

# *Acceleration: Then & Now*

*Inflation 2025*

*IAP*



# Outline

## Acceleration Then

*Open EFTs and Their Uses*

*Minimal Primordial Decoherence*

## Acceleration Now

*The Supersymmetric Dark*

*Natural Relaxation*

*Yoga Fitness*

# *Acceleration: Then*



V. Vennin



R. Holman



G. Kaplanek



J. Martin



T. Colas

*Minimal Primordial Decoherence*

2211.11046    2509.07769

*Resummation*

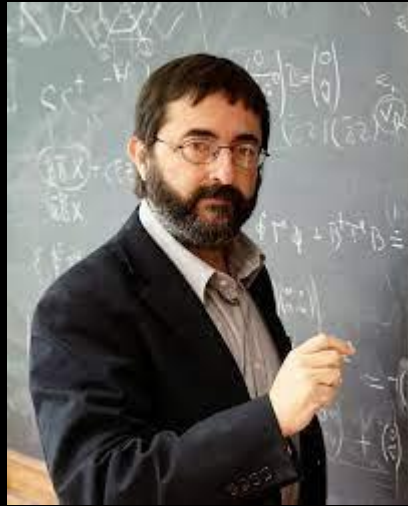
2403.12240

*Decoupling*

2411.09000



# *Acceleration: Now*



F. Quevedo



D. Dineen



P. Brax



E. Di Valentino



M. Mylova



A. Smith



A. Davis



C. van de Bruck

# Acceleration: Now



*Supersymmetric Dark*

2110.13275

*Yoga models*

2111.07286

*RG stabilization*

2202.05344

*dS & inflation*

2408.03852

*Axio-dilatons &  
solar system tests*

2110.10352

2212.14870

2310.02092

*CMB & LSS*

2408.10820

2505.05450

*Axio-dilaton DM DE*

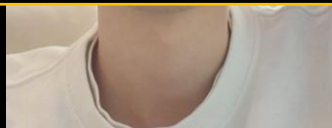
2410.11099

*Yoga Fitness*

2512.xxxxx



M. Mylova



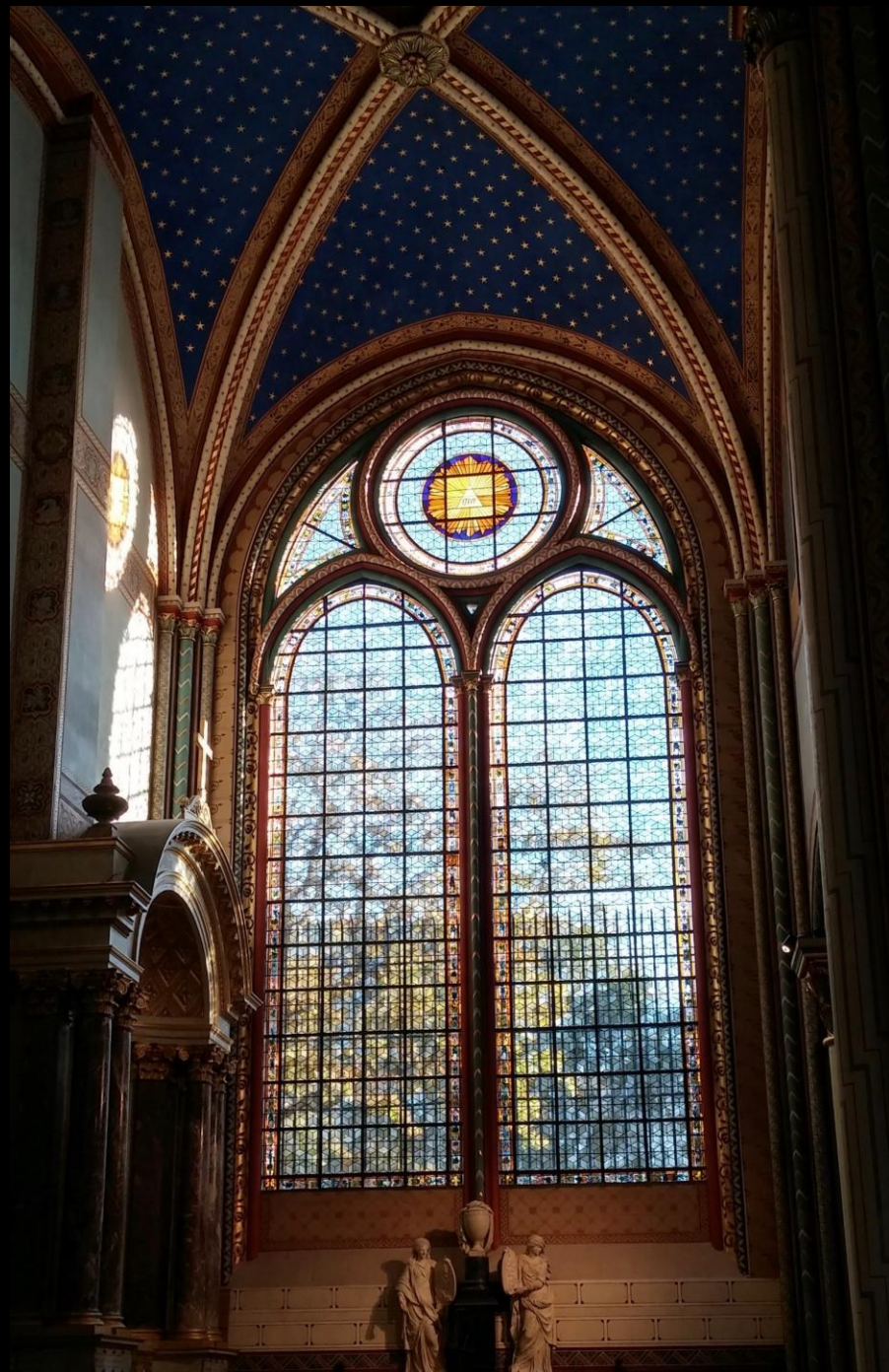
A. Smith



A. Davis



C. van de Bruck



# Acceleration Then

*A decoherent overview*



# Acceleration Then

## Quantum Primordial Fluctuations

*EFTs and Theoretical Error*

*Late-time Pitfalls and Open EFTs*

## Decoherence and Decoupling

*Many Roads to Inflationary Classicality*

*Decoherence from UV Environments*

## Minimal Decoherence

*Scalar Fluctuations, Tensor Fluctuations*

*Review:*

2212.09157

# Late-time Breakdown of Perturbation Theory

Perturbation Theory Always Fails at Late Times

$$\exp[-i(H_0 + H_{\text{int}})t] \neq \exp[-iH_0t] \left(1 - iH_{\text{int}}t\right)$$

This can be a problem in cosmology or BH physics, where late times are of interest and ‘secular growth’ is observed

Good News: secular growth can sometimes be resummed to give reliable results at late times without giving up perturbative methods

$$\text{e.g. } N(t) = N_0 \exp(-\lambda t)$$

which we trust because its differential version has a broader domain of validity  $\frac{dN}{dt} = -\lambda N$



# Open EFTs Can Sometimes Help

Evolution of reduced density matrix usually complicated

$$H = H_{\text{sys}} + H_{\text{env}} + H_{\text{int}} \quad \varrho_{\text{sys}}(t) = \text{Tr}_{\text{env}} \left[ \rho_{\text{tot}}(t) \right]$$

$$\text{e.g. if } H_{\text{int}}(t) = A(t) \otimes B(t)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \partial_t \varrho_{\text{sys}}(t) = & -i \left[ A, \varrho_{\text{sys}}(t) \right] \langle B \rangle_{\text{env}} \\ & + \int_{t_0}^t ds \left\{ C(s, t) \left[ A(t), \varrho_{\text{sys}}(s) A(s) \right] - C(t, s) \left[ A(t), A(s) \varrho_{\text{sys}}(s) \right] \right\} \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{where } C(s, t) := \langle \delta B(s) \delta B(t) \rangle_{\text{env}}$$

In general evolution depends on entire previous history

# Open EFTs Can Sometimes Help

Evolution of reduced density matrix sometimes simplifies in a way that allows late-time resummation

For instance, if evolution is Markovian in a way that does not depend on initial conditions then evolution can forget its history

$$\begin{aligned} \partial_t \varrho_{\text{sys}}(t) \simeq & -i \left[ A, \varrho_{\text{sys}}(t) \right] \langle B \rangle_{\text{env}} \\ & + \left\{ F(t_0, t) \left[ A(t), \varrho_{\text{sys}}(t) A(t) \right] - F(t, t_0) \left[ A(t), A(t) \varrho_{\text{sys}}(t) \right] \right\} \end{aligned}$$

where  $F(t, t_0) := \int_{t_0}^t ds \, C(s, t)$

Late time resummation can be possible if F depends just on t

# Application to single clock metric fluctuations

For simplest models a single field controls breaking of de Sitter symmetries near horizon exit

$$\mathcal{L} = -\sqrt{-g} \left[ M_p^2 \mathcal{R} + (\partial\phi)^2 + V(\phi) \right]$$

$$\phi = \varphi(t) + \delta\phi(x, t)$$

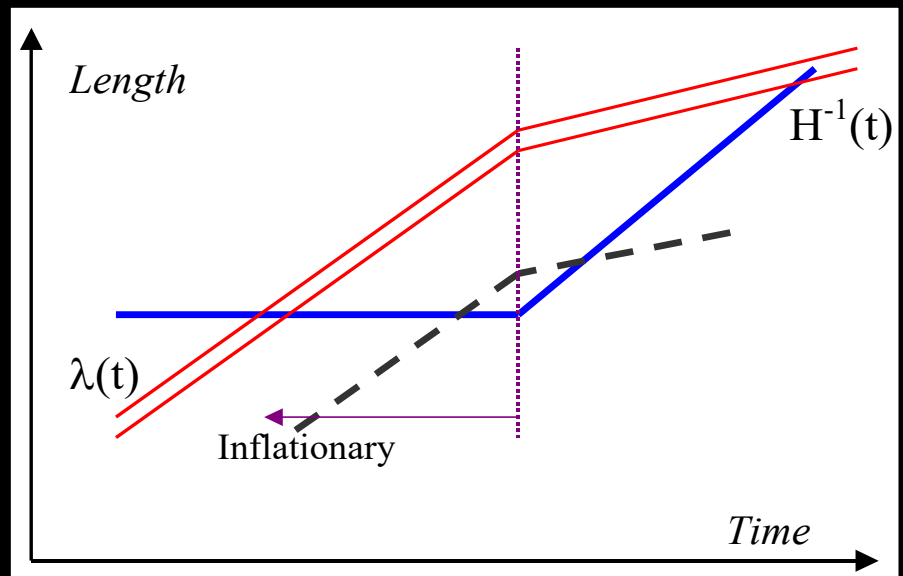
$$\text{and } ds^2 = a^2 \left[ -(1 + 2\psi) d\eta^2 + (1 - 2\psi) dx^2 \right]$$

Lovely story in which late time primordial fluctuations start life as quantum fluctuations. Can use Open EFTs to compute and resum decoherence rate at very late times.



# Cosmic Decoherence?

Define environment to be the unobserved (in particular shorter wavelength) modes



$$v = v_{\text{sys}}(k < k_*) + v_{\text{env}}(k > k_*)$$

# Possibilities & Pitfalls

Secular growth causes perturbative predictions to break down well before inflation ends

If super-Hubble evolution is Markovian can sometimes resum to get reliable late-time predictions

Short wavelength physics should be describable by an effective action. If so, how can it ever decohere longer wavelengths?

Field redefinitions and 'boundary' contributions confuse things and can lead to mistaken decoherence rates. Ordering of limits when dealing with regularized quantities matters very much.

Equivalence principle makes scalars, tensors and ghosts all contribute similarly to long-wavelength decoherence. Watch this space....





# Acceleration Now

*Why Gravity Makes it Hard to Do So Gracefully*



# Acceleration Now

Can UV usefully inform tests of gravity?

*EFTs & Decoupling (Two are Better than One)*

*Axiodilaton Benchmark*

Potentials as Low-Energy Poison

*Scaling the Supersymmetric Dark*

*Natural Relaxation (Yoga) Models*

Axiodilaton Dark Sector

*Yoga Fitness*



The Highland Program

*Review:*

2509.00688

# A Light Scalar Surprise

Particle physicists usually argue that light scalar fields  
are NOT generic at low energies

# A Light Scalar Surprise

Particle physicists usually argue that light scalar fields  
are NOT generic at low energies

A technically natural Dark Energy density makes them  
*more* likely rather than less likely

astro-ph/0107573



# A Light Scalar Surprise

Particle physicists usually argue that light scalar fields  
are NOT generic at low energies

A technically natural Dark Energy density makes them  
*more* likely rather than less likely

BUT we are likely looking for them in the wrong way  
(should be exploring 2-derivative interactions).

$$S = \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} \left[ V(\vartheta) + \mathcal{G}_{ab}(\vartheta) \partial_\mu \vartheta^a \partial^\mu \vartheta^b + M_p^2 \mathcal{R} + (\partial^4 \text{ terms}) \right]$$

The derivative expansion is the loop expansion and so  
is what justifies the classical analysis we all do

# A Light Scalar Surprise

Particle physicists usually argue that light scalar fields  
are NOT generic at low energies

$$\mathcal{G}_{ab} d\vartheta^a d\vartheta^b = Z^2(\tau) \left[ d\tau^2 + da^2 \right] \quad \text{Axial symmetry}$$
$$= d\chi^2 + W^2(\chi) da^2$$

Requires at least two scalars. Axio-dilatons can provide a  
useful minimal example of what is possible

$$S = \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} \left[ V(\vartheta) + \mathcal{G}_{ab}(\vartheta) \partial_\mu \vartheta^a \partial^\mu \vartheta^b + M_p^2 \mathcal{R} + (\partial^4 \text{ terms}) \right]$$

The derivative expansion is the loop expansion and so  
is what justifies the classical analysis we all do

# The Dark Sector Opportunity

The success of cosmology *requires* Nature to have features (eg small scalar potential) NOT generic at low energies



# The Dark Sector Opportunity

The success of cosmology *requires* Nature to have features (eg small scalar potential) NOT generic at low energies

Important clue because cosmological observations alone cannot distinguish amongst the many scalar-tensor models.





# The Dark Sector Opportunity

The success of cosmology *requires* Nature to have features (eg small scalar potential) NOT generic at low energies

Important clue because cosmological observations alone cannot distinguish amongst the many scalar-tensor models.

Approximate scale invariance (generic in the UV) can help get small scalar potentials: a generic low-energy dilaton.



# The Dark Sector Opportunity

The success of cosmology *requires* Nature to have features (eg small scalar potential) NOT generic at low energies

Important clue because cosmological observations alone cannot distinguish amongst the many scalar-tensor models.

Approximate scale invariance (generic in the UV) can help get small scalar potentials: a generic low-energy dilaton.

Supersymmetry (generic in the UV) pairs dilaton with axion.

Susy usually better approximation in dark sector.

$$\Phi = \frac{1}{2}(\tau + ia)$$



# The Dark Sector Opportunity

The success of cosmology *requires* Nature to have features (eg small scalar potential) NOT generic at low energies

Important clue because cosmological observations alone cannot distinguish amongst the many scalar-tensor models.

Approximate scale invariance (generic in the UV) can help get small scalar potentials: a generic low-energy dilaton.

Supersymmetry (generic in the UV) pairs dilaton with axion.

Susy usually better approximation in dark sector.

$$\Phi = \frac{1}{2}(\tau + ia)$$

Axion + Dilaton = DM + DE?





# Supersymmetric Dark

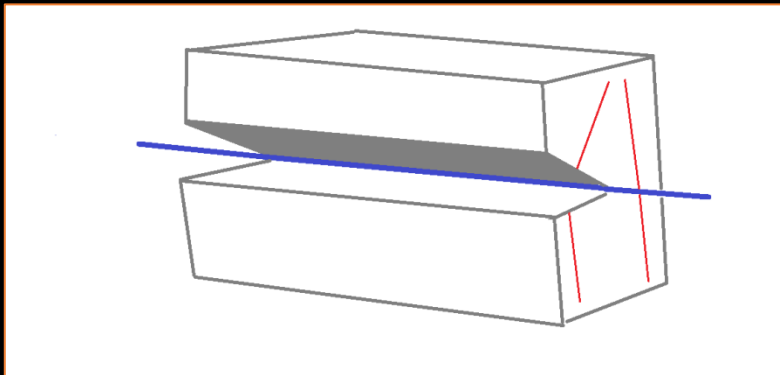
*How can susy be relevant for cosmology?*





# Supersymmetry of the gravity sector

Attempts to understand DE size in technically natural way point to the low-energy world involving a gravitationally coupled but supersymmetric dark sector (containing a dilaton) coupled to non-supersymmetric matter.



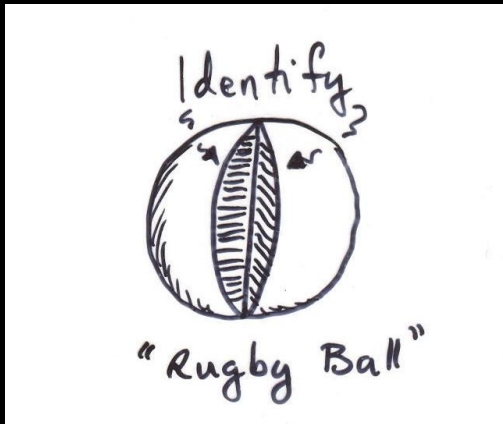
*Vilenkin 81*

$$\delta = \frac{\kappa^2 T}{2\pi}$$

Idea is based on gravitation field of a line-distribution of mass: the geometry transverse to the string is a cone – only the transverse dimensions actually curve.

# Supersymmetry of the gravity sector

Attempts to understand DE size in technically natural way point to the low-energy world involving a gravitationally coupled but supersymmetric dark sector (containing a dilaton) coupled to non-supersymmetric matter.



SLED Models

$$r \sim 1 \mu\text{m} \quad r^{-1} \sim 0.1 \text{ eV}$$

Do the same in 2 extra dimensions.

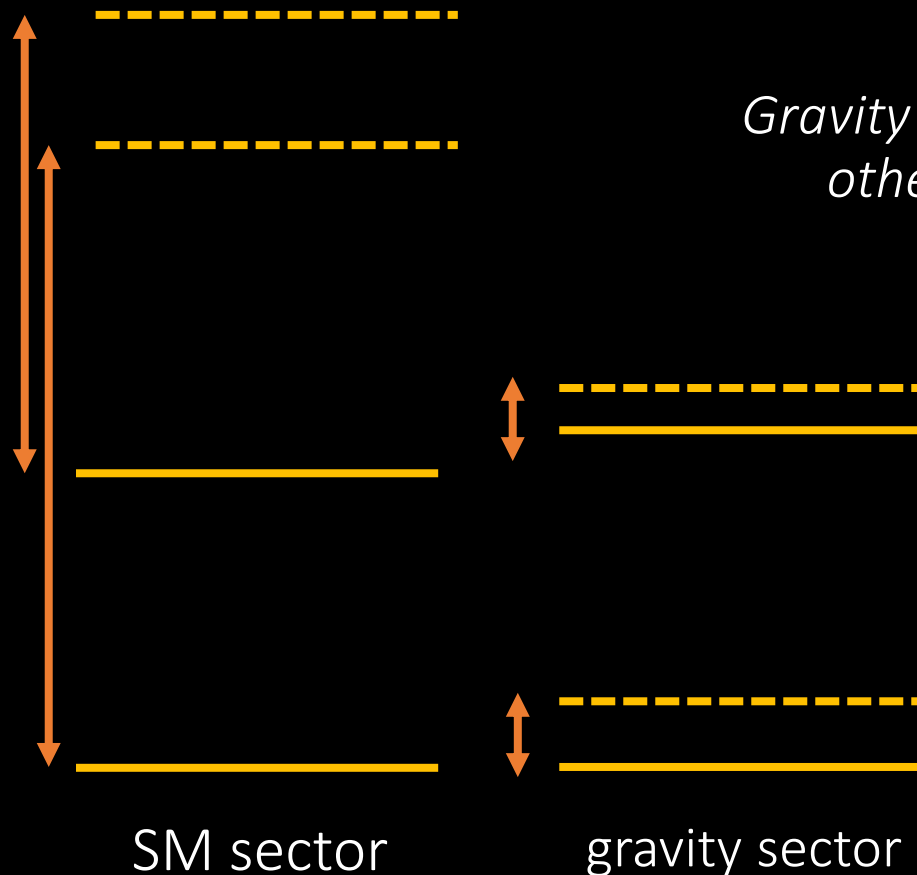
*Carroll & Guica 03*

*Crucially: require supersymmetry in extra dimensions to remove extra-dimensional cosmological constant. Brane need not be supersymmetric.*

*Aghababaie et al 03*

# Supersymmetry of the gravity sector

Supersymmetric gravity sectors are generic in UV theories



*Gravity multiplet typically split by less than others because gravity is weakest force*

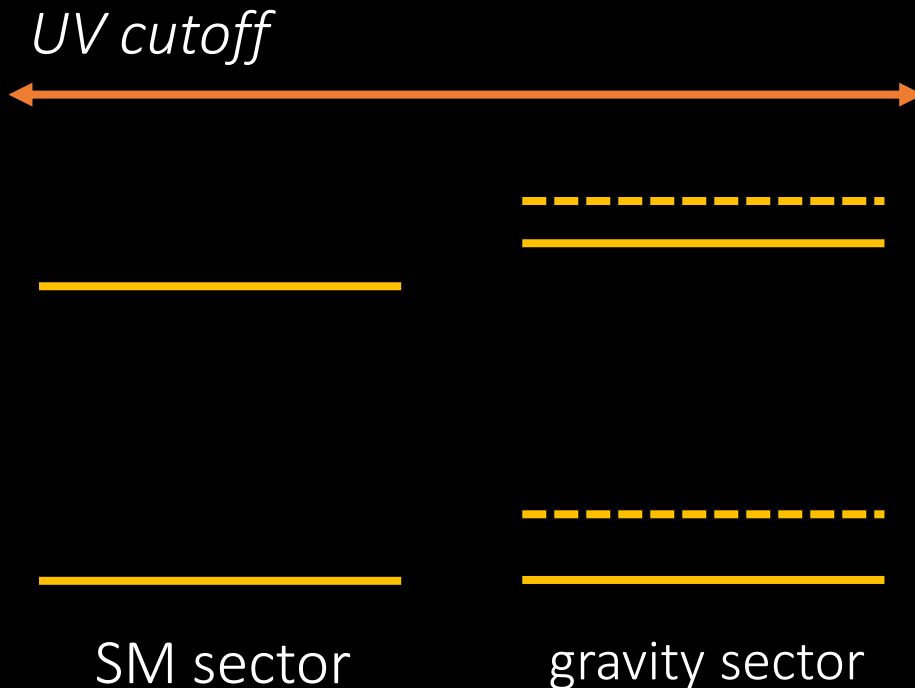
$$\Delta m^2 = m_B^2 - m_F^2 \sim gF$$

# Supersymmetry of the gravity sector

How can supersymmetry play a role at low energies when LHC finds no evidence for supersymmetry?

ph/0404135

2110.13275



*Should expect gravity sector to be more supersymmetric at low energies than particle physics sector*

*We now know how to couple supergravity to matter that is not supersymmetric*

Komargodsky & Seiberg 09  
Bergshoeff et al 15  
Dallagata & Farakos 15  
Schillo et al 15  
Antoniadis et al 21  
Dudas et al 21

# Generic Approximate Symmetries from the UV

*Supersymmetry (especially  
of the gravity sector)*

*Rigid scaling symmetries*

*Usual approach (for which  $dS$  is hard to obtain):  
SCALE BREAKING  $\gg$  susy breaking*

KKLT 03  
LVS 05

*More promising approach:  
SUSY BREAKING  $\gg$  scale breaking*

2202.05344



# Symmetry Insights into suppressing size of $V$

Berg, Haack & Kors 05  
Berg, Haack & Pajer 07  
Cicoli, Conlon & Quevedo 08

## *Supersymmetry (especially*

Scale invariant  
with a flat scalar  
potential

Not scale invariant  
but still with a flat  
scalar potential

## *Rigid scaling symmetries*

Not scale invariant  
& flatness of scalar  
potential is lifted

### *MECHANISM FOR SUPPRESSING $V$ :*

*Together these can be more than the sum of their parts...*

Interplay of scaling and supersymmetry provides a new  
mechanism for suppressing vacuum energies:

$$e^{-K(\tau)/3} = A\tau + B + \frac{C}{\tau} + \dots$$



# Yoga Models

*SM fields and natural relaxation*



# An example Low-energy framework

*Low-energy dynamics involves matter coupled to gravity and axio-dilaton (plus possible relaxon field)*

*axio-dilaton:  $T = \tau + i a$*

$$e^{-K(\tau)/3} = A\tau + B + \frac{C}{\tau} + \dots$$

*Coefficients  $B, C$  depend on SM fields and possibly  $\log \tau$*

# An example Low-energy framework

*Low-energy dynamics involves matter coupled to gravity and axio-dilaton (plus possible relaxon field)*

*axio-dilaton:  $T = \tau + i a$*

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{ad}} \sim M_p^2 \left[ \mathcal{R} + \frac{(\partial\tau)^2 + (\partial a)^2}{\tau^2} \right] + V(\tau) + \mathcal{L}_m(\tilde{g}_{\mu\nu}, \psi)$$

$$\tilde{g}_{\mu\nu} = e^{K/3} g_{\mu\nu} \simeq \frac{g_{\mu\nu}}{\tau}$$

$$m_{sm} \propto \frac{M_p}{\sqrt{\tau}} \quad m_\nu \propto \frac{M_p}{\tau}$$

*This works if*

$$\tau_{\text{min}} \sim 10^{28}$$

# Scalar Potential

Yoga Models

2111.07286

2212.14870

$$V(\tau) \simeq M_p^4 \left[ \frac{w_x^2}{\tau^2} + \frac{Aw_x}{\tau^3} + \frac{B}{\tau^4} + \dots \right]$$

$w_x, A, B$  functions of other fields and  $\ln \tau$



# Scalar Potential

Yoga Models

2111.07286

2212.14870

$$V(\tau) \simeq M_p^4 \left[ \frac{w_x^2}{\tau^2} + \frac{Aw_x}{\tau^3} + \frac{B}{\tau^4} + \dots \right]$$

$$\mathcal{O}(m_{sm}^4)$$

NOT SMALL, BUT POSITIVE

$$m_{sm} \propto \frac{M_p}{\sqrt{\tau}}$$

# Scalar Potential

Yoga Models

2111.07286

2212.14870

$$V(\tau) \simeq M_p^4 \left[ \frac{w_x^2}{\tau^2} + \frac{Aw_x}{\tau^3} + \frac{B}{\tau^4} + \dots \right]$$

*Introduce 'relaxation' field that seeks minimum of  $w_x$  terms*

$$V(\tau) \simeq \frac{M_p^4}{\tau^4} U(\ln \tau)$$

# Scalar Potential

Yoga Models

2111.07286

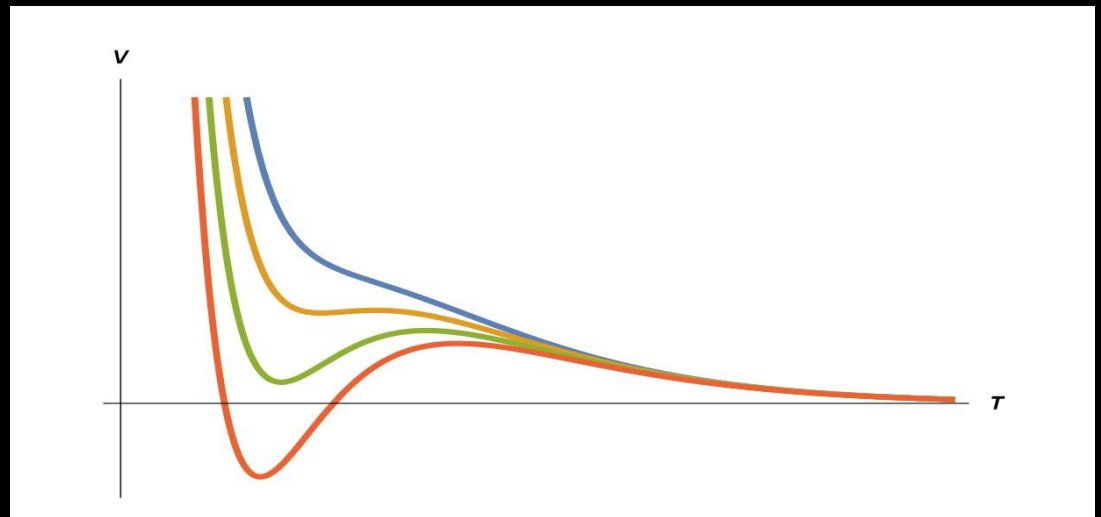
2212.14870

$$V(\tau) \simeq \frac{M_p^4}{\tau^4} U(\ln \tau)$$

$$\ln \tau_{\min} \sim 65$$

$$\tau_{\min} \sim 10^{28}$$

*1/ $\tau$  expansion  
still under control*



# Scalar Potential

Yoga Models

2111.07286

2212.14870

$$V(\tau) \simeq \frac{M_p^4}{\tau^4} U(\ln \tau)$$

$$m_{sm} \propto \frac{M_p}{\sqrt{\tau}} \quad V_{\min} \propto \frac{M_p^4}{\tau_{\min}^4} \propto \left( \frac{m_{sm}^2}{M_p} \right)^4 \quad \text{👁👁}$$

# Scalar Potential

Yoga Models

2111.07286

2212.14870

$$V(\tau) \simeq \frac{M_p^4}{\tau^4} U(\ln \tau)$$

$$V_{\min} \sim \frac{\epsilon^5}{\tau_{\min}} F^* F \quad F > (10 \text{ TeV})^2$$
$$\epsilon \sim 1/(\log \tau_{\min})$$

*Out of the box:  $V_{\min} = 10^{-91} M_p^4$  (not quite  $10^{-120}$ , but...)*



# These model cry out for tests of GR

*Both axions and dilatons are pseudo-Goldstone bosons and so can naturally be in low-energy theory*

*Any progress on the cosmological constant problem generically makes at least one dilaton extremely light*

$$m^2 \sim V_{\min}/M_p^2 \sim H^2$$

*Technically natural: astro-ph/0107573*

*Unlike axions, low energy dilaton mass and coupling tends to be model-independent: a Brans-Dicke scalar coupling with gravitational strength (a problem since they are light enough to mediate macroscopic forces)*

*Not yet known whether screening mechanisms can allow them to have escaped detection (multiple scalars allow new possibilities)*



Preliminary phenomenology

## Implications for low energy gravity

$$\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{L}_{\text{ad}}(g_{\mu\nu}, \chi, a) + \mathcal{L}_m(\tilde{g}_{\mu\nu}, a, \psi)$$

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{ad}} = M_p^2 \left[ \mathcal{R} + (\partial\chi)^2 + e^{-2\zeta\chi} (\partial a)^2 \right] + U(a, \chi) e^{-4\zeta\chi}$$

$$\tilde{g}_{\mu\nu} = e^{-2g\chi} g_{\mu\nu}$$

Dilaton couples to matter like a very light Brans-Dicke scalar:  
(solar system tests require  $g < 0.001$ )

*All ordinary particle masses acquire a universal dependence on the dilaton through the Higgs vev*

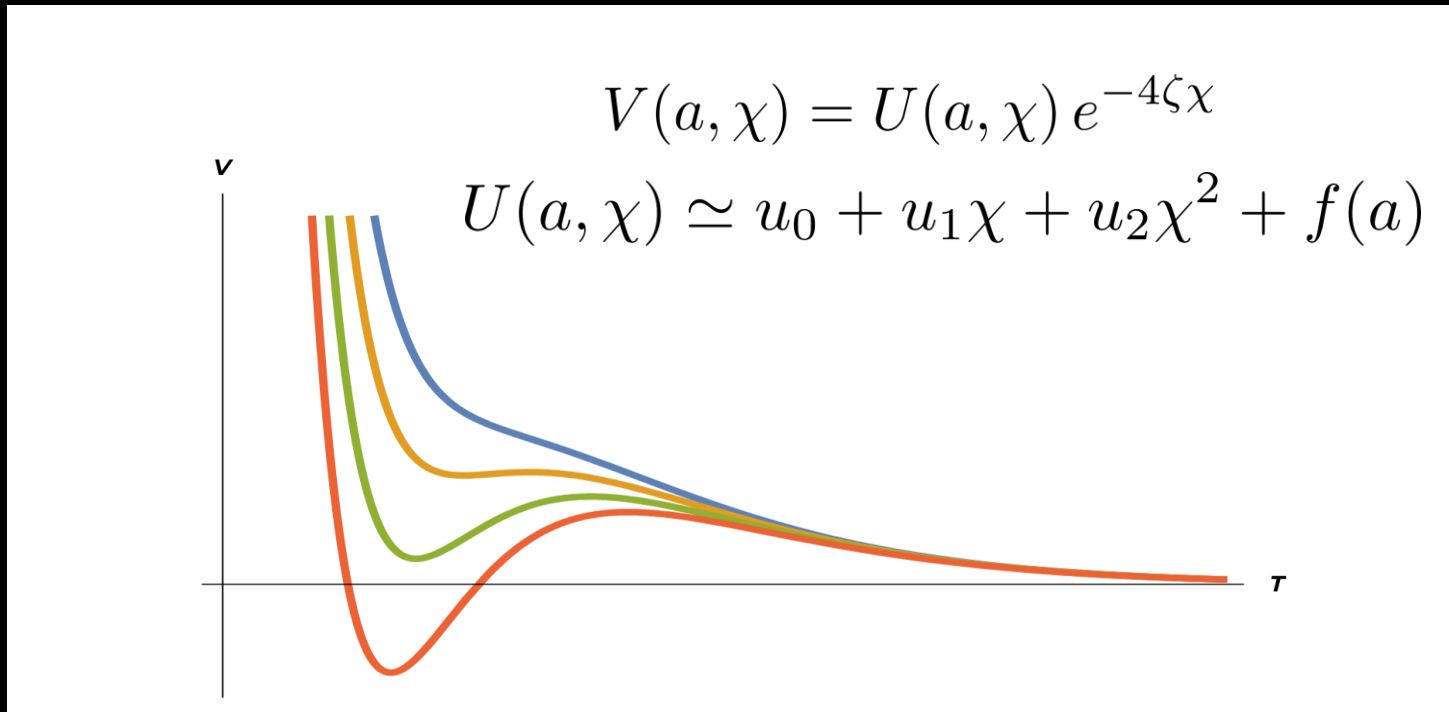
$$m_{SM} \sim M_p e^{-g\chi} \quad m_\nu \sim M_p e^{-2g\chi} \quad (\text{successful if } g\chi \sim 32)$$

*Axion also has a dilaton-dependent mass (though depends on  $\zeta$  not  $g$ )*

# Can axiodilaton be both the DM and DE?

Can arrange potential to have local minimum consistent with Dark Energy

Can easily arrange  $g\chi = 32$  using only parameters in potential that are  $O(10)$



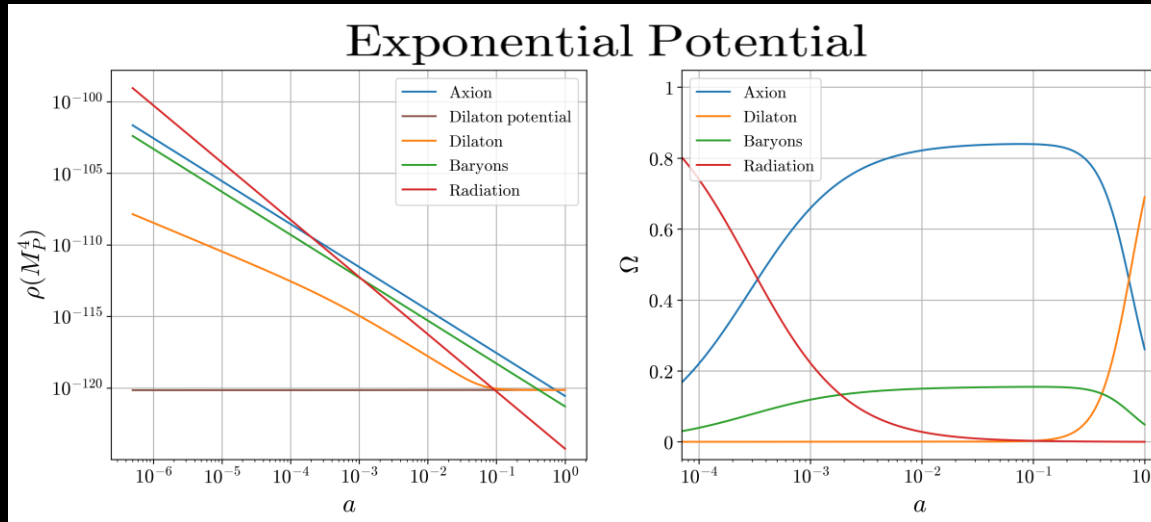
Dilaton mediated forces also change how matter clusters

*Can this describe cosmological observations?*



# Can axiodilaton be both the DM and DE?

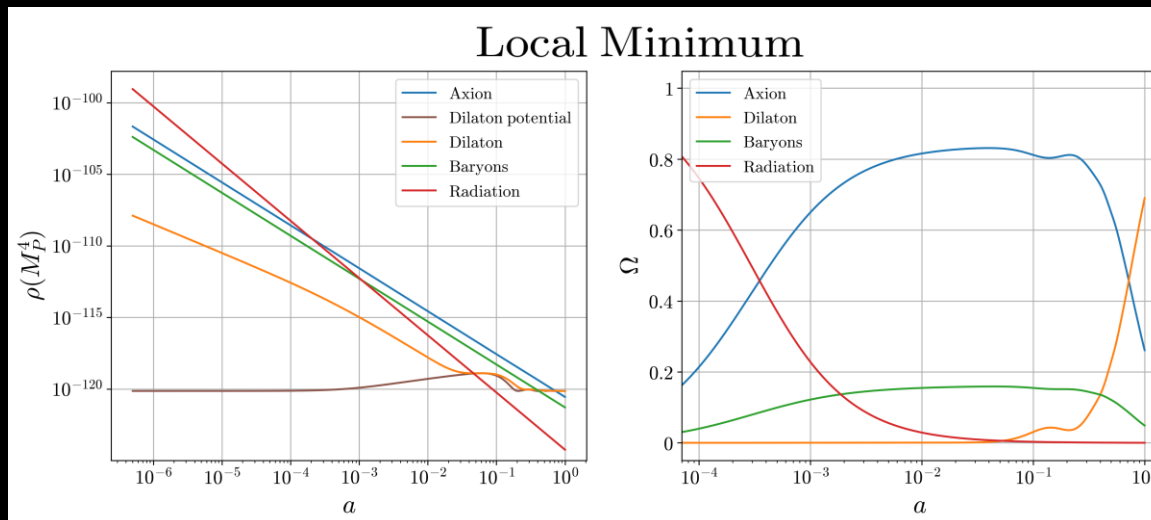
Background cosmology can be reasonable



Density evolution for  
cosmic fluid components

$$W = W_0 e^{-\zeta\chi/M_p}$$

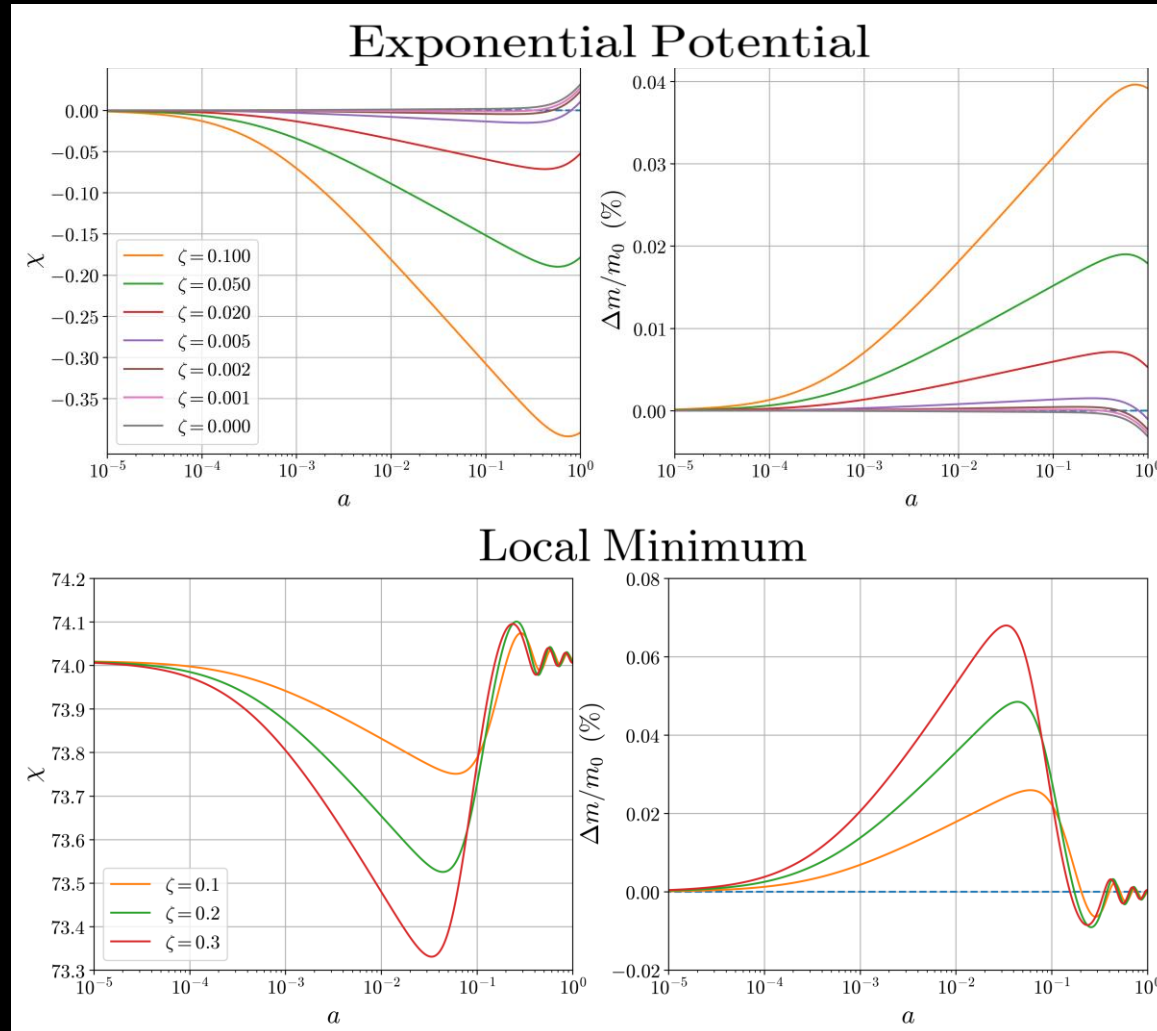
$$V(\chi) = U(\chi) e^{-4\zeta\chi/M_p}$$



2410.11099

# Can axiodilaton be both the DM and DE?

Dilaton evolves in tracker solutions: always excursion at radiation-matter equality *implying masses at recombination differ from those at BBN and now.*



Evolution of dilaton  
and particle masses for  
various  $\zeta$

$$W = W_0 e^{-\zeta\chi/M_p}$$

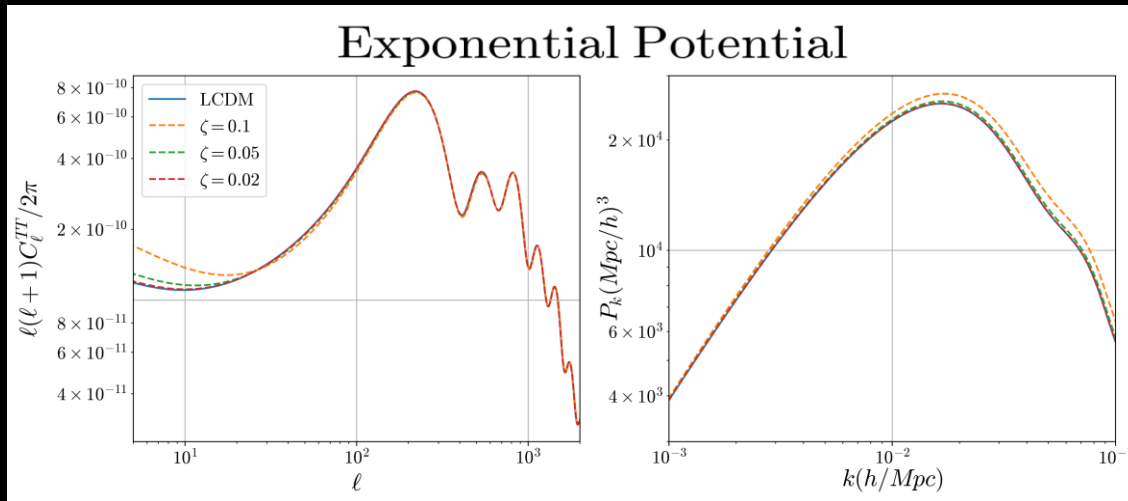
$$V(\chi) = U(\chi) e^{-4\zeta\chi/M_p}$$

2410.11099



# Can axiodilaton be both the DM and DE?

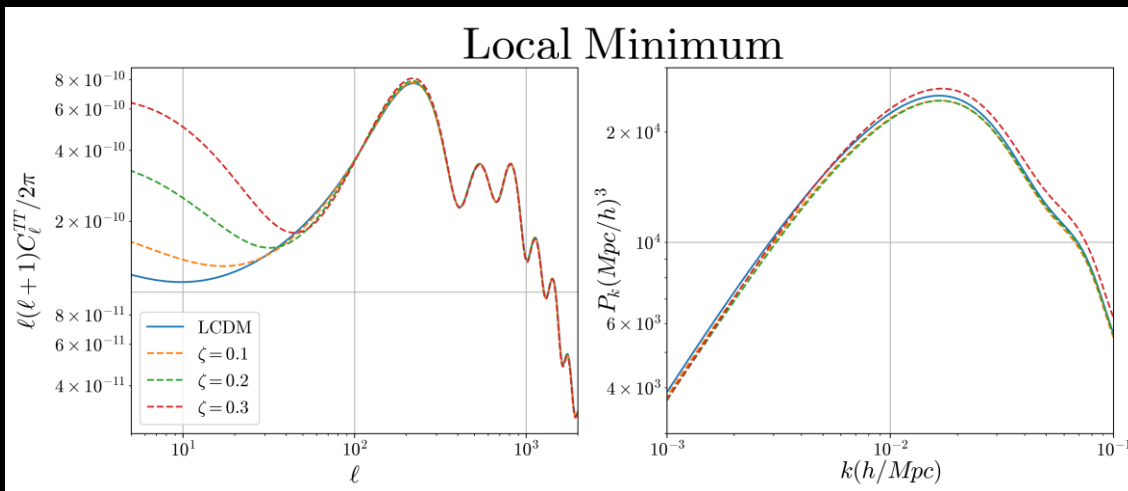
Fluctuations in CMB and Power spectrum can be reasonable



CMB and Power  
Spectrum for various  
choices for  $\zeta$

$$W = W_0 e^{-\zeta\chi/M_p}$$

$$V(\chi) = U(\chi) e^{-4\zeta\chi/M_p}$$



2410.11099

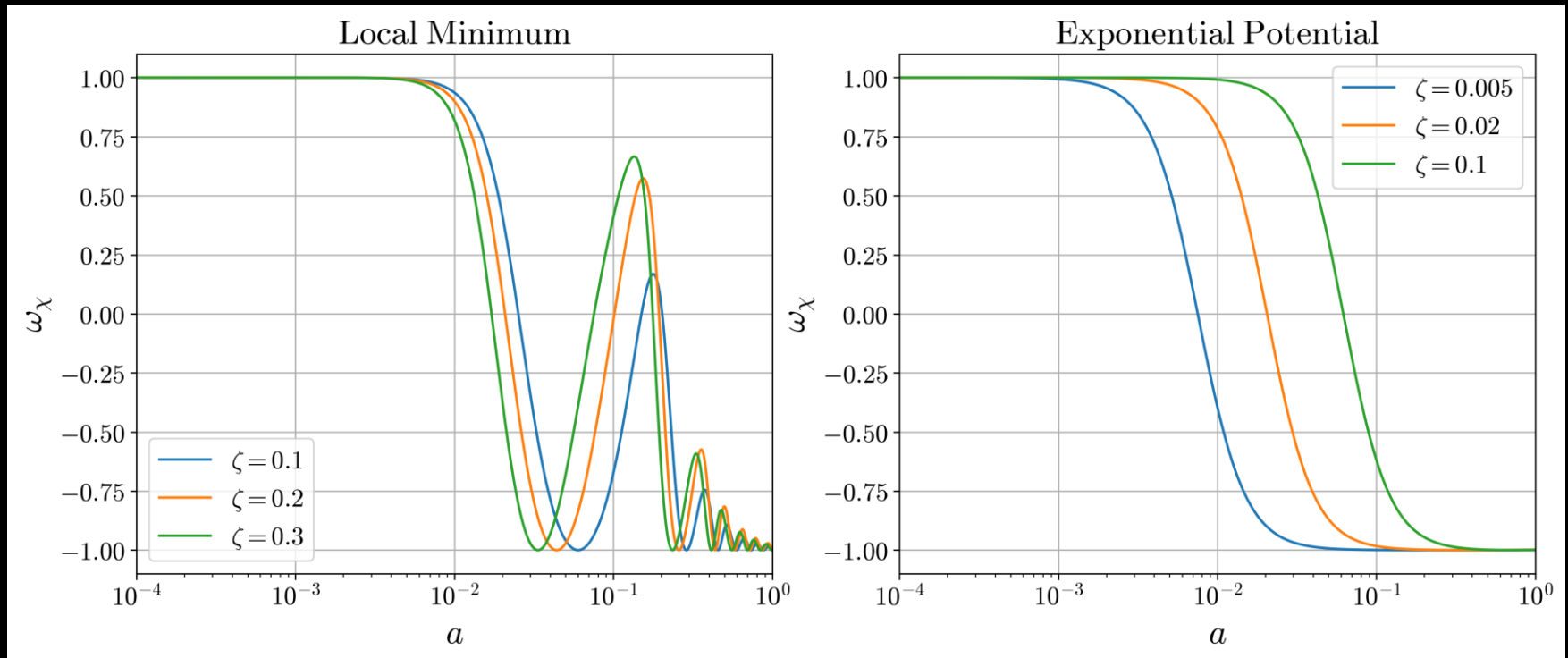
# Can axiodilaton be both the DM and DE?

Evolution can fake  $w < -1$  because DM mass does *not* evolve like  $1/a^3$

Evolution of actual DE equation  
of state parameter with  $z$

$$W = W_0 e^{-\zeta\chi/M_p}$$

$$V(\chi) = U(\chi) e^{-4\zeta\chi/M_p}$$



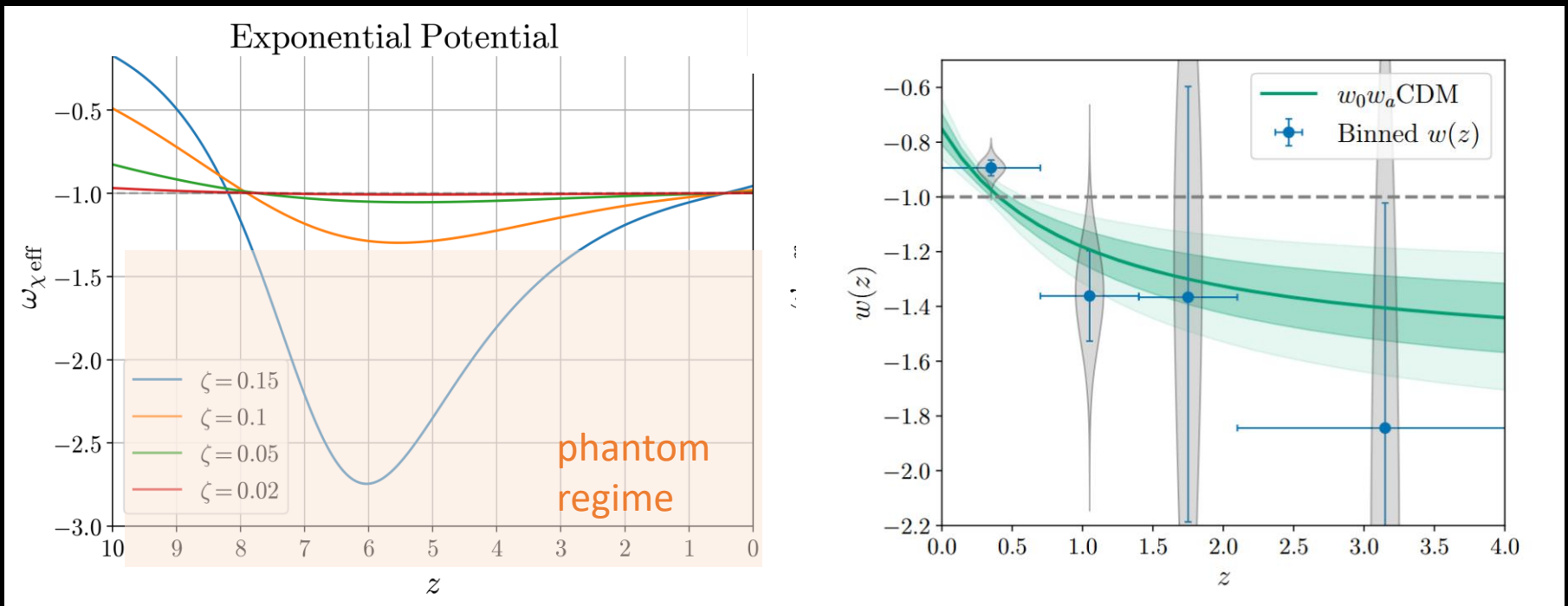
# Can axiodilaton be both the DM and DE?

The effective equation of state inferred by eg DESI *assumes* vanilla DM:  $\hat{\rho}_{\text{dm}} \propto a^{-3}$

Evolution of *effective* DE  
equation of state parameter  
as seen by DESI

$$\omega_{\chi \text{ eff}} = \frac{\omega_{\chi}}{1 + (\rho_{\text{ax}} - \hat{\rho}_{\text{dm}}) / \rho_{\chi}}$$

DESI Collaboration



# Comparison to Cosmological Data

Model provides a passable fit to CMB-B DESI and PP datasets

*But best-fit value of Hubble scale rises relative to  $\Lambda$ CDM due to mass evolution, bringing the SH0ES range to within  $3\sigma$ , and so permitting combining datasets*

Model	Dataset	$H_0$	$\mathbf{g}$	$\zeta$	$\chi_i$	$R - 1$	$\Delta\chi^2$
Yoga-VI	CMB-B DESI PP	$69.17^{+0.66}_{-0.76}$ (69.13)	$-0.001 \pm 0.095$ (-0.052)	$0.003 \pm 0.050$ (-0.003)	$74.010 \pm 0.150$ (73.844)	0.102	-7.2
	CMB-B DESI	$69.42 \pm 0.72$ (69.58)	$-0.011 \pm 0.097$ (0.102)	$-0.002 \pm 0.049$ (-0.039)	$73.98^{+0.18}_{-0.15}$ (74.142)	0.195	-6.3
EXP	CMB-B DESI PP	$69.17 \pm 0.67$ (69.99)	$0.002 \pm 0.093$ (0.104)	$-0.001 \pm 0.044$ (-0.022)	–	0.338	-7.3
	CMB-B DESI	$69.37 \pm 0.72$ (69.12)	$0.000 \pm 0.093$ (-0.023)	$-0.003 \pm 0.045$ (-0.038)	–	0.885	-6.1
	CMB-B	$67.50^{+0.68}_{-1.2}$ (67.78)	$-0.005 \pm 0.074$ (0.041)	$0.002 \pm 0.047$ (-0.002)	–	0.029	–
w0-wa + me	CMB-B DESI PP	$68.32 \pm 0.83$ (67.95)	–	–	–	0.098	-12.1
	CMB-B DESI	$64.2^{+1.9}_{-2.6}$ (63.78)	–	–	–	0.041	-10.5
w0-wa	CMB-B DESI PP	$67.65 \pm 0.59$ (67.52)	–	–	–	0.010	-9.6
$\Lambda$ CDM	CMB-B DESI PP	$68.04 \pm 0.26$ (68.25)	–	–	–	0.007	0.0
	CMB-B DESI	$68.13 \pm 0.26$ (68.23)	–	–	–	0.006	0.0

TABLE V: Posterior means with quoted  $1\sigma$  marginal uncertainties and best-fit values in parentheses for all models fit to the CMB-B dataset combinations including SPT-3G. Columns list the inferred Hubble constant, the dilaton coupling  $\mathbf{g}$ , the axion CDM kinetic coupling  $\zeta$ , the initial dilaton value  $\chi_i$  when present, and the change in best-fit  $\Delta\chi^2$  relative to the corresponding  $\Lambda$ CDM run.

*Goodness of fit comparison using CMB-B DESI PP datasets*

2512.xxxxx

# Comparison to Cosmological Data

Model resolves (to smaller than 3 sigma) the Hubble tension in the CMB-B DESI and PP datasets including a SH0ES prior on  $H_0$

Comparable to the combined  $w_0 w_a + m_e$  model (though is a real theory and so predicts correlations between properties at recombination and later epochs)

Model	Dataset	$H_0$	$g$	$\zeta$	$\chi_i$	$R - 1$	$\Delta\chi^2$
Yoga VI	CMB-A DESI PPSH0ES	$70.85 \pm 0.58$ (71.11)	$0.03^{+0.17}_{-0.20}$ (-0.214)	$-0.012 \pm 0.060$ (0.082)	$74.03^{+0.20}_{-0.23}$ (73.903)	10.313	-19.7
EXP	CMB-A DESI PPSH0ES	$70.79 \pm 0.59$ (71.03)	$0.000 \pm 0.160$ (0.161)	$-0.003 \pm 0.062$ (-0.058)	–	68.516	-18.9
w0-wa + me	CMB-A DESI PPSH0ES	$70.51 \pm 0.73$ (70.37)	–	–	–	0.005	-19.4
$\Lambda$ CDM+me	CMB-A DESI PPSH0ES	$70.97 \pm 0.57$ (71.34)	–	–	–	0.006	-19.2
$\Lambda$ CDM	CMB-A DESI PPSH0ES	$68.72 \pm 0.28$ (68.77)	–	–	–	0.006	0.0

TABLE VI: Posterior means ( $\pm 1\sigma$ ) with best-fit values in parentheses, and  $\Delta\chi^2$  relative to the  $\Lambda$ CDM run with the same dataset (CMB-A DESI PPSH0ES).

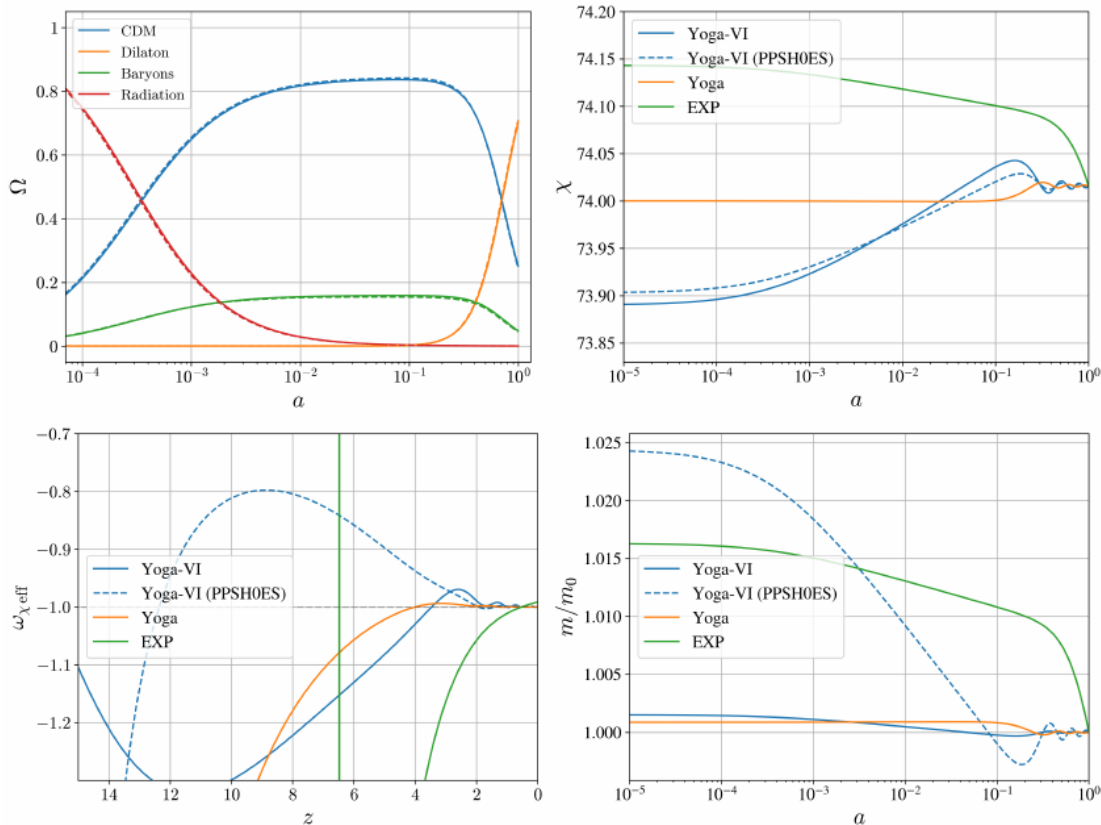
*Goodness of fit comparison using CMB-B DESI PP datasets including a SH0ES prior on  $H_0$*

2512.xxxxx

# Comparison to Cosmological Data

Improvement of fit occurs because masses differ at recombination.

*Unlike in models where this is done by hand can predict why variation happens (recombination is not long after radiation-matter equality) and why this need not cause problems for BBN*



*Evolution of key  
model parameters  
with redshift*



# Comparison to Cosmological Data

Improvement of fit occurs because masses differ at recombination.

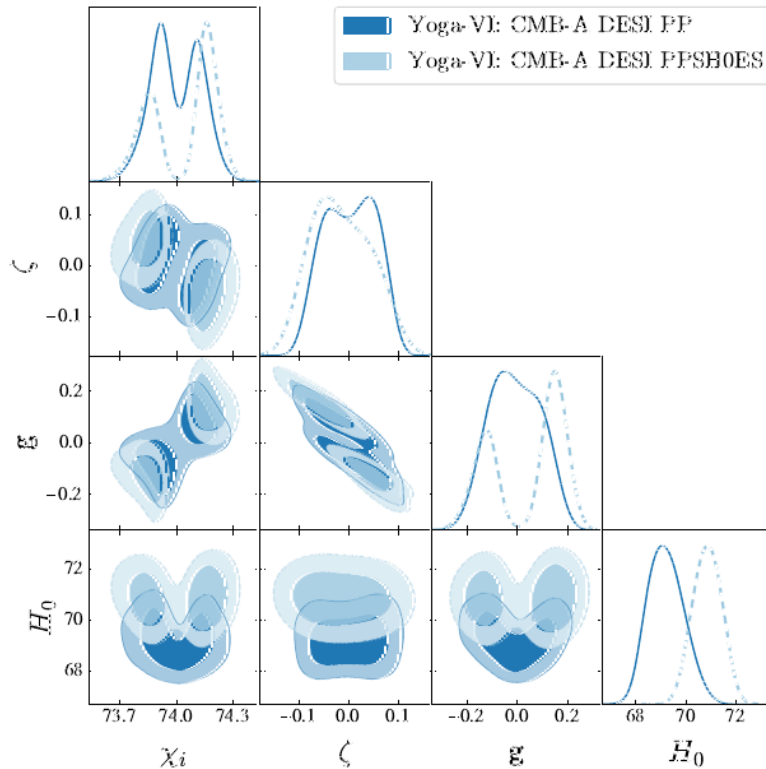


FIG. 5: Triangle plot showing constraints on the minimal Yoga-VI model with and without the SH0ES prior calibration with CMB-A DESI PP datasets. Imposing the SH0ES prior amplifies the existing correlations among  $g$ ,  $\zeta$  and  $H_0$ , with much larger couplings and initial dilaton displacements being preferred.

Triangle plot for  $\Omega_c h^2$ ,  $\Omega_b h^2$ ,  $H_0$  and  $g$  for the exponential potential with and without the SH0ES prior



Conclusions

# Conclusions

High road to UV properties can be predictive

*But it is robust properties like accidental scale invariance and supersymmetric gravity sector that are informative*

# Conclusions

High road to UV properties can be predictive

*But it is robust properties like accidental scale invariance and supersymmetric gravity sector that are informative*

Remarkably rich physics possible at very low energies

*EFT arguments are restrictive but not prohibitive for predicting things to be tested in GW (and other gravity) tests.*

*Two scalars are better than one*

# Conclusions

High road to UV properties can be predictive

*But it is robust properties like accidental scale invariance and supersymmetric gravity sector that are informative*

Remarkably rich physics possible at very low energies

*EFT arguments are restrictive but not prohibitive for predicting things to be tested in GW (and other gravity) tests.*

*Two scalars are better than one*

*Axiodilatons as a minimal Dark Sector fit cosmological data well*

*Resolution of  $H$  tension seems to require big dilaton-matter  $g$*

*Multiple types of tests: mass variations in space/time; polarization in CMB; DE EOS variations; structure formation changes; GWs; Solar system tests; ...*

# Conclusions

High road to UV properties can be predictive

*But it is robust properties like accidental scale invariance and supersymmetric gravity sector that are informative*

Remarkably rich physics possible at very low energies

*EFT arguments are restrictive but not prohibitive for predicting things to be tested in GW (and other gravity) tests.*

*Two scalars are better than one*

Much to explore

*Axiodilatons provide a minimal picture of Dark Matter*

*Multiple types of tests: mass variations in space/time; polarization in CMB; DE EOS variations; structure formation changes; GWs; Solar system tests; ...*

*Thanks for your time & attention!*

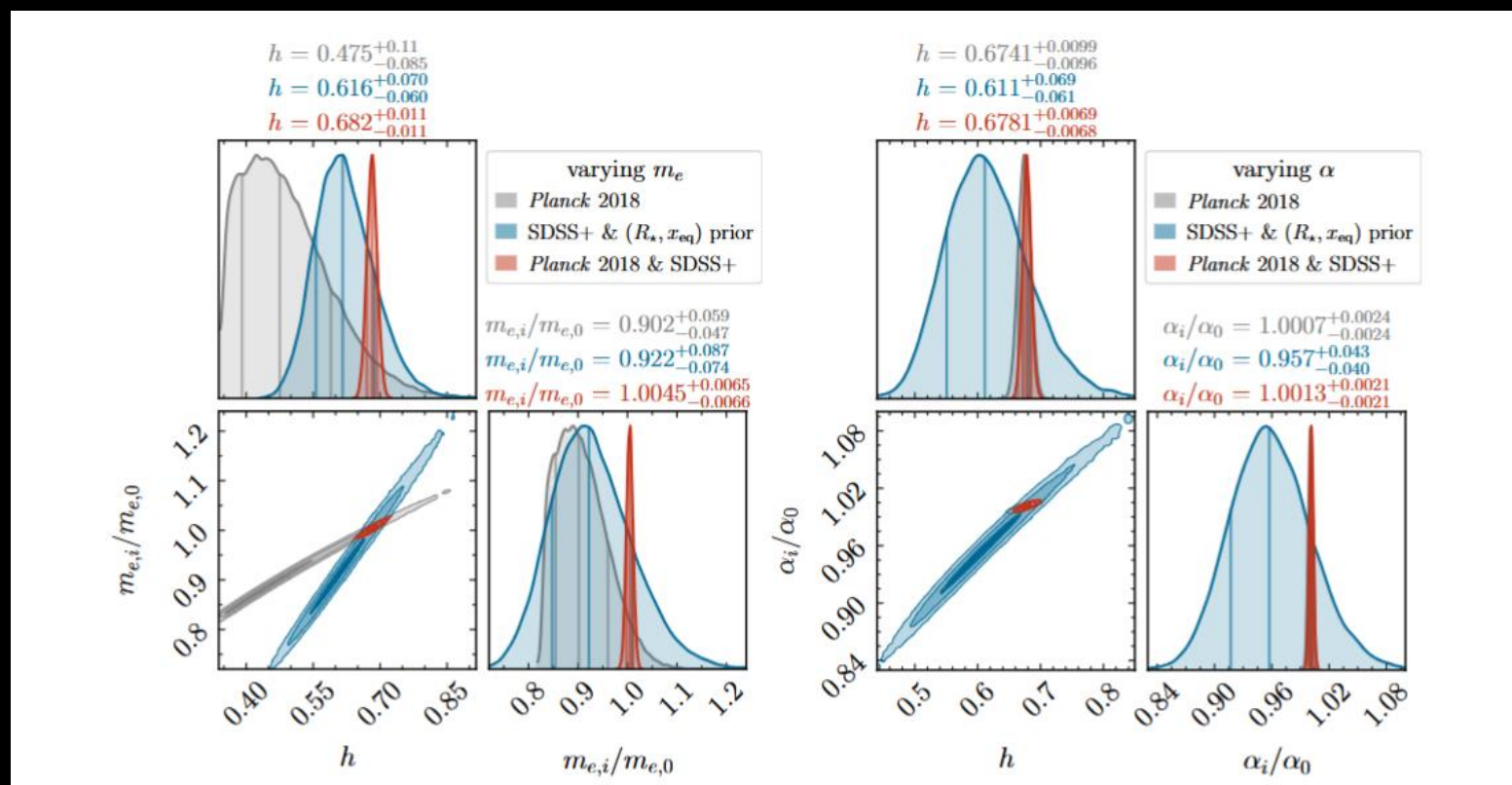




Extra Slides

# Dangers and Opportunities?

See related recent studies: [Baryakhtar et al 2405.10358](#)



Relevance to inflation

# Practical consequences for inflationary models

Two kinds of low-energy pseudo-Goldstone bosons with which to build technically natural inflationary string potentials, one class of which arises due to approximate scale invariances

Axions

Dilatons

# Practical consequences for inflationary models

*Axions*

*Dilatons*

## Axionic inflationary models

- axions are ubiquitous
- axions have protected masses

$$V(a) = A + B \cos \left( \frac{a}{f} \right)$$

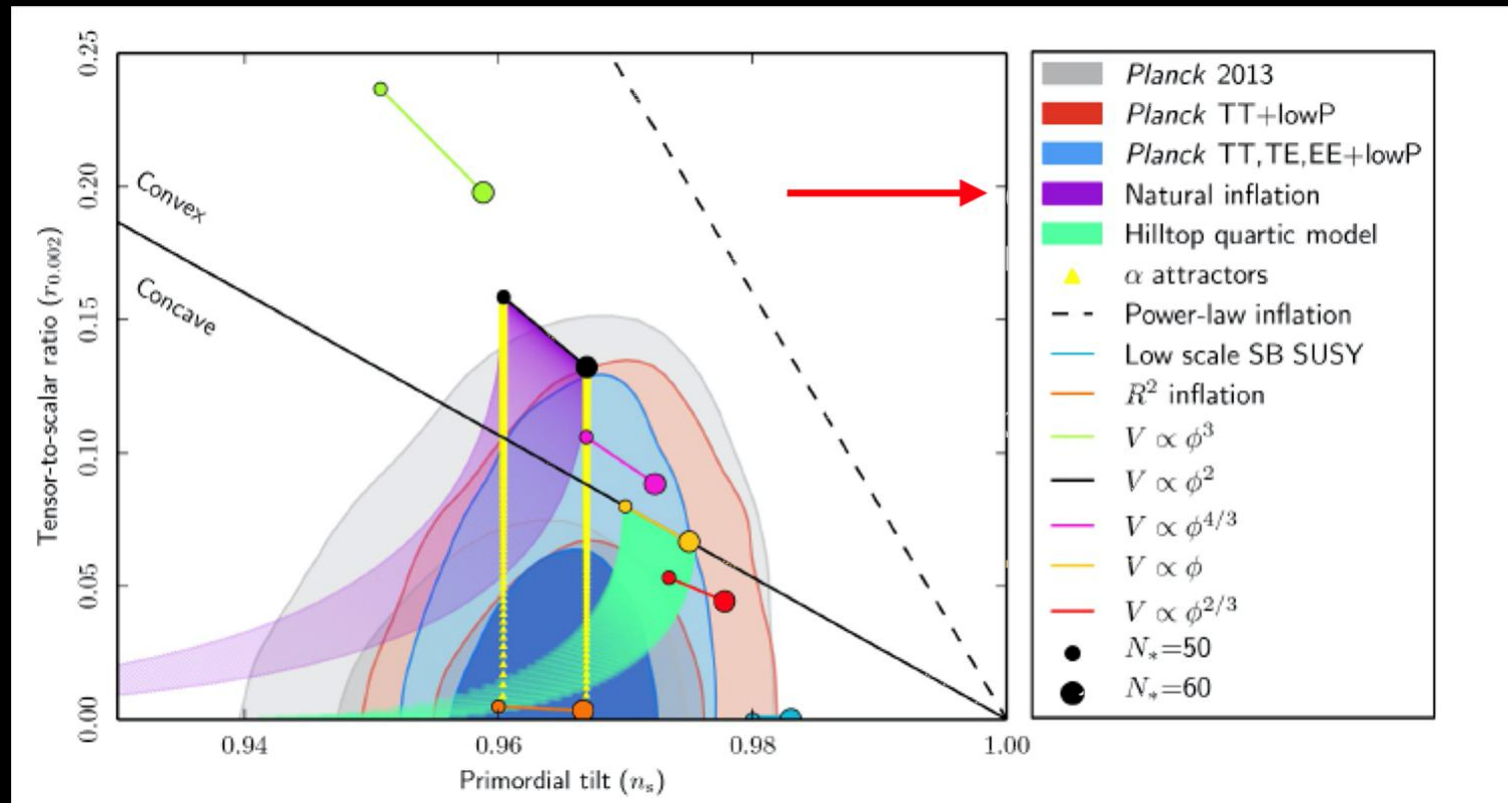
Freese et.al. 90; Kachru et.al. 03;  
Silverstein & Westphal 08 and more

# Practical consequences for inflationary models

But: need  $f \gg M_p$   
disfavoured by data

*Axions*

*Dilatons*



Planck collaboration

# Practical consequences for inflationary models

Axions

*Dilatons*

## Scaling inflationary models

- Fibre moduli are ubiquitous
- F. mod have protected masses

$$V(a) = A - B e^{-a/f}$$

Goncharov & Linde 84; Kallosh & Linde 13 & 15  
hep-th/0111025; 0808.0691; 1603.06789

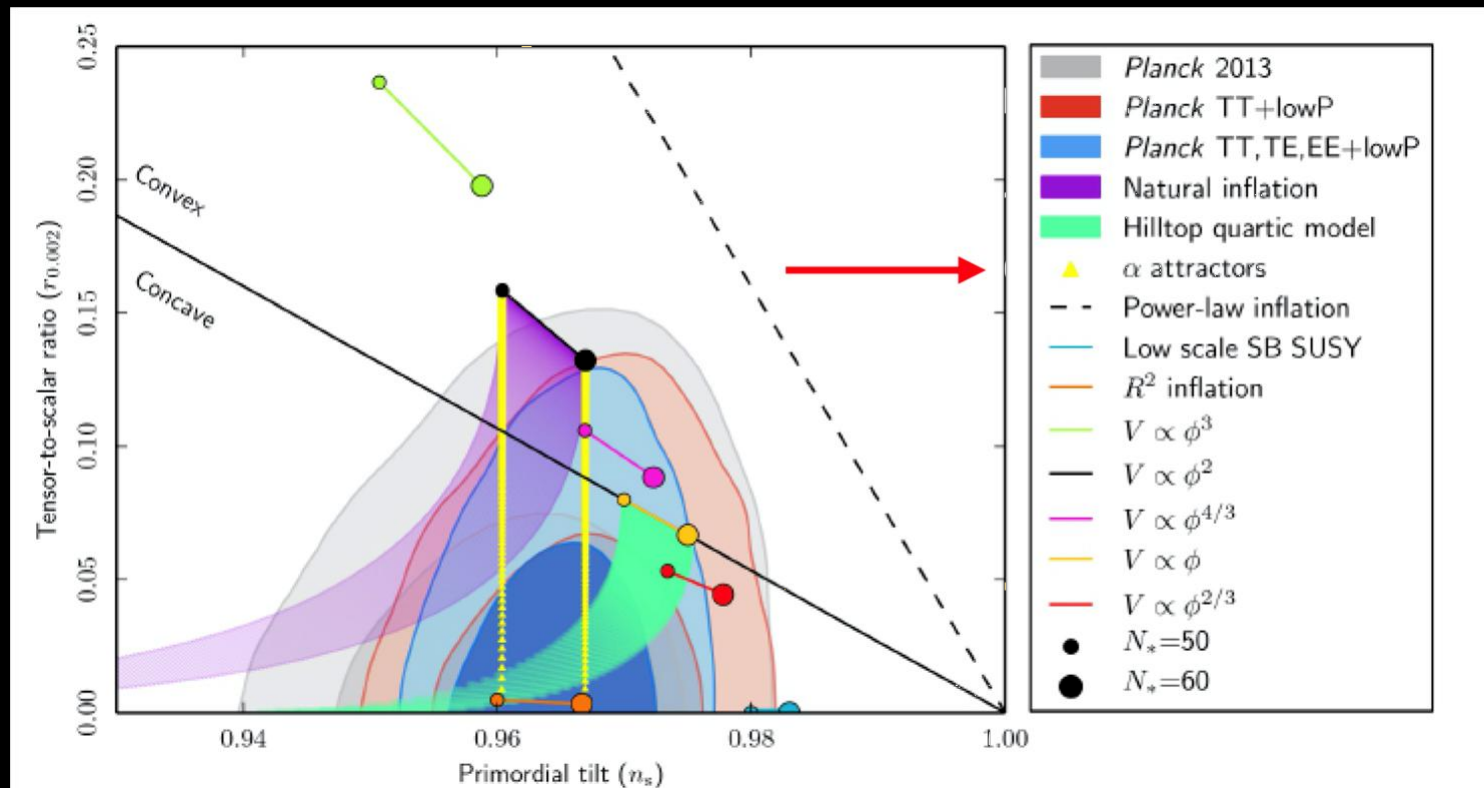


need  $f \simeq M_p$   
 loved by data  
 predicts  $r \simeq (n_s - 1)^2$

# Practical consequences for inflationary models

Axions

*Dilatons*



Planck collaboration

# All This and More!

For microscopic inflationary models allows progress on the eta problem in **two** ways:

*because of use of  $K$  for modulus stabilization*

*because flatness of potential is due to large field and not small parameter*