

**Moscow International School of Physics 2024**  
28 February – 6 March

**Relic gravitational wave conversion into photons  
in the intergalactic magnetic field**

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supported by state assignment FSUS-2022-0015

# Outline

- 1. Relic gravitational waves**
- 2. Intergalactic magnetic field**
- 3. Gersenstein, Zeldovich effect**
- 4. The goal of the work**
- 5. Method**
- 6. Results and conclusions**

# Relic gravitational waves

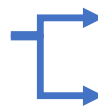
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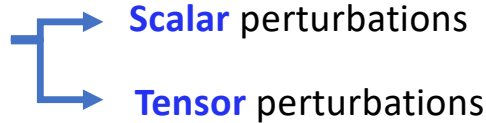
$$g_{\mu\nu} = g_{\mu\nu}^0 + h_{\mu\nu}$$

Helicity decomposition of the perturbation tensor  $h_{\mu\nu}$  :

$$\begin{aligned}
 h_{00} &= -E, && \text{scalars} \\
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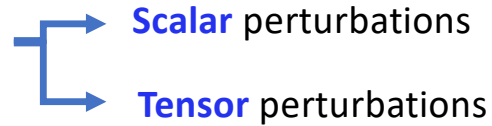
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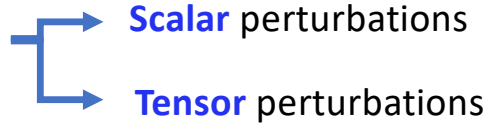
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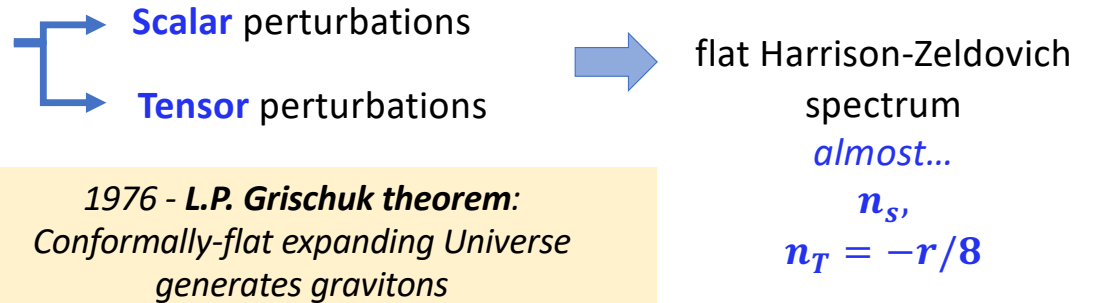
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Tensor to scalar intensity ratio:

$$r < 0.028 \text{ (95\% CL)}$$

*BICEP/KeckArray/Planck/LIGO-Virgo-KAGRA;  
 arXiv:2208.00188 (2023)*

Inflaton:  $r \approx 0.13 - 0.16$  при  $n = 2$

$r \approx 0.27 - 0.32$  при  $n = 4$

# Intergalactic magnetic field

- fills intergalactic space and space between clusters
- limits from theory and observations:

$$10^{-16} - 10^{-18} \Gamma_c < \mathbf{B} \leq 10^{-9} - 10^{-12} \Gamma_c$$

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$$F_i{}^j = g^{jk} F_{ik} = -F_{jk}/a^2$$

$$\mathbf{B} = \frac{\mathbf{B}_0}{a^2}$$

$B \uparrow$  when  $\downarrow a(t)$

# Gersenshtein, Zeldovich effect

1961, Gertsenshtein – the effect of photon and graviton mixing  
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*analogy with neutrino oscillations*

**Gertsenshtein effect:**  $\gamma \rightarrow g$

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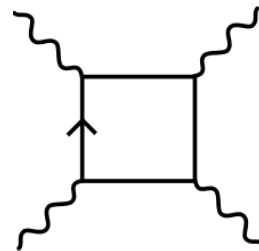
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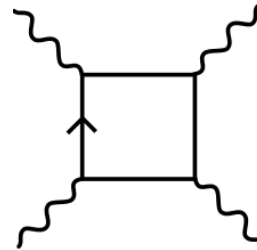
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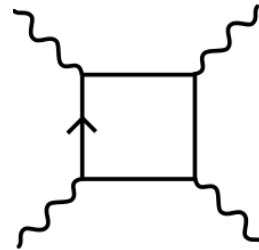
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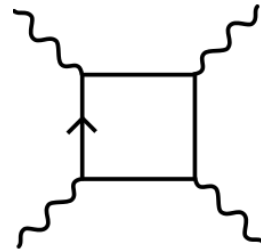
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$$CB^2 = \frac{1}{90 * 137^2} \frac{(10^9 * 1.95 * 10^{-14} \text{ MeV}^2)^2}{(0.5 \text{ MeV})^4}$$

$$CB^2 \sim 10^{-15}$$

*We can neglect it*

# The goal of the work

## The goal

To evaluate the influence of the inverse Gertsenshtein effect  
on the amplitude of relic gravitational waves

## Motivation

1. No imprint of relic gravitational waves on CMB
2.  $B \sim 1/a^2$
3. GW propagation in relatively strong magnetic field for a long time (RD era  $\sim 80\,000$  years)

**Taking the effect into account may be important  
for the inflation models verification**

# Method

## I. Expand the full quantities:

- metric  $\bar{g}_{\mu\nu}$ ,
- electromagnetic field tensor  $\bar{F}^{\mu\nu}$
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Expansion of the Einstein equation up to the first perturbation order  
+ corrections to the EMT from the electromagnetic field action

$$\bar{R}_{\mu\nu} - \frac{1}{2} \bar{g}_{\mu\nu} \bar{R} = \frac{8\pi}{m_{pl}^2} \bar{T}_{\mu\nu}$$

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FLRW metric:

$$\left[ \partial_t^2 + 3H\partial_t - \frac{\Delta}{a^2} \right] h_j^i = -16\pi G T_j^{i(EM)}$$

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$$\bar{\mathcal{A}}_{Maxwell} = -\frac{1}{4} \int d^4x \sqrt{-\bar{g}} (\bar{F}^{\alpha\beta} \bar{F}_{\alpha\beta} + \bar{A}_\alpha \overset{\text{no current}}{\cancel{J^\alpha}})$$

$$\bar{R}_{\mu\nu} - \frac{1}{2} \bar{g}_{\mu\nu} \bar{R} = \frac{8\pi}{m_{pl}^2} \bar{T}_{\mu\nu}$$



FLRW metric:

$$\left[ \partial_t^2 + 3H\partial_t - \frac{\Delta}{a^2} \right] h_j^i = -16\pi G T_j^{i(EM)}$$

# Method

## I. Expand the full quantities:

- metric  $\bar{g}_{\mu\nu}$ ,
- electromagnetic field tensor  $\bar{F}^{\mu\nu}$
- electromagnetic potential  $\bar{A}^\mu$

$$\bar{g}_{\mu\nu} = g_{\mu\nu} + h_{\mu\nu}$$

$$\bar{g}_{\mu\beta} \bar{g}^{\mu\alpha} = \delta_\beta^\alpha \quad \Rightarrow \quad \bar{g}^{\mu\nu} = g^{\mu\nu} - h^{\mu\nu}$$

$$\bar{A}^\mu = A^\mu + f^\mu \quad \Rightarrow \quad \bar{A}_\mu = \bar{g}_{\mu\alpha} \bar{A}^\alpha \equiv A_\mu + f_\mu + h_{\mu\alpha} A^\alpha$$

we define  $f_\mu = g_{\mu\alpha} f^\alpha$

$$\bar{F}^{\mu\nu} = \partial^\mu \bar{A}^\nu - \partial^\nu \bar{A}^\mu \equiv F^{\mu\nu} + f^{\mu\nu} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \bar{F}_{\mu\nu} = \bar{g}_{\mu\alpha} \bar{g}_{\nu\beta} \bar{F}^{\alpha\beta} = F_{\mu\nu} + f_{\mu\nu} + h_{\mu\alpha} F_{\nu}^{\cdot\alpha} + h_{\nu\beta} F_{\mu}^{\cdot\beta}$$

we define  $f^{\mu\nu} = \partial^\mu f^\nu - \partial^\nu f^\mu$       we define  $f_{\mu\nu} = g_{\mu\alpha} g_{\nu\beta} f^{\alpha\beta}$

## II. Derive the eq. of motion for metric perturbations:

Expansion of the Einstein equation up to the first perturbation order  
+ corrections to the EMT from the electromagnetic field action

$$\bar{\mathcal{A}}_{Maxwell} = -\frac{1}{4} \int d^4x \sqrt{-\bar{g}} (\bar{F}^{\alpha\beta} \bar{F}_{\alpha\beta} + \bar{A}_\alpha \overset{\text{no current}}{\cancel{J}^\alpha})$$

$$\bar{T}_{\mu\nu} = \frac{2}{\sqrt{-\bar{g}}} \frac{\delta \bar{\mathcal{A}}_{Maxwell}}{\delta \bar{g}_{\mu\nu}} = \frac{1}{4} \bar{g}_{\mu\nu} \bar{F}^2 - \bar{F}_{\mu\alpha} \bar{F}_\nu^{\cdot\alpha}$$

$$\bar{R}_{\mu\nu} - \frac{1}{2} \bar{g}_{\mu\nu} \bar{R} = \frac{8\pi}{m_{pl}^2} \bar{T}_{\mu\nu}$$



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$$\left[ \partial_t^2 + 3H\partial_t - \frac{\Delta}{a^2} \right] h_j^i = -16\pi G T_j^{i(EM)}$$

# Method

## II. Derive the eq. of motion for metric perturbations:

$$\bar{T}_{\mu\nu}^{Max} = \frac{1}{4} \bar{g}_{\mu\nu} \bar{F}^2 - \bar{F}_{\mu\alpha} \bar{F}_\nu{}^{\cdot\alpha}$$

$$\left[ \partial_t^2 + 3H\partial_t - \frac{\Delta}{a^2} \right] h_j^i = -16\pi G T_j^{i(Max 1)}$$

# Method

## II. Derive the eq. of motion for metric perturbations:

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$$T_{\mu\nu}^{Max(1)} = \frac{1}{4} h_{\mu\nu} F^2 + \frac{1}{2} g_{\mu\nu} (Ff + FFh) + \\ + F_{\mu\alpha} f_{\cdot\nu}^{\alpha} + f_{\mu\alpha} F_{\cdot\nu}^{\alpha} + (F_{\mu\alpha} h_{\lambda\nu} + h_{\mu\alpha} F_{\lambda\nu}) F^{\alpha\lambda} + F_{\mu\alpha} F_{\lambda\nu} h^{\alpha\lambda}$$

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## III. Derive the eq. for electromagnetic wave:

We need eq. of motion for  $f^{\nu}$  => expand the action up to the first perturbation order vary it by  $\delta f^{\nu}$



# Method

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$$+ (h_{\mu\lambda} F^{\lambda}_{\cdot\alpha} + h_{\alpha\lambda} F_{\mu}^{\cdot\lambda} + F_{\mu\alpha} + f_{\mu\alpha}) (h_{\nu\lambda} F^{\alpha\lambda} + F_{\nu}^{\alpha} + f_{\nu}^{\alpha})$$

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# Method

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$$D_\alpha \left[ \underbrace{f^{\alpha\nu} + h_\lambda^\nu F^{\alpha\lambda} + h_\lambda^\alpha F^{\lambda\nu} + \frac{h}{2} F^{\alpha\nu}}_{\text{antisymmetric tensor}} \right] = 0 \quad \rightarrow \quad \frac{\partial_\alpha \left( \sqrt{-g} \left[ f^{\alpha\nu} + h_\lambda^\nu F^{\alpha\lambda} + h_\lambda^\alpha F^{\lambda\nu} + \frac{h}{2} F^{\alpha\nu} \right] \right)}{\sqrt{-g}} = 0$$

# Method

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FLRW:

$$\left[ \partial_t^2 - \frac{\Delta}{a^2} + 3H\partial_t \right] f^j + F^{i\lambda} \partial_i h_\lambda^j + F^{ij} \partial_i h = 0$$

# Method

## IV. Assumptions:

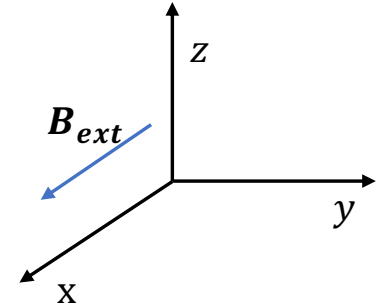
- $\mathbf{B}$  is homogeneous and directed along x axis
- Isotropic background space-time (neglect gravity from  $\mathbf{B}$ )

Nonzero components:

$$F^y_z = -F^z_y = B_x$$

$$F^{yz} = -F^{zy} = -\frac{B_x}{a^2}$$

$$F_{yz} = -F_{zy} = -B_x a^2$$



# Method

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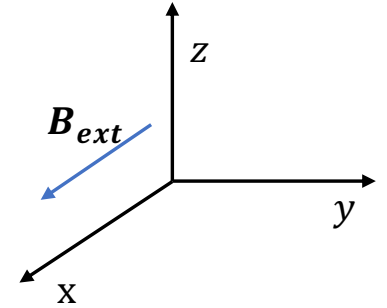
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## V. Simplification:

$$\begin{cases} \left[ \partial_t^2 - \frac{\Delta}{a^2} + 3H\partial_t \right] f^j + F^{i\lambda} \partial_i h_\lambda^j + F^{ij} \partial_i h = 0 \\ \left[ \partial_t^2 + 3H\partial_t - \frac{\Delta}{a^2} \right] h_j^i = -16\pi G T_j^{i(Max 1)} \end{cases}$$

# Method

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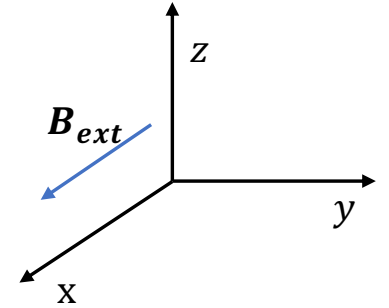
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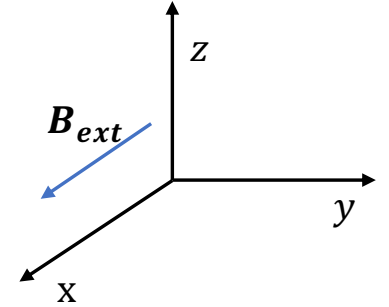
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## V. Simplification:

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Simplifying of convolutions

$$F^2 = 2B^2$$

$$Ff = F_\alpha^\beta f^\alpha_{\cdot\beta} = F_y^z f^\alpha_{\cdot z} + F_z^y f^\alpha_{\cdot y} = B(f^y_z - f^z_y) = 2Bf^y_z$$

$$FFh = h^\alpha_\sigma F_{\beta\alpha} F^{\beta\sigma} = B^2(h^y_y + h^z_z)$$

...

# Method

## VI. Decomposition:

$$\mathbf{k} = \mathbf{k}_{||} + \mathbf{k}_{\perp} = \mathbf{k}_x + \mathbf{k}_z$$

$\mathbf{k} \parallel \mathbf{B}$

$$h_{\nu}^{\mu}(t=0, x) = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & h_{+}^0 & h_{\times}^0 \\ 0 & 0 & h_{\times}^0 & -h_{+}^0 \end{bmatrix} e^{ik_x x}$$

$\mathbf{k} \perp \mathbf{B}$

$$h_{\nu}^{\mu}(t=0, z) = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & h_{+}^0 & h_{\times}^0 & 0 \\ 0 & h_{\times}^0 & -h_{+}^0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} e^{ik_z z}$$



# Method

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$$\left[ \partial_t^2 + 3H\partial_t + \left( \frac{k^2}{a^2} - 8\pi G B^2 \right) \right] h_{+} = 0$$
$$\left[ \partial_t^2 + 3H\partial_t + \left( \frac{k^2}{a^2} - 8\pi G B^2 \right) \right] h_{\times} = 0$$

*no mixing with a photon*

*effective frequency is changed*



*amplification of GW amplitude*

$\mathbf{k} \perp \mathbf{B}$

$$h_{\nu}^{\mu}(t=0, z) = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & h_{+}^0 & h_{\times}^0 & 0 \\ 0 & h_{\times}^0 & -h_{+}^0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} e^{ik_z z}$$

# Method

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$h_{\times}$

$$\begin{cases} \left[ \partial_t^2 + 3H\partial_t + \left( \frac{k^2}{a^2} - 8\pi GB^2 \right) \right] h_{\times} = -ik16\pi GB f^x \\ \left[ \partial_t^2 + 3H\partial_t + \frac{k^2}{a^2} \right] f^x = -\frac{i kB}{a^2} h_{\times} \end{cases}$$

*amplification*      *suppression*

# Method

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*amplification*                      *suppression*

$h_{+}$

*mixing with scalar metric perturbations*

$$\{\Phi, \Psi, h_{+}, f^y\}$$

# Method

$$h_{\nu}^{\mu}(t=0, z) = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & h_{+}^0 & h_{\times}^0 & 0 \\ 0 & h_{\times}^0 & -h_{+}^0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} e^{ik_z z} \quad \rightarrow \quad h_{\nu}^{\mu}(t, z) = \begin{bmatrix} 2\Phi(t) & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -2\Psi(t) + h_{+}(t) & h_{\times}(t) & 0 \\ 0 & h_{\times}(t) & -2\Psi(t) - h_{+}(t) & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -2\Psi(t) \end{bmatrix} e^{ik_z z}$$

# Method

The eq. for scalar modes:

$$\partial^2 h + 4h^{\alpha\beta} R_{\alpha\beta} - hR = 16\pi G T_{\alpha}^{\alpha(1)}$$

$$T_{\alpha}^{Max(1)\alpha} = \frac{B^2}{2} h - B^2 (h_y^y + h_z^z) = B^2 (\Phi + \Psi + h_+)$$

$$h_{\nu}^{\mu}(t=0, z) = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & h_+^0 & h_{\times}^0 & 0 \\ 0 & h_{\times}^0 & -h_+^0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} e^{ik_z z} \quad \longrightarrow \quad h_{\nu}^{\mu}(t, z) = \begin{bmatrix} 2\Phi(t) & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -2\Psi(t) + h_+(t) & h_{\times}(t) & 0 \\ 0 & h_{\times}(t) & -2\Psi(t) - h_+(t) & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -2\Psi(t) \end{bmatrix} e^{ik_z z}$$

# Method

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$$h_{\nu}^{\mu}(t=0, z) = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & h_+^0 & h_{\times}^0 & 0 \\ 0 & h_{\times}^0 & -h_+^0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} e^{ik_z z} \quad \longrightarrow \quad h_{\nu}^{\mu}(t, z) = \begin{bmatrix} 2\Phi(t) & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -2\Psi(t) + h_+(t) & h_{\times}(t) & 0 \\ 0 & h_{\times}(t) & -2\Psi(t) - h_+(t) & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -2\Psi(t) \end{bmatrix} e^{ik_z z}$$

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The eq. for scalar modes:

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$\mathbf{k} \perp \mathbf{B}, h_+$ :

$$\left\{ \begin{aligned} \left[ \partial_t^2 + 3H\partial_t + \left( \frac{k^2}{a^2} - 8\pi G B^2 \right) \right] h_+ &= ik16\pi G B f^y + 8\pi G B^2 6\Psi \\ \left[ \partial_t^2 + 3H\partial_t + \frac{k^2}{a^2} \right] f^y &= -\frac{ikB}{a^2} [2\Phi - 8\Psi - h_+] \\ 4ikH(\Phi + \Psi) &= -16\pi G B \dot{f}^y \\ B^2 \Psi &= -\frac{1}{3} ikB f^y \end{aligned} \right.$$

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# Summary

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$$\left[ \partial_t^2 + 3H\partial_t + \left( \frac{k^2}{a^2} - 8\pi G B^2 \right) \right] h_+ = 0$$
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$B = \frac{B_0}{a^2} \Rightarrow$  the term is significant if  $\frac{k^2}{a^2} \gtrsim \frac{8\pi G B_0^2}{a^4}$

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 $B_0 = 1 \text{ nGs}$

$$ka \lesssim 5 * 10^{-24} \text{ Hz}$$

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$$a \in [10^{-9}, 10^{-4}]$$

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$$\left[ \partial_t^2 + 3H\partial_t + \left( \frac{k^2}{a^2} - 8\pi G B^2 \right) \right] h_\times = -ik16\pi G B f^x$$

$$\left[ \partial_t^2 + 3H\partial_t + \frac{k^2}{a^2} \right] f^x = -\frac{ikB}{a^2} h_\times$$

the term is more significant than the term if

$$\frac{8\pi G B_0^2}{a^4} \lesssim \frac{k16\pi G B_0 m_{pl}}{a^2}$$

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- $k = 10^{-16} - 10^{-18} \text{ Hz} \Rightarrow 0.01\%$  **amplification** of GW amplitude (end of RD era)
- $k = 10^{-3} \text{ Hz} \Rightarrow 10\%$  **attenuation**



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 **0.1%**   
 *with interaction with the primary plasma*

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$h_+$

$$\left[ \partial_t^2 + 3H\partial_t + \left( \frac{k^2}{a^2} - 8\pi G B^2 \right) \right] h_+ = 0$$

**+ generation of  $f^y$  and  $\Phi, \Psi$**

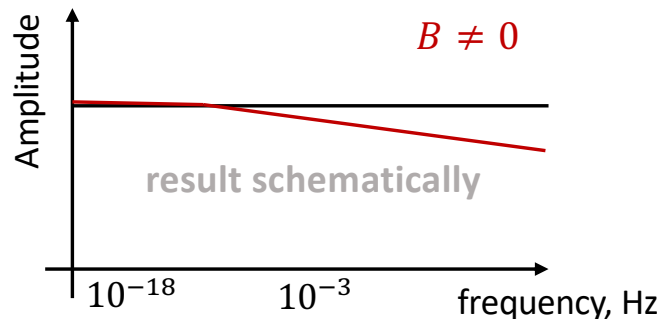
# Results and conclusions

## Results

1. Equation system for the inverse Gertsenshtein effect is derived in FLRW spacetime
2. Two cases of  $\mathbf{k}$  direction respectively  $\mathbf{B}$  are considered
3. Qualitative conclusions are done for each polarization  $h_+$ ,  $h_\times$  in cases  $\mathbf{k} \parallel \mathbf{B}$  and  $\mathbf{k} \perp \mathbf{B}$

## Conclusions

1. The influence of the effect on relic GW with frequencies  $10^{-16} - 10^{-18}$  Hz (which have an imprint on CMB) is negligible
2. The result can be more significant for the higher frequencies  $\Rightarrow \mathbf{n}_T$  can be changed



*More details in the article:*

A.D. Dolgov, L. A. Panasenko, V. A. Bochko  
Graviton to photon conversion in curved space-time and external magnetic field  
*Universe* 10 (2024) 1, 7  
e-Print: [2310.19838](https://arxiv.org/abs/2310.19838) [gr-qc]

[I.vetoshkina@g.nsu.ru](mailto:I.vetoshkina@g.nsu.ru)



# Other effects

## Конформная аномалия

Квантовые поправки к ТЭИ электромагнитного поля в искривленном пространстве-времени => ненулевой след

$$T_{\mu}^{\mu(aanom)} = \frac{\alpha\beta}{8\pi} G_{\mu\nu}^{(a)} G^{\mu\nu(a)}$$

где  $\beta$  – первый коэффициент разложения бета-функции для калибровочной группы ранга  $N$

$$\beta = \frac{11}{3}N - \frac{2}{3}N_F$$

$N_F$  – число сортов фермионов.

После преобразования Фурье:

$$T_{\mu\nu}^{(anom)} \sim \frac{q_{\mu}q_{\nu} - g_{\mu\nu}q^2}{q^2} F_{\alpha\beta} F^{\alpha\beta}$$

где  $q$  – передача 4-импульса гравитационному полю

$$\alpha\beta (\partial_{\mu} F_{\nu}^{\mu} \ln a - H F_{\nu}^t)$$

## Взаимодействие с первичной плазмой

1) Дисперсионное соотношение

$$\omega^2 - k^2 = \Omega_{pl}^2,$$

для релятивистских частиц с  $m < T$

$$\Omega_{pl}^{rel} = \frac{2T^2}{9} \sum_j e_j^2$$

волны с частотой  $\omega < \Omega_{pl}$  не распространяются

$$\Omega_{pl}^2 f_{\nu} \sim \alpha T^2 f_{\nu}$$

2) Потеря когерентности => затухание

$$\Gamma f_{\nu} = v\sigma n f_{\nu} \sim \alpha^2 T$$

для релятивистских частиц с  $m < T$

$n = 0.1 g_* T^3$  - плотность заряженных частиц в плазме,

$g_* = 10 - 100$  – число сортов заряженных частиц,

$v \sim 1$  – относительная скорость фотона и центра

рассеяния в плазме,

$\sigma = \alpha^2 / T^2$  - сечение рассеяния

# Система уравнений

Полученная система состоит из **двух независимых подсистем**:  $\{f^x, h_x\}$  и  $\{f^y, \Phi, \Psi, h_+\}$   
 $\Phi$  и  $\Psi$  – скалярные степени свободы

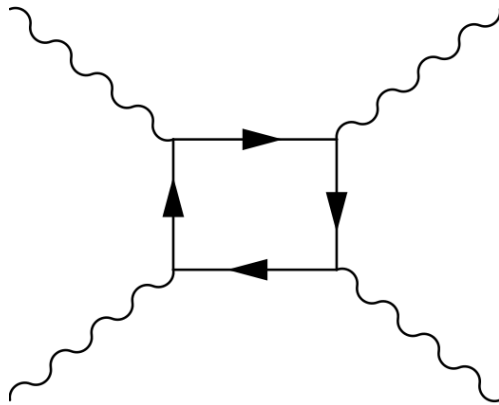
Запишем и решим **первую подсистему** в терминах масштабного фактора  $a$ :

$$f^x: a^2 H^2 f^{x''} + a H^2 \left[ 1 + a \frac{H'}{H} + 8 \frac{2B_0^2 C_0 - a^4}{16B_0^2 C_0 - a^4} + a H \Gamma \right] f^{x'} + \left[ \frac{k^2}{a^2} + 2a H H' - 8H^2 \frac{4B_0^2 C_0 + a^4}{16B_0^2 C_0 - a^4} + \omega_{pl}^2 + 2H \Gamma \right] f^x - \alpha \beta H^2 (a f^{x'} + 2f^x) = \frac{ikB_0}{a^4 m_{pl}} h_x$$

$$h_x^y: a^2 H^2 h_x'' + (4aH^2 + a^2 H H') h_x' + \left[ \frac{k^2}{a^2} - 16\pi G B_0^2 a \left( \frac{4B_0^2 C_0}{a^4} - 1 \right) \right] h_x = 16\pi i k G B_0 a^3 \left( 1 - \frac{16B_0^2 C_0}{a^4} \right) m_{pl} f^x$$

штрих означает производную по  $a$ .

# Действие Гейзенберга-Эйлера



рассеяние фотона на фотоне

Для высоких температур:

$$C(T) = \sum_j \frac{\alpha^2(T) q_j^4}{90 m_j(T)^4}$$

где  $q_j$  – заряд частиц, дающих вклад в петлю  
(в единицах заряда электрона)

**В искривленном пространстве-времени:**

$$\mathcal{A}_{HE}^{(0)} = \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} C_0 \left[ (F_{\mu\nu} F^{\mu\nu})^2 + \frac{7}{4} (\tilde{F}^{\mu\nu} F_{\mu\nu})^2 \right]$$

где дуальный тензор электромагнитного поля

$$\tilde{F}_{\alpha\beta} = \frac{\sqrt{-g}}{2} \epsilon_{\alpha\beta\mu\nu} F^{\mu\nu}, \quad \tilde{F}^{\alpha\beta} = \frac{1}{2\sqrt{-g}} \epsilon^{\alpha\beta\mu\nu} F_{\mu\nu} \quad \text{и} \quad C_0 = \alpha^2 / (90 m_e^4)$$

# GW in flat spacetime

## Einstein equation

$$R_{\mu\nu} - \frac{1}{2}R g_{\mu\nu} = \frac{8\pi G}{c^4} T_{\mu\nu}$$

$G$  – gravitational constant

$R_{\mu\nu}$  – Ricci curvature tensor

$R = R^\alpha_\alpha$  – scalar curvature

## Flat and empty spacetime

$$T_{\mu\nu} = 0$$

$$g_{\mu\nu} = \eta_{\mu\nu} + h_{\mu\nu}$$

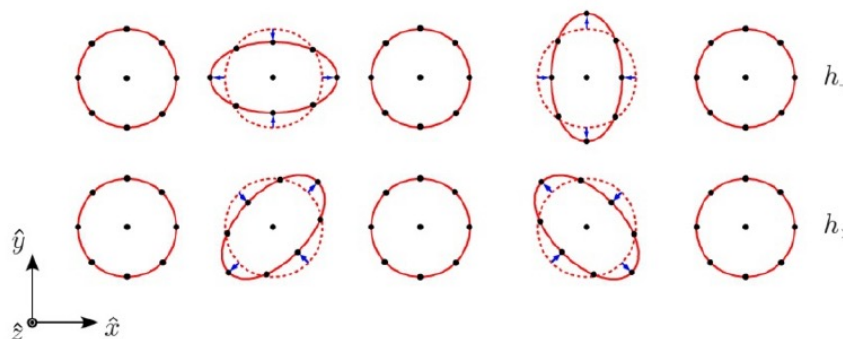
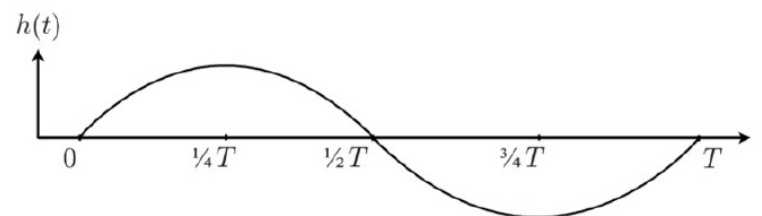


$$\square h_{\mu\nu} = 0$$

## Solution has

- $h_{\mu\nu} = h_{\nu\mu} \rightarrow 10$  components
- calibration  $\rightarrow$  **2 components**

$$\eta_{\mu\nu} = \text{diag}(1, -1, -1, -1)$$



$$h_{\mu\nu} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & h_+ & h_\times & 0 \\ 0 & h_\times & -h_+ & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} = h_+ e_{\mu\nu}^+ + h_\times e_{\mu\nu}^\times$$



# GW tensor properties

*Gauge fixing*

1) **Calibration**

$$h_{0\alpha} = 0, \alpha = 0, 1, 2, 3$$

$$x'_\mu = x_\mu + \xi_\mu$$

$$h'_{\mu\nu} = h_{\mu\nu} - \frac{\partial \xi_\mu}{\partial x^\nu} - \frac{\partial \xi_\nu}{\partial x^\mu}$$

$$R_{\mu\nu} = \frac{1}{2} \square h_{\mu\nu}$$

Fock harmonic gauge  $\square x^\mu = 0 \iff \partial_\mu (h^\mu_\nu - \frac{1}{2} \delta^\mu_\nu h) = 0$

2) Einstein equation  $\rightarrow$  **Tracelessness**  $\rightarrow$  **Transversality**

$$h \equiv h^\mu_\mu = 0, \partial_\mu h^\mu_\nu = 0$$