

# Gravitational Production of Particles and its Difficulties

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based on:

- Aqeel Ahmed, BG, Anna Socha, Phys.Lett.B 831 (2022) 137201,  
e-Print: 2111.06065
- Aqeel Ahmed, BG, Anna Socha, e-Print: 2207.11218

# The $\alpha$ -attractor T-model

$$\mathcal{L}_\phi = \frac{1}{2} \partial_\mu \phi \partial^\mu \phi - V(\phi)$$

$$V(\phi) = \Lambda^4 \tanh^{2n} \left( \frac{|\phi|}{\sqrt{6\alpha} M_{\text{Pl}}} \right)$$

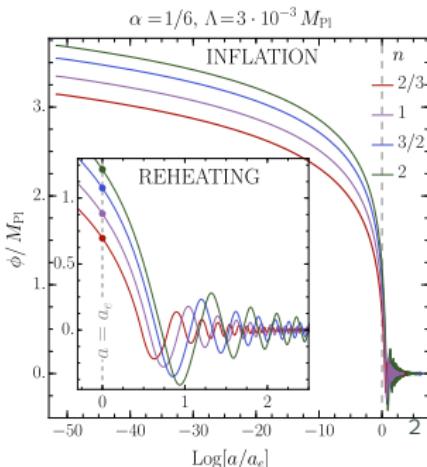
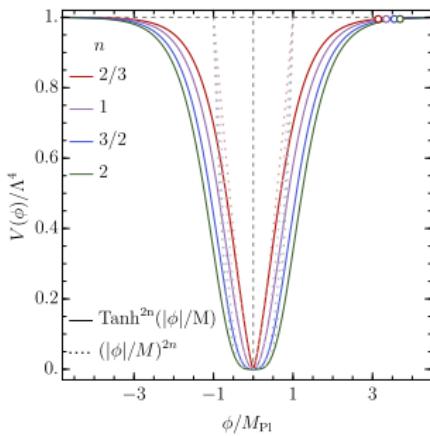
$$\simeq \begin{cases} \Lambda^4 & |\phi| \gg M_{\text{Pl}} \\ \Lambda^4 \left| \frac{\phi}{M_{\text{Pl}}} \right|^{2n} & |\phi| \ll M_{\text{Pl}} \end{cases},$$

where  $n > 0$ ,  $\sqrt{6\alpha} \lesssim 10$ ,  $\Lambda \lesssim 1.6 \times 10^{16}$  GeV.

$$\ddot{\phi} + 3H\dot{\phi} + V_{,\phi}(\phi) = 0$$

$$H^2 = \frac{1}{3M_{\text{Pl}}^2} \left[ \frac{1}{2}\dot{\phi}^2 + V(\phi) \right]$$

where  $H \equiv \dot{a}/a$  is the Hubble rate.



$$\phi(t) = \varphi(t) \cdot \mathcal{P}(t)$$

- $\mathcal{P}(t)$  is a quasi-periodic, fast-oscillating function,
- $\varphi(t)$  denotes a slowly-varying envelope:

$$\rho_\phi = V(\varphi) \simeq \Lambda^4 \left( \frac{\varphi}{M_{\text{Pl}}} \right)^{2n}$$

$$\dot{\varphi}(t) = -\frac{3}{n+1} H \varphi(t) \quad \Rightarrow \quad \varphi(a) = \varphi_e \left( \frac{a_e}{a} \right)^{\frac{3}{n+1}}$$

$$\dot{\mathcal{P}} \simeq \pm \frac{m_\phi}{\sqrt{n(2n-1)}} \sqrt{1 - |\mathcal{P}|^{2n}} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \mathcal{P}(a) = \left[ \mathcal{I}_z^{-1} \left( \frac{1}{2n}, \frac{1}{2} \right) \right]^{\frac{1}{2n}}$$

where  $\mathcal{I}_z^{-1}(i, j)$  is an incomplete beta function  $\mathcal{I}_z^{-1}(i, j)$ . The period of the oscillations,  $\mathcal{T}$ ,

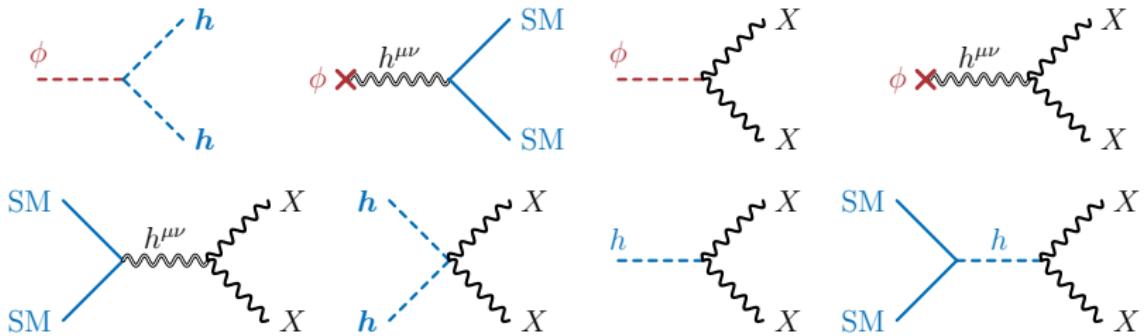
$$\mathcal{T} = \frac{\sqrt{4\pi}}{m_\phi} \sqrt{\frac{2n-1}{n}} \frac{\Gamma(\frac{1}{2n})}{\Gamma(\frac{n+1}{2n})} \quad \text{with} \quad m_\phi^2 \equiv \frac{\partial^2 V(\phi)}{\partial \phi^2} \Big|_{\phi=\varphi} = 2n(2n-1) \frac{\Lambda^4}{M_{\text{Pl}}^2} \left( \frac{\rho_\phi}{\Lambda^4} \right)^{\frac{n-1}{n}}$$

$$\mathcal{P}(t) = \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} \mathcal{P}_k e^{-ik\omega t}$$

# Interactions

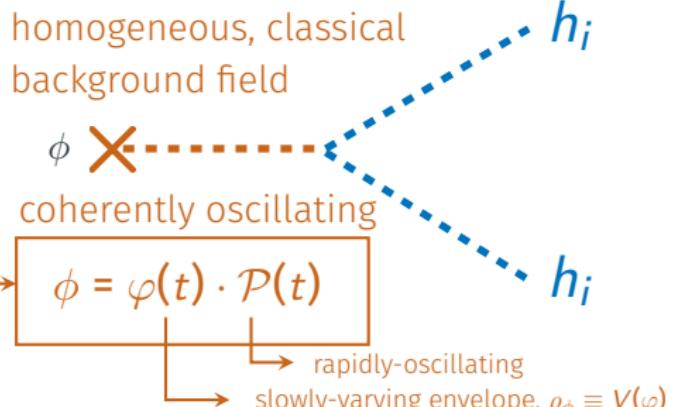
$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{DM}} = -\frac{1}{4} X_{\mu\nu} X^{\mu\nu} + \frac{1}{2} m_X^2 X_\mu X^\mu,$$

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{L}_{\text{int}} = & - \left\{ \boxed{g_{h\phi} M_{\text{Pl}} \phi |\mathbf{h}|^2} + \frac{h^{\mu\nu}}{M_{\text{Pl}}} \left[ T_{\mu\nu}^\phi + T_{\mu\nu}^{\text{DM}} + T_{\mu\nu}^{\text{SM}} \right] \right. \\ & \left. + \frac{C_X^\phi m_X^2}{2M_{\text{Pl}}} \phi X_\mu X^\mu + \frac{C_X^h m_X^2}{2M_{\text{Pl}}^2} |\mathbf{h}|^2 X_\mu X^\mu \right\},\end{aligned}$$



# The Higgs portal

$$\mathcal{L}_{int} = g_{h\phi} M_{Pl} \phi |h|^2$$



→ **Reheating** i.e., energy transfer between the inflaton and the SM sector

$$\frac{1}{V} \frac{dE_g}{dt} \equiv \rho_\phi \Gamma_\phi = g_{h\phi}^2 M_{Pl}^2 \frac{\varphi^2(t)}{8\pi} \sum_{i=0}^3 \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} k\omega |\mathcal{P}_k|^2 \sqrt{1 - \left(\frac{2m_{h_i}}{k\omega}\right)^2}, \quad \mathcal{P}(t) = \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} \mathcal{P}_k e^{-ik\omega t}$$

→ **Higgs mass** induced by the oscillating inflaton background

$$m_{h_0}^2 = g_{h\phi} M_{Pl} \varphi \begin{cases} |\mathcal{P}|, & \mathcal{P}(t) > 0 \\ 2|\mathcal{P}|, & \mathcal{P}(t) < 0 \end{cases}$$

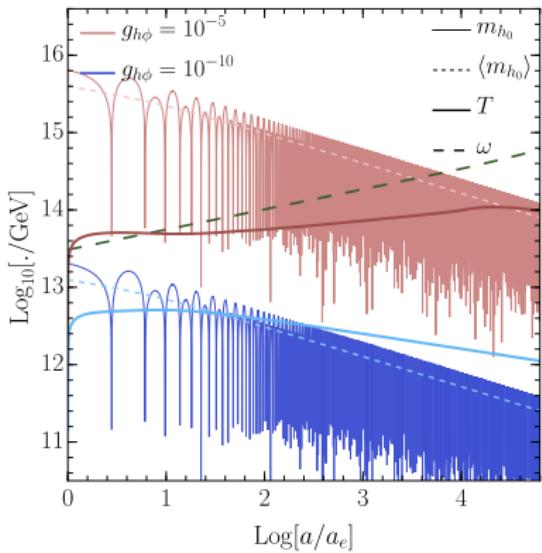
$$v_h = \begin{cases} 0, & \mathcal{P}(t) > 0 \\ \sqrt{|m_{h_0}^2|/(2\lambda_h)}, & \mathcal{P}(t) < 0 \end{cases}$$

# The Higgs portal

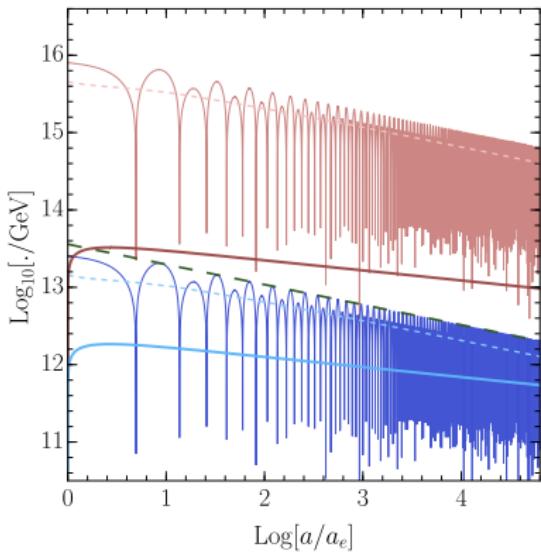
$$m_{h_0}^2 = g_{h\phi} M_{\text{Pl}} \varphi \begin{cases} |\mathcal{P}|, & \mathcal{P}(t) > 0 \\ 2|\mathcal{P}|, & \mathcal{P}(t) < 0 \end{cases}$$

$$\nu_h = \begin{cases} 0, & \mathcal{P}(t) > 0 \\ \sqrt{|m_{h_0}^2|/(2\lambda_h)}, & \mathcal{P}(t) < 0 \end{cases}$$

$$n=2/3, \alpha=1/6, \Lambda=3 \cdot 10^{-3} M_{\text{Pl}}$$



$$n=3/2, \alpha=1/6, \Lambda=3 \cdot 10^{-3} M_{\text{Pl}}$$



# Kinematic suppression

The inflaton decay rate can be written as

$$\langle \Gamma_\phi \rangle = \frac{g_{h\phi}^2}{32\pi} \frac{M_{\text{Pl}}^2}{m_\phi(a)} \gamma_h(a),$$

effective mass  
 $m_\phi^2(a) = V_{,\phi\phi}|_{\phi=\varphi}$

$$\gamma_h(a) \simeq \sum_{i=0}^3 \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} k |\mathcal{P}_k|^2 \left\langle \sqrt{1 - \left( \frac{2m_{h_i}(a)}{k\omega(a)} \right)^2} \right\rangle$$

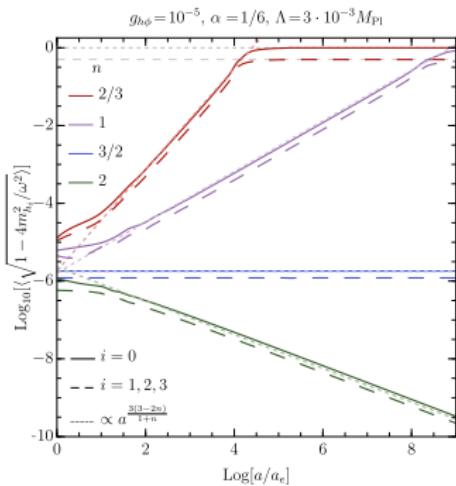
$\omega \propto m_\phi$

It turns out that

$$\gamma_h \propto a^{\frac{3(3-2n)}{1+n}}$$

which implies

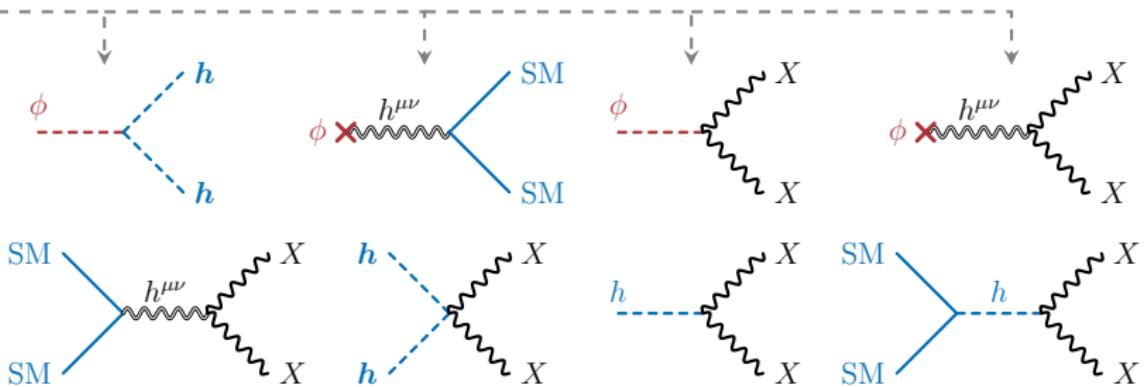
$$\langle \Gamma_\phi \rangle \propto a^{\frac{6-3n}{1+n}} \equiv a^{-\beta}$$



# The time-averaged Boltzmann equations

$$\dot{\rho}_\phi + \frac{6n}{n+1} H \rho_\phi = - \boxed{\langle \Gamma_\phi \rangle} \rho_\phi$$
$$\dot{\rho}_{\text{SM}} + 4H\rho_{\text{SM}} = \langle \Gamma_{\phi \rightarrow \text{SM}} \rangle \rho_\phi - 2\langle E_X \rangle \mathcal{S}_{\text{SM}} - \langle E_{h_0} \rangle \mathcal{D}_{h_0}$$
$$\dot{n}_X + 3Hn_X = \mathcal{D}_\phi + \mathcal{S}_\phi + \mathcal{S}_{\text{SM}} + \mathcal{D}_{h_0}$$

with the Hubble rate  $H^2 = \frac{1}{3M_{\text{Pl}}^2} (\rho_\phi + \rho_{\text{SM}} + \rho_X)$



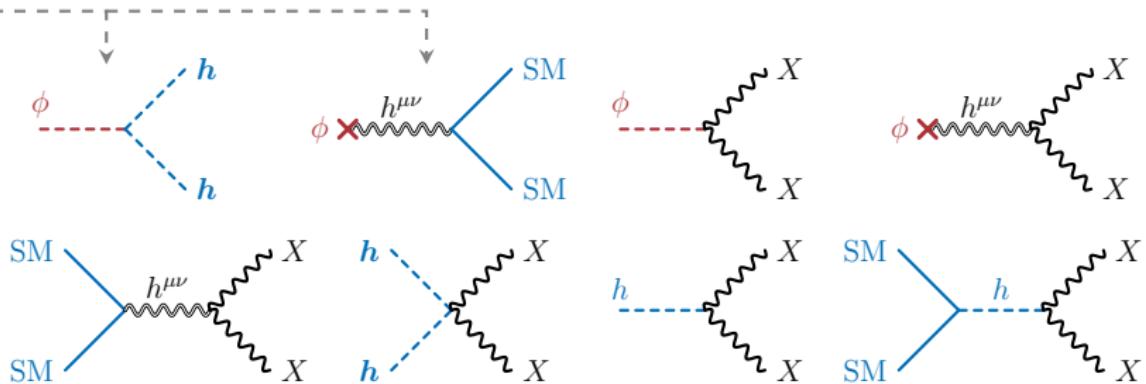
# The time-averaged Boltzmann equations

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$$\dot{\rho}_{\text{SM}} + 4H\rho_{\text{SM}} = \boxed{\langle \Gamma_{\phi \rightarrow \text{SM SM}} \rangle} \rho_\phi - 2\langle E_X \rangle \mathcal{S}_{\text{SM}} - \langle E_{h_0} \rangle \mathcal{D}_{h_0}$$

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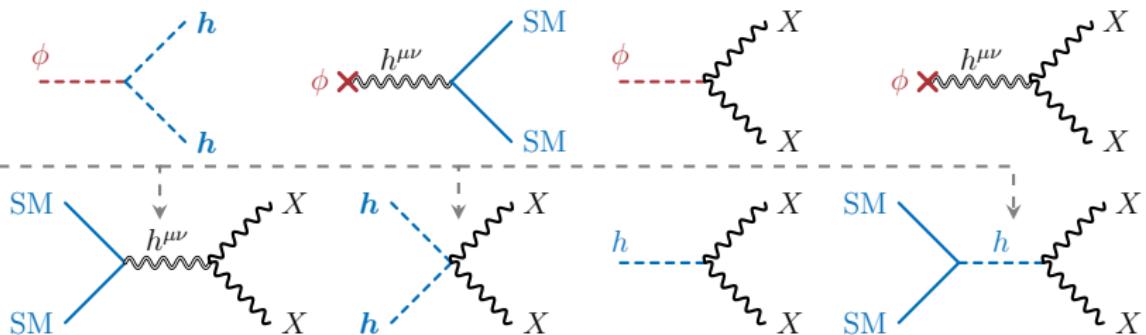


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$$\dot{\rho}_\phi + \frac{6n}{n+1} H \rho_\phi = -\langle \Gamma_\phi \rangle \rho_\phi$$

$$\begin{aligned}\dot{\rho}_{\text{SM}} + 4H\rho_{\text{SM}} &= \langle \Gamma_{\phi \rightarrow \text{SM SM}} \rangle \rho_\phi - 2\langle E_X \rangle [\mathcal{S}_{\text{SM}}] - \langle E_{h_0} \rangle \mathcal{D}_{h_0} \\ \dot{n}_X + 3Hn_X &= \mathcal{D}_\phi + \mathcal{S}_\phi + [\mathcal{S}_{\text{SM}}] + \mathcal{D}_{h_0}\end{aligned}$$

with the Hubble rate  $H^2 = \frac{1}{3M_{\text{Pl}}^2} (\rho_\phi + \rho_{\text{SM}} + \rho_X)$



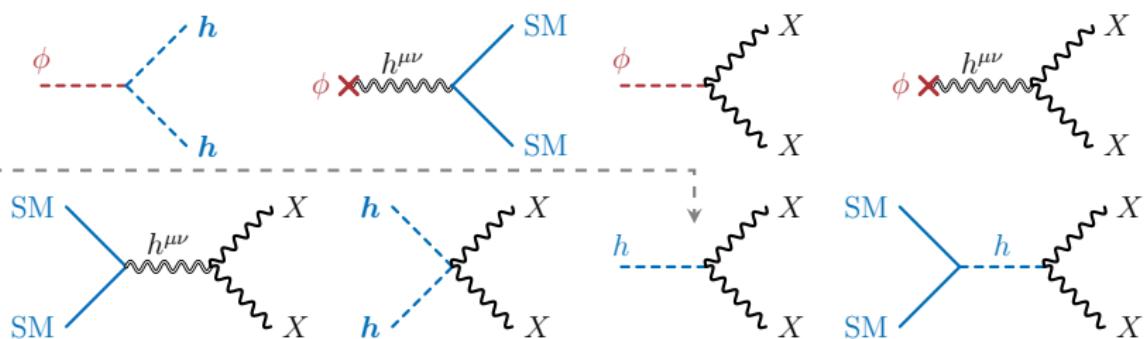
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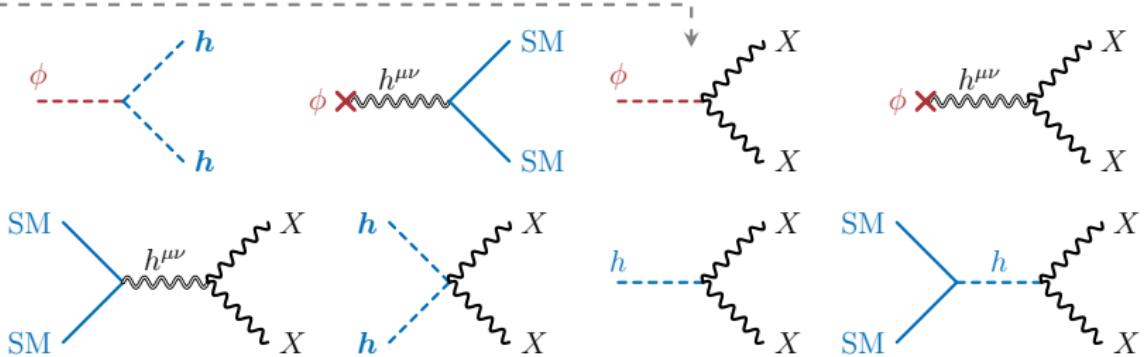
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$$\dot{n}_X + 3Hn_X = \boxed{\mathcal{D}_\phi} + \mathcal{S}_\phi + \mathcal{S}_{\text{SM}} + \mathcal{D}_{h_0}$$

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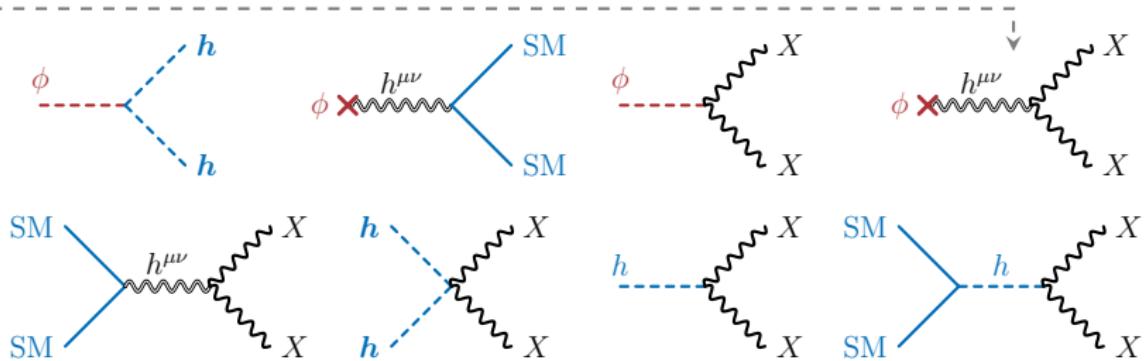
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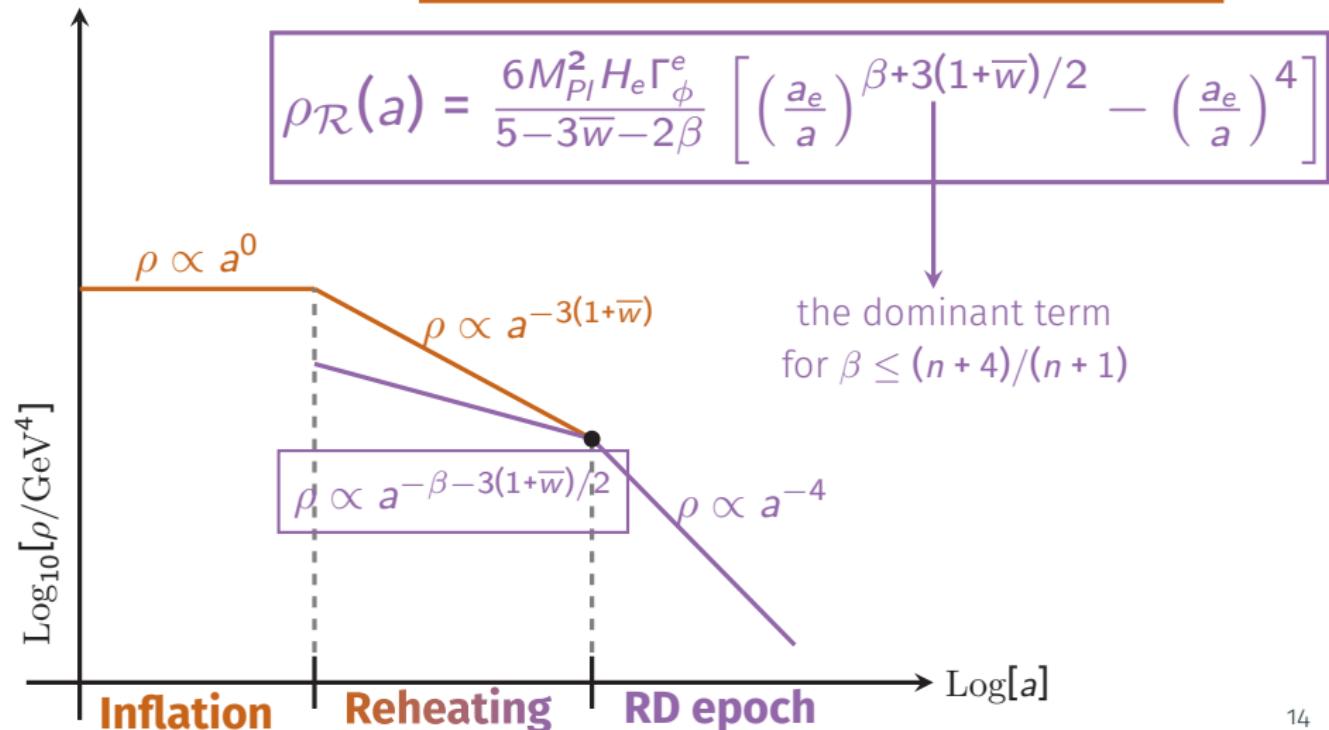
$$\dot{n}_X + 3Hn_X = \mathcal{D}_\phi + \boxed{\mathcal{S}_\phi} + \mathcal{S}_{\text{SM}} + \mathcal{D}_{h_0}$$

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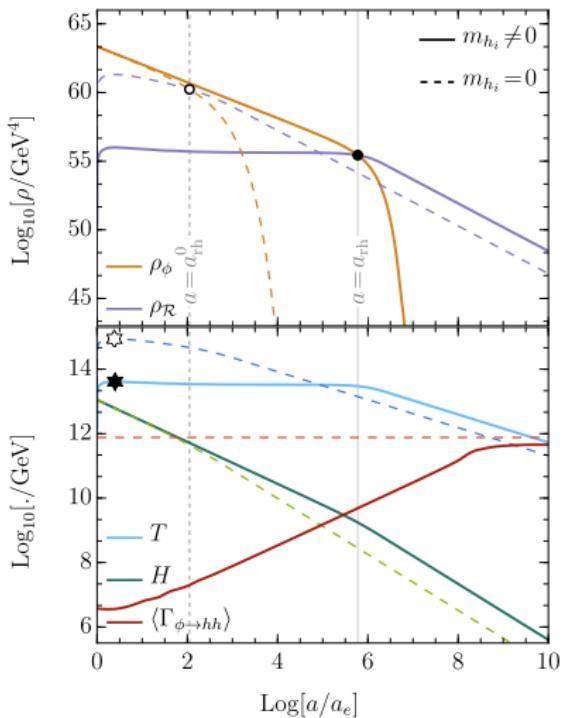


# Non-instantaneous reheating

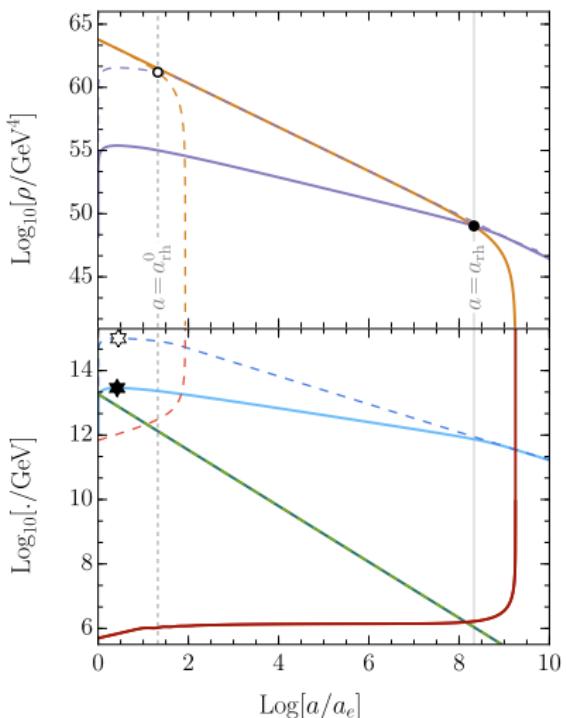
$$\rho_\phi(a) \stackrel{H \gg \Gamma_\phi}{\simeq} 3M_{Pl}^2 H_e^2 \left(\frac{a_e}{a}\right)^{3(1+\bar{w})}$$



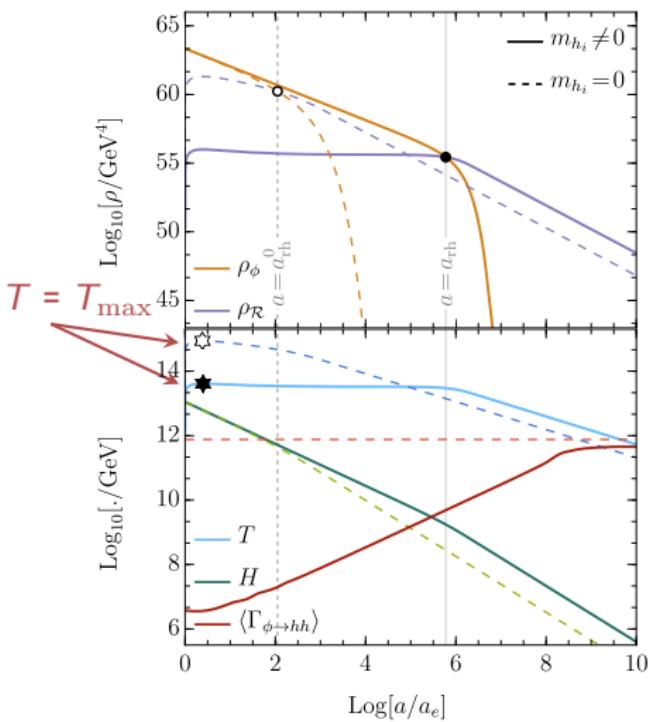
$$g_{h\phi} = 10^{-5}, n=1, \alpha=1/6, \Lambda=3 \cdot 10^{-3} M_{\text{Pl}}$$



$$g_{h\phi} = 10^{-5}, n=2, \alpha=1/6, \Lambda=3 \cdot 10^{-3} M_{\text{Pl}}$$



$$g_{h\phi} = 10^{-5}, n=1, \alpha=1/6, \Lambda=3 \cdot 10^{-3} M_{\text{Pl}}$$



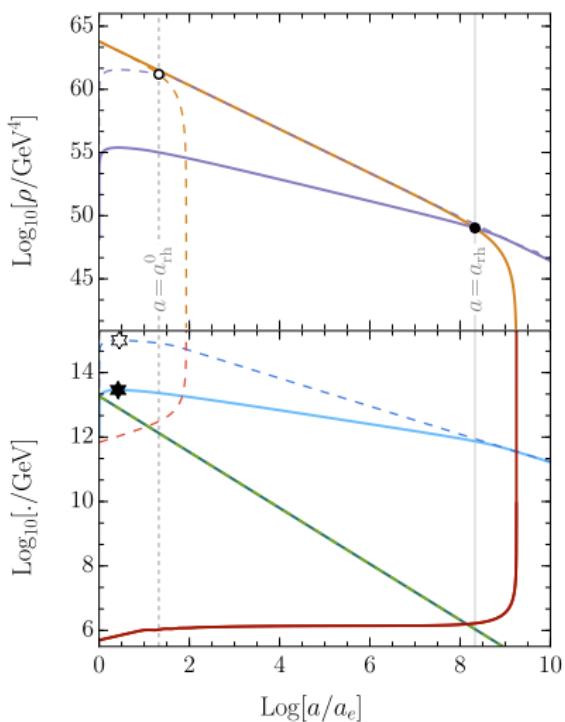
$$m_{h_i} = 0$$

$$\beta = 0, \rho_R \propto a^{-3/2}$$

$$m_{h_i} \neq 0$$

$$\beta = -\frac{3}{2}, \rho_R \propto a^0$$

$$g_{h\phi} = 10^{-5}, n=2, \alpha=1/6, \Lambda=3 \cdot 10^{-3} M_{\text{Pl}}$$



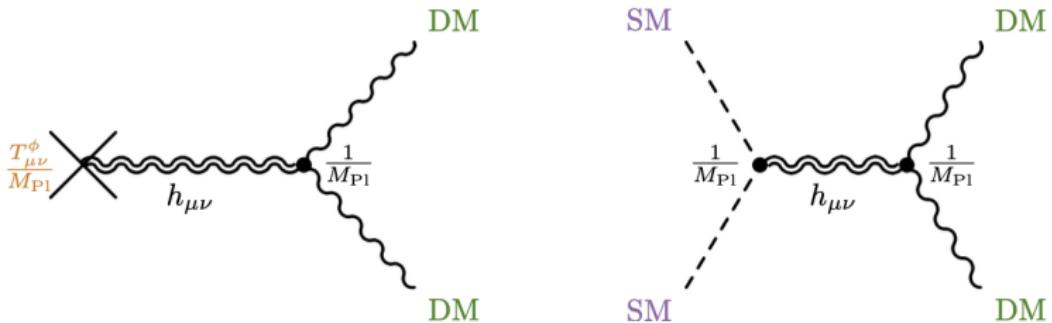
$$\beta = -1, \rho_R \propto a^{-1}$$

$$\beta = 0, \rho_R \propto a^{-2}$$

# Gravitational DM production

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{DM}} = -\frac{1}{4} X_{\mu\nu} X^{\mu\nu} + \frac{1}{2} m_X^2 X_\mu X^\mu + \mathcal{L}_{\text{int}}$$

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{int}} = \frac{h_{\mu\nu}}{M_{\text{Pl}}} \left( \textcolor{brown}{T}_\phi^{\mu\nu} + \textcolor{green}{T}_X^{\mu\nu} + \textcolor{violet}{T}_{\text{SM}}^{\mu\nu} \right)$$



Y. Mambrini et al., arXiv:2102.06214

M.R. Haque et al., arXiv:2112.14668

S. Clery et al., arXiv:2112.15214

M. Garny et al., arXiv:1511.03278

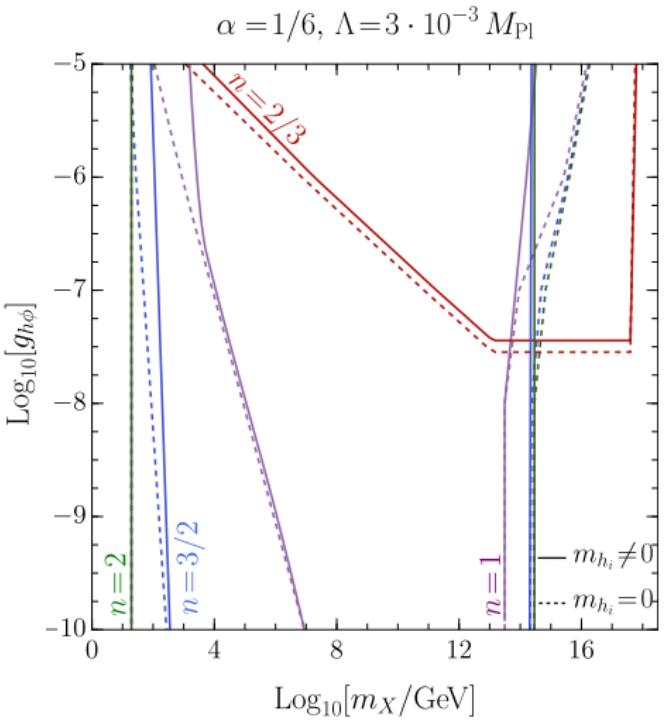
Y. Tang et al., arXiv:1708.05138

M. Garny et al., arXiv:1709.09688

# Gravitational DM production

$$\Omega_X^{\text{grav}} h^2 \simeq \frac{m_X}{\rho_c} \frac{N^{\text{grav}}(a_{\text{rh}})}{a_{\text{rh}}^3} \frac{s_0}{s(a_{\text{rh}})} h^2.$$

$$\Omega_X^{\text{grav}} h^2 = \Omega_X^{(\text{obs})} h^2 = 0.1198 \pm 0.0012$$



# Gravitational DM production

Heavy DM particles are produced  
by the freeze-in from the SM sector

$$\alpha = 1/6, \Lambda = 3 \cdot 10^{-3} M_{\text{Pl}}$$

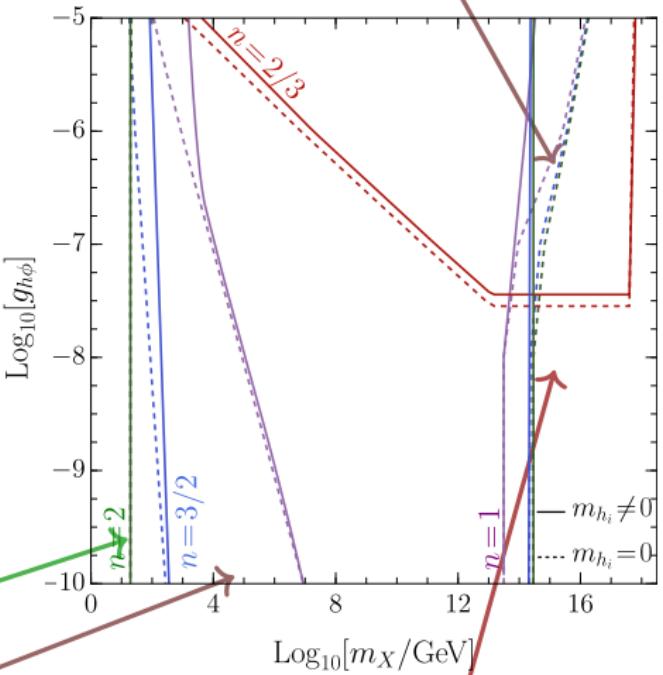
$$\Omega_X^{\text{grav}} h^2 \simeq \frac{m_X}{\rho_c} \frac{N^{\text{grav}}(a_{\text{rh}})}{a_{\text{rh}}^3} \frac{s_0}{s(a_{\text{rh}})} h^2.$$

$$\Omega_X^{\text{grav}} h^2 = \Omega_X^{(\text{obs})} h^2 = 0.1198 \pm 0.0012$$

For the  $n=2$  case,

$\Omega_X^{\text{grav}} h^2$  does not depend on  $g_{h\phi}$

Light DM particles are dominantly



For the  $n=2/3$  case,  
 $\Omega_X^{\text{grav}} h^2$  does not depend on  $m_X$

# Summary

- The  $\alpha$ -attractor T-model potential for the inflaton field has been adopted:

$$V(\phi) = \Lambda^4 \tanh^{2n} \left( \frac{|\phi|}{\sqrt{6\alpha} M_{\text{Pl}}} \right) \simeq \begin{cases} \Lambda^4 & |\phi| \gg M_{\text{Pl}} \\ \Lambda^4 \left| \frac{\phi}{M_{\text{Pl}}} \right|^{2n} & |\phi| \ll M_{\text{Pl}} \end{cases}$$

- The reheating has been triggered by

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{int}} = g_{h\phi} M_{\text{Pl}} \phi |\mathbf{h}|^2$$

- It has been shown that both duration of reheating and evolution of radiation energy density,  $\rho_{\mathcal{R}}$ , are sensitive to the shape of the inflaton potential ( $n$ ).
- The role of kinematical suppression emerging from  $\mathcal{L}_{\text{int}}$  has been investigated. It has been shown that the non-zero mass of the Higgs boson leads to the elongation of the reheating period, changes the  $\rho_{\mathcal{R}}(a)$  and  $T(a)$  evolution, and favors reduced  $T_{\text{max}}$ .

## Summary

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- It has been shown that purely gravitational perturbative production of DM is possible.
- Purely gravitational perturbative reheating needs to be investigated.

# Problems to consider

## 1. Classical inflaton background (condensate)

$$\ddot{\phi} + 3H\dot{\phi} + V_{,\phi}(\phi) = 0$$

$$H^2 = \frac{1}{3M_{\text{Pl}}^2} \left[ \frac{1}{2}\dot{\phi}^2 + V(\phi) \right]$$

Assume:

$$V(\phi, h) = V_\phi(\phi) + V_h(h) + g_{h\phi} M_{\text{Pl}} \phi |h|^2 + \lambda_{h\phi} \phi^2 |h|^2$$

$$\Downarrow$$

$$\ddot{\phi} + 3H\dot{\phi} + V_{,\phi}(\phi, h) = 0$$

$$\ddot{h} + 3H\dot{h} + V_{,h}(\phi, h) = 0$$

$$H^2 = \frac{1}{3M_{\text{Pl}}^2} \left[ \underbrace{\frac{1}{2}\dot{\phi}^2 + \frac{1}{2}\dot{h}^2}_{\rho_\phi + \rho_h} + V(\phi, h) \right]$$

Then

$$\phi(t) = \bar{\phi}(t) + \delta\phi(x), \quad h(t) = \bar{h}(t) + \delta h(x)$$

with  $\bar{\phi}(t)$ ,  $\bar{h}(t)$  being classical homogeneous background while  $\delta\phi(x)$ ,  $\delta h(t)$  are quantum fluctuations ( $\bar{\phi}(t)$ ,  $\bar{h}(t) \rightarrow T_{\mu\nu}$ )

## 2 Choice of the background metric: Minkowski versus FRWL?

$$g_{\mu\nu}(x) = \bar{g}_{\mu\nu}(x) + \frac{h_{\mu\nu}}{M_{\text{Pl}}}(x) \quad \bar{g}_{\mu\nu}(x) = \begin{cases} \eta_{\mu\nu} \\ g_{\mu\nu}^{\text{FLRW}}(t) \end{cases}$$

- graviton propagator
- contractions
- scalar, fermion and vector propagators

### 3 Renormalization of $T_{\mu\nu}$

The equation of motion for longitudinally-polarized modes

$$\tilde{\mathcal{X}}_L'' + \omega_L^2(\tau) \tilde{\mathcal{X}}_L = 0$$

where the time-dependent frequency  $\omega_L^2$  reads

$$\omega_L^2(\tau) \equiv k^2 + m_X^2 a^2 - \frac{k^2}{k^2 + m_X^2 a^2} \frac{a''}{a} + 3 \frac{k^2 m_X^2 a'^2}{(k^2 + m_X^2 a^2)^2}$$

For  $\max[am_X, aH_I] \ll k$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d\rho_L}{d \ln k} &= \frac{k^3}{4\pi^2 a^4} \left\{ \frac{k}{2} + \left( \frac{k^4}{(k^2 + a^2 m_X^2)^2} a^2 H_I^2 + k^2 + a^2 m_X^2 \right) \frac{1}{2k} \right\} \\ &= \frac{k^4}{4\pi^2 a^4} + \frac{k^2 (H_I^2 + m_X^2)}{8\pi^2 a^2} - \frac{H_I^2 m_X^2}{4\pi^2} + \frac{3a^2 H_I^2 m_X^4}{8\pi^2 k^2} + \mathcal{O}(k^{-4}) \end{aligned}$$

The first three terms are divergent in the limit  $k \rightarrow \infty$ .

Cristian Moreno-Pulido and J. Sola Peracaula, "Running vacuum in quantum field theory in curved space-time: renormalizing  $\rho_{\text{vac}}$  without  $\sim m^4$  terms", Eur. Phys. J. C (2020) 80:692

- adiabatic regularization procedure (ARP) introducing a scale  $M$
- subtraction prescription (equivalent to subtraction of the Minkowski result)
- The cut-off:

$$k < \Lambda \equiv a_e H_I$$

## Quantum interference in gravitational particle production

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**Edward Basso,<sup>a</sup> Daniel J. H. Chung,<sup>a</sup> Edward W. Kolb,<sup>b</sup> and Andrew J. Long<sup>c</sup>**

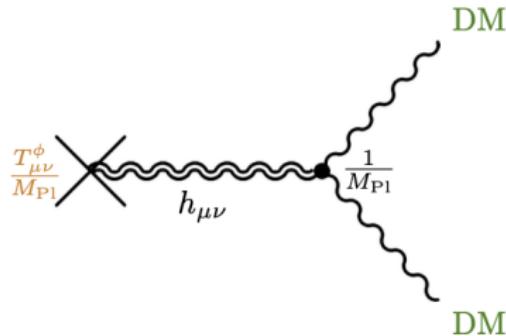
<sup>a</sup>*Department of Physics, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI 53706, USA*

<sup>b</sup>*Kavli Institute for Cosmological Physics and Enrico Fermi Institute, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL 60637, USA*

<sup>c</sup>*Department of Physics and Astronomy, Rice University, Houston, TX 77005, USA*

*E-mail:* [ebasso@wisc.edu](mailto:ebasso@wisc.edu), [danielchung@wisc.edu](mailto:danielchung@wisc.edu), [rocky.kolb@uchicago.edu](mailto:rocky.kolb@uchicago.edu), [andrewjlong@rice.edu](mailto:andrewjlong@rice.edu)

**ABSTRACT:** Previous numerical investigations of gravitational particle production during the coherent oscillation period of inflation displayed unexplained fluctuations in the spectral density of the produced particles. We argue that these features are due to the quantum interference of the coherent scattering reactions that produce the particles. We provide accurate analytic formulae to compute the particle production amplitude for a conformally-coupled scalar field, including the interference effect in the kinematic region where the production can be interpreted as inflaton scattering into scalar final states via graviton exchange.



$$S_{\phi \rightarrow XX}^{(2)} = \frac{\rho_\phi}{M_{Pl}^2} \sum_k \mathcal{P}_k^{2n} \mathcal{M}_V(k) (2\pi)^4 \delta(k\omega - p_1^0 - p_2^0) \delta^{(3)}(\vec{p}_1 + \vec{p}_2),$$

⇓

- No interference between  $k$  and  $k' \neq k$ .
- However, periodicity of  $\mathcal{P}(t)$  is approximate.
- The decomposition of  $\phi(t) = \varphi(t) \cdot \mathcal{P}(t)$  is not unique.

- 5 Bogoliubov versus Boltzmann.  $\Rightarrow$  Kunio Kaneta
- 6 Thermal corrections to  $V(\phi, h)$ .
- 7 RGE corrections to parameters of  $V(\phi, h)$ .

## Limits on $g_{h\phi}$

- Perturbativity ( $h_i \phi \rightarrow h_i \phi$ )

$$g_{h\phi} \lesssim \left( \frac{\Lambda^2}{\phi M_{\text{Pl}}} \right),$$

- The inflationary dynamics is dominated by the cosmological constant term  $\sim \Lambda^4$  therefore

$$g_{h\phi} \lesssim \sqrt{\lambda_h} \left( \frac{\Lambda^2}{\phi M_{\text{Pl}}} \right),$$

- If  $m_{h_0} > 3H_I/2$  the Higgs field fluctuations during inflation are strongly suppressed ensuring stability (J. R. Espinosa, et al. , [arXiv:1505.04825]), therefore

$$g_{h\phi} \gtrsim \frac{3}{4} \sqrt{6\alpha} \left( \frac{\Lambda^2}{\phi M_{\text{Pl}}} \right)^2 \left( \frac{\phi}{M} \right).$$

$$6 \cdot 10^{-11} \lesssim g_{h\phi} \lesssim 3 \cdot 10^{-6}$$