

Title: Dynamical fixed points in holography: theory and cosmological applications

Speakers: Alex Buchel

Series: Quantum Fields and Strings

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Abstract: Dynamical fixed points are late-time attractors of interactive QFTs that differ from thermal equilibria by a constant entropy production rate. We use holographic framework to analyze such fixed points of strongly coupled gauge theories, driven by homogeneous and isotropic expansion of the background metric - equivalently, a late-time dynamics of a corresponding QFT in Friedmann-Lemaitre-Robertson-Walker Universe. As an application, we discuss gravitational reheating of quark-gluon plasma in the exit from the early-cosmology inflation.

Zoom link: <https://pitp.zoom.us/j/96385064629?pwd=NTZrdUdtbW0rZkxPdFZ3ZnZRUzhjZz09>

⇒ Another holographic discovery:

Dynamical fixed points (DFPs)

# Outline:

- Hydrodynamics and its breakdown in de Sitter
  - where DFP is hiding?
- A trivial DFP: thermal states of  $\mathcal{N} = 4$  supersymmetric Yang-Mills (SYM) in de Sitter
  - gauge theory perspective
  - holographic picture
  - de Sitter vacuum 'entanglement' entropy
- Nontrivial DFP
  - we focus on QFT<sub>2+1</sub>
  - $\mathcal{N} = 2^*$  and cascading DFP — see the literature
- Applications: holographic gravitational reheating
  - harvesting the entanglement entropy of de Sitter DFPs
- Conclusions and future directions

$\implies$  *Thermodynamic equilibrium* is a late-time attractor of dynamical evolution of isolated interacting quantum system:

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} T_{\mu\nu}(t, \mathbf{x}) = \text{diag}(\mathcal{E}_{eq}, P_{eq}, \dots, P_{eq})$$

- $T_{\mu\nu}$  are the component of the stress-energy tensor of the system at time  $t$  and the spatial location  $\mathbf{x}$

$\implies$  We also have a theory — **the hydrodynamics** — that describes the approach to that equilibrium (assuming we are not-far from it):

- $\nabla_\mu T^{\mu\nu} = 0$
- $T^{\mu\nu} = T_{(0)}^{\mu\nu} + T_{(1)}^{\mu\nu} + T_{(2)}^{\mu\nu} + \dots$

•

$$T^{\mu\nu} = \underbrace{\mathcal{E} u^\mu u^\nu + P (g^{\mu\nu} + u^\mu u^\nu)}_{\mathcal{O}(\partial^0 u)} + \underbrace{\left[ -\eta \sigma^{\mu\nu} - \zeta (g^{\mu\nu} + u^\mu u^\nu) \nabla \cdot u \right]}_{\mathcal{O}(\partial^1 u): \sigma^{\mu\nu} \sim \partial^\mu u^\nu} \\ + \underbrace{[\dots]}_{\mathcal{O}(\partial^2 u, (\partial u)^2)} + \dots$$

- $u^\mu$  — local fluid velocity
- $g^{\mu\nu}$  — background metric
- $\eta, \zeta$  — shear and bulk viscosities
- expansion parameter of hydro as EFT:

$$\frac{1}{T} \cdot |\partial u| \ll 1$$

where  $T = T(t, \mathbf{x})$  is the local temperature

$$\mathcal{E} + P = sT, \quad d\mathcal{E} = Tds$$

•

$$\mathcal{S}^\mu = \underbrace{s u^\mu}_{\mathcal{O}(\partial^0 u)} + \underbrace{\left[ -\frac{1}{T} \cdot T_{(1)}^{\mu\nu} u_\nu \right]}_{\mathcal{O}(\partial^1 u)} + \underbrace{[\dots]}_{\mathcal{O}(\partial^2 u, (\partial u)^2)} + \dots$$

- from the conservation of the stress-energy tensor,

$$\nabla_\mu T^{\mu\nu} = 0 \quad \implies$$

$$T \nabla \cdot \mathcal{S} = \zeta (\nabla \cdot u)^2 + \frac{\eta}{2} \sigma_{\mu\nu} \sigma^{\mu\nu} \geq 0$$

$\implies$  As one approaches the equilibrium,

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} u^\mu = u_{eq}^\mu = (1, \mathbf{0}) \quad \implies \quad \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} T \nabla \cdot \mathcal{S} = 0$$

i.e., in the approach to equilibrium the entropy production rate vanishes



We can now provide a formal definition of a dynamical fixed point (DFP):

A *Dynamical Fixed Point* is an internal state of a quantum field theory with spatially homogeneous and time-independent one-point correlation functions of its stress energy tensor  $T^{\mu\nu}$ , and (possibly additional) set of gauge-invariant local operators  $\{\mathcal{O}_i\}$ ,  
and

strictly positive divergence of the entropy current at late-times:

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} (\nabla \cdot \mathcal{S}) > 0$$

⇒ Apart from the requirement of the strictly non-zero entropy production rate at late times, characteristics of a DFP coincide with that of the thermodynamic equilibrium.

# Why?

⇒ DFP, *i.e.*, the non-vanishing late-time entropy production in **driven** (open) quantum-mechanical systems/QFT:

- QFTs in **cosmological backgrounds**,  
asymptotically **de Sitter space-times** in particular

⇒ To study DFPs means to classify the end-of-time dynamics of *massive* QFTs, in cosmologies with dark energy

Example:  $\mathcal{N} = 2^*$  QGP — one of the best understood non-conformal top-down holography

- $\mathcal{N} = 2^*$ :  $\mathcal{N} = 4$  SYM with  $m_b/m_f \neq 0$  for bosonic/fermionic components of a hypermultiplet
- in Minkowski space time:
  - $g^{\mu\nu} = \eta^{\mu\nu}$
  -

$$\mathcal{E}_{eq} = \frac{3}{8}\pi^2 N^2 T^4 \left[ 1 + \left\{ \frac{\ln \frac{T}{m_b}}{9\pi^4} \left( \frac{m_b}{T} \right)^4 + \dots \right\} + \left\{ -\frac{2\Gamma\left(\frac{3}{4}\right)^4}{3\pi^4} \left( \frac{m_f}{T} \right)^2 + \dots \right\} \right]$$

■

$$\frac{\eta}{s} = \frac{1}{4\pi}, \quad \frac{\zeta}{\eta} = \beta_f^\Gamma \cdot \frac{\Gamma\left(\frac{3}{4}\right)^4}{3\pi^3} \left( \frac{m_f}{T} \right)^2 + \beta_b^\Gamma \cdot \frac{1}{432\pi^2} \left( \frac{m_b}{T} \right)^4 + \dots$$

where

$$\beta_f^\Gamma \approx 0.9672, \quad \beta_b^\Gamma \approx 8.0000$$

- in FLRW:

■

$$ds_4^2 = g_{\mu\nu} dx^\mu dx^\nu = -dt^2 + a(t)^2 d\mathbf{x}^2$$

- FLRW cosmology as hydro:

$$\text{local/comoving : } u^\mu = (1, \mathbf{0})$$

$$\underline{\text{BUT}} : \quad \nabla \cdot u = 3 \frac{\dot{a}}{a} \neq 0$$

■

$$\underbrace{T \nabla \cdot \mathcal{S}}_{\frac{T}{a^3} \cdot \frac{d}{dt} [a^3 s]} = \zeta \underbrace{(\nabla \cdot u)^2}_{9 \left( \frac{\dot{a}}{a} \right)^2} + \underbrace{\frac{\eta}{2} \sigma_{\mu\nu} \sigma^{\mu\nu}}_{=0} + \dots$$

$\implies$  prediction verified in (1603.05344)

$$\underbrace{\frac{d}{dt} \ln[a^3 s]}_{\text{computed from dynamical horizon}} = \underbrace{\frac{1}{T} \cdot (\nabla \cdot u)^2 \cdot \frac{\zeta}{s}}_{\text{agreement from Minkowski } \frac{\zeta}{s}} + \dots$$

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$\implies$  so far so good ...

BUT: validity of 'de Sitter hydro':

$$\frac{\nabla u}{T} \ll 1 \iff \frac{H}{\frac{T_0}{a(t)}} \ll 1$$

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{H}{T_0 \exp(-Ht)} \rightarrow +\infty \quad i.e., \quad \underline{\text{is always violated!}}$$

$\implies$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{Hydrodynamics in } R^{3,1} & \implies & \text{Thermal equilibrium} \\ \text{Dynamics in } dS_4 & \implies & \text{DFP}^* \end{array}$$

$^*$ : QFT  $\neq$  CFT

$\implies \mathcal{N} = 4$  SYM in FLRW CFT perspective



- FLRW is Weyl equivalent to Minkowski:

$$ds_4^2 = -dt^2 + a(t)^2 dx^2 = a(t)^2 \left( -\frac{dt^2}{a(t)^2} + dx^2 \right) = a^2 \underbrace{\left( -d\tau^2 + dx^2 \right)}_{ds_{Minkowski}^2}$$

- if  $\mathcal{O}_\Delta$  is a primary operator of dimension  $\Delta$ ,

$$\langle \mathcal{O}_\Delta \rangle \Big|_{FLRW} = a^{-\Delta} \langle \mathcal{O}_\Delta \rangle \Big|_{Minkowski}$$

- stress-energy tensor is not a primary field:

$$\langle T_{\mu\nu} \rangle \Big|_{FLRW} = a^{-4} \langle T_{\mu\nu} \rangle \Big|_{Minkowski} + \text{conformal anomaly}$$

$\implies$  for a trace of the stress-energy tensor

$$\langle T_\mu^\mu \rangle \Big|_{FLRW} = a^{-4} \underbrace{\langle T_\mu^\mu \rangle \Big|_{Minkowski}}_{=0} + \frac{c}{24\pi^3} \underbrace{\left( R_{\mu\nu}R^{\mu\nu} - \frac{1}{3}R^2 \right)}_{=-12\frac{(\dot{a})^2\ddot{a}}{a^3}}$$

e.g., for  $\mathcal{N} = 4$   $SU(N)$  SYM,

$$-\langle T_t^t \rangle \Big|_{FLRW} = \frac{1}{a(t)^4} \mathcal{E} + \frac{3N^2}{32\pi^2} \frac{(\dot{a})^4}{a^4}$$

$$\langle T_x^x \rangle \Big|_{FLRW} = \frac{1}{a(t)^4} P + \frac{N^2}{8\pi^2} \left\{ \frac{(\dot{a})^4}{4a^4} - \frac{(\dot{a})^2\ddot{a}}{a^3} \right\}$$

$$\langle T_\mu^\mu \rangle \Big|_{FLRW} = a^{-4} \underbrace{\left( -\mathcal{E} + 3P \right)}_{=0} - \frac{3N^2}{8\pi^2} \frac{(\dot{a})^2\ddot{a}}{a^3}$$

$\implies$  Minkowski space-time thermal equilibrium states of  $\mathcal{N} = 4$  SYM (strong coupling) of temperature  $T_0$ :

$$\mathcal{E}_0 = \frac{3}{8}\pi^2 N^2 T_0^4, \quad P_0 = \frac{1}{3}\mathcal{E}_0$$

$\implies$  in FLRW cosmology,

$$\mathcal{E}(t) = \frac{3}{8}\pi^2 N^2 T(t)^4 + \frac{3N^2}{32\pi^2} \frac{(\dot{a})^4}{a^4}, \quad P(t) = \frac{1}{3}\mathcal{E}(t) - \frac{N^2}{8\pi^2} \frac{(\dot{a})^2 \ddot{a}}{a^3}$$

where  $T(t)$  is the effective temperature

$$T(t) = \frac{T_0}{a(t)}$$

$\implies$  Stress-energy tensor in FLRW is covariantly conserved:

$$0 = \langle \nabla^\mu T_\mu^\nu \rangle \iff \frac{d\mathcal{E}(t)}{dt} + 3\frac{\dot{a}}{a} (\mathcal{E}(t) + P(t)) = 0$$



$\implies$  entropy density

- In Minkowski space-time:

$$s_0 = \frac{\pi^2}{2} N^2 T_0^3$$

- Assuming the adiabatic expansion in FLRW, the co-moving entropy density,  $s_{\text{comoving}}$ ,

$$s_{\text{comoving}} \equiv a(t)^3 s(t)$$

is conserved:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d}{dt} s_{\text{comoving}} &= 0 \quad \implies \quad s_{\text{comoving}} = s_{\text{comoving}} \Big|_{t=0} = s_0 \\ \implies s(t) &= \frac{\pi^2}{2} N^2 T(t)^3 \end{aligned}$$

- In expanding FLRW, with  $a(t) \rightarrow \infty$  as  $t \rightarrow \infty$ ,

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} s(t) = 0$$



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$\implies$  Let's rephrase the de Sitter entropy discussion in the language of the entropy current  $\mathcal{S}^\mu$ :

- A locally static observer has  $u^\mu = (1, \mathbf{0})$
- The entropy current (in Landau frame  $T_{(1)}^{\mu\nu} u_\nu = 0$ ) is

$$\mathcal{S}^\mu = s u^\mu$$

$\implies$

$$\nabla \cdot S = \frac{1}{a(t)^3} \frac{d}{dt} (a(t)^3 s) = \frac{1}{a(t)^3} \frac{d}{dt} s_{comoving}(t) = 0$$

That is why  $\mathcal{N} = 4$  SYM (same is true for any conformal theory!) in de Sitter evolved to a **trivial DFP**

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How would a non-trivial DFP arise?

- Imagine that

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} s(t) = s_{ent} \neq 0$$

This limit is natural to call the vacuum entanglement entropy density, hence  $s_{ent}$

- Then,

$$\lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} (\nabla \cdot \mathcal{S}) = 3 H s_{ent}$$

where

$$H = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} \frac{d}{dt} \ln a(t)$$

⇒ In strongly coupled non-conformal theories with holographic dual

$$s_{ent} > 0$$

$\implies \mathcal{N} = 4$  SYM in FLRW [holographic perspective]

$$S_{\mathcal{N}=4} = \frac{1}{16\pi G_5} \int_{\mathcal{M}_5} d^5\xi \sqrt{-g} \left[ R + \frac{12}{L^2} \right]$$

$$L^4 = \ell_s^4 N g_{YM}^2, \quad G_5 = \frac{\pi L^3}{2N^2}, \quad 4\pi g_s = g_{YM}^2$$

$\implies$  Consider general spatially homogeneous, time-dependent states:

$$ds_5^2 = 2dt (dr - Adt) + \Sigma^2 d\mathbf{x}^2$$

$$A = A(t, r), \quad \Sigma = \Sigma(t, r)$$

$\implies$  We are interested in spatially homogeneous and isotropic states of  $\mathcal{N} = 4$  SYM in FLRW, so the bulk metric warp approach the AdS boundary  $r \rightarrow \infty$  as

$$\Sigma = \frac{a(t)r}{L} + \mathcal{O}(r^0), \quad A = \frac{r^2}{2L^2} + \mathcal{O}(r^1)$$

Indeed, as  $r \rightarrow \infty$ ,

$$ds_5^2 = \underbrace{\frac{r^2}{L^2} \left( -dt^2 + a(t)^2 d\mathbf{x}^2 \right)}_{\text{boundary FLRW}} + \dots$$

$\implies \mathcal{N} = 4$  SYM in FLRW [holographic perspective]

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$\implies$  These equations can be solved in all generality for arbitrary  $a(t)$ :

$$A = \frac{(r + \lambda)^2}{8} - (r + \lambda) \frac{\dot{a}}{a} - \dot{\lambda} - \frac{r_0^4}{8a^4(r + \lambda)^2},$$

$$\Sigma = \frac{(r + \lambda)a}{2}$$

where

- $r_0$  is a single constant parameter
- $\lambda(t)$  is an arbitrary function - the leftover diffeomorphism of the 5d gravitational metric reparametrization  $r \rightarrow \bar{r} = r - \lambda(t)$ :

$$A(t, r) \rightarrow \bar{A}(t, \bar{r}) = A(t, r + \lambda(r)) - \dot{\lambda}(t)$$

$$\Sigma(t, r) \rightarrow \bar{\Sigma}(t, \bar{r}) = \Sigma(t, r + \lambda(t))$$

$\implies$

$$ds_5^2 \implies d\bar{s}_5^2 = 2dt(d\bar{r} - \bar{A}dt) + \bar{\Sigma}^2 dx^2$$

$\implies$  Identifying

$$\frac{r_0}{2} \equiv T_0$$

$\implies$  from holographic computation of the boundary stress energy tensor,

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{E}(t) &= \frac{3}{8}\pi^2 N^2 T(t)^4 + \frac{3N^2}{32\pi^2} \frac{(\dot{a})^4}{a^4}, & P(t) &= \frac{1}{3}\mathcal{E}(t) - \frac{N^2}{8\pi^2} \frac{(\dot{a})^2 \ddot{a}}{a^3} \\ T(t) &= \frac{T_0}{a(t)}\end{aligned}$$

Precisely as expected from the Weyl transformation of the thermal state from Minkowski to FLRW!

$\implies$  Holography buys us more:

- Chesler-Yaffe pioneered numerical studies of EF metrics:

$$ds_5^2 = 2dt (dr - Adt) + \Sigma^2 dx^2$$

- such metrics has an **apparent horizon** (AH) at  $r_{AH}$

$$d_+ \Sigma \Big|_{r=r_{AH}} = 0 \quad \implies \quad r_{AH} = \frac{r_0}{a(t)} - \lambda(t)$$

- causal dependence **must** include

$$r \in [r_{AH}, +\infty)$$

- region

$$r < r_{AH}$$

is causally disconnected from the holographic dynamics and **must be** excised

- AH is a dynamical horizon

- 

$$\underbrace{\frac{\Sigma^3}{4G_5} \Big|_{r=r_{AH}}}_{\text{comoving Bekenstein entropy of the AH}} = \frac{N^2 r_0^3}{128\pi}$$

$$= \underbrace{s_{\text{comoving}}}_{\text{SYM comoving entropy density in FLRW}} = a(t)^3 s(t) = \frac{\pi^2}{2} N^2 T_0^3$$

**Precisely as expected from the CFT arguments!**

$\implies$  Nontrivial DFP

- The model:

$$S_4 = \frac{1}{2\kappa^2} \int_{\mathcal{M}_4} dx^4 \sqrt{-\gamma} \left[ R + 6 - \frac{1}{2} (\nabla\phi)^2 + \phi^2 \right]$$

- $\phi$  is dual to  $\mathcal{O}_\phi$ ,

$$L^2 m_\phi^2 = -2 \quad \implies \quad \dim(\mathcal{O}_\phi) = 2$$

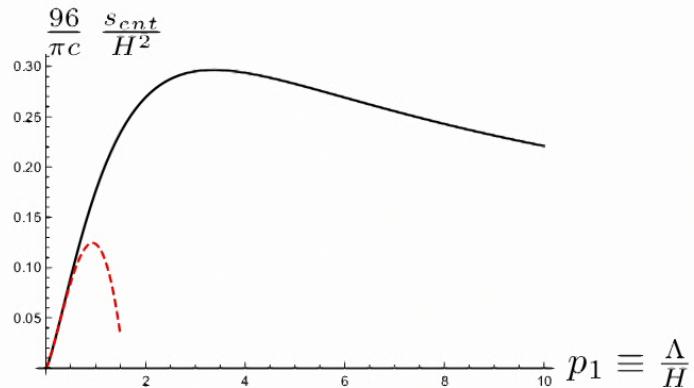
- source terms for the gravitational evolution:
  - the boundary metric is  $dS_3$ ,

$$ds_3^2 = -dt^2 + e^{2Ht} d\mathbf{x}^2$$

- mass scale  $\Lambda$  of the boundary  $QFT_3$ ,

$$\phi = \frac{\Lambda}{r} + \mathcal{O}(r^{-2})$$

Recall:  $s_{ent} = \lim_{t \rightarrow \infty} s(t)$

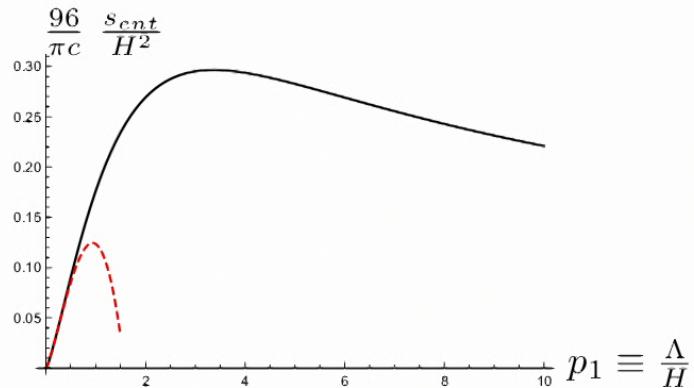


$$\frac{\kappa^2}{2\pi} \frac{s_{ent}}{H^2} = \frac{1}{6} 6^{1/3} p_1^{4/3} - \frac{1}{12} p_1^2 - \frac{5}{216} 6^{2/3} p_1^{8/3} - \frac{3359}{311040} 6^{1/3} p_1^{10/3} + \mathcal{O}(p_1^4)$$

Important:

$$\frac{d(a^2 s)}{dt} = \frac{2\pi}{\kappa^2} (\Sigma^2)' \left. \frac{(d+\phi)^2}{\phi^2 + 6} \right|_{r=r_{AH}} \geq 0$$

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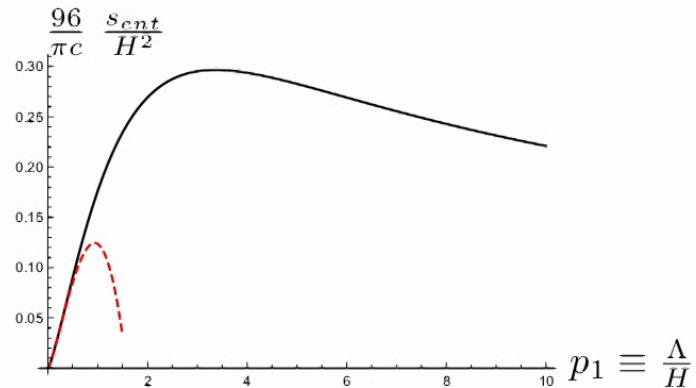


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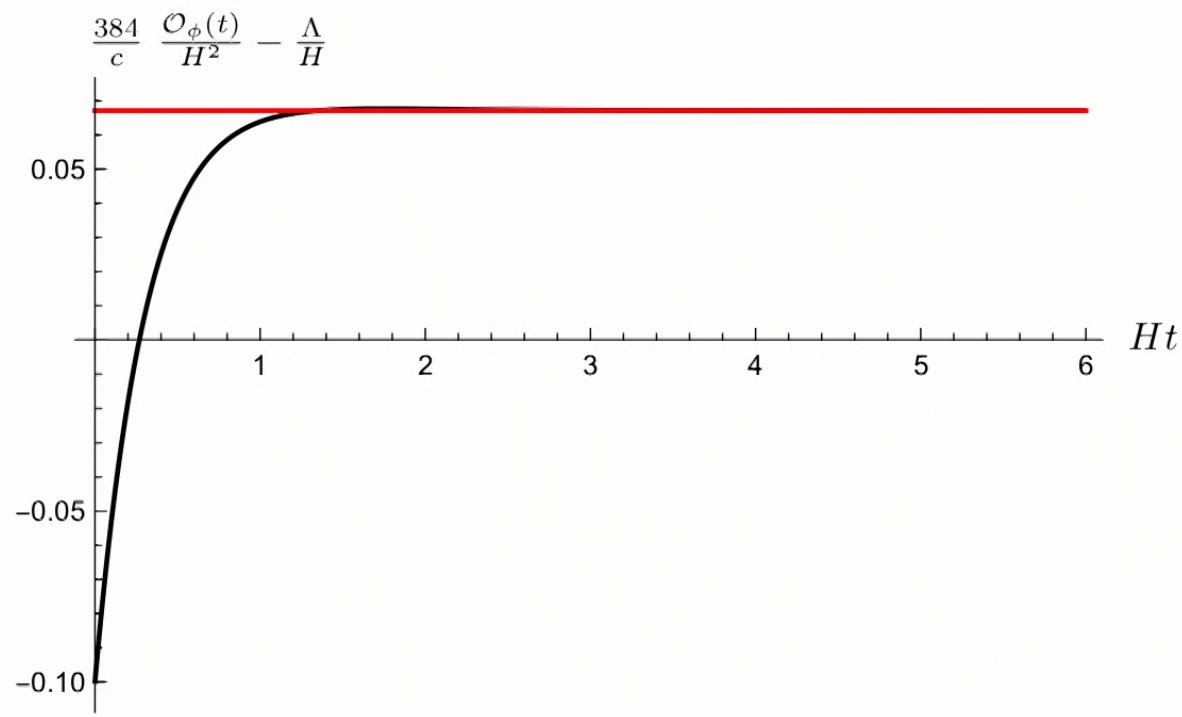


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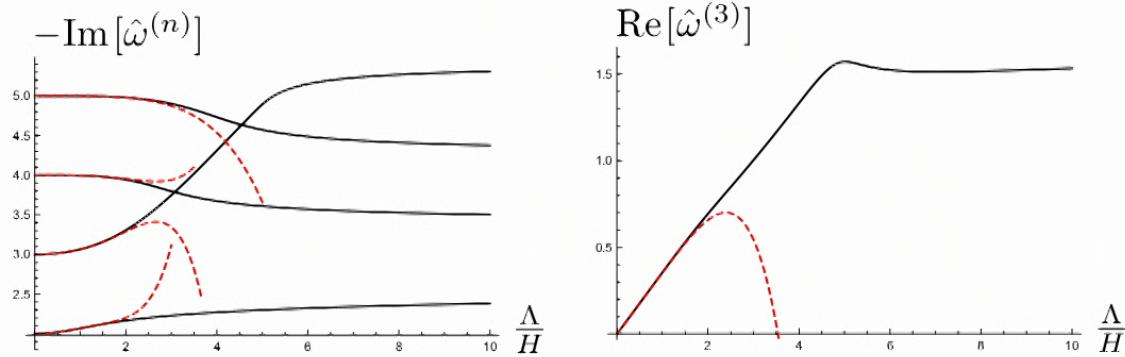
Important:

$$\frac{d(a^2 s)}{dt} = \frac{2\pi}{\kappa^2} (\Sigma^2)' \left. \frac{(d_+ \phi)^2}{\phi^2 + 6} \right|_{r=r_{AH}} \geq 0$$

$\implies$  DFP as a late-time attractor:

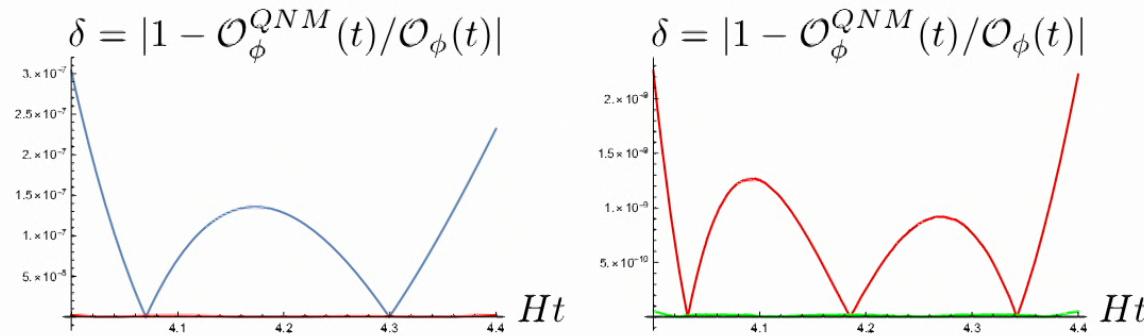


⇒ Spectrum of DFP fluctuations (*aka* QNMs):



$$\hat{\omega} \equiv \frac{\omega}{H}$$

$\implies$  Approach to DFP via 'QNMs':



$$\mathcal{O}_\phi^{QNM}(t) = \mathcal{O}_\phi^{DFP} + \sum_{\text{QNM spectrum}} \mathcal{A} e^{-i(\hat{\omega} Ht + \text{phase})}$$

- blue:  $n = 2$  QNM only
- red:  $n = 2, 3$  QNMs
- green:  $n = 2, 3, 4$  QNMs

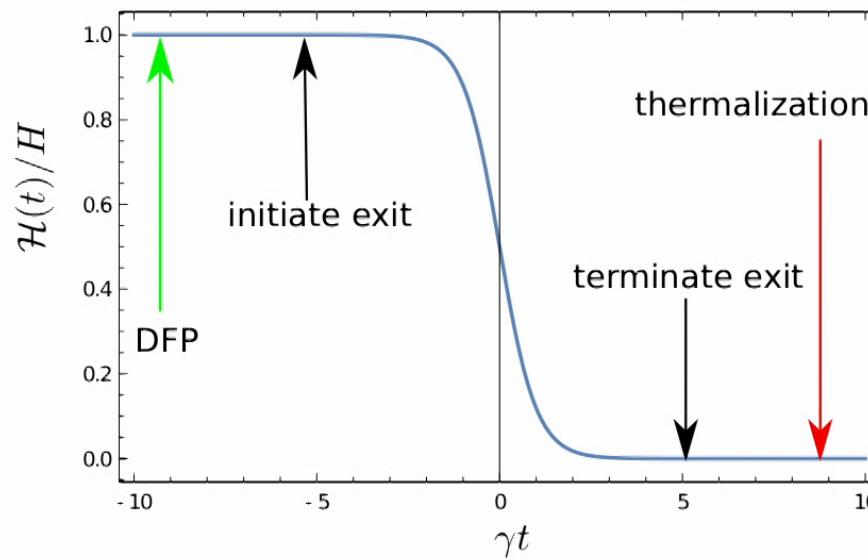
$\implies$  Holographic gravitational reheating:

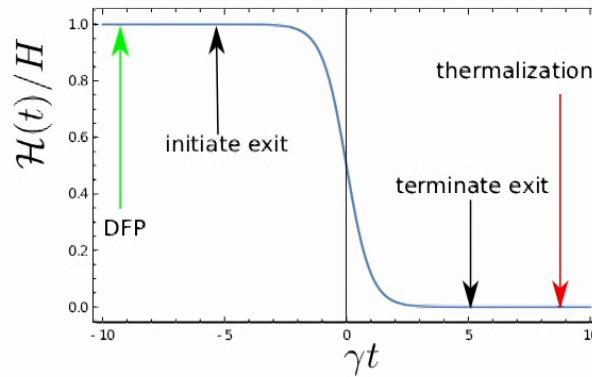
- 

$$\frac{d(a^2 s)}{dt} = \frac{2\pi}{\kappa^2} (\Sigma^2)' \left. \frac{(d_+ \phi)^2}{\phi^2 + 6} \right|_{r=r_{AH}} \geq 0$$

- consider a scale factor  $a(t)$  with a Hubble parameter:

$$\mathcal{H}(t) \equiv \frac{\dot{a}}{a} = \frac{H}{1 + \exp(2\gamma t)}$$

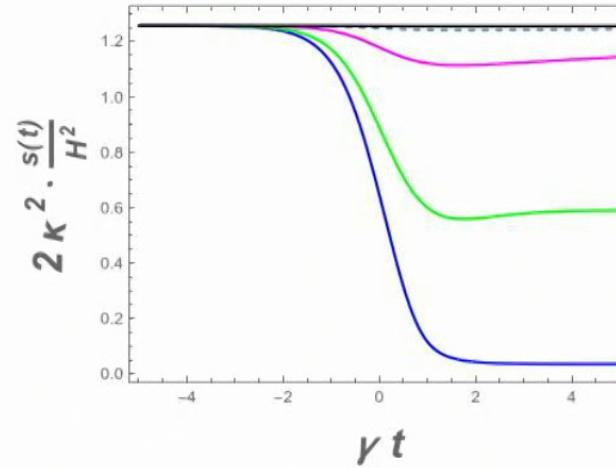
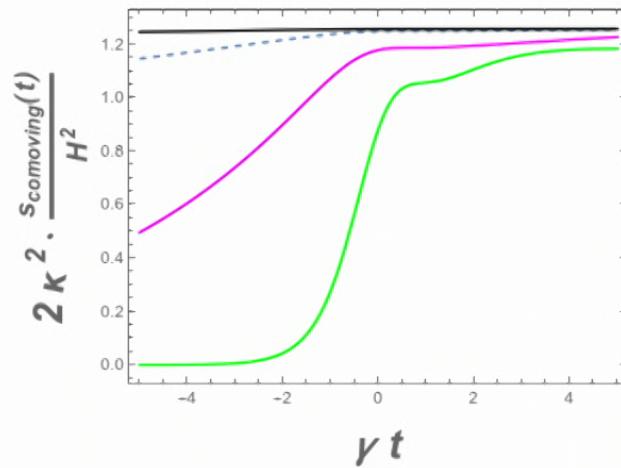




- in the *fast* inflationary exit

$$\ln \frac{a_t}{a_i} = \int_{-5/\gamma}^{5/\gamma} dt \mathcal{H}(t) = \frac{5H}{\gamma} \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{as} \quad \frac{H}{\gamma} \rightarrow 0$$

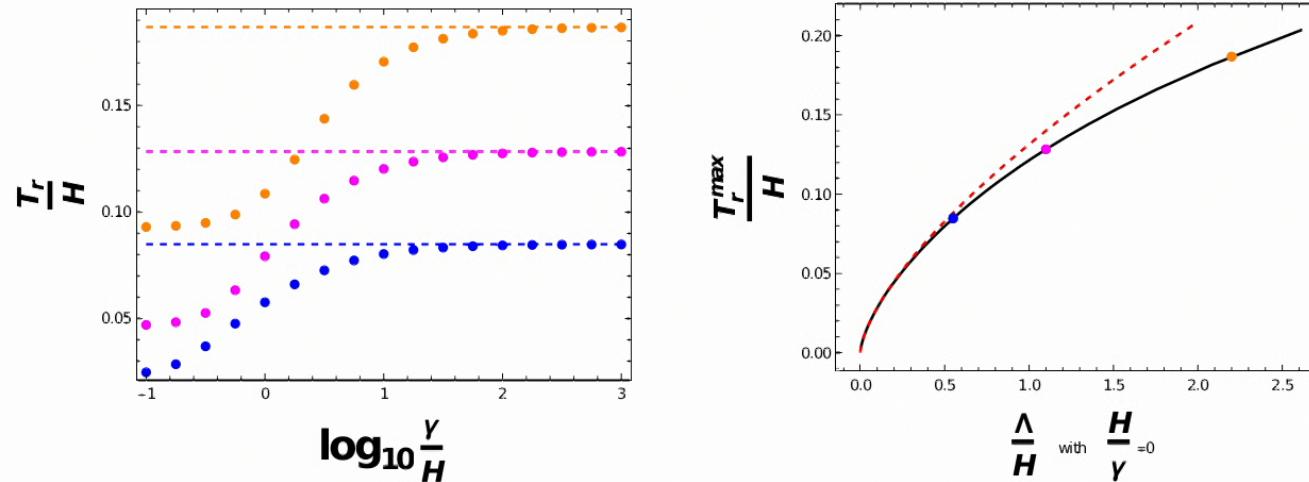
- 
- $\frac{d(a^2 s)}{dt} \geq 0 \implies s_t a_t^2 \geq s_i a_i^2 \implies s_t \geq s_i \left( \frac{a_i}{a_t} \right)^2 \underset{H/\gamma \rightarrow 0}{\approx} s_{ent}^{DFP}$
- $s_{ent}^{DFP} \xrightarrow{\text{with further thermalization}} s(t) \Big|_{t \rightarrow +\infty} = s_{thermal} \geq s_{ent}^{DFP}$



$$\log_{10} \frac{\gamma}{H} = \left\{ \underbrace{-1}_{\text{blue}}, \underbrace{0}_{\text{green}}, \underbrace{1}_{\text{magenta}}, \underbrace{2}_{\text{grey dashed}}, \underbrace{3}_{\text{black}} \right\}$$

$\implies$  evolve until the inflationary exit state thermalized at  $T_r$ :  $tT_r \sim 1$

$$\frac{\Lambda}{H} = \left\{ \underbrace{0.55}_{\text{orange}}, \underbrace{1.1}_{\text{magenta}}, \underbrace{2.2}_{\text{blue}} \right\}$$



$$\frac{T_r^{\max}}{H} \approx \frac{3^{2/3}}{2^{7/3}\pi} \left(\frac{\Lambda}{H}\right)^{2/3}, \quad \text{as} \quad \frac{\Lambda}{H} \rightarrow 0$$

$$\frac{T_0}{T} \approx (A)^{\frac{1}{3}} \cdot \left(\frac{H}{H_0}\right)^{\frac{2}{3}}$$
$$\frac{T_0}{T} = T_0 \cdot \frac{1}{H_0} \rightarrow (A)^{\frac{1}{3}} \cdot \frac{1}{H_0} \cdot \left(\frac{H}{H_0}\right)^{\frac{2}{3}} \rightarrow$$

## Conclusions:

- A new concept of DFP
- Massive QFT in de Sitter has finite physical entropy density  $s_{ent}$
- In the exit from inflation  $s_{ent}$  can be harvested — this solves the problem of the initial Hot Big Bang entropy without the inflaton reheating

⇒ To do:

- compute  $T_r$  for  $\mathcal{N} = 2^*$
- compute  $T_r$  for the cascading theory
- understanding of weakly coupled DFP is missing