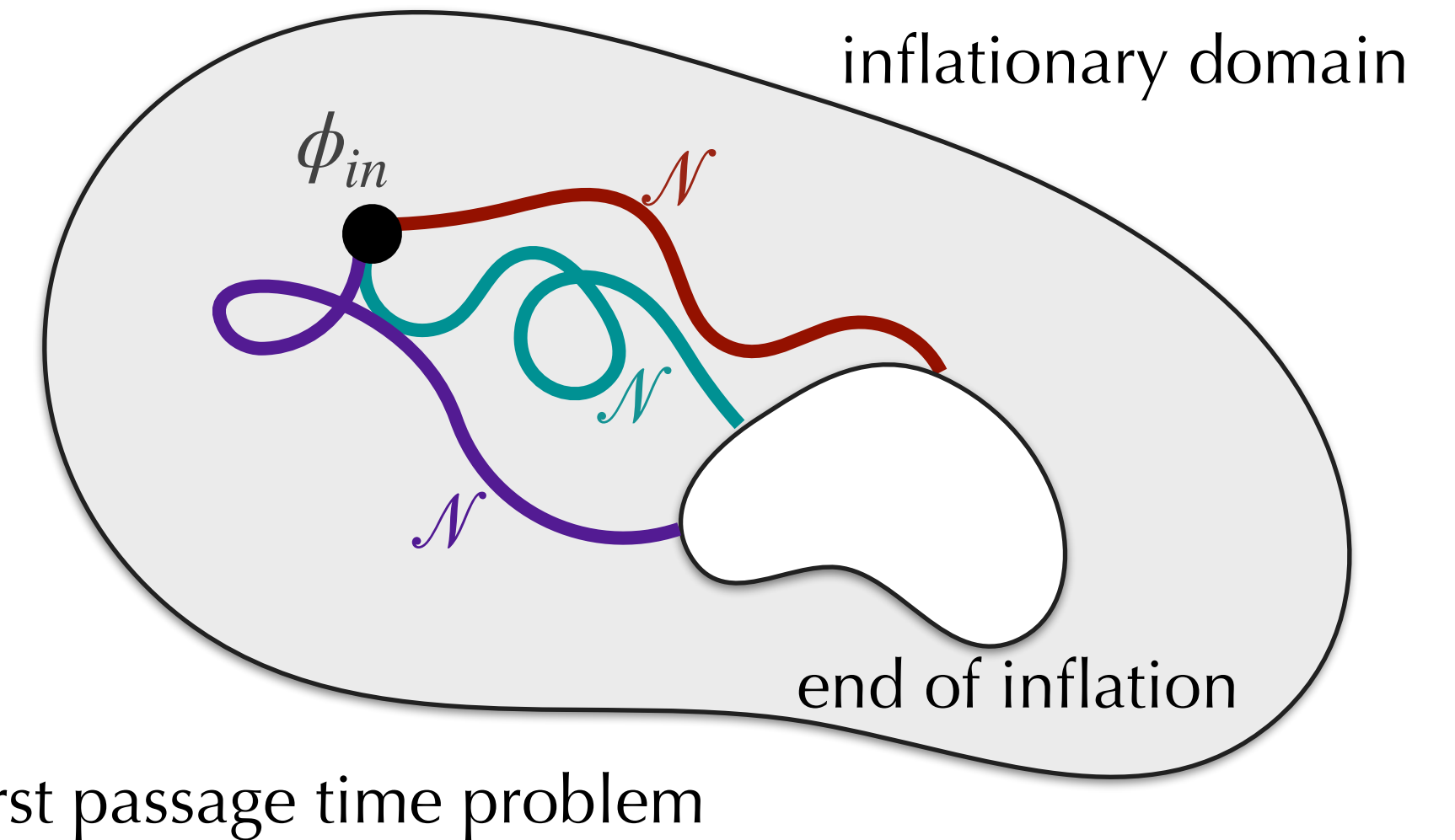
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Distribution function for the duration of inflation (first passage time)

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \mathcal{N}} P(\mathcal{N}, \phi) = \mathcal{L}_{FP}^\dagger(\phi) \cdot P(\mathcal{N}, \phi) \qquad \frac{1}{M_{Pl}^2} \mathcal{L}_{FP}^\dagger(\phi) = -\frac{v'(\phi)}{v(\phi)} \frac{\partial}{\partial \phi} + v(\phi) \frac{\partial^2}{\partial \phi^2} \qquad v = \frac{V}{24\pi^2 M_{Pl}^4}$$

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Stochastic- δN formalism: exponential tails

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- Full PDF of the first passage time

Pattison, Vennin, Assadullahi, Wands [2017]

Characteristic function (includes all moments)

Obeys differential equation

Full PDF given by inverse Fourier transform

$$\chi(t, \phi) \equiv \langle e^{it\mathcal{N}} \rangle = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{it\mathcal{N}} P(\mathcal{N}, \phi) d\mathcal{N} \quad \longrightarrow \quad \mathcal{L}_{FP}^{\dagger} \cdot \chi(t, \phi) = -it\chi(t, \phi) \quad \longrightarrow \quad P(\mathcal{N}, \phi) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} e^{-it\mathcal{N}} \chi(t, \phi) dt$$

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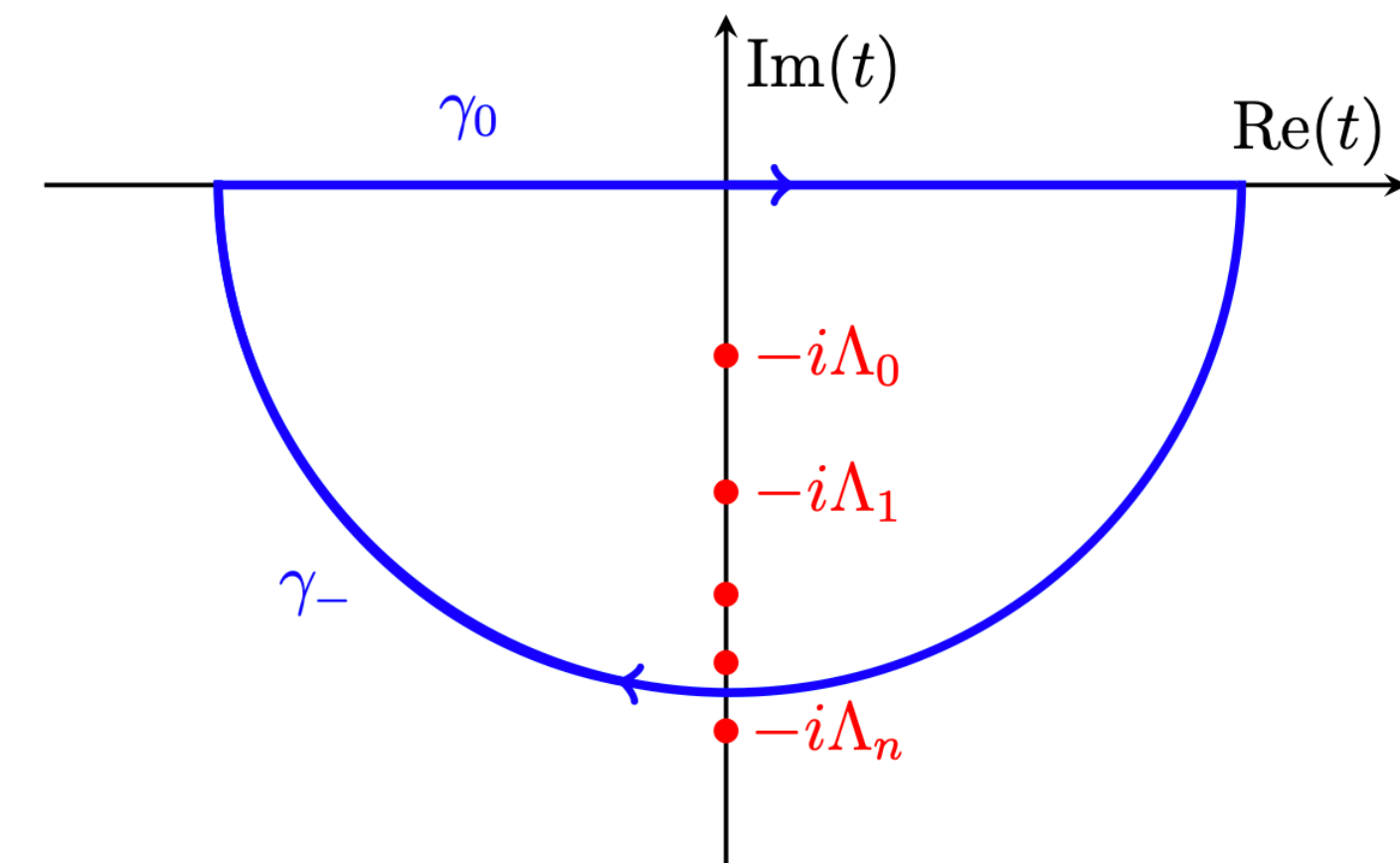
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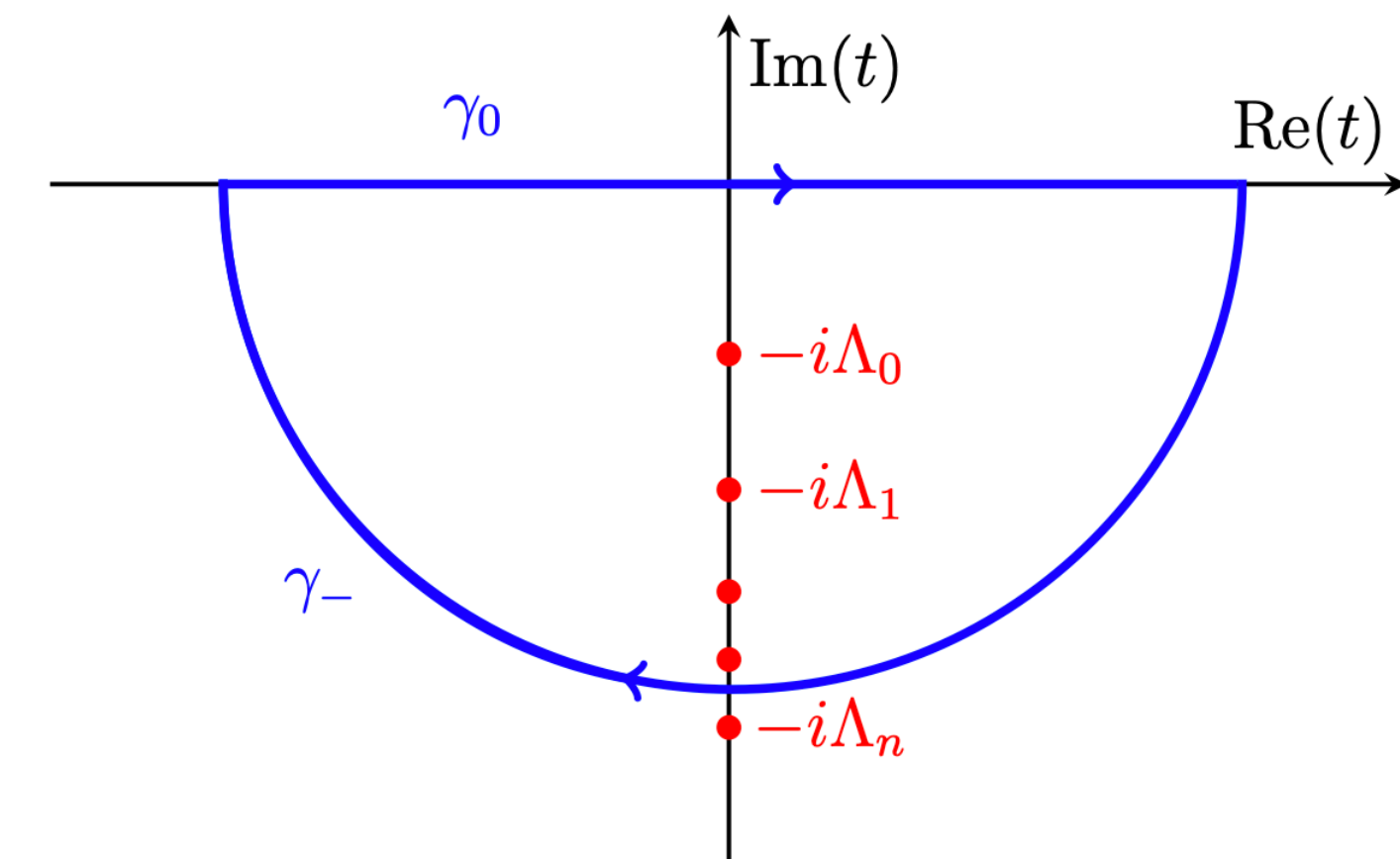
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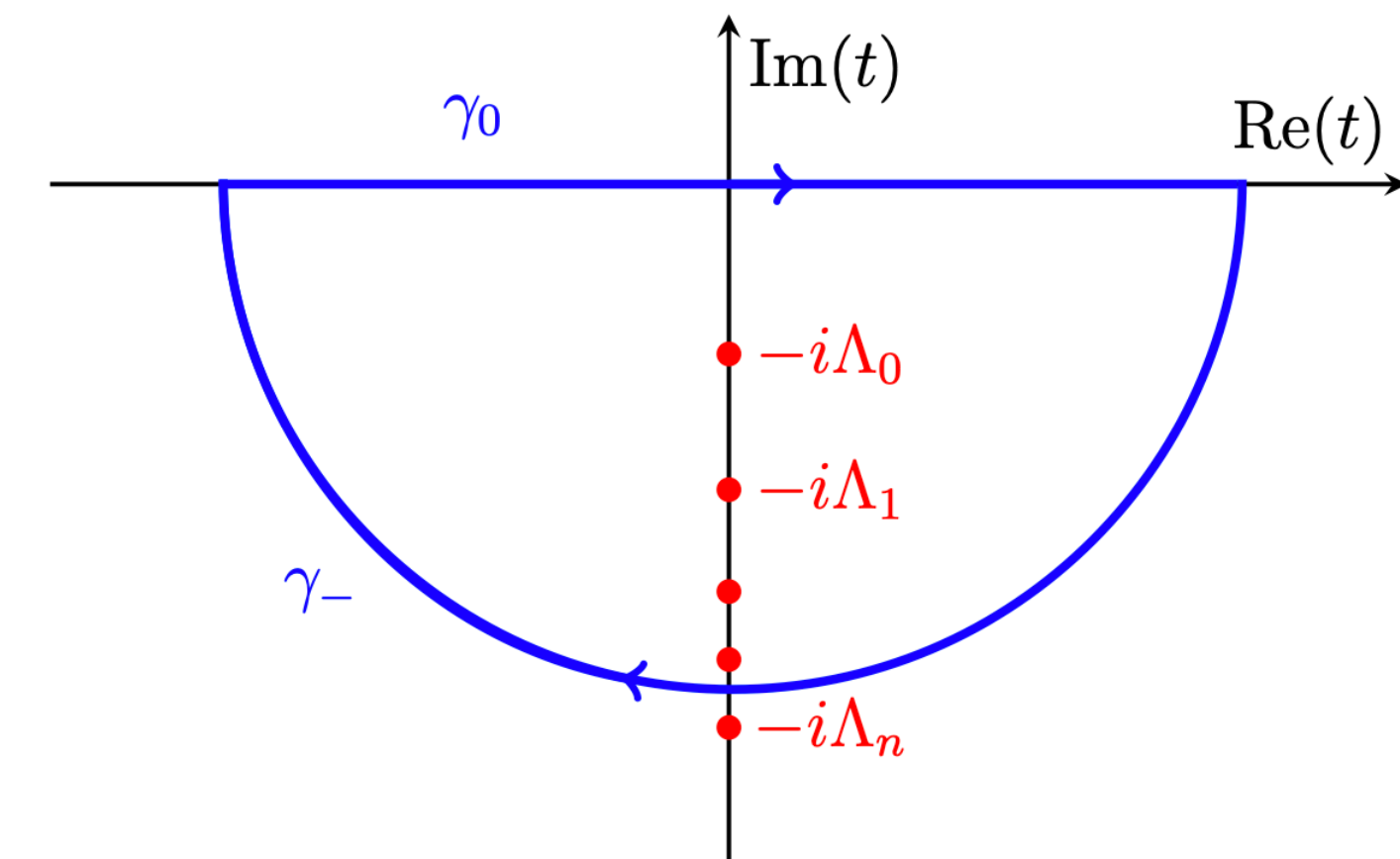
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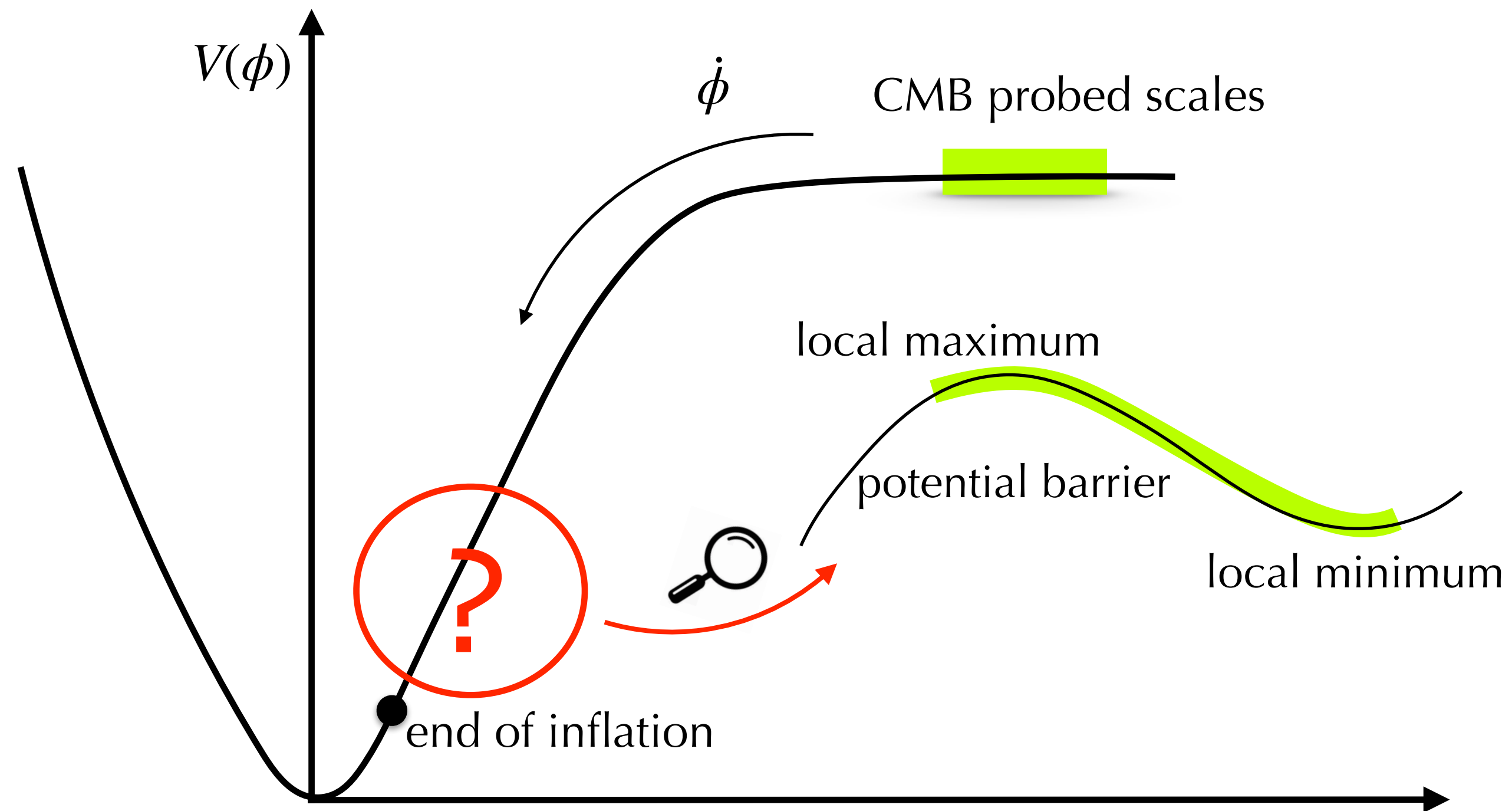


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This type of non-Gaussianities cannot be captured by perturbative parametrisations (such as the fNL expansion) !

Stochastic tunnelling

C.A., V. Vennin [2022]
"Primordial black holes from stochastic tunneling"

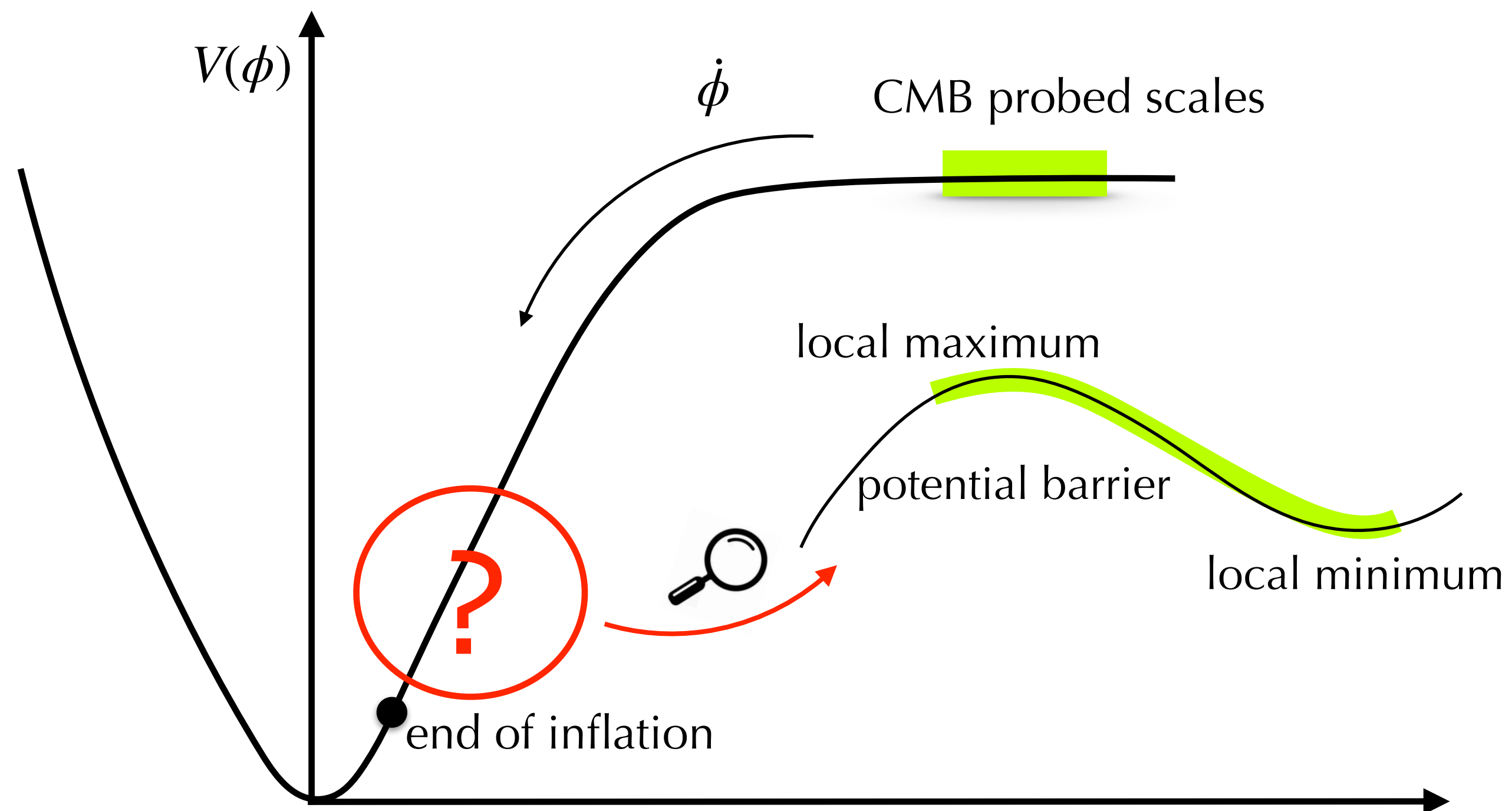


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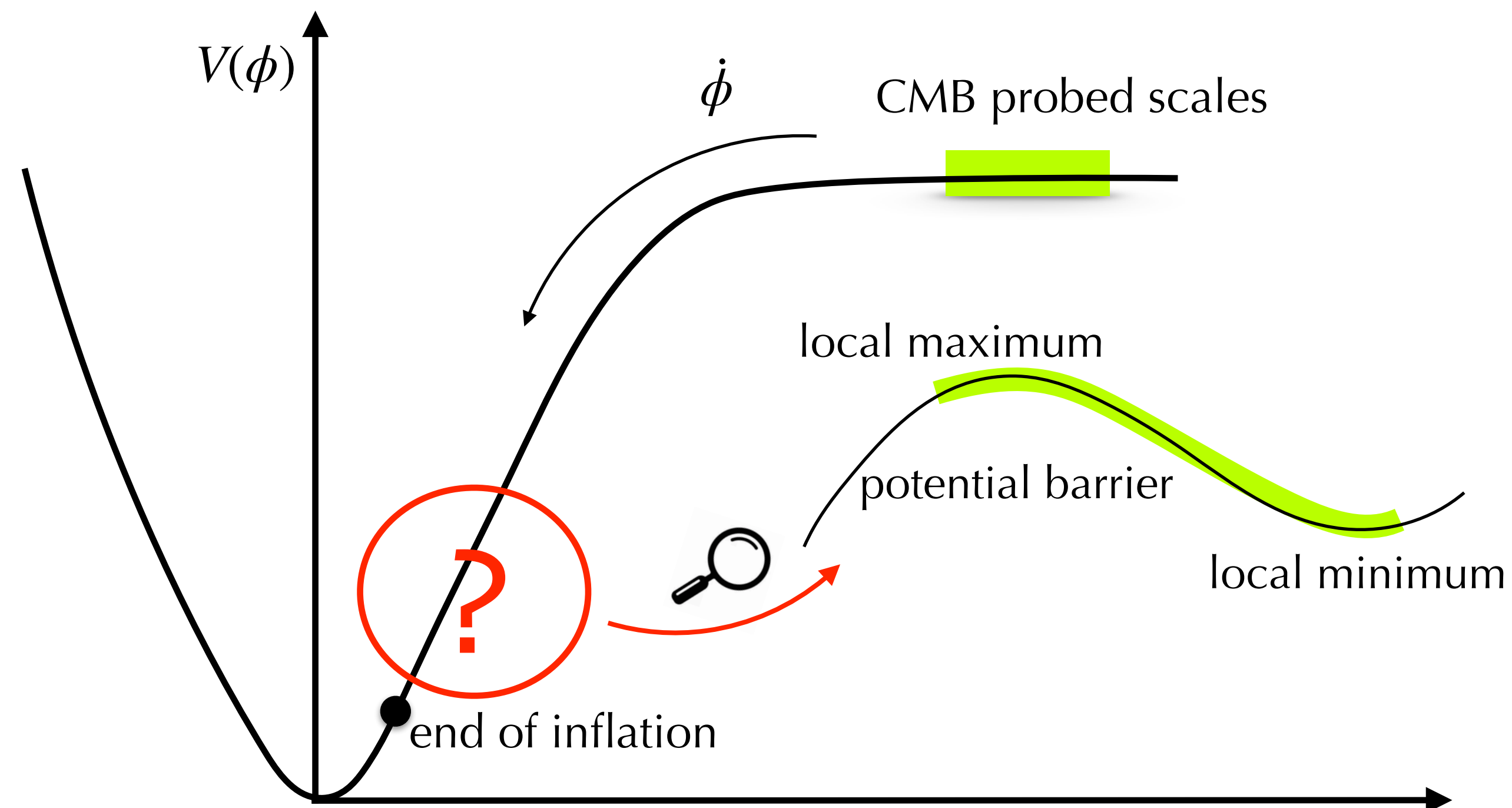


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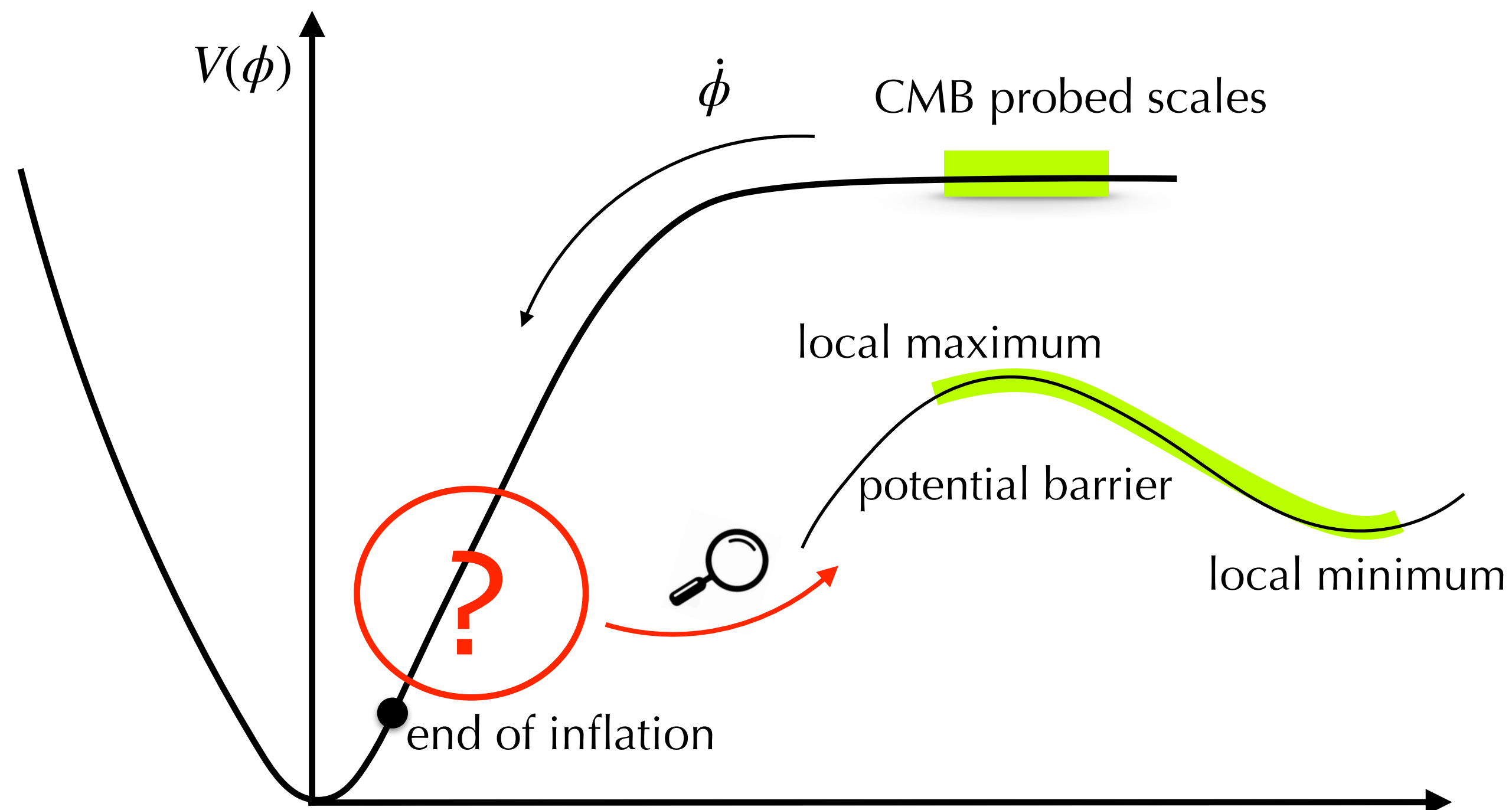


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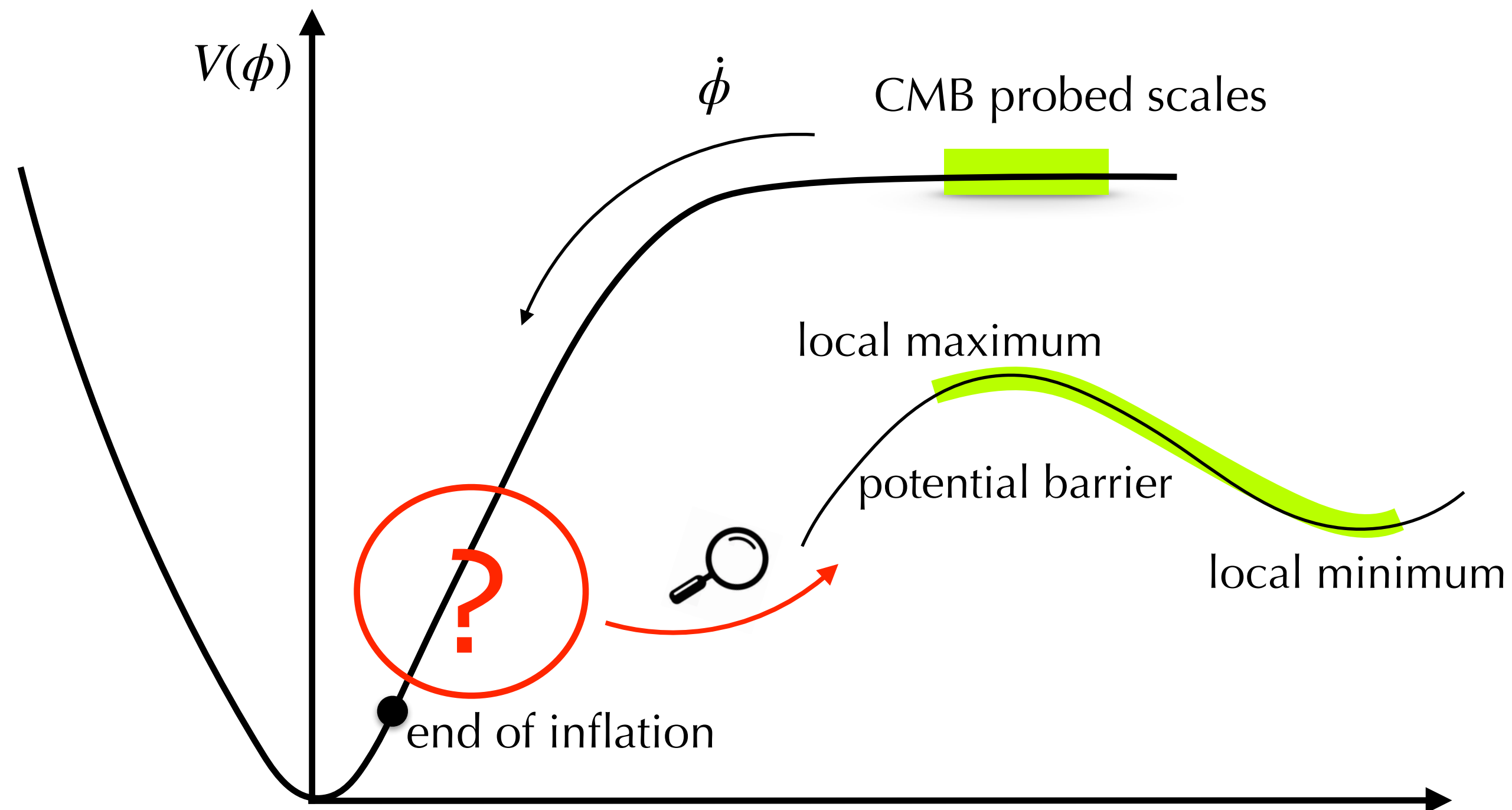
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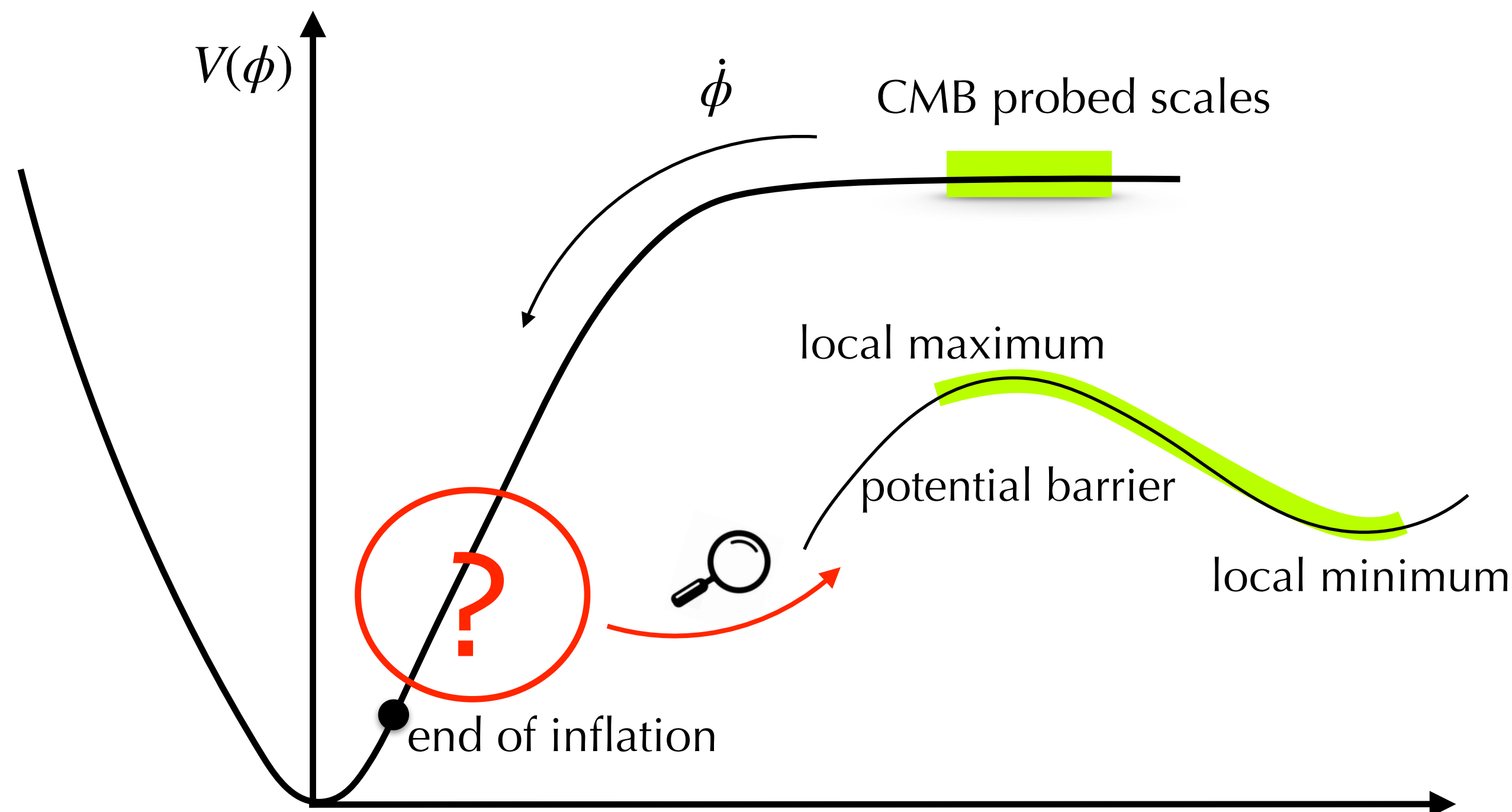
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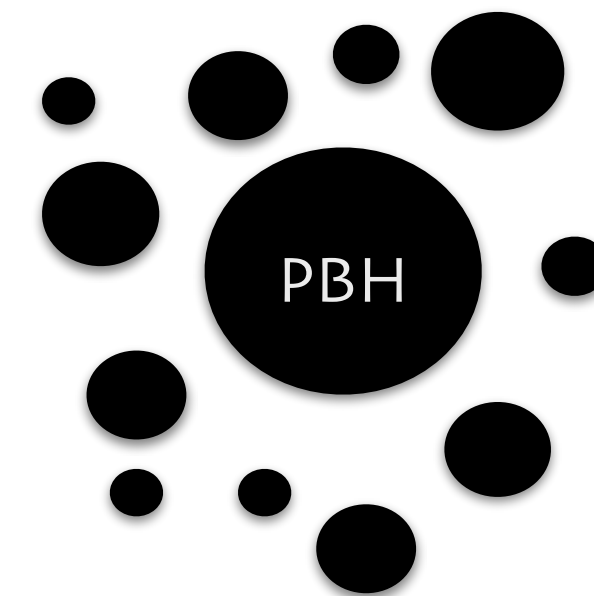
“Primordial black holes from stochastic tunneling”

- False vacuum state
- Local minima naturally appear in various contexts: - high energy constructions (supersymmetry, supergravity)
- breaking of flat-inflection point condition through radiative corrections
- etc.
- How to escape? 1) Large classical velocity

2) “Stochastic tunnelling”: quantum fluctuations jiggle the inflaton and push it outwards



$$\zeta > \zeta_c \simeq 1$$

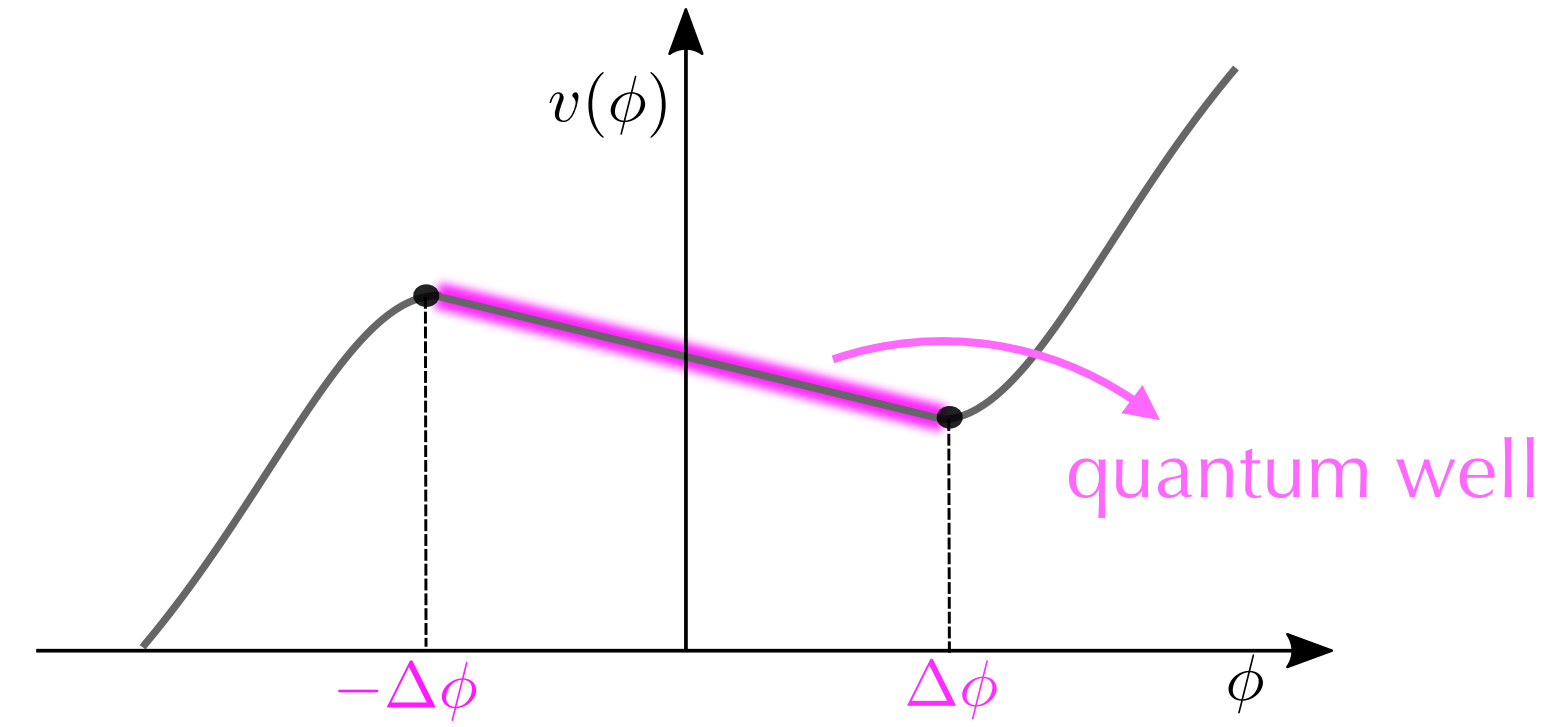


False vacuum: simple toy models

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- Linear model

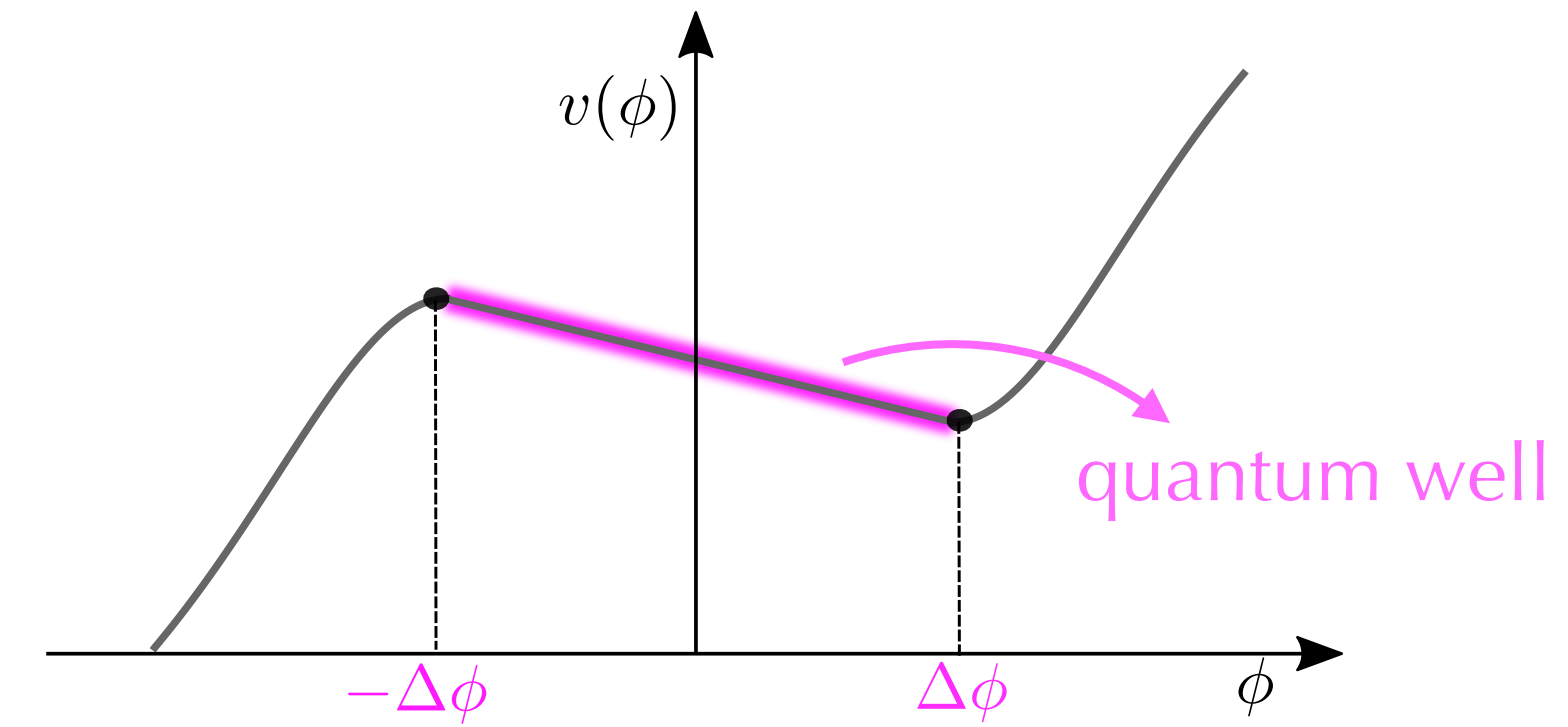
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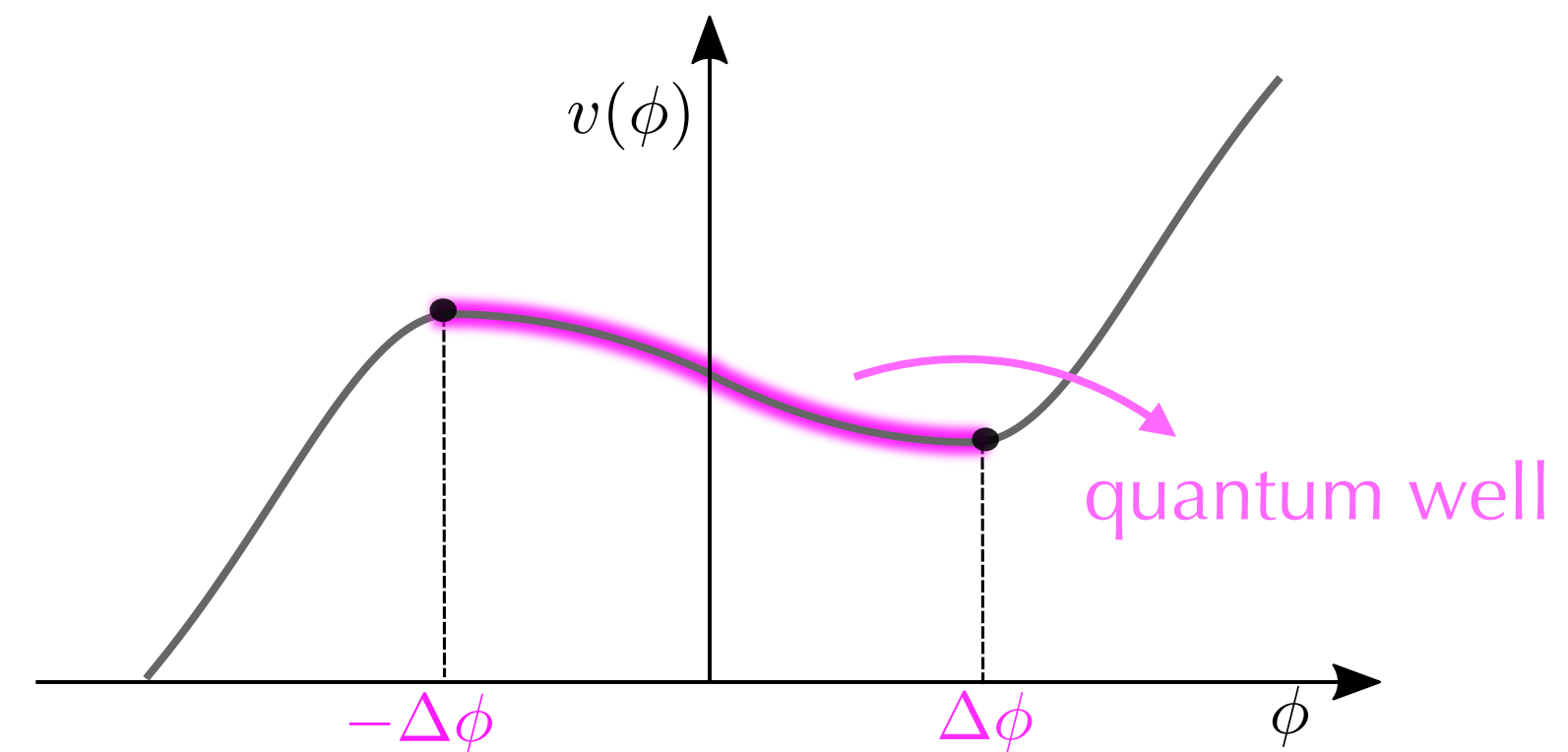
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- Quadratic model ("two-parabola approximation")

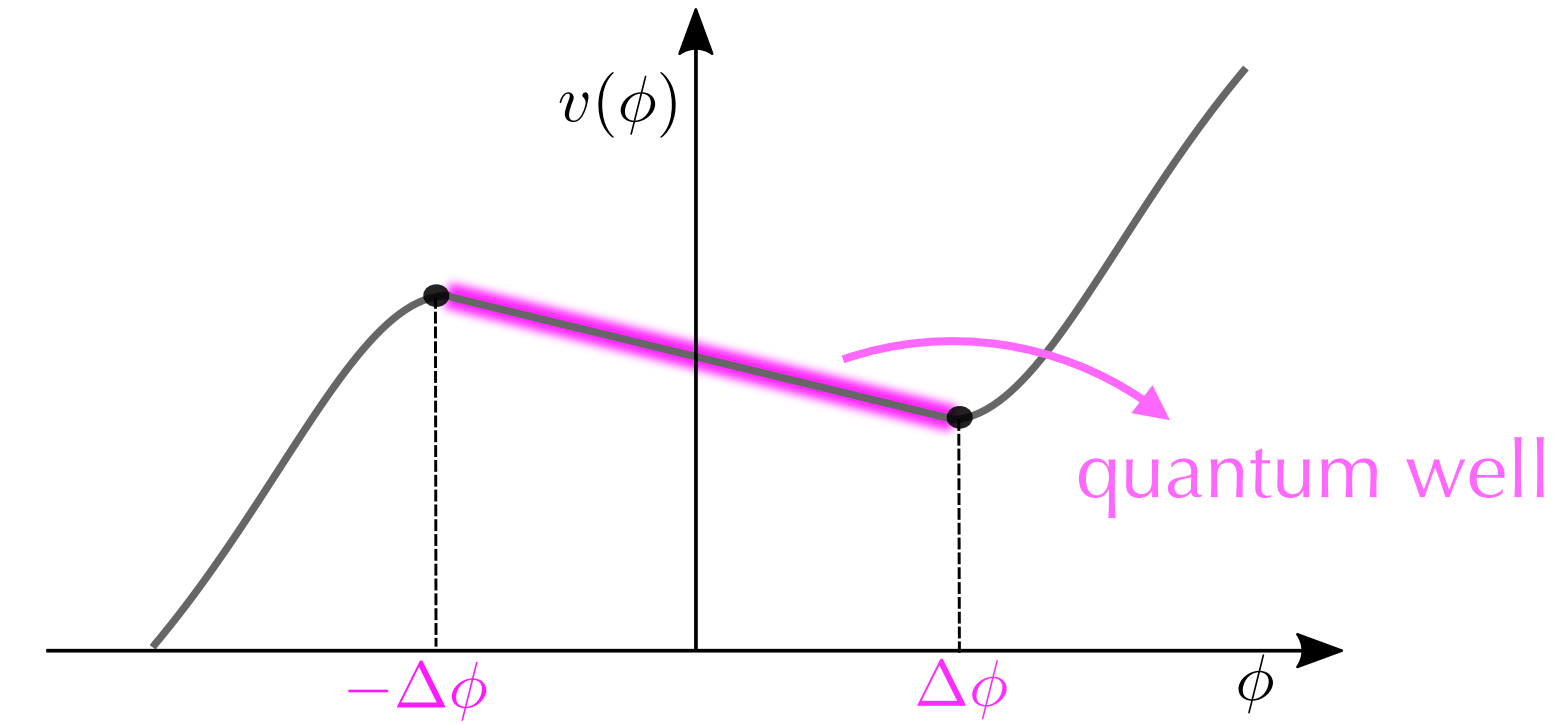
$$v(\phi) = v_0 \begin{cases} 1 + \alpha \left[\left(\frac{\phi}{\Delta\phi} - 1 \right)^2 - 1 \right] & \text{if } 0 \leq \phi \leq \Delta\phi \\ 1 - \alpha \left[\left(\frac{\phi}{\Delta\phi} + 1 \right)^2 - 1 \right] & \text{if } -\Delta\phi \leq \phi \leq 0 \end{cases}$$



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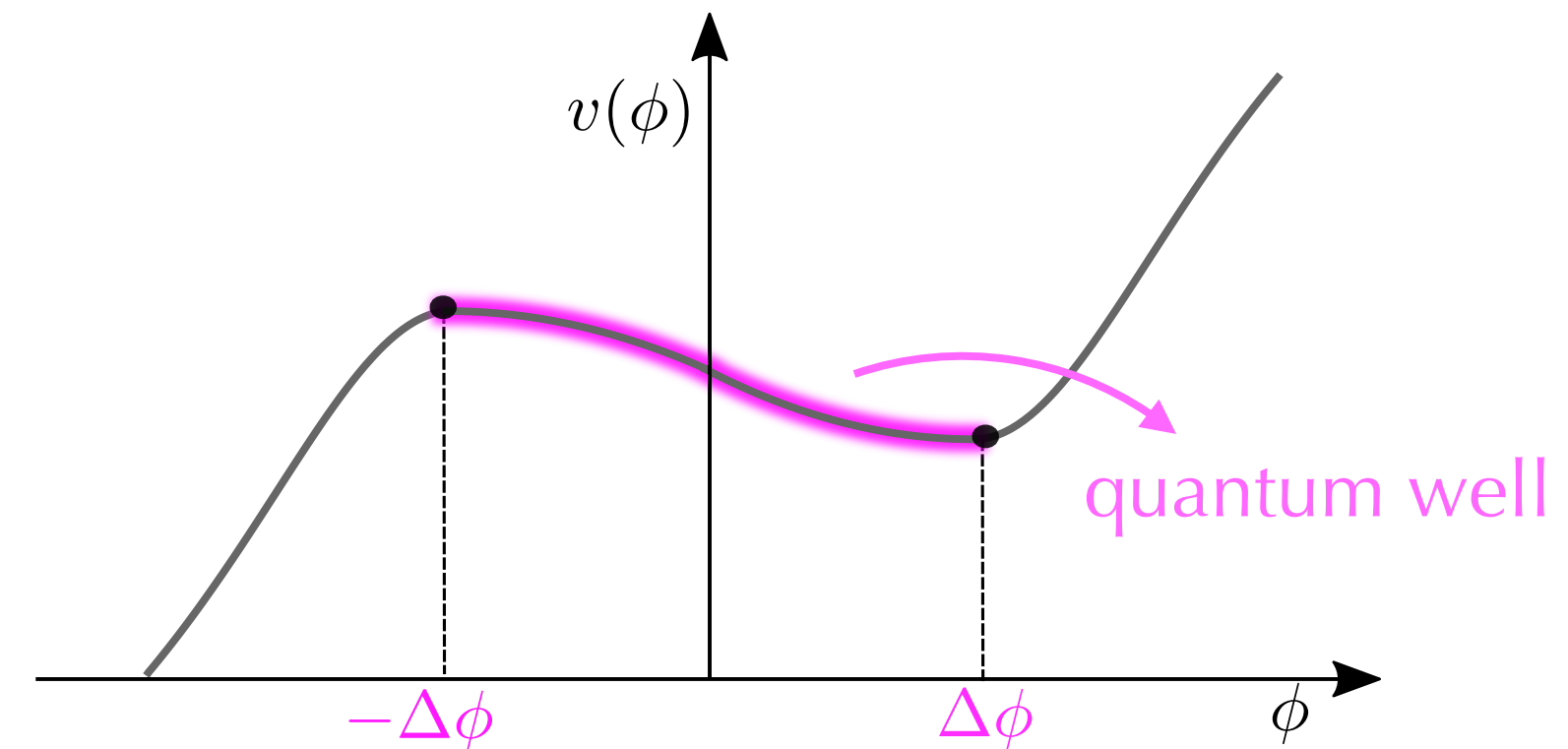
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Quantum diffusion in highlighted regions, potential gradient elsewhere

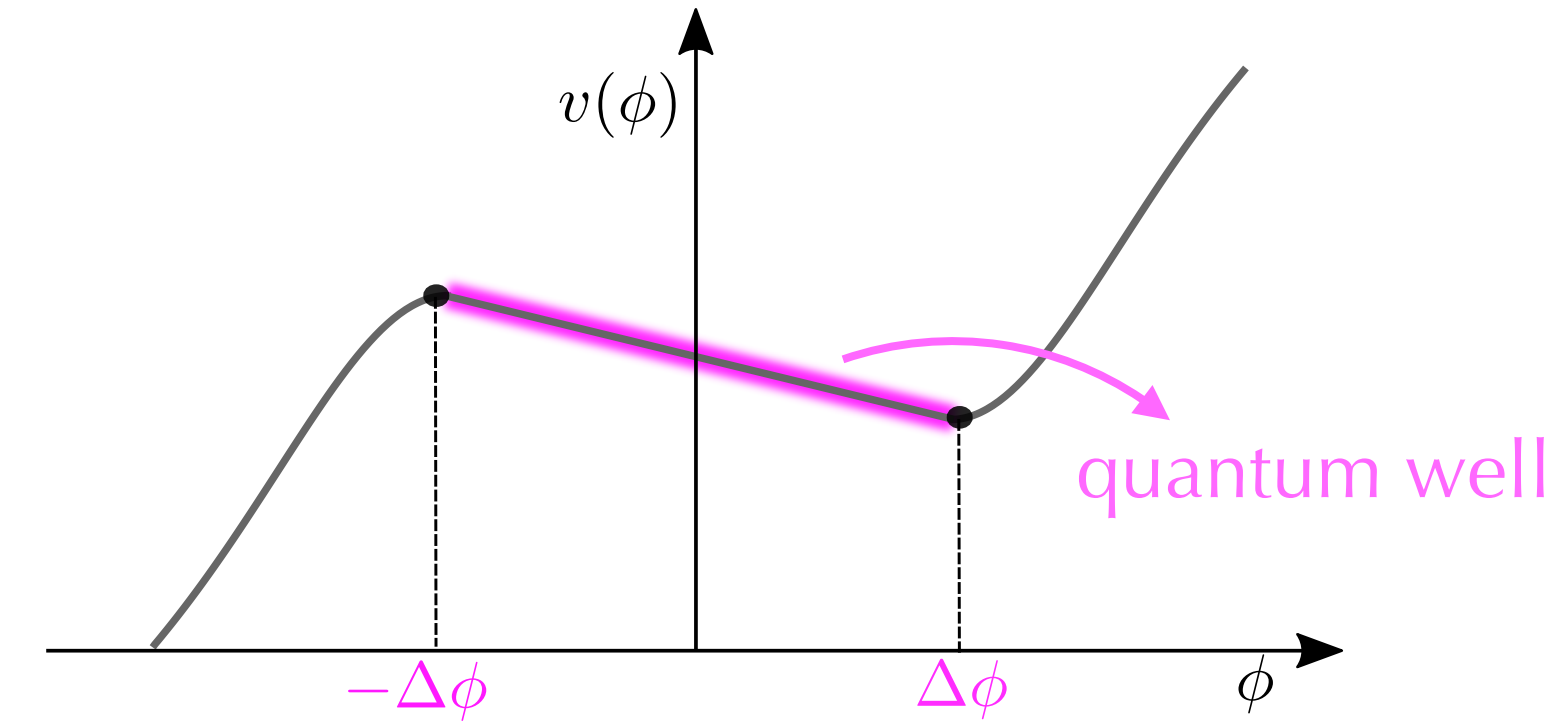
Slow roll preserved: $\epsilon = \frac{M_{Pl}^2}{2} \left(\frac{v'}{v} \right)^2 \ll 1$, $|\eta| = \left| M_{Pl}^2 \frac{v''}{v} \right| \ll 1$

$\langle \mathcal{N} \rangle$ smaller than ~ 50 : $\Delta v = v(-\Delta\phi) - v(\Delta\phi) \ll v_0$

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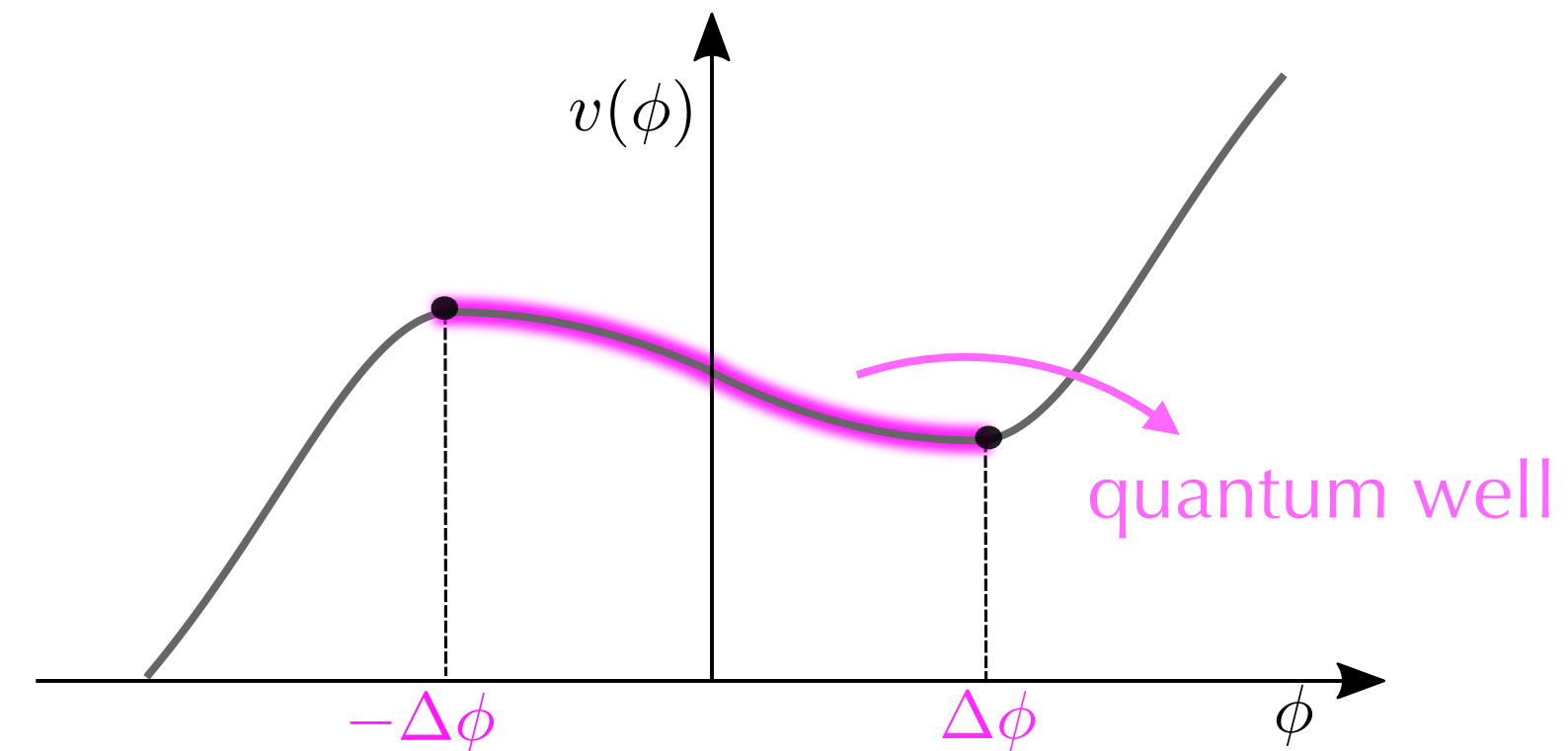
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$$\mu^2 = \frac{(2 \Delta\phi)^2}{v_0 M_{Pl}^2} \propto \frac{M_{Pl}^2 \Delta\phi^2}{V}$$

$$a = \frac{\alpha}{v_0} \propto \frac{M_{Pl}^4 \Delta V}{V^2}$$

False vacuum: parameter space

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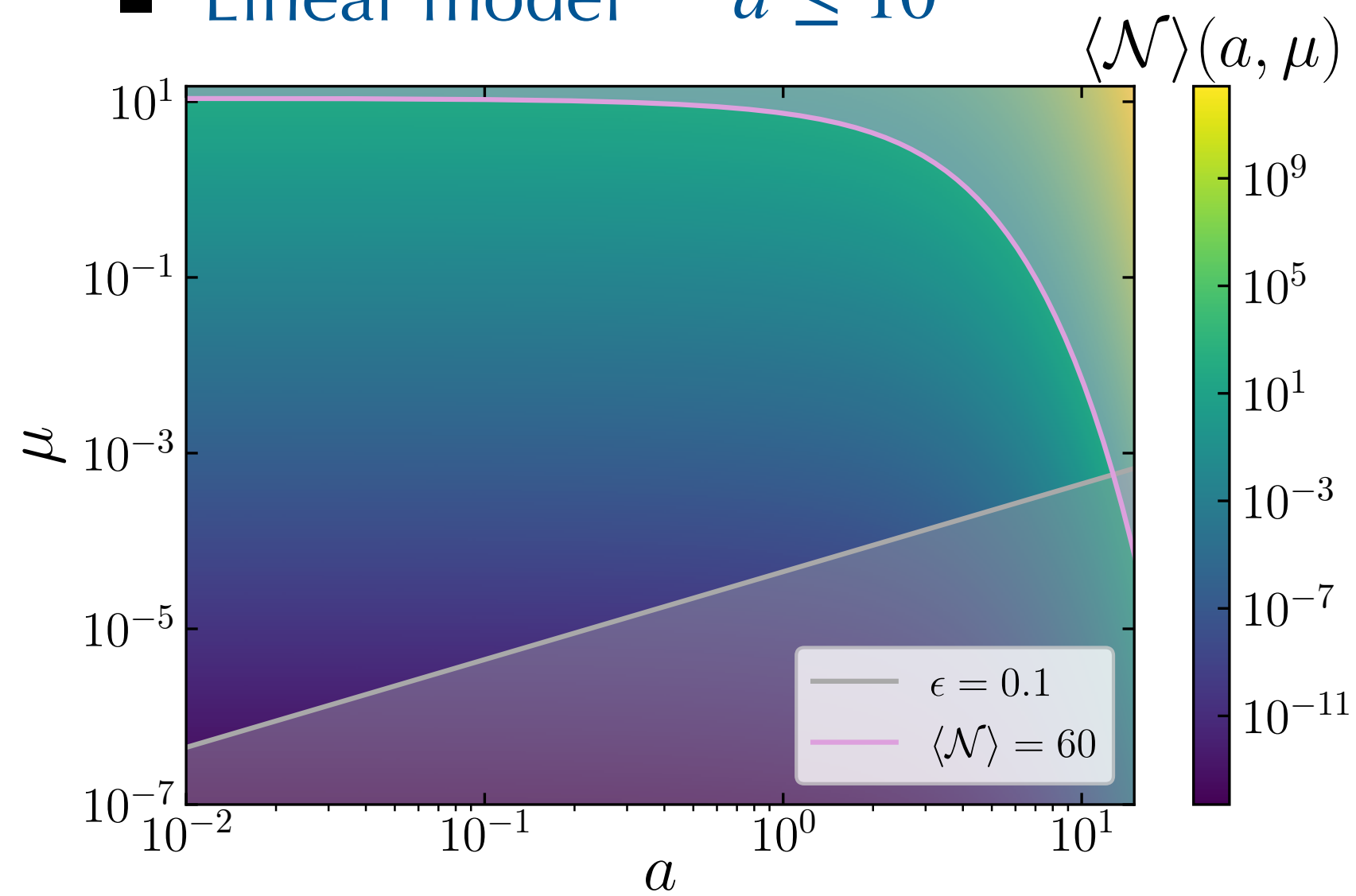
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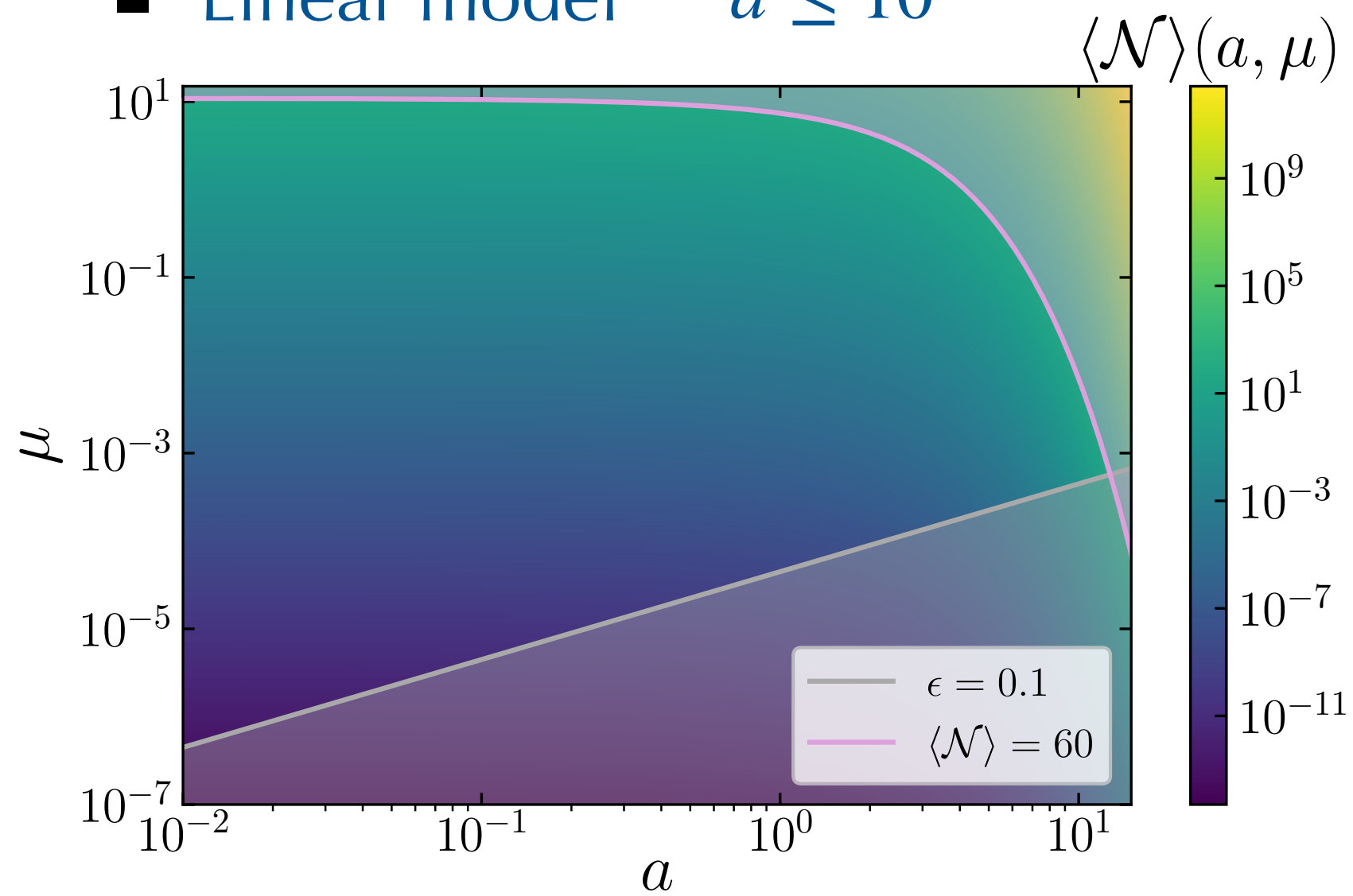
- $\epsilon \ll 1 \Rightarrow a \ll \frac{\Delta\phi}{M_{Pl}}$
- Two regimes: “shallow well” ($a \lesssim 1$)
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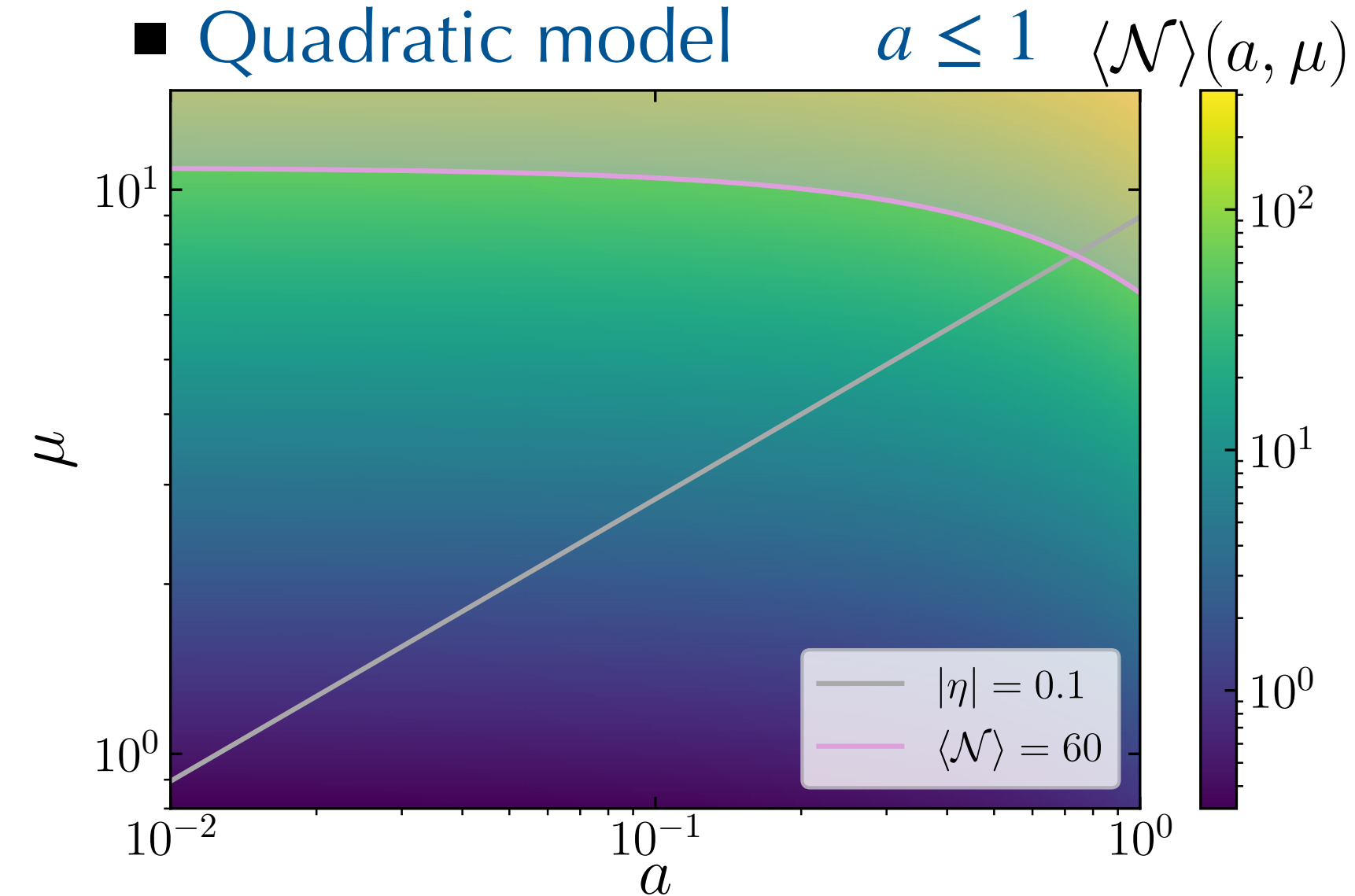
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$$\Delta\phi \ll M_{Pl} \Rightarrow |\eta| \gg \epsilon$$

- Only a “shallow-well” regime

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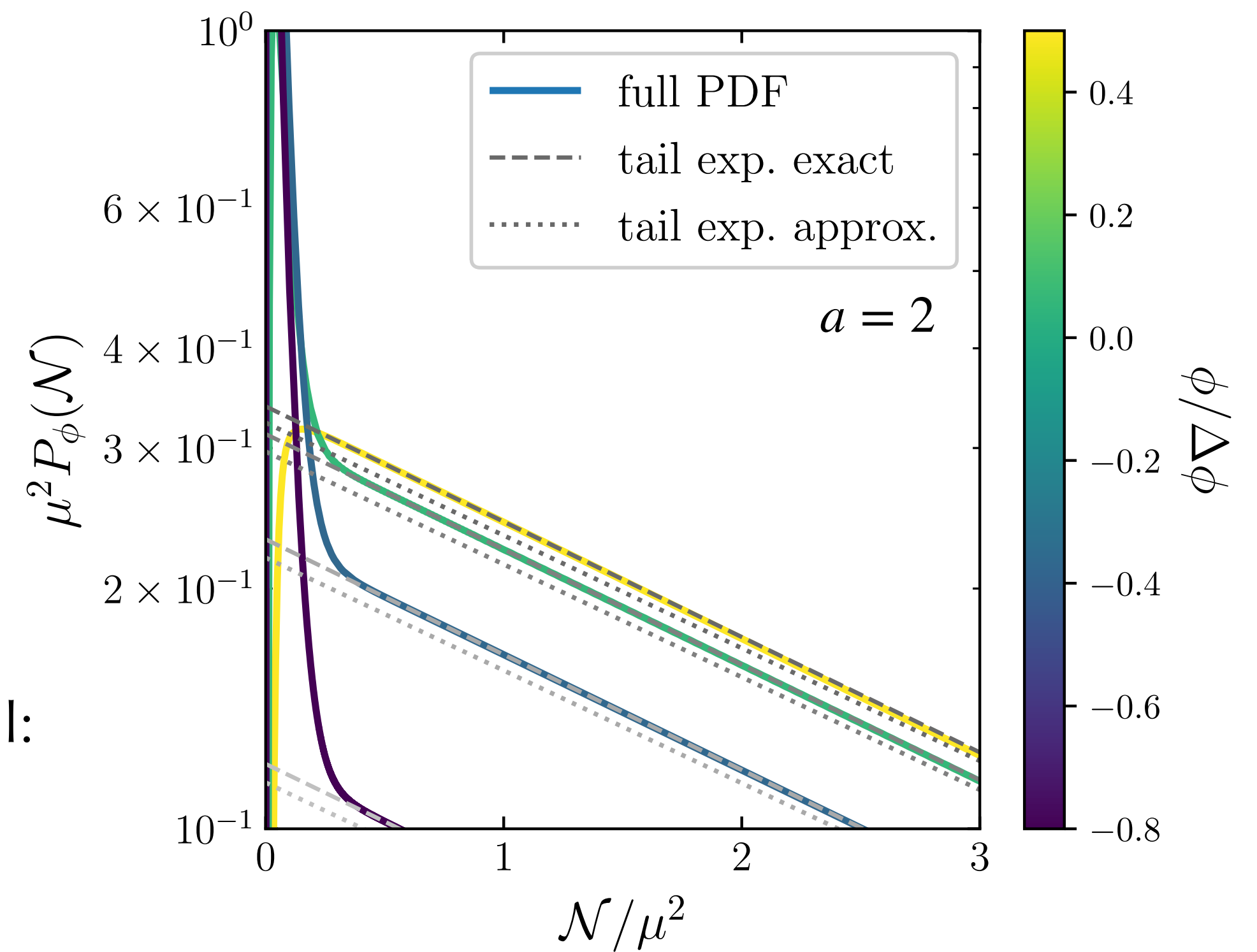
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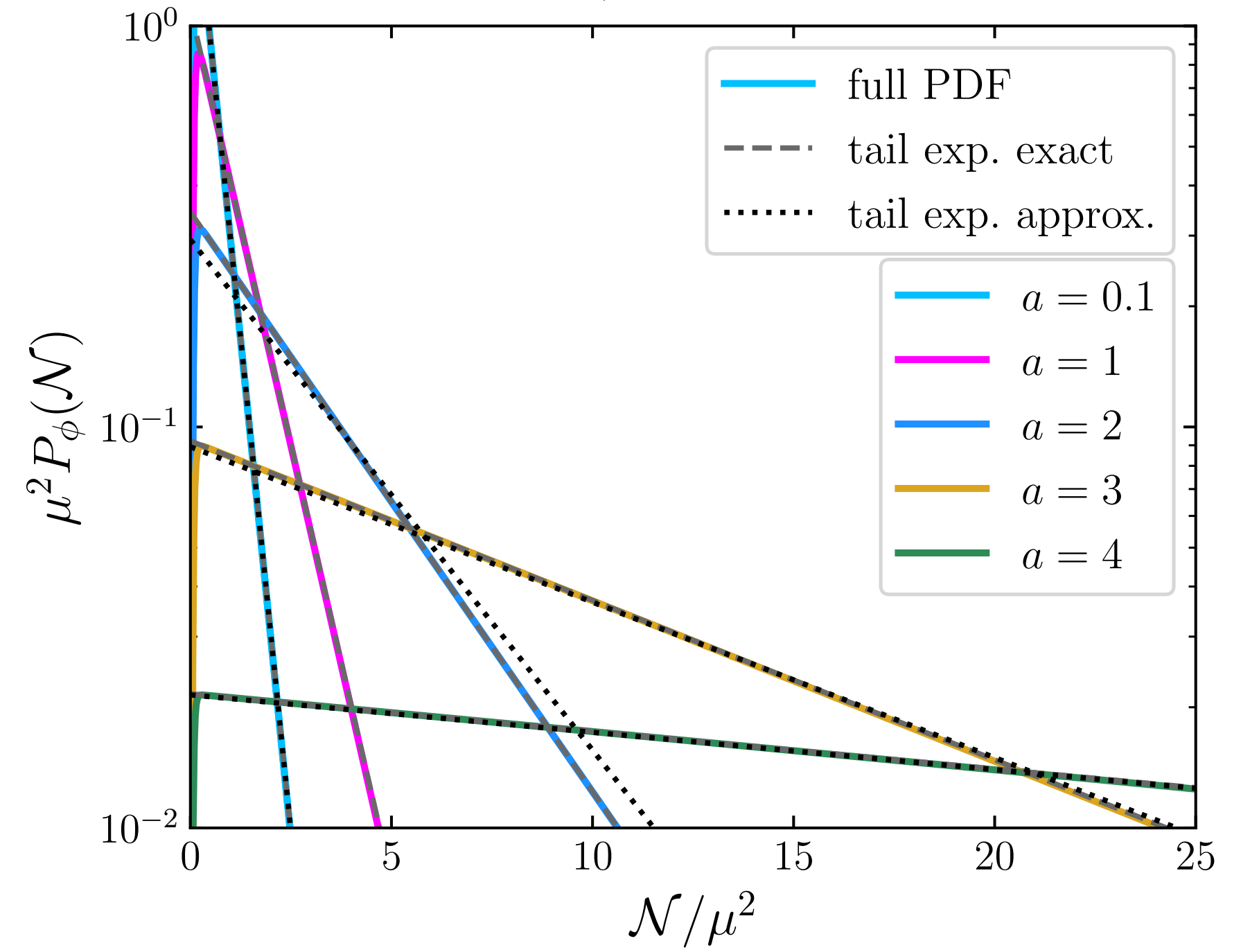
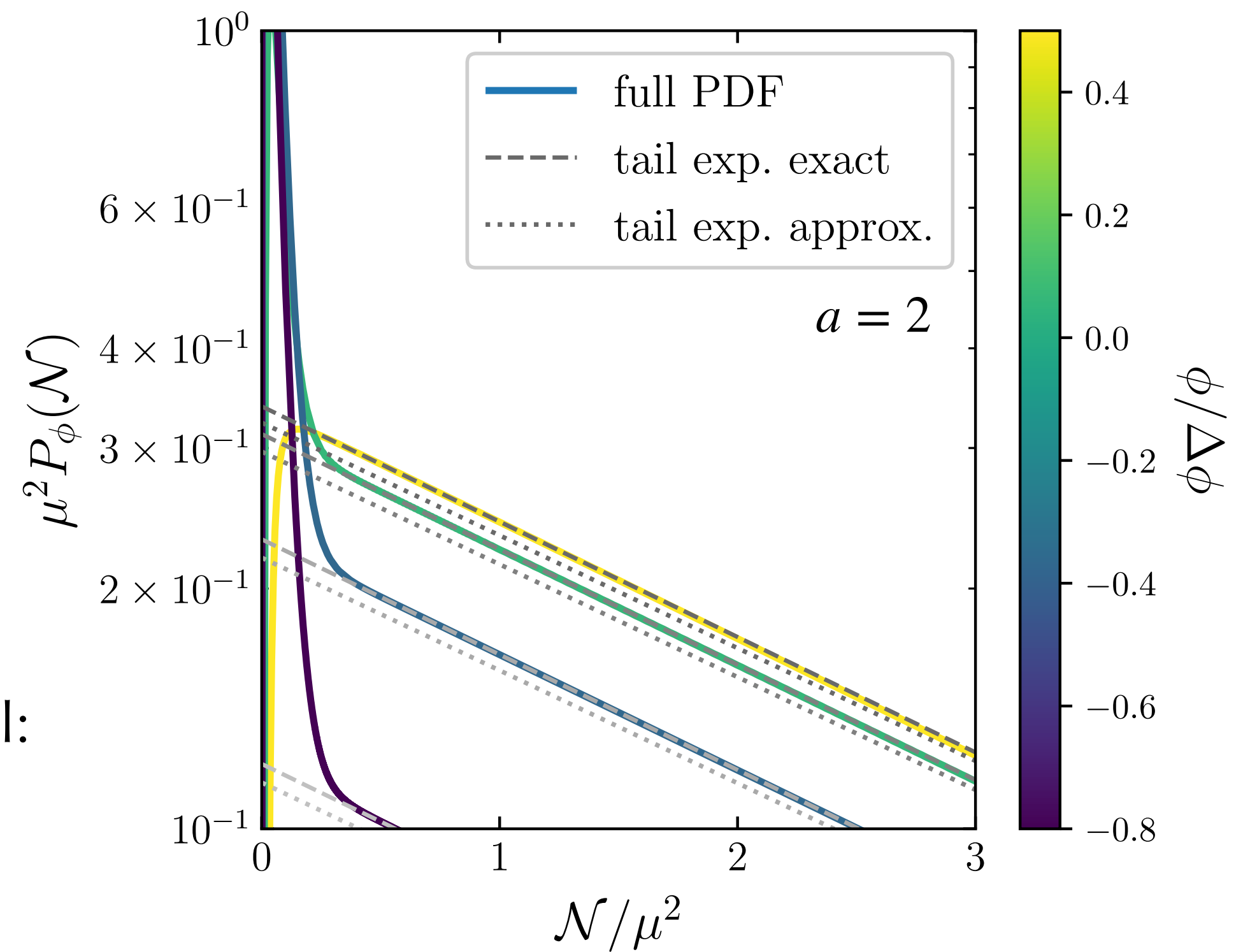
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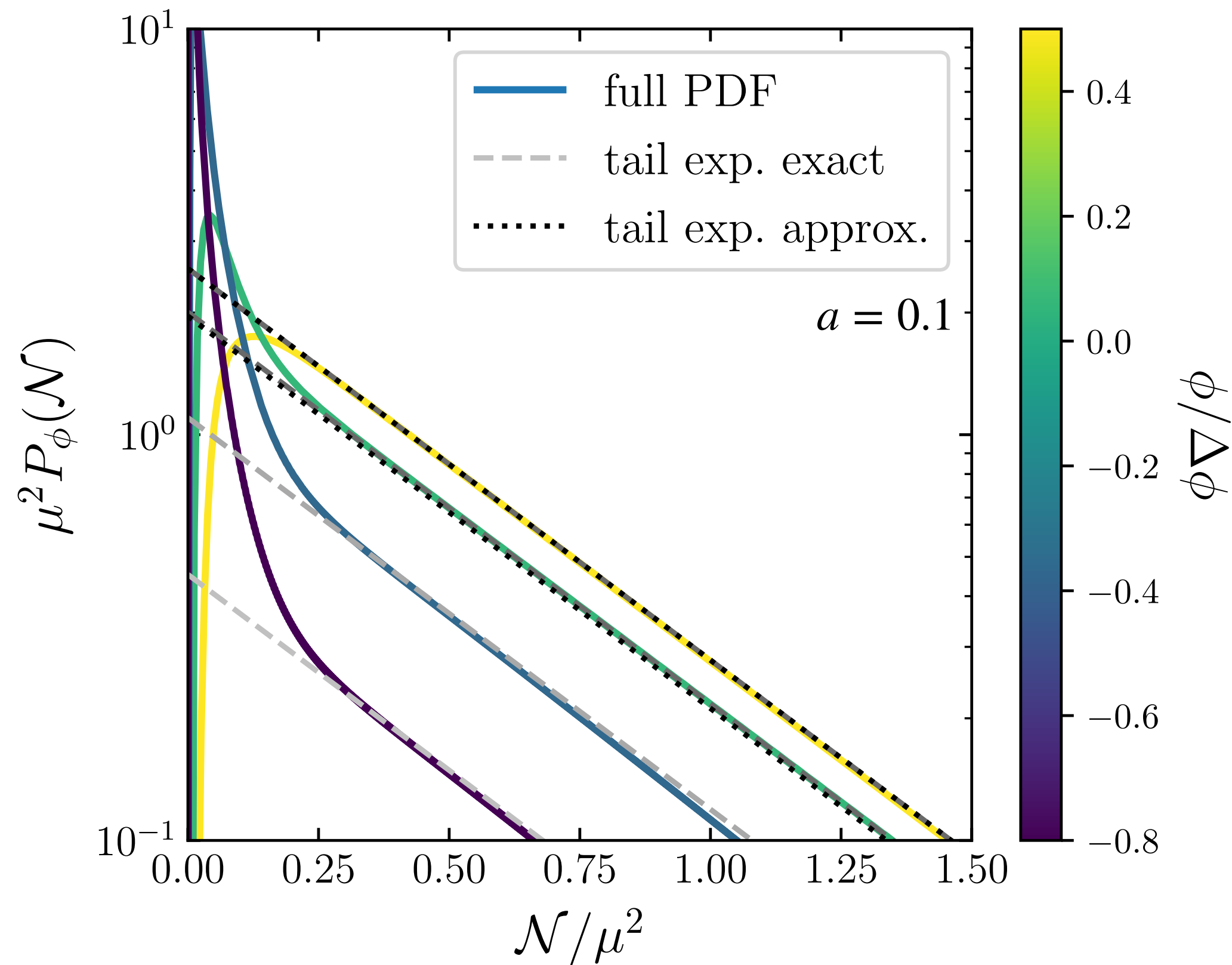
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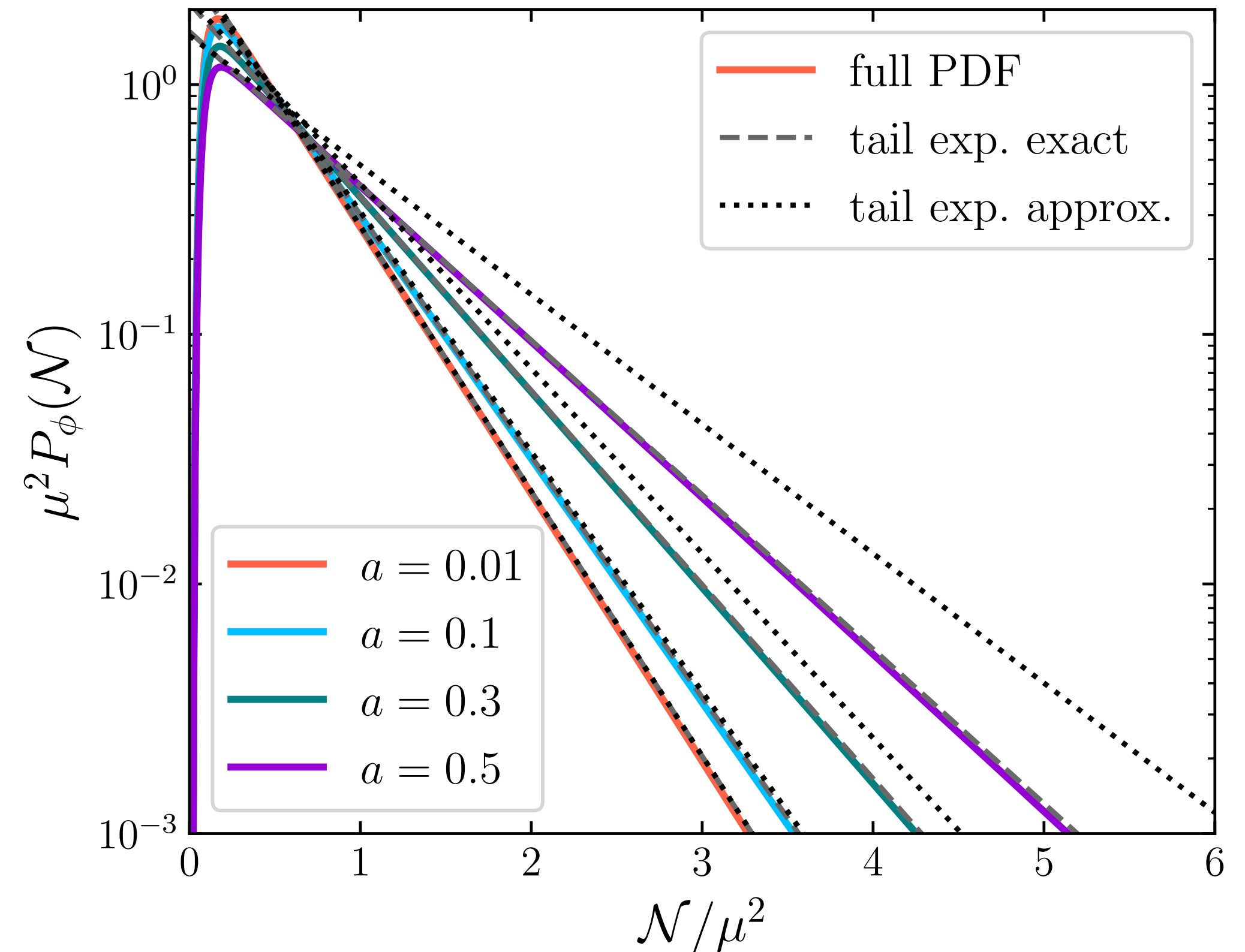
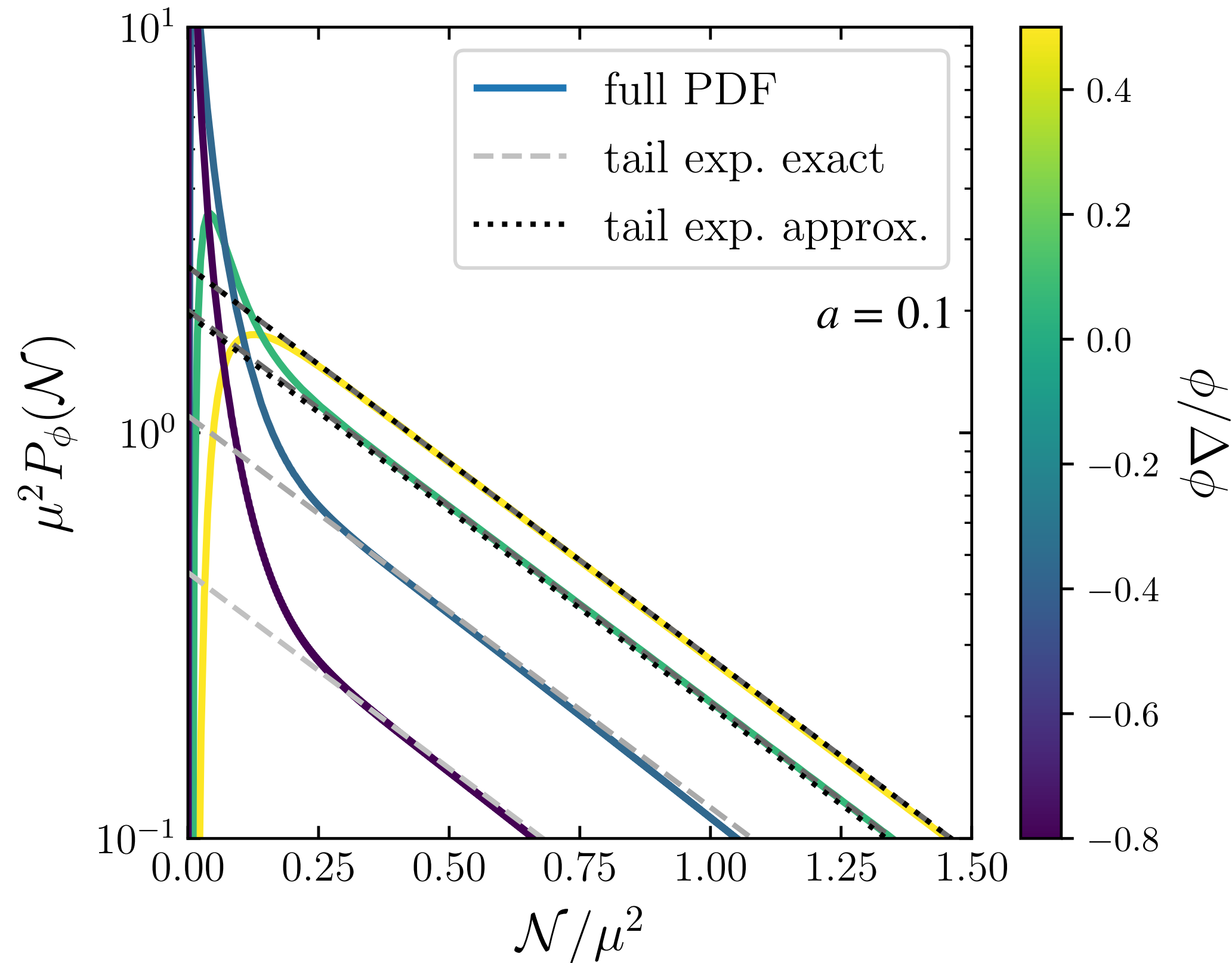


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Similar abundances :

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quadratic model: $\mu \gg \sqrt{a}$ \longrightarrow exponential factor negligible \longrightarrow flat-well limit applies where slow roll satisfied

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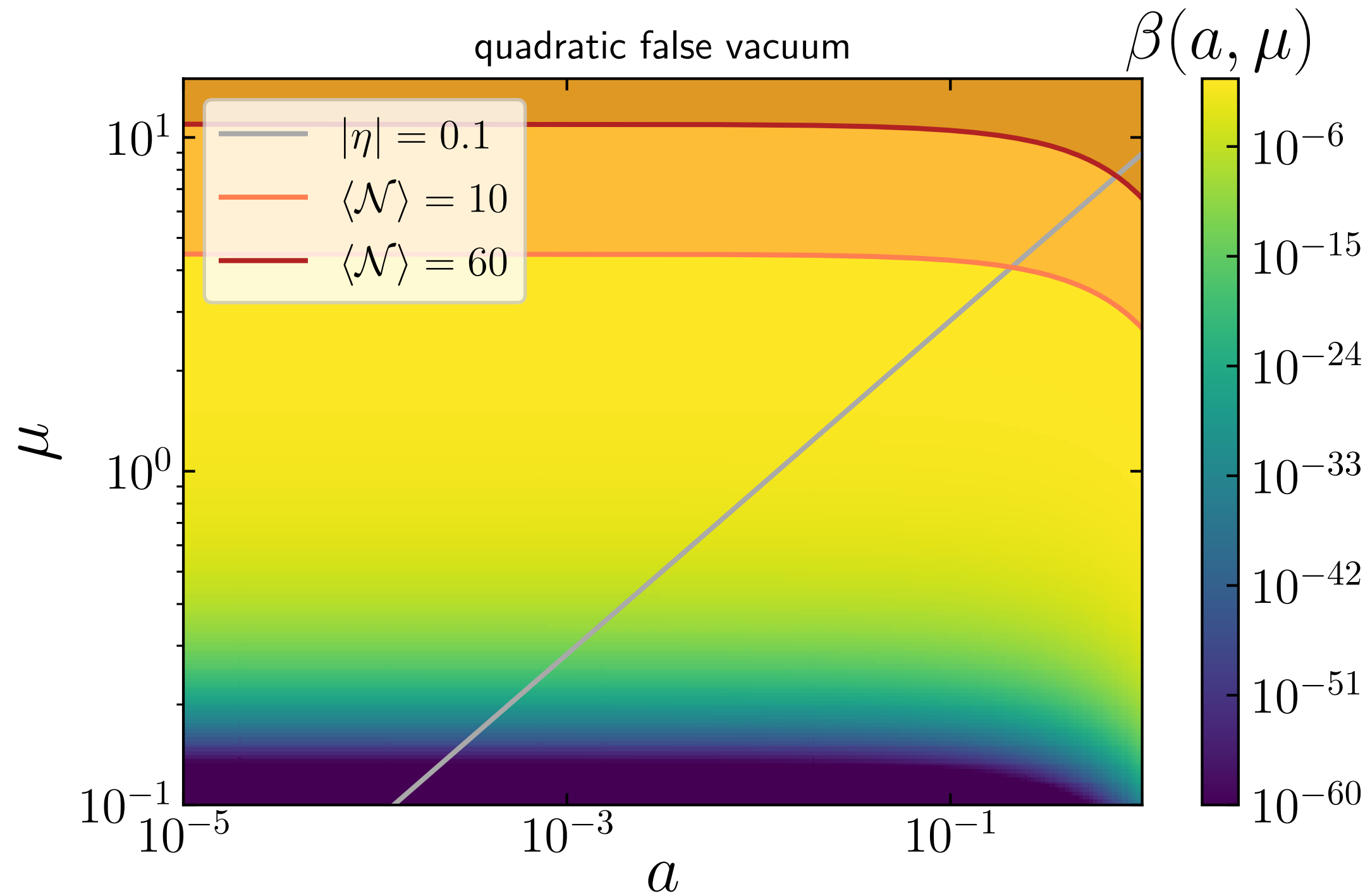
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$$\beta^{lin,deep} \simeq e^{-1} e^{-(2ae^{-a})^2 \frac{\zeta_c}{\mu^2}} \longrightarrow \text{super-exponential dependence on } a \quad \text{PBHs are overproduced when } a \gtrsim 8$$

False vacuum: implications for Primordial Black Holes

Quadratic model



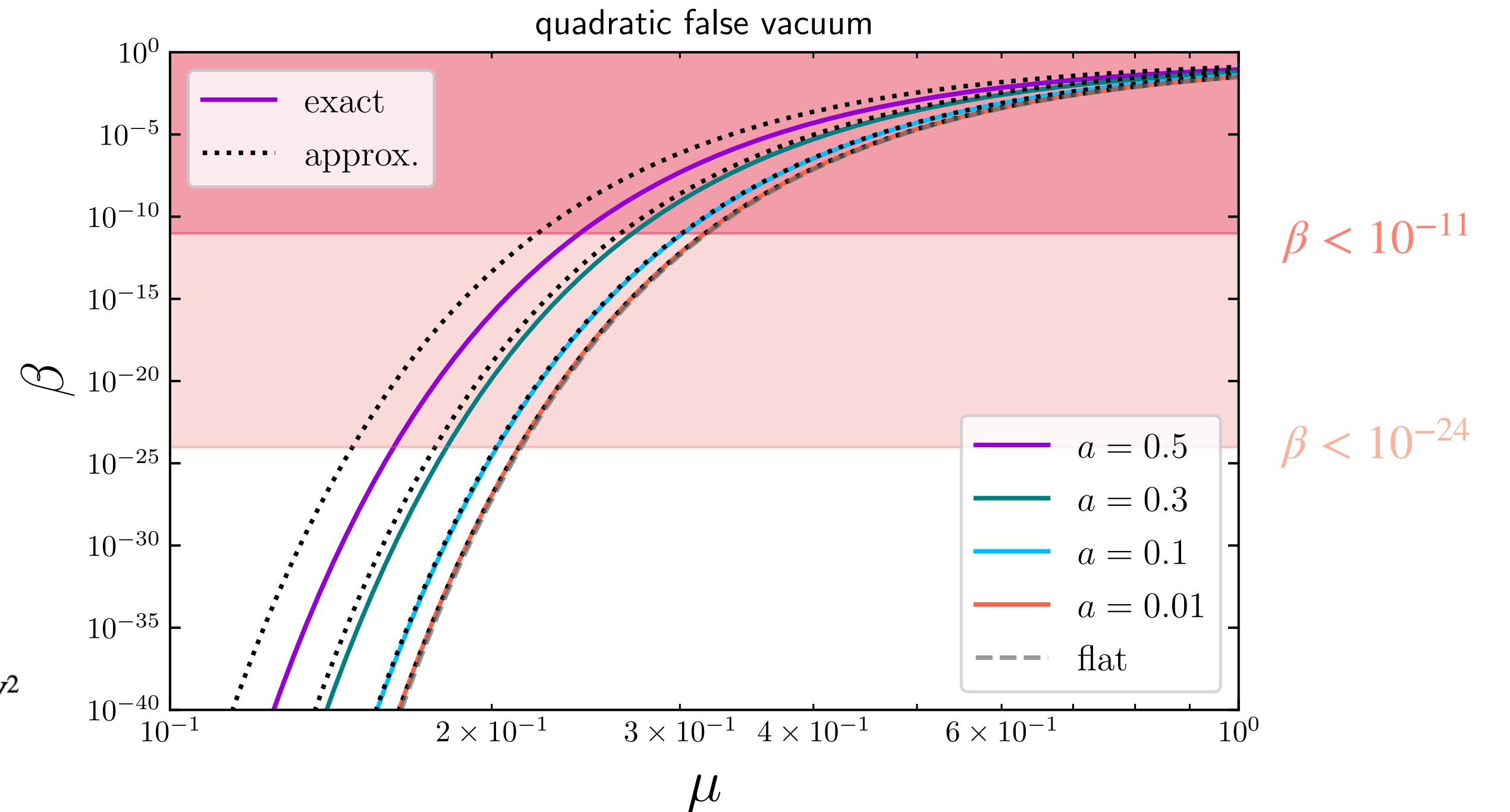
PBH abundance well captured by a flat-well limit ($a = 0$)

If $\mu \ll 1$, tiny amount of PBHs produced

If $\mu \lesssim 1$, PBHs produced with sizable abundance

If $\mu \gtrsim 1$, PBHs overproduced

Quadratic false vacuum



False vacuum: implications for Primordial Black Holes

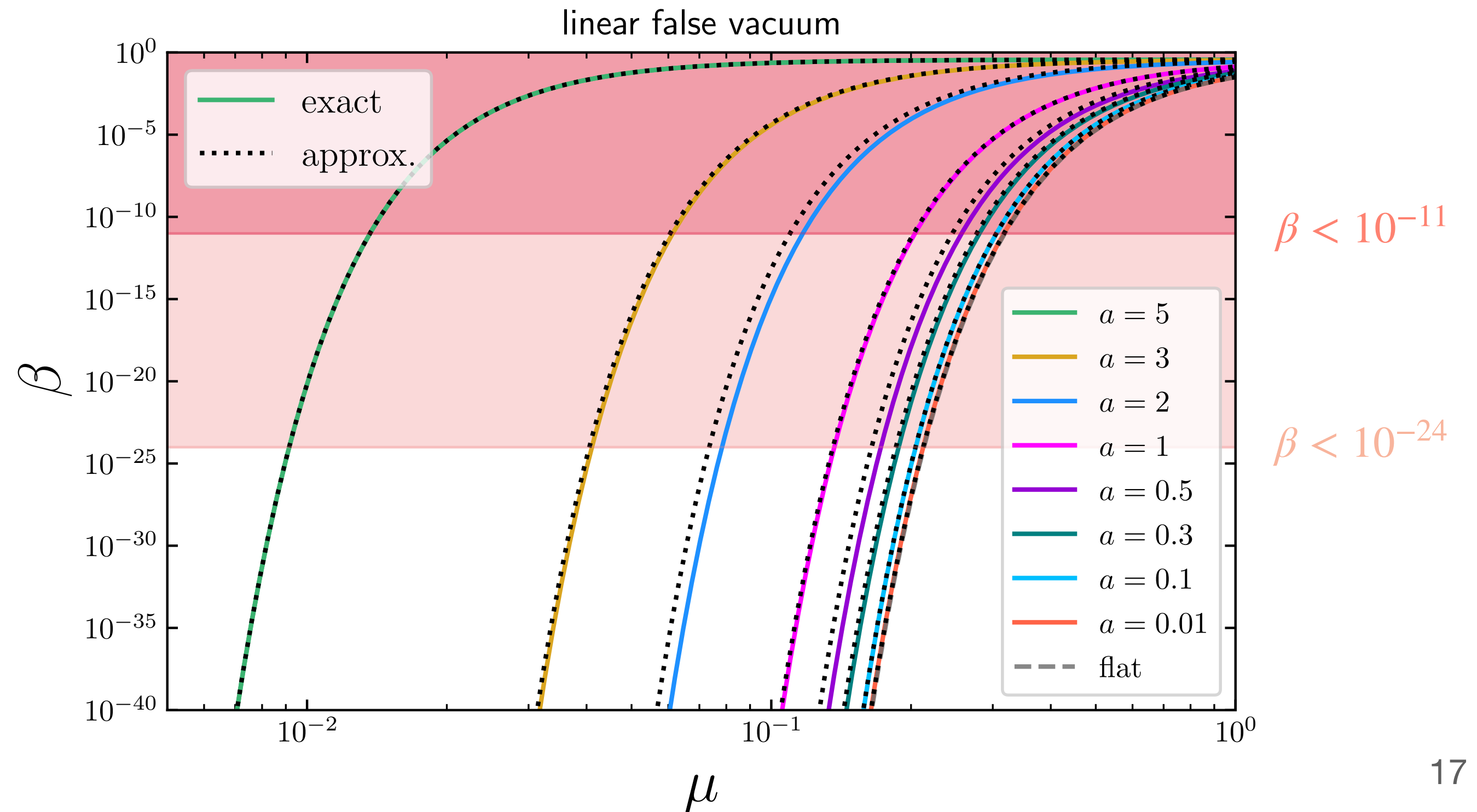
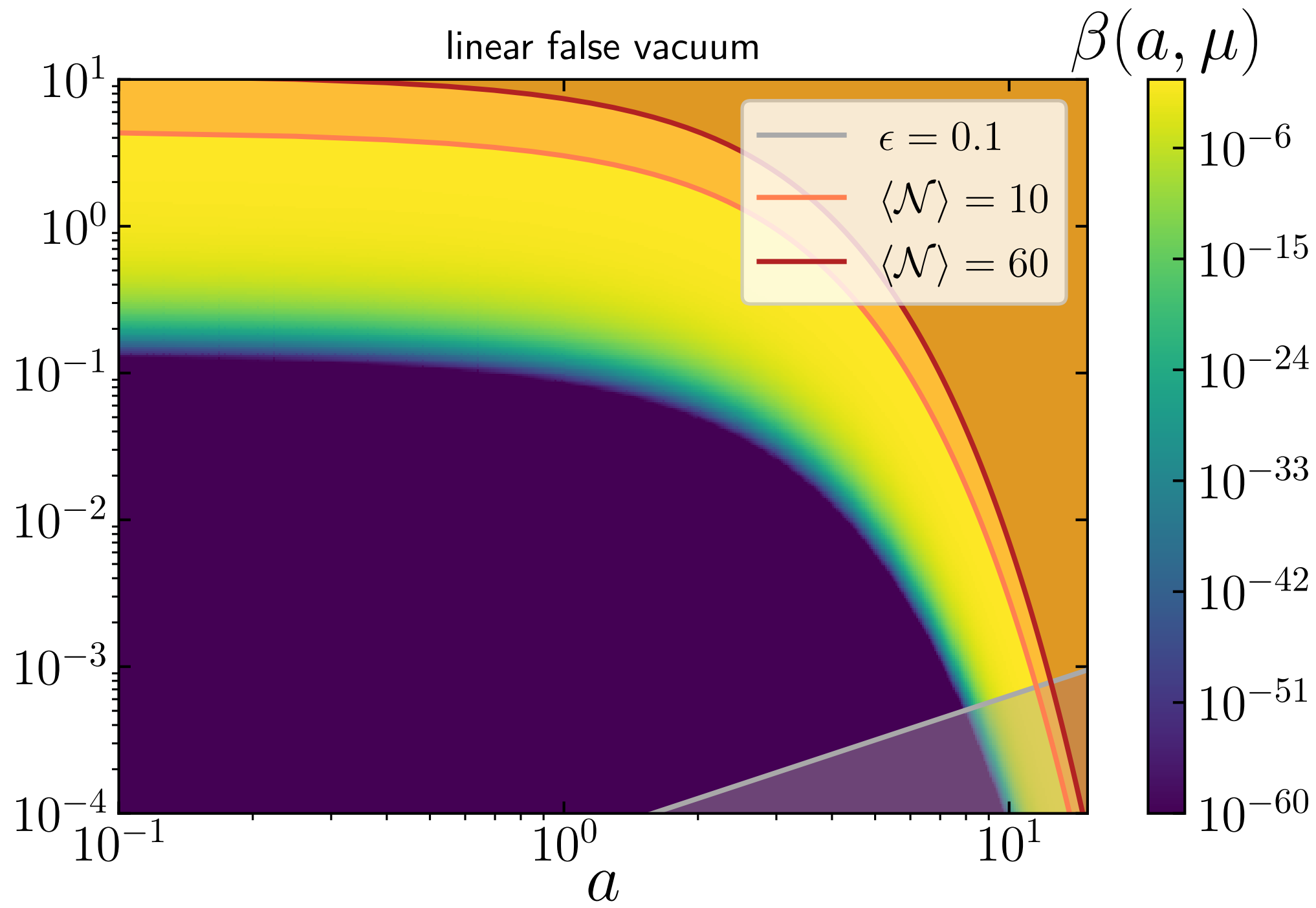
Linear model

Additional regimes:

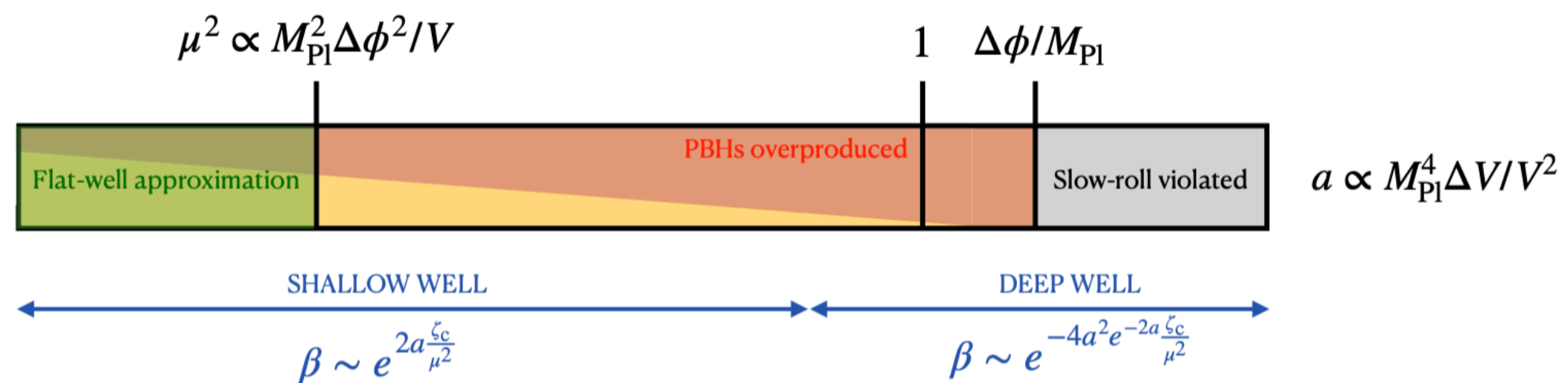
If $\mu^2 \ll a \ll 1$ (μ small):

large deviations from flat-well, still shallow-well domain;
non-trivial imprint of the false-vacuum profile

If $a \sim \mathcal{O}(1)$: large PBH production



Linear false vacuum



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deep (PBHs abundantly (over-) produced)
- More realistic realisation (quadratic potential) : only shallow vacuum possible,
otherwise slow-roll violation or PBHs overproduction

Take home message

- PBHs are interesting objects to learn more about inflation beyond the CMB probed regime
- PBHs may be produced by large fluctuations during inflation: quantum diffusion cannot be neglected; it can be incorporated by the stochastic δN formalism: non gaussian tails
- False vacuum state during inflation:
quantum diffusion may enable the inflaton to escape from the false vacuum via stochastic tunnelling
- PBHs may be produced by these large fluctuations:
false vacua may be shallow (flat-well limit applies), mild (PBHs abundance retains specific features of false vacuum profile)
deep (PBHs abundantly (over-) produced)
- More realistic realisation (quadratic potential) : only shallow vacuum possible,
otherwise slow-roll violation or PBHs overproduction
- Generalisation beyond slow roll

Take home message

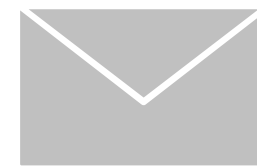
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- Generalisation beyond slow roll
- Impact of non-gaussian tails on different properties of PBHs, and in different scenarios,
even at CMB and LSS scales



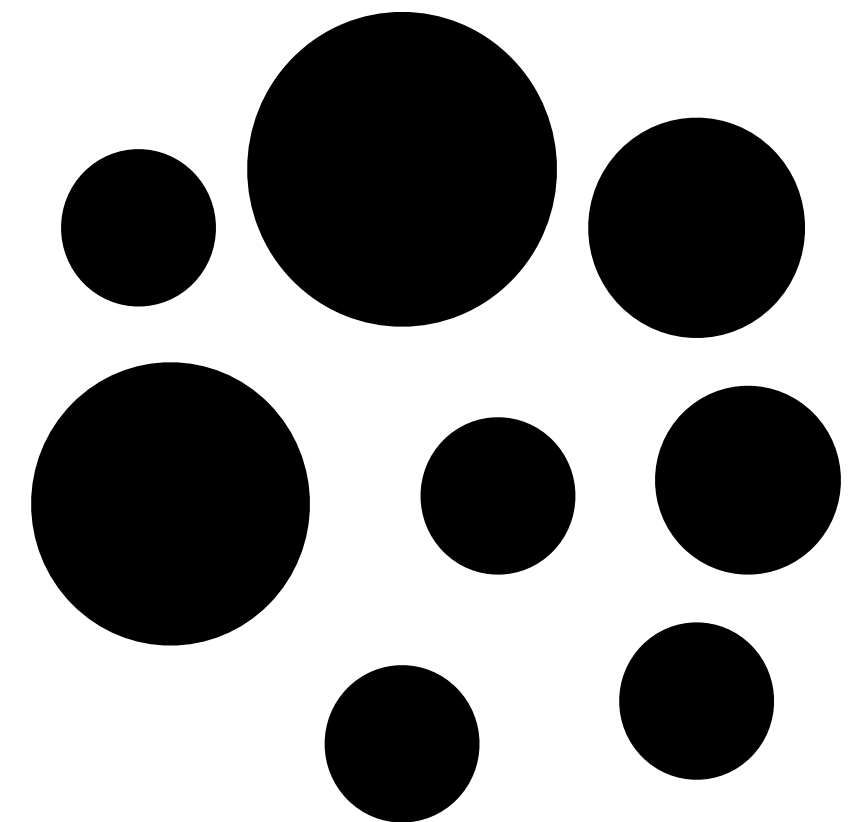
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Many thanks for the attention!



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False vacuum: preserving slow roll

Slow roll requires: $|\ddot{\phi}| \ll 3H|\dot{\phi}|, |V_{,\phi}|$

What happens if $|V_{,\phi}| = 0$?

$$\ddot{\phi} + 3H(\phi, \dot{\phi})\dot{\phi} + V_{,\phi} = 0 \quad H^2(\phi, \dot{\phi}) = \frac{1}{3M_{Pl}^2} \left(V(\phi) + \frac{\dot{\phi}^2}{2} \right)$$

Linearised Klein-Gordon equation

$$\ddot{\phi} + 3H_0\dot{\phi} + m^2\phi = 0 \quad H_0^2 = \frac{V_0}{3M_{Pl}^2}$$

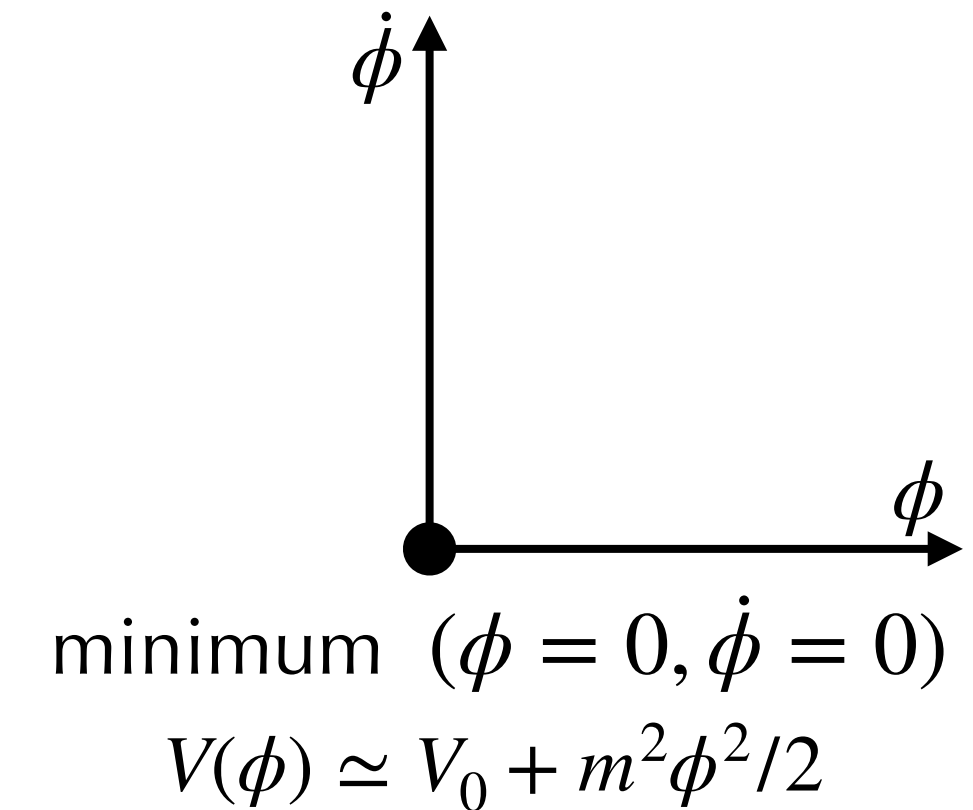
$$\phi = A \exp \left[-\frac{3}{2} \left(1 + \sqrt{1 - \frac{4m^2}{9H_0^2}} \right) H_0 t \right] + B \exp \left[-\frac{3}{2} \left(-1 - \sqrt{1 - \frac{4m^2}{9H_0^2}} \right) H_0 t \right]$$

$m \gg 3H_0/2$: damped oscillations, friction term $3H\dot{\phi}$ subdominant: far from slow-roll regime

$$m \ll 3H_0/2 \quad \phi \simeq A \exp(-3H_0 t) + B \exp\left(-\frac{1}{3} \frac{m^2}{H_0^2} H_0 t\right) \simeq B \exp\left(-\frac{m^2 t}{3H_0}\right)$$

$$3H\dot{\phi} \simeq -m^2\phi = -V_{,\phi}(\phi) \quad \ddot{\phi} \simeq \frac{m^4}{9H_0^2} \phi = \frac{m^2}{9H_0^2} V_{,\phi} \ll V_{,\phi}(\phi)$$

slow-roll regime: acceleration term subdominant
(m^2/H_0^2 - suppressed)



Primordial black holes: observational constraints

Depends on the mass at which PBHs form

$10^9 g < M_{PBH} < 10^{16} g \longrightarrow$ from $\beta < 10^{-24}$ to $\beta < 10^{-17}$

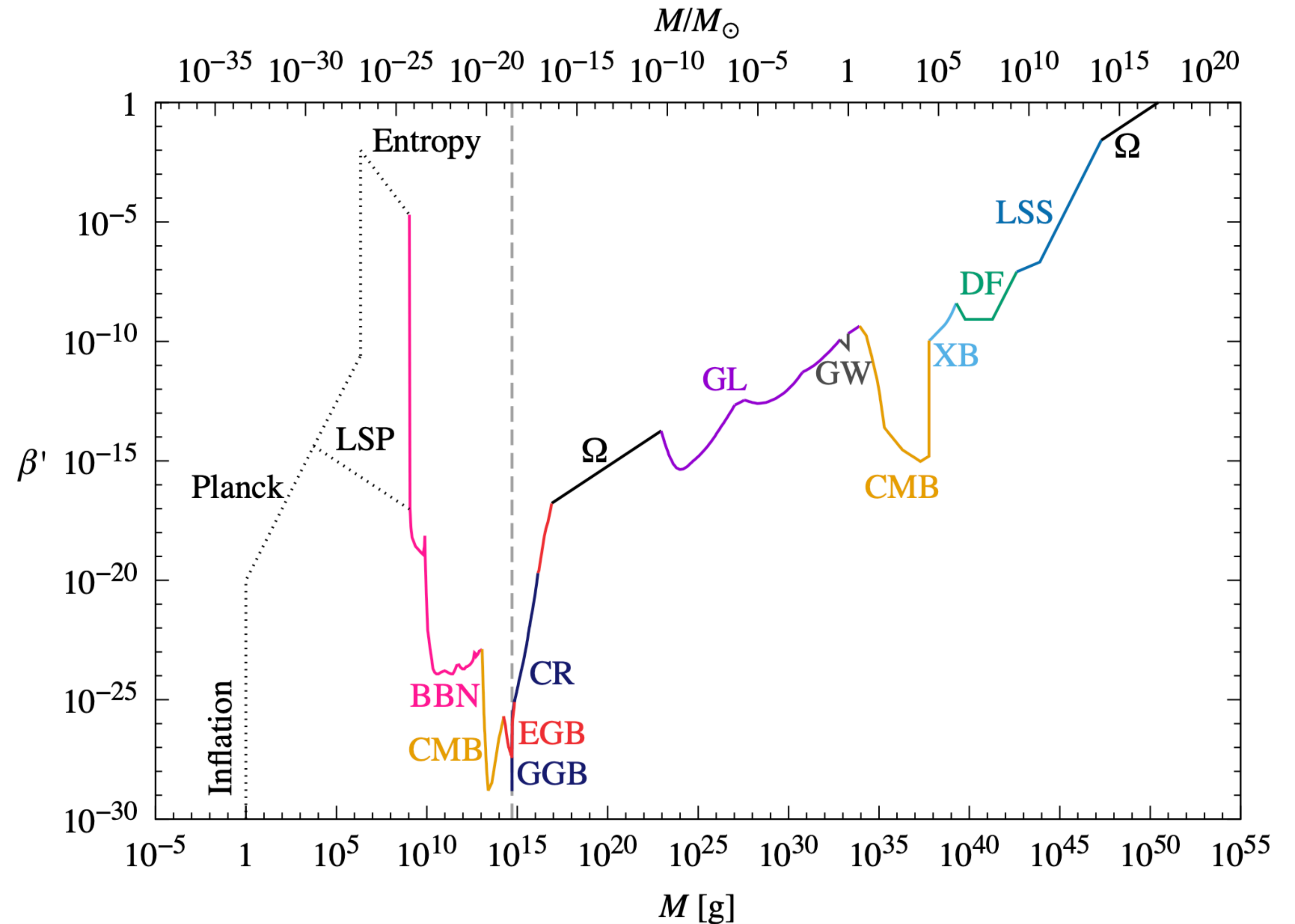
$10^{16} g < M_{PBH} < 10^{50} g \longrightarrow$ from $\beta < 10^{-11}$ to $\beta < 10^{-5}$

$M_{PBH} < 10^9 g$

Not yet evaporated:
no direct observational constraints

PBH Hawking evaporation on Big Bang Nucleosynthesis and on the extragalactic photon background

Gravitational and astrophysical effects

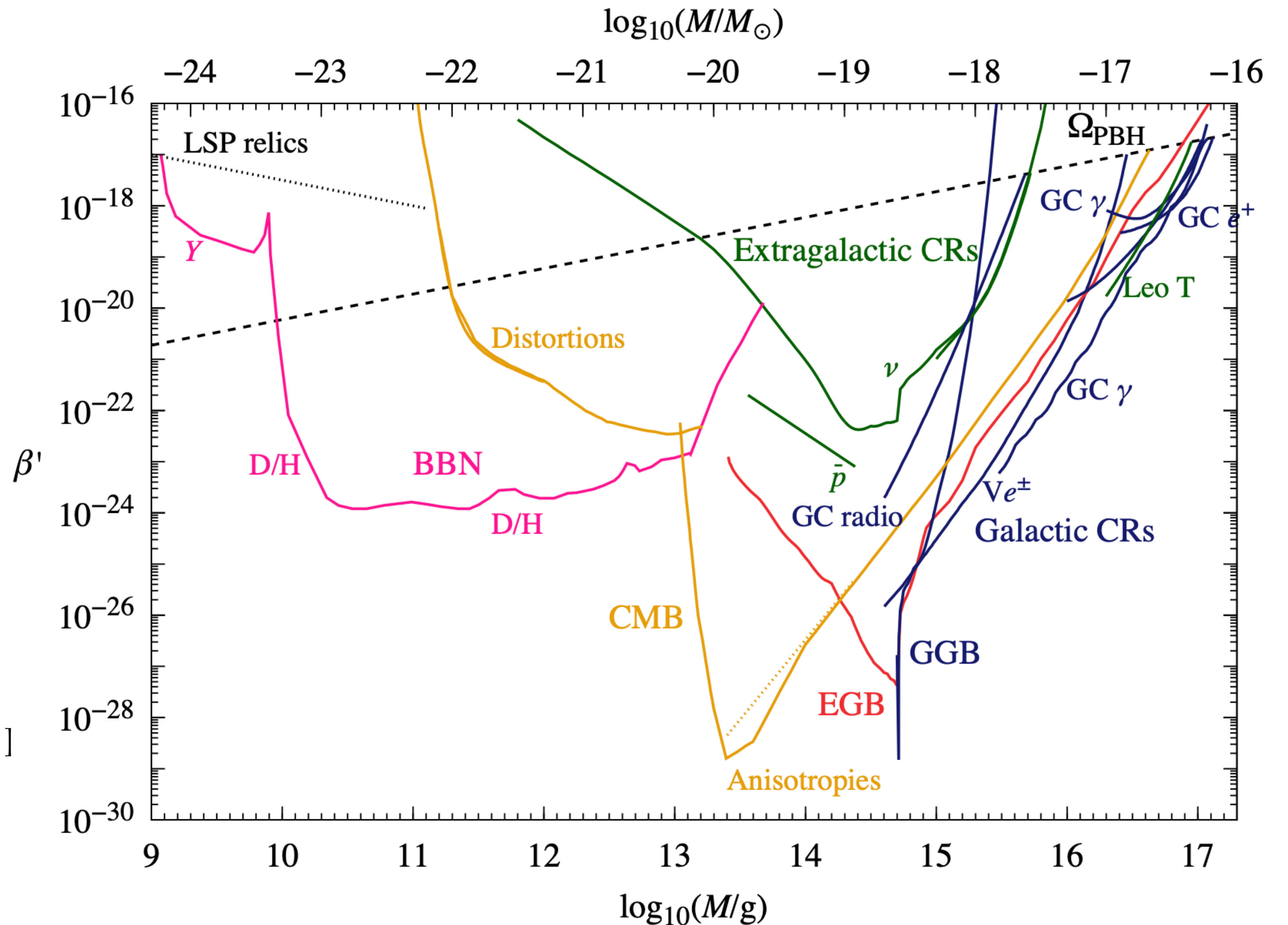


B. Carr, K. Kohri, Y. Sendouda, J. Yokoyama [2021]
Constraints on Primordial Black Holes

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