



The separate-universe approach beyond slow-roll inflation

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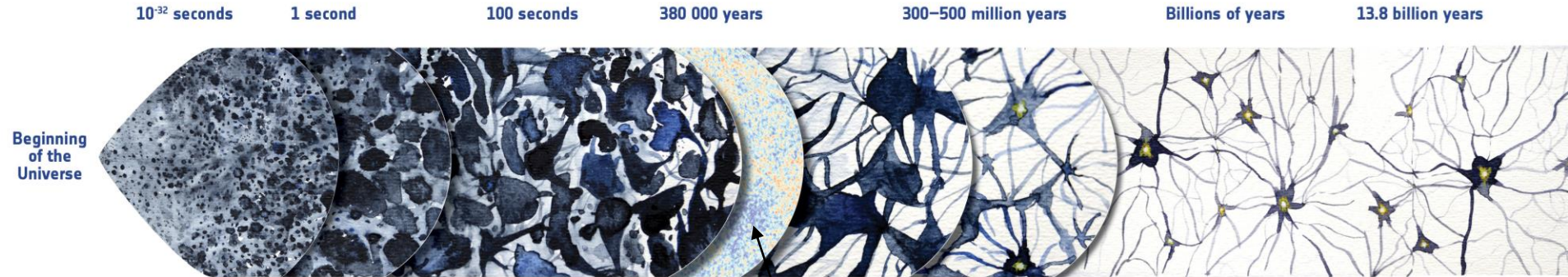
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GRAVITY AND COSMOLOGY 2024 – YITP – 29/01/2024

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Introduction



Inflation

Accelerated expansion of the Universe

Formation of light and matter

Light and matter are coupled

Dark matter evolves independently; it starts clumping and forming a web of structures

Light and matter separate

- Protons and electrons form atoms
- Light starts travelling freely; it will become the Cosmic Microwave Background (CMB)

Dark ages

Atoms start feeling the gravity of the cosmic web of dark matter

First stars

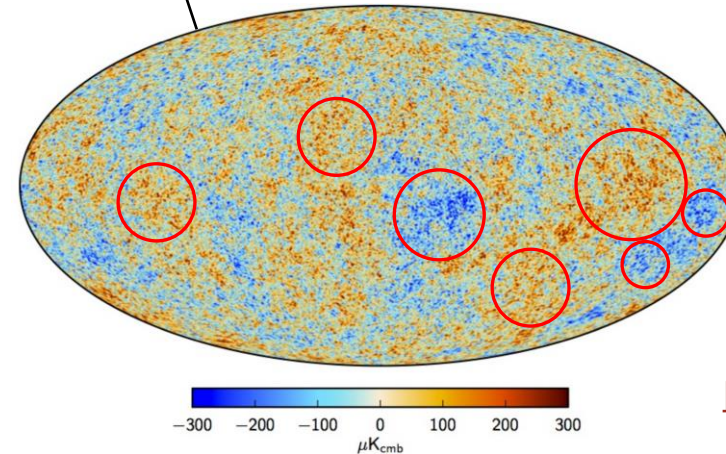
The first stars and galaxies form in the densest knots of the cosmic web

Galaxy evolution

The present Universe

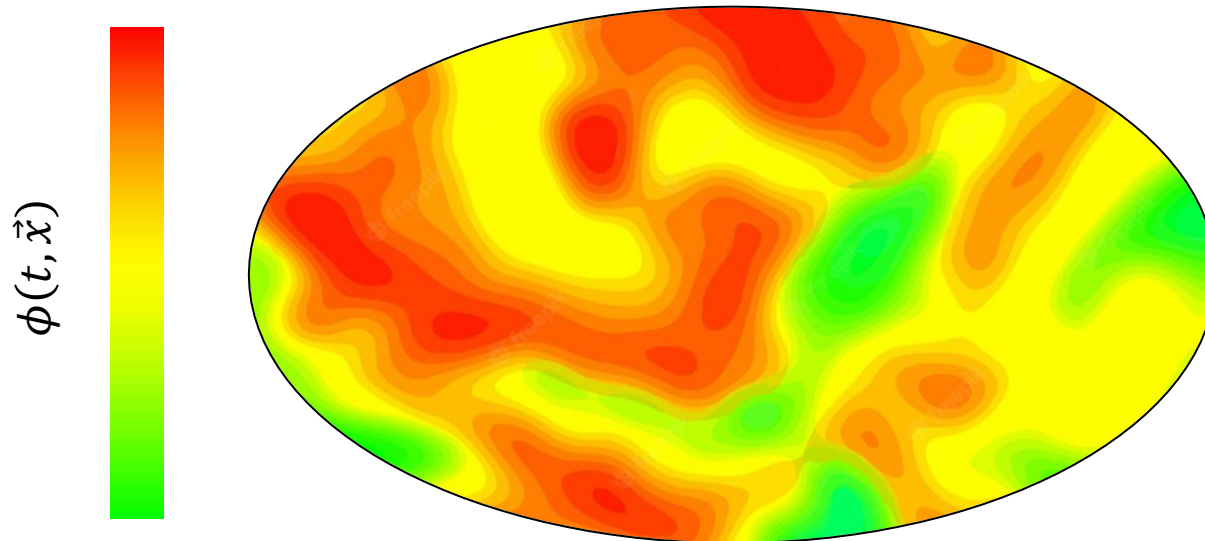
- **Inflation**

Quantum fluctuations seed large-scale inhomogeneities.



[Planck Collaboration (2016)]

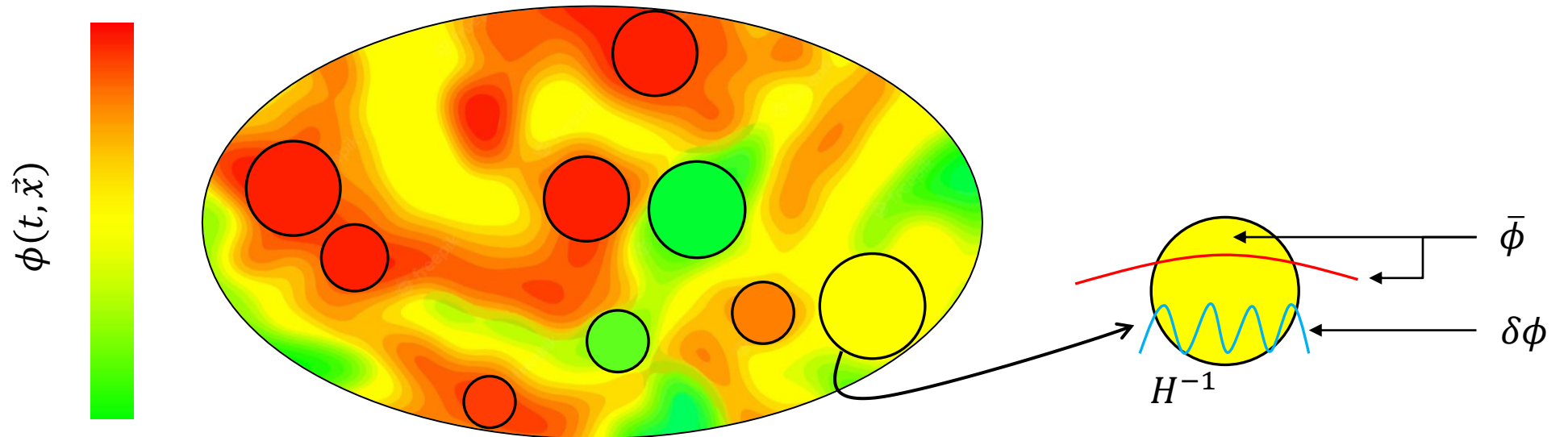
Separate universe



At the non-linear level:
Gradient expansion / $\delta\mathcal{N}$ formalism

[\[Starobinsky \(1983\)\]](#)
[\[Salopek, Bond \(1990\)\]](#)
[\[Sasaki, Stewart \(1996\)\]](#)
[\[Sasaki, Tanaka \(1998\)\]](#)
[\[Wands, Malik, Lyth, Liddle \(2000\)\]](#)

Separate universe



At the non-linear level:
Gradient expansion / $\delta\mathcal{N}$ formalism

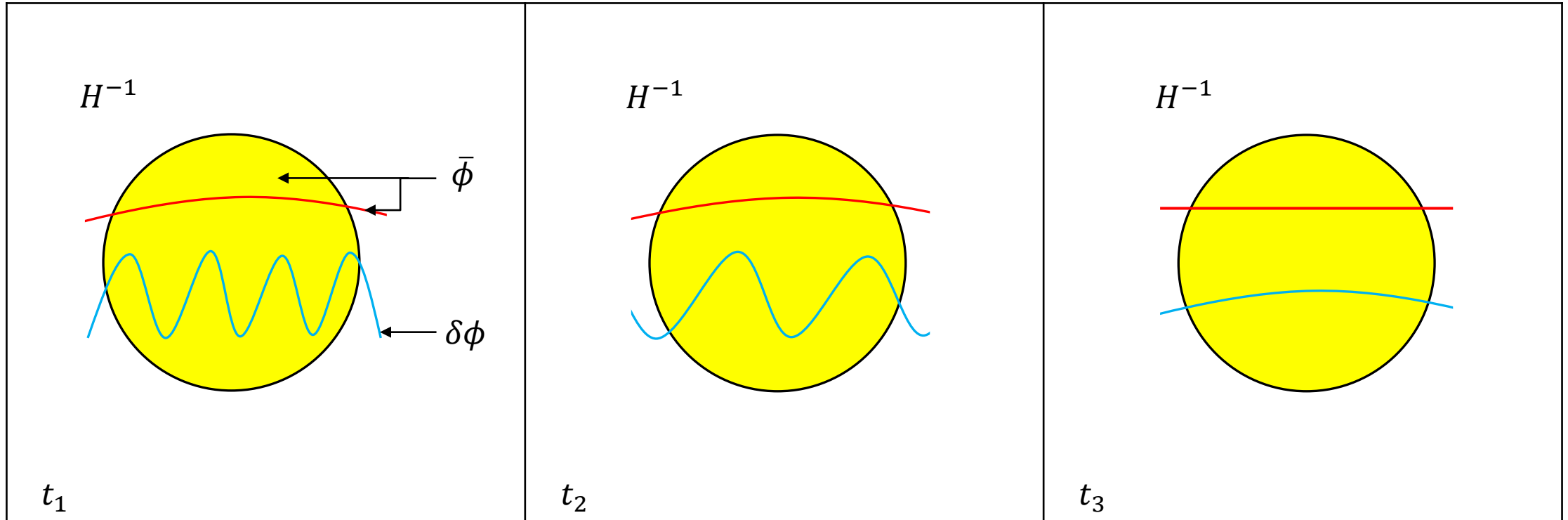
[Starobinsky (1983)]
[Salopek, Bond (1990)]
[Sasaki, Stewart (1996)]
[Sasaki, Tanaka (1998)]
[Wands, Malik, Lyth, Liddle (2000)]

Stochastic inflation

$$\dot{\bar{\phi}} = \frac{N}{\sqrt{\gamma}} \dot{\pi}_\phi + \xi_\phi$$

$$\dot{\pi}_\phi = -N\sqrt{\gamma} V_{,\phi} + \xi_\pi$$

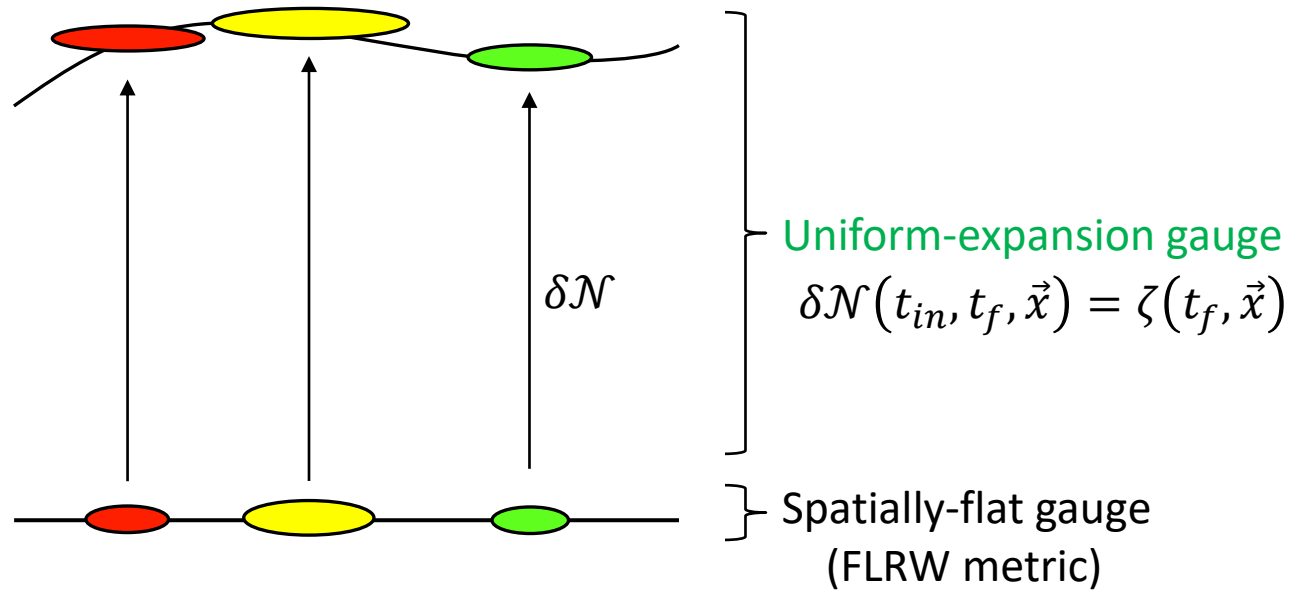
[Starobinsky (1982)]
 [Nambu, Sasaki (1988)]
 [Fujita et al. (2013)]
 [Grain, Vennin (2017)]



Assumptions:

- Quantum fluctuations experience a quantum-to-classical transition. [Micheli's talk] [Polarski, Starobinsky (1996)]
- The long-wavelength modes evolve as the background. [Lesgourgues, Polarski, Starobinsky (1997)]
- Use of spatially-flat and of uniform-expansion gauges. [Kiefer, Polarski, Starobinsky (1998)] [Martin, Vennin (2018)]

Gauges in stochastic inflation



$$\dot{\phi} = \frac{N + \delta\mathcal{N}}{\sqrt{\gamma + \delta\gamma}} \dot{\pi}_\phi + \xi_\phi + \text{grad.}$$

$$\dot{\pi}_\phi = -(N + \delta\mathcal{N})\sqrt{\gamma + \delta\gamma} V_{,\phi} + \xi_{\pi_\phi} + \text{grad.}$$

Can we safely neglect gradient terms with those gauges?

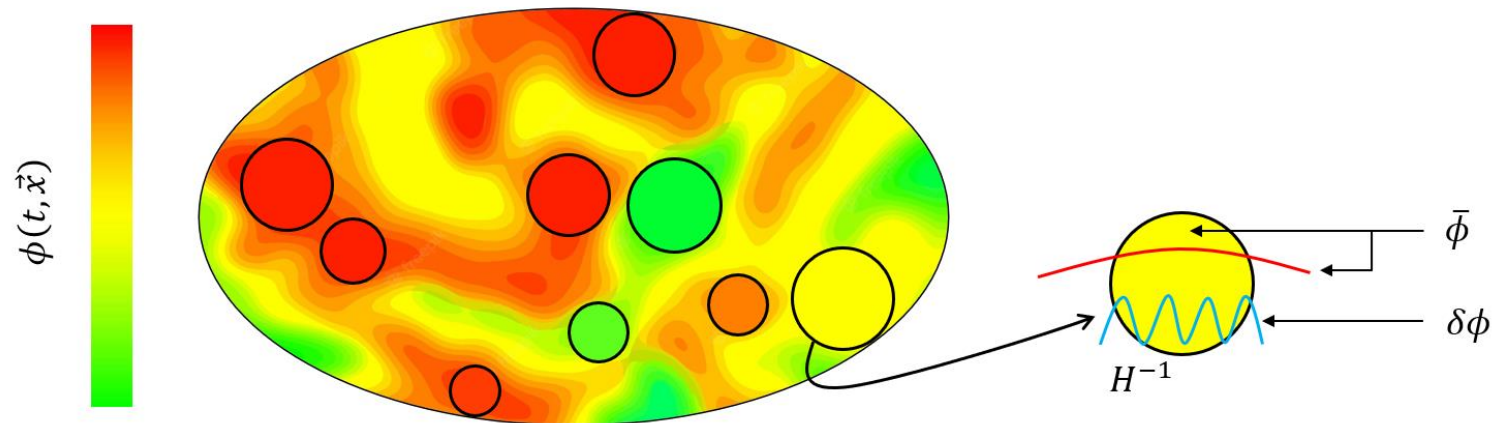
HOW CAN WE FORMALISE THE SEPARATE-UNIVERSE APPROACH BEYOND SLOW ROLL?

[Pattison, Vennin, Assadullahi, Wands (2019)]

[Miranda, Frion, Wands (2020)]

[Briaud, Vennin (2023)]

[Fanizza, Marozzi, Medeiros (2023)]



Long-wavelength modes evolution

Cosmological perturbation theory (CPT)	Separate universe (SU)
1. Perturb and expand $\mathcal{H}_{GR} \rightarrow \mathcal{H}_{GR}^{(0)} + \delta\mathcal{H}_{GR}$ 2. Set a homogeneous and isotropic background $\rightarrow \mathcal{H}_{FLRW}^{(0)} + \delta\mathcal{H}_{GR}$	1. Perturb and expand $\mathcal{H}_{FLRW} \rightarrow \mathcal{H}_{FLRW}^{(0)} + \delta\mathcal{H}_{FLRW}$ Perturbations evolve as the background.

Compare at large scales

The separate-universe approach is valid if:

- $\partial_i \partial_j = \mathcal{O}(k^2)$ negligible

$(k \ll aH)$

$$k^2 \ll a^2 \left| \frac{\pi_{\phi}^2}{a^6} - V(\phi) \right|,$$

$$k^2 \ll a^2 \left| \frac{\pi_{\phi}^2}{a^6} + \frac{V(\phi)}{2} \right|,$$

$$k^2 \ll |V_{,\phi\phi}|$$

[Jackson et al. (2023)]

- Anisotropic perturbations and shift vector negligible

- The gauge is carefully chosen

[DA, Grain, Vennin (2022)]

Gauges in SU

<p>CPT</p> <p>$(\delta N, \delta N_1), (\delta\phi, \delta\pi_\phi), (\delta\gamma_1, \delta\pi_1), (\delta\gamma_2, \delta\pi_2)$</p> <p>lapse & shift scalar field isotropic anisotropic</p>	<p>SU</p> <p>$(\overline{\delta N}, \cancel{\delta N_1}), (\overline{\delta\phi}, \overline{\delta\pi_\phi}), (\overline{\delta\gamma_1}, \overline{\delta\pi_1}), (\cancel{\delta\gamma_2}, \cancel{\delta\pi_2})$</p> <p>shift anisotropic</p>
<p>Spatially-flat gauge $\delta\gamma_1 = \delta\gamma_2 = 0$.</p> $\delta\dot{\gamma}_2 = -2 \sqrt{\frac{2}{3}} a^2 k \delta N_1 + 4N a \delta\pi_2 = 0$ $\Rightarrow \delta N = N \frac{\pi_\phi}{2 a^3 H} \delta\phi$	<p>Spatially-flat gauge $\overline{\delta\gamma_1} = 0$.</p> $\overline{\delta N} = -\frac{N}{6 H^2} \left(V_{,\phi} \overline{\delta\phi} + \frac{\pi_\phi}{a^6} \overline{\delta\pi_\phi} \right)$

[DA, Grain, Vennin (2022)]

Gauges in SU

Regarding the **uniform-expansion gauge**, the gauge

$$\delta N = \delta\gamma_1 = 0$$

doesn't fix all gauge degrees of freedom.

Can we have a gauge that fixes all gauge-degrees of freedom

$$\begin{cases} \delta X = 0 \\ \delta\gamma_1 = 0 \end{cases} \xrightarrow{E.O.M.} \begin{cases} \delta N = 0 \\ \delta N_1 \approx 0 \end{cases}$$

It is very unlikely...

[\[DA, Grain, Vennin \(2023\)\]](#)

The momentum constraint

$$D^{(1)} = \underbrace{\pi_\phi \delta\phi - \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} a H \delta\gamma_1 - \frac{2 a^2}{\sqrt{3}} \delta\pi_1}_{\overline{D^{(1)}} \neq 0} - 2 \sqrt{\frac{2}{3}} (a H \delta\gamma_2 + a^2 \delta\pi_2) = 0$$

[Salopek, Bond (1990)]

[Cruces, Germani, Prokopec (2018)]

[Rigopoulos, Wilkins (2021)]

In spatially-flat gauge in USR:

$$\overline{D^{(1)}} = \lim_{k \rightarrow 0} \left(-\frac{\pi_\phi}{2V_{,\phi}} \delta P_{nad} \right) \rightarrow \infty$$

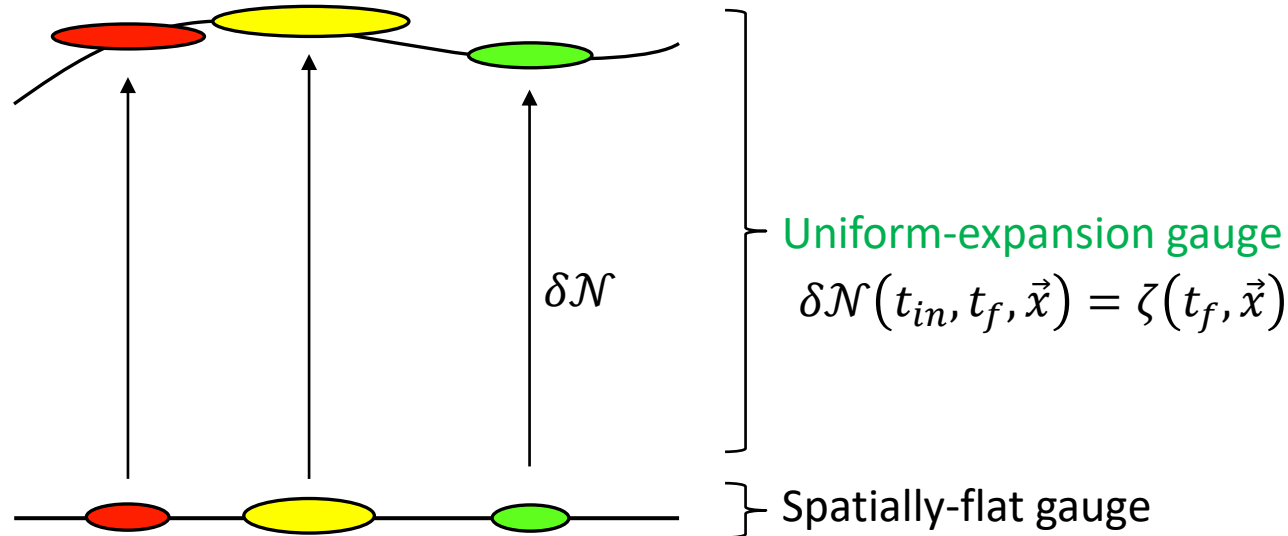
[DA, Frion, Miranda, Vennin, Wands (in prep.)]

One should not use the momentum constraint in separate universe beyond slow roll.

However, $\overline{\dot{D}^{(1)}} = 0$ at large scales.

Summary and future directions

- Apply the spatially-flat gauge in slow roll only. [DA, Grain, Vennin (2022)]
- The uniform-expansion gauge may be too restrictive. Apply the $\delta\mathcal{N}$ in another gauge. [DA, Grain, Vennin (2023)]
- Maybe there are more suitable gauges to consider ? [with Małkiewicz]



$$\dot{\phi} = \frac{N + \delta N}{\sqrt{\gamma + \delta\gamma}} \dot{\pi}_\phi + \xi_\phi + \text{grad.}$$

$$\dot{\pi}_\phi = -(N + \delta N) \sqrt{\gamma + \delta\gamma} V_{,\phi} + \xi_{\pi_\phi} + \text{grad.}$$

Summary and future directions

- Anisotropic separate universe: captures vector and tensor perturbations.
Should allow a broader class of gauges (e.g. spatially-flat gauge).

[\[Tanaka, Urakawa \(2021\)\]](#)

[\[Tanaka, Urakawa \(2023\)\]](#)

[with Tanaka, Urakawa]

- Keep gradient terms at the SR-USR transition.

[with Tanaka, Shi Pi]

- USR with non-Bunch-Davies vacuum.

The SR \rightarrow USR transition can shift the vacuum at the onset of USR.

[\[Jackson et al. \(2023\)\]](#)

[DA, Frion, Miranda, Vennin, Wands (in prep.)]

- Application: stochastic formalism in a power-law collapse period.

[with Tada, S. Yokoyama]



Thank you

Counting the degrees of freedom

Cosmological perturbation theory

8 variables

$$\delta N, \delta N_1 \\ \delta\phi, \delta\gamma_1, \delta\gamma_2, \delta\pi_\phi, \delta\pi_1, \delta\pi_2$$

2 constraints

$$\mathcal{S}^{(1)} = 0, D^{(1)} = 0$$

2 gauge conditions preserved over time

$$\delta\gamma_1 = 0, \delta\gamma_2 = 0 \\ \delta\dot{\gamma}_1 = 0, \delta\dot{\gamma}_2 = 0$$

1 physical degree of freedom (2 variables).

Separate universe

5 variables

$$\delta N \\ \delta\phi, \delta\gamma_1, \delta\pi_\phi, \delta\pi_1$$

1 constraint

$$\mathcal{S}^{(1)} = 0$$

1 gauge condition preserved over time

$$\delta\gamma_1 = 0 \\ \delta\dot{\gamma}_1 = 0$$

1 physical degree of freedom (2 variables).

Use of the Hamiltonian formalism in SU

- Complementary picture.
- The stochastic noise comes from quantum fluctuations that is naturally formulated in the Hamiltonian framework.
- The initial vacuum state reduces to a phase-space parametrisation choice.
- Slow-roll inflation is an attractor, which removes the dependence on initial velocities $\delta\dot{\phi}_0$. Beyond slow roll, this is not the case anymore.
- In Lagrangian: n stochastic second-order differential equations.
- In Hamiltonian: $2n$ first-order differential equations.

Gauge-invariant separate universe

Cosmological perturbation theory (CPT)

$$\ddot{v} + \left(k^2 - \frac{\ddot{z}}{z} \right) v = 0$$

Separate universe (SU)

$$\ddot{v} + \left(k^2 - \frac{\ddot{z}}{z} \right) v = \sqrt{\frac{\epsilon_1}{2}} \epsilon_2 M_{Pl} H^2 \overline{D^{(1)}}$$

[DA, Grain, Vennin (2022)]

- And $\overline{D^{(1)}}$ is conserved at large scales
- In general $D^{(1)} = \overline{D^{(1)}} + D_{Aniso}^{(1)}$ and

$$\overline{D^{(1)}} = -\frac{\pi_\phi}{2V_{,\phi}} \delta P_{nad}^{k \rightarrow 0}$$

[DA, Frion, Miranda, Vennin, Wands (in prep.)]

Proportional to the comoving density perturbation.

- Even if $\overline{D^{(1)}} \neq 0$ during inflation, the SU approach may be useful to compute the curvature perturbation after inflation, when it coincides with the comoving density perturbation.