

From Multi-Exchange Signals to Model Building in Cosmological Correlators

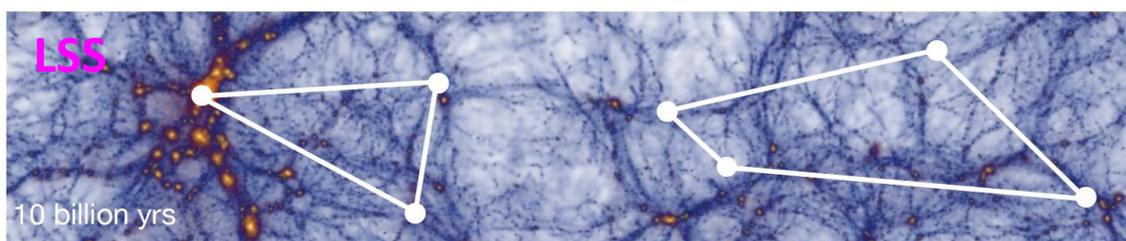
Shuntaro Aoki
(RIKEN iTHEMS)



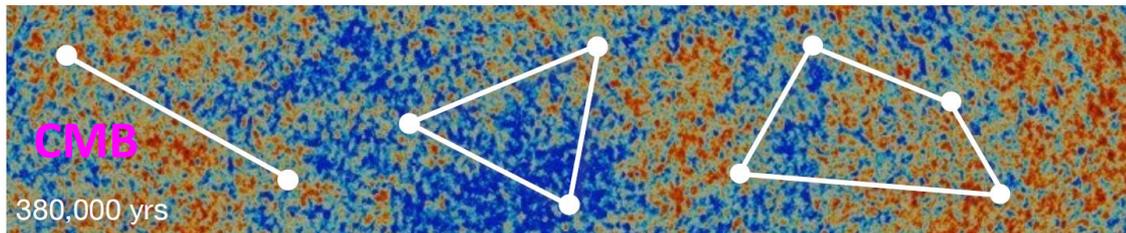
Progress of Theoretical Bootstrap
November 21, 2025

Cosmological correlators

$\delta\rho$



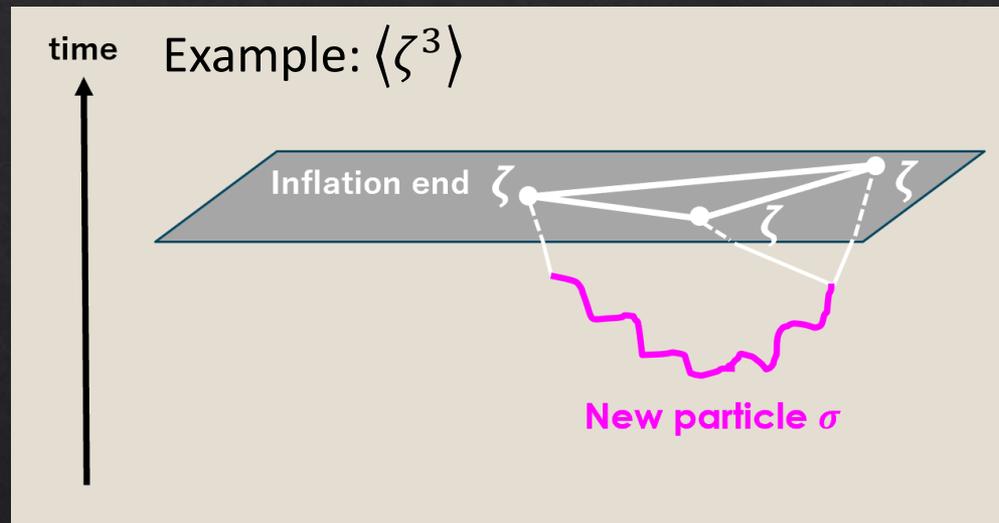
δT



ζ



Correlators with massive particles



Cosmic expansion creates σ with mass $\sim H$

Correlators with massive particles

➤ “Cosmological Collider”

$$\langle \zeta^3 \rangle |_{k_L \ll k_S} \sim e^{-\pi\mu} \left(\frac{k_L}{k_S} \right)^{\frac{3}{2}} \cos \left[\mu \log \left(\frac{k_L}{k_S} \right) + \delta(\mu) \right] P_s(\cos \theta)$$

Boltzmann suppression

dilution

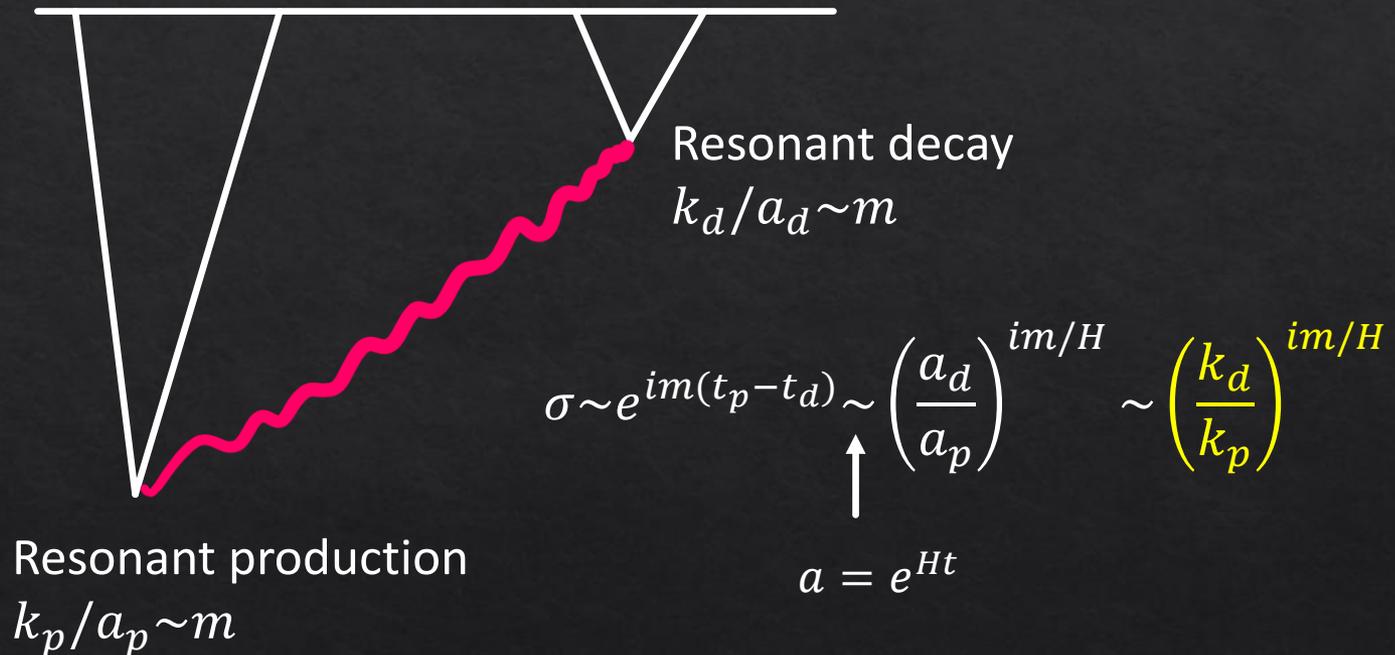
$\mu \sim m_\sigma / H$: mass

spin

Chen, Wang, '10
Baumann, Green, '12
Noumi, Yamaguchi, Yokoyama, '13
Arkani-Hamed, Maldacena, '15

➤ $m_\sigma \sim H_{\text{inf}} \sim 10^{14} \text{ (GeV)} \gg \gg \gg 10^{4,5} \text{ (GeV)} \sim \text{collider on earth}$

Why oscillation??



Hubble mass??

➤ SUSY

- Broken by cosmic expansion
- Soft mass $\sim H_{\text{inf}}$

➤ Non-minimal coupling

- $\xi \sigma^2 R \sim 12 \xi H_{\text{inf}}^2 \sigma^2$

Contents

- Phenomenology (model building aspects)

SA, A. Ghoshal and A. Strumia, 2408.07069

- Structure of correlators (multiple exchange process)

SA, L. Pinol, F. Sano, M. Yamaguchi, Y. Zhu, 2404.09547

Phenomenology (model building aspects)

Many important works so far

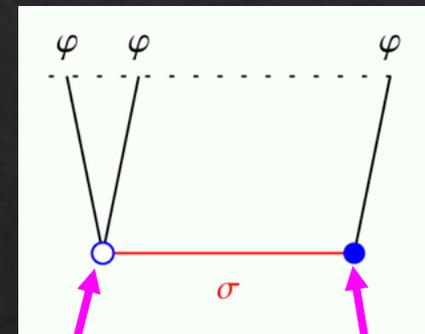
- SM background (Chen, Wang, Xianyu, 1610.06597)
- Neutrino (Chen, Wang, Xianyu, 1805.02656)
- SUSY (Baumann, Green, 1109.0292)
- Higher dimensions (Kumar, Sundrum, 1811.11200)
- GUT (Maru, Okawa, 2206.06651)
- Massive graviton (Tong, Xianyu, 2203.06349)
- ...

Questions

- Conditions for large CC signal ?

$$\langle \zeta^3 \rangle |_{k_L \ll k_s} \sim e^{-\pi\mu} \left(\frac{k_L}{k_s} \right)^{\frac{3}{2}} \cos \left[\mu \log \left(\frac{k_L}{k_s} \right) + \delta(\mu) \right] P_s(\cos \theta)$$

??



??

??

- Important diagram?

Setup

➤ Target & Assumption

- $\langle \zeta^3 \rangle$ with tree scalar σ exchange
- Inflation scenario: $\zeta \sim \varphi$ (inflaton)

➤ Require

- Consistent with n_s and r (with backreaction)
- No fine-tuning of parameters and initial conditions

➤ General discussion -> specific models

Generalities for perturbations

two scalars ϕ^a ($a = 1,2$)

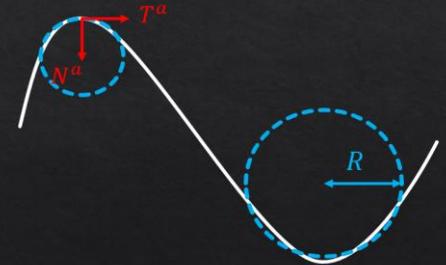
$$S = \int d^4x \sqrt{|\det g|} \left[-\frac{\bar{M}_{\text{Pl}}^2}{2} R + \frac{K_{ab}(\phi)}{2} (\partial_\mu \phi^a) (\partial^\mu \phi^b) - V(\phi) \right]$$

↓

$$\begin{aligned} \phi^a &= \phi_0^a \text{ (BG)} + \delta\phi^a \text{ (fluctuations)} \\ \delta\phi^a &= \varphi T^a + \sigma N^a \text{ } (\varphi \sim \zeta) \end{aligned}$$

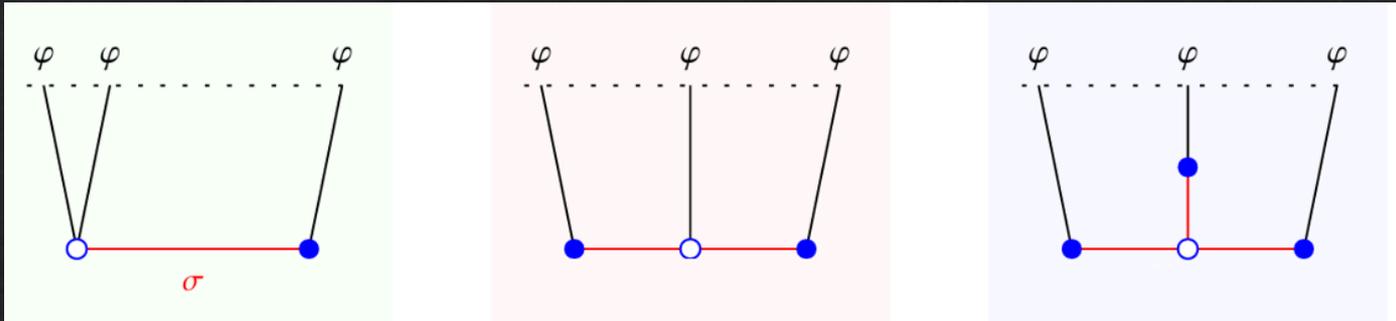
↓

Action for perturbations $\varphi(\zeta)$ and σ



Three dominant diagram

- require $m_\sigma \sim H$ w/o fine-tuning



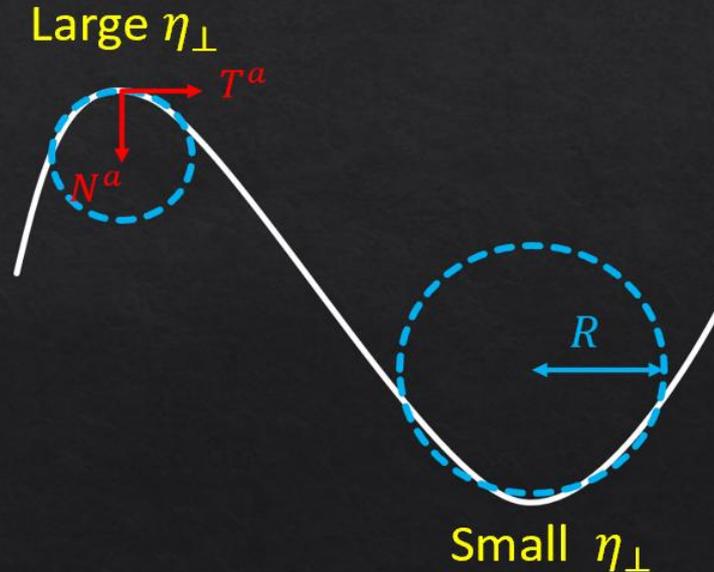
CC signal $\propto \eta_\perp^2$

$\propto \eta_\perp^2$

$\propto \eta_\perp^3 \times g/H\sqrt{P_\zeta}$

Turn

- Turn rate: $\eta_{\perp} = \frac{d\phi}{d\mathcal{N}} \times \kappa = \sqrt{2\epsilon} M_{\text{PL}} \times \kappa$
(similar to $\omega = v/R$ in Newtonian mechanics)



Conditions for large signal

- $m_\sigma \sim H$
- Large turn rate $\eta_\perp = \sqrt{2\epsilon} M_{\text{PL}} \kappa \Rightarrow$ Large $\kappa \Rightarrow$ **sub-Planckian scale**
- Large cubic σ^3 (triple exchange)

Check by concrete models

- ϕ (Higgs or dilaton) + R^2 (Scalaron)

SA, A. Ghoshal and A. Strumia, 2408.07069

- Multifield α -attractor

SA, Roest, Werth, in progress

- Axion-Saxion (Monodromy)

SA, Otsuka, Yanagita, 2509.06739

Define f_{NL} in squeezed limit $k_3 \equiv k_L \ll k_{1,2} \equiv k_S$

$$S \simeq \frac{9}{10} \left[f_{\text{NL}}(\nu) \left(\frac{k_L}{k_S} \right)^{1/2-\nu} + f_{\text{NL}}(-\nu) \left(\frac{k_L}{k_S} \right)^{1/2+\nu} \right] \quad \text{where} \quad \nu = \sqrt{\frac{9}{4} - \frac{m_\sigma^2}{H^2}}.$$

Scalar $\phi + R^2$

SA, A. Ghoshal and A. Strumia,
2408.07069

➤ J-frame action

$$S = \int d^4x \sqrt{|\det g|} \left[-\frac{1}{2} f(\phi) R + \frac{R^2}{6f_0^2} + \sum_{\phi} \frac{(D_{\mu}\phi)(D^{\mu}\phi)}{2} - V_J(\phi) \right]$$

- ϕ : some scalars (specified later)
- R^2 gives an additional scalar z (scalaron)

➤ Include important models

- $\phi = \text{Dilaton}$, $f = \xi\phi^2$, $V_J = \lambda(\phi)\phi^4/4$

Dynamical generation of Planck scale Kannike et al, '15, ...

- $\phi = \text{Higgs}$, $f = M_{\text{PL}}^2 + \xi\phi^2$, $V_J = \lambda\phi^4/4$

Unitarizing Higgs inflation Salvio, Mazumdar '15, Ema '17, ...

Scalar $\phi + R^2$

SA, A. Ghoshal and A. Strumia,
2408.07069

➤ J-frame action

$$S = \int d^4x \sqrt{|\det g|} \left[-\frac{1}{2} f(\phi) R + \frac{R^2}{6f_0^2} + \sum_{\phi} \frac{(D_{\mu}\phi)(D^{\mu}\phi)}{2} - V_J(\phi) \right]$$

- ϕ : some scalars (specified later)
- R^2 gives an additional scalar z (scalaron)

➤ E-frame action

$$S = \int d^4x \sqrt{|\det g|} \left[-\frac{\bar{M}_{\text{Pl}}^2}{2} R + \frac{6\bar{M}_{\text{Pl}}^2}{z^2} \frac{(\partial_{\mu}z)^2}{2} + \sum_{\phi} \frac{(D_{\mu}\phi)^2}{2} - V(\phi, z) \right]$$

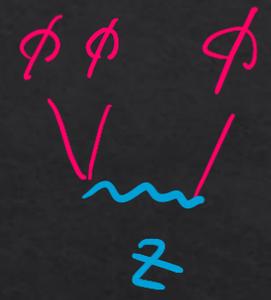
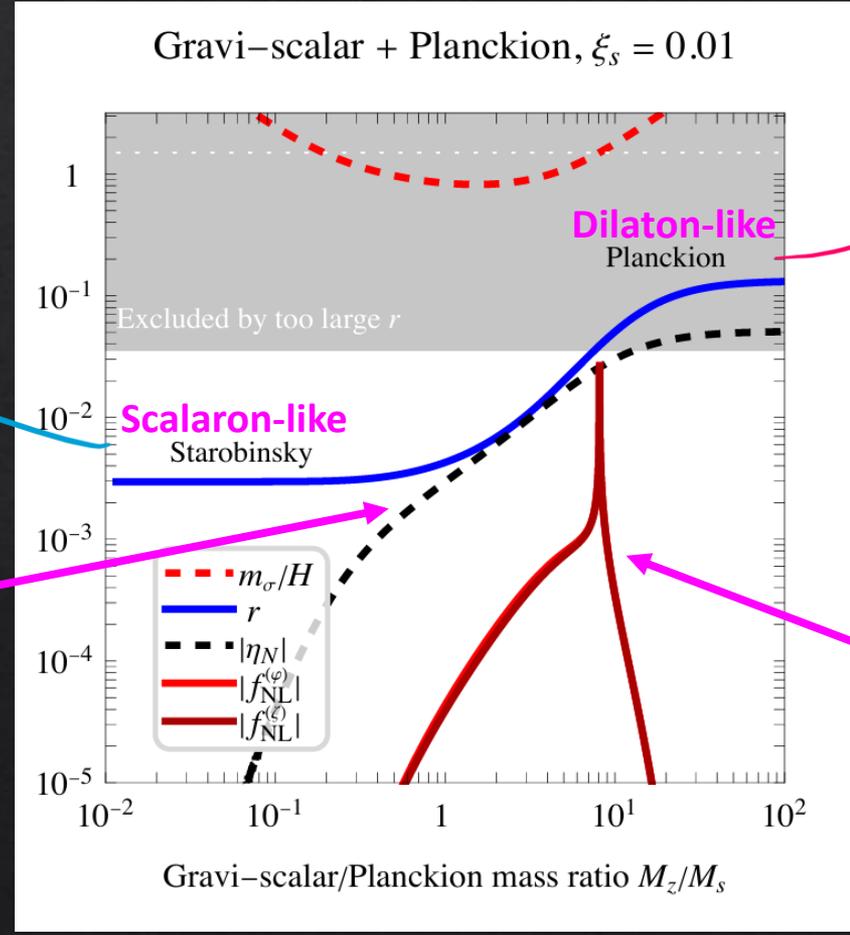
$$V = \left(\frac{6\bar{M}_{\text{Pl}}^2}{z^2} \right)^2 \left[V_J(\phi) + \frac{3}{8} f_0^2 (f + \xi_z z^2)^2 \right].$$

$$\xi_z = -1/6,$$

CC signal from dilaton (Higgs)+ R^2



$\kappa \propto 1/M_{\text{Pl}} \Rightarrow \eta_{\perp} \propto \sqrt{\epsilon}$

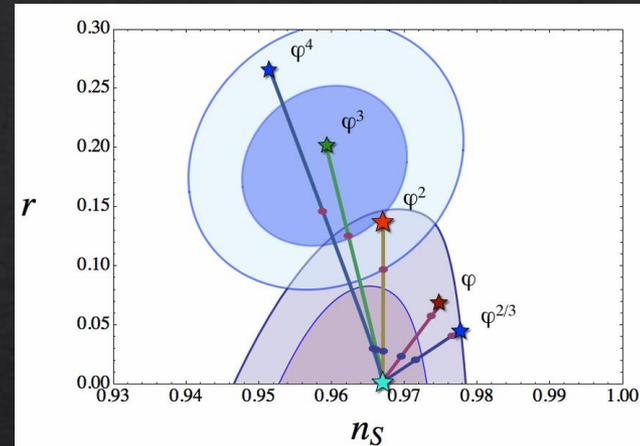


CC signal $\sim \mathcal{O}(\epsilon)$

Multifield α -attractor

- α -attractor model [Kallosh, Linde, Roest, 1311.0472, 1405.3646](#)

$$-\frac{\alpha(\partial\phi)^2}{(1 - \phi^2/6)^2} - V(\phi)$$



- Two field generalization of α -attractor ($\alpha, R_m \equiv m_\chi^2/m_\phi^2$)

$$G_{IJ} = \frac{6\alpha}{(1 - \phi^2 - \chi^2)^2} \delta_{IJ}.$$

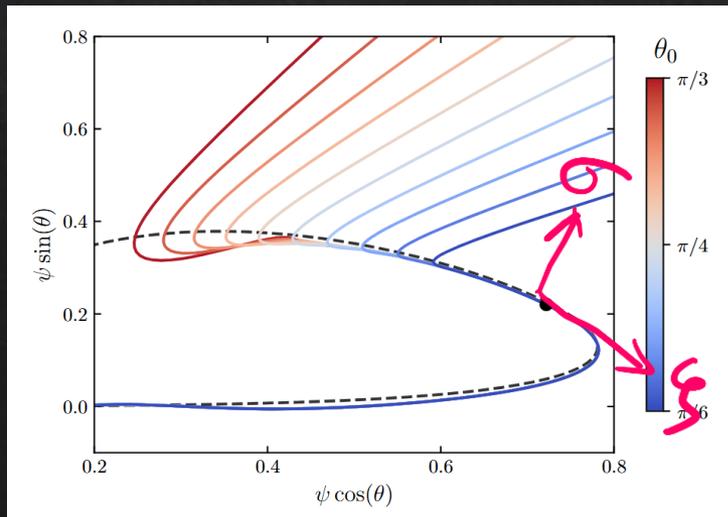
$$V(\phi, \chi) = \frac{\alpha}{2} (m_\phi^2 \phi^2 + m_\chi^2 \chi^2),$$

Multifield α -attractor

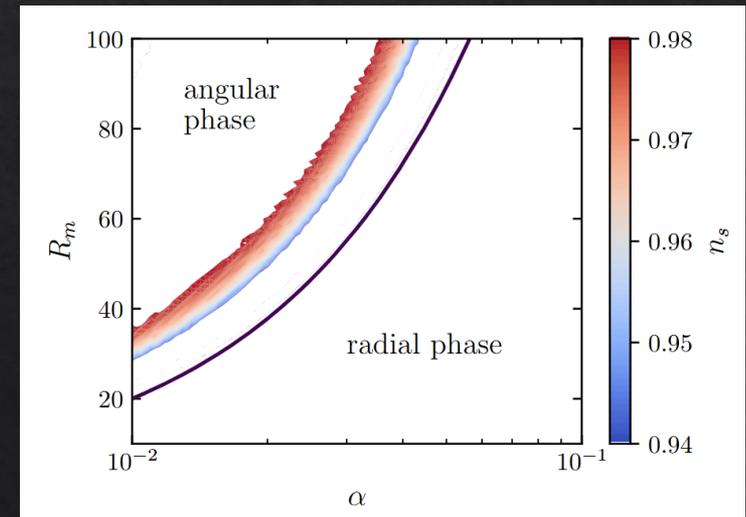
➤ $\phi = r \cos \theta, \chi = r \sin \theta$

- Angular (θ) inflation for $\alpha \ll 1$ Christodoulidis, Roest, Sfakianakis, 1803.09841

Trajectory



Parameter space



CC signal

- Large turn rate: $\eta_{\perp} \sim 1$ for $\alpha \sim \epsilon \ll 1$

$$\eta_{\perp}^2 \simeq \frac{4\epsilon}{3\alpha} \quad \Rightarrow \kappa \propto 1/(\sqrt{\alpha}M_{\text{Pl}})$$

- σ -mass: $m_{\sigma,\text{eff}}^2 = \eta_{\perp}^2 H^2$ $m_{\sigma,\text{eff}} \sim H$ for $\eta_{\perp} \sim 1$

- Large CC signal $\sim \epsilon/\alpha$ by a new scale $\sim \sqrt{\alpha}M_{\text{Pl}}$
- However, non-perturbative in interesting range \Rightarrow numerical method

SA, Roest, Werth, in progress

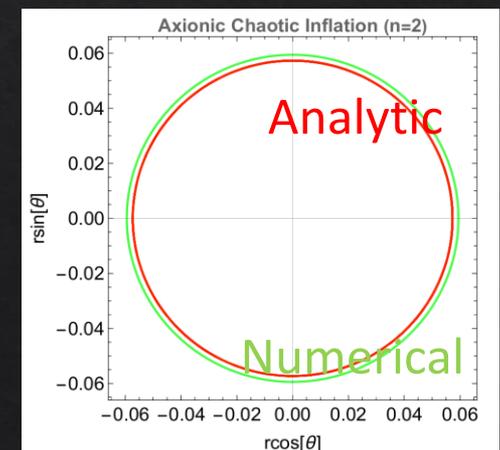
Axion-Saxion (Monodromy)

SA, Otsuka, Yanagita, 2509.06739

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Axion } (\theta), \text{ Saxion } (r) \\ \text{Flat target space } G_{IJ} = \text{diag}(1, r^2) \\ V(r, \theta) = \alpha\theta^n + \frac{M^2}{2} (r - R)^2, \end{array} \right.$$

➤ Turn rate: $\eta_{\perp}^2 \simeq \frac{2\epsilon M_{\text{Pl}}^2}{r^2} \Rightarrow \kappa \propto 1/r$

➤ Large CC signal $\sim \epsilon M_{\text{pl}}^2 / r^2$ by a new scale $\sim r$

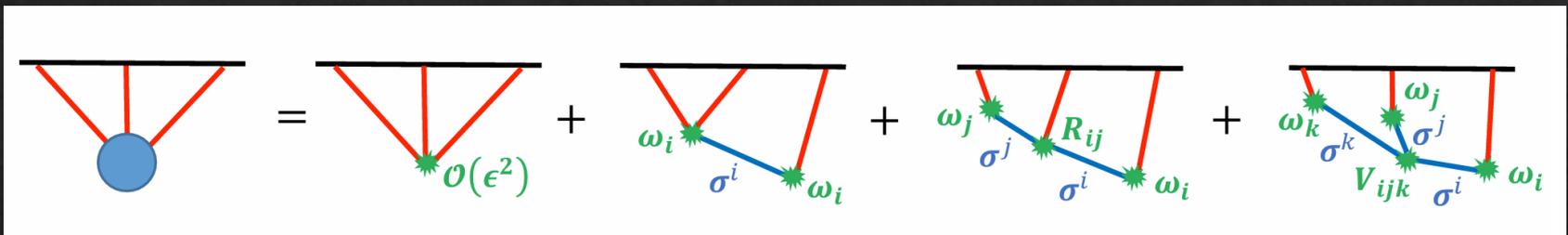


Summary

$\phi + R^2$	Multi α -attractor	Monodromy
$\kappa \sim \frac{1}{M_{\text{pl}}}$	$\kappa \sim \frac{1}{\sqrt{\alpha} M_{\text{pl}}}$	$\kappa \sim \frac{1}{r}$
CC signal $\sim \epsilon$	CC signal $\sim \epsilon/\alpha$	CC signal $\sim \epsilon \frac{M_{\text{pl}}^2}{r^2}$

Many other fun models to try!

Multiple Exchange



- Multiple-exchange diagrams can become equally important.
- Need the full analytic structure to get the net size.
- Rich phenomenology (specific CC signal)

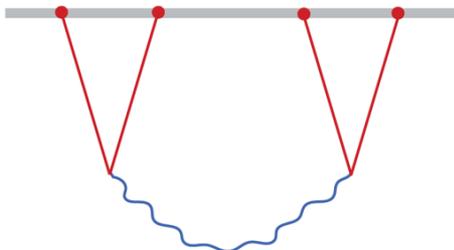
Challenges

➤ Challenges

- Mode functions of massive particles
- Nested time integral

➤ Structure of correlators

e.g., $\langle \zeta^4 \rangle$ with tree level single exchange



$F =$

$$\sim -g^2 \int \frac{d\eta}{\eta^2} \frac{d\eta'}{\eta'^2} e^{i(k_1+k_2)\eta} e^{i(k_3+k_4)\eta'} G(|\mathbf{k}_1 + \mathbf{k}_2|, \eta, \eta').$$

↑ External line for inflaton

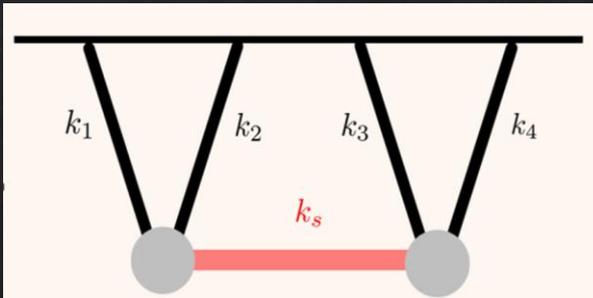
↑ Propagator of σ (complicated function)

Differential equation technique

Arkani-Hamed, Maldacena, 1503.08043

Arkani-Hamed, Baumann, Lee, Pimentel, 1811.00024

- Correlators satisfy differential equations w.r.t momentum
 $u \equiv k_s/(k_1+k_2)$ & $v \equiv k_s/(k_3+k_4)$



$$\begin{aligned}(\Delta_u + M^2) F &= uv/(u + v) \\ (\Delta_v + M^2) F &= uv/(u + v)\end{aligned}$$

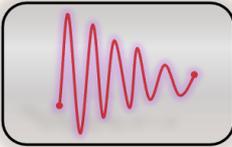
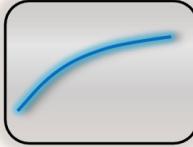
$$\Delta_u \equiv u^2(1 - u^2)\partial_u^2 - 2u^3\partial_u,$$

Solutions

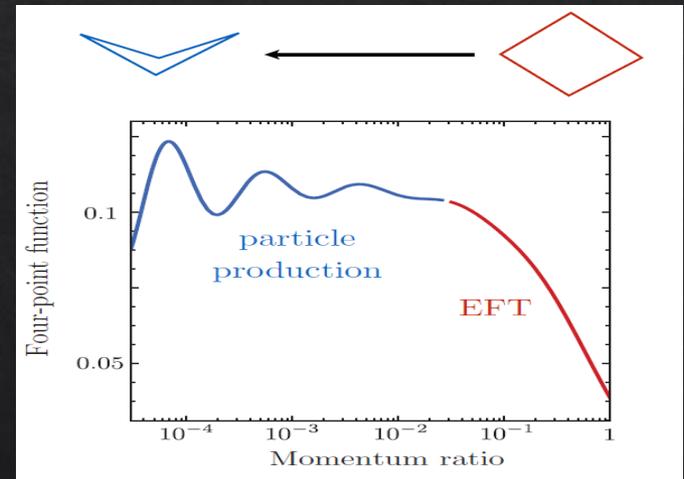
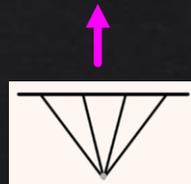
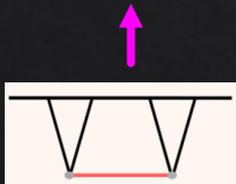
$$\mathcal{D} \left[\text{Diagram with red line} \right] \sim \text{Diagram with black lines} + \text{B.C.}$$

$(uv)^{i\mu} + (u/v)^{i\mu} + u^m v^n$



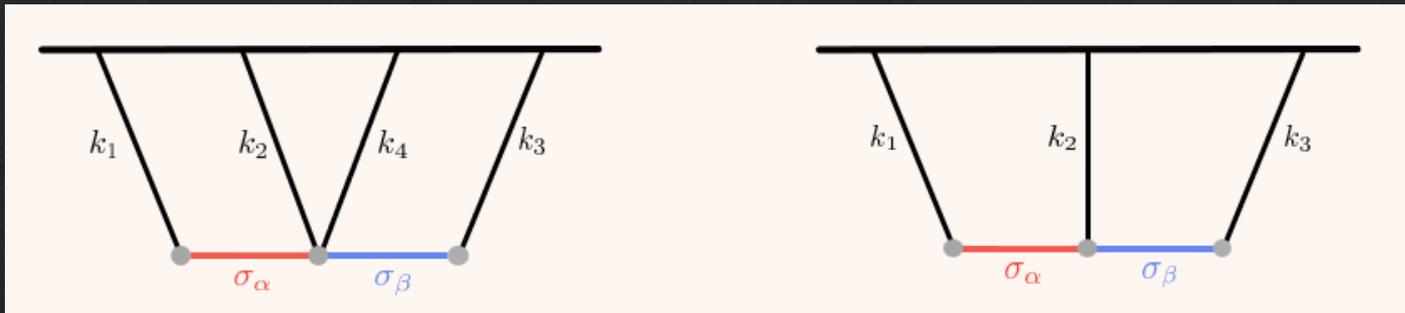




CC signals! **Background**



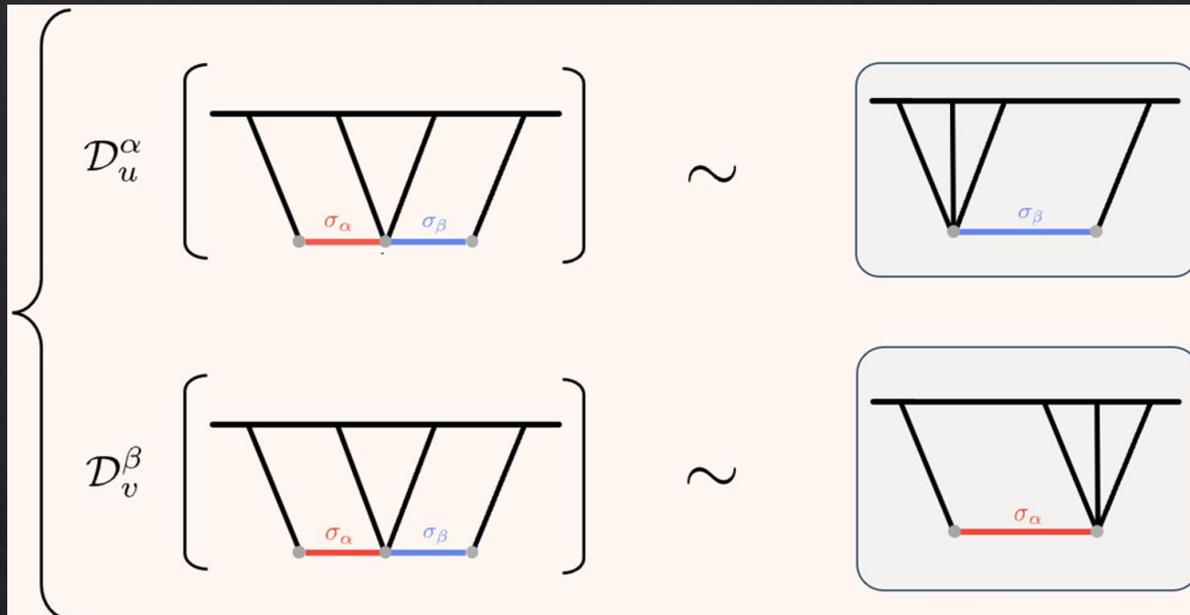
Double exchange

SA, L. Pinol, F. Sano, M. Yamaguchi, Y. Zhu, 2404.09547



$$F = F(u, v) \text{ with } u \equiv \frac{k_1}{k_2+k_4}, v \equiv \frac{k_3}{k_2+k_4}$$

Differential equations



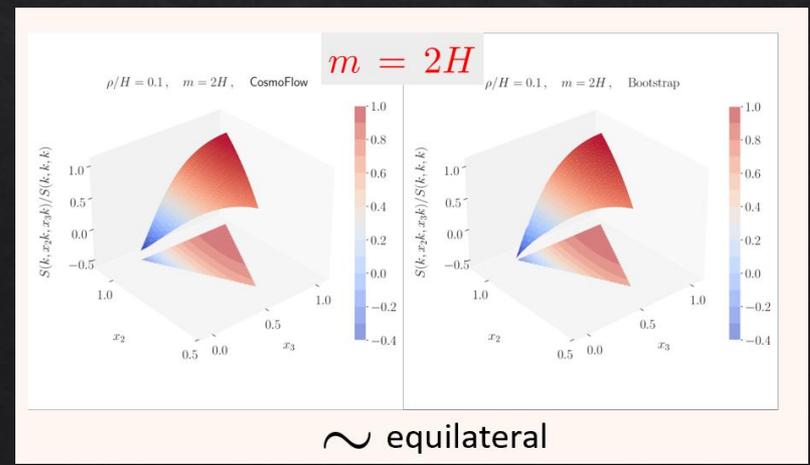
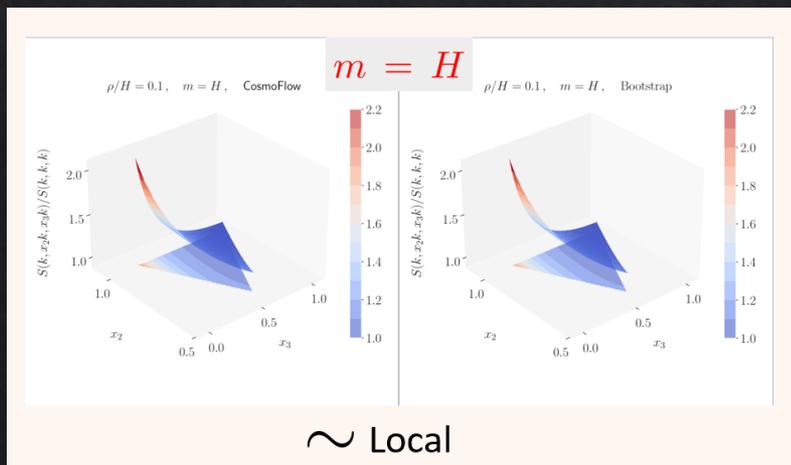
(u - v mixed) differential operators

$$\mathcal{D}_u^\alpha \equiv u^2 \partial_u^2 - 2u \partial_u + \mu_\alpha^2 + \frac{9}{4} - u^2 (u \partial_u + v \partial_v) (u \partial_u + v \partial_v - 1)$$

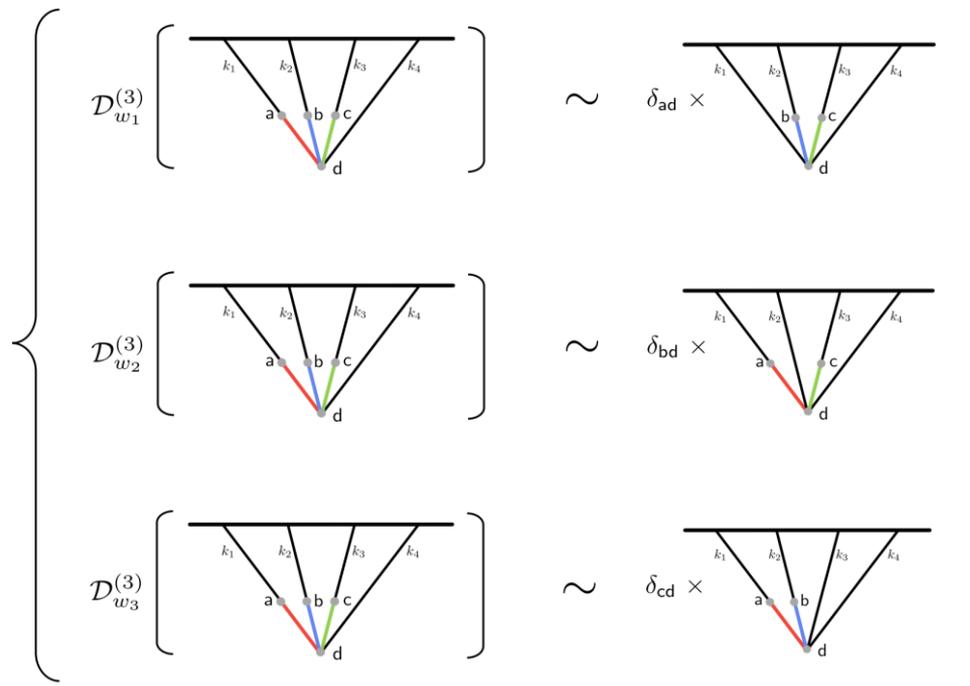
$$\mathcal{D}_v^\beta = \mathcal{D}_u^\alpha (u \leftrightarrow v, \alpha \leftrightarrow \beta)$$

Result

- Analytic solutions (based on Appell series $F_4(u^2, v^2)$)
- valid in any kinematic configuration (subtle in taking 3pt limit $k_4 \rightarrow 0$)
- vs Numeric



Toward triple exchange



$$w_i \equiv \frac{k_i}{k_4}, \quad (i = 1, 2, 3)$$

$$\mathcal{D}_{w_i}^{(3)} \equiv w_i^2 \partial_{w_i}^2 - 2w_i \partial_{w_i} + \mu_i^2 + \frac{9}{4} - w_i^2 \left(\sum_{j=1}^3 w_j \partial_{w_j} + p_4 + 2 \right) \left(\sum_{j=1}^3 w_j \partial_{w_j} + p_4 + 1 \right)$$

Homogenous solutions:

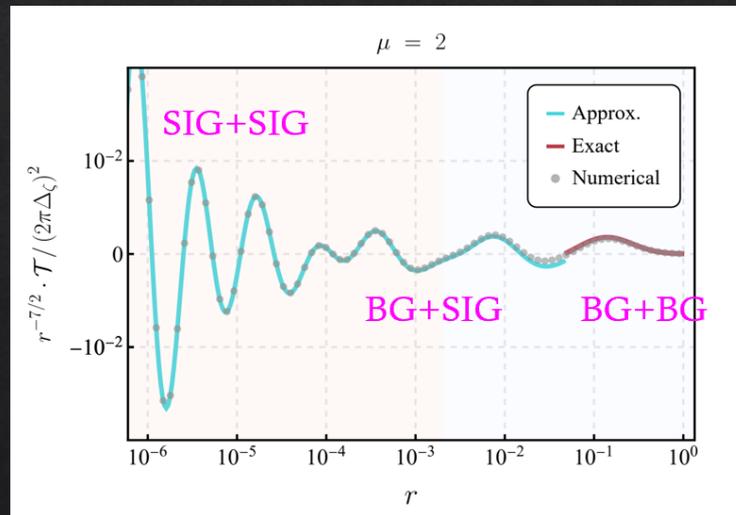
$$\mathcal{I}_{\text{hom}}^{p_1 p_2 p_3 p_4} \sim \sum_{abc=\pm} w_1^{\frac{3}{2}-ia\mu_1} w_2^{\frac{3}{2}-ib\mu_2} w_3^{\frac{3}{2}-ic\mu_3} \times F_C \left[\begin{array}{c} 2p_4+11-2i(a\mu_1+b\mu_2+c\mu_3), 2p_4+13-2i(a\mu_1+b\mu_2+c\mu_3) \\ 4, 4 \end{array} \middle| w_1^2, w_2^2, w_3^2 \right]$$

Lauricella's hypergeometric function

Phenomenological implication



Specific oscillation signal (change of frequency $\mu \rightarrow 2\mu$)
which cannot be mimicked by single exchange



Summary

- Cosmological Correlators can contain high energy information (e.g., mass, spin, couplings of heavy fields = **cosmological collider**)
- Model building aspects
 - Need big turn rate for large signal $\Rightarrow \eta_{\perp} = \sqrt{2\epsilon} M_{\text{PL}} \times \kappa \Rightarrow \text{Large } \kappa$
 - Three models : $\phi + R^2$, Multifield α -attractor, Monodromy
 - Many other fun models to try!
- Multiple exchange
 - Differential equation technique
 - Full analytic expressions of double exchange

Thank you!!