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The status of inflation after Planck

Inflation has been widely accepted as one of the leading paradigms to describe the physics of the early universe. Nevertheless, it has also received its share of criticisms. In this talk, I shall present a brief outline of some of the issues raised against different aspects of inflation, and discuss how the advent of the recent Planck measurements of the cosmic microwave background has largely affected the status of the inflationary paradigm. I shall also discuss how the class of inflationary models that are favored by the Planck data, namely the “plateau” shaped potentials, are found to fare better than the others when examined in context of the criticisms. This shows that inflation has been strengthened by the Planck data.

Primary author: Ms CHOWDHURY, Debika (Indian Institute of Technology Madras)

Co-authors: MARTIN, Jerome (Institut d’Astrophysique de Paris); Dr RINGEVAL, Christophe; VENNIN, Vincent (University of Portsmouth (UK), Institute of Cosmology and Gravitation)

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