

# The role of the cosmological constant in the notion of the “gravitational entropy”

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**IMPORTANT:** the “gravitational entropy” I will discuss is NOT:

- ★ The “standard” entropy from Thermodynamics (or Kinetic Theory or Statistical Mechanics) of thermal sources or plasmas in a hydrodynamical regime (short range interactions).
- ★ The Boltzmann Gibbs entropy in Statistical Mechanics of Newtonian self-gravitating systems (isothermal sphere, globular clusters, n-body simulations, etc).
- ★ Tsallis (and related) “non-extensive” entropies.
- ★ Entropy based on Black Hole Thermodynamics and geometric formal analogies (such as “Geometro-Thermodynamics”).

**However, it can have interesting theoretical connections to all these**

# So, what entropy I'm talking about?

**Two main theoretical proposals of the notion of “gravitational entropy” in the context of GR.**

**PROPOSAL #1:** Gravitational Entropy constructed from an “effective” energy-momentum tensor associated with the “pure” gravitational field (Weyl tensor).

**Reference:** Clifton, Ellis & Tavakol, *Class Quant Grav*, 30, 012301 (2013)

**PROPOSAL #2:** Gravitational Entropy as a measure of “accessible gravitational states” defined from scalar curvature fluctuations around an averaged scalar curvature. Information Theory.

**Reference:** Hosoya, Buchert & Morita, *Phys Rev Lett*, 92, 141302 (2004)

**Surprisingly: both proposals yield:**

- the same conditions for positive entropy production (for Coulomb-like fields)
- the Hawking-Beckenstein area formula when applied to a Schwarzschild Black Hole.

*"Gravitational Entropy"*

**is**

**the**

**Entropy**

**constructed**

**from a**

**"geometric fluid"**

**associated**

**with the**

*"free gravitational field"*

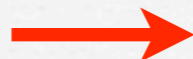
**Free  
Gravitational  
Field (Weyl  
tensor)**



**“Effective” energy-momentum tensor  
“square root” of the Bel-Robinson  
tensor**



**“Gravitational” fluid  
variables:  
density, pressure,  
viscosity, heat.**



**“Gravitational”  
temperature  
(Gibbs One-form)**



**“Gravitational” entropy  
& equilibrium states and  
entropy growth**



**Implications:  
Structure Formation  
Inflation  
Cosmological Constant**

# What is the “free gravitational” field ?

Under GR “curvature” generates gravity, but “**curvature**” (**Riemann tensor**) can be split into “**Ricci**” and **Weyl** parts:

$$\mathcal{R}_{cd}^{ab} = C_{cd}^{ab} - 2\delta_{[c}^{[a}\mathcal{R}_{d]}^{b]} + \frac{1}{3}\mathcal{R}\delta_c^a\delta_d^b$$

**Riemann**

**Weyl part**

**Ricci part**

**Einstein field equations:**

$$G^{ab} = \mathcal{R}^{ab} - \frac{1}{2}g^{ab}\mathcal{R} = \frac{8\pi G}{c^4}T^{ab}$$

**Curvature**

**Sources**

$$T^{ab} = \rho u^a u^b + p h^{ab} + \Pi^{ab} + 2q^{(a}u^{b)}$$

**Energy Momentum tensor.**

**Einstein field equations in vacuum (source free):**  $T^{ab} = 0$

**Reduce to:**  $\mathcal{R}^{ab} = 0$  in this case: **Riemann** = **Weyl**

**Therefore: Free Gravitational field = curvature from the Weyl tensor**

**BASIC IDEA:** construct an “effective” energy-momentum tensor based on the Weyl tensor

# Properties of the Weyl tensor:

**Covariant decomposition: “electric” and “magnetic” parts**

**Maxwell tensor**

$$E_a = F_{ab}u^b, \quad H_a = \frac{1}{2}\eta_{abc}F^{bc},$$

**Weyl tensor**

$$E_{ab} = C_{abcd}u^c u^d, \quad H_{ab} = \frac{1}{2}\eta_{acd}C_{be}^{cd}u^e,$$

**Invariant classification of gravitational fields (solutions of Einstein's equations) from its algebraic properties:**

- **Conformally Flat fields** (zero Weyl tensor): most trivial and homogeneous solutions (FLRW, de Sitter, Minkowski)
- **Coulomb-like fields:** well defined Newtonian limit, do not radiate (black hole & most cosmological inhomogeneous solutions).
- **Wave-like:** gravitational waves and similar radiating solutions
- **The remaining:** Most fields are in between Coulomb-like & wave-like

## Homework:

Construct an "effective" energy-momentum tensor from the Weyl tensor

• MUST SATISFY  $\mathcal{T}_{ab} = \mathcal{T}_{ba}$ ,  $\nabla_b \mathcal{T}^{ab} = 0$ ,

**Energy-Momentum of what ?**

of a "geometric fluid" related to the Weyl tensor such that:

$$C^{abcd} = 0 \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad \mathcal{T}^{ab} = 0$$

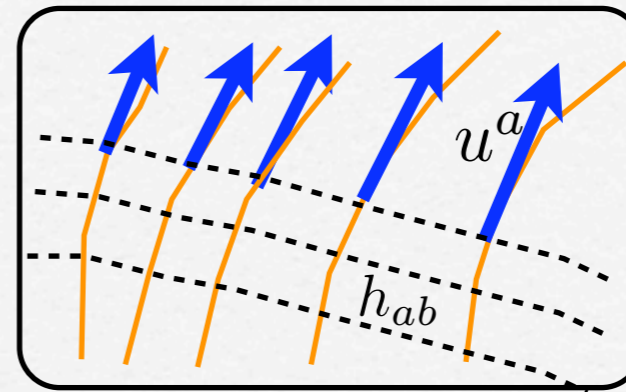
**Notice:** it is an effective fluid:  $G^{ab} \neq 8\pi \mathcal{T}^{ab} = 0$



## How can we construct this geometric fluid ?

**Take a spacetime manifold**  $(\mathcal{M}, g)$

- satisfies Einstein's equations  $G^{ab} = 8\pi T^{ab}$
- Admits a 4-velocity field  $u^a$



**Choice of observers comoving with  $u^a$**

**Spatial metric**  $h_{ab} = g_{ab} + u_a u_b$

**The source of  $(\mathcal{M}, g)$  is always expressible as**

$$T^{ab} = \rho u^a u^b + p h^{ab} + \Pi^{ab} + 2q^{(a} u^{b)}$$

**where we identify:**

$$\rho = u_a u_b T^{ab},$$

**Density**

$$p = \frac{1}{3} h_{ab} T^{ab},$$

**Pressure**

$$\Pi^{ab} = T^{(a,b)},$$

**Viscosity**

$$q_a = -u^b h_a^c T_{bc}$$

**Heat Flux**

**WE OBTAIN**

**(to be explained how):**

$$\mathcal{T}^{ab} = \rho_{\text{gr}} u^a u^b + p_{\text{gr}} h^{ab} + \Pi_{\text{gr}}^{ab} + 2 q_{\text{gr}}^{(a} u^{b)}$$

**where we identify:**

$$\rho_{\text{gr}} = u_a u_b \mathcal{T}^{ab},$$

**Gravitational Density**

$$p_{\text{gr}} = \frac{1}{3} h_{ab} \mathcal{T}^{ab},$$

**Gravitational Pressure**

$$\Pi_{\text{gr}}^{ab} = \mathcal{T}^{(ab)},$$

**Gravitational Viscosity**

$$q_{\text{gr}}^a = -u_b h_c^a \mathcal{T}^{bc},$$

**Gravitational Heat Flux**

**FIRST PROBLEM:** Weyl tensor is not divergence-less

$$\nabla_d C^{abcd} \neq 0 \quad \text{in general}$$

**SOLUTION:** Use the ONLY divergence-less tensor constructed from the Weyl tensor: Bel-Robinson tensor

$$T_{abcd} = \frac{1}{4} \left[ C_{eabf} C_{cd}^{ef} + C_{eabf}^* C_{cd}^{*ef} \right], \quad C_{abcd}^* = \frac{1}{2} \eta_{abc} C_{cd}^{ef},$$

**SECOND PROBLEM:** The Bel-Robinson tensor is 4th order, but we need a 2nd order tensor

**SOLUTION:** Obtain its "square root" by the following irreducible algebraic expansion

$$T_{abcd} = \mathcal{T}_{(ab} \mathcal{T}_{cd)} - \frac{1}{2} \mathcal{T}_{e(a} \mathcal{T}_b^e g_{cd)} - \frac{1}{4} \mathcal{T}_e^e \mathcal{T}_{(ab} g_{cd)} + \frac{1}{24} \left[ \mathcal{T}_{ef} \mathcal{T}^{ef} + \frac{(\mathcal{T}_e^e)^2}{2} \right] g_{(ab} g_{cd)}$$

**Notice though that:**

$\forall \{T_{ab}, g_{ab}\} \exists$  unique well defined  $T_{abcd}$

but not for all  $\{T_{abcd}, g_{ab}\} \exists$  unique well defined  $T_{ab}$

**However,** for two large classes of space-times it is possible to construct a self consistent tensor  $T_{ab}$  with the desired properties: symmetric and covariantly conserved  $\nabla_b T^{ab} = T^{ab}{}_{;b} = 0$

❖ **Coulomb-like fields:** Petrov type D, with consistent Newtonian analogs

❖ **Gravitational Wave-like fields:** Petrov type N, with consistent radiative analogs

❖ **Remaining fields** are complicated combinations of Coulomb-like and Wave-like fields

How do we obtain an entropy from an energy-momentum tensor? **EXAMPLE: Off equilibrium thermal sources:**

**Energy-Momentum tensor:**

$$T^{ab} = \rho u^a u^b + p h^{ab} + \Pi^{ab} + 2q^{(a} u^{b)}$$

↑
↑
↑
↑

Energy Density
Pressure
Viscosity
Heat flux

**State variables by projection:**

$$\rho = u_a u_b T^{ab}, \quad p = \frac{1}{3} h_{ab} T^{ab}, \quad \Pi^{ab} = T^{\langle a, b \rangle}, \quad q_a = -u^b h_a^c T_{bc}$$

**Off-equilibrium Gibbs equation:**

$$T\dot{s} = (\rho V)\dot{\phantom{V}} + p\dot{V} = -V \left[ u_a \nabla_b T^{ab} + \nabla_a q^a + \dot{u}_a q^a + \sigma_{ab} \Pi^{ab} \right]$$

↑  
**This term is zero in equilibrium:**

**where:**

$s$  (specific entropy),  $V$  (local volume),  $T$  (temperature),  
 $\dot{u}_a$  (4-acceleration),  $\sigma_{ab}$  (shear),

**Now, we proceed “by analogy”:**

**Given the “effective” energy-momentum tensor  $\mathcal{T}^{ab}$**

**project with respect to the same  $u^a$  (|| “time”),  $h^{ab}$  ( $\perp$  “space”)**

• “**State variables**” of the free gravitational field:

$$\rho_{\text{gr}} = u_a u_b \mathcal{T}^{ab}, \quad p_{\text{gr}} = \frac{1}{3} h_{ab} \mathcal{T}^{ab}, \quad \Pi_{\text{gr}}^{ab} = \mathcal{T}^{\langle ab \rangle}, \quad q_{\text{gr}}^a = -u^b h^{ab} \mathcal{T}_{bc},$$

• “**Effective**” Gibbs equation for the free gravitational field:

$$T_{\text{gr}} \dot{s}_{\text{gr}} = (\rho_{\text{gr}} V) \dot{V} + p_{\text{gr}} \dot{V} = -V \left[ u_a \nabla_b \mathcal{T}^{ab} + \nabla_a q_{\text{gr}}^a + \dot{u}_a q_{\text{gr}}^a + \sigma_{ab} \Pi_{\text{gr}}^{ab} \right]$$

• “**Gravitational temperature**” by correspondence with semi-classical definitions

$$T_{\text{gr}} = \frac{c^4}{\pi G} |u_{a;b} \ell^a k^b| = \frac{c^4}{2\pi G} |\dot{u}_a z^a + \mathcal{H} + \sigma_{ab} z^a z^b|,$$

$$\ell^a = (u^a - z^a)/\sqrt{2}, \quad k^a = (u^a + z^a)/\sqrt{2} \quad \text{the 2 real vectors of the NP null tetrad}$$

$$\mathcal{H} \equiv \frac{\Theta}{3} = \frac{1}{3} u^a{}_{;a} \quad \text{Hubble expansion rate}$$

## Results for Coulomb-like fields:

### Effective energy momentum tensor:

$$\frac{8\pi G}{c^4} \mathcal{T}^{ab} = \left( \frac{2W}{3} \right)^{1/2} [(x^a x^b + y^a y^b) - 2(z^a z^b - u^a u^b)],$$

where  $\{x^a, y^a, z^a, u^a\}$  orthonormal tetrad

$$\text{and } W \equiv T_{abcd} u^a u^b u^c u^d = \frac{1}{4} E_{ab} E^{ab}, \quad H_{ab} = 0,$$

### Effective state variables:

$$\frac{8\pi}{c^4} \rho_{\text{gr}} = \left( \frac{2W}{3} \right)^{1/2}, \quad p_{\text{gr}} = q_{\text{gr}}^a = 0, \quad \frac{8\pi}{c^4} \Pi_{\text{gr}}^{ab} = \left( \frac{2W}{3} \right)^{1/2} (x^a x^b + y^a y^b - z^a z^b + u^a u^b),$$

### Effective Gibbs equation:

$$T_{\text{gr}} \dot{s}_{\text{gr}} = (\rho_{\text{gr}} V_p) \dot{\phantom{V_p}} = -V_p \sigma_{ab} \left[ \Pi_{\text{gr}}^{ab} + \frac{4\pi G}{c^4} \frac{\rho+p}{\sqrt{2W/3}} E^{ab} \right]$$

Heat flux analogue

## Look at the gravitational temperature

$$T_{\text{gr}} = \frac{1}{2\pi} \left[ \mathcal{H} + \dot{u}_a n^a + \sigma_{ab} n^a n^b \right]$$

$$\mathcal{H} = \frac{\Theta}{3} = h_a^b \nabla_b u^a, \quad \dot{u}_a = u^b \nabla_b u^a, \quad \sigma_{ab} = \nabla_{(a} u_{b)} - \dot{u}_{(a} u_{b)} - \mathcal{H} h_{ab},$$

**Hubble expansion**
**4-acceleration**
**Shear tensor**

$$\mathcal{H}^2 = \frac{8\pi}{3} \rho - \frac{3\mathcal{R}}{6} - 2\sigma_{ab}\sigma^{ab} + \frac{8\pi}{3} \Lambda$$

**Hamiltonian constraint (generalized Friedman equation).**

**Non-rotating Coulomb-like spacetime.**

$$ds^2 = -N^2 dt^2 + g_{ij} dx^i dx^j,$$



$$u^a = \frac{1}{N} \delta_t^a \quad \exists \quad \ell \propto \sqrt{\det(g_{ij})}$$

$$\dot{u}_a \propto h_a^b \nabla_b (\ln N) \sim \frac{N_{,i}}{N} n_a,$$

$$\sigma_{ab} \propto \partial_t [g_{ij,k} g^{kl} n_l - \ell g_{ij}] h_a^i h_b^j,$$

→  $\mathcal{H}^2 \sim \frac{8\pi}{3} \rho + \text{spatial gradients of } g_{ij} + \frac{8\pi}{3} \Lambda$

**Look AGAIN at the gravitational temperature**

$$T_{\text{gr}} = \frac{1}{2\pi} \left[ \mathcal{H} + \dot{u}_a n^a + \sigma_{ab} n^a n^b \right]$$

$$\mathcal{H}^2 \sim \frac{8\pi}{3} \rho + \text{spatial gradients of } g_{ij} + \frac{8\pi}{3} \Lambda$$

$$\{\dot{u}_a, \sigma_{ab}\} \sim \text{radial gradients of the metric,}$$

$$\rho \sim \ell^{-3} \quad (\text{if we assume CDM})$$

**Asymptotically**  $\ell \rightarrow \infty$

$$\mathcal{H} \rightarrow \sqrt{\frac{8\pi}{3} \Lambda}, \quad \rho \rightarrow 0, \quad \{\dot{u}_a, \sigma_{ab}\} \rightarrow 0$$

**Which implies:**  $T_{\text{gr}} \rightarrow \sqrt{\frac{2}{3\pi} \Lambda}$



## Test Gravitational Entropy on solutions of Einstein's equations:

**Lemaitre-Tolman-Bondi (LTB) models with a dust source**  $T^{ab} = \rho u^a u^b$

$$ds^2 = -dt^2 + a^2 \left[ \frac{\Gamma^2 dr^2}{1 - Kr^2} + r^2(d\theta^2 + \sin^2 \theta d\phi^2) \right],$$

$$a = a(t, r), \quad \Gamma \equiv 1 + ra'/a, \quad K = K(r),$$

$$\rho = \frac{\rho_0}{a^3 \Gamma}, \quad \mathcal{H} = \frac{\dot{a}}{a} + \frac{\dot{\Gamma}}{3\Gamma}, \quad \sigma_b^a = -\frac{\dot{\Gamma}}{3\Gamma} \times \text{diag}[0, -2, 1, 1],$$

$$E_b^a = W^2 \times \text{diag}[0, -2, 1, 1] \quad (\text{"Electric" Weyl tensor})$$

$$W^2 = \frac{4\pi G}{3c^4} |\mathbf{D}(\rho)|, \quad \mathbf{D}(\rho) \equiv \rho - \langle \rho \rangle_q,$$

**Density fluctuation**

$$\text{where } \langle \rho \rangle_q \equiv \frac{\int \rho \mathcal{F} dV_p}{\int \mathcal{F} dV_p}, \quad \mathcal{F} \equiv \sqrt{1 - Kr^2},$$

**Weighed average  
(the "q-average")**

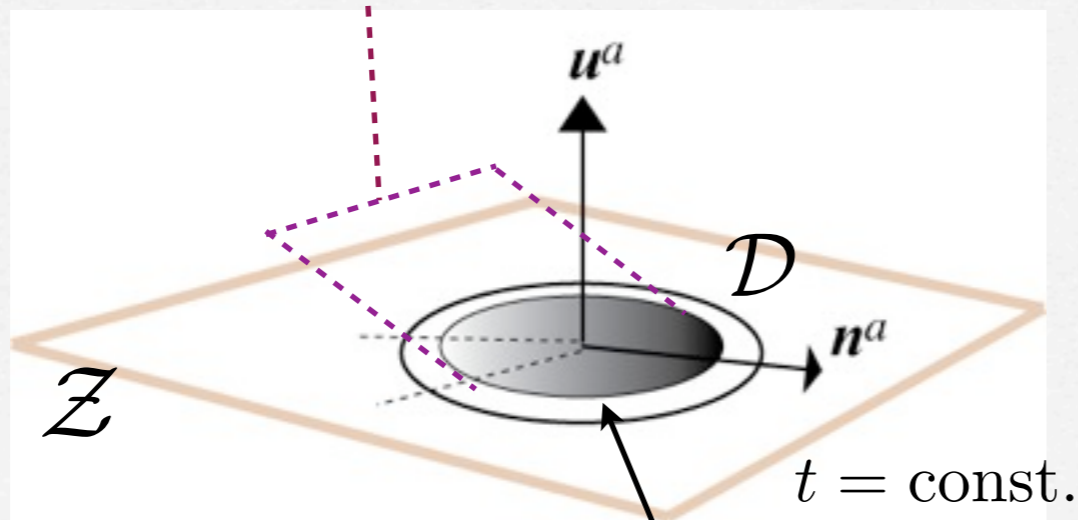
$$T_{\text{gr}} = \frac{2c^4}{\pi G} |\langle \mathcal{H} \rangle_q (1 + 3\delta^{\mathcal{H}})|, \quad \delta^{\mathcal{H}} \equiv \frac{\mathbf{D}(\mathcal{H})}{\langle \mathcal{H} \rangle_q}$$

**"Velocity" fluctuation**

# Interpretation of the “fluctuations”

$$D(\rho) = \rho(t, x^i) - \langle \rho \rangle_{\mathcal{D}}$$

Use  $\langle \rho \rangle_{\mathcal{D}} = \frac{\int_{\mathcal{D}} \rho dV}{\int_{\mathcal{D}} dV}$  **average density on domains**  $\mathcal{D} \subset \mathcal{Z}$



**& compare with local density  $\rho$**   
**in points  $x^a \in \mathcal{D}$**

**Conditions for non-negative entropy production:**  $\dot{s}_{\text{gr}} \geq 0$

$$\dot{s}_{\text{gr}} \geq 0 \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad \mathbf{D}(\rho)\mathbf{D}(\mathcal{H}) \leq 0$$

**Intuitively, it makes sense**

**Density increases (collapse) then velocity decreases:**

$$\mathbf{D}(\rho) > 0 \quad \text{then} \quad \mathbf{D}(\mathcal{H}) < 0$$

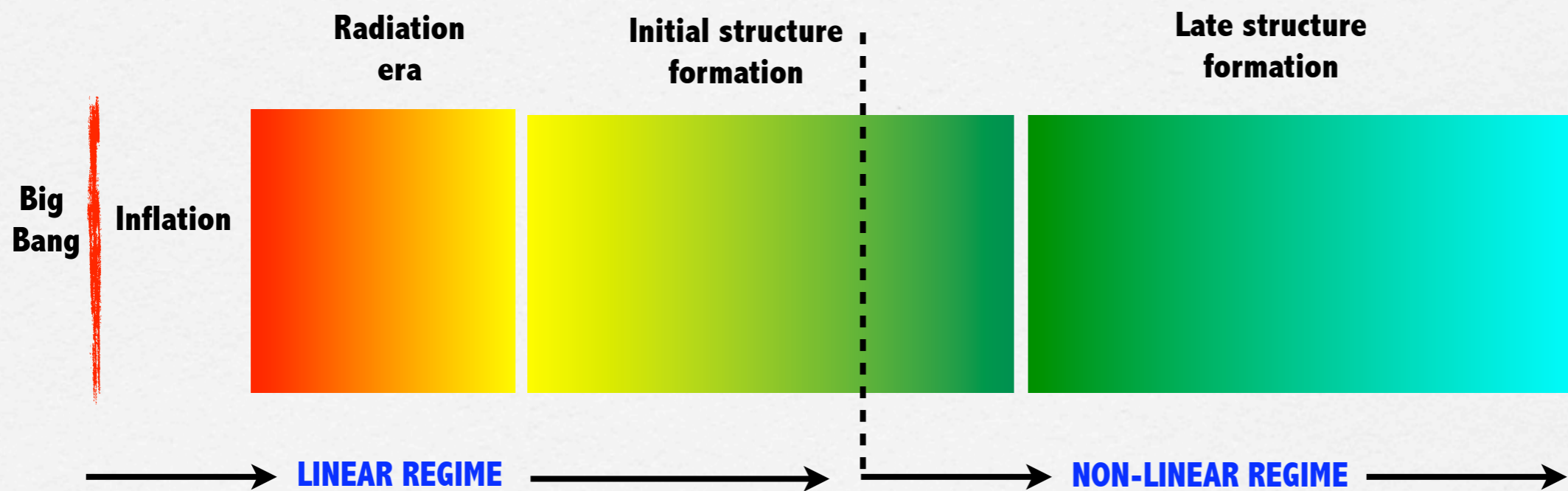
**Density decreases (expansion) then velocity decreases:**

$$\mathbf{D}(\rho) < 0 \quad \text{then} \quad \mathbf{D}(\mathcal{H}) > 0$$

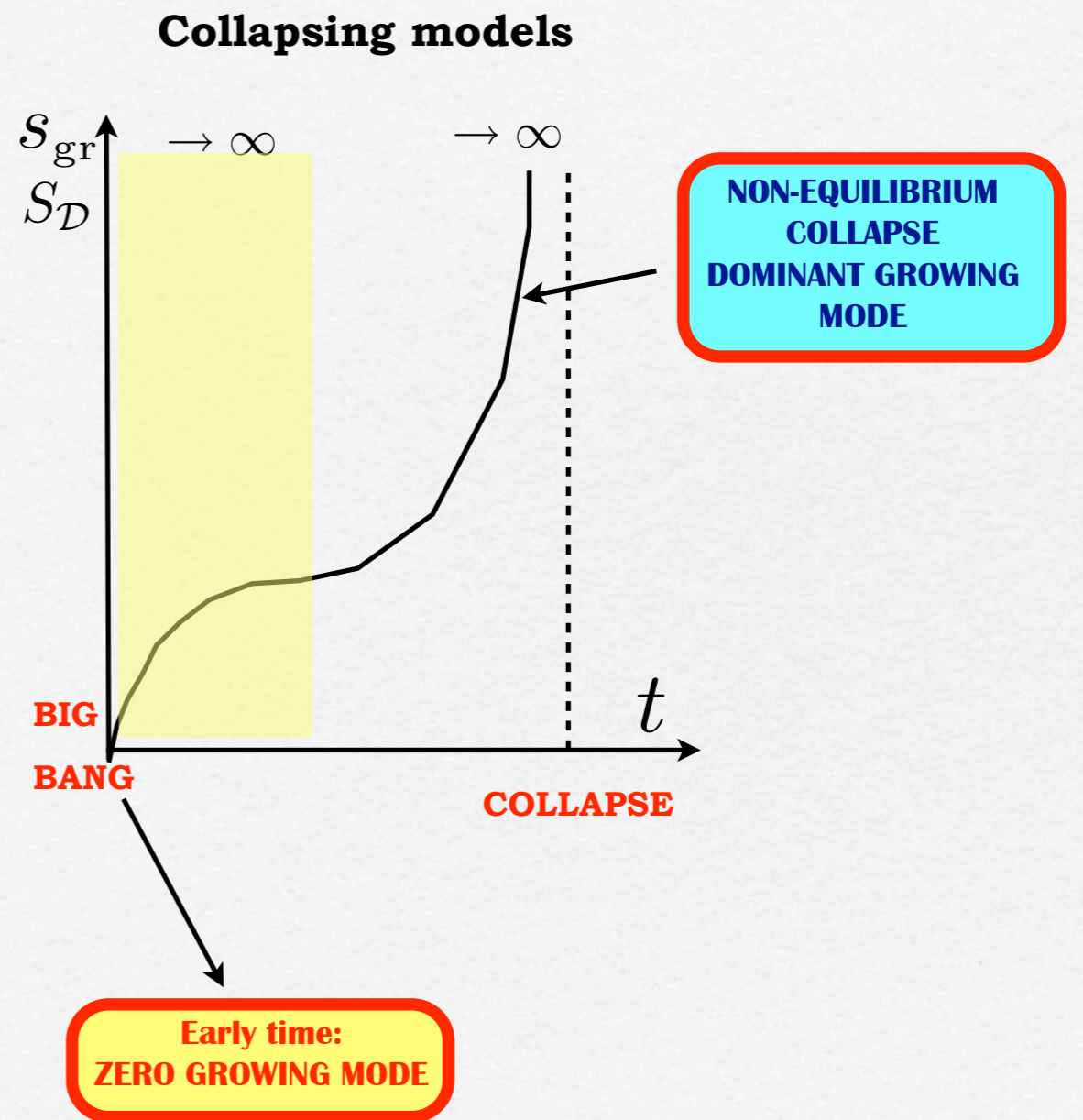
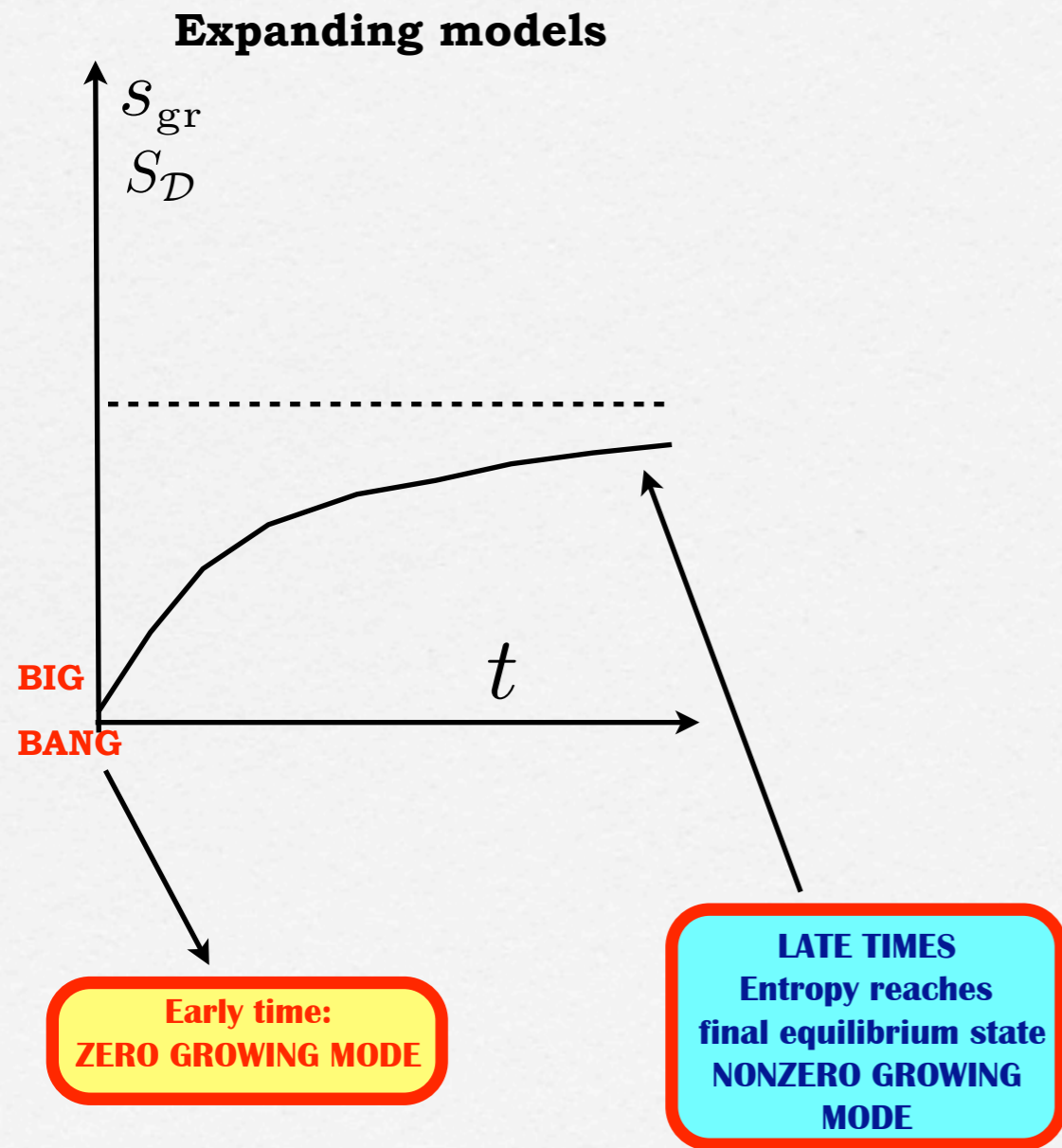
**But this must be verified**, as fluctuations are evaluated along time slices orthogonal to the 4-velocity and thus, they are proportional to spatial gradients:

$$\mathbf{D}(\rho) = \frac{\langle \rho \rangle'_q}{3\langle \rho \rangle_q \Gamma} = \frac{1}{a^3 \Gamma} \int \rho' a^3 \Gamma d\bar{r}, \quad \mathbf{D}(\mathcal{H}) = \frac{\langle \mathcal{H} \rangle'_q}{3\langle \mathcal{H} \rangle_q \Gamma} = \frac{1}{a^3 \Gamma} \int \mathcal{H}' a^3 \Gamma d\bar{r},$$

# Qualitative time evolution = Gravitational entropy growth



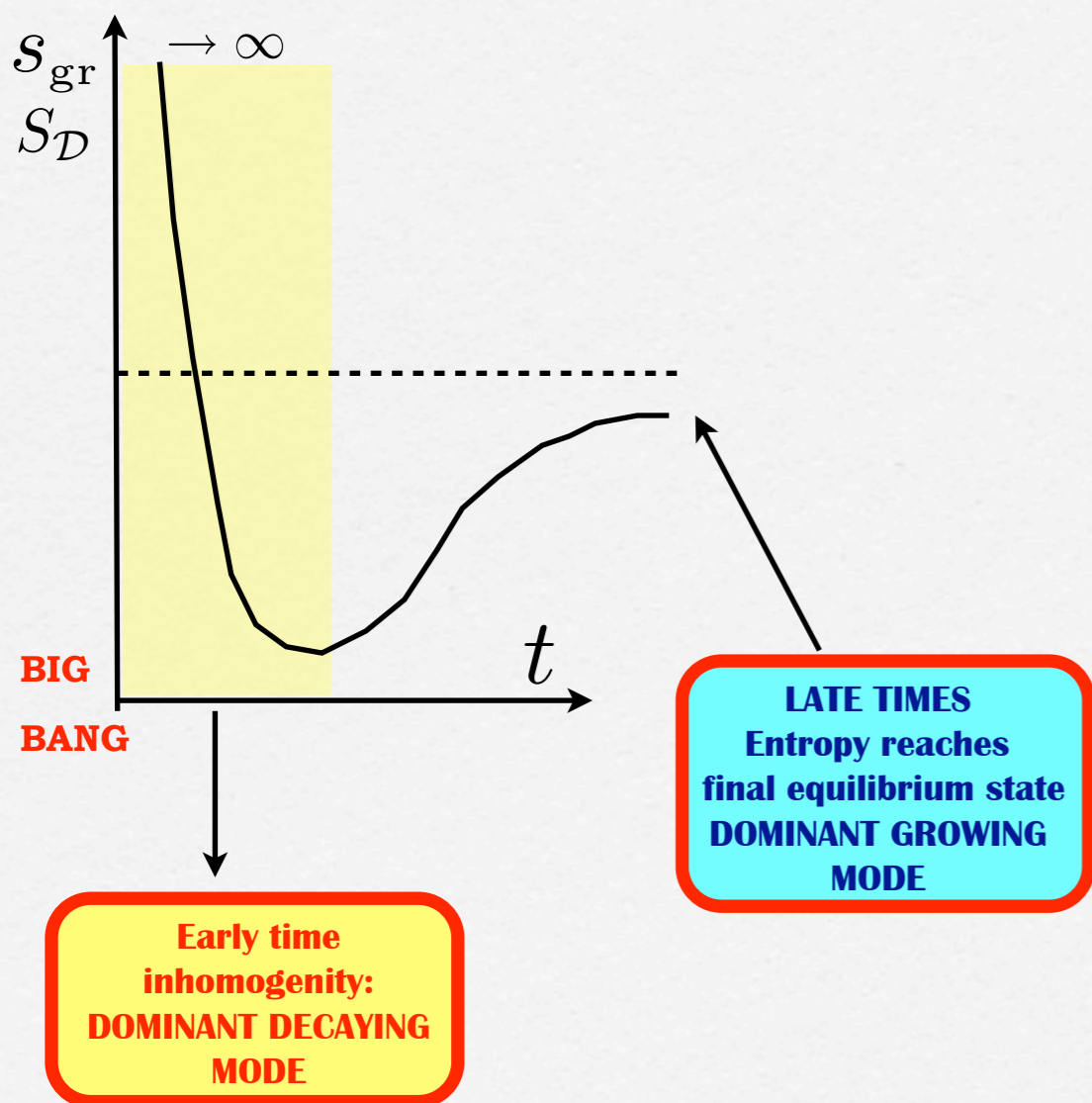
**Post inflationary conditions: Near homogeneous early Universe**  
**Isotropic BIG BANG: => ~Zero decaying mode**



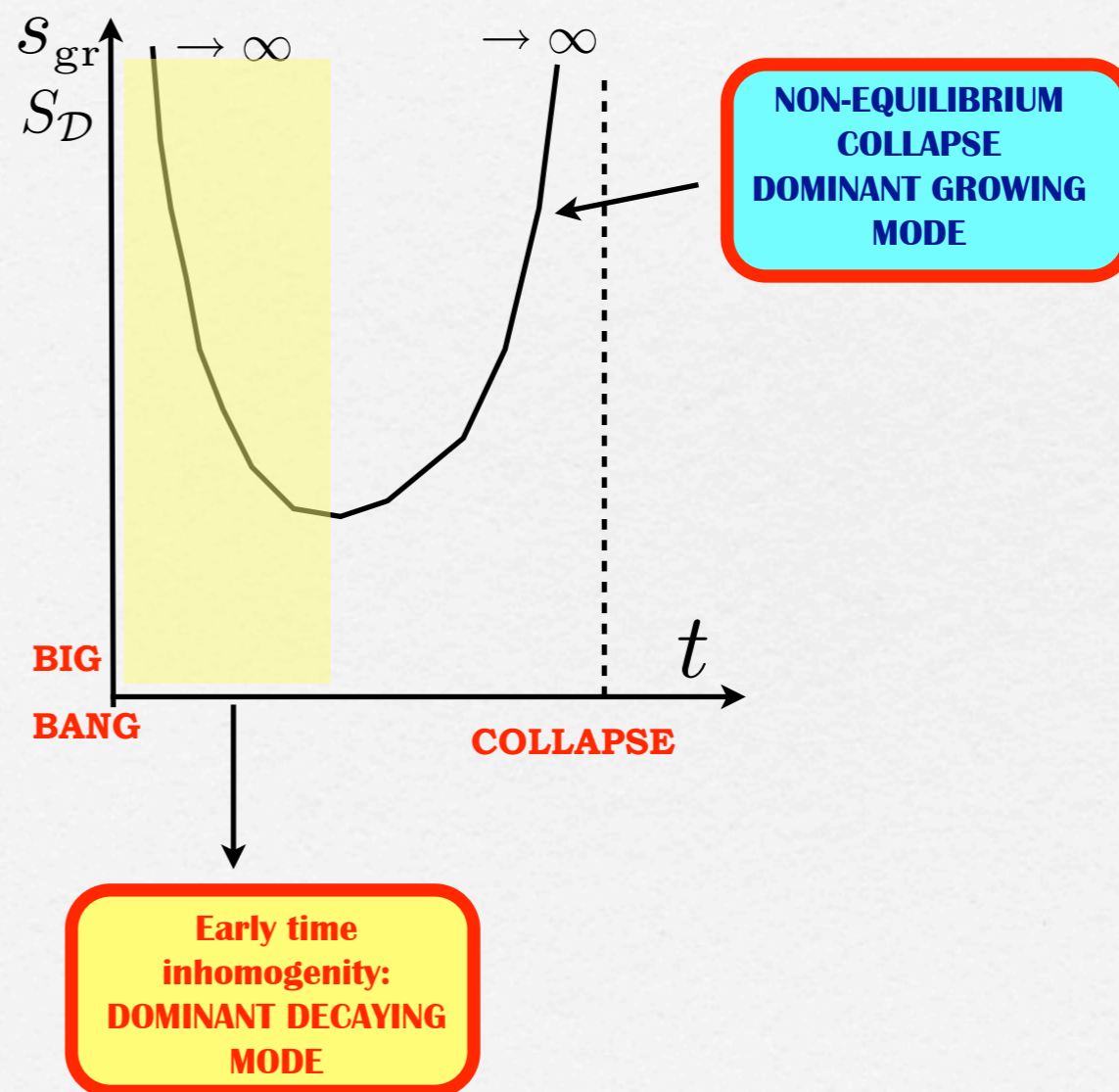
**Inhomogeneous early Universe NOT favored.**

**Anisotropic BIG BANG => Large decaying modes**

**Expanding models**

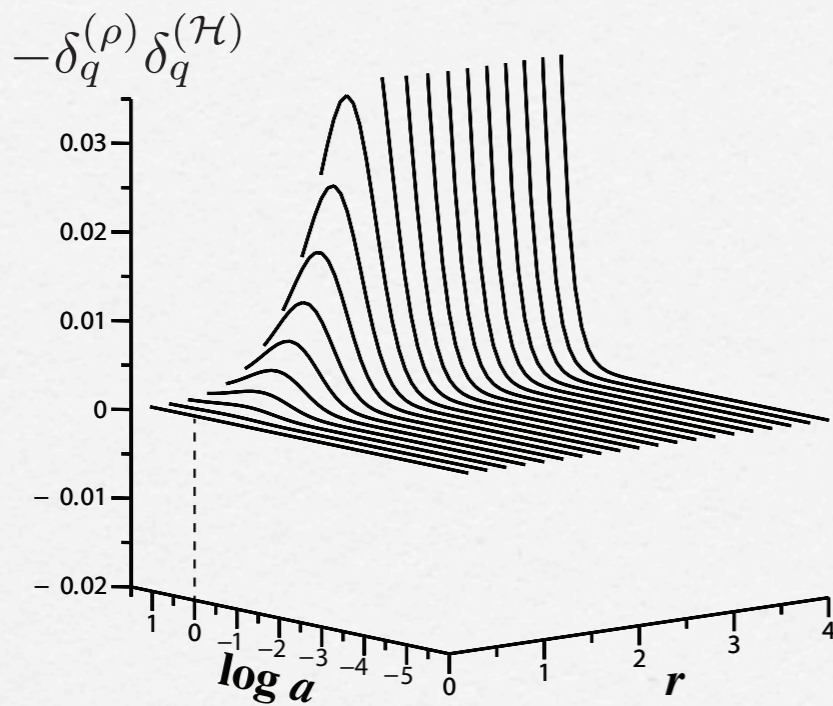


**Collapsing models**



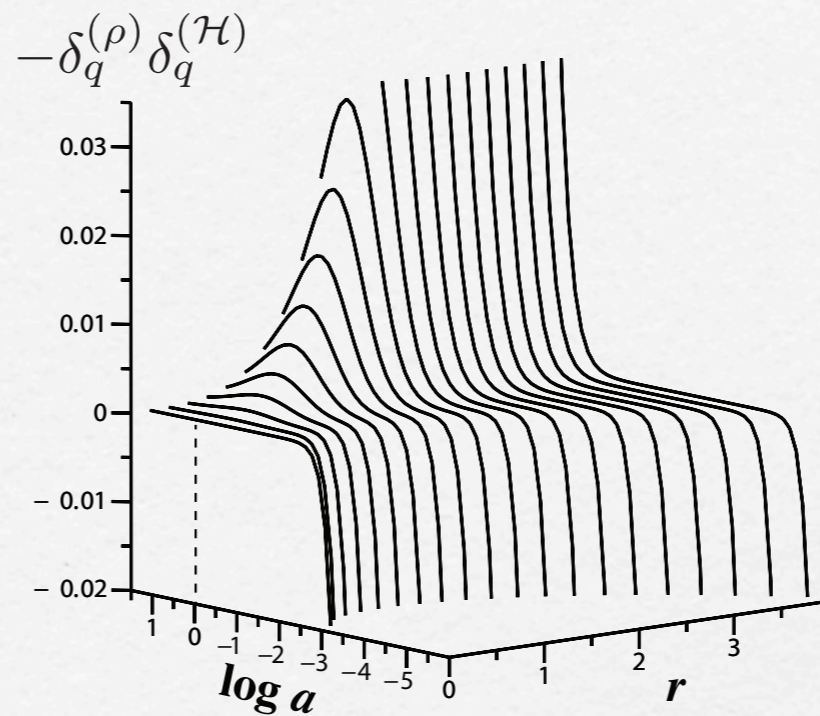
# Numerical example

(a)



**Cosmic Void with ZERO  
decaying modes**

(b)



**Cosmic Void with NONZERO  
decaying modes**

**Decaying modes  $\Rightarrow$  entropy decreasing ONLY in early times**

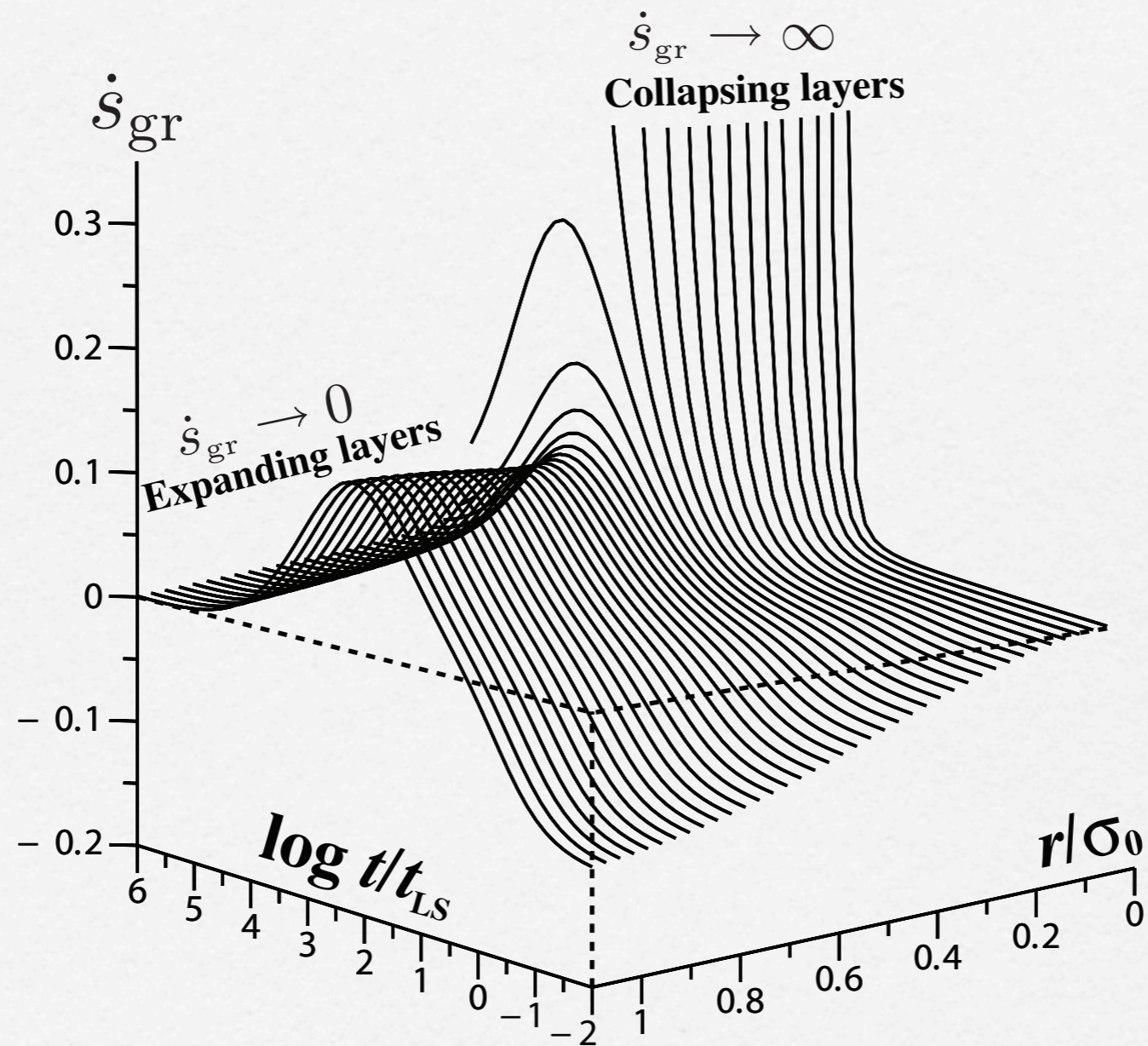
**Gravitational entropy is positive at early times  
only if the Big Bang is FULLY isotropic**

**If we postulate that Gravitational Entropy  
must always increase, then the Universe  
had to be INITIALLY homogeneous and  
isotropic**

**Implications on the need for  
inflation?**

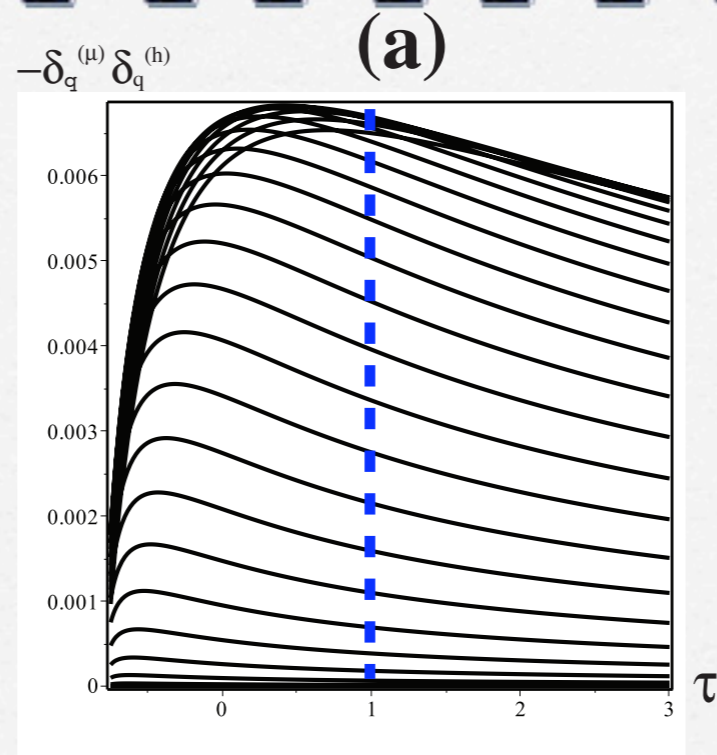


# Numerical example: collapse

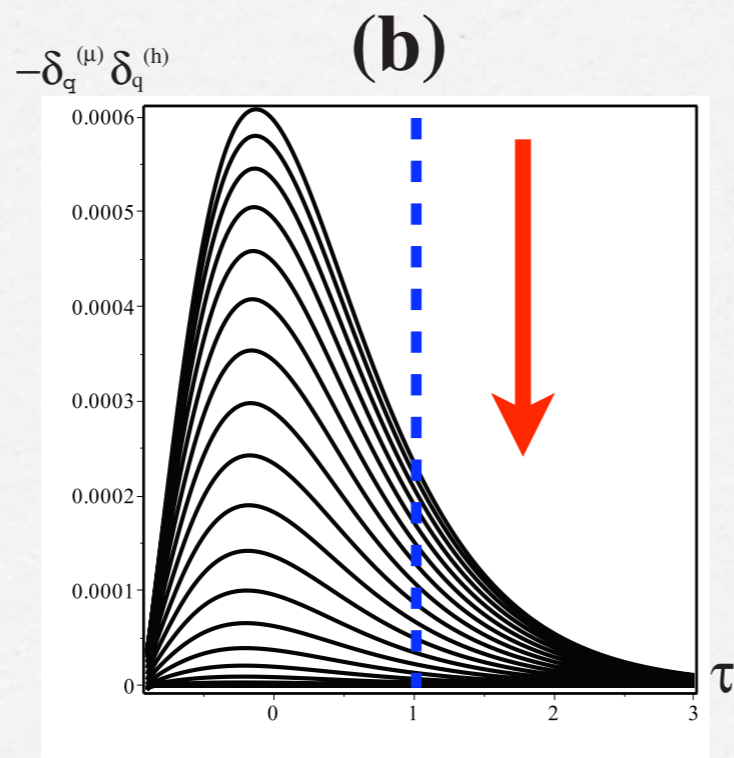


**Suppression  
effect of the  
Cosmological  
Constant**

**Connection with  
suppression  
of the growth of  
structure  
⇒ Observational test  
of Gravitational  
Entropy**



**Cosmic Void  
with  $\Lambda = 0$**



**Cosmic Void  
with  $\Lambda > 0$**

## Published articles

- Gravitational entropy in generic LTB models, R A Sussman and J Larena, *Classical and Quantum Gravity*, **31**, 075012 (2014)
- Gravitational entropy of cosmic expansion, R. A. Sussman, *Astronomical Notes*, **335**, 592, (2014)
- Suppression of gravitational entropy from a cosmological constant, R. A. and J. Larena, *in preparation*

## STILL TO DO:

- **consider more general sources and geometries,**
- **observational predictions,**
- **test the concept on modified gravity theories.**
- **explore connections with black hole entropy and non-extensive entropies**
- **quantum connections?**

**IN PROGRESS**

*THANKS FOR  
YOUR  
ATTENTION*