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The story of a simpler universe

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Because of the non-detection of primordial gravitational waves, our universe has just gotten a bit simpler. I discuss how this comes about within the theory of inflation and how conformal symmetry comes to play an increasingly important role.

An astounding fact about our universe is that the spatial distribution of anything we have observed on large scales seem to originate from a single scalar field, the “adiabatic” mode. The current explanations are polarized in two camps: symmetry and thermalization. After reviewing the complexity of our UV-models, I speculate that we might have chosen the wrong camp.

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