



Trento Institute for  
Fundamental Physics  
and Applications



UNIVERSITY  
OF TRENTO

*Weekly Seminar*  
*School of Particles and Accelerators*  
*IPM, Tehran*

# THE ORIGIN OF MAGNETIC FIELDS DURING INFLATION

## HELICITY AND A SAWTOOTH COUPLING

*Chiara Cecchini*

*Department of Physics, University of Trento, Italy - TIFPA-INFN*

May, 3rd 2023

# OUTLINE

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**1. MAGNETIC FIELDS AND INFLATION**

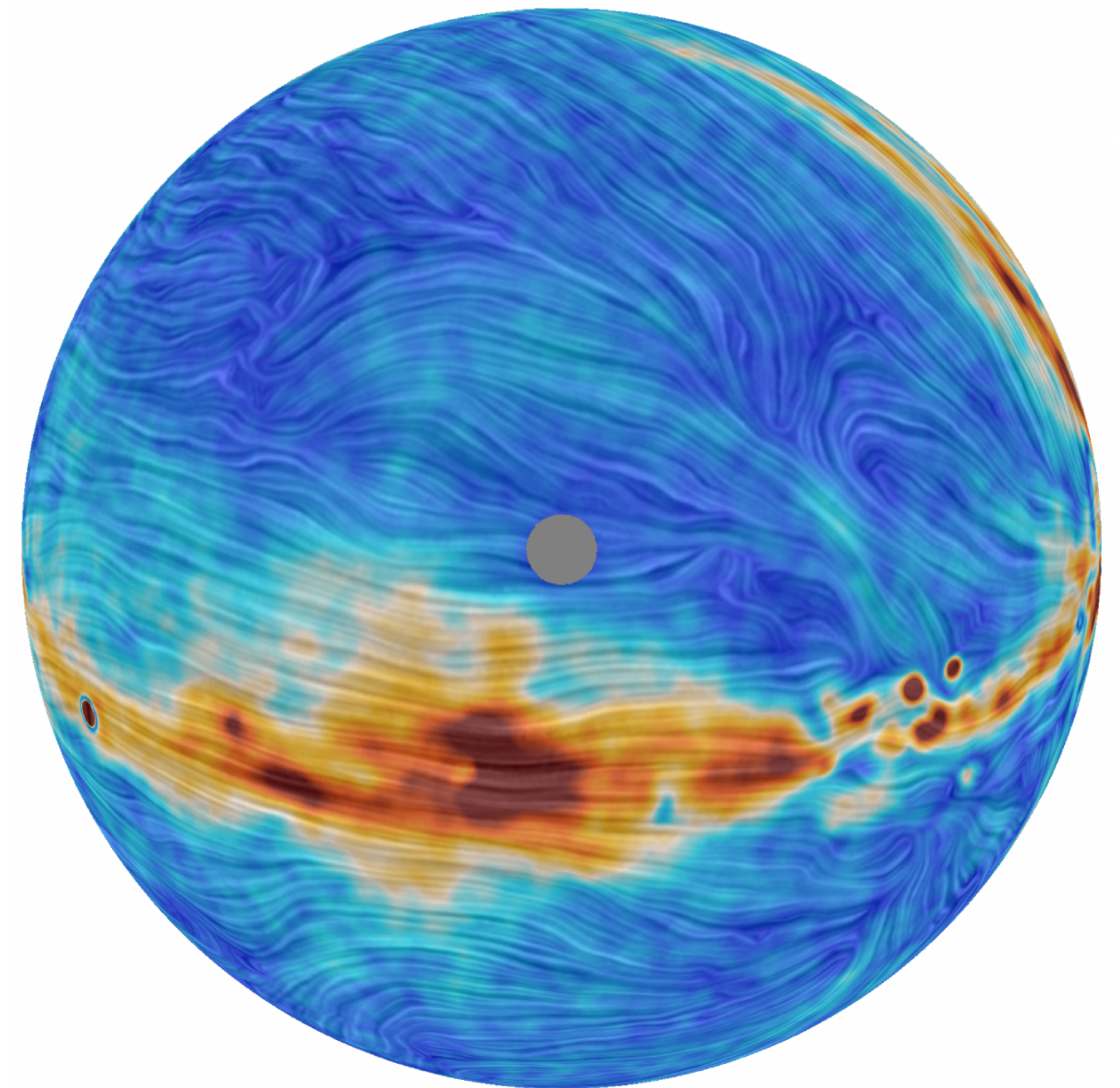
**2. MODEL OF MAGNETOGENESIS**

**3. APPLICATION TO SCALE-INVARIANT GRAVITY**

# OBSERVATIONS: ASTROPHYSICAL AND COSMOLOGICAL SCALES

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- Galaxies and clusters:  $B_0 \sim \mu\text{G}$  coherent over  $\sim \text{kpc}$  scales
- Redshift-independent
- IGM:  $10^{-16} \lesssim B_0 \lesssim 10^{-9} \text{ G}$  on Mpc scales  
Upper bounds: CMB  
Lower bounds: blazar observations



Map of polarized microwave emission in the Galactic northern hemisphere measured by QUIJOTE. Credit: [1].

# MAGNETOGENESIS: HINTS FOR MAGNETIC FIELDS' ORIGIN

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- ASTROPHYSICAL** ➤ Seed generation via battery and subsequent amplification via galactic dynamo

**CRITICISM:** Unexplained universality in different environments

# MAGNETOGENESIS: HINTS FOR MAGNETIC FIELDS' ORIGIN

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- ASTROPHYSICAL** ➤ Seed generation via battery and subsequent amplification via galactic dynamo

**CRITICISM:** Unexplained universality in different environments

- PRIMORDIAL** ➤ Relic from the Early Universe

**CRITICISM:** Causality scale confined within the Hubble radius

# SMALL COHERENCE LENGTH ↔ HORIZON PROBLEM

CONFORMAL TIME

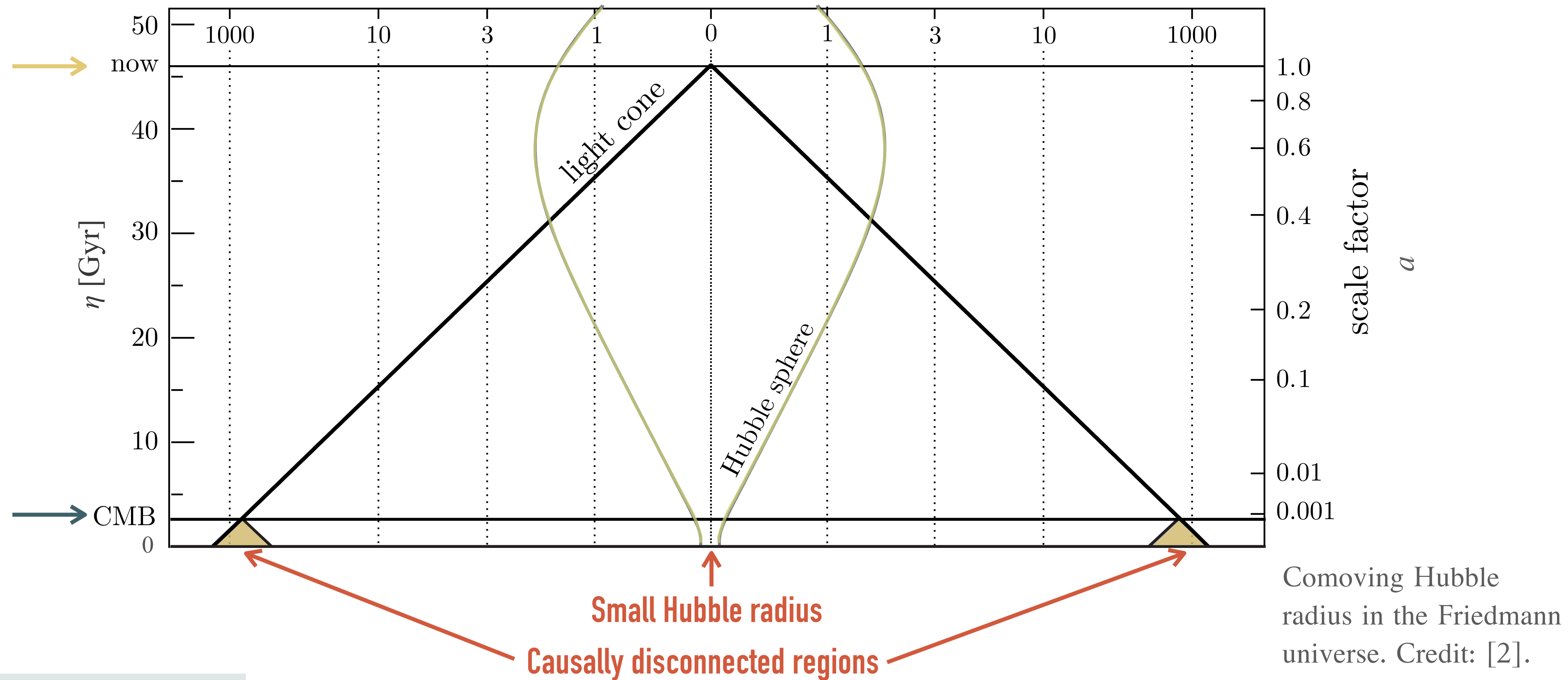
$$d\eta = \frac{dt}{a}$$

COMOVING HUBBLE RADIUS

$$d_H^c = \frac{1}{a(t)H(t)} = \frac{1}{\dot{a}}$$

HUBBLE PARAMETER

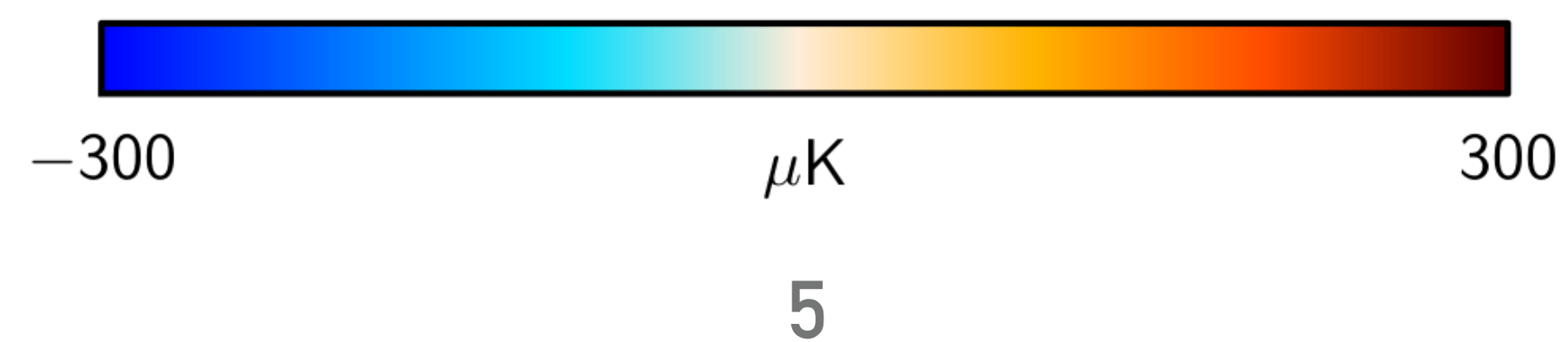
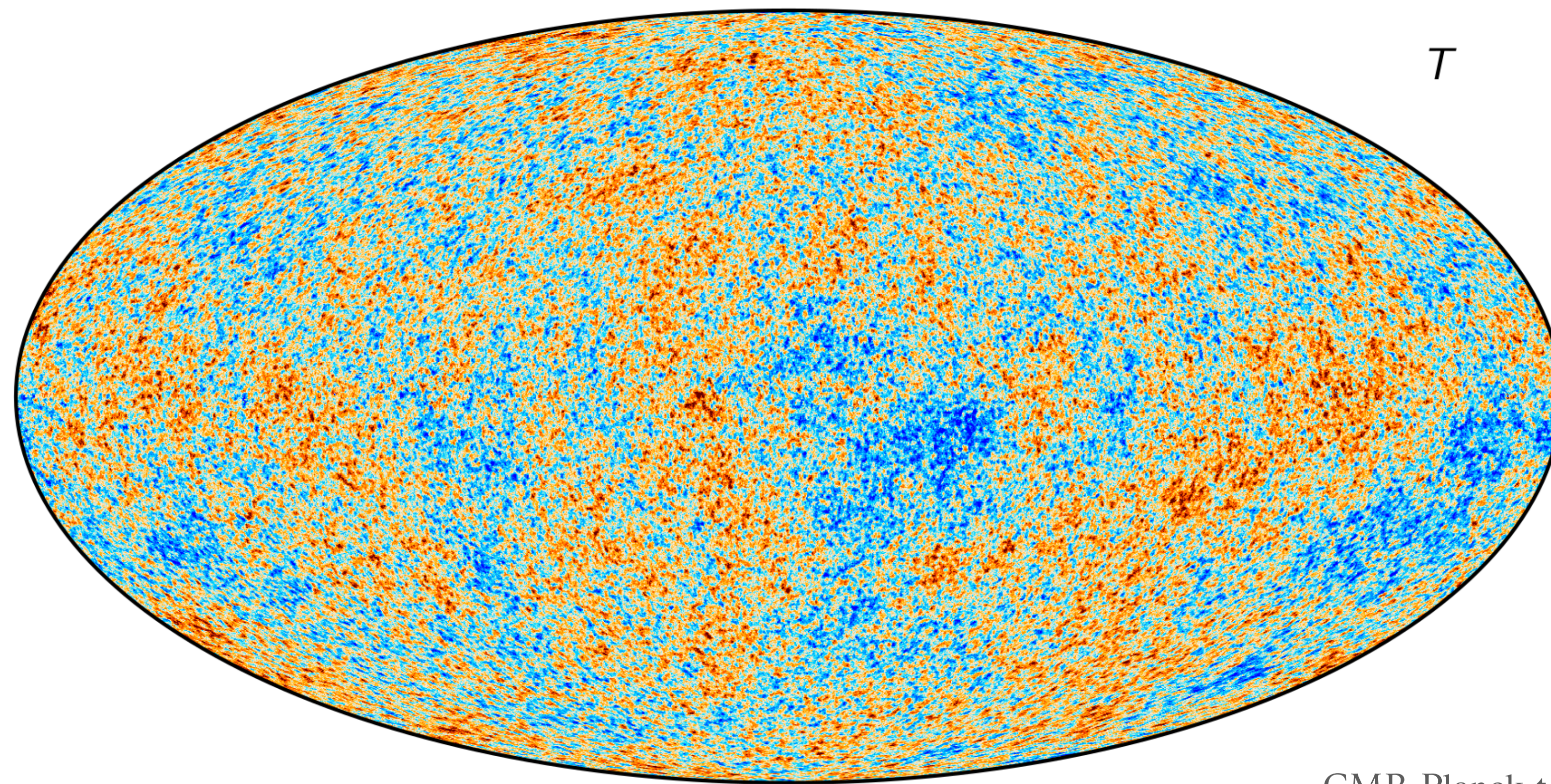
$$H(t) = \frac{\dot{a}}{a}$$



# MANIFEST HOMOGENEITY

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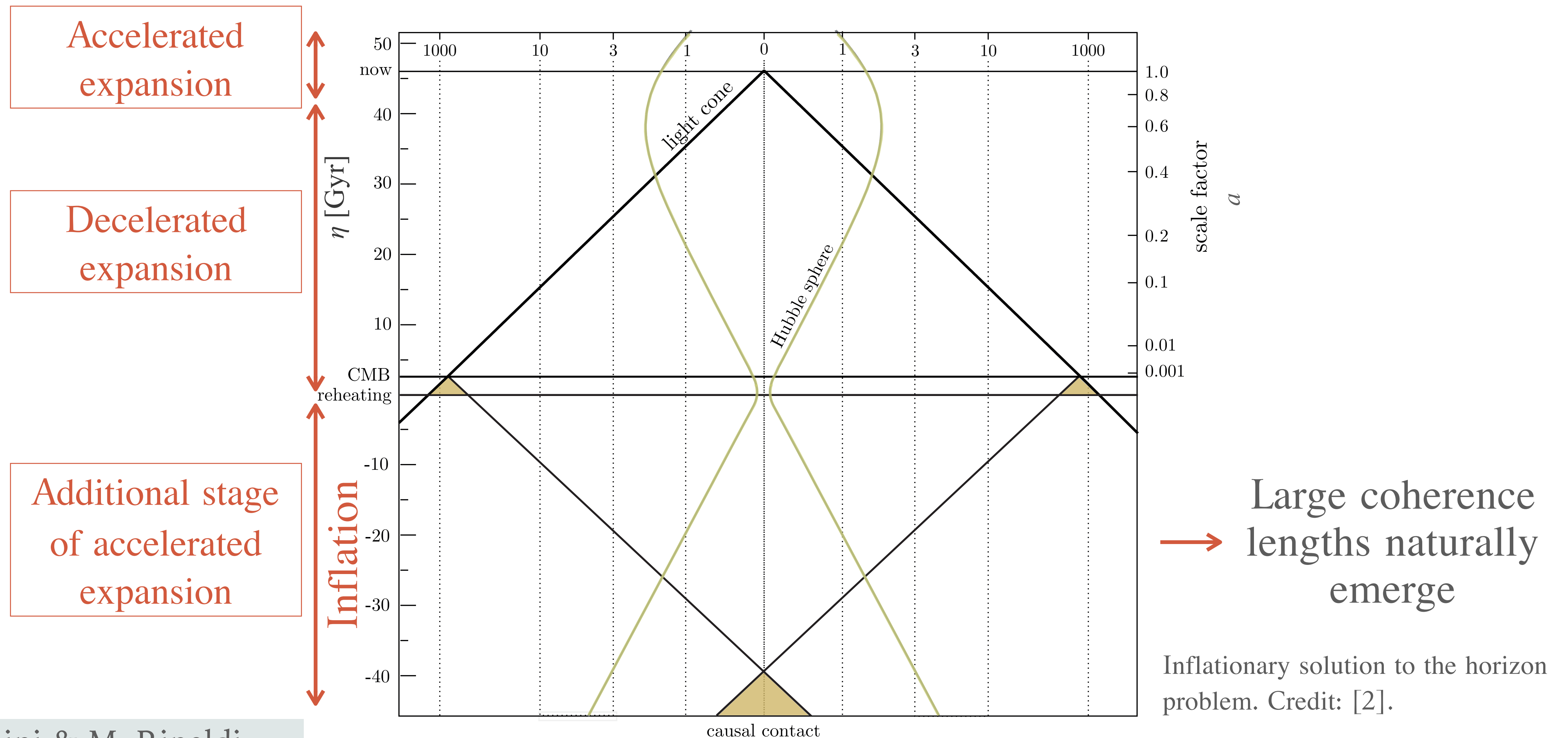
- $10^5$  causally disconnected patches at last scattering
- How to explain temperature fluctuations  $\delta T \sim 10^{-5}$  K?



CMB Planck temperature map produced by the software COMMANDER with a resolution of 5 arcmin. Credit: [3].

# INFLATIONARY SOLUTION

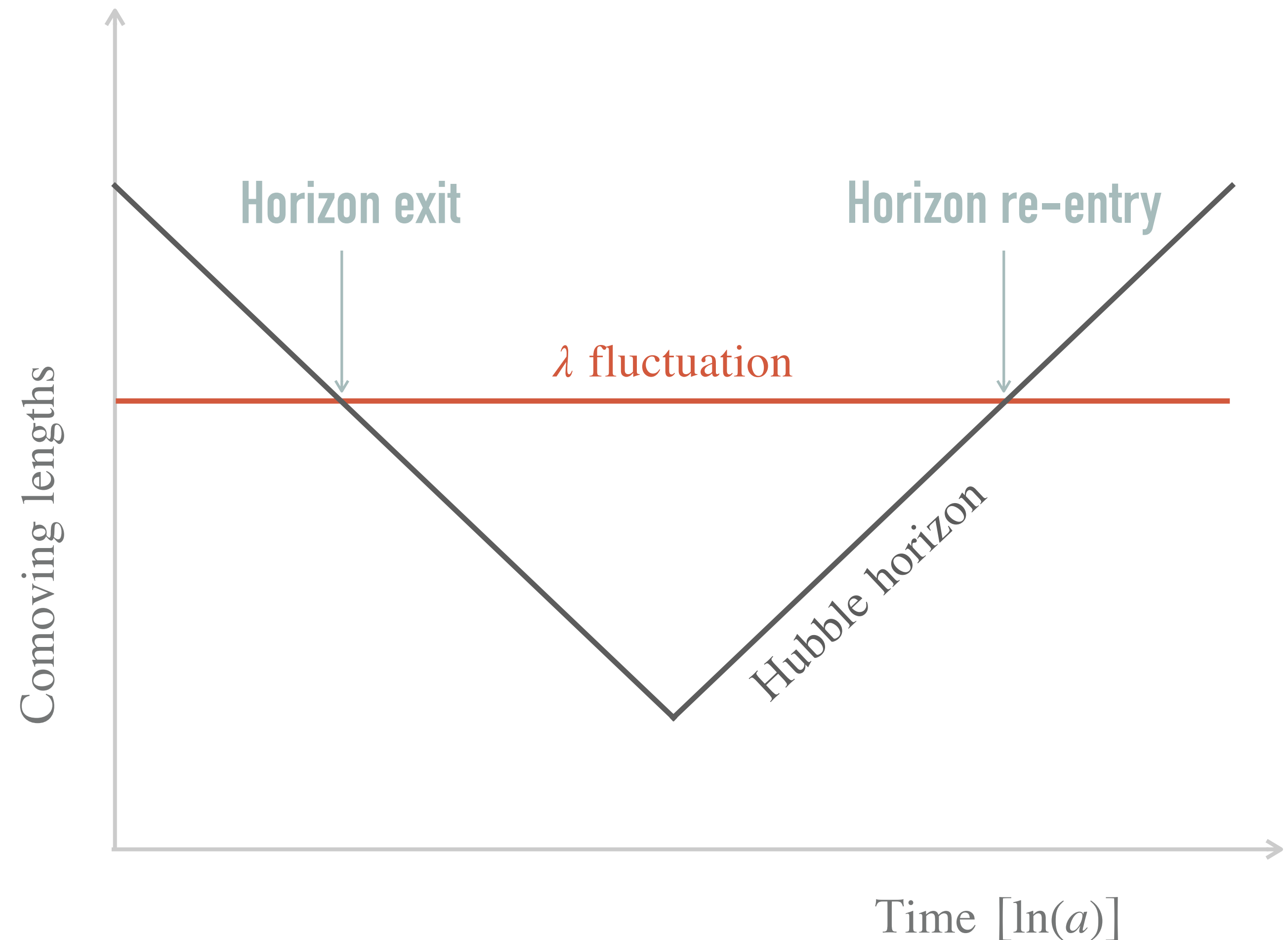
**INFLATION:** Stage of accelerated expansion of the Universe when gravity acts repulsively



# QUANTUM FLUCTUATIONS DURING INFLATION

Sub-horizon sized quantum fluctuations are stretched during inflation, when  $a \sim e^{Ht}$

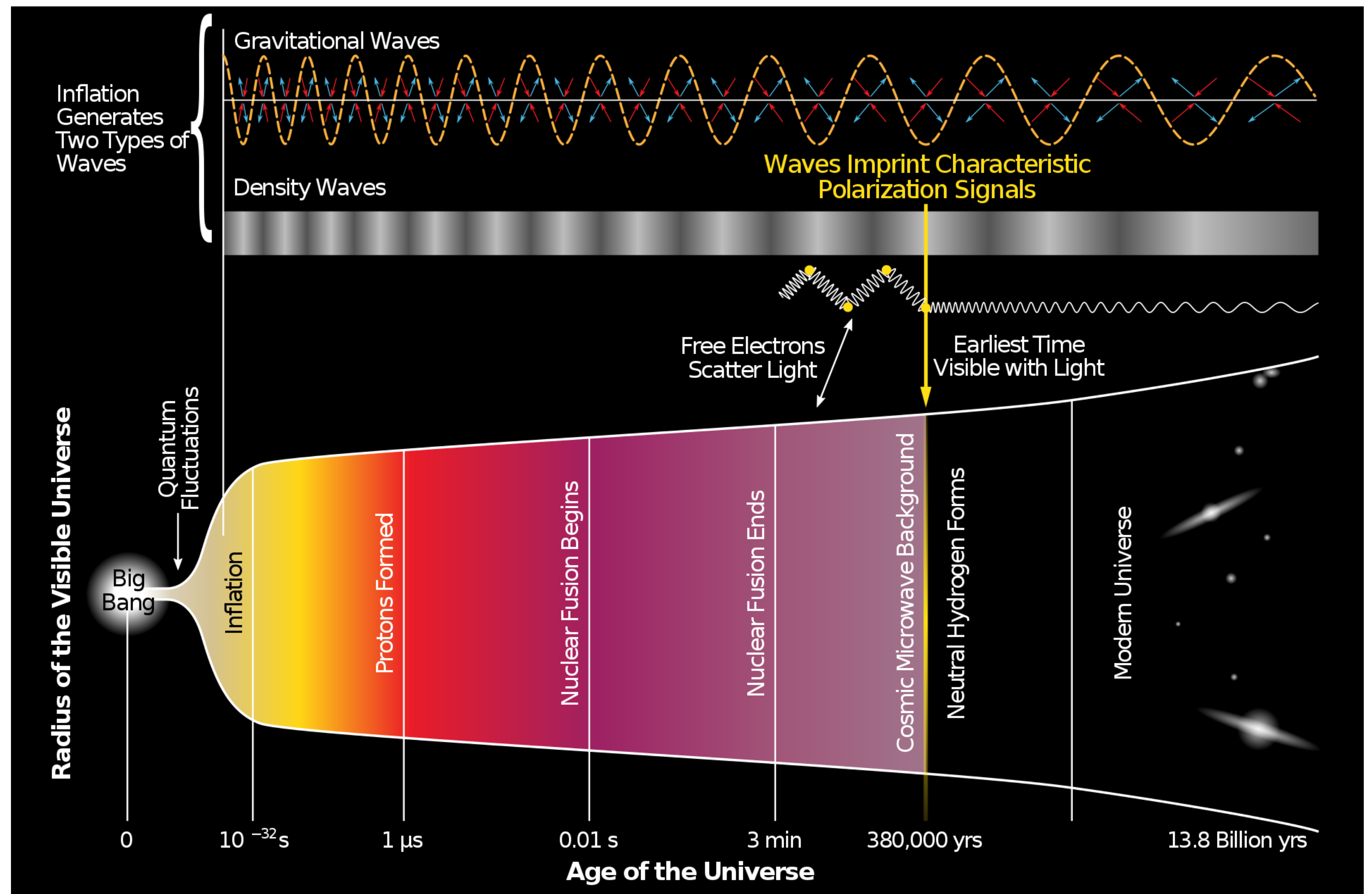
- **SCALAR PERTURBATIONS (SPIN 0)**  
→ large scale structure
- **TENSOR PERTURBATIONS (SPIN 2)**  
→ GW



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History of the Universe. Credit: [4].

# AMPLIFICATION OF MAGNETIC FIELD PERTURBATIONS

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**Problem:** conformal invariance  $g_{\mu\nu}^* = \Omega^2(x)g_{\mu\nu}$ ,  $S_{EM}^* = S_{EM}$ ,  $g_{\mu\nu}^{RW} = a^2(\eta)g_{\mu\nu}^{M4}$

Electromagnetic fields in the expanding Universe behave as in flat static spacetime

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Electromagnetic fields in the expanding Universe behave as in flat static spacetime

➤ Magnetic flux is conserved

➤ Vector perturbations quickly vanish during inflation:  $B \sim \frac{1}{a^2}$   $B \rightarrow 0$  as  $a \sim e^{Ht}$

# AMPLIFICATION OF MAGNETIC FIELD PERTURBATIONS

---

Break conformal invariance to amplify  
vector perturbations

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Break conformal invariance to amplify vector perturbations

A solution: introduce a time dependence  $I^2(t) = I^2[\phi(t), \dots]$

$$S = -\frac{1}{16\pi} \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} \left[ I^2(\phi) F_{\mu\nu} F^{\mu\nu} \right] + \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} \mathcal{L}_\phi$$

↓ Test EM field
 ↓ Inflationary background evolution

No source term:  
conductivity vanishes  
during inflation

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**A solution:** introduce a time dependence  $I^2(t) = I^2[\phi(t), \dots]$

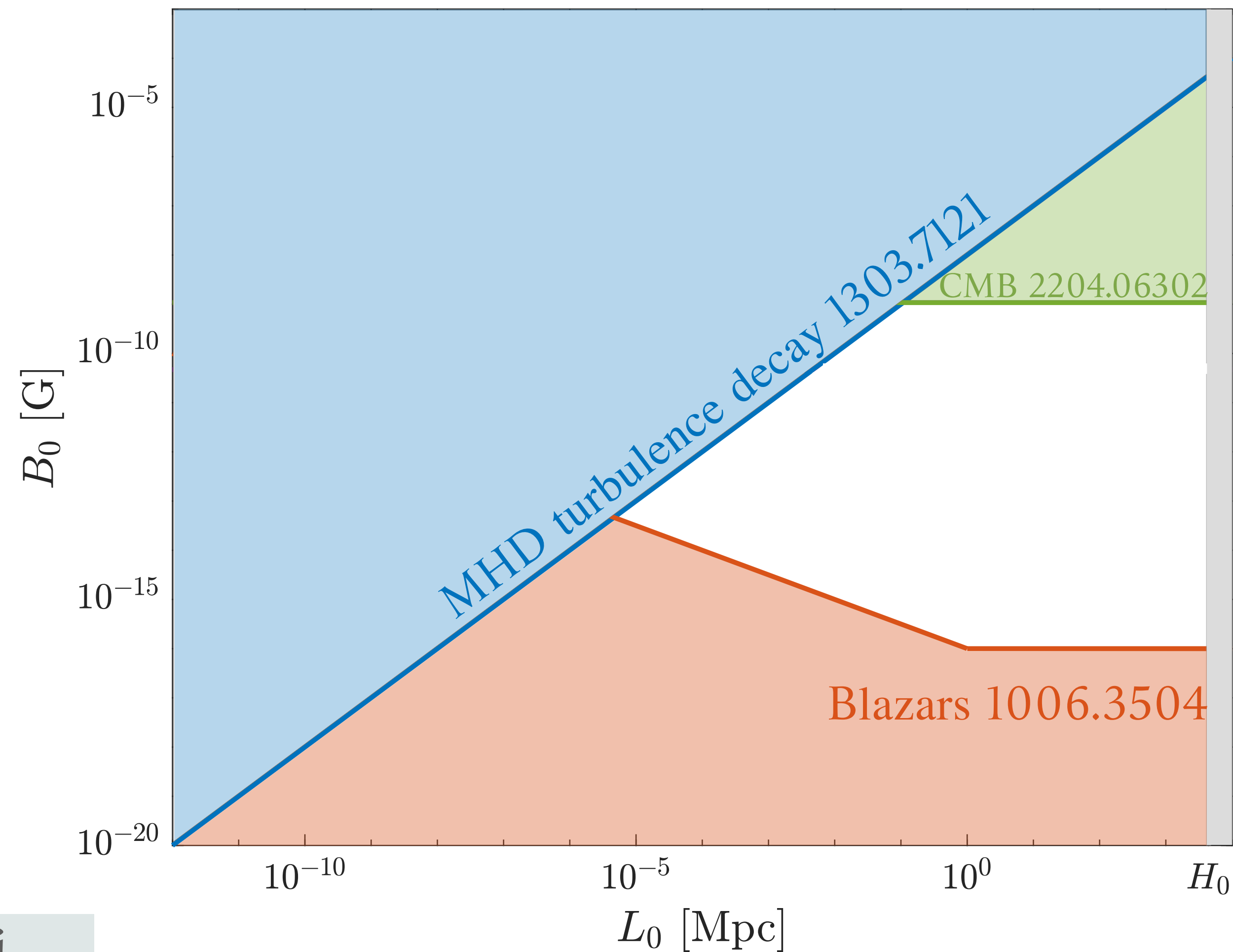
**REHEATING:** conductivity jumps to large values

- Electric field is shorted out
- Magnetic field decays  $B \sim a^{-2}$

# CONSTRAINTS ON MAGNETOGENESIS

The B field in gravitationally collapsed objects has been highly processed after inflation

1. Predict  $(B_0, L_0)$  compatible with lower bounds in the IGM



# CONSTRAINTS ON MAGNETOGENESIS

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2. Restore conformal invariance after inflation

→  $I_f \sim 1$  before adiabatic decay

$$S_{EM}|_f = -\frac{1}{16\pi} \int \sqrt{-g} d^4x I_f^2 F_{\mu\nu} F^{\mu\nu} = S_{Maxwell}$$

3. EM field should not spoil inflation

→ Avoid back reaction:  $\rho_{EM} < \rho_\phi$

4. The theory should be in its perturbative regime

*V. Demozzi, V. Mukhanov, & H. Rubinstein, JCAP (2009)*

→ Avoid strong coupling:  $g \sim I^{-1} \ll 1$

# MODELLING THE COUPLING FUNCTION

---

$$I(\phi) \rightarrow I(\eta) = a(\eta)^n$$

$$\mathcal{A}''(\eta, k) + \left( k^2 - \frac{n(n+1)}{\eta^2} \right) \mathcal{A}(\eta, k) = 0$$

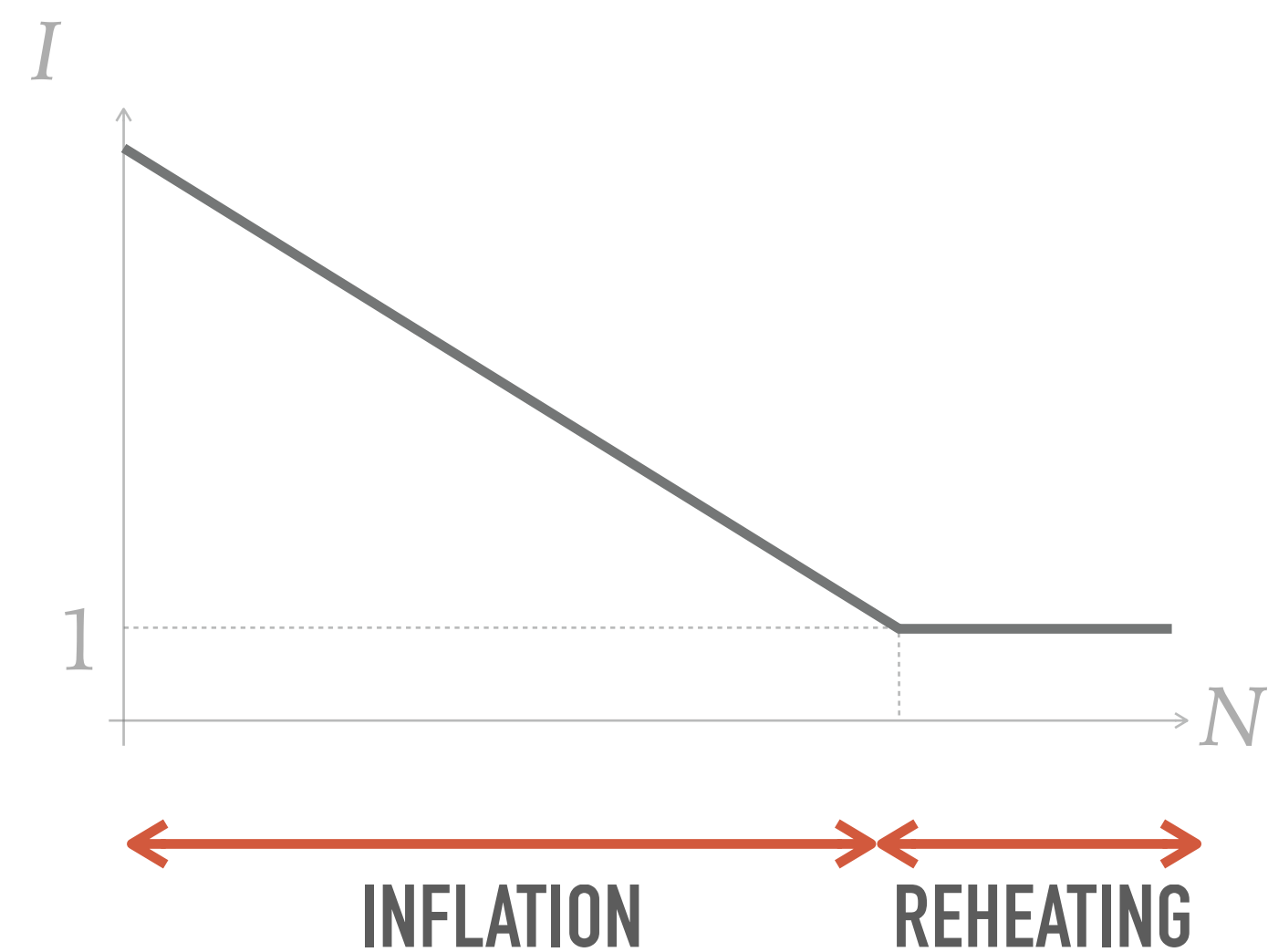
$$\mathcal{A}(\eta, k) \equiv \frac{A(\eta, k)}{I}$$

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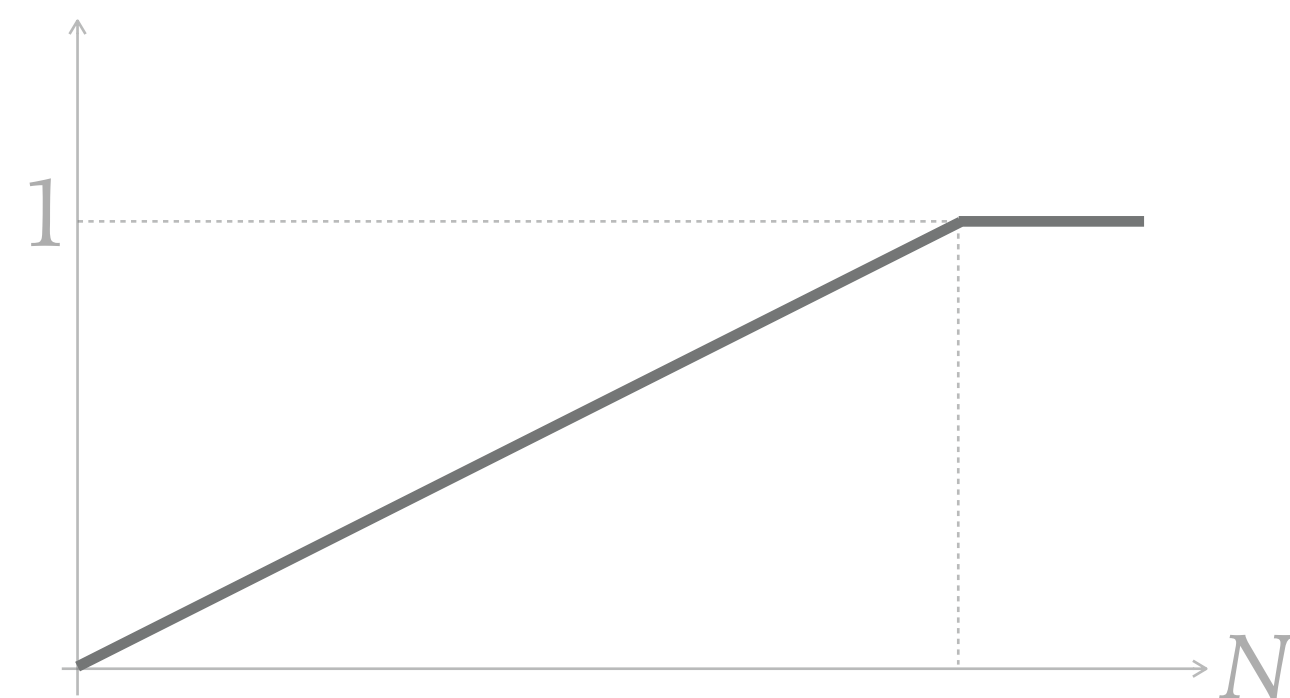
$$\mathcal{A}(\eta, k) \equiv \frac{A(\eta, k)}{I}$$



## BACK-REACTION PROBLEM

- The EM field spoils inflation

$$\rho_{EM} > \rho_\phi$$



## STRONG COUPLING PROBLEM

- Out of perturbative regime

$$I \sim g^{-1} < 1$$

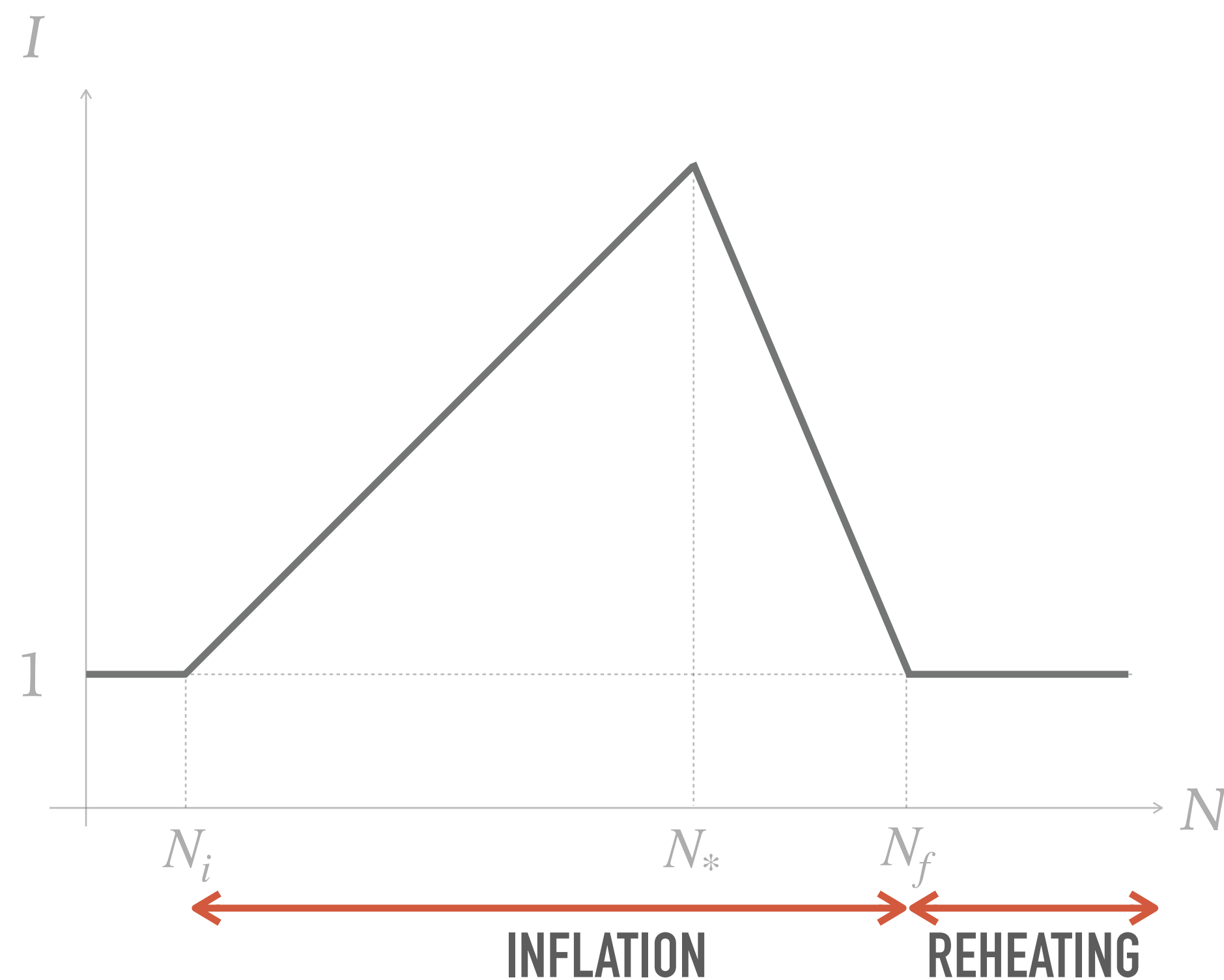
$$e \gg 1$$

# SAWTOOTH COUPLING

*R. Ferreira, R.K. Jain, & M. Sloth, JCAP10 (2013) 004*

*R. Sharma, S. Jagannathan, T. R. Seshadri & K. Subramanian, Phys Rev D 96 (2017)*

- A possibility is to take advantage of both the increasing and the decreasing mode



$$I = \begin{cases} \mathcal{C} \left( \frac{a}{a_*} \right)^{\nu_1} & a_i > a > a_* \\ \mathcal{C} \left( \frac{a}{a_*} \right)^{-\nu_2} & a_* > a > a_f \end{cases}$$

$$\nu_1, \nu_2 \geq 0$$

- Fix  $\mathcal{C}$  and  $a_*$  to have  $I_i = I_f = 1$

# ADDING HELICITY

*C. Caprini & L. Sorbo JCAP 1410 (2014)*

$$S = -\frac{1}{16\pi} \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} I^2[\phi(t)] \left[ F_{\mu\nu} F^{\mu\nu} - \gamma F_{\mu\nu} \tilde{F}^{\mu\nu} \right] + \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} \mathcal{L}_\phi$$

$$\mathcal{A}_\pm''(\eta, k) + \left( k^2 \pm \frac{2k\gamma n}{\eta} - \frac{n(n+1)}{\eta^2} \right) \mathcal{A}_\pm(\eta, k) = 0$$

Exponential amplification of  
the positive helicity mode

## WHY HELICITY?

- Observations
- Inverse-cascade evolution

# SCALAR FIELD $\Phi$

---

- How to model a finite stage of **accelerated expansion** in the Universe?


$$\ddot{a} > 0$$

- From the Friedmann equations

$$\ddot{a} = -\frac{4\pi}{3}G(\epsilon + 3p)a \longrightarrow \epsilon + 3p < 0$$

- Scalar field

$$\epsilon = \frac{1}{2}\dot{\phi}^2 + V$$
$$p = \frac{1}{2}\dot{\phi}^2 - V$$

# SCALAR FIELD $\Phi$

► How to model a finite stage of **accelerated expansion** in the Universe?

$$\ddot{a} > 0$$

► From the Friedmann equations

$$\ddot{a} = -\frac{4\pi}{3}G(\epsilon + 3p)a \longrightarrow \epsilon + 3p < 0$$

► Scalar field + **slow roll**

$$\begin{aligned} \epsilon &= \cancel{\frac{1}{2}\dot{\phi}^2} + V \\ p &= \cancel{\frac{1}{2}\dot{\phi}^2} - V \end{aligned} \longrightarrow 0 < \epsilon = -p$$

# INFLATIONARY EVOLUTION

## MODIFIED GRAVITY THEORIES

- A scalar condensate can be imitated within gravity
- Einstein gravity  $\mathcal{L}_{EH} = R - 2\Lambda$  as a low-curvature limit of a more complicated theory

**JORDAN FRAME**

Conformal  
transformation

**EINSTEIN FRAME**

$$S = \frac{M_{pl}^2}{2} \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} f(R)$$

$$S_E = \int d^4x \sqrt{-\tilde{g}} \left[ \frac{M_{pl}^2}{2} \tilde{R} + \mathcal{L}_\phi \right]$$

Einstein gravity      Scalar field

# INFLATIONARY EVOLUTION

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- Einstein gravity  $\mathcal{L}_{EH} = R - 2\Lambda$  as a low-curvature limit of a more complicated theory

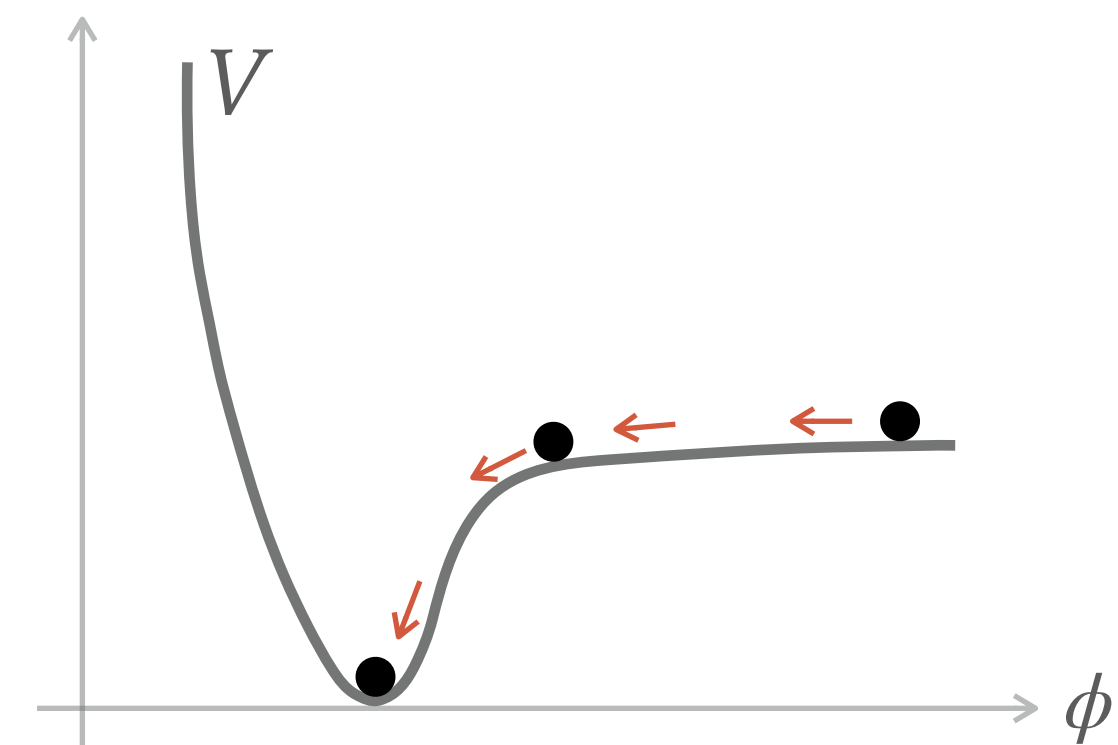
**JORDAN FRAME**  $\xrightarrow{\text{Conformal transformation}}$  **EINSTEIN FRAME**

$$S = \frac{M_{pl}^2}{2} \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} f(R)$$

$$S_E = \int d^4x \sqrt{-\tilde{g}} \left[ \frac{M_{pl}^2}{2} \tilde{R} + \mathcal{L}_\phi \right]$$

## STAROBINSKY'S MODEL

$$f(R) = R + \frac{R^2}{6M^2}$$



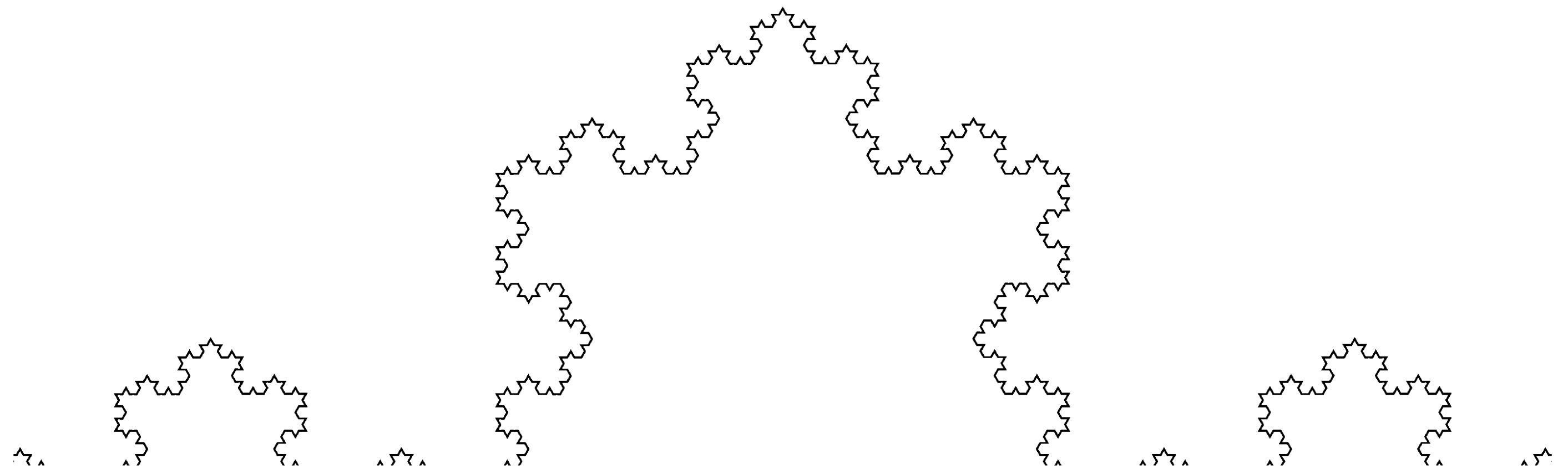
# FUNDAMENTAL SCALE INVARIANCE

## Scale symmetry could have shaped the Universe at high energies

*C. Wetterich*, *Nuclear Physics B*, 115326 (2021)

*A. Strumia & A. Salvio*, *J High Energ Phys*, 6 (2017)

- Nearly scale-invariant spectrum of perturbations on the CMB
- Naturally flat inflationary potentials
- Standard Model
- Dynamical mass generation
- Dark matter candidates



# SCALE-INVARIANT MODIFIED GRAVITY MODEL

*M. Rinaldi and L. Vanzo PR D 94 (2016)*

►  $\mathcal{L}_{EH} \longrightarrow f(R, \phi)$

$$\mathcal{L} = \sqrt{-g} \left[ \frac{\alpha}{36} R^2 + \frac{\xi}{6} \phi^2 R - \frac{1}{2} (\partial\phi)^2 - \frac{\lambda}{4} \phi^4 \right], \quad \alpha, \lambda, \xi > 0$$

↓ Higher order term in R
 ↓ Scalar field

► Scale symmetry (dilations)

•  $\bar{g}_{\mu\nu}(x) = g_{\mu\nu}(\ell x)$

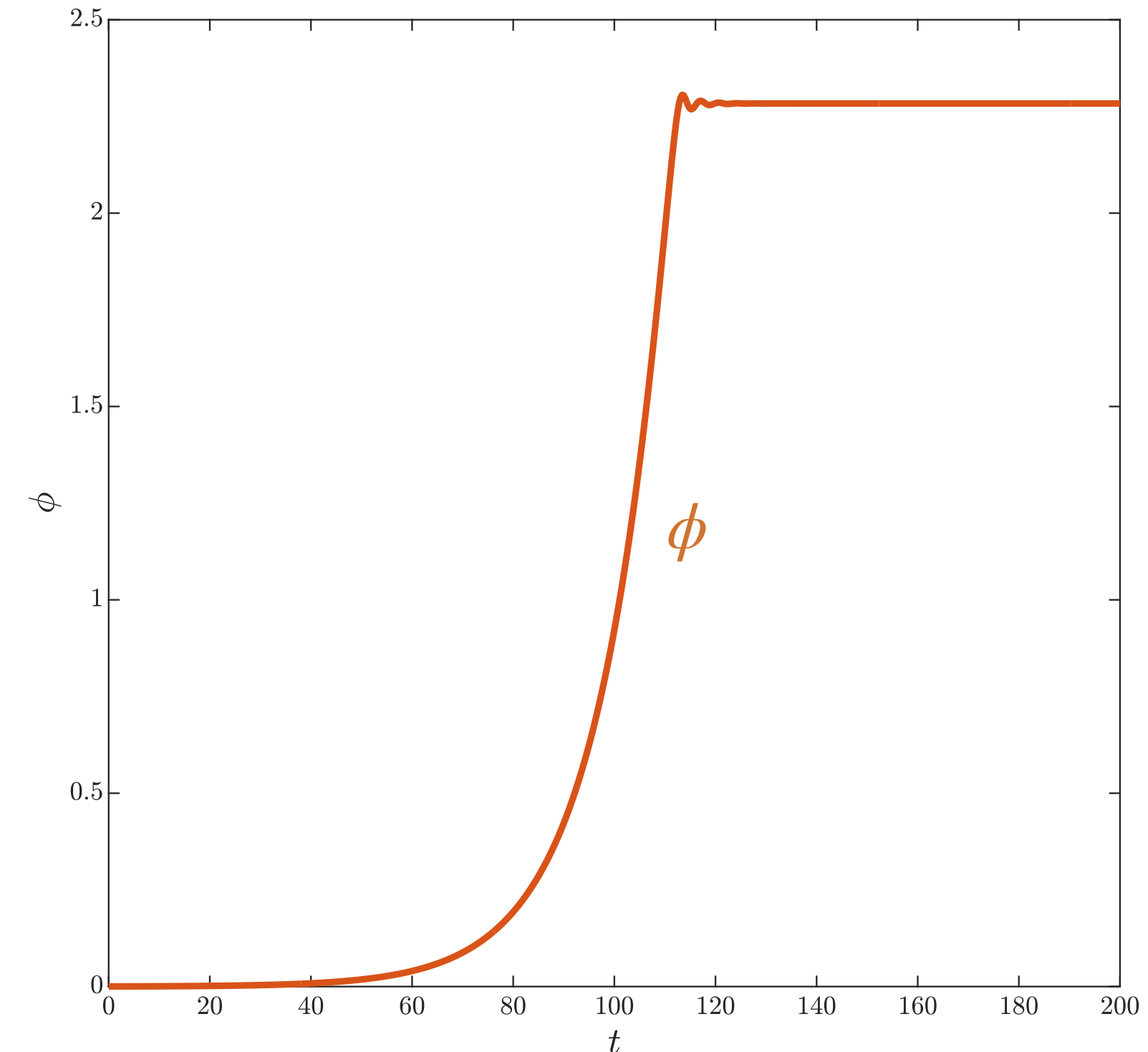
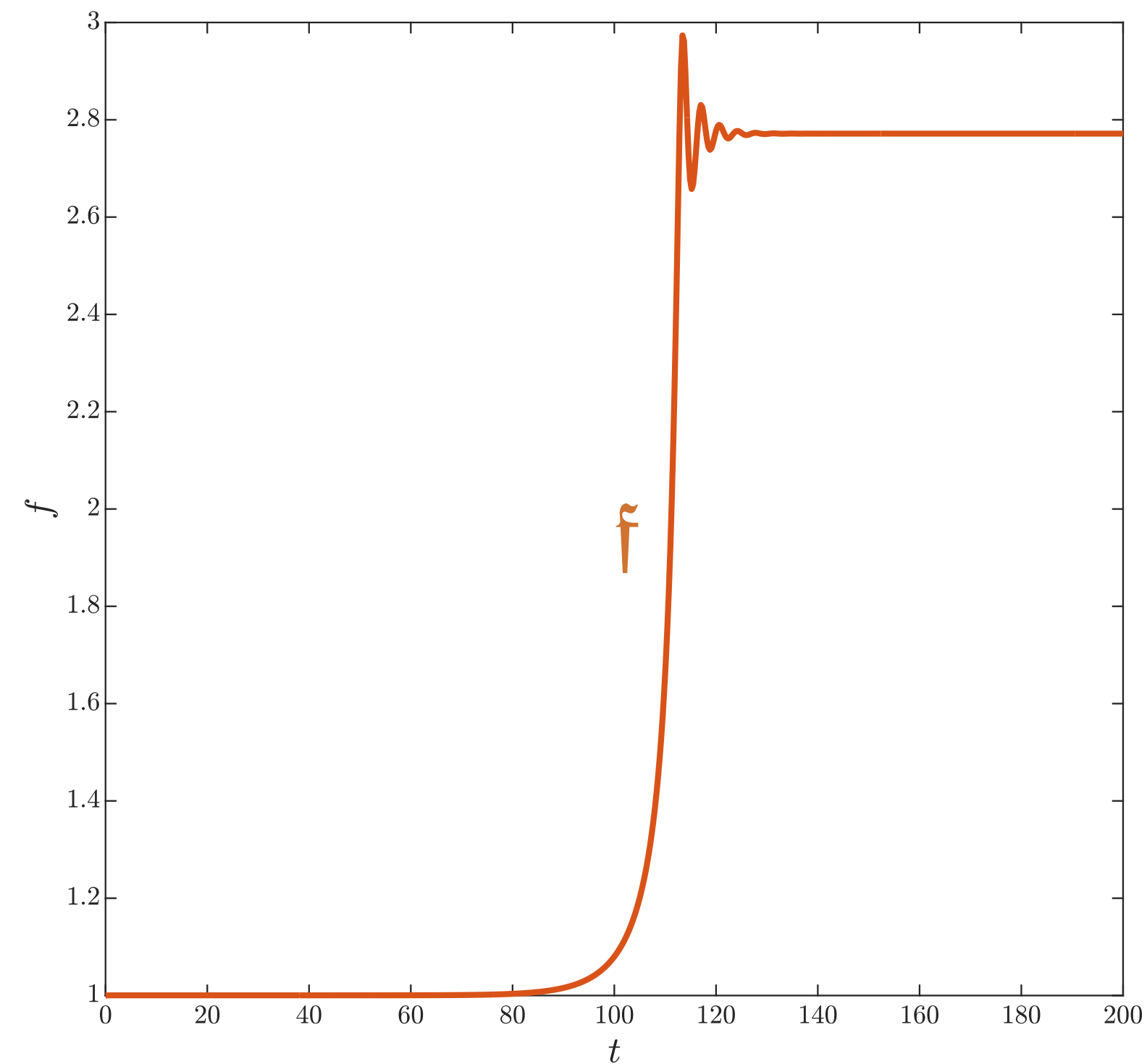
•  $\bar{\phi}(x) = \ell \phi(\ell x)$

$$\bar{\mathcal{L}} = \mathcal{L}$$

# SCALE-INVARIANT MODIFIED GRAVITY MODEL

## 1. JORDAN FRAME $\rightarrow$ EINSTEIN FRAME

The theory has two dynamical scalar fields: are we in a multi-field theory?



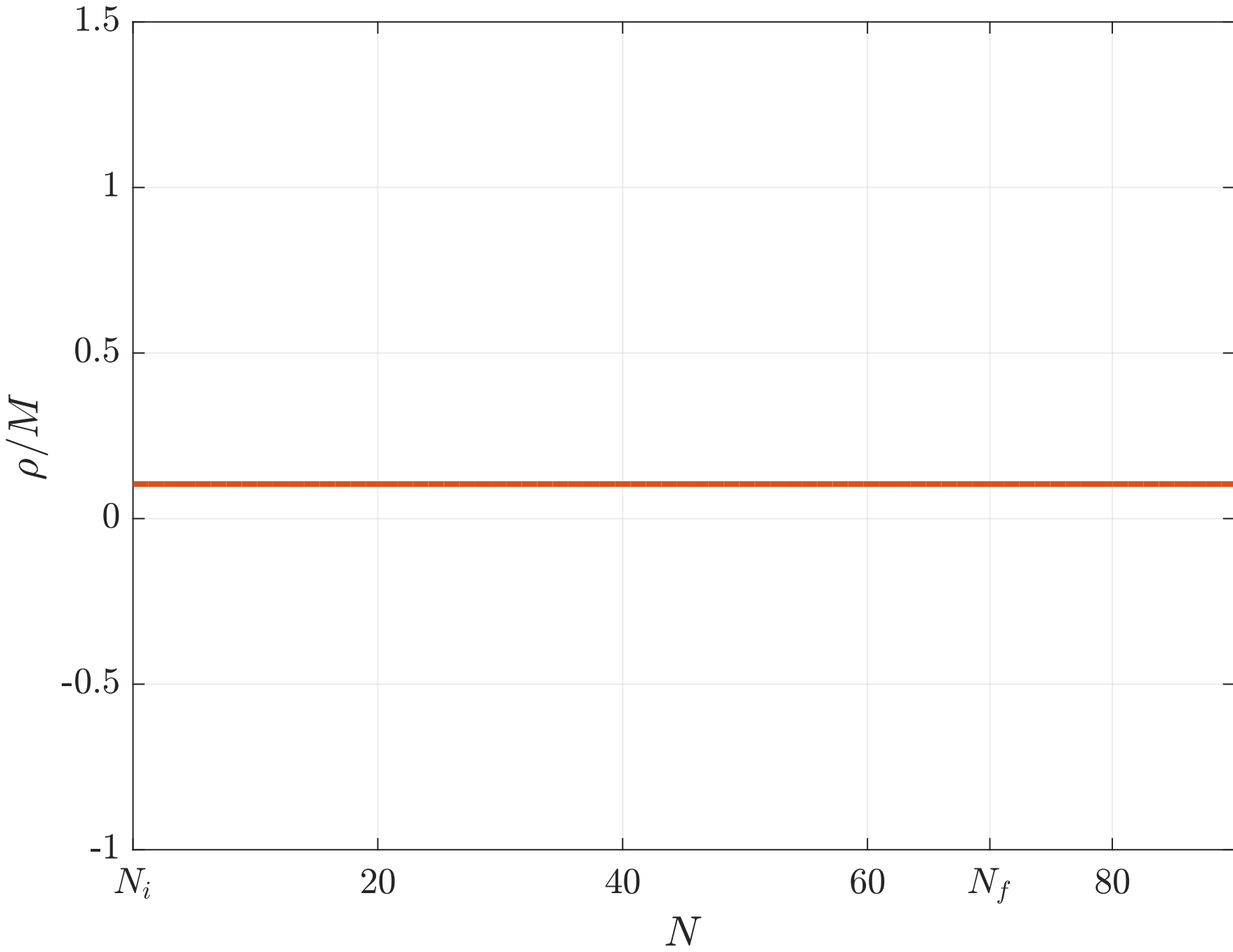
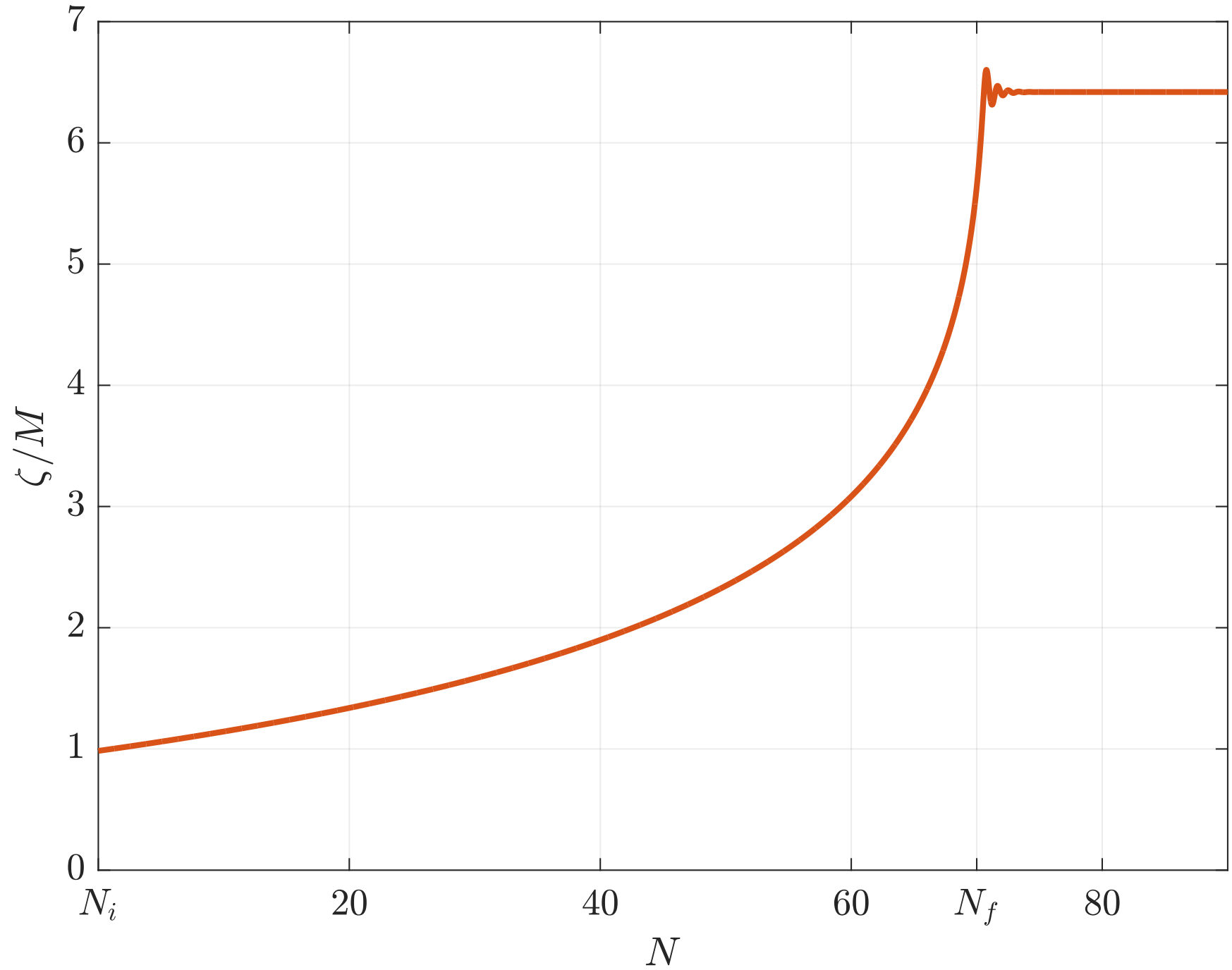
# SCALE-INVARIANT MODIFIED GRAVITY MODEL

## 2. SCALE SYMMETRY → FIELDS REDEFINITION

*G. Tambalo & M. Rinaldi Gen Relativ Gravit 49 (2017)*

$$\zeta = g(\mathfrak{f}, \phi)$$

$$\rho = f(\mathfrak{f}, \phi)$$

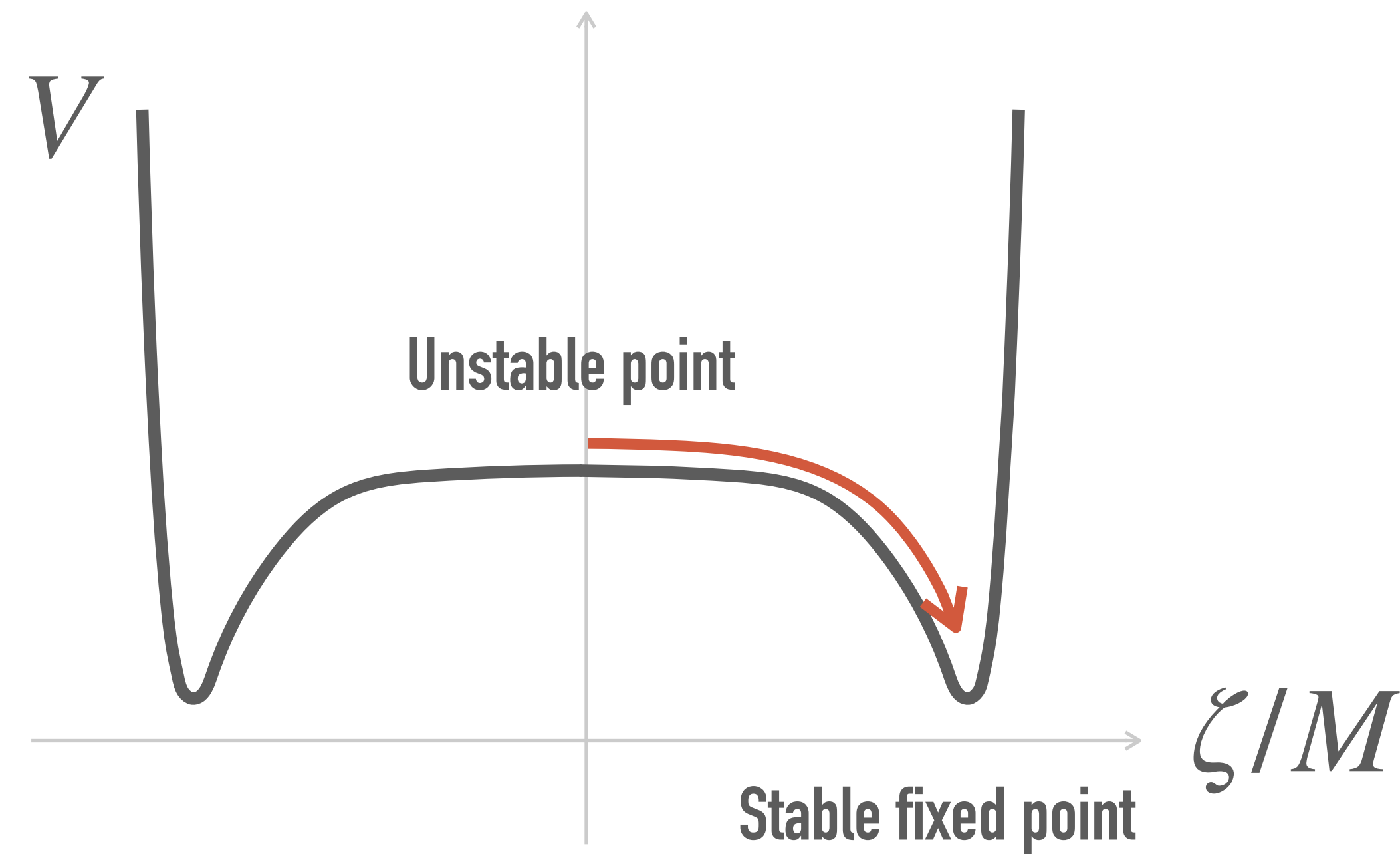


# SCALE-INVARIANT MODIFIED GRAVITY MODEL

- Scale symmetry breaking
- Non-vanishing potential at the minima

$\rho$  GOLDSTONE  
BOSON

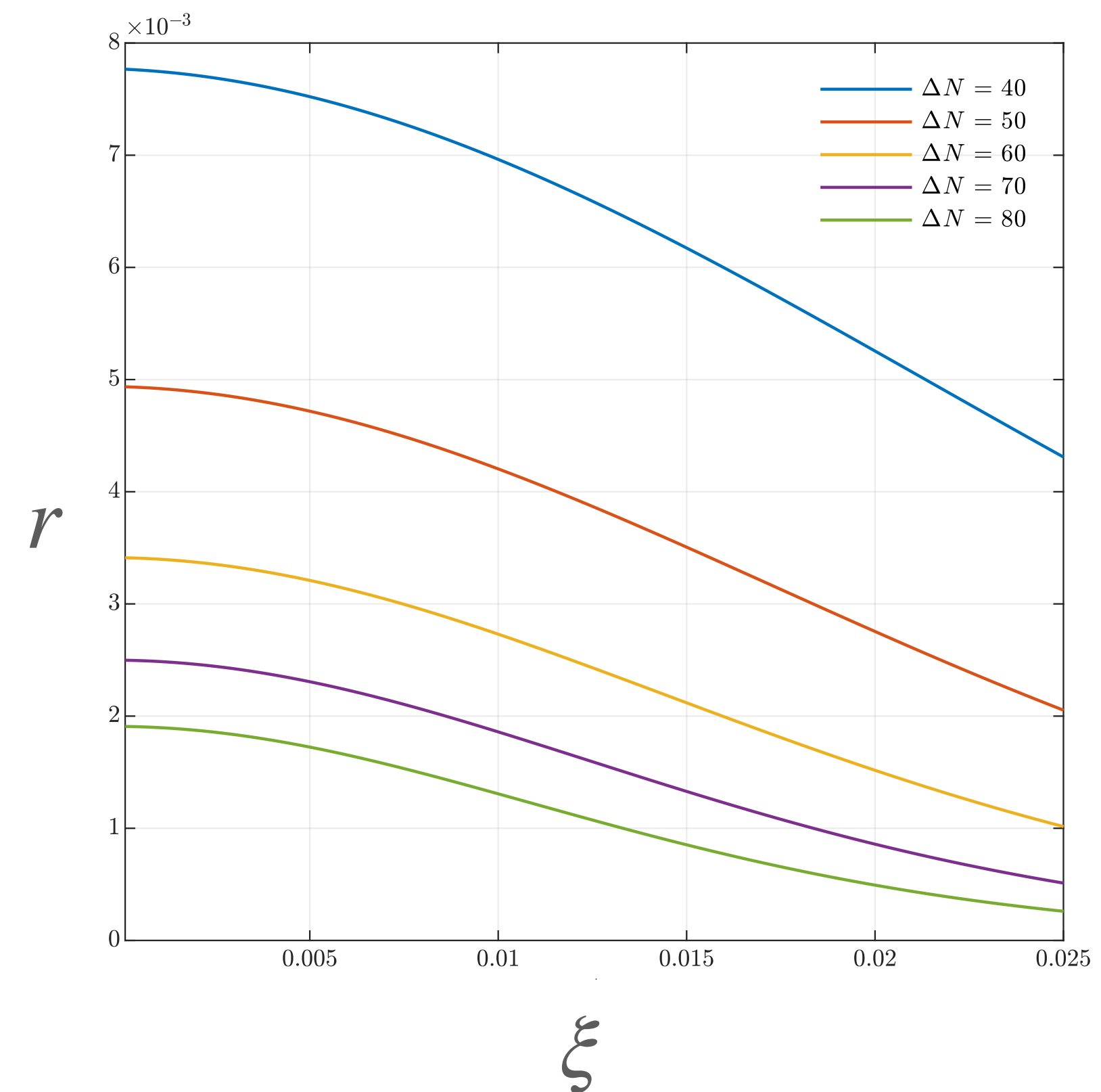
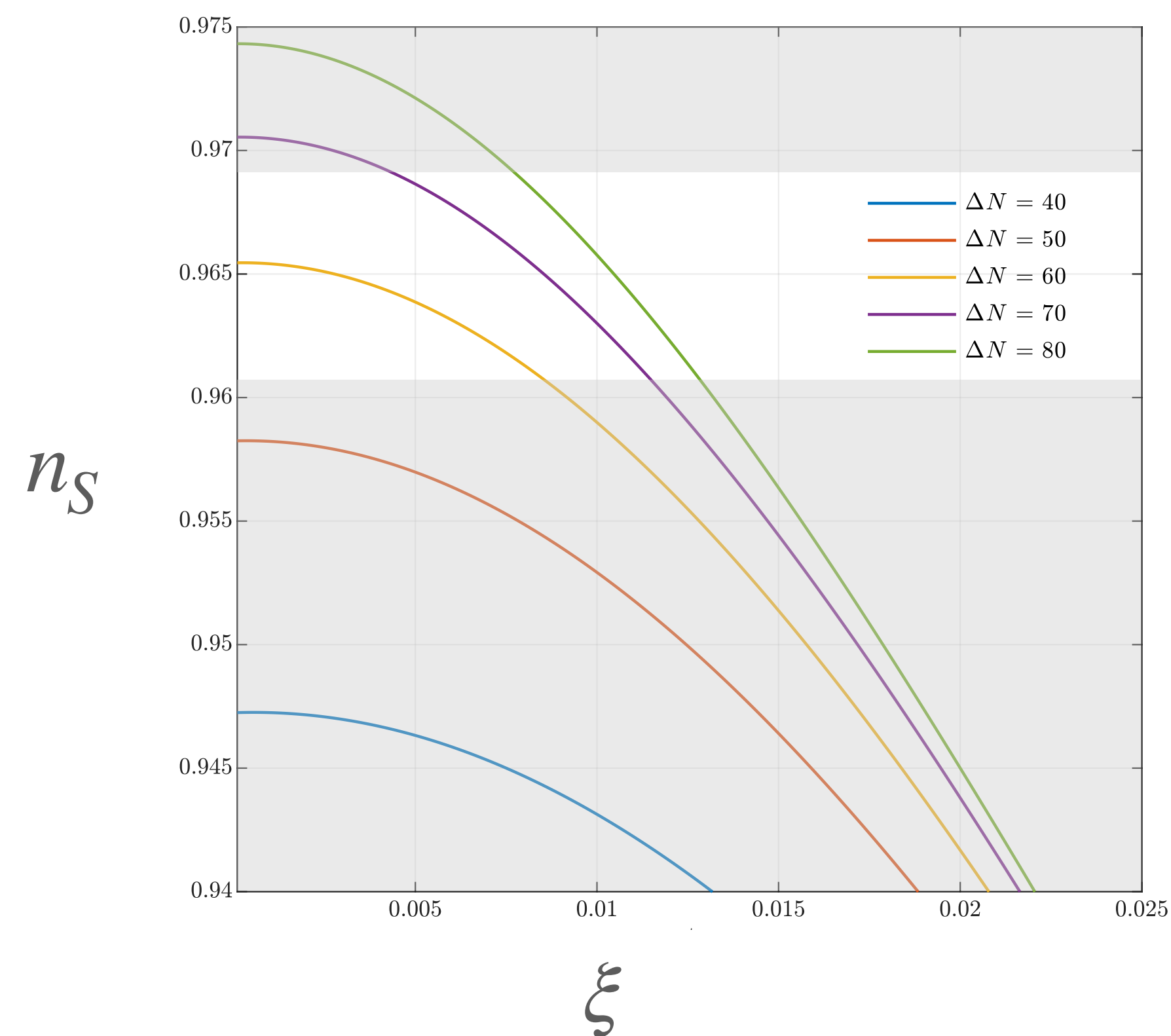
$\zeta$  INFLATON



# SCALE-INVARIANT MODIFIED GRAVITY MODEL

## SPECTRAL INDICES

- $\Omega = \alpha\lambda + \xi^2 \lesssim 1.15 \xi^2$
- $\alpha \gtrsim 2 \times 10^{10}$
- $\xi \lesssim 1.3 \times 10^{-2}$
- $\Delta N \gtrsim 55$



# EVOLUTION OF THE INFLATON

**APPROXIMATIONS** • Slow-roll

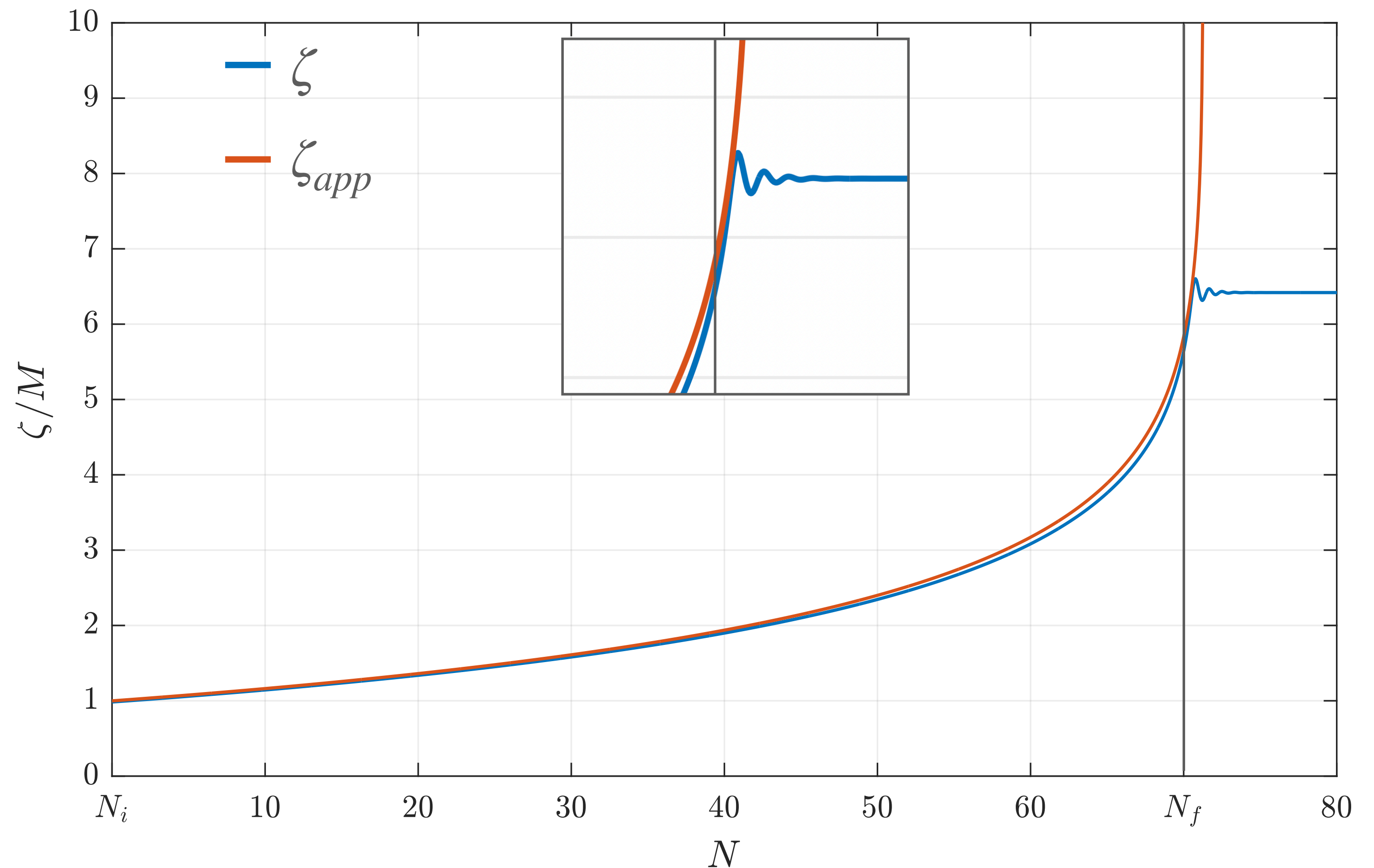
•  $\xi \ll 1$

•  $\Omega \rightarrow \xi^2$



$$\zeta(a) \simeq \sqrt{6} M \text{ArcTanh} \left[ \mathcal{C} a^{\frac{4}{3}\xi} \right]$$

$$I(\zeta) = \alpha \tanh \left[ \frac{\zeta}{\sqrt{6}M} \right]^{\pm \frac{3}{4\xi}\nu_1} \simeq a^{\pm\nu_i}$$



# RESULTS

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## FIX THE EXPONENTS $\nu_i$

- Scale-invariant magnetic power spectrum is natural during inflation (scalar & tensor)

Impossible to achieve a scale-invariant magnetic power spectrum throughout inflation

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Impossible to achieve a scale-invariant magnetic power spectrum throughout inflation

CMB observations are only sensitive to the first stage of inflation

# RESULTS

## FIX THE EXPONENTS $\nu_i$

- Scale-invariant magnetic power spectrum is natural during inflation (scalar & tensor)

$$\nu_1 = 2$$

### FIRST STAGE

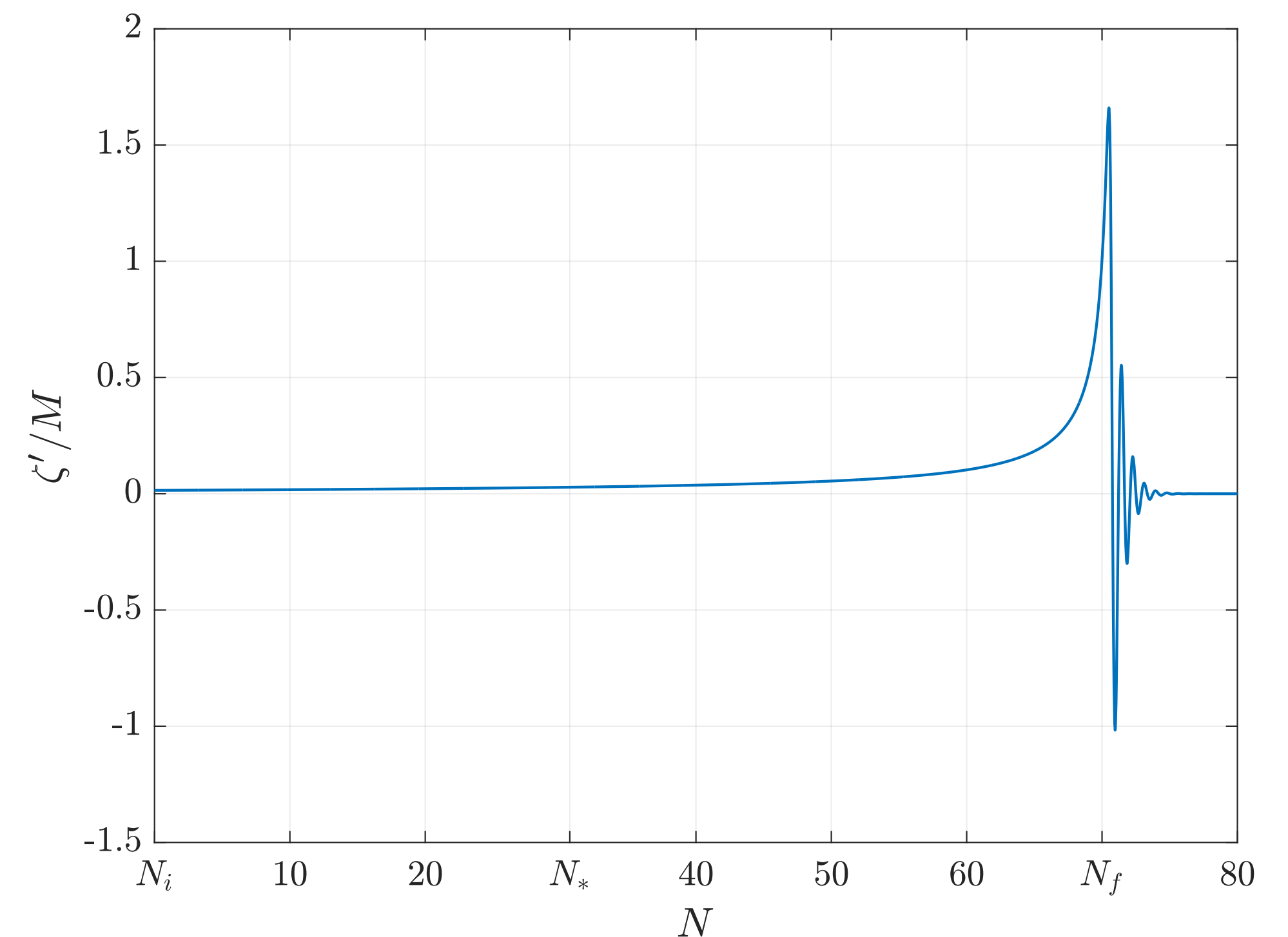
$$\rightarrow \frac{d\rho_{B,I}^{\pm}}{d \ln k} \text{ is scale-invariant}$$

$$\rightarrow \frac{d\rho_{E,I}^{\pm}}{d \ln k} \text{ is scale-invariant}$$

### SECOND STAGE

$$\rightarrow \frac{d\rho_{B,II}^{\pm}}{d \ln k} \propto k^4$$

$$\rightarrow \frac{d\rho_{E,II}^{\pm}}{d \ln k} \propto k^2$$



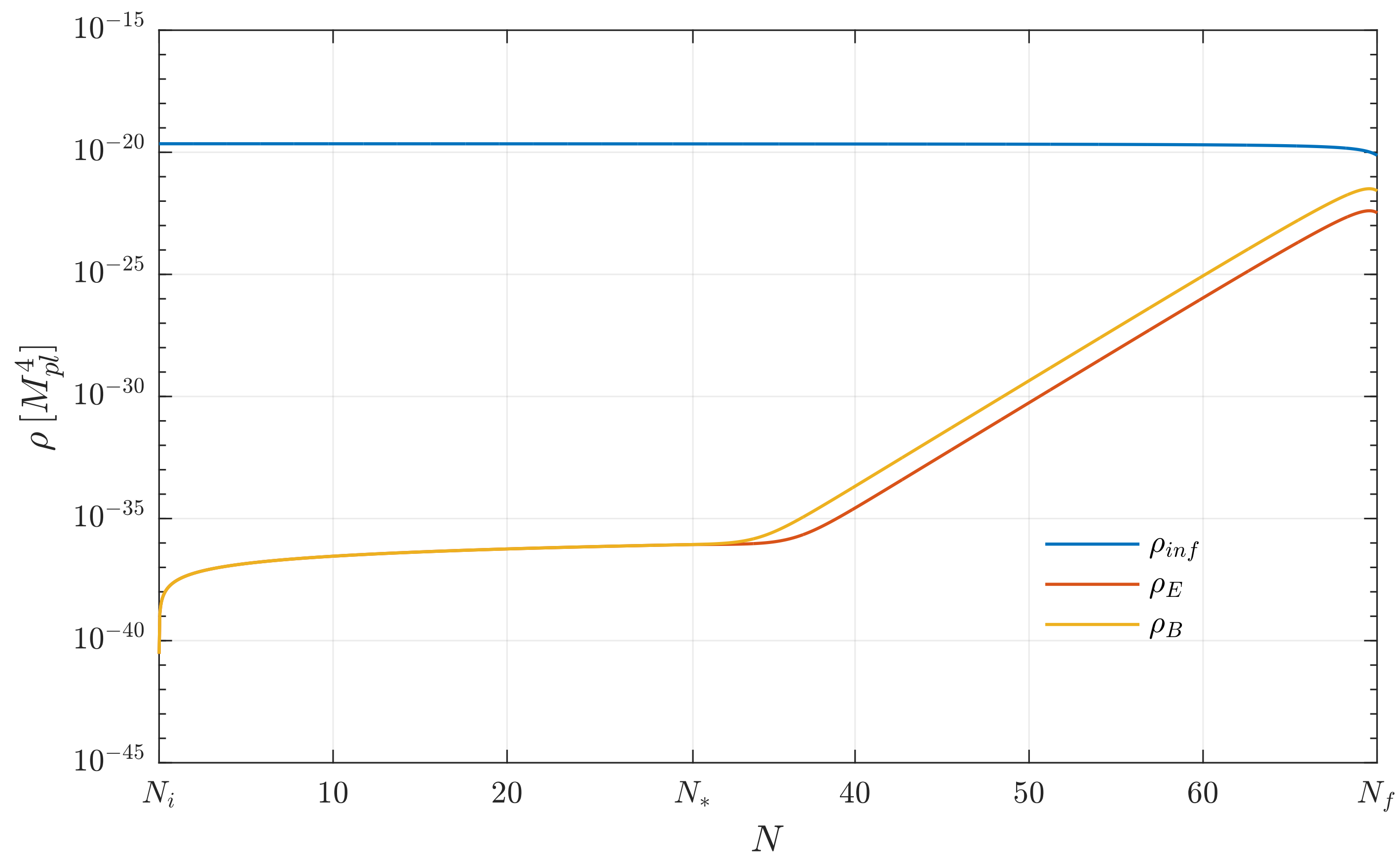
- Departure from scale invariance: inflaton  $\leftrightarrow$  EM field

# RESULTS

## BACK-REACTION

➤ Explicit evaluation of the modified Klein-Gordon equations

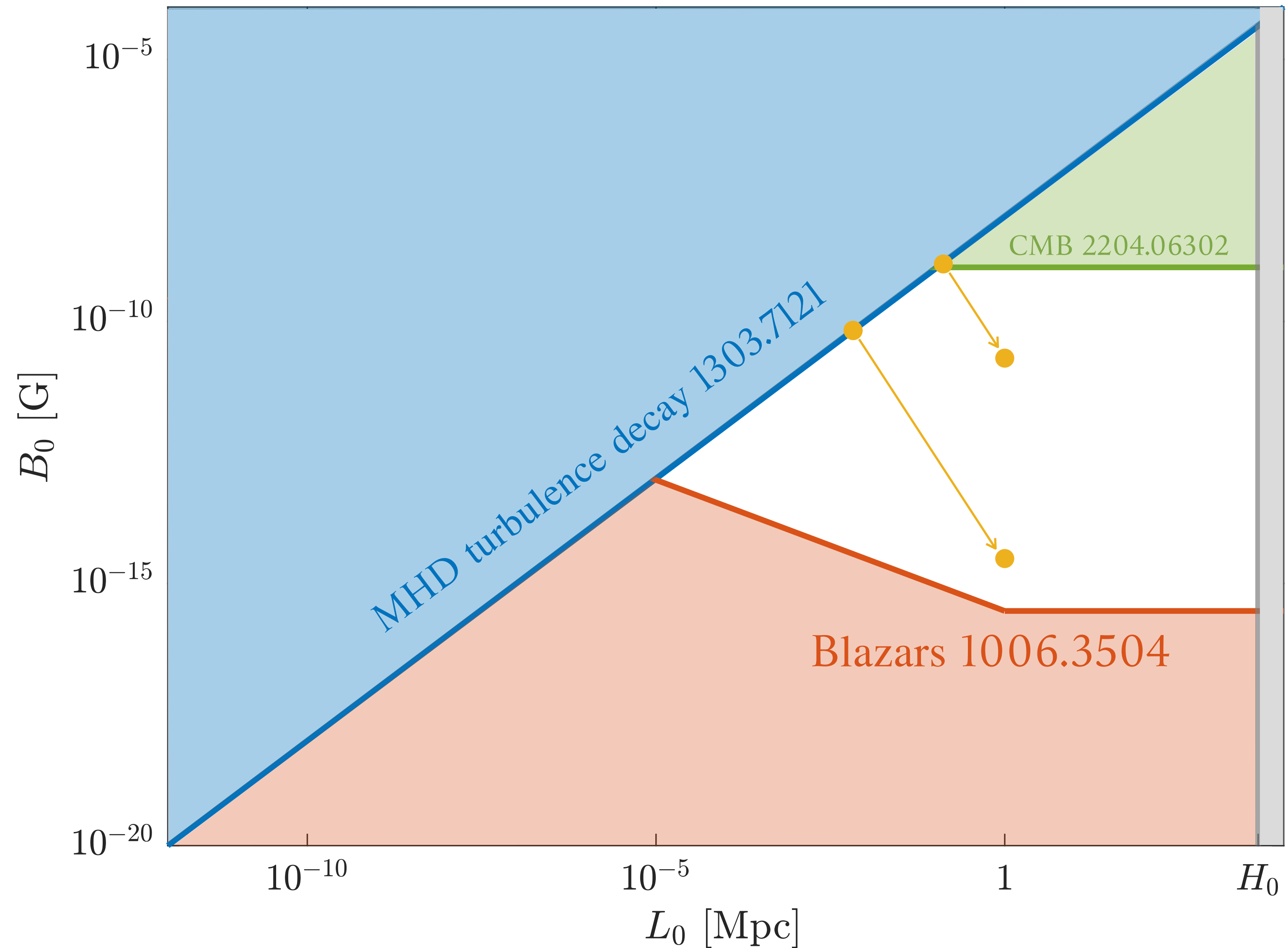
➤  $\rho_{EM} \ll \rho_\zeta$



# RESULTS

- Present-day  $(B_0, L_0)$  compatible with bounds within all the allowed region
- Valid for all the inflationary energy scales

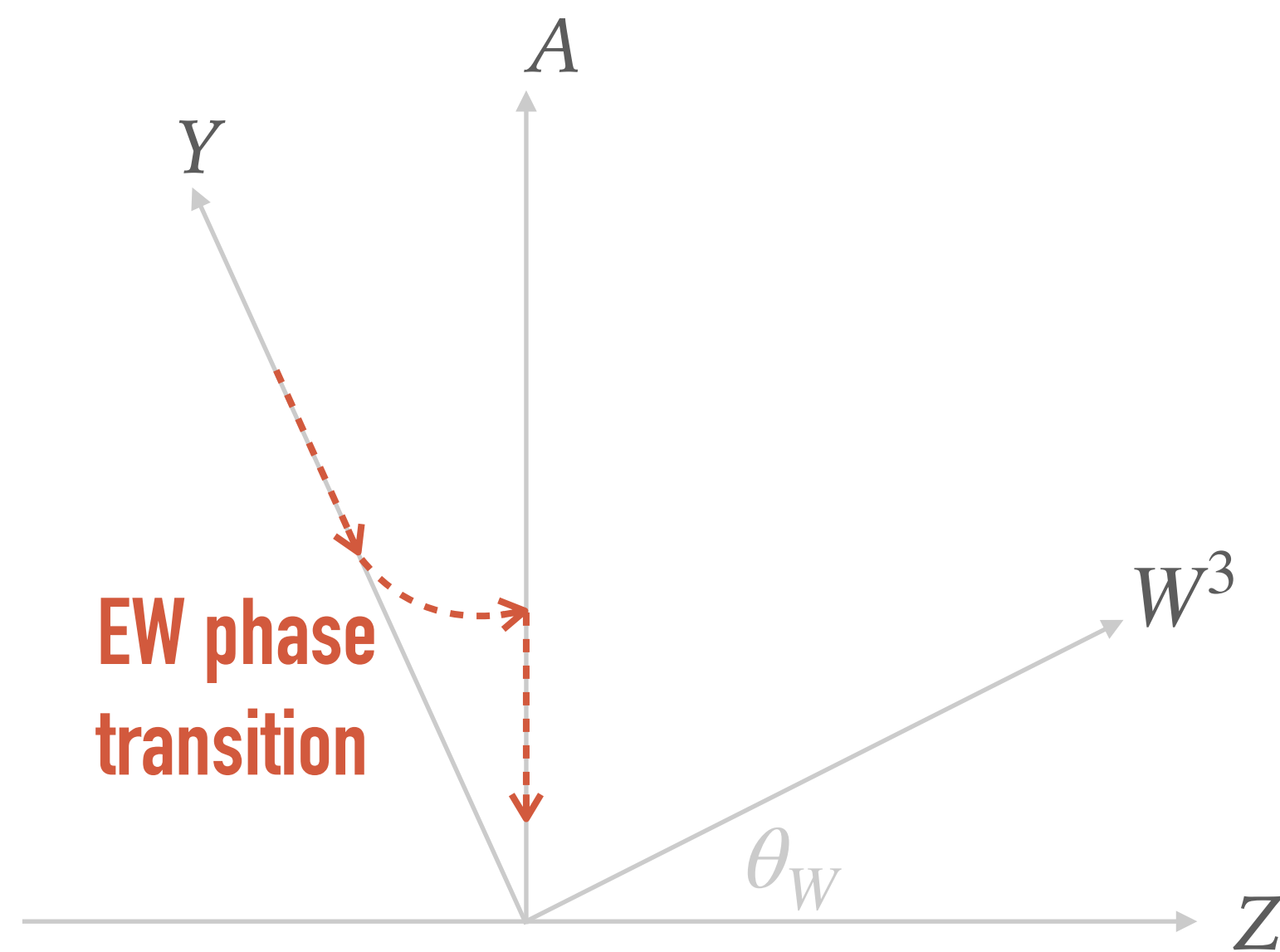
$$10^{16} \text{ GeV} \lesssim \rho_{inf} \lesssim 246 \text{ GeV}$$



# BARYOGENESIS

*K. Kamada and A. J. Long PRD 94 (2016)*

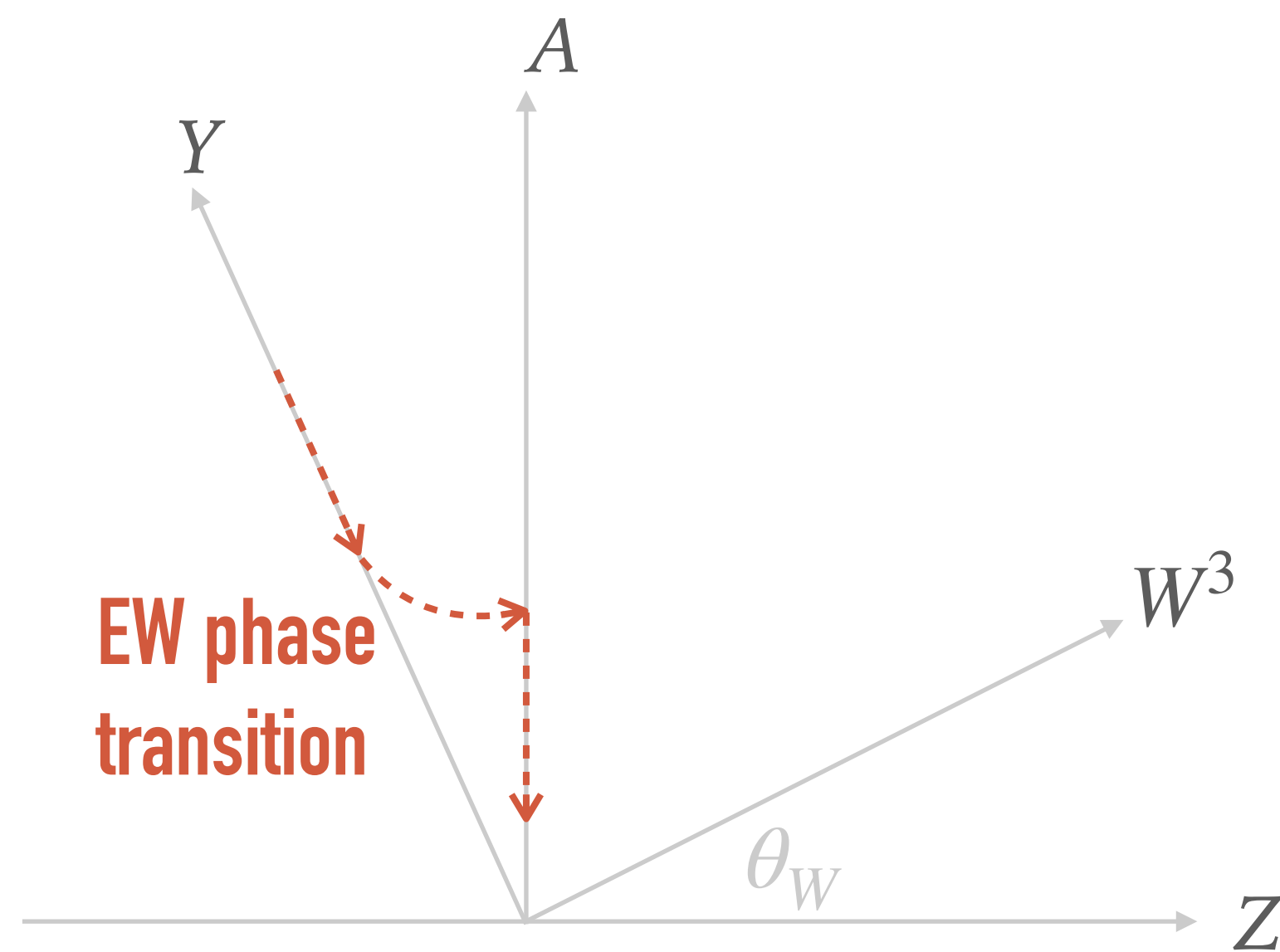
- If helical PMF existed before the EW transitions, **baryon asymmetry is generated**
- Decaying hyper magnetic helicity  $\rightarrow$  (B+L) asymmetry



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$\rho_{inf}^{1/4}$ [GeV]	$\Delta N$	$\nu_1$	$\nu_2$	$\gamma$
$2 \times 10^7$	55	3.4	0.3	0.2
$\rightarrow L_0 = 4.6 \times 10^{-8}$ Mpc $\rightarrow B_0(L_0) = 4.6 \times 10^{-7}$ nG $\rightarrow B_0(\ell = 1 \text{ Mpc}) = 1.8 \times 10^{-11}$ nG				

- Observed BAU
- Seed for dynamo

# SUMMARY

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- Inflation is a natural setting for primordial magnetic fields generation
- Amplification of magnetic field perturbations requires breaking conformal invariance
- Model of magnetogenesis: sawtooth coupling + helicity
- Model of inflation: scale-invariant modified gravity
- Promising results for magnetic fields in the IGM

# IMAGE CREDITS

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1. *QUIJOTE Collaboration*

2. *Baumann, D. & McAllister, L. Inflation and string theory (Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 2015)*

3. [https://wiki.cosmos.esa.int/planck-legacy-archive/index.php/CMB\\_maps](https://wiki.cosmos.esa.int/planck-legacy-archive/index.php/CMB_maps)

4. *National Science Foundation (NASA, JPL, Keck Foundation, Moore Foundation, related) — Funded BICEP2 Program; modifications by E. Siegel*

**BACKUP SLIDES**

# CONFORMAL INVARIANCE

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► The EM action is conformal invariant

$$S = -\frac{1}{16\pi} \int \sqrt{-g} d^4x g^{\mu\alpha} g^{\nu\beta} F_{\mu\nu} F_{\alpha\beta}$$

$$\downarrow$$
$$g_{\mu\nu}^* = \Omega^2 g_{\mu\nu}$$

$$\downarrow$$
$$A_\mu^* = A_\mu, S^* = S$$

► Spatially flat FLRW models are conformally flat

$$ds_{FLRW}^2 = \tilde{\Omega}^2(x)(d\eta^2 - \delta_{ik}dx^i dx^k)$$

$$d\eta = \frac{dt}{a}$$

$$\downarrow$$
$$g_{\mu\nu}^{FLRW} = \tilde{\Omega}^2(x)\eta_{\mu\nu}$$

► Maxwell equations in spatially flat FLRW are equivalent to the Minkowski ones:

$$B \sim \frac{1}{a^2} \quad \longrightarrow \quad B \rightarrow 0 \text{ as } a \sim e^{Ht}$$

# STRONG COUPLING PROBLEM

*V. Demozzi, V. Mukhanov, & H. Rubinstein JCAP 2009*

- Possibly  $I(\phi) \sim 1$  at the end of inflation to recover conformal invariance

Lagrangian density of the vector field  
coupled with a charged fermion



$$\mathcal{L} = -\frac{1}{16\pi} F_{\mu\nu} F^{\mu\nu} + i\bar{\psi}\gamma^\mu(\partial_\mu + igA_\mu)\psi$$

Rescaling  $A_\mu \rightarrow gA_\mu$



$$\mathcal{L} = -\frac{1}{16\pi} \frac{F_{\mu\nu} F^{\mu\nu}}{g^2} + i\bar{\psi}\gamma^\mu(\partial_\mu + iA_\mu)\psi$$

$I[\phi(t)]$  IS NATURALLY INTERPRETED AS AN INVERSE COUPLING CONSTANT

- $I(\phi)$  should be large throughout inflation to have a trustable theory

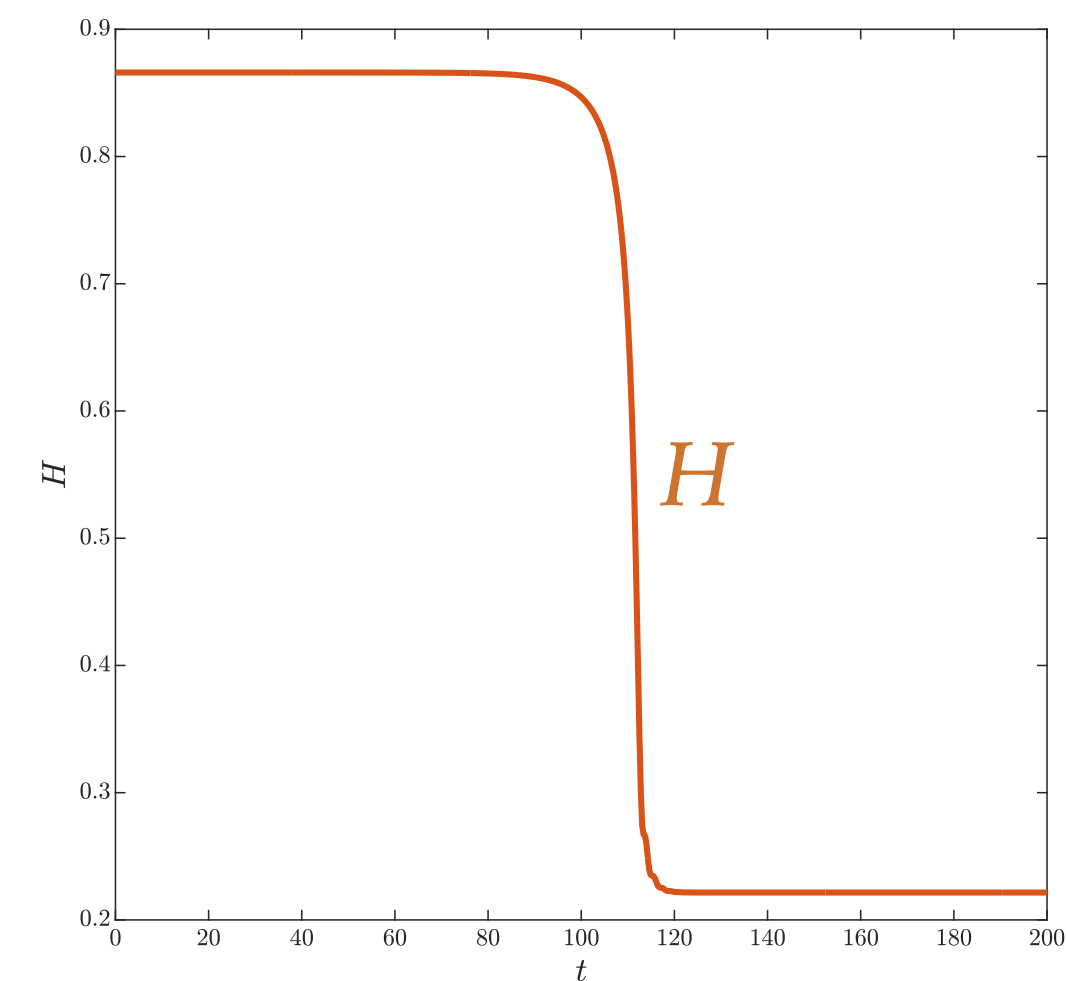
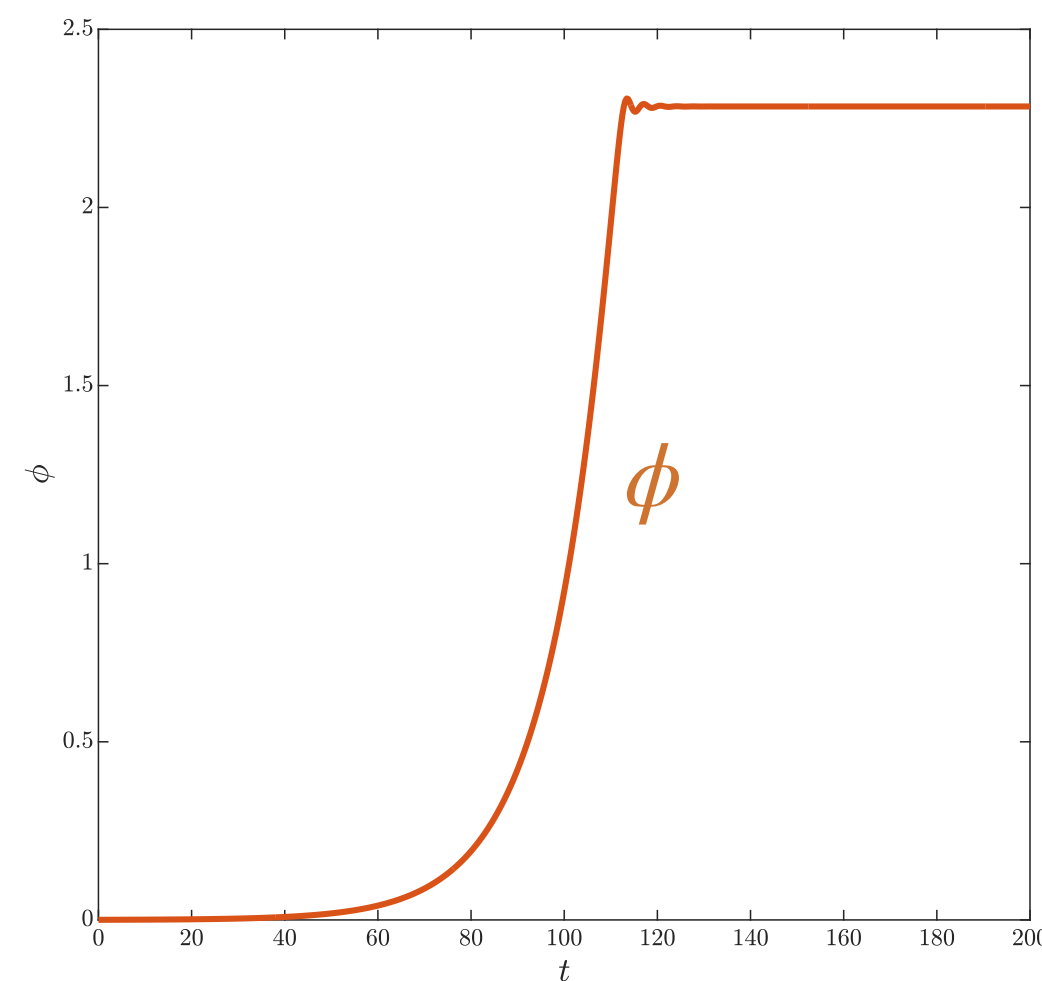
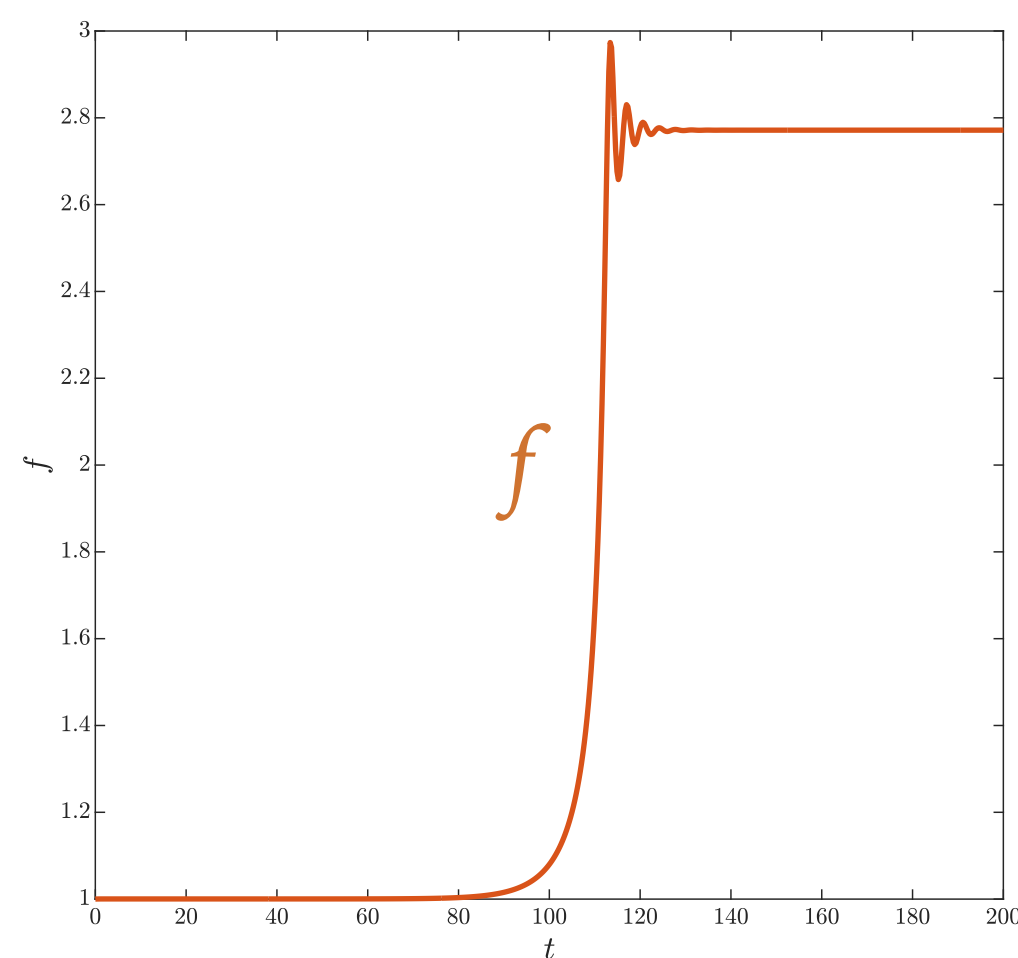
# SCALE-INVARIANT MODIFIED GRAVITY MODEL

EINSTEIN FRAME  $g_{\mu\nu}^* = \Omega^2 g_{\mu\nu}$

REDUNDANT MASS SCALE  $\mathcal{L}_E = \sqrt{-g} \left[ \frac{M^2}{2} R - \frac{3M^2}{f^2} (\partial f)^2 - \frac{f^2}{2M^2} (\partial\phi)^2 - V(f, \phi) \right]$   $f = -M\Omega$  SCALARON

$$V(f, \phi) = \frac{9M^4}{4\alpha} + f^2\phi^2 \left( -\frac{3\xi}{2\alpha} + \frac{K}{M^4} f^2\phi^2 \right)$$

$$K = \frac{1}{4} \left( \lambda + \frac{\xi^2}{\alpha} \right)$$



# SCALE-INVARIANT MODIFIED GRAVITY MODEL

## FIELDS REDEFINITION

Single-field inflation can be attained via field redefinition.

**GOLDSTONE  
BOSON**

$$\rho = \frac{M}{2} \log \left[ \frac{\phi^2}{2M^2} + 3 \frac{M^2}{f^2} \right]$$

$$\zeta = \sqrt{6} M \text{ArcSinh} \left[ \frac{f\phi}{\sqrt{6}M^2} \right]$$

**INFLATON**

$$\mathcal{L}_E = \sqrt{-g} \left( \frac{M^2}{2} R - \frac{1}{2} \partial_\mu \zeta \partial^\mu \zeta - 3 \text{Cosh} \left[ \frac{\zeta}{\sqrt{6}M} \right]^2 \partial_\mu \rho \partial^\mu \rho - U(\zeta) \right);$$

$$U(\zeta) = \frac{9M^4}{4\alpha} \left( 1 - 4\xi \text{Sinh} \left[ \frac{\zeta}{\sqrt{6}M} \right]^2 + 4\Omega \text{Sinh} \left[ \frac{\zeta}{\sqrt{6}M} \right]^4 \right);$$

$$\Omega = \alpha\lambda + \xi^2$$