

Astro 507  
Lecture 32  
April 14, 2014

Announcements:

- **Preflight 6 (last one!) due Friday 9am**
- yet another awesome cosmology bigshot talk tomorrow:  
Astronomy Colloquium, 4pm Tuesday April 14  
Nick Gnedin, Fermilab and U. Chicago  
“Simulating Reionization: Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow”

Last time: inflation perturbed

Q: *quantum mechanics of inflaton field  $\phi$ ?*

Q: *“confinement” region for  $\phi$ ?*

Q: *mean value of  $\langle \phi \rangle$ ?  $\langle \delta \phi \rangle$ ?*

⌊ Q: *what is fate of fluctuation born at  
comoving scale  $\lambda_{\text{com}}$ ?*

Q: *inflation perturbations vs Hawking radiation?*

# Inflation and Quantum Fluctuations

decompose  $\phi(\vec{x}, t) = \phi_{\text{cl}}(t) + \delta\phi(\vec{x}, t)$

with  $\langle \phi \rangle = \phi_{\text{cl}}$  and  $\langle \delta\phi \rangle = 0$

but quantum fluctuations have  $\langle (\delta\phi)^2 \rangle \neq 0$

causal physics operates on scales inside

the (comoving) Hubble length  $d_{H,\text{com}} = 1/aH$

so inflaton field effectively “confined” to  $\delta x_{\text{com}} \sim d_{H,\text{com}}$

→ expect quantum energy fluctuation  $\Delta E \sim c\Delta p \sim \hbar/d_H \sim \hbar H$

quantum mechanics generates inflaton perturbations

- in static universe, these average to zero

- but during inflation,  $H \approx \text{const}$  and  $a \approx e^{Ht}$

- when fluctuation of scale  $\lambda_{\text{com}} = 1/k_{\text{com}} > d_{H,\text{com}}$

“leaves horizon” and becomes “frozen in” as real perturbation

- comoving Hubble length  $d_{H,\text{com}} \propto e^{-Ht}$  shrinks  
ever smaller scales leave horizon

## Evolution of Quantum Perturbations

Write spatial fluctuations in inflaton field as sum (integral) of Fourier modes:

$$\delta\phi(t, \vec{x}) = \sum_{\vec{k}} \delta\phi_{\vec{k}}(t) e^{i\vec{k}\cdot\vec{x}_{\text{com}}} \quad (1)$$

where  $k = k_{\text{com}} = 2\pi/\lambda_{\text{com}}$  is comoving wavenumber

classical part of  $\delta\phi_{\vec{k}}$  inflated away

but quantum part crucial, persists during inflation

in Director's Cut notes:

- inflaton field begins in vacuum state
  - evolves as a *quantum harmonic oscillator*
- dominated by *vacuum=ground state*

*Q: wavefunction of ground state harmonic oscillator?*

*Q: probability of finding particle at  $x$ ?*

*Q: implications for inflaton fluctuations?*

# Inflation Spectrum

## Statistical Properties

★ Recall: inflaton quantum modes  $\leftrightarrow$  harmonic oscillator dominated by vacuum  $\leftrightarrow$  ground state  $\|\psi_{\text{sho}}(x)\|^2 \sim e^{-x^2/2\Delta x^2}$   
 $\phi_k \leftrightarrow x$  fluctuations are statistically **Gaussian**  
i.e., perturbations of all sizes occur, but **probability** of finding perturbation of size  $\delta(R)$  on scale  $R$  is distributed as a Gaussian

★ inflaton perturbations  $\rightarrow$  reheating  
 $\rightarrow$  radiation, matter perturbations  
same levels in both: “adiabatic”

♣ ★★★★★ All of these are bona fide **pre**dictions of inflation and are testable! Q: *how?*

## Slow Roll and Scale Dependence

Last time, and in Extras today:  
dimensionless fluctuation amplitude (variance)  
at comoving wavenumber  $k = k_{\text{com}}$

$$\Delta^2(k) \sim \left( \frac{\delta\rho}{\rho} \right)_k \sim \left( \frac{H^2}{m_{\text{pl}}^2} \right) \left( \frac{H}{\dot{\phi}} \right)_{aH=k}^2 \sim \left( \frac{V}{\epsilon m_{\text{pl}}^4} \right)_{aH=k} \quad (2)$$

evaluated at “horizon crossing”  $aH = k$

*Q: how does  $aH$  change during inflation?*

*Q: for slow roll, how does  $\Delta^2(k)$  change with scale?*

# Inflation Spectrum

## Slightly Tilted Scale Invariance

recall: perturbation leaving horizon have very similar amplitude during inflation  $\rightarrow$  nearly same for all lengthscales  $\leftrightarrow k$  perturbation rms amplitude

$$\delta_{\text{inf}}^2(k) \propto k^{-6\epsilon+2\eta} \quad (3)$$

★ successful inflation  $\Leftrightarrow$  slow roll  $\Leftrightarrow \epsilon, \eta \ll 1$  demands **perturbation spectrum nearly independent of scale** nearly “self-similar,” without characteristic scale  
*“Peebles-Harrison-Zel’dovich”* spectrum

★ successful inflation must end  $\rightarrow \epsilon, \eta \neq 0$  demands small departures from scale-invariance  
**“tilted spectrum”**

## Gravity Waves: Tensor Perturbations

- ★ so far: only looked at density (scalar) perturbations but also tensor perturbations → gravity waves!

what's really going on: *cosmic metric* is perturbed  
spatial part (in a particular coordinate system = gauge):

- unperturbed = FLRW

$$dl^2|_{\text{FLRW}} = a(t)^2 (dx^2 + dy^2 + dz^2) = a(t)^2 \delta_{ij} dx_i dx_j \quad (4)$$

with perturbations

$$dl^2|_{\text{pert}} = a(t)^2 e^{2\zeta} \gamma_{ij} dx_i dx_j \quad (5)$$

with *curvature perturbation* the *scalar* function  $\zeta(\vec{x}, t)$

<sup>∞</sup> Q: what is its physical effect?



perturbed metric

$$dl^2|_{\text{pert}} = a(t)^2 e^{2\zeta} \gamma_{ij} dx_i dx_j \quad (6)$$

*curvature perturbation* scalar function  $\zeta(\vec{x}, t)$  changes local volume

→ locally: isotropic stretching

*tensor perturbation* is, to lowest order

$$\gamma_{ij} \approx \begin{pmatrix} 1 + h_+ & h_\times & 0 \\ -h_\times & 1 - h_+ & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = \delta_{ij} + \begin{pmatrix} h_+ & h_\times & 0 \\ -h_\times & -h_+ & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad (7)$$

with *two independent modes* of amplitude  $h_+, h_\times$

Q: *physical effect of these modes?*

*tensor perturbation* is, to lowest order

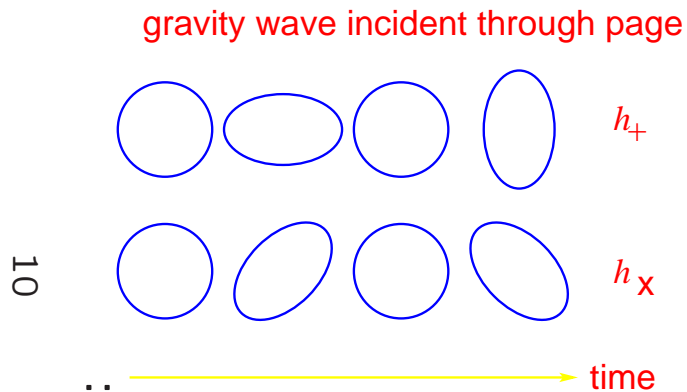
$$\gamma_{ij} \approx \delta_{ij} + \begin{pmatrix} h_+ & h_\times & 0 \\ -h_\times & -h_+ & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad (8)$$

looks like rotation: roughly speaking preserves volume but changes angles

moreover:  $h$  satisfies massless wave equation!

$h \Leftrightarrow$  **gravitational radiation**

effect on a ring of test particles:



## Metric Fluctuations

tensor perturbations directly are metric perturbation  
what about the inflaton perturbations?

curvature perturbation in an invariant (coordinate independent):

$$\zeta = \Phi + H\delta t = \Phi + H\frac{\delta\phi}{\dot{\phi}} \quad (9)$$

$\Phi(\vec{x}, t)$  is local *gravitational potential perturbation*

inflation fluctuations  $\phi$  also are metric perturbations  
but amplitude differs from gravity wave amplitude

by factor  $H/\dot{\phi}$

and thus scalar perturbation variance differs by factor

$$r = \frac{\Delta_h^2}{\Delta_\Phi^2} \sim \left(\frac{\dot{\phi}}{H}\right)^2 \sim \epsilon \quad (10)$$

# Inflationary Tensor Perturbations

variance as a function of scale (wavenumber)

$$\Delta_h^2(k) \sim \left( \frac{V}{m_{\text{pl}}^4} \right)_{aH=k} \quad (11)$$

- evaluated at “horizon crossing”  $aH = k$
- **directly probes inflation potential  $V(\phi)$ !**
- compare to density (“scalar”) perturbations:  
*tensor-to-scalar ratio*

$$r = \frac{\Delta_h^2}{\Delta_\Phi^2} = 16\epsilon \quad (12)$$

- for  $\epsilon \ll 1$ , expect  $r \ll 1$ : scalar dominates

## Testing Inflation: Status to Date

test by measuring density fluctuations  
and their statistical properties  
on various scales at various epochs

CMB at large angles (large scales, decoupling)

- nearly scale invariant! woo hoo! (COBE 93)
- Gaussian distribution (COBE, WMAP)  
www: 3-yr WMAP  $T$  distribution  
or nearly so...see Yadav & Wandelt (2007)
- WMAP, Planck: evidence for tilt! favors large scales (“red”)!  
Planck (2013):  $\alpha = -0.0397 \pm 0.0073$  nonzero at  $\sim 5\sigma$ !

These did not have to be true!

Not guaranteed to be due to inflation  
but very encouraging nonetheless

# Inflation Scorecard

Summary:

Inflation designed to solve horizon, flatness, smoothness  
does this, via accelerated expansion driven by inflaton

But unexpected bonus: structure  
inflaton field has quantum fluctuations  
imprinted before horizon crossing  
later return as density fluctuations  
→ inflationary seeds of cosmic structure?!

Thus far: observed cosmic density fields  
have spectrum, statistics as predicted by inflation

As of March 17, 2014: gravity wave background too (?!)  
probed by CMB polarization!

*all eyes on other polarization experiments!*

# Director's Cut Extras

## Fluctuation Spectrum: In More Detail

Starting point of more rigorous treatment  
in equation of motion

$$\ddot{\phi} + 3H\dot{\phi} - \nabla^2\phi + V'(\phi) = 0 \quad (13)$$

write field as sum

$$\phi = \phi_{\text{classical}}(t) + \delta\phi(t, \vec{x}) \quad (14)$$

- **classical amplitude**  $\phi_{\text{cl}}(t)$   
spatially homogeneous: *smooth, classical, background* field  
evolves according to classical equation of motion  
→ this has been our focus thus far; now add
- **quantum fluctuations**  $\delta\phi(t, \vec{x})$   
these can vary across space and with time



decompose spatial part of fluctuations into plane waves

$$\delta\phi(t, \vec{x}) = \sum_{\vec{k}} \delta\phi_{\vec{k}}(t) e^{i\vec{k}\cdot\vec{x}_{\text{com}}} \quad (15)$$

convenient to label Fourier modes by

*comoving wavelength*  $\lambda \equiv \lambda_{\text{com}}$ , wavenumber  $k \equiv k_{\text{com}} = 2\pi/\lambda_{\text{com}}$

but *physical wavelength*  $\lambda_{\text{phys}} = a\lambda_{\text{com}}$ , wavenumber  $k_{\text{phys}} = k/a$

as long as quantum perturbations  $\delta\phi$  small (linear evolution)

each wavelength—i.e., scale—evolves independently

→ main reason to use Fourier modes

classically  $\delta\phi = (\delta\phi)^2 = 0$  by definition!

17 Q: *what is physical significance of quantum excitations in  $\phi$ ?*

## The Quantum Inflaton Field

quantum mechanically:

- true  $\phi$  has fluctuations around background value
- each  $\vec{k}$  mode  $\leftrightarrow$  independent quantum states (oscillators)
- mode fluctuations *quantized*  $\rightarrow$  quanta are inflaton particles analogous to photons as EM quanta
- occupation numbers:  $n_{\vec{k}} > 0 \rightarrow$  real particles present
- if  $n_{\vec{k}} = 0 \rightarrow \langle \delta\phi \rangle = 0$  no particles (vacuum/ground state)  
but zero-point fluctuations still present  $\langle \delta\phi^2 \rangle \neq 0$

## Fluctuation Lagrangian

expand each  $\vec{k}$  mode around classical value

$$\mathcal{L}_{\vec{k}} = \frac{1}{2} \dot{\delta\phi}_{\vec{k}}^2 - \frac{1}{2} \frac{k^2}{a^2} \delta\phi_{\vec{k}}^2 - \frac{1}{2} V''(\phi_{\text{cl}}) \delta\phi_{\vec{k}}^2 - V(\phi_{\text{cl}}) \quad (16)$$

$$\approx \frac{1}{2} \dot{\delta\phi}_{\vec{k}}^2 - \frac{1}{2} \frac{k^2}{a^2} \delta\phi_{\vec{k}}^2 \quad (17)$$

where slow roll  $\rightarrow$  potential terms small

$\rightarrow$  a **massless simple harmonic oscillator**

$\delta\phi$  vacuum state: zero point fluctuations

formally same a quantum harmonic oscillator!

for *each  $k$  mode*, fluctuation *amplitudes random*

but probability distribution is like  $n = 0$  oscillator

$$P(\delta\phi_{\vec{k}}) \propto e^{-\delta\phi_{\vec{k}}^2 / 2\sigma_{\vec{k}}^2} \quad (18)$$

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where variance  $\sigma_{\vec{k}}^2 = \langle \delta\phi_{\vec{k}}^2 \rangle$

$\rightarrow$  vacuum fluctuation amplitudes have *gaussian* distribution

Total  $\phi$  energy density is  $\rho_\phi = \rho_{\text{background}} + \rho_{\text{zeropoint}} + \rho_{\text{particles}}$   
pre-inflation: could have  $\rho_{\text{particles}} \neq 0$   
in fact: if thermalized,  $\rho_{\text{particles}} \propto T^4$  (radiation)  
→ inflation only begins when  $\rho_{\text{background}} \gg \rho_{\text{particles}}$   
*Q: what happens to inflatons after inflation begins?*

after inflation begins, universe rapidly expanded, cooled  
inflaton diluted away  
→ inflation field driven to **vacuum (ground) state**

Since  $\phi$  in quantum vacuum state: fluctuations are zero-point  
→ **gaussian distribution** of amplitudes in each  $k$  mode  
→ strong prediction of slow-roll inflation

now want to solve for size of rms  $\sigma_k$  at each mode

classically, perturbations have equation of motion

$$\frac{d^2}{dt^2}\delta\phi + 3H\frac{d}{dt}\delta\phi + \frac{k^2}{a^2}\delta\phi + V''\delta\phi = 0 \quad (19)$$

$$\frac{d^2}{dt^2}\delta\phi + 3H\frac{d}{dt}\delta\phi + \frac{k^2}{a^2}\delta\phi \approx 0 \quad (20)$$

(in slow roll:  $V''$  term negligible)

## Sketch of Quantum Treatment

Promote  $\delta\phi \rightarrow$  operator  $\widehat{\delta\phi}$

plane wave expansion:  $\widehat{\delta\phi} = \sum_{\vec{k}} \widehat{\delta\phi}_{\vec{k}}$

introduce annihilation, creation operators  $\widehat{a}_{\vec{k}}, \widehat{a}_{-\vec{k}}^\dagger$ , then

$$\widehat{\delta\phi}_{\vec{k}} = w_k(t) \widehat{a}_{\vec{k}} + w_k^*(t) \widehat{a}_{-\vec{k}}^\dagger \quad (21)$$

where  $w_k(t)$  is a solution of field equation

$$\ddot{w}_k + 3H\dot{w}_k + \left(\frac{k}{a}\right)^2 w_k = 0 \quad (22)$$

Compare limits:

- $k/a \gg H \rightarrow k \gg aH \rightarrow \lambda \ll 2\pi d_{H,\text{com}}$

Q: *physical interpretation of limit?*

$w_k$  evolves as harmonic oscillator (free massless field)

- $k/a \ll H \rightarrow k \ll aH \rightarrow \lambda \gg 2\pi d_{H,\text{com}}$

Q: *physical interpretation of limit?*

$\dot{w}_k \propto a^{-3} \rightarrow 0 \rightarrow w_k$  value “frozen”

# Inflation Perturbations: Evolution and Horizons

**sub-horizon scales**  $\lambda \ll 2\pi d_{H,\text{com}}$

inflaton fluctuations  $\delta\phi$  are causally connected

evolve like harmonic oscillator  $\rightarrow$  rms amplitude  $\langle |w_k|^2 \rangle$  *constant*

but cosmic acceleration during inflation  $\rightarrow d_{H,\text{com}}$  *shrinks*

since  $\dot{d}_{H,\text{com}} = d(aH)^{-1}/dt = d(\dot{a}^{-1})/dt = -\ddot{a}/\dot{a}^2 < 0$  during inf  
 $d_{H,\text{com}}$  shrinkage: initially sub-horizon scales  $\rightarrow$  super-horizon

**super-horizon scales**  $\lambda \gg 2\pi d_{H,\text{com}}$

fluctuations out of causal contact

amplitude “frozen in” until post-inflation  $d_{H,\text{com}}$  regrows

# Inflation Perturbations: Spectrum of Amplitudes

examine fluctuations from vacuum

→ find expected amplitudes  $w_k$

since fluctuations have *quantum* origin

- cannot predict definite values for mode amplitudes, phases
- but *can* predict statistical properties

for *different* modes  $\vec{k}$  and  $\vec{k}'$ ,

Q: *what do we expect?*



for *different* modes  $\vec{k}$  and  $\vec{k}'$ ,  
expectation is

$$\langle \widehat{\delta\phi}_{\vec{k}} \widehat{\delta\phi}_{\vec{k}'} \rangle = w_k w_{k'} \langle \widehat{a}_{\vec{k}} \widehat{a}_{\vec{k}'}^\dagger \rangle + \text{c.c.} = 0 \quad (23)$$

because  $\langle \widehat{a}_{\vec{k}} \widehat{a}_{\vec{k}'}^\dagger \rangle = \langle \widehat{a}_{\vec{k}} \rangle \langle \widehat{a}_{\vec{k}'}^\dagger \rangle = 0$

$\Rightarrow$  modes are *statistically independent*

note: true even if  $|\vec{k}| = |\vec{k}'| = k$  but  $\vec{k} \cdot \vec{k}' = 0$

i.e., different directions  $\vec{k} = k\hat{x}$ ,  $\vec{k}' = k\hat{y}$

$\Rightarrow$  *phase*  $e^{i\vec{k}\cdot\vec{x}}$  is *random*

for a single mode  $k$ , vacuum expectation is

$$\langle \widehat{\delta\phi}_{\vec{k}}^2 \rangle = |w_k|^2 \langle \widehat{a}\widehat{a}^\dagger + \widehat{a}^\dagger\widehat{a} \rangle = |w_k|^2 \neq 0 \quad (24)$$

$$= \frac{H^2}{2L^3 k^3} \quad (25)$$

where last expression

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- from full quantum calculation, in box of size  $L$
- to be evaluated at horizon crossing:  $k_{\text{phys}} = H \rightarrow k = aH$

each in phase space volume

$$d^3x d^3k = \frac{1}{(2\pi L)^3} 4\pi k^2 dk = \frac{4\pi k^3}{(2\pi L)^3} \frac{dk}{k} \quad (26)$$

then fluctuation amplitude is

$$P_\phi(k) \frac{dk}{k} \equiv \frac{4\pi k^3}{(2\pi L)^3} |\delta\phi_k|^2 \frac{dk}{k} = \left(\frac{H}{2\pi}\right)^2 \frac{dk}{k} \quad (27)$$

and so the phase space fluctuation density in  $\phi$  is

$$P_\phi(k) = \left(\frac{H}{2\pi}\right)^2_{k=aH} \quad (28)$$

as before, but now

- explicitly seen independence of  $k$
- know when to evaluate: at horizon crossing  $k = aH$

## Fluctuation Evolution and Spectrum

consider some fixed (comoving) scale  $\lambda = 2\pi/k$  key idea: causal physics acts until  $\lambda > d_{H,\text{com}}$ : “horizon crossing”  
→ quantum fluctuations laid down while inside  $d_{H,\text{com}}$   
“frozen in” once outside of  $d_{H,\text{com}}$

from last time: quantum analysis gives fluctuation variance

$$\langle (\delta\phi_k)^2 \rangle = \left( \frac{H}{2\pi} \right)_{k=aH}^2 \quad (29)$$

to be evaluated at horizon crossing:  $k = 1/d_{H,\text{com}} = aH$

## Fluctuation Evolution and Spectrum

consider some fixed (comoving) scale  $\lambda = 2\pi/k$  key idea: causal physics acts until  $\lambda > d_{H,\text{com}}$ : “horizon crossing”  
→ quantum fluctuations laid down while inside  $d_{H,\text{com}}$   
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from last time: quantum analysis gives fluctuation variance

$$\langle (\delta\phi_k)^2 \rangle = \left( \frac{H}{2\pi} \right)_{k=aH}^2 \quad (30)$$

to be evaluated at horizon crossing:  $k = 1/d_{H,\text{com}} = aH$

# Inflationary Density Perturbations: Spectrum

Recall: density fluctuations  $\rightarrow$  start inflating earlier (later)

$\rightarrow$  more (less) expansion than average

extra scale factor boost  $\delta a/a = H\delta t = H\delta\phi/\dot{\phi} \rightarrow$  larger volume

$\rightarrow$  density perturbations have mean square

$$\delta_{\text{inf}}^2(k) \equiv \left(\frac{\delta\rho}{\rho}\right)_k^2 \quad (31)$$

$$\sim \left(\frac{\delta a}{a}\right)^2 = \left(\frac{H}{\dot{\phi}}\right)^2 (\delta\phi)^2 = \left(\frac{H}{\dot{\phi}}\right)^2 \left(\frac{H}{2\pi}\right)^2 \quad (32)$$

evaluated at  $aH = k$

slow roll:  $H, \dot{\phi}$  slowly varying

$\rightarrow$  expect fluctuation amplitude  $\sim H^4/\dot{\phi}^2 \sim \text{const}$   
over wide range of  $k$

In particular: slow roll  $\dot{\phi} = -3V'/H$ ,  
 and  $H^2 = V/3m_{\text{pl}}^2$ , which gives

$$\delta_{\text{inf}}^2(k) = \frac{1}{12\pi^2 m_{\text{pl}}^6} \left( \frac{V^3}{V'^2} \right) = \frac{1}{24\pi^2 m_{\text{pl}}^4} \left( \frac{V}{\epsilon} \right) \quad (33)$$

where  $\epsilon = m_{\text{pl}}(V'/V)^2/2$

anticipating  $\sim$  power law behavior,

define  $\delta_{\text{inf}}^2(k) \sim k^{\alpha(k)}$

then scale dependence is

$$\alpha(k) = \frac{d \ln \delta_{\text{inf}}^2(k)}{d \ln k} \quad (34)$$

evaluated when comoving scale  $k = aH$  crosses horizon

$\omega$  i.e., this relates  $k$  to homogeneous  $a, \phi$  values

Underlying physical question:

how do cosmic properties—e.g.,  $H, \rho \approx V$ —change while the universe inflates as it slowly rolls?

- if no change  $\rightarrow \dot{\phi} = 0 \rightarrow$  same  $V, H$  always  $\rightarrow \epsilon = 0$   
all scales see same  $U$  when leaving horizon  $k = aH$   
 $\rightarrow$  all scales have same quantum fluctuations
- but *slow* roll  $\neq$  *no* roll!  
 $\dot{\phi} \neq 0 \rightarrow U$  properties *do* change

recall:  $\delta_{\text{inf}}^2(k) \propto V/\epsilon$

and as slowly roll  $\rightarrow V$  decreasing,  $\epsilon$  increasing

and horizon scale  $d_{H,\text{com}}$  also decreases

*Q: so which scales get larger perturbations? smaller?*

because  $V$  decreasing,  $\epsilon$  increasing

$\delta_{\text{inf}}^2(k) \propto V/\epsilon$  decreases with time

→ smaller perturbations later in slow roll

since horizon scale  $d_{H,\text{com}}$  decreases

later times  $\leftrightarrow$  smaller scales

$\Rightarrow$  slow roll  $\rightarrow$  *smaller* perturbations on *smaller* scales

$\Rightarrow$  perturbation spectrum *tilted* to large scales  $\rightarrow$  small  $k$

in slow roll,  $k = aH$  change mostly due to  $a$ :

$$d \ln k \approx d \ln a = \frac{da}{a} = H dt \quad (35)$$

recast in terms of inflaton potential

$$= \frac{H d\phi}{\dot{\phi}} = -3 \frac{H^2}{V'} d\phi \quad (36)$$



and so

$$\frac{d}{d \ln k} = -m_{\text{pl}}^2 \frac{V'}{V} \frac{d}{d\phi} \quad (37)$$

Using this, can show:

$$\alpha(k) = \frac{d \ln \delta_{\text{inf}}^2(k)}{d \ln k} = -6\epsilon + 2\eta \quad (38)$$

i.e., perturbation spectrum  $\delta_{\text{inf}}^2(k) \propto k^{-6\epsilon+2\eta}$

Major result!

*Q: why? what does this mean physically? for cosmology? for inflation?*