

# Magnetic Fields, Baryon Asymmetry, and Gravitational Waves from Pseudoscalar Inflation.



Kai Schmitz

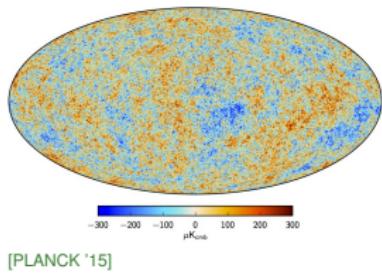
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Based on [arXiv:1707.07943 \[hep-ph\]](https://arxiv.org/abs/1707.07943). In collaboration with

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# Pseudoscalar inflation coupled to gauge fields



[PLANCK '15]

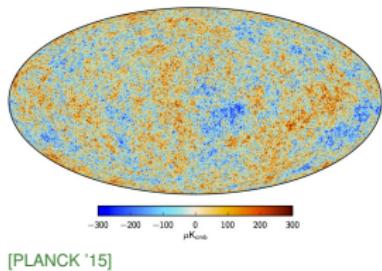
**Inflation:** Successful paradigm of early universe cosmology.  
[Starobinsky '80] [Guth '81] [Linde '82] [Albrecht & Steinhardt '82]

- ▶ Homogeneity, isotropy on cosmological scales
- ▶ Seeds for structure formation on galactic scales

**Big question:** How to embed inflation into particle physics!?

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# Pseudoscalar inflation coupled to gauge fields



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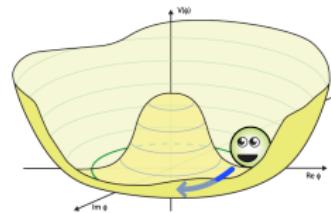
- ▶ Homogeneity, isotropy on cosmological scales
- ▶ Seeds for structure formation on galactic scales

**Big question:** How to embed inflation into particle physics!?

**Promising idea:** Inflation driven by pseudoscalar (axion) field  $a$

[Freese, Frieman, Olinto '90] [Adams, Bond, Freese, Frieman, Olinto '93]

- ▶ PNGB of spontaneously broken global symmetry  $G_{\text{global}}$
- ▶ Naturally flat potential, protected by shift symmetry
- ▶ Anomalies of global symmetry  $\rightarrow$  coupling to gauge fields



$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 \begin{array}{c} \text{Diagram showing } a \text{ (dashed)} \text{ and } A_\mu \text{ (wavy lines) coupled to each other.} \end{array} & \Rightarrow & \mathcal{L}_{\text{eff}} \supset \frac{a}{4\Lambda} F_{\mu\nu} \tilde{F}^{\mu\nu} \\
 \end{array}$$

# Recent work on the rich phenomenology of axion inflation

## ► Primordial magnetogenesis (and baryogenesis via decaying magnetic helicity):

1503.05802 [astro-ph.CO] (Fujita, Namba, Tada, Takeda, Tashiro); 1507.00744 [hep-th] (Anber, Sabancilar);

1606.08474 [astro-ph.CO] (Adshead, Giblin, Scully, Sfakianakis); 1611.02293 [hep-ph] (Cado, Sabancilar)

## ► Primordial black holes (as a fraction of dark matter):

1511.08470 [astro-ph.CO] (Erlani); 1704.03464 [astro-ph.CO] (Domcke, Muia, Pieroni, Witkowski);

1707.02441 [astro-ph.CO] (Garcia-Bellido, Peloso, Unal)

## ► Stochastic gravitational waves from inflation:

1603.01287 [astro-ph.CO] (Binétruy, Domcke, Pieroni); 1608.04216 [astro-ph.CO] (Dimastrogiovanni, Fasiello, Fujita);

1610.03763 [astro-ph.CO] (Garcia-Bellido, Peloso, Unal)

## ► Gravitational leptogenesis:

1604.06520 [hep-ph] (Maleknejad); 1706.03765 [astro-ph.CO] (Caldwell, Devulder); 1708.08007 [astro-ph.CO] (Papageorgiou, Peloso)

## ► Signatures in the CMB power spectra:

1612.08817 [astro-ph.CO] (Obata)

## ► See also recent work on theoretical aspects (perturbativity, thermalization, etc.):

1512.06116 [astro-ph.CO] (Ferreira, Ganc, Noreña, Sloth); 1606.00459 [astro-ph.CO] (Peloso, Sorbo, Unal); 1706.00373 [astro-ph.CO] (Ferreira, Notari)

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This talk: Correlation between magnetic fields, baryon asymmetry, and gravitational waves.

# Gauge field production during inflation

**Our analysis:** Couple inflaton to the gauge field of the standard model hypercharge  $U(1)_Y$

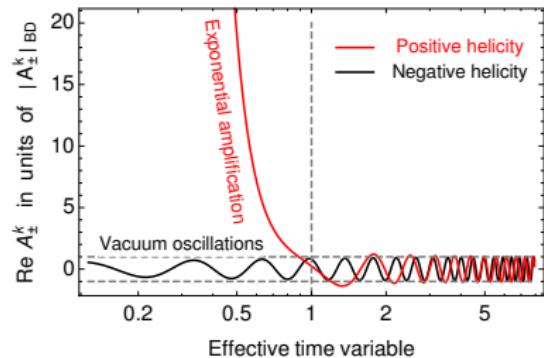
- ▶ Minimal scenario: Abelian rather than non-Abelian gauge field;  $U(1)_Y$  part of the SM.
  - ▶ Gauge field production during inflation → opportunity for primordial magnetogenesis.
- 

Friedmann equation:

$$H^2 = \frac{1}{3M_{\text{Pl}}^2} \left[ \frac{1}{2} \dot{a}^2 + V(a) + \frac{1}{2} \langle \mathbf{E}^2 \rangle + \frac{1}{2} \langle \mathbf{B}^2 \rangle \right]$$

Equations of motion:

$$\ddot{a} + 3H\dot{a} + \frac{dV}{da} = \frac{1}{\Lambda} \langle \mathbf{E} \mathbf{B} \rangle, \quad \square \mathbf{A} = -\frac{a'}{\Lambda} \nabla \times \mathbf{A}$$



- ▶ Axion-gauge-field coupling results in new source terms.
- ▶ Gauge field modes of one helicity (+ or -) are exponentially amplified.

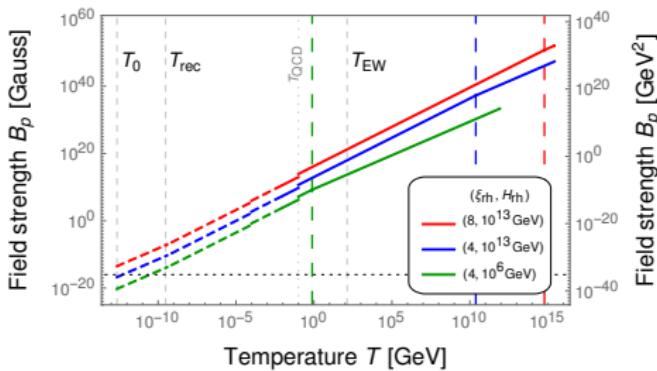
[Turner & Widrow '88] [Garretson, Field, Carroll '92] [Anber & Sorbo '06; '10] [Durrer, Hollenstein, Jain '11] [Barnaby & Peloso '11] [Sorbo '11] [Barnaby, Namba, Peloso '11] [Barnaby, Pajer, Peloso '12] [Meerburg & Pajer '13] [Linde, Mooij, Pajer '13]

# Gauge field evolution after inflation

Physical strength and correlation length of the hypermagnetic  $\mathbf{B}$  field at the end of inflation:

$$B_p = \langle \mathbf{B}^2 \rangle^{1/2} \sim 10^{-2} \frac{e^{\pi \xi}}{\xi^{5/2}} H^2, \quad \lambda_p = \langle \lambda \rangle \sim \frac{\xi}{H}, \quad \xi = \frac{1}{2H} \left| \frac{\dot{a}}{\Lambda} \right|$$

**Our analysis:** Instant reheating approximation + simple scaling laws after inflation. Better treatment would require dedicated numerical magnetohydrodynamics (MHD) simulation.



Adiabatic dilution at high temperature

$$B_p \propto \frac{1}{R^2}, \quad \lambda_p \propto R$$

Inverse cascade below critical  $T_{ic}$

$$B_p \propto \frac{1}{R^{7/3}}, \quad \lambda_p \propto R^{5/3}$$

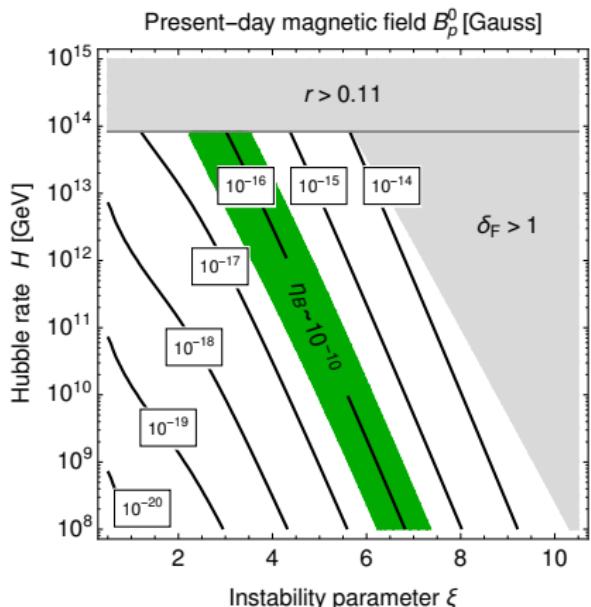
**Inverse cascade:** Alfvén waves generate plasma turbulence on scales of size  $\lambda_T \sim v_{At}$ . Once  $\lambda_T \sim \lambda_p$ ,  $\lambda_p$  continues to scale like  $\lambda_T$ . Transfer of energy from small to large scales.

[Banerjee & Jedamzik '04] [Brandenburg & Subramanian '05] [Kandus, Kunze, Tsagas '11] [Widrow, Ryu, Schleicher, Subramanian, Tsagas, Treumann '12] [Kahniashvili, Tevzadze, Brandenburg, Neronov '13] [Durrer & Neronov '13]

# Present-day magnetic field

Physical strength and correlation length of the hypermagnetic  $\mathbf{B}$  field in the present epoch:

$$B_p^0 \simeq 3 \times 10^{-19} \text{ G} \left( \frac{e^{2\pi\xi}}{\xi^4} \right)^{1/3} \left( \frac{H}{10^{13} \text{ GeV}} \right)^{1/2}, \quad \lambda_p^0 \simeq \frac{1.0 \text{ pc}}{(4\pi)^{1/2}} \left( \frac{B_p^0}{10^{-14} \text{ G}} \right)$$



Our result:

- ▶ Simple estimate. But, completely model-independent! No assumptions about  $V(a)$ , neglect dynamics of RH.

Compare with experimental bounds:

- ▶ CMB anisotropies, ionisation, etc.:  
[PLANCK '15]

$$B_p^0 \lesssim 10^{-9} \text{ G} \quad \checkmark$$

- ▶ Indications from blazars /  $\gamma$  rays:  
[Takahashi et al. '13] [Chen, Buckley, Ferrer '15]

$$B_p^0 \gtrsim 10^{-17} \dots 10^{-14} \text{ G} \quad ???$$

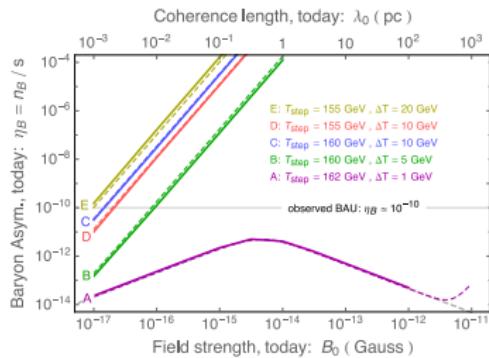
# Baryogenesis via decaying hypermagnetic helicity

- ▶ Hypermagnetic field generated during inflation is maximally helical

$$\mathcal{H}_Y = \int_V d^3x \mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{B} = \frac{1}{R^3} \int_V d^3x \int \frac{d^3k}{(2\pi)^3} k \left( |A_+^k|^2 - |A_-^k|^2 \right), \quad |A_+^k| \gg |A_-^k|$$

- ▶ Opportunity for baryogenesis via the chiral triangle anomaly in the standard model

$$\Delta B = \Delta L = N_g \left( \Delta N_{\text{CS}} - \frac{g_Y^2}{16\pi^2} \Delta \mathcal{H}_Y \right)$$



- ▶ Slow decay of  $\mathcal{H}_Y$  around the time of the EWPT results in nonzero baryon asymmetry.
- ▶ Solve complicated system of kinetic equations (incl. Yukawas, chiral magnetic effect, etc.).
- ▶ Observed value  $\eta_B^{\text{obs}} \sim 10^{-10}$  reproduced for

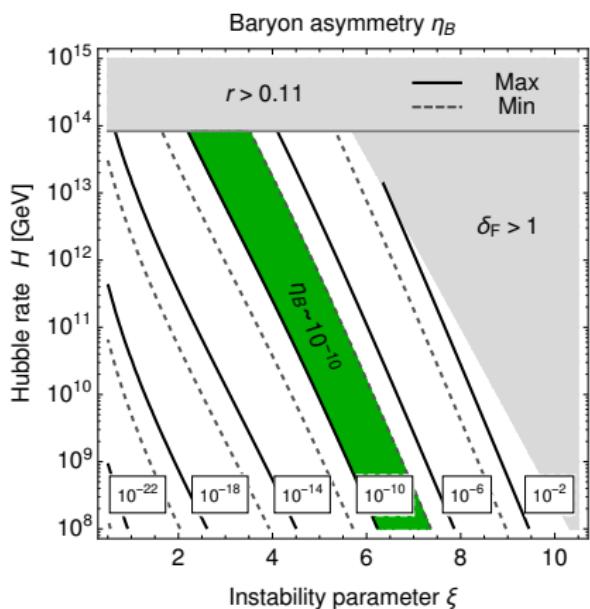
$$B_p^0 \sim 10^{-16} \text{ G}$$

[Giovannini & Shaposhnikov '98; '98] [Bamba '06] [Anber & Sabancilar '15] [Fujita & Kamada '16] [Kamada & Long '16; '16] [Cado & Sabancilar '16]

# Final baryon asymmetry

Our analysis of primordial magnetogenesis + BAU calculation by [Kamada & Long '16]

$$\eta_B \simeq (6.5 \times 10^{-3} \dots 3.8) \times 10^{-17} \left( \frac{e^{2\pi\xi}}{\xi^4} \right) \left( \frac{H}{10^{13} \text{ GeV}} \right)^{3/2}$$



Prediction:

- ▶ Successful baryogenesis (mostly) based on standard model physics!

$\eta_B \sim 10^{-10} \Leftrightarrow B_p^0 \sim 10^{-16} \text{ G}$

- ▶ IGMFs have positive helicity. Testable in future (blazar halo) observations!

Largest uncertainties:

- ▶ Effect of reheating on the primordial gauge fields, exact behavior of  $\theta_W$ .

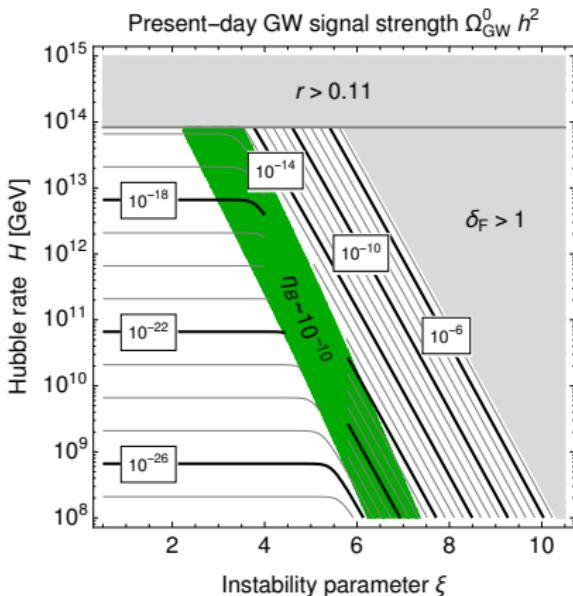
[Fujita et al. '15] [Adshead et al '16]

# GW production during inflation

Gauge field perturbations source tensor perturbations in the metric → stochastic GWs

[Cook & Sorbo '12] [Anber & Sorbo '12] [Domcke, Pieroni, Bintruy '16] [Garcia-Bellido, Peloso, Unal '16]

$$\Omega_{\text{GW}}^0 h^2 \simeq \frac{\Omega_{\text{rad}}^0 h^2}{12} \left( \frac{g_*}{g_*^0} \right) \left( \frac{g_{*,s}^0}{g_{*,s}} \right)^{4/3} \left( \frac{H}{\pi M_{\text{Pl}}} \right)^2 \left[ 1 + \left( \frac{H}{M_{\text{Pl}}} \right)^2 (f_L(\xi) + f_R(\xi)) e^{4\pi\xi} \right]$$



Successful baryogenesis requires

$$\xi \sim 5 \Rightarrow \Lambda \sim 3 \times 10^{17} \text{ GeV}$$

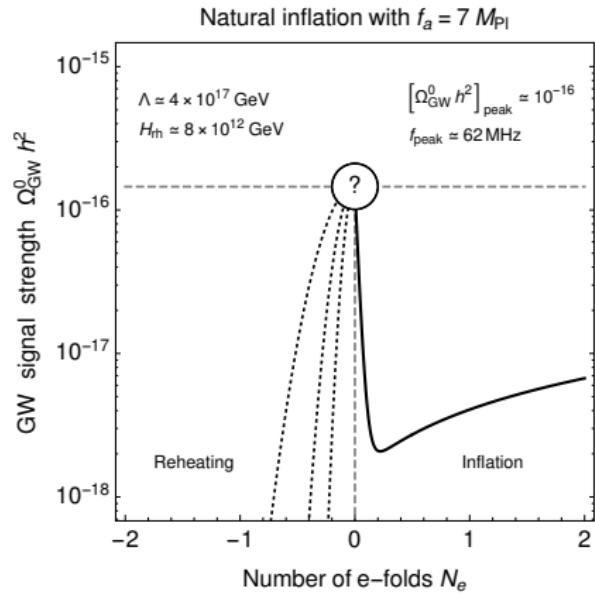
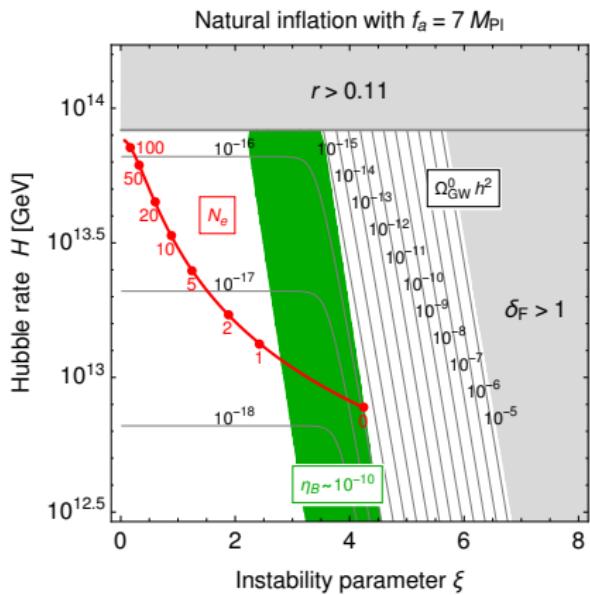
- ▶ Inflaton must be weakly coupled. Otherwise, overproduction of BAU.
- ▶ Always stay in the weak field regime. Gauge field production never dominates inflationary dynamics.
- ▶ Upper bound on GW signal strength

$$\Omega_{\text{GW}}^0 h^2 \lesssim 10^{-14}$$

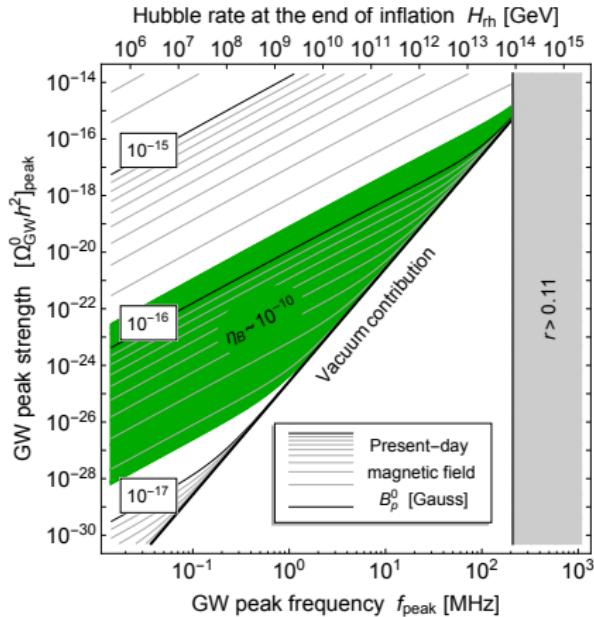
# Peak in the spectrum of primordial GWs

## Inflationary trajectories in the $\xi$ - $H$ parameter plane

- ▶  $\xi \propto |\dot{a}| / H$  increases towards the end of inflation → feature in the GW spectrum!
- ▶ Frequency determined by  $H$  at the end of inflation:  $f_{\text{peak}} \simeq 71 \text{ MHz} (H/10^{13} \text{ GeV})^{1/2}$



# Correlation between GWs and BAU



Our results so far

$$B_p^0(\xi, H), \quad \eta_B(\xi, H), \quad \Omega_{\text{GW}}^0 h^2(\xi, H)$$

Trade  $\xi$  and  $H$  for  $B_p^0$  and  $f_{\text{peak}}$

$$\xi = \xi(B_p^0, H), \quad H = H(f_{\text{peak}})$$

Correlation between physical observables

$$B_p^0(\Omega_{\text{GW}}^0 h^2, f_{\text{peak}}), \quad \eta_B(\Omega_{\text{GW}}^0 h^2, f_{\text{peak}})$$

- Weak signal at high frequencies; but in principle, unique signature of baryogenesis via decaying helicity. Stronger GWs result in the overproduction of baryon number.

# Take-Home Messages

Pseudoscalar (axion) inflation coupled to the standard model hypercharge gauge sector

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{eff}} \supset \frac{a}{4\Lambda} F_{\mu\nu} \tilde{F}^{\mu\nu}$$

Rich phenomenology:

- ▶ Explosive gauge field production during inflation → primordial magnetogenesis.
- ▶ Maximally helical hypermagnetic field → baryogenesis via the chiral anomaly.
- ▶ Gauge field production feeds into tensor spectrum → source of stochastic GWs.

Our main results:

- ▶ Baryogenesis is feasible for a weakly coupled pseudoscalar inflaton field

$$\eta_B \sim 10^{-10} \leftrightarrow B_p^0 \sim 10^{-16} \text{ G} \leftrightarrow \Lambda \sim 3 \times 10^{17} \text{ GeV}$$

- ▶ Peak in GW spectrum at MHz frequencies. Out of reach of present-day technology; but in principle, smoking-gun signal for baryogenesis via decaying helicity.

Thank you for your attention!

# Supplementary Material

# Gauge field production during inflation

Equations of motion for the vector field modes:

$$\left[ \frac{\partial^2}{\partial \tau^2} + \omega_k^2(\tau, \xi) \right] A_{\pm}^k(\tau) = 0, \quad \omega_k^2(\tau, \xi) = k^2 \left[ 1 - \frac{(\pm 2\xi)}{(-k\tau)} \right]$$

Tachyonic instability,  $\omega_k^2 < 0$ , depending on the value of the instability parameter  $\xi$ :

$$\xi = \frac{1}{2H} \frac{\dot{a}}{\Lambda}$$

For constant  $\xi$ , the modes equations are solved exactly by Whittaker  $W$  functions:

$$A_{\pm}^k(\tau) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2k}} \exp \left[ \pm \frac{\pi \xi}{2} \right] W_{\mp i\xi, 1/2}(2ik\tau)$$

Physical strength and correlation length of the hypermagnetic  $\mathbf{B}$  field at the end of inflation:

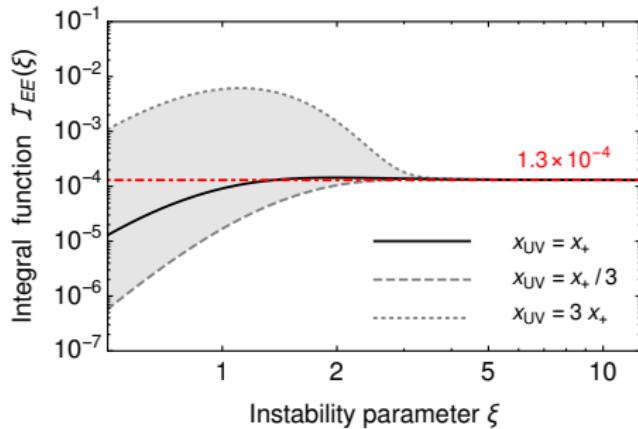
$$\mathbf{B} = \frac{1}{R^2} \nabla \times \mathbf{A}, \quad B_p = \langle \mathbf{B}^2 \rangle^{1/2} \sim 10^{-2} \frac{e^{\pi \xi}}{\xi^{5/2}} H^2, \quad \lambda_p = \langle \lambda \rangle \sim \frac{\xi}{H}$$

[Turner & Widrow '88] [Garretson, Field, Carroll '92] [Anber & Sorbo '06; '10] [Durrer, Hollenstein, Jain '11] [Barnaby & Peloso '11] [Sorbo '11] [Barnaby, Namba, Peloso '11] [Barnaby, Pajer, Peloso '12] [Meerburg & Pajer '13] [Linde, Mooij, Pajer '13]

# Whittaker integral function $\mathcal{I}_{EE}$

Energy density stored in the hyperelectric  $E$  field:

$$\rho_{EE} = \frac{1}{2} \langle \mathbf{E}^2 \rangle = \frac{1}{2R^4} \int \frac{d^3\mathbf{k}}{(2\pi)^3} \left| \frac{\partial}{\partial \tau} A_+^k \right|^2 = \mathcal{I}_{EE}(\xi) \frac{e^{2\pi\xi}}{\xi^3} H^4$$

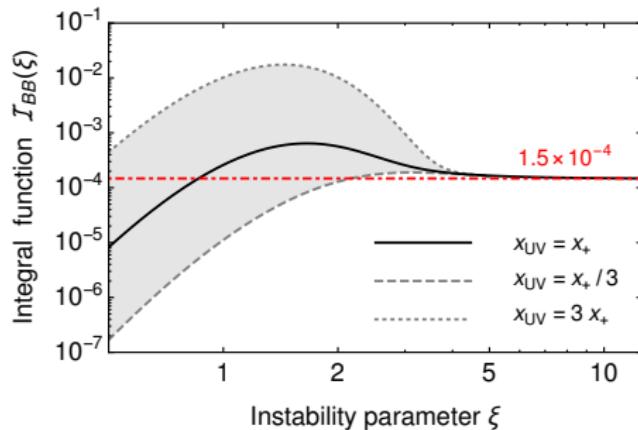


$$\mathcal{I}_{EE}(\xi) = \frac{\xi^3}{8\pi^2} e^{-\pi\xi} \int_0^{x_{UV}} dx x^3 \left| \frac{\partial}{\partial x} W_{\kappa_+, 1/2}(-2ix) \right|^2$$

# Whittaker integral function $\mathcal{I}_{BB}$

Energy density stored in the hypermagnetic  $\mathbf{B}$  field:

$$\rho_{BB} = \frac{1}{2} \langle \mathbf{B}^2 \rangle = \frac{1}{2R^4} \int \frac{d^3 k}{(2\pi)^3} k^2 |A_+^k|^2 = \mathcal{I}_{BB}(\xi) \frac{e^{2\pi\xi}}{\xi^5} H^4$$

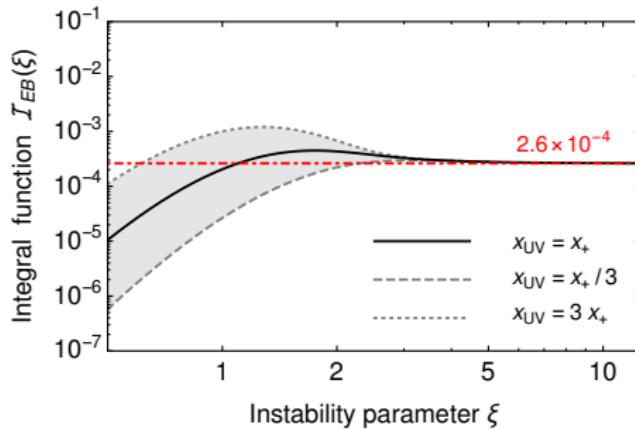


$$\mathcal{I}_{BB}(\xi) = \frac{\xi^5}{8\pi^2} e^{-\pi\xi} \int_0^{x_{UV}} dx x^3 \left| W_{\kappa_+, 1/2}(-2ix) \right|^2$$

# Whittaker integral function $\mathcal{I}_{EB}$

Chern-Simons density  $\langle \mathbf{E}\mathbf{B} \rangle = -\frac{1}{4} \langle F\tilde{F} \rangle$  of the hyper-EM field:

$$\rho_{EB} = \frac{1}{2} \langle \mathbf{E}\mathbf{B} \rangle + \frac{1}{2} \langle \mathbf{B}\mathbf{E} \rangle = -\frac{1}{2R^4} \int \frac{d^3 k}{(2\pi)^3} k \frac{\partial}{\partial \tau} |A_+^k|^2 = -\mathcal{I}_{EB}(\xi) \frac{e^{2\pi\xi}}{\xi^4} H^4$$

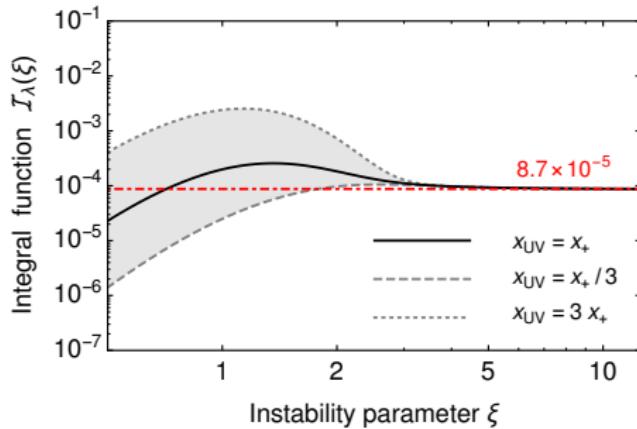


$$\mathcal{I}_{EB}(\xi) = \frac{-\xi^4}{8\pi^2} e^{-\pi\xi} \int_0^{x_{UV}} dx x^3 \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left| W_{\kappa_+, 1/2}(-2ix) \right|^2$$

# Whittaker integral function $\mathcal{I}_\lambda$

Physical correlation length of the hypermagnetic  $\mathbf{B}$  field:

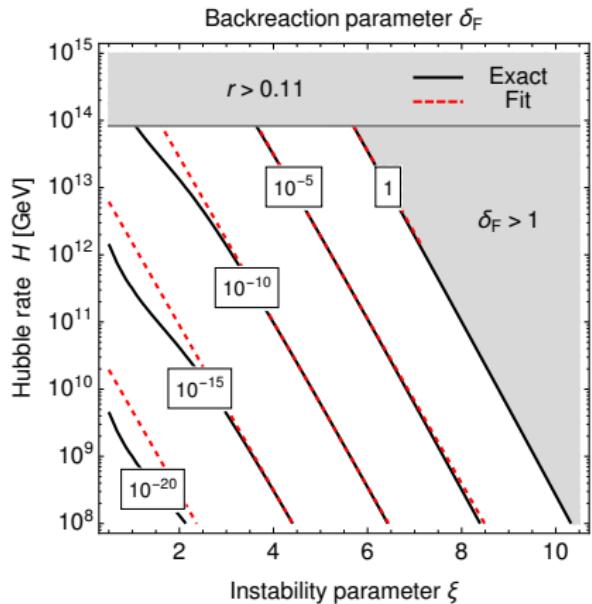
$$\lambda_p = \frac{1}{\rho_{BB}} \frac{1}{2R^4} \int \frac{d^3 k}{(2\pi)^3} \frac{2\pi R}{k} k^2 |A_+^k|^2 = \xi \frac{\mathcal{I}_\lambda(\xi)}{\mathcal{I}_{BB}(\xi)} \frac{2\pi}{H}$$



$$\mathcal{I}_\lambda(\xi) = \frac{\xi^4}{8\pi^2} e^{-\pi\xi} \int_0^{x_{UV}} dx x^2 |W_{\kappa_+, 1/2}(-2ix)|^2$$

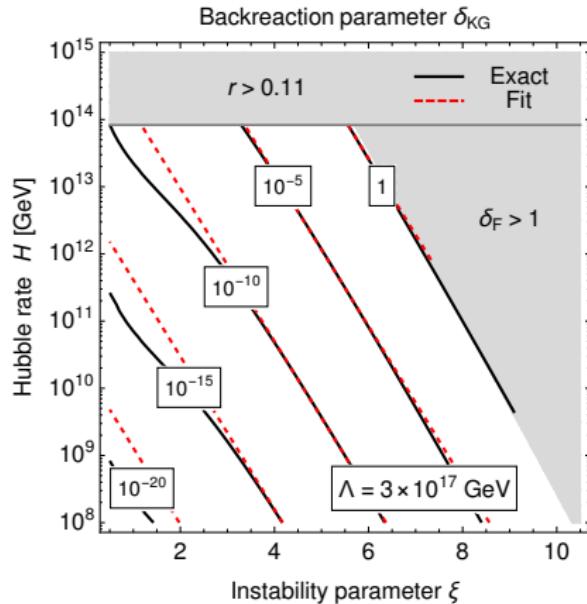
# Backreaction parameters

## Correction to the Friedmann equation



$$\delta_F = \frac{\rho_{EE} + \rho_{BB}}{3H^2 M_{Pl}^2}$$

## Correction to the Klein-Gordon equation



$$\delta_{KG} = \left| \frac{\rho_{EB}/\Lambda}{3H\dot{a}} \right|$$

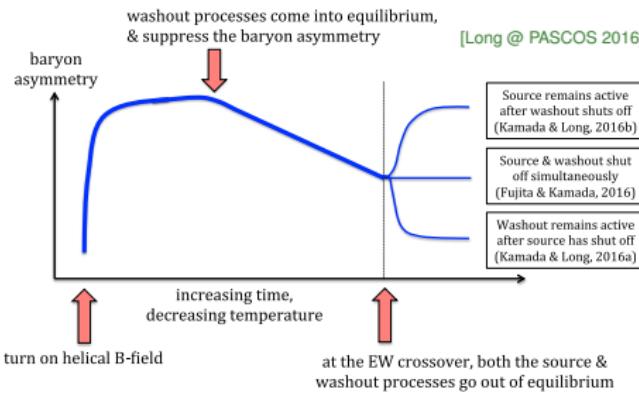
# Baryogenesis via decaying hypermagnetic helicity

- ▶ Hypermagnetic field generated during inflation is maximally helical

$$\mathcal{H}_Y = \int_V d^3x \mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{B} = \frac{1}{R^3} \int_V d^3x \int \frac{d^3k}{(2\pi)^3} k \left( |A_+^k|^2 - |A_-^k|^2 \right), \quad |A_+^k| \gg |A_-^k|$$

- ▶ Opportunity for baryogenesis via the chiral triangle anomaly in the standard model

$$\Delta B = \Delta L = N_g \left( \Delta N_W^{\text{CS}} - \frac{g_Y^2}{16\pi^2} \Delta \mathcal{H}_Y \right)$$



## Competition between

- ▶  $B+L$  production from  $\Delta \mathcal{H}_Y \neq 0$

$$\frac{d}{dt} \frac{\mathcal{H}_Y}{V} \simeq - \frac{2}{\sigma} \langle \mathbf{B} \cdot \nabla \times \mathbf{B} \rangle$$

- ▶  $B+L$  washout by EW sphalerons

$$\Gamma_{\text{sph}} \simeq 18 \alpha_W^5 T^4$$

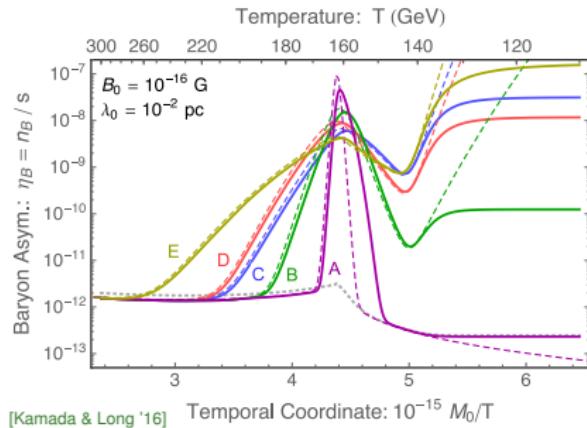
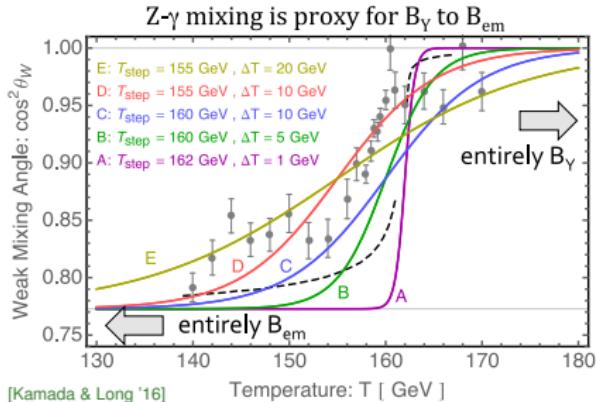
[Giovannini & Shaposhnikov '98; '98] [Bamba '06] [Anber & Sabancilar '15] [Fujita & Kamada '16] [Kamada & Long '16; '16] [Cado & Sabancilar '16]

# Evolution during the electroweak crossover

Source term during the electroweak crossover:

$$S = \frac{H}{8\pi^2 s} \frac{\mathcal{H}_Y}{V} [-\partial_T \theta_W(T)] \sin[2\theta_W(T)]$$

Efficiency controlled by temperature dependence of the weak mixing angle:



- Discrepancy between analytical calculation and lattice simulation.

[Kajantie, Laine, Rummukainen, Shaposhnikov '96]  
[D'Onofrio & Rummukainen '15]

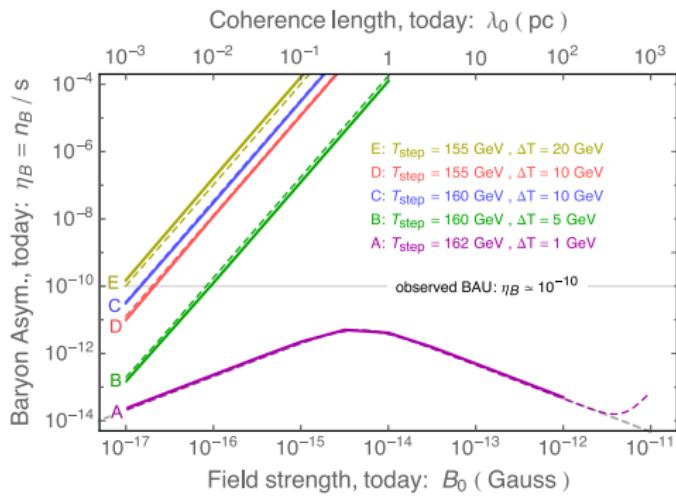
- Use phenomenological ansatz:

$$\cos^2 \theta_W = c_0^2 + \frac{1 - c_0^2}{2} \left[ 1 + \tanh \left( \frac{T - T_{step}}{\Delta T} \right) \right]$$

# Final baryon asymmetry

- ▶ Solve complicated system of kinetic equations (incl. SM Yukawa interactions, etc.).
- ▶ Numerical result well reproduced by approximate fit formula:

$$\eta_B \simeq \frac{17}{37} \left[ (g_W^2 + g_Y^2) \frac{S}{\gamma_{w,sph}} \right], \quad \gamma_{w,sph} \simeq \exp \left[ -147.7 + 107.9 \left( \frac{T}{130 \text{ GeV}} \right) \right]$$



- ▶ Observed baryon asymmetry,  $\eta_B^{\text{obs}} \sim 10^{-10}$ , reproduced for

$$B_p^{\text{ew}} \sim (0.1 \text{ GeV})^2$$

or equivalently

$$B_p^0 \sim 10^{-16} \text{ G}$$

- ▶ How to obtain such a field strength from magnetogenesis?

# GW production during inflation

[Cook & Sorbo '12] [Anber & Sorbo '12] [Domcke, Pieroni, Bintruy '16]  
 [Garcia-Bellido, Peloso, Unal '16; '17]

Gauge field perturbations source tensor perturbations in the metric:

$$\left[ \frac{\partial^2}{\partial \tau^2} - \frac{2}{\tau} \frac{\partial}{\partial \tau} + k^2 \right] h_{\pm}(\tau, \mathbf{k}) = \frac{2}{M_{\text{Pl}}^2} \Pi_{\pm}^{ij}(\mathbf{k}) T_{ij}(\tau, \mathbf{k})$$

$$T_{ij}(\tau, \mathbf{k}) = -R^2(\tau) \int \frac{d^3 q}{(2\pi)^{3/2}} [E_i(\tau, \mathbf{q}) E_j(\tau, \mathbf{k} - \mathbf{q}) + B_i(\tau, \mathbf{q}) B_j(\tau, \mathbf{k} - \mathbf{q})]$$

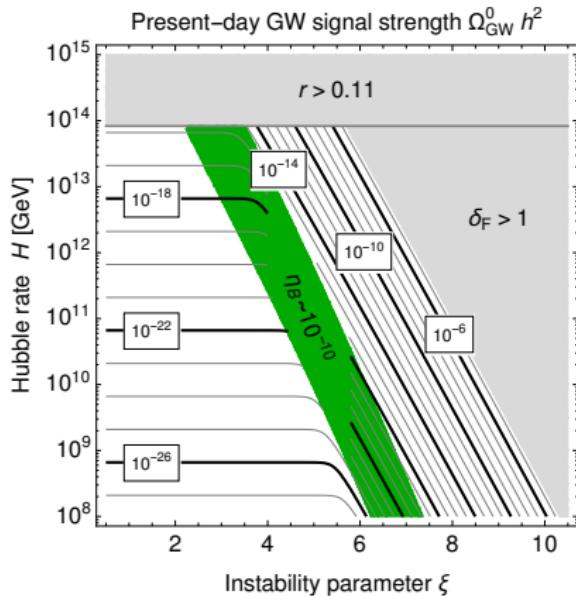
- ▶  $h_{\pm}$ : Polarization eigenstates of the transverse-traceless tensor perturbations
- ▶  $\Pi_{\pm}^{ij}$ : Polarization tensor;  $T_{ij}$ : energy-momentum tensor induced by the gauge fields:

Stochastic spectrum of chiral gravitational waves:  $\mathcal{O}(H^4)$  term amplified by  $e^{4\pi\xi}$ .

$$\Omega_{\text{GW}}^0 h^2 \simeq \frac{\Omega_{\text{rad}}^0 h^2}{12\pi^2} \left( \frac{g_*}{g_*^0} \right) \left( \frac{g_{*,s}^0}{g_{*,s}} \right)^{4/3} \left( \frac{H}{M_{\text{Pl}}} \right)^2 \left[ 1 + \left( \frac{H}{M_{\text{Pl}}} \right)^2 (f_L(\xi) + f_R(\xi)) e^{4\pi\xi} \right]$$

- ▶ Numerical fit functions:  $f_L(\xi) \sim 10^{-7}/\xi^6$  and  $f_R(\xi) \sim 10^{-9}/\xi^6$ .

# Expected GW signal strength



Successful baryogenesis requires

$$\xi = \frac{1}{2H} \frac{\dot{a}}{\Lambda} \sim 5$$

Slow-roll inflation ends once

$$\epsilon \simeq \frac{\dot{a}^2}{2H^2 M_{\text{Pl}}^2} \simeq \frac{2\xi^2 \Lambda^2}{M_{\text{Pl}}^2} \sim 1$$

This fixes the suppression scale  $\Lambda$

$$\Lambda \simeq \frac{M_{\text{Pl}}}{\sqrt{2}\xi} \sim 3 \times 10^{17} \text{ GeV}$$

- ▶ Inflaton must be weakly coupled. Otherwise, overproduction of BAU.
- ▶ Weak field regime: Gauge field production never dominates inflationary dynamics.
- ▶ Upper bound on GW signal strength:  $\Omega_{\text{GW}}^0 h^2 \lesssim 10^{-14}$