

# Gravitational wave archaeology from an early period of matter domination, theory and applications



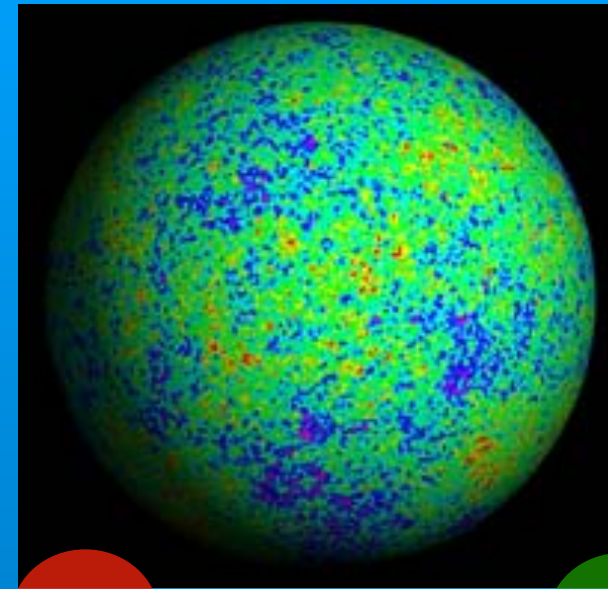
Graham White

University of Southampton



# Why Gravitational waves are amazing for cosmology

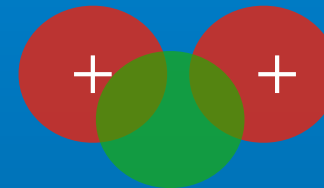
$t = 10^6$  years



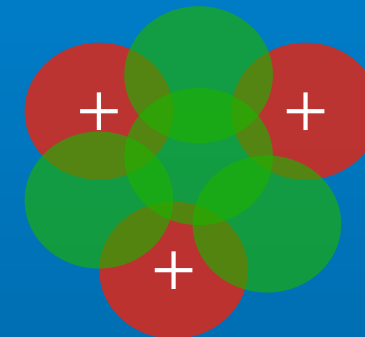
Hydrogen



Deuterium



Helium-3



Lithium-7

$t = 1$  min

$t = 0!$

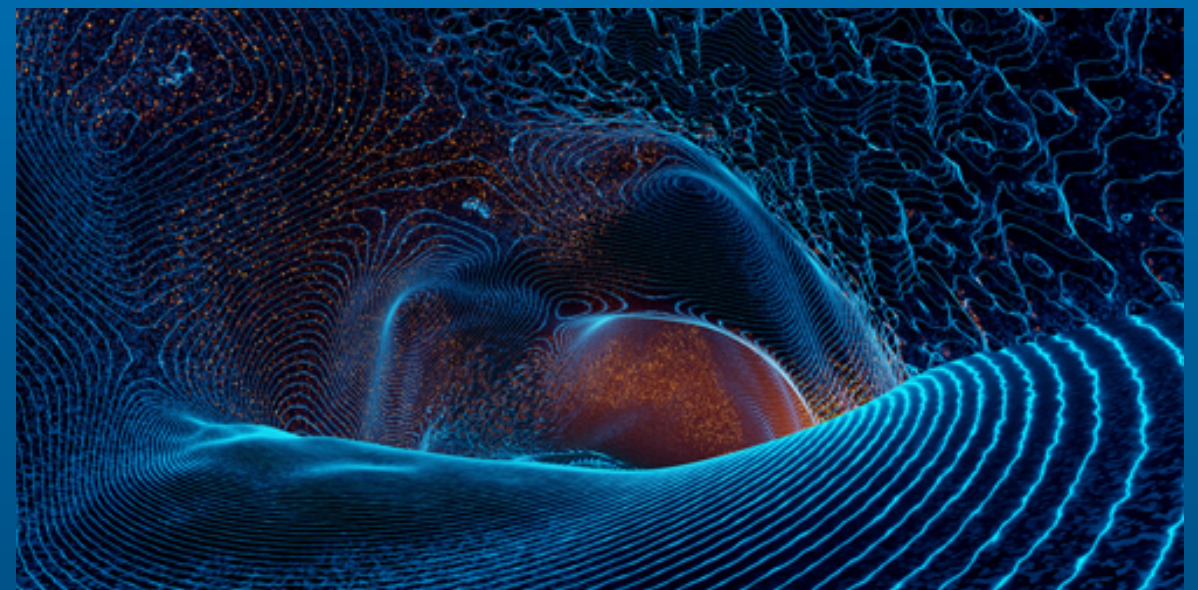


Image credits: WMAP,  
Phys. Rev. Lett. 124, 041804

**New physics is hard to test!**

**Electroweak Baryogenesis scale**  $10^2 - 10^3$  GeV

**Leptogenesis scale:**  $10^9 - 10^{14}$  GeV

**Affleck Dine Scale:**  $\sim 10^{12} - 10^{15}$  GeV

**Dark matter scale**  $\sim ???$





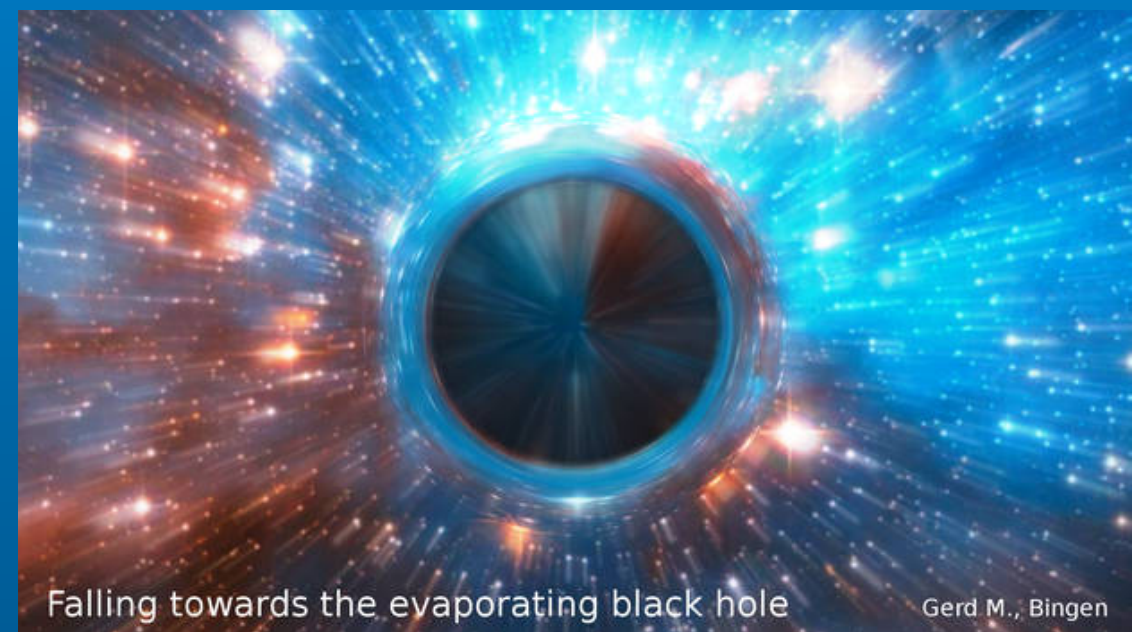
## Scalar induced gravitational waves

- Scalar perturbations are a source for tensor perturbations at second order

$$\Omega_{\text{GW}}^{\text{induced}} h^2 \sim 10^{-1} \Omega_{r,0} h^2 \mathcal{P}_{\mathcal{R}}^2 \sim 10^{-6} \mathcal{P}_{\mathcal{R}}^2$$

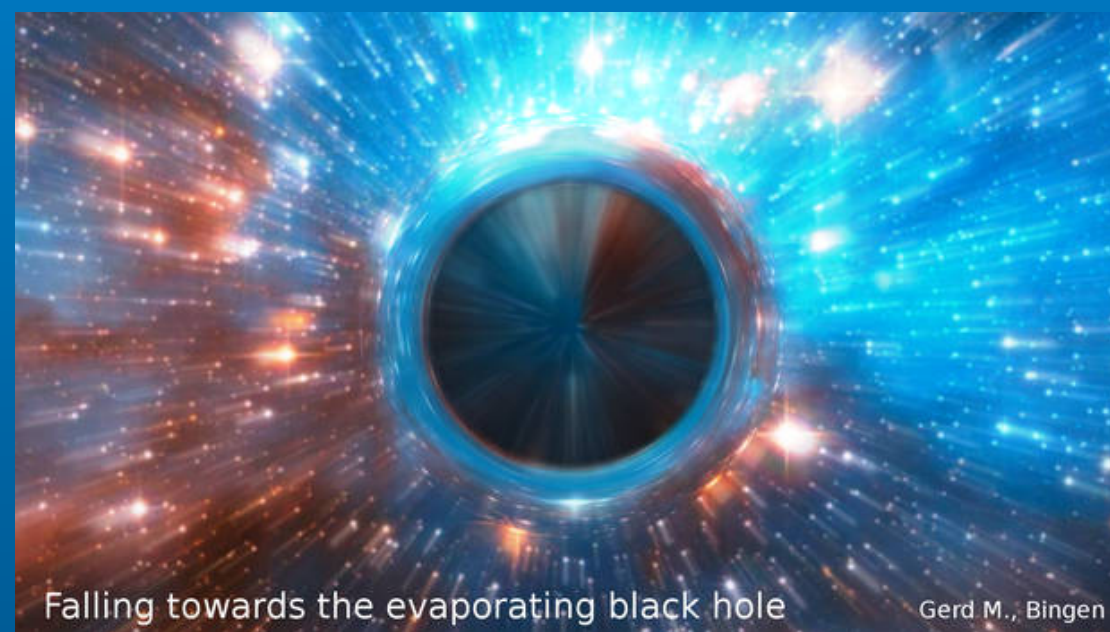
### CMB extrapolation

$$\mathcal{P}_{\mathcal{R}} \sim 10^{-9} \rightarrow \Omega_{\text{GW}}^{\text{induced}} h^2 \sim 10^{-24}$$



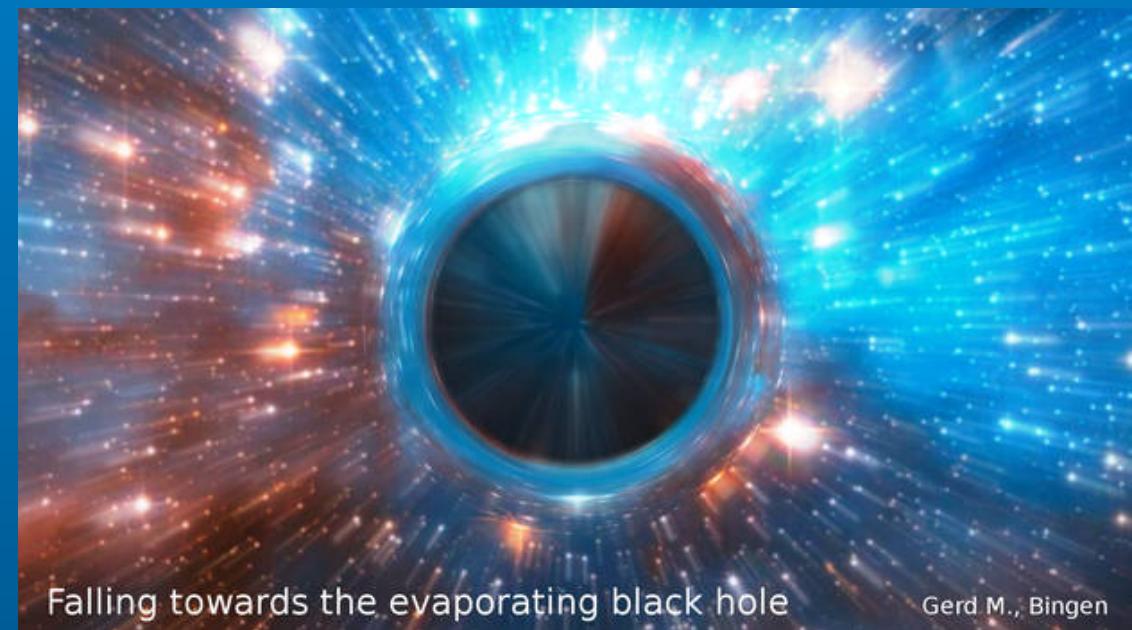
## How to enhance $\mathcal{P}_{\mathcal{R}}$

- 1) Ultra slow roll
- 2) Sudden change in the equation of state



## How to enhance $\mathcal{P}_{\mathcal{R}}$

- 1) Ultra slow roll
- 2) Sudden change in the equation of state
  - **Matter domination to radiation domination**



Falling towards the evaporating black hole

Gerd M., Bingen

How to enhance  $\mathcal{P}_{\mathcal{R}}$

**Perturbations in conformal newtonian gauge**

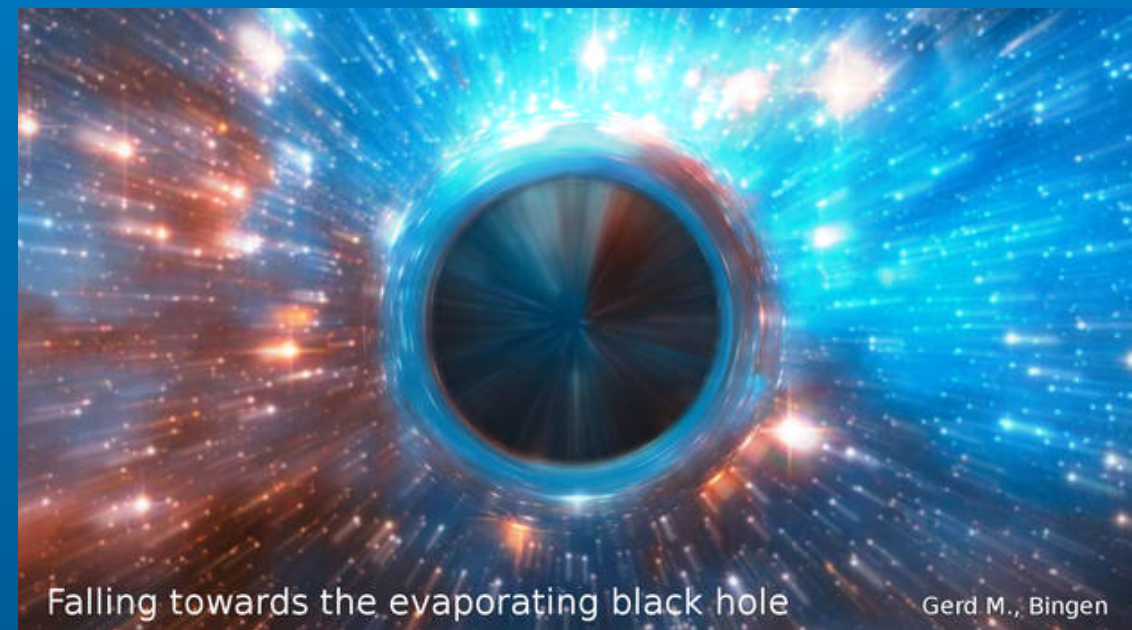
$$ds^2 = -a^2(1 + 2\Phi)d\eta^2 + a^2 \left( (1 - 2\Psi)\delta_{ij} + \frac{1}{2}h_{ij} \right) dx^i dx^j$$

**Equations of motion**

$$h'' + 2\mathcal{H}h' + k^2h = 4S$$

$$S = \int \frac{d^3q}{(2\pi)^{3/2}} e_{ij} q_i q_j (2\Phi\Phi + \frac{4}{3(1+w)} (\mathcal{H}^{-1}\Phi' + \Phi)(\mathcal{H}^{-1}\Phi' + \Phi))$$

$$\langle hh \rangle = \frac{2\pi^2}{k^3} \delta(\Delta k) P_{\text{tensor}}$$



Falling towards the evaporating black hole

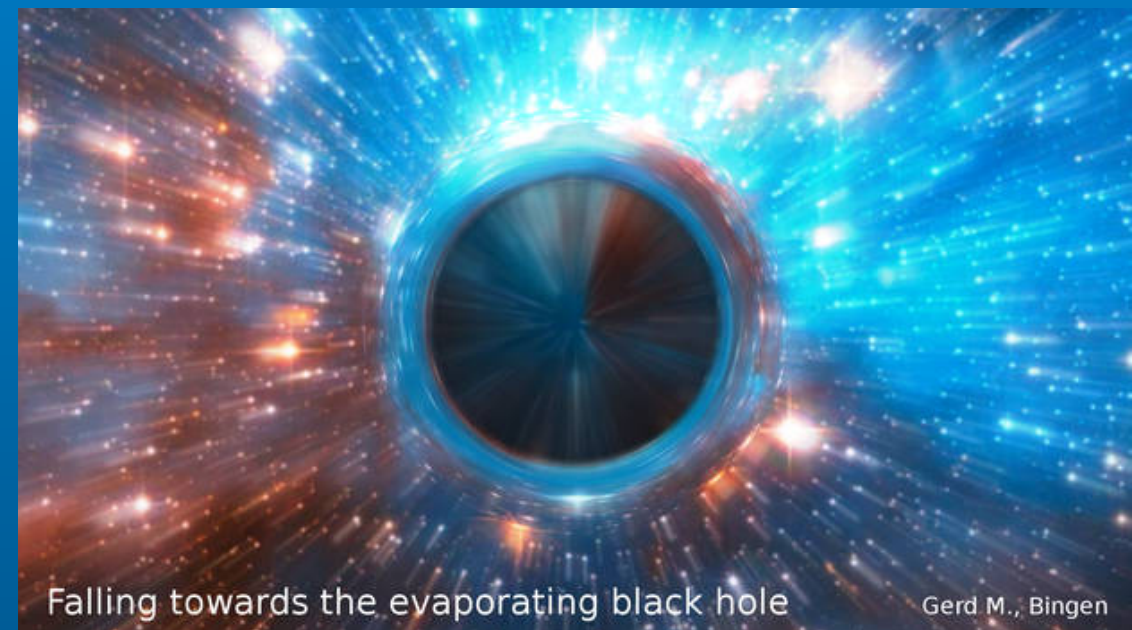
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## How tensor modes are sourced by scalar modes

$$\langle hh \rangle = \frac{2\pi^2}{k^3} \delta(\Delta k) P_{\text{tensor}}$$

$$\bar{\mathcal{P}}_{\text{tensor}} = 4 \int_0^\infty dv \int_{|1-v|}^{1+v} du \left( \frac{4v^2 - (1 + v^2 - u^2)^2}{4vu} \right)^2 \bar{I}^2 \mathcal{P}_{\mathcal{R}}(uk) \mathcal{P}_{\mathcal{R}}(vk)$$

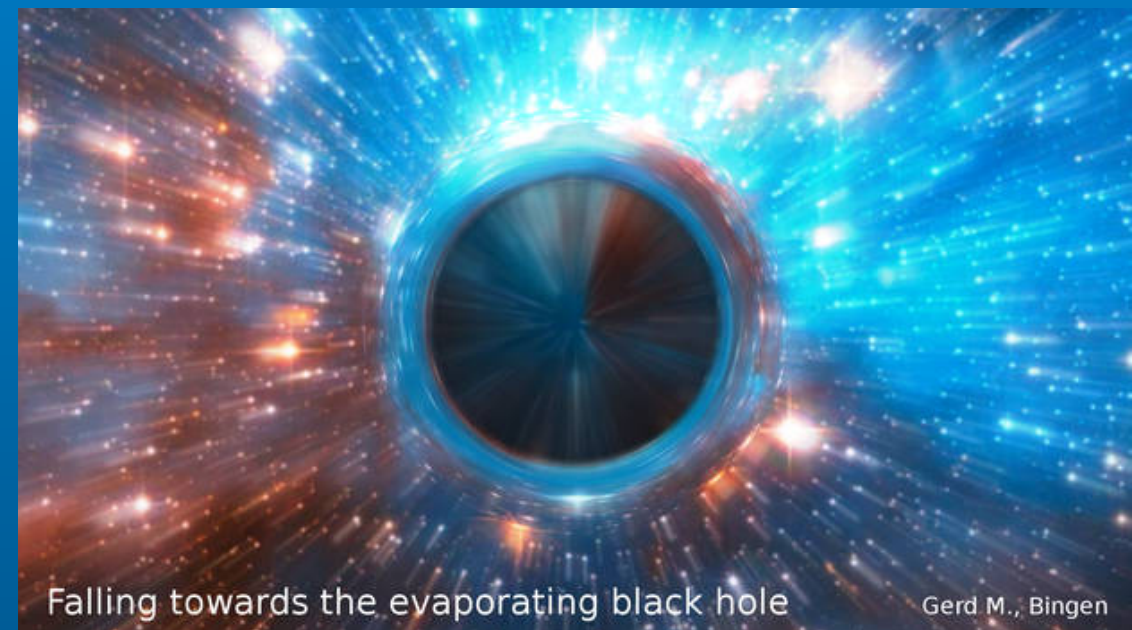




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$$I = \int_0^x d\bar{x} \frac{a(\bar{\eta})}{a(\eta)} k G f \quad x = k\eta$$

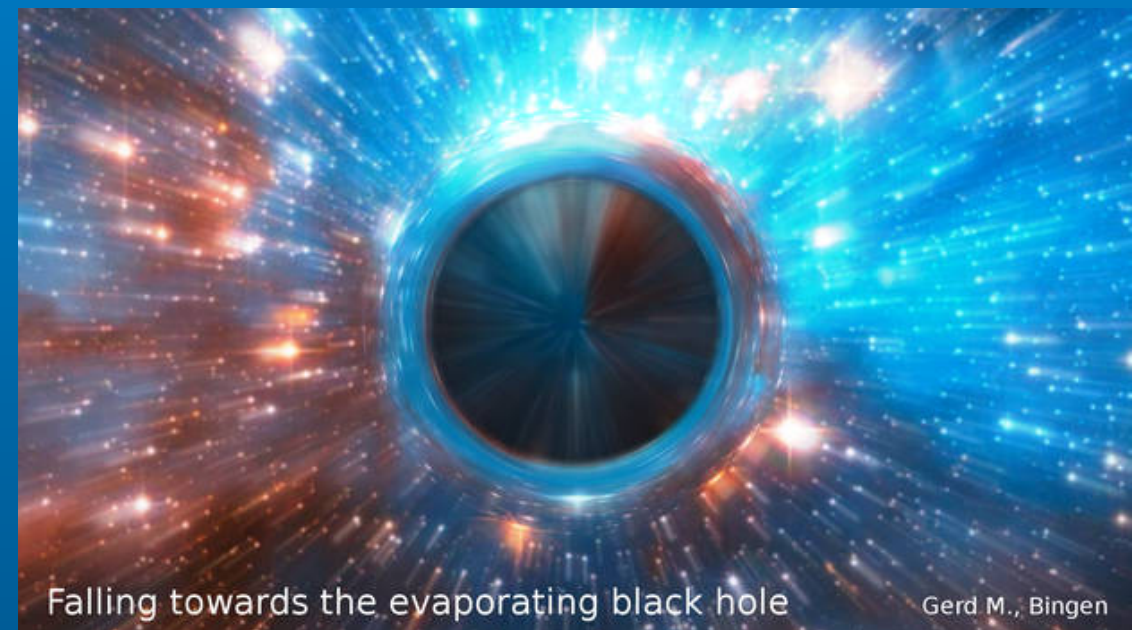


## How tensor modes are sourced by scalar modes

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$$I = \int_0^x d\bar{x} \frac{a(\bar{\eta})}{a(\eta)} k G \textcolor{red}{f} \quad x = k\eta$$

$$f = \frac{3(2(5 + 3w)\Phi\Phi + 4\mathcal{H}^{-1}(\Phi'\Phi + \Phi\Phi') + 4\mathcal{H}^{-2}\Phi'\Phi')}{25(1 + w)}$$





## Modeling the transition from matter to radiation domination

$$\Gamma(\eta) = \Gamma_{\max}(\tanh(\beta(\eta - \eta_R)) + 1)/2$$

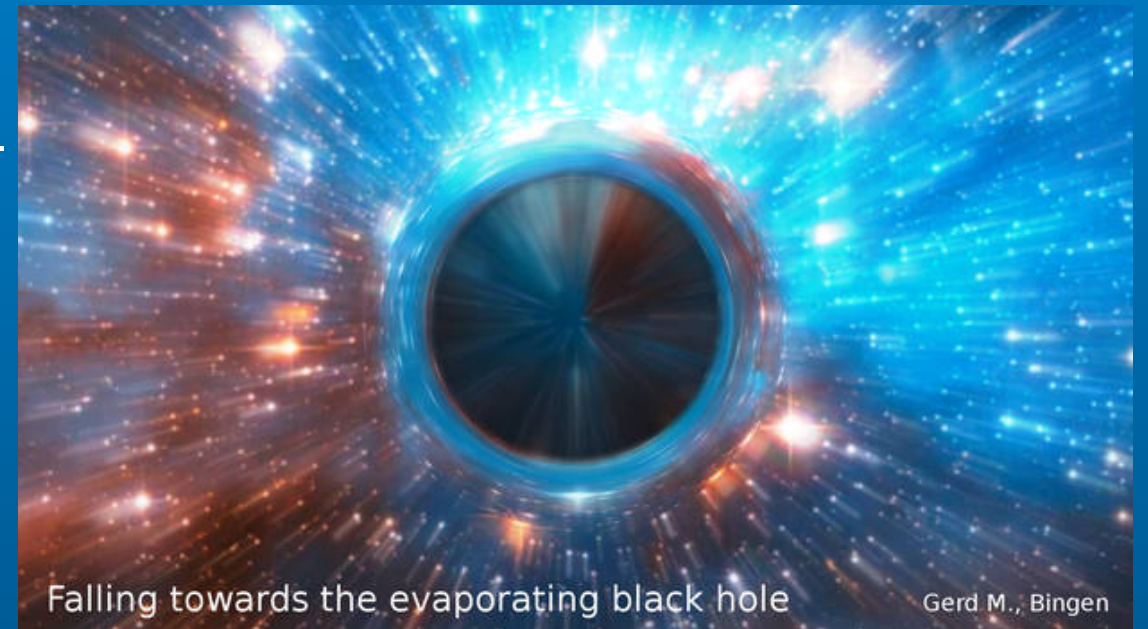
$$\delta'_m = -\theta + 3\Phi' - a\Gamma(\eta)\Phi$$

$$\theta'_m = -\mathcal{H}\theta_m + k^2\Phi$$

$$\delta'_r = -\frac{4}{3}(\theta_r - 3\Phi') + a\Gamma(\eta)\frac{\rho_m}{\rho_r}(\delta_m - \delta_r + \Phi)$$

$$\theta'_r = \frac{k^2}{4}\delta_r + k^2\Phi - a\Gamma(\eta)\frac{3\rho_m}{4\rho_r}\left(\frac{4}{3}\theta_r - \theta_m\right)$$

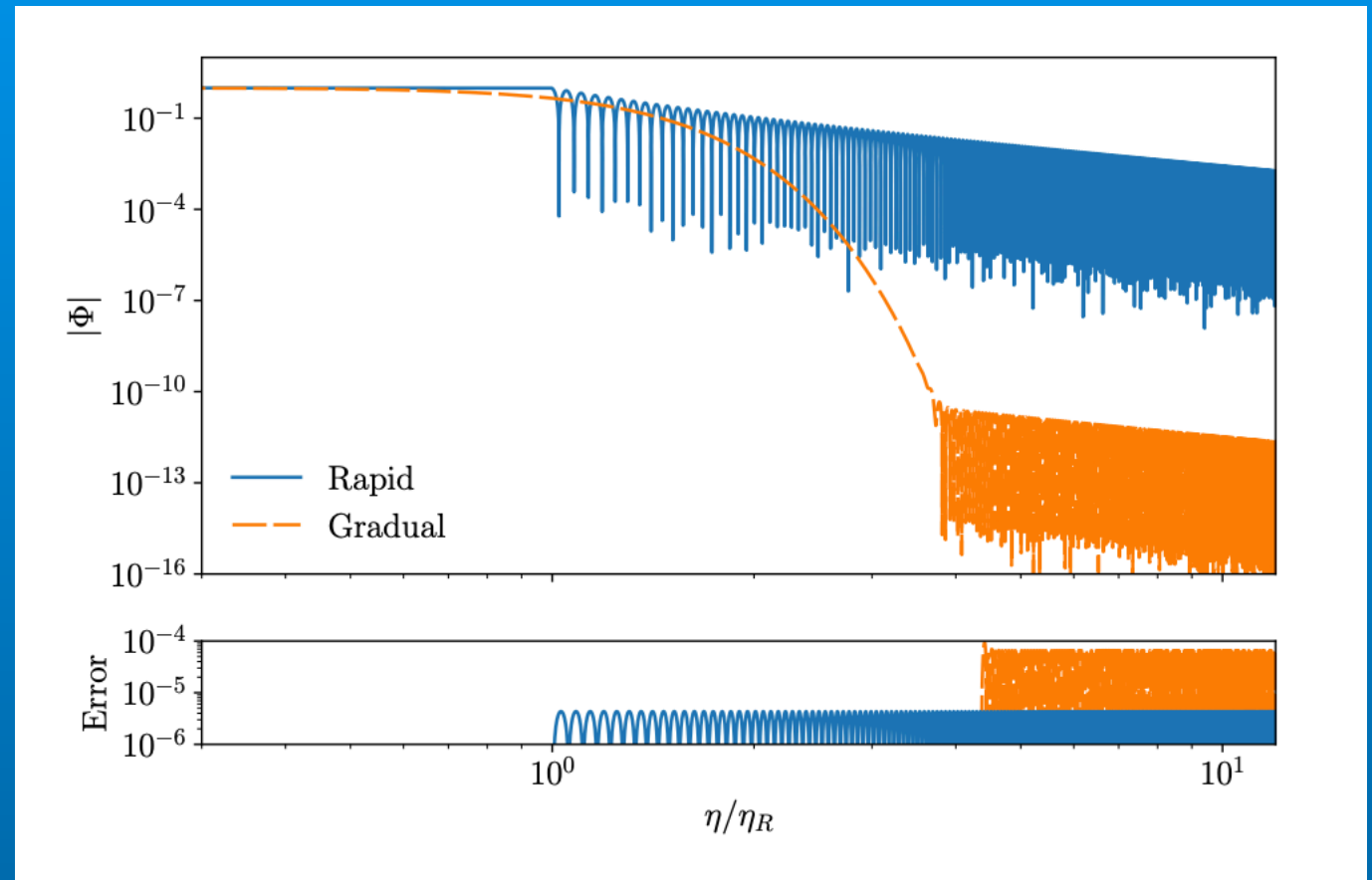
$$\Phi' = \frac{k^2\Phi + 3\mathcal{H}^2\Phi + \frac{3}{2}\mathcal{H}^2\left(\frac{\rho_m\delta_m + \rho_r\delta_r}{\rho_{\text{tot}}}\right)}{3\mathcal{H}}$$



# Modeling the transition from matter to radiation domination

## Initial power spectrum

$$P_{\zeta}(k) = \Theta(k_{\text{inf}} - k) A_s \left( \frac{k}{k_*} \right)^{n_s - 1}$$



Balazs, Pearce, Pearce, White 2311.12340



## Fast vs gradual transitions

$$I = \int k G f = \int k G^{\text{MD}} f + \int k G^{\text{RD}} f \rightarrow \Omega_{\text{GW}} \sim I^2 = \Omega_{\text{MD}} + \Omega_{\text{RD}} + \Omega_{\text{cross}}$$

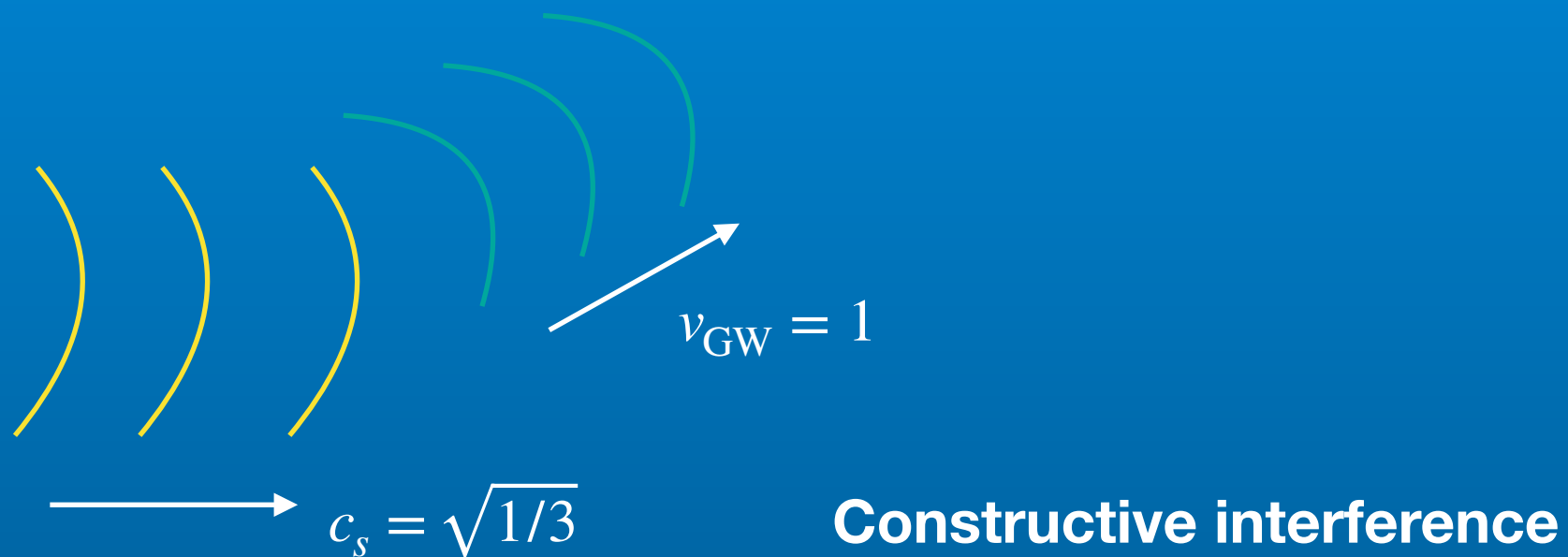
$$\Omega_{\text{cross}} < 0$$

**So this is reason why instantaneous transitions are stronger.  
Mathematical explanation**

- 1)  $\Phi'$  does not vanish as quickly, therefore neither does  $f$**
- 2) Negative definite cross term vanishes**

## Physical explanation why the instantaneous transitions have larger GWs

- During matter domination perturbations grow
- Suppose the transition to radiation is very fast
- Perturbations cannot melt away in this case but produce sound waves





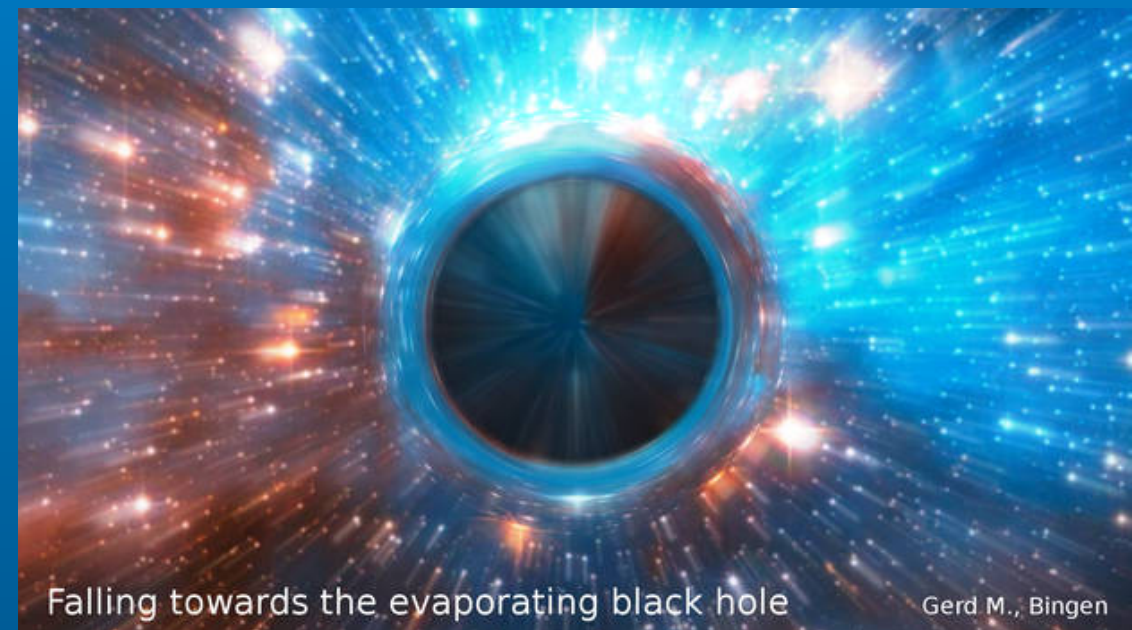
## Possible reasons why there is a sudden change from matter to radiation

Very light primordial black holes

Clumps of field (Q-balls)

Particle whose decay is forbidden by a symmetry

Coherent scalar field

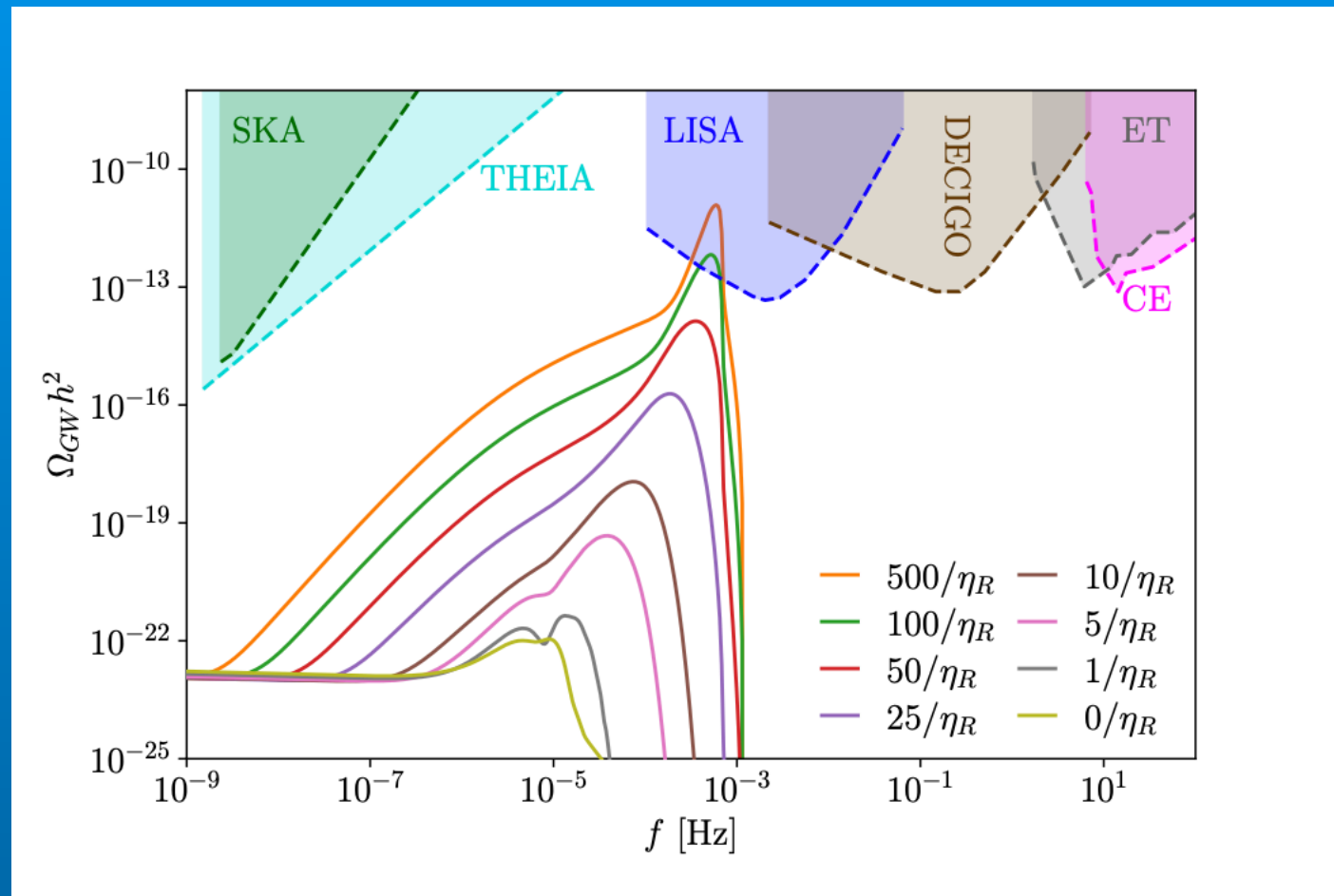


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Distinguishing between different sources:

Model independent case



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## Model dependent case:



- 1) Primordial black holes
- 2) Delayed Q-balls
- 3) “Thin wall” Q-balls
- 4) “Thick wall” Q-balls

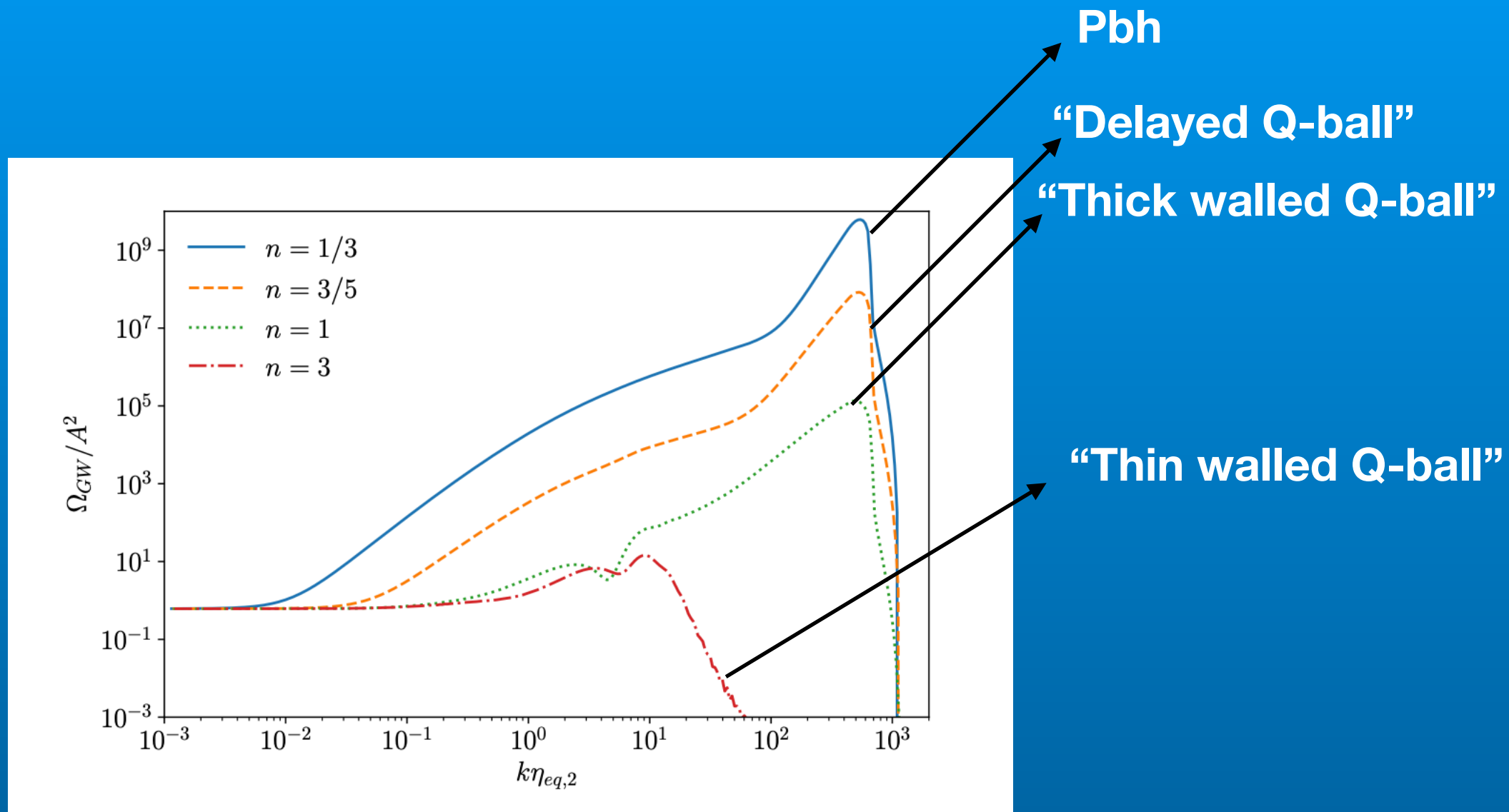
- 1) Monochromatic
- 2) Log normal

## “Delayed Q-balls”

$$\begin{aligned} V(\phi) &= V_{\text{gauge}} + V_{\text{grav}} + V_A \\ &= M_F^4 \left[ \log \left( \frac{|\phi|^2}{M_m^2} \right) \right]^2 + m_{3/2}^2 |\phi|^2 \left( 1 + K \log \frac{|\phi|^2}{M_*^2} \right) + V_A \end{aligned}$$

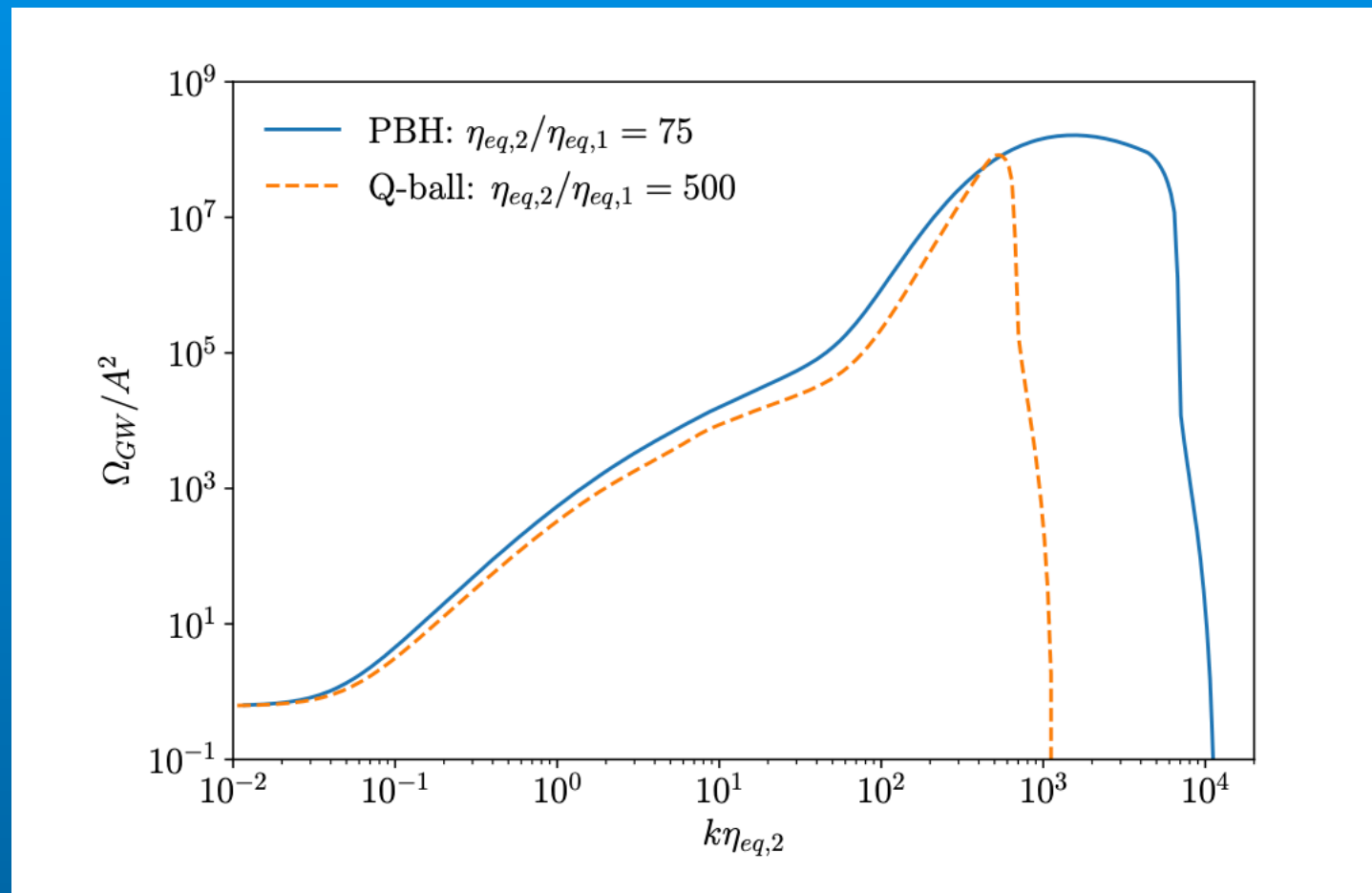
For  $K > 0$  Q-ball formation is “delayed” until  $\phi$  gets small enough for  $V_{\text{grav}}$  to *not* dominate

## Results for monochromatic mass distributions



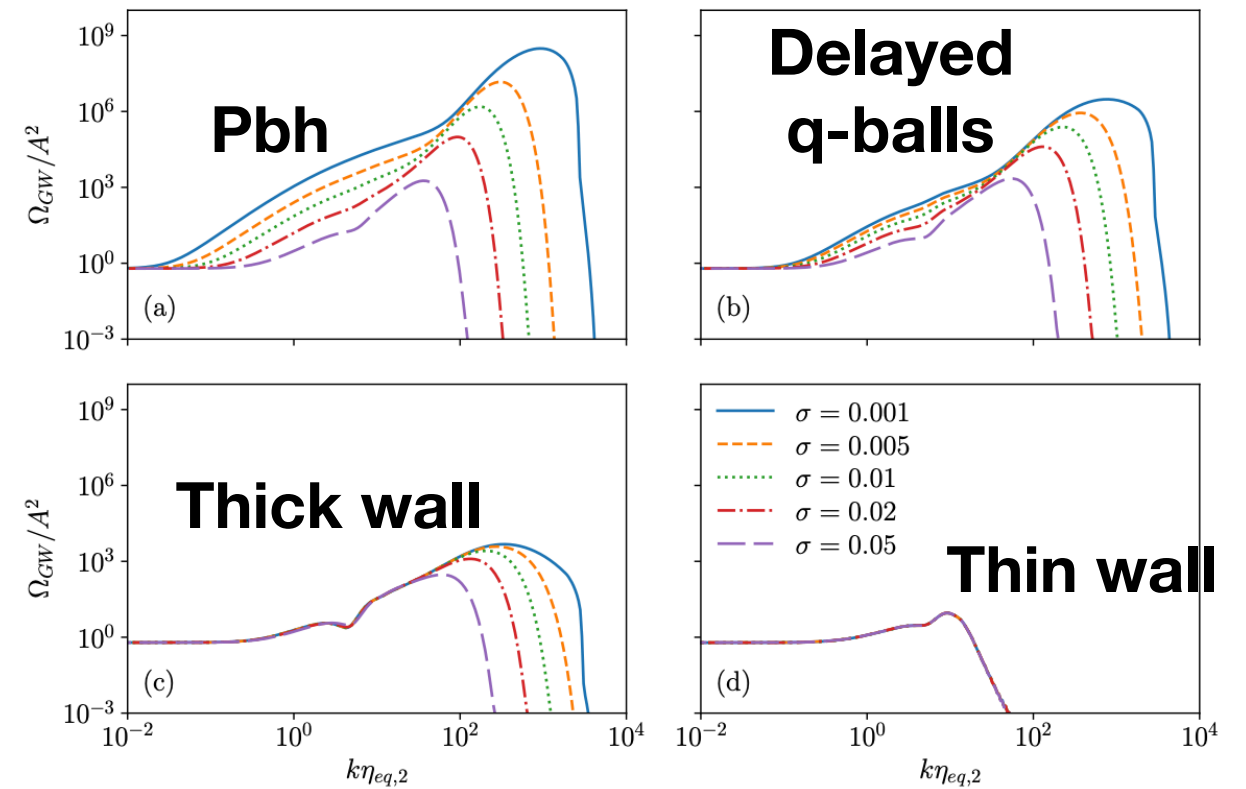
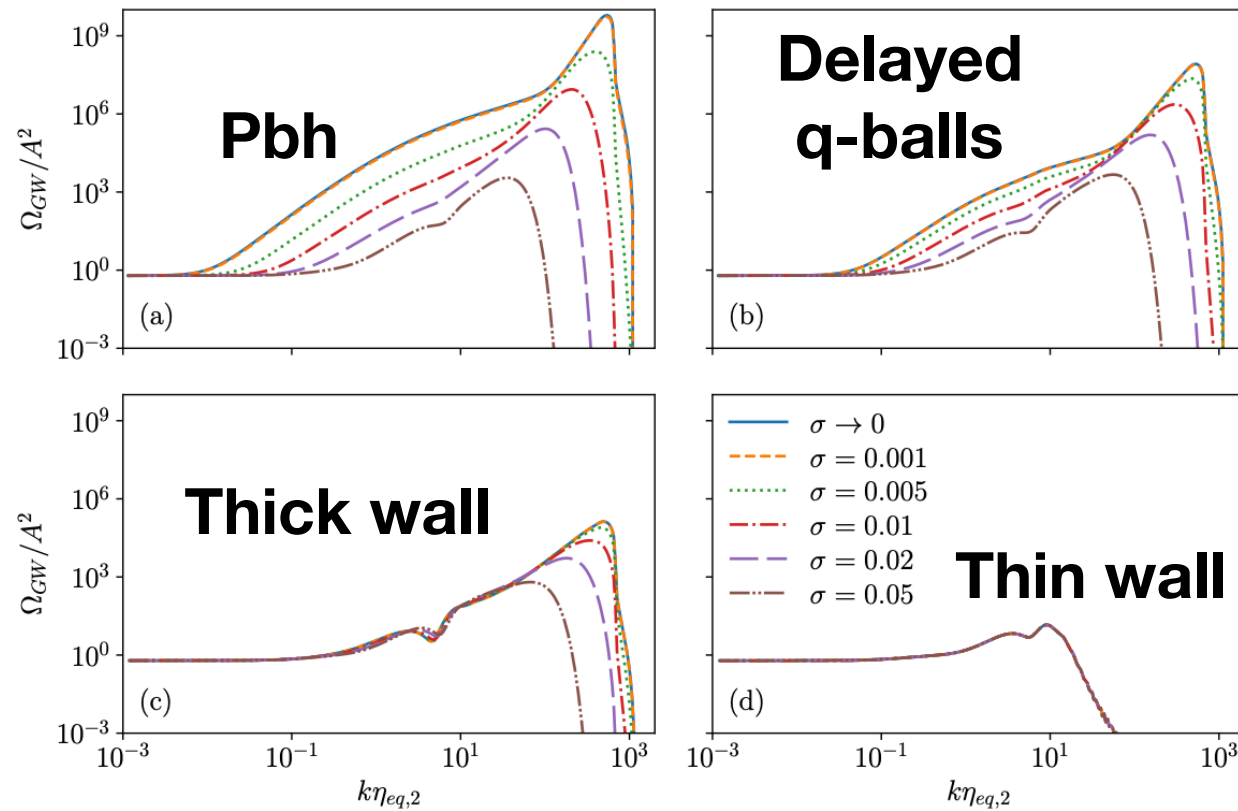
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**The pbh looked a similar shape to delayed Q-balls, can you distinguish in other scenarios?**





# Non monochromatic mass distributions:



Long era of emd

$$\rho_m(t) = \rho_{m,i} \int \beta(M_i, t) d \ln M_i.$$

Short era

$$\beta_i = \beta(t=0) = \frac{\mathcal{N}}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma} \exp\left(-\frac{(\ln(M_i/M_0))^2}{2\sigma^2}\right),$$

2503.03101

## **Conclusion**

**An early period of matter domination that suddenly transitions to radiation can leave a detectable signal in the gravitational wave background**

**There are three time scales that determine the shape of the background**

**Different causes of matter domination have different predictions and can in principle be distinguished**