

# Small Field Polynomial Inflation

Yong Xu

based on 2104.03977 with Manuel Drees

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# Two Points

- 1 Why polynomial model?
- 2 Predictions?

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- Monomial:  $V(\phi) \sim \phi^n$ , tensor-to-scalar ratio

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  - fraction power e.g.  $V \sim \phi^{2/3}$  (Monodromy inflation [Silverstein, Westphal 08] )
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- Reasonable to insist on renormalizability (in particular  $\phi$  in UV complete theory)
- $V(\phi)$ : **most general renormalizable inflaton potential**
- Has been gaining interests since 1990s [Hodges et.al 90, ... , Musoke & Easter 17,...]



# Polynomial Inflation Analysis

- Potential  $V(\phi) = \text{Const.} + d\phi^4 + c\phi^3 + b\phi^2 + e\phi$ .  
Annotations: "negligible" points to the  $\text{Const.}$  term, "shifted away" points to the  $e\phi$  term.

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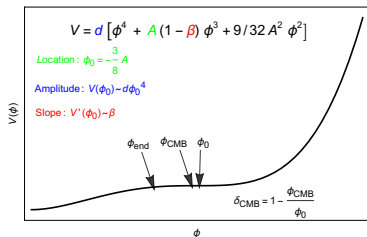
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- ③  $d: \leftrightarrow$  Amplitude (power spectrum)

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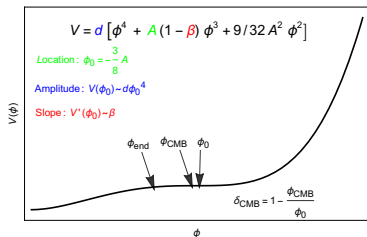


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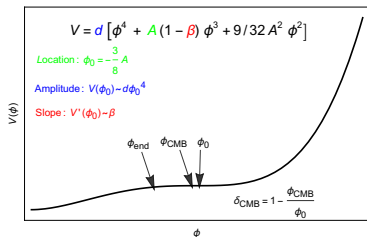
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- Need  $\phi_{\text{CMB}} \Rightarrow$  introduce  $\delta$ :

$$\phi = \phi_0(1 - \delta) \Rightarrow \delta_{\text{CMB}} = 1 - \phi_{\text{CMB}}/\phi_0$$

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- $n_s \simeq 1 - 48\delta_{\text{CMB}}/\phi_0^2$

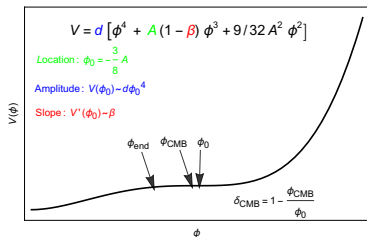
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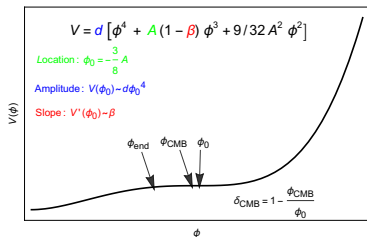
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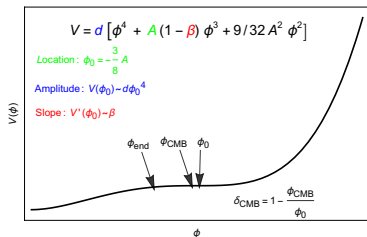
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- $r \propto (2\beta + \delta^2)/\phi_0^2$

- $\alpha \approx -\frac{576(2\beta + \delta^2)}{\phi_0^4}$

- $\mathcal{P}_\zeta \approx \frac{d\phi_0^6}{5184\pi^2(\delta^2 + 2\beta)^2}$

- $n_s = 0.9649$ ,  $N_{\text{CMB}} = 65$ ,  $\mathcal{P}_\zeta = 2.1 \cdot 10^{-9}$   
 $\Rightarrow$  fix parameters:

$$\delta_{\text{CMB}} = 7.31 \times 10^{-4} \phi_0^2$$

$$\beta = 9.73 \times 10^{-7} \phi_0^4$$

$$d = 6.61 \times 10^{-16} \phi_0^2$$

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$$\frac{r}{7.09 \times 10^{-9} \phi_0^6} = 1 - 3.9 \cdot 10^{-2} (65 - N_{\text{CMB}}) + 15.0 (0.9649 - n_s) + 175 (0.9649 - n_s)^2$$

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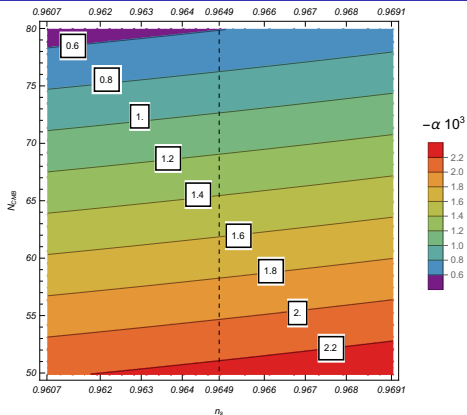
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 Inflationary scale:  $H_{\text{inf}} = \sqrt{\frac{V(\phi_0)}{3}} \simeq 8.6 \cdot 10^{-9} \phi_0^3$



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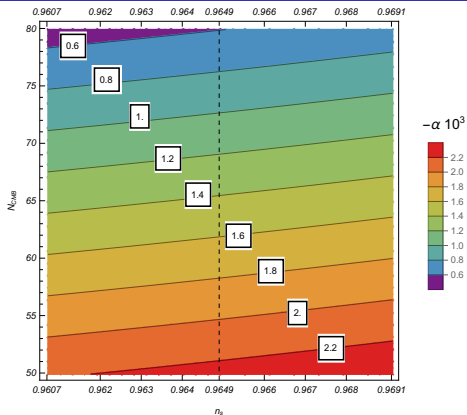
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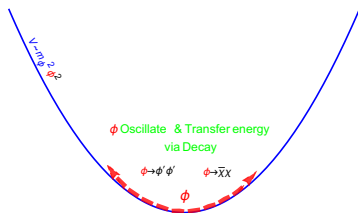
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- Question: What is the lower bound for  $\phi_0$  ?

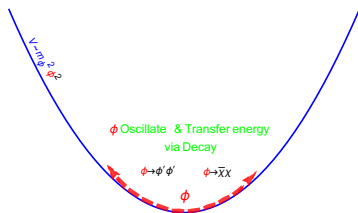
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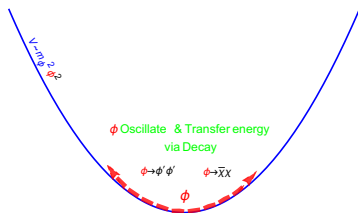


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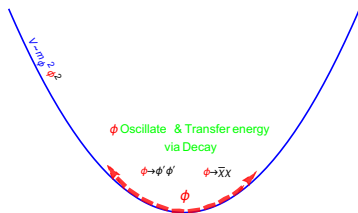


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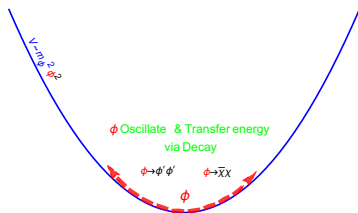
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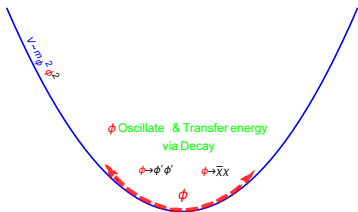
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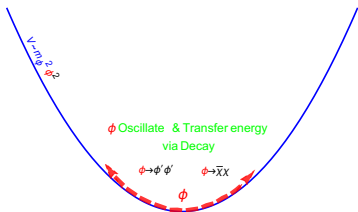
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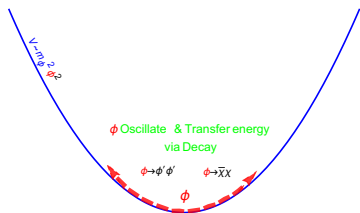
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# Reheating $\Rightarrow$ Lower Bound



- BBN requires  $T_{\text{re}} \gtrsim 4 \text{ MeV} \Rightarrow$  Lower bounds

$$y\phi_0 \gtrsim 4.7 \times 10^{-17}; \quad \frac{g}{\phi_0} \gtrsim 2.4 \times 10^{-24}$$

- Remarks:

- 1 Ignored Preheating totally!
- 2 Though  $m_{\phi'} \sim g\phi \Rightarrow$  tachyonic resonance, still ok here, due to (sizeable) self-coupling  $\lambda\phi'^4$  ( $\Rightarrow$  back-reaction  $m_{\phi'} \sim \lambda\langle\phi'^2\rangle$ ); Pauli blocking for  $\chi \Rightarrow$  Preheating not efficient here
- 3 For more details on (efficient) Preheating: please see the talk by Qianshu Lu

- Question: What are the upper bounds for the couplings?  $\Rightarrow$  Radiative stability

- Decays to Bosons (e.g. SM Higgs) or Fermions

$$\mathcal{L} \supset -g\phi|\phi'|^2 - y\phi\bar{\chi}\chi$$

- Decay rate:  $\Gamma_\phi \simeq \frac{g^2}{8\pi m_\phi}; \frac{y^2}{8\pi} m_\phi$   
with  $m_\phi \sim \phi_0^2$ )
- Reheating Temperature:  
 $T_{\text{re}} \simeq 1.41 g_\star^{-1/4} \Gamma_\phi^{1/2}$

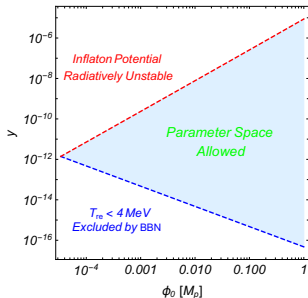
# Radiative Stability $\Rightarrow$ Upper Bound

- Require:**  $\Delta V_{1\text{-loop}}(\phi_0) \ll V(\phi_0)$ ;  $\Delta V'(\phi_0) \ll V'(\phi_0)$ ;  $\Delta V''(\phi_0) \ll V''(\phi_0)$ , with

$$\Delta V_{1\text{-loop}} = \frac{1}{64\pi^2} \sum_{\psi=\phi',\chi} (-1)^{2s_\psi} g_\psi \tilde{m}_\psi(\phi)^4 \left( \ln \left( \frac{\tilde{m}_\psi(\phi)^2}{Q_0^2} \right) - \frac{3}{2} \right)$$

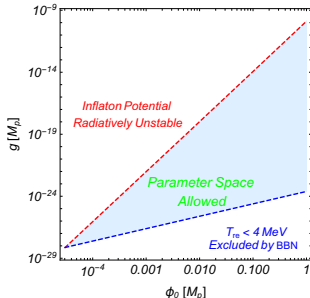
- Upper bounds for  $y$  (coupling

$$y\phi\bar{\chi}\chi): \quad \left| \frac{y^4 - 3y^4 \ln(y^2)}{4\pi^2} \right| < 16d\beta$$



- Upper bounds for  $g$  (coupling

$$g\phi|\phi'|^2): \quad \frac{g^2}{8\pi^2} \left| \ln \left( \frac{g}{\phi_0} \right) - 1 \right| < 8d\beta\phi_0^2$$



- Radiative Stability + Reheating  $\Rightarrow$  Lower bound  $\phi_0 > 3 \cdot 10^{-5} M_p$**

# Summary

- A polynomial model  $(d, A, \beta)$  can fit data very well:

$$V \equiv d \left[ \phi^4 + A(1 - \beta) \phi^3 + \frac{9}{32} A^2 \phi^2 \right]$$

with  $A = -8/3\phi_0$ ;  $\beta = 9.73 \times 10^{-7} \phi_0^4 / M_p^4$ ;  $d = 6.61 \times 10^{-16} \phi_0^2 / M_p^2$ .

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- Predictions:

①  $r \simeq 7.1 \cdot 10^{-9} \phi_0^6/M_p^6$  ☹️

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- Full parameter space: Reheating + Radiative Stability  $\Rightarrow \phi_0 > 3 \cdot 10^{-5} M_p$

- Implications:

①  $m_\phi \simeq 5.1 \times 10^{-8} \phi_0^2/M_p \Rightarrow$  as light as  $\mathcal{O}(100)$  GeV (EW scale);  
For comparison: monomial  $m^2\phi^2$  model,  $m \sim \mathcal{O}(10^{13})$  GeV

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Thank you!