

# Cosmological Imprints of the Ultra-Large Scale Universe

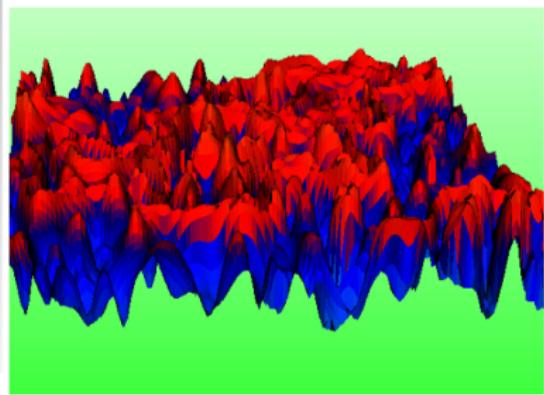
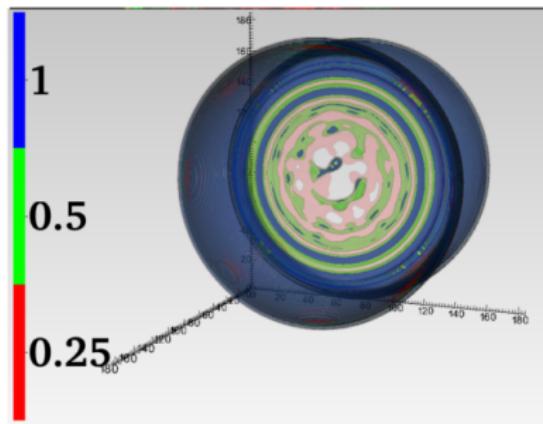
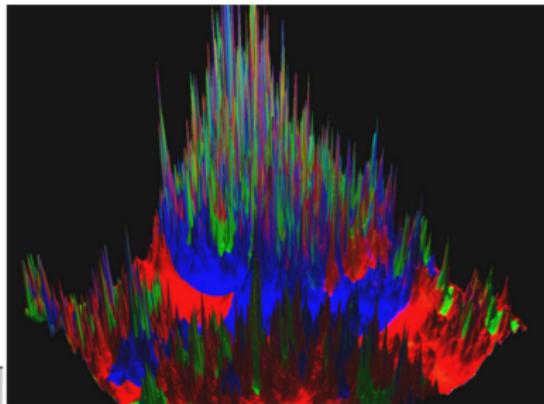
Jonathan Braden

University College London

Imperial College London, November 18, 2016

w/ Hiranya Peiris, Matthew Johnson and Anthony Aguirre  
based on arXiv:1604.04001 and *in progress*

# Inhomogeneous Nonlinear Ultra-Large Scale Cosmology



## ... A Mosaic of Interesting Dynamics

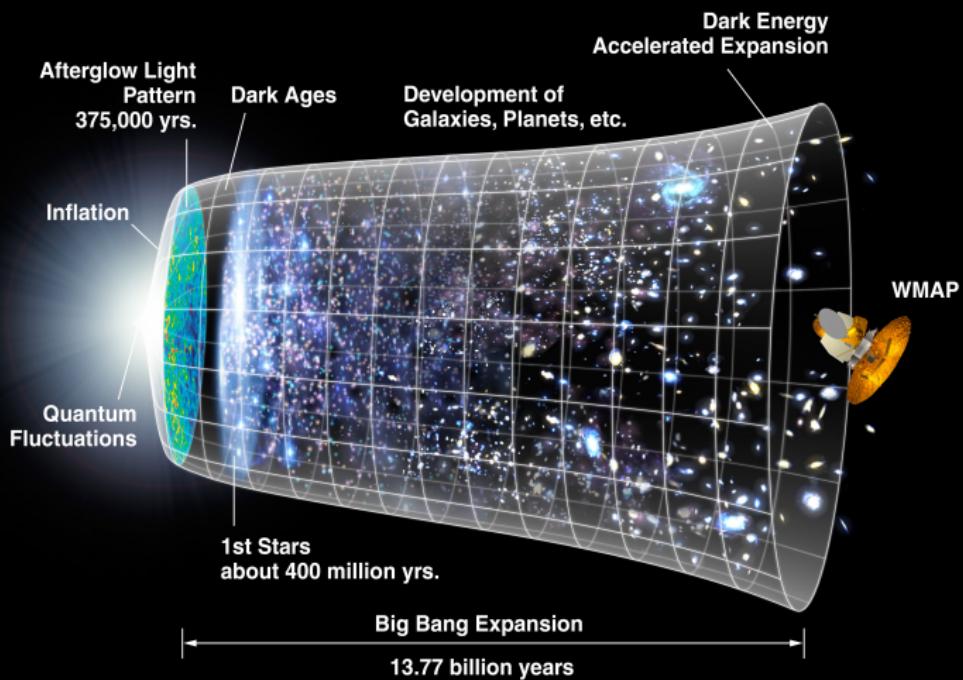
- ▶ **Strongly inhomogeneous and nonlinear cosmological initial conditions** (this talk) [JB, Peiris, Johnson, Aguirre]
- ▶ Isocurvature mode conversion into intermittent density perturbations [JB, Bond, Frolov, Huang]
  - ▶ Caustic formation in chaotic long wavelength dynamics
  - ▶ Generalised form of local nonGaussianity
- ▶ First order phase transitions [JB, Bond, Mersini-Houghton]
- ▶ Entropy production in highly inhomogeneous nonlinear field theories [JB, Bond]

Spatially intermittent dynamics, fundamental issues in QFT, novel and poorly constrained observables

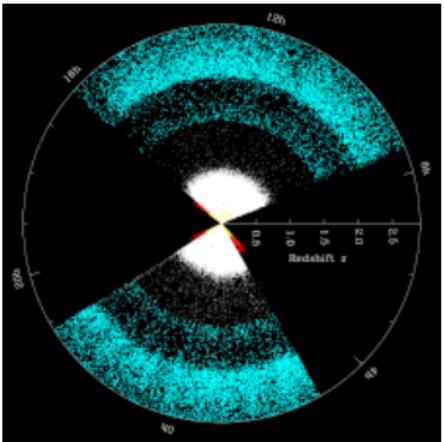
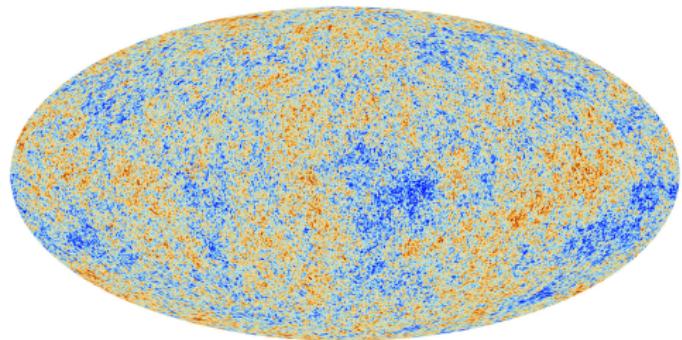
# Outline

- ▶ Brief Review of Cosmology and Role of Inflation
- ▶ Ultra-Large Scale Structure and the Superhorizon Universe
- ▶ Application of Numerical Relativity to Constrain Ultra-Large Scale Structure
- ▶ Constraints on Inflationary Initial Conditions from the CMB
- ▶ (Time Permitting) Intermittent NonGaussianity from Preheating (End-of-Inflation)

# History of the Universe



# The CMB and LSS

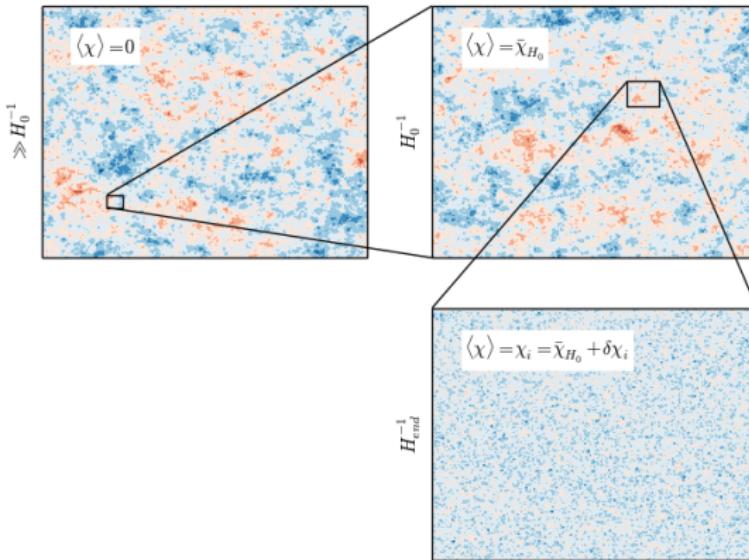


Inflation: Only a few parameters

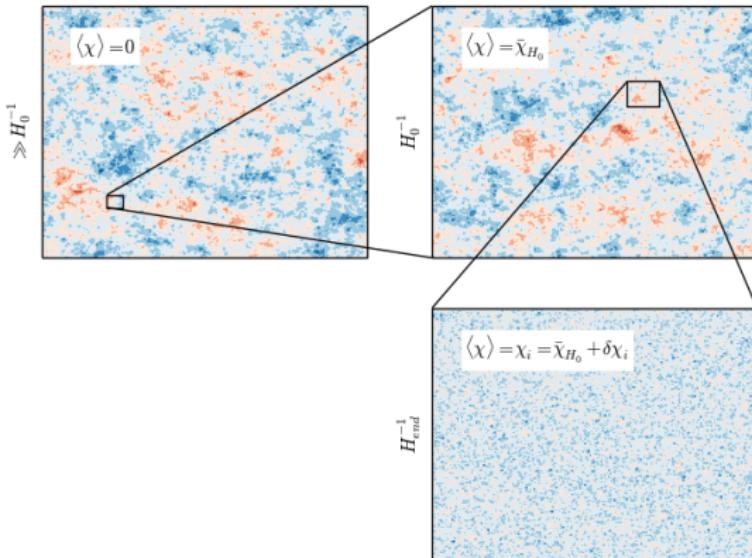
$$P_\zeta(k) = Ak^{n_s-1} \quad r = 16\epsilon$$

- ▶ Nature of Inflaton?
- ▶ Initial Conditions?

# Ultra-Large Scale Structure

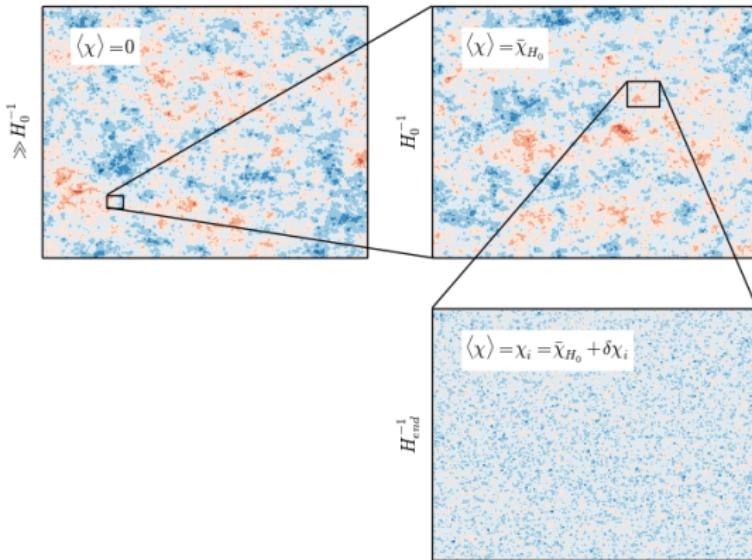


# Ultra-Large Scale Structure



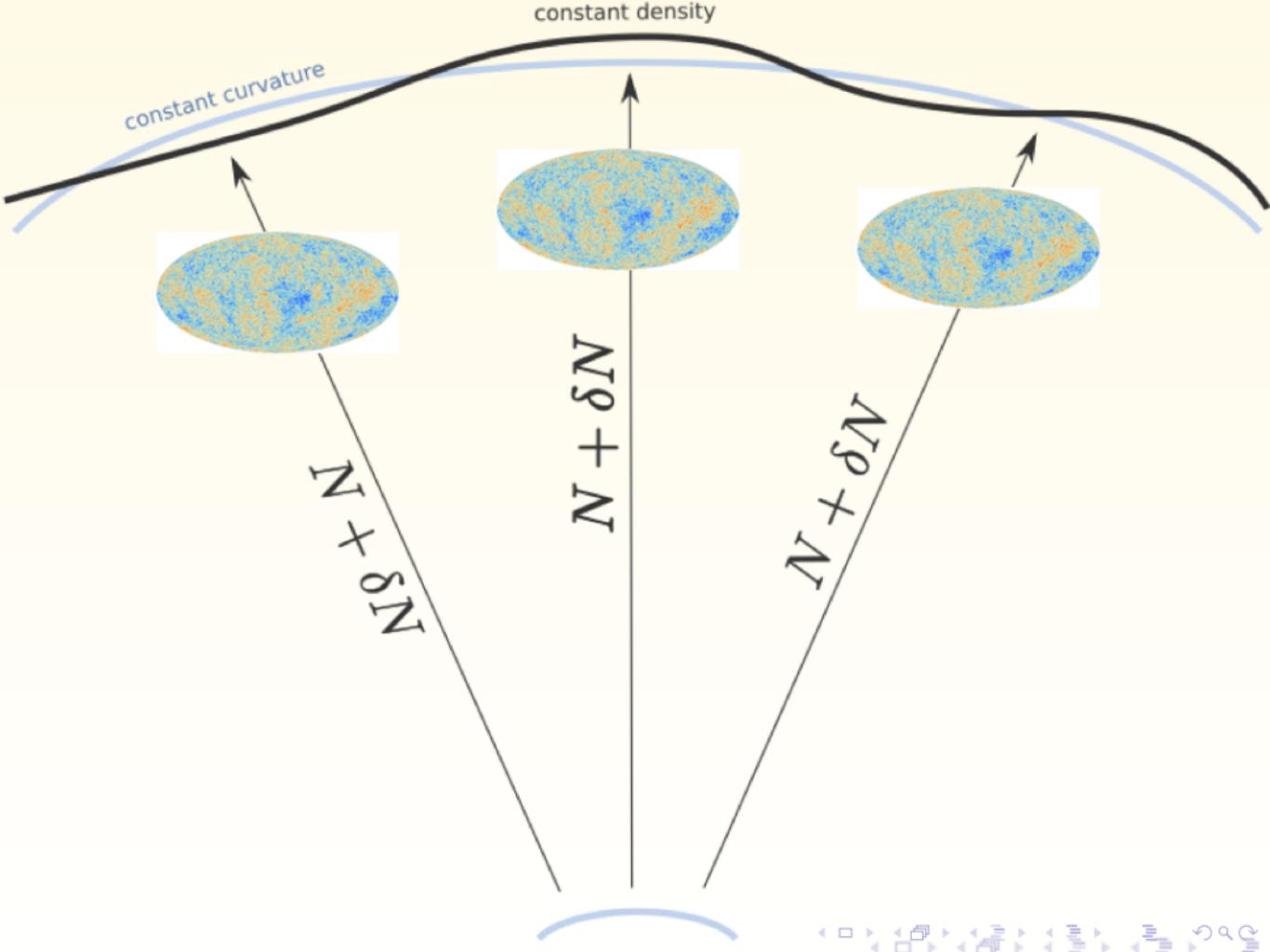
Local Remnants of Ultra-Large Scale Structure?

# Ultra-Large Scale Structure

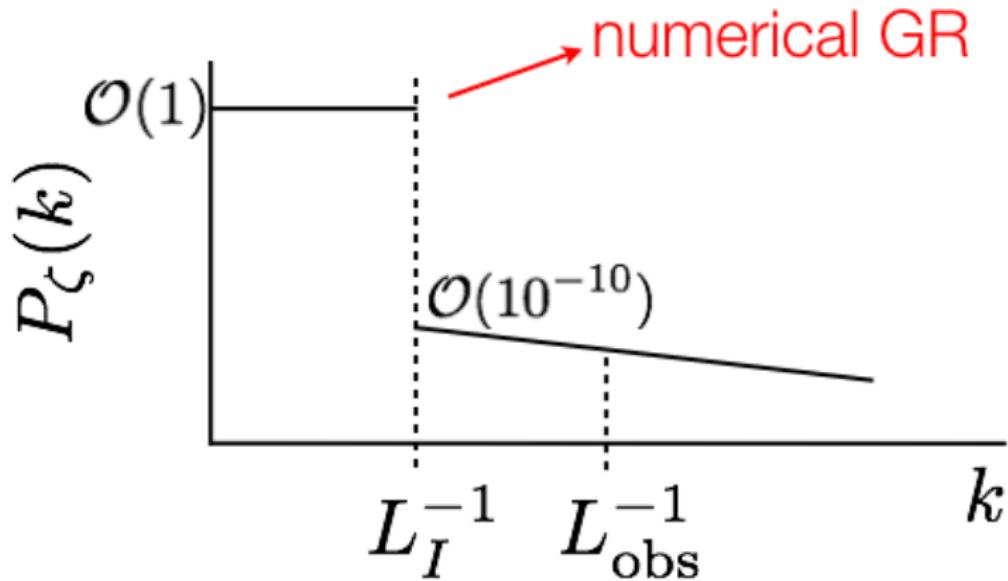


Local Remnants of Ultra-Large Scale Structure?

- ▶ **Structure present at start of inflation**
- ▶ Conversion of structure during or after inflation



## What About Ultra-Large Scales



**Evolve long wavelength modes dynamically**  
CMB scales see locally homogeneous background

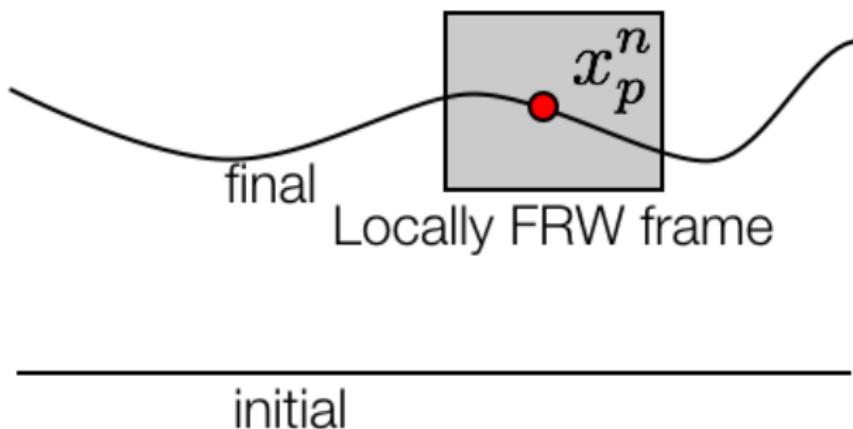
# Ultra Large Scale Structure

$$\zeta(x_p) \simeq \underline{\zeta(x_p^n)} + \underline{\partial_{x_p} \zeta(x_p^n) (x_p - x_p^n)} + \underline{\partial_{x_p}^2 \zeta(x_p^n) (x_p - x_p^n)^2 / 2} + \dots$$

log(local scale factor)

gauge mode  
(not observable)

Maps to CMB  
quadrupole



# Dawn of Numerical Relativity in Cosmology

- ▶ Bentivegna, Bruni
- ▶ Mertens, Giblin, Starkman
- ▶ Kleban, Linde, Senatore, West
- ▶ Peiris, Johnson, Feeney, Aguirre, Wainwright (symmetry reduced bubbles)
- ▶ Adamek, Daverio, Durrer, Kunz (weak field subhorizon)
- ▶ Clough, Lim, DiNunno, Fischler, Flauger, Paban

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## Connection of Initial Conditions with Observables

- ▶ Requires Monte Carlo sampling of Initial Conditions
- ▶ Highly accurate integrators to achieve machine precision

# Observational Constraints

$$\Pr(A_\phi, H_I L_{\text{obs}} | C_2^{\text{obs}}, \dots) \propto \mathcal{L}(A_\phi, H_I L_{\text{obs}}) \Pr(A_\phi, H_I L_{\text{obs}} | \dots)$$

- ▶  $A_\phi$  : Fluctuation Amplitude  $P(k) \propto A_\phi^2$
- ▶  $H_I L_{\text{obs}}$  : Uncertain post-inflation expansion history
- ▶ ... :  $V(\phi)$ , spectrum shape, IC hypersurface,  $C_2^{\text{high}-\ell}$ , etc.

Planck measured  $C_\ell$  : low  $\ell$  observed and high  $\ell$  “theory”

$$C_2^{\text{obs}} = 253.6 \mu K^2 \quad C_2^{\text{high}-\ell} = 1124.1 \mu K^2$$

## Numerical GR Input

$$\mathcal{L}(A_\phi, H_I L_{\text{obs}}) = \Pr\left(\hat{C}_2 | A_\phi, H_I L_{\text{obs}}, \dots\right)$$

Not equivalent to  $\langle C_2 \rangle$  from integrating spectrum

# Dimensional Reduction: Planar Symmetry

**Needed to Monte Carlo over initial field realisations**

## Synchronous Gauge

$$ds^2 = -d\tau^2 + a_{\parallel}^2(x, \tau)dx^2 + a_{\perp}^2(x, \tau)(dy^2 + dz^2)$$

Residual gauge freedom :  $a_{\parallel}(x, \tau = 0), a_{\perp}(x, \tau = 0)$

## Isotropised Expansion

$$a \equiv \det(\gamma_{ij})^{1/6} = (a_{\parallel}a_{\perp}^2)^{1/3}$$

$$H \equiv -\frac{1}{3}\gamma^{ij}K_{ij} = -\frac{1}{3}(K^x{}_x + 2K^y{}_y)$$

## Initial Conditions: Field

Work in Spatially Flat Gauge  $a_{\parallel}(\tau = 0) = 1 = a_{\perp}(\tau = 0)$

$$\phi(x) = \bar{\phi} + \delta\hat{\phi}$$

$\bar{\phi}$  gives desired  $\mathcal{N}$  e-folds of inflation in homogeneous limit

$$3H_I^2 \equiv V(\bar{\phi})$$

## Field Fluctuations

$$\delta\hat{\phi}(x_i) = A_{\phi} \sum_{n=1} \hat{G} e^{ik_n x_i} \sqrt{P(k_n)} \quad \hat{G} = \sqrt{-2 \ln \hat{\beta}} e^{2\pi i \hat{\alpha}}$$

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$$P(k) = \Theta(k_{\max} - k) \quad H_{\text{I}}^{-1} k_{\max} = 2\pi\sqrt{3}$$

## Initial Conditions: Metric

Work in Spatially Flat Gauge  $a_{\parallel}(\tau = 0) = 1 = a_{\perp}(\tau = 0)$

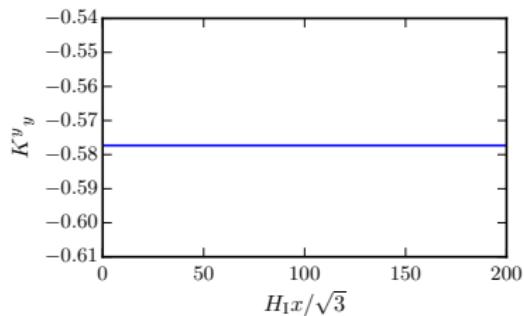
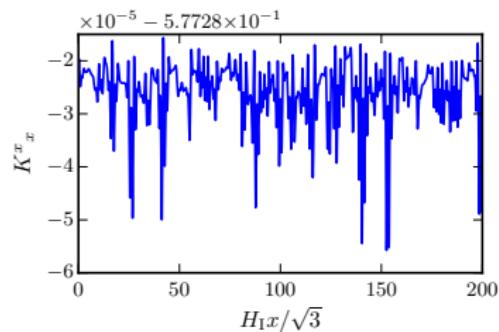
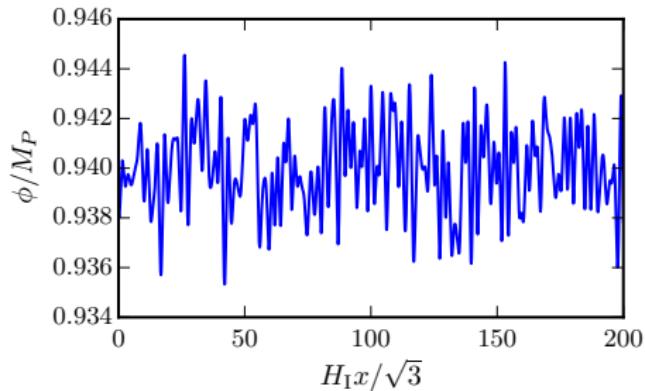
Momentum Constraint Sews Neighbouring Grid Sites Together

$$0 = \mathcal{P} = K^y{}_y' - \frac{a'_{\perp}}{a_{\perp}} (K^x{}_x - K^y{}_y) - \frac{\phi' \Pi_{\phi}}{2a_{\parallel} M_P^2}$$

Hamiltonian Constraint Enforces Energy Conservation

$$\begin{aligned} 0 = \mathcal{H} = & \frac{2a_{\perp}a'_{\parallel}a'_{\perp} - a_{\parallel}a'^2_{\perp} - 2a_{\parallel}a_{\perp}a''_{\perp}}{a_{\parallel}^3 a_{\perp}^2} + 2K^x{}_x K^y{}_y + K^y{}_y^2 \\ & - M_P^{-2} \left( \frac{\phi'^2 + \Pi_{\phi}^2}{2a_{\parallel}^2} + V \right) = 0 \end{aligned}$$

# Distribution of Initial Conditions



What's the response in the curvature perturbation?

# Time Evolution

$$\dot{a}_{\parallel} = -a_{\parallel} K^x_x, \quad \dot{a}_{\perp} = -a_{\perp} K^y_y,$$

$$\dot{K^x_x} = \frac{a'_{\perp}^2}{a_{\perp}^2 a_{\parallel}^2} + {K^x_x}^2 - {K^y_y}^2 + \frac{\left(\Pi_{\phi}^2 - \phi'^2\right)}{2a_{\parallel}^2 M_P^2},$$

$$\dot{K^y_y} = -\frac{a'_{\perp}^2}{2a_{\perp}^2 a_{\parallel}^2} + \frac{3}{2} {K^y_y}^2 - \frac{V(\phi)}{2M_P^2} + \frac{\left(\Pi_{\phi}^2 + \phi'^2\right)}{4a_{\parallel}^2 M_P^2},$$

$$\dot{\Pi}_{\phi} = 2K^y_y \Pi_{\phi} + \frac{1}{a_{\parallel}} \phi'' + \left( \frac{2a'_{\perp}}{a_{\parallel} a_{\perp}} - \frac{a'_{\parallel}}{a_{\perp}^2} \right) \phi' - a_{\perp} \partial_{\phi} V(\phi),$$

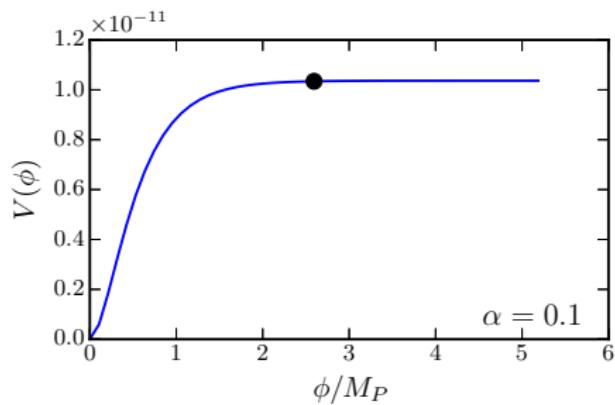
$$\dot{\phi} = \frac{\Pi_{\phi}}{a_{\parallel}}$$

## Model Choices

$$V(\phi) = V_0 \left(1 - e^{-\sqrt{\frac{2}{3\alpha}} \frac{\phi}{M_P}}\right)^2$$

# Model Choices

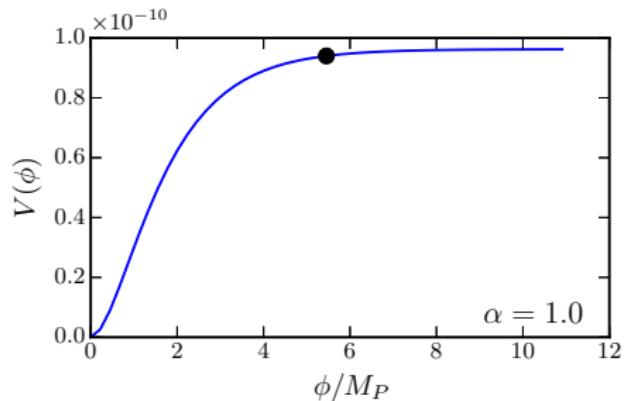
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- $\alpha \ll 1 \rightarrow$  small-field model

## Model Choices

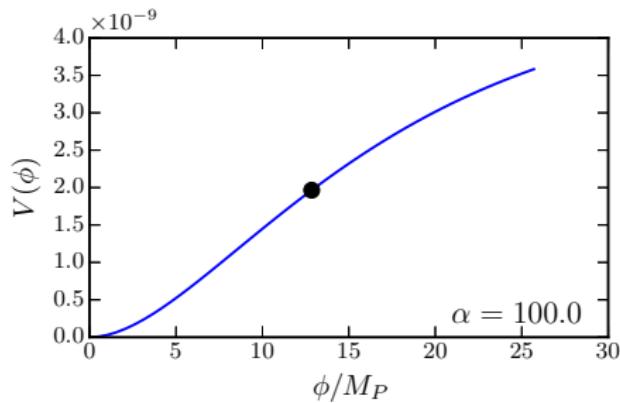
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- ▶  $\alpha \ll 1 \rightarrow$  small-field model
- ▶  $\alpha = 1 \rightarrow$  Starobinski

# Model Choices

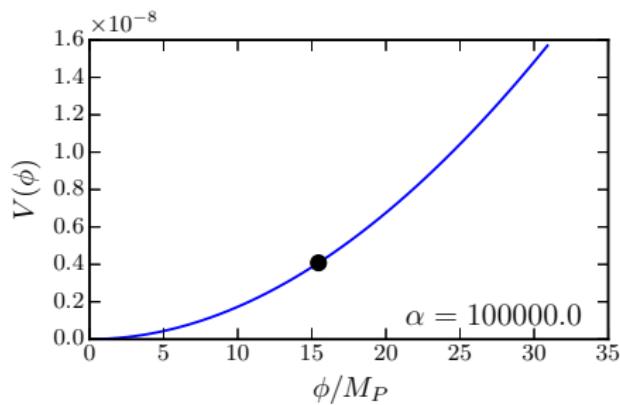
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- ▶  $\alpha \ll 1 \rightarrow$  small-field model
- ▶  $\alpha = 1 \rightarrow$  Starobinski
- ▶  $\alpha \gg 1 \rightarrow m^2 \phi^2 / 2$

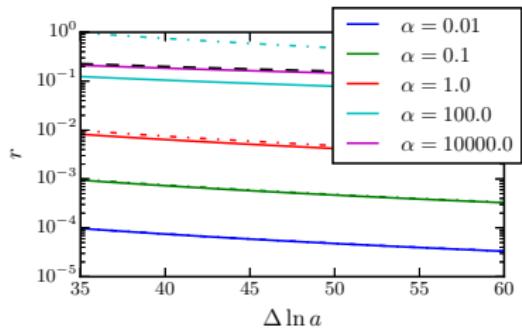
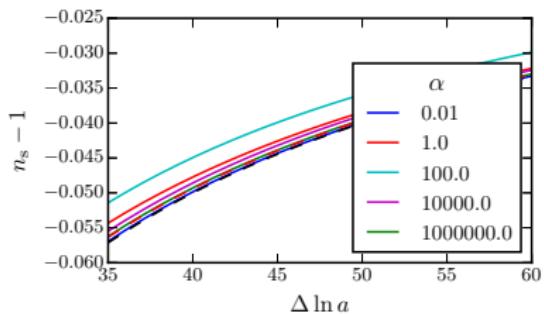
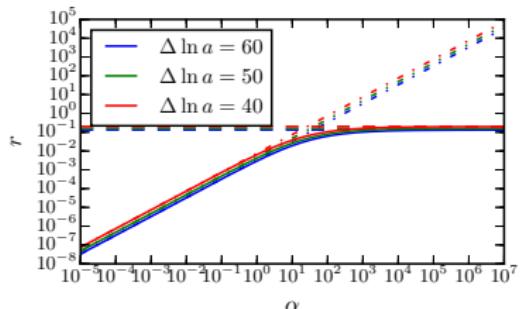
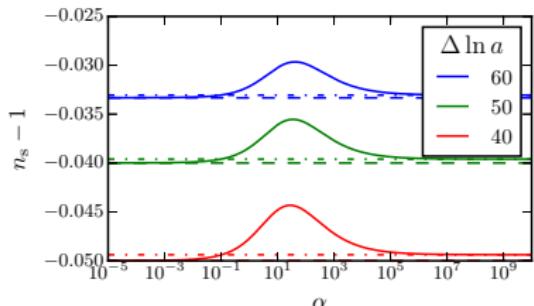
# Model Choices

$$V(\phi) = V_0 \left( 1 - e^{-\sqrt{\frac{2}{3\alpha}} \frac{\phi}{M_P}} \right)^2$$



- ▶  $\alpha \ll 1 \rightarrow$  small-field model
- ▶  $\alpha = 1 \rightarrow$  Starobinski
- ▶  $\alpha \gg 1 \rightarrow m^2 \phi^2 / 2$

# CMB Parameter Predictions



# Numerical Approach

## Machine precision accuracy

- ▶ Gauss-Legendre time-integrator ( $\mathcal{O}(dt^{10})$ , symplectic)
- ▶ Fourier pseudospectral discretisation (exponential convergence)

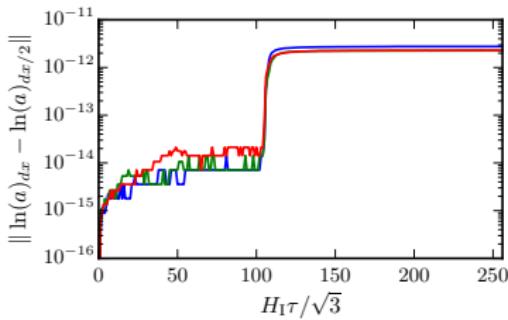
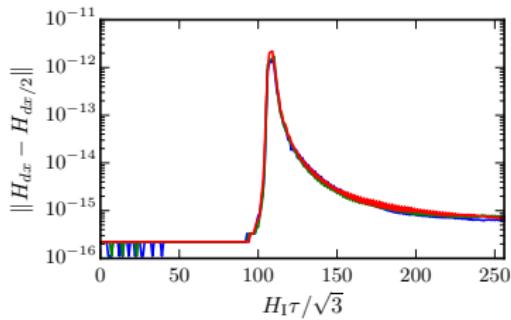
## Fast to allow sampling

- ▶ Adaptive time-stepping
- ▶ Adaptive grid spacing

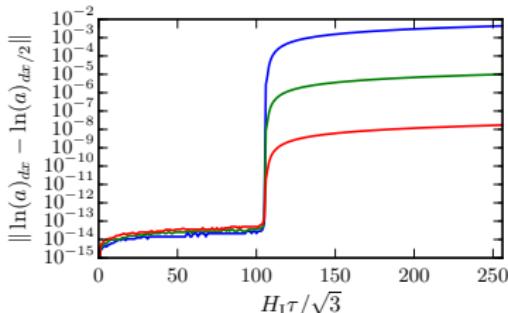
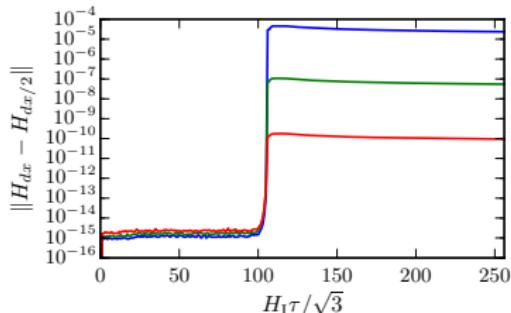
$\mathcal{O}(1s - 10s)$  to evolve through 60 e-folds of inflation

# Convergence Testing : Dynamical Variables

Vary grid spacing  $dx$  at fixed  $dx/dt$

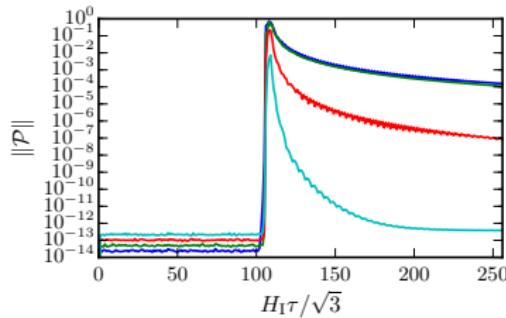
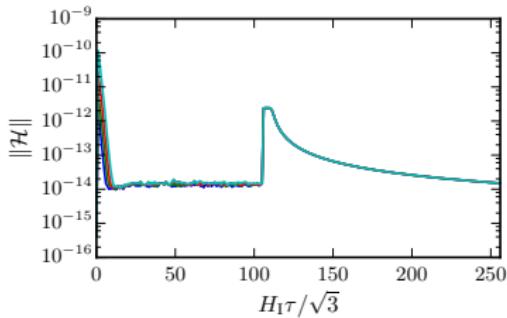


Vary time-step  $dt$  at fixed  $dx$

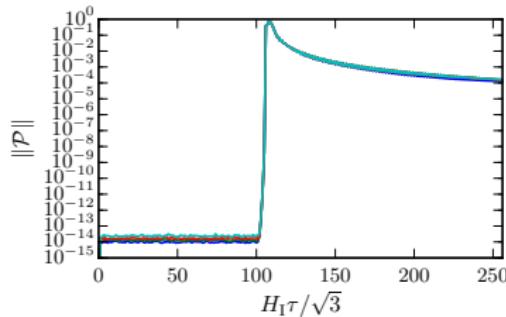
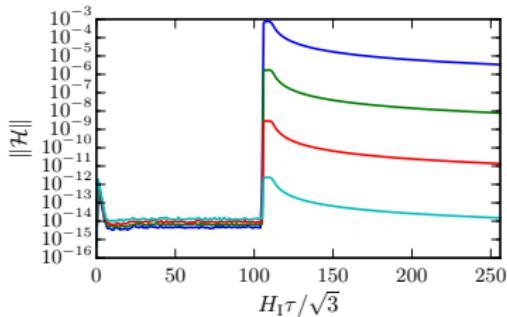


# Convergence Testing : Constraint Preservation

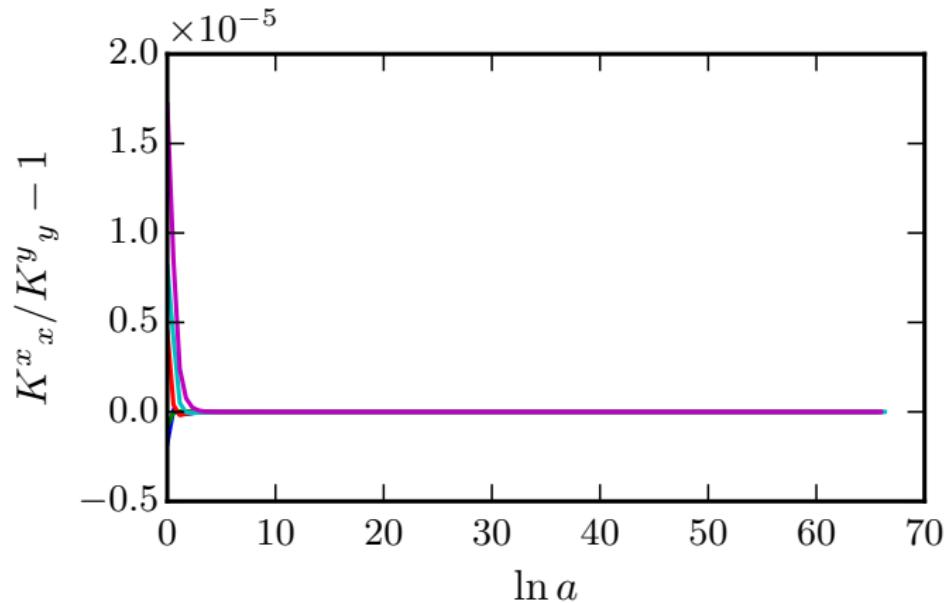
Vary grid spacing  $dx$  at fixed  $dx/dt$



Vary time-step  $dt$  at fixed  $dx$

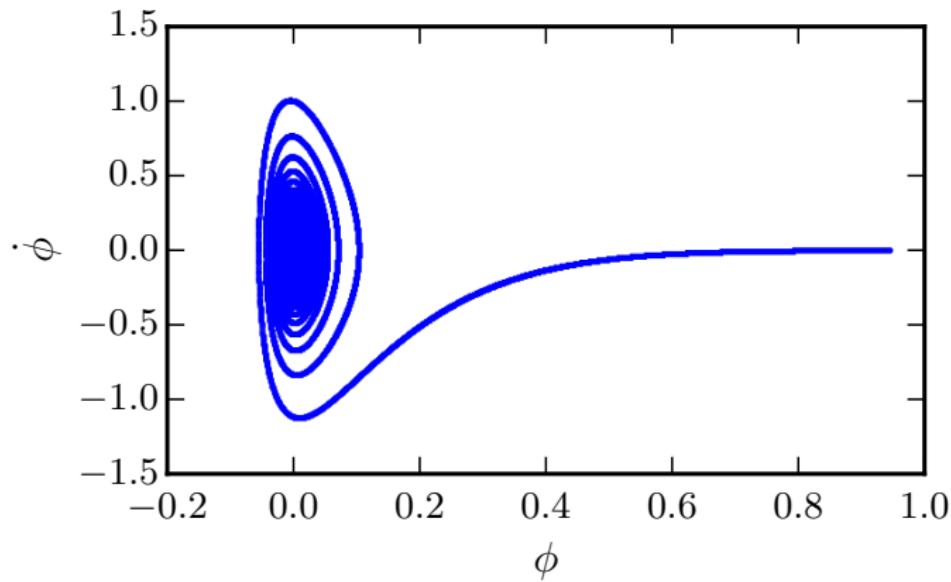


# Self-Gravitating Dynamics: Isotropisation of Expansion

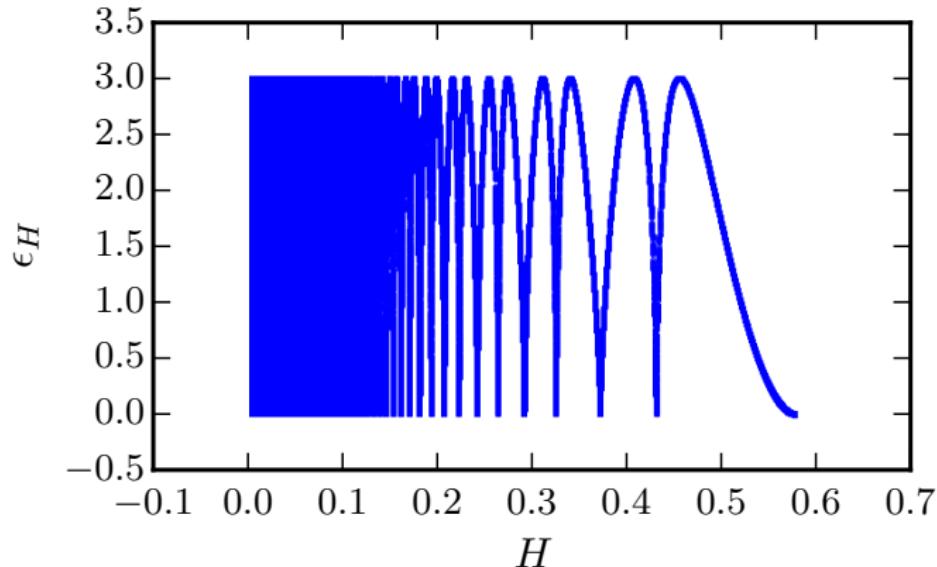


Expansion quickly isotropises itself

# Self-Gravitating Dynamics: Attractor Behaviour

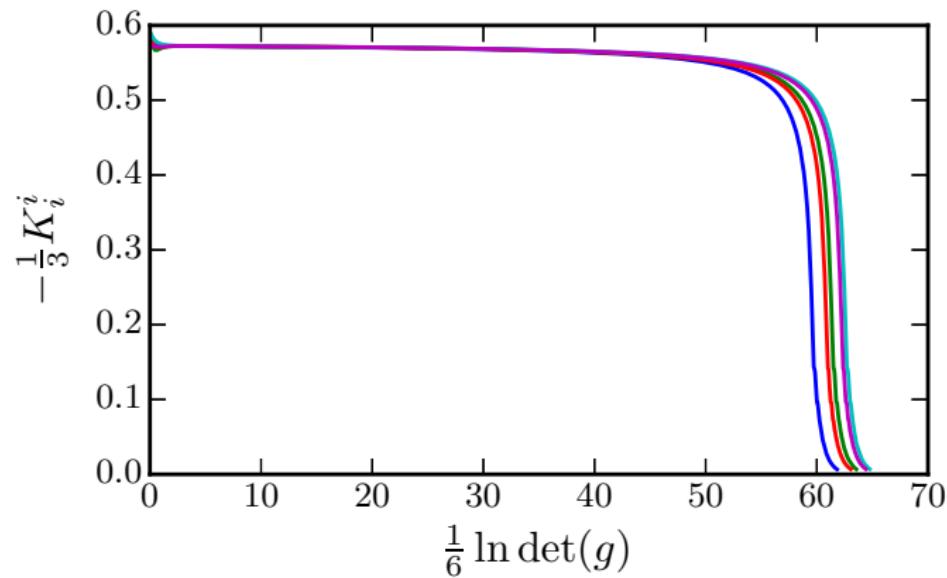


## Self-Gravitating Dynamics: Geometry Attractor



Individual Lattice Sites Evolve Along Attractor  
Fixed  $H$ ,  $\epsilon_H$  are equivalent

# Self-Gravitating Dynamics: Spatially Dependent Expansion History



## Observations: Relation to Local Multipoles

$$\zeta(H) \equiv \delta \ln a|_{a_{\parallel}=1=a_{\perp}}^H$$

Large-scale perturbations →  
evaluate  $\zeta$  on last-scattering surface around a point  $x_0$

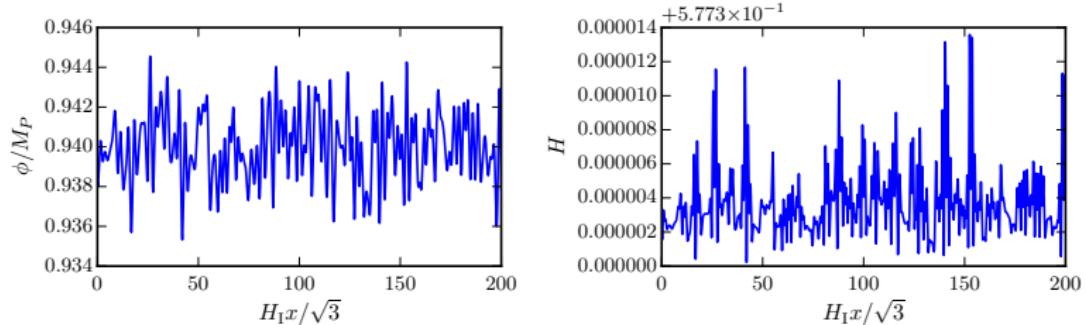
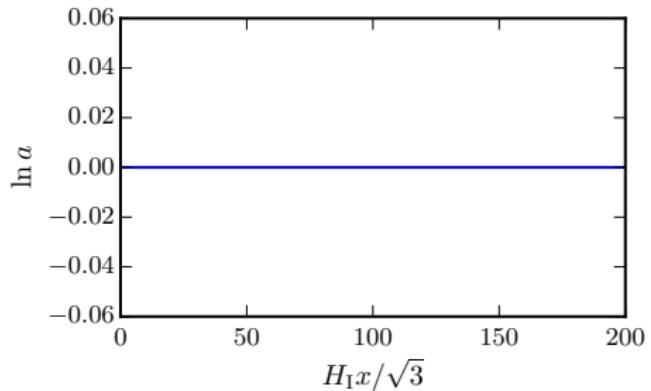
### Expand for Large-Scale Fluctuations

$$\zeta(x_0+r_{ls}) \approx \zeta(x_0) + (H_I r_{ls}) \frac{\partial \zeta}{\partial (H_I x_p)}(x_0) + \frac{(H_I r_{ls})^2}{2} \frac{\partial^2 \zeta}{\partial (H_I x_p)^2}(x_0) + \dots$$

### Matches onto Multipoles

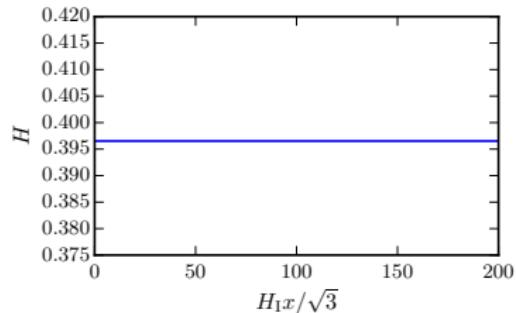
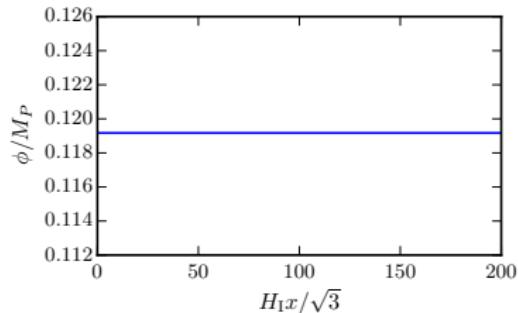
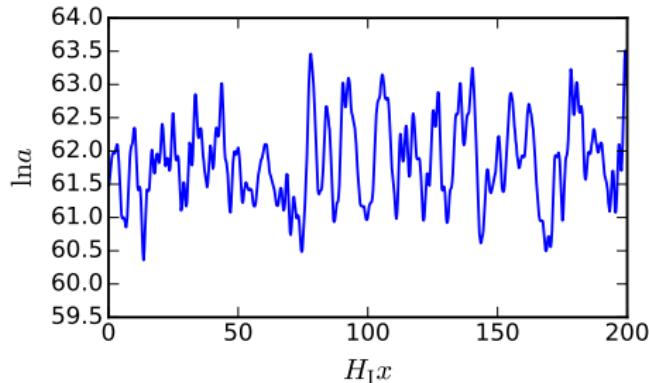
$$a_{20}^{(UL)} \approx F(L_{\text{obs}} H_I)^2 \partial_{x_p}^2 \zeta \simeq F(L_{\text{obs}} H_I)^2 \frac{1}{a_{\parallel}} \partial_x \left[ \frac{\partial_x \zeta}{a_{\parallel}} \right]$$

# Required Evolution



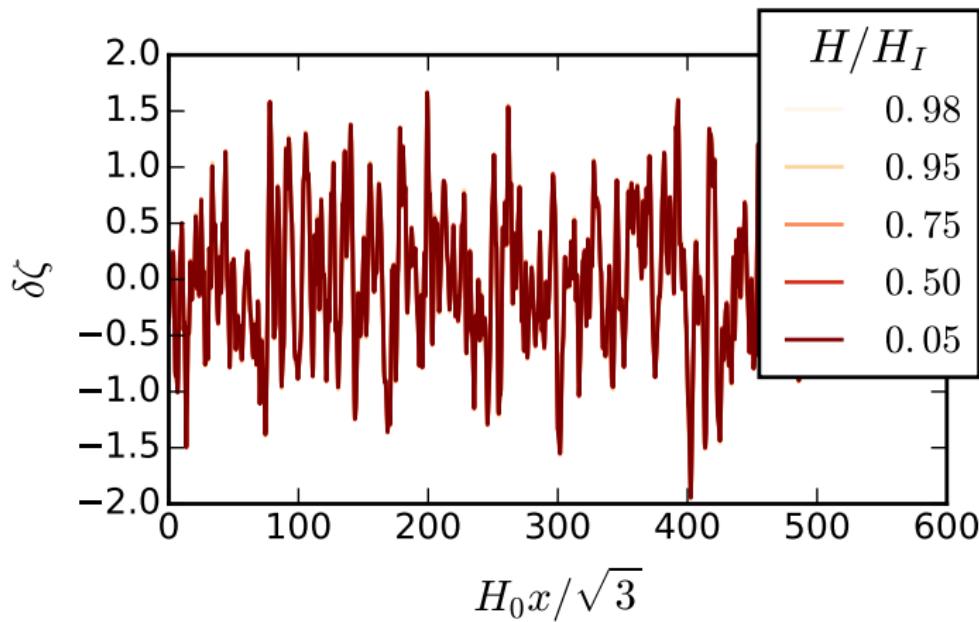
Initial Conditions ( $\tau = 0$ )

# Required Evolution



End of Inflation ( $\epsilon_H = -d \ln H / d \ln a = 1$ )

# Freeze-in of Superhorizon Perturbations



Initial transient modifies result from separate universe approximation

# Observational Constraints

$$\Pr(A_\phi, H_I L_{\text{obs}} | C_2^{\text{obs}}, \dots) \propto \mathcal{L}(A_\phi, H_I L_{\text{obs}}) \Pr(A_\phi, H_I L_{\text{obs}} | \dots)$$
$$\mathcal{L} = \Pr(C_2^{\text{obs}} | A_\phi, H_I L_{\text{obs}}, \dots)$$

- ▶  $A_\phi$  : Fluctuation Amplitude  $P(k) \propto A_\phi^2$
- ▶  $H_I L_{\text{obs}}$  : Uncertain post-inflation expansion history
- ▶ ... :  $V(\phi)$ , spectrum shape, IC hypersurface,  $C_2^{\text{high-}\ell}$ , etc.

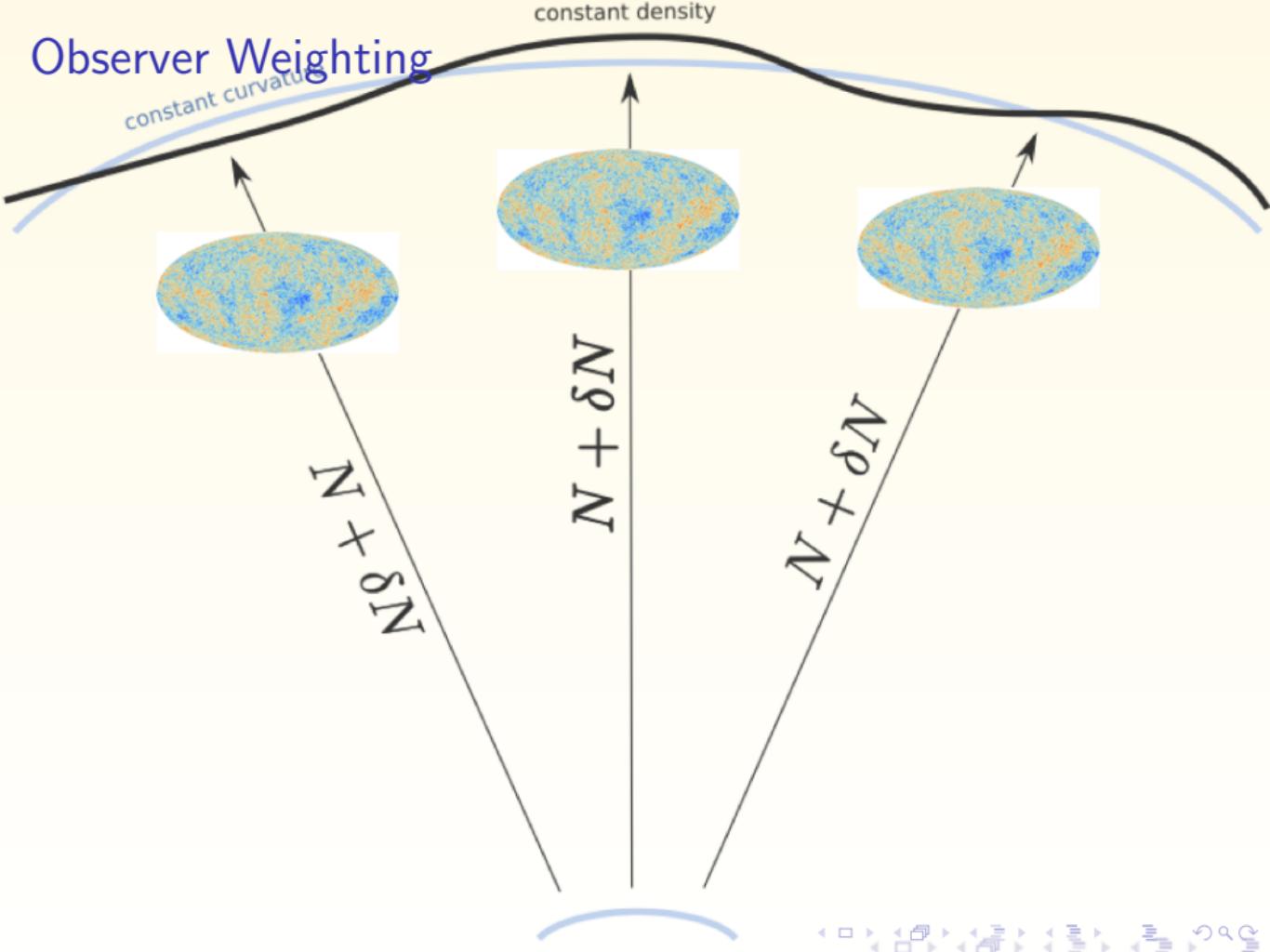
Planck measured  $C_\ell$  : low  $\ell$  observed and high  $\ell$  “theory”

$$C_2^{\text{obs}} = 253.6 \mu K^2 \quad C_2^{\text{high-}\ell} = 1124.1 \mu K^2$$

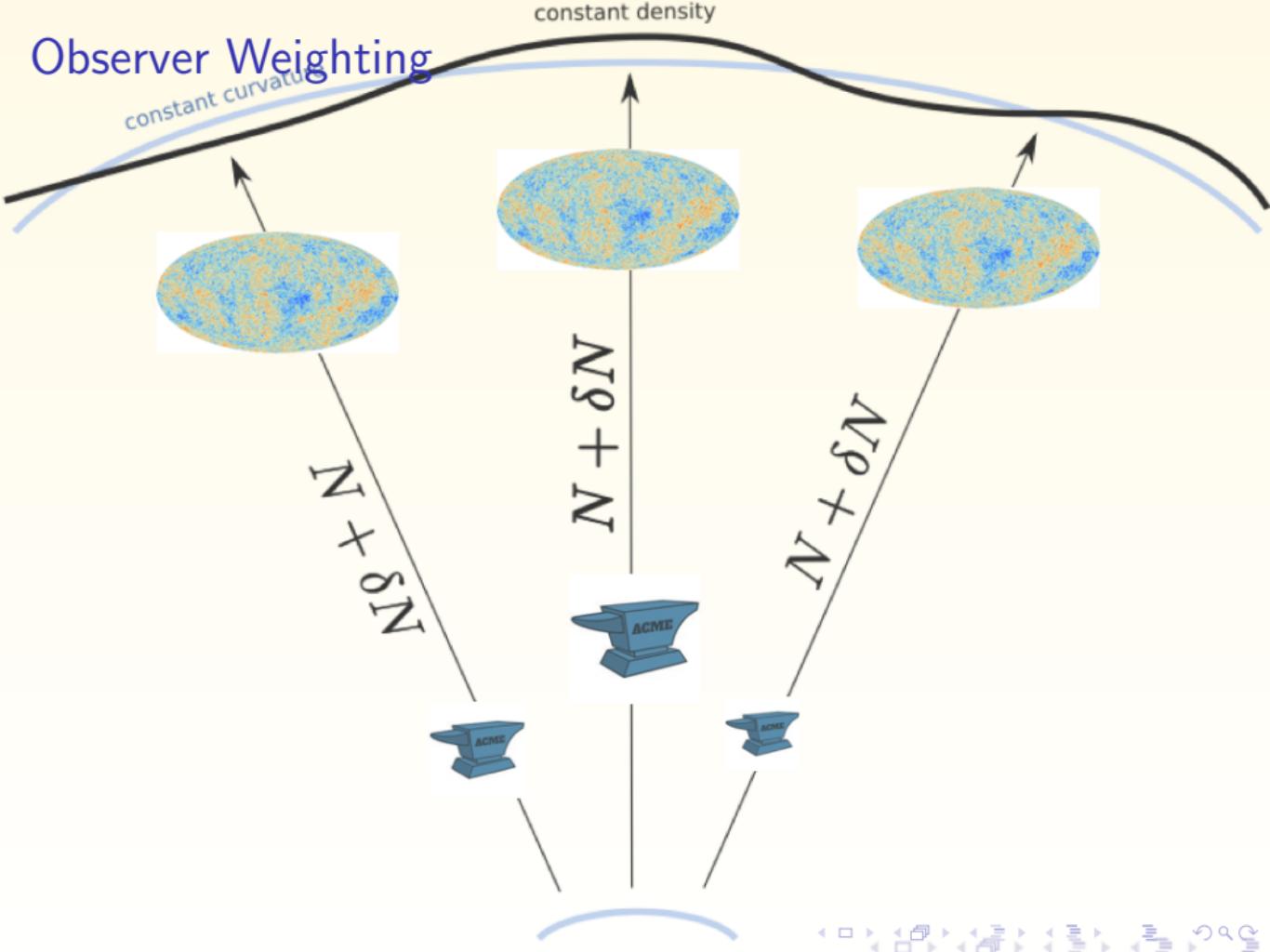
## Numerical GR Input

$$\Pr(\hat{C}_2 | A_\phi, H_I L_{\text{obs}}, \dots)$$

# Observer Weighting



# Observer Weighting



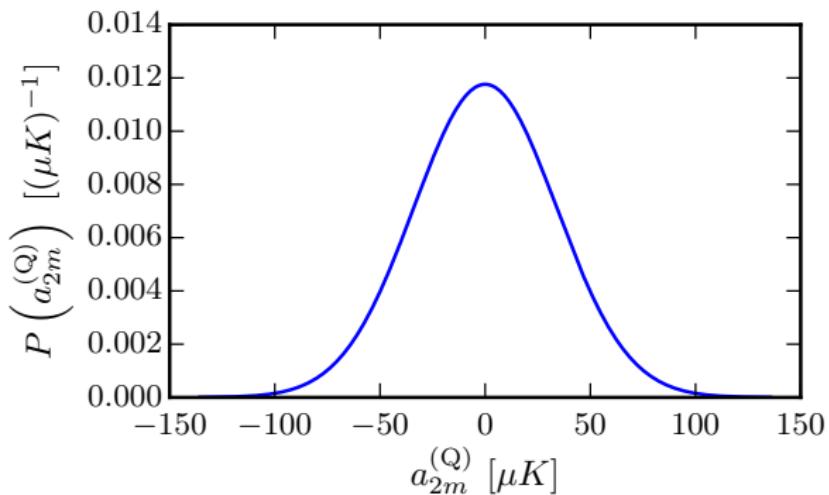
## Evaluation of CMB Quadrupole

$$\hat{C}_2 = \frac{1}{5} \left[ \left( a_{20}^{(\text{UL})} + a_{20}^{(\text{Q})} \right)^2 + \sum_{m=-2, m \neq 0}^{m=2} \left( a_{2m}^{(\text{Q})} \right)^2 \right]$$

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$$\hat{C}_2 = \frac{1}{5} \left[ \left( a_{20}^{(\text{UL})} + a_{20}^{(\text{Q})} \right)^2 + \sum_{m=-2, m \neq 0}^{m=2} \left( a_{2m}^{(\text{Q})} \right)^2 \right]$$

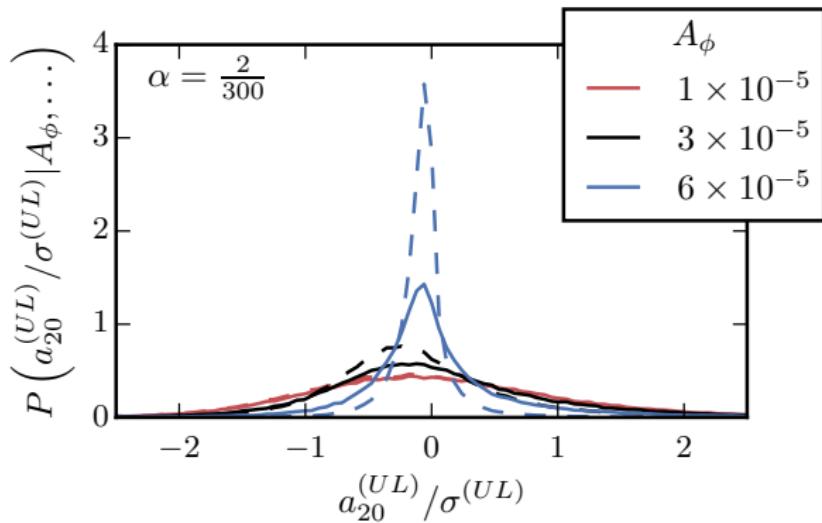
$a_{2m}^{(\text{Q})}$  : Gaussian with  $\langle (a_{2m}^{(\text{Q})})^2 \rangle = 1124.1 \mu K^2$



# Evaluation of CMB Quadrupole

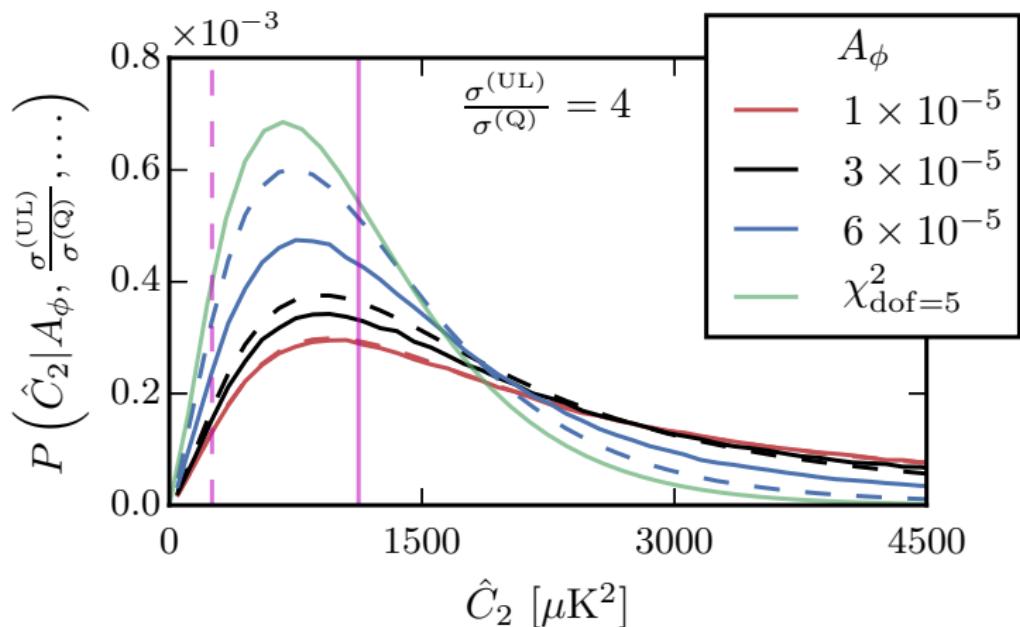
$$\hat{C}_2 = \frac{1}{5} \left[ \left( \textcolor{red}{a_{20}^{(\text{UL})}} + a_{20}^{(Q)} \right)^2 + \sum_{m=-2, m \neq 0}^{m=2} \left( a_{2m}^{(Q)} \right)^2 \right]$$

$a_{20}^{(\text{UL})}$  : NR simulations



# Distribution of CMB quadrupole

$$\hat{C}_2 = \frac{1}{5} \left[ \left( a_{20}^{(\text{UL})} + a_{20}^{(\text{Q})} \right)^2 + \sum_{m=-2, m \neq 0}^2 \left( a_{2m}^{(\text{Q})} \right)^2 \right]$$

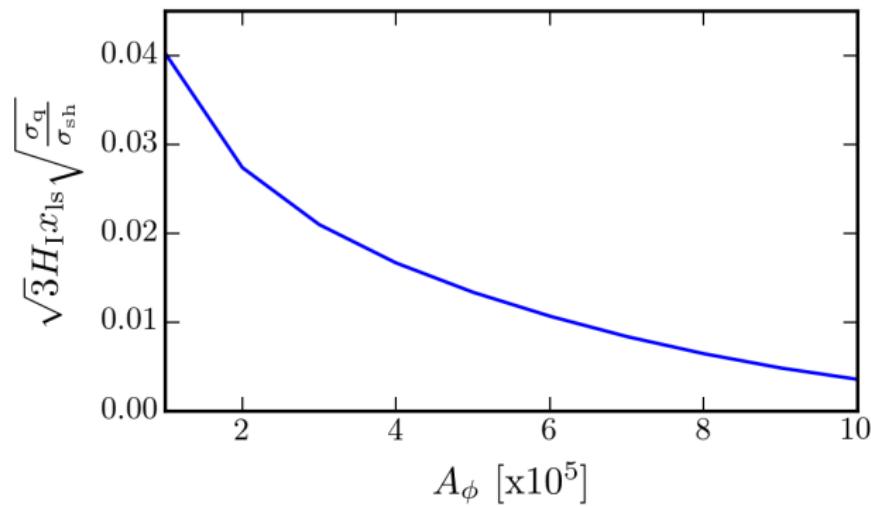


$$a_{20}^{(UL)} \approx F(H_{\text{I}} L_{\text{obs}})^2 \partial_{x_p}^2 \zeta \simeq F(L_{\text{obs}} H_{\text{I}})^2 \frac{1}{a_{\parallel}} \partial_x \left[ \frac{\partial_x \zeta}{a_{\parallel}} \right]$$

For a given  $V(\phi)$

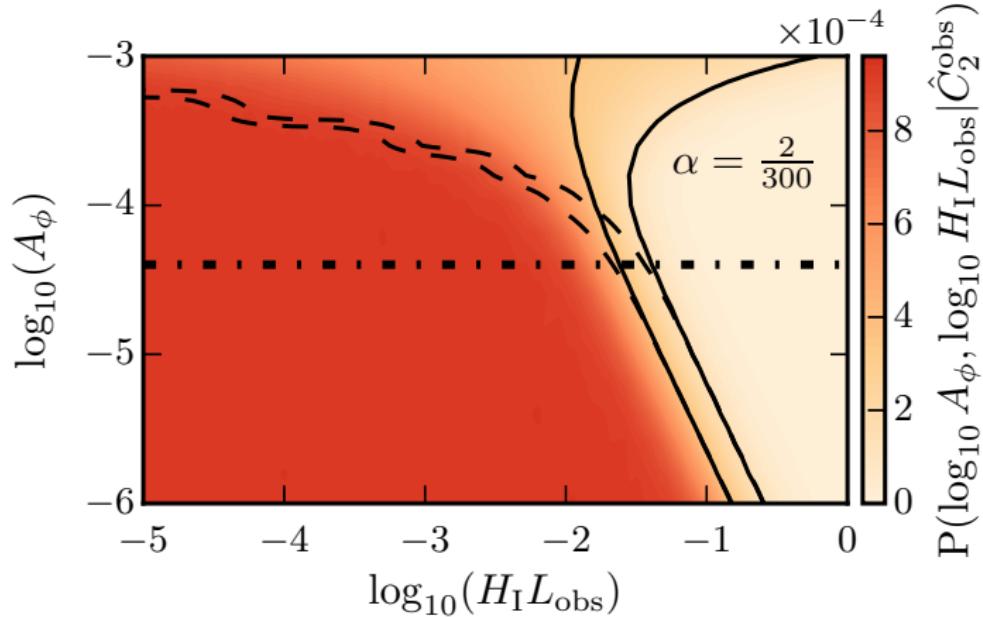
- $F$  : nearly independent of  $A_{\phi}$  and  $H_{\text{I}} L_{\text{obs}}$
- $H_{\text{I}} L_{\text{obs}}$  : Unknown free parameter
- $\left\langle \left( \frac{1}{a_{\parallel}} \partial_x \left[ \frac{\partial_x \zeta}{a_{\parallel}} \right] \right)^2 \right\rangle$  :  $A_{\phi}$  dependent only

Relative RMS of superhorizon contribution depends of distance to last-scattering surface



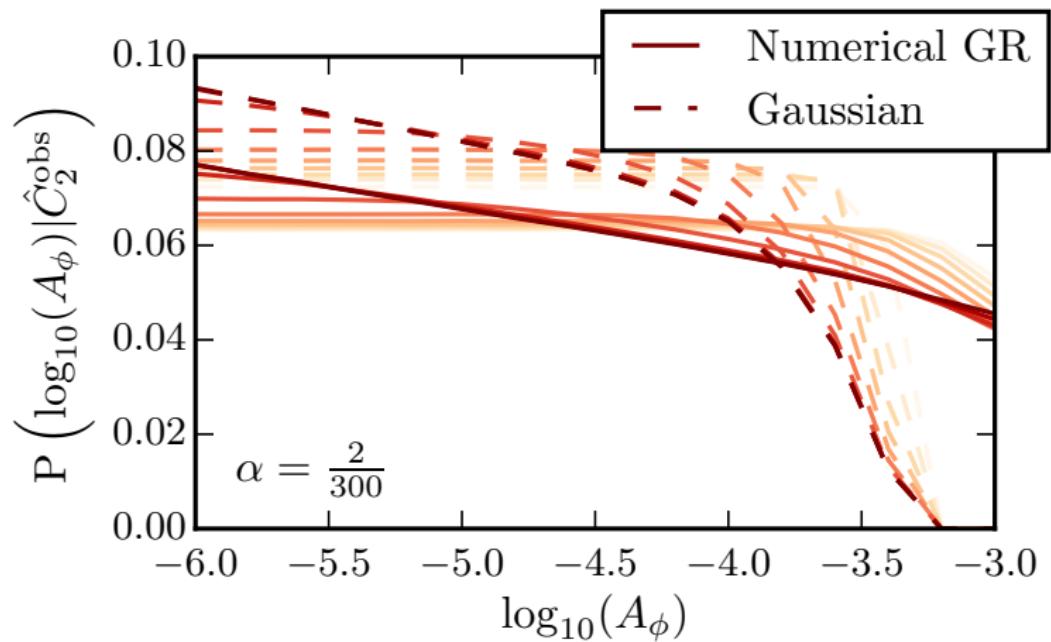
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# Constraints from the CMB Quadrupole



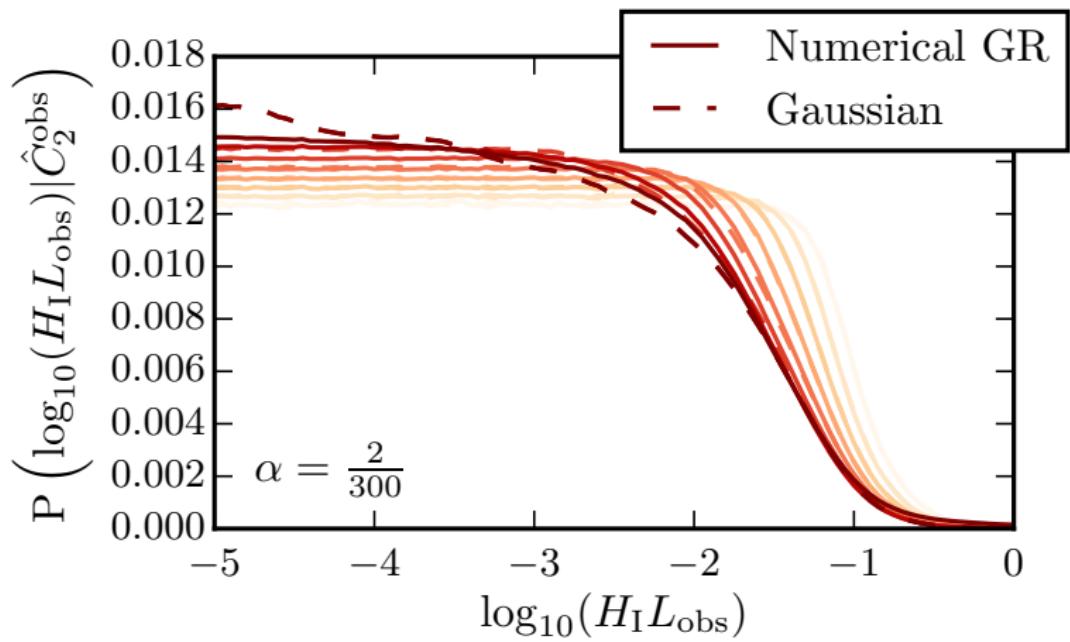
**Strong Modification from Gaussian Ansatz at Large  $A_\phi$**

## Marginalised Constraints : $A_\phi$



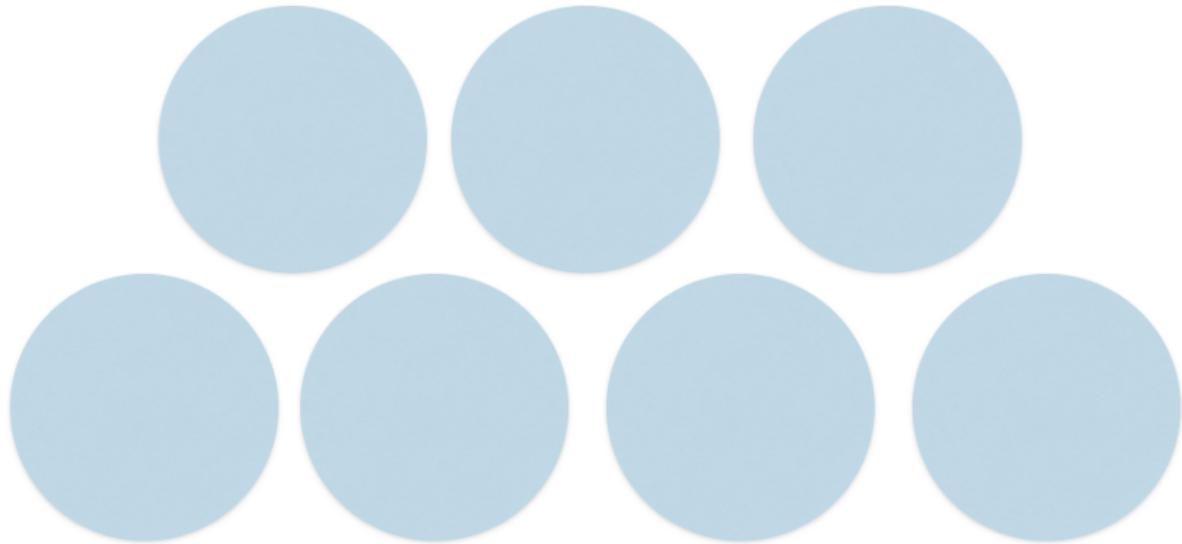
Constraint of  $A_\phi$  as we marginalise over  $L_{\text{obs}}$

## Marginalised Constraints : $H_1 L_{\text{obs}}$

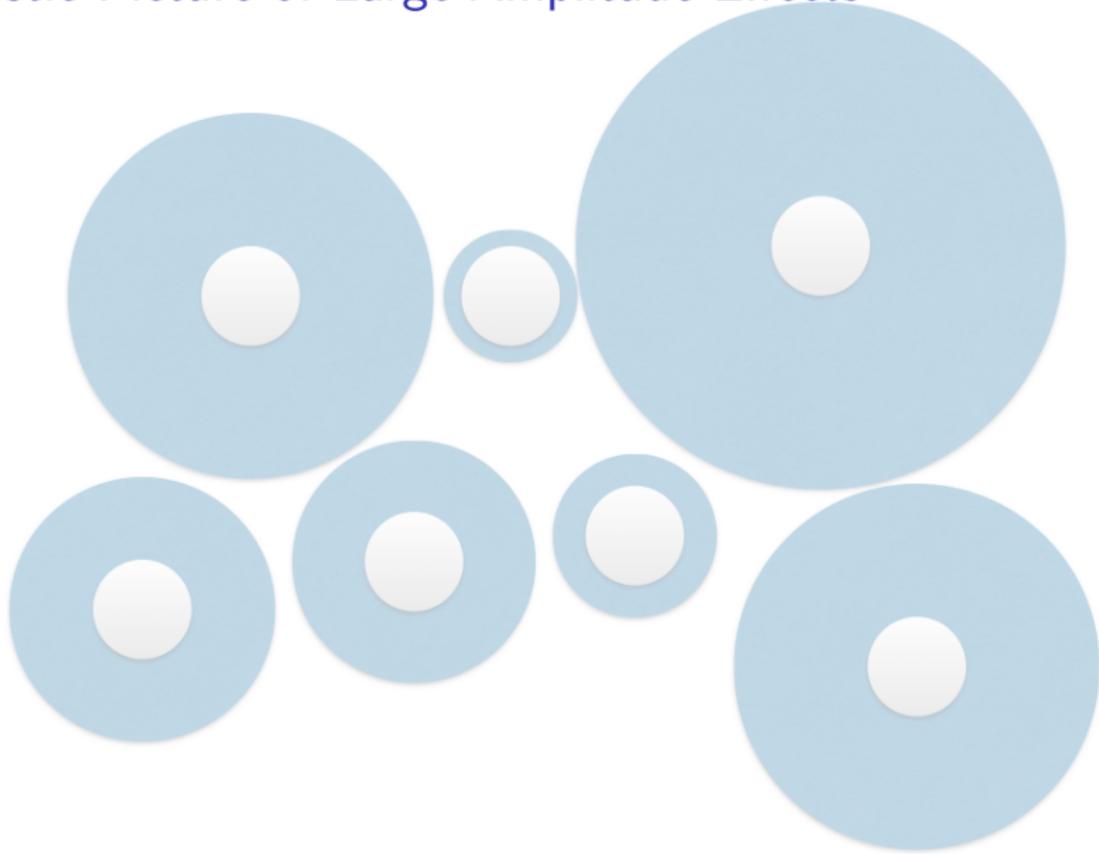


Constraint of  $L_{\text{obs}}$  as we marginalise over  $A_\phi$

# Heuristic Picture of Large Amplitude Effects

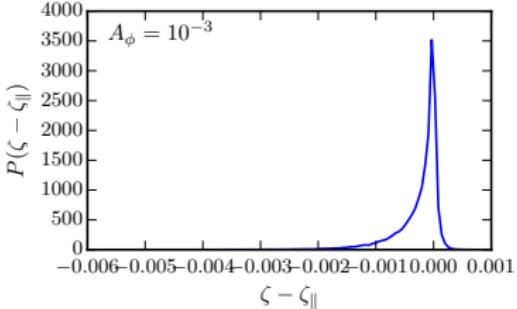
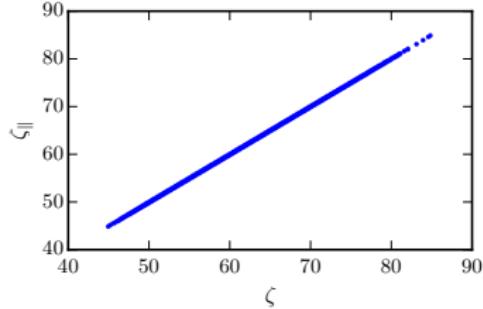
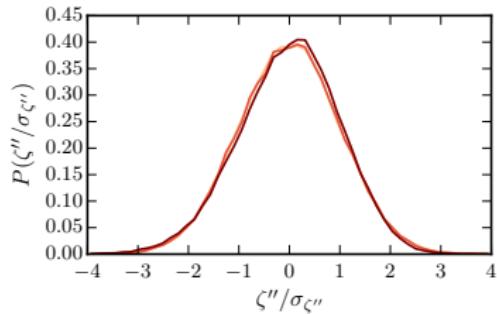
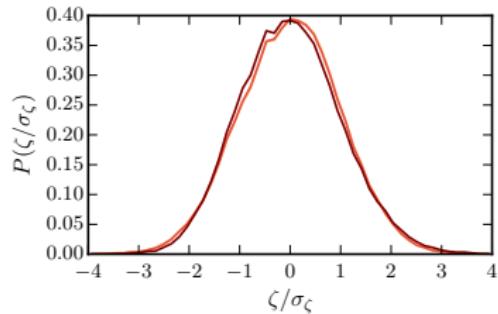


# Heuristic Picture of Large Amplitude Effects



# Statistics of $\zeta$

$\zeta$  and comoving derivatives nearly Gaussian



# Analytical Modelling

$$\zeta(H, x_{\text{com}}) \sim \text{GRF}$$

Large-Scale Approximation for  $a_{20}$

$$a_{20}(x_0) \approx A e^{-2\zeta''(x_0)} \left( \zeta''(x_0) - \zeta'_\parallel(x_0)\zeta'(x_0) \right)$$

$\zeta, \zeta', \zeta''$  are correlated Gaussian random deviates, with covariance

$$C_\zeta = \begin{bmatrix} \sigma_0^2 & 0 & -\sigma_1^2 \\ 0 & \sigma_1^2 & 0 \\ -\sigma_1^2 & 0 & \sigma_2^2 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\sigma_i = \int dk k^{2i} \left\langle \left| \tilde{\zeta}_k \right|^2 \right\rangle$$

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Large-Scale Approximation for  $a_{20}$

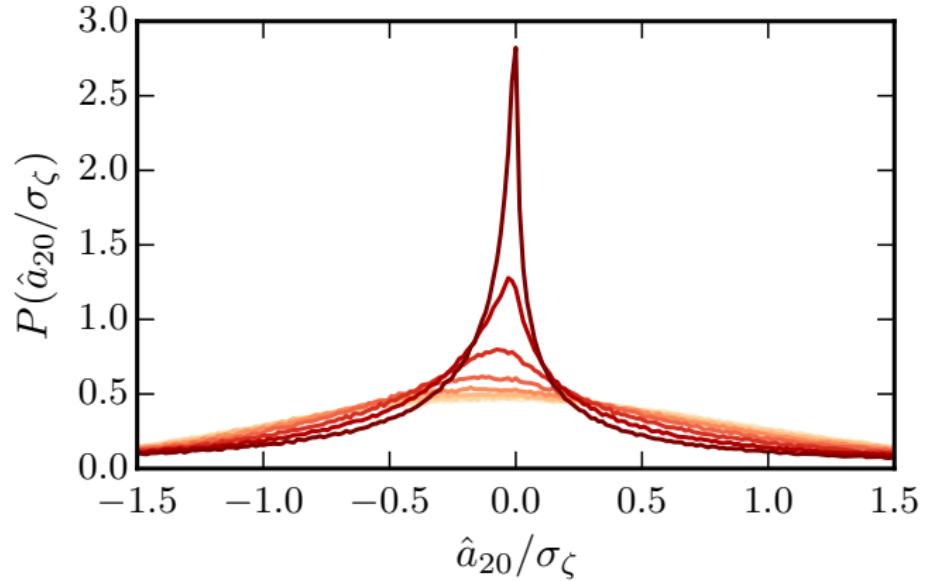
$$a_{20}(x_0) \approx \mathcal{A} e^{-2\zeta(x_0)} (\zeta''(x_0) - \zeta'(x_0)^2)$$

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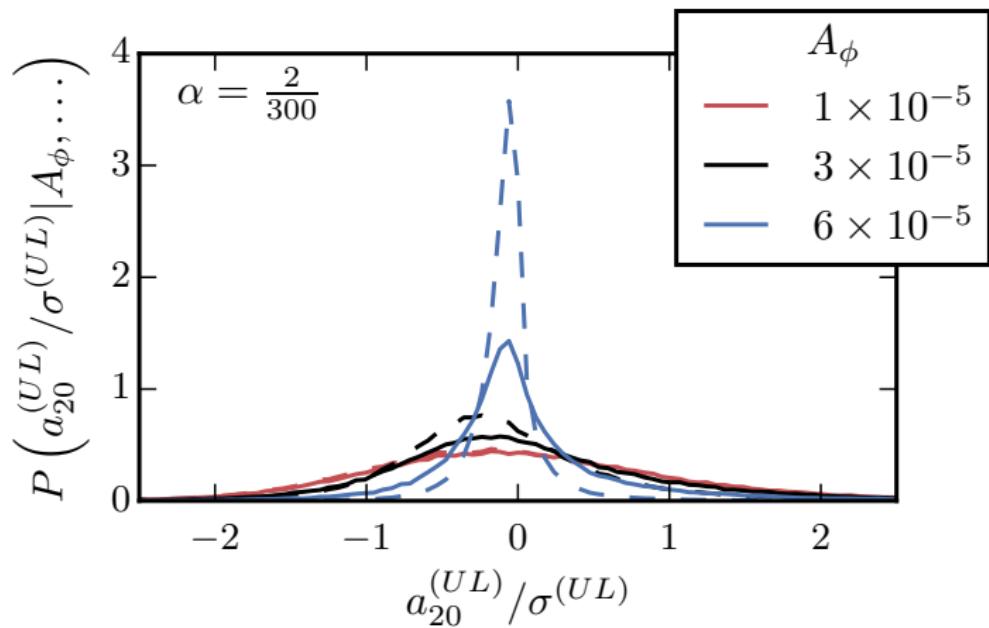
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## Anaytic $a_{20}$ Distributions

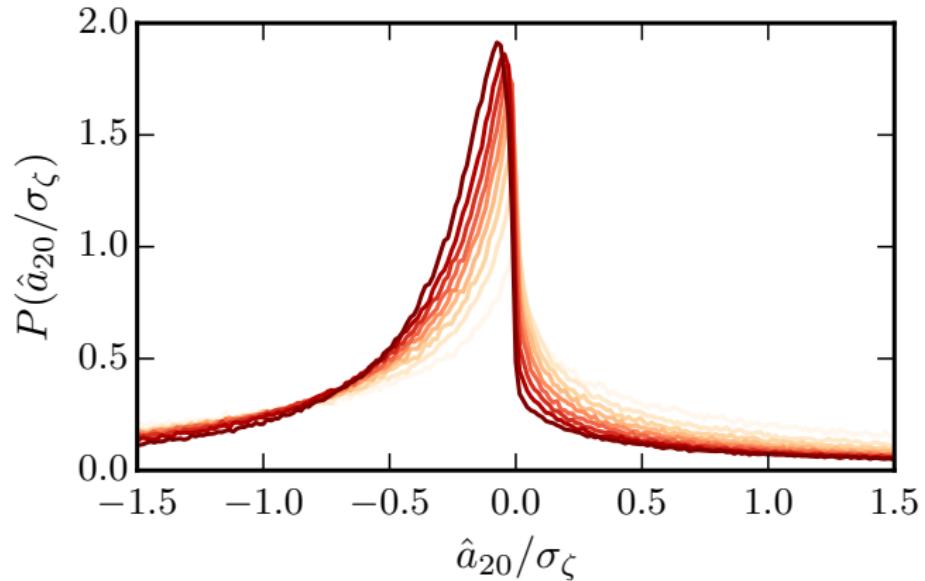


Vary  $\sigma_\zeta$  at fixed  $\sigma_{\zeta^{(p)}}/\sigma_\zeta$

## Recall The Numerical Result



## Anaytic $a_{20}$ Distributions



Vary  $\sigma_{\zeta'}/\sigma_\zeta$  at fixed  $\sigma_\zeta$  and  $\sigma_{\zeta''}/\sigma_\zeta$

## Future Steps

- ▶ Three-dimensional simulations (in progress)
- ▶ Multi-field models (additional isocurvature modes, non-attractor, etc.)
- ▶ Inclusion of stochastic effects from subhorizon fluctuations (technical challenge)
- ▶ Correlated anomalies

# NonGaussian Perturbations from Preheating Caustics



## ... A Mosaic of Interesting Dynamics

- ▶ **Strongly inhomogeneous and nonlinear cosmological initial conditions** (this talk) [JB, Peiris, Johnson, Aguirre]
- ▶ Isocurvature mode conversion into intermittent density perturbations [JB, Bond, Frolov, Huang]
  - ▶ Caustic formation in chaotic long wavelength dynamics
  - ▶ Generalised form of local nonGaussianity
- ▶ First order phase transitions [JB, Bond, Mersini-Houghton]
- ▶ Entropy production in highly inhomogeneous nonlinear field theories [JB, Bond]

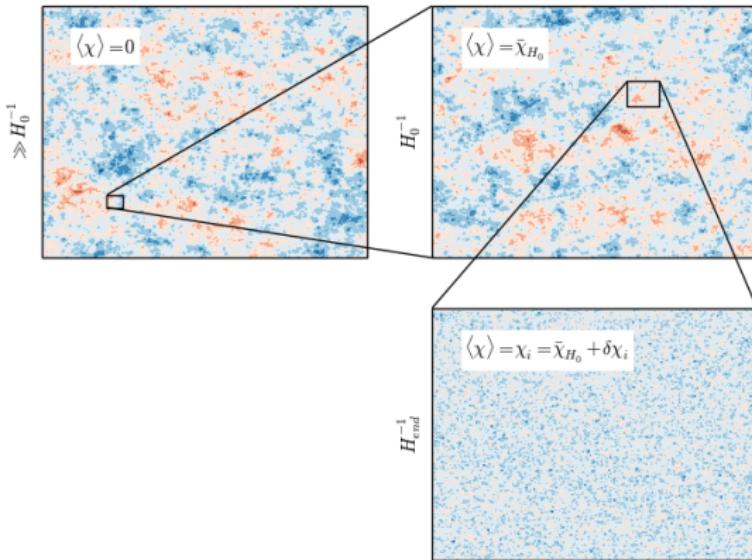
Spatially intermittent dynamics, fundamental issues in QFT, novel and poorly constrained observables

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Spatially intermittent dynamics, fundamental issues in QFT, novel and poorly constrained observables

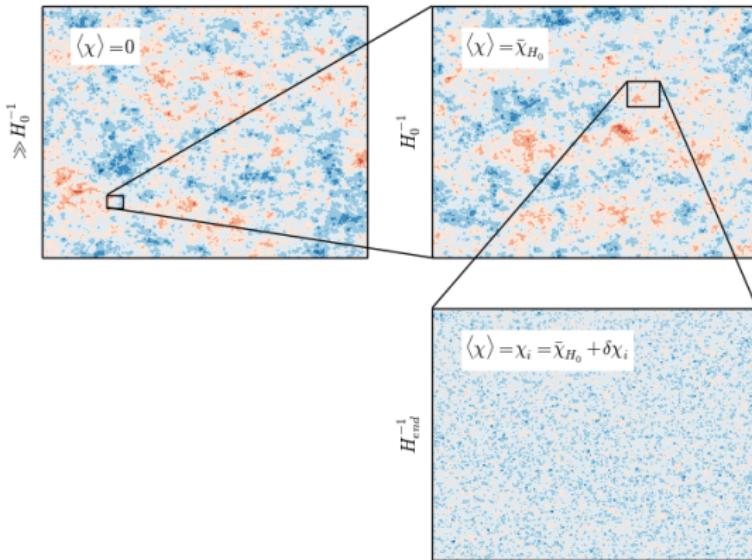
# Ultra-Large Scale Structure



Local Remnants of Ultra-Large Scale Structure?

- ▶ **Structure present at start of inflation**
- ▶ Conversion of structure during or after inflation

# Ultra-Large Scale Structure



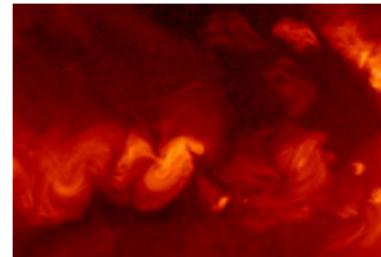
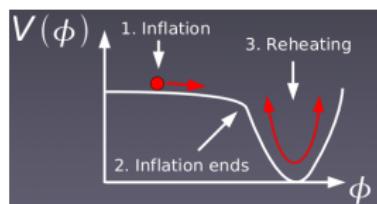
Local Remnants of Ultra-Large Scale Structure?

- ▶ Structure present at start of inflation
- ▶ **Conversion of structure during or after inflation**

# Starting the Big Bang

## Hot Big Bang

### Inflation



- ▶ Cold ( $T \sim 0$ ),  $\frac{S}{V} \approx 0$
- ▶ Few active d.o.f.
- ▶ Hot ( $T > MeV$ ),  
 $\frac{S}{V} \propto g_{eff}(T)T^3$
- ▶ Many active d.o.f.

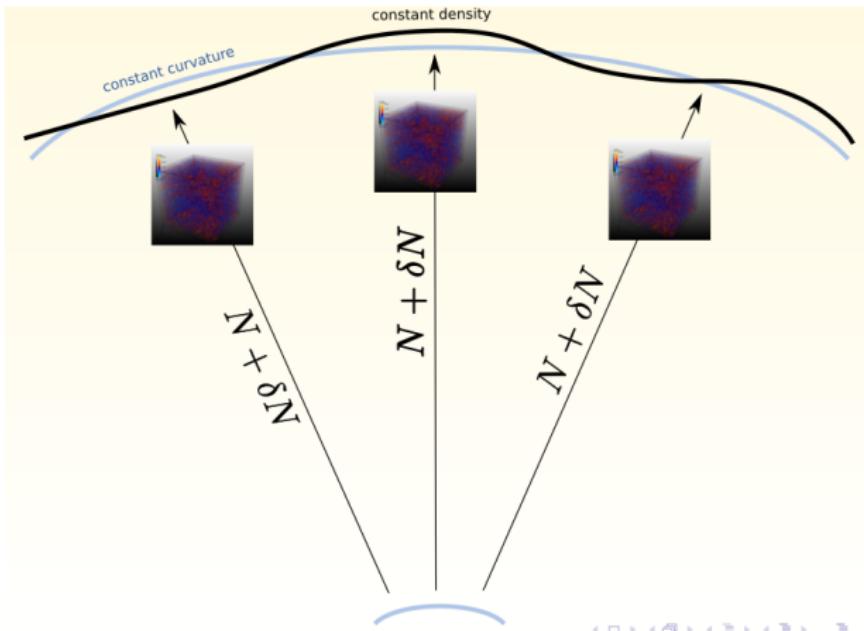
Huge entropy production

Does this leave any imprints?

# Density Perturbations from Lattice Simulations

c.f. [Rajantie and

Chambers, Bond, Frolov, Huang, and Kofman]



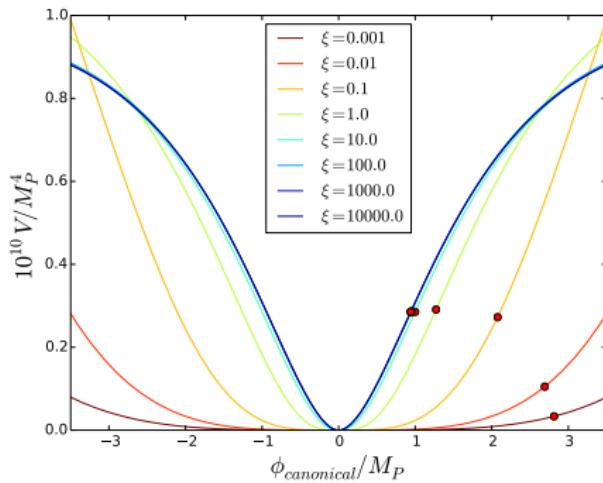
$$\zeta = \delta \ln(a)|_H = \delta \ln(a)|_\rho$$

Spatially modulate expansion history  $\rightarrow$  curvature perturbations

# Example : “Higgs” Inflation [Bond,JB,Frolov,Huang]

## Jordan Frame

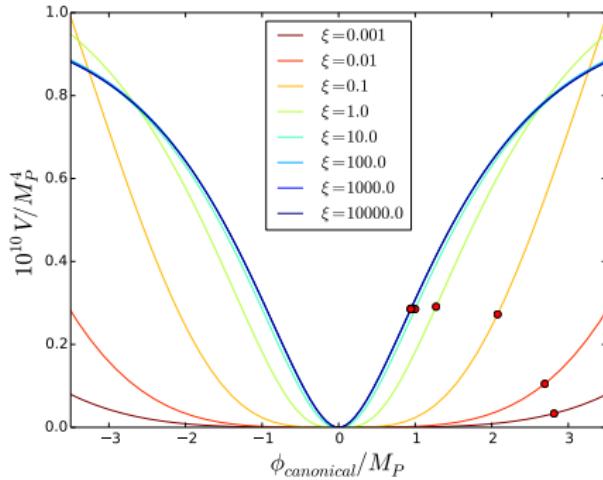
$$\frac{\mathcal{L}}{\sqrt{|g|}} = \frac{M_P^2}{2}(1 + \xi\phi^2)\mathcal{R} - \frac{1}{2}\partial_\mu\phi\partial^\mu\phi - \frac{1}{2}\partial_\mu\chi\partial^\mu\chi - \frac{\lambda}{4}\phi^4 - \frac{g^2}{2}\phi^2\chi^2$$



# Example : “Higgs” Inflation [Bond,JB,Frolov,Huang]

## Einstein Frame

$$\frac{\mathcal{L}}{\sqrt{|g|}} = \frac{M_P^2}{2} \mathcal{R} - \frac{1}{2} \frac{1 + \xi(1 + 6\xi)\phi^2}{(1 + \xi\phi^2)^2} \partial_\mu\phi\partial^\mu\phi - \frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial_\mu\chi\partial^\mu\chi}{1 + \xi\phi^2}$$
$$- \frac{\lambda}{4} \frac{\phi^4}{(1 + \xi\phi^2)^2} - \frac{g^2}{2} \frac{\phi^2\chi^2}{(1 + \xi\phi^2)^2}$$



# Example : “Higgs” Inflation [Bond,JB,Frolov,Huang]

## Einstein Frame

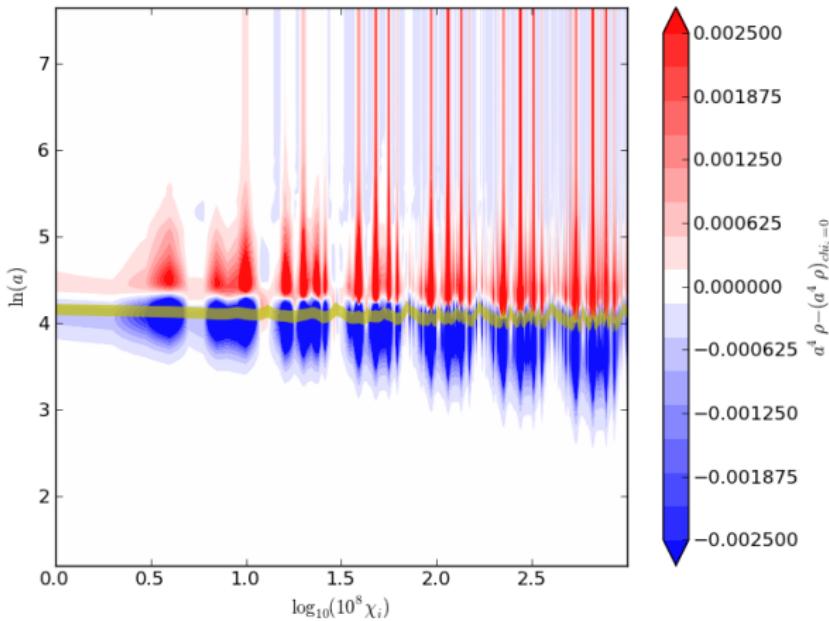
$$\frac{\mathcal{L}}{\sqrt{|g|}} = \frac{M_P^2}{2} \mathcal{R} - \frac{1}{2} \frac{1 + \xi(1 + 6\xi)\phi^2}{(1 + \xi\phi^2)^2} \partial_\mu\phi\partial^\mu\phi - \frac{1}{2} \frac{\partial_\mu\chi\partial^\mu\chi}{1 + \xi\phi^2} - \frac{\lambda}{4} \frac{\phi^4}{(1 + \xi\phi^2)^2} - \frac{g^2}{2} \frac{\phi^2\chi^2}{(1 + \xi\phi^2)^2}$$

- ▶ For certain choices of  $\frac{g^2}{\lambda}$ ,  $\chi_{k=0}$  mode is unstable
- ▶  $\langle\chi\rangle \equiv \chi_i$  has superhorizon fluctuations from inflation
- ▶ Chaotic billiards in a potential  $\rightarrow$  caustics

# Evolution of $\ln(\rho/\bar{\rho})$

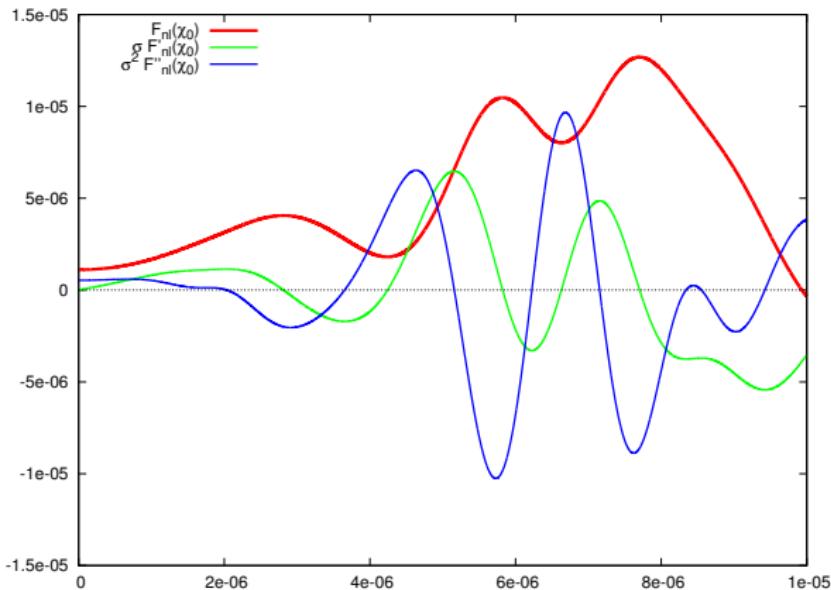
# Creation of Superhorizon Density Perturbations in Time

$\delta \ln(a)$  structure set prior to onset of mode-mode coupling



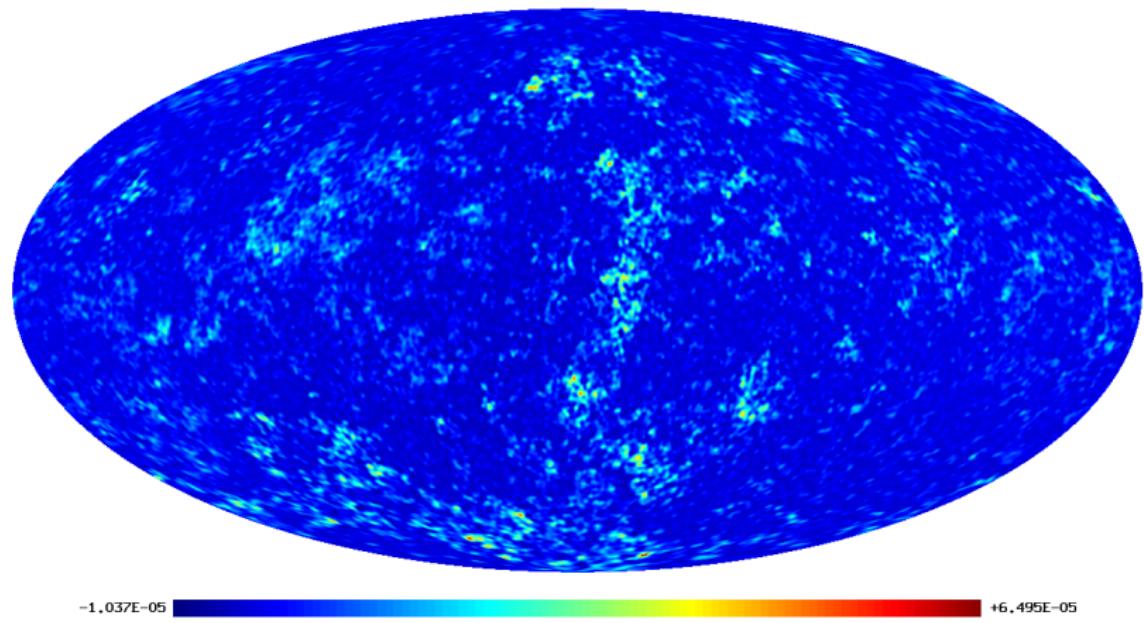
# Effective Modulating Function of Density Perturbations

$$\zeta = \zeta_{\text{inf}} + F_{NL}(\chi)$$



# $F_{NL}(\chi)$ on the CMB Sky

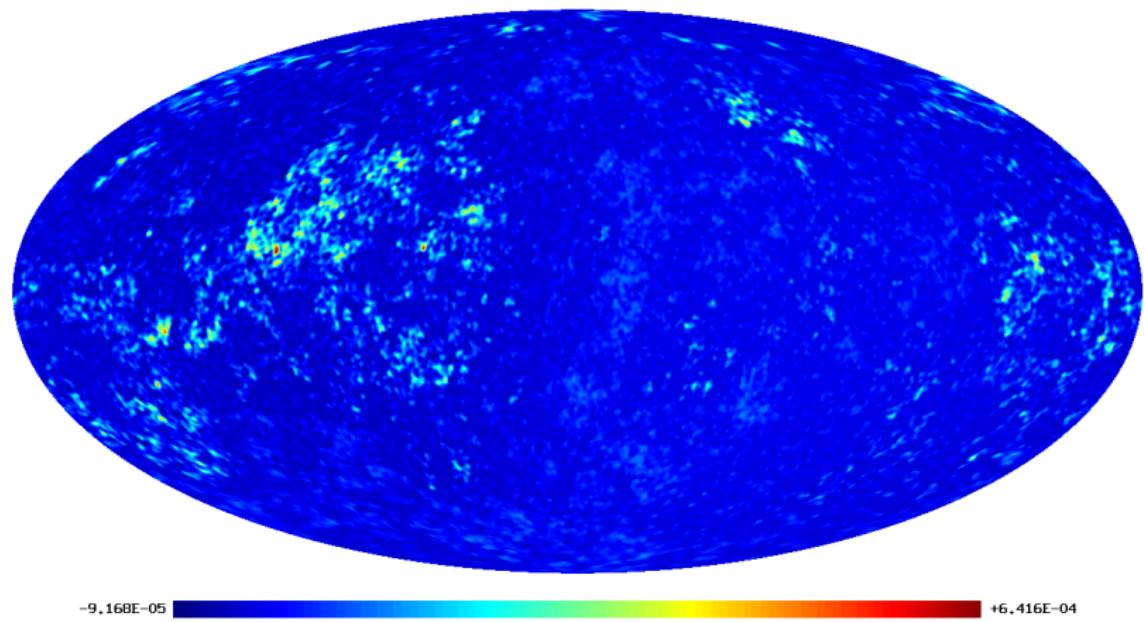
$$\zeta = F_{NL}(\chi)$$



$$\chi_i = 10^{-6}$$

# $F_{NL}(\chi)$ on the CMB Sky

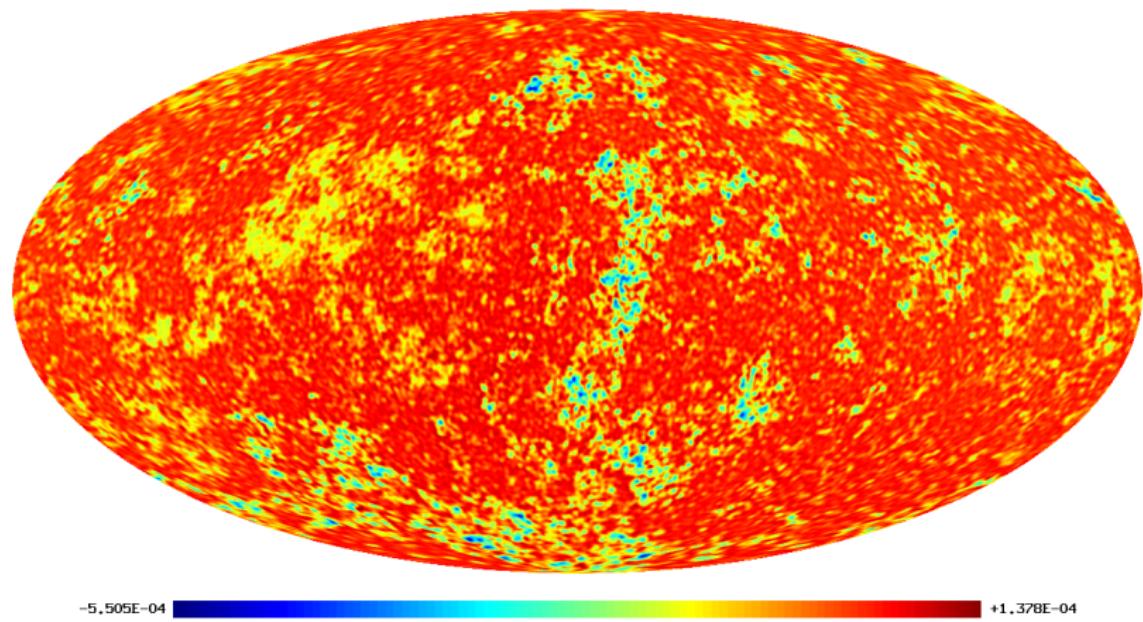
$$\zeta = F_{NL}(\chi)$$



$$\chi_i = 4.2 \times 10^{-6}$$

# $F_{NL}(\chi)$ on the CMB Sky

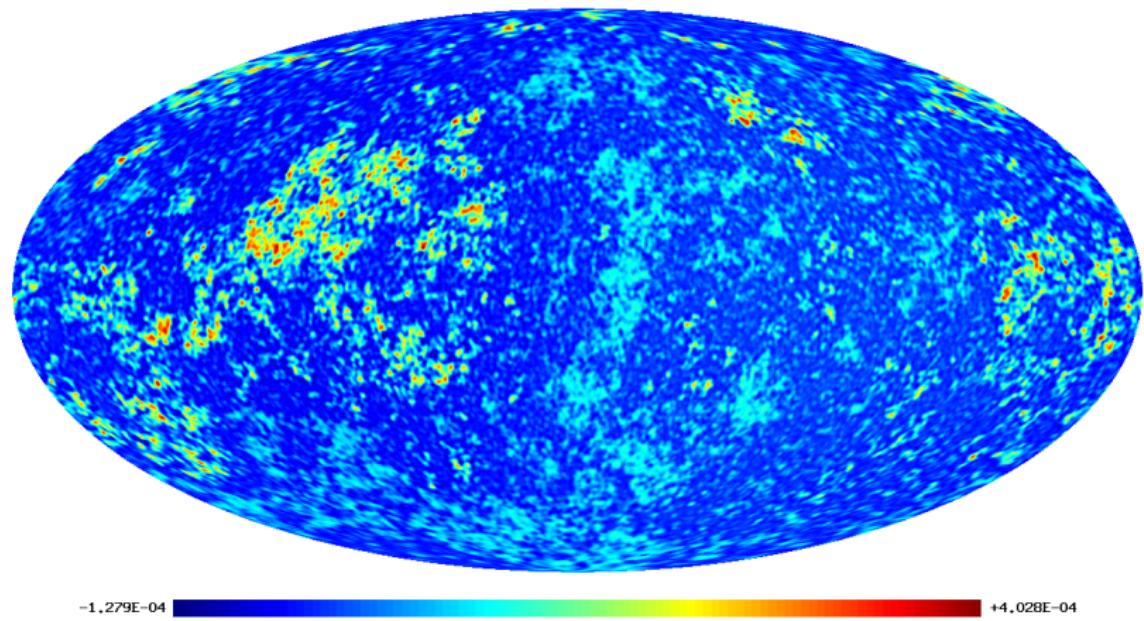
$$\zeta = F_{NL}(\chi)$$



$$\chi_i = 5.8 \times 10^{-6}$$

# $F_{NL}(\chi)$ on the CMB Sky

$$\zeta = F_{NL}(\chi)$$



$$\chi_i = 6.6 \times 10^{-6}$$

# Initial Evolution on a Phase String

# Ballistic Approach

## Reduced Phase Space

$$\Pi(x, t) = (\phi(x, t), \Pi_\phi(x, t), a(t), H(t)) \rightarrow q(t) = (\phi(t), \Pi(t), a(t), H(t))$$

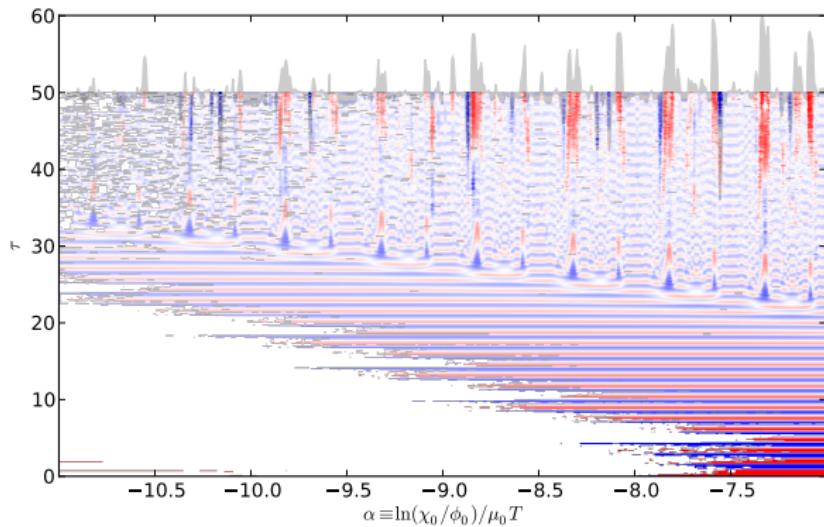
## Lattice Averages from Ballistics

$$\langle \mathcal{O}(q) \rangle_{\text{lattice}} \rightarrow \int dq_{\text{init}} \mathcal{O}(q(t|q_{\text{init}})) P(q(t_{\text{init}}))$$

**Order or magnitudes gain in computational efficiency!**

**Conceptual simplicity**

# Comparison: Billiards vs. Lattice



# Density Perturbations from Caustic Formation

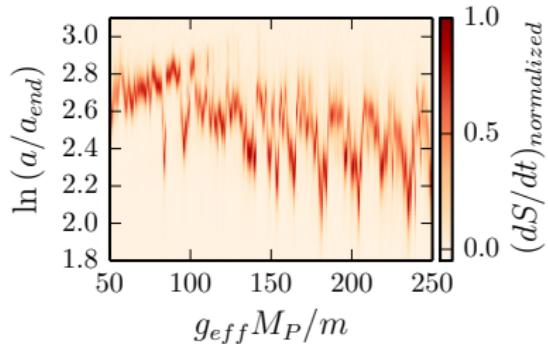
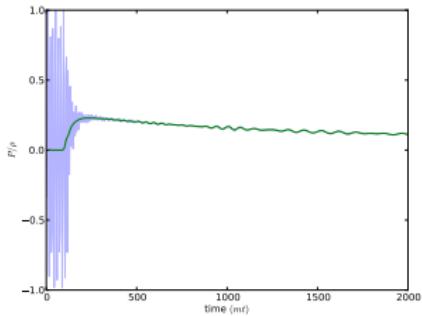
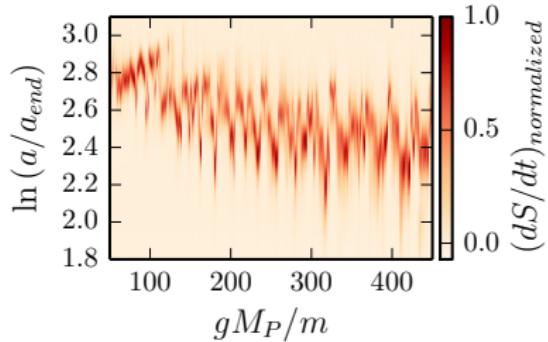
## Basic Ingredients

- ▶ Large-scale fluctuations in a modulating (i.e. isocurvature) field
- ▶ Zero-mode unstable (for billiard approximation)
- ▶ Trajectory dependent expansion history (such as flat directions)

**These appear generically in theoretically motivated scenarios**

**... and some of them can be relaxed**

# An Alternative Mechanism: Modulation via Shock Timing



- ▶  $w_{\text{preshock}} \neq w_{\text{postshock}}$
- ▶  $\delta \ln(a_{\text{shock}}) \rightarrow \zeta$

but...

- ▶  $w_{\text{postshock}} \neq \frac{1}{3}$
- ▶  $w_{\text{postshock}}$  depends on  $g^2$

# Summary and Conclusions

## Inflationary Initial Conditions

- ▶ Generation of dynamically generated ultra-large scale structure using numerical relativity
- ▶ Constraints obtained from CMB quadrupole based on full Bayesian analysis
- ▶ Gravitational nonlinearities extremely important in determining final distributions of observables
- ▶ Very large amplitude initial inhomogeneities more poorly constrained than intermediate amplitudes
- ▶ Comoving curvature perturbation  $\zeta$  approximately GRF

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### Preheating Caustics

- ▶ Generalised form of local nonGaussianity from preheating
- ▶ Novel interpretation in terms of decoupled trajectories
- ▶ Good agreement between ballistic and full lattice approach