

The background of the slide is a reproduction of the painting 'The Starry Night' by Vincent van Gogh. It features a turbulent, swirling night sky filled with bright, glowing stars and a large, luminous crescent moon. Below the sky, a dark, jagged cypress tree stands on the left, and a small town with a church spire is visible in the distance. The overall color palette is dominated by various shades of blue, with yellow and white highlights from the stars and moon.

# Progress in String Cosmology

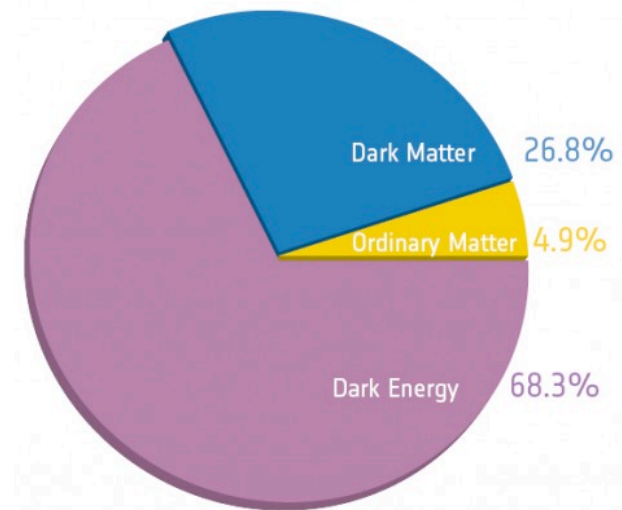
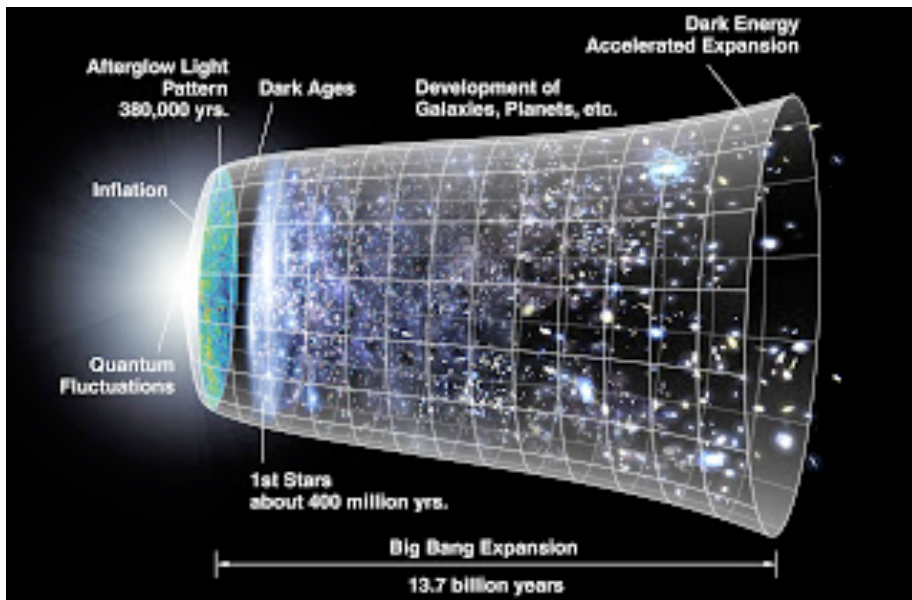
**Gary Shiu**

University of Wisconsin & HKUST

Kyoto, July 2014

# String Cosmology

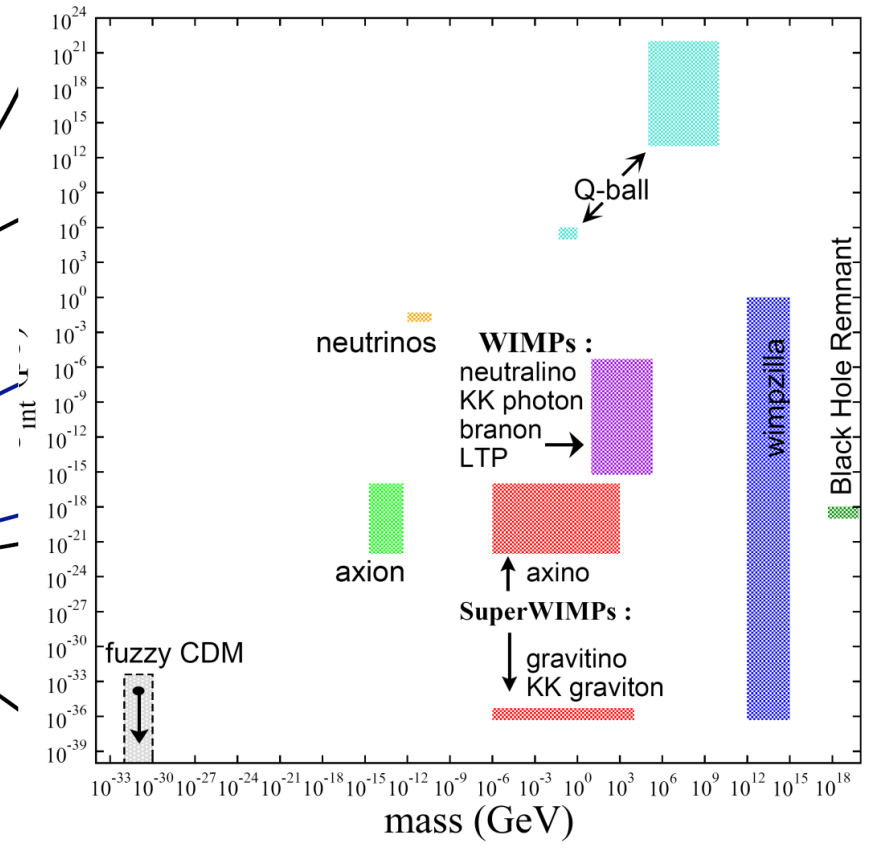
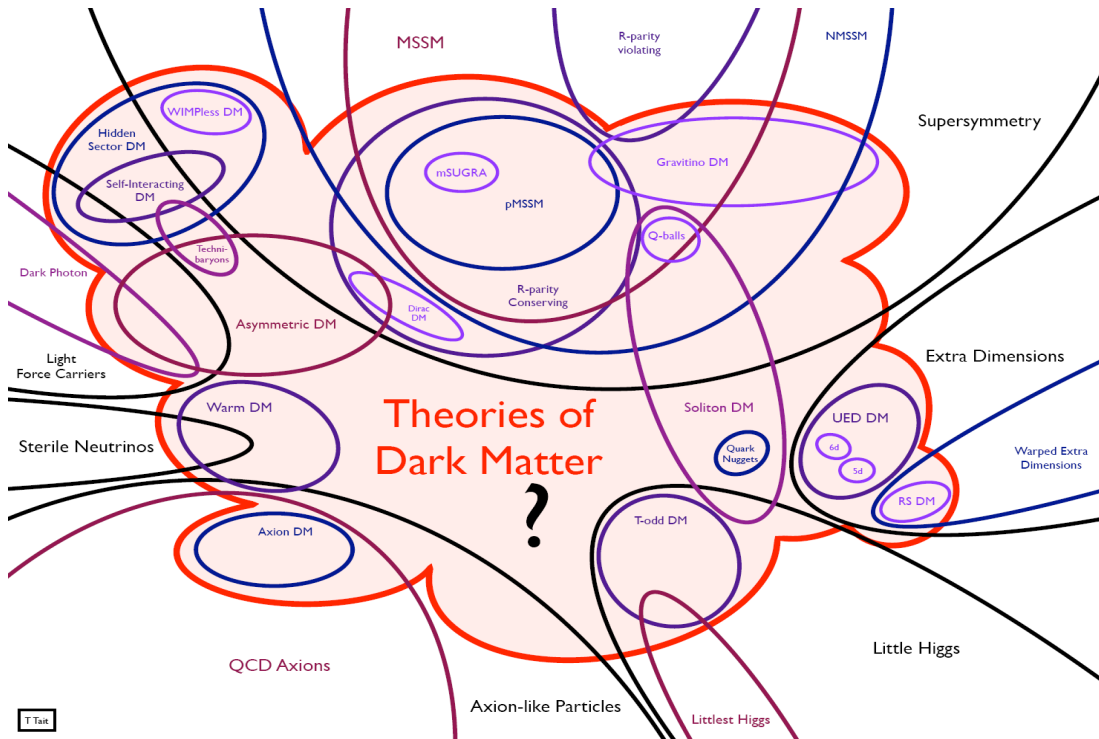
- ❖ Observational cosmology has given us a new window into our universe, complementary to particle physics experiments.



- ❖ Quantitative info about our universe, both at its earliest moment and at the present time, *but* many puzzles remain....

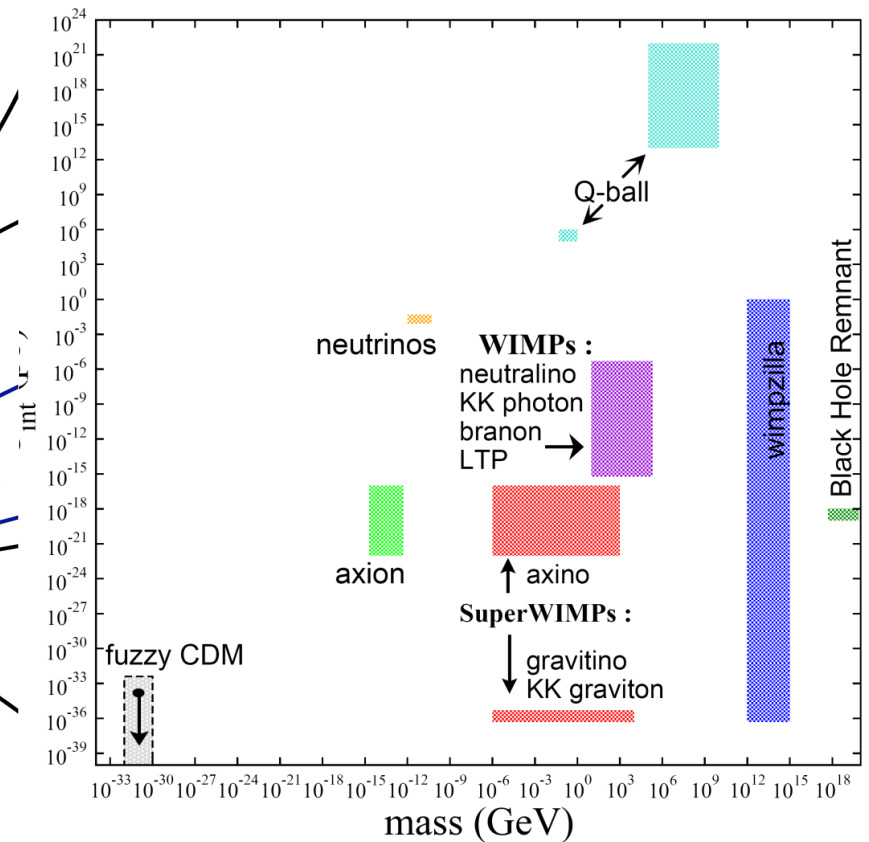
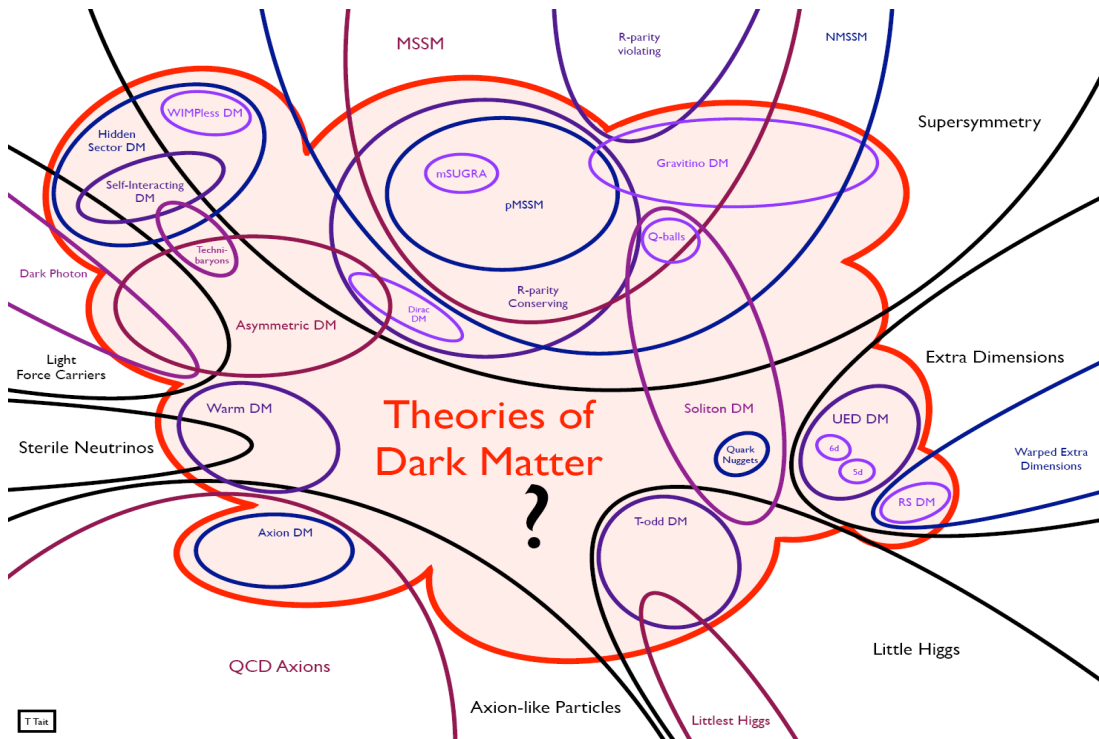
# Dark Matter

❁ Many candidates with widely different signatures:



# Dark Matter

- Many candidates with widely different signatures:



- String theory not only provide new candidates (& mediation mechanisms) but serves as arbitrator of models. *[Soler's talk]*

GS, Soler, Ye, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **110**, 241304 (2013); Feng, GS, Soler, Ye, *arXiv:1401.5880*, to appear in *PRL*; *JHEP* **1405**, 065 (2014) [*arXiv:1401.5890 [hep-ph]*].

# Dark Energy

❖ A question for **quantum gravity**:



*“The problem of the vacuum energy density or cosmological constant – why it is zero or extremely small by particle physics standards – really only arises in the presence of gravity, since without gravity, we don’t care about the energy of the vacuum. Moreover, it is mainly a question about quantum gravity, since classically it would be more or less natural to just decide – as Einstein did – that we do not like the cosmological constant, and set it to zero.” (E. Witten, hep-ph/0002297)*



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***Can metastable  $\Lambda > 0$  vacua be realized in string theory?***

- ❖ de Sitter model building deeply related to moduli stabilization.

*Work w/ Haque, Underwood, Van Riet, Danielsson, Koerber, Wrase, Sumitomo, McGuirk, Chen, Tye, Junghans; 0810.5328, 0907.2041, 0910.4581, 1103.4858, 1107.2925, 1112.3338, 1212.5178, 1407.0019 [See Junghans’s talk]*

# Three Pillars of Modern Cosmology



*Dark Matter*

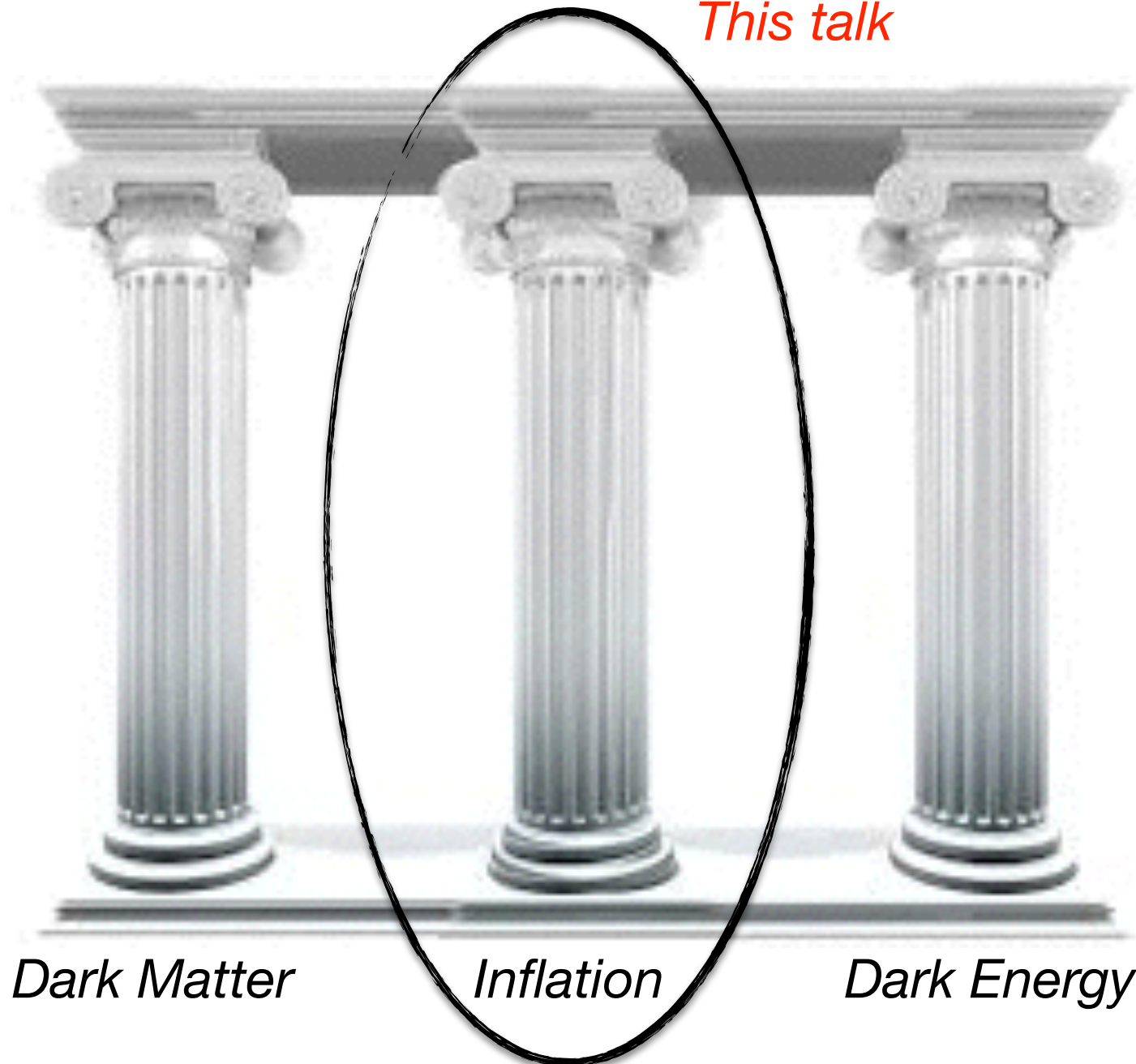
*Inflation*

*Dark Energy*



# Three Pillars of Modern Cosmology

*This talk*

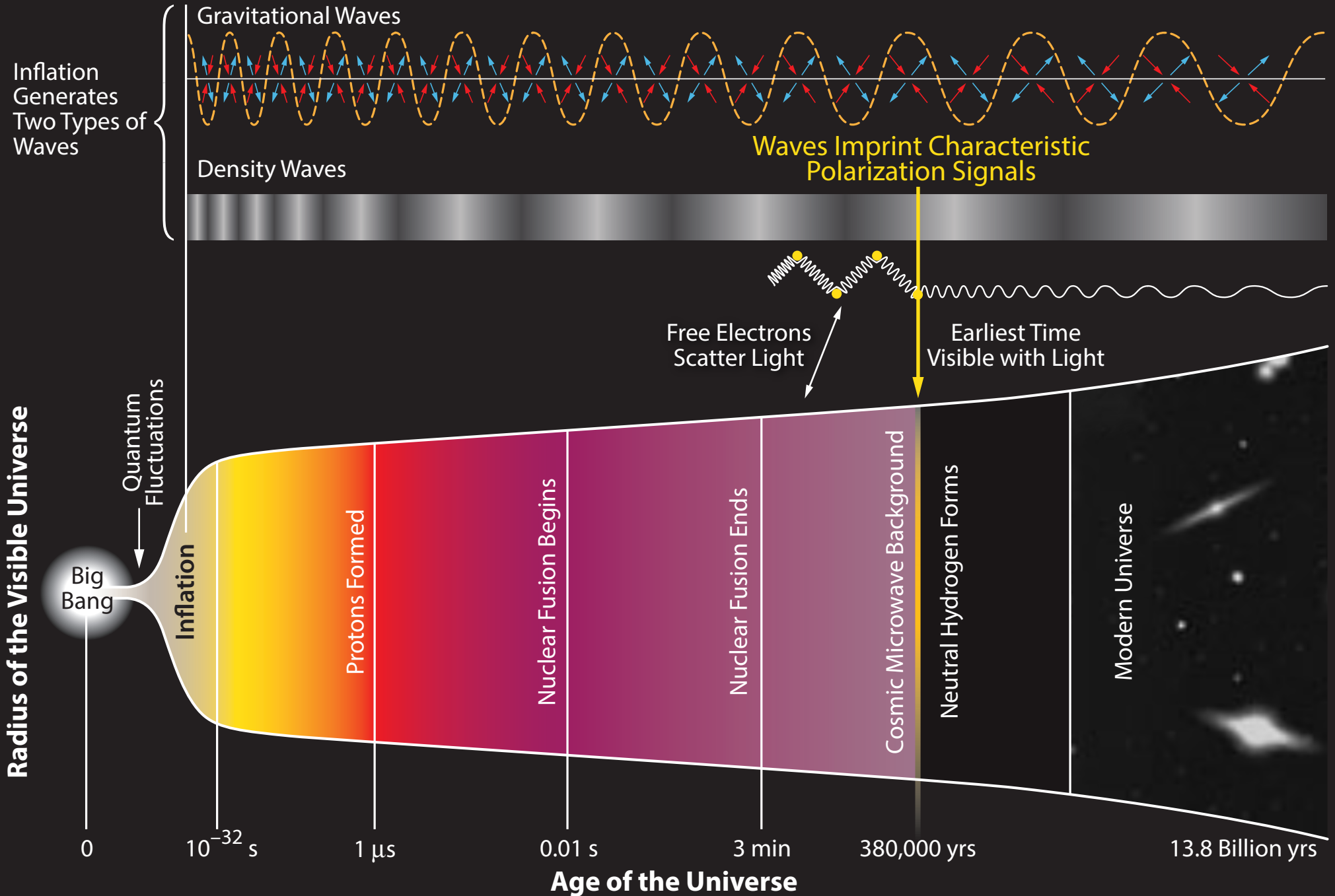


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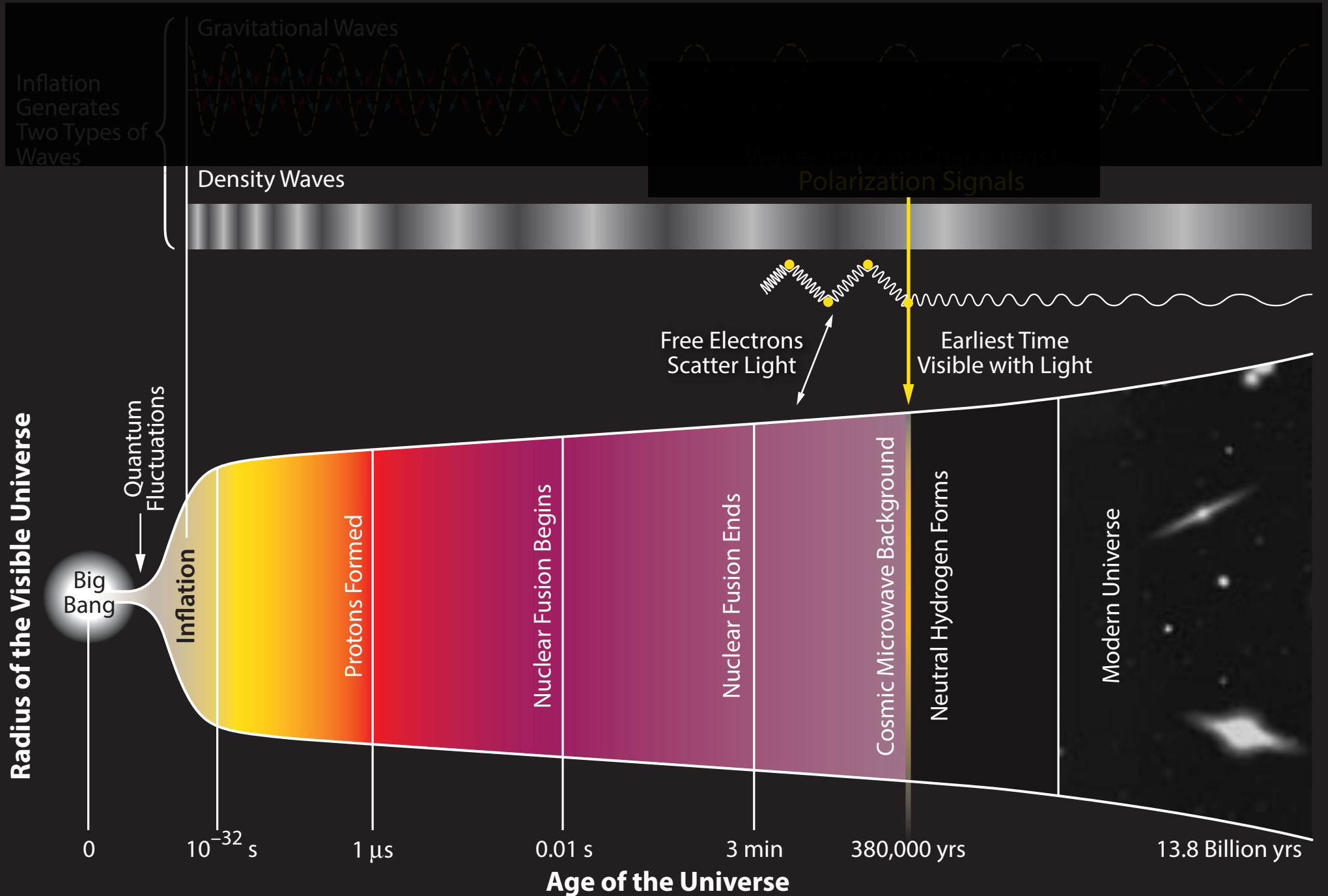
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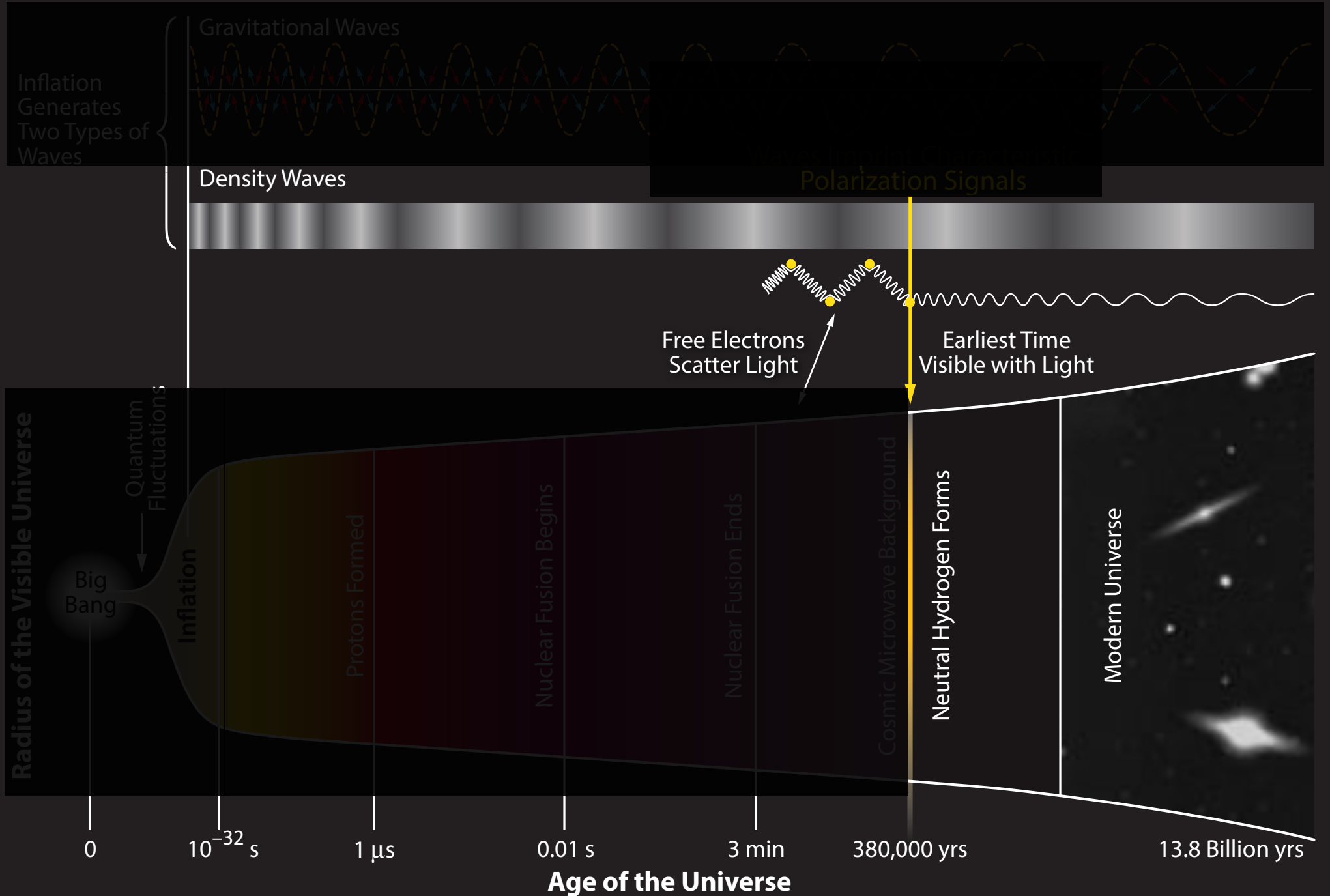
# History of the Universe



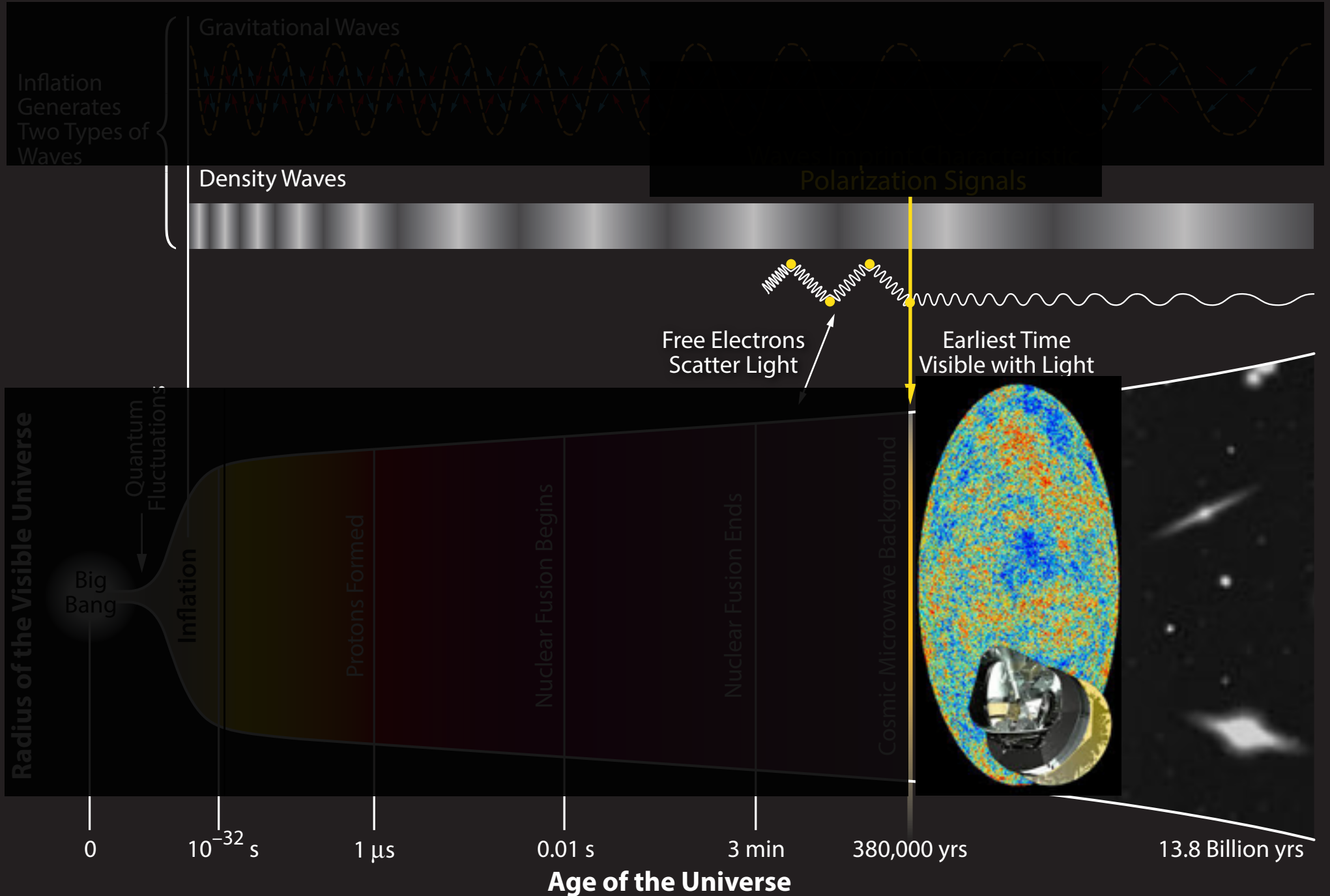
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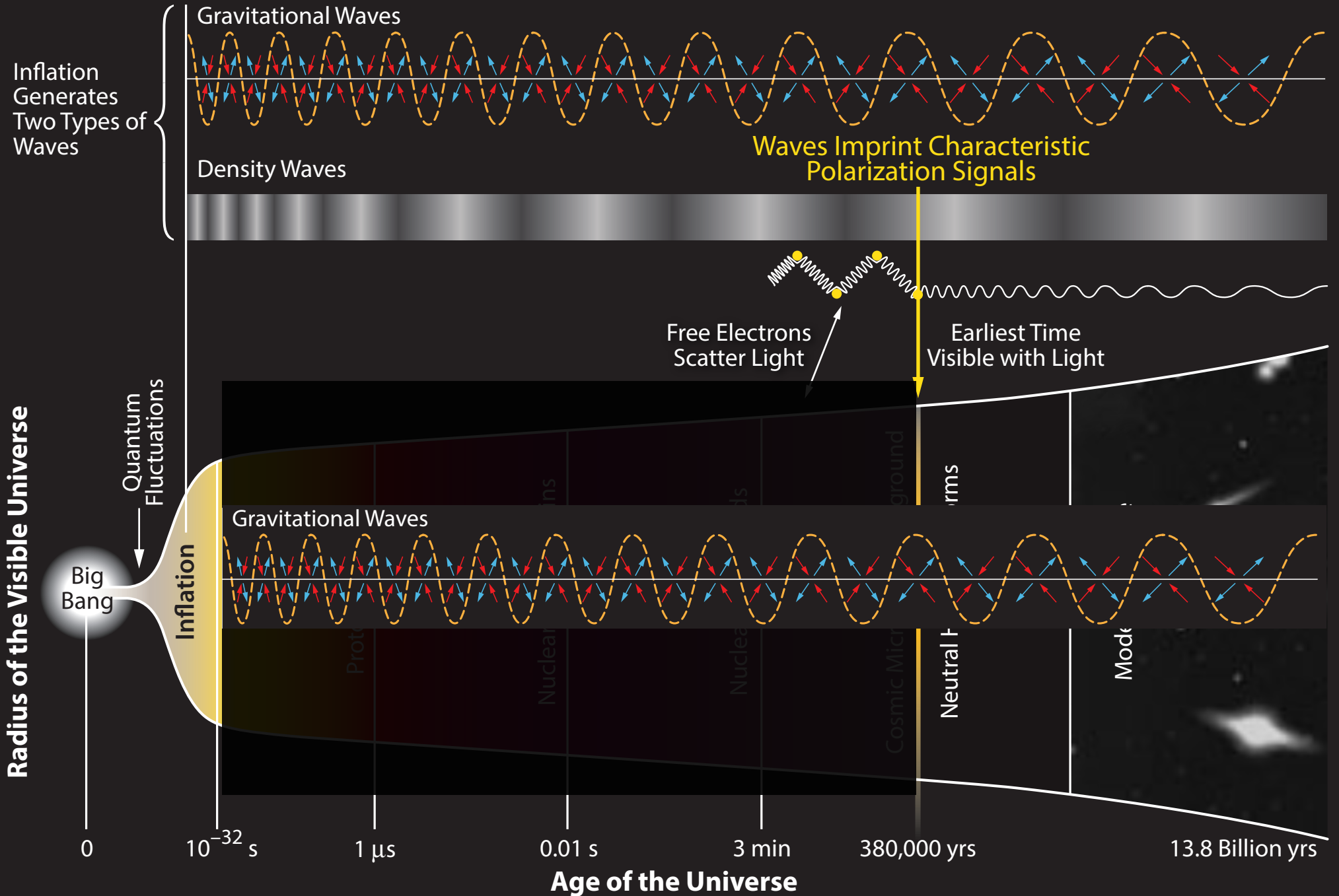
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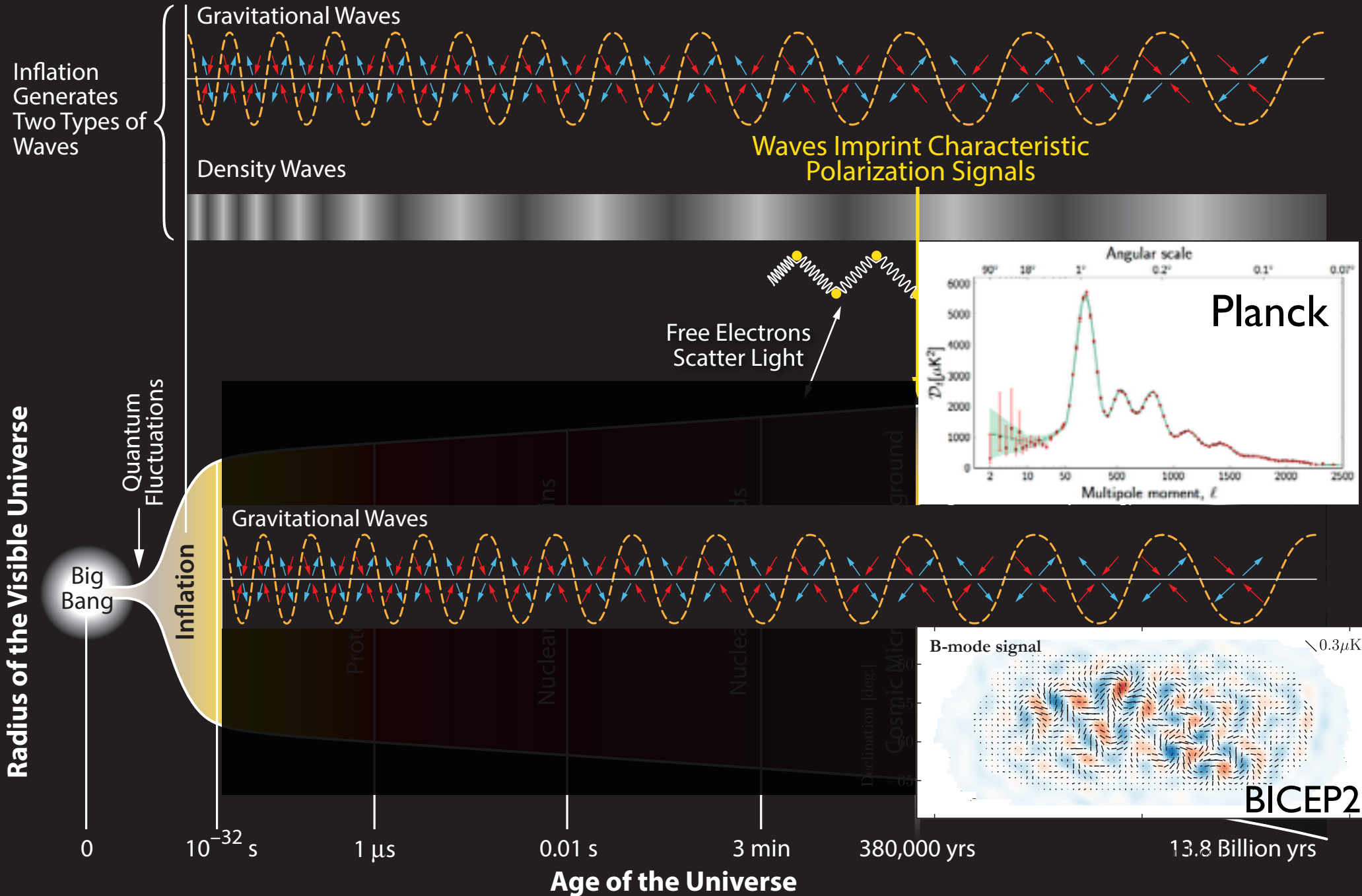
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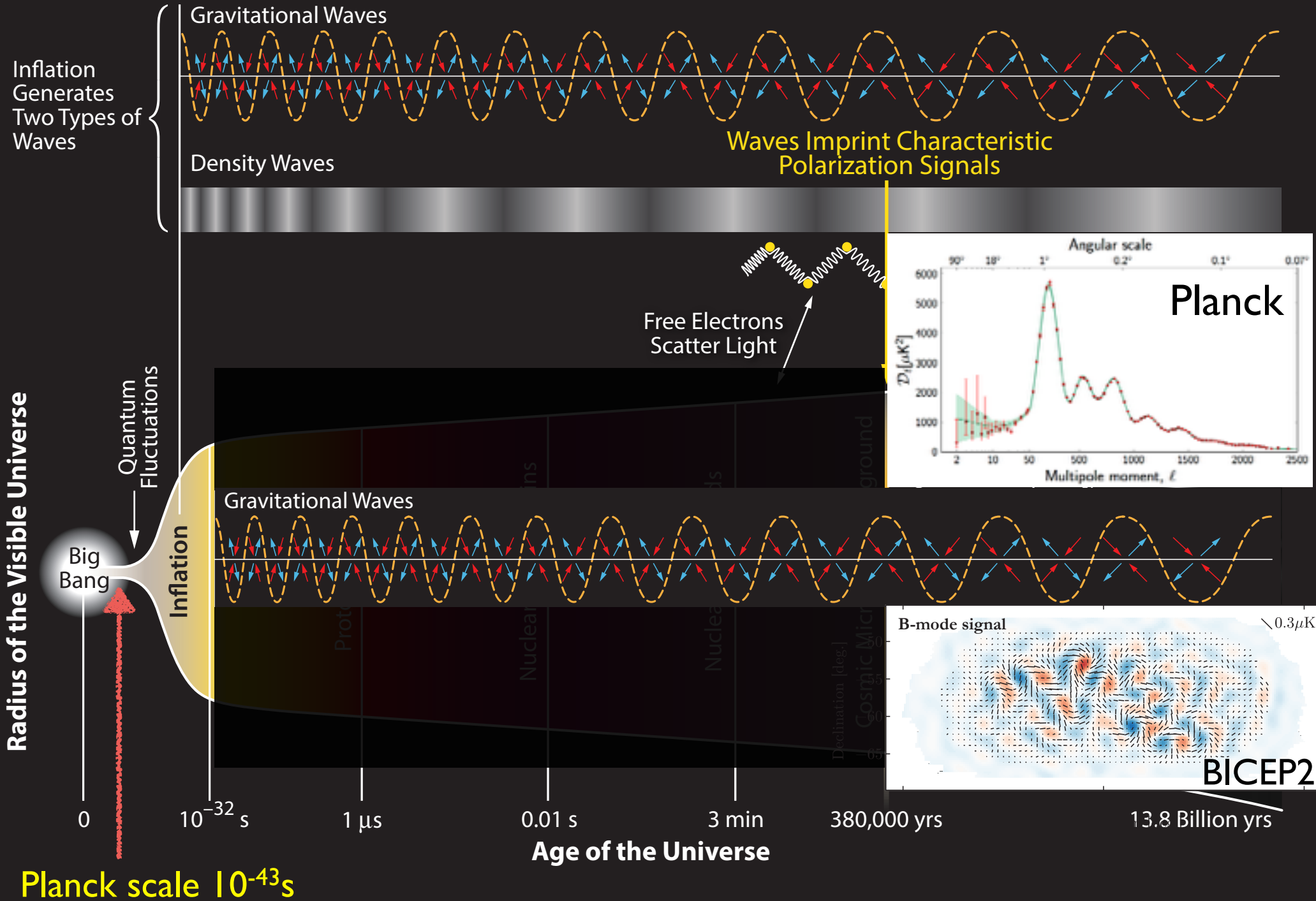
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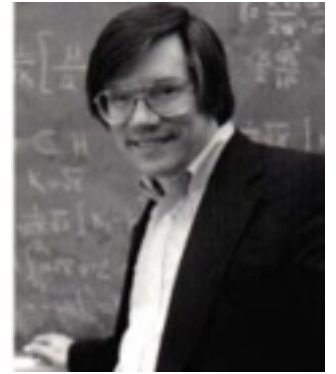
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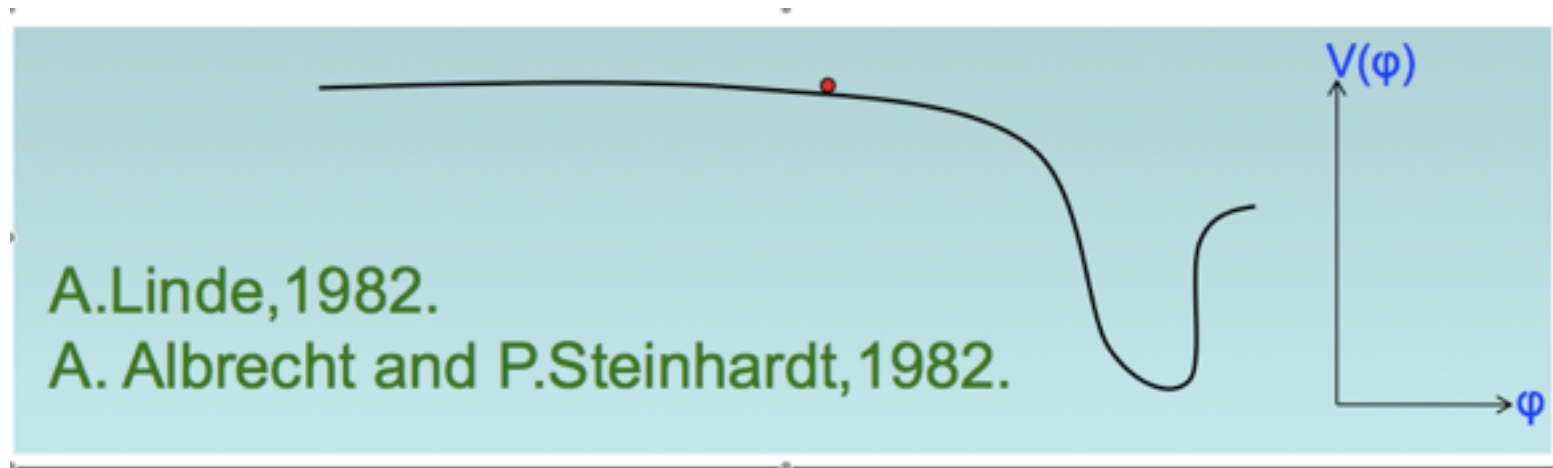


Inflation is in good agreement with data

but ...it is an *effective theory* in search of a fundamental description!



Alan Guth



To solve the flatness & horizon problems, need to satisfy

“Slow-roll”:

$$\epsilon = \frac{1}{2} M_P^2 \left( \frac{V'}{V} \right)^2 \ll 1 \quad ; \quad \eta = M_P^2 \frac{V''}{V} \ll 1$$

These conditions are sensitive to **Planck scale physics**:

$$\delta V \sim \frac{V}{M_P^2} \phi^2 \quad \longrightarrow \quad \eta \sim \mathcal{O}(1)$$

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- Short distance physics: **“irrelevant operators”**.



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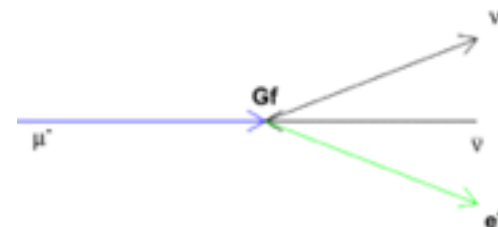
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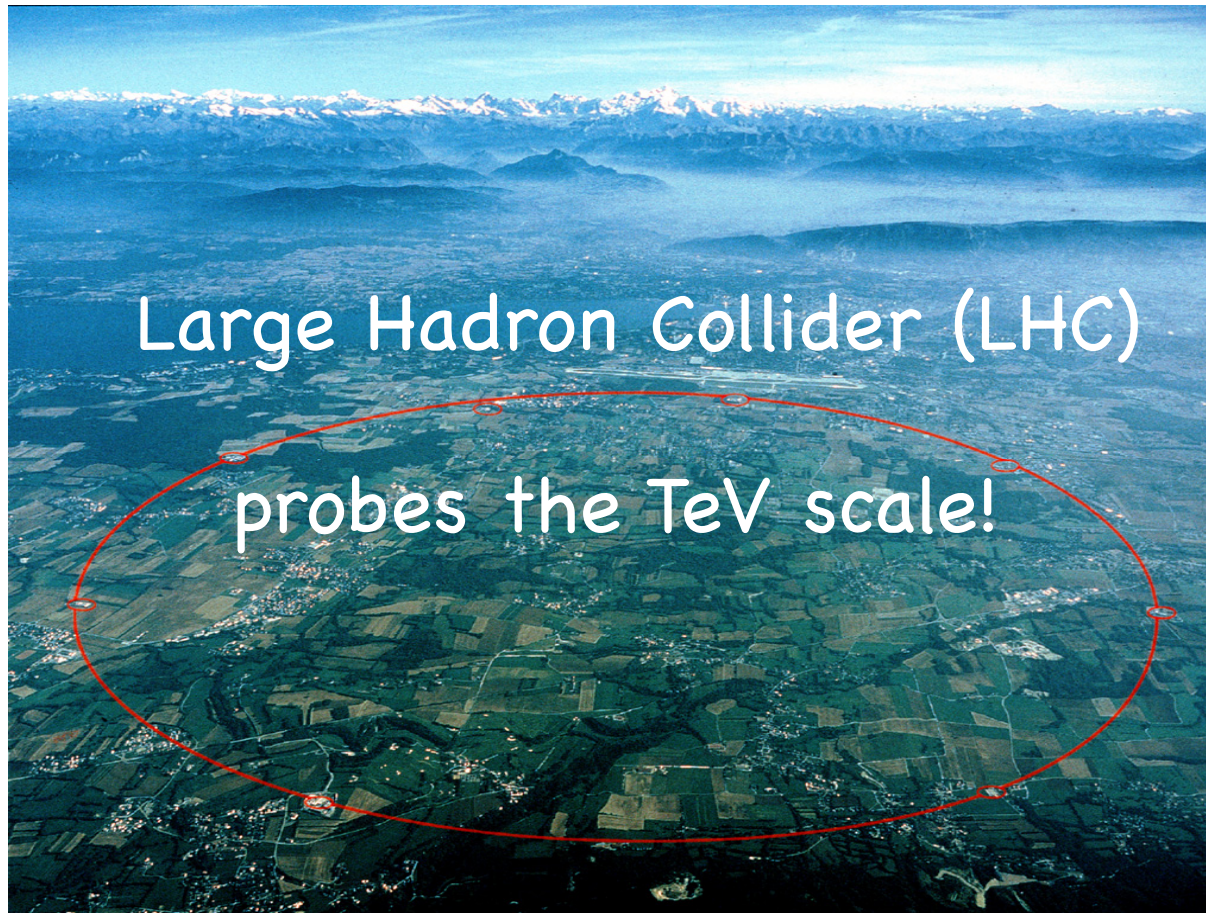
## Examples:



BCS Theory of Superconductivity

Fermi theory of weak interaction

# Particle Physics



Precision tests, such as those that constrain the proton lifetime, are sensitive to GUT scale physics

# INFLATION & UV PHYSICS

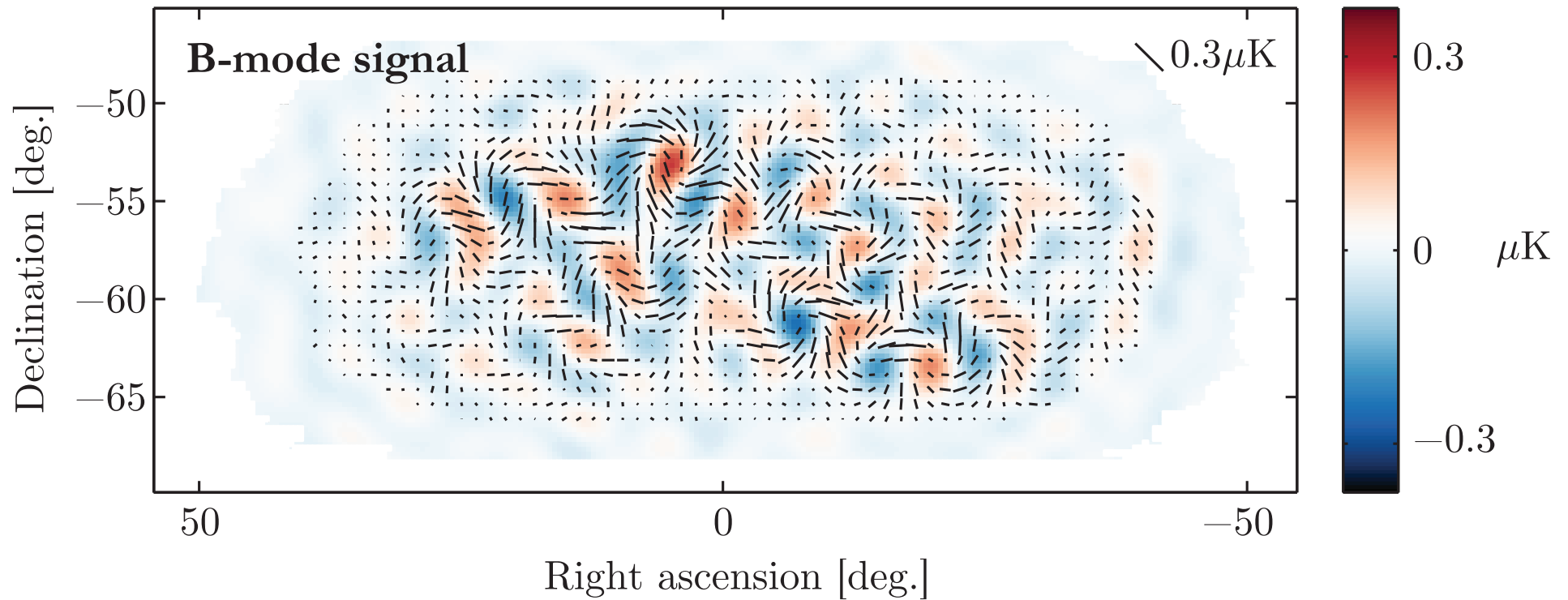
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A sufficient degree of UV completeness is needed to calculate such corrections.

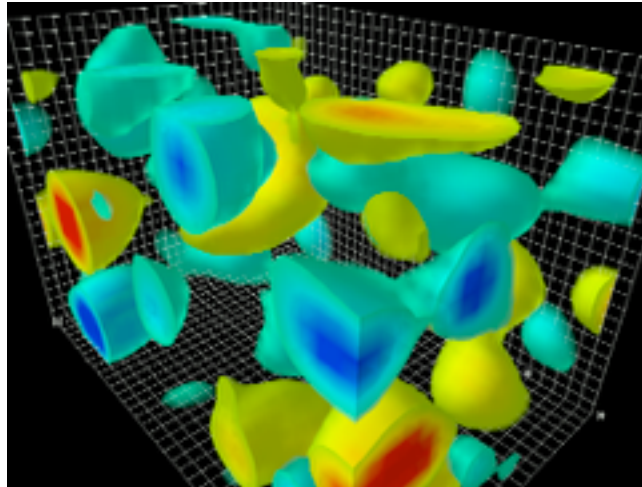
This applies to any model of inflation.

Models with detectable non-Gaussianities and gravity waves are even more UV sensitive!

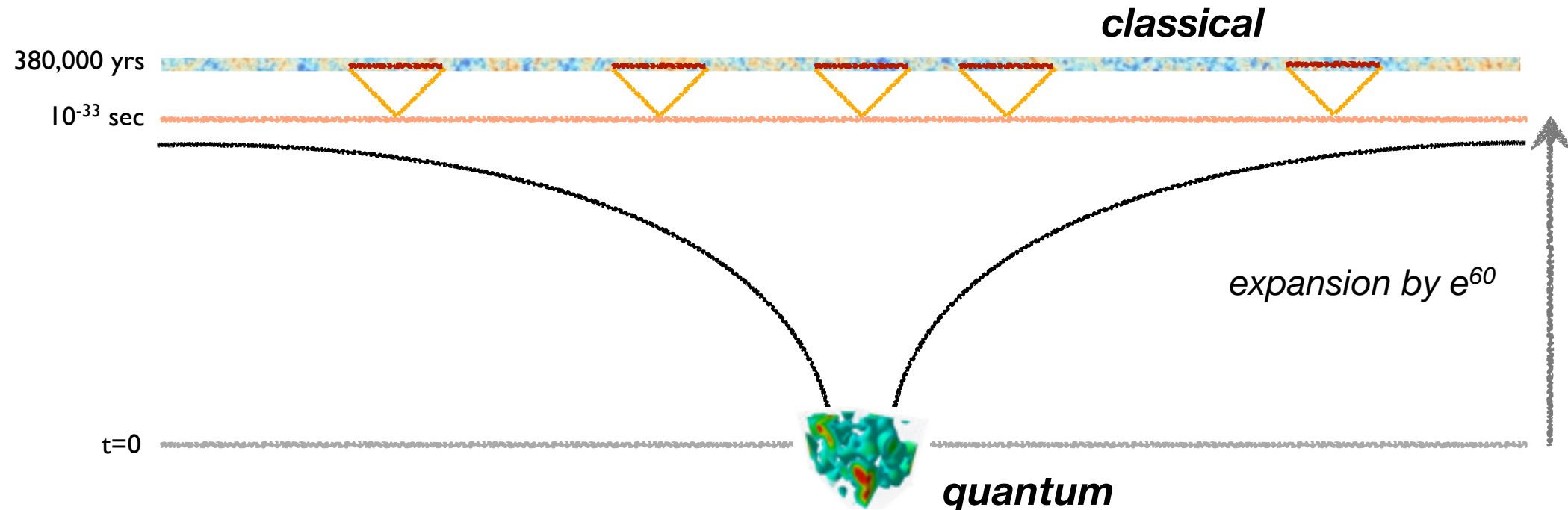
# Primordial B-mode?



Any massless field experiences quantum fluctuations during inflation:

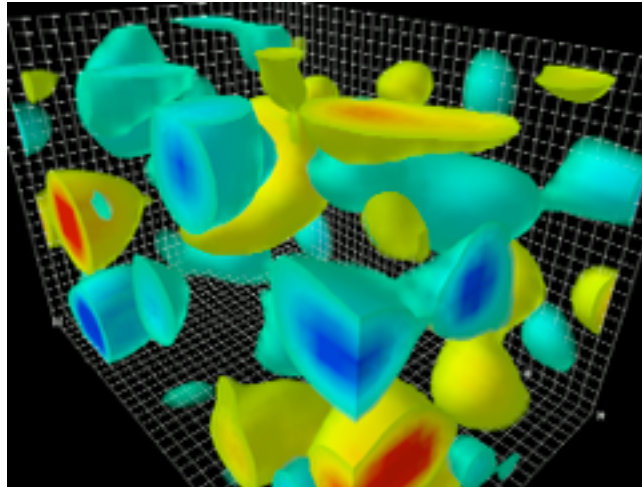


Inflation stretches these to macroscopic scales:

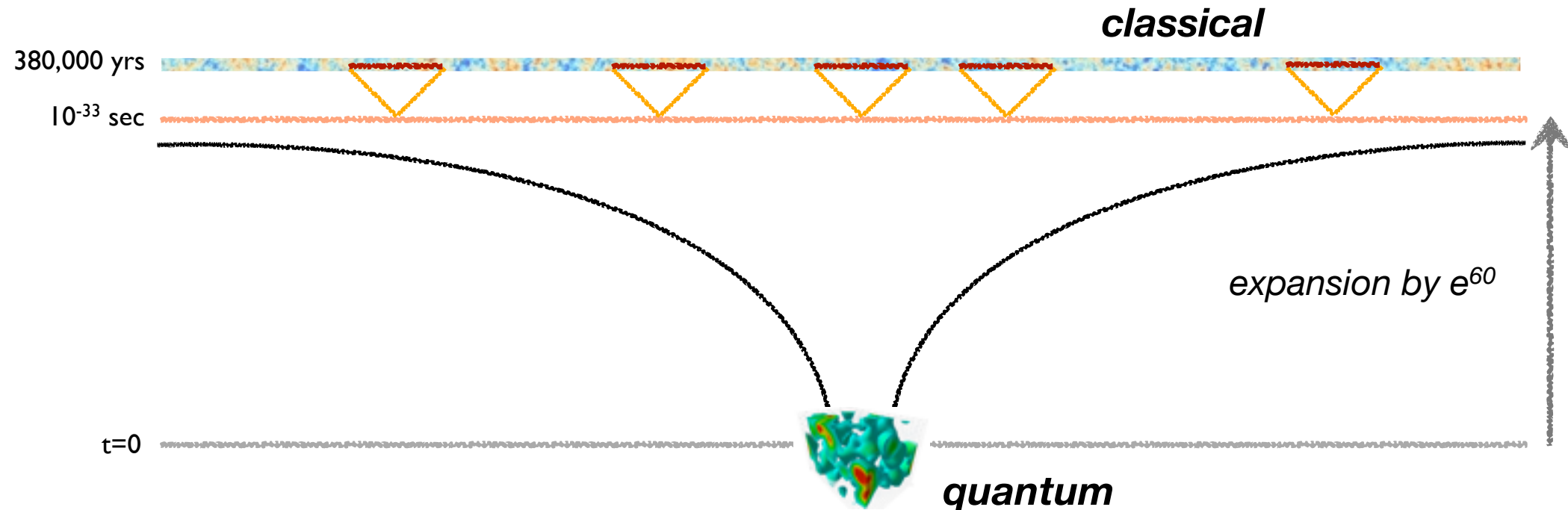




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Two massless fields that are guaranteed to exist are:

$\zeta$

**Goldstone boson**

of broken time translations

$h_{ij}$

**graviton**

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$$\Delta_s^2 = \frac{1}{4\pi^2} \frac{H^4}{f_\pi^4}$$

symmetry breaking

( =  $\dot{\phi}^2$  for slow-roll inflation)

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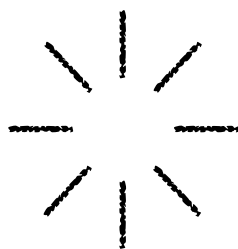
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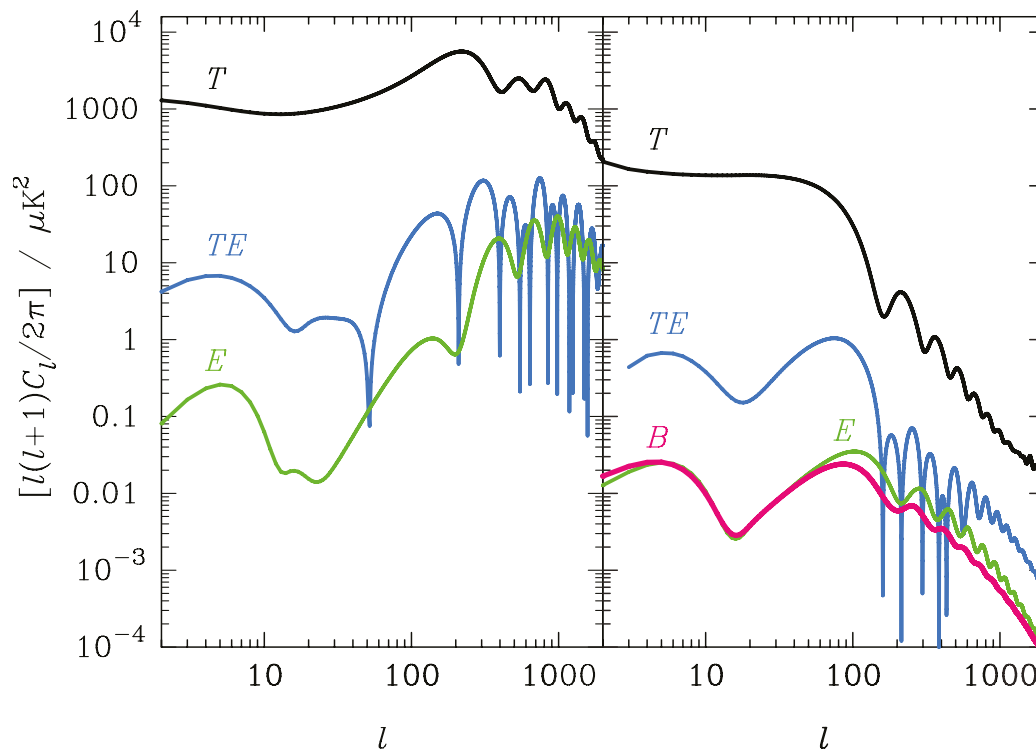
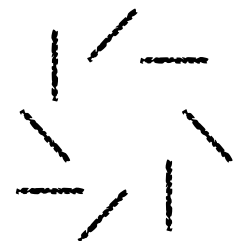
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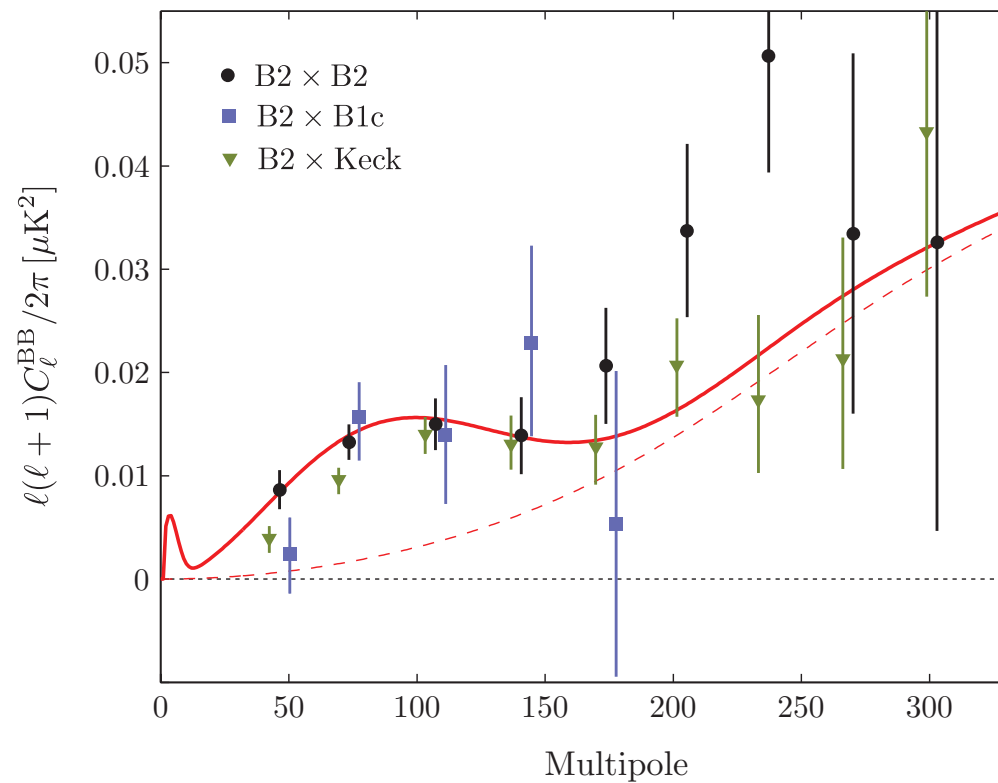
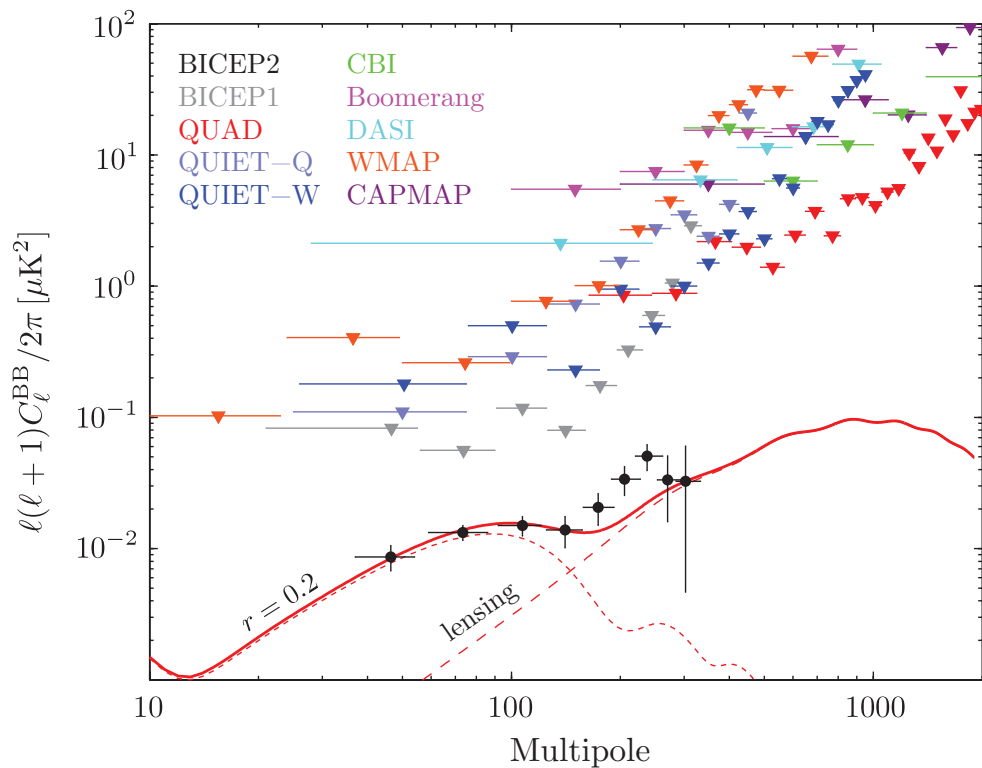
**E-modes:**



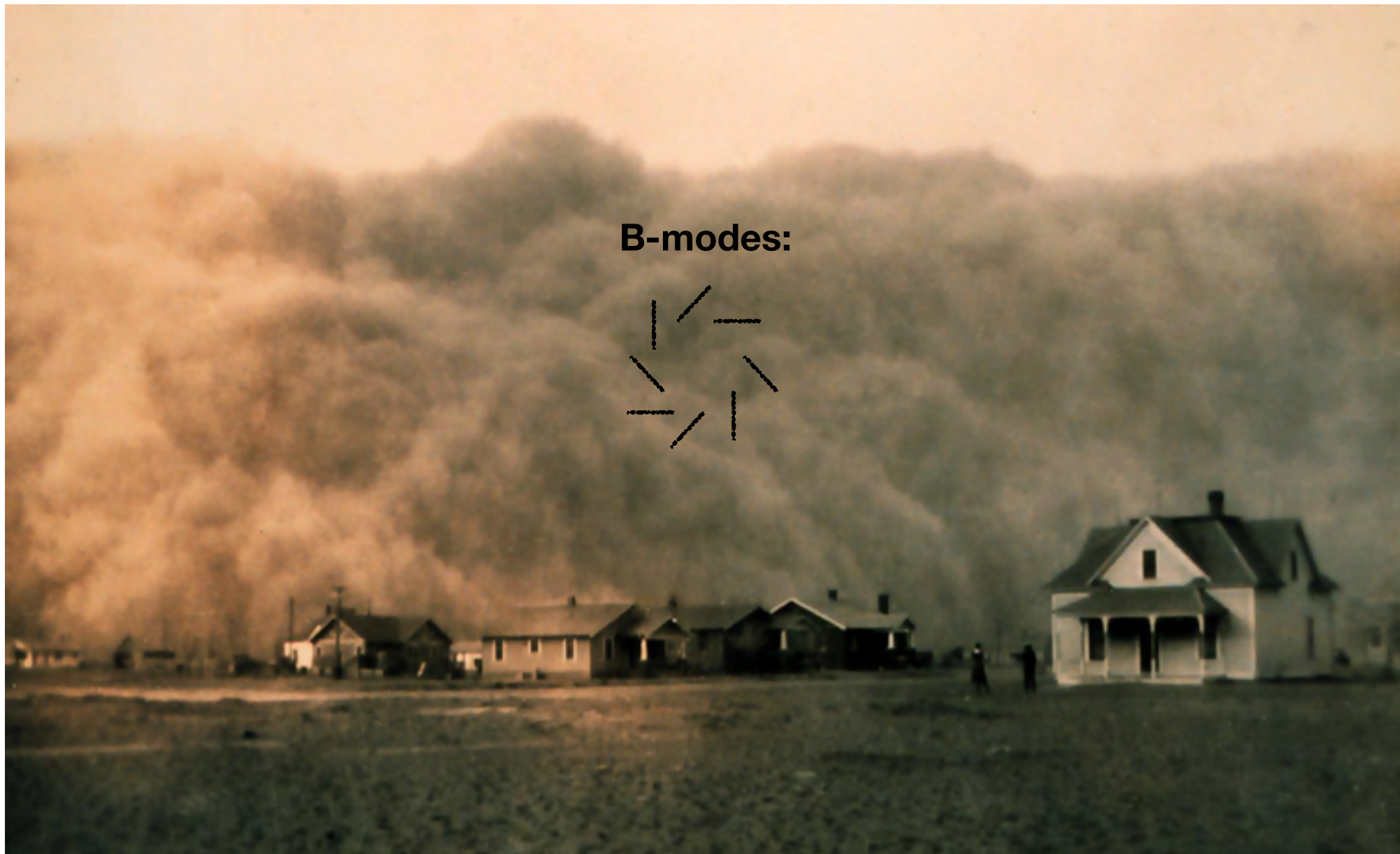
**B-modes:**



# What the doctor ordered?

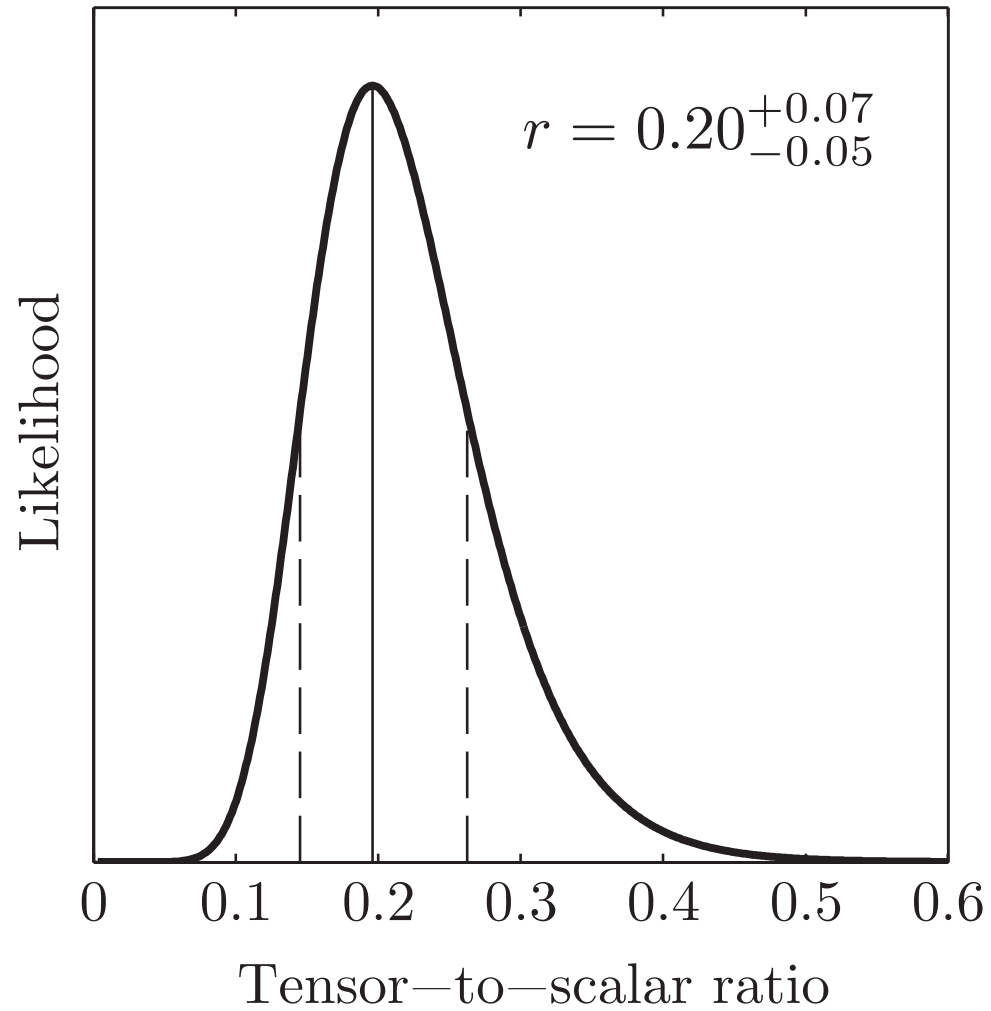


# Dust is not entirely settled ...



[Mortonson & Seljak]  
[Flauger, Hill & Spergel]

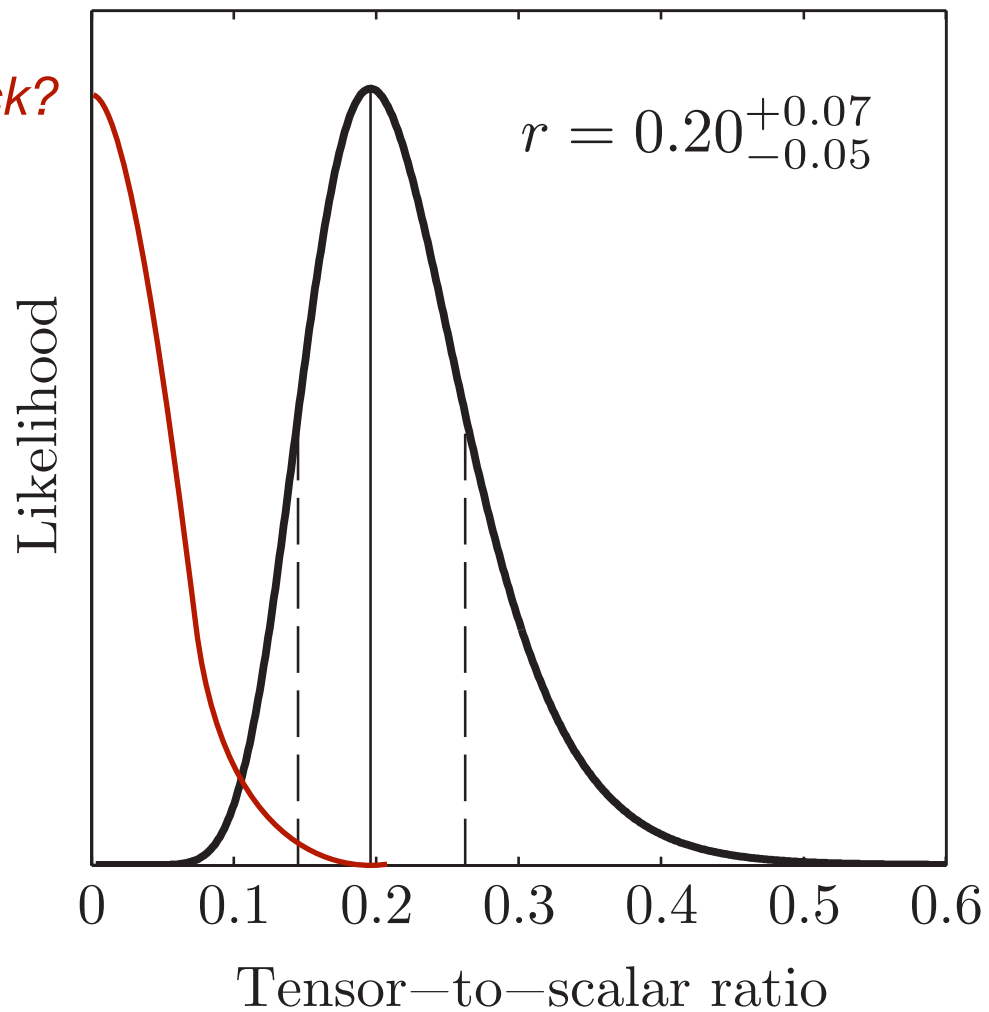
# More data is needed ...



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*Tension with Planck?*

$$r < 0.11$$





# BICEP2 and Inflation

**If** the **BICEP2** results are confirmed to be primordial, natural interpretations:

◆ **Inflation** took place

◆ The energy scale of inflation is the **GUT scale**

$$E_{\text{inf}} \simeq 0.75 \times \left( \frac{r}{0.1} \right)^{1/4} \times 10^{-2} M_{\text{Pl}}$$

◆ The inflaton field excursion was **super-Planckian**

$$\Delta\phi \gtrsim \left( \frac{r}{0.01} \right)^{1/2} M_{\text{Pl}}$$

*Lyth '96*

◆ Great news for string theory due to **strong UV sensitivity!**

# Assumptions in the Lyth Bound

- ▶ single field
- ▶ slow-roll
- ▶ Bunch-Davies initial conditions
- ▶ vacuum fluctuations

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**Particle production during inflation  
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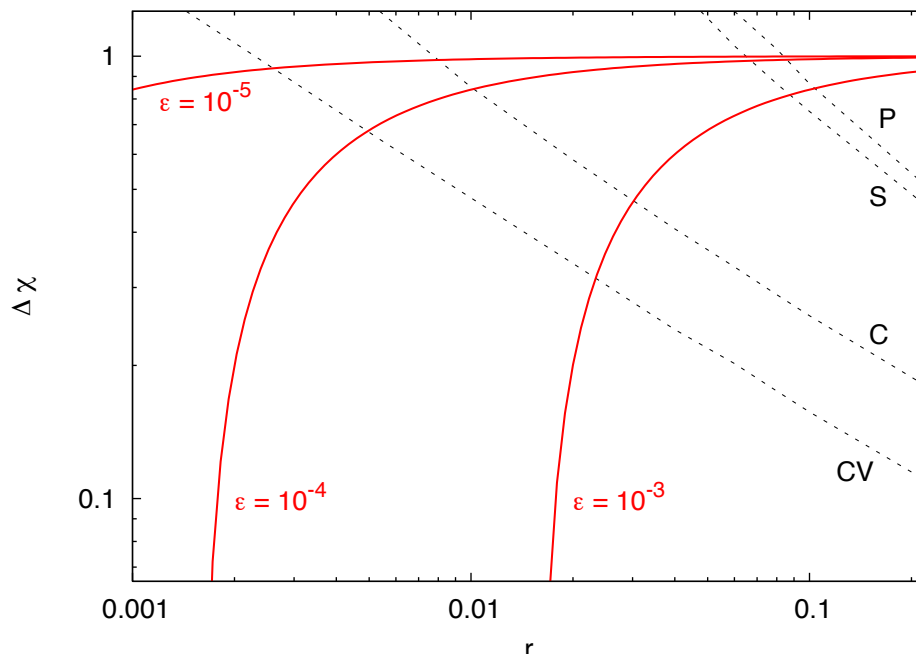
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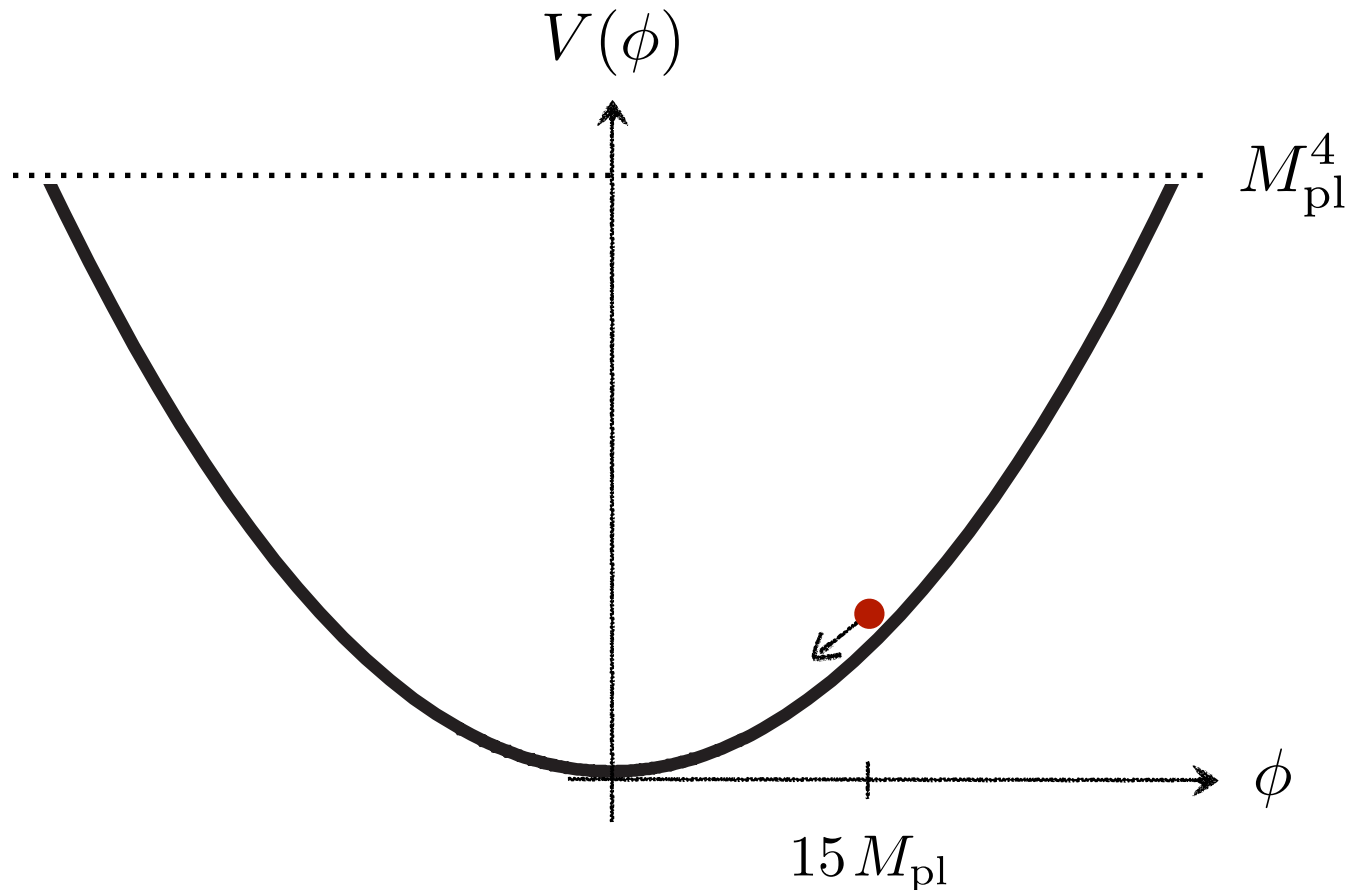
**Only known model** of particle production that:

- Detectable tensors w/o too large non-Gaussianity
- **Chiral, non-Gaussian** tensor spectrum
- Can accommodate a blue tensor tilt

due to an **axionic**  $F \wedge F$  coupling

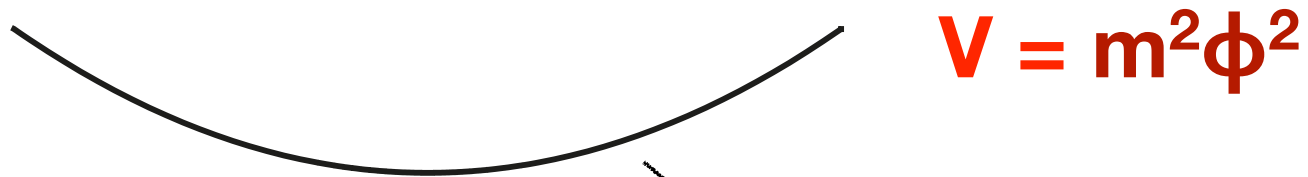
# **Super-Planckian Fields in Effective Field Theory**

# Large Field Inflation



Concerns arise if we consider coupling the theory to the UV degrees of freedom (KK states, string states, etc) of a putative theory of quantum gravity.

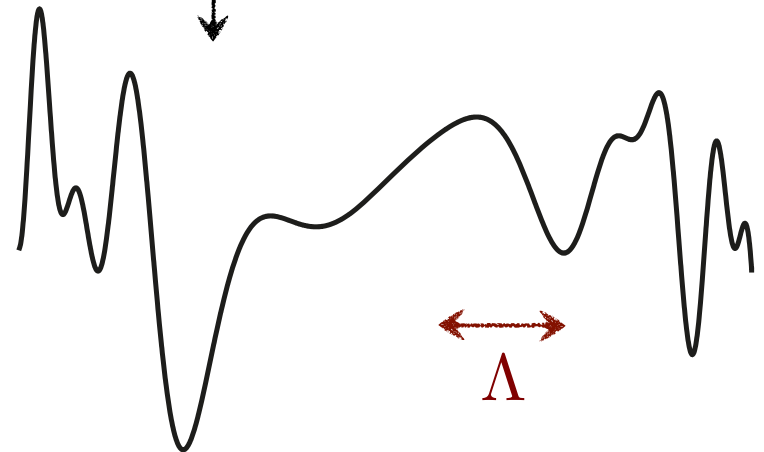
# Challenges of Large Field Inflation



$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{eff}}[\phi] = \frac{1}{2}(\partial\phi)^2 - \frac{1}{2}m^2\phi^2 \left( 1 + \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} c_i \frac{\phi^{2i}}{\Lambda^{2i}} + \dots \right)$$

$$\downarrow c_i \sim \mathcal{O}(1)$$

Light fields can become heavy;  
Heavy fields can become light





# Large Field Inflation in String Theory

Large corrections, unless the inflaton couples weaker than gravitationally to everything else.

This even stronger UV sensitivity intrinsic to *large field inflation* should be explained in the UV-completion.

Attempts to construct large field inflation models in string theory:

**Marchesano, GS, Uranga, [arXiv:1404.3040 \[hep-th\]](#)**

# **Super-Planckian Fields in String Theory**

The two key requirements for large-field inflation are:

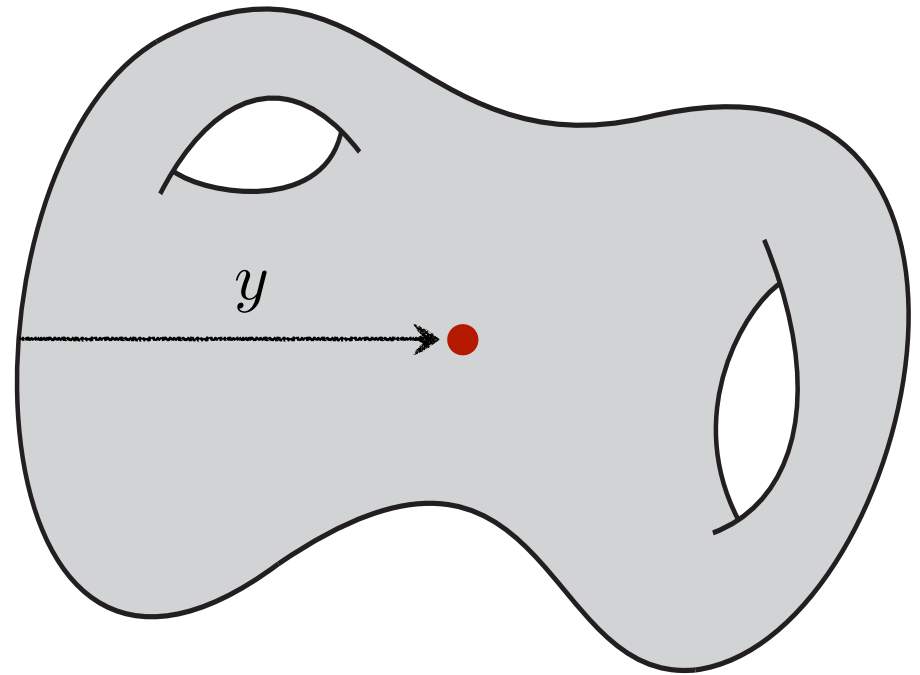
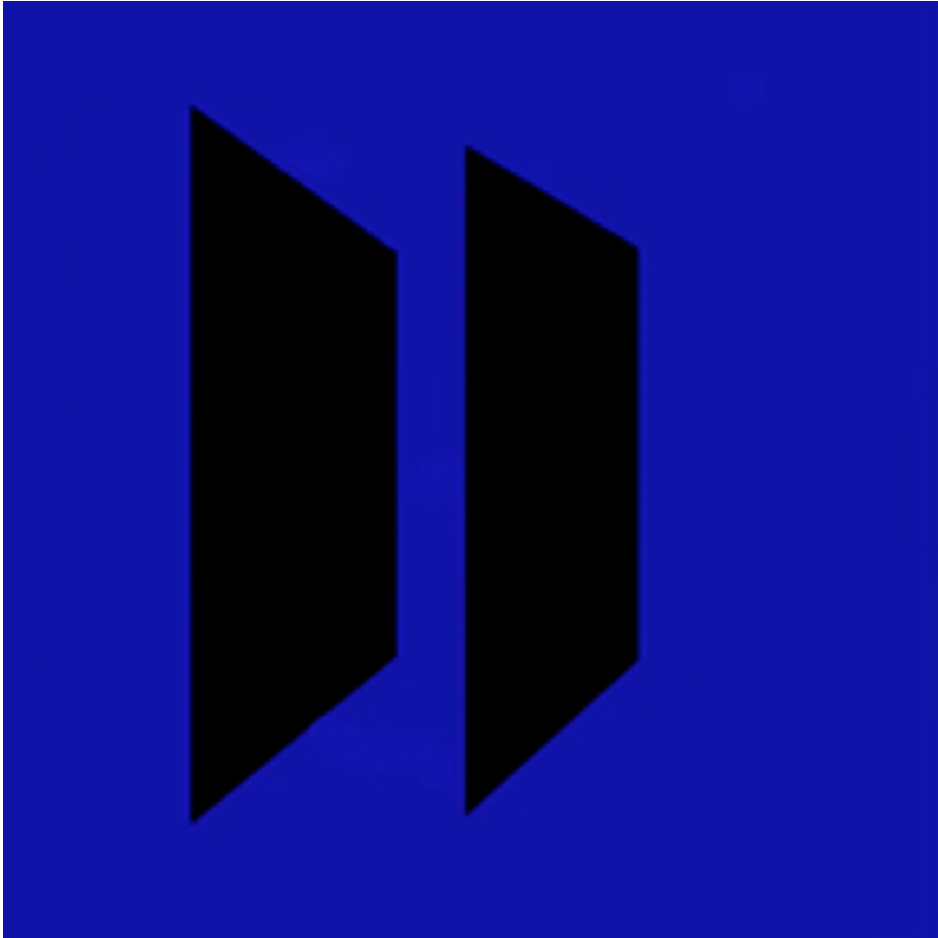
▶ The field space has to allow super-Planckian displacements.

**Kinematic constraint**

▶ The potential has to be controlled over a super-Planckian range.

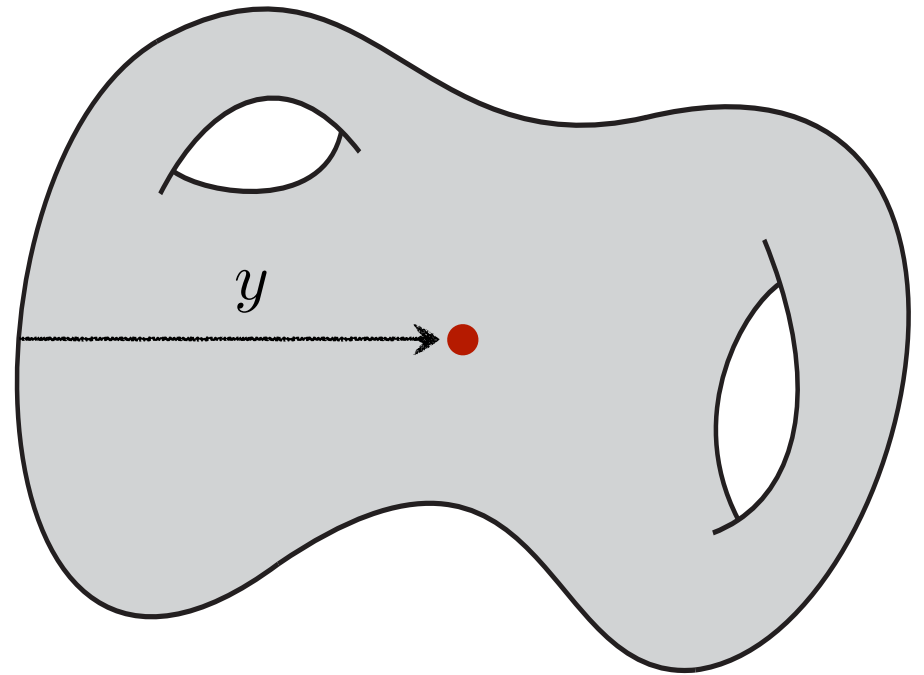
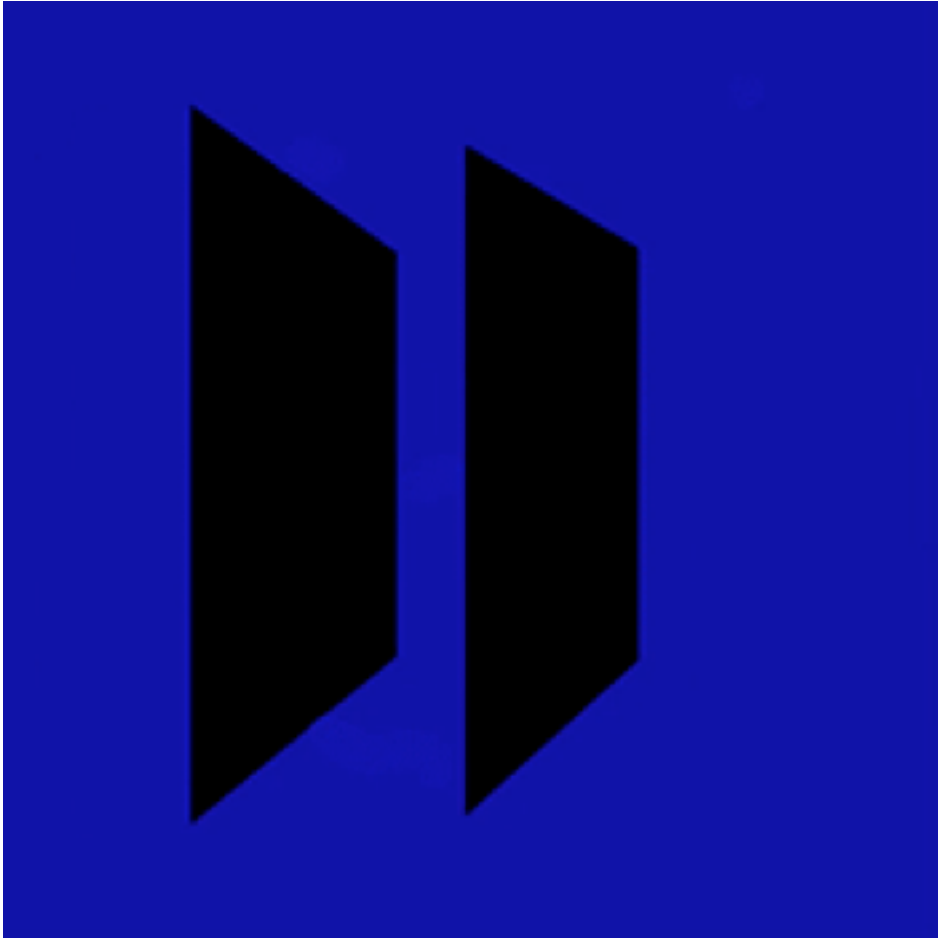
**Dynamical constraint**

# D3-brane Inflation



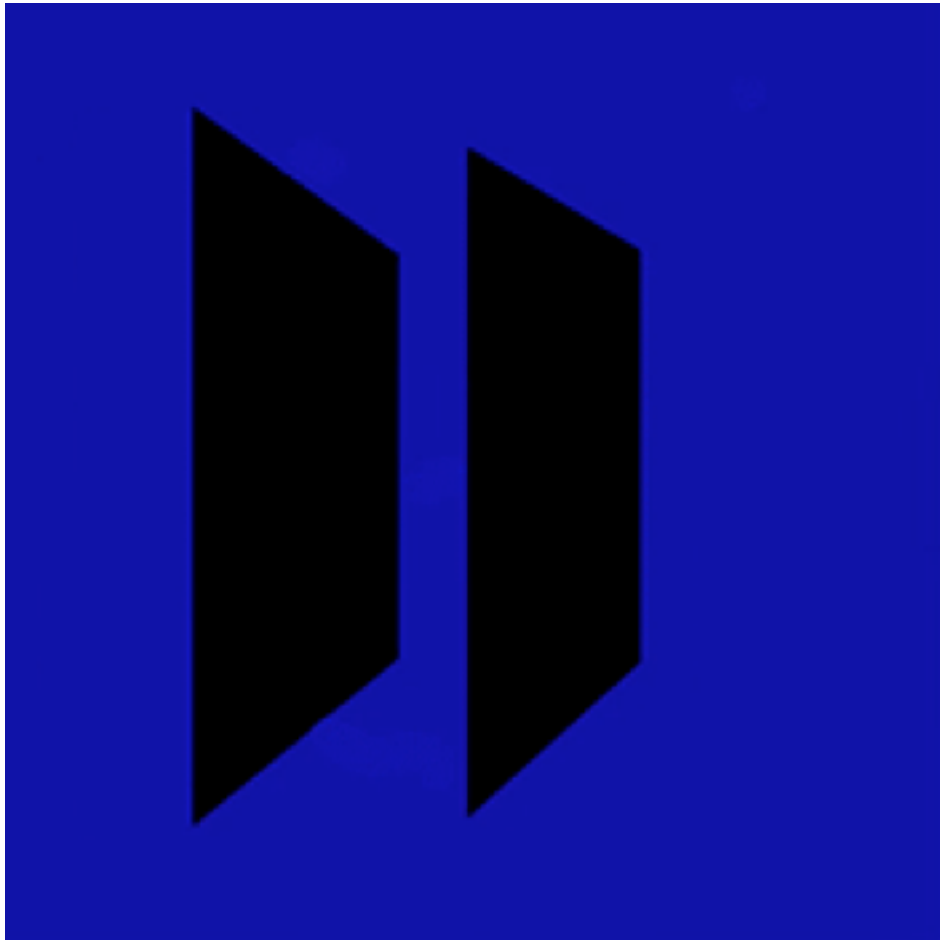
[Dvali and Tye]; [GS, Tye]; [Burgess, Majumdar, Nolte, Quevedo, Rajesh, Zhang]; [Dvali, Shafi, Solganik]; [Kachru, Kallosh, Linde, Maldacena, McAllister, Trivedi]; [Chen, Ouyang, GS]; [Chen, Hung, GS] and many others.

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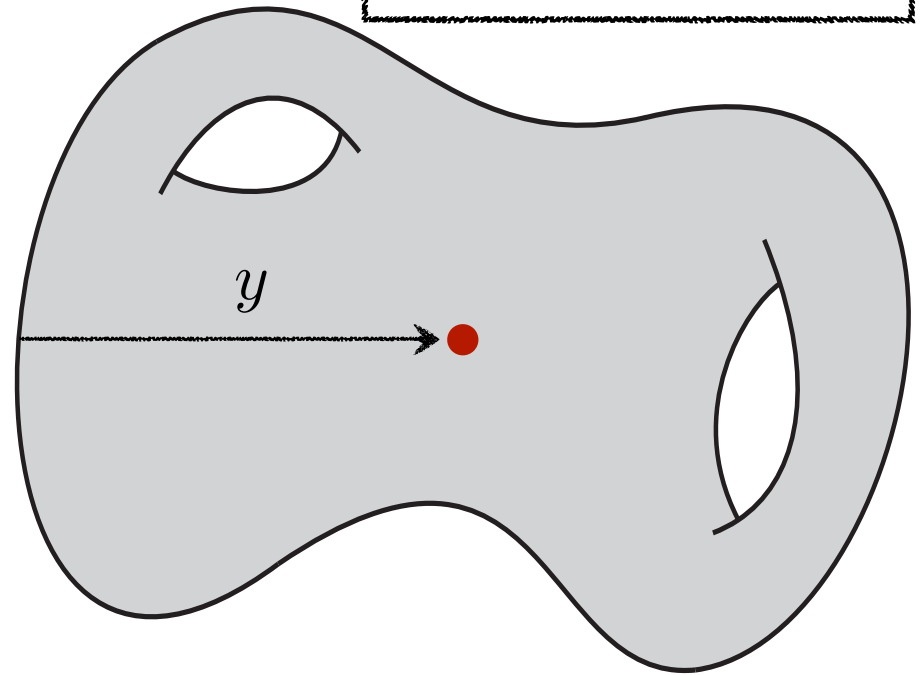


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# D3-brane Inflation



$$\frac{\Delta\phi^2}{M_{\text{pl}}^2} \lesssim g_s \left(\frac{\ell_s}{L}\right)^4 \ll 1$$



[Dvali and Tye]; [GS, Tye]; [Burgess, Majumdar, Nolte, Quevedo, Rajesh, Zhang]; [Dvali, Shafi, Solganik]; [Kachru, Kallosh, Linde, Maldacena, McAllister, Trivedi]; [Chen, Ouyang, GS]; [Chen, Hung, GS] and many others.

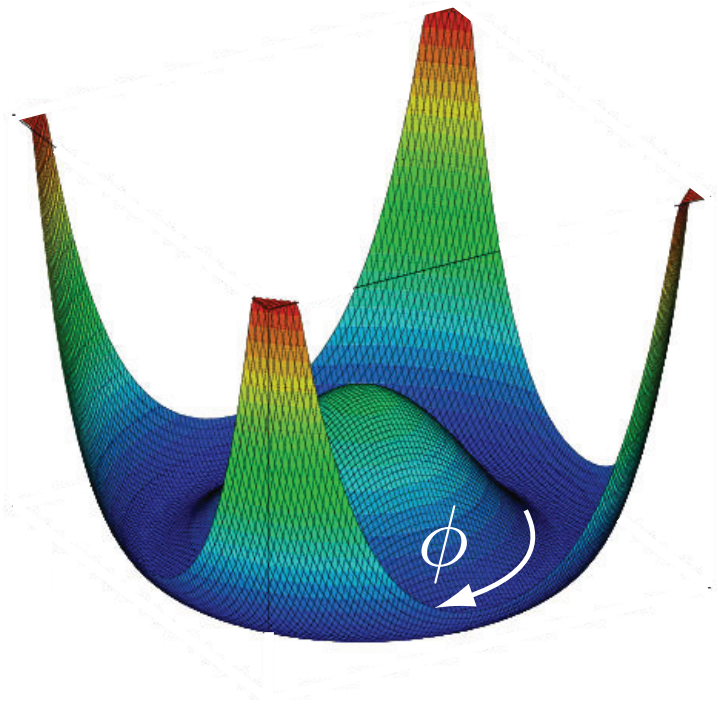
More natural candidates are fields with symmetries.

“Symmetries dictate interactions”

# Natural Inflation

Freese, Frieman, Olinto

Pseudo-Nambu-Goldstone bosons  
are natural inflaton candidates:

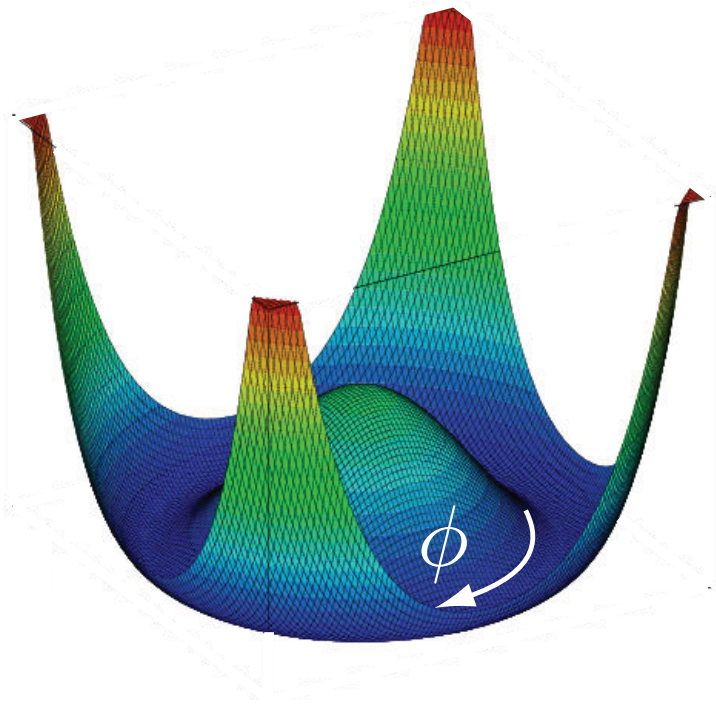




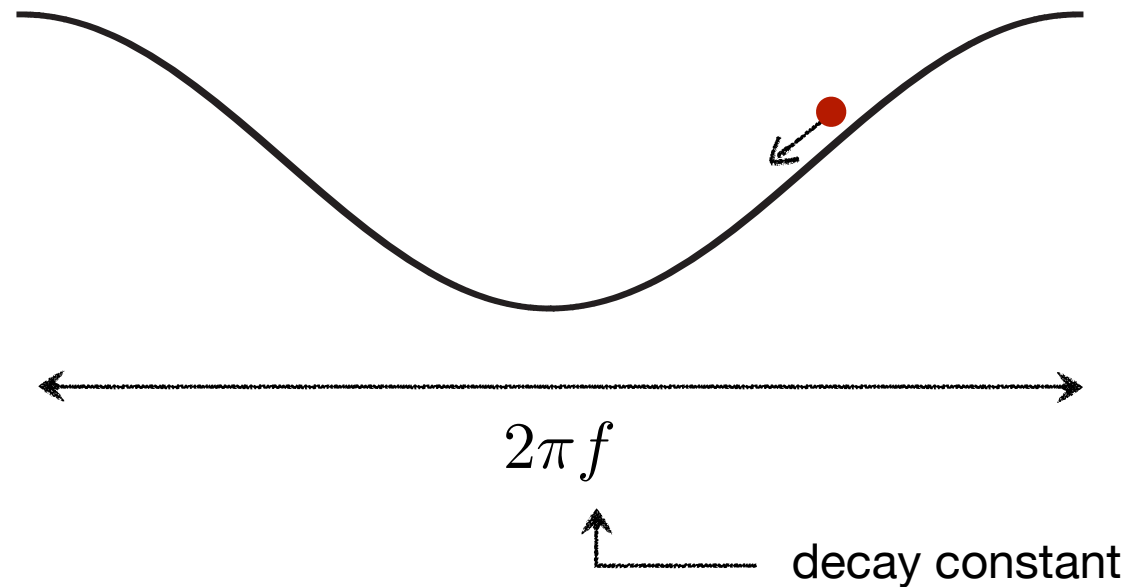
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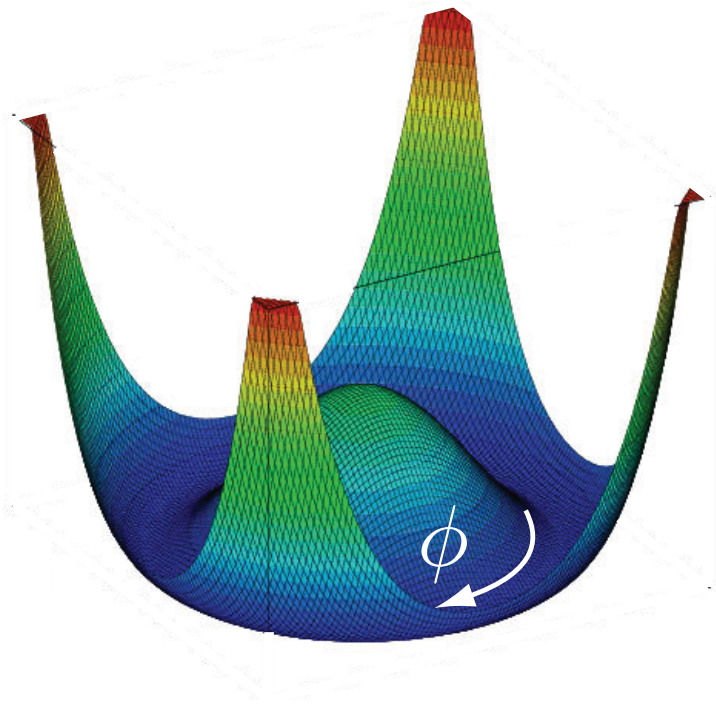
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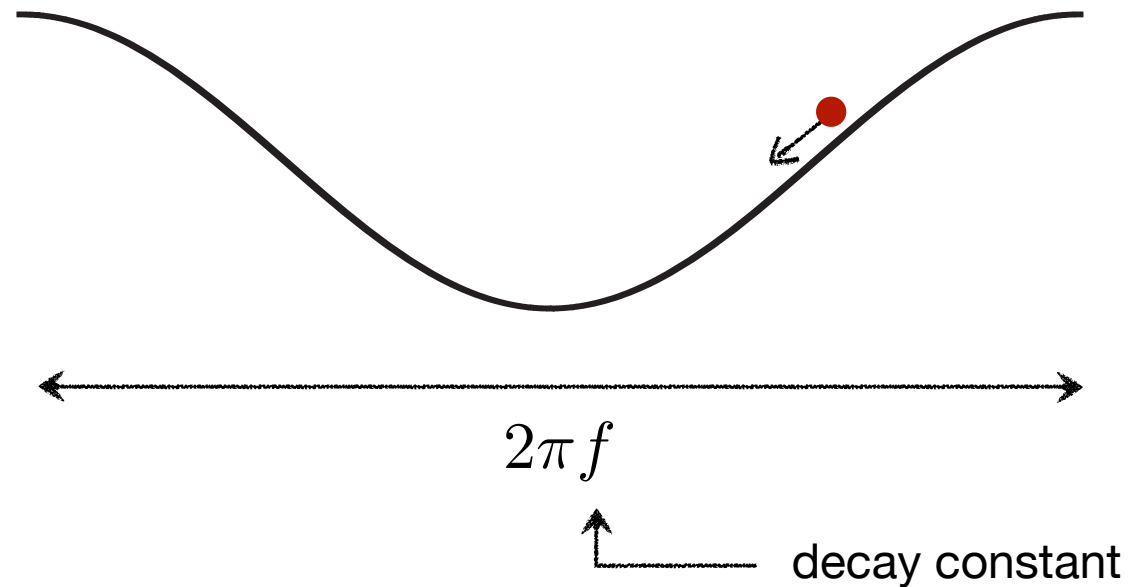
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Successful inflation requires a  
super-Planckian decay constant:

$$f > M_{\text{pl}}$$

# Axions in String Theory

String theory has many **higher-dimensional form-fields**:

e.g.

$$F = dA$$

3-form flux  $\xrightarrow{\quad}$   $\uparrow$   $\xleftarrow{\quad}$  2-form gauge potential:

gauge symmetry:  $A \rightarrow A + d\Lambda$

Integrating the 2-form over a 2-cycle gives an **axion**:

$$a(x) \equiv \int_{\Sigma_2} A$$

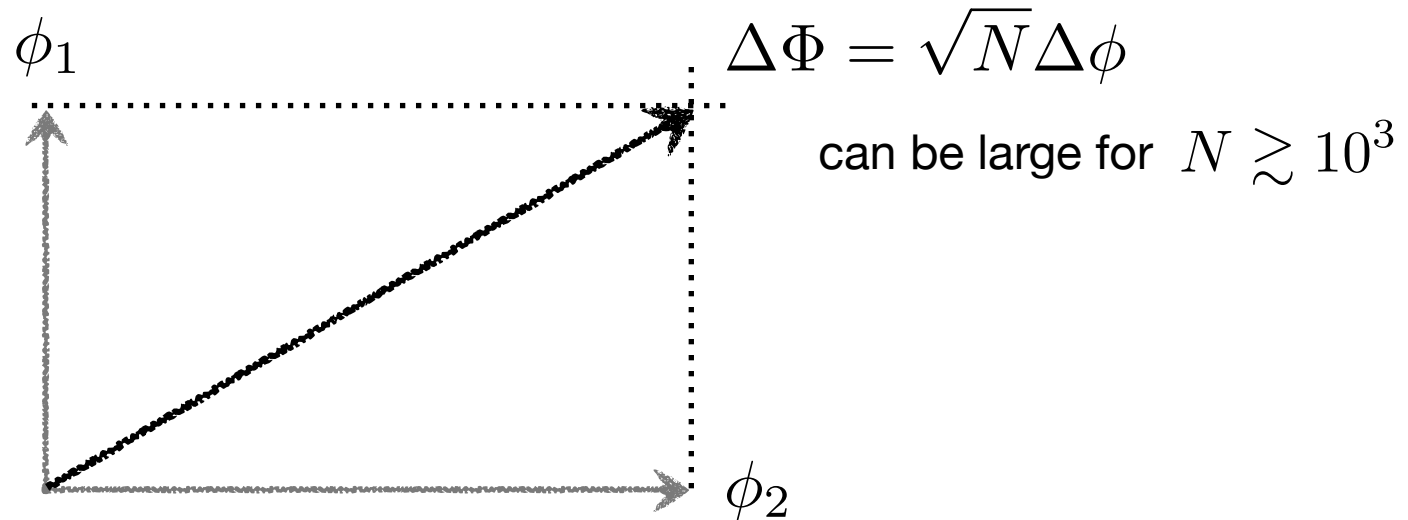
The gauge symmetry becomes a **shift symmetry**.

Axions with super-Planckian decay constants don't seem to exist in controlled limits of string theory.

Svrcek and Witten  
Banks et al.

# N-flation

Dimopoulos et al.



Quantum corrections to the Planck mass also scale with the number of axions:

$$\delta M_{\text{pl}}^2 \sim N \Lambda_{\text{UV}}^2$$

**So, we don't win parametrically!**

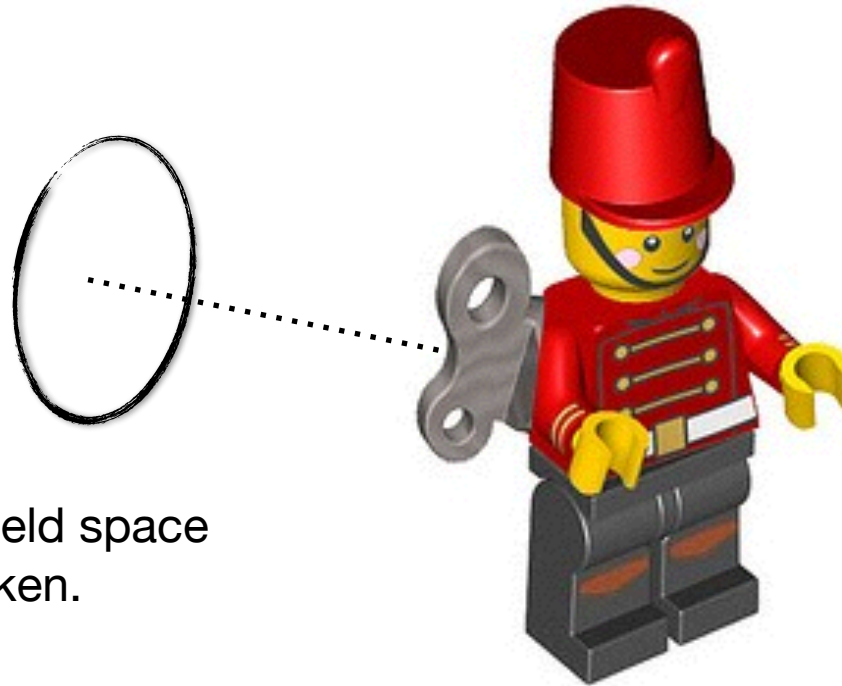
Other scenarios with multiple axions: [Kim, Nilles, Peloso];[Berg, Pajer, Sjors]

# Axion Monodromy

= a combination of chaotic inflation and natural inflation

McAllister, Silverstein and Westphal (see also: Kaloper, Lawrence and Sorbo)

**A new and better version: Marchesano, GS, Uranga**



An ***“apparent” periodicity*** in field space  
which nonetheless is broken.

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= a combination of chaotic inflation and natural inflation

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The axion periodicity is lifted, but the symmetry still constrains corrections to the potential:

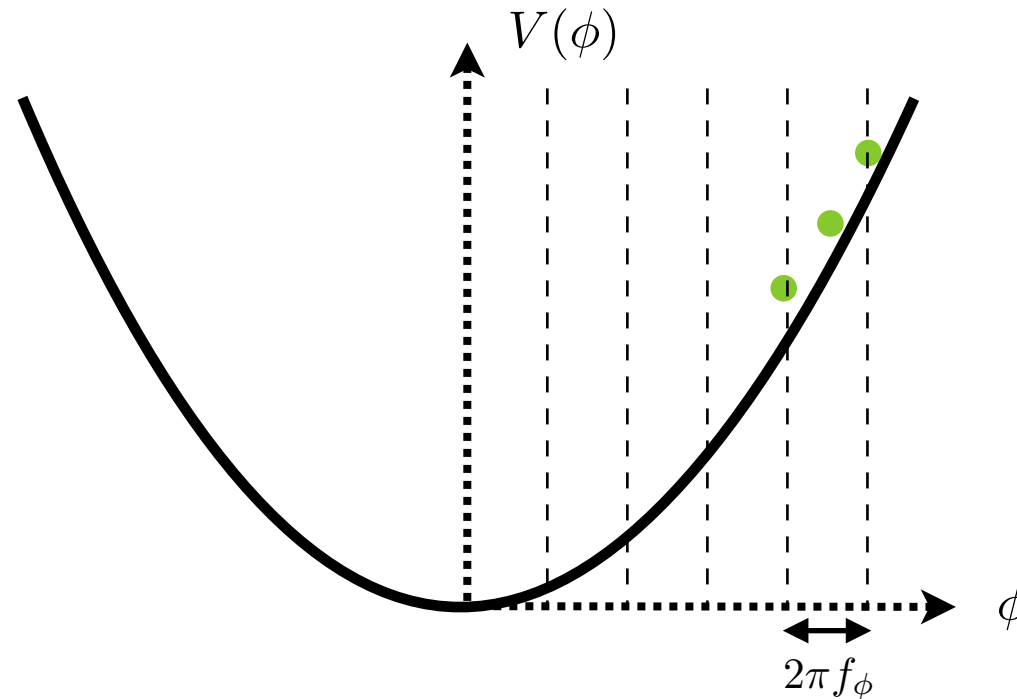


# Axion Monodromy Inflation

*Siverstein & Westphal '08*

Idea:

Combine chaotic inflation and  
natural inflation



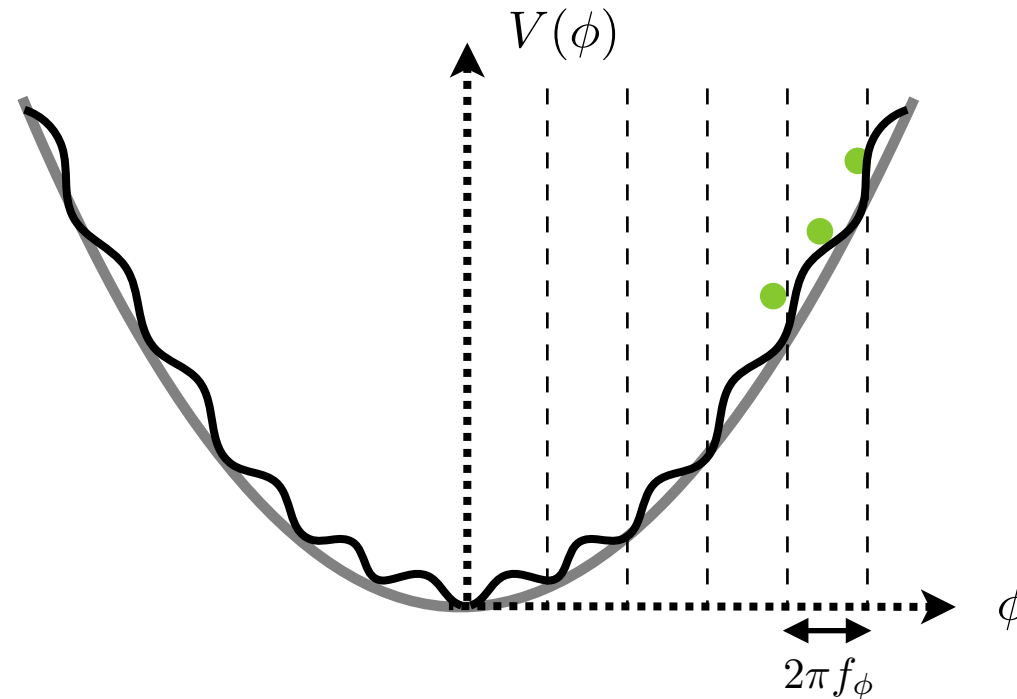
The axion periodicity is lifted, allowing for super-Planckian displacements. The UV corrections to the potential should still be constrained by the underlying symmetry.

# Axion Monodromy Inflation

*Siverstein & Westphal '08*

Idea:

Combine chaotic inflation and natural inflation



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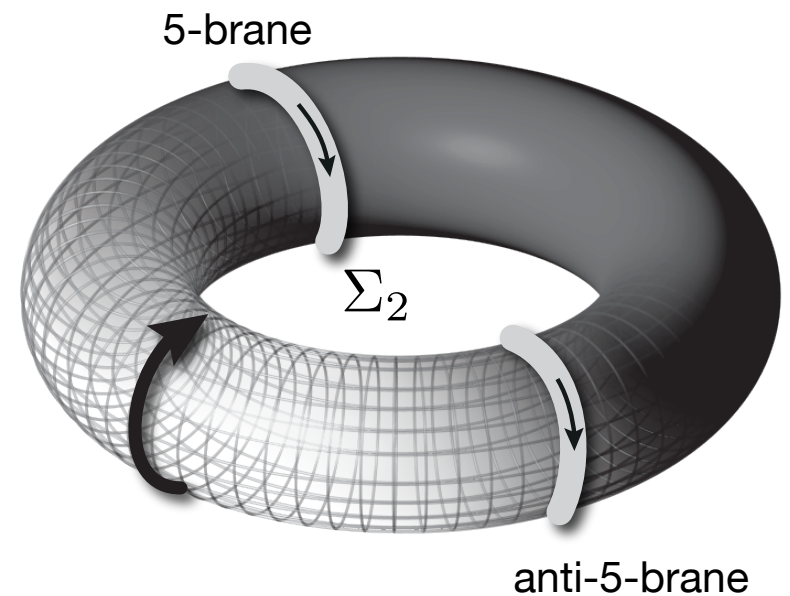
# Axion Monodromy

The axion shift symmetry in string theory is broken only by **non-perturbative effects** (instantons) or **boundaries** [Wen, Witten];[Dine, Seiberg]

Non-perturbative effects → discrete symmetry (no monodromy)

A 5-brane wrapping the 2-cycle breaks the axion shift symmetry:

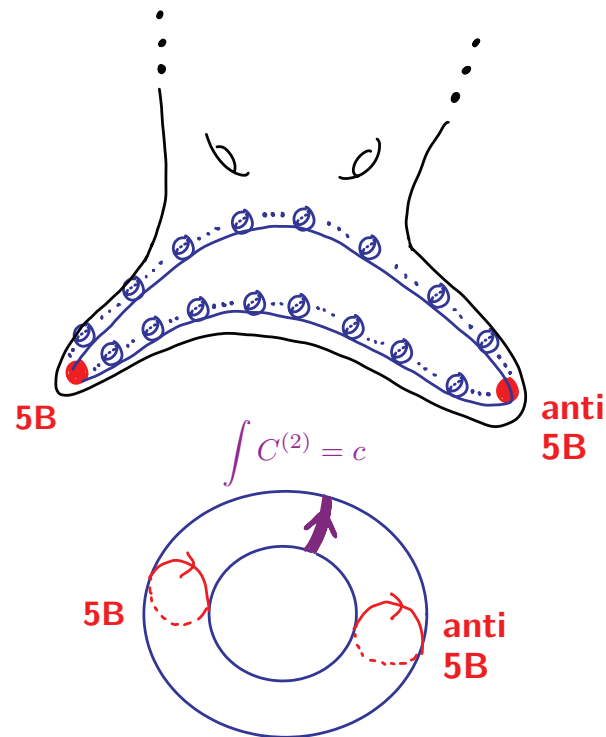
$$\begin{aligned} V &= 2T_5 \int_{\Sigma_2} d^2\sigma \sqrt{-\det(G + A)} \\ &= 2T_5 \sqrt{\ell_{\Sigma_2}^2 + a^2} \end{aligned}$$



# Axion Monodromy

Road blocks found in earlier attempts (and some quick fixes):

- $\eta$  problem  $\Rightarrow$  NS5-branes (not D5-branes)
- Gauss's law  $\Rightarrow$  anti 5-brane wrapping "homologous" cycles.
- Brane annihilation  $\Rightarrow$  far from each other, at different warped throats



McAllister, Silverstein and Westphal

- Backreaction  $\Rightarrow$  whole system embedded into another throat.

# Axion Monodromy Inflation

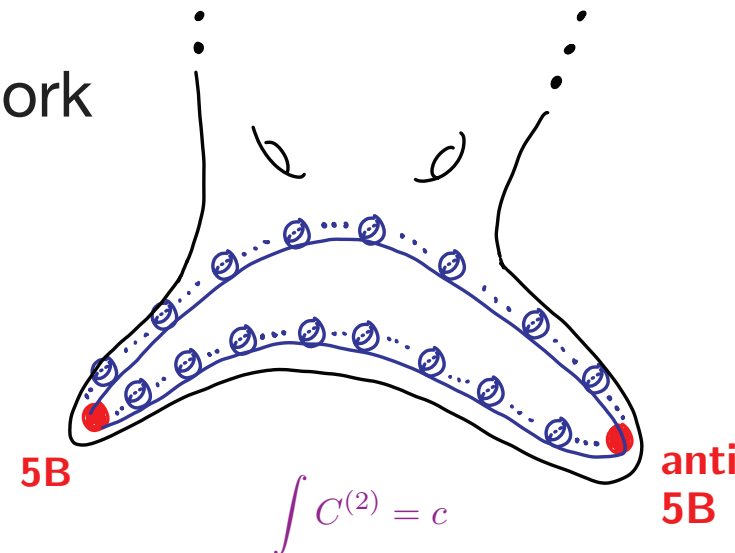
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Early developments:

- ◆ McAllister, Silverstein, Westphal → String scenarios
- ◆ Kaloper, Lawrence, Sorbo → 4d framework



*figure taken from McAllister, Silverstein, Westphal '08*

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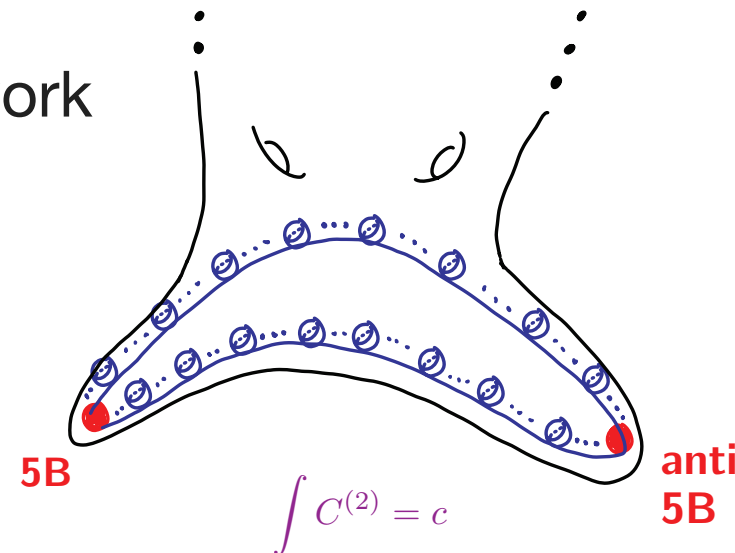
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*figure taken from McAllister, Silverstein, Westphal '08*

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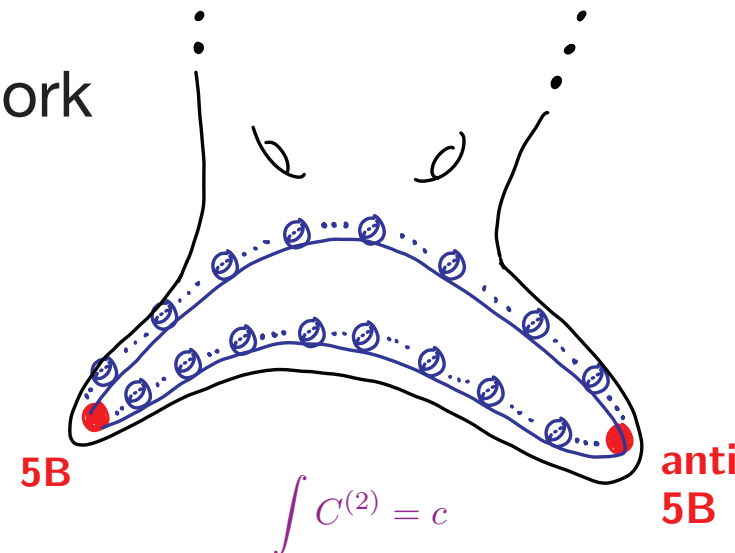
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UV completion?



*figure taken from McAllister, Silverstein, Westphal '08*

# F-term Axion Monodromy Inflation

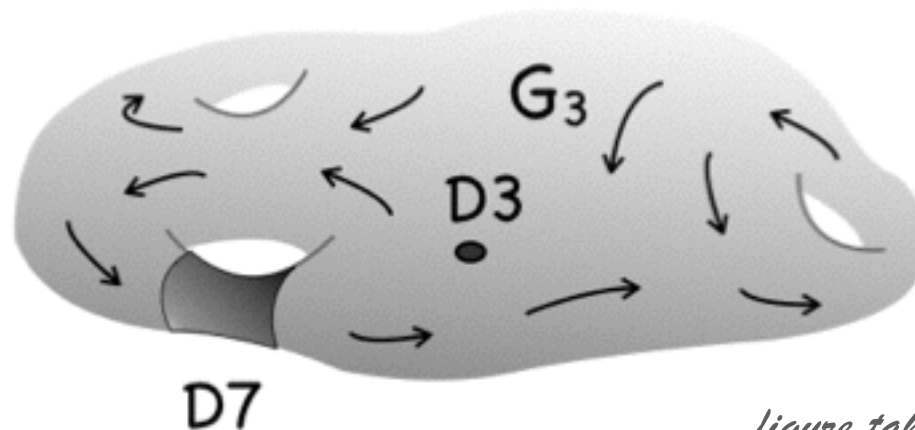
Obs:

Axion Monodromy

~

Giving a mass to an axion

- ◆ Done in string theory within the **moduli stabilization** program: adding ingredients like background fluxes generate **superpotentials** in the effective 4d theory



*figure taken from Ibáñez & Uranga '12*

# F-term Axion Monodromy Inflation

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Axion Monodromy

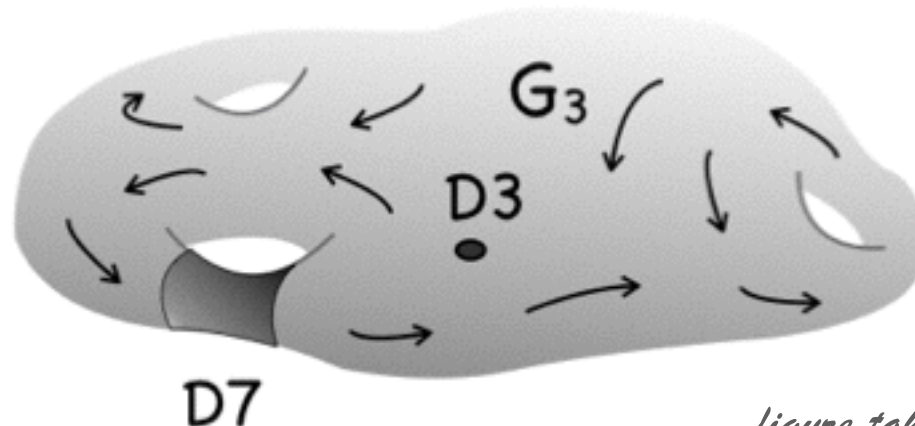
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Use same techniques to generate an inflation potential



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- ◆ Done in string theory within the **moduli stabilization** program: adding ingredients like background fluxes generate **superpotentials** in the effective 4d theory

Idea:

Use same techniques to  
generate an inflation potential

- **Simpler** models, all sectors understood at weak coupling
- **Spontaneous SUSY breaking**, no need for brane-anti-brane
- **Clear endpoint of inflation**, allows to address reheating

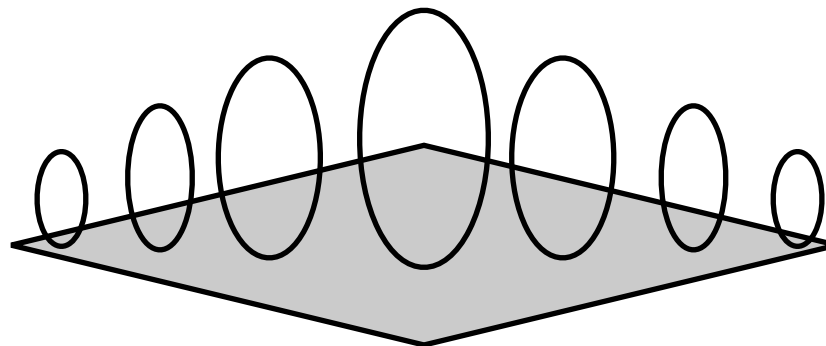


# Toy Example: Massive Wilson line

- ✿ Simple example of axion: (4+d)-dimensional gauge field integrated over a circle in a compact space  $\Pi_d$

$$\phi = \int_{S^1} A_1 \quad \text{or} \quad A_1 = \phi(x) \eta_1(y)$$

- ◆  $\phi$  massless if  $\Delta\eta_1 = 0 \Rightarrow S^1$  is a non-trivial circle in  $\Pi_d$   
exact periodicity and (pert.) shift symmetry
- ◆  $\phi$  massive if  $\Delta\eta_1 = -\mu^2 \eta_1 \Rightarrow kS^1$  homologically trivial in  $\Pi_d$   
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$$F_2 = dA_1 = \phi d\eta_1 \sim \mu\phi \omega_2 \Rightarrow \text{shifts in } \phi \text{ increase energy via the induced flux } F_2$$

$\Rightarrow$  periodicity is broken and shift symmetry approximate

# MWL and twisted tori

- ❖ Simple way to construct massive Wilson lines: consider **compact extra dimensions**  $\Pi_d$  with circles fibered over a base, like the **twisted tori** that appear in flux compactifications
- ❖ There are **circles** that are **not contractible but** do not correspond to any harmonic 1-form. Instead, they correspond to **torsional elements in homology** and cohomology groups

$$\text{Tor } H_1(\Pi_d, \mathbb{Z}) = \text{Tor } H^2(\Pi_d, \mathbb{Z}) = \mathbb{Z}_k$$

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- ❖ Simplest example: **twisted 3-torus**  $\tilde{\mathbb{T}}^3$

$$H_1(\tilde{\mathbb{T}}^3, \mathbb{Z}) = \mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}_k$$

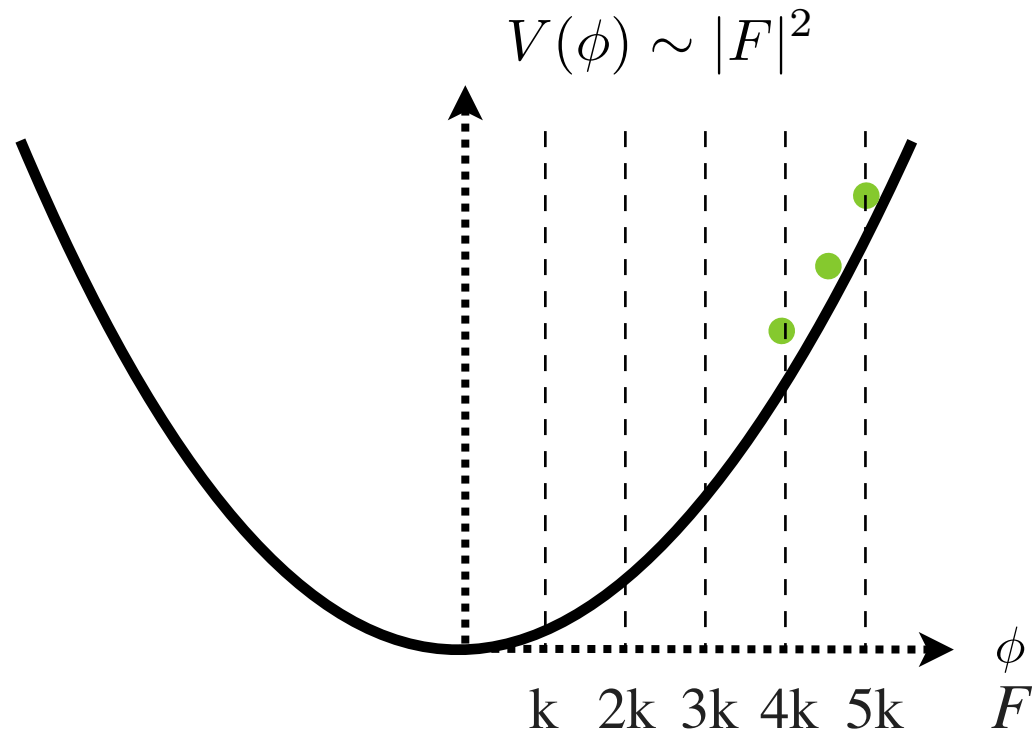
$$d\eta_1 = k dx^2 \wedge dx^3 \longrightarrow F = \phi k dx^2 \wedge dx^3$$


 two normal 1-cycles      one torsional 1-cycle

$$\mu = \frac{k R_1}{R_2 R_3}$$

under a **shift**  $\phi \rightarrow \phi + 1$   
 **$F_2$  increases** by  $k$  units

# MWL and monodromy



Question:

How does monodromy and approximate shift symmetry help prevent wild UV corrections?

# Torsion and gauge invariance

- ❖ Twisted tori **torsional invariants** are not just a fancy way of detecting non-harmonic forms, but are related to a **hidden gauge invariance** of these axion-monodromy models
- ❖ Let us again consider a **7d gauge theory on  $M^{1,3} \times \tilde{\mathbb{T}}^3$** 
  - ◆ Instead of  $A_1$  we consider its **magnetic dual  $V_4$**

$$V_4 = C_3 \wedge \eta_1 + b_2 \wedge \sigma_2 \xrightarrow{d\eta_1 = k\sigma_2} dV_4 = dC_3 \wedge \eta_1 + (db_2 - kC_3) \wedge \sigma_2$$

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- ◆ From dimensional reduction of the **kinetic term**:

$$\int d^7x |dV_4|^2 \longrightarrow \int d^4x |dC_3|^2 + \frac{\mu^2}{k^2} |db_2 - kC_3|^2$$

- Gauge invariance  $C_3 \rightarrow C_3 + d\Lambda_2$   $b_2 \rightarrow b_2 + k\Lambda_2$
- Generalization of the Stückelberg Lagrangian

# Effective 4d theory

- ✿ The effective 4d Lagrangian

$$\int d^4x |dC_3|^2 + \frac{\mu^2}{k^2} |db_2 - kC_3|^2$$

describes a **massive axion**, has been applied to QCD axion  $\Rightarrow$  generalized to **arbitrary  $V(\phi)$**

*Kallosh et al. '95*

*Dvali, Jackiw, Pi '05*

*Dvali, Folkerts, Franca '13*

- ✿ Reproduces the **axion-four-form Lagrangian** proposed by Kaloper and Sorbo as **4d model of axion-monodromy inflation** with mild UV corrections

$$\int d^4x |F_4|^2 + |d\phi|^2 + \phi F_4$$

$$F_4 = dC_3$$

$$d\phi = *_4 db_2$$

*Kaloper & Sorbo '08*

- ✿ It is related to an **F-term** generated mass term

*Groh, Louis, Sommerfeld '12*



# Effective 4d theory

## ✿ Effective 4d Lagrangian

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$$F_4 = dC_3$$

$$d\phi = *_4 db_2$$

## ✿ Gauge symmetry $\Rightarrow$ UV corrections only depend on $F_4$

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{eff}}[\phi] = \frac{1}{2}(\partial\phi)^2 - \frac{1}{2}\mu^2\phi^2 + \Lambda^4 \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} c_i \frac{\phi^{2i}}{\Lambda^{2i}}$$

$$\sum_n c_n \frac{F^{2n}}{\Lambda^{4n}} \longrightarrow \mu^2\phi^2 \sum_n c_n \left( \frac{\mu^2\phi^2}{\Lambda^4} \right)^n$$

$\Rightarrow$  suppressed corrections up to the scale where  $V(\phi) \sim \Lambda^4$

$\Rightarrow$  effective scale for corrections  $\Lambda \rightarrow \Lambda_{\text{eff}} = \Lambda^2/\mu$

# Effective 4d theory

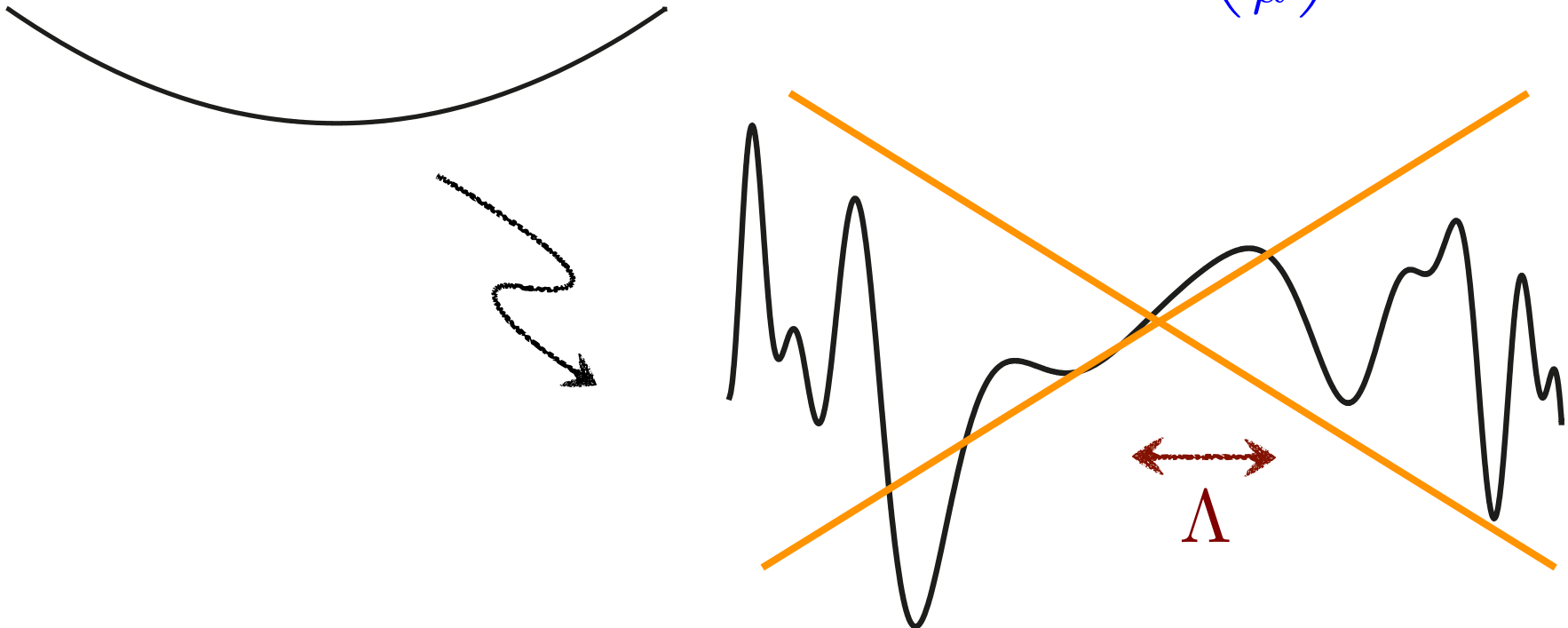
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$$\Lambda \rightarrow \Lambda_{\text{eff}} = \Lambda \left( \frac{\Lambda}{\mu} \right)$$



# Discrete symmetries and domain walls

- ✿ The integer  $k$  in the Lagrangian

$$\int d^4x |F_4|^2 + \frac{\mu^2}{k^2} |db_2 - kC_3|^2$$

corresponds to a **discrete symmetry of the theory broken spontaneously** once a choice of four-form flux is made. This amounts to choose a **branch of the scalar potential**

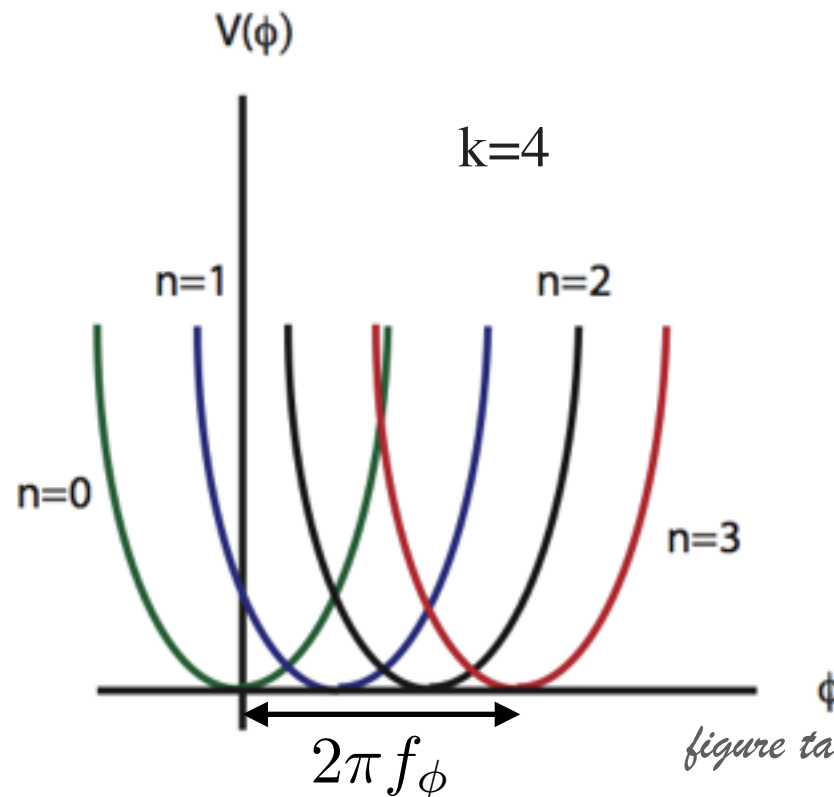


figure taken from Kaloper & Lawrence '14

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- ❖ Branch jumps are made via nucleation of domain walls that couple to  $C_3$ , and this puts a maximum to the inflaton range
- ❖ Domain walls analysed in string constructions:

*Berasaluce-Gonzalez, Camara, Marchesano, Uranga '12*

- They correspond to discrete symmetries of the superpotential/landscape of vacua, and appear whenever axions are stabilised
- $k$  domain walls decay in a cosmic string implementing  $\phi \rightarrow \phi+1$

# Massive Wilson lines in string theory

- ❖ Simple example of MWL in string theory: D6-brane on  $M^{1,3} \times \tilde{\mathbb{T}}^3$
- ❖ An inflaton vev induces a non-trivial flux  $F_2$  proportional to  $\phi$  but now this flux enters the DBI action

$$\sqrt{\det(G + 2\pi\alpha' F_2)} = d\text{vol}_{M^{1,3}} (|F_2|^2 + \text{corrections})$$

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$$V = \sqrt{L^4 + \langle\phi\rangle^2} - L^2$$

Similar to the D4-brane model of Silverstein and Westphal except for the inflation endpoint

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$$V = \sqrt{L^4 + \langle\phi\rangle^2} \left( -L^2 \right)$$

Similar to the D4-brane model of Silverstein and Westphal except for the inflation endpoint

# Massive Wilson lines and flattening

- ❖ The DBI modification

$$\langle \phi \rangle^2 \rightarrow \sqrt{L^4 + \langle \phi \rangle^2} - L^2$$

can be interpreted as **corrections due to UV completion**

- ❖ E.g., **integrating out moduli** such that  $H < m_{\text{mod}} < M_{\text{GUT}}$  will correct the potential, although not destabilise it

*Kaloper, Lawrence, Sorbo '11*

- ❖ In the DBI case the **potential is flattened**: argued general effect due to couplings to heavy fields

*Dong, Horn, Silverstein, Westphal '10*

- ❖ **Large vev flattening** also observed in examples of confining gauge theories whose **gravity dual** is known [Witten'98]

*Dubovsky, Lawrence, Roberts '11*

- ❖  $\alpha'$  corrections to EFT [**See Junghans's talk**] **are** important for **inflation** and **moduli stabilization**.



# Other string examples

- ❖ We can integrate a **bulk p-form potential  $C_p$**  over a p-cycle to get an axion

$$F_{p+1} = dC_p, \quad C_p \rightarrow C_p + d\Lambda_{p-1} \quad c = \int_{\pi_p} C_p$$

- ❖ If the **p-cycle is torsional** we will get the **same effective action**

$$\int d^{10}x |F_{9-p}|^2 \quad \longrightarrow \quad \int d^4x |dC_3|^2 + \frac{\mu^2}{k^2} |db_2 - kC_3|^2$$

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- ❖ The **topological groups** that detect this possibility are

$$\text{Tor } H_p(\mathbf{X}_6, \mathbb{Z}) = \text{Tor } H^{p+1}(\mathbf{X}_6, \mathbb{Z}) = \text{Tor } H^{6-p}(\mathbf{X}_6, \mathbb{Z}) = \text{Tor } H_{5-p}(\mathbf{X}_6, \mathbb{Z})$$

one should make sure that the corresponding axion mass is well below the compactification scale (e.g., using warping)

# Other string examples

- ❖ Axions also obtain a mass with **background fluxes**
- ❖ **Simplest example:  $\phi = C_0$**  in the presence of NSNS flux  $H_3$

$$W = \int_{\mathbf{X}_6} (F_3 - \tau H_3) \wedge \Omega \quad \tau = C_0 + i/g_s$$

- ❖ We also recover the **axion-four-form potential**

$$\int_{M^{1,3} \times \mathbf{X}_6} C_0 H_3 \wedge F_7 = \int_{M^{1,3}} C_0 F_4 \quad F_4 = \int_{\text{PD}[H_3]} F_7$$

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- ❖ M-theory version: *Beasley, Witten '02*

- ❖ A rich set of superpotentials obtained with **type IIA fluxes**

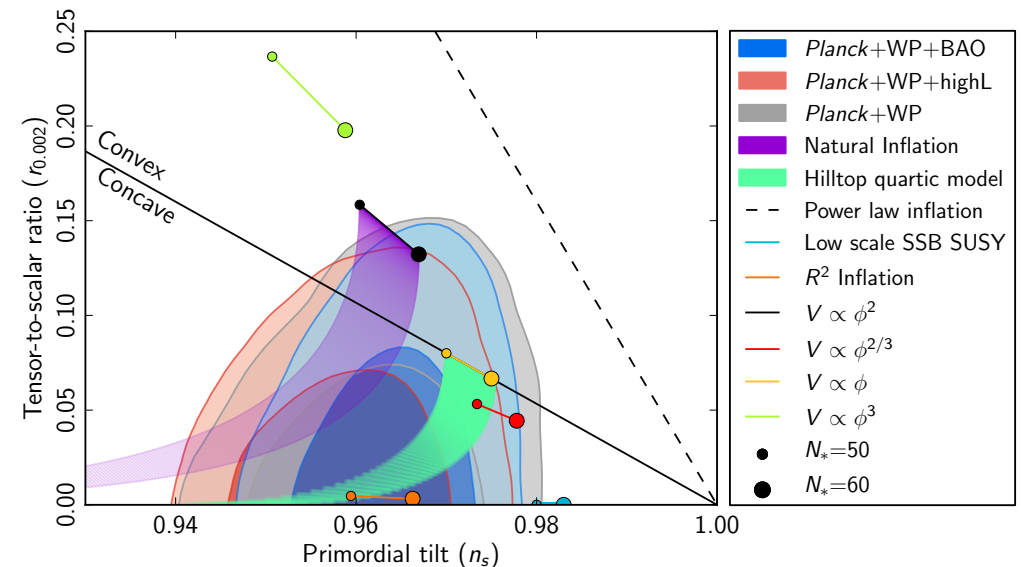
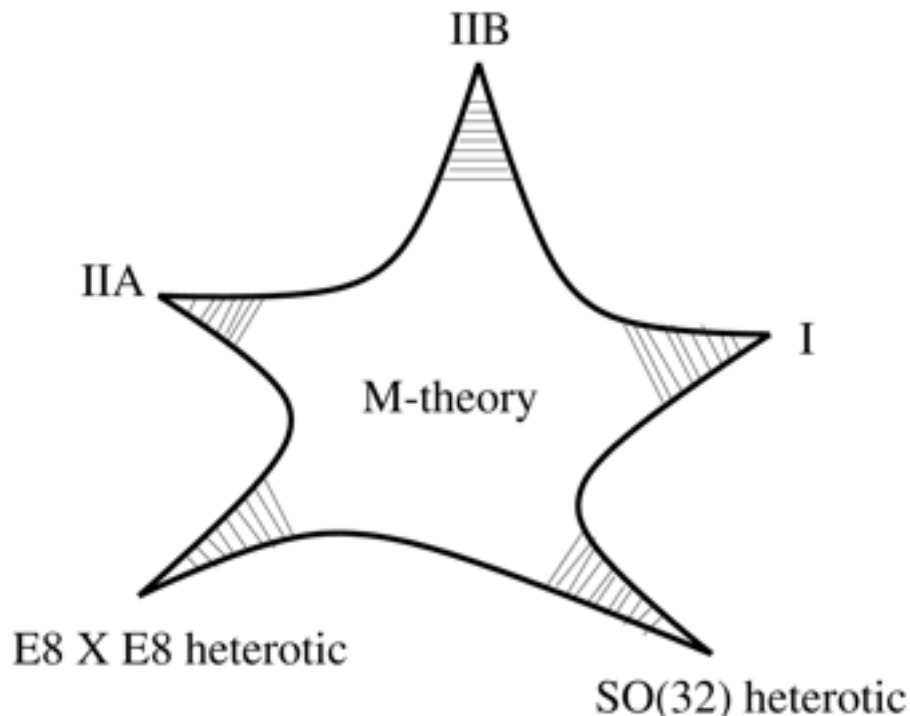
$$\int_{\mathbf{X}_6} e^{J_c} \wedge (F_0 + F_2 + F_4) \quad J_c = J + iB$$

➔ **potentials higher than quadratic**

- ❖ Massive axions detected by **torsion groups** in K-theory

# F-term Axion Monodromy Inflation

- ❖ A broad class of large field inflationary scenarios that can be implemented in any limit of string theory w/ rich pheno:

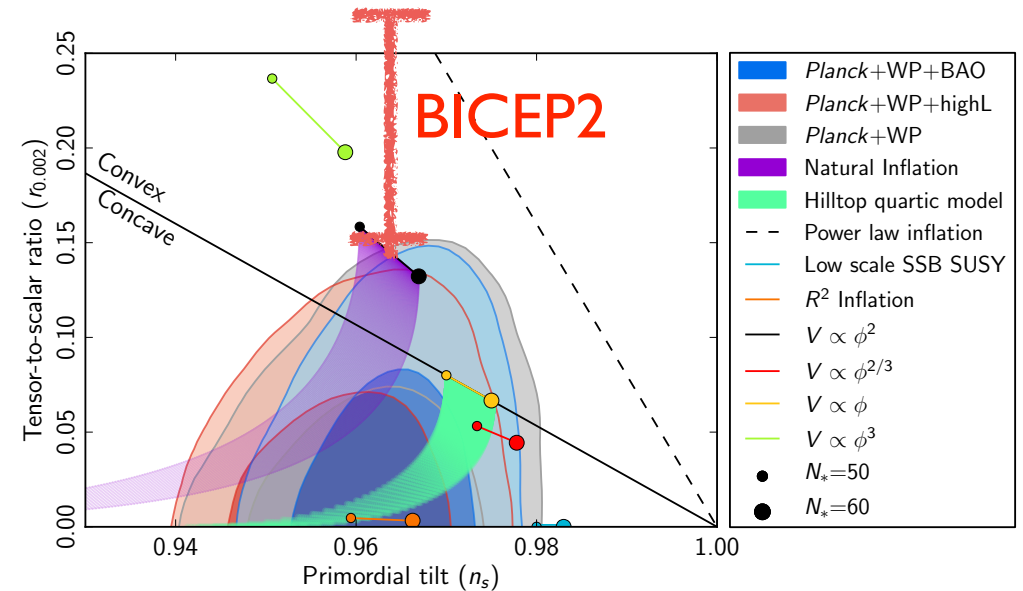
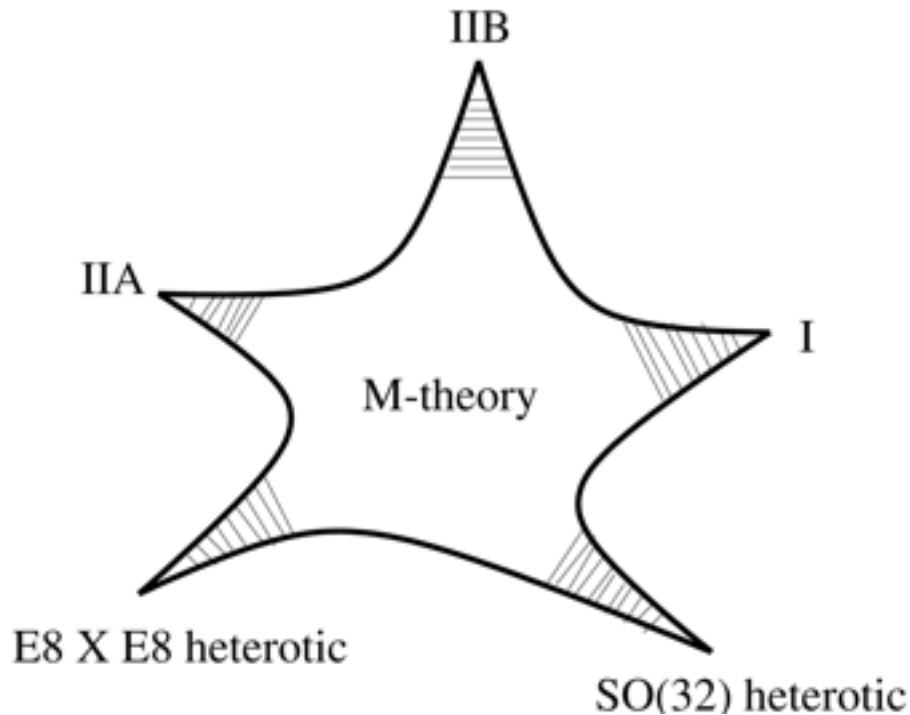


- ❖ A wide variety of potentials (**topology in the sky!**):

$$V(\phi) \propto \phi, \phi^{2/3}, \phi^2, \dots, \text{ or even } V(\phi) = \sum_n c_n \phi^n \text{ with } n > 2$$

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# Non-Gaussianity

If Gaussian: completely specified

$$\langle \zeta(\mathbf{k})\zeta(\mathbf{k}') \rangle = (2\pi)^3 \delta^3(\mathbf{k} + \mathbf{k}') P_s(k)$$

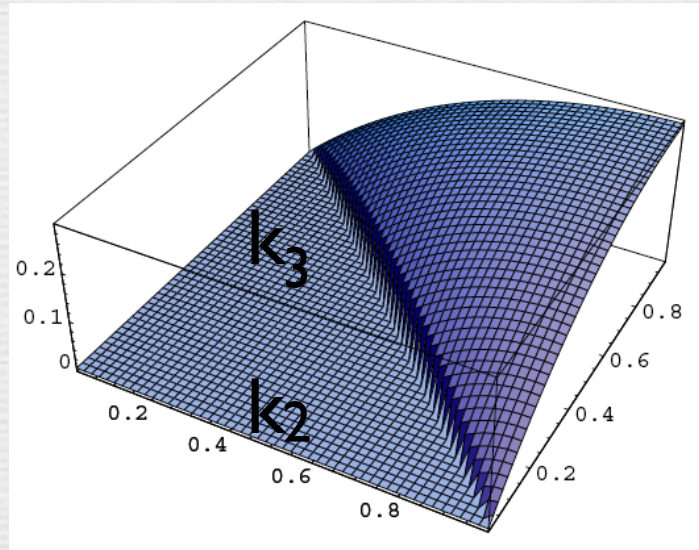
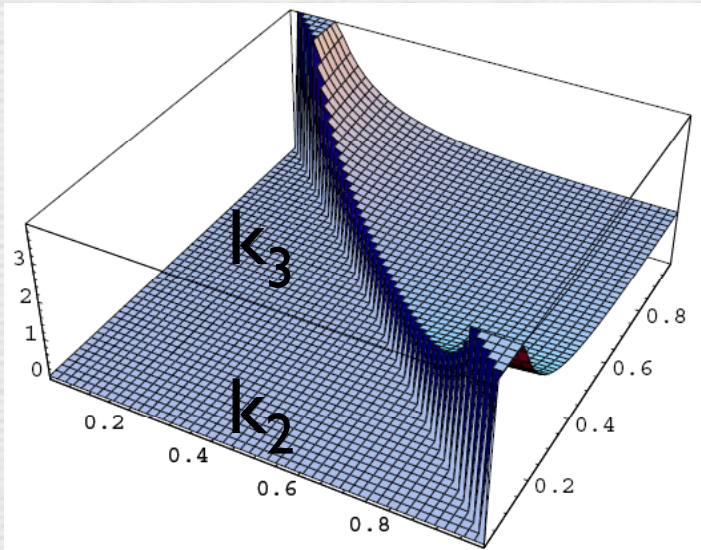
The leading non-Gaussianity

$$\langle \zeta(\mathbf{k}_1)\zeta(\mathbf{k}_2)\zeta(\mathbf{k}_3) \rangle$$

characterized by its size  $f_{NL}$  and **shape** (functional form)

Complete single field result:

[Chen, Huang, Kachru, GS]



Current bound [Planck]:

$$f_{NL}^{local} = 2.7 \pm 5.8$$

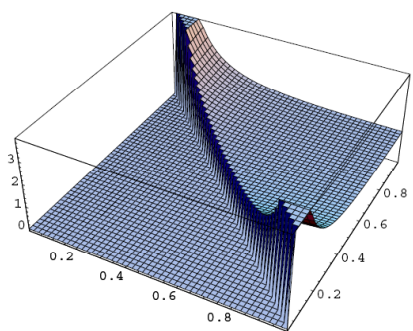
$$f_{NL}^{equil} = -42 \pm 75$$

Large non-Gaussianity probes UV physics!

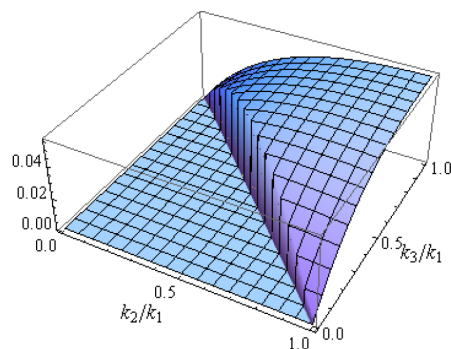
Local shape:  $f_{NL}^{local} \sim \mathcal{O}(\epsilon)$  Equilateral shape:  $f_{NL}^{equil} \sim \mathcal{O}(\gamma^2)$

# Holographic Non-Gaussianity

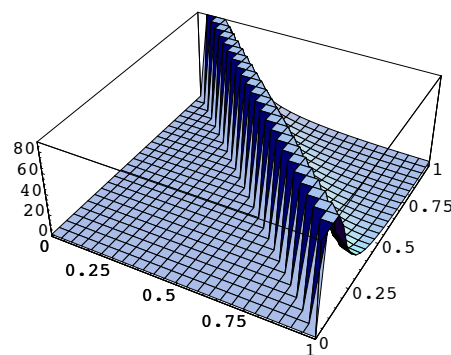
- Motivated partly by CHKS, various shape templates have been proposed:



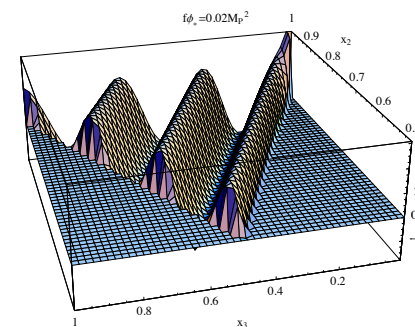
Local (slow-roll)



Equilateral (DBI)

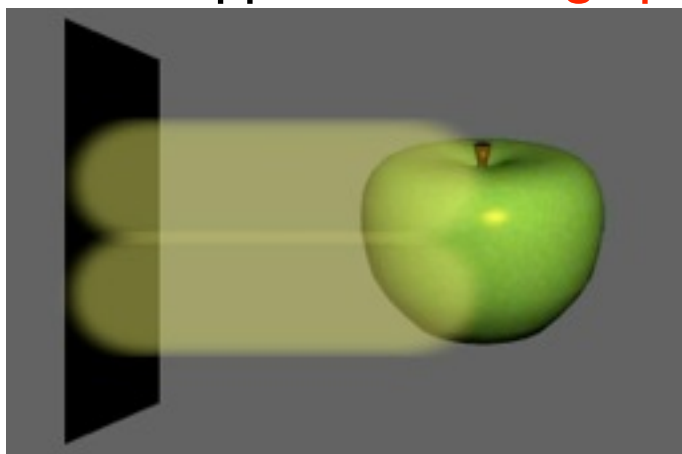


Folded (non BD vacuum)



Resonant  
(axion-monodromy)

- Inflation is approx. dS, **holography** may offer an organizing principle for NG:



$$\langle \zeta_{\mathbf{k}} \zeta_{-\mathbf{k}} \rangle' = -\frac{1}{2\text{Re}\langle \Theta_{\mathbf{k}} \Theta_{-\mathbf{k}} \rangle'}$$

$$\langle \zeta_{\mathbf{k}_1} \zeta_{\mathbf{k}_2} \zeta_{\mathbf{k}_3} \rangle' = \frac{2\text{Re}\langle \Theta_{\mathbf{k}_1} \Theta_{\mathbf{k}_2} \Theta_{\mathbf{k}_3} \rangle'}{\prod_{j=1}^3 (-2\text{Re}\langle \Theta_{\mathbf{k}_j} \Theta_{-\mathbf{k}_j} \rangle')}$$

[Maldacena];[Schalm, GS, van der Aalst]



Inflation is a successful effective theory in search of a microscopic description.

\* Superconductivity



Effective theory



Microscopic theory

\* Weak Interaction



Effective theory



Microscopic theory

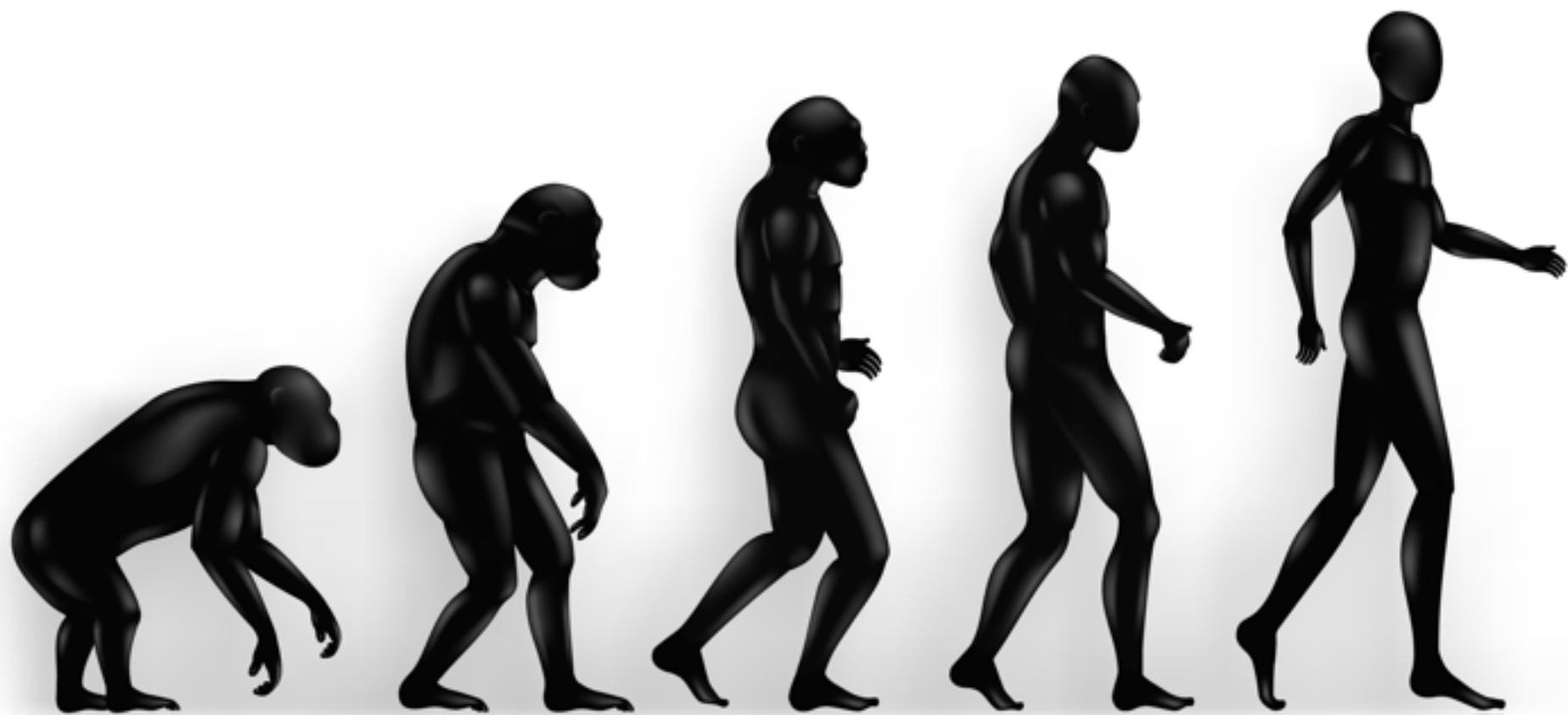
# String Theory?



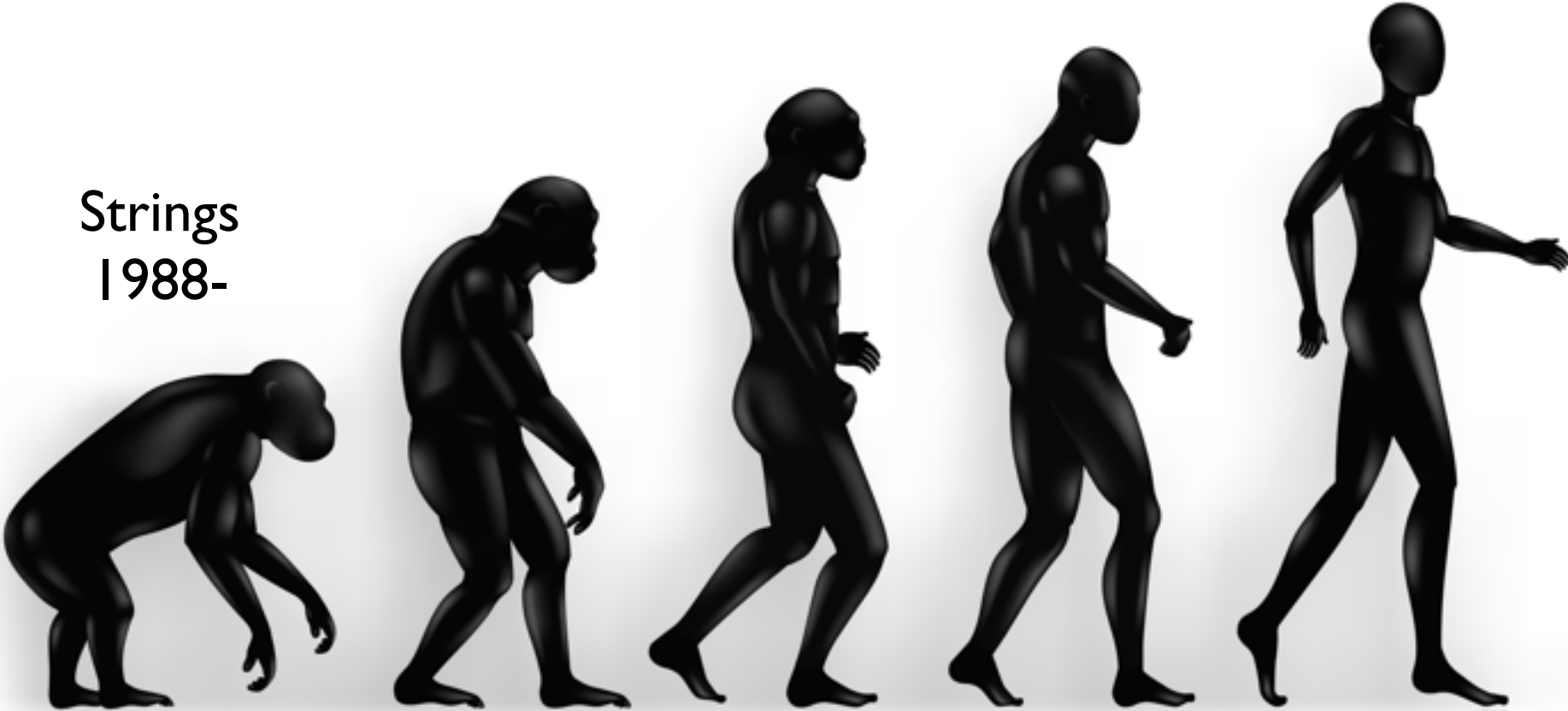
The Smithsonian Associates



Office of Science  
U.S. Department of Energy

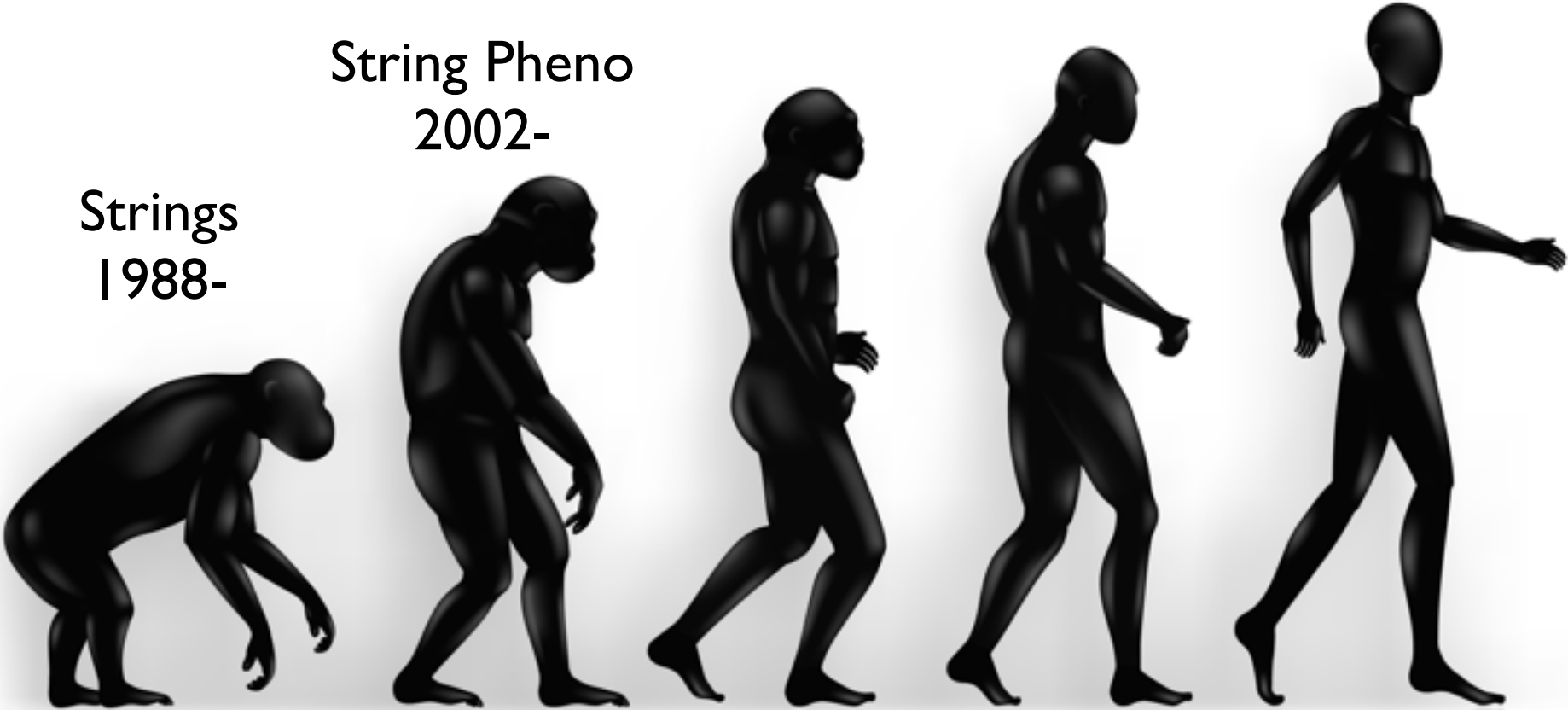


Strings  
1988-



Strings  
1988-

String Pheno  
2002-



Strings  
1988-



String Pheno  
2002-



String Math  
2011-



Strings  
1988-

String Pheno  
2002-

String Math  
2011-

String Cosmo  
2015-



## String Theory & Cosmology

### New Ideas Meet New Experimental Data

May 31 - June 5, 2015  
The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology  
Hong Kong, China

Chair:  
**Gary Shiu**

Vice Chair:  
**Ulf Danielsson**



### Application Deadline

Applications for this meeting must be submitted by **May 3, 2015**. Please apply early, as some meetings become oversubscribed (full) before this deadline. If the meeting is oversubscribed, it will be stated here. *Note:* Applications for oversubscribed meetings will only be considered by the Conference Chair if more seats become available due to cancellations.

Check out the website: <http://www.grc.org/programs.aspx?id=16938>



# Hong Kong Institute for Advanced Study





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THANKS

