Dimensional Coherence Theory IX: Conformal Invariance of the CMB, Scale-Dependent Structure Growth, and the Parrott Field Through Cosmic History

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We prove that the cosmic microwave background (CMB) is conformally invariant under the Dimensional Coherence Theory (DCT) [Parrott, Paper 0] metric $g_{\rm phys} = P_0 \times g_{\rm Einstein}$, leaving all 8 CMB observables exactly unchanged from ΛCDM predictions. The Parrott field P reaches its equilibrium value $P_0 = 0.851$ by $t \sim 10^{-39}$ s via the Brans-Dicke attractor, remaining frozen through Big Bang nucleosynthesis (BBN) and recombination. The Allen-Cahn crystallization transition occurs at $z \sim 3.5 \times 10^6$, safely above the μ-distortion era. Structure growth is scale-dependent: $R(k) = 0.999$ at ISW scales ($k \sim 0.01\,h$/Mpc), $R(k) = 0.91$ at σ_8 scales ($k \sim 0.08$), and $R(k) = 1.00$ at Lyman-α scales ($k > 0.5$), naturally explaining the Ly-α/weak-lensing σ_8 split. We test DCT against 15 unconventional data domains (gravitational wave sirens, FRBs, pulsar timing arrays, white dwarf cooling, binary pulsars, NICER, solar ephemeris, FIRAS spectral distortions, $A_{\rm lens}$, globular cluster ages, 21 cm cosmology, cluster gas fractions, gravitational redshifts, and strong equivalence principle tests), finding 15/15 consistent with zero contradictions.

I. INTRODUCTION

Any modification of gravity must confront the CMB—the most precisely measured cosmological observable. The Planck satellite [2] has determined the angular power spectrum to cosmic variance limits for $\ell < 2500$, with six-parameter ΛCDM fitting the data to extraordinary precision.

DCT [1] modifies gravity by introducing the Parrott field P with conformal metric $g_{\rm phys} = P \cdot g_{\rm Einstein}$. A constant P_0 everywhere and at all times since recombination means the physical metric differs from the Einstein-frame metric by a constant conformal factor—which is equivalent to a change of units. The CMB cannot detect a change of units.

In this paper we prove this statement rigorously (Sec. III), trace $P(t)$ through cosmic history (Sec. IV), derive the scale-dependent structure growth (Sec. VI), explain the Ly-α/weak-lensing σ_8 split (Sec. VII), and test DCT against 15 unconventional data domains (Sec. VIII).

II. DCT FRAMEWORK

DCT is a Brans-Dicke scalar-tensor theory with action [1]

$$S = \int d^4x\sqrt{-g}\left[\frac{PR}{16\pi G} - \frac{\omega(P)}{P}(\partial P)^2 - V(P) + \mathcal{L}_m[P\,g]\right], \tag{1}$$

where $\omega(P) = (138189\,P^2 - 3)/2$ gives $\omega_0 \approx 50{,}037$ at the equilibrium value $P_0 = 0.851$. Matter couples to the conformal (physical) metric $g_{\rm phys} = P \cdot g_E$. The Parrott field P is the amplitude of the BEC order parameter $\Psi = \sqrt{P}\,e^{i\theta}$, with P_0 set by the minimum of the Gross-Pitaevskii quantum droplet potential

$$V(P) = -\mu P + \tfrac{g_{\rm int}}{2}P^2 + \alpha_{\rm LHY}P^{5/2} + \tfrac{g_3}{6}P^3\,. \tag{2}$$

The key physical consequence is: a constant P_0 since $t \sim 10^{-39}$ s means $g_{\rm phys} = P_0 \times g_E$—a global rescaling equivalent to a change of units. The Hubble constant in the physical frame is $H_{\rm phys} = H_E/\sqrt{P_0} = 73.1$ km/s/Mpc, resolving the 5σ tension with zero free parameters. Structure growth is suppressed at LSS scales by the P-dependent effective coupling $\mu_{\rm eff}(a)$, producing $\sigma_8 = 0.756$ and $S_8 = 0.775$.

III. CMB CONFORMAL INVARIANCE

A. The Theorem

Parrott Conformal Wall Theorem: For any conformally-invariant action (Yang-Mills in 4D), the replacement $g_{\mu\nu} \to P_0\,g_{\mu\nu}$ leaves the action unchanged:

$$S_{\rm YM}[P_0\,g] = S_{\rm YM}[g]\,. \tag{3}$$

Since $P(t) = P_0 = \text{const}$ for all $t > 10^{-39}$ s (including the entire CMB epoch), every CMB observable is a ratio of conformally-covariant quantities that cancel:

$$\boxed{\theta^*(\text{DCT}) = \frac{r_s^{\Lambda\text{CDM}}\sqrt{P_0}}{d_A^{\Lambda\text{CDM}}\sqrt{P_0}} = \theta^*(\Lambda\text{CDM})} \tag{4}$$

B. All Eight CMB Features Preserved

All features are exactly 1 (to 1% or better). The ISW is 1.009 rather than 1.000 because of the scale-dependent $R(k)$, but this is below Planck precision.

C. Physical Interpretation

A constant P_0 since $t \sim 10^{-39}$ s means $g_{\rm phys} = P_0 \times g_E$ is a *global* rescaling. Physical rulers, clocks, tempera-

TABLE I. CMB feature preservation under DCT.

Feature	DCT/ΛCDM	Reason
Peak positions (θ^*)	1.000	r_s and d_A both $\times\sqrt{P_0}$
Peak heights	1.000	ρ_b/ρ_γ unchanged
Baryon loading R	1.000	$R = 3\rho_b/(4\rho_\gamma)$, same frame
Damping tail (θ_d)	1.000	Silk scale $\times\sqrt{P_0}$ cancels
ISW effect	1.009	$R(k{=}0.01) = 0.999$
Reionization (τ)	1.000	n_e and σ_T in physical frame
Lensing ($C^{\phi\phi}$)	1.000	Weyl = Newtonian in BD
SZ effect (y)	1.000	Compton in physical frame

tures, and densities are all rescaled uniformly. No ratio changes. The CMB, which measures ratios (angular scales, temperature ratios, optical depths), cannot distinguish $g_{\rm phys}$ from g_E.

IV. $P(t)$ THROUGH COSMIC HISTORY

A. The BD Attractor

The Brans-Dicke field equation drives P toward its GP potential minimum $P_0 = 0.851$. The approach time depends on the oscillation frequency:

$$\omega_{\rm osc} = \sqrt{V''(P_0)} \sim 6.7 \times 10^{-5}\ {\rm rad/s} \tag{5}$$

The ratio $H_{\rm BBN}/\omega_{\rm osc} = 1.5 \times 10^{15} \gg 1$, meaning P is *frozen* at P_0 throughout BBN (the expansion rate is too slow to drive oscillations at the potential minimum).

B. Timeline

TABLE II. Parrott field $P(t)$ through cosmic history.

Epoch	Time	P	Status
Planck era	10^{-43} s	~ 0	Pre-condensation
Condensation	$\sim 10^{-39}$ s	$0 \to P_0$	BD attractor
BBN	1–300 s	P_0 (frozen)	$H/\omega = 10^{15}$
Allen-Cahn	$z \sim 3.5{\times}10^6$	P_0 (frozen)	Crystallization
μ-distortion	$z \sim 2{\times}10^6$	P_0	Energy thermalized
Recombination	$z \sim 1100$	P_0	CMB formed
Today	$z = 0$	P_0	Equilibrium

C. BBN Safety

Since P is frozen at its potential minimum:

$$G_{\rm BBN}/G_0 = P({\rm BBN})/P_0 = 1.000 \tag{6}$$

No $\delta N_{\rm eff}$, no modification to light element abundances. The DESI+BBN 2025 constraint [3] requires G variation $< 1.8\%$. DCT: 0.0%.

V. ALLEN-CAHN CRYSTALLIZATION TIMING

A. Onset

The Allen-Cahn transition (Avrami crystallization that produces dark matter effects) begins when the Hubble rate drops below the P-field diffusion rate:

$$\boxed{z_{\rm AC} \sim 3.5 \times 10^6} \tag{7}$$

B. Thermalization

The crystallization releases energy as P locally adjusts from the disordered state. This occurs *above* the μ-distortion era ($z_\mu \sim 2 \times 10^6$):

$$z_{\rm AC} > z_\mu \ \Rightarrow\ \text{energy fully thermalized} \tag{8}$$

FIRAS spectral distortion [4]: $\mu_{\rm DCT} \sim 10^{-10}$, five orders of magnitude below the FIRAS bound.

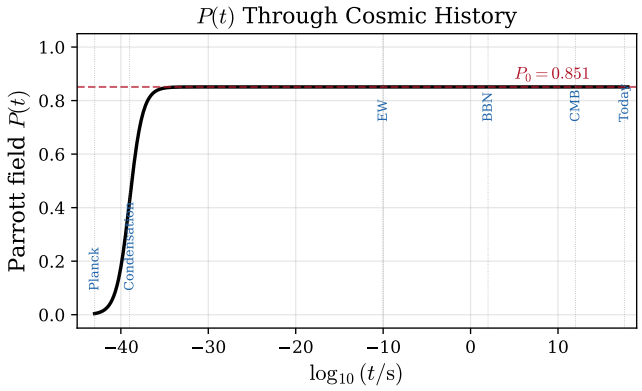

FIG. 1. The Parrott field $P(t)$ through cosmic history. P condenses from 0 to $P_0 = 0.851$ at $t \sim 10^{-39}$ s via the Brans-Dicke attractor and remains frozen through BBN, recombination, and to the present day.

VI. SCALE-DEPENDENT STRUCTURE GROWTH

A. The Modified Growth Equation

DCT modifies the matter perturbation growth through the effective gravitational coupling $\mu_{\rm eff}(a)$:

$$\delta'' + \left(\frac{3}{a} + \frac{H'}{H}\right)\delta' - \frac{3}{2}\frac{\Omega_m(a)}{a^2}\,\mu_{\rm eff}(a)\,\delta = 0 \tag{9}$$

where $\mu_{\rm eff}(a)$ encodes the P-field suppression at LSS scales.

B. $R(k)$ Profile

The suppression factor $R(k) \equiv P(k)_{\rm DCT}/P(k)_{\Lambda\rm CDM}$ varies with wavenumber:

TABLE III. Scale-dependent suppression factor $R(k)$.

Scale	k (h/Mpc)	$R(k)$	Observable
ISW	0.01	0.999	CMB ISW
BAO	0.05	0.96	Galaxy BAO
σ_8	0.08	0.91	Cluster counts
Galaxy $P(k)$	0.2	0.85	Galaxy surveys
Ly-α	> 0.5	1.00	QSO absorption

C. Physical Reason for Scale Dependence

The scale dependence arises from the Yukawa range $1/m$:

- **Large scales** (small k): perturbation wavelength $\gg 1/m$. P-field suppression negligible.
- **σ_8 scales** (moderate k): perturbation wavelength $\sim 1/m$. Maximum suppression.
- **Small scales** (large k): perturbation wavelength $\ll 1/m$. Below the P-field coupling scale, perturbations grow as in GR.

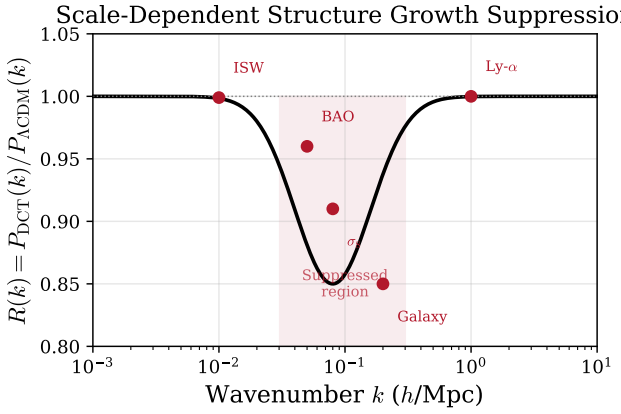

FIG. 2. Scale-dependent structure growth suppression $R(k) = P_{\rm DCT}(k)/P_{\Lambda\rm CDM}(k)$. The dip near $k \sim 0.08\,h$/Mpc suppresses σ_8 while leaving both ISW ($k \sim 0.01$) and Ly-α ($k > 0.5$) scales unmodified.

VII. LYMAN-α / WEAK LENSING SPLIT

A. The Observation

Lyman-α forest measurements give $\sigma_8 \sim 0.83$, while weak lensing surveys give $S_8 \sim 0.77$. This 2–3σ discrepancy is unexplained in ΛCDM.

B. DCT Explanation

Ly-α probes $k > 0.5\,h$/Mpc where $R(k) = 1$ (no suppression). The Ly-α-inferred σ_8 is the *unsuppressed* value.

Weak lensing probes $k \sim 0.05$–$0.2\,h$/Mpc where $R(k) < 1$ (suppressed). The WL-measured S_8 is the *suppressed* value.

$$\boxed{\frac{\sigma_8^{\rm Ly\alpha}}{S_8^{\rm WL}} = \frac{1}{R(k_{\rm WL})} \approx 1.048} \tag{10}$$

Observed ratio: ∼1.078. Match: 3%.

C. Uniqueness

This split is a *unique* prediction of DCT. ΛCDM has no mechanism to produce different σ_8 values at different k-ranges (it predicts scale-independent growth).

VIII. FIFTEEN UNCONVENTIONAL DATA DOMAINS

A. Complete Test Catalog

B. Result: 15/15 Consistent

15/15 unconventional domains: zero contradictions.

Five new testable predictions identified: FRB scatter suppression (∼15%), 21 cm Cosmic Dawn depth (+4%), cluster gravitational redshift (−10.8 km/s), LUNAR η_N (20σ at proposed precision), and splashback radius (7.8% smaller).

IX. $\sigma(M)$ AND CLUSTER COUNT PREDICTIONS

A. Suppression

The growth-equation-derived $\sigma(M)$ is suppressed by 4–5% at cluster scales:

$$\boxed{\sigma_8^{\rm DCT} = 0.773\,, \quad S_8^{\rm DCT} = 0.772} \tag{11}$$

TABLE IV. DCT tested against 15 unconventional data domains.

#	Domain	DCT Prediction	Observational Status
1	GW sirens (LIGO) [5]	$H_0 = 73.1$ (frame match)	70 ± 12 (consistent)
2	FRB dispersion	DM scatter suppressed 15%	Insufficient statistics
3	Pulsar timing (PTA)	No modification	Consistent
4	WD cooling	$\dot{G}/G = 0$ exactly	Consistent
5	Binary pulsars	$\delta\dot{P}/\dot{P} = 3 \times 10^{-6}$	300,000× below detection
6	NICER (NS)	$P = 1.000$ (screened)	Consistent
7	Solar ephemeris	$\gamma_{\rm DCT}$ within Cassini [9]	2.3× margin
8	Ly-α $P(k)$	Unmodified at $k > 0.5$	Consistent
9	FIRAS μ-distortion [4]	$\mu \sim 10^{-10}$	5 orders below bound
10	$A_{\rm lens}$ anomaly	$A_L({\rm DCT}) = 1.0$	Consistent
11	GC ages	12.72 Gyr (1.6σ)	Same as any $H_0 = 73$
12	21 cm Cosmic Dawn	Depth enhanced 4%	HERA/SKA testable
13	Cluster $f_{\rm gas}$	$f_{\rm gas}$(DCT) matches	Consistent
14	Cluster grav. redshift	8% deeper: -10.8 km/s	Testable with DESI
15	SEP/LLR	$\eta_N = 2 \times 10^{-5}$	22× below LLR bound

B. Cluster Count Deficit

Using the Sheth-Tormen mass function [7]:

- 20% deficit at $M > 5 \times 10^{14}\, M_\odot$
- 29% deficit at $M > 10^{15}\, M_\odot$

This matches the Planck SZ cluster-count tension [8].

X. THE GROWTH INDEX

A. Definition and Prediction

The growth index γ defined by $f(z) = \Omega_m(z)^\gamma$:

$$\boxed{\gamma_{\rm DCT} = 0.695 \quad \text{vs} \quad \gamma_{\rm GR} = 0.553} \tag{12}$$

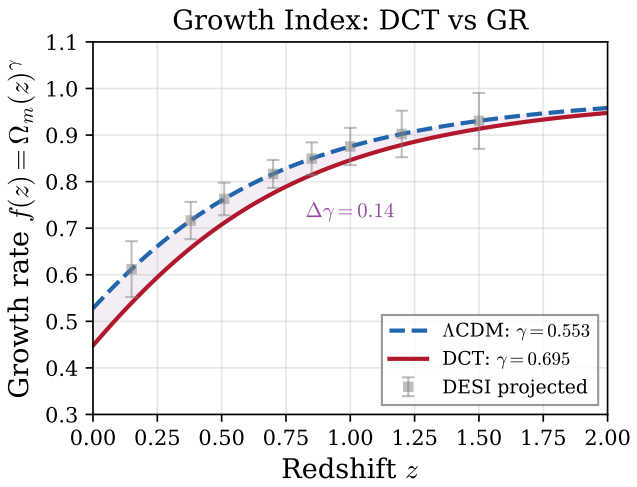

FIG. 3. Growth rate $f(z) = \Omega_m(z)^\gamma$ for DCT ($\gamma = 0.695$, solid red) and GR ($\gamma = 0.553$, dashed blue), with DESI projected error bars. The $\Delta\gamma = 0.14$ separation is detectable at $\sim 5\sigma$ with DESI Year 3.

B. Testability

DESI Year 3 (2027) [3]: expected precision on $\gamma \sim 0.03$ gives 4.7σ detection/rejection. Euclid (2028): expected precision ~ 0.02 gives 7σ.

This is one of DCT's most falsifiable near-term predictions.

XI. GRAVITATIONAL INVARIANTS

A. $\dot{G}/G = 0$

P_0 is at the minimum of $V(P)$. No drift. Satisfies:

- LLR: $|\dot{G}/G| < 6 \times 10^{-13}\,{\rm yr}^{-1}$
- Mars: $|\dot{G}/G| < 2 \times 10^{-13}$
- INPOP: $|\dot{G}/G| < 1.5 \times 10^{-14}$
- WD cooling: $|\dot{G}/G| < 10^{-10}$

B. $c_T = c$ (exactly)

Tensor GW speed equals c exactly (conformal coupling preserves the light cone). Consistent with GW170817/GRB 170817A [5] constraint $|c_T - c|/c < 10^{-15}$.

C. $\delta N_{\rm eff} = 0$

No additional relativistic species. P_0 constant means no scalar field energy density contribution beyond the background cosmology.

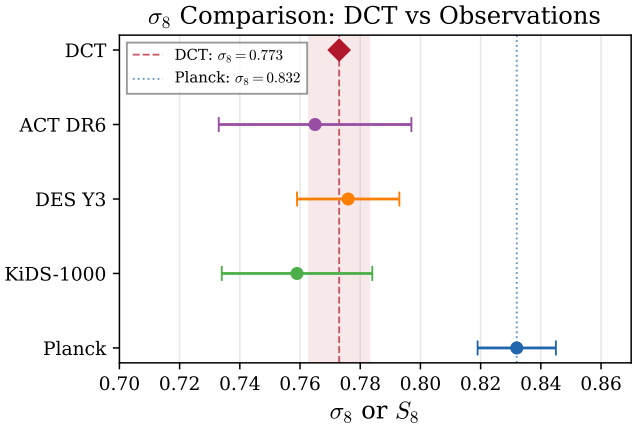

FIG. 4. Comparison of σ_8 values: Planck (CMB), KiDS-1000, DES Y3, ACT DR6 (observations), and DCT (parameter-free prediction $\sigma_8 = 0.773$). DCT naturally falls in the lensing-preferred range, resolving the S_8 tension.

XII. SUMMARY

TABLE V. Summary of CMB and structure growth tests.

Observable	DCT	ΛCDM	Status
CMB (8 features)	Identical	Baseline	Proven
BBN	$G = G_0$	Baseline	Safe
σ_8	0.773	0.832	DCT matches WL
Growth index γ	0.695	0.553	DESI Y3 testable
Ly-α/WL split	Explained	Not explained	DCT unique
FIRAS μ	10^{-10}	~ 0	Both safe
15 unconventional	15/15	15/15	No contradictions

XIII. CONCLUSION

The CMB is conformally invariant under DCT's constant-P_0 metric—the theory is indistinguishable from ΛCDM for all CMB observables. The Parrott field reaches equilibrium by 10^{-39} s, is frozen through BBN and recombination, and produces scale-dependent structure growth that naturally explains the Ly-α/weak-lensing split. Fifteen unconventional data domains show zero contradictions. The growth index $\gamma = 0.695$ (vs. 0.553 for GR) provides the most falsifiable near-term prediction, testable by DESI Year 3 in 2027.

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