

# **Cosmological perturbations**

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# Outline:

1. Primordial perturbations from inflation
2. Metric perturbations and gauge transformations
3. Field equations; adiabatic and isocurvature perturbations; non-Gaussianity

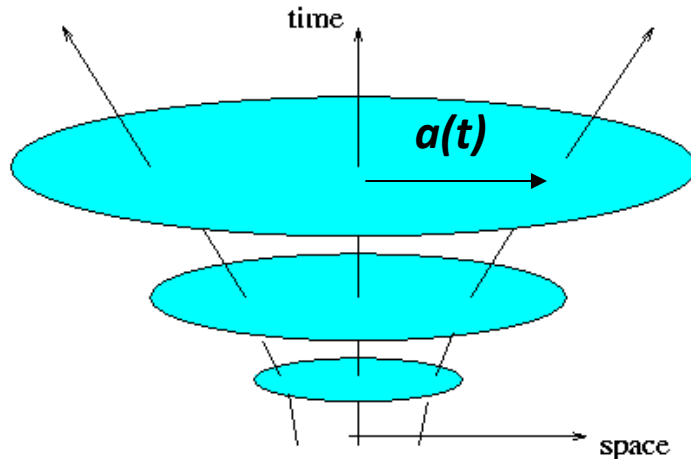
## References:

- Bardeen, Phys Rev D22, 1882 (1980)
- Kodama and Sasaki, Prog Theor Phys Supp 78, 1 (1984)
- Mukhanov, Feldman and Brandenberger, Phys Rep 215, 203 (1992)
- Lidsey et al, Rev Mod Phys 69, 1 (1997); astro-ph/9508078
- Bassett, Tsujikawa and Wands, Rev Mod Phys (2005); astro-ph/0507632
- Malik and Wands, Phys Rep 475, 1 (2009), arXiv:0809:4944

# Homogeneous FRW background



- Obvious *slicing* (foliation) of 4D spacetime into homogeneous 3D space, with homogeneous matter density,  $\rho(t)$



scale factor

$$ds^2 = a^2(t) \gamma_{ij} dx^i dx^j$$

- Comoving world lines define natural choice of *threading* (spatial coordinates)

# Inhomogeneous linear perturbations about homogeneous background

Homogeneous model:  $\varphi = \varphi_0(t)$

Inhomogeneous model:  $\varphi = \varphi(t, x)$   
 $= \varphi_0(t) + \Delta\varphi(t, x)$   
 $= \varphi_0(t) + \varepsilon \delta_1\varphi(t, x) + (1/2) \varepsilon^2 \delta_2\varphi(t, x) + \dots$

typically for linear perturbations only I will write

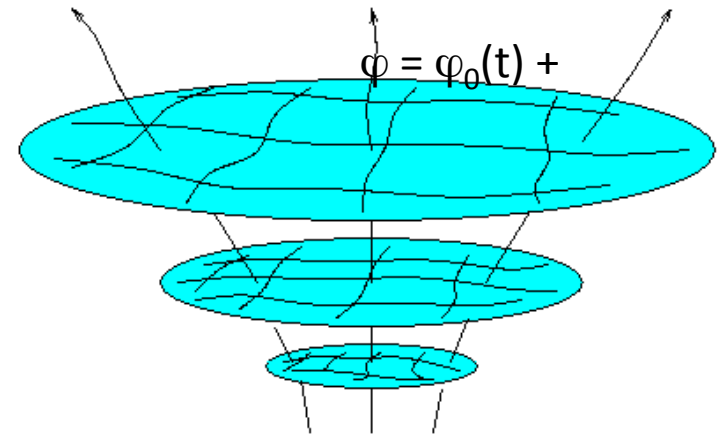
$\delta\varphi(t, x) + \dots$

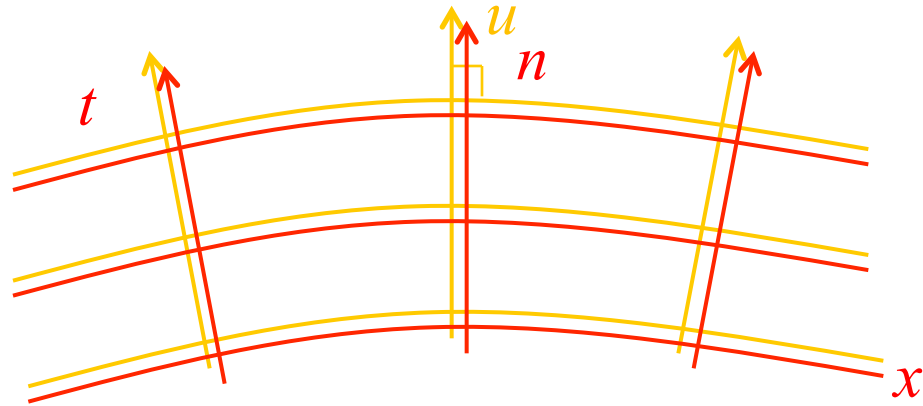
But in an inhomogeneous spacetime

- no obvious, preferred time slicing  
 $t' = t + \delta t(t, x) + \dots$
- no obvious, preferred spatial threading  
 $x' = x + \delta x(t, x) + \dots$

$t$  and  $t'$ , or  $x$  and  $x'$ , only need to agree at zeroth order (same background)

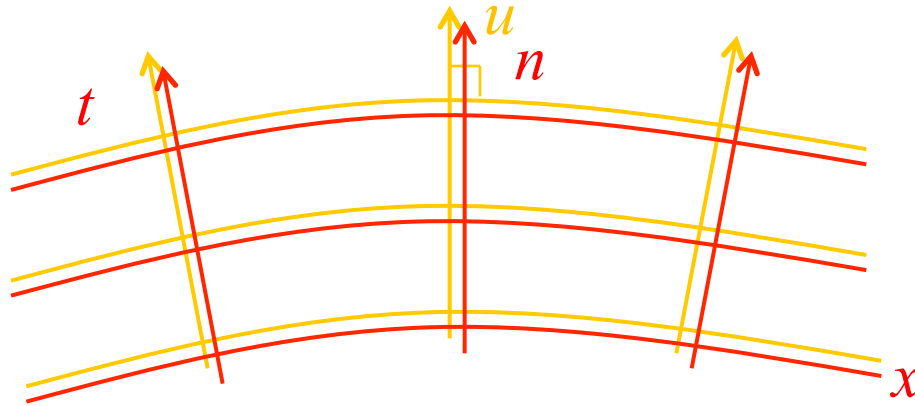
This arbitrariness in the choice of coordinates is the *gauge problem*





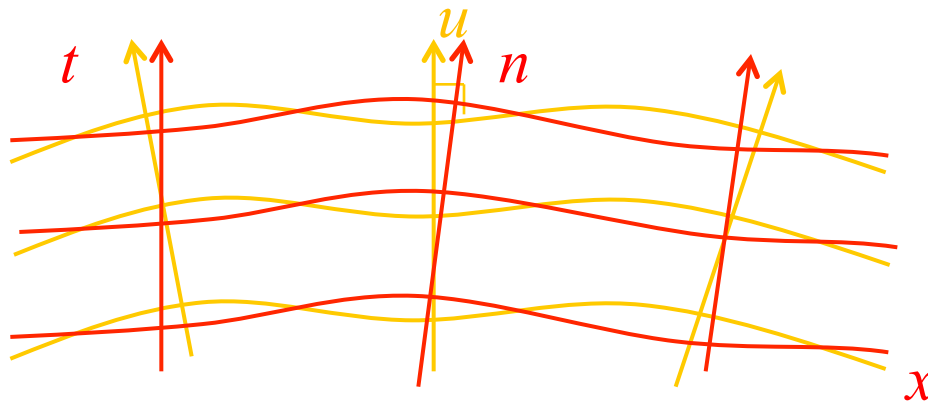
FRW cosmology  
preferred coordinates  
for homogeneous and  
isotropic space

*preferred space+time split in FRW cosmology  
breaks symmetry of Einstein's theory*



FRW cosmology

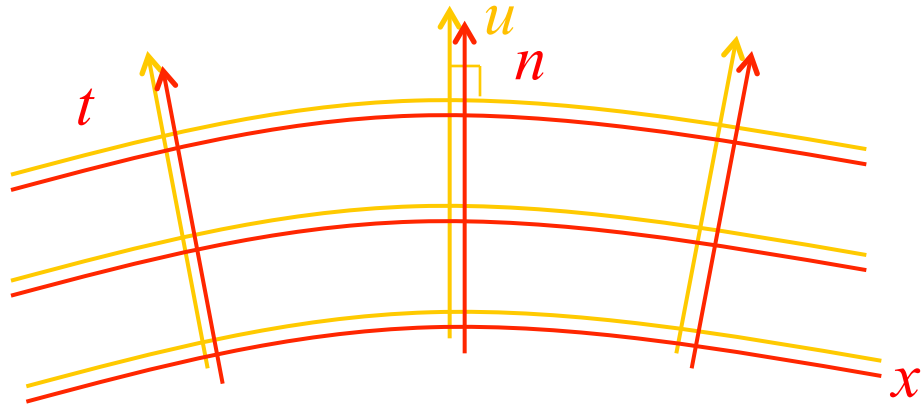
*no unique choice of time (slicing) and space coordinates (threading)  
in an inhomogeneous universe*



FRW cosmology  
+ perturbations

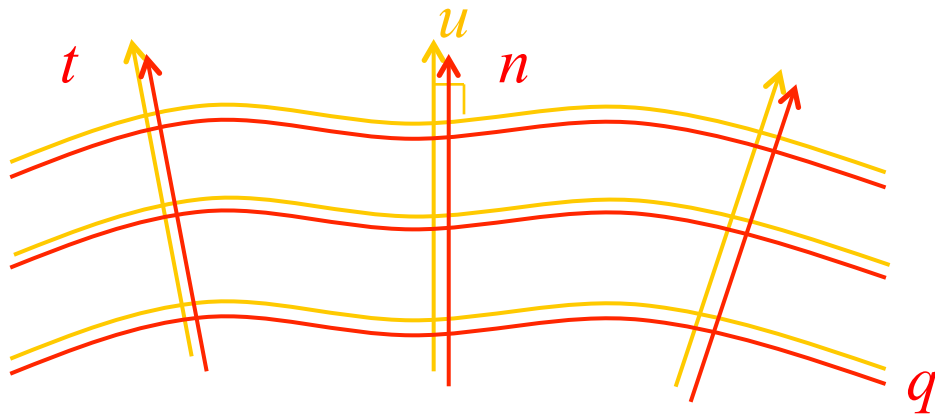
arbitrary gauge  $(t,x)$

*gauge problem: find different perturbations in different gauges*



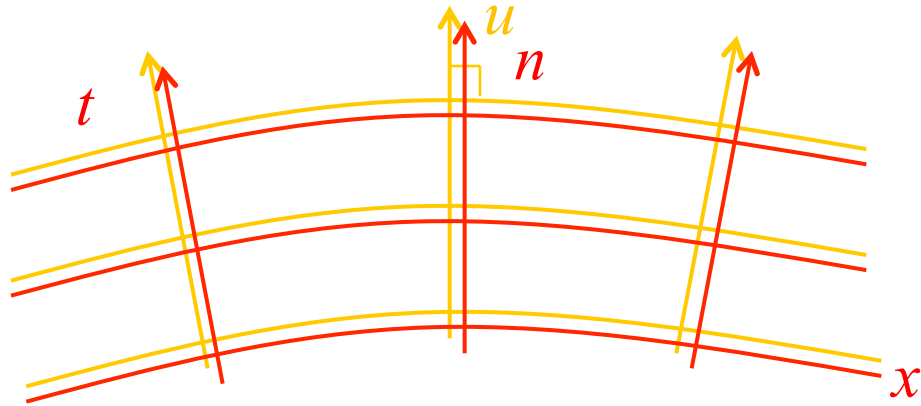
FRW cosmology

*synchronous+comoving with pressureless cold dark matter  
time-slicing orthogonal to comoving worldlines*



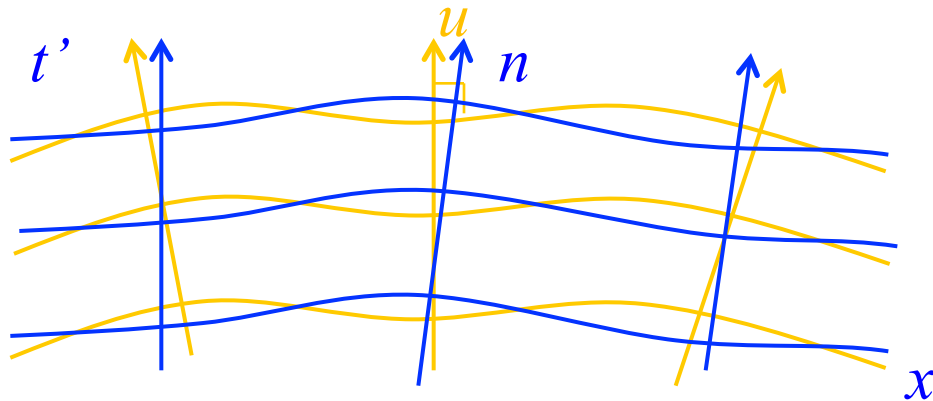
FRW cosmology  
+ perturbations

**comoving-Lagrangian  
coordinates  $(t, q)$**



FRW cosmology

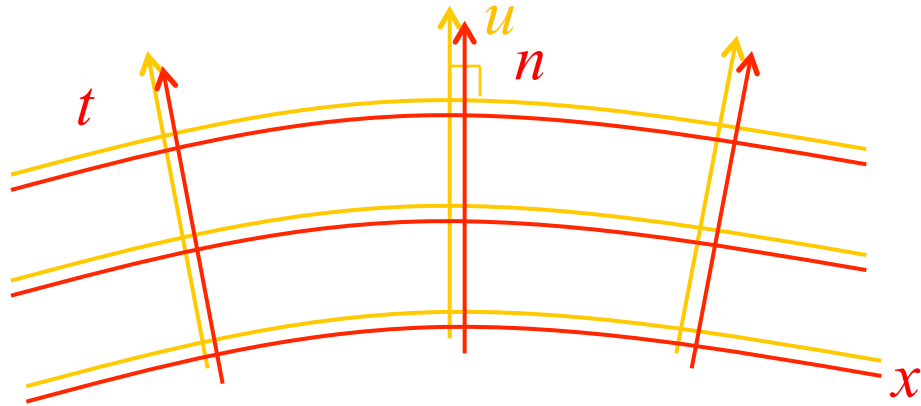
*Poisson = conformal Newtonian = longitudinal gauge  
hypersurface-orthogonal 4-vector field  $n$  is shear-free*



FRW cosmology  
+ perturbations

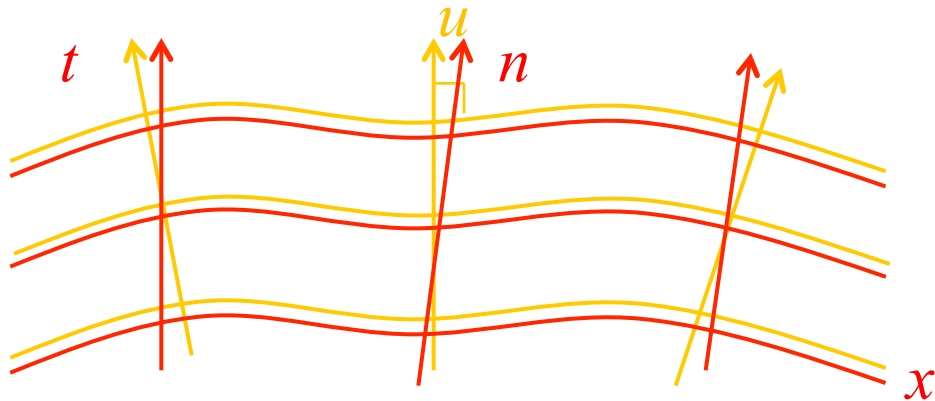
**Poisson gauge  
coordinates  $(t', x)$**





FRW cosmology

*time-slicing orthogonal to comoving worldlines  
 spatial threading is same as Poisson gauge (Eulerian, not Lagrangian)*



FRW cosmology  
 + perturbations

**total-matter  
 coordinates  $(t,x)$**

# Standard Newtonian+Gaussian initial fields

Gaussian primordial metric fluctuations  $\zeta(x)$  from inflation + linear Einstein-Boltzmann code (e.g., CMBfast, CAMB, CLASS)

Gaussian initial Newtonian potential  $\Phi = (3/5)\zeta$

Gaussian initial matter density using Poisson equation

$$\nabla^2 \Phi = 4\pi G a^2 \bar{\rho} \delta$$

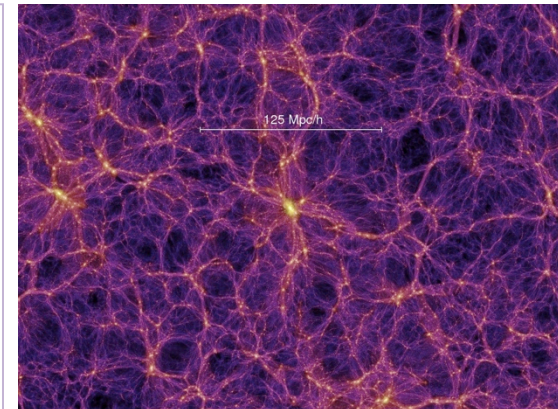
Gaussian initial displacement  $\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{\Psi} = -\delta$

Newtonian N-body simulations

$$\nabla^2 \Phi = 4\pi G a^2 \bar{\rho} \delta$$

$$\dot{\delta} + \vec{\nabla} \cdot ((1 + \delta)) \vec{v} = 0$$

$$\dot{\vec{v}} + \mathcal{H} \vec{v} + (\vec{v} \cdot \vec{\nabla}) \vec{v} = -\vec{\nabla} \Phi$$





how should we set relativistic initial  
displacements in N-body simulations?

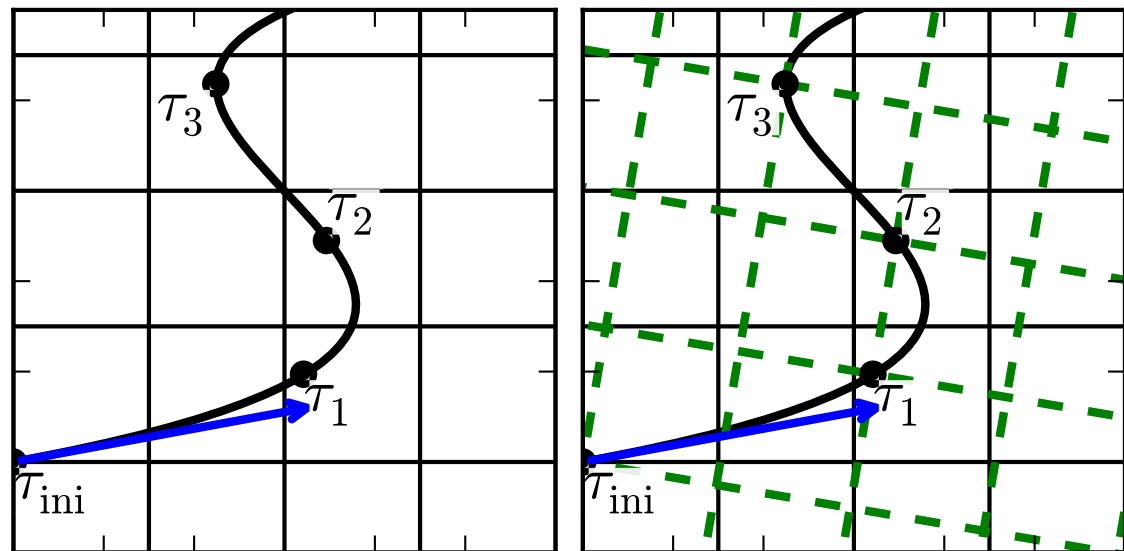
# Newtonian motion gauges

Fidler, Rampf, Tram, Crittenden, Koyama & Wands, arXi:1606.05588

- in GR coordinates are arbitrary
- coordinates+metric define the physical spacetime
  - so... construct gauge such that  
Newtonian displacement = GR displacement

$$\Psi^N(t, \vec{q}) \equiv \Psi^{GR}(t, \vec{q})$$

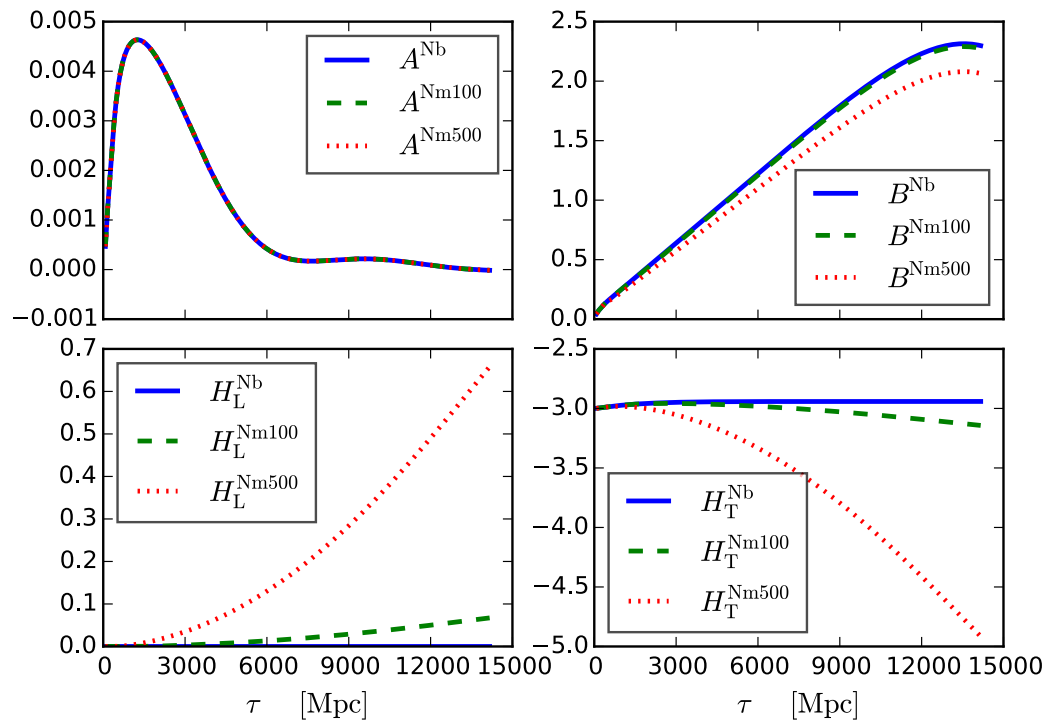
*N*-body simulation Newtonian motion gauge



# Newtonian motion gauges

Fidler, Rampf, Tram, Crittenden, Koyama & Wands, arXi:1606.05588

- **N-body simulations** solve Newtonian non-linear collapse for matter
- **Einstein-Boltzmann code** solves relativistic perturbation equations for metric potentials and radiation in Newtonian motion gauge



$$g_{00} = -a^2(1 + 2A),$$

$$g_{0i} = -a^2 B_i,$$

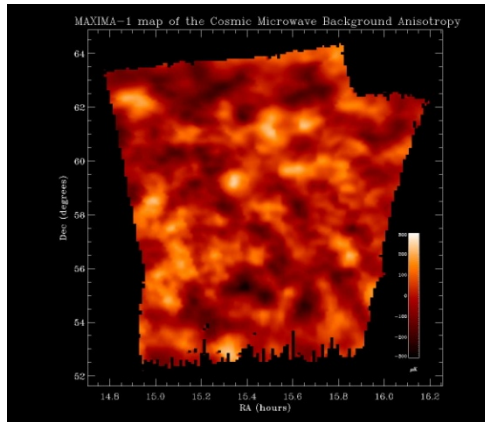
$$g_{ij} = a^2 [\delta_{ij} (1 + 2H_L) - 2H_{Tij}]$$

# Primordial perturbations from inflation

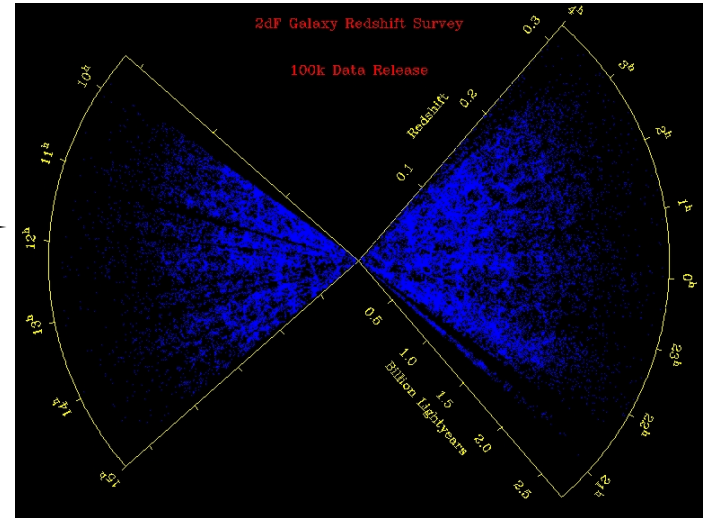
# Standard model of structure formation

*primordial perturbations*

*in cosmic microwave background*



*gravitational  
instability*



*large-scale structure of our Universe*

new observational data offers precision tests of

- cosmological parameters
- the nature of the primordial perturbations

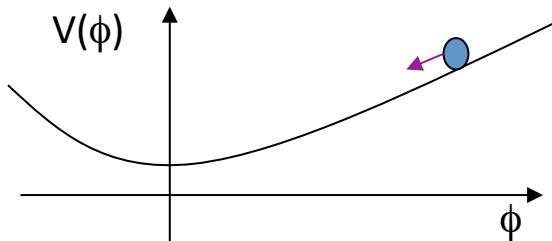
**Inflation:**

initial false vacuum state drives accelerated expansion  
zero-point fluctuations yield spectrum of perturbations

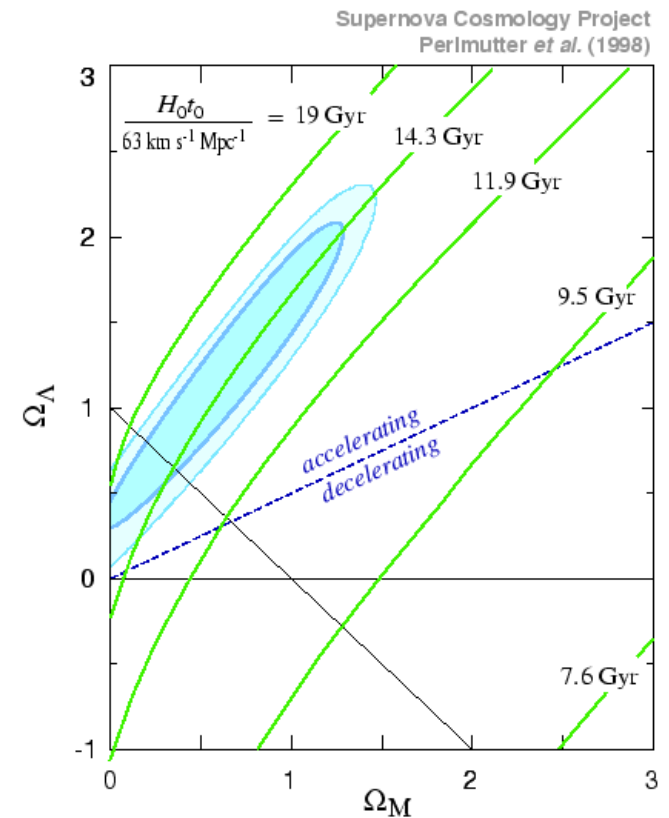
# Cosmological inflation: Starobinsky (1980) Guth (1981)

- period of accelerated expansion in the very early universe
- requires negative pressure

e.g. self-interacting scalar field

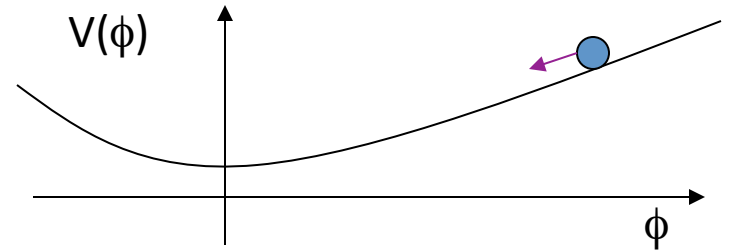


- speculative and uncertain physics
- just the kind of peculiar cosmological behaviour we observe today





# Single-field inflation:



*classical evolution equations*

– Klein-Gordon:  $\cancel{\ddot{\phi}} + 3H \dot{\phi} = \frac{dV}{d\phi}$

– Hubble expansion rate:  $H^2 = \frac{8\pi G}{3} \left( \cancel{\frac{1}{2}\dot{\phi}^2} + V(\phi) \right)$

*accelerated expansion,  $\ddot{a} > 0$ , for  $V(\phi) > \dot{\phi}^2$*

*slow-roll solution for potential-dominated, over-damped evolution gives useful approximation to growing mode for  $\{ \epsilon, |\eta| \} \ll 1$*

*where slow-roll parameters:*

$$\epsilon \equiv \frac{M_P^2}{16\pi} \left( \frac{V_\phi}{V} \right)^2 \quad \eta \equiv \frac{M_P^2}{8\pi} \left( \frac{V_{\phi\phi}}{V} \right) = \frac{m^2}{H^2}$$

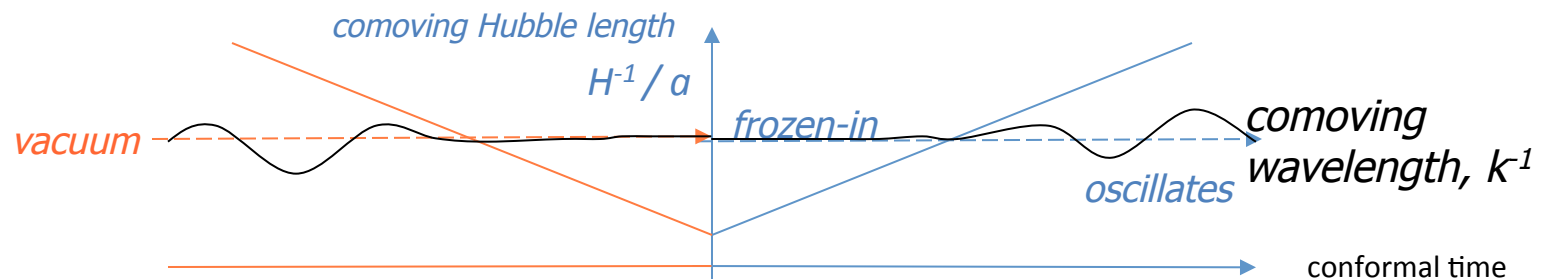
# Perturbations in FRW universe:

wave  
equation

$$\delta\ddot{\phi} + 3H\delta\dot{\phi} - \nabla^2\delta\phi = 0$$

Characteristic timescales for comoving wavemode  $k$

- oscillation period/wavelength  $a/k$
- Hubble damping time-scale  $H^{-1}$
- small-scales  $k > aH$  under-damped oscillator
- large-scales  $k < aH$  over-damped oscillator



inflation

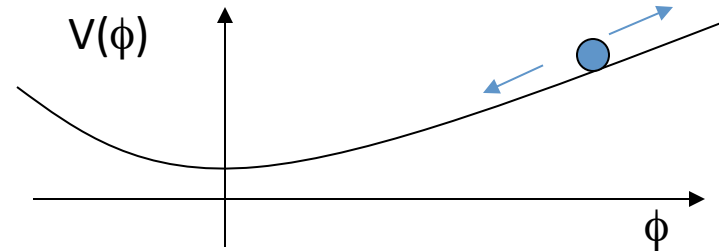
accelerated expansion  
(or contraction)

radiation or matter era  
decelerated expansion

# Vacuum fluctuations

Hawking '82, Starobinsky '82, Guth & Pi '82

*quantum vacuum*



- *small-scale/underdamped zero-point fluctuations*

$$\delta\phi_k \approx \frac{e^{-ik\eta}}{\sqrt{2k}}$$

- *large-scale/overdamped perturbations in growing mode  
linear evolution  $\Rightarrow$  Gaussian random field*

$$P_{\delta\phi}(k = aH) \approx \frac{4\pi k^3 |\delta\phi_k|^2}{(2\pi)^3} = \left(\frac{H_k}{2\pi}\right)^2$$

*light fields ( $m < 3H/2$ ) 'frozen-in' on large scales  
massive fields ( $m > 3H/2$ ) remain underdamped as  $k \rightarrow 0$*

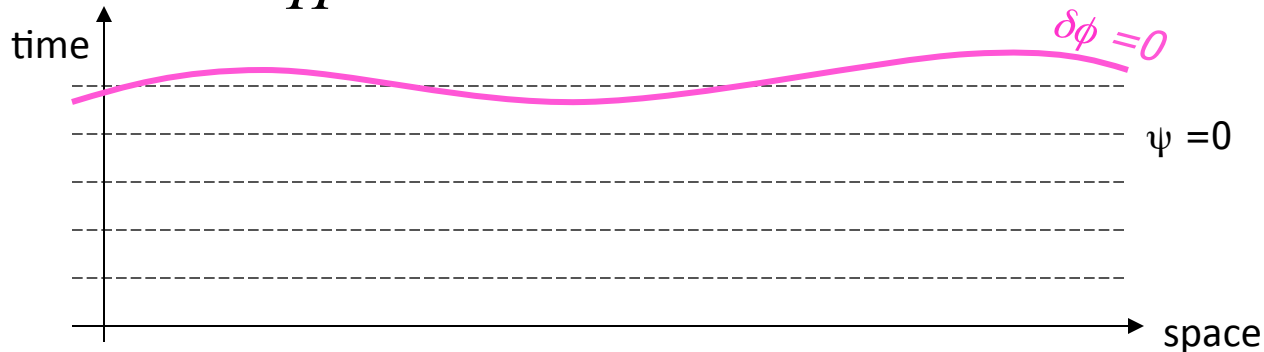
# gauge-invariant variables, Q and R

- field perturbation  $\delta\phi$  and metric perturbation  $\psi$  are gauge-dependent in an inhomogeneous spacetime

$$\delta\phi \rightarrow \delta\phi + \dot{\phi} \delta t, \quad \psi \rightarrow \psi + H \delta t$$

- Sasaki-Mukhanov gauge-invariant variable

$$Q = \delta\phi - \frac{\dot{\phi}}{H} \psi \quad \text{field perturbation on flat } (\psi = 0) \text{ hypersurfaces}$$



- curvature of uniform-density ( $\delta\phi = 0$ ) hypersurfaces

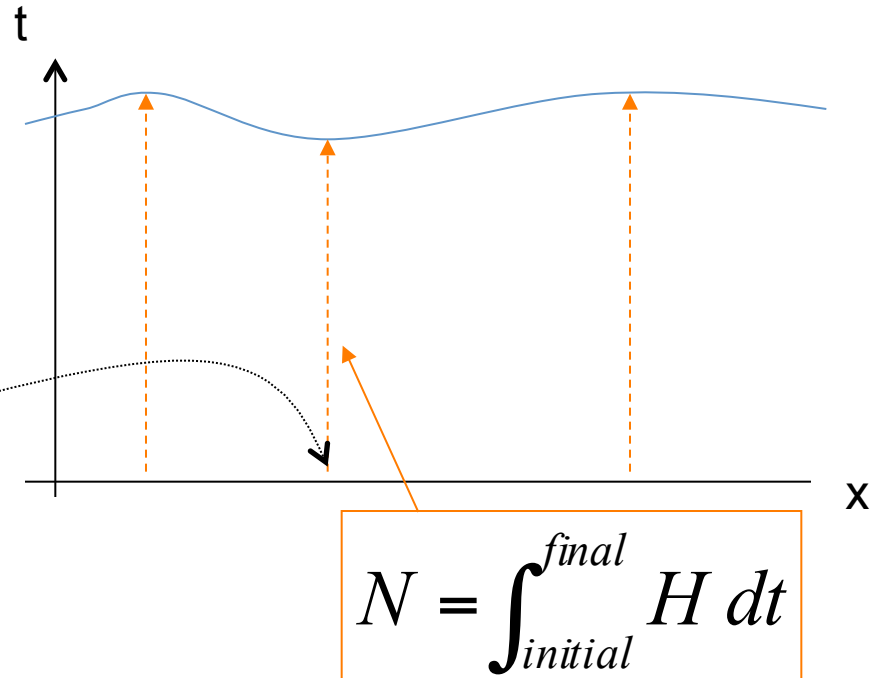
$$R = \psi - \frac{H}{\dot{\phi}} \delta\phi = -\frac{H}{\dot{\phi}} Q$$

# the $\delta N$ formalism

in radiation-dominated era  
curvature perturbation  $\zeta$  on  
uniform-density hypersurface

during inflation  
perturbations  $\phi(x, t_i)$  on initial  
spatially-flat hypersurface

field



on large scales, neglect spatial gradients, treat as “separate universes”

***the  $\delta N$  formalism***

$$\zeta = N(\phi_{initial}) - \bar{N} \approx \sum_I \frac{\partial N}{\partial \phi_I} \delta \phi_I$$

Starobinsky '85; Sasaki & Stewart '96  
Lyth & Rodriguez '05 – works to any order

# Cosmological perturbations on large scales

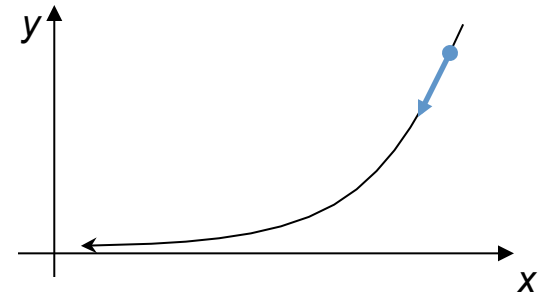
- **adiabatic perturbations**

e.g., 
$$\delta\left(\frac{n_\gamma}{n_B}\right) \propto \frac{\delta n_\gamma}{n_\gamma} - \frac{\delta n_B}{n_B} = 0$$

- *perturb along the background trajectory*

$$\frac{\delta x}{\dot{x}} = \frac{\delta y}{\dot{y}} = \delta T$$

- *e.g., single-field perturbations along slow-roll attractor*
- *adiabatic perturbations stay adiabatic*

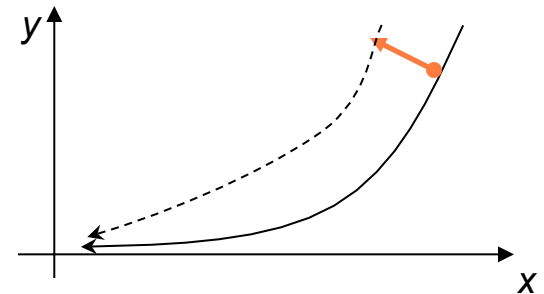


- **entropy perturbations**

- *perturb off the background trajectory*

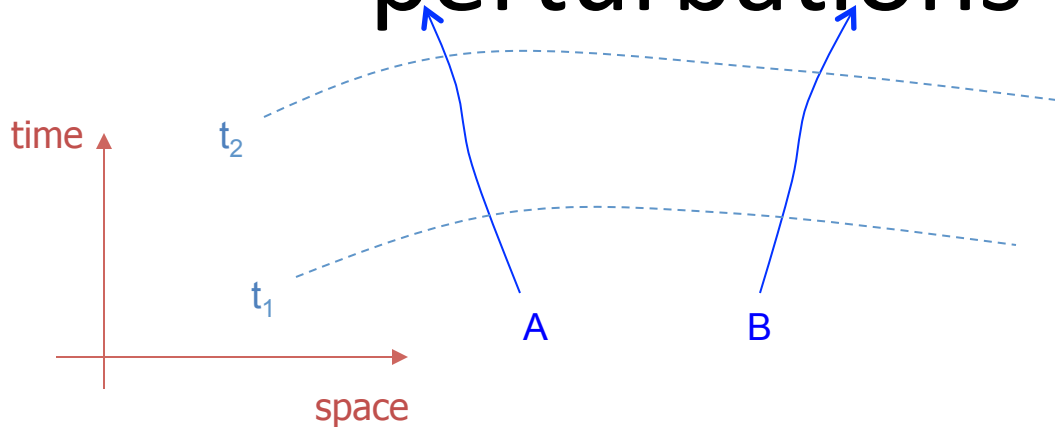
$$\frac{\delta x}{\dot{x}} \neq \frac{\delta y}{\dot{y}}$$

- *e.g., baryon-photon **isocurvature** perturbation:*



# Conserved cosmological perturbations

Lyth & Wands 2003



For every quantity,  $x$ , that obeys a **local conservation equation**

$$\frac{dx}{dN} = y(x) \quad , \quad e.g. \quad \dot{\rho}_m = -3H\rho_m$$

where  $dN = Hdt$  is the locally-defined expansion along comoving worldlines

there is a **conserved perturbation**

$$\xi_x \equiv \delta N = \frac{\delta x}{y(x)}$$

where perturbation  $\delta x = x_A - x_B$  is evaluated on hypersurfaces separated by uniform expansion  $\Delta N = \Delta \ln a$

# examples:

(i) total energy conservation:  $\frac{d\rho}{dN} = H^{-1} \dot{\rho} = -3(\rho + P)$

for perfect fluid / adiabatic perturbations,  $P=P(\rho)$

$$\Rightarrow \zeta_{\rho} = \frac{\delta\rho}{3(\rho + P)} \quad \text{conserved}$$

(ii) energy conservation for non-interacting perfect fluids:

$$H^{-1} \dot{\rho}_i = -3(\rho_i + P_i) \quad \text{where } P_i = P_i(\rho_i) \quad \Rightarrow \quad \zeta_i = \frac{\delta\rho_i}{3(\rho_i + P_i)}$$

(iii) conserved particle/quantum numbers (e.g., B, B-L,...)

$$H^{-1} \dot{n}_i = -3n_i \quad \Rightarrow \quad \zeta_i = \frac{\delta n_i}{3n_i}$$



# adiabatic density perturbations from inflaton field

- *quantum fluctuations,  $Q$ , on spatially flat hypersurfaces during inflation*

$$\xi = -R = \left( -\frac{H}{\dot{\sigma}} Q \right)_{k=aH}$$

- *produce density perturbations in radiation-dominated era*

$$\Rightarrow \left\langle \frac{\delta T^2}{T^2} \right\rangle_{SW} \approx \frac{1}{25} \langle \xi^2 \rangle \approx \frac{1}{25} \left( \frac{H^2}{2\pi\dot{\sigma}} \right)_{k=aH}^2$$

*slow time-dependence during inflation -> weak scale-dependence*

$$\text{tilt: } n_\xi - 1 \equiv \frac{d \ln \langle \xi^2 \rangle}{d \ln k} \approx -6\varepsilon + 2\eta_\sigma \ll 1$$

$$\text{slow roll parameters } \varepsilon = -\frac{\dot{H}}{H^2}, \quad \eta_\sigma = \frac{m_\sigma^2}{3H^2}$$

# Primordial Density Perturbation (II)

epoch of primordial nucleosynthesis

perturbed cosmic fluid consists of

- photons,  $\xi_\gamma$ , neutrinos,  $\xi_\nu$ , baryons,  $\xi_B$ , cold dark matter,  $\xi_{\text{CDM}}$ , (+quintessence,  $\xi_Q$ )

- total density perturbation, or curvature perturbation

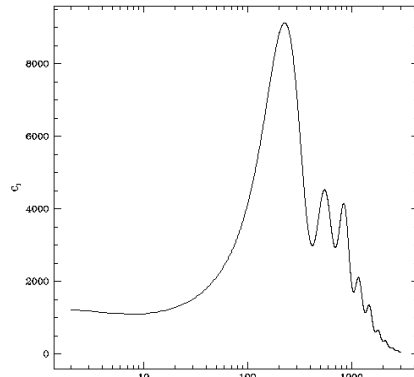
$$R = \sum_i \left( \frac{\dot{\rho}_i}{\dot{\rho}} \right) \xi_i$$

- relative density perturbations, or isocurvature perturbations

$$S_i = 3(\xi_i - \xi_\gamma)$$

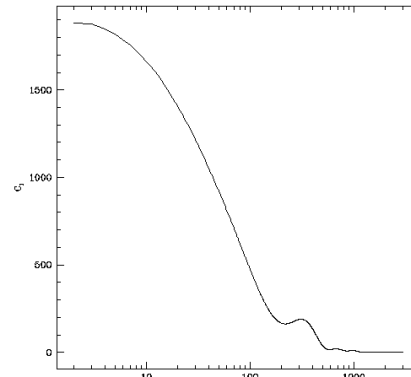
# microwave background signatures:

$$C_l = A^2 \times$$



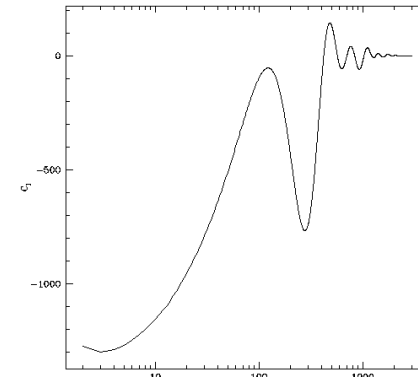
adiabatic

$$+ B^2 \times$$



CDM isocurvature

$$+ 2 A B \cos\Delta \times$$



correlation

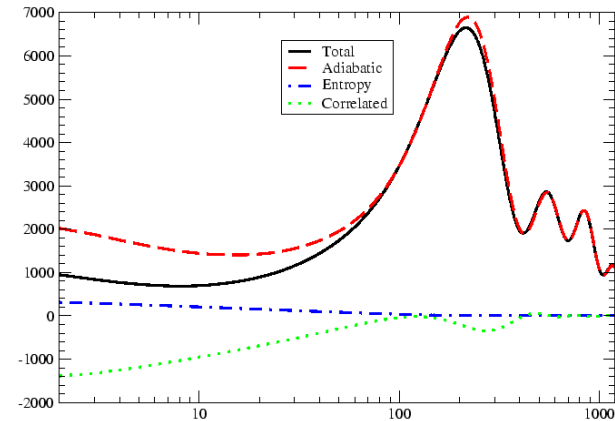
Bucher, Moodley & Turok '00 }  $n_s = 1$   
 Trotta, Riazuelo & Durrer '01 }

Amendola, Gordon, Wands & Sasaki '01

best-fit to Boomerang, Maxima & DASI

$$B/A = 0.3, \cos\Delta = +1, n_s = 0.8$$

$$\omega_b = 0.02, \omega_{\text{cdm}} = 0.1, \Omega_\Lambda = 0.7$$



# tensor metric perturbations

- *transverse, traceless metric perturbations*

$$\delta g_{ij}(t, x) \approx a^2 \int d^3 k e_{ij}^{(+, \times)}(k) h_k(t) e^{ikx}$$

- *amplitude,  $h(t)$ , obeys same wave equation for massless field in an unperturbed FRW cosmology,  $\delta\varphi = M_{Pl} h / (32\pi)^{1/2}$*

- *remain decoupled from matter perturbations (at first order)*

$$\Rightarrow \langle T^2 \rangle \approx 2 \left( \frac{32\pi}{M_{Pl}^2} \right) \left( \frac{H}{2\pi} \right)_{k=aH}^2$$

$$\text{tilt: } n_T \equiv \frac{d \ln \langle T^2 \rangle}{d \ln k} \approx -2\varepsilon \quad \text{where } \varepsilon \equiv -\frac{\dot{H}}{H^2}$$

## “smoking gun” for inflation...

- *inflation predicts primordial gravitational wave background*

$$\langle T^2 \rangle \approx \left( \frac{V}{M_{Pl}^4} \right)_{k=aH}$$

- *could be*  $\left( \frac{10^{16} \text{ GeV}}{M_{Pl}} \right)^4 \approx 10^{-12}$

- *or could be*  $\left( \frac{1 \text{ TeV}}{M_{Pl}} \right)^4 \approx 10^{-64}$

- *only detectable if inflationary scale  $> 10^{15} \text{ GeV}$*