

Echoes from global cosmic strings

2604.15241

with Jeff Dror

Antonios Kyriazis

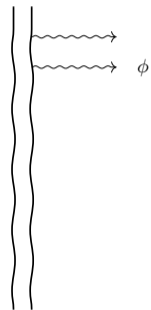
University of Florida

5/12/2026

**ONASSIS
FOUNDATION**

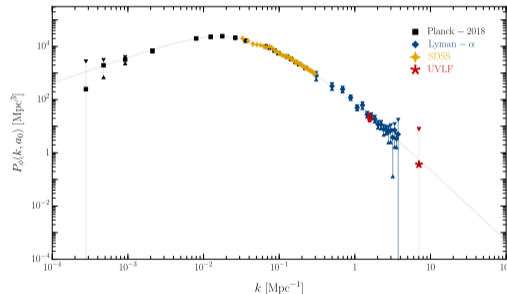


Motivation



Dark Matter

Sub-component



Emission

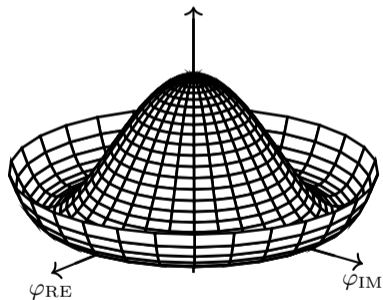
Non-relativistic evolution

Observations

Formation of strings

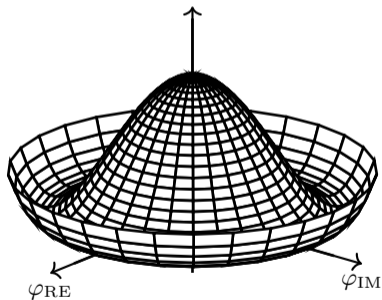
Spontaneous symmetry breaking

- U(1) global symmetry and a complex scalar $\varphi(x) = \frac{\rho(x)}{\sqrt{2}} e^{i\phi/f_a}$.



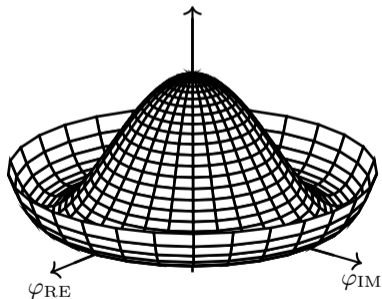
Spontaneous symmetry breaking

- U(1) global symmetry and a complex scalar $\varphi(x) = \frac{\rho(x)}{\sqrt{2}} e^{i\phi/f_a}$.
- Spontaneous symmetry breaking at scale f_a



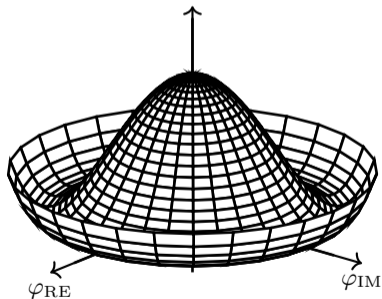
Spontaneous symmetry breaking

- U(1) global symmetry and a complex scalar $\varphi(x) = \frac{\rho(x)}{\sqrt{2}} e^{i\phi/f_a}$.
- Spontaneous symmetry breaking at scale f_a
- ϕ is a pseudo Nambu-Goldstone boson



Spontaneous symmetry breaking

- U(1) global symmetry and a complex scalar $\varphi(x) = \frac{\rho(x)}{\sqrt{2}} e^{i\phi/f_a}$.
- Spontaneous symmetry breaking at scale f_a
- ϕ is a pseudo Nambu-Goldstone boson

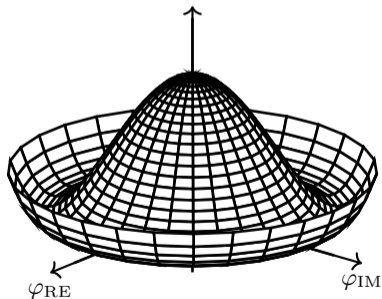


Spontaneous symmetry breaking

- U(1) global symmetry and a complex scalar $\varphi(x) = \frac{\rho(x)}{\sqrt{2}} e^{i\phi/f_a}$.
- Spontaneous symmetry breaking at scale f_a
- ϕ is a pseudo Nambu-Goldstone boson

$$V(\phi) \approx \frac{1}{2} m_a^2(T) \phi^2$$

$$m_a(T) \sim T^{-n}$$



Formation of strings

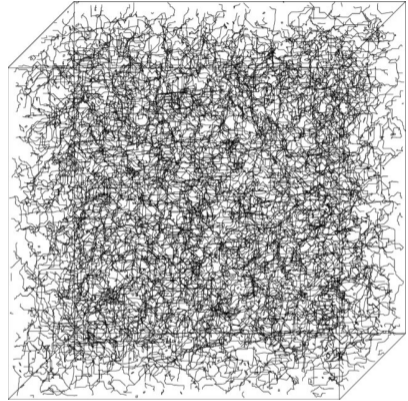
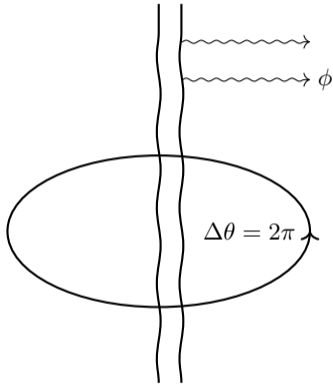
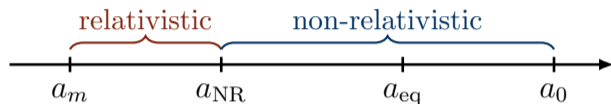


Figure 1: By Carlo Contaldi

String network collapse

$$m_a(a_m) = H(a_m)$$

Evolution of Nambu-Goldstone bosons



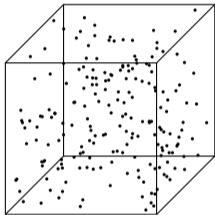
A cosmological footprint

- 1 What are the density fluctuations and the associated power spectrum of these axions?
- 2 Can we constrain the axion's mass and the symmetry breaking scale from cosmological observables?

Correlation functions

Treatment of the Scalar Field

$$N(\mathbf{k}) = f(\mathbf{k}) d^3x \frac{d^3k}{(2\pi)^3}$$

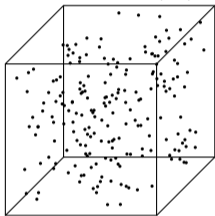


Boddy et al; 2025

Foster et al; 2018

Treatment of the Scalar Field

$$N(\mathbf{k}) = f(\mathbf{k}) d^3x \frac{d^3k}{(2\pi)^3}$$



Boddy et al; 2025

Foster et al; 2018

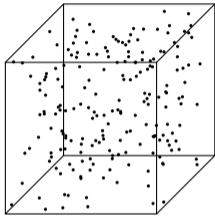
Klein-Gordon equation

$$\ddot{\phi}_{\mathbf{k}} + \underbrace{(\mathbf{k}^2 + m_a^2)}_{\omega_{\mathbf{k}}^2} \phi_{\mathbf{k}} = 0$$

$$\phi_{\mathbf{k}} = \phi_0(\mathbf{k}) \sum_{j=1}^{N(\mathbf{k})} \cos(\omega_{\mathbf{k}} t - \mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{x} + \delta_{\mathbf{k},j})$$

Treatment of the Scalar Field

$$N(\mathbf{k}) = f(\mathbf{k}) d^3x \frac{d^3k}{(2\pi)^3}$$



Boddy et al; 2025

Foster et al; 2018

Klein-Gordon equation

$$\ddot{\phi}_{\mathbf{k}} + \underbrace{(\mathbf{k}^2 + m_a^2)}_{\omega_{\mathbf{k}}^2} \phi_{\mathbf{k}} = 0$$

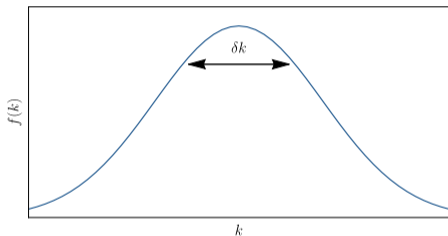
$$\phi_{\mathbf{k}} = \phi_0(\mathbf{k}) \sum_{j=1}^{N(\mathbf{k})} \cos(\omega_{\mathbf{k}} t - \mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{x} + \delta_{\mathbf{k},j})$$

Sum over plane waves

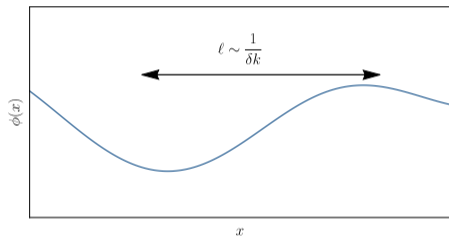
$$\phi(t, \mathbf{x}) = \sum_{\mathbf{k}} \sqrt{\frac{f(\mathbf{k}) d^3k}{(2\pi)^3 \omega_{\mathbf{k}}}} \alpha_{\mathbf{k}} \cos[\omega_{\mathbf{k}} t - \mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{x} + \delta_{\mathbf{k}}]$$

From a Distribution to Correlations

Distribution



Field



Mapping momentum-space information to real-space correlations

Energy Density of the Scalar Field

Velocity Distribution

$$f(v) = \frac{n}{(2\pi v_0^2)^{3/2}} e^{-v^2/(2v_0^2)} \Rightarrow \delta k \sim mv_0$$

Energy Density of the Scalar Field

Velocity Distribution

$$f(v) = \frac{n}{(2\pi v_0^2)^{3/2}} e^{-v^2/(2v_0^2)} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \delta k \sim mv_0$$

Energy Density ρ_ϕ

$$\rho_\phi = \frac{1}{2} \dot{\phi}^2 + \frac{1}{2} (\nabla\phi)^2 + \frac{1}{2} m_a^2 \phi^2$$

Energy Density of the Scalar Field

Velocity Distribution

$$f(v) = \frac{n}{(2\pi v_0^2)^{3/2}} e^{-v^2/(2v_0^2)} \Rightarrow \delta k \sim mv_0$$

Energy Density ρ_ϕ

$$\rho_\phi = \frac{1}{2} \dot{\phi}^2 + \frac{1}{2} (\nabla \phi)^2 + \frac{1}{2} m_a^2 \phi^2$$

Two-Point Correlation $\langle \rho_\phi \rho_\phi \rangle$

$$\underbrace{\bar{\rho}_\phi^2}_{\text{Bkg}} + \underbrace{\langle \rho_\phi(t, \mathbf{x}) \rho_\phi(t', \mathbf{x}') \rangle_+}_{\text{fast mode}} + \underbrace{\langle \rho_\phi(t, \mathbf{x}) \rho_\phi(t', \mathbf{x}') \rangle_-}_{\text{slow mode}}$$

Energy Density of the Scalar Field

Velocity Distribution

$$f(v) = \frac{n}{(2\pi v_0^2)^{3/2}} e^{-v^2/(2v_0^2)} \Rightarrow \delta k \sim mv_0$$

Energy Density ρ_ϕ

$$\rho_\phi = \frac{1}{2} \dot{\phi}^2 + \frac{1}{2} (\nabla\phi)^2 + \frac{1}{2} m_a^2 \phi^2$$

Two-Point Correlation $\langle \rho_\phi \rho_\phi \rangle$

$$\underbrace{\bar{\rho}_\phi^2}_{\text{Bkg}} + \underbrace{\langle \rho_\phi(t, \mathbf{x}) \rho_\phi(t', \mathbf{x}') \rangle_+}_{\text{fast mode}} + \underbrace{\langle \rho_\phi(t, \mathbf{x}) \rho_\phi(t', \mathbf{x}') \rangle_-}_{\text{slow mode}}$$

Slow mode

$$\langle \rho_\phi(t, \mathbf{x}) \rho_\phi(t', \mathbf{x}') \rangle_- = \bar{\rho}_\phi^2 \frac{\exp \left[-\frac{(mv_0 \Delta \mathbf{x})^2}{1 + (mv_0^2 \Delta t)^2} \right]}{\left(1 + (mv_0^2 \Delta t)^2 \right)^{3/2}}$$

Slow mode

Slow mode

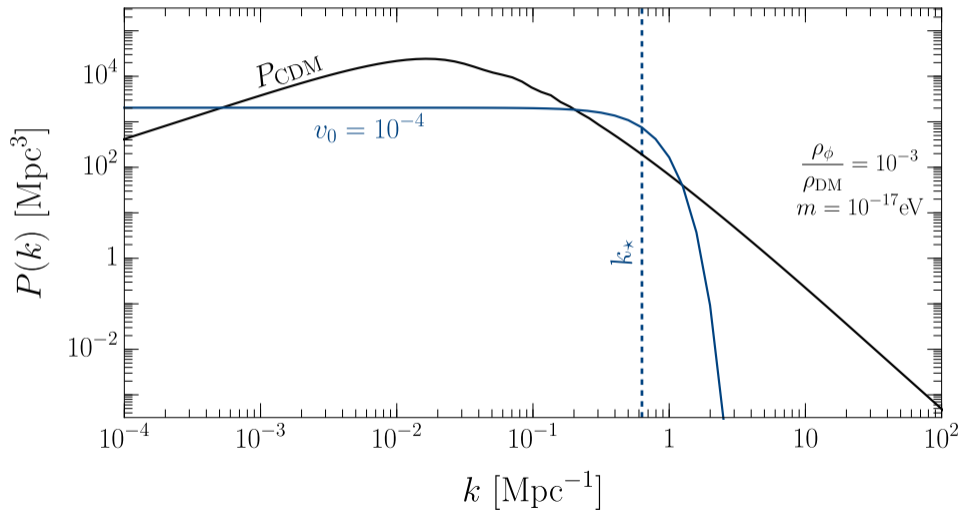
$$\langle \rho_\phi(t, \mathbf{x}) \rho_\phi(t', \mathbf{x}') \rangle_- = \bar{\rho}_\phi^2 \frac{\exp \left[-\frac{(mv_0 \Delta \mathbf{x})^2}{1 + (mv_0^2 \Delta t)^2} \right]}{\left(1 + (mv_0^2 \Delta t)^2 \right)^{3/2}}$$

Equal time Power spectrum

$$P_-(k, t) \simeq \left(\frac{\bar{\rho}_\phi}{\bar{\rho}_{\text{DM}}} \right)^2 \underbrace{\left(\frac{1}{mv_0} \right)^3}_{k_\star^{-3}} \underbrace{\exp \left[-\left(\frac{k}{2mv_0} \right)^2 \right]}_{\mathcal{T}\left(\frac{k}{k_\star}\right)}$$

- 1 Suppression for $k \gg k_\star$
- 2 Constant for $k \ll k_\star$

Slow mode against data



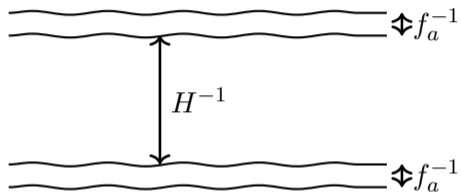
Cosmic string network

Cosmic strings

Effective tension

$$\mu = \frac{\text{Energy}}{\text{Length}} \simeq \pi f_a^2 \log \left(\frac{f_a}{H} \right)$$

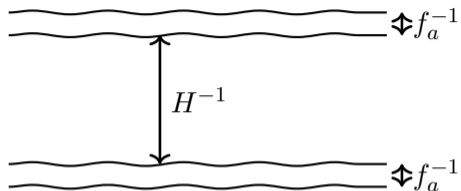
Cosmic strings



Effective tension

$$\mu = \frac{\text{Energy}}{\text{Length}} \simeq \pi f_a^2 \log \left(\frac{f_a}{H} \right)$$

Cosmic strings



Effective tension

$$\mu = \frac{\text{Energy}}{\text{Length}} \simeq \pi f_a^2 \log \left(\frac{f_a}{H} \right)$$

Number of strings per Hubble volume (Gorghetto et al; 2018)

$$\xi(t) \xrightarrow{\text{Scaling regime}} \alpha \log \left(\frac{f_a}{H} \right)$$

Spectrum of Nambu-Goldstone modes

Energy density

$$\rho_s(t) = \frac{\xi(t)\mu}{t^2}$$

Spectrum of Nambu-Goldstone modes

Energy density

$$\rho_s(t) = \frac{\xi(t)\mu}{t^2}$$

Rate of emission of Nambu-Goldstone modes

For “free” strings $\rightarrow \xi(t) = \frac{t}{t_0}$,

$$\rho_s^{\text{free}} = \frac{\mu}{tt_0},$$

$$\Gamma = \dot{\rho}_s^{\text{free}}(t_0) - \dot{\rho}_s(t_0) \xrightarrow{\log \gg 1} 2H\rho_s$$

Spectrum of Nambu-Goldstone modes (cont.)

Energy density of the NB modes

$$\frac{1}{a^4(t)} \partial_t (a^4(t) \rho_\phi(t)) = \Gamma(t)$$

$$\rho_\phi(t) = \frac{1}{a^4(t)} \int^t dt' a^4(t') \Gamma(t')$$

Spectrum of Nambu-Goldstone modes (cont.)

Energy density of the NB modes

$$\frac{1}{a^4(t)} \partial_t (a^4(t) \rho_\phi(t)) = \Gamma(t)$$

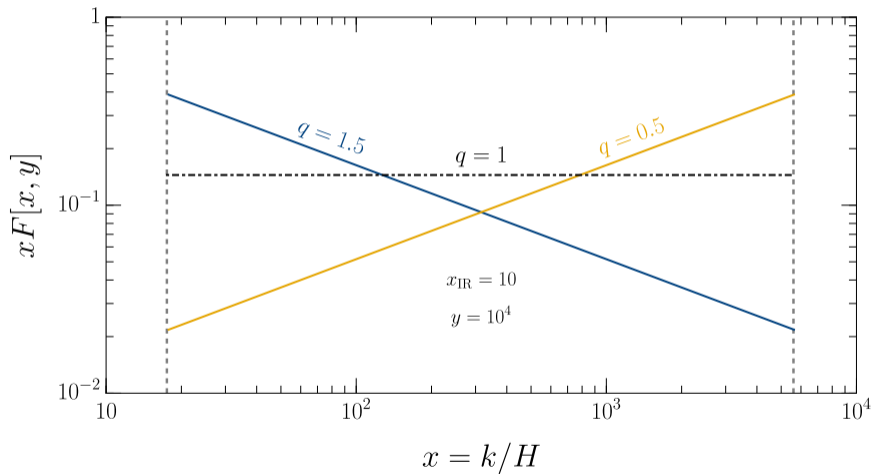
$$\rho_\phi(t) = \frac{1}{a^4(t)} \int^t dt' a^4(t') \Gamma(t')$$

Differential rate

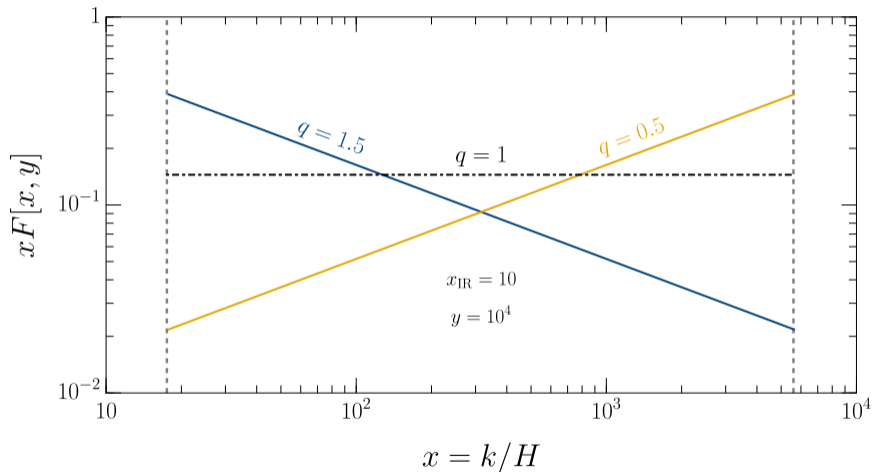
$$\Gamma(t) = \int dk \frac{\partial \Gamma}{\partial k} = \int dk \frac{\Gamma(t)}{H(t)} F \left[\frac{k}{H}, \frac{f_a}{H} \right]$$

$$F[x, y] = \frac{N}{x^q}, \quad \underbrace{x_{\text{IR}}}_{\mathcal{O}(10)} < x < y \quad \left(\underbrace{x_{\text{IR}} H}_{k_{\text{IR}}} < k < f_a \right)$$

Shape of spectrum



Shape of spectrum



$$q(t) = 0.51 + 0.053 \log \left(\frac{f_a}{H(t)} \right) \quad (\text{Gorghetto et al; 2020})$$

The spectrum over comoving momenta

$$\frac{\partial \rho_\phi}{\partial k} = \frac{1}{a^4} \int^a da' (a')^2 \frac{\Gamma(a')}{H(a')} F \left[\frac{k}{a' H(a')}, \frac{f_a}{H(a')} \right]$$

Energy spectra

The spectrum over comoving momenta

$$\frac{\partial \rho_\phi}{\partial k} = \frac{1}{a^4} \int^a da' (a')^2 \frac{\Gamma(a')}{H(a')} F \left[\frac{k}{a' H(a')}, \frac{f_a}{H(a')} \right]$$

Characteristic momentum

$$k_\star \simeq k_{\text{IR}} = x_{\text{IR}} a_m H(a_m)$$

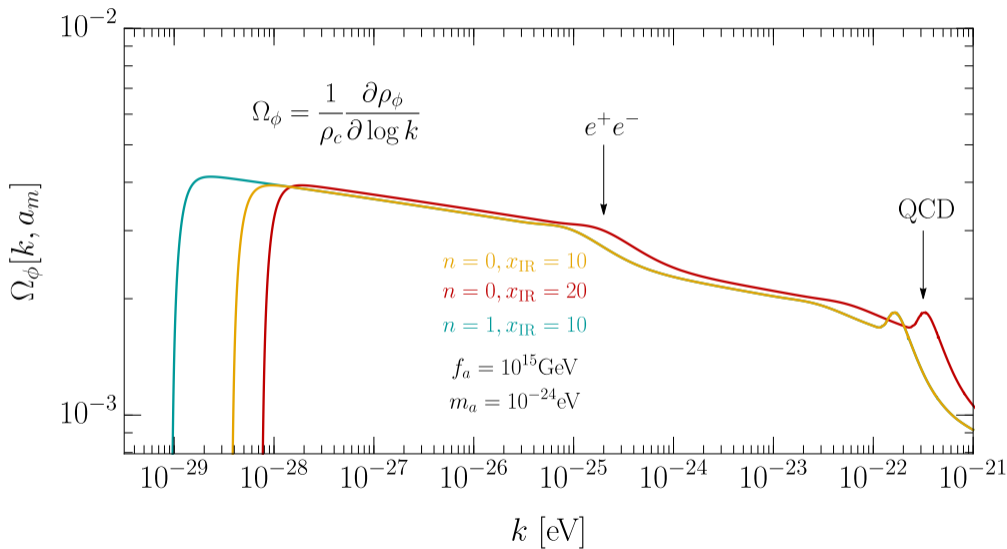
Characteristic momentum

Ultra-light particles

$$m(T) = m_a \left(\frac{T_c}{T} \right)^n, \quad T_c = \sqrt{m_a f_a}$$

$$k_*(n=0) \simeq 1 \text{Mpc}^{-1} \left(\frac{m_a}{10^{-25} \text{eV}} \right)^{1/2}$$

The spectrum



The power spectrum

General form

Adiabatic + Isocurvature

$$P(a_0, k) = P_{\text{adi}}(a_0, k) + D_{\text{iso}}^2(a_0, k)P_{\text{iso}}(k)$$

Determining the power spectrum

Step 1

$$\langle \rho_\phi(\mathbf{x}) \rho_\phi(\mathbf{x}') \rangle_- = \frac{m_{\text{NR}}^2}{a_{\text{NR}}^6} \int \frac{d^3 k d^3 k'}{(2\pi)^6} f(\mathbf{k}) f(\mathbf{k}') \cos(\Delta \mathbf{x} \cdot \Delta \mathbf{k})$$

Determining the power spectrum

Step 1

$$\langle \rho_\phi(\mathbf{x}) \rho_\phi(\mathbf{x}') \rangle_- = \frac{m_{\text{NR}}^2}{a_{\text{NR}}^6} \int \frac{d^3 k d^3 k'}{(2\pi)^6} f(\mathbf{k}) f(\mathbf{k}') \cos(\Delta \mathbf{x} \cdot \Delta \mathbf{k})$$

Step 2

$$f(k) = \frac{2\pi^2 a_m^4 \rho_c(a_m)}{k^4} \Omega_\phi(k, a_m)$$

Determining the power spectrum

Step 1

$$\langle \rho_\phi(\mathbf{x}) \rho_\phi(\mathbf{x}') \rangle_- = \frac{m_{\text{NR}}^2}{a_{\text{NR}}^6} \int \frac{d^3 k d^3 k'}{(2\pi)^6} f(\mathbf{k}) f(\mathbf{k}') \cos(\Delta \mathbf{x} \cdot \Delta \mathbf{k})$$

Step 2

$$f(k) = \frac{2\pi^2 a_m^4 \rho_c(a_m)}{k^4} \Omega_\phi(k, a_m)$$

Step 3

$$P_-(k, a_{\text{NR}}) = \int d^3 x e^{-i\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{x}} \frac{\langle \rho_\phi(\mathbf{x}) \rho_\phi(0) \rangle_-}{\bar{\rho}_{\text{DM}}^2(a_{\text{NR}})}$$

The power spectrum

Power spectrum today

$$P_{-}(k, a_0) = D^2(a_0, k) \left(\frac{\bar{\rho}_{\phi}(a_0)}{\bar{\rho}_{\text{DM}}(a_0)} \right)^2 k_{\star}^{-3} \mathcal{T} \left(\frac{k}{k_{\star}} \right)$$

The power spectrum

Power spectrum today

$$P_-(k, a_0) = D^2(a_0, k) \left(\frac{\bar{\rho}_\phi(a_0)}{\bar{\rho}_{\text{DM}}(a_0)} \right)^2 k_\star^{-3} \mathcal{T} \left(\frac{k}{k_\star} \right)$$

Growth factor (Amin et al; 2025)

$$D^2(k, a_0) \approx \begin{cases} \left(\frac{a}{a_{\text{eq}}} \right)^2 & k < k_J(a_{\text{eq}}) \\ \frac{k_J(a_{\text{eq}})}{k} \left(\frac{a}{a_{\text{eq}}} \right)^2 & k > k_J(a_{\text{eq}}) \end{cases}$$

$$k_J(a) = \sqrt{\frac{3\Omega_{\text{DM}}}{2}} \frac{H_0 m_a}{k_\star} a^{1/2}$$

$$\frac{k_J(a_{\text{eq}})}{k_\star} \simeq 3 \times 10^{-3} \left(\frac{10}{x_{\text{IR}}} \right)^2$$

The power spectrum

Relic density

$$\bar{\rho}_\phi(a_0) = a_{\text{NR}}^4 \rho_c(a_{\text{NR}}) m_{\text{NR}} \int_{k_{\text{IR}}}^{\infty} \frac{dk}{k^2} \Omega_\phi(k)$$

The power spectrum

Relic density

$$\bar{\rho}_\phi(a_0) = a_{\text{NR}}^4 \rho_c(a_{\text{NR}}) m_{\text{NR}} \int_{k_{\text{IR}}}^{\infty} \frac{dk}{k^2} \Omega_\phi(k)$$

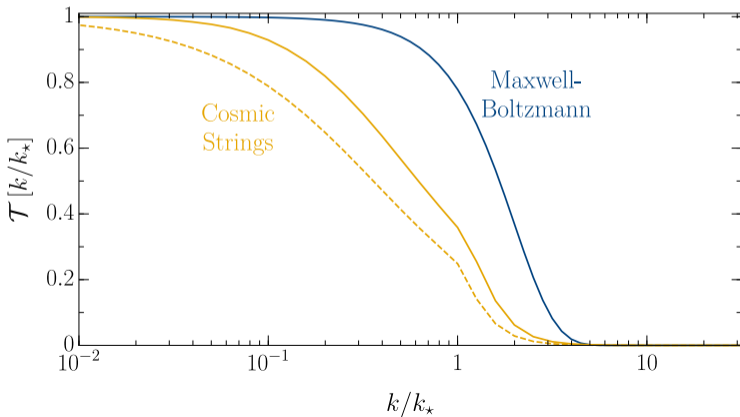
Transfer function

$$\mathcal{T}(k) = \frac{1}{2k\mathcal{N}} \int_{k_{\text{IR}}}^{\infty} \frac{dp}{p^3} \Omega_\phi(p) \int_{|k-p|}^{k+p} \frac{d\ell}{\ell^3} \Omega_\phi(\ell), \quad \mathcal{T}(k \rightarrow 0) = 1$$

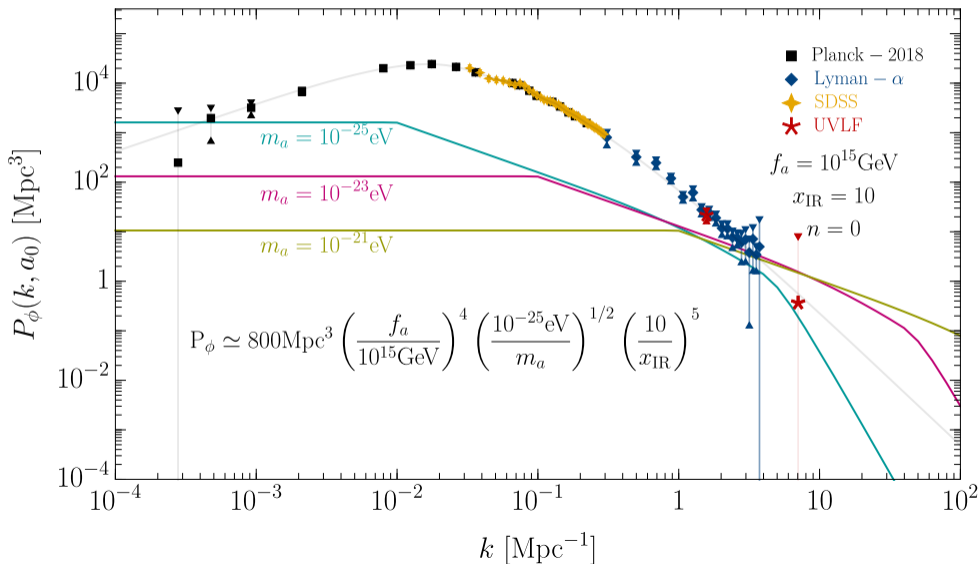
Analytic approximations

Assumption

$$\Omega_\phi(k, a_m) = \begin{cases} 0 & k < k_{\text{IR}} \\ \text{const.} & k \geq k_{\text{IR}} \end{cases}$$



The power spectrum against data



Constraints

Likelihood method

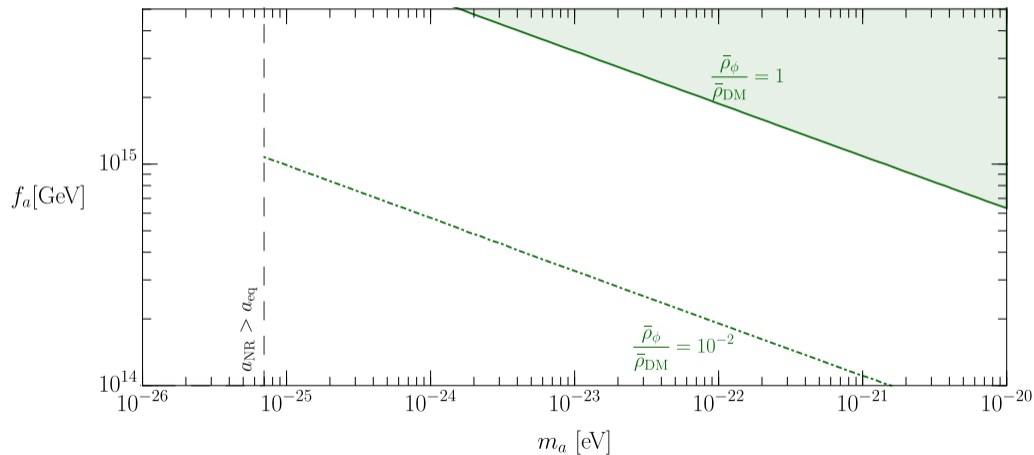
The likelihood function

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{S+B}} \propto \exp \left[- \sum_i \frac{(P_{\text{data}}(k_i) - P_{\text{CDM}}(k_i) - P_{\phi}(k_i))^2}{2\sigma(k_i)^2} \right]$$
$$P_{\text{CDM}}(k) = \frac{18\pi^2}{25} A_{\Phi} \left(\frac{a_{\text{eq}}}{H_0^2 \Omega_M} \right)^2 k \mathcal{T}_{\text{CDM}}^2(k) \left(\frac{k}{k_*} \right)^{n_s-1}$$

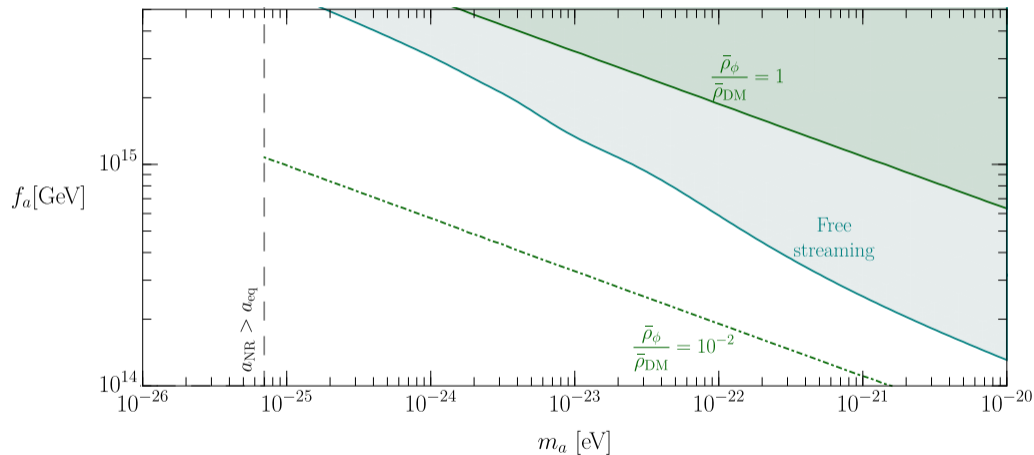
Condition for constraint

$$2 \log \left(\frac{\mathcal{L}_{\text{S+B}}}{\mathcal{L}_{\text{B}}} \right) > 2.71$$

Constraints for $n = 0$

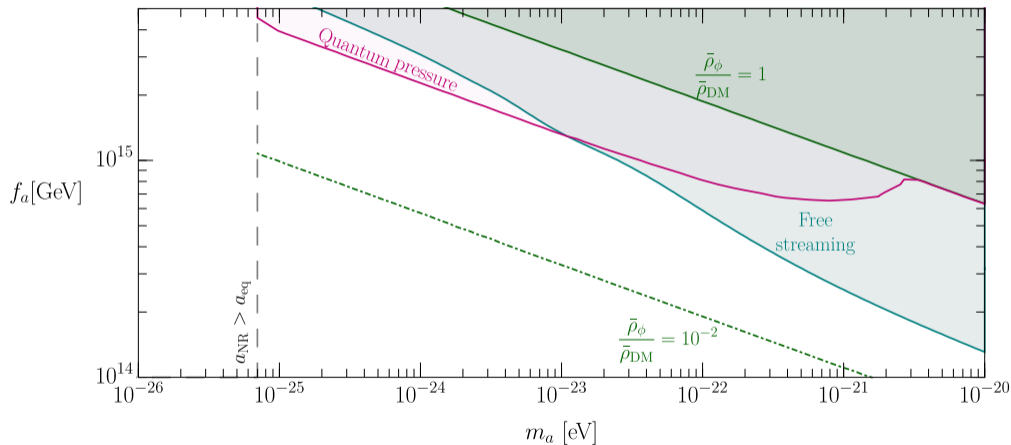


Constraints for $n = 0$



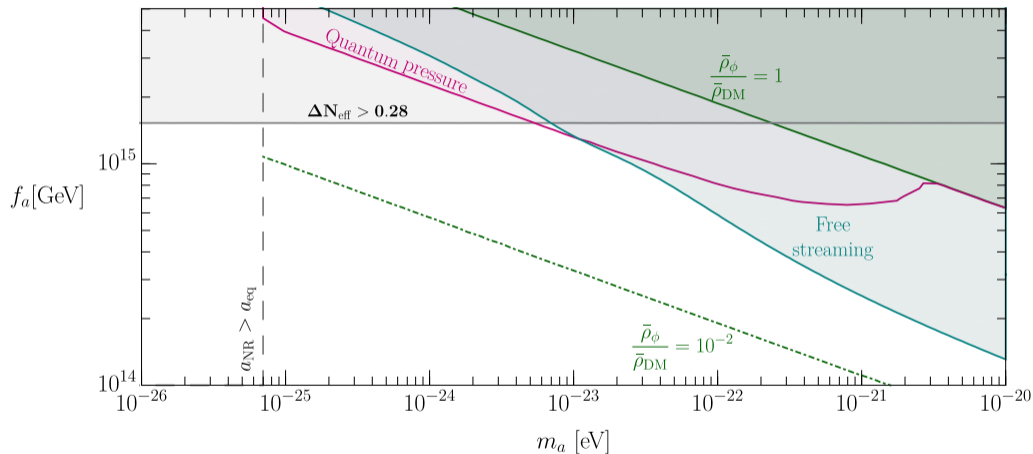
$$\lambda_{\text{fs}}(k, t) = \int^t \frac{dt}{v(a)} \quad P_{\text{CDM}}(k) T_{\text{fs}}^2(k, a) \quad T_{\text{fs}} = \frac{\bar{\rho}_\phi}{\bar{\rho}_{\text{DM}}} \text{sinc}(k \lambda_{\text{fs}}(k, a)) \quad \text{Amin et al; 2024}$$

Constraints for $n = 0$



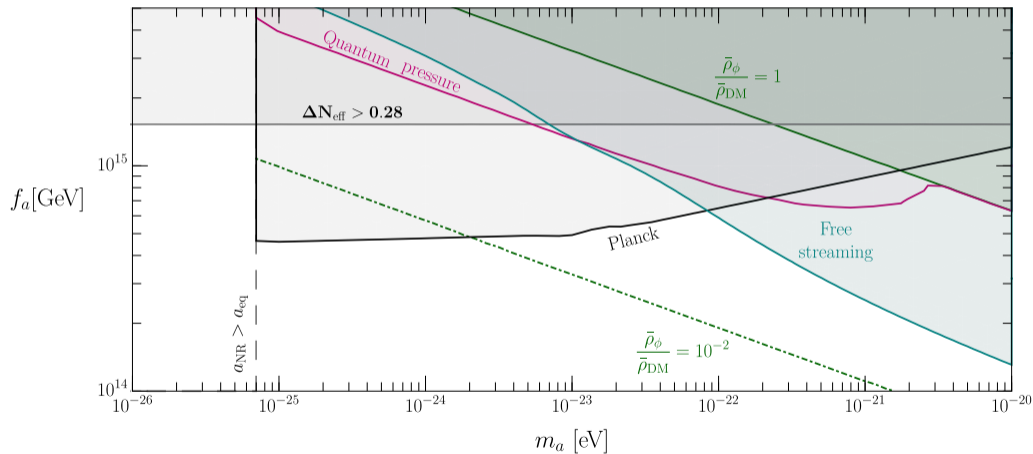
$$k_Q \simeq 7 \text{ Mpc}^{-1} \left(\frac{m_a}{10^{-22} \text{ eV}} \right)^{1/2} \text{ Kobayashi et al ; 2017}$$

Constraints for $n = 0$

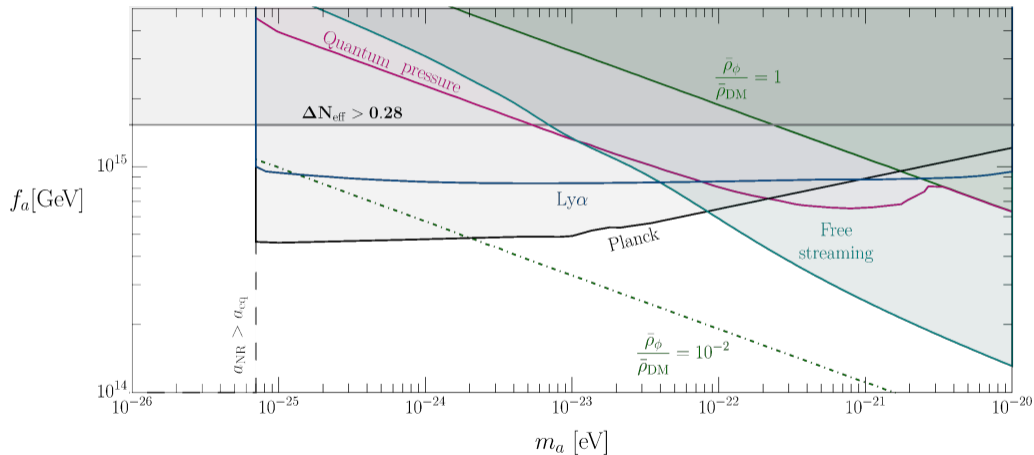


$$\Delta N_{\text{eff}} = \frac{8}{7} \left(\frac{11}{4} \right)^{\frac{4}{3}} \frac{\bar{\rho}_\phi}{\bar{\rho}_\gamma}$$

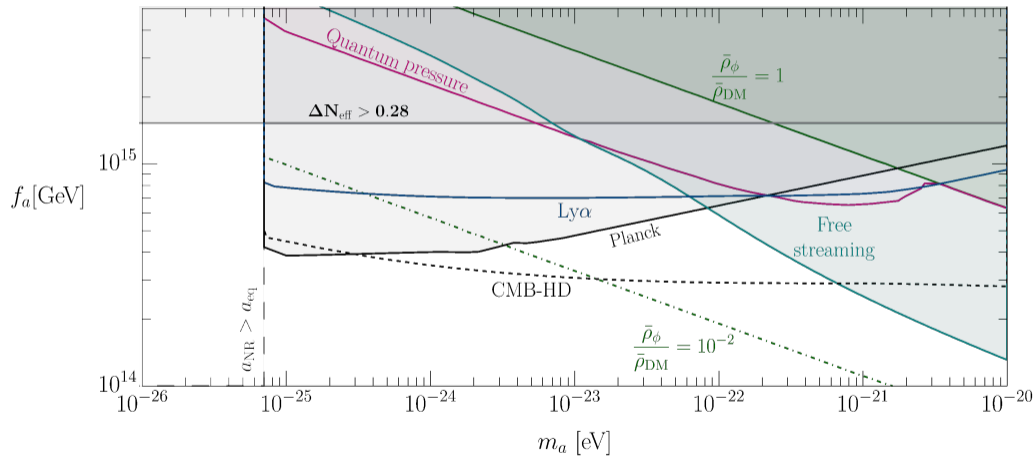
Constraints for $n = 0$



Constraints for $n = 0$



Constraints for $n = 0$



Summary and future directions

Summary

- Cosmic strings emit pseudo Nambu–Goldstone bosons
- These can contribute a sub-component of dark matter after becoming non-relativistic
- Described by a scalar field with spectrum peaked at k_{IR}
- Power spectrum: white noise for $k \ll k_{\text{IR}}$, decays as k^{-4} for $k \gg k_{\text{IR}}$
- Constraints on the (m_a, f_a) plane from cosmological observables.

Summary and future directions

Summary

- Cosmic strings emit pseudo Nambu–Goldstone bosons
- These can contribute a sub-component of dark matter after becoming non-relativistic
- Described by a scalar field with spectrum peaked at k_{IR}
- Power spectrum: white noise for $k \ll k_{\text{IR}}$, decays as k^{-4} for $k \gg k_{\text{IR}}$
- Constraints on the (m_a, f_a) plane from cosmological observables.

Future directions

- Dedicated statistical analysis for each observable
- Relativistic evolution for $m_a \lesssim 7 \times 10^{-26}$ eV ($n = 0$)
- Temperature-dependent mass evolution for $a_c > a_{\text{eq}}$
- Constraints for $a_m > a_{\text{eq}}$ including CMB anisotropies

Scalar in expanding space

Klein-Gordon

$$\ddot{\phi}_{\mathbf{k}} + 3H\dot{\phi}_{\mathbf{k}} + \phi_{\mathbf{k}} \left(m^2 + \frac{|\mathbf{k}|^2}{a^2} \right) = 0,$$

Frequency

$$\omega_{\mathbf{k}}(t) = \sqrt{m^2(t) + \frac{\mathbf{k}^2}{a^2(t)}}$$

WKB solution

$$\phi_{\mathbf{k}}(x) = \frac{\phi_{\mathbf{k},0}}{a^{3/2}} \sum_{j=1}^{N_{\mathbf{k}}} \cos \left[\int^t \omega_{\mathbf{k}}(t') dt' - \mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{x} + \varphi_{\mathbf{k},j} \right],$$

Scalar in expanding space cont.

Perform sum

$$\phi_{\mathbf{k}}(x) = \sqrt{\frac{N_{\mathbf{k}}}{2a^3(t)}} \phi_{\mathbf{k},0} \alpha_{\mathbf{k}} \cos \left[\int^t \omega_{\mathbf{k}}(t') dt' - \mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{x} + \varphi_{\mathbf{k}} \right],$$

$\alpha_{\mathbf{k}}$ sampled from Rayleigh distribution

$$P(\alpha_{\mathbf{k}}) = \alpha_{\mathbf{k}} e^{-\alpha_{\mathbf{k}}^2/2}$$

Fix amplitude by $\langle \rho_{\phi, \mathbf{k}} \rangle = \frac{\omega_{\mathbf{k}} N_{\mathbf{k}}}{d^3 x a^3}$

$$\langle \rho_{\phi, \mathbf{k}} \rangle = \left\langle \frac{1}{2} \left(\dot{\phi}_{\mathbf{k}}^2 + m^2 \phi_{\mathbf{k}}^2 + \frac{(\nabla \phi_{\mathbf{k}})^2}{a^2} \right) \right\rangle = \frac{N_{\mathbf{k}}}{2a^3} \phi_{\mathbf{k},0}^2 \omega_{\mathbf{k}}^2.$$

Final Result

Amplitude

$$\phi_{\mathbf{k},0} = \sqrt{\frac{2}{d^3x \omega_{\mathbf{k}}(t)}}.$$

Scalar field

$$\phi_{\mathbf{k}}(x) = \sqrt{\frac{f(\mathbf{k}) d^3k}{(2\pi)^3 a^3 \omega_{\mathbf{k}}}} \alpha_{\mathbf{k}} \cos \left[\int^t \omega_{\mathbf{k}}(t') dt' - \mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{x} + \delta_{\mathbf{k}} \right].$$

Sum over plane waves

$$\phi(x) = \sum_{\mathbf{k}} \phi_{\mathbf{k}}(x)$$

Correlation functions

$$F_{\mathbf{k}} = \frac{f(k)}{\sqrt{a^3(t) \omega_{\mathbf{k}}(t) a^3(t') \omega_{\mathbf{k}}(t')}}}$$

Correlations

$$\langle \dot{\phi} \phi' \rangle = - \int \frac{d^3 k}{(2\pi)^3} F_{\mathbf{k}} \omega_{\mathbf{k}}(t) \sin \left[\int_{t'}^t \omega_{\mathbf{k}} - \mathbf{k} \cdot \Delta \mathbf{x} \right]$$

$$\langle \phi \nabla \phi' \rangle = - \int \frac{d^3 k}{(2\pi)^3} F_{\mathbf{k}} \mathbf{k} \sin \left[\int_{t'}^t \omega_{\mathbf{k}} - \mathbf{k} \cdot \Delta \mathbf{x} \right]$$

$$\langle \dot{\phi} \dot{\phi}' \rangle = \int \frac{d^3 k}{(2\pi)^3} F_{\mathbf{k}} \omega_{\mathbf{k}}(t) \omega_{\mathbf{k}}(t') \cos \left[\int_{t'}^t \omega_{\mathbf{k}} - \mathbf{k} \cdot \Delta \mathbf{x} \right]$$

$$\langle \dot{\phi} \nabla \phi' \rangle = - \int \frac{d^3 k}{(2\pi)^3} F_{\mathbf{k}} \omega_{\mathbf{k}}(t) \mathbf{k} \cos \left[\int_{t'}^t \omega_{\mathbf{k}} - \mathbf{k} \cdot \Delta \mathbf{x} \right]$$

$$\langle \partial_i \phi \partial_j \phi' \rangle = \int \frac{d^3 k}{(2\pi)^3} F_{\mathbf{k}} k_i k_j \cos \left[\int_{t'}^t \omega_{\mathbf{k}} - \mathbf{k} \cdot \Delta \mathbf{x} \right]$$

Slow and fast modes

Slow and fast modes

$$\begin{aligned}\langle \rho \rho' \rangle_{\pm} &= \frac{1}{4} \int \frac{d^3 k d^3 k'}{(2\pi)^6} F_{\mathbf{k}} F_{\mathbf{k}'} A_{\mathbf{k}\mathbf{k}'}^{\pm} \\ &\times \cos \left[\int_{t'}^t (\omega_{\mathbf{k}} \pm \omega_{\mathbf{k}'}) - (\mathbf{k} \pm \mathbf{k}') \cdot \Delta \mathbf{x} \right]\end{aligned}$$

Approximation

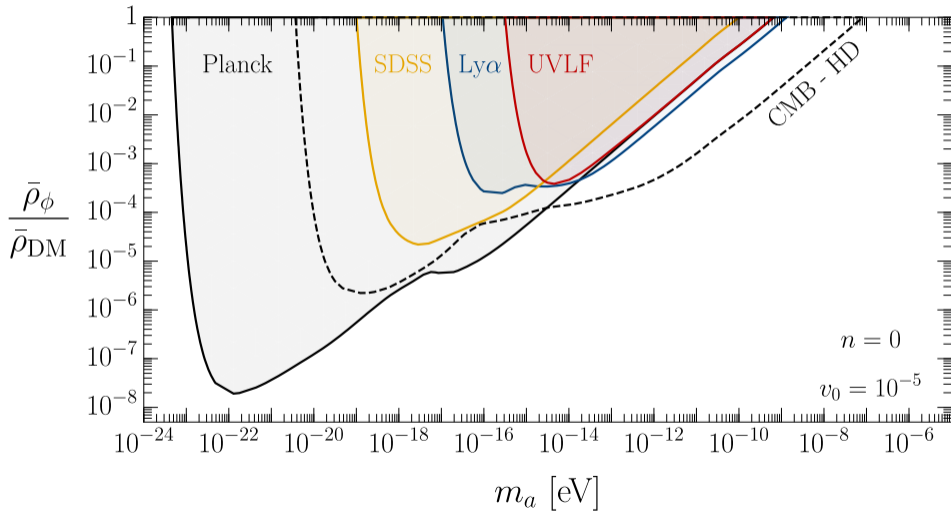
$$\begin{aligned}A_{\mathbf{k}\mathbf{k}'}^+ &\simeq \frac{|\mathbf{k} + \mathbf{k}'|^4}{4 a^2(t) a^2(t')} \\ A_{\mathbf{k}\mathbf{k}'}^- &\simeq 4 m^2(t) m^2(t')\end{aligned}$$

Slow and fast modes: coefficients

Coefficients

$$\begin{aligned} A_{\mathbf{k}\mathbf{k}'}^{\pm} &= m^2(t)m^2(t') + \omega_{\mathbf{k}}(t)\omega_{\mathbf{k}}(t')\omega_{\mathbf{k}'}(t)\omega_{\mathbf{k}'}(t') \\ &\mp m^2(t')\omega_{\mathbf{k}}(t)\omega_{\mathbf{k}'}(t) \mp m^2(t)\omega_{\mathbf{k}}(t')\omega_{\mathbf{k}'}(t') \\ &+ \mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{k}' \left[\frac{\omega_{\mathbf{k}}(t)\omega_{\mathbf{k}'}(t) \mp m^2(t)}{a^2(t')} + \frac{\omega_{\mathbf{k}}(t')\omega_{\mathbf{k}'}(t') \mp m^2(t')}{a^2(t)} \right] \\ &+ \frac{(\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{k}')^2}{a^2(t)a^2(t')} \end{aligned}$$

Maxwell-Boltzmann constraints



Slow mode details

Correlations in terms of Ω_ϕ

$$\langle \rho_\phi(\mathbf{x}) \rho_\phi(\mathbf{x}') \rangle = 4m_{\text{NR}}^2 a_{\text{NR}}^2 \rho_c^2 (a_{\text{NR}}) \left[\int \frac{dk}{k^2} \Omega_\phi(k) \text{sinc}(k|\Delta\mathbf{x}|) \right]^2$$

Identity for power spectrum calculation

$$\int_0^\infty dx x^2 \text{sinc}(kx) \text{sinc}(lx) \text{sinc}(px) = \frac{\pi}{4kpl} \theta(p - |k - l|) \theta(k + l - p).$$

Power spectrum

$$P_\phi(k, a_{\text{NR}}) = 8\pi^2 \left(\frac{\bar{\rho}_\phi(a_0)}{\bar{\rho}_{\text{DM}}(a_0)} \right)^2 k_\star^{-3} \mathcal{T}(k)$$

Transfer function analytic approximation

$$k < 2k_{\text{IR}}$$

$$\mathcal{T}(y) \simeq \frac{5}{8y^5(1+y)} \left[y^5 + y^4 - 2y^3 + 6y^2 + 12y(1 - \log(1+y)) - 12\log(1+y) \right]$$

$$k > 2k_{\text{IR}}$$

$$\mathcal{T}(y) \simeq \frac{-5}{4y^5} \left[\frac{12y - 8y^3}{y^2 - 1} + 3 \log \left[\frac{y+1}{y-1} \frac{2y+1}{2y-1} \frac{2y^2+y-1}{2y^2-y-1} \right] \right]$$

Analytical density fraction

$\Omega_\phi = \text{const}$ for $k > k_{\text{IR}}$

$$\frac{\bar{\rho}_\phi}{\bar{\rho}_{\text{DM}}} = 6.8 \times 10^{-3} \left(\frac{f_a}{10^{15} \text{GeV}} \right)^2 \left(\frac{m_a}{10^{-25} \text{eV}} \right)^{1/2} \left(\frac{10}{x_{\text{IR}}} \right)$$

Growth factor suppression

Dynamical time scale

$$t_D \sim H^{-1} \sim \frac{1}{\sqrt{H\rho}}$$

Time for field to change by $\mathcal{O}(1)$

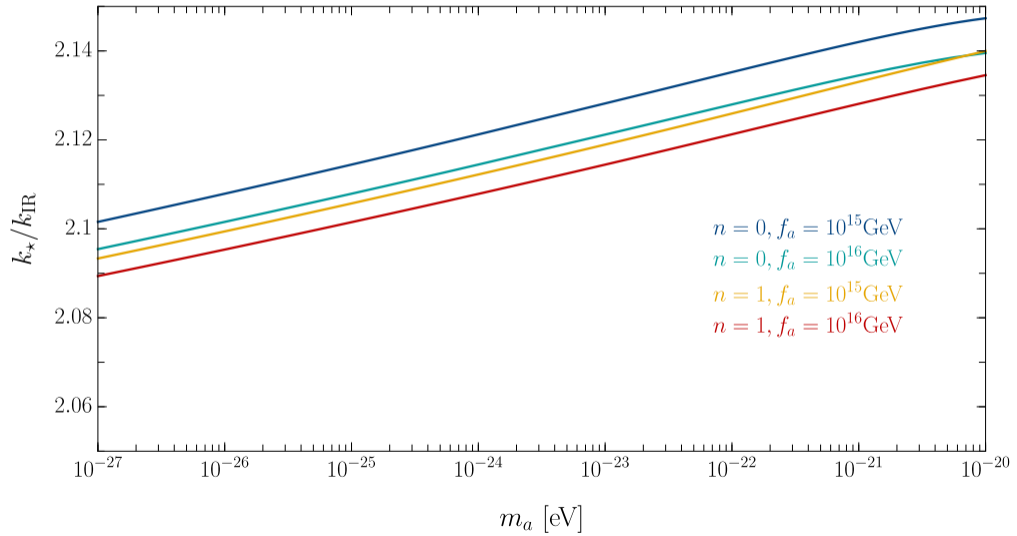
$$\Delta t \sim \frac{k^{-1}}{v_a}$$

Number of field oscillations

$$N = \frac{t_D}{\Delta t}$$

Amplitude that gravity probes suppressed by \sqrt{N}

$$\frac{f_{\text{DM}}\delta_\phi}{\sqrt{N}} \sim \frac{1}{\sqrt{k}}$$

k_* 

Quantum pressure

Density fractions

$$\delta_m = F\delta_\phi + (1 - F)\delta_c$$

Evolution of perturbations

$$\ddot{\delta}_{\phi\mathbf{k}} + 2H\delta_{\phi\mathbf{k}} + \frac{c_s^2 k^2}{a^2}\delta_{\phi\mathbf{k}} - \frac{3}{2}H^2\delta_{m\mathbf{k}} = 0, \quad c_s^2 = \frac{k^2}{4a^2 m^2}$$

$$\ddot{\delta}_{c\mathbf{k}} + 2H\delta_{c\mathbf{k}} - \frac{3}{2}H^2\delta_{m\mathbf{k}} = 0$$

$$F = 1$$

$$\delta_{m\mathbf{k}} \propto e^{2ic_s k/aH}$$

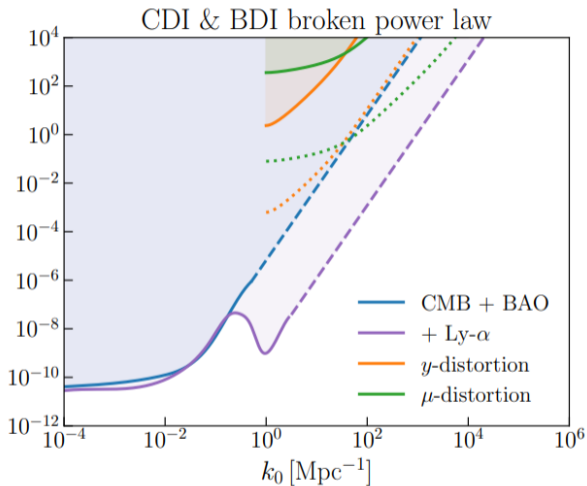
for $k > k_Q$

$$0 < F < 1$$

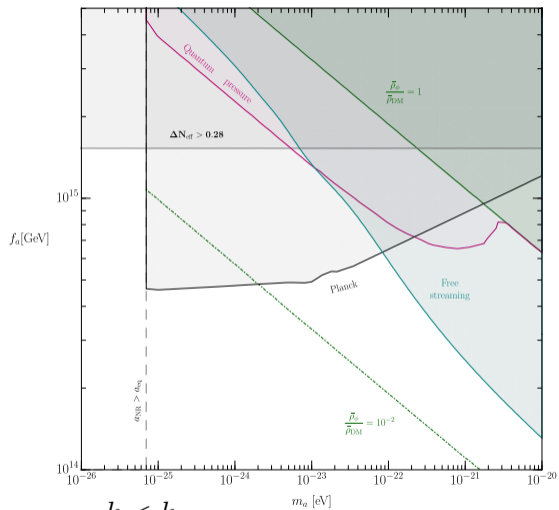
$$\delta_{m\mathbf{k}} \propto a^{n_+}$$

$$\text{for } k > k_Q, n_+ = \frac{-1 + \sqrt{25 - 24F}}{4}$$

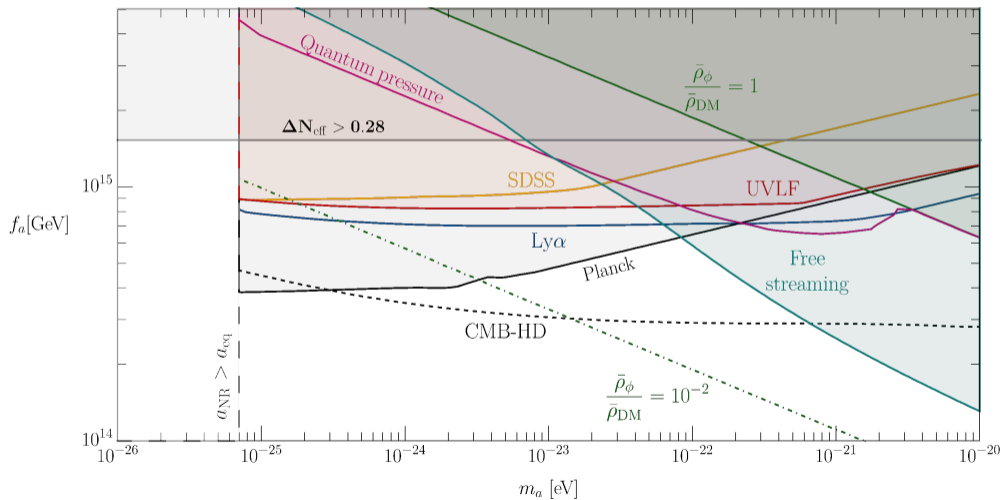
Comparison to literature



$$P_{\text{iso}}(k) = 2\pi^2 \frac{A_{\text{iso}}}{k_0^3} \begin{cases} 1, & k < k_0 \\ \left(\frac{k_0}{k}\right)^3, & k > k_0 \end{cases}$$



All the constraints for $n = 0$



All the constraints for $n = 1$

