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## Can high-scale axion models have a viable cosmological history?

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High-scale axion models are sensitive to CMB isocurvature bounds, which are thought to rule out scenarios with an axion decay constant  $f_A$  above  $10^{14}$  GeV. This would be incompatible with grand unification scenarios featuring an axion with  $f_A$  related to the unification scale, which could otherwise be primary targets for future experiments like CASPER and ABRACADABRA. In view of the above, we re-examine the cosmological history of axion perturbations during inflation and reheating in high-scale axion models in which the axion is mostly aligned with the phase of the field which drives inflation.

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