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The Effective Strength of Gravity and the scale of Inflation

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At any given energy, gravitational interactions have a strength set by a characteristic scale M_* , inferred from amplitudes calculated in an effective theory with a strong coupling scale M_{**} . These are in general different from each other and M_{pl} , the macroscopic strength of gravity as determined by (laboratory scale) Cavendish experiments. We explore several consequences of this fact for inflationary cosmology and CMB observables.

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