

Isotropisation in the Approach to a Singularity

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Mainly based on
Ganguly & JQ [arXiv:2109.11701]

Motivation

- The early universe can be explained by a period of inflation after the big bang
→ produces a **flat, isotropic** universe with **scale-invariant** curvature perturbations
- However, other alternatives exist that could also explain the early universe
→ often involves physics 'before the big bang'
- E.g., bouncing cosmology, where the 'primordial physics' occurs during a **contracting phase** (prior to a bounce and the onset of standard big bang cosmology with radiation domination)

Bouncing cosmology

- ✓ Flatness problem: $\Omega = 1$, where ($8\pi G_N = 1$ throughout this talk)

$$\Omega \equiv \frac{\rho_{\text{matter}}}{3H^2} = 1 + \frac{k}{(aH)^2},$$

is an attractor for $\dot{a} < 0$ and $1 + 3w > 0$ ($w \equiv p/\rho$):

$$\text{Friedmann eqs.} \implies \frac{d|\Omega - 1|}{dt} = (1 + 3w) \left(\frac{\dot{a}}{a} \right) \Omega(\Omega - 1)$$

- ✓ Horizon problem: comoving horizon $|aH|^{-1}$ is very large initially and shrinks
- ✓ Structure formation problem: certain fields can generate scale-invariant scalar perturbations, e.g.,
 - adiabatic ‘**dust field**’ [Wands \[gr-qc/9809062\]](#), [Finelli & Brandenberger \[hep-th/0112249\]](#)
 - entropic **negative exponential scalar field** (ekpyrotic) [Lehners et al. \[hep-th/0702153\]](#), [Buchbinder et al. \[hep-th/0702154\]](#)

Bouncing cosmology

- ✗ Anisotropy problem: anisotropies typically tend to grow and dominate over everything else as $a \searrow 0$ (in the approach to the would-be big crunch singularity)

For different components with $\rho^{(w)} \propto a^{-3(1+w)}$ ($w < 1$),

$$3H^2 = \Lambda - \frac{k}{a^2} + \frac{\rho_0^{(\text{mat.})}}{a^3} + \frac{\rho_0^{(\text{rad.})}}{a^4} + \frac{\rho_0^{(\text{ani.})}}{a^6} .$$

(This does not appear to be a problem for matter with $w > 1$.)

⇒ Any bouncing alternative to inflation that wants to be viable and legitimately considered must solve these problems:

- ▶ anisotropies must not disrupt the contracting background that generates the right perturbations;
- ▶ anisotropies must not disrupt the bounce.

Anisotropy evolution in GR with a perfect fluid

- Consider a Bianchi type-I metric:

$$g_{\mu\nu} dx^\mu dx^\nu = -dt^2 + a(t)^2 \sum_{i=1}^3 e^{2\beta_{(i)}(t)} (dx^i)^2, \quad \sum_{i=1}^3 \beta_{(i)}(t) = 0$$

$$a_{(i)} = a e^{\beta_{(i)}}, \quad \ln a = \langle \ln a_{(i)} \rangle, \quad H \equiv \dot{a}/a = \langle H_{(i)} \rangle, \quad H_{(i)} = H + \dot{\beta}_{(i)}$$

- Hypersurface with timelike unit normal u^μ has

$$\underbrace{K_{\mu\nu}}_{\text{extr. curv.}} = \underbrace{(g_{\mu\nu} + u_\mu u_\nu)}_{h_{\mu\nu}} H + \underbrace{\sigma_{\mu\nu}}_{\text{shear}}, \quad \sigma_i^j = \dot{\beta}_{(i)} \delta_i^j, \quad \sigma^2 \equiv \frac{1}{2} \sigma_{ij} \sigma^{ij} = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^3 \dot{\beta}_{(i)}^2$$

- Einstein field equations \implies FLRW + shear anisotropy component:

$$3H^2 = \rho + \sigma^2, \quad 2\dot{H} = -(\rho + p) - 2\sigma^2$$

$$\dot{\sigma}_i^j + 3H\sigma_i^j = 0 \implies \ddot{\beta}_{(i)} + 3H\dot{\beta}_{(i)} = 0 \implies \dot{\beta}_{(i)} \propto a^{-3}$$

$$\implies p_\sigma = \rho_\sigma = \sigma^2 = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^3 \dot{\beta}_{(i)}^2 \propto a^{-6}$$

Anisotropy evolution in GR with a perfect fluid

- ▶ Shear anisotropy component behaves as a set of massless scalar fields $\mathcal{L} = -\frac{1}{2}\partial_\mu\beta_I\partial^\mu\beta^I$, i.e., with stiff EoS

- ▶ When the shear anisotropy component dominates,

$$H^2 \sim \sigma^2 \propto a^{-6} \implies a(t) \sim |t|^{1/3}$$

→ Kasner singularity as $t \nearrow 0$

→ 'Belinski-Khalatnikov-Lifshitz (BKL) instability'

- ▶ Tuning the initial conditions for anisotropies to remain subdominant would be quite huge (see additional slides)

Ekpyrosis

- How about scalar fields with negative exponential potential?

$$\mathcal{L} = \sum_I \left(-\frac{1}{2} \partial_\mu \phi_I \partial^\mu \phi_I + V_I e^{-c_I \phi_I} \right), \quad V_I > 0, \quad c_I^2 > 6$$

- Those can arise as moduli of higher-dim. brane constructions in string theory (e.g., distance between ‘end-of-the-world’ branes)
- Background scaling solution:

$$a(t) \propto (-t)^{1/\epsilon}, \quad \epsilon \equiv -\frac{\dot{H}}{H^2} = \frac{1}{2} \left(\sum_I c_I^{-2} \right)^{-1} > 3, \quad w = \frac{2\epsilon}{3} - 1 > 1$$

- Direction \perp to background trajectory in field space generates scale-invariant scalar perturbations

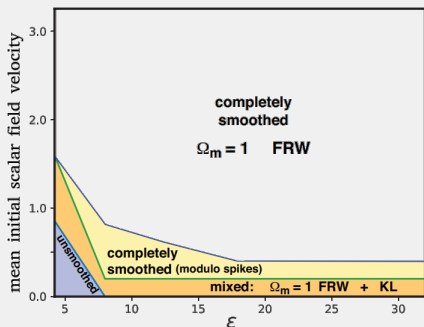
Isotropisation in ekpyrosis

- Ekpyrotic fields dilute anisotropies

$$3H^2 = \dots + \frac{\rho_0^{(\text{ani.})}}{a^6} + \frac{\rho_0^{(\text{ek.})}}{a^{2\epsilon}}, \quad \epsilon > 3$$

→ FRW is an attractor “Cosmic no hair for collapsing universes”, Lidsey [hep-th/0511174]

- Highly efficient and even robust to large anisotropic, curved, and inhomogeneous ICs Garfinkle *et al.* [0808.0542], figure below adapted from Ijjas *et al.* [2006.04999]



Isotropisation with massive gravity

- In GR:

$$S \supset \int d^3x dt a^3 \left(\frac{1}{2} \dot{\beta}_{(i)}^2 \right) \xrightarrow{\delta_{\beta_{(i)}} S=0} \ddot{\beta}_{(i)} + 3H \dot{\beta}_{(i)} = 0$$

- But if the graviton has a mass m_g :

$$S \supset \int d^3x dt a^3 \left(\frac{1}{2} \dot{\beta}_{(i)}^2 - \frac{1}{2} m_g^2 \beta_{(i)}^2 \right) \xrightarrow{\delta_{\beta_{(i)}} S=0} \ddot{\beta}_{(i)} + 3H \dot{\beta}_{(i)} + m_g^2 \beta_{(i)} = 0$$

- If $m_g^2 \gg H^2$, then anisotropies behave like an oscillating massive field with matter EoS in average: the EOMs are solved for

$$\beta_{(i)}(t) \propto \frac{\sin(m_g t)}{m_g t}, \quad H(t) = \frac{2}{3t} \implies \rho_\sigma = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^3 \left(\dot{\beta}_{(i)}^2 + m_g^2 \beta_{(i)}^2 \right) \propto a^{-3}$$

⇒ Anisotropies may be subdominant even during matter domination!

⇒ Solves many issues of “matter bounce cosmology” at once

Lin, Brandenberger & JQ [1711.10472]

Isotropisation with massive gravity

- 0-mode tensor perturbations \equiv anisotropies:

$$\delta g_{ij} = a^2 \gamma_{ij} \implies \sigma_i{}^j = \frac{1}{2} \dot{\gamma}_i{}^j$$

$$\implies S \supset \int d^3x dt a^3 \left((\dot{\gamma}_i{}^j)^2 - (\vec{\nabla} \gamma_i{}^j)^2 - m_g^2 (\gamma_i{}^j)^2 \right)$$

$$\xrightarrow{\vec{\nabla} \gamma_i{}^j \rightarrow 0} \ddot{\gamma}_i{}^j + 3H \dot{\gamma}_i{}^j + m_g^2 \gamma_i{}^j = 0 \quad \longrightarrow \gamma_i{}^j \text{ suppressed}$$

\Rightarrow Solves the large tensor-to-scalar ratio problem of matter bounce cosmology

JQ *et al.* [1508.04141], Li, JQ *et al.* [1612.02036]

- $m_g \lesssim \mathcal{O}(10^{-23} \text{ eV})$ today $\implies m_g$ would have had to be time dependent to have $m_g > |H_{\text{bounce}}|$
- Adding a mass to a spin-2 field typically excites 3 new d.o.f.
- Only the 2 standard polarisation modes if Lorentz invariance is partially broken Dubovsky *et al.* [hep-th/0411158], Lin & Labun [1501.07160], Lin & Sasaki [1504.01373], Domènech *et al.* [1701.05554], Lin & Mukohyama [1708.03757], Kuroyanagi *et al.* [1710.06789]

Isotropisation with a non-perfect fluid

Details in Ganguly & JQ [arXiv:2109.11701] from here on

- Ignoring heat transfer,

$$T_{\mu\nu} = \rho u_\mu u_\nu + p h_{\mu\nu} + \pi_{\mu\nu}$$

→ EOMs are modified:

$$\dot{\rho} + 3H(\rho + p) = -\pi^{ij}\sigma_{ij}, \quad \dot{\sigma}_i{}^j + 3H\sigma_i{}^j = \pi_i{}^j$$

- A fluid with shear viscosity has an anisotropic stress according to

$$\pi_{ij} = -2\eta\sigma_{ij}$$

- ▶ AdS/CFT points to a universal lower bound on shear viscosity

e.g., Son & Starinets [0704.0240]

$$\frac{\eta}{s} \geq \frac{1}{4\pi}$$

- ▶ From kinetic theory,

$$\eta \sim c_s \rho \ell_{\text{mfp}}$$

Toy model: finite-temperature interacting field theory

- Canonical scalar field, minimally coupled to gravity, with potential

$$V(\phi) = \frac{1}{2}m^2\phi^2 + \frac{\lambda}{4!}\phi^4$$

Extreme regimes:

- ▶ $T \ll m$, matter-like, $\rho \sim a^{-3}$
 - ▶ $T \gg m/\lambda$, radiation-like, $\rho \sim a^{-4} \propto T^4$
- At high- T , the $\lambda\phi^4$ self interaction implies a cross-section

$$\sigma \sim \frac{\lambda^2}{T^2} \implies \ell_{\text{mfp}} \sim \frac{1}{n\sigma} \sim \frac{1}{\lambda^2 T} \implies \eta \sim \rho \ell_{\text{mfp}} \sim \frac{T^3}{\lambda^2} \propto a^{-3}$$

- ▶ Note that $\eta/s \sim 1/\lambda^2 \gtrsim 1$ for $\lambda \lesssim 1$

Isotropisation with an interacting scalar field theory

- Shear evolution ($\eta = \kappa/a^3$, $\kappa > 0$):

$$\dot{\sigma}_i^j + 3H\sigma_i^j = \pi_i^j = -2\eta\sigma_i^j \implies \dot{\sigma}_i^j + 3H\sigma_i^j = -2\frac{\kappa}{a^3}\sigma_i^j$$

- Assuming radiation domination initially (FLRW), $a(t) = \sqrt{t/t_0}$ ($t, t_0 < 0$) and the solution reads

$$\sigma^2 \propto \frac{1}{a^6} \exp\left(-\frac{8\kappa|t_0|}{a}\right) \xrightarrow{a \searrow 0} 0$$

- ⊗ Caveat: one cannot trust this all the way to $a \searrow 0$ since viscosity only makes sense on length scales smaller than the size of the system, here when $\ell_{\text{mfp}} < |H|^{-1}$, but $\ell_{\text{mfp}} \sim T^{-1} \sim a$ and $H^2 \sim \rho \sim a^{-4}$
- ⊗ In the similar spirit, it does not make sense to take the $\lambda \searrow 0$ limit

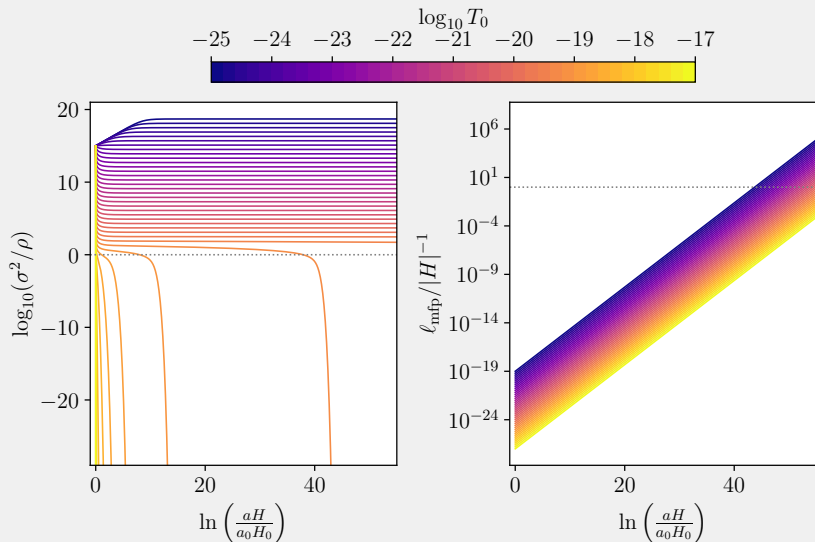
Isotropisation with an interacting scalar field theory

- Consider a situation where shear is already dominating the universe
- ▶ Can the viscosity from the subdominant radiation-like interacting scalar field isotropise the universe while in the regime $\ell_{\text{mfp}} < |H|^{-1}$?
- ▶ Let's numerically solve

$$\dot{\rho} + 4H\rho = \frac{4T_0^3}{\lambda^2} \left(\frac{a_0}{a}\right)^3 \sigma^2, \quad \dot{\sigma}_i{}^j + 3H\sigma_i{}^j = -\frac{2T_0^3}{\lambda^2} \left(\frac{a_0}{a}\right)^3 \sigma_i{}^j$$

$$\lambda = 10^{-3}, \quad H_0 = -10^{-50}, \quad \frac{\sigma_0^2}{\rho_0} = 10^{15}$$

Isotropisation with an interacting scalar field theory



Isotropisation with an interacting scalar field theory

- Is this robust to the inclusion of curvature anisotropies?
- ▶ In a Bianchi type-IX spacetime,

$$h^i_j = a^2 \text{diag} \left(e^{2\beta_+ + 2\sqrt{3}\beta_-}, e^{2\beta_+ - 2\sqrt{3}\beta_-}, e^{-4\beta_+} \right)$$

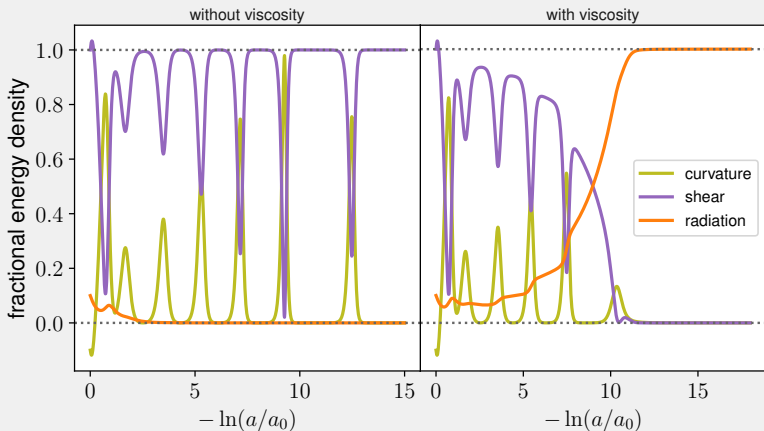
$$U(\beta_+, \beta_-) = \frac{1}{4} e^{-8\beta_+} - e^{-2\beta_+} \cosh \left(2\sqrt{3}\beta_- \right) + e^{4\beta_+} \sinh^2 \left(2\sqrt{3}\beta_- \right)$$

$$3H^2 = \rho + \sigma^2 + \frac{1}{a^2} U(\beta_+, \beta_-), \quad -2\dot{H} = \rho + p + 2\sigma^2 + \frac{2}{3a^2} U(\beta_+, \beta_-)$$

$$\dot{\rho} + 3H(\rho + p) = 4\eta\sigma^2, \quad \ddot{\beta}_\pm + 3H\dot{\beta}_\pm + \frac{1}{6a^2} \partial_{\beta_\pm} U = -2\eta\dot{\beta}_\pm, \quad \sigma^2 = 3(\dot{\beta}_+^2 + \dot{\beta}_-^2)$$

Isotropisation with an interacting scalar field theory

$$\frac{\rho_0}{3H_0^2} = \frac{1}{10}, \quad \frac{\sigma_0^2}{3H_0^2} = 1, \quad \frac{{}^{(3)}R_0}{6H_0^2} = \frac{1}{10}$$



What about other cosmic fluids exhibiting viscosity

- Consider a gas of nearly pressureless dust-like matter: this is typically unstable to gravitational collapse
- ▶ Fluid with small sound speed \implies gravitational instability
 \implies black hole formation [JQ & Brandenberger \[1609.02556\]](#), [Chen *et al.* \[1609.02571\]](#)
- ▶ Black holes attract each other gravitationally (they 'interact')
 \implies a 'fluid of black holes' is viscous
- ▶ Small black holes ($R \ll |H|^{-1}$), dilute gas:

$$\sigma \sim \left(\frac{R}{c_s^2}\right)^2, \quad \ell_{\text{mfp}} \sim \frac{1}{n\sigma} \sim \frac{c_s^4}{\rho R}, \quad \eta \sim c_s \rho \ell_{\text{mfp}} \sim \frac{c_s^5}{R} \approx \text{const.}$$

$$\dot{\sigma}_i^j + 3H\sigma_i^j = -2\eta\sigma_i^j \implies \sigma^2 \sim \frac{e^{4\eta|t|}}{a^6}, \quad |t| \searrow 0$$

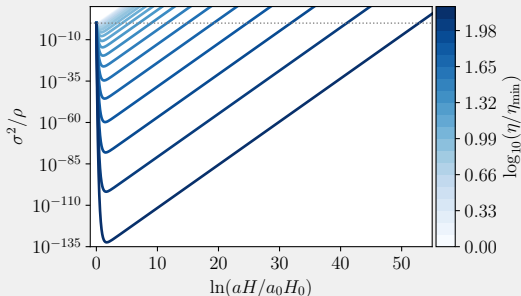
Dilute dust-like black hole gas

- ▶ If the background is matter dominated at first (FLRW),

$$\frac{\sigma^2}{\rho} = \left(\frac{a_0}{a}\right)^3 \exp\left[-\frac{4\eta}{3|H_0|} \left(1 - \left(\frac{a}{a_0}\right)^{3/2}\right)\right]$$

- ▶ One has isotropisation only if σ^2/ρ is decreasing, which can happen if

$$\eta > \frac{3}{2}|H_0| \equiv \eta_{\min}$$



Dilute dust-like black hole gas

- ⊗ The problem here is that $\eta > \eta_{\min}$ only if

$$c_s^5 > R|H_0|,$$

but recall that viscosity only makes sense if $\ell_{\text{mfp}} < |H|^{-1}$, which amounts to

$$c_s^4 \lesssim R|H|.$$

- ✗ Therefore, a dilute gas of black holes cannot realistically be viscous enough to isotropise a dust-like contracting universe

Let's push the black hole gas picture to the limit

- Imagine large black holes ($R \sim |H|^{-1}$) that dominate the universe near a big crunch
- Conjectured to be the state of matter at high density in the early universe, e.g., in string theory Banks & Fischler [many papers], Veneziano [e.g., hep-th/0312182], Masoumi & Mathur [1406.5798], Masoumi [1505.06787], JQ, Brandenberger, Gasperini & Veneziano [1809.01658], Mathur [2009.09832]
- Consider a volume with $N \sim V/R^3$ black holes:

$$E \sim NM \sim \frac{V}{R^2}, \quad S \sim NR^2 \sim \frac{V}{R} \implies S \sim \sqrt{EV}$$
$$\implies T = \left(\frac{\partial S}{\partial E} \right)_V^{-1} \sim \sqrt{\frac{E}{V}} = \sqrt{\rho}, \quad p = T \left(\frac{\partial S}{\partial V} \right)_E = \frac{E}{V} = \rho$$

- Stiff $p = \rho$ fluid with $s \equiv S/V \sim \sqrt{\rho}$
- No shear by construction since we recover the Friedmann equation

$$\rho = \frac{E}{V} \sim \frac{1}{R^2} \sim H^2$$

Dense black hole gas viscosity

- As before

$$\sigma \sim R^2, \quad \ell_{\text{mfp}} \sim \frac{1}{n\sigma} \sim R, \quad \eta \sim \frac{1}{R} \sim |H| \sim \sqrt{\rho}, \quad \frac{\eta}{s} = \text{const.}$$

- So for $\eta = \kappa|H|$ with κ of order 1, we have

$$\dot{\sigma}_i^j + 3H\sigma_i^j = 2\kappa H\sigma_i^j \implies \sigma^2 \propto \frac{1}{a^{6-4\kappa}}$$

- ⇒ forbids anisotropies from winning over compared to the ‘stiff background’ with $\rho \propto a^{-6}$:

$$\frac{\sigma^2}{\rho} \propto a^{4\kappa} \xrightarrow{a \rightarrow 0} 0$$

- In other words, anisotropies can never develop
- Only microphysical example of $\eta \propto \sqrt{\rho}$, which was known as a parametrisation to lead to an isotropic singularity (full isotropisation by the time $a = 0$) [Belinski \[1310.5112\]](#), [Belinski & Henneaux, Ganguly & Bruni \[1902.06356\]](#), [Ganguly \[2008.02286\]](#)

Summary

- In GR with a $T_{\mu\nu}$ satisfying the DEC, anisotropies always end up dominating in a contracting universe
 - it's a problem for bouncing cosmology
 - e.g., it would involve fine tuning the ICs in matter domination more than to resolve the curvature problem of standard big bang cosmology (see additional slides)
- Ekpyrosis ($p_\phi > \rho_\phi$) appears well suited and robust as a resolution to this problem
- Other resolutions exist though:
 - ▶ massive gravity
 - ▶ viscous fluid (any realistic interacting fluid)
 - ▶ other modified gravity (e.g., limiting curvature [Sakakihara, Yoshida, Takahashi & JQ \[2005.10844\]](#); see additional slides)

Summary

Isotropisation due to viscosity:

- Finite- T $\lambda\phi^4$ theory can robustly isotropise the universe to radiation-dominated FLRW for $\mathcal{O}(100)$ e -folds, but not all the way to arbitrarily small a
→ could still be part of a bigger scenario
 - Dust-like fluid as a dilute gas of black holes exhibits viscosity, but not enough to remain isotropic
→ still BKL unstable, so no good for matter bounce
 - Hypothetical dense black hole gas is viscous ($\eta \propto \sqrt{\rho}$) and is robust against the growth of anisotropies
→ relevant for stringy constructions proposing this state of matter
- ⇒ Realistic fluids have interactions at the microscopic level and therefore viscosity, which can often play an important role in the cosmology
→ e.g., gravitational wave damping

Thank you for your attention!

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Additional slides

How much of a problem?

Can't we fine-tune the initial conditions? [Levy \[1611.08972\]](#)

- Recall

$$\Omega_k \equiv \frac{\rho^{(\text{curv.})}}{3H^2} \propto \frac{1}{(aH)^2} = \frac{1}{\dot{a}^2}$$

- Flatness problem in standard big bang cosmology (say radiation dominated with $a \propto \sqrt{t}$, $T \propto 1/a$):

$$\frac{\Omega_k(t_{\text{today}})}{\Omega_k(t_{\text{Pl}})} = \frac{t_{\text{today}}}{t_{\text{Pl}}} = \left(\frac{T_{\text{Pl}}}{T_{\text{today}}} \right)^2 \approx e^{146}$$

→ Exaggerated here, but that's why we typically say that we need 60 e -folds of inflation, where

$$\mathcal{N} \propto \ln(a|H|)$$

- Say we want 60 e -folds of matter-dominated contraction now with

$$a \propto |t|^{2/3} \implies |H| \propto a^{-3/2}$$

$$\implies \mathcal{N} \equiv \ln \left(\frac{a|H|}{a_0|H_0|} \right) = \frac{1}{2} \ln \left(\frac{a_0}{a} \right)$$

- Anisotropy problem ($f \equiv \rho^{(\text{ani.})} / \rho^{(\text{mat.})}$):

$$\frac{f}{f_0} = \left(\frac{a}{a_0} \right)^{-3} = e^{6\mathcal{N}} \stackrel{!}{=} e^{360}$$

- Big fine-tuning problem. Way more than the flatness problem of standard big bang cosmology

\Rightarrow Very hard to get ‘stable’ matter-dominated contraction

Limiting (extrinsic) curvature

$$\mathcal{L} \supset \chi \mathcal{I} - V(\chi) \stackrel{\delta_\chi S=0}{\implies} \mathcal{I} = V'(\chi) \quad [\text{here } \mathcal{I} = \mathcal{I}(K_{\mu\nu}, h_{\mu\nu}, D_\mu)]$$
$$|V'(\chi)| \leq \text{const.} \implies |\mathcal{I}| \leq \text{const.}$$

- Can we construct $\mathcal{I} \propto \sigma^2$ in Bianchi I? Sure:

$$\mathcal{I} \equiv K^\mu{}_\nu K^\nu{}_\mu - \frac{1}{3}(K^\mu{}_\mu)^2 \stackrel{\text{BI}}{\equiv} 6\sigma^2$$

- Then, introduce a new vector field A_μ with

$$\mathcal{L} \supset \lambda(A_\mu A^\mu + 1) \stackrel{\delta_\lambda S=0}{\implies} A_\mu A^\mu = -1$$

→ defines a hypersurface with normal unit timelike vector $n^\mu = A^\mu$, so then $\mathcal{I} = \nabla^\mu A_\nu \nabla^\nu A_\mu - \frac{1}{3}(\nabla^\mu A_\mu)^2$ and the whole theory has

$$\mathcal{L} \supset \frac{R}{2} + \lambda(A_\mu A^\mu + 1) + \chi \left(\nabla^\mu A_\nu \nabla^\nu A_\mu - \frac{1}{3}(\nabla^\mu A_\mu)^2 \right) - V(\chi)$$

→ generalised mimetic/cuscuton/æther gravity in which shear anisotropies cannot blow up! [Sakakihara, Yoshida, Takahashi & JQ \[2005.10844\]](#)