

Cosmological and astrophysical tests of Ultralight vector dark matter

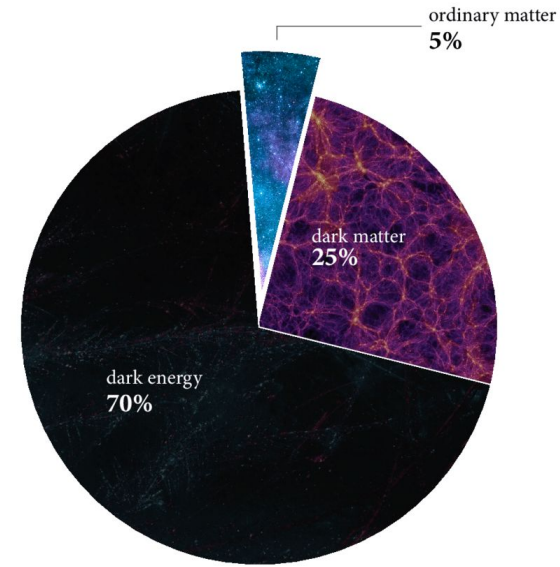
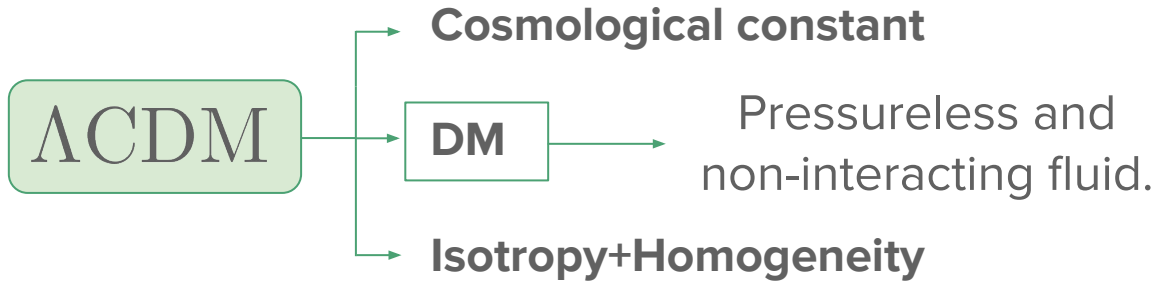
Tomás Ferreira Chase

In colab with Diana López Nacir

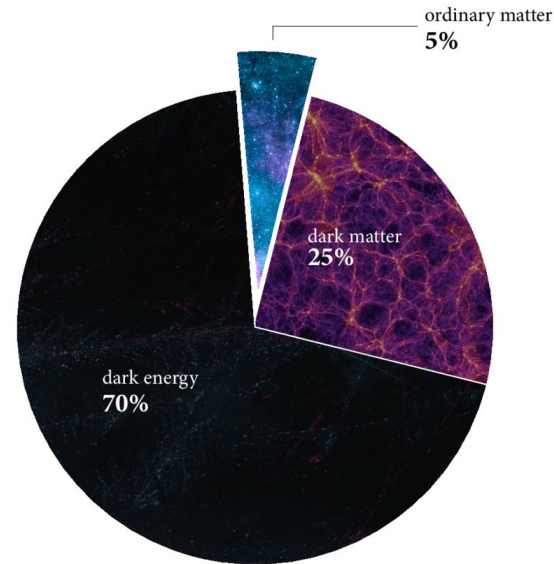
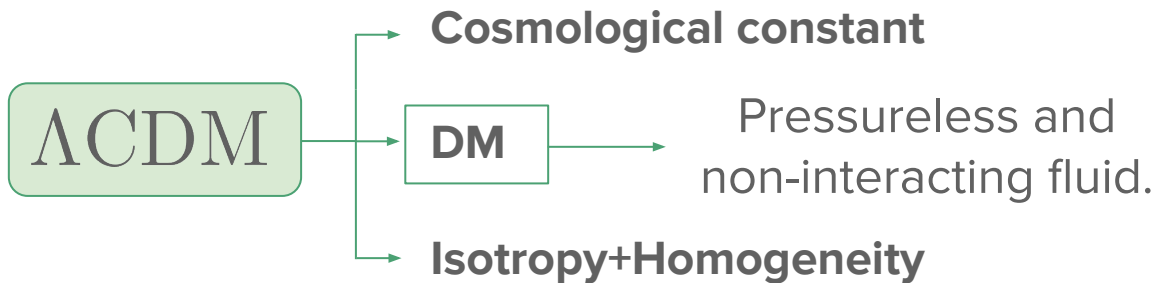
Universidad de Buenos Aires



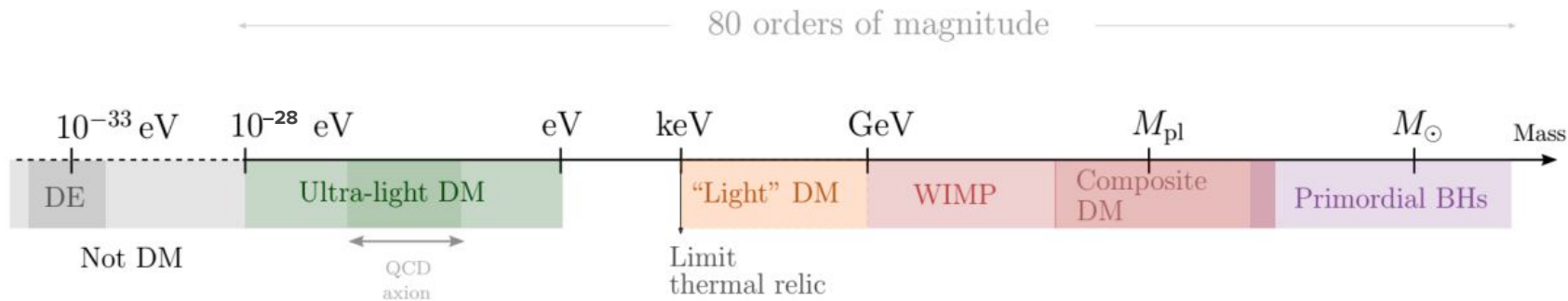
Motivation - Dark Matter



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DM candidates



Motivation - Ultralight Dark Matter



- **Classical (free) field approach** $\longrightarrow$ Large occupation number

$$n = \frac{\rho_{dm}}{m} \gg 1 \qquad \rho_{dm} \sim 0.4 \frac{\text{GeV}}{\text{cm}^3} \sim 0.01 \frac{\text{M}_\odot}{\text{pc}^3}$$

Motivation - Ultralight Dark Matter

$$\overbrace{10^{-28} \text{eV} \quad \quad \quad 1 \text{eV}}^m$$

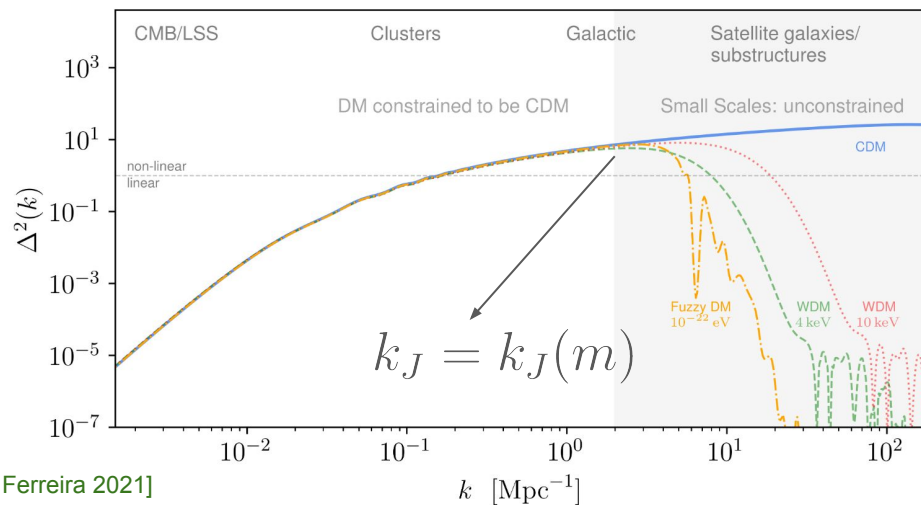
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$$n = \frac{\rho_{dm}}{m} \gg 1$$

$$\rho_{dm} \sim 0.4 \frac{\text{GeV}}{\text{cm}^3} \sim 0.01 \frac{M_{\odot}}{\text{pc}^3}$$

- Observables highly dependant on boson mass

- Characteristic small scale predictions



Ultralight Dark Matter - Setup

$$S = S_{\text{EH}} + S_{\text{Mat}} + S_{\text{DM}}$$

Spin 0

$$S_{\text{DM}} = \int dt dx^3 \sqrt{-g} \left[\frac{1}{2} \nabla^\mu \phi \nabla_\mu \phi - \frac{m^2}{2} \phi^2 \right]$$

Spin 1

$$S_{\text{DM}} = - \int dt dx^3 \sqrt{-g} \left[\frac{1}{4} F^{\mu\nu} F_{\mu\nu} + \frac{m^2}{2} A^\mu A_\mu \right]$$

$$F_{\mu\nu} = \nabla_\mu A_\nu - \nabla_\nu A_\mu$$

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- **Isotropic** background: FLRW

$$ds^2 = a^2(-d\tau^2 + \delta_{ij} dx^i dx^j)$$

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$\equiv \text{const}$

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- **Anisotropic** background: Bianchi I

$$ds^2 = a^2(-d\tau^2 + \gamma_{ij} dx^i dx^j) \rightarrow \sigma_{ij} \equiv \frac{1}{2}(\gamma_{ij})' \quad \text{Shear Tensor}$$

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- Small anisotropies assumption $\longrightarrow \underbrace{G^\mu{}_\nu} = 8\pi G \underbrace{T^\mu{}_\nu}$
 $|\sigma_{ij}| = \mathcal{O}(1) \quad |\sigma_{ij}| = 0$

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$$ds^2 = a^2(-d\tau^2 + \delta_{ij} dx^i dx^j)$$

- Cosmological constraints

CMB+LSS $\rightarrow m > 10^{-24} \text{eV}$ [Hložek et al. 2018]

Lyman α $\rightarrow m > 2 \times 10^{-20} \text{eV}$
[Rogers & Peiris 2020]

Spin 1

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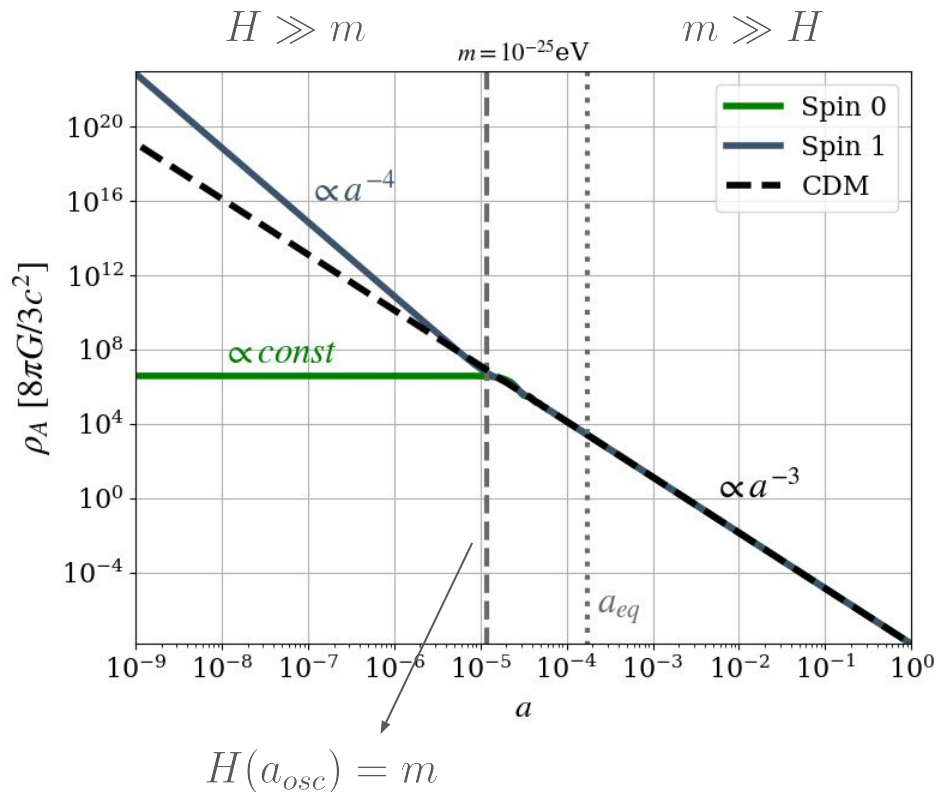
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Background evolution - Fluid variables

$$T^0_0 = -\rho$$

$$T^i_j = P\delta^i_j + \Sigma^i_j$$



Background evolution - Fluid variables

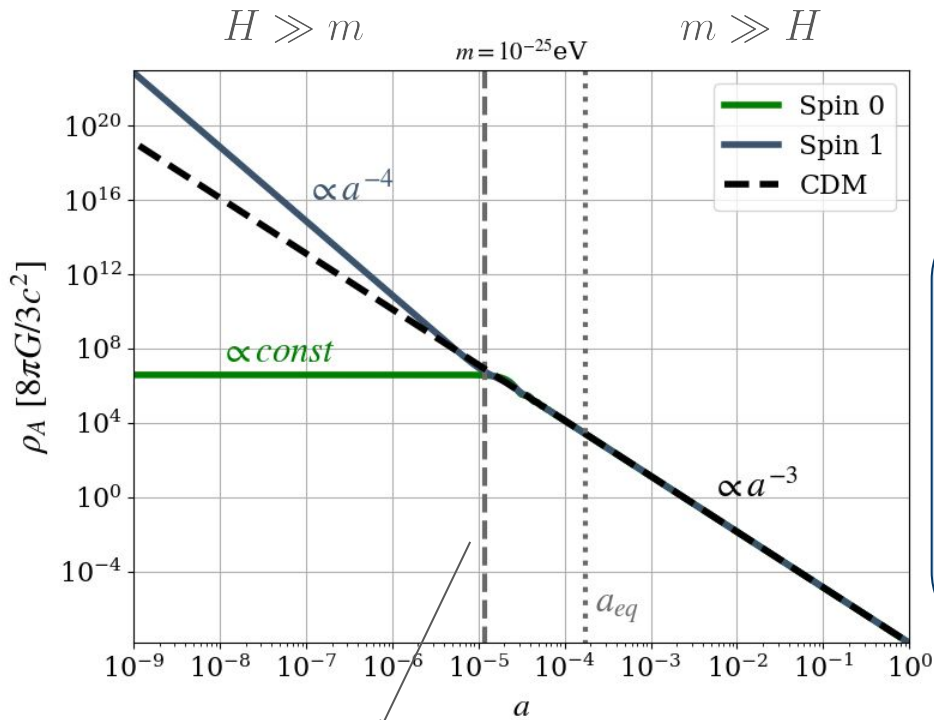
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Spin 0

$$P_\phi = \begin{cases} -\rho_\phi & a \ll a_{osc} \\ 0 & a \gg a_{osc} \end{cases}$$

$$\Sigma^\phi_{ij} = 0$$



Spin 1

$$P_A = \begin{cases} \frac{\rho_A}{3} & a \ll a_{osc} \\ 0 & a \gg a_{osc} \end{cases}$$

$$\Sigma^A_{ij} = -6P_A(\hat{A}_i\hat{A}_j - \gamma_{ij})$$

Background evolution - Einstein equations for Spin 1

Friedmann Equation

Anisotropies add an **extra component**:

$$H^2 - \frac{1}{6} \frac{\sigma^2}{a^2} = \frac{1}{3m_P^2} \rho$$



$$\Omega_\sigma = \frac{\sigma^2}{6\mathcal{H}^2}$$

**Anisotropy
abundance**

Background evolution - Einstein equations for Spin 1

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**Anisotropy
abundance**

Einstein Traceless Equation

The Spin 1 field is the only source:

$$(\sigma_{ij})' + 2\mathcal{H}\sigma_{ij} = \frac{a^2}{m_P^2} \Sigma_{ij}^A$$

Formal
solution



$$\sigma^i_j = \frac{1}{a^2} \int_{a_{\text{ini}}}^a s^3 \frac{\Sigma_{Aj}^i}{\mathcal{H}m_P^2} ds + \text{decaying modes}$$

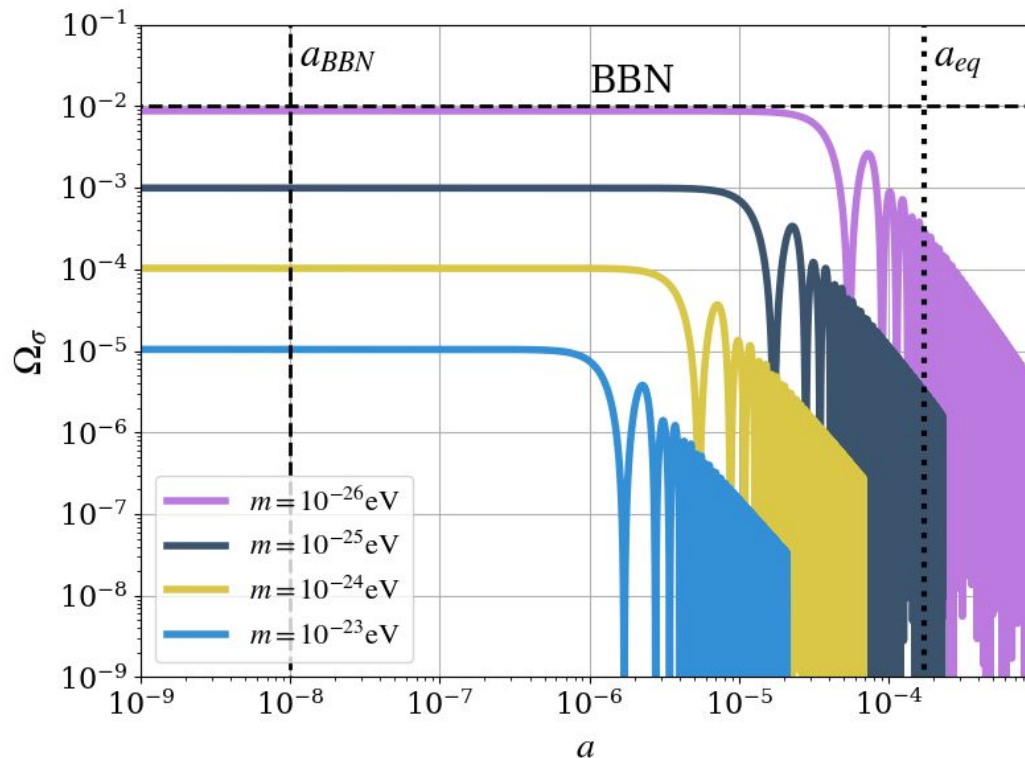
Background evolution - BBN constraint

Shear tensor dynamics

$$\sigma^i_j = \frac{1}{a^2} \int_{a_{\text{ini}}}^a s^3 \frac{\Sigma^i_{Aj}}{\mathcal{H} m_P^2} ds$$



$$\Omega_\sigma \propto \begin{cases} m^{-1} & a < a_{osc} \\ a^{-2} & a_{osc} < a < a_{eq} \\ a^{-3} & a_{eq} < a \end{cases}$$



Background evolution - BBN constraint

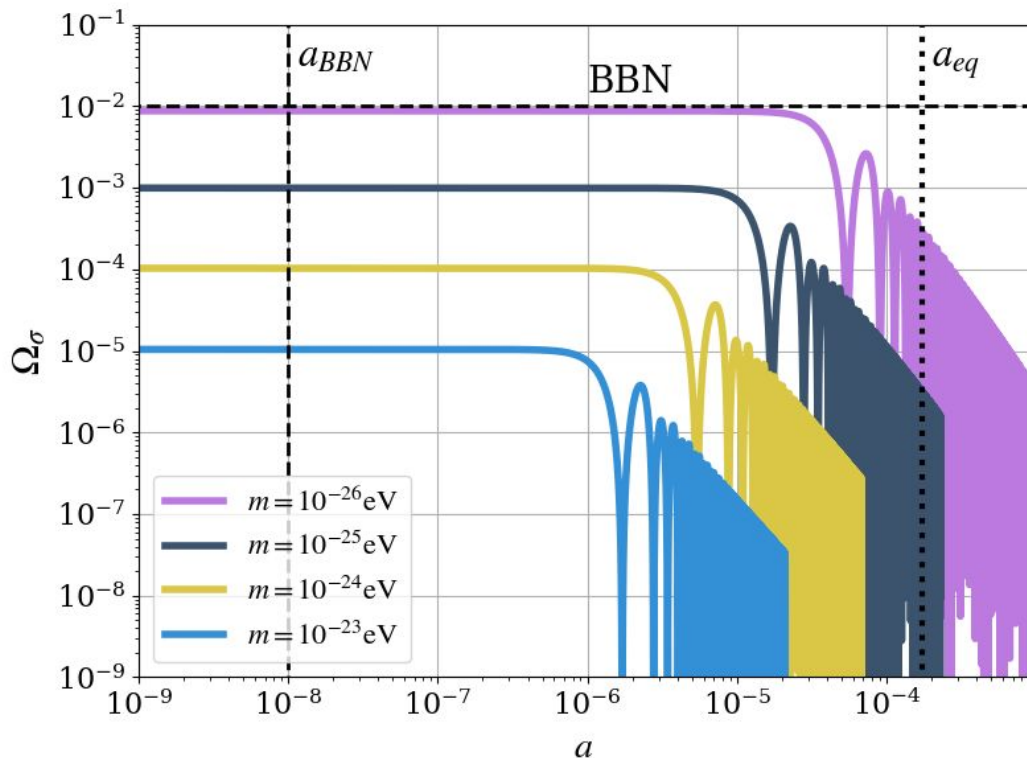
Anisotropy abundance allowed
by BBN: $\Omega_\sigma(a_{\text{BBN}}) \leq 10^{-2}$

Shear tensor dynamics

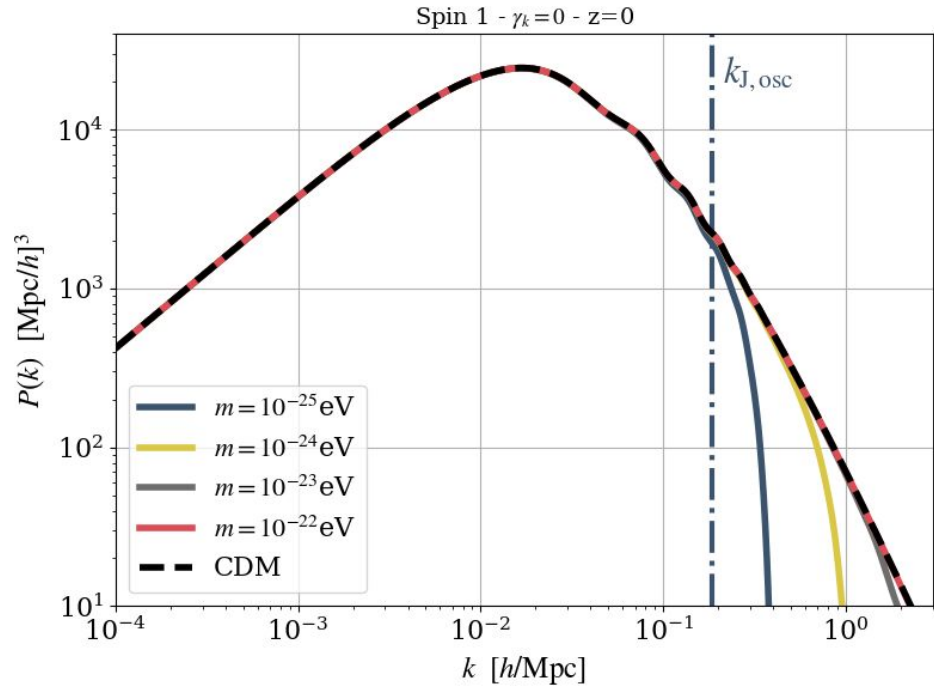
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Jean suppression in ULDM

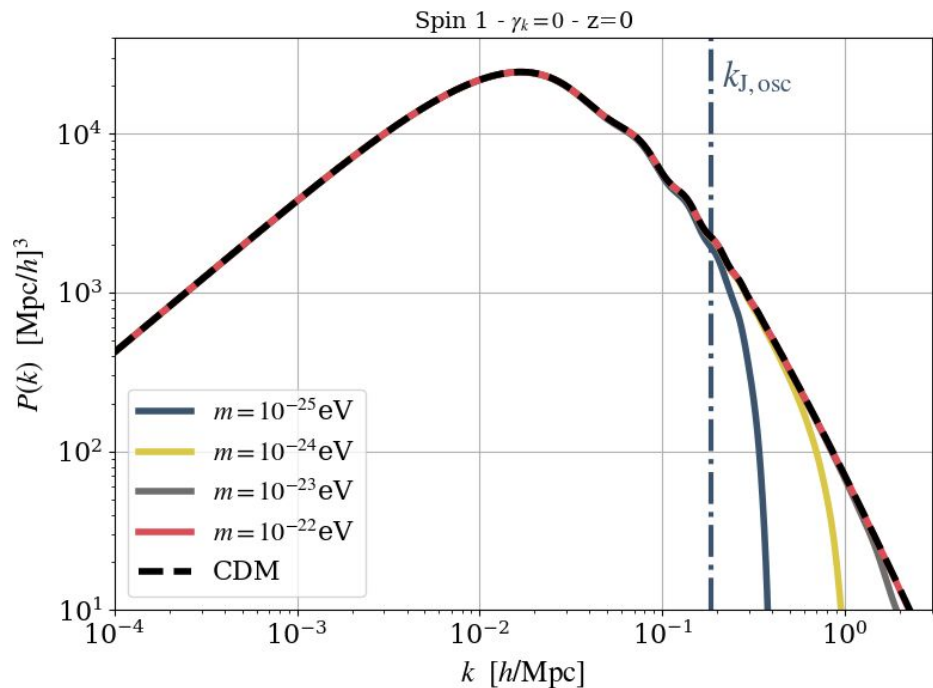


$$\langle \delta(\tau, \vec{k}) \delta^*(\tau, \vec{k}') \rangle = (2\pi)^3 \delta^3(\vec{k} - \vec{k}') \times \begin{cases} P(k) & \text{Spin 0} \\ P(k, \gamma_k) & \text{Spin 1} \end{cases}$$

$\delta = \frac{\delta T^0_0}{T^0_0}$



Jean suppression in ULDM



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Einstein
Equations

+

Equation
of motion



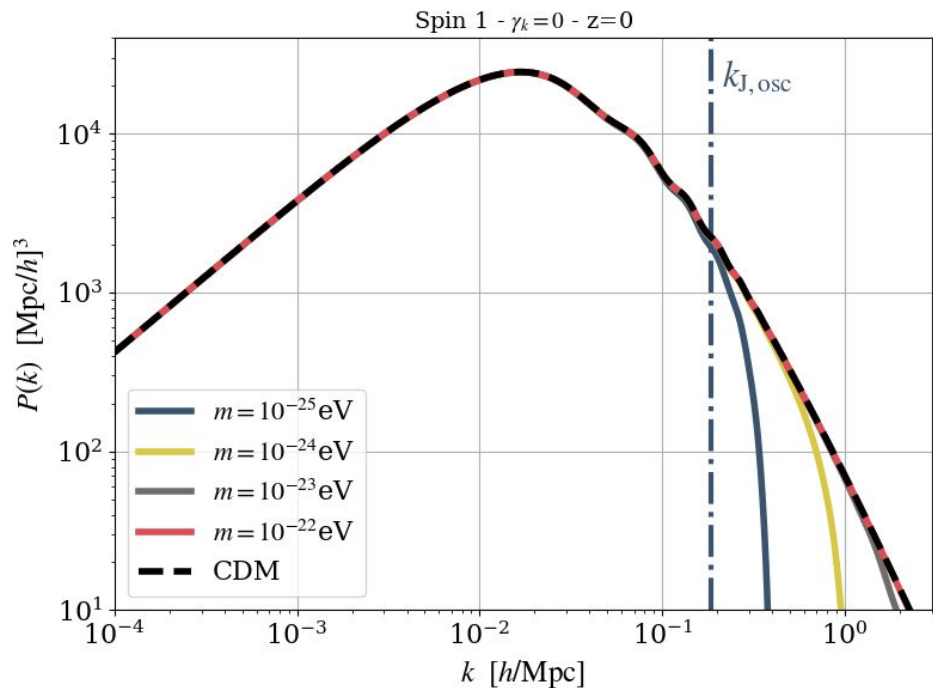
$$\delta'' + \frac{\delta'}{2} + \left(\frac{k^4}{k_J^4} - \frac{3}{2} \right) \delta = \text{Metric coupling} \quad ()' = \frac{d}{d \log a} \equiv \frac{d}{dN}$$

$$k \ll k_J \rightarrow \delta \sim a$$

$$k \gg k_J \rightarrow \delta \sim \text{oscillates}$$

$$k_J = a \sqrt{mH}$$

Jean suppression in ULDM



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Einstein Equations



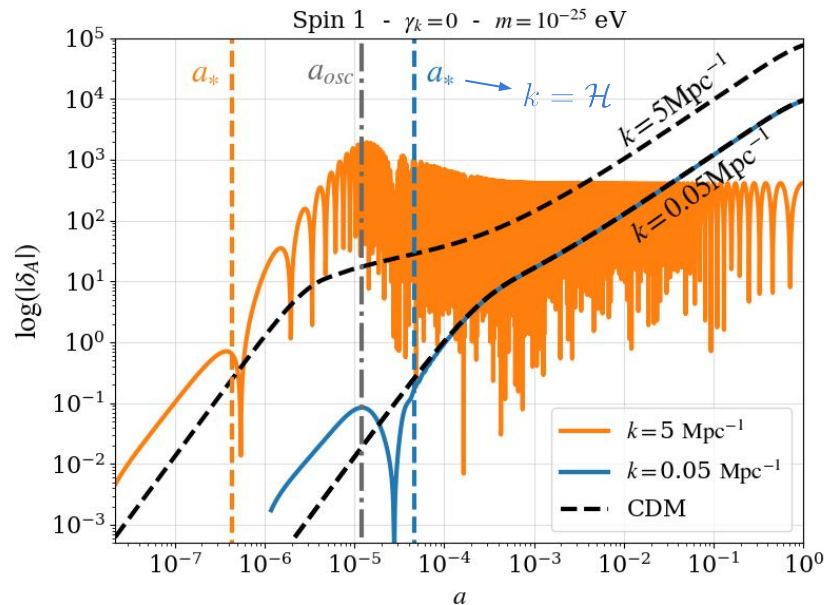
Equation of motion

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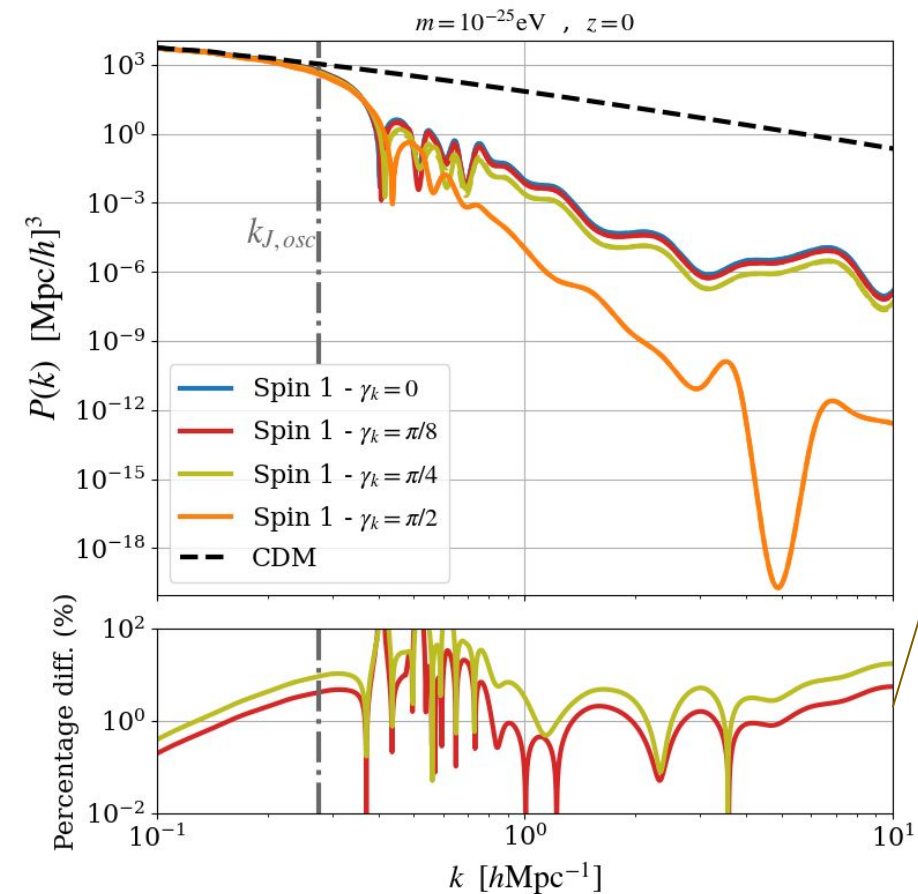
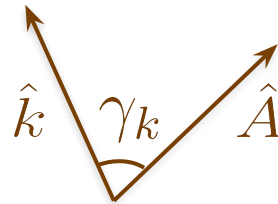
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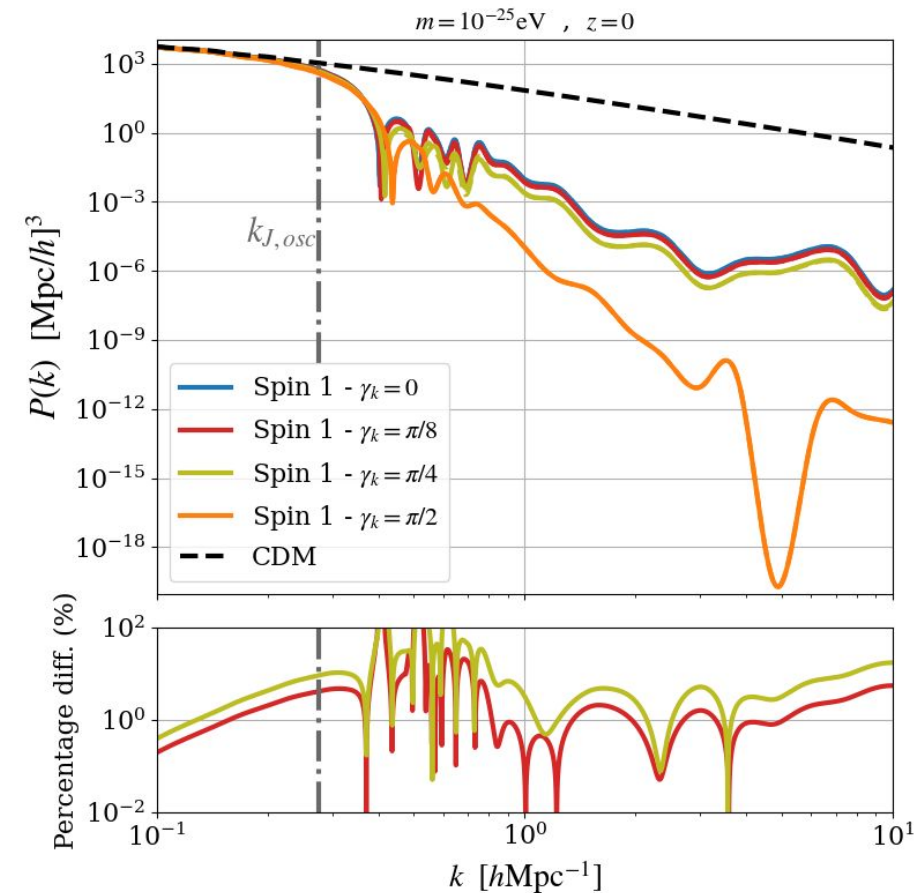
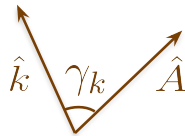


Small scales - Anisotropic imprint

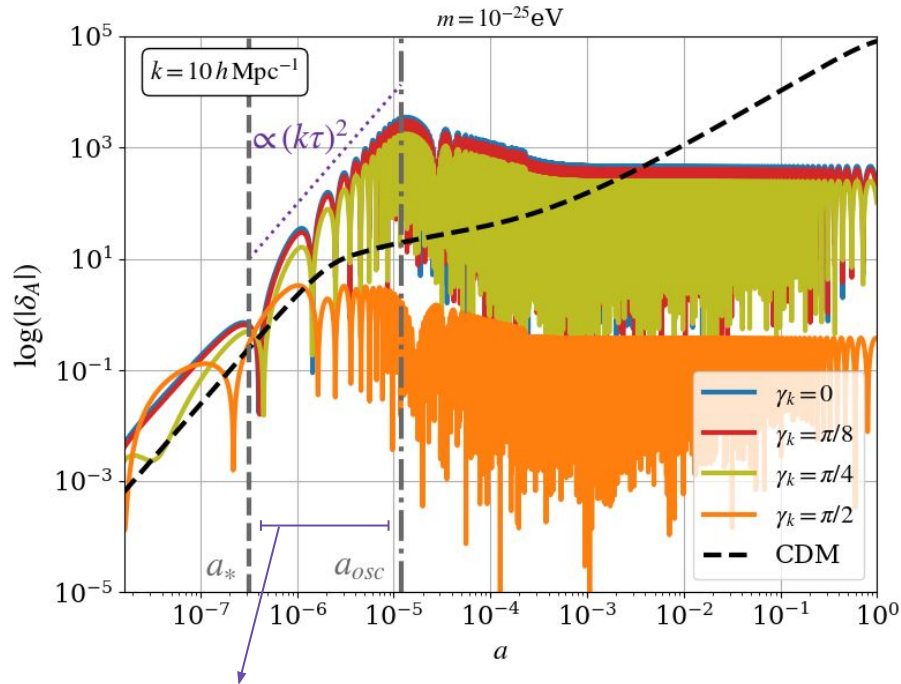


$$P(k, \gamma_k) = P(k, \frac{\pi}{2}) + \left[P(k, 0) - P(k, \frac{\pi}{2}) \right] \cos(\gamma_k)^4$$

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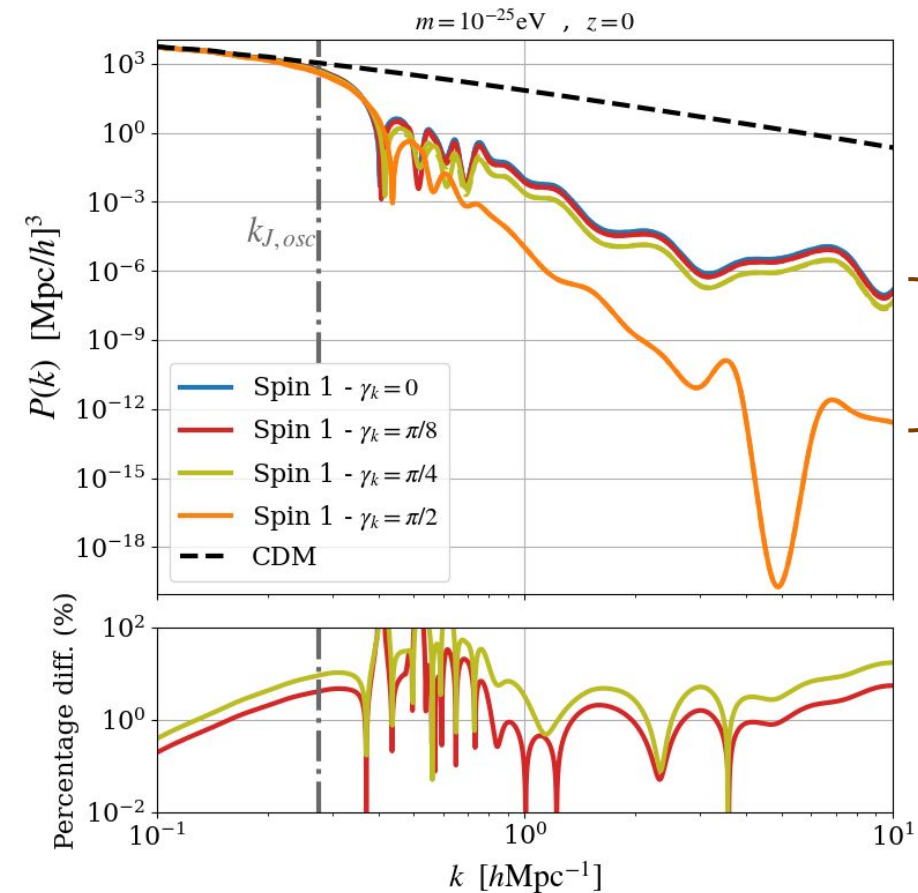
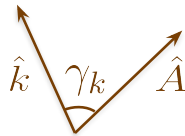


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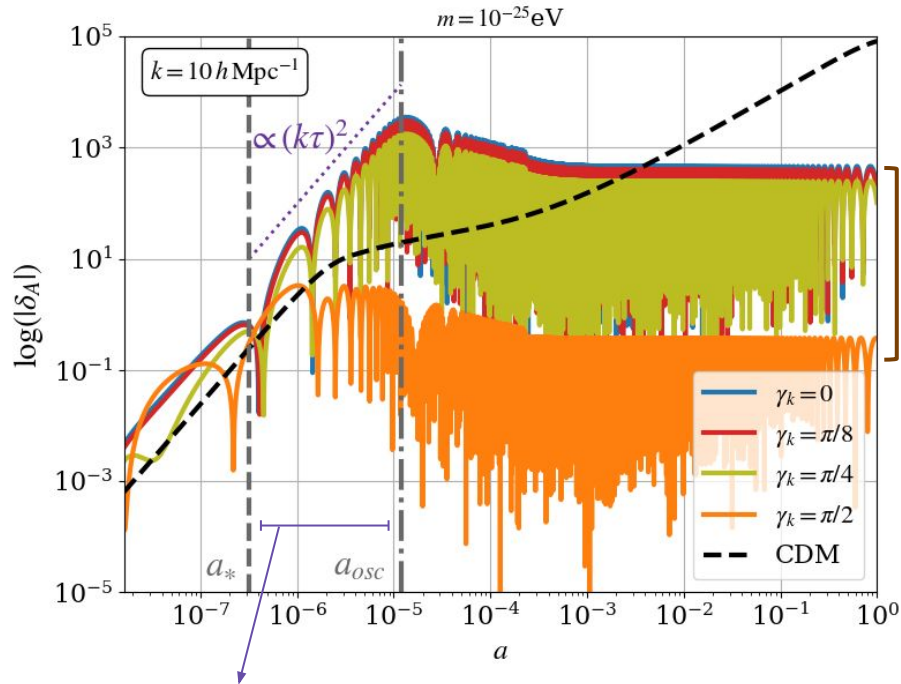


$$\delta_A = [28(k\tau)^2 \cos(\gamma_k)^2 - 2 \sin(\gamma_k)^2] \eta_0$$

Small scales - Anisotropic imprint

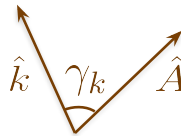


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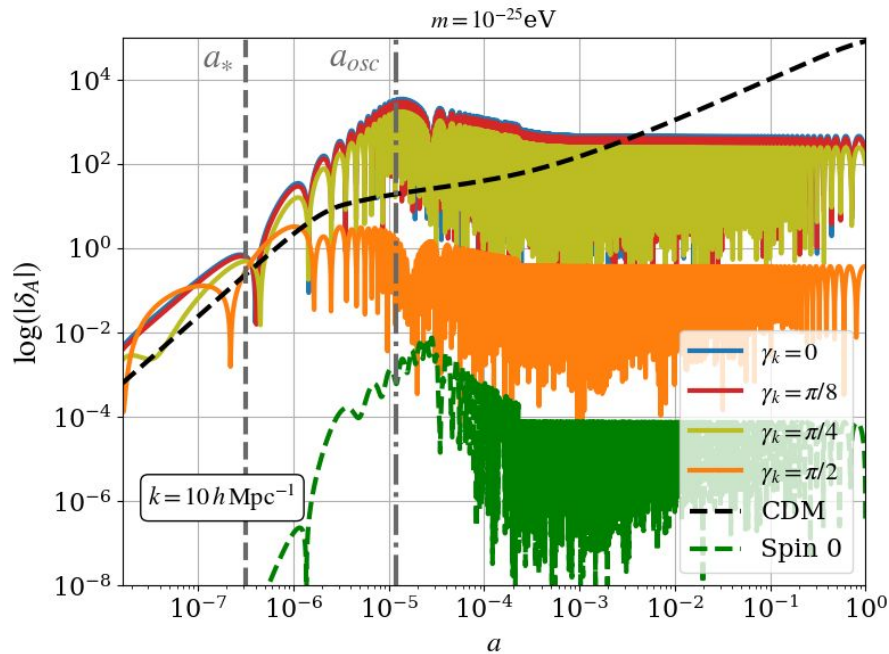
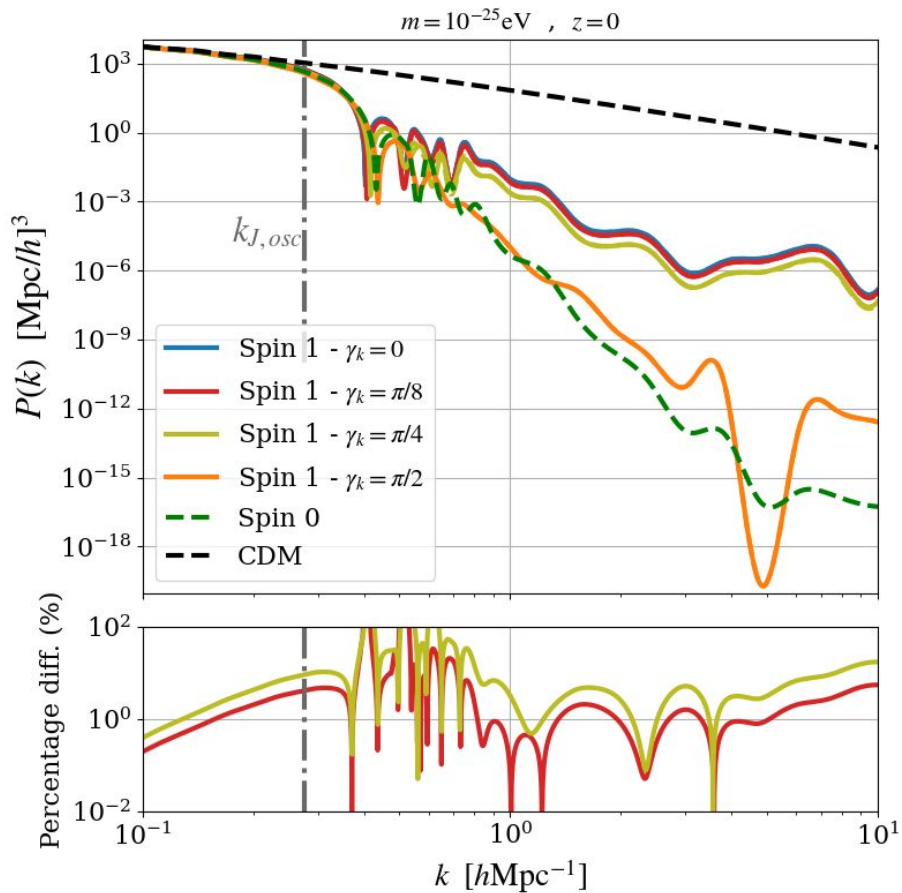


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Small scales - DM spin comparison

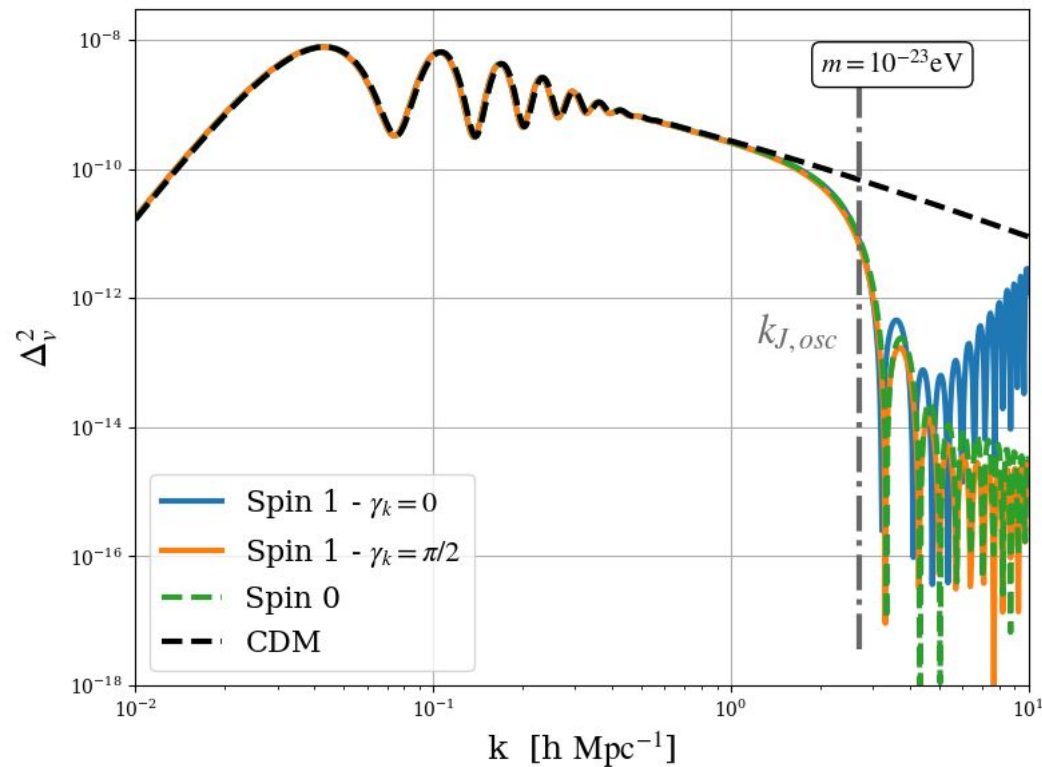


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Velocity Invariant Power Spectrum

$$(\rho + P)\theta = \hat{k}^i \delta T^0_i$$



Velocity Power Spectrum:

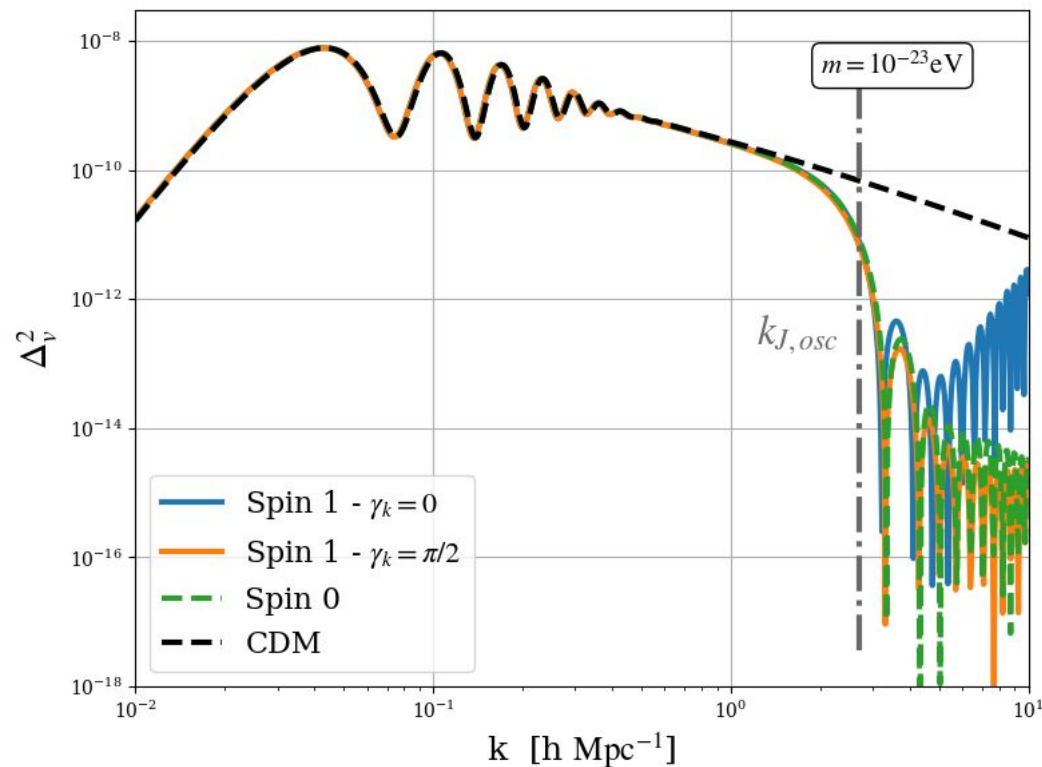
$$\langle \vec{v}_{bd}^2 \rangle = \int \frac{dk}{k} \Delta_v^2(k)$$

Relative Velocity
(gauge invariant)

$$\Delta_v^2(k) = \Delta_\zeta^2(k) \left(\frac{\theta_b - \theta_d}{k} \right)^2$$

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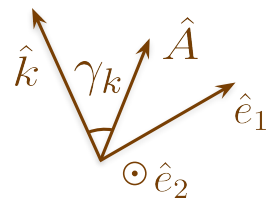
$$\Delta_v^2(k) = \Delta_\zeta^2(k) \left(\frac{\theta_b - \theta_d}{k} \right)^2$$

Relevant for 21-cm

Initial conditions for
21cm simulations

For spin 0 could
probe $m < 10^{-18} \text{ eV}$

SVT decomposition



Isotropic background

$$\delta G^\mu{}_\nu = \frac{1}{m_P^2} \delta T^\mu{}_\nu$$

*degrees of freedom

Scalar
(4*)

Decoupled

Vector
(4)

Tensor
(2)

Anisotropic background

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Scalar
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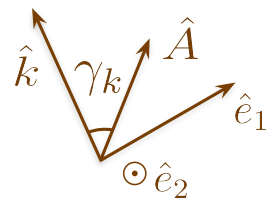
Coupled

$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \sigma_{ij} \\ A^\mu \end{array} \right.$

Vector
(4)

Tensor
(2)

Gravitational wave abundance - Spin 1

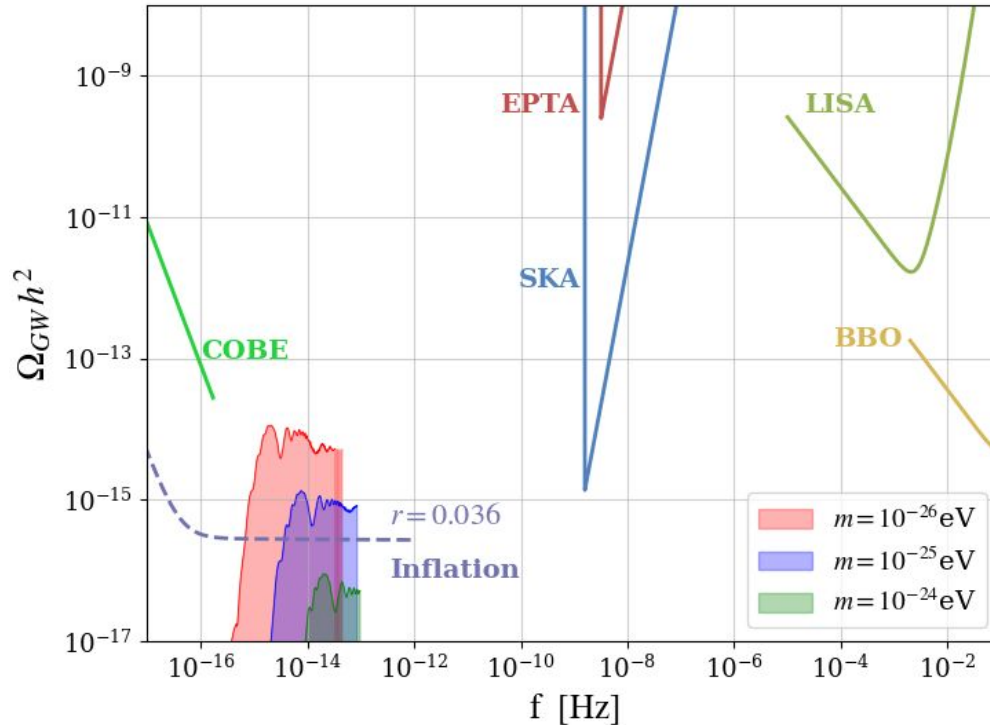


Tensor perturbations

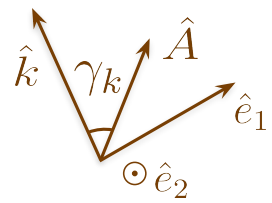
$$\delta g_{ij} = a^2 [\hat{k}_i \hat{k}_j (h + 6\eta) - 2 \frac{\sigma_{ij}}{\mathcal{H}} \eta + 2E_{ij}]$$

$$E_{ij} = (\hat{e}_i^1 \hat{e}_j^1 - \hat{e}_i^2 \hat{e}_j^2) h_+ + (\hat{e}_i^1 \hat{e}_j^2 + \hat{e}_i^2 \hat{e}_j^1) h_\times$$

⊗ Work in progress



Gravitational wave abundance - Spin 1



Tensor perturbations

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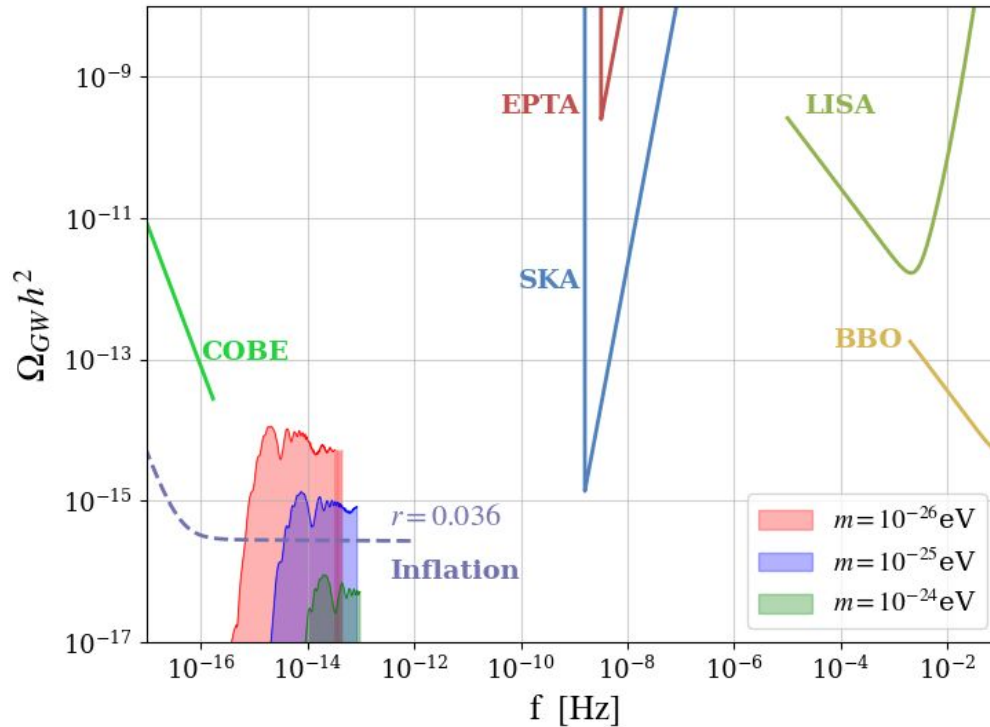
Einstein tensor equation

$$h_+'' + 2\mathcal{H}h_+' + \left[k^2 - \frac{6a^2}{m_P^2} \sin(\gamma_k) P_A \right] h_+ = S(\delta A^\mu, \eta, h)$$

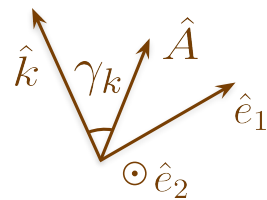
$$h_+(\tau_{ini}) = h_+'(\tau_{ini}) = 0$$

linear in δA^μ

⊗ Work in progress



Gravitational wave abundance - Spin 1



Tensor perturbations

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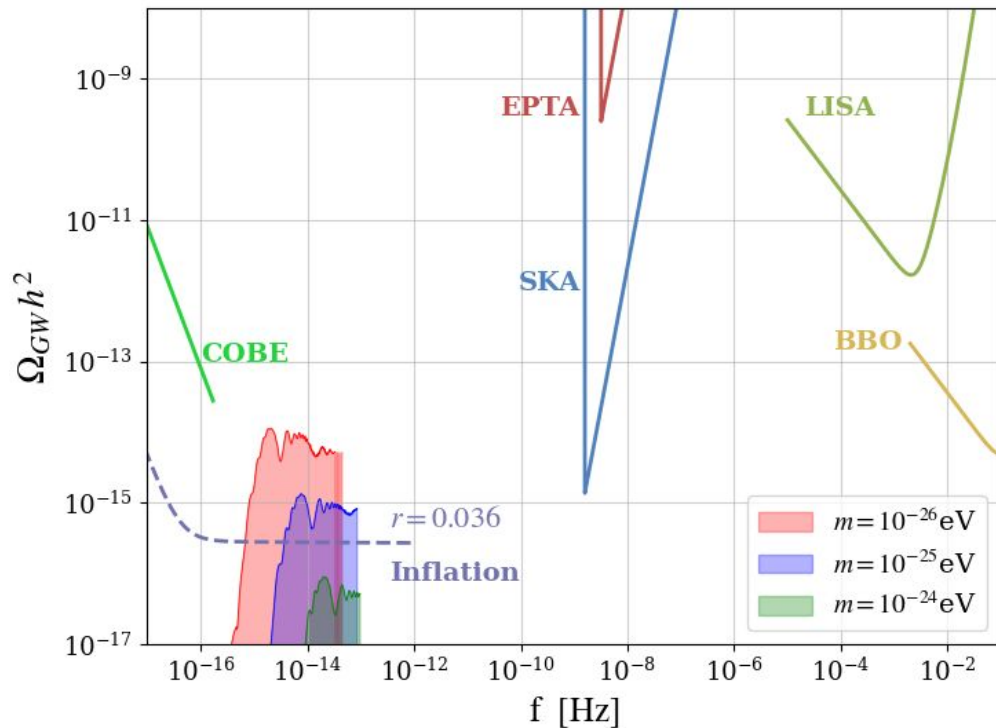
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linear in δA^μ

Abundance of cosmological GW

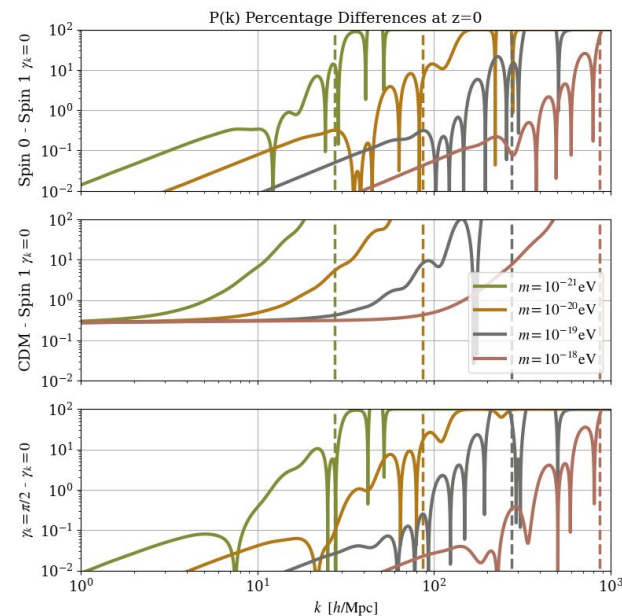
$$\Omega_{GW}(k) = \frac{1}{\rho_c} \frac{d^2 \rho_{GW}}{d\Omega d\log(k)} = \frac{k^3 h_+'^2}{48\pi^3 H_0^2}$$

⊙ Work in progress



Conclusions - Cosmological tests

- Different predictions at **small scales** $\longrightarrow k_J$
- **Spin 1** has anisotropic suppression in the $P(k, \gamma_k)$
- Production of $\Omega_{GW}(k)$ in spin 1 model



References

- T. F. Chase, D. L. Nacir - “Ultralight vector dark matter, anisotropies, and cosmological adiabatic modes” - *Phys. Rev. D* (2024)
- T. F. Chase, et. al. - “Cosmological perturbations with ultralight vector dark matter fields: Numerical implementation in class” - *Phys. Rev. D* (2025)

Conclusions - Cosmological tests

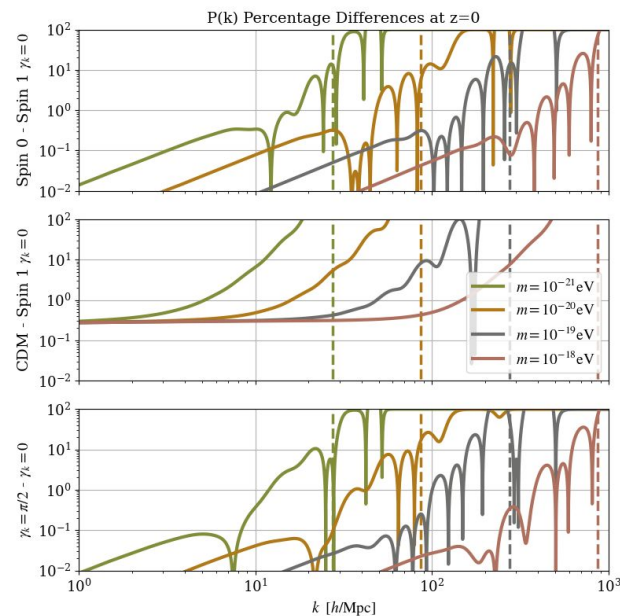
- Different predictions at **small scales** $\longrightarrow k_J$
- **Spin 1** has anisotropic suppression in the $P(k, \gamma_k)$
- Production of $\Omega_{GW}(k)$ in spin 1 model

Future work

- Compute $\mathcal{C}_\ell \rightarrow$ extend the code to account for anisotropies
- Simulations with **anisotropic** $P(k, \gamma_k)$

References

- T. F. Chase, D. L. Nacir - “Ultralight vector dark matter, anisotropies, and cosmological adiabatic modes” - *Phys. Rev. D* (2024)
- T. F. Chase, et. al. - “Cosmological perturbations with ultralight vector dark matter fields: Numerical implementation in class” - *Phys. Rev. D* (2025)



Extra slides

Linear Regime - Scalar Sector

Cosmological perturbation theory:

$$Q(t, \vec{x}) = Q(t) + \delta Q(t, \vec{x})$$

$$\delta G^\mu{}_\nu = 8\pi G \delta T^\mu{}_\nu$$

$$\left. \begin{aligned} \delta T^\mu{}_\nu &= \delta T^\mu{}_\nu(\delta\rho, \delta P, \delta\Sigma^i{}_j) \\ \delta G^\mu{}_\nu &= \delta G^\mu{}_\nu(\delta g_{ij}) \end{aligned} \right\}$$

For calculating cosmological observables such as CMB, P(k), etc.

Synchronous gauge:

$$\delta g_{ij} = a^2 \left[-2 \left(\gamma_{ij} + \frac{\sigma_{ij}}{\mathcal{H}} \right) \eta + \hat{k}_i \hat{k}_j (h + 6\eta) \right]$$

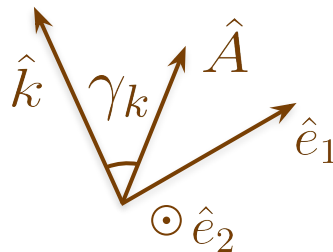
δ_{ij} for spin 0

$\begin{cases} h \\ \eta \end{cases} \longrightarrow$ Scalar metric perturbations

[Pereira, Pitrou & Uzan 2007]

Spin 1 perturbations:

$$\{\hat{e}_1, \hat{e}_2, \hat{k}\}$$



Initial Conditions - Outside the horizon + Early times

Initial
conditions
 Λ CDM

[Ma-Bertschinger 1995]

Radiation era
+
Outside horizon
 $k\tau \ll 1$

Radiation (γ)
+
Metric

$$\begin{aligned}\delta G^0_0 &= -8\pi G \delta\rho \\ \delta G^i_j &= 8\pi G (\delta P \delta^i_j + \delta \Sigma^i_j)\end{aligned}$$

+

Photon Fluid
equation

$k\tau \ll 1$
Radiation
domination

$$\left\{ \begin{aligned}\eta &= \eta_0 + \mathcal{O}(k^2\tau^2) \\ h &= \mathcal{O}(k^2\tau^2) \\ \delta\rho_\gamma &= \mathcal{O}(k^2\tau^2) \\ \hat{k}^i T^0_{\gamma i} &= \mathcal{O}(k^4\tau^3)\end{aligned}\right.$$

$$\hat{k}^i \delta G^0_i = 8\pi G \hat{k}^i \delta T^0_i$$

$\longrightarrow \sigma_{ij}$ important **outside the horizon**

Initial Conditions - Outside the horizon + Early times

$$\hat{k}^i \delta G^0_i = 8\pi G \hat{k}^i \delta T^0_i \quad \rightarrow \quad \underbrace{k^2 \cancel{\eta'}}_{\mathcal{O}(k^4)} + \underbrace{\frac{3}{2} k^2 \cancel{\sigma_{\parallel}} \eta}_{\mathcal{O}(k^2)} = \frac{a^2}{2m_P^2} \hat{k}^i \left[\underbrace{\cancel{\delta T_{\gamma}^0}_i}_{\mathcal{O}(k^4)} + \underbrace{\cancel{\delta T_A^0}_i}_{\mathcal{O}(k^2)} \right]$$

$$\eta = \eta_0 + \mathcal{O}(k^2 \tau^2) \quad \leftarrow$$

$$\sigma_{\parallel} = \hat{k}^i \hat{k}^j \sigma_{ij}$$

↑
 Dominates when $m < 10^{-22} \text{eV} (0.1/(k\tau_i))^4$

Attractor
Solution

+

Adiabatic
I-C

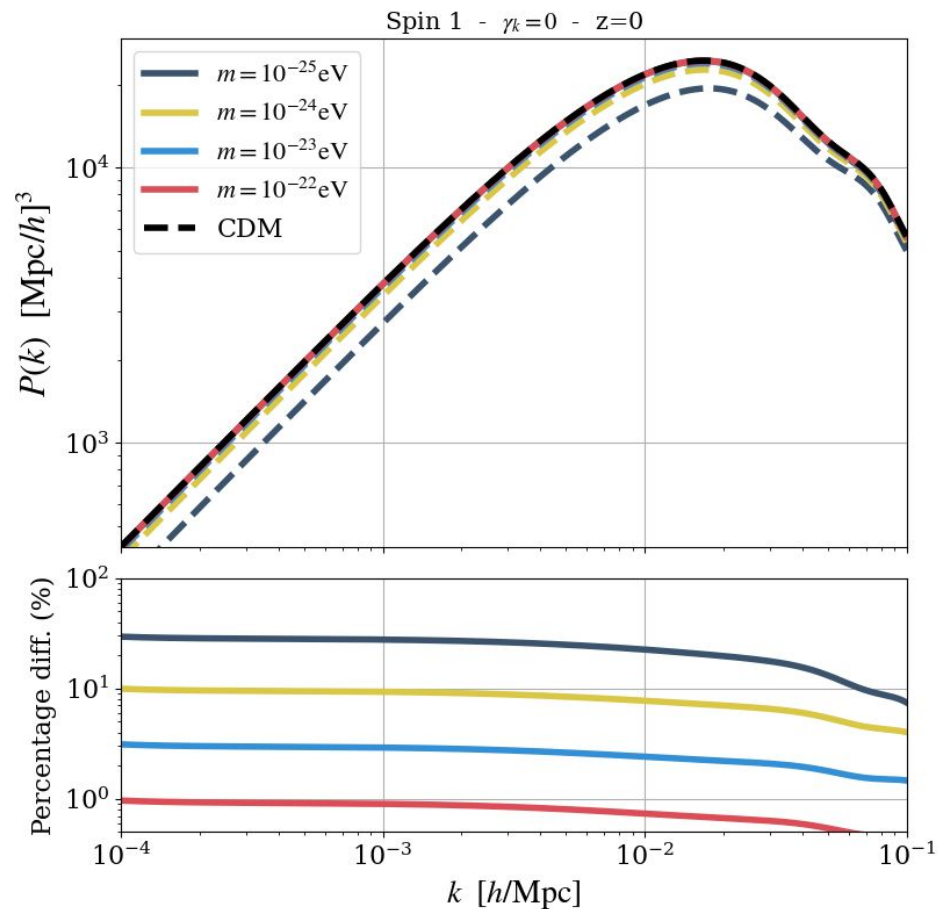
$$\longrightarrow \frac{a^2}{2m_P^2} \hat{k}^i \delta T_A^0_i = \frac{3}{2} k^2 \sigma_{\parallel} \eta_0$$

**Exactly cancels the
shear's contribution**

Summary:

If the model is evolved in FRW, one would have **big infrared contributions** from the vector field at early times.

Big scales - Metric shear impact - Spin 1



--- FRW

$$k^2 \eta' = \frac{a^2}{2m_P^2} \hat{k}^i \delta T^0_i$$

— Bianchi I

$$k^2 \eta' - \frac{3}{2} k^2 \sigma_{\parallel} \eta = \frac{a^2}{2m_P^2} \hat{k}^i \delta T^0_i$$

Numerical implementation in CLASS - Background

$$A_i'' + m^2 a^2 A_i = 0 \quad \longrightarrow \quad \begin{cases} \theta' = \sin(\theta) + 2\frac{m}{H} \\ \Omega_A' = 3(w_T - w_A)\Omega_A \end{cases}$$

with

$$w_T = P_{tot}/\rho_{tot}$$

$$w_A = P_A/\rho_A$$

$$\begin{aligned} \vec{A} &= \sqrt{\rho_A} m^{-1} \sin(\theta(\tau)/2) \hat{A} \\ \vec{A}' &= \sqrt{\rho_A} \cos(\theta(\tau)/2) \hat{A} \end{aligned}$$

Averaging procedure

$$\sin(\theta) \rightarrow \frac{1}{2}(1 - \tanh(\theta^2 - \theta_0^2)) \sin(\theta)$$

$$\cos(\theta) \rightarrow \frac{1}{2}(1 - \tanh(\theta^2 - \theta_0^2)) \cos(\theta)$$

Fluid variables

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \rho_A \longrightarrow \text{Dynamical variable} \\ P_A = \frac{1}{3} \cos(\theta) \rho_A \end{array} \right.$$

Numerical implementation in CLASS - Perturbations

$$\delta \vec{A} = \delta A_L \hat{k} + \delta A_T \hat{e}_1$$

$$\begin{cases} \delta A_L = \sqrt{\rho_A} m^{-1} [\sin(\theta/2) \delta_{L,0} + \cos(\theta/2) \delta_{L,1}] \\ \delta A'_L = \sqrt{\rho_A} [\cos(\theta/2) \delta_{L,0} - \sin(\theta/2) \delta_{L,1}] \end{cases}$$

$$\begin{cases} \delta A_T = \sqrt{\rho_A} m^{-1} [\sin(\theta/2) \delta_{T,0} + \cos(\theta/2) \delta_{T,1}] \\ \delta A'_T = \sqrt{\rho_A} \sqrt{1 + \frac{k^2}{m^2 a^2}} [\cos(\theta/2) \delta_{T,0} - \sin(\theta/2) \delta_{T,1}] \end{cases}$$

$$\{\delta_{L,0}, \delta_{L,1}\}$$



Oscillations in k and
growing solutions

$$\{\delta_{T,0}, \delta_{T,1}\}$$



Oscillations in k