

# Effects of the QCD Equation of State and Lepton Asymmetry on Primordial Gravitational Waves

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Based on:

F. H., J. Schaffner-Bielich, S. Wystub, M. M. Wygas,  
[arXiv:1904.01046 \[hep-ph\]](#) (PRD)  
and  
N. Bernal, F. H., [arXiv:1905.XXXXX](#)

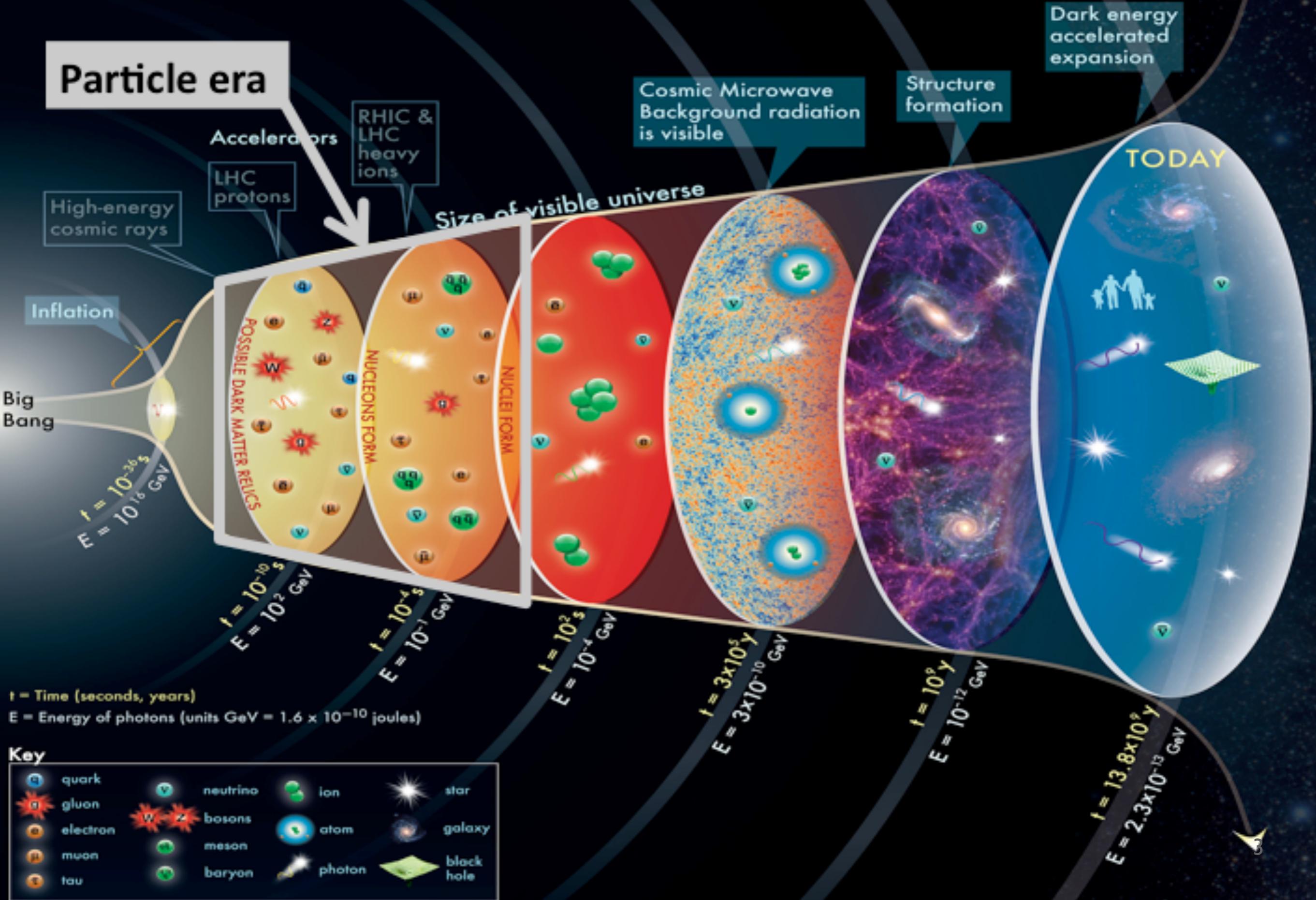


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## Overview (Ist)

- Primordial Gravitational Waves Spectrum
- Thermodynamics of the Standard Model
- Effects of the QCD Equation of State on the PGW
- Non-vanishing Lepton Chemical Potentials and the SM EoS
- Impact of Lepton Asymmetry on the PGW

# HISTORY OF THE UNIVERSE



The concept for the above figure originated in a 1986 paper by Michael Turner.

Big Bang

# Primordial Gravitational Waves

Big Bang plus  $10^{-43}$  seconds

quantum-gravity era

Big Bang plus  $10^{-35}$  seconds?

inflation

cosmic microwave background

Big Bang plus 380 000 years

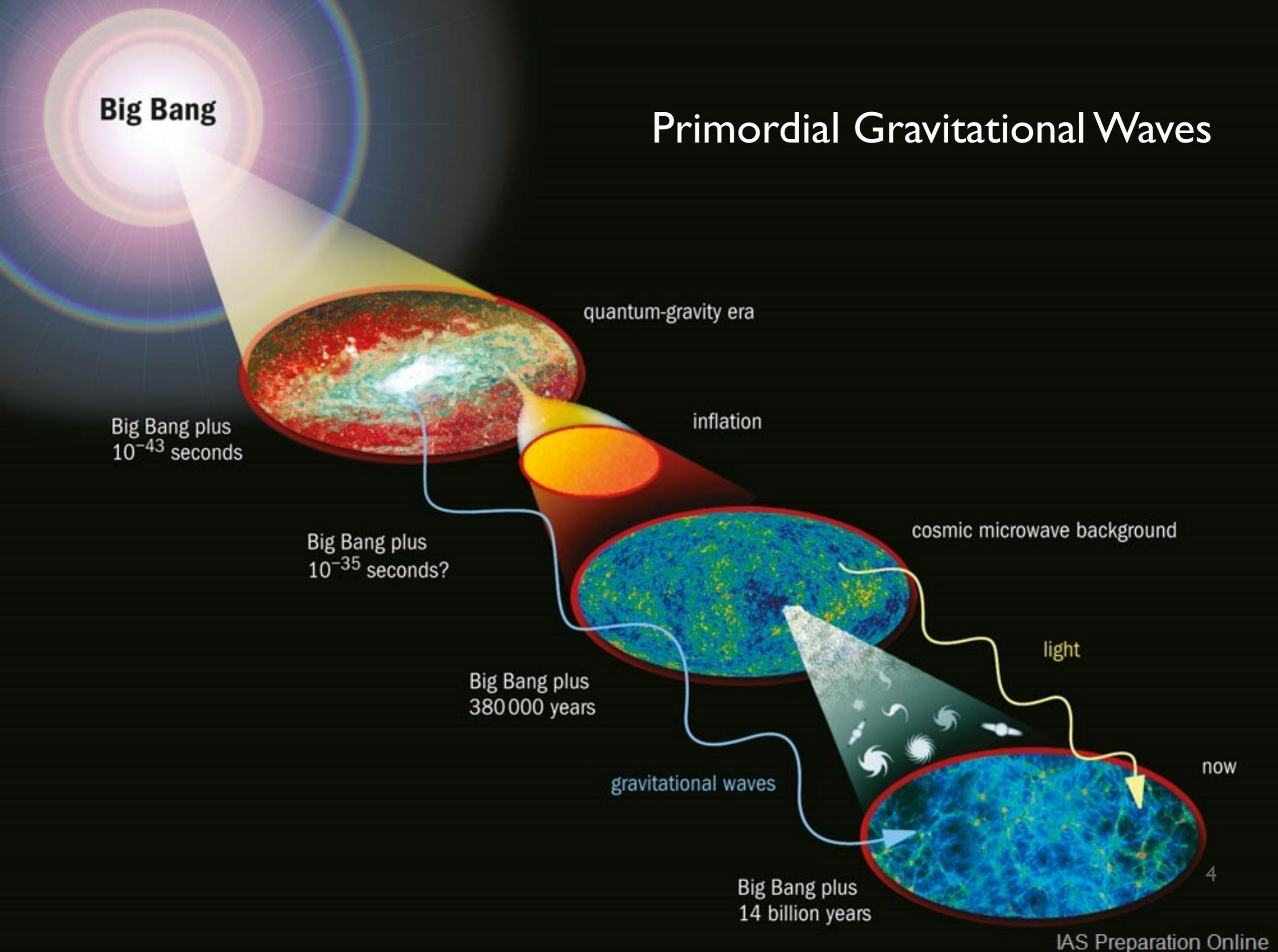
light

gravitational waves

Big Bang plus 14 billion years

now

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# Cosmological (Phase) Transitions and the Standard Model

- QCD transition is a smooth crossover transition.
- EW transition in the SM with the measured Higgs mass is also crossover.
- Cosmological transitions only assuming the SM are not first order phase transitions and do not produce any GW.
- They can leave an imprint on the PGW produced after the Big Bang from the inflationary scenario.

# Equations of Tensor Perturbation and Gravitational Waves Relic Density

Evolution equation for gravitational wave amplitude “h”:

$$h''(k, \eta) + 2\mathcal{H}(\eta)h'(k, \eta) + k^2 h(k, \eta) = 0, \quad \mathcal{H} = a'/a = aH$$

Wave number

Conformal time

Hubble rate:

$$H^2 = \frac{8\pi G}{3} \rho_{\text{tot}}$$

Tensor perturbation polarisation modes:

$$h_\lambda(k, \eta) = h_\lambda^{\text{prim}}(k) Y(\eta, k) = \frac{v(k, \eta)}{a(\eta)}$$

Transfer function

Tensor perturbation in the comoving frame:

$$v''(k, \eta) + \left( k^2 - \frac{a''}{a} \right) v(k, \eta) = 0$$

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In standard cosmology:

Assuming no phase transition or modified cosmology  $\longrightarrow$  Entropy conservation

Friedmann equation:

$$\frac{a''}{a} = \frac{4\pi G}{3} a^2 (\rho_{tot} - 3p_{tot})$$

Trace anomaly:

$$\frac{I(T)}{T^4} = \frac{\rho_{tot} - 3p_{tot}}{T^4} = T \frac{\partial}{\partial T} \left( \frac{p_{tot}}{T^4} \right)_{\mu/T}$$

Horizon scale:

$$k = a(\eta_{hc}) H(\eta_{hc})$$

We do not consider the effect of neutrinos and photons damping on the PGW, since we are interested in temperatures above 10 MeV. So there is no source term for GW.

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PGW energy density:

$$\rho_{\text{GW}}(\eta) = \frac{M_{\text{Pl}}^2}{32\pi a(\eta)^2} \langle h'_{ij}(k, \mathbf{x}) h^{ij'}(k, \mathbf{x}) \rangle$$

$$\langle h'_{ij}(k, \mathbf{x}) h^{ij'}(k, \mathbf{x}) \rangle = \int \frac{dk}{k} \mathcal{P}_T(k, \eta)$$

Tensor power spectrum:

$$\mathcal{P}_T(k, \eta) = \frac{k^3}{\pi^2} \sum_{\lambda} \langle |h_{\lambda}(k, \eta)|^2 \rangle = \mathcal{P}_T^{\text{prim}}(k) [Y(k, \eta)]^2$$

PGW relic density:

$$\Omega_{\text{GW}}(k, \eta) = \frac{\mathcal{P}_T^{\text{prim}}(k)}{12a(\eta)^2 H(\eta)^2} [Y'(k, \eta)]^2$$

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At horizon crossing:

$$[Y'(k, \eta)]^2 = k^2 [Y(k, \eta)]^2$$

PGW relic density:

$$\Omega_{\text{GW}}(k, \eta_0) \propto \Omega_{\text{GW}}(k, \eta_{\text{hc}}) \propto k^5 |v(k, \eta_{\text{hc}})|^2$$

 It gives roughly a flat spectrum

PGW relic density and the SM equation of state:

$$\Omega_{\text{GW}}(k, \eta_0) \propto \rho_{\text{tot}}(T_{\text{hc}}) s_{\text{tot}}(T_{\text{hc}})^{-4/3}$$

QCD affects the GW background in the frequency range of pulsar timing arrays, e.g. IPTA, SKA, etc.

# Thermodynamics of the Standard Model

## Noninteracting part in ideal gas limit

Energy density: 
$$\rho_{\text{tot}}(T, \mu) = \sum_i \frac{g_i}{2\pi^2} \int_{m_i}^{\infty} dE \times E^2 \sqrt{E^2 - m_i^2} \left( \frac{1}{e^{\frac{E-\mu_i}{T}} \pm 1} \right)$$

Pressure density: 
$$p_{\text{tot}}(T, \mu) = \sum_i \frac{g_i}{6\pi^2} \int_{m_i}^{\infty} dE \times (E^2 - m_i^2)^{3/2} \left( \frac{1}{e^{\frac{E-\mu_i}{T}} \pm 1} \right)$$

Entropy density: 
$$T s_{\text{tot}}(T, \mu) = \rho_{\text{tot}}(T, \mu) + p_{\text{tot}}(T, \mu) - \sum_i \mu_i n_i(T, \mu_i)$$

Number density of each particle:

$$n_i(T, \mu_i) = \frac{g_i}{2\pi^2} \int_{m_i}^{\infty} dE \times E \sqrt{E^2 - m_i^2} \left( \frac{1}{e^{\frac{E-\mu_i}{T}} \pm 1} - \frac{1}{e^{\frac{E+\mu_i}{T}} \pm 1} \right)$$

## Interacting part from lattice QCD

$$\chi_{ab} = \frac{\partial^2 p^{QCD}(T, \mu)}{\partial \mu_a \partial \mu_b} = \chi_{ba} \quad p^{QCD}(T, \mu) = p^{QCD}(T, 0) + \frac{1}{2} \mu_a \chi_{ab}(T) \mu_b$$

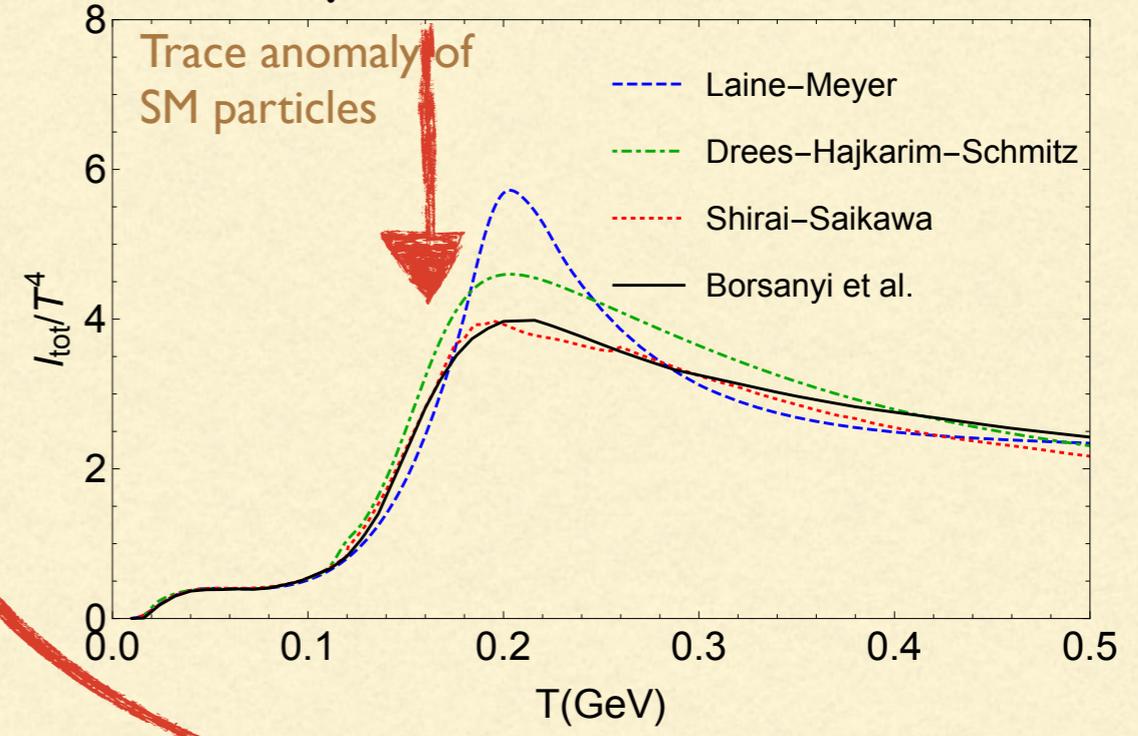
↙ **Susceptibility**
↘ **Conserved charges: Q, B**

# Effects of the QCD Equation of State on the Primordial Gravitational Waves

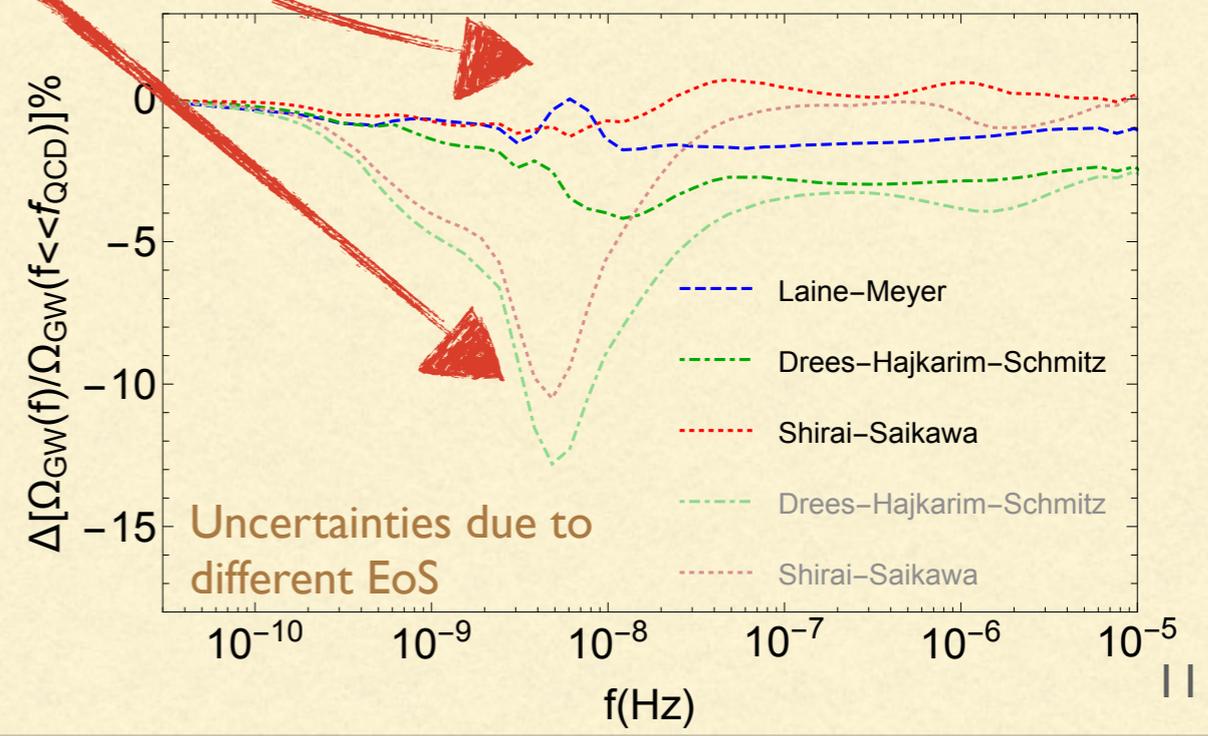
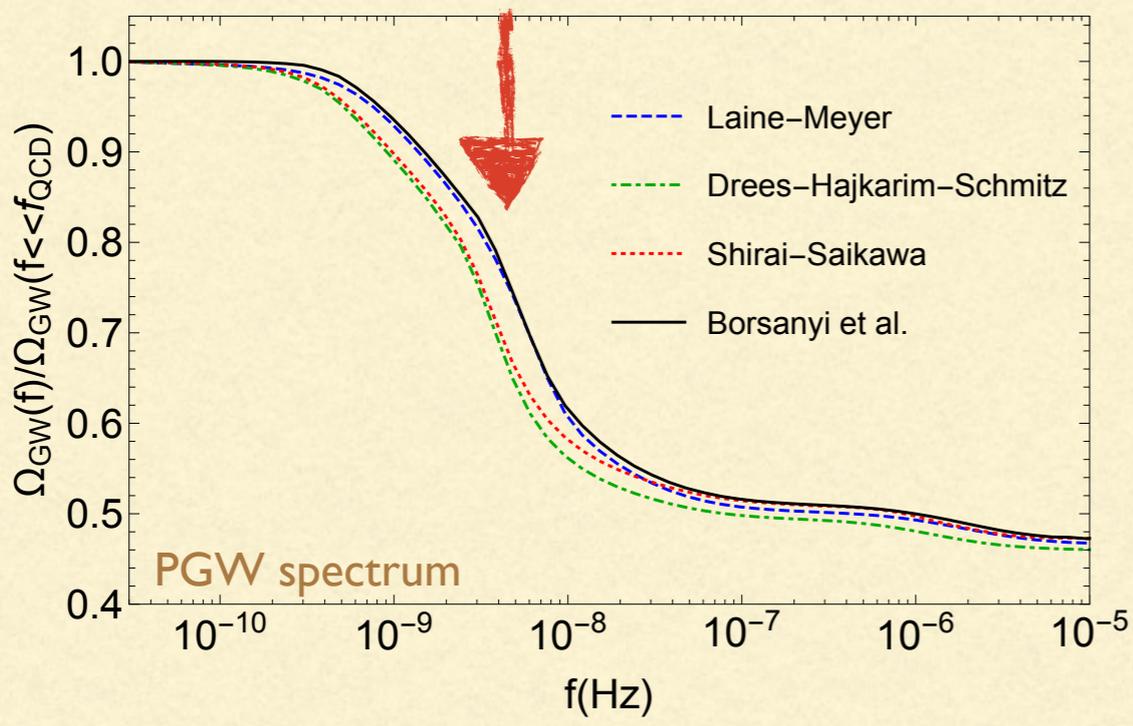
Deviation in the PGW relic due to different QCD equations of state is up to 3.5 %.

Neutrino decoupling and electron annihilation lead to 10% effects in the predicted relic density of the PGW (frequency shift).

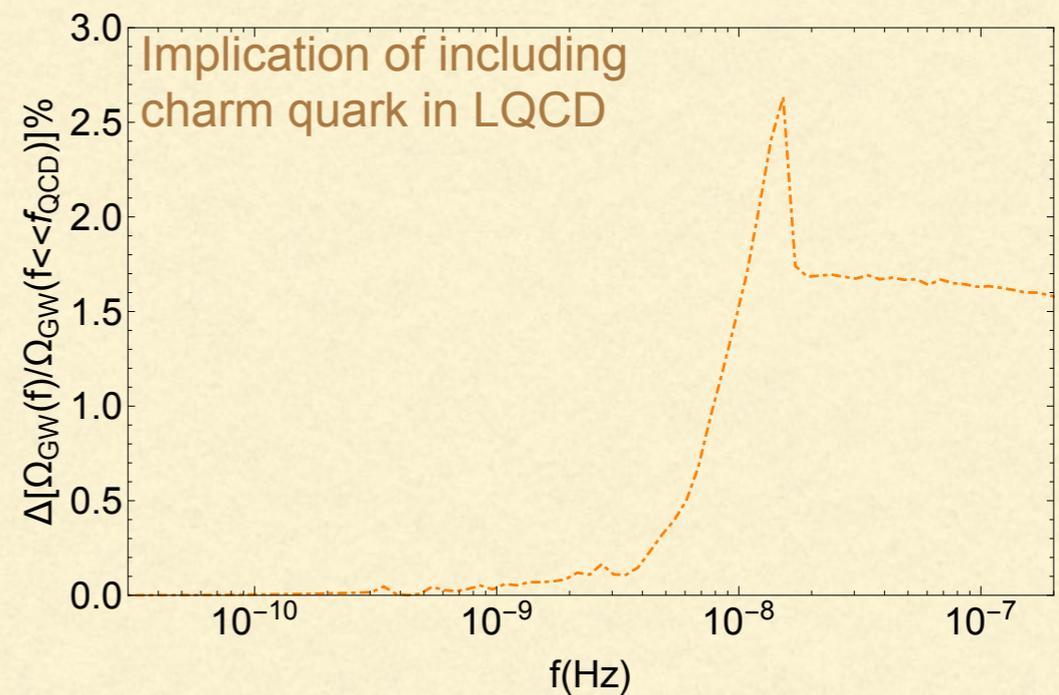
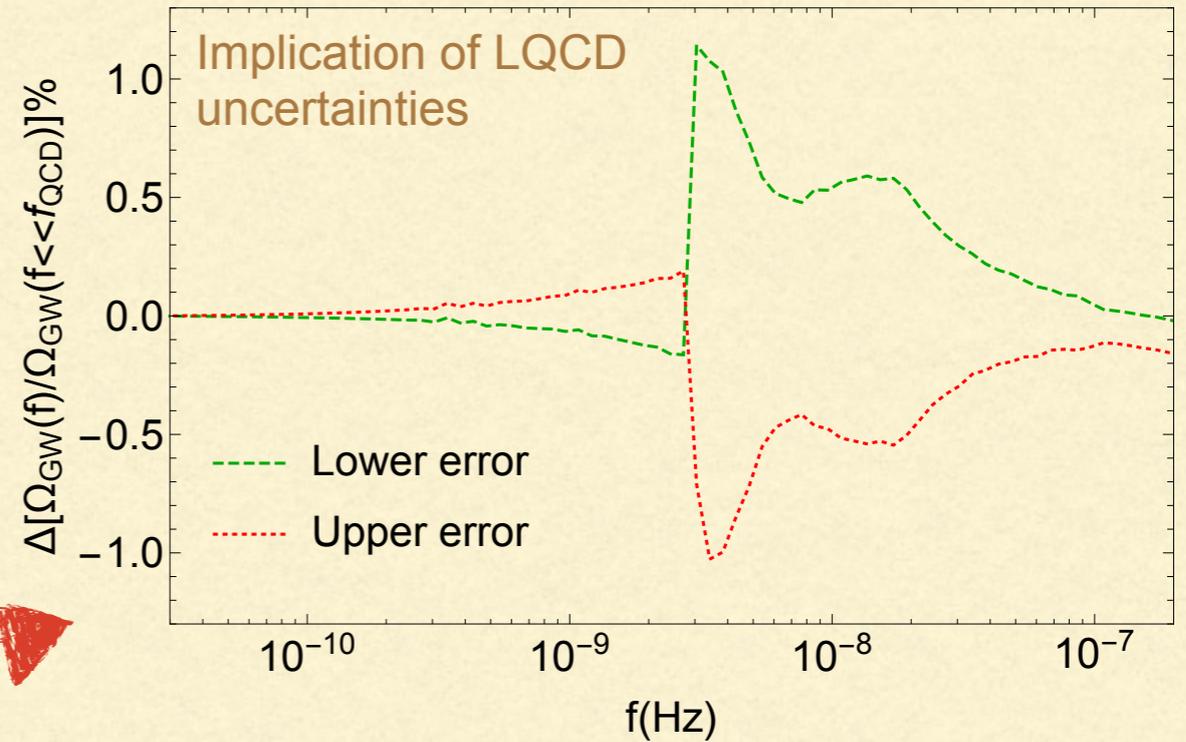
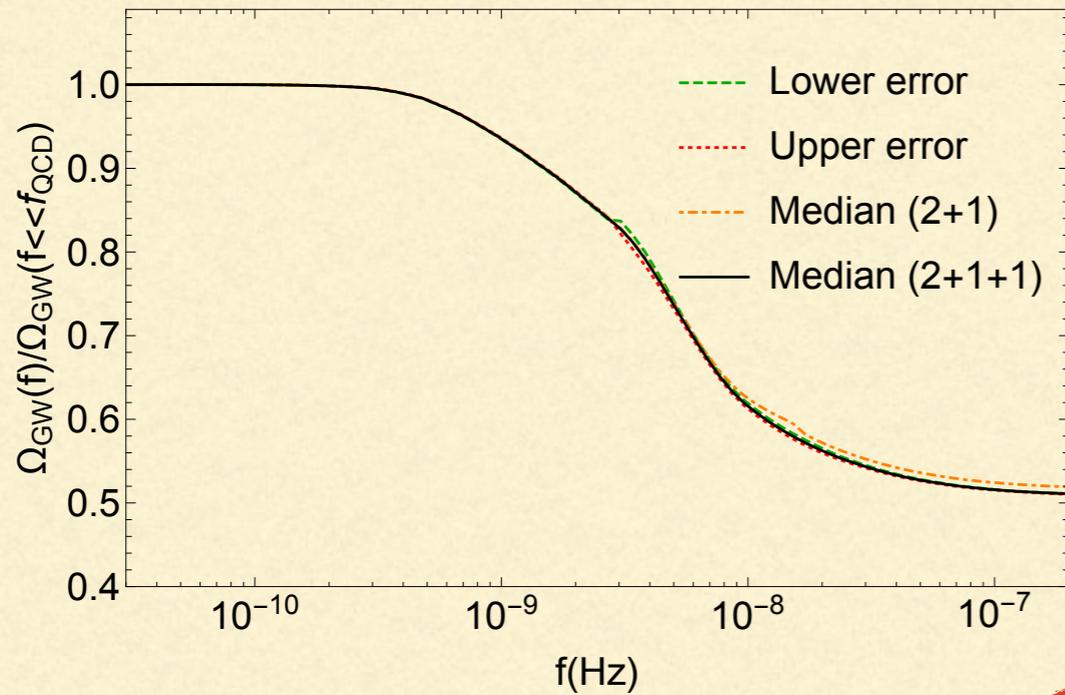
$$T_{\text{QCD}} \sim 150 \text{ MeV}$$



$$f_{\text{QCD}} \approx 3 \times 10^{-9} \text{ Hz}$$



# Charm Quark and Lattice Uncertainties Imprints on the PGW



Effect of lattice QCD error bars on the PGW energy spectrum is up to  $\sim 1\%$ .

Effect of including lattice QCD data with charm will be up to  $\sim 2.5\%$ .

# Vanishing and Nonvanishing Lepton Asymmetry & PGW

Assuming nonvanishing lepton asymmetry leads to nonzero lepton chemical potentials in cosmology. Using lattice QCD equation of state for nonvanishing chemical potentials the evolution of SM chemical potentials are possible.

Constraint equations for finding the evolution of SM chemical potentials:

I) Constraint on baryon asymmetry:

$$b = \frac{n_B}{s} \approx 8 \times 10^{-11}$$

$$bs(T, \mu) = \sum_i b_i n_i(T, \mu_i)$$

II) Constraint on lepton asymmetry:

$$l = \frac{n_L}{s} \lesssim 0.012$$

$$l_f s(T, \mu) = n_f(T, \mu_f) + n_{\nu_f}(T, \mu_{\nu_f}), f = e, \mu, \tau$$

III) Charge neutrality of the universe:

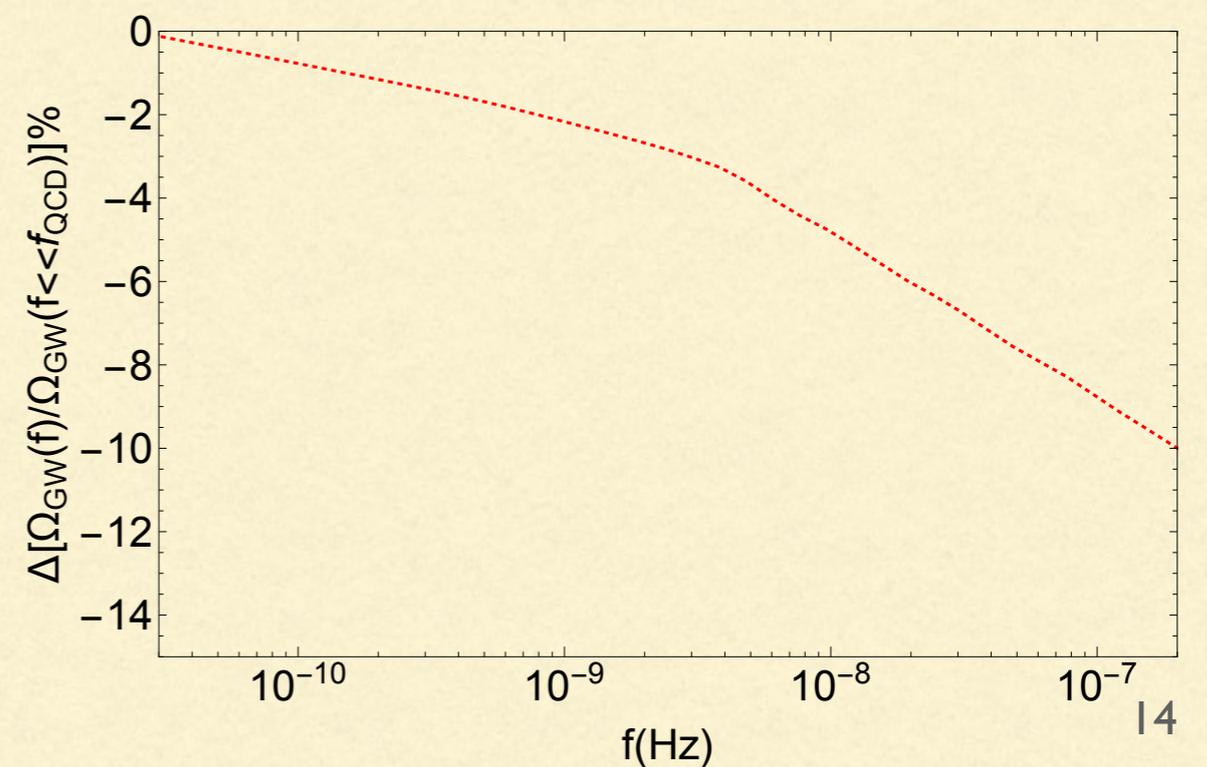
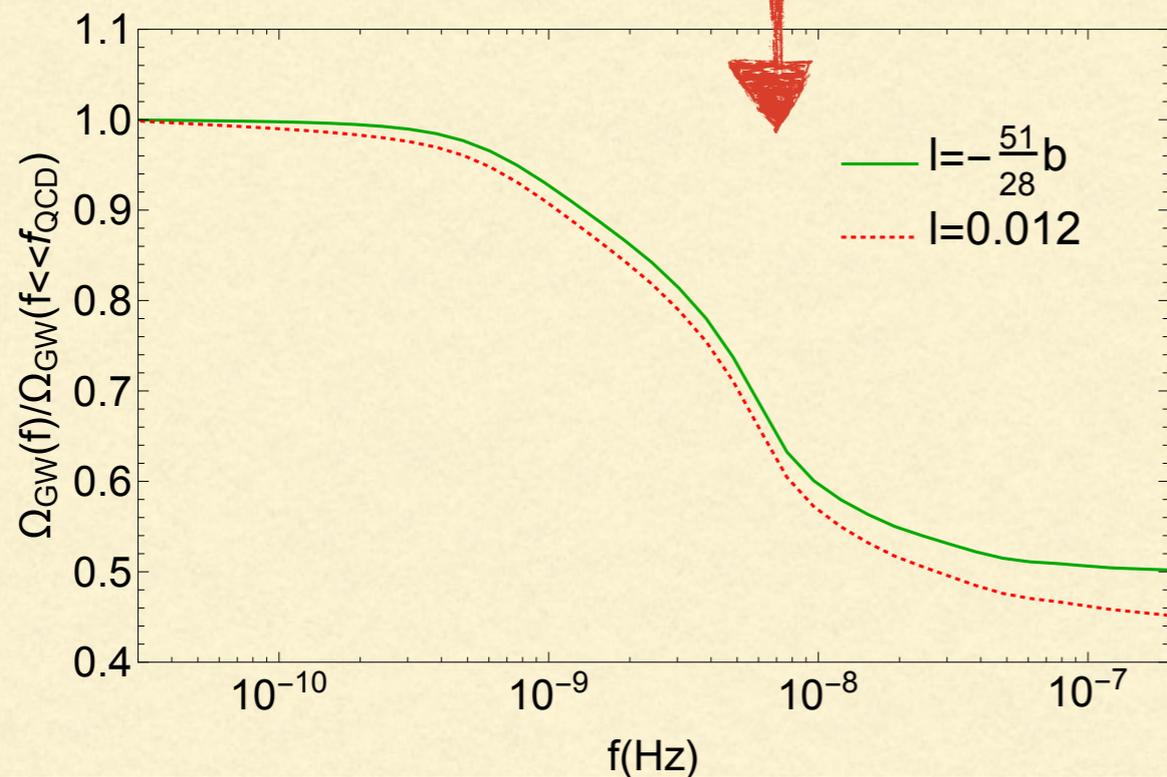
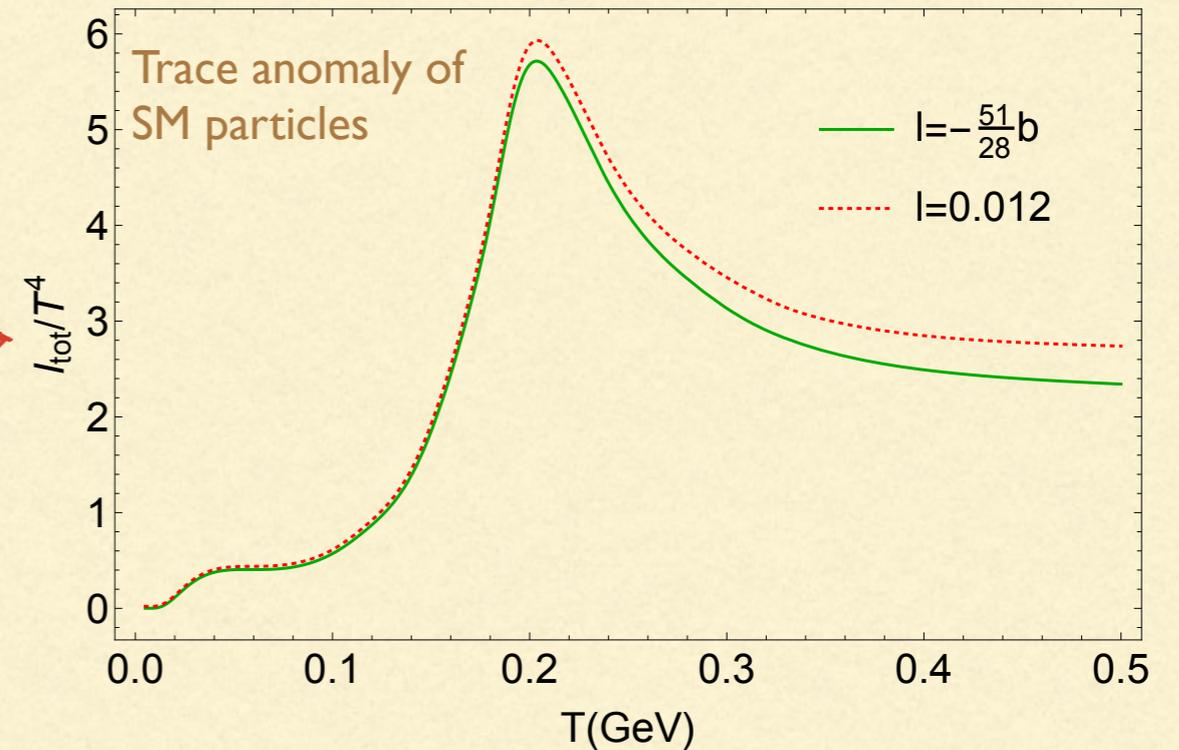
$$0 = \sum_i q_i n_i(T, \mu_i)$$

# Vanishing and Nonvanishing Lepton Asymmetry & PGW

Non-vanishing lepton asymmetry leads to non-vanishing lepton chemical potentials, which affect the cosmic trajectory, equation of state and the PGW.

Wygas et al. 2018

Large lepton asymmetry can affect the PGW spectrum up to  $\sim 10\%$ . Effects might be larger allowing for lepton flavour asymmetries.



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# Primordial Gravitational Waves in Standard and Non-standard Cosmologies

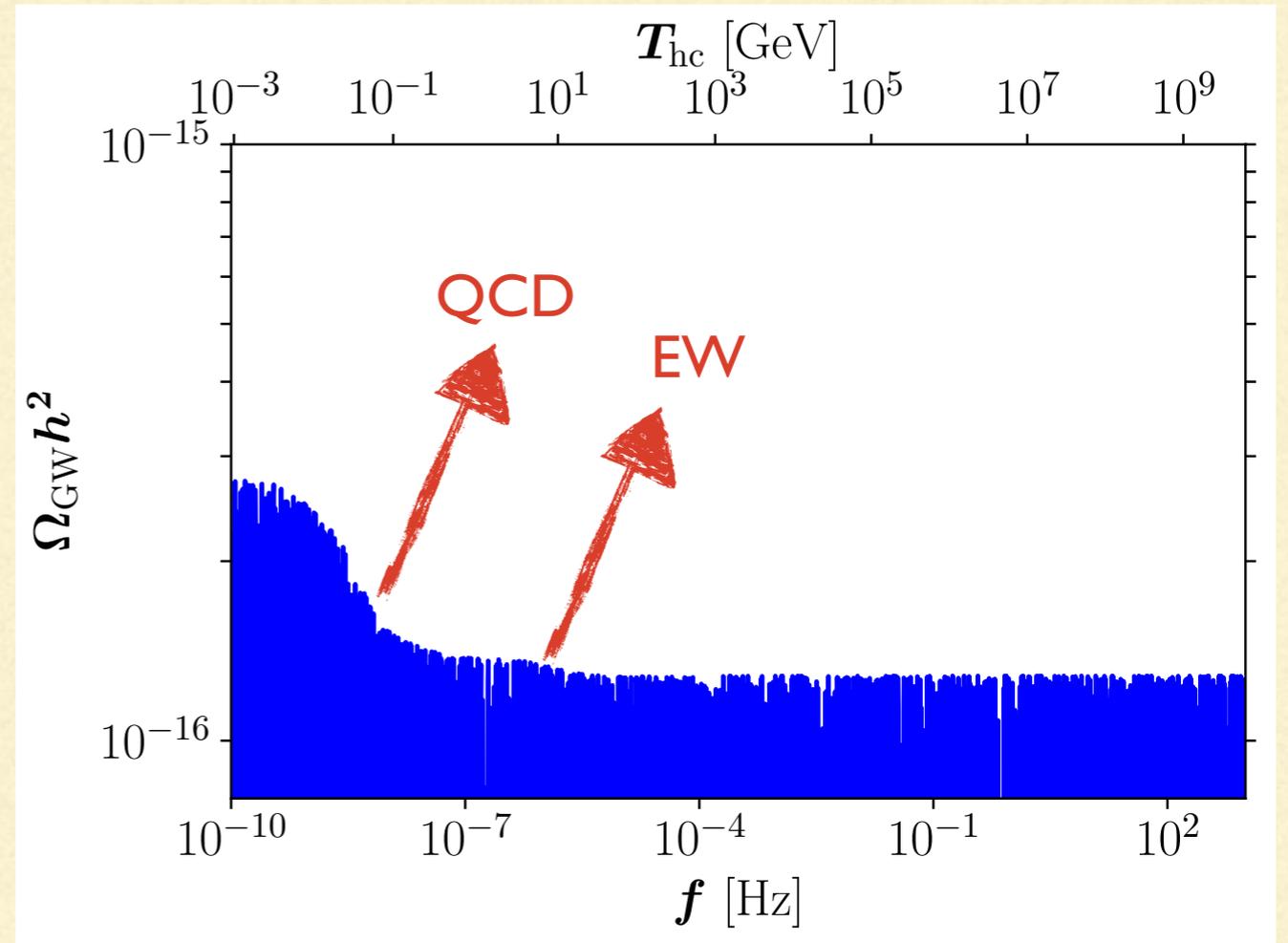
## Overview (2nd)

- Constraining the Tensor Tilt and Tensor to Scalar Perturbation Ratio by GW Experiments in the Standard Cosmology
- Nonstandard Cosmological Scenarios and the PGW  
[Orfeu Bertolami & Elena Arbuzova talks](#)
- Constraining Nonstandard Cosmologies with GW Experiments

Scale independent tensor power spectrum and the scale of inflation:

$$\mathcal{P}_T(k) = \frac{2}{3\pi^2} \frac{V_{\text{inf}}}{M_{Pl}^4}$$

$$V_{\text{inf}}^{1/4} = 1.5 \times 10^{16} \text{ GeV}$$



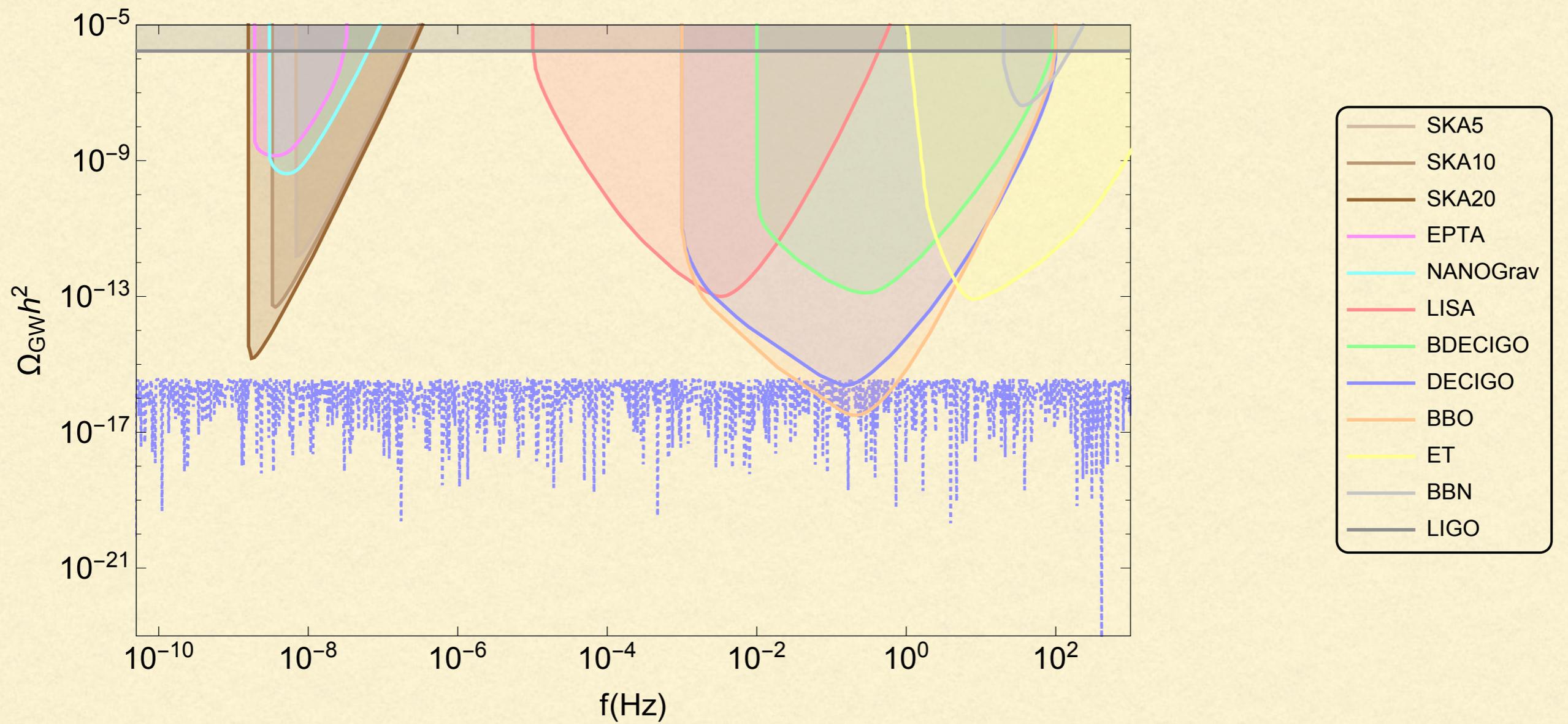
Tensor power spectrum and its scale dependence:

$$\mathcal{P}_T(k) = A_T \left( \frac{k}{\tilde{k}} \right)^{n_T} \longrightarrow \text{Tensor tilt}$$

Pivot scale  $\longleftarrow$

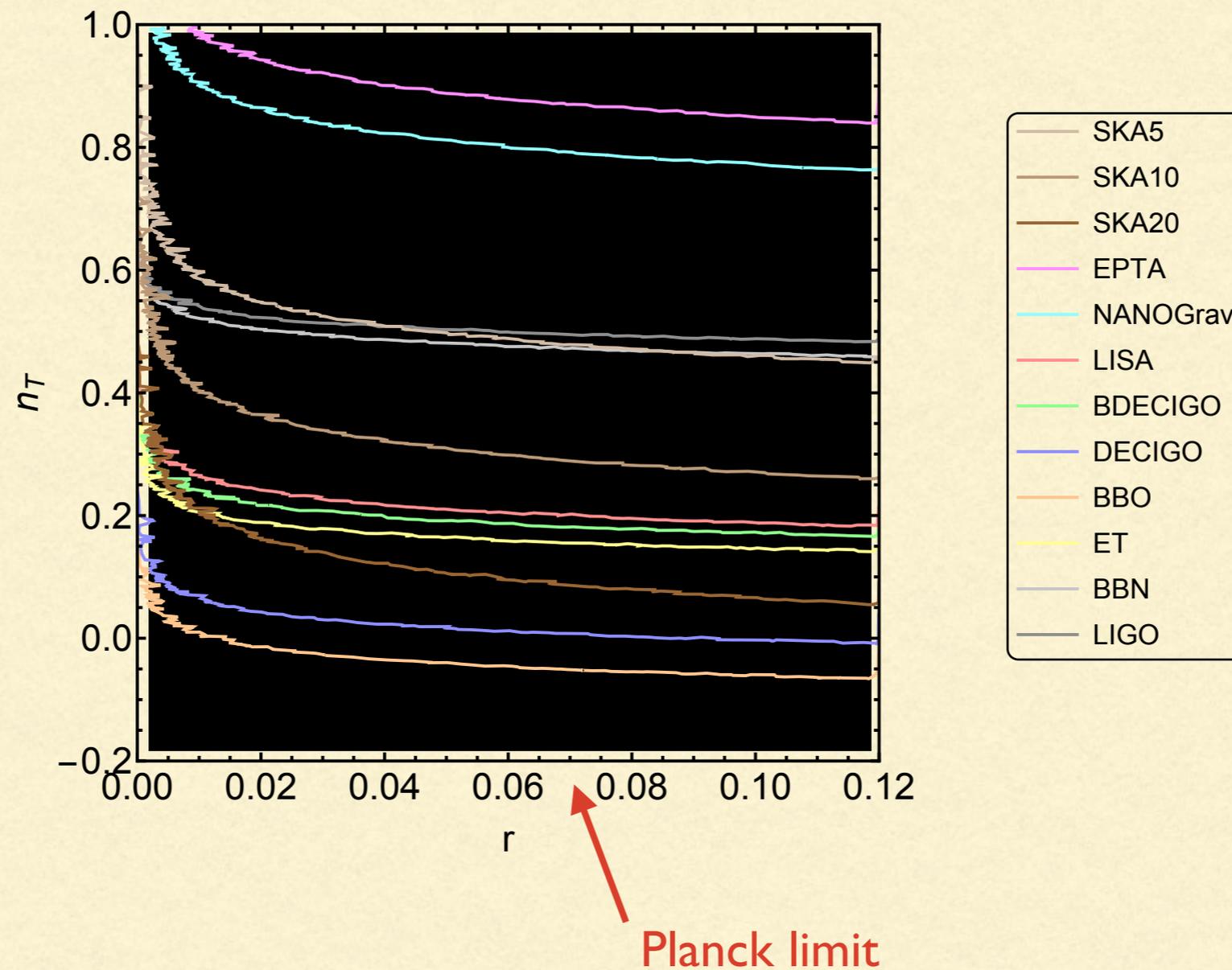
Tensor to scalar perturbation ratio:

$$r \equiv \frac{A_T}{A_S}$$



# Scale Dependent Power Spectrum and Constraints on the tensor tilt and tensor to scalar perturbation ratio

By fixing the scalar perturbation amplitude from Planck data:



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## Nonstandard cosmologies and the PGW

- The history of universe before big bang nucleosynthesis is unknown.
- UV completion theories predict nonstandard cosmologies (by new scalar fields) beyond the standard radiation dominated era before BBN and after inflationary epoch.
- The production mechanism of dark matter in the early universe is unknown. No hints for DM produced from the standard radiation dominated scenario!

Friedmann equations in nonstandard cosmology:

Equation of state parameter for the dominant component

$$\frac{d\rho_\phi}{dt} + 3(1 + \omega_\phi)H\rho_\phi = -\Gamma_\phi\rho_\phi$$

$$\frac{ds_R}{dt} + 3Hs_R = +\frac{\Gamma_\phi\rho_\phi}{T}$$

$$H^2 = \frac{\rho_\phi + \rho_R + \rho_m + \rho_\Lambda}{3M_{Pl}^2}$$

Temperature at which  $\phi$  decays:

$$T_{\text{dec}}^4 = \frac{90}{\pi^2 g_\star(T_{\text{dec}})} M_{Pl}^2 \Gamma_\phi^2$$

SM degrees of freedom

Decay width

Ratio of initial densities:

$$\xi \equiv \left. \frac{\rho_\phi}{\rho_R} \right|_{T=T_{\text{max}}}$$

Initial value for temperature in the numerical calculation (not physical only to cover all possible cases):

$$T_{\text{max}} = 10^{17} \text{ GeV}$$

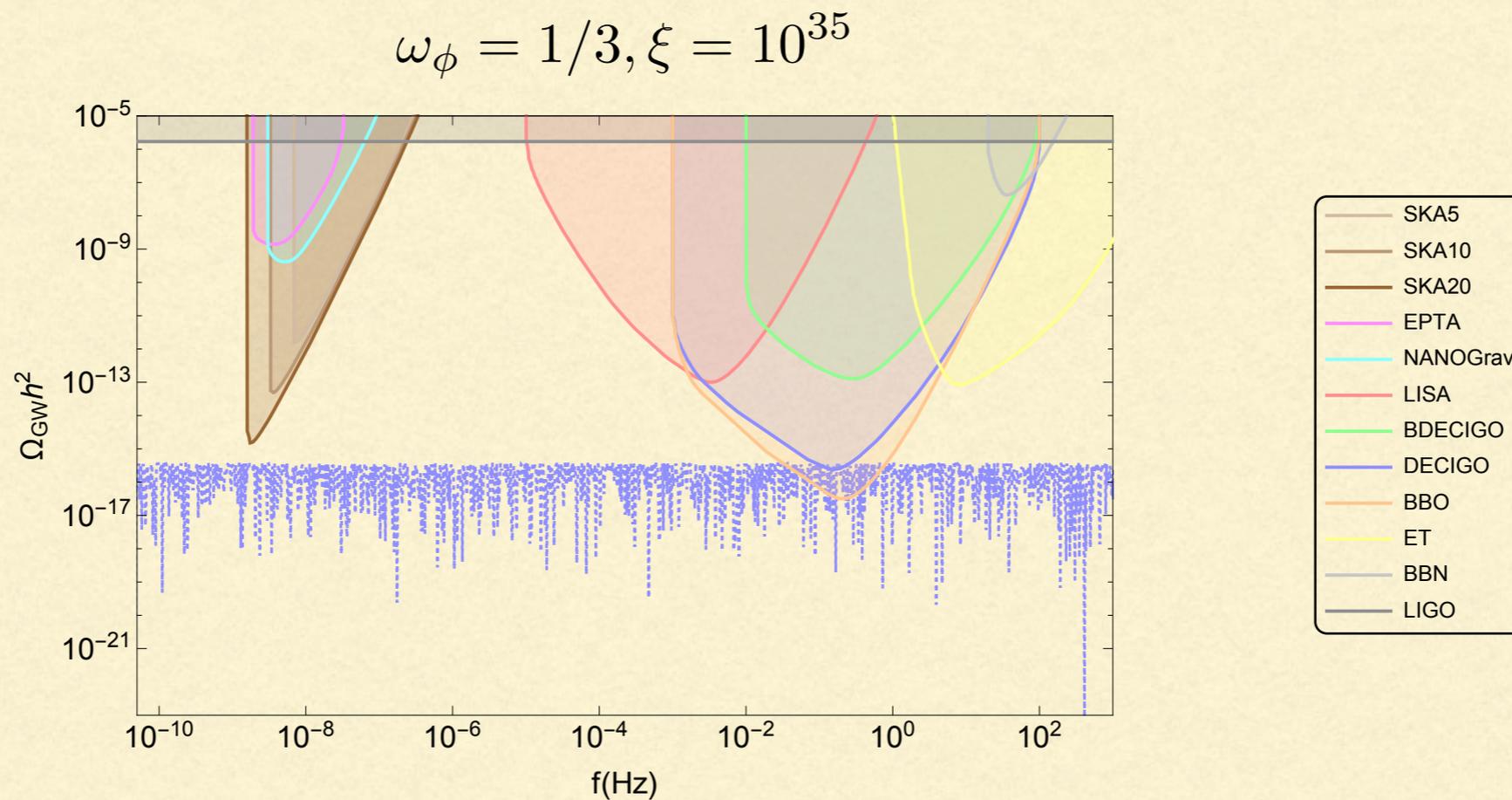
Hubble rate during radiation domination:

$$H_R \propto a^{-2}$$

Hubble rate in  $\phi$  domination:

$$H_\phi \propto a^{-\frac{3}{2}(1+\omega_\phi)}$$

The PGW relic for modes come inside the horizon during  $\phi$  domination:  $\Omega_{GW} \propto k^{-2} \frac{1-3\omega_\phi}{1+3\omega_\phi}$

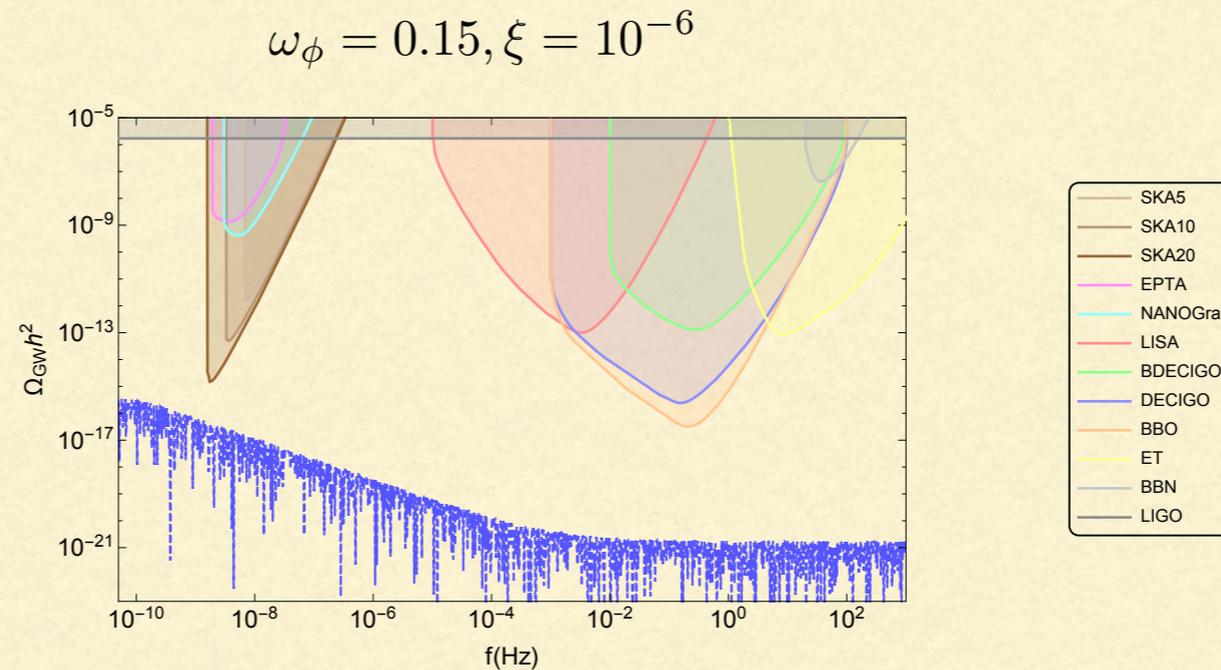


$$T_{\text{dec}} = 10 \text{ MeV}$$

The minimum value of ratios to have a modified radiation density due to nonstandard cosmological scenario ( $\rho_R \propto a^{-4} \rightarrow a^{-\frac{3}{2}(1+\omega_\phi)}$ ):

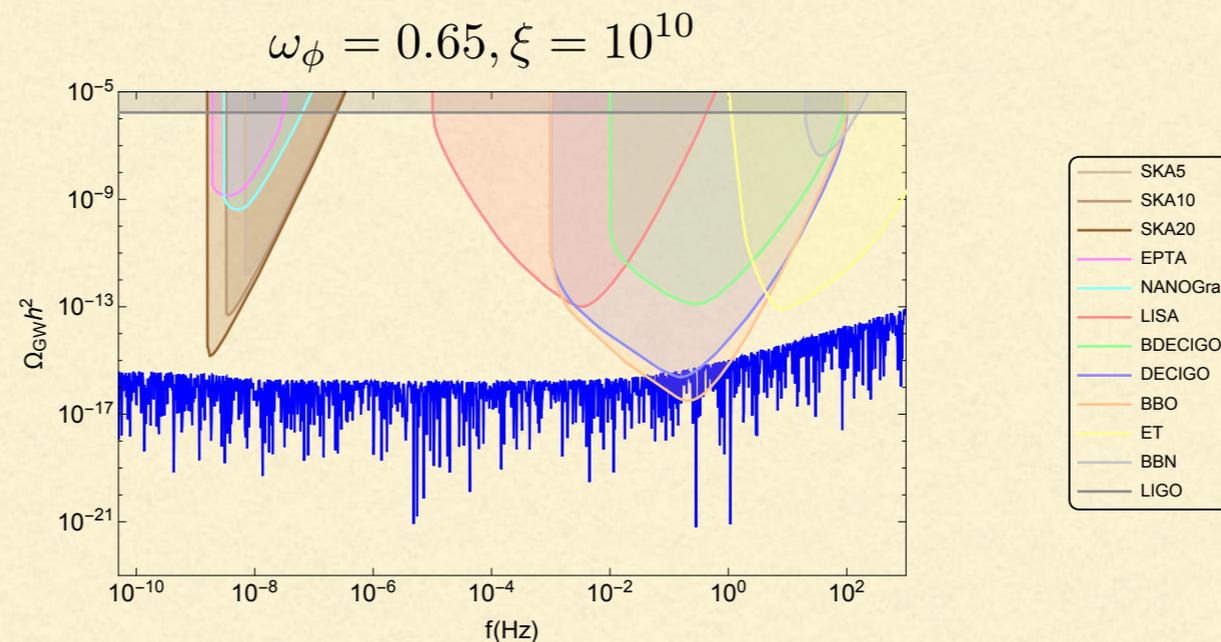
$$\xi_{\min} \approx \left[ \left( \frac{g_\star(T_{\max})}{g_\star(T_{\text{dec}})} \right)^{\frac{1}{4}} \frac{T_{\max}}{T_{\text{dec}}} \right]^{3\omega_\phi - 1}$$

Modulus or matter  
domination like  
scenario

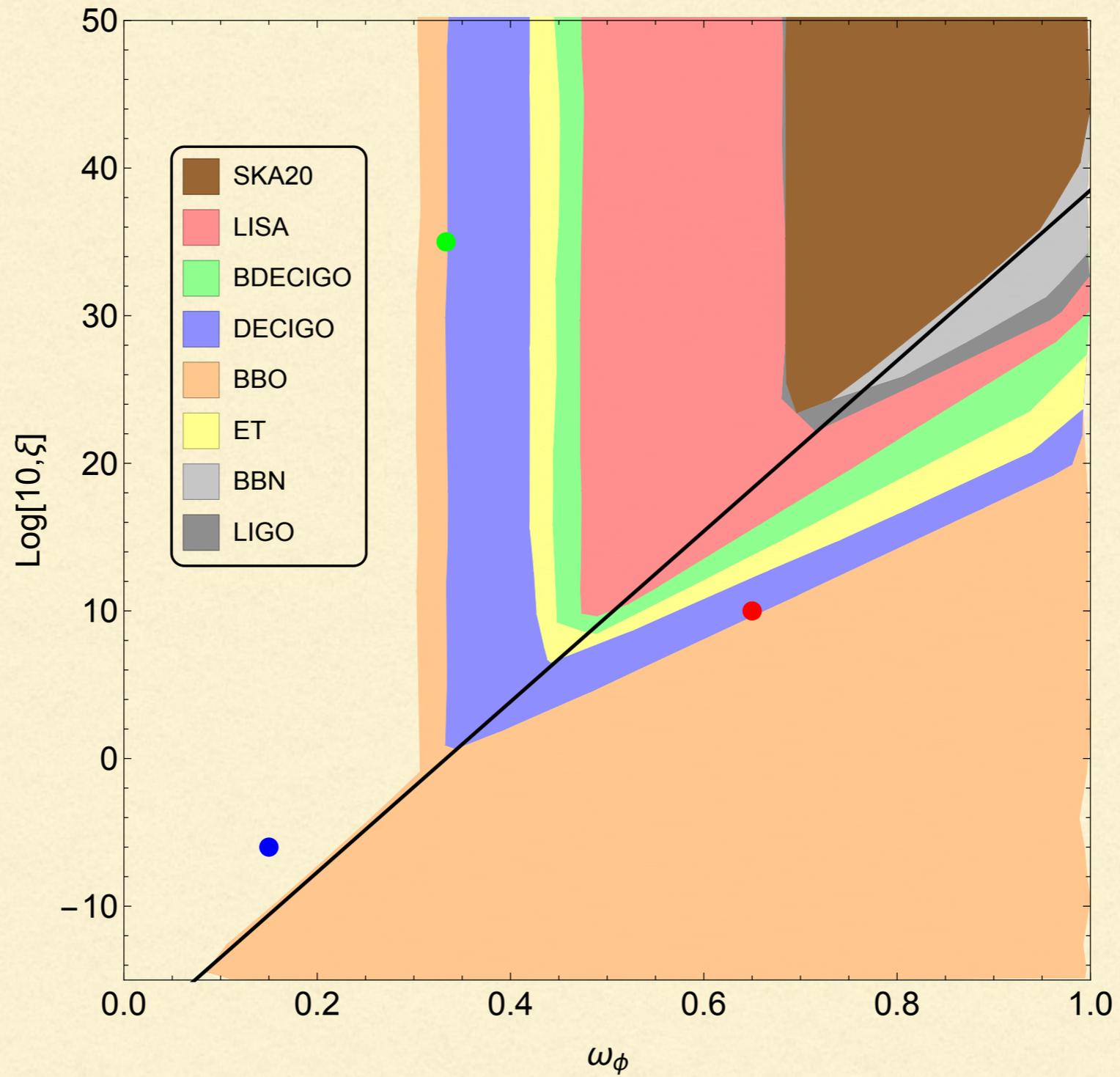


$$T_{\text{dec}} = 10 \text{ MeV}$$

Kination domination  
like scenario



Scanning over the parameter space of  $[\omega_\phi, \xi]$  for  $T_{\text{dec}} = 10 \text{ MeV}$ :



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## Remarks

- (1st part) Nonvanishing lepton chemical potentials might lead to a large enough isospin chemical potential which causes the formation of pion condensate regime in the early universe around the QCD era. If this happens the effect on the PGW will be different from the standard and nonvanishing lepton asymmetry cases. [Brandt et al. 2018](#)
- (2nd part) The curvature power spectrum might also affect the PGW in nonstandard cosmological scenarios as a source for tensor perturbations.

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## Conclusions

- QCD equations of state affect the PGW up to a few percent.
- Pulsar Timing Arrays can observe such effect in near future if the PGW relic is around  $\Omega_{GW}h^2 \approx 10^{-16}$ .
- Nonvanishing lepton asymmetry can leave an imprint on the PGW up to 10% in comparison to the Vanishing case which is an indirect signature of lepton asymmetry in the early universe.
- GW experiments can constrain the parameter space of nonstandard cosmology regimes dominated before BBN.
- They can indirectly measure the regimes might lead to nonthermal production of dark matter which can help us to understand the DM production in the early universe and give an indirect hint for DM mass and cross section.

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*Thanks for your attention!*

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