

Very low scale Coleman-Weinberg inflation with nonminimal coupling

Kunio Kaneta,¹ Osamu Seto,^{2,3} and Ryo Takahashi⁴

¹*Center for Theoretical Physics of the Universe, Institute for Basic Science (IBS), Daejeon 34051, Korea*

²*Institute for International Collaboration, Hokkaido University, Sapporo 060-0815, Japan*

³*Department of Physics, Hokkaido University, Sapporo 060-0810, Japan*

⁴*Graduate School of Science, Tohoku University, Sendai 980-8578, Japan*



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We study viable small-field Coleman-Weinberg (CW) inflation models with the help of nonminimal coupling to gravity. The simplest small-field CW inflation model (with a low-scale potential minimum) is incompatible with the cosmological constraint on the scalar spectral index. However, there are possibilities to make the model realistic. First, we revisit the CW inflation model supplemented with a linear potential term. We next consider the CW inflation model with a logarithmic nonminimal coupling and illustrate that the model can open a new viable parameter space that includes the model with a linear potential term. We also show parameter spaces where the Hubble scale during the inflation can be as small as 10^{-4} GeV, 1 GeV, 10^4 GeV, and 10^8 GeV for the number of e -folds of 40, 45, 50, and 55, respectively, with other cosmological constraints being satisfied.

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I. INTRODUCTION

Inflation is one of the successful paradigms in modern cosmology that can address various cosmological issues [1–3] and generate primordial perturbations [4–7]. The underlying particle physics is, however, still unclear, and it is indispensable in understanding physics in the early Universe. To this end, in particular, it is legitimate to ask what is a consistent inflationary scenario for a specific physics model beyond the standard model of particle physics.

Two categories are often used to classify various inflationary models: large-field and small-field inflation, according to whether the inflaton field excursion during inflation exceeds the Planck scale or not. Each class of models has its own virtues. For instance, the large-field models have an advantage in the initial condition of inflation [8,9], whereas in the small-field models, inflation can take place with the inflaton field value well below the Planck scale, and hence, its field theoretical description is verified and well understood.

In small-field models with a symmetry-breaking-type potential, inflation takes place at the vicinity of the origin, and the inflaton field slowly rolls down toward the potential minimum located below the Planck scale. From the

normalization of temperature anisotropy of cosmic microwave background (CMB) radiation of $\mathcal{O}(10^{-5})$, the energy scale of small-field inflation models, which is equivalently the Hubble parameter during inflation, turns out to be rather small. Thus, a small-field inflation generally leads to a rather low reheating temperature.

Such a low-scale inflation and its resultant low reheating temperature are attractive from several viewpoints. Here, we note several examples and those motivations. First, in a Peccei-Quinn (PQ) extended model to solve the strong CP problem in the standard model of particle physics [10,11], if the PQ symmetry is broken before or during inflation, axion fluctuations on the order of the Hubble parameter during inflation are generated and induce axion isocurvature perturbations [12–15]. To satisfy the stringent bound on axion isocurvature perturbation by the CMB temperature anisotropy, a small Hubble parameter during inflation, $\lesssim 10^7$ GeV, is required [16]. Second, one of the most promising scenarios for generation of baryon asymmetry is the Affleck-Dine mechanism with a flat direction [17]. An appropriate amount of baryon asymmetry can be generated by a flat direction lifted by a dimension-six operator for a low reheating temperature T_R of about 100 GeV [18]. Affleck-Dine baryogenesis by such flat directions is interesting because it provides a solution to the coincidence of energy densities between baryon and dark matter with the formation of Q -balls [19–21]. Third, an issue of supersymmetric models in cosmology is the overproduction of the gravitino [22–24]. Because gravitino abundance produced through thermal scatterings is proportional to the reheating temperature after inflation, in order to avoid

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overproduction, the upper bound on the reheating temperature is imposed. For a recent estimation, see, e.g., Refs. [25,26]. Finally, the recently proposed relaxion mechanism [27], as a solution to the hierarchy problem of Higgs boson by utilizing a slowly rolling scalar field in the context of inflationary cosmology, also requires a very long period and a very low energy scale of inflation for a phase transition by QCD(-like) strong dynamics to take place during inflation, not only in the minimal model [27–29] but also in some extended models [30–33]. (However, for other extensions where the relaxion mechanism can work at relatively high scale, see, e.g., Refs. [34–36].)

In this paper, we pursue a possible realization of viable small-field inflationary models based on the Coleman-Weinberg (CW) model [37]. In particular, we discuss how small inflation scale can be achieved in the CW model with some possible modifications. The CW inflation model is a typical model of low-scale and small-field inflation [38–40]. However, the original CW inflation model is doomed by the observed scalar spectral index [41], which is significantly larger than that of the model predictions.¹ Iso *et al.* have proposed simple extensions to ameliorate this discrepancy [49]. In this paper, we revisit known examples of such extension and explore further possibilities by considering other promising extensions.

The rest of this paper is organized as follows. In Sec. II, we first go over the models discussed in Ref. [49] and move onto other possible extensions based on a nonminimal coupling to gravity. We devote Sec. III to discussions and conclusions.

II. SMALL-FIELD COLEMAN-WEINBERG INFLATION MODEL

We study a class of small-field CW inflation where the inflaton starts to roll down from the vicinity of the origin to the potential minimum [38–40,49]. The scalar potential for the inflaton ϕ is given by

$$V(\phi) = \frac{A}{4} \phi^4 \left(\ln \frac{\phi^2}{M^2} - \frac{1}{2} \right) + V_0, \quad V_0 = \frac{AM^4}{8}, \quad (1)$$

with a scale $M (< M_{\text{pl}})$ and M_{pl} being the reduced Planck mass. V_0 is determined by the vanishing cosmological constant at the minimum. Derivatives of the potential with respect to ϕ are

$$V' = A\phi^3 \ln \frac{\phi^2}{M^2}, \quad V'' = A\phi^2 \left(2 + 3 \ln \frac{\phi^2}{M^2} \right). \quad (2)$$

¹If the vacuum expectation value of the field is larger than the Planck scale, the CW potential might reproduce the consistent density perturbation [42] (for other attempts, see, e.g., [43–48]). However, this case belongs to the large-field model and is not discussed in this paper.

We find that the vacuum expectation value at the minimum is given by $\langle \phi \rangle = M$, and V_0 is obtained by $V(M) = 0$ as shown above. Thus, the slow roll parameters are calculated as

$$\epsilon = \frac{M_{\text{pl}}^2}{2} \left(\frac{V'}{V} \right)^2 \simeq 32 \left(\frac{M_{\text{pl}}}{M} \right)^2 \left(\frac{\phi}{M} \right)^6 \left(\ln \frac{\phi^2}{M^2} \right)^2, \quad (3)$$

$$\eta = M_{\text{pl}}^2 \left(\frac{V''}{V} \right) \simeq 24 \left(\frac{M_{\text{pl}}}{M} \right)^2 \left(\frac{\phi}{M} \right)^2 \ln \frac{\phi^2}{M^2}, \quad (4)$$

where $V \simeq V_0$ is utilized in a small-field region of ϕ . The slow roll conditions can be satisfied when a field value of ϕ is small enough to satisfy $|\eta| < 1$ for a given M . In this region, we find $\epsilon \ll |\eta|$ and $\phi \ll M$. This simple CW inflation model leads to a tiny tensor-to-scalar ratio ($r \simeq 16\epsilon$), which is allowed by the current bound [16,50] from cosmological observations. However, for $M \ll M_{\text{pl}}$, the scalar spectral index ($n_s \simeq 1 + 2\eta - 6\epsilon$) from this model as $0.94 \lesssim n_s \lesssim 0.95$ for $50 \leq N_* \leq 60$ does not fall into the allowed region for a tiny r as

$$0.955 \lesssim n_s \lesssim 0.976 \quad (68\% \text{CL}), \quad (5)$$

$$0.949 \lesssim n_s \lesssim 0.982 \quad (95\% \text{CL}), \quad (6)$$

given by Planck TT + low P data [16]. N_* is the number of e -folds given by

$$N_* = \frac{1}{M_{\text{pl}}^2} \int_{\phi_{\text{end}}}^{\phi_*} \frac{V}{V'} d\phi \simeq \frac{1}{M_{\text{pl}}^2} \int_{\phi_{\text{end}}}^{\phi_*} \frac{V_0}{A\phi^3 \ln(\phi^2/M^2)} d\phi, \quad (7)$$

with field value ϕ_* where the pivot scale k_* exits from the Hubble radius. ϕ_{end} denotes the field value at the end of inflation. Therefore, the low-scale CW inflation model must be modified to be consistent with cosmological observations. In most studies, N_* is taken to be about 50 or 60. In fact, N_* weakly depends on the energy scale of inflation and the delay of reheating after inflation [51–53] as

$$N_* \simeq 62 - \ln \frac{10^{16} \text{ GeV}}{V_*^{1/4}} - \frac{1}{3} \ln \frac{V_*^{1/4}}{\rho_R^{1/4}}, \quad (8)$$

with the energy density at the reheating ρ_R and the energy density at the moment of the pivot scale horizon crossing during inflation V_* for the standard thermal history after inflation in which the Universe becomes the matter dominated with the equation of state $w = 0$ during the coherent oscillation of inflaton after inflation, followed by the radiation-dominated Universe. Here, we used $V_* \simeq V(\phi_{\text{end}})$. Now, N_* is a function of V_* and ρ_R . In the following analysis, because we are interested in very low scale CW inflation, we vary N_* from 40 to 55 under the condition $\rho_R \leq V_*$.

A. Fermion condensates

A possibility to increase n_s is the introduction of a linear term, which can be generated by a fermion condensation in

the inflaton potential discussed in Ref. [49]. In the work, two examples that induce a linear term have been shown. One is the condensation of right-handed neutrinos N , which couple to ϕ through a Yukawa interaction $y_N \phi \bar{N}^c N$. The other one is the chiral condensation, which generates a linear term as $C_h h$ in the Higgs (h) potential. Then, the mixing between the Higgs and inflaton induces a linear term in the inflaton potential. In both cases, a linear term, $C\phi$, in the inflaton potential can be induced from a fermion condensate.

The potential (1) is changed to

$$V(\phi) = \frac{A}{4} \phi^4 \left(\ln \frac{\phi^2}{M^2} - \frac{1}{2} \right) - C\phi + V_0, \quad V_0 = \frac{AM^4}{8}. \quad (9)$$

V' and ϵ are also modified to

$$V' = A\phi^3 \ln \frac{\phi^2}{M^2} - C, \quad \epsilon \simeq 32 \left(\frac{M_{\text{pl}}}{M} \right)^2 \left[\left(\frac{\phi}{M} \right)^3 \ln \frac{\phi^2}{M^2} - \frac{C}{AM^3} \right]^2. \quad (10)$$

V'' is unchanged, but N_* is modified as

$$N_* \simeq \frac{1}{M_{\text{pl}}^2} \int_{\phi_{\text{end}}}^{\phi_*} \frac{V_0}{A\phi^3 \ln(\phi^2/M^2) - C} d\phi. \quad (11)$$

Thus, the relation between n_s and N_* changes from the original CW inflation.

For all figures in this paper, we normalize the amplitude of curvature perturbation at the pivot scale as $A_s = 2.196 \times 10^{-9}$. Figure 1 shows n_s as a function of M in the model with fermion condensates. In the figure, black, dark gray, gray, and light gray curves correspond to $N_* = 55, 50, 45,$ and 40 cases, respectively. Solid and dashed curves are cases of $\tilde{C} = 10^{-5}$ and 10^{-6} , respectively, where \tilde{C} is a dimensionless parameter defined as $\tilde{C} \equiv C(M_{\text{pl}}/M)^3/(AM^3)$. The end of each curve corresponds to the case of the instantaneous reheating, $\rho_R = V_*$, which gives the maximal reheating temperature after inflation. The horizontal solid line denotes the center value of n_s from the cosmological observation [16] as $n_s = 0.9655$; its 1σ range (5) is indicated by dashed lines, and shaded regions are outside of the bound (6). We find that the model has viable parameter space consistent with cosmological observations for $\tilde{C} = \mathcal{O}(10^{-5})$, with $40 \lesssim N_* \lesssim 55$ in the broad region of $M \gtrsim 10^{11}$ GeV. The additional contribution of C in the denominator of Eq. (11) changes the value of N_* , but it does not change the magnitude of ϵ , and thus the tensor-to-scalar ratio remains tiny as in the case of the original CW inflation model.

Next, we discuss the inflation scale, that is, the Hubble scale during the inflation, and maximal value of the number of e -folds during slow roll phase N_{max} . The Hubble scale during the inflation H_{inf} is approximated as

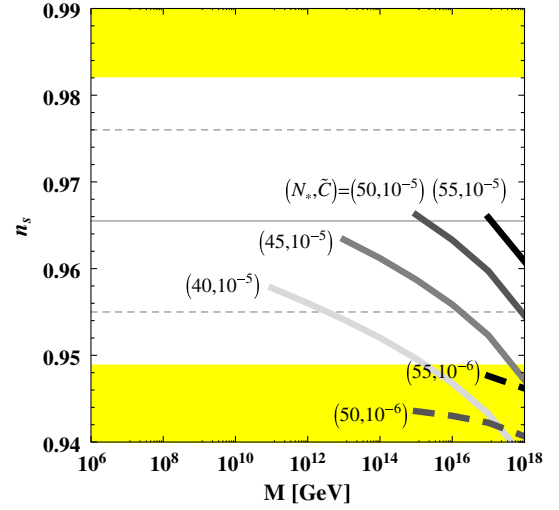


FIG. 1. Value of n_s in the CW model with fermion condensates. Black, dark gray, gray, and light gray curves correspond to $N_* = 55, 50, 45,$ and 40 cases, respectively. Solid and dashed curves are $\tilde{C} = 10^{-5}$ and 10^{-6} , respectively, where \tilde{C} is a dimensionless parameter defined as $\tilde{C} \equiv C(M_{\text{pl}}/M)^3/(AM^3)$. The center values and 68% CL and 95% CL range of n_s are shown by solid and dashed lines and shaded region, respectively.

$H_{\text{inf}} \simeq \sqrt{V_0/3M_{\text{pl}}^2}$ in the model. N_{max} could be an interesting quantity from the viewpoint of the relaxation scenario as stated in the Introduction. N_{max} is defined as

$$N_{\text{max}} \equiv \int_{\phi_{\text{end}}}^{\phi=0} \frac{V}{V'} d\phi, \quad (12)$$

in this class of small-field inflation model. The values in this model are shown in Fig. 2. Solid, long dashed lines, and dashed curves in the right panel of Fig. 2 are $\tilde{C} = 10^{-5}, 10^{-5.5},$ and 10^{-6} , respectively. Curves and regions in the figure are the same as those in Fig. 1. We find that possible inflation scale is $H_{\text{inf}} \gtrsim 10^{-4}$ GeV, 1 GeV, 10^4 GeV, and 10^8 GeV for $N_* = 40, 45, 50,$ and 55 for $\tilde{C} = 10^{-5}$, respectively. M as large as 10^{18} GeV is available for $A \sim \mathcal{O}(10^{-14})$, and H_{inf} can be reduced to be as low as 10^{-4} GeV at $M = 10^{11}$ GeV. Interestingly, this type of model can also realize small inflation scale compared with the usual large-field inflation models. The maximal value of the number of e -folds is $N_{\text{max}} \simeq 110, 140, 240,$ and 310 for $N_* = 40, 45, 50,$ and 55 , respectively, with an appropriate value of \tilde{C} . Thus, enormous number of e -folds, which may be preferred in some relaxation models, cannot be realized in the model due to the absence of an extremely flat region such as a stationary point.

B. Nonminimal coupling to gravity

Let us now discuss another possible realization of a viable small-scale CW inflation, where we introduce a

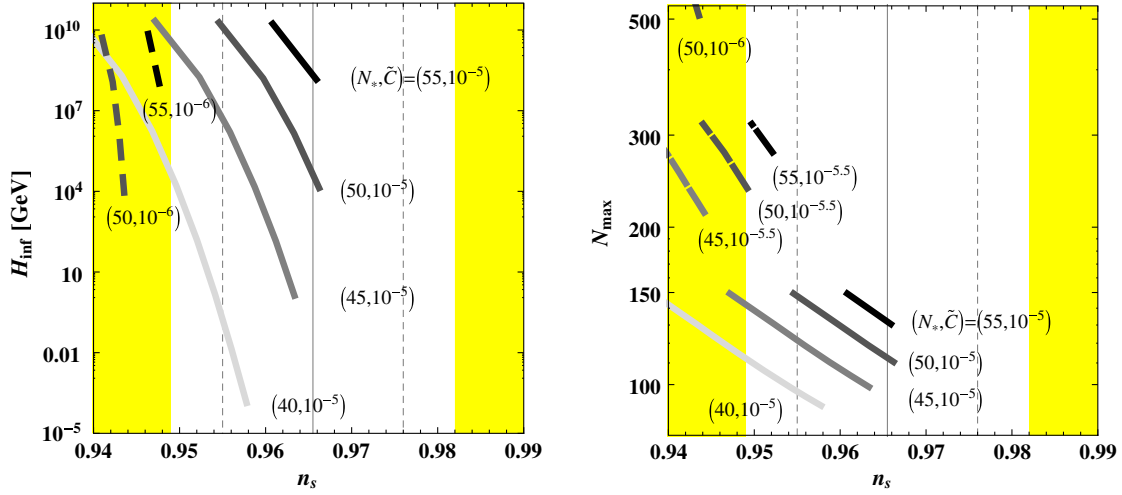


FIG. 2. Inflation scale (left) and maximal value of the number of e -folds (right) in this model. Solid, long dashed line, and dashed curves on the right are $\tilde{C} = 10^{-5}$, $10^{-5.5}$, and 10^{-6} , respectively. (On the right, a dashed curve only appears in the upper-left corner.) The other meanings of curves and region in the figure are the same as those in Fig. 1.

nonminimal coupling of the inflaton to gravity. In Ref. [49], a nonminimal coupling to gravity of $\mathcal{L}_\xi = -\xi\bar{\phi}^2\mathcal{R}/2$, with \mathcal{R} being the Ricci scalar and $\bar{\phi}$ being the Jordan frame inflaton field, has been discussed, but it was concluded that this term cannot make the original CW inflation viable.²

Instead of utilizing the quadratic coupling to gravity, we introduce a logarithmic term of nonminimal coupling to gravity. Such a form of the nonminimal coupling may be obtained by incorporating quantum corrections to the $\bar{\phi}^2\mathcal{R}$ term [54],³ and here, we parametrize it as

$$\mathcal{L} = -\xi M \bar{\phi} \mathcal{R} \left(\ln \frac{\bar{\phi}}{M} - c \right), \quad (13)$$

in the Jordan frame. In this case, the potential (1) is changed to

$$V(\bar{\phi}) \rightarrow V_E(\bar{\phi}(\phi)) = \frac{V(\bar{\phi}(\phi))}{\Omega^4(\bar{\phi}(\phi))} \simeq \frac{A}{4} \bar{\phi}^4 \left(\ln \frac{\bar{\phi}^2}{M^2} - \frac{1}{2} \right) + V_0 \left(1 + \frac{2\xi M \bar{\phi}}{M_{\text{pl}}^2} \left(\ln \frac{\bar{\phi}}{M} - c \right) \right), \quad (14)$$

in the Einstein frame where $\Omega^2 \equiv 1 - \frac{\xi M \bar{\phi}}{M_{\text{pl}}^2} \ln(\bar{\phi}/M - c)$, and ϕ is a canonically normalized inflaton field in this frame. Although one can safely approximate $\Omega^2 \simeq 1$ and $d\phi/d\bar{\phi} \simeq 1$ with $V(\bar{\phi}) \simeq V_E(\bar{\phi}(\phi)) \simeq V_0$ in a small-field region, the

²Furthermore, we have also checked that introductions of cubic ($\xi\bar{\phi}^3\mathcal{R}/M$) and quartic ($\xi\bar{\phi}^4\mathcal{R}/M^2$) terms in the original CW inflaton potential do not work. As $\bar{\phi}$ is taken as small values during the inflation, higher terms than the quadratic one do not drastically change the properties of the original CW inflation model.

³See also [55–60].

additional term induced from the logarithmic form of nonminimal coupling to gravity cannot be negligible for V'_E and V''_E in a certain parameter space. In particular, the model with a larger c gives similar predictions from the CW model, with a linear term discussed in the previous subsection.

Taking derivatives with respect to ϕ , we have

$$V'_E(\bar{\phi}(\phi)) = \frac{dV_E}{d\bar{\phi}} \frac{1}{\frac{d\bar{\phi}}{d\phi}} \simeq A\bar{\phi}^3 \ln \frac{\bar{\phi}^2}{M^2} + \frac{A\xi M^5}{4M_{\text{pl}}^2} \left(\ln \frac{\bar{\phi}}{M} - c + 1 \right), \quad (15)$$

$$V''_E(\bar{\phi}(\phi)) \simeq A\bar{\phi}^2 \left(2 + 3 \ln \frac{\bar{\phi}^2}{M^2} \right) + \frac{A\xi M^5}{4M_{\text{pl}}^2}. \quad (16)$$

Then, the slow roll parameters are calculated as

$$\epsilon = \frac{M_{\text{pl}}^2}{2} \left(\frac{V'_E}{V_E} \right)^2 \simeq 32 \left(\frac{M_{\text{pl}}}{M} \right)^2 \times \left[\left(\frac{\phi}{M} \right)^3 \ln \frac{\phi^2}{M^2} + \frac{\xi}{4} \left(\frac{M}{M_{\text{pl}}} \right)^2 \left(\ln \frac{\phi}{M} - c + 1 \right) \right]^2, \quad (17)$$

$$\eta = M_{\text{pl}}^2 \left(\frac{V''_E}{V_E} \right) \simeq 24 \left(\frac{M_{\text{pl}}}{M} \right)^2 \times \left[\left(\frac{\phi}{M} \right)^2 \ln \frac{\phi^2}{M^2} + \frac{\xi}{12} \left(\frac{M}{M_{\text{pl}}} \right)^2 \left(\frac{M}{\phi} \right) \right], \quad (18)$$

where $V_E \simeq V_0$ is utilized in the small-field region. N_* becomes

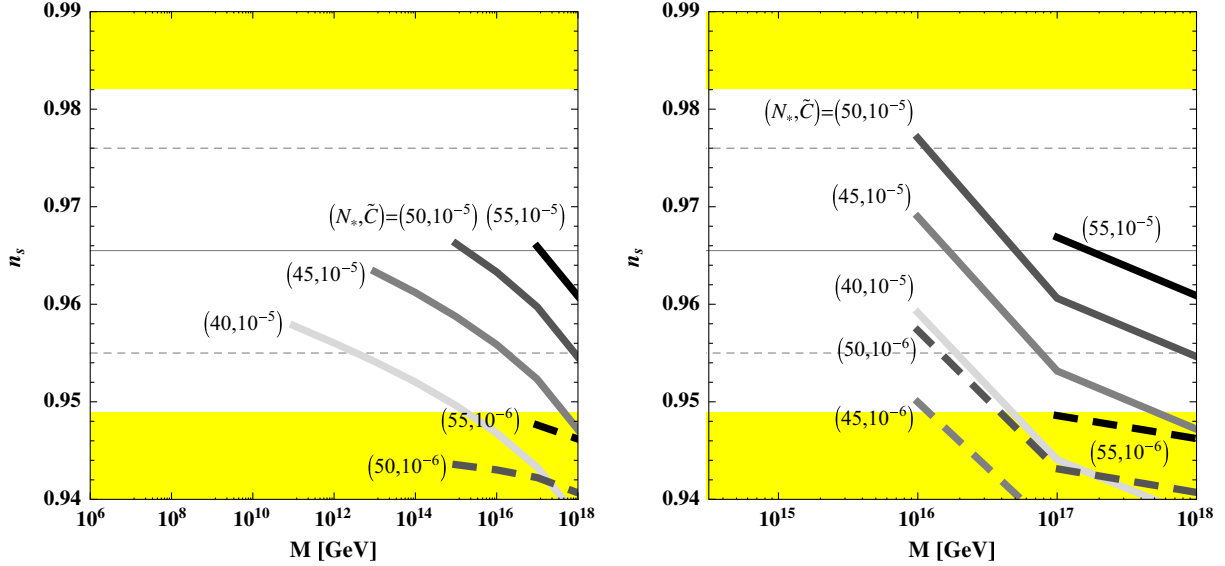


FIG. 3. Value of n_s in the CW model with a logarithmic form of nonminimal coupling to gravity. Left and right panels correspond to $\xi = 10^{-16}$ and 10^{-8} , respectively. The meanings of curves and region in the figures are the same as those in Fig. 1.

$$N_* \simeq \frac{1}{M_{\text{pl}}^2} \int_{\phi_{\text{end}}}^{\phi_*} \frac{V_0}{\left[A\bar{\phi}^3 \ln(\bar{\phi}^2/M^2) + \frac{A\xi M^5}{4M_{\text{pl}}^2} \left(\ln \frac{\bar{\phi}}{M} - c + 1 \right) \right]} d\phi, \quad (19)$$

whereas N_{max} is also changed to

$$N_{\text{max}} \equiv \int_{\phi_{\text{end}}}^{\phi=0} \frac{V_E}{V'_E} d\phi. \quad (20)$$

The resultant n_s in the model with a logarithmic form of nonminimal coupling to gravity is shown in Fig. 3. Left and right panels correspond to $\xi = 10^{-16}$ and 10^{-8} ,

respectively. Lines and regions in the figures represent the same meaning as those in Fig. 1. Similar to the case of the CW model with a linear term, we define

$$\tilde{C} \equiv \left(\frac{M_{\text{pl}}}{M} \right)^3 \frac{C}{AM^3}, \quad (21)$$

$$C \equiv \frac{cA\xi M^5}{4M_{\text{pl}}^2}, \quad (22)$$

so that this parametrization leads to the $-C\phi$ term in Eq. (14). One can approximate Eq. (14) as

$$V_E(\bar{\phi}(\phi)) \simeq \begin{cases} \frac{A}{4} \bar{\phi}^4 \left(\ln \frac{\bar{\phi}^2}{M^2} - \frac{1}{2} \right) - C\phi + V_0 & \text{for } |\ln(\bar{\phi}/M)| \ll c \\ \frac{A}{4} \bar{\phi}^4 \left(\ln \frac{\bar{\phi}^2}{M^2} - \frac{1}{2} \right) + \frac{C\bar{\phi}}{c} \ln \frac{\bar{\phi}}{M} + V_0 & \text{for } |\ln(\bar{\phi}/M)| \gg c \end{cases}, \quad (23)$$

with the dimension-full parameter C defined in Eq. (22). The condition $|\ln(\bar{\phi}/M)| \ll c$ corresponds to

$$\mathcal{O}(10^{1-2}) \times \frac{\xi M_{\text{pl}}}{4\tilde{C}} \ll M, \quad (24)$$

with the use of the parameter \tilde{C} where a coefficient $\mathcal{O}(10^{1-2})$ corresponds to $|\ln(\bar{\phi}/M)|$. In this region, the model gives a similar prediction to the CW model with a linear term. On the other hand, the term $(2\xi MV_0 \bar{\phi}/M_{\text{pl}}^2) \ln(\bar{\phi}/M)$ in Eq. (14), which is the $(C\bar{\phi}/c) \ln(\bar{\phi}/M)$ term in Eq. (23), becomes effective compared to the linear term in the region of $M \ll \mathcal{O}(10^{1-2}) \times (\xi M_{\text{pl}})/(4\tilde{C})$. Such regions appear around

$M \lesssim 10^{17}$ GeV in the right panel of Fig. 3; that is, the logarithmic term of Eq. (13) becomes dominant at $M \lesssim 10^{17}$ GeV. We find that the model can have parameter space where constraints from cosmological observations can be satisfied when one takes $10^{-6} \lesssim \tilde{C} \lesssim 10^{-5}$ and $\xi \lesssim 10^{-8}$ for $40 \leq N_* \leq 55$ in the broad region of M . Interestingly, the effect of logarithmic contribution in nonminimal coupling can give larger n_s in the region of $45 \lesssim N_* \lesssim 55$ compared to the model of fermion condensates. The additional contribution of ξ in the denominator of Eq. (19) changes the value of N_* , but it does not change the magnitude of ϵ , so the tensor-to-scalar ratio remains tiny.

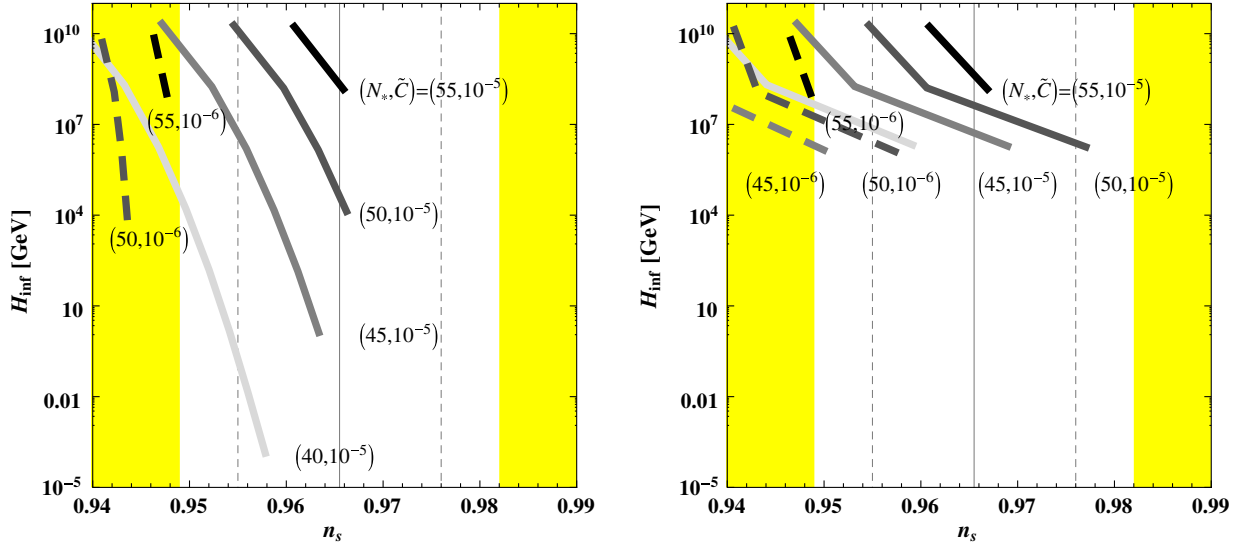


FIG. 4. H_{inf} in the CW model with a logarithmic form of nonminimal coupling to gravity. Left and right panels correspond to $\xi = 10^{-16}$ and 10^{-8} , respectively. The meanings of curves and region in the figures are the same as those in Fig. 1.

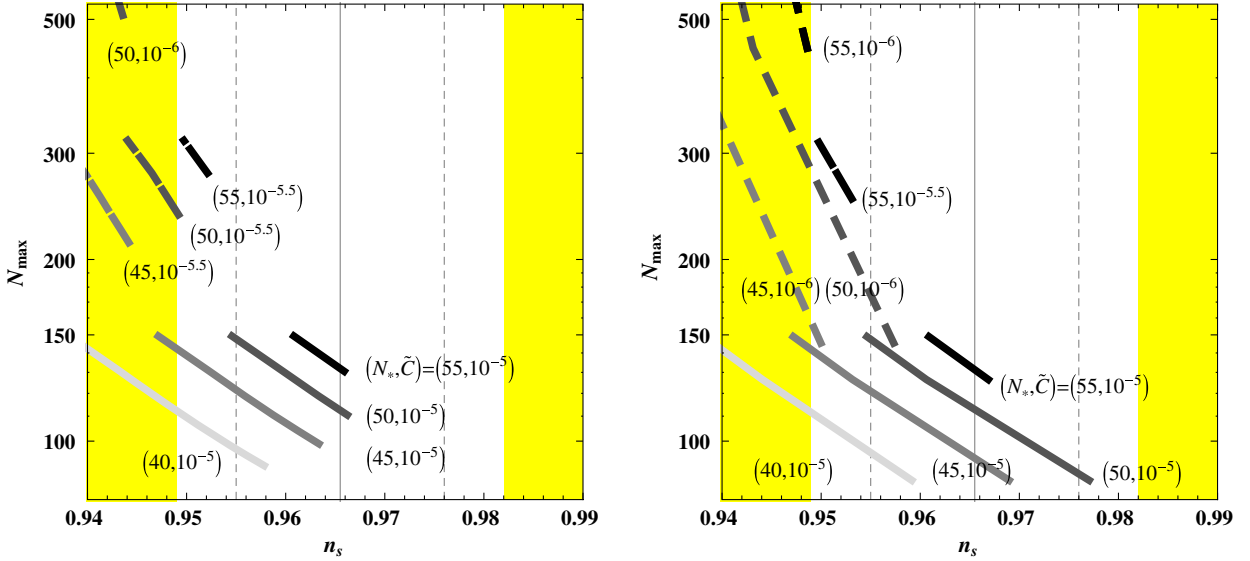


FIG. 5. N_{max} in the CW model with a logarithmic form of nonminimal coupling to gravity. Left and right panels correspond to $\xi = 10^{-16}$ and 10^{-8} , respectively. The meanings of curves and region in the figures are the same as those in the right panel of Fig. 2.

Figure 4 shows H_{inf} as a function of n_s for fixed ξ , N_* , and \tilde{C} . The curves and region in the figures are the same as those in Figs. 1 and 3. We find, in the left panel, that the possible inflation scale, $H_{\text{inf}} \gtrsim 10^{-4}$ GeV, 1 GeV, 10^4 GeV, and 10^8 GeV for $N_* = 40, 45, 50$, and 55 with an appropriate value of \tilde{C} for a smaller ξ , is the same as that in the CW model with a linear term. For a larger ξ shown in the right panel, we find that the change of the curve around $H_{\text{inf}} = 10^8$ GeV, where the logarithmic term becomes important, increases n_s more significantly than the linear term.

We also evaluate N_{max} as shown in Fig. 5. The maximal value of the number of e -folds is $N_{\text{max}} \simeq 110, 140, 300$, and

310 for $N_* = 40, 45, 50$, and 55, respectively, with an appropriate value of \tilde{C} . The maximal value of N_* is similar to that in the case of the CW model with a linear term.

III. CONCLUSIONS

The CW potential for an inflaton realizes a small-field inflation, but the current bound on n_s from cosmological observation rules out the simplest small-field CW inflation model with smaller M . Thus, some modifications are necessary for such models to be consistent with cosmological observations.

TABLE I. Summary of minimal values of H_{inf} ($\equiv H_{\text{inf}}^{\text{min}}$) and the number of e -folds, $(H_{\text{inf}}^{\text{min}}, N_{\text{max}})$, for possible additional terms and N_* .

Additional term \ N_*	40	45	50	55
Logarithmic	$(10^{-4} \text{ GeV}, 110)$	$(1 \text{ GeV}, 140)$	$(10^4 \text{ GeV}, 300)$	$(10^8 \text{ GeV}, 310)$
Linear	$(10^{-4} \text{ GeV}, 110)$	$(1 \text{ GeV}, 140)$	$(10^4 \text{ GeV}, 240)$	$(10^8 \text{ GeV}, 310)$

An introduction of a linear term in the inflaton potential, which can be induced from fermion condensate, has been proposed to make the model realistic. In this work, first we have revisited this model with a linear term. In particular, we have investigated the inflation scale, that is, the Hubble scale during inflation H_{inf} , and maximal value of number of e -folds N_{max} in parameter space, where cosmological bounds are satisfied. These two quantities would be relevant to various cosmological scenarios or problems. The lowest possible inflation scale is $H_{\text{inf}} \gtrsim 10^{-4} \text{ GeV}$, 1 GeV , 10^4 GeV , and 10^8 GeV for $N_* = 40, 45, 50$, and 55 , respectively, with $\tilde{C} = 10^{-5}$, and the maximal value of the number of e -folds is $N_{\text{max}} \simeq 110, 140, 240$, and 310 for $N_* = 40, 45, 50$, and 55 , respectively, with an appropriate value of \tilde{C} .

Next, we have proposed another possible realization of the small-scale CW inflation, where the linear and logarithmic term of nonminimal coupling is introduced. This type of model also includes a parameter space where the model becomes similar to the CW model with a linear term. Regarding a possible inflation scale, we find $H_{\text{inf}} \gtrsim 10^{-4} \text{ GeV}$, 1 GeV , 10^4 GeV , and 10^8 GeV for

$N_* = 40, 45, 50$, and 55 , respectively, for $\tilde{C} = 10^{-5}$ with small ξ . Thus, one can realize small H_{inf} such as 10^{-4} GeV at $M = 10^8 \text{ GeV}$. Lower bounds depend on the magnitude of ξ as $H_{\text{inf}} \gtrsim 10^{-4}(10^6) \text{ GeV}$ for larger ξ as $\xi = 10^{-16}(10^{-8})$. The model also gives the maximal value of the number of e -folds as $N_{\text{max}} \simeq 110, 140, 300$, and 310 for $N_* = 40, 45, 50$, and 55 , respectively. The possible maximal value of N_* is similar to that in the case of the CW model with a linear term.

In summary, the logarithmic nonminimal coupling can help make the small-scale CW inflation viable by increasing n_s . The nonminimal coupling can also realize a small inflation scale. In addition, motivated by the relaxation scenario, we have estimated the maximal number of e -folds, N_{max} , which turns out to be $\mathcal{O}(100)$ and cannot be so enormous as required in relaxation models. The summary of possible additional terms to make the original CW model realistic is given in Table I.

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