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Fermionic Isocurvature Perturbations

Daniel J. H. Chung,^{1,*} Hojin Yoo,^{1,†} and Peng Zhou^{1,‡}

¹Department of Physics, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI 53706, USA

Isocurvature perturbations in the inflationary literature typically involve quantum fluctuations of bosonic field degrees of freedom. In this work, we consider isocurvature perturbations from fermionic quantum fluctuations during inflation. When a stable massive fermion is coupled to a non-conformal sector different from the scalar metric perturbations, observably large amplitude scale invariant isocurvature perturbations can be generated. In addition to the computation of the isocurvature two-point function, an estimate of the local non-Gaussianities is also given and found to be promising for observations in a corner of the parameter space. The results provide a new class of cosmological probes for theories with stable massive fermions. On the technical side, we explicitly renormalize the composite operator in curved spacetime and show that gravitational Ward identities play an important role in suppressing certain contributions to the fermionic isocurvature perturbations.

1. INTRODUCTION

The Cosmic Microwave Background (CMB) measurements [1–4] and the Large Scale Structure (LSS) observations [5, 6] are consistent with single field inflationary models which can seed approximately adiabatic, scale-invariant, and Gaussian primordial density perturbations [7–15]. However, from the multi-field nature of the Standard Model of particle physics, one may naturally guess that there would be more than one light degrees of freedom during inflation which may be responsible for generating isocurvature primordial perturbation initial conditions. Indeed, in any slow-roll inflationary scenario, non-inflaton degrees of freedom must eventually turn on in order to reheat successfully.¹ Hence, isocurvature scenarios are theoretically well motivated.

Isocurvature perturbations have been studied in various scenarios, such as double inflation [16–18], curvaton scenario [19–21], axions [22–27] and gravitationally produced superheavy dark matter [28–31]. Isocurvature perturbations also can generate rich density perturbation phenomenology.

^{*}Electronic address: danielchung@wisc.edu

[†]Electronic address: hyoo6@wisc.edu

[‡]Electronic address: pzhou@wisc.edu

¹ Even though the reheat degrees of freedom do not need to be dynamically important during the quasi-dS era, multiple fields are certainly lurking in the scenario.

For example, unlike standard single field inflationary scenarios, isocurvature perturbations are able to generate large primordial local non-Gaussianities [28, 31–45]. However, most previous studies of isocurvature perturbations focused on bosonic degrees of freedom such as axions and curvatons. Fermionic isocurvature degrees of freedom such as gravitinos were only discussed in the literature associated with the decay products of the inflaton or other scalars [46–49]. Furthermore, these fermions discussed in the literature were characterized only by their dependence on the entropy temperature fluctuation δT which was assumed to be directly linked to the curvature perturbation ζ , in a manner consistent with the "separate universe" picture of δN formalism [50]. Such previously discussed fermionic isocurvature scenarios lead to strong correlation or anticorrelation with the curvature perturbation ζ . One can intuitively characterize these previous fermionic isocurvature works as having no fermionic quantum fluctuation information from the inflationary era.

In contrast, we examine in this paper a fermionic isocurvature scenario that is not (significantly) correlated with ζ and has fermionic quantum fluctuation information during inflation encoded in the isocurvature correlator. In our scenario, the horizon length scale interaction dynamics of the fermion particles is important, in sharp contrast with the "separate universe" picture of δN formalism. As we will show, although classical gravitational field interactions alone are sufficient to generate enough fermions during the exit process of inflation to saturate the phenomenologically required cold dark matter abundance [51, 52], fermion propagators in the classical FRW background is insufficient to produce any observable isocurvature perturbations because of the fact that massless fermions enjoy a classical conformal symmetry.² Hence, any large fermion isocurvature correlator must involve couplings to a conformal symmetry breaking sector.

For illustrating the existence of such fermionic isocurvature perturbations, we minimally extend the single field inflation by adding a stable massive fermion field coupled through a Yukawa coupling to a light non-inflaton scalar field whose mass is much lighter than the fermion field (hence, there are no decays of the scalars to the fermions). The light non-inflaton scalar field (which is minimally coupled to gravity) serves as a conformal symmetry breaking sector through which the fermions will attain appreciable correlations. We compute the isocurvature two-point function of fermions that are gravitationally produced during inflation and identify the phenomenologically viable parameter space. We also estimate the local non-Gaussianity and show that it may be observationally large in a particular parametric regime.

At the technical level, treating fermionic isocurvature fluctuations during inflation requires com-

² Even with the massive fermions, we will be naturally concerned with light fermions where $m_{\psi}/H \ll 1$.

posite operator renormalization in quasi-dS spacetime because the fermionic energy-momentum tensor is a composite bilinear operator (i.e. fermions cannot get VEVs) and the leading two-point function contribution involves a one loop 1PI diagram. To our knowledge, this paper is the first paper to apply composite fermion operator renormalization in inflationary spacetime to treat isocurvature perturbations. Indeed, an improper treatment of the operator renormalization can in principle lead to answers that are many orders of magnitude off as we pointed out with bosonic composite operators [53]. We also show that a gravitational Ward identity plays an important role in suppressing the scalar metric perturbation interaction contribution to the isocurvature two-point function (thereby justifying our introduction of another scalar sector).

This paper is presented in the following order. In Sec. 2, we motivate and discuss the fermion isocurvature model. Next, we review the definition of the gauge-invariant variables and the quantum operator associated with the cold dark matter (CDM) isocurvature in Sec. 3. In subsection 3.1, we present the regulator and the renormalization conditions for our isocurvature operator. We explain the constraints on the Yukawa coupling coming from the self-consistency of our simplified scenario in Sec. 4. In Sec. 5, we compute the isocurvature 2-point function. The leading order and the next leading order results are given in subsection 5.1 and 5.2, and the power spectrum is presented in subsection 5.3. In Sec. 6, we discuss the numerical implications of our results and non-Gaussianities. Afterwards in Sec. 7, we discuss the explicit computation of how a diffeomorphism Ward identity plays a role in suppressing the scalar metric perturbation contribution to the isocurvature two-point function. Finally, in Sec. 8 we summarize and conclude. Some technical details of the computations are given in the Appendices.

2. FERMION ISOCURVATURE MODEL

As is well known, if any small mass fermion field degrees of freedom exist during inflation which is usually assumed to be a Bunch-Davies vacuum state, fermion particles will be produced gravitationally (see e.g. [51, 52, 54]). The inhomogeneities of the gravitationally produced fermions will generically not align with the inhomogeneities of the inflaton, depending on its interactions. If most of the radiation in the universe comes from the inflaton decay, then the misalignment of the inhomogeneities of the fermions and the inflaton will lead to isocurvature perturbations [55–57].

Now, to motivate our fermion model with Yukawa interactions, it is important to understand why interactions to conformal symmetry breaking sector is required. It is also well known that massless fermion classical action enjoys a conformal symmetry:

$$g_{\mu\nu} \to e^{2\sigma(x)} g_{\mu\nu} \tag{1}$$

$$\psi \to e^{-3\sigma(x)/2}\psi. \tag{2}$$

Since FRW spacetime can be written as a conformal transformation of the Minkowski space (i.e. $a = \exp(\sigma)$), we would expect for a tree level fermion propagating on an FRW spacetime without any interactions with a conformal symmetry breaking sector

$$\langle \bar{\psi}\psi(t,\vec{x})\bar{\psi}\psi(t,\vec{y})\rangle_{conn} = \langle \bar{\psi}_M\psi_M(t,\vec{x})\bar{\psi}_M\psi_M(t,\vec{y})\rangle_{conn}a^{-6}$$
(3)

where ψ_M is the Minkowski fermion. At leading order, there are no other scales in this function except $|\vec{x} - \vec{y}|$. Hence, we conclude

$$\langle \bar{\psi}\psi(t,\vec{x})\bar{\psi}\psi(t,\vec{y})\rangle_{conn} \sim \frac{1}{a^6|\vec{x}-\vec{y}|^6} \tag{4}$$

in the massless limit.³ We expect this to be the dominant contribution in the limit that $m_{\psi}/H \ll 1$. When $m_{\psi}/H \gg 1$, we also expect there can be factors multiplying this that vanishes exponentially fast as $m_{\psi}/H \rightarrow \infty$ (we show this explicitly in Sec. 5.1). Hence, we expect Eq. (4) to be the leading order of magnitude composite correlator if the theory is approximately conformally invariant. As we will show below, the comoving gauge isocurvature perturbations is proportional to

$$\left\langle \frac{\delta \rho_{\psi}^{(C)}}{\bar{\rho}_{\psi}} \frac{\delta \rho_{\psi}^{(C)}}{\bar{\rho}_{\psi}} \right\rangle \sim \frac{\left\langle \bar{\psi}\psi(t,\vec{x})\bar{\psi}\psi(t,\vec{y})\right\rangle_{conn}}{\left\langle \bar{\psi}\psi \right\rangle^2}.$$
(5)

where one sees the appearance of the suppressed correlator computed in Eq. (4). Because of this suppression, fermionic isocurvature perturbations require nontrivial interactions with a conformal symmetry breaking sector.

If the conformal symmetry breaking sector is just the ζ sector of the inflaton, then its effective coupling to the fermions is suppressed because there is an infinitesimal shift symmetry of the ζ coming from a residual diffeomorphism symmetry in the comoving gauge. (We will explain this explicitly in Sec. 7 in terms of a Ward identity.) Hence, to generate an observable fermionic correlator during the horizon exit, another conformal symmetry breaking sector must be introduced which does not suffer from derivative coupling suppression similar to ζ .⁴ We thus introduce a

³ The scaling behavior of the two-point correlator is similar to that of correlators considered in Ref. [58] in the context of conformal field theories.

⁴ Although we have not investigated the suppression for the tensor perturbation interactions with a full computation, we expect a similar suppression of the tensor perturbation interactions.

Yukawa coupling to a light non-inflaton scalar and demonstrate that this interaction can induce observable isocurvature fluctuations.⁵

Given this motivation, let us now specify the model studied in this paper. We use one real scalar ϕ slow-roll inflaton degree of freedom that dominates the energy density during inflation and then perturbatively decays to the SM sector to reheat the universe. We also introduce another minimally coupled light real scalar degree of freedom σ which has no coupling to ϕ or the SM sector (necessary for reheating) stronger than gravity.⁶ As we explained, the main role of σ is to provide a conformal symmetry breaking sector which can couple to the Dirac fermions ψ through a Yukawa coupling. We assume ψ is charged under a conserved discrete charge such that the one particle states are stable and can act as dark matter. Note that since we do not require all of the dark matter to come from the fermions, this system is consistent with the existence of the weakly interacting massive particle (WIMP) dark matter. Because ψ is too weakly interacting with the SM to be produced directly, gravitational production of ψ during and after inflation is significant and gives rise to non-thermal cold dark matter (CDM) and its isocurvature perturbations.

Such a model is described by the action⁷

$$S = \int (dx) \left\{ \mathcal{L}_{inf} \left[g_{\mu\nu}, \phi \right] + \mathcal{L}_{SM+CDM} \left[g_{\mu\nu}, \left\{ \Psi \right\} \right] + \mathcal{L}_{RH} \left[g_{\mu\nu}, \phi, \left\{ \Psi \right\} \right] \right. \\ \left. + -\frac{1}{2} g^{\mu\nu} \partial_{\mu} \sigma \partial_{\nu} \sigma - \frac{1}{2} m_{\sigma}^{2} \sigma^{2} - \frac{y}{4!} \sigma^{4} + \bar{\psi} (i \gamma^{a} \nabla_{e_{a}} - m_{\psi}) \psi - \lambda \sigma \bar{\psi} \psi \right\},$$

$$(6)$$

where $M_p^2 = \frac{1}{8\pi G} = 1$, $(dx) \equiv \sqrt{-g}d^4x$, and \mathcal{L}_{inf} and \mathcal{L}_{SM+CDM} are the Lagrangians for the inflaton and the SM+CDM sectors, and \mathcal{L}_{RH} describes the sector responsible for reheating. Because an interesting parameter region exists for our scenario in which the ψ constitute a tiny fraction of the total dark matter content, the Lagrangian \mathcal{L}_{SM+CDM} describes the CDM sector different from ψ to make the scenario phenomenologically viable. Note that natural heavy dark matter candidates for ψ exist in the context of string phenomenology [59, 60]. Furthermore, many extensions of the Standard Model also possess superheavy dark matter candidates (see, e.g., [61–71]). Since there are many scalar field degrees of freedom in typical BSMs, the possibility of identifying one of these scalars with σ is also plausible. Although the cosmological phenomenology of weakly interacting dark matter on large scales have been investigated already in literature (see, e.g., [19, 28, 30, 31, 72, 73]), our

⁵ Note that this introduction of a light scalar is not particularly attractive from a model building perspective since we provide no explicit mechanism to protect its light mass. We defer the challenge of building an attractive model to a future work since the purpose of this paper is to demonstrate the basic physics mechanism.

⁶ For now, we will consider this as a tuning and will not address serious model building issues in this paper. It is plausible that this kind of scenario can be realized in the context of SUSY hidden sector.

⁷ Our metric convention is (-, +, +, +).

work is the first to describe fermionic fluctuation correlations during inflation. Note that although Eq. (6) has a quartic term σ^4 , we will focus on the parametric region in which the quartic coupling ywill be small and tuned against radiative generated quartic couplings from the Yukawa interaction to keep the effects of the σ interactions to a minimum. Hence, our effective parametric domain will be controlled by $\{\lambda, m_{\sigma}, m_{\psi}\}$.

We focus on a particular parametric region of $\{\lambda, m_{\sigma}, m_{\psi}\}$ such that σ only assists in generating large scale density perturbations of ψ , and the density perturbations and the relic abundance from the σ particles vanish or are suppressed compared to those from the ψ particles. For example, requiring the correlator $\langle \sigma \sigma \rangle |_{t_*}$ relevant for the isocurvature perturbations not be suppressed gives the condition $m_{\sigma}/H(t_*) < 1$ where t_* is the time at which the fermion production ends. This implies $m_{\sigma} < m_{\psi}$ is the relevant parameter region. Furthermore, in order to prevent any large isocurvature perturbations and relic abundance of σ , we assume that the σ particles decay before σ becomes an important fluid component of the evolution of the universe (e.g. before matterradiation equality). Note however that this restriction is a matter of simplicity. In general, we note that a weakly interacting and stable σ may also be phenomenologically allowed without problems regarding the relic abundance and the isocurvature from σ . Moreover, for simplicity, we restrict λ such that 1) $\sigma\sigma \rightarrow \bar{\psi}\psi$ via the Yukawa interactions is suppressed compared to the gravitational process in producing $\bar{\psi}\psi$ 2) any σ + gravity $\rightarrow \bar{\psi}\psi$ processes are estimated to be unimportant. This restriction is approximately equivalent to being in a parametric region where tree-level propagator neglecting resumption of the Yukawa interactions is valid.

In addition, in order to detach our model from the details of the inflationary model of ϕ , we focus on the light fermion ψ , such that $m_{\psi} < H_e$, where H_e is the Hubble scale at the end of inflation. This is because the gravitational particles production is generally sensitive to how the inflation ends in a such way that an extra suppression factor $\exp\left(-cm_{\psi}^2/H_e^2\right)$ (where c is a number depending on how the inflation connected with the post inflationary era) appears in the estimation of the gravitationally produced particle number density n_{ψ} . (Throughout the paper, we will sometime distinguish H_e from H_{inf} which is defined to be the expansion rate during inflation.) On the other hands, if $m_{\psi} < H_e$, the factor becomes simply an O(1) number, and particularly, for fermions we can estimate the number density $n_{\psi}(t_*)$ as $O(0.1)m_{\psi}^3$ at $H(t_*) \sim m_{\psi}$ regardless of how the inflation ends [51]. The physics of this universality is tied to the conformal symmetry of the fermions in the massless limit.

At this point, we emphasize that our model is different from other fermionic (e.g., gravitino) isocurvature models in literature (e.g. [49, 74, 75]). We explicitly predict the amplitudes of fermion

density perturbations from a joint effect of the gravitational particle production and σ modulation on m_{ψ} via the matter loop diagrams. In contrast, in Refs. [49, 74, 75] the fermions are produced from the on shell inflatons and/or curvatons (the latter has the closest identification in our model with σ) after the end of inflation. A sharp observable contrast of our model with these other models is that our scenario predicts an uncorrelated type of isocurvature (i.e. curvature-isocurvature cross correlation is negligible) while these other models purportedly generate correlated type of isocurvature. This is a consequence of the fact that these other models do not describe any fermionic fluctuations during inflation while in our model, the expansion during inflation imparts work to virtual fermionic fluctuations to put them on shell.

3. OPERATOR FOR ISOCURVATURE PERTURBATION

Recall that the scalar perturbation of the metric is parametrized as

$$\delta g_{\mu\nu}^{(S)} = \begin{pmatrix} -E & aF_{,i} \\ aF_{,i} & a^2[A\delta_{ij} + B_{,ij}] \end{pmatrix}.$$
(7)

The gauge-invariant variables are constructed by combining metric perturbations and other perturbations, such as density perturbations. For example, the conventional first-order gauge-invariant perturbation associated with the energy density of a fluid a is defined (see, e.g., [76] and references therein) by

$$\zeta_a \equiv \frac{A}{2} - H \frac{\delta \rho_a}{\bar{\rho}_a}.$$
(8)

In particular, we define the conventional curvature perturbation as

$$\zeta \equiv \frac{A}{2} - H \frac{\delta \rho_{tot}}{\dot{\rho}_{tot}},\tag{9}$$

where

$$\delta \rho_{tot} = \sum_{i} \delta \rho_{i}, \quad \bar{\rho}_{tot} = \sum_{i} \bar{\rho}_{i}. \tag{10}$$

This quantity ζ is conserved when modes are stretched out of the horizon even through the reheating era as long as it is set by the adiabatic initial condition, i.e., $\zeta = \zeta_a$ for any fluid *a*. Furthermore, if perturbations are generated solely by inflaton during inflation, such as the single field inflation, superhorizon perturbations automatically satisfy the adiabatic initial condition and the perturbations are conserved so that we can match them with those during the early radiation dominated (RD) era, $\zeta_{\phi}(t_{inf}) = \zeta_{\gamma}(t_{RD}) = \zeta_m(t_{RD}) = \cdots$. On the other hand, an isocurvature perturbation is defined by a relative density perturbation between two different fluids

$$\delta_{Sij} \equiv 3\left(\zeta_i - \zeta_j\right) = -3H\left(\frac{\delta\rho_i}{\dot{\rho}_i} - \frac{\delta\rho_j}{\dot{\rho}_j}\right). \tag{11}$$

In general, it may arise during inflation if there are more than one degree of freedom. Although their mixing with perturbations of different fluids can lead to the failure of the conservation of the curvature perturbation ζ , such effects are negligible as for any species *i* whose $\bar{\rho}_i + \bar{P}_i$ is sufficiently smaller than $\bar{\rho}_{\text{tot}} + \bar{P}_{\text{tot}}$ until the Universe reaches radiation domination. Particularly, for gravitationally produced fermions, we have

$$\frac{\bar{\rho}_{\psi} + \bar{P}_{\psi}}{\bar{\rho}_{\text{tot}} + \bar{P}_{\text{tot}}}\Big|_{t_*} \sim \frac{\bar{\rho}_{\psi}}{\bar{\rho}_{tot}}\Big|_{t_*} \sim \frac{m_{\psi}^2}{M_p^2} \ll \Delta_{\zeta}^2,\tag{12}$$

where t_* is the time that the gravitational fermion production ends, $H(t_*) \sim m_{\psi}$. Hence, we expect the superhorizon curvature perturbation to be approximately conserved through the reheating, $\zeta(t_{RD}) \approx \zeta_{\phi}(t_{inf})$.

The dominant fraction of the produced fermions are non-relativistic.⁸ Then the fermion energy density behaves as 9

$$\frac{d}{dt}\bar{\rho}_{\psi}(t) \approx -3H\bar{\rho}_{\psi} \quad \text{for } t > t_*,$$
(13)

and from Eq. (11) a general CDM isocurvature is written as

$$\delta_S = \frac{\delta\rho_{CDM}}{\bar{\rho}_{CDM}} - \frac{3}{4}\frac{\delta\rho_{\gamma}}{\bar{\rho}_{\gamma}}.$$
(14)

As discussed in Sec. 2, the CDM may include decay products of the inflaton ϕ . Thus the CDM density perturbation is generally expressed as

$$\frac{\delta\rho_{CDM}}{\bar{\rho}_{CDM}} = \omega_{\psi}\frac{\delta\rho_{\psi}}{\bar{\rho}_{\psi}} + (1-\omega_{\psi})\frac{\delta\rho_{m}}{\bar{\rho}_{m}},\tag{15}$$

where the subscript m denotes the CDM component associated with the inflaton decay products (such as WIMPs of minimal supersymmetric models), and

$$\omega_{\psi} \equiv \bar{\rho}_{\psi} / \left(\bar{\rho}_{\psi} + \bar{\rho}_{m} \right). \tag{16}$$

⁸ This is a valid assumption because gravitationally excited fermion modes that contributions to the energy density are less than the fermion mass, i.e., $|\beta_k|^2$ for $k/a \leq m_{\psi}$, where β_k is the Bogoliubov coefficient. See Appendix B for the detail.

⁹ One can find that $\bar{\rho}_{\psi} \propto a^{-3}(t)$ for $t > t_*$ if $\bar{\rho}_{\psi}$ is renormalized by the adiabatic subtraction. See Appendix B and Ref. [54]. Then we can treat ψ as a pressure less matter.

In particular, in the comoving gauge $(\delta \rho_{\phi}/\dot{\bar{\rho}}_{\phi} = \delta \rho_m/\dot{\bar{\rho}}_m = \delta \rho_{\gamma}/\dot{\bar{\rho}}_{\gamma} = 0)$, the CDM isocurvature becomes

$$\delta_S^{(C)} \approx \omega_\psi \frac{\delta \rho_\psi^{(C)}}{\bar{\rho}_\psi},\tag{17}$$

where the superscript denotes the gauge choice.

Under the non-relativistic assumption, we also approximate the fermion mass term $m_{\psi}\bar{\psi}\psi$ as its energy density¹⁰

$$\rho_{\psi} \approx m_{\psi} \bar{\psi} \psi, \tag{18}$$

and then the fermion isocurvature perturbation becomes

$$\delta_{S}^{(C)} \approx \omega_{\psi} \frac{\rho_{\psi} - \langle \rho_{\psi} \rangle}{\langle \rho_{\psi} \rangle} = \omega_{\psi} \frac{\psi \psi - \langle \psi \psi \rangle}{\langle \bar{\psi} \psi \rangle}.$$
(19)

Notice that as it is a quantum composite operator, we renormalize it with regulators and counterterms invariant under the underlying gauge symmetry, diffeomorphism in this case. In the following subsection, we present the technical detail of the composite operator renormalization. From now on, we will use the comoving gauge in calculating the correlation function and drop the superscript (C) for convenience.

3.1. Regularization and Renormalization for Isocurvature Perturbation

In this subsection, we explain our regularization procedure and renormalization scheme that determines the counter-terms. The most crucial renormalization condition that the isocurvature perturbations are sensitive to is Eq. (38).

For the convenience of preserving covariance and incorporating the adiabatic vacuum boundary condition, we use Pauli-Villars (PV) regularization [77]. This involves the replacements

$$\psi \to \psi + \sum_{n} \psi_n, \qquad \sigma \to \sigma + \sum_{n} \sigma_n,$$
(20)

$$\left\langle \left(\rho_{\psi}\right)_{r}\right\rangle \approx m_{\psi}\left\langle N_{\psi}\right\rangle = 2m_{\psi}\int \frac{d^{3}k}{\left(2\pi^{3}\right)}\frac{1}{a^{3}}\left|\beta_{k}\right|^{2},$$

$$m_{\psi}\left\langle \left(\bar{\psi}\psi\right)_{r}\right\rangle = 2m_{\psi}\int\frac{d^{3}k}{(2\pi^{3})}\frac{m_{\psi}}{\omega_{p}}\left|\beta_{k}\right|^{2} \approx 2m_{\psi}\int\frac{d^{3}k}{(2\pi^{3})}\left|\beta_{k}\right|^{2}$$

¹⁰ Using the adiabatic vacuum prescription, the renormalized energy density is approximated in the non-relativistic case as

where N_{ψ} is a fermion number operator, and the subscript r denotes that the operator is a renormalized composite operator. This quantity is in accord with

In particular, $(\bar{\psi}\psi)$ has an advantage in constructing gauge-invariant variables because it is manifestly 4-scalar, but N_{ψ} .

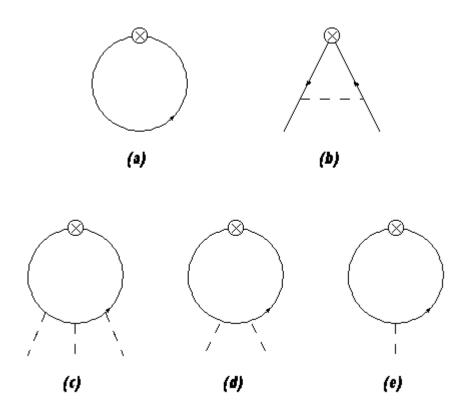


Figure 1: Diagrams determining counter-terms where the solid line corresponds to the fermion line and the dashed lines corresponds to σ lines. It is convenient to truncate the external σ legs on diagrams c), d), and e) with zero momentum insertion, making these mass insertions.

and the addition of the Pauli-Villars part in the free Lagrangian

$$\mathcal{L}_{PV} = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} C_n \left(-\frac{1}{2}g^{\mu\nu}\partial_\nu\sigma_n\partial_\nu\sigma_n - \frac{1}{2}M_n^2\sigma_n^2\right)$$
(21)

$$+\sum_{n=1} D_n \bar{\psi}_n (i\gamma^a \nabla_a - m_n) \psi_n.$$
(22)

For notational simplicity, we let $C_0 = 1$, $M_0 = m_\sigma$ and $D_0 = 1$, $m_0 = m_\psi$, and let index $N = 0, 1, \cdots$ and $n = 1, 2, \cdots$. We require the following constraints for scalar regulators

$$\sum_{N} C_{N}^{-1} = 0, \quad \sum_{N} C_{N}^{-1} M_{N}^{2} = 0, \quad \sum_{N} C_{N}^{-1} M_{N}^{4} = 0, \cdots$$
(23)

and the following constraints for fermion regulators

$$\sum_{N} D_{N}^{-1} = 0, \quad \sum_{N} D_{N}^{-1} m_{N} = 0, \quad \sum_{N} D_{N}^{-1} m_{N}^{2} = 0, \cdots$$
(24)

where we need to introduce sufficient numbers of PV fields and constraints to cancel all the divergences. Notice that the additional constraints in the fermions with odd powers of m_N .

With the operator dimension and the symmetry considered, the renormalized operator is written

as

$$(\bar{\psi}\psi)_{x,r} = (\bar{\psi}_x)_r (\psi_x)_r (1+\delta Z_1) + \delta Z_2 (\sigma_{x,r})^3 + \delta Z_3 (\sigma_{x,r})^2 + \delta Z_4 \sigma_{x,r} + \delta Z_5 + \delta Z_6 \Box \sigma_{x,r} + \delta Z_7 R + \delta Z_8 R \sigma_{x,r}$$
(25)

where each field operator should be understood as including a sum of the PV fields as in Eq. (20). Then we give the renormalization conditions to determine the counter terms. For δZ_i which are not coupled to $R, R_{\mu\nu}, R^{\alpha}_{\beta\mu\nu}$ and their derivatives, we can go to the Minkowski space and impose the renormalization conditions there. (Of course, we do not need to separate the curved space contribution and the flat space contribution with two computations, but we present this here this way here for clarity in the physical partition.) We define the renormalized operator $\bar{\psi}\psi$ at one-loop order, such that it measures the number density of the fermion particles. First, we require its expectation value in the flat space vacuum to vanish:

$$\langle vac | \bar{\psi}\psi(x) | vac \rangle_{flat} + \sum_{n=1} \langle vac | \bar{\psi}_n \psi_n(x) | vac \rangle_{flat} + \delta Z_5 = 0$$
(26)

$$\Rightarrow -\int \frac{d^4p}{(2\pi)^4} \sum_N D_N^{-1} \operatorname{Tr} \left\{ \frac{1}{i} \frac{-\not p + m_N}{p^2 + m_N^2 - i\epsilon} \right\} + \delta Z_5 = 0.$$
(27)

This corresponds to the evaluation of diagram (a) in Fig. 1.

Next, we impose the renormalization condition consistent with the fact that as far as the fermion sector is concerned, a shift of σ by a constant in the tree-level action is equivalent to a shift in the mass of the fermion. More explicitly, we demand that if σ is shifted as $\sigma \to \sigma + c$, the one-point function satisfies

$$\langle vac | (\bar{\psi}\psi)_{x,r} | vac \rangle_{flat} = \langle vac | \left[(\bar{\psi}\psi)_{x,r} + \Delta(\bar{\psi}\psi)_{x,r} \right] | vac \rangle_{flat, \mathcal{L}_I = -\lambda c \bar{\psi}_y \psi_y}$$
(28)

where $\Delta(\bar{\psi}\psi)_{x,r}$ corresponds to a shift in the σ dependent composite operator counter-terms and \mathcal{L}_I corresponds to c dependent mass shift Lagrangian term. This leads to diagrams (c)-(e) in Fig. 1 with the external σ propagators truncated and fixes $\delta Z_2, \delta Z_3, \delta Z_4$:

$$-(-i\lambda)^{3} \int \frac{d^{4}k}{(2\pi)^{4}} \operatorname{Tr}\left\{ \left(\sum_{M} D_{M}^{-1} \frac{1}{i} \frac{-\not{k} + m_{M}}{k^{2} + m_{M}^{2} - i\epsilon} \right)^{4} \right\} + \delta Z_{2} = 0$$
(29)

$$-(-i\lambda)^2 \int \frac{d^4k}{(2\pi)^4} \operatorname{Tr}\left\{ \left(\sum_M D_M^{-1} \frac{1}{i} \frac{-\not k + m_M}{k^2 + m_M^2 - i\epsilon} \right)^3 \right\} + \delta Z_3 = 0,$$
(30)

$$-i\lambda \int d^4y \langle (\bar{\psi}\psi)_x (\bar{\psi}\psi)_y \rangle + \delta Z_4 = 0$$
(31)

$$\Rightarrow -i\lambda \int \frac{d^4k}{(2\pi)^4} (-) \operatorname{Tr}\left\{ \left(\sum_M D_M^{-1} \frac{1}{i} \frac{-\not k + m_M}{k^2 + m_M^2 - i\epsilon} \right)^2 \right\} + \delta Z_4 = 0.$$
(32)

Furthermore, we require $\bar{\psi}\psi$ to have no loop corrections when contracted with on-shell fermion. This leads to the diagram (b) of Fig. 1 (where we have set the composite operator momentum to be 0 for convenience) and fixes δZ_1 :

$$\delta Z_1 + (i\lambda)^2 \int \frac{d^4k}{(2\pi)^4} \sum_{L,M,N} C_L^{-1} D_M^{-1} D_N^{-1} \frac{1}{ik^2 + M_L^2 - i\epsilon} \times \frac{1}{i(k+p)^2 + m_M^2 - i\epsilon} \times \frac{1}{i(k+p)^2 + m_N^2 - i\epsilon} \times \frac{1}{i(k+p)^2 + m_N^2 - i\epsilon} = 0.$$
(33)

Similarly, we demand $\bar{\psi}\psi$ to have no loop corrections when contracted with on-shell scalar line. Explicitly, the diagram corresponds to the diagram (e) of Fig. 1 determining δZ_6 :

$$-i\lambda \int d^4y \langle (\bar{\psi}\psi)_x (\bar{\psi}\psi)_y \rangle e^{ip \cdot y} + \delta Z_4 - p^2 \delta Z_6 = 0$$
(34)

$$\Rightarrow i\lambda \int \frac{d^4k}{(2\pi)^4} \operatorname{Tr} \left\{ \sum_M D_M^{-1} \frac{1}{i} \frac{-\not{k} + m_M}{k^2 + m_M^2 - i\epsilon} \right\} \\ \times \sum_N D_N^{-1} \frac{1}{i} \frac{-\not{k} - \not{p} + m_N}{(k+p)^2 + m_N^2 - i\epsilon} \right\} + \delta Z_4 - p^2 \delta Z_6 = 0,$$
(35)

where $p^2 = -m_\sigma^2$.

For δZ_i that depend on curved spacetime nature, we match the renormalized result to that from the adiabatic subtraction. In order to fix δZ_7 , we impose the number density $\langle in|(\bar{\psi}\psi)_{r,x}|in\rangle$ to be the density defined by the adiabatic prescription (See, e.g., [29, 51, 52, 54, 78–80]):

$$n_{\psi} \equiv \langle in|\bar{\psi}\psi(x)|in\rangle + \sum_{n=1} \langle in|\bar{\psi}_n\psi(x)_n|in\rangle + \delta Z_5 + \delta Z_7 R(x)$$
(36)

$$= \langle in|\bar{\psi}\psi(x)|in\rangle - \langle WKB, vac, t_x|\bar{\psi}\psi(x)|WKB, vac, t_x\rangle,$$
(37)

where $|WKB, vac, t_x\rangle$ is the WKB vacuum defined at t_x by the adiabatic prescription. The diagram of interest is diagram (a) of Fig. 1, and the divergent part of δZ_7 determined this way is linear in the fermion mass.

In order to determine δZ_8 , we repeat the consideration analogous to Eq. (32) on a background field $\sigma(x) = c$, where c is an infinitesimal constant. Since a constant σ shift is equivalent to a shift of the fermion mass, we want to choose δZ_8 to get

$$\lambda \partial_m n_{\psi}(x) = -i\lambda \int_{CTP} (dy) \sum_{N,M} \langle in| P\{\bar{\psi}_M(x)\psi_N(x)\bar{\psi}_N(y)\psi_M(y)\} |in\rangle_{conn} +\delta Z_4 + \delta Z_8 R(x),$$
(38)

where the subscript CTP denotes closed-time-path, and P is the path-ordering operator for a "in-in" exception value. (For example, see Refs. [81, 82]). Note that diagram of interest corresponds to (e) of Fig. 1. As we will see later, this renormalization condition plays a crucial role in determining the isocurvature correlator. The solution for all the δZ_i can be expressed in terms of Feynman parameter integrals. However, such explicit expressions are not relevant to determine the isocurvature correlation. In contrast the left hand side of Eq. (38) is important.

To summarize, we have given a prescription to regularize and renormalize the composite operator $\bar{\psi}\psi$. The renormalization conditions ensure that $\langle in|(\bar{\psi}\psi)_{r,x}|in\rangle$ agrees with that defined by the adiabatic prescription in curved spacetime, and they also ensure that a constant shift in σ is equivalent to a constant shift in the fermion mass. Note that because the gravitational production of fermions are still in flux when $m_{\psi} < H$, we evaluate the number density n_{ψ} later than t_* , where $H(t_*) \sim m_{\psi}$, as far as the renormalization conditions are concerned.

4. SCENARIO CONSTRAINTS ON SCALAR FIELD σ

In this section, we explain the constraints on the Yukawa coupling λ that comes from requiring σ to behave as an unscreened long range force carrier whose on-shell particle states do not significantly participate in ψ production.

We will find that $\langle \sigma \sigma \rangle|_{t_*}$ power spectrum relevant for the isocurvature perturbations is not suppressed if $m_{\sigma}/H(t_*) < 1$ where t_* is the time at which $H(t_*) = m_{\psi}$ (i.e. t_* is the time at which the fermion + anti-fermion number freezes [51]). This implies $m_{\sigma} < m_{\psi}$ is the relevant parameter region for the scenario of this paper. Furthermore, in order to prevent any large isocurvature perturbations and relic abundance of σ , we assume that $\langle \sigma \rangle = 0$ and the σ particles decay before σ becomes an important fluid component of the evolution of the universe (e.g. before matter-radiation equality). Note however that this restriction is a matter of simplicity. There exist parameter regions in (m_{σ}, λ) such that σ survives as a long-lived weakly interacting particle (i.e. a dark matter). However, in such cases, the constraints from the relic abundance and the isocurvature of σ restrict the σ mass to be very small, e.g., $m_{\sigma} \lesssim 10^{-6}$ eV for $H_{inf} \sim 10^{13}$ GeV. (See, e.g, [72, 83–85] for the parametric bounds for the QCD axion produced by inflation.) In principle, it is possible to build a model that has such small m_{σ} with help of some underlying symmetry, such as a shift symmetry.

Although we assume that $m_{\sigma} < m_{\psi}$, σ would generally acquire a plasma mass correction through interactions with an ensemble of ψ particles. Thus we consider the effect of the produced ψ on the σ correlator and show that the effect is negligible. We expect the fermions do not affect scalar modes before horizon exit because the mass correction by the fermion is still small compared to the Hubble friction during inflation. After the scalar mode exits the horizon, the fermions exert a tiny computable drag on σ . The equation of motion of σ from the action (6)¹¹ is written as

$$0 = \left\langle in \left| \left[(\Box - m_{\sigma}^{2})\sigma_{x} - \lambda \bar{\psi}\psi_{x} + \delta Z_{0} + \delta Z_{R}R_{x} + \delta Z_{\sigma} \Box \sigma_{x} - \delta m_{\sigma}^{2}\sigma_{x} + \delta Z_{\xi}R_{x}\sigma_{x} \right] \left[\cdots \right] \right| in \right\rangle$$
(39)

$$= (\Box_x - m_{\sigma}^2) \langle \sigma_x [\cdots] \rangle + i\lambda^2 \int (dz) \langle [\bar{\psi}\psi_x, \bar{\psi}\psi_z] \rangle \langle \sigma_z [\cdots] \rangle + (\delta Z_{\sigma} \Box_x - \delta m_{\sigma}^2 + \delta Z_{\xi} R_x) \langle \sigma_x [\cdots] \rangle + (\delta Z_0 + \delta Z_R R_x - \lambda \langle \bar{\psi}\psi_x \rangle) \langle [\cdots] \rangle + O(\lambda^3, y),$$

$$(40)$$

where $[\cdots]$ denotes any quantum operators in the correlation function. We choose the counter term δZ_0 and δZ_R such that the tadpole $\langle \sigma \rangle$ vanishes, i.e., $(\delta Z_0 + \delta Z_R R - \lambda \langle \bar{\psi}\psi \rangle) = 0$, where the PV regulator is assumed. Moreover, when σ varies very slowly outside the horizon, we factor $\langle \sigma_z [\cdots] \rangle$ out of the integral in Eq. (40), and we renormalize the integral using the counter terms $(\delta Z_{\sigma} \Box_x - \delta m_{\sigma}^2 + \delta Z_{\xi} R_x) \langle \sigma_x [\cdots] \rangle$ such that the result is consistent with that obtained by the adiabatic subtraction¹²:

$$i\lambda^2 \int^x (dz) \langle [\bar{\psi}\psi_x, \bar{\psi}\psi_z] \rangle + \left(-\delta m_\sigma^2 + \delta Z_\xi R_x \right) = -\lambda^2 \left(\frac{\partial n_\psi}{\partial m_\psi} \right), \tag{41}$$

where n_{ψ} is the renormalized fermion number density defined by Eq. (37), and we have used Eq. (38) in the derivation. Therefore, we find the effective mass of σ when it slowly varies (i.e., $k/a \ll H$ and $m_{\sigma} \ll H$)

$$m_{\sigma}^{eff} = m_{\sigma}^2 + \Delta m_{\sigma}^2(t) \approx m_{\sigma}^2 + \lambda^2 \frac{\partial n_{\psi}(t)}{\partial m_{\psi}}.$$
(42)

$$S_{c.t.} \ni \int (dx) \left[-\frac{1}{2} \delta Z_{\sigma} \left(\partial \sigma \right)^2 - \frac{1}{2} \delta m_{\sigma}^2 \sigma^2 + \delta Z_0 \sigma + \delta Z_R R \sigma + \delta Z_{\xi} R \sigma^2 \right]$$

¹¹ The counter-terms appearing in the action includes

Note that the linear σ terms exist in the action because the action does not preserve the Z₂ symmetry due to the Yukawa coupling.

¹² In other words, we identify $-\delta m_{\sigma}^2$ and δZ_{ξ} with δZ_4 and δZ_8 in Eq. (38), and $\delta Z_{\sigma} \Box$ is neglected since σ is slowly varying.

Because we estimate $n_{\psi} \leq O(0.1) (m_{\psi} H)^{3/2}$ when $m_{\psi} \leq H$,¹³ based on dimensional analysis, we expect that the mass correction by the ψ loop is

$$\Delta m_{\sigma}^{2}(t) \approx \lambda^{2} \frac{\partial n_{\psi}(t)}{\partial m_{\psi}} \sim \begin{cases} O(0.1 \text{ or } \operatorname{less}) \lambda^{2} m_{\psi}^{1/2} H^{3/2} & \text{for } m_{\psi} < H(t) \\ O(0.1) \lambda^{2} m_{\psi}^{2} & \text{for } m_{\psi} > H(t) \end{cases}$$

$$(43)$$

Therefore, in general, before the fermion production ends $m_{\psi} < H$, this scalar mass correction Δm_{σ}^2 does not ruin the stability of our scenario $m_{\sigma}^2 + \Delta m_{\sigma}^2(t) < m_{\psi}^2 < H^2(t)$ as long as $m_{\sigma}^2 < m_{\psi}^2$.

Next, we ask the question of which parametric region would be consistent with the simplifying assumption that ψ particles are primarily produced gravitationally and not by σ . To this end, we first consider the annihilation $\sigma\sigma \to \bar{\psi}\psi$. The annihilation is the most significant at the end of inflation because ψ particles produced from σ before the end of inflation are diluted, and $\sigma\sigma \to \bar{\psi}\psi$ after the end of inflation is also limited because the allowed kinematic phase space is redshifted. Thus we compare the number density of the produced ψ from σ at the end of inflation, $n_{\sigma\to\psi}$ with that of gravitationally produced ψ , $n_{\psi}(t_*) \sim m_{\psi}^3$, and we require their ratio to be small:

$$\left(\frac{a_e}{a(t_*)}\right)^3 \frac{n_{\sigma \to \psi}(t_e)}{n_{\psi}(t_*)} \sim \left(\frac{a_e}{a(t_*)}\right)^3 \frac{n_{\sigma} \Gamma(\sigma \sigma \to \psi \psi) \Delta t|_{t_e}}{n_{\psi}(t_*)}$$
(44)

$$\sim \left(\frac{H(t_*)}{H_e}\right)^2 \frac{H_e^3 \cdot \frac{\lambda^4}{16\pi^2} H_e \cdot \frac{1}{H_e}}{H^3(t_*)} \sim \frac{\lambda^4}{16\pi^2} \frac{H_e}{m_{\psi}} \lesssim 1,$$
 (45)

where the subscript e means a variable is evaluated at the end of inflation t_e .

Even though $m_{\sigma} < m_{\psi}$, the decay production of ψ through $\sigma \rightarrow \bar{\psi}\psi$ may still be possible if σ is sufficiently off shell due to its interactions with finite density of ψ in the subhorizon region (the subhorizon physics here is different from the superhorizon physics considered in Eq. (42)). To turn off this channel, we require that the σ mass corrections from the fermion number density at the time of end of inflation be small. This requires

$$\lambda^{\kappa} \frac{H_e/(2\pi)}{m_{\psi}} \lesssim 1 \tag{46}$$

$$n_{\psi}(t) = \int \frac{d^3 k_p}{(2\pi)^3} \left|\beta_k\right|^2 \lesssim \int^{\sqrt{m_{\psi} H}} \frac{d^3 k_p}{(2\pi)^3} \frac{1}{2} \sim O(0.1) \left(m_{\psi} H\right)^{3/2} \quad \text{for } t < t_*.$$

¹³ Note that the adiabatic prescription to determine the number density n_{ψ} does not apply for modes $m_{\psi} < k/a < \sqrt{m_{\psi}H}$ when $m_{\psi} < H$ because vacuum varies non-adiabatically, i.e., the adiabaticity parameter $\epsilon_k \equiv \frac{m_{\psi}k_pH}{\omega_k} \gtrsim 1$, where $k_p = k/a$ and $\omega_k = \sqrt{k_p^2 + m_{\psi}^2}$. See Appendix B for detail. However, we can estimate the upper bound of the number density as

where $\kappa \gtrsim O(1)$. To see how $\kappa \gtrsim O(1)$ can come about, consider the following estimate of subhorizon thermal effect. The maximum effective number density of fermions at the end of inflation is

$$n_{\psi}(t_e) \lesssim 4m_{\psi} \left(\frac{H_e}{2\pi}\right)^2.$$
 (47)

The energy density associated with these fermions is

$$\Delta V \sim n_{\psi}(t_e) \sqrt{\left(\frac{H_e}{2\pi}\right)^2 + \lambda^2 \sigma^2} \tag{48}$$

where we neglected $m_{\sigma} \ll H_e/(2\pi)$. This leads to an effective m_{σ} correction of

$$\Delta m_{\sigma}^2 \sim n_{\psi}(t_e) \frac{\lambda^2}{H_e/(2\pi)} \lesssim 4\lambda^2 m_{\psi} \left(\frac{H_e}{2\pi}\right).$$
⁽⁴⁹⁾

Kinematically blocking the σ decay into ψ , we find

$$4\lambda^2 \left(\frac{H_e}{2\pi}\right) < m_\psi \tag{50}$$

which corresponds to $\kappa = 2$. Note that this condition is more restrictive than Eq. (45).

In sum, requiring σ to behave as an unscreened long range force carrier whose on-shell particle states do not significantly participate in ψ production gives a constraint on λ . The strongest condition is given by Eq. (46) with $\kappa \gtrsim O(1)$.

5. ISOCURVATURE TWO-POINT FUNCTION

In this section, we evaluate the two-point function of the renormalized isocurvature operator δ_S , given by Eq. (19). The average number density was computed in [51], the result is summarized in Appendix B. We only need to evaluate $\langle (\bar{\psi}\psi)_{x,r}(\bar{\psi}\psi)_{y,r}\rangle_c$. Since we want to use the quantum computation to set the initial condition for the subsequent classical fluid evolution, we will choose the time of the evaluation such that both the quantum and the classical fluid descriptions apply. We take $x^0 = y^0 = \eta_f$ at time after the particle production ends, since the fluid description cannot describe the particle production process. We will take the separation $|\vec{x} - \vec{y}|$ to be large enough such that the intersection of their past light-cone $I^-(x) \cap I^-(y)$ lives deep within the inflationary era. This ensures that the contributions from late-time short distance physics (e.g. reheating, phase transition) are minimized. The relevant diagrams for $\langle (\bar{\psi}\psi)_{x,r}(\bar{\psi}\psi)_{y,r}\rangle_c$ are given in Fig. (2). The crossed dot represent $(\bar{\psi}\psi)_{x,r}$ insertion, the solid dot represent the fermion propagator.

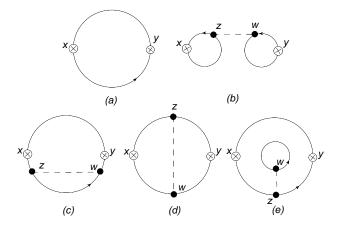


Figure 2: The leading order and the next leading order contribution to $\langle \bar{\psi}\psi_x\bar{\psi}\psi_y\rangle$, the cross-dot vertices corresponds to $\bar{\psi}\psi$ insertion. By comparing the large r $(r \equiv |\vec{x} - \vec{y}|)$ behavior of the equal-time correlator of the fermion and the scalar field, we want to show that diagram (b) dominates in the limit $r \to \infty$.

5.1. Leading order result

We first consider the leading order diagram (a) in Fig (2). The diagram is explicitly written as

$$\langle \bar{\psi}\psi_x\bar{\psi}\psi_y\rangle_{(a)} = -\mathrm{Tr}\left[\langle\psi_x\bar{\psi}_y\rangle\langle\psi_y\bar{\psi}_x\rangle\right] = \sum_{i,j}\bar{V}_{i,x}U_{j,x}\bar{U}_{j,y}V_{i,y}$$
(51)

Using a contour integration technique, we can evaluate the mode-sum analytically. The details are in given Appendix C. The result¹⁴ is

$$\langle \bar{\psi}\psi_x\bar{\psi}\psi_y\rangle_{LO} = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{\pi^4 a_x^6 |\vec{x}-\vec{y}|^6} \left(1+O\left[\left(\frac{m_\psi}{H_{inf}}\right)^2\right]\right) & (m_\psi \ll H_{inf})\\ \frac{1}{\pi^4 a_x^6 |\vec{x}-\vec{y}|^6} (4\pi) \left(\frac{m_\psi}{H_{inf}}\right)^3 \exp(-2\pi \frac{m_\psi}{H_{inf}}) & (m_\psi \gg H_{inf}) \end{cases}$$
(52)

where H_{inf} is the expansion rate during inflation. We can understand this result by backtracking the two points x, y to the time when they were deep inside the horizon, and see what happened as they grow apart.

In the heavy mass case $(m_{\psi} \gg H_{inf})$, the Compton radius m_{ψ}^{-1} is smaller than the horizon radius H_{inf}^{-1} . The physical separation r_{phys} will first grow to the Compton wavelength, and trigger the exponential suppression factor $\exp(-2m_{\psi}r_{phys})$ in the correlator.

$$\langle \bar{\psi}\psi_x \bar{\psi}\psi_y \rangle_{flat, m_\psi r_{phys} > 1} \sim \frac{m_\psi^3}{4\pi^3 r_{phys}^3} \exp(-2m_\psi r_{phys})$$
(53)

¹⁴ Note that we do not consider the heavy mass case, $m_{\psi} \gg H_{inf}$ where H_{inf} is the expansion rate during inflation, for the isocurvature because the estimation of the particle production depends on how the inflation ends as described in Section 2. However, we provide the leading order of the two-point function to develop better intuition for the behavior of super horizon modes of ψ .

As the physical separation r_{phys} grows further to exceed the horizon radius H_{inf}^{-1} , the correlator would freeze and start decreasing as $(a_r/a_\eta)^6$, where $a_r = 1/(H_{inf}r)$ denote the scale factor at the horizon crossing. Substituting $a_r = \frac{1}{H_{inf}r}$ and $r_{phys} = H_{inf}^{-1}$, we recover the heavy mass formula:

$$\left(\frac{a_r}{a_\eta}\right)^6 \frac{m_{\psi}^3}{4\pi^3 r_{phys}^3} \exp(-2m_{\psi}r_{phys}) \sim \frac{1}{a_x^6 r^6} \left(\frac{m_{\psi}}{H_{inf}}\right)^3 \exp(-2\frac{m_{\psi}}{H_{inf}}).$$
(54)

In the light mass case $(m_{\psi} \ll H_{inf})$, the physical distance will cross the horizon radius first, without the exponential suppression of $\exp(-2m_{\psi}r_{phys})$. From the flat space UV limit result $\frac{1}{r_{phys}^6}$,

$$\langle \bar{\psi}\psi_x \bar{\psi}\psi_y \rangle_{flat,mr_{phys}<1} \sim \frac{1}{r_{phys}^6}$$
(55)

we use $a_r = \frac{1}{H_{inf}r}$ and $r_{phys} = H_{inf}^{-1}$ to obtain

$$\left(\frac{a_r}{a_\eta}\right)^6 \frac{1}{r_{phys}^6} \sim \frac{1}{a_x^6 r^6} \tag{56}$$

Thus we recover the light mass result.

Unfortunately, the fractional relic density fluctuation at CMB scale¹⁵ is too small

$$\frac{\langle \delta \rho_x \delta \rho_y \rangle}{\langle \bar{\rho}_\psi \rangle^2} \sim \frac{m_\psi^2 / (\pi^4 a^6 r_{CMB}^6)}{m_\psi^2 m_\psi^6 (a_*^6/a^6)} \sim \left(\frac{1}{a_* m_\psi r_{CMB}}\right)^6.$$
(57)

where r_{CMB} is the comoving distance for typical CMB observation scale and the subscript * denotes the time when fermion production ends. Let a_{CMB} denotes the scale factor when CMB scale exits the horizon then we have

$$r_{CMB}^{-1} \sim a_{CMB} H_{inf} \tag{58}$$

Assuming the fermion production ends during reheating when $m_{\psi} = H(t_*)$, and $H \propto a^{-\alpha}$ during reheating, then we have

$$\frac{a_e H_{inf}}{a_* m_{\psi}} \sim \frac{a_e H_e}{a_* H_*} \sim \left(\frac{a_e}{a_*}\right)^{1-\alpha} \sim \left(\frac{H_e}{H_*}\right)^{1-\frac{1}{\alpha}} \tag{59}$$

Assuming that inflation ends 50 efolds after the CMB scale exits horizon and a MD-like reheating, i.e., $\alpha = 3/2$, then we have

$$\frac{\langle \delta \rho_x \delta \rho_y \rangle}{\langle \bar{\rho}_\psi \rangle^2} \sim \left(\frac{a_{CMB} H_{inf}}{a_* m_\psi}\right)^6 \sim \left(\frac{a_{CMB}}{a_e} \frac{a_e H_{inf}}{a_* m_\psi}\right)^6 \sim e^{-300} \left(\frac{H_e}{m_\psi}\right)^2 \tag{60}$$

¹⁵ Since $\langle \delta \rho \delta \rho \rangle$ is frozen as long as the two points are outside of horizon, we can extrapolate this large spatial separation result obtained at the end of inflation to the recombination time.

Using the fermion relic abundance formula (for $T_{RH} = 10^9 \text{GeV}$ and $g_* = 100$ case) $\omega_{\psi} \sim (m_{\psi}/10^{10} \text{GeV})^2$, we obtain

$$\frac{\langle \delta \rho_x \delta \rho_y \rangle}{\rho_{tot}^2} \sim \omega_{\psi}^2 \frac{\langle \delta \rho_x \delta \rho_y \rangle}{\langle \bar{\rho}_{\psi} \rangle^2} \sim e^{-300} \left(\frac{H_e}{10^{10} GeV}\right)^2 \tag{61}$$

We thus find that generically the pure fermion isocurvature is very small on scales relevant for the CMB.

5.2. Next leading order result

We consider the diagrams (b)-(e) in Fig. 2, which contain the effects of the Yukawa interaction to the fermion production. We can perturbatively compute the diagrams using the "in-in" formalism (e.g. see Refs. [86, 87] and references therein).

Firstly, we estimate which diagram gives the largest contribution when x and y have large spatial separations. From the fact that equal-time correlator $\langle \sigma_x \sigma_y \rangle$ scales as $r^{2\nu-3}$ where $\nu^2 = 9/4 - m_{\sigma}^2/H^2$ from Eq. (A13) and $\langle \psi_x \bar{\psi}_y \rangle$ scales as r^{-3} , we expect that diagrams that have fewer fermion lines stretched between x and y decreases slower as $r \to \infty$. Thus, we conclude diagram (b) gives the dominant contribution to the two-point function.

For diagram (b), we expand it using commutators

$$I_{b}(x,y) = \langle (\bar{\psi}\psi)_{x,r}(\bar{\psi}\psi)_{y,r} \rangle_{c,diag(b)}$$

$$= 4(i\lambda)^{2} \int^{x} (dz) \int^{y} (dw) \langle \bar{\psi}\psi_{[x}\bar{\psi}\psi_{z]} \rangle \langle \bar{\psi}\psi_{[y}\bar{\psi}\psi_{w]} \rangle \langle \sigma_{\{z}\sigma_{w\}} \rangle$$

$$+ 4(i\lambda)^{2} \int^{x} (dz) \int^{y} (dw) \langle \bar{\psi}\psi_{\{x}\bar{\psi}\psi_{z\}} \rangle \langle \bar{\psi}\psi_{[y}\bar{\psi}\psi_{w]} \rangle \langle \sigma_{[w}\sigma_{z]} \rangle \Theta(w^{0} - z^{0})$$

$$+ 4(i\lambda)^{2} \int^{x} (dz) \int^{y} (dw) \langle \bar{\psi}\psi_{[x}\bar{\psi}\psi_{z]} \rangle \langle \bar{\psi}\psi_{\{y}\bar{\psi}\psi_{w\}} \rangle \langle \sigma_{[z}\sigma_{w]} \rangle \Theta(z^{0} - w^{0})$$

$$(62)$$

$$\approx (i\lambda)^2 \int^x (dz) \int^y (dw) \langle [\bar{\psi}\psi_x, \bar{\psi}\psi_z] \rangle \langle [\bar{\psi}\psi_y, \bar{\psi}\psi_w] \rangle \langle \sigma_{\{z}\sigma_{w\}} \rangle$$
(64)

where $(dz) = \sqrt{-\det(g_{\mu\nu})}d^4z$, $[\cdots]$ means anti-symmetrization and $\{\cdots\}$ means symmetrization, and we have implicitly assumed the PV regulator. From the scalar and fermion mode functions in de Sitter spacetime, we know $\langle [\sigma_{x_1}, \sigma_{x_2}] \rangle$ is suppressed by $a^{-2\nu}$ relative to $\langle \{\sigma_{x_1}, \sigma_{x_2}\} \rangle$, whereas $\langle [\bar{\psi}\psi_{x_1}, \bar{\psi}\psi_{x_2}] \rangle$ is suppressed by a^{-1} relative to $\langle \{\bar{\psi}\psi_{x_1}, \bar{\psi}\psi_{x_2}\} \rangle$. The last line is obtained by keeping only the dominant contribution.

Since the fermion particle production ends at t_* and the previously produced particles have been diluted away, we expect the z and w integrals to peak around the time t_* . For late time and large spatial separations, the scalar correlator $\langle \sigma_{\{z}\sigma_{w\}}\rangle$ is slowly varying with respect to changes in z and w. Thus we may approximately take $\langle \sigma_{\{z}\sigma_{w\}}\rangle = \langle \sigma_{\{z_0}\sigma_{w_0\}}\rangle$, where $z_0 = (t_*, \vec{x})$ and $w_0 = (t_*, \vec{y})$, and factor it outside of the z, w integral:

$$I_b(x,y) \approx (i\lambda)^2 \langle \sigma_{\{z_0} \sigma_{w_0\}} \rangle [\int^x (dz) \langle [\bar{\psi}\psi_x, \bar{\psi}\psi_z] \rangle] [\int^y (dw) \langle [\bar{\psi}\psi_y, \bar{\psi}\psi_w] \rangle]$$
(65)

The remaining fermion integral $\int^x (dz) \langle [\bar{\psi}\psi_x, \bar{\psi}\psi_z] \rangle$ is quadratically divergent. The counterterms $\delta Z_4 \sigma + \delta Z_8 R \sigma$ in $(\bar{\psi}\psi)_r$ is in place to cancel such divergences. Furthermore, our choice of the renormalization conditions given in Section 3.1 ensures that a constant shift in σ is equivalent to a shift of the fermion mass (see Eq. (38)). An explicit computation of the fermion loop integral using the adiabatic subtraction is given in Appendix D. Thus we have

$$\langle (\delta_S)_{r,x} (\delta_S)_{r,y} \rangle_{NLO} \approx \omega_{\psi}^2 \lambda^2 [\partial_m \ln n_{\psi}|_x] [\partial_m \ln n_{\psi}|_y] \langle \sigma_{\{(\vec{x},t_*)} \sigma_{(\vec{y},t_*)\}} \rangle$$
(66)

where t_* is the time when fermion production ends (i.e. $m_{\psi} \sim H(t_*)$) and ∂_m denotes the derivative with respect to m_{ψ} . Note that $\langle (\delta_S)_{r,x} (\delta_S)_{r,y} \rangle_{NLO}$ freezes for $t > t_*$ since $\partial_m n_{\psi}$ and n_{ψ} behaves as a^{-3} after the fermion production ends. We will discuss the numerical implications of this result below.

To summarize, we computed the isocurvature correlation function to the next leading order, as in Eq. (66). Intuitively, the light scalar's quantum fluctuation modulate the fermion's mass, which affect the fermion relic abundance. In the same line of thought, we may extrapolate this result to estimate higher order corrections

$$\langle (\delta_S)_{r,x}(\delta_S)_{r,y} \rangle_{full} \approx \omega_{\psi}^2 \frac{\langle n_{\psi} \left(m_{\psi} + \lambda \sigma(\vec{x}, t_*) \right) n_{\psi} \left(m_{\psi} + \lambda \sigma(\vec{y}, t_*) \right) \rangle_{\sigma}}{n_{\psi}^2} \tag{67}$$

where we have treated n_{ψ} to be a function of its mass and the expectation value is taken with respect of the σ field.

5.3. Isocurvature Power Spectrum

In the long wavelength limit, which corresponds to the low multipoles in the angular CMB anisotropy, the temperature fluctuations dominantly come from the Sach-Wolfe term [18], which is expressed as

$$\frac{\Delta T}{T} = -\frac{1}{5}\zeta - \frac{2}{5}\delta_S.$$
(68)

$$\Delta_{\underline{\Delta T}}^2(k) \equiv \frac{k^3}{2\pi^2} \int d^3x \left\langle \frac{\Delta T}{T}(t,\vec{x}) \frac{\Delta T}{T}(t,\vec{0}) \right\rangle e^{-i\vec{k}\cdot\vec{x}} = \frac{1}{25} \Delta_{\zeta}^2(k) + \frac{4}{25} \Delta_{\delta_S}^2(k), \tag{69}$$

$$\Delta_{\zeta}^{2}(k) \equiv \frac{k^{3}}{2\pi^{2}} \int d^{3}x \left\langle \zeta(t,\vec{x})\zeta(t,\vec{0}) \right\rangle e^{-i\vec{k}\cdot\vec{x}},\tag{70}$$

$$\Delta_{\delta_S}^2(k) \equiv \frac{k^3}{2\pi^2} \int d^3x \left\langle \delta_S(t, \vec{x}) \delta_S(t, \vec{0}) \right\rangle e^{-i\vec{k}\cdot\vec{x}},\tag{71}$$

where the cross-correlation contribution $\langle \zeta \delta_S \rangle$ has been neglected because of the reason explained in Section 7. When the leading term approximation (66) is valid, Eq. (66) yields the isocurvature power spectrum

$$\Delta_{\delta_S}^2(t,k) = \omega_{\psi}^2(t)\lambda^2 \left(\frac{\partial_m n_{\psi}(m_{\psi})}{n_{\psi}}\right)^2 \Delta_{\sigma}^2(t_*,k) + O(\lambda^4),\tag{72}$$

which includes the extra factor ω_{ψ}^2 due to the thermal relics. Furthermore, when the mass of scalar field σ is sufficiently light such that σ does not start its coherent oscillation until the fermion particle production ends, i.e., $m_{\sigma} < H(t_*) < H_{inf}$, the power spectrum for σ is

$$\Delta_{\sigma}^2(t_*,k) \approx \frac{H^2(t_k)}{4\pi^2} \tag{73}$$

where t_k is the time when the scale k exits horizon. Note that we have already shown that the correction of m_{σ} due to the fermion loop is negligible in Section 4. Therefore, the isocurvature power spectrum becomes

$$\Delta_{\delta_S}^2(k) \approx \omega_{\psi}^2 \lambda^2 \left(\frac{\partial_m n_{\psi}(m_{\psi})}{n_{\psi}}\right)^2 \frac{H^2(t_k)}{4\pi^2}.$$
(74)

The currently known parametric bounds for this isocurvature power spectrum is presented in Section 6.1.

6. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

6.1. Parameter bounds

In this subsection, we present the allowed parameter region in the fermion isocurvature model from the observational constraints using the dark matter relic abundance and the CDM isocurvature power-spectrum. In this scenario, there are 5 independent parameters: m_{ψ} , H_{inf} , λ , T_{RH} and m_{σ} , where H_{inf} is the Hubble scale during inflation and T_{RH} is the reheating temperature. We assume H_{inf} and T_{RH} are free parameters governed entirely by the inflaton and the reheating sector. As discussed in Section 2, as long as $m_{\sigma} \ll m_{\psi}$, the exact value of the scalar mass m_{σ} is numerically unimportant in this model. Therefore, we are basically left with two parameter, namely λ and m_{ψ} .¹⁶

For the light fermion, $m_{\psi} < H_{inf}$, the fermion particle number freezes when $H(t_*) \sim m_{\psi}$ as reviewed in Appendix B. In particular, the Yukawa coupling works effectively as a mass shift in our scenario $m_{eff} = |m_{\psi} + \lambda \sigma(t_*)|$. The fermion relic abundance (B3) becomes

$$\Omega_{\psi}h^2 \sim 3r \left(\frac{m_{eff}}{10^{11} \text{GeV}}\right)^2 \left(\frac{T_{RH}}{10^9 \text{GeV}}\right),\tag{75}$$

where the extra factor r comes from the difference in the effective masses at t_* and later time, at which the energy density of ψ is not negligible, such as the MD era. For example, if σ is treated as a Gaussian random variable with $\sqrt{\langle \sigma^2 \rangle} \sim H_{inf}/2\pi$, we can approximate $r \approx m_{\psi}/\langle m_{eff} \rangle$ and write

$$\Omega_{\psi}h^{2} \sim \begin{cases} \left(\frac{m_{\psi}}{10^{11}\,\text{GeV}}\right)^{2} \left(\frac{T_{RH}}{10^{9}\,\text{GeV}}\right) & \text{if } m_{\psi} > \lambda H_{\text{inf}}/2\pi \\ \frac{2\pi m_{\psi}}{\lambda H_{inf}} \left(\frac{\lambda H_{inf}}{10^{11}\,\text{GeV}}\right)^{2} \left(\frac{T_{RH}}{10^{9}\,\text{GeV}}\right) & \text{if } m_{\psi} < \lambda H_{\text{inf}}/2\pi \end{cases},$$
(76)

where O(1) factors are neglected.

Furthermore, from the result (74) in Sec. 5.3, the fractional isocurvature amplitude [88] becomes

$$\alpha_S \equiv \frac{\Delta_{\delta_S}^2}{\Delta_{\zeta}^2 + \Delta_{\delta_S}^2} \sim \frac{\lambda^2}{2} \left(\frac{m_{\psi}}{10^4 \text{GeV}}\right)^2 \left(\frac{H}{10^{13} \text{GeV}}\right)^2 \left(\frac{T_{RH}}{10^9 \text{GeV}}\right)^2,\tag{77}$$

where we have used

$$\frac{\partial_m n_{\psi}}{n_{\psi}} \sim \begin{cases} m_{\psi}^{-1} & \text{for } m_{\psi} > \lambda H_{inf}/2\pi \\ 2\pi \lambda^{-1} H_{inf}^{-1} & \text{for } m_{\psi} < \lambda H_{inf}/2\pi \end{cases},$$
(78)

because the number density n_{ψ} at the time t_* is determined by only one dimensionful scale $m_{eff} \sim H(t_*)$. The current observational bound [1, 89, 90] of the isocurvature for the uncorrelated case, i.e. $\langle \zeta \delta_S \rangle = 0$, is $\alpha_S < 0.016 (95\% \text{ CL})$ from the Planck+WP9 combined data, which yields the constraints on the parameters λ and m_{ψ} . Combining the above consideration, we have the parameter plot shown in Fig. 3. We emphasize that the parameter region beyond the (left diagonal) bound from the σ annihilation, Eq. 50, is not necessarily excluded. Due to the uncertainty of the σ annihilation effect, we provide it as a conservative bound of this model.

¹⁶ Note that we implicitly assume that if m_{ψ} and T_{RH} are such that the dark matter relic abundance is not saturated by the ψ energy density, the other CDM sector in Eq. (6) is adjusted to provide the rest of the dark matter. Note that when the ψ dark matter abundance is small, no large tuning is needed to make this occur since the well known WIMP miracle can saturate the dark matter abundance.

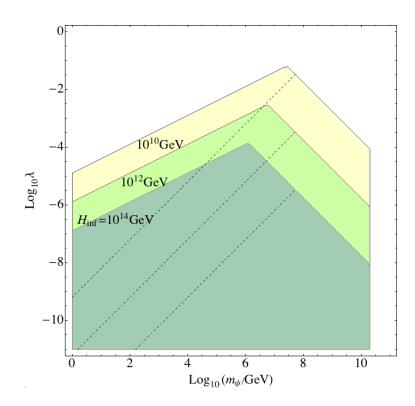


Figure 3: Bounds on the fermion mass and Yukawa coupling for various inflationary Hubble scales. The vertical bound corresponds to the total dark matter relic density constraint, and the right diagonal one corresponds to the constraints from the CDM isocurvature, respectively. The left diagonal one is a conservative bound from the σ annihilation of this model, Eq. (50), which may be relaxed. The splitting dashed lines in each region separates the small mass and large mass correction regime. In this plot, we set $T_{RH} = 10^9 GeV$.

The case that $m_{\psi} < \lambda H_{inf}/(2\pi)$ (which we will refer to as large mass correction regime) is potentially the most interesting case because the fermion number density n_{ψ} depends on $|m_{\psi} + \lambda \sigma|$, not $m_{\psi} + \lambda \sigma$ as the sign of the fermion mass is irrelevant for particle production¹⁷. This may lead to interesting features such as large non-Gaussianities when the effective mass varies from negative to positive depending on the local Hubble patches at t_* . However, this parametric region has couple of problems: 1) the perturbative calculation of n_{ψ} may be unsuitable since we are not resuming the large mass corrections; 2) Eq. (46) may not be satisfied. Hence, for the rest of this section, we primarily focus on the case that $m_{\psi} > \lambda H_{inf}/(2\pi)$, which we will refer to as the small mass correction regime.

¹⁷ The sign of the fermion mass changes under a chiral transformation.



Figure 4: The leading order diagrams to 3-point function $\langle \delta_S \delta_S \delta_S \rangle$ is shown. The cross-dot vertices corresponds to $\bar{\psi}\psi/n_{\psi}$ insertions.

6.2. Non-Gaussianities

In this subsection, we compute the bi-spectrum $B_S(\vec{p}_1, \vec{p}_2, \vec{p}_3)$ defined by

$$(2\pi)^3 \,\delta^{(3)}(\sum_i \vec{p_i}) B_S(\vec{p_1}, \vec{p_2}, \vec{p_3}) = \int d^3x_1 d^3x_2 d^3x_3 e^{-i\sum_i \vec{p_i} \cdot \vec{x_i}} \left\langle \delta_S(\vec{x_1}) \delta_S(\vec{x_2}) \delta_S(\vec{x_3}) \right\rangle. \tag{79}$$

The fermion density fluctuation is intrinsically non-Gaussian since n_{ψ} is the non-linear function of σ , which is treated as a Gaussian random variable. When the effective mass fluctuation due to $\lambda \sigma$ is small, we can Taylor-expand the number density with respect to $\lambda \sigma$,

$$n_{\psi}\left(m_{\psi}+\lambda\sigma\right) = n_{\psi}\left(m_{\psi}\right) + \lambda\left(\partial_{m_{\psi}}n_{\psi}(m_{\psi})\right)\sigma + \frac{1}{2}\lambda^{2}\left(\partial_{m_{\psi}}^{2}n_{\psi}(m_{\psi})\right)\sigma^{2} + O(\lambda^{3}).$$
(80)

Then the bispectrum is written as

$$B_S(\vec{p}_1, \vec{p}_2, \vec{p}_3) = \lambda^4 \omega_{\psi}^3 \frac{(\partial_m n_{\psi})^2 \left(\partial_m^2 n_{\psi}\right)}{n_{\psi}^3} \left[\Delta_{\sigma}^2(p_1) \Delta_{\sigma}^2(p_2) + 2 \text{ perms}\right] + O(\lambda^6), \quad (81)$$

which is shown diagrammatically in Fig. 4. Now we compare this with the observational non-Gaussianities using the conventional non-Gaussian parameter f_{NL} defined by

$$B_{\zeta}(\vec{p}_1, \vec{p}_2, \vec{p}_3) \equiv \frac{6}{5} f_{NL} \left[\Delta_{\zeta}^2(p_1) \Delta_{\zeta}^2(p_2) + 2 \text{ perms} \right].$$
(82)

Identifying B_{ζ} as the bispectrum of the temperature fluctuation using Eq.(68) and comparing it with B_S , we find in the squeezed triangle limit

$$f_{NL}^{S} = \frac{8B_{S}}{B_{\zeta}|_{f_{NL}=1}} = 8\frac{5}{6}\lambda^{4}\omega_{\psi}^{3}\frac{(\partial_{m}n_{\psi})^{2}(\partial_{m}^{2}n_{\psi})}{n_{\psi}^{3}}\frac{\Delta_{\sigma}^{2}(p_{1})\Delta_{\sigma}^{2}(p_{2}) + 2 \text{ perms.}}{\Delta_{\zeta}^{2}(p_{1})\Delta_{\zeta}^{2}(p_{2}) + 2 \text{ perms.}}.$$
(83)

The factor 8 arises because the radiation transfer function for isocurvature is twice larger than that for adiabatic perturbation for the low multipoles of the CMB anisotropy as shown in Eq. (68). Although the isocurvature non-Gaussianities parameter f_{NL}^S should not be compared directly with f_{NL} defined by the curvature perturbation [91], this can be done with the extra O(1) correction In order to obtain the functional structure of $n_{\psi}(m, H; t)$, which relies on the background behavior, we specialize to the case of the inflaton coherent oscillation reheating scenarios, in which the total fermion number freezes during the reheating. During the early stage of the reheating when the inflaton field oscillates coherently, the equation of state of the inflaton is zero and the background behaves like the matter dominated (MD) era. After approximating the early stage of the reheating to the MD-like era (i.e. inflaton coherent oscillations period), we get (see Eq. (B2))

$$n_{\psi}(t) \sim \frac{m_{\psi}^3}{3\pi^2} \left(\frac{a(t_m)}{a_t}\right)^3 \sim m_{\psi} H_e^2 \left(\frac{a_e}{a_t}\right)^3 \tag{84}$$

However, this leading order result gives $\partial_{m_{\psi}}^2 n_{\psi} = 0$ which renders $f_{NL}^S = 0$ via Eq.(83).

To find the non-zero result of f_{NL}^S , we need to study the mass dependence of n_{ψ} in more detail, which in turn requires the knowledge of $|\beta_k(t;m)|^2$. To this point, we have approximated our spectrum by $|\beta_k(t;m)|^2 \sim 1/2\Theta(k_* - k)$, where $k_* = a(t_*)m$ and t_* is the time when m = H. However, in general the spectrum should contain more than one characteristic scale, such as $k_e = a(t_e)H_e$ where t_e marks the end of inflation. Thus, in general, the number density should contain a correction factor $f(\frac{m}{H_e})$ i.e.

$$n_{\psi} \sim m_{\psi} H_e^2 \left(\frac{a_e}{a_t}\right)^3 f(\frac{m_{\psi}}{H_e}) \tag{85}$$

and f(0) = 1. This higher order correction to n_{ψ} would render $\partial_m^2 n_{\psi} \neq 0$ for the MD-like reheating scenario.

For simplicity, if we assume that $f(x) = 1 + a_1 x^{18}$, then in the limit where Δ_{σ}^2 , Δ_{ζ}^2 , and $\Delta_{\delta_S}^2$ are scale invariant, we find

$$f_{NL}^{S} \sim a_{1} \left(\frac{\alpha_{S}(\lambda, m_{\psi}, H_{e}, T_{RH})}{0.02} \right)^{2} \left(\frac{\Omega_{\psi} h^{2}(m_{\psi}, T_{RH})}{10^{-7}} \right)^{-1} \left(\frac{m_{\psi}/H_{e}}{10^{-1}} \right).$$
(86)

Although we would naively guess $a_1 \sim O(1)$, the justification of the Taylor expansion for f(x) and the estimation of the coefficient a_1 will be left for future work since the main thrust of this work is the computation of isocurvature perturbations and not the non-Gaussianities. The maximum f_{NL}

¹⁸ On very general grounds, n_{ψ} cuts off exponentially at very large masses, $m_{\psi} \gtrsim H_e$, as shown in Appendix B and Refs. [30, 31, 51, 52, 78]. From this, we qualitative estimate the correction factor f from this exponential cut-off, which gives an O(1) value for a_1 .

for the $m_{\psi} \gtrsim \lambda H_{inf}/(2\pi)$ case (consistent with small mass correction case) is achieved when this inequality is saturated and α_S is at its phenomenological maximum. We find this maximum to be at

$$f_{NL,\max}^S \sim O(100) a_1 \frac{m_\psi}{H_{inf}/(2\pi)}.$$
 (87)

Recall that our scenario assumes that $2\pi m_{\psi}/H_{inf} < 1$. Hence, although f_{NL}^S cannot be made arbitrarily large, there may exist a parametric regime in which f_{NL}^S is observable depending on a_1 . Note that this extremum value corresponds to making the inhomogeneities O(1) while staying consistent with phenomenology through the ω_{ψ} dilution factor: i.e. at this parametric point, the fermion abundance is $\Omega_{\psi}h^2 \approx 10^{-6}$ while most of the CDM is made up of assumed dark matter different from ψ .

7. NATURAL SUPPRESSION OF GRAVITATIONAL COUPLING TO THE INFLATON

As briefly discussed in 2, the gravity induced coupling of the fermion to the inflaton give a suppressed contribution to the isocurvature correlation function. We would like to consider this in more detail in this section. In addition, the argument below also shows that $\langle \bar{\psi}\psi\zeta \rangle$ cross-correlation is negligible, justifying the classification of this fermionic isocurvature perturbations as uncorrelated.

First, consider the $\zeta \psi \psi$ interaction given by Eq. (F17) following the argument given in Ref. [53]. In this case, the most important coupling term is $a^2 \zeta \delta_{ij} T_{\psi}^{ij} \in \mathcal{H}_{int}$ because the other interactions are derivatively suppressed, and decays as $O(1/a^2)$ or faster. Since ζ also freezes outside the horizon, using the similar argument given surrounding Eq. (65) we can factor the ζ correlation function out of the dominantly contributing integral, which corresponds to the diagram (b). Then we have

$$I_{\zeta\psi\psi}(x,y) \approx (i)^{2} \langle \zeta_{\{z_{0}}\zeta_{w_{0}\}} \rangle [\int_{t_{r}}^{t} dt_{z} \int d^{3}z \, a^{3}(t_{z}) \langle [\bar{\psi}\psi_{x}, T_{\psi i}^{i}(z)] \rangle] \\ \times [\int_{t_{r}}^{t} dt_{w} \int d^{3}w \, a^{3}(t_{w}) \langle [\bar{\psi}\psi_{y}, T_{\psi i}^{i}(w)] \rangle] + O\left(\frac{a^{2}(t_{r})}{a^{2}(t)}\right)$$
(88)

where $z_0 = (t_*, \vec{x}), w_0 = (t_*, \vec{y}), t = x^0 = y^0$, and t_r denotes the time that the comoving distance $r = |\vec{x} - \vec{y}|$ crosses the horizon during inflation. In the integral, we have assumed the PV regulator. Note that $\lambda \int (dz) T_{\psi i}^i$ is a generator of the spatial dilatation, $x^i \to (1 + \lambda) x^i$ which is an element of diffeomorphism. Thus, we have

$$\int_{-\infty}^{t} dt_z \int d^3 z \, a^3(t_z) \langle [\bar{\psi}\psi_x, T^i_{\psi\,i}(z)] \rangle = 0 \tag{89}$$

because $\psi\psi$ is a diffeomorphism invariant scalar. Indeed, this is a Ward identity similar to that of Ref. [53]. Although the integral in Eq. (88) does not completely vanish (because of the time integral limit being t_r and not $-\infty$), the mode function of ψ decays as $1/a^3$ (as shown Appendix C) because of the classical conformal symmetry characterizing the massless fermionic sector¹⁹, we have

$$\int_{t_r}^t dt_z \int d^3 z \, a^3(t_z) \langle [\bar{\psi}\psi_x, T^i_{\psi\,i}(z)] \rangle \sim O\left(\frac{a^3(t_r)}{a^3(t)}\right). \tag{90}$$

In a similar manner, we can have

$$\left\langle \zeta_x \left(\bar{\psi} \psi \right)_y \right\rangle \sim O\left(\frac{a^2(t_r)}{a^2(t)} \right).$$
 (91)

Therefore, we can conclude that large scale density perturbations of ψ particles generated by ζ interaction and the curvature and isocurvature cross-correlation via the $\zeta \bar{\psi} \psi$ are negligible.

8. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

In this work, we have presented a fermionic isocurvature scenario which contains fermionic field fluctuation information during inflation. To our knowledge, this is the first work that describes isocurvature inhomogeneities of fermionic fields during inflation. Because massless free fermions have a tree-level conformal symmetry, such isocurvature models must couple to a conformal symmetry breaking sector. Because the ζ sector coupling to fermion ψ is suppressed due to the dilatation symmetry, an additional scalar sector σ is coupled to ψ (with mass m_{ψ}) through a Yukawa coupling with strength λ . Composite operator renormalization in curved spacetime plays an important role in determining the isocurvature perturbations. We have computed the fermion isocurvature two point correlation function which has its dominant contribution in the long wavelength limit coming at one loop 1PI level. We have also estimated the local non-Gaussianity and found a value that is promising for observability for a particular corner of the parameter space.

As far as the existence proof inspired "minimal" model of this paper is concerned, a large phenomenologically viable parameter region spanned by $\{\lambda, m_{\psi}\}$ exists for various inflationary models controlled by $\{H_{inf}, T_{RH}\}$. The large λ parameter region is bounded either by current CMB constraints on isocurvature perturbations or the constraint of σ not decaying to ψ . The large m_{ψ}

$$\left\langle \zeta\left(t,\vec{x}\right)\sigma^{2}\left(t,\vec{y}\right)\right\rangle \sim O\left(\left(\frac{a(t_{r})}{a(t)}\right)^{3-2\nu},\left(\frac{a(t_{r})}{a(t)}\right)^{2}\right),$$

where $\nu \equiv \sqrt{\frac{9}{4} - \frac{m_{\sigma}^2}{H^2}}$.

¹⁹ Thus, the result is different for a scalar case, which is minimally coupled to gravity. In particular, the crosscorrelation for the light scalar case is computed in Ref. [53] and is

region is constrained by the relic abundance non-overclosure. The small m_{ψ} region is constrained by requiring that σ not decay to ψ (for a fixed λ and H_{inf}). The large non-Gaussianity parametric region is associated with largest λ consistent with isocurvature bounds and the simplifying assumption $m_{\psi} \gtrsim \lambda H_{inf}/(2\pi)$. This intuitively corresponds to a large fermion inhomogeneity (i.e. $\delta \rho_{\psi}/\bar{\rho}_{\psi} \sim O(1)$) with a tiny $\bar{\rho}_{\psi}/(\bar{\rho}_{\psi} + \bar{\rho}_m)$ where $\bar{\rho}_m$ corresponds to an adiabatic cold dark matter component that helps saturate the phenomenologically measured cold dark matter abundance.

Our results regarding the gravitational fermion production give good dynamical intuition on many models with dynamical fermions existing during inflation. One shortcoming of the explicit model used in the current work is the tuning of the σ sector imposed to keep it light and to prevent any σ decay into ψ . In addition to model building issues, it would be interesting to consider in the future non-Gaussianities from such models more completely and carefully beyond the estimation presented in this work. It may also be interesting to see what UV model fermionic sector built independently of cosmological motivation can be constrained using the analysis presented in this paper.

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Appendix A: Scalar and Spinor fields in Curved spacetime

First we list the relevant results about scalar field. Consider the following action

$$S = \int d^4x \sqrt{|g|} \left\{ -\frac{1}{2} g^{\alpha\beta} \partial_\alpha \phi \partial_\beta \phi - \frac{1}{2} m^2 \phi^2 - \frac{1}{2} \xi R \phi^2 \right\},\tag{A1}$$

This gives rises to equation of motion

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{|g|}}\partial_{\mu}(g^{\mu\nu}\sqrt{|g|}\partial_{\nu}\phi) - (m^2 + \xi R)\phi = 0$$
(A2)

Scalar product between two solutions are defined as

$$(\phi_1, \phi_2) = -i \int_{\Sigma} [\phi_1 \partial_\mu \phi_2^* - \phi_2 \partial_\mu \phi_1^*] \sqrt{|g_{\Sigma}|} d\Sigma^\mu$$
(A3)

where Σ is a spacelike hypersurface.

For FRW metric, we can use mode decomposition

$$\phi(x) = \int d^3k (c_{\vec{k}} u_{\vec{k}}(x) + c_{\vec{k}}^{\dagger} u_{\vec{k}}^*(x))$$
(A4)

with the normalization condition

$$[c_{\vec{k}}, c_{\vec{p}}^{\dagger}] = \delta^3(\vec{k} - \vec{p}) \tag{A5}$$

$$(u_{\vec{k}}, u_{\vec{p}}) = \delta^3(\vec{k} - \vec{p})$$
 (A6)

The mode functions can be written explicitly as

$$u_{\vec{k}}(x) = \frac{e^{i\vec{k}\cdot\vec{x}}}{(2\pi)^{3/2}a(\eta)}f_k(\eta)$$
 (A7)

$$f_k \partial_\eta f_k^* - f_k^* \partial_\eta f_k = i \tag{A8}$$

The time-part of the mode function obeys the differential equation

$$\frac{d^2}{d\eta^2}f_{k,\eta} + \{k^2 + a_\eta^2[m^2 + (\xi - \frac{1}{6}R(\eta))]\}f_{k,\eta} = 0$$
(A9)

where $R(\eta) = 6a^{-1}\partial_{\eta}^2 a$, and η is the conformal time. For de Sitter spacetime, the mode solution for a minimally coupled scalar ($\xi = 0$) is

$$f_k(\eta) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2k}} \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{2} \left(\frac{k}{aH}\right)} e^{i\frac{\pi}{2}(\nu + \frac{1}{2})} H_{\nu}^{(1)}(\frac{k}{aH})$$
(A10)

where $\nu^2 = \frac{9}{4} - \frac{m^2}{H^2}$.

The following relations of first kind of Hankel functions are useful

$$H_{\nu}^{(1)}(z) \rightarrow -i\frac{\Gamma(\nu)}{\pi} \left(\frac{2}{z}\right)^{\nu} \quad (z \to 0)$$
(A11)

$$H_{\nu}^{(1)}(z) \to \sqrt{\frac{2}{\pi z}} e^{-i\frac{\pi}{2}(\nu + \frac{1}{2})} e^{iz} \quad (z \to \infty)$$
 (A12)

From the mode expansion, we may construct the equal-time correlator in dS spacetime. In particular, we are interested in the large separation limit. For light scalar, when ν is real, we have

$$\langle \sigma_x \sigma_y \rangle \approx \frac{H^2}{8\pi} \frac{\Gamma(\frac{3}{2} - \nu)}{\Gamma(\frac{3}{2})\Gamma(1 - \nu)\sin(\nu\pi)} (aHr)^{2\nu - 3}$$
(A13)

For heavy scalar, when $\nu = i\alpha$ and if $\alpha \sim \frac{m}{H} \gg 1$, then

$$\langle \sigma_x \sigma_y \rangle \approx \frac{H^{3/2} m^{1/2}}{\pi^{3/2}} e^{-\frac{m}{H}\pi} \sin[2\frac{m}{H}\ln(aHr) - \frac{1}{4}\pi](aHr)^{-3}$$
 (A14)

Next, we give the result for spinor field. Consider the free Dirac field ψ action

$$S = \int (dx) \left(i\bar{\psi}\gamma^{\mu}\nabla_{\mu}\psi - m\bar{\psi}\psi \right).$$
(A15)

where $(dx) = d^4x \sqrt{|g_x|}$ and $\gamma^{\mu} \equiv \gamma^a e_a^{\mu}$ with vierbein e_a^{μ} . The covariant derivatives for ψ is defined by

$$\nabla_{\mu}\psi = \partial_{\mu}\psi + \frac{1}{2}\omega_{\mu}^{ab}\Sigma_{ab}\psi \tag{A16}$$

and the spin-connection is defined by

$$\omega_{\mu}^{ab} = e_{\nu}^{a} \nabla_{\mu} e^{b\nu} \tag{A17}$$

and the Lorentz generator on the spinor field is given by

$$\Sigma_{ab} = -\frac{1}{4} [\gamma_a, \gamma_b], \tag{A18}$$

where the γ matrices satisfy the $\{\gamma_a, \gamma_b\} = -2\eta_{ab}$ with $\eta \equiv \text{diag}(-1, 1, 1, 1)$. Note that the sign convention is chosen such that $[\Sigma^{12}, \Sigma^{23}] = \Sigma^{13}$.

Extremizing the action with respect to $\delta \bar{\psi}$ and $\delta \psi$ yields the equations of motion:

$$(i\gamma^{\mu}\nabla_{\mu} - m)\psi = 0, \qquad \nabla_{\mu}\bar{\psi}(-i\gamma^{\mu}) - \bar{\psi}m = 0.$$
 (A19)

The solution space can be endowed with a scalar product as

$$(\psi_1, \psi_2)_{\Sigma} = \int d\Sigma n_\mu \bar{\psi}_1 \gamma^\mu \psi_2 \tag{A20}$$

in which Σ is an arbitrary space-like hypersurface, $d\Sigma$ is the volume 3-form on this hypersurface computed with the induced metric, and n_{μ} is the future-pointing time-like unit vector normal to Σ . The current conservation condition

$$\nabla_{\mu}(\bar{\psi}_1\gamma^{\mu}\psi_2) = 0 \tag{A21}$$

implies the integral in the scalar product is independent of the choice of Σ .

If we adopt the Dirac basis for the γ matrices, i.e.

$$\gamma^{0} = \begin{pmatrix} I & 0 \\ 0 & -I \end{pmatrix}, \quad \gamma^{i} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \sigma^{i} \\ -\sigma^{i} & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$
(A22)

the mode functions can be written as

$$U_{\vec{k},r}(x) = \frac{1}{a_x^{3/2}} \frac{e^{i\vec{k}\cdot\vec{x}}}{(2\pi)^{3/2}} \begin{pmatrix} u_{A,k,x^0} \\ r \, u_{B,k,x^0} \end{pmatrix} \otimes h_{\hat{k},r}$$
(A23)

$$V_{\vec{k},r}(x) = -i\gamma^2 U_{\vec{k},r}^*(x) = \frac{1}{a_x^{3/2}} \frac{e^{-i\vec{k}\cdot\vec{x}}}{(2\pi)^{3/2}} \begin{pmatrix} r \, u_{B,k,x^0}^* \\ -u_{A,k,x^0}^* \end{pmatrix} \otimes (-i\sigma_2) h_{\hat{k},r}^* \tag{A24}$$

$$h_{\hat{k},r}^{\dagger}h_{\hat{k},s} = \delta_{rs} \tag{A25}$$

$$|u_{A,k,\eta}|^2 + |u_{B,k,\eta}|^2 = 1.$$
(A26)

The time dependent parts of the mode functions obey the following equation

$$i\frac{d}{d\eta}\begin{pmatrix}u_A\\u_B\end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix}am & k\\k & -am\end{pmatrix}\begin{pmatrix}u_A\\u_B\end{pmatrix}.$$
 (A27)

In the special case of the de Sitter background with Bunch-Davies boundary condition, we have

$$\begin{pmatrix} u_A \\ u_B \end{pmatrix}_{k,\eta}^{in} = \begin{pmatrix} \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{4}(\frac{k}{aH_e})}e^{i\frac{\pi}{2}(1-i\frac{m}{H_e})}H_{\frac{1}{2}-i\frac{m}{H_e}}^{(1)}(\frac{k}{aH}) \\ \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{4}(\frac{k}{aH_e})}e^{i\frac{\pi}{2}(1+i\frac{m}{H})}H_{\frac{1}{2}+i\frac{m}{H_e}}^{(1)}(\frac{k}{aH}) \end{pmatrix}$$
(A28)

$$\text{if} |kx^{0}| \ll 1 \longrightarrow \left(\begin{array}{c} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{\frac{\pi}{2}} \frac{m}{H}} e^{-im(t-t_{e})+i\frac{m}{H}\ln(2k/a_{e}H)} \Gamma(\frac{1}{2}-i\frac{m}{H}) \\ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-\frac{\pi}{2}} \frac{m}{H}} e^{+im(t-t_{e})-i\frac{m}{H}\ln(2k/a_{e}H)} \Gamma(\frac{1}{2}+i\frac{m}{H}) \end{array} \right)$$

$$(A29)$$

Since the interaction picture operator $\psi(x)$ obeys the same classical equations, Eq. (A19), we can expand the operator using $\{U_i, V_i\}$ as the basis:

$$\psi(x) = \sum_{i} a_i U_i(x) + b_i^{\dagger} V_i(x)$$
(A30)

and the normalization conditions on U_i, V_i gives the usual canonical anti-commutation relations of the creation and annihilation operators.

The first order WKB approximation is defined as

$$\begin{pmatrix} u_A \\ u_B \end{pmatrix}_{k,\eta}^{WKB} = \begin{pmatrix} \sqrt{\frac{\omega+am}{2\omega}} \\ \sqrt{\frac{\omega-am}{2\omega}} \end{pmatrix} e^{-i\int^{\eta} \omega d\eta'}$$
(A31)

In the following, when we talk about fermion particle, we are implicitly referring to the WKB-mode.

Thus one can introduce the time-dependent Bogoliubov coefficients $\{\alpha_{k,\eta}, \beta_{k,\eta}\}$ between the in-modes and WKB-modes:

$$\begin{pmatrix} u_A \\ u_B \end{pmatrix}_{k,\eta}^{in} = \alpha_{k,\eta} \begin{pmatrix} u_A \\ u_B \end{pmatrix}_{k,\eta}^{WKB} + \beta_{k,\eta} \begin{pmatrix} u_B^* \\ -u_A^* \end{pmatrix}^{WKB}.$$
 (A32)

Clearly, $(\alpha, \beta) \to (1, 0)$ as $\eta \to -\infty$. We may also note that the Bogoliubov coefficients obey normalization condition as

$$|\alpha_{k,\eta}|^2 + |\beta_{k,\eta}|^2 = 1.$$
(A33)

in agreement with fermion statistics.

Using Eq. (A32), (A31) and (A27), we can derive the evolution equation for the Bogoliubov coefficients, as shown in Eq. (B1).

Appendix B: Review of fermion particle production

In this section, we give a brief review of the main result about fermion production during inflation [51]. The fermion number density can be obtained by solving this equations of Bogoliubov coefficients

$$\partial_{\eta} \begin{pmatrix} \alpha_{k,\eta} \\ \beta_{k,\eta} \end{pmatrix} = \frac{a^2 m \, k \, H}{2\omega^2} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & e^{2i \int^{\eta} \omega d\eta'} \\ -e^{-i \int^{\eta} \omega d\eta'} & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \alpha_{k,\eta} \\ \beta_{k,\eta} \end{pmatrix} \tag{B1}$$

We define the non-adiabaticity for a mode k as $\epsilon_{k,\eta} = \frac{m k_p H}{\omega_p^3}$, where subscript p stand for "physical", $\omega_p = \omega/a$ etc. As the system evolves from an initial vacuum condition of $\begin{pmatrix} \alpha_{k,\eta} \\ \beta_{k,\eta} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$, $\beta_{k,\eta}$ will only increase significantly when $\epsilon_{k,\eta} \sim O(1)$. This implies the following results,

- 1. In the heavy mass limit $(m_{\psi} \gg H_{inf})$, $\epsilon_{k,\eta}$ is always suppressed by $\frac{H}{m_{\psi}}$, we get $|\beta_{k,\eta}|^2 \sim \exp[-C\frac{m_{\psi}}{H(\eta_k)}] \ll 1$, where C is some order one constant and $H(\eta_k)$ is the Hubble rate at the most non-adiabatic moment for mode k.
- 2. In the light mass limit $(m_{\psi} \ll H_{inf})$, $\epsilon_{k,\eta}$ is largest when $k_p \sim m_{\psi}$, we call this time η_k . If $m_{\psi} < H(\eta_k)$, we have $|\beta_k|^2 \sim \frac{1}{2}$, otherwise it is suppressed by $\exp[-C\frac{m_{\psi}}{H(\eta_k)}]$ as well.

Since the heavy fermion production is always exponentially suppressed by m_{ψ}/H ratio, we focus on the light fermion case. The energy density at time t is given by

$$\rho(t) \sim \frac{m_{\psi}^4}{3\pi^2} \left(\frac{a(t_*)}{a(t)}\right)^3,\tag{B2}$$

where t_* is the time when $H(t) = m_{\psi}$. If t_* occurs during reheating, one get the relic abundance today time as

$$\Omega_{\psi}h^2 \sim 3\left(\frac{m_{\psi}}{10^{11}\text{GeV}}\right)^2 \left(\frac{T_{RH}}{10^9\text{GeV}}\right). \tag{B3}$$

Appendix C: Asymptotic behavior of $\langle \psi_x \bar{\psi}_y \rangle$ at large r

In this section we derive the result about leading order contribution to $\langle n_{\psi,x}n_{\psi,y}\rangle$, i.e. Eq. (52). By Wick contraction, this reduces to computing the field correlator $\langle \psi_x \bar{\psi}_y \rangle$. The standard way to compute the correlator is to plug in the mode decomposition Eq. (A30) and compute the mode functions $\{U_i, V_i\}$. The difficulties lie in how to obtain the mode functions on a curved spacetime. For inflationary background spacetime, one can use the de Sitter spacetime as an approximation and obtain exact analytic solutions. However, it is unclear how do these mode solutions evolve after inflation ends. Such postinflationary solutions are relevant for our computation because the particle production freezes out after the end of inflation. Here we give an approach that answers this question.

First, we plug in the mode decomposition to the equal-time correlator:

$$\langle \psi_{x}\psi_{y}\rangle = \int d^{3}k \frac{1}{a_{x}^{3}} \frac{e^{i\vec{k}\cdot\vec{r}}}{(2\pi)^{3}} \begin{pmatrix} |u_{A,k,x^{0}}|^{2} \otimes I_{2} & -u_{A,k,x^{0}}u_{B,k,x^{0}}^{*} \otimes (\hat{k}\cdot\vec{\sigma}) \\ u_{B,k,x^{0}}u_{A,k,x^{0}}^{*} \otimes (\hat{k}\cdot\vec{\sigma}) & -|u_{B,k,x^{0}}|^{2} \otimes I_{2} \end{pmatrix}$$
(C1)

where we have performed the spin-sum in the last step. Since

$$\int d^3k \frac{e^{i\vec{k}\cdot\vec{r}}}{(2\pi)^3} |u_{A,k,x^0}|^2 = \int d^3k \frac{e^{i\vec{k}\cdot\vec{r}}}{(2\pi)^3} (1 - |u_{B,k,x^0}|^2)$$
(C2)

$$= \delta^{3}(\vec{r}) - \int d^{3}k \frac{e^{ik \cdot \vec{r}}}{(2\pi)^{3}} |u_{B,k,x^{0}}|^{2}$$
(C3)

and $\vec{r} \neq 0$, we see the diagonal elements are the same. Then we perform the angular integral $d^2\hat{k}$. Recall that

$$\int d^3k \, e^{i\vec{k}\cdot\vec{r}} f(k) = \int 4\pi k^2 dk \, \frac{\sin(kr)}{kr} f(k) \tag{C4}$$

$$\int d^3k \, e^{i\vec{k}\cdot\vec{r}}\hat{k}_i f(k) = \left(-i\hat{r}_i\partial_r\right) \int 4\pi k^2 dk \, \frac{\sin(kr)}{kr} \frac{f(k)}{k} \tag{C5}$$

After the angular integral, we have

$$\langle \psi_x \bar{\psi}_y \rangle = \int \frac{4\pi k^2 dk}{(2\pi)^3} \begin{pmatrix} A & B \\ B^* & C \end{pmatrix}$$
(C6)

$$A = |u_{A,k,\eta}|^2 \cdot \frac{\sin(kr)}{kr} \tag{C7}$$

$$B = (i\hat{r} \cdot \vec{\sigma}) u_{A,k,\eta} u^*_{B,k,\eta} \cdot \partial_r \frac{\sin(kr)}{kr} \frac{1}{k}$$
(C8)

$$C = -|u_{B,k,\eta}|^2 \cdot \frac{\sin(kr)}{kr} \tag{C9}$$

It is sufficient to study these two integrals for the diagonal and off-diagonal elements.

$$I_{11} = I_{22} = \int_0^\infty \frac{4\pi k^2 dk}{(2\pi)^3} |u_{A,k,\eta}|^2 \cdot \frac{\sin(kr)}{kr}$$
(C10)

$$I_{12} = I_{21}^* = \partial_r \int_0^\infty \frac{4\pi k^2 dk}{(2\pi)^3} u_{A,k,\eta} u_{B,k,\eta}^* \frac{\sin(kr)}{kr} \frac{1}{k}$$
(C11)

Now, we only need to find the mode function u_A, u_B , and perform the mode sum.

Let's consider the mode functions first. Since we are interested in evaluating the fermion field correlator at a time when the fermion production has ended, i.e. when $m \gg H(x^0)$ and in the limit $r \to \infty$, we can make the following approximations about the mode functions $\{u_{A,k,x^0}, u_{B,k,x^0}\}$. First, since the particle production has stopped, the non-adiabatic parameter is suppressed by $\frac{H(t)}{m}$, thus we can approximately replace the Bogoliubov coefficients by their late time asymptotic values, i.e.

$$\alpha_{k,x^0} \approx \alpha_k, \quad \beta_{k,x^0} \approx \beta_k.$$
 (C12)

Second, since we want to capture the particle production effect on the correlator and the produced particles are non-relativistic at the time of production, by the time x^0 which is sufficiently long after the production has ended, we may approximate the produced modes all have $k \ll a(x^0)m$. Thus, the WKB modes can be approximated by

$$\begin{pmatrix} u_A \\ u_B \end{pmatrix}_{k,\eta,IR}^{WKB} = \begin{pmatrix} \sqrt{\frac{\omega+am}{2\omega}} \\ \sqrt{\frac{\omega-am}{2\omega}} \end{pmatrix} e^{-i\int^{\eta}\omega d\eta'} \to \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} e^{-i\int^{\eta}\omega d\eta'}.$$
 (C13)

Combining these two approximations, we have

$$\begin{pmatrix} u_A \\ u_B \end{pmatrix}_{k,\eta,IR}^{in} \approx \begin{pmatrix} \alpha_k \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} e^{-i\int^{\eta} \omega d\eta'} \\ -\beta_k \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} e^{i\int^{\eta} \omega d\eta'} \end{pmatrix}$$
(C14)

Thus we can easily evaluate I_{11}, I_{12} :

$$2\pi^2 I_{11,IR} = \frac{1}{r} \operatorname{Im} \int_0^\infty k dk \, \frac{1}{2} [1 - n(k)] \cdot e^{ikr}$$
(C15)

We note that for the contribution from 1 vanishes

$$\frac{1}{r} \operatorname{Im} \int_0^\infty k dk \, [1] \cdot e^{ikr} = \frac{1}{r} \operatorname{Im} \int_0^\infty (is) i ds \, [1] \cdot e^{-sr} = 0$$
(C16)

For the contribution from n(k), we may assume it to be a real analytic function on \mathbb{R}^+ and can be analytically continuated to upper-right quadrant of the complex k plane. The location of singularity of n(k) determines contour of k. For example, we may consider the n(k) for heavy fermion case $(m > H_{inf})$:

$$n(k)_{heavy} = \exp\left[-\frac{4(k/a_{nad})^2}{mH} - \frac{4m}{H}\right]$$
(C17)

$$2\pi^{2} I_{11,heavy,IR} \approx -\frac{1}{r} \exp[-\frac{4m}{H} - \frac{1}{16}mHr^{2}](a_{e}^{2}mH) \operatorname{Im}[-i\frac{1}{4}\sqrt{mH}a_{e}r\frac{1}{2}\sqrt{\pi}]$$
(C18)

$$= \frac{1}{8}\sqrt{\pi}a_e^3(mH)^{\frac{3}{2}}\exp\left[-\frac{4m}{H} - \frac{1}{16}a_e^2mHr^2\right]$$
(C19)

For light fermion, we may approximate the number density spectrum as

$$n(k)_{light} = \frac{1}{1 + \exp(\frac{k^2}{(a_{nad}m)^2})}$$
(C20)

where the non-adiabatic point occurs when H drops below m, i.e. $a_{nad} = a(\eta_*) = a_*$. This ansatz is only used to mimic the cut-off of the spectrum at $k \sim a_{nad}m$. The singularity lies at

$$\frac{k^2}{a_*^2 m^2} = (2n+1)\pi i, \qquad n = 0, 1, 2 \cdots$$
(C21)

or $k_{*,n} = a_* m \sqrt{(2n+1)\pi} e^{\frac{\pi}{4}i}$. Again, one can perform the steepest descent around the n = 0 singularity $k_* = a_* m \sqrt{\pi} e^{\frac{\pi}{4}i}$. Let $\delta = (k - k_*)/a_*m$, we have

$$2\pi^2 I_{11,light,IR} = \pi a_*^3 \frac{m^2}{a_* r} \exp\left[-\sqrt{\frac{\pi}{2}} a_* m r\right] \cos\left(\sqrt{\frac{\pi}{2}} a_* m r\right)$$
(C22)

For both the heavy and light fermion case, $I_{11} \propto \exp(-a_*Mr)$, where a_*M is the scale that n(k) cuts off. We should also remind ourself that the UV vacuum contributions also exist, which scales as

$$I_{11,UV} \propto \exp[-a_{\eta}mr] \tag{C23}$$

due to the singularity at $k = a_{\eta}m$ in the mode functions u_A^{WKB}, u_B^{WKB} . Thus we have shown that the diagonal element of Eq. (C6) is always exponentially suppressed.

Next, we turn to look at the off diagonal element I_{12} . Unlike the I_{11} case, whose integrand $|u_A|^2$ has constant asymptotic value in the IR region, the I_{12} 's IR contribution

$$u_{A,k,\eta}u_{B,k,\eta}^* = \alpha_k \beta_k^* e^{-2i\int^\eta \omega d\eta'}$$
(C24)

contains e^{-2imt} time dependence. Physically, if we decompose the in-state into WKB vacuum and excitation state

$$|in,vac\rangle = \langle WKB,vac\rangle + \langle WKB,2-particles\rangle + \langle WKB,4-particles\rangle$$
 (C25)

then this term comes from the interference term

$$\langle WKB, vac | \psi_x \bar{\psi}_y | WKB, 2\text{-particles} \rangle \in \langle in, vac | \psi_x \bar{\psi}_y | in, vac \rangle.$$
 (C26)

If we care about r large enough, for example corresponding to the CMB observation scale at recombination, we may assume the relevant k scale exit horizon and become non-relativistic during inflation. Thus we may safely use the dS mode function to evaluate $I_{12,IR,CMB}$.

Recall that during dS era, we have Eq. (A28), where we choose the end of inflation time t_e as the reference point. Thus

$$u_{A,k,\eta}u_{B,k,\eta}^* = \frac{1}{2\pi}e^{-2im(t-t_e)+2i\frac{m}{H}\ln(2k/a_eH)}\Gamma^2(\frac{1}{2}-i\frac{m}{H})$$
(C27)

Performing the integral using steepest descent, we find the leading contribution comes from $k \sim 0$ singularity in $u_{A,k,\eta}u_{B,k,\eta}^*$. We note that the k dependent phase factor $e^{2i\frac{m}{H}\ln(2k/H)}$ cannot be absorbed by a redefinition of the mode functions $u_{A,k,\eta}, u_{B,k,\eta}$, since this phase factor depends on the relative phase of $u_{A,k,\eta}, u_{B,k,\eta}$ which is fixed by the Bunch-Davies initial condition.

Plugging in the Eq. (C11), we have

=

$$2\pi^{2} I_{12,IR}$$

$$= -e^{-2im(t-t(r))+i\phi(\frac{m}{H})} r^{-3} \sqrt{\frac{2\pi \frac{m}{H}}{\sinh(2\pi \frac{m}{H})} \left(1 + \left(\frac{m}{H}\right)^{2}\right)}$$
(C28)

where $\phi(\frac{m}{H}) = \operatorname{Arg}(\Gamma(2+ix)\Gamma(\frac{1}{2}-ix))$ and t(r) is the time when $a(t_r)Hr = 4$. We may consider the light mass limit

$$2\pi^2 I_{12,IR,light} \approx -e^{-2im(t-t(r))}r^{-3}$$
(C29)

and the heavy mass limit

$$2\pi^2 I_{12,IR,heavy} \approx -(4\pi)^{\frac{1}{2}} \left(\frac{m}{H}\right)^{\frac{3}{2}} \exp(-\pi\frac{m}{H}) e^{-2im(t-t(r))} r^{-3}$$
(C30)

We may also consider the effect of having an IR cut-off k_{IR} , which is the scale that exit horizon at the beginning of inflation. Such an IR cut-off will introduce a $\exp(-k_{IR}r)$ type of exponential suppression factor. However, for observable universe with comoving radius R_{obs} , as long as $k_{IR}R_{obs} \ll 1$, we may ignore this suppression factor.

After evaluating the matrix element for the fermion correlators, we find that

1. For the light fermion case, i.e. $m \ll H_{inf}$, in the limit $r \to \infty$

$$\langle \psi_x \bar{\psi}_y \rangle \approx \frac{1}{a_x^3} \frac{1}{2\pi^2} \begin{pmatrix} A & B \\ B^* & A \end{pmatrix}$$
 (C31)

where

$$A = \frac{1}{2}\pi a_*^3 \frac{m^2}{a_* r} \exp[-\sqrt{\frac{\pi}{2}} a_* m r] \cos(\sqrt{\frac{\pi}{2}} a_* m r)$$
(C32)

$$B = -i\hat{r} \cdot \vec{\sigma} e^{-2im(t-t_r)} r^{-3} \tag{C33}$$

where a_* in evaluated at η_* .

2. For the heavy fermion case, i.e. $m \gg H_{inf}$, in the limit $r \to \infty$, we find in Eq. (C31)

$$A = \frac{1}{16}\sqrt{\pi}a_e^3(mH_e)^{\frac{3}{2}}\exp\left[-\frac{4m}{H_e} - \frac{1}{16}a_e^2mH_er^2\right]$$
(C34)

$$B = -i\hat{r} \cdot \vec{\sigma} (4\pi)^{\frac{1}{2}} \left(\frac{m}{H_e}\right)^{\frac{3}{2}} \exp(-\pi \frac{m}{H_e}) e^{-2im(t-t(r))} r^{-3}$$
(C35)

and a_e is evaluated at the end of inflation.

Finally, we plug in the field correlator to $\langle n_{\psi,x}n_{\psi,y}\rangle$, and drop the term that are exponentially suppressed when $r \to \infty$, to get Eq. (52).

Appendix D: Relative suppression of Commutators

In this subsection, we want compare the dependence on the scale factor a(t) between $\langle in|[O_x, O_y]|in\rangle$ and $\langle in|\{O_x, O_y\}|in\rangle$, where O_x is a bosonic hermitian operator and x, y are spacetime points located near the end of inflation. For simplicity, we take H as a constant. In particular, we are interested in the cases where $O = \sigma, \bar{\psi}\psi, \zeta$. We want to show that the commutator of Osuffers from additional suppression factor compared to the anti-commutator.

In general, the diagonal matrix elements of products of hermitian operator obeys

$$(\langle in|O_xO_y|in\rangle)^* = \langle in|O_yO_x|in\rangle \tag{D1}$$

therefore

$$\langle in|[O_x, O_y]|in\rangle = 2i \operatorname{Im} \langle in|O_x O_y|in\rangle$$
 (D2)

$$\langle in|\{O_x, O_y\}|in\rangle = 2\operatorname{Re}\langle in|O_xO_y|in\rangle$$
 (D3)

We can just study $\langle in|O_xO_y|in\rangle$. We may use the mode expansion of the field operator to evaluate such an expression, and focus on modes that are outside of horizon at both times η_x, η_y .

We shall first take $O = \sigma$, and we assume that the scalar is light, i.e. $m_{\sigma} < \frac{3}{2}H$, such that ν is real:

$$\langle in|\sigma_x\sigma_y|in\rangle = \int 4\pi k^2 dk \frac{\left[\int d^2 \hat{k} e^{i\vec{k}\cdot(\vec{x}-\vec{y})}\right]}{(2\pi)^3 a_x^{3/2} a_y^{3/2}} \frac{1}{H} \frac{\pi}{4} [J_x J_y + Y_x Y_y + i(Y_x J_y - J_x Y_y)]$$
(D4)

where $J_x = J_{\nu}(\frac{k}{a_x H}), Y_x = Y_{\nu}(\frac{k}{a_x H})$ are the first and second kinds of Bessel functions with real values. The $d^2\hat{k}$ is the angular integral with normalization $\int d^2\hat{k} = 1$, and $\int d^2\hat{k}e^{i\vec{k}\cdot(\vec{x}-\vec{y})} = \sin(kr)/kr$ is real. If we focus on the k modes that are outside of horizon, i.e. $k/aH \ll 1$, we may use the small argument expansion of the Bessel function, i.e. when $(0 < z < \sqrt{1+\nu})$

$$J_{\nu}(z) \approx \frac{1}{\Gamma(\alpha+1)} \left(\frac{z}{2}\right)^{\nu} \tag{D5}$$

$$Y_{\nu}(z) \approx -\frac{\Gamma(\alpha)}{\pi} \left(\frac{2}{z}\right)^{\nu}.$$
 (D6)

Then, under the common scaling of $a_x \to \lambda a_x, a_y \to \lambda a_y$, with λ increasing, we see the various term in the correlator scales as

$$a_x^{-3/2} a_y^{-3/2} J_x J_y \propto \lambda^{-2\nu-3}$$
 (D7)

$$a_x^{-3/2} a_y^{-3/2} Y_x Y_y \propto \lambda^{2\nu-3}$$
 (D8)

$$a_x^{-3/2} a_y^{-3/2} (Y_x J_y - J_x Y_y) \propto \lambda^{-3}$$
 (D9)

Thus, we see under this common scaling, the IR contribution to the two point functions are

$$\langle in|\{\sigma_x,\sigma_y\}|in\rangle_{IR} = 2\int_{IR} 4\pi k^2 dk \frac{\left[\int d^2 \hat{k} e^{i\vec{k}\cdot(\vec{x}-\vec{y})}\right]}{(2\pi)^3 a_x^{3/2} a_y^{3/2}} \frac{1}{H} \frac{\pi}{4} (J_x J_y + Y_x Y_y) \propto \lambda^{2\nu-3}$$
(D10)

$$\langle in|[\sigma_x,\sigma_y]|in\rangle_{IR} = 2i \int_{IR} 4\pi k^2 dk \frac{\left[\int d^2 \hat{k} e^{i\vec{k}\cdot(\vec{x}-\vec{y})}\right]}{(2\pi)^3 a_x^{3/2} a_y^{3/2}} \frac{1}{H} \frac{\pi}{4} (Y_x J_y - J_x Y_y) \propto \lambda^{-3}$$
(D11)

Thus, we have shown under the scaling $a \to \lambda a$, the commutator of σ is suppressed by $\lambda^{-2\nu}$ factor relative to its anti-commutator. For small mass scalar, $\lambda^{-2\nu} \approx \lambda^{-3+\frac{2m^2}{3H^2}}$.

For the case of $O = \zeta$, we have similar statements as the scalar case with $\nu = \frac{3}{2}$, i.e. $\langle [\zeta_x, \zeta_y] \rangle_{IR}$ is suppressed by λ^{-3} relative to $\langle \{\zeta_x, \zeta_y\} \rangle_{IR}$ under the scaling of $a \to \lambda a$.

Next, we consider the case of $O = \bar{\psi}\psi$. Using the mode decomposition Eq.(A30) and mode functions Eq. (A23,A24), we have

$$\langle \bar{\psi}\psi_x \bar{\psi}\psi_y \rangle = \sum_{i,j} \frac{1}{a_x^3 a_y^3} \frac{e^{i(\vec{k}_i + \vec{k}_j) \cdot (\vec{x} - \vec{y})}}{(2\pi)^6} [h_i^T(i\sigma_2)h_j] [h_j^{\dagger}(-i\sigma_2)h_i^*] F_{ij,x} F_{ij,y}^*$$
(D12)

where

$$F_{ij,x} = r_i u_{B,i,x} u_{A,j,x} + (i \leftrightarrow j) \tag{D13}$$

$$F_{ij,x}F_{ij,y}^* = 2[r_i u_{B,i,x} u_{A,j,x} + (i \leftrightarrow j)](r_i u_{B,i,y}^* u_{A,j,y}^*)$$
(D14)

$$= 2[u_{B,i,x}u_{A,j,x}u_{B,i,y}^*u_{A,j,y}^* + r_ir_ju_{B,i,x}u_{A,j,x}u_{B,j,y}^*u_{A,i,y}^*].$$
(D15)

We note that in Eq. (D12), the factor $e^{i(\vec{k}_i+\vec{k}_j)\cdot(\vec{x}-\vec{y})}$ after angular average is real, and the factor $[h_i^T(i\sigma_2)h_j][h_j^{\dagger}(-i\sigma_2)h_i^*] = |[h_i^T(i\sigma_2)h_j]|^2$ is also real, thus the imaginary and real part of $F_{ij,x}F_{ij,y}^*$ correspond to the commutator and anti-commutator respectively.

Next, we consider the two terms in Eq. (D15) one by one, using explicit expression of Eq. (A29) to get

$$u_{B,i,x}u_{A,j,x}u_{B,i,y}^{*}u_{A,j,y}^{*} = \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{4}\frac{k_{i}}{a_{x}H}}\sqrt{\frac{\pi}{4}\frac{k_{j}}{a_{x}H}}\sqrt{\frac{\pi}{4}\frac{k_{i}}{a_{y}H}}\sqrt{\frac{\pi}{4}\frac{k_{j}}{a_{y}H}} (J_{+,i,x} + iY_{+,i,x})(J_{-,j,x} + iY_{-,j,x})(J_{-,i,y} - iY_{-,i,y})(J_{+,j,y} - iY_{+,j,y})(J_{+,j,y} - iY_{+,j$$

where

$$J_{\pm,i,x} = J_{\frac{1}{2} \pm i\frac{m}{H}}(\frac{k_i}{a_x H}), \quad Y_{\pm,i,x} = Y_{\frac{1}{2} \pm i\frac{m}{H}}(\frac{k_i}{a_x H}).$$
(D17)

Using the small z expansion of Bessel function again, where Re $(\nu) = \frac{1}{2}$ in all the cases, we can extract its scaling behavior under $a \to \lambda a$,

$$(J_{+,i,x} + iY_{+,i,x})(J_{-,j,x} + iY_{-,j,x})(J_{-,i,y} - iY_{-,i,y})(J_{+,j,y} - iY_{+,j,y})$$

$$= Y_{+,i,x}Y_{-,j,x}Y_{-,i,y}Y_{+,j,y} \cdots \propto \lambda^{2}, \text{real}$$

$$-iJ_{+,i,x}Y_{-,j,x}Y_{-,i,y}Y_{+,j,y} - iY_{+,i,x}J_{-,j,x}Y_{-,i,y}Y_{+,j,y} \cdots \propto \lambda^{1}, \text{imaginary}$$

$$+iY_{+,i,x}Y_{-,j,x}J_{-,i,y}Y_{+,j,y} + iY_{+,i,x}Y_{-,j,x}Y_{-,i,y}J_{+,j,y} \cdots \propto \lambda^{1}, \text{imaginary}$$

$$+\text{terms subdominant in } \lambda \text{expansion.}$$
(D18)

Thus the imaginary part is suppressed by λ^{-1} relative to the real part. We can do similar analysis to the second part $r_i r_j u_{B,i,x} u_{A,j,x} u_{B,j,y}^* u_{A,i,y}^*$ in Eq. (D15) and found the same behavior. Thus, for $\bar{\psi}\psi$ operator, we have the following scaling law

$$\langle \{\bar{\psi}\psi_x, \bar{\psi}\psi_y\}\rangle_{IR} \propto \lambda^{-6}$$
 (D19)

$$\langle [\bar{\psi}\psi_x, \bar{\psi}\psi_y] \rangle_{IR} \propto \lambda^{-7}.$$
 (D20)

Thus, we see the commutator for $\bar{\psi}\psi$ gives additional suppression of a^{-1} factor compared with the anti-commutator, whereas the commutator for σ and ζ gives additional suppression of a^{-3} factor.

Appendix E: Explicit check of the mass insertion formula

In this section, we show that the particle production part of the following equation holds using the adiabatic subtraction.

$$-i\int^{y} (dw)\langle [\bar{\psi}\psi_{x}, \bar{\psi}\psi_{z}]\rangle = \partial_{m}\langle \bar{\psi}\psi_{x}\rangle = \partial_{m}n_{\Psi}(x)$$
(E1)

Expressing both side of Eq.(E1) using the mode sum, we see the left hand side is

$$-i\int^{y} (dw)\langle [\bar{\psi}\psi_{x},\bar{\psi}\psi_{w}]\rangle = \frac{16}{a_{x}^{3}}\int^{y^{0}} dw^{0} a_{w}\int \frac{d^{3}k}{(2\pi)^{3}} \mathrm{Im}[(u_{A,k}u_{B,k})_{x}(u_{A,k}u_{B,k})_{w}^{*}]$$
(E2)

and the right hand side is

$$\partial_m \langle \bar{\psi} \psi_x \rangle = \frac{2}{a_x^3} \int \frac{d^3k}{(2\pi)^3} \partial_m (|u_B|^2 - |u_A|^2) \tag{E3}$$

Thus, we only need to check for each given k, the following equation is right

$$\partial_m (|u_B|^2 - |u_A|^2) = 8 \int^{y^0} dw^0 \, a_w \operatorname{Im}[(u_{A,k} u_{B,k})_x (u_{A,k} u_{B,k})_w^*]$$
(E4)

From the left hand side, we have

$$\partial_m (|u_B|^2 - |u_A|^2) = -2\operatorname{Re}\left[\left(\begin{array}{c} u_A^* & u_B^* \end{array} \right) \sigma_3 \frac{\partial}{\partial m} \left(\begin{array}{c} u_A \\ u_B \end{array} \right)_{k,x} \right]$$
(E5)

and upon expressing mode function at time x^0 in term of evolution operator acting on the initial value, we have

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial m} \begin{pmatrix} u_A \\ u_B \end{pmatrix}_{k,x} = -i \int_{\eta_i}^{x^0} dz^0 U(x^0 \leftarrow z^0) \frac{\partial}{\partial m} \begin{pmatrix} am & k \\ k & -am \end{pmatrix} U(z^0 \leftarrow \eta_i) \begin{pmatrix} u_A \\ u_B \end{pmatrix}_{k,i}$$
(E6)

Combining these two expression, we can obtain the desired result after some algebra.

However, the remaining d^3k integrals in Eq. (E2) and Eq. (E3) are UV divergent. To make them finite, we express both side in terms of Bogoliubov coefficients and dropped the pure vacuum contribution to get

$$-i\int^{x^{0}} (dw)\langle [\bar{\psi}\psi_{x},\bar{\psi}\psi_{w}]\rangle \approx 16\int \frac{d^{3}k}{(2\pi a_{x})^{3}} (\frac{am}{\omega_{k}})_{x}\int^{x} d\eta_{w} a_{w} (\frac{am}{\omega})_{w} \mathrm{Im}[(\alpha\beta)_{x}(\alpha\beta)_{w}^{*}]$$
(E7)

$$\partial_m \langle \bar{\psi} \psi_x \rangle \approx \frac{2}{a_x^3} \int \frac{d^3k}{(2\pi)^3} \partial_m [2|\beta_{k,x}|^2 \frac{a_x m}{\omega_{k,x}}] \approx \frac{4}{a_x^3} \int \frac{d^3k}{(2\pi)^3} (\frac{a_x m}{\omega_{k,x}}) \partial_m |\beta_{k,x}|^2$$
(E8)

Now, we only need to check

$$\partial_m |\beta_{k,x}|^2 = 4 \int^x d\eta_w \, a_w (\frac{am}{\omega})_w \mathrm{Im}[(\alpha\beta)_x (\alpha\beta)_w^*]$$
(E9)

Suppose, x^0 is late enough such that $\beta_{k,x}$ is constant and equals to its value at asymptotic future β_k , then we get

$$\partial_m |\beta_k|^2 = 4 \int_{\eta_i}^{x^0} dz^0 a_z \frac{am}{\omega} \operatorname{Im}(\alpha_k \beta_k)_x (\alpha \beta)_z^*$$
(E10)

Thus, Eq. (E1) is compatible with the Bogoliubov projection.

Appendix F: Gravitational Interaction

Here we derive the gravitational interaction. Consider the action

$$S = S_{EH} + S_{\phi} + S_{\sigma} + S_{\psi}$$

$$= \int (dx) \left\{ \frac{1}{2} M_p^2 R + \left[-\frac{1}{2} g^{\mu\nu} \partial_{\mu} \phi \partial_{\nu} \phi - V(\phi) \right] + \left[-\frac{1}{2} g^{\mu\nu} \partial_{\mu} \sigma \partial_{\nu} \sigma - \frac{1}{2} m_{\sigma}^2 \sigma^2 \right]$$

$$+ \bar{\psi} (i \gamma^{\mu} \nabla_{\mu} - m_{\psi}) \psi - \lambda \sigma \bar{\psi} \psi \right\},$$
(F1)
(F1)
(F1)
(F2)

where $M_p^2 = \frac{1}{8\pi G} = 1$. The metric is given in ADM formalism²⁰ [95] by

$$g_{\mu\nu} = \begin{pmatrix} -N^2 + h_{ij}N^i N^j & h_{ij}N^j \\ h_{ij}N^j & h_{ij} \end{pmatrix}, \quad g^{\mu\nu} = \begin{pmatrix} -N^{-2} & N^i N^{-2} \\ N^i N^{-2} & h^{ij} - N^i N^j N^{-2} \end{pmatrix},$$
(F3)

where h_{ij} is the metric tensor on the constant time hypersurface, and h^{ij} is the inverse metric. We use Latin indices $i, j \cdots$ for objects on the 3-dimensional constant time hypersurface, and we use h_{ij} and h^{ij} to raise and lower the indices. Then we use the Hamiltonian and the momentum constraints to determine the lapse function N and the shift vector N^i :

$$0 = \frac{1}{N} [R^{(3)} - \frac{1}{N^2} (E_{ij} E^{ij} - E^2)] - 2NT^{00}$$
(F4)

$$0 = \frac{2}{N} \nabla_i^{(3)} [\frac{1}{N} (E^{ij} - Eh^{ij})] + 2N^j T^{00} + 2T^{0j},$$
(F5)

where $T^{\mu\nu}$ is the total matter stress tensor, $R^{(3)}$ is the Ricci scalar calculated with the three-metric h_{ij} , and

$$E_{ij} = \frac{1}{2} (\dot{h}_{ij} - \nabla_i^{(3)} N_j - \nabla_j^{(3)} N_i).$$
 (F6)

$$E = E_{ij}h^{ij}.$$
 (F7)

In order to consider the perturbation around the background configuration

$$\phi^{(0)} = \bar{\phi}(t), \quad \sigma^{(0)} = 0, \quad g^{(0)}_{\mu\nu} = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 0\\ 0 & a^2(t)\delta_{ij} \end{pmatrix}$$
(F8)

 $^{^{20}}$ We use (-+++) sign convention for the metric, and physical time t.

where the background fields satisfy the background equations of motion

$$3H^2 = \frac{1}{2}\dot{\phi}^2 + V(\bar{\phi})$$
 (F9)

$$\dot{H} = -\frac{1}{2}\dot{\phi}^2 \tag{F10}$$

$$\ddot{\phi} + 3H\dot{\phi} + V'(\bar{\phi}) = 0, \tag{F11}$$

we choose the comoving gauge, defined by 21

$$\delta\phi = 0, \quad \gamma_{ii} = 0, \quad \partial_i\gamma_{ij} = 0 \tag{F12}$$

where

$$h_{ij} = a^2(t)[e^{\Gamma}]_{ij}, \quad \Gamma_{ij} = 2\zeta \delta_{ij} + \gamma_{ij}.$$
(F13)

Then we solve the constraint equations (F4) and (F5) perturbatively using ζ and γ , and putting their solutions for N and Nⁱ back into the action, we can get the perturbed action:

$$S^{(C)} = S^{(C)}_{\zeta\zeta} + S^{(C)}_{\sigma\sigma} + S^{(C)}_{\psi\psi} + S^{(C)}_{\gamma\gamma} + S^{(C)}_{\zeta\zeta\zeta} + S^{(C)}_{\zeta\sigma\sigma} + S^{(C)}_{\zeta\psi\psi} + S^{(C)}_{\zeta\sigma\sigma} \cdots$$
(F14)

For the interaction terms $S_{\zeta\sigma\sigma}^{(C)}$ and $S_{\zeta\psi\psi}^{(C)}$, we need the solutions of N and Nⁱ up to linear order in ζ

$$N^{(1,C)} = 1 + \frac{\dot{\zeta}}{H}, \quad N_i^{(1,C)} = \partial_i [-\frac{\zeta}{H} + \epsilon \frac{a^2}{\nabla^2} \dot{\zeta}],$$
 (F15)

where $\epsilon \equiv \dot{H}/H^2$. Hence, the metric perturbations becomes

$$\delta g_{\mu\nu}^{(C)} = \begin{pmatrix} -2\frac{\dot{\zeta}}{H} & (-\frac{\zeta}{H} + \epsilon \frac{a^2}{\nabla^2}\dot{\zeta})_{,i} \\ (-\frac{\zeta}{H} + \epsilon \frac{a^2}{\nabla^2}\dot{\zeta})_{,i} & a^2 \left(\delta_{ij}2\zeta + \gamma_{ij}\right) \end{pmatrix},$$
(F16)

and we have the ζ -matter cubic interaction action

$$S_{\zeta\sigma\sigma}^{(C)} + S_{\zeta\psi\psi}^{(C)} = \frac{1}{2} \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} \left(T_{\sigma}^{\mu\nu} + T_{\psi}^{\mu\nu} \right) \delta g_{\mu\nu}^{(C)}, \tag{F17}$$

where $T^{\mu\nu}_{\sigma}$ and $T^{\mu\nu}_{\psi}$ is the stress energy tensors for σ and ψ , respectively, which are written as

$$T^{\mu\nu}_{\sigma} = g^{\mu\alpha}g^{\nu\beta}\partial_{\alpha}\sigma\partial_{\beta}\sigma + g^{\mu\nu}\mathcal{L}_{\sigma}, \qquad (F18)$$

$$T^{\mu\nu}_{\psi} = -\frac{i}{2} [\bar{\psi}\gamma^{(\mu}\nabla^{\nu)}\psi - \nabla^{(\mu}(\bar{\psi})\gamma^{\nu)}\psi] + g^{\mu\nu}\operatorname{Re}\left(\mathcal{L}_{\psi}\right).$$
(F19)

Particularly, up to the cubic interaction, $\mathcal{L}_{int} = -\mathcal{H}_{int}$. Thus $S^{(C)}_{\zeta\sigma\sigma} + S^{(C)}_{\zeta\psi\psi} = -\int dt H_{\zeta\sigma\sigma}(t) + H_{\zeta\psi\psi}(t)$.

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²¹ In this section, Latin indices i, j are raised and lowered by δ_{ij} , and repeated indices are contracted.

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