

# THE SPECTRUM OF GLOBAL AXION STRINGS

Mathieu Kaltschmidt

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based on [2401.17253](#) with K. Saikawa, J. Redondo & A. Vaquero  
and *if time allows* work in progress with J. Redondo, I. Y. Rybak & A. Drew

*2nd General Meeting of the COST Action Cosmic WISPerS*  
Istanbul, September 3rd 2024

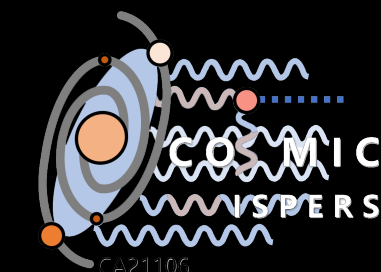
Background: G. Pierobon



Departamento de  
Física Teórica  
Universidad Zaragoza



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Universidad Zaragoza



**cost**  
EUROPEAN COOPERATION  
IN SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

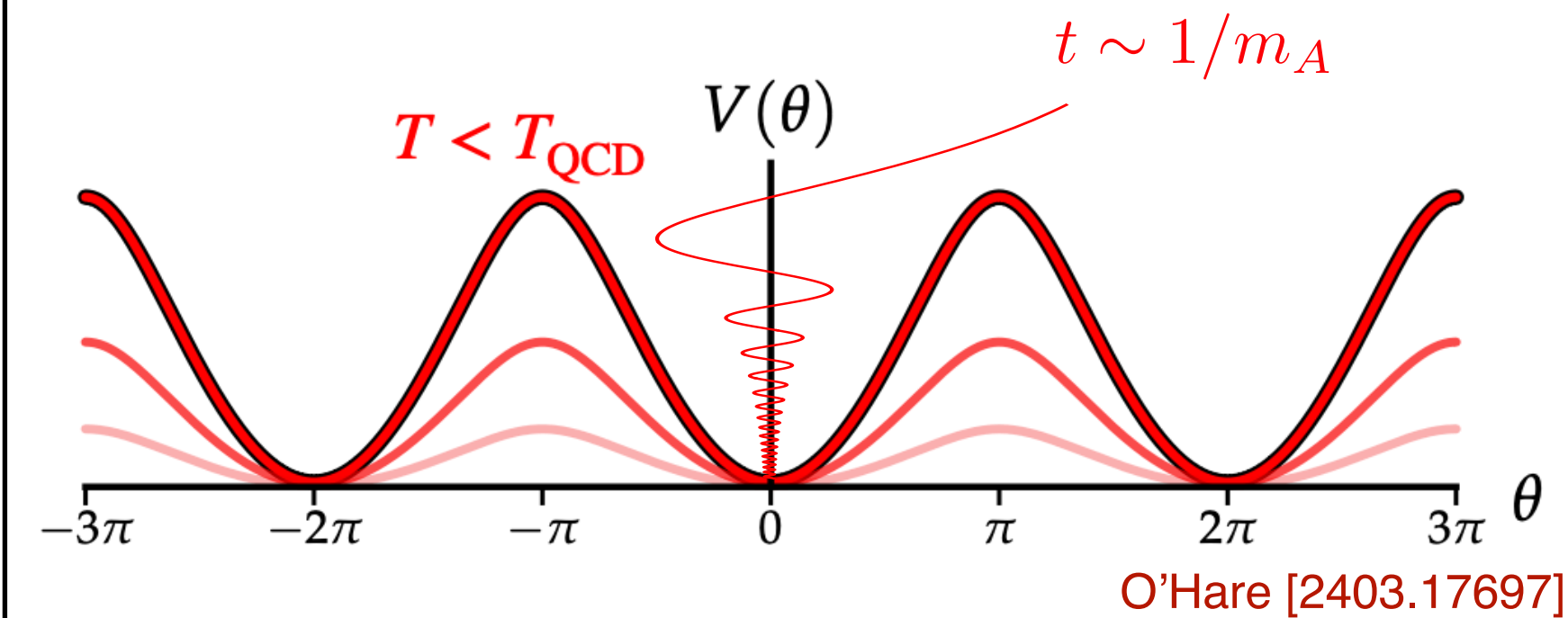


# QCD Axion

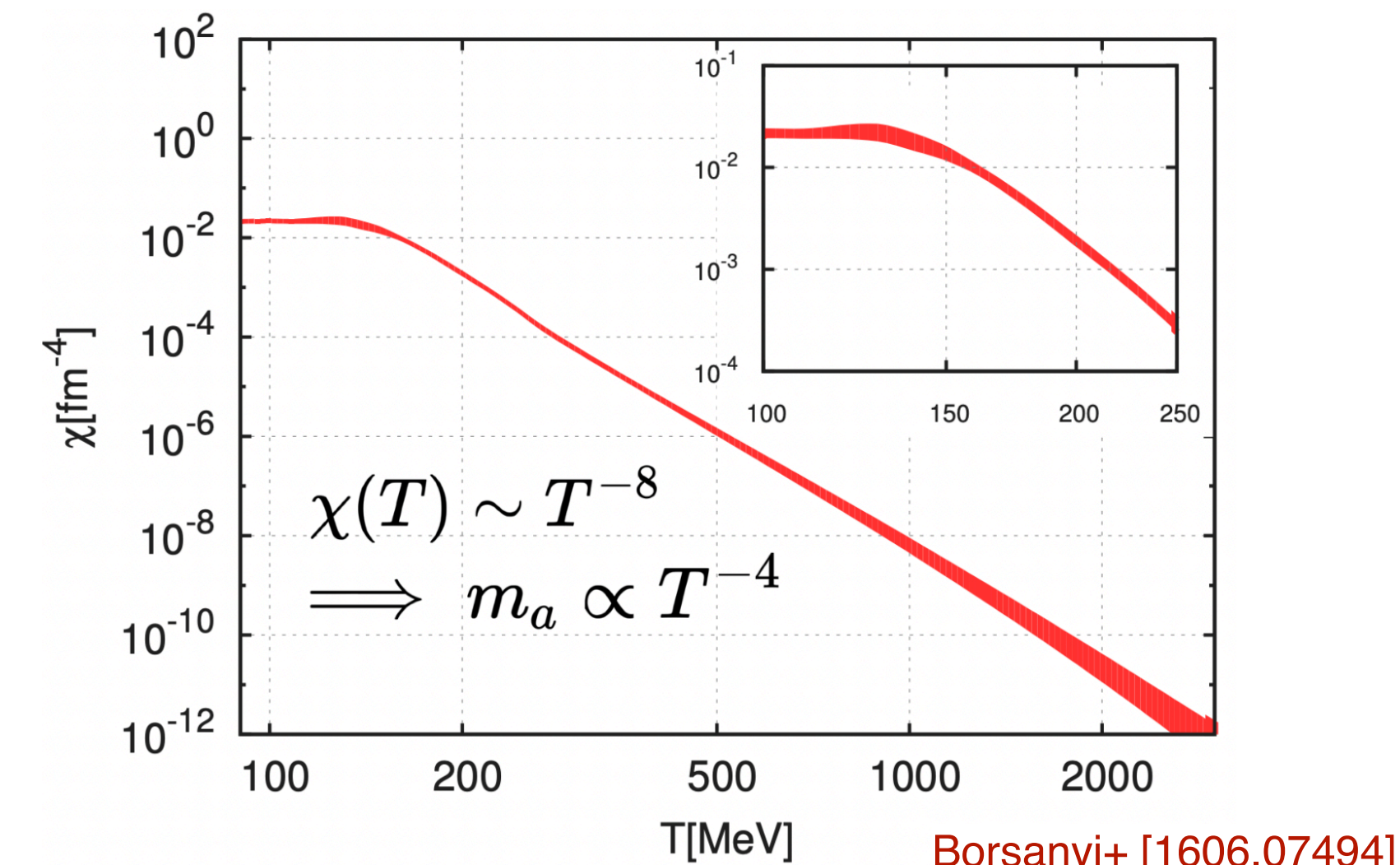
- The QCD Axion
- Pseudo Nambu-Goldstone boson associated with the spontaneous breaking of the global Peccei-Quinn (PQ)  $U(1)$  symmetry at the high-energy scale  $f_a$ .
- Dynamical solution to the strong-CP problem.
- Suitable candidate for Cold Dark Matter.
- Acquires a mass below the QCD scale.

\* Throughout this talk, when we refer to the axion, we implicitly mean the **QCD axion** (i.e. solves the strong CP problem)

$$V(\theta) \approx \chi(T)(1 - \cos \theta) = m_a^2(T) f_a^2 (1 - \cos \theta)$$



$$m_A |\theta|^2 R^3 = \frac{\rho_A}{m_A} R^3 \equiv N_A$$

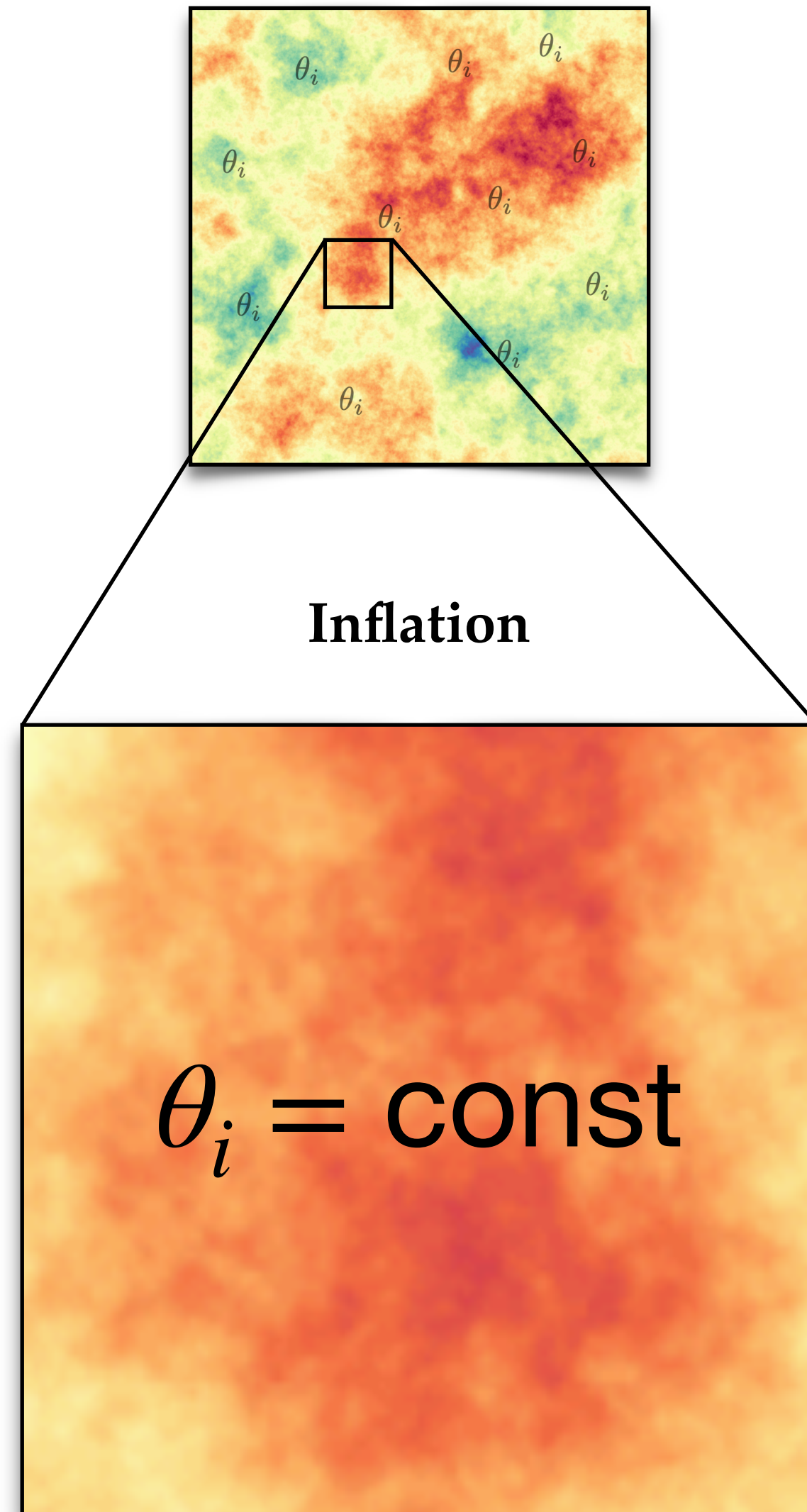




# Pre- vs. Post-Inflationary Scenario

## Pre-Inflationary Scenario

PQ broken before and during inflation

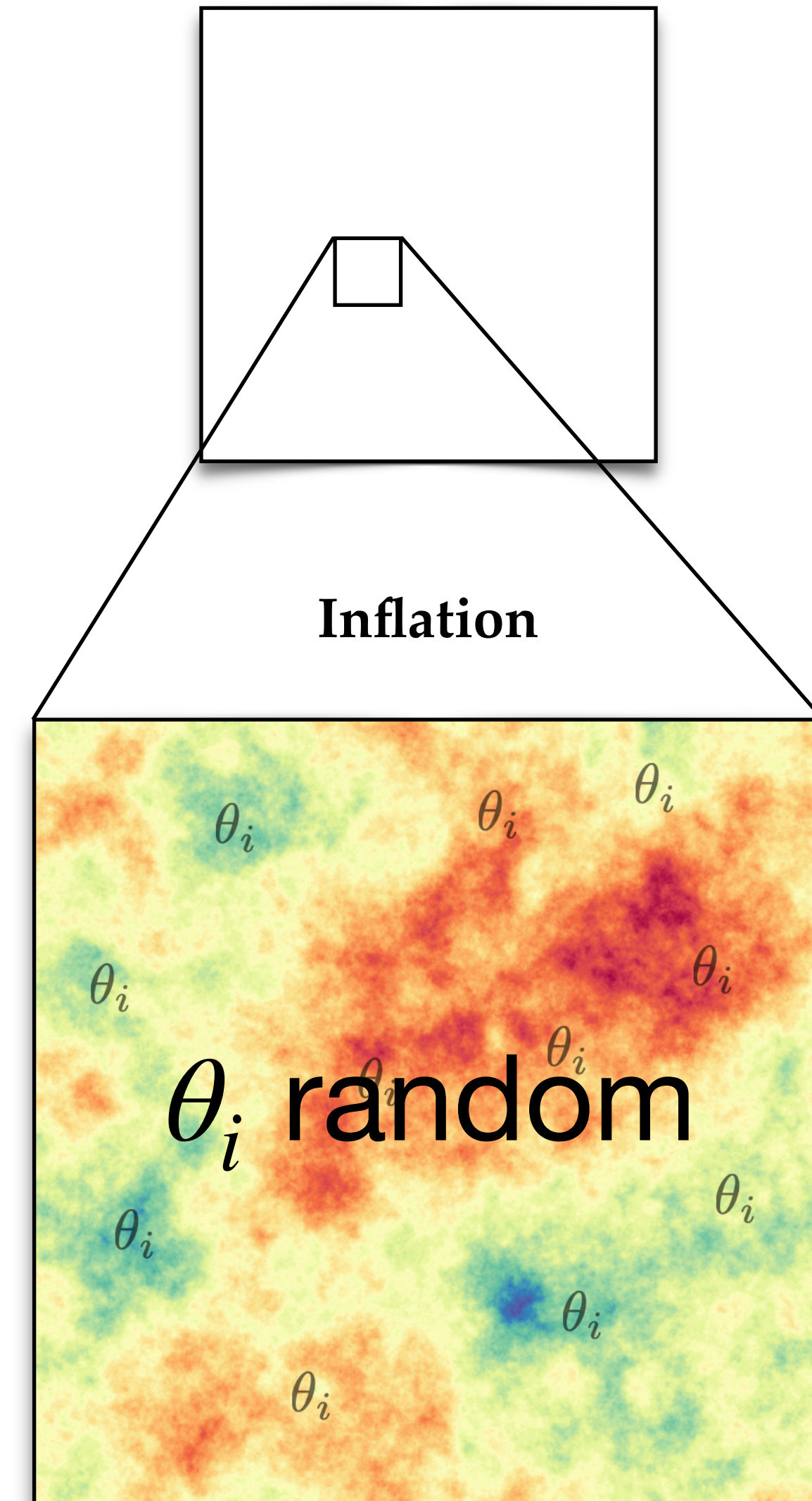


$\theta_i = \text{const}$

$$\sqrt{\langle \theta_i \rangle} = ???$$

## Post-Inflationary Scenario

PQ broken after inflation



$\theta_i$  random

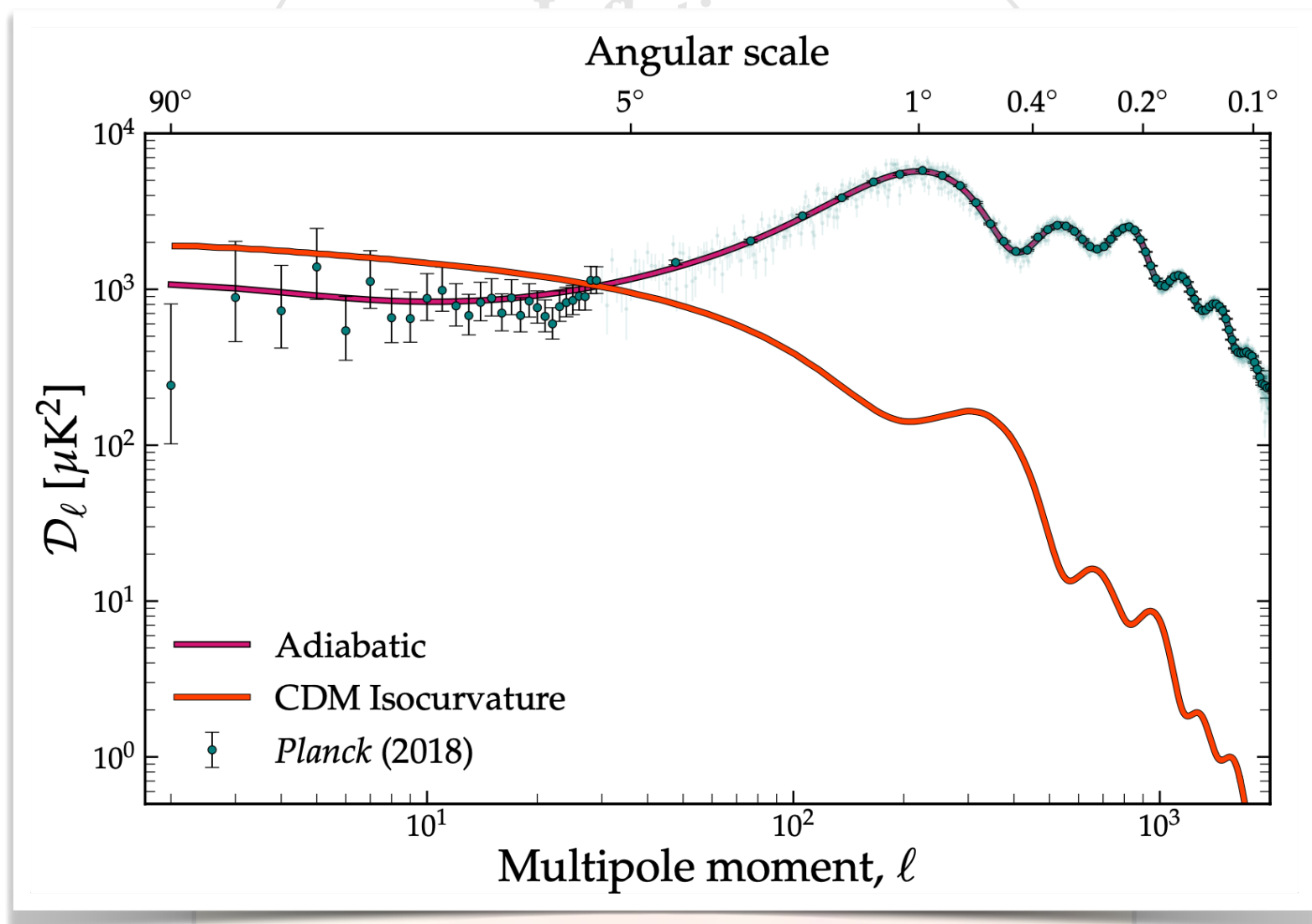
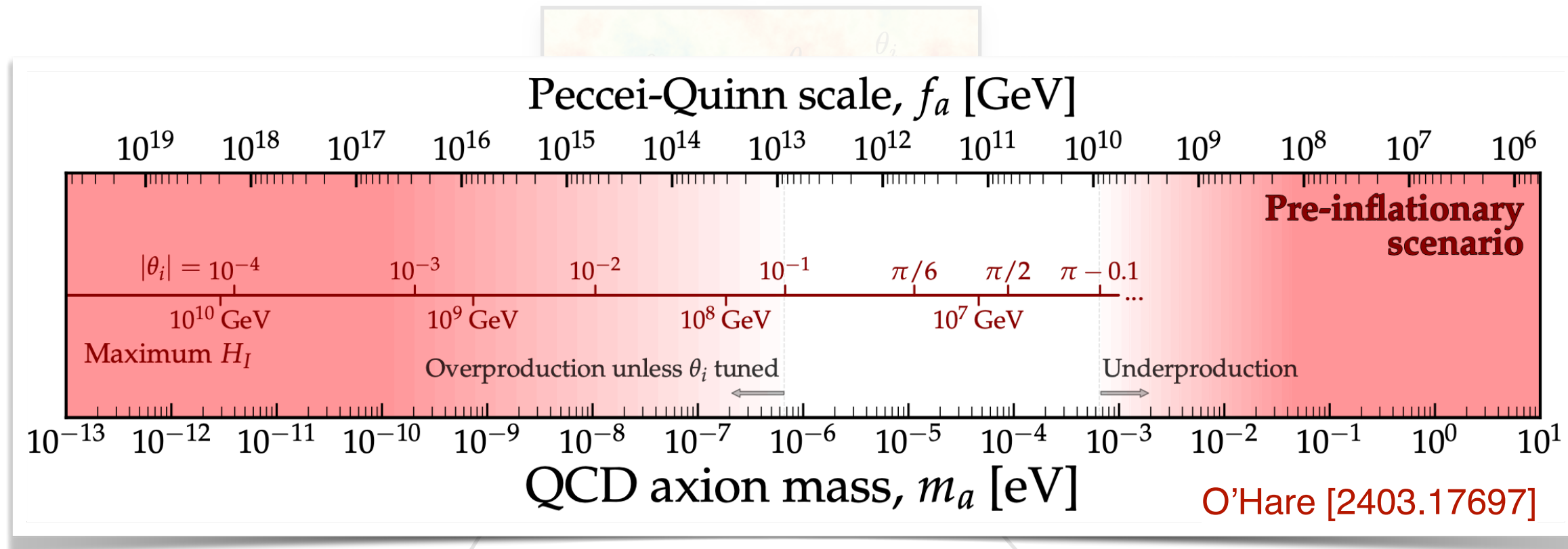
$$\sqrt{\langle \theta_i \rangle} \sim 2$$



# Pre- vs. Post-Inflationary Scenario

## Pre-Inflationary Scenario

PQ broken before and during inflation

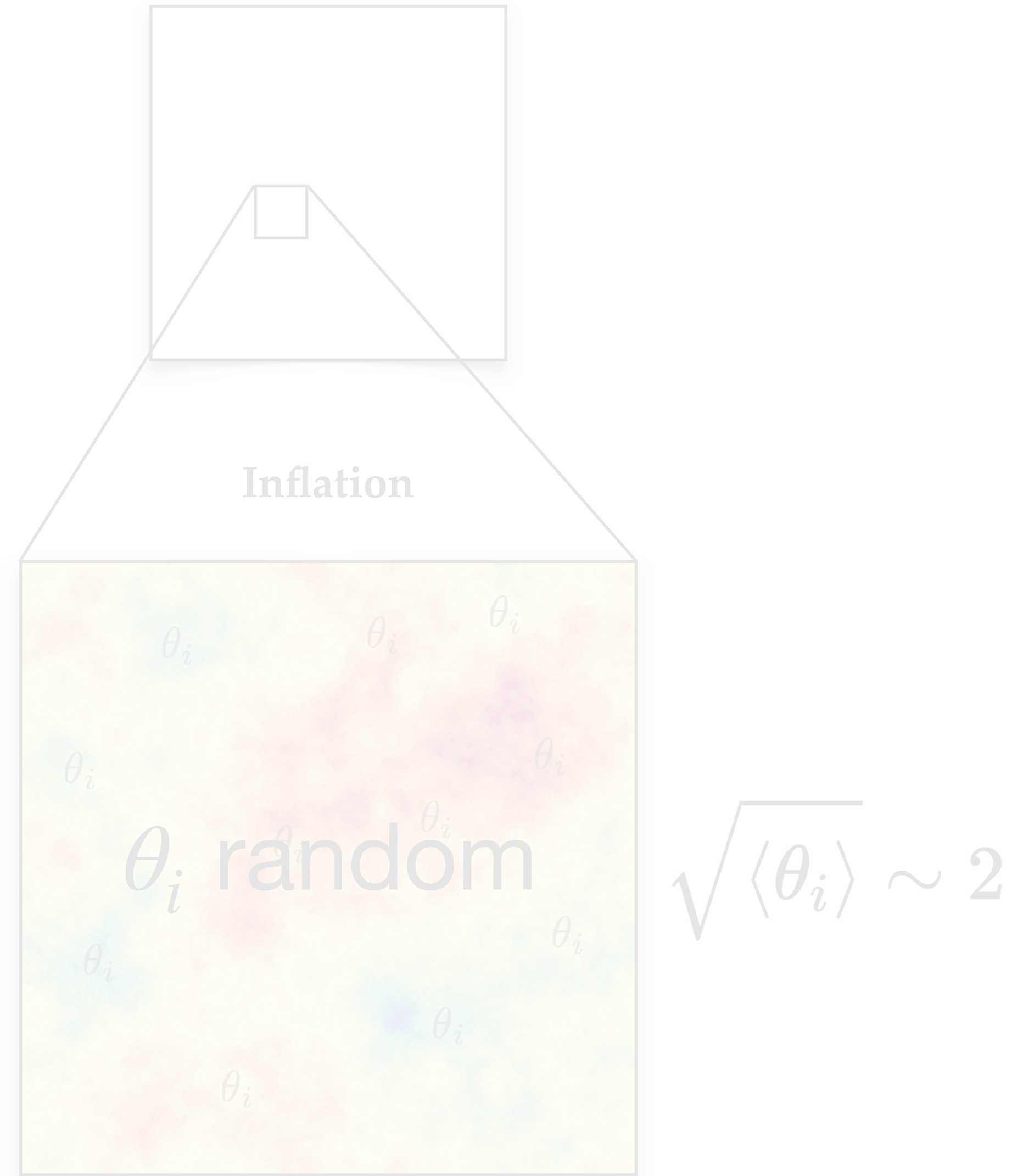


$\langle \theta_i \rangle = ???$

PLANCK [1907.12875]

## Post-Inflationary Scenario

PQ broken after inflation

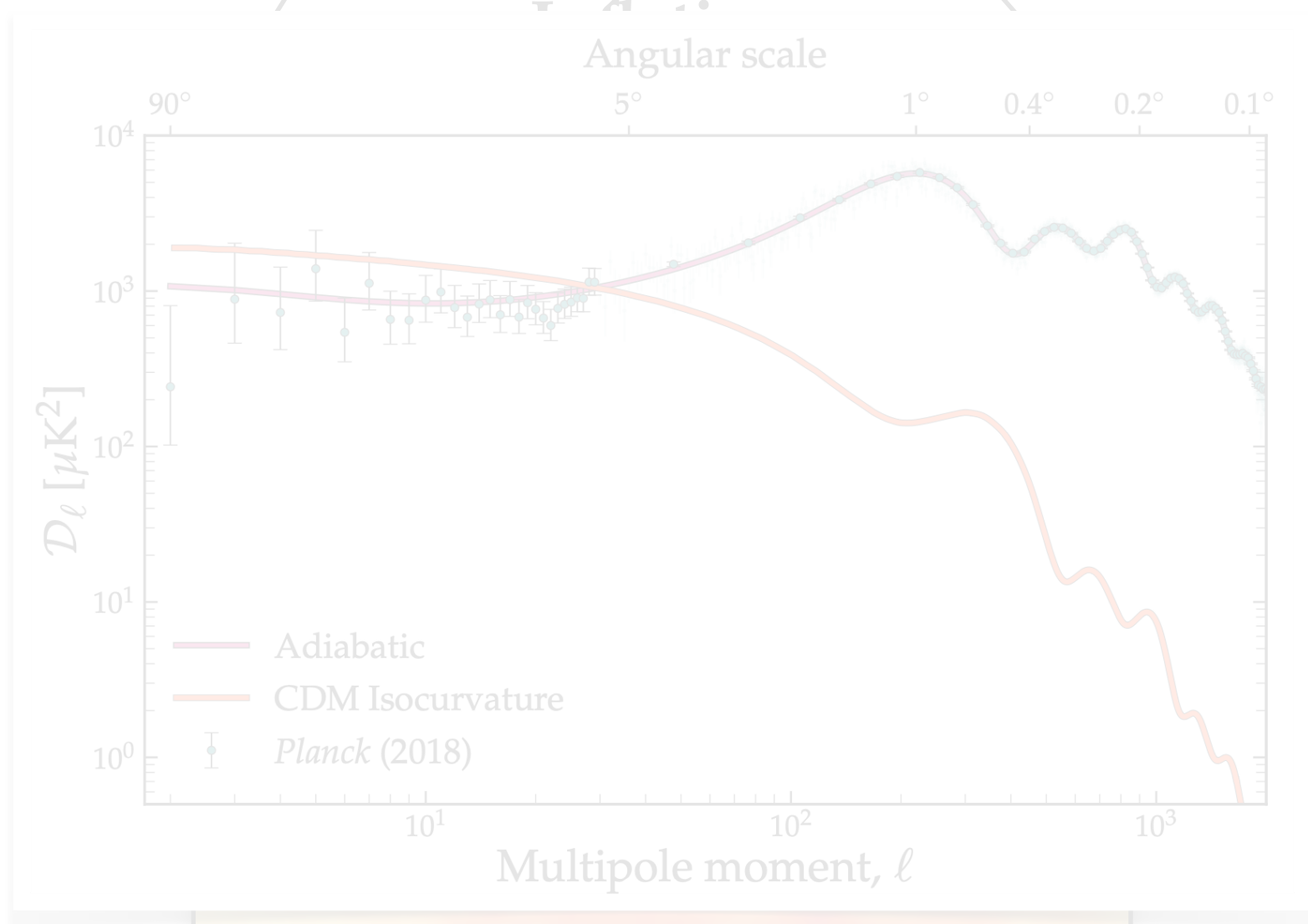
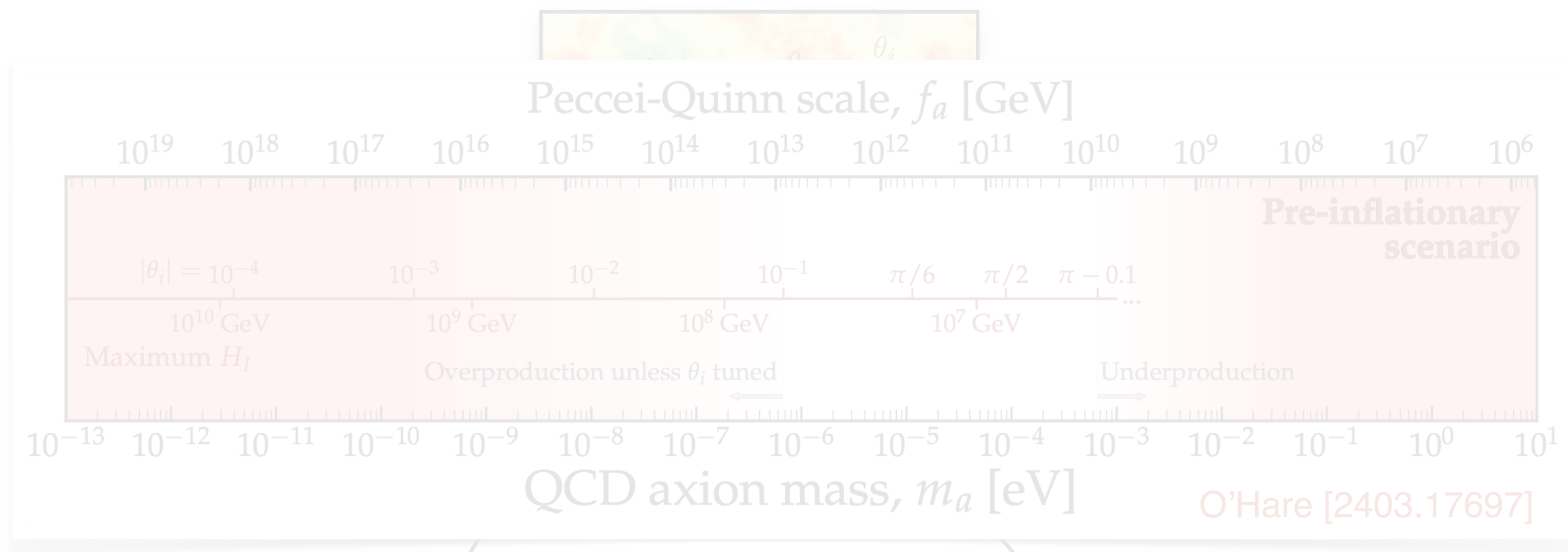




# Pre- vs. Post-Inflationary Scenario

## Pre-Inflationary Scenario

PQ broken before and during inflation



$\langle \theta_i \rangle = ???$

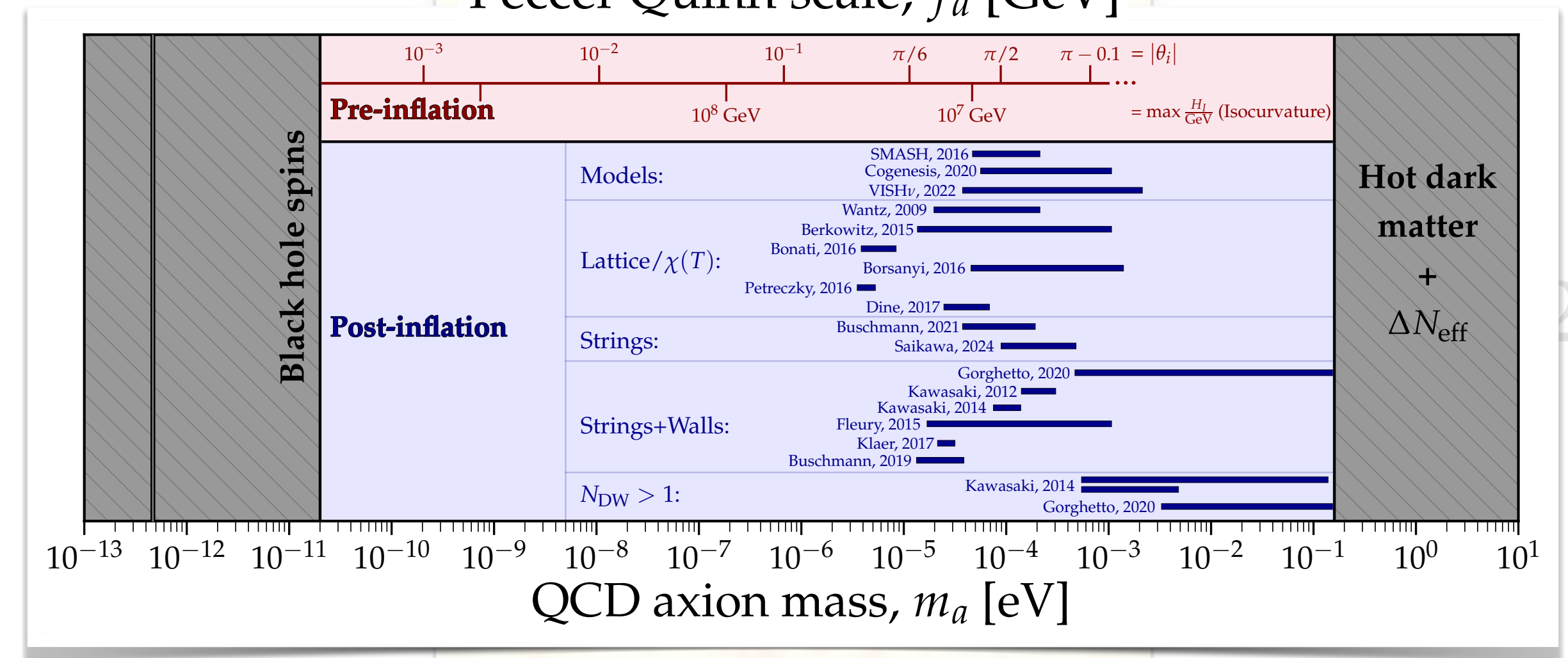
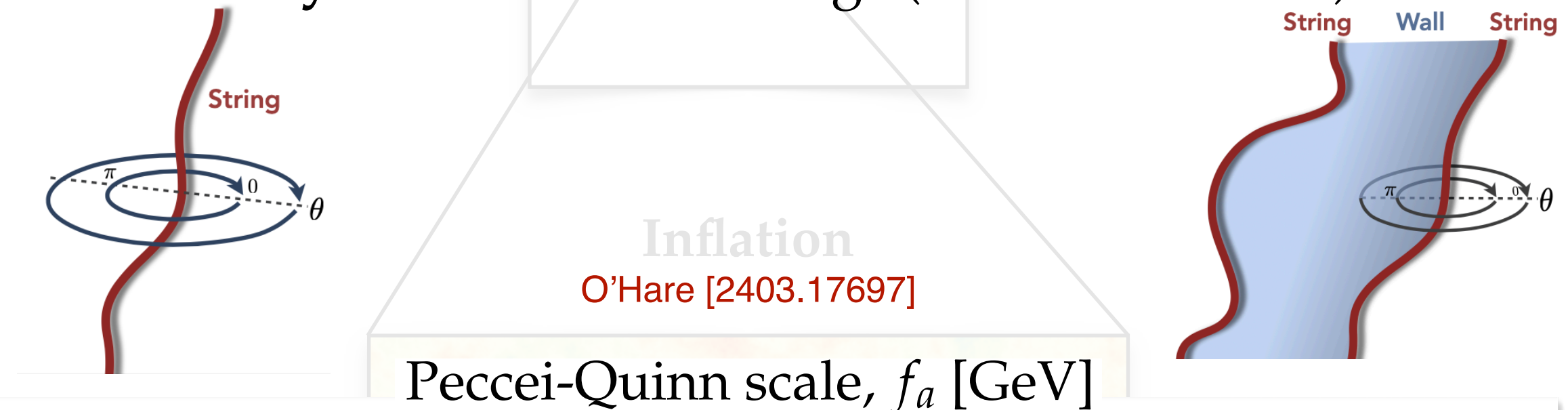
## Post-Inflationary Scenario

PQ broken after inflation

- Allows in principle for precise axion mass prediction

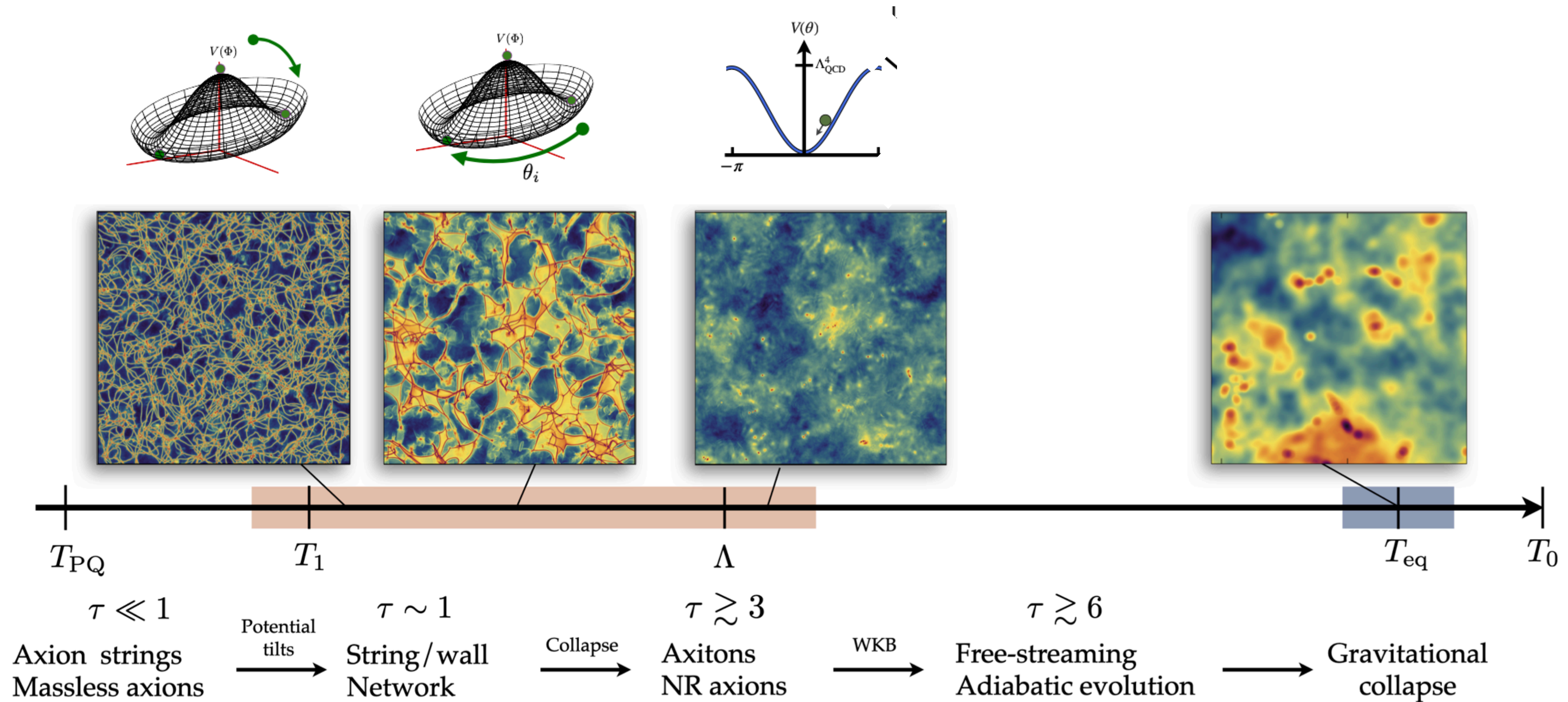
$$\Omega_a h^2 = 0.12 \Rightarrow m_a = ??? \mu\text{eV}$$

- **Subtlety:** Formation of Strings (+ Domain Walls)





# Cosmological Evolution in the Post-Inflationary Scenario



Sorry, no movie in PDF version :-)

O'Hare+ [2110.11014]



# How to simulate Axion Strings?

- Solve the classical EOM for a complex scalar field in comoving coordinates, discretised on a lattice:

$$\partial_\tau^2 \phi - \nabla^2 \phi + \lambda \phi (|\phi|^2 - \tau^2) = 0$$

- **Tricky:** Simulations require proper resolution of two very different length scales.

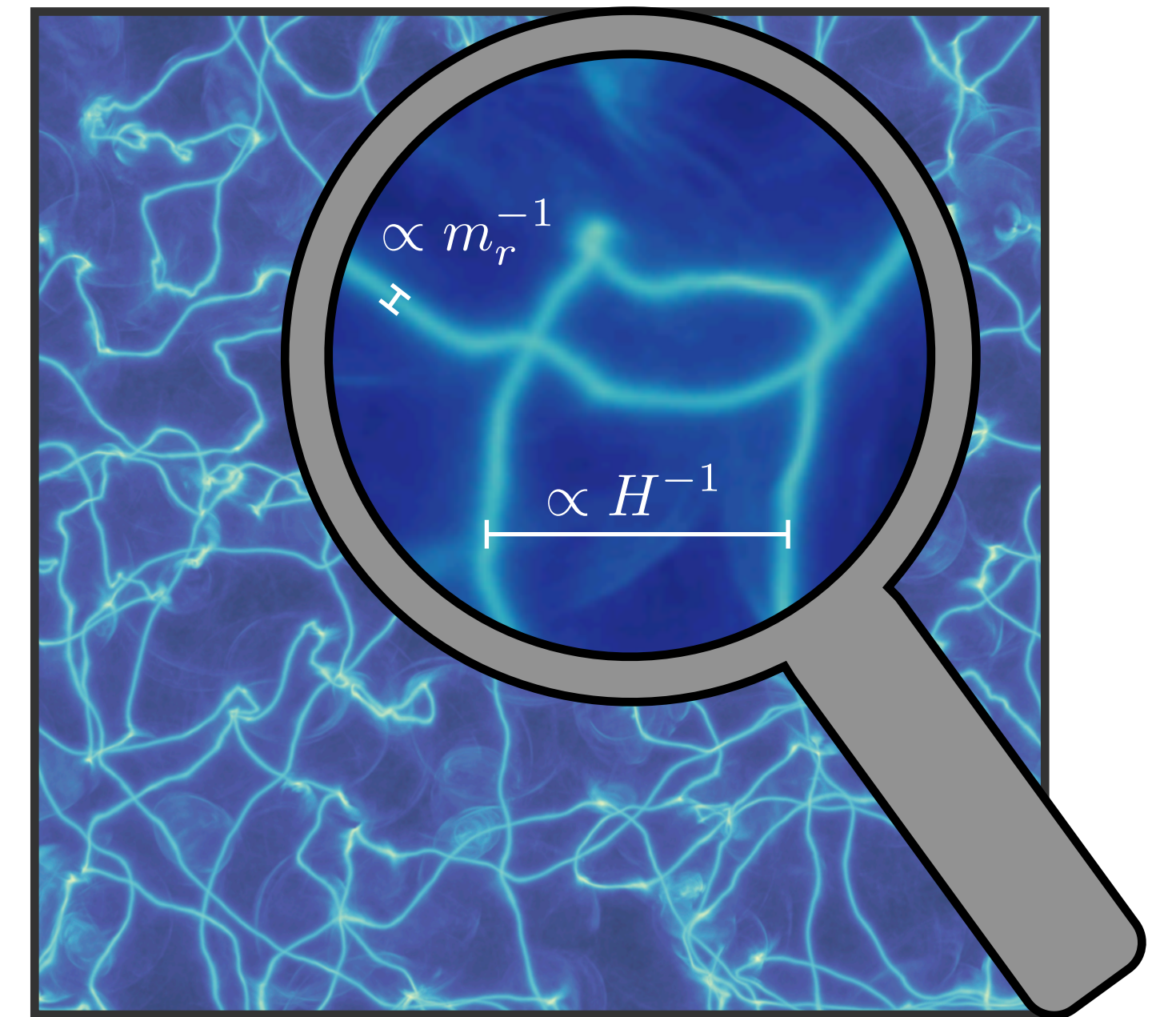
- String core radius

$$\propto \frac{1}{m_r} \propto \frac{1}{f_a}, \text{ where } m_r = \text{radial mass}$$

- Hubble radius

$$\propto \frac{1}{H}$$

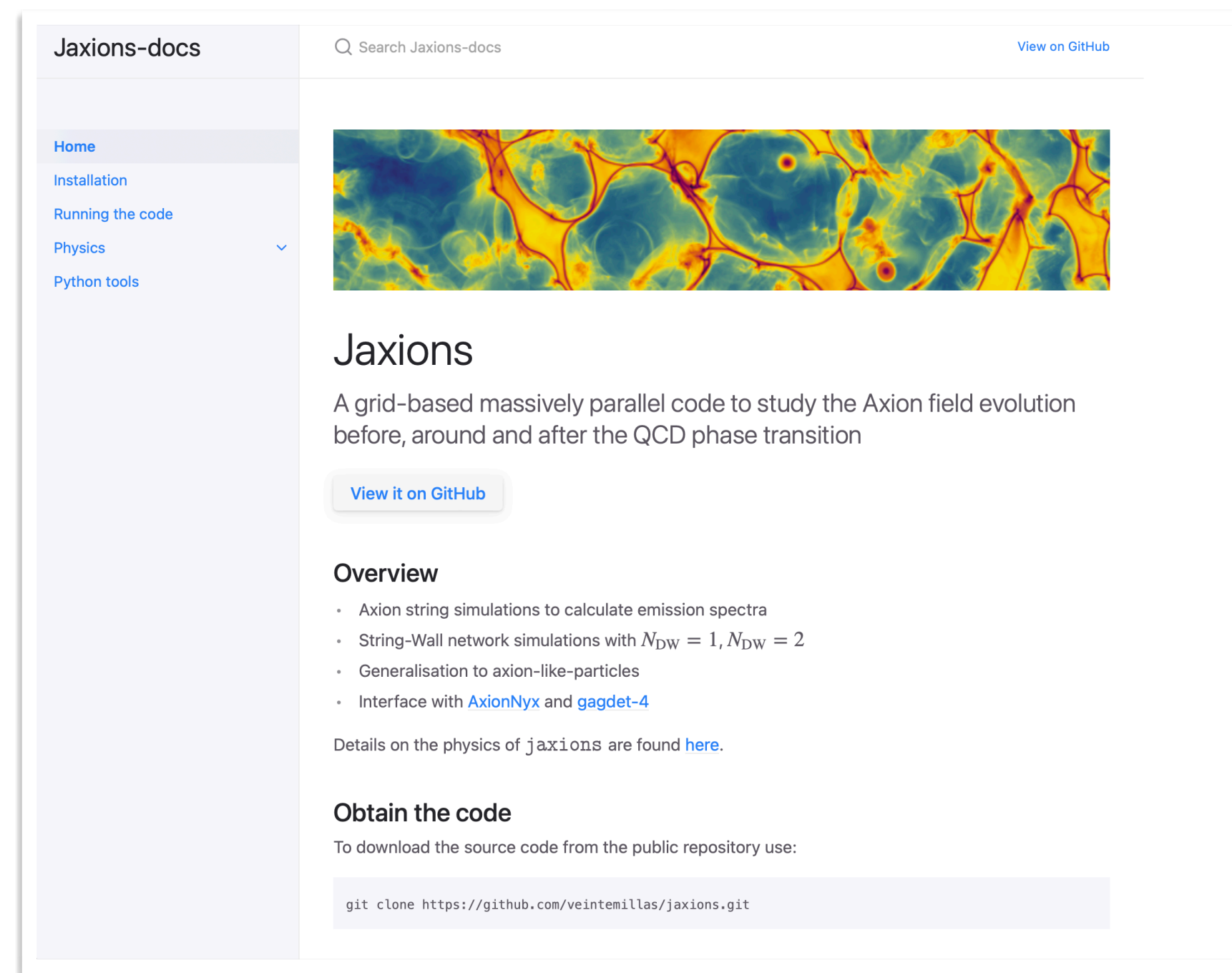
- Realistic value:  $\frac{f_a}{H_{\text{QCD}}} \approx 10^{30} \implies \log\left(\frac{m_r}{H}\right) \approx 70$





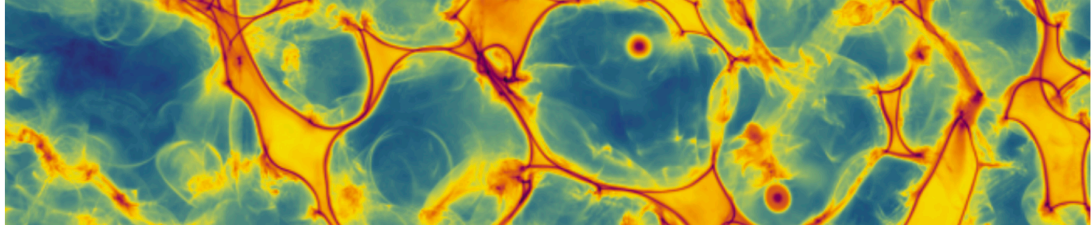
# Jaxions Code

- State-of-the-art, highly parallelised C++ code to simulate the evolution of the axion dark matter field in the early Universe.
- Available on Github: <https://github.com/veintemillas/jaxions>.
- Manual under development and available soon!



Jaxions-docs Search Jaxions-docs View on GitHub

Home Installation Running the code Physics Python tools



## Jaxions

A grid-based massively parallel code to study the Axion field evolution before, around and after the QCD phase transition

[View it on GitHub](#)

### Overview

- Axion string simulations to calculate emission spectra
- String-Wall network simulations with  $N_{DW} = 1, N_{DW} = 2$
- Generalisation to axion-like-particles
- Interface with [AxionNyx](#) and [gadget-4](#)

Details on the physics of `jaxions` are found [here](#).

### Obtain the code

To download the source code from the public repository use:

```
git clone https://github.com/veintemillas/jaxions.git
```

## jaxions: Simulating the Axion Dark Matter Field in the Post-Inflationary Scenario

Alejandro Vaquero <sup>a</sup>, Javier Redondo <sup>a,b</sup>, Ken'ichi Saikawa <sup>c</sup>,  
Mathieu Kaltschmidt <sup>a</sup>, Giovanni Pierobon <sup>d</sup>

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<sup>b</sup>Max-Planck-Institut für Physik (Werner-Heisenberg-Institut), Föhringer Ring 6, 80805 München, Germany

<sup>c</sup>Institute for Theoretical Physics, Kanazawa University, Kakuma-machi, Kanazawa, Ishikawa 920-1192, Japan

<sup>d</sup>School of Physics, The University of New South Wales, NSW 2052 Kensington, Sydney, Australia

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[mkaltschmidt@unizar.es](mailto:mkaltschmidt@unizar.es), [g.pierobon@unsw.edu.au](mailto:g.pierobon@unsw.edu.au)

**Abstract.** We present `jaxions`, a massively parallel code to simulate the evolution of the axion field on a uniform grid, specialised for the case of axion dark matter in the post-inflationary scenario.

The code tracks the evolution of the Peccei-Quinn complex scalar field  $\phi$ , as long as topological defects are present, the subsequent evolution of the axion field  $\theta$ , and the non-relativistic field  $\Psi$ , well after the QCD phase transition.

Additionally, we provide an option to create initial conditions suitable for running the simulations with AMReX-based adaptive mesh codes such as `axioNyx` and a utility function to map the final grid into a particle snapshot, to continue the simulation of the forming miniclusters with the  $N$ -body code `gadget4`. The code also features the extensive python library `pyjaxions`, with a variety of tools and options to set up, run and analyse the simulations.



# The Issue of large $\log(m_r/H)$

- Evolution of the string density suggests that the energy density of the system is of order

$$\rho \sim 8\pi\xi \log(m_r/H) H^2 f_a^2$$

This leads to an enhancement by a factor of  $\sim \xi \log(m_r/H)$  in comparison to the typical density  $H^2 f_a^2$  at QCD temperatures.

- Does this imply an enhancement of the axion abundance (and therefore of the dark matter mass)?
- We need to know how this energy is partitioned into radiated axions (i.e. the axion spectrum).

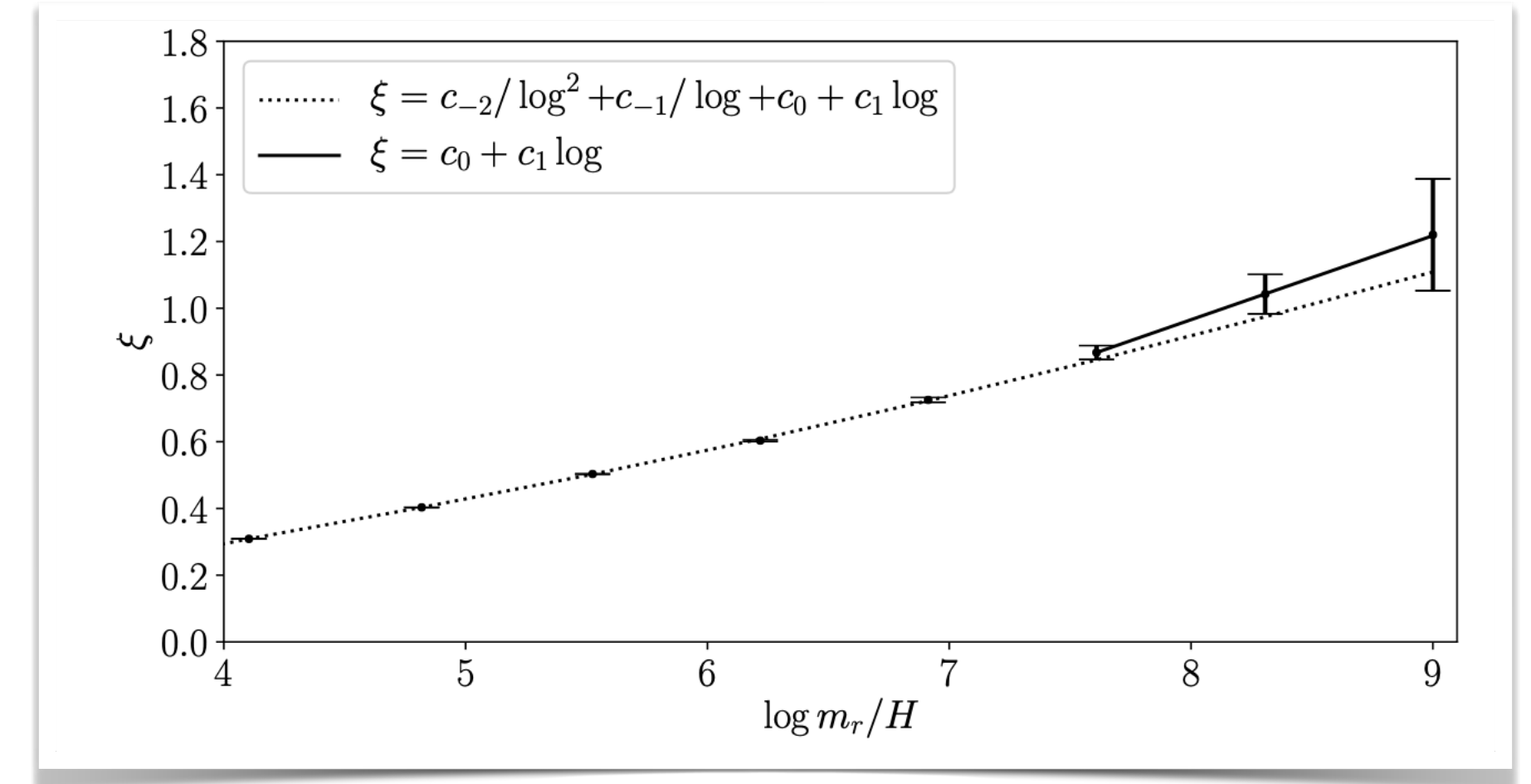


# Logarithmic Growth of String Density

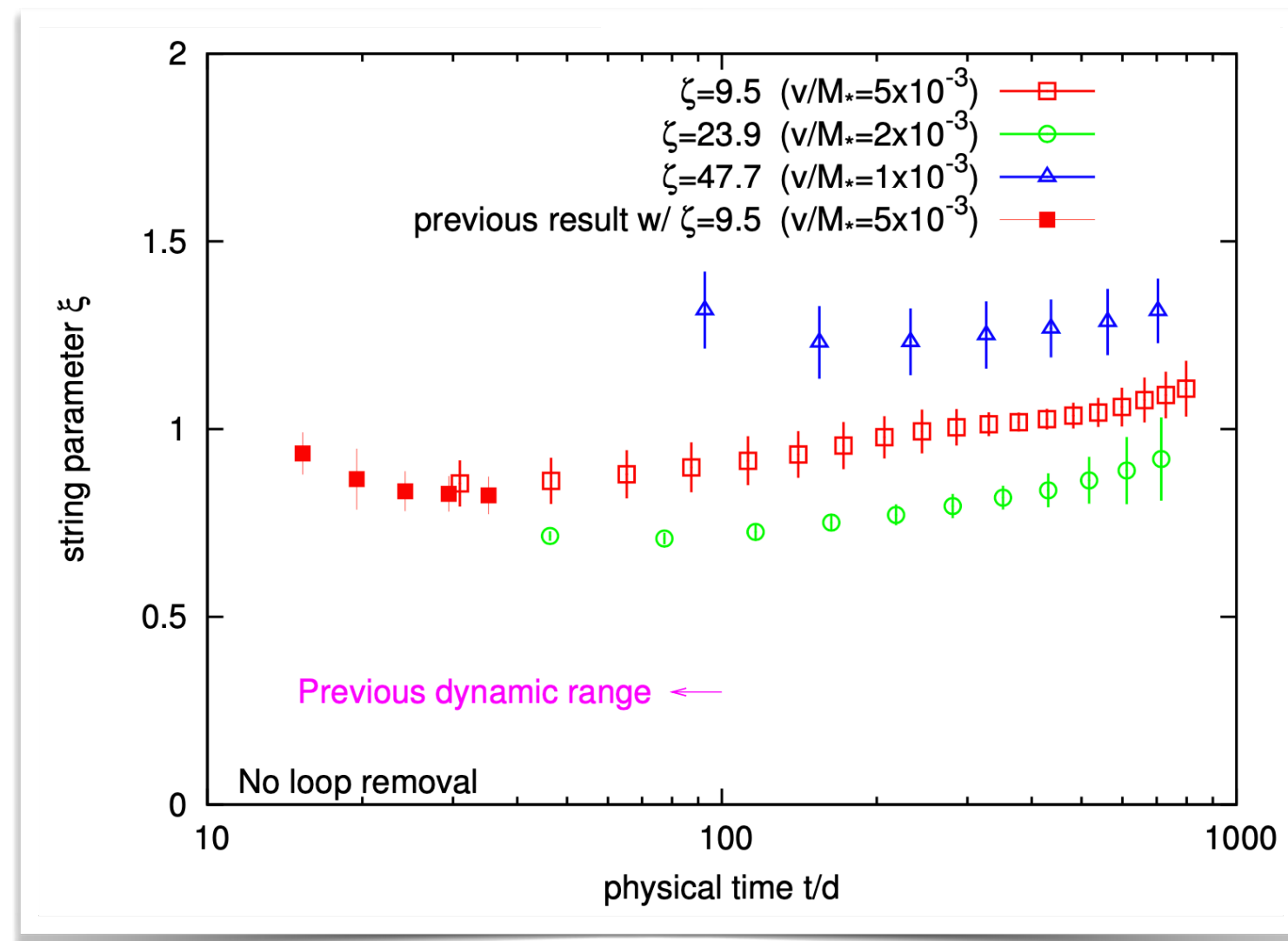
- String density parametrised as

$$\xi = \frac{l_{\text{string}} t^2}{\nu} = \frac{\rho_{\text{string}} t^2}{\mu}$$

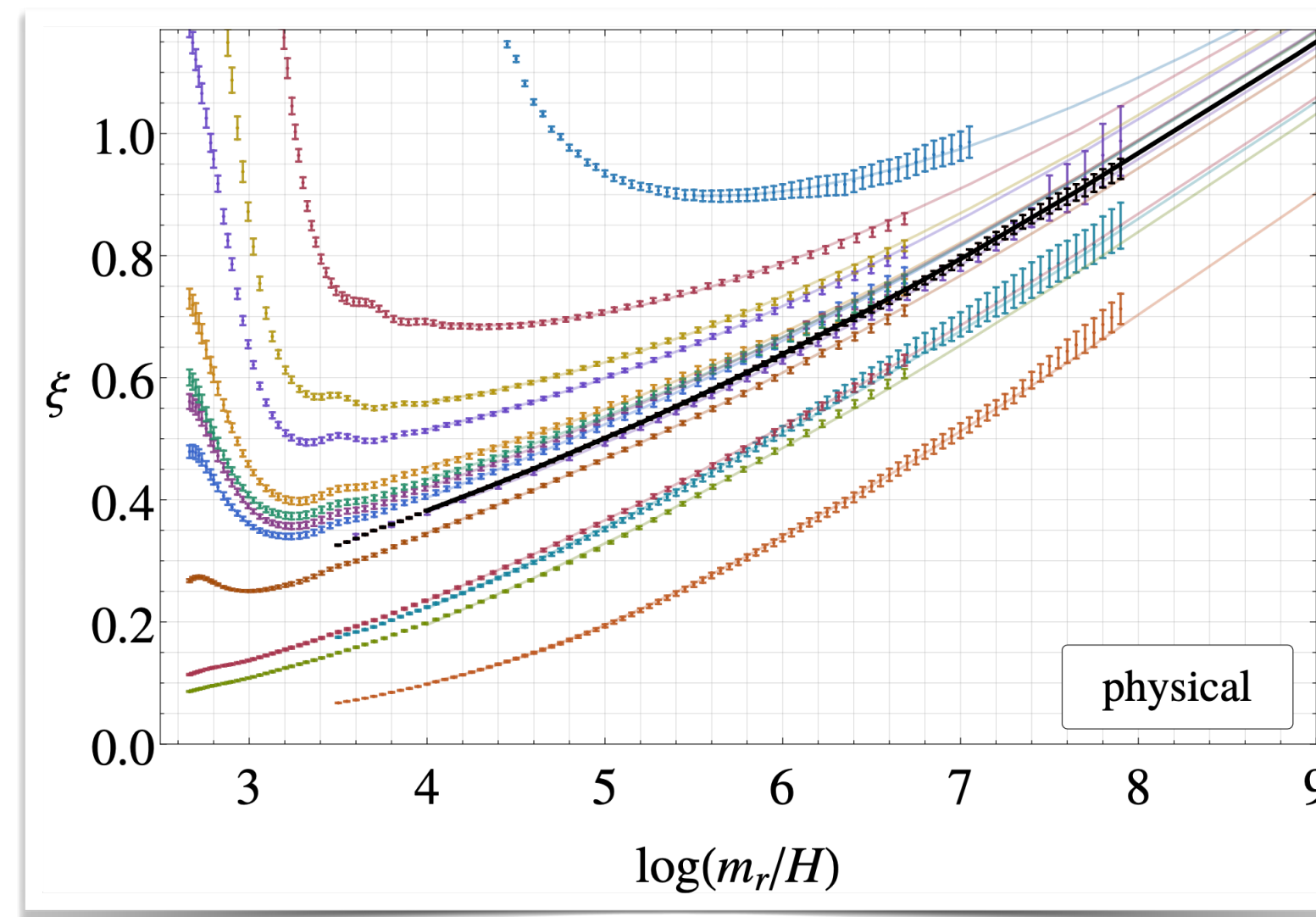
- Most recent simulations observe increase in  $\xi$ .



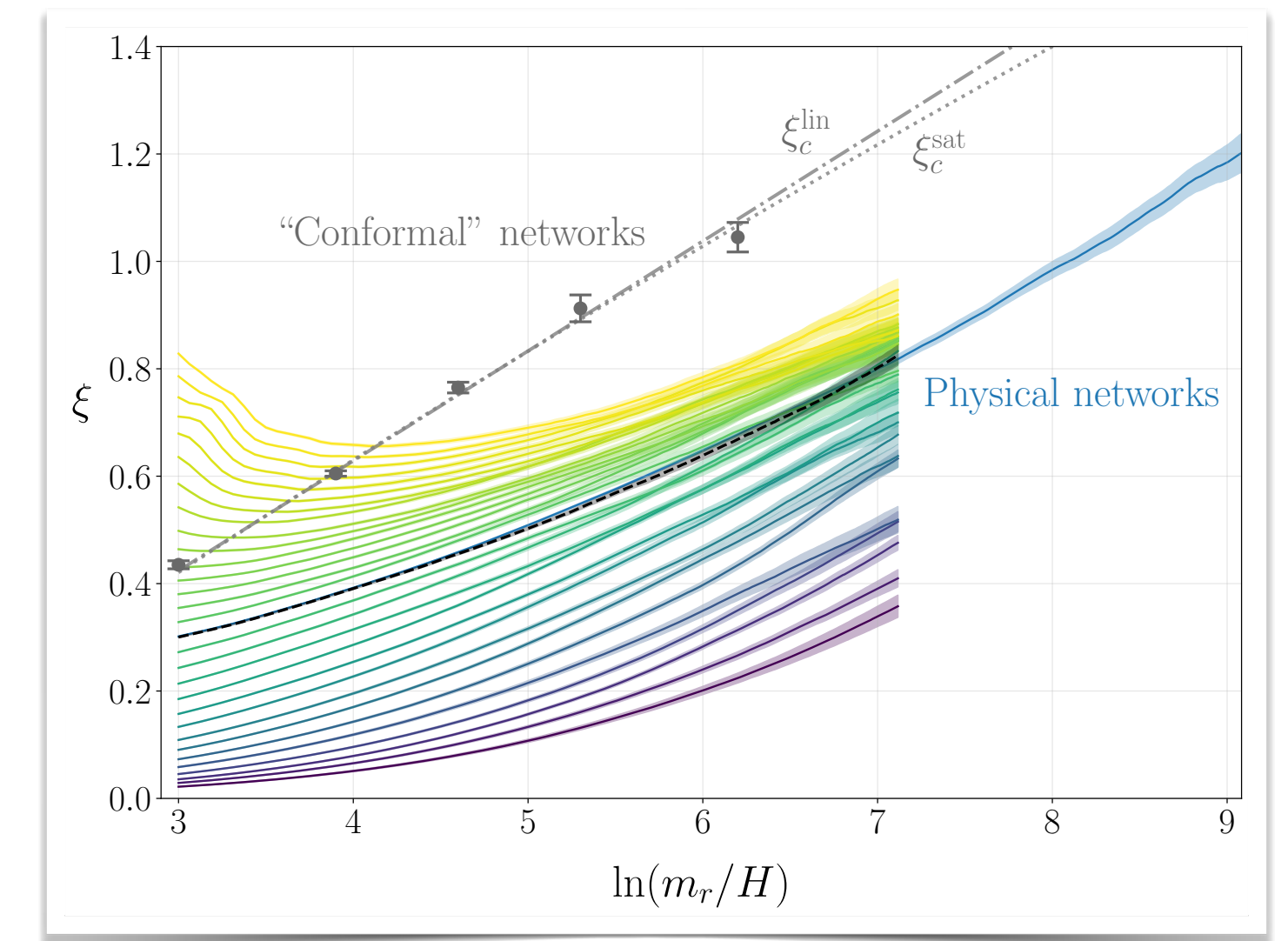
Buschmann+ [2108.05368]



Kawasaki+ [1806.05566]



Gorghetto+ [2007.04990]



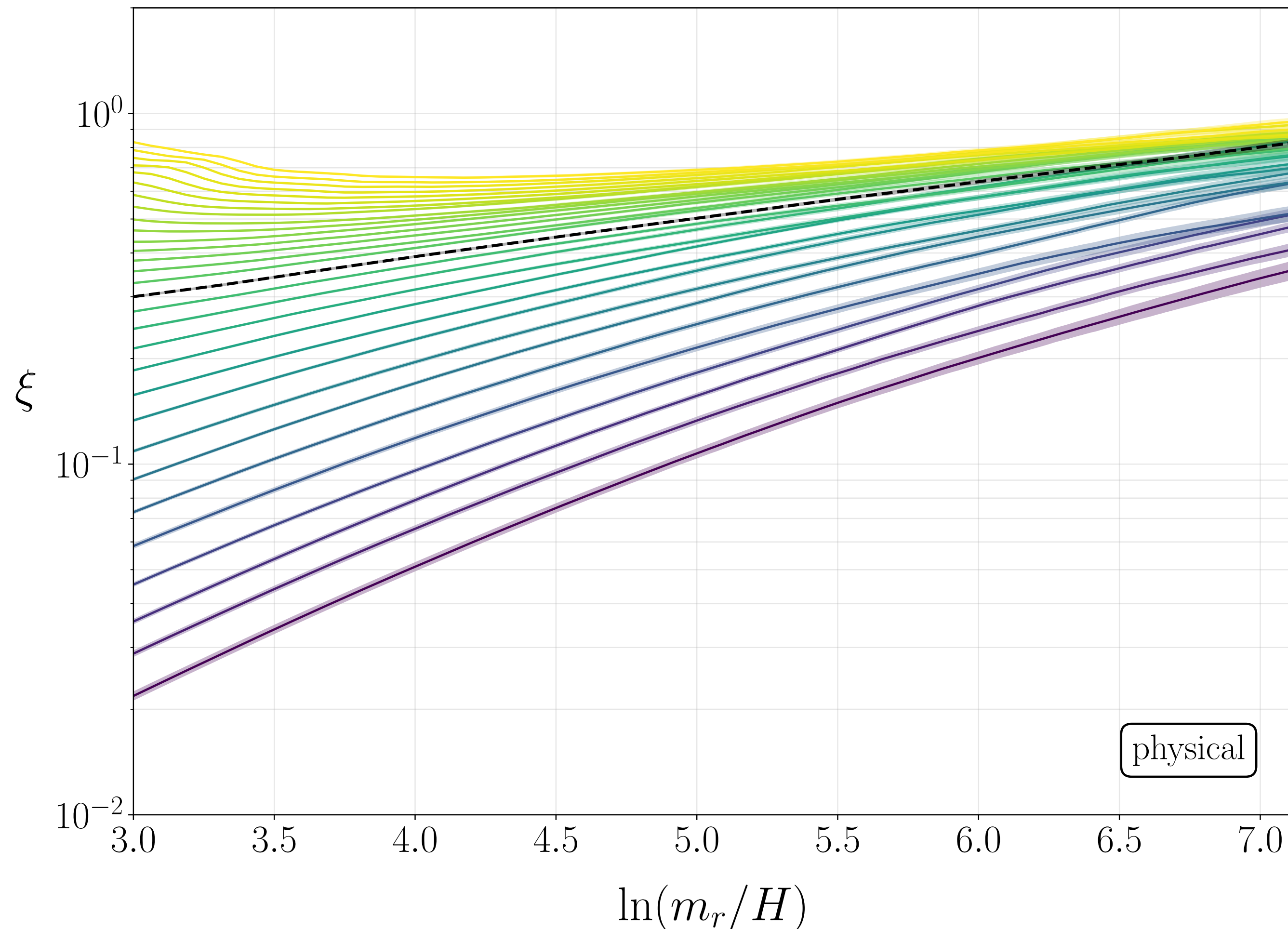
Saikawa, MK+ [2401.17253]



# Evolution of String Density

- Model evolution of string network density:  $\frac{d\xi}{dt} = \frac{C(x)}{t} (\xi_c(\ell(t)) - \xi(t))$

Klaer & Moore [1912.08058]



Two reasonable fits to the data:

$$\xi^{\text{lin}} = -0.19(3) + 0.205(7) \log(m_r/H)$$

$$\xi^{\text{sat}} = \frac{-0.25(15) + 0.23(6) \log(m_r/H)}{1 + 0.02(4) \log(m_r/H)}$$

with

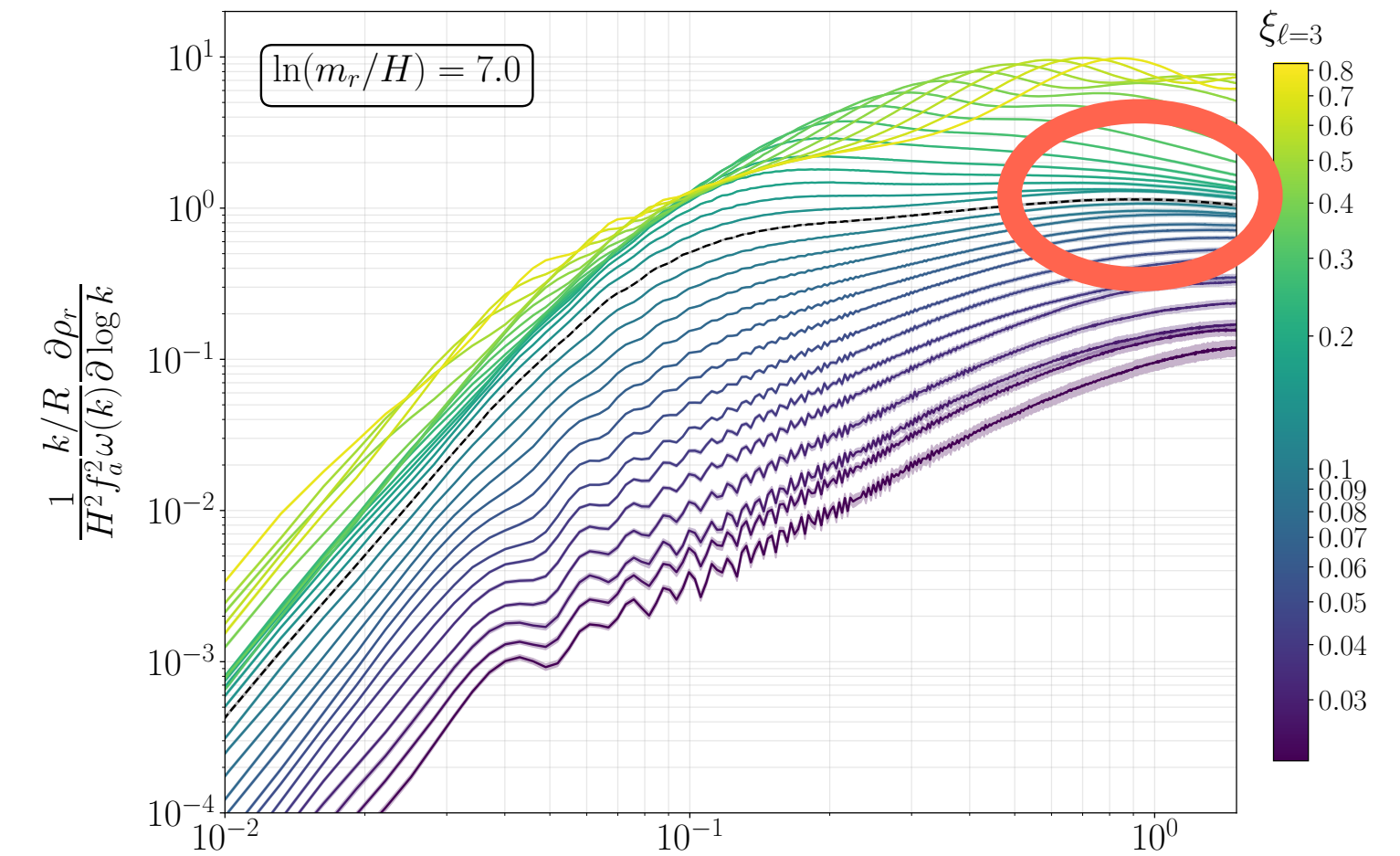
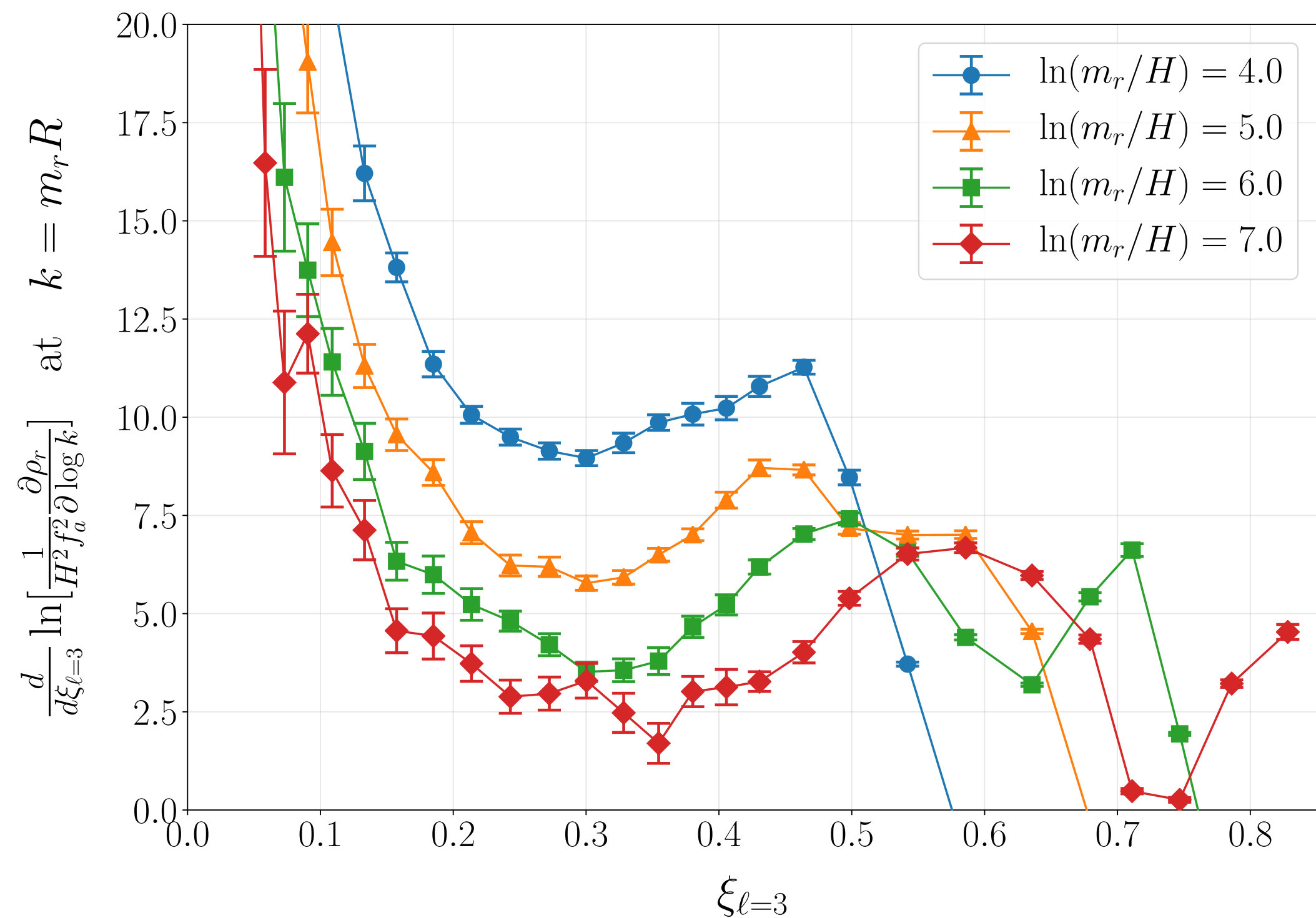
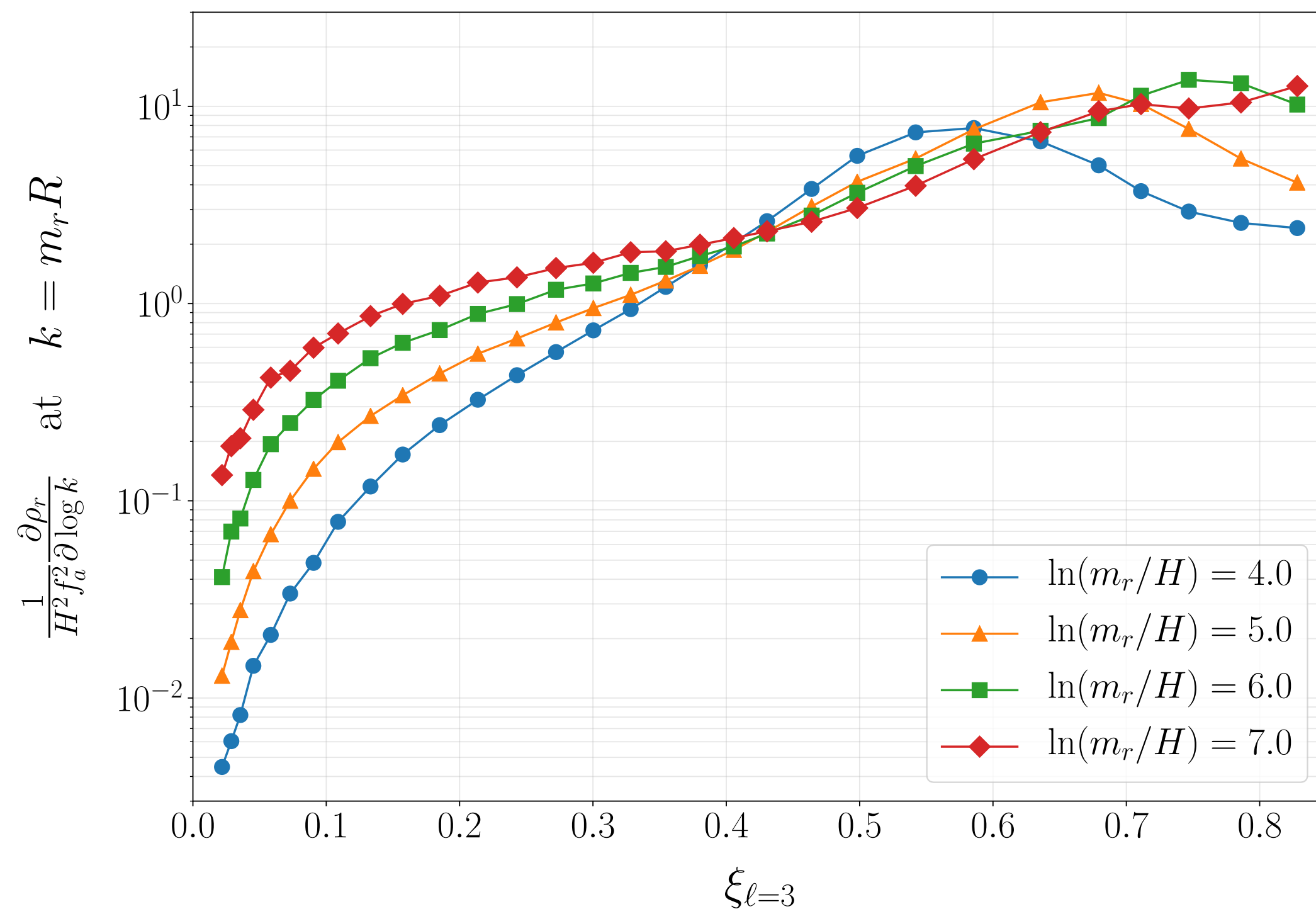
$$\xi^{\text{lin}}(\log = 70) \sim 13.8(5)$$

$$\xi^{\text{sat}}(\log = 70) \sim 7(3)$$



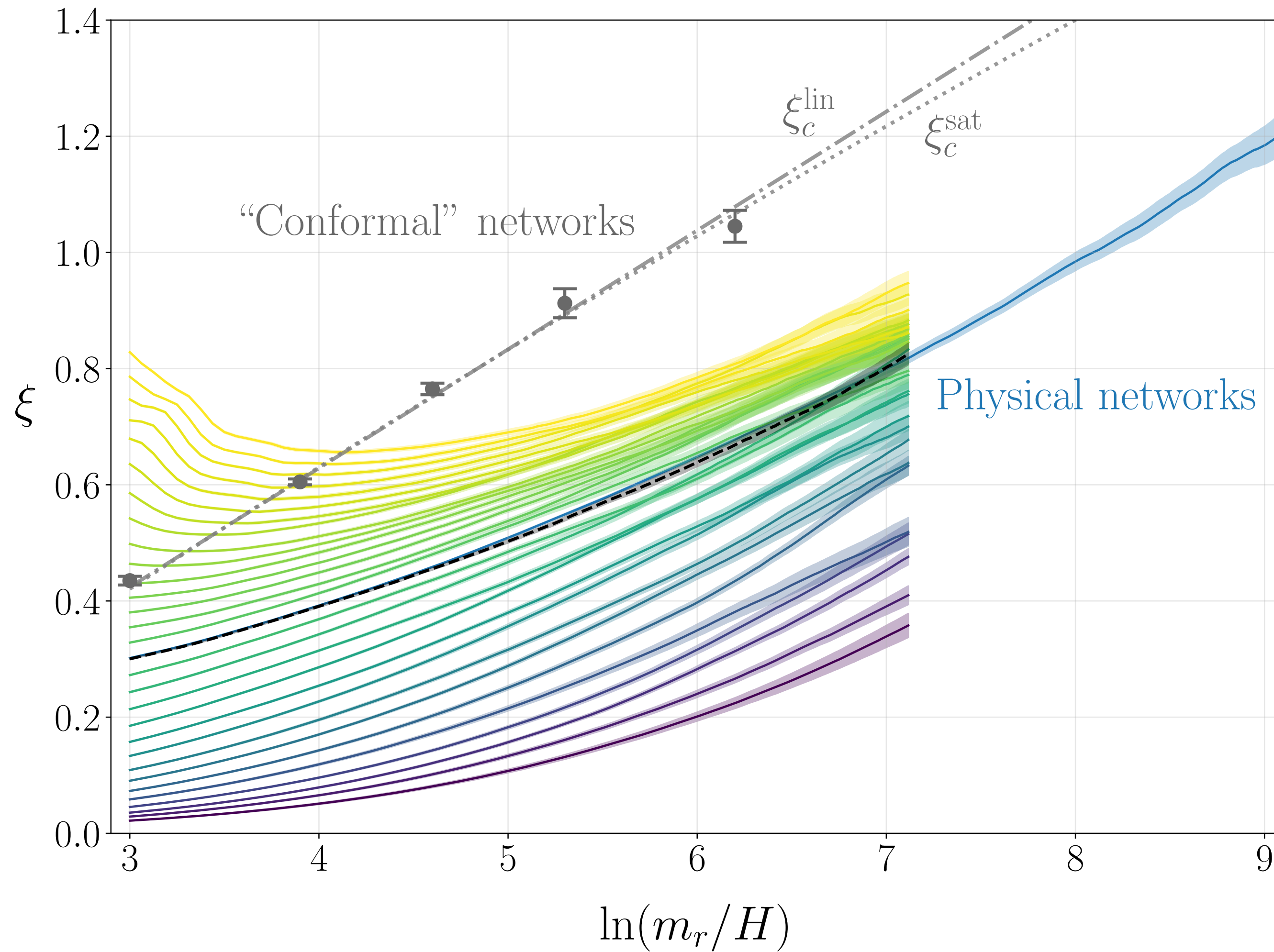
# Existence of an Attractor?

- Convergence behaviour is best observed in radial field spectra.
- Saxions are produced at  $k/R \approx m_r$ .
- Look for point that is least sensitive to ICs.





# Evolution of String Density



Fleury & Moore [1509.00026]  
Gorghetto+ [1806.04677; 2007.04990]  
Kawasaki+ [1806.05566]  
Hindmarsh+ [1908.03522]  
Buschmann+ [2108.05368]

Logarithmic growth and “attractor” behaviour compatible with previous findings.

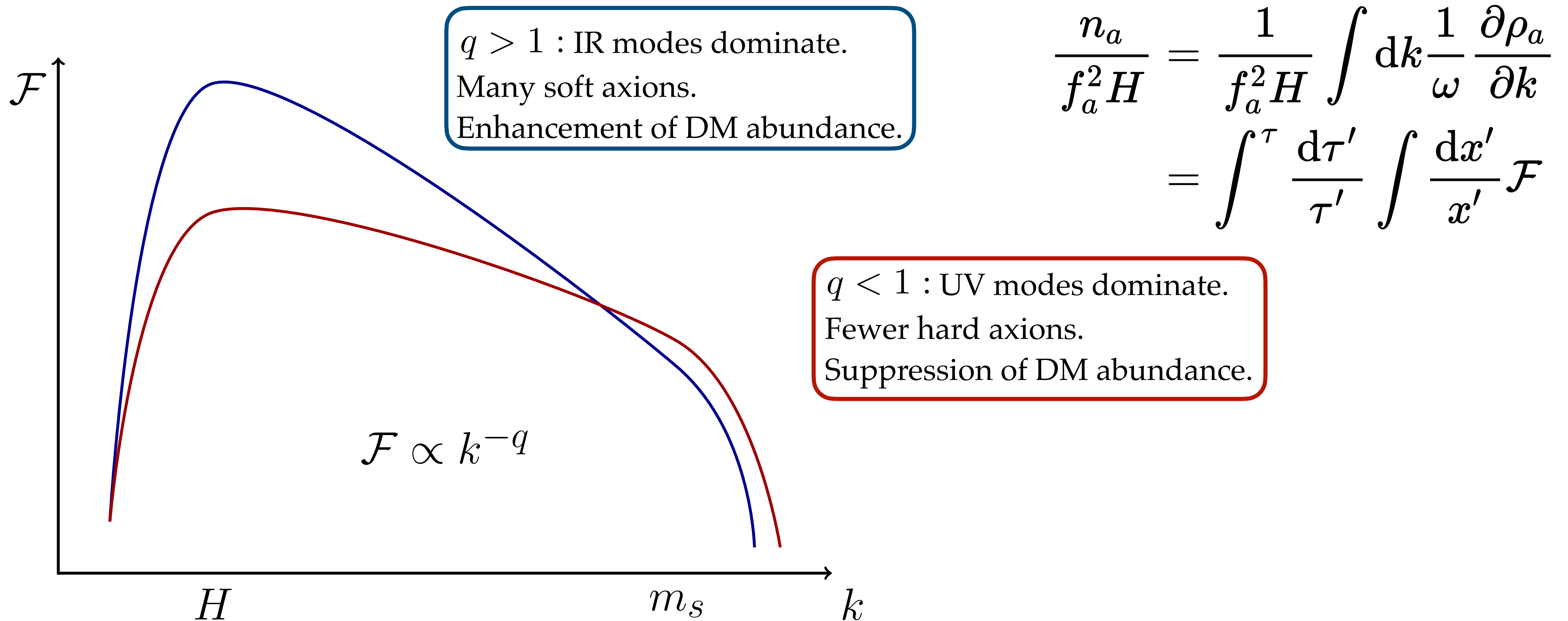


# Axion Radiation from Strings

- Differential energy transfer rate:

$$\mathcal{F} \left( \frac{k}{RH}, \frac{m_r}{H} \right) \equiv \frac{1}{(f_a H)^2} \frac{1}{R^3} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \left( R^4 \frac{\partial \rho_a}{\partial k} \right) \quad (R: \text{scale factor})$$

- Slope is important! [Gorghetto+ \[1806.04677\]](#), [Buschmann+ \[2108.05368\]](#), [Saikawa, MK+ \[2401.17253\]](#)

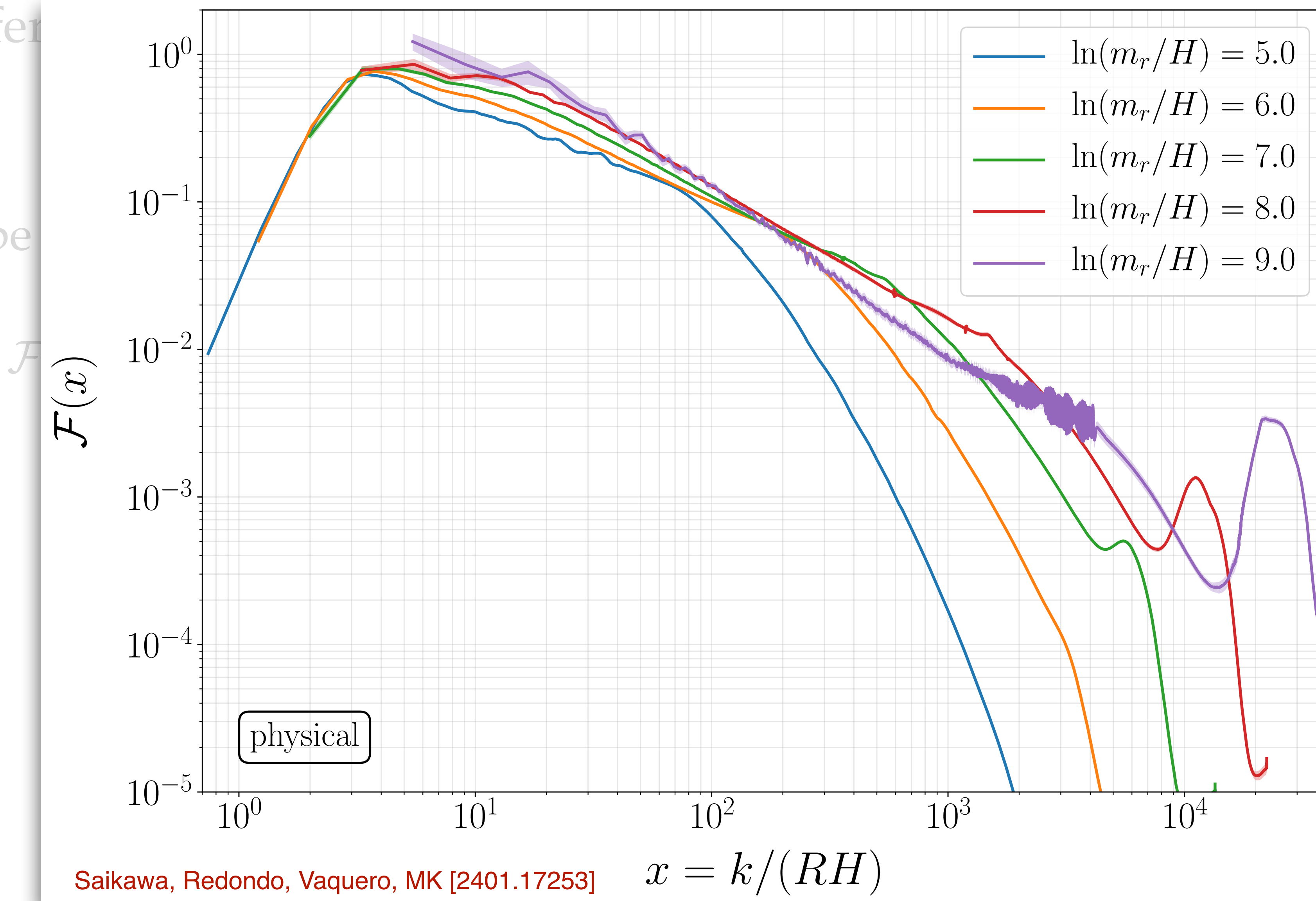




# Axion Radiation from Strings

• Differ

• Slope



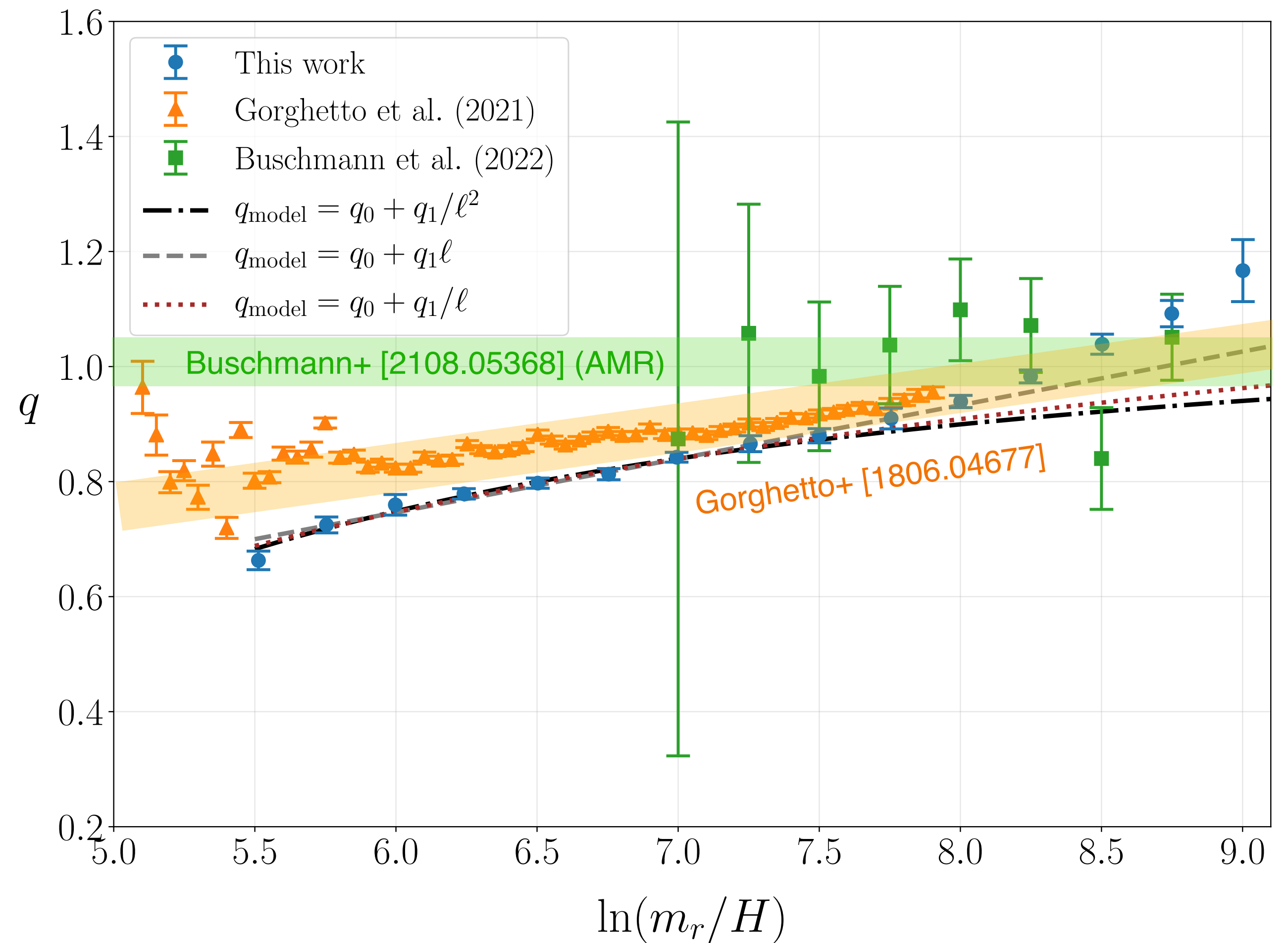
ctor)

$$\int dk \frac{1}{\omega} \frac{\partial \rho_a}{\partial k}$$

$$\int \frac{dx'}{x'} \mathcal{F}$$

# What can bias the Results?

- There are several systematic effects, that could explain discrepancies in the literature:
  - Initial conditions
  - Axion field oscillations
  - Discretisation effects

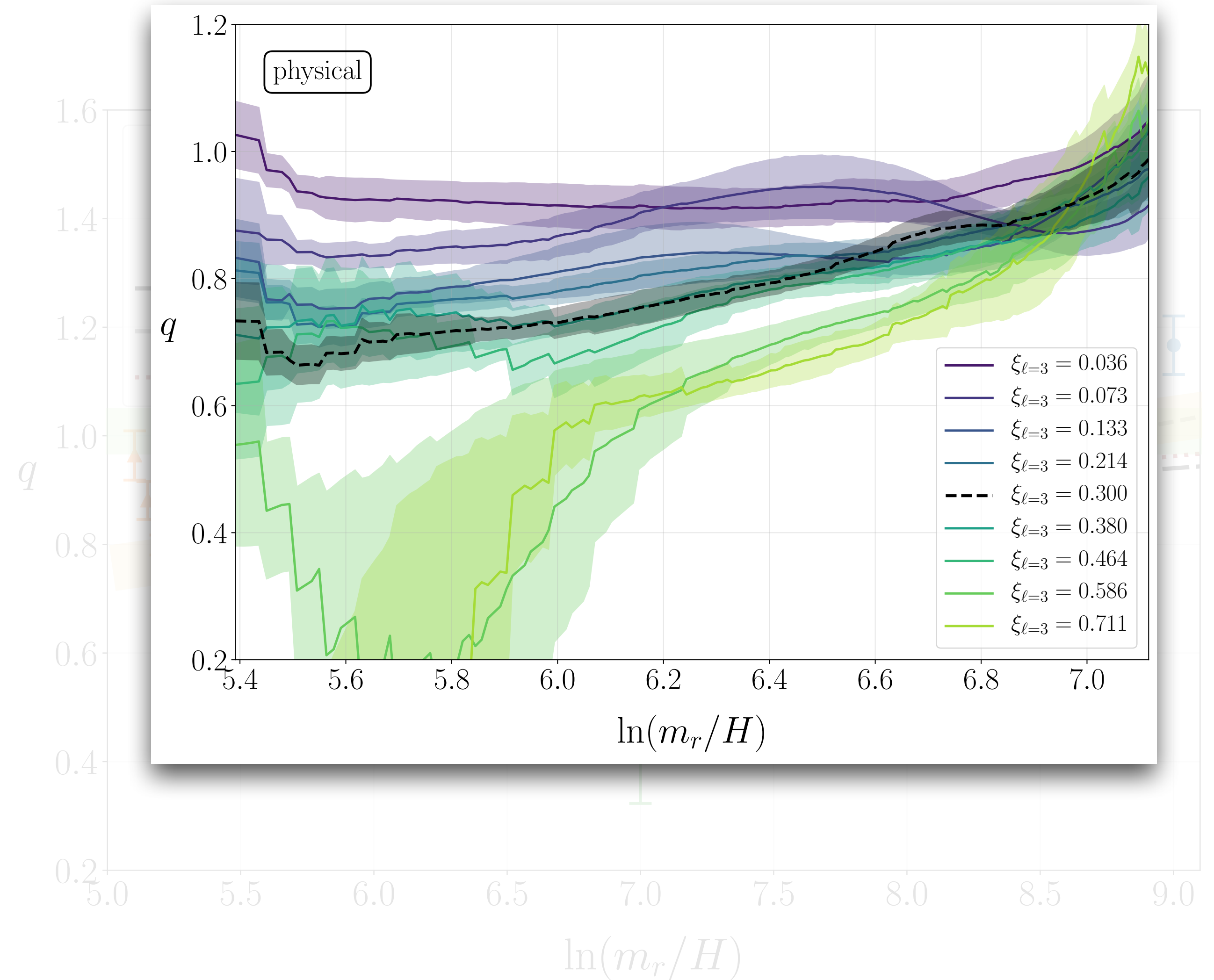


Saikawa, Redondo, Vaquero, MK [2401.17253]



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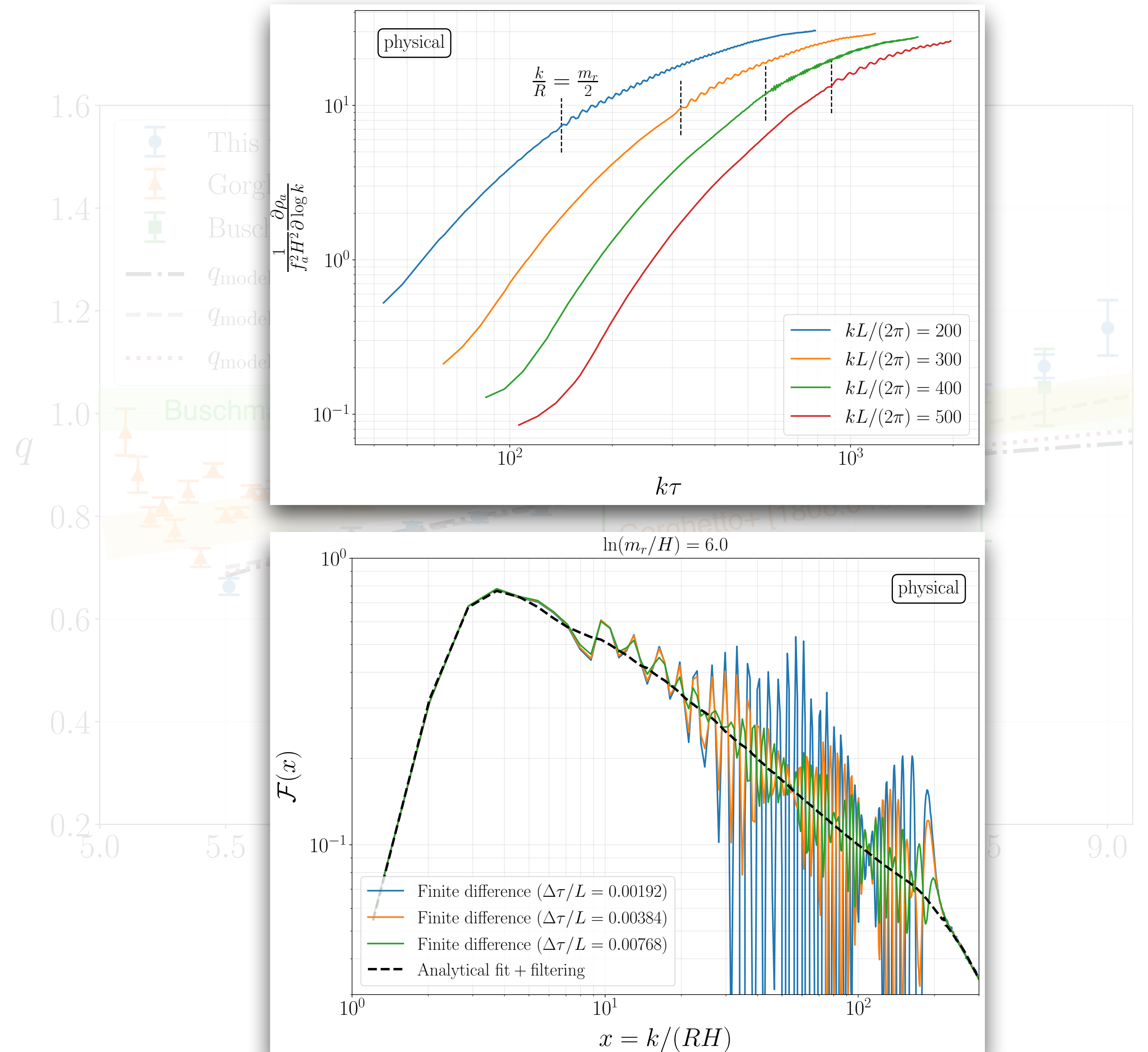
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Saikawa, Redondo, Vaquero, MK [2401.17253]

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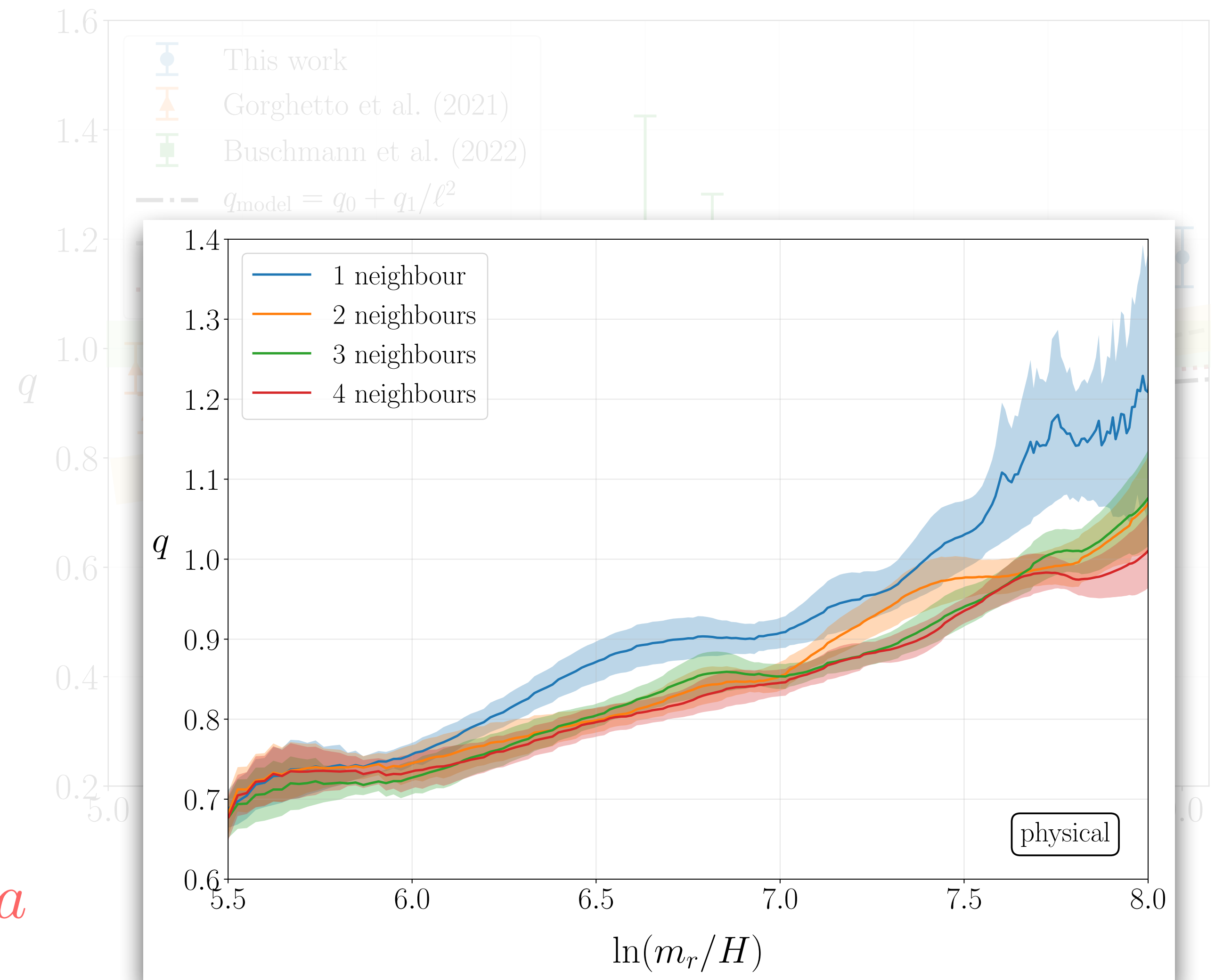
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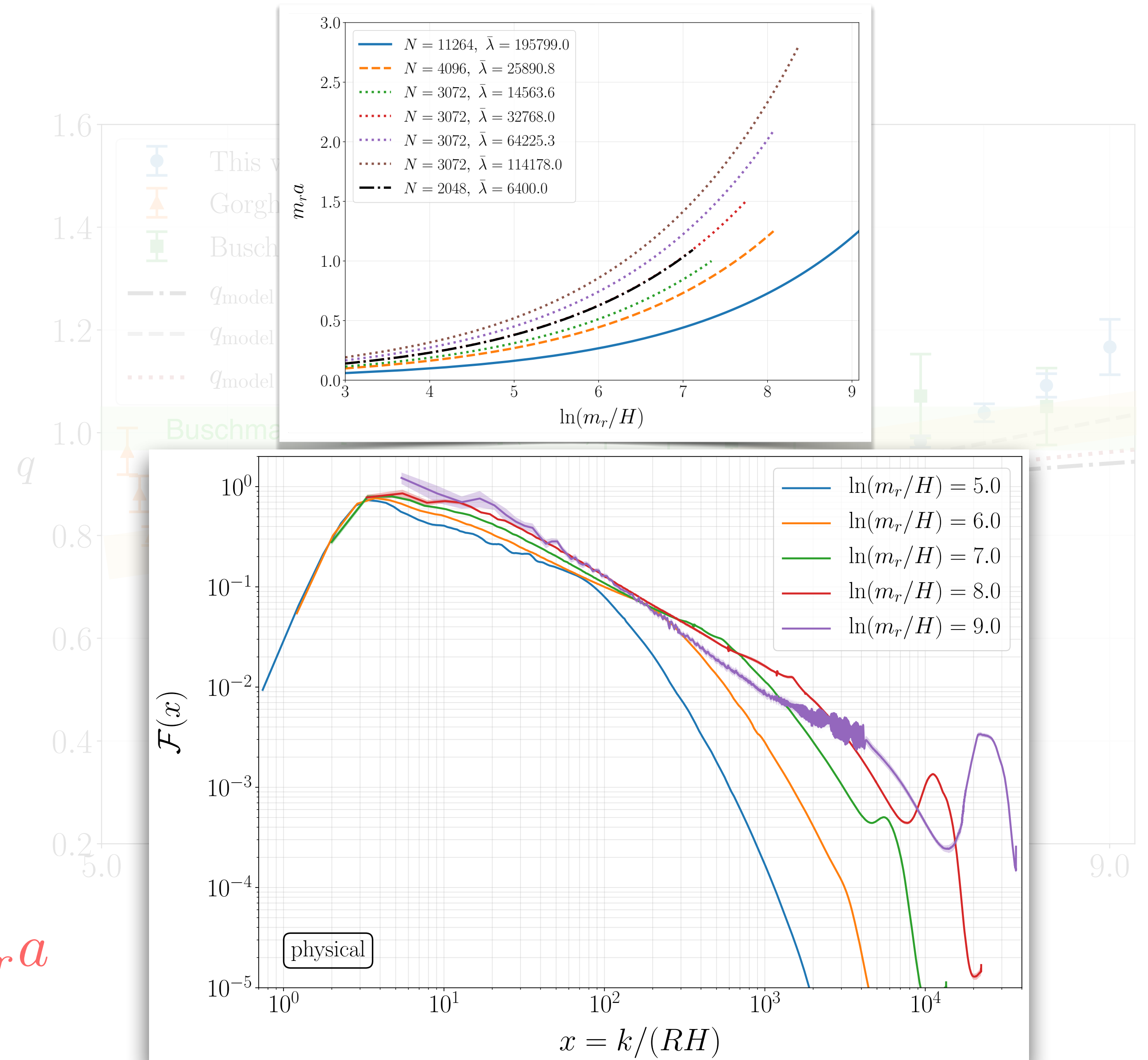
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- There are several systematic effects, that could explain discrepancies in the literature:
- Initial conditions
- Axion field oscillations
- Discretisation effects
  - Laplacian
  - Resolution of the string core  $m_r a$



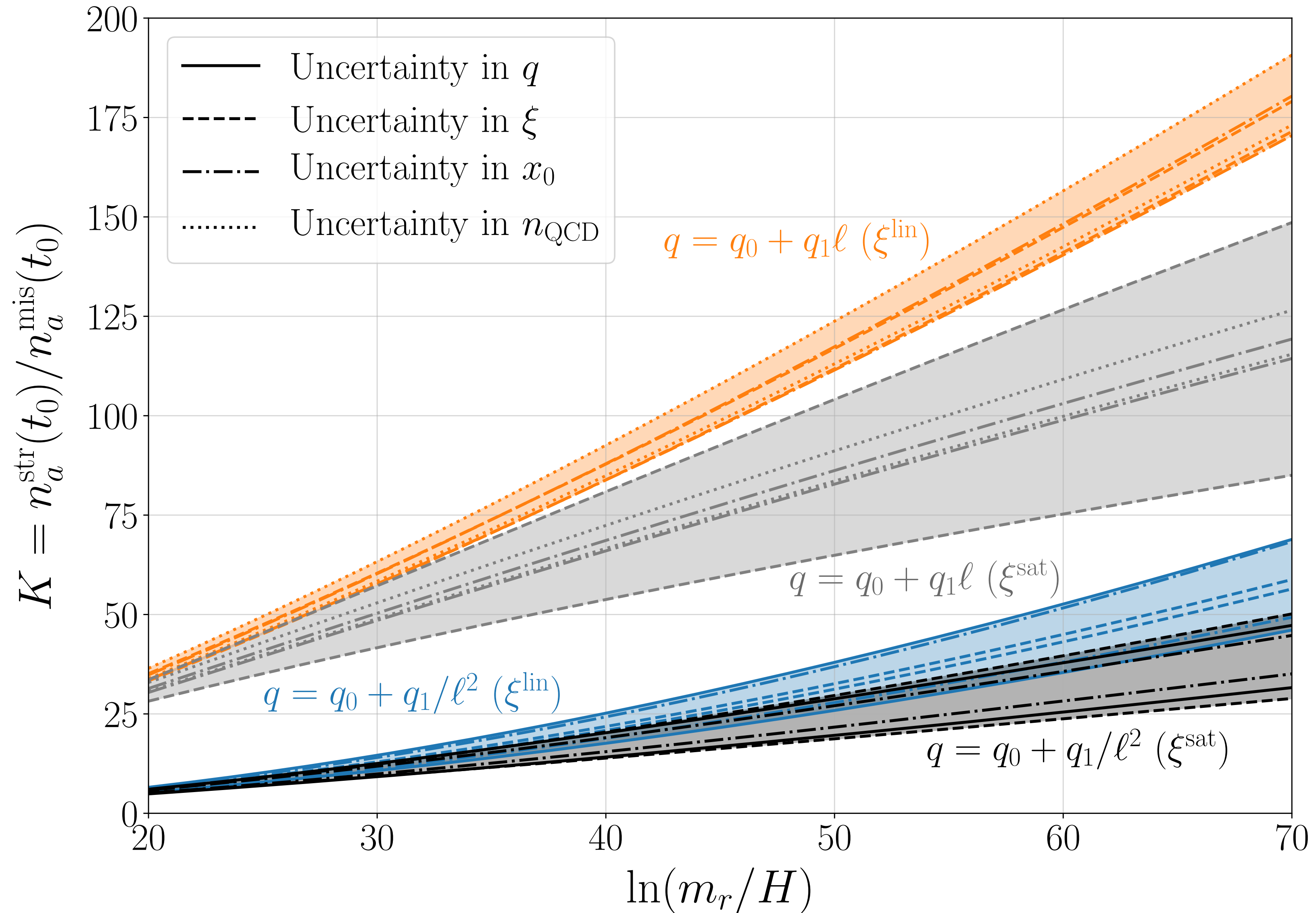
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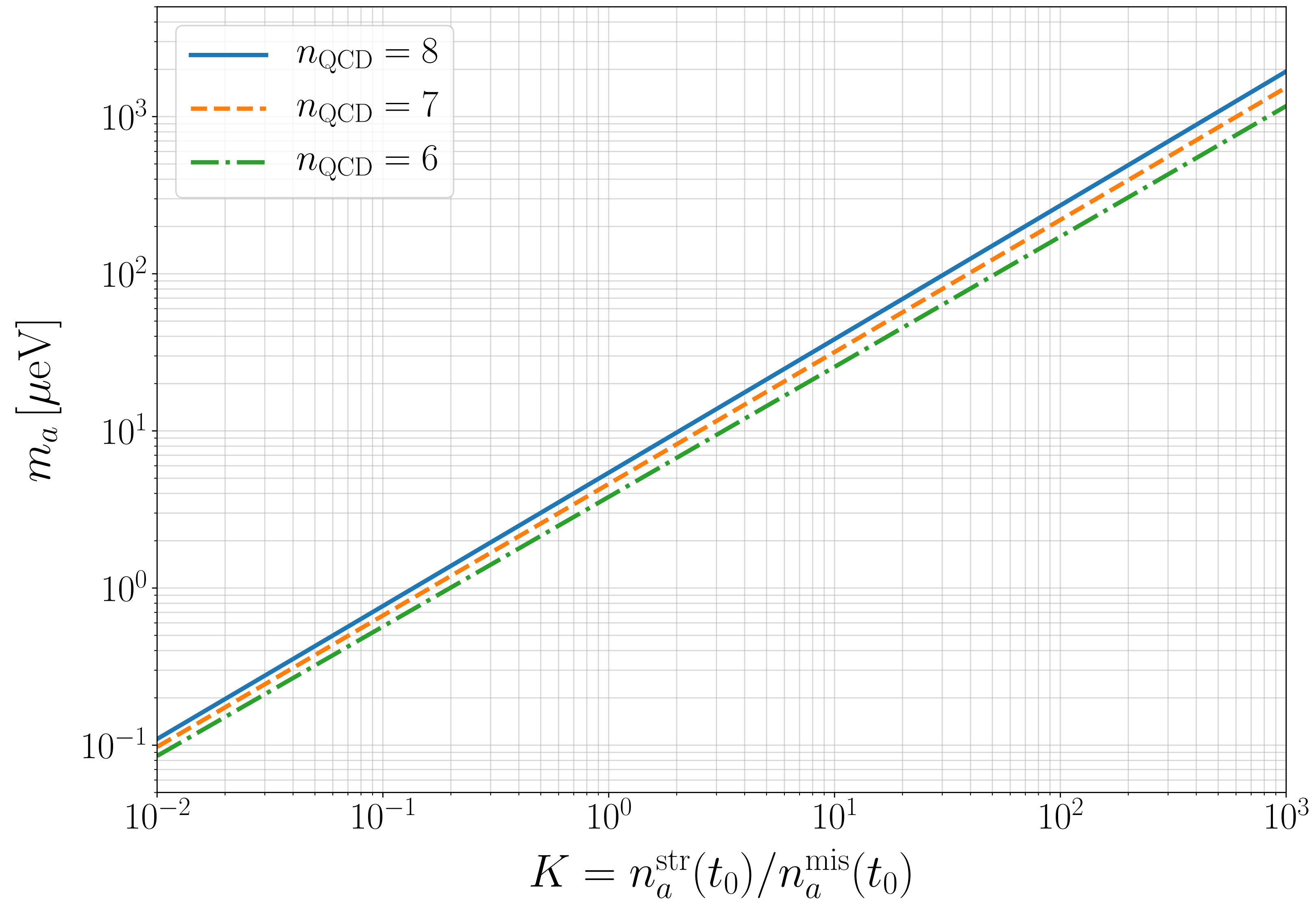
# Axion Production: Strings vs. Misalignment



Known for “standard” angle-averaged misalignment:

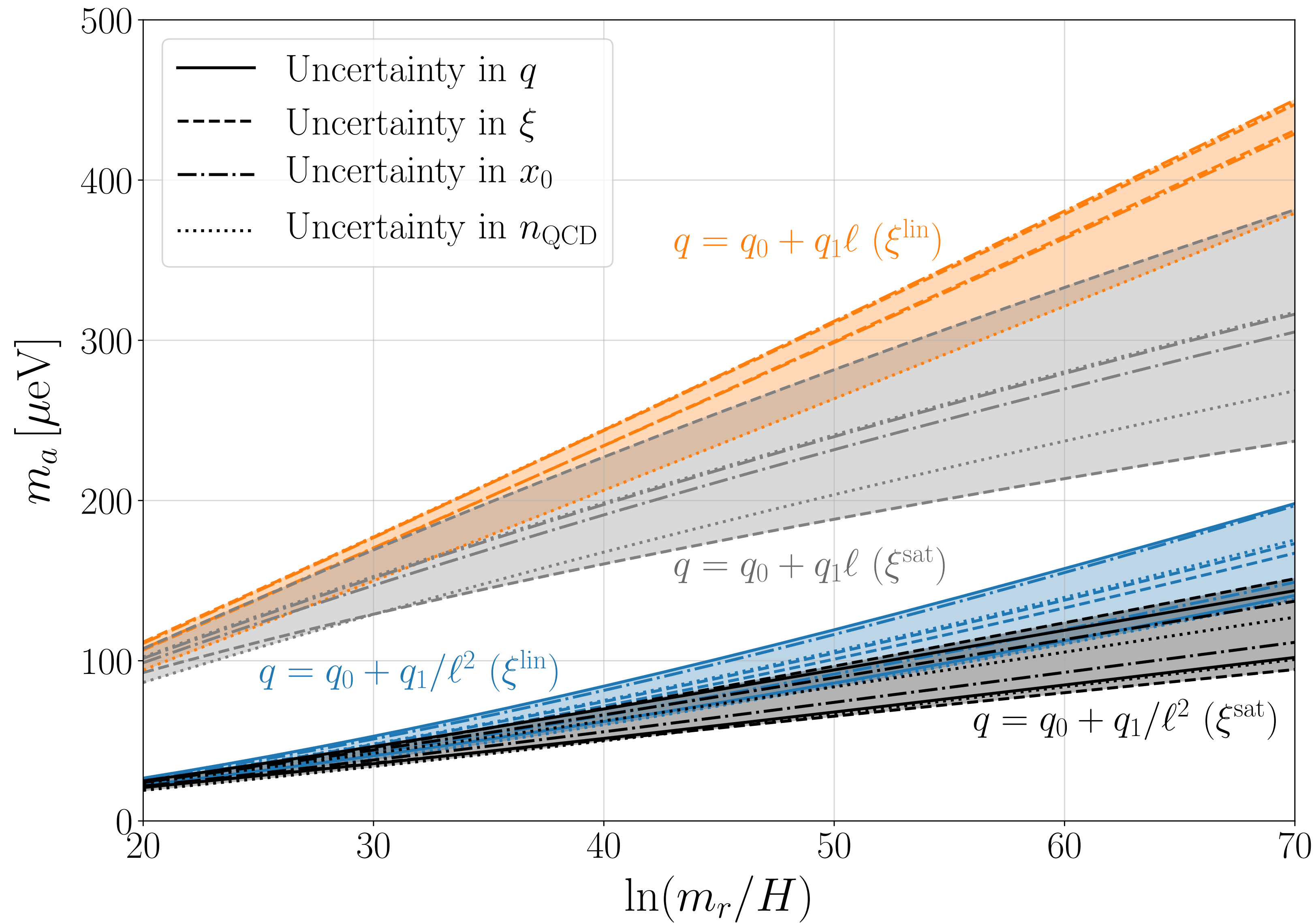
$$\Omega_a h^2 = K \Omega_a^{\text{mis}} h^2$$

# Production Efficiency vs. Axion Mass





# Axion Dark Matter Mass Prediction



Challenging ....

MADMAX, ALPHA, ORGAN

# Summary

- Understanding of the global string dynamics is very important for a precise prediction of the axion dark matter mass in the post-inflationary scenario.
- Our simulations predict  $95 \mu\text{eV} \lesssim m_a \lesssim 450 \mu\text{eV}$ .
- Fast developments in recent simulations allow us to have a better understanding, albeit serious discrepancies.
- There are several systematic effects that could bias the result, that could explain these discrepancies:
  - Initial conditions
  - Axion field oscillations
  - Discretisation effects
- Further improvement in the dynamical range would be helpful to make the extrapolation trustworthy.



If time allows ...

# Towards the Continuum Limit of Global Loop Decays

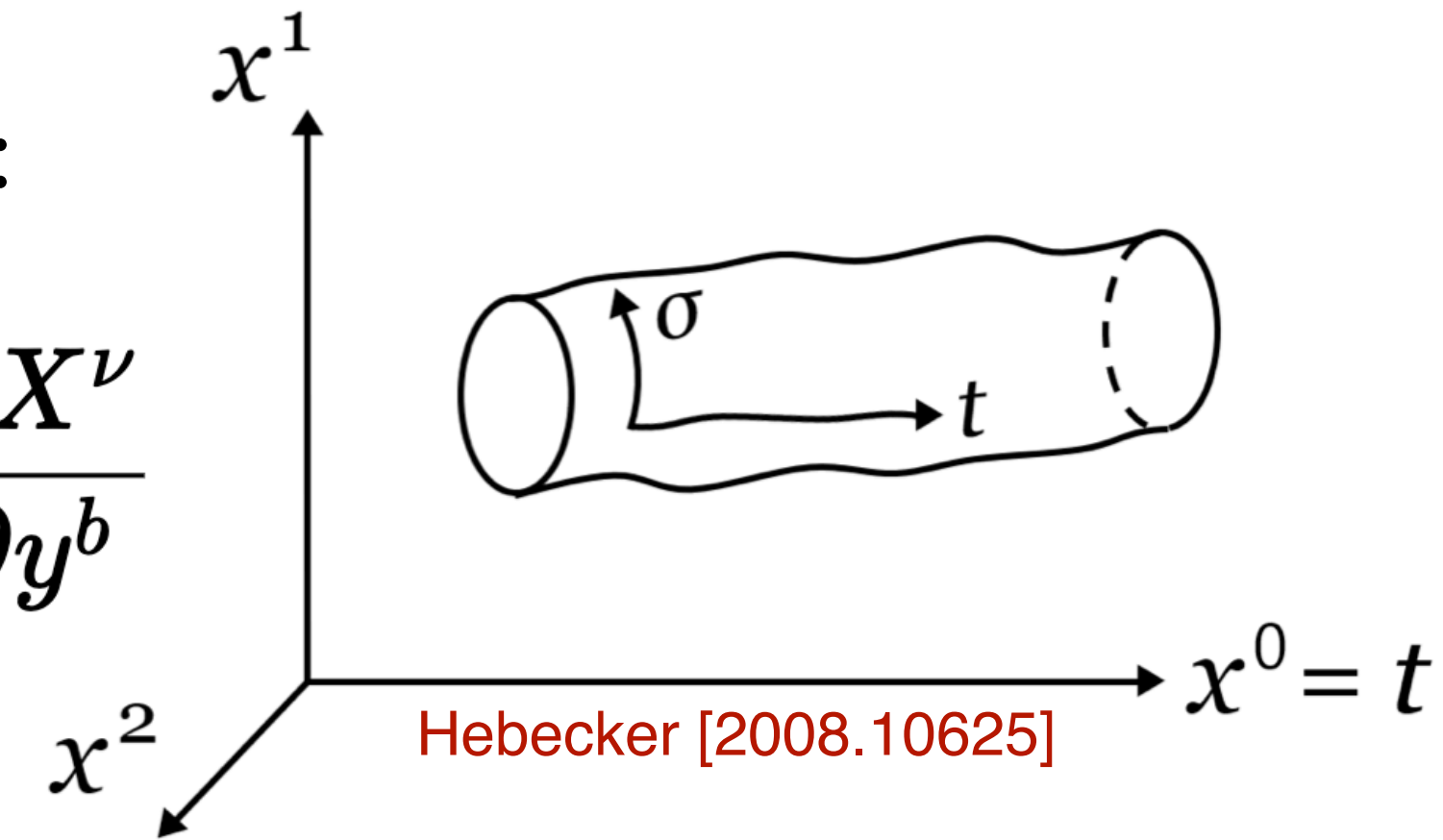
ongoing project(s) with J. Redondo, I. Y. Rybak and A. Drew

# String Dynamics

- (Local) String dynamics governed by the **Nambu-Goto** action:

$$S_{\text{NG}} = \mu_0 \int d^2\sigma \sqrt{-h} \quad \text{with } h = \det(h_{ab}), \quad h_{ab} = \eta_{\mu\nu} \frac{\partial X^\mu}{\partial y^a} \frac{\partial X^\nu}{\partial y^b}$$

Nambu (1970), Goto (1971)



- For **Global Strings**, couple to antisymmetric **Kalb-Ramond** field:

$$S_{\text{KR}} = S_{\text{NG}} - \frac{1}{6} \int d^4x F^{\mu\alpha\beta} F_{\mu\alpha\beta} + 2\pi f_a \int d^2\sigma B_{\alpha\beta} \partial_a X^\alpha \partial_b X^\beta \epsilon^{ab}$$

Kalb & Ramond (1974), Dabholkar & Quashnock (1990)

- Can be used to compute the axion field around strings (in close analogy to EM):

$$f_A \partial_\mu \theta = \frac{1}{6} \epsilon_{\mu\nu\alpha\beta} F^{\nu\alpha\beta}$$

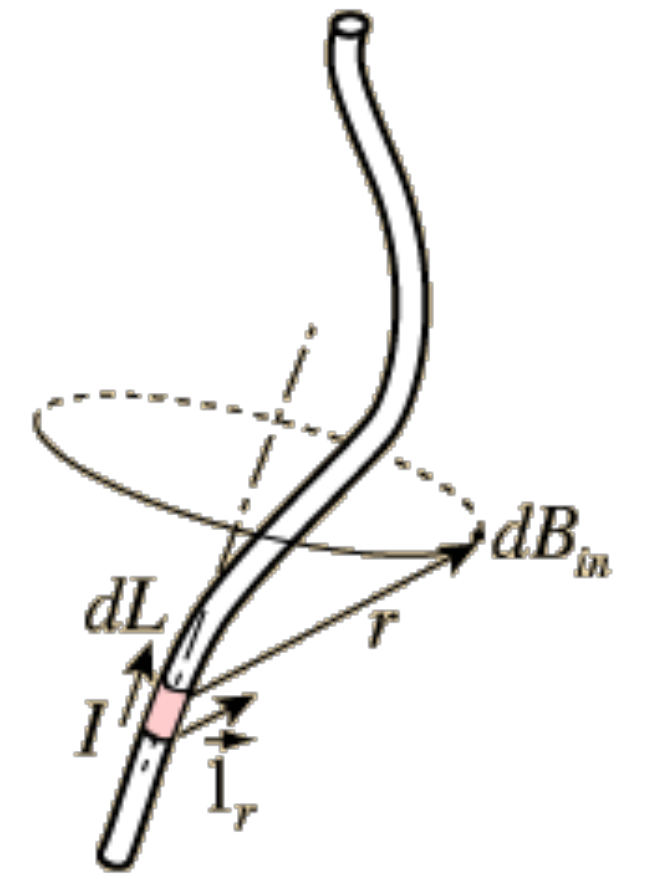
e.g. Fleury & Moore [1509.00026]



# Constructing the Axion Field around Strings

- Contribution of a short, straight section of the string to the axionic  $B$ -field:

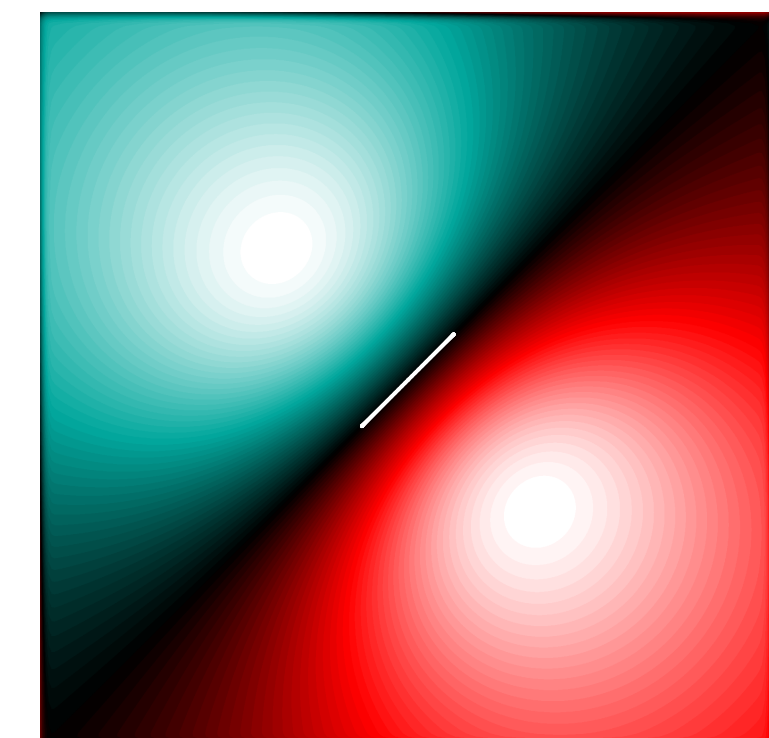
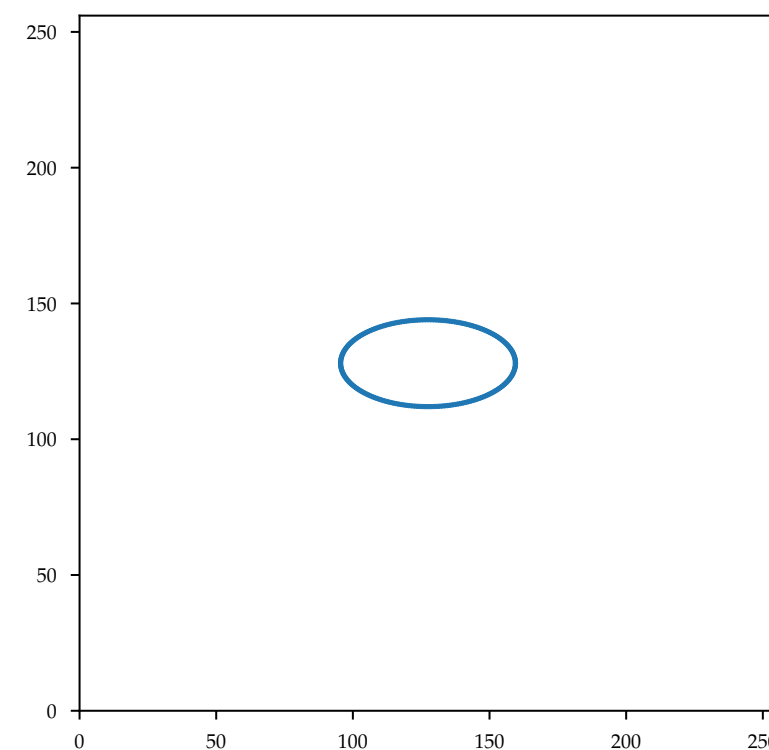
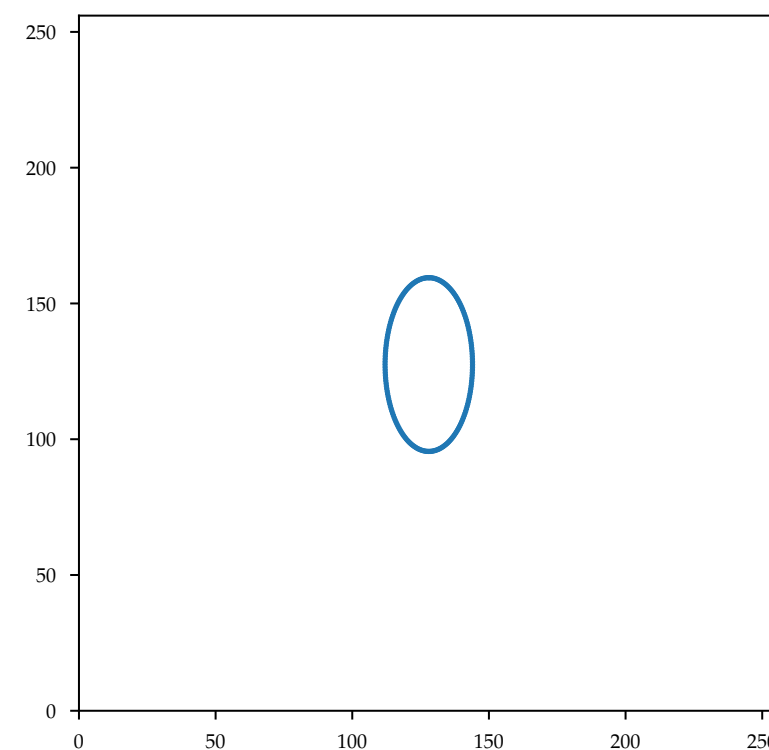
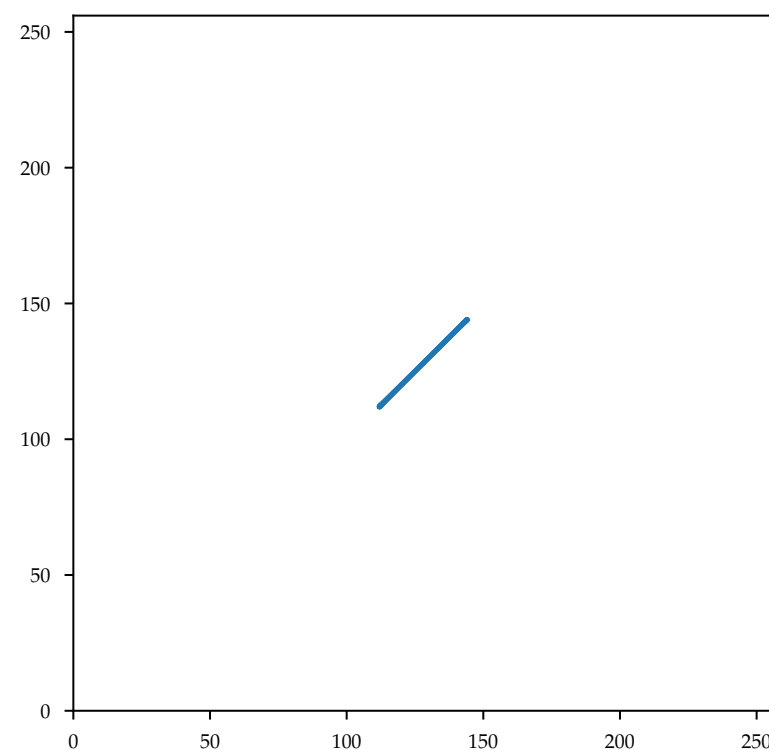
$$\nabla\theta = K \int d\sigma \frac{(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{X}(\sigma)) \times \mathbf{X}'}{|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{X}(\sigma)|^3}$$



- Calculate links to construct the axion field in the full plane:

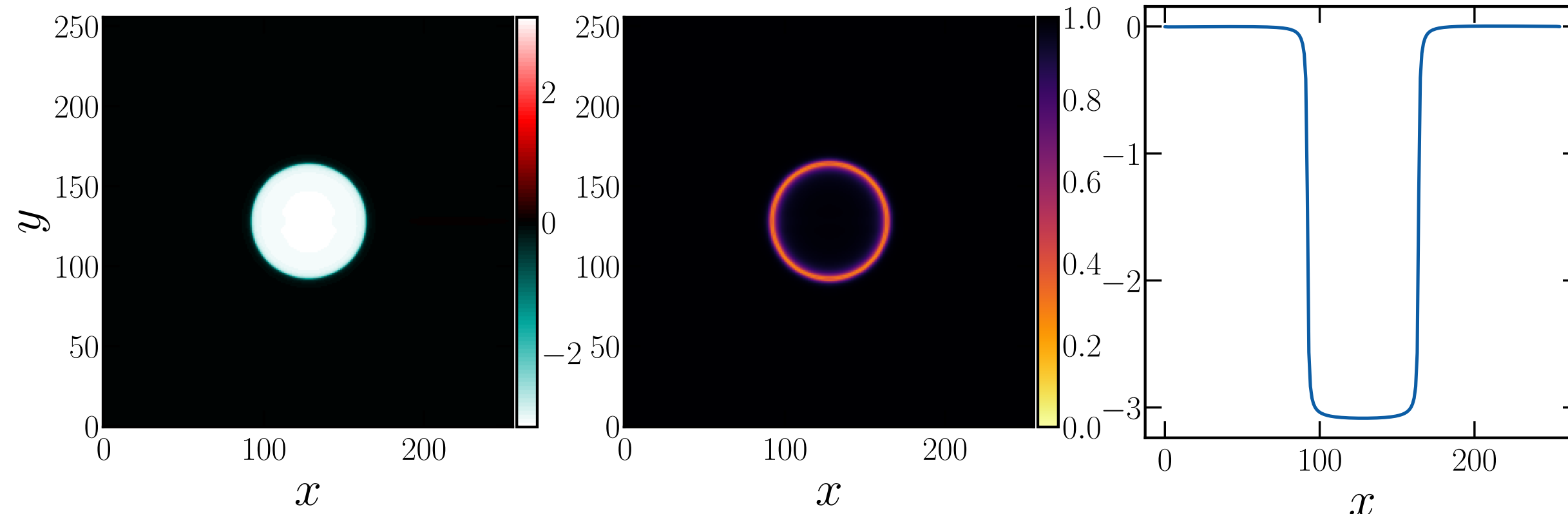
$$\theta_{\mathbf{x}+d\mathbf{x}} - \theta_{\mathbf{x}} = \int_x^{x+dx} d^3\mathbf{x} \cdot \nabla\theta = -\frac{1}{2} \int_x^{x+dx} d^3\mathbf{x} \cdot \int d\sigma \frac{(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{X}(\sigma)) \times \mathbf{X}'}{|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{X}(\sigma)|^3}$$

Biot-Savard law ([Link](#))



# Constructing the Axion Field around Strings

• Contribution of a s

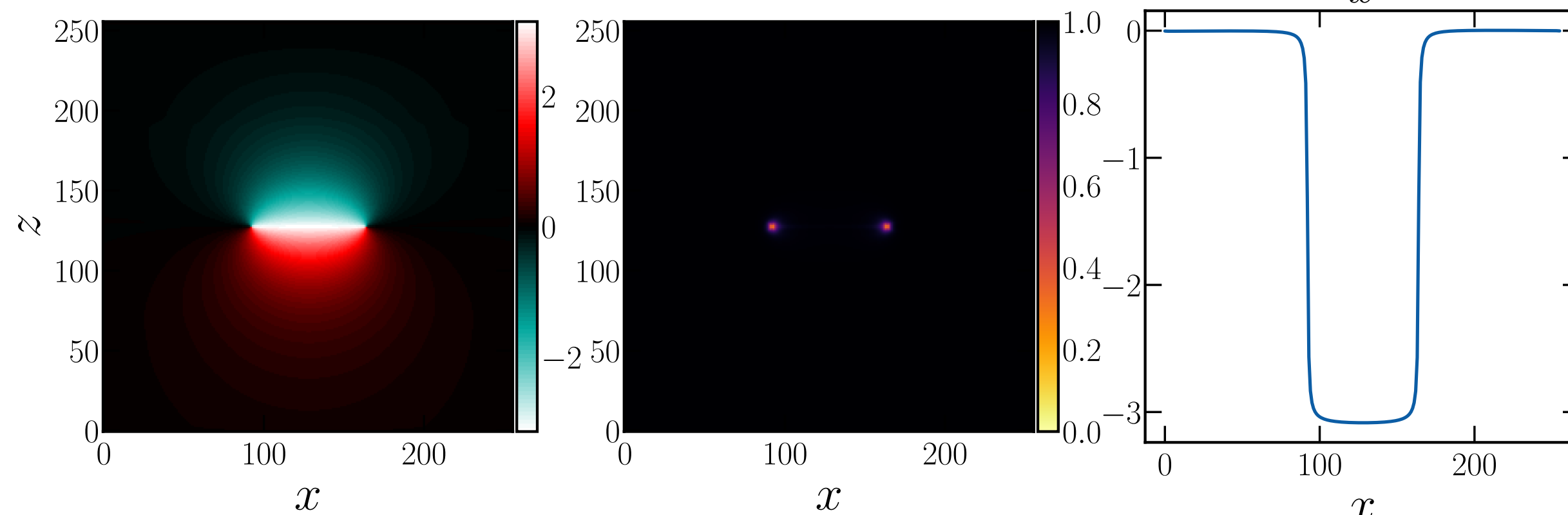


B-field:



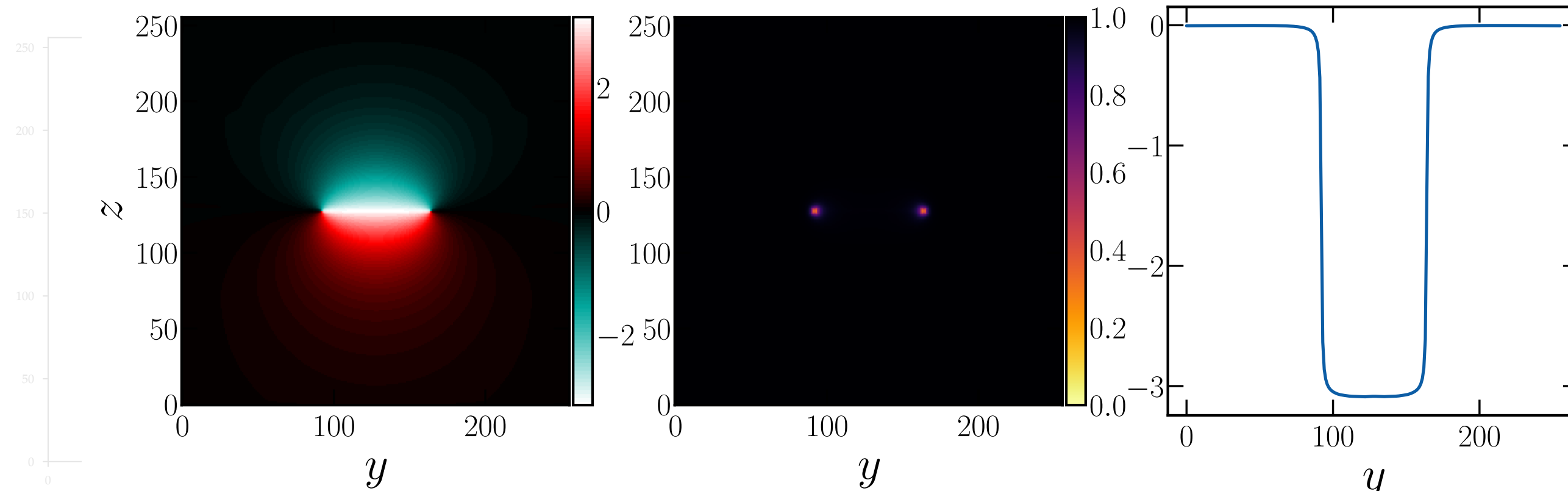
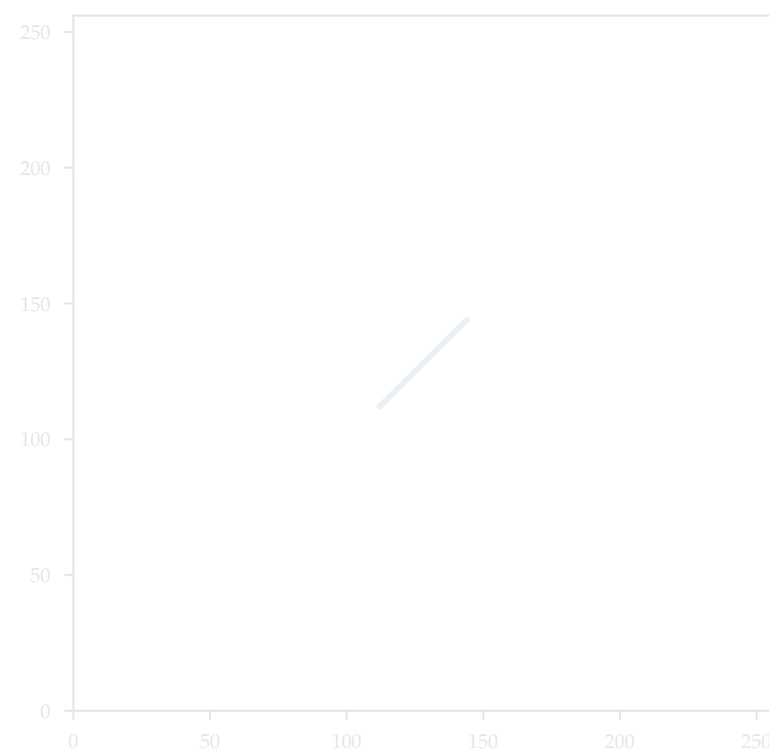
• Calculate links to c

$$\theta_{\mathbf{x}+d\mathbf{x}} - \theta_{\mathbf{x}} =$$



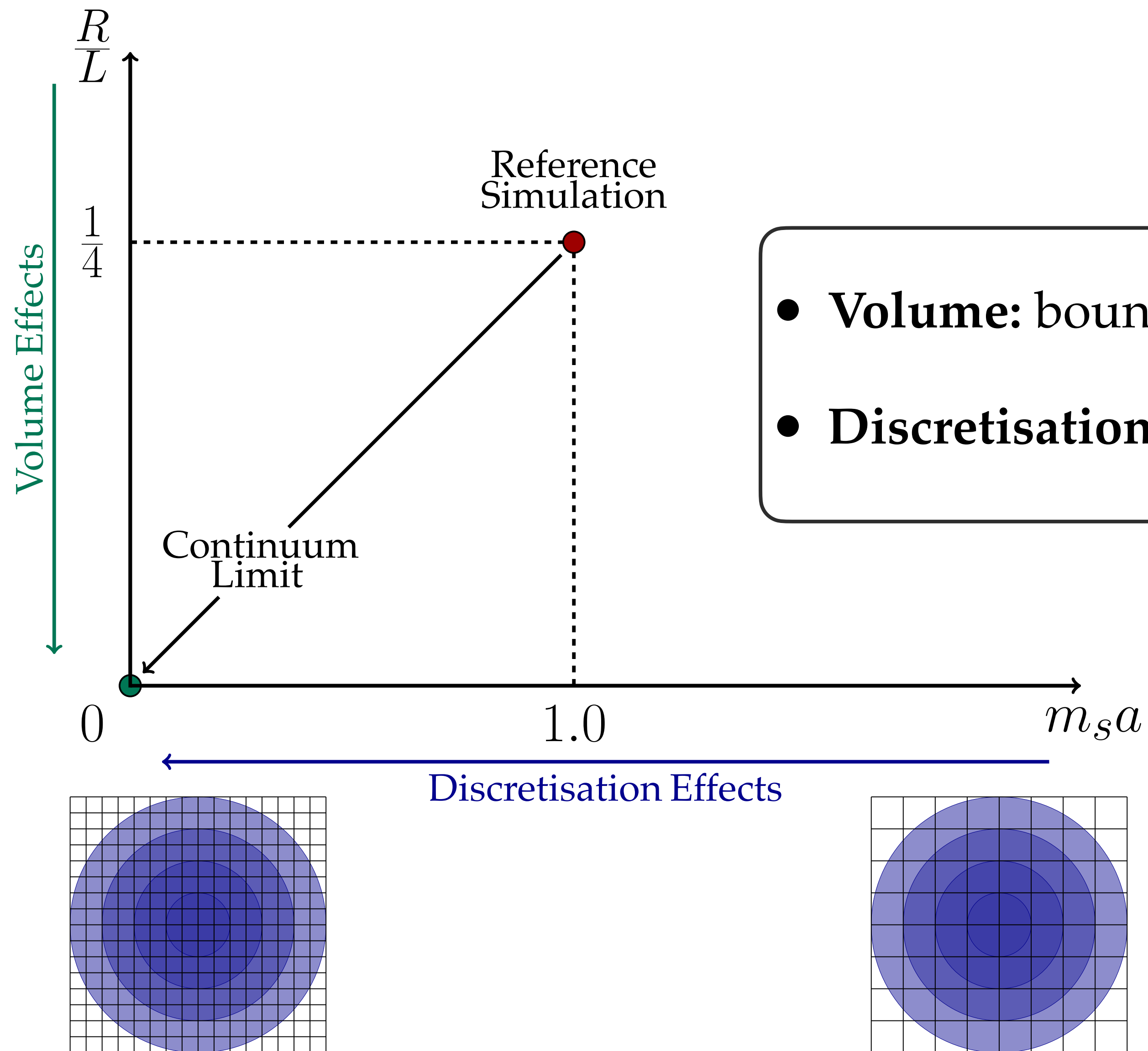
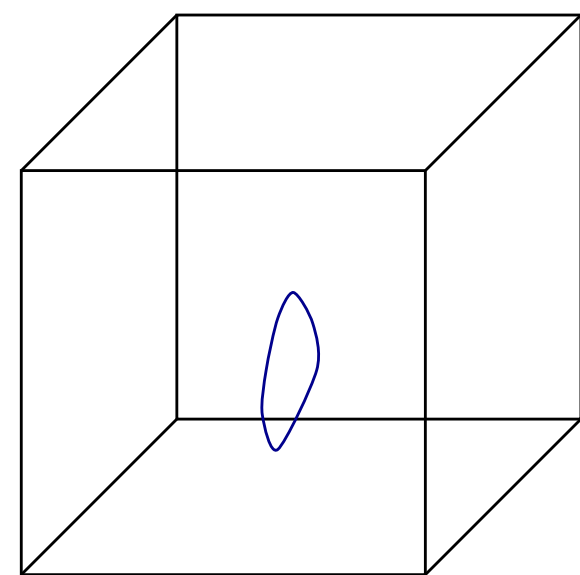
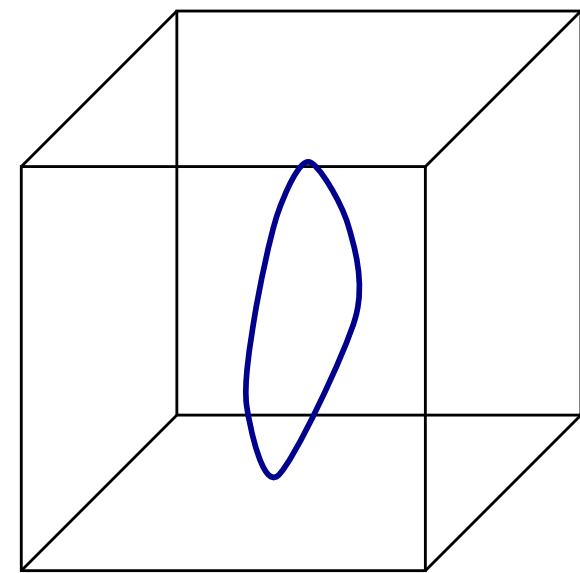
Biot-Savard law (Link)

$$\frac{\mathbf{X}(\sigma) \times \mathbf{X}'(\sigma)}{|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{X}(\sigma)|^3}$$



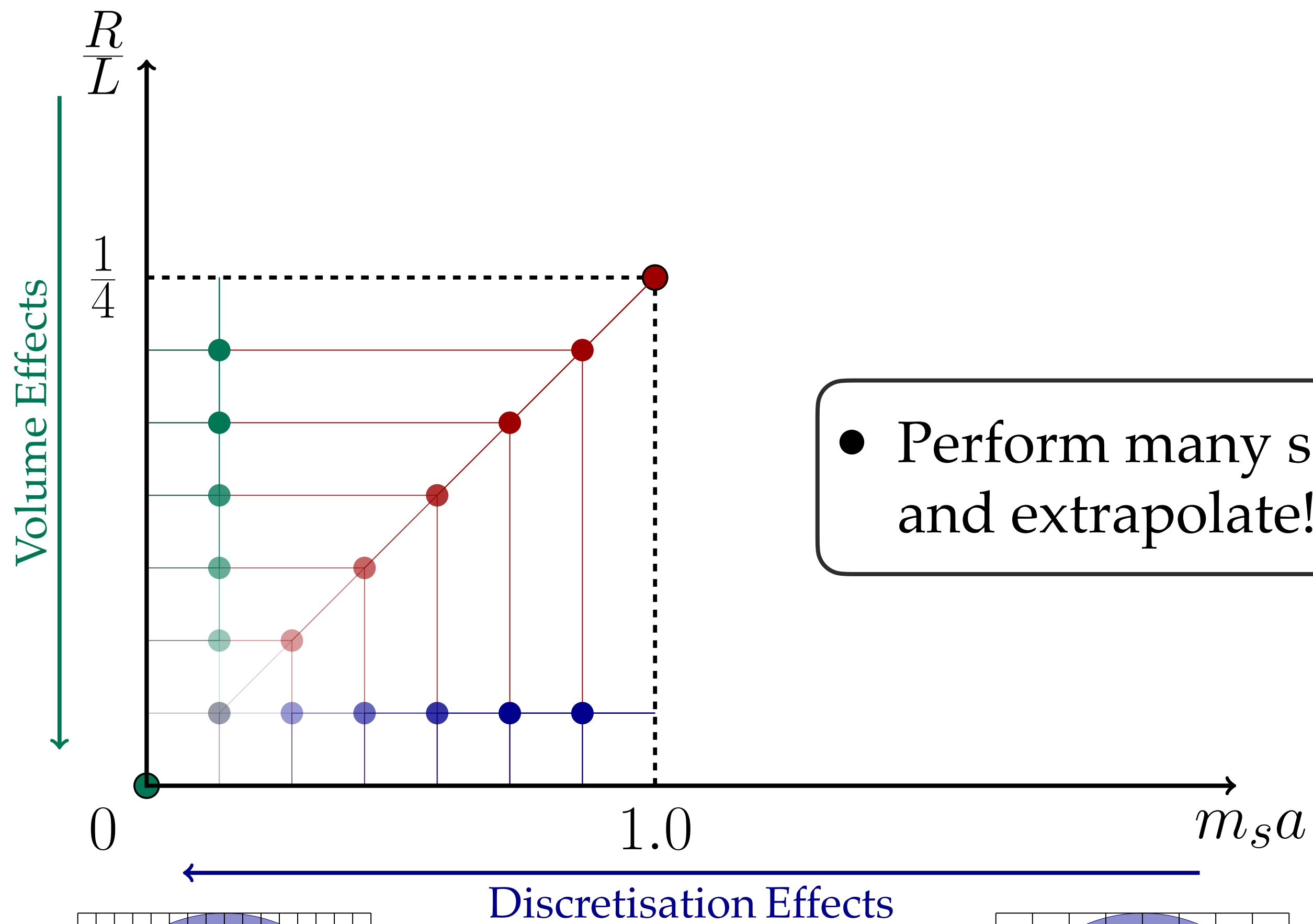
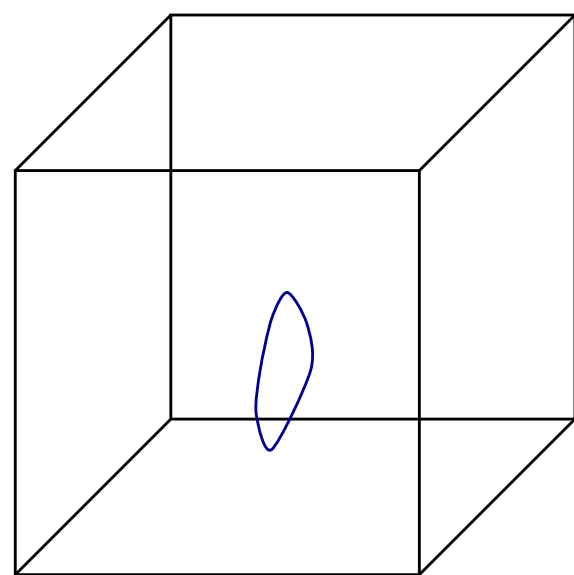
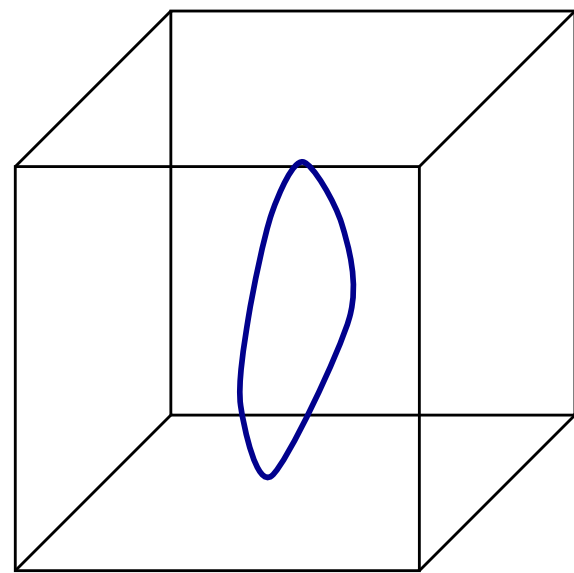


# Towards the Continuum Limit

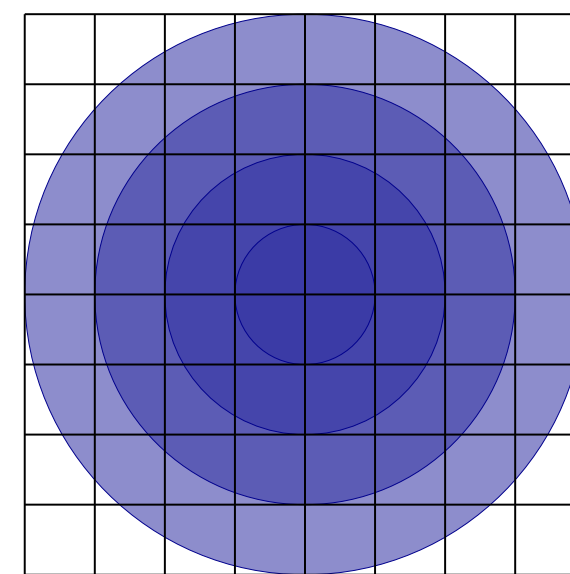
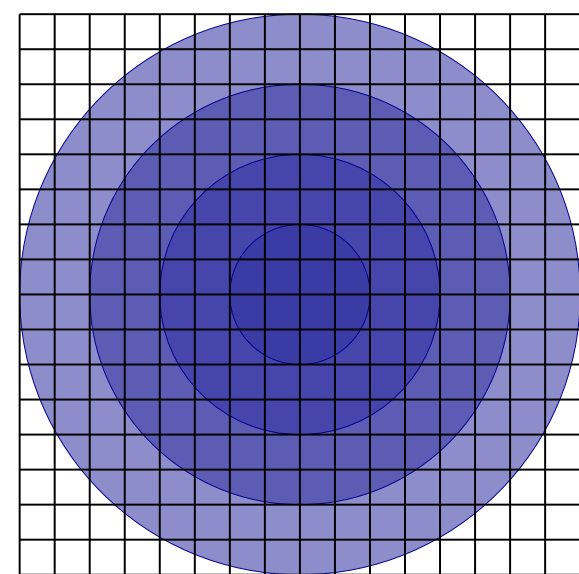


- **Volume:** boundary effects, periodic copies?
- **Discretisation:** resolution of the string cores

# Towards the Continuum Limit



- Perform many simulations, test convergence and extrapolate!

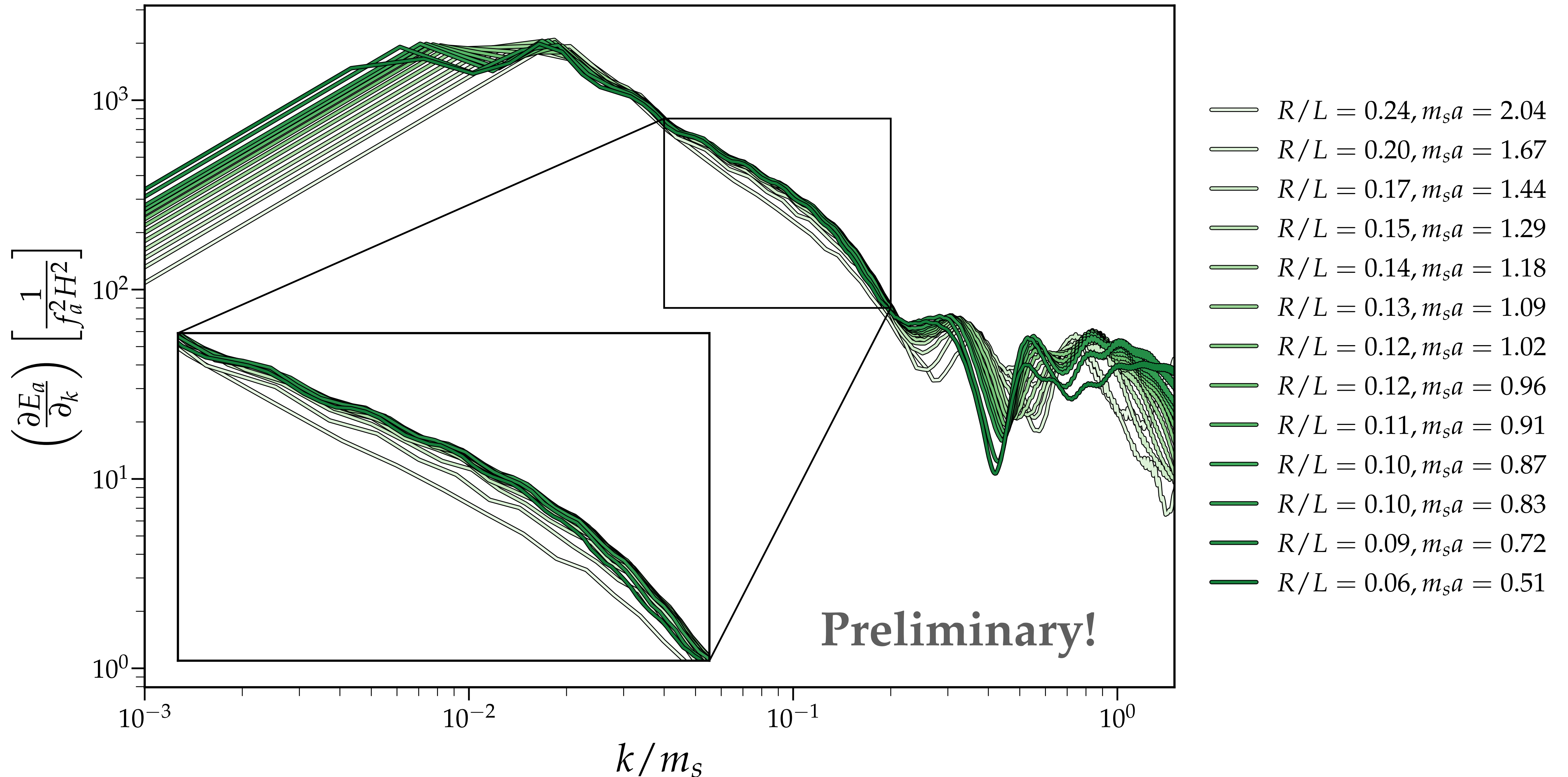




# Open Problems

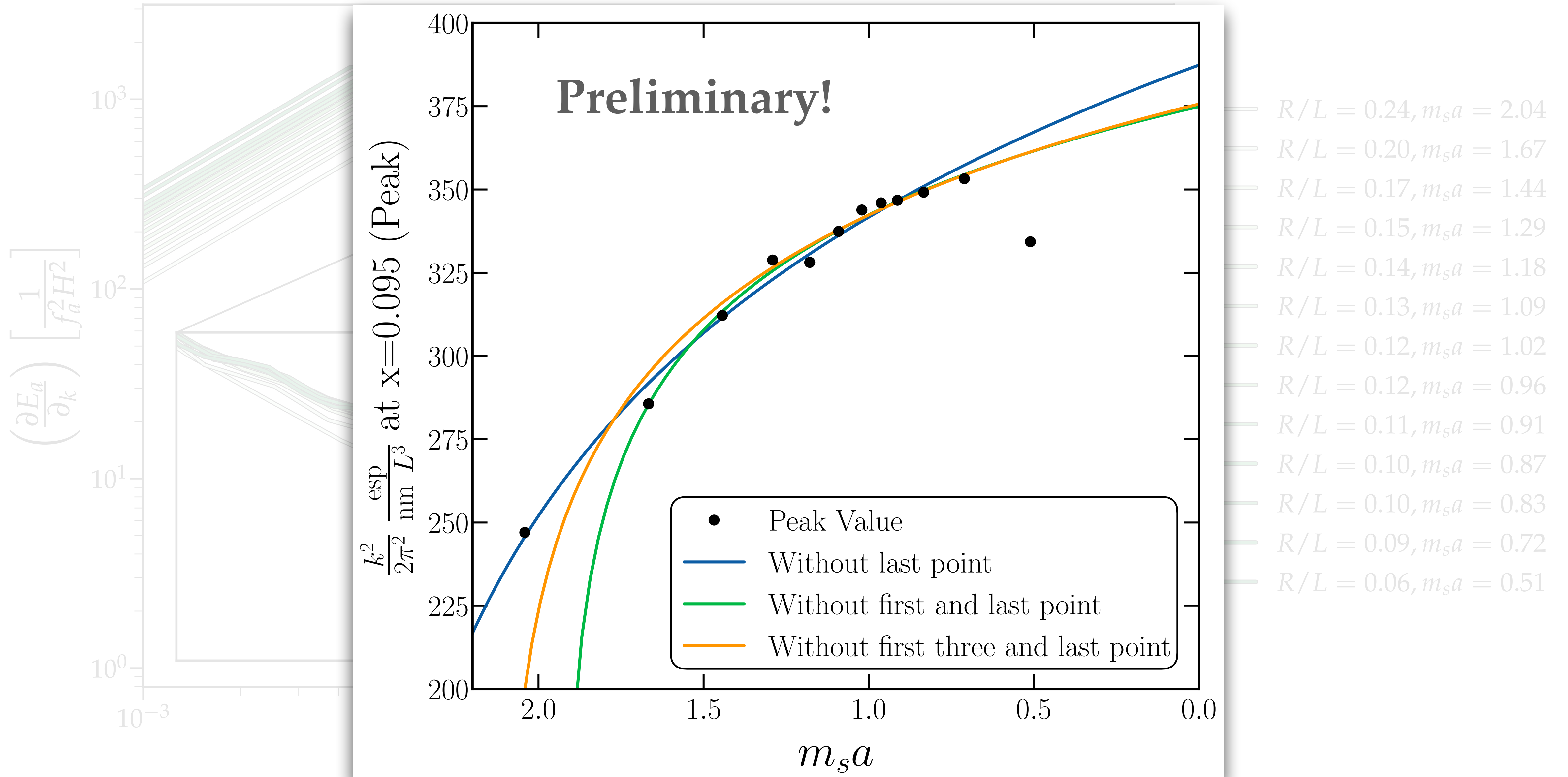
- $\mathcal{F}$  is a useful quantity when there are many strings but is it also good for single string configurations?
- How can we treat the **self-field** and the **radiation** separately? Does this bias the spectrum?
- Is there a **characteristic time scale/wavelength** that limits our ability to correctly track the string dynamics?

# Extrapolation of the Radiation Spectrum

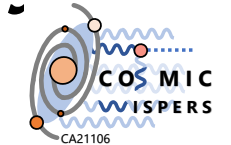


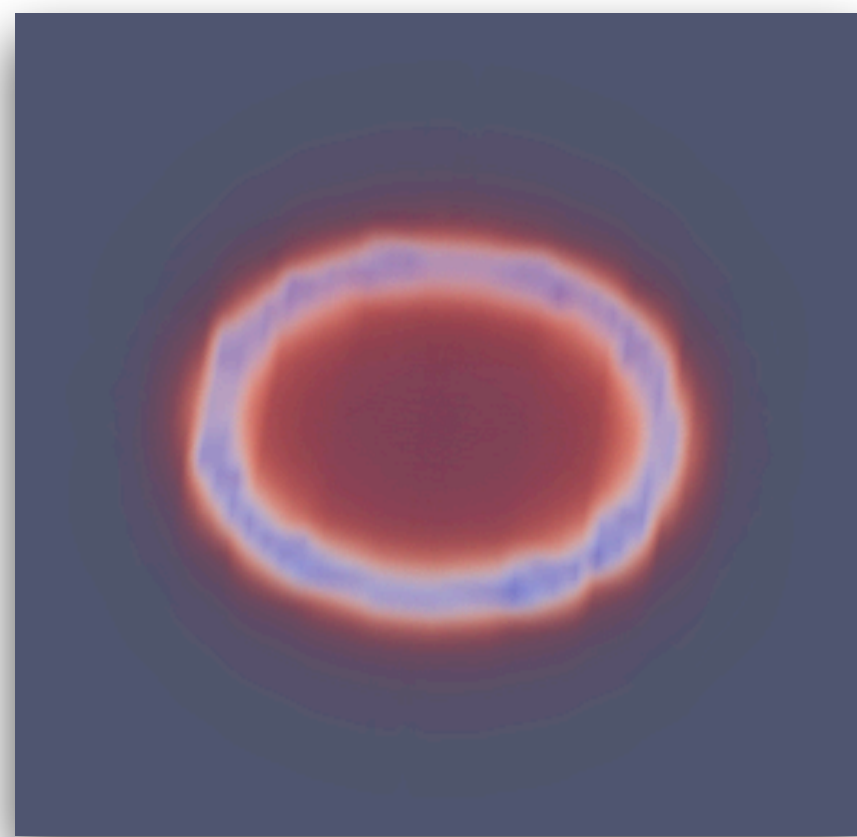


# Extrapolation of the Radiation Spectrum

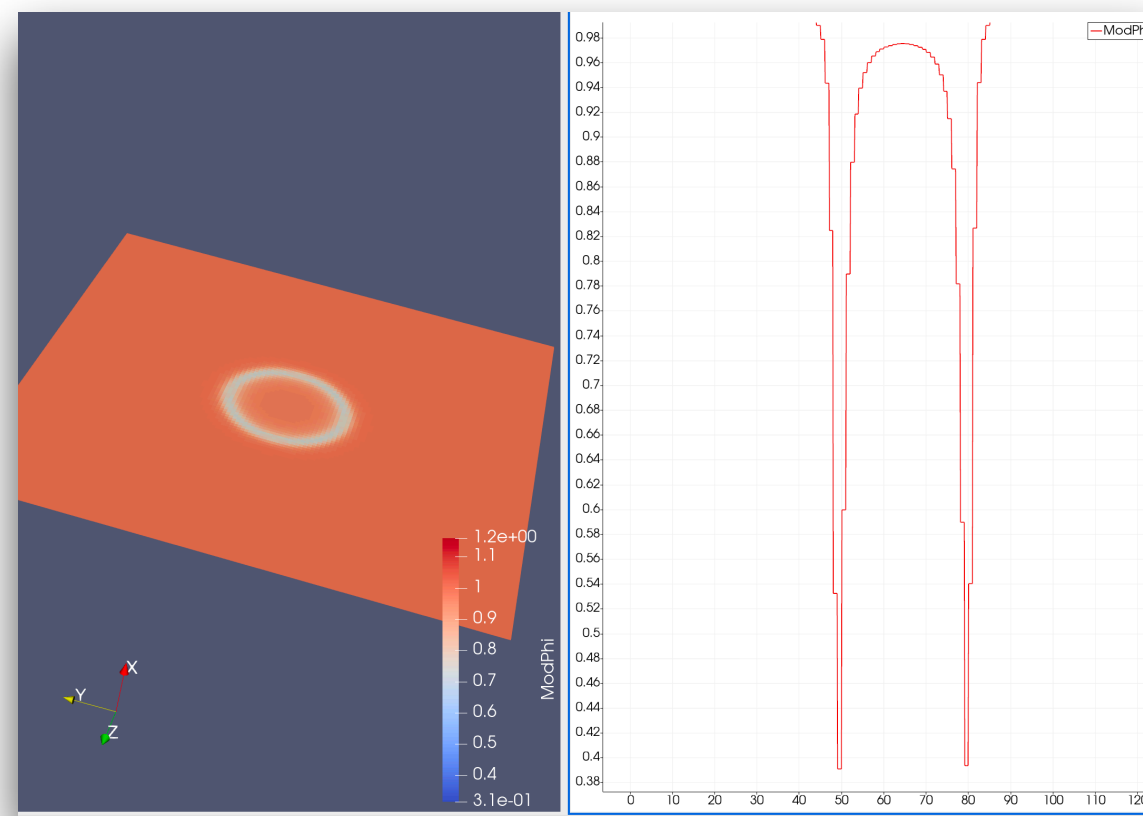


# New Insights into the Network Spectrum?

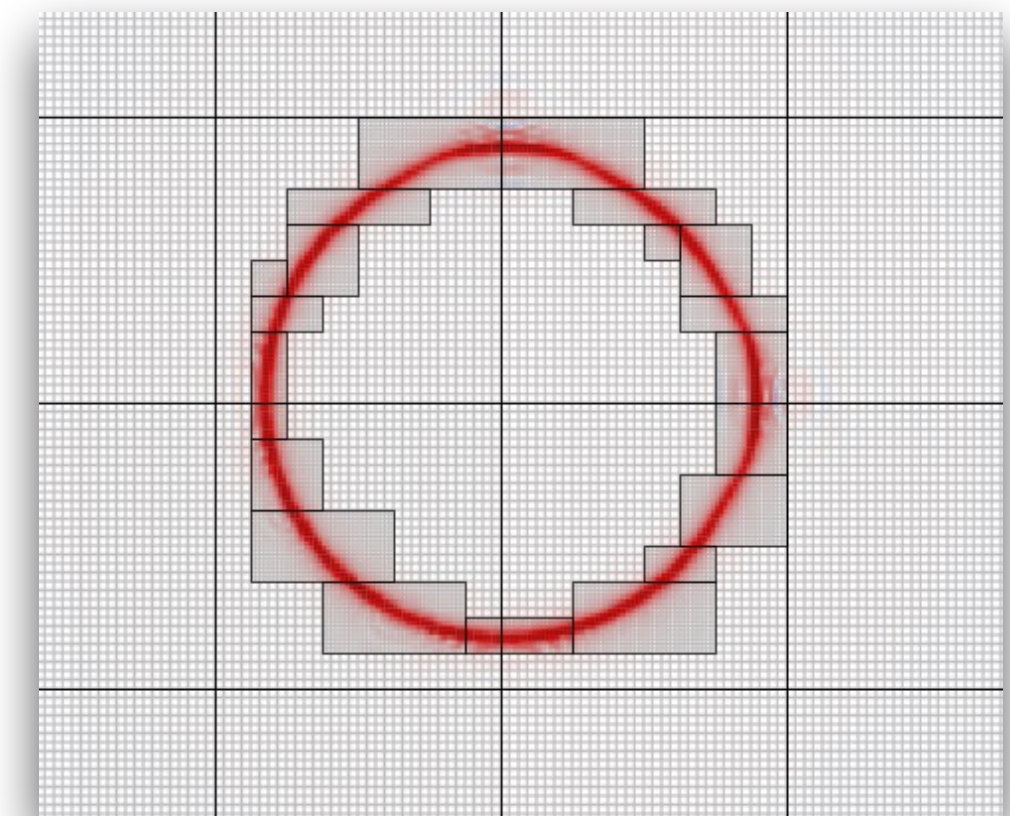
- We are running lots of simulations with different individual string configurations and try to obtain their radiation spectrum.
- We use both static-grid and **Adaptive Mesh Refinement** simulations and try to directly sync and compare results from different codes to better understand the discrepancies.  
( STSM with Amelia Drew in Cambridge)
- The goal is to understand the contributions from the constituents of the string network in more detail.



Jaxions ICs in Chombo



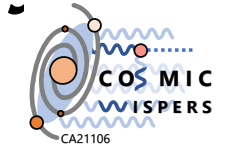
Visualisation with ParaView



axioNyx AMR Code



# New Insights into the Network Spectrum?

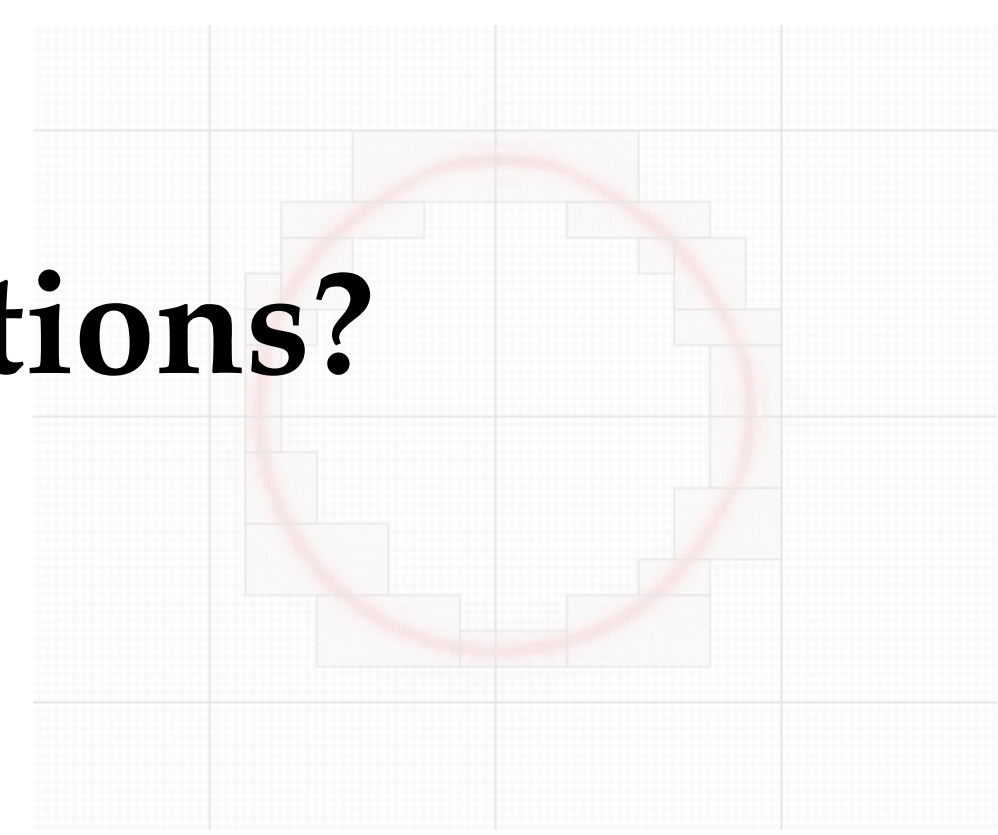
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Jaxions ICs in Chombo



Visualisation with ParaView



axioNyx AMR Code

**Thank you for your attention! Any questions?**

[mkaltschmidt@unizar.es](mailto:mkaltschmidt@unizar.es)

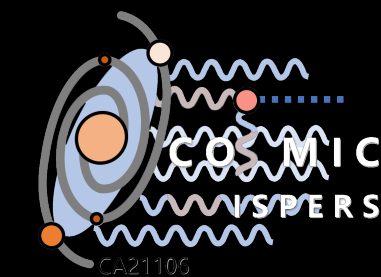
# Backup Slides



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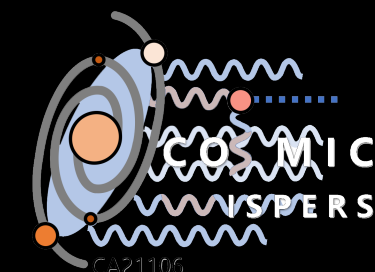
# General



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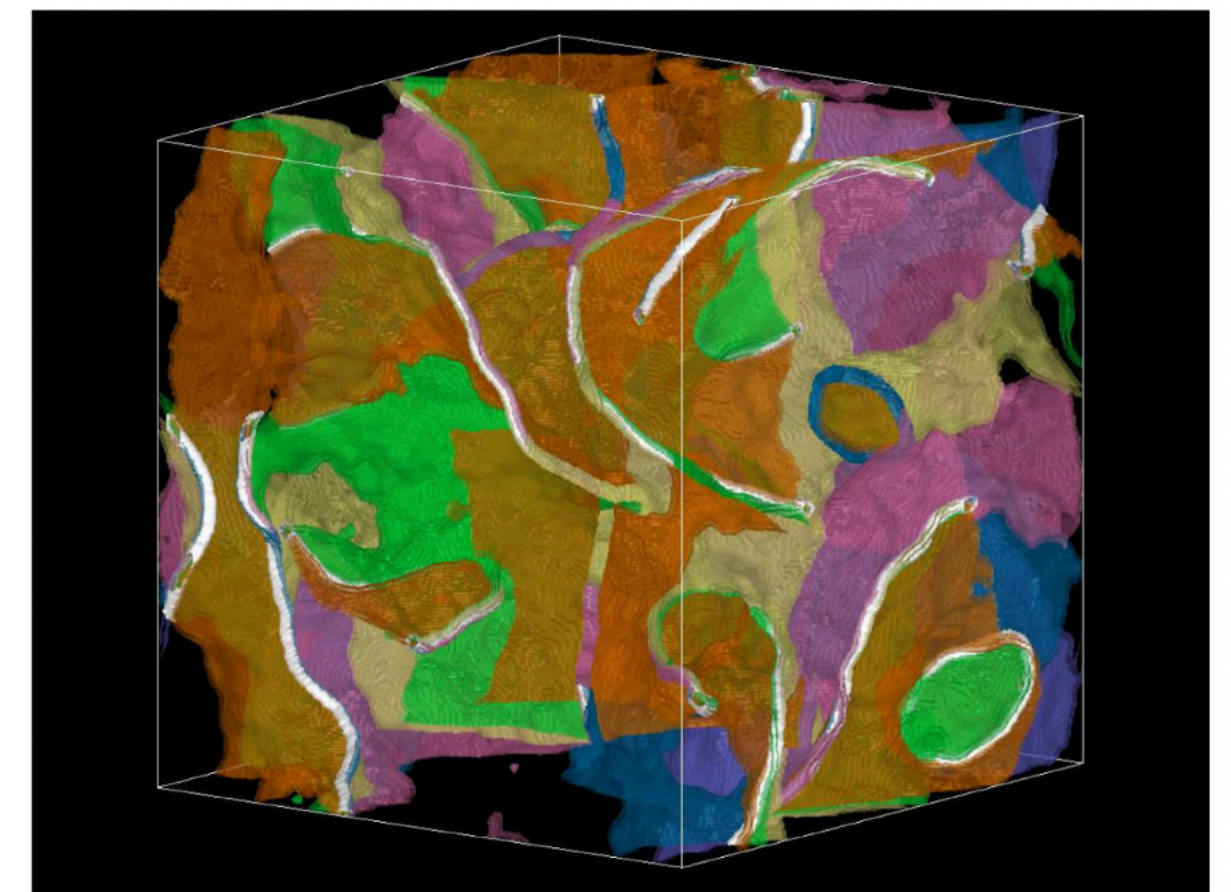
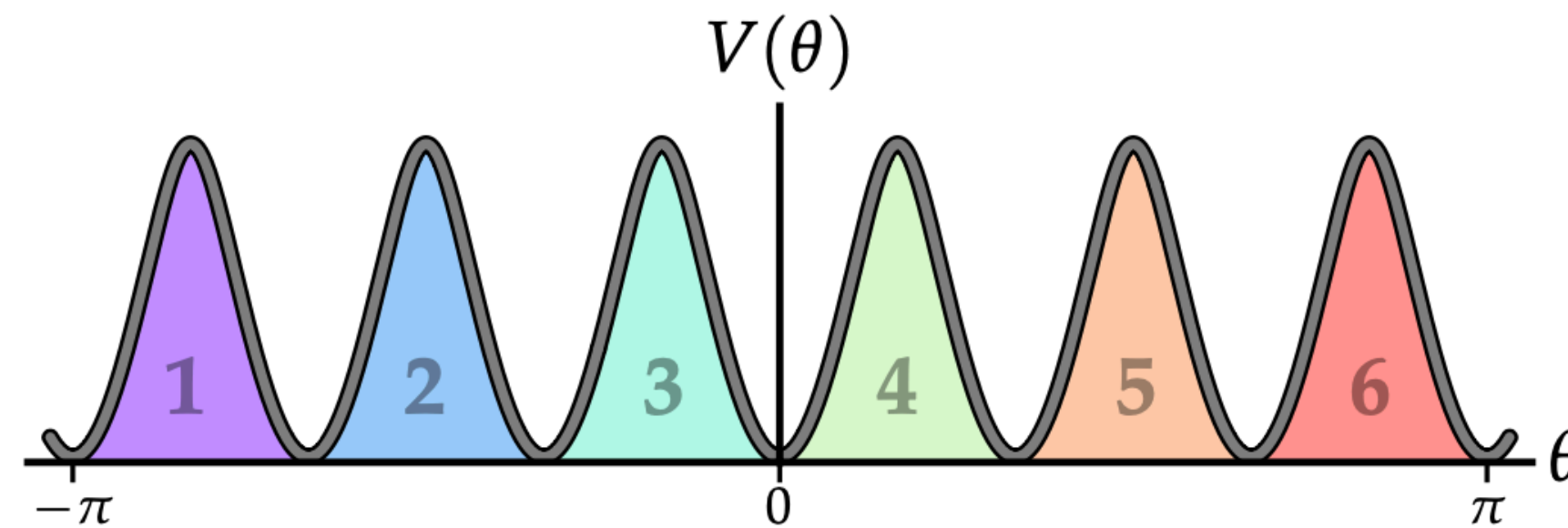
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# $N_{\text{DW}} > 1$ : Axion Domain Wall Problem

- Axion cycles around  $N_{\text{DW}}$  times between  $(-\pi, \pi)$
- In general we get more axions from wall decay, so preferred  $m_a$  is higher.
- Phenomenologically difficult. Domain wall network gets stuck and overwhelms the cosmic energy density.
- Must have some preferred minimum!

$$V(\theta) \approx -\chi(T) \cos(N_{\text{DW}}\theta)$$



(e)  $N_{\text{DW}} = 6$

Hiramatsu+ [1207.3166]



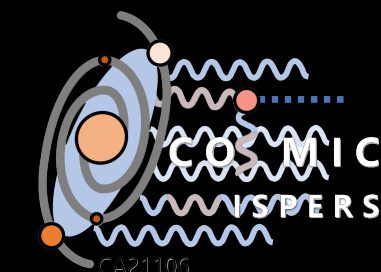
# More details on the recent Paper



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# Simulation Overview

- More than 1500 simulations performed at
  - RAVEN and COBRA supercomputers at Max Planck Computing and Data Facility (MPCDF)
  - SQUID supercomputer at Cybermedia Center, Osaka University
- Box sizes of up to  $11.264^3$  (256 CPU nodes)

Type <sup>a</sup>	Grid size ( $N^3$ )	Laplacian	Final time ( $\tau_f/L$ )	$\ln(m_r/H)$ at $\tau_f$	Parameter	Number of simulations
Physical	$11264^3$	4-neighbours	0.625	9.08	$\bar{\lambda} = 195799$	20
Physical	$4096^3$	1-neighbour	0.625	8.07	$\bar{\lambda} = 25890.8$	30
Physical	$4096^3$	2-neighbours	0.625	8.07	$\bar{\lambda} = 25890.8$	30
Physical	$4096^3$	3-neighbours	0.625	8.07	$\bar{\lambda} = 25890.8$	30
Physical	$4096^3$	4-neighbours	0.625	8.07	$\bar{\lambda} = 25890.8$	30
Physical	$3072^3$	4-neighbours	0.5	7.34	$\bar{\lambda} = 14563.6$	30
Physical	$3072^3$	4-neighbours	0.5	7.74	$\bar{\lambda} = 32768$	30
Physical	$3072^3$	4-neighbours	0.5	8.08	$\bar{\lambda} = 64225.3$	30
Physical	$3072^3$	4-neighbours	0.5	8.37	$\bar{\lambda} = 114178$	30
Physical	$2048^3$	4-neighbours	0.55	7.12	$\bar{\lambda} = 6400$	$30 \times 30^b$
Physical	$1024^3$	4-neighbours	0.5	6.23	$\bar{\lambda} = 1600$	$30 \times 4^c$
Physical	$3072^3$	4-neighbours	0.458367	7.5	$\bar{\lambda} = 28571.2$	30
Physical	$2560^3$	4-neighbours	0.550042	7.5	$\bar{\lambda} = 13778.5$	30
Physical	$2048^3$	4-neighbours	0.687552	7.5	$\bar{\lambda} = 5643.68$	30
Physical	$1536^3$	4-neighbours	0.916735	7.5	$\bar{\lambda} = 1785.69$	30
Physical	$1024^3$	4-neighbours	1.3751	7.5	$\bar{\lambda} = 352.73$	30
PRS	$8192^3$	4-neighbours	0.55	6.80	$m_r a = 0.2$	20
PRS	$8192^3$	4-neighbours	0.55	7.21	$m_r a = 0.3$	20
PRS	$8192^3$	4-neighbours	0.55	7.72	$m_r a = 0.5$	20
PRS	$8192^3$	4-neighbours	0.55	8.06	$m_r a = 0.7$	20
PRS	$8192^3$	4-neighbours	0.55	8.41	$m_r a = 1.0$	20
PRS	$8192^3$	4-neighbours	0.55	8.82	$m_r a = 1.5$	20
PRS	$4096^3$	4-neighbours	0.55	7.72	$m_r a = 1.0$	30
PRS	$2048^3$	4-neighbours	0.55	7.03	$m_r a = 1.0$	30
PRS	$1024^3$	4-neighbours	0.55	6.33	$m_r a = 1.0$	30
PRS	$2048^3$	4-neighbours	0.5	6.93	$m_r a = 1.0$	1

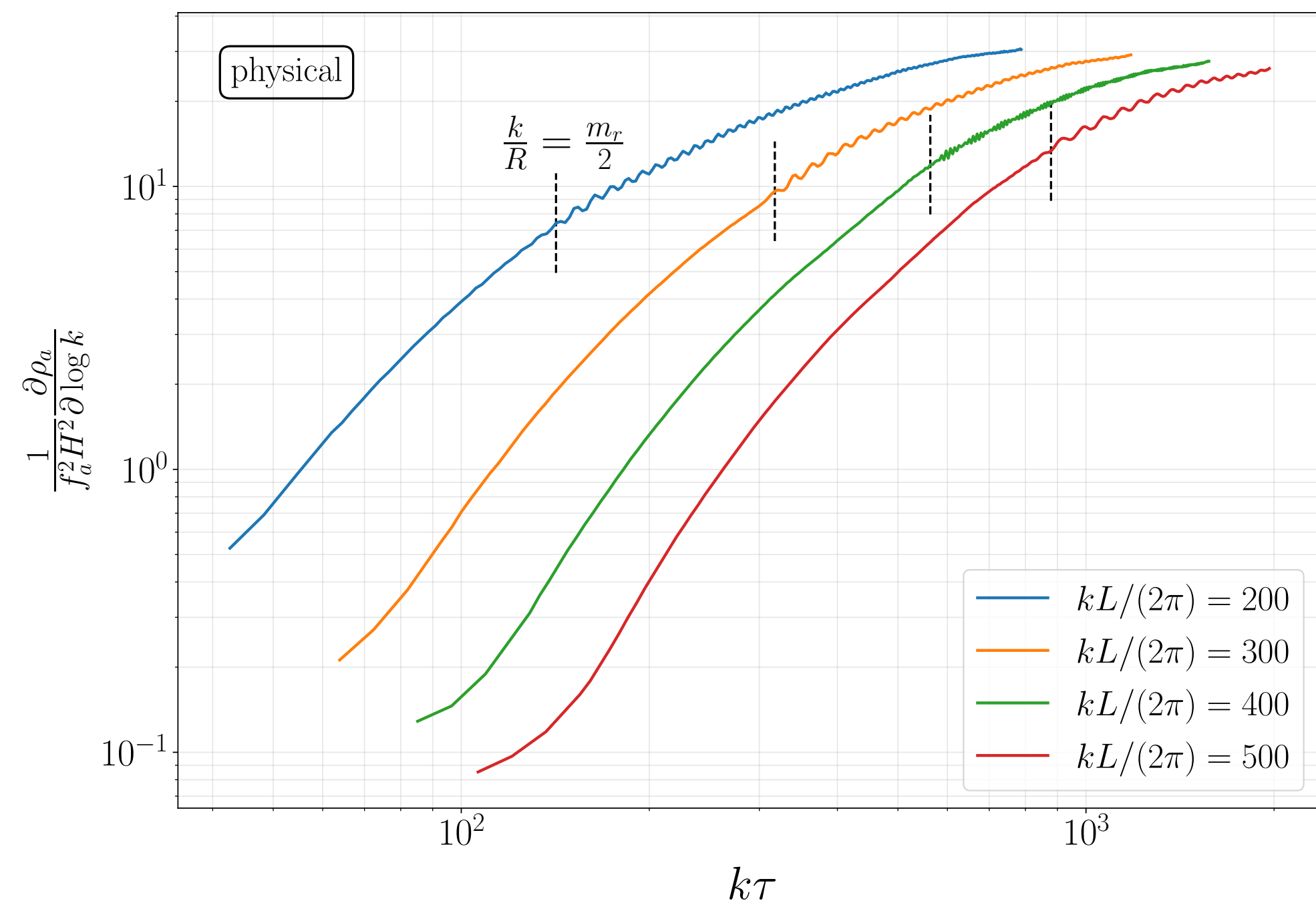
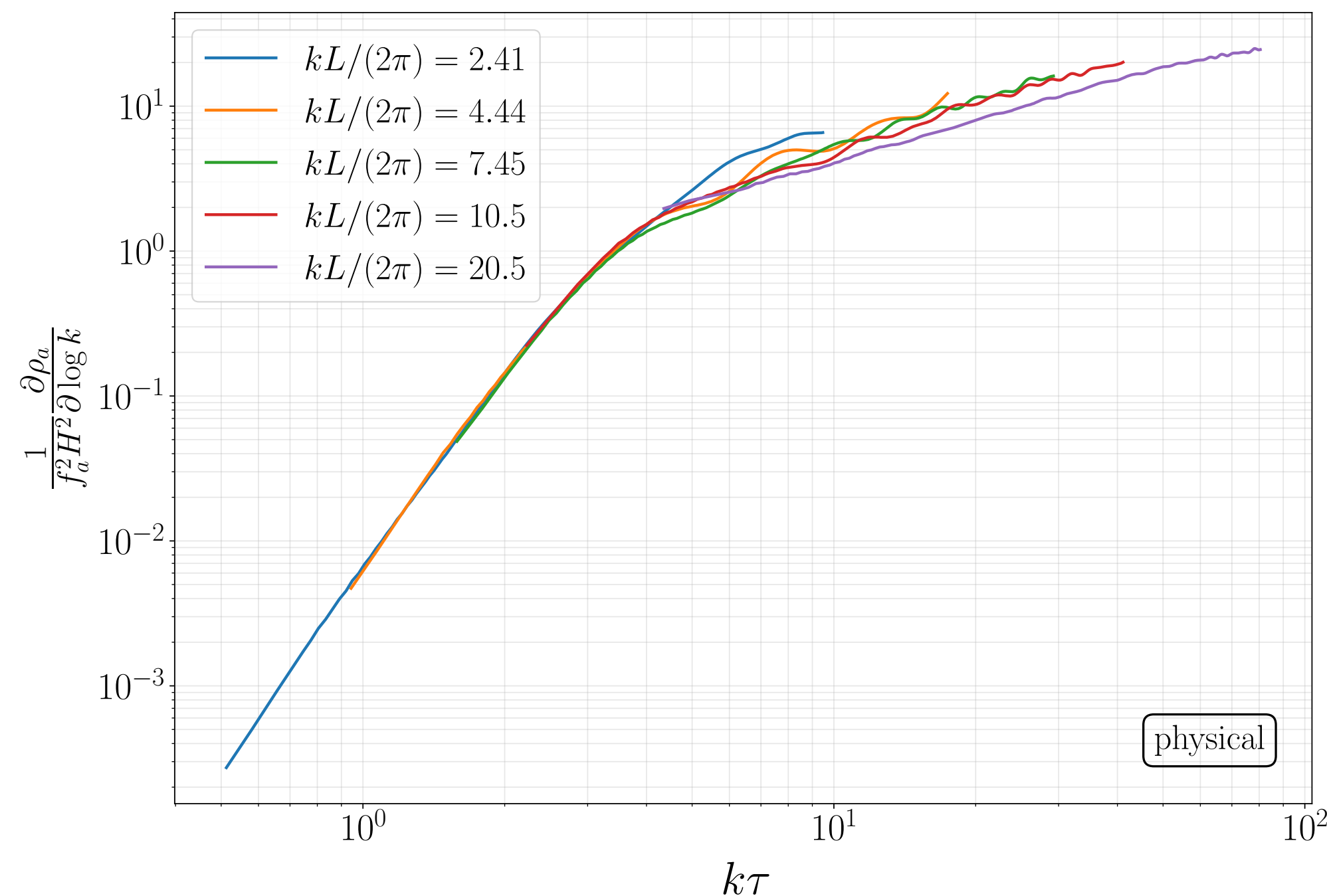


# Axion Mode Evolution

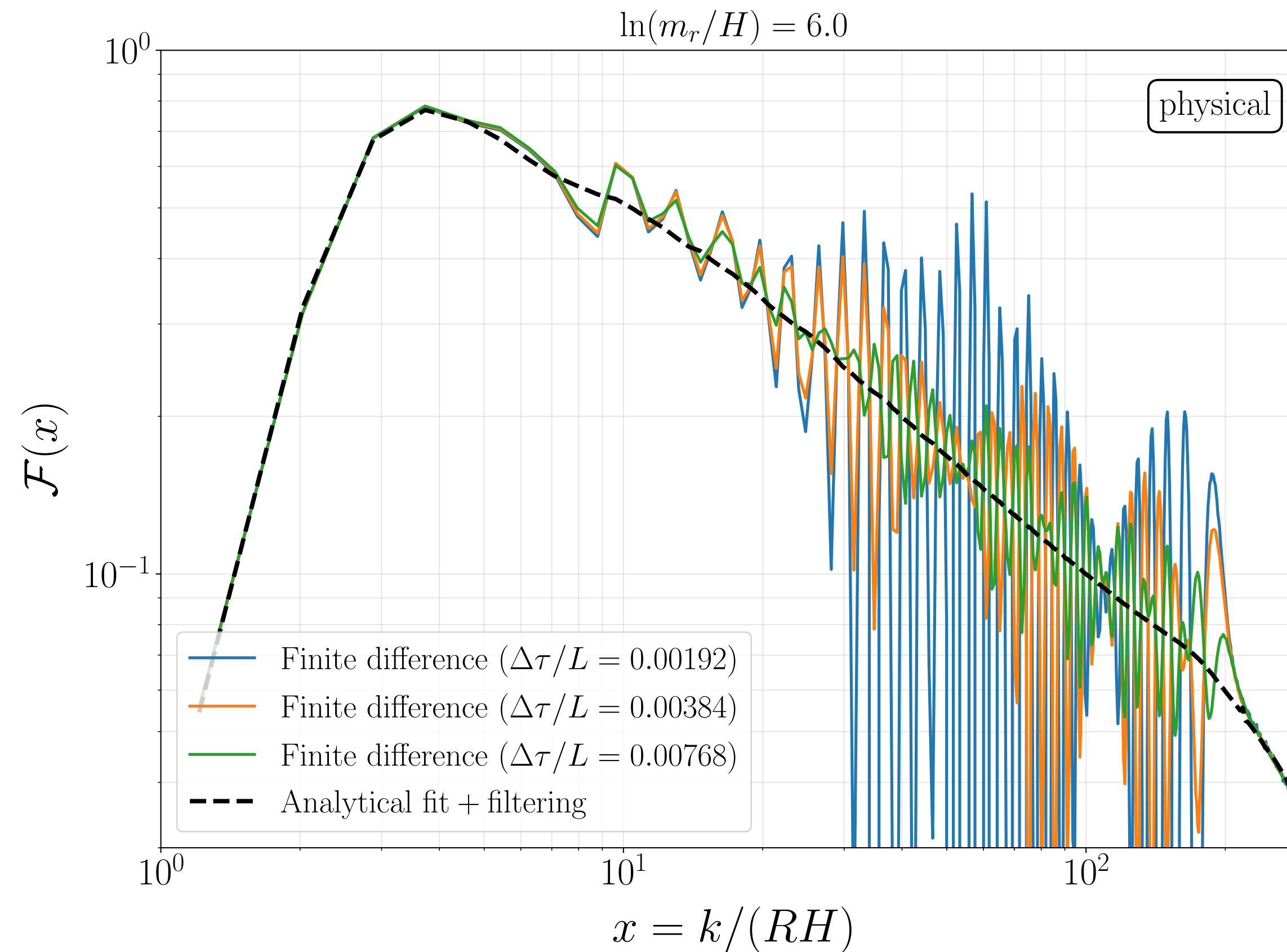
- To calculate the differential spectrum, we need to know the time evolution of one mode:

$$\mathcal{F} = \frac{1}{(f_a H)^2} \frac{1}{R^3} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} \left( R^4 \frac{\partial \rho_a}{\partial k} \right)$$

- Contains oscillating components with frequency  $\sim 2k$ , interpreted as axion field oscillations after the horizon entry or production from the radial field.



# Calculation of the Instantaneous Spectrum

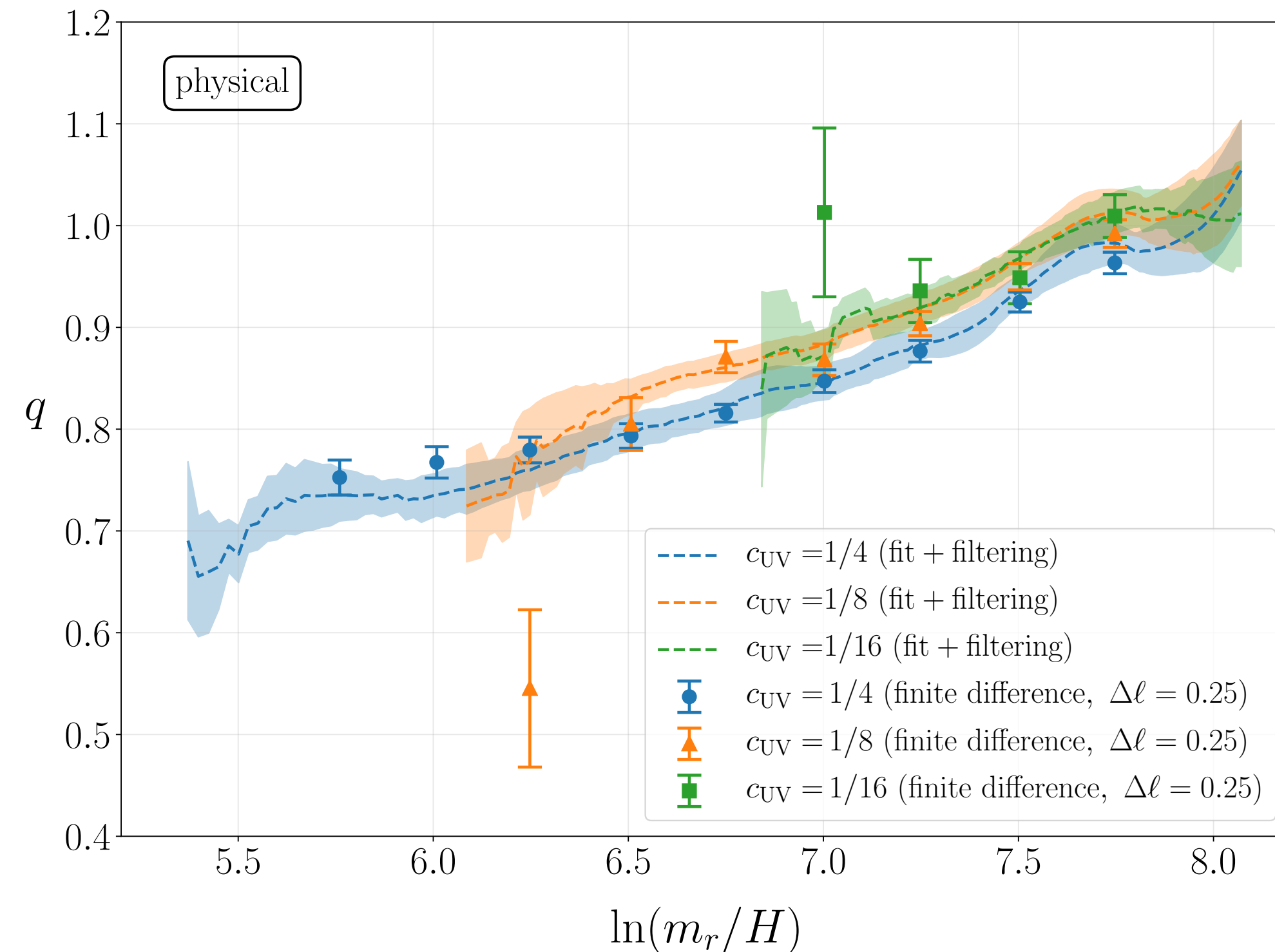


- Simple finite difference leads to a lot of contaminations from axion field oscillations.
- One can reduce them by applying a filter to remove high frequency components in the mode evolution data.



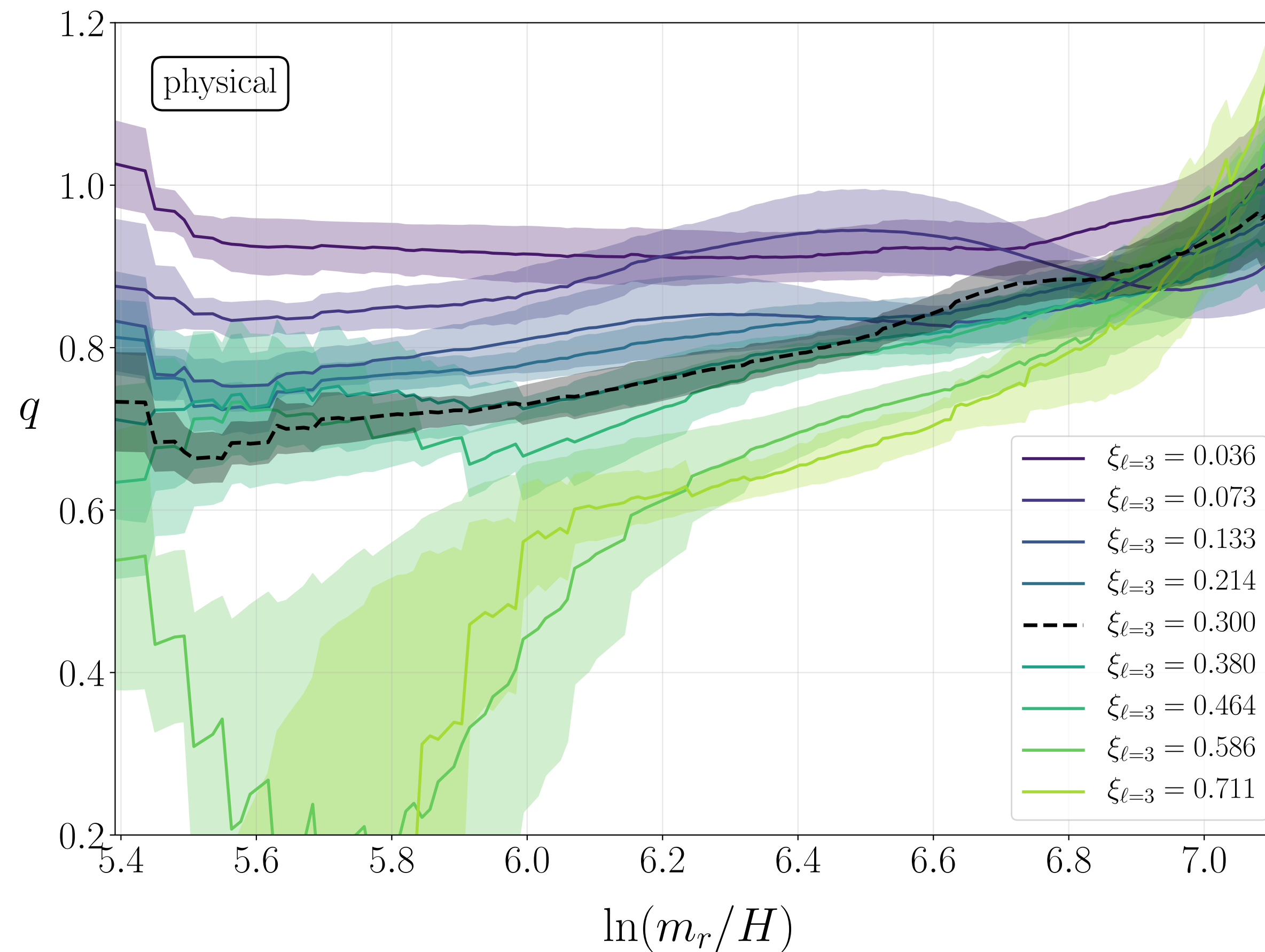
# Axion Field Oscillations

- Fit power law  $\mathcal{F} \sim k^{-q}$  to the data in the range  $c_{\text{IR}}H < k/R < c_{\text{UV}}m_r$



- The oscillations in the IR modes have an impact on the measurement of  $q$ .
- The effect can be alleviated by taking a broader range for the fit.

# Initial Conditions



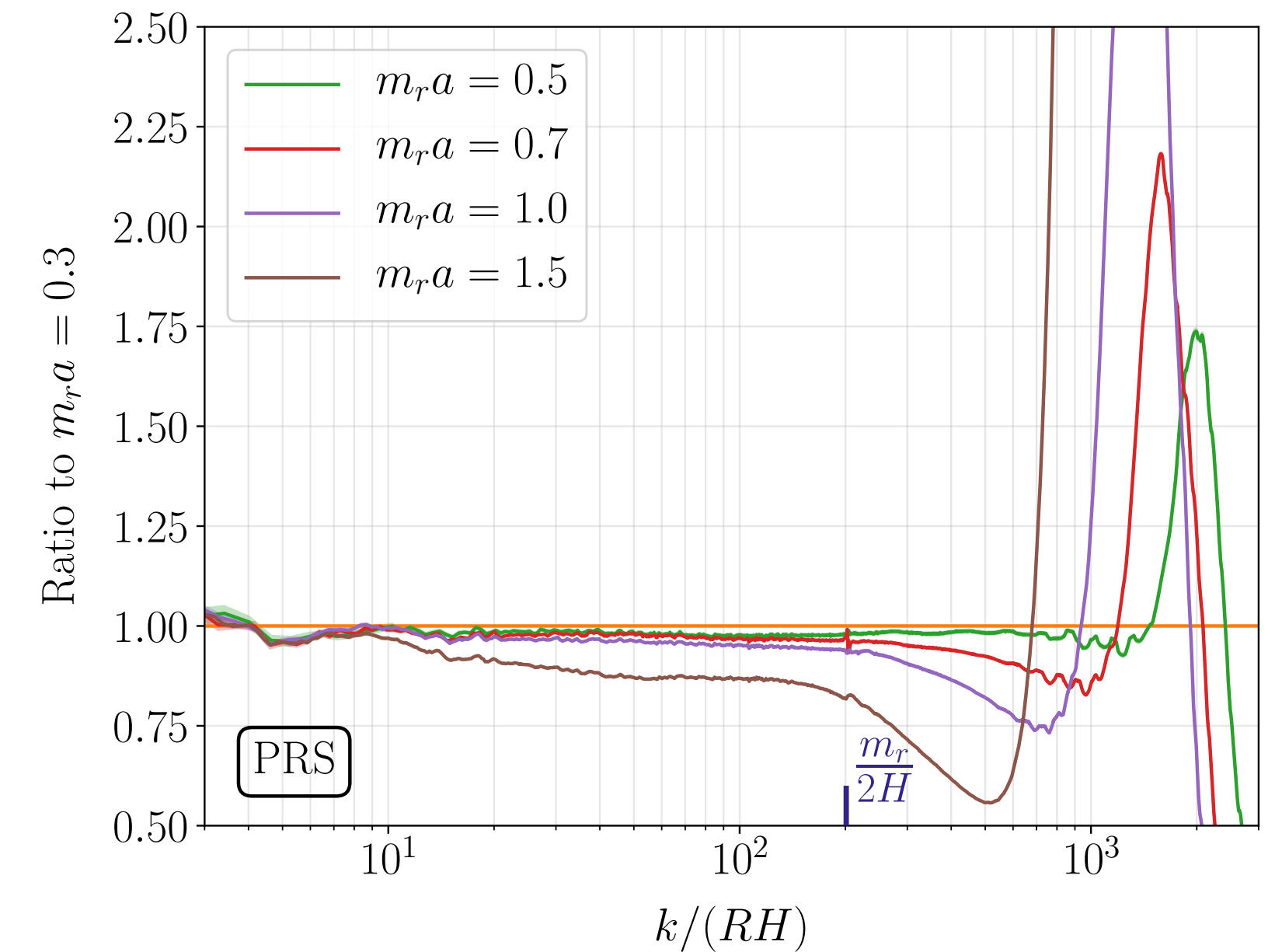
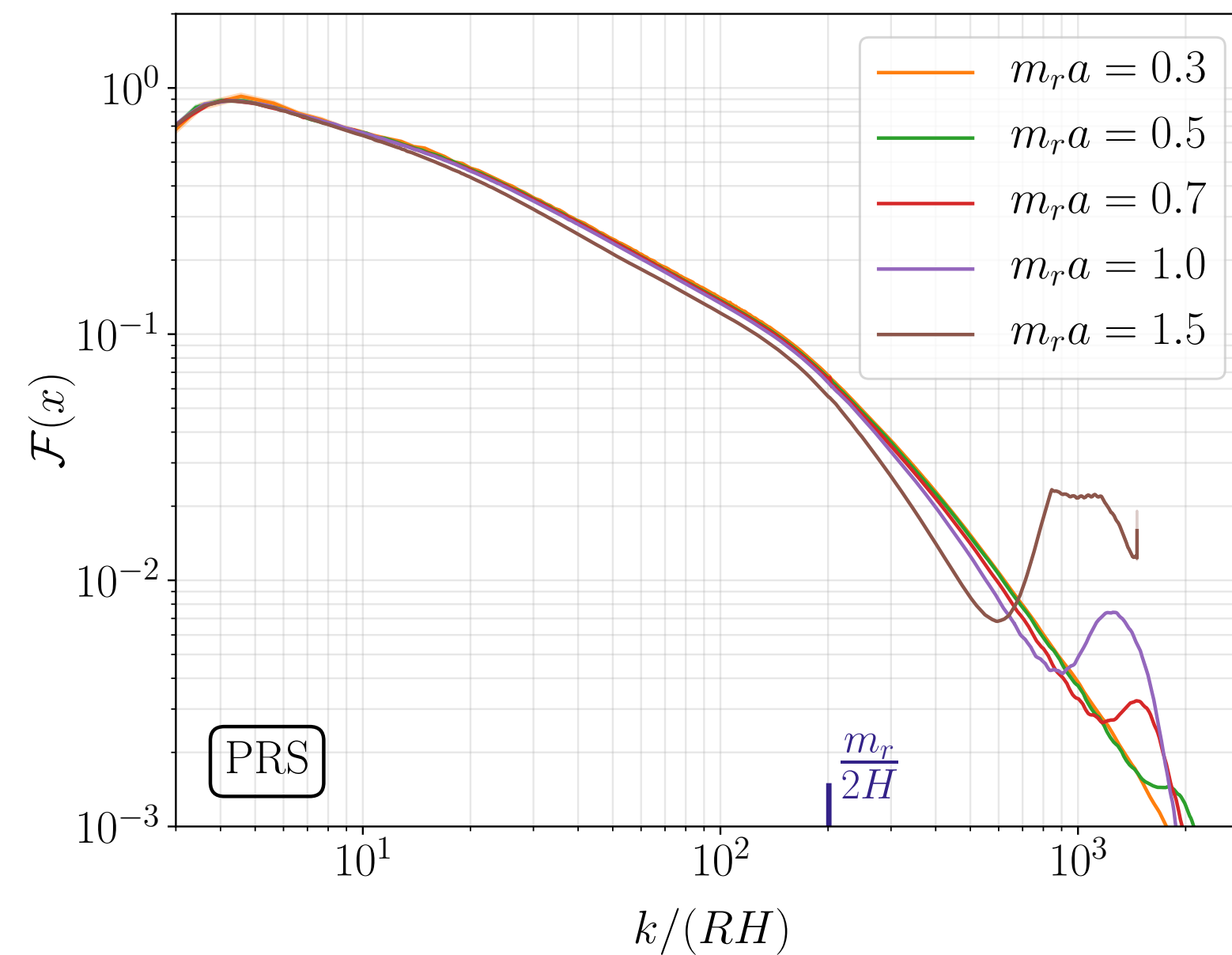
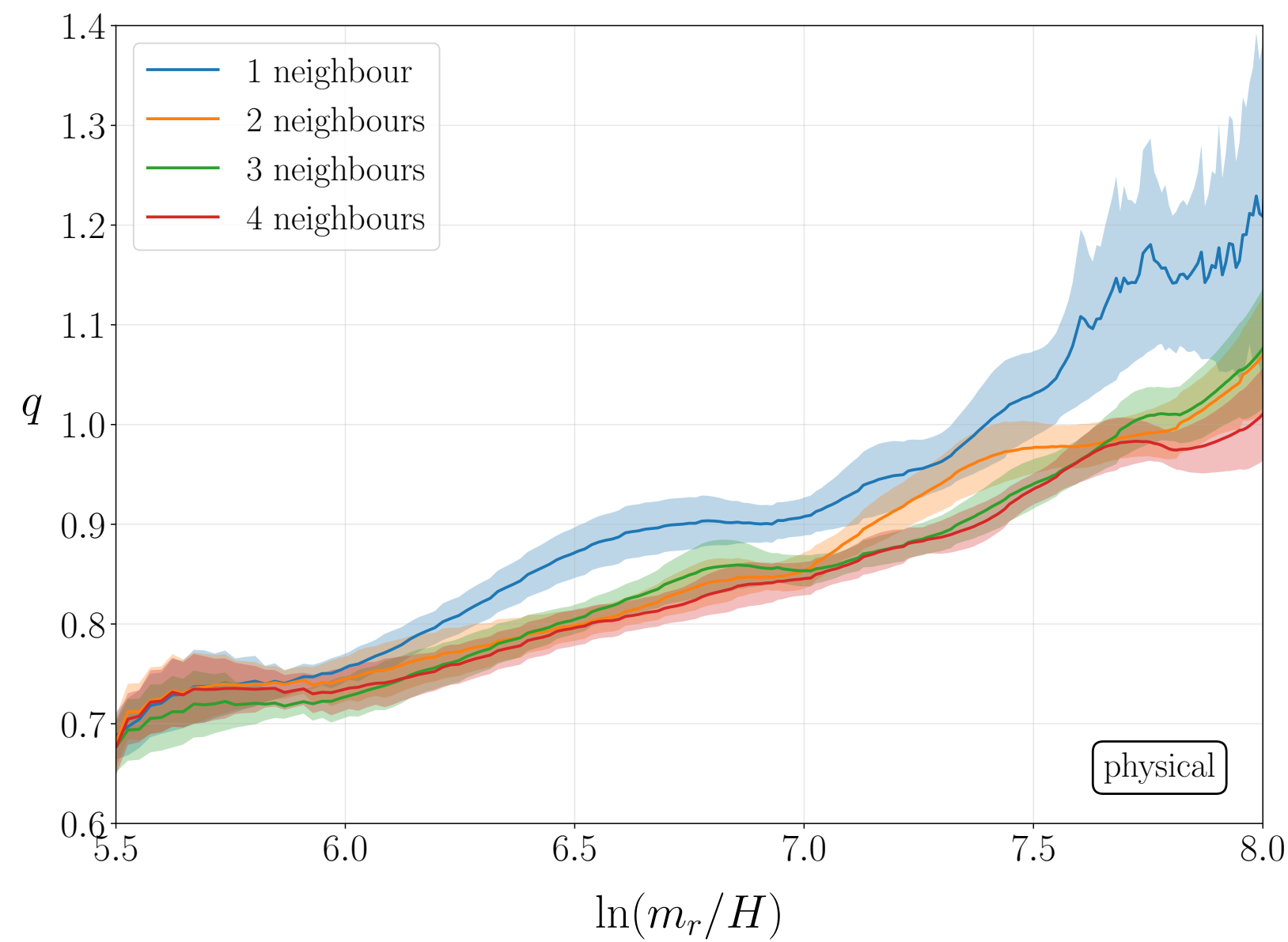
- Differences in the initial string density affect the slope of the radiation spectrum.
- Overdense (underdense) initial conditions could bias the estimation of  $q$  towards lower (higher) values.



# Discretisation Effects

Effects that can bias  $q$  towards larger values:

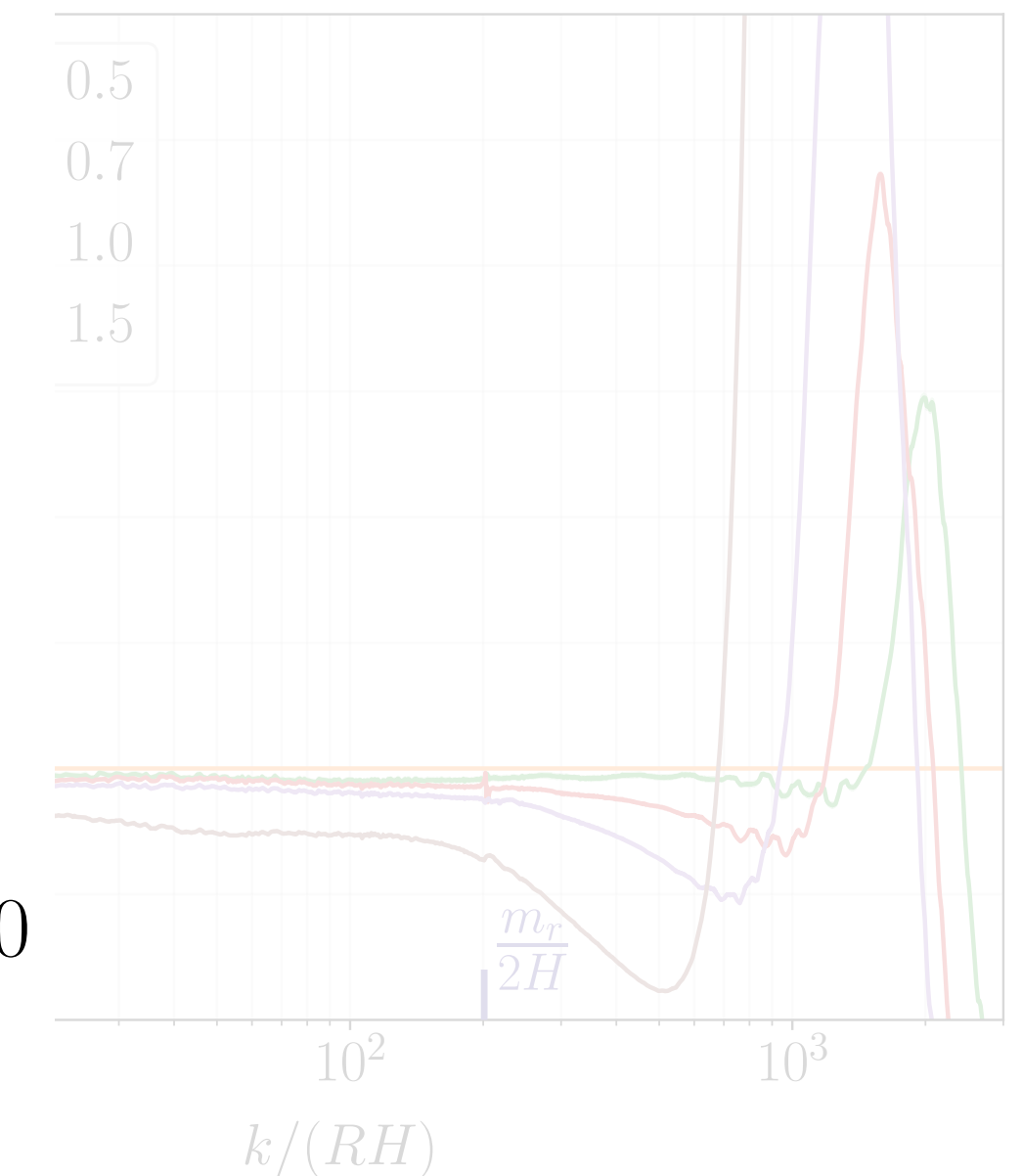
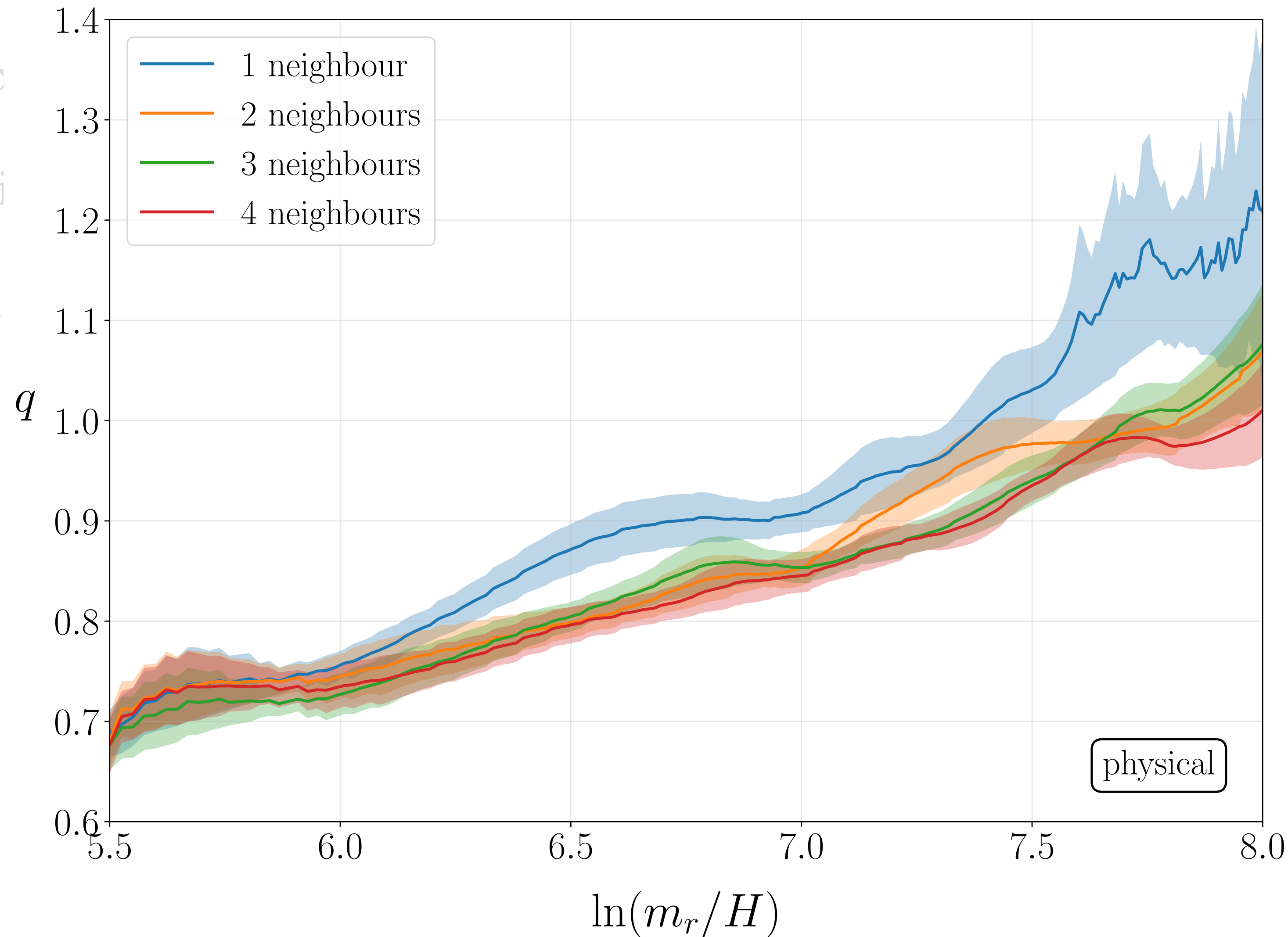
- Discretisation scheme of the Laplacian
- Resolution of the string core (parametrised by  $m_r a$ )



# Discretisation Effects

Effects that can b

- Discretisati
- Resolution

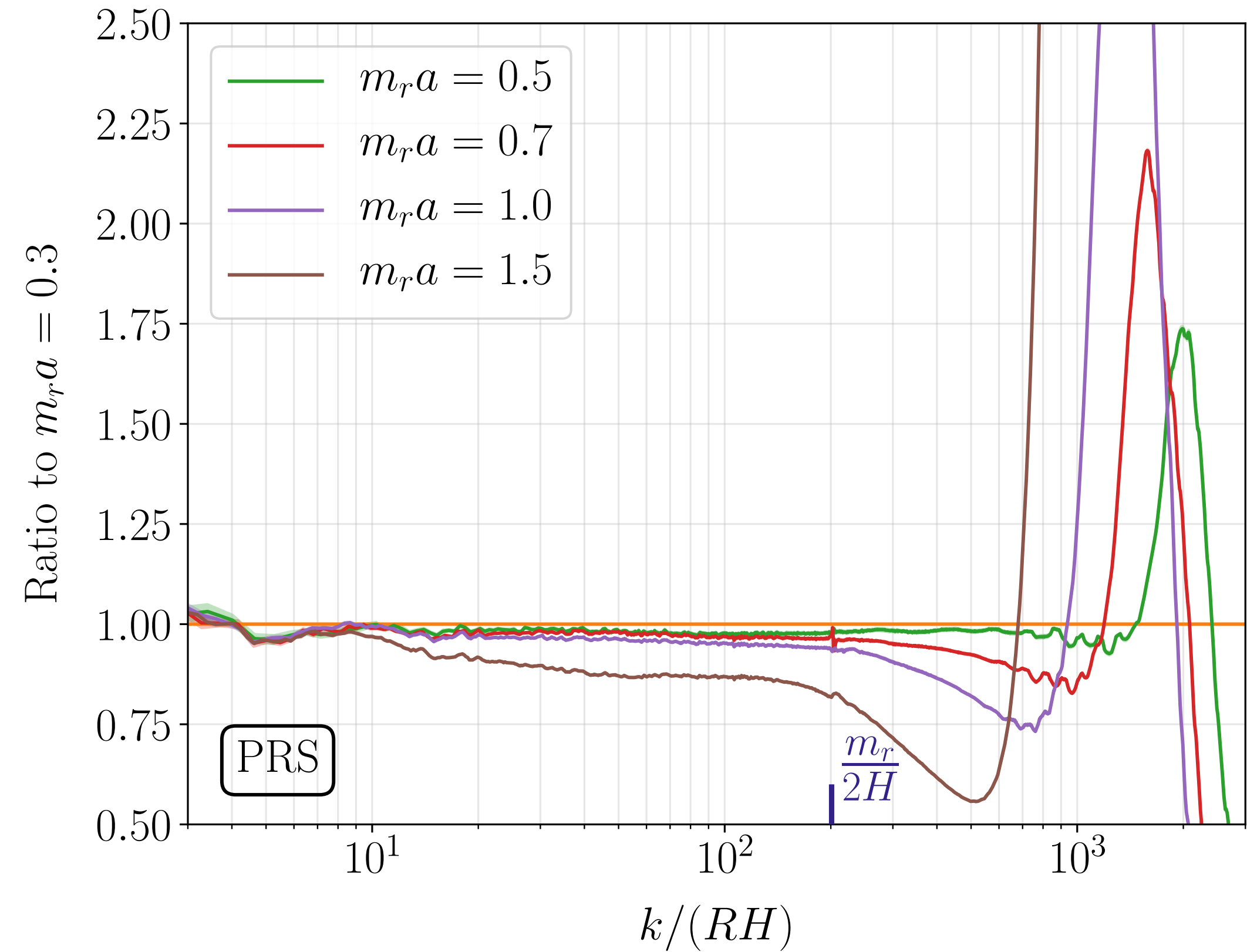
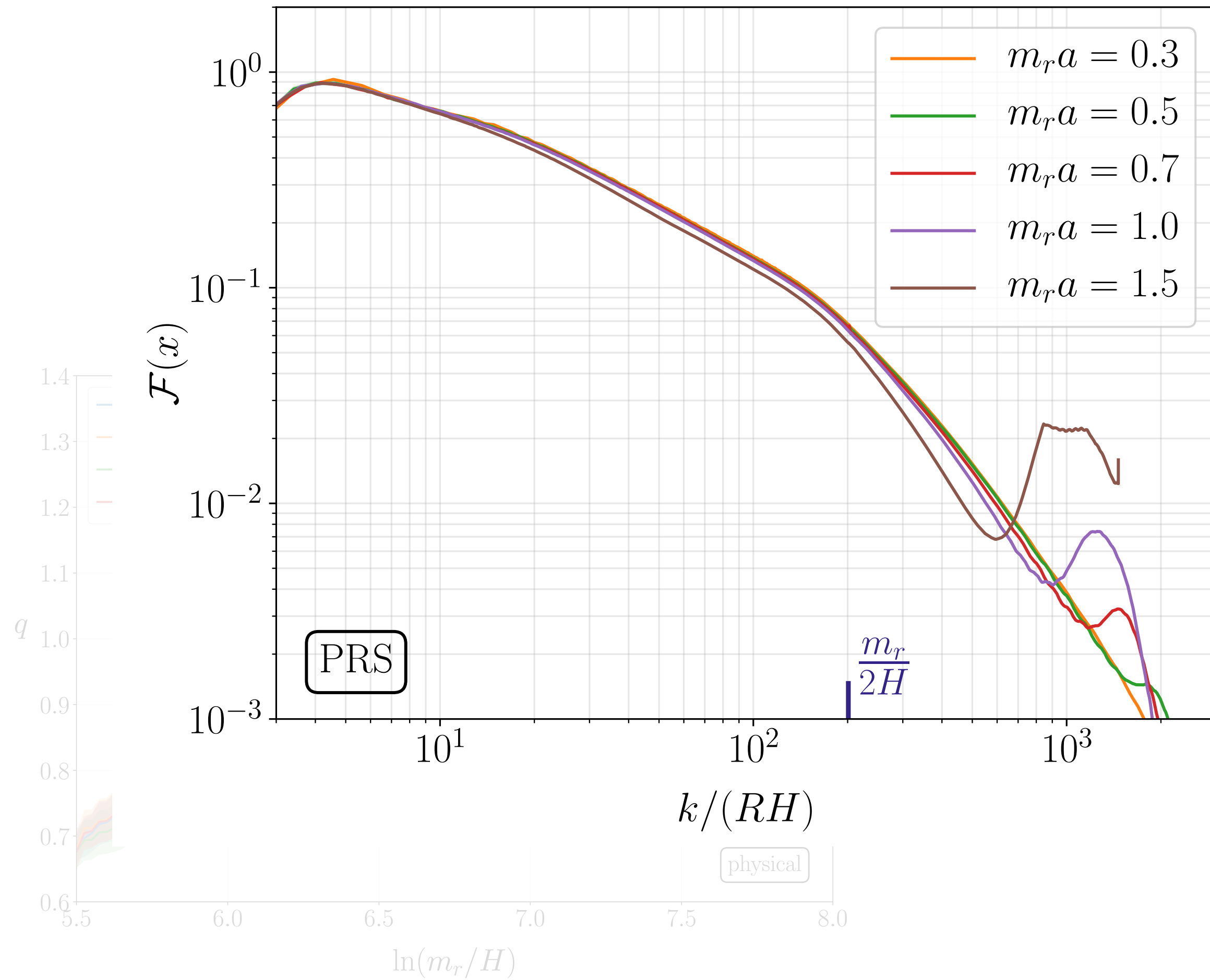


We observe that the value of  $q$  can be **overestimated** for smaller  $N_g$ !

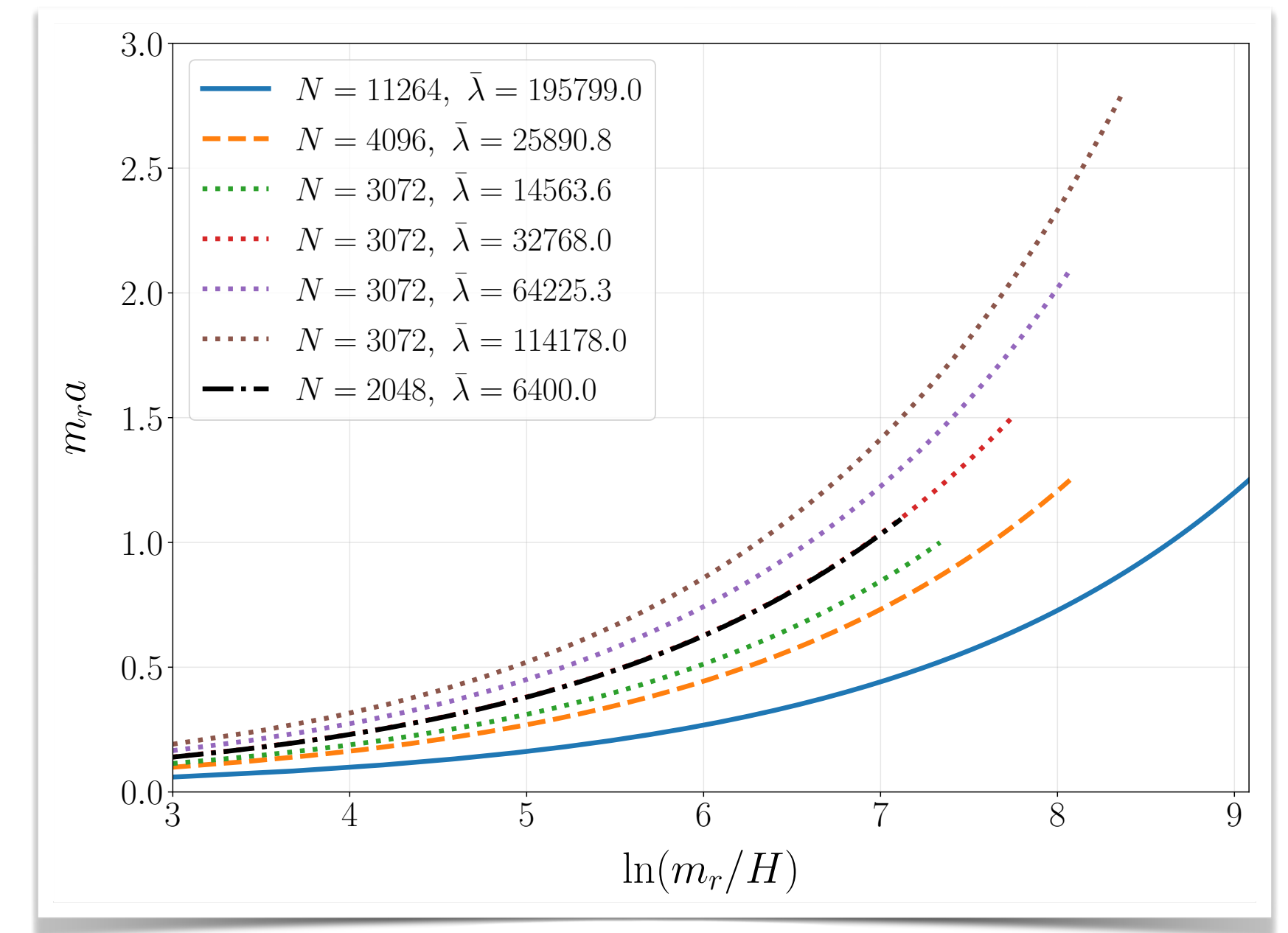
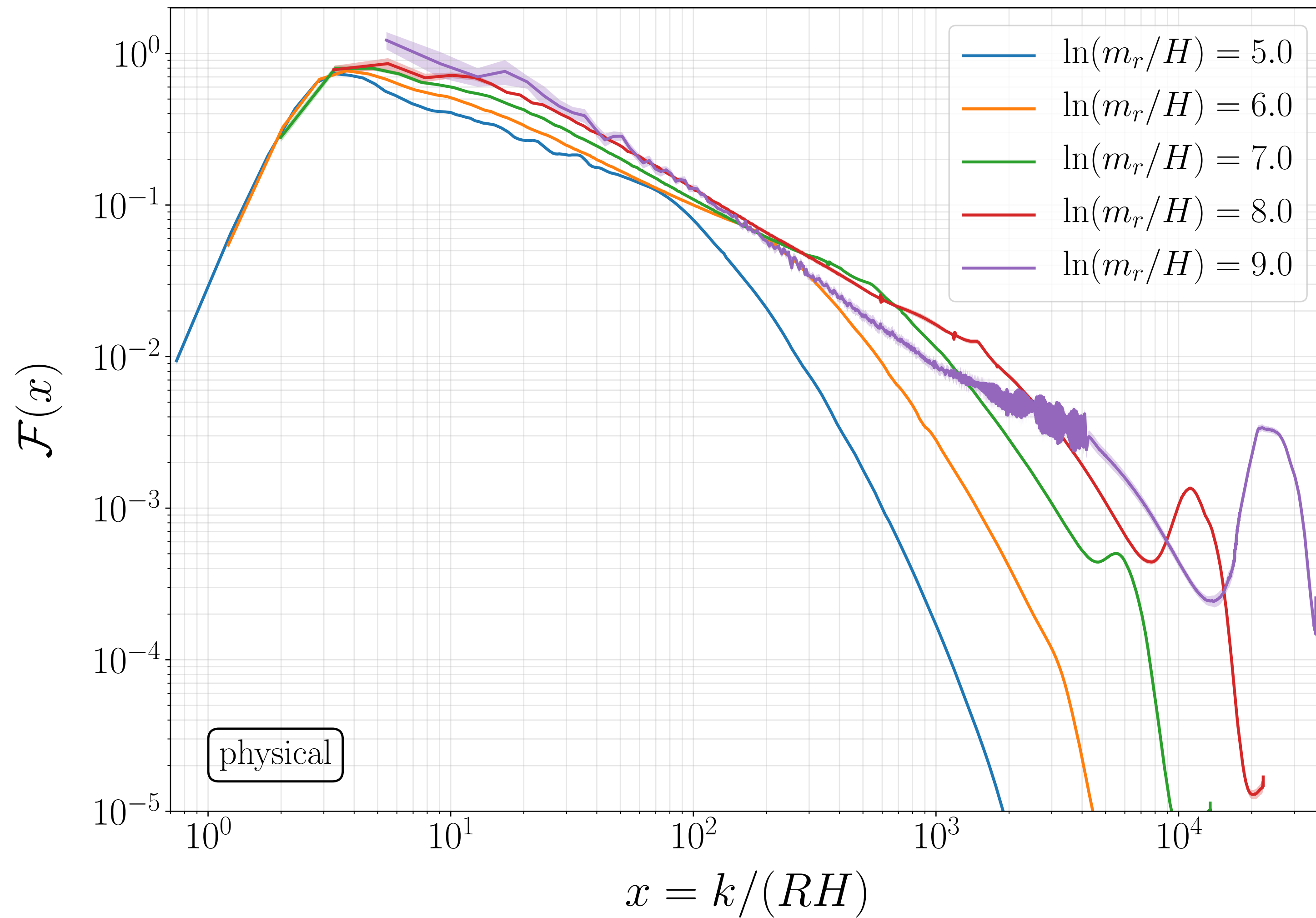


# Discretisation Effects

Effects that can bias  $q$  towards larger values:



# Discretisation Effects



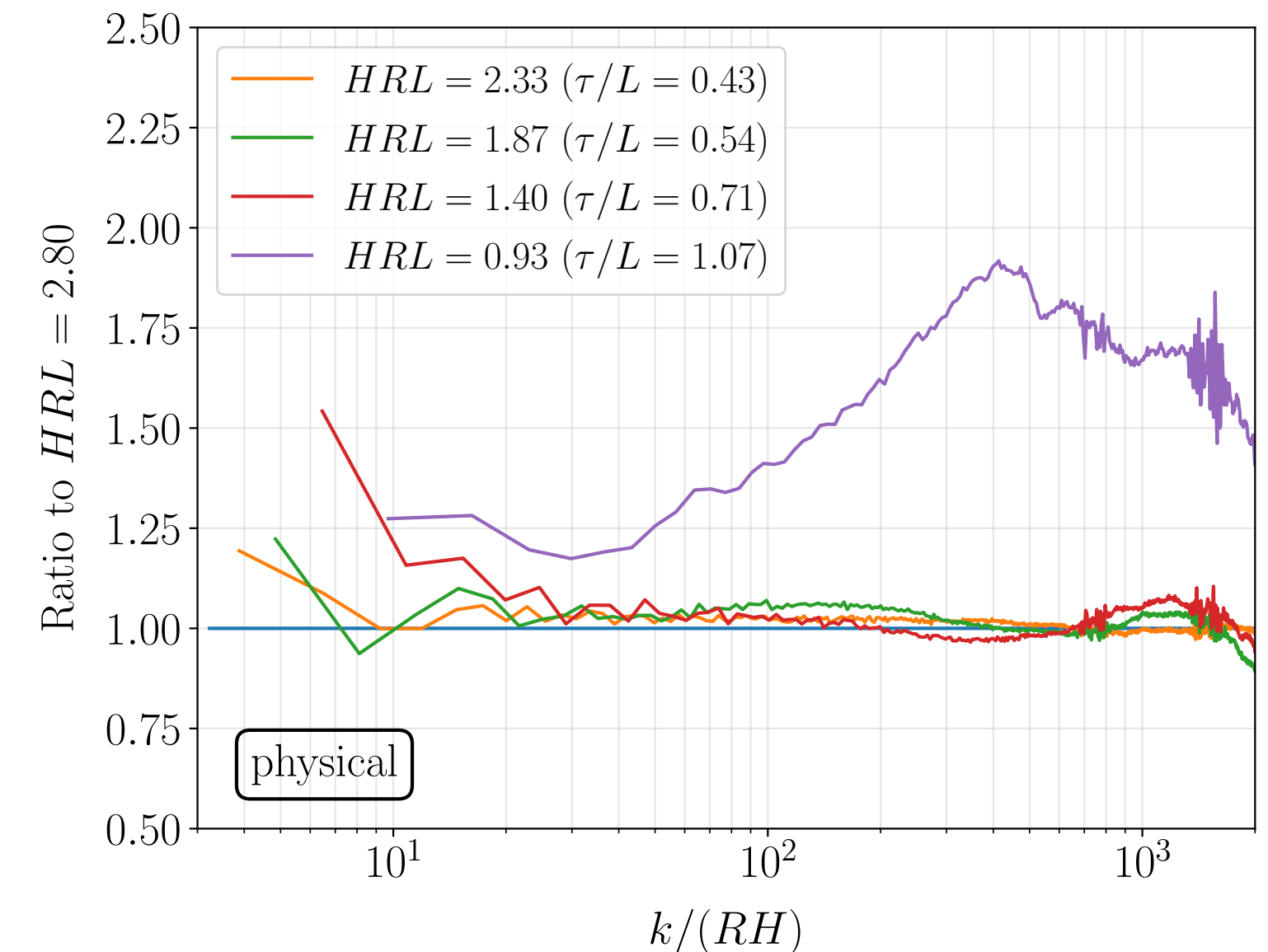
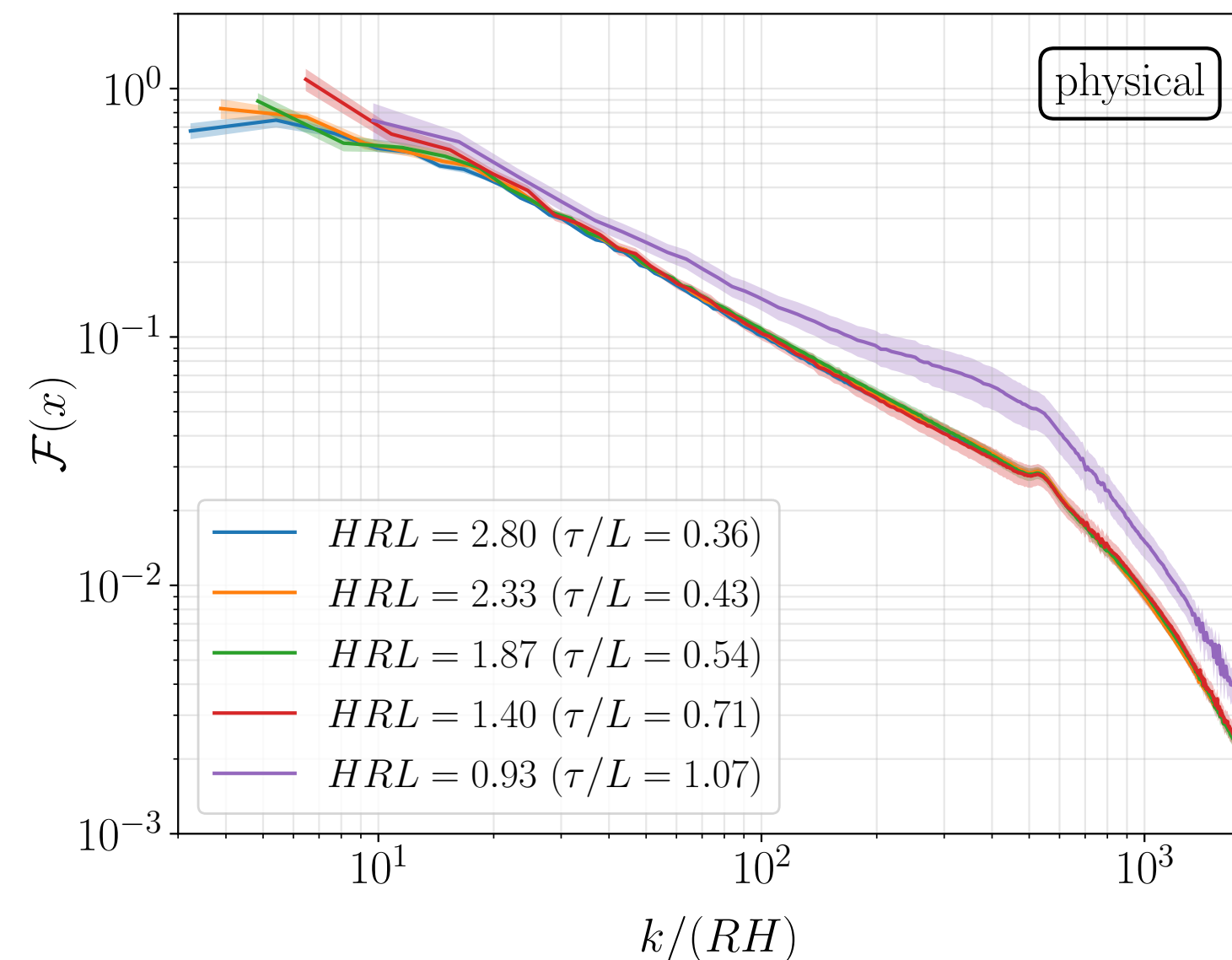
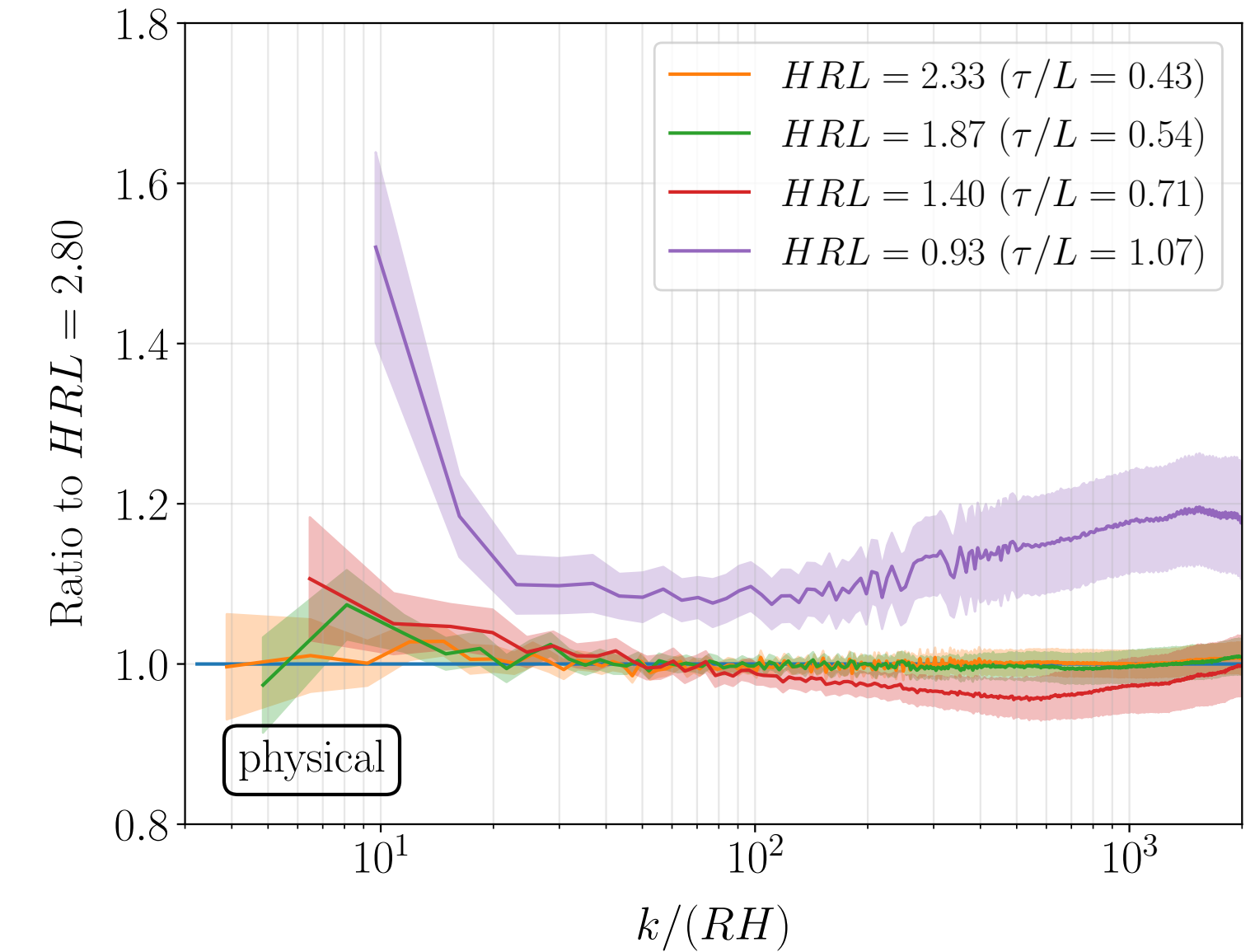
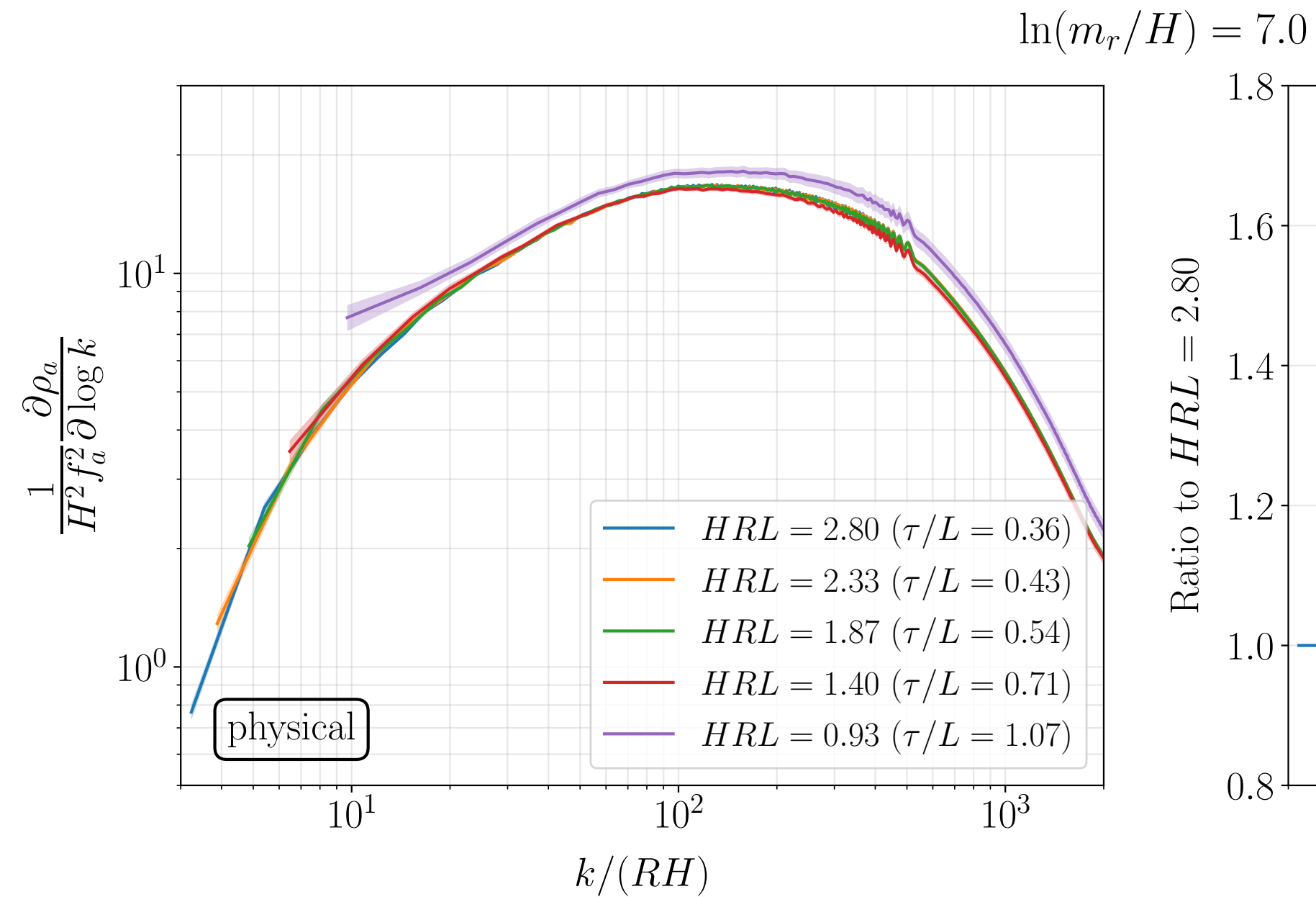
Effects increases drastically at larger  $\ln(m_r/H)$ , leading to a significant distortion of the spectrum.



# Finite Volume Effects

- Fix  $m_r a = 1.0$  and vary ratio of phys. box size  $RL$  to Hubble radius  $H^{-1}$  at  $\ln(m_r/H) = 7$
- Results converge for  $HRL \gtrsim 1.4$  ( or  $\tau/L \lesssim 0.7$  )
- We terminate the simulations at  $\tau/L \leq 0.625$

Should not be a problem!



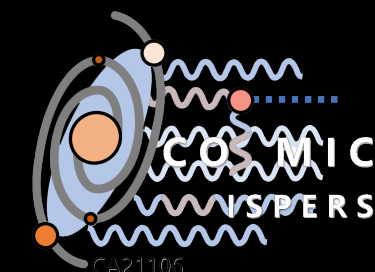
# Technicalities



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# Masking the Spectrum

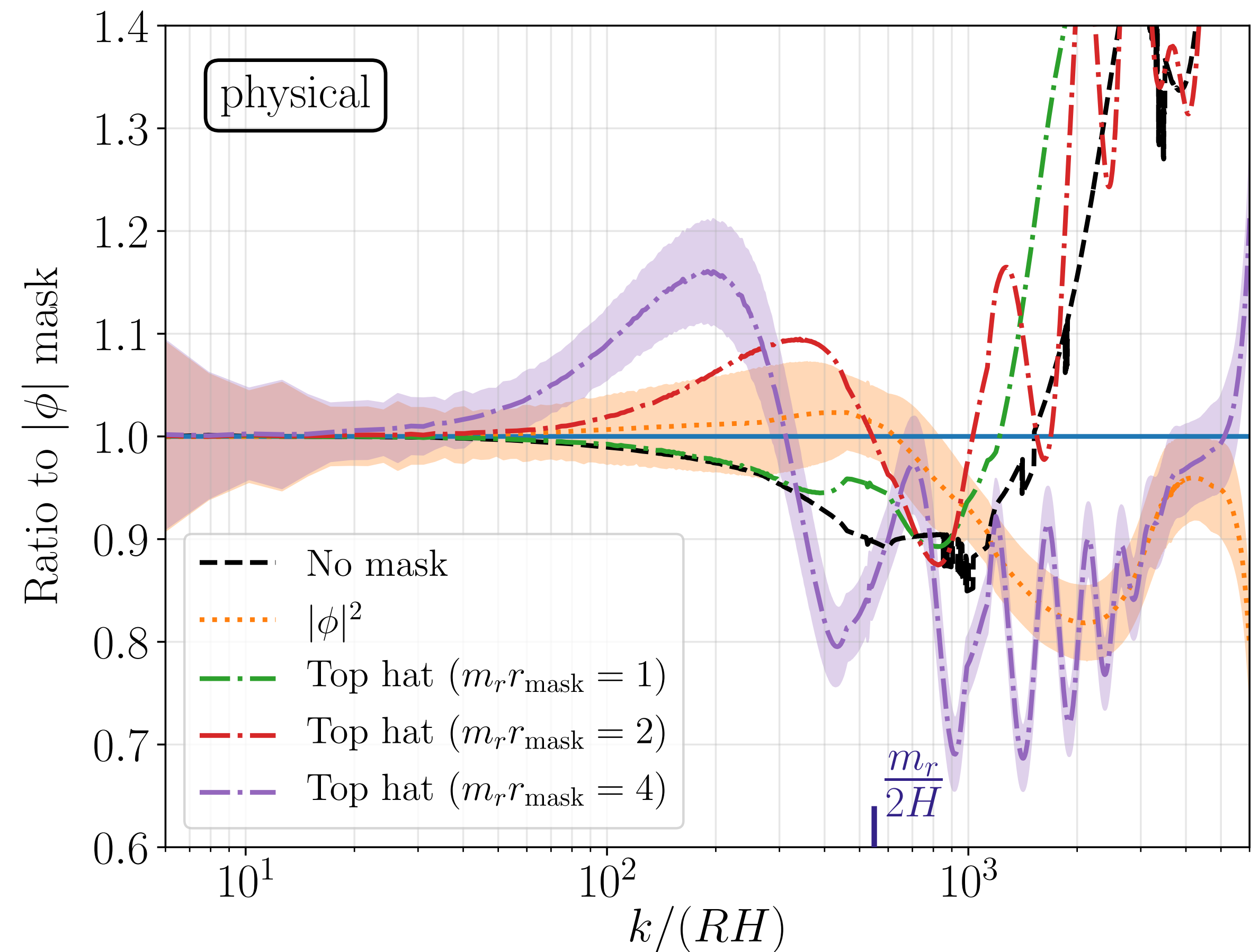
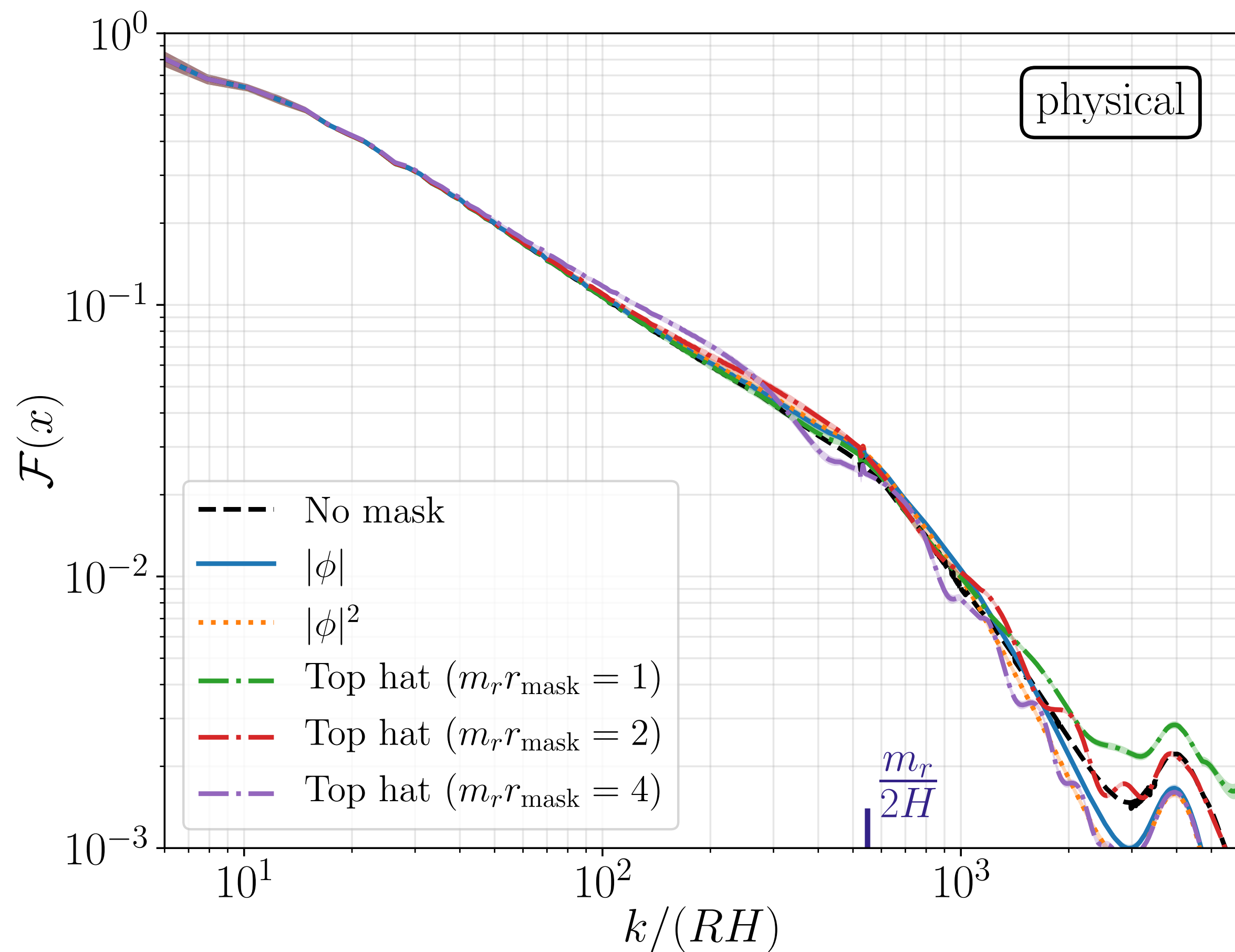
- To try to mitigate the contamination from the string core, we can introduce masks to compute derivatives:

$$\dot{X}^{\text{mask}}(\mathbf{x}) = M(\mathbf{x})\dot{X}(\mathbf{x})$$

- Simple choice is to use the fact that the value of the radial field  $|\phi|$  is zero inside the core.

$$M(\mathbf{x}) = \left( \frac{|\phi(\mathbf{x})|}{f_a} \right)^k$$

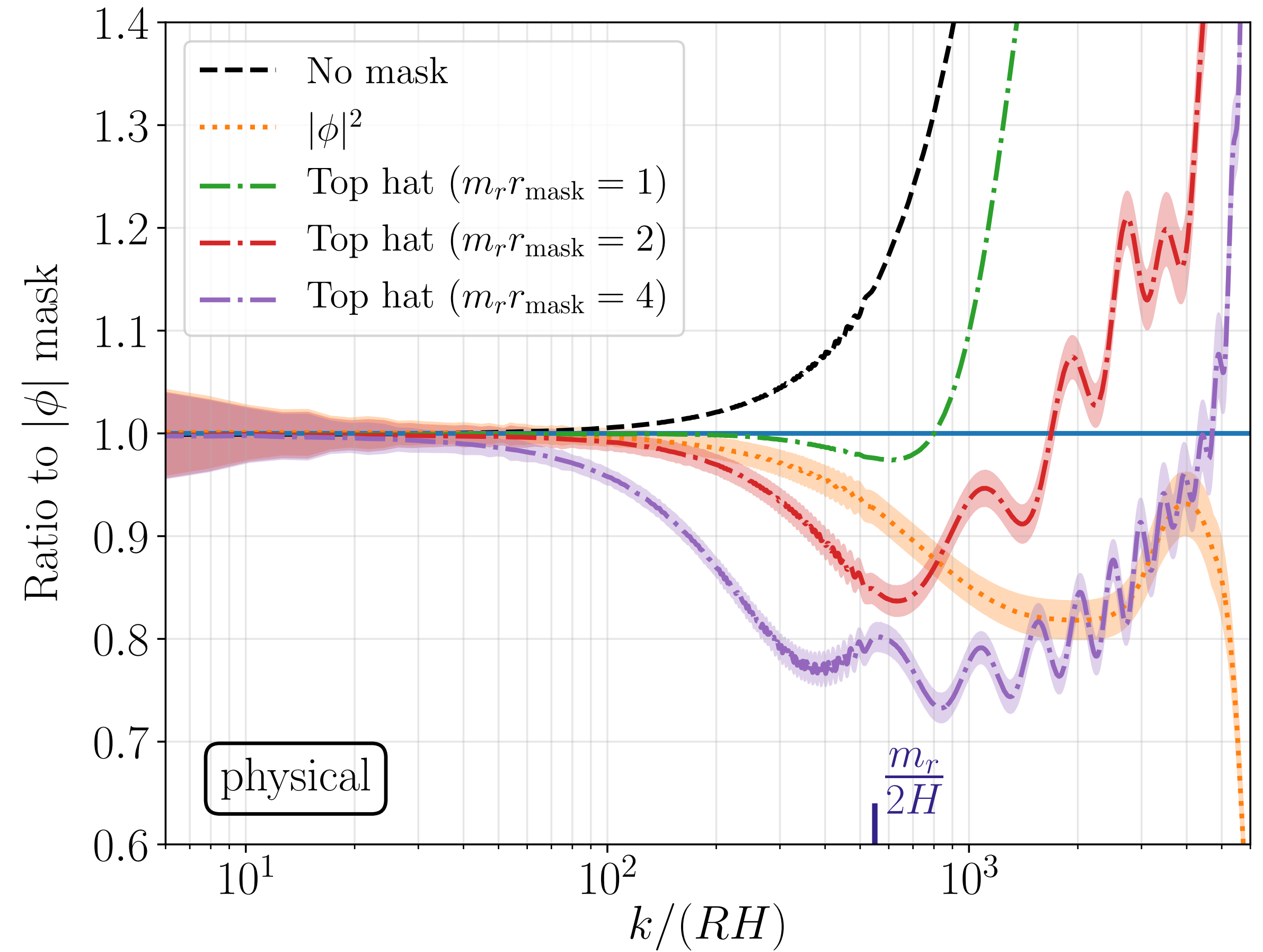
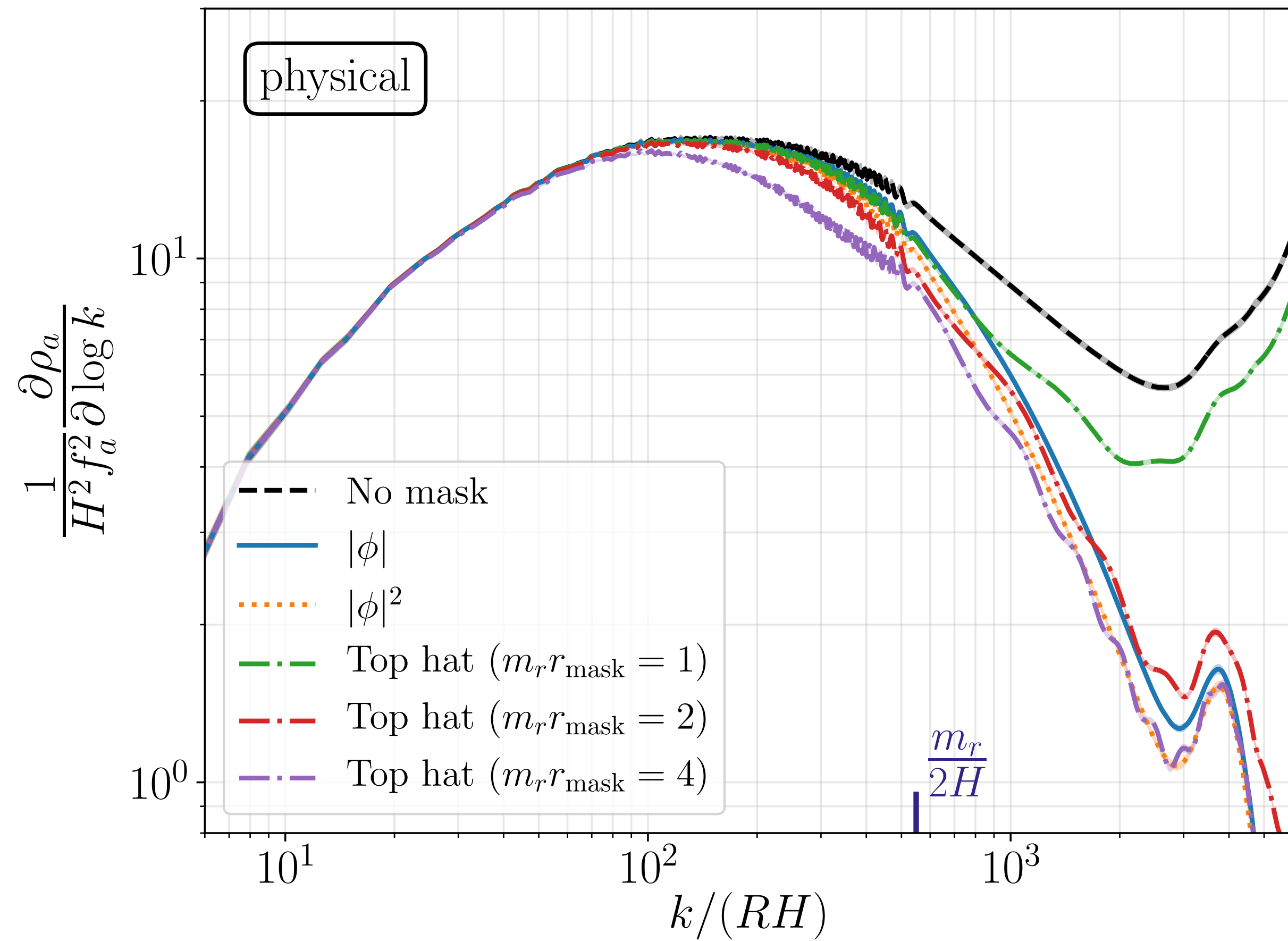
# Masking the Spectrum



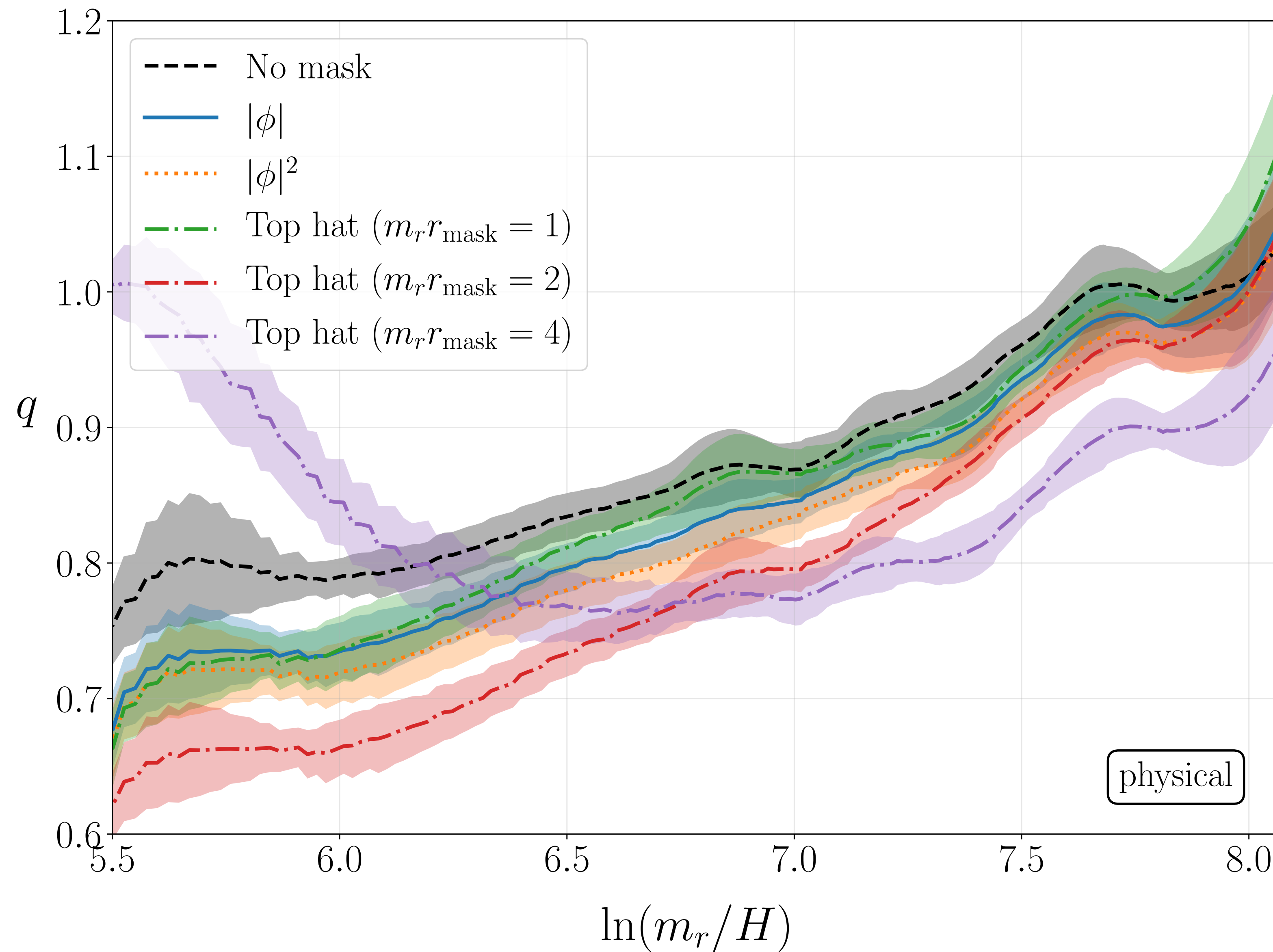


# Masking the Spectrum

$$\ln(m_r/H) = 7.0$$



# Masking the Spectrum

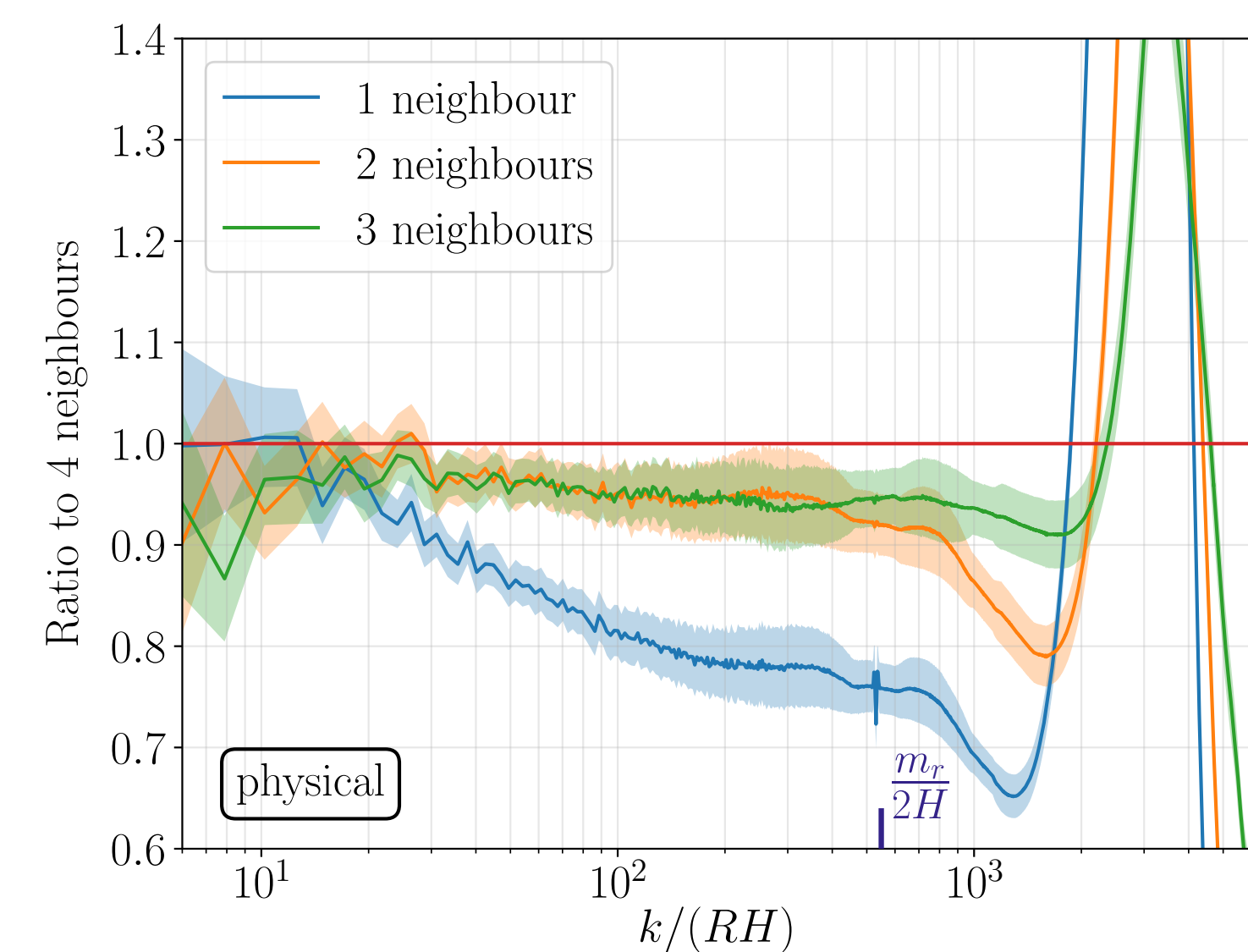
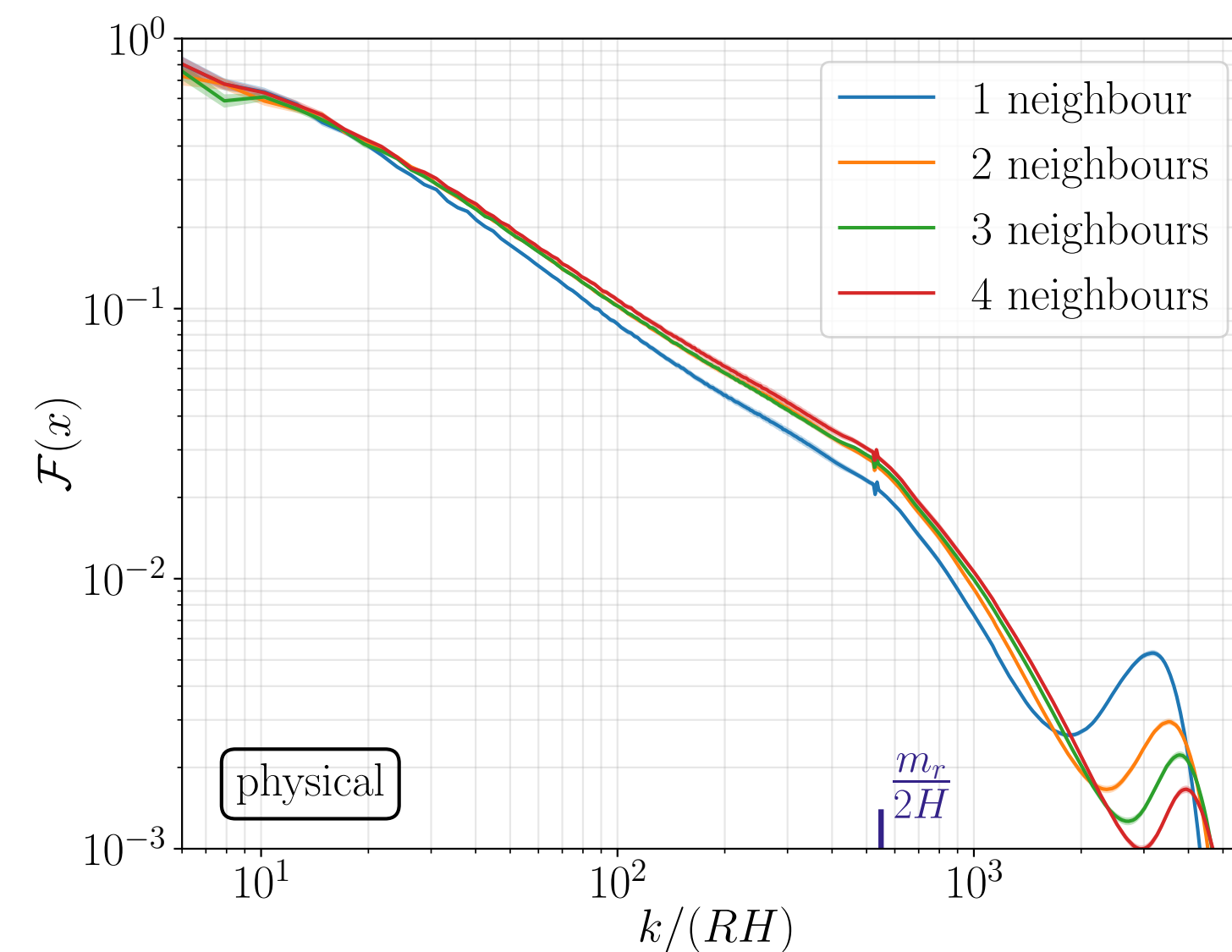
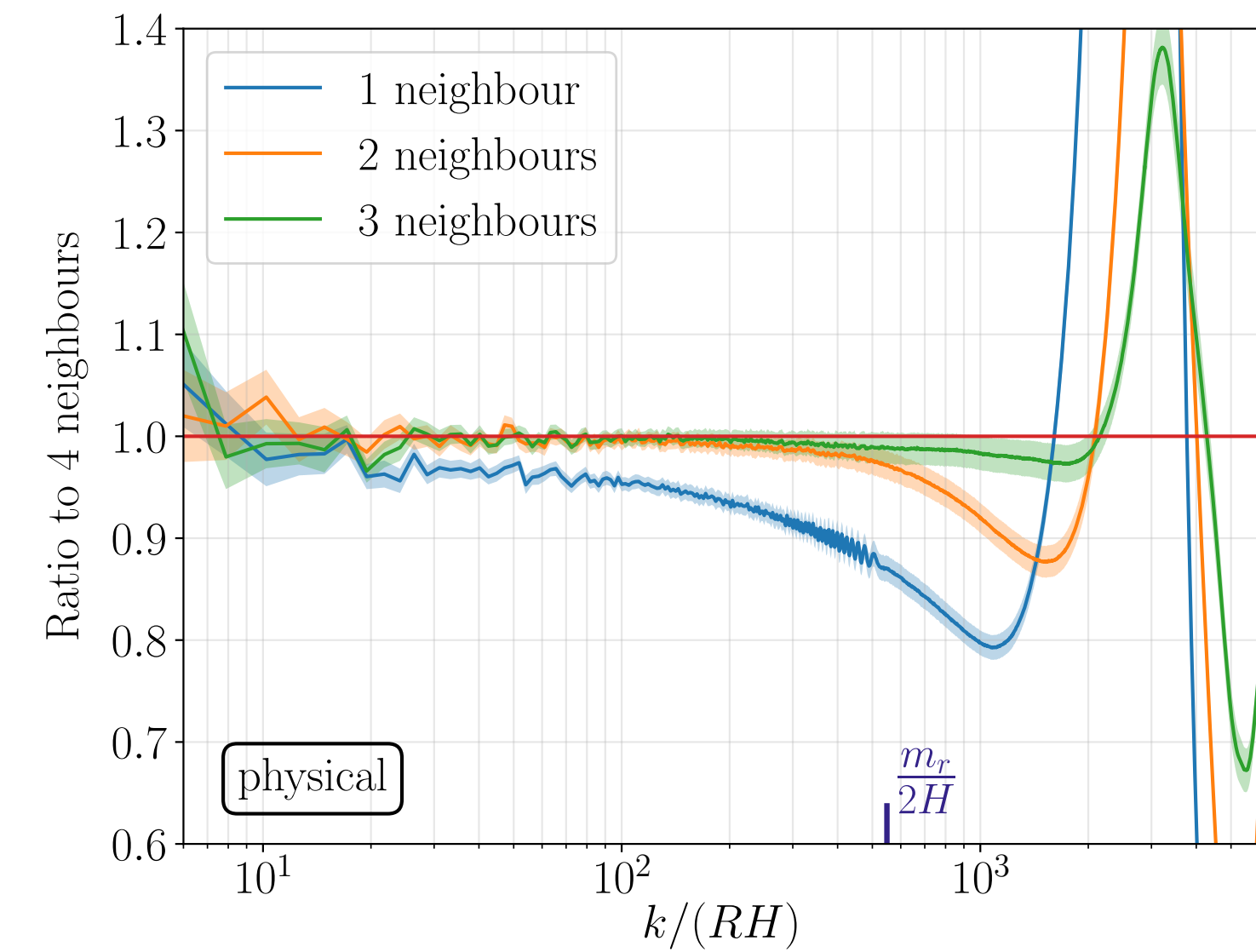
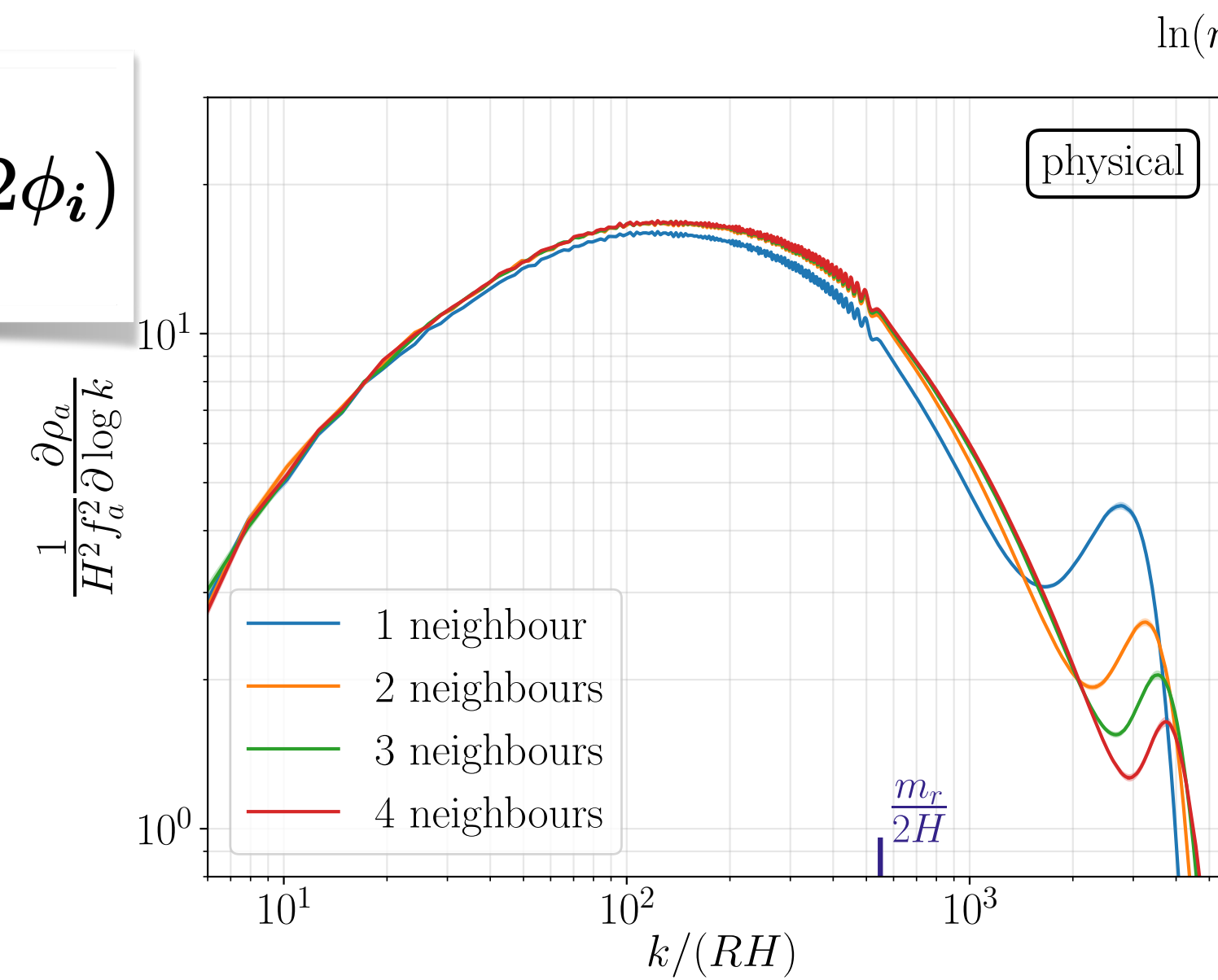




# Discretisation of the Laplacian

$$(\nabla^2 \phi)_i = \frac{1}{\delta^2} \sum_{u=x,y,z} \sum_{n=1}^{N_g} C_n (\phi_{i+nn_u} + \phi_{i-nn_u} - 2\phi_i)$$

- Spectrum **underestimated** at intermediate momenta for smaller  $N_g$
- Observation of peak-like structure in the UV, height related to  $N_g$



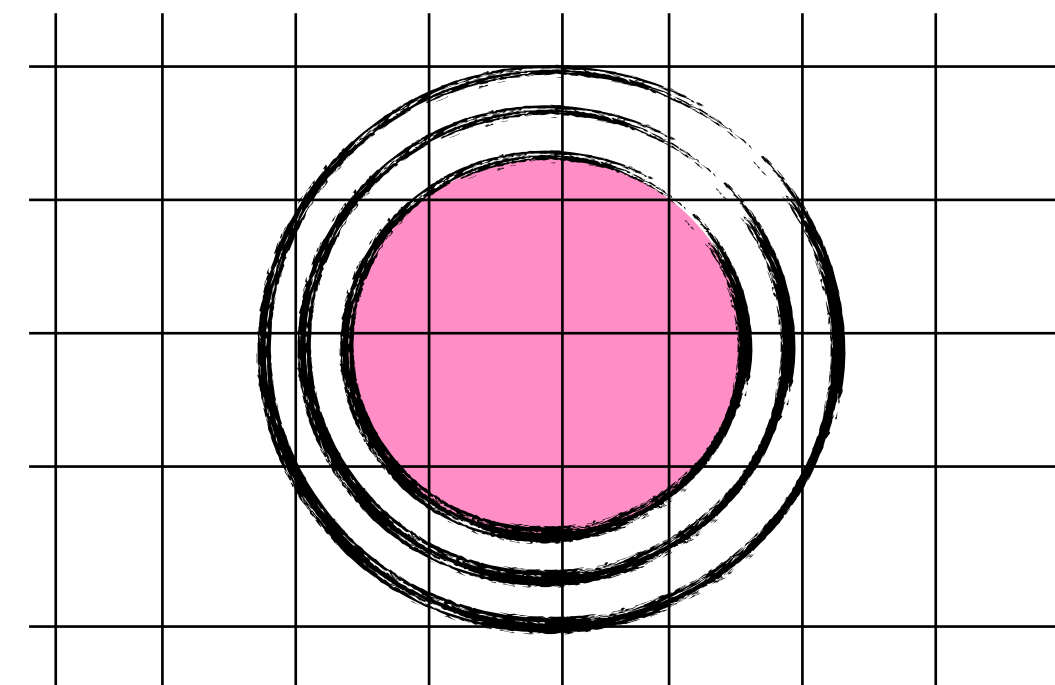
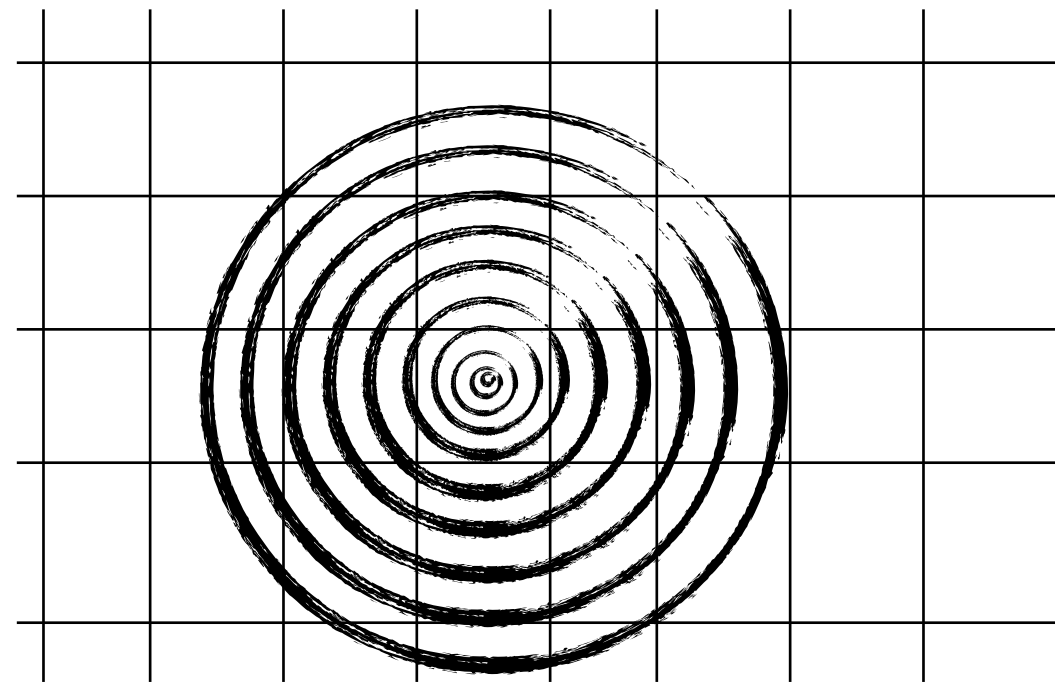
# Dynamical Range (AMR)



# How can we reach a larger dynamical range?

- **Brute Force:** Larger simulations on more powerful supercomputers
- **Better:** Use the given computational power more efficiently: **AMR!**
- **In addition:** Study effective models that allow us to study the network dynamics at high tension (**Moore strings**) with 2+3 extra degrees of freedom (two additional complex scalars + one vector field)

Klaer, Moore [1707.05566, 1708.07521, 1912.08058]

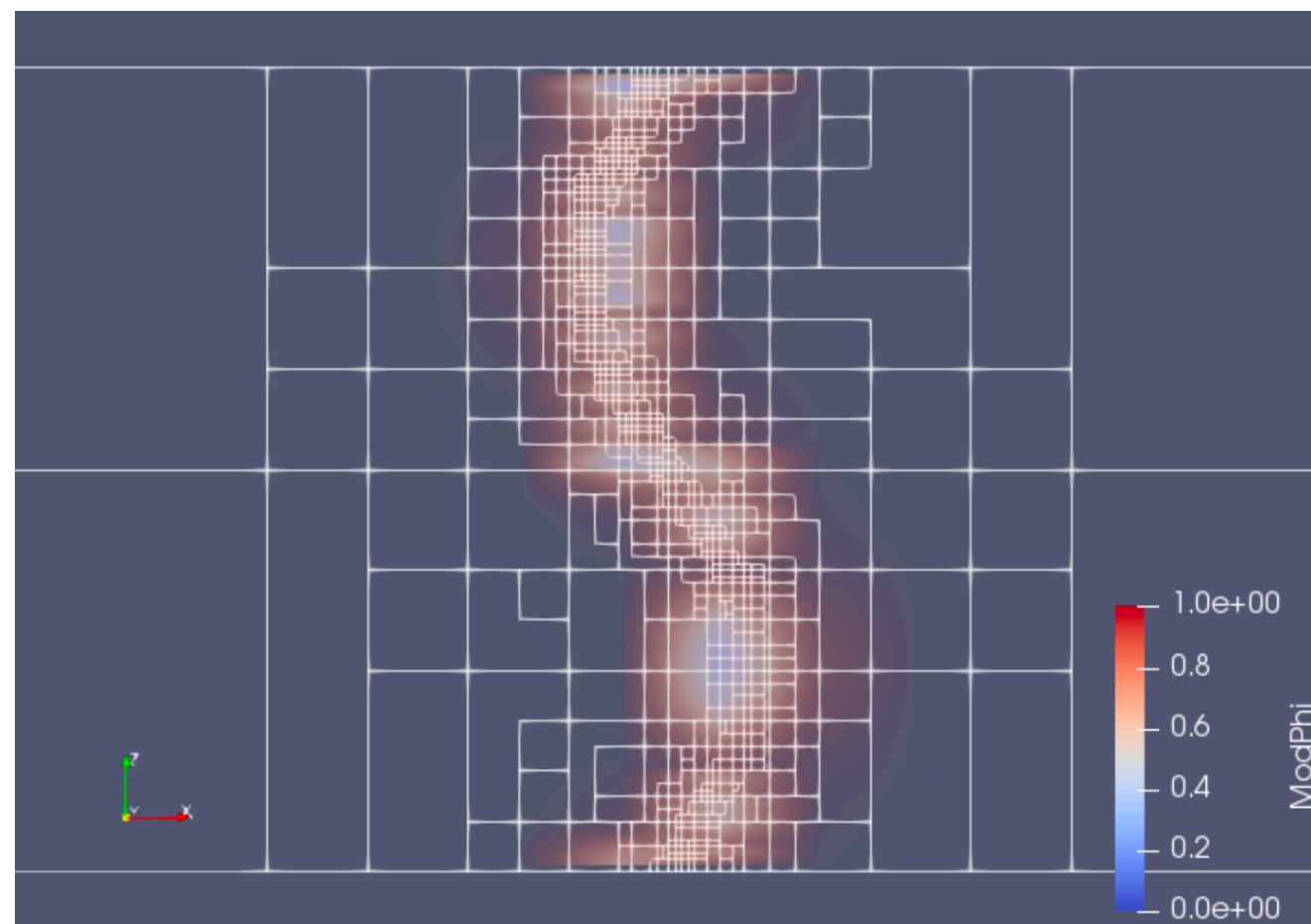


$$\log \sim 2(q_1^2 + q_2^2)$$

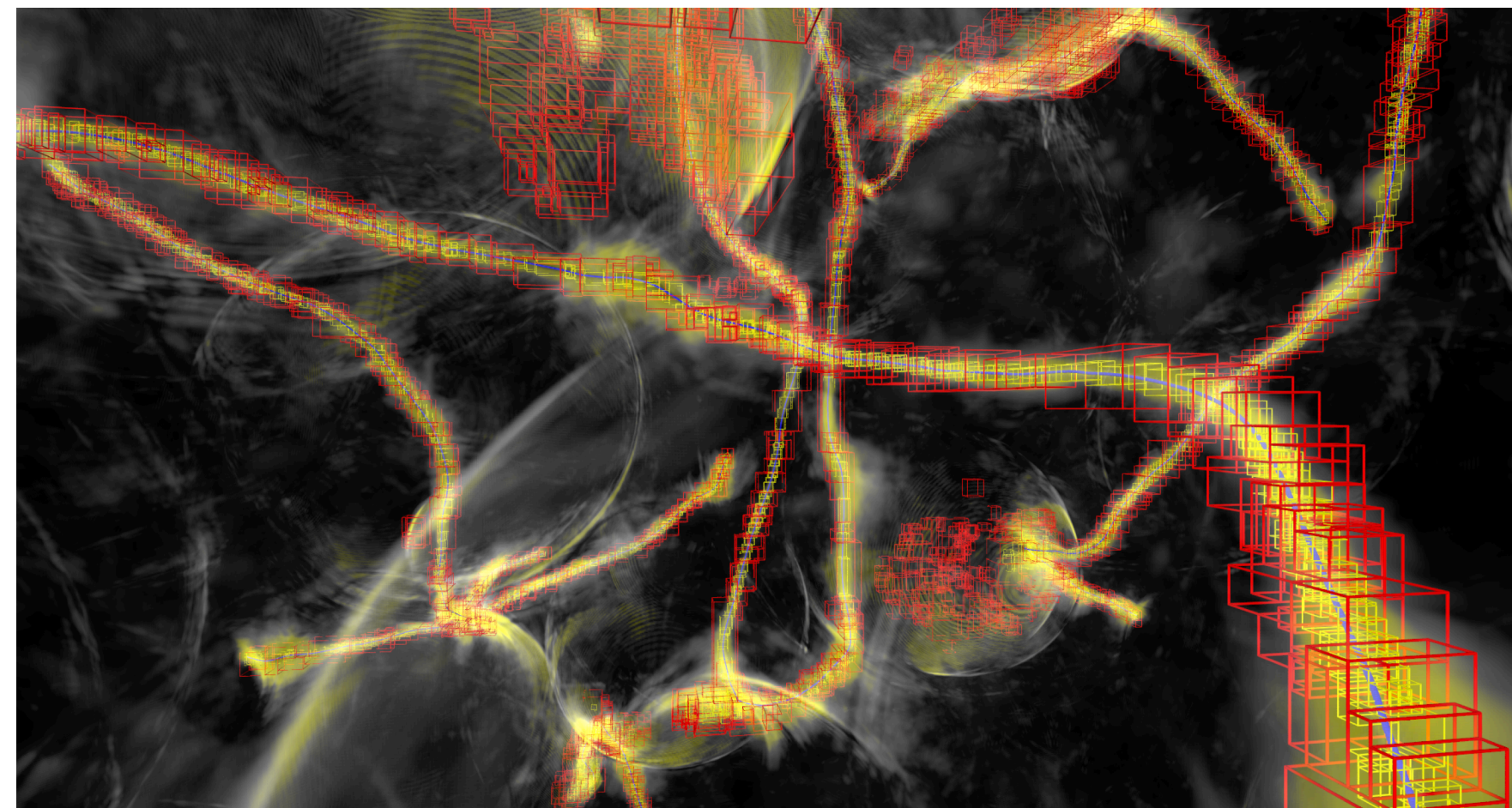


# Adaptive Mesh Refinement (AMR)

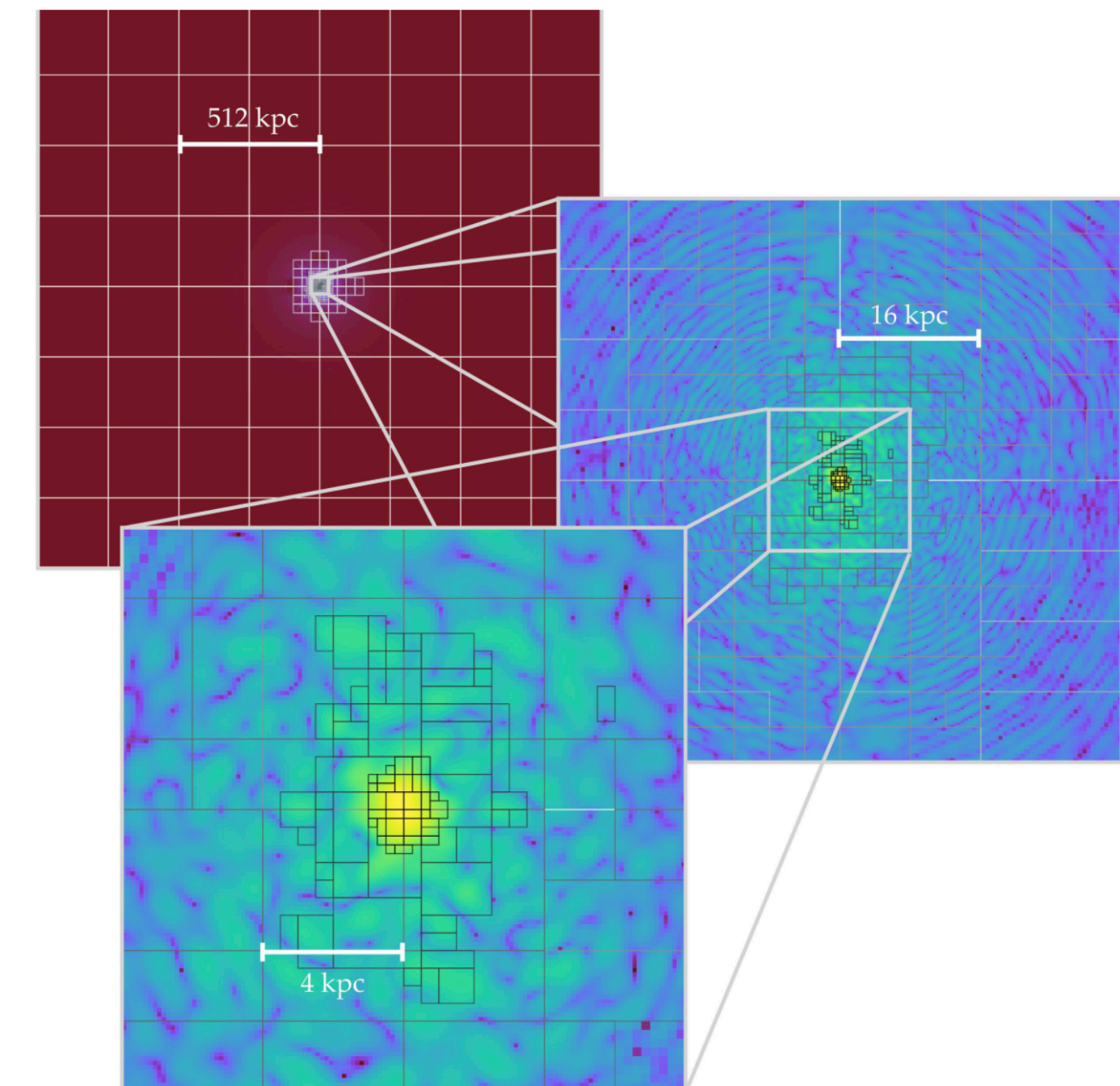
- **Idea:** Focus computational power on specific parts of the grid
- Nowadays widely used in cosmological simulation codes, numerical relativity **and** in axion string simulations
- Current codes mostly based on AMReX:  
<https://amrex-codes.github.io/amrex/>



Drew & Shellard [[1910.01718](#)]  
“GRChombo”



Benabou+ [[2308.01334](#)]  
“sledgehamr”



Schwabe+ [[2007.08256](#)]  
“axioNyx”



# Potential Improvement with AMR

- We can estimate the RAM needed to perform an AMR complex scalar simulation:

$$\text{RAM} = 2 \times 2 \times 4 \text{ bytes} \times \left( N_0^3 + \frac{\pi n_c n_r^2}{4} \frac{r^\ell - 1}{r - 1} N_p \right) \quad N_p = \xi \times 6(L/(N_0\tau))^2 \times N_0^3$$

Fleury & Moore [1509.00026]

- This takes into account, that we refine only around the strings and that we want to balance the RAM between the root and the refined grids
- Suggests time-dependent number of refinement levels:..

$$\ell + 7 \simeq \log_2(N_0^3/(\pi N_p)) = \log_2(N_0^2\tau^2/(\pi 6\xi L^2))$$

- Results in  $\log \sim 13, 16, 18$  for base grids of  $N_0 = 2048, 4096, 8192$  with  $\ell = 9, 11, 13$ . In practice not so trivial ..

# Potential Improvement with AMR

