

Title: Towards a Phenomenology of Quantum Gravity?

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Abstract: This talk will review proposed tests of ideas about quantum gravity, including searches for quantum decoherence, probes of the possible energy-dependence of the velocity of light, and the nature of vacuum energy. Motivations will be drawn from a non-critical string theory framework.



## Work in Collaboration with:

**Nick Mavromatos, Dimitri Nanopoulos** & Giovanni Amelino-Camelia, Ignatios Antoniadis, Costas Bachas, CPLEAR Collaboration (Erwin Gabathuler, Noulis Pavlopoulos, Maria Fidecaro, Thomas Ruf, ...), Kostas Farakos, John Hagelin, Jorge Lopez, Vasou Mitsou, Sasha Sakharov, Subir Sarkar, Edward Sarkisyan, Mark Srednicki, Michael Westmuckett, MAGIC Collaboration (Adrian Biland, Rudy Bock, Robert Wagner, ...)

# Outline

- Issues in quantum gravity

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- Modification of quantum mechanics?  
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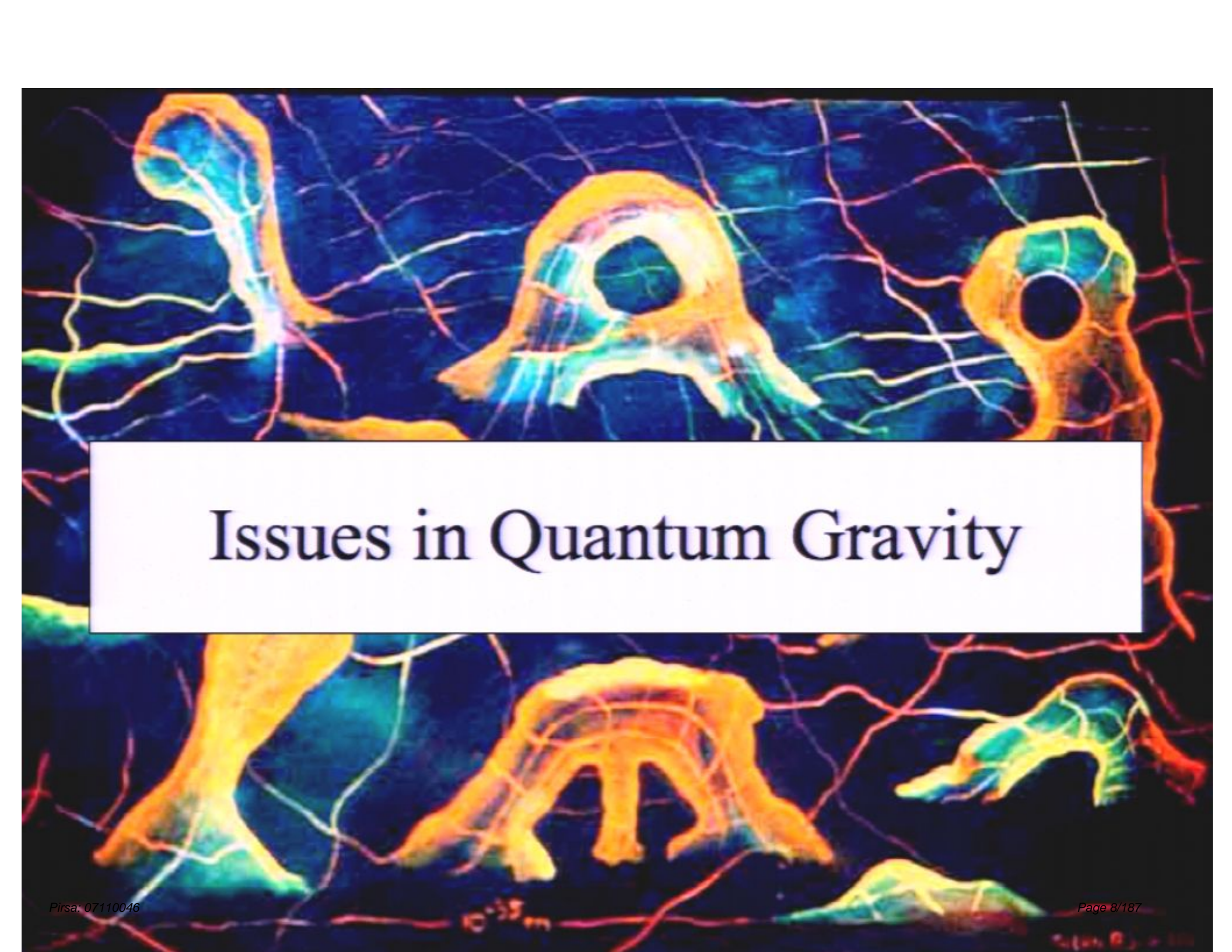
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- **Non-critical string approach**
- Modification of Lorentz invariance?  
astrophysical probes with GRBs, AGNs
- Violation of equivalence principle?

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- Violation of equivalence principle?
- Cosmological inflation
- Present-day dark energy





# Issues in Quantum Gravity



# Problems of Quantum Gravity

- Gravity grows with energy:  $\sigma_G \sim E^2 / m_P^4$

- Two-graviton exchange is infinite:

$$\int^{\Lambda \rightarrow \infty} d^4k \left( \frac{1}{k^2} \right) \leftrightarrow \int_{1/\Lambda \rightarrow 0} d^4x \left( \frac{1}{x^6} \right) \sim \Lambda^2 \rightarrow \infty$$

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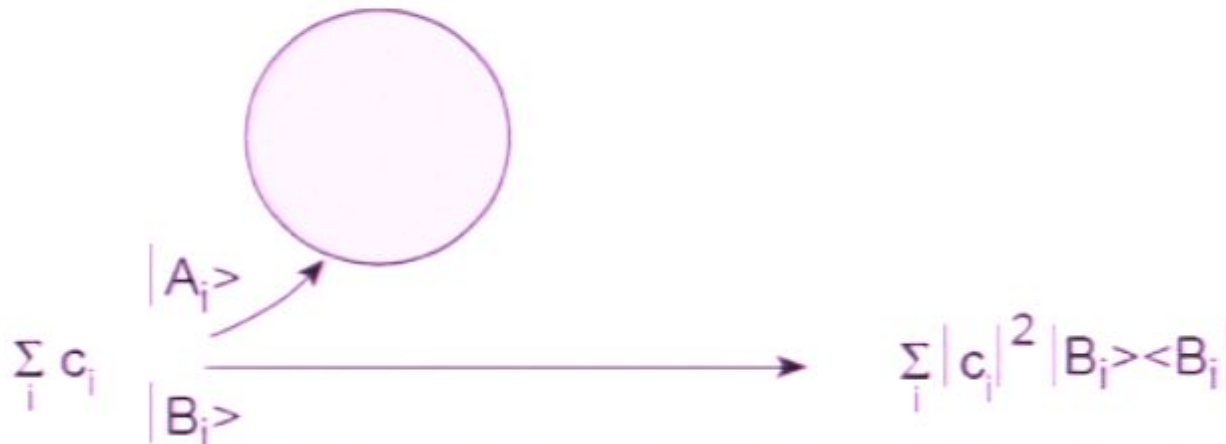
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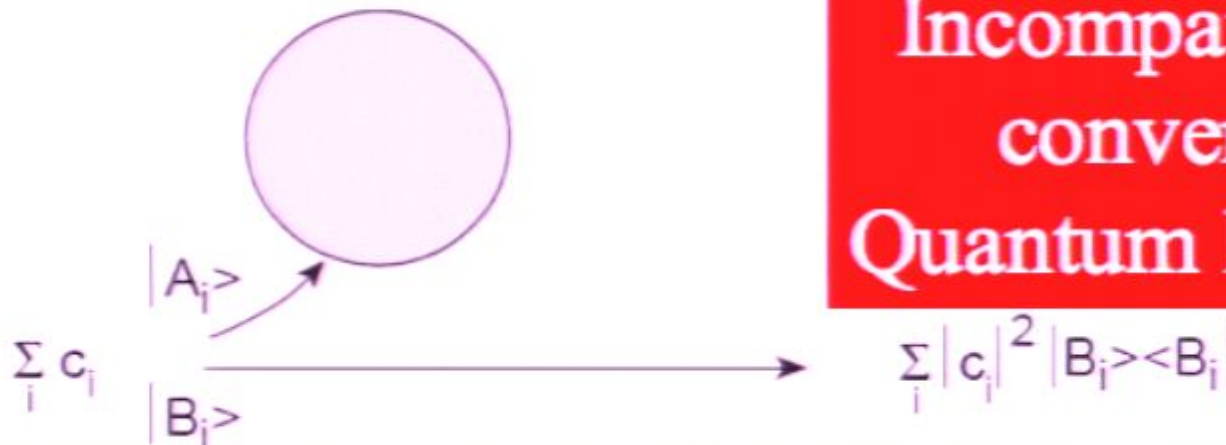
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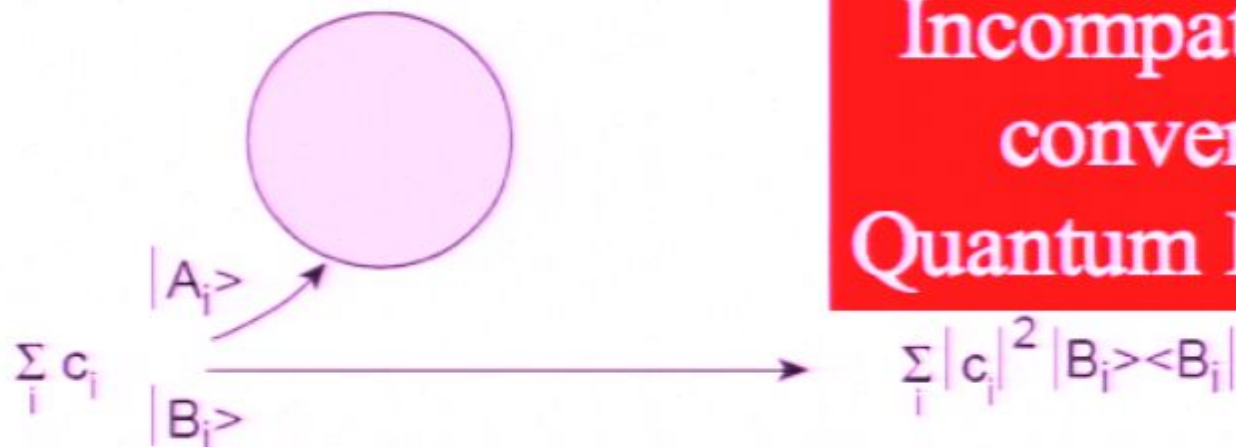
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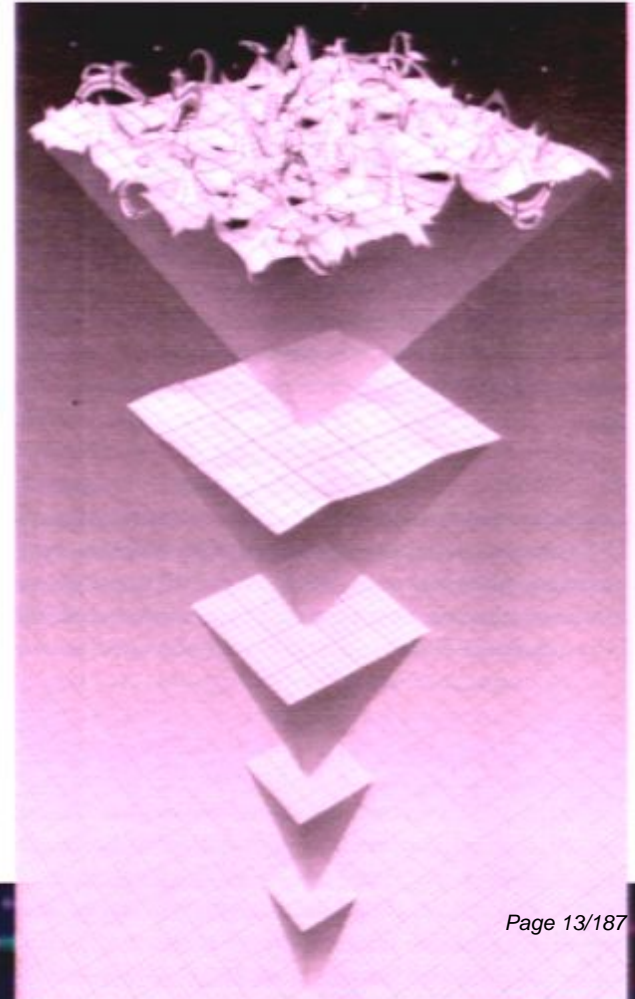


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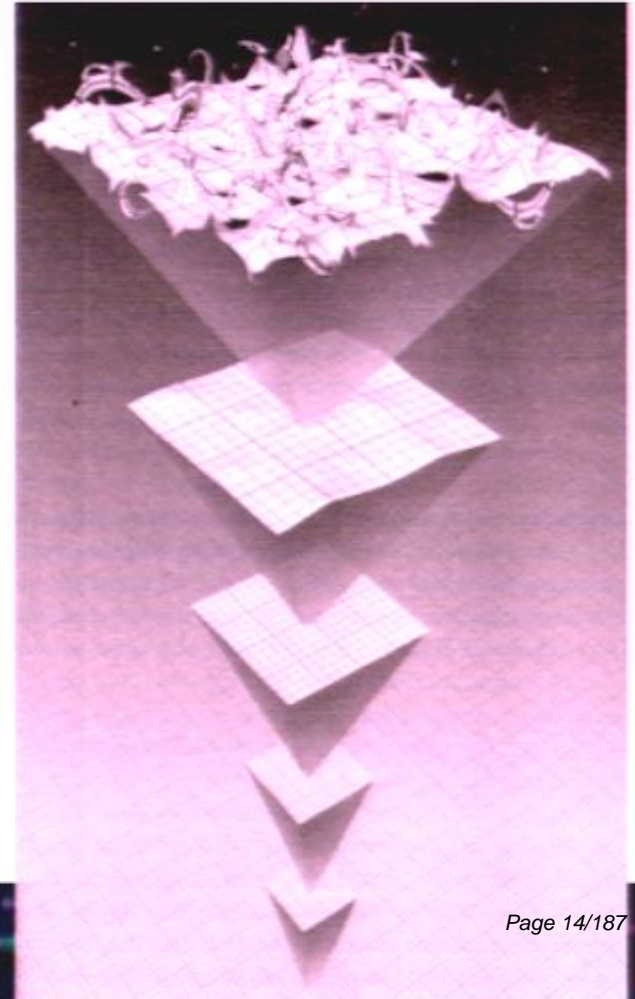
# Nature of QG Vacuum

- Expect quantum fluctuations in fabric of space-time
- In natural Planckian units:  
 $\Delta E, \Delta x, \Delta t, \Delta \chi \sim 1$
- Fluctuations in energy, space, time, topology of order unity
- **Space-time foam**



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- **Manifestations?**





# Reconciling General Relativity and Quantum Mechanics

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- Search for distinctive signature not allowed in quantum field theory



# String Theory

- Point-like particles  $\rightarrow$  extended objects
- Simplest possibility: lengths of string  
no divergences in perturbation theory
- Quantum consistency fixes critical # dimensions:  
bosonic string: 26, superstring: 10

# String Theory

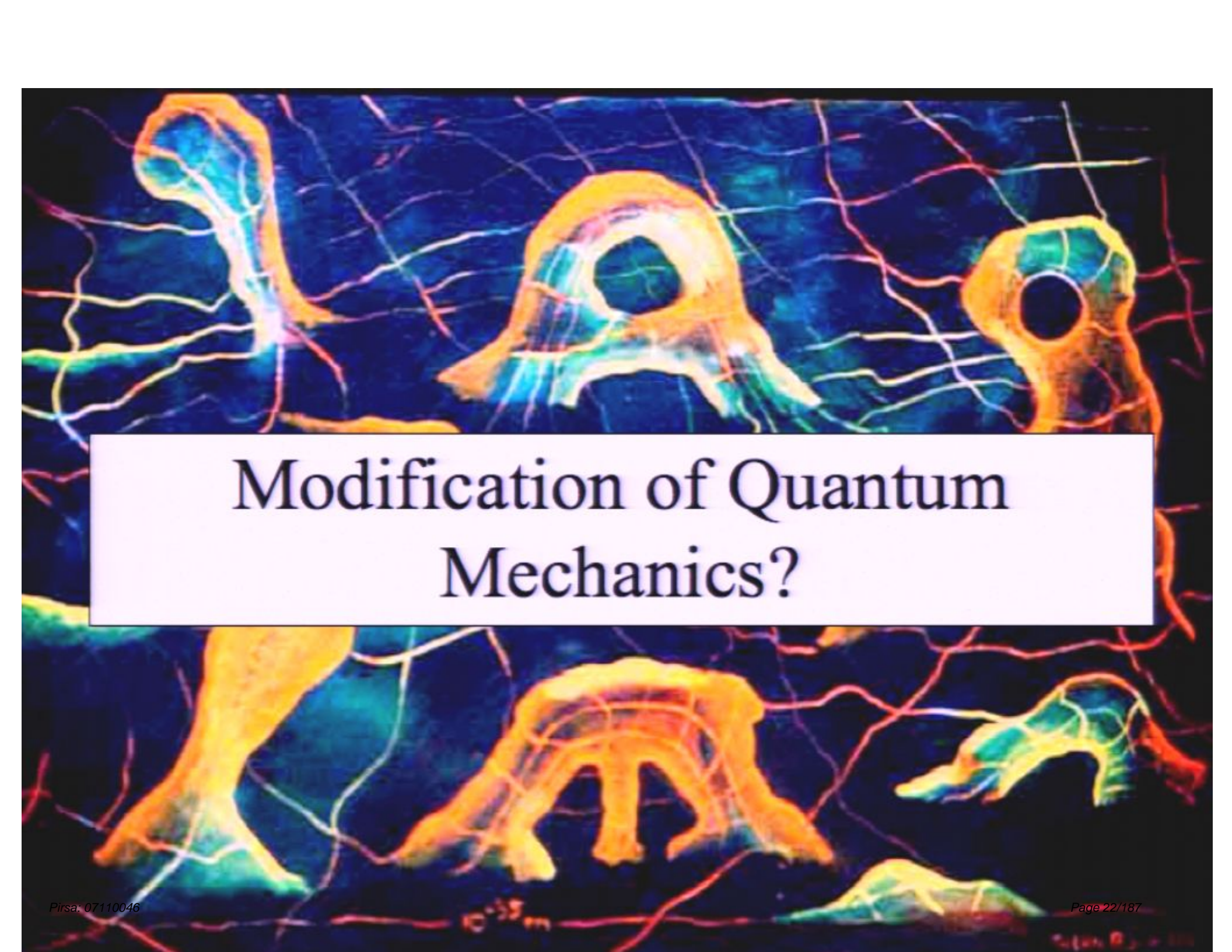
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- **Is critical string theory the whole story?**





# Modification of Quantum Mechanics?



# Sic Transit Quantum Mechanics?

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thermodynamics: temperature, entropy  
loss of information across horizon

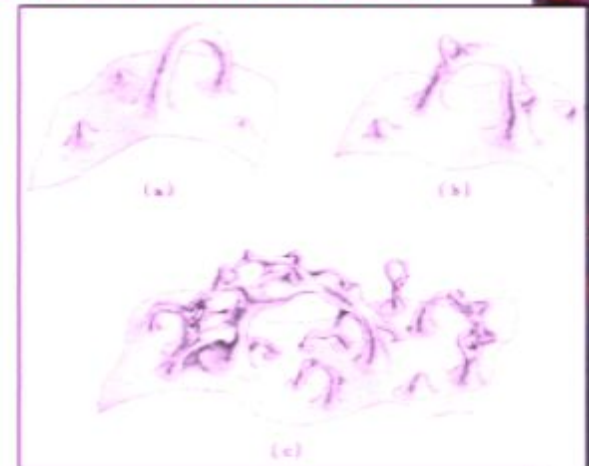
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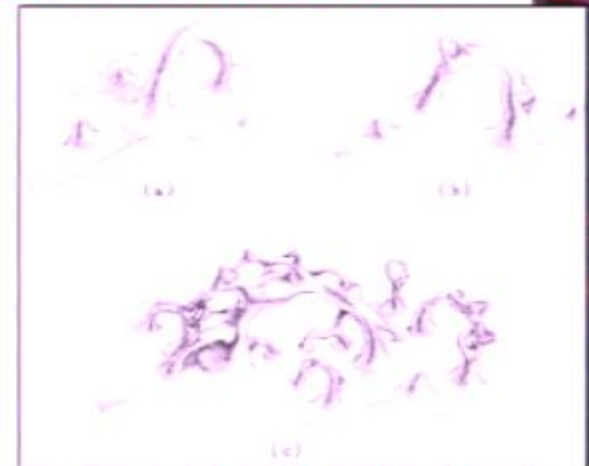
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- Asymptotic scattering described by



$$\rho_{+B}^A = \mathcal{S}_{BC}^A \rho_{-D}^C : \mathcal{S} \neq \mathcal{S} \mathcal{S}^\dagger : \mathcal{S} = \sum_f \mathcal{S}_f \mathcal{S}_f^\dagger ?$$



# Historical Footnote

- Baryon number not conserved @ Planck scale?  
B not exact gauge symmetry  $\rightarrow$  no B hair
- Proton decay via virtual black hole:  
dimension-6 operator  $\rightarrow \tau_p \sim 10^{46}$  y?

Hawking

# Historical Footnote

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- Proton decay via virtual black hole: Hawking  
dimension-6 operator  $\rightarrow \tau_p \sim 10^{46}$  y?
- In presence of supersymmetry:  
dimension-5 operator  $\rightarrow \tau_p < 10^{34}$  y?
- If quantum mechanics modified @ black hole  
**see non-quantum-mechanical effect in proton decay?**



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# Simplest Possible Example

- Consider two-state system:  $E \pm \Delta E/2$
- Write density matrix in basis  $(1, \sigma_{x,v,z})$ :

$$H = E + \Delta E \sigma_z : h_0 = 2E, h_3 = \Delta E$$
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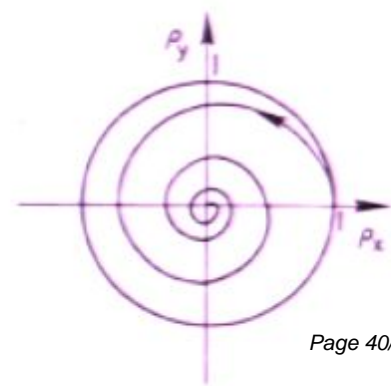
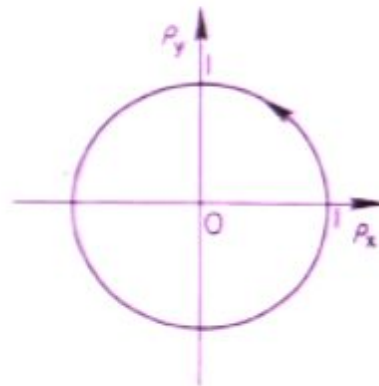
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- Off-diagonal density matrix elements collapse





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- This is impossible if  $\$$  matrix is singular, as in any framework allowing pure states to evolve into mixed states



# Application to Neutral Kaon System

- 2-state Hamiltonian in  $K_1 - K_2$  basis

$$H = \begin{pmatrix} M - \frac{i}{2}\Gamma - \text{Re}M_{12} + \frac{i}{2}\text{Re}\Gamma_{12} & \frac{1}{2}\delta M - \frac{i}{4}\delta\Gamma - i\text{Im}M_{12} - \frac{1}{2}\text{Im}\Gamma_{12} \\ \frac{1}{2}\delta M - \frac{i}{4}\delta\Gamma + i\text{Im}M_{12} - \frac{1}{2}\text{Im}\Gamma_{12} & M - \frac{i}{2}\Gamma + \text{Re}M_{12} - \frac{i}{2}\text{Re}\Gamma_{12} \end{pmatrix}$$

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- Observables:

$$\langle O_i \rangle = \text{Tr} [O_i \rho] \quad O_{2\pi} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad O_{3\pi} \propto \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$



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$$\delta H_{\alpha\beta} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -2\alpha & -2\beta \\ 0 & 0 & -2\beta & -2\gamma \end{pmatrix} \quad \alpha, \gamma > 0, \quad \alpha\gamma > \beta^2$$

- Observables:

$$\langle O_i \rangle = \text{Tr} [O_i \rho] \quad O_{2\pi} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad O_{3\pi} \propto \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

# Application to Neutral Kaon System

- 2-state Hamiltonian in  $K_1 - K_2$  basis

$$H = \begin{pmatrix} M - \frac{i}{2}\Gamma - \text{Re}M_{12} + \frac{i}{2}\text{Re}\Gamma_{12} & \frac{1}{2}\delta M - \frac{i}{4}\delta\Gamma - i\text{Im}M_{12} - \frac{1}{2}\text{Im}\Gamma_{12} \\ \frac{1}{2}\delta M - \frac{i}{4}\delta\Gamma + i\text{Im}M_{12} - \frac{1}{2}\text{Im}\Gamma_{12} & M - \frac{i}{2}\Gamma + \text{Re}M_{12} - \frac{i}{2}\text{Re}\Gamma_{12} \end{pmatrix}$$

- In the  $\sigma$ -matrix basis:

$$H_{\alpha\beta} = \begin{pmatrix} -\Gamma & -\frac{1}{2}\delta\Gamma & -\text{Im}\Gamma_{12} & -\text{Re}\Gamma_{12} \\ -\frac{1}{2}\delta\Gamma & -\Gamma & -2\text{Re}M_{12} & -2\text{Im}M_{12} \\ -\text{Im}\Gamma_{12} & 2\text{Re}M_{12} & -\Gamma & -\delta M \\ -\text{Re}\Gamma_{12} & -2\text{Im}M_{12} & \delta M & -\Gamma \end{pmatrix}$$

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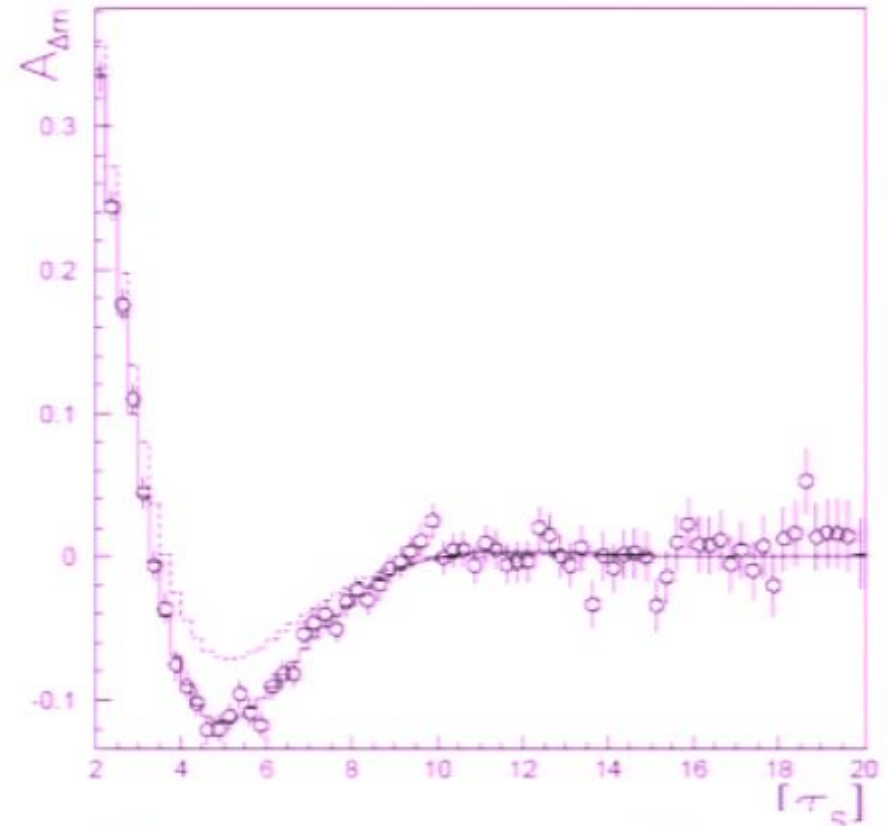
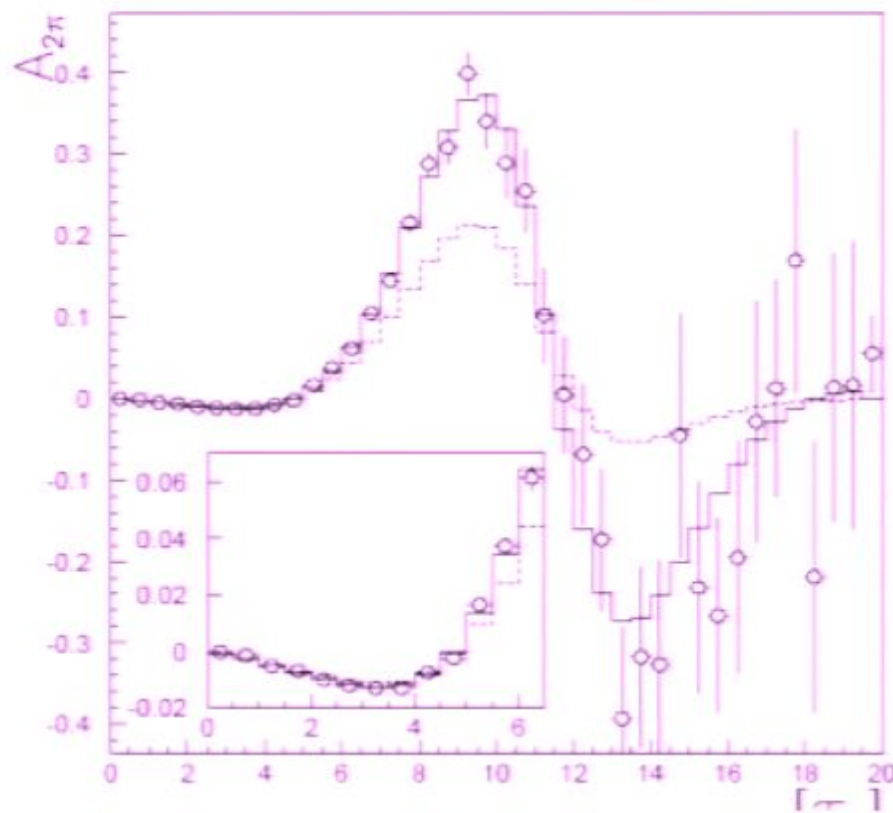
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# Probes of Quantum Mechanics using CPLEAR Data

- Using  $K \rightarrow 2\pi$  decays,  $K \rightarrow \pi e\nu$  decays



$$\alpha < 4.0 \times 10^{-17} \text{ GeV}$$

$$|\beta| < 2.3 \times 10^{-19} \text{ GeV}$$

$$\gamma < 3.7 \times 10^{-21} \text{ GeV}$$



# Non-Critical String Approach





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# World-Sheet Formulation of Non-Critical Strings

- Consider perturbation of critical string model:

$$S = S_0(r) + g \int d^2 z V_g(r)$$

by operator  $g$ , vertex  $V_g$ , not exactly marginal:

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- Non-trivial  $\beta$  functions for renormalized couplings:

$$g_R \equiv g - C_{ggg} \phi g^2 + \dots \quad \beta_g = -C_{ggg} g_R^2 + \dots$$



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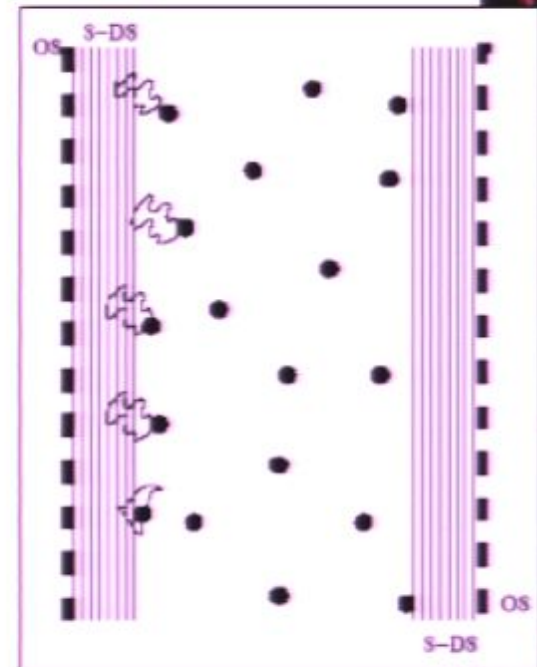
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JE, Mavromatos + Westmuckert

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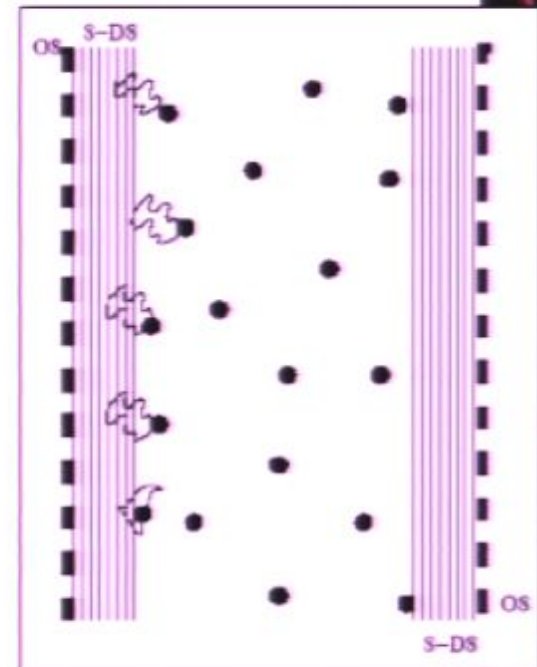
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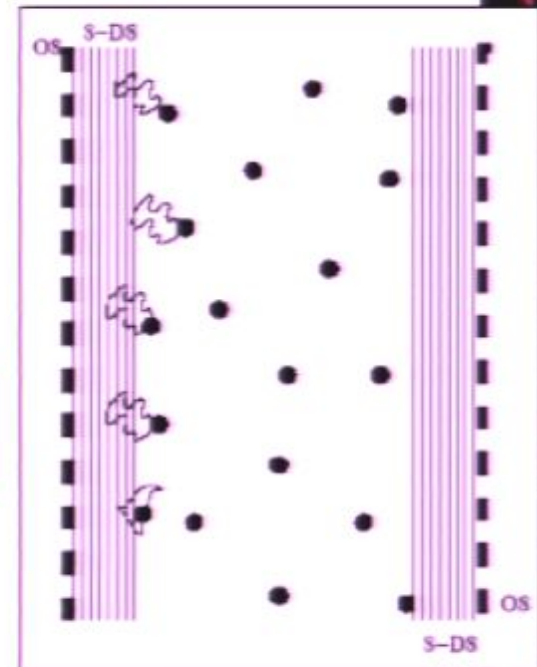
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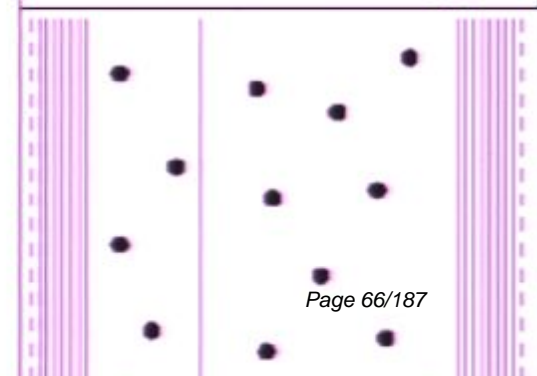
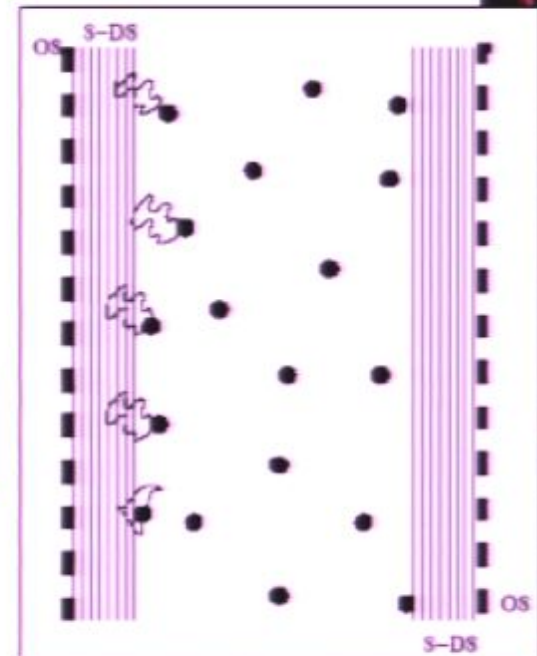
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- **Minimum-energy state = vacuum**

- Non-zero potential if D8-brane

moves:  $\frac{V_8}{2^{13} \pi^9 \alpha'^5} [v^4 (R - 2r)]$

where  $V_8$  is volume,  $R, r$  distances





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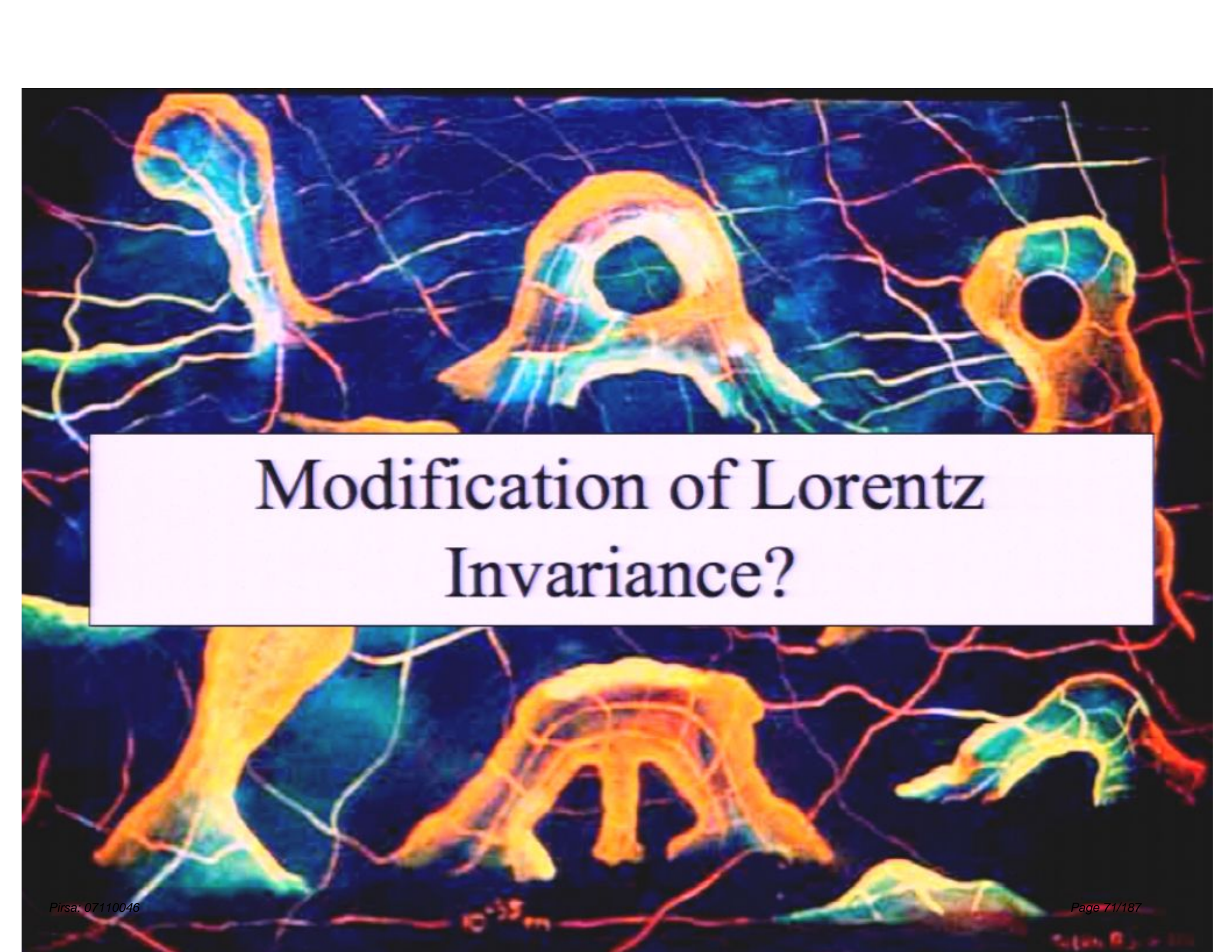
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- **Inflation and present-day dark energy**

Hubble expansion rate  $\leftrightarrow$  departure from criticality





# Modification of Lorentz Invariance?

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- Expect:  $E_{\text{QG}} = \mathcal{O}(M_{\text{P}})$
- Related to  $1/M_{\text{D}}$  in non-critical string model

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# Astrophysical Probes of Lorentz Violation

- Time delay from distant object:

$$\Delta t \sim \xi \frac{E}{E_{\text{QG}}} \frac{L}{c}$$

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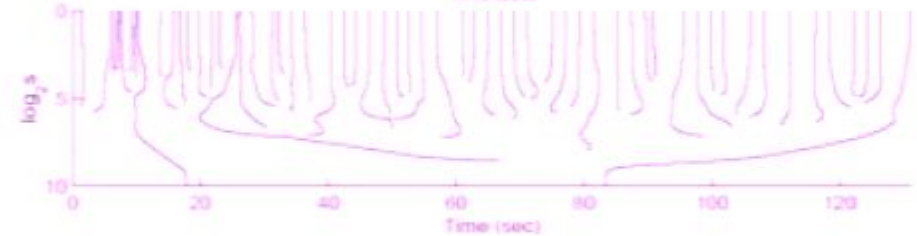
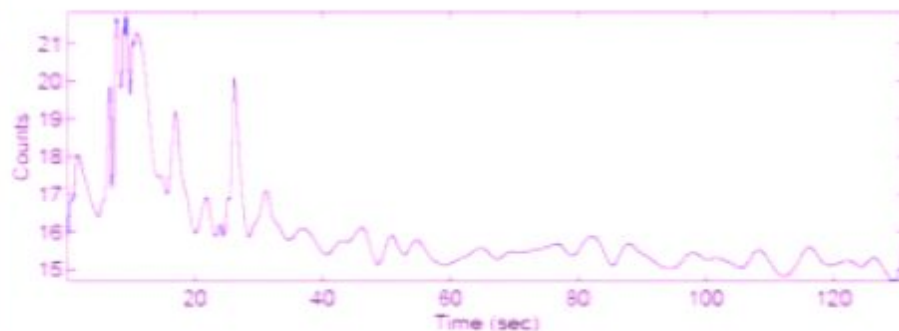
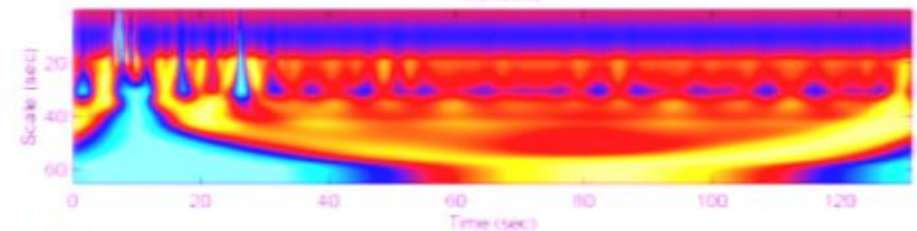
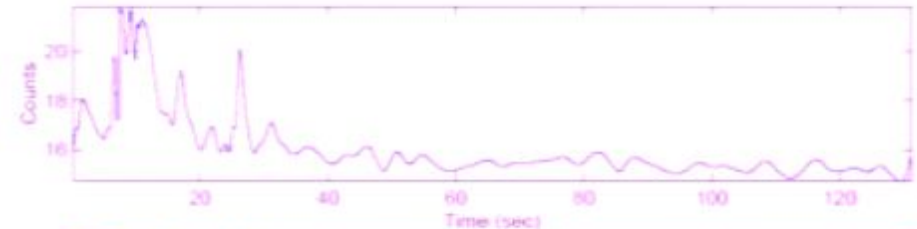
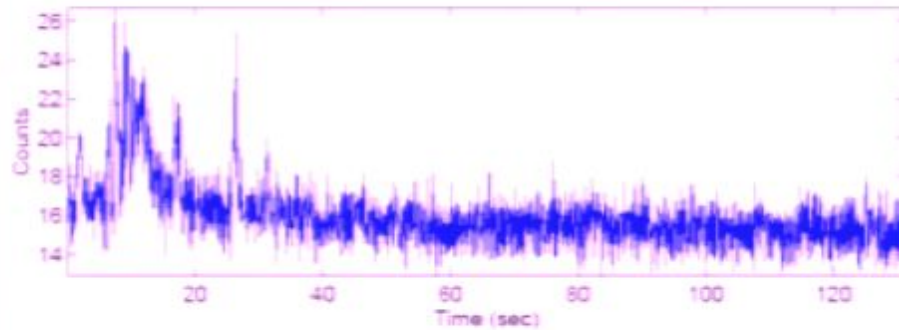
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Source	Distance	$E$	$\Delta t$	Sensitivity to $M$
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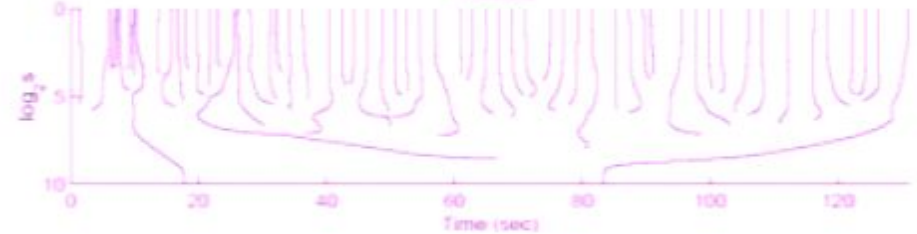
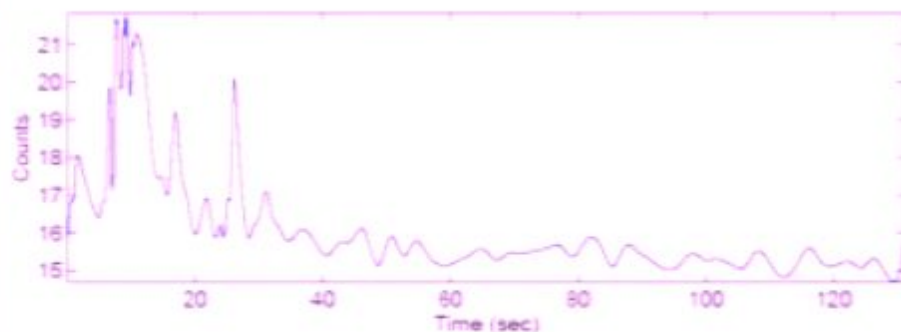
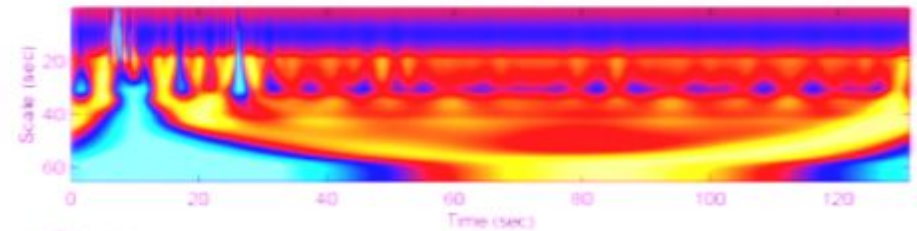
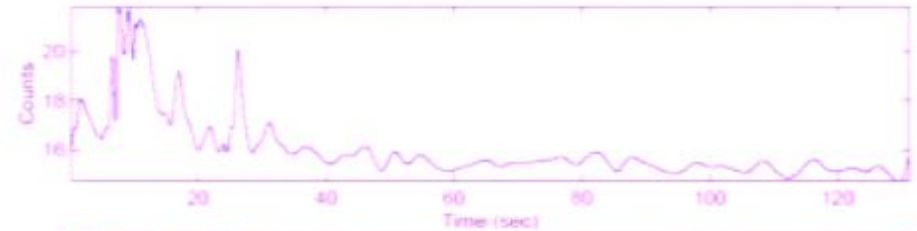
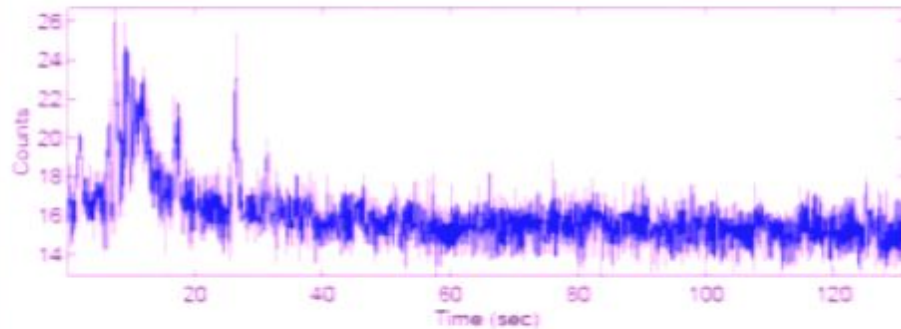
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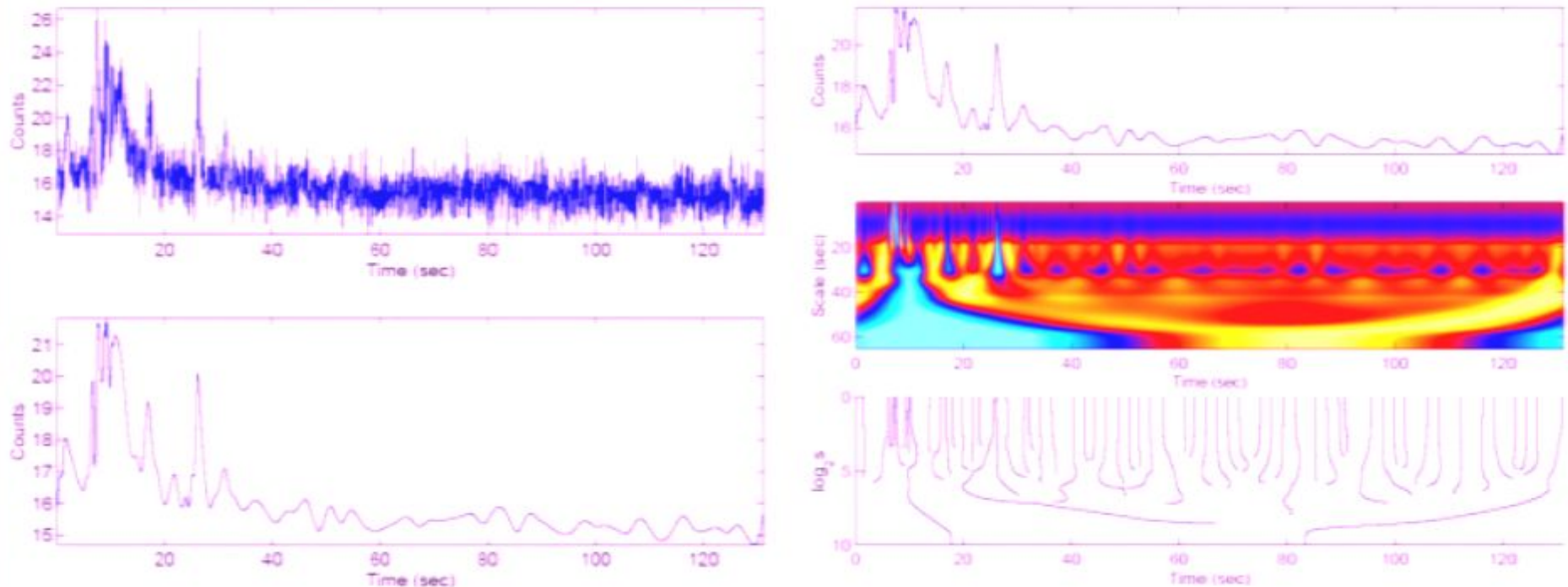
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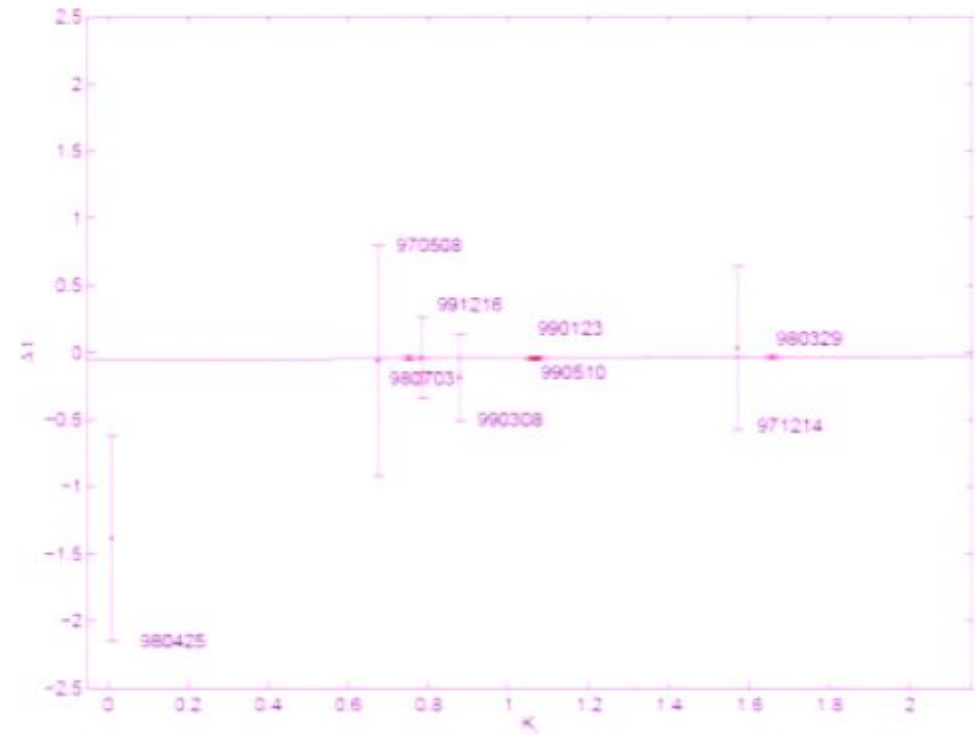
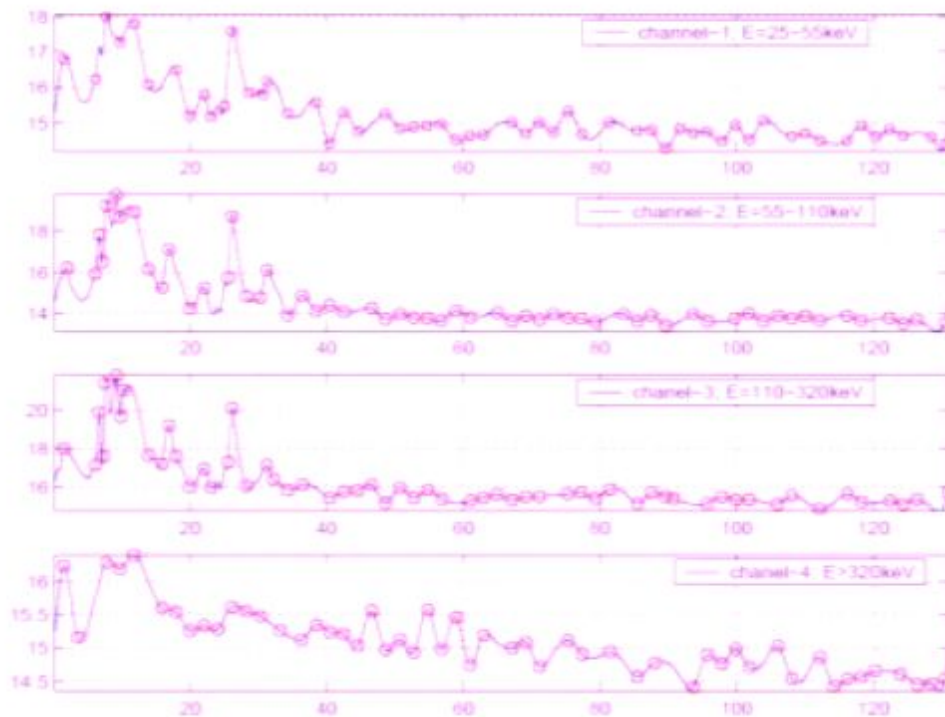


- Use data from BATSE and OSSE detectors on Compton Gamma-Ray Observatory satellite



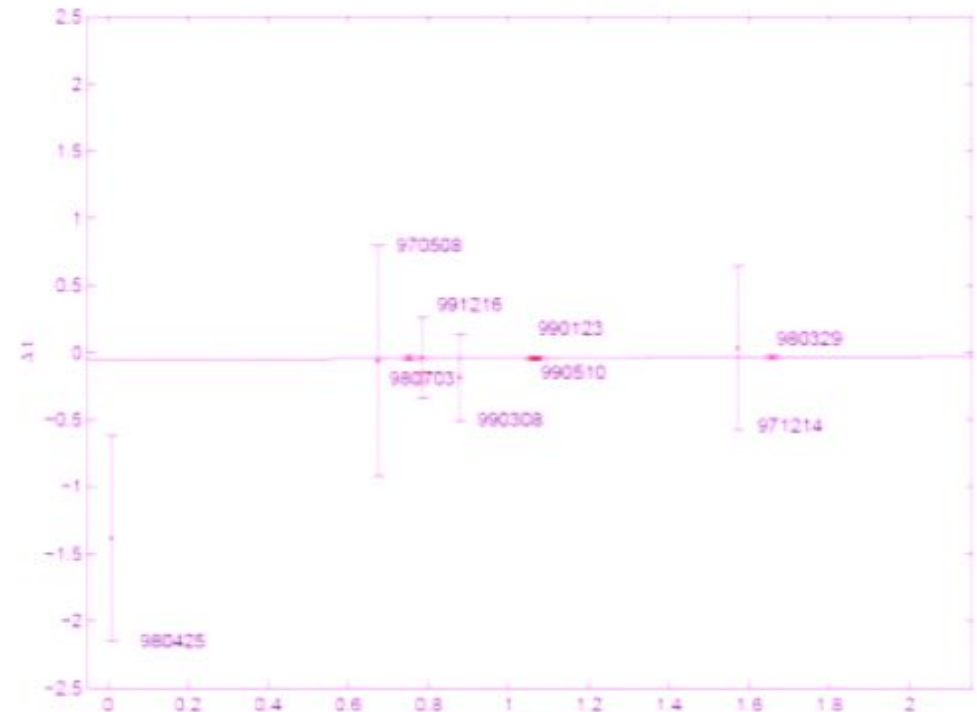
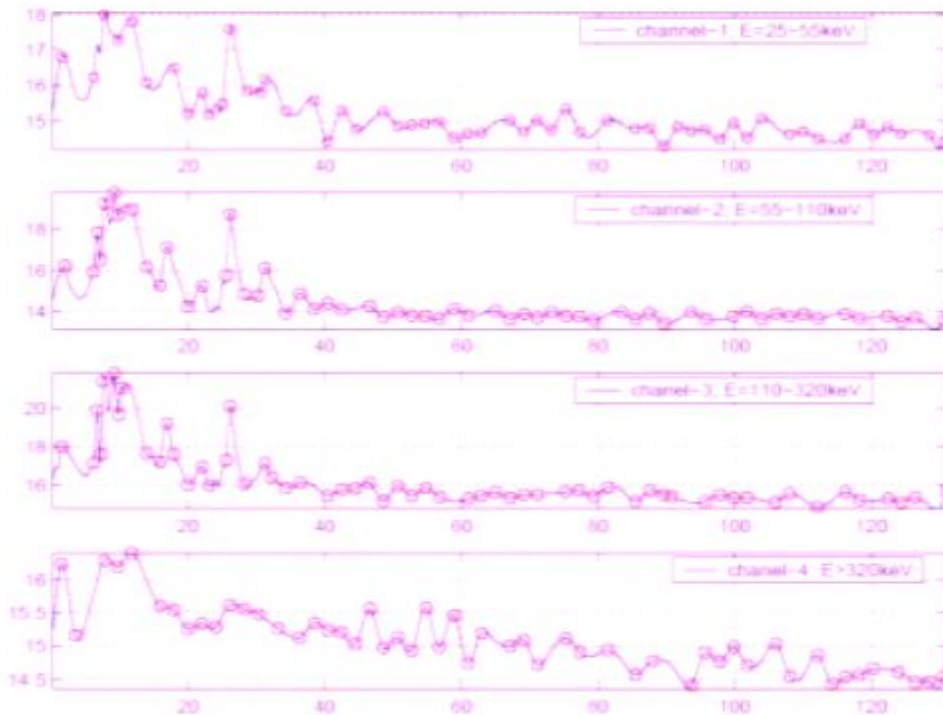
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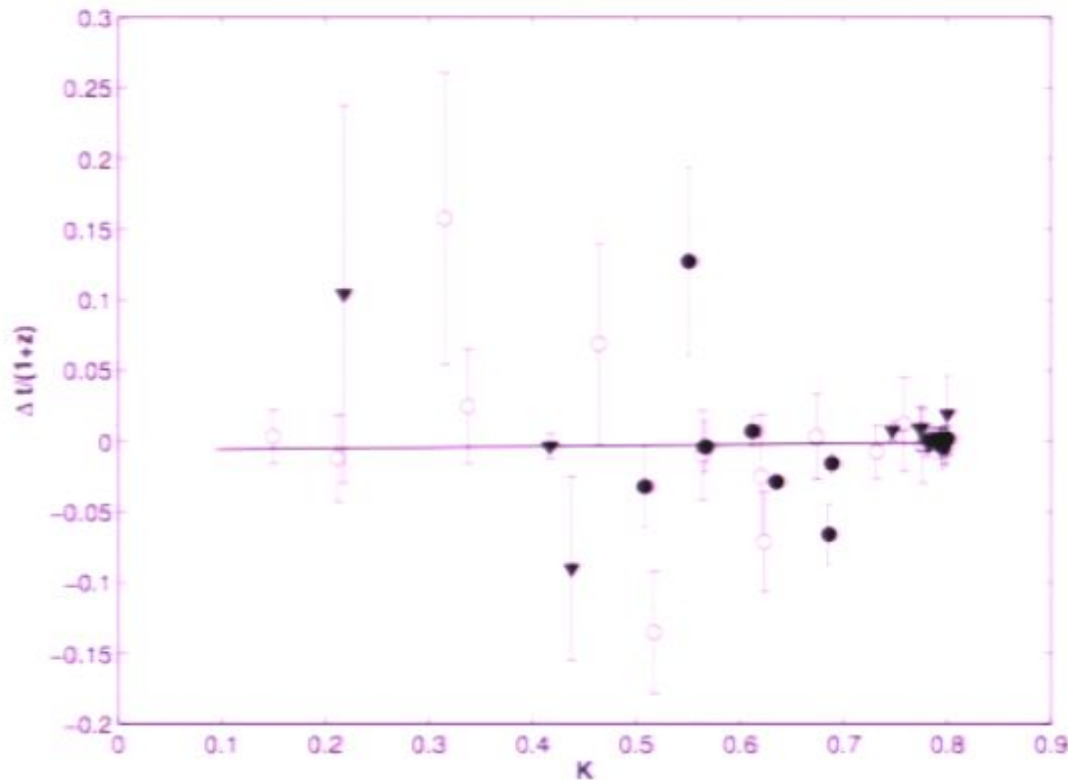


- No significant correlation of time-lags with redshift distance



# Updated Analysis including HETE Data

- Corrected treatment of redshift



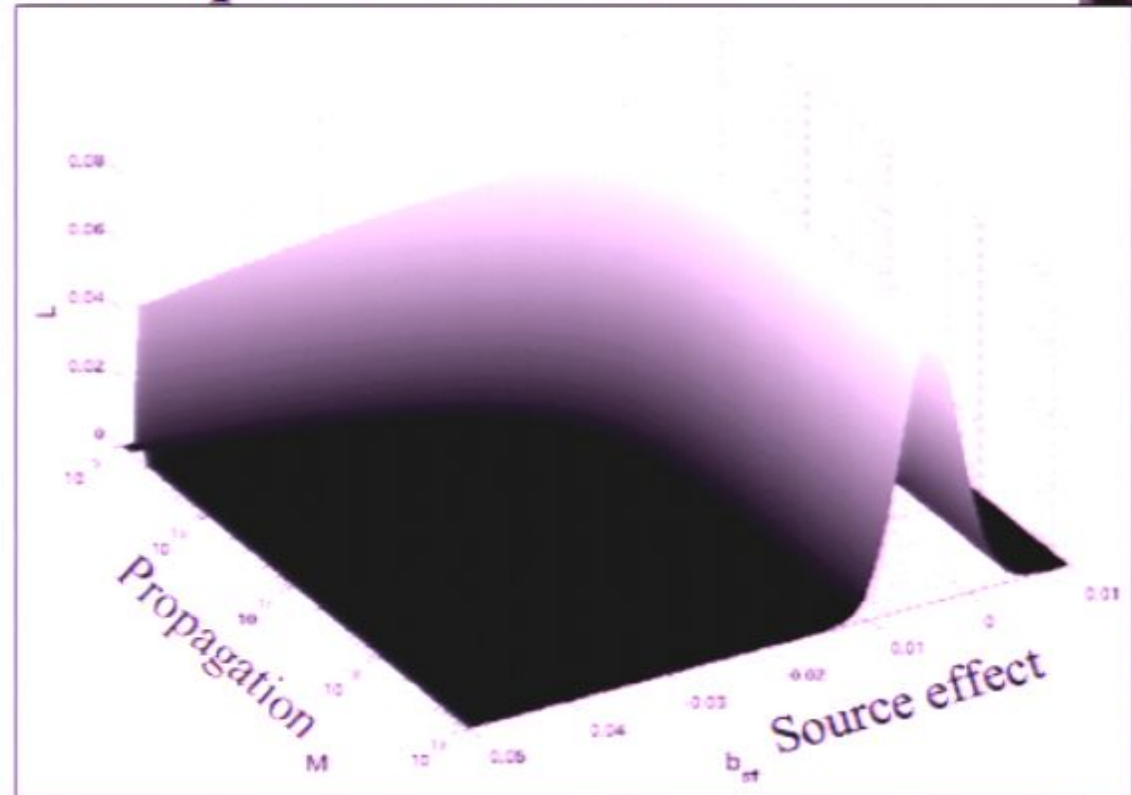
- Improved lower limit:

$$M \geq 1.4 \times 10^{16} \text{ GeV}$$


GRB	z	z Refs.	$\Delta t_{\text{total}}^{\text{Peak} - \text{Peak}} \text{ (s)}$
BATSE (64 ms)			
970508	0.835	[24]	$-0.059 \pm 0.044$
971214	3.418	[25]	$-0.098 \pm 0.045$
980329	3.9	[23]	$-0.084 \pm 0.036$
980703	0.966	[26]	$0.138 \pm 0.053$
990123	1.600	[27]	$-0.155 \pm 0.041$
990308	1.2	[28]	$0.0188 \pm 0.0138$
990510	1.619	[29]	$-0.0017 \pm 0.0143$
991216	1.020	[30]	$-0.0091 \pm 0.0012$
990506	1.3060	[31]	$-0.0503 \pm 0.0075$
HETE (164 ms)			
010921	0.45	[32]	$0.0357 \pm 0.0585$
020124	3.198	[33]	$-0.0046 \pm 0.0455$
020903	0.25	[34]	$-0.0150 \pm 0.0386$
020813	1.25	[35]	$-0.1602 \pm 0.0794$
020819	0.41	[36]	$0.222 \pm 0.145$
021004	2.31	[37]	$-0.0402 \pm 0.1109$
021211	1.01	[23]	$-0.0202 \pm 0.0639$
030226	1.99	[23]	$-0.0227 \pm 0.0568$
030323	3.372	[38]	$-0.0148 \pm 0.0570$
030328	1.52	[23]	$0.00825 \pm 0.07661$
030329	0.168	[39, 23]	$0.0037 \pm 0.0219$
030429	2.66	[40]	$-0.0123 \pm 0.0965$
040924	0.859	[23]	$-0.2516 \pm 0.0801$
041006	0.716	[23]	$0.1179 \pm 0.1228$
050408	1.2357	[23]	$-0.0562 \pm 0.0989$
SWIFT (64 ms)			
050319	3.24	[41]	$0.0054 \pm 0.0109$
050401	2.9	[23]	$-0.0135 \pm 0.0285$
050416	0.653	[23]	$-0.1491 \pm 0.1075$
050505	4.3	[23]	$-0.0012 \pm 0.0561$
050525	0.606	[23, 42]	$0.1261 \pm 0.0159$
050603	2.821	[23]	$-0.0032 \pm 0.0047$
050724	0.258	[43]	$0.131 \pm 0.1681$
050730	3.968	[44]	$0.094 \pm 0.1361$
050820	2.612	[23]	$0.003 \pm 0.0569$
050904	6.29	[45]	$0.004 \pm 0.0852$
050922	2.17	[23]	$0.0231 \pm 0.0208$

# Source Effect vs Propagation Effect?

- Evidence for stochastic spread in intrinsic delays at sources
- Cannot distinguish with single source
- Need statistical techniques for multiple sources
- Correlation between source and propagation effects: **Need better understanding of GRBs!**



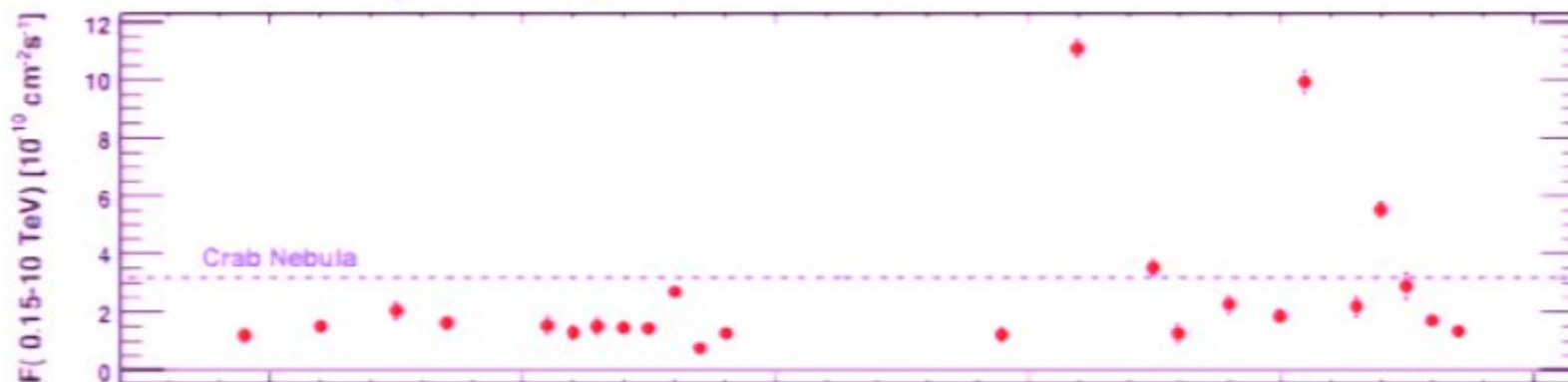


The background of the slide is a colorful astronomical image showing a complex network of glowing filaments and structures in shades of blue, green, yellow, and orange against a dark background. A white rectangular box is centered over the image, containing the title text.

# New Analysis of an AGN Flare

# Flaring of AGN Markarian 501

- AGN at redshift  $z = 0.034$
- Flare on July 9th, 2005 with short rise/fall time

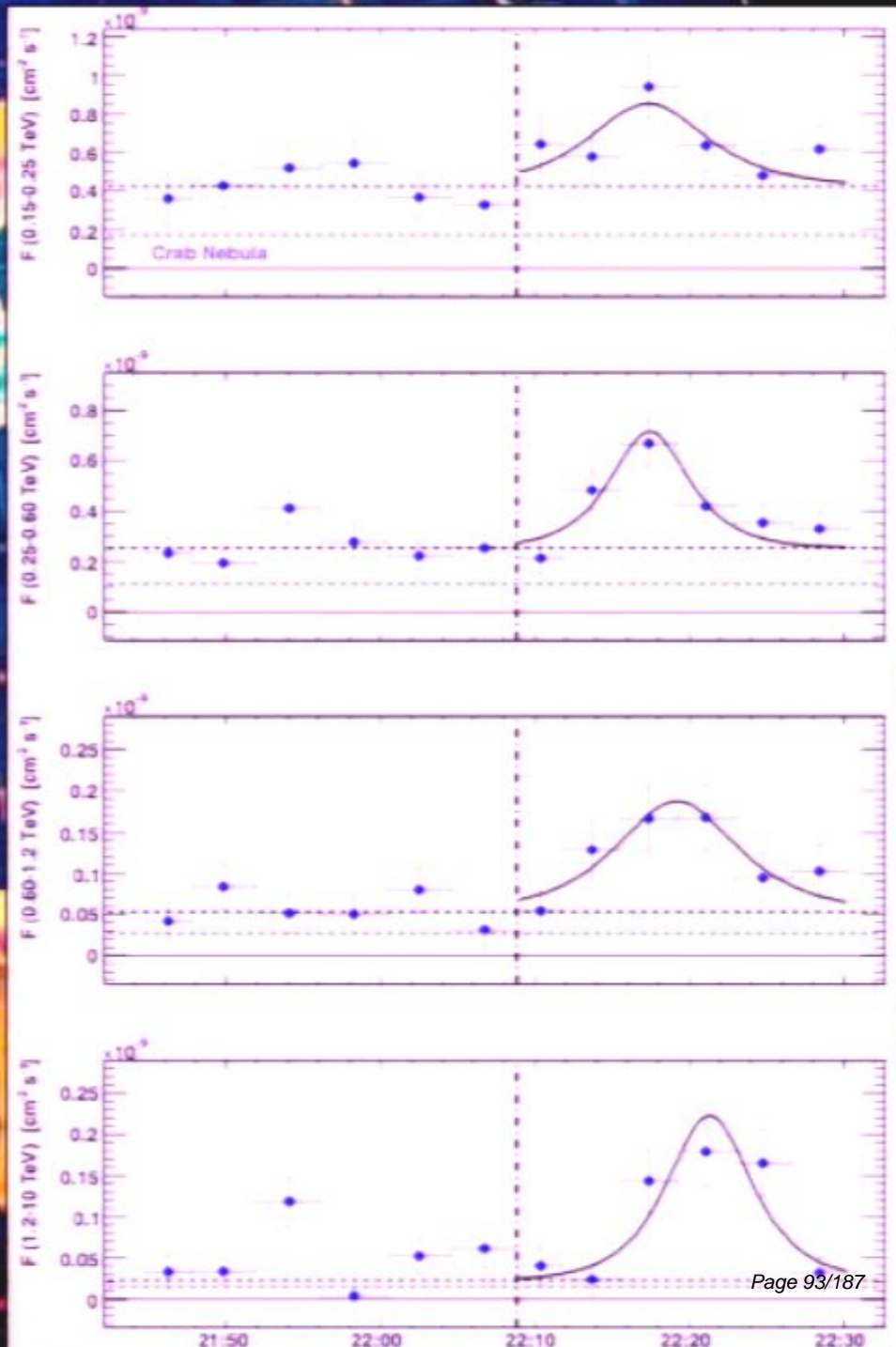


- Observed at energies from 150 GeV to  $\sim 10$  TeV
- Earlier flare on June 30th not significant at high energies



# Time Delay from Markarian 501?

- Arrival time delay of  $\sim 4$  minutes reported for photons in highest-energy bin
- Sensitive to  $M_{\text{QG1}} \sim 10^{16}$  GeV



# Analysis of AGN Markarian 501

- Non-trivial energy-dependent dispersion relation would tend to spread out any sharp structure
- Analyze individual photons, using measured energies  $E$  and arrival times  $t$
- Use 1000 Monte Carlo samples to allow for  $\Delta E$
- Track back using many values of  $M_{QG}$
- Determine value of  $M_{QG}$  that maximizes peaking of energy flow

MAGIC Collaboration +

JE, Mavromatos, Nanopoulos, Sakharov, Sarkisyan:

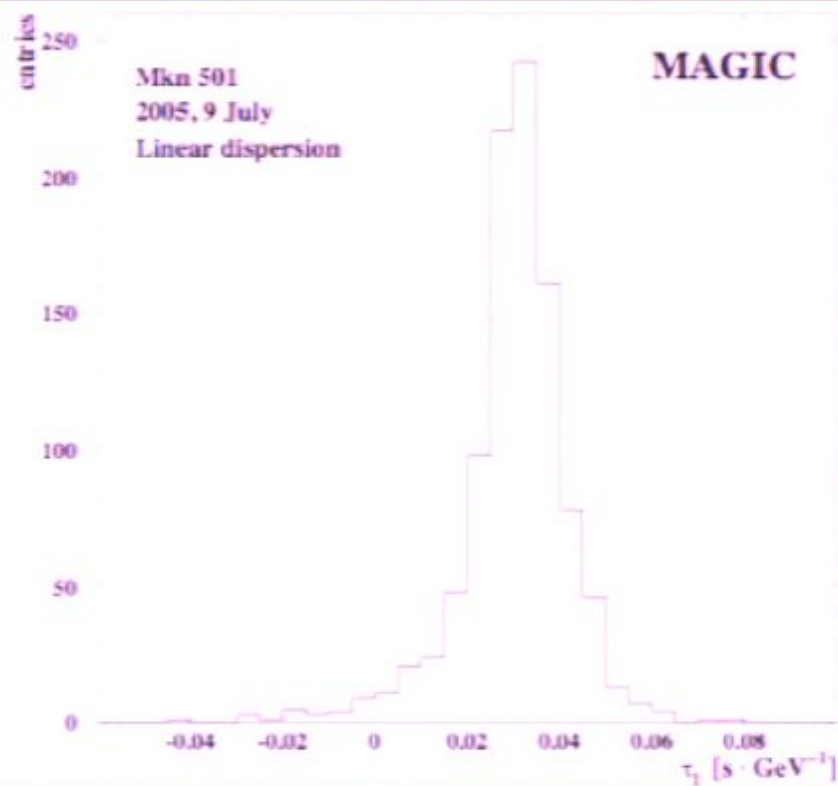
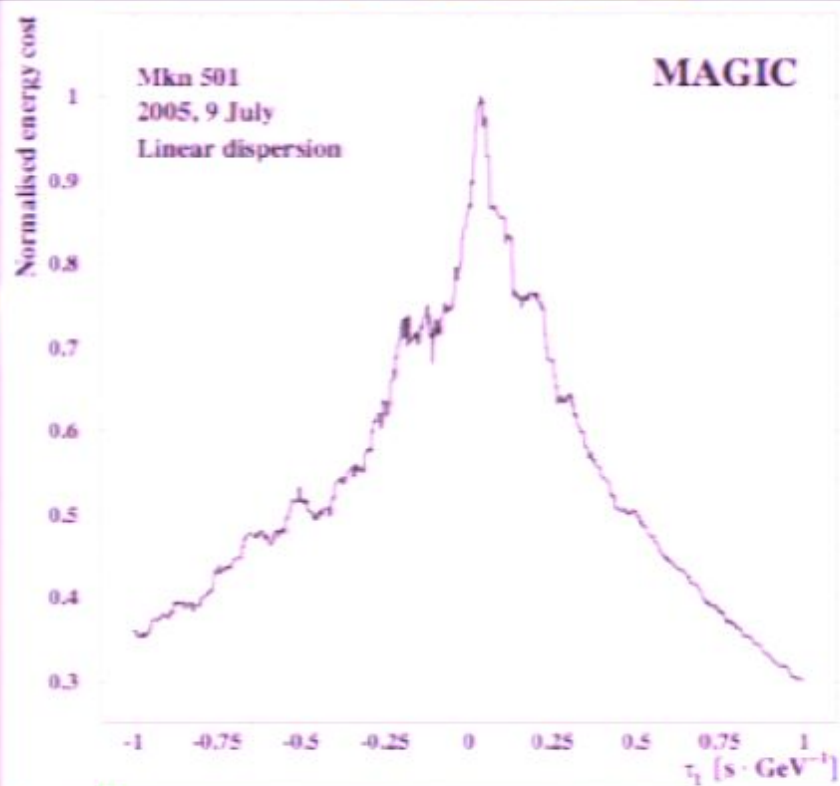
arXiv:0708:2889 [astro-ph]



# QG Analysis of AGN Markarian 501

Energy peaking for one Monte Carlo realization

Distribution of time delays for different realizations



# QG Results for AGN Markarian 501

- Significance of time delay < 95%
- Linear dispersion:  $(E/M_{QG1})$ 
  - One- $\sigma$  range:  $M_{QG1} = (0.34 \text{ to } 0.78) \times 10^{18} \text{ GeV}$
  - 95% CL lower limit:  $M_{QG1} > 0.26 \times 10^{18} \text{ GeV}$
- Quadratic dispersion:  $(E/M_{QG2})^2$ 
  - One- $\sigma$  range:  $M_{QG2} = (0.47 \text{ to } 1.1) \times 10^{11} \text{ GeV}$
  - 95% CL lower limit:  $M_{QG2} > 0.27 \times 10^{11} \text{ GeV}$
- Cannot exclude initial time delay at source



# Possible Source Effects?

- Cannot exclude emission mechanism that delays higher-energy photons
- Can exclude conventional thermodynamic plasma effects:

$$\Delta t = D(\alpha^2 T^2 / 6q^2) \ln^2(qT / m_e^2)$$

T = temperature, D = size of emission region, q = photon momentum

Orders of magnitude too small for T  $\sim 10^{-2}$  MeV, D  $\sim 10^9$  km, q  $\sim 1$  TeV

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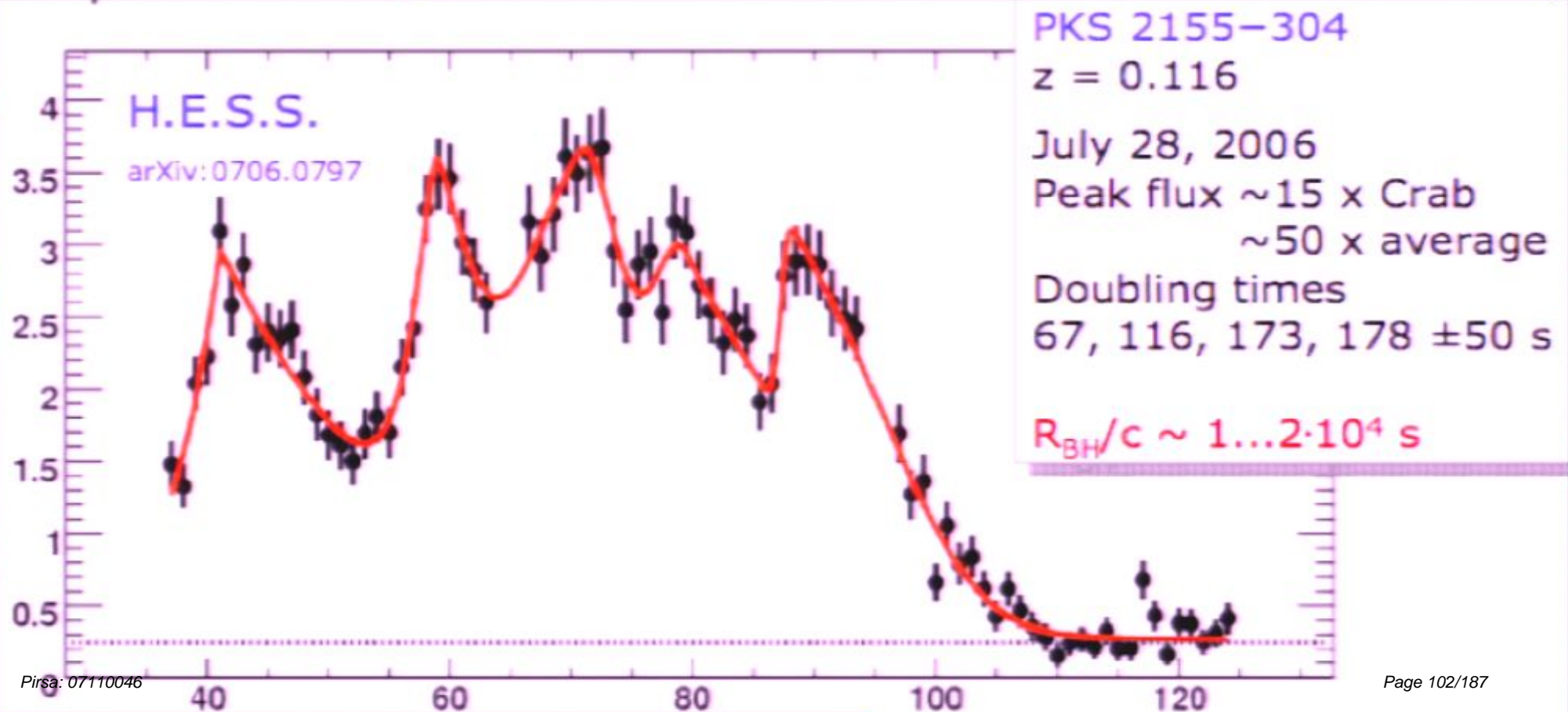
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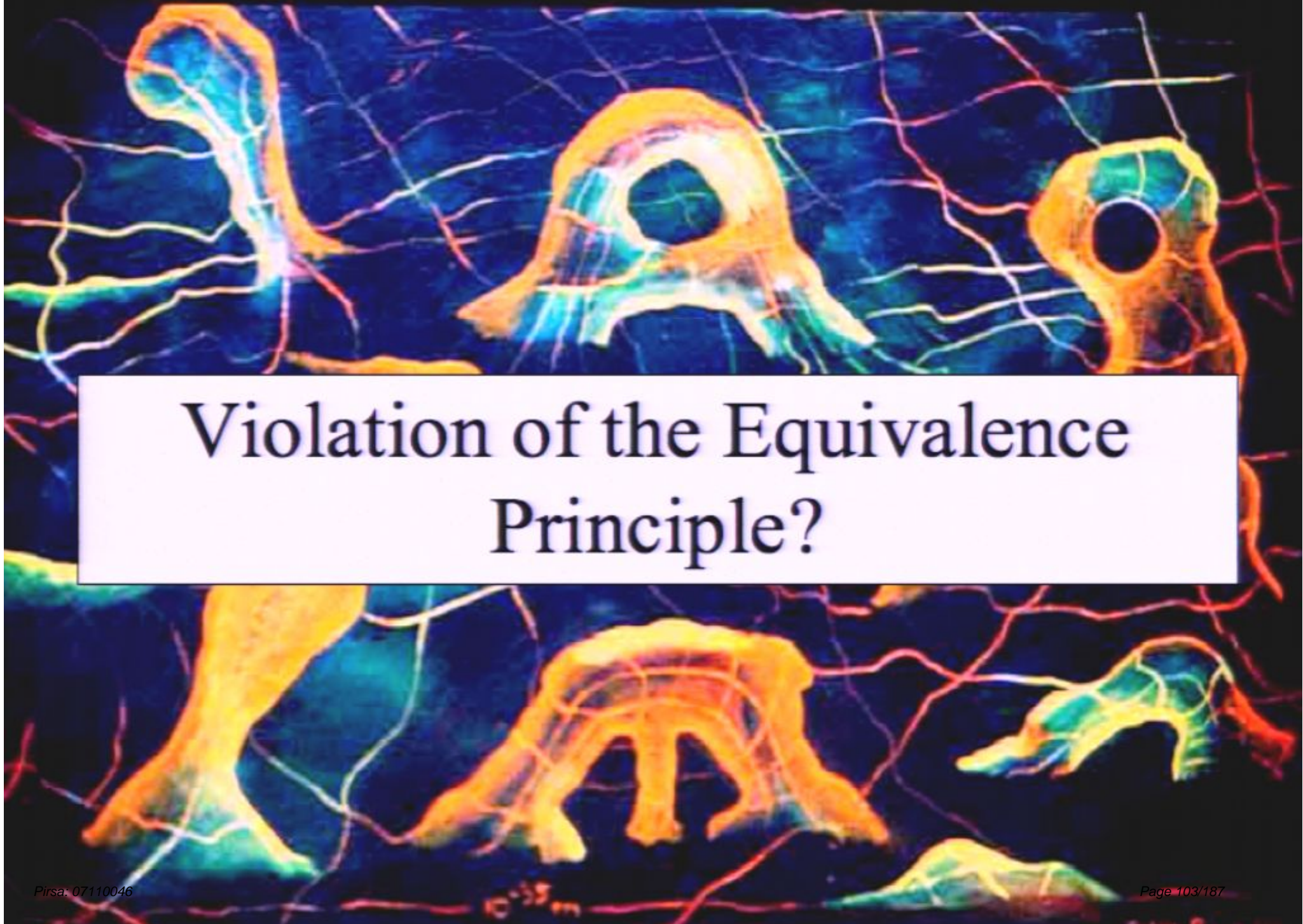
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# Analyze Other AGNs?

- E.g., observation by HESS of multiple flaring of AGN at larger redshift with more statistics







# Violation of the Equivalence Principle?

# Non-Universality of Lorentz Violation?

- Do all relativistic particles have same velocity?



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- Expected in non-critical string model of foam

# Synchrotron Radiation Constraint from Crab Nebula

Jacobson, Liberati + Mattingly

- See 0.5 GeV  $\gamma$ : inverse Compton by  $> 50$  TeV  $e$
- Consider modified dispersion relations for both electrons  $e$  and photons  $\gamma$ :

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- If  $\alpha = 1$ :  $m_{\text{eff}} > 10^{26}$  GeV



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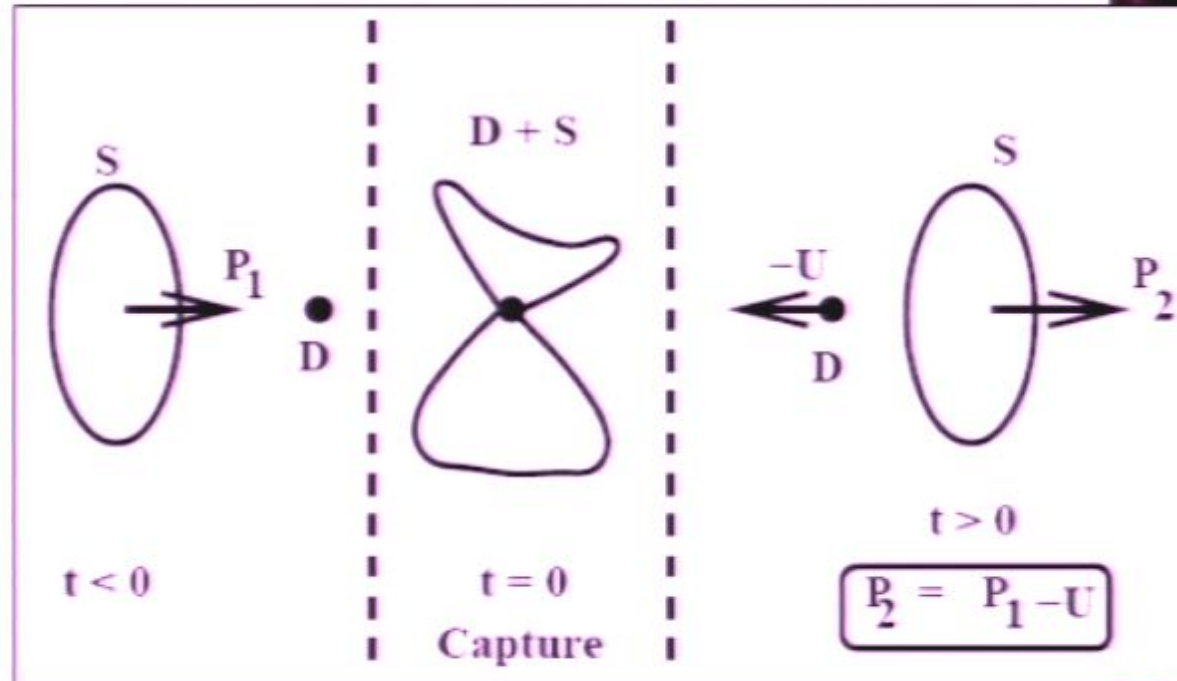
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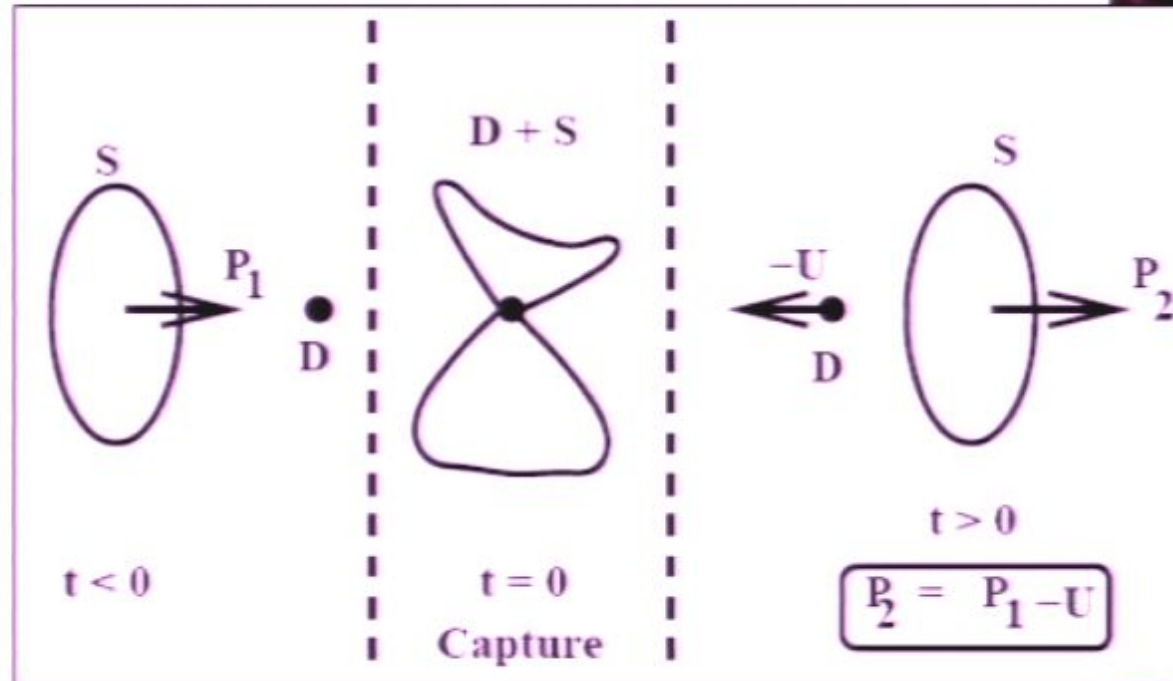
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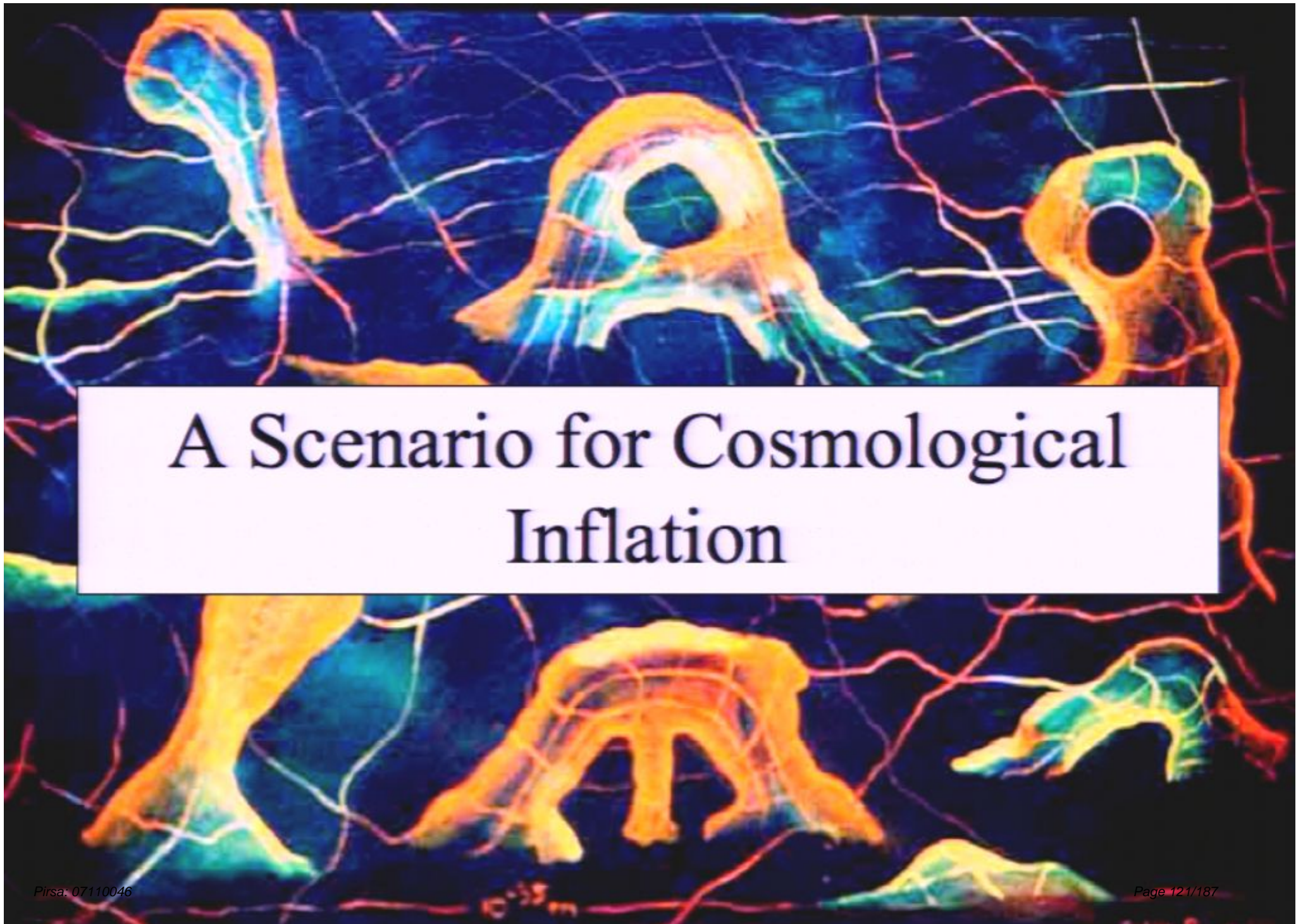
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- Charged particles such as electrons do not 'see' D-particle foam  $\rightarrow$  propagate normally





# A Scenario for Cosmological Inflation

# Non-Critical String Description of Inflation

JE, Mavromatos + Nanopoulos

- Conventional field-theoretic inflation:

$$\ddot{\Phi}_c + 3H\dot{\Phi}_c - \mu^2\Phi_c = 0 \quad \Phi_c \simeq \exp\left(\frac{\mu^2}{3H}t\right)$$

- Fokker-Planck evolution of quantum inflaton:

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# Brany Scenario for Inflation

Generic non-critical string:

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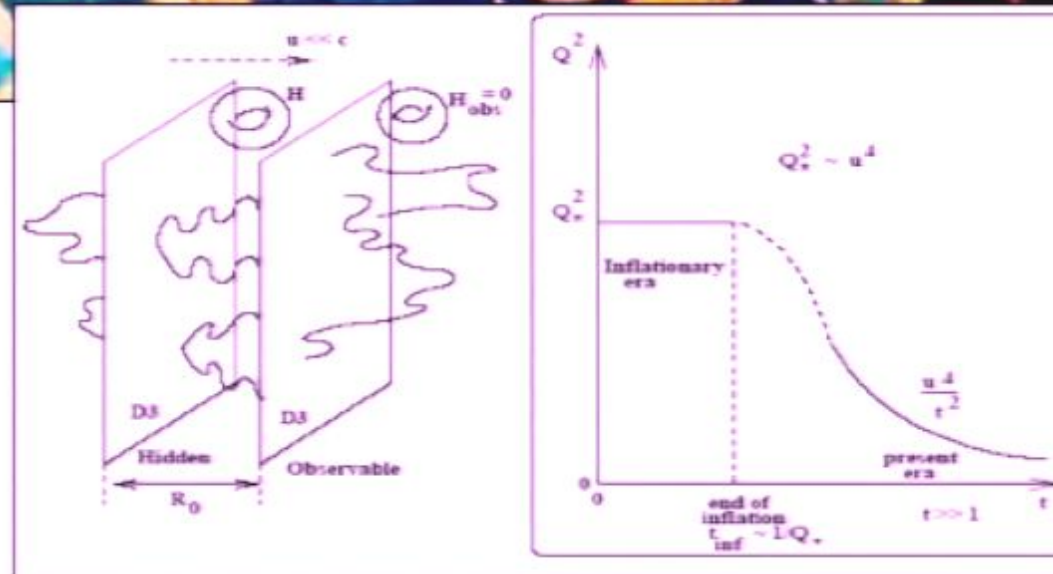
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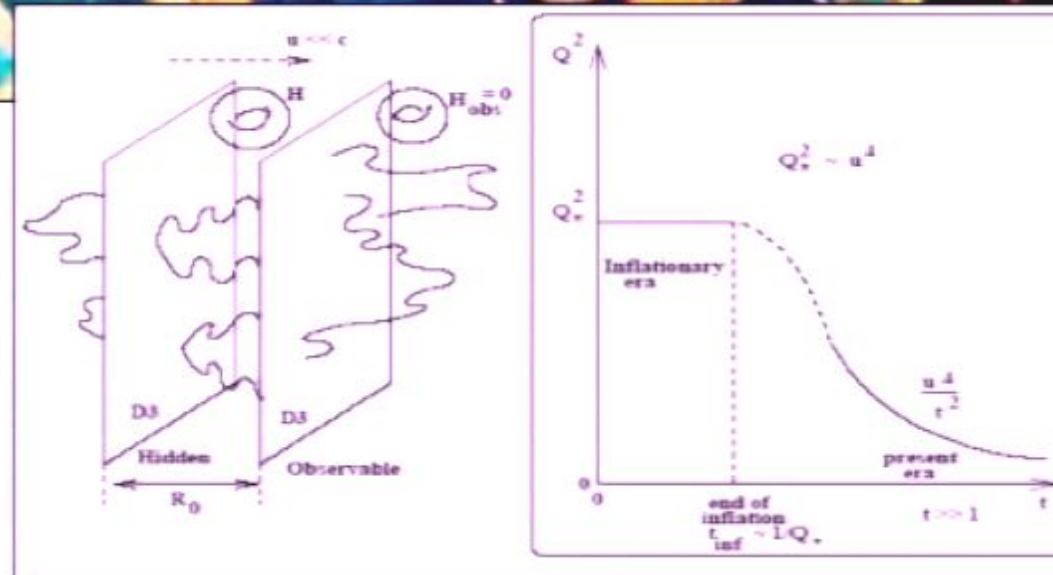
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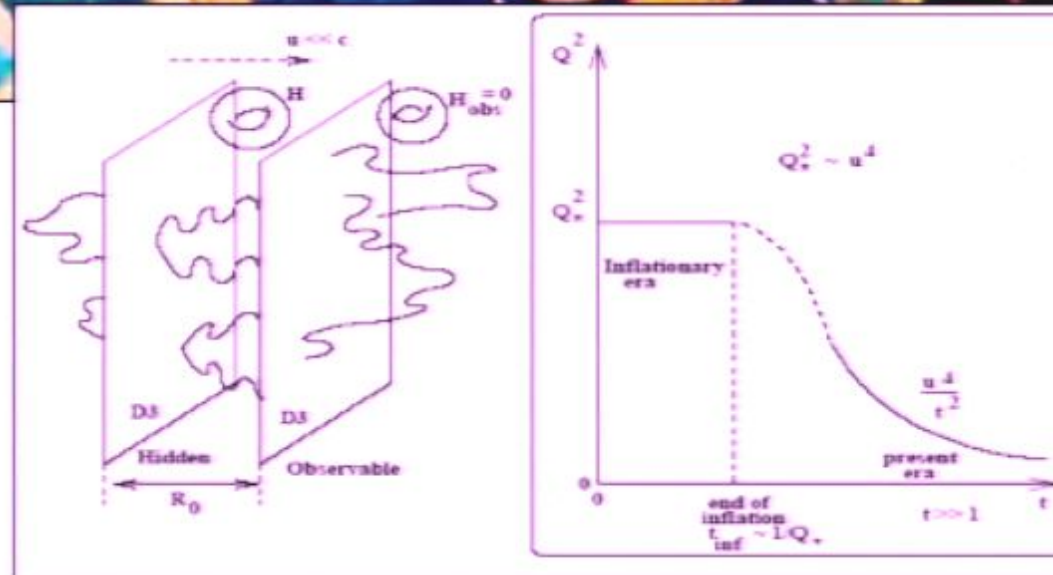
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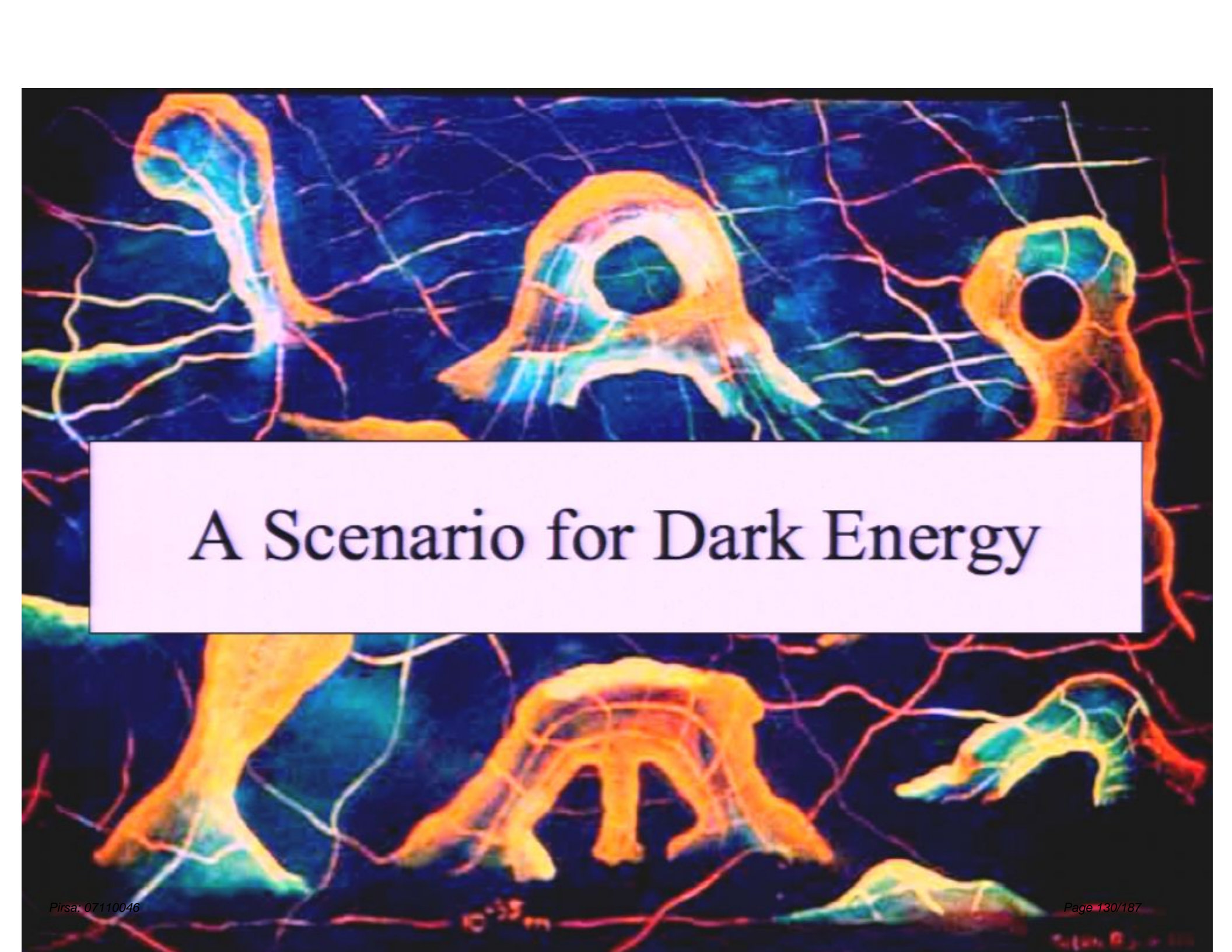


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# A Scenario for Dark Energy



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- $Q_0^2$  departure from criticality,  $\beta$  &  $\gamma$  model-dependent constants

- Hubble expansion:  $H(t_E) \simeq \frac{\gamma^2 t_E}{1 + \gamma^2 t_E^2}$ ,  $\Lambda_E(t_E) \simeq \frac{\gamma^2}{\beta^2(1 + \gamma^2 t_E^2)}$

# The String Coupling Accelerates the Expansion of the Universe

- Deceleration parameter:

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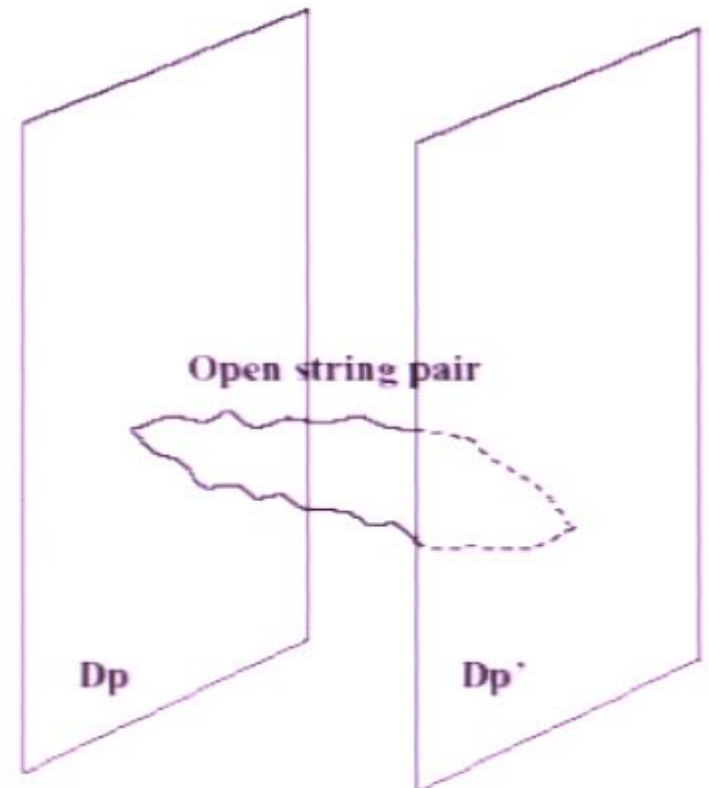
- The expansion of the Universe accelerates

**Present data  $\rightarrow g_s^2 \sim 0.6$**



# One Possible 'Brany' Realization

- Maybe we live on a subspace in some higher-dimensional Universe (brane) populated also by other branes?

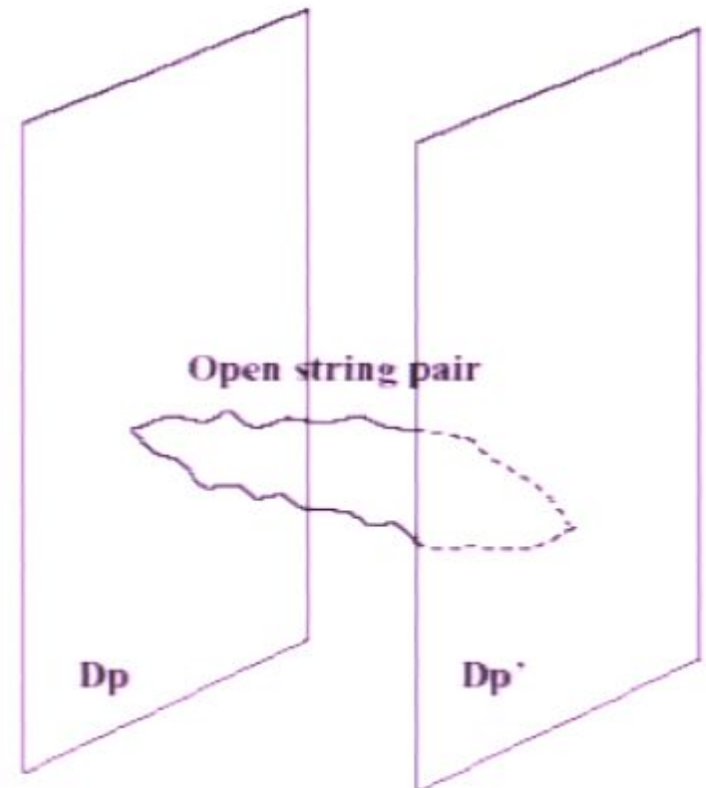


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- Maybe branes still moving apart?

- We would feel apparent dark energy  
~ rate of separation





# Fits to Cosmological Data

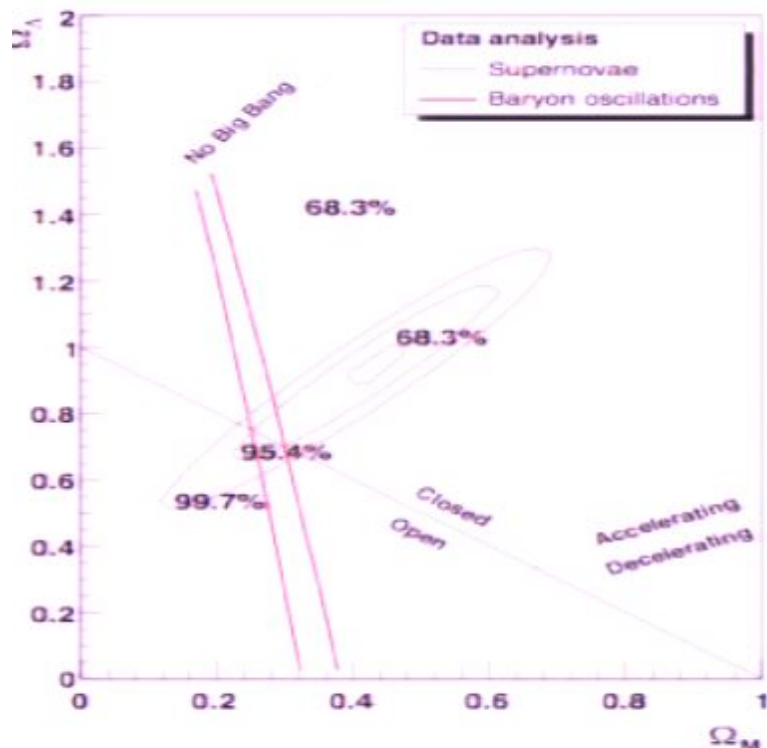
## Standard $\Lambda$ CDM

= Cosmo. Constant + cold dark matter

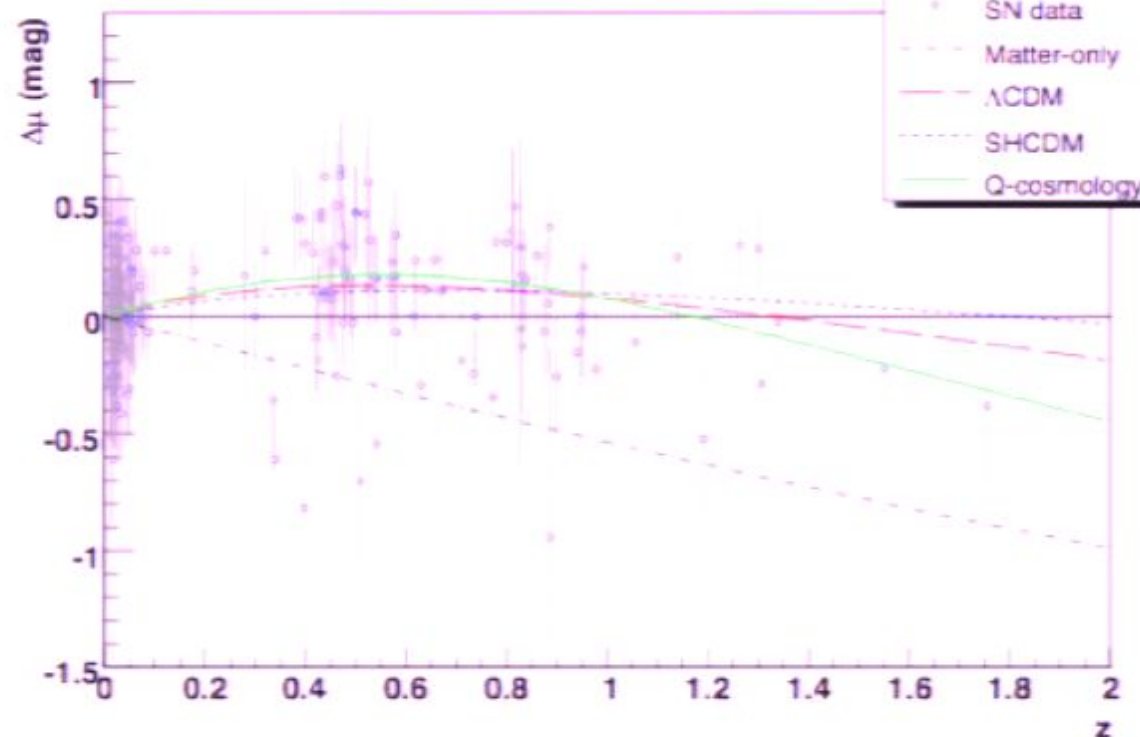
'Q- Cosmology' = time-

dependent vacuum energy + off-shell string also OK

$\Lambda$ CDM model - SN & BAO analysis



"Gold" dataset: residual magnitude



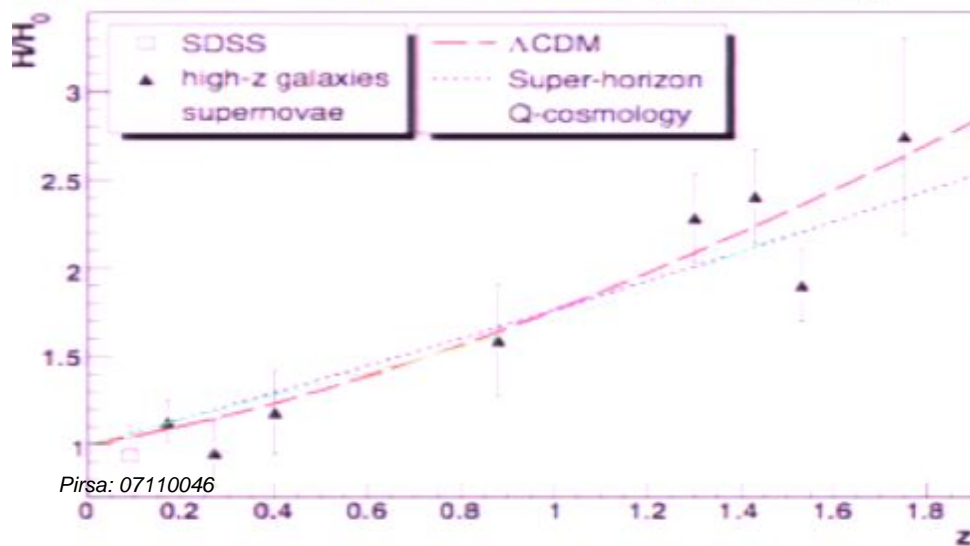
# Time-Dependent Vacuum Energy: 'Q-Cosmology'

- 'Dust' + off-shell string contribution + varying vacuum energy:

$$H(z) = H_0 \left( \Omega_3(1+z)^3 + \Omega_\delta(1+z)^\delta + \Omega_2(1+z)^2 \right)^{1/2}$$

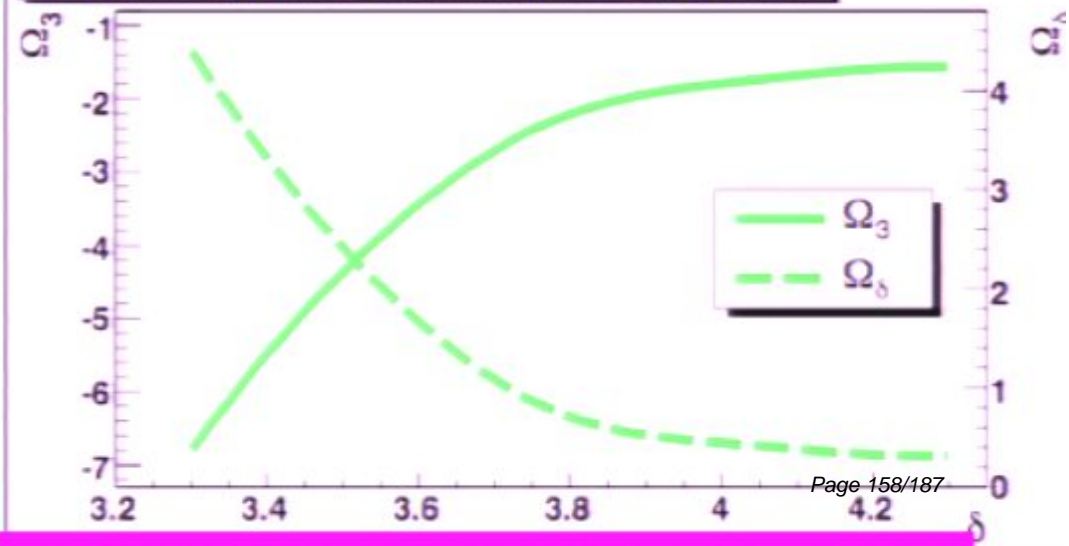
- Fit to data with negative-energy dust

Distant-galaxies-constrained Hubble parameter



Pirsa: 07110046

Q-cosmology: data-favoured parameter values



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- Violation of equivalence principle?
- Cosmology is natural arena: inflation, dark energy



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