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Gravitational Waves of GUT Phase Transition during Inflation

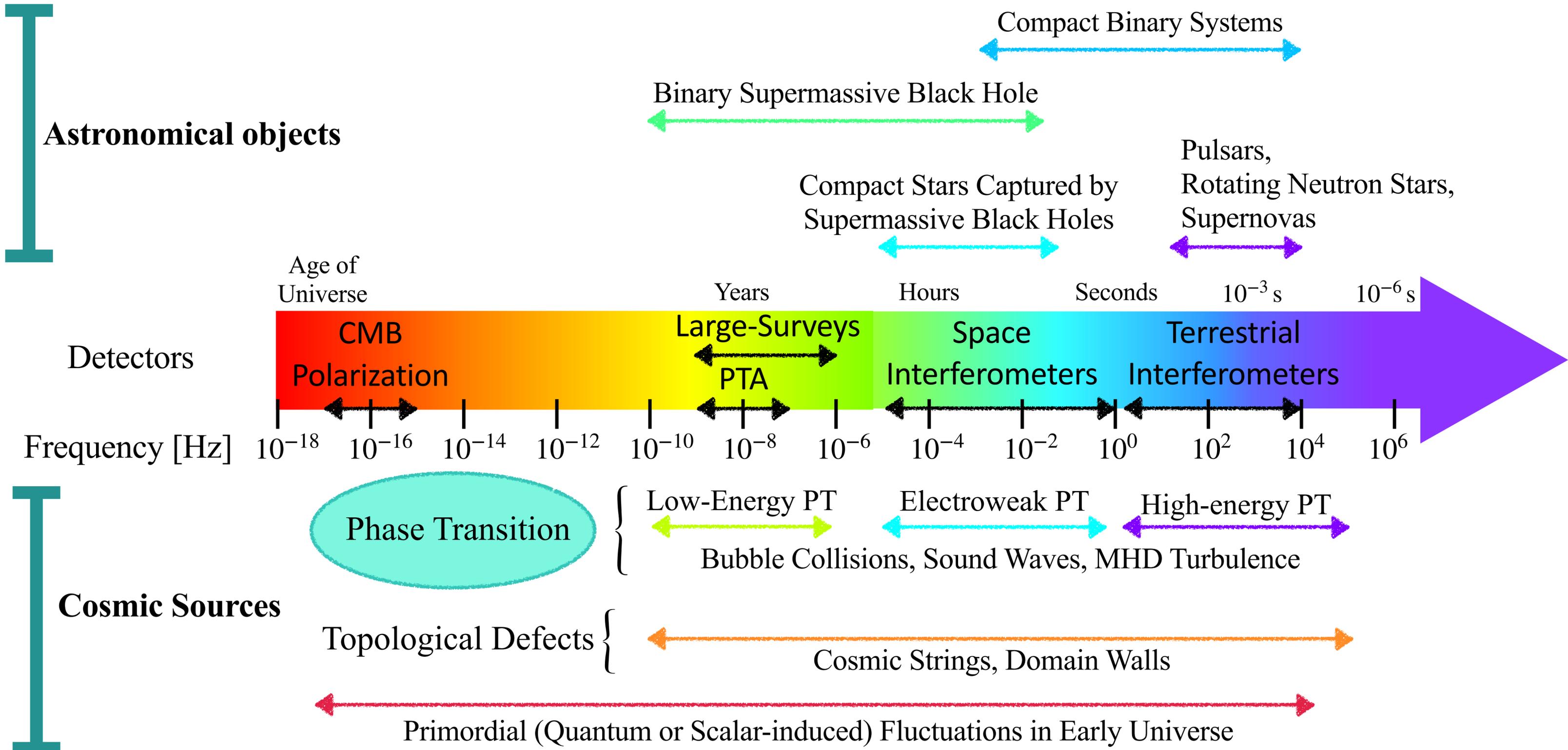
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Based on XHH and Y.L. Zhou, 2501.01491

The 2nd Workshop on Grand Unified Theories: Phenomenology and Cosmology
HIAS, UCAS, 2025.4.19



Motivation—Gravitational Waves





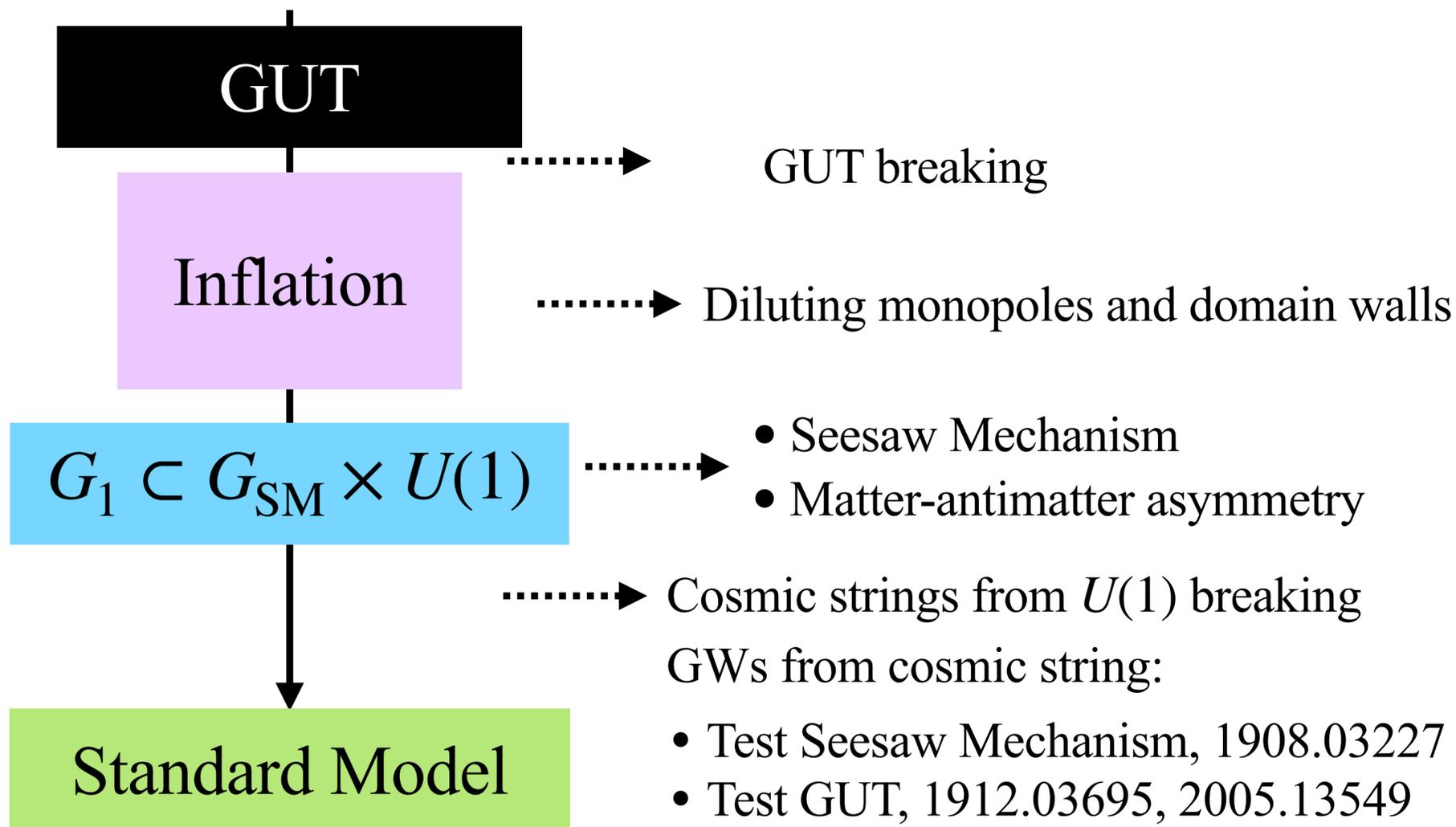
Motivation—Grand Unified Theory

Unification of symmetries $G_{GUT} \xrightarrow{\text{broken}} G_{SM}$ \rightarrow Cosmic Phase Transition \rightarrow topological defects

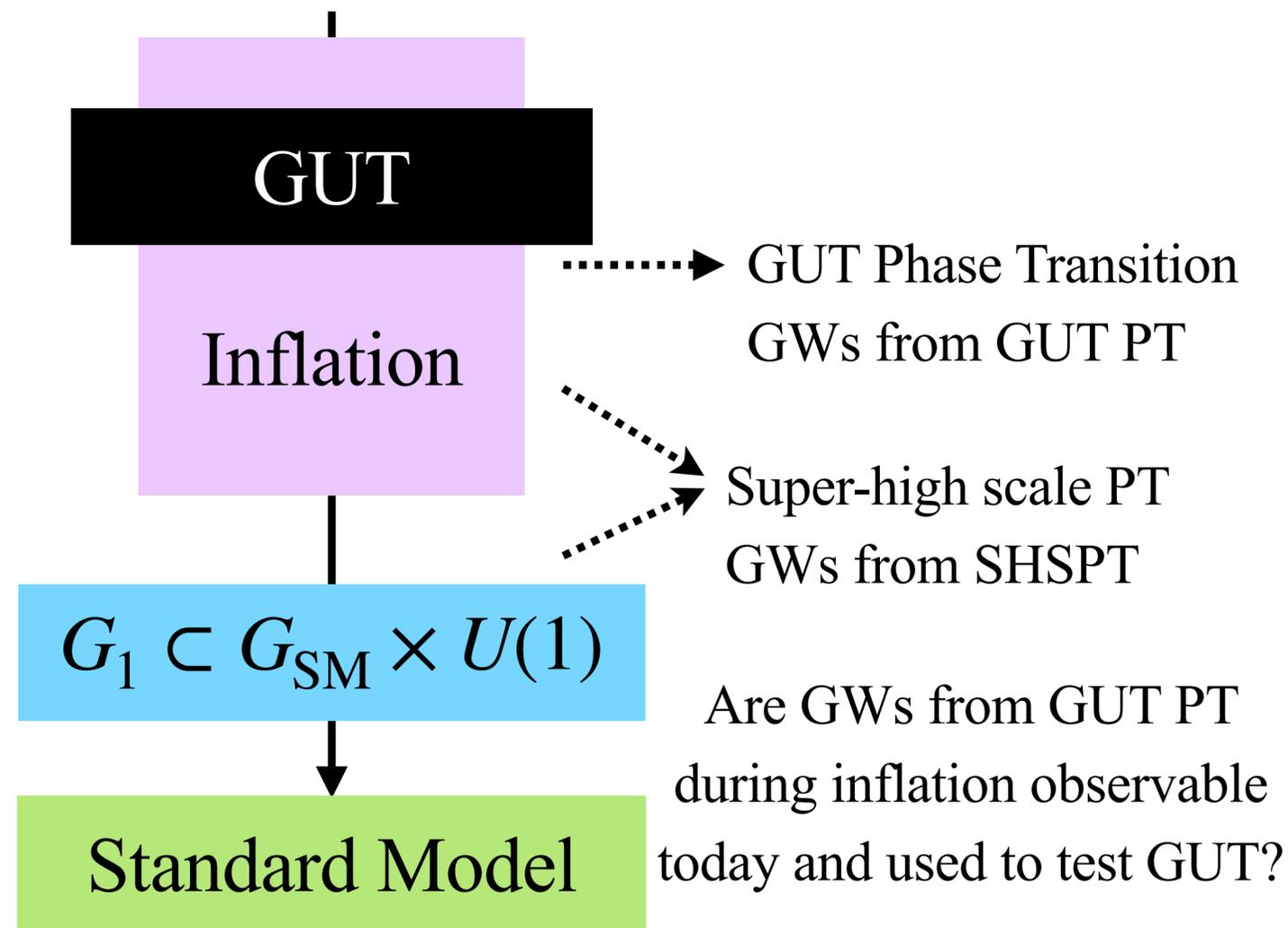
Unification of gauge couplings \rightarrow GUT Scale Unification of matters \rightarrow Proton Decay

Unwanted topological defects: monopoles and domain walls. The both defects must be diluted through inflation.

Case I: GUT breaking before inflation



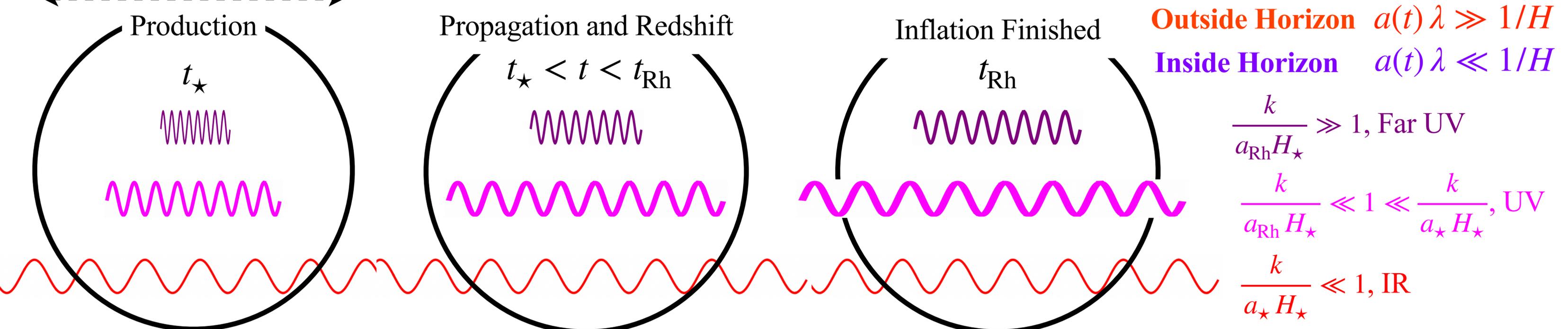
Case II: GUT breaking during inflation



GWs' Evolution in inflation

$$H_\star = H_{\text{Inf}} \simeq \text{constant}$$

$$\tilde{h}_{ij}^{\text{Inf}}(\tau, \mathbf{k}) = 16\pi G_{\text{N}} \tilde{\sigma}_{ij}(\mathbf{k}) \times \frac{a_\star}{k} \left\{ \frac{a_\star H_\star}{k} \left(\frac{a_\star}{a(\tau)} - 1 \right) \cos[k(\tau - \tau_\star)] + \left(\frac{a_\star^2 H_\star^2}{k^2} + \frac{a_\star}{a(\tau)} \right) \sin[k(\tau - \tau_\star)] \right\}$$



GWs from instant sources during inflation evolving in RD, MD, Λ D

$$\tilde{h}_{ij}(\tau, \mathbf{k}) = 16\pi G_{\text{N}} \tilde{\sigma}_{ij}(\mathbf{k}) \times [h_0(\tau, \mathbf{k}) + h_1(\tau, \mathbf{k})] \quad h_0 \text{ is Haipeng's result}$$

$$h_0(\tau, \mathbf{k}) = \frac{-a_{\text{Rh}}^2}{a(\tau)} \frac{1}{a_\star H_\star} \times \frac{\sin[k\tau - y\epsilon]}{y^3} \times \left\{ \cos[y(1-\epsilon)] - \frac{\sin[y(1-\epsilon)]}{y} \right\}$$

$$h_1(\tau, \mathbf{k}) = \frac{-a_{\text{Rh}}^2}{a(\tau)} \frac{y\epsilon}{a_\star H_\star} \times \left\{ \frac{1-\epsilon}{y^3} \cos[k\tau + y(1-2\epsilon)] - \left(\frac{1+y\epsilon}{y^4} \right) \sin[k\tau + y(1-2\epsilon)] \right\}$$

h_0 dominates GWs in UV and IR, h_1 dominates GWs in far UV.

Matching Conditions

$$\tilde{h}_{ij}^{\text{Inf}}(\tau, \mathbf{k}) \Big|_{\text{Rh}} = \tilde{h}_{ij}^{\text{RD}}(\tau, \mathbf{k}) \Big|_{\text{Rh}}$$

$$\partial_t \tilde{h}_{ij}^{\text{Inf}}(\tau, \mathbf{k}) \Big|_{\text{Rh}} = \partial_t \tilde{h}_{ij}^{\text{RD}}(\tau, \mathbf{k}) \Big|_{\text{Rh}}$$

Conventions

$$y = \frac{k}{a_\star H_\star} = e^{-N_\star}, \quad \epsilon = \frac{a_\star}{a_{\text{Rh}}} \leq 1$$



Inflated GWs Spectrum — GWs produced during inflation

$$\frac{d\rho_{\text{GW}}}{d \log k} = \frac{d\rho_{\text{GW}}^{\text{flat}}}{d \log k} \times \frac{a_{\text{Rh}}^4}{a^4(t)} \times \mathcal{S}(t, k)$$

correlation
instant source

GWs in flat spacetime

$$\frac{d\rho_{\text{GW}}^{\text{flat}}}{d \log k} = \frac{2G_{\text{N}} k^3}{\pi V} \left| \tilde{\sigma}_{ij}(\mathbf{k}) \right|^2$$

Uninflated GWs for $f \gg 10^{-14}$ Hz — in-horizon evolution

$$h^2 \Omega_{\text{GW}}(f) = h^2 \widetilde{\Omega}_{\text{GW}}(\tilde{f}) \Big|_{\tilde{f}=f \frac{a_{\text{Rh}}}{a_{\star}}} \times S(f)$$

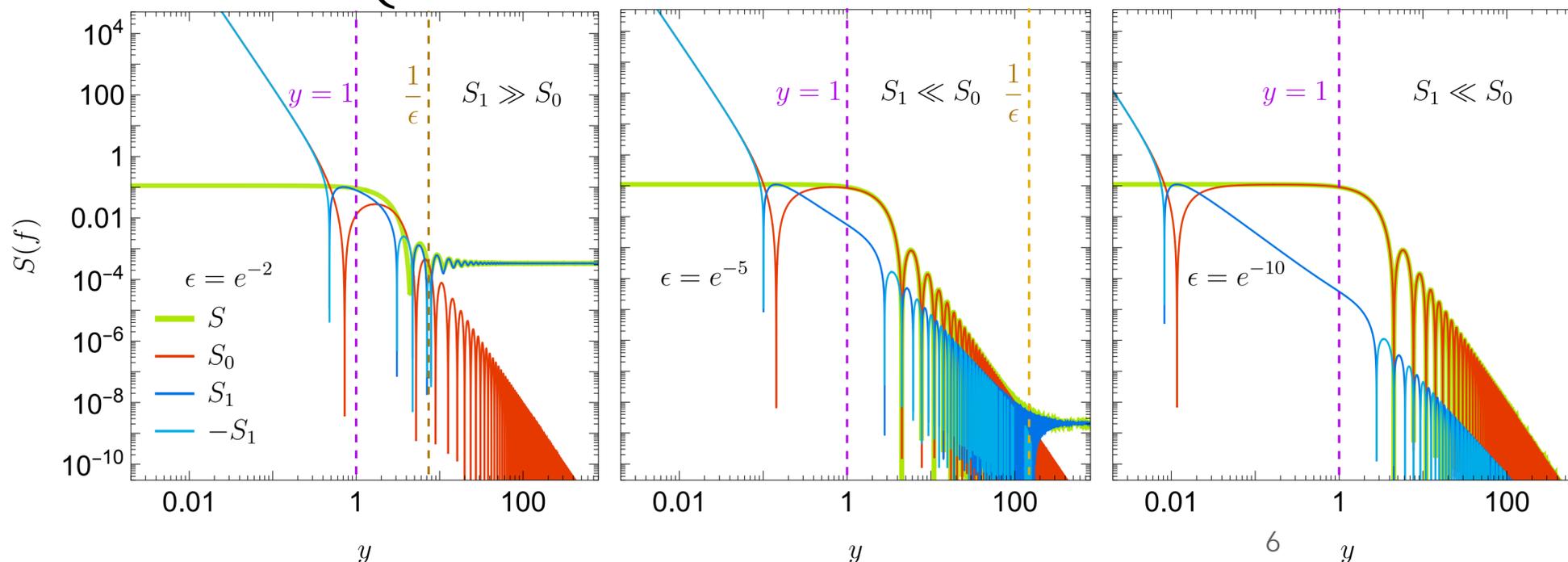
deformation function

redshift from inflation

$$h^2 \widetilde{\Omega}_{\text{GW}}(\tilde{f}) = \frac{h^2}{\rho_c} \frac{d\rho_{\text{GW}}^{\text{flat}}}{d \log k} \times \frac{a_{\text{Rh}}^4}{a_0^4} \text{ decreasing by } a^4$$

$$S(f) = \mathcal{S}(t_0, 2\pi a_0 f) = S_0(f) + S_1(f) \quad S_0(f) = \left\{ \frac{\cos[y(1-\epsilon)]}{y^2} - \frac{\sin[y(1-\epsilon)]}{y^3} \right\}^2 \quad S_0 \text{ from } h_0 \text{ is Haipeng's result}$$

$$S_1(f) = y\epsilon \times \left\{ \left[\frac{1}{y^2} + 2\epsilon - 1 \right] \frac{\sin[2y(1-\epsilon)]}{y^4} - \left[\frac{2-\epsilon}{y^2} + \epsilon \right] \frac{\cos[2y(1-\epsilon)]}{y^3} + \frac{\epsilon^3}{y} \left(\frac{1}{y^2} + 1 \right) \right\} \quad S_1 \text{ is correction in our work for adapting } \epsilon \gtrsim e^{-10}$$



Specific feature — $S(f)$ Oscillates!

When $\epsilon \ll e^{-10}$, S_0 dominates GWs in IR ($y \ll 1$) and UV ($y \gg 1 \wedge y\epsilon \ll 1$).

Otherwise,

S_1 is important and $S(f)$ is correct.

Hence, Our result is applicable for any N_{\star} .



Inflated GWs from short-time sources

for more realistic, **Short-Time Sources** at t_\star

$$\bar{S}(f) = \frac{1}{\Delta_t} \int_{\bar{t}-\Delta_t/2}^{\bar{t}+\Delta_t/2} dt_\star S(f) = \frac{1}{\Delta_y} \int_{\bar{y}-\Delta_y/2}^{\bar{y}+\Delta_y/2} dy S(f) \Big|_{\bar{y}=\frac{2\pi a_0 f}{a_\star H_\star}}$$

\bar{S} is complicated but analytic

$$h^2 \Omega_{\text{GW}}(f) = h^2 \widetilde{\Omega}_{\text{GW}}(\tilde{f}) \times \bar{S}(f)$$

$$\Delta_\tau \text{ conformal duration of sources } \Delta_y = \frac{a_\star \Delta_\tau}{1/H_\star} \bar{y}$$

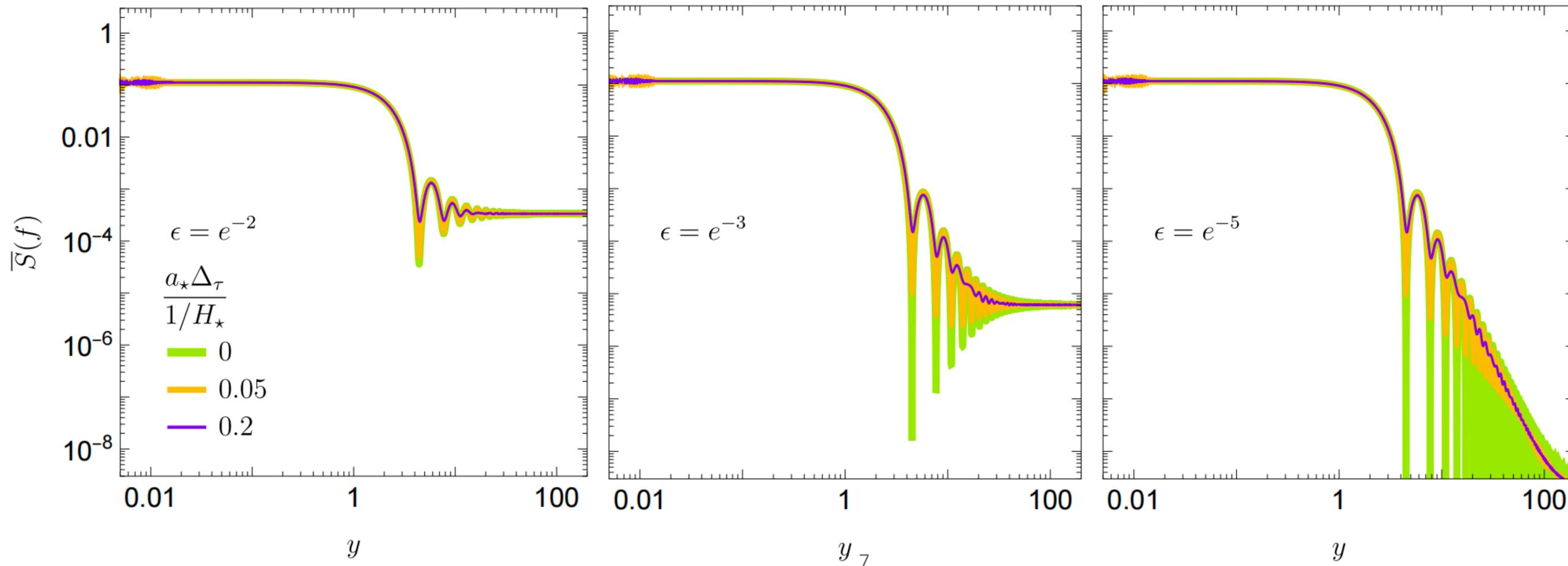
The duration Δ_τ damps oscillation but don't affect envelope.

$$\text{FUV: } y\epsilon \gg 1, S^{\text{FUV}}(f) \simeq \epsilon^4 = a_\star^4/a_{\text{Rh}}^4$$

$$\text{UV: } y\epsilon \ll 1 \ll y, S^{\text{UV}}(f) \sim 1/\bar{y}^4$$

$$S^{\text{UV}}(f) \simeq \frac{(1-\epsilon) + \cos[2\bar{y}(1-\epsilon)]\sin[\Delta_y(1-\epsilon)]/\Delta_y}{2\bar{y}^4}$$

$$\text{IR: } y \ll 1, S^{\text{IR}}(f) \simeq 1/9$$



$$h^2 \Omega_{\text{GW}}(f) = h^2 \widetilde{\Omega}_{\text{GW}}(\tilde{f}) \times \bar{S}(f) \quad \text{After having } \bar{S}(f), \text{ we will study the uninflated GWs spectrum.}$$

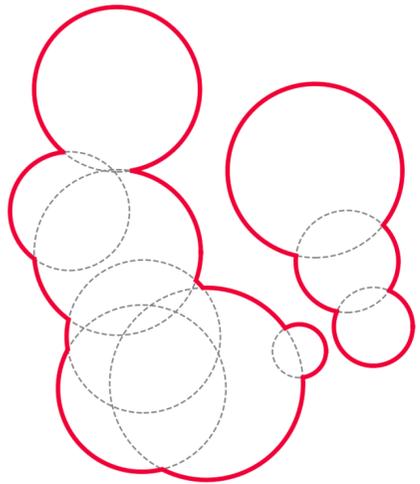
~~plasma: sound waves, MHD turbulence~~
phase transition field: bubble collisions;



Plasma is unnecessary during inflation,
so sound waves and MHD turbulence are negligible,
and we only consider bubble collisions during inflation.

GWs from Phase Transition in flat spacetime

I. Envelope Approximation



The energy-momentum is mainly contained in envelope of bubbles and vanishes in intersection.

PRL 69 (1992) 2026-2029
PRD 47 (1993) 4372-4391
PRD 49 (1994) 2837-2851

II. Broken Power Law

$$\Omega_{\text{GW}\star}(f_\star) = \Omega_{\text{GW}\star}^{\text{peak}} \frac{(a+b)(f_\star/f_\star^{\text{peak}})^a}{a(f_\star/f_\star^{\text{peak}})^{a+b} + b}$$

III. Simulation JCAP 09 (2008) 022

$$a = 2.8, b = 1$$

$$f_\star^{\text{peak}} = \frac{0.62 \beta}{1.8 - 0.1 v_w + v_w^2}$$

$$\Omega_{\text{GW}\star}^{\text{peak}} = \frac{0.11 v_w^3}{0.42 + v_w^2} \times \kappa^2 \left(\frac{\rho_{\text{PT}}}{\rho_{\text{tot}}} \right)^2 \times \left(\frac{H_\star}{\beta} \right)^2$$

bubble wall velocity: v_w

effective factor about fluid: κ

$$\alpha = \rho_{\text{PT}} / \rho_{\text{rad}} \quad \kappa(\alpha) = \frac{0.715\alpha + 0.181\sqrt{\alpha}}{1 + 0.715\alpha}$$

$$n_\beta = \frac{\beta}{H} \in (10, 10^4)$$

IV. phase transition during inflation — few radiation

$$v_w = 1, \alpha \rightarrow \infty, \kappa \rightarrow 1 \longrightarrow \text{strong phase transition}$$

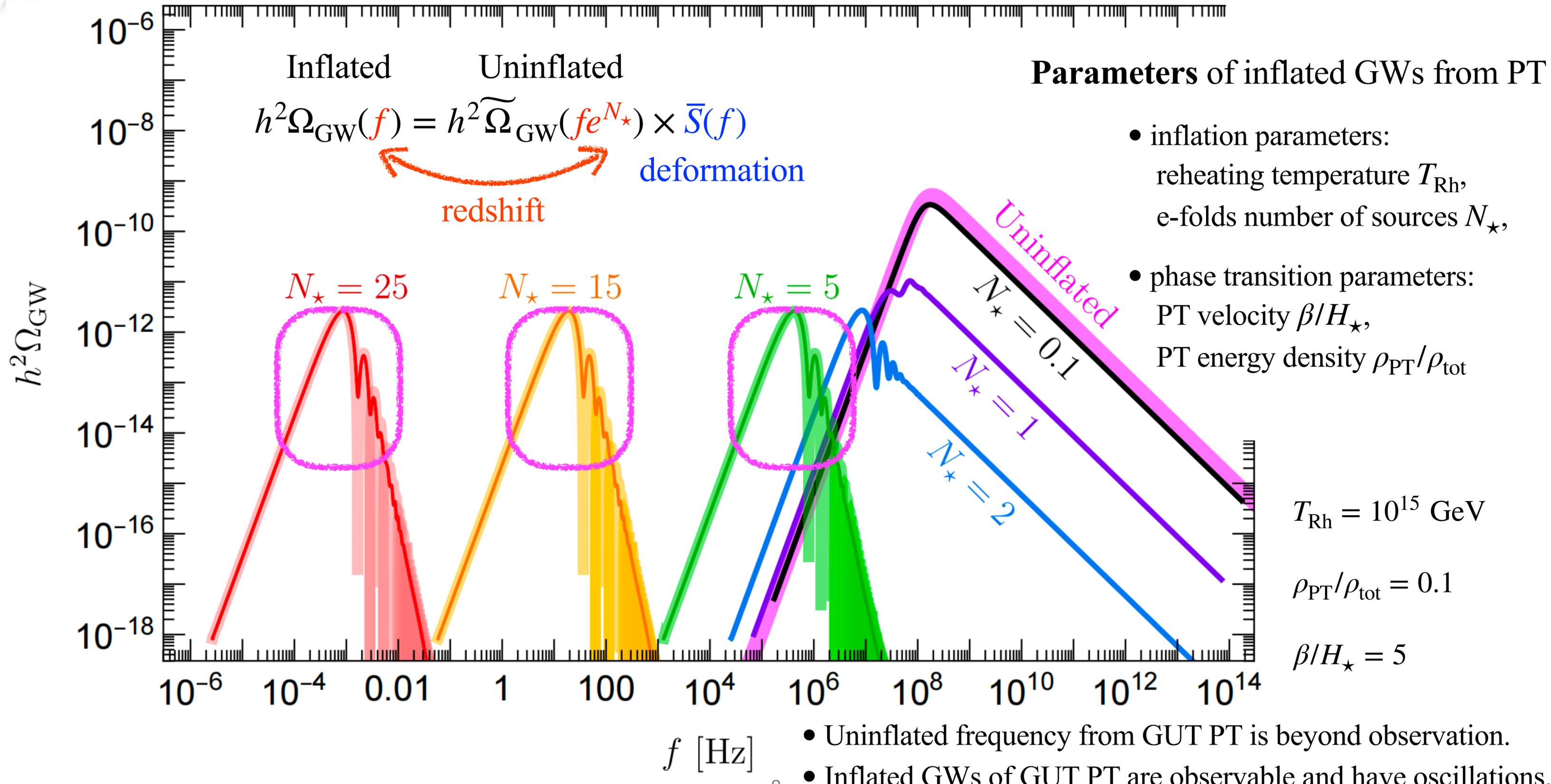
phase transition parameters:
duration of phase transition: $1/\beta$
vacuum energy density: $\rho_{\text{PT}} = \rho_{\text{F}} - \rho_{\text{T}}$

Uninflated GWs Spectrum from Phase Transition

$$\tilde{f}^{\text{peak}} = 37.8 \text{ MHz} \left(\frac{\beta}{H_\star} \right) \left(\frac{T_\star}{10^{15} \text{ GeV}} \right) \left(\frac{g_\star}{100} \right)^{1/6} \quad h^2 \widetilde{\Omega}_{\text{GW}}(\tilde{f}) = 1.27 \times 10^{-6} \left(\frac{H_\star}{\beta} \right)^2 \left(\frac{\rho_{\text{PT}}}{\rho_{\text{tot}}} \right)^2 \left(\frac{100}{g_\star} \right)^{1/3} \frac{(a+b)(\tilde{f}/\tilde{f}^{\text{peak}})^a}{a(\tilde{f}/\tilde{f}^{\text{peak}})^{a+b} + b}$$

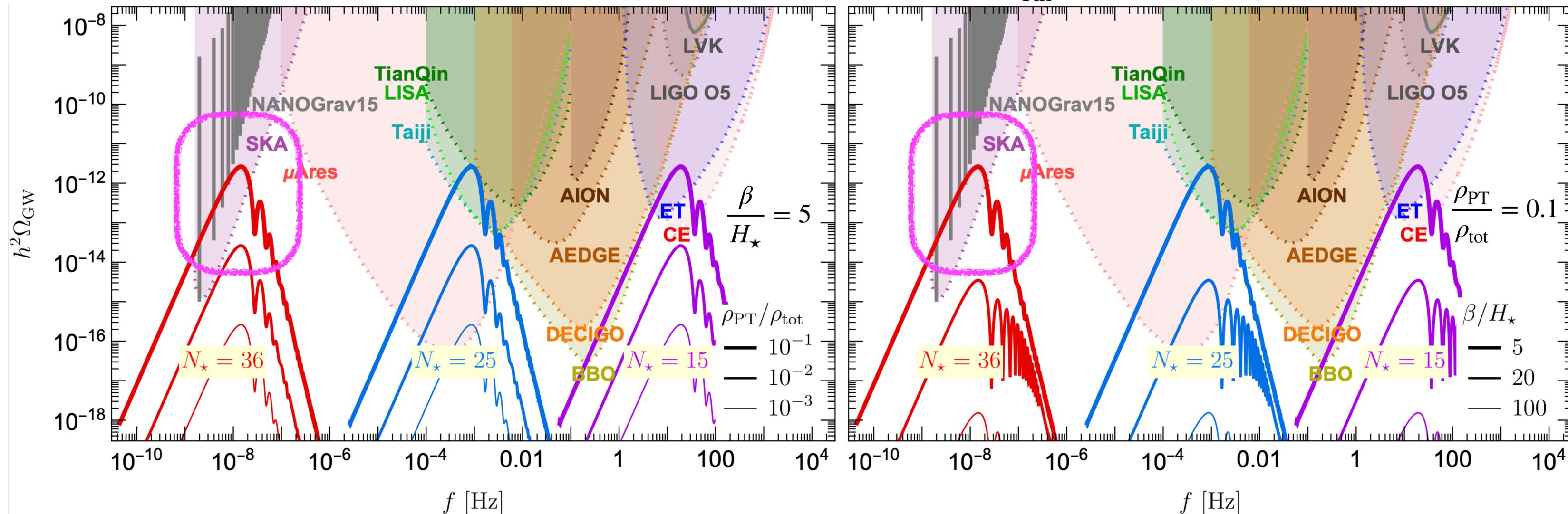


Inflated GWs from GUT Phase Transition





Inflated GWs from GUT Phase Transition: $T_{Rh} = 10^{15}$ GeV



Large N_\star only affects frequency, ρ_{PT}/ρ_{tot} only affects amplitude, and β/H_\star affects shape and amplitude.

Inflated GWs from Phase Transition of New Physics below GUT Scale

Our method and results are applicable for these phase transitions.

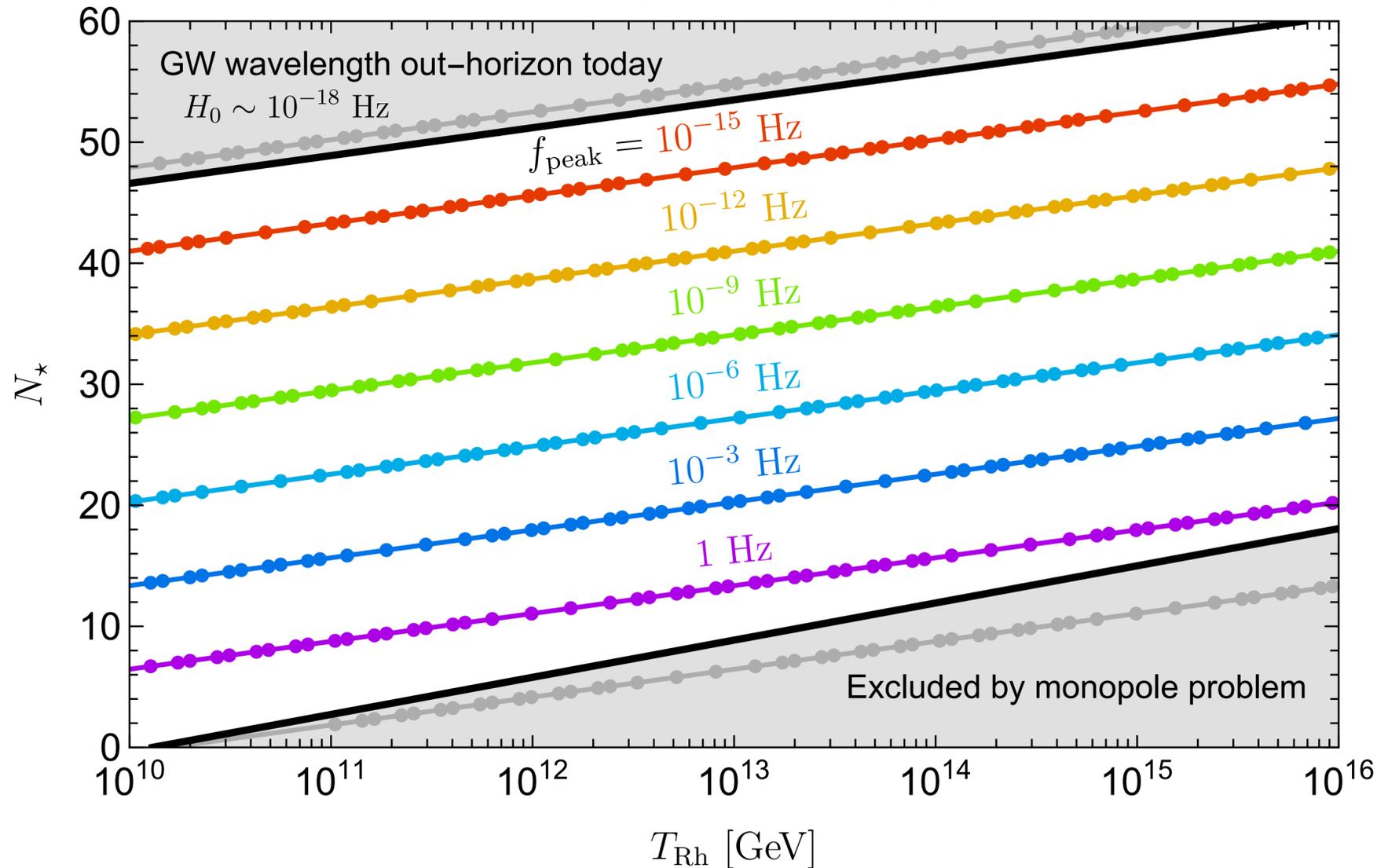
Super-High Scale Phase Transition, $\Lambda \sim T_{Rh} > 10^9$ GeV

T_{Rh} only affects GWs' frequency and doesn't change shape and amplitude of spectrum.

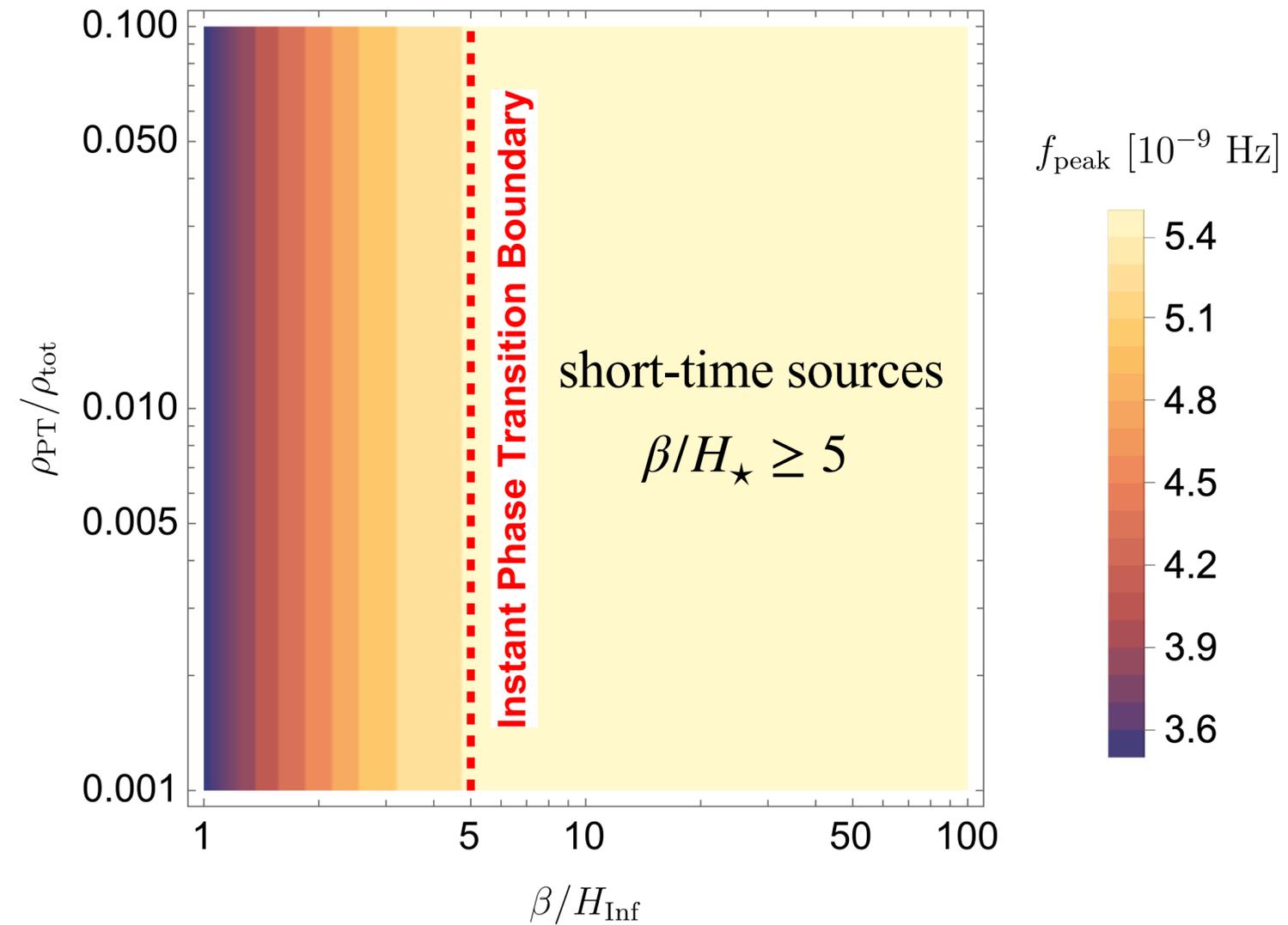
- Intermediate Symmetries of GUT
- Seesaw Model/ $U(1)_{B-L}$
- New Gauge Symmetries
- Flavor Symmetries

Scanning peak frequency of inflated GW from PT in parameters space, T_{Rh} and N_{\star} , β/H_{\star} and $\rho_{\text{PT}}/\rho_{\text{tot}}$

Inflation Parameters



Phase Transition Parameters



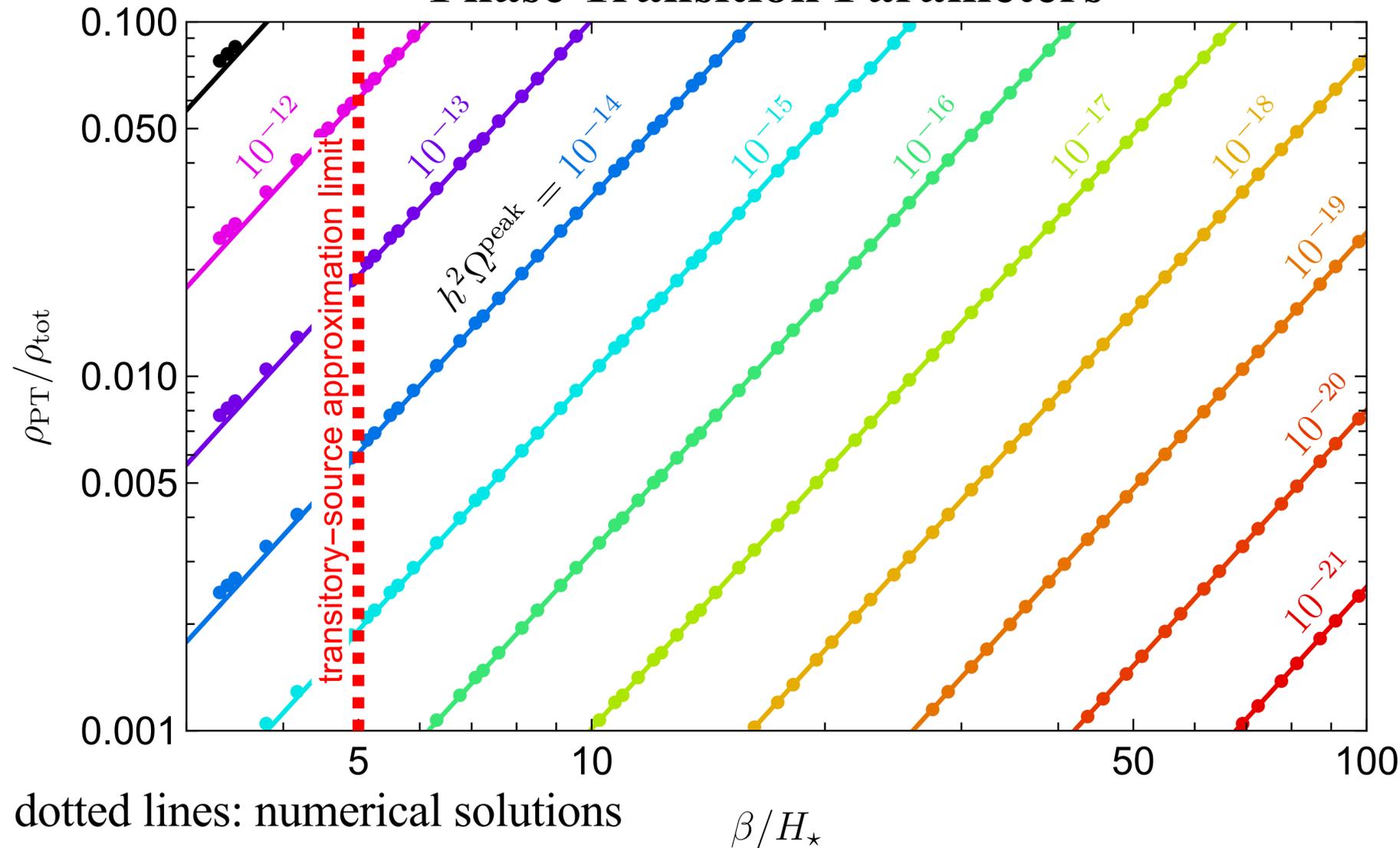
Monopoles Problem Limit $n_{\star} \sim L_{\text{mono}}^{-3} \sim H_{\star}^{-3}, M_{\text{mono}} \sim 10T_{\text{Rh}}$ short-time sources $\rightarrow f_{\text{peak}} \sim H_{\star} a_{\star}/a_0$

$$\frac{\Omega_{\text{mono}}}{10^{-5}} \sim \left(\frac{T_{\text{Rh}}}{10^{15} \text{ GeV}} \right)^4 e^{-3(N_{\star}-15)} \lesssim 1$$

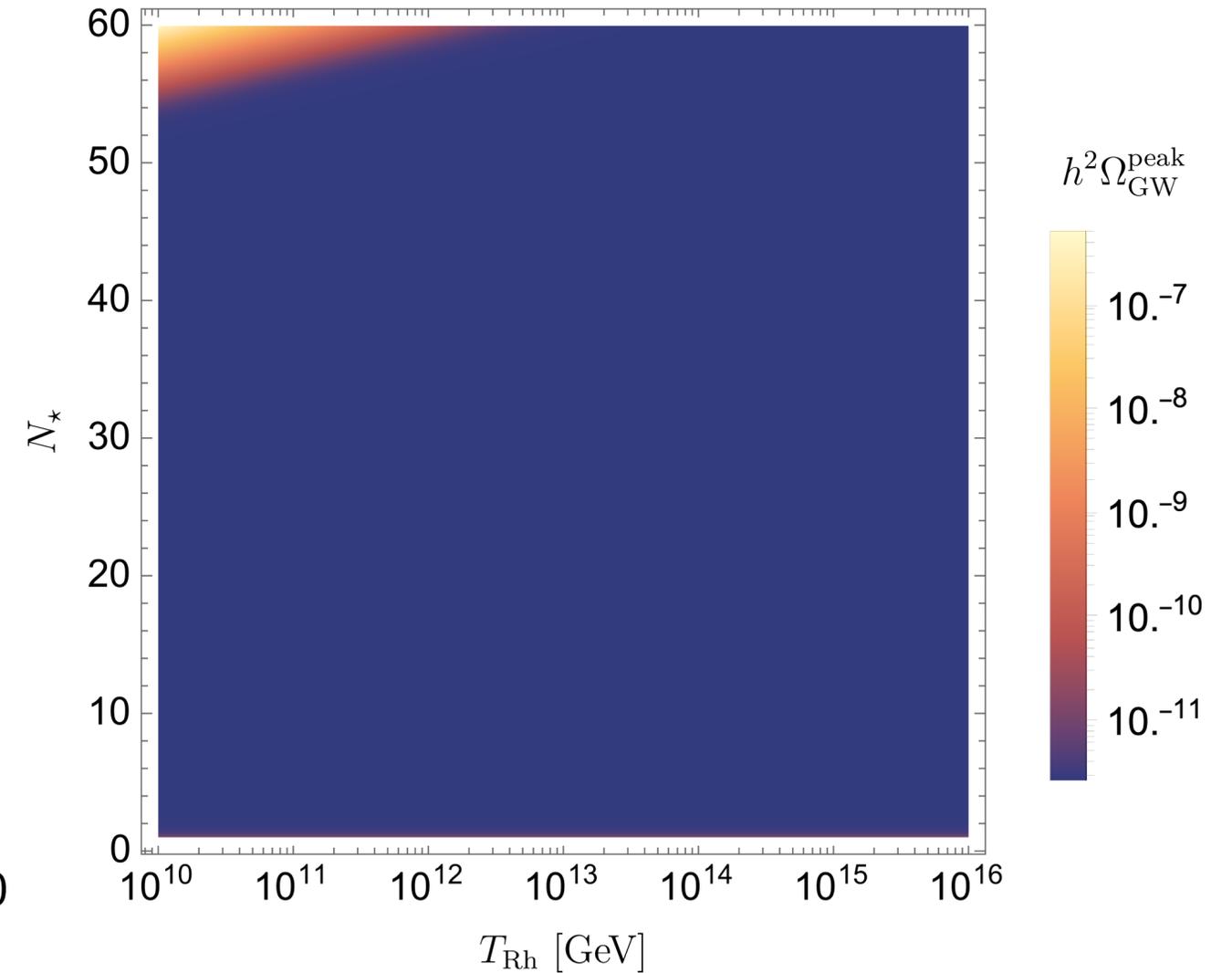
- T_{Rh} and N_{\star} decide the peak frequency, and β/H_{\star} and $\rho_{\text{PT}}/\rho_{\text{tot}}$ don't affect.
- Inflated GWs of SHSPT are observable after solving monopoles problem.

Scanning peak spectrum of inflated GWs from PT in parameters space, T_{Rh} and N_{\star} , β/H_{\star} and $\rho_{\text{PT}}/\rho_{\text{tot}}$

Phase Transition Parameters



Inflation Parameters



dotted lines: numerical solutions
solid lines: analytic solutions

$$h^2 \Omega_{\text{GW}}(f) \propto f^a S_0(f) \longrightarrow f^{\text{peak}} \simeq 62.7 \text{ MHz} \times \left(\frac{g_{\star}}{100}\right)^{1/6} \left(\frac{T_{\star}}{10^{15} \text{ GeV}}\right) \times e^{-N_{\star}}$$

- Phase transition parameters decide peak spectrum.
- GWs spectrum in some parameters space are observable.

$$h^2 \Omega_{\text{GW}}^{\text{peak}} \simeq 6.27 \times 10^{-7} \times \left(\frac{H_{\star}}{\beta}\right)^{2+a} \left(\frac{\rho_{\text{PT}}}{\rho_{\text{tot}}}\right)^2 \left(\frac{100}{g_{\star}}\right)^{1/3}$$



Results

- **After solving monopole problem, GWs from GUT phase transition during inflation, if it is first-order, can be redshifted and deformed to oscillate, and thus might be observable today and in foreseeable future.**
- **The general correlation between inflated GWs and uninflated GWs is established for short-time sources, which is applicable for any e-folds number of sources.**
- There are three region — IR, UV and far UV for inflated GWs, where IR and UV usually aren't extremely depressed, and FUV is depressed by $a_{\star}^4/a_{\text{Rh}}^4$.

- The inflated GWs from phase transition have

$$f^{\text{peak}} \simeq 62.7 \text{ MHz} \times \left(\frac{g_{\star}}{100}\right)^{1/6} \left(\frac{T_{\star}}{10^{15} \text{ GeV}}\right) \times e^{-N_{\star}}, \quad h^2 \Omega_{\text{GW}}^{\text{peak}} \simeq 6.27 \times 10^{-7} \times \left(\frac{H_{\star}}{\beta}\right)^{2+a} \left(\frac{\rho_{\text{PT}}}{\rho_{\text{tot}}}\right)^2 \left(\frac{100}{g_{\star}}\right)^{1/3}$$

where some parameters' regions can be tested today and in future as shown on the above.

- For inflated GWs from short phase transition, phase transition parameters decide peak spectrum and inflation parameters decide peak frequency.

Thanks!

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Conformal FLRW Metric $ds^2 = a^2(\tau) \left[d\tau^2 - (\delta_{ij} + h_{ij}(\tau, \mathbf{x})) dx^i dx^j \right]$ Traceless and transverse gauge

E.O.M of CGWs $\tilde{h}_{ij}''(\tau, \mathbf{k}) + 2\mathcal{H}\tilde{h}_{ij}'(\tau, \mathbf{k}) + k^2\tilde{h}_{ij}(\tau, \mathbf{k}) = 16\pi G_N a^2(\tau)\tilde{\sigma}_{ij}(\tau, \mathbf{k})$ \mathcal{H} is conformal Hubble factor



$$\tilde{h}_{ij}(\tau, \mathbf{k}) = C_{ij,1} h_1(\tau, \mathbf{k}) + C_{ij,2} h_2(\tau, \mathbf{k})$$

$$h^{\text{Inf}}(\tau, \mathbf{k}) = \cos k\tau + k\tau \sin k\tau, \quad \sin k\tau - k\tau \cos k\tau \quad \text{Inflation, } \Lambda\text{D: } \mathcal{H} = -1/\tau$$

$$h^{\text{RD}}(\tau, \mathbf{k}) = \frac{\cos k\tau}{k\tau}, \quad \frac{\sin k\tau}{k\tau} \quad \text{RD: } \mathcal{H} = 1/\tau$$

$$h^{\text{MD}}(\tau, \mathbf{k}) = \frac{\cos k\tau + k\tau \sin k\tau}{(k\tau)^3}, \quad \frac{\sin k\tau - k\tau \cos k\tau}{(k\tau)^3} \quad \text{MD: } \mathcal{H} = 2/\tau$$

Energy density of SGWB $\frac{d\rho_{\text{GW}}}{d \log k} = \frac{1}{64\pi^3 G_N} \frac{k^3}{V} \frac{1}{a^2(t)} \int_{T_\tau} \frac{d\tau}{T_\tau} \left| \tilde{h}_{ij}'(\tau, \mathbf{k}) \right|^2, \quad h^2 \Omega_{\text{GW}}(f) = \frac{h^2}{\rho_c} \frac{d\rho_{\text{GW}}}{d \log k} \Bigg|_{k=2\pi a_0 f}^{t=t_0}$

Inside Horizon $k^2 \gg \left| \frac{a''}{a} \right|, \quad \lambda \ll \frac{1}{\mathcal{H}} \longrightarrow \tilde{h}_{ij}^{\text{in}}(\tau, \mathbf{k}) \simeq \tilde{h}_{ij}^{\mathbf{k}} \frac{\sin(k\tau + \phi)}{a(\tau)}, \quad \frac{d\rho_{\text{GW}}^{\text{in}}}{d \log k} \propto \frac{1}{a^4(\tau)} \quad \text{Waves!}$
depressed by a

Outside Horizon $k^2 \ll \left| \frac{a''}{a} \right|, \quad \lambda \gg \frac{1}{\mathcal{H}} \longrightarrow \tilde{h}_{ij}^{\text{out}}(\tau, \mathbf{k}) \simeq \tilde{h}_{ij}(\tau_0, \mathbf{k}) + \tilde{h}_{ij}'(\tau_0, \mathbf{k}) \int_{\tau_0}^{\tau} \frac{d\tau'}{a^2(\tau')}$
Constant amplitude



Production and Propagation of GWs

$$k^2 \gg \left| \frac{a''}{a} \right|, \quad \lambda \ll \frac{1}{\mathcal{H}}$$

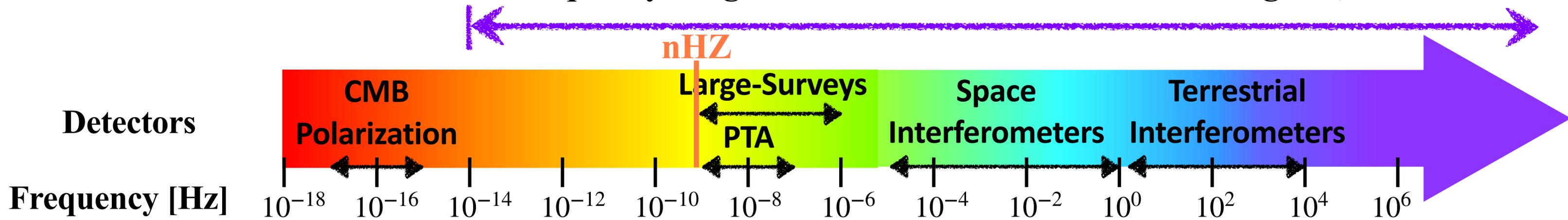
$$k^2 \ll \left| \frac{a''}{a} \right|, \quad \lambda \gg \frac{1}{\mathcal{H}}$$

$$\sqrt{\frac{a''}{a}} \sim \begin{cases} 0 \text{ (HZ)} & \text{RD} \\ 10^{-16} \sim 10^{-18} \text{ (HZ)} & \text{MD} \\ 10^{-18} \text{ (HZ)} & \Lambda\text{D} \end{cases}$$

$$\mathcal{H} \sim \begin{cases} 10^8 \sim 10^{-16} \text{ (HZ)} & \text{RD} \\ 10^{-16} \sim 10^{-18} \text{ (HZ)} & \text{MD} \\ 10^{-18} \text{ (HZ)} & \Lambda\text{D} \end{cases}$$

The GWs of all frequency is inside-horizon evolution during RD

GWs in this frequency range are inside-horizon evolution during RD, MD and Λ D!



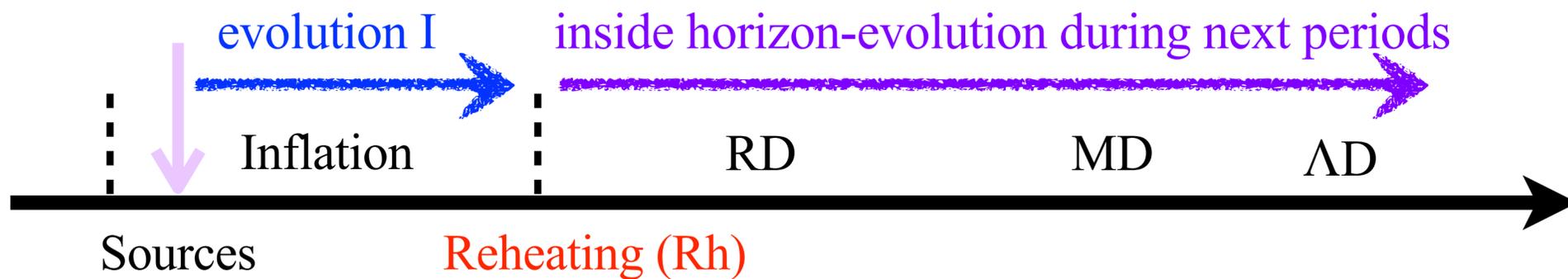
$$\tilde{h}_{ij}^{\text{Inf}}(\tau, \mathbf{k})$$

$$\tilde{h}_{ij}^{\text{in}}(\tau, \mathbf{k}) \simeq \tilde{h}_{ij}^{\text{RD}}(\tau, \mathbf{k})$$

Matching Conditions of Waves

$$\tilde{h}_{ij}^{\text{Inf}}(\tau, \mathbf{k}) \Big|_{\text{Rh}} = \tilde{h}_{ij}^{\text{RD}}(\tau, \mathbf{k}) \Big|_{\text{Rh}}$$

$$\partial_t \tilde{h}_{ij}^{\text{Inf}}(\tau, \mathbf{k}) \Big|_{\text{Rh}} = \partial_t \tilde{h}_{ij}^{\text{RD}}(\tau, \mathbf{k}) \Big|_{\text{Rh}}$$





Phase transition potential

σ — field of PT, ϕ — inflaton

I. Cubic coupling potential

$$V_{\text{PT}}(\phi, \sigma) = D(\phi^2 - \phi_0^2) \sigma^2 - \mu \sigma^3 + \frac{\lambda}{4} \sigma^4$$

possible physical origins

$$SO(10) : 45 \times 45 \times 45 = 1 + 45 + \dots$$

$$SU(5) : 24 \times 24 \times 24 = 1 + 24 + \dots$$

The cubic term must be gauge singlet possibly from adjoint representation of GUT groups.

II. Coleman-Weinberg potential PRD 7 (1973) 1888-1910

$$V_{\text{PT}}(\phi, \sigma) = D(\phi^2 - \phi_0^2) \sigma^2 + \frac{\lambda}{4} \sigma^4 + \frac{\kappa}{4} \sigma^4 \log \frac{\sigma^2}{\Lambda^2}$$

III. High-dimension operator potential

$$V_{\text{PT}}(\phi, \sigma) = D(\phi^2 - \phi_0^2) \sigma^2 + \frac{\lambda}{4} \sigma^4 + \frac{\kappa}{\Lambda^2} \sigma^6 + \frac{\xi}{\Lambda^4} \sigma^8$$

PRD 71 (2005) 036001, JHEP 02 (2005) 026, JHEP 04 (2008) 029, JHEP 07 (2018) 062

Monopoles Problem

$$\text{monopoles density } n_{\star} \simeq L_{\text{mono}}^{-3} \sim H_{\star}^{-3}$$

$$\text{monopoles mass } M_{\text{mono}} \simeq \frac{\Lambda_{\text{GUT}}}{\alpha_{\text{GUT}}} \sim 10 T_{\text{Rh}}$$

$$\Lambda_{\text{GUT}} \sim T_{\text{Rh}}, \quad \alpha_{\text{GUT}} \sim g^2/(4\pi) \sim 0.1$$

energy density proportion of monopoles today

$$\Omega_{\text{mono}} = \frac{8\pi G_{\text{N}}}{3H_0^3} M_{\text{mono}} \left(\frac{a_{\text{Rh}} e^{-N_{\star}}}{a_0} \right)^3 n_{\star}$$

$$\text{CMB observation } \Omega_{\text{mono}} \lesssim 10^{-5}$$

Monopoles problem limitation

$$\frac{\Omega_{\text{mono}}}{10^{-5}} \sim \left(\frac{T_{\text{Rh}}}{10^{15} \text{ GeV}} \right)^4 e^{-3(N_{\star}-15)} \lesssim 1$$