Reheating temperature from the CMB PHYSICAL REVIEW D 83, 023502 (2011)
Reheating temperature from the CMB

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In the recent paper by Mielczarek et al. (Ref. [[8](#page-5-0)]), an idea of the method which can be used to put some constraint for the reheating phase was proposed. Another method of constraining the reheating temperature has been recently studied by Martin and Ringeval (Ref. [[17](#page-5-1)]). Both methods are based on observations of the cosmic microwave background (CMB) radiation. In this paper, we develop the idea introduced in this first article to put constraint on the reheating after the slow-roll inflation. We restrict our considerations to the case of a massive inflaton field. The method can be, however, easily extended to the different inflationary scenarios. As a main result, we derive an expression on the reheating temperature T_{RH} . Surprisingly, the obtained equation is independent on the unknown number of relativistic degrees of freedom g_* produced during the reheating. Based on this equation and the WMAP 7 observations, we find $T_{\text{RH}} = 3.5 \times 10^6$ GeV, which is consistent with the current constraints. The relative uncertainty of the result is, however, very high and equal to $\sigma(T_{\text{RH}})/T_{\text{RH}} \approx 53$. As we show, this uncertainty will be significantly reduced with future CMB experiments.

DOI: [10.1103/PhysRevD.83.023502](http://dx.doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevD.83.023502) PACS numbers: 98.80.Cq, 98.70.Vc

I. INTRODUCTION The reheating [[1](#page-5-2),[2](#page-5-3)] is a hypothetical process in which the inflaton field [\[3](#page-5-4)] is converted into the standard model particles. The mechanism of reheating is usually assumed to be a parametric production of particles [\[4\]](#page-5-5). However, the considerations are purely speculative due to the lack of any possible empirical verification of the reheating phase. Up to now, only some weak constrains on the basic parameters of reheating are available. In particular, the reheating temperature T_{RH} can be constrained from the both sides. From bottom the constraint is given by the big bang nucleosynthesis (BBN), namely $T_{\text{RH}} \ge 10 \text{ MeV}$ [[5](#page-5-6),[6\]](#page-5-7). From the top, the constraint comes from the energy scale at the end of inflation $T_{\text{RH}} \leq 10^{16}$ GeV. Roughly 18 orders of magnitude remain to place the reheating temperature somewhere between. Worse, there is no observational window available at these energy scales. Such a window exists however at the energies of inflation. It is because the perturbations created during the inflation can be studied by its impact on the cosmic microwave background (CMB) radiation and subsequently by the large scale structures (LSS). The method of constraining the reheating phase indirectly by the inflationary observational window was recently studied in Ref. [\[7](#page-5-8)]. It was shown that it leads to the lower constraint on the reheating temperature $T_{\text{RH}} \ge 6$ TeV.

In this paper, we present an alternative method which can be used to fix at least some details of reheating based on observations of the cosmic microwave background (CMB) radiation. In comparison with the method presented in Ref. [[7\]](#page-5-8), it will be possible not only to put a constraint on T_{RH} , but just fix its value. The idea of the method was sketched in Ref. [\[8](#page-5-0)]. It bases on the fact that the total increase of the scale factor from the observed part of inflation till now can be determined from the CMB. The number of e-foldings from the observed part of inflation till its end can be determined too. Based on this, the e-folding number from the end of inflation till the recombination can be found. As we show, this can be used to determinate the reheating temperature. For simplicity, we assume the slowroll inflation (described by a massive inflaton field), which is in good agreement with the CMB observations. After inflation, the inflaton field undergoes coherent oscillations at the bottom of a potential well. The reheating takes place when the Hubble parameter H falls to the value of the inflaton decay rate Γ_{ϕ} . We assume that the reheating is instantaneous. After reheating, the standard radiation phase takes place. The evolution of radiation is assumed to be adiabatic. During the reheating, the effective number of relativistic species produced is given by g_* . The decay rate of the inflaton field can be related with the remaining two parameters g_* and $T_{\rm RH}$ by the Friedmann equation as follows

$$
\Gamma_{\phi}^{2} \simeq \frac{8\pi}{3m_{\rm Pl}^{2}} g_{*} \frac{\pi^{2} T_{\rm RH}^{4}}{30},
$$
\n(1)

where $m_{\text{Pl}} = 1.22 \times 10^{19} \text{ GeV}$. Therefore, only two from the parameters of reheating $(\Gamma_{\phi}, T_{\text{RH}}, g_*)$ are independent. In this paper, we show that the reheating temperature can be determined independently on the remaining two parameters. Up to now, the constraints on T_{RH} were dependent on the value of g_* . However, in the equation derived in this paper, the g_* factors surprisingly cancel out. Having T_{RH} , the decay rate Γ_{ϕ} can be expressed in terms

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The considerations presented in this paper are restricted to the simplest setup in order to capture the essence of the method. However, extension to the different inflationary scenarios and to the more detailed models of reheating can be done straightforwardly.

II. METHOD

The main idea of the method can be understood by looking at Fig. [1](#page-1-0). In this figure we schematically present evolution of the Hubble radius $R_H := 1/H$, together with the evolution of an arbitrary physical length scale λ . The present value of this length scale is equal to λ_0 , what we call the pivot scale. The following values of the scale factor were distinguished:

 a_0 -the present value of the scale factor, we set $a_0 = 1$ for convenience.

 a_1 -the scale factor at the end of the radiation era. Later, we set this to be a scale factor at the recombination which takes place soon after the end of the radiation era.

 a_2 -the scale factor at which the instantaneous reheating takes place (beginning of the radiation era).

 a_3 -the scale factor at the end of inflation. The inflation field starts to oscillate.

 a_4 -the scale factor at which the length scale of the present value λ_0 crossed the Hubble radius during inflation.

The total increase of the scale factor from a_4 to a_0 will be of particular importance. We call it Δ_{tot} , which can be expressed as follows

$$
\Delta_{\text{tot}} = \prod_{i=0}^{3} \Delta_i, \quad \text{where } \Delta_i := \frac{a_i}{a_{i+1}}.
$$
 (2)

So, if we know durations of the four stages between the a_4 and a_0 , the Δ_{tot} can be determined. This is, however, practically impossible to obtain because we do not know details of the intermediate periods as Δ_2 and Δ_1 . Hopefully, there is an alternative method to determinate

FIG. 1 (color online). Schematic evolution of the Hubble radius (blue line) for the standard cosmological scenario. The straight (red) line represents evolution of the physical length scale $\lambda(a)$, where $\lambda(a_0) = \lambda_0$.

 Δ_{tot} , which can be used to put constraints on Δ_2 and Δ_1 . This method bases on the observation of the CMB radiation. In particular, on the measurements of the scalar power spectrum. The form of this spectrum is parameterized by the function

$$
\mathcal{P}_s(k) = A_s \left(\frac{k}{k_0}\right)^{n_s - 1}.\tag{3}
$$

The A_s is an amplitude and n_s is a spectral index of the scalar perturbations. The k_0 is some arbitrary fixed scale called pivot number. We can relate it to the pivot scale λ_0 introduced earlier by $\lambda_0 = 2\pi/k_0$. In particular, the WMAP collaboration choice is $k_0 = 0.002$ Mpc⁻¹ (we also use this choice in this paper). For this value, the seven years of observations made by the WMAP satellite give the following values of the amplitude and spectral index of the scalar perturbations [\[9](#page-5-9)]

$$
A_{\rm s} = 2.441^{+0.088}_{-0.092} \times 10^{-9},\tag{4}
$$

$$
n_{\rm s} = 0.963 \pm 0.012. \tag{5}
$$

On the other hand, the well known prediction of the slowroll inflation is

$$
\mathcal{P}_s(k) = \frac{1}{\pi \epsilon} \left(\frac{H}{m_{\text{Pl}}}\right)^2 \left(\frac{k}{aH}\right)^{n_s - 1},\tag{6}
$$

where ϵ is the so-called slow-roll parameter equal to

$$
\epsilon = \frac{m_{\rm Pl}^2}{4\pi} \frac{1}{\phi^2}.
$$
 (7)

For the considered massive slow-roll inflation $n_s = 1 - 4\epsilon$.

Let us now consider the power spectrum at the length scale λ_0 which corresponds to the pivot number k_0 . From observation, an amplitude of the scalar perturbations at this scale is equal to $P_s(k_0) = A_s$. On the other hand, this amplitude is formed when $k \approx aH$. Therefore, for the mode k_0 we have $S = A_s$.

Cosmological evolution of the pivot scale λ_0 is given by

$$
\lambda(a) = \lambda_0 \frac{a}{a_0}.\tag{8}
$$

This relation is represented by the red line in Fig. [1.](#page-1-0) The value of λ was equal to the Hubble radius at a_4 . Based on this, one can derive

$$
\Delta_{\text{tot}} = \frac{a_0}{a_4} = \frac{\lambda_0}{\lambda(a_4)} = \frac{H}{k_0},\tag{9}
$$

where H is the value of the Hubble parameter when the λ crossed the horizon during the inflation. In the second equality, we have used relation $\lambda(a) = \frac{2\pi}{k} \frac{a}{a_0}$, together with $k \approx aH$ at the horizon crossing. Namely, $\lambda_0 = \frac{2\pi}{k_0}$ and $\lambda(a_4) = \frac{2\pi}{H}$ 1 $\frac{1}{a_0}$, where $a_0 = 1$. At the pivot scale, $S = A_{s}$, so

$$
\frac{H}{m_{\rm Pl}} = \sqrt{\pi \epsilon A_{\rm s}}.\tag{10}
$$

Expressing the ϵ from $n_s = 1 - 4\epsilon$, we find

$$
\Delta_{\text{tot}} = \frac{1}{2} \frac{m_{\text{Pl}}}{k_0} \sqrt{\pi (1 - n_s) A_s}.
$$
 (11)

The essential conclusion derived from this equation is that: Based on the CMB observations, one can determinate the total increase of the scale factor from the observed moment of inflation till now. In principle, from the WMAP 7 observations we determinate

$$
\Delta_{\text{tot}} = (8.0 \pm 1.5) \times 10^{51}.
$$
 (12)

III. INFLATION AND REHEATING

The increase of a scale factor during the part of inflation from a_4 to a_3 is given by

$$
\Delta_3 = e^{N_{\text{obs}}},\tag{13}
$$

where N_{obs} is the *e*-folding number, which can be expressed as follows

$$
N_{\rm obs} \simeq -\frac{8\pi}{m_{\rm Pl}^2} \int_{\phi_{\rm obs}}^0 \frac{V(\phi)}{V'(\phi)} d\phi = 2\pi \frac{\phi_{\rm obs}^2}{m_{\rm Pl}^2} = \frac{2}{1 - n_{\rm s}}. (14)
$$

We have used here $V(\phi) = \frac{m^2}{2} \phi^2$ and defined $\phi_{obs} =$ $\phi(a_4)$. In particular, based on the WMAP 7 data one can find $N_{\text{obs}} = 54 \pm 18$. The uncertainty is high because of the strong sensitivity on the uncertainty of the spectral index n_s . This will later propagate to the uncertainty of the reheating temperature. As we show in Sec. [V,](#page-4-0) the uncertainty of N_{obs} can be significantly reduced with the future CMB experiments.

During the slow-roll inflation, evolution of the inflaton field ϕ is well approximated by

$$
\phi(t) = \phi_{\text{max}} - \frac{mm_{\text{Pl}}}{\sqrt{12\pi}}t.
$$
\n(15)

From comparison with the numerical results, it can be seen that this approximation holds till the end of inflation, when $\phi \approx 0$. Therefore, the kinetic term

$$
\frac{\dot{\phi}^2}{2} \simeq \frac{m^2 m_{\rm Pl}^2}{24 \pi},\tag{16}
$$

is approximately constant during the inflation. This contribution to the total energy density is, however, dominated by the potential part during the slow-roll inflation. At the end of inflation, the contribution from the potential part falls to zero $(V(\phi = 0) = 0)$, and the kinetic term dominates. One can therefore estimate that, at the end of inflation, the energy density is given by

$$
\rho(a_3) \simeq \frac{m^2 m_{\rm Pl}^2}{24\pi}.\tag{17}
$$

A validity of this approximation was confirmed by the numerical computations.

After inflation, the field starts to oscillate at the bottom of the potential well. During this evolution, the energy density drops as in the matter dominated universe [\[10\]](#page-5-10)

$$
\rho(a) \simeq \rho(a_3) \left(\frac{a_3}{a}\right)^3. \tag{18}
$$

This evolution holds till a_2 , when $H \approx \Gamma_{\phi}$ and the reheating takes place. Then, the energy density

$$
\rho(a_2) = g_* \frac{\pi^2 T_{\text{RH}}^4}{30},\tag{19}
$$

here $g_* = g(T_{\text{RH}})$ is the number of ultrarelativistic degrees of freedom generated during the reheating, where $g(T)$ is defined as follows

$$
g = \sum_{\text{boson}} g_{\text{B}} + \frac{7}{8} \sum_{\text{fermion}} g_{\text{F}}.
$$
 (20)

In particular, for Glashow-Weinberg-Salam (GWS) model $SU(2)_L \otimes U_Y(1) \otimes SU_C(3)$, we have $g = 106.75$. Therefore one may expect that $g_* \ge 106.75$ if the temperature of reheating is greater than the electroweak energy scale, $T_{\text{RH}} \geq 300 \text{ GeV}.$

Based on [\(18](#page-2-0)) we have

$$
\Delta_2 = \frac{a_2}{a_3} = \sqrt[3]{\frac{\rho(a_3)}{\rho(a_2)}},\tag{21}
$$

and applying [\(17\)](#page-2-1) and ([19](#page-2-2)) we derive

$$
\Delta_2 = \frac{1}{\pi} \left(\frac{5}{4} \cdot \frac{m^2 m_{\rm Pl}^2}{g_* T_{\rm RH}^4} \right)^{1/3}.
$$
 (22)

This result will be useful in the subsequent section when deriving the expression on T_{RH} . However, before we proceed to this issue we can see what we already can say about the reheating temperature. Let us notice that the following condition $\rho(a_2) \leq \rho(a_3)$ must be fulfilled. Energy scale of reheating cannot be higher than energy at the end of inflation. In order to use this constraint one has to firstly determinate inflaton mass in Eq. ([17](#page-2-1)). It can be done by noticing that the Friedmann equation reduces to

$$
H^2 \simeq \frac{8\pi}{3m_{\rm Pl}^2} \frac{1}{2} m^2 \phi^2
$$
 (23)

in the slow-roll regime ($\epsilon \ll 1$). Based on this and condition $S = A_s$, together with $n_s = 1 - 4\epsilon$, one can derive [\[8\]](#page-5-0)

$$
m = m_{\rm Pl} \frac{1}{4} \sqrt{3 \pi A_s} (1 - n_s). \tag{24}
$$

Applying this expression to the WMAP 7 results we obtain

$$
m = (1.4 \pm 0.5) \times 10^{-6} m_{\text{Pl}} = (1.7 \pm 0.6) \times 10^{13} \text{ GeV.}
$$
\n(25)

With use of this value, the condition $\rho(a_2) \leq \rho(a_3)$ reduces to

FIG. 2 (color online). Section of the reheating parameters space $(T_{\rm RH}, g_*)$. The shadowed region is excluded by Eq. [\(26\)](#page-3-5) and $g_* > 106.75$ valid for $T_{\text{RH}} \ge 300$ GeV. The thick line represents $T_{\text{RH}} = g_*^{-1/4} \times 6.5 \times 10^{15} \text{ GeV}.$

$$
g_*^{1/4} T_{\rm RH} \le 6.5 \times 10^{15} \text{ GeV}.
$$
 (26)

Based on this, part of the parameter space $(g_*, T_{\rm RH})$ can be excluded. It was shown as the shadowed region above the thick line in Fig. [2.](#page-3-0) As we mentioned earlier, if $T_{\text{RH}} \ge$ 300 GeV then $g_* \ge 106.75$. This constraint excludes another part of the parameter space. This was represented in Fig. [2](#page-3-0) as the shadowed region constrained by the vertical line. Based on the above constraints, one can conclude that

$$
T_{\rm RH} \le 2.0 \times 10^{15} \text{ GeV.}
$$
 (27)

This corresponds to the inflationary bound on the reheating temperature.

IV. REHEATING TEMPERATURE

After reheating, the Universe is filled by the relativistic plasma. Expansion of this relativistic gas is assumed to be adiabatic and the masses of particles are neglected. The adiabatic approximation is valid until the entropy transfer between the radiation and other components can be neglected. In turn, this second approximation is valid if the temperature is much higher than the masses of the particles. Then, $dS = 0$, which implies $sa³ = const$, where the entropy density s of radiation is given by

$$
s = \frac{2\pi^2}{45} gT^3.
$$
 (28)

Based on this, one can derive expression on the increase of the scale factor from reheating till the recombination

$$
\frac{a_1}{a_2} = \frac{T_2}{T_1} \cdot \left(\frac{g_2}{g_1}\right)^{1/3}.\tag{29}
$$

We have $T_2 = T_{\text{RH}}$ and T_1 is equal to the recombination temperature T_{rec} . During recombination $g_1 = g_\gamma = 2$ and during reheating $g_2 = g_*$, therefore

$$
\Delta_1 = \frac{T_{\rm RH}}{T_{\rm rec}} \cdot \left(\frac{g_*}{2}\right)^{1/3}.\tag{30}
$$

Finally, increase of the scale factor from recombination till now is given by

$$
\Delta_0 = 1 + z_{\text{rec}},\tag{31}
$$

where z_{rec} is the recombination redshift which can be determined from the CMB observations. It is worth mentioning that an intermediate stage other than recombination can be used here. In particular, the equilibrium point (end of the radiation epoch, where $\rho_{rad} = \rho_{mat}$) can be chosen. The corresponding value of redshift can be also determined from the CMB observations.

At this point, we have all required to find the expression on $T_{\rm RH}$. We have found all Δ_i and $\Delta_{\rm tot}$. Based on ([2\)](#page-1-1), the following relation is fulfilled

$$
\Delta_{\text{tot}} = \Delta_3 \Delta_2 \Delta_1 \Delta_0. \tag{32}
$$

Inserting ([13](#page-2-3)), ([22](#page-2-4)), ([30](#page-3-1)), and [\(31\)](#page-3-2), we obtain

$$
\Delta_{\text{tot}} = e^{N_{\text{obs}}} \frac{1}{\pi} \left(\frac{5}{4} \cdot \frac{m^2 m_{\text{Pl}}^2}{g_* T_{\text{RH}}^4} \right)^{1/3} \frac{T_{\text{RH}}}{T_{\text{CMB}}} \left(\frac{g_*}{2} \right)^{1/3},\tag{33}
$$

where we have used $T_{\text{rec}} = T_{\text{CMB}}(1 + z_{\text{rec}})$. The important observation is that g_* factors cancel out. This is crucial, because the expression on T_{RH} will be free from the dependence on the unknown g_* parameter. With use of (11) , (14) , and (24) (24) (24) , the above equation can be rewritten into the following form

$$
T_{\rm RH} = \frac{15m_{\rm Pl}}{16 \cdot \pi^{7/2}} \sqrt{\frac{1 - n_{\rm s}}{A_{\rm s}}} \left(\frac{k_0}{T_{\rm CMB}}\right)^3 \exp\left\{\frac{6}{1 - n_{\rm s}}\right\}.
$$
 (34)

This equation is a main result of this paper. Taking the constant parameters $T_{\text{CMB}} = 2.725 \text{ K} = 2.348 \times 10^{-4} \text{ eV}$ and $k_0 = 0.002$ Mpc⁻¹ (and reexpressing units: Mpc⁻¹ = 6.39×10^{-30} eV) one can rederive Eq. [\(34\)](#page-3-3) to the practical form

$$
T_{\rm RH} = 3.36 \times 10^{-68} \sqrt{\frac{1 - n_{\rm s}}{A_{\rm s}}} \exp\left\{\frac{6}{1 - n_{\rm s}}\right\} \,\text{GeV.} \tag{35}
$$

In Fig. [3](#page-4-1) we show relation [\(35\)](#page-3-4) as a function of the spectral index n_s . We also mark the regions excluded from the inflationary constraint and the BBN constraint. For the data from the WMAP 7 observations, Eq. ([35](#page-3-4)) leads to

$$
T_{\rm RH} = 3.5 \times 10^6 \text{ GeV.}
$$
 (36)

The relative uncertainty of this result is

$$
\frac{\sigma(T_{\rm RH})}{T_{\rm RH}} \approx 53. \tag{37}
$$

Here a first order Taylor expansion was applied when calculating propagation of uncertainties:

FIG. 3 (color online). The thick line represents Eq. [\(35\)](#page-3-4) with $A_s = 2.441 \times 10^{-9}$. Dashed lines corresponds to $n_s = 0.963$, taken from the WMAP 7 observations, what leads to $T_{\text{RH}} =$ 3.5×10^6 GeV. The shadowed regions are excluded by the inflationary and BBN constraints.

$$
\sigma(T_{\rm RH}) \approx \sqrt{\left(\frac{\partial T_{\rm RH}}{\partial n_{\rm s}}\right)^2 \sigma^2(n_{\rm s}) + \left(\frac{\partial T_{\rm RH}}{\partial A_{\rm s}}\right)^2 \sigma^2(A_{\rm s})}.
$$
 (38)

However, due to the strong (exponential) dependence of T_{RH} on n_s , the applied linear approximation may turn out to be insufficient. Therefore, one can expect greater uncertainty of T_{RH} than obtained here. Future studies need to address this issue. The high relative uncertainty [\(37\)](#page-3-6) is mainly a result of the weakly determined value of N_{obs} , which is a function of n_s . In the next section, we will examine how this uncertainty can be reduced with the future CMB experiments.

As it was discussed in Refs. [\[11](#page-5-11)[,12\]](#page-5-12), if $T_{\text{RH}} \sim$ 10^{6-9} GeV, then it may be possible to measure T_{RH} with the planned space-based laser interferometer experiments such as the Big Bang Observer. The value $T_{\text{RH}} =$ 3.5×10^6 GeV obtained here fulfills this condition. Our prediction has therefore chance to be verified in future.

Furthermore, based on Eq. ([1\)](#page-0-2), one can express the inflaton decay rate Γ_{ϕ} in terms of g_* :

$$
\Gamma_{\phi} \simeq 1.7 \times 10^{-6} \sqrt{g_*} \text{ GeV},\tag{39}
$$

where the previously derived value of T_{RH} was used. It is reasonable to expect that $\Gamma_{\phi} = \alpha \cdot m$, which comes from the Heisenberg uncertainty relation. The α is a dimensionless parameter. With use of the inflaton mass found earlier we find

$$
\alpha \simeq 10^{-19} \sqrt{g_*}. \tag{40}
$$

Based on this result, one can deduce that the inflaton decays into the very light particles comparing with its mass. This is also the reason why the reheating takes place at the relatively low energies. It becomes unstable only when the sufficiently low energies are reached. However, the origin of this low vale of decay rate Γ_{ϕ} cannot be

understood without a deeper understanding of the inflationary cosmology.

V. FORECASTING

As we have shown in the previous section, the value of T_{RH} is strongly dependent on n_{s} . Therefore, the method presented can be used effectively only if the value of n_s is determined with high precision. The value of n_s from the WMAP 7 observations is not determined sufficiently precise to obtain a strong prediction concerning the reheating temperature. However, it may change if the new observational data will be available. In this section, we predict how the uncertainty on T_{RH} will be reduced with the future CMB experiments. In particular, we consider the Planck satellite [\[13\]](#page-5-13) experiment which is currently on the stage of collecting data. We consider the ACTPol [[14](#page-5-14)] groundbased experiment which is under construction at present. We also consider the planned CMBPol [[15](#page-5-15)] satellite experiment.

The uncertainty of T_{RH} comes mainly from n_s , therefore, in the considerations we fix the value of A_s . Following Ref. [[16](#page-5-16)], the expected uncertainties of n_s from the mentioned CMB experiments are the following

$$
\sigma(n_s) = \begin{cases} 0.0031 & \text{Planck} \\ 0.0021 & \text{Planck} + \text{ACTPol.} \\ 0.0014 & \text{CMBPol.} \end{cases} (41)
$$

Based on this, let us first see the resulting uncertainties of the *e*-folding number N_{obs} . We find

$$
\sigma(N_{\text{obs}}) = \begin{cases} 4.5 & \text{Planck} \\ 3.1 & \text{Planck} + \text{ACTPol.} \\ 2.0 & \text{CMBPol.} \end{cases} \tag{42}
$$

This significant reduction of the uncertainty of N_{obs} (with respect to the WMAP 7 results) will be crucial for determining the reheating temperature. Based on ([35](#page-3-4)) with ([41\)](#page-4-2), we forecast

$$
\frac{\sigma(T_{\text{RH}})}{T_{\text{RH}}} = \begin{cases} 13.5 & \text{Planck} \\ 9.2 & \text{Planck} + \text{ACTPol.} \\ 6.1 & \text{CMBPol} \end{cases}
$$
 (43)

Here, the values of the parameters n_s and A_s were set to be those obtained from the WMAP 7 observations.

In order to have $\sigma(T_{\rm RH})/T_{\rm RH}$ smaller than unity, the uncertainty of n_s should be reduced by 2 orders of magnitude with respect to the WMAP 7 results. At present, there is however no experiment planned to reach such sensitivity. The uncertainty may be nevertheless additionally reduced by combining data from the different available experiments. This is possible because of the angular scale dependent sensitivity of the CMB experiments. In particular, the ground-based experiments can provide much better data of the CMB polarization at the small angular scales (high multipoles) than the space-based experiments can.

VI. SUMMARY

In this paper, we have developed a new method of constraining the reheating phase after inflation. The method bases on the observations of the cosmic microwave background radiation. In particular, the fact that the total increase of the scale factor from the observed part of inflation till now can be determined is used. Based on this, we have found the expression on the reheating temperature. The expression is free from the dependence on the unknown g_* parameter. With use of the WMAP 7 results, we have determined $T_{\text{RH}} = 3.5 \times 10^3$ TeV. The relative uncertainty of this result is equal to $\sigma(T_{\rm RH})/T_{\rm RH} \approx 53$. This high uncertainty can be, however, significantly reduced with the future CMB data. One can expect the reheating temperature to be quite precisely determined (reaching $\sigma(T_{\rm RH})/T_{\rm RH} = \mathcal{O}(1)$ within the present decade.

The value of reheating temperature determined in this paper is consistent with the known bounds, in particular,

with the lower bound $T_{\text{RH}} \ge 6 \text{ TeV}$ recently found in Ref. [[7](#page-5-8)]. It is also interesting to note that within the supersymmetric extension of the standard model, the upper bound on the reheating temperature exists $T_{\text{RH}} \leq 10^4$ TeV (see Refs. [[17](#page-5-1)[–19\]](#page-5-17)). Our result is also in agreement within this condition. Finally, it is worth mentioning that the low value of the reheating temperature, as determined here, can have interesting implications on the phenomenology of primordial black holes [[20](#page-5-18)]. JAKUB MIELCZAREK PHYSICAL REVIEW D 83, 023502 (2011)
 VI. SUMMARY with the lower bound $T_{\text{RH}} \ge 6 \text{ TeV}$ recently found in

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Author would like to thank to Michał Ostrowski for helpful comments and suggestions. J. M. has been supported by Polish Ministry of Science and Higher Education Grant No. N203 386437 and by the Foundation of Polish Science.

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