

# The large-scale structure of the Higgs vacuum

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Modern Cosmology: Early Universe, CMB and LSS  
Benasque, August 3-16, 2014

*A.L.M and F. Prada to appear*

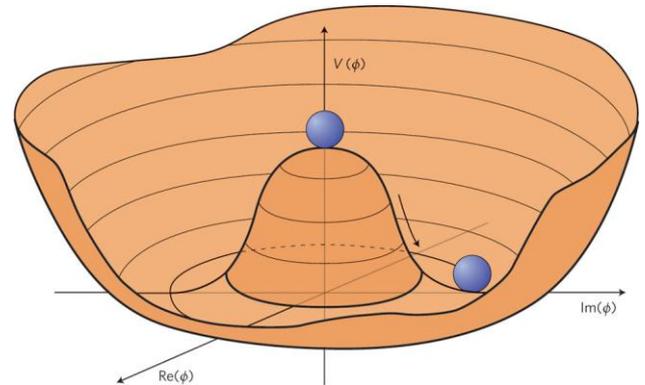
*Albareti, Cembranos, A.L.M. arXiv:1404.5946 and 1405.3900*

# Introduction

- The discovery at LHC of a scalar resonance with  $m_H = 126$  GeV compatible with the SM Higgs gives support to the simplest EW Symmetry Breaking Sector (SBS) with just one scalar doublet

- Future measurements at ATLAS and CMS will constrain the Higgs mass and branching ratios with better precision

- However the Higgs self-couplings, i.e. the **shape of the potential**, difficult to constrain with LHC luminosity design value



- We need alternative probes of the SBS. Cosmology?

# Introduction

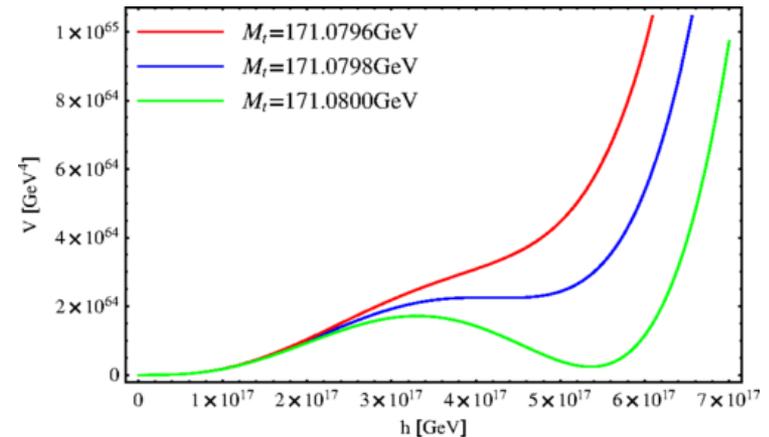
- EW phase transition difficult to explore, but still some effects: EW inflation, baryogenesis, magnetogenesis, ... Vachaspati, 91; Knox, Turner, 93; Kusenko, 99

- Non-minimal couplings and Higgs inflation (higher energies)

Bezrukov, Shaposhnikov, 08

- Do metric perturbations modify the Higgs potential (VEV)?.

- NO at classical level (scalar field)
- But **quantum fluctuations** feel the geometry



Phys. Rev. Lett. 112, 241301, Y. Hamada, et al.

- Calculate the one-loop effective potential with metric perturbations

# OUTLINE

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- Higgs effective potential in Minkowski space-time

*I. Refreshing basic ideas*



- Effective potential in curved space-time

*I. Locally inertial vs. comoving observers*



- Perturbed Robertson-Walker backgrounds

*I. Perturbative solutions*

*II. Homogeneous and inhomogeneous contributions*



- Higgs VEV, varying fundamental constants and phenomenology



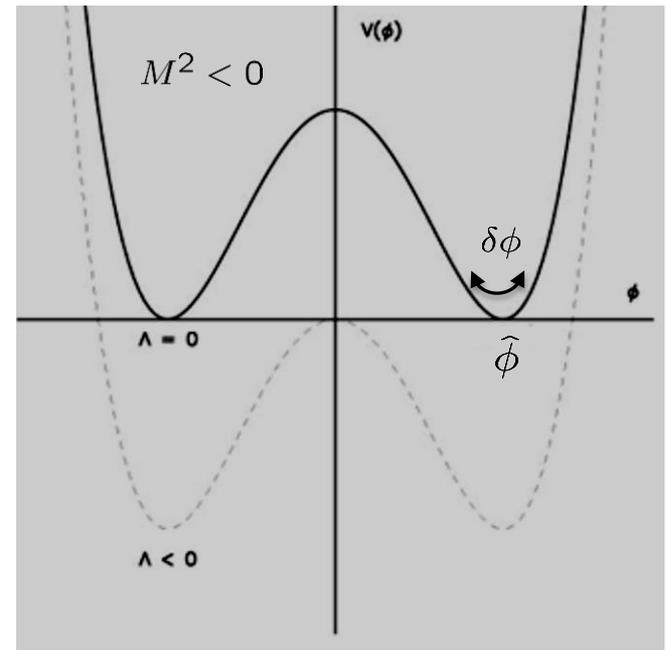
# Effective potential in Minkowski space-time

$$\mathcal{L}_{SBS} = (D_\mu \Phi)^\dagger (D^\mu \Phi) - M^2 (\Phi^\dagger \Phi) - \lambda (\Phi^\dagger \Phi)^2 + \mathcal{L}_{YK}$$

Higgs doublet  $\Phi = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} \theta_2 + i\theta_1 \\ \phi + i\theta_3 \end{pmatrix}$

$$\phi(t, \mathbf{x}) = \hat{\phi} + \delta\phi(t, \mathbf{x})$$

$$\square \phi + V'(\phi) = 0$$



$$V(\phi) = V_0 + \frac{1}{2} M^2 \phi^2 + \frac{\lambda}{4} \phi^4$$

Tree-level potential

# Effective potential in Minkowski space-time

$$\square \phi + V'(\phi) = 0$$

$$\langle \delta\phi \rangle = 0$$

VEV one-loop equation of motion

$$\square \hat{\phi} + \underbrace{V'(\hat{\phi}) + \frac{1}{2}V'''(\hat{\phi})\langle \delta\phi^2 \rangle}_{V'_{eff}(\hat{\phi})} = 0.$$

Fluctuations equation

$$\square \delta\phi + \underbrace{V''(\hat{\phi})}_{m^2(\hat{\phi})} \delta\phi = 0$$

Effective potential

$$V_{eff}(\hat{\phi}) = V(\hat{\phi}) + \underbrace{\frac{1}{2} \int dm^2 \langle 0 | \delta\phi^2(\eta, \mathbf{x}) | 0 \rangle}_{\text{one-loop contribution}}$$

# Effective potential in Minkowski space-time

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$$\langle 0 | \delta\phi^2 | 0 \rangle$$

$$\omega^2 = k^2 + m^2(\hat{\phi})$$

Canonical  
quantization

$$\delta\phi(t, \mathbf{x}) = \int \frac{d^3\mathbf{k}}{(2\pi)^{3/2}\sqrt{2\omega}} \left( a_{\mathbf{k}} e^{i(\mathbf{k}\mathbf{x} - \omega t)} + a_{\mathbf{k}}^\dagger e^{-i(\mathbf{k}\mathbf{x} - \omega t)} \right).$$

$$[a_{\mathbf{p}}, a_{\mathbf{q}}^\dagger] = \delta^{(3)}(\mathbf{p} - \mathbf{q}) \quad a_{\mathbf{p}} |0\rangle = 0, \quad \forall \mathbf{p}$$

$$\langle 0 | \delta\phi^2 | 0 \rangle = \frac{1}{2} \int \frac{d^3k}{(2\pi)^3} \frac{1}{\sqrt{k^2 + m^2(\hat{\phi})}}$$

$$V_{eff}(\hat{\phi}) = V(\hat{\phi}) + \underbrace{\frac{1}{2} \int \frac{d^3k}{(2\pi)^3} \sqrt{k^2 + m^2(\hat{\phi})}}_{V_1(\hat{\phi}) = \rho_{vac}(\hat{\phi})}$$

# Regularization

**Cutoff  
regularization**

$$V_1(\hat{\phi}) = \frac{1}{4\pi^2} \int_0^\Lambda dk k^2 \sqrt{k^2 + m^2(\hat{\phi})}$$

$$V_1(\hat{\phi}) = \frac{1}{16\pi^2} \left( \Lambda^4 + m^2(\hat{\phi})\Lambda^2 - \frac{m^4(\hat{\phi})}{4} \ln\left(\frac{\Lambda^2}{\mu^2}\right) \right) + \frac{m^4(\hat{\phi})}{64\pi^2} \left[ \ln\left(\frac{m^2(\hat{\phi})}{\mu^2}\right) + \left(\frac{1}{2} - 2\ln(2)\right) \right] + \mathcal{O}(\Lambda^{-2})$$

$$\Lambda \rightarrow \infty$$

$$m^2(\hat{\phi}) = M^2 + 3\lambda\hat{\phi}^2$$

**Dimensional  
regularization**

$$V_1(\hat{\phi}) = \frac{\mu^\epsilon}{2} \int \frac{d^{3-\epsilon}k}{(2\pi)^{3-\epsilon}} \sqrt{k^2 + m^2(\hat{\phi})}$$

$$\epsilon \rightarrow 0$$

$$V_1(\hat{\phi}) = \frac{m^4(\hat{\phi})}{64\pi^2} \left( -\frac{2}{\epsilon} - \ln(4\pi) + \gamma \right) + \frac{m^4(\hat{\phi})}{64\pi^2} \left[ \ln\left(\frac{m^2(\hat{\phi})}{\mu^2}\right) - \frac{3}{2} \right] + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon)$$

# Renormalization

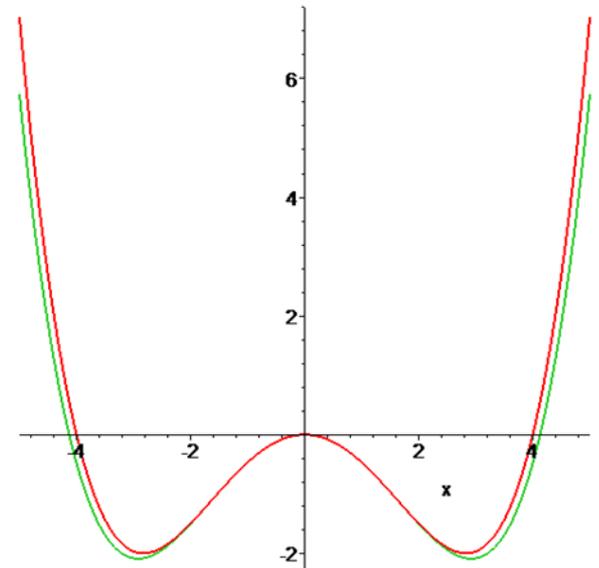
Counterterms

$$V_{eff}(\hat{\phi}) = V(\hat{\phi}) + V_1(\hat{\phi}) + \Delta_{cc} + \frac{1}{2}\Delta_M\hat{\phi}^2 + \frac{1}{4}\Delta_\lambda\hat{\phi}^4$$

$$V_{eff}(\hat{\phi}) = V_0 + \frac{1}{2}M^2\hat{\phi}^2 + \frac{\lambda}{4}\hat{\phi}^4 + \frac{m^4(\hat{\phi})}{64\pi^2} \left( \ln \left( \frac{m^2(\hat{\phi})}{\mu^2} \right) + C \right)$$

Running coupling and mass

$$\frac{dV_{eff}}{d \ln \mu} = 0 \quad \beta(\lambda) \equiv \frac{d\lambda}{d(\ln \mu)} = \frac{18\lambda^2}{(4\pi)^2}$$
$$\gamma_M(\lambda) \equiv \frac{d \ln M^2}{d(\ln \mu)} = \frac{6\lambda}{(4\pi)^2}$$



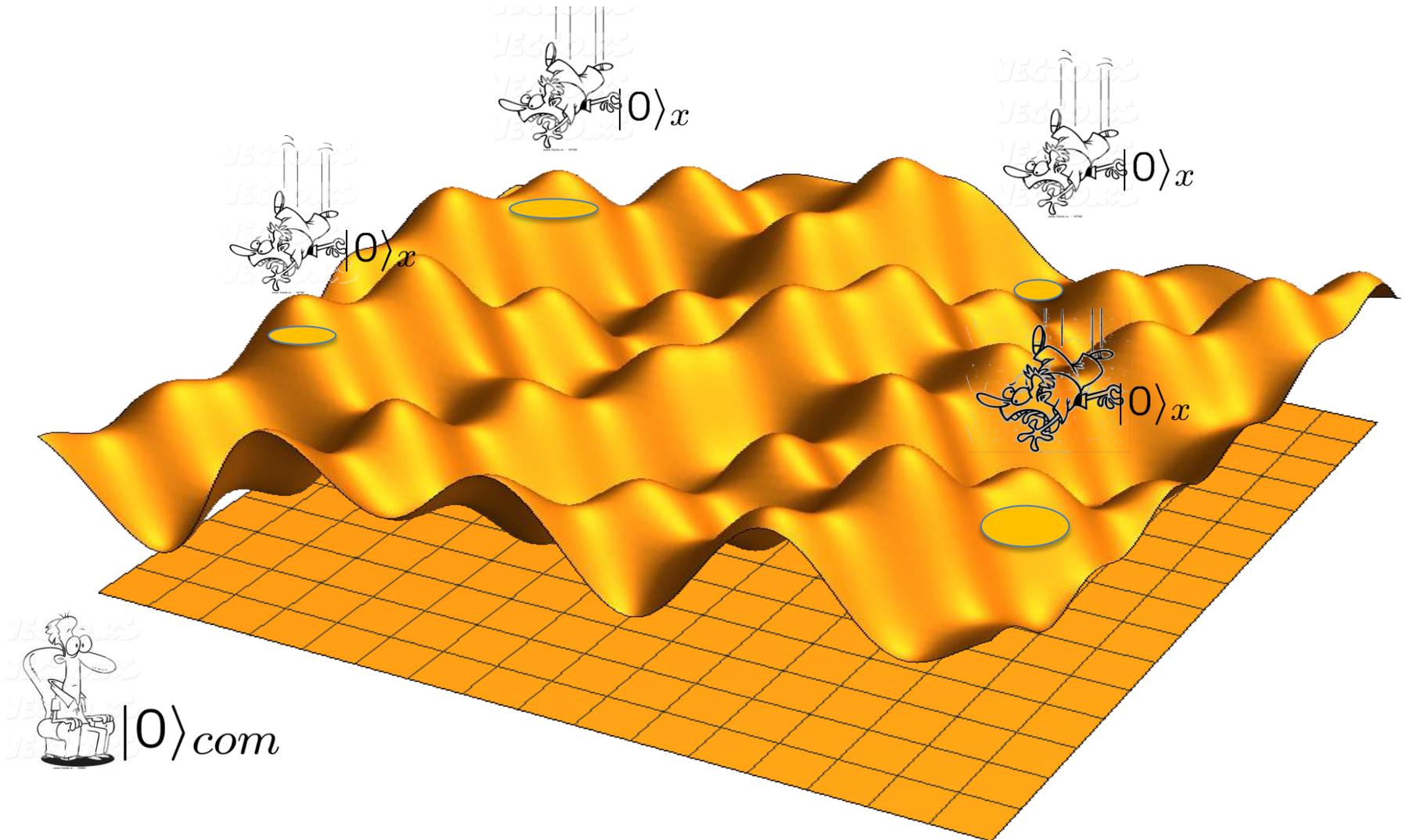
# Effective potential in curved space-time

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- In Minkowski space-time there is a privileged class of observers (inertial observers) which share the same vacuum state (Poincaré invariance).
- In curved space-time there is no natural definition of vacuum
- If we are interested in calculating a local expression for the effective potential, we can use the coordinates (and vacuum) associated to a free-falling observer (Schwinger- de Witt **local** effective action) valid in a local neighborhood of the observer.
- However we are interested in comparing the effective potential at space-time points with large separations (beyond the curvature radius) and the local expansion might not be appropriate. Adiabatic vacuum for comoving observers.

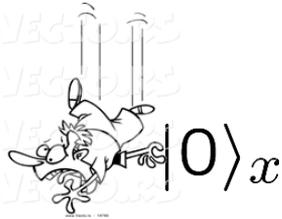
# Locally inertial vs. comoving adiabatic vacua

$$\delta\phi(\eta, \mathbf{x}) = \int d^3\mathbf{k} \left( a_{\mathbf{k}} \delta\phi_{\mathbf{k}}(\eta, \mathbf{x}) + a_{\mathbf{k}}^\dagger \delta\phi_{\mathbf{k}}^*(\eta, \mathbf{x}) \right)$$



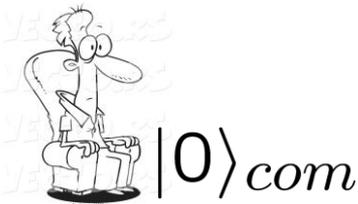
# Locally inertial vs. comoving adiabatic vacua

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Locally inertial observer: Schwinger-de Witt representation explicitly covariant but **local**

$$g_{\mu\nu} = \eta_{\mu\nu} - \frac{1}{3}R_{\mu\alpha\nu\beta}x^\alpha x^\beta - \frac{1}{6}R_{\mu\alpha\nu\beta;\gamma}x^\alpha x^\beta x^\gamma + \left(-\frac{1}{20}R_{\mu\alpha\nu\beta;\gamma\delta} + \frac{2}{45}R_{\alpha\mu\beta\lambda}R^\lambda_{\gamma\nu\delta}\right)x^\alpha x^\beta x^\gamma x^\delta + \dots$$



Comoving observer: **global** but not explicitly covariant

$$ds^2 = a^2(\eta) \left\{ [1 + 2\Phi(\eta, \mathbf{x})] d\eta^2 - [1 - 2\Psi(\eta, \mathbf{x})] d\mathbf{x}^2 \right\}$$

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# Effective potential in curved space-time

## Locally inertial observers

### Effective action $W$

$$e^{iW[g_{\mu\nu}]} = \int [d\phi] e^{iS[g_{\mu\nu}, \phi]} = \int [d\phi] e^{-\frac{i}{2} \int dx \sqrt{g} \phi \underbrace{(\square + m^2 + \xi R - i\epsilon)}_0 \phi} = (\det O)^{-1/2}$$

For constant fields

$$V_{eff}(\hat{\phi}) = V(\hat{\phi}) + \frac{1}{32\pi^2} \left( \frac{1}{2} m^4(\hat{\phi}) + \left( \frac{1}{6} - \xi \right) m^2(\hat{\phi}) R(x) \right) \ln \left( \frac{m^2(\hat{\phi})}{\mu^2} \right) + \mathcal{O}(R^2)$$

Valid in a normal neighborhood

# Effective potential in curved space-time

## Comoving observers

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$$ds^2 = a^2(\eta) \left\{ [1 + 2\Phi(\eta, \mathbf{x})] d\eta^2 - [1 - 2\Psi(\eta, \mathbf{x})] d\mathbf{x}^2 \right\}$$

- Since the background metric and fields are now space-time dependent, the effective potential is unsuitable to determine the Higgs VEV dynamics (we need to know the full effective action).

- However, for slowly varying background fields compared to the frequency of quantum fluctuations. i.e  $\omega^2 \gg \mathcal{H}^2$  and  $\omega^2 \gg \{\nabla^2\Phi, \nabla^2\Psi\}$  we can neglect the gradient terms and work with a quasi-potential. Sinha and Hu, 88

- In this case we can use the adiabatic (WKB) approximation for the quantum fluctuations modes
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# Equations in perturbed Robertson-Walker background

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Spatially flat RW  
longitudinal gauge

$$ds^2 = a^2(\eta) \{ [1 + 2\Phi(\eta, \mathbf{x})] d\eta^2 - [1 - 2\Psi(\eta, \mathbf{x})] d\mathbf{x}^2 \}$$

$$\square \phi + V'(\phi) = 0.$$

First-order equations

$$\phi'' + (2\mathcal{H} - \Phi' - 3\Psi')\phi' - (1 + 2(\Phi + \Psi))\nabla^2\phi - \vec{\nabla}\phi \cdot \vec{\nabla}(\Phi - \Psi) + a^2(1 + 2\Phi)V'(\phi) = 0.$$

$$\phi(\eta, \mathbf{x}) = \hat{\phi}(\eta, \mathbf{x}) + \delta\phi(\eta, \mathbf{x})$$


# Equations in perturbed Robertson-Walker background

VEV one-loop equation of motion

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{\phi}'' + (2\mathcal{H} - \Phi' - 3\Psi')\hat{\phi}' - (1 + 2(\Phi + \Psi))\nabla^2\hat{\phi} \\ - \vec{\nabla}\hat{\phi} \cdot \vec{\nabla}(\Phi - \Psi) \\ + a^2(1 + 2\Phi) \left( V'(\hat{\phi}) + \frac{1}{2}V'''(\hat{\phi})\langle 0|\delta\phi^2|0\rangle \right) = 0. \end{aligned}$$

$V'_{eff}(\hat{\phi})$

$$V'_{eff}(\hat{\phi}) = 0$$

slowly varying back.

Quantum fluctuations equation

$$\begin{aligned} \delta\phi'' + (2\mathcal{H} - \Phi' - 3\Psi')\delta\phi' - (1 + 2(\Phi + \Psi))\nabla^2\delta\phi \\ - \vec{\nabla}\delta\phi \cdot \vec{\nabla}(\Phi - \Psi) + a^2(1 + 2\Phi)V''(\hat{\phi})\delta\phi = 0. \end{aligned}$$

# Quantization

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Canonical  
quantization

$$\delta\phi(\eta, \mathbf{x}) = \int d^3\mathbf{k} \left( a_{\mathbf{k}} \delta\phi_{\mathbf{k}}(\eta, \mathbf{x}) + a_{\mathbf{k}}^\dagger \delta\phi_{\mathbf{k}}^*(\eta, \mathbf{x}) \right)$$

Scalar  
product

$$(\delta\phi_p, \delta\phi_q) = -i \int_{\Sigma} \left[ \delta\phi_p(x) \partial_{\mu} \delta\phi_q^*(x) - (\partial_{\mu} \delta\phi_p(x)) \delta\phi_q^*(x) \right] \sqrt{g_{\Sigma}} d\Sigma^{\mu}$$

$$d\Sigma^{\mu} = d^3\mathbf{x} \left( \frac{1 - \Phi}{a}, 0, 0, 0 \right)$$

$$(\delta\phi_p, \delta\phi_q) = \delta^{(3)}(\mathbf{p} - \mathbf{q}) \quad \longrightarrow \quad [a_{\mathbf{p}}, a_{\mathbf{q}}^\dagger] = \delta^{(3)}(\mathbf{p} - \mathbf{q})$$

$$a_{\mathbf{p}} |0\rangle = 0, \quad \forall \mathbf{p}$$

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# Adiabatic + perturbative expansion

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Adiabatic  
expansion

$$\delta\phi_k(\eta, \mathbf{x}) = f_k(\eta, \mathbf{x}) e^{i\theta_k(\eta, \mathbf{x})}$$

slowly varying  
amplitude.

fast varying  
phase

- Leading adiabatic order  $\mathcal{O}(\omega^2)$

$$-\theta_k'^2 + (\vec{\nabla}\theta_k)^2(1 + 2(\Phi + \Psi)) + m^2 a^2(1 + 2\Phi) = 0.$$

- Next to leading adiabatic order  $\mathcal{O}(\omega)$

$$2f_k'\theta_k' + f_k\theta_k'' + f_k\theta_k'(2\mathcal{H} - \Phi' - 3\Psi') \\ - 2\vec{\nabla}f_k \cdot \vec{\nabla}\theta_k - f_k\nabla^2\theta_k = 0$$

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# Adiabatic + perturbative expansion

Perturbative  
expansion

$$\delta\phi_k(\eta, \mathbf{x}) = f_k(\eta, \mathbf{x}) e^{i\theta_k(\eta, \mathbf{x})}$$

$$f_k(\eta, \mathbf{x}) = F_k(\eta) + \delta f_k(\eta, \mathbf{x})$$

$$\theta_k(\eta, \mathbf{x}) = - \int^\eta \omega(\eta') d\eta' + \mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{x} + \delta\theta_k(\eta, \mathbf{x})$$

Lowest-order solution

$$\delta\phi_k^{(0)}(\eta, \mathbf{x}) = F_k(\eta) e^{i\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{x} - i \int^\eta \omega(\eta') d\eta'}$$

$$F_k(\eta) = \frac{1}{a(2\pi)^{3/2} \sqrt{2\omega}}$$

$$\omega^2 = k^2 + m^2 a^2$$

# Perturbative solutions

Quantum  
fluctuations

Metric  
perturbations

Defining

$$\alpha_k(\eta, \mathbf{p}) = \frac{\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{p}}{\omega}$$

$$\beta_k(\eta, \mathbf{p}) = \int \alpha_k(\eta, \mathbf{p}) d\eta$$

$$G_k(\eta, \mathbf{p}) = -\omega \Phi(\eta, \mathbf{p}) - \frac{k^2}{\omega} \Psi(\eta, \mathbf{p})$$

Phase  
perturbation

$$\delta\theta_k(\eta, \mathbf{p}) = e^{-i\beta_k(\eta, \mathbf{p})} \int_0^\eta e^{i\beta_k(\eta', \mathbf{p})} G_k(\eta', \mathbf{p}) d\eta'$$

Amplitude  
perturbation

$$\delta f_k(\eta, \mathbf{p}) = F_k(\eta) P_k(\eta, \mathbf{p})$$

$$P_k(\eta, \mathbf{p}) = e^{-i\beta_k(\eta, \mathbf{p})} \int e^{i\beta_k(\eta, \mathbf{p})} \frac{H_k(\eta, \mathbf{p})}{2\omega} d\eta$$

$$H_k(\eta, \mathbf{p}) = \omega \left( -i \frac{\alpha_k(\eta, \mathbf{p})}{\omega} \delta\theta_k(\eta, \mathbf{p}) + \Psi(\eta, \mathbf{p}) \left( 3 - \frac{k^2}{\omega^2} \right) \right)' + p^2 \delta\theta_k(\eta, \mathbf{p})$$

# Effective potential

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$$V_1 = \frac{1}{2} \int dm^2 \langle 0 | \delta\phi^2(\eta, \mathbf{x}) | 0 \rangle$$

$$\begin{aligned} V_1 &= \frac{1}{2} \int dm^2 \int d^3\mathbf{k} (F_k^2(\eta) + 2F_k(\eta) (\operatorname{Re} \delta f_k(\eta, \mathbf{x}) + \operatorname{Im} \delta\theta(\eta, \mathbf{x}))) \\ &= V_1^h(\eta) + V_1^i(\eta, \mathbf{x}) \end{aligned}$$

Homogeneous

Inhomogeneous

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# Homogeneous contribution: renormalized potential

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## Three-momentum cutoff vs. dimensional regularization

$$V_{eff}^h(\hat{\phi}) = V(\hat{\phi}) + \frac{m^4(\hat{\phi})}{64\pi^2} \left( \ln \left( \frac{m^2(\hat{\phi})}{\mu_{ph}^2} \right) + C \right)$$

Dimensional  
regularization

$$\mu_{ph}$$

constant renormalization scale

$$\omega_V = -1$$

constant equation of state

Cutoff  
regularization

$$\mu_{ph} = \frac{\mu}{a}$$

evolving renormalization scale

$$\omega_V = -1 - \frac{D}{\ln a}$$

evolving equation of state

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# Inhomogeneous contribution

Matter dominated universe

$\Phi$  and  $\Psi$  time independent

Cutoff regularized potential

$$V_{eff}^i(\hat{\phi}) = \frac{m^2(\hat{\phi})\Lambda^2}{16\pi^2 a^2} \mathcal{F} \left[ \frac{\sin(p\eta)}{p\eta} (\Phi + 3\Psi) - (\Phi + \Psi) \right] + \frac{m^4(\hat{\phi})}{64\pi^2} \ln \left( \frac{m^2(\hat{\phi})a^2}{\Lambda^2} \right) \mathcal{R}(\eta, \mathbf{x}) + \mathcal{O}(\Lambda^{-2})$$

$$\mathcal{R}(\eta, \mathbf{x}) = \mathcal{F} \left[ (\Phi(\mathbf{p}) - \Psi(\mathbf{p})) \left( 1 - \frac{1}{5} \left( \cos(p\eta) + 4 \frac{\sin(p\eta)}{p\eta} \right) \right) \right]$$

Renormalized potential

$$V_{eff}(\hat{\phi}) = V(\hat{\phi}) + \frac{m^4(\hat{\phi})}{64\pi^2} \ln \left( \frac{m^2(\hat{\phi})}{\mu_{ph}^2} \right) (1 + \mathcal{R}(\eta, \mathbf{x}))$$

Super-Hubble modes: no contribution to leading order

$$p\eta \ll 1$$

$$\mathcal{R}(\eta, \mathbf{x}) \simeq \mathcal{O}(p^2 \eta^2)$$

# Renormalization

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Space-time dependent  
beta function

$$\beta(\lambda) \equiv \frac{d\lambda}{d(\log \mu)} = \frac{18\lambda^2}{(4\pi)^2} (1 + \mathcal{R}(\eta, \mathbf{x}))$$
$$\gamma_M(\lambda) \equiv \frac{d \log M^2}{d(\log \mu)} = \frac{6\lambda}{(4\pi)^2} (1 + \mathcal{R}(\eta, \mathbf{x}))$$

Inhomogeneous renormalization: space-time dependence of the renormalized mass and coupling constant (renormalization conditions)

Dimensional regularization not feasible in this case.  
Regularization dependence?

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# Zero-point energy

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Vacuum energy per field mode  
homogeneous space-time  
(leading adiabatic order)

$$E_{vac}(k) = \frac{1}{2} \hbar \omega$$

Vacuum energy per mode  
perturbed space-time

$$E_{vac}(k) = \hbar \omega \left( \frac{1}{2} + \frac{3}{2} \Psi + \frac{1}{2} \nabla^2 \int \left( \frac{1}{a} \int a \Phi \, d\eta \right) d\eta \right)$$

$$k \ll m$$

Albareti, Cembranos, A.L.M. arXiv:1404.5946

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# Higgs vacuum expectation value

$$V_{eff}'(\hat{\phi}_{vac}) = 0$$

$$\hat{\phi}_{vac} = \hat{\phi}_0 + \Delta\hat{\phi}$$

Homogeneous VEV

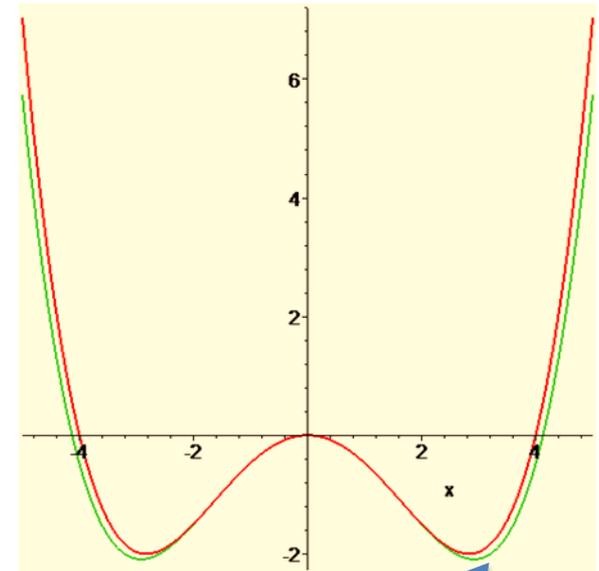
$$V_{eff}^h'(\hat{\phi}_0) = 0$$

Perturbations contribution

Assuming constant tree-level parameters and

$$\mu_{ph} = m_H$$

$$\frac{\Delta\hat{\phi}}{\hat{\phi}_0} = -\frac{3\lambda}{32\pi^2}\mathcal{R} = -\frac{3}{256\pi^2}\mathcal{R}$$



Space-time dependent VEV

# Higgs vacuum expectation value

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Gravitational slip  
(Eddington parameter)

$$\varpi = 1 - \eta = \frac{\Phi - \Psi}{\Phi}$$

Higgs VEV variation

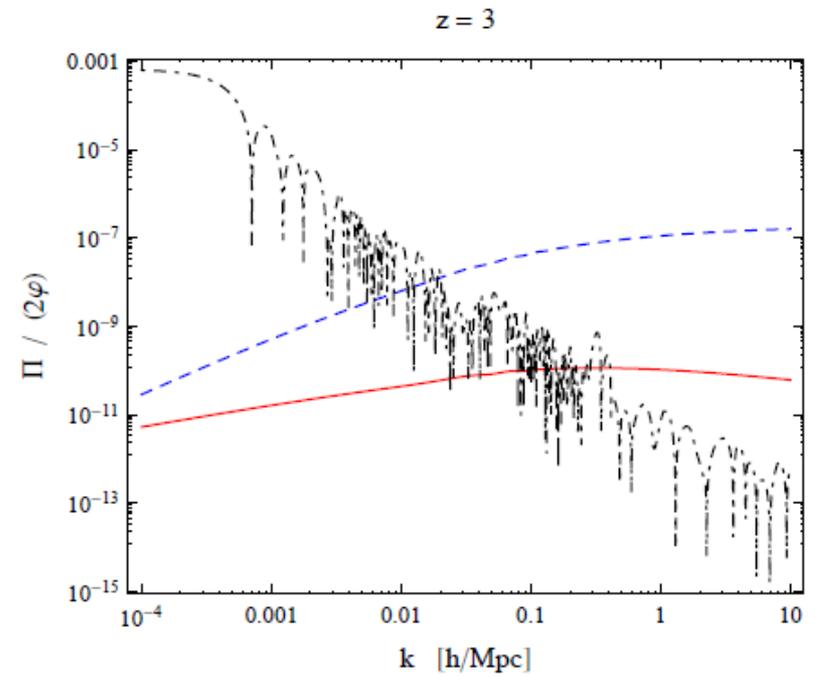
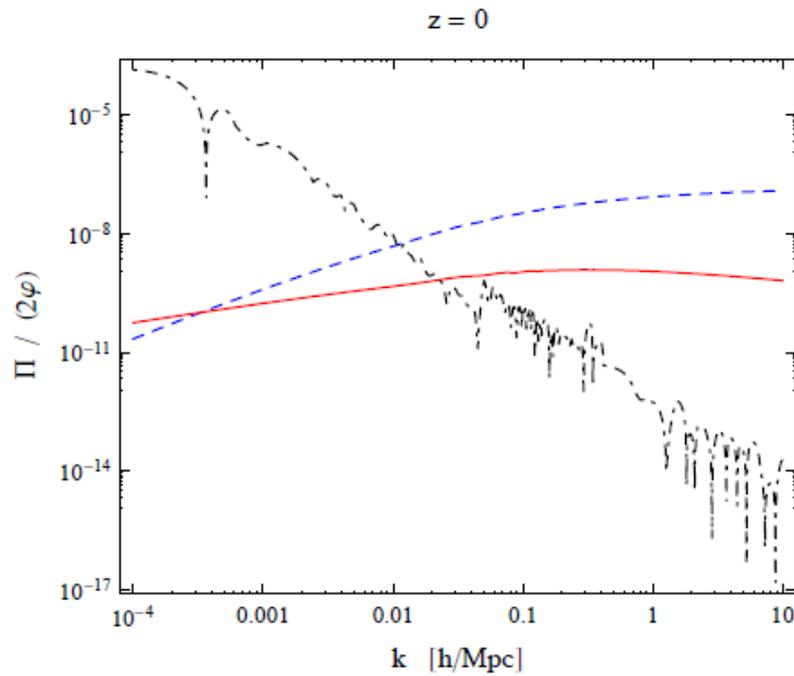
$$\frac{\Delta\phi}{\phi} \simeq 10^{-3} \Phi \varpi$$

Gravitational slip is small in standard cosmology with contributions from neutrino diffusion and second order perturbations

Saltas, et al. arXiv:1406.7139

$$|\varpi| \lesssim 10^{-3}$$

# Gravitational slip

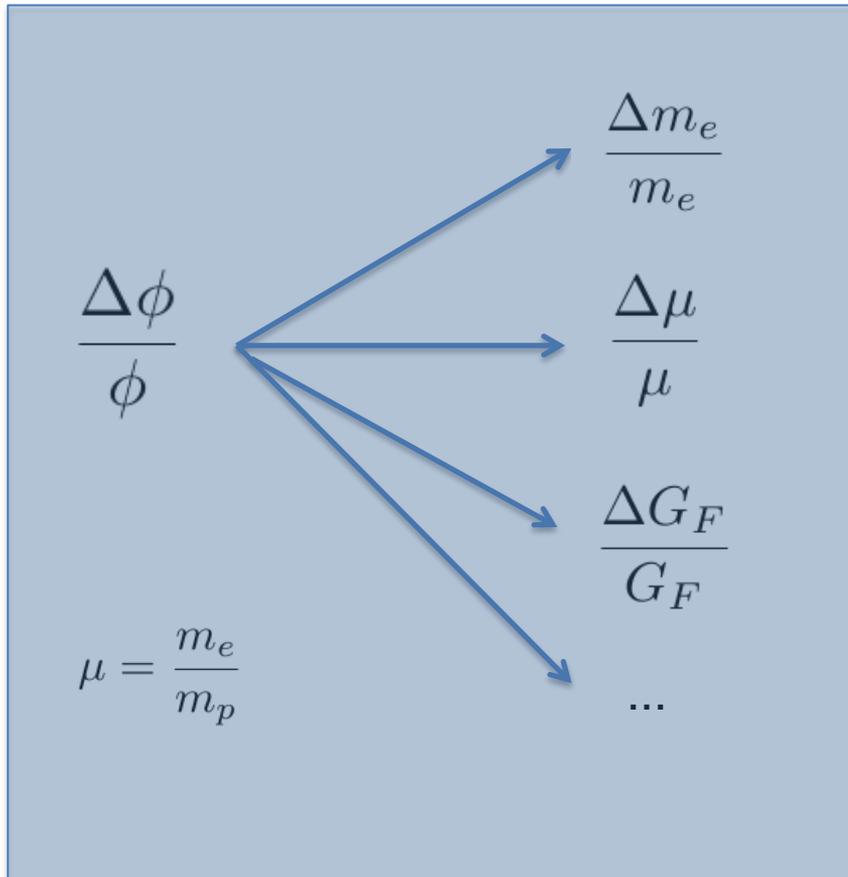


Ballesteros, et al. arXiv:1112.4837

$$\frac{\Delta\phi}{\phi} \simeq 10^{-11}$$

Cosmological scales

# Phenomenological consequences



## Astrophysical and cosmological constraints

- Quasar absorption spectra  $\lesssim 10^{-6}$
- CMB  $\lesssim 10^{-2}$
- BBN  $\lesssim 10^{-3}$

## Local constraints

- Atomic clocks on Earth  $\lesssim 10^{-16}$
- Milky Way molecular clouds  $\lesssim 10^{-8}$

# Conclusions

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- We have calculated the Higgs one-loop effective potential in a perturbed Robertson-Walker background using the adiabatic vacuum of comoving observers
- We have obtained an inhomogeneous contribution to the effective potential and also to the running of the renormalized mass and coupling constant
- Quantum field theory does not predict the value of any physical parameter (they must be measured). However, the results suggest a space-time dependence of the Higgs mass and VEV.
- Variations in the Higgs VEV imply variations in the particle masses, which could reach  $10^{-3} \varpi \Phi$ . Potential signals or limits on gravitational slip.
- Improved atomic spectra data required. Other tests?