

Axion dark matter and inflation scale

Wen Yin (Tohoku University)

Mainly based on [1805.08763](#)

In collaboration with

[Fuminobu Takahashi](#), and [Alan Guth](#)

July 29th 2021 @ workshop on very light DM 2021

Introduction

Parameter region of QCD Axion DM

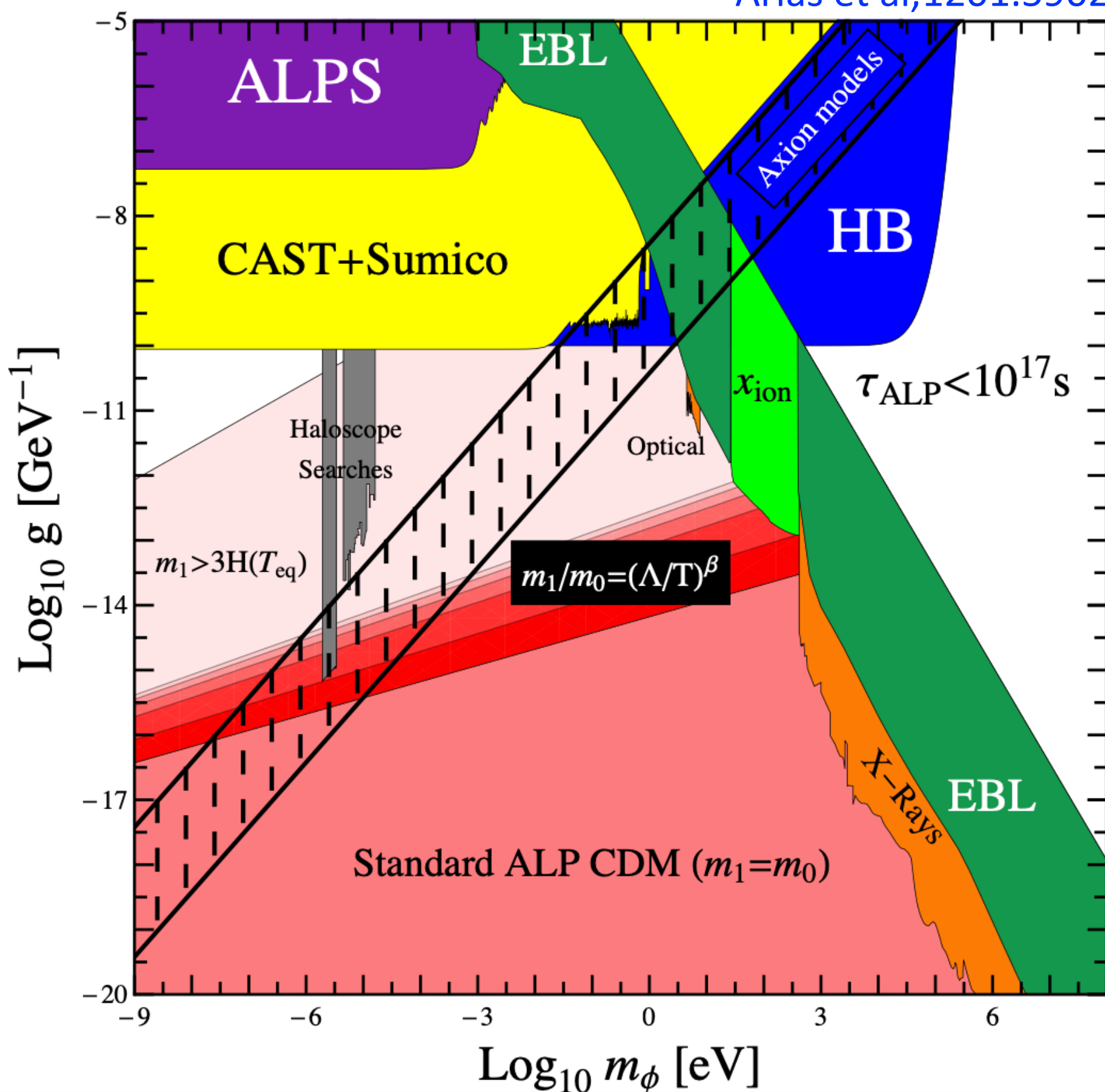
Peccei, Quinn, 77; Weinberg, 78; Wilczek, 78;

QCD axion may be fully tested in the near future by assuming the axion is dominant DM.
How to produce the axion abundance in the early Universe?

See Joerg's talk on youtube.

Arias et al, 1201.5902;

Irastorza, Redondo, 1801.08127



(IAXO does not assume axion to be DM.)

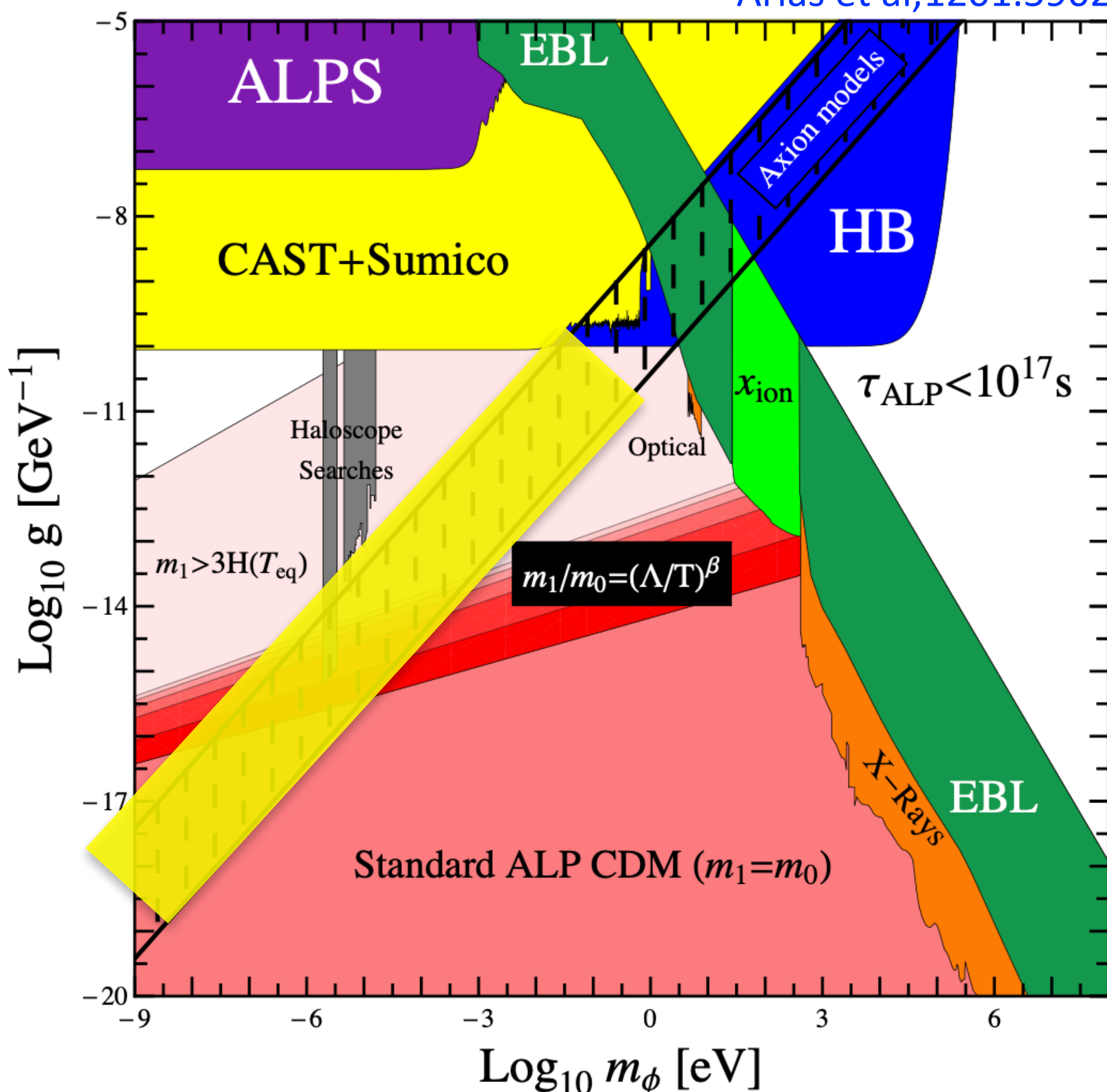
Parameter region of QCD Axion DM

Peccei, Quinn, 77; Weinberg, 78; Wilczek, 78;

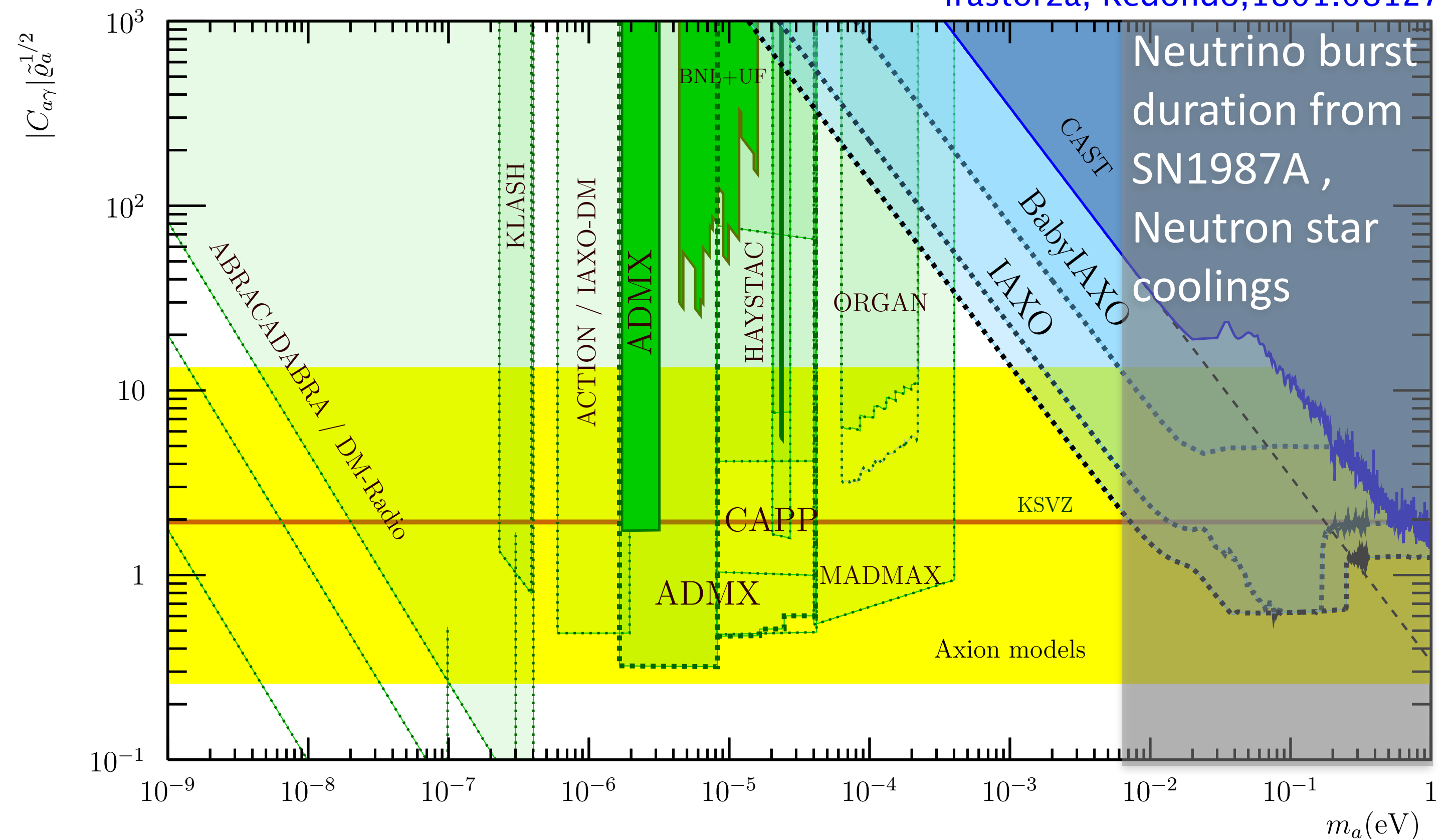
QCD axion may be fully tested in the near future by assuming the axion is dominant DM.
How to produce the axion abundance in the early Universe?

See Joerg's talk on youtube.

Arias et al, 1201.5902;



Irastorza, Redondo, 1801.08127



(IA XO does not assume axion to be DM.)

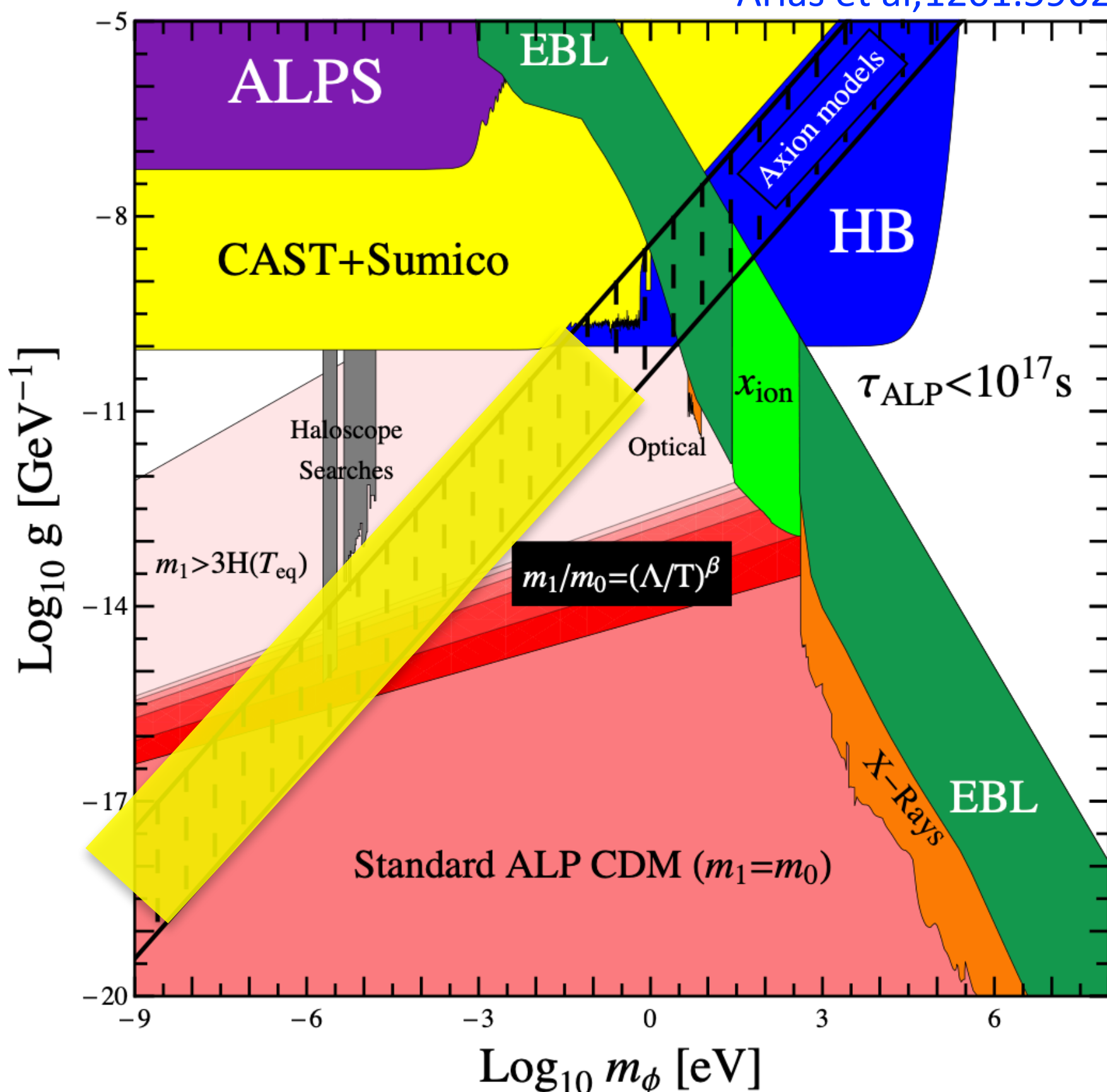
Parameter region of QCD Axion DM

Peccei, Quinn, 77; Weinberg, 78; Wilczek, 78;

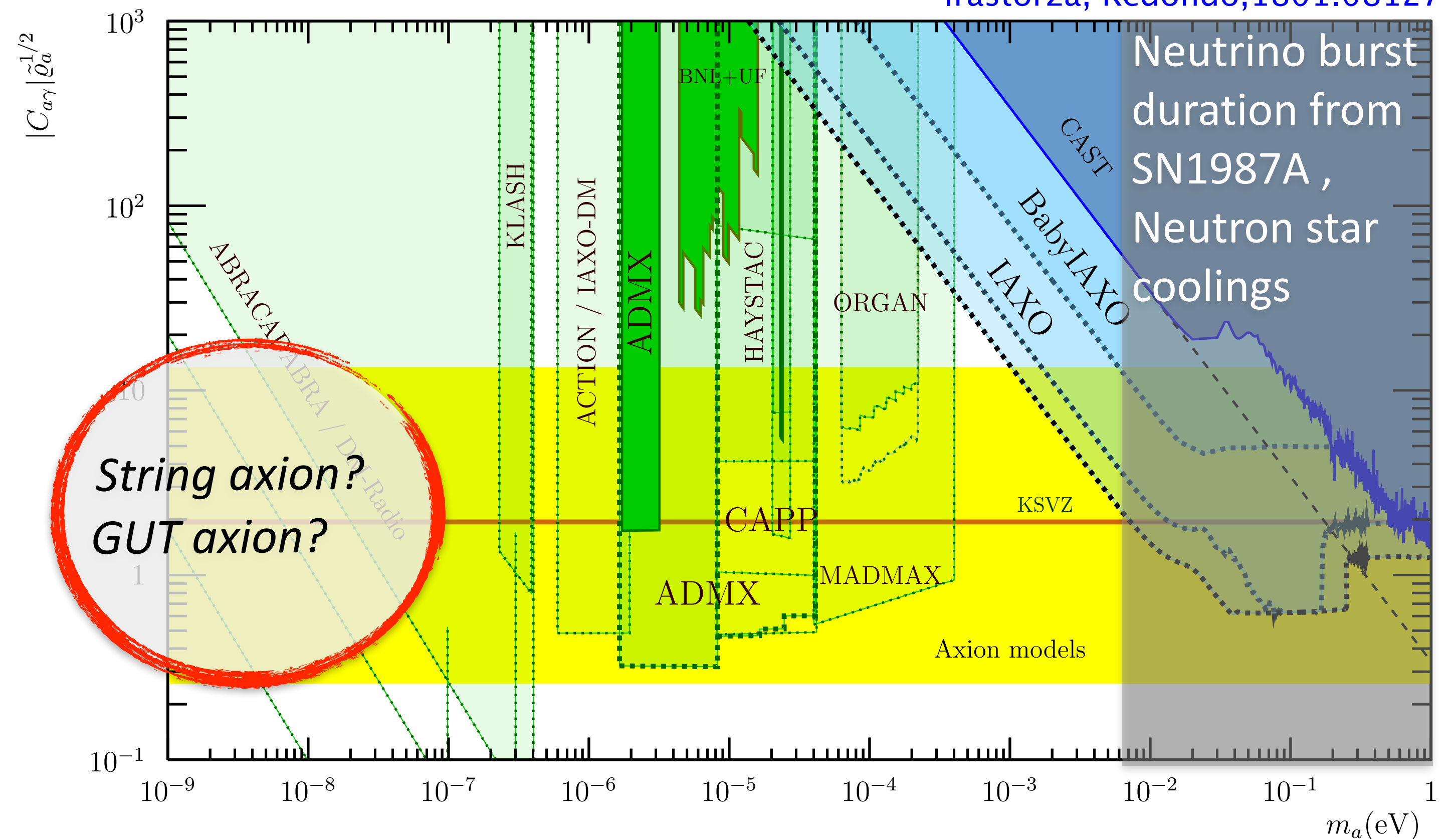
QCD axion may be fully tested in the near future by assuming the axion is dominant DM.
How to produce the axion abundance in the early Universe?

See Joerg's talk on youtube.

Arias et al, 1201.5902;



Irastorza, Redondo, 1801.08127

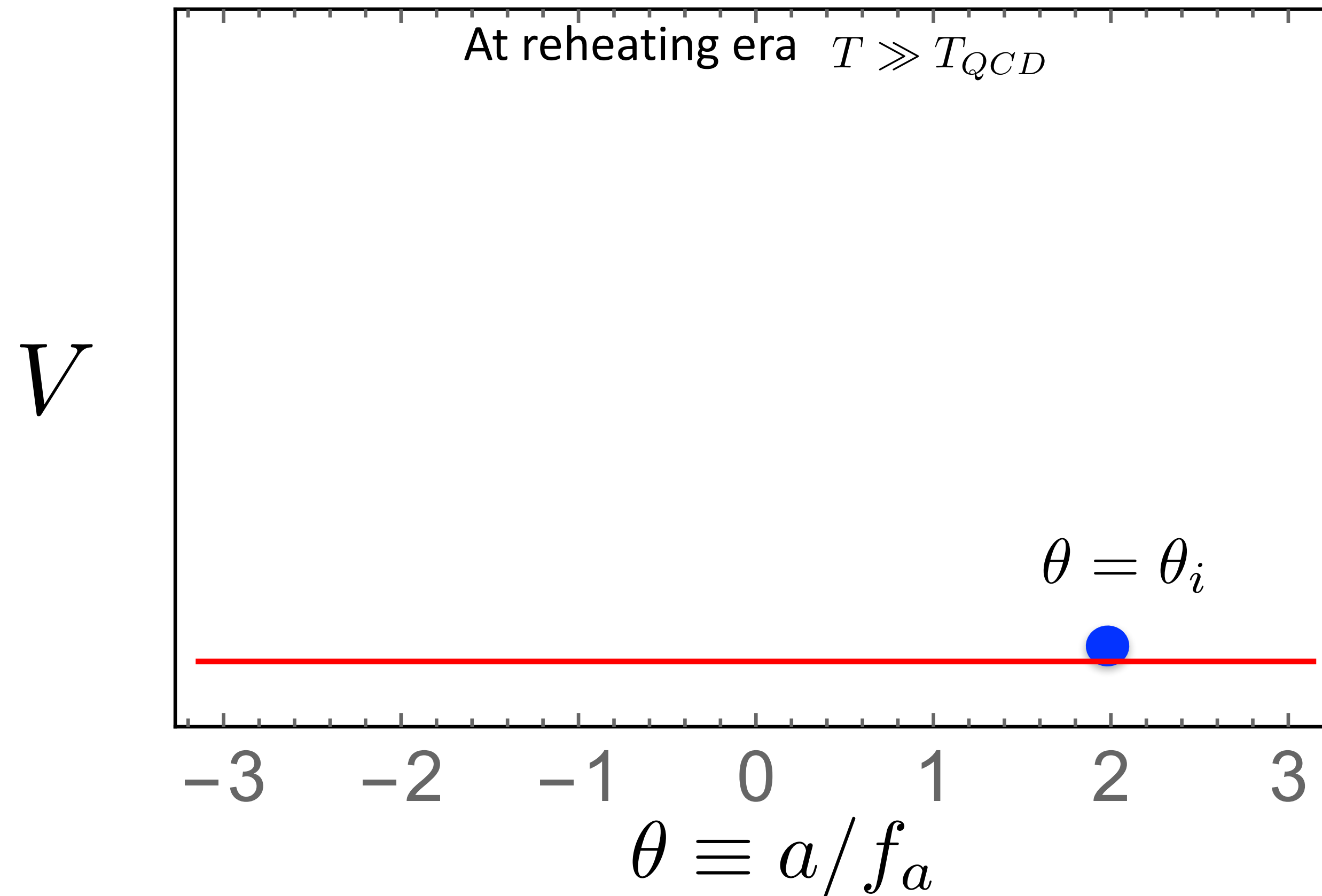


String axion?
 GUT axion?

(IA XO does not assume axion to be DM.)

QCD axion potential and misalignment mechanism

Preskill et al, 1983; Abbott, Sikivie, 1983; Dine, Fishler, 1983;

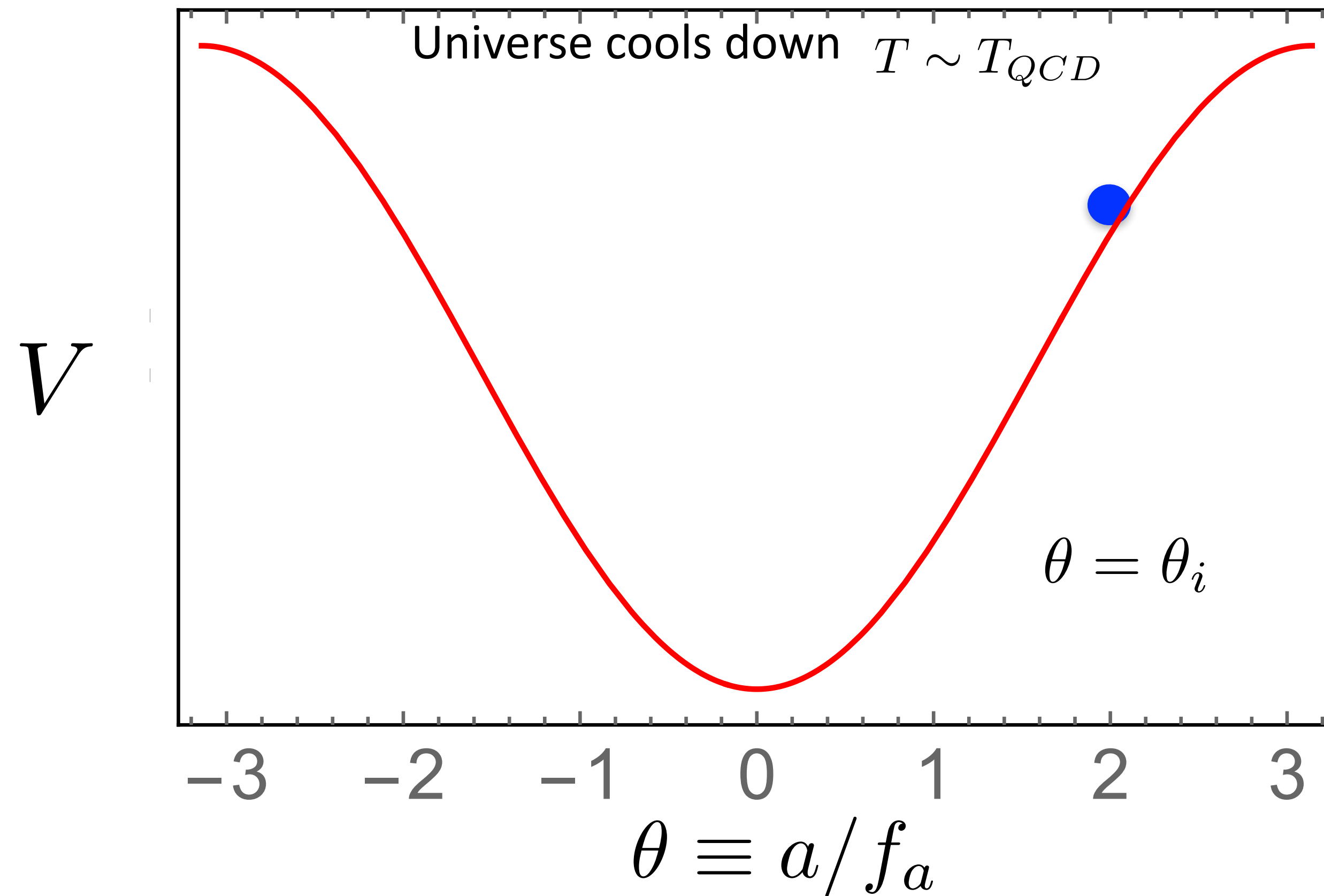


See also anthropic principle:
Linde, 91; Wilczek, 0408167; Tegmark, et al. 0511774.

Since abundance is sensitive to initial-condition, we need to understand early Universe dynamics

QCD axion potential and misalignment mechanism

Preskill et al, 1983; Abbott, Sikivie, 1983; Dine, Fishler, 1983;

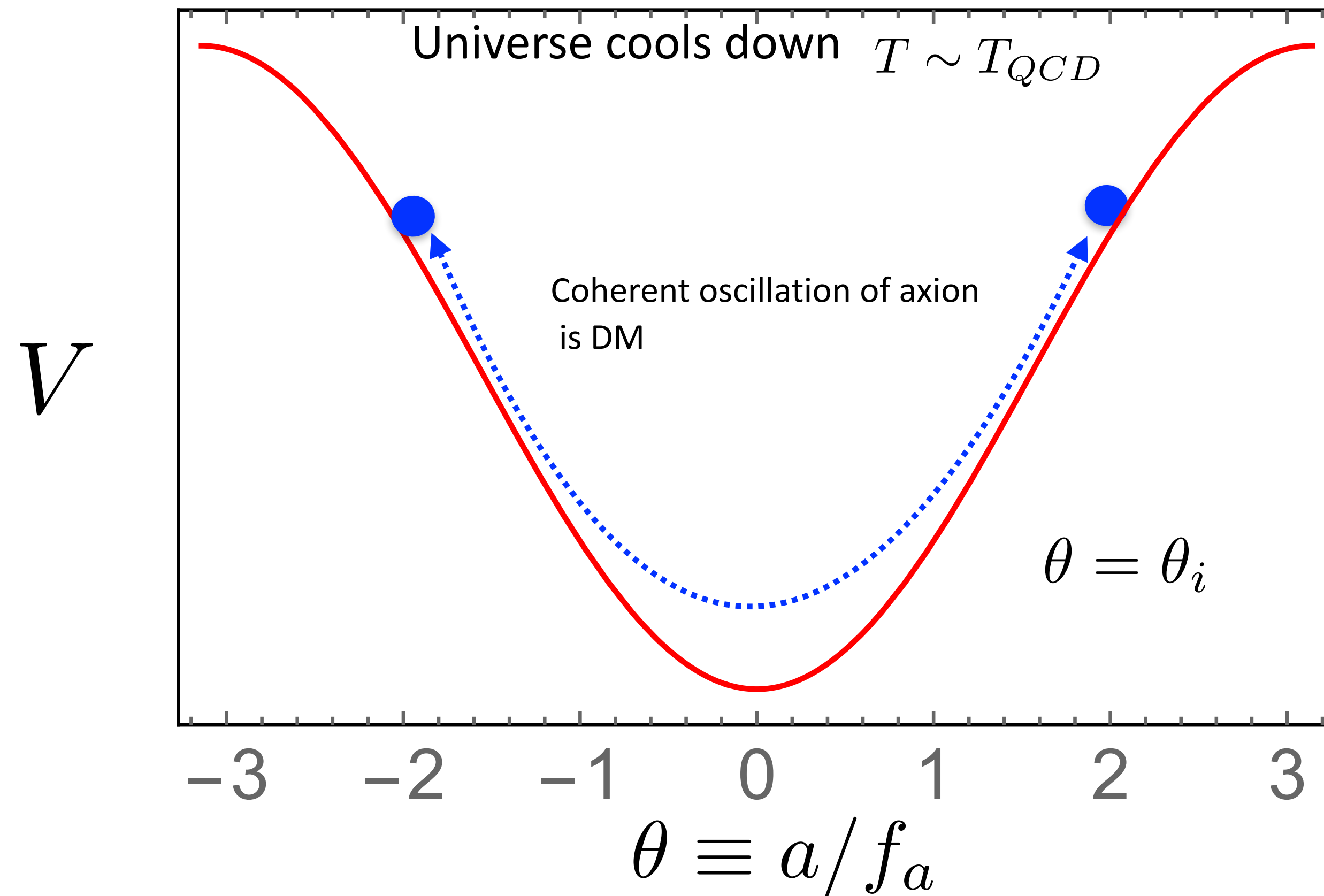


See also anthropic principle:
Linde, 91; Wilczek, 0408167; Tegmark, et al. 0511774.

Since abundance is sensitive to initial-condition, we need to understand early Universe dynamics

QCD axion potential and misalignment mechanism

Preskill et al, 1983; Abbott, Sikivie, 1983; Dine, Fishler, 1983;

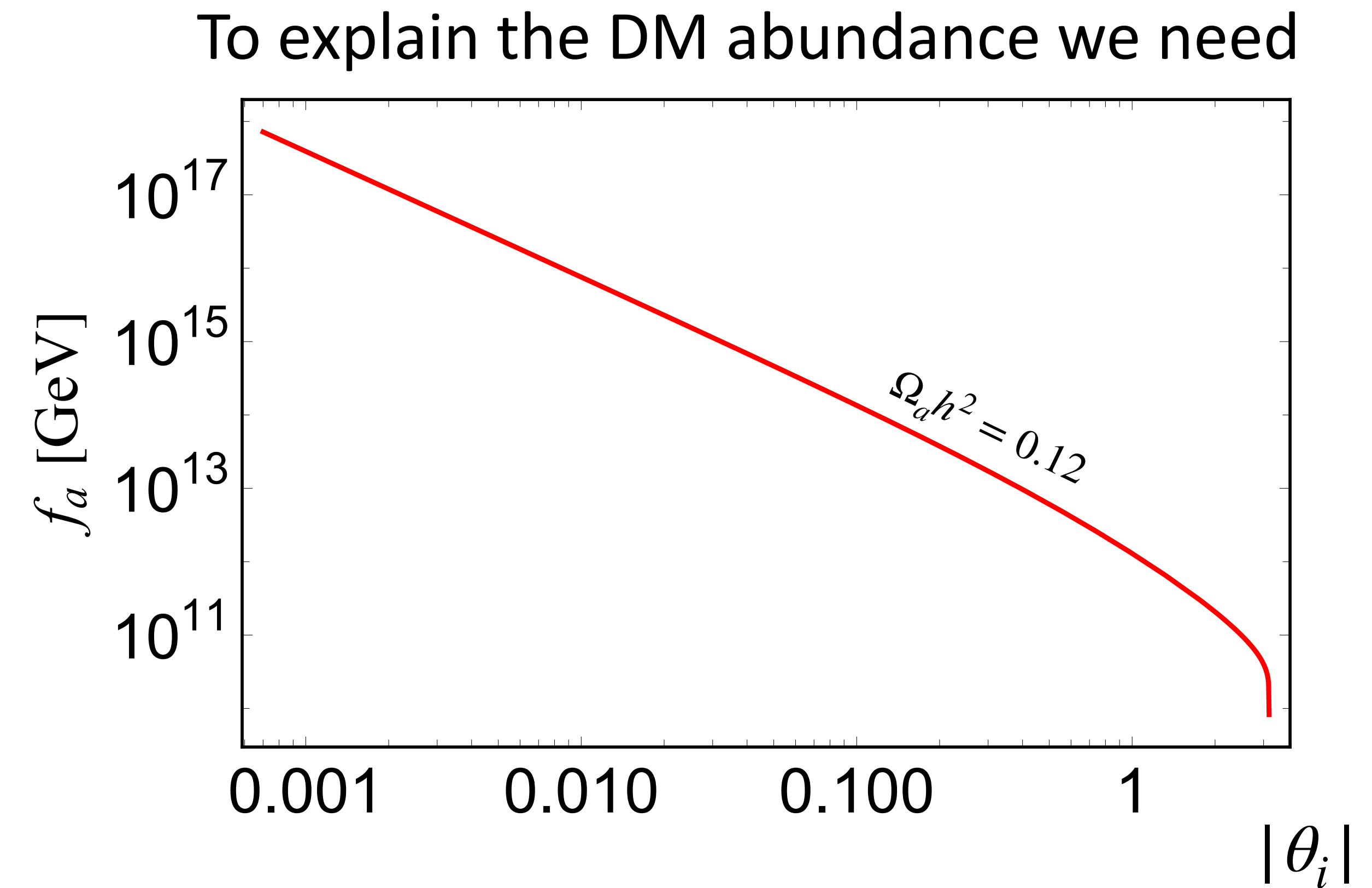
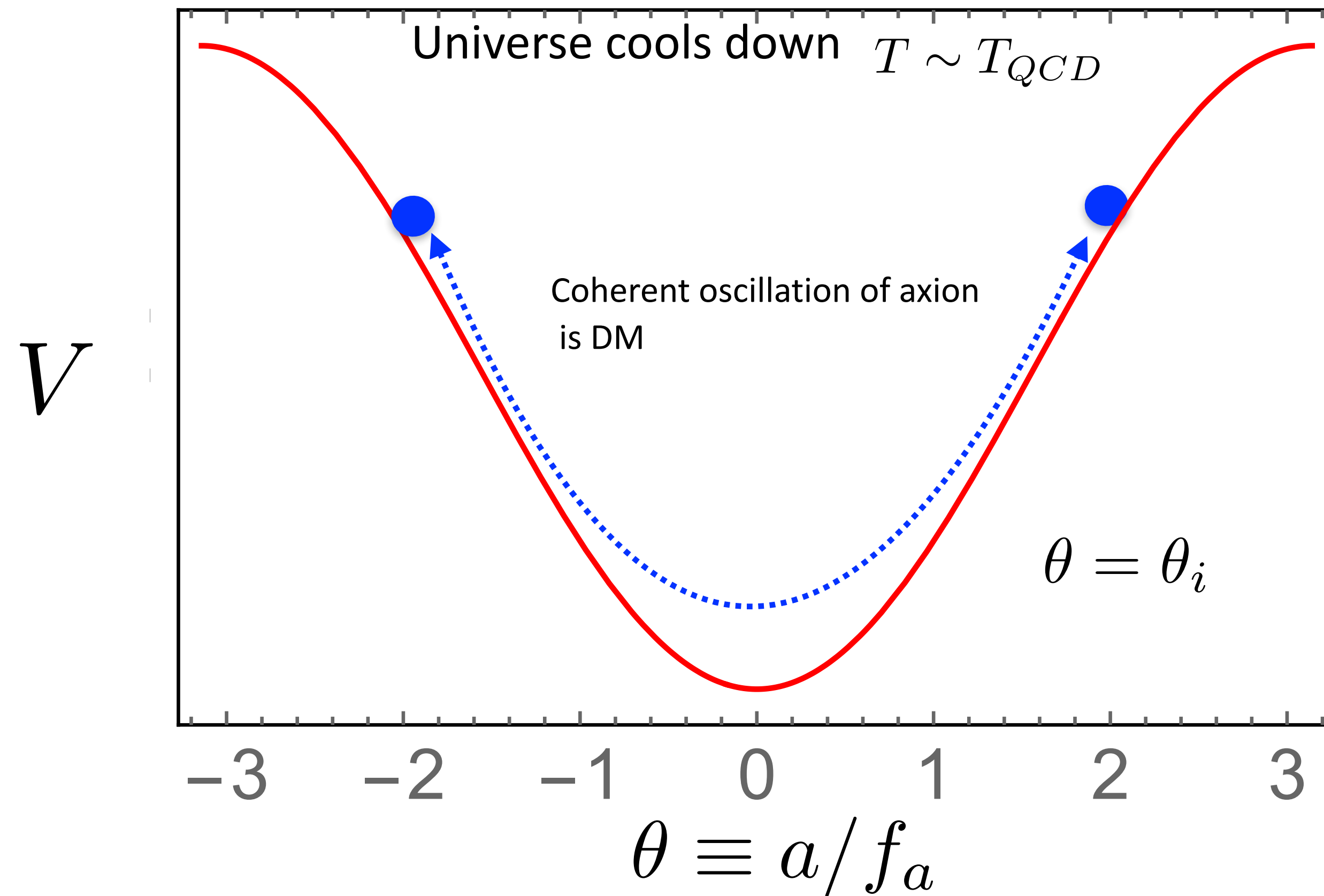


See also anthropic principle:
Linde, 91; Wilczek, 0408167; Tegmark, et al. 0511774.

Since abundance is sensitive to initial-condition, we need to understand early Universe dynamics

QCD axion potential and misalignment mechanism

Preskill et al, 1983; Abbott, Sikivie, 1983; Dine, Fishler, 1983;



Bae et al, 0806.0497; Visinelli, Gondolo, 0903.4377; Ballesteros et al, 1610.01639, for making the figure.

See also anthropic principle:

Linde, 91; Wilczek, 0408167; Tegmark, et al. 0511774.

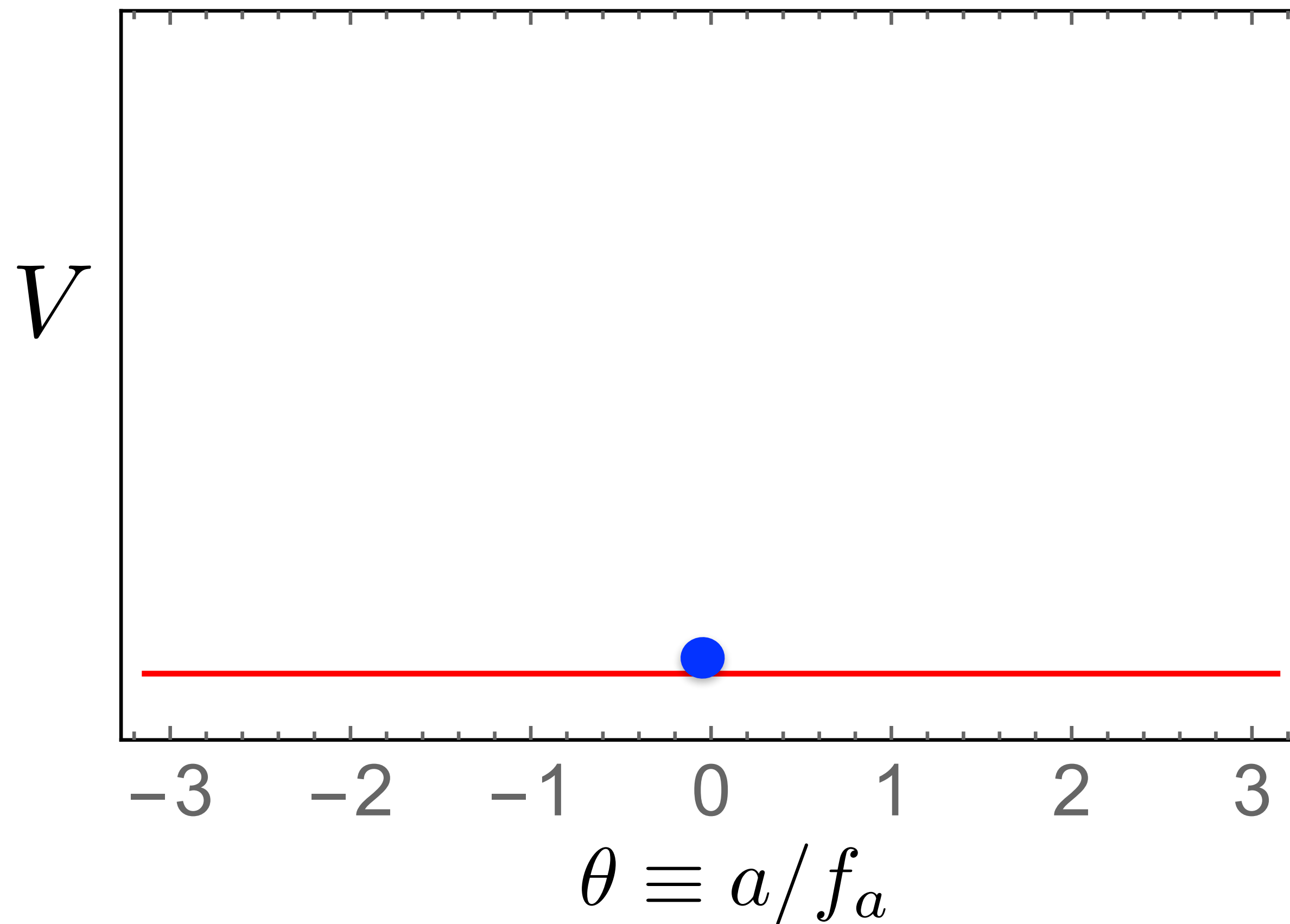
Since abundance is sensitive to initial-condition, we need to understand early Universe dynamics

Axion distribution during high-scale inflation

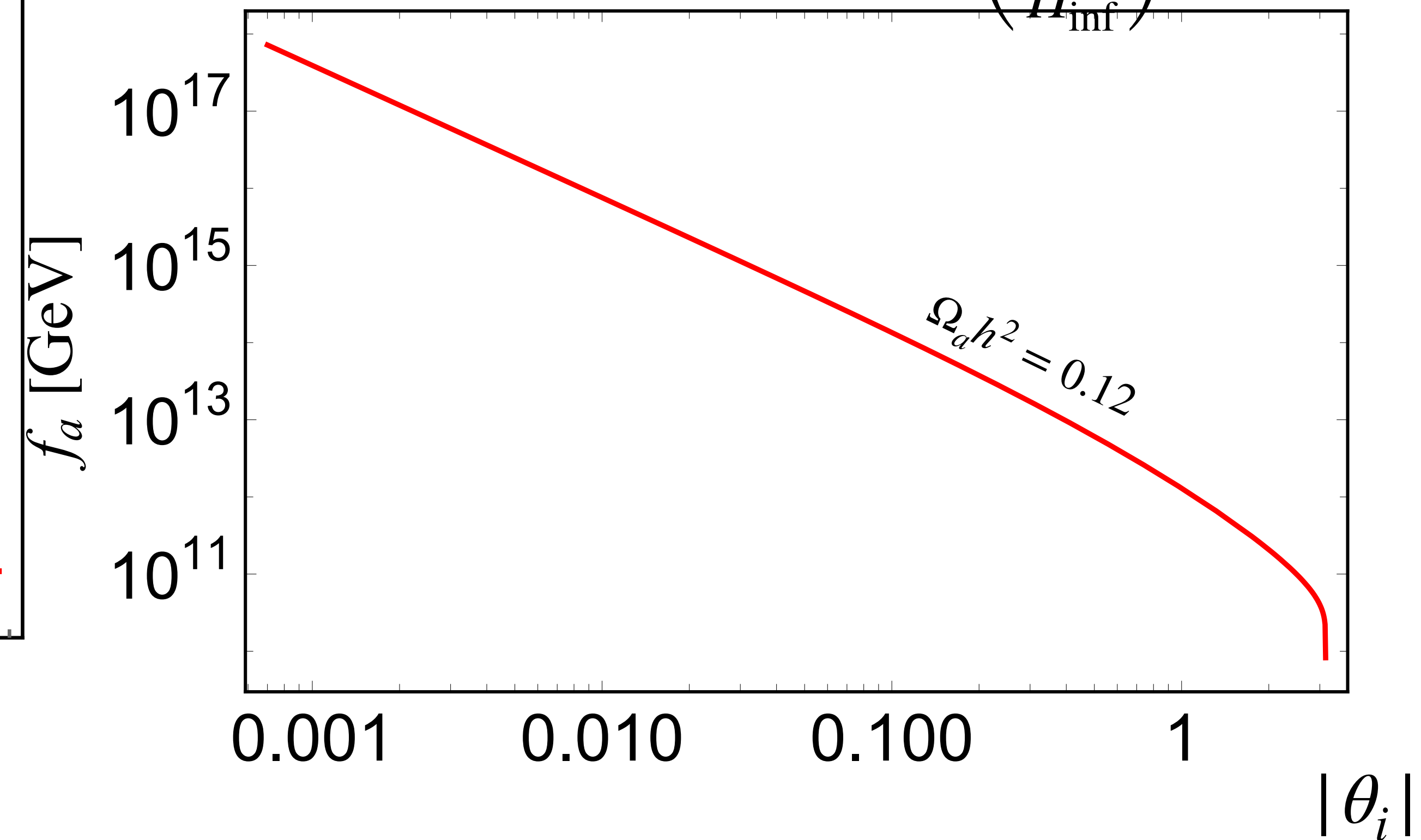
$(H_{\text{inf}} \gg \Lambda_{QCD})$ and isocurvature problem

During inflation, light scalar field undergoes random walk due to the de-sitter space dynamics.

$$\langle (a - a_0)^2 \rangle \sim \Delta N_{\text{efold}} \frac{H_{\text{inf}}^2}{4\pi^2}$$



- $\theta_i = (-\pi, \pi]$ gets a flat distribution if efolding satisfies $\Delta N_{\text{efold}} \gtrsim \left(\frac{f_a}{H_{\text{inf}}} \right)^2$.



Axion distribution during high-scale inflation

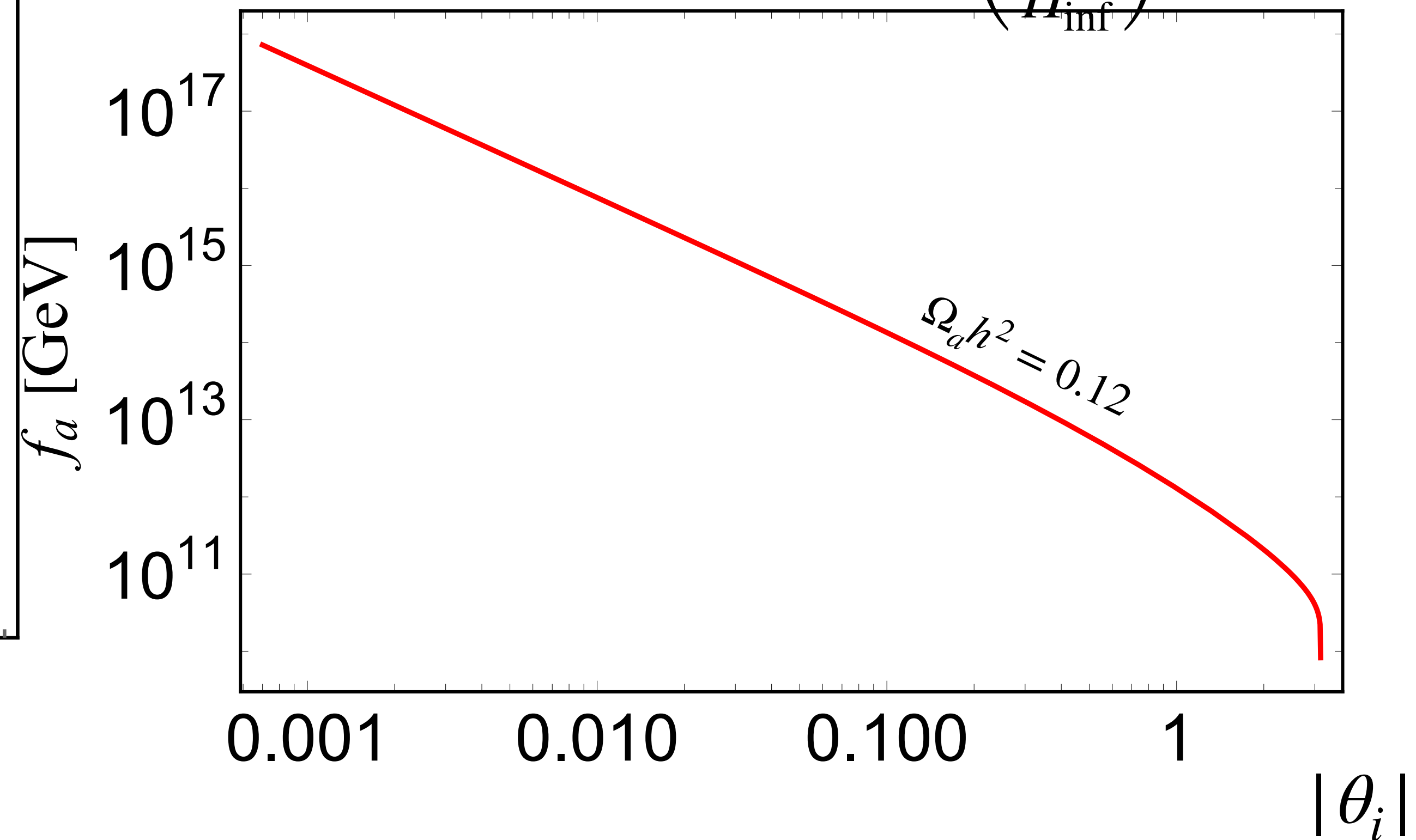
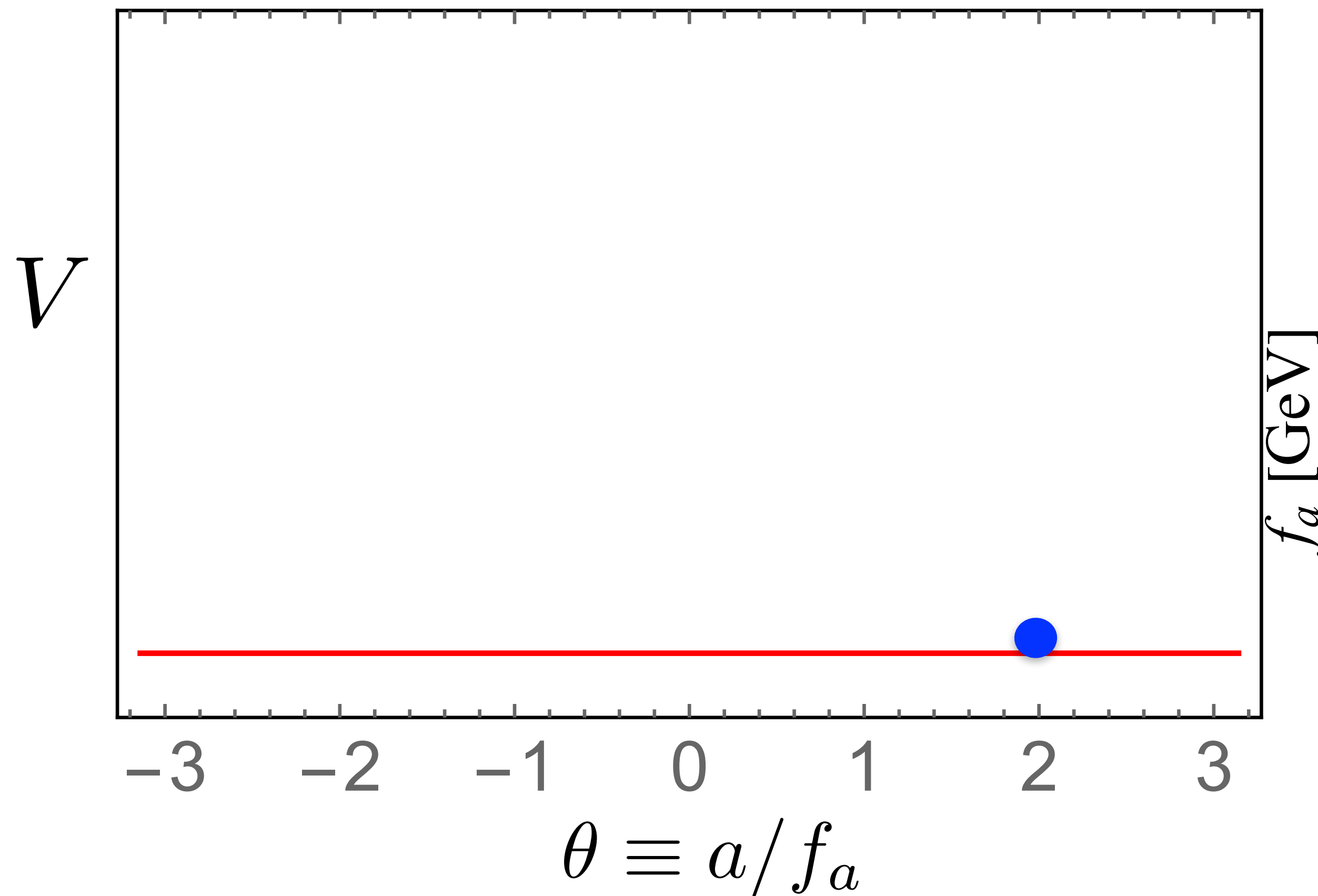
$(H_{\text{inf}} \gg \Lambda_{QCD})$ and isocurvature problem

During inflation, light scalar field undergoes random walk due to the de-sitter space dynamics.

$$\langle (a - a_0)^2 \rangle \sim \Delta N_{\text{efold}} \frac{H_{\text{inf}}^2}{4\pi^2}$$

- $\theta_i = (-\pi, \pi]$ gets a flat distribution if

efolding satisfies $\Delta N_{\text{efold}} \gtrsim \left(\frac{f_a}{H_{\text{inf}}} \right)^2$.

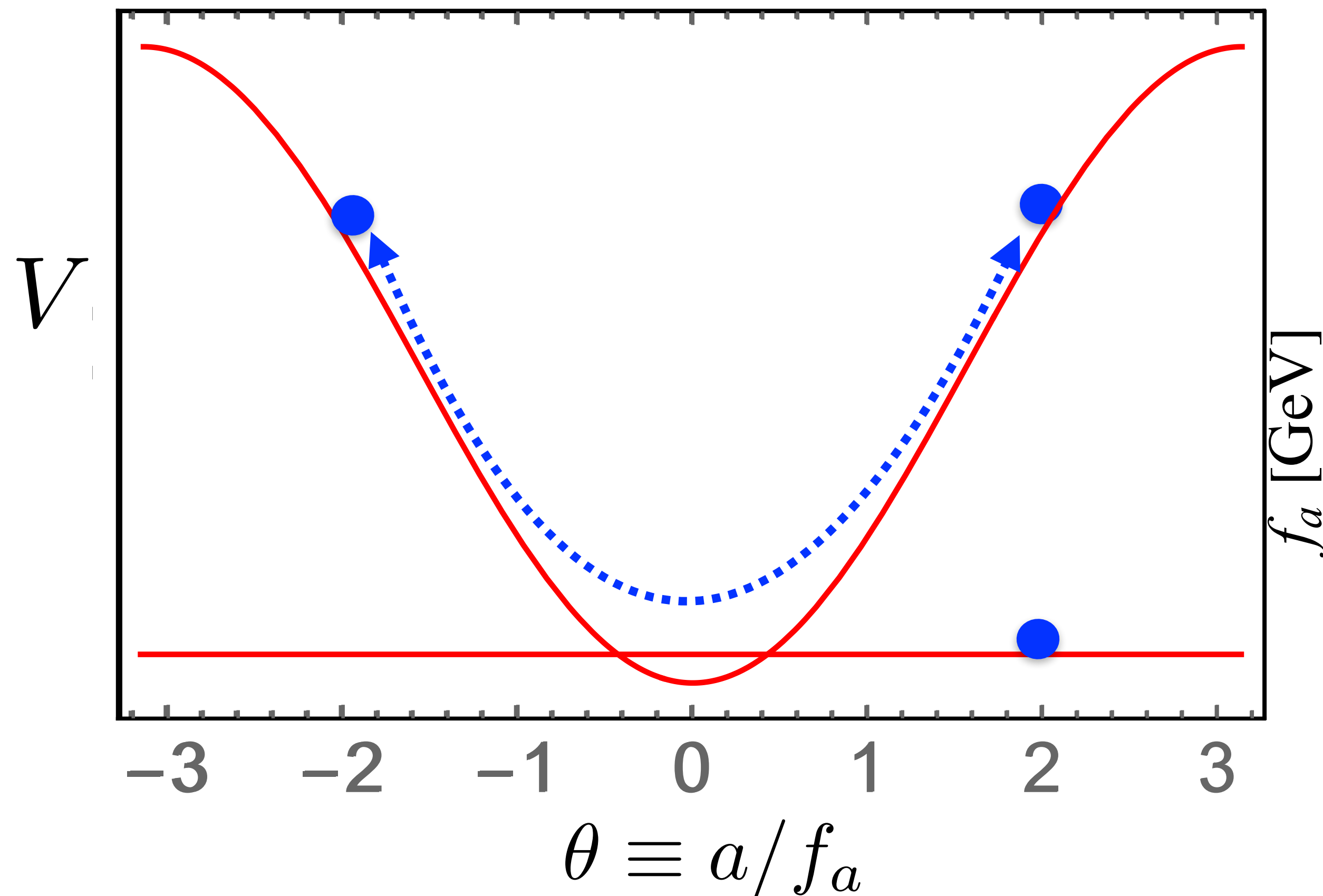


Axion distribution during high-scale inflation

$(H_{\text{inf}} \gg \Lambda_{QCD})$ and isocurvature problem

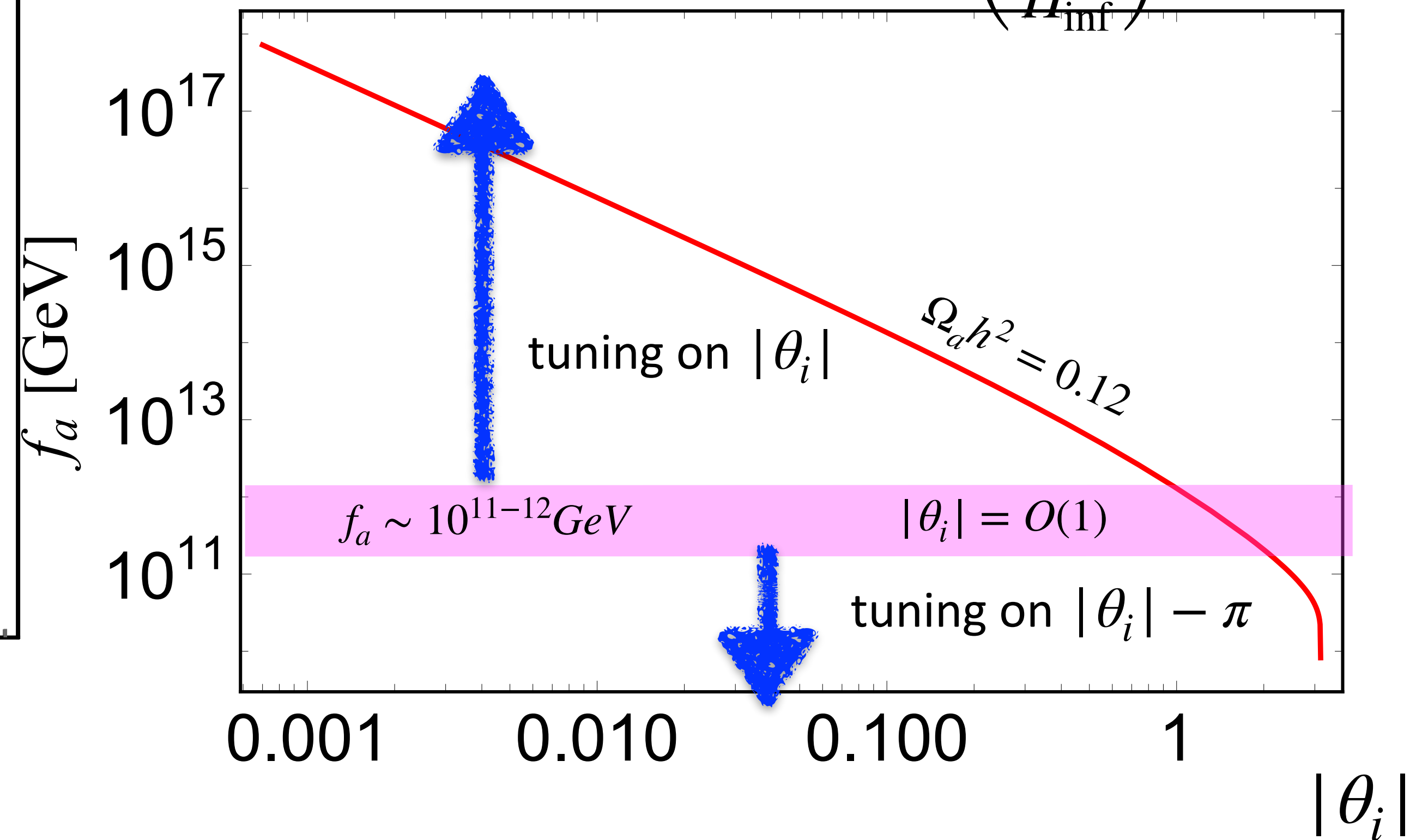
During inflation, light scalar field undergoes random walk due to the de-sitter space dynamics.

$$\langle (a - a_0)^2 \rangle \sim \Delta N_{\text{efold}} \frac{H_{\text{inf}}^2}{4\pi^2}$$



- $\theta_i = (-\pi, \pi]$ gets a flat distribution if

efolding satisfies $\Delta N_{\text{efold}} \gtrsim \left(\frac{f_a}{H_{\text{inf}}} \right)^2$.

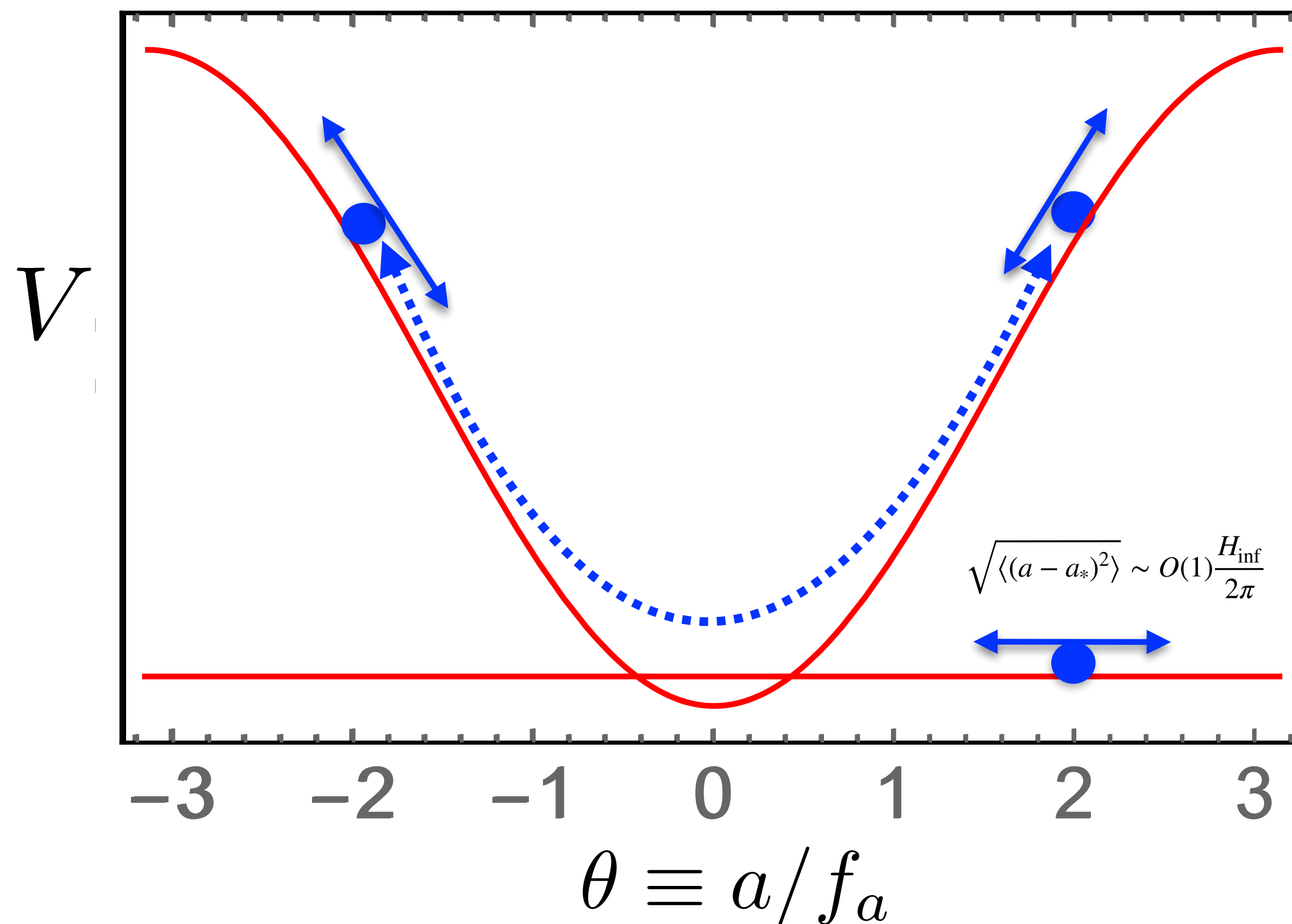


Axion distribution during high-scale inflation

$(H_{\text{inf}} \gg \Lambda_{QCD})$ and isocurvature problem

During inflation, light scalar field undergoes random walk due to the de-sitter space dynamics.

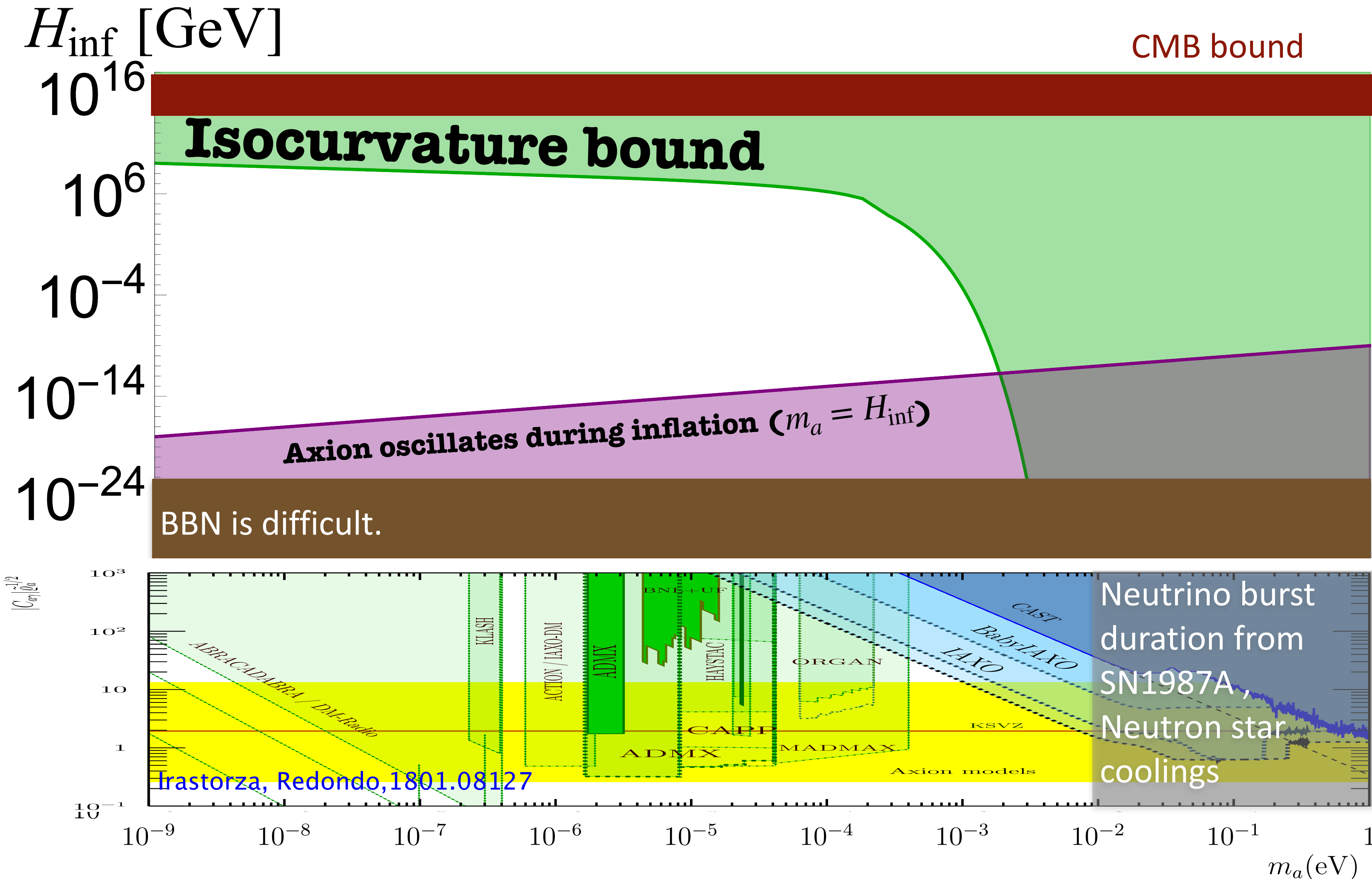
$$\langle (a - a_0)^2 \rangle \sim \Delta N_{\text{efold}} \frac{H_{\text{inf}}^2}{4\pi^2}$$



- $\theta_i = (-\pi, \pi]$ gets a flat distribution if efolding satisfies $\Delta N_{\text{efold}} \gtrsim \left(\frac{f_a}{H_{\text{inf}}} \right)^2$.
- In last few $\Delta N_{\text{efold}} = O(1)$, diffusion predicts isocurvature perturbation.
e.g. Lyth, 1992; Marsh, 1510.07633;
- H_{inf} has an upper-limit to satisfy the isocurvature bound.

Upper bound of H_{inf} with axion DM from misalignment

Kobayashi, et al, 1304.0922 and Planck 2018, 1807.06211 are referred to make the figure.

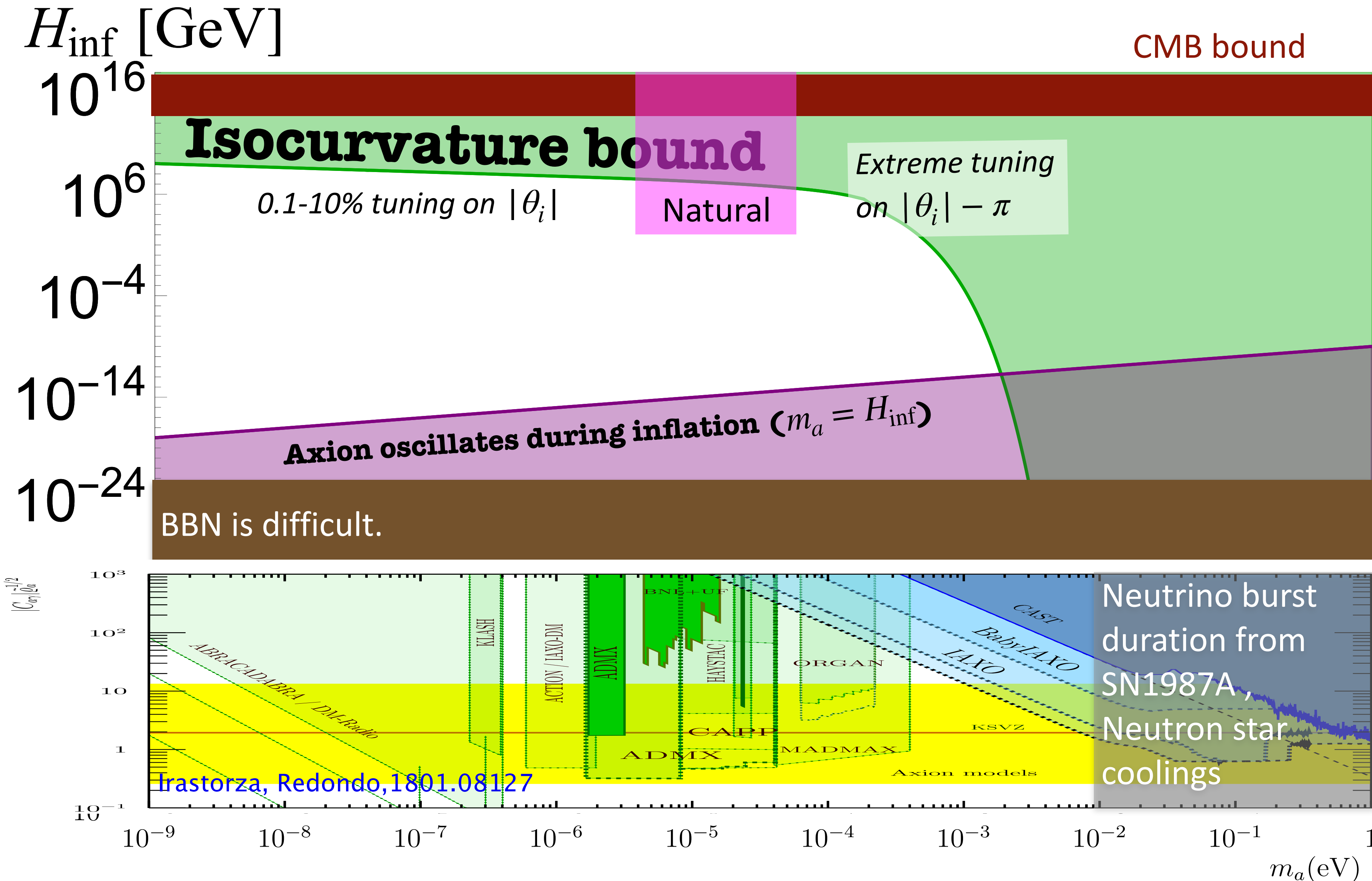


- Misalignment QCD axion DM in the preinflation models predicts **low inflation scale**.

- Comment: for relatively heavy axion, other mechanisms may work, e.g. [Moroi WY 2011.09475](#). In general by introducing other d.o.f., isogurvature bound can be relaxed.

Upper bound of H_{inf} with axion DM from misalignment

Kobayashi, et al, 1304.0922 and Planck 2018, 1807.06211 are referred to make the figure.

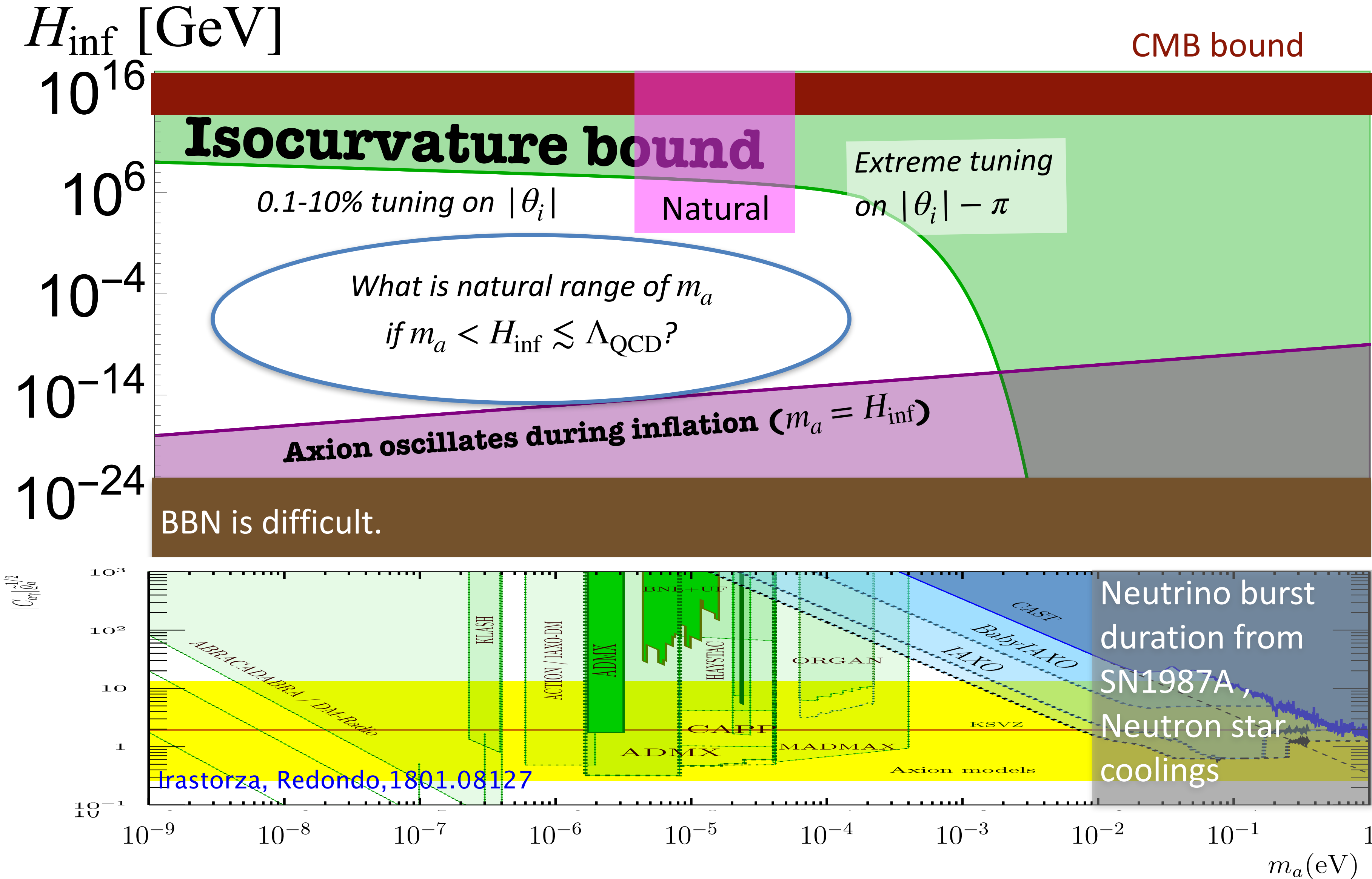


- Misalignment QCD axion DM in the preinflation models predicts **low inflation scale**.

- Comment: for relatively heavy axion, other mechanisms may work, e.g. [Moroi WY 2011.09475](#). In general by introducing other d.o.f., isocurvature bound can be relaxed.

Upper bound of H_{inf} with axion DM from misalignment

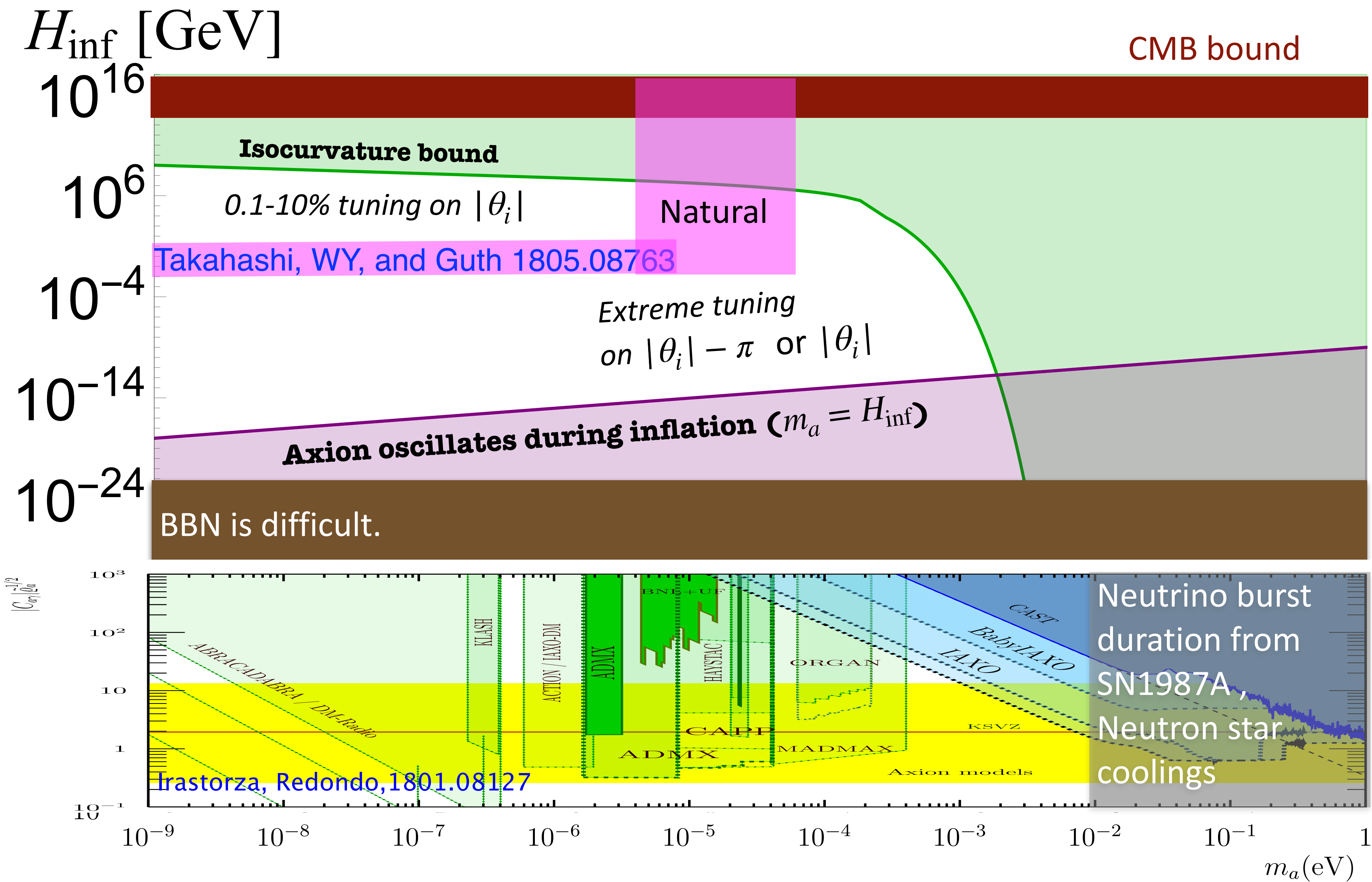
Kobayashi, et al, 1304.0922 and Planck 2018, 1807.06211 are referred to make the figure.



- Misalignment QCD axion DM in the preinflation models predicts **low inflation scale**.
- Comment: for relatively heavy axion, other mechanisms may work, e.g. [Moroi WY 2011.09475](#). In general by introducing other d.o.f., isocurvature bound can be relaxed.

What I will be talking about

The axion abundance from misalignment highly depends on the inflation scale.



Takahashi, WY, and Guth 1805.08763

Assumptions: preinflation models
+long inflation+no inflaton-axion
mixing.

- When inflation has $H_{\text{inf}} \sim 0.1\text{GeV}$, tuning is highly alleviated.
- Detecting axion DM may be a new window to probe inflation scale.

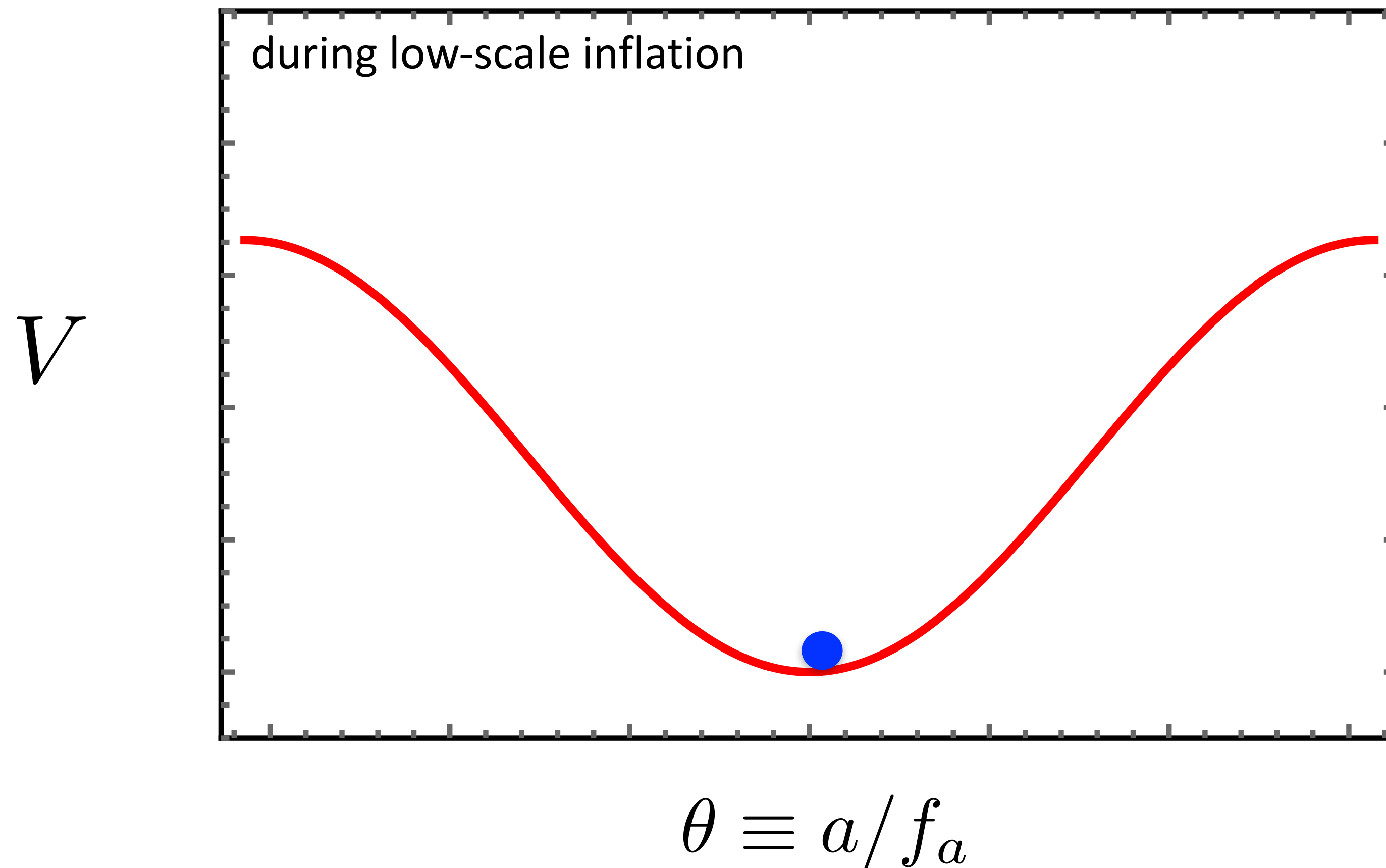
QCD axion dark matter with $H_{\text{inf}} \lesssim \Lambda_{QCD}$

Axion during inflation with $H_{\text{inf}} \lesssim \Lambda_{\text{QCD}}$

During inflation temperature exists:

$$T_{\text{inf}} = \frac{H_{\text{inf}}}{2\pi} \propto \frac{\sqrt{V_{\text{inf}}}}{M_{\text{pl}}} \quad \text{Gibbons, Hawking, 77}$$

Axion gets potential with $H_{\text{inf}} \lesssim \Lambda_{\text{QCD}}$ during inflation.



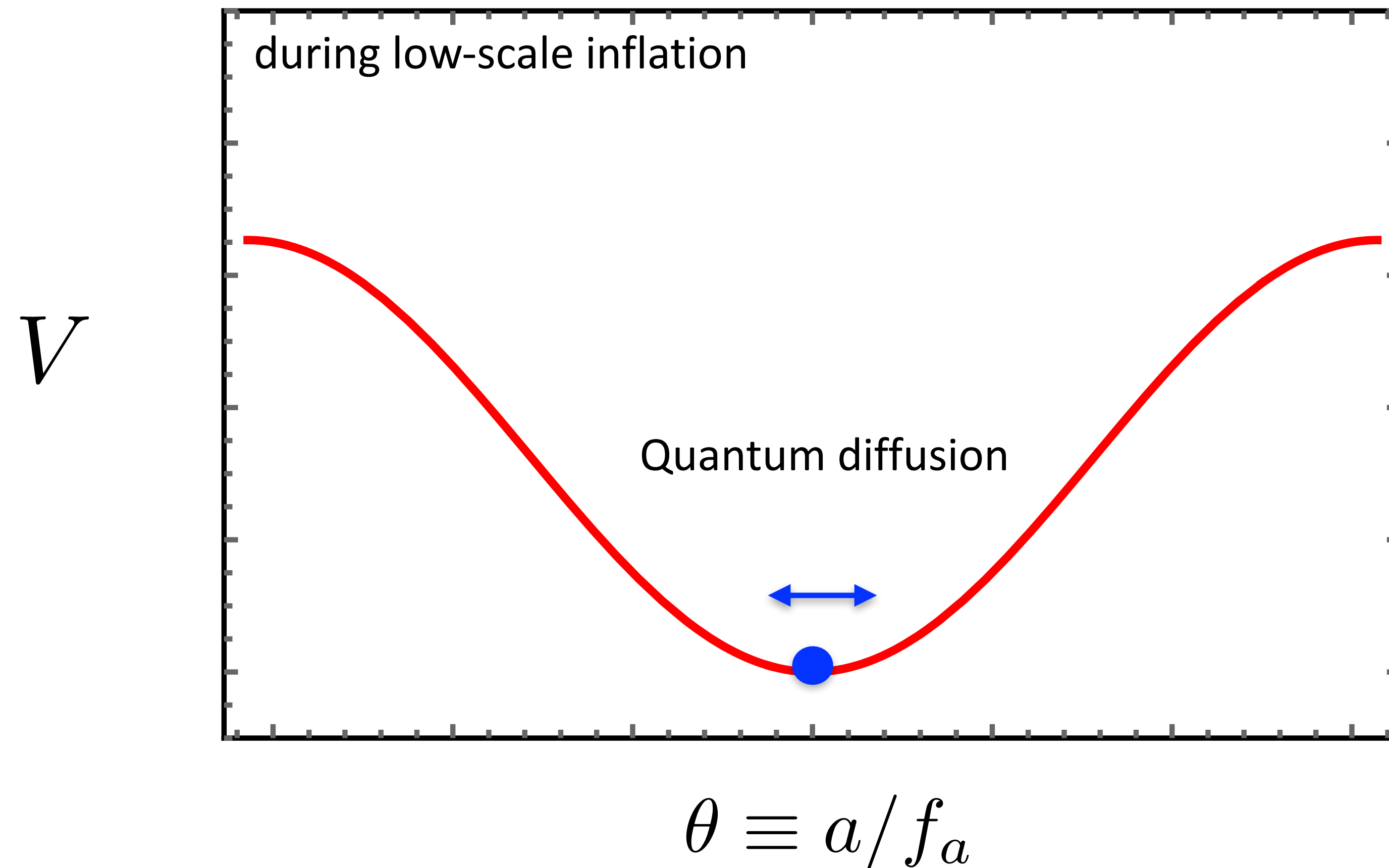
- **Classical motion vs quantum diffusion**
- Equilibrium is biased to $\theta = 0$, a la the atmosphere surrounding Earth.

Axion during inflation with $H_{\text{inf}} \lesssim \Lambda_{\text{QCD}}$

During inflation temperature exists:

$$T_{\text{inf}} = \frac{H_{\text{inf}}}{2\pi} \propto \frac{\sqrt{V_{\text{inf}}}}{M_{\text{pl}}} \quad \text{Gibbons, Hawking, 77}$$

Axion gets potential with $H_{\text{inf}} \lesssim \Lambda_{\text{QCD}}$ during inflation.



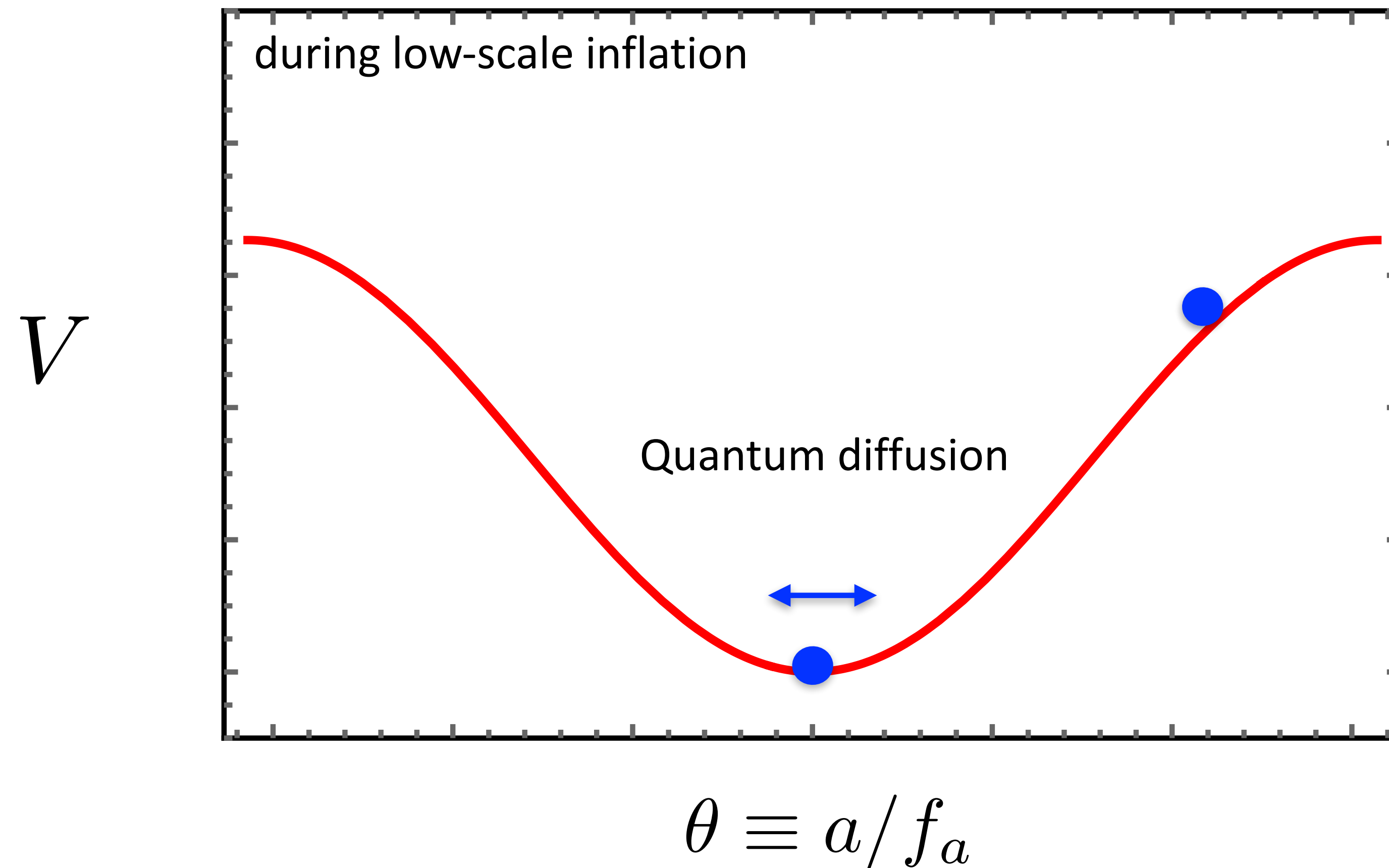
- **Classical motion vs quantum diffusion**
- Equilibrium is biased to $\theta = 0$, a la the atmosphere surrounding Earth.

Axion during inflation with $H_{\text{inf}} \lesssim \Lambda_{\text{QCD}}$

During inflation temperature exists:

$$T_{\text{inf}} = \frac{H_{\text{inf}}}{2\pi} \propto \frac{\sqrt{V_{\text{inf}}}}{M_{\text{pl}}} \quad \text{Gibbons, Hawking, 77}$$

Axion gets potential with $H_{\text{inf}} \lesssim \Lambda_{\text{QCD}}$ during inflation.



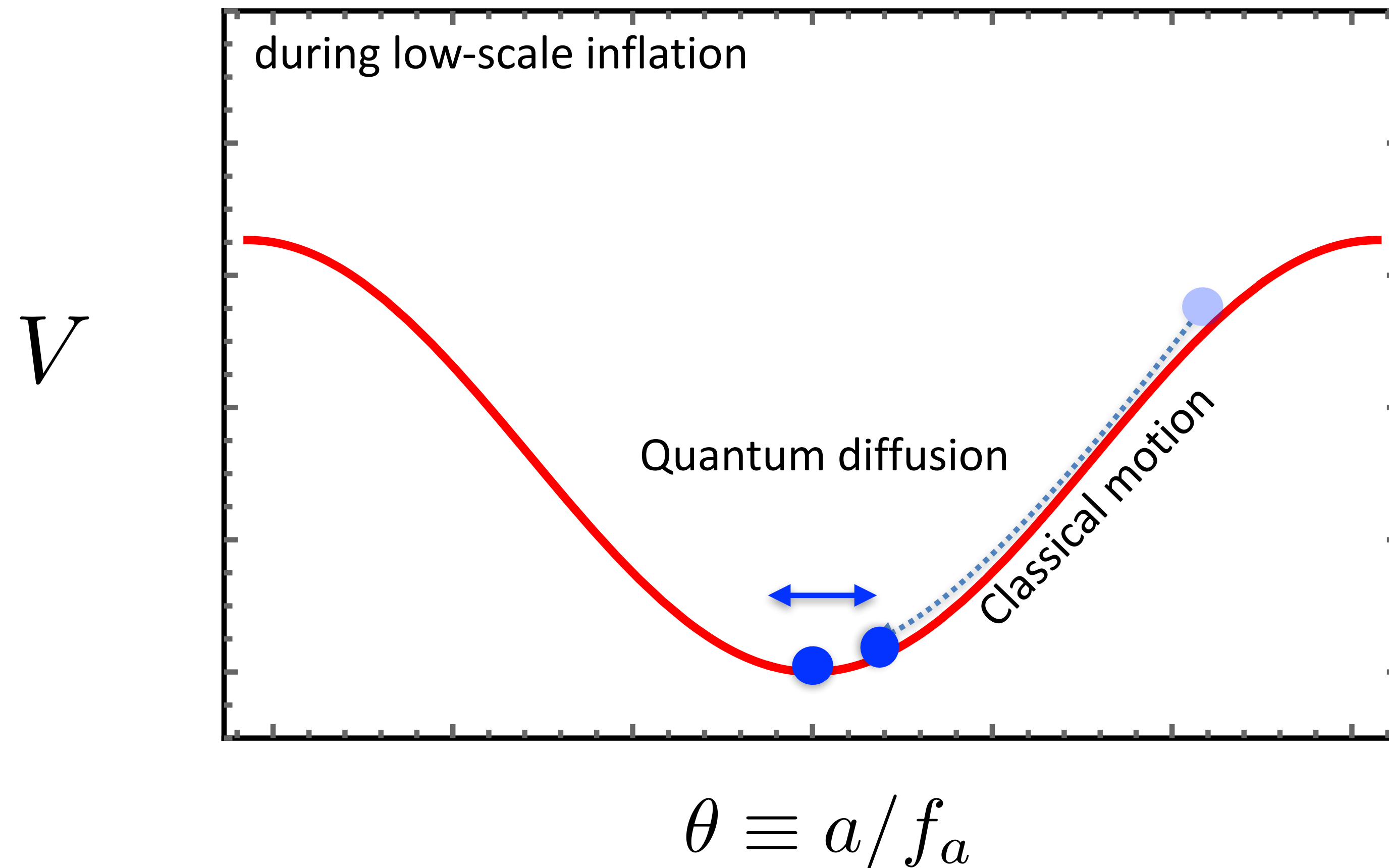
- **Classical motion vs quantum diffusion**
- Equilibrium is biased to $\theta = 0$, a la the atmosphere surrounding Earth.

Axion during inflation with $H_{\text{inf}} \lesssim \Lambda_{\text{QCD}}$

During inflation temperature exists:

$$T_{\text{inf}} = \frac{H_{\text{inf}}}{2\pi} \propto \frac{\sqrt{V_{\text{inf}}}}{M_{\text{pl}}} \quad \text{Gibbons, Hawking, 77}$$

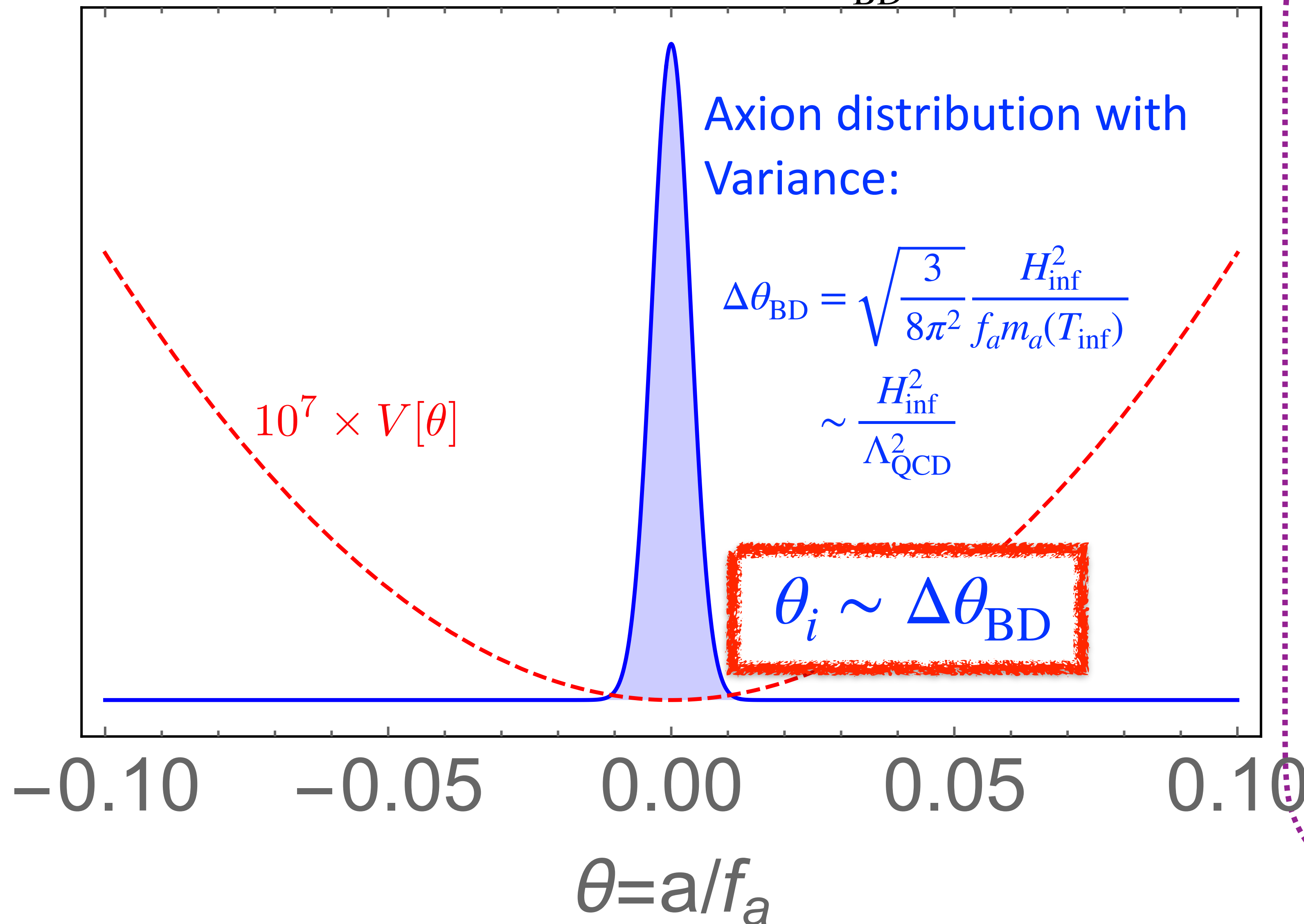
Axion gets potential with $H_{\text{inf}} \lesssim \Lambda_{\text{QCD}}$ during inflation.



- **Classical motion vs quantum diffusion**
- Equilibrium is biased to $\theta = 0$, a la the atmosphere surrounding Earth.

Equilibrium distribution during inflation

$$P[\theta_i] \propto \exp\left[-\frac{\theta_i^2}{2\Delta\theta_{\text{BD}}^2}\right]$$



- Light scalar during inflation approaches to equilibrium distribution.

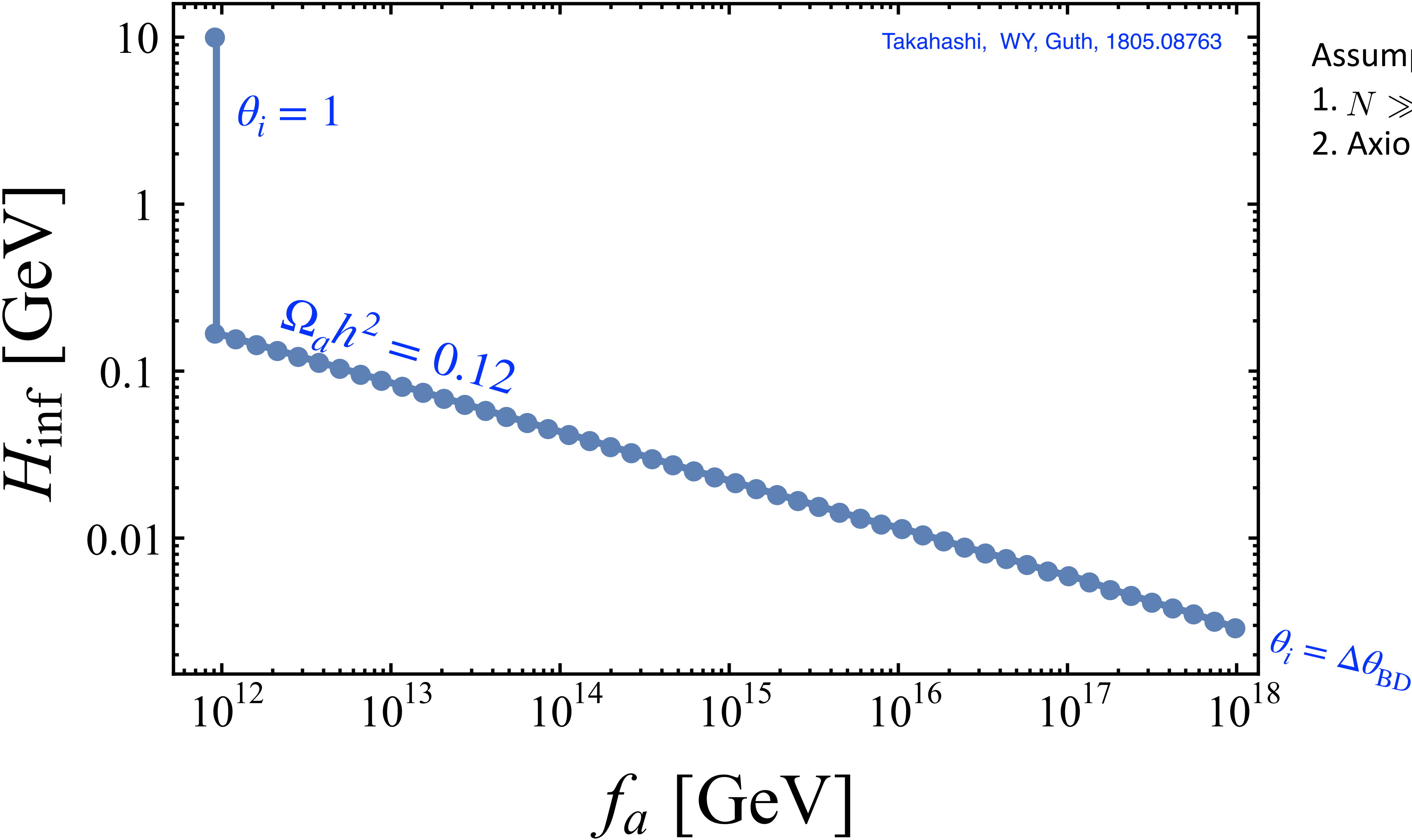
Bunch Davies, 78

- The equilibrium is independent from initial condition.
- Long inflation is required but very long inflation is predicted in most of inflation models.
- This distribution is robust for axion since "PQ" or shift symmetry forbids any Hubble induced terms.
- Central value is CP conserving unless axion-inflaton mixing.

- Typical $|\theta_i| \ll 1$ is natural if $H_{\text{inf}} \lesssim \Lambda_{\text{QCD}}$.

The QCD axion DM can be naturally explained with $f_a \sim 10^{12-18} \text{GeV}$
in low-scale inflation with $H_{\text{inf}} \sim \Lambda_{\text{QCD}}$.

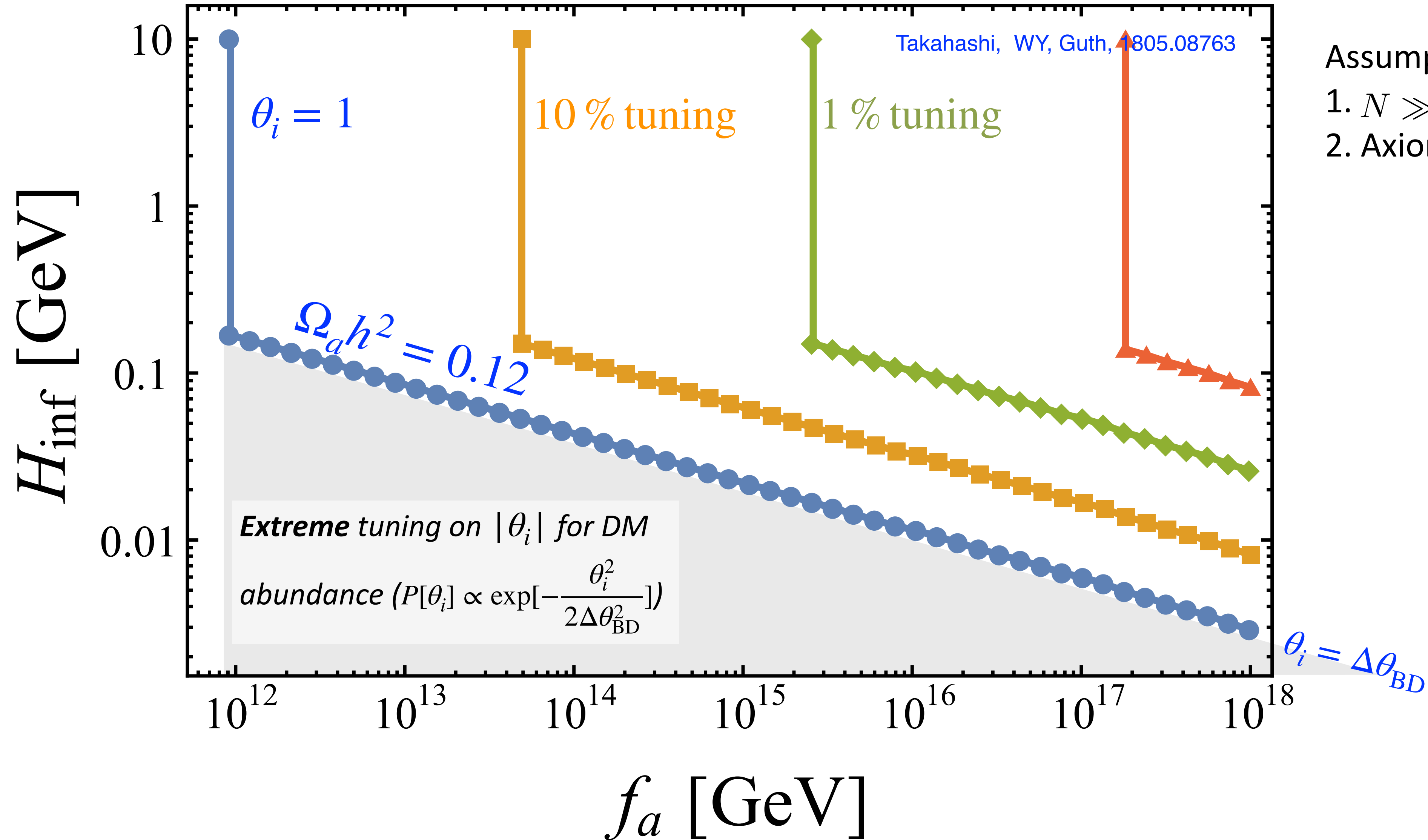
Graham, Scherlis, 1805.07362,
Takahashi, WY, Guth, 1805.08763



- Assumptions:
1. $N \gg H_{\text{inf}}^2/m_a^2$
 2. Axion does not mix with inflaton.

The QCD axion DM can be naturally explained with $f_a \sim 10^{12-18} \text{ GeV}$
 in low-scale inflation with $H_{\text{inf}} \sim \Lambda_{\text{QCD}}$.

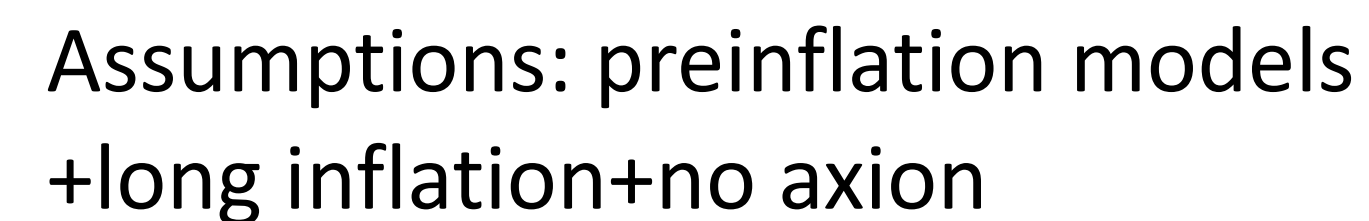
Graham, Scherlis, 1805.07362,
 Takahashi, WY, Guth, 1805.08763



Assumptions:

1. $N \gg H_{\text{inf}}^2/m_a^2$
2. Axion does not mix with inflaton.

Takahashi, WY, and Guth 1805.08763

 inf [GeV] 

- When inflation has $H_{\text{inf}} \sim 0.1 \text{ GeV}$, tuning is alleviated.
- Detecting axion DM may be a new window to probe inflation scale.

See also stochastic ALP DM

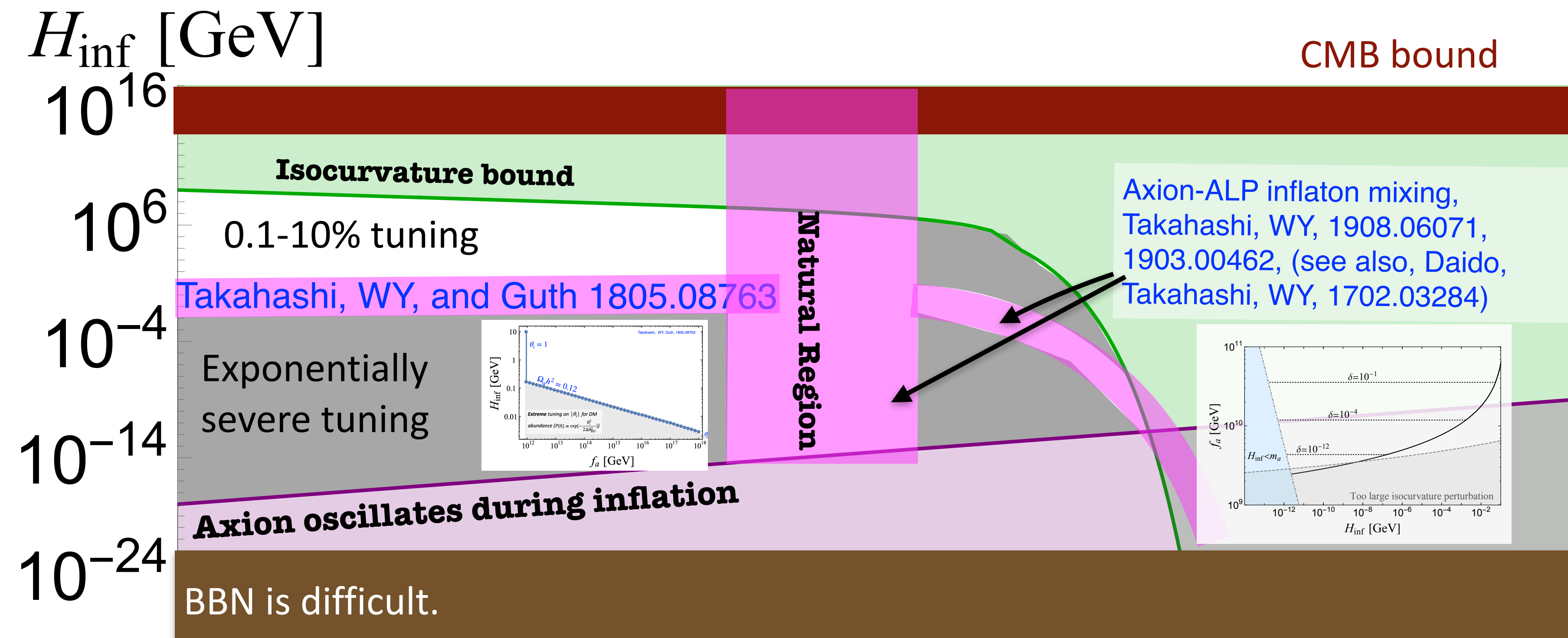
Ho, Takahashi, and WY 1901.01240;
Marsh, WY, 1912.08188;
Nakagawa, Takahashi, WY, 2002.12195;

Backups

Conclusions

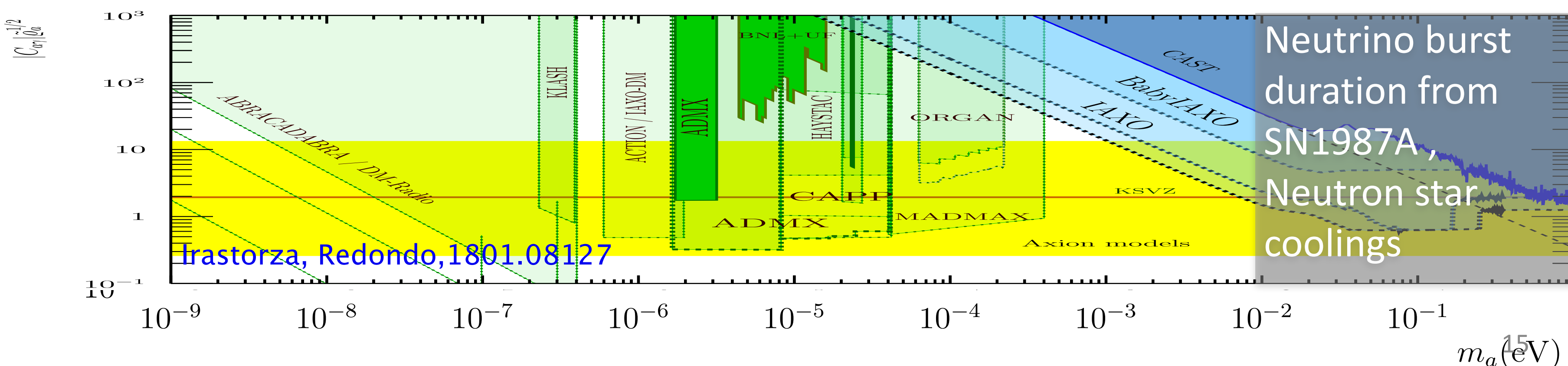
Takahashi, WY, and Guth 1805.08763

The misalignment induced axion abundance highly depends on the inflation scale.



Assumptions: preinflation models + long inflation.

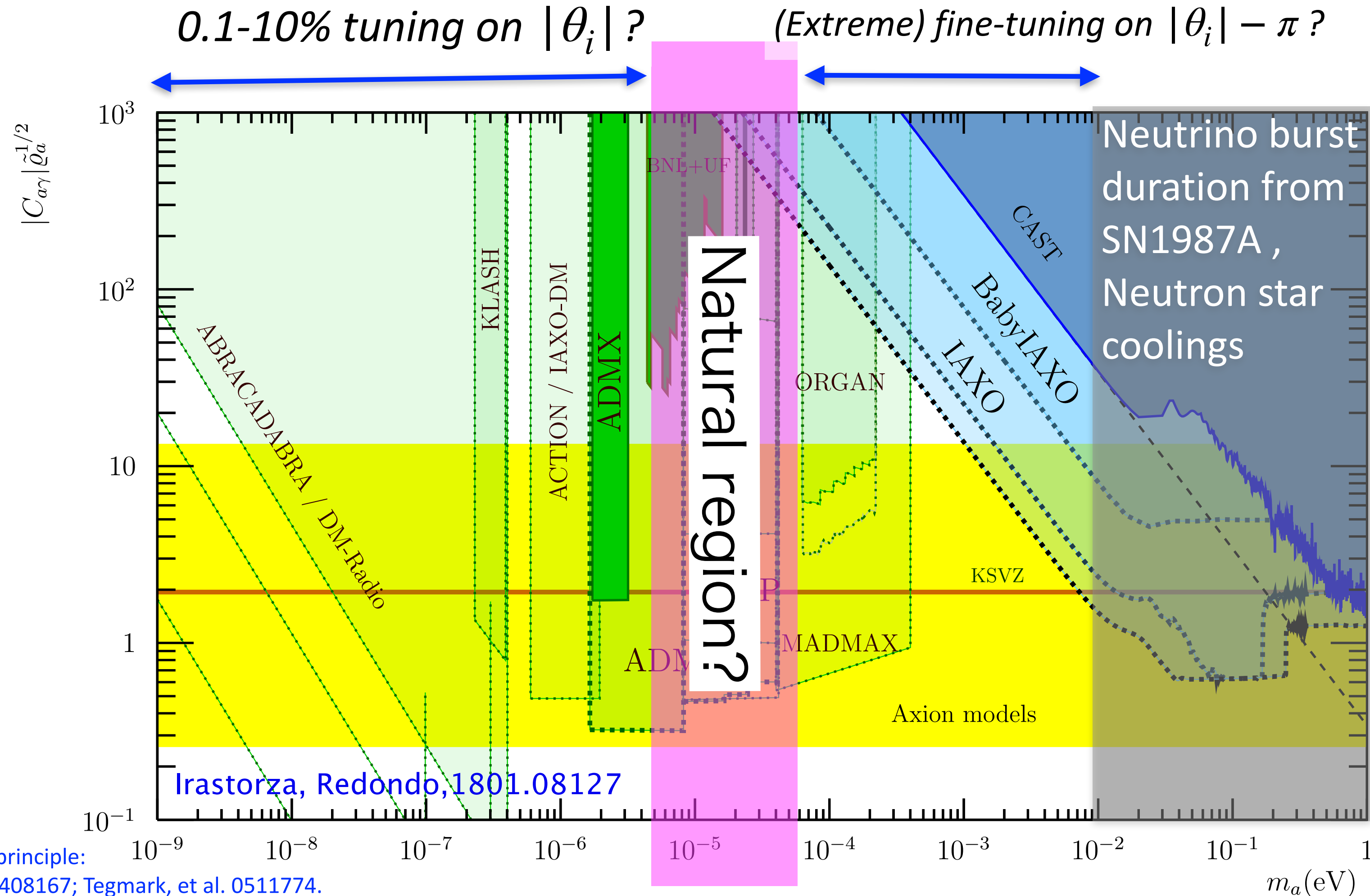
- **When inflation has $H_{\text{inf}} \sim 0.1\text{GeV}$, tuning is highly alleviated.**
- **If axion DM is discovered, we can say quite a few things on inflation.**



See also stochastic ALP DM

Ho, Takahashi, and WY 1901.01240;
Marsh, WY, 1912.08188;
Nakagawa, Takahashi, WY, 2002.12195;

Misalignment mechanism and Axion DM



See also anthropic principle:
Linde, 91; Wilczek, 0408167; Tegmark, et al. 0511774.

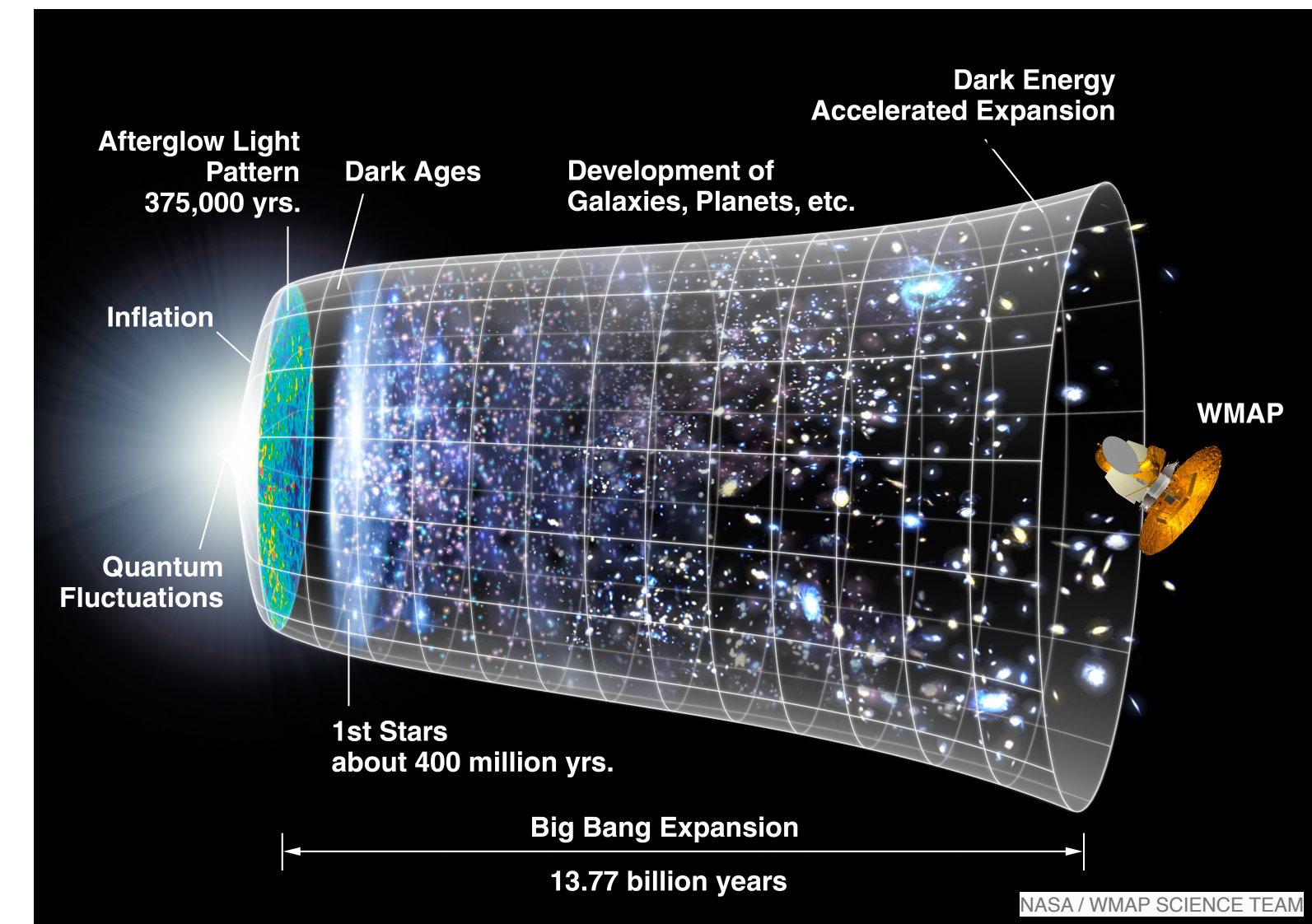
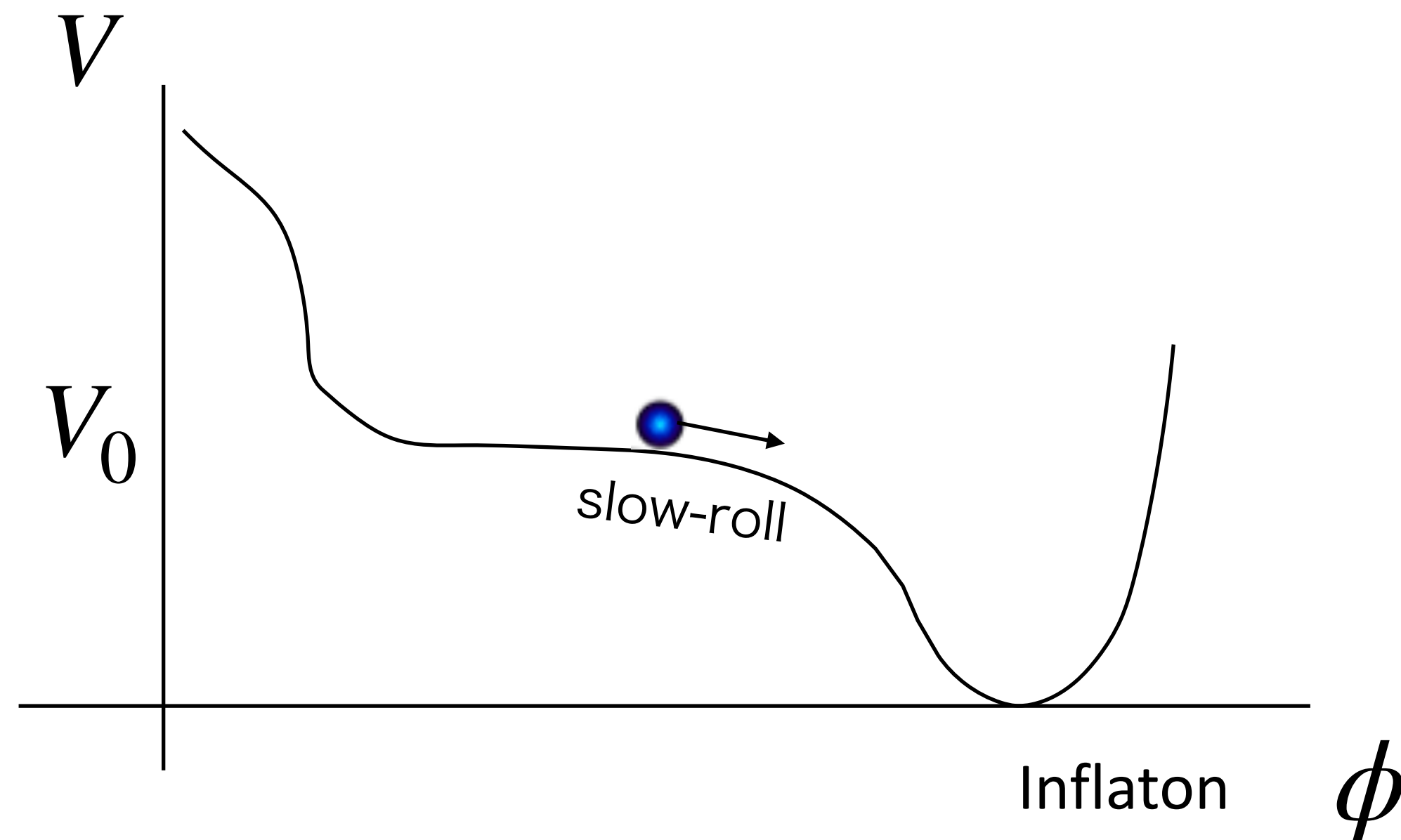
Since abundance depends on initial-condition,
we need to study beginning of Universe.

Inflationary cosmology

A.Guth, 1980; K.Sato, 1980; A.Starobinsky, 1980; Kazanas, 1980; A.Linde, 1981; Albrecht, Steinhardt, 1981;

Much before the thermal history, there was inflation.

Inflation solves
horizon and flatness
problems.



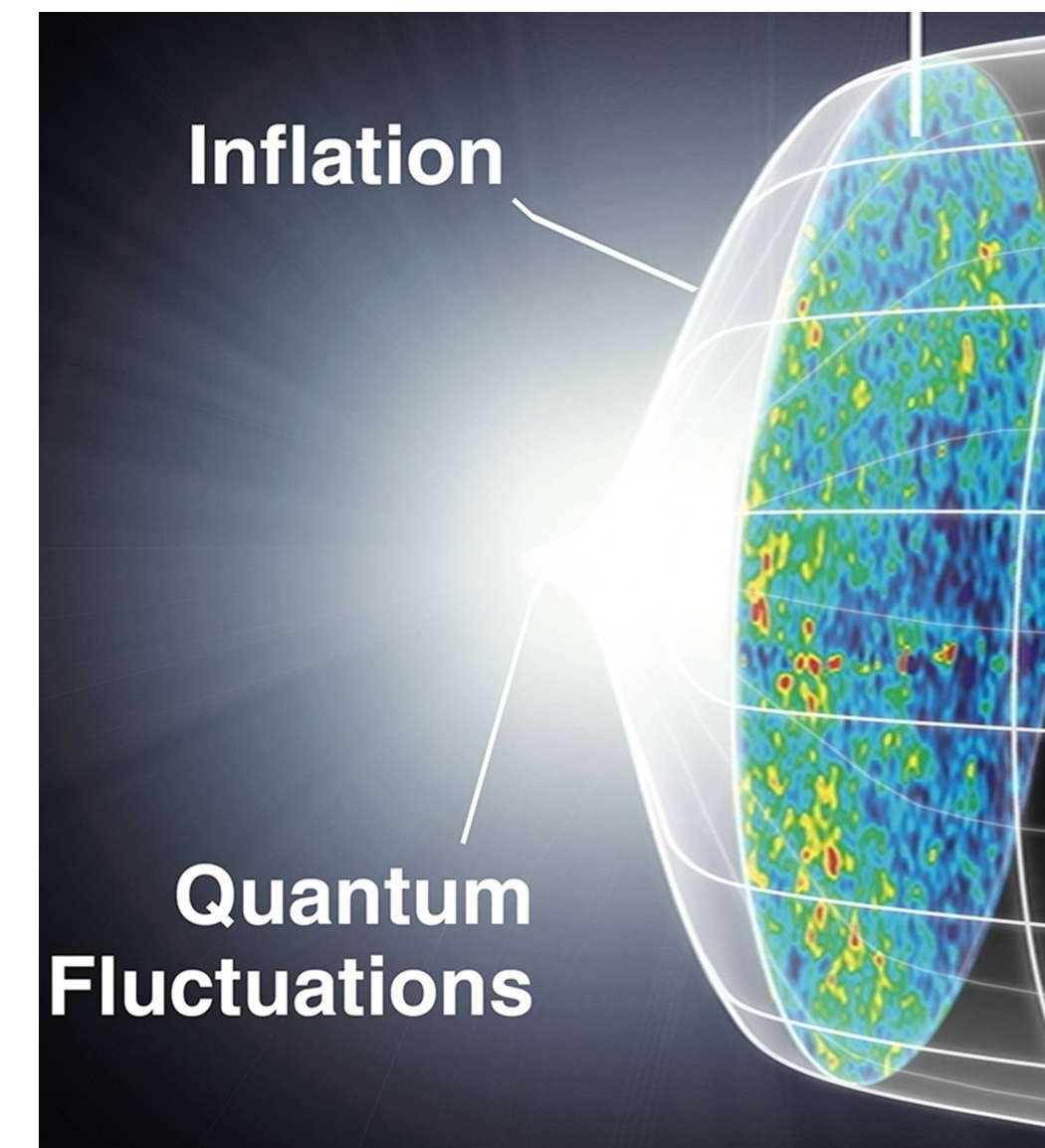
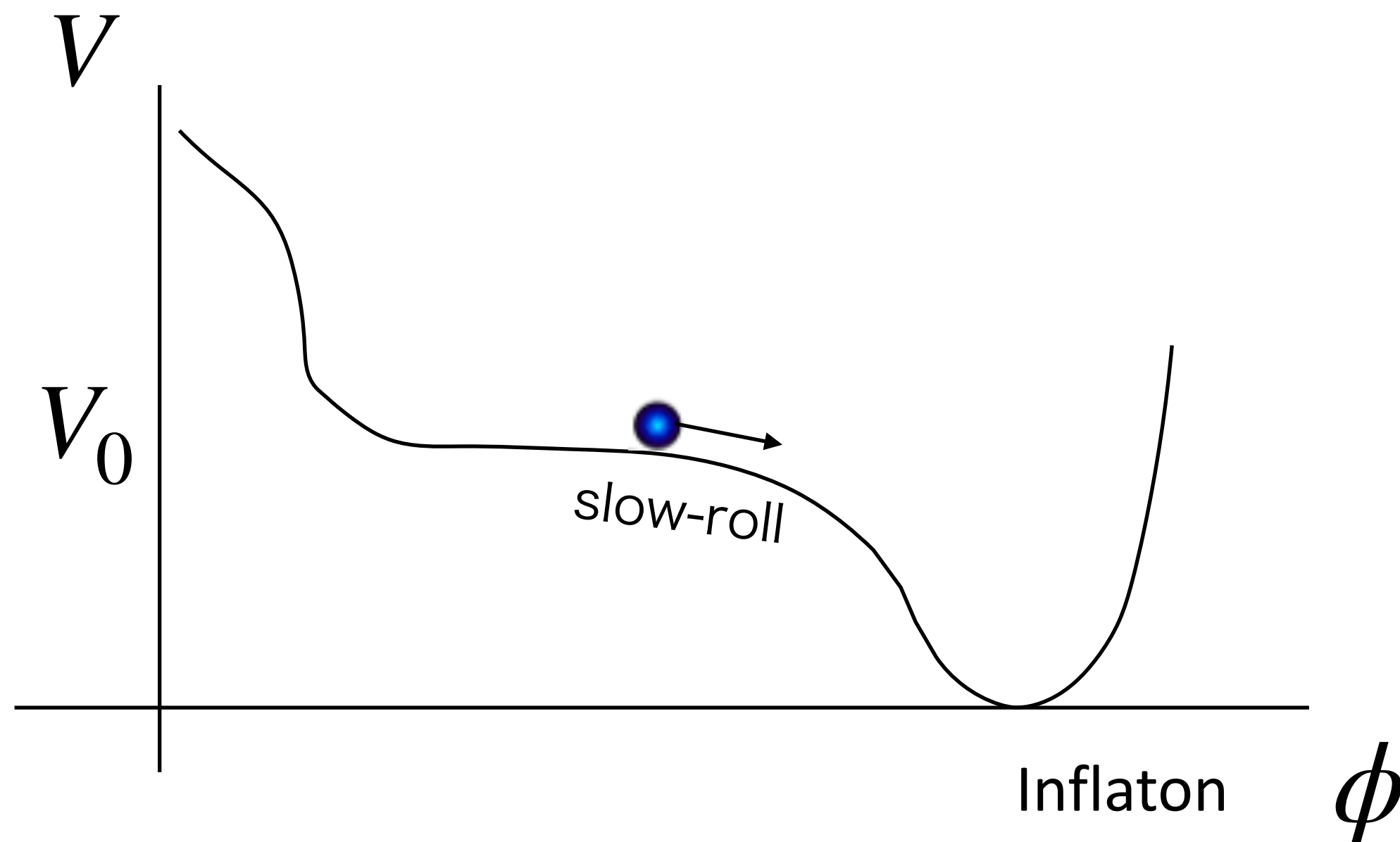
- Slow-roll inflation is plausible.
- The inflationary quantum fluctuation of inflaton field seems to be discovered.
- $H_{\text{inf}} \lesssim 10^{14} \text{ GeV}$ from CMB data
Planck 2018, 1807.06211

Inflationary cosmology

A.Guth, 1980; K.Sato, 1980; A.Starobinsky, 1980; Kazanas, 1980; A.Linde, 1981; Albrecht, Steinhardt, 1981;

Much before the thermal history, there was inflation.

Inflation solves
horizon and flatness
problems.



$$a \propto \exp\left[\frac{V_0^{1/2}}{\sqrt{3}M_{\text{pl}}}t\right]$$

NASA / WMAP SCIENCE TEAM

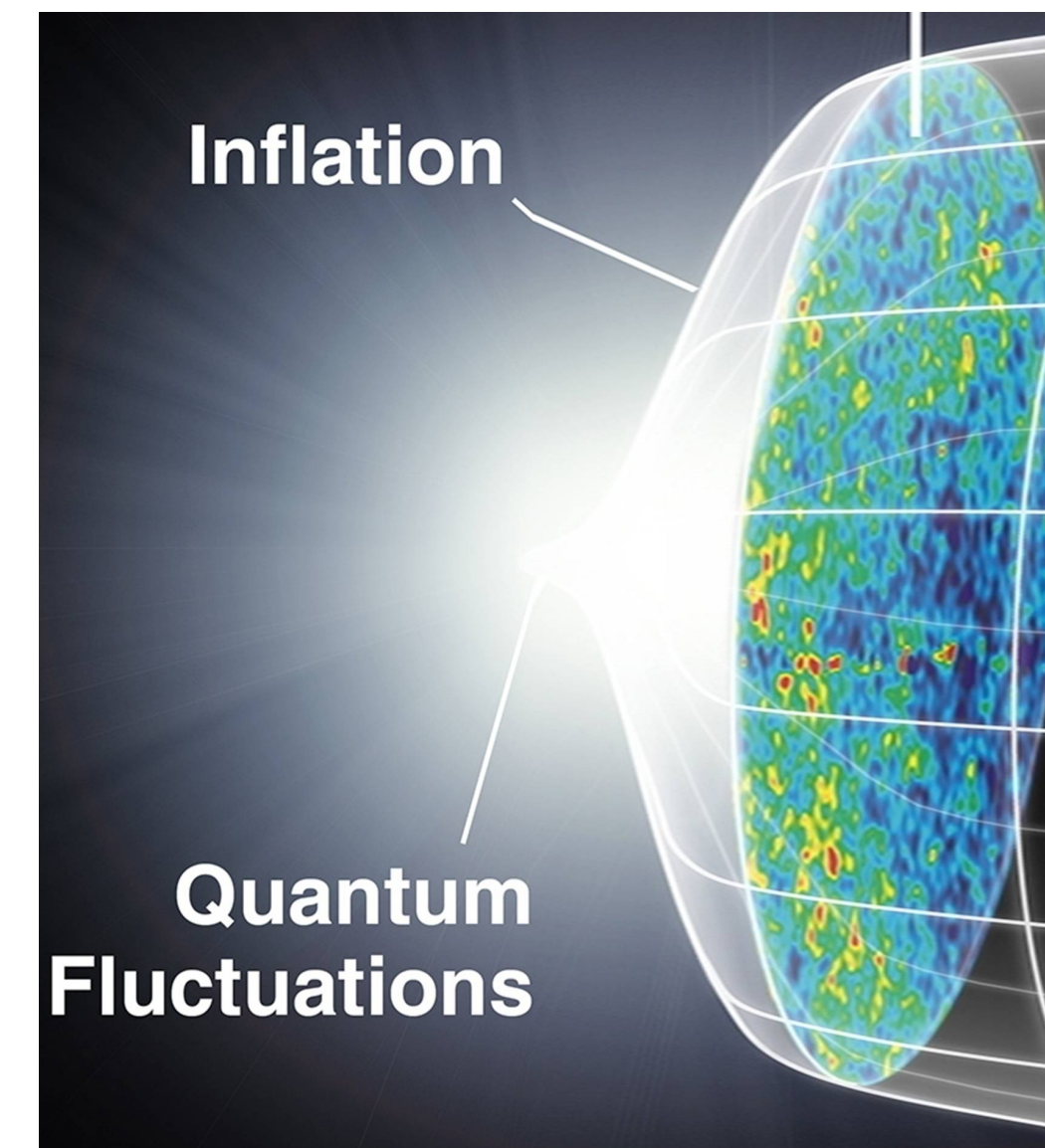
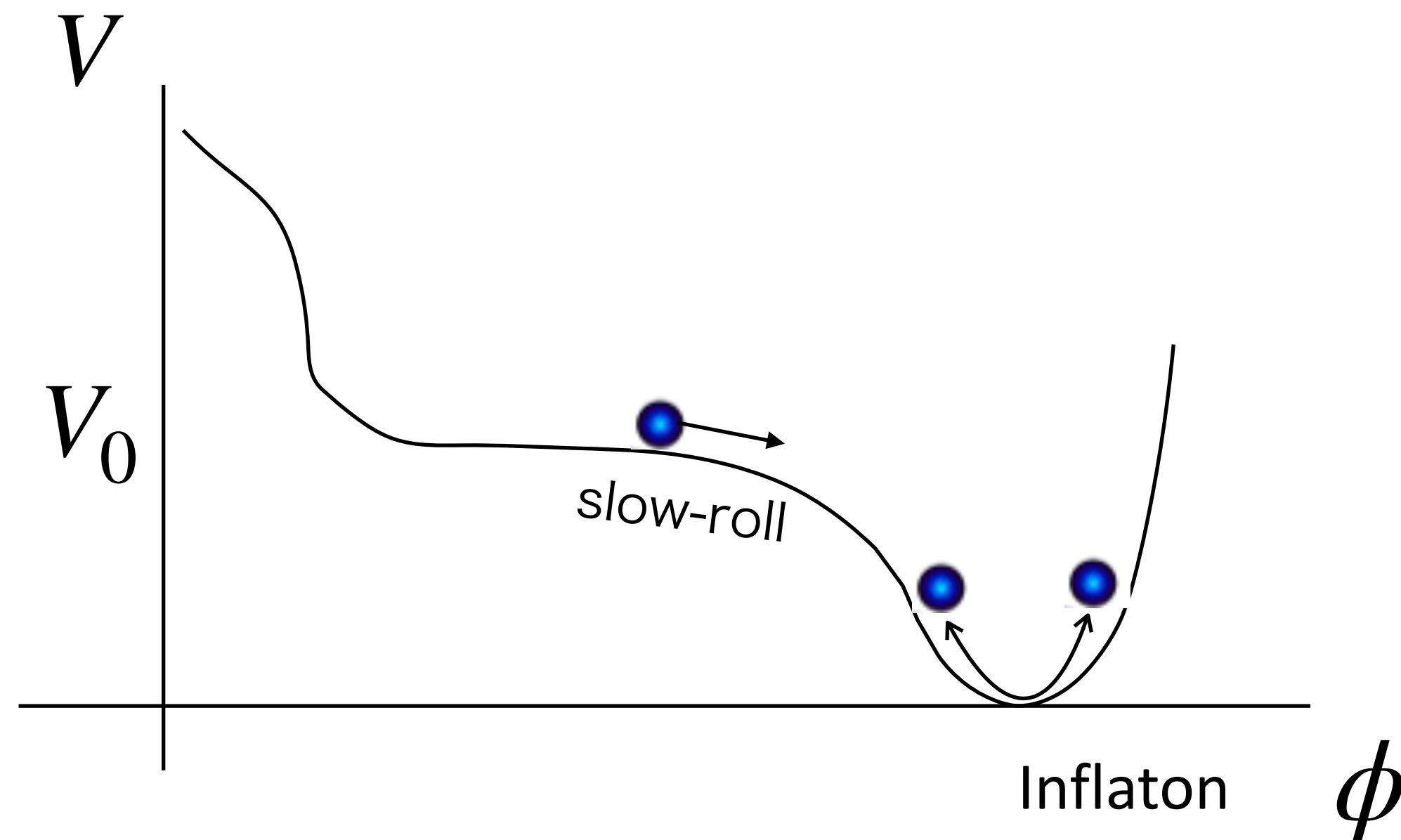
- Slow-roll inflation is plausible.
- The inflationary quantum fluctuation of inflaton field seems to be discovered.
- $H_{\text{inf}} \lesssim 10^{14} \text{ GeV}$ from CMB data
Planck 2018, 1807.06211

Inflationary cosmology

A.Guth, 1980; K.Sato, 1980; A.Starobinsky, 1980; Kazanas, 1980; A.Linde, 1981; Albrecht, Steinhardt, 1981;

Much before the thermal history, there was inflation.

Inflation solves
horizon and flatness
problems.



$$a \propto \exp\left[\frac{V_0^{1/2}}{\sqrt{3}M_{\text{pl}}}t\right]$$

NASA / WMAP SCIENCE TEAM

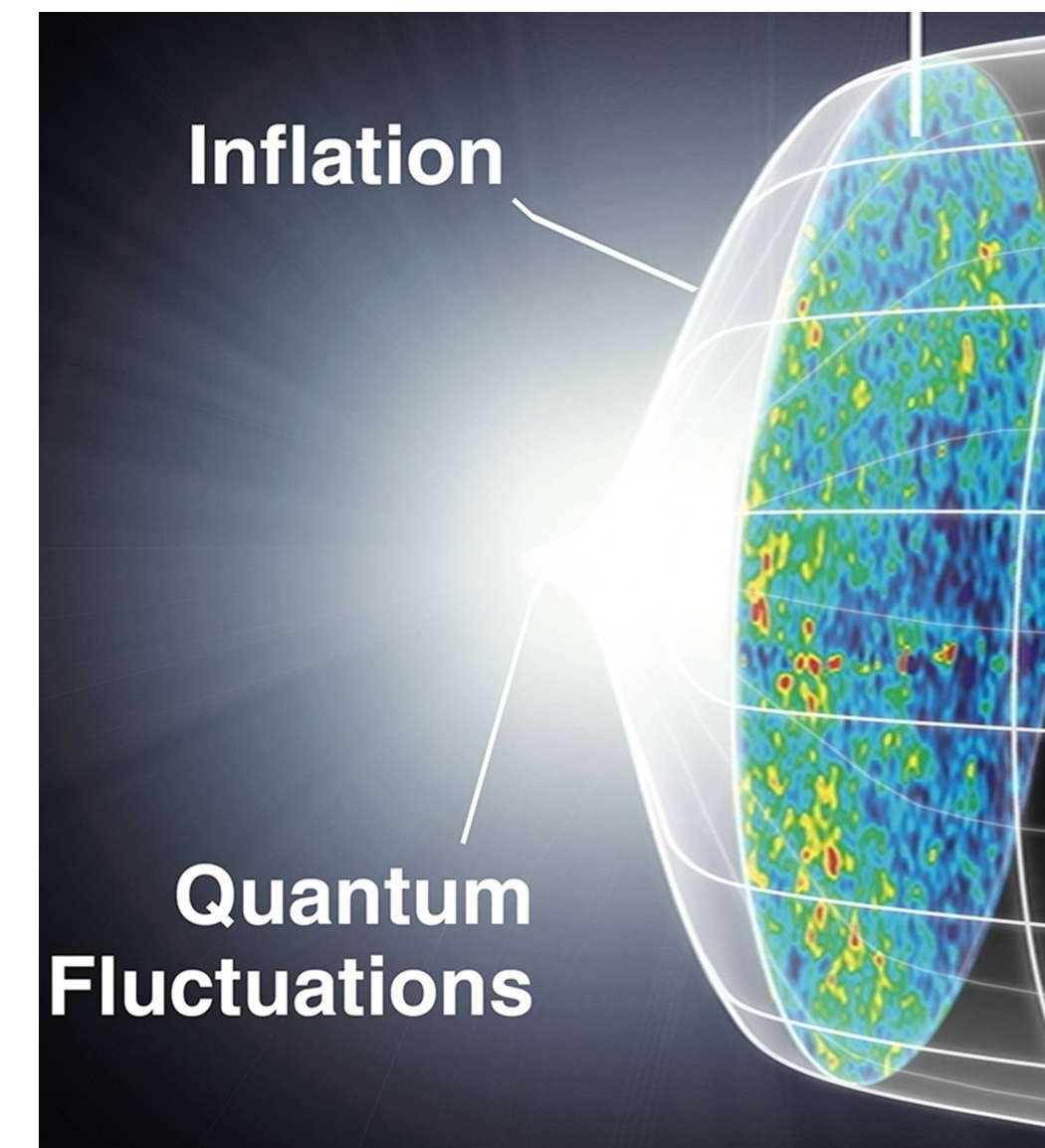
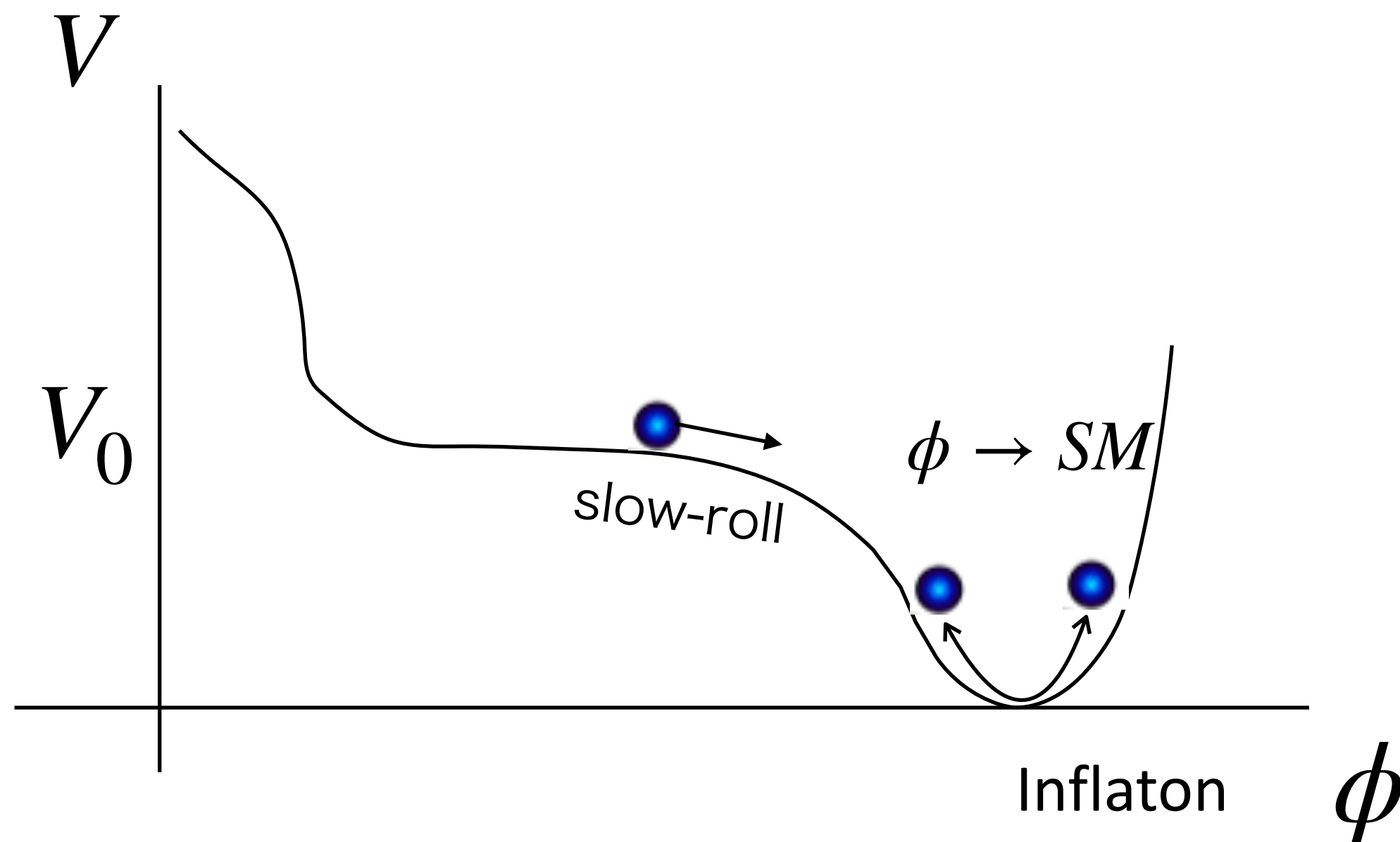
- Slow-roll inflation is plausible.
- The inflationary quantum fluctuation of inflaton field seems to be discovered.
- $H_{\text{inf}} \lesssim 10^{14} \text{ GeV}$ from CMB data
Planck 2018, 1807.06211

Inflationary cosmology

A.Guth, 1980; K.Sato, 1980; A.Starobinsky, 1980; Kazanas, 1980; A.Linde, 1981; Albrecht, Steinhardt, 1981;

Much before the thermal history, there was inflation.

Inflation solves
horizon and flatness
problems.



$$a \propto \exp\left[\frac{V_0^{1/2}}{\sqrt{3}M_{\text{pl}}}t\right]$$

NASA / WMAP SCIENCE TEAM

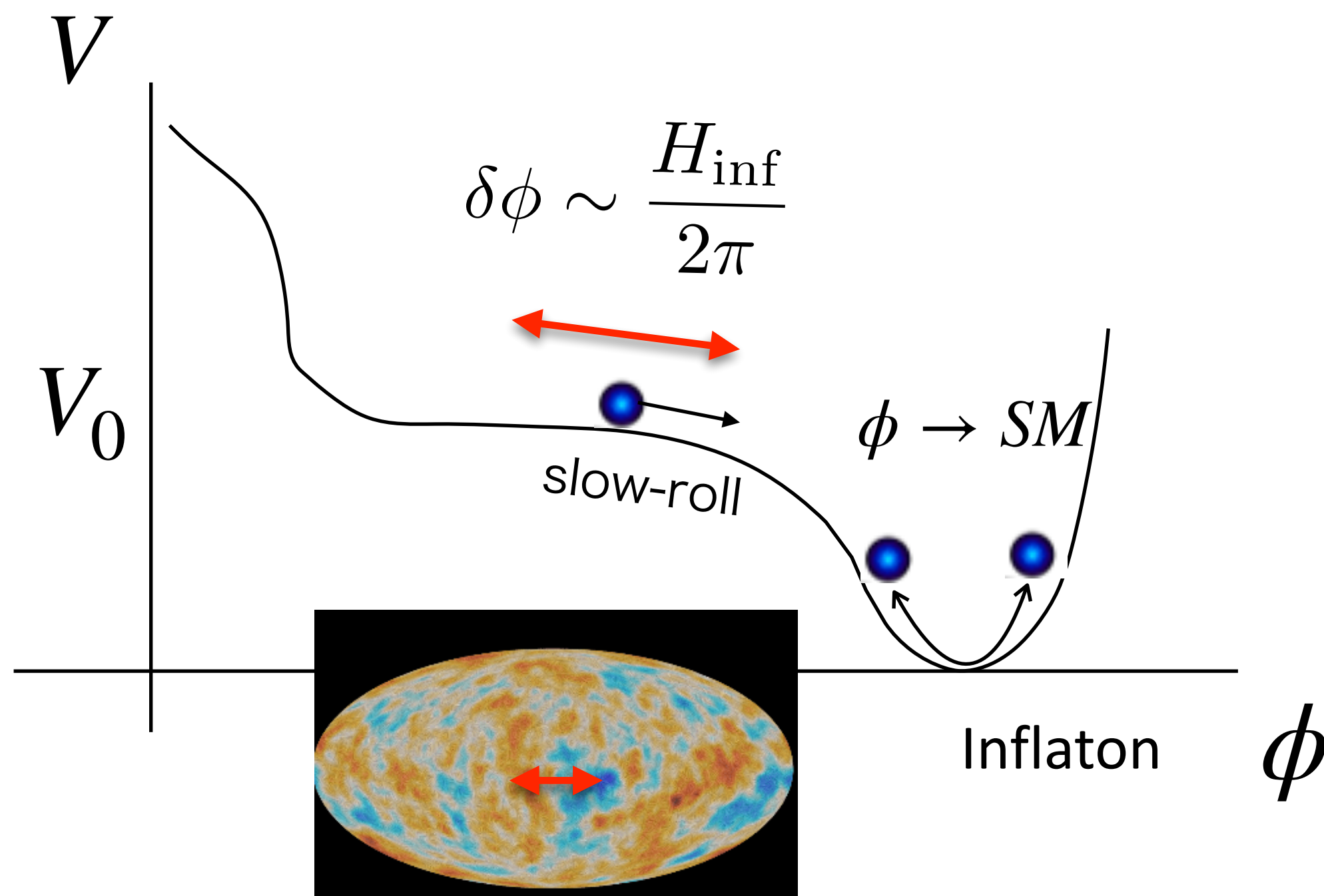
- Slow-roll inflation is plausible.
- The inflationary quantum fluctuation of inflaton field seems to be discovered.
- $H_{\text{inf}} \lesssim 10^{14} \text{ GeV}$ from CMB data
Planck 2018, 1807.06211

Inflationary cosmology

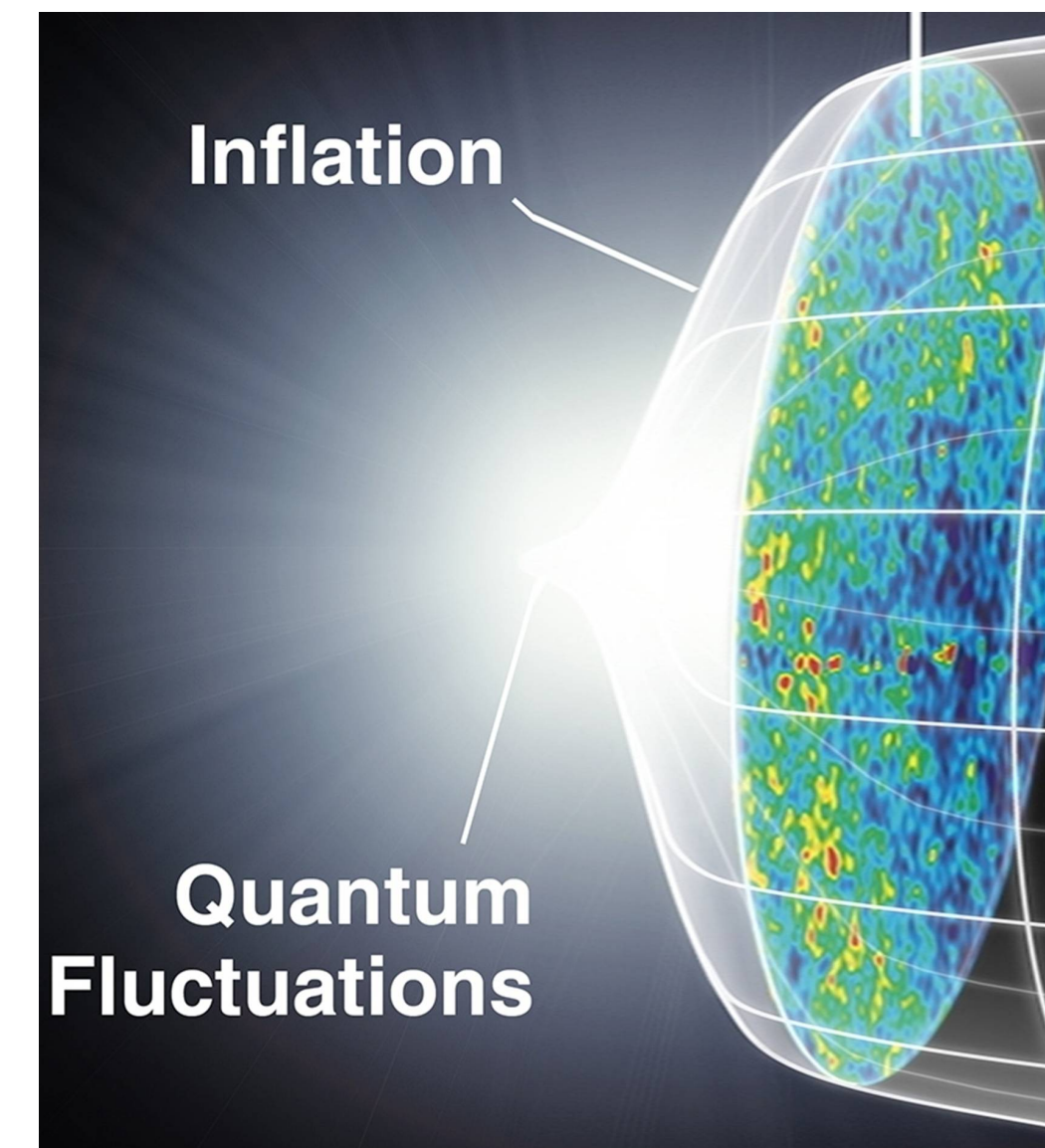
A.Guth, 1980; K.Sato, 1980; A.Starobinsky, 1980; Kazanas, 1980; A.Linde, 1981; Albrecht, Steinhardt, 1981;

Much before the thermal history, there was inflation.

Inflation solves
horizon and flatness
problems.



<https://www.esa.int/eseach?q=Polarisation>



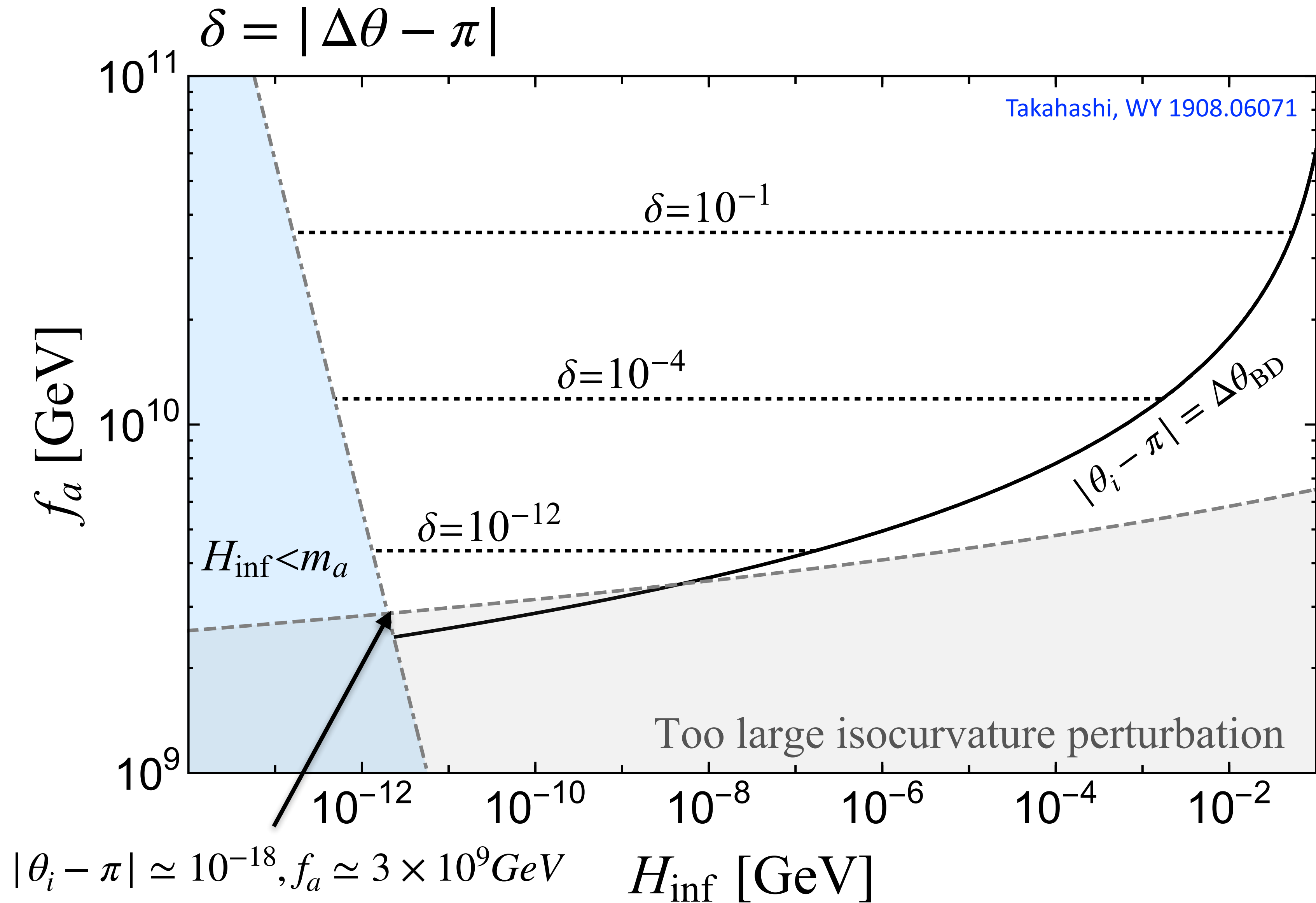
$$a \propto \exp\left[\frac{V_0^{1/2}}{\sqrt{3}M_{\text{pl}}}t\right]$$

NASA / WMAP SCIENCE TEAM

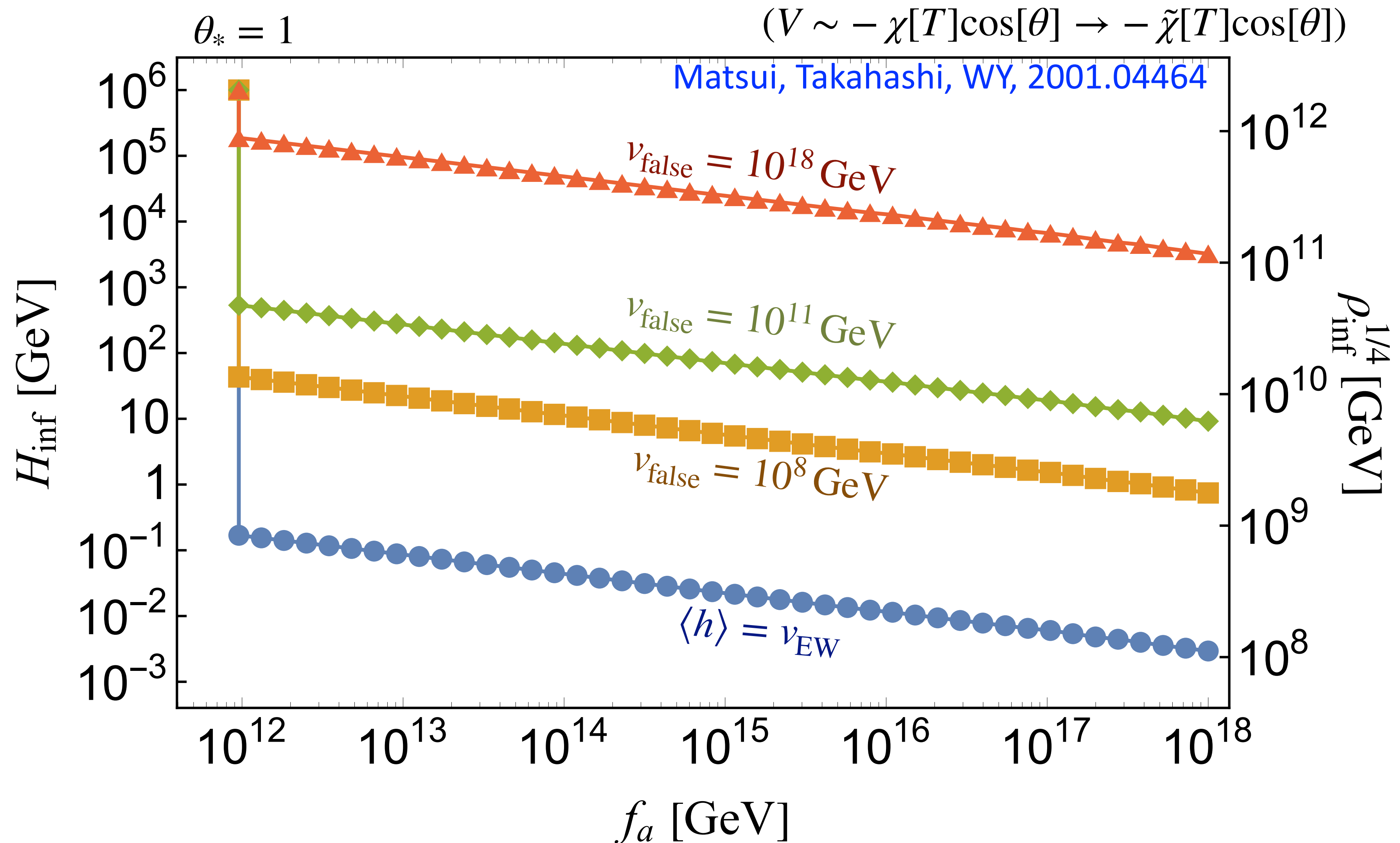
- Slow-roll inflation is plausible.
- The inflationary quantum fluctuation of inflaton field seems to be discovered.
- $H_{\text{inf}} \lesssim 10^{14} \text{ GeV}$ from CMB data
Planck 2018, 1807.06211

Some related topics

**Axion DM can be possible with $f_a \simeq 10^9\text{--}10^{11}\text{GeV}$
which is consistent with the isocurvature constraint.**



Higgs false vacuum inflation open the axion window.

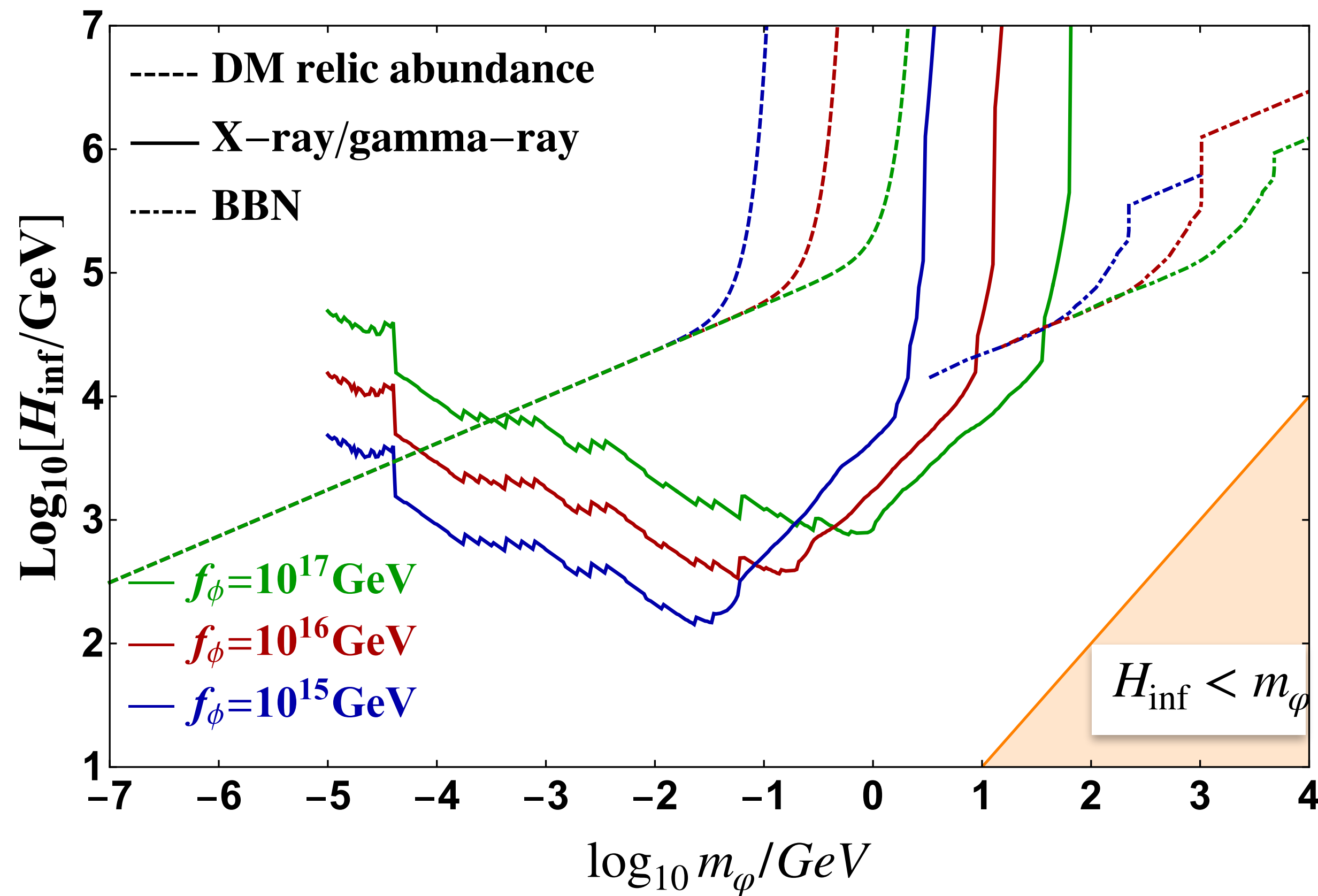


See also Refs. Dvali:1995ce, Banks:1996ea, Choi:1996fs, Jeong:2013xta, Co:2018mho, for stronger QCD with SUSY flat direction of Higgs potential.

Axion-like particle (string axion) φ
and low scale inflation

The moduli problem for axion-like particle can be alleviated due to (too) low-scale inflation.

Shu-Yu Ho, Fuminobu Takahashi, and WY 1901.01240



Assumption:

$N \gg H_{\text{inf}}^2/m_\phi^2$
minima do not change
during and after inflation

Data taken from

X(gamma)-ray:

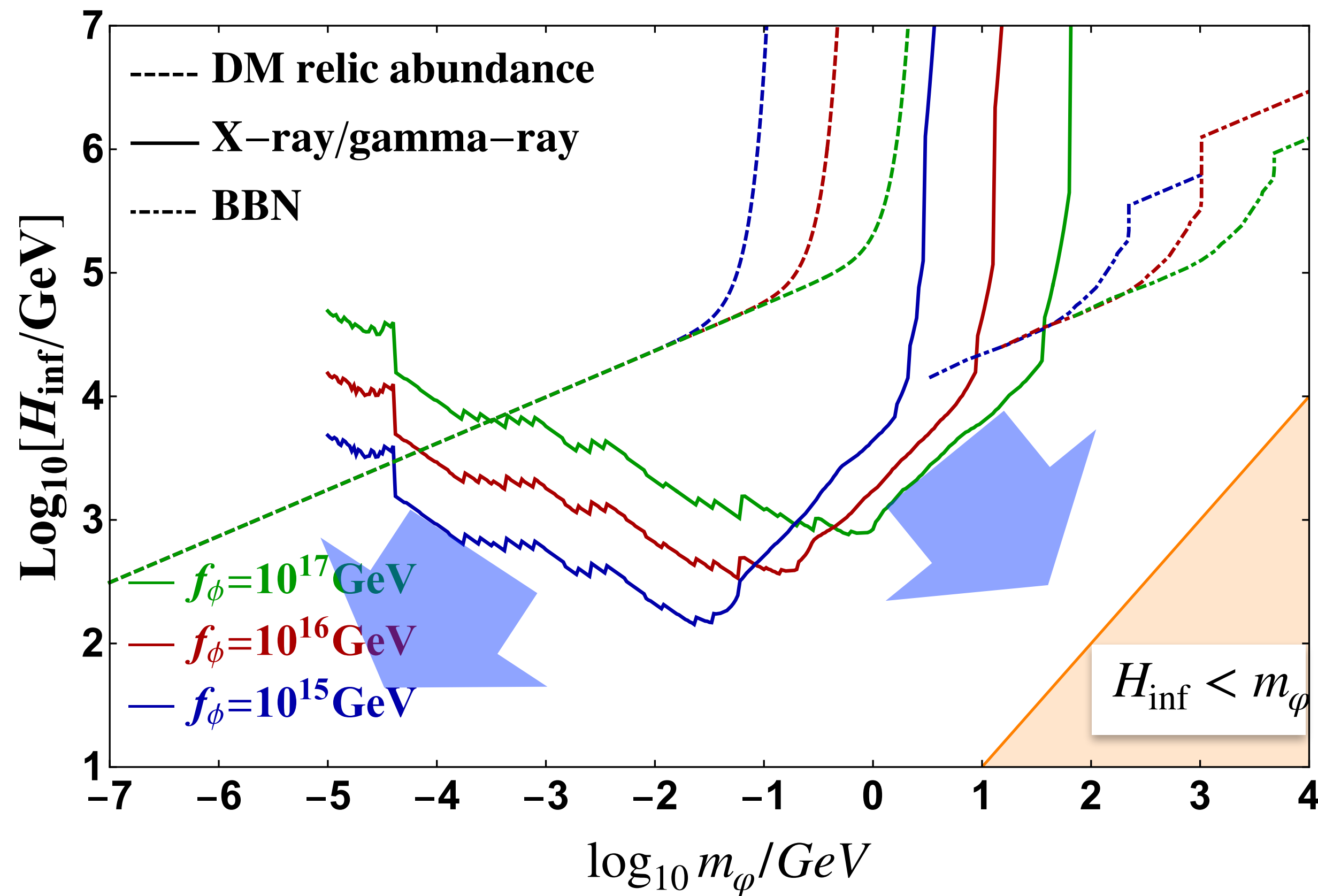
Essig, et al. 1309.4091;

BBN:

Kawasaki, et al. 1709.01211;

The moduli problem for axion-like particle can be alleviated due to (too) low-scale inflation.

Shu-Yu Ho, Fuminobu Takahashi, and WY 1901.01240



Assumption:

$N \gg H_{\text{inf}}^2/m_\phi^2$
minima do not change
during and after inflation

Data taken from

X(gamma)-ray:

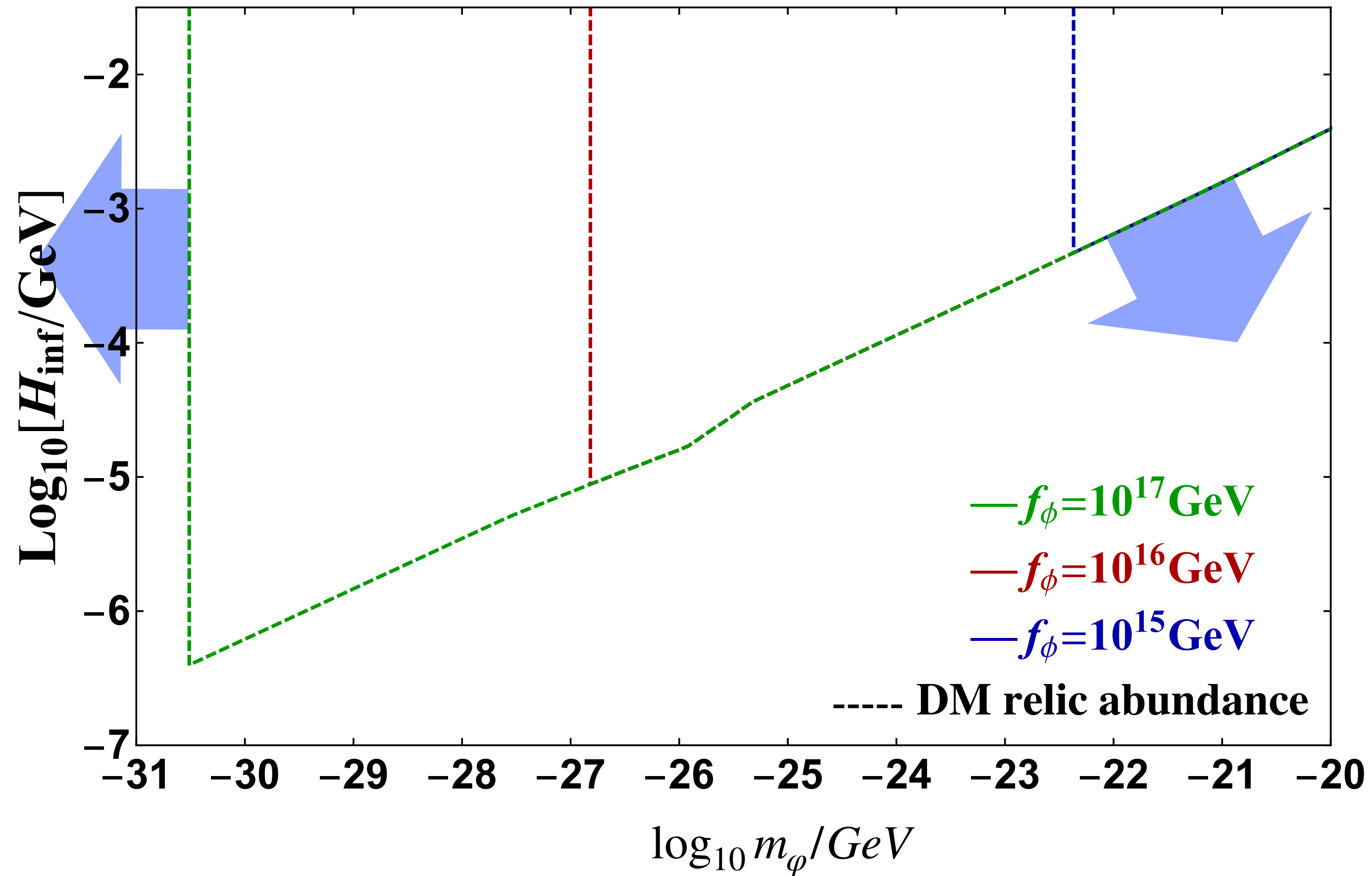
Essig, et al. 1309.4091;

BBN:

Kawasaki, et al. 1709.01211;

No moduli problem if $H_{\text{inf}} < O(1)keV \ll m_{3/2}$.

$$\rho_{\text{inf}}^{1/4} \lesssim O(1)\text{PeV}$$



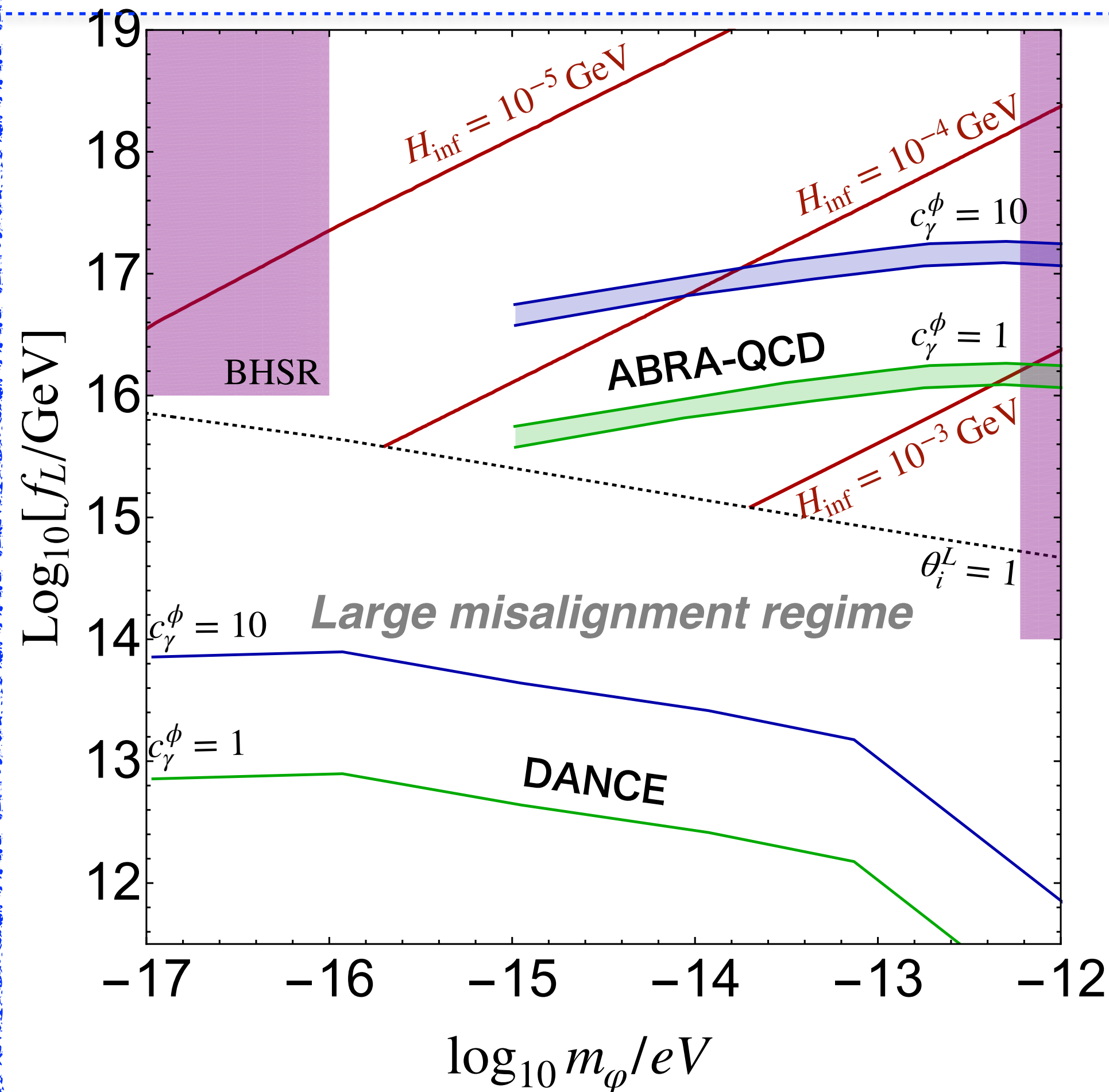
Inflation with $H_{\text{inf}} \lesssim O(\text{eV})$ is possible with successful reheating through thermal dissipation, and can be tested.

Opening 1 Hz axion window

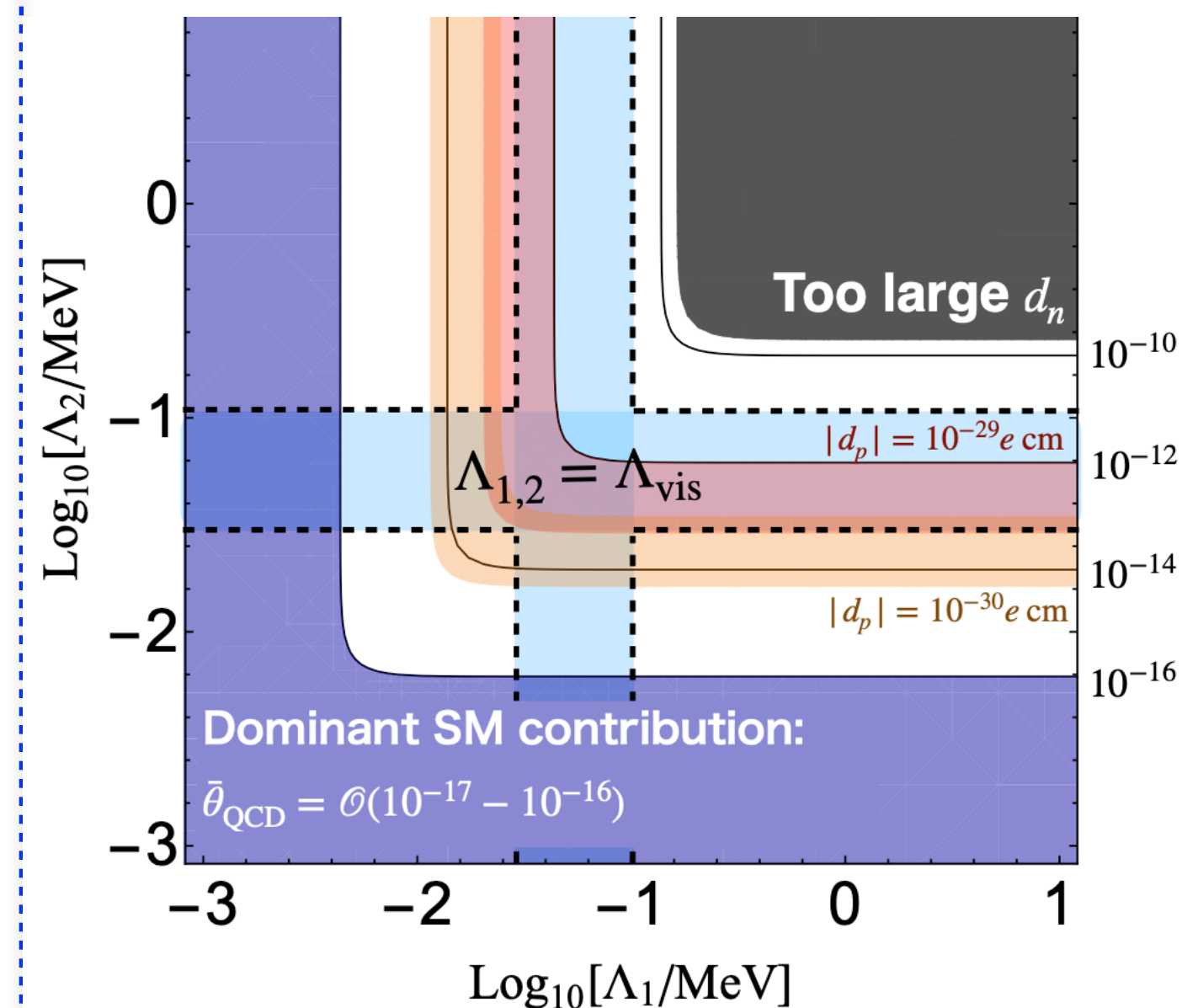
Marsh, WY, 1912.08188

$10^{-15} \text{ eV} \sim 1 \text{ Hz}$ axion may be predicted from M-theory [Acharya et al 1004.5138](#).

If no coupling to gluon,



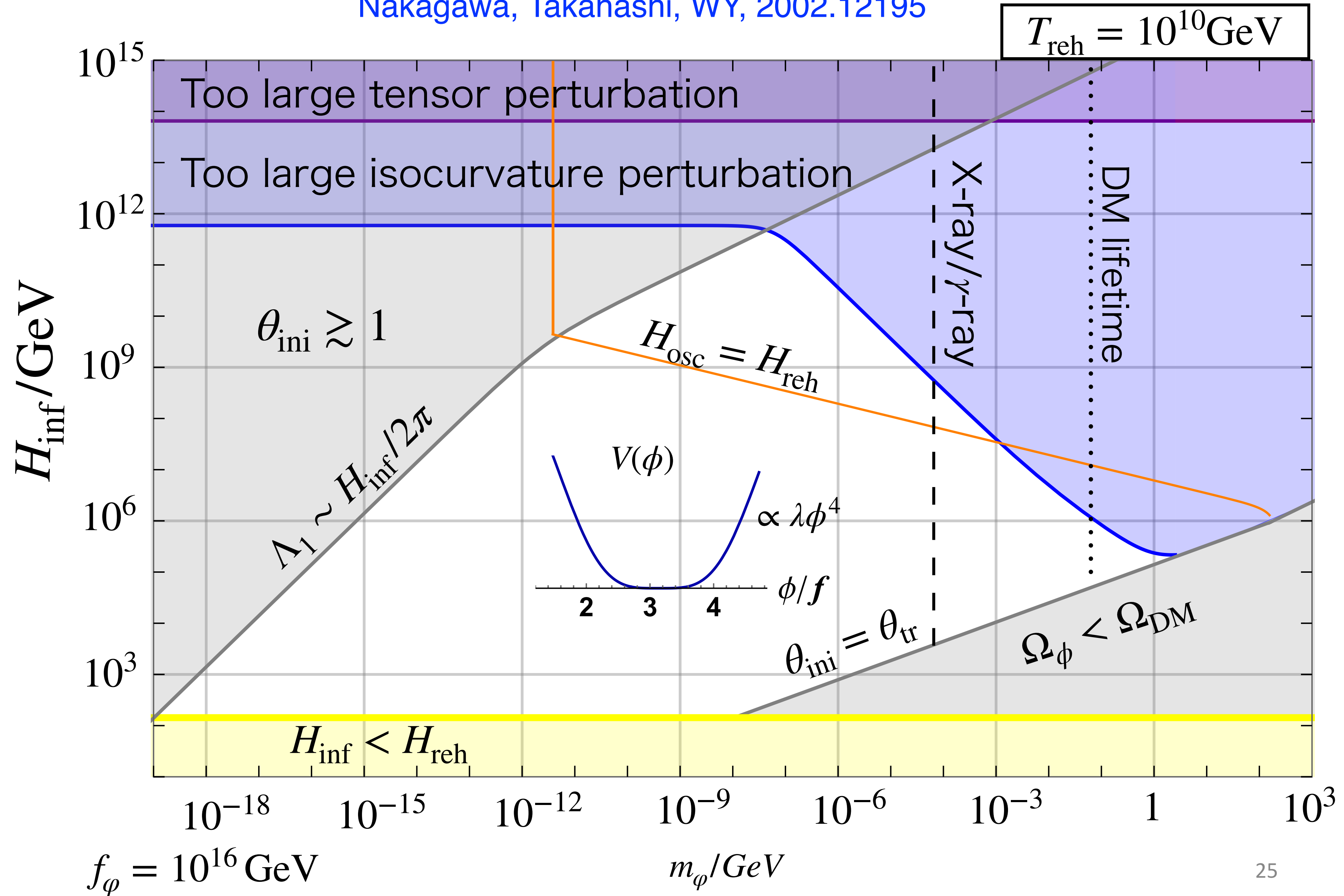
If couples to gluon,



which is tested in future storage ring experiment.
[Anastassopoulos et al, 1502.04317](#)

Stochastic ALP DM with flat bottom (or flat hilltop see the ref)

Nakagawa, Takahashi, WY, 2002.12195



• Axion hilltop inflation

Czerny, Takahashi 1401.5212,

Czerny, Higaki, Takahashi 1403.0410, 1403.5883

Croon and Sanz, 1411.7809

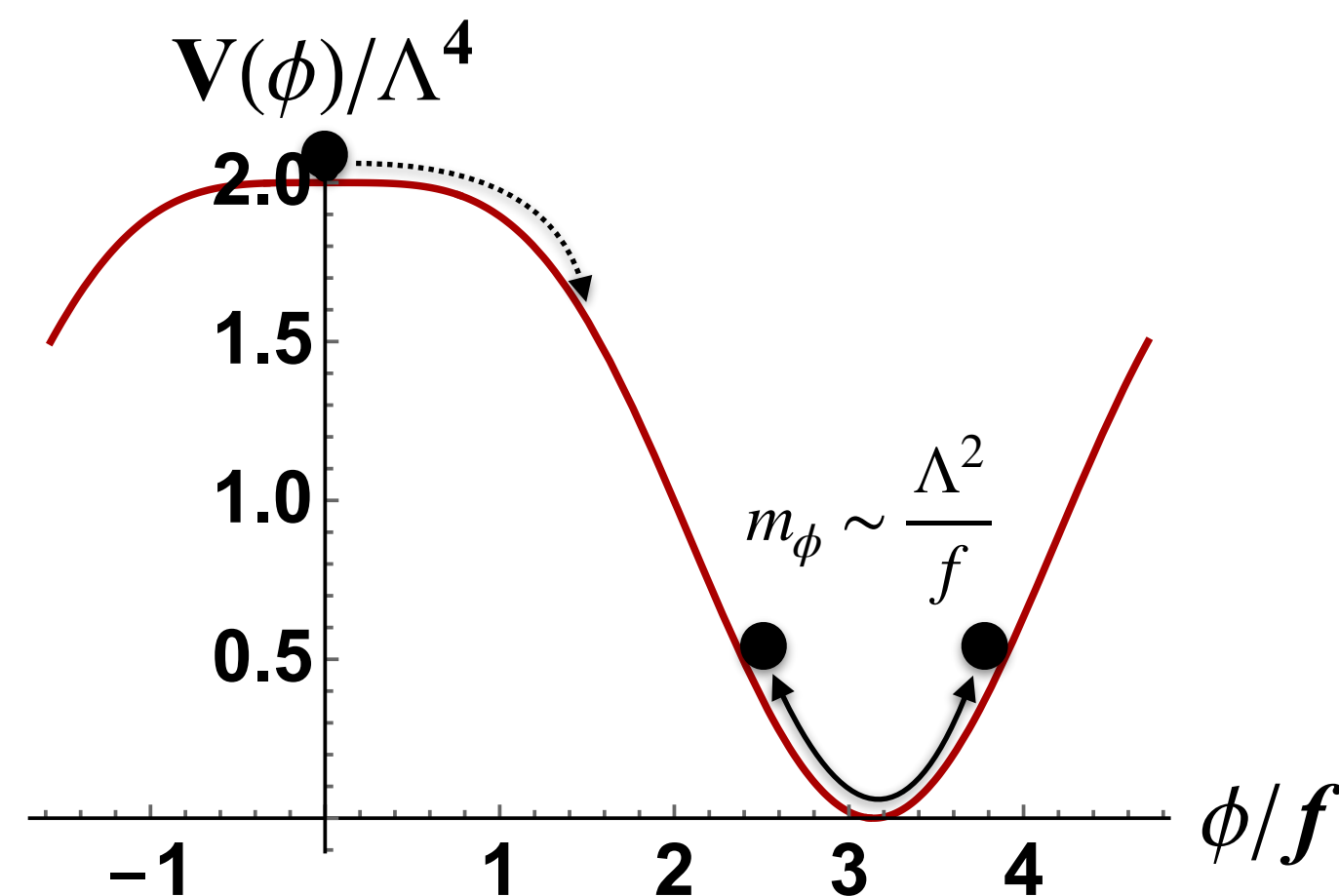
Daido, Takahashi, and WY 1702.03284, 1710.11107

Takahashi and WY, 1903.00462

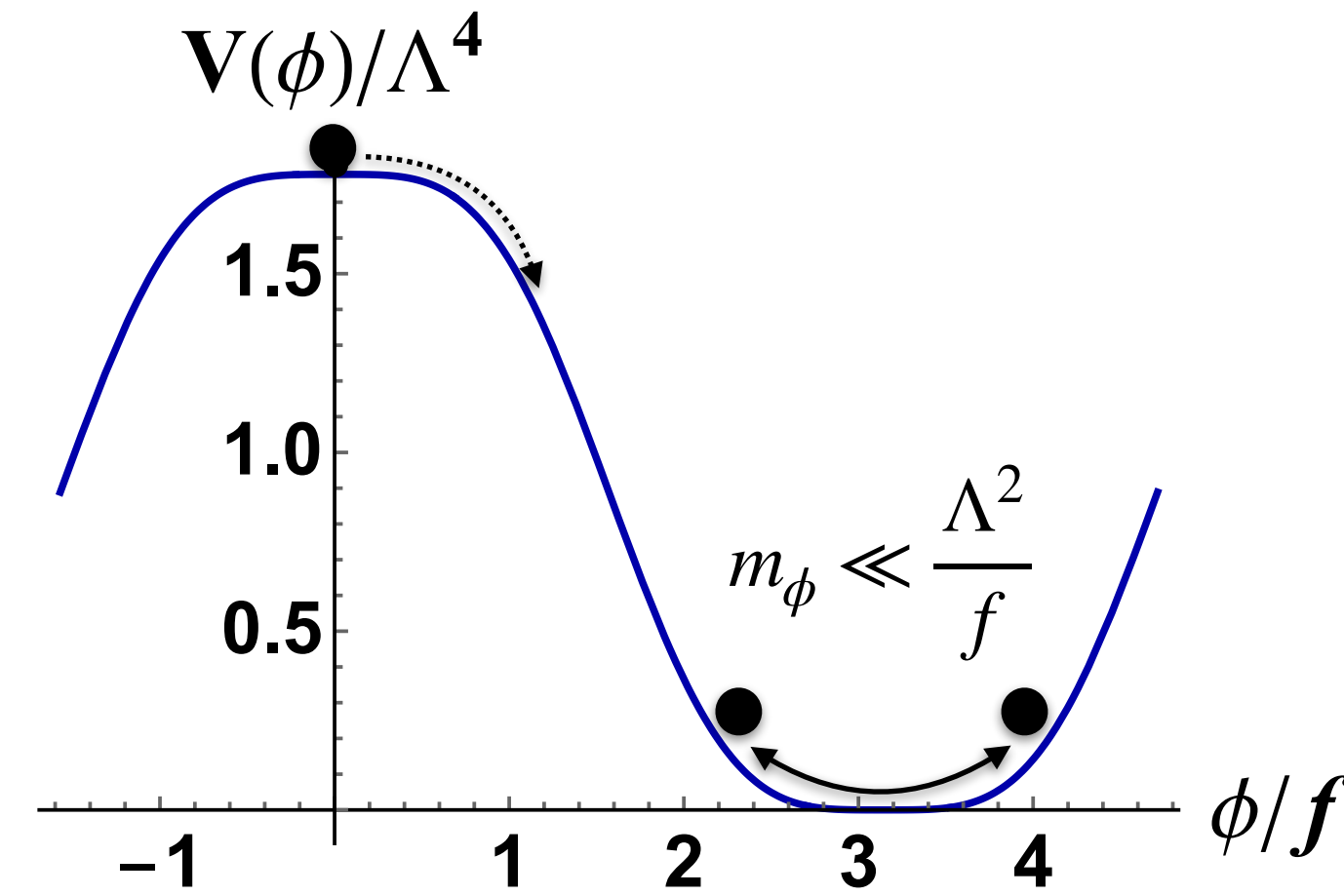
Axion hilltop inflation can be realized with (at least) two cosine terms: “*Multi-natural inflation*”

$$V_{\text{inf}}(\phi) = \Lambda^4 \left(\cos \left(\frac{\phi}{f} + \theta \right) - \frac{\kappa}{n^2} \cos \left(\frac{n\phi}{f} \right) \right) + \text{const.} \quad f \ll M_{pl}$$
$$= V_0 - \lambda \phi^4 - \theta \frac{\Lambda^4}{f} \phi + (\kappa - 1) \frac{\Lambda^4}{2f^2} \phi^2 + \dots$$

The inflaton masses depend on the parity of n .



Even n

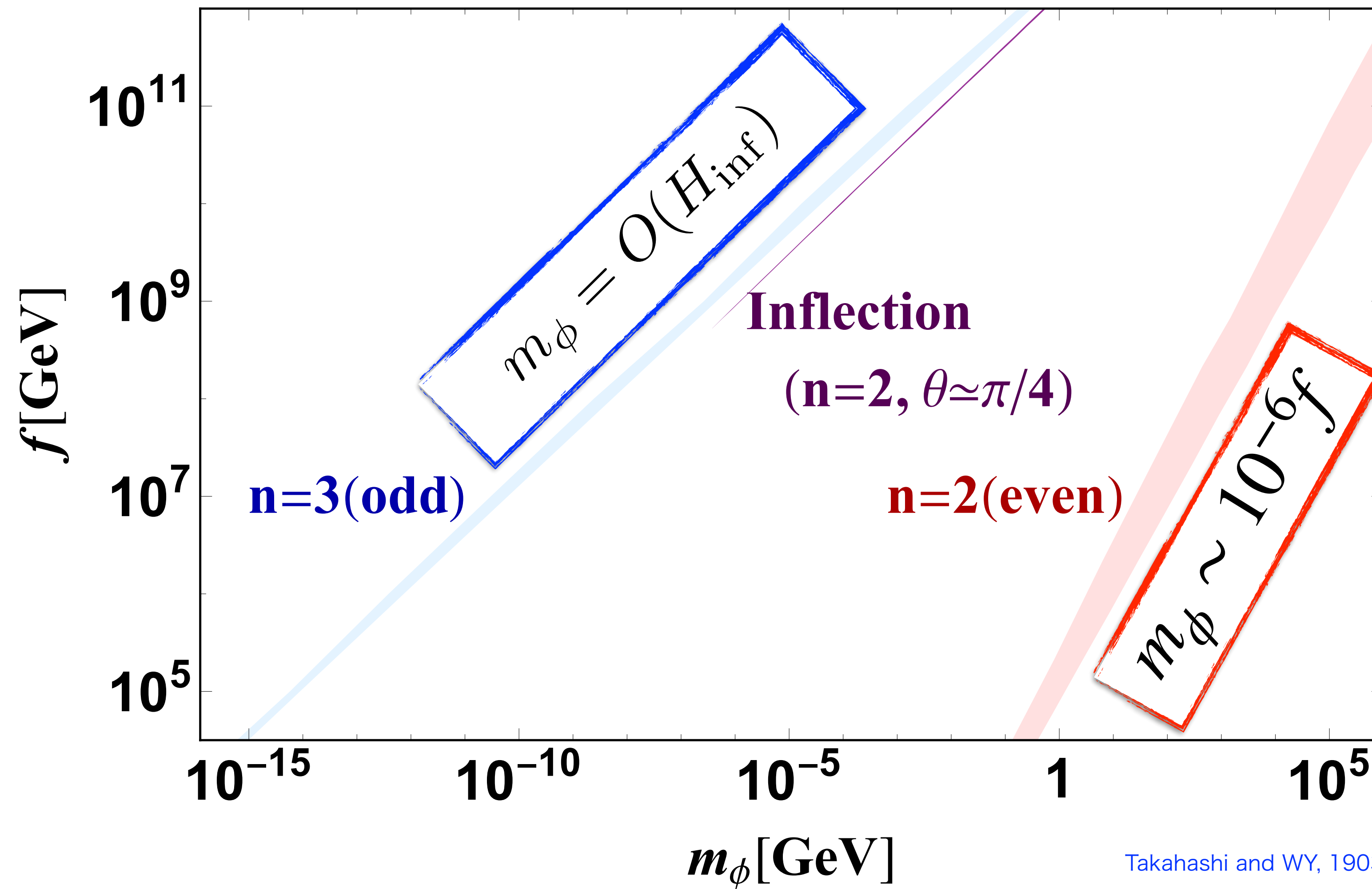


Odd n

• Viable parameter region for inflation

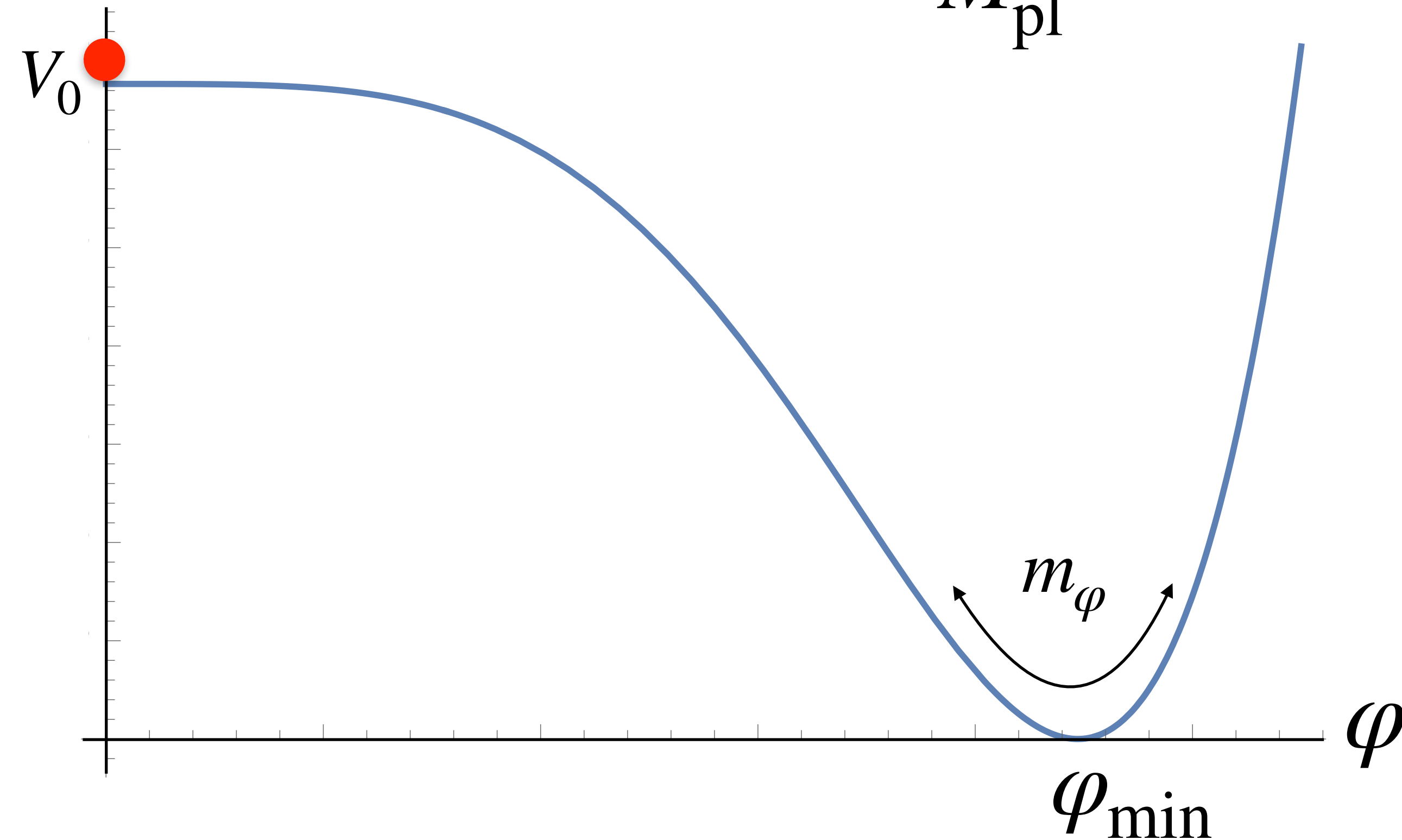
CMB data explained in 2 sigma level

(runnings of spectral index are taken into account)



3. Low-scale inflation model with $H_{\text{inf}} \lesssim \Lambda_{\text{QCD}}$

$$V = V_0 - \lambda \varphi^4 + c \frac{\varphi^6}{M_{\text{pl}}^2}$$



$$H_{\text{inf}} \sim 10 \text{ MeV}, \quad m_\varphi \sim 10^6 \text{ GeV}, \quad \varphi_{\text{min}} \sim 10^{12} \text{ GeV}$$

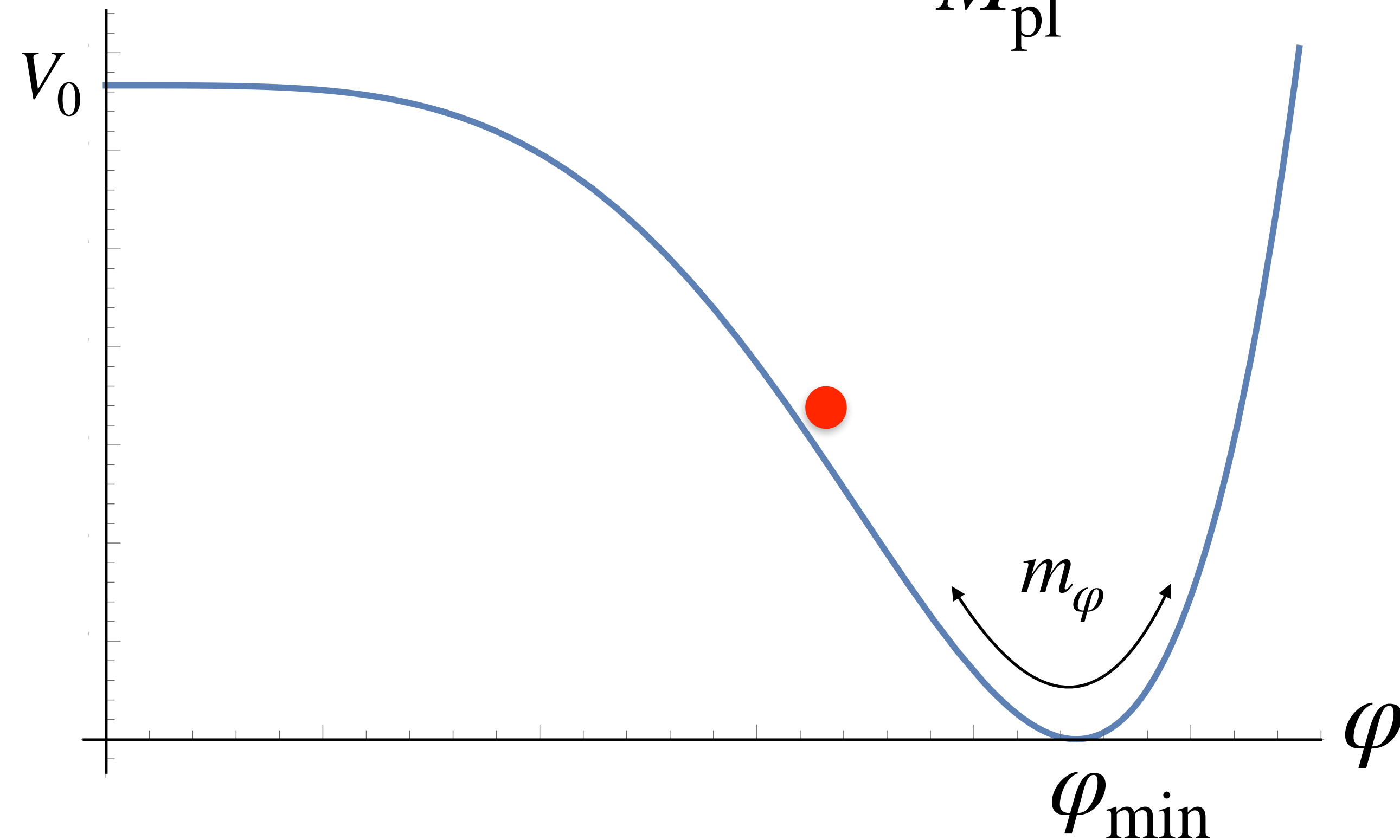
Spectral index $n_s \simeq 0.96$ can be obtained by introducing a linear term or Coleman-Weinberg correction (with SUSY.)

[Takahashi, WY, Guth, 1805.08763](#)

[Nakayama, Takahashi, 1108.0070,](#)
[Takahashi 1308.4212](#)

3. Low-scale inflation model with $H_{\text{inf}} \lesssim \Lambda_{\text{QCD}}$

$$V = V_0 - \lambda \varphi^4 + c \frac{\varphi^6}{M_{\text{pl}}^2}$$



$$H_{\text{inf}} \sim 10 \text{ MeV}, \quad m_\varphi \sim 10^6 \text{ GeV}, \quad \varphi_{\text{min}} \sim 10^{12} \text{ GeV}$$

Spectral index $n_s \simeq 0.96$ can be obtained by introducing a linear term or Coleman-Weinberg correction (with SUSY.)

[Takahashi, WY, Guth, 1805.08763](#)

[Nakayama, Takahashi, 1108.0070,](#)
[Takahashi 1308.4212](#)

Successful reheating is possible

We introduce a coupling to right-handed neutrinos,

$$\mathcal{L} = y_{N_i} \varphi \bar{\nu}_{Ri}^c \nu_{Ri}$$

with $y_N \sim 10^{-7}$.

The decay rate is $\Gamma_\varphi = \sum \frac{y_{N_i}^2}{8\pi} m_\varphi$ if kinematically allowed.

$$T_R \sim \left(\frac{90}{\pi^2 g_*} \right)^{\frac{1}{4}} \sqrt{M_{\text{pl}} \Gamma_\varphi}$$
$$\simeq O(10) \text{TeV} \left(\frac{106.75}{g_*} \right)^{\frac{1}{4}} \left(\frac{y_N}{10^{-7}} \right) \left(\frac{m_\varphi}{10^6 \text{GeV}} \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \left(\frac{N_R^{\text{eff}}}{2} \right)^{1/2}$$

cf. Inflation with $H_{\text{inf}} \lesssim O(\text{eV})$ is possible. In this case the reheating

proceeds through thermal dissipation. [“ALP miracle”, Daido, Takahashi, WY, 1702.03284, 1710.11107,](#)

[“Big bang on earth” Takahashi, WY 1902.00462](#)