

Radiative axion inflation

Andrea Caputo

Instituto de Física Corpuscular, Universidad de Valencia and CSIC, Edificio Institutos Investigación, Catedrático José Beltrán 2, 46980 Spain

ARTICLE INFO

Article history:

Received 3 March 2019

Received in revised form 17 May 2019

Accepted 30 July 2019

Available online 1 August 2019

Editor: A. Ringwald

ABSTRACT

Planck data robustly exclude the simple $\lambda\phi^4$ scenario for inflation. This is also the case for models of “Axion Inflation” in which the inflaton field is the radial part of the Peccei-Quinn complex scalar field. In this letter we show that for the KSVZ model it is possible to match the data taking into account radiative corrections to the tree level potential. After writing down the 1-loop Coleman-Weinberg potential, we show that a radiative plateau is easily generated thanks to the fact that the heavy quarks are charged under $SU(3)_c$ in order to solve the strong CP problem. We also give a numerical example for which the inflationary observables are computed and the heavy quarks are predicted to have a mass $m_Q \gtrsim 10^2$ TeV.

© 2019 The Author(s). Published by Elsevier B.V. This is an open access article under the CC BY license (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>). Funded by SCOAP³.

1. Introduction

The nature of the inflaton field [56,45] responsible to the initial acceleration of the universe remains unknown. In the recent years with the enormous amount of available cosmological data we have been facing the possibility to truly discriminate between different UV models. An intriguing possibility is that the field responsible of inflation is also able to solve some of the others issues we face in the standard model of particle physics. In this letter we study the possibility that the inflaton is the complex scalar field associated with the Peccei-Quinn symmetry; the presence of this field is justified to solve the strong CP problem and incidentally also generates a very promising dark matter candidate, the axion. The resulting model is a model of quartic inflation of the type $\lambda\phi^4$, which is well known to be disfavored by CMB data [5] because of the too large tensor to scalar ratio predicted (in models of monomial inflation ϕ^n the larger is n the larger is the disagreement). A simple possibility to lower the tensor to scalar ratio r is found in model in which the inflaton couples to the Ricci scalar [15,55,36,38,57,61,56,52,51]. This possibility, in the contest of “Axion Inflation”, was already studied e.g. in [12,35], where the authors showed that the non minimal coupling to gravity ξ_ϕ can flatten the potential at large values and reconcile predictions with data.

However, another possibility to flatten the potential is given by radiative correction with fermionic loops, as showed in [13,63,33] (for other models for inflation and axions see e.g. [58,44,18]). Here in particular we follow [13] and show that the KSVZ model [53,65]

has all the ingredients to rescue inflation. This is not the case instead for the DFSZ model [68,30], in which there are no new fermionic degrees of freedom that couple to the inflaton. Of course a non-minimal coupling should be nevertheless included in a complete analysis, given that it is radiatively generated, even if it is set to zero at some scale. Nevertheless, the running of the non-minimal coupling depends on the scalar and Yukawa couplings of the theory (see β_{ξ_A} in Appendix A), which, as we will see, are small. The goal of this letter is to show that even with a negligible non-minimal coupling the model can fit the data. The considered model is a typical inflection-point inflation, which has already been considered in other contests ([60,59,25,34]), here for the first time we considered it in a very well motivated scenario as the KSVZ model.

2. The model

We consider the model with Lagrangian:

$$\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{L}_{\text{gravity}} + \mathcal{L}_{\text{SM}} + \mathcal{L}_a. \quad (1)$$

The gauge group of the model is the SM one:

$$G_{\text{SM}} = SU(3)_c \times SU(2)_L \times U(1)_Y.$$

$\mathcal{L}_{\text{gravity}}$ are the terms in the Lagrangian which include the pure gravitational part, which is $-\frac{M_{\text{Pl}}^2}{2}R - \Lambda$ where $\bar{M}_{\text{Pl}} \simeq 2.4 \times 10^{18}$ GeV is the reduced Planck mass and Λ is the cosmological constant. \mathcal{L}_{SM} is the SM Lagrangian. \mathcal{L}_a represents the additional terms in the Lagrangian for the axion model. We consider the first invisible axion model, the so called KSVZ model. This model introduces new fields, namely:

E-mail address: andrea.caputo@uv.es.

- An extra Dirac fermion Q , colored but neutral under $SU(2)_L \times U(1)_Y$, which in Weyl notation can be written as a pair of two-component fermions q_1 and q_2 in the following representation of G_{SM}

$$q_1 \sim (3, 1)_0, \quad q_2 \sim (\bar{3}, 1)_0. \quad (2)$$

- An extra complex scalar A , charged under $U(1)_{PQ}$ and neutral under G_{SM} .

The Lagrangian of the KSVZ model is

$$\mathcal{L}_a = i \sum_{j=1}^2 \bar{q}_j \not{D} q_j + |\partial_\mu A|^2 - (y q_2 A q_1 + h.c.) - \Delta V(H, A)$$

and the classical potential reads

$$V(H, A) = \lambda_H \left(|H|^2 - \frac{v^2}{2} \right)^2 + \Delta V(H, A), \quad (3)$$

where

$$\Delta V(H, A) \equiv \lambda_A \left(|A|^2 - \frac{f_a^2}{2} \right)^2 + 2\lambda_{HA} \left(|H|^2 - \frac{v^2}{2} \right) \left(|A|^2 - \frac{f_a^2}{2} \right) \quad (4)$$

The parameters v , f_a and y can be taken real and positive without loss of generality. The PQ symmetry acts on q_1 , q_2 and A as follows

$$q_1 \rightarrow e^{i\alpha/2} q_1, \quad q_2 \rightarrow e^{i\alpha/2} q_2, \quad A \rightarrow e^{-i\alpha} A, \quad (5)$$

while the SM fields are instead neutral under $U(1)_{PQ}$. This model adds only three new real parameters: λ_{HA} , λ_A and y . It is a very simple model with all the ingredients, as we will show in a moment, to generate a radiative plateau.

3. Radiative quartic inflation

In the following we review the idea studied in [13] which consists in the generation, through loop corrections, of a plateau in the inflaton potential which favors slow-roll inflation. A perfect plateau is characterized by (for simplicity we will be indicated by A the radial part of the PQ field)

$$\frac{dV}{dA} = 0, \quad \frac{d^2V}{dA^2} = 0 \quad (6)$$

In this study the role of the inflaton is played by the scalar field A , which is supposed to guide a typical scenario of chaotic inflation. For large values of the field the potential simplifies to

$$V(A) = \hat{\lambda}_A(A) A^4 \quad (7)$$

where we notice we have already put field-dependent effective quartic coupling. The easiest way to understand this field dependence is to write down the Coleman-Weinberg form of the potential [27,14]

$$V(A, \mu) = \lambda_A A^4 + \frac{1}{64\pi^2} \sum_i (-1)^{F_i} S_i M_i^4(A) \left(\ln \frac{M_i^2(A)}{\mu^2} - c_i \right) + \dots \quad (8)$$

where μ is the renormalization scale, $F_i = 0(1)$ for a boson (fermion) field in the loop, S_i counts the degrees of freedom of each particle (e.g. 12 for a colored Dirac fermion) with a field-dependent mass $M_i(A, \mu)$, and $c_i = 3/2$ for fermions and scalar

bosons and $c_i = 5/6$ for gauge bosons. The ellipsis stand for higher order loops. It is convenient to choose the renormalization scale μ as

$$\mu \equiv \varepsilon A \quad (9)$$

where ε is a positive constant generically much smaller than one which comes from $M_i^2(A) \propto A^2$. From the form of the Coleman-Weinberg potential is easy understood that ε parametrizes the smallness of the coupling of the inflaton to the other fields which enter the loops. For example, in our model the Higgs and the heavy quarks will enter the loops for the computation of the effective potential and therefore ε can be chosen to be proportional to $\sqrt{\lambda_{HA}} \sim y$. Here we will consider only one effective mass scale; for the situation in which there are more than one the interested reader can look at [24]. Keeping only the terms containing the fourth power of A (which are the important ones during inflation), the logarithms are resummed into an effective quartic coupling as anticipated in (14). Then, we can expand the effective quartic coupling $\hat{\lambda}_A$ around the location of the plateau A_0 ; the effective quartic coupling will be a combination of the nominal coupling of the theory which now run with the renormalization scale $\mu = \varepsilon A$ (the theory is maintained fixed for a continuous change of the subtraction scale by the renormalization group). Expanding $\hat{\lambda}_A$ around A_0 therefore corresponds to make the nominal parameters running around the scale εA_0 . We can therefore define the beta-function (and its derivative) for the effective quartic coupling

$$\beta_{\hat{\lambda}_A} \equiv \mu \frac{\partial \hat{\lambda}_A}{\partial \mu}, \quad \beta'_{\hat{\lambda}_A} \equiv \mu \frac{\partial \beta_{\hat{\lambda}_A}}{\partial \mu} \quad (10)$$

that are intended to be a combination of the beta functions of the Lagrangian parameters that define $\hat{\lambda}_A$. Consequently we can write

$$\hat{\lambda}_A(A) = \hat{\lambda}_A(A_0) + \frac{1}{2} \beta_{\hat{\lambda}_A}|_{A_0} \log \frac{A^2}{A_0^2} + \frac{1}{8} \beta'_{\hat{\lambda}_A}|_{A_0} \left(\log \frac{A^2}{A_0^2} \right)^2 + \dots \quad (11)$$

We stress again that by construction evaluating the effective quartic coupling $\hat{\lambda}_A$ at the scale A_0 corresponds to evaluate the original Lagrangian couplings at εA_0 . The plateau conditions of Eq. (6) can be written in terms of $\hat{\lambda}_A$ and its beta-function (and derivative of it)

$$\beta_{\hat{\lambda}_A}|_{A_0} = -4\hat{\lambda}_A|_{A_0}, \quad \beta'_{\hat{\lambda}_A}|_{A_0} = -4\beta_{\hat{\lambda}_A}|_{A_0} \quad (12)$$

and the effective potential assumes the form

$$V(A) = \hat{\lambda}_A|_{A_0} \left(1 - 2 \log \frac{A^2}{A_0^2} + 2 \left(\log \frac{A^2}{A_0^2} \right)^2 \right) A^4 \quad (13)$$

Finally, since the potential has to be positive around the inflection point A_0 , the effective quartic coupling has to be positive too. This will be the crucial thing to verify to check the viability of the model.

4. Plateau in the KSVZ model

Now we want to see if it is possible to obtain a plateau in this simple model. First of all we need the expression for the effective quartic coupling; the relation between the latter and the Lagrangian couplings is easily inferred from the Coleman-Weinberg potential and for the KSVZ model is given by

$$\hat{\lambda}_A = \lambda_A + 36\lambda_A^2 k \left(\ln \frac{12\lambda_A}{\epsilon^2} - 3/2 \right) + 4\lambda_{HA}^2 k \left(\ln \frac{2\lambda_{HA}}{\epsilon^2} - 3/2 \right) - 3y^4 k \left(\ln \frac{y^2}{\epsilon^2} - 3/2 \right) \quad (14)$$

where we have defined the loop factor $k \equiv \frac{1}{16\pi^2}$

We will look for perturbative solutions of conditions (12), which can be solved to express two of the Lagrangian couplings in terms of the rest. We will solve the plateau condition for $\hat{\lambda}_A$ and λ_{HA} ; to do it, it is necessary to know the effective quartic coupling and its beta-function. In the Appendix we report the relevant beta functions; the KSVZ model has been implemented and the RG equations calculated using SARAH [67].

It is useful to make a formal expansion of the couplings of the Lagrangian and their beta functions, to take trace of the order. Labelling with δ_i a generic coupling, we can write

$$\delta_i = \delta_i^{(0)} + k\delta_i^{(1)} + \dots \quad (15)$$

$$\beta_{\delta_i} \equiv \frac{\partial \delta_i}{\partial \log \mu} = \beta_{\delta_i}^{(0)} + k\beta_{\delta_i}^{(1)} + \dots \quad (16)$$

We then immediately notice that the equation

$$\beta'_{\hat{\lambda}_A}|_{A_0} = -4\beta_{\hat{\lambda}_A}|_{A_0} \quad (17)$$

implies that the 1-loop contribution of the beta function of the effective quartic coupling has to be zero. This in turn implies (because $\beta_{\hat{\lambda}_A}|_{A_0} = -4\hat{\lambda}_A|_{A_0}$) also that

$$\hat{\lambda}_A^{(1)} = 0 \quad (18)$$

Moreover, we recall that at zero-th order $\hat{\lambda}_A^{(0)} = \lambda_A^{(0)}$ and that, because of the structure of (14), it results

$$\beta_{\lambda_A}^{(1)} = \beta_{\hat{\lambda}_A}^{(1)} = 0 \quad (19)$$

We start imposing

$$\beta_{\lambda_A}^{(1)} = \beta_{\hat{\lambda}_A}^{(1)} = 0 \quad (20)$$

which in this model results in

$$12\lambda_A^{(0)} y^2 - 6y^4 + 8(\lambda_{HA}^{(0)})^2 + 20(\lambda_A^{(0)})^2 = 0 \quad (21)$$

The zero-th order of the quartic coupling has to be zero at the plateau, because it is proportional to the beta function which is zero by definition at order k^0 . Therefore

$$(\lambda_{HA}^{(0)})^2 = \frac{3}{4} y^4 \quad (22)$$

Then, we have to impose $\hat{\lambda}_A^1 = 0$ to find also λ_A in terms of the rest of the parameters

$$\begin{aligned} 0 = \hat{\lambda}_A^1 &= \lambda_A^1 + 4(\lambda_{HA}^{(0)})^2 \left(\ln \frac{12\lambda_{HA}^{(0)}}{\epsilon^2} - 3/2 \right) + \\ &- 3y^4 \left(\ln \frac{y^2}{\epsilon^2} - 3/2 \right) = \hat{\lambda}_A^{1l} + 3y^4 \left(\ln \frac{6\sqrt{3}y^2}{\epsilon^2} - 3/2 \right) + \\ &- 3y^4 \left(\ln \frac{y^2}{\epsilon^2} - 3/2 \right) \end{aligned} \quad (23)$$

We then finally get

$$\lambda_A = -3ky^4 \ln(6\sqrt{3}) \quad (24)$$

Then, the crucial point comes: we have to determine whether or not the effective quartic coupling at the plateau is positive. To do

it we have to compute the first non-null contribution to the self coupling which results to be

$$\hat{\lambda}_A^{(2)} = \frac{1}{16} \beta_{\hat{\lambda}_A}^{(2)} \quad (25)$$

and using the one loop beta functions and the conditions $\hat{\lambda}_A^1 = 0$ and $\beta_{\lambda_A} = \beta_{\hat{\lambda}_A} = 0$ we get

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{\lambda}_A &= \frac{k}{16} \left(-24y^3 \beta_y^{(1)} + 16\lambda_{HA}^{(0)} \beta_{\lambda_{HA}}^{1l} \right) = \\ &= k \left(-\frac{3}{4} y^3 \beta_y^{(1)} + \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} y^2 \beta_{\lambda_{HA}}^{(1)} \right) \end{aligned} \quad (26)$$

The involved beta functions at 1-loop are

$$\begin{aligned} \beta_{\lambda_{HA}} &= k\lambda_{HA} \left(-\frac{9}{2} g_2^2 - \frac{9}{10} g_1^2 + 8\lambda_{HA} + 8\lambda_A \right. \\ &\quad \left. + 6(y^2 + y_t^2 + 2\lambda_H) \right) \end{aligned} \quad (27)$$

$$\beta_y = 4k(y^3 - 2g_3^2 y) \quad (28)$$

and consequently the effective self coupling results

$$\hat{\lambda}_A = k^2 y^4 \left(6g_3^2 + y^2 + \sqrt{6}(y_t^2 + 2\lambda_H) - \sqrt{\frac{27}{8}}(g_2^2 + g_1^2) \right) \quad (29)$$

A crucial and peculiar point here is that the new fermions coupled to the inflaton are charged under $SU(3)_{color}$ in order to solve the CP strong problem. We can then replace the SM couplings with their values at a scale $\sim \epsilon M_{Pl}$ and we see that the self coupling is always positive. For example

$$\hat{\lambda}_A(A_0 \sim M_{Pl}) \sim k^2 y^4 (3.3 + y^2) \quad (30)$$

and we verified, using the RGEs of the standard model, that this is true for all the scales from $0.001M_{Pl}$ up to $30M_{Pl}$, which is the interesting range to have a plateau in order to match CMB data. We recall that while the effective self coupling has to be evaluated at A_0 , the nominal couplings of the theory have to be evaluated at ϵA_0 . As a reference value one can take $\epsilon \sim 10^{-4} - 10^{-1}$. We also notice that evaluating the SM couplings at the Planck scale using the RGEs of the SM is a good approximation as long as the new couplings are small. This is always the case for inflationary scenarios (see [12]) where usually $\lambda_A \lesssim 10^{-10}$.

5. A numerical example

We have just showed that the model admits a radiative plateau. We give here a numerical example and calculate the relevant inflationary quantities (Fig. 1). We fix the Yukawa coupling to be $y = 2.5 \cdot 10^{-3}$ and the plateau location at $A_0 = 30M_{Pl}$; as mentioned above, all the other standard model couplings have been fixed at their values at ϵA_0 , with $\epsilon \sim y = 2.5 \cdot 10^{-3}$. We then calculate the value of the field at which we match CMB observables and in particular the power spectrum

$$\Delta_s^2 \sim \frac{1}{24\pi^2} \frac{V}{M_{Pl}^4 \epsilon} \sim 2.142 \cdot 10^{-9} \rightarrow A_i \sim 17M_{Pl} \quad (31)$$

where

$$\epsilon = \frac{M_{Pl}^2}{2} \left(\frac{V'}{V} \right)^2 \quad (32)$$

We also compute the spectral index

$$n_s \equiv \frac{d \ln \Delta_s^2}{d \ln k} + 1 \sim 2\eta - 4\epsilon + 1 \quad (33)$$

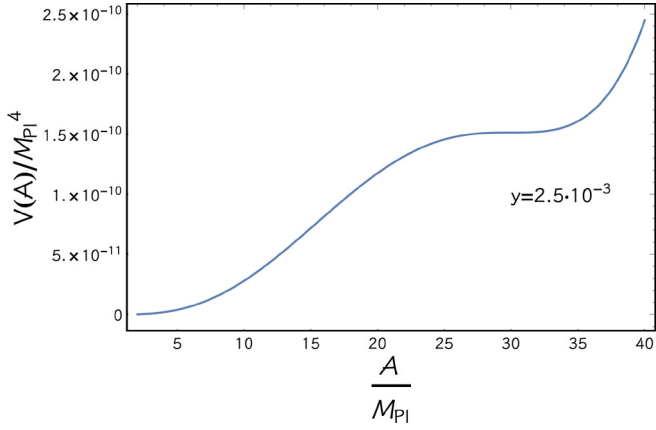


Fig. 1. Inflationary potential for $y = 2.5 \cdot 10^{-3}$ and $A_0 = 30 M_{Pl}$.

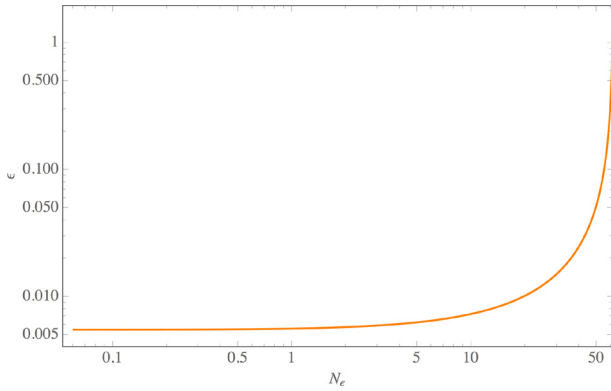


Fig. 2. Evolution of the first slow-roll parameter during inflation.

and the tensor to scalar ratio

$$r \equiv \frac{\Delta_t^2}{\Delta_s^2} = 16\epsilon \quad (34)$$

where Δ_t^2 is the power spectrum of tensor fluctuations and η is the second slow-roll parameter

$$\eta = M_{Pl}^2 \frac{V''}{V} \quad (35)$$

At this value of the field the tensor to scalar ratio results

$$r = 0.079 \quad (36)$$

while the spectral index is

$$n_s = 0.963 \quad (37)$$

both consistent with the latest Planck release combining temperature, low-polarization, and lensing [5].

Then, we have to verify inflation lasts long enough in order to solve the flatness and horizon problems. Therefore we solve the equation of motion of the field as a function of the number of e-folds. In this way we do not rely on the slow-roll approximation and can precisely determine the number of e-folds N_e at the end of inflation [11]. In Fig. 2 we show the evolution of the slow-roll parameter ϵ as a function of the number of e-folds. Inflation ends when $\epsilon \sim 1$, which in this case happens for

$$N_e \sim 64 \quad (38)$$

a standard and satisfactory value.

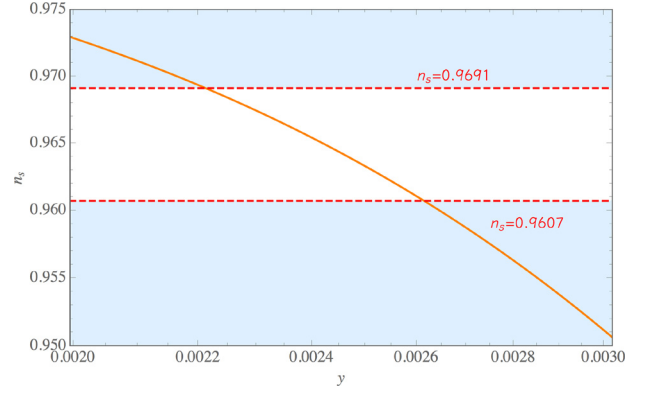


Fig. 3. Spectral index as a function of the Yukawa coupling. The two dashed red lines correspond to the experimental upper and lower bounds at 1σ , respectively $n_s = 0.9691$ and $n_s = 0.9607$. The light blue regions are excluded by Planck [5].

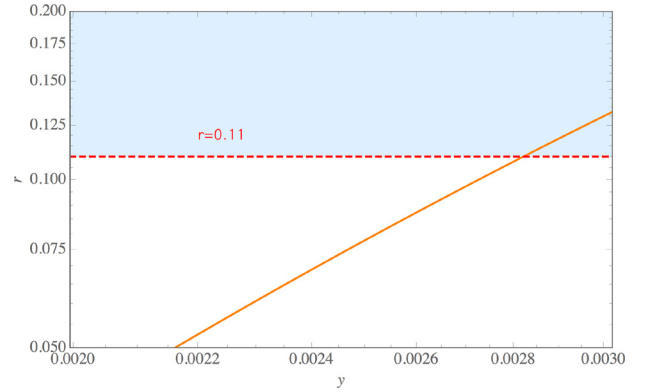


Fig. 4. Tensor to scalar ratio as a function of the Yukawa coupling. The dashed red line corresponds to $r = 0.11$. The light blue region is excluded at 95% C.L. by combining Planck temperature, low-polarization, and lensing [5].

We also explore the tuning of the model and show the tensor to scalar ratio and the spectral index as a function of the Yukawa coupling y , varying it around the referred value $y = 2.5 \cdot 10^{-3}$ (see Fig. 3–4) and keeping fixed the plateau position.

We notice that for

$$2.2 \cdot 10^{-3} \lesssim y \lesssim 2.8 \cdot 10^{-3} \quad (39)$$

the radiative plateau fits the CMB data; in particular slightly changing the Yukawa coupling, the tensor to scalar ratio becomes consistent also with the stronger bound from the joint cross-correlation between Planck and BICEP

$$r < 0.064 (0.075) \text{ 95\% C.L.} \quad (40)$$

using Plik (CAMspec) as high- l TT, TE, EE likelihood. We also verified that for all these values the number of e-folds spans a reasonable range $42 \lesssim N_e \lesssim 65$. Once the Yukawa coupling is fixed the mass of the heavy quark at low scale is given by

$$m_Q = y \cdot f_a \quad (41)$$

where f_a is the breaking scale of the Peccei-Quinn symmetry and the Yukawa has to be evaluated at the desired scale. The lower bound for f_a coming from Supernova cooling [62]

$$f_a \gtrsim 4 \cdot 10^8 \text{ GeV} \quad (42)$$

therefore implies

$$m_Q \gtrsim 10^5 \text{ GeV} = 10^2 \text{ TeV} \quad (43)$$

This is an important point because heavy relics could overclose if $M_{\text{heavy}} \gtrsim 240$ TeV [43]. In the model considered here the Yukawa couplings can be even smaller than the considered benchmark value and therefore even smaller heavy quarks masses are obtained. This is indeed possible due to the structure of the beta functions. Instead this is not the case for other simple U(1) extensions where the Yukawa's required to generate a plateau are much larger (see e.g. [13]) and would produce dangerous heavy relics.

6. Baryogenesis and reheating

Any inflationary scenario should be connected to Standard Big Bang Cosmology; this happens through the reheating phase, when the inflaton oscillates around the minimum of its potential and decay to populate the universe. In our scenario the reheating would proceed in a way similar to the one considered in [12], although with important differences. In fact, in [12] the authors were trying to address other problems of the SM such as Higgs Instability, Dark Matter and Baryogenesis; this notably restricted the allowed parameter space. A more general study is underway and the results of numerical simulations will be presented elsewhere¹. Preliminary results show that is indeed possible to efficiently reheat the universe in this model. Finally, the generation of matter-antimatter asymmetry is another compelling problem which also [12] was trying to address. However inflationary physics and baryogenesis can be quite uncorrelated; for example, this would be the case in the presence of sterile neutrinos at the GeV scale. For Majorana neutrinos in the 1-100 GeV range, it has been shown by Akhmedov, Rubakov and Smirnov (ARS) [4] and refined by Asaka and Shaposhnikov (AS) [10] that a peculiar mechanism of leptogenesis is at work. In this case the asymmetries are produced at freeze-in of the sterile states via their CP-violating oscillations. This scenario has been extensively studied [10,64,20,19,8,66,1,49,50,31,32,46,40,9,47,2,41] and leads to the interesting possibility that the extra heavy neutrinos could be produced and searched for in beam dump experiments and colliders (see [37,42,29,16,48,17,3,28,7,39,6,21,22] for an incomplete list of works). A GeV scale for the sterile neutrinos implies very small Yukawa couplings $Y_{\text{sterile}} \lesssim 10^{-6} - 10^{-7}$, which therefore won't affect our results for the generation of the radiative plateau.

7. Discussion

In this letter we analyzed an inflationary scenario in which the inflaton field is the scalar field which breaks the Peccei-Quinn symmetry in the KSVZ model. In particular we showed that radiative corrections are enough in order to match CMB observables and solve the flatness and horizon problems, with no need to resort to a non-minimal coupling to gravity. After a general discussion about the possibility to generate a plateau in the KSVZ model, we gave a numerical example which satisfies all cosmological constraints. Incidentally, we also show (see the appendix) all the beta functions at 2-loops of the minimal KSVZ model, even if, for the desired order of precision, the beta functions and the effective potential at 1-loop were sufficient in the numerical analysis. The necessary ingredients to have a radiative plateau are the scalar and fermions coupled to the inflaton. The peculiar ingredient of the KSVZ is the fact that the new fermions are charged under $SU(3)_c$ in order to solve the strong CP problem. This avoids the need of large Yukawa couplings and makes the generation of the plateau natural. Because of this, as already stated, another well know axion model, namely the DFSZ model [68,30], cannot lead to the generation of

a radiative plateau. Nevertheless we want to mention that there are motivated extensions where the inflaton is coupled to other fermions. For example, in [54,23,26] the authors consider the DFSZ model extended with sterile neutrinos coupled to the Peccei-Quinn field in order to explain the smallness of active neutrinos masses and baryogenesis. We expect a radiative plateau can be generated and inflation obtained also in those extensions.

Acknowledgements

We are warmly grateful to Guillermo Ballesteros, Pilar Hernandez, Mario Reig, Laura Sberna, Carlos Tamarit, Marco Taoso and Alfredo Urbano for reading and commenting the manuscript. We also thank Isabella Masina for discussions.

This work was partially supported by grants FPA2014-57816-P, PROMETEOII/2014/050 and SEV-2014-0398, as well as by the EU projects H2020-MSCA-RISE-2015 and H2020-MSCA-ITN-2015//674896-ELUSIVES.

A special thank to Mariagiovanna Malara for her support. To her I dedicate not only this work (it may not be that useful) but my all.

Appendix A

We show here the beta-functions of the model; for the fermions of the standard model we display only the Yukawa of the top y_t .

$$\beta_{g_1} = \frac{1}{16\pi^2} \frac{41g_1^3}{10} + \frac{1}{256\pi^4} \frac{g_1^3(199g_1^2 + 135g_2^2 + 440g_3^2 - 85y_t^2)}{50} \quad (44)$$

$$\beta_{g_2} = -\frac{1}{16\pi^2} \frac{19g_2^3}{6} + \frac{1}{256\pi^4} \frac{g_2^3(27g_1^2 + 175g_2^2 + 360g_3^2 - 45y_t^2)}{30} \quad (45)$$

$$\beta_{g_3} = -\frac{1}{16\pi^2} 5g_3^3 + \frac{1}{256\pi^4} \frac{g_3^3(11g_1^2 + 45g_2^2 + 120g_3^2 - 10y_t^2 - 20y_t^2)}{10} \quad (46)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \beta_{y_t} = & \frac{1}{16\pi^2} \left(\frac{3y_t^3}{2} + y_t \left(-\frac{17g_1^2}{20} - \frac{9g_2^2}{4} - 8g_3^2 + 3y_t^2 \right) \right) \\ & + \frac{1}{256\pi^4} \left(y_t \left(\frac{17}{8} g_1^2 y_t^2 + \frac{45}{8} g_2^2 y_t^2 + 20g_3^2 y_t^2 - \frac{27}{4} y_t^4 \right) \right. \\ & - \frac{9}{20} g_1^2 g_2^2 + \frac{19}{15} g_1^2 g_3^2 + \\ & + \frac{1187}{600} g_1^4 + 9g_2^2 g_3^2 - \frac{23g_2^4}{4} - \frac{284g_3^4}{3} + 2\lambda_{HA}^2 + 6\lambda_H^2 \Big) \\ & + \frac{1}{80} \left(120y_t^5 + y_t^3(-540y_t^2 + 223g_1^2 + 675g_2^2 + 1280g_3^2 \right. \\ & \left. - 960\lambda_H) \right) \Big) \quad (47) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \beta_y = & \frac{1}{16\pi^2} 4(y^3 - 2g_3^2 y) + \frac{1}{256\pi^4} \left(y \left(20g_3^2 y^2 - \frac{9}{2} y^4 - \frac{284}{3} g_3^4 \right) \right. \\ & \left. + 4\lambda_{HA}^2 + 4\lambda_A^2 \right) + y^3 \left(-\frac{9}{2} y^2 + \frac{32g_3^2}{3} - 8\lambda_A \right) + \frac{7}{4} y^5 \Big) \quad (48) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \beta_{\lambda_H} = & \frac{1}{16\pi^2} \left(12y_t^2 - 6y_t^4 + \frac{9}{20} g_1^2 g_2^2 - \frac{9}{5} g_1^2 \lambda_H + \frac{27}{200} g_1^4 \right. \\ & \left. - 9g_2^2 \lambda_H + \frac{9g_2^4}{8} + 4\lambda_{HA}^2 + 24\lambda_H \right) + \end{aligned}$$

¹ G. Ballesteros, A. Caputo and C. Tamarit in preparation

$$\begin{aligned}
& + \frac{1}{256\pi^2} \left(\frac{63}{10} g_1^2 g_2^2 y_t^2 + \frac{17}{2} g_1^2 \lambda_H y_t^2 - \frac{171}{100} g_1^4 y_t^2 \right. \\
& - \frac{8}{5} g_1^2 y_t^4 + \frac{45}{2} g_2^2 \lambda_H y_t^2 - \frac{9}{4} g_2^2 y_t^2 + 80 g_3^2 \lambda_H y_t^2 - 32 g_3^2 y_t^4 \\
& - 24 \lambda_{HA}^2 y_t^2 - 3 \lambda_H y_t^4 - 144 \lambda_H y_t^2 + \\
& + 30 y_t^6 + \frac{117}{20} g_1^2 g_2^2 \lambda_H - \frac{1677}{400} g_1^4 g_2^2 - \frac{289}{80} g_1^2 g_2^4 \\
& + \frac{1887}{200} g_1^4 \lambda_H + \frac{108}{5} g_1^2 \lambda_H^2 - \frac{3411 g_1^6}{2000} + 108 g_2^2 \lambda_H^2 \\
& - \frac{73}{8} g_2^4 \lambda_H + \frac{305 g_2^6}{16} - 40 \lambda_{HA} + \\
& \left. - 32 \lambda_{HA}^3 - 312 \lambda_H^3 \right) \quad (49)
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
\beta_{\lambda_{HA}} &= \frac{1}{16\pi^2} \\
& \times \frac{\lambda_{HA} \left(60 y_t^2 + 60 y_t^2 - 9 g_1^2 - 45 g_2^2 + 80 \lambda_{HA} + 80 \lambda_A + 120 \lambda_H \right)}{10} \\
& + \frac{1}{256\pi^4} \left(\frac{17}{4} g_1^2 \lambda_{HA} y_t^2 + \frac{45}{4} g_2^2 \lambda_{HA} y_t^2 \right. \\
& + 40 g_3^2 \lambda_{HA} y_t^2 + 40 g_3^2 \lambda_{HA} y_t^2 - 48 \lambda_{HA} \lambda_A y_t^2 \\
& - 9 \lambda_{HA} y_t^4 - 24 \lambda_{HA}^2 y_t^2 - 72 \lambda_{HA} \lambda_H y_t^2 - \frac{27}{2} \lambda_{HA} y_t^4 + \\
& + 24 \lambda_{HA}^2 y_t^2 + \frac{9}{8} g_1^2 g_2^2 \lambda_{HA} + \frac{72}{5} g_1^2 \lambda_{HA} \lambda_H + \frac{1671}{400} g_1^4 \lambda_{HA} \\
& + \frac{6}{5} g_1^2 \lambda_{HA}^2 + 72 g_2^2 \lambda_{HA} \lambda_H + 6 g_2^2 \lambda_{HA}^2 - \frac{145}{16} g_2^4 \lambda_{HA} \\
& - 40 \lambda_{HA} \lambda_A^2 - 96 \lambda_{HA}^2 \lambda_A + \\
& \left. - 60 \lambda_{HA} \lambda_H^2 - 144 \lambda_{HA} \lambda_H - 44 \lambda_{HA}^3 \right) \quad (50)
\end{aligned}$$

$$\beta_{\xi_A} = \frac{1}{16\pi^2} \left((1 + 6\xi) \left(\frac{y^2}{2} + \frac{2}{3} \lambda_A \right) - \frac{\lambda_{HA}}{3} \right) \quad (51)$$

$$\begin{aligned}
\beta_{\lambda_A} &= \frac{1}{16\pi^2} \left(12 \lambda_A y^2 - 6 y^4 + 8 \lambda_{HA}^2 + 20 \lambda_A^2 \right) \\
& + \frac{1}{256\pi^4} \left(80 g_3^2 \lambda_A y^2 - 32 g_3^2 y^4 - 48 \lambda_{HA}^2 y_t^2 + 6 \lambda_A y^4 \right. \\
& - 120 \lambda_A^2 y^2 + 24 y^6 + \frac{48}{5} g_1^2 \lambda_{HA}^2 + \\
& \left. + 48 g_2^2 \lambda_{HA}^2 - 80 \lambda_{HA}^2 \lambda_A - 64 \lambda_{HA}^3 - 240 \lambda_A^3 \right) \quad (52)
\end{aligned}$$

References

- [1] A. Abada, G. Arcadi, V. Domcke, M. Lucente, Lepton number violation as a key to low-scale leptogenesis, *J. Cosmol. Astropart. Phys.* 1511 (11) (2015) 041.
- [2] A. Abada, G. Arcadi, V. Domcke, M. Lucente, Neutrino masses, leptogenesis and dark matter from small lepton number violation? *J. Cosmol. Astropart. Phys.* 1712 (12) (2017) 024.
- [3] A. Abada, V. De Romeri, S. Monteil, J. Orloff, A.M. Teixeira, Indirect searches for sterile neutrinos at a high-luminosity Z-factory, *J. High Energy Phys.* 04 (2015) 051.
- [4] E.K. Akhmedov, V.A. Rubakov, A.Yu. Smirnov, Baryogenesis via neutrino oscillations, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* 81 (1998) 1359–1362.
- [5] Y. Akrami, et al., Planck 2018 results. X. Constraints on inflation, 2018.
- [6] S. Antusch, E. Cazzato, O. Fischer, Displaced vertex searches for sterile neutrinos at future lepton colliders, *J. High Energy Phys.* 12 (2016) 007.
- [7] S. Antusch, O. Fischer, Testing sterile neutrino extensions of the Standard Model at future lepton colliders, *J. High Energy Phys.* 05 (2015) 053.
- [8] T. Asaka, S. Ejima, H. Ishida, Kinetic equations for baryogenesis via sterile neutrino oscillation, *J. Cosmol. Astropart. Phys.* 1202 (2012) 021.
- [9] T. Asaka, S. Ejima, H. Ishida, K. Minogawa, T. Yoshii, Initial condition for baryogenesis via neutrino oscillation, 2017.
- [10] T. Asaka, M. Shaposhnikov, The nuMSM, dark matter and baryon asymmetry of the universe, *Phys. Lett. B* 620 (2005) 17–26.
- [11] G. Ballesteros, J.A. Casas, Large tensor-to-scalar ratio and running of the scalar spectral index with Instep Inflation, *Phys. Rev. D* 91 (2015) 043502.
- [12] G. Ballesteros, J. Redondo, A. Ringwald, C. Tamarit, Standard Model axion seesaw Higgs portal inflation. Five problems of particle physics and cosmology solved in one stroke, *J. Cosmol. Astropart. Phys.* 1708 (08) (2017) 001.
- [13] G. Ballesteros, C. Tamarit, Radiative plateau inflation, *J. High Energy Phys.* 02 (2016) 153.
- [14] G. Barenboim, E.J. Chun, H.M. Lee, Coleman-Weinberg inflation in light of Planck, *Phys. Lett. B* 730 (2014) 81–88.
- [15] F.L. Bezrukov, M. Shaposhnikov, The Standard Model Higgs boson as the inflaton, *Phys. Lett. B* 659 (2008) 703–706.
- [16] P.S. Bhupal Dev, R. Franceschini, R.N. Mohapatra, Bounds on TeV seesaw models from LHC Higgs data, *Phys. Rev. D* 86 (2012) 093010.
- [17] A. Blondel, E. Graverini, N. Serra, M. Shaposhnikov, Search for heavy right handed neutrinos at the FCC-ee, *Nucl. Part. Phys. Proc.* 273–275 (2016) 1883–1890.
- [18] E. Bugaev, P. Klimai, Axion inflation with gauge field production and primordial black holes, *Phys. Rev. D* 90 (10) (2014) 103501.
- [19] L. Canetti, M. Drewes, T. Frossard, M. Shaposhnikov, Dark matter, baryogenesis and neutrino oscillations from right handed neutrinos, *Phys. Rev. D* 87 (2013) 093006.
- [20] L. Canetti, M. Drewes, M. Shaposhnikov, Matter and antimatter in the universe, *New J. Phys.* 14 (2012) 095012.
- [21] A. Caputo, P. Hernandez, M. Kekic, J. Lopez-Pavon, J. Salvado, The seesaw path to leptonic CP violation, *Eur. Phys. J. C* 77 (4) (2017) 258.
- [22] A. Caputo, P. Hernandez, J. Lopez-Pavon, J. Salvado, The seesaw portal in testable models of neutrino masses, *J. High Energy Phys.* 06 (2017) 112.
- [23] A. Caputo, P. Hernandez, N. Rius, Low-scale leptogenesis and dark matter, 2018.
- [24] J.A. Casas, V. Di Clemente, M. Quiros, The effective potential in the presence of several mass scales, *Nucl. Phys. B* 553 (1999) 511–530.
- [25] S.-M. Choi, H.M. Lee, Inflection point inflation and reheating, *Eur. Phys. J. C* 76 (6) (2016) 303.
- [26] J.D. Clarke, R.R. Volkas, Technically natural nonsupersymmetric model of neutrino masses, baryogenesis, the strong CP problem, and dark matter, *Phys. Rev. D* 93 (3) (2016) 035001, *Phys. Rev. D* 93 (2016) 035001.
- [27] S.R. Coleman, E.J. Weinberg, Radiative corrections as the origin of spontaneous symmetry breaking, *Phys. Rev. D* 7 (1973) 1888–1910.
- [28] Y. Cui, B. Shuve, Probing baryogenesis with displaced vertices at the LHC, *J. High Energy Phys.* 02 (2015) 049.
- [29] F. del Aguila, J.A. Aguilar-Saavedra, Distinguishing seesaw models at LHC with multi-lepton signals, *Nucl. Phys. B* 813 (2009) 22–90.
- [30] M. Dine, W. Fischler, M. Srednicki, A simple solution to the strong CP problem with a harmless axion, *Phys. Lett. B* 104 (1981) 199–202.
- [31] M. Drewes, B. Garbrecht, D. Gueter, J. Klaric, Leptogenesis from oscillations of heavy neutrinos with large mixing angles, *J. High Energy Phys.* 12 (2016) 150.
- [32] M. Drewes, B. Garbrecht, D. Gueter, J. Klaric, Testing the low scale seesaw and leptogenesis, *J. High Energy Phys.* 08 (2017) 018.
- [33] K. Enqvist, M. Karčiauskas, Does Planck really rule out monomial inflation? *J. Cosmol. Astropart. Phys.* 1402 (2014) 034.
- [34] K. Enqvist, A. Mazumdar, P. Stephens, Inflection point inflation within supersymmetry, *J. Cosmol. Astropart. Phys.* 1006 (2010) 020.
- [35] M. Fairbairn, R. Hogan, D.J.E. Marsh, Unifying inflation and dark matter with the Peccei-Quinn field: observable axions and observable tensors, *Phys. Rev. D* 91 (2) (2015) 023509.
- [36] R. Fakir, W.G. Unruh, Improvement on cosmological chaotic inflation through nonminimal coupling, *Phys. Rev. D* 41 (1990) 1783–1791.
- [37] A. Ferrari, J. Collot, M.-L. Andrieux, B. Belhorma, P. de Saintignon, J.-Y. Hostachy, P. Martin, M. Wielers, Sensitivity study for new gauge bosons and right-handed Majorana neutrinos in *pp* collisions at $s = 14$ -TeV, *Phys. Rev. D* 62 (2000) 013001.
- [38] T. Futamase, K.-i. Maeda, Chaotic inflationary scenario in models having non-minimal coupling with curvature, *Phys. Rev. D* 39 (1989) 399–404.
- [39] A.M. Gago, P. Hernandez, J. Jones-Perez, M. Losada, A. Moreno Briceño, Probing the type I seesaw mechanism with displaced vertices at the LHC, *Eur. Phys. J. C* 75 (10) (2015) 470.
- [40] J. Ghiglieri, M. Laine, GeV-scale hot sterile neutrino oscillations: a derivation of evolution equations, *J. High Energy Phys.* 05 (2017) 132.
- [41] J. Ghiglieri, M. Laine, GeV-scale hot sterile neutrino oscillations: a numerical solution, *J. High Energy Phys.* 02 (2018) 078.
- [42] M.L. Graesser, Experimental Constraints on Higgs Boson Decays to TeV-scale Right-Handed Neutrinos, 2007.
- [43] K. Griest, M. Kamionkowski, Unitarity limits on the mass and radius of dark matter particles, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* 64 (1990) 615.
- [44] T.W. Grimm, Axion inflation in type II string theory, *Phys. Rev. D* 77 (2008) 126007.
- [45] A.H. Guth, The inflationary universe: a possible solution to the horizon and flatness problems, *Phys. Rev. D* 23 (1981) 347–356, *Adv. Ser. Astrophys. Cosmol.* 3 (1987) 139.

- [46] T. Hambye, D. Teresi, Higgs doublet decay as the origin of the baryon asymmetry, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* 117 (9) (2016) 091801.
- [47] T. Hambye, D. Teresi, Baryogenesis from L-violating Higgs-doublet decay in the density-matrix formalism, *Phys. Rev. D* 96 (1) (2017) 015031.
- [48] J.C. Helo, M. Hirsch, S. Kovalenko, Heavy neutrino searches at the LHC with displaced vertices, *Phys. Rev. D* 89 (2014) 073005, Erratum: *Phys. Rev. D* 93 (9) (2016) 099902.
- [49] P. Hernandez, M. Kekic, J. Lopez-Pavon, J. Racker, N. Rius, Leptogenesis in GeV scale seesaw models, *J. High Energy Phys.* 10 (2015) 067.
- [50] P. Hernandez, M. Kekic, J. Lopez-Pavon, J. Racker, J. Salvado, Testable baryogenesis in seesaw models, *J. High Energy Phys.* 08 (2016) 157.
- [51] T. Inagaki, R. Nakanishi, S.D. Odintsov, Inflationary parameters in renormalization group improved ϕ^4 theory, *Astrophys. Space Sci.* 354 (2) (2014) 2108.
- [52] R. Kallosh, A.D. Linde, D.A. Linde, L. Susskind, Gravity and global symmetries, *Phys. Rev. D* 52 (1995) 912–935.
- [53] J.E. Kim, Weak interaction singlet and strong CP invariance, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* 43 (1979) 103.
- [54] P. Langacker, R.D. Peccei, T. Yanagida, Invisible axions and light neutrinos: are they connected? *Mod. Phys. Lett. A* 1 (1986) 541.
- [55] M.V. Libanov, V.A. Rubakov, P.G. Tinyakov, Cosmology with nonminimal scalar field: graceful entrance into inflation, *Phys. Lett. B* 442 (1998) 63–67.
- [56] A.D. Linde, A new inflationary universe scenario: a possible solution of the horizon, flatness, homogeneity, isotropy and primordial monopole problems, *Phys. Lett. B* 108 (1982) 389–393, *Adv. Ser. Astrophys. Cosmol.* 3 (1987) 149.
- [57] I. Masina, Ruling out critical Higgs inflation? *Phys. Rev. D* 98 (4) (2018) 043536.
- [58] S.D. Odintsov, V.K. Oikonomou, $f(R)$ gravity inflation with string-corrected axion dark matter, *Phys. Rev. D* 99 (6) (2019) 064049.
- [59] N. Okada, S. Okada, D. Raut, Inflection-point inflation in hyper-charge oriented $U(1)_X$ model, *Phys. Rev. D* 95 (5) (2017) 055030.
- [60] N. Okada, D. Raut, Inflection-point Higgs inflation, *Phys. Rev. D* 95 (3) (2017) 035035.
- [61] N. Okada, M.U. Rehman, Q. Shafi, Tensor to scalar ratio in non-minimal ϕ^4 inflation, *Phys. Rev. D* 82 (2010) 043502.
- [62] G.G. Raffelt, Particle physics from stars, *Annu. Rev. Nucl. Part. Sci.* 49 (1999) 163–216.
- [63] V.N. Senoguz, Q. Shafi, Chaotic inflation, radiative corrections and precision cosmology, *Phys. Lett. B* 668 (2008) 6–10.
- [64] M. Shaposhnikov, The nuMSM, leptonic asymmetries, and properties of singlet fermions, *J. High Energy Phys.* 08 (2008) 008.
- [65] M.A. Shifman, A.I. Vainshtein, V.I. Zakharov, Can confinement ensure natural CP invariance of strong interactions? *Nucl. Phys. B* 166 (1980) 493–506.
- [66] B. Shuve, I. Yavin, Baryogenesis through neutrino oscillations: a unified perspective, *Phys. Rev. D* 89 (7) (2014) 075014.
- [67] F. Staub, SARAH 4: a tool for (not only SUSY) model builders, *Comput. Phys. Commun.* 185 (2014) 1773–1790.
- [68] A.R. Zhitnitsky, On possible suppression of the axion hadron interactions (In Russian), *Sov. J. Nucl. Phys.* 31 (1980) 260, *Yad. Fiz.* 31 (1980) 497.