



# PARTICLE PRODUCTION INDUCED BY VACUUM DECAY IN REAL TIME FORMALISM

arXiv:2006.10986 [hep-th]

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# Motivation

# DYNAMICAL BACKGROUND & PARTICLE PRODUCTION

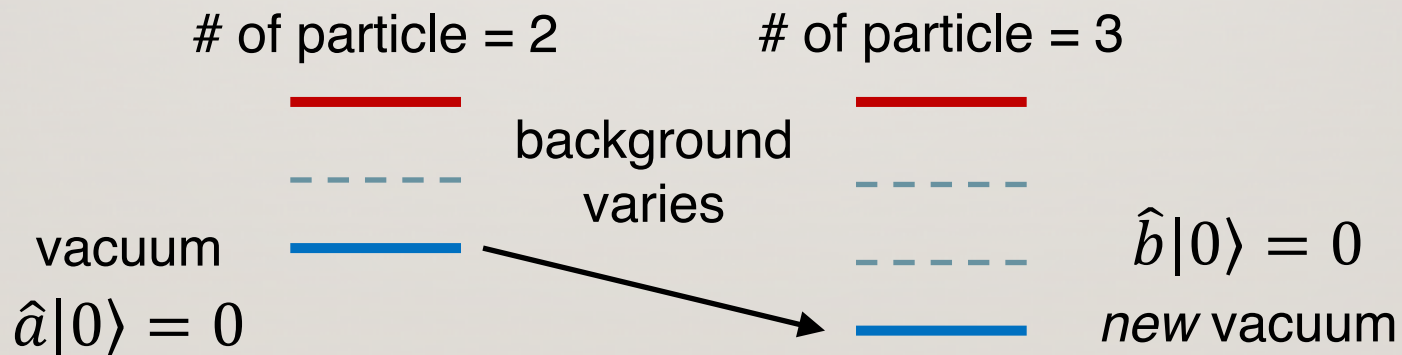
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Background field varies

⇒ definition of “vacuum” changes

⇒ particle production

This **inevitably** occurs!



# DYNAMICAL BACKGROUND & PARTICLE PRODUCTION

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The **more sharply** background field varies,  
the **more** particles are produced

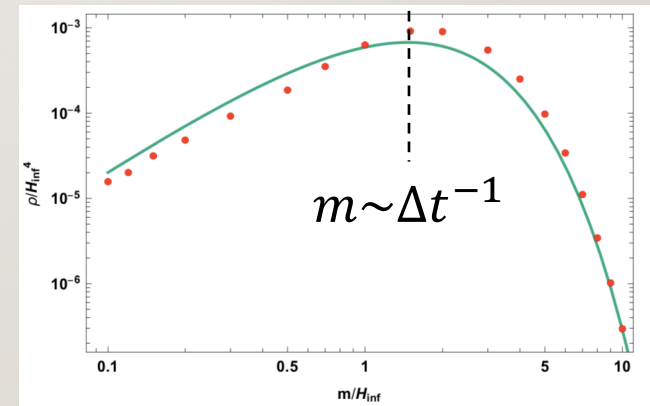
*e.g.* fermion production after inflation

$$\rho \cong 2 \times 10^{-3} e^{-4m\Delta t} m^2 H_{\text{inf}}^2$$

$m$  : fermion mass

$\Delta t$  : transition time scale from inflation

$H_{\text{inf}}$  : Hubble parameter during inflation



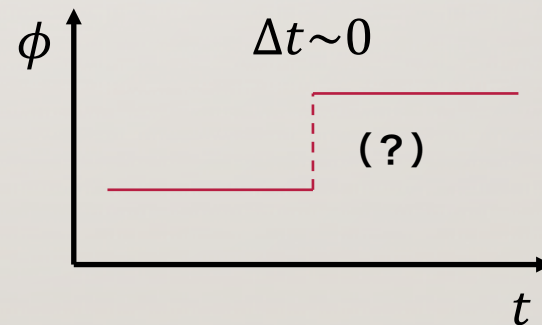
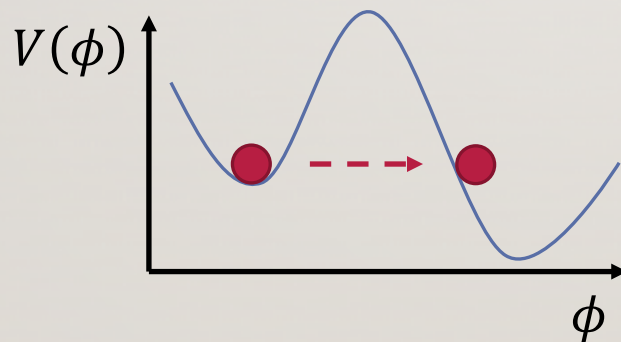
# QUANTUM TUNNELING & PARTICLE PRODUCTION

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Quantum tunneling may seem “instantaneous” in real time

⇒ Does this mean  $\Delta t \sim 0$  and **effective** particle production?

We may have to take particle production into account when discussing tunneling! *e.g.* **vacuum decay**



# Analysis

# OUR MODEL

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Background field:  $\phi$

Coupled field:  $\chi$  ← to be produced

$$\mathcal{L} = -\frac{1}{2} \partial_\mu \chi \partial^\mu \chi - \frac{1}{2} \underbrace{(M_0^2 + g\phi^2)}_{V(\phi)} \chi^2 - \frac{1}{2} \partial_\mu \phi \partial^\mu \phi - \frac{V(\phi)}{V(\phi)}$$

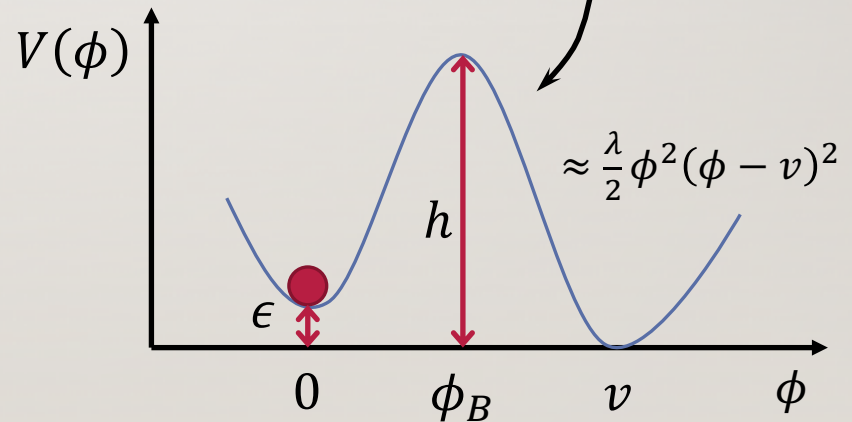
effective mass of  $\chi$

$$\equiv M_\chi^2$$

↓

effective frequency of  $\chi$

$$\omega_k^2(t) \equiv k^2 + M_\chi^2(t)$$

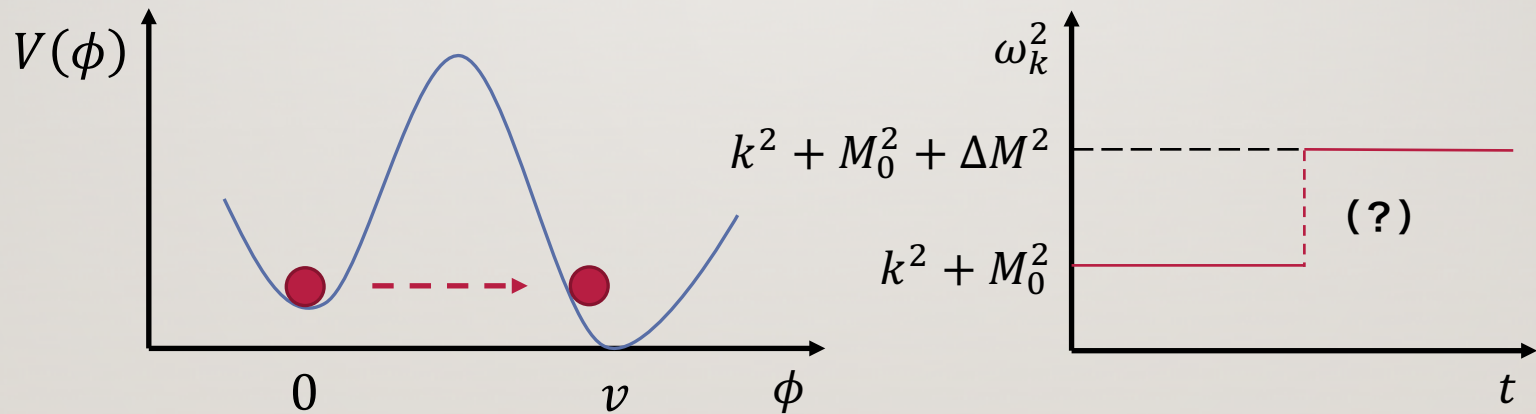


# OUR MODEL

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When  $\phi$  tunnels from  $\phi = 0$  to  $\phi = v$ ,

$M_\chi^2$  changes from  $M_0^2$  to  $M_0^2 + gv^2 \equiv M_0^2 + \Delta M^2$



Tunneling of background field  $\Rightarrow$  Change of effective mass



# EVOLUTION OF MODE FUNCTION

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$\chi$ 's mode function  $\chi_k$  obeys the following EoM:

$$\frac{d^2 \chi_k(t)}{dt^2} + \omega_k^2(t) \chi_k(t) = 0$$

The time-varying  $\omega_k^2$  **displaces**  $\chi_k$  from the vacuum state

$$\chi_k(t_f) = \alpha_k \chi_{k,\text{vac}}(t_f) + \beta_k \chi_{k,\text{vac}}^*(t_f)$$

$|\beta_k|^2 =$  produced particle number density  $n_k$

**The solution of EoM  $\chi_k(t)$  tells us amount of produced  $\chi$**

# EVOLUTION OF MODE FUNCTION

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Therefore, essential problems are:

- How to describe  $\omega_k(t)$  during tunneling of  $\phi$ ?
- How to solve the EoM of  $\chi_k$  under  $\omega_k(t)$ ?

How to describe  $\omega_k(t)$  during tunneling of  $\phi$ ?

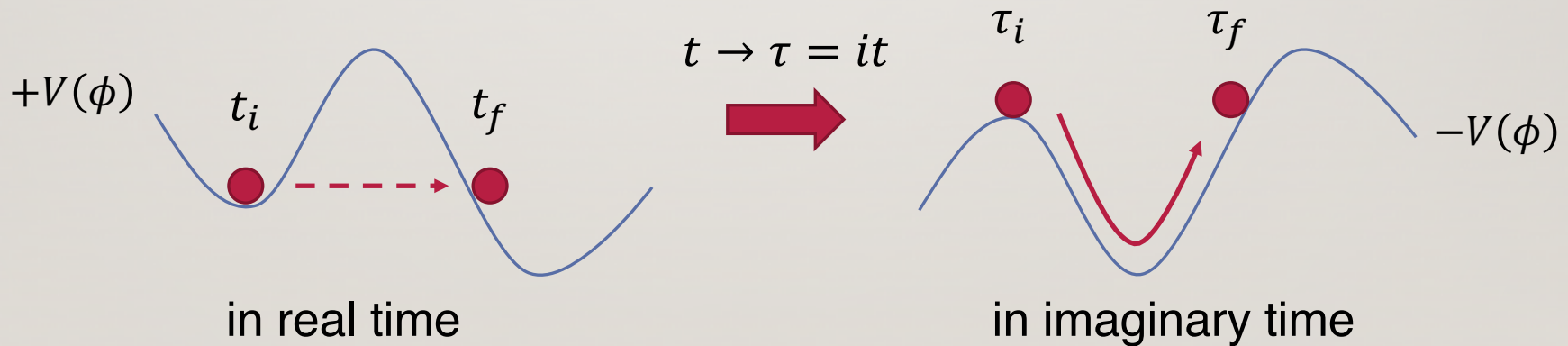
# IMAGINARY TIME FORMALISM

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Quantum tunneling

↓ Wick rotation  $t \rightarrow \tau = it$

Semi-classical motion **with upside-down potential  $-V(\phi)$**   
**in imaginary time  $\tau$**  (bounce solution)

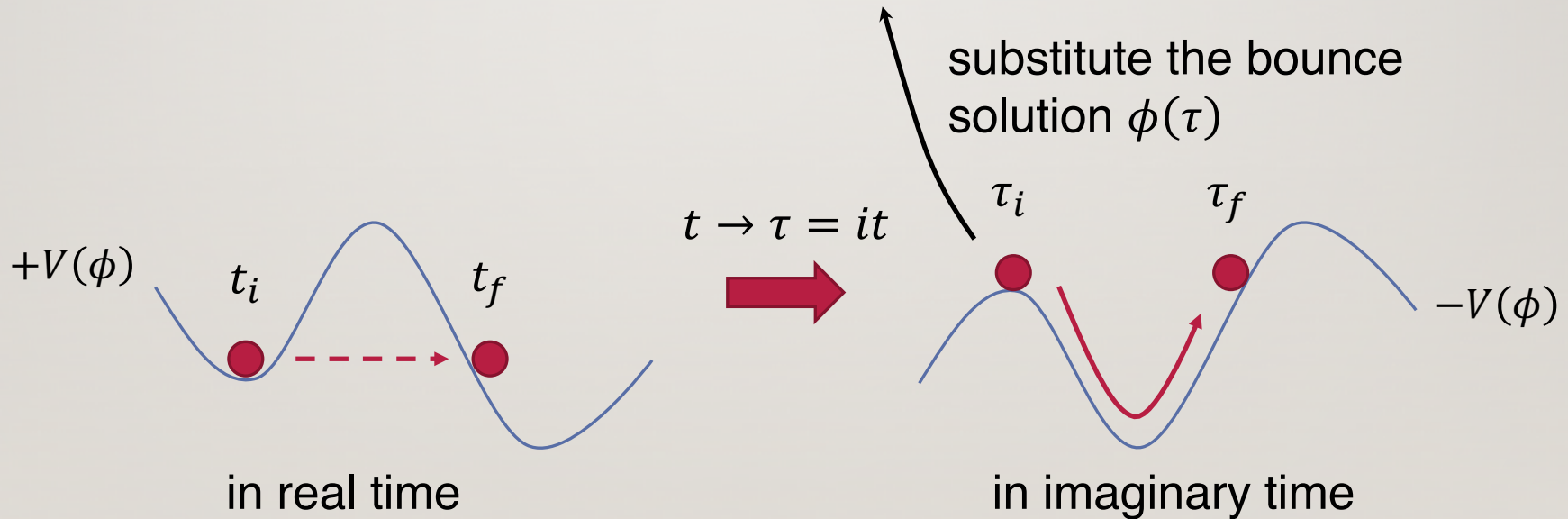


# IMAGINARY TIME FORMALISM

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$\Rightarrow \omega_k$  can also be described by  $\tau$

$$\frac{d^2 \chi_k(\tau)}{d\tau^2} - \left( k^2 + M_0^2 + g\phi^2(\tau) \right) \chi_k(\tau) = 0$$



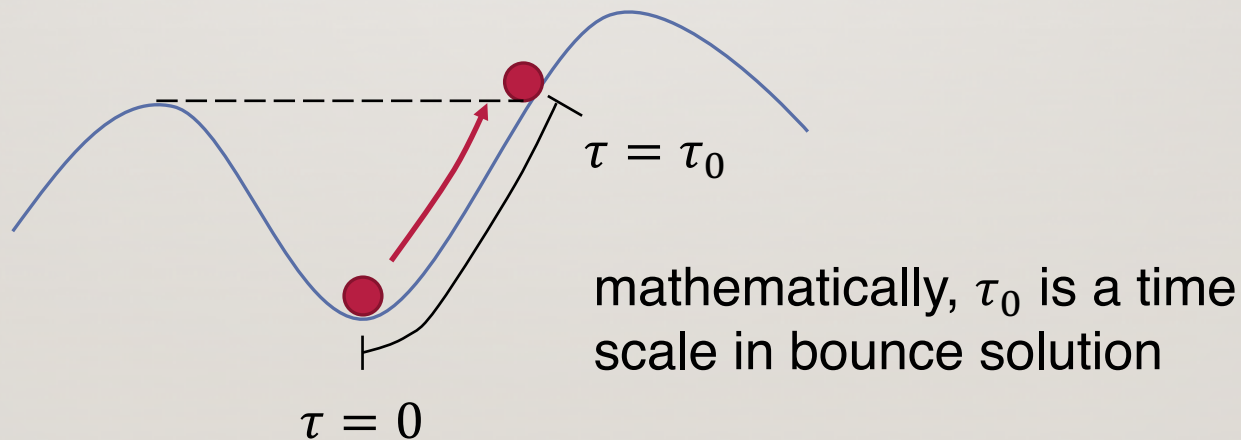
# IMAGINARY TIME FORMALISM

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“*Imaginary* transition time scale  $\tau_0$ ” gives a exponential suppression  $e^{-4\omega_k\tau_0}$  on particle production

(Rubakov 1984, Yamamoto+ 1995)

What is a *physical* meaning of this  $\tau_0$ ?




# REAL TIME FORMALISM

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## Quantum tunneling **in real time**

- Wigner function method (Hertzberg & Yamada 2019)
- Flyover vacuum decay (J. Blanco-Pillado+ 2019)

We use this



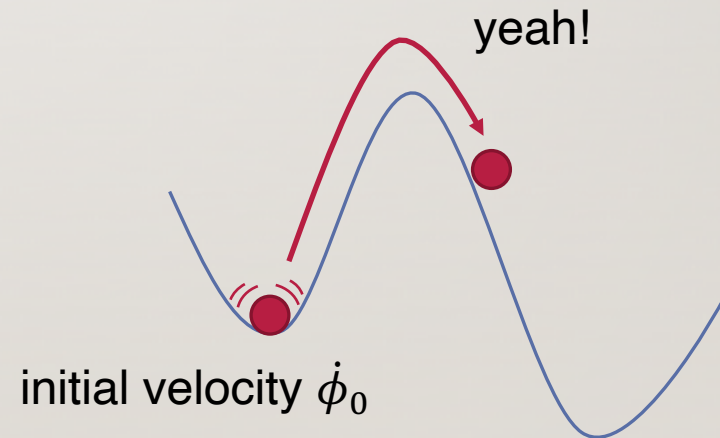
# FLYOVER VACUUM DECAY

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## Concept

$\phi$  obtains **initial velocity**  $\dot{\phi}_0$  from **quantum fluctuation**

$\Rightarrow$  If  $\dot{\phi}_0 > \dot{\phi}_{th}$ ,  $\phi$  *semi-classically* climbs over the barrier





# FLYOVER VACUUM DECAY

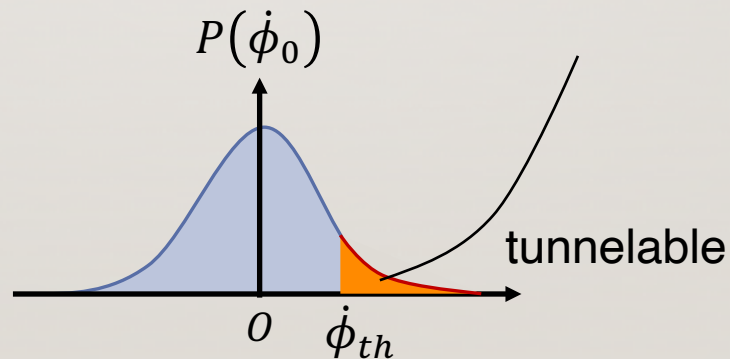
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## Concept

Initial velocity  $\dot{\phi}_0$   $\leftarrow$  distribution function  $P(\dot{\phi}_0)$

$\Rightarrow$  Tunneling rate is derived as **a probability of  $\dot{\phi}_0 > \dot{\phi}_{th}$**

$$= \int_{\dot{\phi}_{th}}^{\infty} P(\dot{\phi}_0) d\dot{\phi}_0$$



# PROCEDURE

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With this formalism, particle production is derived as

1. initial velocity  $\dot{\phi}_0$  + EoM of  $\phi \Rightarrow$  **background**  $\phi(t, \dot{\phi}_0)$   
↓
2.  $\phi(t, \dot{\phi}_0)$  + EoM of  $\chi_k \Rightarrow$  **solution of EoM**  $\chi_k(t, \dot{\phi}_0)$   
↓
3.  $\chi_k(t, \dot{\phi}_0) \Rightarrow$  **produced particle number density**  $n_k(\dot{\phi}_0)$   
↓
4.  $n_k(\dot{\phi}_0)$  + probability distribution of initial velocity  $P(\dot{\phi}_0)$   
 $\Rightarrow$  **expected value**  $\langle n_k \rangle (= \int n_k(\dot{\phi}_0)P(\dot{\phi}_0)d\dot{\phi}_0)$

How to solve the EoM of  $\chi_k$  under  $\omega_k(t)$ ?

# WKB APPROXIMATION

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Exact solution of EoM  $\Leftarrow$  almost impossible...

WKB approximation

$$\chi_k(t) = \frac{c_1}{\sqrt{2W_k}} \exp \left[ -i \int^t W_k(t') dt' \right] + \frac{c_2}{\sqrt{2W_k}} \exp \left[ +i \int^t W_k(t') dt' \right]$$

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} W_k^{(0)} = \omega_k \\ (W_k^{(n+1)})^2 = \frac{1}{2} \left( W_k^{(n)''} + \frac{3}{2} (W_k^{(n)'})^2 \right) \end{array} \right.$$

But this is *divergent* series

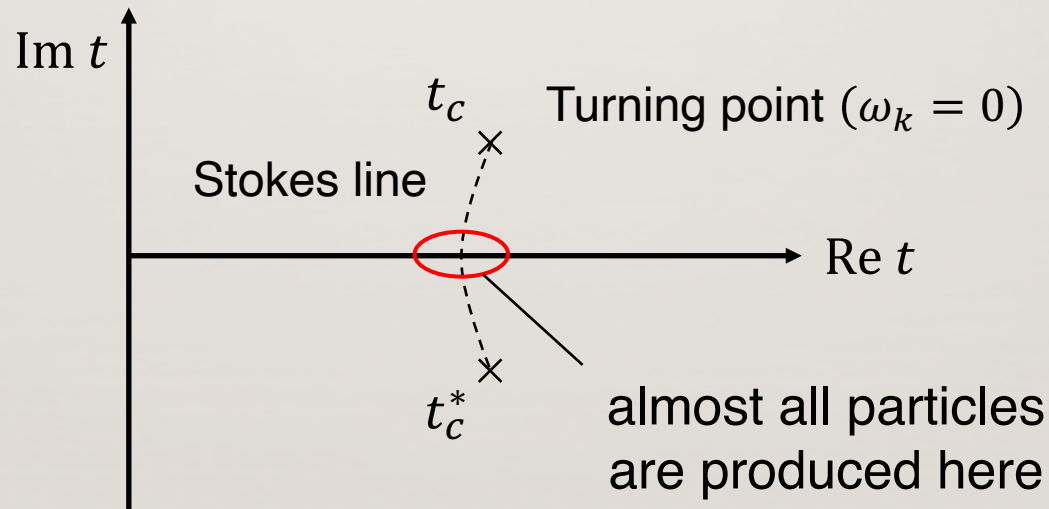
It can't include **non-perturbative** effect

# STOKES PHENOMENON METHOD

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Particle production occurs mainly around **Stokes lines** connecting pairs of **turning points**  $t_c$  where  $\omega_k(t_c) = 0$  in *complex* time

= **Stokes phenomenon** in math.



# STOKES PHENOMENON METHOD

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Stokes phenomenon tells us produced particle number density as

$$n_k \approx \left| \sum_p \underbrace{\exp\left(i \int_{t_{cp}}^{t_{cp}^*} \omega_k(t) dt\right)}_{\text{particle production around } p\text{-th Stokes line}} \underbrace{\exp\left(2i \int_{s_1}^{s_p} \omega_k(t) dt\right)}_{\text{interference between Stokes lines}} \right|^2$$

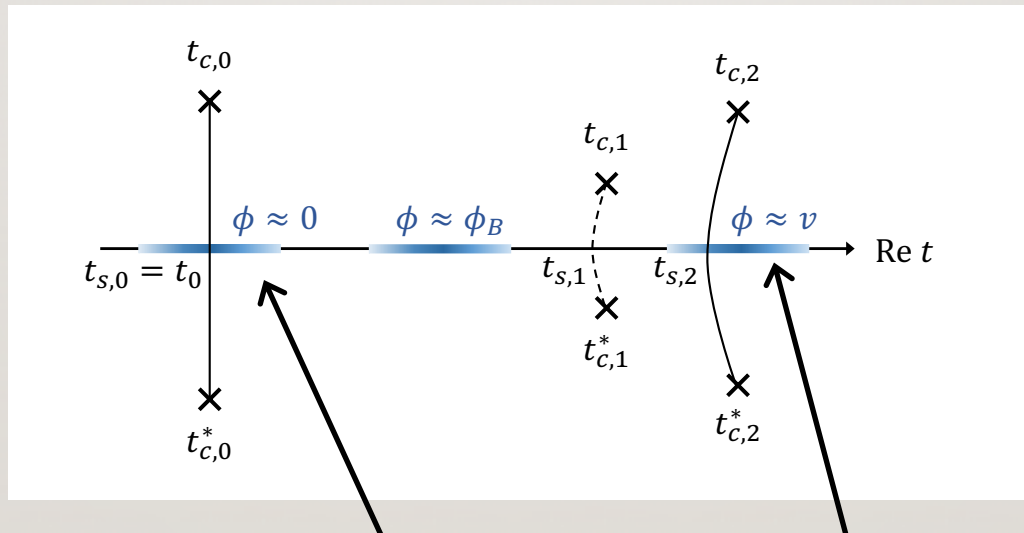
particle production around  
 $p$ -th Stokes line

interference between  
Stokes lines

Non-perturbative effect **included!**  
(Dabrowski & Dunne 2014)

# STOKES PHENOMENON METHOD

- Where are Stokes lines in our case?  
= When are  $\chi$  particles produced?



When  $\phi$  is around each vacuum (potential minimum)

# RESULT

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- How many  $\chi$  particles are produced?

$$\langle n_k \rangle \approx \Gamma \left( \exp \left[ -2\Delta \ln \left( \frac{512}{e^2} \Delta^2 \right) \sqrt{\frac{g}{\lambda}} \right] + \exp \left[ -D\Delta^{1+\delta} \sqrt{\frac{g}{\lambda}} \right] \right)$$

$\Gamma$  : decay rate

$D(\approx 10.5), \delta(\approx 0.13)$  : numerical factor

$$\Delta^2 = \omega_k^2 / \Delta M^2$$

In reality, particle production is suppressed exponentially  
(or even stronger)



# RESULT

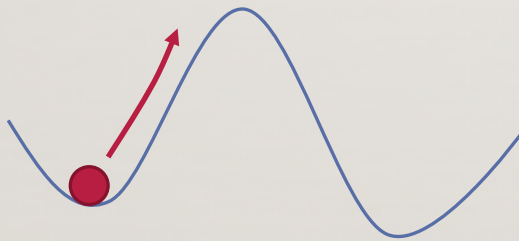
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- Backreaction on vacuum decay (preliminary)

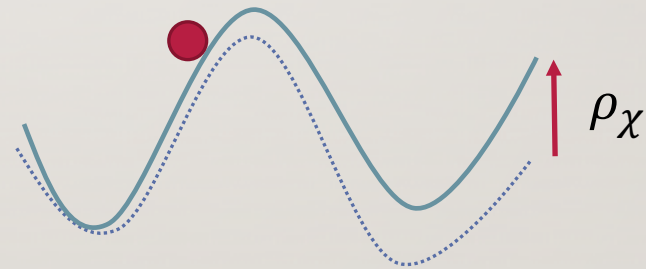
$$\Gamma \rightarrow \left(1 - 40\pi^3 \frac{\rho_\chi}{m_F}\right) \Gamma$$

Is this consistent with imaginary time formalism?

⇒ validity of real time formalism



$\chi$  particles are produced



$V(\phi)$  is lifted up by  $\rho_\chi$

# SUMMARY

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- Particle production induced by vacuum decay  
by using
  - ┌ real time formalism (flyover vacuum decay)
  - └ Stokes phenomenon method
- Backreaction on vacuum decay (preliminary)

## Future work

- Backreaction (more detailed)
- Application to Higgs instability
- Play with Stoke phenomenon method!