



# CMB spectral distortions: Basic physics and novel sources

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*arXiv:1304.4596, MNRAS 434, 1619*

*arXiv: 1405.1039*

*arXiv: 1407.3653*

## Some generalities

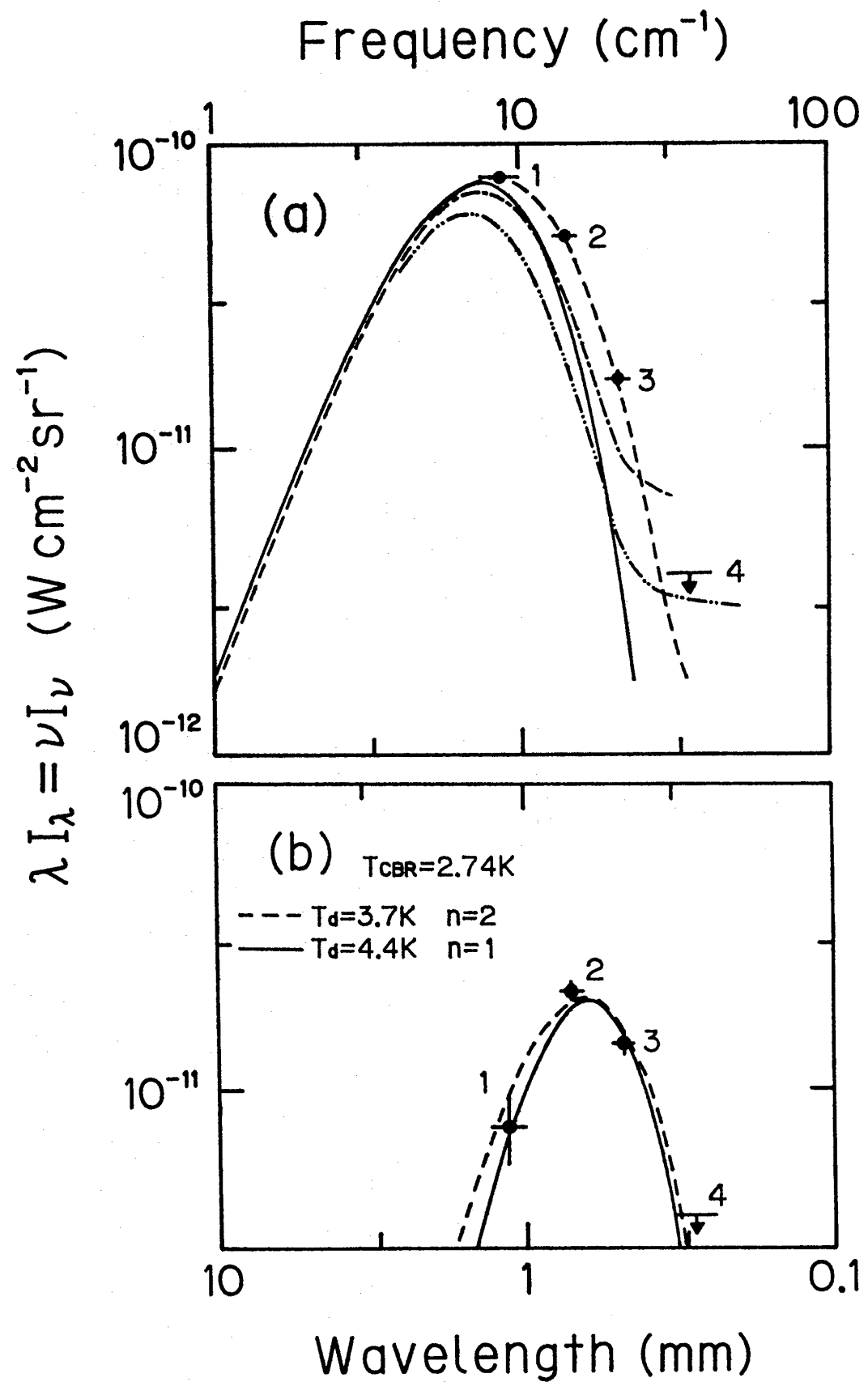
## Some generalities

*First papers by Sunyaev and Zel'dovich*

*Review papers on spectral distortions: Les Houches lecture notes (Chluba 2013)*

*See work by Sunyaev, Chluba, Khatri, Ali-Haimoud, Pajer, Zaldarriaga*

# PHYSICS FROM 'DISTORTIONS'



Lange et al. 1987



# PHYSICS FROM 'DISTORTIONS'

THE ASTROPHYSICAL JOURNAL, 344:24-34, 1989 September 1  
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## SPECTRAL DISTORTIONS OF THE COSMIC MICROWAVE BACKGROUND

FRED C. ADAMS,<sup>1</sup> KATHERINE FREESE,<sup>2</sup> JANNA LEVIN,<sup>2</sup> AND JONATHAN C. McDOWELL<sup>1</sup>

*Received 1988 December 30; accepted 1989 February 22*

### ABSTRACT

Motivated by recent experiments indicating that the spectrum of the cosmic microwave background deviates from a pure blackbody, we consider spectral distortions produced by cosmic dust. Our main result is that cosmic dust in conjunction with an injected radiation field (perhaps produced by an early generation of very massive stars) can explain the observed spectral distortions without violating existing cosmological constraints. In addition, we show that Compton  $y$ -distortions can also explain the observed spectral *shape*, but the energetic requirements are more severe.

*Subject headings:* cosmic background radiation — cosmology — radiation mechanisms

$\lambda I_\lambda = \nu I_\nu \text{ (W cm}^{-2} \text{ sr}^{-1}\text{)}$

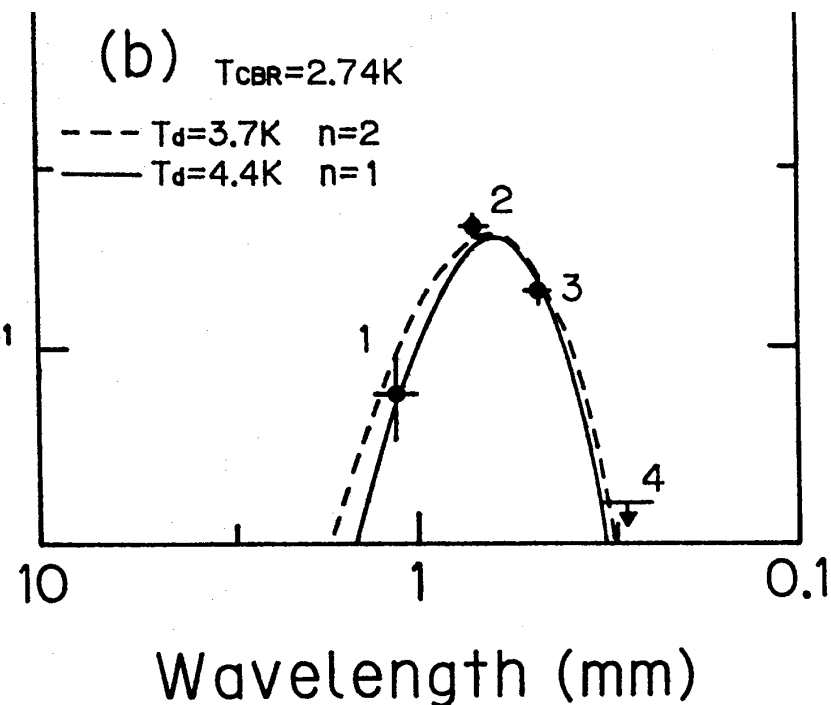
$10^{-1}$

$10^{-1}$

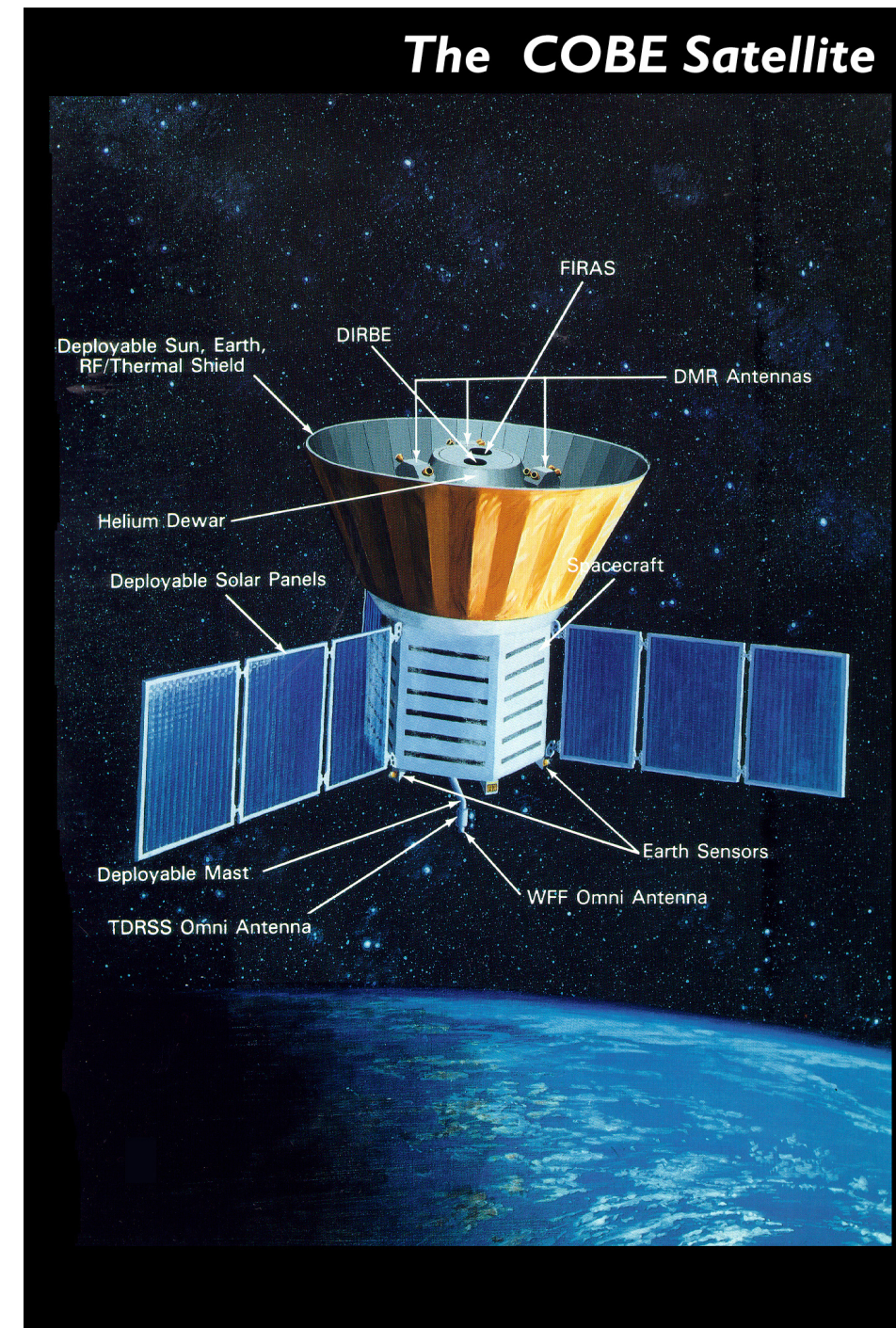
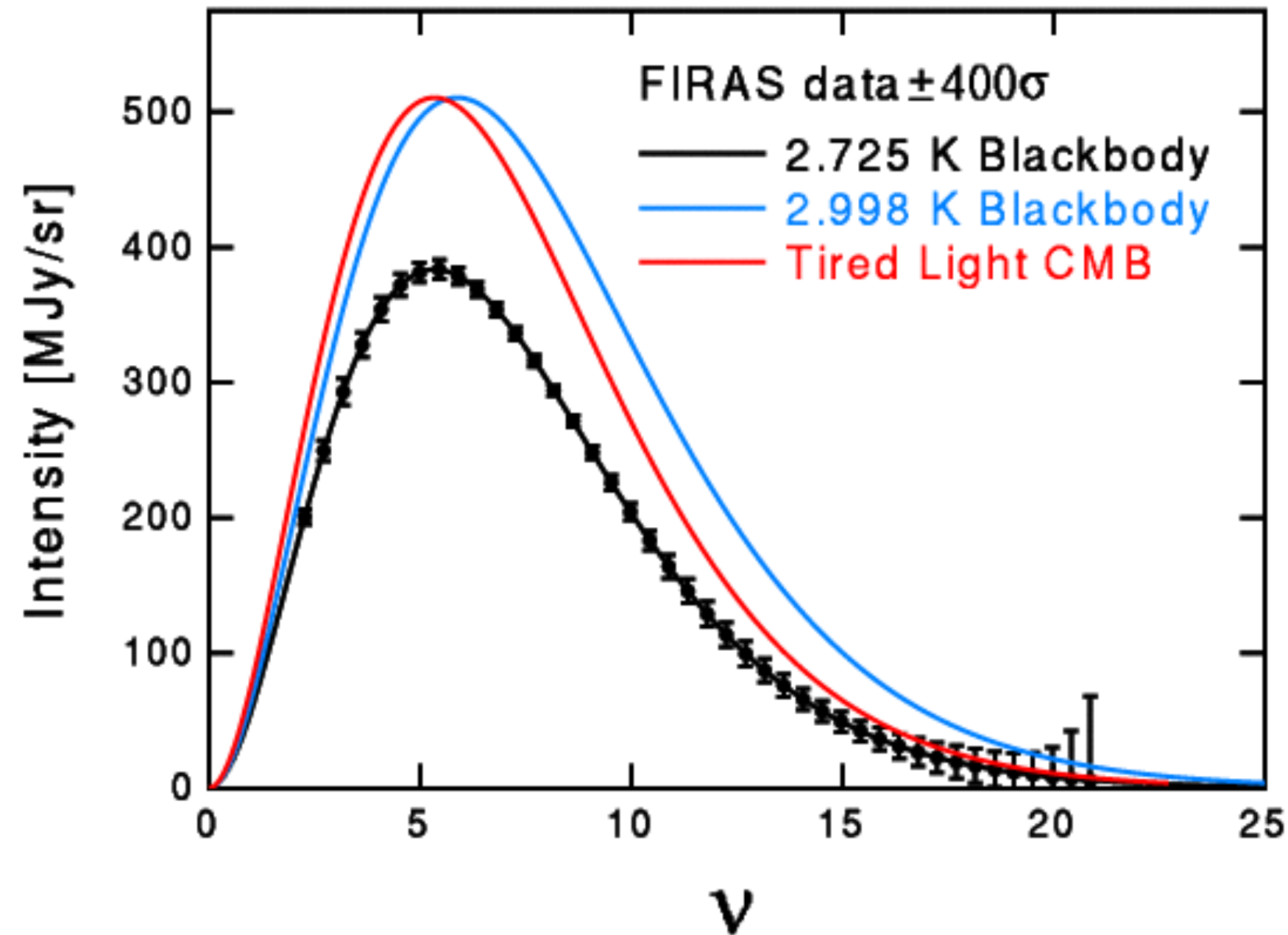
$10^{-1}$

$10^{-1}$

$10^{-11}$



# COBE BLACKBODY

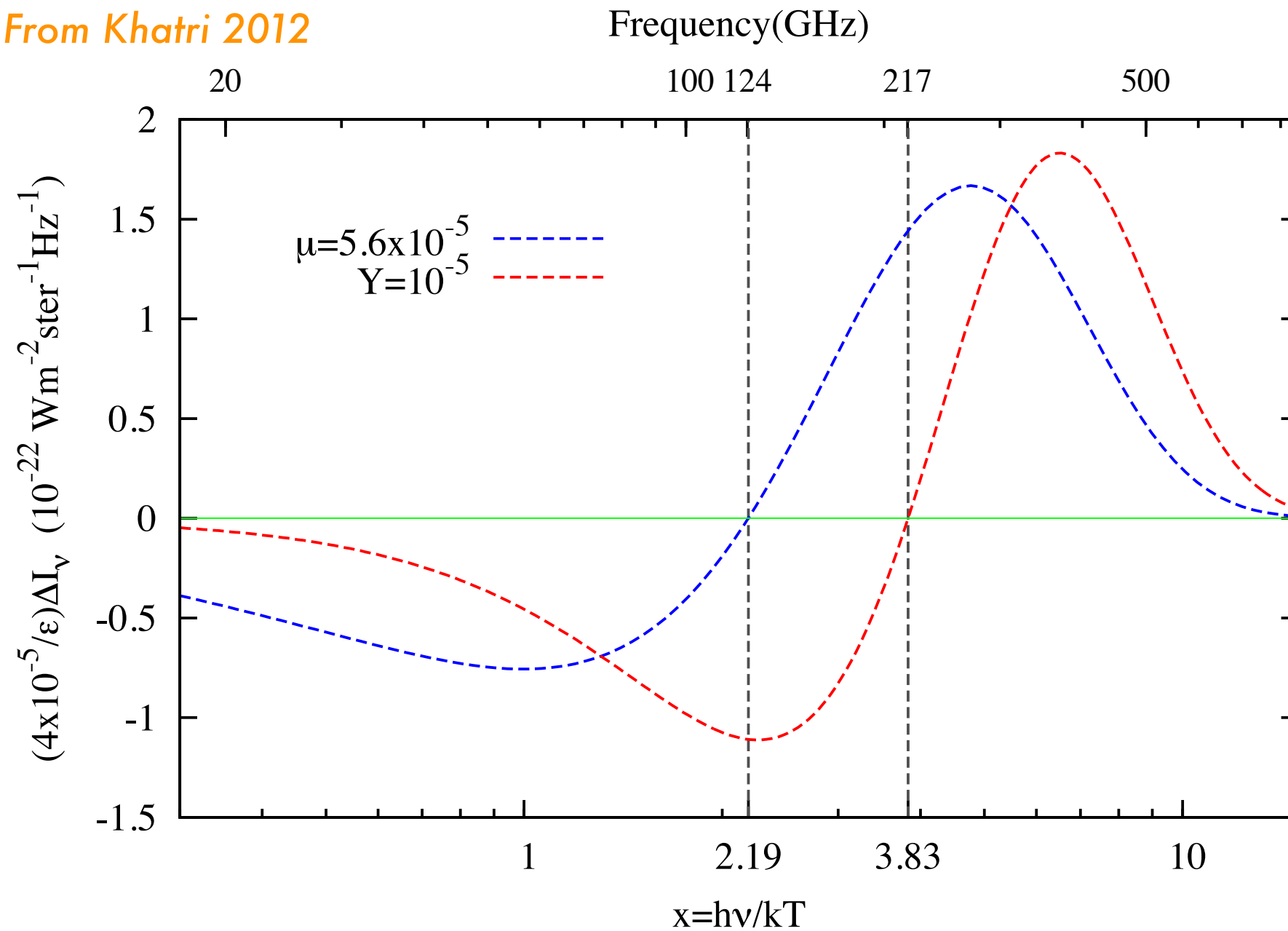


$$\mu \leq 9 \times 10^{-5}$$
$$y \leq 1.5 \times 10^{-5}$$

→ 3-4 orders of magnitude improvement now possible!!!

# $\mu$ AND Y-TYPE DISTORTION

From Khatri 2012



# EQUILIBRATING PROCESSES

## \* Chemical equilibrium epoch

$$e^- + X \leftrightarrow e^- + X + \gamma \quad \text{Bremsstrahlung}$$

$$e^- + \gamma \leftrightarrow e^- + \gamma + \gamma \quad \text{Double Compton scattering}$$

## \* Comptonization ( $\mu$ ) epoch

$$e^- + \gamma \leftrightarrow e^- + \gamma \quad \text{Energy-exchanging Compton scattering}$$

## \* Thomson ( $y$ ) epoch

$$e^- + \gamma \leftrightarrow e^- + \gamma \quad \text{Elastic Compton scattering}$$

Seminal work by Sunyaev/Zeldovich (1970)  
recent work by Chluba, Khatri, Sunyaev....  
see also Wayne Hu's PhD thesis for a review

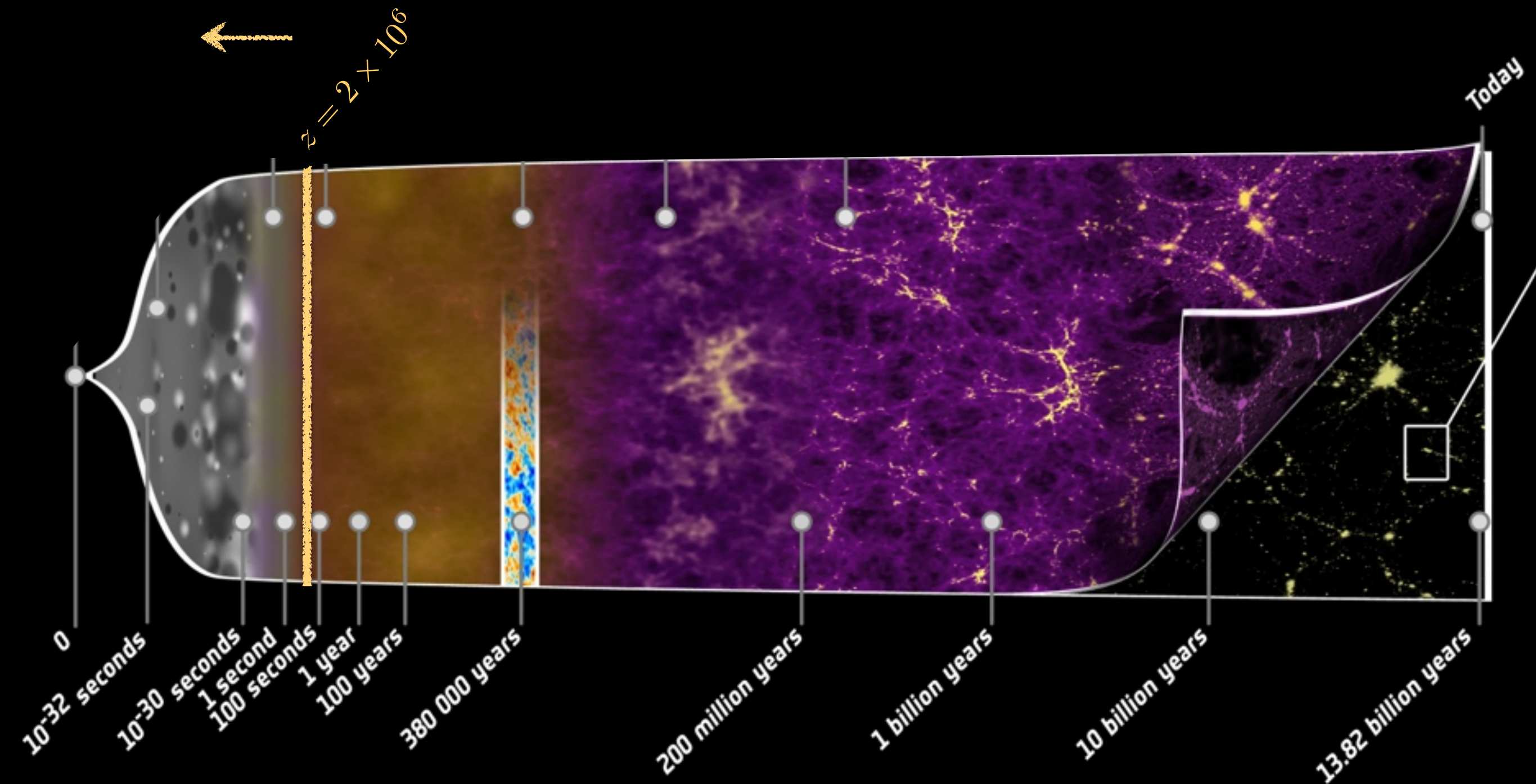


# PHYSICS OF SPECTRAL DISTORTIONS

blackbody

number change  
energy change

$$\frac{1}{\exp \left[ \frac{h\nu}{kT} \right] - 1}$$



# PHYSICS OF SPECTRAL DISTORTIONS

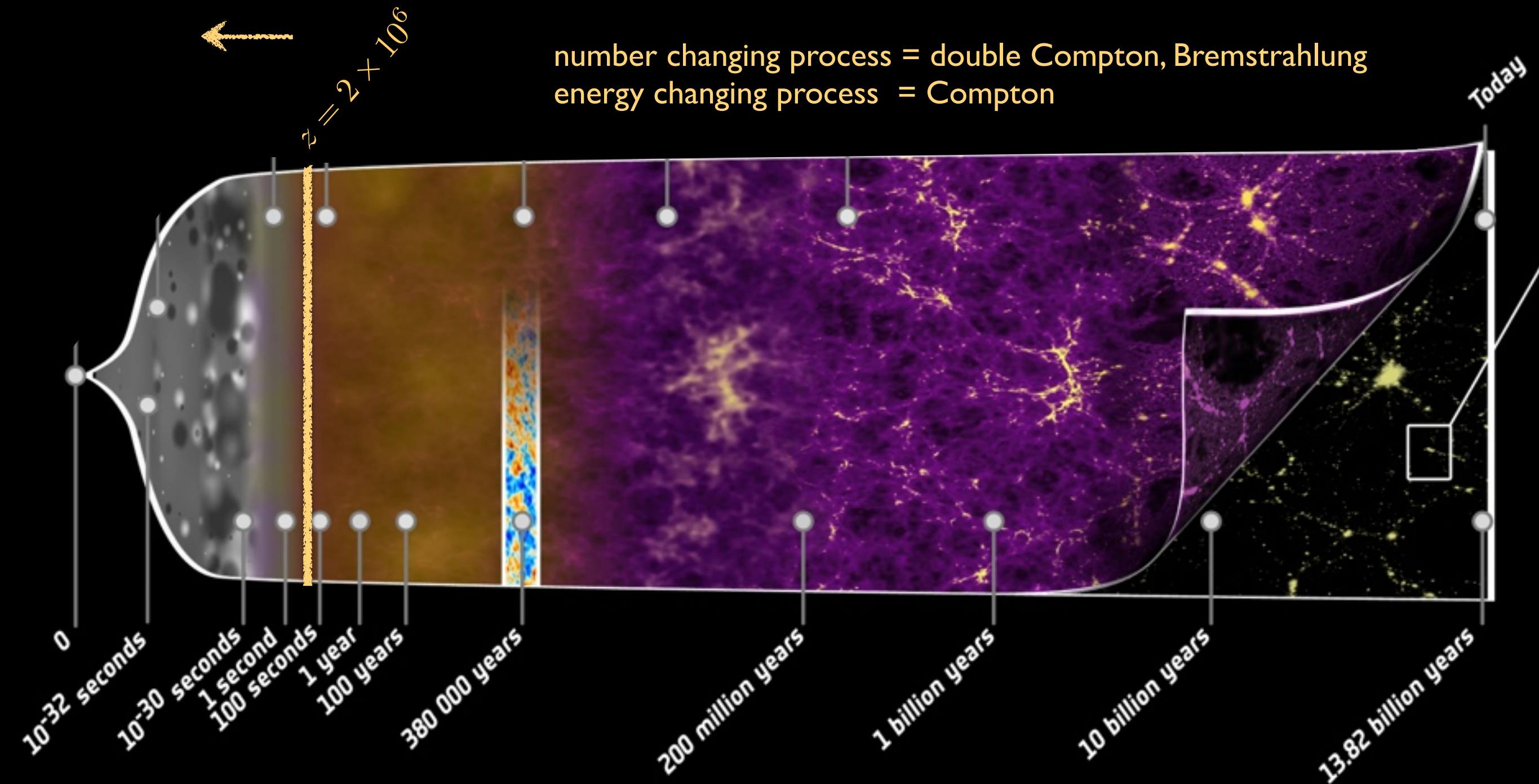
blackbody

number change  
energy change

$$\frac{1}{\exp \left[ \frac{h\nu}{kT} \right] - 1}$$

$z = 2 \times 10^6$

number changing process = double Compton, Bremsstrahlung  
energy changing process = Compton





# PHYSICS OF SPECTRAL DISTORTIONS

blackbody

Bose Einstein

number change  
energy change



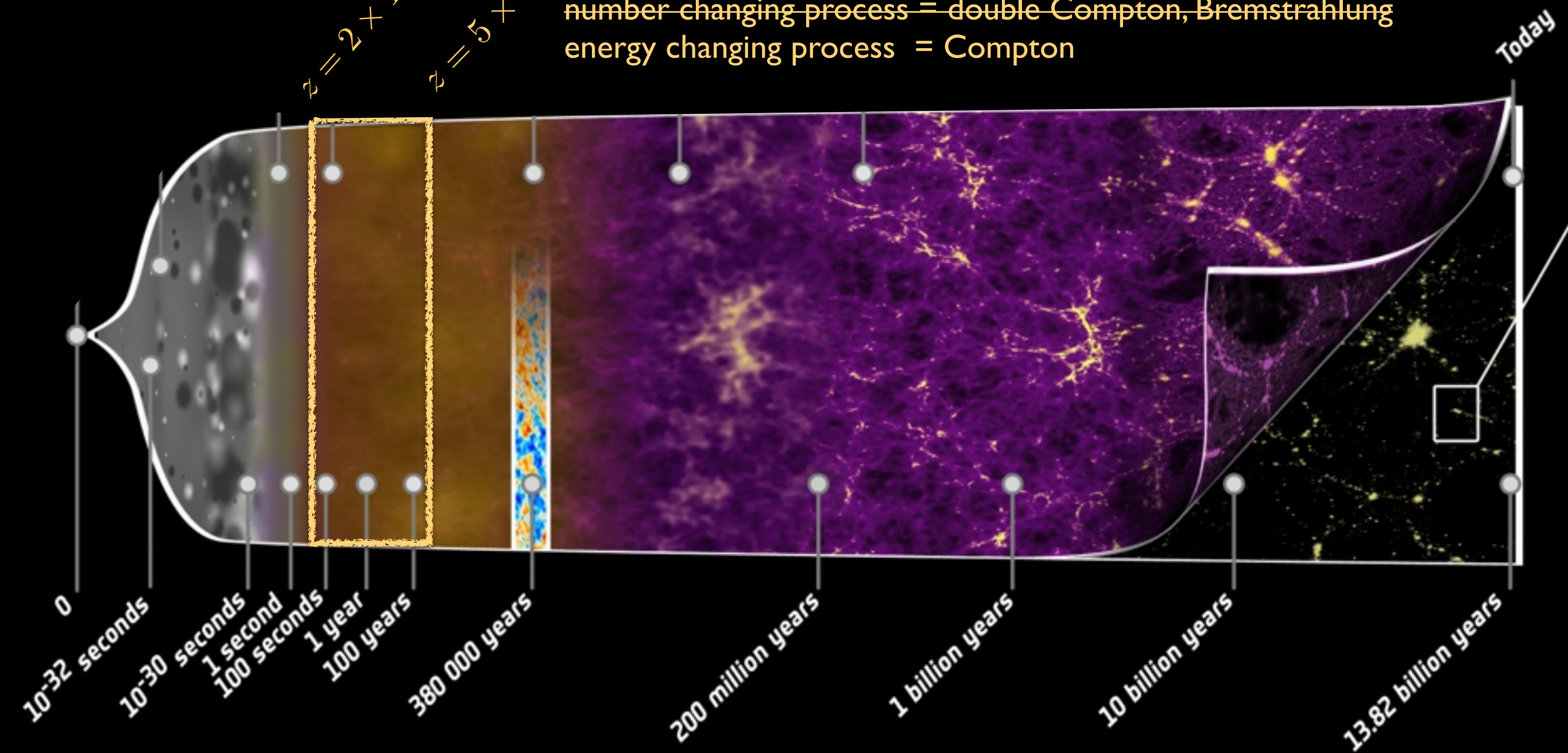
energy change



$$z = 2 \times 10^6$$

$$z = 5 \times 10^4$$

number changing process = double Compton, Bremsstrahlung  
energy changing process = Compton



# PHYSICS OF SPECTRAL DISTORTIONS

blackbody

Bose Einstein

number change  
energy change



energy change



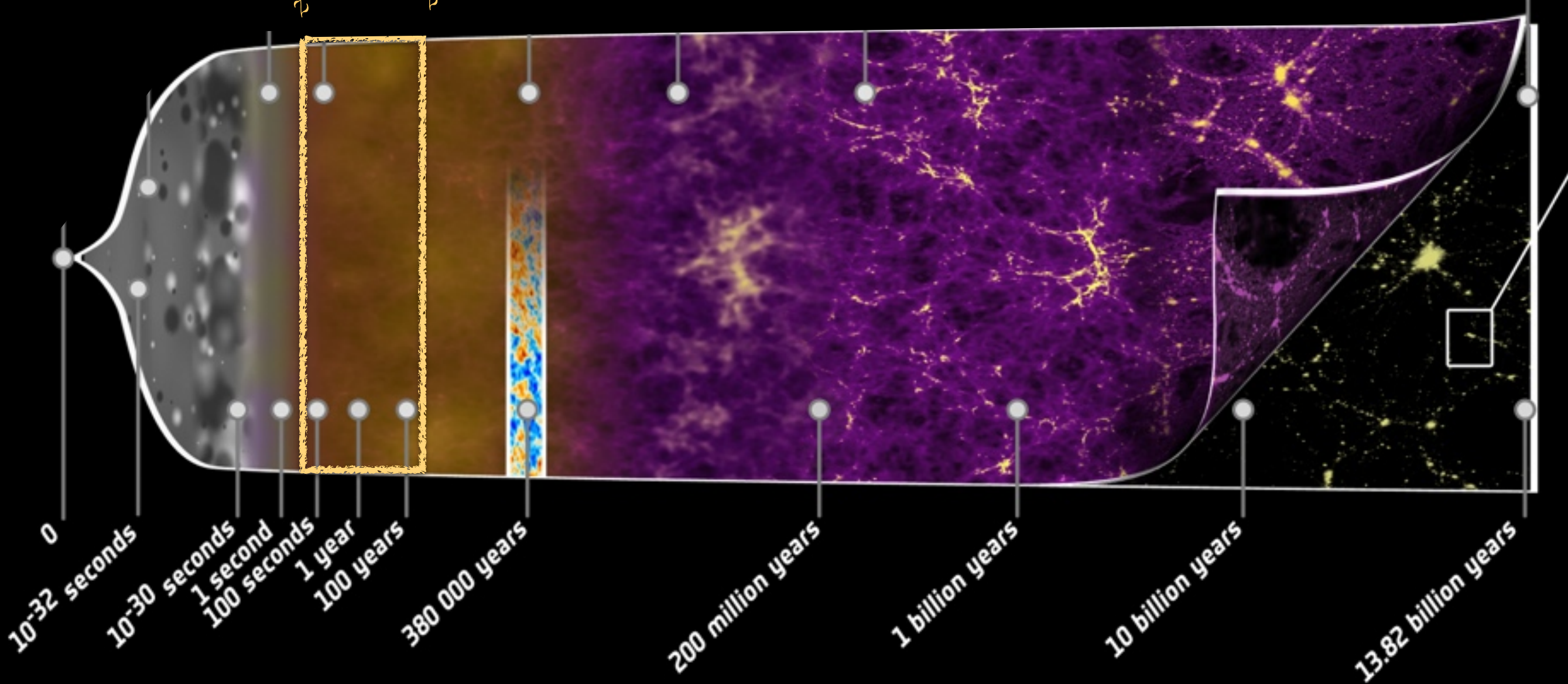
$$z = 2 \times 10^6$$

$$z = 5 \times 10^4$$

$$\frac{1}{\exp \left[ \frac{h\nu}{kT} + \mu \right] - 1}$$

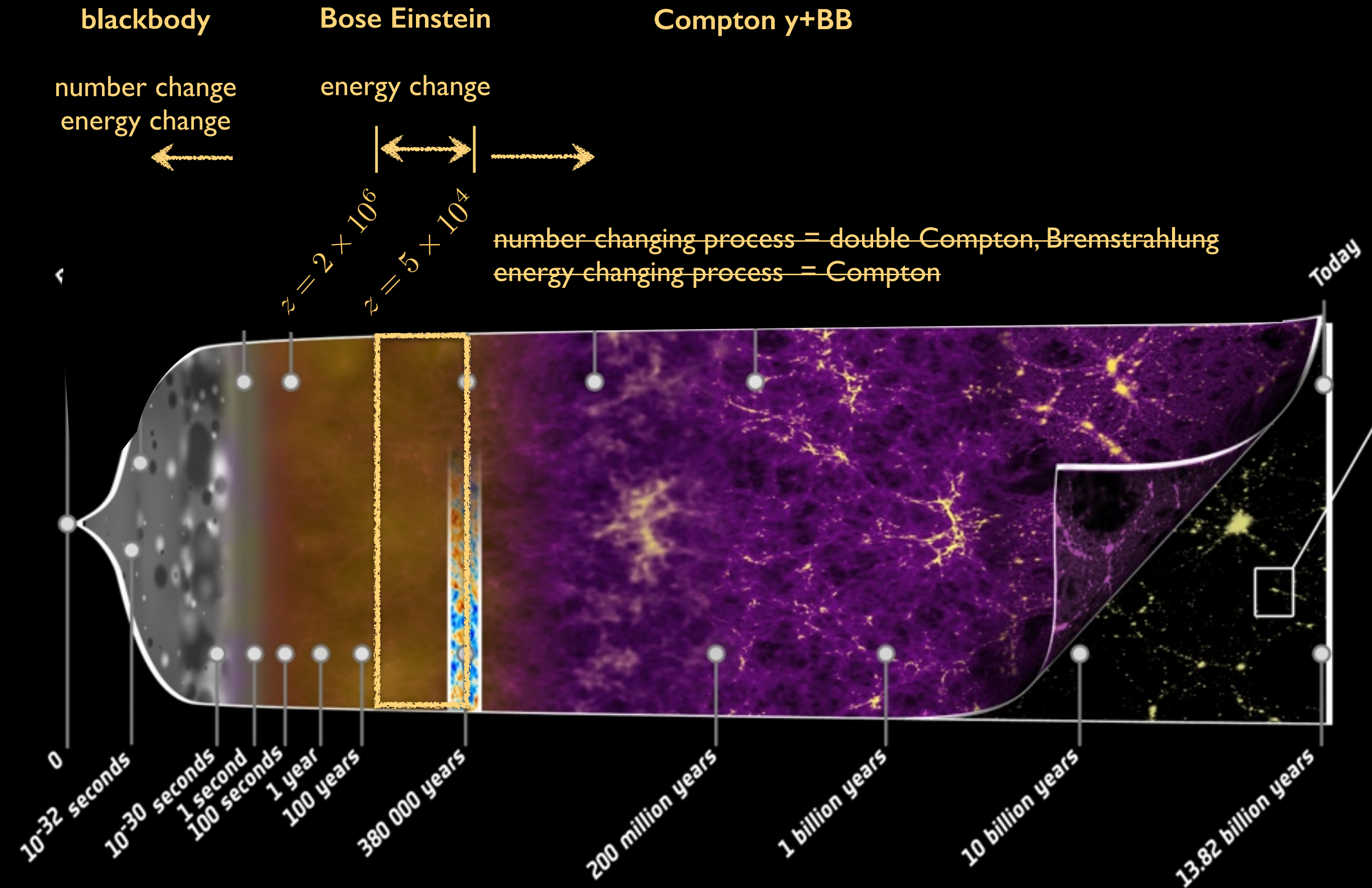
number changing process = double Compton, Bremsstrahlung  
energy changing process = Compton

Today

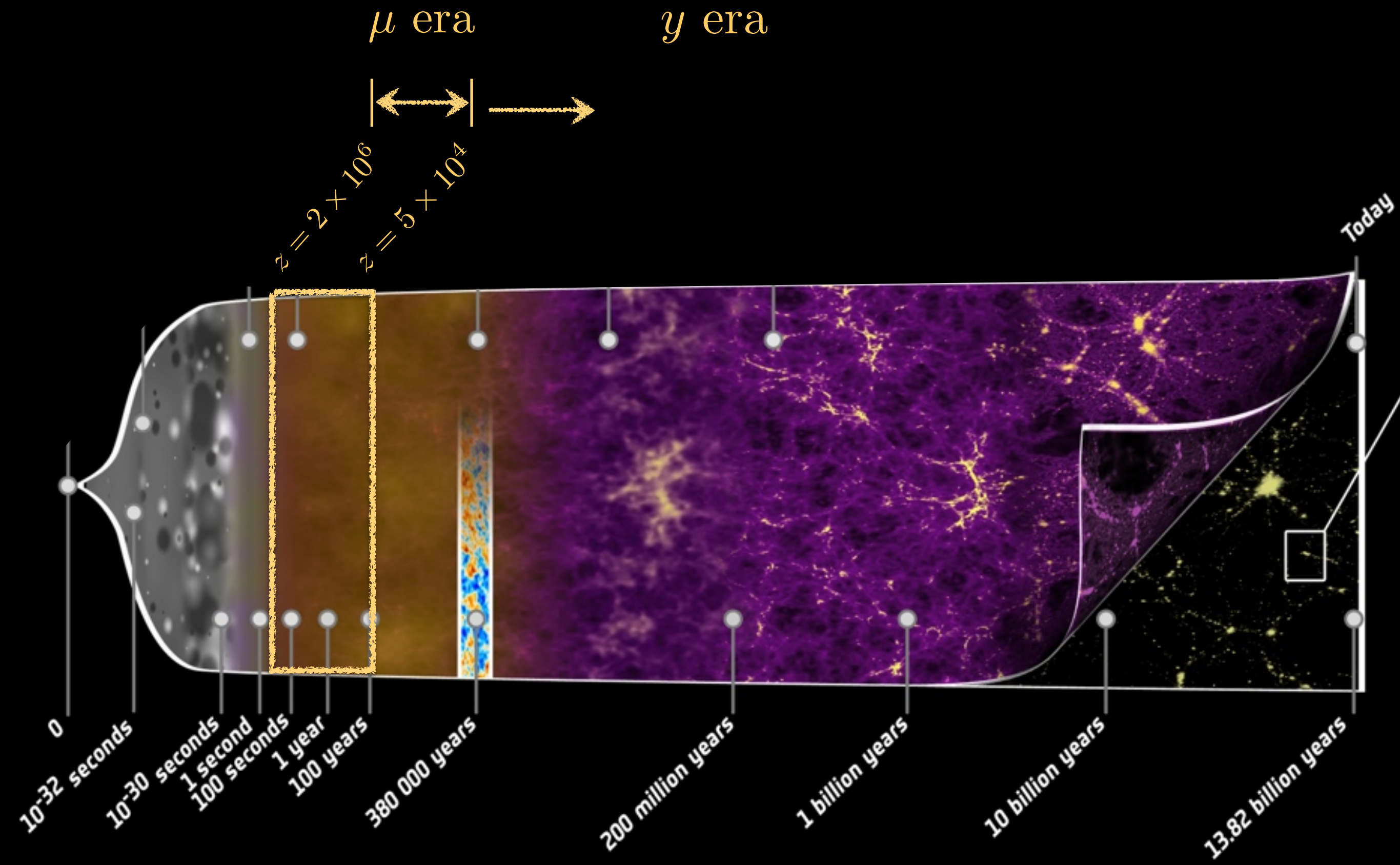




# PHYSICS OF SPECTRAL DISTORTIONS

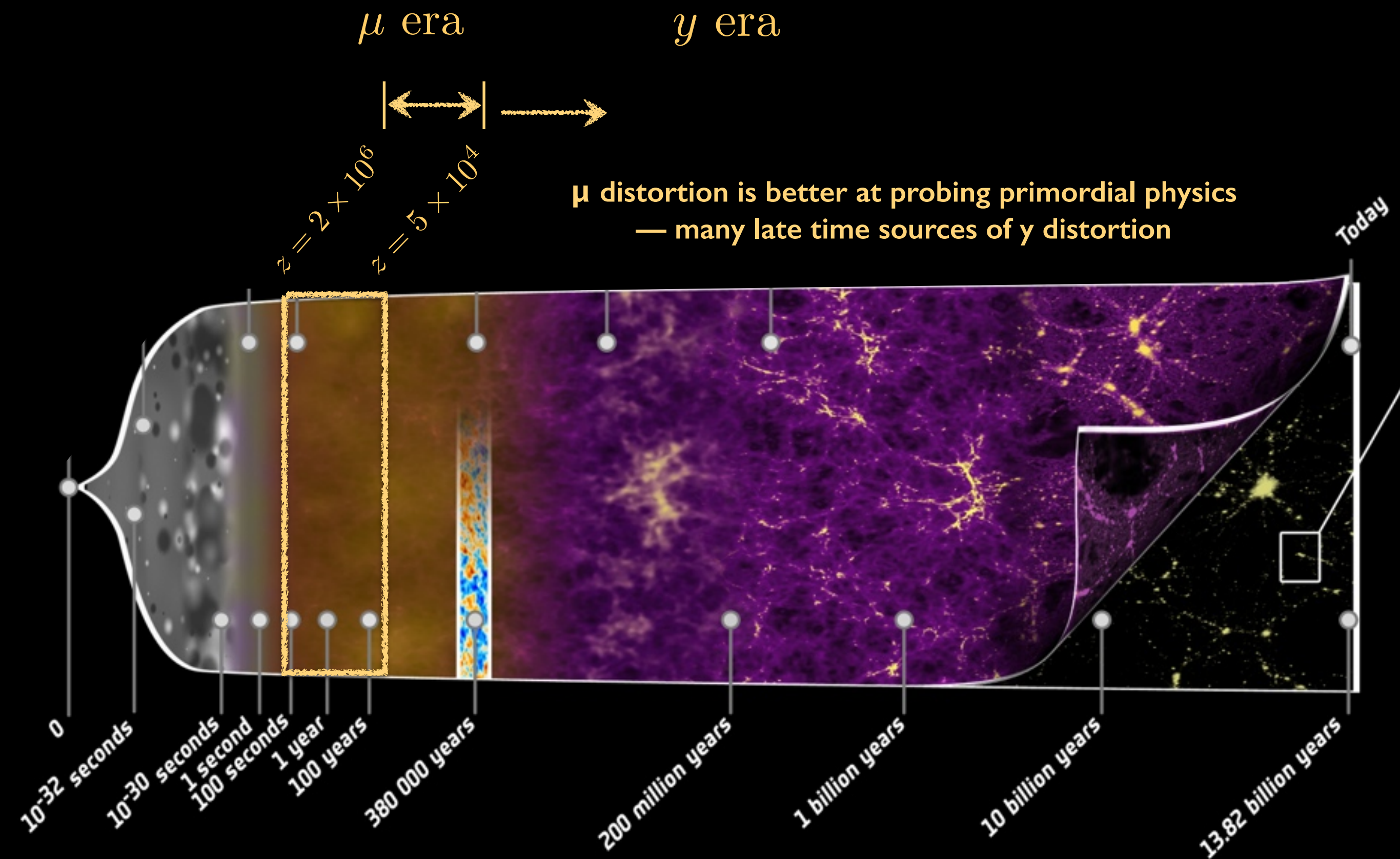


# PHYSICS OF SPECTRAL DISTORTIONS





# PHYSICS OF SPECTRAL DISTORTIONS



# ENERGY INJECTION

- \* Dark matter annihilation (photons produced directly or through cascades)

Chluba 2009

- \* Dark matter decay

- \* Damping of acoustic modes

Chluba/Erickcek/Ben-Dayana 2012

  - \* Features in power spectrum

- \* Reionization ( $z \sim 6$ )  $y \sim 10^{-7}$  overwhelms primordial  $y$

- \* Gauge boson production from cosmic strings

Tashiro and Vachaspati 2012

- \* Primordial magnetic field damping

Marsh/Silk/Tashiro 2013

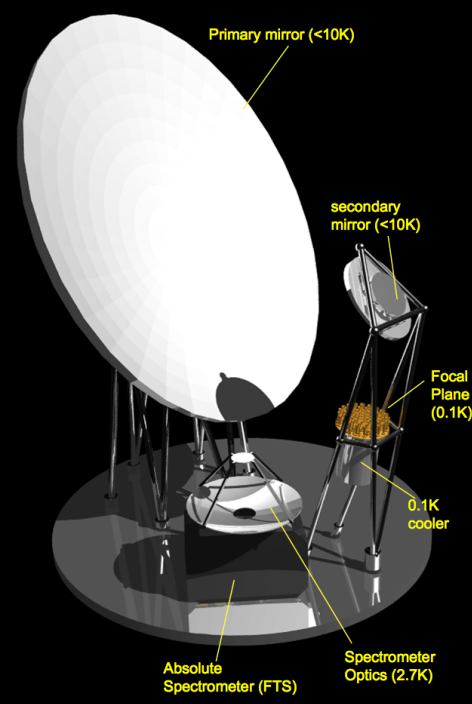
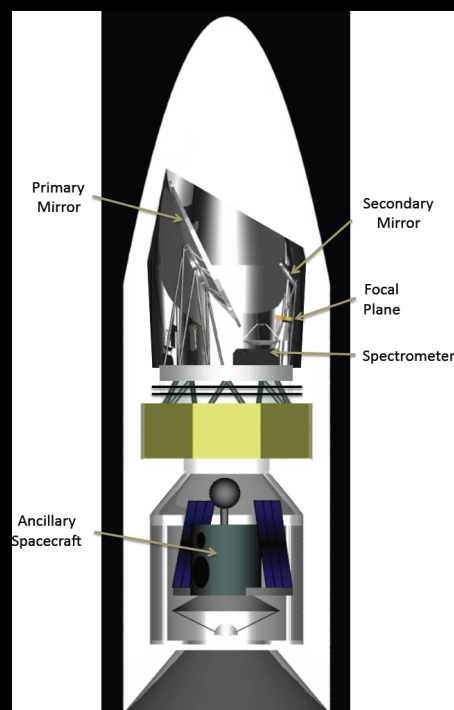
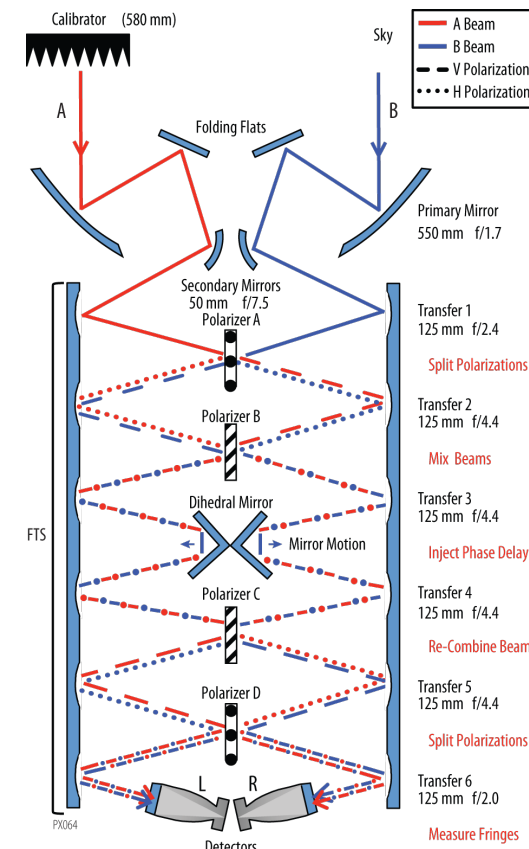
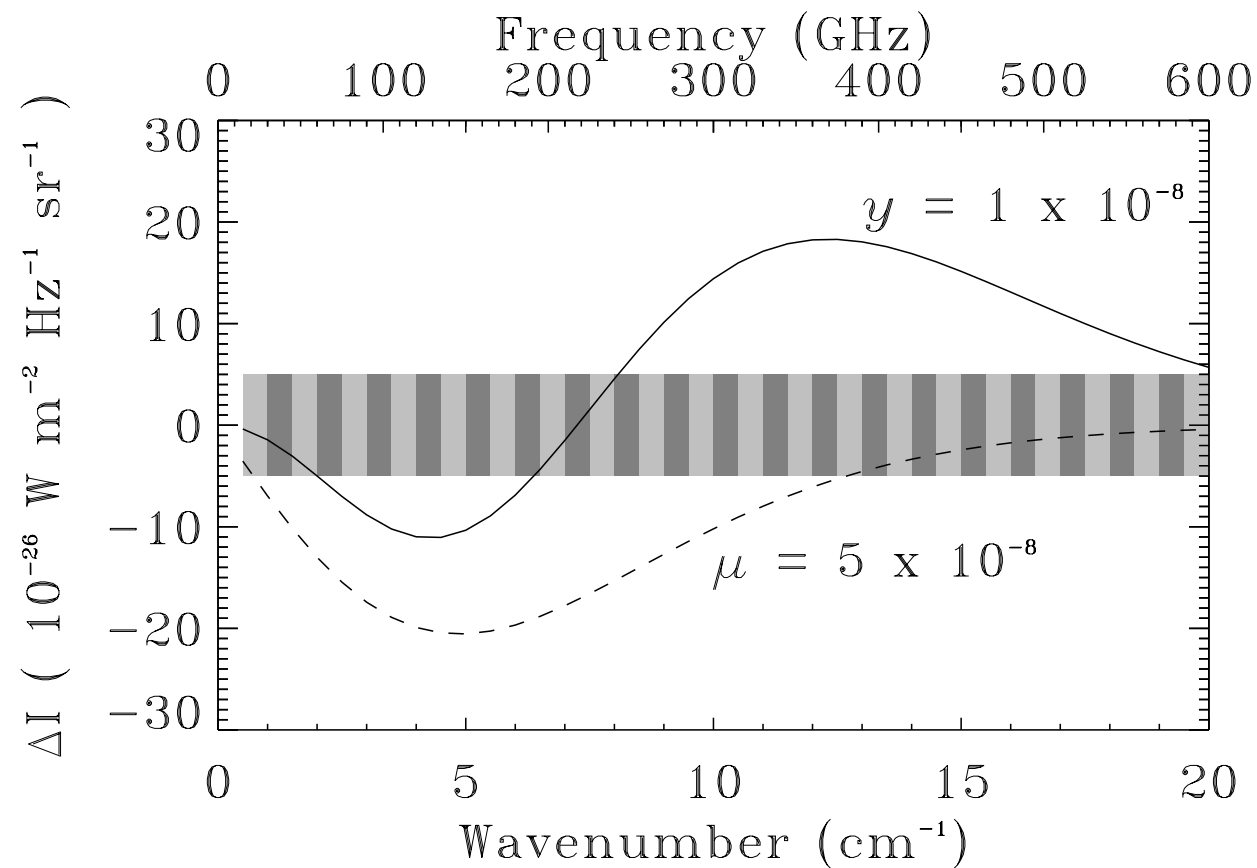
## \* Damping of acoustic modes

Chluba/Erickcek/Ben-Dayana 2012

- \* Steps in primordial power spectrum
- \* Bumps in primordial power spectrum
- \* Features from inflationary particle production
- \* Running mass inflaton

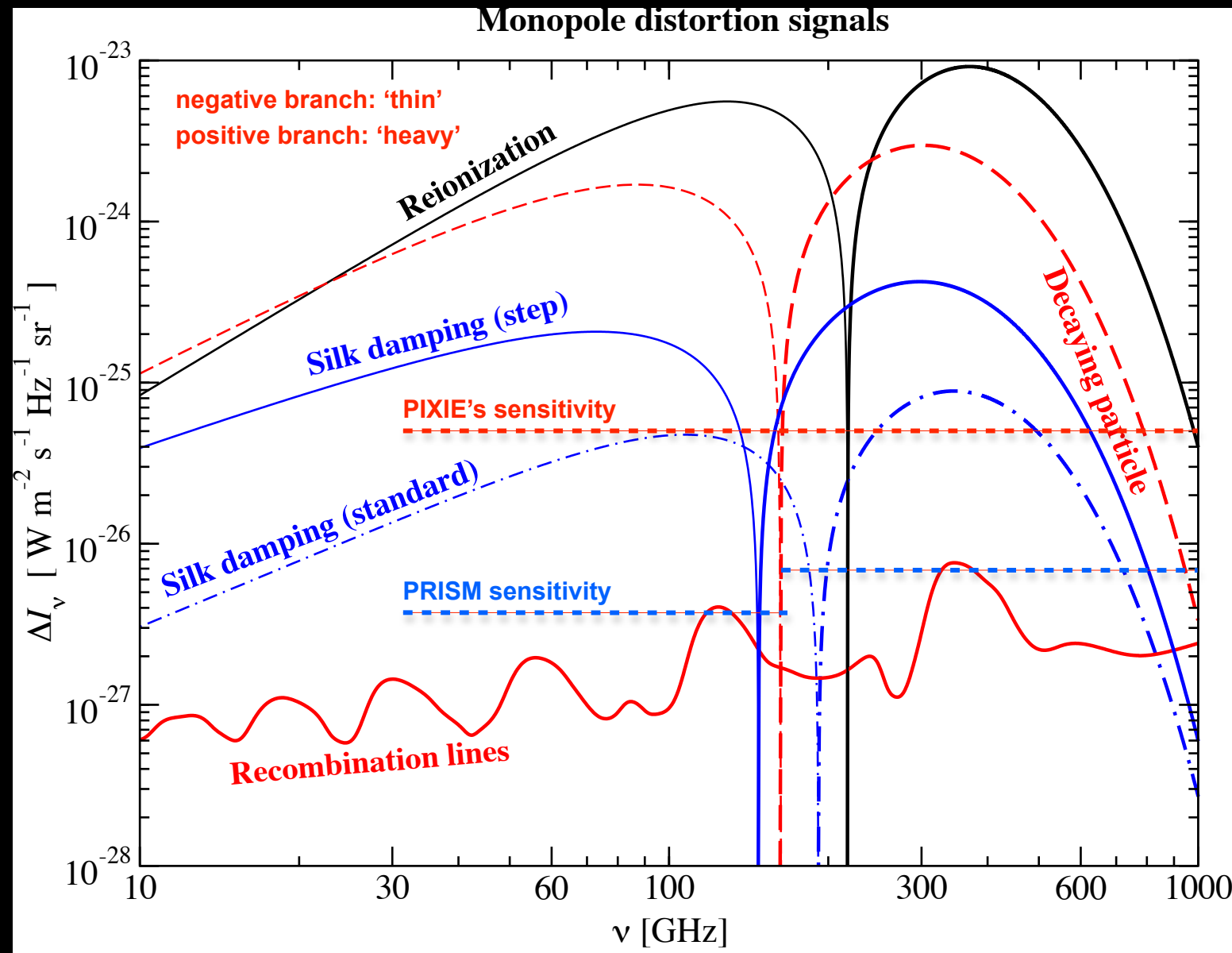
# EXPERIMENTAL HORIZON

## PIXIE (Explorer proposal, \$200M)



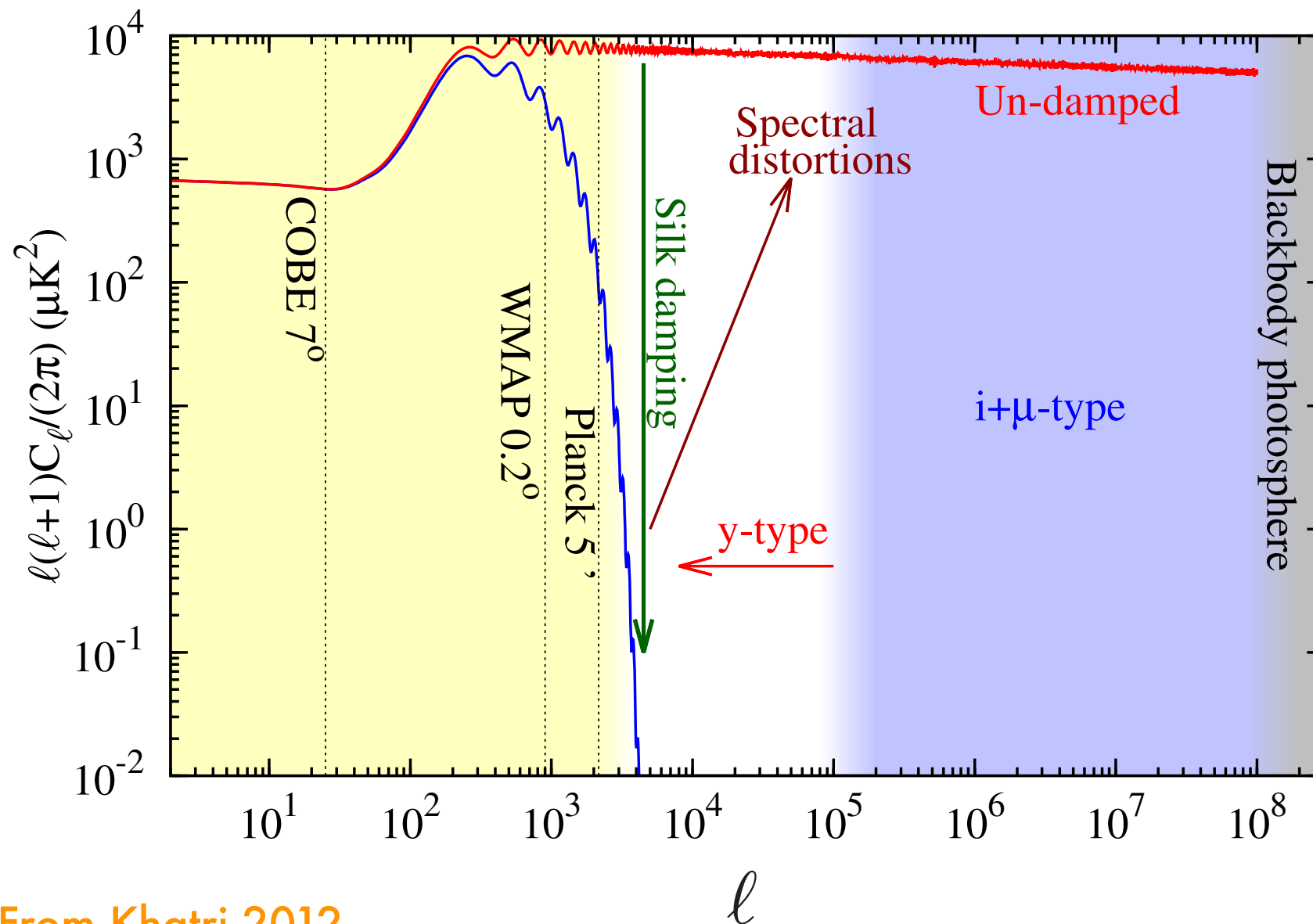
PRISM [50 cm spectrophotometer + imager: 4m telescope, 7600 bolometers, ~30 frequency bands] (billions and billions....)

# EXPECTED SIGNALS/SENSITIVITY



*recombination lines predicted by Zel'dovich/Kurt/Sunyaev (1969),  
reviewed in Sunyaev/Chluba 0710.2879*

# SILK DAMPING AND DISTORTION FROM ADIABATIC MODES



From Khatri 2012

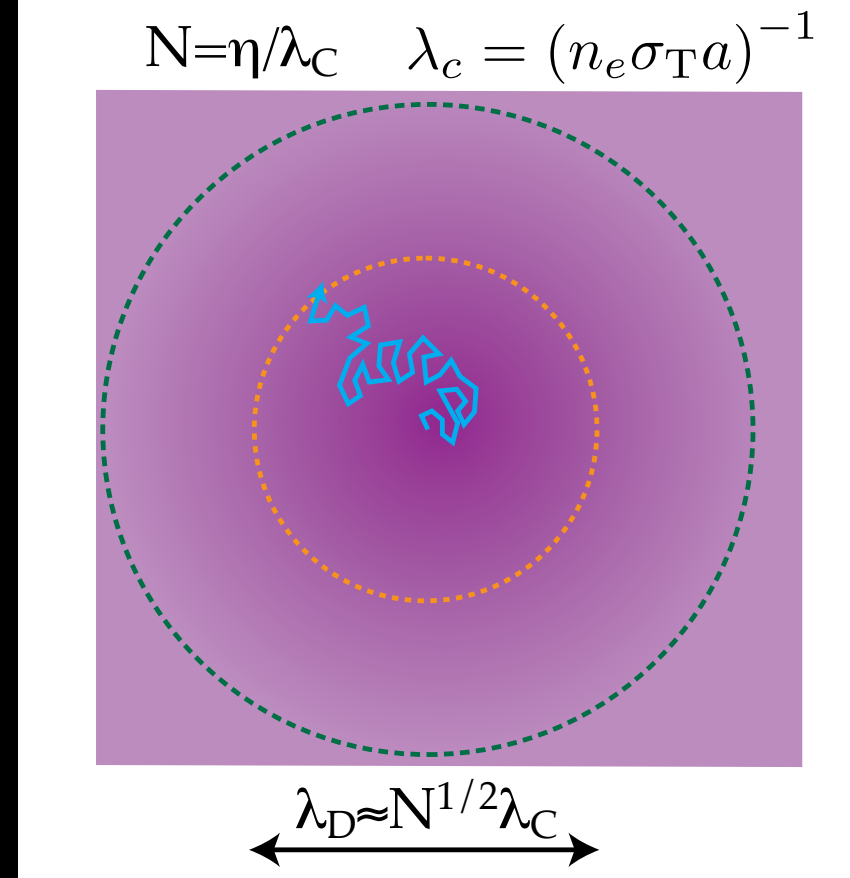
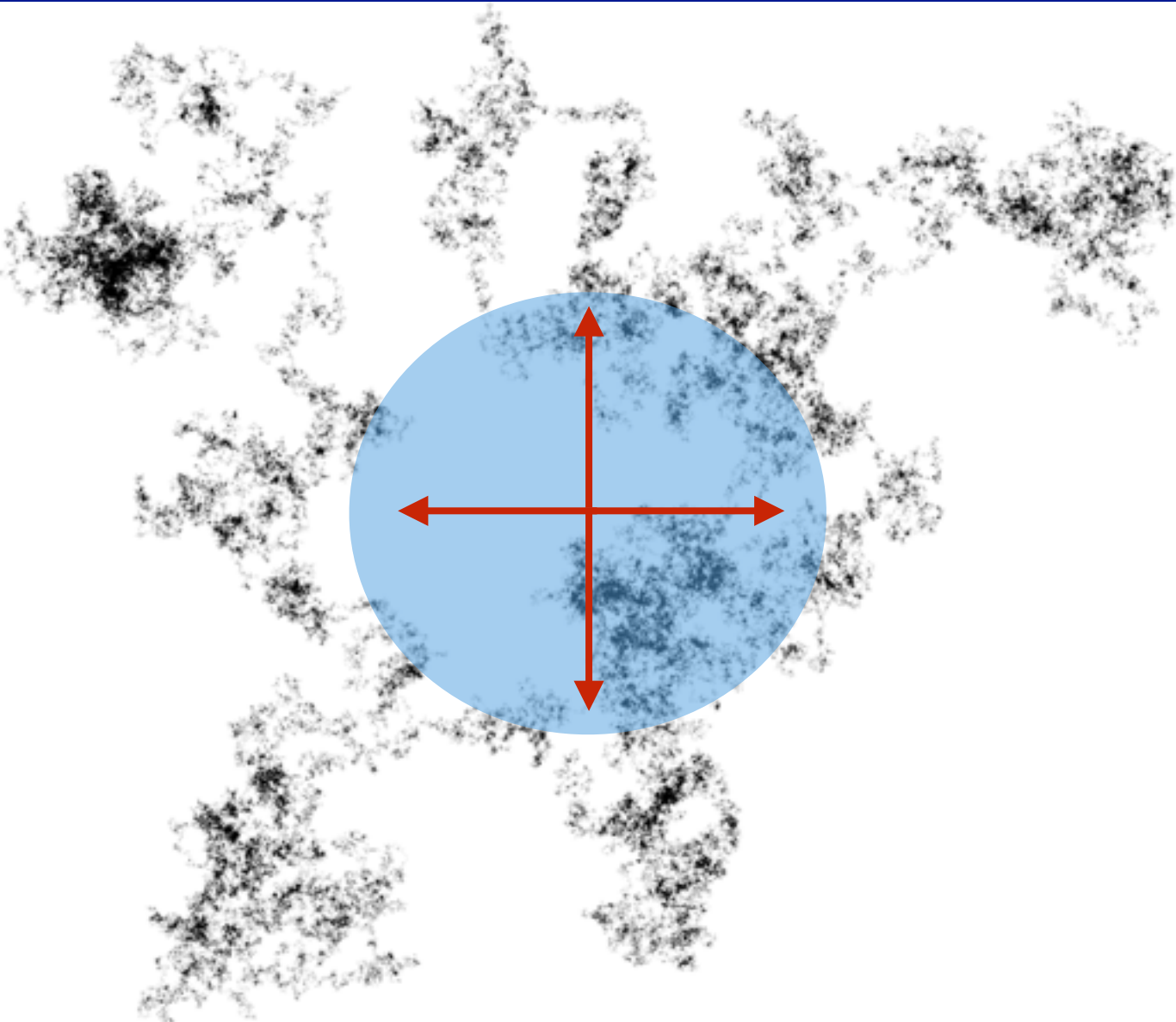
Mode dissipation mixes black bodies – these distortions begin their life as  $y$  distortions, the epoch determines the rest

NEARLY Scale-invariant LCDM cosmology →

$$\begin{aligned}\mu &\sim 2 \times 10^{-8} \\ y &\sim 4 \times 10^{-9}\end{aligned}$$



# SUPERPOSITION OF BLACKBODIES THROUGH DIFFUSION



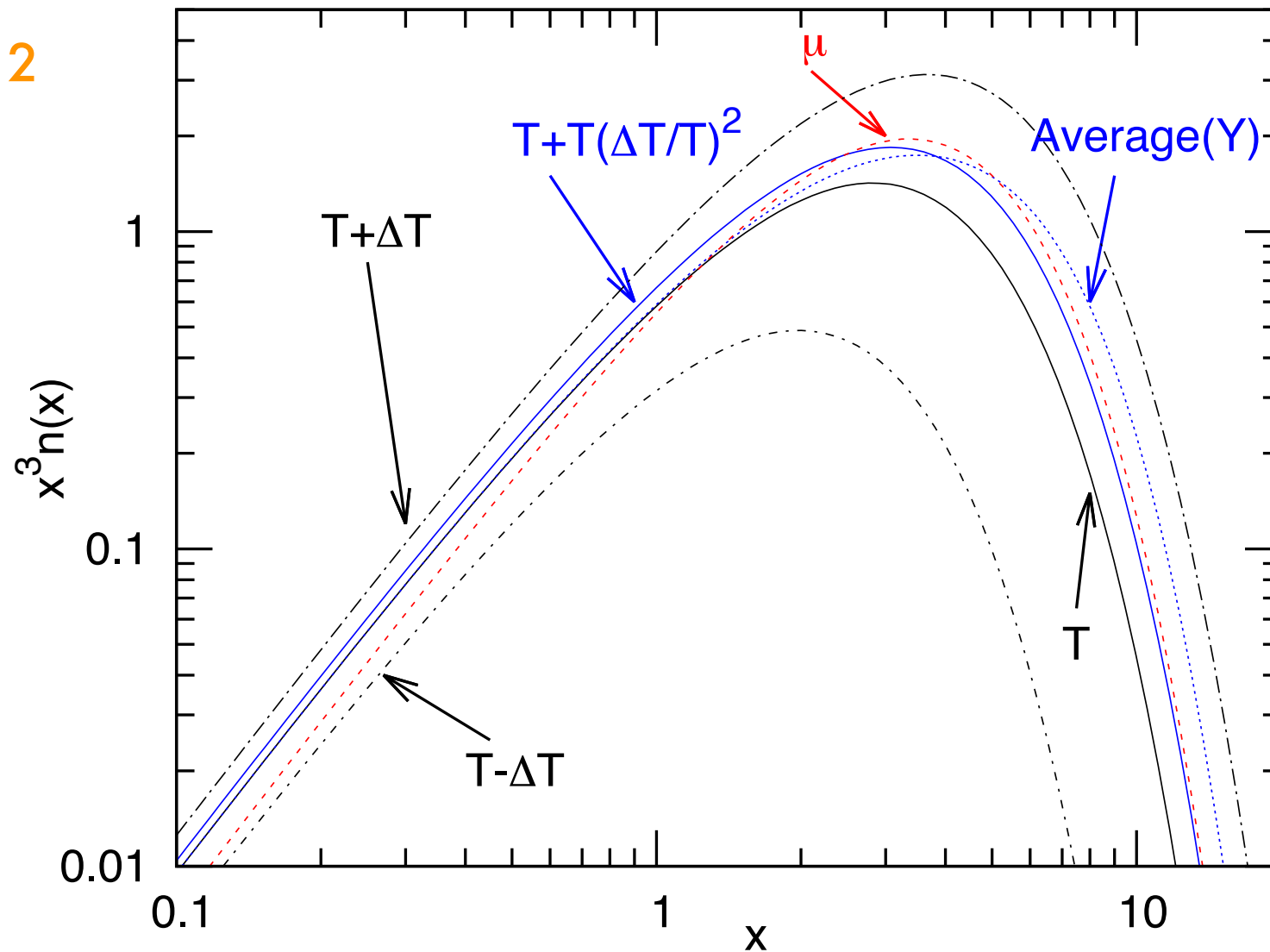
$$k_D \sim 4 \times 10^{-6} (1+z)^{3/2} \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$$

- \*Free electron sees average spectrum – not BB
- \*Rescatters into homogeneous component (spectral distortion)
- \* $l=2$  is first piece that *cannot* be gauged away: from diffusion

# SUPERPOSITION OF BLACKBODIES

pointed out in Chluba/Sunyaev 2004

From Khatri 2012



# HEATING FROM ACOUSTIC MODE DISSIPATION

✱ Energy lost to Silk damping:  $\frac{d}{dt} \frac{\Delta E_\gamma}{E_\gamma} = 4n_e \sigma_T \int \frac{k^2 dk}{2\pi^2} P_i(k)$

$$\left\{ \frac{(3\Theta_1 - v)^2}{3} + \frac{9}{2}\Theta_2^2 - \frac{1}{2}\Theta_2(\Theta_2^P + \Theta_0^P) + \sum_{l \geq 3} (2l + 1) \Theta_l^2 \right\}$$

✱ COSMOTHERM (Chluba 2013) -- follows 80 moments, all relevant reactions

# NEW PROBE OF SMALL-SCALE PERTURBATIONS

\* CMB/LSS  $0.01 \text{ Mpc}^{-1} \ll k \ll 0.3 \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$

\* CMB  $0.001 \text{ Mpc}^{-1} \ll k \ll 0.2 \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$

\* Lyman- $\alpha$  forest  $0.1 \text{ Mpc}^{-1} \ll k \ll 10 \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$

\* 21-cm cosmology  $0.01 \text{ Mpc}^{-1} \ll k \ll 100 \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$

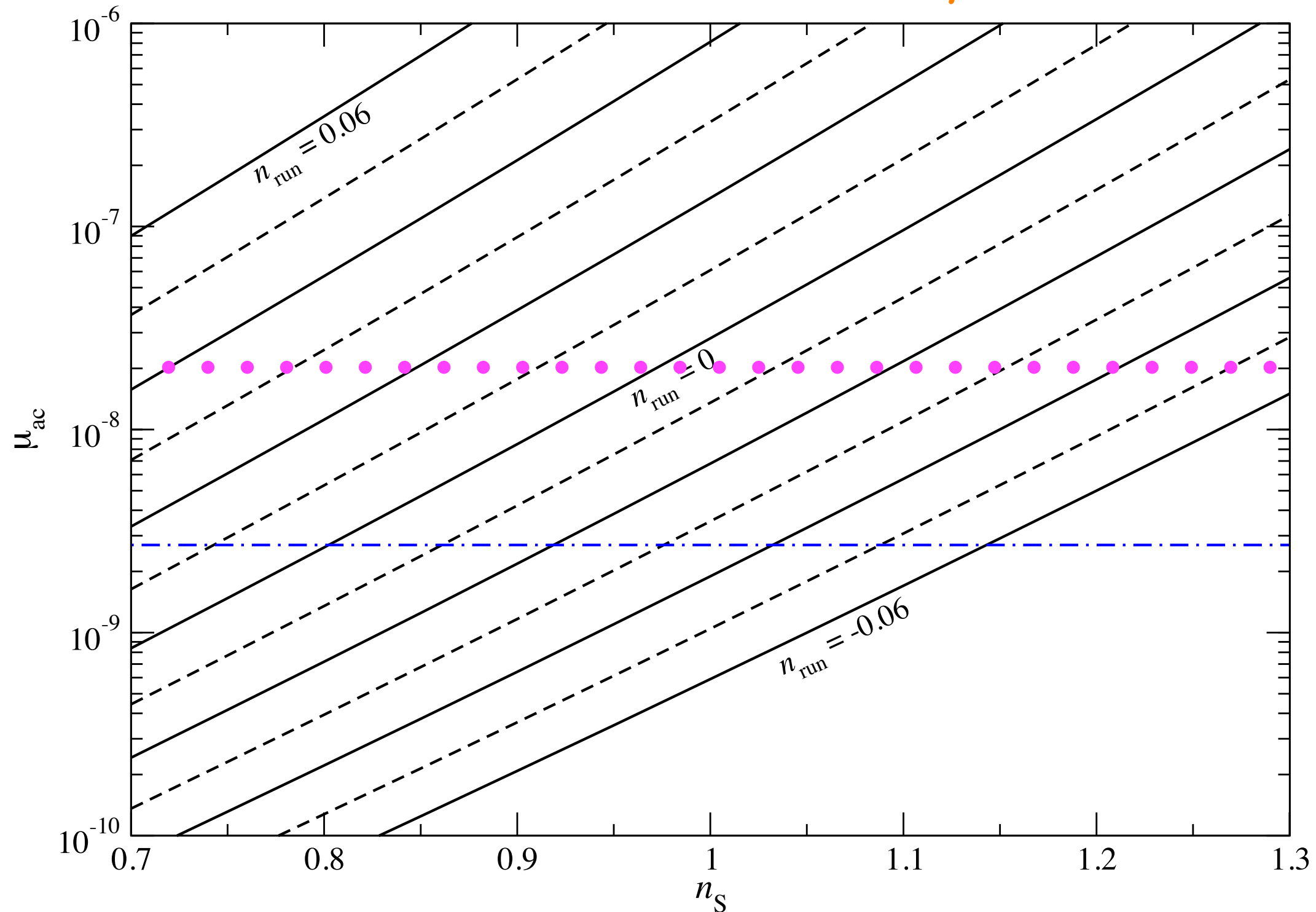
\* Y-distortions [but confusion from reionization!]

$$1 \text{ Mpc}^{-1} \ll k \ll 50 \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$$

\*  $\mu$ -distortions  $50 \text{ Mpc}^{-1} \ll k \ll 10^4 \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$

# SILK DAMPING AND DISTORTION FROM ADIABATIC MODES

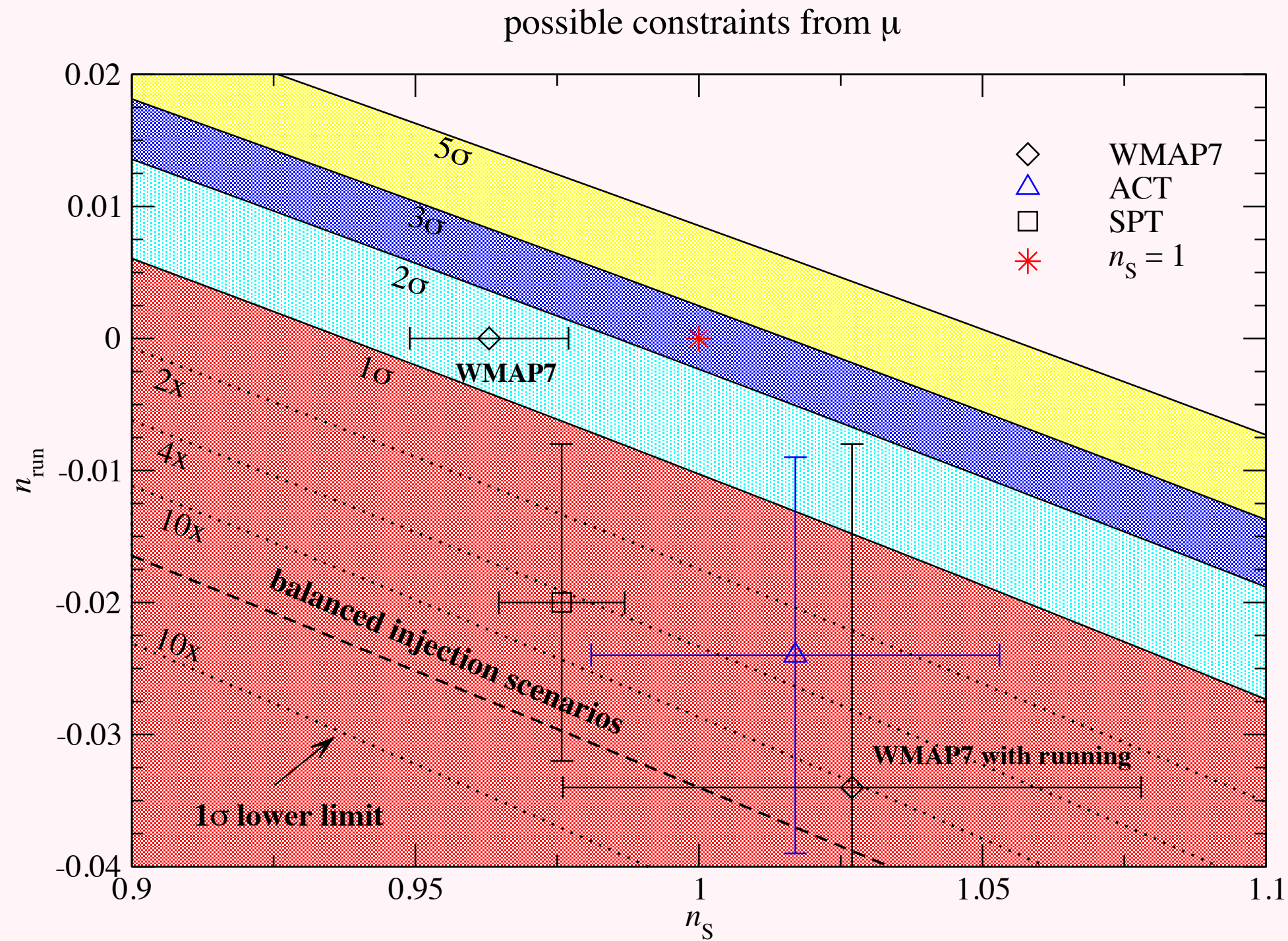
Nearly scale-invariant LCDM cosmology  $\longrightarrow \mu \sim 2 \times 10^{-8}$



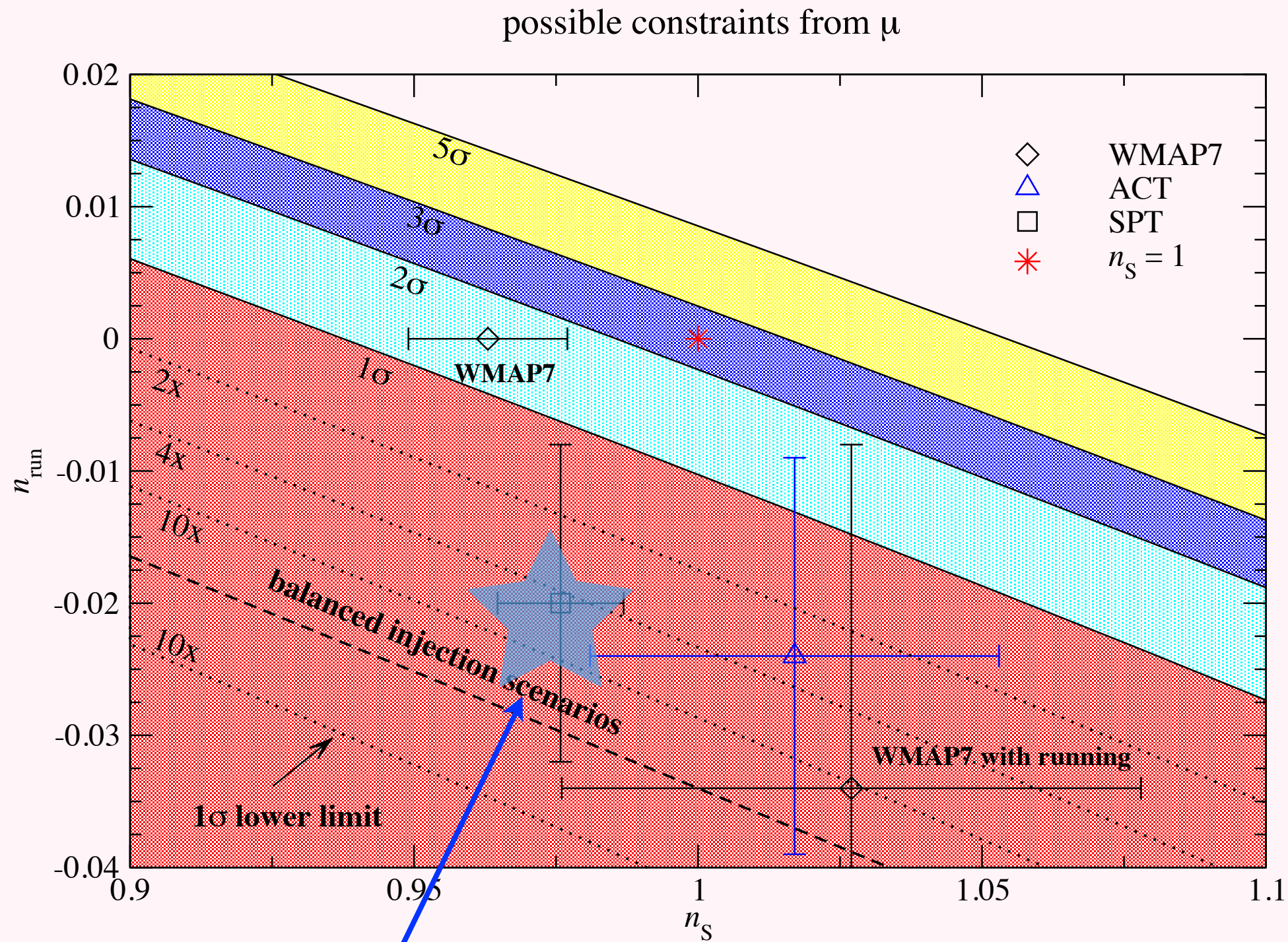
ADIABATIC COOLING

From Chluba 2012

# Details of spectrum matter!



# Details of spectrum matter!



BICEP+PLANCK?



# Spectral distortions from primordial isocurvature

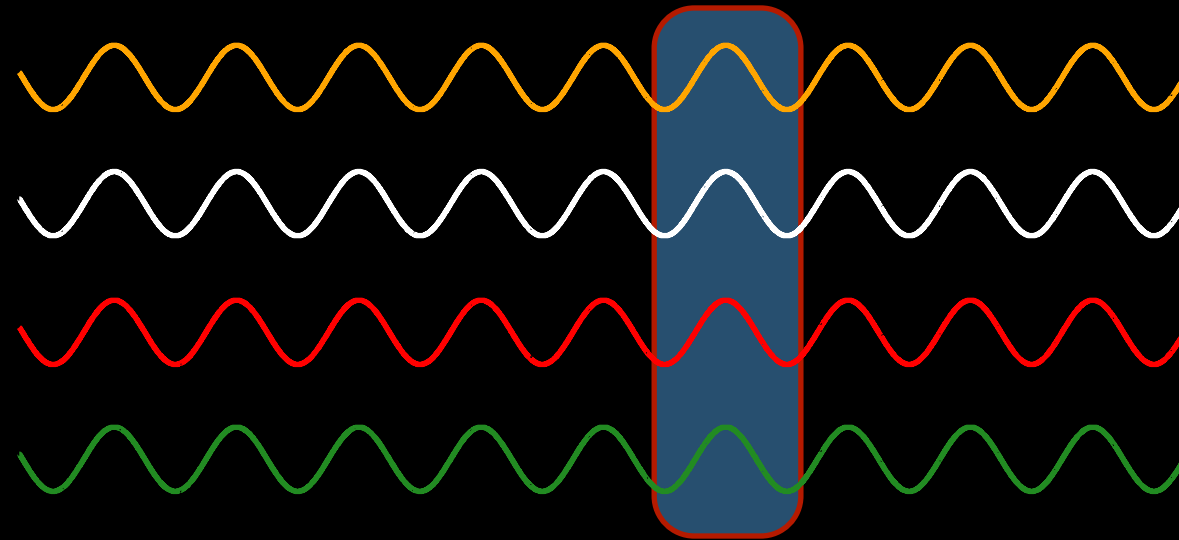
with J.Chluba

arXiv:1304.4596, MNRAS 434, 1619



# ZOOLOGY OF INITIAL CONDITIONS

Adiabatic



Neutrinos

CDM

Photons

Baryons

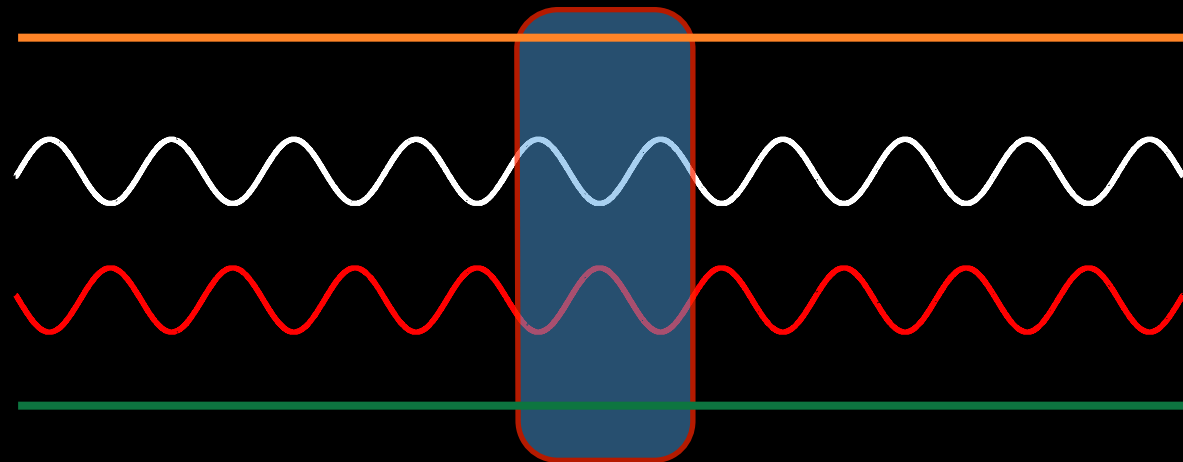
$$\Delta\Phi \neq 0$$

$$S_i = 0$$

$$S_i = \frac{\delta n_i}{n_i} - \frac{\delta n_\gamma}{n_\gamma}$$

# ZOOLOGY OF INITIAL CONDITIONS

CDM  
isocurvature



Neutrinos

CDM

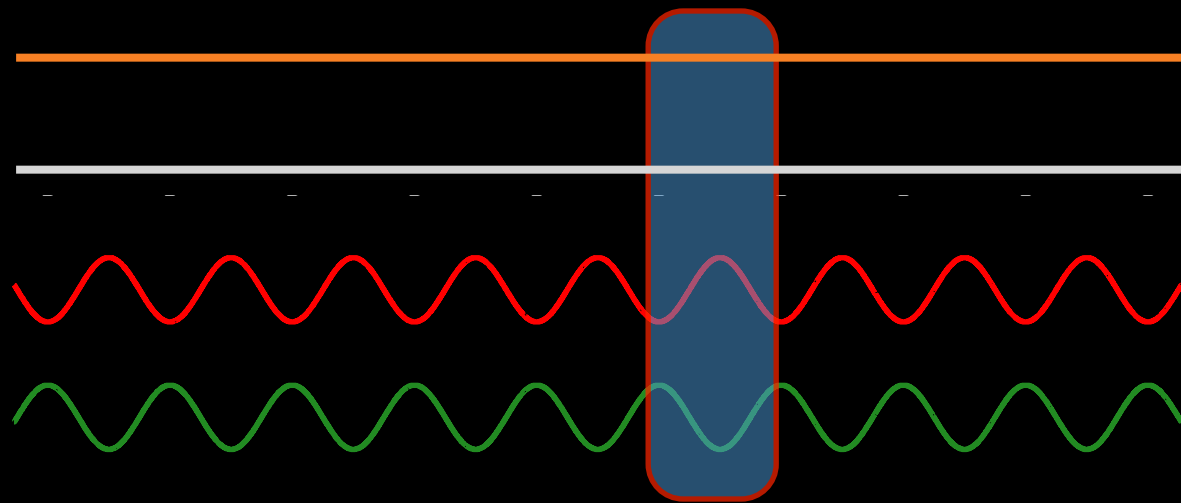
Photons

Baryons

$$S_c \neq 0 \quad \Delta\Phi = 0$$

# ZOOLOGY OF INITIAL CONDITIONS

Baryon  
isocurvature



Neutrinos

CDM

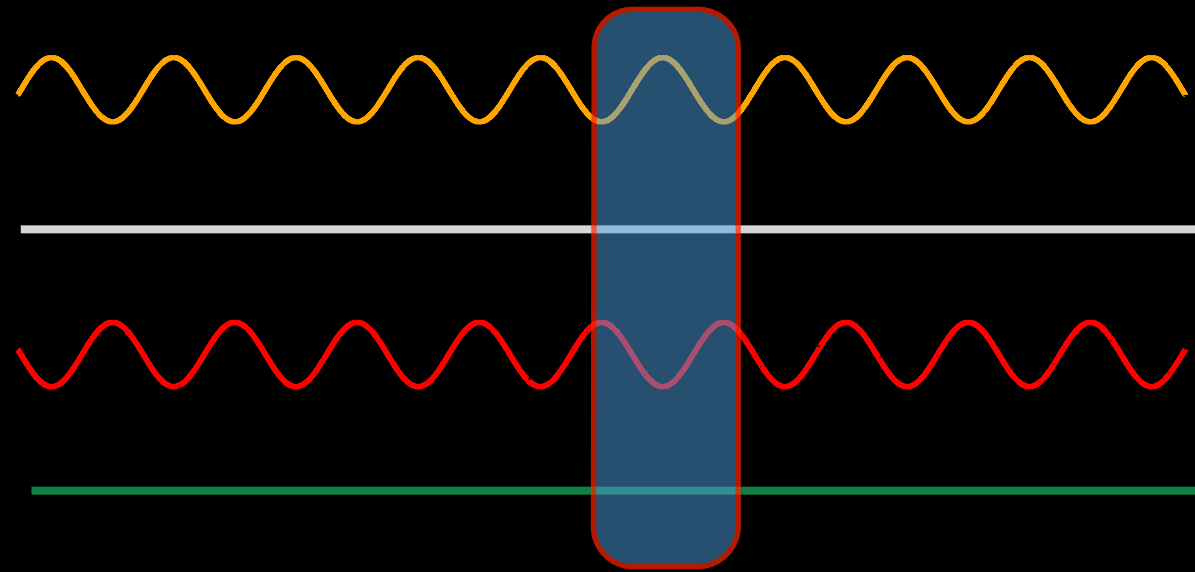
Photons

Baryons

$$S_b \neq 0 \quad \Delta\Phi = 0$$

# ZOOLOGY OF INITIAL CONDITIONS

$\nu$   
isocurvature



Neutrinos

CDM

Photons

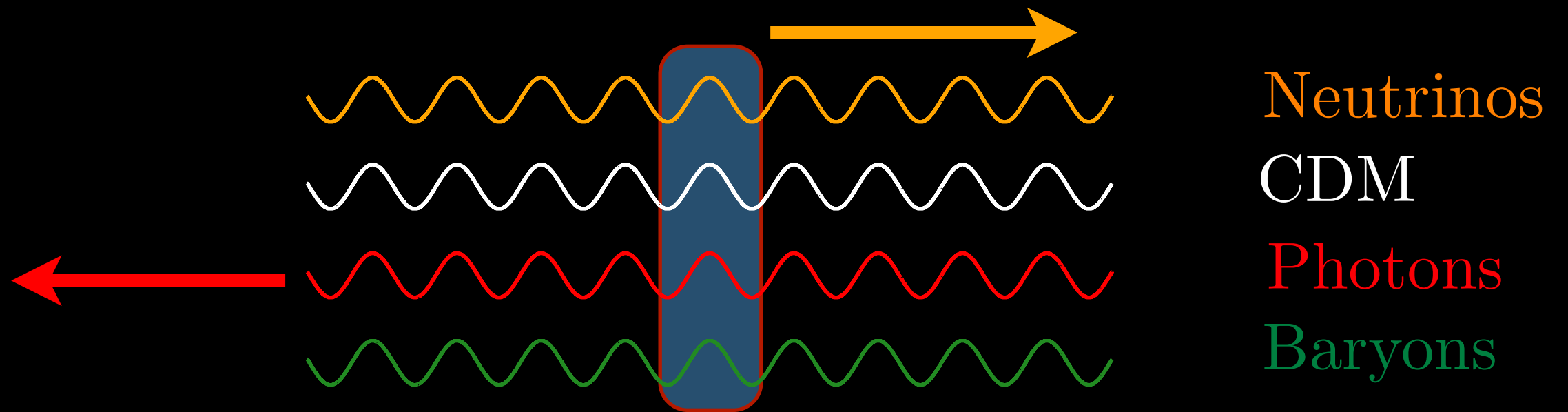
Baryons

$$S_\nu \neq 0 \quad \Delta\Phi = 0$$

# VELOCITY ISOCURVATURE MODES

Example:

$\nu$  velocity isocurvature

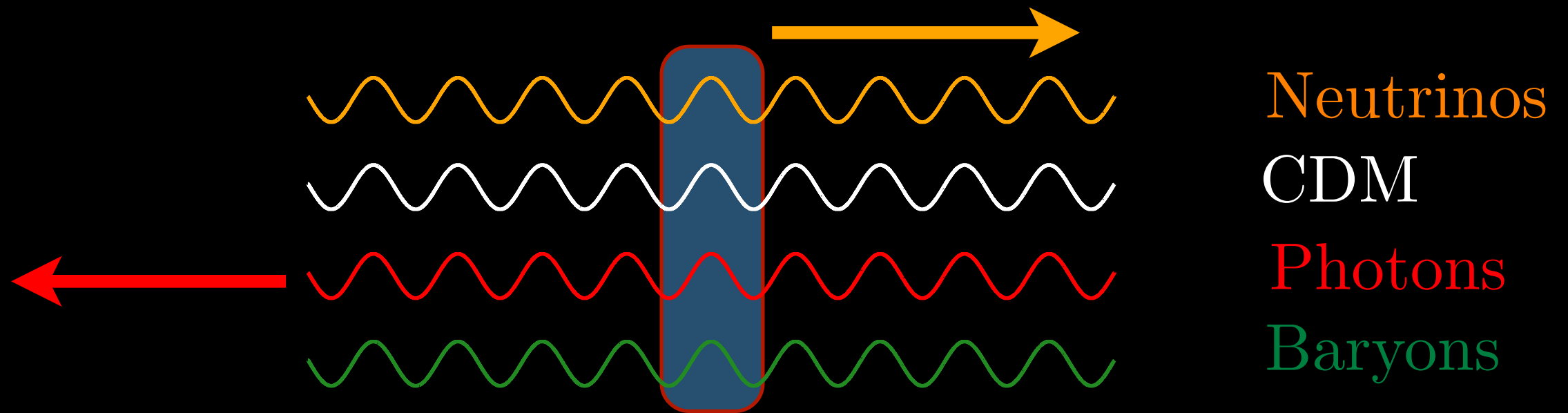


**Momentum density also gravitates!**

# VELOCITY ISOCURVATURE MODES

Example:

$\nu$  velocity isocurvature



**Momentum density also gravitates!**

All density initial conditions can be expressed in terms of these!  
These conditions are not conserved under fluid evolution

# TWO FLAVORS OF CDM ISOCURVATURE

\* **Axion-type isocurvature:**  $S_c$  uncorrelated with  $\zeta$

Axion exists, fluctuates,  $\rho_{\text{axion}} \ll \rho_{\text{inflaton}}$

\* **Curvaton-type isocurvature:**  $S_c$  correlated with  $\zeta$

\* Curvaton dominates after inflation, seeds adiabatic  $\zeta$

\* Baryons/CDM produced before  $\zeta$  growth complete:  
isocurvature from mismatch

# CURVATON MODELS AND ISOCURVATURE

- \* Hard for an inflationary model to do everything you want

$$\frac{k^3 P_{\mathcal{R}}(k)}{2\pi^2} = \frac{H_k^2}{8\pi^2 M_{\text{pl}}^2 \epsilon} \quad \epsilon = \frac{M_{\text{pl}}^2}{2} \left( \frac{V'}{V} \right)^2$$

- \* Instead, have a spectator  $\sigma$  (curvaton) that briefly dominates after inflation
- \* Sources entropy fluctuation in species that are generated before curvaton dom.

$$S_c = \delta_c - \frac{3}{4}\delta_{\text{rad}} = -\frac{3}{4}\delta_{\text{rad}}$$

- \* Curvaton dominates, decays, adiabatic (correlated with isocurvature) results

$$\zeta = \frac{\rho_\sigma}{3\rho_{\text{tot}}} \delta_\sigma$$



# Axions carry isocurvature

- \* If PQ symmetry broken during/before inflation

$$\sqrt{\langle a^2 \rangle} = \frac{H_I}{2\pi}$$

**Quantum zero-point fluctuations!**

- \* Subdominant species seed isocurvature fluctuations

$$\zeta \propto \frac{\rho_a}{\rho_{\text{tot}}} \frac{\delta \rho_a}{\rho_a} \ll 10^{-5}$$

$$S_{a\gamma} = \frac{\delta n_a}{n_a} - \frac{\delta n_\gamma}{n_\gamma} = \frac{\delta \rho_a}{\rho_a} - \frac{3}{4} \frac{\delta \rho_\gamma}{\rho_\gamma} \sim 10^{-5}$$


\* **WMAP 7-year constraints** (Komatsu/Larson et al 2010)

$$P_{S_c}^{\text{axion}} / P_{\zeta} \lesssim 0.13 \quad P_{S_c}^{\text{curvaton}} / P_{\zeta} \lesssim 0.01$$

\* **WMAP 7-year constraints** (Komatsu/Larson et al 2010)

$$P_{S_c}^{\text{axion}} / P_{\zeta} \lesssim 0.13 \quad P_{S_c}^{\text{curvaton}} / P_{\zeta} \lesssim 0.01$$


\* **Constraints relax if assumptions** (scale-invariance, single isocurvature mode) relaxed: Bean et al. 2009

$r_{\text{iso}}$	CI	NID	NIV		CI+NID+NIV	No BBN/bias
	$n_{\text{adi}} = n_{\text{iso}}$	$n_{\text{adi}} = n_{\text{iso}}$	$n_{\text{adi}} = n_{\text{iso}}$			
	$< 0.13$	$< 0.08$	$< 0.14$		$0.44 \pm 0.09$	$0.51 \pm 0.09$

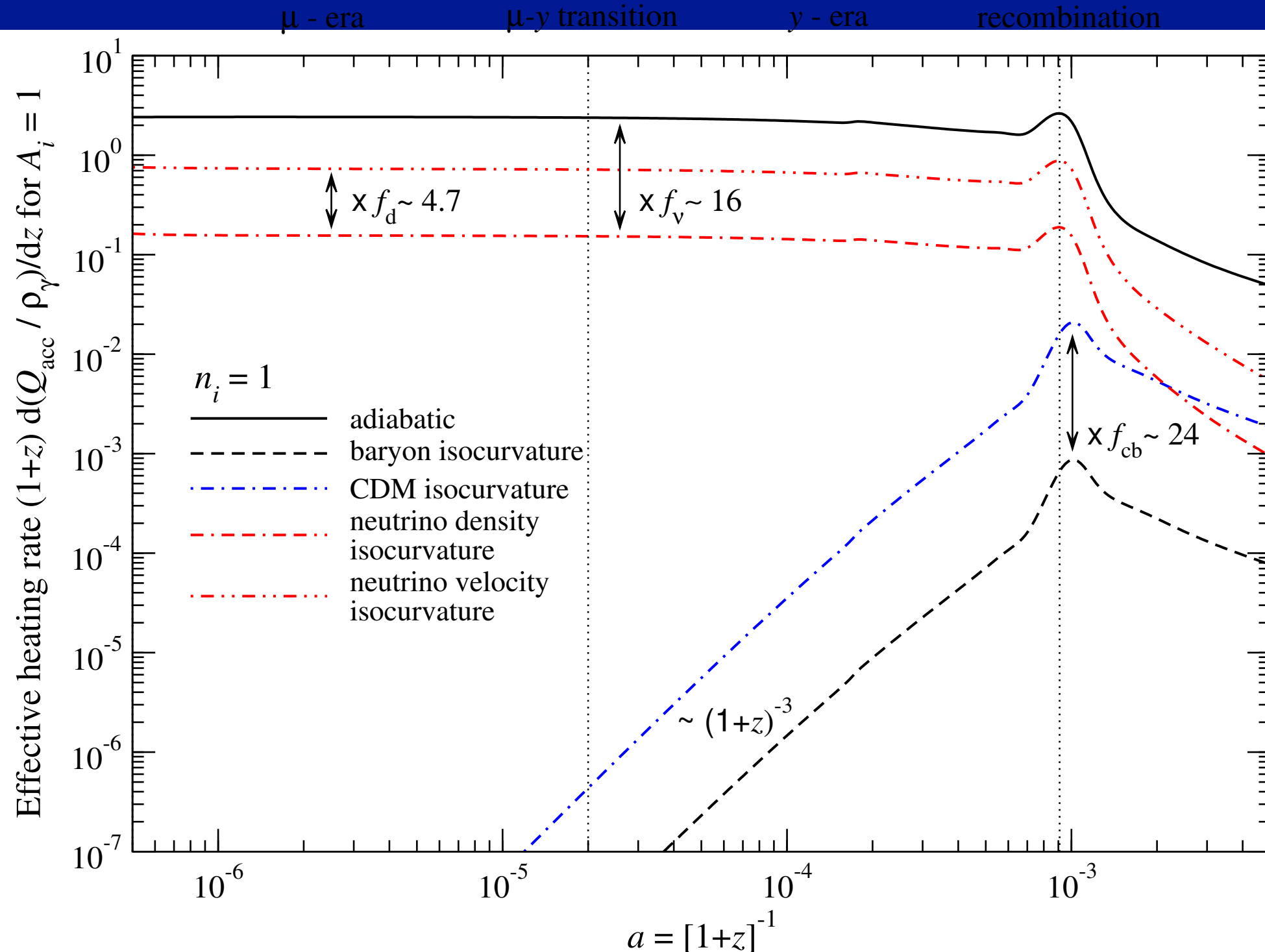
\* **Planck 1st-year temperature constraints** (Et al *et al...*, 2013)

$$4.6 \times 10^{-3} \lesssim \frac{P_{\text{iso}}}{P_{\text{tot}}} \lesssim 1.6 \times 10^{-2}$$

\* **Constraints relax if assumptions** (scale-invariance, single isocurvature mode) relaxed: Bean et al. 2009

$r_{\text{iso}}$	CI	NID	NIV		CI+NID+NIV	No BBN/bias
	$n_{\text{adi}} = n_{\text{iso}}$	$n_{\text{adi}} = n_{\text{iso}}$	$n_{\text{adi}} = n_{\text{iso}}$			
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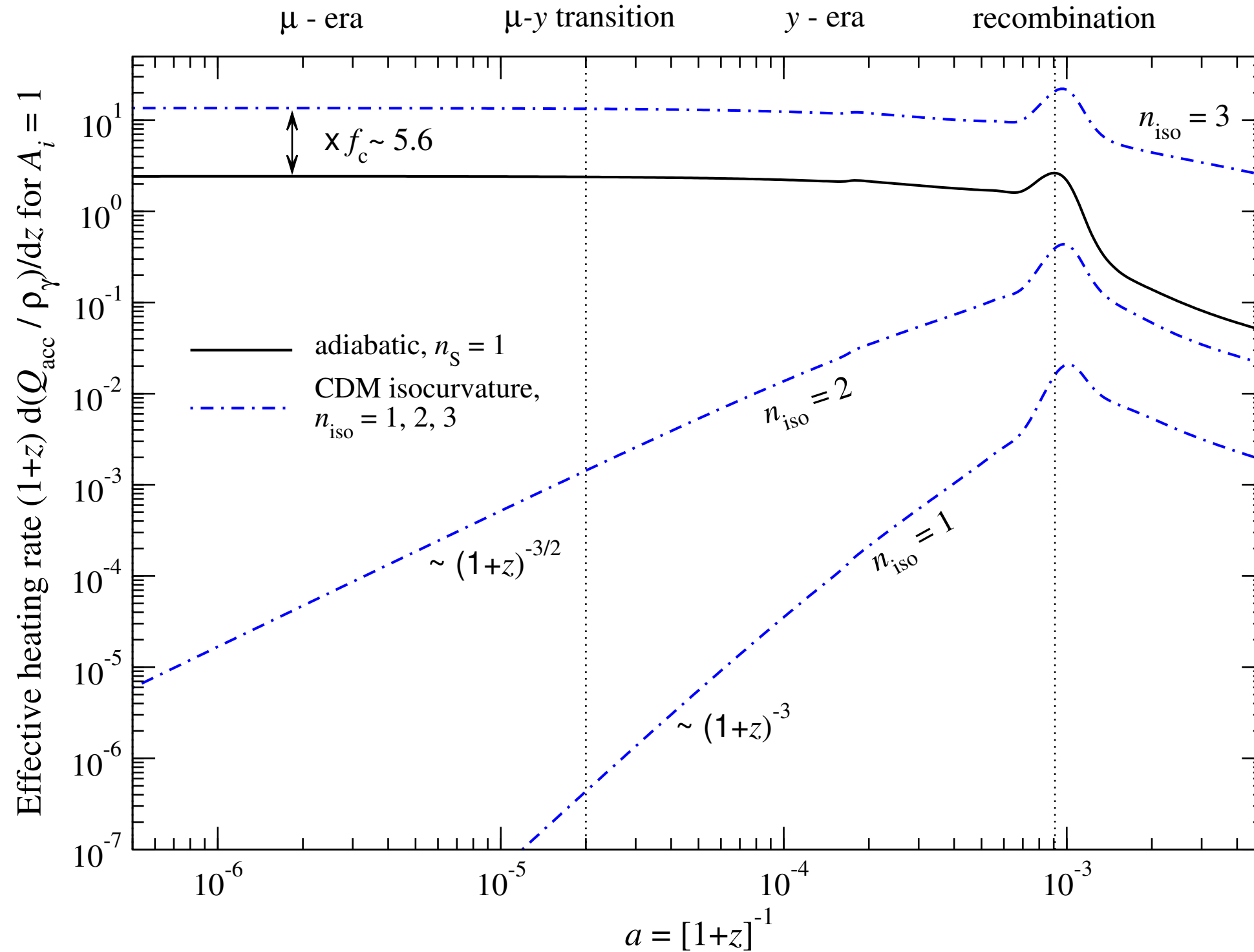
# HEATING AND DISTORTION FROM ALTERNATE INITIAL CONDITIONS



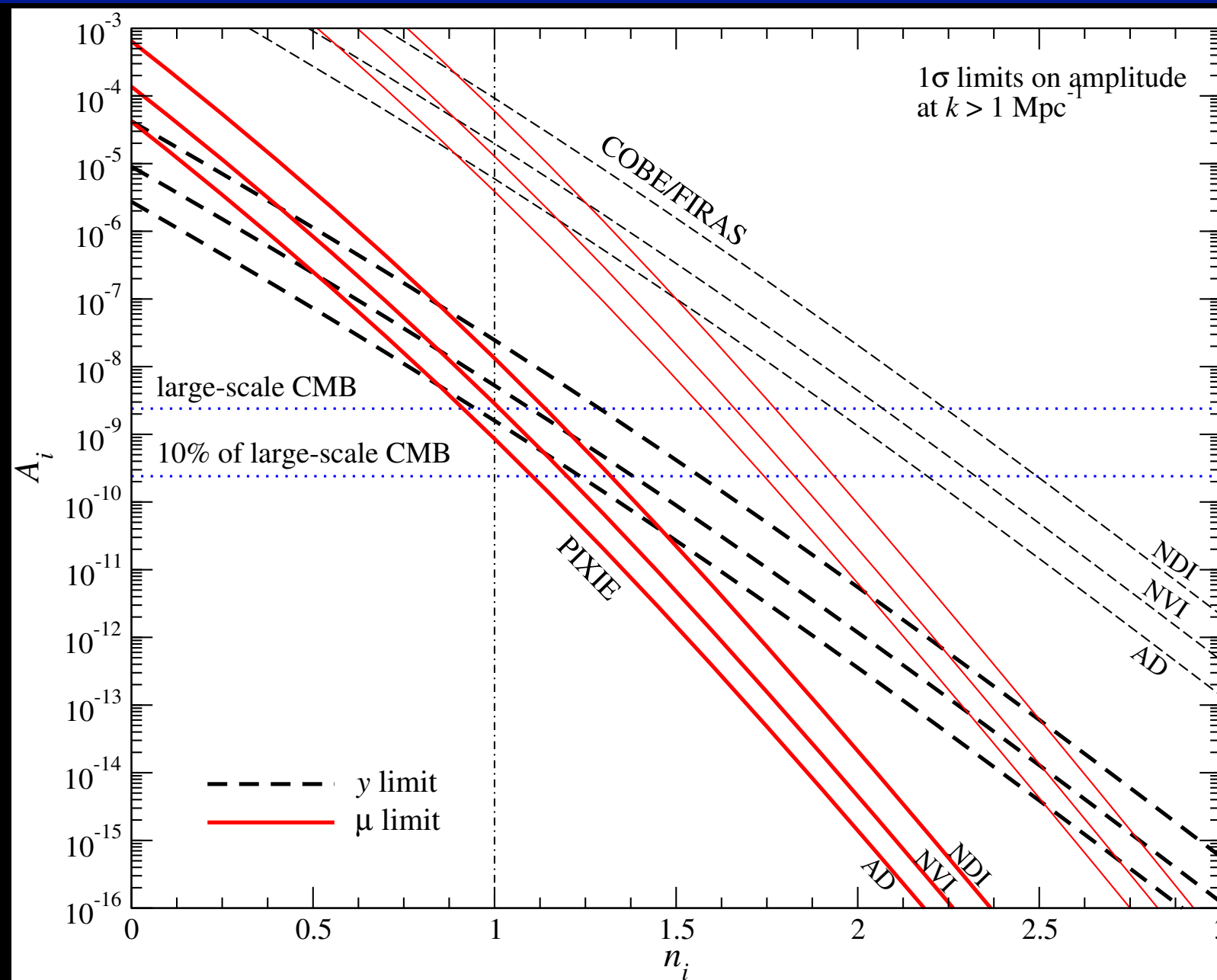
Isocurvature in relativistic species yields more energy injection during  $\mu$ -era

Isocurvature in non-relativistic species less suppressed during matter domination

# RESULTS DEPEND ON POWER SPECTRUM OF ISOCURVATURE MODES



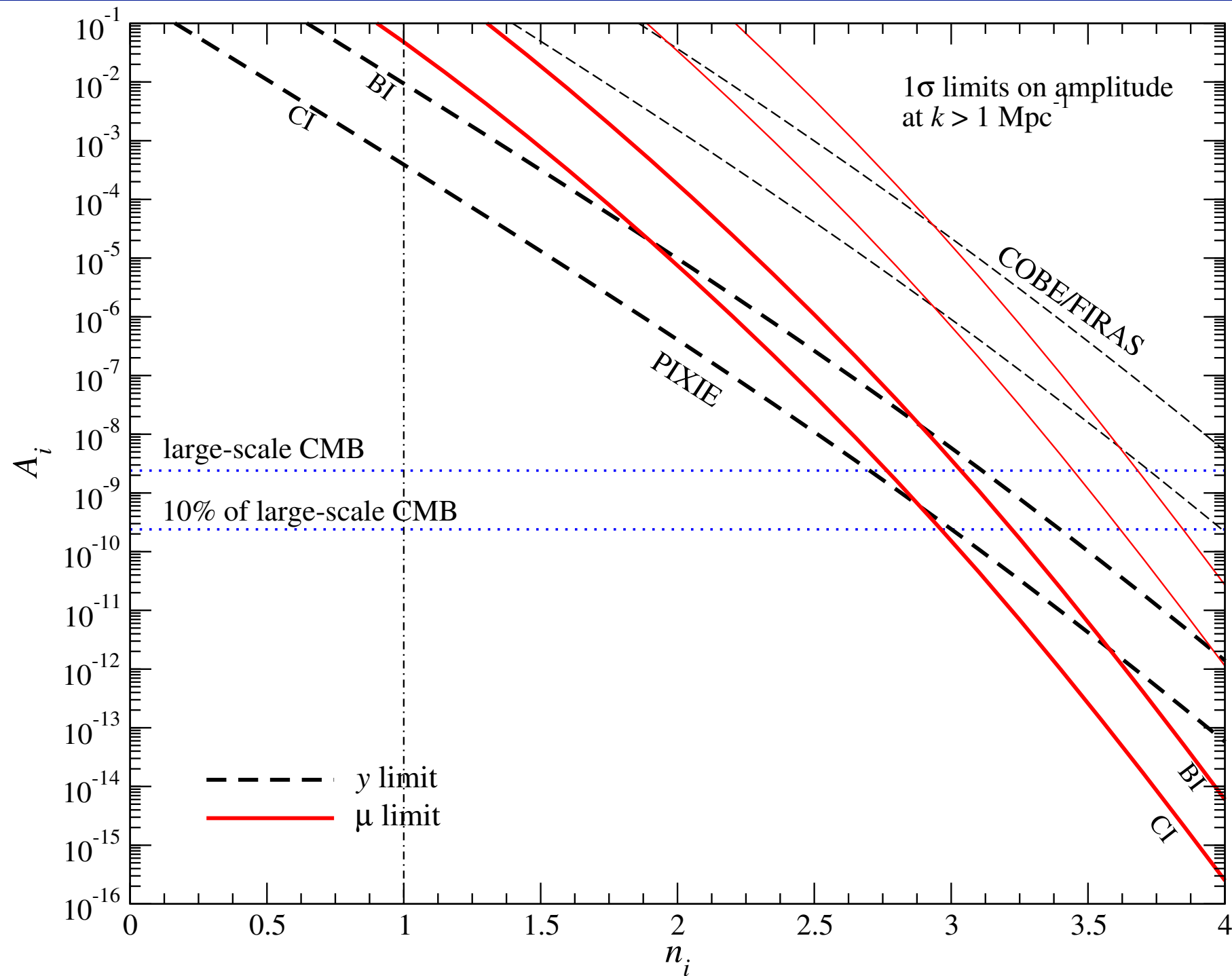
# DISTORTIONS PROBE SPECTRAL SLOPE AND/OR INITIAL CONDITIONS OF PRIMORDIAL FLUCTUATIONS



$$\mu \leq 10^{-8}$$
$$y \leq 2 \times 10^{-9}$$

→ **PIXIE SENSITIVITY**

# DISTORTIONS PROBE SPECTRAL SLOPE AND/OR INITIAL CONDITIONS OF PRIMORDIAL FLUCTUATIONS





# Small field models

- \* Small-field inflationary models with non-monotonic  $\left(\frac{V'}{V}\right)^2$  (Ben-Dayan/Brustein 2010) can evade Lyth Bound

$$\Delta\phi \geq m_{\text{pl}} \sqrt{\frac{r}{4\pi}}$$

**Experimentally relevant!**

- \* Model predicts  $\mu \sim 10^{-6}$  (Chluba/Erickcek/Ben-Dayan 2012)



# Phase transitions and spectral distortions from scaling seeds

with M. Amin  
*arXiv: 1405.1039*



# Phase transitions and spectral distortions from scaling seeds

with M. Amin  
*arXiv: 1405.1039*

*Background on scaling seeds: Durrer et al. (Physics Reports 2001)*  
*See work by Durrer, Kunz, Stebbins, Albrecht, Hu, White,*  
*Ferreira, Joyce, Melchiorri, Magueijo, Shellard*

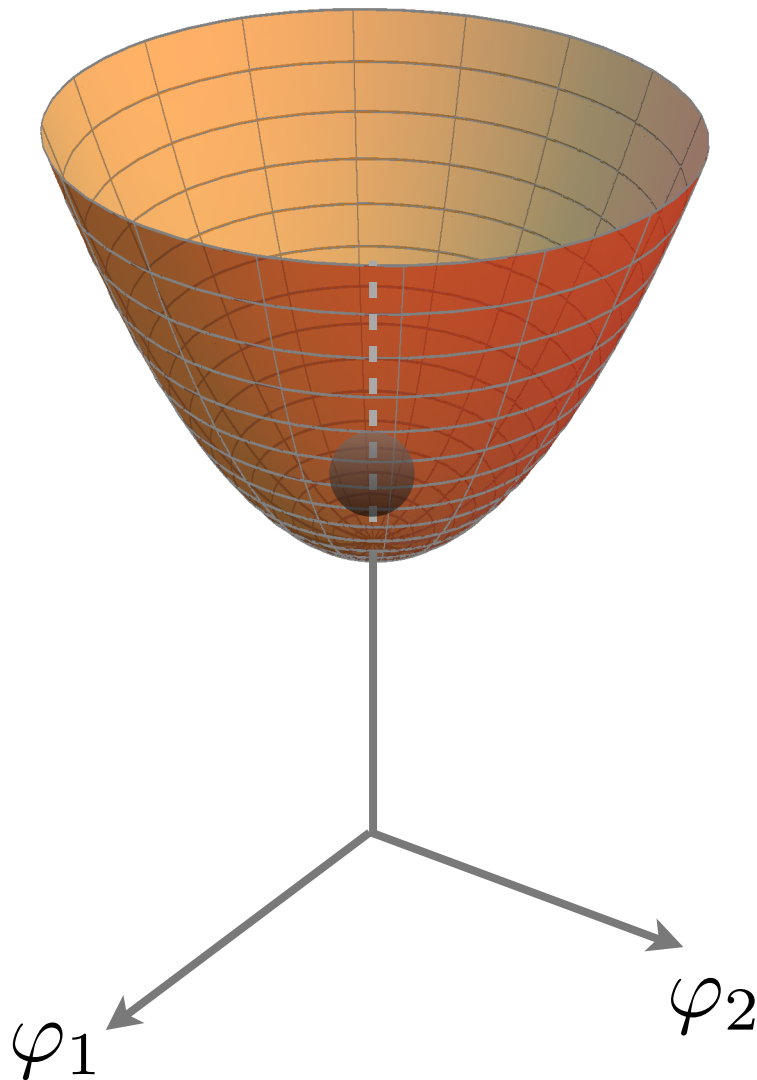


# Phase transitions and spectral distortions from scaling seeds

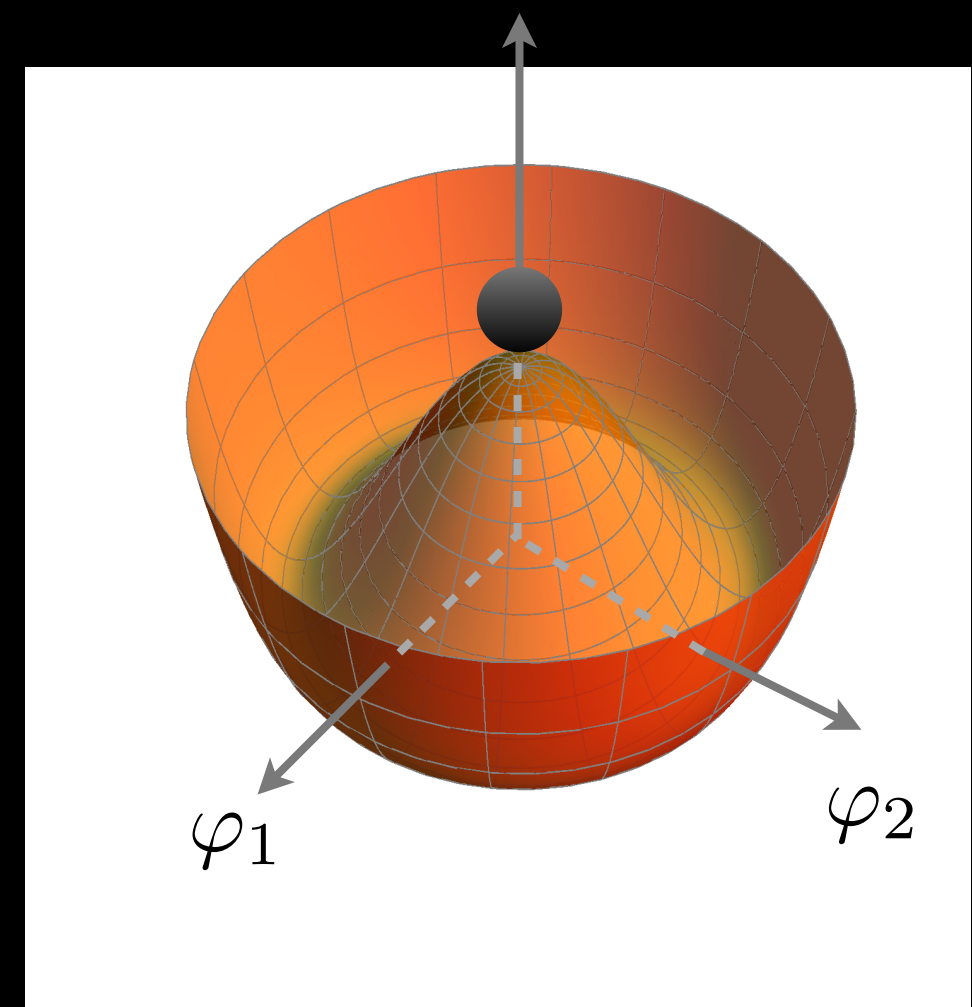
with M. Amin  
*arXiv: 1405.1039*

# Phase transitions and spectral distortions

STABLE



UNSTABLE

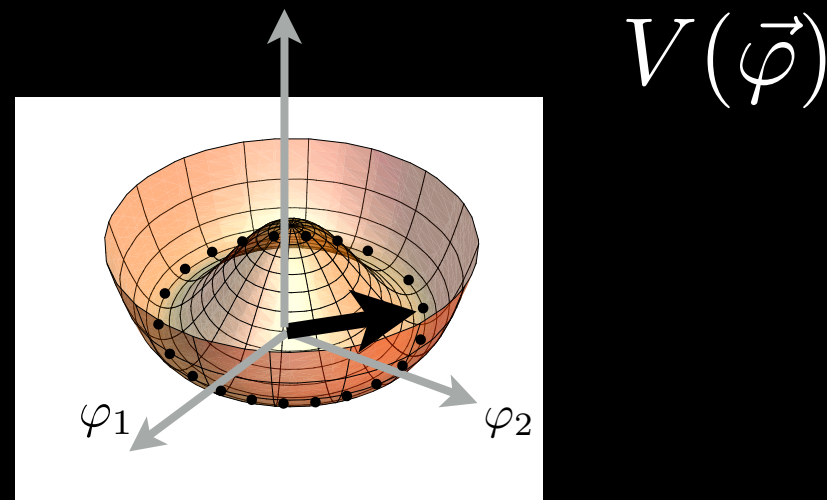


DECREASING TEMPERATURE 

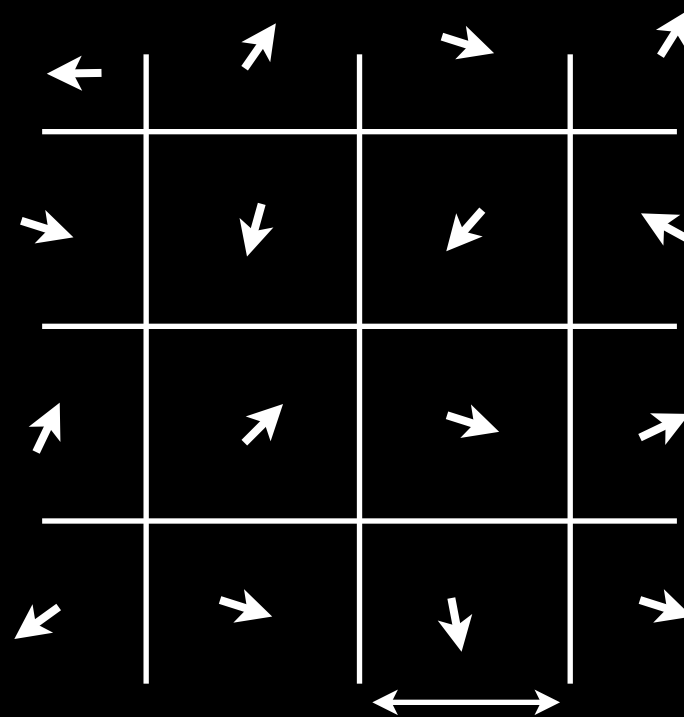
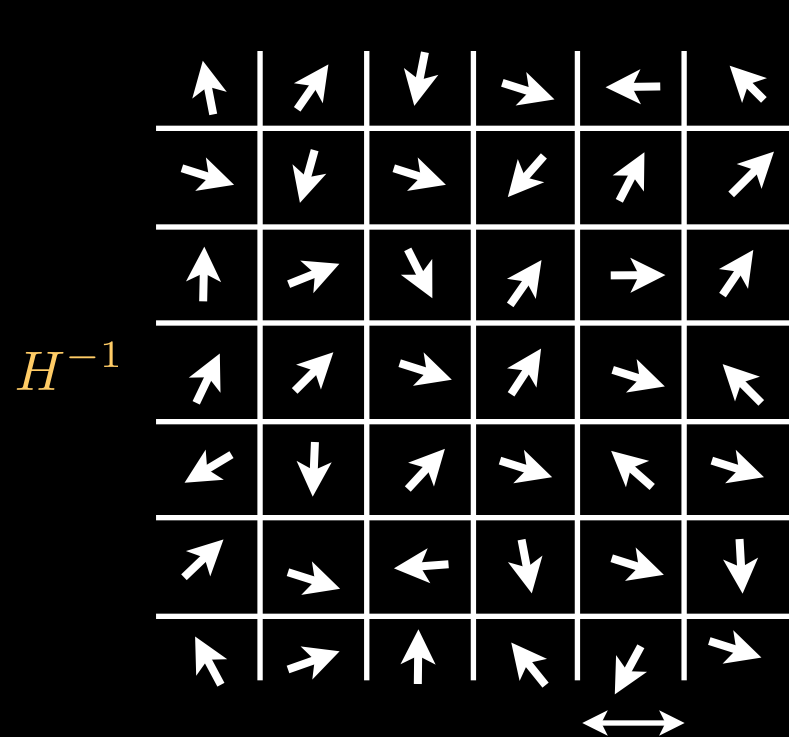
Break a global  $O(N)$  symmetry

# Scaling-seed network:

$N > 4$  [otherwise, dangerous defects]



Break a global  $O(N)$  symmetry



Time

# Details: Non-linear source

- \* Back-reaction of metric on scaling seeds neglected
  - \* ‘Stiff approximation’: *Stebbins and Veeraraghavan 1996*
  - \* Field lives on vacuum manifold with free orientation

$$\sum_i |\phi_i|^2 = v^2$$

$$\square \vec{\varphi} + \left( \frac{\partial^\mu \vec{\varphi} \cdot \partial_\mu \vec{\varphi}}{v^2} \right) \vec{\varphi} = 0$$

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$$\text{spatial average} = \frac{C}{\eta^2}$$



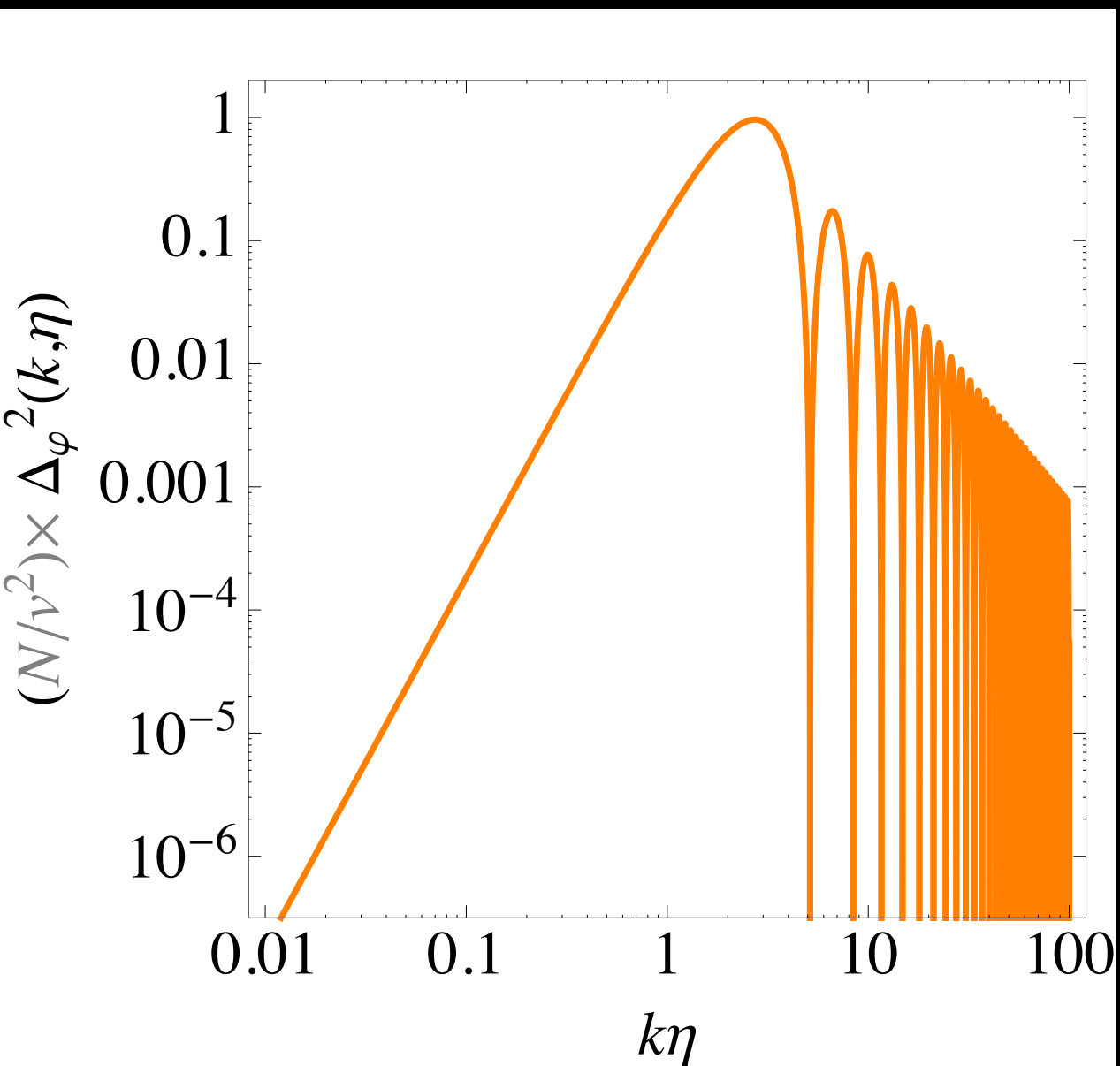
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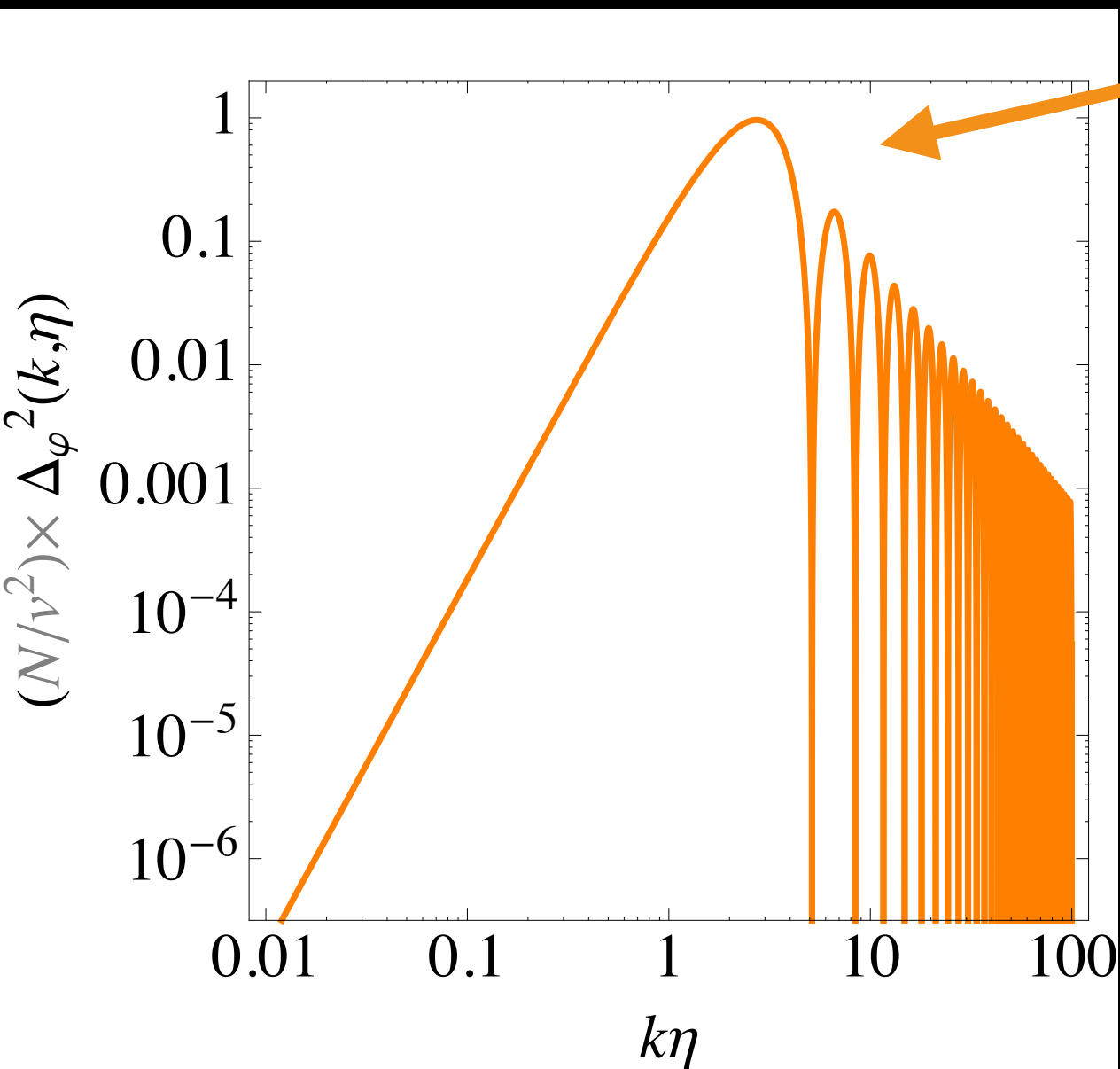
- \* Scaling *ansatz*- simulations and analytic arguments show adequacy in large-N limit

# Seed-correlation power-spectrum



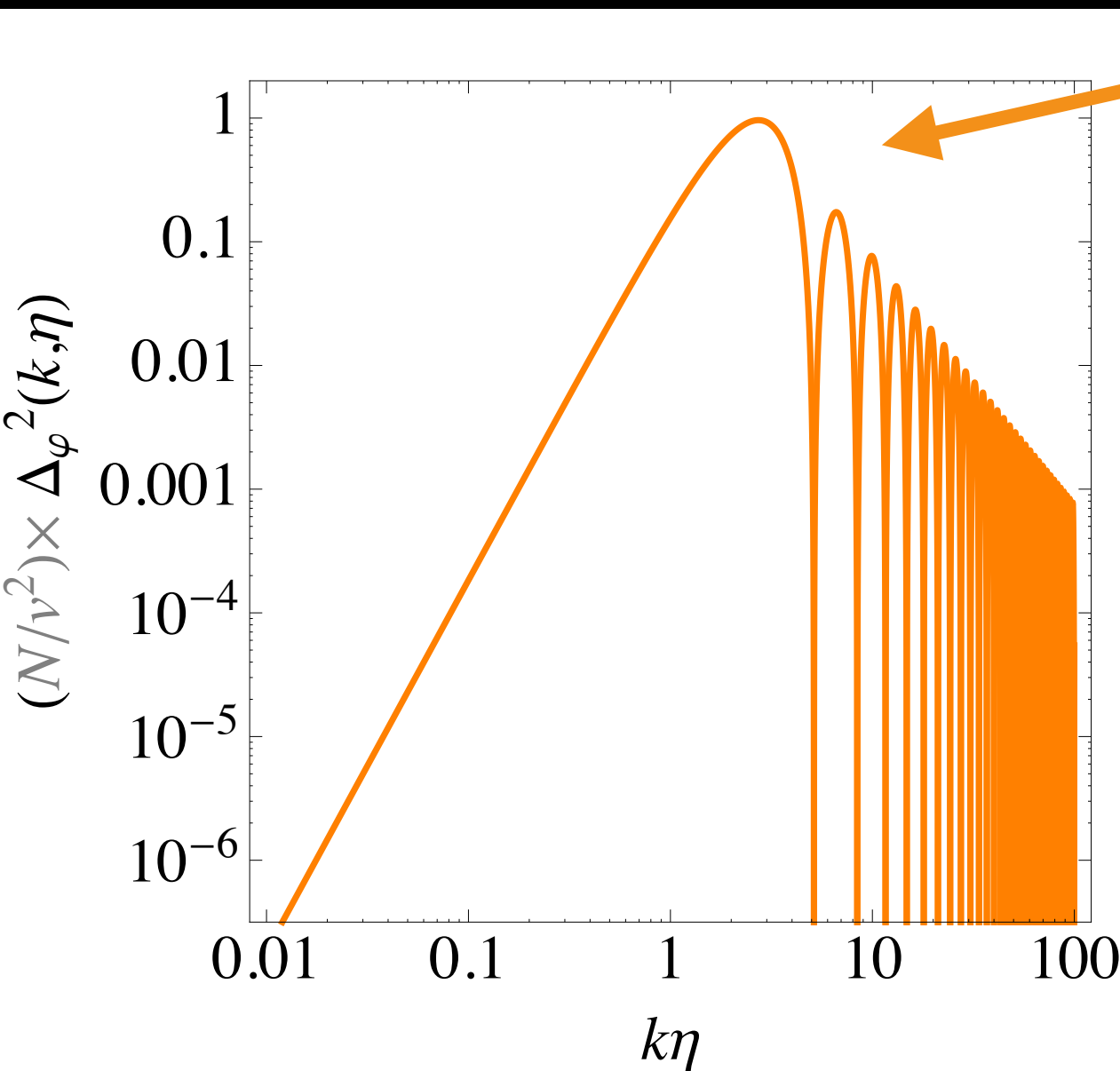
# Seed-correlation power-spectrum

Maximal fluctuation on horizon scale



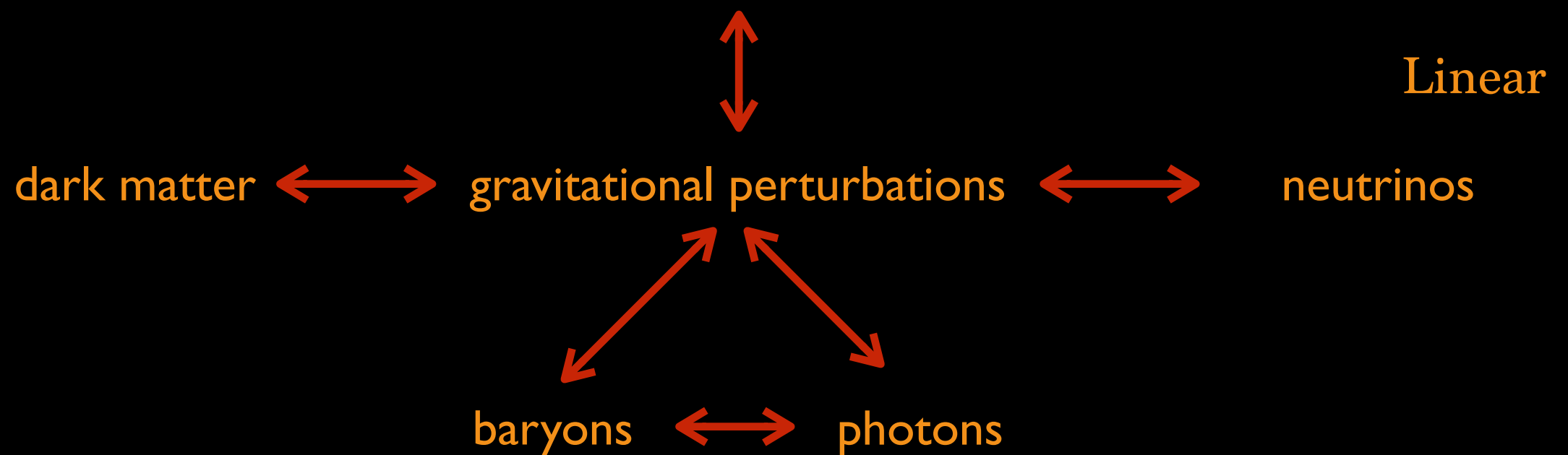
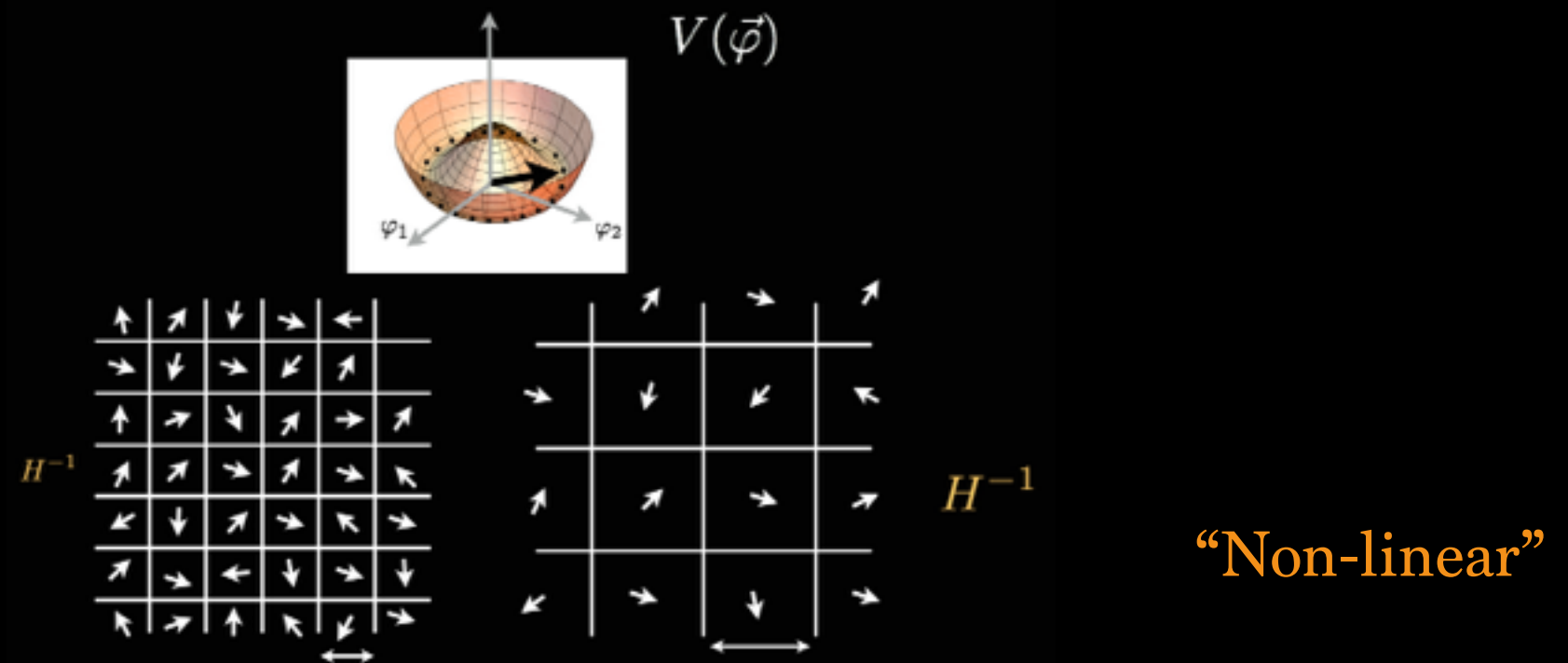
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Maximal fluctuation on horizon scale



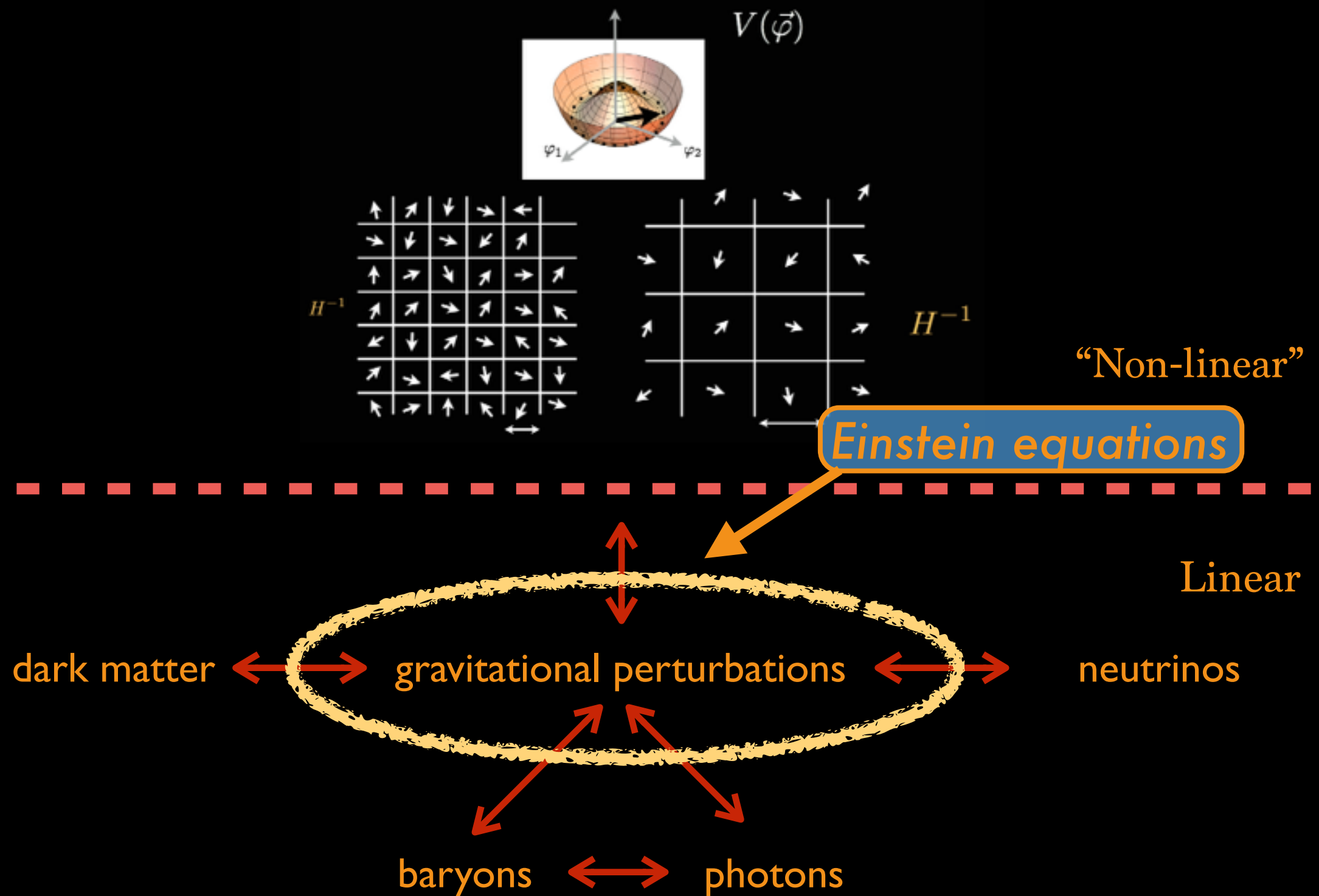
Compute gravitational potential fluctuations

# System to follow

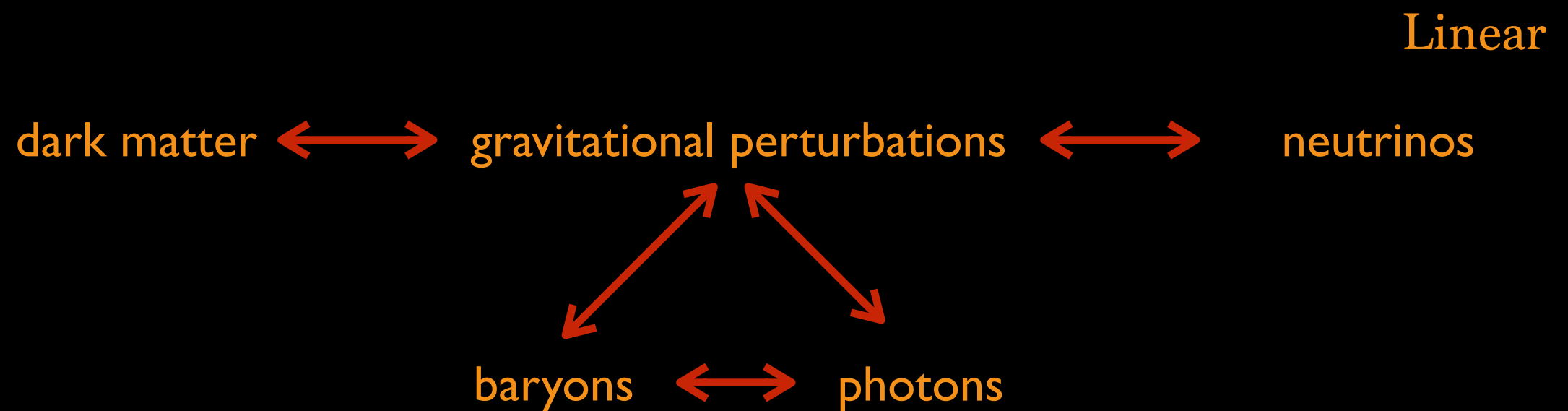




# System to follow



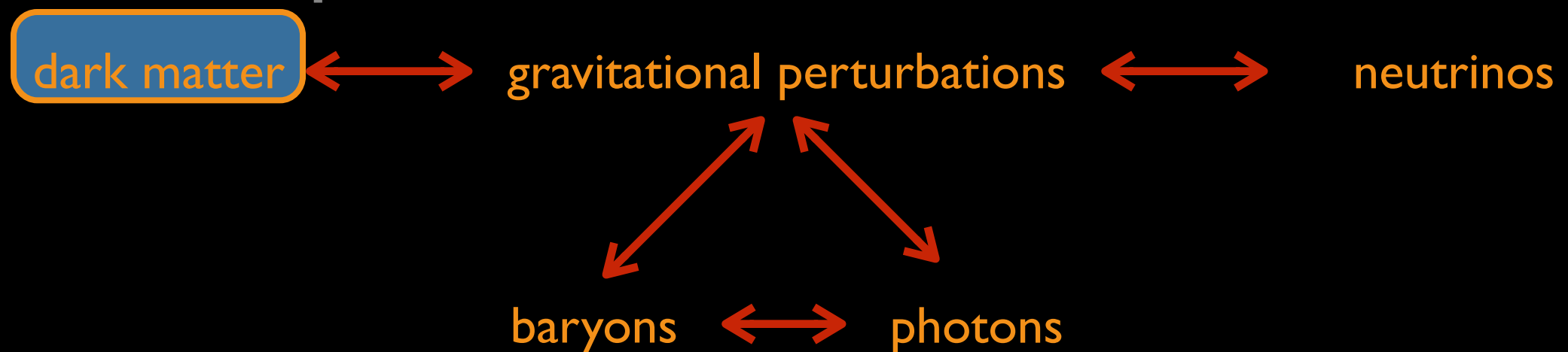
# System to follow



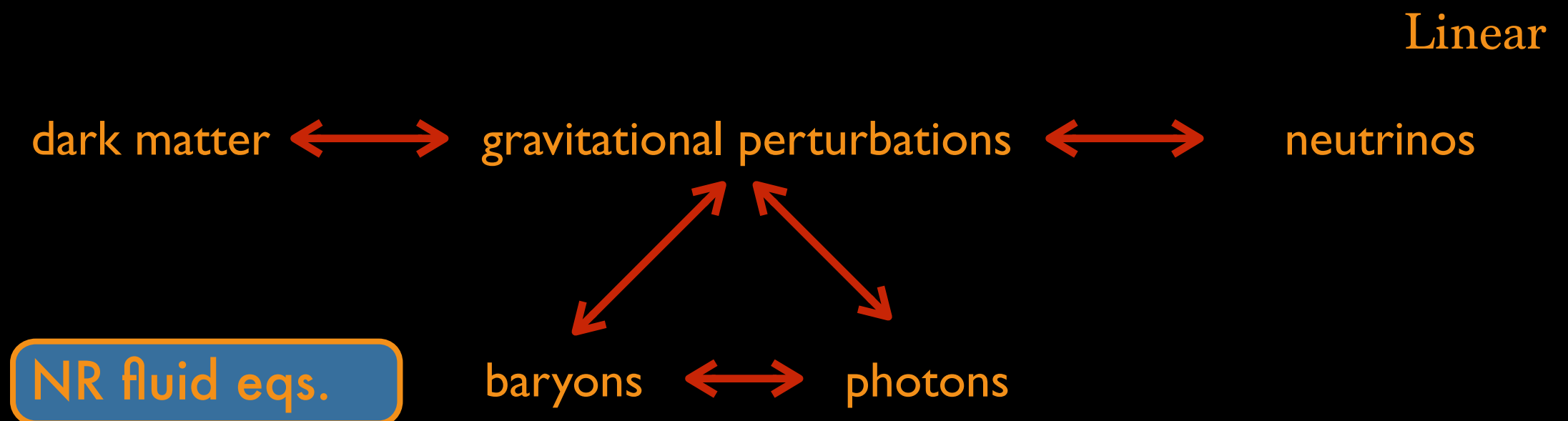
# System to follow

NR fluid eqs.

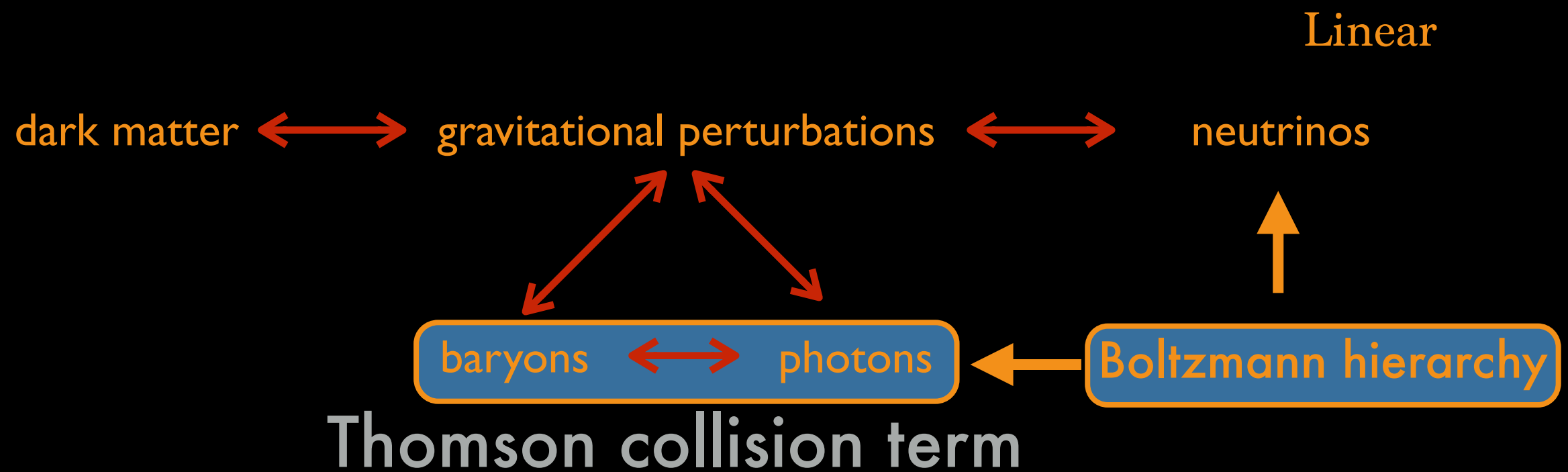
Linear



# System to follow



# System to follow





# System to follow

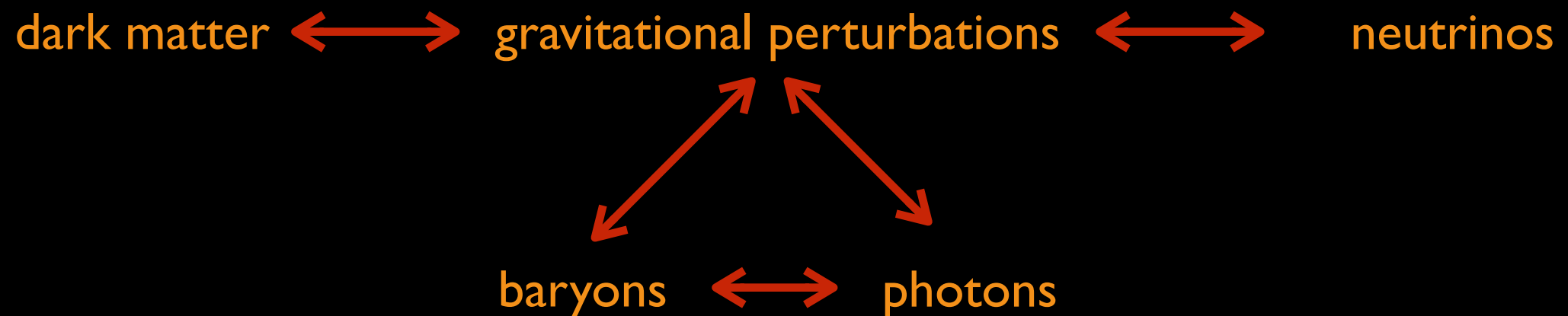
as in Hu/White  
astro-ph:9702120

$l=1,2$  for photons

$l=1-12$  for neutrinos

CN gauge

Linear



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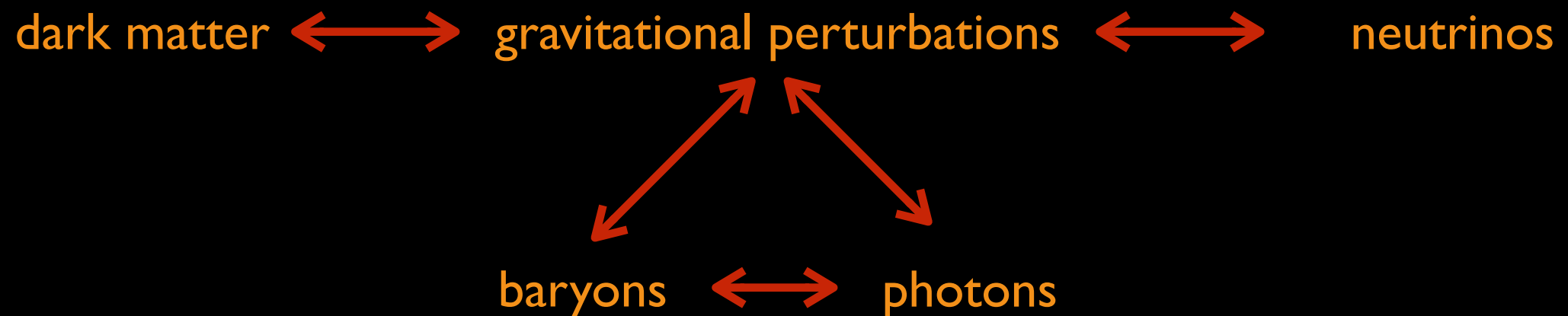
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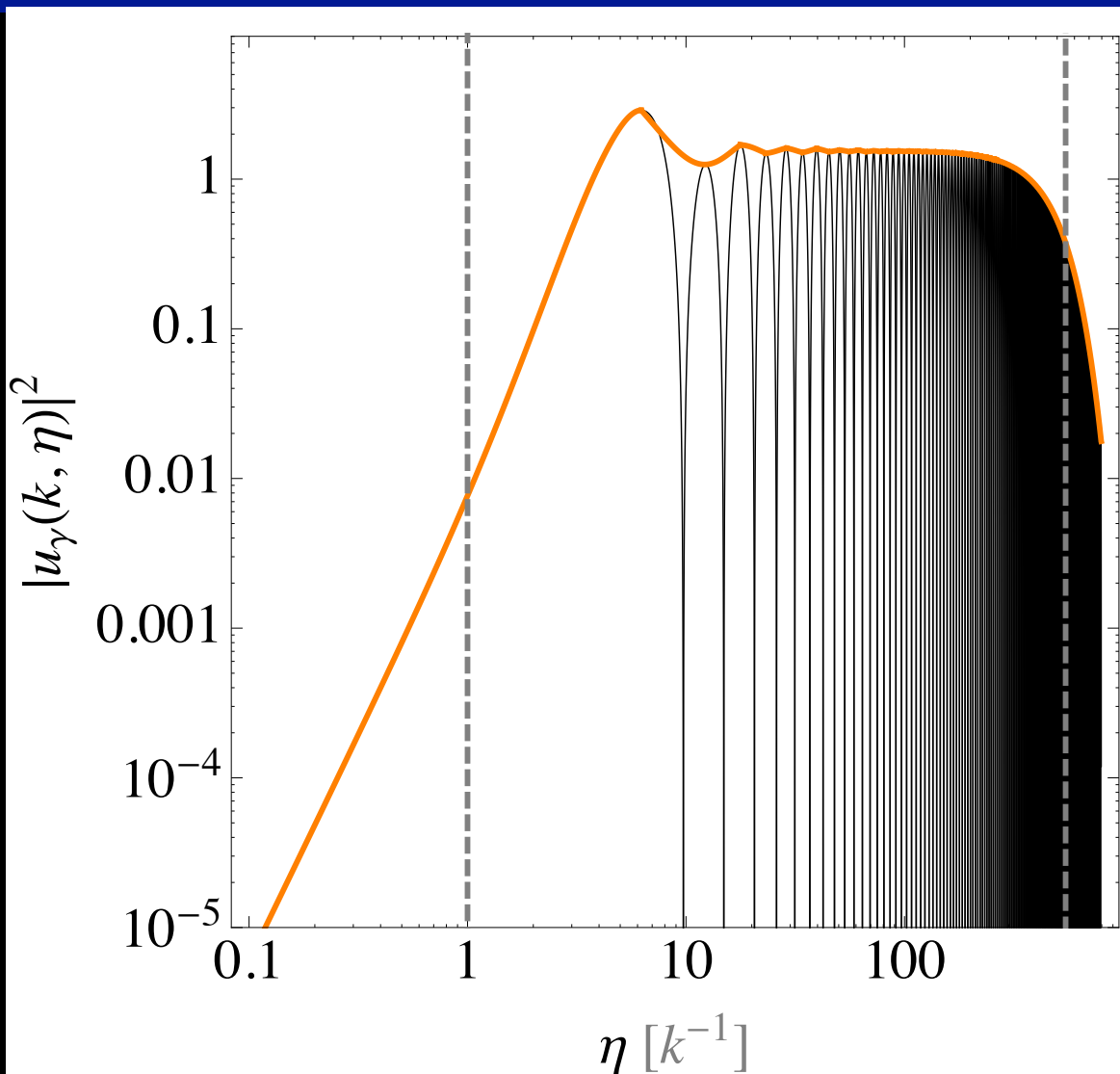
$$\epsilon \equiv \frac{k}{\dot{\tau}} \ll 1 \longrightarrow k \ll k_{\text{mfp}},$$

Can have  $k \sim k_{\text{D}}$

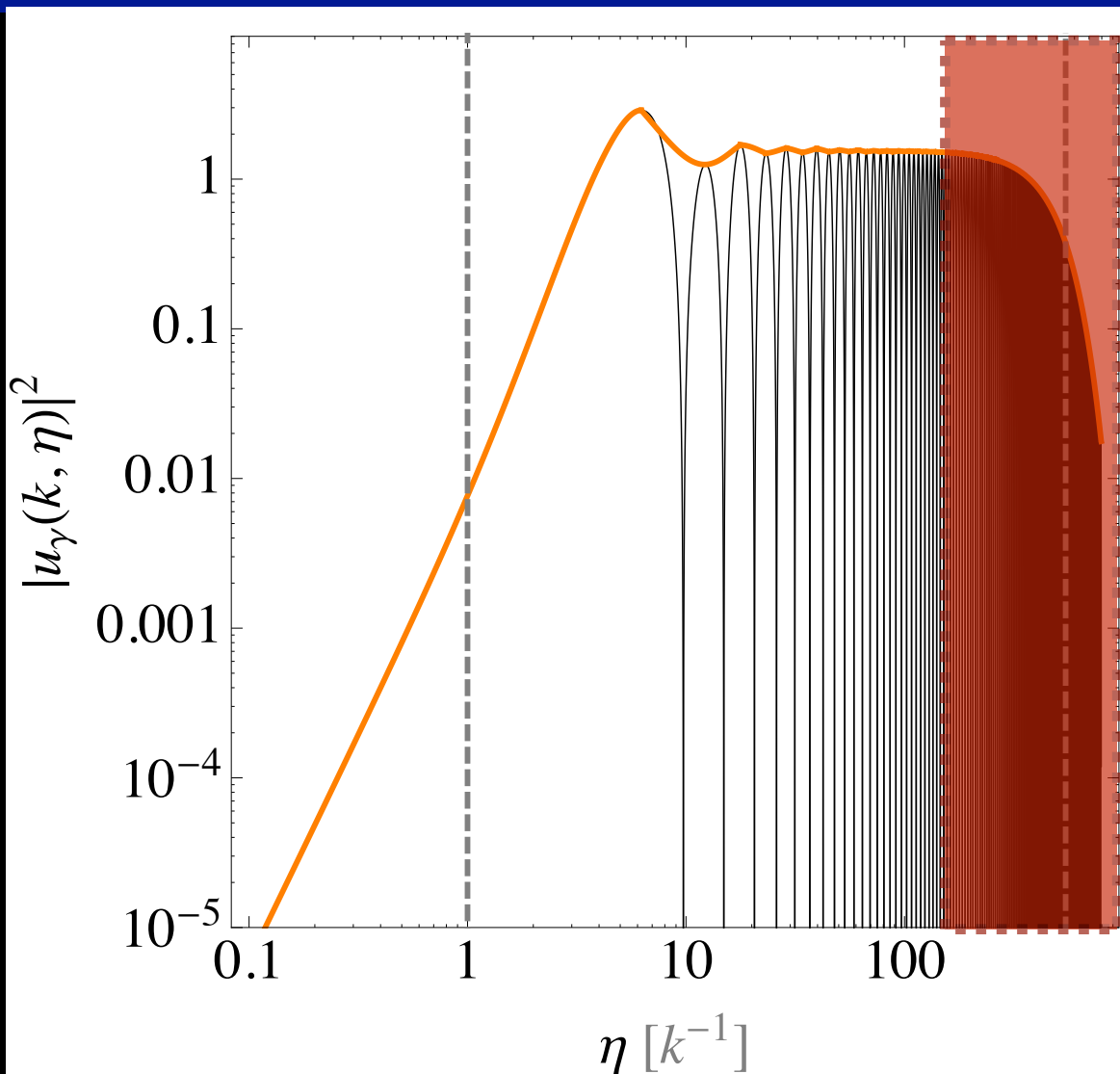
Linear



# Seeds drive baryon-photon plasma sound waves



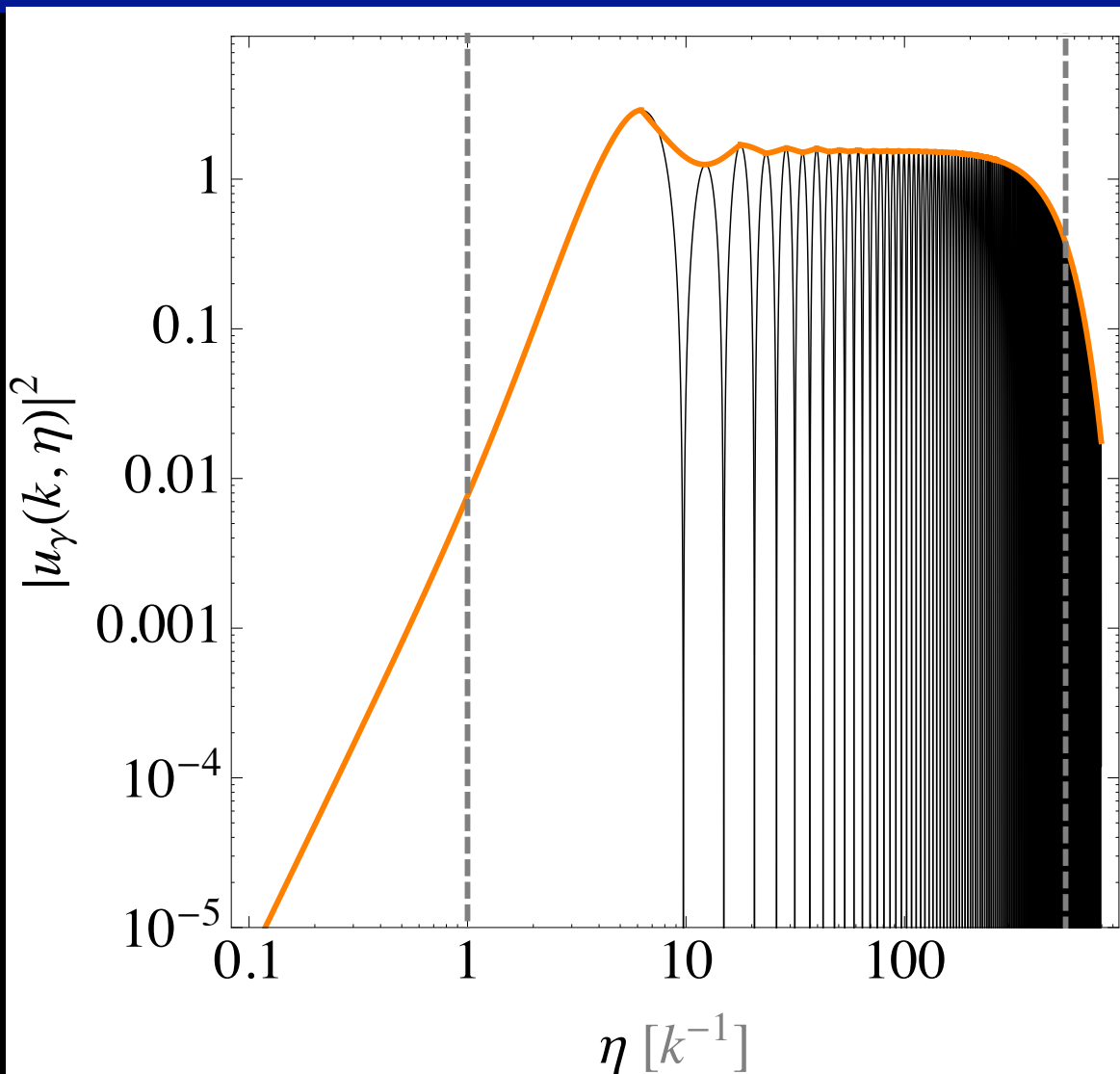
# Seeds drive baryon-photon plasma sound waves



$$\delta_\gamma \sim \frac{1}{\sqrt{N}} \frac{v^2}{m_{\text{pl}}^2} e^{-k^2/k_D^2}$$



# Seeds drive baryon-photon plasma sound waves



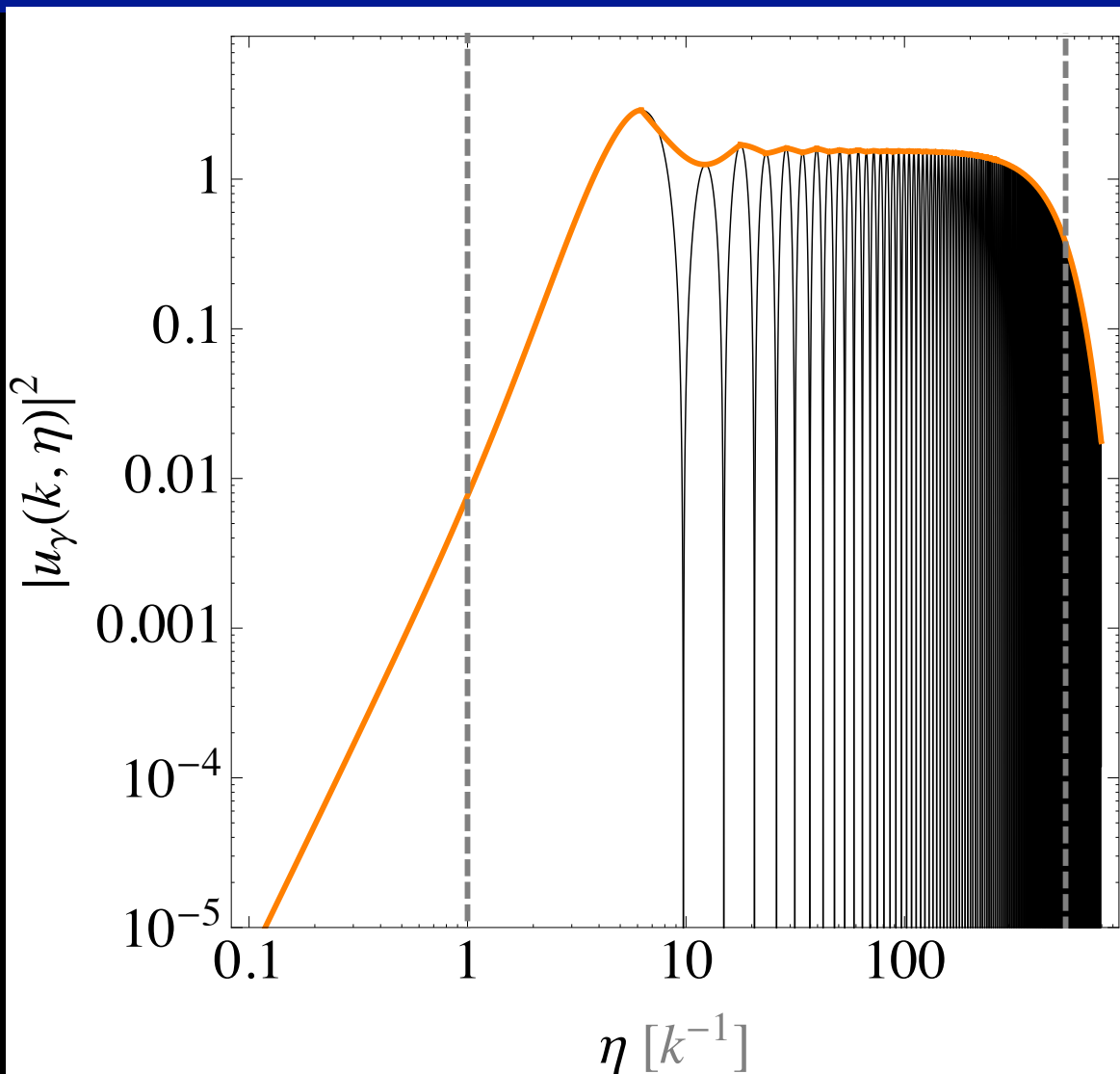
$$\mu \simeq 12 \times \frac{1}{N} \left( \frac{v}{m_{\text{pl}}} \right)^4$$

*Saturating Planck constraints*

$$\mu \sim 3 \times 10^{-9}$$



# Seeds drive baryon-photon plasma sound waves



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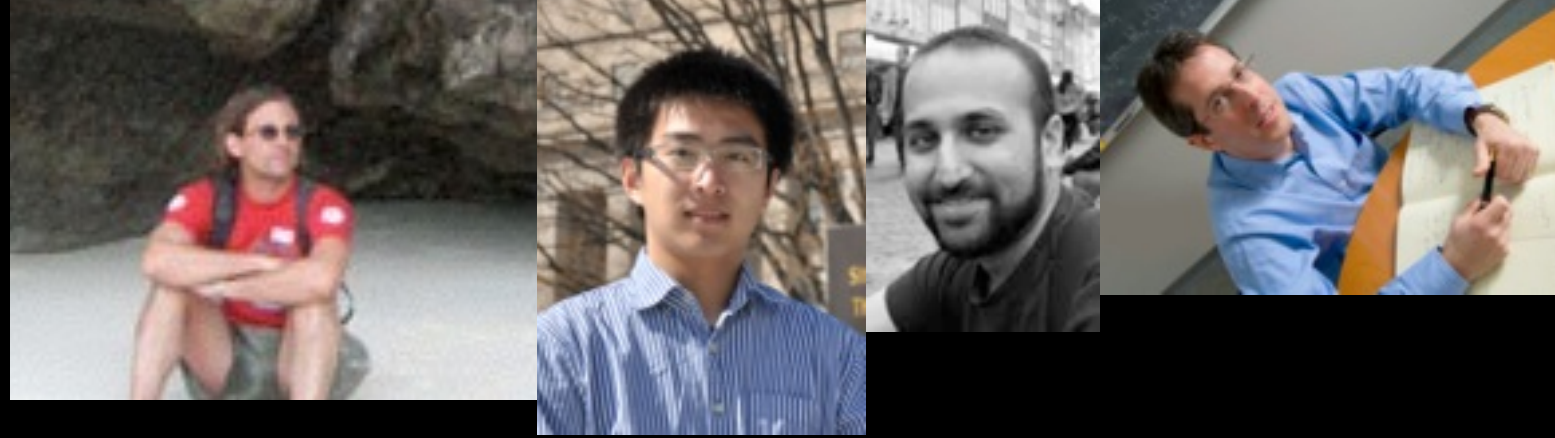
*Saturating Planck constraints*

$$\mu \sim 3 \times 10^{-9}$$

$$T_{\mu\nu} \propto (\delta\phi)^2$$

*Scalars, vectors, tensors excited*  
*Here, only scalars.....*





# Spectral distortions from gravitational waves

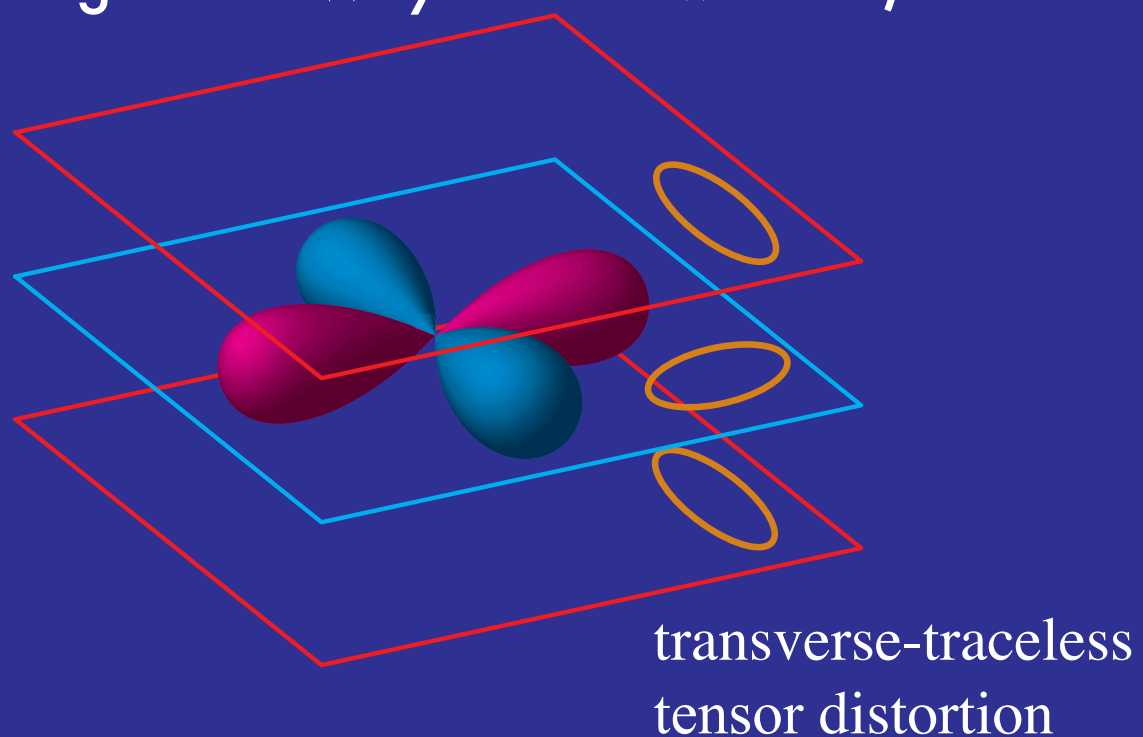
J.Chluba, L.Dai, DG, M. Amin, M. Kamionkowski

*arXiv: 1407.3653*



# Tensors source quadrupoles: superimpose blackbodies!

(image from Wayne Hu's website)



**\* $l=2$  anisotropy appears from GW, \*NO\* diffusion needed**

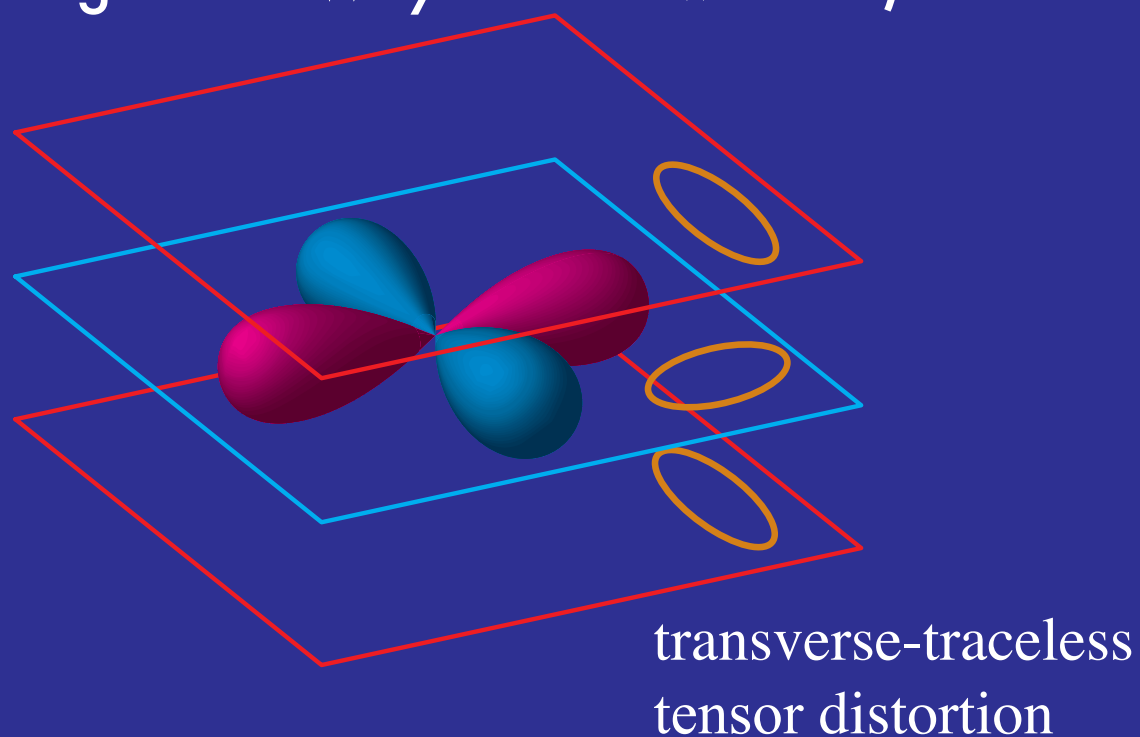
$$\partial_{\eta} \Theta_2^{(2)} = -\frac{9}{10} \dot{\tau} \Theta_2^{(2)} - \dot{h}$$

**\* Electron sees average spectrum — not BB**

**\* Rescatters into homogeneous component (spectral distortion)**

# Tensors source quadrupoles: superimpose blackbodies!

(image from Wayne Hu's website)



$\epsilon$ -expansion (tight-coupling) not always valid

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# Physics of tensor driving in baryon-photon plasma

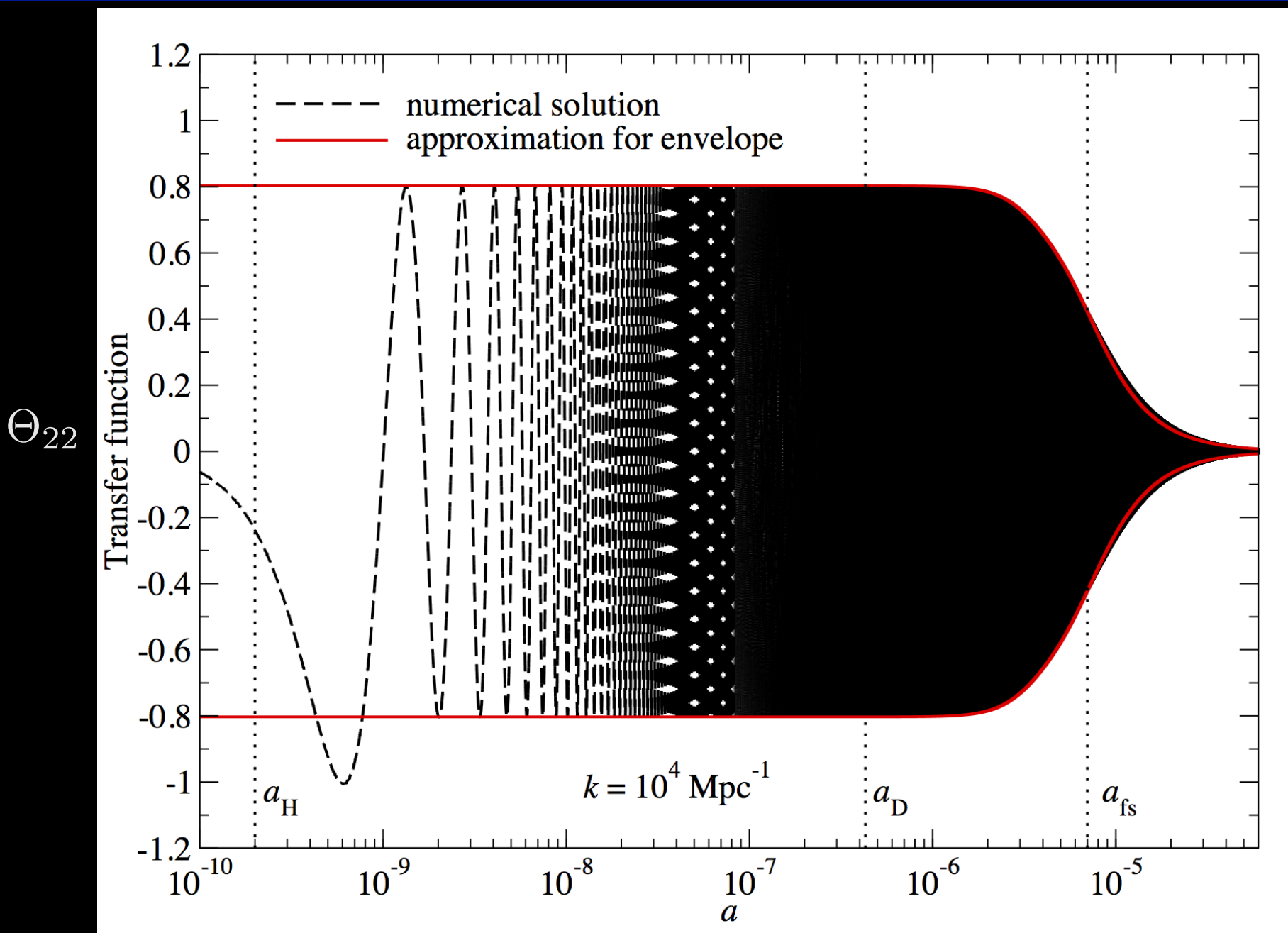
- \*No pressure support (no compression)
- \*Thomson scattering isotropizes radiation
- \*Baryons don't carry shear — no Hubble damping

$$\partial_\eta \Theta_2^{(2)} = -\frac{9}{10} \dot{\tau} \Theta_2^{(2)} - \dot{h}$$

$$\Theta_2^2(k) \sim \begin{cases} \epsilon h & \text{if } k \ll \dot{\tau} \\ i h & \text{if } k \gg \dot{\tau} \end{cases}$$

- \*Driven, critically damped oscillator
- \*Diffusion/free-streaming populate higher multipole moments
  - \*more anisotropy, additional 'heating' sources
  - \*damped by powers of  $\epsilon$

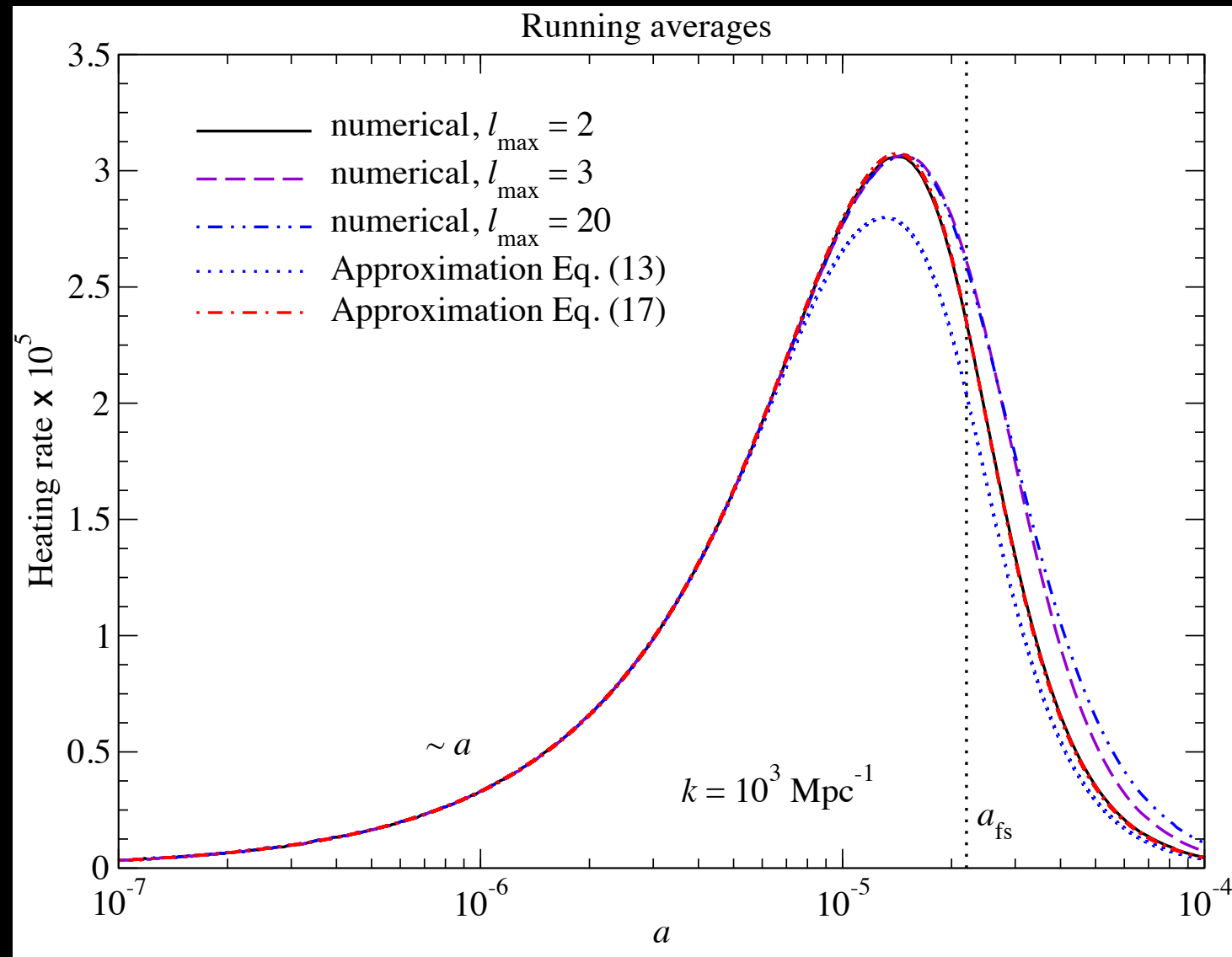
# Mode evolution



\*Ev'ln eqns in Hu/White

\*Tensor evolves as  $h \propto \frac{\sin k\eta}{k\eta} + \text{neutrino damping terms}$

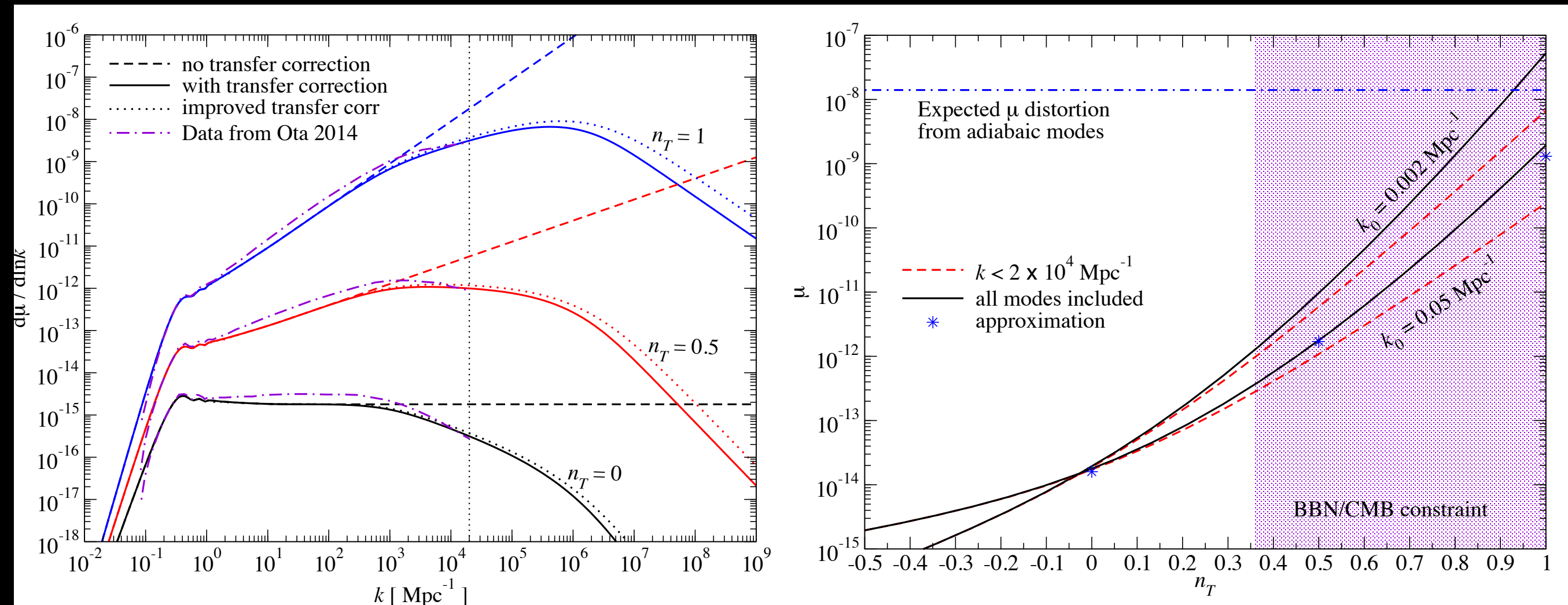
# Heating rate



- \*GW damped by photons as well, energy  $\longrightarrow \gamma$  anisotropy
- \*Small change in GW amplitude, but main source of distortion

# Distortion

## \*Heating rate per log(k)



\*Stronger signal for blue spectra

\*Broader (but smaller) kernel compared to adiabatic modes

\*Detection would be formidable in range not probed by BBN

# Punch-line and next steps

- \* SD are a powerful probe of NID/NIV mode: all spectra
- \* SDs are a nice probe of BI/CI mode: blue spectra
- \* SDs can test anisotropy constraints to scaling-seed models
- \* Blue tensors can yield detectable SDs
- \* Future work
  - \* Vector-sourced SDs
  - \* Amplitude of vector/tensor SDs from scaling seeds



# Curvaton

- \* Tested correlated isocurvature with amplitudes allowed by Planck CMB local-type non-G constraints
- \* All 18 scenarios allowed by *Planck* limits are  $\sim 2$  orders of magnitude away from PIXIE detectability

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Simple curvaton models are not a promising target for SD experiments!