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Inflationary potentials with the exponential vs polynomial approach to the plateau

Monday, September 22, 2025 5:00 PM (30 minutes)

One of the conclusions based ob the Planck data was that inflationary potentials have a plateau, which is approached exponentially fast at the large values of the scalar field. However, recent data from ACT, DESI, and SPT show that the inflationary spectral index n_s is slightly higher than its value based on the Planck data. We will explain why this small deviation, if confirmed, is very significant: it disfavors some of the most popular inflationary models of the last decade, and suggests that the inflaton potentials approach the plateau not exponentially but polynomially.

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