

# Loop Blow-up Inflation

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*Based on arXiv:2403.04831*

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Can moduli stabilisation allow slow-roll conditions to be met?

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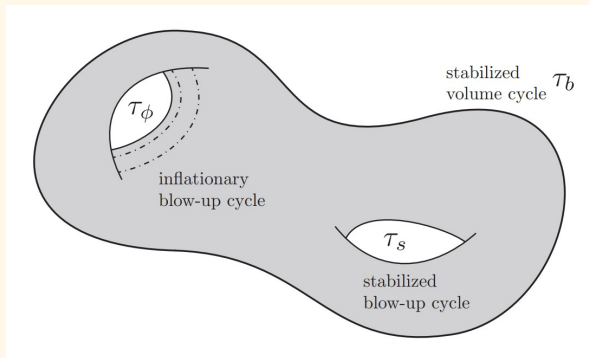
All moduli orthogonal to the overall volume obey approximate shift symmetry

⇒ volume modulus can be stabilized at a sufficiently large value

# Kähler moduli of type IIB flux compactifications

We consider a minimalistic model with 3 Kähler moduli.

Kähler moduli:  $T_i = \tau_i + i c_i$ ,  $i \in \{b, \phi, s\}$

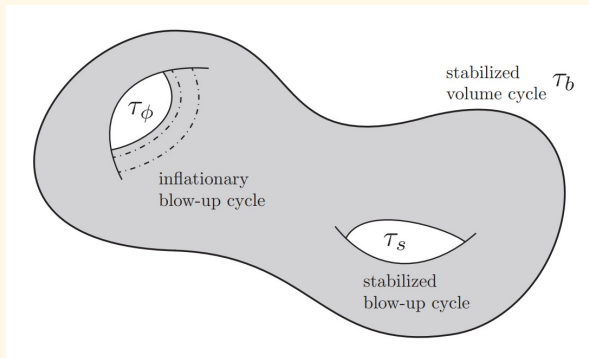


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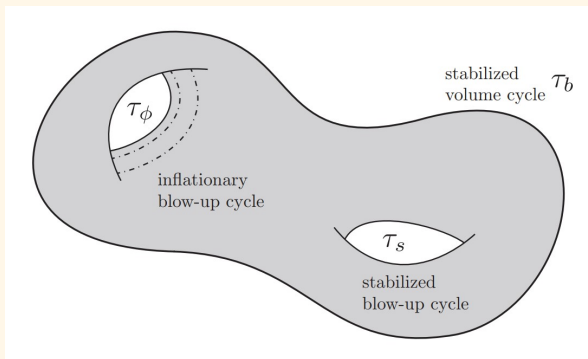
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$\tau_\phi$  and  $\tau_s$  are the blow-up modes





# Kähler moduli of type IIB flux compactifications

N=1 supergravity

$$\text{Superpotential: } W = W_0 + \underbrace{A_s e^{-a_s T_s} + A_\phi e^{-a_\phi T_\phi}}_{\text{non-pert corrections}}$$

$$\text{Kähler potential: } K = K_{\text{cs}} - 2 \ln(\mathcal{V}) - \underbrace{2 \ln(\hat{\xi}/2)}_{\alpha'^3 \text{ correction}}$$

$$\text{F-term scalar potential: } V_F = e^K \left( K^{I\bar{J}} D_I W \overline{D_{\bar{J}} W} - 3|W|^2 \right),$$

where  $D_I W = \partial_I W + (\partial_I K) W$  and  $K_{I\bar{J}} = \partial_I \partial_{\bar{J}} K$ .

Has the *no-scale* structure [Giddings, Kachru, Polchinski '02].

# Large Volume Scenario

In the regime  $\mathcal{V} \gg 1$  and  $\tau_b \gg \tau_i$  (for  $i = s, \phi$ )

$$V_{\text{LVS}} = \hat{V} \left[ \sum_{i=s,\phi} \mathcal{A}_i \frac{\sqrt{\tau_i} e^{-2a_i\tau_i}}{\mathcal{V}} - \sum_{i=s,\phi} \mathcal{B}_i \frac{\tau_i e^{-a_i\tau_i}}{\mathcal{V}^2} + \frac{3\hat{\xi}}{4\mathcal{V}^3} \right]$$

where

$$\hat{V} \equiv \left( \frac{g_s e^{K_{\text{cs}}}}{8\pi} \right) W_0^2, \quad \mathcal{A}_i \equiv \frac{8(a_i A_i)^2}{3W_0^2 \lambda_i}, \quad \mathcal{B}_i \equiv 4 \frac{a_i |A_i|}{W_0}$$

Large volume limit: On minimising the above potential w.r.t.  $\tau_s$  it can be seen that as  $\mathcal{V} \rightarrow \infty$ ,  $a_s \tau_s \approx \ln \mathcal{V}$ .

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Feasibility of anti-D3-brane uplift has been challenged [Junghans '22] [Gao, Hebecker, Schreyer, Venken '22 - '24]. It won't work but it's not required either.

Alternative uplift mechanisms:

- D-term effects [Braun, Rummel, Sumitomo, Valandro '15]
- dilaton-dependent non-perturbative contributions [Cicoli, Maharana, Quevedo, Burgess '12] [Retolaza, Uranga '16]
- T-branes [Cicoli, Quevedo, Valandro '16]
- non-zero F-terms of the complex structure moduli [Gallego, Marsh, Vercnocke, Wrase '17] [Hebecker, Leonhardt '21] [Krippendorf, Schachner '23]

# Until the introduction of loop blow-up inflation

Original blow-up inflation [[Conlon, Quevedo '06](#)]

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## Problem:

destroy this non-perturbative slow-roll inflationary model

## Ways to circumvent the problem:

- do not exist if there are no branes wrapping the del Pezzo divisors
- if present, can be made negligible by tuning  $g_s$  and  $W$  to be appropriately small

# Inevitability of loop corrections

What we found out about the speculations – *string loop corrections*:

Does the problem really exist?

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➤ *String loop corrections are inevitable in blow-up inflation.*

➤ *Estimated values of  $c_{\text{loop}}$  destroy non-perturbative blow-up inflation.*

# String Loop Corrections

String loop correction for Kähler potential

$$\delta K_{(g_s)} = \delta K_{(g_s)}^{KK} + \delta K_{(g_s)}^W$$

where [\[Berg, Haack, Pajer '07\]](#),

$$\delta K_{(g_s)}^{KK} \simeq \sum_i C_i^{KK} \frac{g_s \mathcal{T}^i(t^a)}{\mathcal{V}} \ , \qquad \delta K_{(g_s)}^W \simeq \sum_i C_i^W \frac{1}{\mathcal{I}^i(t^a) \mathcal{V}} \ .$$

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Consequent loop correction for scalar potential

$$\delta V_{\text{loop}} \simeq -\frac{\hat{V}}{\mathcal{V}^3} \frac{c_{\text{loop}}}{\mathcal{V}^{1/3}} f \left( \frac{\mathcal{V}^{2/3}}{\tau_\phi} \right) \ , \quad c_{\text{loop}} \simeq \left\{ \begin{array}{l} C_i^W \\ (g_s C_i^{KK})^2 \end{array} \right. \ .$$

$f$  encodes information from the unknown functions  $\mathcal{T}^i$  and  $\mathcal{I}^i$ .

$\delta V_{\text{loop}}^{KK}$  has an ‘extended no-scale structure’.

# String Loop Corrections

As estimated by [Cicoli, Conlon, Quevedo '08] for open string loops and as derived in [Gao, Hebecker, Schreyer, Venken '22] for closed string loops,

$$f \simeq \frac{\mathcal{V}^{1/3}}{\sqrt{\tau_\phi}} \quad \text{and hence} \quad \delta V_{\text{loop}} \simeq -\frac{\hat{V}}{\mathcal{V}^3} \frac{c_{\text{loop}}}{\sqrt{\tau_\phi}} .$$

$$V = V_{\text{LVS}} + V_{\text{up}} + \delta V_{\text{loop}}$$

# Inflationary potential

$$V = V_{LVS} + V_{\text{up}} + \delta V_{\text{loop}}$$

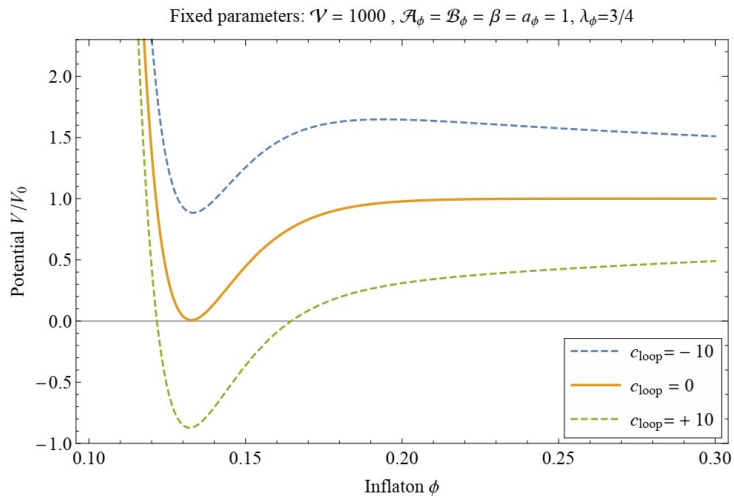
Large volume limit:  $\mathcal{V} \rightarrow \infty$ ,  $a_s \tau_s \approx \ln \mathcal{V}$ .

Stabilising  $\mathcal{V}$  and  $\tau_s$ , we get

$$V(\tau_\phi) = \frac{\hat{V}\beta}{\mathcal{V}^3} \left[ 1 + \mathcal{A}_\phi \frac{\mathcal{V}^2}{\beta} \sqrt{\tau_\phi} e^{-2a_\phi \tau_\phi} - \mathcal{B}_\phi \frac{\mathcal{V}}{\beta} \tau_\phi e^{-a_\phi \tau_\phi} - \frac{c_{\text{loop}}}{\beta \sqrt{\tau_\phi}} \right]$$

Canonically normalised inflaton  $\phi = \sqrt{\frac{4\lambda_\phi}{3\mathcal{V}}} \tau_\phi^{3/4}$

# $c_{\text{loop}}$ dynamics



$c_{\text{loop}} > 0$  is necessary for slow-roll inflation.



# Inflationary dynamics

For  $c_{\text{loop}} \gtrsim 10^{-6}$  the potential in the inflationary region, where the exponential terms can be neglected, is

$$V(\phi) = V_0 \left( 1 - \frac{b c_{\text{loop}}}{\phi^{2/3}} \right) \quad \text{where} \quad b \equiv \frac{1}{\beta} \left( \frac{4\lambda_\phi}{3\mathcal{V}} \right)^{1/3}$$

Another necessary condition:  $\phi \lesssim 1$  since  $\phi \sim 1 \Rightarrow \tau_\phi \sim \tau_b$ .

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## Slow roll parameters

$$\epsilon = \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{V_\phi}{V} \right)^2 \simeq \frac{2}{9} \frac{(b c_{\text{loop}})^2}{\phi^{10/3}}, \quad \eta = \frac{V_{\phi\phi}}{V} \simeq -\frac{10}{9} \frac{b c_{\text{loop}}}{\phi^{8/3}}.$$

Small values of  $(b c_{\text{loop}})$  allow slow-roll inflation.

# Inflationary dynamics

$$\left. \begin{aligned} N_e &= \int_{\phi_{\text{end}}}^{\phi_*} \frac{V}{V_\phi} d\phi \simeq \frac{9}{16} \frac{\phi_*^{8/3}}{b c_{\text{loop}}} \\ \hat{A}_s &= \frac{9V_0}{4} \frac{\phi_*^{10/3}}{(b c_{\text{loop}})^2} \simeq 2.5 \times 10^{-7} \end{aligned} \right\} \begin{aligned} \phi_* &= 0.06 N_e^{7/22} \sim \mathcal{O}(0.2) \\ \mathcal{V} &= 1743 N_e^{5/11} \sim \mathcal{O}(10^4) \end{aligned}$$

$\phi_*$  and  $\mathcal{V}$  satisfy LVS requirements.

$$n_s = 1 + 2\eta - 6\epsilon \simeq 1 - \frac{20}{9} \frac{b c_{\text{loop}}}{\phi_*^{8/3}} \quad \Rightarrow \quad n_s \simeq 1 - \frac{1.25}{N_e},$$

$$r = 16\epsilon \simeq \frac{32}{9} \frac{(b c_{\text{loop}})^2}{\phi_*^{10/3}} \quad \Rightarrow \quad r \simeq \frac{0.004}{N_e^{15/11}}.$$

$$r \simeq 0.003(1 - n_s)^{15/11}$$

# Moduli Decay and Dark Radiation

Moduli relevant for decay: inflaton and volume modulus

Their decay, besides producing SM particles, yields very light axions which are relativistic and can contribute to extra dark radiation [\[Cicoli, Conlon, Quevedo '13\]](#) [\[Higaki, Takahashi '12\]](#) [\[Cicoli, Hebecker, Jaeckel and M. Wittner '22\]](#).

It is parameterized by  $\Delta N_{\text{eff}}$ .

# Inflationary Parameters

Based on post-inflationary study,

$$N_e \simeq 57 + \frac{1}{4} \ln r - \frac{1}{4} (N_\phi + N_\chi)$$

Different scenarios of post-inflationary evolution:

- SM on D7-branes

- I) Inflaton-cycle wrapped by D7s:  $\Delta N_{\text{eff}} \simeq 0$

- II) Inflaton-cycle *not* wrapped by D7s:  $\Delta N_{\text{eff}} \simeq 0.14$

- SM on D3-branes

- III a) Inflaton-cycle wrapped by D7s
  - III b) Inflaton-cycle *not* wrapped by D7s

}  $\Delta N_{\text{eff}} \simeq 0.36$

# Cosmological Predictions

CMB data :  $n_s = 0.967 \pm 0.004$  at  $1\sigma$  for  $\Delta N_{\text{eff}} = 0$ .

Scenario I :  $n_s = 0.975 \Rightarrow$  compatible with observations at  $2.5\sigma$ .

Better agreement could be achieved by including subleading perturbative corrections or higher  $\alpha'$  effects.

CMB data :  $n_s = 0.983 \pm 0.006$  at  $1\sigma$  for  $\Delta N_{\text{eff}} = 0.39$ .

Scenario III :  $n_s = 0.976 \Rightarrow$  compatible with observations at  $1.2\sigma$ .

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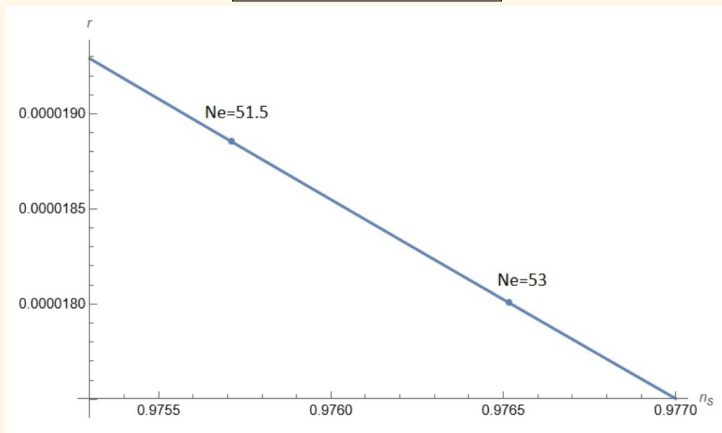
Scenario II is a middle ground b/w scenarios I and III.

Extending existing results of base- $\Lambda$ CDM model, it can be seen that the predictions for  $n_s$  and  $\Delta N_{\text{eff}}$  in scenario II agree with it within around  $2\sigma$ .

We conclude that the  $n_s$  predicted by Loop Blow-Up Inflation is in *good agreement with CMB data*.

# Cosmological Predictions

$$r \simeq 0.003(1 - n_s)^{15/11}$$



for  $51.5 \lesssim N_e \lesssim 53$

$n_s$  in agreement with CMB data

$$r \simeq 2 \times 10^{-5}$$

determined by post-inflationary evolution



# Subleading Loop Corrections

$$f \simeq \frac{\mathcal{V}^{1/3}}{\sqrt{\tau_\phi}} \left( 1 + \frac{\sqrt{\tau_\phi}}{\mathcal{V}^{1/3}} + \frac{\tau_\phi}{\mathcal{V}^{2/3}} + \dots \right).$$

The additional terms in  $f$  modify the potential as follows:

$$V = V_0 \left( 1 - c_{\text{loop}} b \left[ \frac{1}{\phi^{2/3}} + a + b \phi^{2/3} + \dots \right] \right).$$

$$a, b \sim \mathcal{O}(1)$$

$$N_e \simeq \frac{9}{16} \frac{\phi_*^{8/3}}{b c_{\text{loop}}} (1 + 2 b \phi_*^{4/3}).$$

$$\mathcal{V} = \frac{A}{\phi_*^8} \left( 1 + 2 b \phi_*^{4/3} \right)^{-3}.$$

$\phi_*$  and  $\mathcal{V}$  are lowered for  $b > 0$ , though the effect on the volume is weaker.

# Different Possible Models of Kähler Moduli Inflation

Inflationary potential of Kähler moduli inflation takes a typical plateau-like form:

$$V = V_0 [1 - g(\phi)],$$

with:

$$V_0 \equiv V_{\text{sub}}(\langle \mathcal{V} \rangle, \langle \tau_\phi \rangle) \quad \text{and} \quad g(\phi) \equiv \frac{V_{\text{sub}}(\langle \mathcal{V} \rangle, \tau_\phi(\phi))}{V_{\text{sub}}(\langle \mathcal{V} \rangle, \langle \tau_\phi \rangle)}.$$

Expression of  $g(\phi)$  depends on

- ★ The origin (perturbative or non-perturbative) of the effects which generate  $V_{\text{sub}}(\langle \mathcal{V} \rangle, \tau_\phi)$
- ★ The topology of  $\tau_\phi$  (a bulk or local cycle) which gives the relation between  $\tau_\phi$  and  $\phi$

# Different Possible Models of Kähler Moduli Inflation

$$V = V_0 [1 - g(\phi)]$$

Expression of  $g(\phi)$  depends on

★ Origin of the effects which generate  $V_{\text{sub}}(\langle \mathcal{V} \rangle, \tau_\phi)$

- Non-perturbative effects (exponentially suppressed):

$$V_{\text{sub}}(\langle \mathcal{V} \rangle, \tau_\phi) \propto e^{-k\tau_\phi} \xrightarrow{\tau_\phi \rightarrow \infty} 0 \quad \text{for } k > 0.$$

- Perturbative effects (typically power-law):

$$V_{\text{sub}}(\langle \mathcal{V} \rangle, \tau_\phi) \propto \frac{1}{\tau_\phi^p} \xrightarrow{\tau_\phi \rightarrow \infty} 0 \quad \text{for } p > 0,$$

★ Topology of  $\tau_\phi$ :

- For a bulk modulus the canonical normalization introduces exponentials:

$$\tau_\phi = e^{\lambda\phi} \quad \text{with} \quad \lambda \sim \mathcal{O}(1).$$

- For a local modulus the relation between  $\tau_\phi$  and  $\phi$  is power-law:

$$\tau_\phi = \mu \mathcal{V}^{2/3} \phi^{4/3} \quad \text{with} \quad \mu \sim \mathcal{O}(1).$$

# New Addition to Existing Models

## ❖ *Non-perturbative models*

- Bulk fibre modulus: Non-perturbative Fibre Inflation

$$g(\phi) \propto e^{-k e^{\lambda \phi}} \ll 1 \quad \text{for} \quad \phi > 0.$$

- Local blow-up modulus: Non-perturbative Blow-up Inflation

physically  
nonviable

$$g(\phi) \propto e^{-k \mu \nu^{2/3} \phi^{4/3}} \ll 1 \quad \text{for} \quad \phi > 0.$$

## ❖ *Perturbative models*

- Bulk fibre modulus: Loop Fibre Inflation

$$g(\phi) \propto e^{-p \lambda \phi} \ll 1 \quad \text{for} \quad \phi > 0.$$

- Local blow-up modulus: Loop Blow-up Inflation

our new model!

[SB, Brunelli, Cicoli, Hebecker, Kuespert '24]

$$g(\phi) \propto \frac{1}{\nu^{2p/3} \phi^{4p/3}} \ll 1 \quad \text{for} \quad \phi \lesssim 1.$$

First example in this class of constructions of a power-law inflationary potential.

# Possible Future Directions

- Explicit computation of subleading loop corrections in a specific CY geometry
- Including additional perturbative corrections like higher  $F$ -term  $\alpha'^3$  effects

**Thank you!**