#### Disformally Self-Tuning Gravity

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Self-tuning Horndeski theory & a disformal coupling to matter

3 Analysis & Summary

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 Requiring that the equivalence principle holds implies that vacuum energy should gravitate → identify this with cosmological constant.

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Current data requires Λ<sub>ren</sub> ~ meV<sup>4</sup> [1]
 → Significant fine-tuning required. Problematic, but not disastrous!

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• Consequently, the cosmological constant does not have a stable value even in the regime of the Standard Model  $\rightarrow$  CCP!

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$$\mathcal{L}_{Fab} = \sqrt{-g} \Big[ V_G(\phi) R + V_R(\phi) \hat{G} + V_J(\phi) G^{\mu\nu} \nabla_\mu \phi \nabla_\nu \phi \\ + V_P(\phi) P^{\mu\nu\alpha\beta} \nabla_\mu \phi \nabla_\alpha \phi \nabla_\nu \nabla_\beta \phi \Big]$$
(2)

[where  $\hat{G} = R^2 - 4R^{\mu\nu}R_{\mu\nu} + R^{\mu\nu\alpha\beta}R_{\mu\nu\alpha\beta}$  is the "Gauss-Bonnet" combination, and  $P^{\mu\nu\alpha\beta} := (* * R)^{\mu\nu\alpha\beta} = -\frac{1}{4}\epsilon^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma}R_{\rho\sigma\lambda\gamma}\epsilon^{\lambda\gamma\alpha\beta}$  is the double-dual of the Riemann tensor.]

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- One introduces a "self-tuning", time-dependent scalar field φ(t) to "screen" effects of vacuum energy → vacuum energy does not gravitate!
- Importantly, Weinberg's famous no-go theorem is avoided by breaking Poincaré invariance at the level of the self-adjusting scalar field  $\rightarrow \phi$  is allowed to evolve in time.

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- In doing so we require a transformation between gravitational & physical geometries → most general relation between the two adhering to causality and the weak equivalence principle is a disformal transformation [3]

$$\bar{g}_{\mu\nu}(x) = A^2(\phi, X) \big[ g_{\mu\nu}(x) + B^2(\phi, X) \partial_\mu \phi \partial_\nu \phi \big]$$
(3)

[where 
$$X = -\frac{1}{2}g^{\mu\nu}\partial_{\mu}\phi\partial_{\nu}\phi$$
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• Simplifies analysis and corresponds to the physical frame  $\rightarrow$  matter follows the geodesics defined by the physical metric  $\bar{g}_{\mu\nu}$ , and the energy-momentum tensor is covariantly conservered,  $\bar{\nabla}_{\mu}\bar{T}^{\mu\nu} = 0$ .

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  - This should remain true before and after any phase transition in which the cosmological constant "jumps" (instantaneously) by a finite amount;
  - The theory should permit a non-trivial cosmology (a vital requirement in order for the theory to match observational data).

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$$ds^{2} = g_{\mu\nu}(x)dx^{\mu}dx^{\nu} = -N^{2}(t)dt^{2} + a^{2}(t)\gamma_{ij}(\mathbf{x})dx^{i}dx^{j}$$
(5)

$$d\bar{s}^{2} = \bar{g}_{\mu\nu}(x)dx^{\mu}dx^{\nu} = -dt^{2} + \bar{a}^{2}(t)\gamma_{ij}(\mathbf{x})dx^{i}dx^{j}$$
(6)

- $g_{\mu\nu}(x)$ : Horndeski-frame metric (describes geometry defined by gravitation).
- $\bar{g}_{\mu\nu}(x)$  : Jordan-frame metric (describes physical geometry on which matter propagates).

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$$\mathcal{L}_{FRW} = \bar{a}^3 \sum_{i=0}^3 Z_i(\bar{a}, \phi, \dot{\phi}, \ddot{\phi}) \bar{H}^i$$
(7)

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$$\ddot{a} = 0 \tag{9}$$

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We assume that φ(t) is continuous, but that φ, φ and φ can be discontinuous, compensating for changes in Λ due to phase transitions in matter sector.

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$$\tilde{\mathcal{L}} = \bar{a}^3 \sum_{i=0}^3 \tilde{Z}_i \bar{H}^i \equiv \bar{a}^3 \sum_{i=1}^3 \tilde{Z}_i \left[ \bar{H}^i - \left(\frac{s}{\bar{a}}\right)^i \right]$$
(10)

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• It turns out that for the theory to be self-tuning it must be that  $\mathcal{H} = \tilde{\mathcal{H}}$  and  $\varepsilon^{\phi} = \tilde{\varepsilon}^{\phi}$ . Hence,  $Z_i = \tilde{Z}_i$ .

#### Self-tuning forms of the Horndeski functions

• We observe that the functions  $Z_i$  can be expressed as,

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- Two Lagrangians differing by a total derivative describe the same theory → enables derivation of a set of equations for X<sub>i</sub> and Y<sub>i</sub>.
- These equations can be used to determine the self-tuning form of each of the Horndeski functions K,  $G_i$  (i = 3, 4, 5).

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• In the *conformal* case,  $\bar{A} = \bar{A}(\phi)$ , the theory reproduces a Lagrangian in the same class of self-tuning theories as the Fab Four.

• In the most general case, where  $\bar{A} = \bar{A}(\phi, \bar{X})$  and  $\bar{B} = \bar{B}(\phi, \bar{X})$  (in principle), requiring self-tuning enforces the constraint:

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 As a consequence, the Horndeski Lagrangian (evaluated on an FRW background) can be expressed in a self-tuning form:

$$\mathcal{L}_{FRW} = \bar{a}^{3} \left[ N\sqrt{2X} V_{1}^{\prime} - 2V_{1} \frac{s}{\bar{a}} + \left( 3\bar{G}_{5} - 3\sqrt{2X}G_{5} - V_{2} \right) \left( \frac{s}{\bar{a}} \right)^{2} \right] \left[ \bar{H} - \frac{s}{\bar{a}} \right]$$

$$+ \bar{a}^{3} \left[ N\sqrt{2X} V_{2}^{\prime} + 6NG_{4} - 3N\sqrt{2X}\bar{G}_{5,\phi} + 2V_{1} \right] \left[ \bar{H}^{2} - \left( \frac{s}{\bar{a}} \right)^{2} \right]$$

$$+ 2\bar{a}^{3} \frac{X\sqrt{2X}}{N^{2}} G_{5,X} \left[ \bar{H}^{3} - \left( \frac{s}{\bar{a}} \right)^{3} \right]$$

$$(14)$$

• <u>A significant result</u>: if we can find solutions for the Horndeski functions K,  $G_i$  (i = 3, 4, 5) then the theory is guaranteed to be self-tuning! • <u>A significant result</u>: if we can find solutions for the Horndeski functions K,  $G_i$  (i = 3, 4, 5) then the theory is guaranteed to be self-tuning!

• <u>Caveat</u>: the system of differential equations for K,  $G_i$  (i = 3, 4, 5) cannot be solved in general and must be done so on a *case-by-case* basis.

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#### <u>Outlook</u>

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#### <u>Outlook</u>

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- Possible future research: use of present analysis as a starting point in the construction of a "*beyond Horndeski*" theory.





Bekenstein, Jacob D, Phys. Rev. D 48, 3641 (1993). [arxiv:9211017v1 [gr-qc]].

## Thank you for your time. Any questions?