

Non-minimal derivative coupling in Palatini cosmology: acceleration in chaotic inflation potential

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Abstract. NMDC-Palatini cosmology in slow-roll regime is of our interests. We present flat FLRW cosmological NMDC-Palatini field equations and acceleration condition. Late time trajectory is approximated. Chaotic inflation potential is considered here as it is viable in a range of negative coupling constant as constrained by CMB results. Phase portraits show that the NMDC-Palatini gives new saddle-point solutions. The NMDC-Palatini effect decreases the acceleration-allowed region and forbid acceleration at small-field values.

1. Introduction

Contemporary cosmology focuses on the either early-universe inflationary [1] or present acceleration expansion hypothesized as effects of dynamical scalar fields such as inflaton or quintessence [2], k-essence [3] or by effect of gravitational modifications such as braneworlds, $f(R)$, scalar-tensor theories as described in [4, 5] and references therein. On the observation side, the present acceleration and inflation have been convinced by results from SN Ia [6, 7], large-scale structure surveys [8], cosmic microwave background (CMB) anisotropies [9] and X-ray luminosity from galaxy clusters [10]. The prediction suggests that the viable dark energy models for present acceleration should not give too different results from that of the Λ CDM model while, for the inflation, the model should pass Planck 2015 CMB anisotropies constraint [11], e.g. giving tensor-to-scalar ratio not exceeding the upper bound of $r < 0.12$ and having spectrum index, $n_s \simeq 0.968 \pm 0.006$. One way to result in acceleration phase is to have a coupling between the scalar field to gravity sector such as $f(\phi, \phi_{,\mu}, \phi_{,\mu\nu}, \dots)$ which is motivated in scalar QED, theories with density dependent Newton’s constant [12] or with non-minimal coupling (NMC) terms like $R\phi_{,\mu}\phi^{,\mu}$ and $R_{\mu\nu}\phi^{,\mu}\phi^{,\nu}$ [13] obtained as lower energy limits of extra-dimensional theories or Weyl anomaly of $\mathcal{N} = 4$ conformal supergravity [14, 15]. It is also possible, without loss of generality, to have coupling term between derivative of the scalar field and gravity, dubbed non-minimal derivative coupling (NMDC), in form of $\kappa_1 R\phi_{,\mu}\phi^{,\mu}$ and $\kappa_2 R^{\mu\nu}\phi_{,\mu}\phi_{,\nu}$ which as well results in acceleration [16, 17]. Relating the two couplings as $\kappa \equiv \kappa_2 = -2\kappa_1$, combination of the two terms gives the Einstein tensor. Hence this is a theory with $G_{\mu\nu}\phi^{,\mu}\phi^{,\nu}$ [18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25]. The NMC and NMDC are found to be a spacial case of Horndeski’s theory which is generalization of gravitational theory with at most second-order derivatives in the equations of motion, making the Horndeski action the most general scalar-tensor theory [26]. Considering the NMDC theory proposed by [18], the metric $g_{\mu\nu}$ is considered as a dynamical field. This approach is the metric

formalism. When the metric field and the connection field both take the role of independent dynamical fields, the approach is of the Palatini formalism [27, 28, 29]. The two formalisms result in equivalent field equation for the GR case. However, for modified gravity, the field equations alter from each other. The NMDC-Palatini action is expressed as

$$\tilde{S} = \frac{M_{\text{P}}^2 c^4}{2} \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} \left[\tilde{R} - (\varepsilon g_{\mu\nu} + \kappa \tilde{G}_{\mu\nu}) \phi^{;\mu} \phi^{;\nu} - 2V \right], \quad (1)$$

of which $\tilde{R} = \tilde{R}(\Gamma)$, $\tilde{G}_{\mu\nu}(\Gamma)$ and $V = V(\phi)$. The symbol $\varepsilon = \pm 1$ denotes canonical and phantom fields respectively, $M_{\text{P}}^2 \equiv (8\pi G)^{-1}$ and $c = 1$. The matter field term $S_{\text{m}}(g_{\mu\nu}, \Psi)$ could be added as well. The Palatini Einstein tensor is $\tilde{G}_{\mu\nu}(\Gamma) = \tilde{R}_{\mu\nu}(\Gamma) - (1/2)g_{\mu\nu}\tilde{R}(\Gamma)$, with details referred to [30]. In cosmological scenario, the NMDC-Palatini effect, playing a role of dark energy, phantom crossing with oscillating EoS is possible [31]. Considering NMDC-Palatini effect, as role of inflaton in the chaotic inflationary model, the tensor-to-scalar ratio and spectral index could pass the Planck 2015 constraint for $\kappa < 0$ [30].

2. NMDC-Palatini cosmology in slow-roll regime

The NMDC-Palatini field equations in slowly-rolling scalar field regime are [30]

$$H^2 \simeq \frac{\rho_{\text{tot}}}{3M_{\text{P}}^2} \left[1 + \frac{3\kappa\dot{\phi}^2}{2M_{\text{P}}^2} (1 + w_{\text{eff}}) \right] \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{\ddot{a}}{a} \simeq -\frac{\rho_{\text{tot}}}{6M_{\text{P}}^2} \left[1 + \frac{7\kappa\dot{\phi}^2}{2M_{\text{P}}^2} + 3w_{\text{eff}} \left(1 + \frac{3\kappa\dot{\phi}^2}{2M_{\text{P}}^2} \right) \right], \quad (2)$$

with the acceleration condition, $w_{\text{eff}} < -(1/3) \left(1 + 2\kappa\dot{\phi}^2/M_{\text{P}}^2 \right)$. Considering only the scalar field as a single species in inflationary epoch, $\rho_{\text{tot}} = \rho_{\phi} = \varepsilon\dot{\phi}^2/2 + V$, $P_{\text{tot}} = P_{\phi} = \varepsilon\dot{\phi}^2/2 - V$ and $w_{\text{eff}} = P_{\text{tot}}/\rho_{\text{tot}} = P_{\phi}/\rho_{\phi}$. Hence

$$H^2 \simeq \frac{1}{3M_{\text{P}}^2} \left[\frac{1}{2}\varepsilon\dot{\phi}^2 + V(\phi) + \frac{3}{2}\varepsilon\frac{\kappa\dot{\phi}^4}{M_{\text{P}}^2} \right], \quad (3)$$

and

$$\dot{H} \simeq \frac{1}{6HM_{\text{P}}^2} \left(\varepsilon\dot{\phi}\ddot{\phi} + V'\dot{\phi} + 6\varepsilon\frac{\kappa\dot{\phi}^3}{M_{\text{P}}^2}\ddot{\phi} \right) \quad \text{or} \quad \dot{H} \simeq -\frac{\varepsilon\dot{\phi}^2}{2M_{\text{P}}^2} + \frac{3\kappa\varepsilon\ddot{\phi}\dot{\phi}^3}{4HM_{\text{P}}^4} - \frac{3\kappa\varepsilon\dot{\phi}^4}{4M_{\text{P}}^4} - \frac{\kappa\dot{\phi}^3V'}{4HM_{\text{P}}^4}. \quad (4)$$

The acceleration is found from the Eqs. (3) and (4),

$$\frac{\ddot{a}}{a} = \dot{H} + H^2 \simeq -\frac{\varepsilon\dot{\phi}^2}{3M_{\text{P}}^2} \left(1 + \frac{3\kappa\dot{\phi}^2}{4M_{\text{P}}^2} \right) + \frac{V}{3M_{\text{P}}^2} + \frac{\kappa\dot{\phi}^3}{4HM_{\text{P}}^4} (3\varepsilon\ddot{\phi} - V'). \quad (5)$$

The Klein-Gordon equation for slowly-rolling NMDC-Palatini scalar field was derived in [30]. During inflationary epoch, $|\ddot{H}/H| \ll |\dot{H}| \ll |H^2|$, $|4\dot{H}\kappa| \ll 1$, $|9\kappa\dot{H}/2| \ll 1$, and $|6\kappa\dot{\phi}^2/(5M_{\text{P}}^2)| \ll 1$ so that the equation of motion is hence,

$$\ddot{\phi} \simeq \frac{-V' - 3H\dot{\phi}\varepsilon}{\varepsilon - (15/2)\kappa H^2}. \quad (6)$$

2.1. Acceleration condition

Using (6) in (5), $\ddot{a}/a \simeq (\text{GR part}) - [\sqrt{3}\kappa V' \dot{\phi}^3 / (4\sqrt{V}M_{\text{P}}^3)] \{ [4\varepsilon - (5/2)\kappa V/M_{\text{P}}^2] / [\varepsilon - (5/2)\kappa V/M_{\text{P}}^2] \}$, where GR part is $(-\varepsilon\dot{\phi}^2 + V)/(3M_{\text{P}}^2)$. The $\dot{\phi}^4$ terms in Eq. (5) and in other equations are negligible. Slow-roll Friedmann equation, $H^2 \approx V/(3M_{\text{P}}^2)$ is used here. For $|\kappa| \ll |M_{\text{P}}^2/V|$, binomial approximation is valid. Considering chaotic inflation potential $V = V_0\phi^n$, this range is $|\kappa| \ll |M_{\text{P}}^2\phi^{-n}/V_0|$. For $n = 2$, it suggests that the range should be of sub-Planckian regime. This agrees with the result in [30] that, for $\kappa < 0$, the slowly-rolling scalar field under $V = V_0\phi^n$ is able to avoid super-Planckian regime. Applying binomial approximation and realizing that the term $\kappa^2 V^2/M_{\text{P}}^4 \ll 1$, the acceleration condition reads,

$$\frac{\ddot{a}}{a} \simeq \frac{1}{3M_{\text{P}}^2} (-\varepsilon\dot{\phi}^2 + V) - \frac{\sqrt{3}\kappa V' \dot{\phi}^3}{\sqrt{V}M_{\text{P}}^3} \left(1 + \frac{15\varepsilon \kappa V}{8 M_{\text{P}}^2} \right) > 0. \quad (7)$$

This corresponds to $\varepsilon\dot{\phi}^2 < V \left\{ 1 - 3\sqrt{3}[\kappa\dot{\phi}^3/(\sqrt{V}M_{\text{P}}^2)]\sqrt{2\varepsilon_{\text{v,gr}}} [1 + 15\varepsilon\kappa V/(8M_{\text{P}}^2)] \right\}$, where $\varepsilon_{\text{v,gr}} \equiv (M_{\text{P}}^2/2)(V'/V)^2$ is a slow-roll parameter. The Eq. (6) is approximated to $\dot{\phi} \approx -V'/(3H\varepsilon)$ and $H \approx \sqrt{V}/(\sqrt{3}M_{\text{P}})$ such that $\dot{\phi} \approx -M_{\text{P}}V'/(3\varepsilon\sqrt{V})$, therefore

$$\varepsilon\dot{\phi}^2 < V \left[1 + \frac{\kappa V'}{\varepsilon M_{\text{P}}} \sqrt{2\varepsilon_{\text{v,gr}}}^3 \left(1 + \frac{15\varepsilon \kappa V}{8 M_{\text{P}}^2} \right) \right]. \quad (8)$$

Negative κ makes it harder to satisfy the acceleration condition than that of GR case. Considering chaotic inflation potential, $V = V_0\phi^2$ with $V_0 = \lambda(M_{\text{P}}^2) = (1/2)m^2$, the acceleration condition is $\varepsilon\dot{\phi}^2 < V_0\phi^2 [1 + 16\kappa V_0 M_{\text{P}}^2/(\varepsilon\phi^2) + 30\kappa^2 V_0^2]$. In the low field (sub-Planckian) region, the second term (with $\kappa < 0$) could be large and could help reducing the right hand size to less magnitude. The third term contributes to opposite effect, albeit small amount. It is worth mention the acceleration condition of the NMDC cosmology in metric formalism [18], that is $\dot{\phi}^2 < V_0\phi^2 \{1 - 4\kappa V_0/[M_{\text{P}}(\varepsilon - \kappa V_0\phi^2/M_{\text{P}})]\} / (\varepsilon - 3\kappa V_0\phi^2/M_{\text{P}})$. These regions are shown in Fig. 1.

2.2. CMB constraint on κ in chaotic inflation

As in [30], with $\dot{\phi} \approx -M_{\text{P}}V'/(3\varepsilon\sqrt{V})$, the range of the coupling κ satisfying CMB anisotropies constraint: $n_s \simeq 0.968 \pm 0.006$ (Planck 2015 [11]), for $V = V_0\phi^2$ and $\varepsilon = +1$ case, is re-expressed as, $-0.149/m^2 < \kappa < -0.083/m^2$. Coupling is negative and small. Chaotic inflation is viable in this range.

2.3. Late time trajectory

Let $\ddot{\phi} \approx 0$ and $\kappa\dot{\phi}^2/M_{\text{P}}^2 \ll 1$ at late time, $\dot{\phi} \simeq -V'/[3H(\varepsilon - 4\dot{H}\kappa)]$. From Eqs. (3) and (4) we approximate that $\dot{H} \simeq -\varepsilon\dot{\phi}^2/(2M_{\text{P}}^2)$ and $H \approx \sqrt{V}/(3M_{\text{P}})[1 + \varepsilon\dot{\phi}^2/(4V)]$ hence, $\dot{\phi} \simeq -V'M_{\text{P}}/\left\{ \varepsilon\sqrt{3V} \left[1 + (2\kappa\dot{\phi}^2/M_{\text{P}}^2) + \varepsilon\dot{\phi}^2/(4V) \right] \right\}$. For $V = V_0\phi^2$ potential, the late time trajectory is described by $\dot{\phi} \simeq -2\sqrt{V_0}M_{\text{P}}/\left\{ \varepsilon\sqrt{3} \left[1 + 2\kappa\dot{\phi}^2/M_{\text{P}}^2 + \varepsilon\dot{\phi}^2/(4V_0\phi^2) \right] \right\}$, as in Fig. 1.

3. Autonomous system

A three-dimensional closed autonomous system from Eqs. (4) and (6) is formulated:

$$\dot{\phi} = \psi, \quad \dot{\psi} \simeq \frac{-V'(\phi) - 3H\psi\varepsilon}{\varepsilon - (15/2)\kappa H^2}, \quad \dot{H} = \frac{1}{6HM_{\text{P}}^2} \left(\varepsilon\psi\dot{\psi} + V'(\phi)\psi + 6\varepsilon\frac{\kappa\psi^3\dot{\psi}}{M_{\text{P}}^2} \right). \quad (9)$$

We have phase portrait and acceleration condition in Fig. 1 with shadow-labeled region where acceleration is allowed. NMDC-Palatini effect gives new saddle solutions and forbids acceleration in small field range. The GR and NMDC-metric formalism cases are also compared.

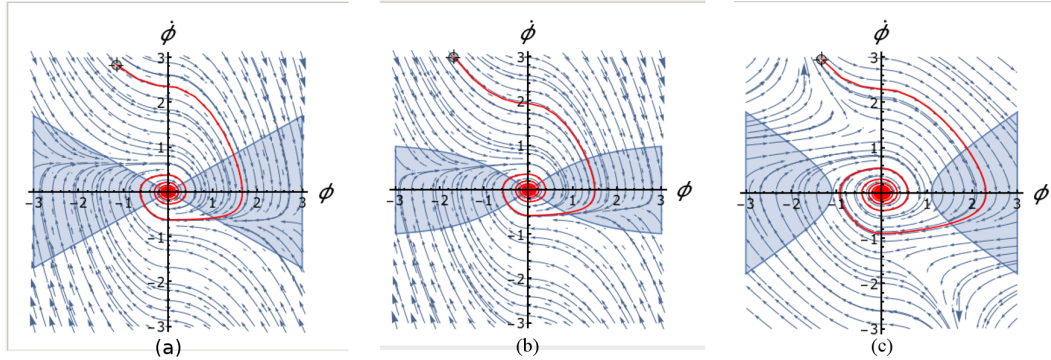


Figure 1. Phase portrait for an NMDC scalar field under $V = V_0\phi^2$ for $M_{\text{P}} = 1.0$ and $m = 0.8$: (a) GR (b) NMDC-metric formalism ($\kappa = -0.3$) and (c) NMDC-Palatini formalism ($\kappa = -0.3$)

4. Conclusion

Field equations, acceleration condition and late-time trajectory of slow-roll scalar field NMDC-Palatini inflation are derived. For a viable chaotic inflation, we give coupling range. GR, NMDC-metric and NMDC-Palatini cases phase portraits are compared. NMDC-Palatini effect gives new saddle solutions and non-acceleration region at small field. Stability analysis is awaiting for future works. **Acknowledgements:** Naresuan University Research Grant-R2557C120.

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