

# On adiabatic renormalization and Gauge invariant backreaction in U(1)-axion inflation

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*Generation, evolution, and observations of cosmological magnetic fields*  
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# Outline

- **Adiabatic Renormalization**

*C. Animali, P.C, G. Marozzi JCAP 05, 026 (2022), arXiv:2201.05602*

- **Gauge Invariant Backreaction**

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*Work in progress*

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# Introduction to the adiabatic Renormalization

- **UV divergences:** As in the case of flat space time, observable are characterized by divergences in the deep UV.
- **New divergences:** The presence of gravity led to new divergences that are not matched by the Minkowski ones.
- **Vacuum choice:** There is not a preferred choice of the vacuum.

Minimal energy vacuum at time  $t_0$

$$\phi(x) = \sum_k \{ \mathbf{A}_k f_k(x) + \mathbf{A}_k^\dagger f_k^*(x) \}, \quad \mathbf{A}_k |0\rangle = 0$$

At  $t > t_0$  non trivial (gravity) background mixes positives and negatives modes:

$$g(x) = \alpha_k f(x) + \beta_k f^*(x), \quad |\alpha_k^2 - \beta_k^2| = 1$$

the field can be represented as a new combination of mode functions such that:

$$\phi(x) = \sum_k \{ \mathbf{B}_k g_k(x) + \mathbf{B}_k^\dagger g_k^*(x) \}, \quad \mathbf{A}_k = \alpha_k \mathbf{B}_k + \beta_k \mathbf{B}_{-k}^\dagger$$

the "vacuum"-state is not anymore empty

$$\langle 0 | \mathbf{A}_k^\dagger \mathbf{A}_k | 0 \rangle \neq 0 = N_k = |\beta_k|^2$$

**Physical request:**

particles should not be created when the energy of a single particle is larger w.r.t. the energy scale of the spacetime.

$$\frac{k^2}{a^2(t)} + m^2 > \left(\frac{\dot{a}}{a}\right)^2, \quad \frac{\ddot{a}}{a} \quad \Rightarrow \quad N_k \sim \text{const.}$$

the particle content should not change if the change rate of  $a(t)$  is adiabatic.

**Adiabatic vacuum:**

the vacuum that minimizes the creation of particle due to the presence of a time-dependent metric.

# Scalar Field

$$\mathcal{L} = \frac{1}{2} (g^{\mu\nu} \partial_\mu \phi \partial_\nu \phi - m^2 \phi^2 - \xi R \phi^2)$$

Friedmann-Lemaître-Robertson-Walker (FLRW) metric

$$ds^2 = dt^2 - a^2(t) d\mathbf{x}^2$$

**Equation of motion:**  $(\square + m^2 + \xi R) \phi = 0$

**standard quantization:**  $\phi(x) = \sum_{\mathbf{k}} \{A_{\mathbf{k}} f_{\mathbf{k}}(x) + A_{\mathbf{k}}^\dagger f_{\mathbf{k}}^*(x)\}$

$A_{\mathbf{k}}^\dagger$  and  $A_{\mathbf{k}}$  creation and annihilation operators

**mode function:**  $f_{\mathbf{k}} = (2V)^{-1/2} a(t)^{-3/2} h_{\mathbf{k}}(t) e^{i\mathbf{k}\cdot\mathbf{x}}$

the rescaled mode function  $h_k(t)$  satisfies the equation

$$\ddot{h}_k + \Omega_k^2(t) h_k = 0$$

formally solved by the Wentzel-Kramer-Brillouin (WKB) approximation

$$h_k(t) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2W_k(t)}} e^{-i \int W_k(t') dt'}$$

inserting the WKB ansatz into the equation of motion

$$W_k(t)^2 = \Omega_k(t)^2 - \left( \frac{\ddot{W}_k(t)}{2W_k(t)} - \frac{3\dot{W}_k(t)^2}{4W_k(t)^2} \right)$$



**Adiabatic condition:** slowly changes in time

$$\left| \frac{\dot{W}}{W^2} \right| \ll 1$$

introducing an adiabatic parameter  $\epsilon \ll 1$

$$\partial_t \rightarrow \epsilon \partial_t$$

solution for  $W_k(t)$  as a power series in time derivatives

$$W_k(t) = W_k^{(0)}(t) + \epsilon W_k^{(1)}(t) + \dots + \epsilon^n W_k^{(n)}(t)$$

## **Adiabatic renormalization prescription:**

- evaluate expectation values w.r.t. the adiabatic vacuum
- mode functions are given in terms of WKB ansatz.
- expand up to the adiabatic order that matches divergence of the operator.
- subtract the adiabatic term from the bare quantity.

# A problematic example: Axion-gauge fields

Pseudo-scalar inflaton field  $\phi$  coupled to  $U(1)$  gauge field  $A_\mu$

$$\mathcal{L} = -\frac{1}{2}(\nabla\phi)^2 - V(\phi) - \frac{1}{4}(F^{\mu\nu})^2 - \frac{g\phi}{4}F^{\mu\nu}\tilde{F}_{\mu\nu}$$

- Due to the coupling with the inflaton field  $\phi$ , quantum fluctuations of the gauge field  $A_\mu$  are amplified.

- Backreaction:

$$\ddot{\phi} + 3H\dot{\phi} + V_\phi = g\langle\mathbf{E}\cdot\mathbf{B}\rangle$$

$$H^2 = \frac{1}{3M_p^2} \left[ \frac{\dot{\phi}^2}{2} + V(\phi) + \frac{\langle\mathbf{E}^2 + \mathbf{B}^2\rangle}{2} \right]$$

$$\dot{H} = -\frac{1}{2M_p^2} \left[ \dot{\phi}^2 + \frac{2}{3}\langle\mathbf{E}^2 + \mathbf{B}^2\rangle \right]$$

Energy Density

$$\frac{\langle\mathbf{E}^2 + \mathbf{B}^2\rangle}{2} = \int^\Lambda \frac{dkk^2}{(2\pi)^2 a(\tau)^4} \left[ |A'_+|^2 + |A'_-|^2 + k^2 (|A_+|^2 + |A_-|^2) \right]$$

Helicity Integral

$$\langle\mathbf{E}\cdot\mathbf{B}\rangle = -\int^\Lambda \frac{dkk^3}{(2\pi)^2 a(\tau)^4} \frac{\partial}{\partial\tau} (|A_+|^2 - |A_-|^2)$$

The fourier mode functions  $A_{\pm}$  satisfy the EOM:

$$\frac{d^2}{d\tau^2} A_{\pm}(\tau, k) + (k^2 \mp k g \phi') A_{\pm}(\tau, k) = 0$$

assuming de Sitter:  $a(\tau) = -1/(H\tau)$ ,  $H = \text{const.}$

$$\xi \equiv g\phi'/(2a(\tau)H) = g\dot{\phi}/(2H)$$

$$A_{\pm}(\tau, k) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2k}} e^{\pm\pi\xi/2} W_{\pm i\xi, \frac{1}{2}}(-2ik\tau)$$

- Divergences:  $\frac{\langle \mathbf{E}^2 + \mathbf{B}^2 \rangle}{2} \supset \Lambda^4, \Lambda^2, \log \Lambda,$   
 $\langle \mathbf{E} \cdot \mathbf{B} \rangle \supset \Lambda^2, \log \Lambda$

- $\Lambda^4, \Lambda^2$  and  $\log[\Lambda]$  UV divergences for the energy density.
- $\Lambda^2$  and  $\log[\Lambda]$  UV divergences for the helicity integral.
- well-behaved in the infrared

# Renormalization

For each polarization  $\lambda = \pm$ :

$$A_{\lambda}^{\text{WKB}}(k, \tau) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\Omega_{\lambda}(k, \tau)}} e^{-i \int \Omega_{\lambda}(k, \tau') d\tau'}$$

$$\frac{d^2}{d\tau^2} A_{\pm}^{\text{WKB}}(\tau, k) + \left( k^2 \mp gk\phi' + \frac{m^2}{H^2\tau^2} \right) A_{\pm}^{\text{WKB}}(\tau, k) = 0$$

$\Downarrow$

$$\Omega_{\lambda}^2(k, \tau) = \bar{\Omega}_{\lambda}^2(k, \tau) + \frac{3}{4} \left( \frac{\Omega'_{\lambda}(k, \tau)}{\Omega_{\lambda}(k, \tau)} \right)^2 - \frac{1}{2} \frac{\Omega''_{\lambda}(k, \tau)}{\Omega_{\lambda}(k, \tau)}$$

- **Adiabatic condition:** slowly changes in time:  $\left| \frac{\dot{\Omega}}{\Omega^2} \right| \ll 1$

$$\epsilon \ll 1 : \partial_t \rightarrow \epsilon \partial_t$$

$$\Omega_k(t) = \Omega_k^{(0)}(t) + \epsilon \Omega_k^{(1)}(t) + \dots + \epsilon^n \Omega_k^{(n)}(t)$$

**Standard adiabatic regularization:** ill defined for  $m \rightarrow 0$

$$\frac{1}{2} \langle \mathbf{E}^2 + \mathbf{B}^2 \rangle_{\text{ad}} = \int_0^{a(\tau)\Lambda} \frac{dk k^2}{(2\pi)^2 a(\tau)^4} (\dots)_{\text{ad}}^{n=4} \supset \Lambda^4, \Lambda^2, \log \Lambda, \log m$$
$$\langle \mathbf{E} \cdot \mathbf{B} \rangle_{\text{ad}} = - \int_0^{a(\tau)\Lambda} \frac{dk k^3}{(2\pi)^2 a(\tau)^4} \frac{\partial}{\partial \tau} (\dots)_{\text{ad}}^{n=4} \supset \Lambda^2, \log \Lambda, \log m$$

- The standard adiabatic renormalization correctly removes the divergences in the UV, introducing **unphysical IR divergences**.

# Issues and Motivations: the need of a IR cut off

- Adiabatic renormalization concerns the UV divergences
- WKB is well defined for modes that feel small curvature
- Good approximation for sub-horizon modes

$\langle T_{\mu\nu} \rangle_{\text{ad}}$  will have the following general structure:

$$\langle T \rangle_{\text{ad}}^{(n>4)} = H^4 \sum_{n>4} \left( c_n \left( \frac{H}{m} \right)^{n-4} + c'_n \left( \frac{H}{\Lambda} \right)^{n-4} \right)$$

- **deep UV**: when  $\Lambda \rightarrow \infty$ , the higher order terms go to zero and we can truncate the series at the fourth adiabatic order, which is indeed the order needed to remove the UV divergences.
- **IR regime** the IR regime produces higher order terms involving  $m$  which are increasingly relevant for  $m \rightarrow 0$ .



## New adiabatic regularization

We suggest that the procedure of adiabatic regularization should be always performed on a proper domain which excludes the IR tail of the spectrum.

- the adiabatic subtraction should be considered only up to a comoving IR cut-off  $c = \beta a(t)H(t)$ .
- the coefficient  $\beta$ , should be determined by a proper physical prescription.

$$\frac{1}{2} \langle \mathbf{E}^2 + \mathbf{B}^2 \rangle_{\text{ad}} = \int_{\beta a(\tau)H}^{a(\tau)\Lambda} \frac{dk k^2}{(2\pi)^2 a(\tau)^4} (\dots)_{\text{ad}}^{n=4}$$

$$\langle \mathbf{E} \cdot \mathbf{B} \rangle_{\text{ad}} = - \int_{\beta a(\tau)H}^{a(\tau)\Lambda} \frac{dk k^3}{(2\pi)^2 a(\tau)^4} \frac{\partial}{\partial \tau} (\dots)_{\text{ad}}^{n=4}$$

$$\frac{1}{2} \langle \mathbf{E}^2 + \mathbf{B}^2 \rangle_{\text{ad}}^{c=\beta H a(\tau)} = \frac{\Lambda^4}{8\pi^2} + \frac{H^2 \Lambda^2 \xi^2}{8\pi^2} + \frac{3H^4 \xi^2 (5\xi^2 - 1) \log(2\Lambda/H)}{16\pi^2}$$

$$- \frac{\beta^4 H^4}{8\pi^2} - \frac{\beta^2 H^4 \xi^2}{8\pi^2} - \frac{3H^4 \xi^2 (5\xi^2 - 1) \log(2\beta)}{16\pi^2}$$

$$\langle \mathbf{E} \cdot \mathbf{B} \rangle_{\text{ad}}^{c=\beta H a(\tau)} = - \frac{H^2 \Lambda^2 \xi}{8\pi^2} - \frac{3H^4 \xi (5\xi^2 - 1) \log(2\Lambda/H)}{8\pi^2}$$

$$+ \frac{\beta^2 H^4 \xi}{8\pi^2} + \frac{3H^4 \xi (5\xi^2 - 1) \log(2\beta)}{8\pi^2}$$

# How to fix the scheme

## Conformal anomaly

- In the conformal limit, a proper renormalization scheme should provide the conformal anomaly induced by quantum effects.
- When at the classical level  $T^\mu{}_\mu = 0$

$$\langle T^\mu{}_\mu \rangle_{\text{phys}} = -\langle T^\mu{}_\mu \rangle_{\text{reg}}$$

where  $\langle T^\mu{}_\mu \rangle_{\text{reg}}$  is the trace contribution to the energy-momentum tensor given by the particular renormalization method applied.

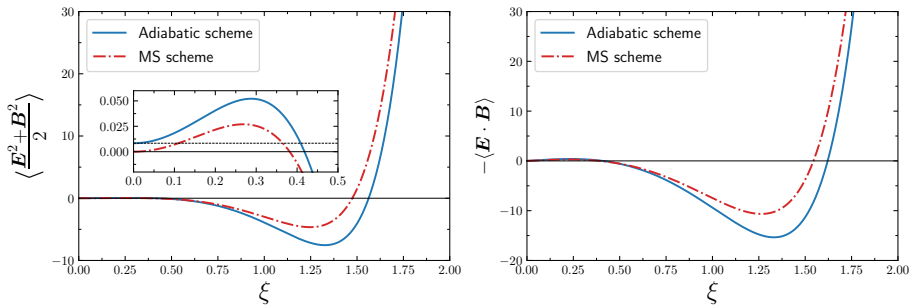
- The two helicities of the mode functions  $A_{\pm}$  are equivalent to two conformally coupled massless scalar fields for  $\xi = 0$

$$\frac{d^2}{d\tau^2} A_{\pm} + \left( k^2 \pm \frac{2k\xi}{\tau} + \frac{m^2}{H^2\tau^2} \right) A_{\pm} = 0 \rightarrow \boxed{\left( \frac{d^2}{d\tau^2} + k^2 \right) A_{\pm} = 0}$$

$$\lim_{\xi \rightarrow 0, m \rightarrow 0} \langle T^0_0 \rangle_{\text{ad}} = \lim_{\xi \rightarrow 0, m \rightarrow 0} \frac{\langle \mathbf{E}^2 + \mathbf{B}^2 \rangle_{\text{ad}}^{c=\beta H a(\tau)}}{2} = -\frac{\beta^4 H^4}{8\pi^2}$$

this term should reproduce the expected value of the anomaly

$$\frac{\beta^4 H^4}{8\pi^2} = \frac{H^4}{480\pi^2} \implies \boxed{\beta = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2} \times 15^{1/4}} \approx 0.359}$$



Comparison between the new adiabatic scheme and the minimal subtraction scheme (MS).

- This is a physically motivated prescription that is able to fix univocally the renormalization scheme.
- We are able to obtain finite results for the averaged energy density and helicity of gauge fields.

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*Work in progress*

◆ First order perturbation gauge fields :

$$A(t, x) = A^{(1)}(t, \mathbf{x})$$

$$\mathcal{L} = -\frac{1}{2}\partial_\mu\phi\partial^\mu\phi - V(\phi) - \frac{1}{4}F_{\mu\nu}F^{\mu\nu} - \frac{g\phi}{4}F^{\mu\nu}\tilde{F}_{\mu\nu},$$

$$\phi(t, \mathbf{x}) = \phi^{(0)}(t) + \varphi(t, \mathbf{x}) + \varphi^{(2)}(t, \mathbf{x})$$

$$g_{\mu\nu}(t, \mathbf{x}) = g_{\mu\nu}^{(0)}(t) + \delta g_{\mu\nu}^{(1)}(t, \mathbf{x}) + \delta g_{\mu\nu}^{(2)}(t, \mathbf{x})$$

Perturbed metric around a FLRW:

$$g_{00} = -1 - 2\alpha - 2\alpha^{(2)}$$

$$g_{i0} = -\frac{a}{2}(\beta_{,i} + B_i) - \frac{a}{2}(\beta_{,i}^{(2)} + B_i^{(2)})$$

$$g_{ij} = a^2 \left[ \delta_{ij} (1 - 2\psi - 2\psi^{(2)}) + D_{ij} (E + E^{(2)}) \right. \\ \left. + \frac{1}{2}(\chi_{i,j} + \chi_{j,i} + h_{ij}) + \frac{1}{2}(\chi_{i,j}^{(2)} + \chi_{j,i}^{(2)} + h_{ij}^{(2)}) \right]$$

$$\boxed{G_{\nu}^{\mu} = 8\pi G T_{\nu}^{\mu}}$$

$$\text{Einstein tensor: } G_{\nu}^{\mu} = G_{\nu}^{\mu(0)} + \delta G_{\nu}^{\mu(1)} + \delta G_{\nu}^{\mu(2)}$$

$$\text{Energy-momentum tensor: } T_{\nu}^{\mu} = T_{\nu}^{\mu(0)} + \delta T_{\nu}^{\mu(1)} + \delta T_{\nu}^{\mu(2)}$$



- First order perturbations are decoupled
- Second order in uniform curvature gauge (UCG) (  $\psi = E = 0$  )

Scalar sector

$$\alpha^{(2)} = 4\pi G \frac{\dot{\phi}}{H} \varphi^{(2)} + s + \Gamma$$

$$\frac{H}{a} \nabla^2 \beta^{(2)} = 8\pi G \frac{\dot{\phi}^2}{H} \frac{d}{dt} \left( \frac{H}{\dot{\phi}} \varphi^{(2)} \right) - (Q + \Sigma) + 16\pi G V (s + \Gamma)$$

$$\ddot{\varphi}^{(2)} + 3H\dot{\varphi}^{(2)} - \frac{\nabla^2 \varphi^{(2)}}{a^2} + \left[ V_{\phi\phi} + 2\frac{\dot{H}}{H} \left( 3H - \frac{\dot{H}}{H} + 2\frac{\ddot{\phi}}{\dot{\phi}} \right) \right] \varphi^{(2)} = D$$

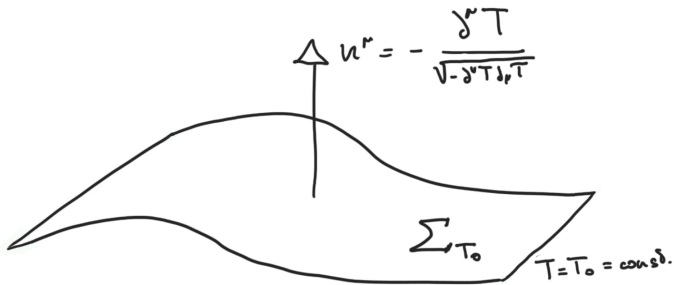
where

$$s \supset (\varphi, \alpha, \beta), \quad Q \supset \varphi, (\alpha, \beta), \quad (\Gamma, \Sigma) \supset (\mathbf{E}, \mathbf{B}), \quad D \supset (\mathbf{E}, \mathbf{B}, \varphi, \alpha, \beta)$$

A physical gauge invariant observable is can be defined as

$$\langle S \rangle_{T_0} = \frac{\langle \sqrt{|\bar{\gamma}(t_0, \mathbf{x})|} \bar{S}(t_0, \mathbf{x}) \rangle}{\langle \sqrt{|\bar{\gamma}(t_0, \mathbf{x})|} \rangle}$$

$$\bar{x}^\mu = (\bar{t}, \mathbf{x}) : T(\bar{x}^\mu) = T(\bar{t}), T_0 = T(\bar{t} = t_0)$$



$$\Theta = \nabla_\mu n^\mu$$

$$H_{\text{eff}}^2 \equiv \left( \frac{1}{a_{\text{eff}}} \frac{\partial a_{\text{eff}}}{\partial T_0} \right)^2 = \frac{1}{9} \left\langle \frac{\Theta}{\sqrt{-\partial^\mu T \partial_\mu T}} \right\rangle_{T_0}^2$$

- Natural observer  $\bar{\varphi}^{(2)} = 0$  to fix  $\bar{x}$

$$H_{\text{eff}}^2 = \left( \frac{1}{a_{\text{eff}}} \frac{\partial a_{\text{eff}}}{\partial A_0} \right)^2 = H^2 \left[ 1 + \frac{2}{H} \langle \bar{\psi} \dot{\psi} \rangle - \frac{2}{H} \langle \dot{\psi}^{(2)} \rangle \right].$$

- back to the uniform curvature gauge (UCG) in the long wavelength limit

$$\bar{\psi}^{(2)} = \frac{H}{\dot{\phi}} \varphi^{(2)}$$

$$H_{\text{eff}}^2 \simeq H^2 \left[ 1 - \frac{2}{\dot{\phi}} \left( \frac{\dot{H}}{H} \langle \varphi^{(2)} \rangle + \langle \dot{\varphi}^{(2)} \rangle \right) \right]$$

at leading order in slow-roll

$$H_{\text{eff}}^2 \sim H^2 \left[ 1 + \frac{1}{3H^2} \left( \frac{\langle \mathbf{E}^2 + \mathbf{B}^2 \rangle}{2} - \frac{g^2}{\xi} \langle \mathbf{E} \cdot \mathbf{B} \rangle \right) \right]$$

# Summary

- Adiabatic renormalization is a powerful renormalization scheme to regularize UV divergences.
- Should be truncated up to an IR cut-off proportional to the horizon size.
- This cut-off should be fixed by a proper physical prescription.
- Work in progress: taking into account metric perturbations can have a non trivial impact on the backreaction.

**Thank you for the  
attention**