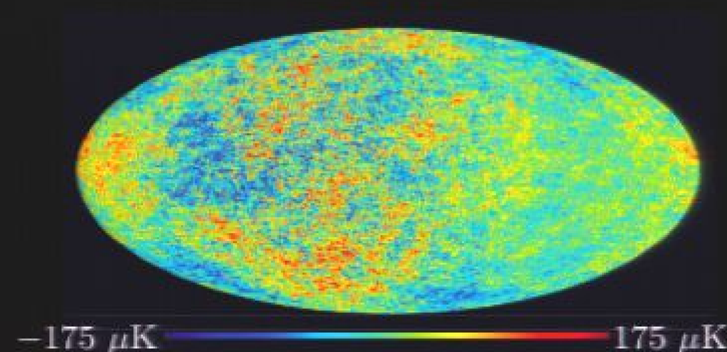
Title: Inflationary Origins of the Cosmic Power Asymmetry

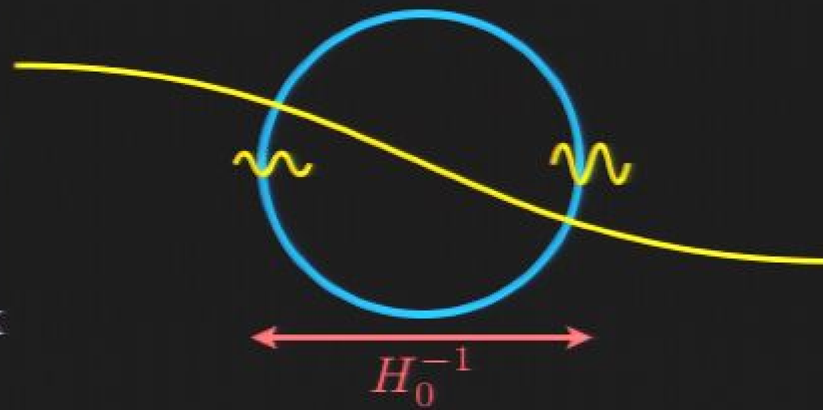
Date: Dec 09, 2008 04:00 PM

URL: http://pirsa.org/08120031

Abstract: WMAP measurements of CMB temperature anisotropies reveal a power asymmetry: the average amplitude of temperature fluctuations in one hemisphere is larger than the average amplitude in the opposite hemisphere at the 99% confidence level. This power asymmetry may be generated during inflation by a large-amplitude superhorizon perturbation that causes the mean energy density to vary across the observable Universe. Such a superhorizon perturbation would also induce large-scale temperature anisotropies in the CMB; measurements of the CMB quadrupole and octupole (but not the dipole!) therefore constrain the perturbation\'s amplitude and wavelength. I will show how a superhorizon perturbation in a multi-field inflationary theory, the curvaton model, can produce the observed power asymmetry without generating unacceptable temperature fluctuations in the CMB. I will also discuss how this mechanism for generating the power asymmetry will be tested by forthcoming CMB experiments.

Structure Beyond the Horizon:
Inflationary Origins of the Cosmic Power Asymmetr





Adrienne Erickcek

California Institute of Technology

In collaboration with Sean Carroll and Marc Kamionkowski

"A Hemispherical Power Asymmetry from Inflation" Phys. Rev. D in press [arXiv:0806.0377]

"Superhorizon Perturbations and the CMB" Phys. Rev. D **78** *083012 (2008) [arXiv:0808.1570]*

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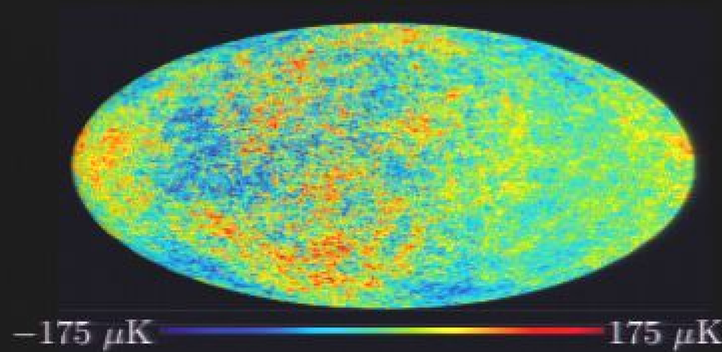

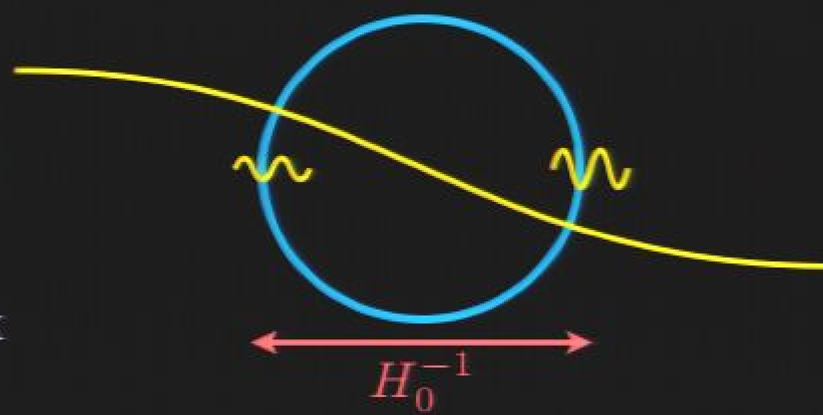

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Outline

I. Power Asymmetry from Superhorizon Structure

- What power asymmety?
- How can we make one?

II. Superhorizon Perturbations and the CMB

- If there were superhorizon structures, how would we know?
- Bad news...

III. A Power Asymmetry from the Curvaton

- What went wrong and how do we fix it?
- What is a curvaton anyway?
- Can a curvaton superhorizon fluctuation explain the asymmetry?
- How do we test this model?

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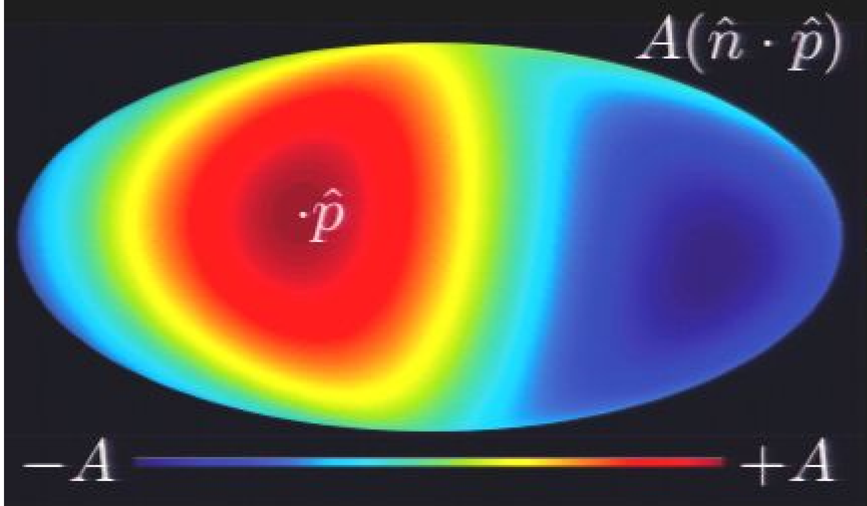
A Hemispherical Power Asymmety



$$\mathbf{T}(\hat{n}) = s(\hat{n})\,[1 + A(\hat{n}\cdot\hat{p})]$$

CMB Temperature

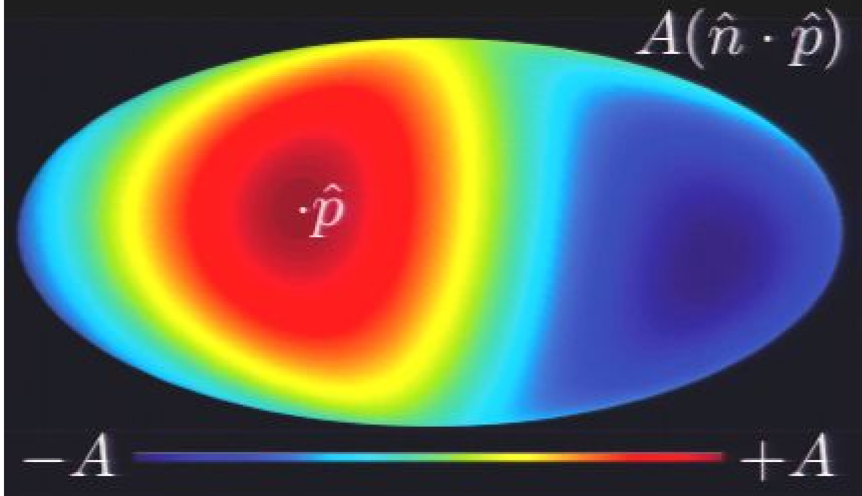
Gaussian field with isotropic power

Modulation Amplitude

"North" pole of asymmetry

Simulated maps courtesy of H. K. Eriksen

A Hemispherical Power Asymmety



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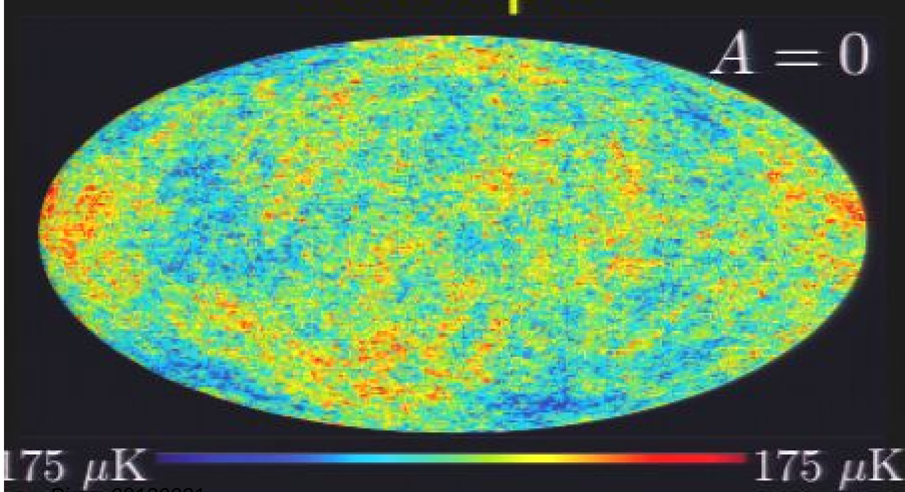
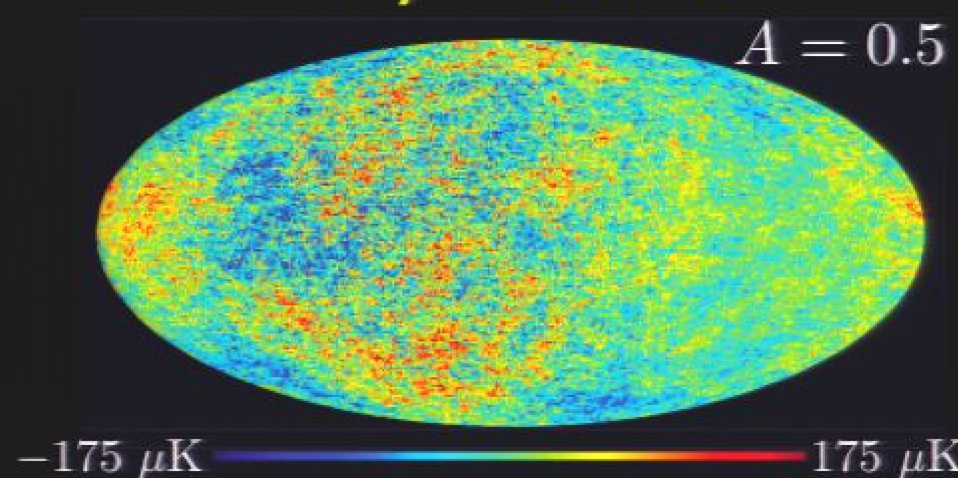


Asymmetric



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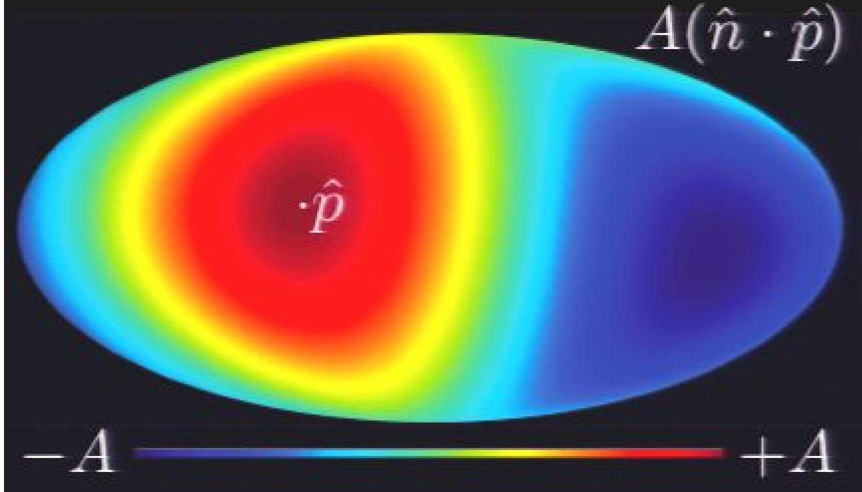

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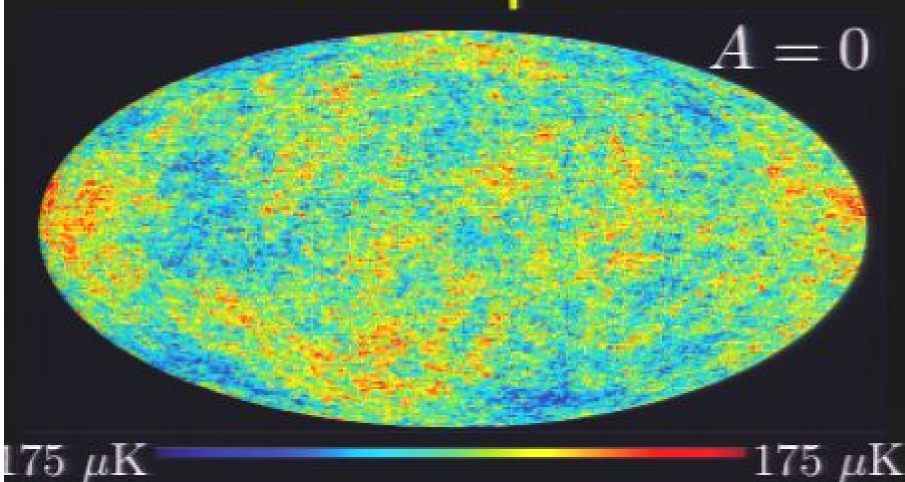

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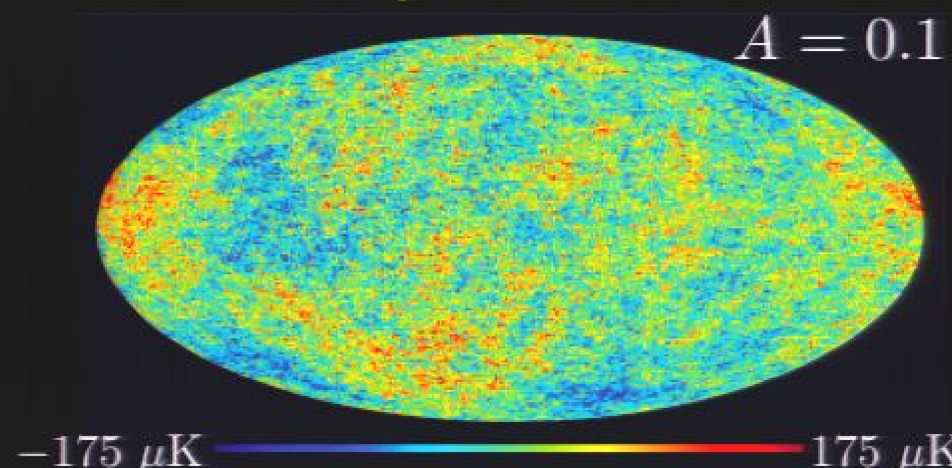

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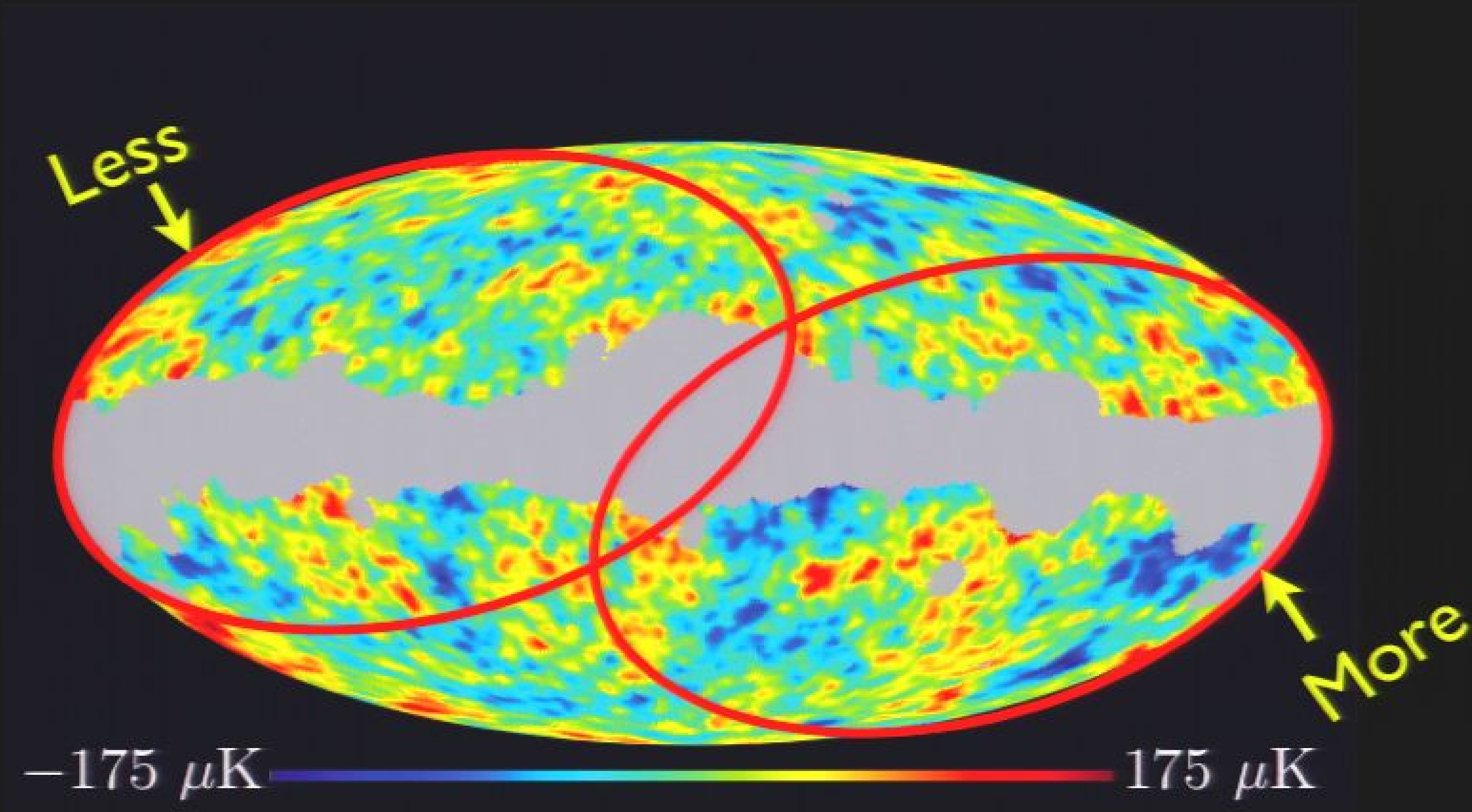
An Asymmetric Universe!

There is a power asymmetry on large angular scales in the WMAP 1st year data.

Eriksen, Hansen, Banday, Gorski, Lilje 2004

$\ell = 5 - 40$



CMB image from Eriksen, et al. astro-ph/0307507

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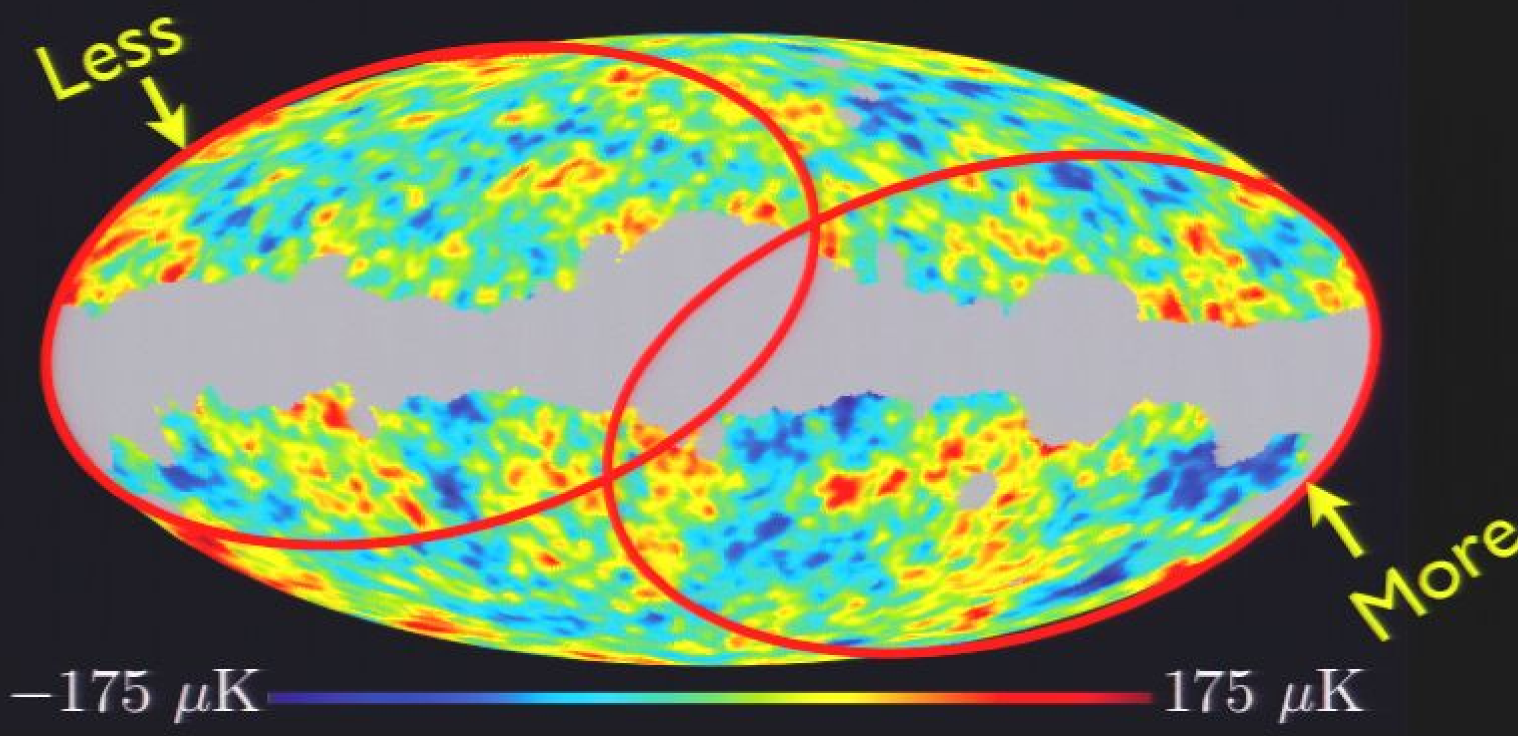
- Power asymmetry is maximized when the "equatorial" plane is tilted with respect to the Galactic plane: "north" pole at $(\ell, b) = (237^\circ, -10^\circ)$.
- Only 0.7% of simulated symmetric maps contain this much asymmetry.



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The asymmetry persists in the WMAP3 data.

Eriksen, Banday, Gorski, Hansen, Lilje 2007

$$\mathbf{T}(\hat{n}) = s(\hat{n})\,[1 + A(\hat{n}\cdot\hat{p})] + \mathbf{N}(\hat{n})$$

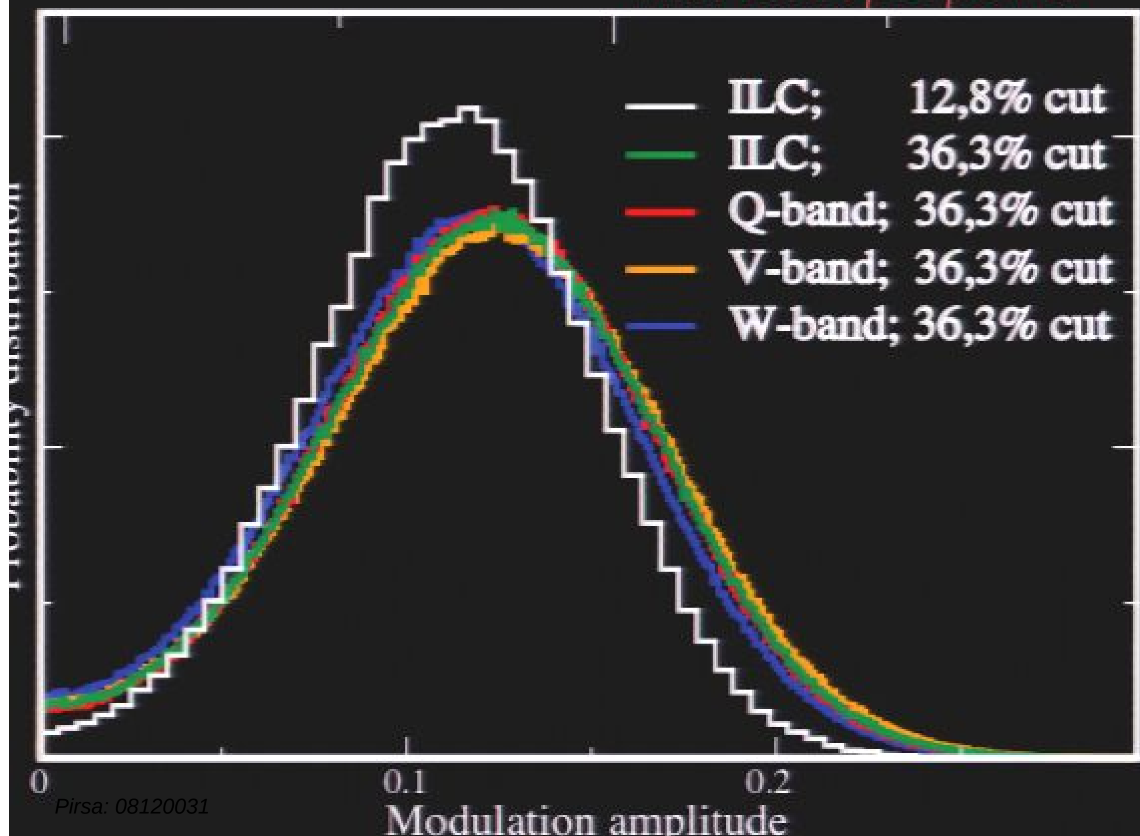
Observed CMB Temperature

Gaussian field with isotropic power

Modulation Amplitude

"North" pole of asymmetry

Noise



Eriksen, et al. astro-ph/070108

Bayesian analysis: $A \simeq 0.12$

"north" pole: $(\ell, b) \simeq (210°, -27°)$

The probability of measuring this amplitude or larger given an isotropic field is 0.01.

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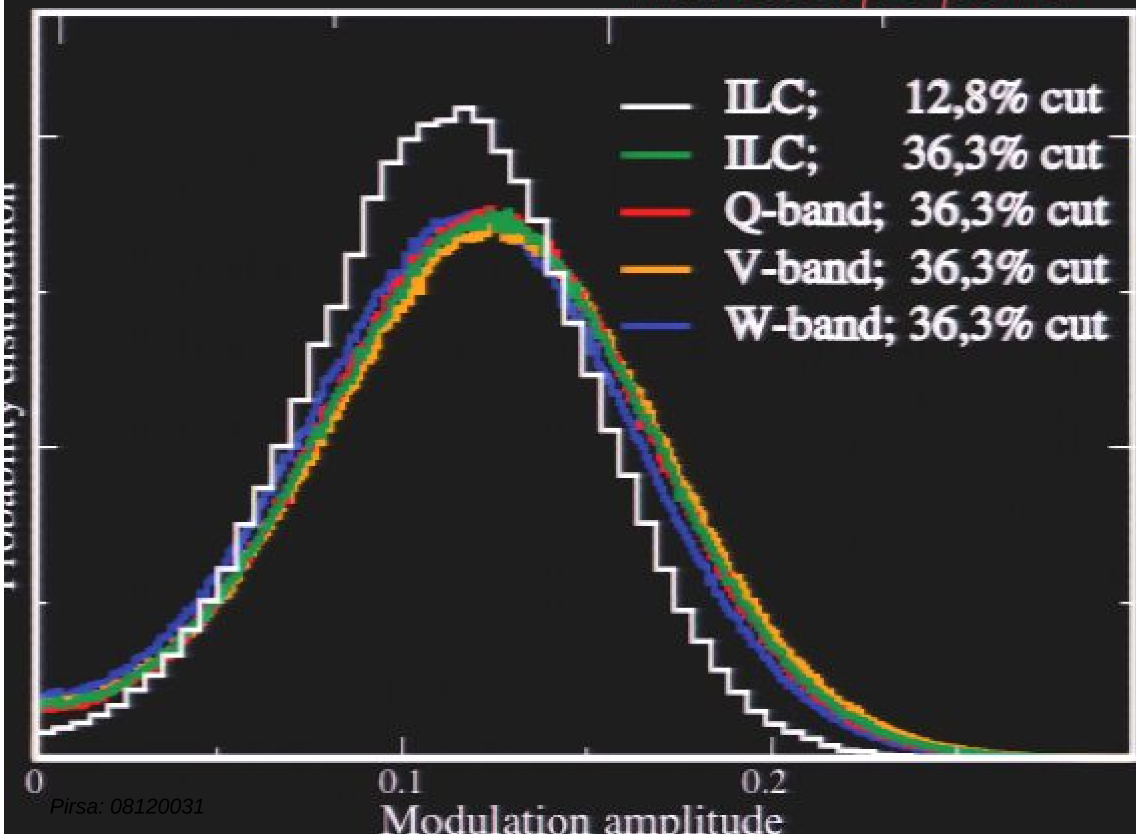


Eriksen, et al. astro-ph/070108

The asymmetry is difficult to explain with foregrounds:

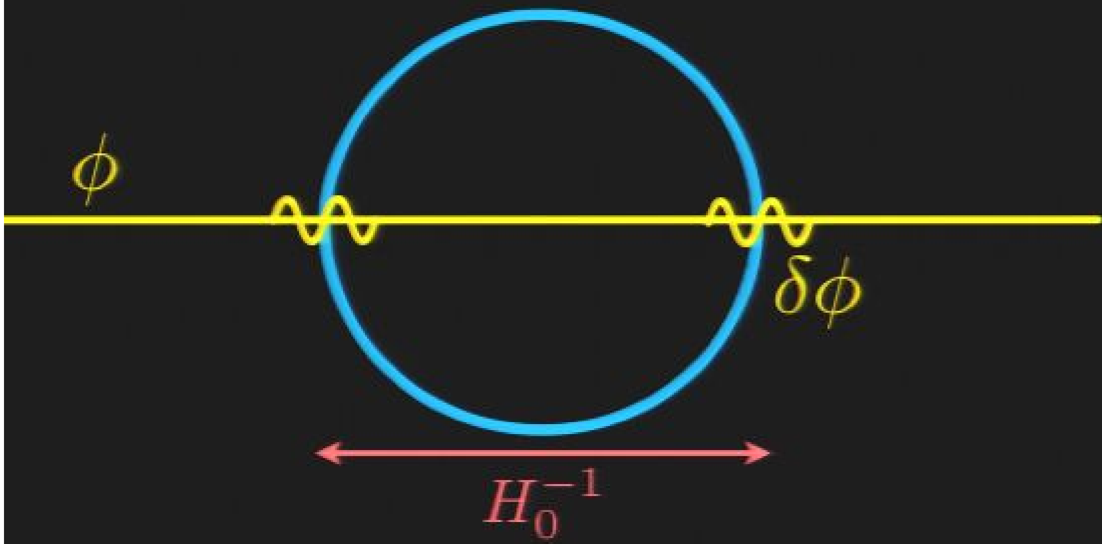
- present in all colors
- not aligned with the Galaxy

The asymmetry is difficult to explain with systematics:

- also detected by COBE

Hansen, et al. 2004, Eriksen, et al. 2004

Asymmetry from a "Supermode"



The amplitude of quantum fluctuations depends on the background value of the inflaton field.

$$P_\Psi = \frac{2}{9k^3}\left[\frac{H(\phi)^2}{\dot{\phi}}\right]^2\Bigg|_{k=aH}$$

Power Spectrum of Potential Fluctuations

$$\mathrm{d}s^2 = -(1+2\Psi)\mathrm{d}t^2 + a^2(t)\delta_{ij}(1-2\Psi)\mathrm{d}x^i\mathrm{d}x^j$$

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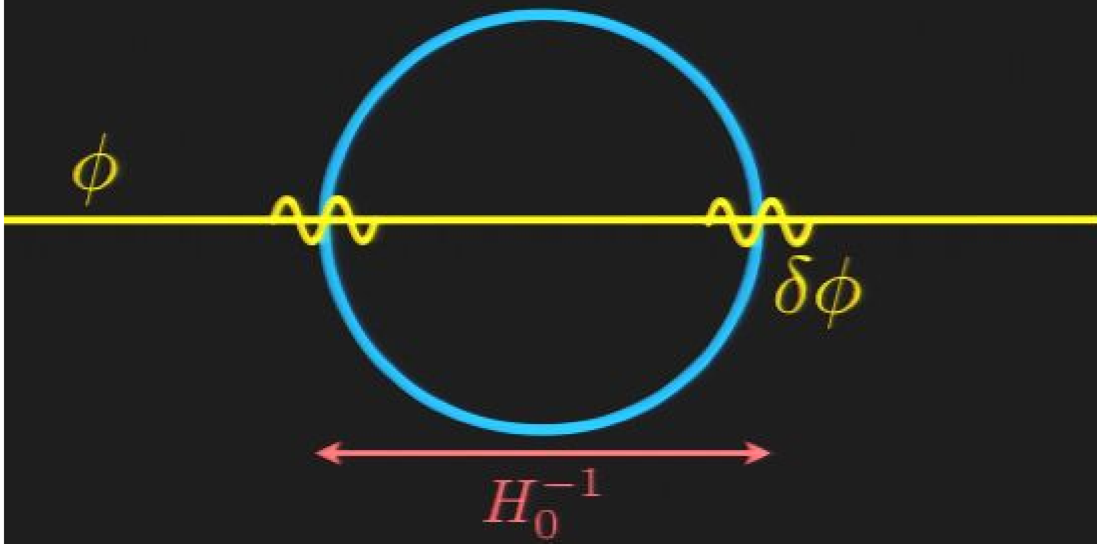

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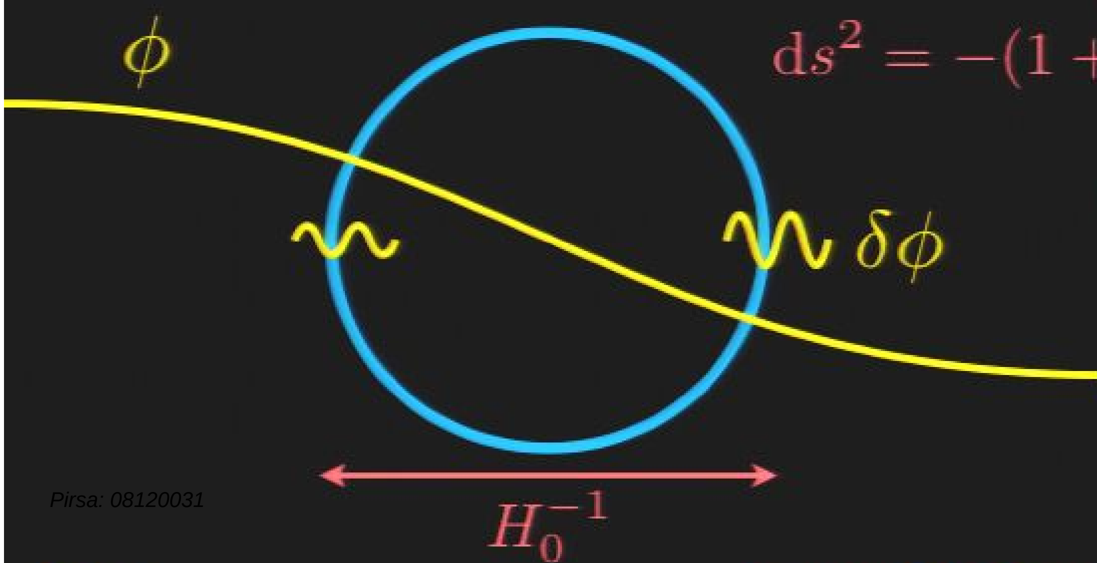


Create asymmetry by adding a large-amplitude superhorizon fluctuation: a "supermode."

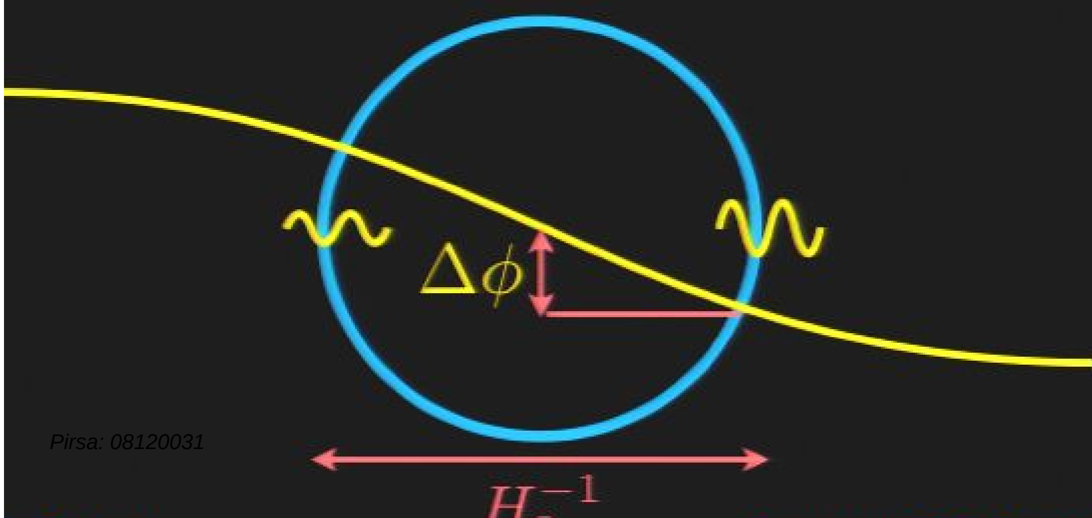
Asymmetry from a "Supermode"

A modulation amplitude $A \simeq 0.12 \Longrightarrow \dfrac{\Delta P_\Psi(k)}{P_\Psi(k)_{360^\circ}} \simeq \pm 0.20$

Generating this much asymmetry requires a **BIG** supermode

- Perturbations with different wavelengths are very weakly coupled.
- The fluctuation power is not very sensitive to $\phi \Longleftrightarrow n_s \simeq 1$.

$$\frac{\Delta P_\Psi}{P_\Psi} = -2\sqrt{\frac{\pi}{\epsilon}}(1-n_s)\frac{\Delta\phi}{m_{\rm Pl}}$$



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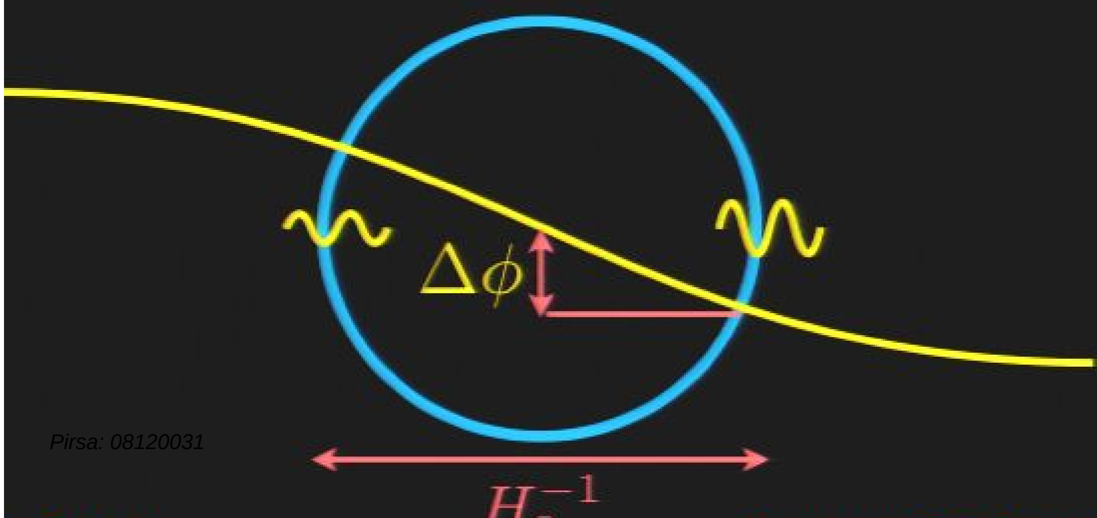


$$\Delta\phi \Longrightarrow \Delta\Psi \Longrightarrow \Delta T$$

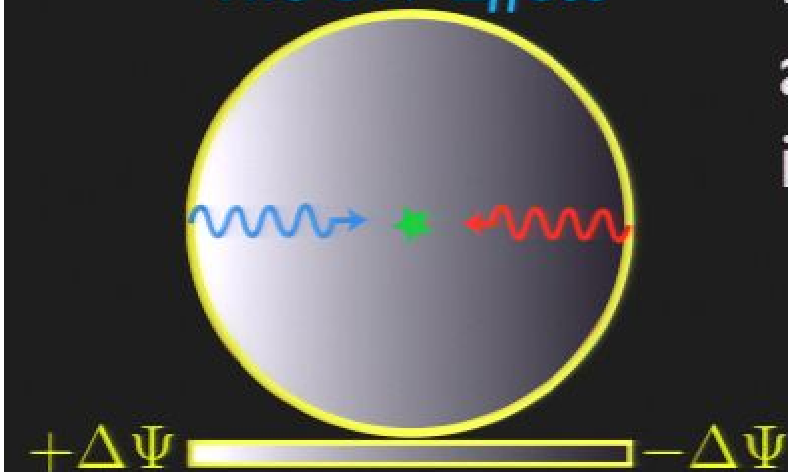
Surely the resulting temperature dipole would be far too large?

Part II

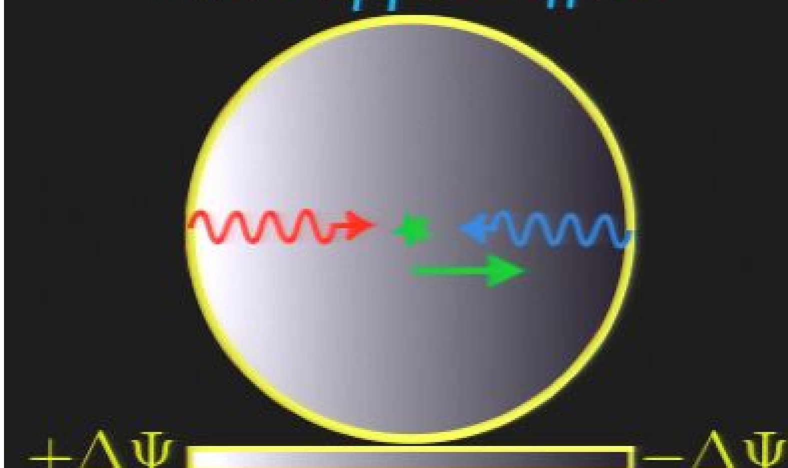
Superhorizon Perturbations and the Cosmic Microwave Background

The Dipole Sometimes Cancels...

The SW Effect



The Doppler Effect



In an Einstein - de Sitter Universe, a superhorizon perturbation induces no CMB dipole. *Grishchuk, Zel'dovich 1978*

- The SW dipole is cancelled by the Doppler dipole.
- If there is radiation or a cosmological constant, then the Doppler dipole is reduced.
- The ISW dipole will partially cancel the SW dipole.

Will a superhorizon perturbation induce a CMB dipole in our Universe?

The Dipole Cancels!

\diabatic superhorizon
erturbation:

$$\Psi(\vec{x}) = \Psi_{\rm SM}\left[\vec{k}\cdot\vec{x}\right]$$

$$kH_0^{-1} \ll 1$$

emperature
nisotropy:

$$\frac{\Delta T}{T}(\hat{n}) = \delta_1 \Psi_{\rm SM}\left[\vec{k}\cdot\vec{x}_{\rm dec}\right]$$

cludes SW, Doppler and ISW
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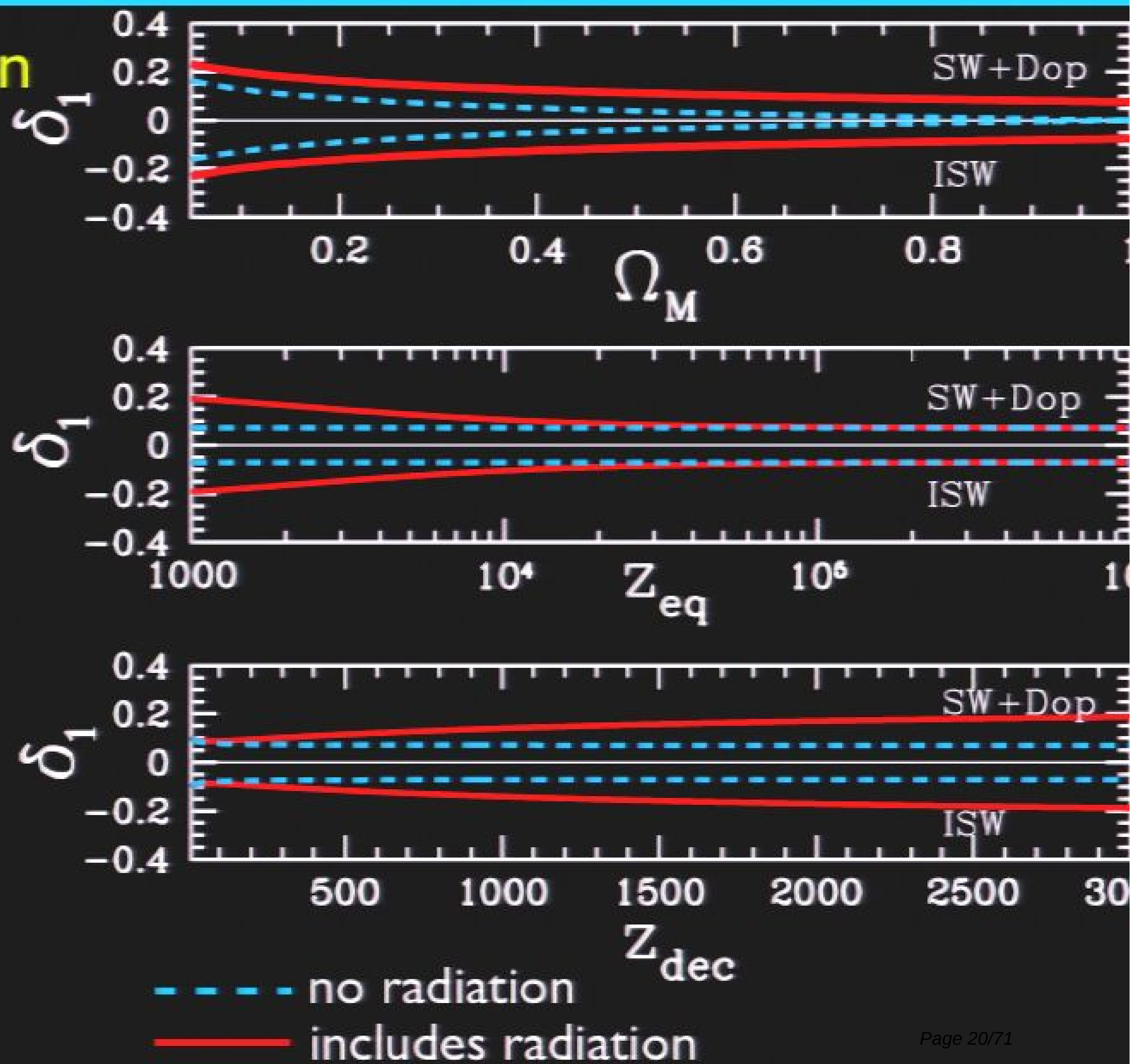


The Dipole Cancels!

Adiabatic superhorizon perturbation:

$$\Psi(\vec{x}) = \Psi_{\rm SM}\left[\vec{k}\cdot\vec{x}\right]$$

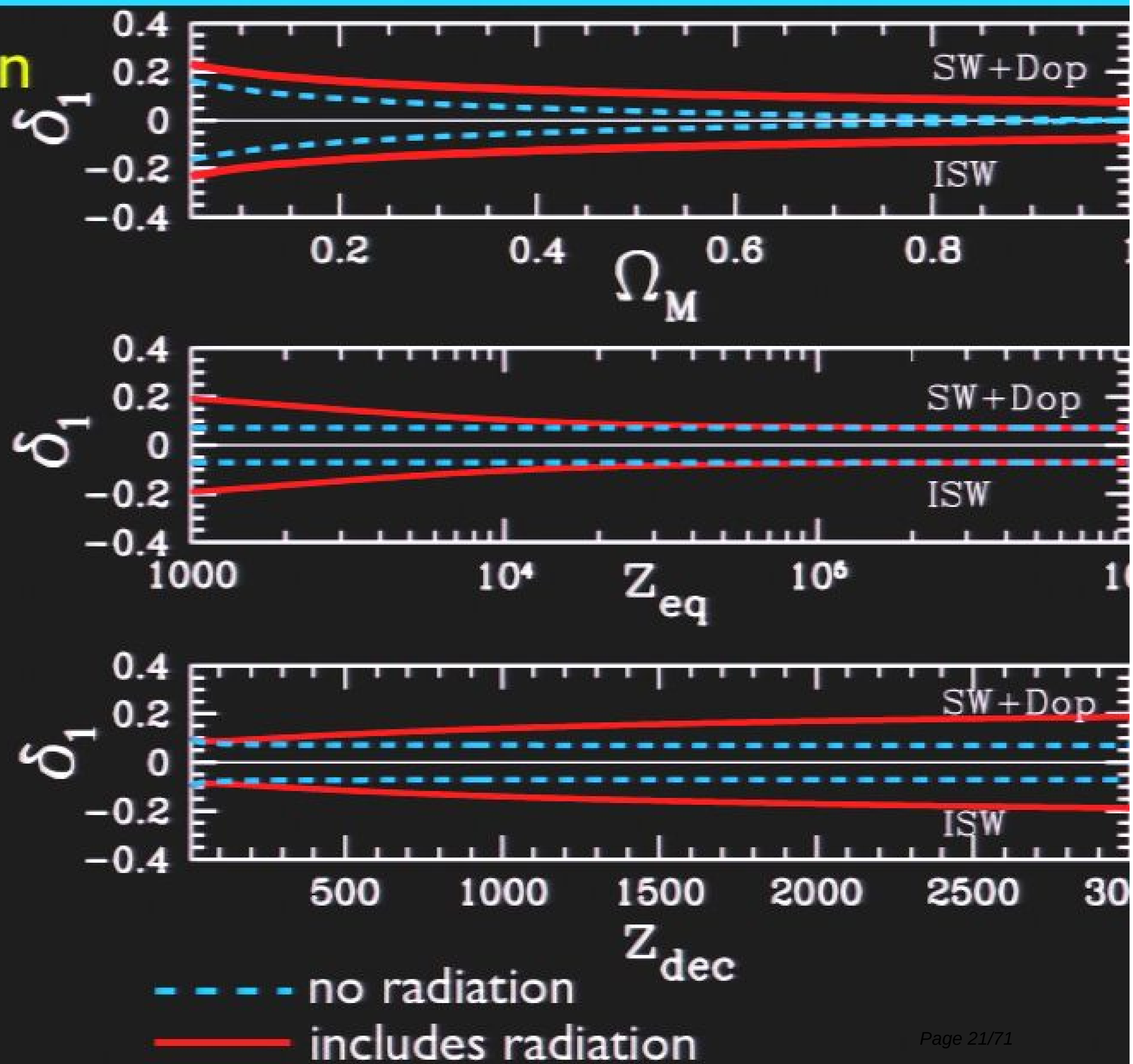
$$kH_0^{-1} \ll 1$$

Temperature anisotropy:

$$\frac{\Delta T}{T}(\hat{n}) = \delta_1 \Psi_{\rm SM}\left[\vec{k}\cdot\vec{x}_{\rm dec}\right]$$

Includes SW, Doppler and ISW anisotropies

The dipole cancels for all flat ΛCDM universes, even if radiation is included.



Beyond the Dipole

A single superhorizon mode: $\Psi(\vec{x},t) = \Psi_{\rm SM}(t)\sin[\vec{k}\cdot\vec{x}+\varpi]$

$kH_0^{-1} \ll 1$

phase of our location

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A single superhorizon mode: $\Psi(\vec{x},t) = \Psi_{\mathrm{SM}}(t)\sin[\vec{k}\cdot\vec{x} + \varpi]$

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distance to last scattering surface

phase of our location

Temperature anisotropy: *Expansion in powers of $\vec{k}\cdot\vec{x}_{\mathrm{d}}$*

$$\frac{\Delta T}{T}(\hat{n}) = \Psi_{\mathrm{SM}}\left[(\vec{k}\cdot\vec{x}_{\mathrm{d}})\delta_1\cos\varpi - (\vec{k}\cdot\vec{x}_{\mathrm{d}})^2\delta_2\frac{\sin\varpi}{2} - (\vec{k}\cdot\vec{x}_{\mathrm{d}})^3\delta_3\frac{\cos\varpi}{6}\right]$$

Observed CMB Temperature | *Dipole* | *Quadrupole* | *Octupole*

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A single superhorizon mode: $\Psi(\vec{x},t) = \Psi_{\rm SM}(t)\sin[\vec{k}\cdot\vec{x}+\varpi]$

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Temperature anisotropy: Expansion in powers of $\vec{k}\cdot\vec{x}_{\rm d}$

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Observed CMB Temperature | Dipole | Quadrupole | Octupole

Multipole moments: $$\frac{\Delta T}{T}(\hat{n}) = \sum_{\ell,m} a_{\ell m}Y_{\ell m}(\hat{n}) \longleftarrow \hat{k} = \hat{z}$$

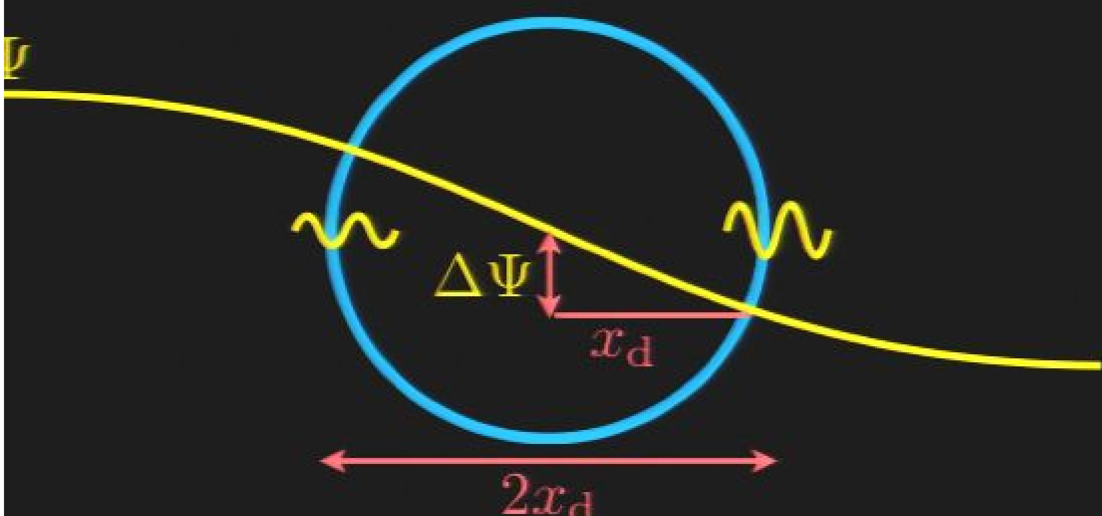
$$\boxed{\begin{aligned} a_{20} &= -\sqrt{\frac{4\pi}{5}}(kx_{\rm d})^2\delta_2\frac{\sin\varpi}{3}\Psi_{\rm SM}(t_{\rm d}) \\ a_{30} &= -\sqrt{\frac{4\pi}{7}}(kx_{\rm d})^3\delta_3\frac{\cos\varpi}{15}\Psi_{\rm SM}(t_{\rm d}) \end{aligned}}$$

The Quadrupole Constraint

Supermode: $\Psi(\vec{x},t) = \Psi_{\rm SM}(t)\sin[\vec{k}\cdot\vec{x} + \varpi]$ ← phase of our location

Recall the motivation: $\Delta\phi \implies$ power asymmetry

$$\Delta\phi \implies \Delta\Psi \implies \Delta T$$



$$\Delta\Psi \simeq (kx_{\rm d})\Psi_{\rm SM}|\cos\varpi|$$

distance to last scattering surface

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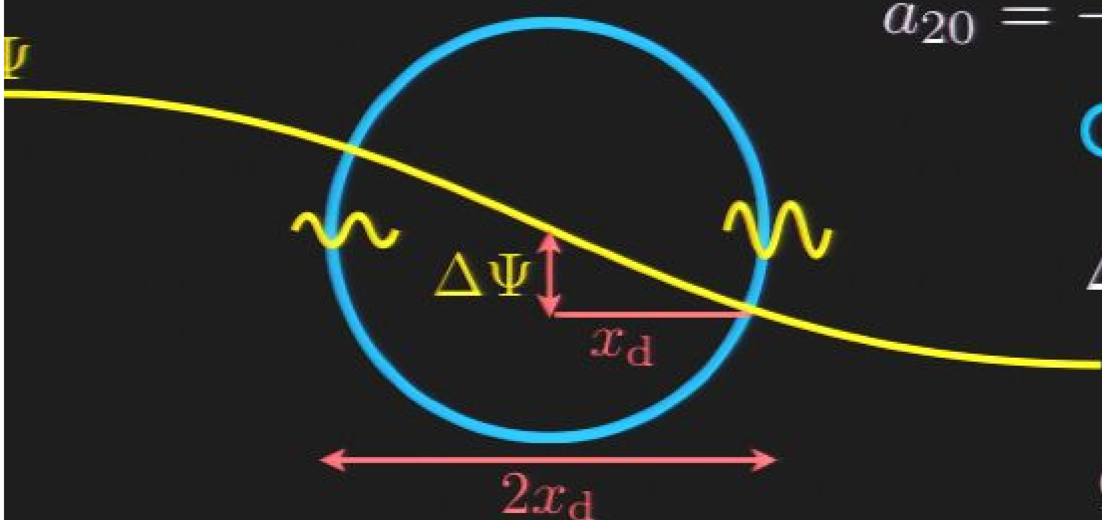
The supermode induces a CMB quadrupole:

$\delta_2 = 0.33$

$$a_{20} = -\sqrt{\frac{4\pi}{5}}(kx_{\rm d})^2\delta_2\frac{\sin\varpi}{3}\Psi_{\rm SM}(t_{\rm d})$$



Quadrupole Constraint:

$$\Delta\Psi(kx_{\rm d})|\tan\varpi| \lesssim 5.8\mathcal{Q}$$

maximum allowed $|a_{20}|$

$$\mathcal{Q} \lesssim 3\sqrt{C_2} \simeq 1.8\times 10^{-5}$$

$$\Delta\Psi \simeq (kx_{\rm d})\Psi_{\rm SM}|\cos\varpi|$$

distance to last scattering surface

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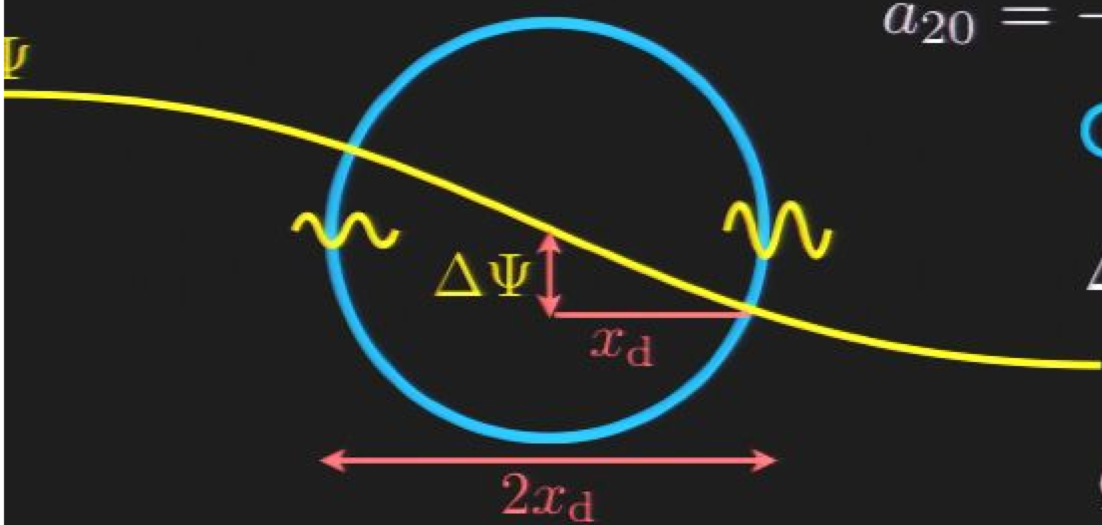

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distance to last scattering surface

Quadrupole vanishes if $\varpi = 0$.

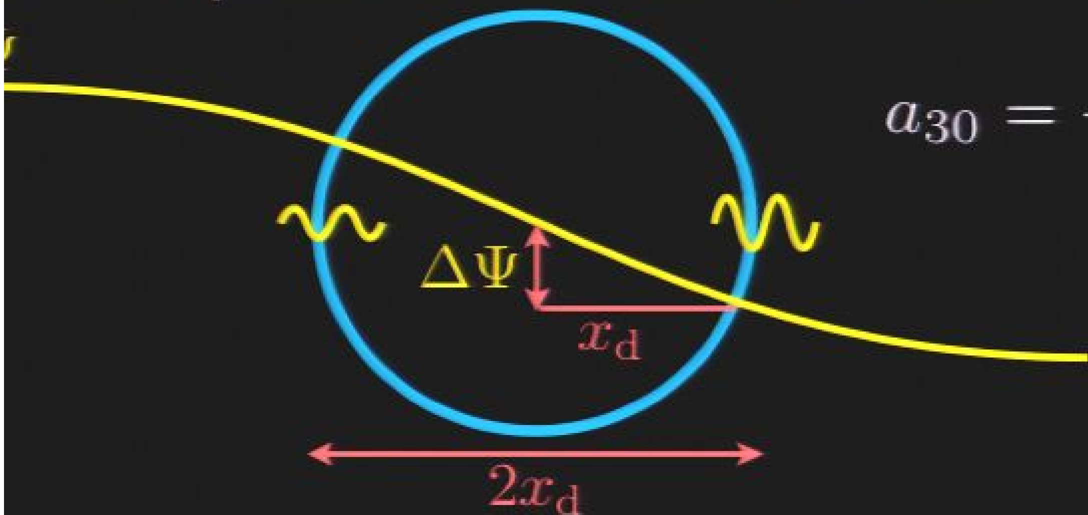
The Octupole Constraint

Supermode: $\Psi(\vec{x},t) = \Psi_{\rm SM}(t)\sin[\vec{k}\cdot\vec{x}+\varpi]$ ← *phase of our location*

The supermode induces a CMB octupole:

$\delta_3 = 0.35$

$$a_{30} = -\sqrt{\frac{4\pi}{7}}(kx_{\rm d})^3\delta_3\frac{\cos\varpi}{15}\Psi_{\rm SM}(t_{\rm d})$$



Octupole Constraint:

$$\Delta\Psi(kx_{\rm d})^2 \lesssim 32\mathcal{O} \leftarrow |a_{30}|$$

$$\mathcal{O} \lesssim 3\sqrt{C_3} \simeq 2.7\times 10^{-5}$$

$$\Delta\Psi \simeq (kx_{\rm d})\Psi_{\rm SM}|\cos\varpi|$$

distance to last scattering surface

The Octupole Constraint

Supermode: $\Psi(\vec{x},t) = \Psi_{\mathrm{SM}}(t)\sin[\vec{k}\cdot\vec{x}+\varpi]$ ← *phase of our location*

The supermode induces a CMB **octupole:**

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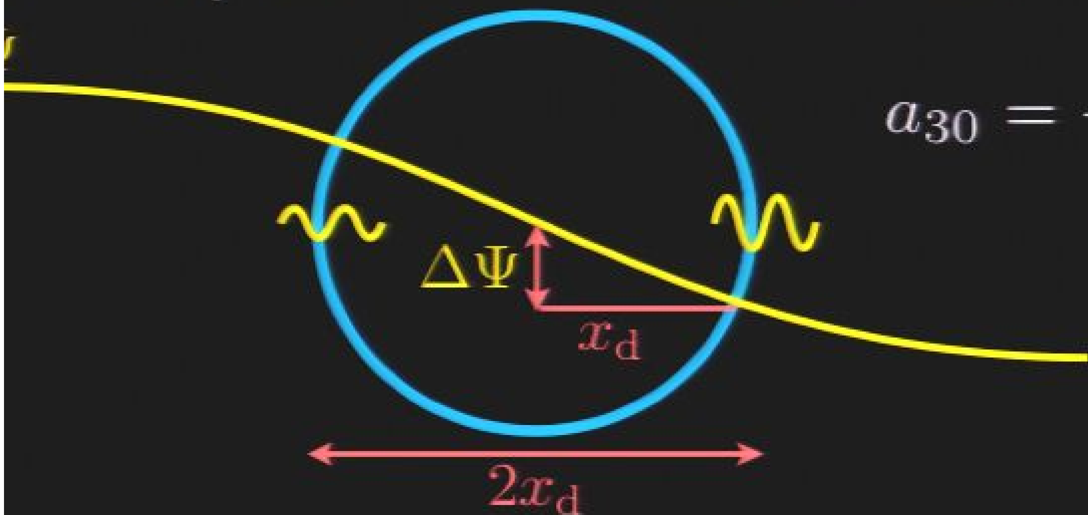

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distance to last scattering surface

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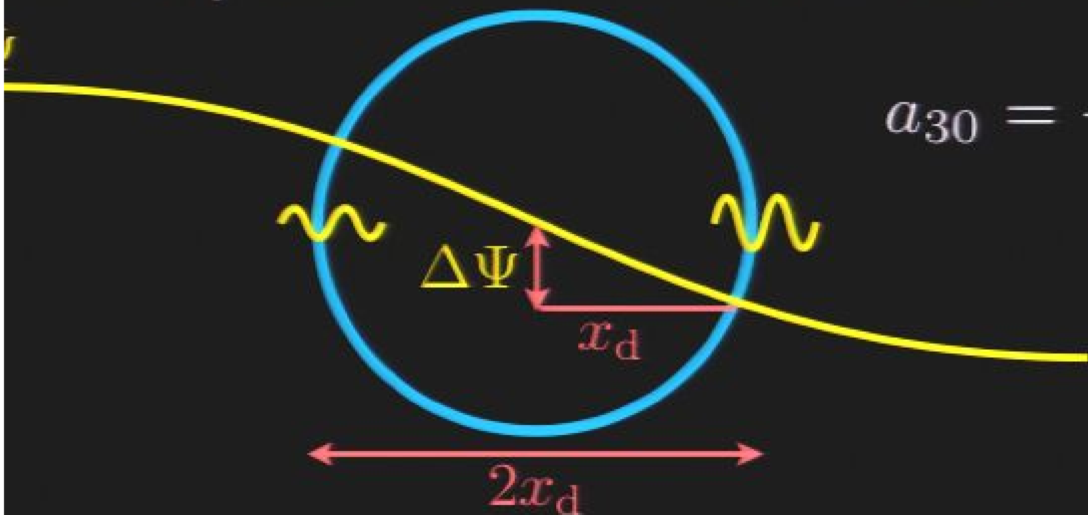

$$\Delta\Psi \simeq (kx_{\rm d})\Psi_{\rm SM}|\cos\varpi|$$

distance to last scattering surface

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Constraint is phase-independent.

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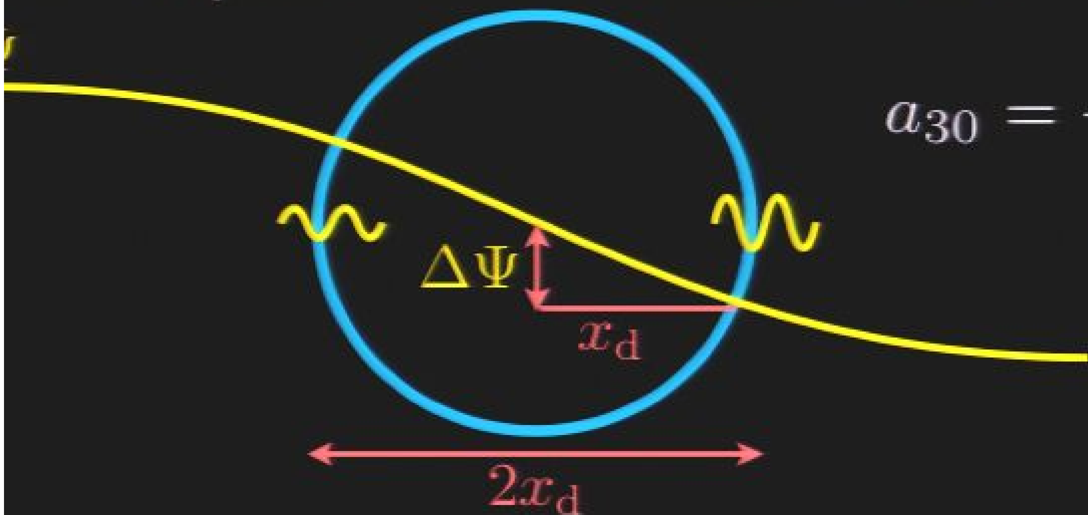

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distance to last scattering surface

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$$a_{30} = -\sqrt{\frac{4\pi}{7}}(kx_{\rm d})^3\delta_3\frac{\cos\varpi}{15}\Psi_{\rm SM}(t_{\rm d})$$

Octupole Constraint:

$$\Delta\Psi(kx_{\rm d})^2 \lesssim 32\mathcal{O} \leftarrow |a_{30}|$$

$$\mathcal{O} \lesssim 3\sqrt{C_3} \simeq 2.7\times 10^{-5}$$

Constraint is phase-independent.

Evade constraint by decreasing $kx_{\rm d}$?

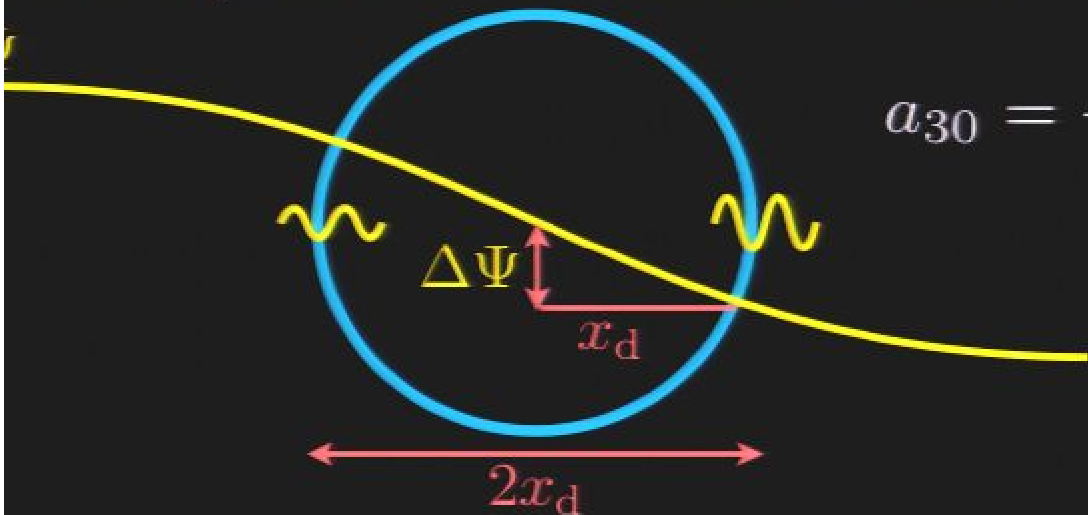
Not if we want **linearity beyond horizon!**

$$|\Psi| < 1 \Longrightarrow \Delta\Psi \lesssim kx_{\rm d}$$

The Octupole Constraint

Supermode: $\Psi(\vec{x},t) = \Psi_{\rm SM}(t)\sin[\vec{k}\cdot\vec{x} + \varpi]$ ← *phase of our location*

The supermode induces a CMB octupole:



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$$a_{30} = -\sqrt{\frac{4\pi}{7}}(kx_{\rm d})^3\delta_3\frac{\cos\varpi}{15}\Psi_{\rm SM}(t_{\rm d})$$

$$\Delta\Psi \simeq (kx_{\rm d})\Psi_{\rm SM}|\cos\varpi|$$

distance to last scattering surface

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$$\Delta\Psi \lesssim [32\mathcal{O}]^{1/3} = 0.095$$

Recall: $\dfrac{\Delta P_\Psi}{P_\Psi} \propto \Delta\phi \propto \Delta\Psi$

$$\boxed{\frac{\Delta P_\Psi}{P_\Psi} \lesssim 0.01}$$

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$$a_{30} = -\sqrt{\frac{4\pi}{7}}(kx_{\mathrm{d}})^3\delta_3\frac{\cos\varpi}{15}\Psi_{\mathrm{SM}}(t_{\mathrm{d}})$$

Observed: $\frac{\Delta P_\Psi}{P_\Psi} \simeq 0.2$

Way too big!

Octupole Constraint:

$$(kx_{\mathrm{d}})^2 \lesssim 32\mathcal{O} \leftarrow |a_{30}|$$

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$$\Psi \lesssim [32\mathcal{O}]^{1/3} = 0.095$$

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Part III

A Power Asymmetry from the Curvaton

The Curvaton to the Rescue!

The problem with the inflaton model is two-fold:

- The fluctuation power is only weakly dependent on the background value.
  - $\Delta P \propto (1 - n_s)\Delta\phi$
  - A small power asymmetry requires a large fluctuation in ϕ .
- The inflaton dominates the energy density of the universe, so a "supermode" in the inflaton field generates a huge potential perturbation.
  - CMB octupole places upper bound on $\Delta\Psi$.
  - $\Delta P \propto \Delta\phi \propto \Delta\Psi$ with no wiggle room.

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The solution: the primordial fluctuations could be generated by a subdominant scalar field, the curvaton.

- The fluctuation power depends strongly on the background curvaton value.
- The CMB constraints on $\Delta\Psi$ do not directly constrain ΔP. There is a new free parameter: the fraction of energy in the curvaton.

The Curvaton Model

Mollerach 1990; Linde, Mukhanov 1997; Lyth, Wands 2002; Moroi, Takahashi 2001; and others...

- The **inflaton** still dominates the energy density and **drives inflation.**
- The **curvaton** (σ) is a **subdominant light scalar field** during inflation.

$$V(\sigma) = \frac{1}{2} m_\sigma^2 \sigma^2 \quad \text{with} \quad m_\sigma \ll H_{\rm inf}(\phi) \quad \text{and} \quad \rho_\sigma \ll \rho_\phi$$

potential *light scalar field* *subdominant*

- There are **quantum fluctuations** in both the inflaton and curvaton.

$$(\delta\phi)_{\rm rms} = (\delta\sigma)_{\rm rms} = \frac{H_{\rm inf}}{2\pi} \ll \bar{\sigma}$$

quantum fluctuations *homogeneous background value*

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$$\underbrace{(\delta\phi)_{\text{rms}} = (\delta\sigma)_{\text{rms}}}_{\text{quantum fluctuations}} = \frac{H_{\text{inf}}}{2\pi} \ll \bar{\sigma} \leftarrow \text{homogeneous background value}$$

- While $m_\sigma \ll H$ the curvaton is frozen at its initial value: $\bar{\sigma} = \bar{\sigma}_*$.
- After inflation, when $m_\sigma \simeq H$, the curvaton oscillates in its potential well. It is a pressureless fluid: $\rho_\sigma \propto a^{-3}$.
- Still in the early Universe, the **curvaton decays into radiation.**

After the end of inflation and prior to curvaton decay, the fractional energy in the curvaton grows.

Power Spectrum from the Curvaton

Fluctuations in the curvaton field become curvature perturbations.

$$\zeta = R\zeta_\sigma = \frac{R}{3}\frac{\delta\rho_\sigma}{\rho_\sigma} \quad \text{where} \quad R \simeq \frac{3}{4}\left.\frac{\rho_\sigma}{\rho_r}\right|_{\Gamma=H} \quad \text{and} \quad R \ll 1$$

curvature perturbation from curvaton

evaluated just prior to curvaton decay

keep the curvaton subdominant

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Curvaton energy: $\rho_\sigma = \frac{1}{2}m_\sigma^2\sigma^2 \Longrightarrow \frac{\delta\rho_\sigma}{\rho_\sigma} = 2\left(\frac{\delta\sigma}{\bar\sigma}\right) + \left(\frac{\delta\sigma}{\bar\sigma}\right)^2$

conserved outside horizon

Quantum fluctuations: $(\delta\sigma)_{\rm rms} = \frac{H_{\rm inf}}{2\pi} \ll \bar\sigma$

During matter domination, $\Psi = -\frac{3}{5}\zeta$.

potential perturbation at decoupling

$$\boxed{P_{\Psi,\sigma} \propto R^2\left(\frac{H_{\rm inf}}{\bar\sigma_*}\right)^2}$$

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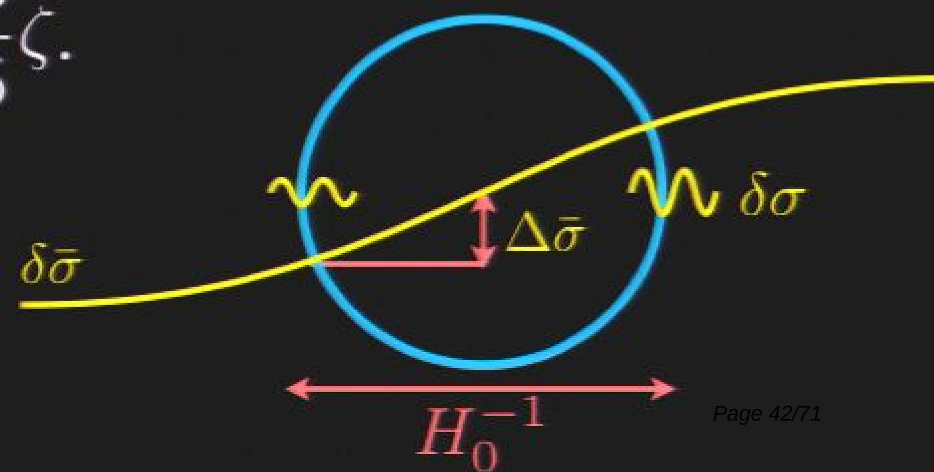

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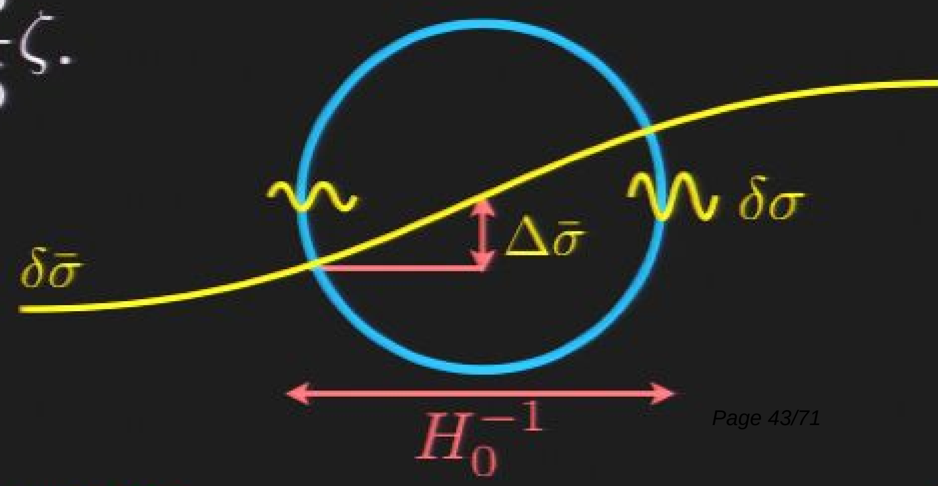
$$\boxed{\frac{\Delta P_{\Psi,\sigma}}{P_{\Psi,\sigma}} = 2\frac{\Delta\bar{\sigma}}{\bar{\sigma}}}$$



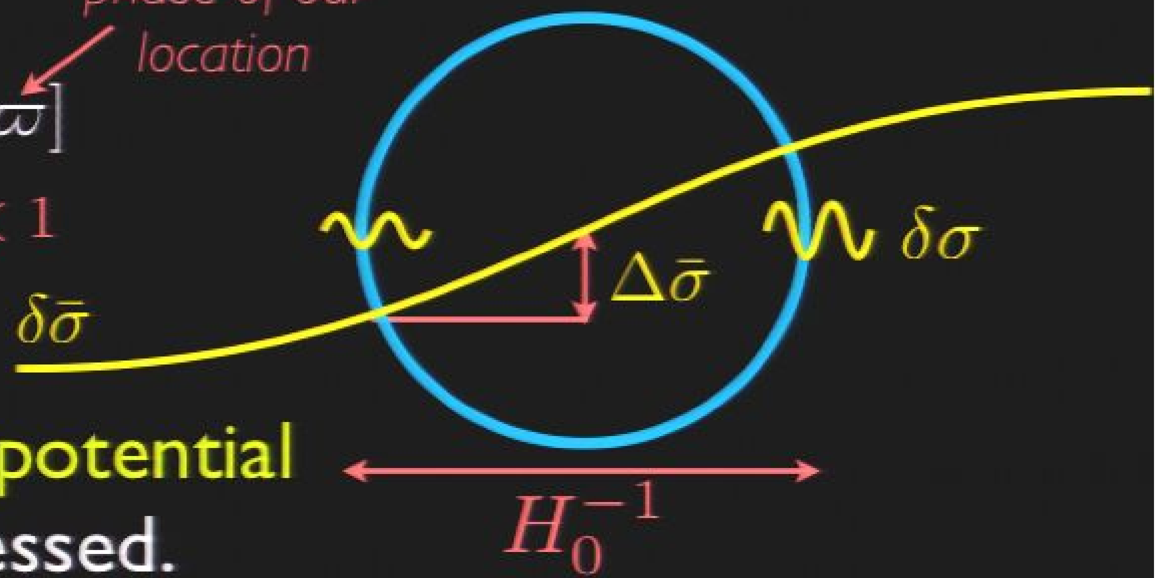
Curvaton Supermodes in the CMB

Curvaton supermode:

$$\delta\bar{\sigma}(\vec{x},t) = \bar{\sigma}_{\rm SM}(t)\sin[\vec{k}\cdot\vec{x} + \varpi]$$

phase of our location

$kH_0^{-1} \ll 1$



The curvaton supermode generates a superhorizon potential fluctuation, but it is suppressed.

$R \simeq \dfrac{3\rho_\sigma}{4\rho}$ *just prior to decay*

$$\Psi = -\frac{R}{5}\left[2\left(\frac{\delta\bar{\sigma}}{\bar{\sigma}}\right) + \left(\frac{\delta\bar{\sigma}}{\bar{\sigma}}\right)^2\right] \leftarrow \frac{\delta\rho_\sigma}{\rho}$$

The potential perturbation is not sinusoidal!

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$$\delta\bar{\sigma}(\vec{x},t) = \bar{\sigma}_{\rm SM}(t)\sin[\vec{k}\cdot\vec{x}+\varpi]$$

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$$F_3(\varpi) = \cos\varpi + 2\left(\frac{\bar{\sigma}_{\rm SM}}{\bar{\sigma}}\right)\sin 2\varpi$$

Temperature anisotropy:

$$\frac{\Delta T}{T}(\hat{n}) = \frac{2R}{5}\frac{\bar{\sigma}_{\rm SM}}{\bar{\sigma}}\Bigg[\underbrace{(\vec{k}\cdot\vec{x}_{\rm d})^2\delta_2\frac{F_2(\varpi)}{2}}_{\text{Quadrupole}} + \underbrace{(\vec{k}\cdot\vec{x}_{\rm d})^3\delta_3\frac{F_3(\varpi)}{6}}_{\text{Octupole}}\Bigg]$$

- The CMB quadrupole and octupole have complicated ϖ dependencies.
- There is no phase that eliminates the quadrupole for all values of $\bar{\sigma}_{\rm SM}$.

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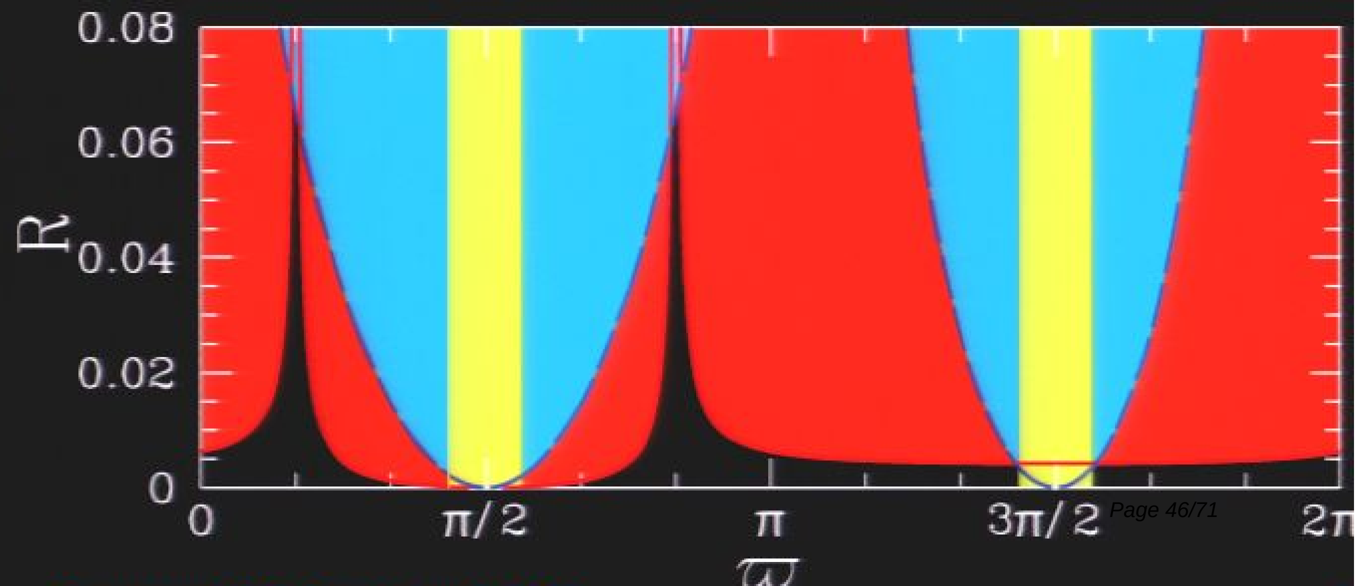
Excluded by Quadrupole

Excluded by Octupole

Not superhorizon

$$\bar{\sigma}_{\rm SM} = \bar{\sigma}$$

$$\Delta\bar{\sigma}/\bar{\sigma} = 0.2$$



Curvaton Supermodes in the CMB

The CMB quadrupole implies an upper bound:

$$R\left(\frac{\Delta\bar{\sigma}}{\bar{\sigma}}\right)^2 \lesssim \frac{5}{2}(5.8\mathcal{Q}) \quad \text{for} \quad \varpi = 0$$

$$\left(\frac{\Delta P_\Psi}{P_\Psi}\right)$$

Most other phases give similar bounds.

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Excluded by Octupole

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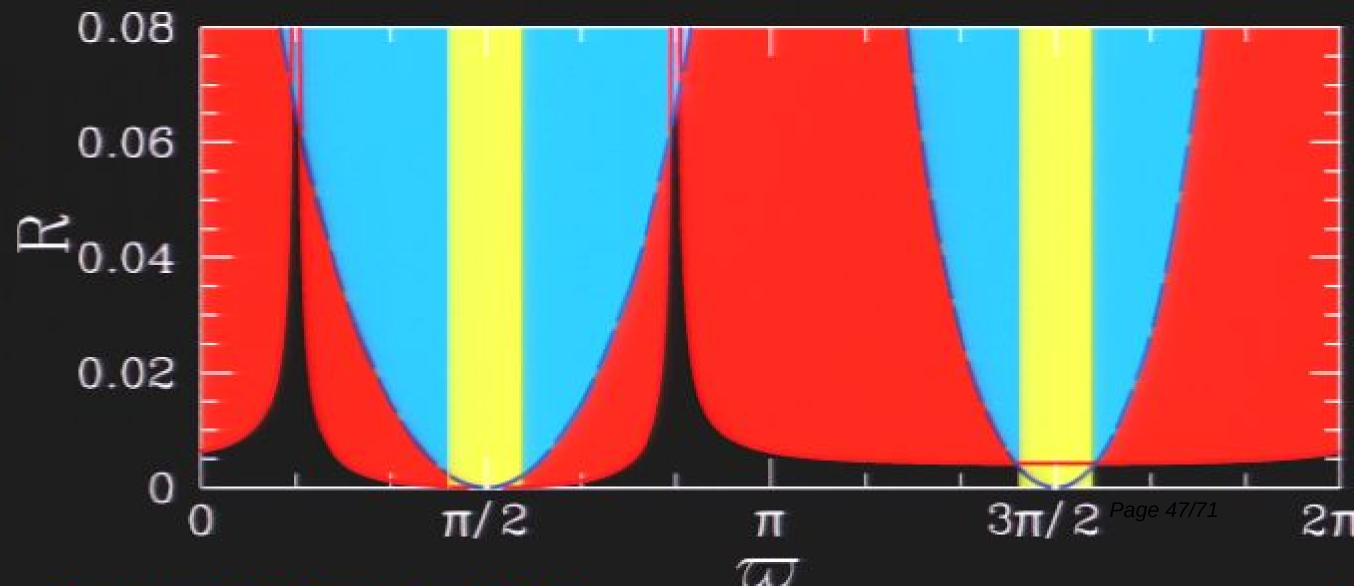
$$\Delta\bar{\sigma}/\bar{\sigma} = 0.2$$



Perturbation Mixture

Both the curvaton and the inflaton may contribute to P_Ψ.

$$\epsilon \equiv \frac{m_{\rm Pl}^2}{16\pi}\left[\frac{V'(\phi)}{V(\phi)}\right]^2 \qquad (\delta\phi)_{\rm rms} = (\delta\sigma)_{\rm rms} = \frac{H_{\rm inf}}{2\pi}$$

quantum fluctuations

$$R \simeq \frac{3}{4}\left.\frac{\rho_\sigma}{\rho_r}\right|_{\Gamma=H}$$

$$P_{\Psi,\phi} = \left(\frac{9}{10}\right)^2 \frac{8\pi}{9\epsilon}\left(\frac{H_{\rm inf}^2}{k^3 m_{\rm Pl}^2}\right) \qquad P_{\Psi,\sigma} = \left(\frac{2R}{5}\right)^2 \frac{H_{\rm inf}^2}{2k^3\bar{\sigma}^2}$$

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Define a new parameter: $\xi \equiv \dfrac{P_{\Psi,\sigma}}{P_{\Psi,\sigma} + P_{\Psi,\phi}}$

$$\xi = \frac{\tilde{\epsilon}}{\tilde{\epsilon}+1} \qquad \tilde{\epsilon} \equiv \frac{1}{9\pi}\left(\frac{m_{\rm Pl}}{\bar{\sigma}}\right)^2 R^2 \epsilon$$

$$\bar{\sigma} \ll m_{\rm Pl} \Longrightarrow \xi \simeq 1$$
$$\bar{\sigma} \lesssim m_{\rm Pl} \Longrightarrow \xi \ll 1$$

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$$\bar{\sigma} \ll m_{\rm Pl} \Longrightarrow \xi \simeq 1$$
$$\bar{\sigma} \lesssim m_{\rm Pl} \Longrightarrow \xi \ll 1$$

Tensor-Scalar Ratio:

$$\boxed{r = 16\epsilon(1-\xi)}$$

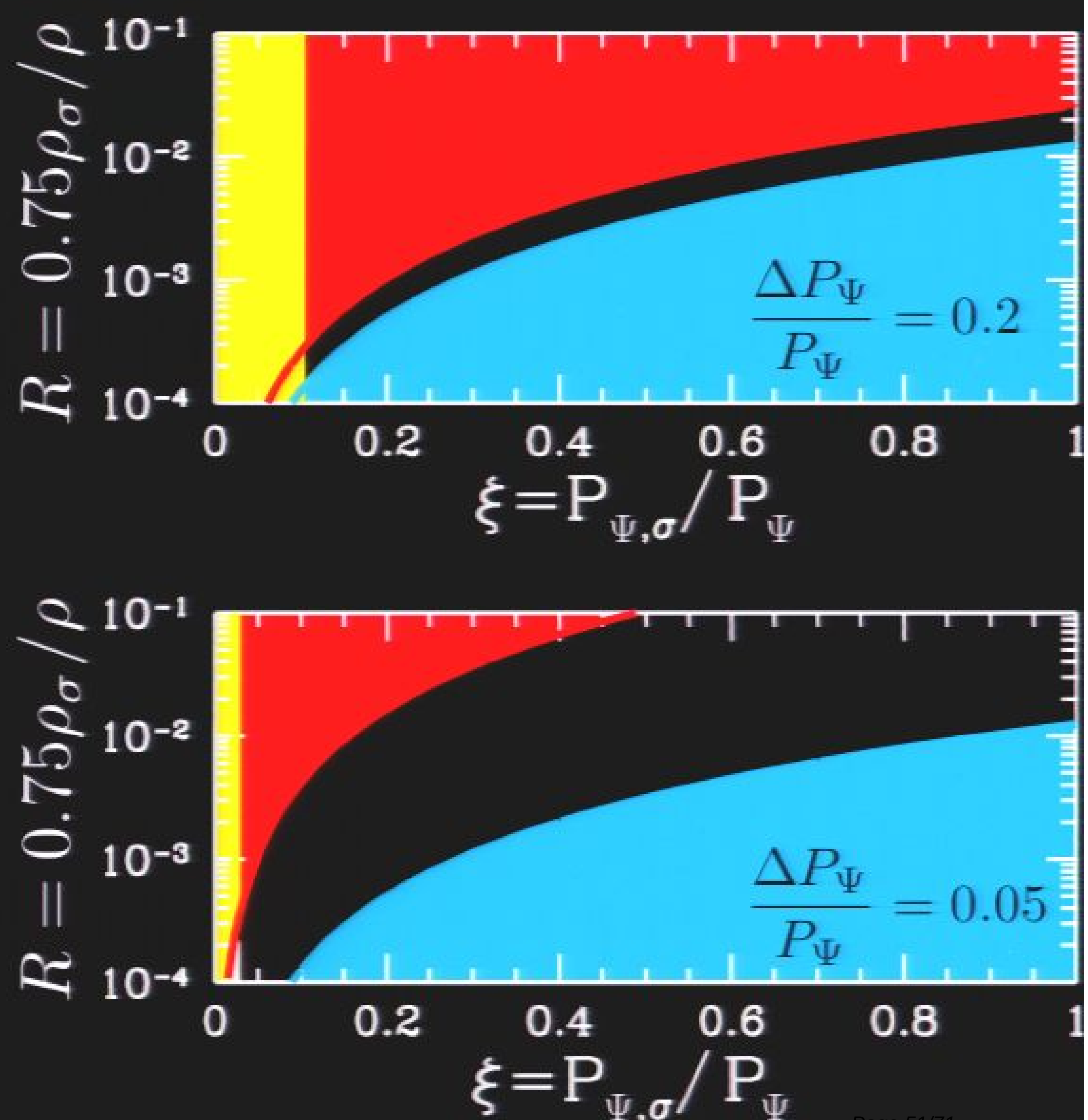
Constraining the Curvaton Model

The curvaton and inflaton both contribute to $P_\Psi(k)$:

$$\xi \equiv \frac{P_{\Psi,\sigma}}{P_\Psi}$$ *fractional power from curvaton*

$$\frac{\Delta P_\Psi}{P_\Psi} = 2\xi \frac{\Delta\bar{\sigma}}{\bar{\sigma}}$$ *power asymmetry*

$$\frac{\Delta\bar{\sigma}}{\bar{\sigma}} \lesssim 1 \Longrightarrow \xi \gtrsim \frac{1}{2}\frac{\Delta P_\Psi}{P_\Psi}$$



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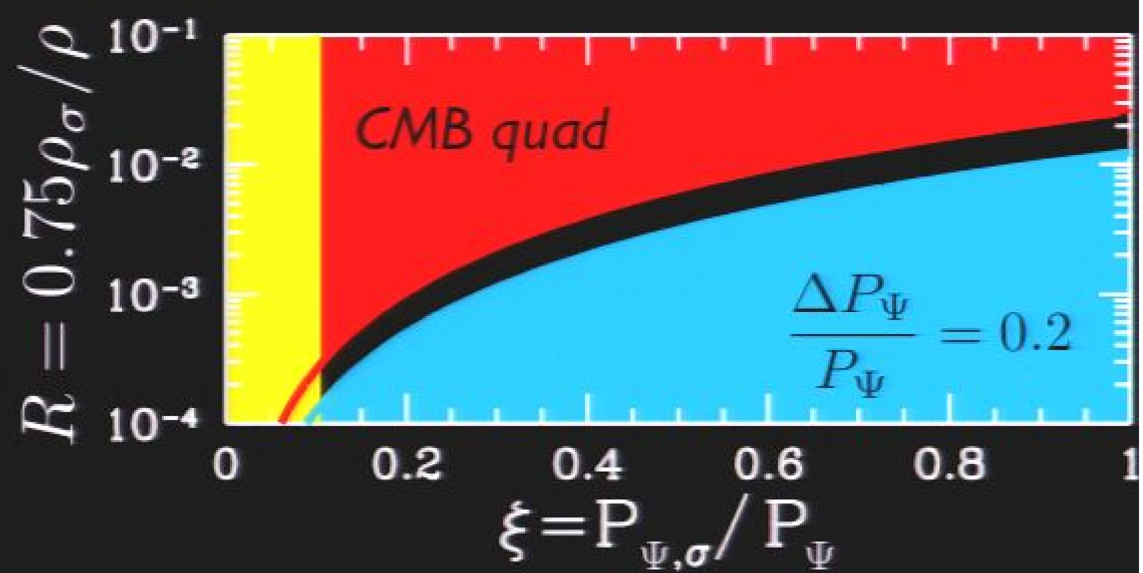
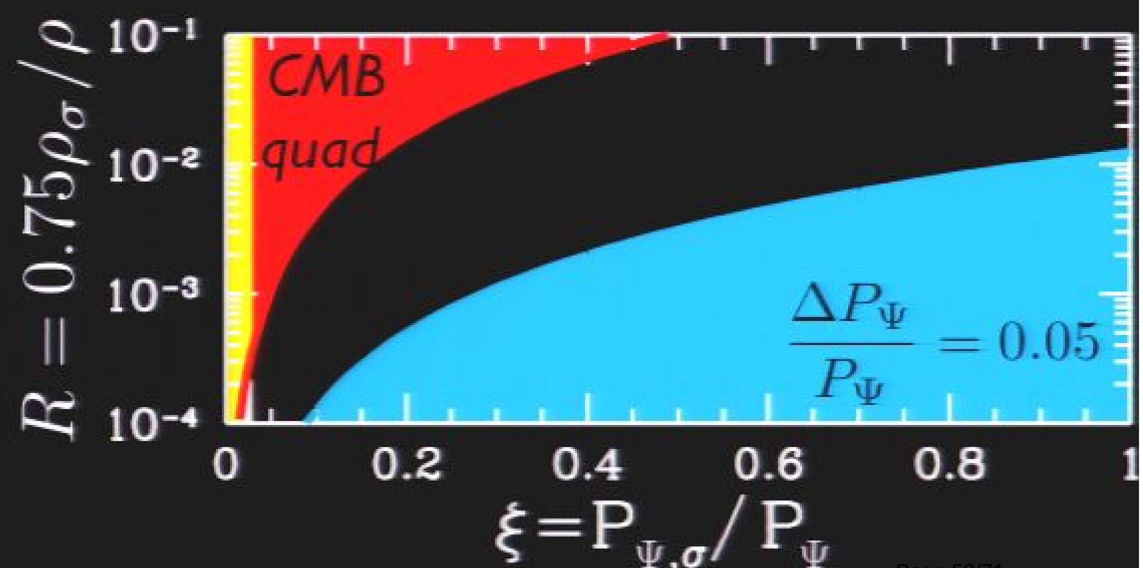
CMB Quadrupole:

$$R\left(\frac{\Delta\bar{\sigma}}{\bar{\sigma}}\right)^2 \lesssim \frac{5}{2}(5.8\mathcal{Q})$$

$$R \lesssim 58\mathcal{Q}\,\xi^2\left(\frac{\Delta P_\Psi}{P_\Psi}\right)^{-2}$$





Constraining the Curvaton Model

Non-Gaussianity Constraints

$$\Psi = -\frac{R}{5}\left[2\left(\frac{\delta\sigma}{\bar{\sigma}}\right) + \left(\frac{\delta\sigma}{\bar{\sigma}}\right)^2\right]$$

potential fluctuation | Gaussian fluctuation | Gaussian fluctuation squared

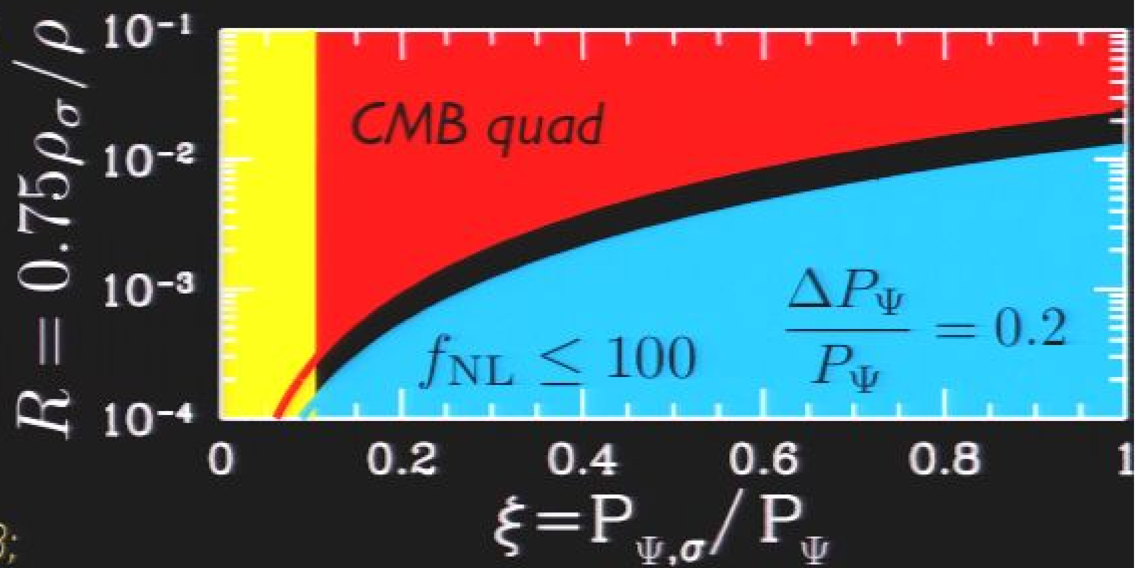
$$f_{\rm NL} \simeq \frac{5\xi^2}{4R}$$

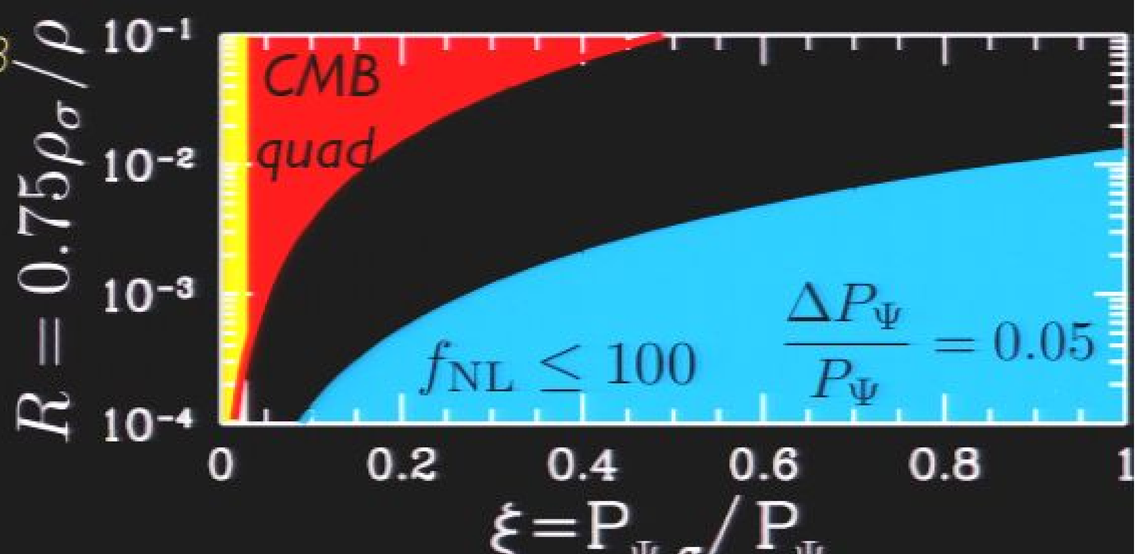
Lyth, Ungarelli, Wands 2003; Ichikawa, Suyama, Takahashi, Yamaguchi 2008

Upperbound from WMAP:

$$f_{\rm NL} \lesssim 100$$

Komatsu et al. 2008
Yadav, Wandelt 2008





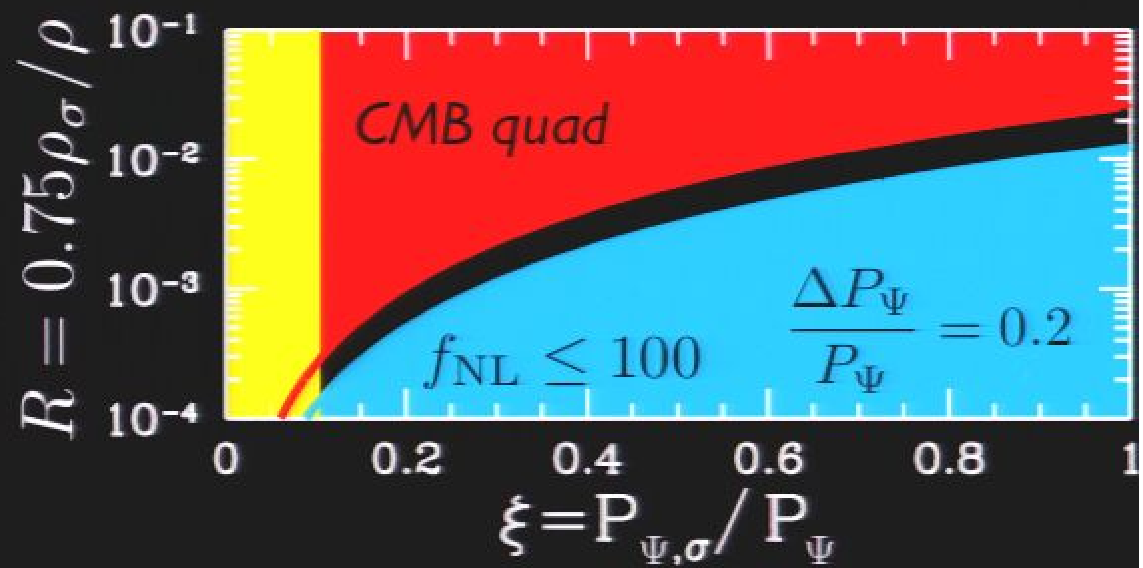
Constraining the Curvaton Model

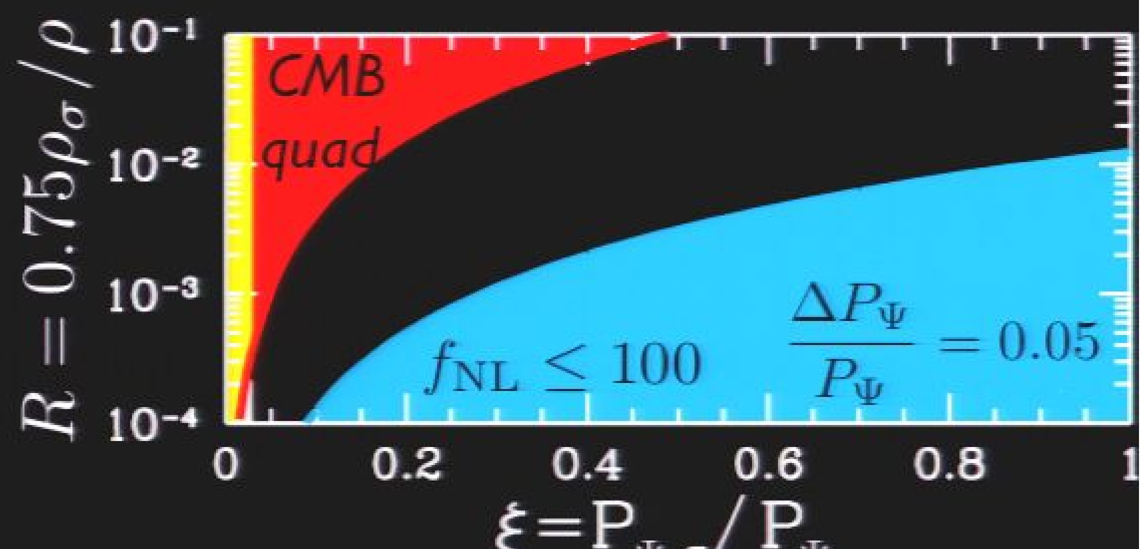
The Allowed Region

$$\frac{5}{4\, f_{\mathrm{NL,max}}} \lesssim \frac{R}{\xi^2} \lesssim \frac{58\, Q}{(\Delta P_\Psi / P_\Psi)^2}$$

on-Gaussianity ↑ CMB Quadrupole

Allowed window





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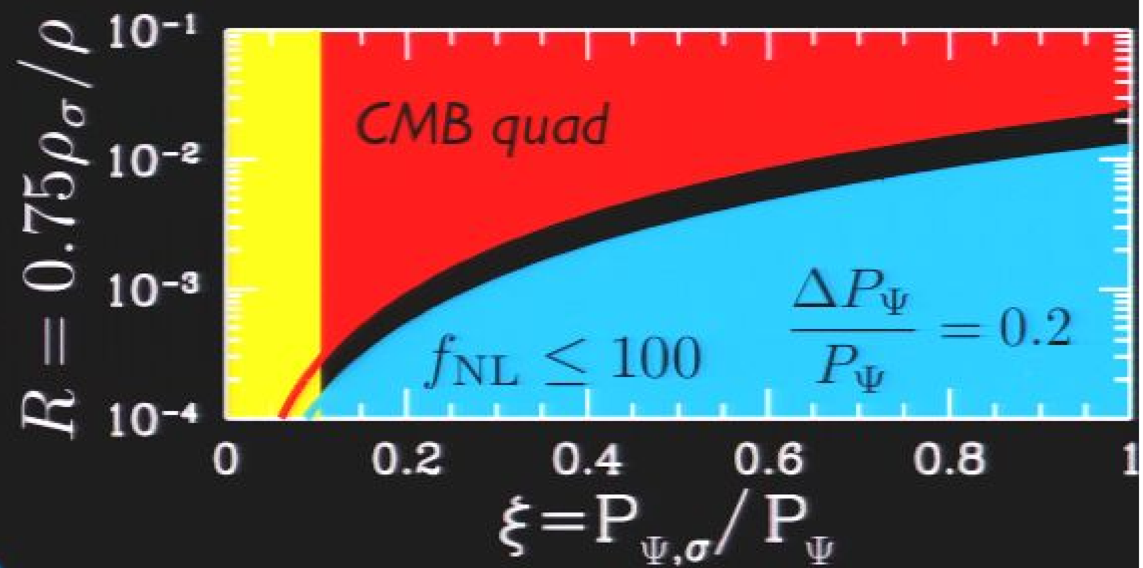
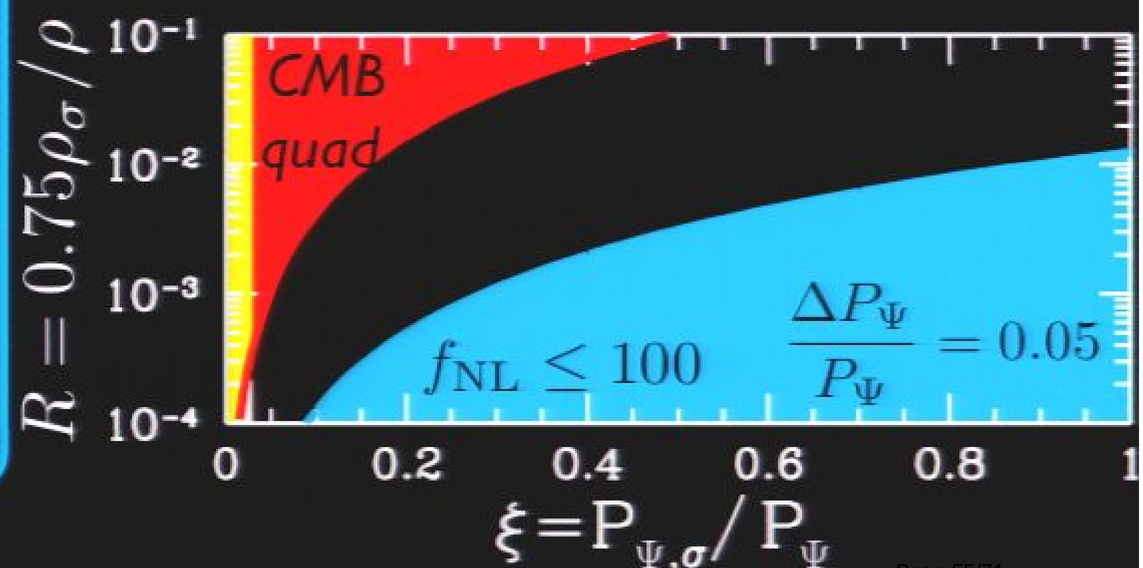


The Dealbreaker

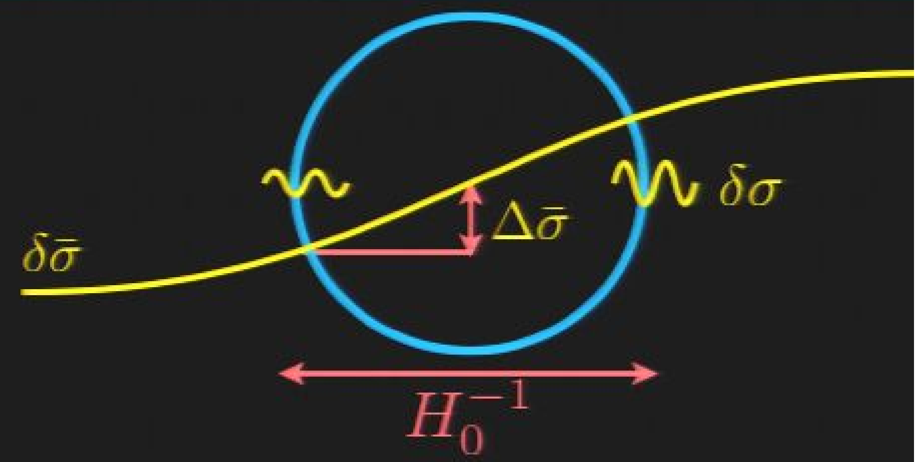
The window for $\frac{\Delta P_\Psi}{P_\Psi} = 0.2$

disappears if $f_{\mathrm{NL,max}} \lesssim 50$



Origins of the Supermode

Could the supermode be a
quantum fluctuation?



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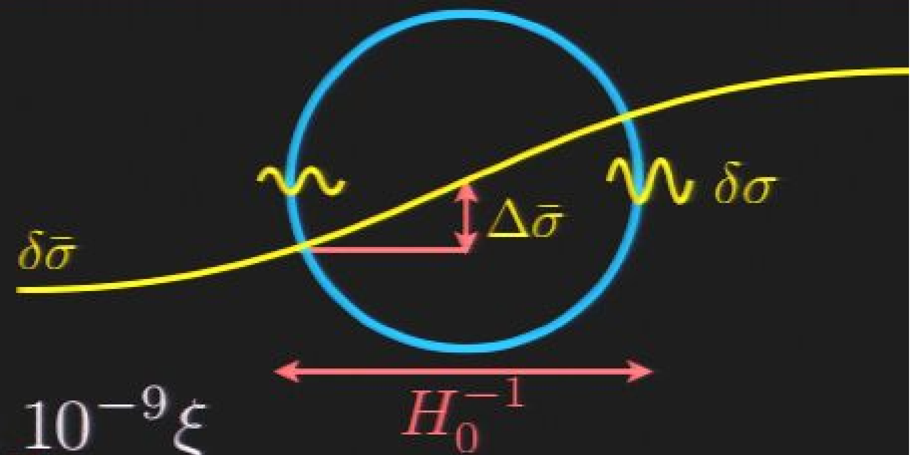

Power spectrum from curvaton

$$P_{\Psi,\sigma} = \left(\frac{2R}{5}\right)^2 \left\langle \left(\frac{\delta\sigma}{\bar{\sigma}}\right)^2 \right\rangle = \xi P_{\Psi} \simeq 10^{-9}\xi$$

Observed power spectrum

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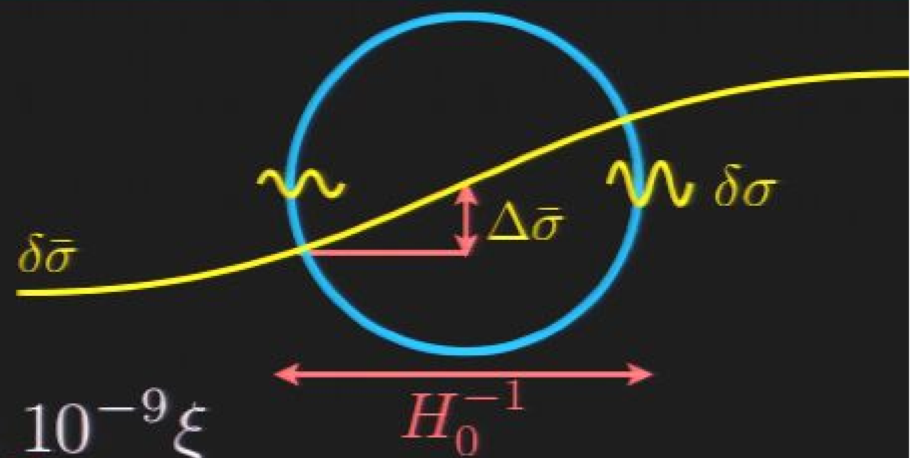

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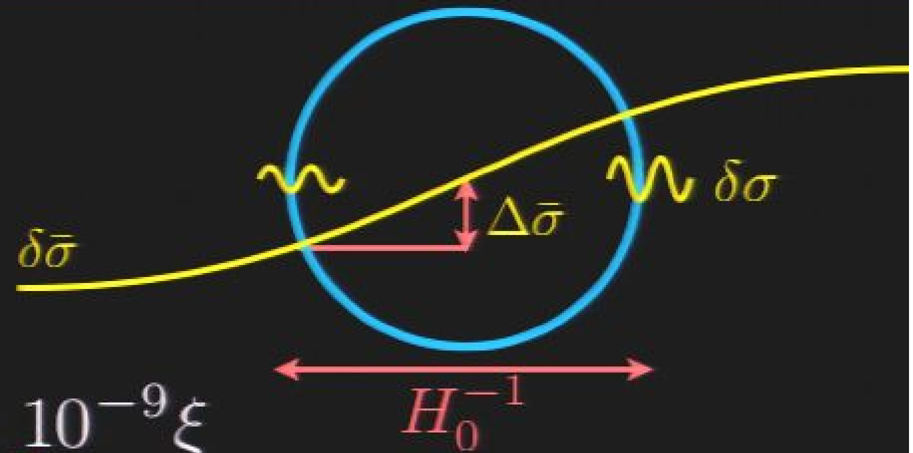
Observed power spectrum

$$\frac{\bar{\sigma}}{\Delta\bar{\sigma}} \left(\frac{\delta\sigma}{\bar{\sigma}}\right)_{\rm rms} = \frac{2\xi}{\Delta P_\Psi / P_\Psi} \left(8 \times 10^{-5} \frac{\xi^{1/2}}{R}\right) \lesssim \frac{1}{5}$$

$$\begin{cases} \dfrac{\Delta P_\Psi}{P_\Psi} \simeq 0.2 \\ f_{\rm NL} \lesssim 100 \\ \xi \gtrsim \dfrac{1}{2} \dfrac{\Delta P_\Psi}{P_\Psi} \end{cases}$$

Origins of the Supermode

Could the supermode be a quantum fluctuation?



Power spectrum from curvaton

$$P_{\Psi,\sigma} = \left(\frac{2R}{5}\right)^2 \left\langle \left(\frac{\delta\sigma}{\bar{\sigma}}\right)^2 \right\rangle = \xi P_\Psi \simeq 10^{-9}\xi$$

Observed power spectrum

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$$\bar{\sigma}_{\rm SM} > \Delta\bar{\sigma} > 5(\delta\sigma)_{\rm rms}$$

The supermode would be at least a 5-sigma fluctuation: that's highly improbable!

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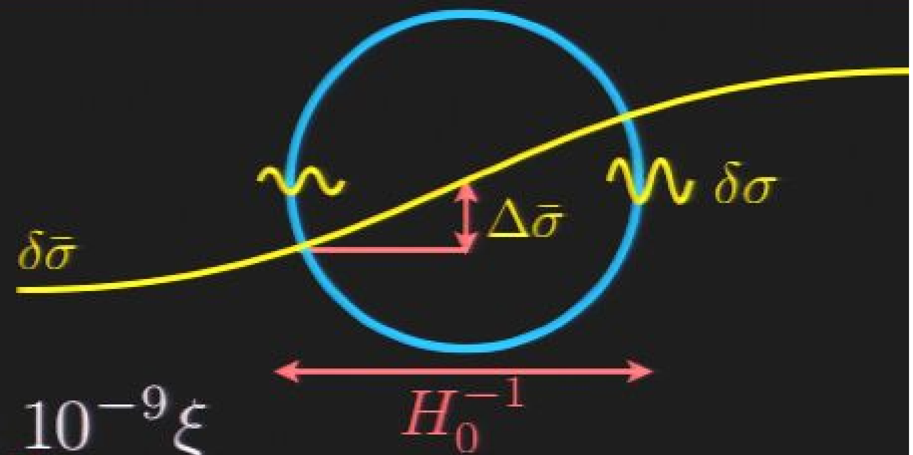

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0.2 P_Ψ P_Ψ

Signature of
"curvaton web?"
Linde and Mukhanov, 2006

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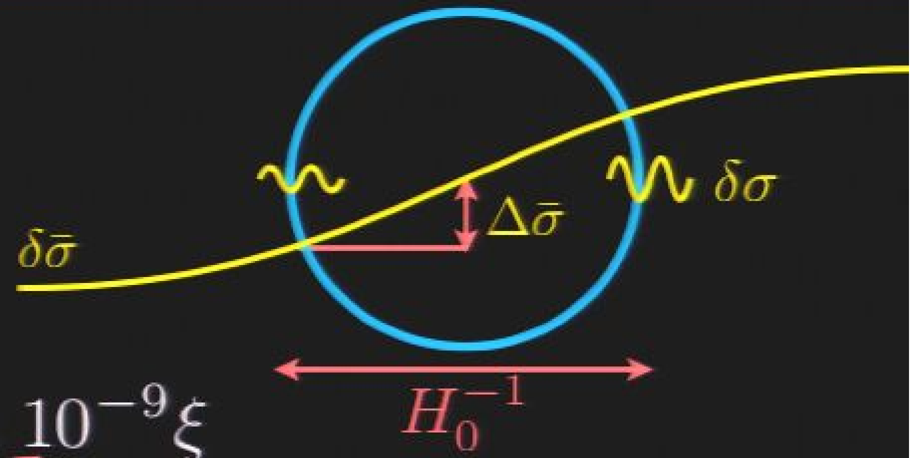

Power s…

A *pre-inflationary remnant?*

$\xi P_\Psi \simeq 10^{-9}\xi$

…served power spe…

$$\frac{\bar{\sigma}}{\Delta\bar{\sigma}}\left(\frac{\delta\sigma}{\bar{\sigma}}\right)_{\text{rms}} \quad \frac{\cdots}{\Delta P_\Psi / P_\Psi}\left(8 \times 10^{\cdots}\right.$$

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A Scale-Dependent Asymmetry?

There are indications that only large scales are asymmetric.

- Asymmetry detected for $\ell = 5 - 40$.
- Some analyses see reduced asymmetry for $\ell \gtrsim 100$.

Donoghue and Donoghue 2005; Lew 2008.

How could the asymmetry disappear at small scales?

Only the perturbations from the curvaton are asymmetric; the inflaton perturbations are still statistically isotropic.

Introduce scale dependence through $\xi \equiv \dfrac{P_{\Psi,\sigma}}{P_{\Psi,\sigma} + P_{\Psi,\phi}}$.

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$$\xi = \frac{\tilde{\epsilon}}{\tilde{\epsilon} + 1} \qquad \tilde{\epsilon} \equiv \frac{1}{9\pi} \left(\frac{m_{\rm Pl}}{\bar{\sigma}} \right)^2 R^2 \epsilon$$

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$$\epsilon \downarrow \rightarrow P_{\Psi,\phi} \uparrow \rightarrow \xi \downarrow \qquad \epsilon \equiv \frac{m_{\rm Pl}^2}{16\pi}\left[\frac{V'(\phi)}{V(\phi)}\right]^2$$

$$V(\phi) \downarrow \rightarrow P_\Psi \leftrightarrow$$

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- Isocurvature modes from curvaton?
  - curvaton can produce isocurvature perturbations
  - isocurvature perturbations contribute more on large scales

Work in progress....

ummary: How to Generate the Power Asymmetry

There is a power asymmetry in the CMB.

$$\frac{\Delta P_\Psi}{P_\Psi} = 0.20$$

- present at the 99% confidence level
- detected on large scales

Hansen, Banday, Gorski, 2004
Eriksen, Hansen, Banday, Gorski, Lilje 2004
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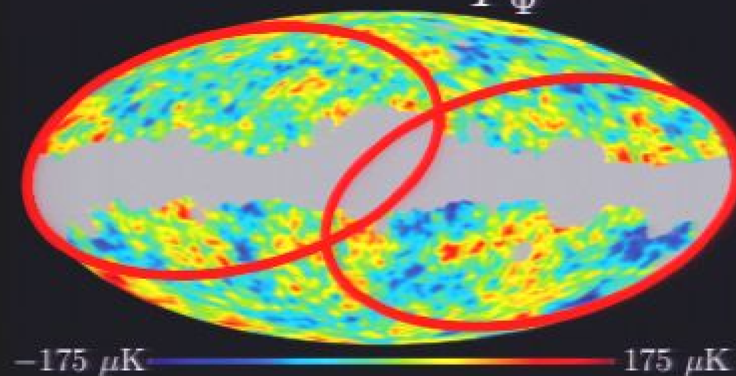

A superhorizon perturbation during inflation generates a power asymmetry.

- also generates large-scale CMB temperature perturbations
- no dipole; quadrupole and octupole set limits.

Erickcek, Carroll, Kamionkowski arXiv:0808.1570

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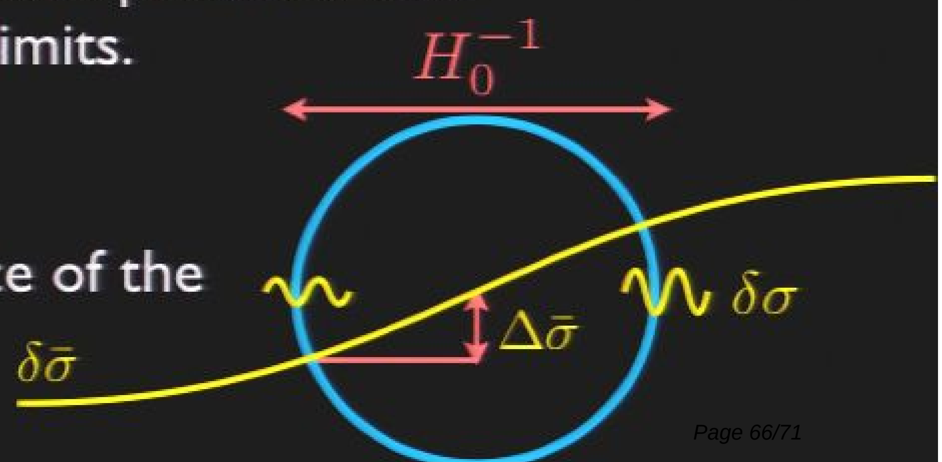

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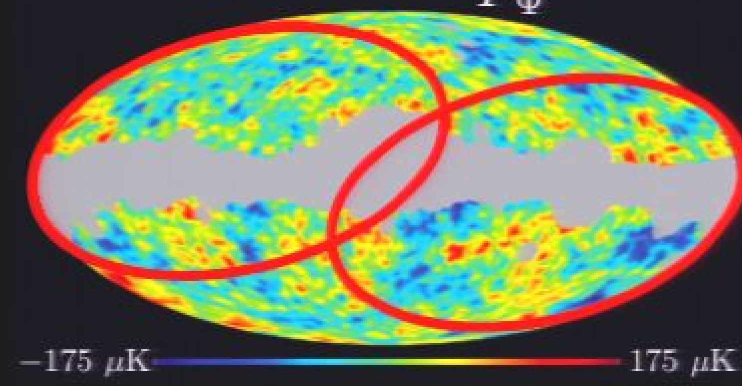
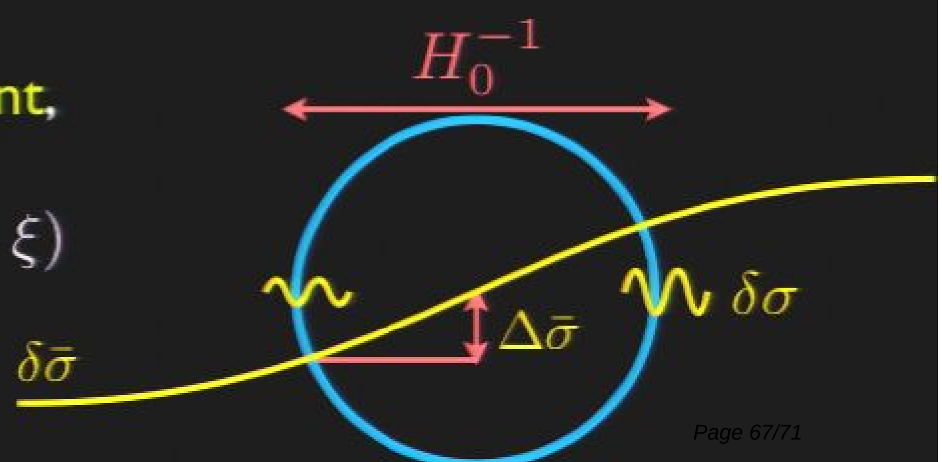


Features of the Curvaton-Generated Power Asymmetry

- the superhorizon curvaton perturbation is not a quantum fluctuation
- the produced asymmetry is scale-invariant, but it is possible to modify that
- suppressed tensor-scalar ratio: $r \propto (1-\xi)$
- high non-Gaussianity: $f_{\mathrm{NL}} \gtrsim 50$



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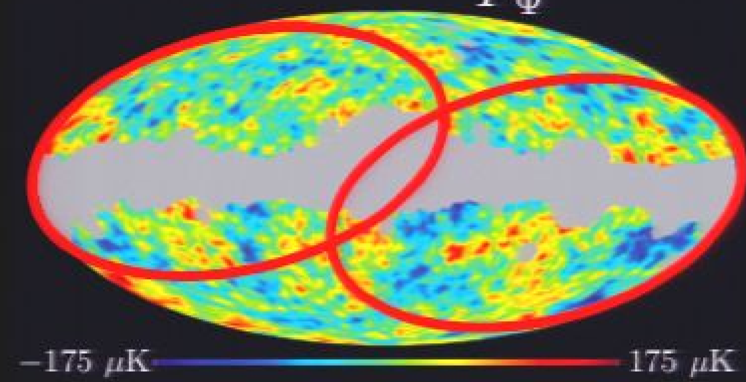

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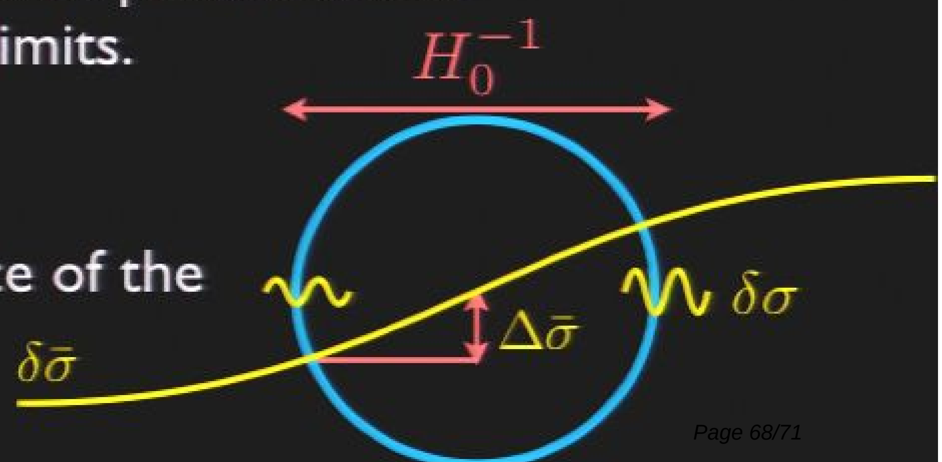

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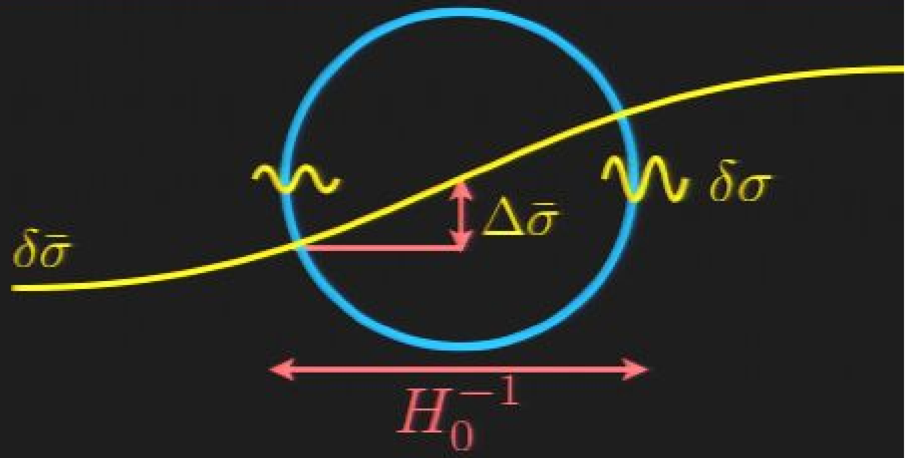


Part II

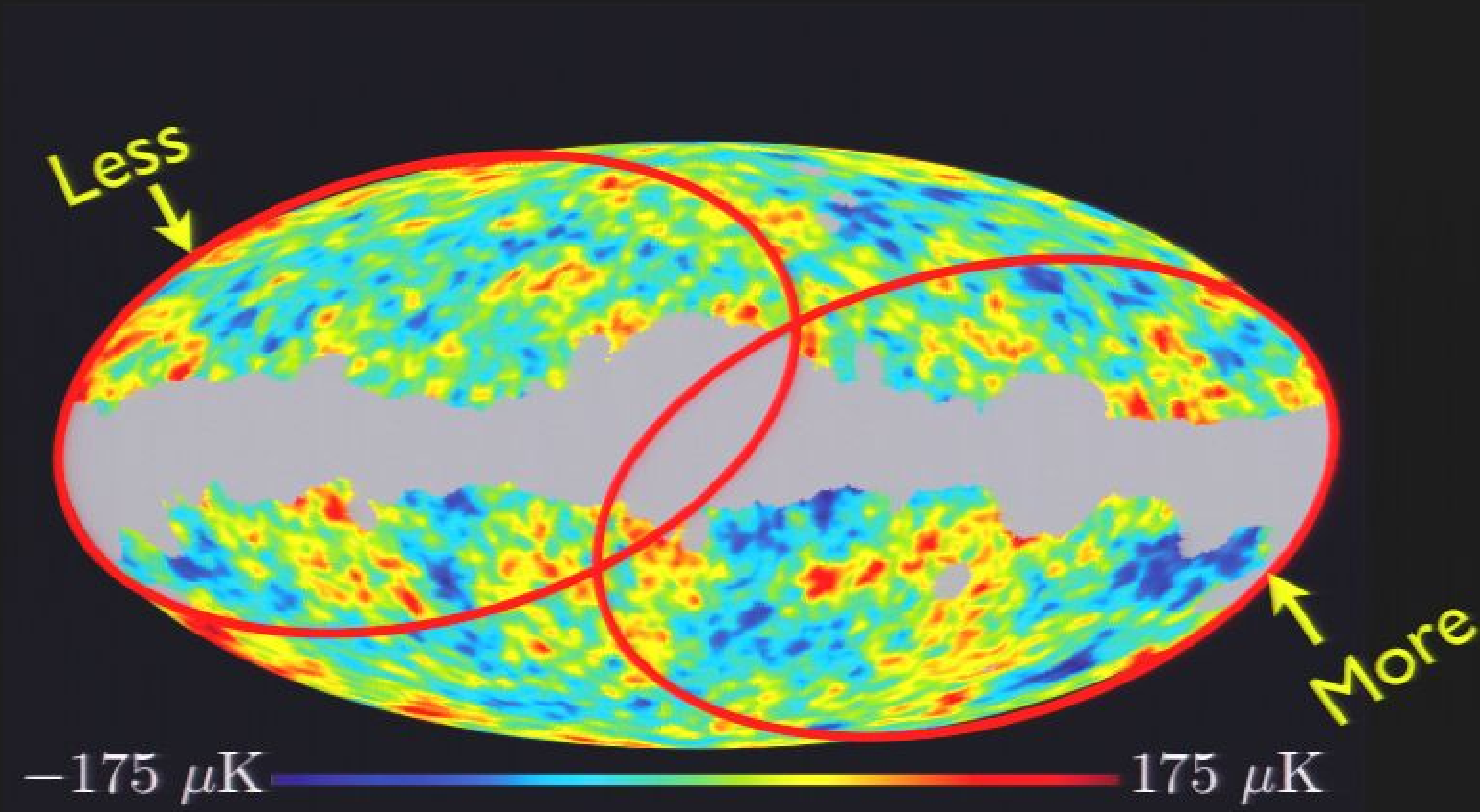
Superhorizon Perturbations and the Cosmic Microwave Background

An Asymmetric Universe!

There is a power asymmetry on large angular scales in the WMAP 1st year data.

Eriksen, Hansen, Banday, Gorski, Lilje 2004

$\ell = 5 - 40$



CMB image from Eriksen, et al. astro-ph/0307507