

# EFT and Gravitational Response for Dark Vortices & Other Sources



*Galiano Island 2015*

*Cliff Burgess*



# Open EFTs, Decoherence & Secular Evolution in Inflation



*Galiano Island 2015*

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# Outline

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- Motivation
  - What is the effective description of inflation on super-Hubble scales?
- Diagonal evolution
  - Stochastic inflation and resummation of late-time behaviour
- Off-diagonal evolution
  - Decoherence of primordial fluctuations



Part I

# MOTIVATION



*What is the EFT for super-Hubble modes?*

*EFTs for Open Systems*

**MOTIVATION**

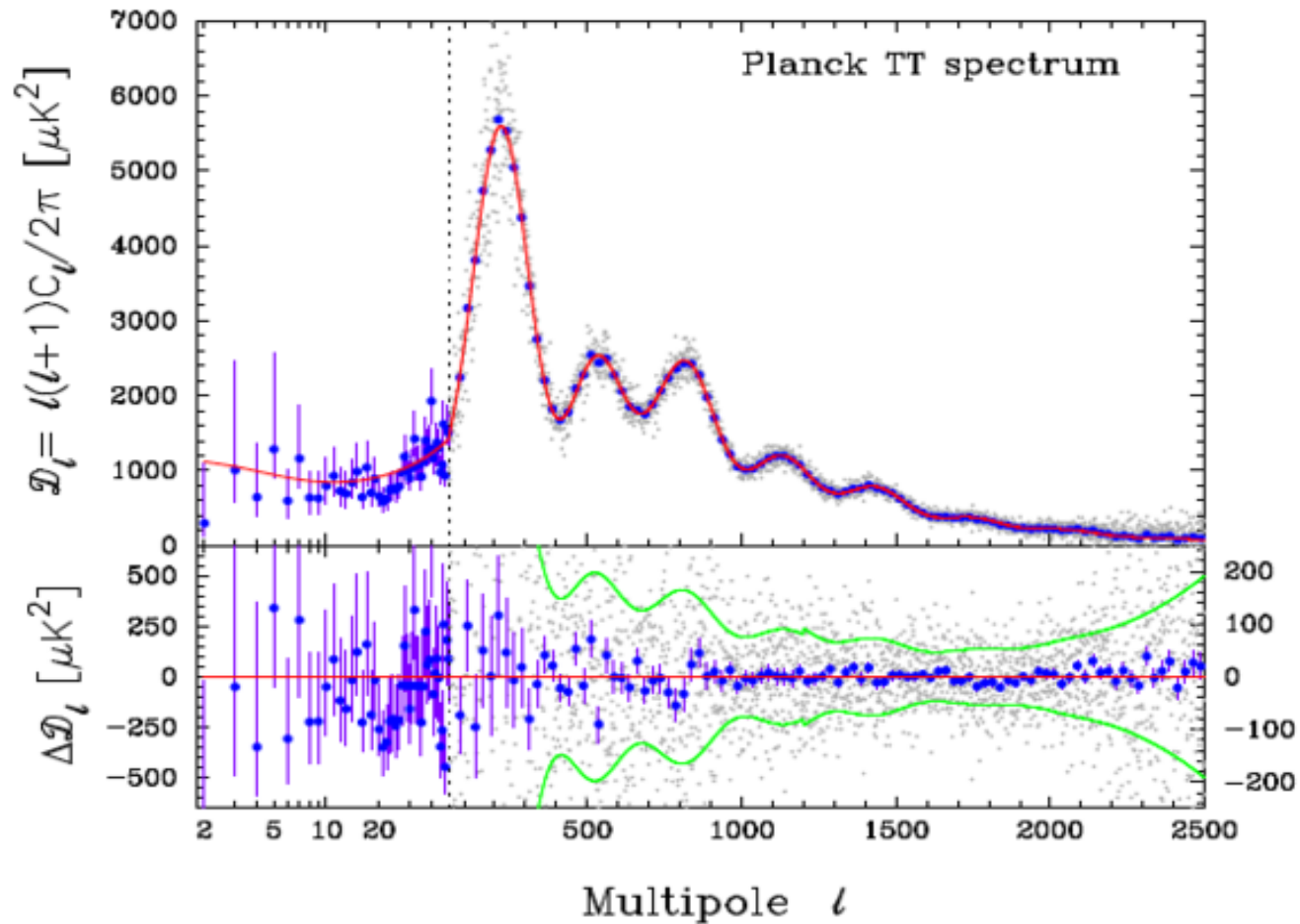
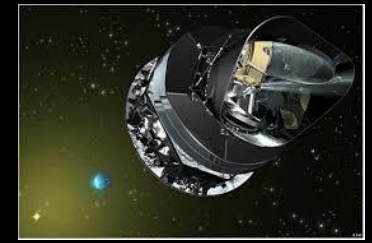
# Language Issue

- What is the right language for EFTs in an inflationary model?
  - *Effective lagrangian?*
  - *Master equation?*
  - *Something else?*



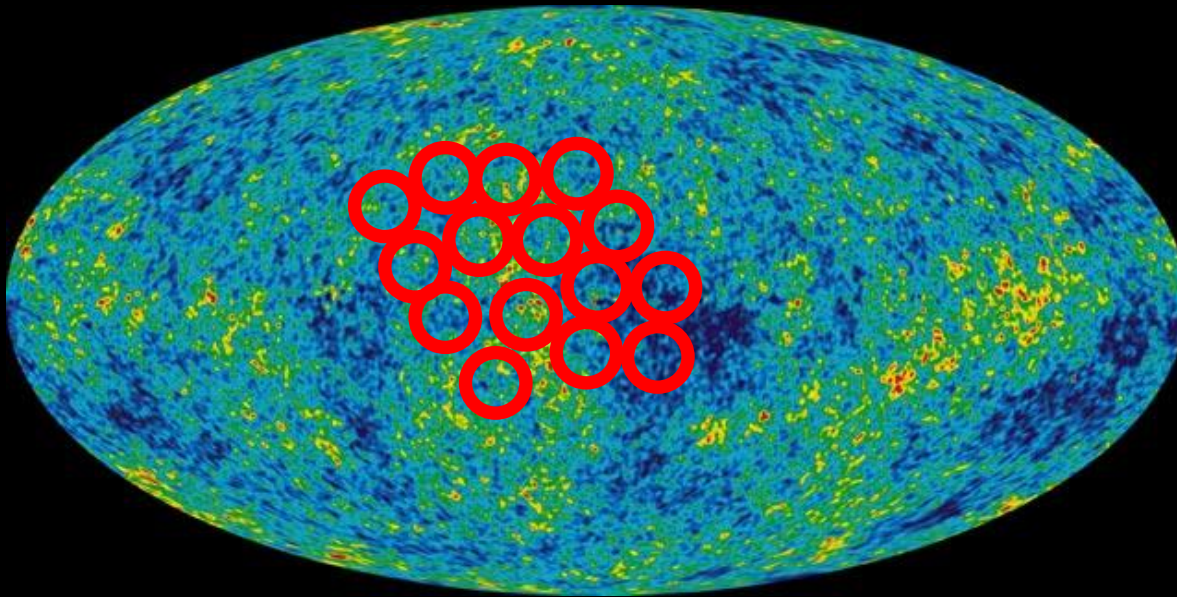
Divided by a common language

# CMB Observations



# CMB Observations

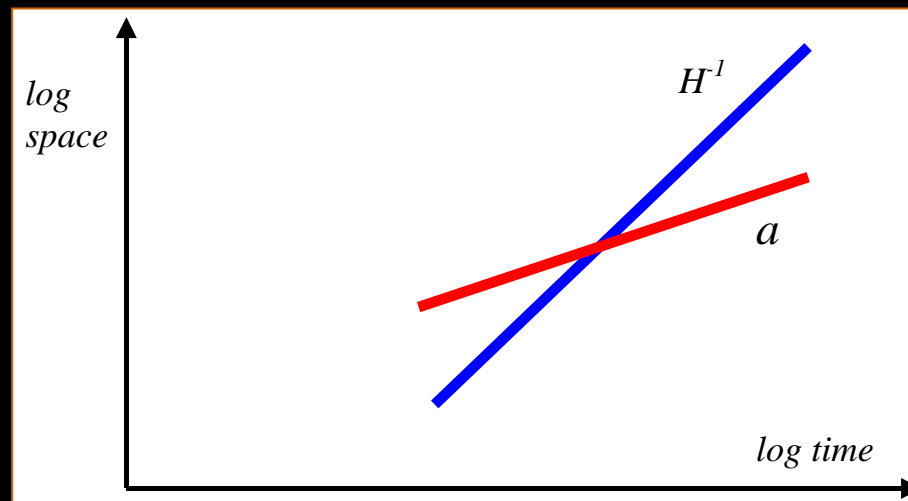
- CMB exhibits correlations on super-Hubble scales





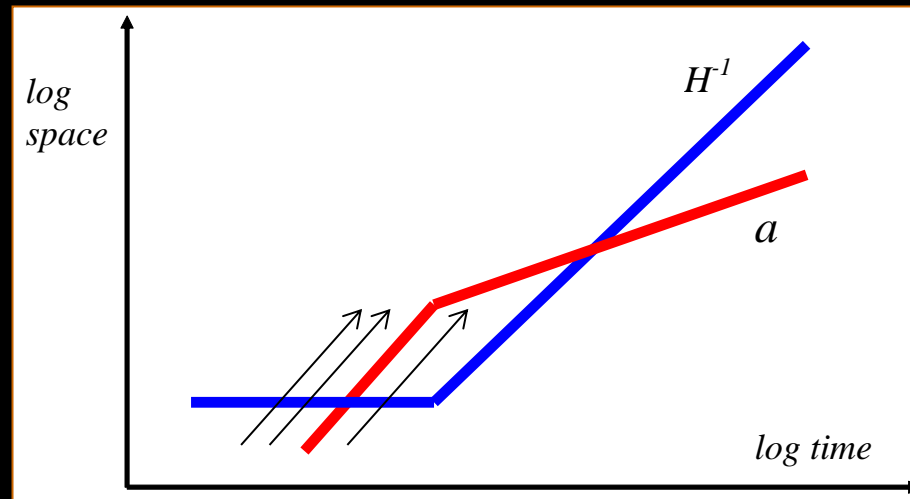
# Inflationary Party Line

- Super-Hubble wavelengths in inflation are the ones most relevant for CMB observations



# Inflationary Party Line

- Super-Hubble wavelengths in inflation are the ones most relevant for CMB observations



# Long-standing Puzzle

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- Super-Hubble wavelengths in inflation are the ones most relevant for CMB observations
- Longest wavelength modes in general are most efficiently described by appropriate EFT
- What is the EFT for these modes?

# EFTs w/o Effective Lagrangians

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Usually EFTs rely on simplicity when  $E < M$  to summarize high-energy effects for low-energy observables in terms of an effective Lagrangian.

$$e^{iS_{eff}(\varphi)} = \int D\psi e^{iS(\varphi, \psi)}$$

*$S_{eff}$  is simple when expanded in  $\partial/M$*

# EFTs w/o Effective Lagrangians

Such a description is not in general possible for open systems, even when degrees of freedom may be integrated out.

*eg: particle moving through a medium*



*courtesy Scientific American*

# EFTs w/o Effective Lagrangians

Such a description is not in general possible for open systems, even when degrees of freedom may be integrated out.

*eg: particle moving through a medium*



*$L_{\text{eff}}$  need not exist since  
in general pure states can  
evolve to mixed due to  
ability to exchange info*

*courtesy Scientific American*

# EFTs w/o Effective Lagrangians

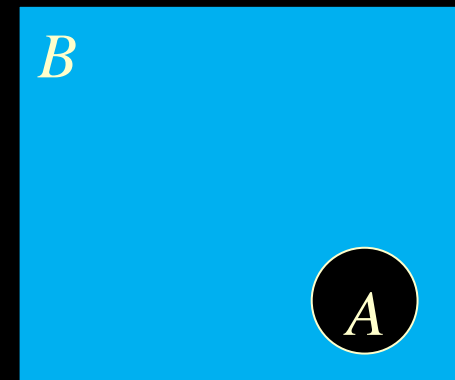
EFT nonetheless can exist: *ie things can simplify given a hierarchy of scales.*

Divide system into small observed subsystem,  $A$ , in presence of a large environment,  $B$ :

$$H = H_A + H_B + V$$

then simplifications can arise when

$$t_c \ll t_p$$



Where  $t_c$  is the correlation time of  $V$  in  $B$  and  $t_p$  is the time beyond which perturbation in  $V$  fails.

# EFTs w/o Effective Lagrangians

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For such a system evolution over times  $t \gg t_p$  can be computed by computing a coarse-grained evolution:

$$(d\rho_A/dt)_{cg} = \frac{1}{\Delta t} \text{Tr}_B[U(\Delta t)\rho U^*(\Delta t)]$$

for  $t_c \ll \Delta t \ll t_p$  and integrating.

*for  $A \ll B$  this limit can be a Markov process*



# EFTs w/o Effective Lagrangians

Perturbatively:

$$(d\rho_A/dt)_{cg} = i[W, \rho_A] + \int dt' Tr_B [V, [V', \rho_A]] + \dots$$

where  $W = Tr_B V$

$\rho$  can

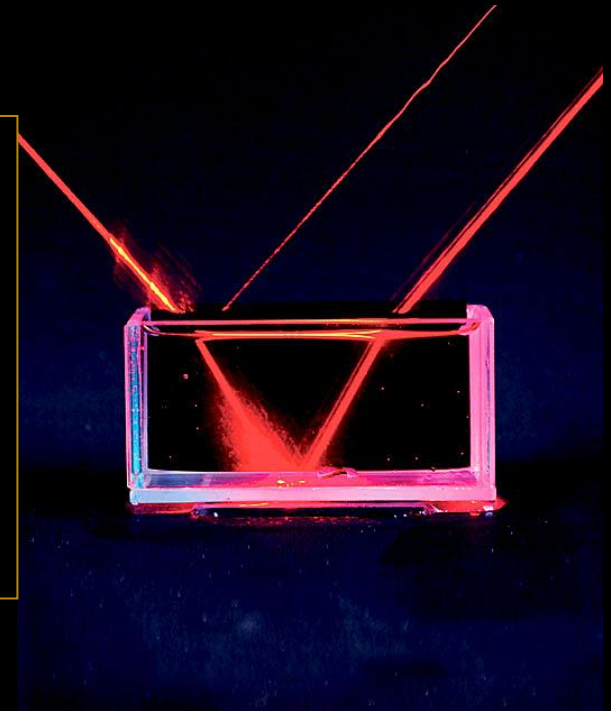
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# EFTs w/o Effective Lagrangians

For such a system evolution over times  $t \gg t_p$  can be computed by computing a coarse-grained evolution:

This is what allows calculation of light propagation over distances for which scattering from atoms is 100% likely

*for  $A \ll B$  this limit can be*



[www.osa-opn.org](http://www.osa-opn.org)

# EFTs w/o Effective Lagrangians

*arXiv: 1408:5002*

*Q: What is the effective theory outside the Hubble scale during inflation?*

*Claim: this is described by an Open EFT*

*System A: extra-Hubble modes:  $\frac{k}{a} \ll H$*

*System B: intra-Hubble modes:  $\frac{k}{a} > H$*

*Correlation time:  $t_c \approx H^{-1}$*



Part II

# DIAGONAL EVOLUTION



*How do diagonal elements evolve?*

*Late time evolution*

# DIAGONAL EVOLUTION

# Diagonal Evolution|

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*What is implied for the diagonal part of  $\rho_A$ ?*

Inflationary fact: modes with wavelength longer than the Hubble scale become squeezed, with the spread of momenta shrinking after several Hubble times.

Quantum analog of the classical freezing of modes

$$\nabla^2 \varphi = \ddot{\varphi} + 3H\dot{\varphi}$$

# Diagonal Evolution|

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*What is implied for the diagonal part of  $\rho_A$ ?*

Inflationary fact: modes with wavelength longer than the Hubble scale become squeezed, with the spread of momenta shrinking after several Hubble times.

Because of this correlation functions largely care only about diagonal elements of  $\rho_A$  in a field basis.

# Diagonal Evolution|

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*How do the diagonal parts of  $\rho_A$  evolve?*

For these the free evolution gives probabilities governed by initial quantum state.

$$P[\varphi] = \langle \varphi | \rho_A | \varphi \rangle = |\Psi(\varphi)|^2$$



# Diagonal Evolution|

*Starobinsky, Yokoyama*

*How do the diagonal parts of  $\rho_A$  evolve?*

Schrodinger evolution plus tracing of sub-Hubble modes implies  $P$  satisfies

$$\frac{\partial P}{\partial t} = N \frac{\partial^2 P}{\partial \varphi^2} + \frac{\partial}{\partial \varphi} (V' P)$$

with  $N = H^3 / 8\pi^2$  and  $V$  the scalar potential  
as in *Starobinsky's stochastic inflation*

# Late-time Secular Evolution|

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*Why care that Stochastic inflation works?*

Late-time evolution of massless fields in de Sitter space can be problematic due to accumulation of secular effects

$$\sigma = \sigma_0 + \sigma_1 \log^2 a + \dots$$

indicating possible breakdown of perturbative evolution for large times

# Late-time Secular Evolution|

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*Why care that Stochastic inflation works?*

Late-time evolution of massless fields in de Sitter space can be problematic due to accumulation of secular effects

Woodard and Tsamis have shown for  $\lambda\phi^4$  theory that these secular effects are captured by the late-time static stochastic solutions

$$P = \exp(-V/H^4)$$

# Late-time Secular Evolution|

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*Why should this happen?*

Master equation is *designed* to handle late-time evolution. Coarse-grained equation

$$\frac{d\rho}{dt} = F(\rho)$$

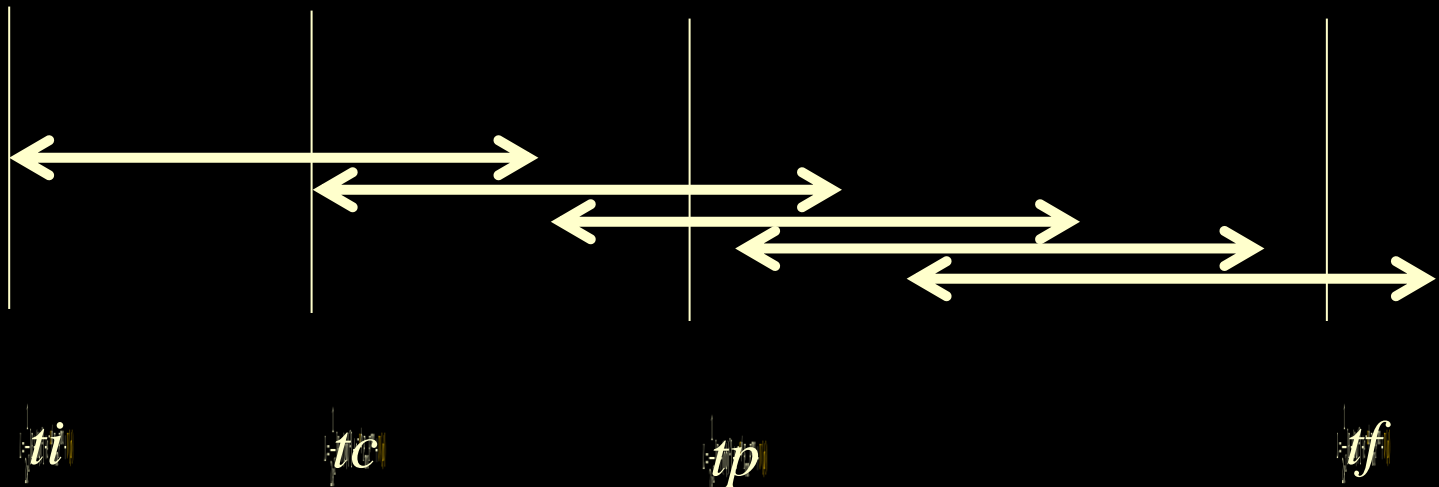
works provided  $t_c \ll t_p$  but solutions can be trusted *even for*  $t \gg t_p$  provided that coarse-grained evolution eq holds for overlapping intervals throughout the entire region

# Late-time Secular Evolution

*Why should this happen?*

Master equation is *designed* to handle late-time evolution. Coarse-grained equation

$$\frac{d\rho}{dt} = F(\rho)$$





Part III

# OFF-DIAGONAL EVOLUTION



*How do off-diagonal elements evolve?*

# OFF-DIAGONAL EVOLUTION

# Off-diagonal Evolution|

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Master equation alters off-diagonal terms in an interesting way at second order

$$(d\rho_A/dt)_{cg} = i[\text{Tr}_B V, \rho_A] + \int dt' \text{Tr}_B [V, [V', \rho_A]] + \dots$$



# Off-diagonal Evolution

*Calculation of off-diagonal matrix elements of  $\rho_A$ :*

suppose  $V = \int A^i B_i d^3x$

and  $\langle \delta B_i(x) \delta B_j(x') \rangle = U_{ij}(x) \delta(t - t')$

also extra-Hubble squeezing of modes implies

$$A^i(\Phi, \Pi) |\varphi \rangle \rightarrow A^i(\Phi, 0) |\varphi \rangle = \alpha^i(\varphi) |\varphi \rangle$$

so  $A^i$  becomes diagonal in field eigenbasis

# Off-diagonal Evolution|

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*Calculation of off-diagonal matrix elements of  $\rho_A$ :*

Can integrate equation for  $\rho_A$  in field basis:

$$\langle \varphi | \rho_A | \tilde{\varphi} \rangle = \langle \varphi | \rho_{A0} | \tilde{\varphi} \rangle e^{-\Gamma}$$

$$\text{where } \Gamma = \int d^3x dt [\alpha^i - \tilde{\alpha}^i][\alpha^j - \tilde{\alpha}^j] U_{ij}$$

If variance shrinks with time then system decoheres  
and squeezing ensures field basis is pointer basis

# Off-diagonal Evolution|

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*Calculation of off-diagonal matrix elements of  $\rho_A$ :*

Does variance shrink?

If interactions are local and if the only scale in autocorrelation is  $H$  then variance narrows on Hubble times:

$$\sigma^{-2} \propto a^3$$

# *Summary*

# Summary

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*Open systems provide a **new type of EFT** where simplicity of scale hierarchy is not captured by an effective lagrangian*

*Appropriate for EFT outside inflationary Hubble scale, and provides **derivation of Starobinsky's stochastic inflation** and possibly **rapid decoherence of primordial quantum fluctuations**.*

# Summary

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*Open systems provide a **new type of EFT** where simplicity of scale hierarchy is not captured by an effective lagrangian*

*Potentially allows systematic resummation of secular evolution in late-time limit in variety of settings*

*Applications to Black Holes?*



*Fin*

