



# Can Renormalization Change the Observable Predictions of Inflation?

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# Motivation and Summary

- Inflation provides a natural solution to the [horizon and flatness problems](#) of the hot Big Bang cosmology.

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- Tensor Modes
- Amplitude of TM
- Need for renormalization
- Renormalization Method
- Tensor Perturbations
- Scalar Perturbations
- Time Dependence
- Testable Effects
- Conclusions

The End

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- Inflation provides a natural solution to the **horizon and flatness problems** of the hot Big Bang cosmology.
- Inflation also provides a **Quantum Mechanical mechanism** to account for the **origin of small inhomogeneities** in the early Universe, which represent the seeds for structure formation.

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- A **relic background of gravitational waves** is also unavoidable if inflation happened in the early Universe.

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- A **relic background of gravitational waves** is also unavoidable if inflation happened in the early Universe.
- Typically, an inflationary model predicts the value of 3 parameters:

- ◆ Scalar spectral index  $n_s \Rightarrow P_s(k) = P_s(k_0) \left(\frac{k}{k_0}\right)^{n_s-1}$

- ◆ Tensor spectral index  $n_t \Rightarrow P_t(k) = P_t(k_0) \left(\frac{k}{k_0}\right)^{n_t}$

- ◆ Tensor-to-scalar ratio  $r \Rightarrow r \equiv \frac{P_t}{P_s}$

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- **Consistency condition** for (single-field) slow roll inflation:  $r \equiv -8n_t$

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We shall argue that **Quantum Field Renormalization** significantly influences the predictions of primordial perturbations and hence the expected measurable imprint of inflation on the CMB. In particular, we will find a **new consistency condition**:

$$r = 4(1 - n_s - n_t) + \frac{4n'_t}{n_t^2 - 2n'_t} \left( 1 - n_s - \sqrt{2n'_t + (1 - n_s)^2 - n_t'^2} \right)$$

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- I will try to justify **why renormalization is needed** and **how it affects the predictions of single field slow roll inflation.**

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# Tensorial Perturbations. Standard Approach.

- Consider the fluctuating tensorial modes  $h_{ij}(\vec{x}, t)$ , where

$g_{ij} = a^2(t)(\delta_{ij} + h_{ij})$  and  $a(t)$  is the expansion factor in the background

metric  $ds^2 = -dt^2 + a^2(t)d\vec{x}^2$ .

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- The perturbation field  $h_{ij}$  can be decomposed into two polarization states both obeying the wave equation

$$\ddot{h} + 3H\dot{h} - a^{-2}\nabla^2 h = 0$$

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- In slow roll inflation ( $\epsilon \equiv -\dot{H}/H^2 \ll 1$ ) the form of the modes is

$$h_{\vec{k}}(\vec{x}, t) = \sqrt{-\frac{16\pi G\tau\pi}{4(2\pi)^3 a^2}} e^{i\vec{k}\vec{x}} H_{3/2+\epsilon}^{(1)}(-k\tau)$$

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- In pure de Sitter ( $\epsilon = 0$ ) the modes take the simple form

$$h_{\vec{k}}(\vec{x}, t) = \sqrt{\frac{G}{\pi^2 k^3}} (H - ike^{-Ht}) e^{i\vec{k}\vec{x}} e^{ikH^{-1}} e^{-Ht}$$

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# Amplitude of Tensorial Perturbations

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- As time evolves, the physical wavelength reaches the Hubble radius when

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- A few Hubble times after horizon exit ( $-k\tau \approx 1$ ) the amplitude freezes to the constant value  $|h_k|^2 = \frac{GH(t_k)^2}{\pi^2 k^3}$

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- The freezing amplitude is usually codified through the quantity  $\Delta_h^2(k, t)$ , defined in general by  $\Delta_h^2 = 4\pi k^3 |h_{\vec{k}}|^2$  and evaluated at the horizon crossing time  $t_k$  (or a few Hubble times after it).

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- One finally obtains a nearly “scale free” **tensorial power spectrum**

$$P_t(k) \equiv 4\Delta_h^2 = \frac{8}{M_P^2} \left( \frac{H(t_k)}{2\pi} \right)^2$$

where  $M_P = 1/\sqrt{8\pi G}$  is the reduced Planck mass.

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# Need for renormalization: variance of $h(\vec{x}, t)$ .

- In position space, the **variance of the tensorial perturbations** is defined as

$$\langle h^2 \rangle = \int d^3\vec{k} |h_{\vec{k}}(\vec{x}, t)|^2 = \int_0^\infty \frac{dk}{k} \Delta_h^2(k)$$

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- Due to the large  $k$  behavior of the modes **the above integral is divergent:**

$$\langle h^2(\vec{x}, t) \rangle = \int_0^\infty \frac{dk}{k} \frac{16\pi G k^3}{4\pi^2 a^3} \left[ \frac{a}{k} \left[ 1 + \frac{(2+3\epsilon)}{2k^2 \tau^2} \right] + \dots \right]$$

- ◆ First term: **quadratic divergence** (typical in Minkowski).
- ◆ Second term: **logarithmic divergence** (typical in expanding universe).

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- Little attention has been paid to these **divergences**:
  - ◆ Sometimes this is bypassed by regarding  $h(\vec{x}, t)$  as a *classical random field* and introducing a window function to remove the Fourier modes with large  $k$ . But **QFT** is much more than **Quantum Mechanics**.

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- ◆ It is also common to consider  $\langle h(x_1)h(x_2) \rangle$  as the basic object.

However, in FRW  $\langle h(x_1)h(x_2) \rangle = \int_0^\infty \frac{dk}{k} \Delta_h^2(k) \frac{\sin k|\vec{x}-\vec{x}'|}{k|\vec{x}-\vec{x}'|}$ , so all the nontrivial information is contained in  $\langle h^2 \rangle$ , which is ill defined.

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# Renormalization in momentum space

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- We regard the variance  $\langle h^2 \rangle$  as the basic physical object, which defines the amplitude of fluctuations in position space.
- We treat  $h(\vec{x}, t)$  as a quantum entity

$\Rightarrow$

RENORMALIZATION IN AN  
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■ Since the physically relevant quantity (power spectrum) is expressed in momentum space, the natural renormalization scheme to apply is the so-called ADIABATIC SUBTRACTION (Parker-Fulling, '74).

The DeWitt-Schwinger method gives the same results.

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■ Adiabatic renormalization removes the divergences by subtracting (second order) counterterms mode by mode in the integral

$$\langle h^2 \rangle_{ren} = \int_0^\infty \frac{dk}{k} \left[ \Delta_h^2(k) - \frac{16\pi G k^3}{4\pi^2 a^3} \left( \frac{1}{w_k} + \frac{1}{2w_k^3} \left\{ \frac{\dot{a}^2}{a^2} + \frac{\ddot{a}}{a} \right\} \right) \right]$$

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## ■ Calculations give

$$\langle h^2 \rangle_{ren} = \int_0^\infty \frac{dk}{k} \frac{16\pi G k^3 (-\tau\pi)}{4\pi^2 2a^2} \left[ |H_V^{(1)}(-k\tau)|^2 - \frac{2}{\pi(-k\tau)} \left( 1 + \frac{(2+3\varepsilon)}{2k^2\tau^2} \right) \right]$$

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- Therefore, the renormalized expression for  $\Delta_h^2(k)$  is

$$\tilde{\Delta}_h^2(k) = \frac{16\pi G k^3 (-\tau\pi)}{4\pi^2 2a^2} \left[ |H_V^{(1)}(-k\tau)|^2 - \frac{2}{\pi(-k\tau)} \left( 1 + \frac{(2+3\varepsilon)}{2k^2\tau^2} \right) \right]$$

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- Evaluated at the Hubble radius crossing time we get

$$P_t(k)_{ren} = \frac{8\alpha}{M_p^2} \left( \frac{H(t_k)}{2\pi} \right)^2 \varepsilon(t_k)$$

where  $\alpha \approx 0.904$  and  $\varepsilon \equiv -\dot{H}/H^2 \ll 1$ .

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$$\tilde{\Delta}_h^2(k) = \frac{16\pi G k^3 (-\tau\pi)}{4\pi^2 2a^2} \left[ |H_V^{(1)}(-k\tau)|^2 - \frac{2}{\pi(-k\tau)} \left( 1 + \frac{(2+3\varepsilon)}{2k^2\tau^2} \right) \right]$$

- Evaluated at the Hubble radius crossing time we get

$$P_t(k)_{ren} = \frac{8\alpha}{M_p^2} \left( \frac{H(t_k)}{2\pi} \right)^2 \varepsilon(t_k)$$

where  $\alpha \approx 0.904$  and  $\varepsilon \equiv -\dot{H}/H^2 \ll 1$ .

- Recall that the **unrenormalized** value is

$$P_t(k) = \frac{8}{M_p^2} \left( \frac{H(t_k)}{2\pi} \right)^2$$

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# Renormalization of Scalar Perturbations

- Scalar perturbations are commonly studied through the gauge-invariant quantity  $\mathcal{R}$  (the comoving curvature perturbation) obeying

$$\frac{d^2 \mathcal{R}_k}{d\tau^2} + \frac{2}{z} \frac{dz}{d\tau} \frac{d\mathcal{R}_k}{d\tau} + k^2 \mathcal{R}_k = 0$$

where  $z \equiv a\dot{\phi}_0/H$ , and with  $\mathcal{R}_k$  related to the inflaton field fluctuations via

$$\mathcal{R}_k = -\Psi_k - \frac{H}{\dot{\phi}_0} \delta\phi_k..$$

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- Proceeding as before (with care to treat the adiabatic counterterms for the  $\mathcal{R}_k$  field) we get

$$\langle \mathcal{R}^2 \rangle_{ren} = \int_0^\infty \frac{dk}{k} 4\pi k^3 \frac{-\pi\tau}{4(2\pi)^3 z^2} \left[ |H_\mu^{(1)}(-\tau k)|^2 - \frac{2}{\pi(-k\tau)} \left( 1 + \frac{(2+3(3\varepsilon-\eta))}{2(-k\tau)^2} \right) \right]$$

where  $\mu = 3/2 + 3\varepsilon - \eta$  and  $\eta = M_P^2(V''/V)$ .

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- The renormalized expression for  $\Delta_{\mathcal{R}}^2(k)$  is

$$\tilde{\Delta}_{\mathcal{R}}^2(k) = \frac{4\pi k^3 (-\pi\tau)}{4(2\pi)^3 z^2} \left[ |H_\mu^{(1)}(-\tau k)|^2 - \frac{2}{\pi(-k\tau)} \left( 1 + \frac{(2+3(3\varepsilon-\eta))}{2(-k\tau)^2} \right) \right]$$

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# Time Dependence

- The renormalized amplitudes of the power spectra  $\tilde{\Delta}_h^2(k)$  and  $\tilde{\Delta}_{\mathcal{R}}^2(k)$  inherit the time-dependence of the counterterms.

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- The renormalized amplitudes of the power spectra  $\tilde{\Delta}_h^2(k)$  and  $\tilde{\Delta}_{\mathcal{R}}^2(k)$  inherit the time-dependence of the counterterms.
- Since primordial fluctuations acquire classical properties soon after crossing the Hubble radius, we find it natural to evaluate the renormalized spectra at  $t_k$ , or a few  $e$ -folds afterwards.

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- Assuming  $n > 1$  but  $n\varepsilon \ll 1$ , we find that ( $n =$  number of  $e$ -folds)

- ◆  $\tilde{\Delta}_h^2(k, n) \approx \frac{2}{M_P^2} \left( \frac{H(t_k)}{2\pi} \right)^2 \varepsilon(t_k) (2n - 3/2)$

- ◆  $\tilde{\Delta}_{\mathcal{R}}^2(k, n) \approx \frac{1}{2M_P^2 \varepsilon(t_k)} \left( \frac{H(t_k)}{2\pi} \right)^2 (3\varepsilon(t_k) - \eta(t_k)) (2n - 3/2)$

The result is:  $r = 16\varepsilon(t_k) \frac{\varepsilon(t_k)}{3\varepsilon(t_k) - \eta(t_k)}$

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- The standard result  $r = 16\epsilon(t_k)$  is recovered only if the counterterms are evaluated at times **well after the end of inflation** ( $n > 100$ ).

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- Though a better understanding of the decoherence processes is necessary to fully determine the time scale at which the **quantum-to-classical transition** really occurs, our predictions are accurate up to  $n \sim 10 - 20$ ).

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# Testable Effects

- Renormalization also affects the **spectral indices**:

## Standard Values

- ◆  $n_t = -2\varepsilon$
- ◆  $n_s - 1 = 2(\eta - 3\varepsilon)$
- ◆  $n'_t = -n_t(1 - n_s + n_t)$

## Renormalized Values

- ◆  $n_t = 2(\varepsilon - \eta)$
- ◆  $n_s - 1 = 2(\eta - 3\varepsilon) + \frac{(12\varepsilon^2 - 8\varepsilon\eta + \xi)}{3\varepsilon - \eta}$
- ◆  $n'_t = 8\varepsilon(\varepsilon - \eta) + 2\xi$ , where  $\xi \equiv M_P^4(v'v'''/V^2)$ .

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- We find a **new consistency relation** for single field inflation

$$r = 4(1 - n_s - n_t) + \frac{4n'_t}{n_t^2 - 2n'_t} \left( 1 - n_s - \sqrt{2n'_t + (1 - n_s)^2 - n_t^2} \right)$$

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- The standard prediction  $r = -8n_t$  requires  $n_t < 0$ .  
Our prediction also allows for  $n_t \geq 0$ .

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In our case  $n'_t$  is a **new observable !!!**

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- For more details and references see [Phys.Rev. D81,043514\(2010\)](#).

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# Conclusions

- The predictions of (single-field) slow-roll inflation change significantly if renormalization in curved spacetimes is taken into account and the counterterms are evaluated around the time of Hubble horizon exit.

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# Conclusions

- The predictions of (single-field) slow-roll inflation change significantly if renormalization in curved spacetimes is taken into account and the counterterms are evaluated around the time of Hubble horizon exit.
- Renormalization provides a new consistency condition that relates the tensor-to-scalar amplitude ratio with the spectral indices.

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- The new generation of high precision detectors may soon **turn QFT in curved spacetimes into an experimental science**. Our results indicate that **renormalization may play an important role in the interpretation of the observational data**.

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Thanks !!!

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