

Primordial black holes from inflation and their observational imprints

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Based on:

JCAP'20, PRD'21,
JHEP'23, PRD'23,
JHEP'24

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10.06.2025



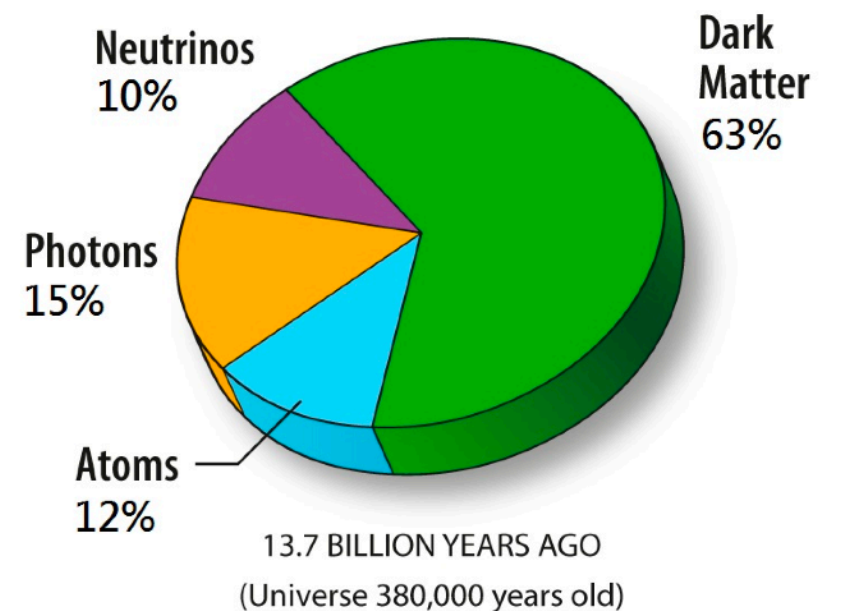
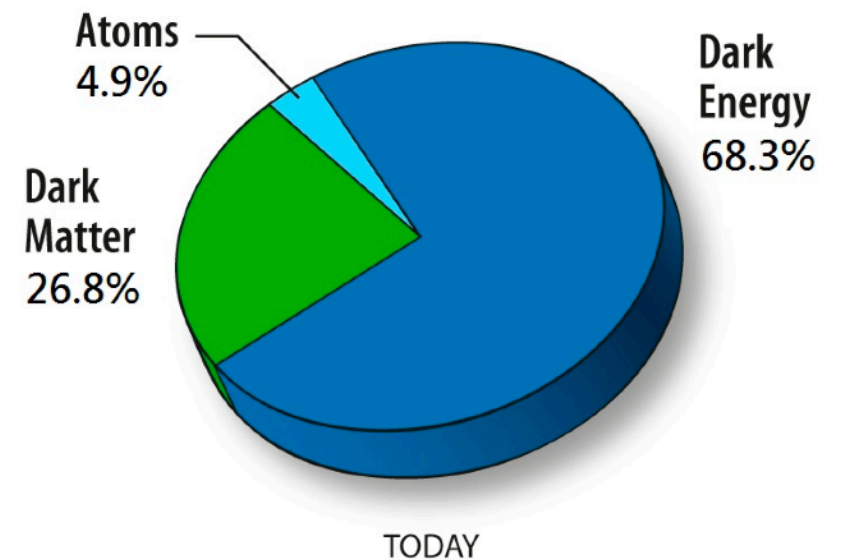
Outline of the talk

- *Why Primordial Black Holes (PBH) ?*
- *PBH generation mechanisms — single field inflation — inflection point models — PBH mass fraction*
- *Interesting observational imprints of PBHs*
 - *Induced secondary GWs from scalar perturbations*
 - *Ultralight PBHs and imprints from Hawking evaporation*
 - *Induced GWs and PTA results*
 - *Imprints of memory burden effect of PBHs*
- *Conclusions*

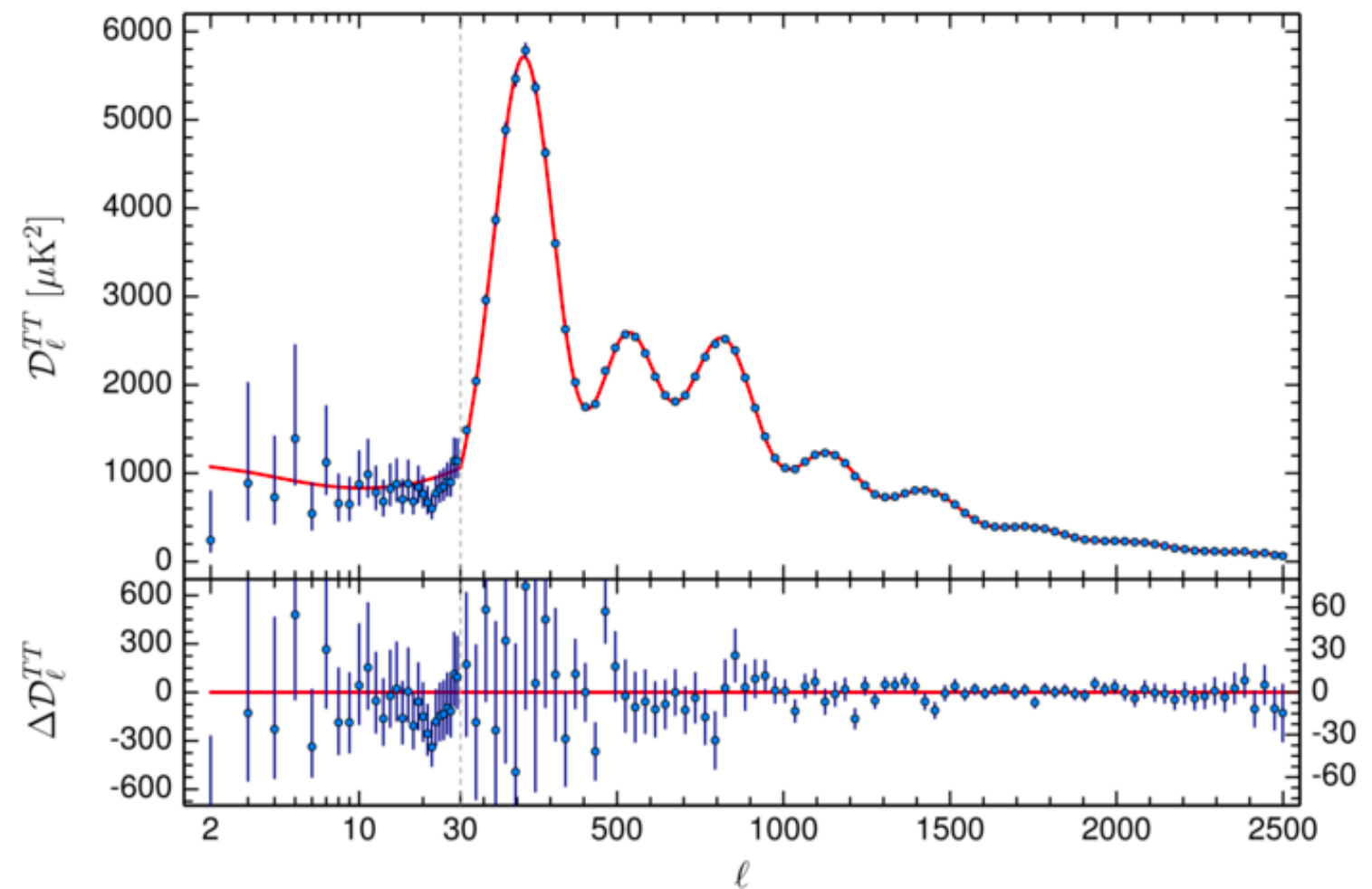
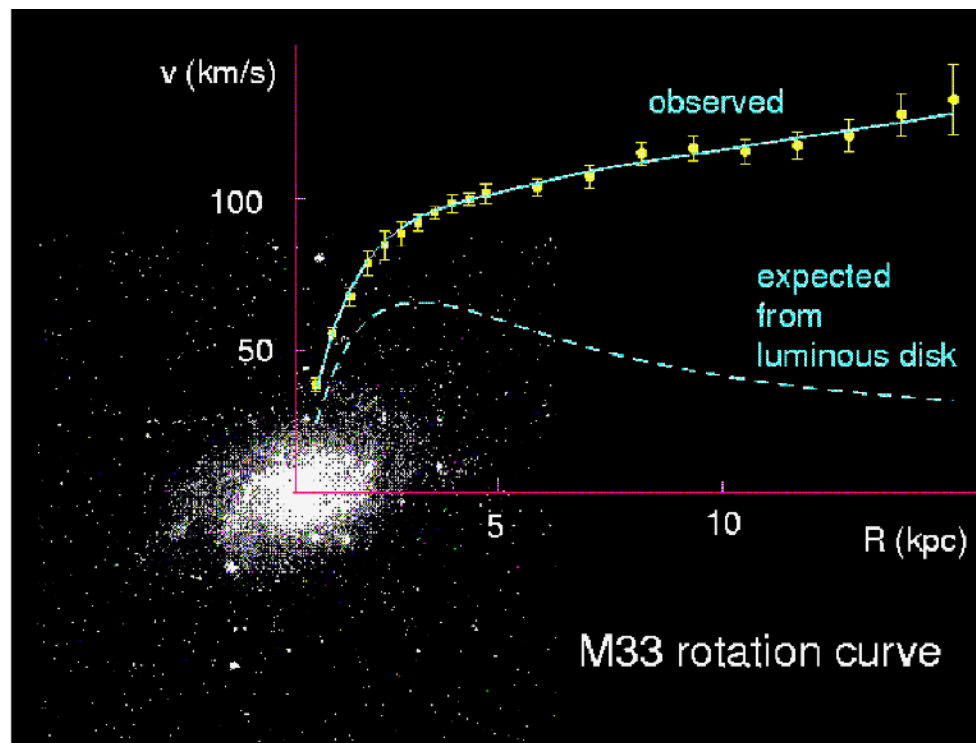
Standard model of Cosmology

- The concordance model — Radiation + Baryons + Dark matter + Dark energy
- Statistically homogeneous and isotropic on very large scales

Λ CDM



Dark matter — observational evidence



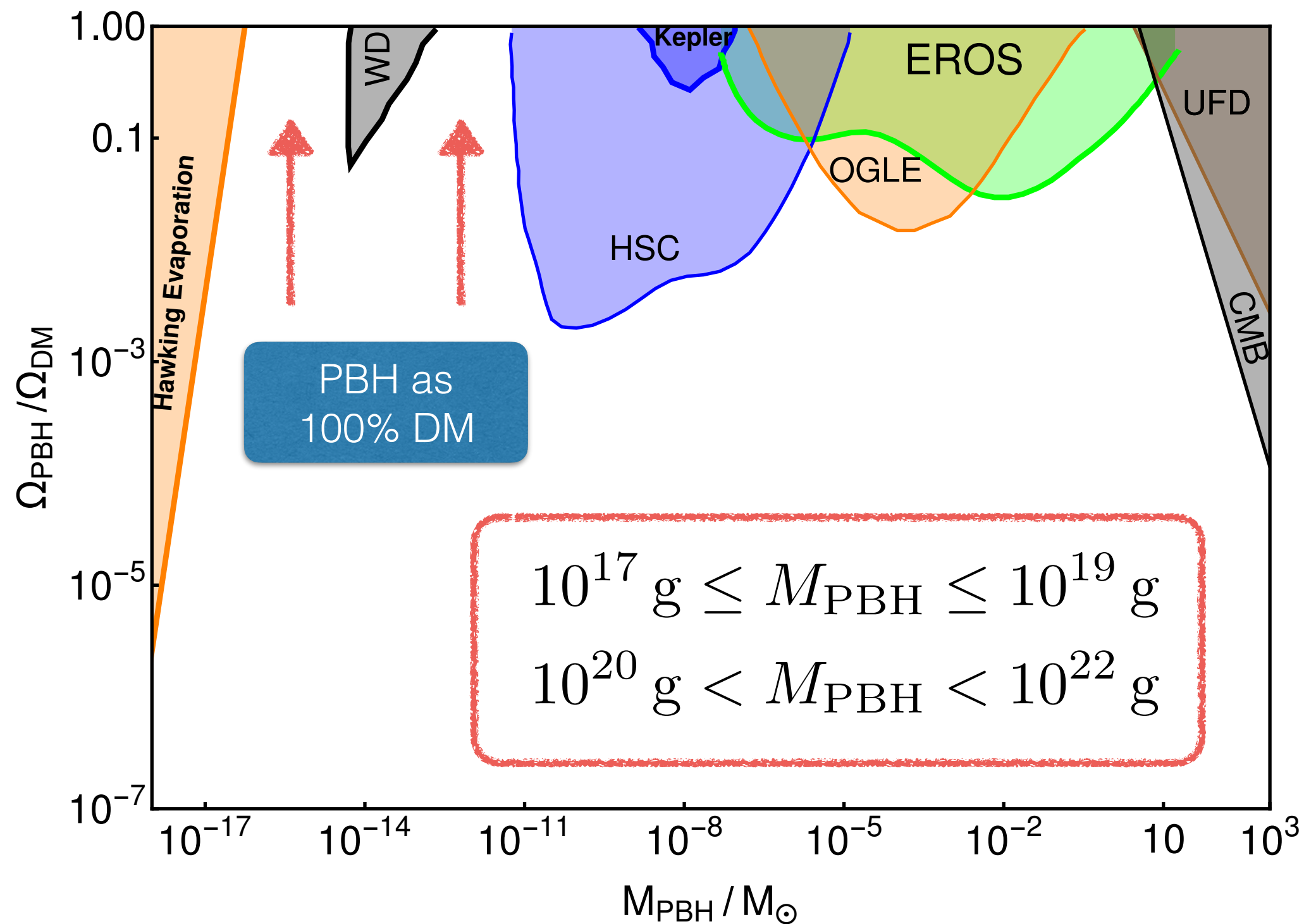
Dark matter: A known
Unknown !

Why Primordial Black Holes (PBH) ?

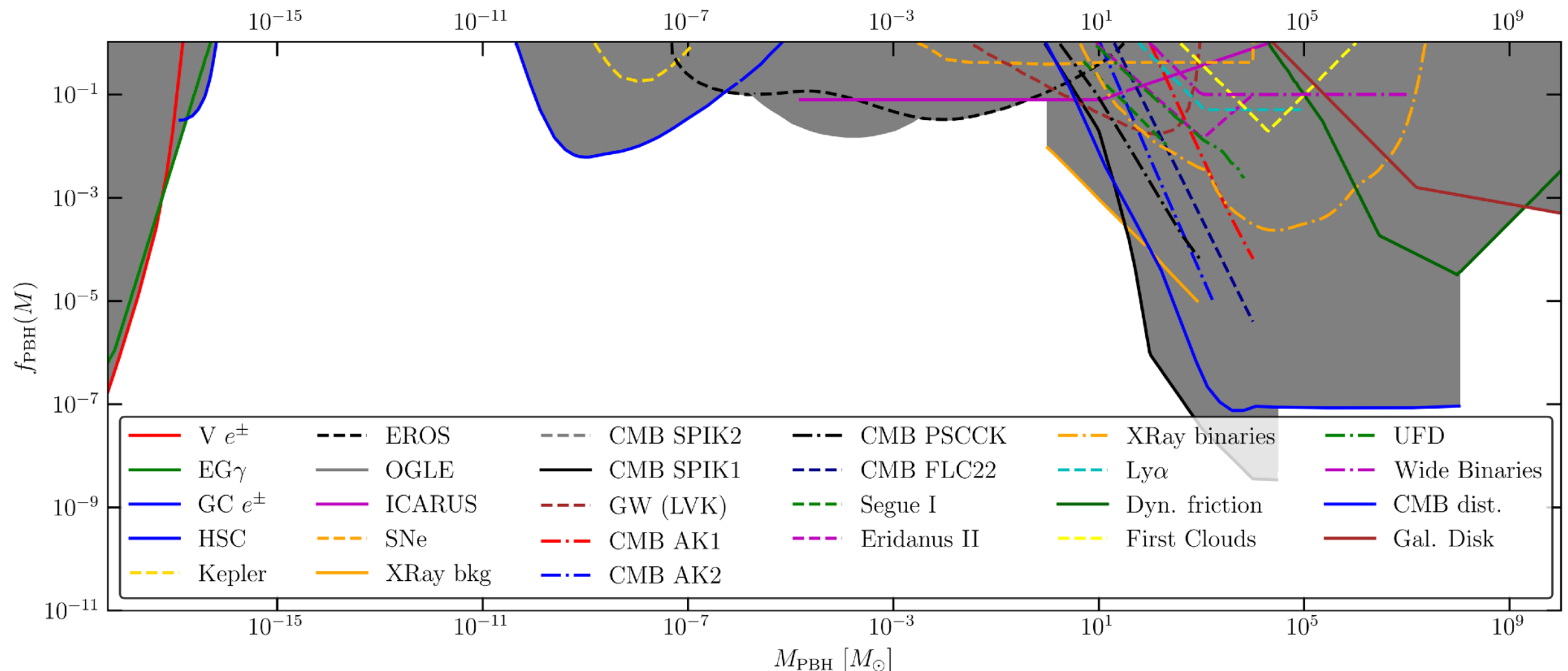
- A novel and promising candidate for the cold dark matter
- Abundant production in the early universe — e.g. after inflation
- Non-baryonic, non-relativistic and nearly collisionless
- No new physics (beyond inflation) required !
- Interesting observational signatures e.g. secondary GWs, Hawking evaporation etc.



PBH as DM — Current constraints



PBH as DM — Current constraints



Primordial black holes and their gravitational-wave signatures

LISA Cosmology Working Group, Bagui, ...**RKJ**... et al.,
Living Reviews in Relativity, 28 (2025) 1, 1 [arXiv:2310.19857]

PBH formation from inflation — in a nutshell

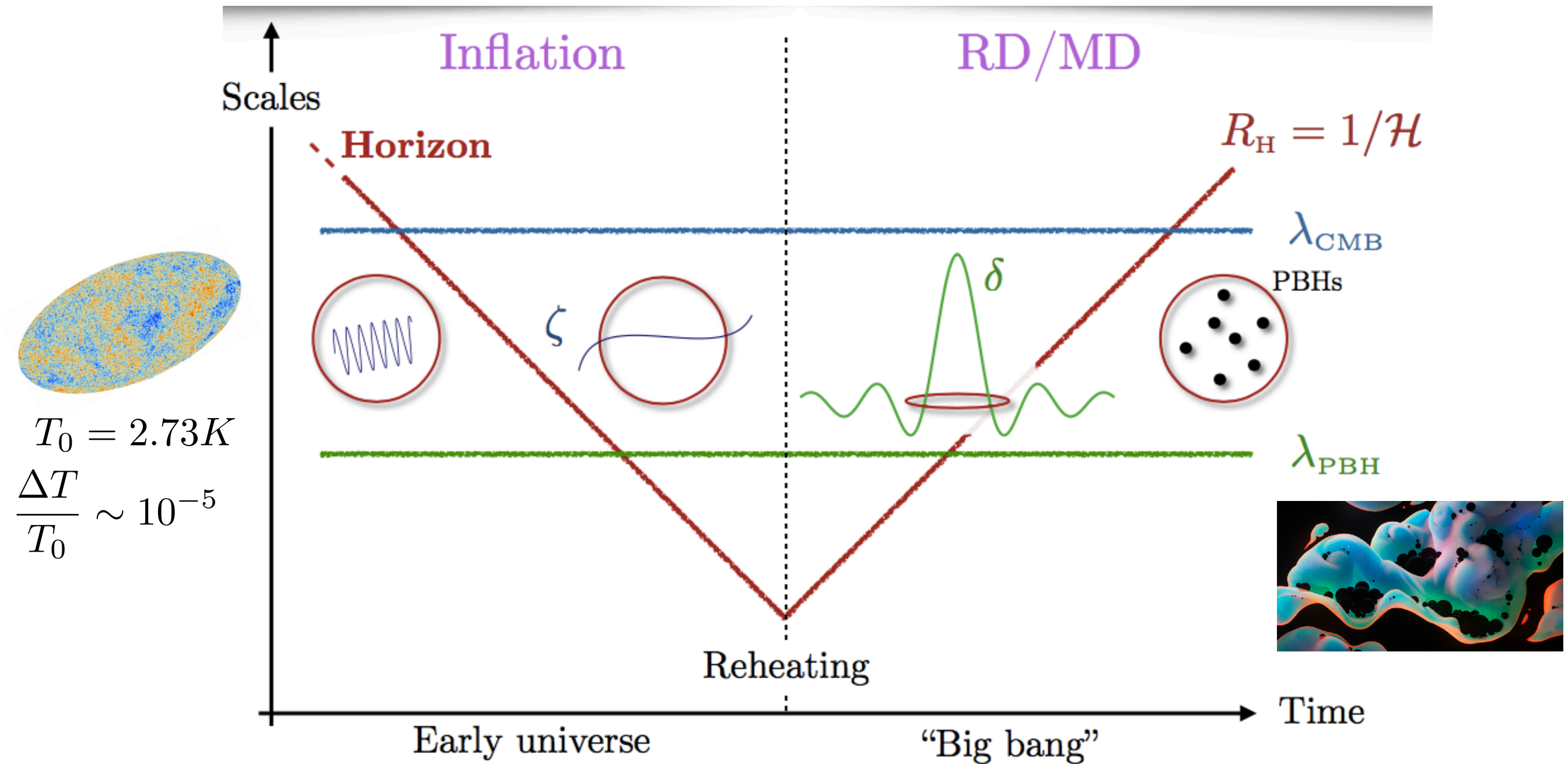
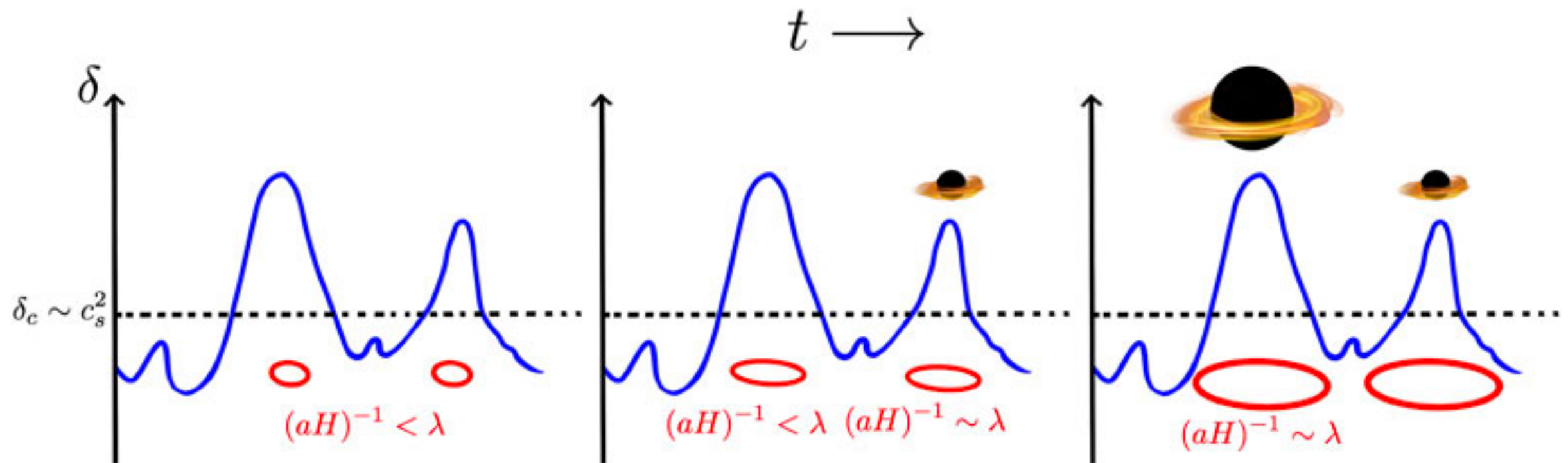


Fig. credit: G. Franciolini

PBH formation from inflation — in a nutshell



PBH formation from collapse of overdense fluctuations during radiation domination

Fig. credit: Front. Astron. Space Sci., 2021

PBH formation from inflation — in a nutshell

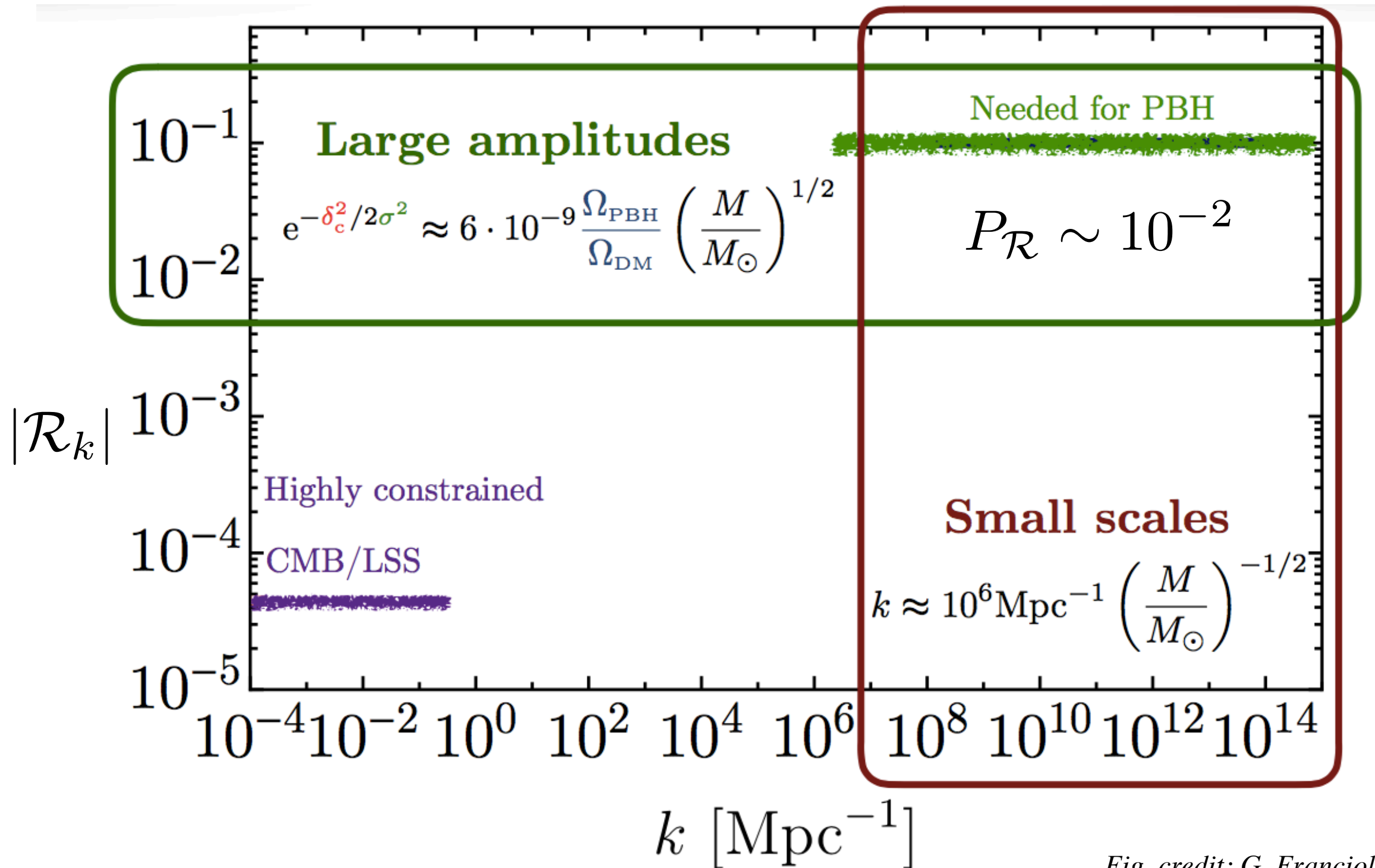
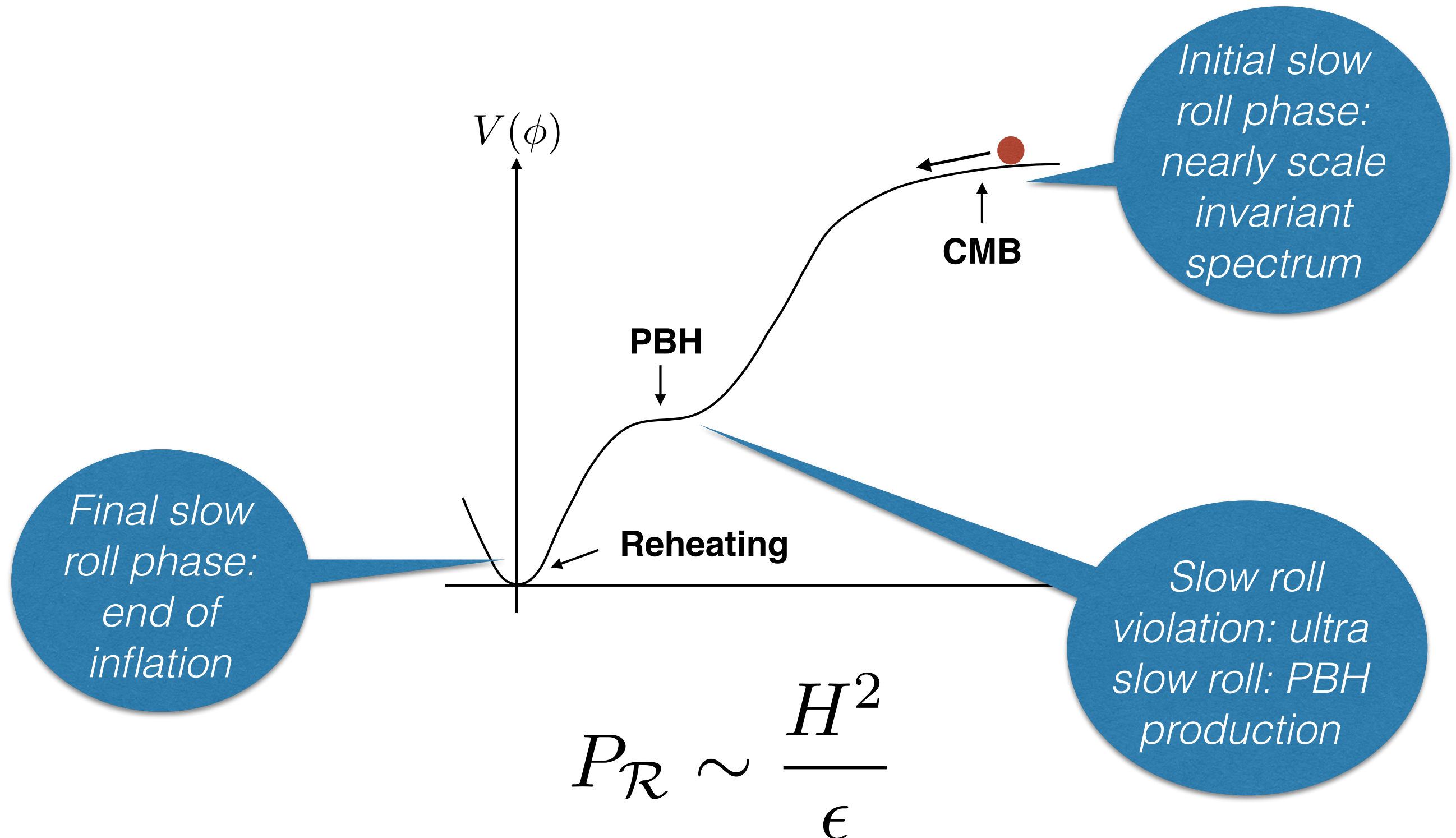


Fig. credit: G. Franciolini

PBH from inflation — inflection point models



A single field inflection point scenario

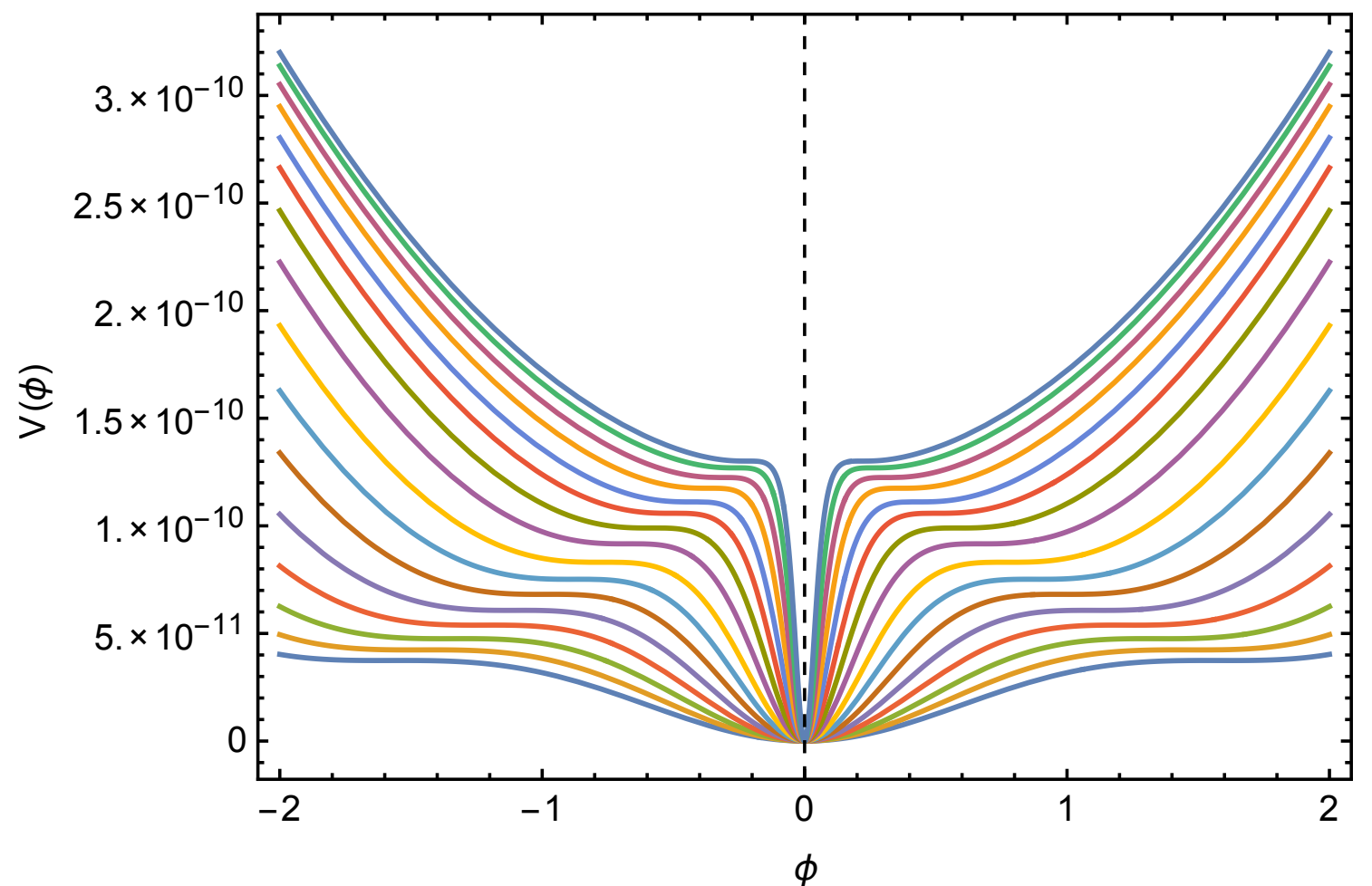
$$V(x) = V_0 \frac{ax^2 + bx^4 + cx^6}{(1 + dx^2)^2}, \quad x = \phi/v$$

$$x \gg 1 : V(x) \simeq \frac{V_0 c}{d^2} x^2$$

$$x \ll 1 : V(x) \simeq V_0 a x^2$$

Quadratic for both large
& small field values

$$r \sim 0.05$$



N. Bhaumik & **RKJ**, JCAP 01, 037 (2020)

Slow roll, ultra slow roll and all that...

Background evolution

$$H^2 = \frac{V(\phi)}{M_{\text{Pl}}^2(3 - \epsilon)},$$

$$\frac{d^2\phi}{dN^2} + (3 - \epsilon)\frac{d\phi}{dN} + \frac{1}{H^2}V'(\phi) = 0,$$

$$SR: \quad \frac{d\phi}{dN} + \frac{1}{3H^2}V'(\phi) \simeq 0,$$

$$USR: \quad \frac{d^2\phi}{dN^2} + 3\frac{d\phi}{dN} \simeq 0,$$

$$\epsilon \sim \exp[-6(N - N_i)]$$

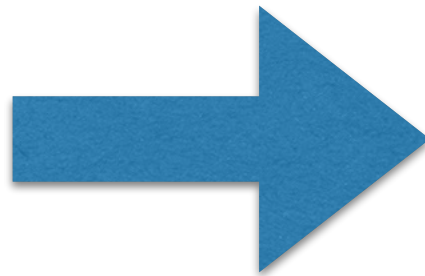
$$\eta \simeq \epsilon + (3 - \epsilon) \sim 3$$

Curvature perturbations

$$\mathcal{R}_k'' + 2\left(\frac{z'}{z}\right)\mathcal{R}_k' + k^2\mathcal{R}_k = 0.$$

$$\frac{z'}{z} = aH(1 + \epsilon - \eta)$$

$$\mathcal{R}_k(\tau) \simeq C_1 + C_2 \int \frac{d\tau}{z^2}$$



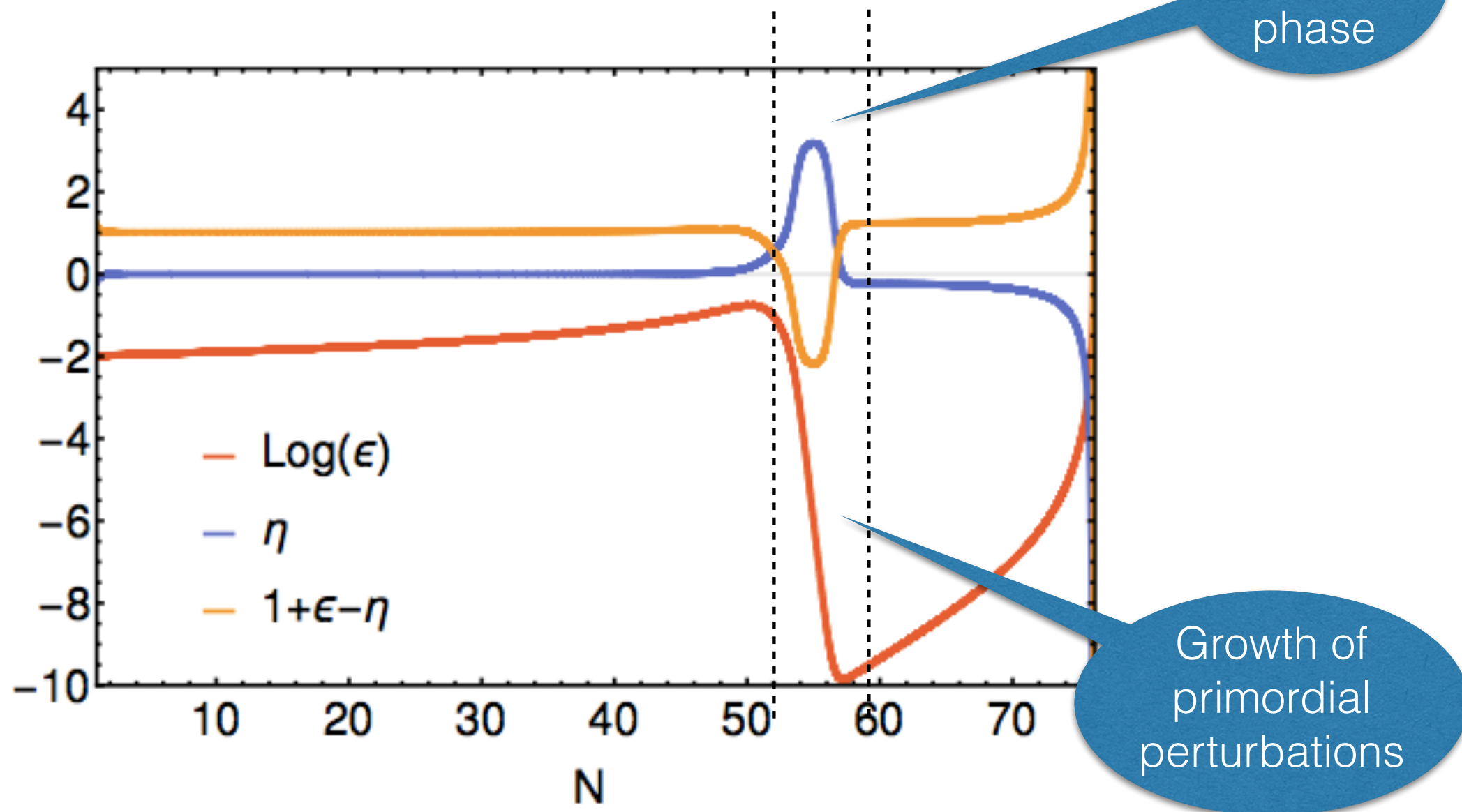
$$P_{\mathcal{R}} = \frac{k^3}{2\pi^2} |\mathcal{R}_k|^2$$

$$P_{\mathcal{R}} \sim \frac{H^2}{\epsilon}$$

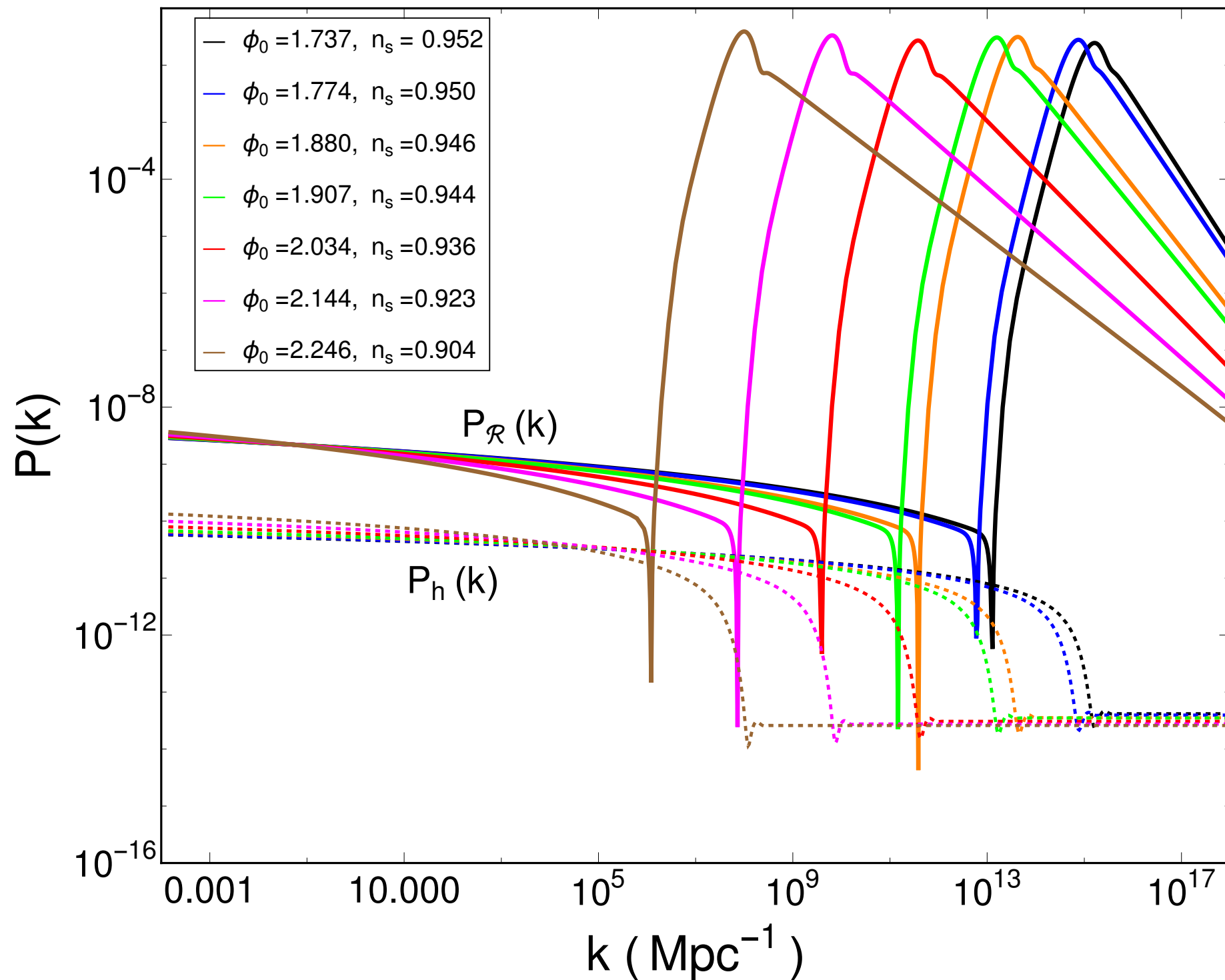
Slow roll, ultra slow roll and all that...

$$\epsilon \sim \exp[-6(N - N_i)]$$

$$\eta \simeq \epsilon + (3 - \epsilon) \sim 3$$



Primordial power spectra



N. Bhaumik & **RKJ**, JCAP 01, 037 (2020)

PBH mass fraction: Press-Schechter formalism

$$\delta(k, t) \simeq \frac{2(w+1)}{(3w+5)} \left(\frac{k}{aH} \right)^2 \mathcal{R}_k.$$

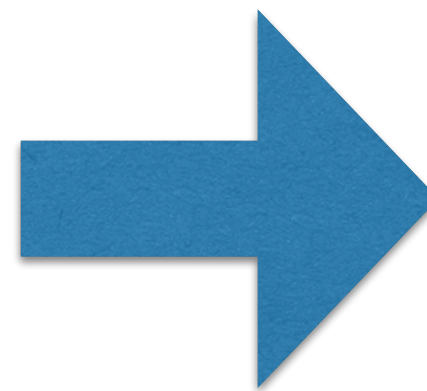
$$\sigma_\delta^2(R) \simeq \frac{16}{81} \int \frac{dk}{k} (kR)^4 P_{\mathcal{R}}(k) W^2(k, R).$$

$$\beta_f(M) \simeq \sqrt{\frac{1}{2\pi}} \frac{\sigma_\delta(M(R))}{\delta_c} \exp \left(-\frac{\delta_c^2}{2\sigma_\delta^2(M(R))} \right)$$

$$\beta(M) \equiv \frac{\rho_{\text{PBH}}(M)}{\rho_{\text{tot}}}.$$

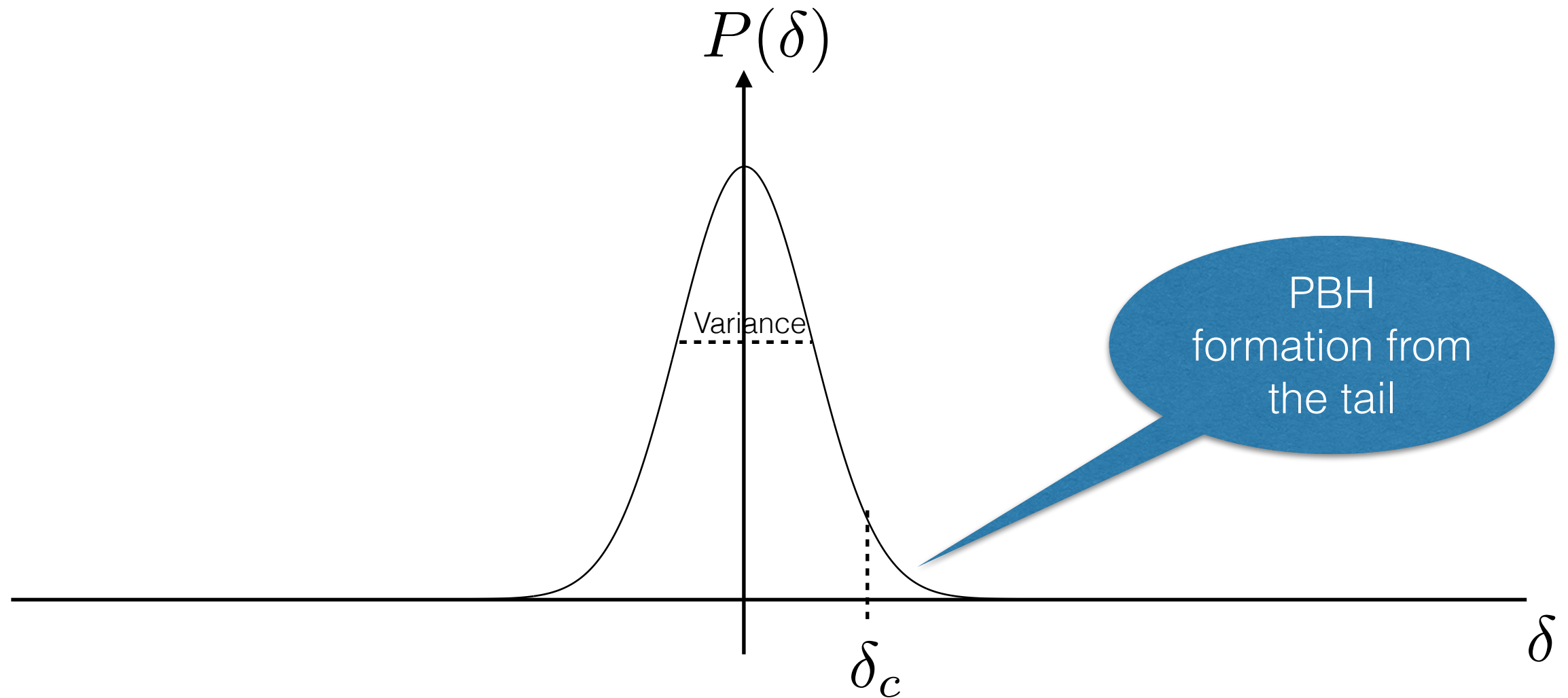
$$\beta_{\text{eq}}(M) \simeq \beta_f(M) \left(\frac{a_{\text{eq}}}{a_f} \right)$$

$$f_{\text{PBH}}(M) \equiv \frac{\Omega_{\text{PBH}}(M)}{\Omega_{\text{DM}}} = \frac{\beta(M)}{8 \times 10^{-16}} \left(\frac{\gamma}{0.2} \right)^{3/2} \left(\frac{g_*}{106.75} \right)^{-1/4} \left(\frac{M}{10^{18} \text{ g}} \right)^{-1/2}$$



*PBH
Recipe*

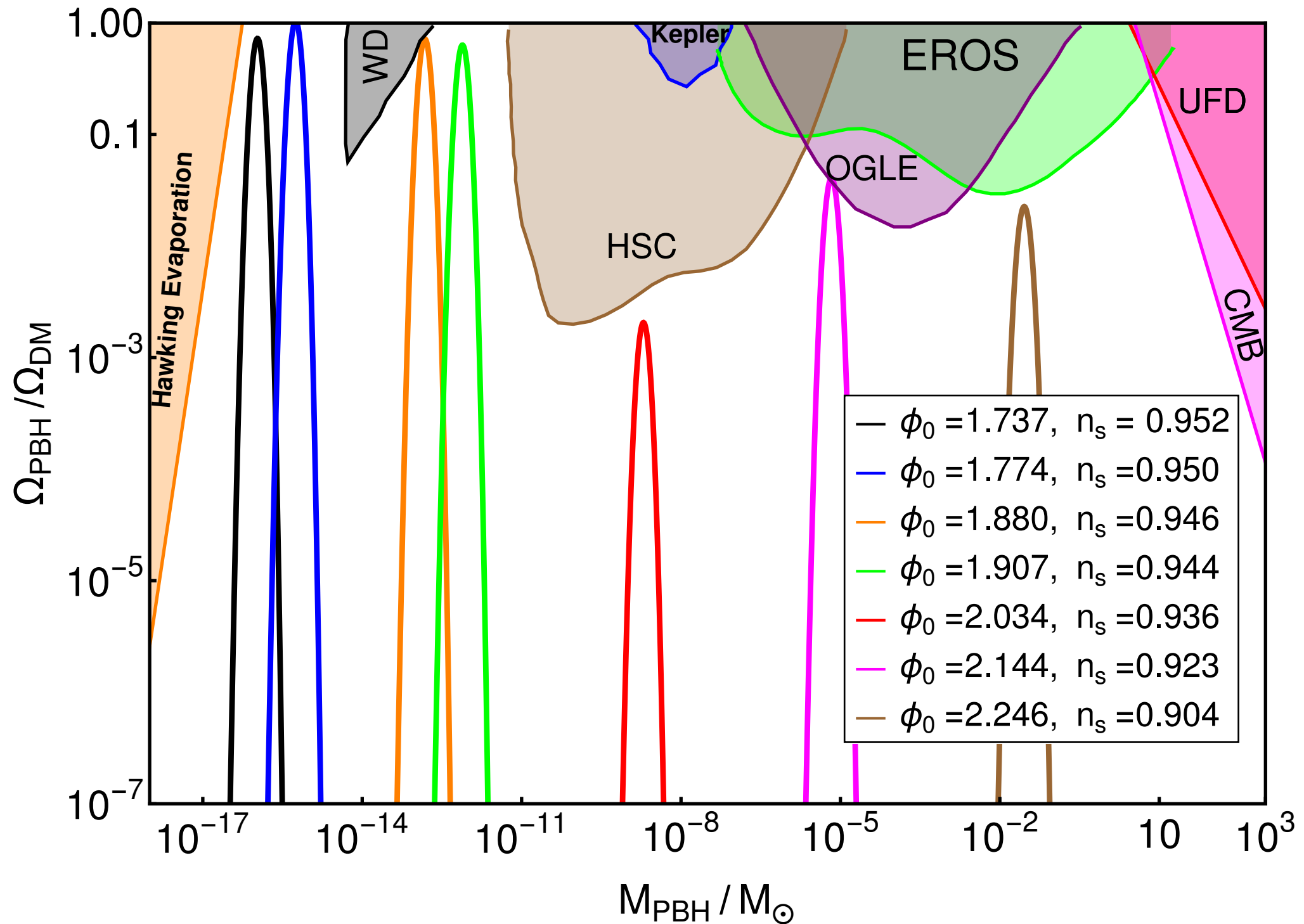
PBH mass fraction: Press-Schechter formalism



$$\beta_f(M) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma_\delta^2(M(R))}} \int_{\delta_c}^{\infty} d\delta \exp\left(-\frac{\delta^2}{2\sigma_\delta^2(M(R))}\right)$$

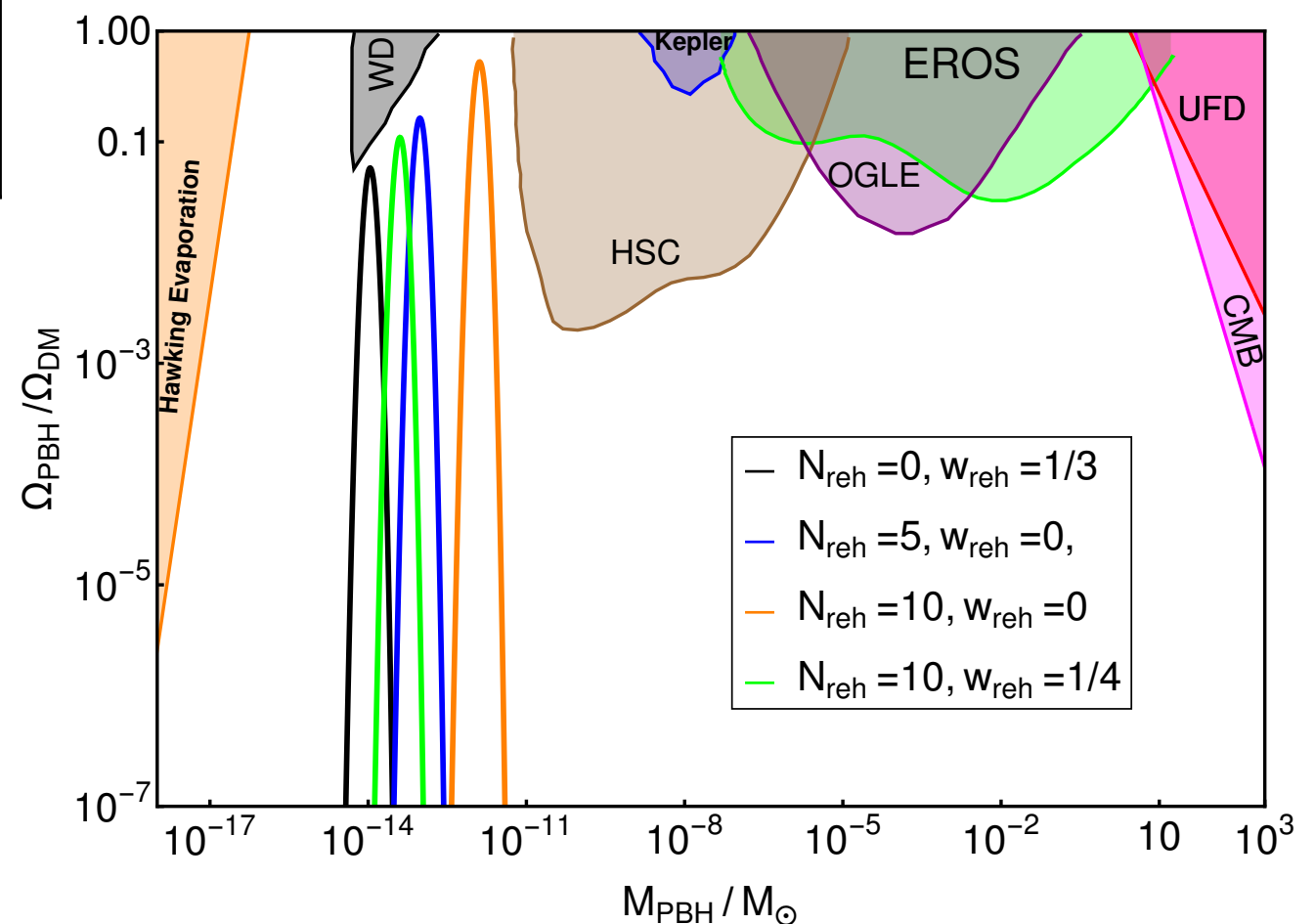
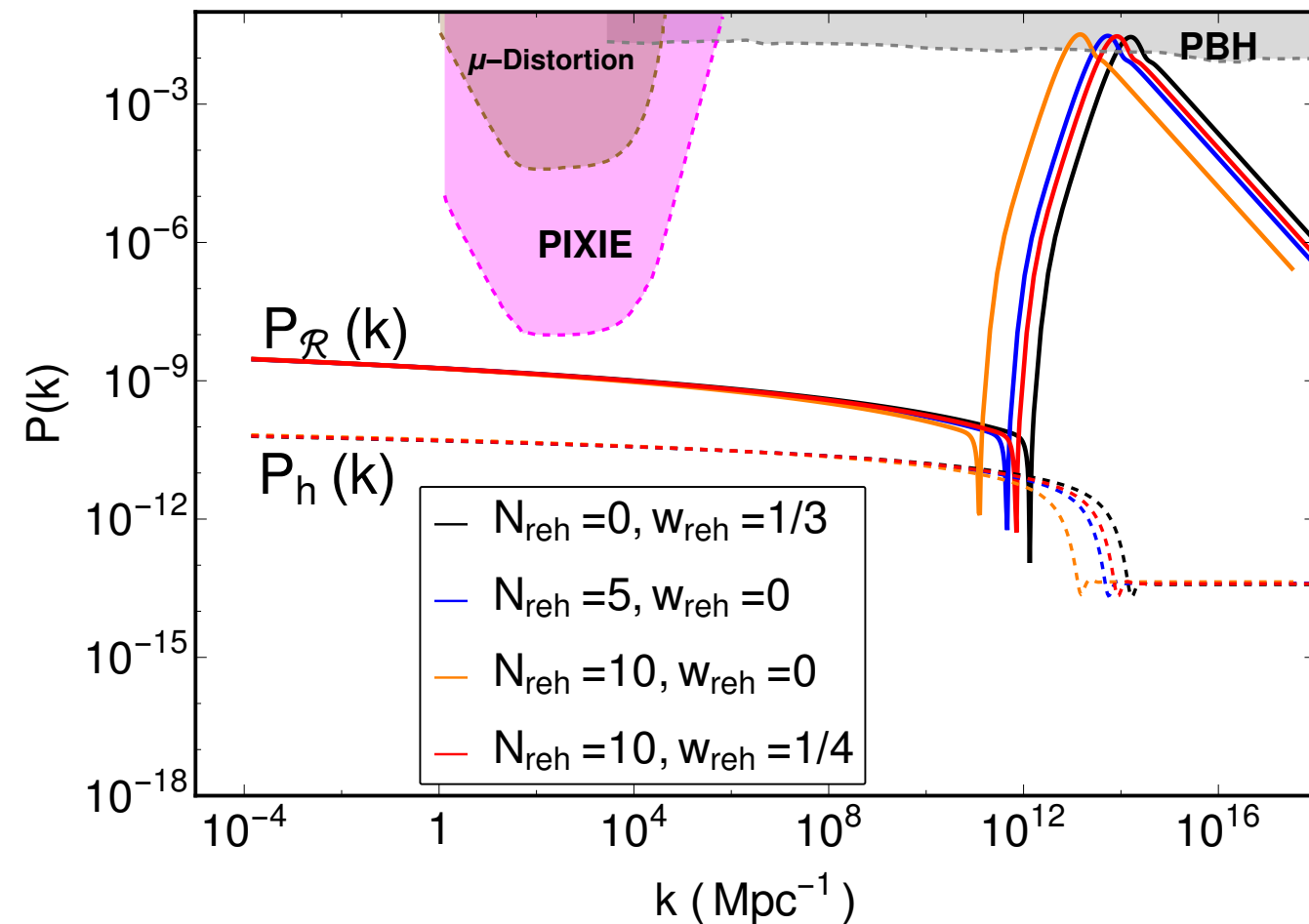
Non-gaussianities play very important role in PBH formation !

PBH mass fraction



N. Bhaumik & **RKJ**, JCAP 01, 037 (2020)

Effects of reheating — remapping of scales



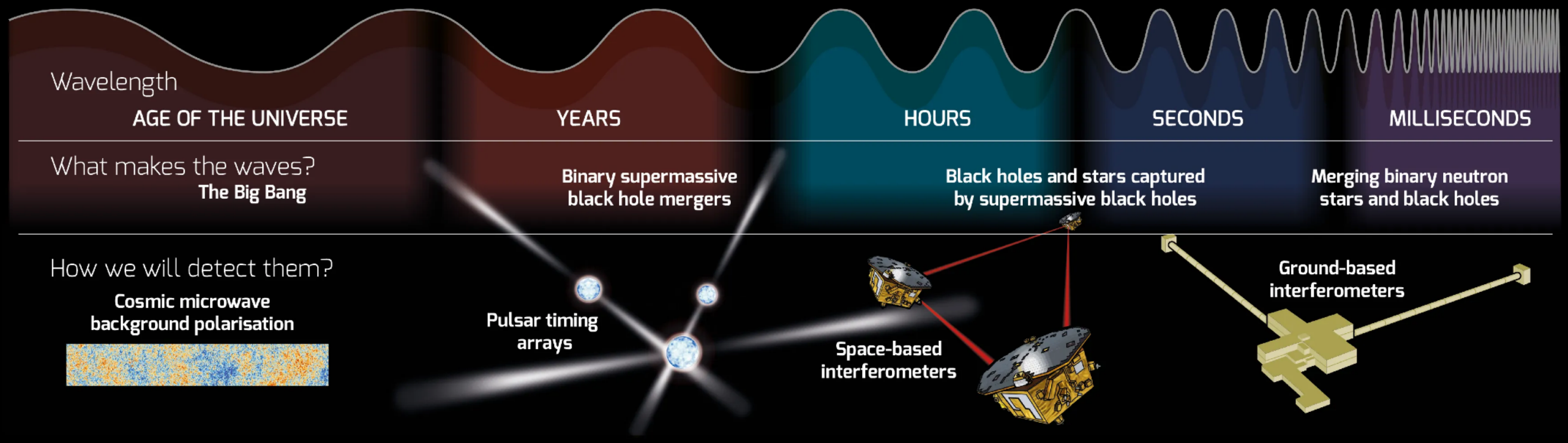
N. Bhaumik & **RKJ**, JCAP 01, 037 (2020)

*PBH observational imprints:
Induced secondary GWs*

GWs across the universe

THE GRAVITATIONAL WAVE SPECTRUM

The length of an observatory's 'baseline' affects its sensitivity to the gravitational wave spectrum. Ground-based observatories, such as LIGO, have a relatively short baseline and thus detect short wavelength events. Pulsar timing arrays have the longest 'baseline' and so are sensitive to longer wavelengths.



GWs are novel probes of different epochs of the universe

Induced secondary GWs

Tensor modes sourced by scalar perturbations

$$h''_{\mathbf{k}}(\tau) + 2\mathcal{H}h'_{\mathbf{k}}(\tau) + k^2 h_{\mathbf{k}}(\tau) = 4S_{\mathbf{k}}(\tau),$$

$$S_{\mathbf{k}} = \int \frac{d^3q}{(2\pi)^{3/2}} e_{ij}^{\lambda}(\mathbf{k}) q_i q_j \left[2\Phi_{\mathbf{q}}\Phi_{\mathbf{k}-\mathbf{q}} + (\mathcal{H}^{-1}\Phi'_{\mathbf{q}} + \Phi_{\mathbf{q}}) (\mathcal{H}^{-1}\Phi'_{\mathbf{k}-\mathbf{q}} + \Phi_{\mathbf{k}-\mathbf{q}}) \right].$$

$$\Phi_{\mathbf{k}}(\tau) = \frac{2}{3}\mathcal{T}(k\tau)\mathcal{R}(\mathbf{k}). \quad \mathcal{T}(k\tau) = \frac{9}{(k\tau)^2} \left[\frac{\sqrt{3}}{k\tau} \sin\left(\frac{k\tau}{\sqrt{3}}\right) - \cos\left(\frac{k\tau}{\sqrt{3}}\right) \right].$$

$$\frac{k^3}{2\pi^2} \left\langle h_{\mathbf{k}}^{\lambda}(\tau) h_{\mathbf{k}'}^{\lambda'}(\tau) \right\rangle = \delta_{\lambda\lambda'} \delta^3(\mathbf{k} + \mathbf{k}') \mathcal{P}_h(\tau, k),$$

$$\Omega_{\text{GW}}(\tau, k) \equiv \frac{1}{\rho_c} \frac{d\rho_{\text{GW}}}{d\ln k} = \frac{\rho_{\text{GW}}(\tau, k)}{\rho_{\text{tot}}(\tau)} = \frac{1}{24} \left(\frac{k}{\mathcal{H}} \right)^2 \overline{\mathcal{P}_h(\tau, k)},$$

Induced secondary GWs

$$\Omega_{\text{GW}}(\tau_0, k) h^2 \simeq 2.4 \times 10^{-5} \left(\frac{\Omega_{r,0} h^2}{4.0 \times 10^{-5}} \right) \left(\frac{k}{\mathcal{H}(\tau_f)} \right)^2 \int_{-\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}}^{\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}} dd \int_{\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}}^{\infty} ds \left[\frac{(d^2 - 1/3)(s^2 - 1/3)}{s^2 - d^2} \right]^2 \\ \times \mathcal{P}_{\mathcal{R}} \left(\frac{k\sqrt{3}}{2}(s+d) \right) \mathcal{P}_{\mathcal{R}} \left(\frac{k\sqrt{3}}{2}(s-d) \right) \left[\mathcal{I}_c^2(d, s) + \mathcal{I}_s^2(d, s) \right].$$

$$\mathcal{I}_c(d, s) = -36\pi \frac{(s^2 + d^2 - 2)^2}{(s^2 - d^2)^3} \theta(s - 1),$$

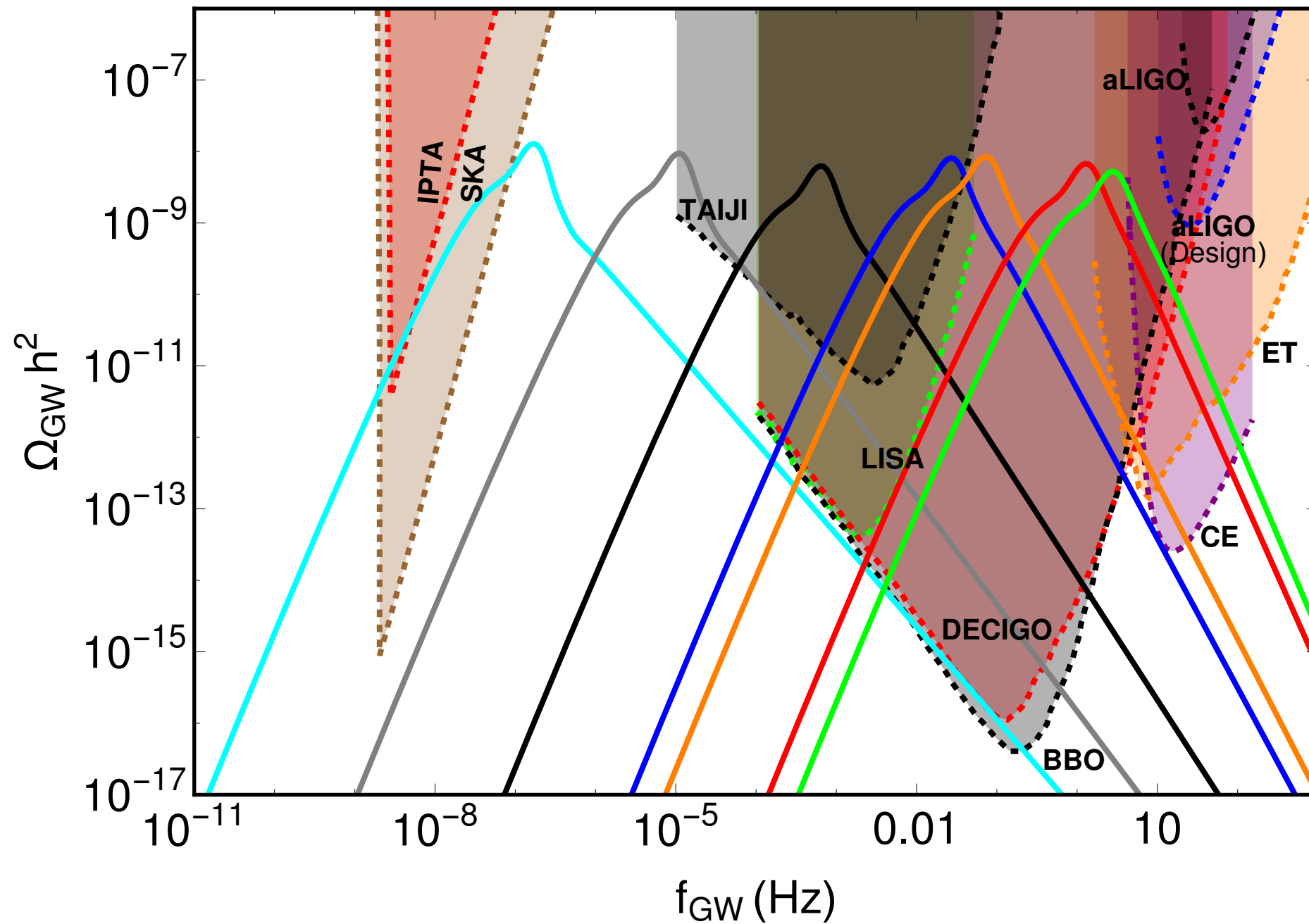
$$\mathcal{I}_s(d, s) = -36 \frac{(s^2 + d^2 - 2)}{(s^2 - d^2)^2} \left[\frac{(s^2 + d^2 - 2)}{(s^2 - d^2)} \log \frac{(1 - d^2)}{|s^2 - 1|} + 2 \right]$$

$$d = (u - v)/\sqrt{3}$$

$$v = p/k, \quad u = |\mathbf{k} - \mathbf{p}|/k$$

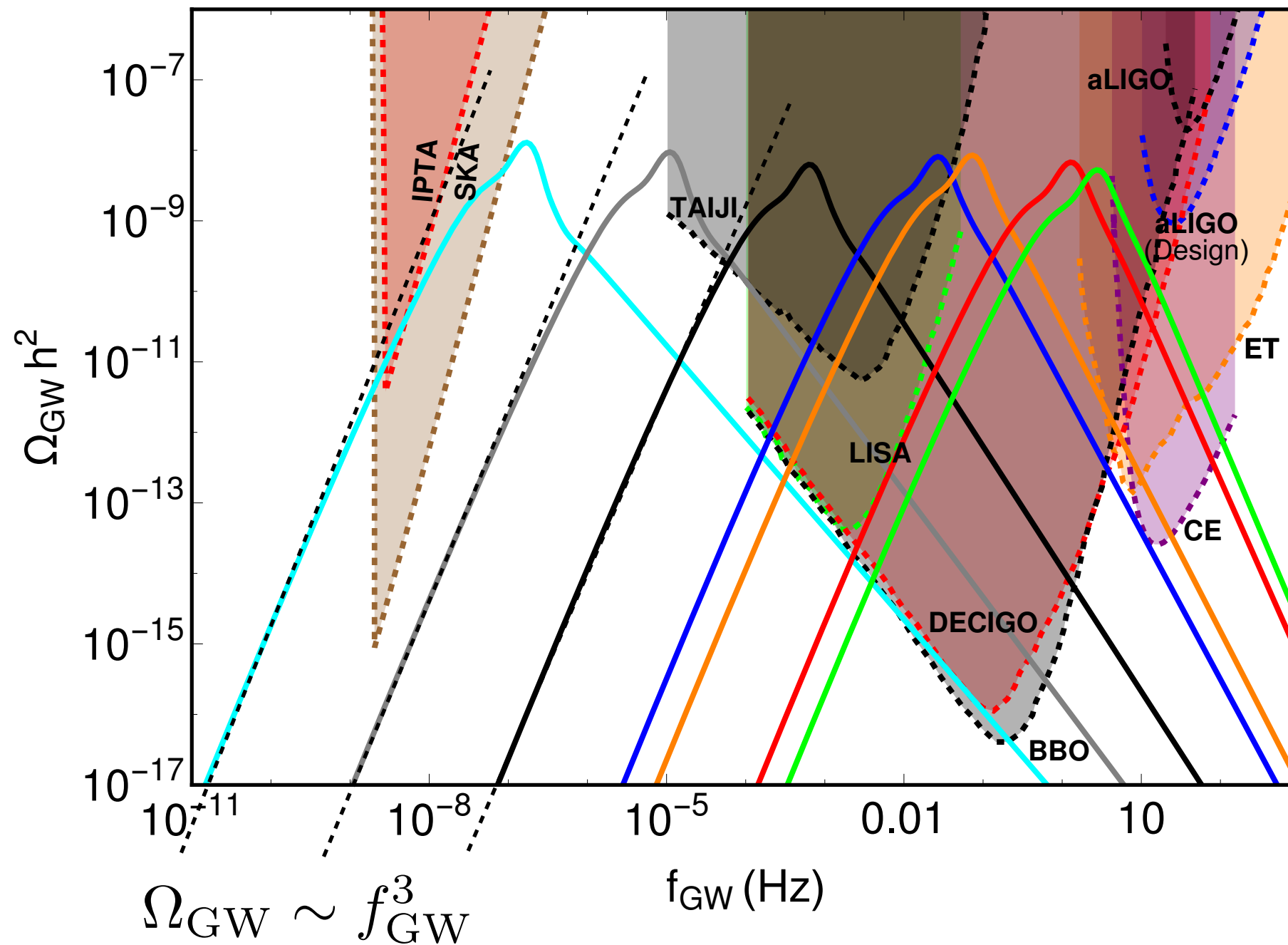
$$s = (u + v)/\sqrt{3},$$

Induced secondary GWs



N. Bhaumik & **RKJ**, Phys. Rev. D 104, 023531 (2021)

Induced secondary GWs



- A universal IR scaling of GW spectrum, Cai, Pi & Sasaki, 2019
- IR scaling with log corrections, Yuan, Chen & Huang, 2019

The ‘three’ peaks

An interesting and useful relation between the ‘three’ peaks

$$\left(\frac{M_{\text{PBH}}}{10^{17} \text{ g}}\right)^{-1/2} \simeq \frac{k}{2 \times 10^{14} \text{ Mpc}^{-1}} = \frac{f}{0.3 \text{ Hz}},$$



f_{PBH}



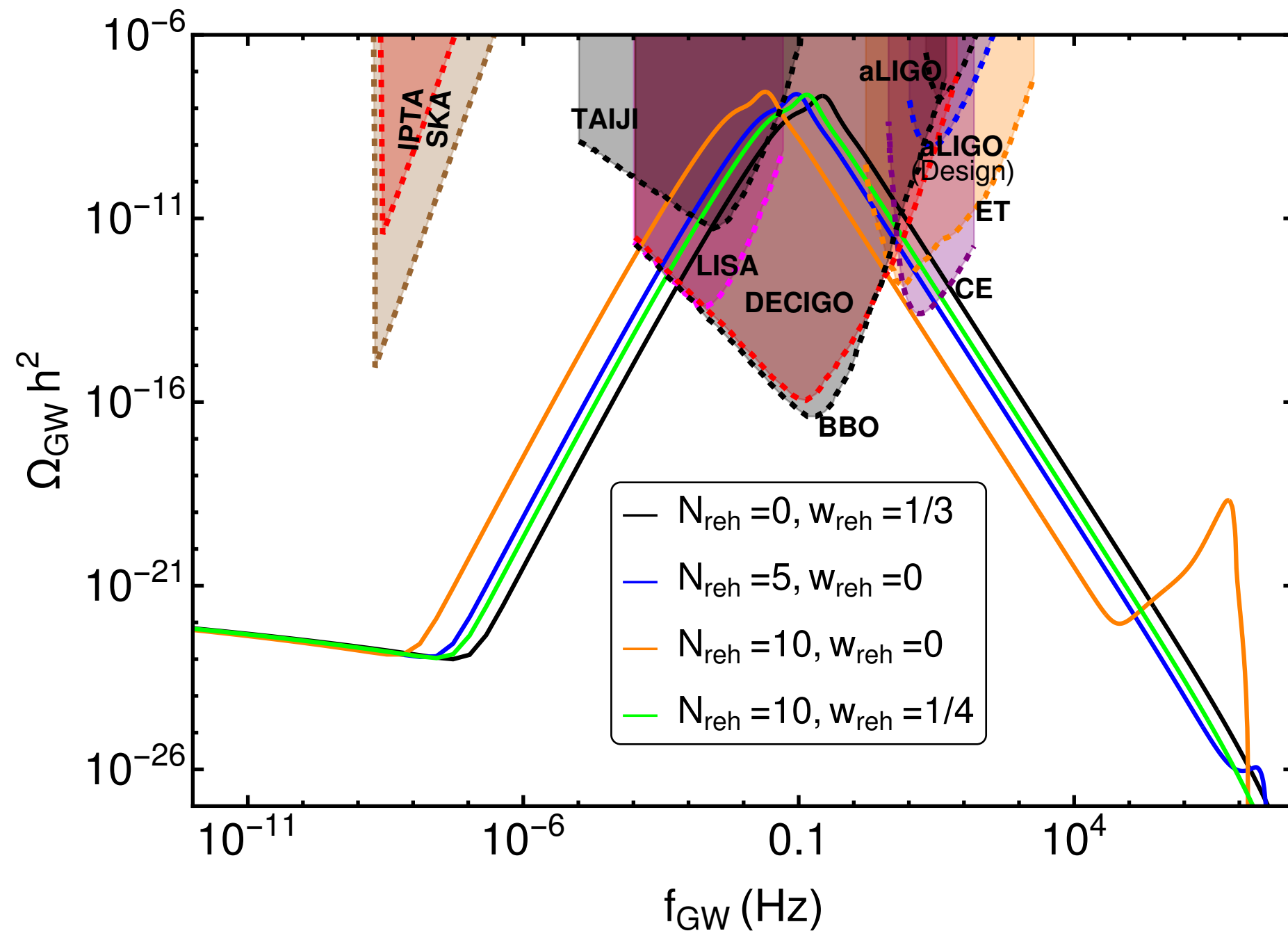
$P_{\mathcal{R}}$



Ω_{GW}

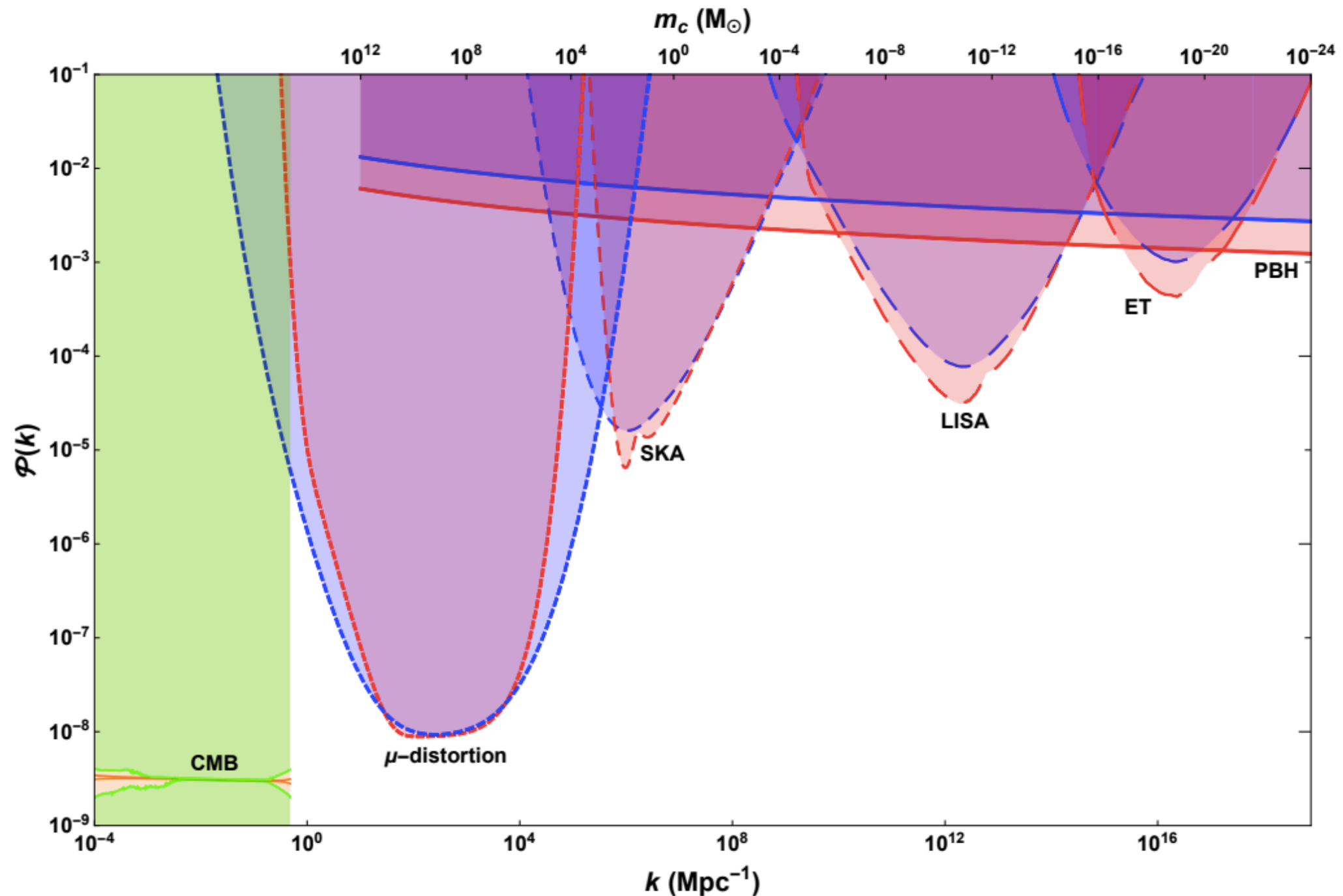
- LISA: $f \sim \text{mHz}$ $\rightarrow$ $k \sim 10^{12} \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$ $\rightarrow$ $M_{\text{PBH}} \sim 10^{-12} M_{\odot}$
- Advanced LIGO: $f \sim 30 \text{ Hz}$ $\rightarrow$ $M_{\text{PBH}} \sim 10^{13} \text{ g} \sim 10^{-20} M_{\odot}$

Induced secondary GWs — effects of reheating



N. Bhaumik & **RKJ**, Phys. Rev. D 104, 023531 (2021)

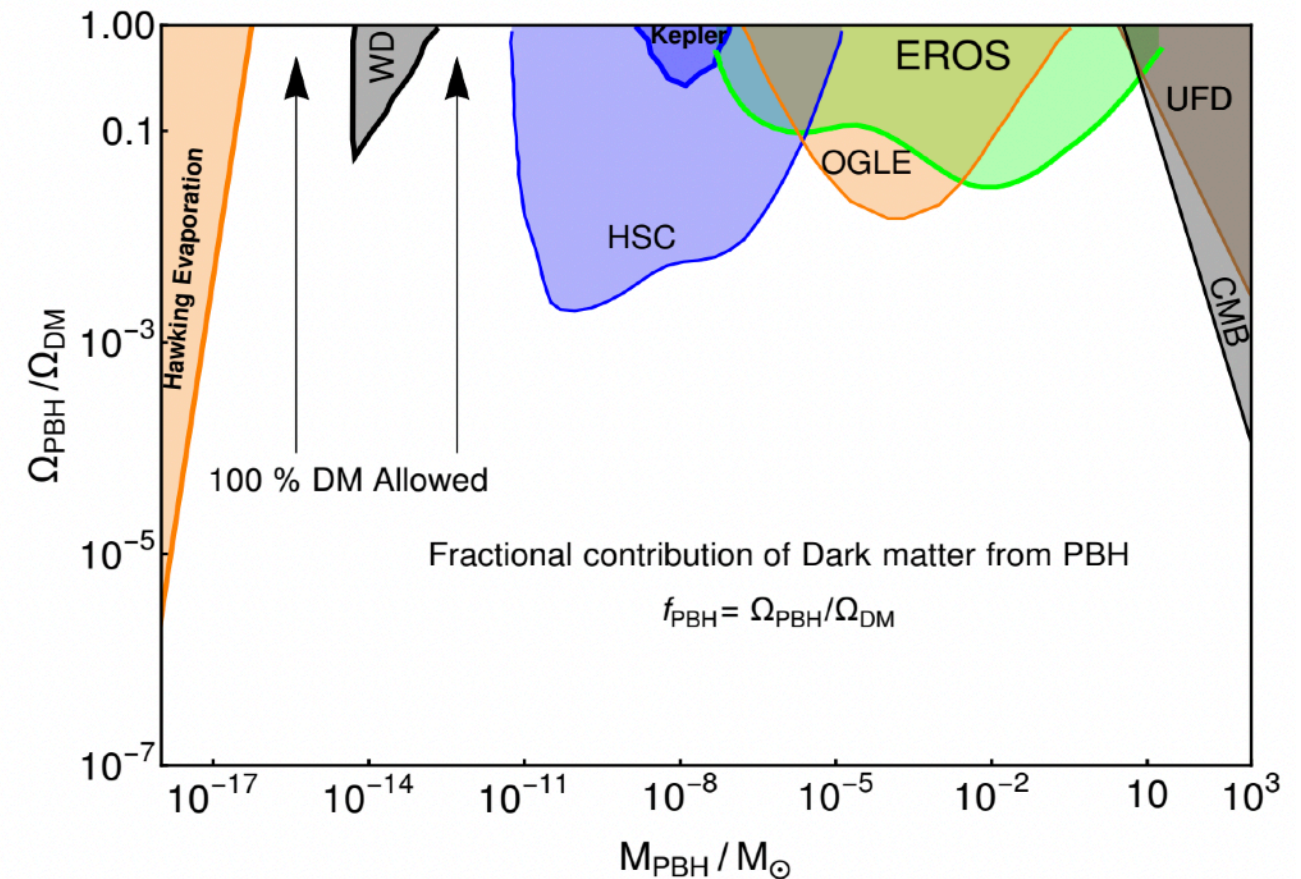
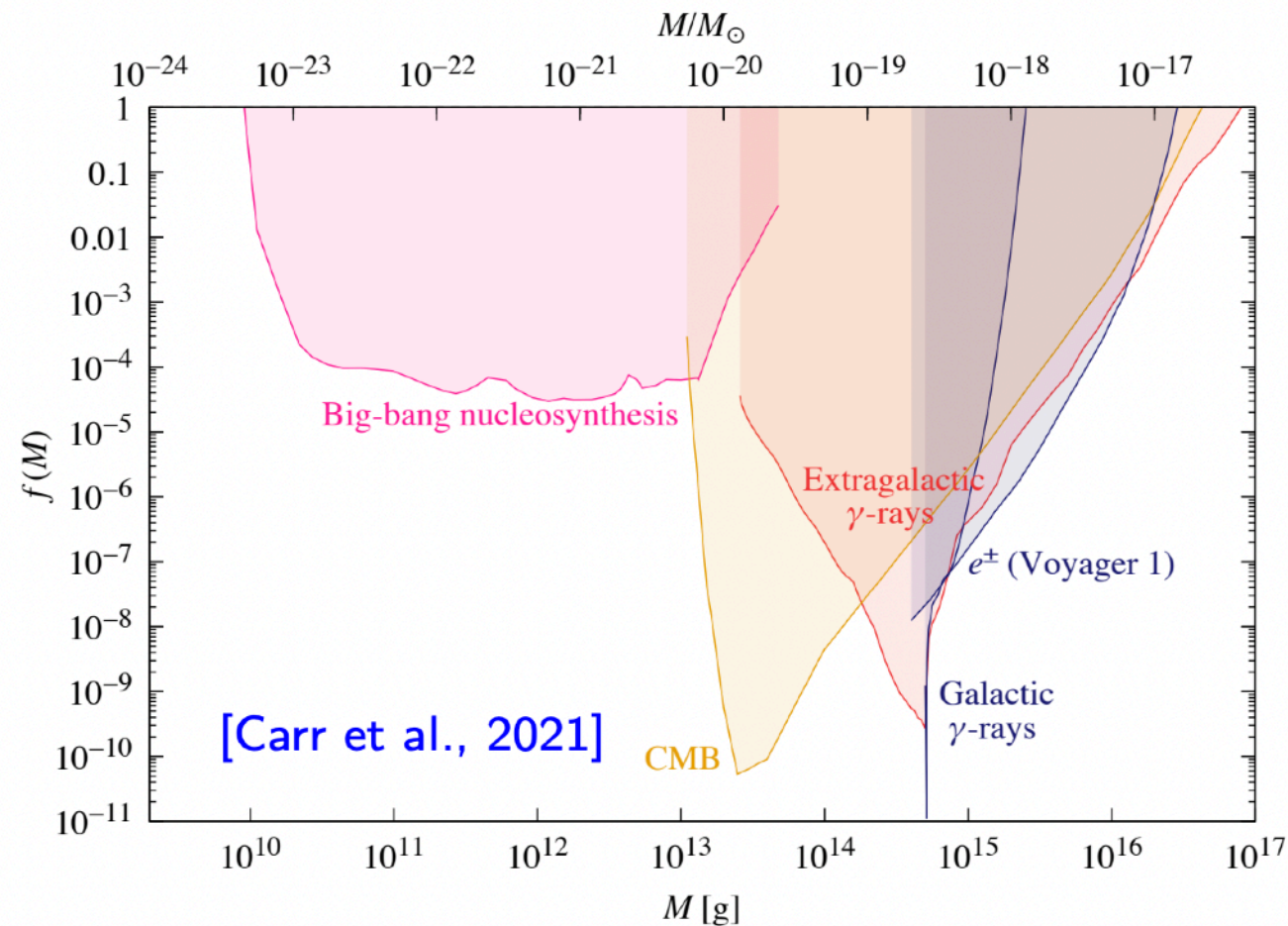
(future) constraints on small scales



Gow et.al., 2020

*Observational imprints of ultralight PBHs:
early domination and evaporation*

How to constrain imprints of ultralight PBHs ?



PBH with $M \leq 10^9 - 10^{10} \text{ g}$ completely evaporate by BBN hence remain unconstrained.

Ultralight PBHs — Hawking evaporation

- **Non-spinning PBH**

$$T_{\text{PBH}}^{\text{S}} = \frac{M_{\text{Pl}}^2}{M_{\text{PBH}}} \simeq 1.053 \text{ GeV} \left(\frac{10^{13} \text{ g}}{M_{\text{PBH}}} \right)$$

$$\Delta t_{\text{PBH}}^{\text{S}} \approx \frac{160 M_{\text{PBH}}^3}{\pi \mathcal{G} \overline{g}_{*,H} M_{\text{Pl}}^4}$$

- **Spinning PBH**

$$T_{\text{PBH}} = \frac{M_{\text{Pl}}^2}{M_{\text{PBH}}} \left(\frac{2\sqrt{1-a_*^2}}{1+\sqrt{1-a_*^2}} \right)$$

$$a_* = JM_{\text{Pl}}^2/M_{\text{PBH}}^2$$

$$\frac{dM(t)}{dt} = -\varepsilon(M(t), a(t)) \frac{M_{\text{Pl}}^4}{M(t)^2},$$

$$\Delta t_{\text{PBH}} = \Delta t_{\text{PBH}}^{\text{S}} \mathcal{F}(a_*, M_{\text{PBH}})$$

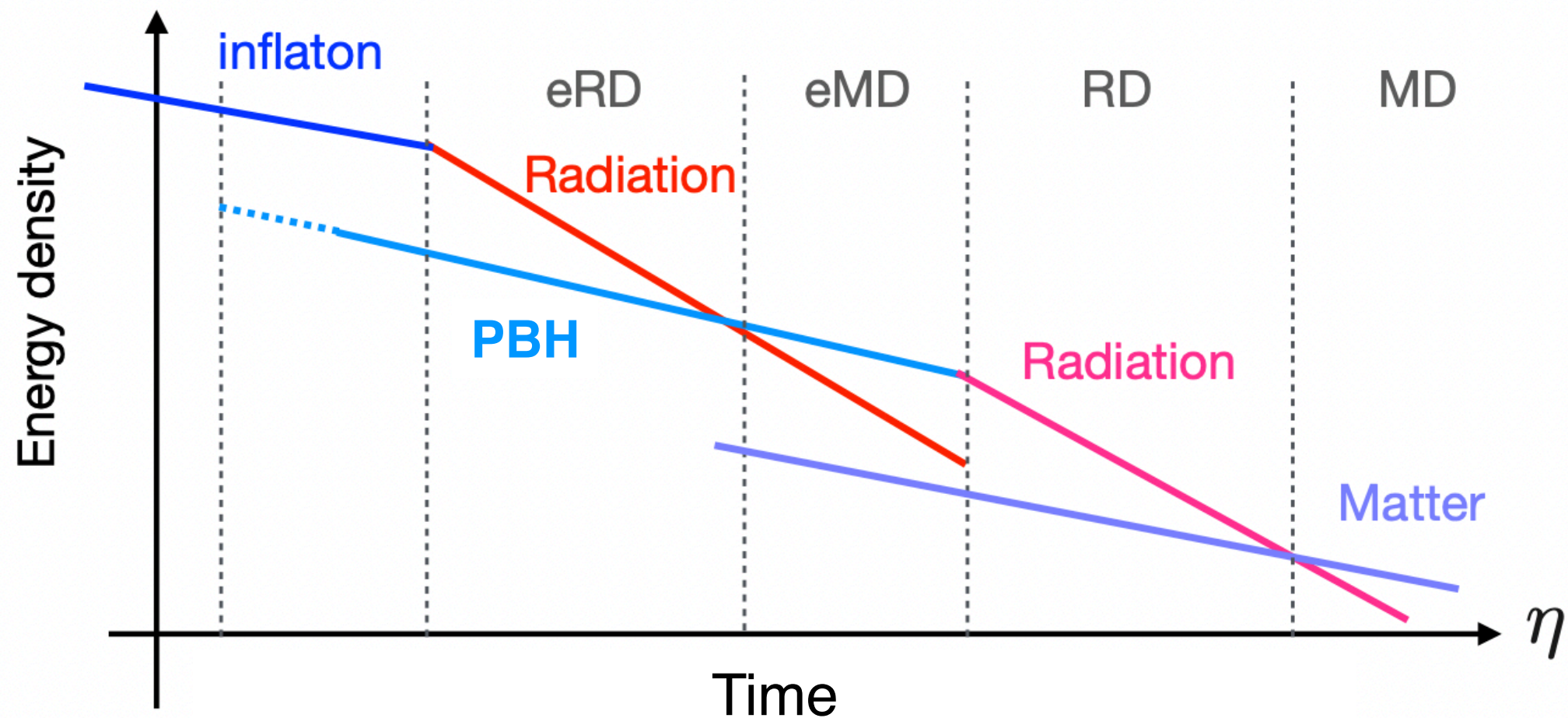
$$\frac{da(t)}{dt} = -a(t) \left[\gamma(M(t), a(t)) - 2\varepsilon(M(t), a(t)) \right] \frac{M_{\text{Pl}}^4}{M(t)^3}$$

BlackHawk

N. Bhaumik, A. Ghoshal, **RKJ** & M. Lewicki, JHEP 05, 169 (2023)

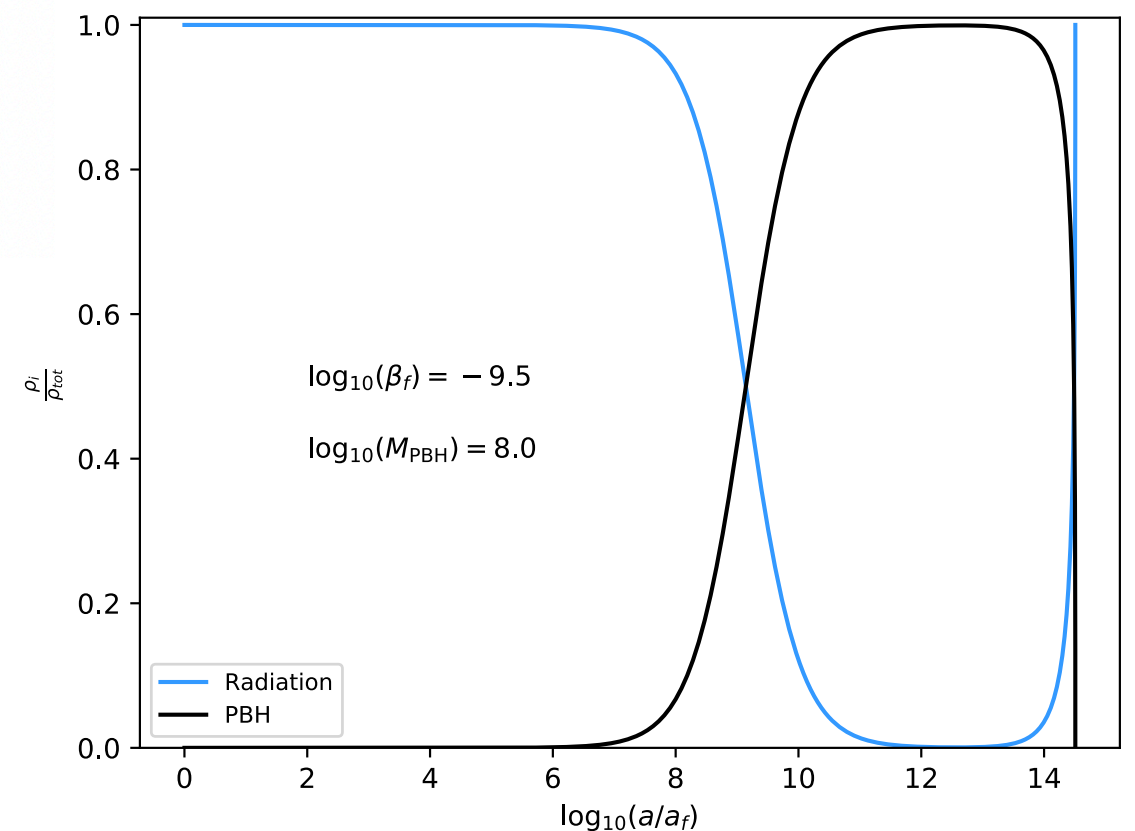
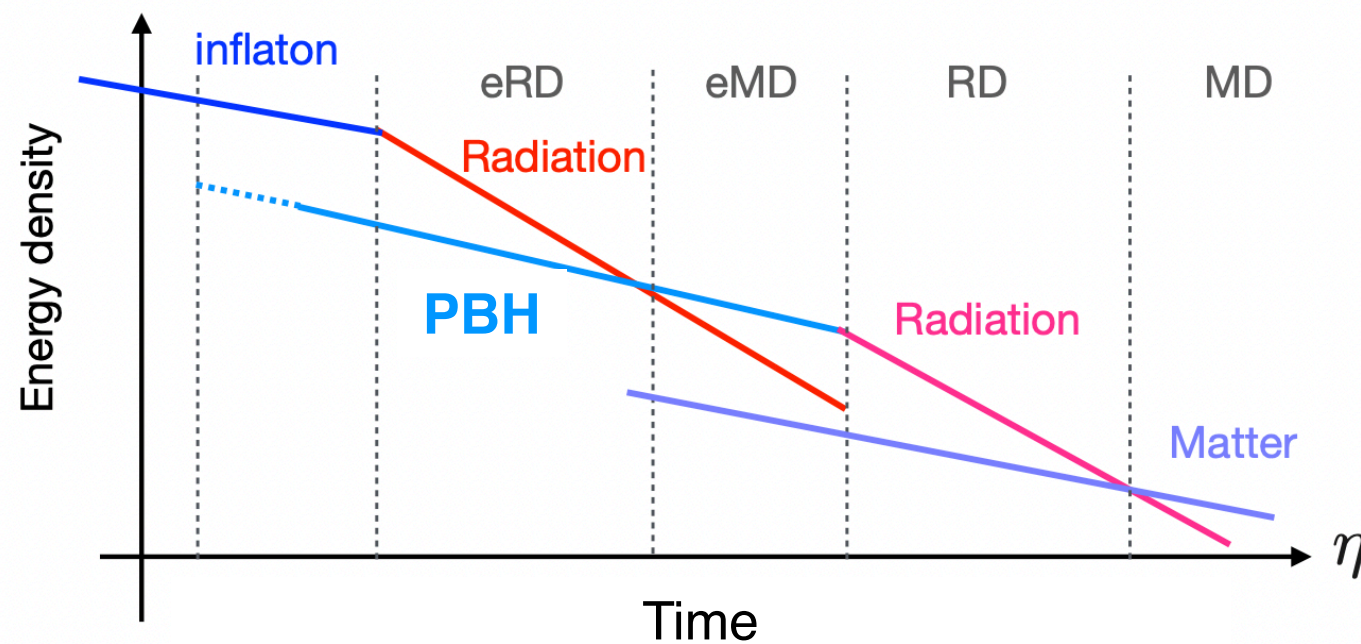
Ultralight PBHs — early matter dominated epoch

$$a_{eMD}(\tau) = \frac{a_f(\tau + \tau_m)^2}{4\tau_f\tau_m}, \quad a_{RD}(\tau) = \frac{a_f(\tau_r + \tau_m)(2\tau - \tau_r + \tau_m)}{4\tau_f\tau_m} \simeq a(\tau_r) \left(2\frac{\tau}{\tau_r} - 1 \right)$$



Ultralight PBHs — early matter dominated epoch

$$a_{eMD}(\tau) = \frac{a_f(\tau + \tau_m)^2}{4\tau_f\tau_m}, \quad a_{RD}(\tau) = \frac{a_f(\tau_r + \tau_m)(2\tau - \tau_r + \tau_m)}{4\tau_f\tau_m} \simeq a(\tau_r) \left(2\frac{\tau}{\tau_r} - 1 \right)$$



Ultralight PBHs — Contributions to perturbations

- Poisson Distribution of PBHs

$$\mathcal{P}_{\text{PBH}}(k, \tau_r) = \frac{2}{3\pi} \left(\frac{k}{k_{\text{UV}}} \right)^3 \left(5 + \frac{4}{9} \frac{k^2}{k_m^2} \right)^{-2}$$

- Cutoff for scales below PBH mean distance

$$k_{\text{UV}} = \gamma^{-1/3} \beta^{1/3} k_f$$

- Finite duration of PBH domination (Non-linearity bound)

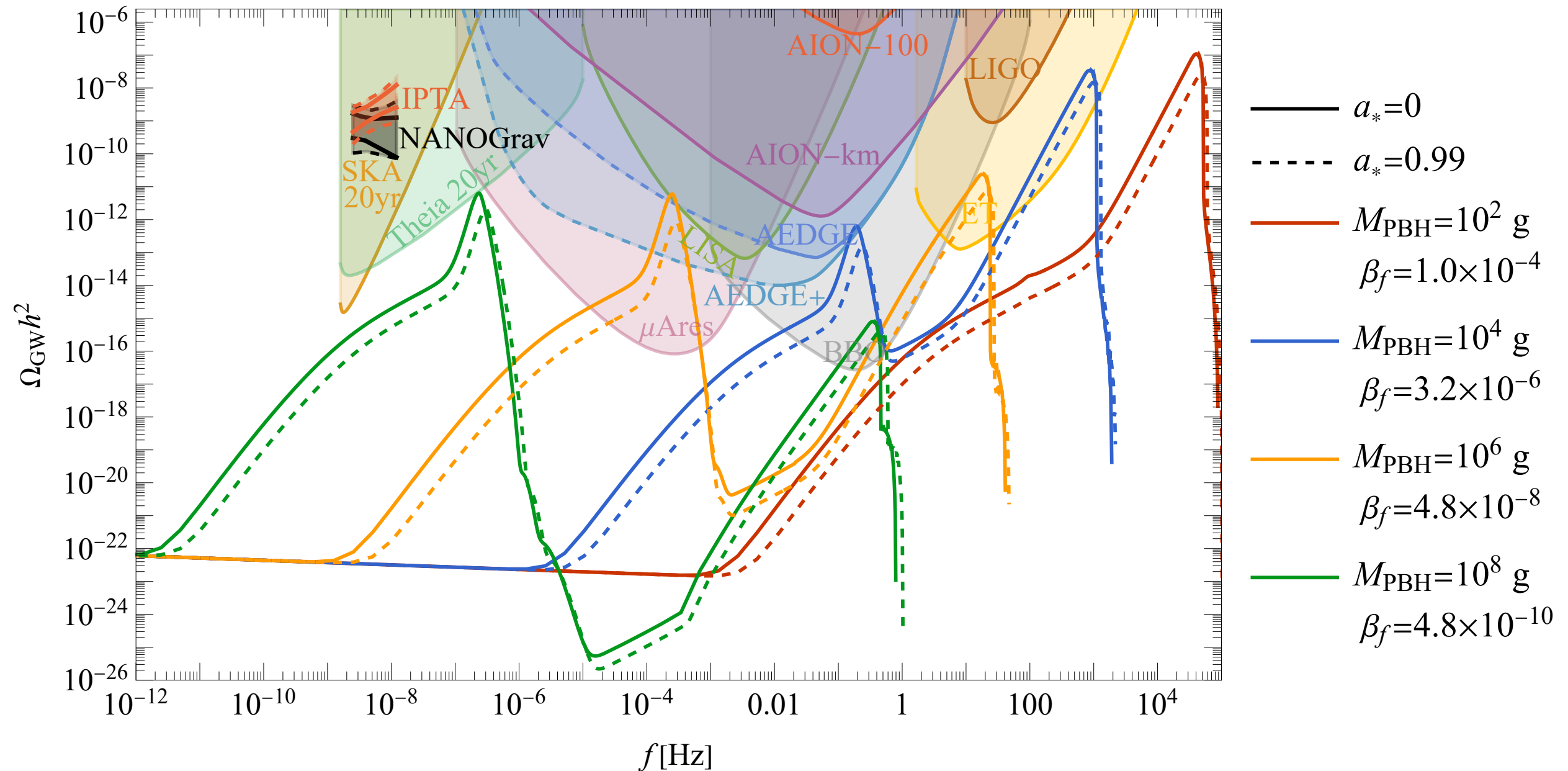
$$\mathcal{P}_{\text{infl}}(k, \tau_r) = A_s \left(\frac{k}{k_p} \right)^{n_s-1} \theta_H(k_m - k)$$

$$\Phi(k, \tau_r) = \Phi_{\text{infl}}(k, \tau_r) + \Phi_{\text{PBH}}(k, \tau_r)$$

$$\mathcal{P}(k, \tau_r) = \mathcal{P}_{\text{infl}}(k, \tau_r) + \mathcal{P}_{\text{PBH}}(k, \tau_r)$$

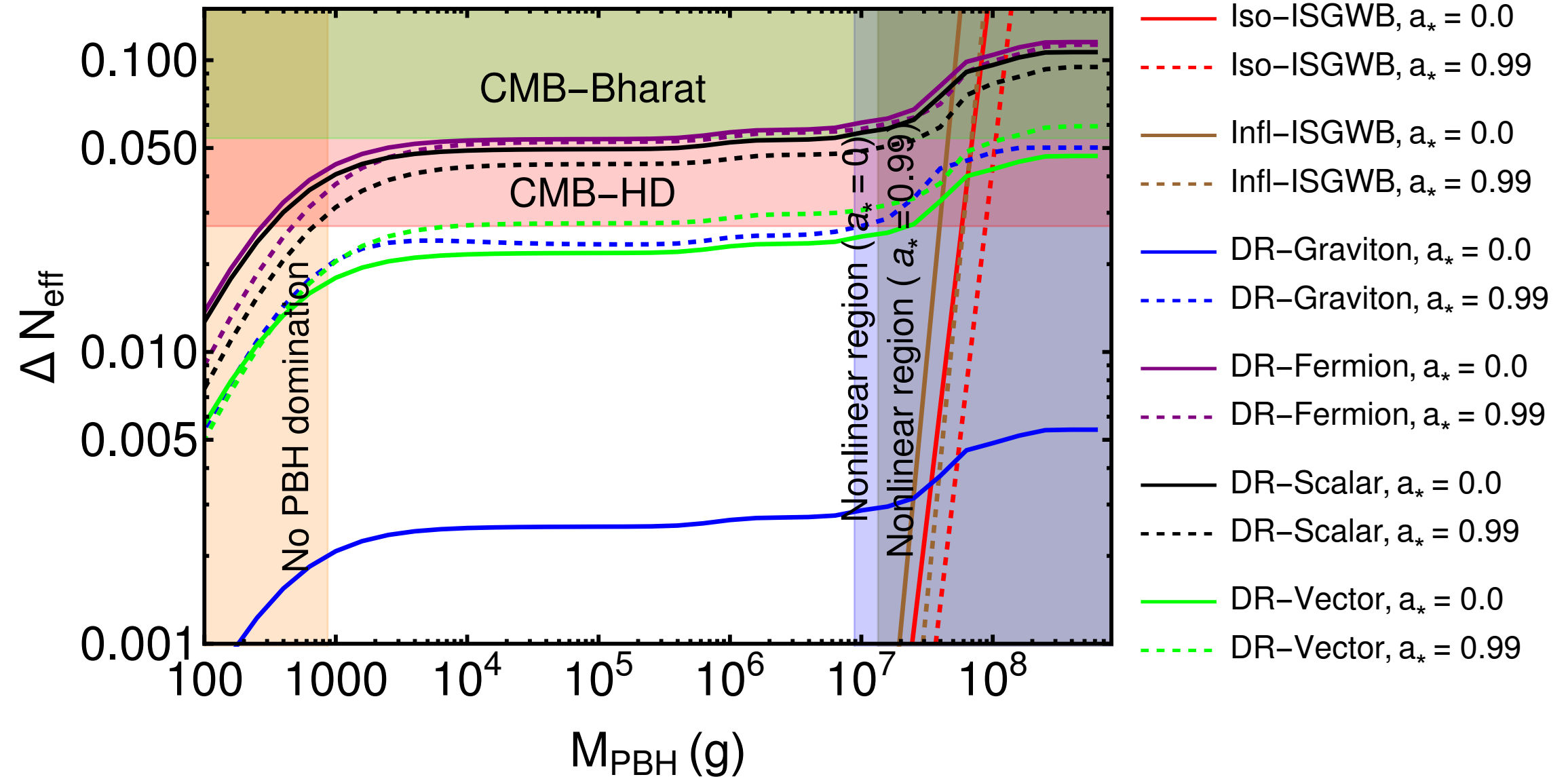
Papanikolaou et. al. (2021), Domenech et. al. (2021)

Doubly peaked GWs — with and without PBH spin



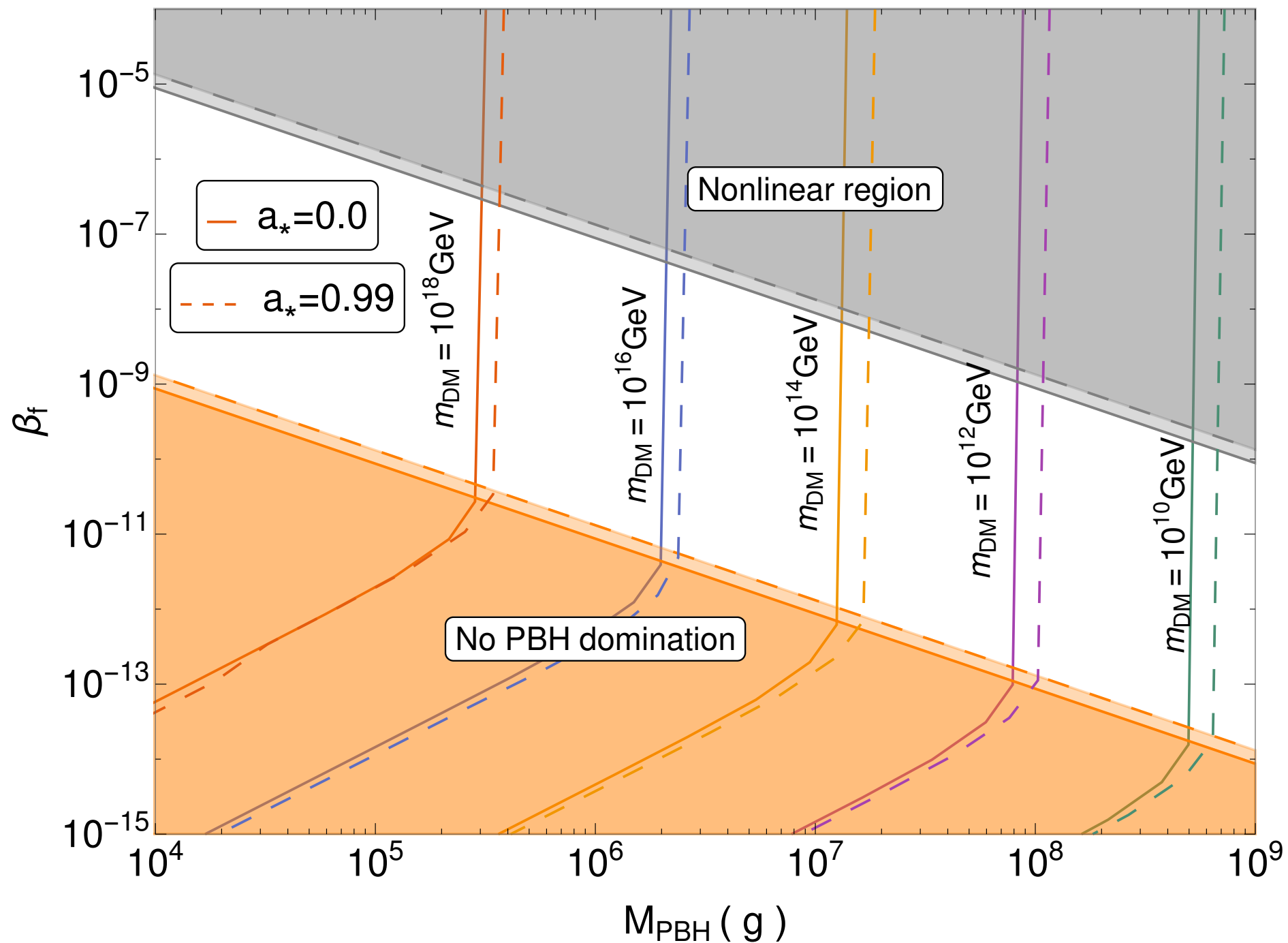
N. Bhaumik, A. Ghoshal, **RKJ** & M. Lewicki, JHEP 05, 169 (2023)

Extra relativistic dof from PBH evaporation



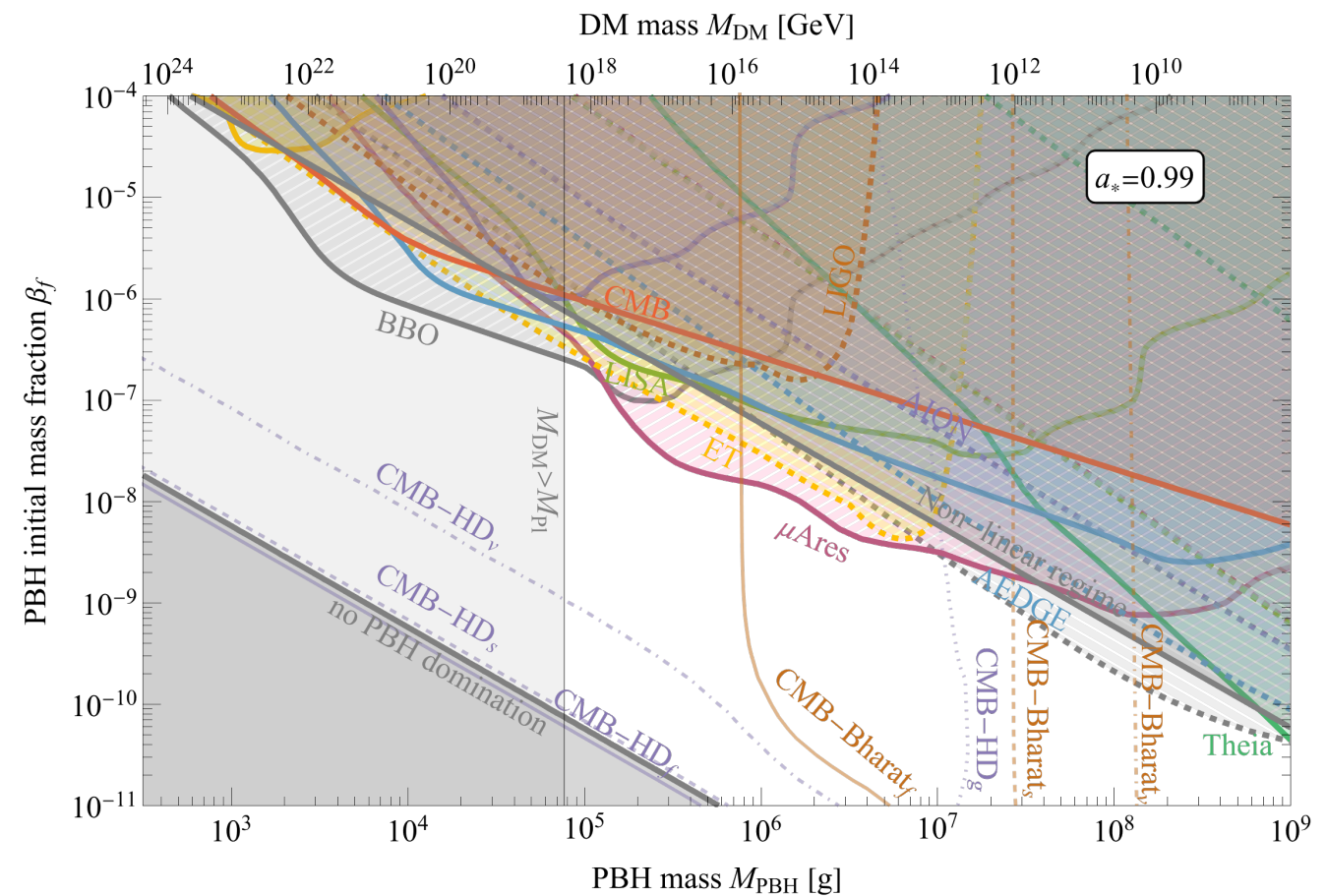
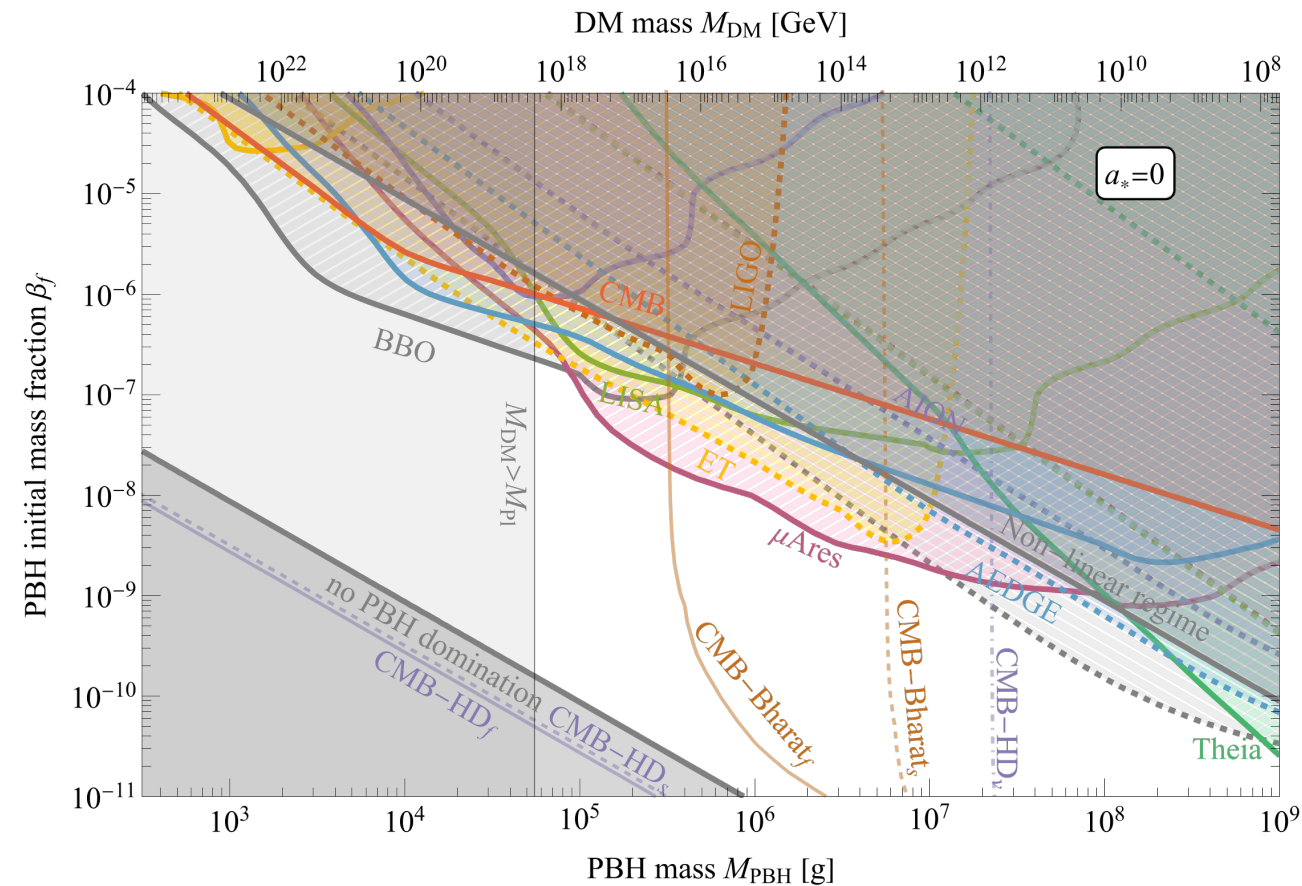
N. Bhaumik, A. Ghoshal, **RKJ** & M. Lewicki, JHEP 05, 169 (2023)

Heavy dark matter from PBH evaporation



N. Bhaumik, A. Ghoshal, **RKJ** & M. Lewicki, JHEP 05, 169 (2023)

Future GWs and CMB complementarity



N. Bhaumik, A. Ghoshal, **RKJ** & M. Lewicki, JHEP 05, 169 (2023)

*PBH, stochastic GWs and Pulsar
Timing Array (PTA) detection*

Stochastic GWs — PTA detection

THE ASTROPHYSICAL JOURNAL LETTERS, 951:L11 (56pp), 2023 July 1

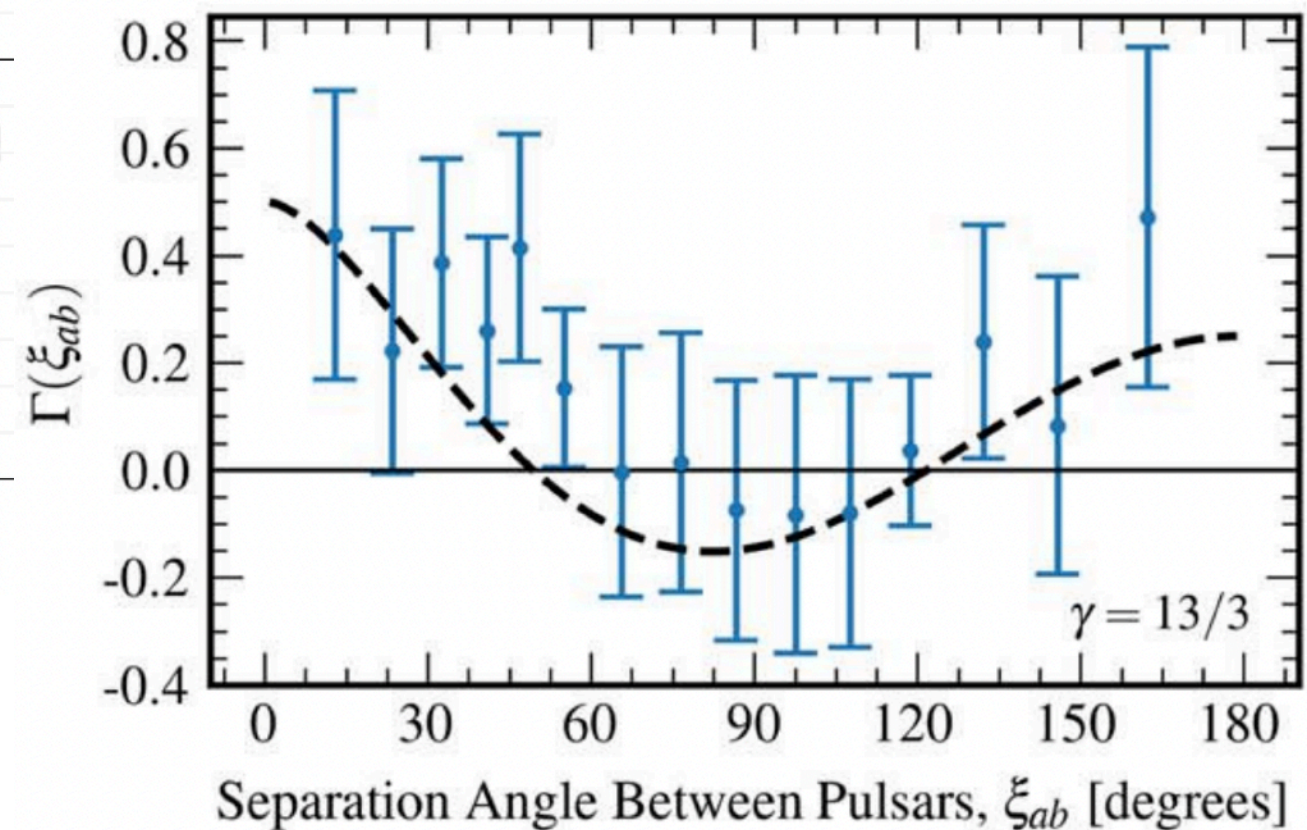
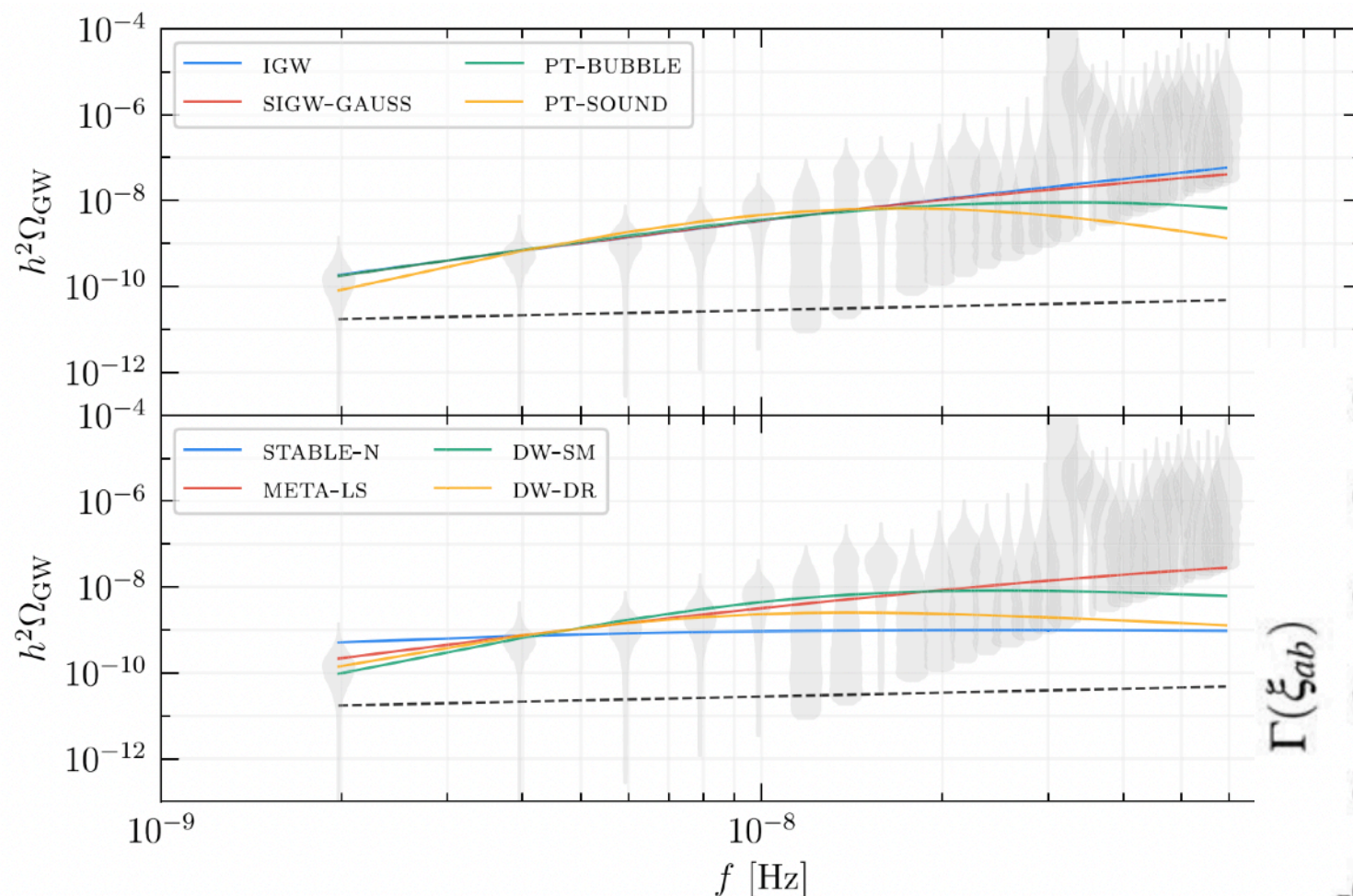
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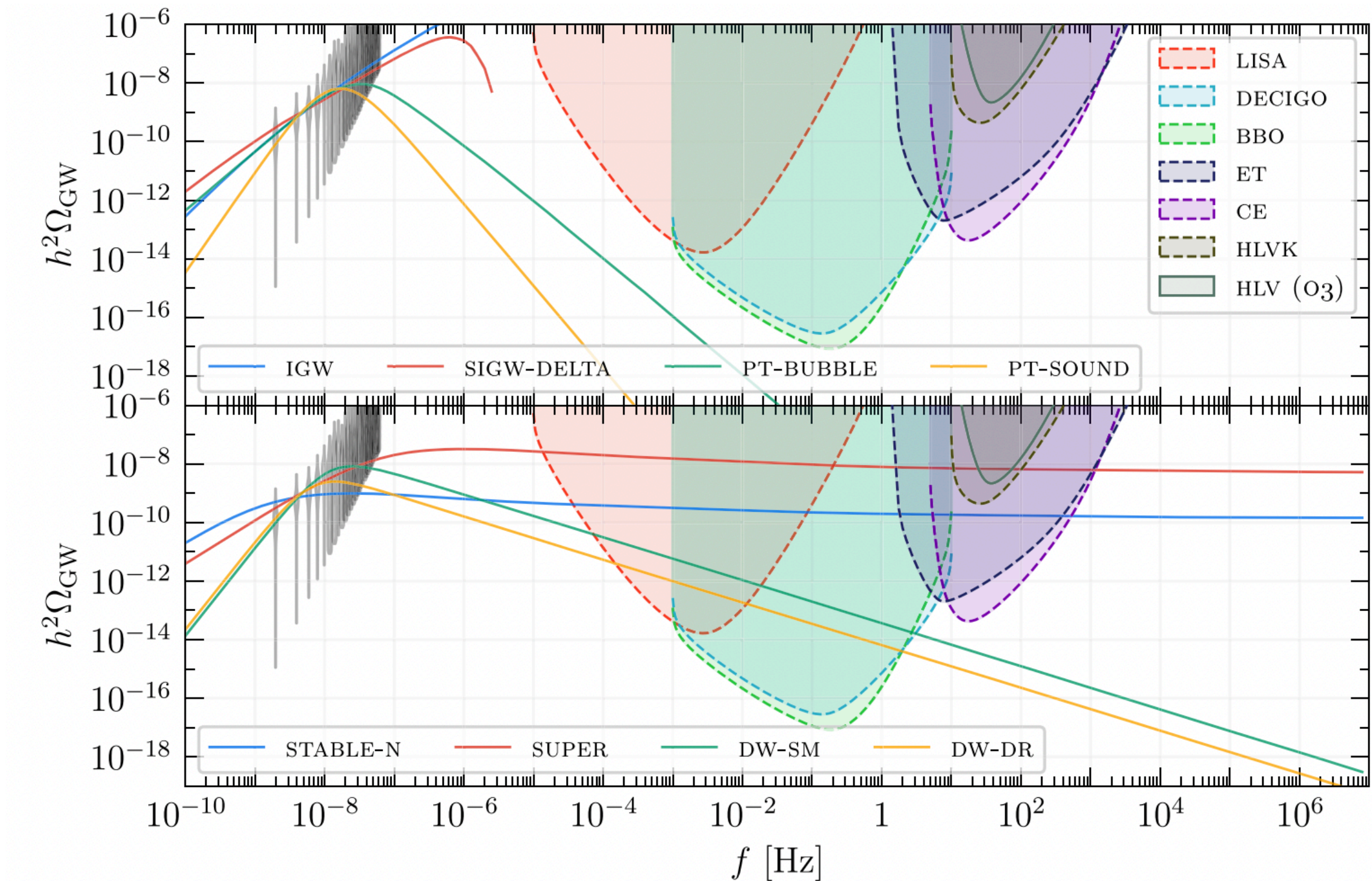
<https://doi.org/10.3847/2041-8213/acdc91>



The NANOGrav 15 yr Data Set: Search for Signals from New Physics



Stochastic GWs — PTA detection

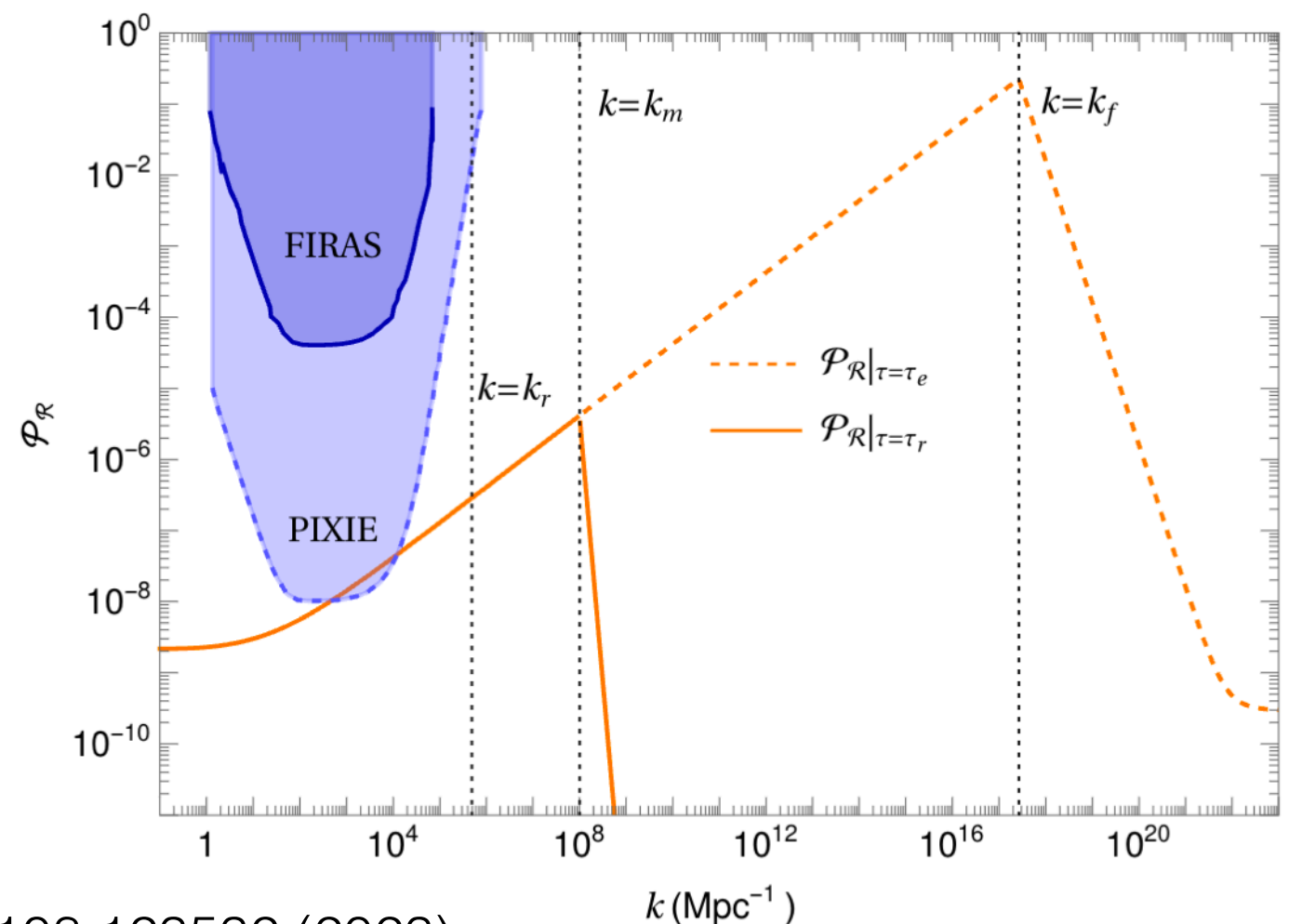


Stochastic GWs from PBHs — PTA signal

$$\mathcal{P}_{\mathcal{R}} = \underbrace{A_s \left(\frac{k}{k_p} \right)^{n_s-1}}_{\text{CMB scales}} + A_0 \underbrace{\begin{cases} \left(\frac{k}{k_{\text{pk}}} \right)^{n_0-1} & k \leq k_{\text{pk}} \\ \left(\frac{k}{k_{\text{pk}}} \right)^{-2} & k \geq k_{\text{pk}} \end{cases}}_{\text{PTA scales}}$$

CMB
scales

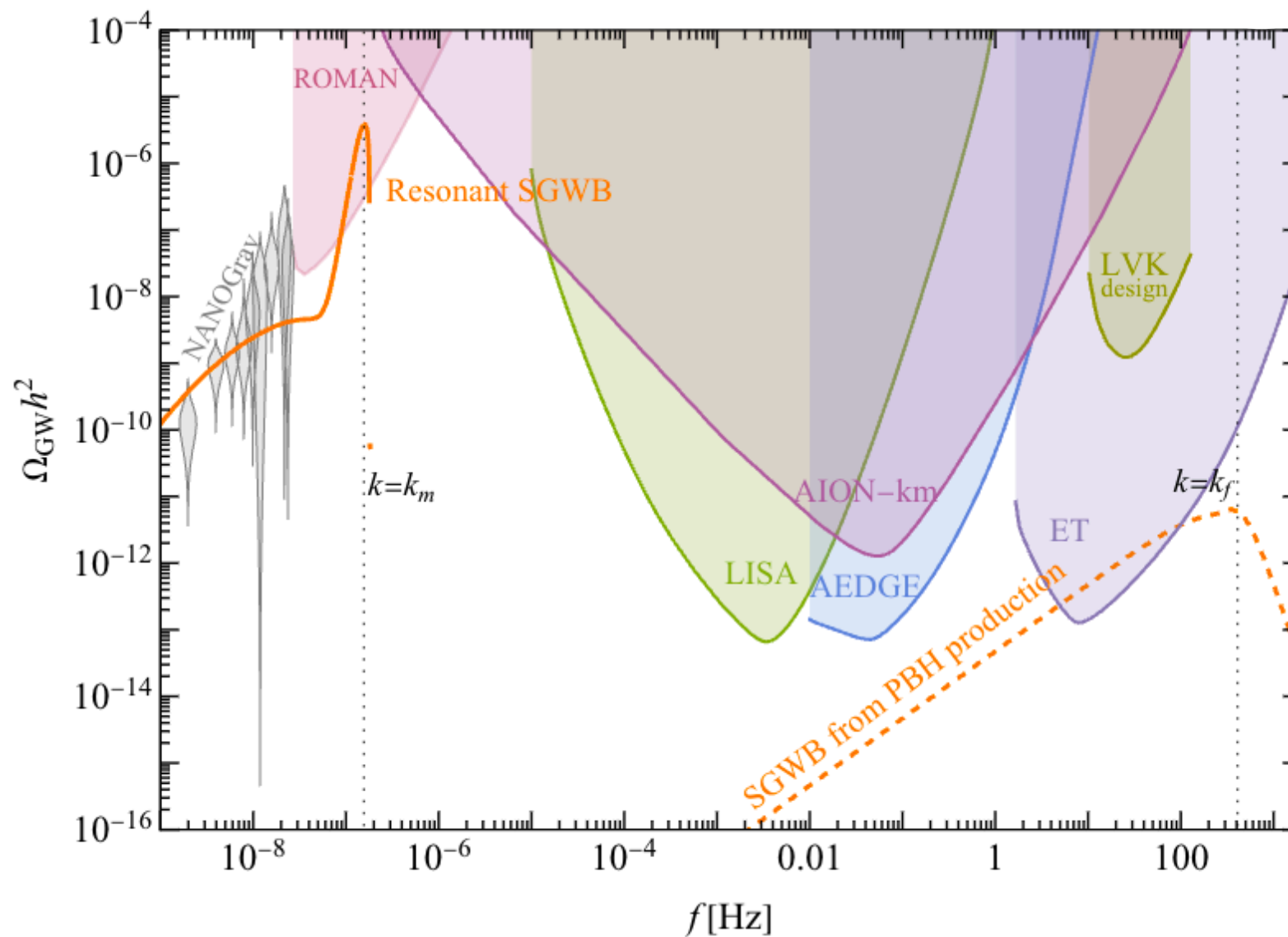
PTA
scales



N. Bhaumik, **RKJ** and M. Lewicki, Phys. Rev. D 108,123532 (2023)

Stochastic GWs from PBHs — PTA signal

$$\Omega_{\text{GW}}(\tau, k) = \frac{1}{6} \int_0^\infty dv \int_{|1-v|}^{1+v} du \left(\frac{4v^2 - (1 + v^2 - u^2)^2}{4uv} \right)^2 \times \bar{\mathcal{I}}^2(v, u, x) \mathcal{P}_{\mathcal{R}}(kv) \mathcal{P}_{\mathcal{R}}(ku)$$



N. Bhaumik, **RKJ** and M. Lewicki, Phys. Rev. D 108,123532 (2023)

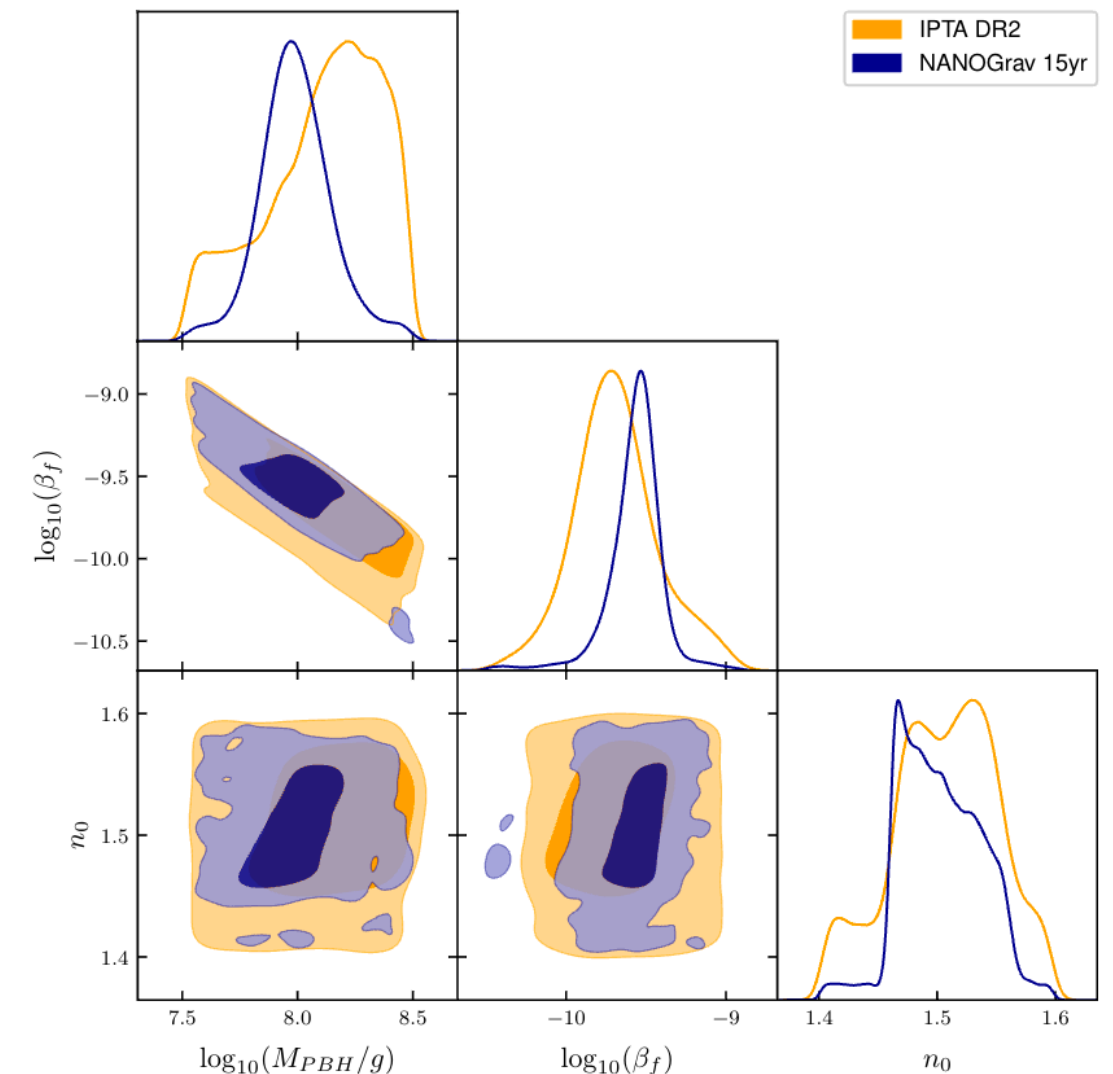
Stochastic GWs from PBHs — PTA signal

Bayesian analysis using PTArcade

$$\text{BF}_{Y,X} \equiv \mathcal{P}(\mathcal{D}|Y) / \mathcal{P}(\mathcal{D}|X),$$

Model	Parameters	Posterior mean	
		NG15	IPTA2
Ultra-low mass PBH model	$\log_{10}(\frac{M_{\text{PBH}}}{1g})$	$7.99^{+0.13}_{-0.15}$	$8.11^{+0.35}_{-0.12}$
	$\log_{10}(\beta_f)$	$-9.57^{+0.15}_{-0.11}$	$-9.69^{+0.22}_{-0.28}$
	n_0	$1.503^{+0.025}_{-0.042}$	$1.507^{+0.047}_{-0.040}$

Model X	Model Y	$\text{BF}_{Y,X}$	
		NG15	IPTA2
SMBHB	Ultra-low mass PBHs	18.00 ± 1.75	3.31 ± 0.09



N. Bhaumik, **RKJ** and M. Lewicki, Phys. Rev. D 108,123532 (2023)

Stochastic GWs from PBHs — PTA signal

Other observational constraints

- **PBH evaporation bound:** Depending on initial PBH abundance and mass range, PBH can either dominate the universe briefly or evaporate before they can dominate. We set $\tau_{\text{rat}} \gg 1$ to avoid the parameter region where PBHs evaporate before they can dominate.
- **ΔN_{eff} bound:** GWs generated before BBN act as an extra relativistic component, which both BBN and CMB observations severely constrain in terms of the effective number of neutrinos, ΔN_{eff} [94, 95], thereby restricting our parameter space,

$$\Omega_{\text{GW}} h^2|_{\text{peak}} \lesssim 6.9 \times 10^{-6}. \quad (14)$$

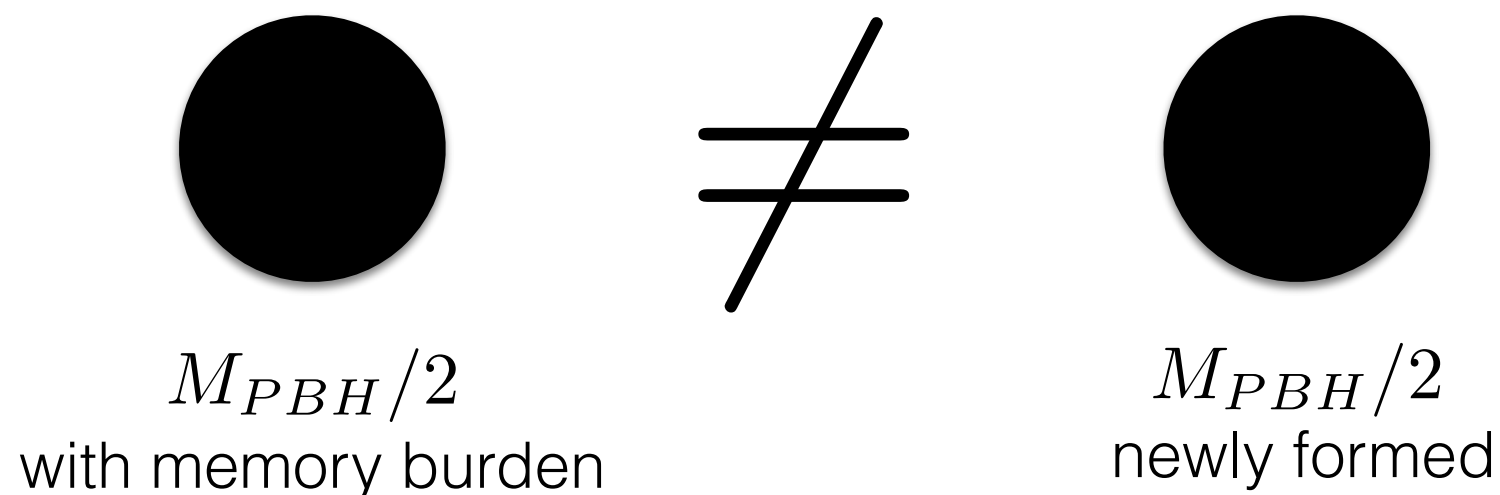
- **Bound from CMB scales:** We limit our parameter search to the region where the scalar spectrum is unaffected at CMB scales. We ensure that at $k = 1 \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$,

$$A_s \left(\frac{k}{k_p} \right)^{n_s-1} \geq A_0 \left(\frac{k}{k_{\text{pk}}} \right)^{n_0-1}. \quad (15)$$

*PBH evaporation and the
memory burden effect*

Memory burden effect and its implications

- Semiclassical description of Hawking evaporation can not hold over the entire black hole lifetime
- Quantum backreaction must be taken into account through memory burden effect
- Semiclassical formalism of Hawking evaporation breaks down at the latest by the time a black hole loses half of its mass due to Hawking evaporation
- The gapless microscopic energy states at the start of Hawking evaporation, allowing a maximal storage capacity of information, can no longer stay gapless after the mass of the black hole reduces significantly from its initial value.



Dvali et. al. (2020), Dvali et. al. (2024), Alexandre et. al. (2024)

Memory burden effect and its implications

- What are the imprints of memory burden effect on the induced GW spectrum?
- Can non-trivial reheating mimic these signatures?



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Memory burden effect mimics reheating signatures on SGWB from ultra-low mass PBH domination

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and Marek Lewicki ^e

Memory burden effect and its implications

$$\frac{dM}{dt} = -\frac{\pi \mathcal{G} g_{*,H} M_{\text{Pl}}^4}{480 M^2} \begin{cases} 1 & \text{for } M > q M_{\text{PBH}} \\ S^{-n}(M) & \text{for } M < q M_{\text{PBH}} \end{cases}$$

$S(M) = M^2 / 2 M_{\text{Pl}}^2$: mass dependent entropy of PBH

Memory burden effects can slow down the evaporation of a black hole, thus prolonging its lifetime

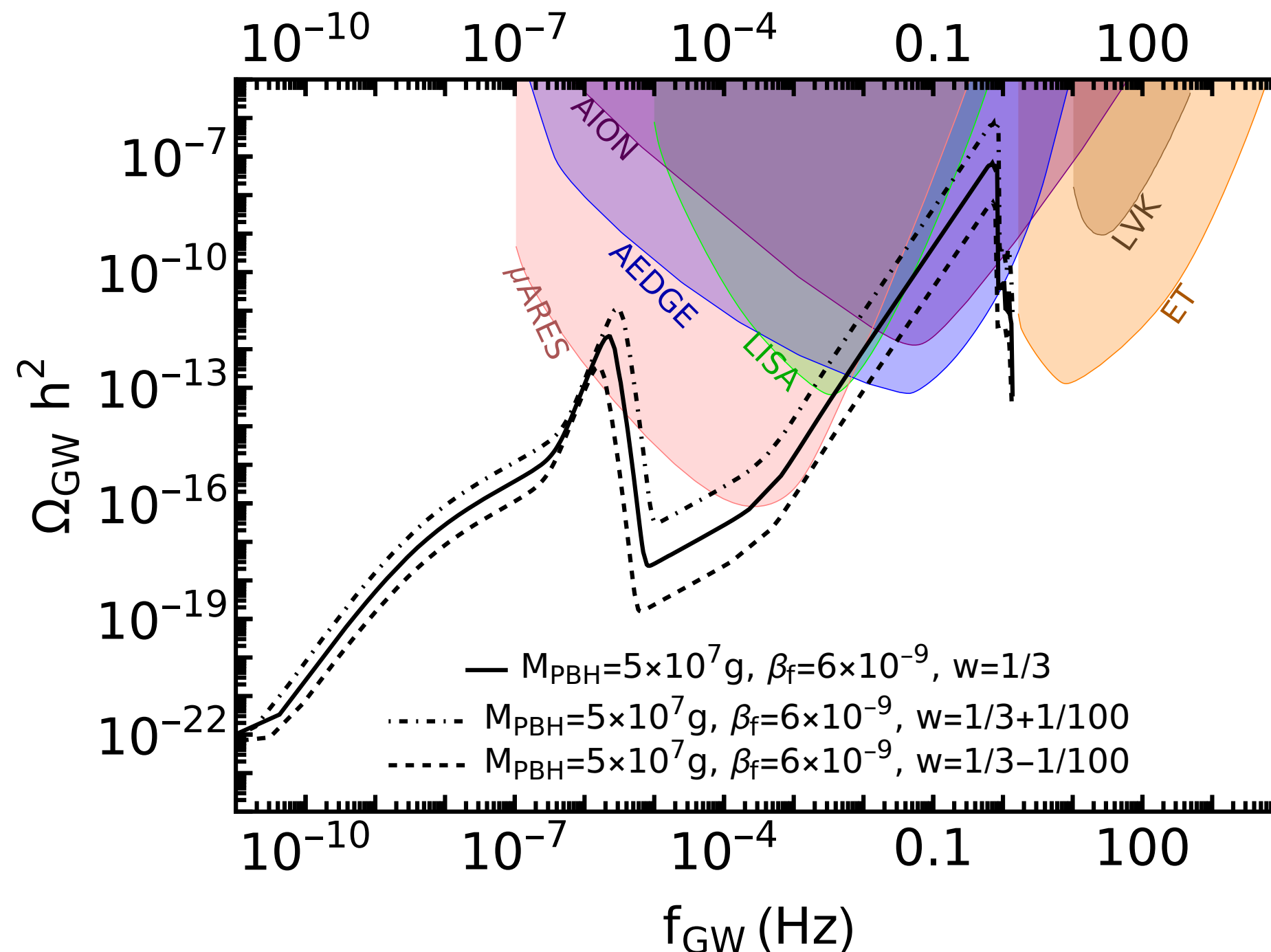
$$PS1 \equiv \{M_{\text{PBH}1}, \beta_{f1}, w_1 = 1/3, q_1, n_1\}$$

$$PS2 \equiv \{M_{\text{PBH}2}, \beta_{f2}, w_2, q_2 = 0, n_2 = 0\}$$

Is there a degeneracy between the two effects ?

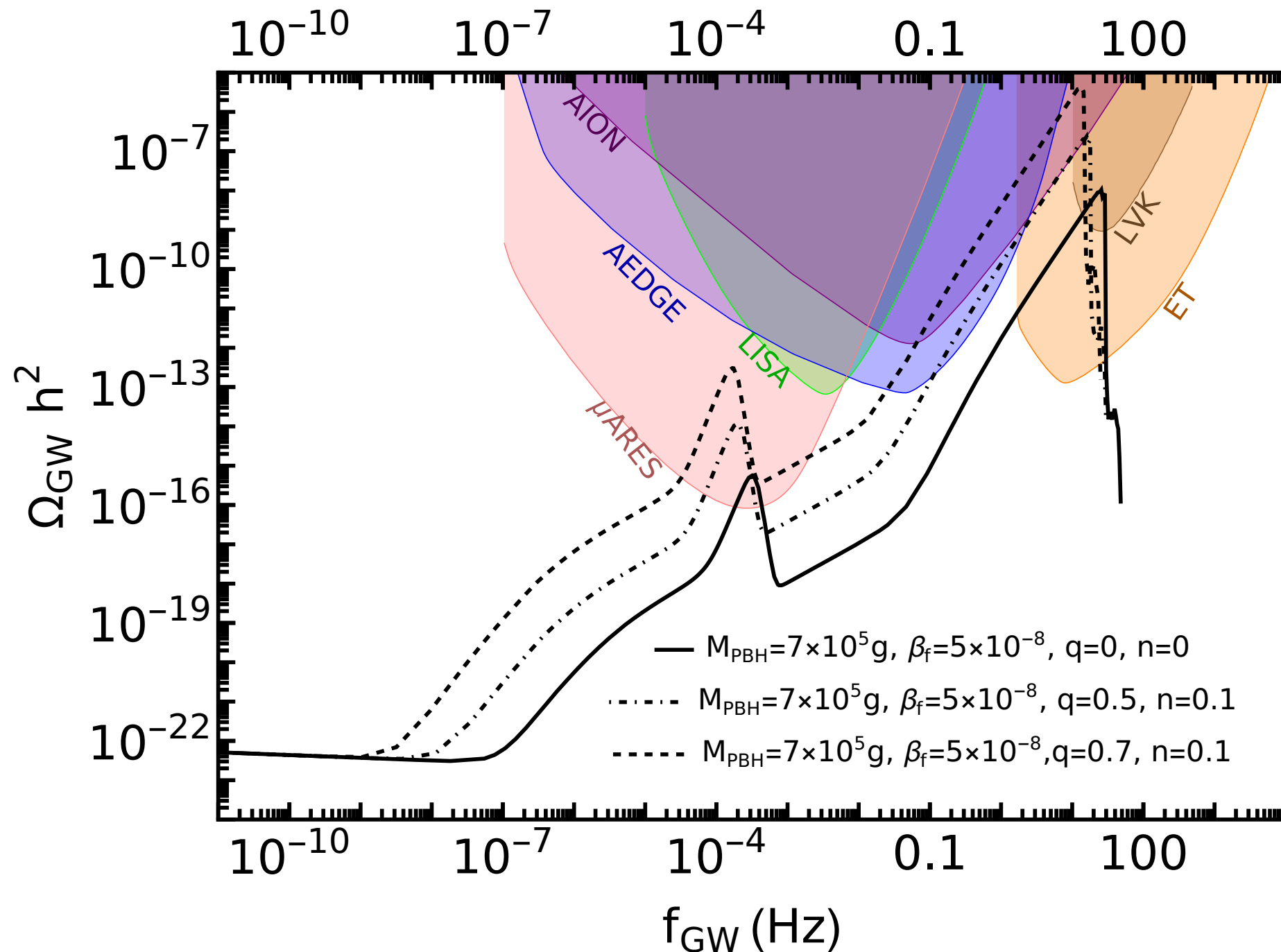
N. Bhaumik, M. R.Haque, **RKJ** & M. Lewicki, JHEP 10, 142 (2024)

Memory burden effect and its implications



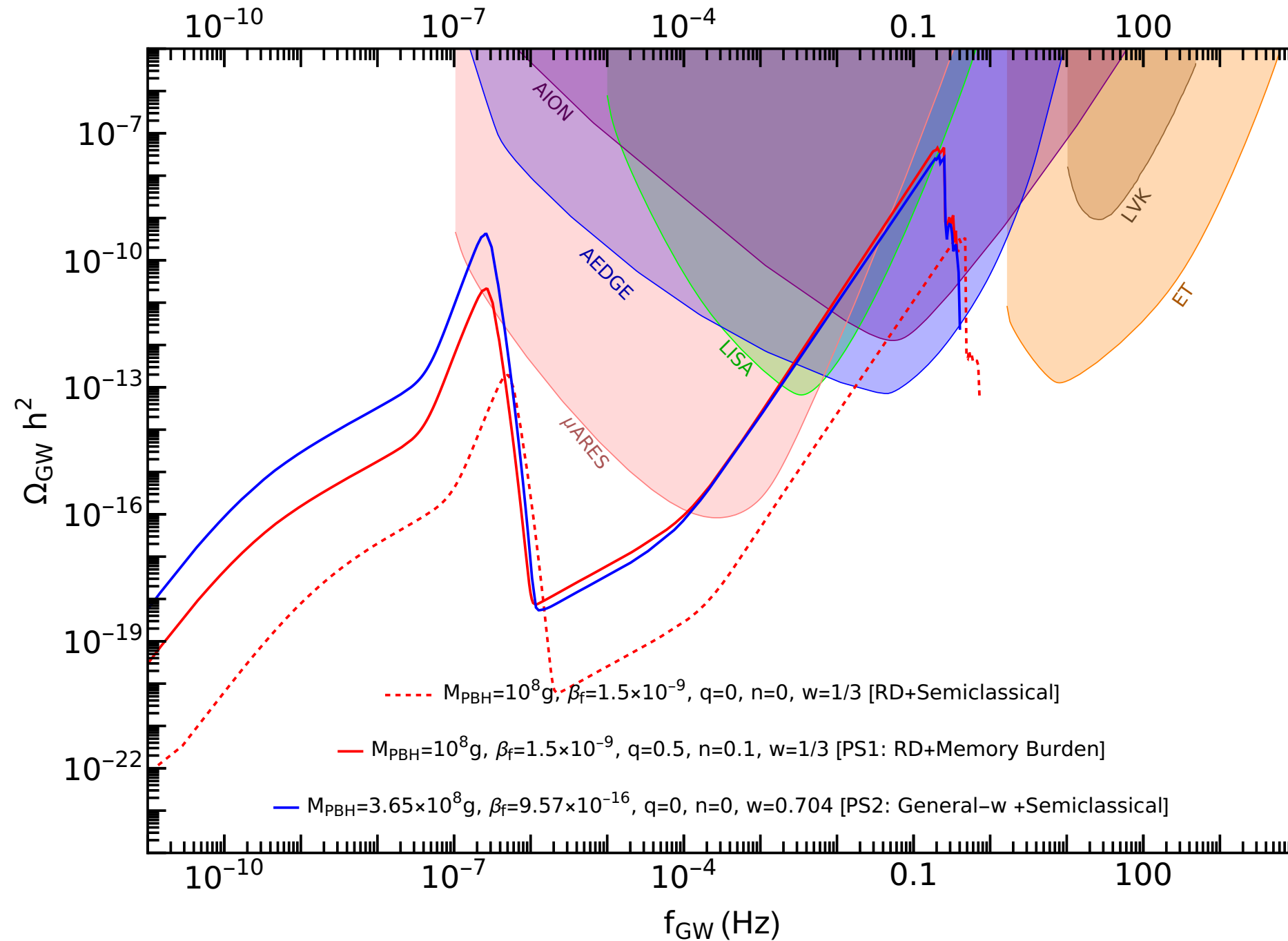
N. Bhaumik, M. R.Haque, **RKJ** & M. Lewicki, JHEP 10, 142 (2024)

Memory burden effect and its implications



N. Bhaumik, M. R.Haque, **RKJ** & M. Lewicki, JHEP 10, 142 (2024)

Memory burden effect and its implications



N. Bhaumik, M. R.Haque, **RKJ** & M. Lewicki, JHEP 10, 142 (2024)

A recent review on PBH and GW

Living Reviews in Relativity (2025)28:1
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s41114-024-00053-w>

REVIEW ARTICLE



Primordial black holes and their gravitational-wave signatures

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Vincent Vennin²⁹ · David Wands³⁰ · For the LISA Cosmology Working Group**

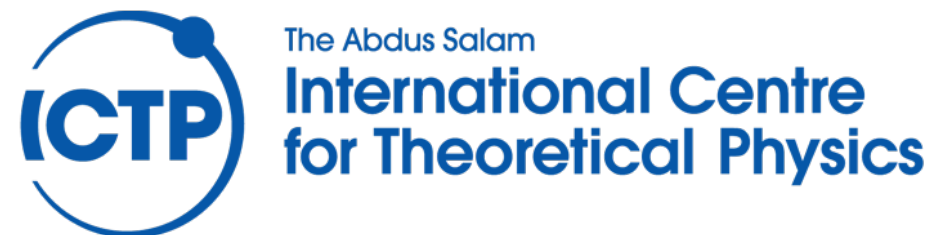
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A very comprehensive up-to-date review (~200 pages)

Conclusions

- PBHs are novel candidates for the cold DM in the universe — an important probe of small scale dynamics during inflation
- Inflation can produce significant abundance of PBHs — single field inflection point models are useful — model dependent results
- Interesting observational implications — induced GWs on scales probed by LISA, DECIGO or BBO
- Hawking evaporation imprints — dark radiation and dark matter (non-thermal mechanism) — complementarity between GW and CMB
- Induced GWs from ultralight PBHs can explain the PTA results
- Interesting imprints of memory burden effect — probing quantum effects through classical GWs

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Thank you for your attention!