

# Inflation models in the LHC era

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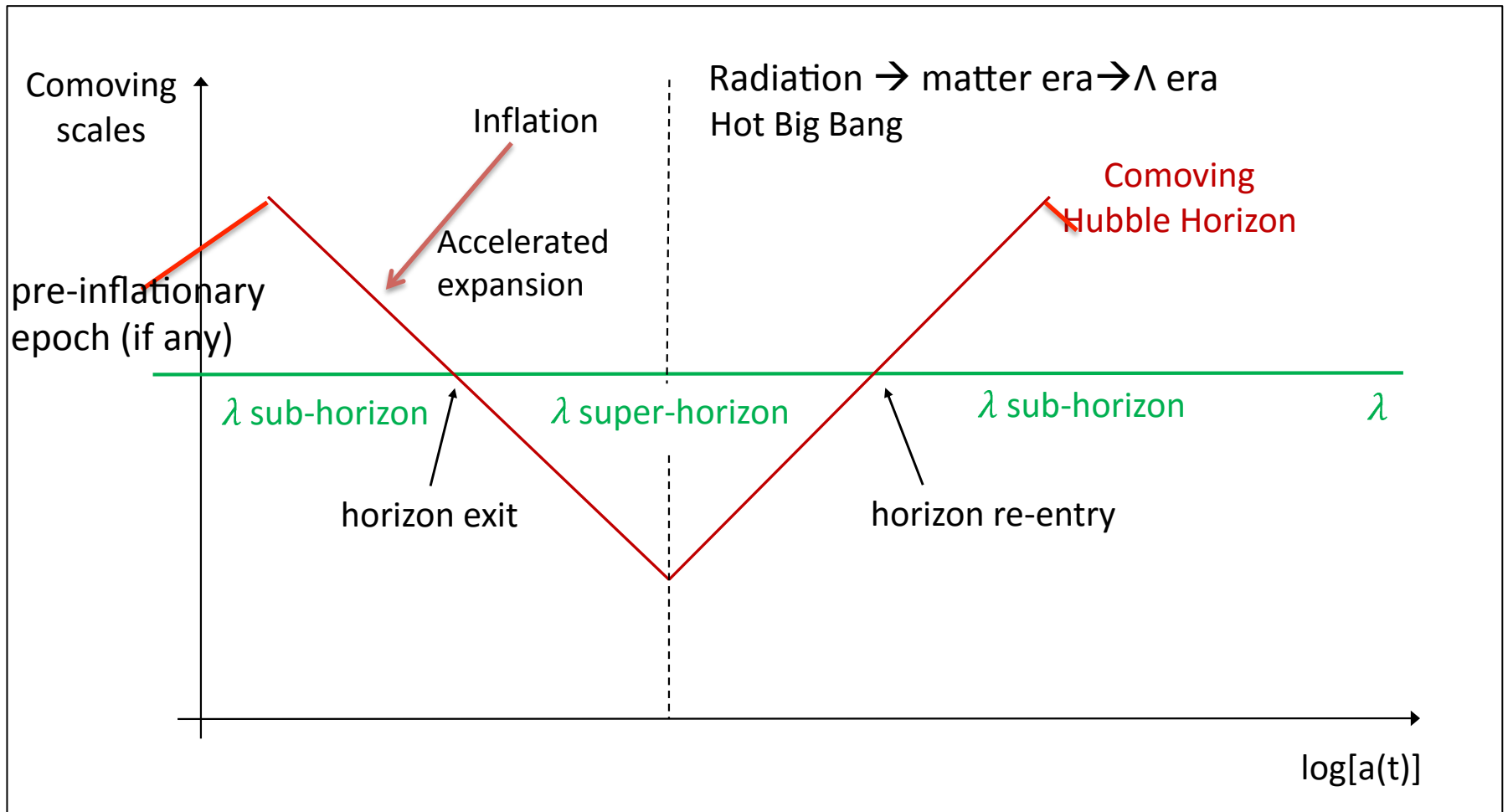
# Outline

- A short introduction
- Current observational status
- Why and how inflation is sensitive to UV fundamental physics?
- Future prospects

# 4 FACTS INFLATION CAN EXPLAIN

- The Universe is old
- The Universe is homogeneous and isotropic (on large scales)
- The Universe today is very close to be spatially flat
- Structures grew out of tiny, *almost* scale invariant perturbations

# The rise and fall ... of the comoving Hubble horizon



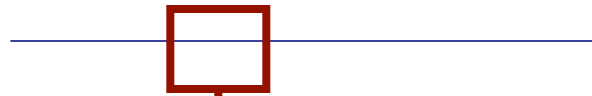
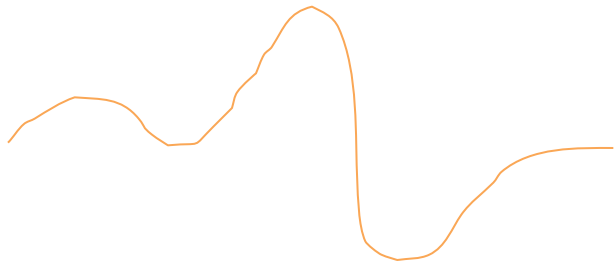
# Initial conditions

**INFLATION**

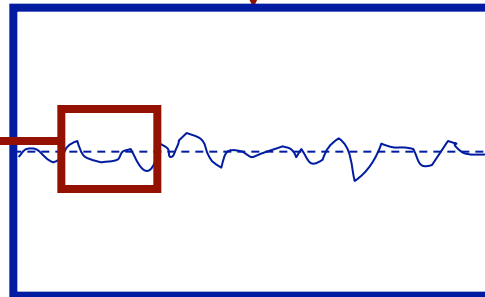
Inhomogeneous



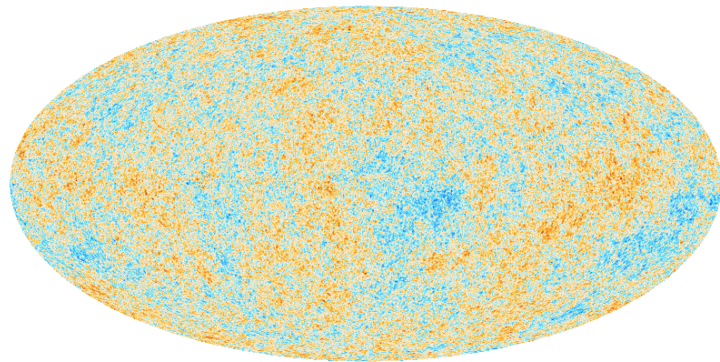
Homogeneous



x 100,000

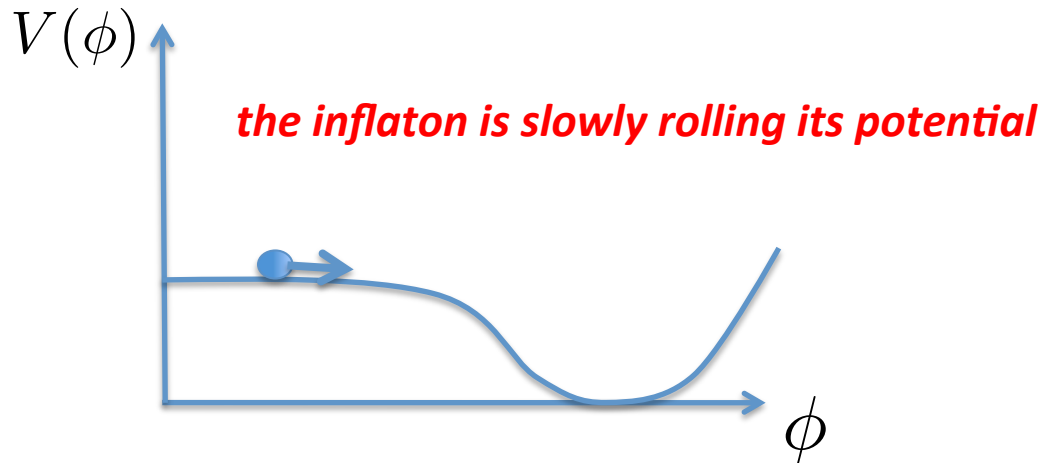


Quantum fluctuations of a scalar field, the inflaton, set the **initial conditions** for CMB anisotropies and Large-Scale Structure formation



-500 500  $\mu K_{\text{CMB}}$

# Inflation



✓  $V(\phi) \gg \frac{1}{2}\dot{\phi}^2 \longrightarrow H^2 = \frac{8\pi G}{3}V(\phi) \simeq const. \longrightarrow a(t) \simeq e^{Ht} \quad \left(H(t) = \frac{\dot{a}}{a}\right)$

*accelerated expansion in the early universe*

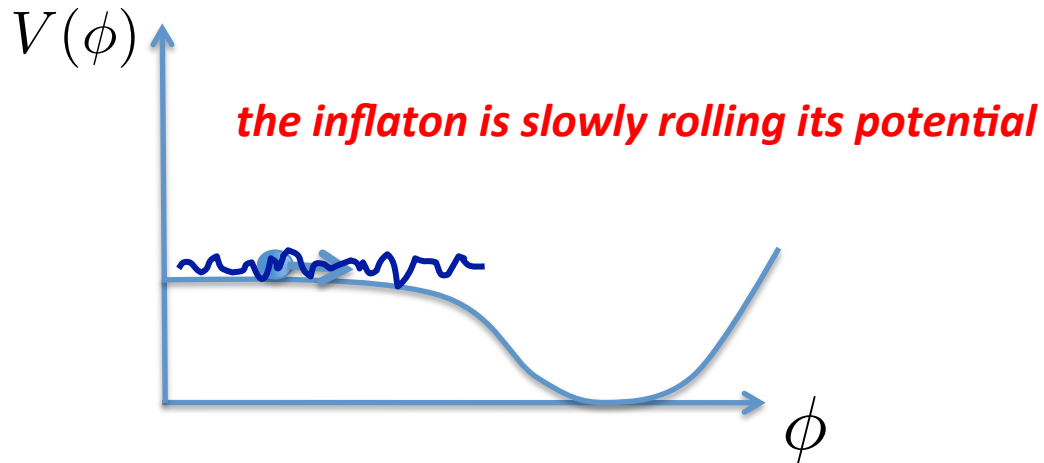
✓ To induce acceleration the potential must be flat

$$\varepsilon = \frac{M_{Pl}^2}{2} \left( \frac{V_{\phi}}{V} \right)^2 \ll 1$$

✓ To have long enough inflation,  $V(\phi)$  must be flat for long enough

$$\eta = M_{Pl}^2 \frac{V_{\phi\phi}}{V} \ll 1$$

# Inflation



Fluctuations in the inflaton produce fluctuations in the universe expansion from place to place, so that each region in the universe goes through the same expansion history but at slightly different times:

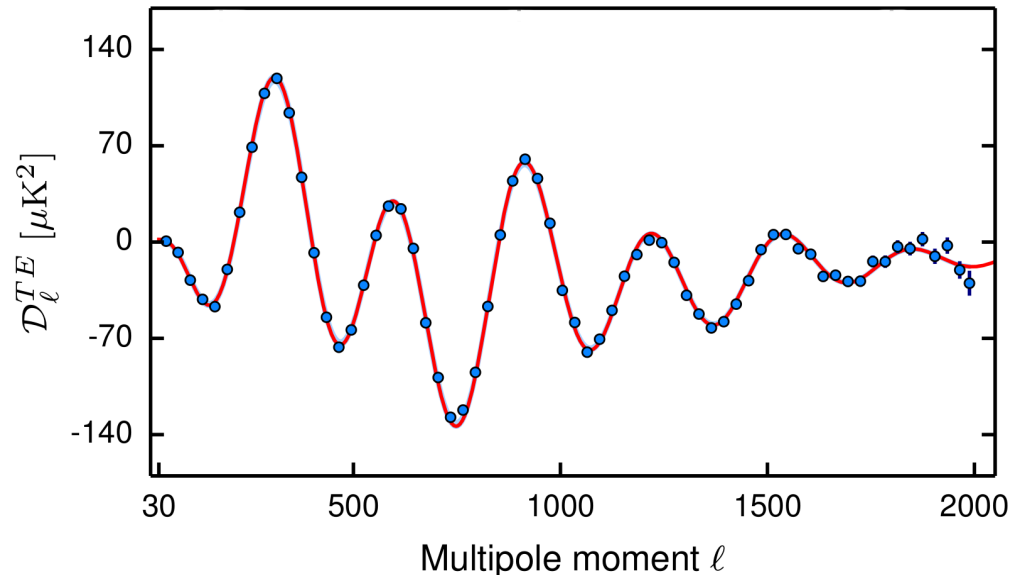
$$\zeta \sim \frac{\Delta T}{T} \sim \frac{\delta \rho}{\rho} \quad \zeta \simeq \frac{H \delta \phi}{\dot{\phi}}$$

# Cross-correlation T-E

You expect a cross-correlation because both T and E-modes are sourced by density perturbations

## SUPERHORIZON CORRELATIONS

The *anticorrelation between T and E for  $50 < \ell < 200$*  is a distinctive signature of adiabatic superhorizon fluctuation at last scattering, which is a *distinctive signature of inflation*: Inflation produces fluctuations which are coherent on superhorizon scales at last scattering





# Observational predictions

- Primordial density (scalar) perturbations

$$\mathcal{P}_\zeta(k) = \frac{16}{9} \frac{V^2}{M_{\text{Pl}}^4 \dot{\phi}^2} \left( \frac{k}{k_0} \right)^{n-1}$$

**amplitude**

**spectral index:**  $n - 1 = 2\eta - 6\epsilon$   
**describes deviations from scale invariance**

$$\epsilon = \frac{M_{\text{Pl}}^2}{16\pi} \left( \frac{V'}{V} \right)^2 \ll 1; \quad \eta = \frac{M_{\text{Pl}}^2}{8\pi} \left( \frac{V''}{V} \right) \ll 1$$

- Primordial (tensor) gravitational waves

$$\mathcal{P}_T(k) = \frac{128}{3} \frac{V}{M_{\text{Pl}}^4} \left( \frac{k}{k_0} \right)^{n_T}$$

Tensor spectral index:  $n_T = -2\epsilon$

- Tensor-to-scalar perturbation ratio: **parametrizes strength of primordial GW signal**

$$r = \frac{\mathcal{P}_T}{\mathcal{P}_\zeta} = 16\epsilon$$

- **Consistency relation** (valid for *all* single field models of slow-roll inflation):

$$r = -8n_T$$

# INFLATIONARY CONSISTENCY RELATION

single-field slow-roll inflation  
(vacuum fluctuations)

$$r = -8n_T$$

**test**  
for single-field  
slow-roll inflation

**Other inflationary models beyond the standard ones → violation?**

*From Guzzetti, M, N.B., M. Liguori, S. Matarrese, "Gravitational waves from Inflation", arXiv:1605.01615*

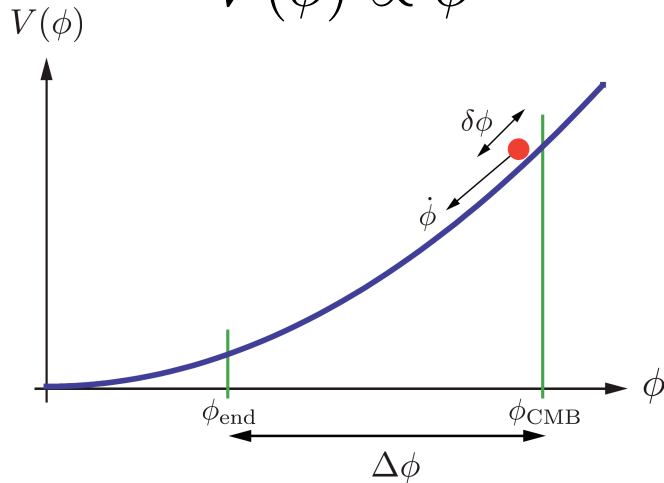
	Model	Tensor power-spectrum	Tensor spectral index	Consistency relation	
Background	Standard infl.	$P_T = \frac{8}{M_{\text{pl}}^2} \left(\frac{H}{2\pi}\right)^2$	$n_T = -2\epsilon$	red	$r = -8n_T$
	EFT inflation <sup>(a)</sup>	$P_T = \frac{8}{c_T M_{\text{pl}}^2} \left(\frac{H}{2\pi}\right)^2$	$n_T = -2\epsilon + \frac{2}{3} \frac{m_T^2}{\alpha H^2} \left(1 + \frac{4}{3}\epsilon\right)$	r/b	-
	EFT inflation <sup>(b)</sup>	$P_T = \frac{8}{c_T M_{\text{pl}}^2} \frac{2^{-\frac{p}{1+p}}}{\pi} \Gamma^2\left(\frac{1}{2(1+p)}\right) \left(\frac{H}{2\pi}\right)^2$	$n_T = \frac{p}{1+p}$	blue	violation
	Gen. G-Infl.	$P_T = \frac{8}{M_{\text{pl}}^2} \gamma_T \frac{\mathcal{G}_T^{1/2}}{\mathcal{F}_T^{3/2}} \left(\frac{H}{2\pi}\right)^2$	$n_T = 3 - 2\nu_T$	r/b	-
	Pot.-driv. G-Infl.	$P_T = \frac{8}{M_{\text{pl}}^2} \left(\frac{H}{2\pi}\right)^2$	$n_T = -2\epsilon$	r/b	$r \simeq -\frac{32\sqrt{6}}{9} n_T$
Extra background	Particle prod.	$P_T^+ = 8.6 \times 10^{-7} \frac{4H^2}{M_{\text{pl}}^2} \left(\frac{H}{2\pi}\right)^2 \frac{e^{4\pi\xi}}{\xi^6}$	-	blue	violation
	Spectator field	$P_T \simeq 3 \frac{H^4}{c_s^{18/5} M_{\text{pl}}^4}$	$n_T \simeq 2 \left(\frac{2m^2}{3H^2} - 2\epsilon\right) - \frac{18}{5} \frac{\dot{c}_s}{H c_s}$	r/b	violation

# Inflaton dynamics and the level of gravity waves

Roughly speaking: ``Large field'' models can produce a high level of gravity waves;  
 ``small field'' models produce a low level of gravity waves

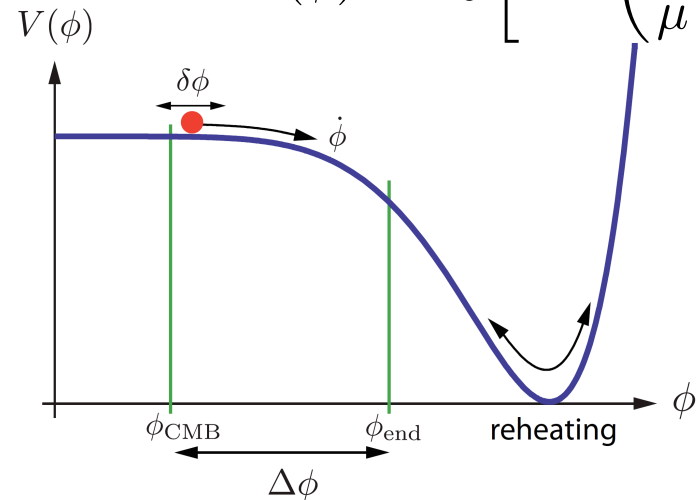
``Large field'' like potential

$$V(\phi) \propto \phi^\alpha$$



``Small field'' like potential

$$V(\phi) = V_0 \left[ 1 - \left( \frac{\phi}{\mu} \right)^p \right]$$



$$\frac{\Delta\phi}{m_{\text{Pl}}} \simeq \left( \frac{N}{30} \right) \times \left( \frac{r}{0.01} \right)^{1/2}$$

$$30 \leq N \leq 60$$

# *Current observational status*



# Planck parameters measurements

Parameter	TT+lowP 68 % limits	TT+lowP+lensing 68 % limits	TT+lowP+lensing+ext 68 % limits	TT,TE,EE+lowP 68 % limits	TT,TE,EE+lowP+lensing 68 % limits	TT,TE,EE+lowP+lensing+ext 68 % limits
$\Omega_b h^2$	$0.02222 \pm 0.00023$	$0.02226 \pm 0.00023$	$0.02227 \pm 0.00020$	$0.02225 \pm 0.00016$	$0.02226 \pm 0.00016$	$0.02230 \pm 0.00014$
$\Omega_c h^2$	$0.1197 \pm 0.0022$	$0.1186 \pm 0.0020$	$0.1184 \pm 0.0012$	$0.1198 \pm 0.0015$	$0.1193 \pm 0.0014$	$0.1188 \pm 0.0010$
$100\theta_{MC}$	$1.04085 \pm 0.00047$	$1.04103 \pm 0.00046$	$1.04106 \pm 0.00041$	$1.04077 \pm 0.00032$	$1.04087 \pm 0.00032$	$1.04093 \pm 0.00030$
$\tau$	$0.078 \pm 0.019$	$0.066 \pm 0.016$	$0.067 \pm 0.013$	$0.079 \pm 0.017$	$0.063 \pm 0.014$	$0.066 \pm 0.012$
$\ln(10^{10} A_s)$	$3.089 \pm 0.036$	$3.062 \pm 0.029$	$3.064 \pm 0.024$	$3.094 \pm 0.034$	$3.059 \pm 0.025$	$3.064 \pm 0.023$
$n_s$	$0.9655 \pm 0.0062$	$0.9677 \pm 0.0060$	$0.9681 \pm 0.0044$	$0.9645 \pm 0.0049$	$0.9653 \pm 0.0048$	$0.9667 \pm 0.0040$
$H_0$	$67.31 \pm 0.96$	$67.81 \pm 0.92$	$67.90 \pm 0.55$	$67.27 \pm 0.66$	$67.51 \pm 0.64$	$67.74 \pm 0.46$
$\Omega_\Lambda$	$0.685 \pm 0.013$	$0.692 \pm 0.012$	$0.6925 \pm 0.0072$	$0.6844 \pm 0.0091$	$0.6879 \pm 0.0087$	$0.6911 \pm 0.0062$
$\Omega_m$	$0.315 \pm 0.013$	$0.308 \pm 0.012$	$0.3075 \pm 0.0073$	$0.3156 \pm 0.0097$	$0.3121 \pm 0.0087$	$0.3089 \pm 0.0062$
$\Omega_m h^2$	$0.1426 \pm 0.0020$	$0.1415 \pm 0.0019$	$0.1417 \pm 0.0013$	$0.1426 \pm 0.0013$	$0.1417 \pm 0.0013$	$0.14170 \pm 0.00097$
$\Omega_m h^3$	$0.09597 \pm 0.00045$	$0.09591 \pm 0.00045$	$0.09595 \pm 0.00045$	$0.09601 \pm 0.00029$	$0.09590 \pm 0.00030$	$0.09598 \pm 0.00029$
$\sigma_8$	$0.829 \pm 0.014$	$0.8149 \pm 0.0093$	$0.8154 \pm 0.0090$	$0.831 \pm 0.013$	$0.8150 \pm 0.0087$	$0.8159 \pm 0.0086$
$\sigma_8 \Omega_m^{0.5}$	$0.466 \pm 0.013$	$0.4521 \pm 0.0088$	$0.4514 \pm 0.0066$	$0.4668 \pm 0.0098$	$0.4553 \pm 0.0068$	$0.4535 \pm 0.0059$
$\sigma_8 \Omega_m^{0.25}$	$0.621 \pm 0.013$	$0.6069 \pm 0.0076$	$0.6066 \pm 0.0070$	$0.623 \pm 0.011$	$0.6091 \pm 0.0067$	$0.6083 \pm 0.0066$
$z_{re}$	$9.9^{+1.8}_{-1.6}$	$8.8^{+1.7}_{-1.4}$	$8.9^{+1.3}_{-1.2}$	$10.0^{+1.7}_{-1.5}$	$8.5^{+1.4}_{-1.2}$	$8.8^{+1.2}_{-1.1}$
$10^9 A_s$	$2.198^{+0.076}_{-0.085}$	$2.139 \pm 0.063$	$2.143 \pm 0.051$	$2.207 \pm 0.074$	$2.130 \pm 0.053$	$2.142 \pm 0.049$
$10^9 A_s e^{-2\tau}$	$1.880 \pm 0.014$	$1.874 \pm 0.013$	$1.873 \pm 0.011$	$1.882 \pm 0.012$	$1.878 \pm 0.011$	$1.876 \pm 0.011$
Age/Gyr	$13.813 \pm 0.038$	$13.799 \pm 0.038$	$13.796 \pm 0.029$	$13.813 \pm 0.026$	$13.807 \pm 0.026$	$13.799 \pm 0.021$
$z_*$	$1090.09 \pm 0.42$	$1089.94 \pm 0.42$	$1089.90 \pm 0.30$	$1090.06 \pm 0.30$	$1090.00 \pm 0.29$	$1089.90 \pm 0.23$
$r_*$	$144.61 \pm 0.49$	$144.89 \pm 0.44$	$144.93 \pm 0.30$	$144.57 \pm 0.32$	$144.71 \pm 0.31$	$144.81 \pm 0.24$
$100\theta_*$	$1.04105 \pm 0.00046$	$1.04122 \pm 0.00045$	$1.04126 \pm 0.00041$	$1.04096 \pm 0.00032$	$1.04106 \pm 0.00031$	$1.04112 \pm 0.00029$
$z_{drag}$	$1059.57 \pm 0.46$	$1059.57 \pm 0.47$	$1059.60 \pm 0.44$	$1059.65 \pm 0.31$	$1059.62 \pm 0.31$	$1059.68 \pm 0.29$
$r_{drag}$	$147.33 \pm 0.49$	$147.60 \pm 0.43$	$147.63 \pm 0.32$	$147.27 \pm 0.31$	$147.41 \pm 0.30$	$147.50 \pm 0.24$
$k_D$	$0.14050 \pm 0.00052$	$0.14024 \pm 0.00047$	$0.14022 \pm 0.00042$	$0.14059 \pm 0.00032$	$0.14044 \pm 0.00032$	$0.14038 \pm 0.00029$
$z_{eq}$	$3393 \pm 49$	$3365 \pm 44$	$3361 \pm 27$	$3395 \pm 33$	$3382 \pm 32$	$3371 \pm 23$
$k_{eq}$	$0.01035 \pm 0.00015$	$0.01027 \pm 0.00014$	$0.010258 \pm 0.000083$	$0.01036 \pm 0.00010$	$0.010322 \pm 0.000096$	$0.010288 \pm 0.000071$
$100\theta_{s,eq}$	$0.4502 \pm 0.0047$	$0.4529 \pm 0.0044$	$0.4533 \pm 0.0026$	$0.4499 \pm 0.0032$	$0.4512 \pm 0.0031$	$0.4523 \pm 0.0023$



**n=1 excluded at 5.6 sigma!!**

# Observational constraints: *Planck*

Amplitude of primordial density (scalar) perturbations

$$\ln(10^{10} A_s) = 3.062 \pm 0.029 \quad (68\% \text{ CL})$$

Spectral index of primordial density (scalar) perturbations

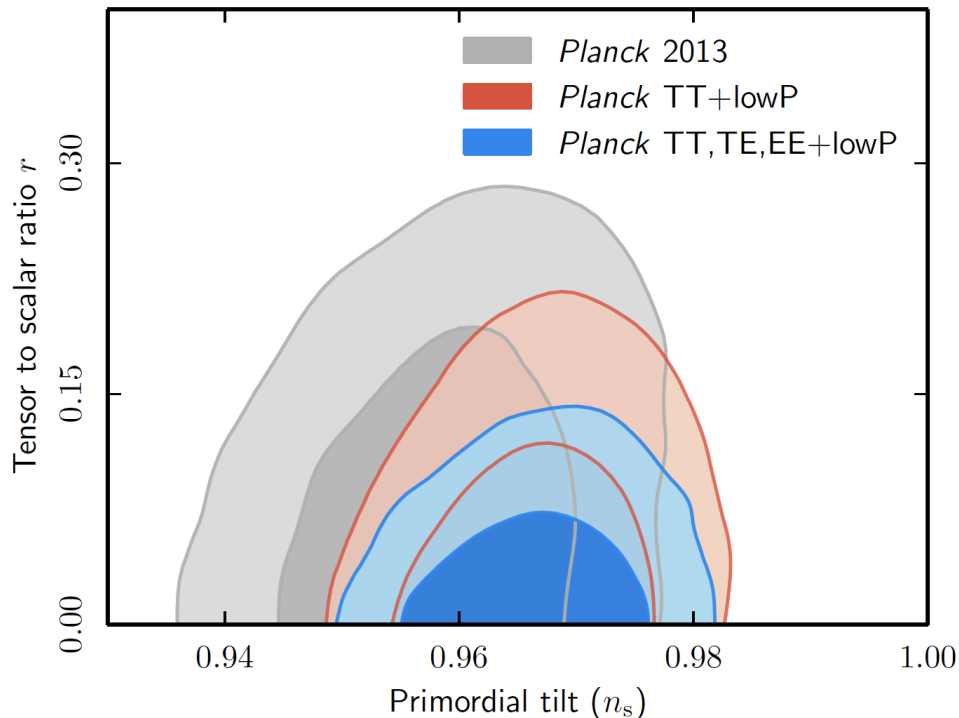
$$n_s = 0.9677 \pm 0.0060 \quad (68\% \text{ CL})$$

$n=1$  (Harrison Zeldovich spectrum) excluded at than 5.6 sigmas!

*Two fundamental observational constants of cosmology in addition to three very well known ( $\Omega_b, \Omega_{cdm}, \Omega_\Lambda$ ).*

# Constraints on tensor modes

Model	Parameter	<i>Planck</i> TT+lowP	<i>Planck</i> TT+lowP+lensing	<i>Planck</i> TT+lowP+BAO	<i>Planck</i> TT,TE,EE+lowP
$\Lambda$ CDM+r	$n_s$	$0.9666 \pm 0.0062$	$0.9688 \pm 0.0061$	$0.9680 \pm 0.0045$	$0.9652 \pm 0.0047$
	$r_{0.002}$	$< 0.103$	<b><math>&lt; 0.114</math></b>	$< 0.113$	$< 0.099$
	$-2\Delta \ln \mathcal{L}_{\max}$	0	0	0	0
$\Lambda$ CDM+r + $dn_s/d \ln k$	$n_s$	$0.9667 \pm 0.0066$	$0.9690 \pm 0.0063$	$0.9673 \pm 0.0043$	$0.9644 \pm 0.0049$
	$r_{0.002}$	$< 0.180$	$< 0.186$	$< 0.176$	$< 0.152$
	$r$	$< 0.168$	$< 0.176$	$< 0.166$	$< 0.149$
	$dn_s/d \ln k$	$-0.0126^{+0.0098}_{-0.0087}$	$-0.0076^{+0.0092}_{-0.0080}$	$-0.0125 \pm 0.0091$	$-0.0085 \pm 0.0076$
	$-2\Delta \ln \mathcal{L}_{\max}$	-0.81	-0.08	-0.87	-0.38

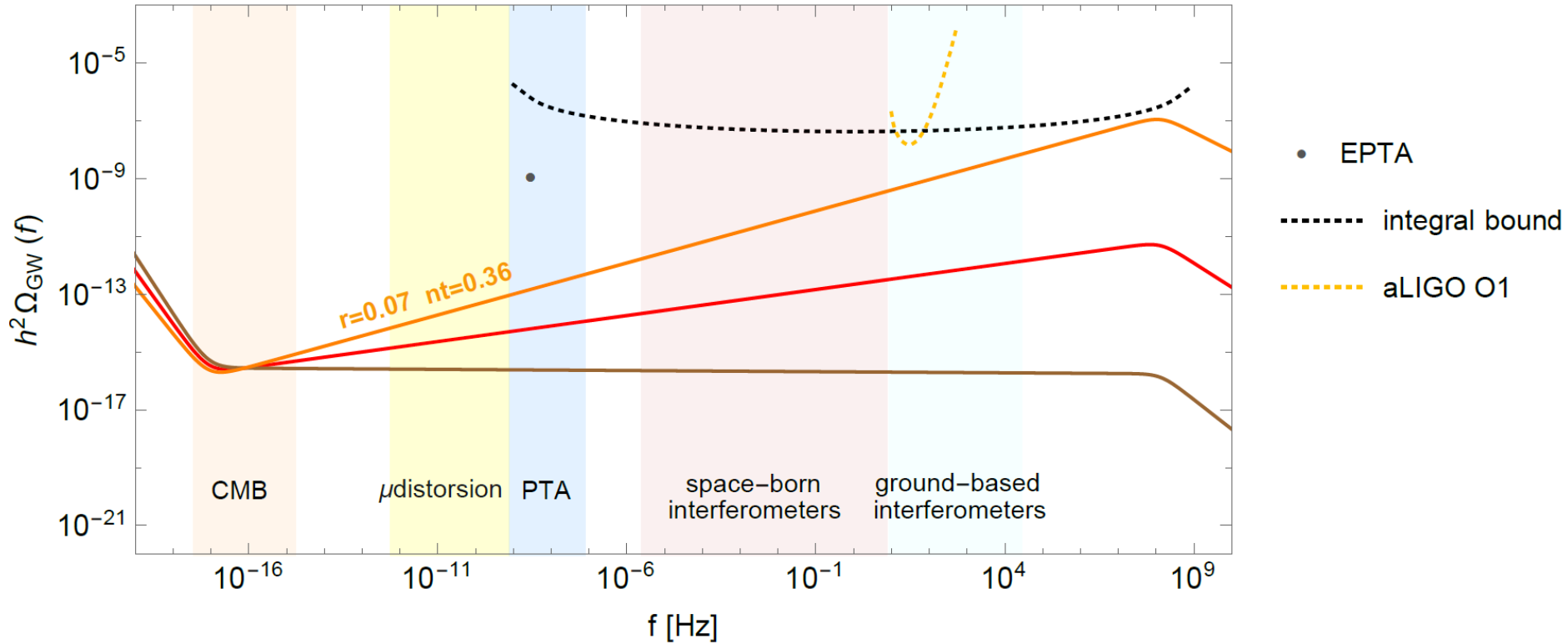


Current tightest constraint from a combination of Planck, BICEP2 and Keck Array data

$r < 0.07$  (@ 95% C.L).

BICEP2, Keck Array, P.A.R. Ade et al.,  
Phys. Rev. Lett. 116 (2016) 031302

# CURRENT BOUNDS



primordial  $\rightarrow$  present time

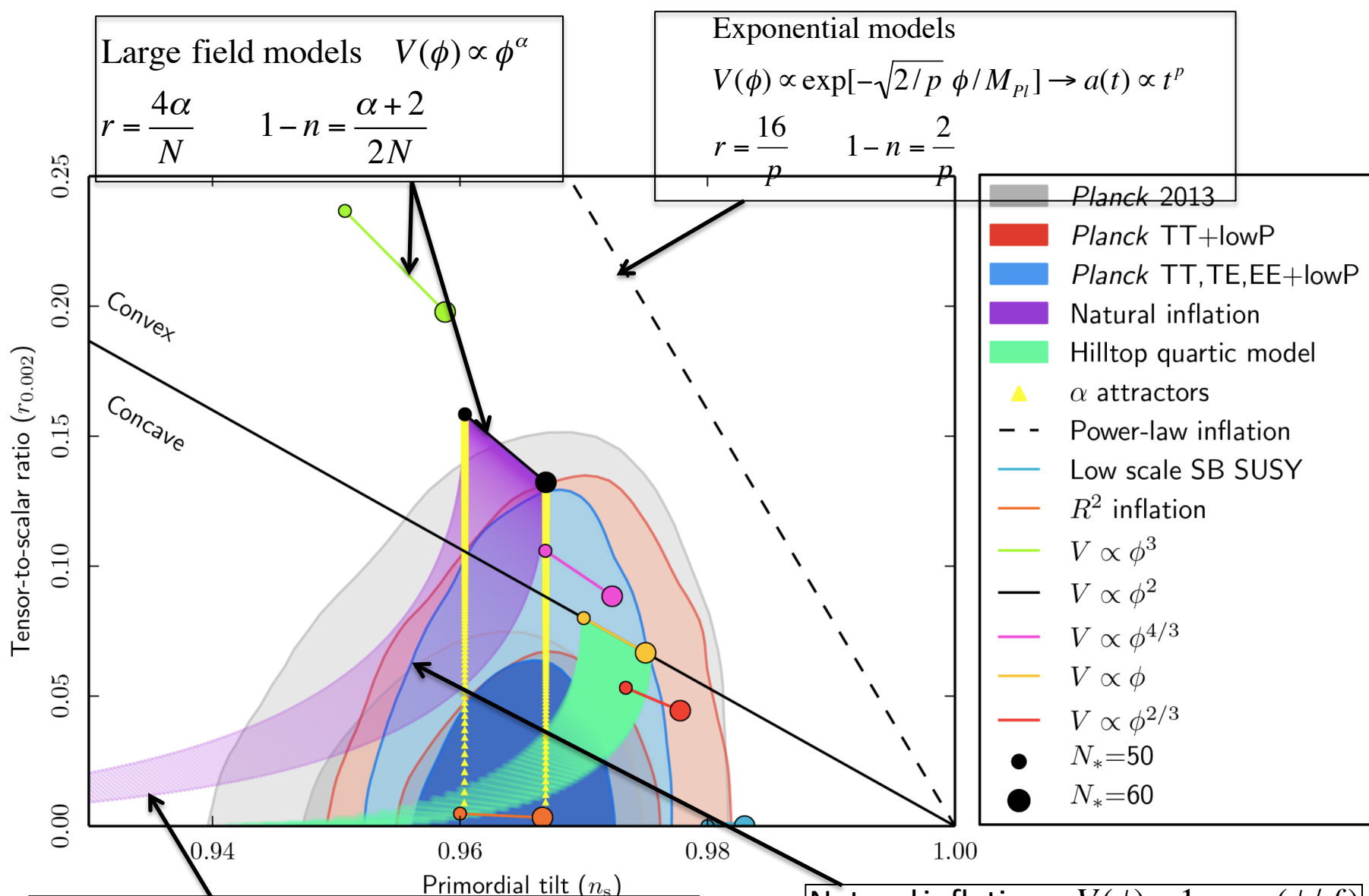
$$P_T(k) = A_T(k_*) \left(\frac{k}{k_*}\right)^{n_T}$$

present time  
gw spectral  
energy density

$$\Omega_{\text{GW}}(k, \tau_0) \equiv \frac{1}{\rho_c} \frac{d\rho_{\text{gw}}}{d \ln k} = \frac{1}{12} \left(\frac{k}{aH}\right)^2 T(k) P_T(k)$$



***What are the implications for  
inflationary models ?***



Large field models  $V(\phi) \propto \phi^\alpha$

$$r = \frac{4\alpha}{N} \quad 1 - n = \frac{\alpha + 2}{2N}$$

Exponential models

$$V(\phi) \propto \exp[-\sqrt{2/p} \phi / M_{Pl}] \rightarrow a(t) \propto t^p$$

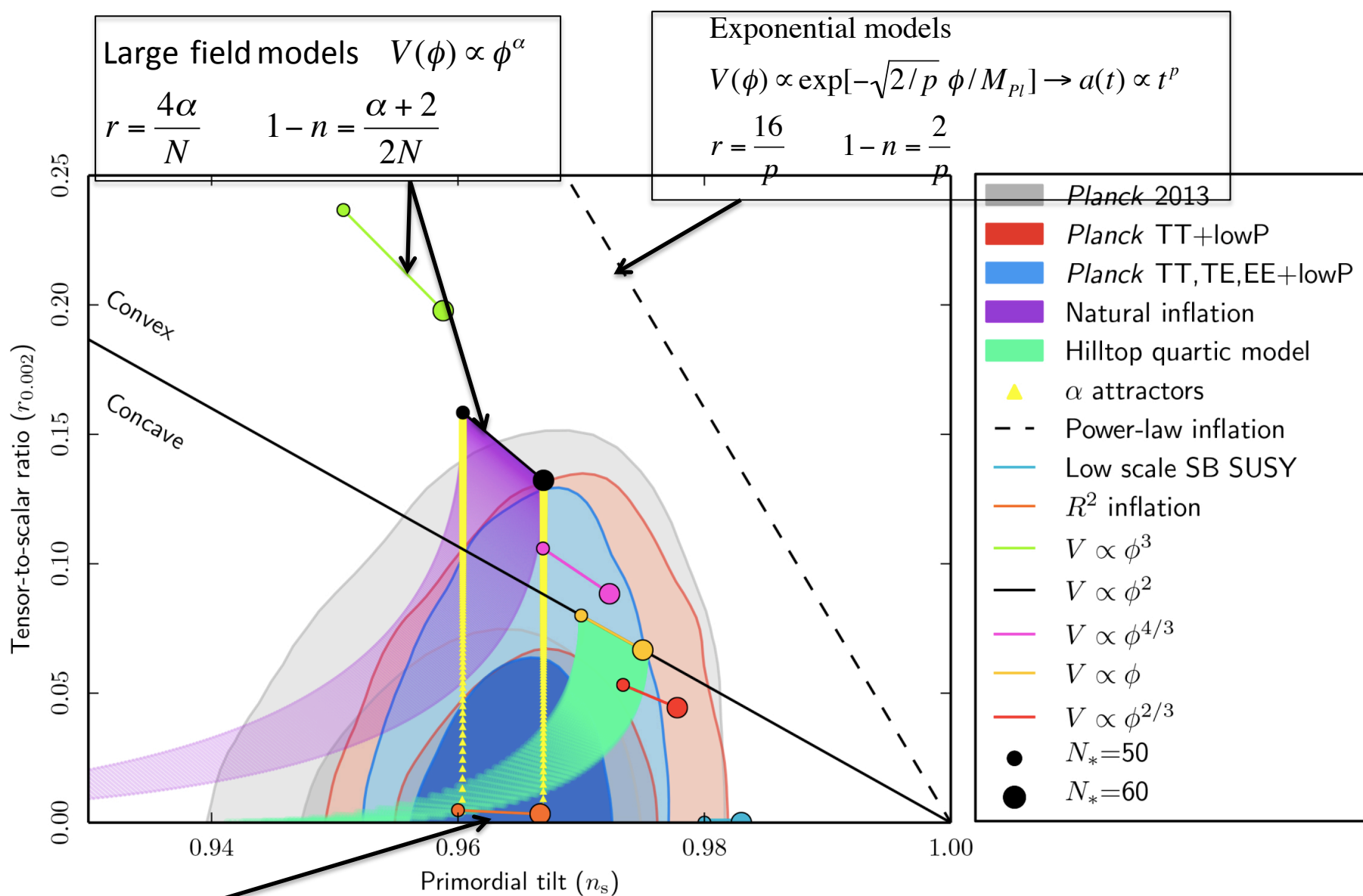
$$r = \frac{16}{p} \quad 1 - n = \frac{2}{p}$$

Small field models  $V(\phi) \propto 1 - (\phi^p / \mu^p)$ ,  $p \geq 3$

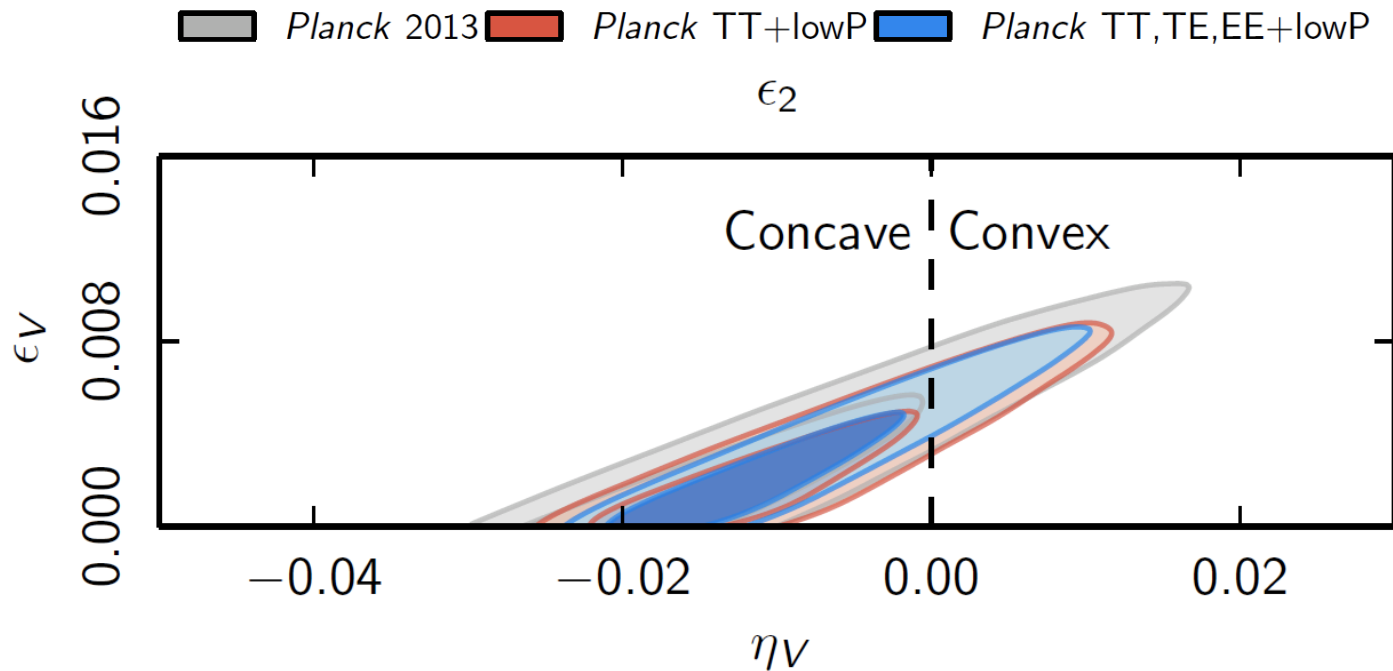
$$r \sim 0 \quad 1 - n = \frac{2(p-1)}{N(p-2)}$$

for example  $p = 3$  out of 95% CL

Natural inflation  $V(\phi) \propto 1 + \cos(\phi/f)$   
consistent for  $f \geq 5M_{Pl}$



# Constraints on slow-roll parameters



$$\epsilon_V < 0.012 \quad (95 \% \text{ CL, } \textit{Planck} \text{ TT+lowP})$$

$$\eta_V = -0.0080^{+0.0088}_{-0.0146} \quad (68 \% \text{ CL, } \textit{Planck} \text{ TT+lowP})$$

$$\xi_V = 0.0070^{+0.0045}_{-0.0069} \quad (68 \% \text{ CL, } \textit{Planck} \text{ TT+lowP})$$

# *Why Inflation is sensitive to high-energy fundamental physics?*



***At least two (main) avenues:***

- gravitational waves***
- primordial non-Gaussianity***

# Gravity waves from inflation

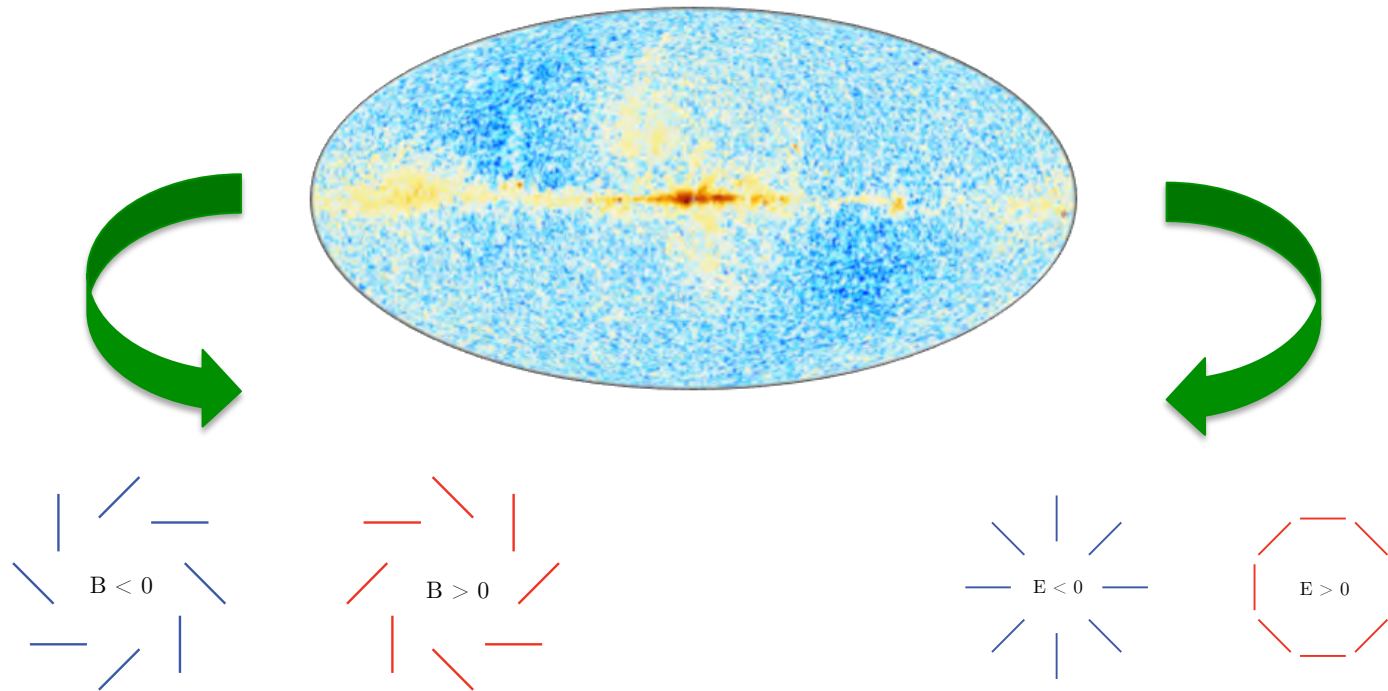
- A **smoking gun** of a period of inflation in the early universe: a stochastic background of gravitational waves is predicted by inflation independently of the specific inflationary model
- The amplitude of the inflationary gravity waves probes the **energy scale of inflation**

$$V^{1/4} = 1.06 \times 10^{16} \text{ GeV} \left( \frac{r}{0.01} \right)^{1/4}$$

GUT SCALE

- **a detection would provide a firm observational link to physics of the early universe, characterized by energies never achievable in labs**
- inflationary gravity waves generate a unique imprint into the CMB polarization pattern (**the so called B-modes of polarization**)

# Looking for gravitational waves via CMB polarization



Sourced by tensor (and vector) perturbations

$$P_T \sim \left( \frac{V}{M_{\text{Pl}}} \right)^4$$

Sourced by scalar and tensor (and vector) perturbations

**Primary goal for future CMB experiments**



# *Sensitivity of Inflation to fundamental physics and symmetries*

A worked example

take  $V(\phi)_{\text{slow-roll}}$

operators like  $\phi^2 V(\phi)_{\text{slow-roll}} / \Lambda^2$

induce  $\eta = M_{\text{pl}}^2 (V''/V) = (M_{\text{pl}}/\Lambda)^2 \sim 1!!$

*whatever physics there is around the Planck scale, it must ensure these terms are not induced (largely suppresses them)*

*→ Ultraviolet sensitivity*

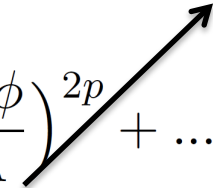
*The issue can be solved by a shift symmetry  $\phi \rightarrow \phi + \text{const}$*

# *Sensitivity of Inflation to fundamental physics*

✧ Case A: no shift symmetry; just  $\phi \rightarrow -\phi$

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{eff}}(\phi) = -\frac{1}{2}(\partial\phi)^2 - \frac{1}{2}m^2\phi^2 - \frac{1}{4}\lambda\phi^4 - \sum_{p=1}^{\infty} \left[ \lambda_p\phi^4 + \nu_p(\partial\phi)^2 \right] \left( \frac{g\phi}{\Lambda} \right)^{2p} + \dots$$

Cutoff  $\Lambda \sim M_{\text{Pl}}$



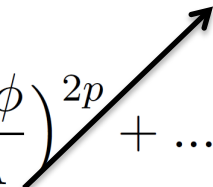
the general expectations is  $\lambda_p$  and  $\nu_p \sim 1$ , and the inflaton potential can get important correction for inflaton field excursion  $\sim M_{\text{Pl}}$

→ need  $\Delta\varphi \ll M_{\text{Pl}}$ : ***small field models of inflation***

# Sensitivity of Inflation to fundamental physics

✧ Case B: approximate shift symmetry  $\phi \rightarrow \phi + \text{const}$

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{eff}}(\phi) = -\frac{1}{2}(\partial\phi)^2 - \frac{1}{2}m^2\phi^2 - \frac{1}{4}\lambda\phi^4 - \sum_{p=1}^{\infty} \left[ \lambda_p\phi^4 + \nu_p(\partial\phi)^2 \right] \left( \frac{g\phi}{\Lambda} \right)^{2p} + \dots$$

Cutoff  $\Lambda \sim M_{\text{pl}}$  

flatness of the inflaton potential is guaranteed because the **symmetry of the UV theory** forbids coefficients  $\lambda_p$  and  $\nu_p \sim 1$ .

Example:  $V(\phi) = \mu^{4-p} \phi^p$ ,  
with  $\mu \ll M_{\text{pl}}$  from scalar power spectrum

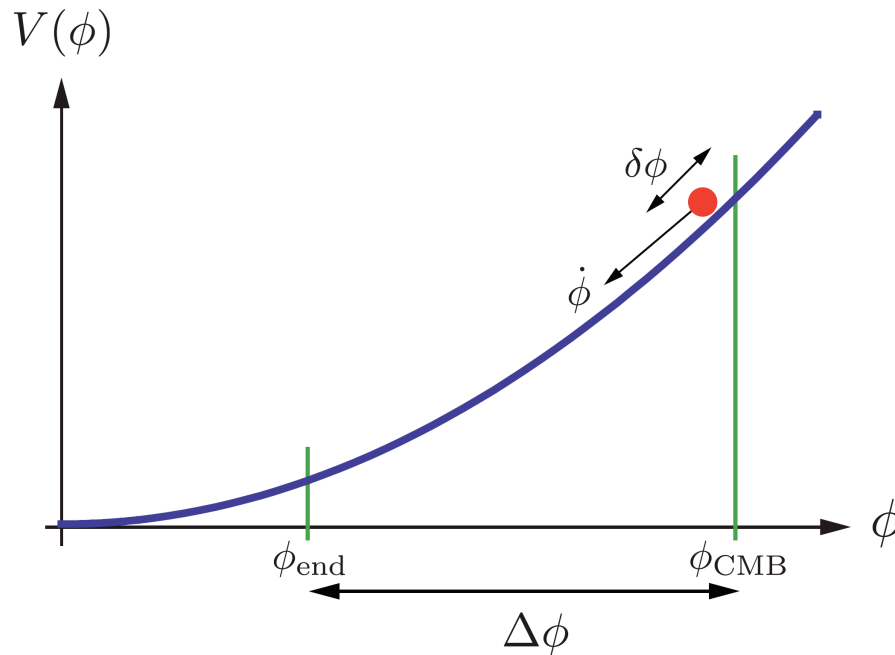
**Such Lagrangians support large field models of inflation ( $\Delta\phi \gg M_{\text{pl}}$ )**

*A couple of examples*

# Chaotic inflation like potentials

Case B.

$V(\varphi) = \mu^{4-p} \varphi^p$ , with  $\mu \ll M_{\text{Pl}}$  from scalar power spectrum



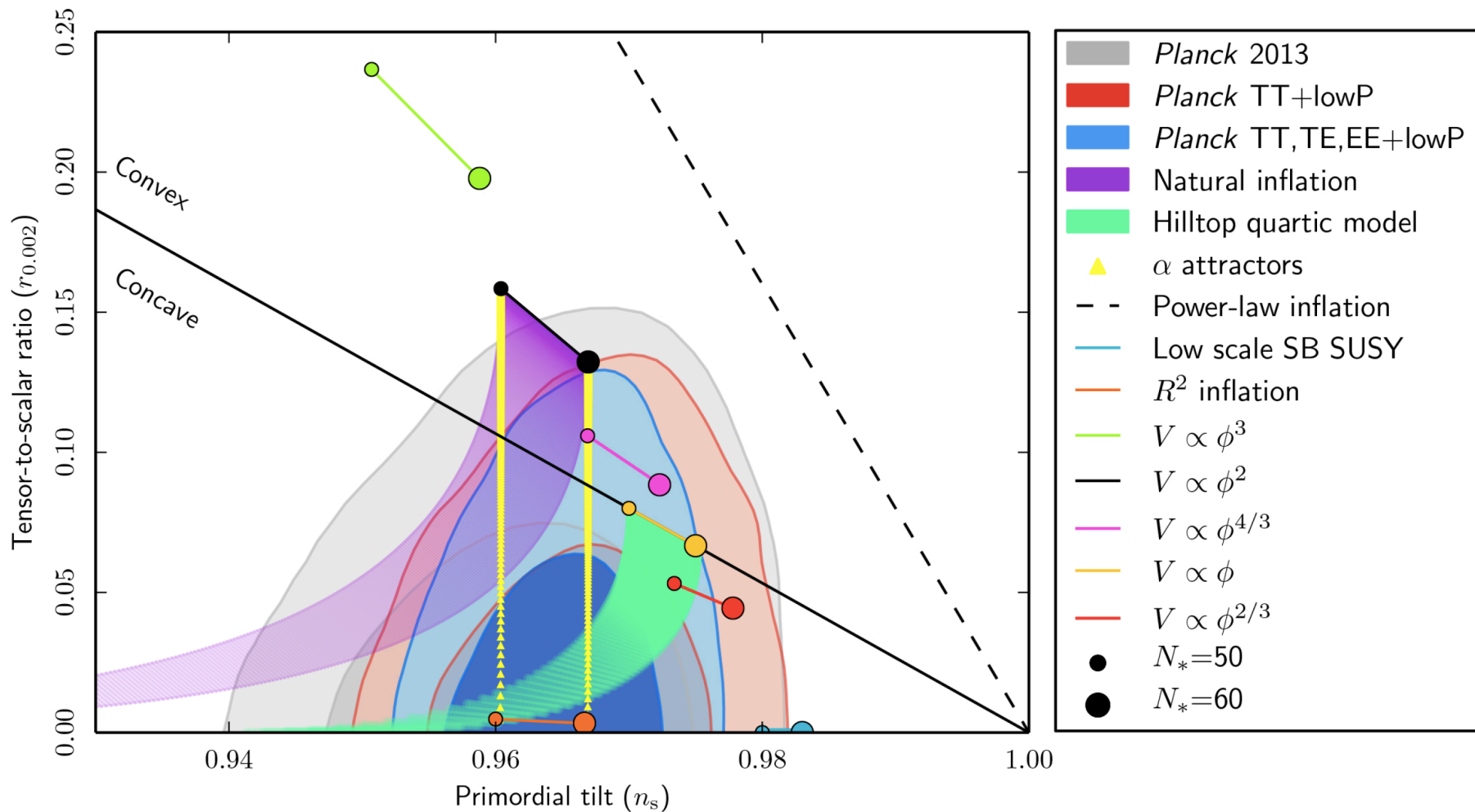
# Axion inflation

$$\mathcal{L} = -\frac{1}{2}(\partial\varphi)^2 - \mu^{4-p}\varphi^p - \Lambda^4 \cos\left(\frac{\varphi}{f}\right) - \frac{\alpha}{4f}\varphi F_{\mu\nu}\tilde{F}^{\mu\nu} - \frac{F^2}{4}$$

e.g.: axion monodromy                      Oscillatory contribution                      Coupling to gauge field

- Based on (slightly broken) shift symmetry that forbids corrections like  $\varphi^2 V_{sr}/M_{\text{PL}}^2$  which would spoil inflation
- From an effective field theory point of view the coupling to the gauge field should be included
- The coupling to the gauge field has a very rich phenomenology, both for primordial NG and for gravitational waves

(e.g. Barnaby & Peloso 2011; Barnaby, Pajer, Peloso 2011; Meerburg and Pajer 2012; Linde et al. 2013)



# Higgs inflation

(a short discussion and a few examples)



# Higgs inflation

✓ potential of the Higgs field at large-field values  $V(h) = \frac{\lambda}{4}h^4$  does not work:  $\lambda \sim 10^{-13}$  would be required to have enough inflation and to generate the right amplitude of primordial density perturbations

✓ Introduce a minimal modification

$$S = \int dx^4 \sqrt{-g} \left[ -\frac{1}{2} M_{Pl}^2 R - \frac{1}{2} \xi h^2 R + \frac{1}{2} \partial_\mu h \partial^\mu h - V(h) \right]$$

See, e.g., Bezrukov and Shaposhnikov (2008), or the review Bezrukov (2014)

- ✓ Via a Weyl transformation (+ a redefinition of the field to have a canonical kinetic term)

$$g_{\mu\nu} \longrightarrow \Omega^2 g_{\mu\nu} \quad \Omega^2 = 1 + \frac{\xi h^2}{M_{Pl}^2} \quad h = \frac{M_{Pl}}{\sqrt{\xi}} \exp\left(\frac{\chi}{\sqrt{6}M_{Pl}}\right)$$

$$S = \int dx^2 \sqrt{-g} \left[ -\frac{1}{2} M_{Pl}^2 R + \frac{1}{2} \partial_\mu \chi \partial^\mu \chi - U(\chi) \right]$$

$$U(\chi) \simeq \frac{\lambda M_{Pl}^2}{4\xi^2} \left( 1 - e^{-\frac{2\chi}{\sqrt{6}M_{Pl}}} \right)^2 \simeq \frac{\lambda h^4}{4 \left( 1 + \frac{\xi h^2}{M_{Pl}} \right)^2}$$

(for large field values  $> M_{Pl}/\xi^{1/2}$ )

- ✓ to match the observed amplitude of primordial density perturbations

$$\xi \simeq 48000 \sqrt{\lambda} \quad \rightarrow \quad n_s - 1 = -\frac{2}{N} \simeq 0.967 \quad r = \frac{12}{N^2} \simeq 0.0031$$

## ✓ Interesting, but not without some issues

- Intrinsic theoretical uncertainty in computing the quantum corrections
- For  $h \gg M_{\text{pl}}/\xi$  perturbative unitarity is violated (e.g. Burgess, Lee, Trott 2010)
- Stability of the Higgs potential up to  $M_{\text{pl}}/\xi^{1/2}$  is required.
- finally (but this is maybe a matter of taste.....):  
why the Higgs and the scalar field driving inflation should be the same?

# The Higgs as the inflaton

- An attempt to have Higgs as the inflaton without introducing anything beyond SM
- exploits the fact that at high energies a plateau develops in the Higgs potential for a narrow range of Higgs and top masses.

First proposed in Isidori, Rychkov, Strumia, Tetradis, 2008.

# The Higgs as the inflaton

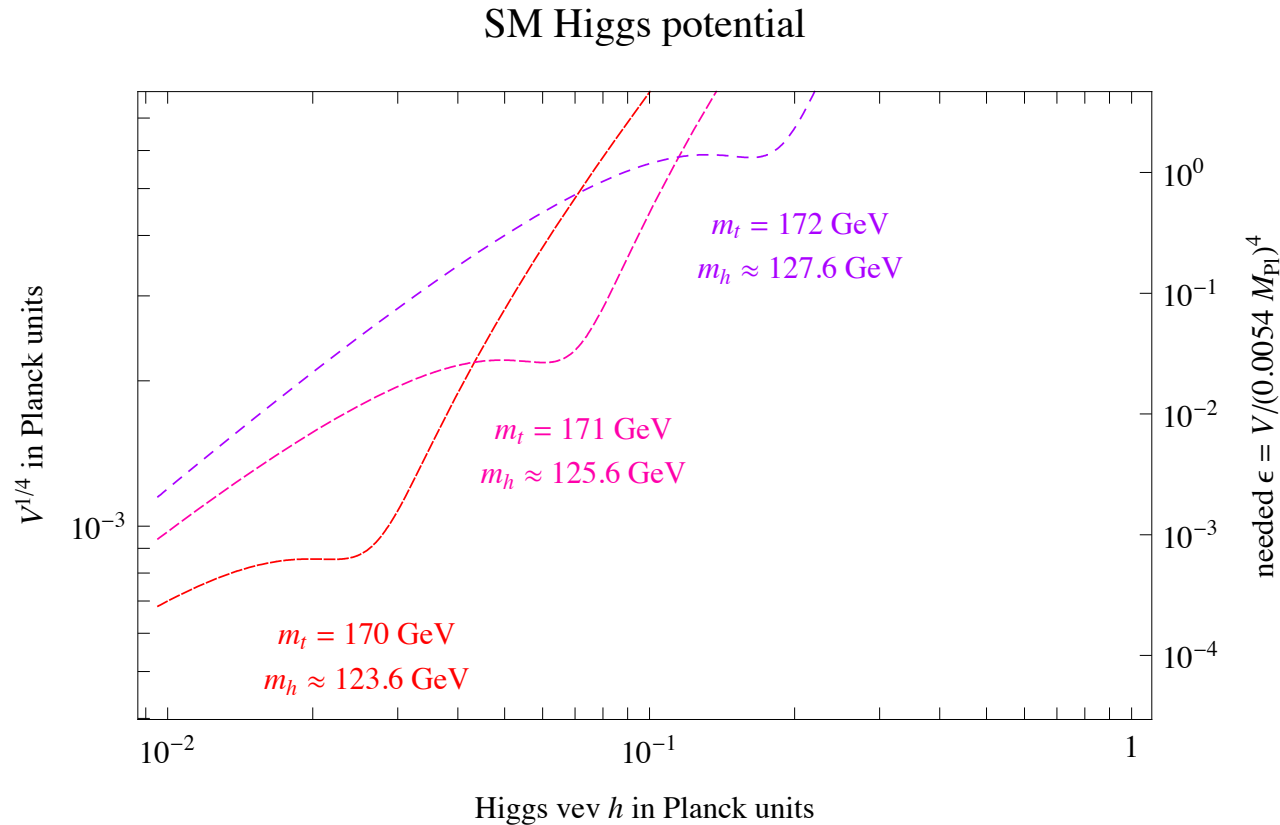


Figure 3: *Examples of fine-tuned SM potentials that might allow inflation. The right handed axis shows the value of the slow-roll parameter  $\epsilon$  that would give the observed amount of anisotropies.*

# The Higgs as the inflaton

- however:

$$\frac{\delta\rho}{\rho} \simeq 10^{-5} \quad \longleftrightarrow \quad \frac{V}{\epsilon} \approx (0.0054 M_{\text{Pl}})^4$$

and at the same time you must require

$$N_{\text{CMB}} \simeq 60 \simeq \left( \frac{\Delta\phi}{M_{\text{Pl}}} \right) \frac{1}{\epsilon}$$

The point is that the height of the potential in the flat region is fixed.

- Also: the potential is obtained for fined-tune values of the Higgs and top masses.

# Higgs false vacuum inflation

- A second attempt to have the Higgs as the inflaton without introducing anything beyond SM (e.g., Masina, Notari 2012)
- exploits the peculiarity of the SM to develop a second-minimum at high energies for a narrow band of the Higgs and top masses

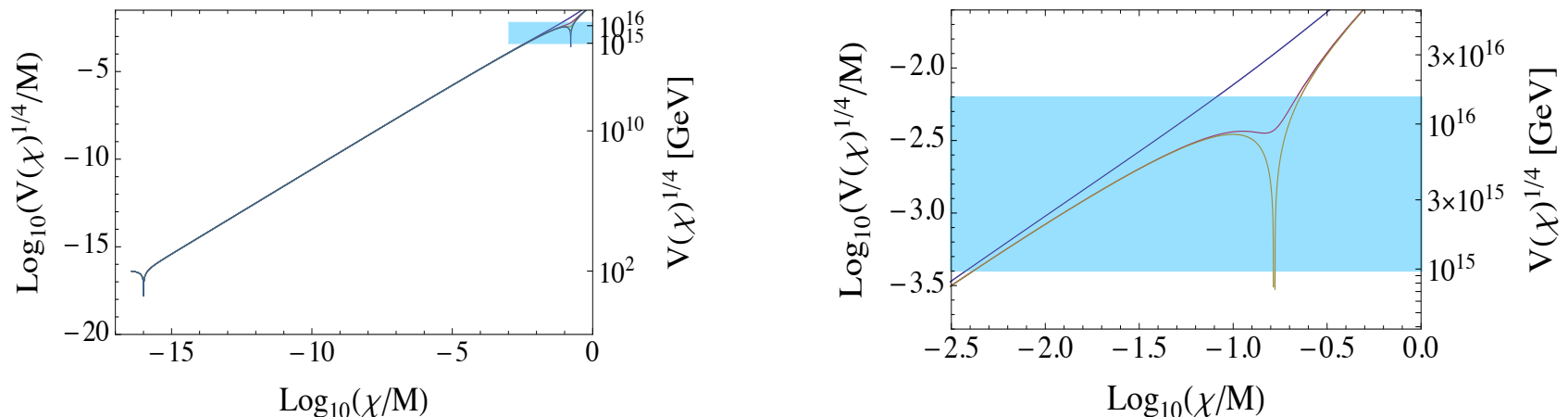


Figure 3: Higgs potential as a function of the Higgs field value  $\chi$ . We fixed  $m_t = 171.8$  GeV and, from top to bottom,  $m_H = 125.2, 125.158, 125.157663$  GeV. We also fixed  $\alpha_3(m_Z) = 0.1184$ . The shaded region is the range selected by our inflationary model:  $10^{-3.4} \leq V(\chi_0)^{1/4}/M \leq 10^{-2.2}$ . The right panel is a magnification of the false vacuum region.

# Higgs false vacuum inflation

- However: this is nothing but the old inflation scenario (Guth '81), and as such it faces the same old issue: the graceful exit problem.
- To solve this one is forced to introduce in any case physics beyond the SM (non minimal coupling with gravity of a second-scalar field (as in the old days of extended inflation) or a second-scalar field to have hybrid inflation.
- moreover the issue of fine tuning remain.



# Starobinsky inflation

- Actually first model of inflation (Starobinsky 1980)

$$S = \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} \frac{M_{\text{pl}}^2}{2} \left( R + \frac{R^2}{6M^2} \right)$$



Weyl transformation + field redefinition

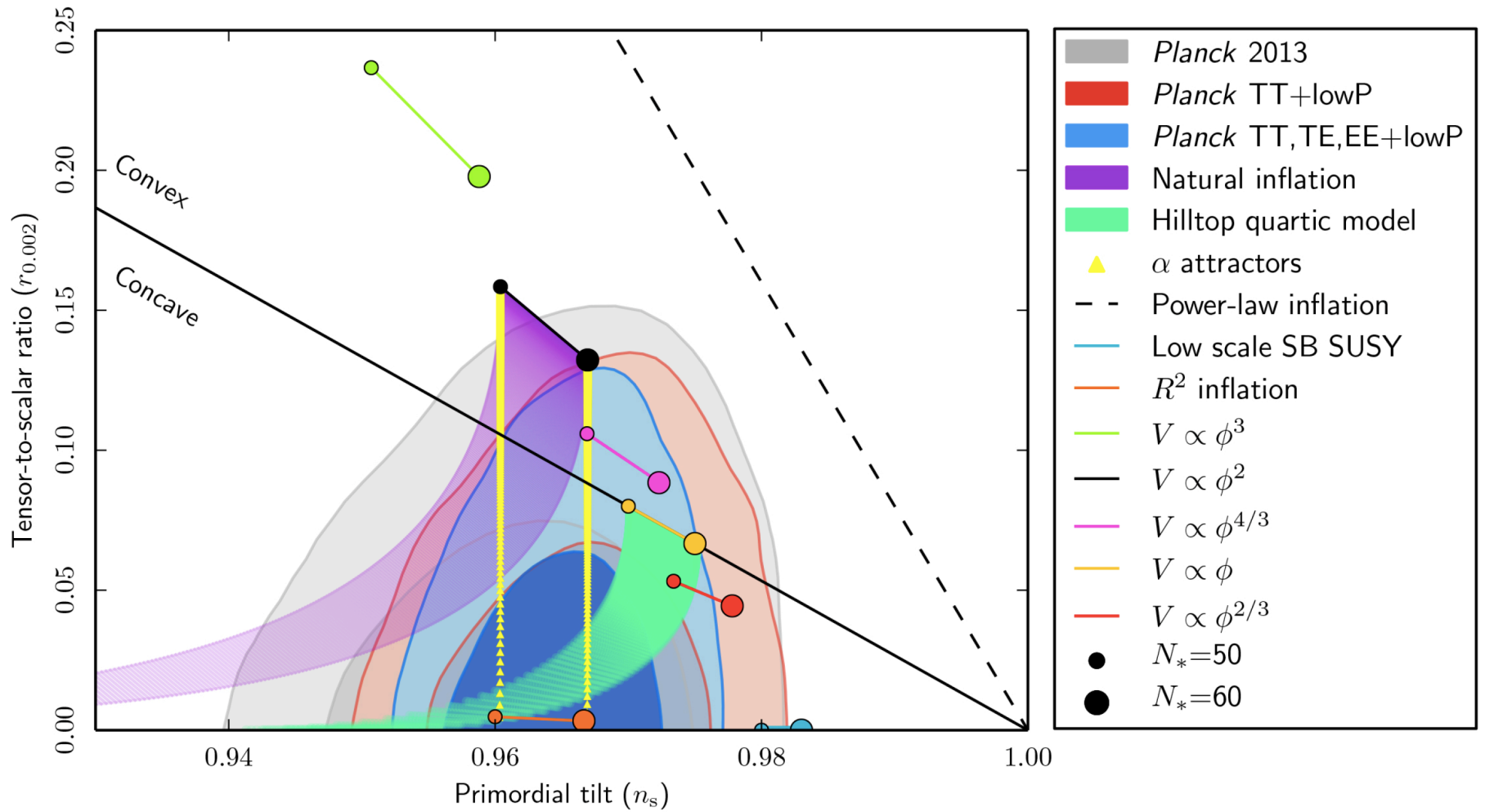
$$V(\phi) = \frac{3}{4} M^2 M_{\text{Pl}}^4 \left( 1 - e^{-\sqrt{2/3}\phi/M_{\text{Pl}}} \right)^2$$

(so for large field values it converges to Higgs-inflation)

# ``Extensions'' of Starobinsky models: the alpha-attractors

*Building a bridge between the ``small'' and the ``large''*





see, e.g., Kallosh & Linde arXiv:1306.5220, 1306.3214, arXiv:1309.2015; Ferrara, Linde, Porrati arXiv: 1307.7696, Kallosh, Linde & Roest, arXiv:1310.3950

# A simple toy model

$$\mathcal{L} = \sqrt{-g} \left[ \frac{1}{2} \partial_\mu \chi \partial^\mu \chi + \frac{\chi^2}{12} R - \frac{1}{2} \partial_\mu \phi \partial^\mu \phi - \frac{\phi^2}{12} R - \frac{F(\phi/\chi)}{36} (\phi^2 - \chi^2)^2 \right]$$

*Local conformal invariance under*

$$\tilde{g}_{\mu\nu} = e^{-2\sigma(x)} g_{\mu\nu} \longrightarrow \text{Choose a gauge}$$

$$\tilde{\chi} = e^{\sigma(x)} \chi,$$

$$\tilde{\phi} = e^{\sigma(x)} \phi.$$

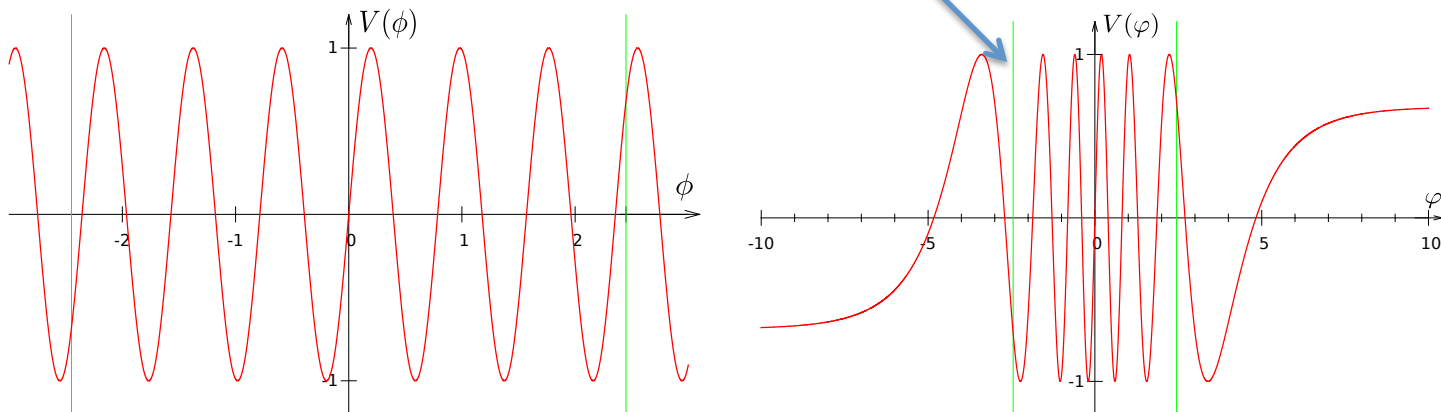
$$\chi = \sqrt{6} \cosh \frac{\varphi}{\sqrt{6}},$$

$$\phi = \sqrt{6} \sinh \frac{\varphi}{\sqrt{6}},$$

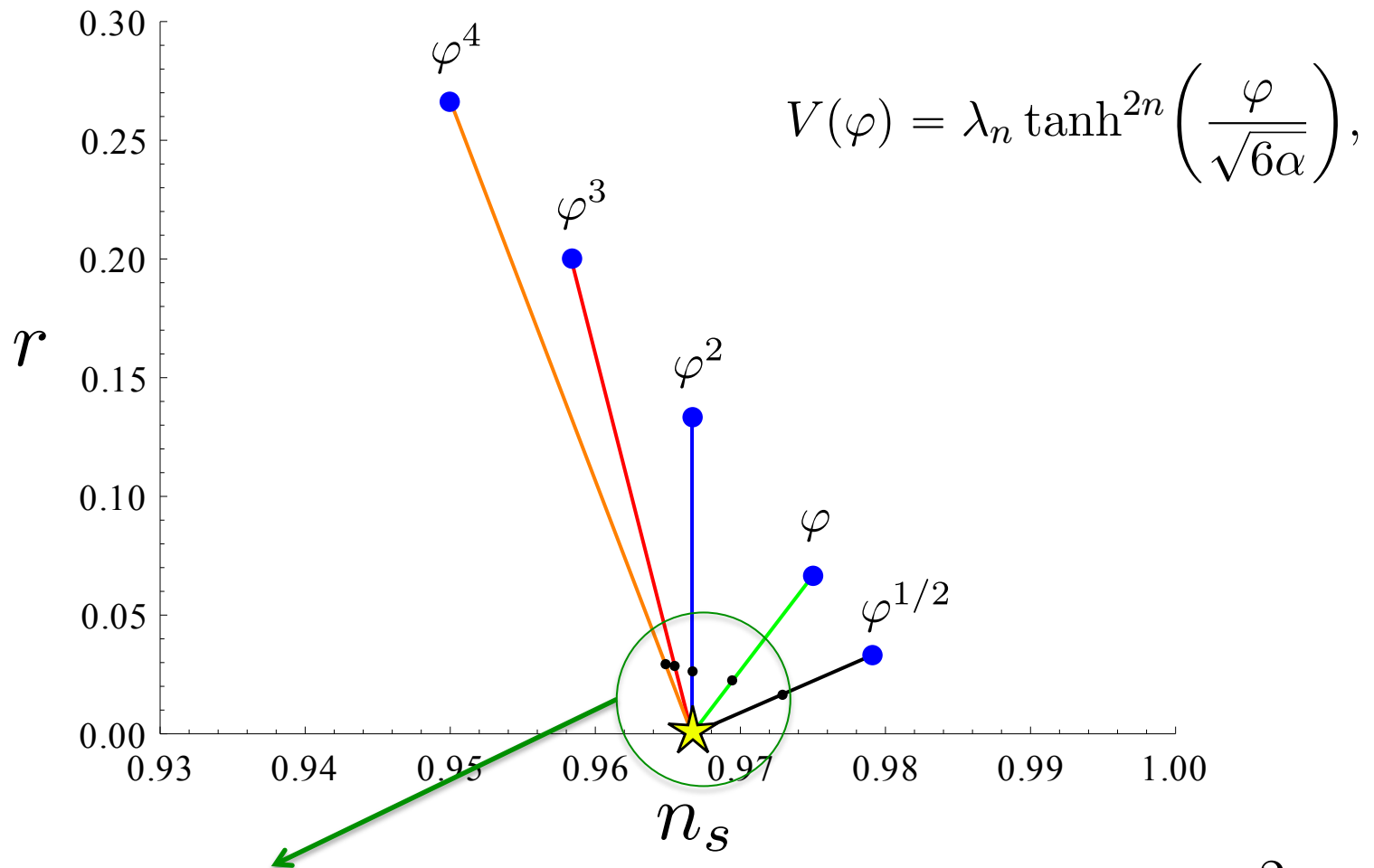
$$\mathcal{L} = \sqrt{-g} \left[ \frac{R}{2} - \frac{1}{2} \partial_\mu \varphi \partial^\mu \varphi - F \left( \tanh \frac{\varphi}{\sqrt{6}\alpha} \right) \right],$$

it flattens for large field values, exploiting a conformal stretching  $\phi \rightarrow \sqrt{6} \tanh(\varphi/\sqrt{6})$   
→ universality of predictions

- $F$  is an arbitrary function (it quantifies the deviation from a pure cosmological constant): so one can obtain a generic potential starting from a conformal theory which is spontaneously broken.
- $F\left(\tanh\frac{\varphi}{\sqrt{6\alpha}}\right)$ : it flattens for large field values: universality of predictions
- exploiting a conformal stretching  $\phi \rightarrow \sqrt{6} \tanh(\varphi/\sqrt{6})$



# Observational predictions (T-models)



Attractor behaviour  
for small  $\alpha$

$\alpha=1$  corresponds to Starobinsky (Higgs) inflation

$$n_s - 1 \simeq -\frac{2}{N},$$

$$r \simeq \frac{12\alpha}{N^2},$$

# *Primordial non-Gaussianity*

# Primordial NG

$\zeta(\mathbf{x})$ : primordial perturbations

If the fluctuations are Gaussian distributed then their statistical properties are completely characterized by the two-point correlation function,  $\langle \zeta(\mathbf{x}_1)\zeta(\mathbf{x}_2) \rangle$  or its Fourier transform, the power-spectrum.

Thus a non-vanishing **three point function**, or its Fourier transform, the **bispectrum is an indicator of non-Gaussianity**

$$\left\langle \xi(\vec{k}_1)\xi(\vec{k}_2)\xi(\vec{k}_3) \right\rangle = (2\pi)^3 \delta^{(3)}(\vec{k}_1 + \vec{k}_2 + \vec{k}_3) f_{NL} F(k_1, k_2, k_3)$$

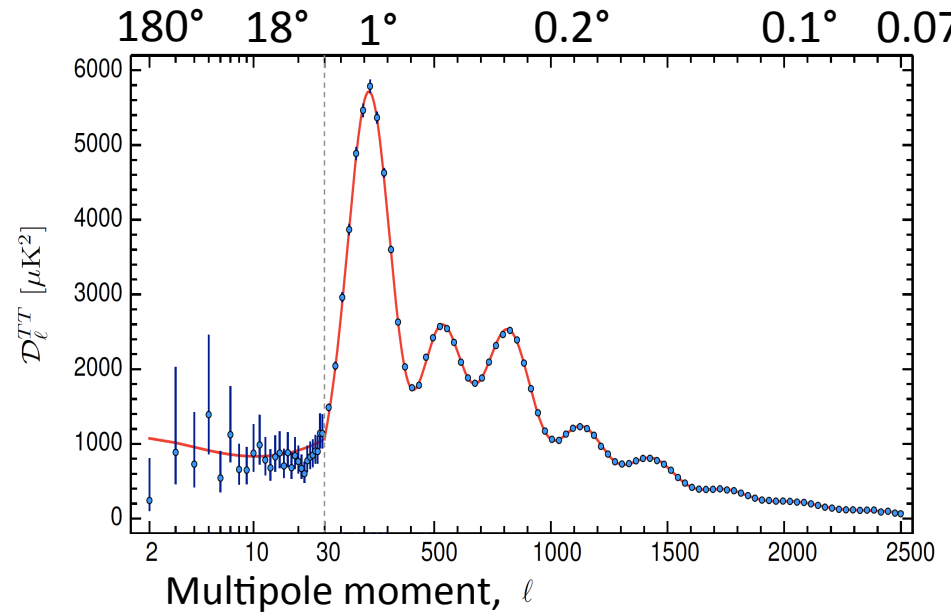
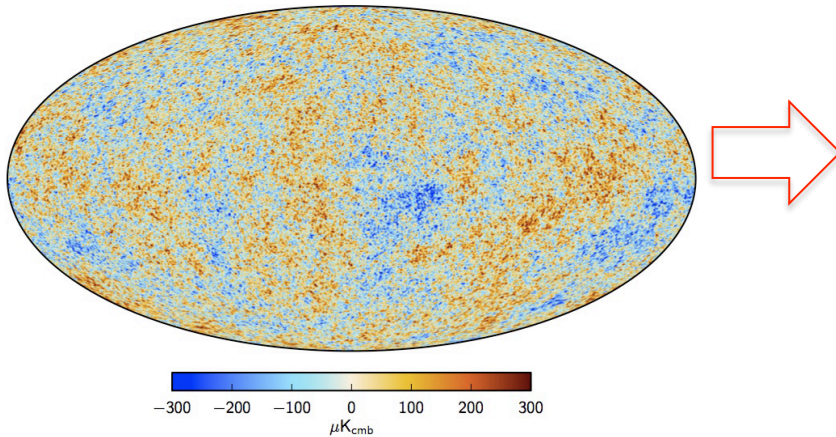
Amplitude

Shape

$$\rightarrow \left\langle \frac{\Delta T}{T}(n_1) \frac{\Delta T}{T}(n_2) \frac{\Delta T}{T}(n_3) \right\rangle$$



# Bispectrum vs power spectrum information



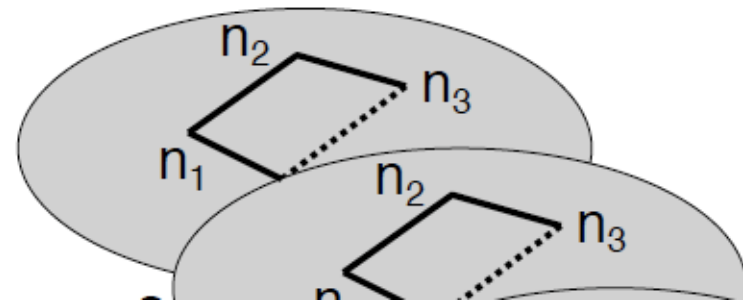
Planck 2015 Results. I. Overview of products and scientific results

***5×10<sup>6</sup> pixels compressed  
into ~2500 numbers:  
O.K. only if gaussian***

***If not we could miss  
precious information***



***Measure 3 point-function  
and higher-order***



# Primordial NG

Gaussian



free (i.e. non-interacting)  
field, linear theory

Collection of independent harmonic oscillators  
(no mode-mode coupling)

## ***Physical origin of primordial NG:***

self-interactions of the inflaton field, e.g.  $\lambda \phi^3$ ,  
interactions between different fields,  
non-linear evolution of the fields during inflation,  
gravity itself is non linear.....

***Why primordial NG is important?***

One (among many) good reason:

**$f_{\text{NL}}$  and shape are model dependent:**

e.g.: standard single-field models of slow-roll inflation predict

$$f_{\text{NL}} \sim \mathcal{O}(\epsilon, \eta) \ll 1$$

(Acquaviva, Bartolo, Riotto, Matarrese 2002;  
Maldacena 2002)

A detection of a primordial  $|f_{\text{NL}}| \sim 1$  would rule out *all* standard single-field models of slow-roll inflation

# A second good reason

In the last years there has been an explosion of a *new wave of physically well motivated inflationary models beyond the simplest* ones capable of generating a large and detectable amount of NG (spurred by the present and future high precision data)

$$|f_{NL}| \gg 1$$

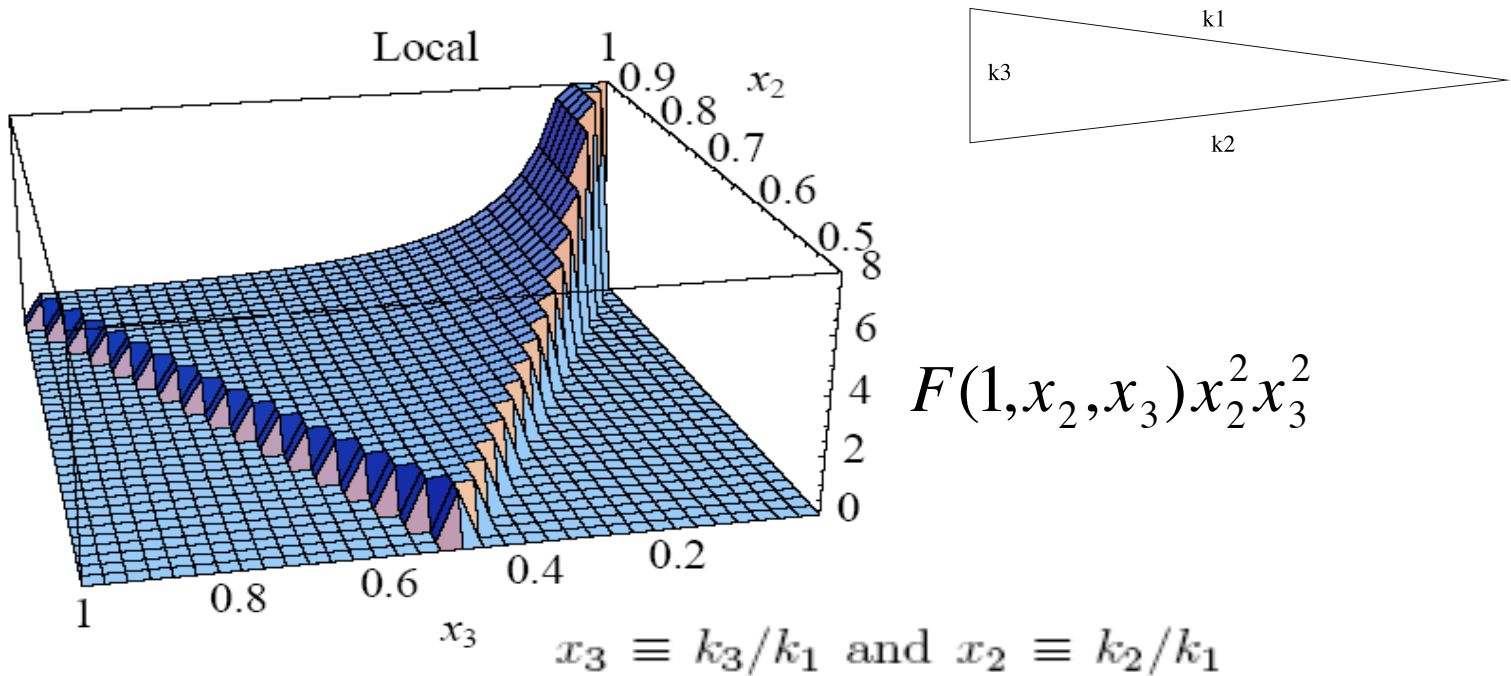
See N. Bartolo, E. Komatsu, S. Matarrese, A. Riotto, astro-ph/0406398

X. Chen, arXiv:1002.1416

N. Bartolo, S. Matarrese, A. Riotto arXiv:1001.3957

# SHAPES OF NG: LOCAL NG

**Bispectrum peaks for squeezed triangles  $k_1 \ll k_2 \sim k_3$**

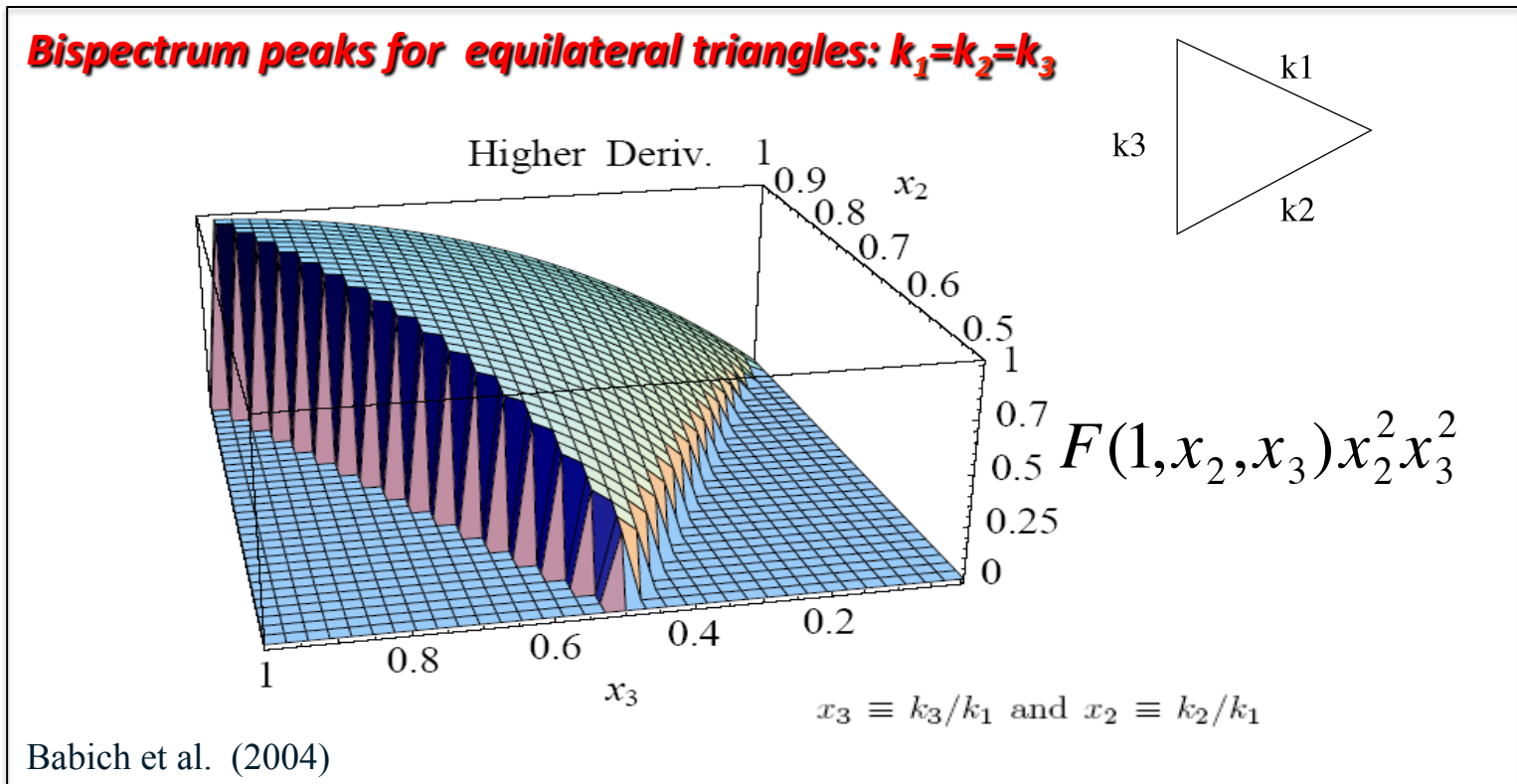


Babich et al. astro-ph/0405356

$$\zeta(\mathbf{x}) = \zeta^G(\mathbf{x}) + \frac{3}{5} f_{\text{NL}} (\zeta^G(\mathbf{x}))^2$$

Non-linearities develop outside the horizon during or immediately after inflation  
(e.g. **multifield models of inflation**)

# EQUILATERAL NG



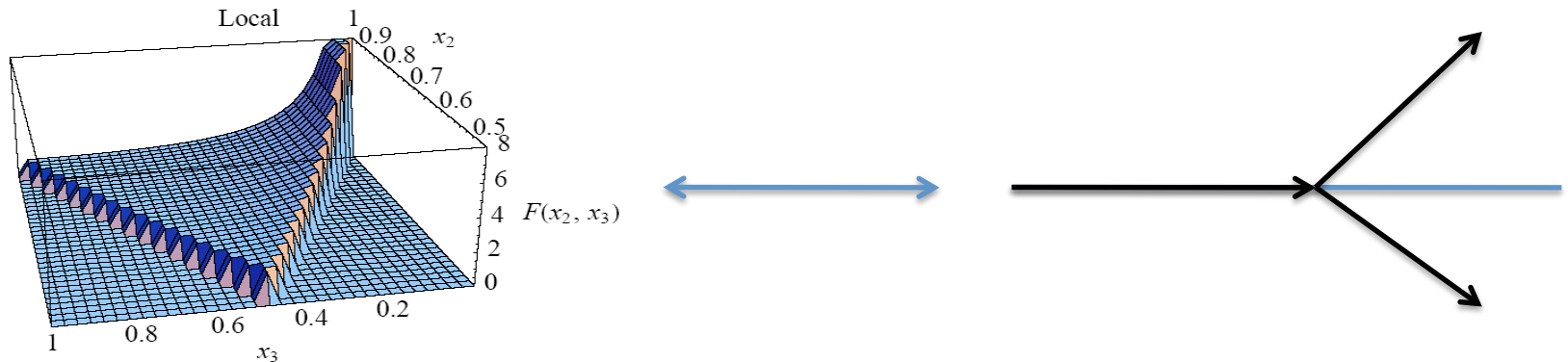
Babich et al. astro-ph/0405356

**Single field models of inflation with non-canonical kinetic term**  $L=P(\varphi, X)$  where  $X=(\partial \varphi)^2$  (DBI or K-inflation) where NG comes from higher derivative interactions of the inflaton field

Example:  $\dot{\delta\phi}(\nabla\delta\phi)^2$

# LESSON: NG...IT'S NOT JUST A NUMBER

Measuring the amplitude and shape of non-Gaussianities, with their huge amount of information associated to triangular configurations is analogous to measuring a cross section as a function of the angle of the outgoing particles in particle and collider physics



Constraints on  $f_{NL}$  translates into constraints of the coefficients of the interactions of the inflaton Lagrangian )

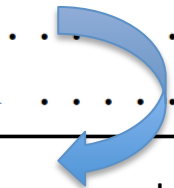


# ***Limits set by Planck***

*See Planck 2015 results. XVII. Constraints on primordial non-Gaussianity*

# Observational limits set by Planck

Shape and method	$f_{\text{NL}}(\text{KSW})$	
	Independent	ISW-lensing subtracted
SMICA ( $T$ )		
Local . . . . .	10.2 $\pm$ 5.7	<b>2.5</b> $\pm$ <b>5.7</b>
Equilateral . . . . .	-13 $\pm$ 70	<b>-16</b> $\pm$ <b>70</b>
Orthogonal . . . . .	-56 $\pm$ 33	<b>-34</b> $\pm$ <b>33</b>
SMICA ( $T+E$ )		
Local . . . . .	6.5 $\pm$ 5.0	<b>0.8</b> $\pm$ <b>5.0</b>
Equilateral . . . . .	3 $\pm$ 43	<b>-4</b> $\pm$ <b>43</b>
Orthogonal . . . . .	-36 $\pm$ 21	<b>-26</b> $\pm$ <b>21</b>



e.g. models with non-standard kinetic terms

e.g. multi-field models of inflation

# *Implications for inflation models*

- The standard models of single-field slow-roll inflation has survived the most stringent tests of Gaussianity to-date:  
*deviations from primordial Gaussianity are less than 0.01% level. This is a fantastic achievement, one of the most precise measurements in cosmology!*

$$\Phi(\mathbf{x}) = \underbrace{\Phi^{(1)}(\mathbf{x})}_{\sim 10^{-5}} + \underbrace{f_{\text{NL}}}_{\sim \text{few}} \left( \underbrace{\Phi^{(1)}(\mathbf{x})}_{\sim 10^{-10}} \right)^2 + \dots\dots$$

- *The NG constraints* on different primordial bispectrum shapes *severly limit/rule out specific key (inflationary) mechanisms alternative to the standard models of inflation*

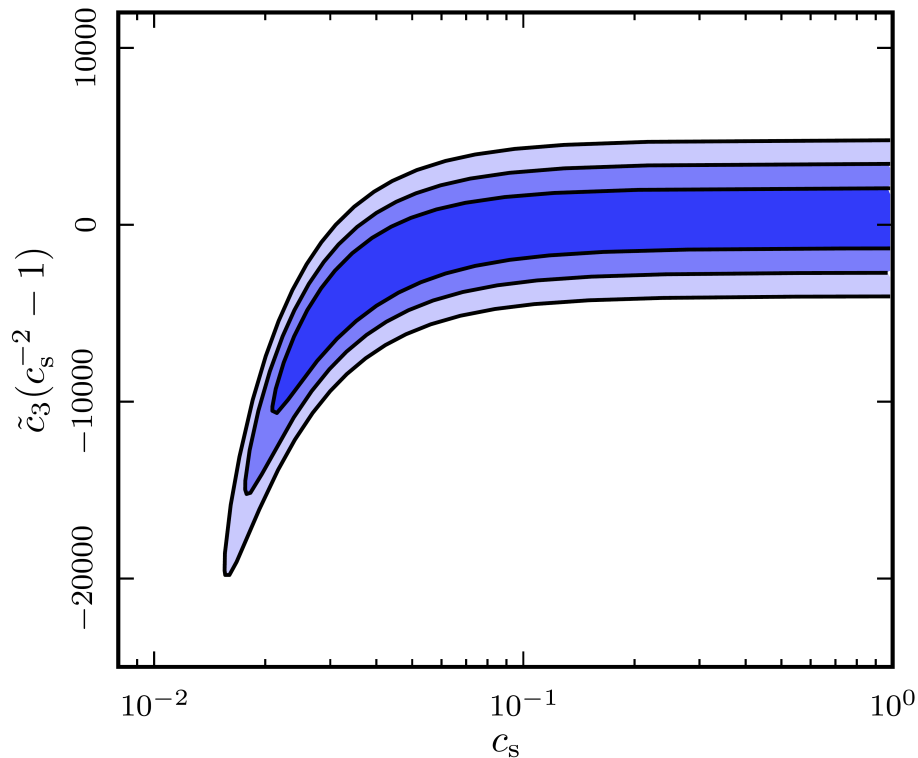
# General single-field models of inflation: Implications for Effective Field Theory of Inflation

$$S = \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} \left[ -\frac{M_{\text{Pl}}^2 \dot{H}}{c_s^2} \left( \dot{\pi}^2 - c_s^2 \frac{(\partial_i \pi)^2}{a^2} \right) - M_{\text{Pl}}^2 \dot{H} (1 - c_s^{-2}) \dot{\pi} \frac{(\partial_i \pi)^2}{a^2} + \left( M_{\text{Pl}}^2 \dot{H} (1 - c_s^{-2}) - \frac{4}{3} M_3^4 \right) \dot{\pi}^3 \right]$$

$f_{\text{NL}} \propto \frac{1}{c_s^2}$

(Cheung et al. 08; Weinberg 08)

for extensions see also N.B., Fasiello, Matarrese, Riotto 10)



Constraints obtained from

$$f_{\text{NL}}^{\text{equil}} = -16 \pm 70 \quad (68\% \text{ CL})$$

$$f_{\text{NL}}^{\text{ortho}} = -34 \pm 33 \quad (68\% \text{ CL})$$

$$c_s \geq 0.02 \quad \text{at } 95\% \text{ CL}$$

# String inspired models of inflation

**DBI** (Dirac-Born-Infeld) **models** (brane/string inspired models)

Alishahiha, Silverstein, Tong 04; Chen 05;07

$$\mathcal{L}(\phi, X) = -f(\phi)^{-1} \sqrt{1 - 2f(\phi)X} + f(\phi)^{-1} - V(\phi)$$

$$X = -\frac{1}{2}g^{\mu\nu} \phi_{,\mu} \phi_{,\nu}, \quad f(\phi) = \lambda/\phi^4$$

**Infrared DBI**

$$V(\phi) = V_0 - \frac{1}{2}\beta H^2 \phi^2$$

$$0.1 < \beta < 10^9 \text{ allowed}$$

$$f_{\text{NL}}^{\text{DBI}} = -(35/108) \left( \frac{1}{c_s^2} - 1 \right), \quad c_s \simeq 3/(\beta N)$$

$$n_s - 1 = -4/N$$

Combining the NG constraint  $f_{\text{NL}}^{\text{DBI}} = 11 \pm 69$  (68% C.L.)

with the spectral index  $n_s - 1 = 0.9603 \pm 0.0073$

we get

$$\beta \leq 0.7 \quad (95\% \text{ CL}).$$

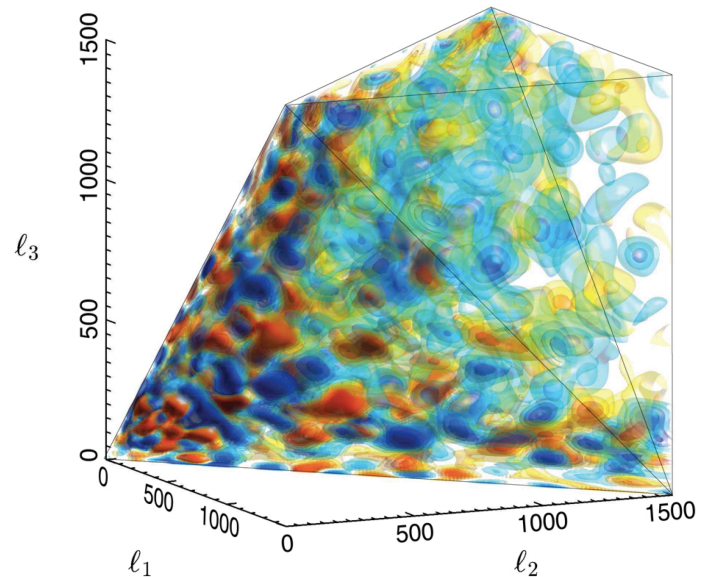
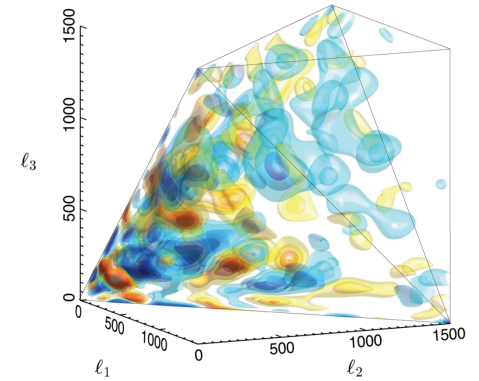
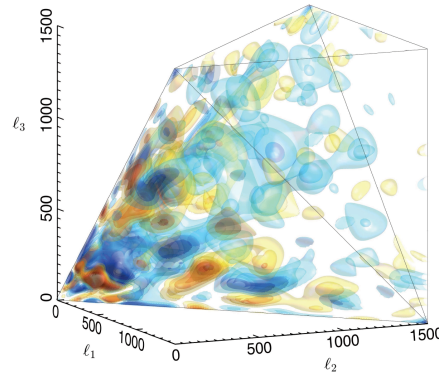
**Parameter space of the model dramatically restricted**

# The CMB bispectrum as seen by Planck

$$\frac{\Delta T}{T}(\vartheta, \phi) = \sum_{l=2}^{\infty} \sum_{m=-l}^l a_{lm} Y_{lm}(\vartheta, \phi)$$

$$B_{l_1 l_2 l_3} = \sum_m \begin{pmatrix} l_1 & l_2 & l_3 \\ m_1 & m_2 & m_3 \end{pmatrix} \langle a_{l_1}^{m_1} a_{l_2}^{m_2} a_{l_3}^{m_3} \rangle;$$

$$B_{l_1 l_2 l_3} = h_{l_1 l_2 l_3} b_{l_1 l_2 l_3}$$



*Future prospects*

# Significant thresholds for $r$ (Gravitational waves)

- When considering future sensitivity on  $r$ , it is important to have in mind some motivated theoretical thresholds
- One reasonable threshold is  $r \sim 2 \times 10^{-3}$ 
  - It (approximately) corresponds to both the prediction of inflation models that become flat as  $\exp(-\phi/M_{\text{P}})$  (e.g. Higgs-inflation or Starobinsky-like inflation)
  - it corresponds to the threshold  $\Delta\phi = M_{\text{P}}$

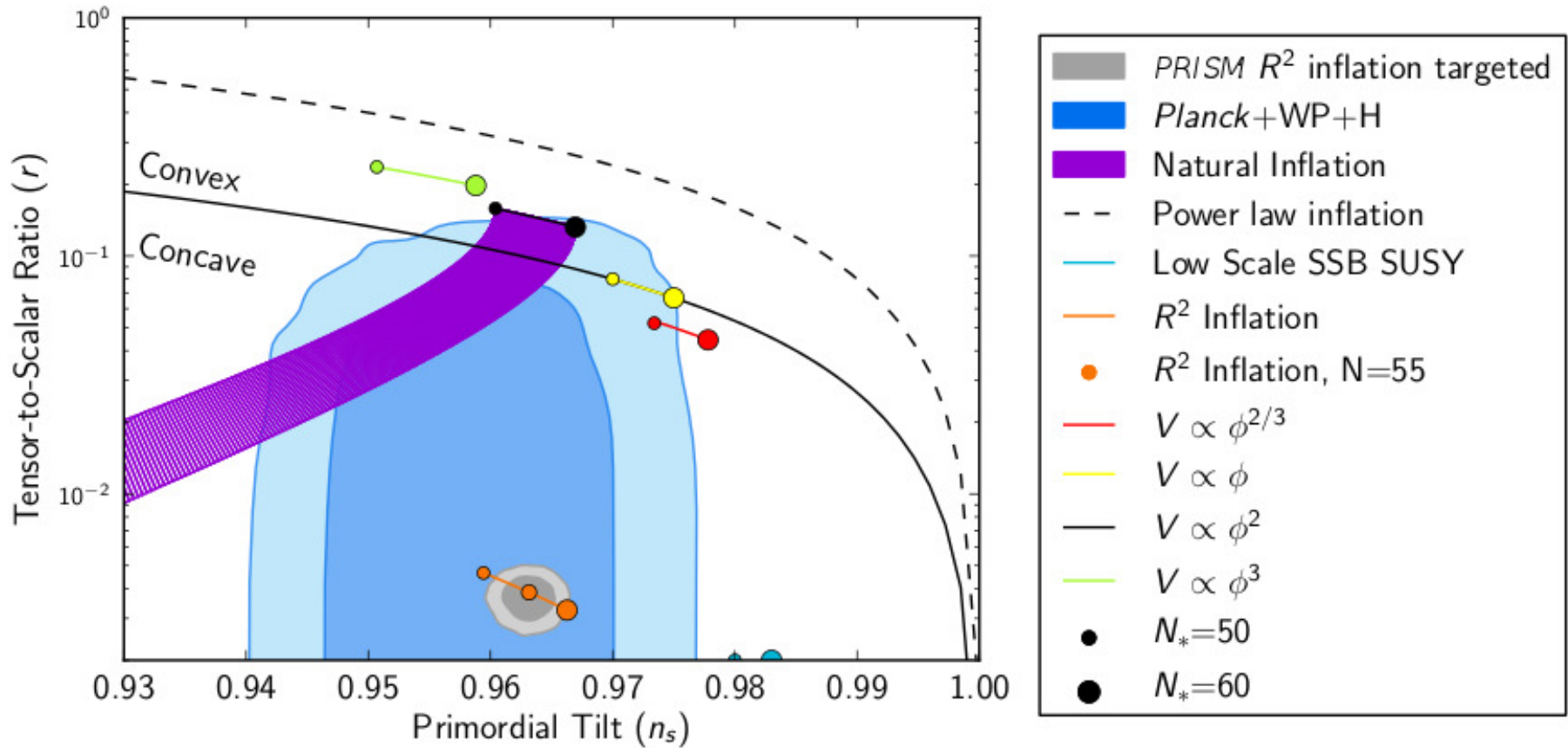
(see discussions, e.g., in Creminelli et al. arXiv:1502.01983, Dodelson arXiv:1403.6310, Kamionkowski, Kovetz 1510.06042, Guzzetti et al. 1605.01615 or, recently Linde in 1612.00020).



# Gravitational waves from inflation: CMB B-modes

- The search for B-modes will be the main target for most future CMB surveys.
- **Current** constraints  $r < 0.07$ , (95% C.L.), Planck + BICEP2 + Keck Array.
- From the **ground**, claim:  $\Delta r \sim 0.01$  maybe achievable.
- **Main obstacles: astrophysical foreground, B-mode lensing signal. Best remedies: full-sky, wide multi-frequency coverage => SPACE**
- Next generation of **space missions aiming for  $\Delta r \sim 0.001$**

# $n_s$ - $r$ plane: expected improvements



Vast improvement achievable from future polarization data (TE, EE, BB)

# GRAVITATIONAL WAVES FROM INFLATION

primordial → present time

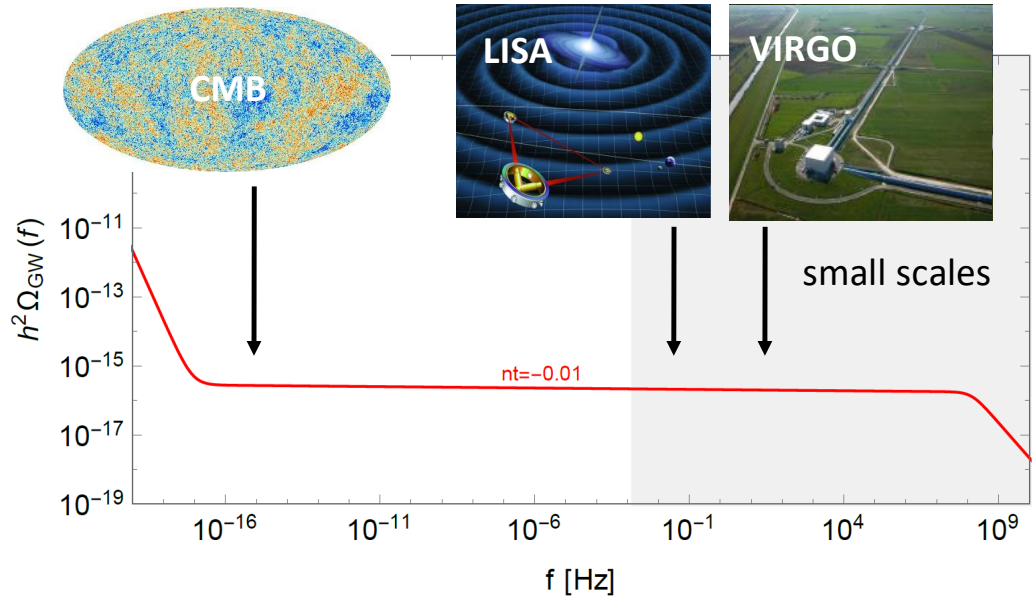
present time  
gw spectral  
energy density

$$\Omega_{\text{GW}}(k, \tau_0) \equiv \frac{1}{\rho_c} \frac{d\rho_{\text{gw}}}{d \ln k} = \frac{1}{12} \left( \frac{k}{aH} \right)^2 T(k) P_T(k)$$

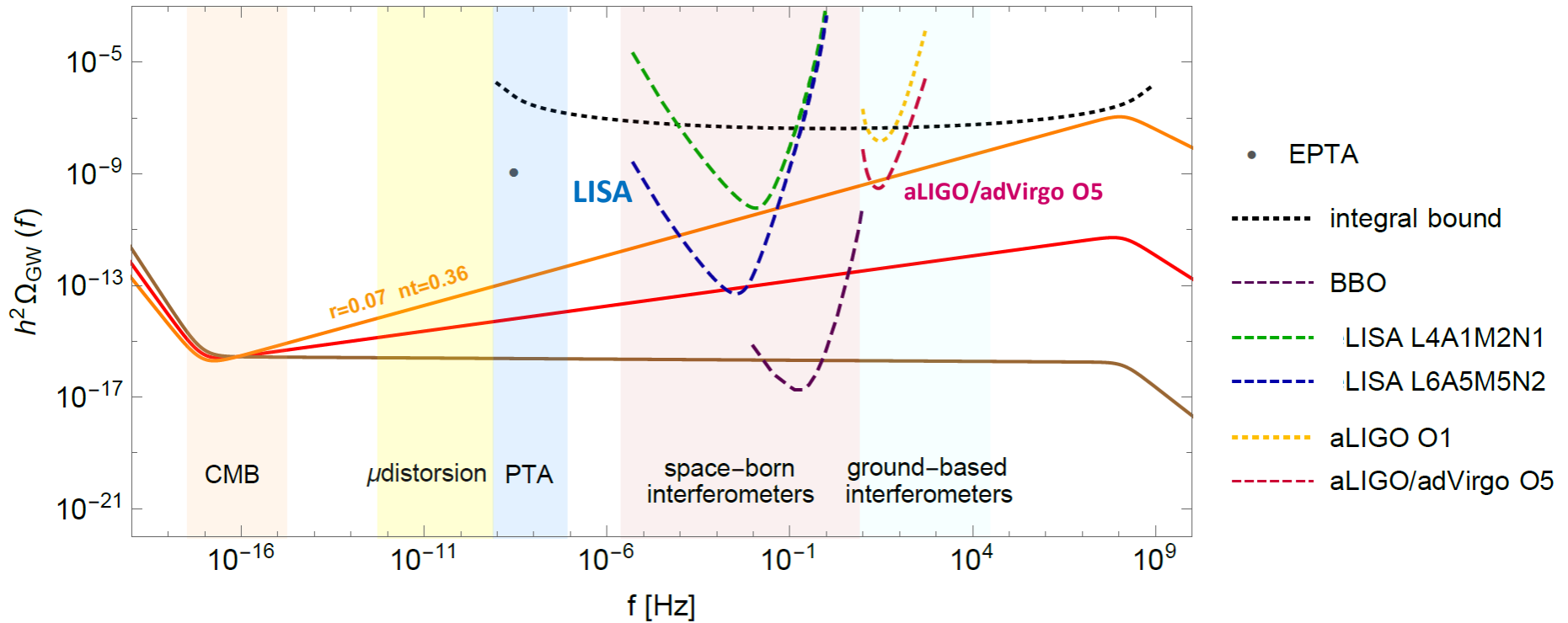
$$P_T(k) = A_T(k_*) \left( \frac{k}{k_*} \right)^{n_T}$$



stochastic gravitational wave  
background



# CURRENT BOUNDS AND OBSERVATIONAL PROSPECTS



# INFLATIONARY CONSISTENCY RELATION

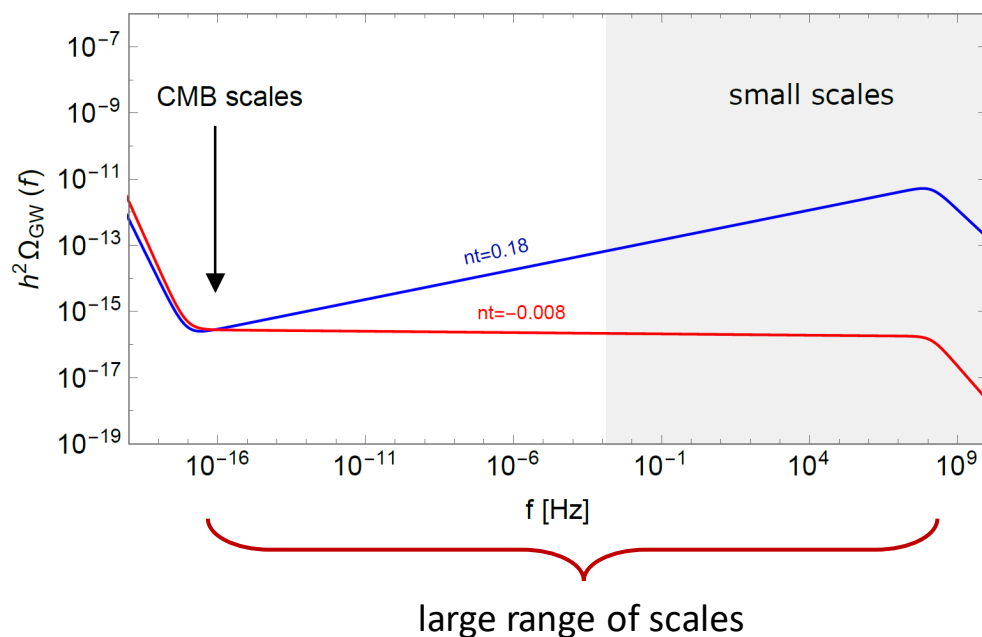
single-field slow-roll inflation  
(vacuum fluctuations)

$$r = -8n_T$$

**test**  
for single-field  
slow-roll inflation

experiments at **small scales**  
are crucial in order to exploit  
the **long lever arm** between CMB scales and  
laser interferometers scales

experiments at small scales improve the  
capabilities of testing the single-field slow-roll  
inflationary model



# FURTHER MECHANISMS OF GW PRODUCTION

ANY inflationary model  $\longrightarrow$  quantum fluctuations of the gravitational field

## POSSIBLE EXTRA PRODUCTION

due to further fields besides the gravitational one

## CLASSICAL gw production

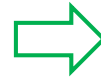
$$h''_{ij} + 2\mathcal{H}h'_{ij} - \nabla^2 h_{ij} = \frac{2}{M_{\text{pl}}^2} \hat{\Pi}_{ij}^{lm} T_{lm} \quad \text{SOURCE TERM}$$

$$\Rightarrow \Omega_{\text{gw}} = \Omega_{\text{gw}}^{\text{vacuum}} + \Omega_{\text{gw}}^{\text{sourced}}$$

# CONSTRAINING SPECIFIC INFLATIONARY MODELS, AN EXAMPLE

## INFLATION WITH SPECTATOR FIELD

inflaton + spectator field  $\sigma$



$$\Omega_{\text{gw}} = \Omega_{\text{gw}}^{\text{vacuum}} + \Omega_{\text{gw}}^{\text{sourced}}$$

blue ?

$c_s$   
 $\sigma$  speed of sound



gw  
amplitude

$s = \dot{c}_s / H c_s$   
speed of sound  
evolution



gw  
spectral index

# CONSTRAINING SPECIFIC INFLATIONARY MODELS, AN EXAMPLE

## INFLATION WITH SPECTATOR FIELD

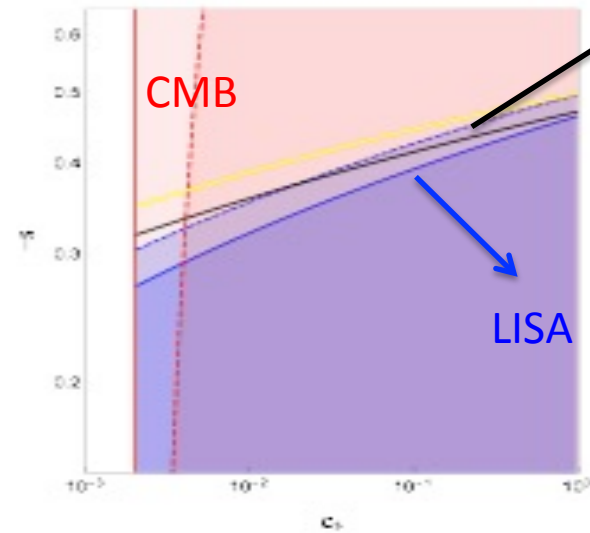
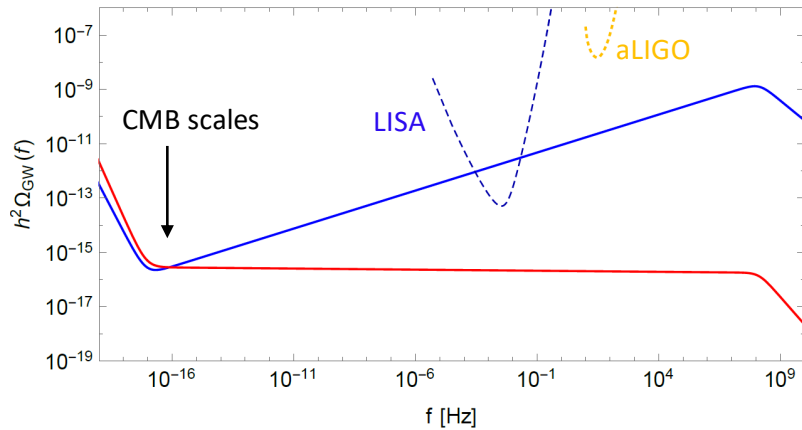
inflaton + spectator field  $\sigma$



$$\Omega_{\text{gw}} = \Omega_{\text{gw}}^{\text{vacuum}} + \Omega_{\text{gw}}^{\text{sourced}}$$

blue ?

aLIGO



experiments at small scales improve constraints on specific inflationary models, even in case of a non-detection

From N.B. et al., arXiv:1610.06481, "Science with the space-based interferometer LISA. IV: Probing inflation with gravitational waves"

Courtesy of Maria Chiara Guzzetti



# Primordial non-Gaussianity: expected improvements

CMB is a privileged laboratory for cosmic inflation.

Improvements are possible thanks to CMB polarization.

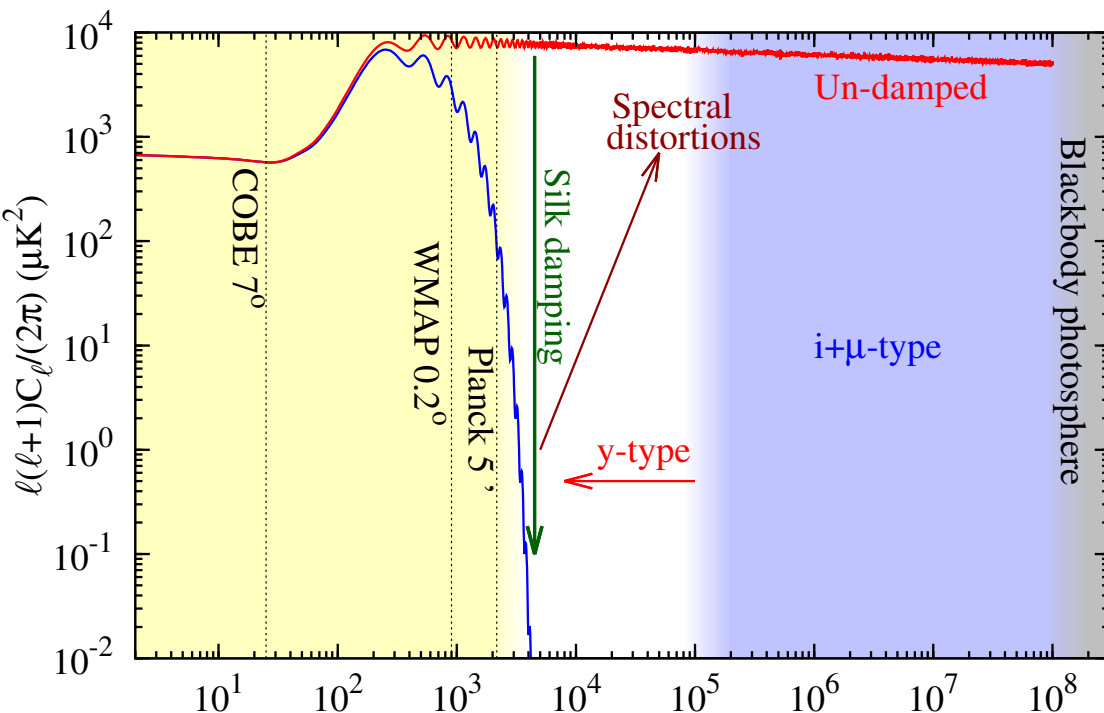
An experiment like PRISM or CMBpol, cosmic variance dominated in E-mode up to to  $l_{\text{max}} \sim 3000$  can improve by a factor of 3 the error bars on  $f_{\text{NL}}$  for ***all shapes (no other observable can do that except futuristic 21-cm experiments).***

# New observational strategies

CMB is a privileged laboratory for cosmic inflation. However different observables can be competitive, and in the future, have a better sensitivity to, e.g., primordial non-Gaussianity

- Large-Scale-Structure Surveys  $\rightarrow f_{\text{NL}} \sim 1$  or less.
- CMB spectral distortions  $\rightarrow f_{\text{NL}} \sim 0.001$  (cosmic variance limited exp.)
- Future high-redshift large radio surveys  $\rightarrow f_{\text{NL}} \sim 1$  or less.
- High-redshift 21cm fluctuations  $\rightarrow f_{\text{NL}} \sim 0.01$   
(cosmic variance limited experiment)

# CMB spectral distortions: a new window



**CMB spectral distortions from acoustic waves dissipation probe a large range of scales much smaller than CMB/LSS .**

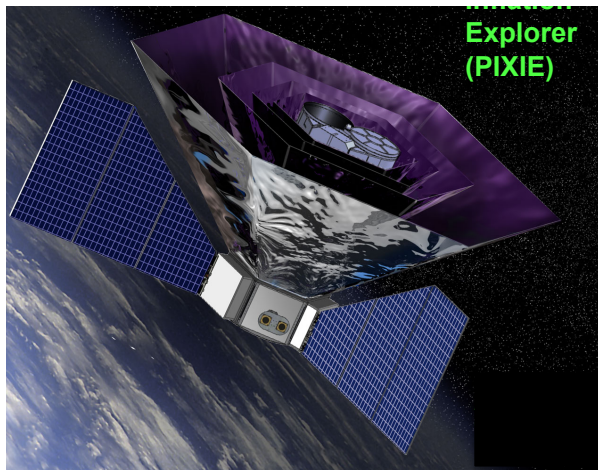
**Many additional modes**

**AN ALMOST UNEXPLOITED OBSERVATIONAL WINDOW**

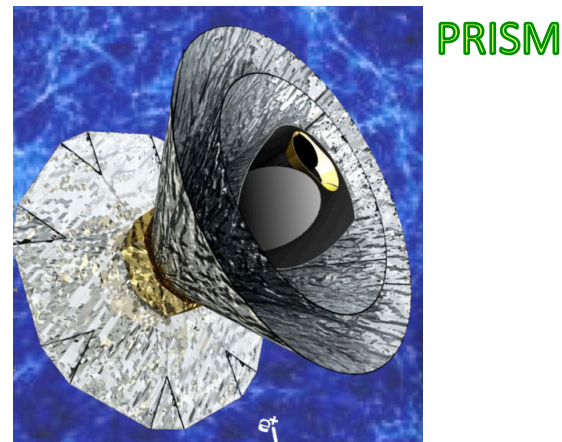
- If  $\mu$  anisotropies are measured
  - $T\mu$  cross-correlation: primordial local  $f_{\text{NL}}$  (Pajer & Zaldarriaga 2013) can in principle reach  $f_{\text{NL}} \sim 10^{-2} - 10^{-3}$
  - $\mu\mu$  correlation: primordial 4-point function (amplitude  $\tau_{\text{NL}}$ )
  - $TT\mu$ : primordial 4-point function  $g_{\text{NL}}$ : can in principle improve by 4 orders of magnitude (N.B., Liguori, Shiraishi, 2016)

# CMB spectral distortions

- Various planned and proposed satellite missions can achieve the required sensitivity to measure the primordial  $\mu$  and  $y$  spectral distortions: these are predicted to be  $\langle\mu\rangle\approx 1.9\times 10^{-9}$  and  $\langle y\rangle\approx 4.2\times 10^{-8}$



Sensitive to a minimum  $\langle\mu\rangle_{\min}\approx 10^{-9}$



Sensitive to a minimum  $\langle\mu\rangle_{\min}\approx 10^{-8}$

- Besides being a probe of the standard  $\Lambda$ CDM model (including inflation) it can unveil new physics, e.g. about
  - decaying and annihilating dark matter particles
  - black holes and cosmic stringsand it can allow to measure a whole series of signals like  $y$ -distortions from re-ionized gas

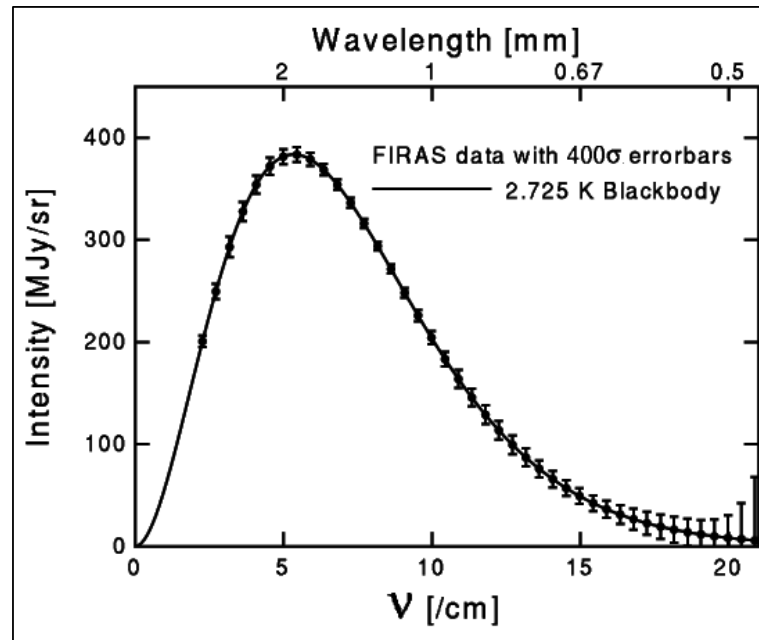
# CMB spectral distortions

➤ We know there must be tiny deviations from a perfect black body of the CMB spectrum in the frequency domain

➤ Not detected yet (apart  $y$ -distortions from Sunyaev-Zel'dovich effect)

➤  $\frac{\Delta I_\nu}{I_\nu} < 10^{-4}$        $\mu < 9 \times 10^{-5}$        $y < 1.5 \times 10^{-5}$       (95% C.L)

FROM COBE/FIRAS



# CMB spectral distortions and NG

- Pajer & Zaldarriaga (2012) and Ganc & Komatsu (2012) pointed out that the cross-correlation between CMB  $\mu$ -distortion and CMB temperature fluctuations can be a diagnostic very sensitive to local-type bispectra peaking in the squeezed configuration: a cosmic variance limited experiment can achieve  $f_{\text{NL}} \sim 0.01-0.001$

Local primordial non-Gaussianity correlates short- with long-mode perturbations, so it induces a correlation between the dissipation process on small scales

$$\mu \sim \delta_\gamma^2 \sim \zeta_{\mathbf{k}_1} \zeta_{\mathbf{k}_2}$$

and the long-mode fluctuations in the CMB

$$\delta T/T \sim \zeta_{\mathbf{k}}$$



$$C_\ell^{\mu T} \sim \langle \zeta_{\mathbf{k}_1} \zeta_{\mathbf{k}_2} \zeta_{\mathbf{k}_3} \rangle$$

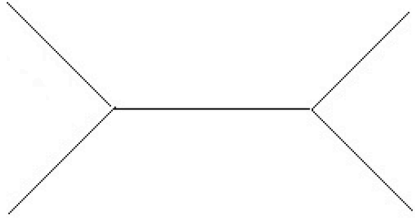
Looking at the inflationary trispectra  
(4-point correlation functions)

# Looking at the inflationary trispectra

$$\langle \hat{\zeta}_{\vec{k}_1} \hat{\zeta}_{\vec{k}_2} \hat{\zeta}_{\vec{k}_3} \hat{\zeta}_{\vec{k}_4} \rangle = (2\pi)^3 \delta^{(3)}(\vec{k}_1 + \vec{k}_2 + \vec{k}_3 + \vec{k}_4) T_\zeta(\vec{k}_1, \vec{k}_2, \vec{k}_3, \vec{k}_4)$$

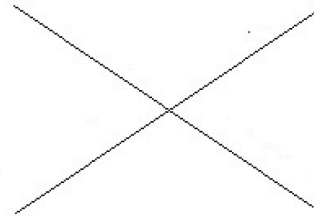
## Scalar exchange:

comes from terms in the 3-order action,  
e.g.  $(\delta\phi)^3$



$$\tau_{\text{NL}} \propto f_{\text{NL}}^2$$

**Contact interaction:** e.g.  $\lambda (\delta\phi)^4$  (intrinsic contributions from the 4-th order action)



$$g_{\text{NL}}$$

## Planck 2015 constraints

$$\tau_{\text{NL}}^{\text{loc}} < 2800 \quad (95\% \text{ CL})$$

$$\begin{aligned} g_{\text{NL}}^{\text{local}} &= (-9.0 \pm 7.7) \times 10^4; \\ g_{\text{NL}}^{\dot{\sigma}^4} &= (-0.2 \pm 1.7) \times 10^6; \\ g_{\text{NL}}^{(\partial\sigma)^4} &= (-0.1 \pm 3.8) \times 10^5. \end{aligned} \quad (68\% \text{ CL})$$



# A warning

- *$T\mu$  (and  $\mu\mu$ ) cross-correlation is not able to determine the  $g_{NL}$  parameter*
- the  $TT\mu$  *bispectrum* is a potential powerful way to measure  $g_{NL}$
- An ideal, cosmic variance dominated experiment can reach  $g_{NL} \sim 0.1$   
(N.B., Liguori and Shiraishi 2015)

# Conclusions

- Cosmology has seen a tremendous progress in the last years, and more is expected in the near/long term, thanks to new high-precision data from a variety of new CMB and LSS surveys.
- Inflation is no exception: a large portion of the model parameter space has been ruled out, and many non-standard models of inflation have been tightly constrained (e.g via primordial non-Gaussianity)
- A crucial measurement will be the amplitude of the gravitational waves from inflation since this is directly proportional to the energy scale of inflation, and will allow to fully exploit the high sensitivity of inflation to high-scale physics.