

# Axion Fragmentation

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N. Fonseca, E. Morgante, RS, G. Servant,  
E. Morgante, W. Ratzinger, RS, B.A. Stefanek,  
C. Eröncel, RS, G. Servant, P. Sørensen,

1911.08472, JHEP 04 (2020) 010  
1911.08473, JHEP 05 (2020) 080  
2109.13823, JHEP 12 (2021) 037  
2206.14259, JCAP 10 (2022) 053

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# Axion (-like) particle

Axion field :  $\phi$

- Shift symmetry (NG boson) + Chern-Simons coupling

$$\phi \rightarrow \phi + \delta\phi$$

$$\frac{1}{f} \phi G_{\mu\nu} \widetilde{G}^{\mu\nu}$$



- Shift symmetry breaking by strong dynamics

$$V(\phi) = \Lambda_b^4 \cos \frac{\phi}{f}$$

- Theoretical motivation, interesting phenomenology, ...
  - Strong CP problem, QCD axion
  - Naturalness of electroweak scale, Relaxion
  - Axion monodromy
  - Axion inflation
  - ...

# Axion (-like) particle & cosmology

Dynamics of axion field is interesting

- Axion & ALP dark matter
- Relaxion : dynamical expansion of electroweak scale
- ...

Solving EOM  $\ddot{\phi} + 3H\dot{\phi} + V'(\phi) = 0$  with some initial condition

# ex) Axion (-like) particle DM scenario

- Misalignment mechanism

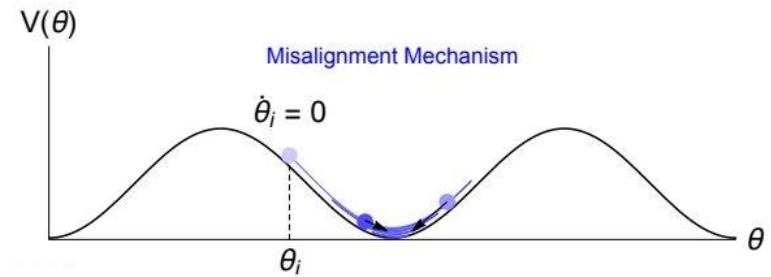
[Preskill, Wise, Wilczek (1983)]

[Abbott, Sikivie (1983)]

[Dine, Fischler (1983)]

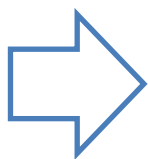
Initial condition  $\phi = \phi_0 \neq 0$   
 $\dot{\phi} = 0$

EOM  $\ddot{\phi} + 3H\dot{\phi} + \frac{\Lambda_b^4(T)}{f} \sin \frac{\phi}{f} = 0$



[taken from Co, Hall, Harigaya (2019)]

The axion starts to oscillate when  $3H(T) \sim m(T)$



$$\rho_{DM} \sim m_a \times \left( \frac{a(T_{osc})}{a_0} \right)^3 \times \frac{\Lambda_b(T_{osc})^4 \theta_i^2}{m_a(T_{osc})}$$

w/  $m_a(T_{osc}) \sim 3H(T_{osc})$

mass

Dilution factor

Number density at  $T = T_{osc}$

# ex) Axion (-like) particle DM scenario

- Misalignment mechanism

[Preskill, Wise, Wilczek (1983)]

[Abbott, Sikivie (1983)]

[Dine, Fischler (1983)]

Initial condition

$$\begin{aligned}\phi &= \phi_0 \neq 0 \\ \dot{\phi} &= 0\end{aligned}$$

What happens if  $\dot{\phi} > \Lambda_b^2$ ?

EOM

$$\ddot{\phi} + 3H\dot{\phi} + \frac{\Lambda_b^4(T)}{f} \sin \frac{\phi}{f} = 0$$



[taken from Co, Hall, Harigaya (2019)]

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$$\rho_{DM} \sim m_a \times \left( \frac{a(T_{osc})}{a_0} \right)^3 \times \frac{\Lambda_b(T_{osc})^4 \theta_i^2}{m_a(T_{osc})}$$

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Dilution factor

Number density at  $T = T_{osc}$

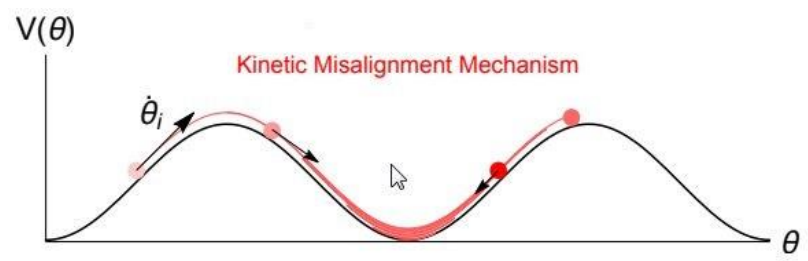
# ex) Axion (-like) particle DM scenario

- Kinetic Misalignment mechanism [Co, Hall, Harigaya (2019)]  
[Chang, Cui (2019)]

K. Harigaya's talk on Friday morning

Initial condition  $\dot{\phi} > \Lambda_b^2$

EOM 
$$\ddot{\phi} + 3H\dot{\phi} + \frac{\Lambda_b^4(T)}{f} \sin \frac{\phi}{f} = 0$$



[taken from Co, Hall, Harigaya (2019)]

The axion starts to oscillate when  $\dot{\phi}^2(T) \sim \Lambda_b^4(T)$



$$\rho_{DM} \sim m_a \times \left( \frac{a(T_{osc})}{a_0} \right)^3 \times \frac{\Lambda_b(T_{osc})^4}{m_a(T_{osc})}$$

mass      Dilution factor      Number density at  $T = T_{osc}$

w/  $\dot{\phi}^2(T_{osc}) \sim \Lambda_b^4(T_{osc})$

Delay of onset of oscillation  $\rightarrow$  larger  $\rho_{DM}$

# Axion fluctuation?

What people usually do

Solving EOM for spatially **homogeneous** field :  $\ddot{\phi} + 3H\dot{\phi} + V'(\phi) = 0$

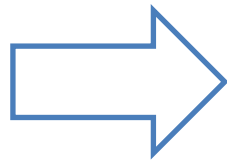
However...

Even we start from (almost) homogeneous field configuration, fluctuations **can grow** later.

# Velocity as U(1) charge

Velocity  $\dot{\phi}$  is U(1) charge :  $\rho_{\text{shift}} = f \frac{\partial L}{\partial_0 \phi} = f \dot{\phi}$   $\phi \rightarrow \phi + f \delta$   
Shift transf.

Explicit breaking of U(1) :  $V(\phi) = \Lambda_b^4 \cos \frac{\phi}{f} + \dots$



U(1) charge will be lost = energy dissipation

## Axion fragmentation [Fonseca, Morgante, RS, Servant (2019)]

For related earlier works, see  
[Green, Kofman, Starobinsky (1998)]  
[Flauger, McAllister, Pajer, Westphal, Xu (2009)]  
[Jaeckel, Mehta, Witkowski (2016)]  
[Arvanitaki, Dimopoulos, Galanis, Lehner, Thompson, Van Tilburg (2019)]



1. Introduction
- 2. Perturbative analysis**
3. Non-perturbative analysis
4. Application

# EOM of axion

Let us investigate the simplest case.

- $H = 0$  (no cosmic expansion)
- $V(\phi) = \Lambda_b^4 \cos(\phi/f)$

We have only **three** parameters :

{	$\dot{\phi}_0$	: initial velocity
	$f$	: decay constant
	$\Lambda_b^4$	: height of barrier

EOM of axion :

$$\frac{d^2\phi}{dt^2} - \nabla^2\phi - \frac{\Lambda_b^4}{f} \sin\frac{\phi}{f} = 0$$

# EOM of axion

We decompose  $\phi(\vec{x}, t) = \bar{\phi}(t) + \left[ \int \frac{d^3k}{(2\pi)^3} \delta\phi_k(t) e^{ikx} + h.c. \right]$

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At the leading order of  $\delta\phi_k$ ,

$$\frac{d^2 \bar{\phi}}{dt^2} - \frac{\Lambda_b^4}{f} \sin \frac{\bar{\phi}}{f} = \frac{1}{2} \frac{\Lambda_b^4}{f^3} \sin \frac{\bar{\phi}}{f} \int \frac{d^3x}{V_{vol}} \langle \delta\phi(x) \rangle^2$$

Back reaction

$$\frac{d^2 \delta\phi}{dt^2} - \nabla^2 \delta\phi - \frac{\Lambda_b^4}{f^2} \cos \frac{\bar{\phi}}{f} \delta\phi = 0$$

# EOM of axion

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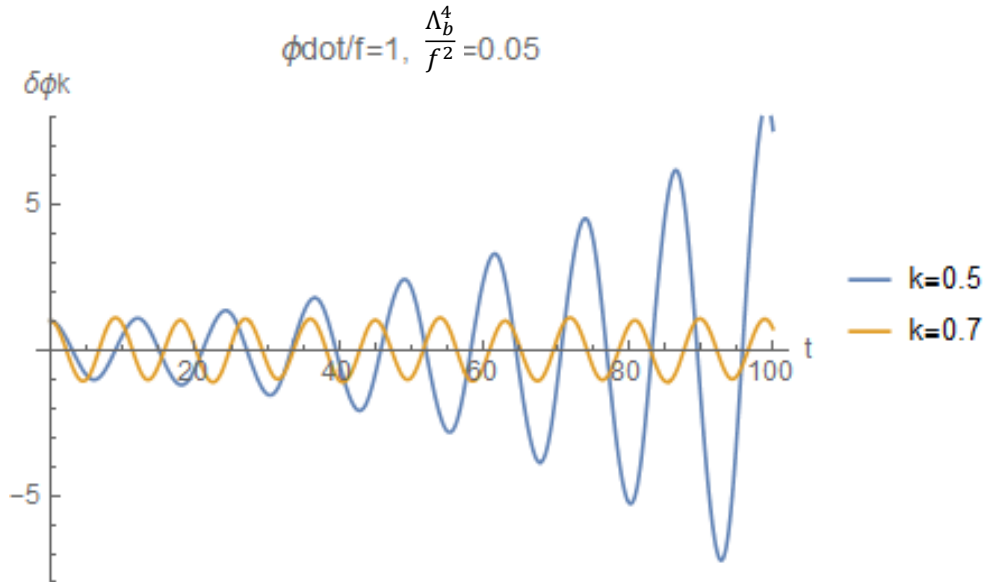
At the leading order of  $\delta\phi_k$ ,

$$\frac{d^2 \bar{\phi}}{dt^2} - \frac{\Lambda_b^4}{f} \sin \frac{\bar{\phi}}{f} = \underbrace{\frac{1}{2} \frac{\Lambda_b^4}{f^3} \sin \frac{\bar{\phi}}{f} \int \frac{d^3x}{V_{vol}} \langle \delta\phi(x) \rangle^2}_{\text{Back reaction}}$$

$$\frac{d^2 \delta\phi_k}{dt^2} + \left( k^2 - \frac{\Lambda_b^4}{f^2} \cos \frac{\dot{\bar{\phi}} t}{f} \right) \delta\phi_k = 0$$

Mathieu equation

# EOM of axion

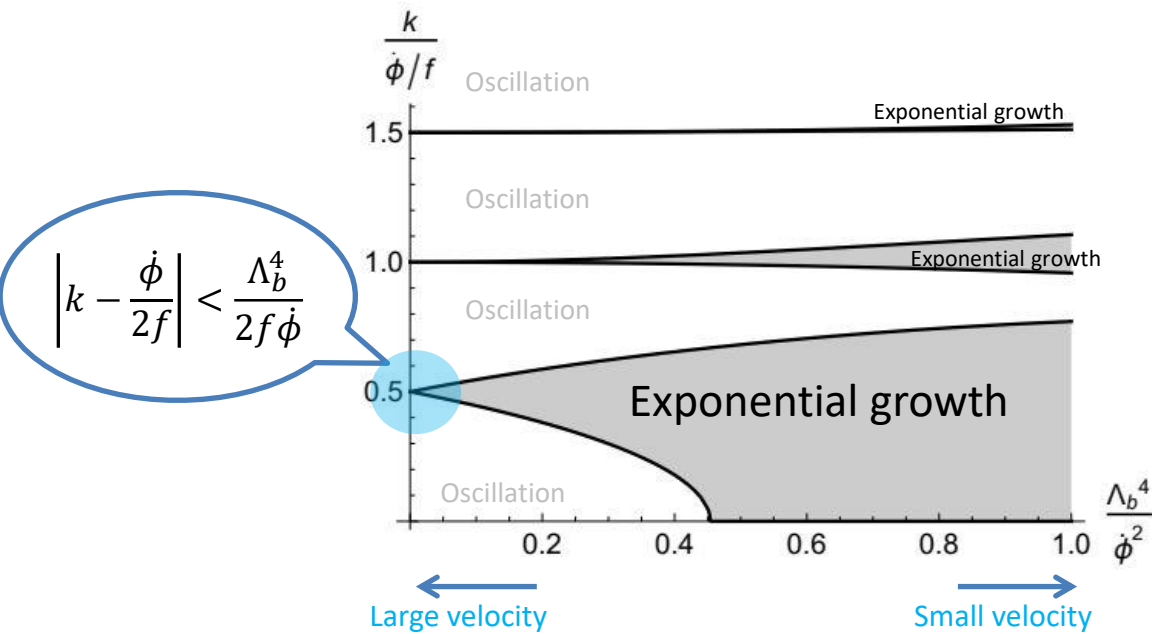


There exist resonant solutions for this.  
It's like a swing!

$$\frac{d^2 \delta \phi_k}{dt^2} + \left( k^2 - \frac{\Lambda_b^4}{f^2} \cos \frac{\dot{\phi} t}{f} \right) \delta \phi_k = 0$$

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Mathieu equation

Growth of fluctuation

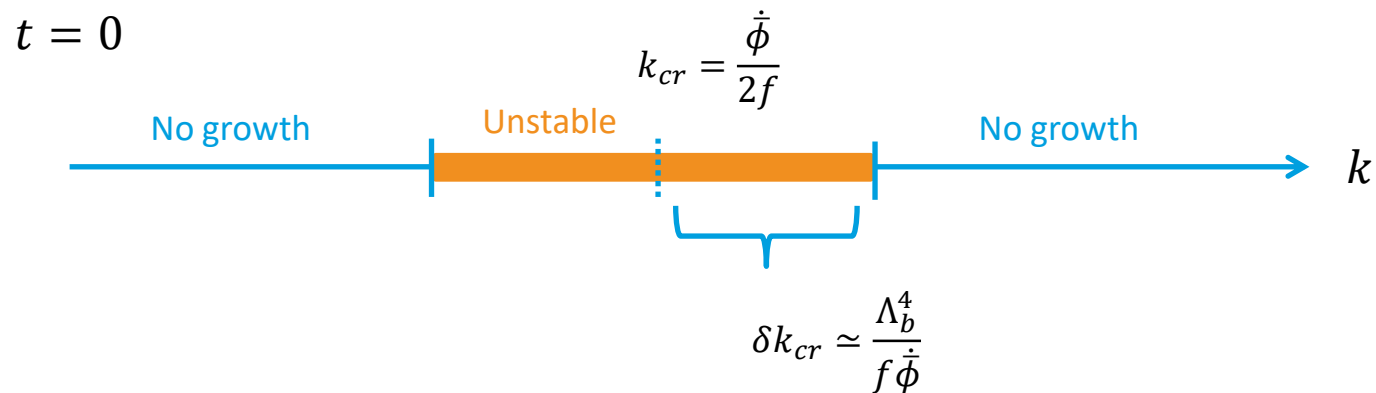


Back reaction to zeromode



# Naïve estimation on back reaction

As long as  $\dot{\phi}$  is constant,  $\delta\phi_k \sim \exp\left(\frac{\Lambda_b^4 t}{f\dot{\phi}}\right)$  for  $\left|k - \frac{\dot{\phi}}{2f}\right| < \frac{\Lambda_b^4}{2f\dot{\phi}}$

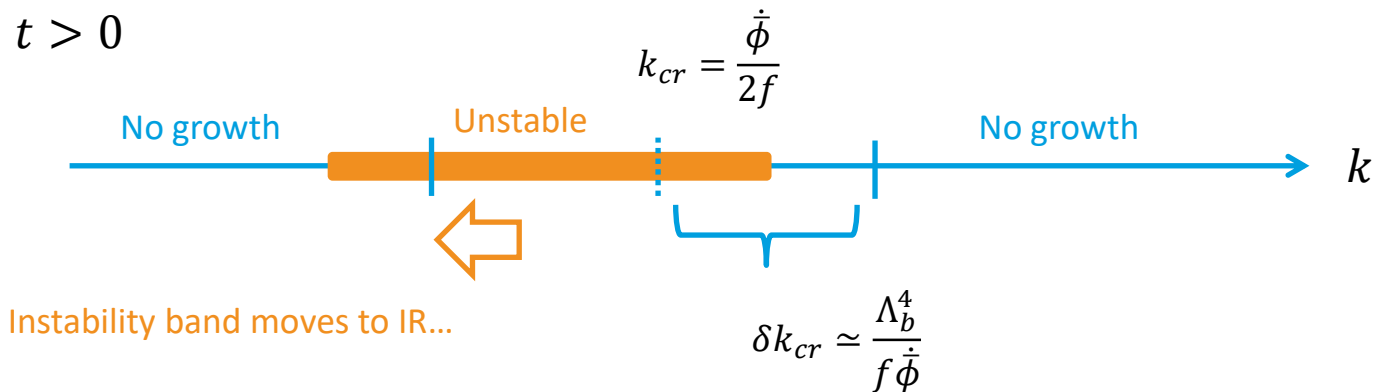


By using dimensional analysis

$$\rho_{fluc}(t) \sim k_{cr}^3 \delta k_{cr} \exp\left(\frac{\Lambda_b^4 t}{f\dot{\phi}}\right)$$

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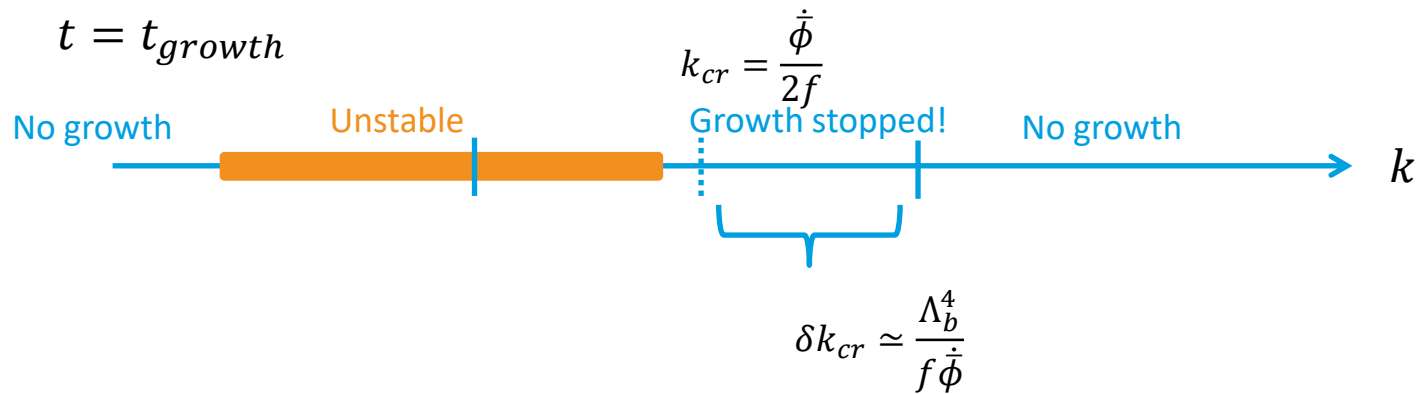


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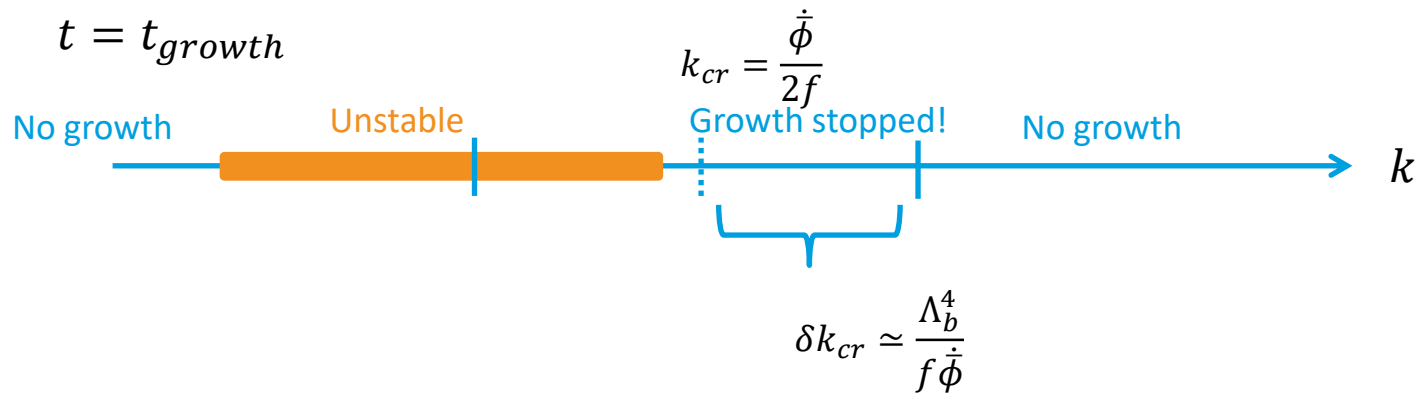
$$\rho_{fluc}(t) \sim k_{cr}^3 \delta k_{cr} \exp\left(\frac{\Lambda_b^4 t}{f\dot{\phi}}\right)$$

of mode with  $k=k_{cr}$   
The growth stops when

$$\rho_{fluc}(t_{growth}) \sim \frac{1}{2} \dot{\phi}^2 - \frac{1}{2} \left(\dot{\phi} - 2f\delta k_{cr}\right)^2$$

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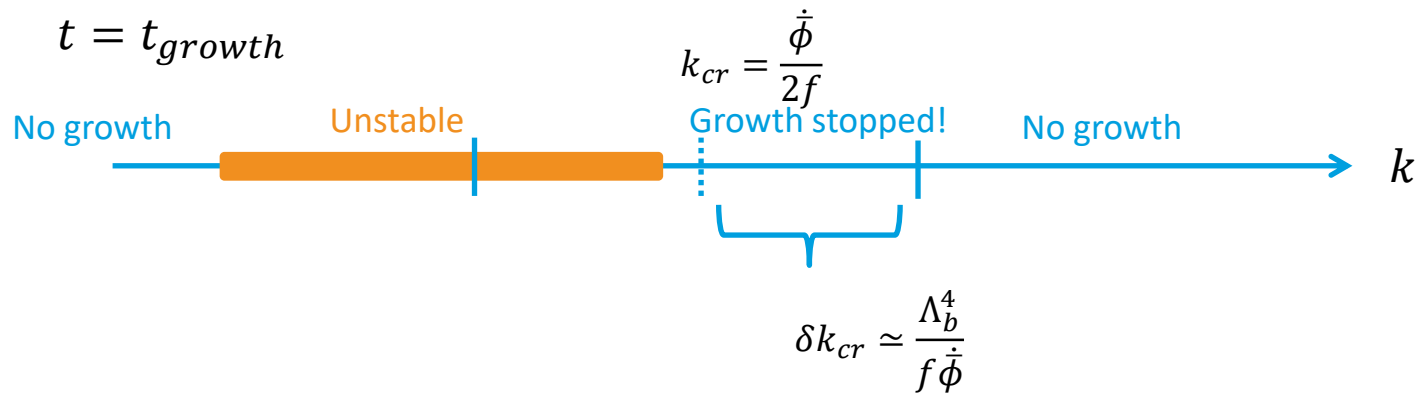
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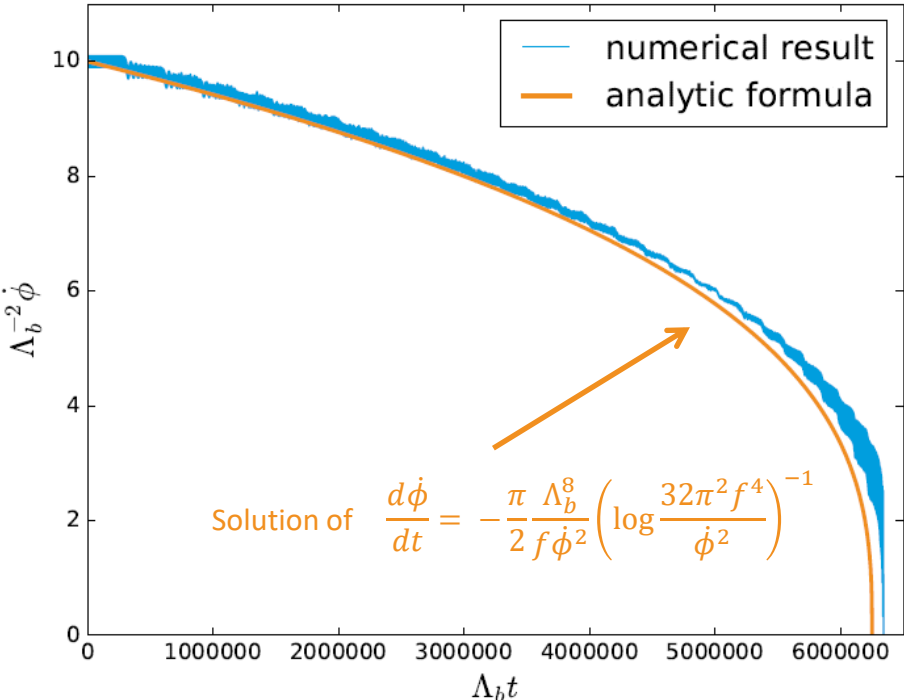
$$\rho_{fluc}(t_{growth}) \sim \dot{\phi}^2 \times \frac{\delta k_{cr}}{k_{cr}}$$

$$\Rightarrow t_{growth} \sim \frac{f\dot{\phi}}{\Lambda_b^4} \log \frac{f^4}{\dot{\phi}^2}$$

# Result in perturbative analysis

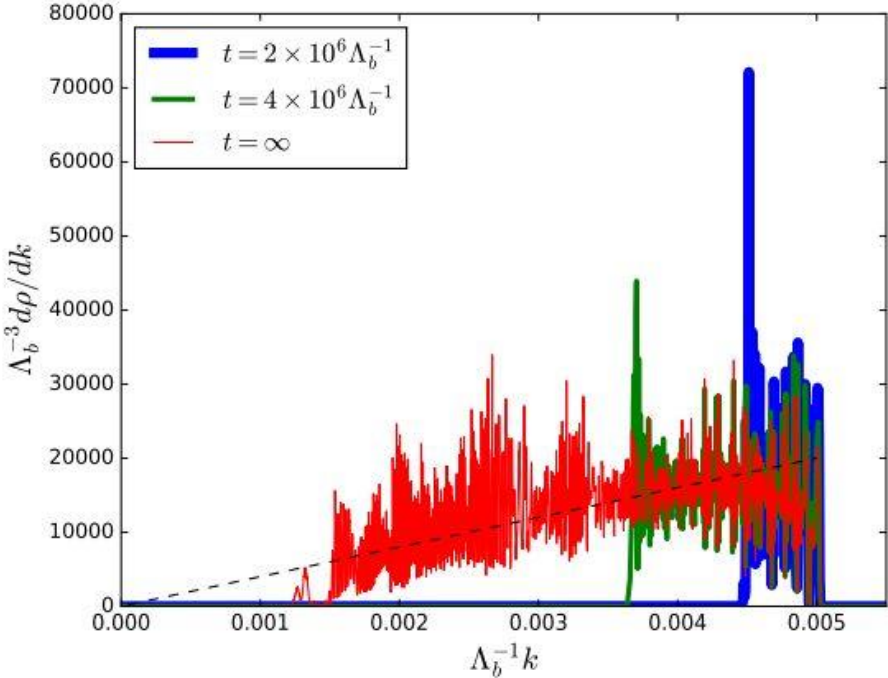
It works!

Time evolution of zeromode velocity



Fluctuation spectrum

$$\frac{f}{\Lambda_b} = 1000$$



[Fonseca, Morgante, RS, Servant (2019)]

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# Necessity of non-linear analysis

Perturbative analysis provides intuition. But **how reliable?**

Initial kinetic energy :  $\dot{\phi}_0^2/2$

Typical wavenumber :  $\dot{\phi}_0/f$

Energy conservation :  $(\delta\phi)^2 \times (\dot{\phi}_0/f)^2 \sim \dot{\phi}_0^2$



Typical field variation :  $\delta\phi \sim f$  **NOT small!**

Classical lattice simulation

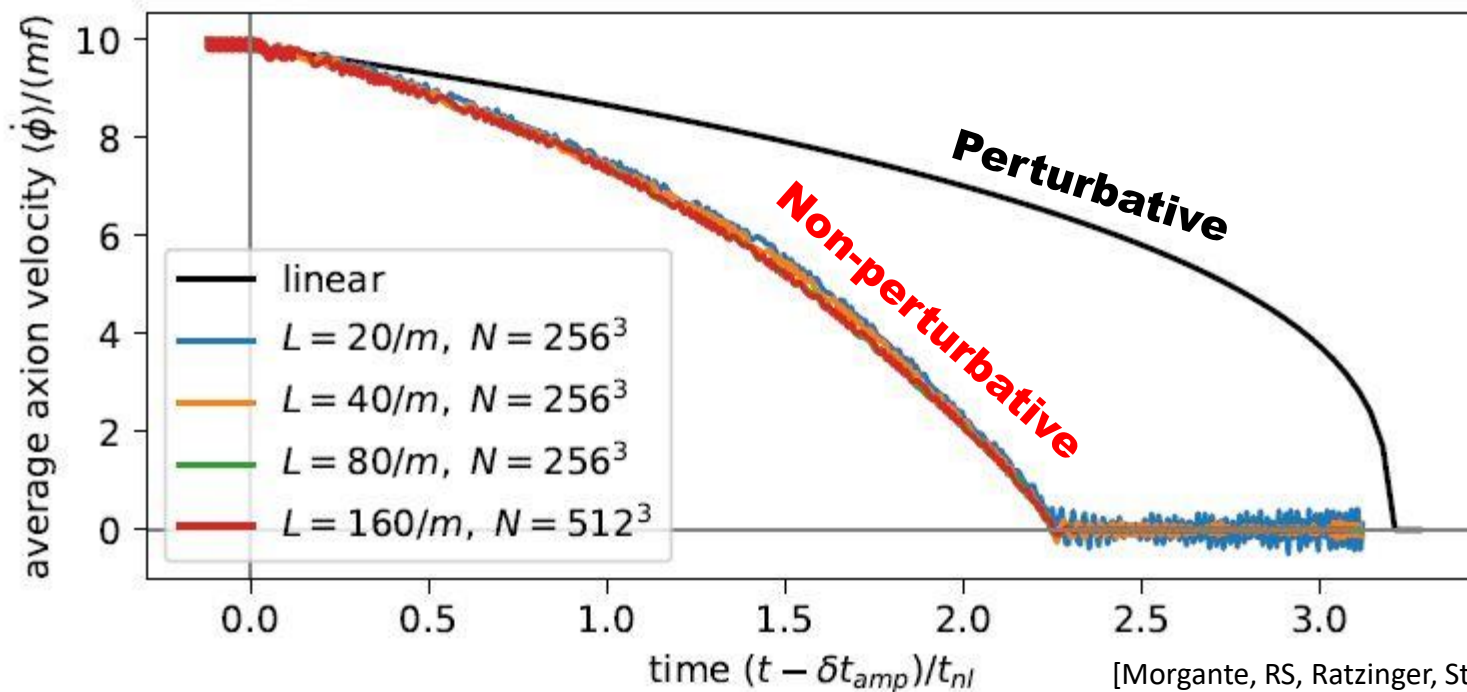
$$\ddot{\phi} = \nabla^2 \phi + \frac{\Lambda_b^4}{f} \sin \frac{\phi}{f}$$



$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d^2 \phi_{i,j,k}}{dt^2} = & \frac{1}{a^2} (\phi_{i+1,j,k} - 2\phi_{i,j,k} + \phi_{i-1,j,k}) \\ & + \frac{1}{a^2} (\phi_{i,j+1,k} - 2\phi_{i,j,k} + \phi_{i,j-1,k}) \\ & + \frac{1}{a^2} (\phi_{i,j,k+1} - 2\phi_{i,j,k} + \phi_{i,j,k-1}) \\ & + \frac{\Lambda_b^4}{f} \sin \frac{\phi_{i,j,k}}{f}. \end{aligned}$$



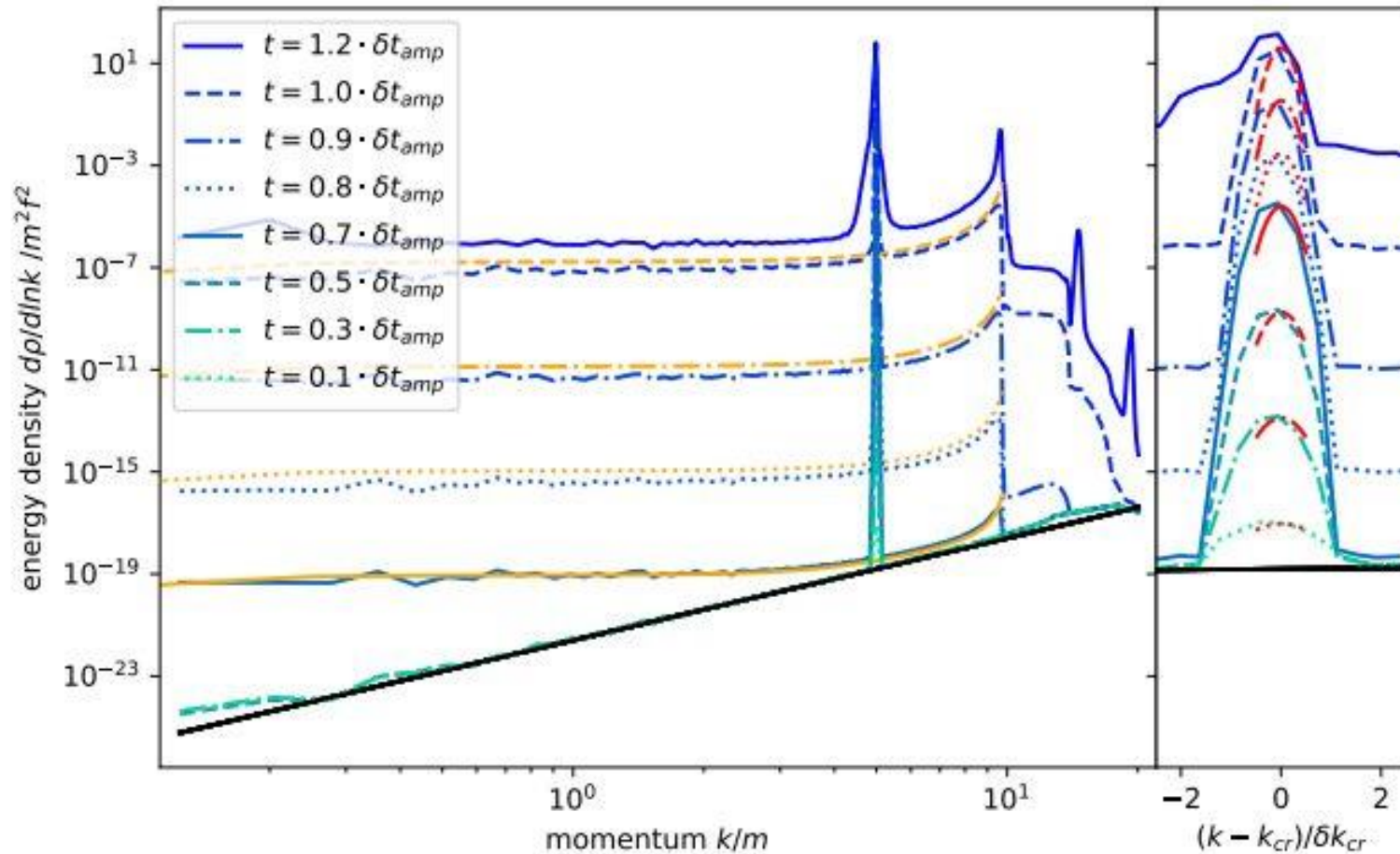
# Velocity of zeromode



- Confirmed energy dissipation in non-perturbative calculation.
- Dissipation effect is stronger than perturbative analysis.

$$\left( t_{nl} = \frac{f\phi_0^3}{\Lambda_b^8} \right)$$

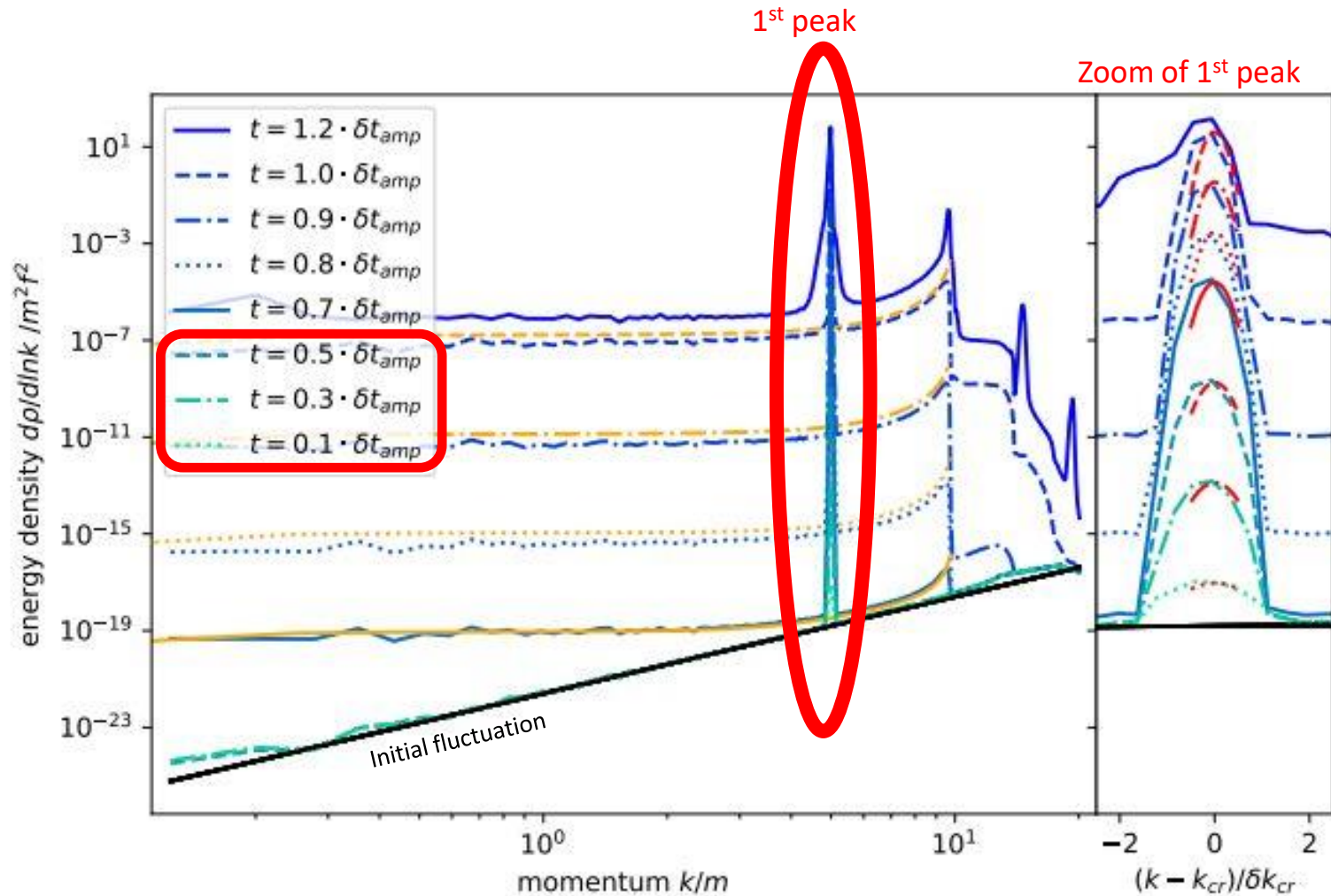
# Growth of spectrum (early stage)



[Morgante, RS, Ratzinger, Stefanek (2021)]

$$\delta t_{amp} \equiv \frac{f\dot{\phi}}{\Lambda_b^4} \log \frac{16f^4}{\dot{\phi}^2}$$

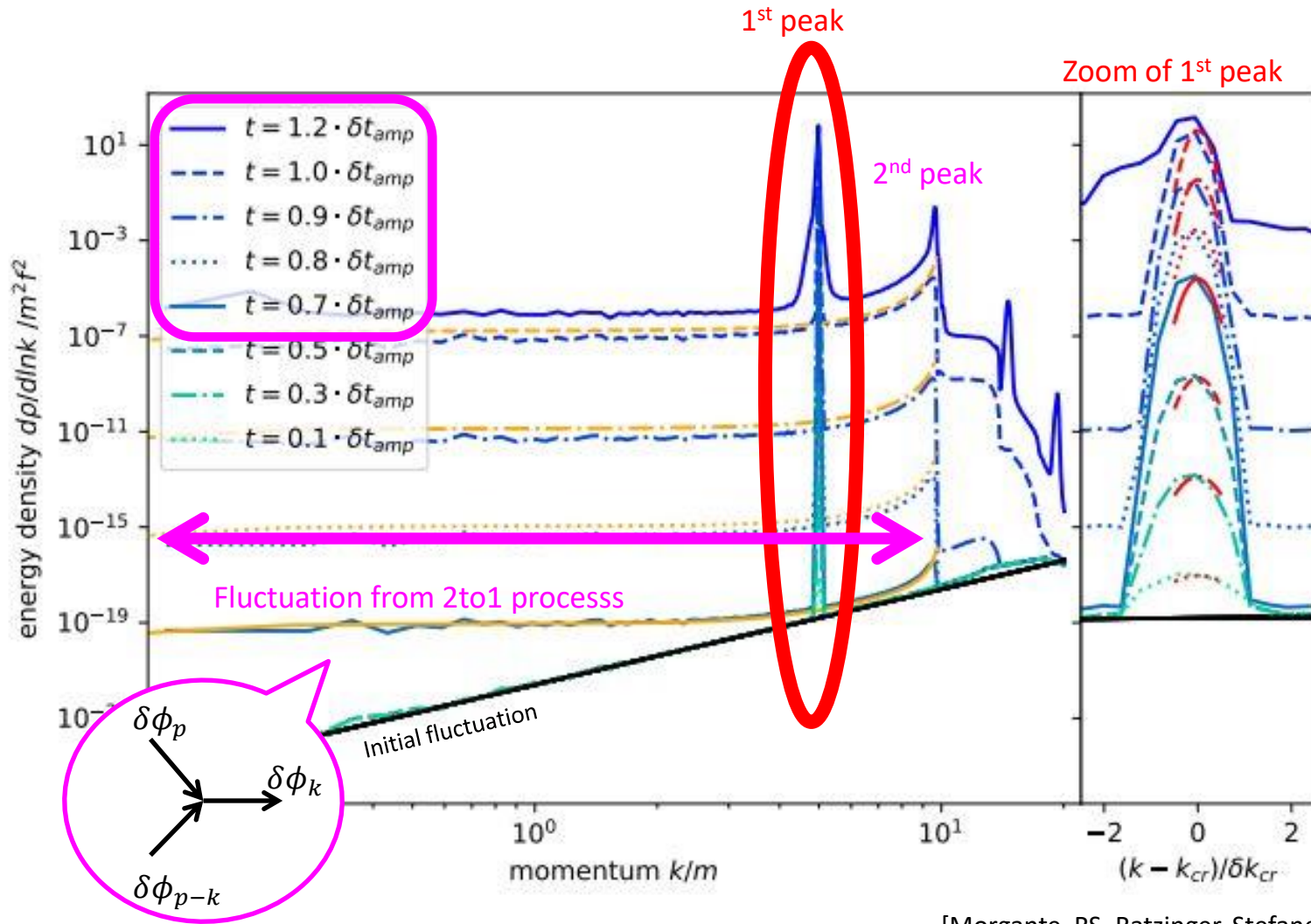
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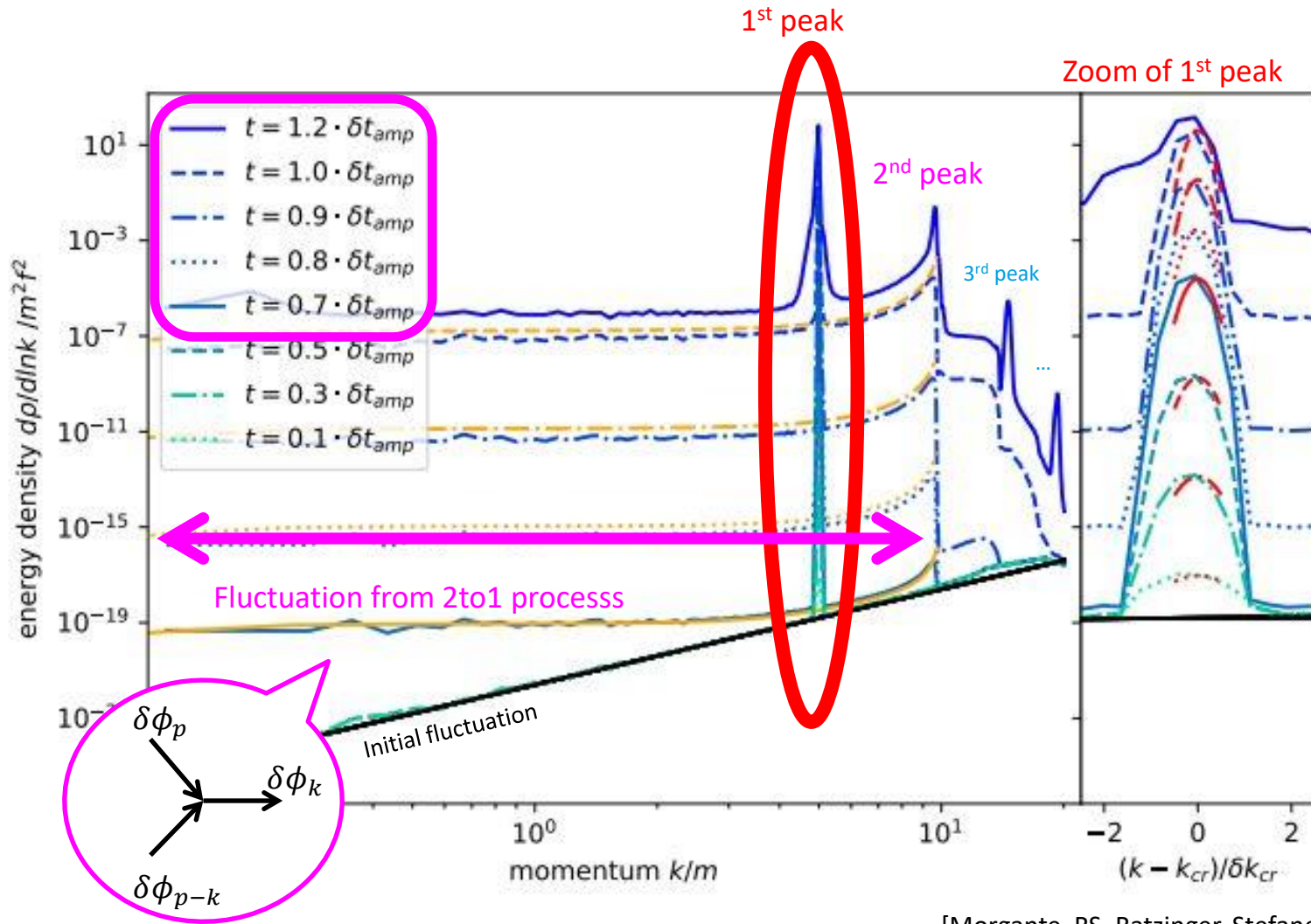
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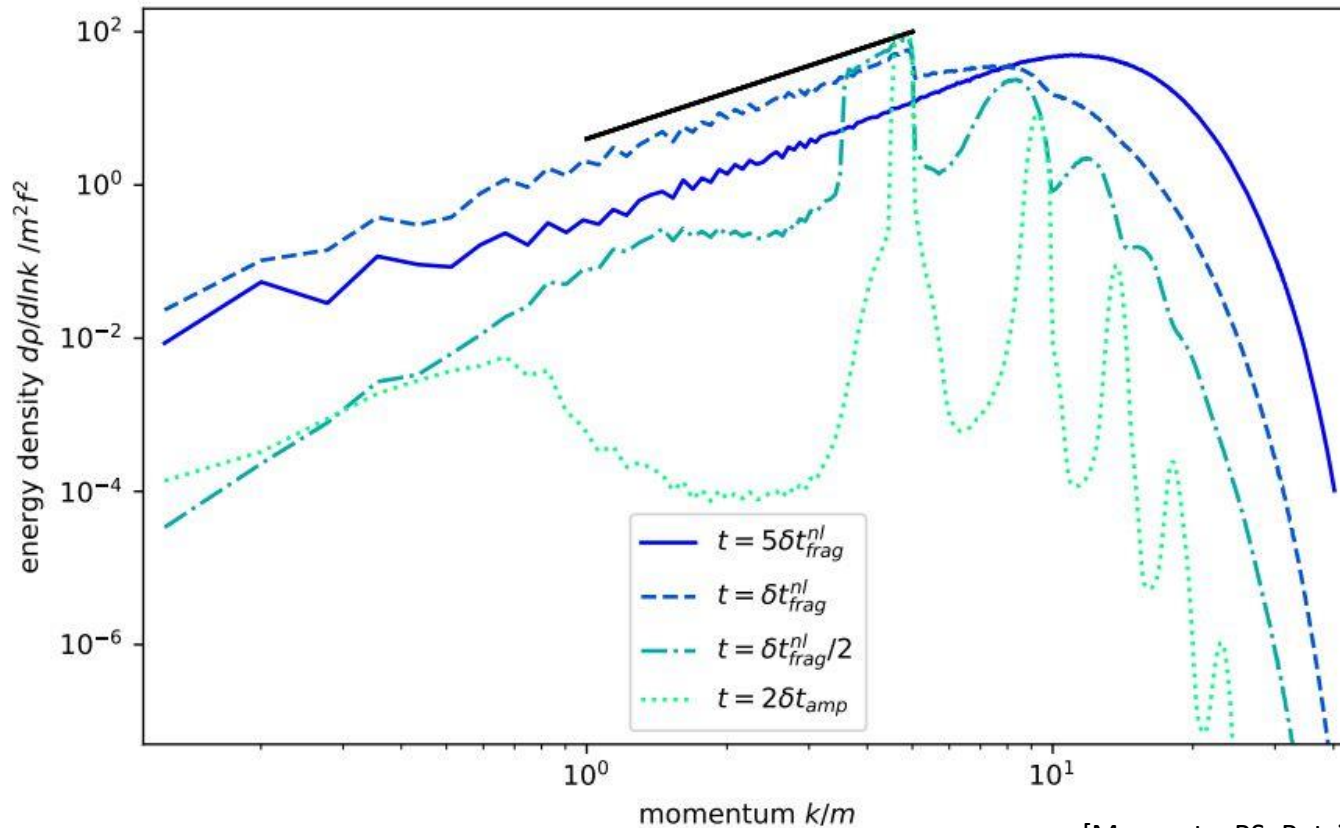
# Growth of spectrum (early stage)



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$$\delta t_{amp} \equiv \frac{f\dot{\phi}}{\Lambda_b^4} \log \frac{16f^4}{\dot{\phi}^2}$$

# Growth of spectrum (late stage)



$$\delta t_{amp} \equiv \frac{f\dot{\phi}}{\Lambda_b^4} \log \frac{16f^4}{\dot{\phi}^2}$$

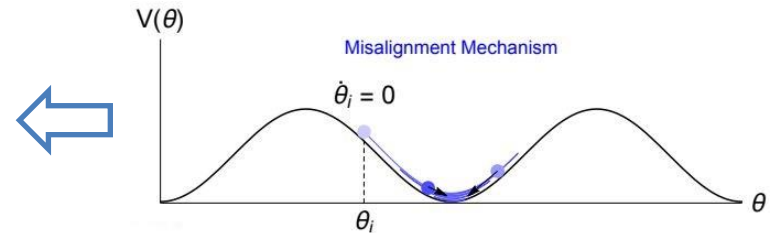
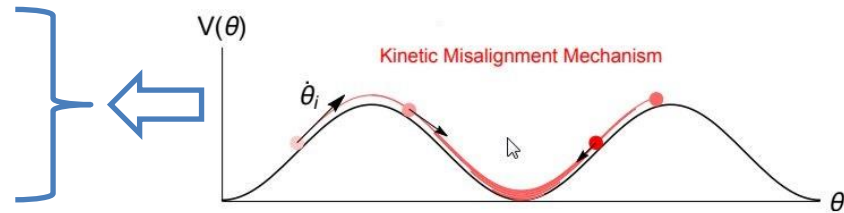
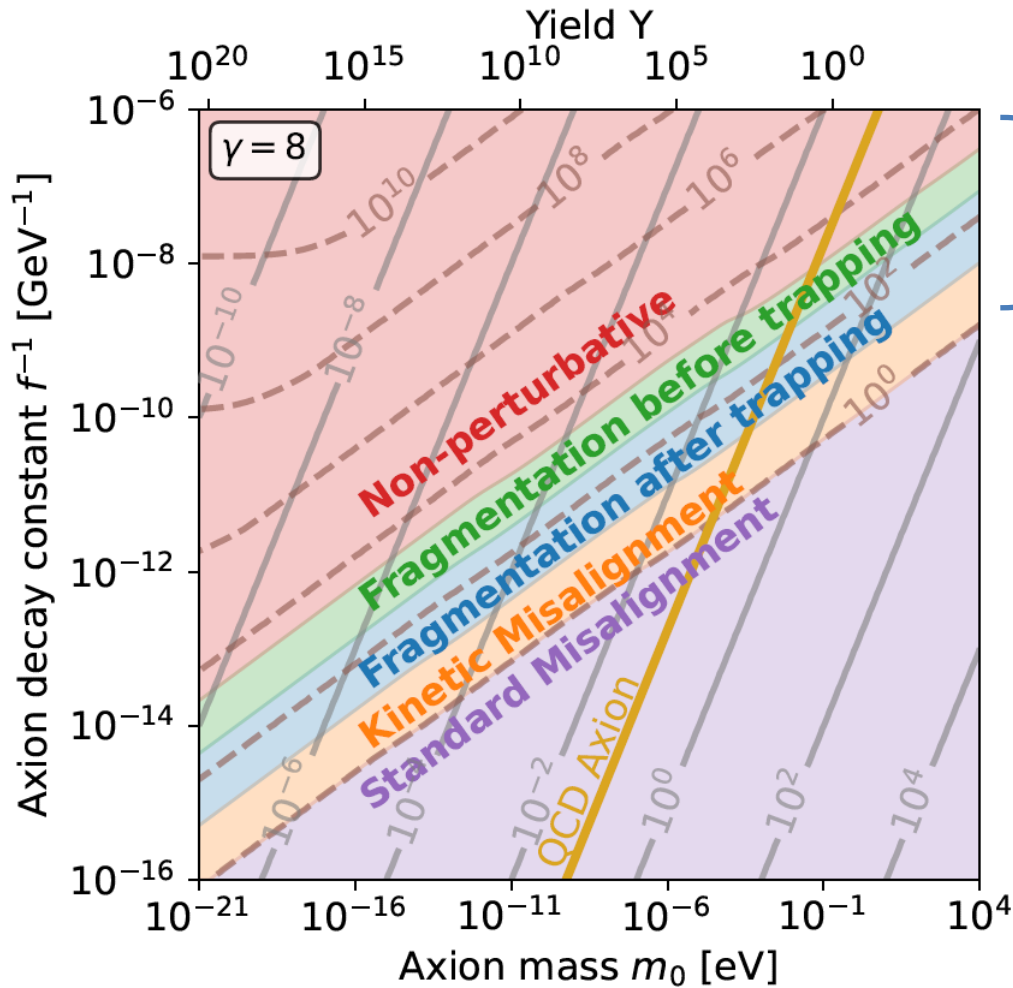
[Morgante, RS, Ratzinger, Stefanek (2021)]

- We can see peak-like structure in the early stage
- The spectrum becomes broad
- Cascading towards UV (early stage of thermalization)

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# Implication to ALP dark matter

ALP dark matter : Fragmentation could happen before axion starts to oscillate



[Eröncel, RS, Sørensen, Servant (2022)]



# Possible signals

- Axion mini-cluster

See Eröncel-Servant (2207.10111)

- Gravitational Wave (tensor perturbation in metric)

$$\nu \sim \frac{k}{a_{emit}} \frac{a_{emit}}{a_0} \quad (\text{Typically, } k \sim m)$$

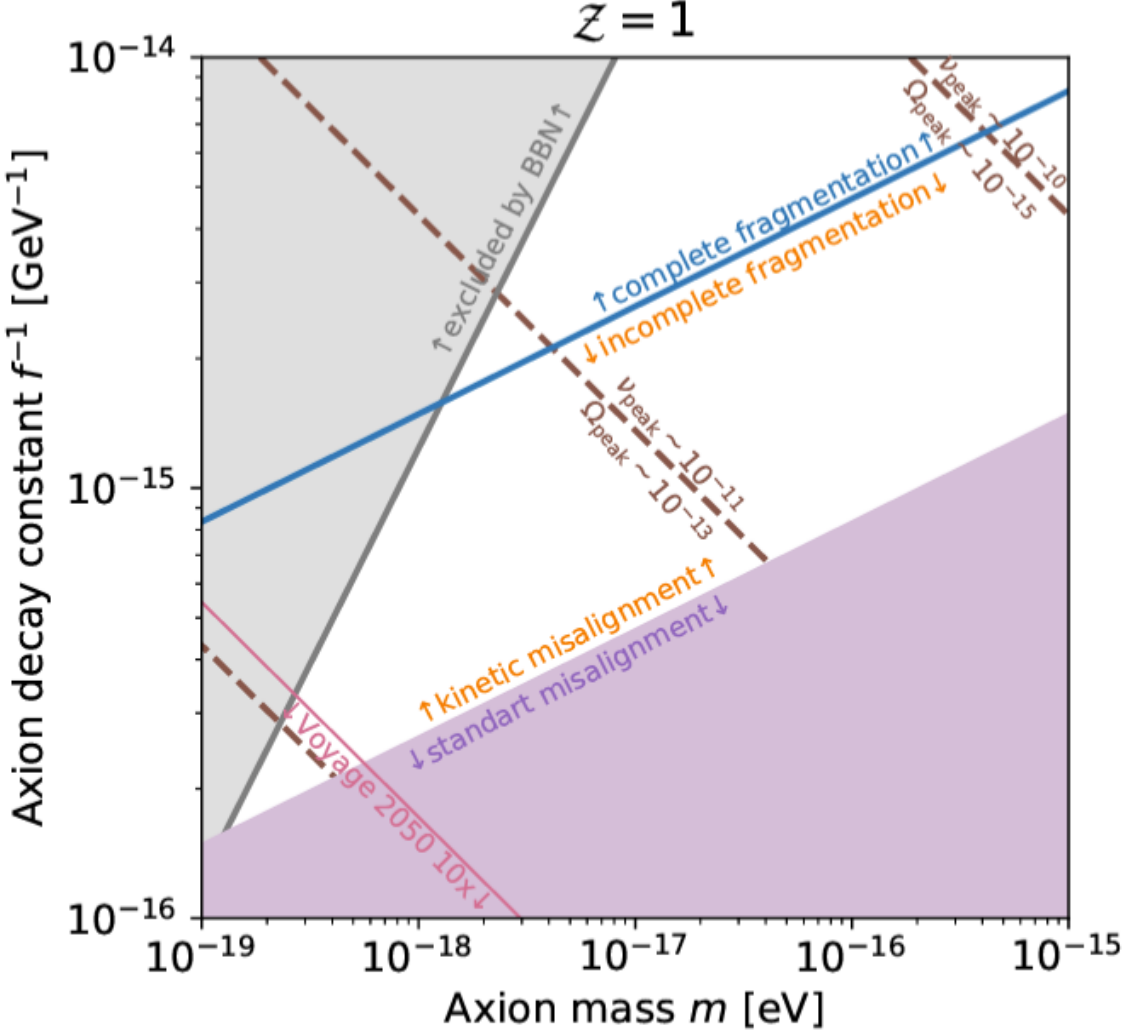
Wave number at emission      Redshift

$$\Omega_{GW}^{peak} \sim \frac{64\pi^2}{3M_{pl}^4 H_{emit}^2} \frac{\rho_{\theta,emit}^2}{(k_{peak}/a_{emit})^2} \frac{\alpha^2}{\beta} \quad (\text{Typically, } \alpha < 1, \beta > 1)$$

See [Chatrchyan, Jaeckel (2020)]

$$\text{c.f.) } \ddot{h} + 3H\dot{h} \sim \frac{1}{M_{pl}^2} \rho_\phi, \quad \rho_{GW} \sim M_{pl}^2 \dot{h}^2$$

# Possible signals : gravitational waves



Detailed analysis is future work

[Eröncel, RS, Sørensen, Servant (2022)]

# Summary

- Large axion velocity  $\rightarrow$  growth of fluctuation
- Zeromode kinetic energy dissipates into fluctuations
- Generic phenomena w/ **periodic potential** and **large velocity**
- Applications
  - ALP dark matter
  - Relaxion scenario ([1911.08473](#), Fonseca-Morgante-Sato-Servant)  
Relaxion fragmentation can be a source of friction to stop relaxion.
  - Any other interesting application?

Backup

# References

Green, Kofman, Starobinsky, hep-ph/9808477

Parametric resonance from large amplitude

Flauger, McAllister, Pajer, Westphal, Xu, 0907.2916

Cosine + linear term, monodromy infl.

Jaeckel, Mehta, Witkowski, 1605.01367

Cosine + quadratic term, linear

Berges, Chatrchyan, Jaeckel, 1903.03116

Cosine + quadratic term, non-perturbative

Arvanitaki, Dimopoulos, Galanis, Lehner, Thompson, Van Tilburg, 1909.11665

Parametric resonance from large amplitude

# Naïve estimation on back reaction

Time scale of growth of single mode :

$$t_{stop} \sim \frac{f\dot{\phi}}{\Lambda_b^4} \log \frac{f^4}{\dot{\phi}^2}$$

Energy stored in fluctuations :

$$\rho_{fluc}(t_{stop}) \sim \bar{\phi}^2 \times \frac{\delta k_{cr}}{k_{cr}},$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{d}{dt} \dot{\phi}^2 \sim - \frac{\rho_{fluc}(t_{stop})}{t_{stop}} \sim - \frac{\Lambda_b^8}{f\dot{\phi}} \left( \log \frac{f^4}{\dot{\phi}^2} \right)^{-1}$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{d}{dt} \phi \sim - \frac{\Lambda_b^8}{f\dot{\phi}^2} \left( \log \frac{f^4}{\dot{\phi}^2} \right)^{-1}$$

c.f.) WKB approx. with  $\phi \gg \Lambda_b^2$  gives  $\frac{d\phi}{dt} = - \frac{\pi}{2} \frac{\Lambda_b^8}{f\dot{\phi}^2} \left( \log \frac{32\pi^2 f^4}{\dot{\phi}^2} \right)^{-1}$

(see 1911.08472 for details)

Time scale of fragmentation :

$$\Delta t_{frag} \sim f \frac{\phi_0^3}{\Lambda_b^8} \log \frac{f^4}{\dot{\phi}_0^2}$$

Field excursion:

$$\Delta \phi_{frag} \sim \dot{\phi}_0 \Delta t_{frag} \sim f \frac{\phi_0^4}{\Lambda_b^8} \log \frac{f^4}{\dot{\phi}_0^2}$$

# Non-zero slope & Hubble expansion

What happens for non-zero  $\mu^3$  & non-zero  $H$ ?

- Fragmentation
  - Acceleration by slope
  - Hubble expansion
- $$\ddot{\phi}_{frag} = -\frac{\pi\Lambda_b^8}{2f\dot{\phi}^2} \left( \log \frac{32\pi^2 f^4}{\dot{\phi}^2} \right)^{-1}$$
- $$\mu^3$$
- $$3H\dot{\phi}$$

Fragmentation works if

- During inflation ( $3H\dot{\phi} \sim \mu^3$ )

$$3H\dot{\phi} < \sim |\ddot{\phi}_{frag}| \quad \text{If not, axion keeps rolling with slow-roll velocity}$$

- Not during inflation ( $3H\dot{\phi} \ll \mu^3$ )

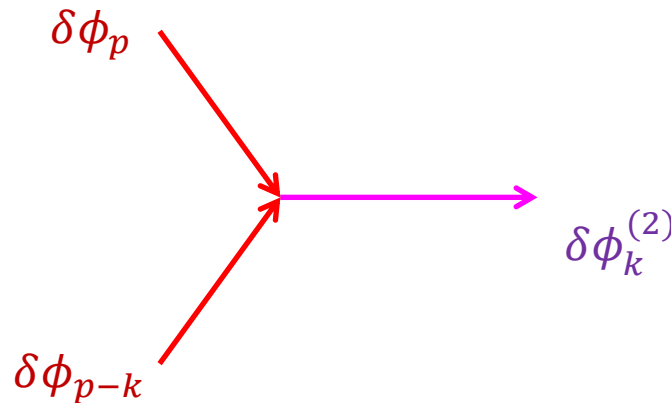
$$\mu^3 < \sim |\ddot{\phi}_{frag}| \quad \text{If not, axion is just accelerated by slope}$$

# 2 to 1 process

$$\phi(x, t) = \phi(t) + \delta\phi(x, t) + \delta\phi^{(2)}(x, t) + \dots$$

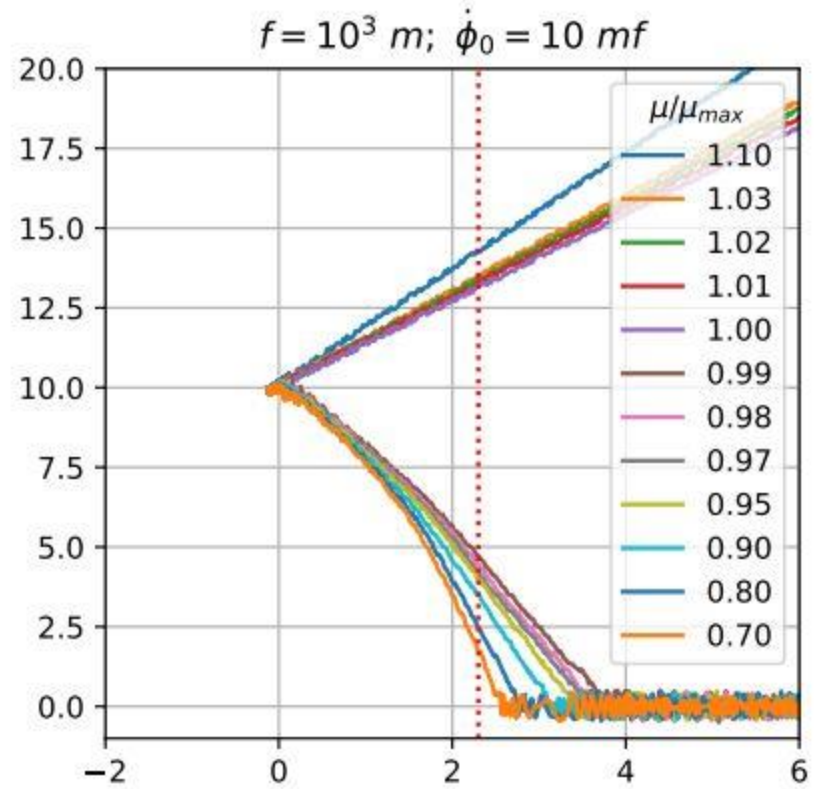
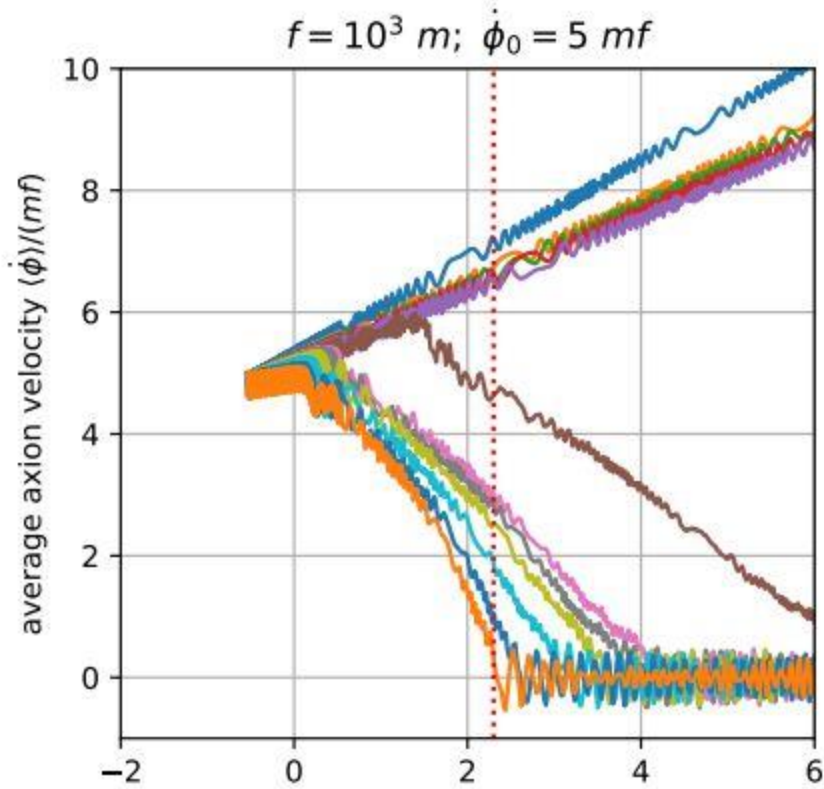
$$\ddot{\phi} - \nabla^2\phi = V'(\phi) \quad \Rightarrow \quad \delta\ddot{\phi}^{(2)} + (k^2 + V'')\delta\phi^{(2)} = -\frac{1}{2}V''' \int d^3p \delta\phi_p \delta\phi_{k-p}$$

- $\delta\phi_p$  with  $|p| = \dot{\phi}/2f$  is amplified by resonance
- $\delta\phi$  becomes source term for  $\delta\phi^{(2)}$





# Lattice calc. w/ slope term



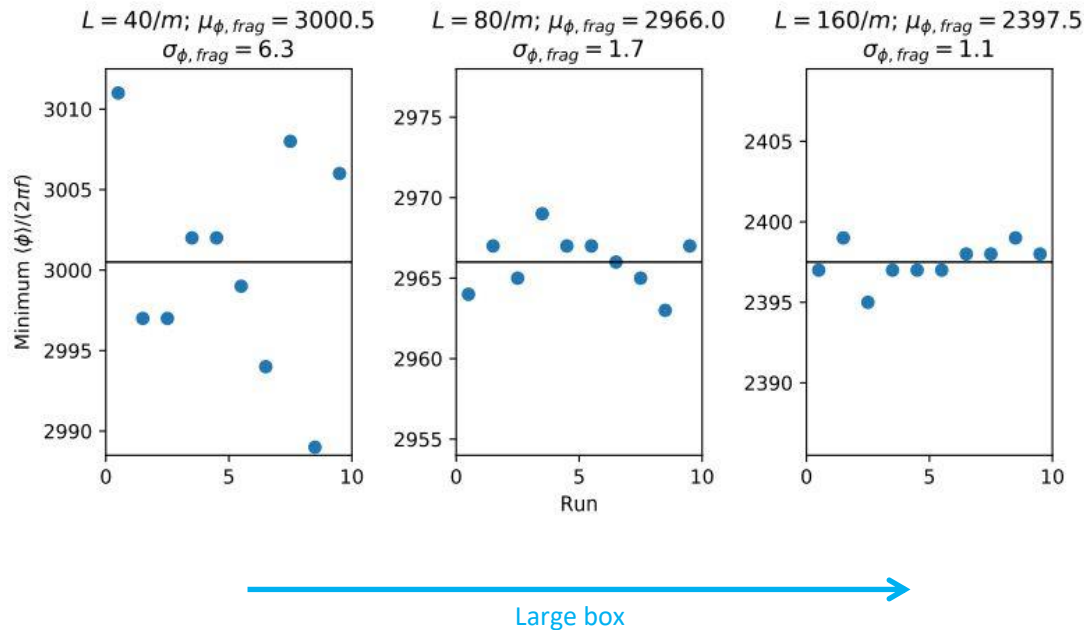
# Domain wall?

Field variance after fragmentation is not so small :

$$\delta\phi \sim f$$

Multiple run with finite size box

- $\delta\phi$  in multiple run =  $\delta\phi$  of causally disconnected area
- Extrapolation to  $V^{1/3} \approx \delta t_{\text{frag}}$



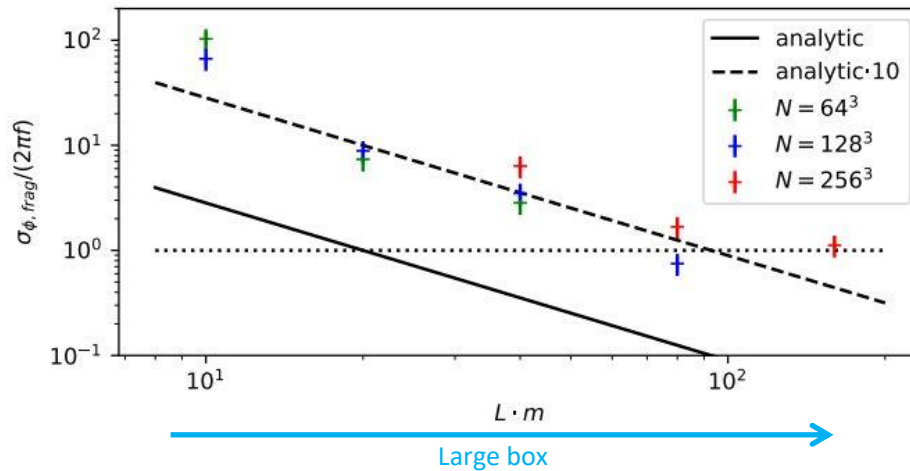
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Empirical formula of variance:

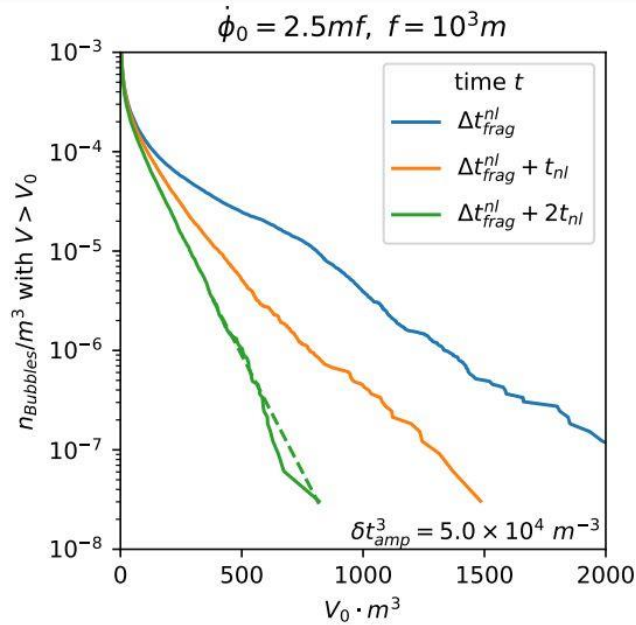
$$\frac{\delta\phi}{2\pi f} \sim O(10) \times V^{-1/2} \times \left( \frac{f\dot{\phi}_0}{\Lambda_b^2} \right)^{3/2}$$

Naïve extrapolation to  $V^{1/3} \sim t_{\text{amp}}$  :  $\frac{\sigma}{2\pi f} \sim O(10) \times \left( \log \frac{8\pi f^2}{\dot{\phi}_0} \right)^{-3/2} \sim 0.01 - 0.1$

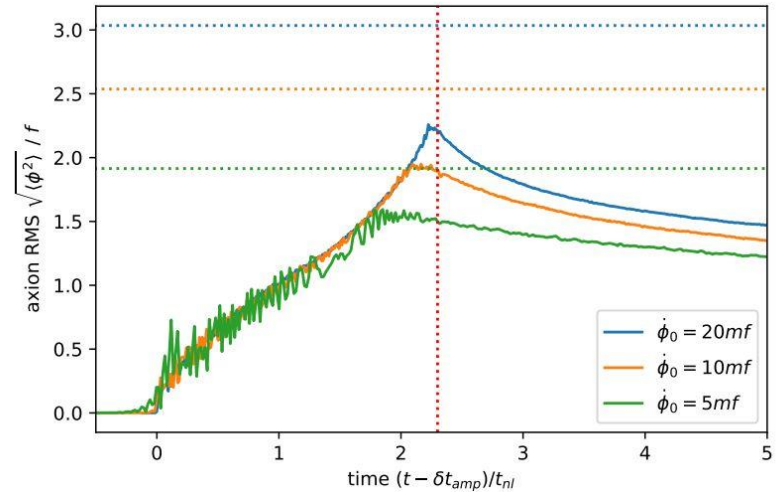
Domain wall formation probability is  $\sim e^{-100} - e^{-10}$

# Energy cascade into UV

Number counting of “bubble”



Time evolution of variance  $\langle \delta \phi^2 \rangle$



- Fluctuation with long wave-length is exponentially suppressed.
- The size of variance decreases in time.

# How to get initial velocity

[taken from slide by P. Sørensen (2021)]

## Implementations: How to get the kick

Strategy: Radial dynamics:

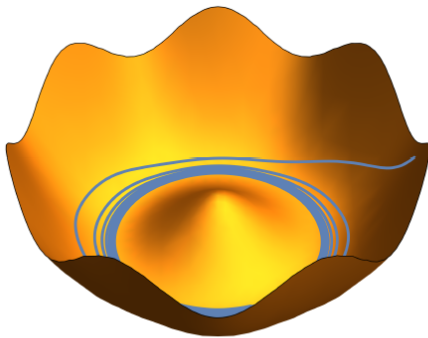
$$P = \frac{S}{\sqrt{2}} e^{i\theta}$$

Affleck-dine-like setup (Affleck and Dine, 1985 and Co et al., 2019), with a nearly-quadratic potential + higher dimensional operators:

$$V = (m_S^2 - c_H H^2) |P|^2 + \frac{A m_s + a H}{n} \frac{P^n}{M^{n-3}} + h.c. + \frac{|P|^{2n-2}}{M^{2n-6}}$$

Large initial radial VEV:

$$S(H) = (H M^{n-3})^{\frac{1}{n-2}} \left( \frac{2^{n-2}}{n-1} \right)^{\frac{1}{2n-4}}$$



Solve EOM for  $\theta$ :

$$\begin{aligned} n_{PQ} &= S^2 \dot{\theta}_{\text{kick}} \\ &= 2^{1-\frac{n}{2}} \frac{A N_{dw} S^n \sin(n\theta/N_{dw})}{m_{s,\text{eff}} M^{n-3}}. \end{aligned}$$

Elliptic orbit

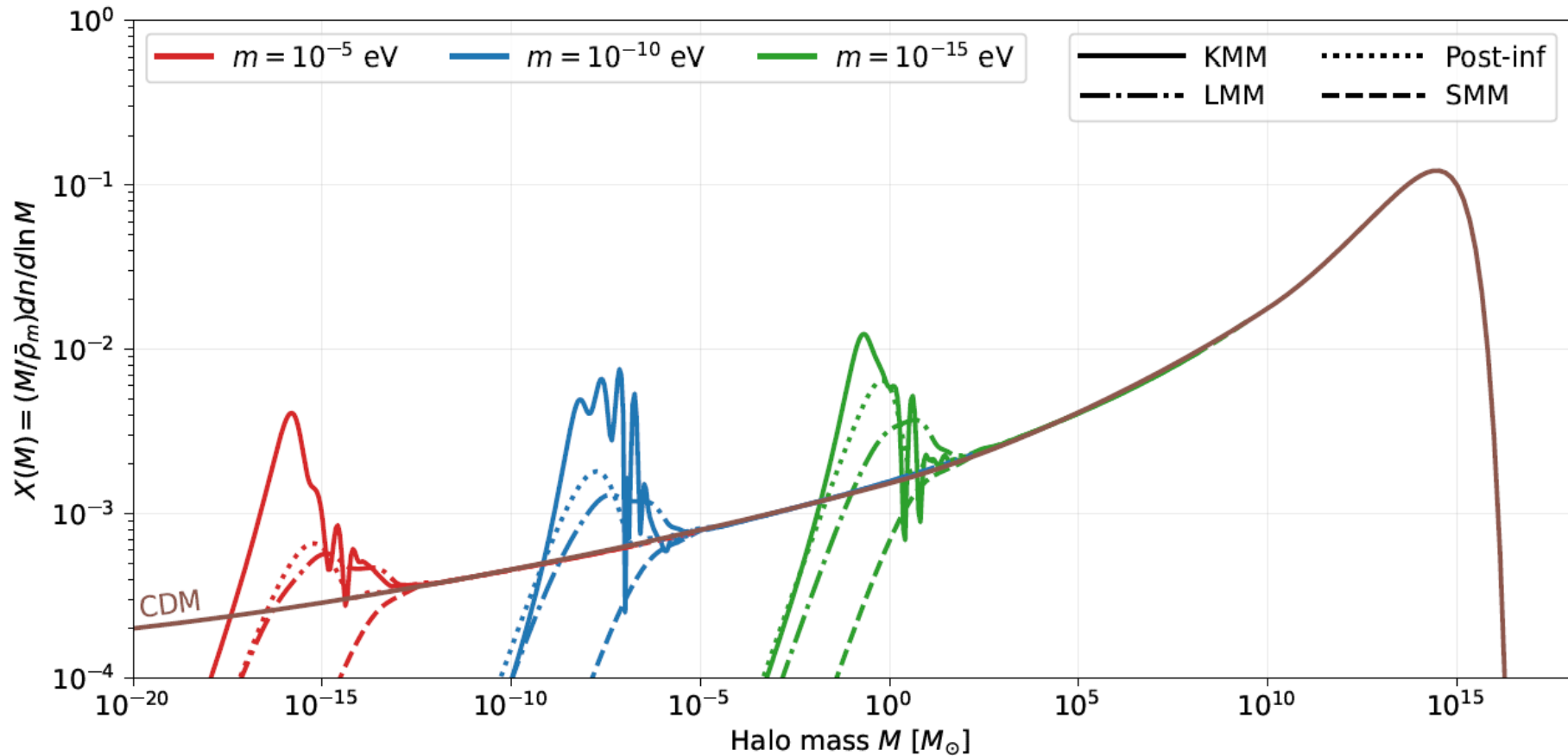
→ radial oscillations must be damped

# Possible signals : ALP mini-cluster

clump of axion DMs

Small  $m \rightarrow$  Large mini-cluster

Perturbative analysis + Press-Schechter formalism



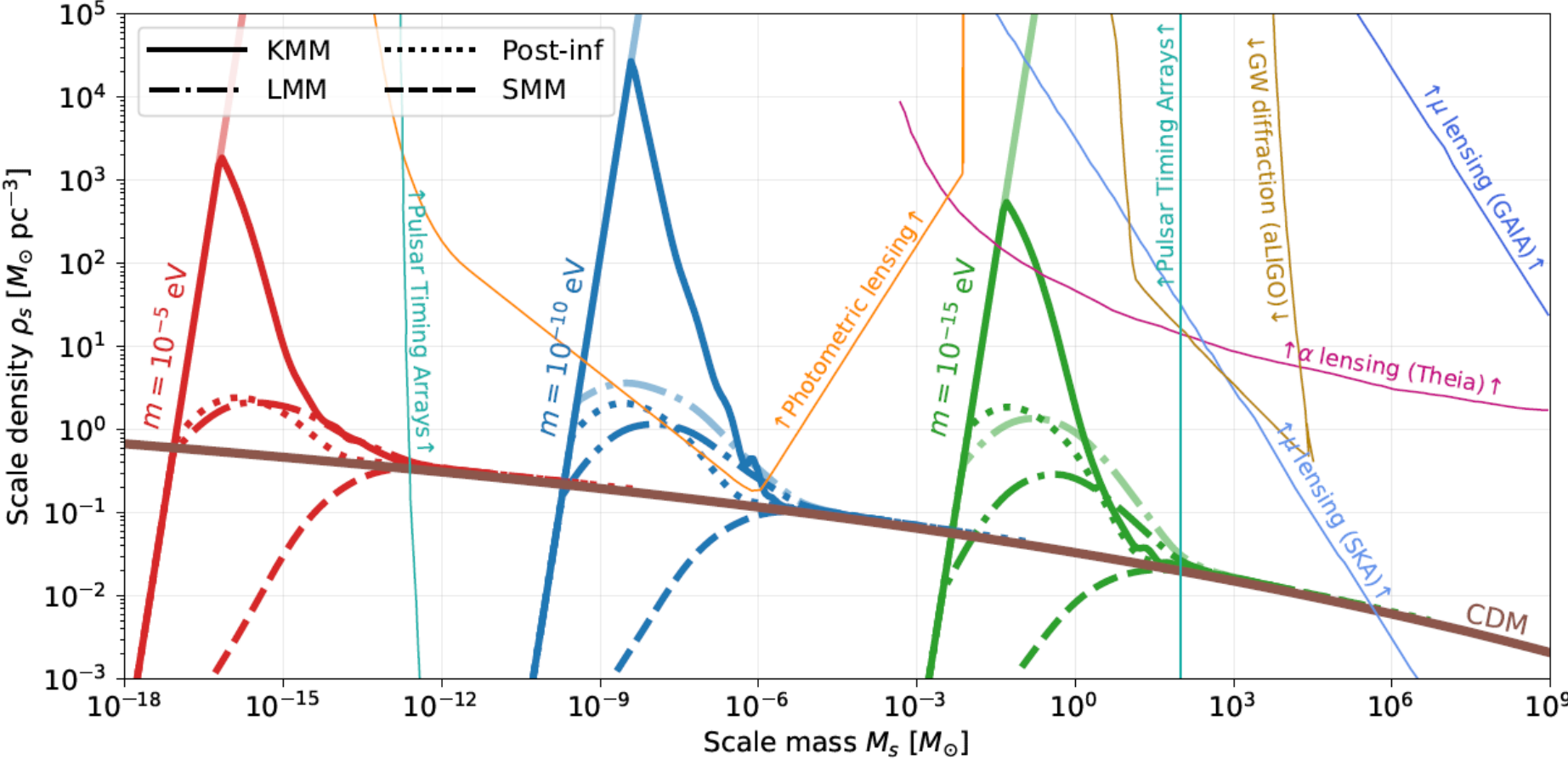
[Eröncel, Servant (2022)]

# Possible signals : ALP mini-cluster

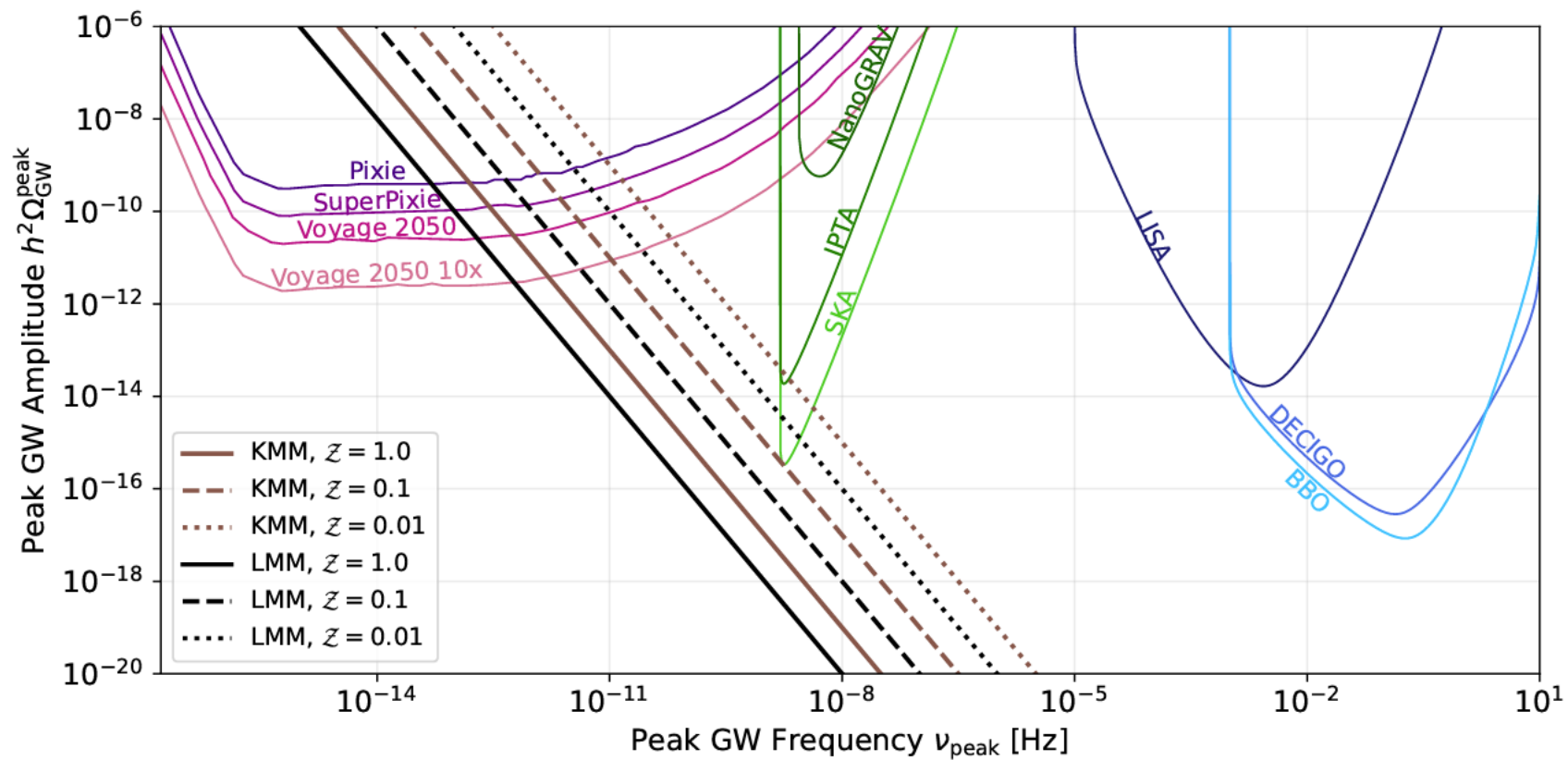
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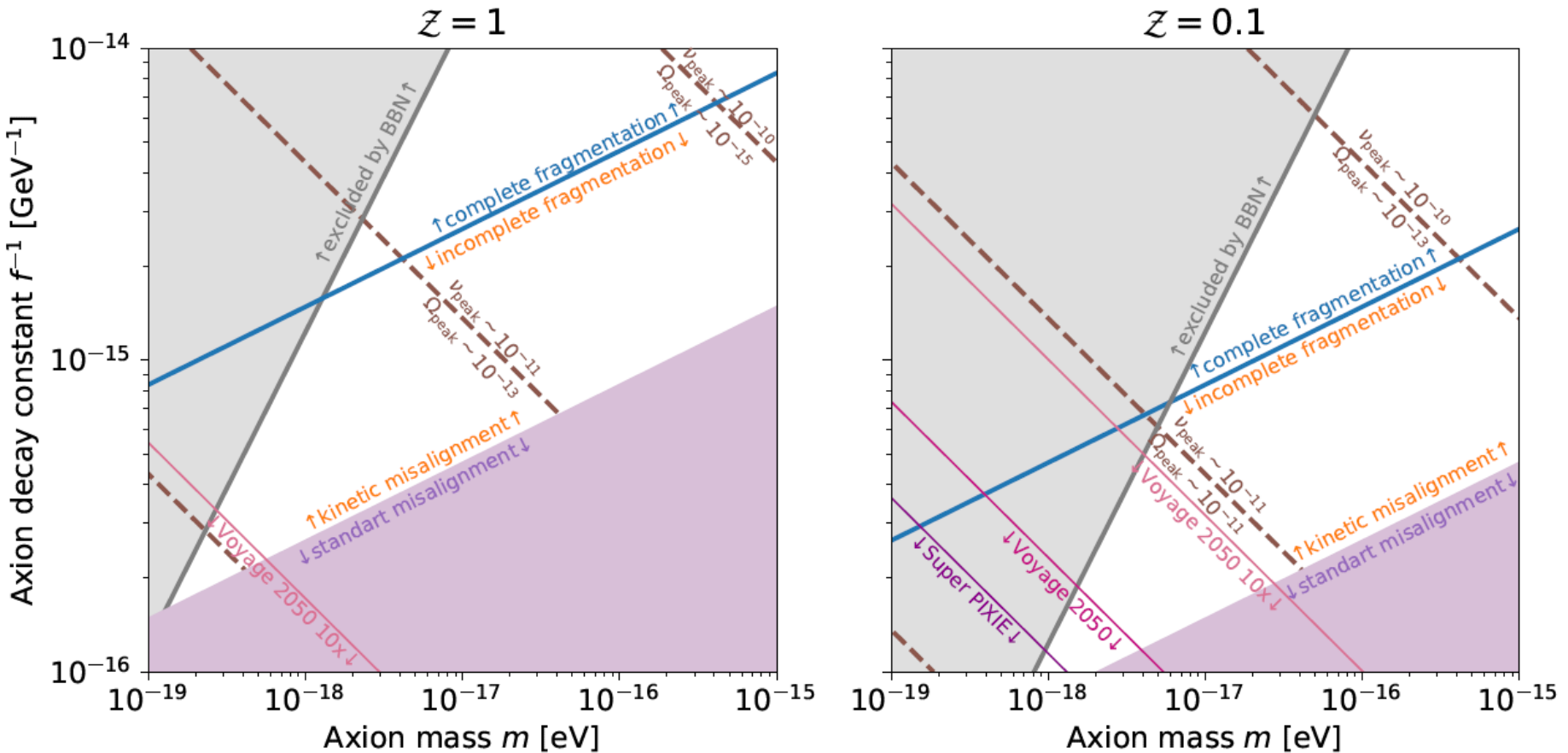


$$\nu_{\text{peak}} \sim 8 \times 10^{-11} \text{ Hz} \left( \frac{m_*}{m_0} \right)^{2/3} \left( \frac{m_0}{10^{-16} \text{ eV}} \right)^{1/3} \left( \frac{f}{10^{14} \text{ GeV}} \right)^{-2/3} \mathcal{Z}^{-1/3}.$$

$$\frac{a_*}{a_0} = \left( \frac{3\pi \Omega_{\text{DM}} M_{\text{pl}}^2 H_0^2}{8 \mathcal{Z} m_0 m_* f^2} \right)^{1/3}.$$

$$\Omega_{\text{GW},0}^{\text{peak}} \sim 1.5 \times 10^{-15} \left( \frac{m_*}{m_0} \right)^{2/3} \left( \frac{m_0}{10^{-16} \text{ eV}} \right)^{-2/3} \left( \frac{f}{10^{14} \text{ GeV}} \right)^{4/3} \mathcal{Z}^{-4/3}.$$

# Possible signals : gravitational waves



Detailed analysis is future work

[Eröncel, RS, Sørensen, Servant (2022)]