Ghost Free & Singularity Free Theory of Gravity

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> Phys. Rev. Lett. (2012), JCAP (2012, 2011), JCAP (2006) CQG (2013)

Einstein's GR is well behaved in IR, but UV is Pathetic; Aim is to address the UV aspects of Gravity

Motivations

Resolution to Blackhole Singularity

Resolution for Quantum Mechanics & Gravity Blackhole Information Loss Paradox

Resolution to Cosmological Big Bang Singularity Geodesically complete Inflationary Trajectory

While Keeping IR Property of GR Intact

I wish I were a Magician!

$$S = \int d^4x \ \sqrt{-g} \left[\frac{R}{2} + R \left[\frac{e^{\frac{-\Box}{M^2}} - 1}{\Box} \right] R - 2R_{\mu\nu} \left[\frac{e^{-\frac{\Box}{M^2}} - 1}{\Box} \right] R^{\mu\nu} \right]$$

Absence of Cosmological and Blackhole Singularities

Conjecture : The Form of Most General Action

$$S = \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} \left[\frac{R}{2} + \alpha_0(R, R_{\mu\nu}) + \alpha_1(R, R_{\mu\nu}) R \mathcal{F}_1(\Box) R + \alpha_2(R, R_{\mu\nu}) R_{\mu\nu} \mathcal{F}_2(\Box) R^{\mu\nu} + \alpha_3(R, R_{\mu\nu}) C_{\mu\nu\lambda\sigma} \mathcal{F}_3 C^{\mu\nu\lambda\sigma} \right]$$

Facts

String Theory Introduces 2 Parameters $\kappa^2 \approx g_s^2 (\alpha')^{12}$

Fundamental Strings are Non-Local

DBI action ameliorates the Point like Singularity of Coulomb Solution

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$$S = -T_p \int d^{p+1}\zeta \sqrt{-\det(\gamma_{ab} + 2\pi\alpha' F_{ab})}$$

DBI Action Provides a Description of Open Strings to All Orders in α' at One-Loop

Challenge for String Theorists: To Construct a similar Action for Closed Strings with All Orders in α'



4th order Gravity is Renormalizable !

$$I = \int d^4x \sqrt{g} \left[\lambda_0 + k R + a R_{\mu\nu} R^{\mu\nu} - \frac{1}{3} (b+a) R^2 \right]$$
$$D \propto \frac{1}{k^4 + Ak^2} = \frac{1}{A} \left(\frac{1}{k^2} - \frac{1}{k^2 + A} \right)$$
Massive Spin-0 & Massive Spin-3 (Ghost) Stelle (1977)
Utiyama, De Witt (1961), Stelle (1977)
Utiyama, De Witt (1961), Stelle (1977)
Extra propagating degree of freedom
Propagator Challenge: to get rid of the extra dof



Higher Order Derivative Theory Generically Carry Ghosts (-ve Risidue) with real "m"(No-Tachyon)

$$\begin{split} S &= \int d^4x \ \phi \Box (\Box + m^2) \phi \Rightarrow \Box (\Box + m^2) \phi = 0 \\ \Delta(p^2) &= \frac{1}{p^2(p^2 + m^2)} \sim \frac{1}{p^2} - \frac{1}{(p^2 + m^2)} \quad \text{Propagator with first} \\ \text{order poles} \end{split}$$

Ghosts cannot be cured order by order, finite terms in perturbative expansion will always lead to Ghosts !!

Higher Derivative Action around Minkowski $S = S_E + S_q$ $S_q = \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} \left[R_{\dots} \mathcal{O}_{\dots} R^{\dots} R^{\dots} + R_{\dots} \mathcal{O}_{\dots} R^{\dots} R^{\dots} + R_{\dots} \mathcal{O}_{\dots} R^{\dots} R^{\dots} \mathcal{O}_{\dots} R^{\dots} \mathcal{O}_{\dots} R^{\dots} R^{\dots} \mathcal{O}_{\dots} R^$

 $g_{\mu\nu} = \eta_{\mu\nu} + h_{\mu\nu} \quad R \sim \mathcal{O}(h)$ $S_q = \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} R_{\mu_1\nu_1\lambda_1\sigma_1} \mathcal{O}^{\mu_1\nu_1\lambda_1\sigma_1}_{\mu_2\nu_2\lambda_2\sigma_2} R^{\mu_2\nu_2\lambda_2\sigma_2}$ **Unknown Infinite**

Covariant derivatives

Functions of Derivatives

Fundamental Theory Must have Finite Parameters

What Have We Gained?

$F_i(\Box) = \sum_{n \ge 0} f_{i,n} \Box^n$

$$\begin{split} S_{q} &= \int d^{4}x \sqrt{-g} [RF_{1}(\Box)R + RF_{2}(\Box)\nabla_{\mu}\nabla_{\nu}R^{\mu\nu} + R_{\mu\nu}F_{3}(\Box)R^{\mu\nu} + R^{\nu}_{\mu}F_{4}(\Box)\nabla_{\nu}\nabla_{\lambda}R^{\mu\lambda} \\ &+ R^{\lambda\sigma}F_{5}(\Box)\nabla_{\mu}\nabla_{\sigma}\nabla_{\nu}\nabla_{\lambda}R^{\mu\nu} + RF_{6}(\Box)\nabla_{\mu}\nabla_{\nu}\nabla_{\lambda}\nabla_{\sigma}R^{\mu\nu\lambda\sigma} + R_{\mu\lambda}F_{7}(\Box)\nabla_{\nu}\nabla_{\sigma}R^{\mu\nu\lambda\sigma} \\ &+ R^{\rho}_{\lambda}F_{8}(\Box)\nabla_{\mu}\nabla_{\sigma}\nabla_{\nu}\nabla_{\rho}R^{\mu\nu\lambda\sigma} + R^{\mu_{1}\nu_{1}}F_{9}(\Box)\nabla_{\mu_{1}}\nabla_{\nu_{1}}\nabla_{\mu}\nabla_{\nu}\nabla_{\lambda}\nabla_{\sigma}R^{\mu\nu\lambda\sigma} \\ &+ R_{\mu\nu\lambda\sigma}F_{10}(\Box)R^{\mu\nu\lambda\sigma} + R^{\rho}_{\mu\nu\lambda}F_{11}(\Box)\nabla_{\rho}\nabla_{\sigma}R^{\mu\nu\lambda\sigma} + R_{\mu\rho_{1}\nu\sigma_{1}}F_{12}(\Box)\nabla^{\rho_{1}}\nabla^{\sigma_{1}}\nabla_{\rho}\nabla_{\sigma}R^{\mu\rho\nu\sigma} \\ &+ R^{\nu_{1}\rho_{1}\sigma_{1}}F_{13}(\Box)\nabla_{\rho_{1}}\nabla_{\sigma_{1}}\nabla_{\nu_{1}}\nabla_{\nu}\nabla_{\rho}\nabla_{\sigma}R^{\mu\nu\lambda\sigma} + R^{\mu_{1}\nu_{1}\rho_{1}\sigma_{1}}F_{14}(\Box)\nabla_{\rho_{1}}\nabla_{\sigma_{1}}\nabla_{\mu_{1}}\nabla_{\mu}\nabla_{\nu}\nabla_{\rho}\nabla_{\sigma}R^{\mu\nu\lambda\sigma} \end{split}$$

 $X \rightarrow R^{\mu\nu} \rightarrow I$

Redundancies

$$\begin{split} S_{q} &= \int d^{4}x \sqrt{-g} [RF_{1}(\Box)R + RF_{2}(\Box)\nabla_{\mu}\nabla_{\nu}R^{\mu\nu} + R_{\mu\nu}F_{3}(\Box)R^{\mu\nu} + R_{\mu}^{\nu}F_{4}(\Box)\nabla_{\nu}\nabla_{\lambda}R^{\mu\lambda} \\ &+ R^{\lambda\sigma}F_{5}(\Box)\nabla_{\mu}\nabla_{\sigma}\nabla_{\nu}\nabla_{\lambda}R^{\mu\nu\lambda\sigma} + RF_{6}(\Box)\nabla_{\mu}\nabla_{\nu}\nabla_{\lambda}\nabla_{\sigma}R^{\mu\nu\lambda\sigma} + R_{\mu\lambda}F_{7}(\Box)\nabla_{\nu}\nabla_{\sigma}R^{\mu\nu\lambda\sigma} \\ &+ R^{\lambda}_{\rho}F_{8}(\Box)\nabla_{\mu}\nabla_{\sigma}\nabla_{\nu}\nabla_{\rho}R^{\mu\nu\lambda\sigma} + R^{\mu_{1}\nu_{1}}F_{9}(\Box)\nabla_{\mu_{1}}\nabla_{\nu}\nabla_{\nu}\nabla_{\lambda}\nabla_{\sigma}R^{\mu\nu\lambda\sigma} \\ &+ R_{\mu\nu\lambda\sigma}F_{10}(\Box)R^{\mu\nu\lambda\sigma} + R^{\rho}_{\mu\nu\lambda}F_{11}(\Box)\nabla_{\rho}\nabla_{\sigma}R^{\mu\nu\lambda\sigma} + R_{\mu\rho_{1}\nu_{1}}F_{12}(\Box)\nabla^{\rho_{1}}\nabla^{\sigma_{1}}\nabla_{\nu}\nabla_{\rho}\nabla_{\sigma}R^{\mu\nu\lambda} \\ &+ R^{\nu_{1}\rho_{1}\sigma_{1}}F_{13}(\Box)\nabla_{\rho_{1}}\nabla_{\sigma_{1}}\nabla_{\nu_{1}}\nabla_{\nu}\nabla_{\rho}\nabla_{\sigma}R^{\mu\nu\lambda\sigma} + R^{\mu_{1}\nu_{1}\rho_{1}\sigma_{1}}F_{14}(\Box)\nabla_{\rho_{1}}\nabla_{\sigma_{1}}\nabla_{\nu_{1}}\nabla_{\mu}\nabla_{\nu}\nabla_{\rho}\nabla_{\sigma}R^{\mu\nu\alpha\beta} \\ &= \int d^{4}x \sqrt{-g} \left[R + R\mathcal{F}_{1}(\Box)R + R_{\mu\nu}\mathcal{F}_{2}(\Box)R^{\mu\nu} + R_{\mu\nu\alpha\beta}\mathcal{F}_{3}(\Box)R^{\mu\nu\alpha\beta} \right] \\ \Delta \mathcal{L} &= \sqrt{-g} \left(\alpha R^{2} + \beta R^{2}_{\mu\nu} + \gamma R^{2}_{\alpha\beta\mu\nu}\right) \\ \int d^{4}x \sqrt{-g} (R^{2} - 4R^{2}_{\mu\nu} + R^{2}_{\mu\nu\alpha\beta}) \\ \end{bmatrix}$$

$$= \int d^{4}x \sqrt{-g} \left[R + R\mathcal{F}_{1}(\Box)R + R_{\mu\nu}\mathcal{F}_{2}(\Box)R^{\mu\nu} + R_{\mu\nu\alpha\beta}\mathcal{F}_{3}(\Box)R^{\mu\nu\alpha\beta} \right]$$

$$g_{\mu\nu} = \eta_{\mu\nu} + h_{\mu\nu}$$

$$S_{q} = -\int d^{4}x \left[\frac{1}{2} h_{\mu\nu}a(\Box)\Box h^{\mu\nu} + h^{\sigma}_{\mu}b(\Box)\partial_{\sigma}\partial_{\nu}h^{\mu\nu} \right]$$

$$+ hc(\Box)\partial_{\mu}\partial_{\nu}h^{\mu\nu} + \frac{1}{2}hd(\Box)\Box h + h^{\lambda\sigma}\frac{f(\Box)}{\Box}\partial_{\sigma}\partial_{\lambda}\partial_{\mu}\partial_{\nu}h^{\mu\nu} \right]$$

$$a(\Box) = 1 - \frac{1}{2}\mathcal{F}_{2}(\Box)\Box - 2\mathcal{F}_{3}(\Box)\Box$$
$$b(\Box) = -1 + \frac{1}{2}\mathcal{F}_{2}(\Box)\Box + 2\mathcal{F}_{3}(\Box)\Box$$
$$c(\Box) = 1 + 2\mathcal{F}_{1}(\Box)\Box + \frac{1}{2}\mathcal{F}_{2}(\Box)\Box$$
$$d(\Box) = -1 - 2\mathcal{F}_{1}(\Box)\Box - \frac{1}{2}\mathcal{F}_{2}(\Box)\Box$$
$$\Box) = -2\mathcal{F}_{1}(\Box)\Box - \mathcal{F}_{2}(\Box)\Box - 2\mathcal{F}_{3}(\Box)\Box.$$

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 $\mathcal{F}_3(\Box)$ is redundant around Minkowski

$$R_{\mu\nu\lambda\sigma} = \frac{1}{2} (\partial_{[\lambda}\partial_{\nu}h_{\mu\sigma]} - \partial_{[\lambda}\partial_{\mu}h_{\nu\sigma]})$$

$$R_{\mu\nu} = \frac{1}{2} (\partial_{\sigma}\partial_{(\nu}h^{\sigma}_{\mu)} - \partial_{\nu}\partial_{\mu}h - \Box h_{\mu\nu})$$

$$R = \partial_{\nu}\partial_{\mu}h^{\mu\nu} - \Box h$$

$$a + b = 0$$

$$c + d = 0$$

$$b + c + f = 0$$

Graviton Propagator

$$a(\Box)\Box h_{\mu\nu} + b(\Box)\partial_{\sigma}\partial_{(\nu}h^{\sigma}_{\mu)} + c(\Box)(\eta_{\mu\nu}\partial_{\rho}\partial_{\sigma}h^{\rho\sigma} + \partial_{\mu}\partial_{\nu}h) + \eta_{\mu\nu}d(\Box)\Box h + \frac{1}{4}f(\Box)\Box^{-1}\partial_{\sigma}\partial_{\lambda}\partial_{\mu}\partial_{\nu}h^{\lambda\sigma} = -\kappa\tau_{\mu\nu}$$

$$-\kappa\tau\nabla_{\mu}\tau^{\mu}_{\nu} = 0 = (c+d)\Box\partial_{\nu}h + (a+b)\Box h^{\mu}_{\nu,\mu} + (b+c+f)h^{\alpha\beta}_{,\alpha\beta\nu}$$

Bianchi Identity
$$b+c+f=0$$

$$\Pi_{\mu\nu}^{-1\,\lambda\sigma}h_{\lambda\sigma} = \kappa\tau_{\mu\nu} \qquad h = h^{TT} + h^{L} + h^{T}$$
$$\Pi = \frac{P^{2}}{ak^{2}} + \frac{P_{s}^{0}}{(a-3c)k^{2}} + \frac{P_{w}^{0}}{(c-a+f)k^{2}}$$

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Remarks on f(R) Gravity & 4th Order Gravity

$$= \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} \left[R + R\mathcal{F}_1(\Box)R + R_{\mu\nu}\mathcal{F}_2(\Box)R^{\mu\nu} + R_{\mu\nu\alpha\beta}\mathcal{F}_3(\Box)R^{\mu\nu\alpha\beta} \right]$$

$$\mathcal{L} \approx R + c_1R^2 + c_2R^3 + c_2R^4 + c_3R^5 + c_6R^6 + \dots \qquad I = \int d^4x \sqrt{g} \left[\lambda_0 + kR + aR_{\mu\nu}R^{\mu\nu} - \frac{1}{3}(b+a)R^2 \right]$$
Scalar Ghost (Massive Spin 0) Massive Spin-2 Ghost
$$\Pi \sim -1/2k^2(k^2 - m^2) + \dots \qquad \Pi \sim P_2/k^2(k^2 - m^2) + \dots$$

f(R) type model can be made Ghost Free but they do not improve UV behavior 4th Order Gravity can Improve UV behavior but has a Ghost

Covariant Modification of a Graviton Propagator : Only 1 Entire Function

UV

$$\Pi = \frac{P^2}{ak^2} + \frac{P_s^0}{(a-3c)k^2} = \frac{1}{a} \left[\frac{P^2}{k^2} - \frac{P_s^0}{2k^2} \right]$$

Demand: $a(k^2) = c(k^2)$
Recovers GR $\lim_{k^2 \to 0} \Pi^{\mu\nu}{}_{\lambda\sigma} = (P^2/k^2) - (P_s^0/2k^2)$
 $a(0) = c(0) = -b(0) = -d(0) = 1$

ONLY 1 Non-Singular, Analytic functions at k=0, is required to Ameliorate the UV property of GR

'a' should be an Entire Function & cannot contain non-local operators, such as $a(\Box) \sim 1/\Box$

Ghost Free Gravity
$$a(\Box) = c(\Box) \Rightarrow 2\mathcal{F}_1(\Box) + \mathcal{F}_2(\Box) + 2\mathcal{F}_3(\Box) = 0$$
$$\mathbf{Entire Function}$$
$$\Pi = \frac{P^2}{ak^2} + \frac{P_s^0}{(a-3c)k^2} = \frac{1}{a} \left[\frac{P^2}{k^2} - \frac{P_s^0}{2k^2} \right]$$
$$a(\Box) = c(\Box) = e^{-\Box/M^2}$$
Some function of k which falls faster than 1/k²

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 $a(\Box) = e^{-\frac{\Box}{M^2}}$ and $\mathcal{F}_3 = 0 \Rightarrow \mathcal{F}_1(\Box) = \frac{e^{-\frac{\Box}{M^2}} - 1}{\Box} = -\frac{\mathcal{F}_2(\Box)}{2}$

UV Gravity Simplified

$$= \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} \left[R + R\mathcal{F}_1(\Box)R + R_{\mu\nu}\mathcal{F}_2(\Box)R^{\mu\nu} + R_{\mu\nu\alpha\beta}\mathcal{F}_3(\Box)R^{\mu\nu\alpha\beta} \right]$$

$$S = \int d^4x \ \sqrt{-g} \left[\frac{R}{2} + R \left[\frac{e^{\frac{-\Box}{M^2}} - 1}{\Box} \right] R - 2R_{\mu\nu} \left[\frac{e^{-\frac{\Box}{M^2}} - 1}{\Box} \right] R^{\mu\nu} \right]$$

Applications

Black Hole Singularity, i.e. Schwarzschild Type $\mathcal{F}_3(\Box) = 0$ Biswas, Gerwick, Koivisto, AM, PRL (2012) (gr-qc/1110.5249)

Cosmological Singularity, i.e. Big Bang Type

 $\mathcal{F}_3(\Box) \neq 0$

Biswas, AM, Siegel, JCAP (hep-th/0508194), Brandenberger, Biswas, AM, Siegel, JCAP (hep-th/0610274) Biswas, AM, Koivisto, JCAP (1005.0590)

Newtonian Potential



Plot[{0.95 * Erf[x] / x, 1/

1.2

1.0

0.8

0.6

0.4

0.2

$$ds^{2} = -(1 - 2\Phi)dt^{2} + (1 + 2\Psi)dr^{2}$$

$$\Phi(r) = \Psi(r) = -\frac{m_{1}m_{2}}{4\pi M_{p}^{2}r} \operatorname{erf}\left(\frac{rM}{2}\right) \ll 1$$

$$\mathsf{VV limit:} \quad r \to 0, \quad \operatorname{erf}(r) \to r \qquad \Phi(r) \to \operatorname{const}(r) \to r$$

IR limit:
$$r \to \infty$$
, $\operatorname{erf}(r) \to 1$ $\Phi(r) \to \frac{1}{r}$

No Singularity, No Horizon, No Information Loss for Mini-Bhs

$$ds^{2} = \left(1 - \frac{2Gm}{r} \operatorname{erf}\left(rM/2\right)\right) dt^{2} - \frac{dr^{2}}{\left(1 - \frac{2Gm}{r} \operatorname{erf}\left(rM/2\right)\right)}$$
$$mM \ll M_{p}^{2} \implies m \ll M_{p}$$

Non-Singular Bouncing Solution

$$\int d^4x \sqrt{-g} \left[R + R\mathcal{F}_1(\Box)R + R_{\mu\nu}\mathcal{F}_2(\Box)R^{\mu\nu} + R_{\mu\nu\alpha\beta}\mathcal{F}_3(\Box)R^{\mu\nu\alpha\beta} \right]$$

$$a(\Box)[\Box h_{\mu\nu} - \partial_{\sigma}\partial_{(\nu}h^{\sigma}_{\mu)}] + c(\Box)[\eta_{\mu\nu}\partial_{\rho}\partial_{\sigma}h^{\rho\sigma} + \partial_{\mu}\partial_{\nu}h - \eta_{\mu\nu}\Box h] + [a(\Box) - c(\Box)]\Box^{-1}\partial_{\sigma}\partial_{\lambda}\partial_{\mu}\partial_{\nu}h^{\lambda\sigma} = -\kappa\tau_{\mu\nu}$$

 $h \sim \operatorname{diag}(0, A \sin \lambda t, A \sin \lambda t, A \sin \lambda t)$ with $A \ll 1$

$$c(\Box) \equiv \frac{a(\Box)}{3} \left[1 + 2\left(1 - \frac{\Box}{m^2}\right) \tilde{c}(\Box) \right]$$

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Non- Singular Bouncing, Homogeneous & Isotropic Universe

Such a solution is not possible in GR

Biswas, Gerwick, Koivisto, AM, (gr-qc/1110.5249)

Conclusions

- We have constructed a Ghost Free & Singularity Free Theory of Gravity
- If we can show higher loops are finite then it is a great news -- this is what we are working now
- But, studying singularity theorems, positive energy theorems, Hawking radiation, Non-Singular
 Bouncing Cosmology,, many interesting problems can be studied in this framework

Non-locality & Quantum Gravity



- Gravity is a Gauge Theory : Free kinetic action is tangled with interactions
- Vertices have the same exponential enhancement as the suppression in the propagator : One has to do the calculation ...
- Effective description : Arising from the integrations of quantum fluctuations of some unknown degrees of freedom -- the question of quantisation has no meaning, and one has to use the classical solutions as master fields (collective variables) for the quantum dynamics of the unknown degrees of freedom.

$$S = \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} \left[\frac{R}{2} + \alpha_0(R, R_{\mu\nu}) + \alpha_1(R, R_{\mu\nu}) R\mathcal{F}_1(\Box) R \right. \\ \left. + \alpha_2(R, R_{\mu\nu}) R_{\mu\nu} \mathcal{F}_2(\Box) R^{\mu\nu} + \alpha_3(R, R_{\mu\nu}) C_{\mu\nu\lambda\sigma} \mathcal{F}_3 C^{\mu\nu\lambda\sigma} \right]$$

Full Non-Singular Solution

$$S = \int d^4x \ \sqrt{-g} \left[\frac{R}{2} + R \left[\frac{e^{\frac{-\Box}{M^2}} - 1}{\Box} \right] R - 2R_{\mu\nu} \left[\frac{e^{-\frac{\Box}{M^2}} - 1}{\Box} \right] R^{\mu\nu} \right]$$

 $\Box R = r_1 R + r_2$

$$\Lambda = -\frac{r_2 M_P^2}{4r_1}$$
$$u(t) = \cosh\left(\sqrt{\frac{r_1}{2}}t\right)$$

Does Not Contribute to Dynamics But to Perturbations

Biswas, AM, Siegel, JCAP (hep-th/0508194)

 $\ddot{a} > 0 \Longrightarrow \Lambda > 0$

Biswas, Koivisto, AM, JCAP (hep-th/1005.0590)

Gravitational Waves

$$\Box \bar{h}_{\mu\nu} = -\kappa \tau_{\mu\nu}$$

$$\sim \text{ In GR we solve:} \quad \bar{h}_{\mu\nu} \approx -\frac{\kappa}{4\pi r} \int \tau_{\mu\nu}(t, r') d^3 r'$$

$$\sim \text{ In Our Case:} \qquad a(\Box) \bar{h}_{\mu\nu} = -\kappa \tau_{\mu\nu}$$

$$\bar{h}_{\mu\nu} = -\frac{\kappa}{4\pi r} \operatorname{erf}\left(\frac{rM_p}{2}\right) \tau_{\mu\nu}(r)$$

$$r \Longrightarrow 0, \text{ No Singularity}$$

No Schwarzschild Singularity



Biswas, Gerwick, Koivisto, AM, PRL, (gr-qc/1110.5249)



Background Independent Action : de & Anti-de Sitter $S = \int d^4x \,\sqrt{-g} \,\left| \frac{R}{2} + \alpha_1(R)R \,\left| \frac{e^{-\frac{\omega}{M^2}} - 1}{\Box/M^2} \right| \,R - 2\alpha_2(R)R_{\mu\nu} \,\left| \frac{e^{-\frac{\omega}{M^2}} - 1}{\Box/M^2} \right| \,R^{\mu\nu} - \Lambda \right|$ $\alpha_1(0) = \alpha_2(0) = 1$ $g_{\mu\nu} = \bar{g}_{\mu\nu} + h_{\mu\nu} \,,$ $\lambda \left[1 - \frac{32\lambda^2 \alpha_1'(\lambda)}{M_n^2} - \frac{16\lambda^2 \alpha_2'(\lambda)}{M_n^2} \right] = \frac{\Lambda}{M_n^2}$ $\bar{R}_{\mu\nu} = \lambda \bar{g}_{\mu\nu}$; $\bar{R} = 4\lambda$ and $\bar{\nabla}_{\mu} \bar{g}_{\nu\rho} = 0$

Generic Form of Action

$$S = \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} \left[\frac{R}{2} + \alpha_0(R, R_{\mu\nu}) + \alpha_1(R, R_{\mu\nu}) R\mathcal{F}_1(\Box) R \right. \\ \left. + \alpha_2(R, R_{\mu\nu}) R_{\mu\nu} \mathcal{F}_2(\Box) R^{\mu\nu} + \alpha_3(R, R_{\mu\nu}) C_{\mu\nu\lambda\sigma} \mathcal{F}_3 C^{\mu\nu\lambda\sigma} \right]$$

Biswas, AM, 2012 (Unpublished)

Looking for Ghosts

$$F(R) = R + \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n R \Box^n R$$

$$S = \int d^4 x \sqrt{-g} \left[\Phi R + \psi \sum_{1}^{\infty} c_i \Box^i \psi - \{\psi(\Phi - 1) - c_0 \psi^2\} \right]$$

$$\frac{\delta S}{\delta \Phi} = 0 \Rightarrow \psi = R \quad S \approx \int d^4 x \ \sqrt{-g'} \left[R' + \frac{3}{2} \phi \Box' \phi + \psi \sum_{1}^{\infty} c_i \Box'^i \psi - \{\psi \phi - c_0 \psi^2\} \right]$$

$$\psi = 3\Box\phi,$$

$$\phi = 2\left[\sum_{1}^{\infty} c_i \Box^i \psi + c_0 \psi\right]$$

$$\left(1 - 6\sum_{0}^{\infty} c_i \Box^{i+1}\right)\phi \equiv \Gamma(\Box)\phi = 0$$



String Interactions (summing over Topologies)



$$S_{\text{string}} = S_{\text{Poly}} + \lambda \chi$$
$$\chi = 2 - 2h = 2(1 - g)$$

@ the lowest order

$$S = \frac{1}{2\kappa^2} \int d^{26} X \sqrt{-G} \ \mathcal{R}$$

$$\kappa^2 \approx g_s^2 (\alpha')^{12}$$

 $q_s = e^{\lambda}$

String Theory Inevitably Introduces 2 Parameters

Plan of the talk

Motivation

Higher derivative gravity & ghosts

Covariant extension of higher derivative ghost-free gravity

Asymptotically free theory of gravity

Background independent action of UV gravity

Classical Singularities



UV is Pathological

IR Part is Safe





Newton's fixed space

Einstein's flexible space-time

String theory is non-local

Short distance divergences should be absent



Graviton Propagator in G-R

$$\partial_{\sigma}h_{\mu\nu}\partial^{\sigma}h^{\mu\nu} \quad , \quad \partial^{\nu}h_{\mu\nu}\partial_{\sigma}h^{\mu\sigma} \quad \mathcal{L}_{sym} = -\frac{1}{4}\partial_{\sigma}h_{\mu\nu}\partial^{\sigma}h^{\mu\nu} + \frac{1}{2}\partial^{\nu}h_{\mu\nu}\partial_{\sigma}h^{\mu\sigma} \partial^{\nu}h_{\mu\nu}\partial^{\mu}h_{\sigma}^{\sigma} \quad , \quad \partial^{\mu}h_{\nu}^{\ \nu}\partial_{\mu}h_{\sigma}^{\ \sigma} \qquad -\frac{1}{2}\partial^{\nu}h_{\mu\nu}\partial^{\mu}h_{\sigma}^{\ \sigma} + \frac{1}{4}\partial^{\mu}h_{\nu}^{\ \nu}\partial_{\mu}h_{\sigma}^{\ \sigma}$$

P Van Nieuwenhuizen (1973)

$$\begin{split} \mathcal{L} &= -\frac{1}{4} \,\partial_{\mu} h_{\alpha\beta} \,\partial^{\mu} h^{\alpha\beta} + \frac{1}{8} \,(\partial_{\mu} h^{\alpha}{}_{\alpha})^{2} + \frac{1}{2} \,C_{\mu}^{2} + \frac{1}{2} \,\kappa \,h_{\mu\nu} \,T^{\mu\nu} + \mathcal{L}_{\rm gf} + \dots \\ \mathcal{L}_{\rm gf} &= -\frac{1}{2} \,C_{\mu}^{2} + \mathcal{L}_{\rm ghost} \\ \mathcal{L}_{\rm gf} &= -\frac{1}{2} \,C_{\mu}^{2} + \mathcal{L}_{\rm ghost} \\ \frac{1}{k^{2}} & \text{De Donder Gauge} \end{split}$$