

Contents

Introduction	1
1 Cosmological Perturbation Theory	6
1.1 Background Dynamics	7
1.2 Inflationary Backgrounds	10
1.2.1 Single-field inflation	10
1.2.2 Multi-field inflation	12
1.3 Relativistic Perturbations	15
1.3.1 Gauge Transformations	17
1.3.2 Adiabatic and Isocurvature Perturbations	19
1.4 Inflationary Perturbations	20
1.4.1 Quantization	23
1.4.2 The Power Spectrum	25
1.4.3 Non-Gaussianities	28
2 A Generalized Consistency Relation	34
2.1 Review of the Consistency Relation Derivation	35
2.2 A generalized Consistency Relation	38
2.2.1 Case with $\epsilon \rightarrow 0$	39
2.2.2 Non-Gaussianity in ultra slow-roll inflation	40
2.2.3 Case with $\epsilon \neq 0$	41
2.3 Analysis	43
2.4 Discussion	44
3 Vanishing of the Local non-Gaussianity	46
3.1 Conformal Fermi Coordinates	48
3.1.1 Central Geodesic	48
3.1.2 Construction of the CFC Map	49
3.1.3 Choosing the Conformal Scale Factor a_F	51
3.1.4 CFC in Inflation	51
3.1.5 Computation of Correlation Functions with CFC's	53
3.1.6 Short Wavelength Modes in CFC	55
3.2 Local non-Gaussianity in Single-field Inflation	55
3.2.1 Further Developments	56
3.2.2 Initial Conditions	56
3.2.3 Computation of the Squeezed Limit	57

3.2.4	Vanishing of Local non-Gaussianity	59
3.2.5	On the Validity of CFC for non-Attractor Models	61
3.3	Discussion	61
4	A New Soft Theorem for Single-field Inflation	65
4.1	The General Picture	67
4.2	Time Diffeomorphisms and FLRW Backgrounds	67
4.3	Time Diffeomorphisms and Perturbations	68
4.4	Modulation of Short Wavelengths in Comoving Coordinates	72
4.5	Conformal Fermi Coordinates	74
4.6	Observable bispectrum’s squeezed limit	76
4.6.1	Attractor backgrounds	77
4.6.2	Non-attractor backgrounds	77
4.6.3	Large observable non-Gaussianity?	79
4.7	Discussion	80
5	Inflation and Quantum Gravity	81
5.1	Super-Planckian Displacements in String Theory	84
5.1.1	The Swampland Distance Conjecture	85
5.1.2	A Geometrical Scalar Cutt-off	89
5.1.3	A Multi-Field Lyth Bound	90
5.2	Multi-field Inflation Overcomes the SDC	92
5.2.1	Multi-Field Inflation	92
5.2.2	Two-Field Inflation with Constant Turning Rates	94
5.2.3	Perturbations	95
5.2.4	Example: Inflation in Hyperbolic Spaces	99
5.3	Geodesic Distances in Two-Field Models	100
5.3.1	Example: Inflation in Hyperbolic Spaces	101
5.3.2	Mixing Geodesic and Non-Geodesic Field Distances	102
5.4	SDC, The Lyth Bound, and Non-Geodesic Motion	103
5.5	Non-Gaussianity	107
5.6	Discussion	108
	Conclusions	110
	Bibliography	112
	Appendices	126
A	Details of computations in CFC	127
A.1	Map coefficients	127
A.2	The 2-point correlation function for short modes	128
B	Temporal Diffeomorphism Generator	130
C	Hyperbolic Coordinate Systems	132
C.1	Upper Half-Plane	132
C.2	Poincaré Disk	134

D	Maximally Symmetric Geometries	135
D.1	Planar Geometry	135
D.2	Spherical Geometry	136