

UV-extending Higgs inflation in Einstein-Cartan Gravity

Based on: M. He (IBS-CTPU), KK, K. Mukaida (KEK), JHEP01 (2024) 014 arXiv: 2308.14398 [hep-ph];
see also PRL 132 (2024) 191501, arXiv: 2308.15420 [hep-ph]



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Quantum Gravity and Cosmology 2024

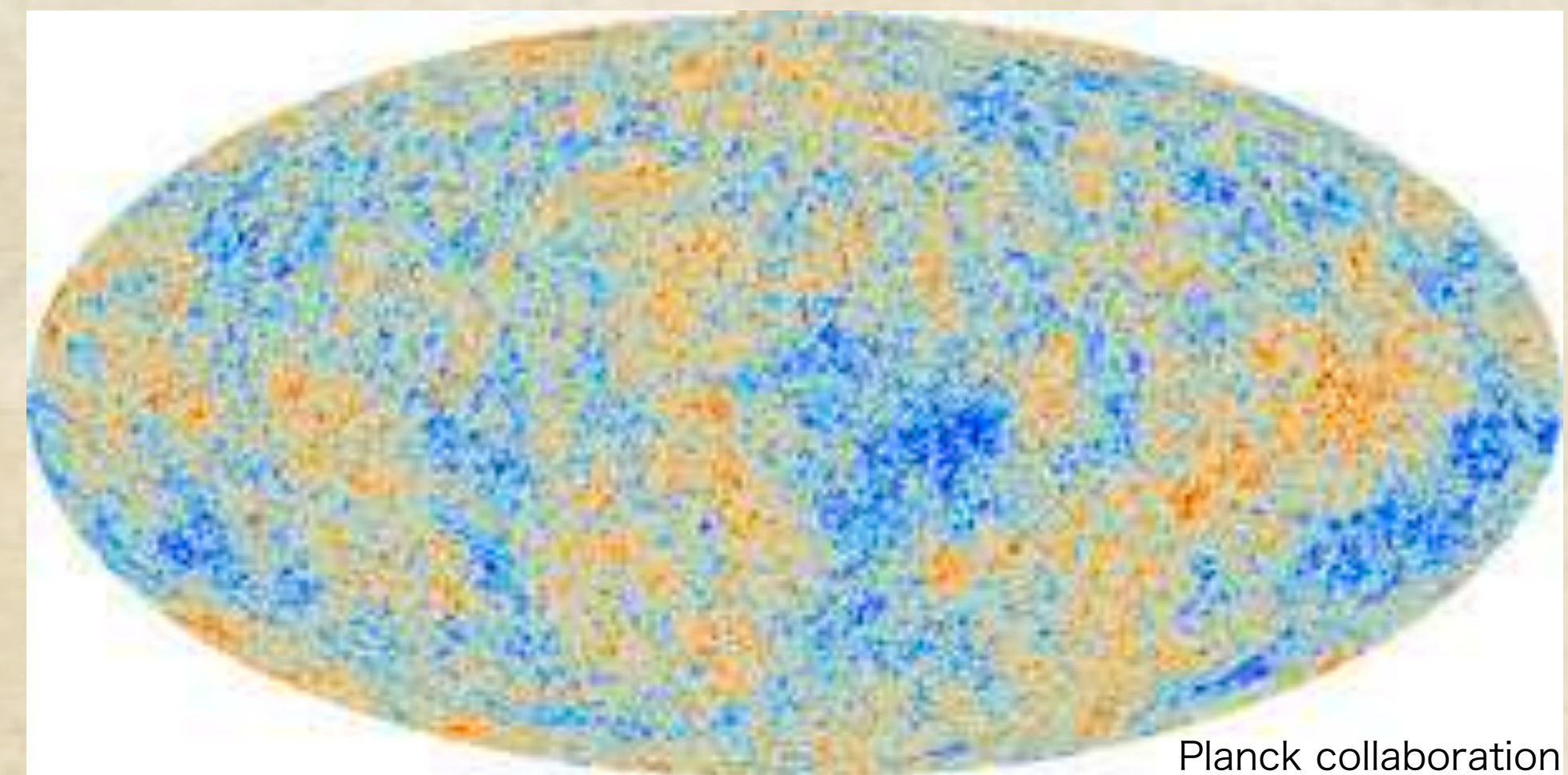
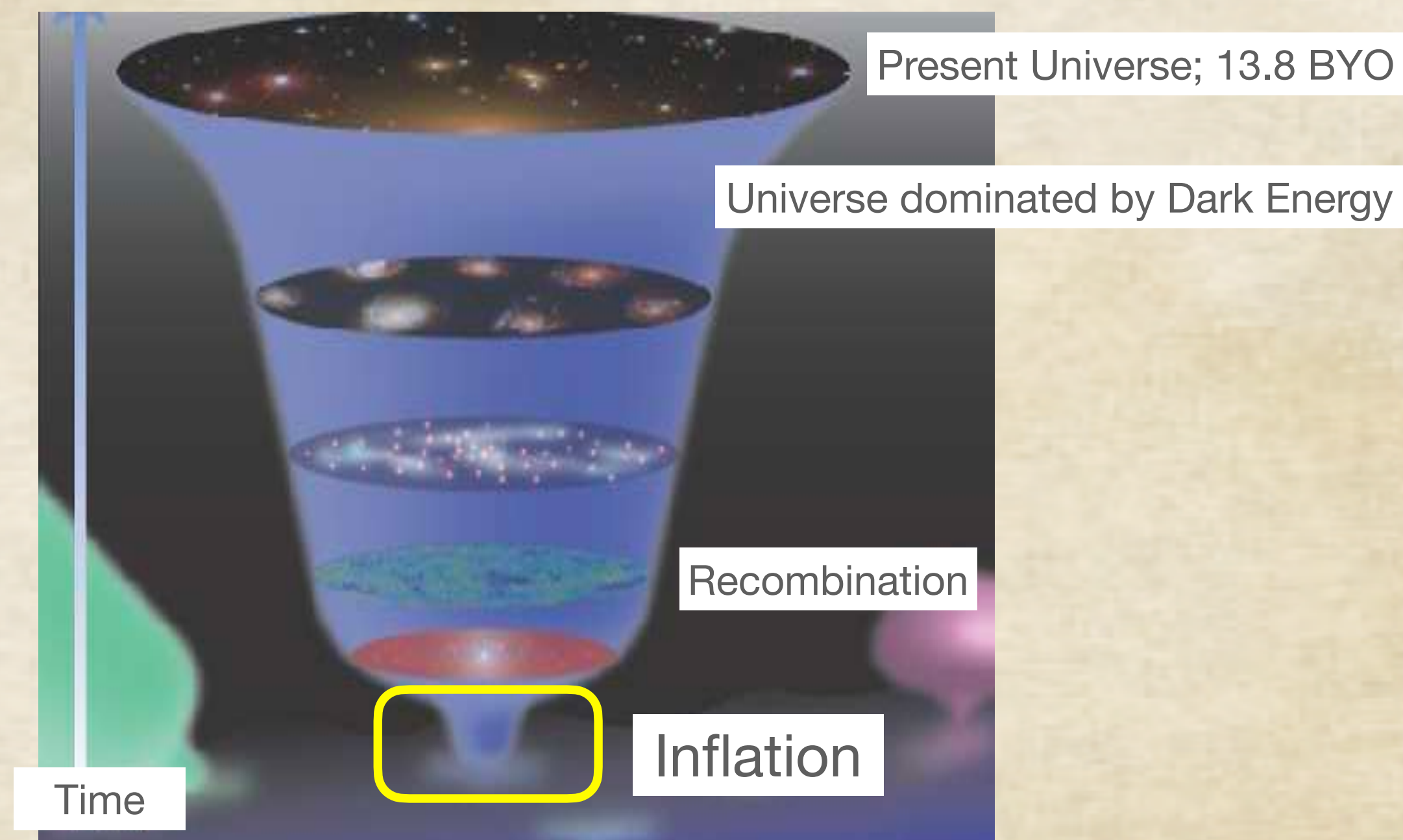
Shanghai Tech University, 3/7/2024

1. Introduction — Higgs inflation —
2. Problem in Higgs inflation and its UV extension
3. Higgs inflation in Palatini and Einstein-Cartan formalism
4. UV extension of the Higgs inflation in EC formalism
5. Summary

Introduction — Higgs inflation —

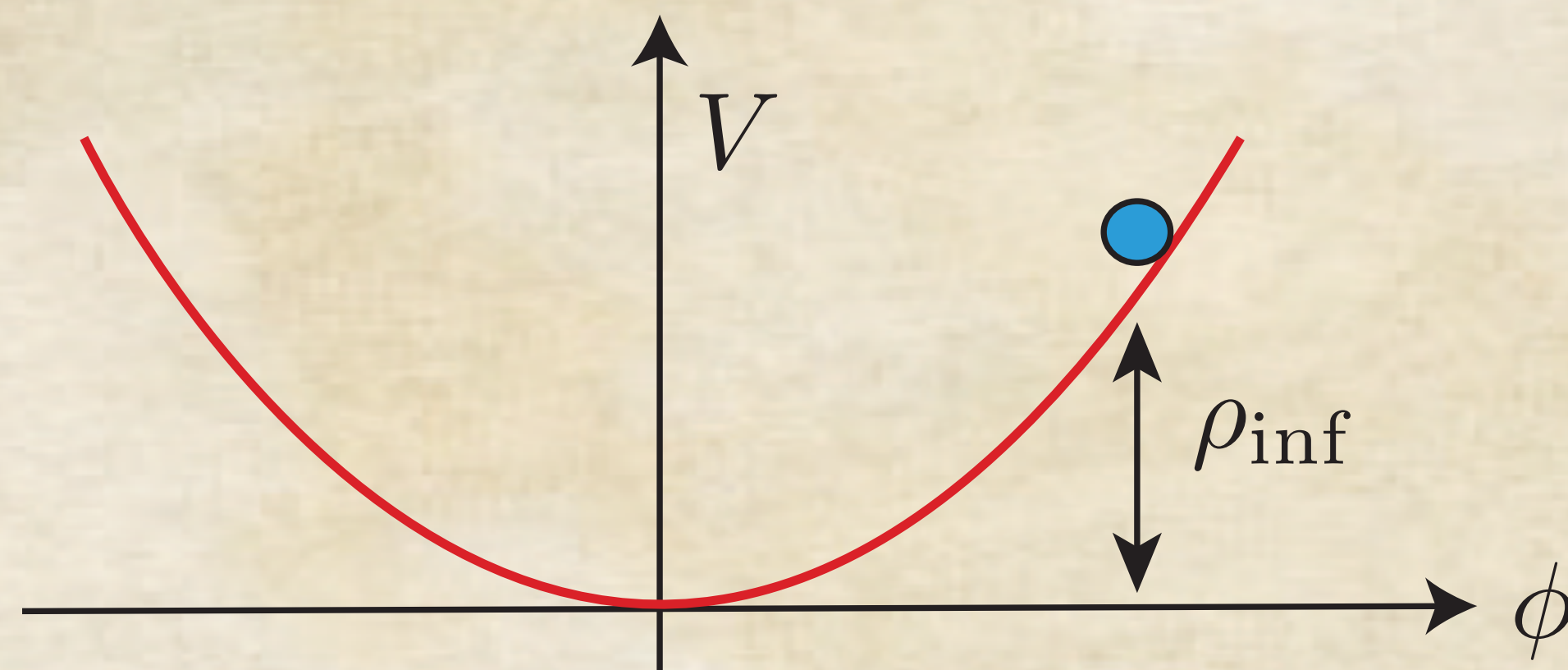
Inflation: key ingredient in modern cosmology

- Accelerating expansion of the Universe in the primordial Universe.
- Solution to the horizon, flatness, and monopole problems.
- Origin of the large-scale structure of the present Universe.



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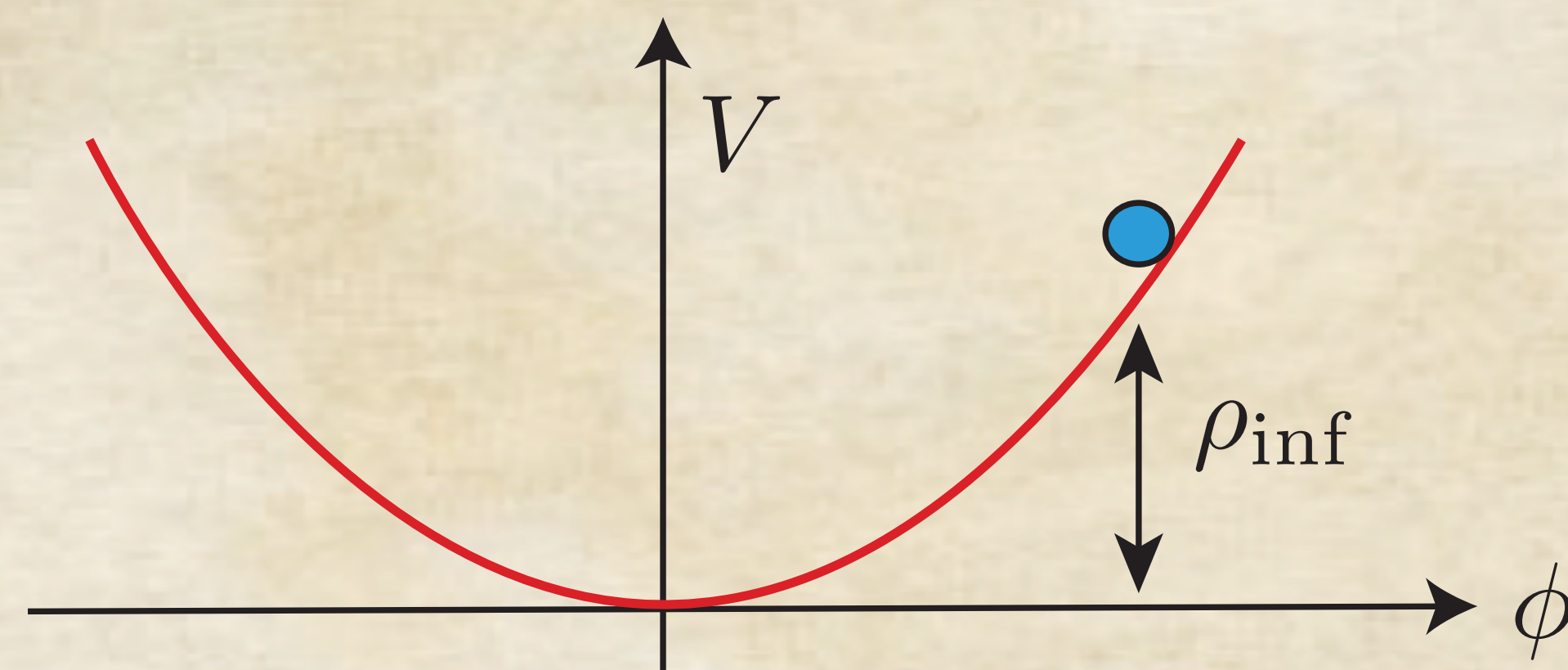
- It is often the case to introduce a scalar field whose potential energy drives inflation.

$$\ddot{\phi} + 3H\dot{\phi} + V' = 0,$$

$$3H^2 M_{\text{pl}}^2 = \frac{1}{2}\dot{\phi}^2 + \rho_{\text{inf}}$$

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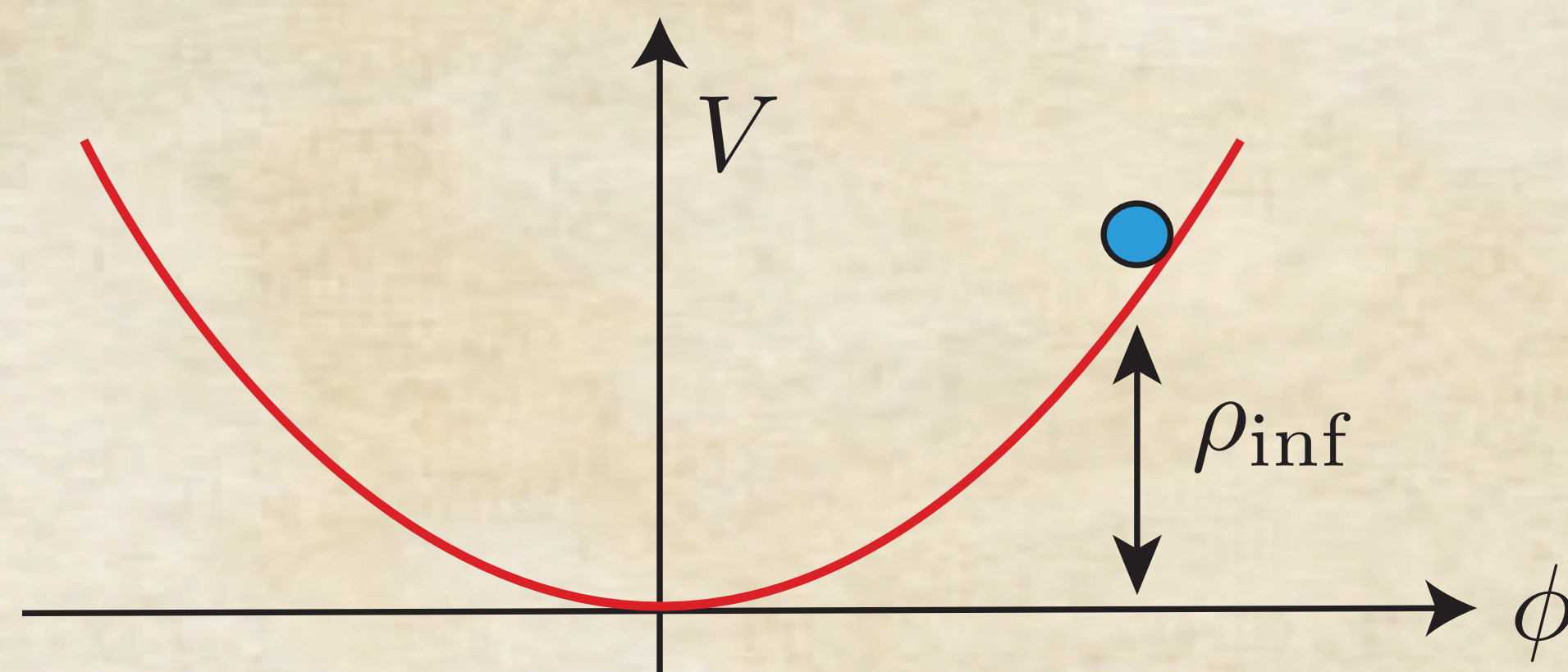
Requirement: Flat potential, Graceful exit,...

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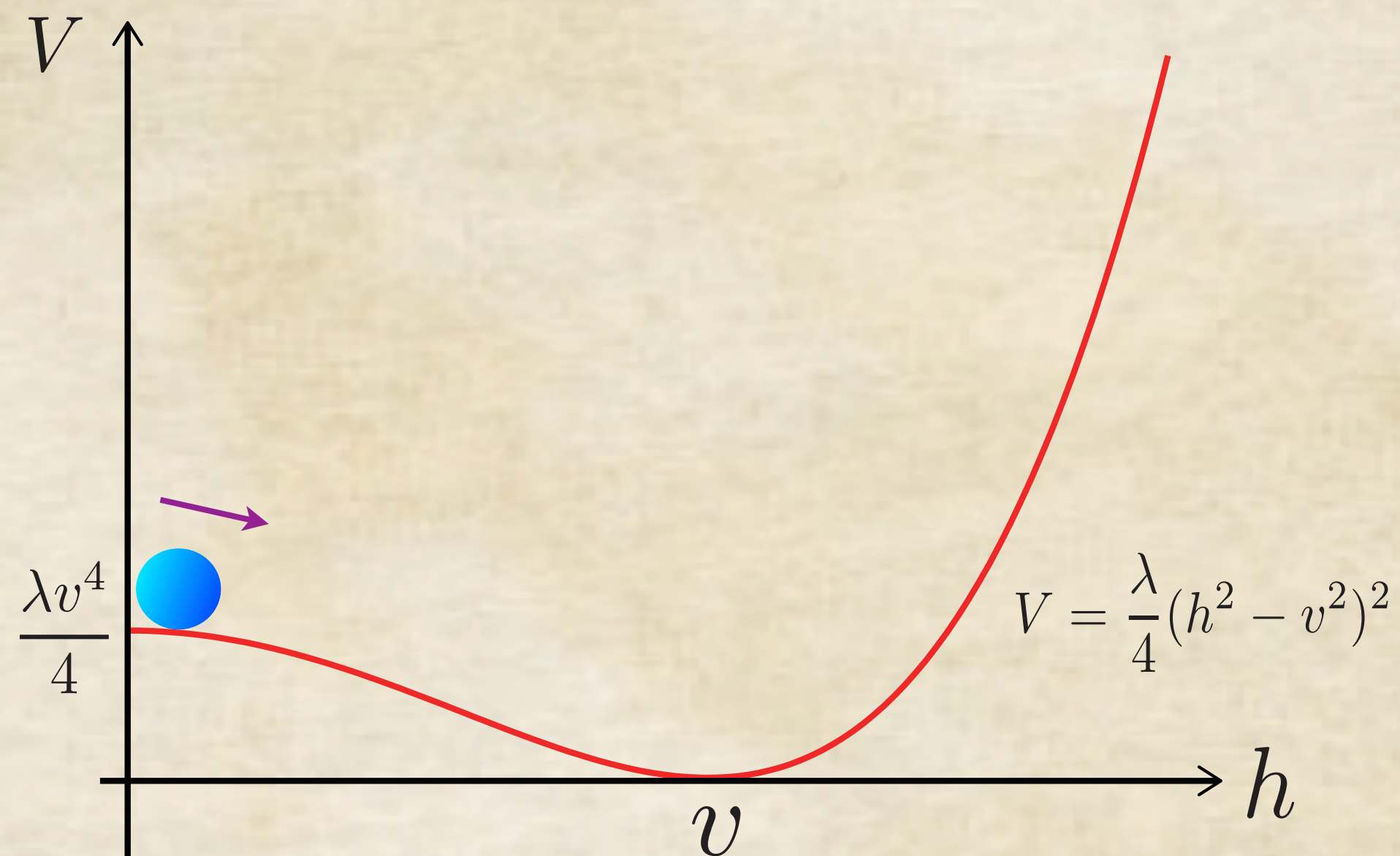
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Can the SM Higgs be inflaton?

Can Higgs potential drive accelerating expansion of the Universe 🤔 ?

$$\mathcal{S} = \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} \left[\frac{M_{\text{pl}}^2}{2} R - |D_\mu \mathcal{H}|^2 - \lambda (|\mathcal{H}|^2 - v^2)^2 \right]$$

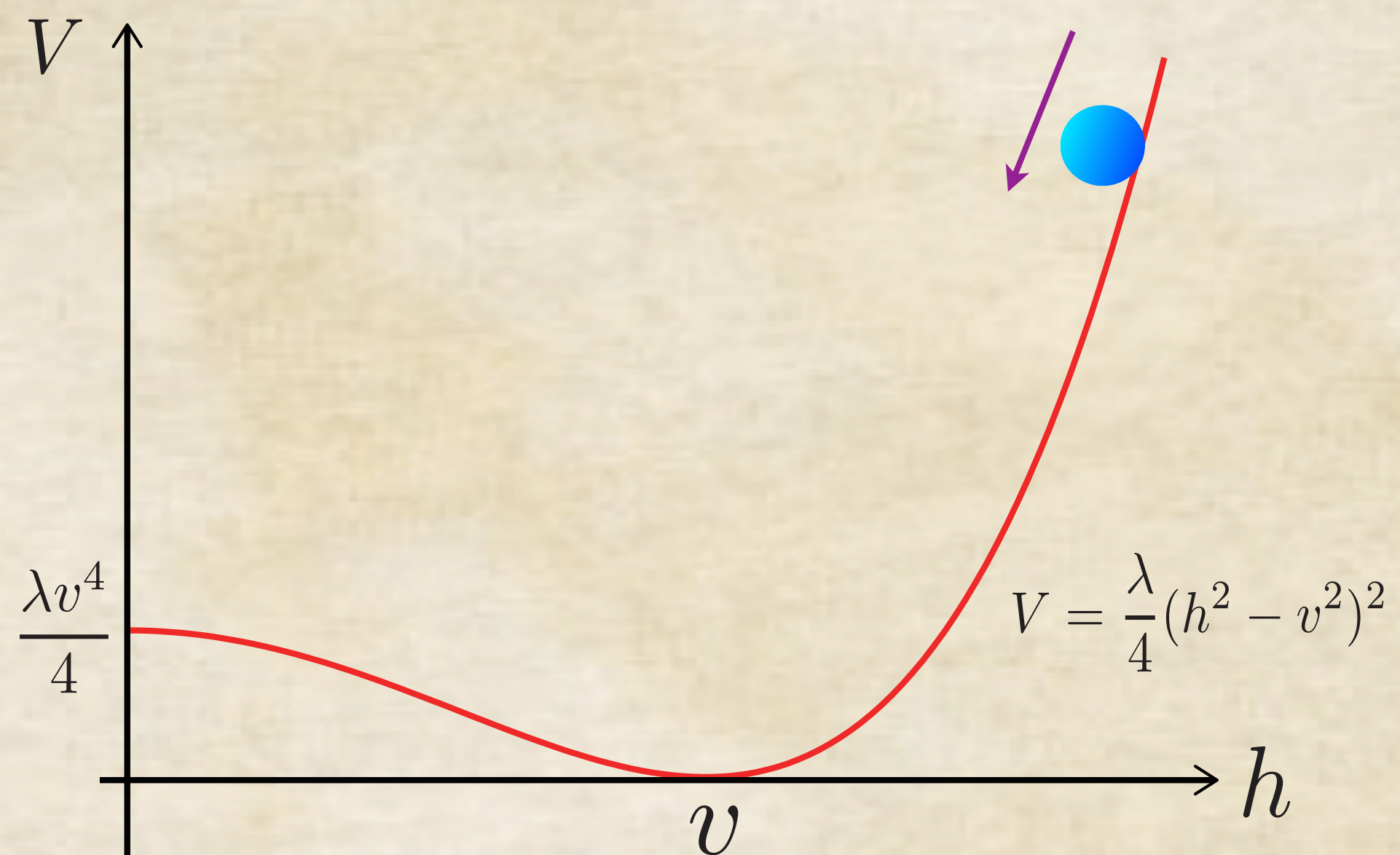
New inflation is impossible 😞,
because the slow-roll parameter
 $\eta \equiv M_{\text{pl}}^2 \frac{V''}{V}$ cannot be small.



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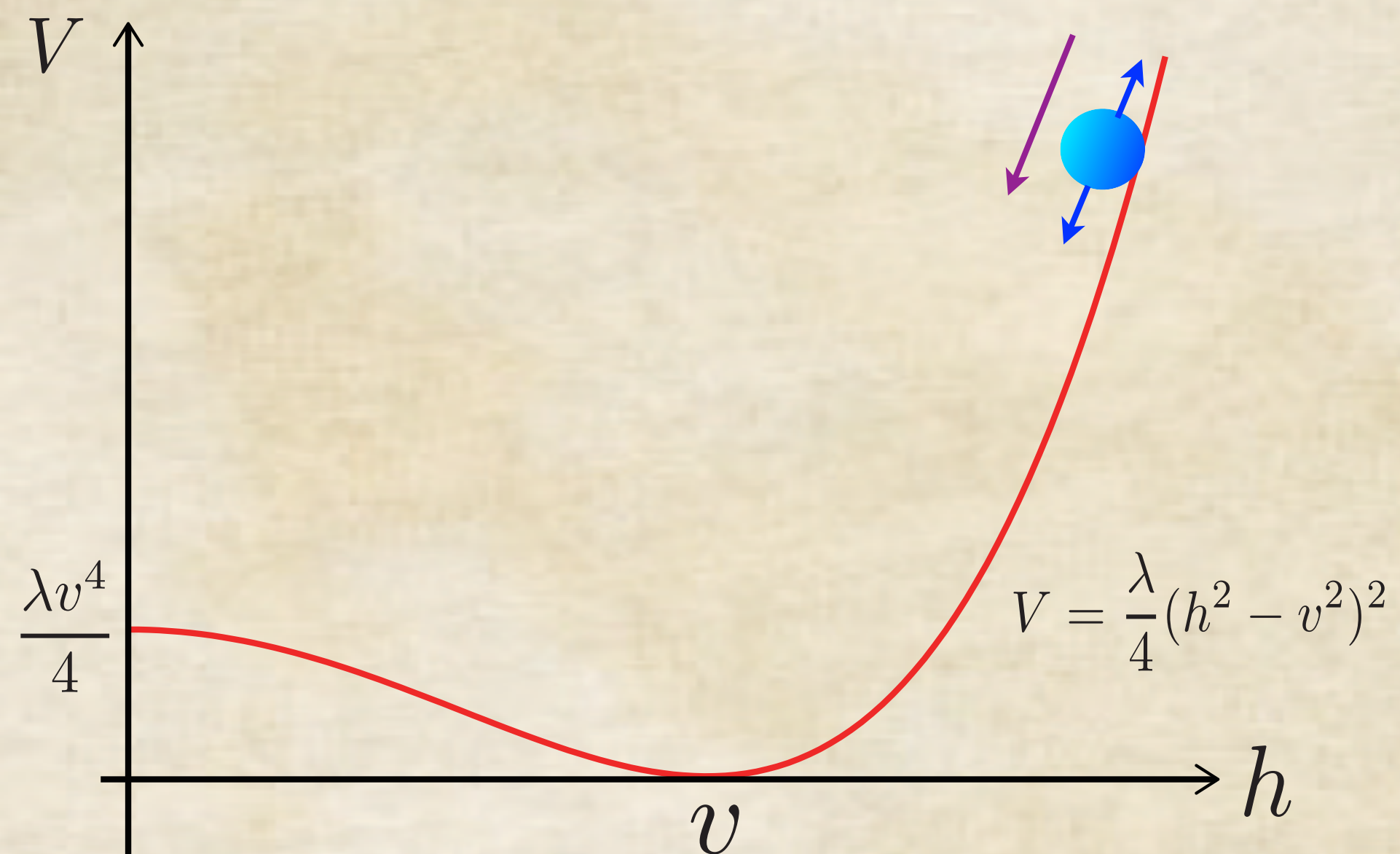
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But the density perturbation generated in this case,

$$\mathcal{P}_\zeta \sim 10^3 \lambda$$

is much larger than the one in the real Universe, $\mathcal{P}_\zeta^{\text{obs}} \simeq 2.18 \times 10^{-9}$ for $\lambda_{\text{Higgs}} \sim \mathcal{O}(1)$ 😞

(Non-minimal) Higgs Inflation (in the metric formalism)

('95 Cervantes-Cota & Dehnen, '08 Bezrukov & Shaposhnikov)

$$\mathcal{S} = \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} \left[\left(\frac{M_{\text{pl}}^2}{2} + \xi |\mathcal{H}|^2 \right) R - |D_\mu \mathcal{H}|^2 - \lambda |\mathcal{H}|^4 \right] \quad \text{w/ } \xi \gg 1$$

Conformal transformation

$$\mathcal{H} = (0, h/\sqrt{2})$$

$$g_{\mu\nu}^{\text{E}} = \Omega^2 g_{\mu\nu}, \quad \Omega^2 = 1 + \frac{\xi h^2}{M_{\text{pl}}^2}$$

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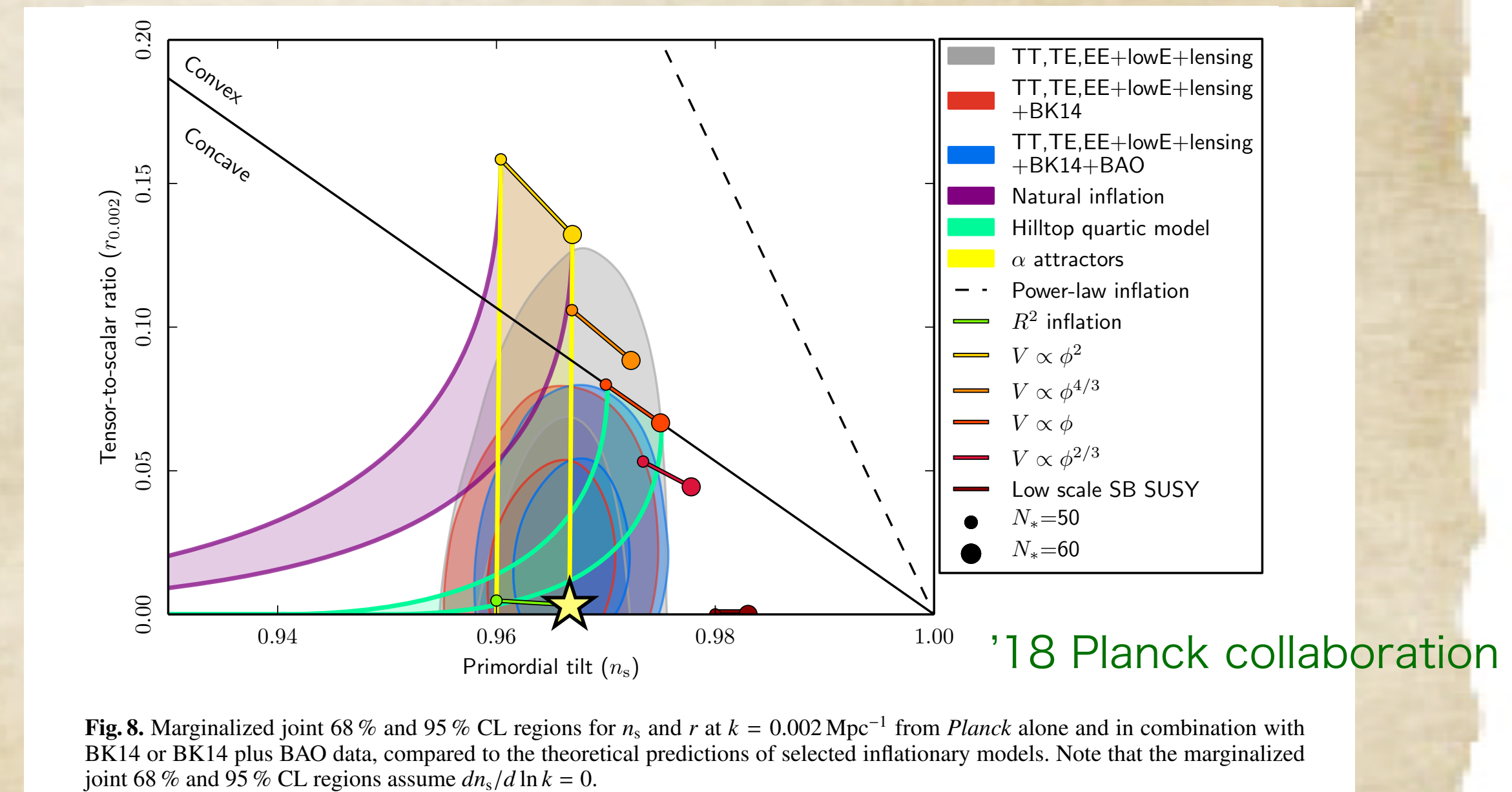
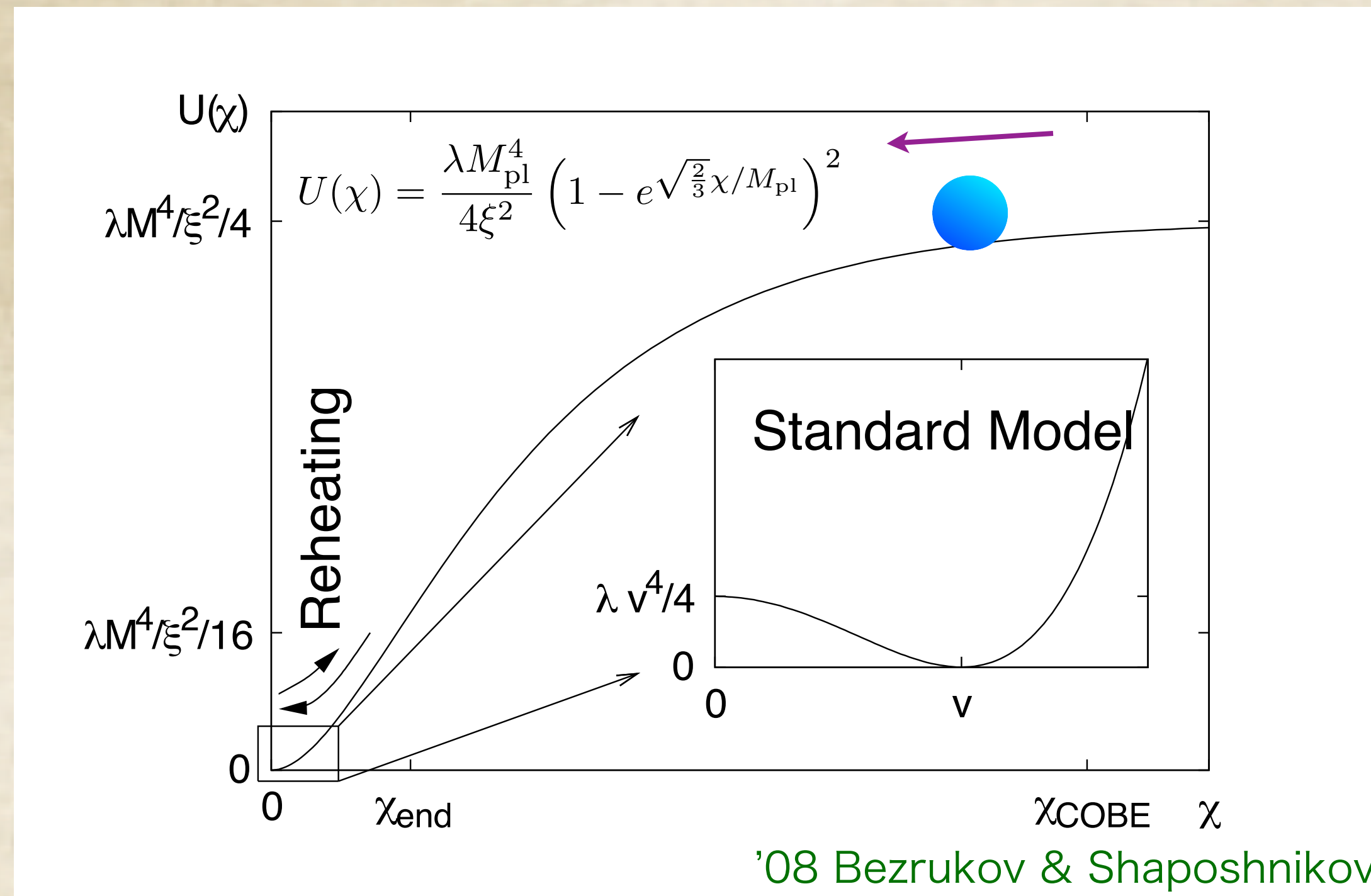
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$$\xi/\lambda^{1/2} \simeq 4 \times 10^4 \gg 1 \quad n_s \simeq 0.97 \quad r \simeq 0.0033$$

Simplest model of inflation driven by the SM Higgs, which fits the CMB data very well 😊

Problems in Higgs inflation and its UV extension

Unitarity bound in Higgs inflation 🤔

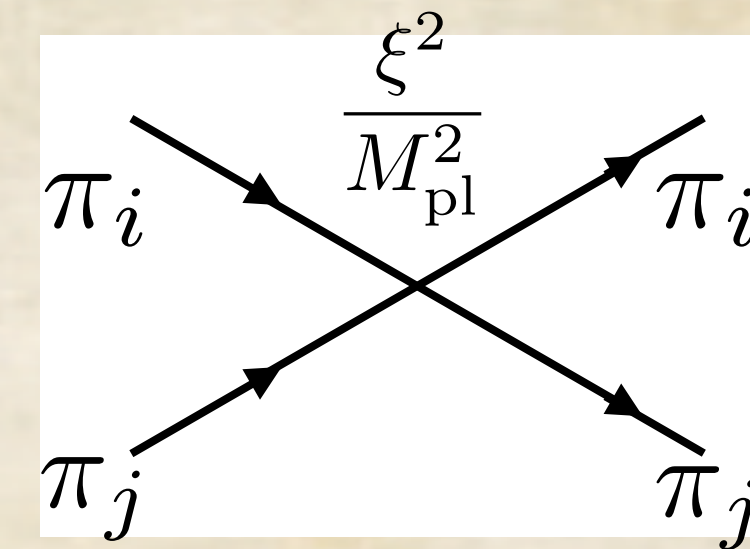
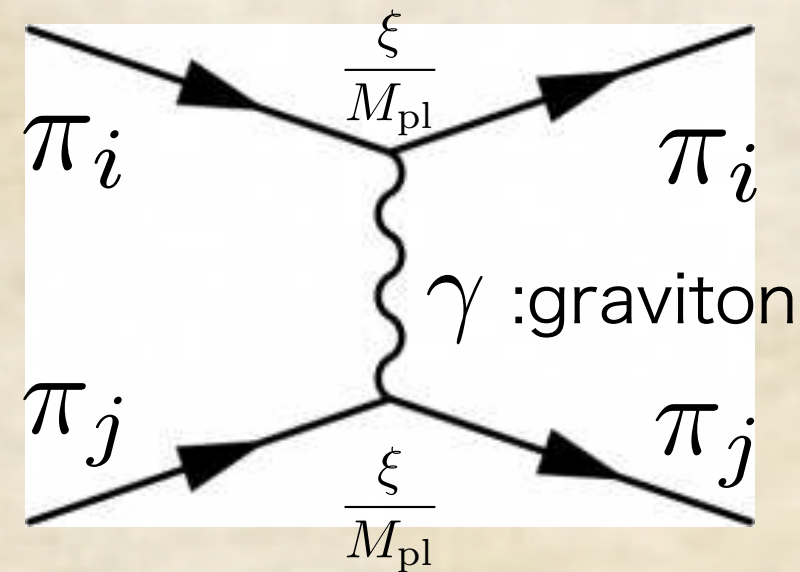
Cutoff scale of the theory (at the vacuum): $\Lambda \simeq \frac{M_{\text{pl}}}{\xi}$

(‘09 Barbon&Espinosa, ‘10 Burgess, Lee, &Trott, ‘10 Hertzberg)

$$\mathcal{H} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} \pi_2 + i\pi_3 \\ h + \pi_0 + i\pi_1 \end{pmatrix}$$

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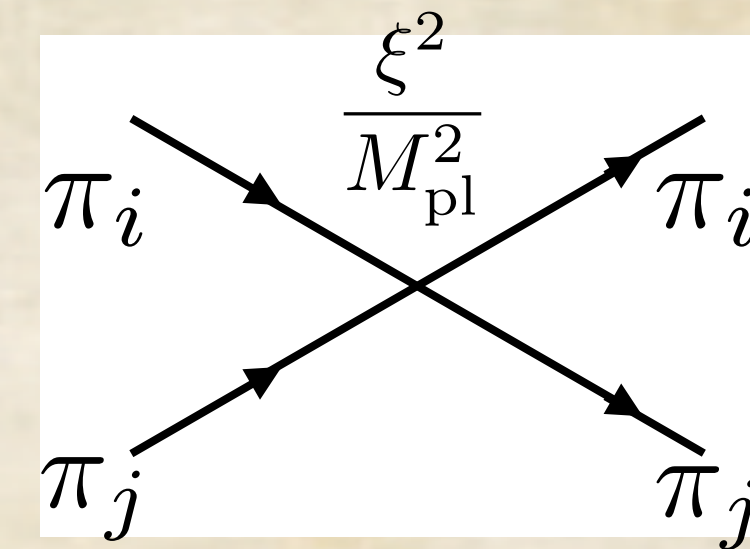
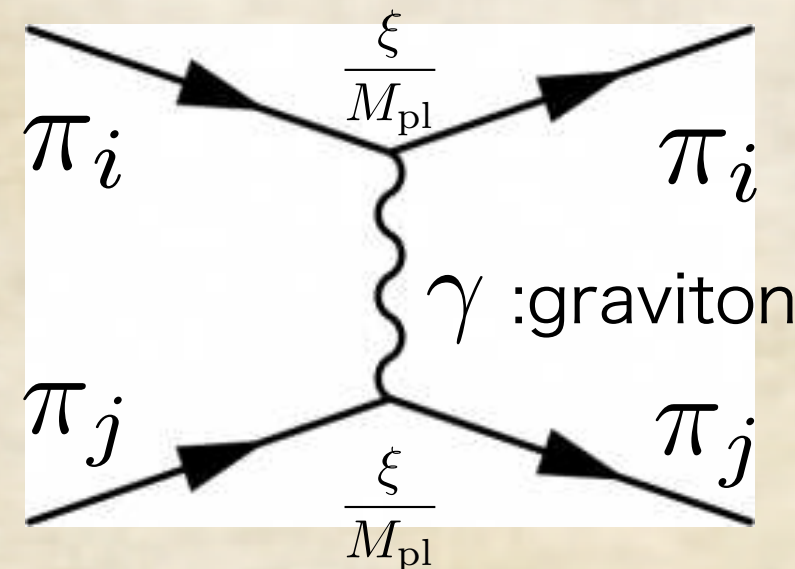
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Typical energy scale during inflation : $\rho_{\text{inf}}^{1/4} \simeq \frac{\lambda^{1/4} M_{\text{pl}}}{\sqrt{\xi}} \gg \Lambda \simeq \frac{M_{\text{pl}}}{\xi}$

Is the predictions in Higgs inflation unreliable?

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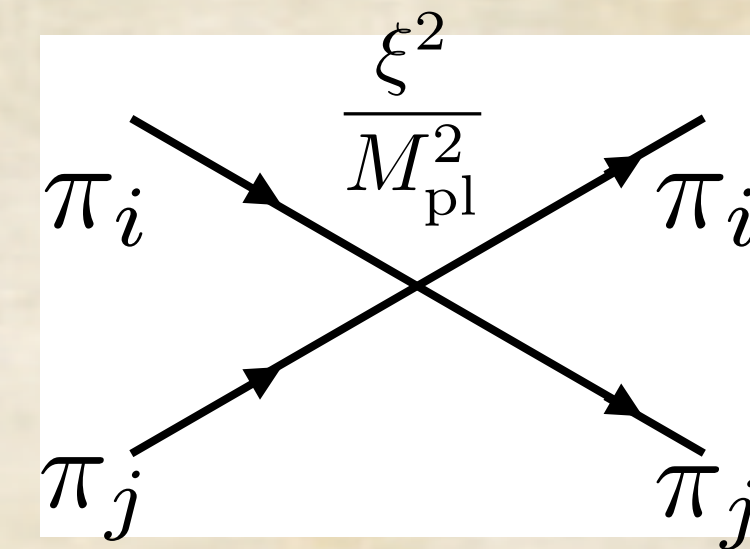
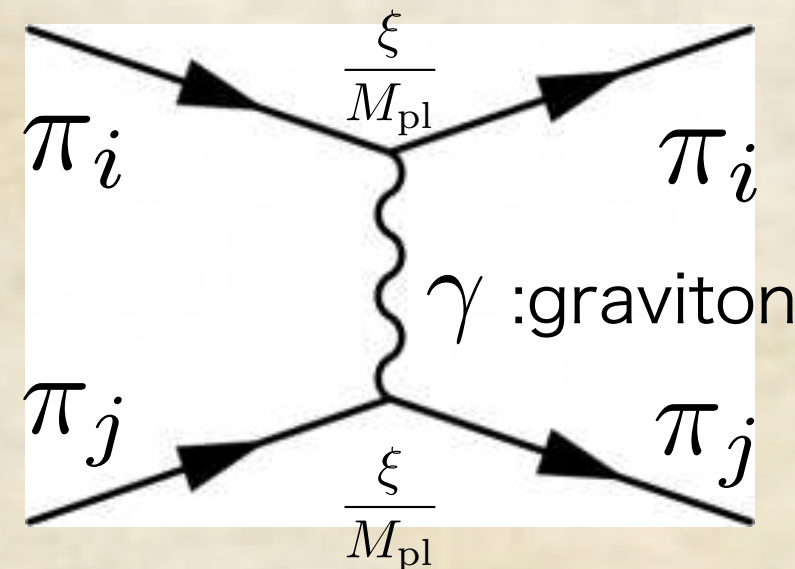
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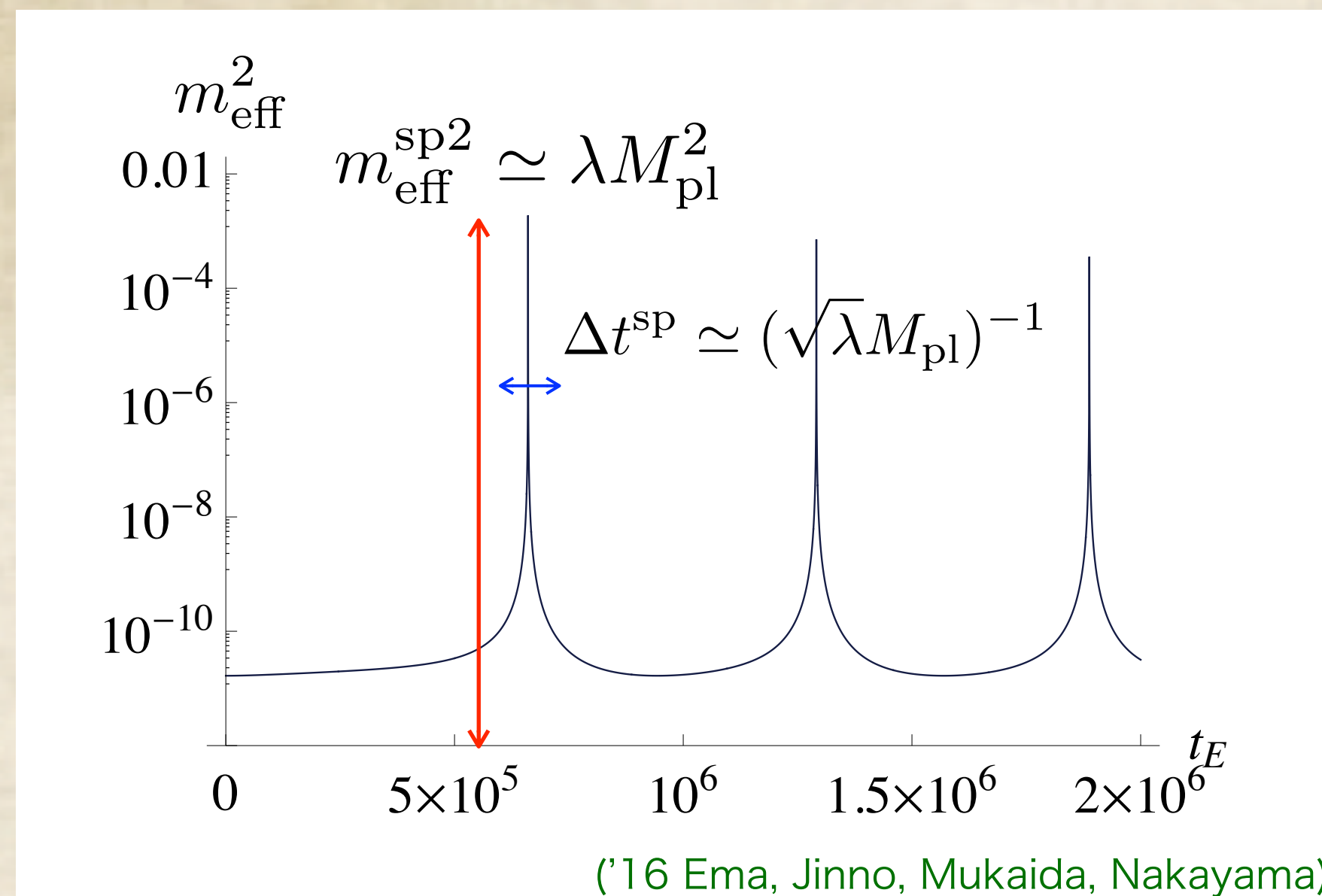
Perhaps OK during inflation, since the cutoff scale during inflation is larger 🙄.

(’11 Bezrukov, Gorbunov, & Shaposhnikov)

Unitarity violation in this Higgs Inflation 🤔

Longitudinal mode of the weak gauge bosons (or the NG mode) receives mass with spiky feature at the reheating/oscillation phase,

(['15 DeCross, Kaiser, Prabhu, Prescod-Weinstein, Sfakianakis](#), ['16 Ema, Jinno, Mukaida, Nakayama](#))



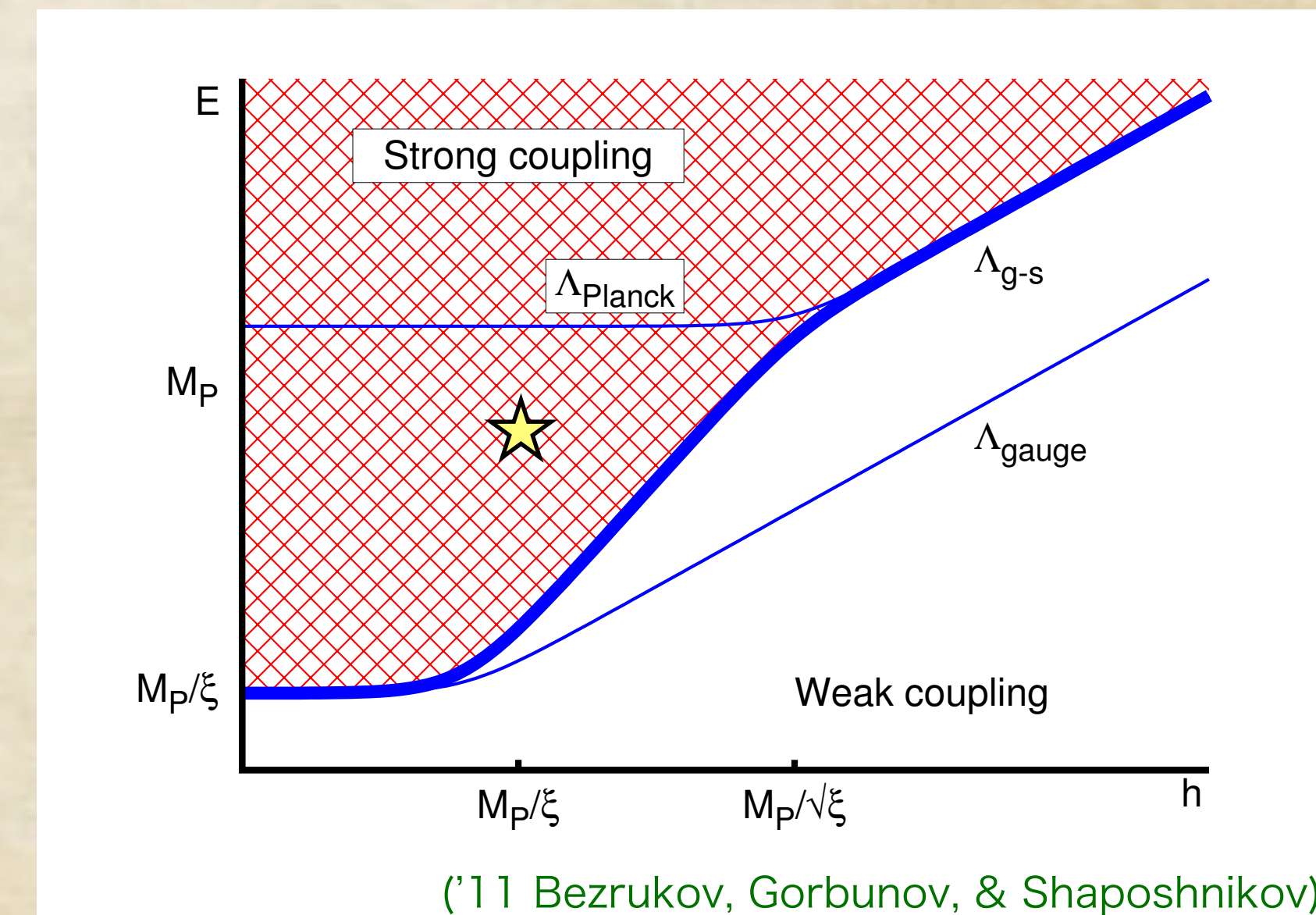
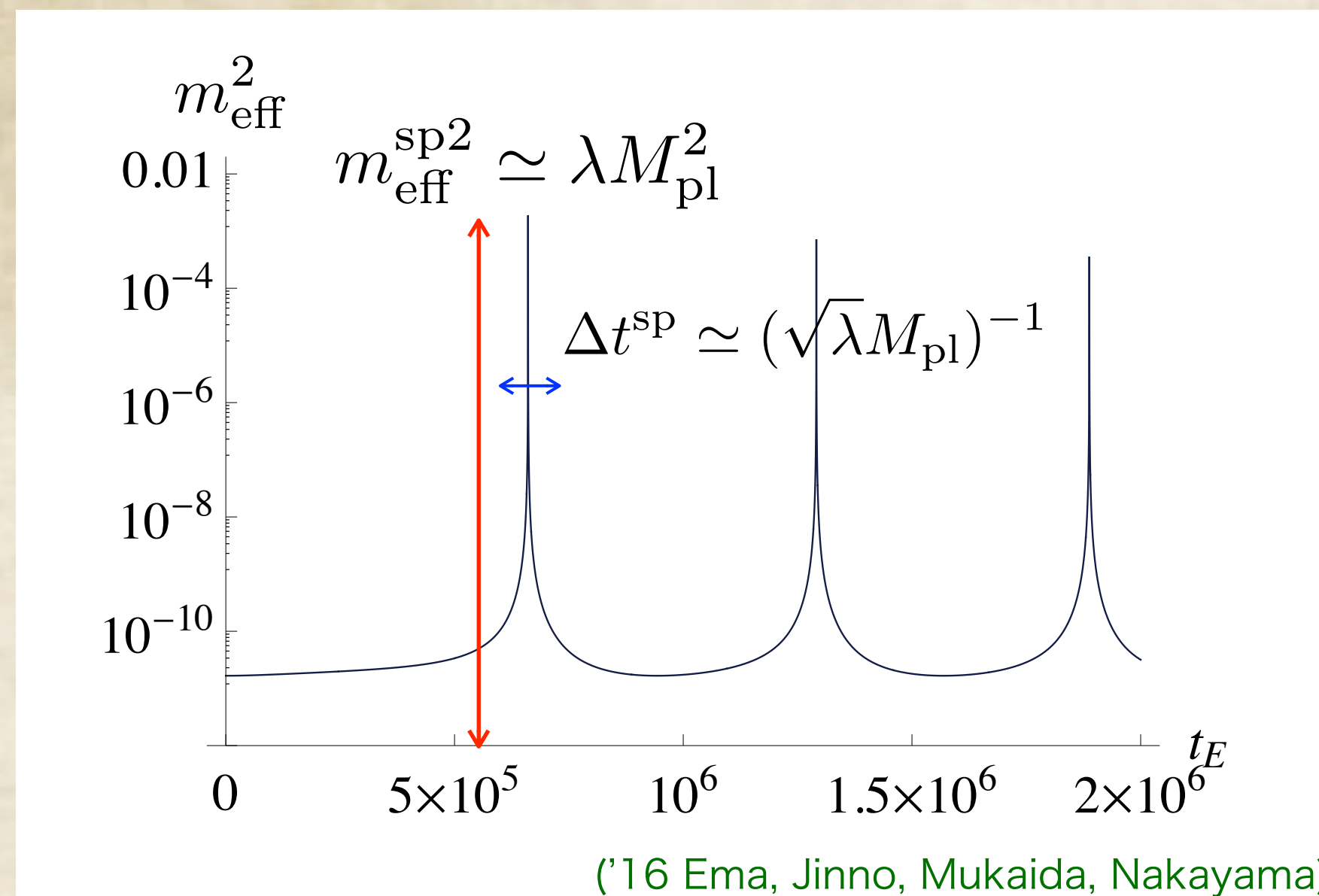
$$-g_E^{\mu\nu} \frac{1}{\Omega^2} \left(1 + \frac{12\xi^2 |\mathcal{H}|^2}{\Omega^2 M_{\text{pl}}^2} \right) \partial_\mu \mathcal{H} \partial_\nu \mathcal{H}^\dagger \quad \Omega^2 = 1 + \frac{2\xi |\mathcal{H}|^2}{M_{\text{pl}}^2}$$

$$m_{\text{eff}}^2 \ni \frac{\xi(1+6\xi)\dot{h}^2}{M_{\text{pl}}^2 + \xi(1+6\xi)h^2}$$

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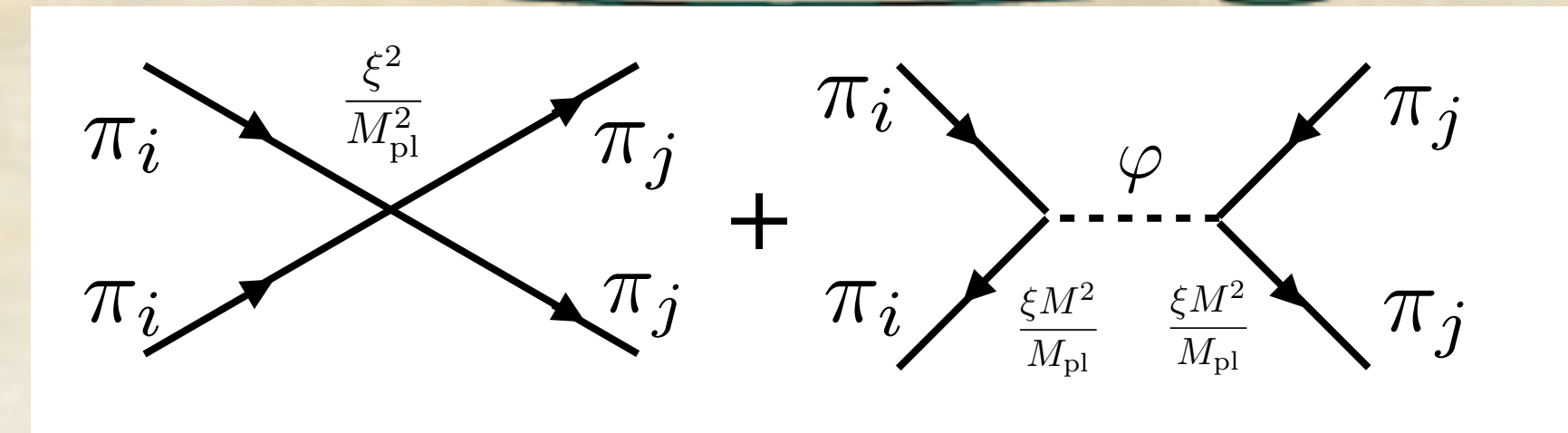
which leads to the violent excitation of gauge boson with $k \simeq \sqrt{\lambda} M_{\text{pl}}$
 \Rightarrow Unitarity violation 🤔

UV-extension by R^2 term

Once we add the R^2 term in the theory,

$$\mathcal{S} = \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} \left[\left(\frac{M_{\text{pl}}^2}{2} + \xi |\mathcal{H}|^2 \right) R + \frac{M_{\text{pl}}^2}{12M^2} R^2 - |D_\mu \mathcal{H}|^2 - \lambda |\mathcal{H}|^4 \right]$$

cutoff scale is pushed up to the Planck scale. ('17 Ema, '18 Gorbunov&Tokareva/ '18 He, Jinno, KK+)

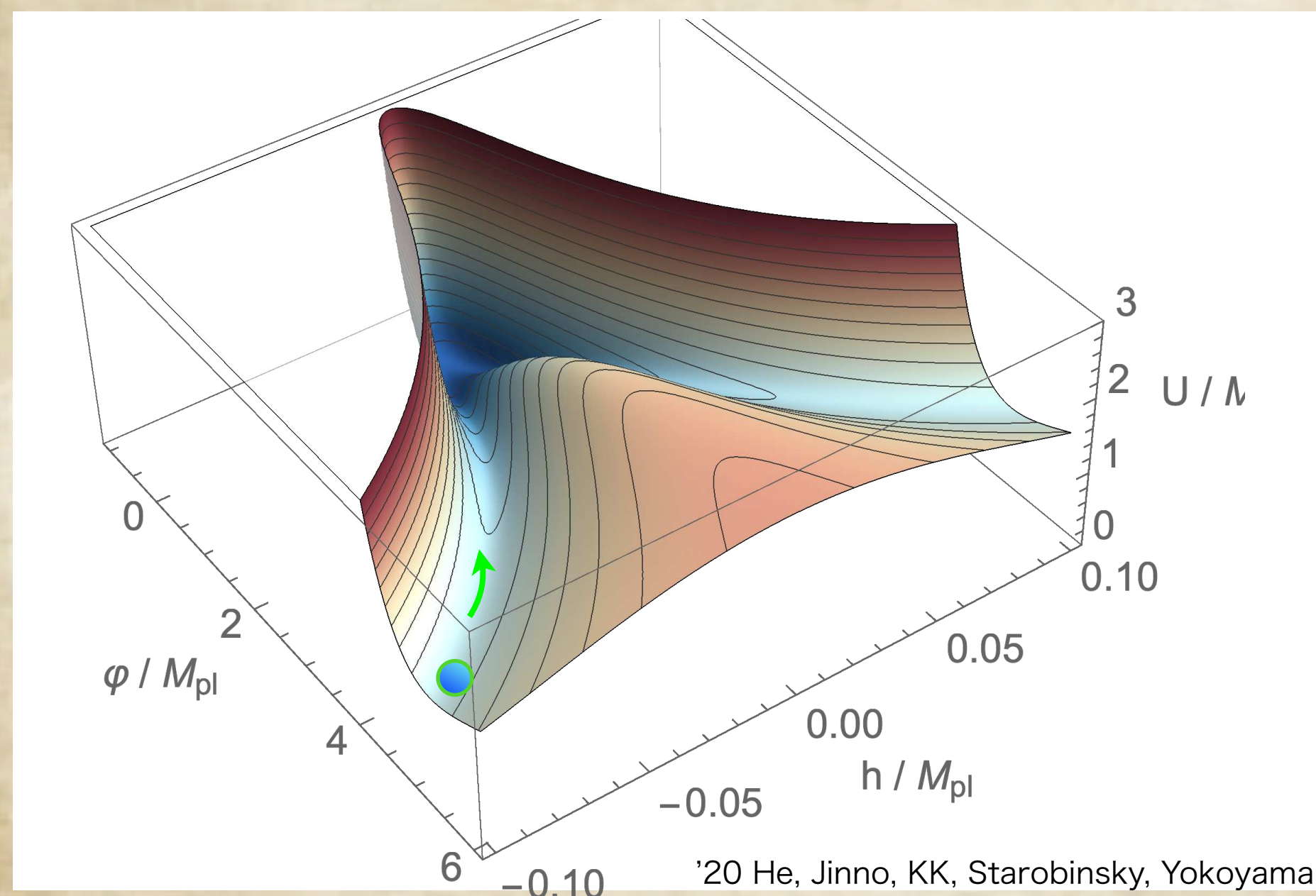
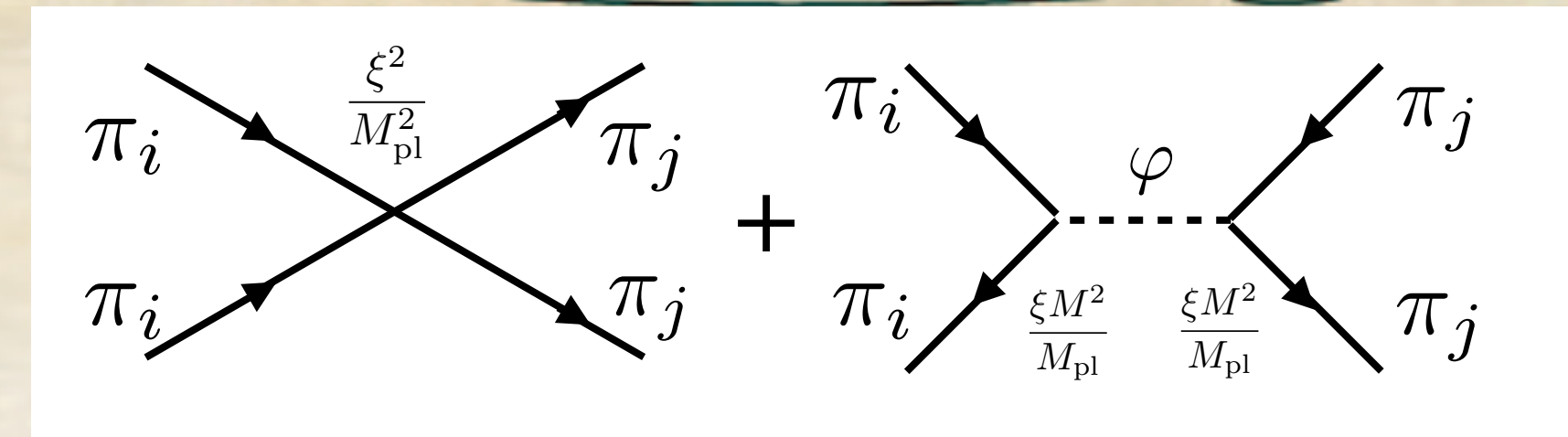


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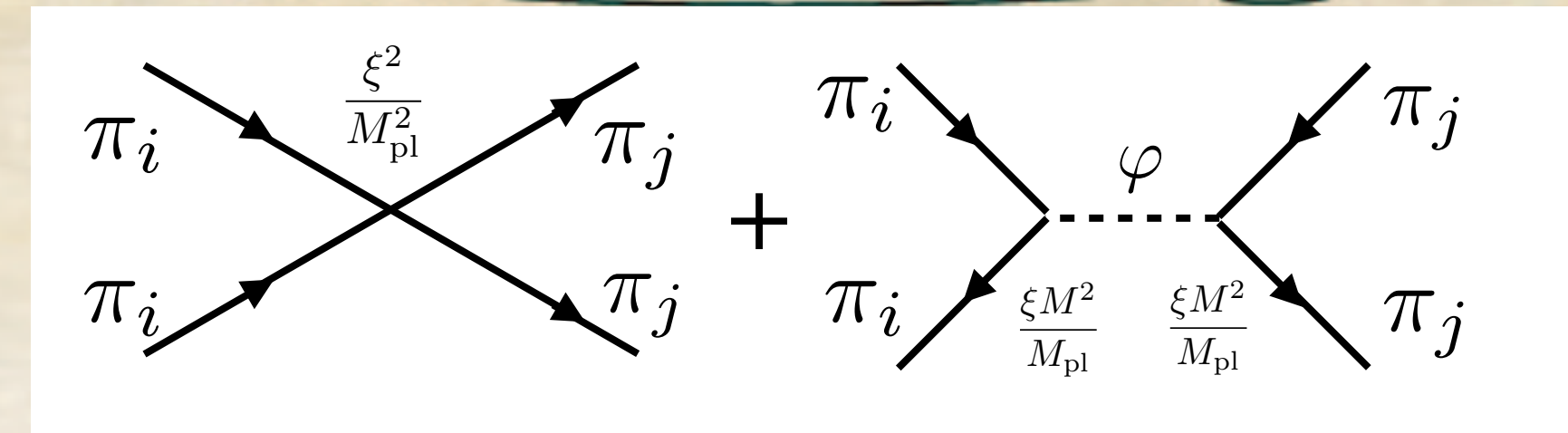
R^2 term gives rise to a new scalar degree of freedom, scalaron, with $m_\sigma = M$ and the inflation becomes a two-field model (in the Einstein frame).

Cosmological predictions are unchanged.

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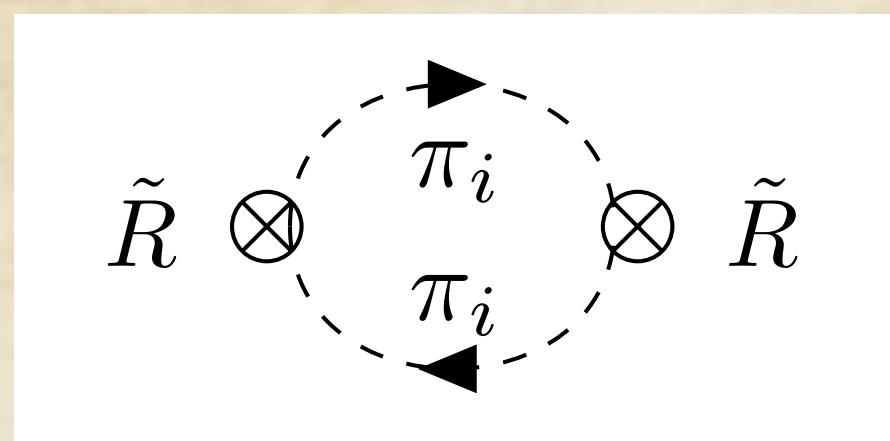
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Indeed, this is natural appearance from the quantum correction of the scalar sector at the leading order in the large-N analysis



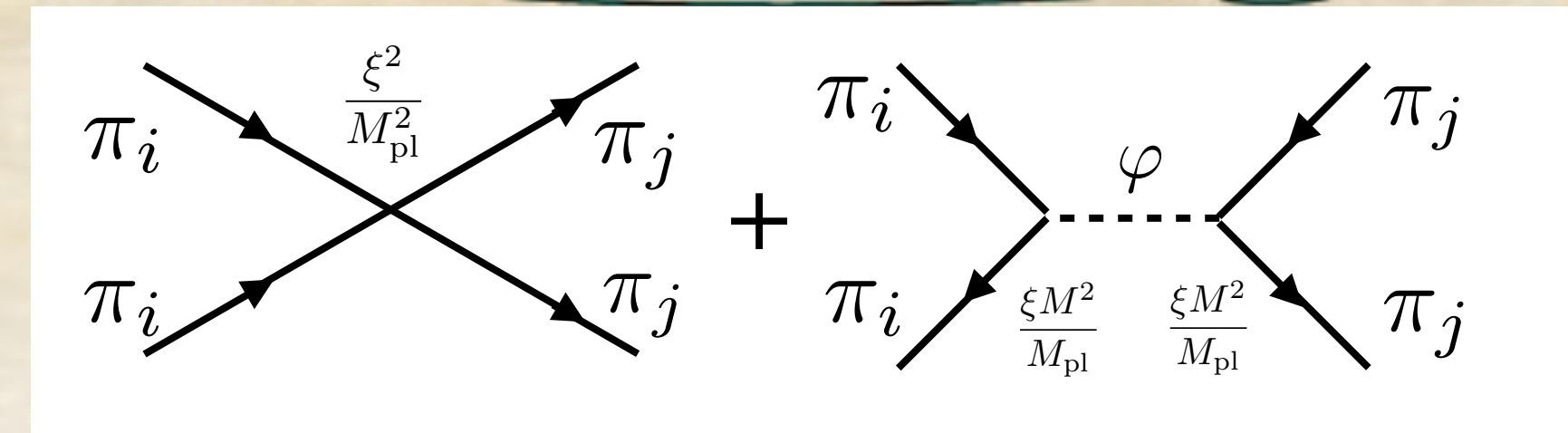
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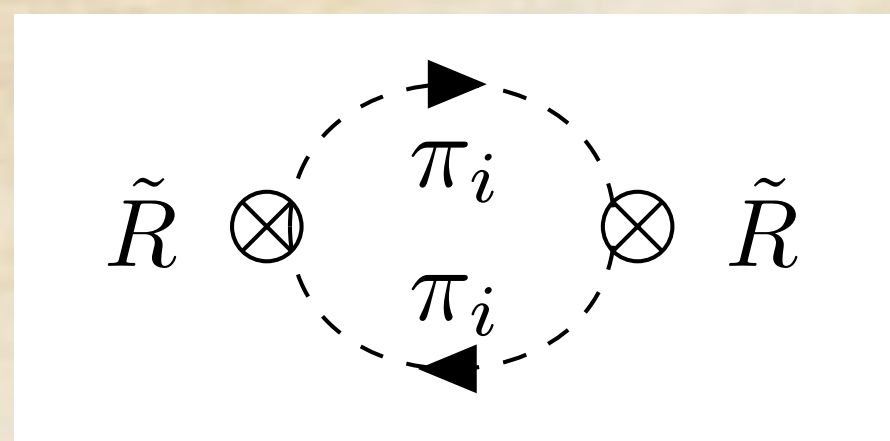
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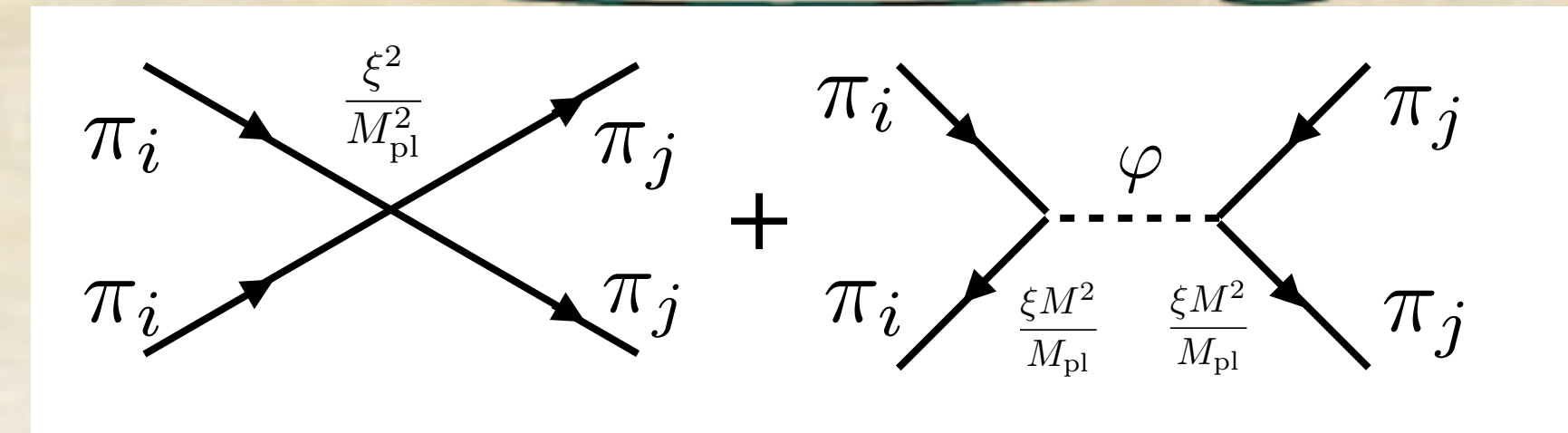
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Practically, an auxiliary field γ in the conformal factor Ω becomes dynamical.

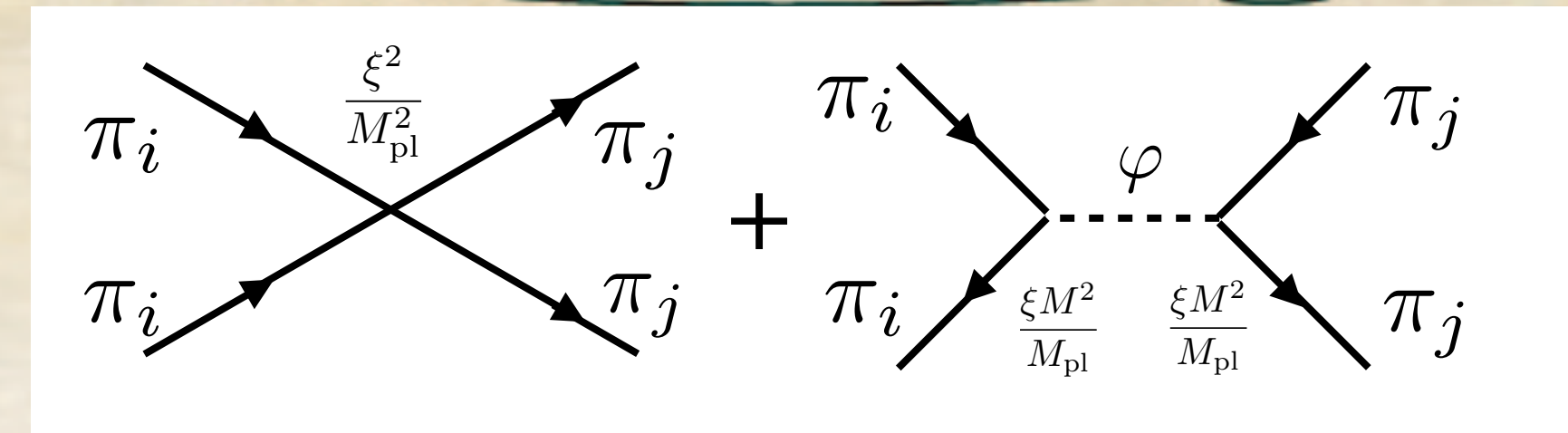
$$S = \int d^4x \left[\frac{\Phi_{\text{E}}^2}{12} \tilde{R} + \frac{1}{2} \tilde{g}^{\mu\nu} \left(\partial_\mu \Phi_{\text{E}} \partial_\nu \Phi_{\text{E}} - \frac{\Phi_{\text{E}}^2 / \Omega^2}{6M_{\text{pl}}^2} \partial_\mu \phi_i \partial_\nu \phi^i \right) - \left(\frac{\Phi_{\text{E}}^2 / \Omega^2}{6M_{\text{pl}}^2} \right)^2 V(\phi) - \alpha \gamma^2 - \frac{\Phi_{\text{E}}^2}{8} \tilde{g}^{\mu\nu} \partial_\mu \ln |\Omega^2| \partial_\nu \ln |\Omega^2| \right],$$

$$\Omega^2 \equiv 1 + 12 \left(\frac{\xi}{2} \frac{\tilde{\pi}_i^2}{\Phi_{\text{J}}^2} + 2\alpha \frac{\gamma}{\Phi_{\text{J}}^2} \right)$$

UV-extension by R^2 term

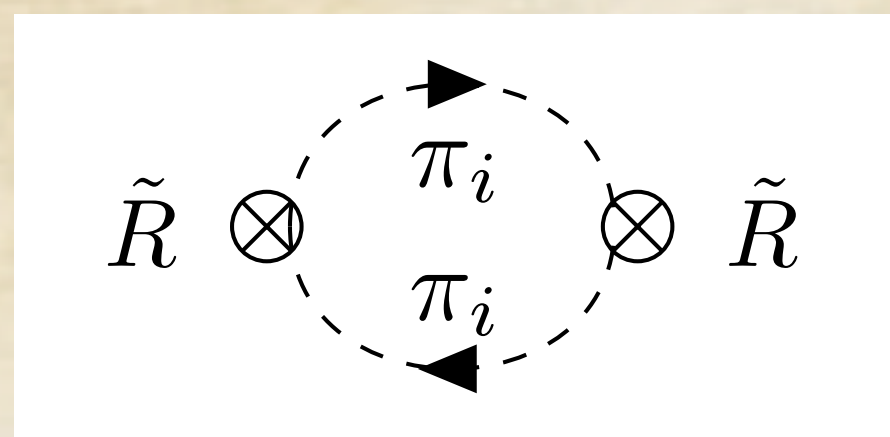
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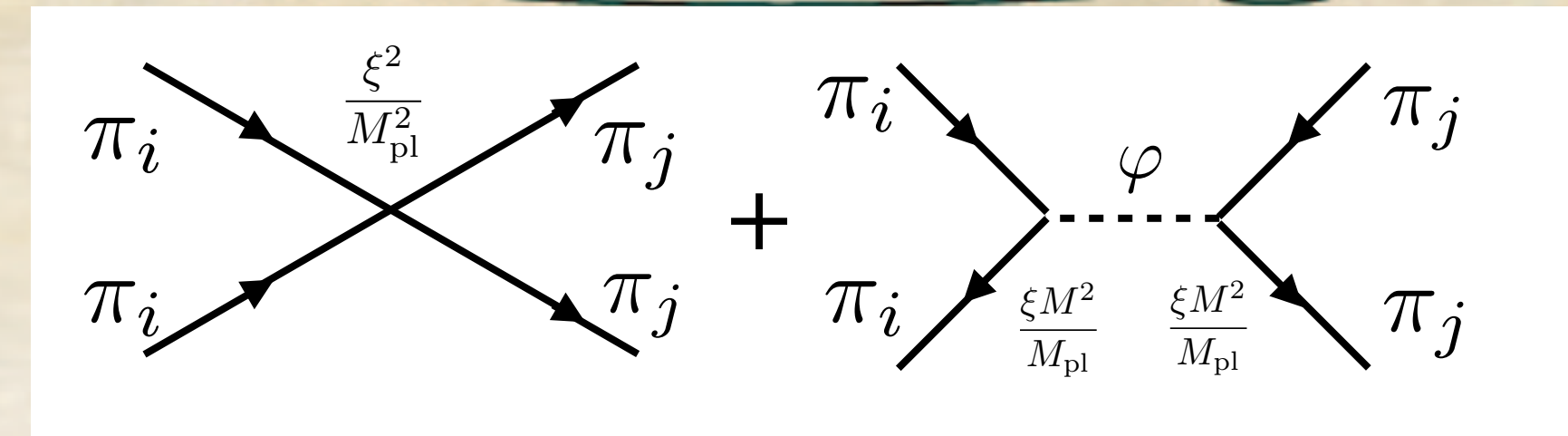
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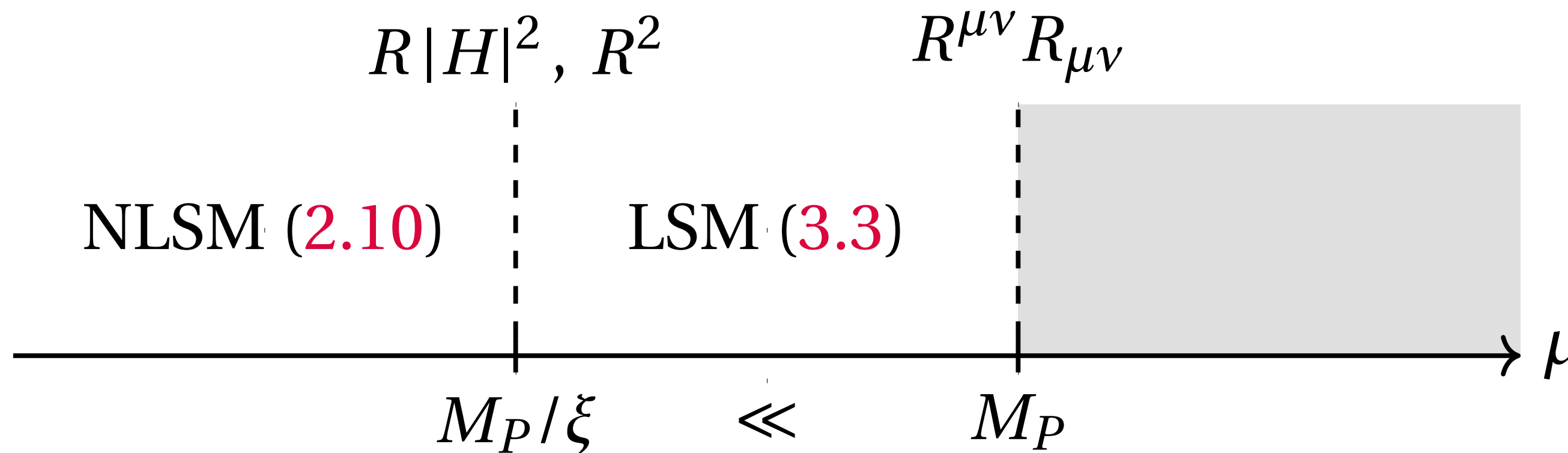
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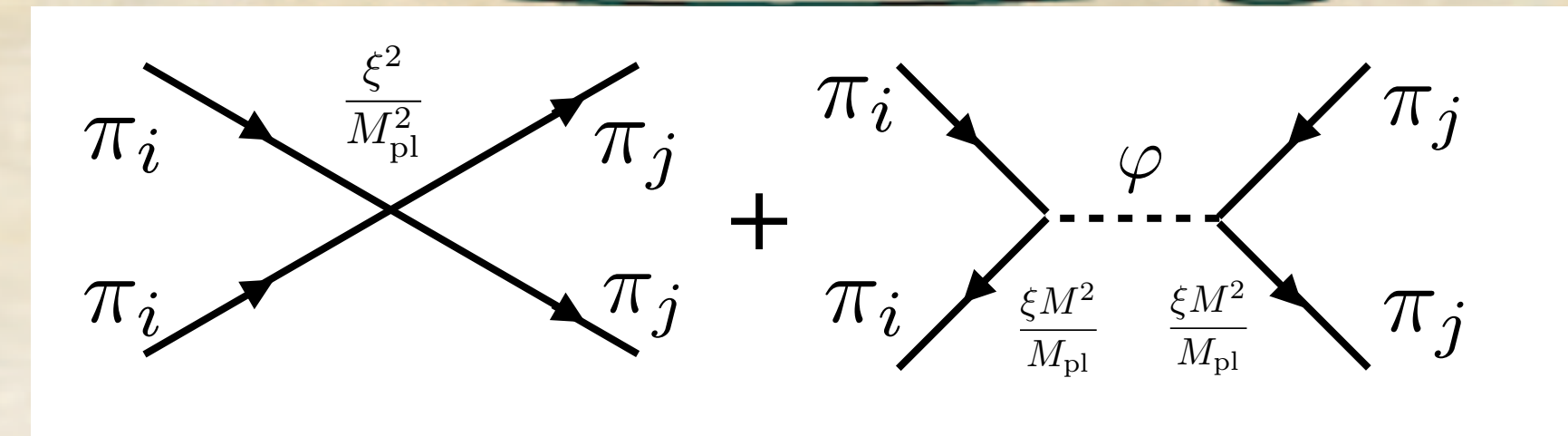
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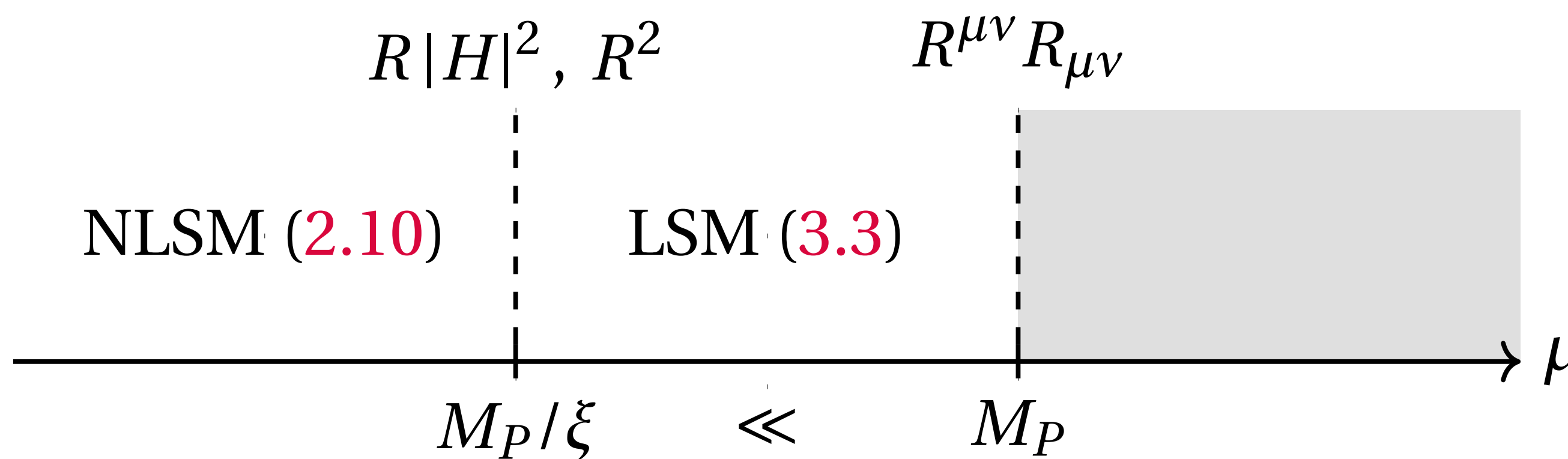
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(^{'20} Ema, Mukaida, van de Vis)

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where the scalaron is non-perturbatively induced from the resummation of the dominant one-loop correction in the theory with conformal mode.

But fine-tuning is needed for small Higgs mass and cosmological constant...

Higgs inflation in Palatini and Einstein-Cartan formalism

Higgs inflation with R^2 UV extension is reasonable and free from Unitarity problem.

But it still has a naturalness problem.

How is the situation in its variants 🤔?

Higgs inflation in Palatini formalism

We studied Higgs inflation in metric formalism \Rightarrow connection = Levi-Civita.

$$\bar{\Gamma}_{\mu\nu}^{\rho} = \Gamma_{\mu\nu}^{\rho} \equiv \frac{1}{2}g^{\rho\sigma}(\partial_{\mu}g_{\nu\sigma} + \partial_{\nu}g_{\sigma\mu} - \partial_{\rho}g_{\mu\nu})$$

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How about in the Palatini formalism?

$\bar{\Gamma}_{\mu\nu}^{\rho}$ and $g_{\mu\nu}$ are a priori independent while keeping torsionless.

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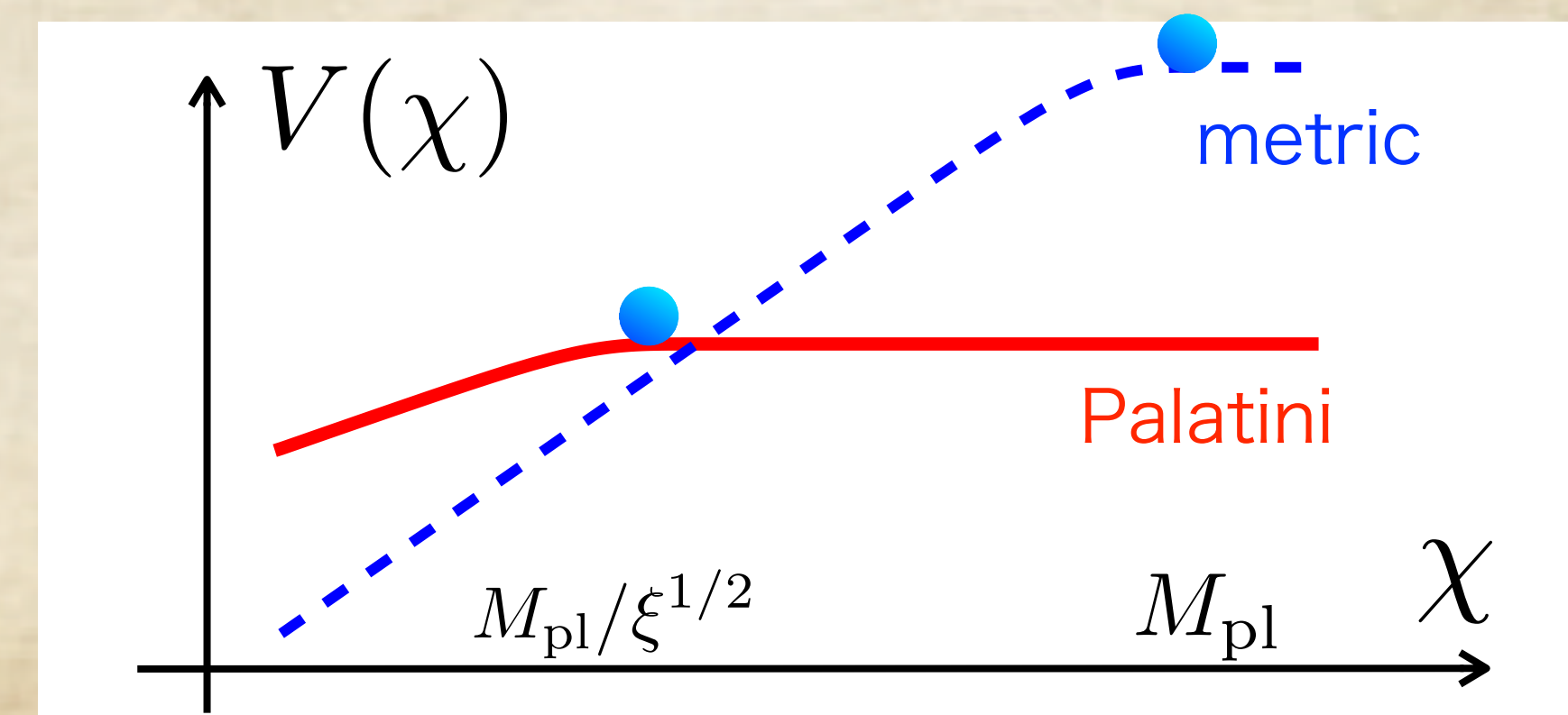
GR is reproduced by solving the EOM with E-H action.

$$\mathcal{S} = \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} \left[\left(\frac{M_{\text{pl}}^2}{2} + \xi |\mathcal{H}|^2 \right) R(g, \bar{\Gamma}) - |D_{\mu} \mathcal{H}|^2 - \lambda |\mathcal{H}|^4 \right] \xrightarrow[\text{trans.}]{\text{conformal}}$$

Fits CMB data well with $\xi \simeq 10^{10} \lambda$

$$n_S \simeq 0.97 \quad r \simeq 10^{-14}$$

(08 Bauer & Demir)



Unitarity issues of Higgs inflation in Palatini formalism

=> Much different from that in metric formalism

- Cutoff scale of the theory (at the vacuum): $\Lambda \simeq \frac{M_{\text{pl}}}{\sqrt{\xi}} \gg \frac{M_{\text{pl}}}{\xi}$ ('11 Bauer & Demir)
- Violent preheating of the NG mode/gauge bosons is absent and no unitarity problem during inflation and reheating. ('19 Rubio & Tomberg)
- Introduction of R^2 term does not induce scalaron but leads to $P(h, (\partial h)^2)$ theory. ('18 Eckell+)
- Extended theory with conformal mode does not lead to UV-extension. ('21 Mikura & Tada)

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How can we understand these differences?

Are there any “natural” models of Higgs inflation?

Einstein-Cartan connects metric to Palatini

$\bar{\Gamma}_{\mu\nu}^{\rho}$ and $g_{\mu\nu}$ are a priori independent **with existence of torsion.**

GR is reproduced by solving the EOM with E-H action. $T_{\mu\nu}^{\rho} \equiv \bar{\Gamma}_{\mu\nu}^{\rho} - \bar{\Gamma}_{\nu\mu}^{\rho}$

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Higgs inflation in E-C gravity with Nieh-Yan term is a generalization of metric and Palatini Higgs inflation. ('20 Shaposhnikov, Shkerin, Tliriyasov, & Zell)

$$\mathcal{S} = \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} \left[\left(\frac{M_{\text{pl}}^2}{2} + \xi |\mathcal{H}|^2 \right) R(g, \bar{\Gamma}) - |D_{\mu} \mathcal{H}|^2 - \lambda |\mathcal{H}|^4 \right] - \frac{\xi_{\eta}}{4} \int d^4x \phi^2 \partial_{\mu} \left(\sqrt{-g} E^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} T_{\nu\rho\sigma} \right)$$

Integrating out torsion and other non-dynamical DoF

$$\Rightarrow \begin{cases} \xi_{\eta} = \xi \rightarrow \text{metric Higgs inflation} \\ \xi_{\eta} = 0 \rightarrow \text{Palatini Higgs inflation} \end{cases}$$

Einstein-Cartan connects metric to Palatini

$\bar{\Gamma}_{\mu\nu}^{\rho}$ and $g_{\mu\nu}$ are a priori independent **with existence of torsion.**

GR is not In E-C Higgs inflation,

Higgs
metric

- How cutoff changes from metric to Palatini limit?
- How quantum correction induces scalaron?
- How R^2 term UV-extends the theory?
- Are there a "natural" value of $r \equiv \xi_{\eta}/\xi$?

$$\bar{\Gamma}_{\mu\nu}^{\rho} - \bar{\Gamma}_{\nu\mu}^{\rho}$$

ization of

$${}^{\rho\sigma}T_{\nu\rho\sigma}$$

$$S = \int d^4x \sqrt{|g|} \left[\frac{1}{2\kappa^2} R - \frac{1}{2} g^{\mu\nu} \partial_{\mu} \phi \partial_{\nu} \phi - V(\phi) \right]$$

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Unitarity analysis in Einstein-Cartan Higgs inflation

Extended theory with conformal mode

('23 He, KK, Mukaida)

$$S = \int d^4x \left[\frac{\Phi_J^2}{12} \tilde{R} + \frac{1}{2} \tilde{g}^{\mu\nu} \left(\partial_\mu \Phi_J \partial_\nu \Phi_J - \partial_\mu \tilde{\phi}^i \partial_\nu \tilde{\phi}_i \right) - \left(\frac{\Phi_J^2}{6M_{\text{Pl}}^2} \right)^2 V(\phi) - \frac{1}{2} \tilde{\phi}^2 \frac{\tilde{\square} \Phi_J}{\Phi_J} - \frac{\Phi_J^2}{18} \left(\tilde{T}^2 - \frac{1}{16} \tilde{S}^2 \right) \right] \\ + \int d^4x \frac{\xi}{2} \tilde{\phi}^2 \left(\tilde{R} + A_R + r A_{\text{N-Y}} \right),$$

$$A_R \equiv -\frac{2}{3} \left(\tilde{T}^2 - \frac{1}{16} \tilde{S}^2 \right) + 2\tilde{\nabla}_\mu \tilde{T}^\mu + 4\tilde{T}^\mu \partial_\mu \ln |\Phi_J| - 6 \frac{\tilde{\square} \Phi_J}{\Phi_J}, \quad A_{\text{N-Y}} \equiv \frac{1}{2} \tilde{\nabla}_\mu \tilde{S}^\mu + \tilde{S}^\mu \partial_\mu \ln |\Phi_J|$$

$$T_\mu \equiv T^\alpha_{\mu\alpha},$$

$$S^\beta \equiv E^{\mu\nu\alpha\beta} T_{\mu\nu\alpha},$$

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w/ field space metric

$$ds^2 = -d\Phi_E^2 + \frac{1}{6} \frac{\Phi_E^2}{M_{\text{Pl}}^2 + \xi\phi^2} \left(\delta_{ij} + \frac{6r^2\xi^2}{M_{\text{Pl}}^2 + \xi\phi^2} \phi_i \phi_j \right) d\phi^i d\phi^j$$

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('16 Alonso+; '19 Nagai+; 21 Cohen+, ...)

$$\Rightarrow \Lambda \simeq |\bar{R}|^{-1/2}$$

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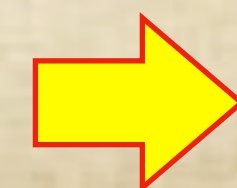
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It is frame independent!



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Cutoff scale of (tree-level) E-C Higgs inflation at the vacuum

$$\Lambda_{\text{E-C}}^0 = |R_N|^{-1/2} = \frac{\sqrt{6}M_{\text{Pl}}}{\sqrt{1 + 12\xi(1 + 3r^2\xi)}} \sim \begin{cases} \frac{M_{\text{Pl}}}{r\xi} & \text{for } \frac{1}{\sqrt{\xi}} \lesssim r \lesssim 1, \\ \frac{M_{\text{Pl}}}{\sqrt{\xi}} & \text{for } 0 \leq r \lesssim \frac{1}{\sqrt{\xi}}, \quad \leftarrow \text{“Palatini limit”} \end{cases}$$

UV extension of the Higgs inflation in EC formalism

Quantum correction generates scalaron ('23 He, KK, Mukaida)

$$\tilde{R} + A_R + rA_{N-Y} \otimes \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{\pi_i} \\ \circlearrowleft \\ \xleftarrow{\pi_i} \end{array} \otimes \tilde{R} + A_R + rA_{N-Y} \quad \rightarrow \quad \alpha(\tilde{R} + A_R + rA_{N-Y})^2, \quad \alpha \sim N\xi^2$$

leading contribution in the large N and ξ :

R^2 term w/ contributions from torsion and Nieh-Yan term

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Quantum correction generates scalaron ('23 He, KK, Mukaida)

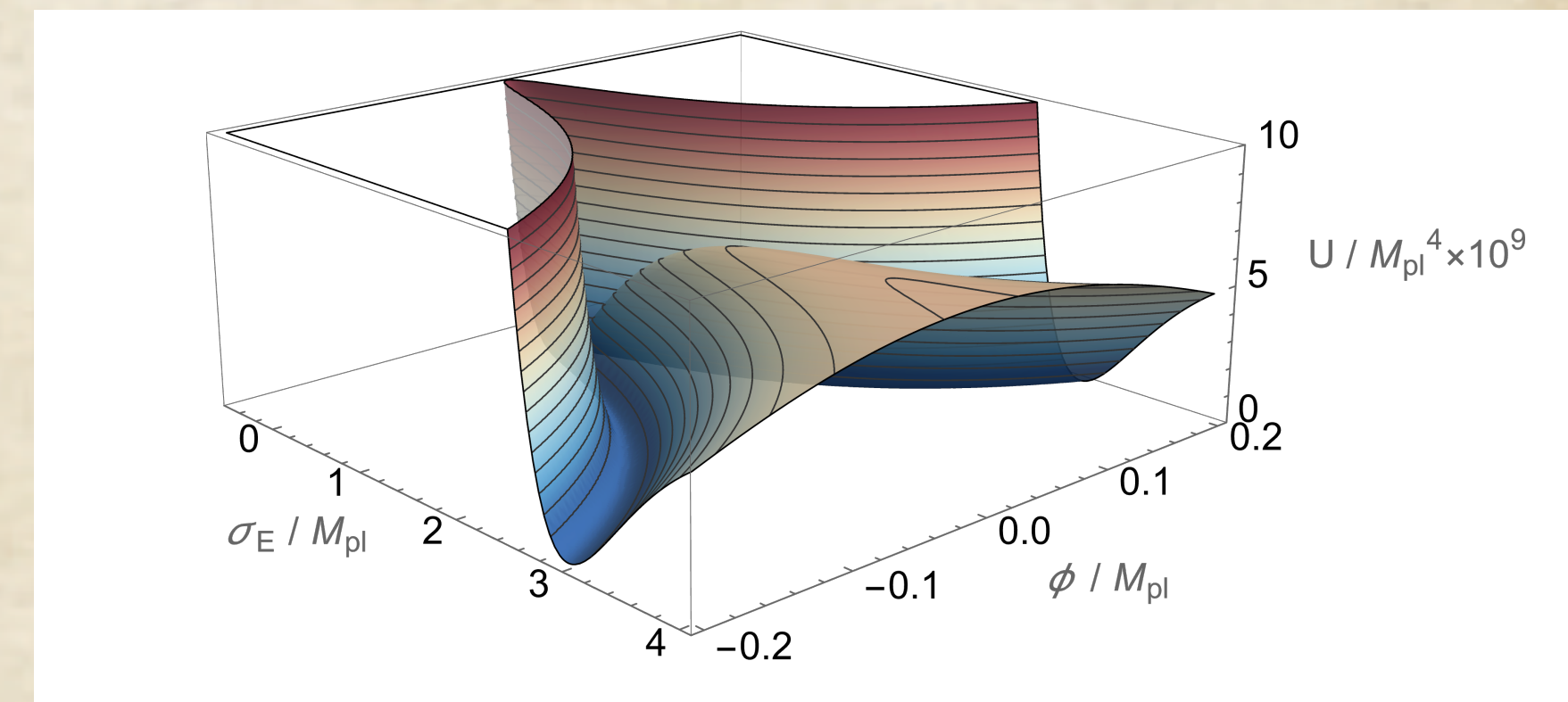
$$\tilde{R} + A_R + rA_{N-Y} \otimes \begin{array}{c} \text{---} \pi_i \text{---} \\ \text{---} \pi_i \text{---} \end{array} \otimes \tilde{R} + A_R + rA_{N-Y} \quad \longrightarrow \quad \alpha(\tilde{R} + A_R + rA_{N-Y})^2, \quad \alpha \sim N\xi^2$$

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R^2 term w/ contributions from torsion and Nieh-Yan term

Scalaron is induced with a mass $m_\sigma^2 = \frac{M_{\text{Pl}}^2}{12\alpha r^2}$

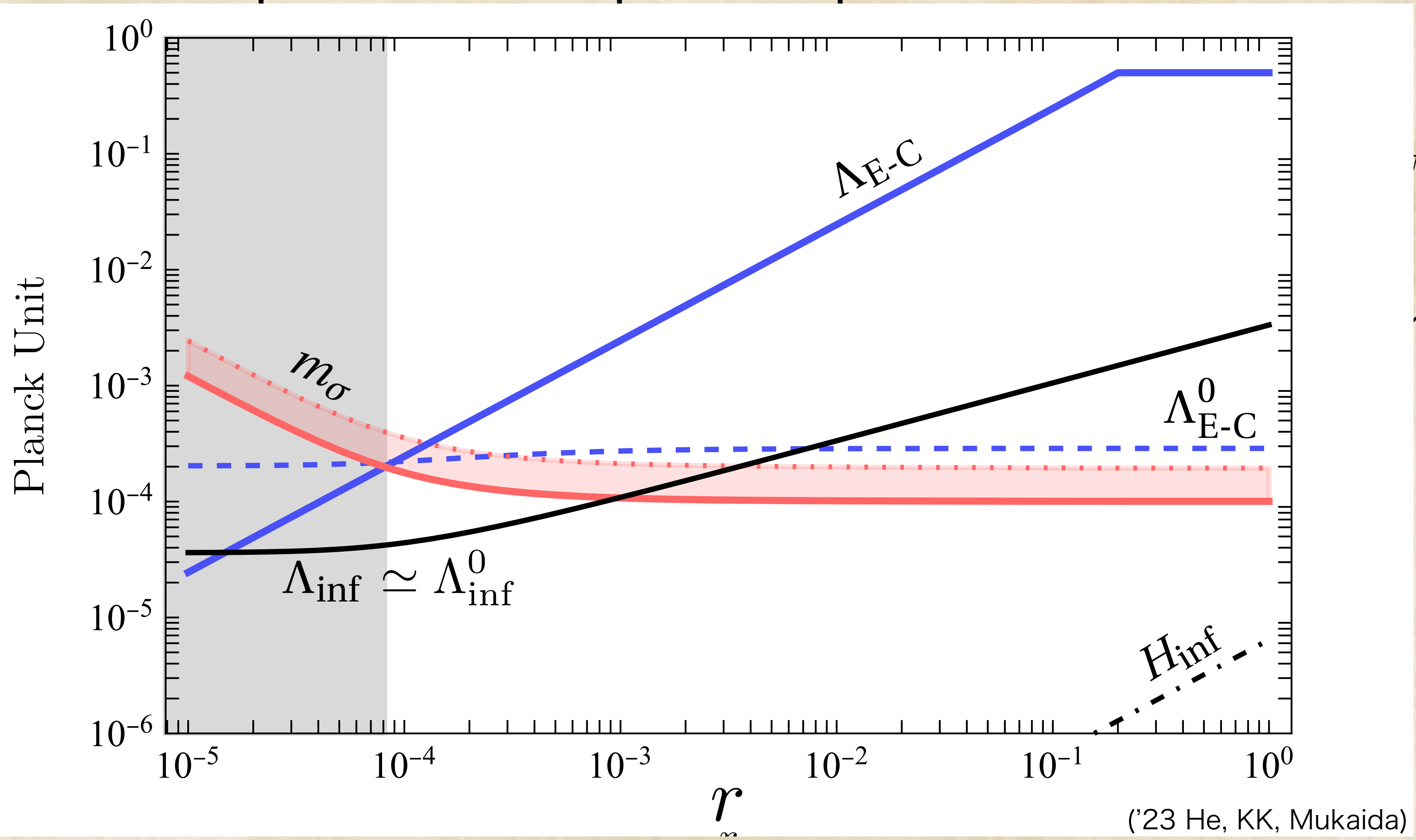
Cutoff scale $\Lambda_{\text{E-C}} = |R_{N+s}|^{-1/2} = \frac{\sqrt{6}r}{\sqrt{|1-r^2|}} M_{\text{Pl}}$



Mass term and cosmological constants are also induced...

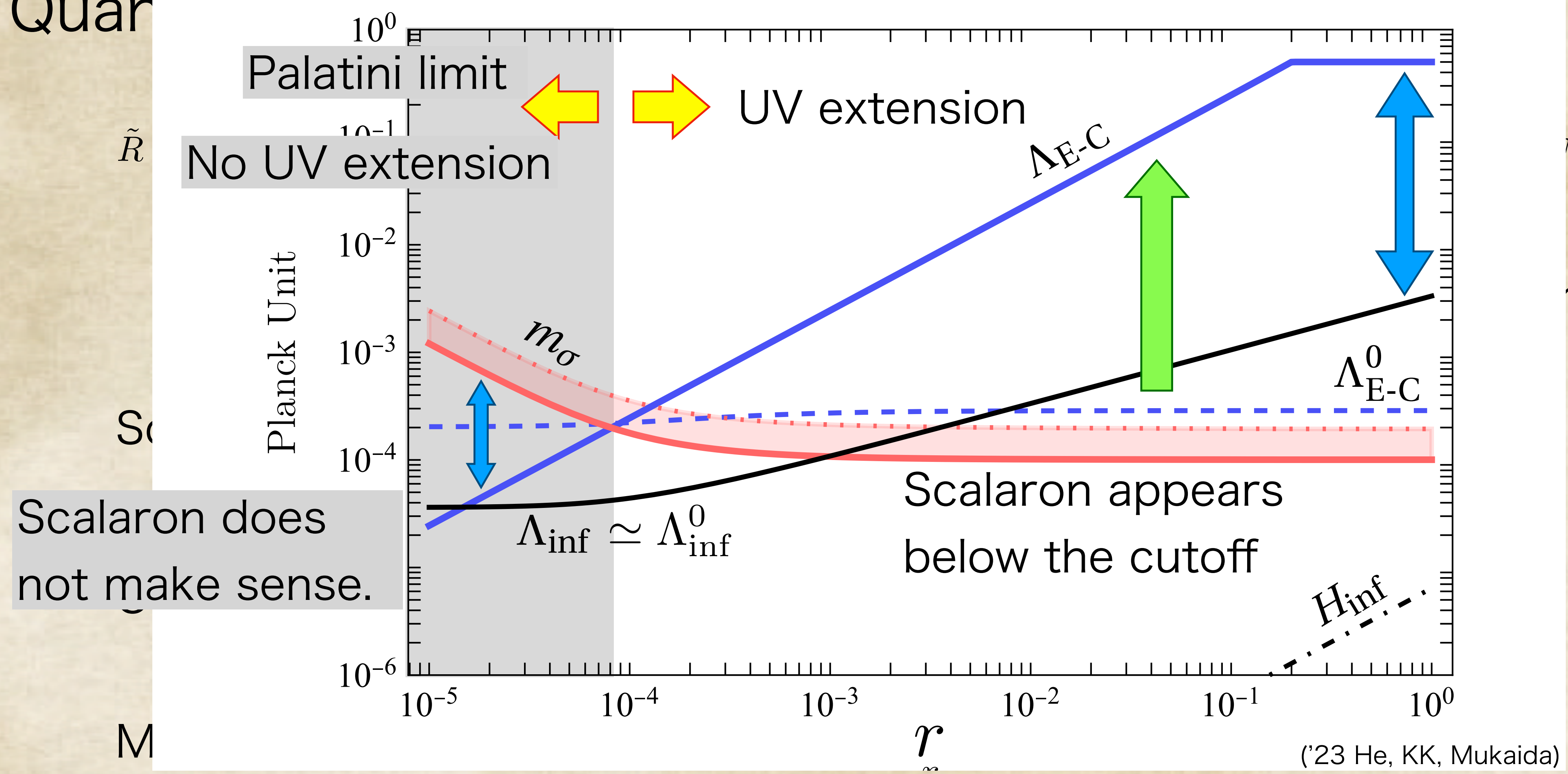
Quantum

\tilde{R}
S
C
M



$\tau \xi^2$
n term

Quar



Scalaron does not make sense.

Scalaron appears below the cutoff

(23 He, KK, Mukaida)

Summary

Summary

- **Higgs inflation (HI)** in the metric formalism is one of the well-motivated models of inflation, which have some **unitarity issues**.
- **R^2 term** can be induced by **quantum correction** w/ **scalaron** and UV-extends the theory to resolve the unitarity issues.
- **HI** in the **Palatini** formalism is also a good model, with less unitarity issues, but R^2 term does not UV-extends the theory
- **HI** in the **Einstein-Cartan gravity** w/ Nieh-Yan term connects HI in the metric and Palatini formalism.
- The theory becomes **“Palatini limit”** at $r \simeq 1/\sqrt{\xi}$ below which UV-extension by the R^2 term/scalaron does not work.
- Above the region, the model looks fine, but still has the naturalness problem.

Appendix

Comment on the frame independence of the cutoff scale

2308.15420

For the scalar theory with non-trivial kinetic term,

$$\int d^4x \frac{1}{2} g^{\mu\nu} G_{ab}(\pi) \partial_\mu \pi^a \partial_\nu \pi^b$$

Comment on the frame independence of the cutoff scale

2308.15420

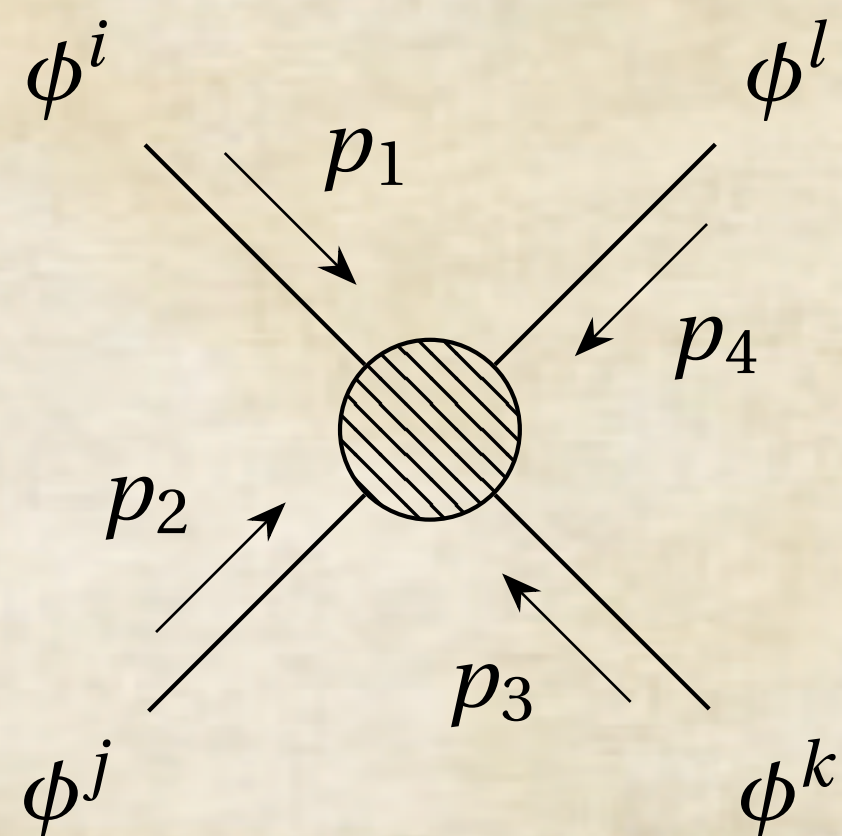
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$$\int d^4x \frac{1}{2} g^{\mu\nu} G_{ab}(\pi) \partial_\mu \pi^a \partial_\nu \pi^b \quad G_{IJ} \sim (\partial^2 G_{IJ}) \pi^2 \sim \bar{R} \pi^2$$

the 2-to-2 scattering amplitude (with $\pi^I = e_a^I \pi^a$) can be evaluated as

$$\mathcal{M}_{IJ \leftrightarrow KL} = \frac{2}{3} [s_{IJ} \bar{R}_{I(KL)J} + s_{IK} \bar{R}_{I(JL)K} + s_{IL} \bar{R}_{I(JK)L}],$$

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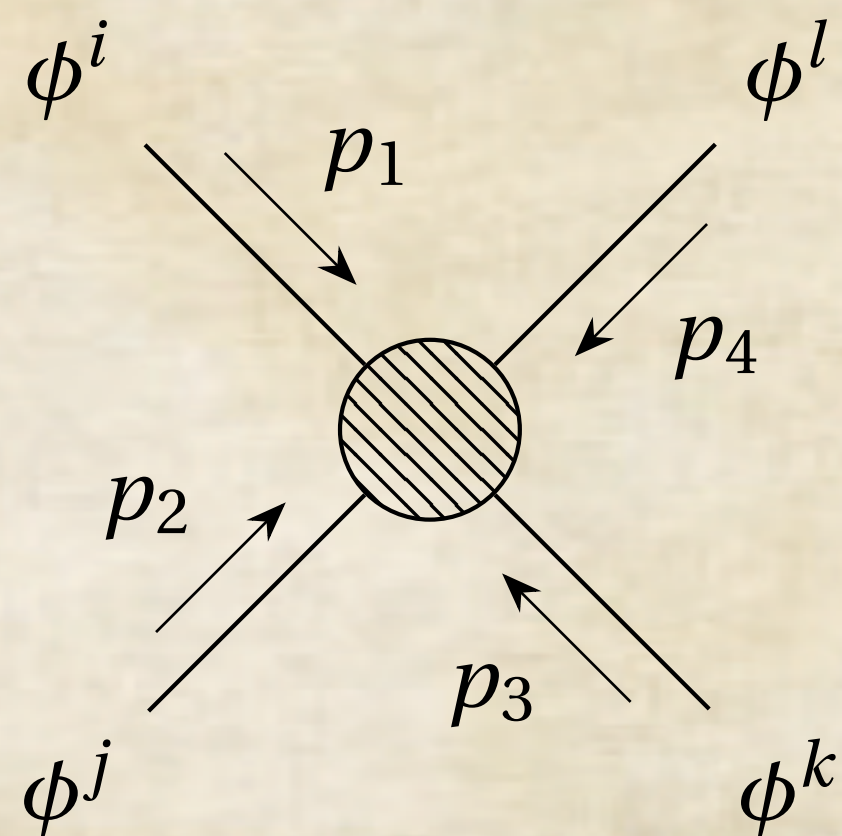
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(^{'16} Alonso+; ^{'19} Nagai+; ²¹ Cohen+, ...)



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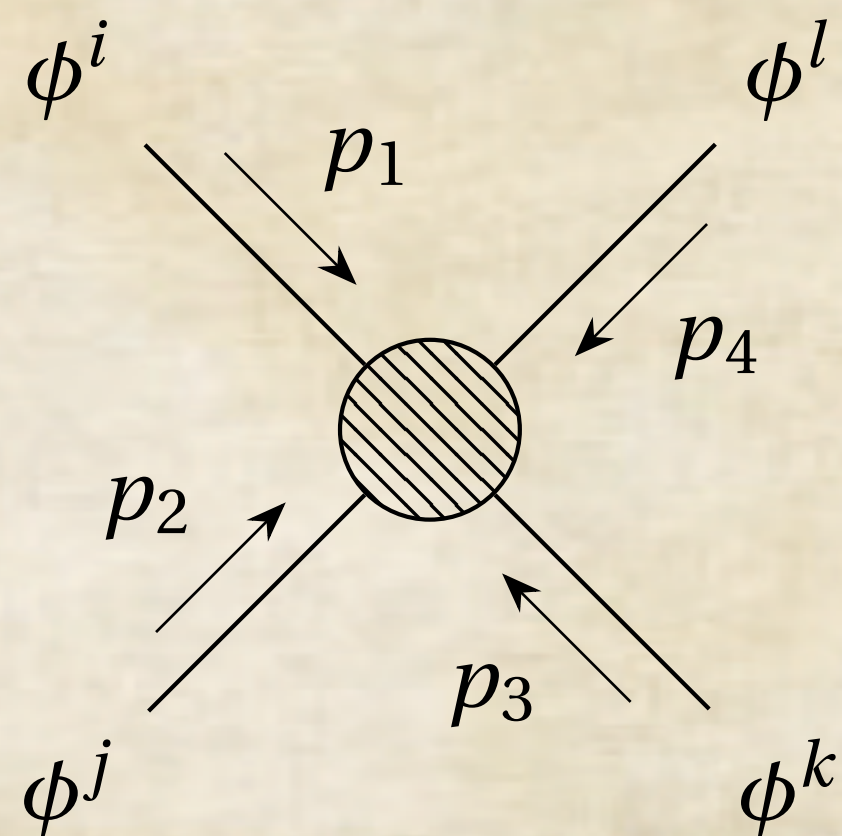
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It is unchanged under field redefinition 🤔

$$\pi^a \rightarrow \tilde{\pi}^A(\pi^a)$$

Comment on the frame independence of the cutoff scale

2308.15420

For the scalar theory with non-minimal coupling to gravity,

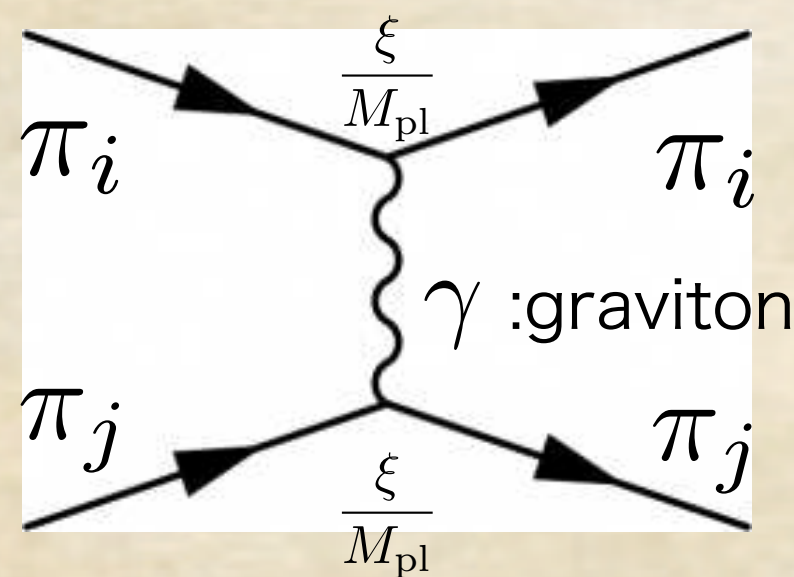
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Comment on the frame independence of the cutoff scale

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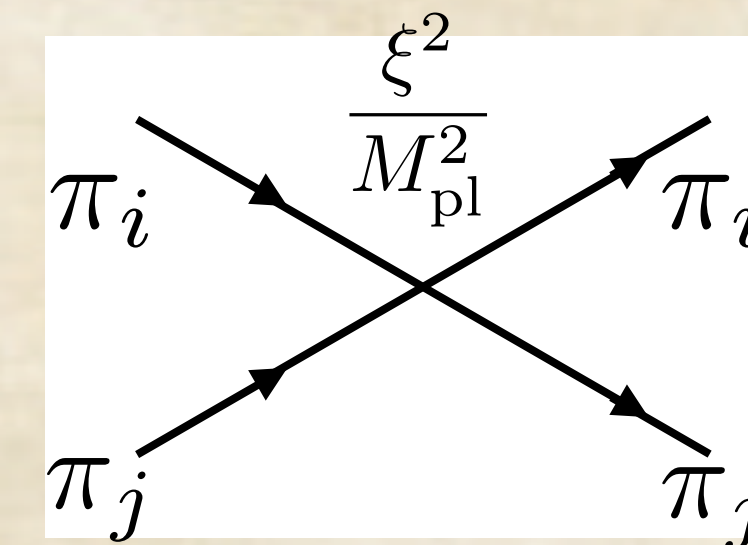
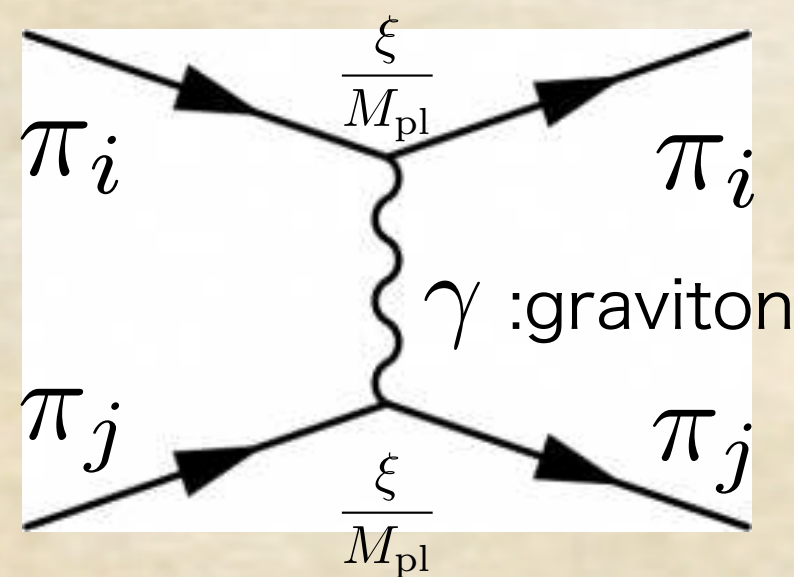
We have scattering
from the non-minimal coupling.

Comment on the frame independence of the cutoff scale

2308.15420

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scattering appears as the contact term in the Einstein frame, but the frame independence is not clear even if we use the geometrical technique (?) 🤔

Comment on the frame independence of the cutoff scale

2308.15420

Extract the conformal mode from graviton,

$$g_{\mu\nu} = \frac{\Phi^2}{6M_{\text{pl}}^2} \tilde{g}_{\mu\nu}, \quad \det[\tilde{g}_{\mu\nu}] = -1$$

$$\varphi_J^a = (\Phi_J, \pi_J^i)$$

→
$$S = \int d^4x \left(\frac{\Phi_J^2}{12} \Omega^2 \tilde{R} - \frac{\tilde{g}^{\mu\nu}}{2} G_{ab}^J(\varphi_J) \partial_\mu \varphi_J^a \partial_\nu \varphi_J^b \right),$$

$$(G_{ab}^J) \equiv \begin{pmatrix} -\Omega^2 & -\xi \Phi_J \pi_j / M_{\text{pl}}^2 \\ -\xi \Phi_J \pi_i / M_{\text{pl}}^2 & \frac{\Phi_J^2}{6M_{\text{pl}}^2} \delta_{ij} \end{pmatrix}.$$

Comment on the frame independence of the cutoff scale

2308.15420

Extract the conformal mode from graviton,

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Geometrical technique gives

- $\Lambda \simeq |\bar{R}|^{-1/2} \simeq \frac{M_{\text{pl}}}{\xi}$ for $\pi\pi \rightarrow \pi\pi$

- No scattering amplitude that involve the conformal mode Φ
- Conformal transformation is now the field redefinition for Φ and frame independence is now a manifest 😊.

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Extraction of the conformal mode is also useful to see the quantum effect.