

# The Cosmological Constant Problem

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The University of  
Nottingham

UNITED KINGDOM · CHINA · MALAYSIA

 THE ROYAL  
SOCIETY

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Jess: ...and that's why the whole universe eats the gravity!

Me: I suppose so.

## Overview

1. What is the CCP?
2. How (not) to solve the CCP  $\rightarrow$  unimodular gravity  
 $\rightarrow$  Weinberg's No Go Thm.
3. Symmetries.
4. Short distance modifications of gravity
5. Large distance & global mod. of gravity  $\rightarrow$  'The Sequester' .
6. Colemania.

Useful reviews: Weinberg (1989), Polchinski (2006)  
Martin (2012), Burgess (2013)

QFT  
(unitarity & locality)

⇒ ∃ VACUUM ENERGY.

eg scalar of mass, m

$$\bigcirc \sim \frac{i}{2} \text{tr} \left[ \log \left( -i \frac{\delta^2 S}{\delta \phi(x) \delta \phi(y)} \right) \right]$$

$$= -\frac{1}{2} \int d^4x \int \frac{d^4k_E}{(2\pi)^4} \log(k_E^2 + m^2)$$

$$= -\frac{1}{2} \int d^4x \frac{m^4}{(4\pi)^2} \left[ \frac{-2}{\epsilon} + \log \left( \frac{m^2}{(4\pi)\mu^2} \right) + \gamma - \frac{3}{2} \right]$$

$$= -V_{\text{vac}} \int d^4x$$

Add counterterm to remove divergence

(more on this later!)

$$V_{\text{vac}} \sim \sum_{\text{particles}} O(1) m_{\text{particle}}^4 \gtrsim (\text{TeV})^4$$

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GR  
(EP & GCI)

⇒ VACUUM ENERGY GRAVITATES

$$-V_{\text{vac}} \int d^4x$$



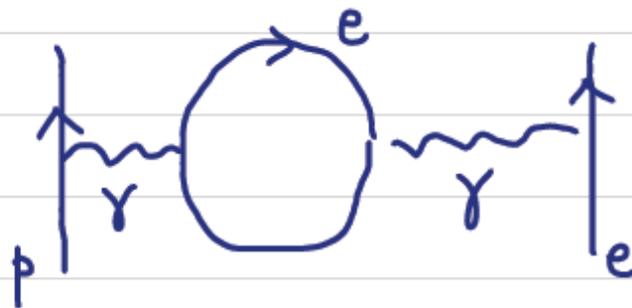
$$-V_{\text{vac}} \int d^4x \sqrt{g}$$



+ .....

Q. Do vacuum fluctuations really exist?

It seems so eg Lamb shift

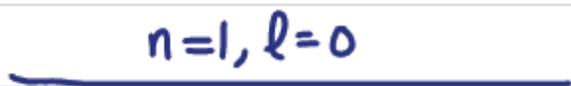


Loops like this alter the energy levels of H atom by

$$\Delta E(n, l) \approx \int_{l_0} \frac{4m_e}{3\pi n^3} \ln\left(\frac{1}{\alpha}\right) Z$$

$n$ : energy level qu. ✱,  $Z$ : atomic ✱  
 $l$ : angular mom qu. ✱ ( $=1$  for H)

( $l = 0, \dots, n-1$ )

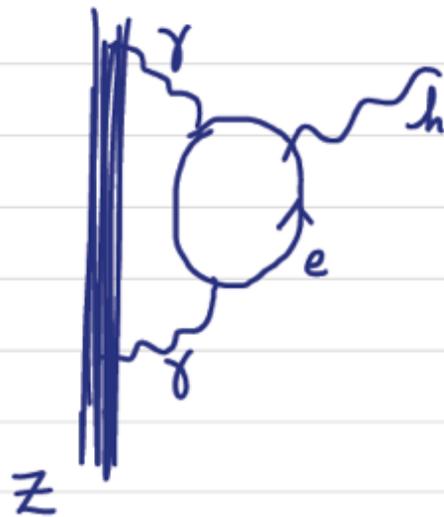


Q: But even if they exist, do they gravitate?



It seems so : Lamb shift affects inertial energy of atom, does it affect gravitational energy?

Similar effect more noticeable in heavy nuclei



- Compare  $\frac{\text{grav'l mass}}{\text{inertial mass}}$  for Aluminium & Platinum.
- Ratio stays fixed (to order  $10^{-12}$ ) even though effect of vac. polarisation differs by factor of 3

$$\frac{\Delta E_{Al}}{E_{Al}} \sim 10^{-3} ; \frac{\Delta E_{Pt}}{E_{Pt}} \sim 3 \cdot 10^{-3}$$

Of course - all of these diagrams contain external legs of SM fields  
the ones we are interested in do not (Jaffe, hep-th/0503158)

Q. What is their effect on cosmology?

$$-V_{\text{vac}} \int \sqrt{g} d^4x \rightarrow T_{\mu\nu} = -V_{\text{vac}} g_{\mu\nu}$$

$$\text{Recall: } V_{\text{vac}} \sim \sum_{\text{particles}} m_{\text{particle}}^4$$

But if (say)  $V_{\text{vac}} \sim m_e^4$  the cosmological horizon lies at distance  $r \sim \frac{1}{H}$   
where  $H^2 \sim \frac{m_e^4}{M_{\text{pl}}^2} \Rightarrow r \sim 10^6 \text{ km} \sim \text{Earth-Moon distance}$   $\frac{1}{H}$  (Pauli)

Observations  $\Rightarrow r \sim \frac{1}{H_0}$  where  $H_0^2 \sim \frac{(\text{meV})^4}{M_{\text{pl}}^2}$



NONSENSE !!

Must be more to it - we happily cancel divs!

What is the real problem?

## Radiative Instability

Let me work with only thing I know

SM as an EFT, coupled to gravity

Do PERTURBATION THEORY!

$$\text{Diagram} \quad V_{\text{vac}}^{1\text{-loop}} \sim \frac{-m^4}{(8\pi)^2} \left[ \frac{2}{\epsilon} + \log\left(\frac{\mu^2}{m^2}\right) + \text{finite} \right]$$

$$\text{Add "counterterm"} \quad \Lambda \sim \frac{m^4}{(8\pi)^2} \left[ \frac{2}{\epsilon} + \log\left(\frac{\mu^2}{M^2}\right) + \text{finite} \right]$$

↑ arbitrary subtraction scale.

$$\Rightarrow \Lambda^{\text{ren, 1 loop}} \sim \frac{m^4}{(8\pi)^2} \left[ \log\left(\frac{m^2}{M^2}\right) + \Delta(\text{finite}) \right]$$

So  $\Lambda^{\text{ren, 1 loop}} \gtrsim (\text{TeV})^4$  unless we fine tune finite part of counterterm

$\lesssim 10^{-60}$  fine tuning for  $\Lambda^{\text{ren, 1 loop}} \sim (\text{meV})^4$

Now go to 2 loops ....



get  $\Delta V_{\text{vac}}^{\text{2-loops, finite}} \sim \lambda m^4$

For SM  $\lambda \sim 0.1$  so  $\Delta V_{\text{vac}}^{\text{2 loops, finite}} \geq (\text{TeV})^4$

$\Rightarrow$  NEED TO RETUNE COUNTERTERM

Now go to 3 loops ....

RADIATIVE INSTABILITY  $\leftrightarrow$  TUNING IS UNSTABLE TO HIGHER LOOPS.

$\Rightarrow$   $V_{\text{vac}}$  is UBER sensitive to details of UV physics of which we are ignorant!

$\hookrightarrow$  encoded in loop instability of the EFT.

JUST SUM ALL THE LOOPS !!

OK, but in what theory? → full loop structure depends on full EFT expansion, way beyond leading order, with all the unknown coeffs

corrections to SM EFT ← reflecting the unknown UV theory

1x dim 5, 59x dim 6, ...

## Wilson Action

Split dofs into light & heavy  $\phi = \phi_l + \phi_h$   $m_{\text{light}} < \mu < m_{\text{heavy}}$

$$e^{iS_{\text{eff}}[\phi_l]} = \int \mathcal{D}\phi_h e^{iS[\phi_l, \phi_h]}$$

Vacuum energy in  $S_{\text{eff}} \sim \mu^4 \rightarrow$  Fine tune counterterm to cancel

Move cut off to  $\mu' < \mu \rightarrow$  Vac energy  $\sim \mu'^4$  but not allowed retune counterterm

$$\Rightarrow \Lambda(\mu') \sim \Lambda(\mu) + \mathcal{O}(1)\mu'^4 \sim \mathcal{O}(1)\mu^4 + \mathcal{O}(1)\mu'^4$$

Tuning is unstable against changing the cut off

All EFTs should agree on IR - they do not.

Quantum Gravity cut-off

$$-(10^{18} \text{ GeV})^4$$

*fine tuning to 120 decimal places*

*SUSY cut-off*

$$-(\text{TeV})^4$$

*fine tuning to 60 decimal places*

*EW phase transition*

$$-(200 \text{ GeV})^4$$

*fine tuning to 56 decimal places*

*QCD phase transition*

$$-(0.3 \text{ GeV})^4$$

*muon*

$$-(100 \text{ MeV})^4$$

*fine tuning to 44 decimal places*

*electron*

$$-(\text{MeV})^4$$

*fine tuning to 36 decimal places*

$$-(\text{meV})^4$$

*observed value*

# *Why Naturalness?*

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*NATURALNESS requires measured couplings to be RADIATIVELY STABLE*

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*naturalness ensures that low energy EFTs agree on low energy couplings.*

## *Example*

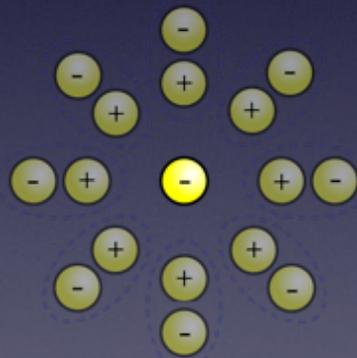
*electron mass should be larger than EM energy of electron*

*but if EM energy  $\sim \alpha/r$ , suggests electron is larger than nucleus!*

## *Example*

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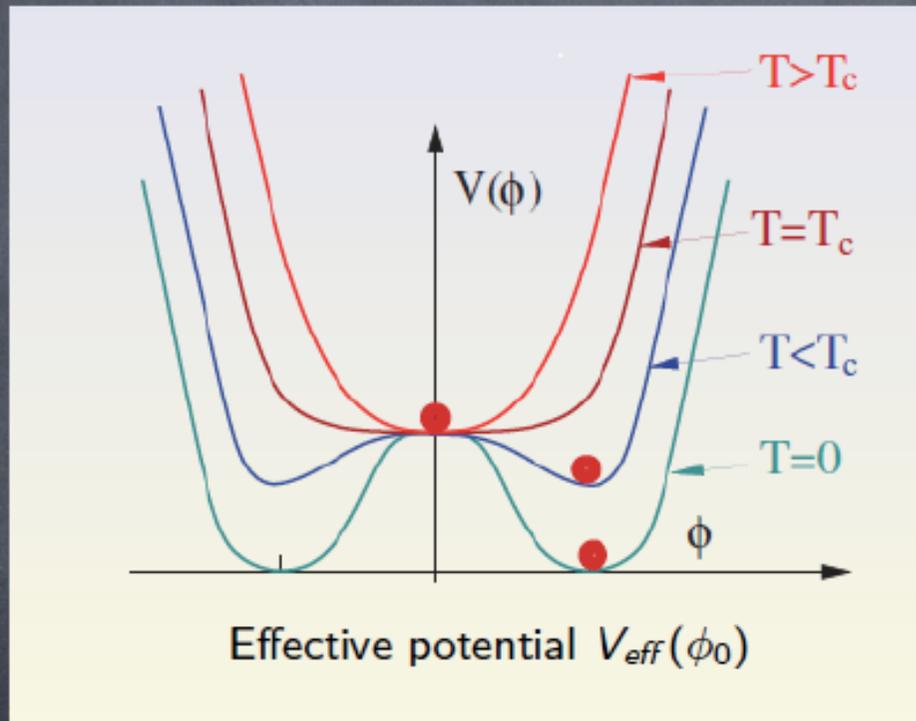
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*positrons help preserve  
naturalness*

*EM energy  $\sim \alpha m \log(mr)$*

# contributions from phase transitions in early universe



$$\Delta V_{EW} \sim (200 \text{ GeV})^4$$

$$\Delta V_{QCD} \sim (0.3 \text{ GeV})^4$$

*Goal: make  $\Lambda$  radiatively stable, then measure*

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*Within EFT, renormalised couplings of relevant operators CANNOT be predicted, must be measured!*

*Big, small, who cares? Just measure them.*

*But NATURALNESS requires measured couplings to be RADIATIVELY STABLE*

Two final questions:

How do we measure  $\Lambda$ ?

How do we make  $\Lambda$  radiatively stable?

GO GLOBAL! (More later)

## Solving the CCP?

Symmetry?

Short distance  
M.G.?

Anthropics?

Long distance  
M.G.?

~~Unimodular  
gravity?~~

~~Self Adjustment?~~

## Unimodular Gravity

Vary the EH action assuming  $|\det g|=1$

$$S_{\text{UMG}} = \int d^4x \frac{\sqrt{g}R}{16\pi G} + \lambda(\sqrt{g}-1) + S_m$$

$$\Rightarrow R_{\mu\nu} - \frac{1}{4}Rg_{\mu\nu} = 8\pi G(T_{\mu\nu} - \frac{1}{4}Tg_{\mu\nu})$$

$$T_{\mu\nu} = -V_{\text{vac}}g_{\mu\nu} \text{ drops out!!}$$

BUT:  $\det g = 1$  is just a GAUGE CHOICE in GR (at least locally)

Gauge symmetry = Redundancy

No way this can solve CCP.

$$\text{Write EOM as } G_{\mu\nu} = 8\pi G \left( T_{\mu\nu} - \frac{1}{4} g_{\mu\nu} \left( T + \frac{R}{8\pi G} \right) \right)$$

Take div & use Bianchi, Energy conservation

$$\Rightarrow \nabla_{\mu} \left( T + \frac{R}{8\pi G} \right) = 0 \Rightarrow T + \frac{R}{8\pi G} = 4\Lambda, \text{ constant of integ.}$$

$$\Rightarrow G_{\mu\nu} = 8\pi G \left( T_{\mu\nu} - \Lambda g_{\mu\nu} \right)$$

Integration constant  $\Lambda$  is playing the role of the "counter-term" in GR

It eats the divergences in  $V_{\text{vac}}$  coming from  $T_{\mu\nu}$  but does not cure issue of higher loops

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Write EOM as  $G_{\mu\nu} = 8\pi G \left( T_{\mu\nu} - \frac{1}{4} g_{\mu\nu} (T + R) \right)$

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FORGET U.M.G !!  
of integ.

## Self Adjustment

Idea: add extra fields to matter that "eat up" the large vacuum energy protecting curvature

Field content:  $g_{\mu\nu}$ ,  $\phi_i$   
metric  $\nearrow$   $\phi_i$   $\nwarrow$  self adjusting matter fields.

## Weinberg's No Go

Assume: translationally invariant vacuum

$$g_{\mu\nu}, \phi_i = \text{const}$$

Residual  $GL(4)$  symmetry  $x^\mu \rightarrow M^\mu{}_\nu x^\nu$   $M^\mu{}_\nu = \text{constant } 4 \times 4 \text{ matrix}$

$$g_{\mu\nu} \rightarrow g_{\alpha\beta} M^\alpha{}_\mu M^\beta{}_\nu \quad \dots \quad \delta_{\delta M} g_{\mu\nu} = \delta M_{\mu\nu} + \delta M_{\nu\mu}$$

$$\phi_i \rightarrow F_{ij}(M) \phi_j$$

$$\mathcal{L}[g, \phi_i] \rightarrow \det M \mathcal{L} \quad \dots \quad \delta_{\delta M} \mathcal{L} = \text{Tr} \delta M \mathcal{L}$$

Field Eqns

$$\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \phi_i} = 0 \quad (1)$$

$$\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial g_{\mu\nu}} = 0 \quad (2)$$

$$\text{Under } GL(4) \quad \delta_{\delta M} \mathcal{L} = \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \phi_i} \delta_{\delta M} \phi_i + \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial g_{\mu\nu}} \delta_{\delta M} g_{\mu\nu} \rightarrow \text{Tr } \delta M \mathcal{L}$$

(A) Assume (1) & (2) hold independently

$$\text{Assume (1) holds} \Rightarrow \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial g_{\mu\nu}} (\delta M_{\mu\nu} + \delta M_{\nu\mu}) = (\text{Tr } \delta M) \mathcal{L}$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial g_{\mu\nu}} = \frac{1}{2} g^{\mu\nu} \mathcal{L} \Rightarrow \mathcal{L} = \sqrt{|g|} \Lambda_0[\phi_i]$$

↑ independent of  $g$

$$\text{Then } \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial g_{\mu\nu}} = 0 \Rightarrow \Lambda_0[\phi_i] = 0 \Rightarrow \text{fine tuning!}$$

Field Eqns

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$$\text{Under } GL(4) \quad \delta_{\delta M} \mathcal{L} = \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \phi_i} \delta_{\delta M} \phi_i + \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial g_{\mu\nu}} \delta_{\delta M} g_{\mu\nu} \rightarrow \text{Tr } \delta M \mathcal{L}$$

(B) Assume (1) & (2) are not independent - Degeneracy!!

$$\text{eg let } 2g_{\mu\nu} \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial g_{\mu\nu}} = \sum_i f_i(\phi) \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \phi_i} \quad (*)$$

$$\Rightarrow \text{New Scaling symmetry} \quad \delta_\epsilon g_{\mu\nu} = 2\epsilon g_{\mu\nu}, \quad \delta_\epsilon \phi_i = -\epsilon f_i$$

$$\Rightarrow \delta_\epsilon \mathcal{L} = 0 \text{ by } (*)$$

Transform  $\phi_i$  in field space  $\phi_i \rightarrow \tilde{\phi}_i$  st  $\delta_\epsilon \tilde{\phi}_0 = -\epsilon, \delta_\epsilon \tilde{\phi}_{i \neq 0} = 0$

$$\text{Now } \delta_\varepsilon [e^{2\tilde{\Phi}_0} g_{\mu\nu}] = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \mathcal{L} = \mathcal{L}(e^{2\tilde{\Phi}_0} g_{\mu\nu}, \tilde{\Phi}_{i \neq 0})$$

Independent Eqns are

$$\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \tilde{\Phi}_{i \neq 0}} = 0 \quad (3)$$

$$\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial g_{\mu\nu}} = 0 \quad (2)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Under GL(4)} \quad \delta_{SM} \mathcal{L} &= \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \tilde{\Phi}_{i \neq 0}} \delta_{SM} \tilde{\Phi}_{i \neq 0} + \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \tilde{\Phi}_0} \delta_{SM} \tilde{\Phi}_0 + \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial g_{\mu\nu}} \delta_{SM} g_{\mu\nu} \\ &= (\text{Tr } SM) \mathcal{L} \qquad \qquad \qquad \downarrow \\ & \qquad \qquad \qquad \qquad \qquad \qquad \qquad \qquad 0 \text{ since } \tilde{\Phi}_0 \text{ is a scalar} \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{Assume (3) holds } \Rightarrow \mathcal{L} = e^{4\tilde{\Phi}_0} \sqrt{g} \Lambda_0(\tilde{\Phi}_{i \neq 0})$$

$$\text{Then } \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial g_{\mu\nu}} = 0 \Rightarrow e^{4\tilde{\Phi}_0} \Lambda_0(\tilde{\Phi}_{i \neq 0}) = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \Lambda_0 = 0, \text{ fine tuning or } e^{\phi_0} \rightarrow 0$$

$e^{2\phi_0}$  always comes with  $g_{\mu\nu}$  via conformal factor

$\Rightarrow m_{\text{phys}} \propto e^{\phi_0} \rightarrow 0$  NOT IN OUR UNIVERSE!!

## Symmetries

### 't Hooft Naturalness

"A parameter  $\varepsilon$  is naturally small if  $\exists$  symmetry as  $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$ "

eg In QCD mass of fermions is protected by chiral symmetry in limit  $m_f \rightarrow 0$

Consider  $\mathcal{L}_0[\phi]$  obeys some (global) symm  $\phi \rightarrow \phi'$

Add an operator  $O$  that breaks symm

$$\mathcal{L}_\varepsilon[\phi] = \mathcal{L}_0 + \varepsilon O$$

$\varepsilon$  is naturally small.

$\mathcal{L}_0$  cannot generate terms which break symm

Symmetry break terms generated by  $\mathcal{L}_\varepsilon$  must be weighted by at least  $\varepsilon$

ie  $\Delta \mathcal{L}_\varepsilon^{\text{1-loop}} \supset q O$  then  $q \leq O(\varepsilon)$

Can we find a global symmetry as  $\lambda \rightarrow 0$  ?

Then  $\lambda \neq 0$  naturally small.

## Susy

Symmetry betw. bosons & fermions

In unbroken susy,  $m_F = m_B$ , and fermion loops cancel boson loops


$$\text{Boson Loop} + \text{Fermion Loop} = 0$$

Scale of susy,  $M_{\text{susy}}$ , is technically natural

Above  $m_{\text{susy}}$  - Vacuum energy cancellation

Below  $m_{\text{susy}}$  -  $m_B^2 \approx m_F^2 \pm M_{\text{susy}}^2$  cancellation fails by  $O(M_{\text{susy}}^4)$

Annoyingly,  $m_{\text{susy}} \geq \text{TeV}$  (known due to absence of observed superpartners)

## Scale Invariance

$$g_{\mu\nu} \rightarrow \lambda^2 g_{\mu\nu}$$

$$\Rightarrow G_{\mu\nu} \rightarrow G_{\mu\nu}, \quad \Lambda g_{\mu\nu} \rightarrow \Lambda \lambda^2 g_{\mu\nu}$$

$\Rightarrow \Lambda \neq 0$  in Einstein eqns incompatible with SI.

## Problems

- classical SI usually broken by quantum
- in Nature, SI must be broken spontaneously

Then by Weinberg No Go effective potential must vanish in order to kill  $\Lambda$   
This 'vanishing' of  $V$  is not radiatively stable

$$V_{\text{tree}}(\phi_{\text{min}}) = 0 \not\Rightarrow V_{\text{1-loop}}(\phi_{\text{min}}) = 0$$

Energy  $\rightarrow$  -Energy

Energy parity operator  $P$ ,  $|\psi'\rangle = P|\psi\rangle$

with  $\langle\psi|H|\psi'\rangle = -\langle\psi|H|\psi\rangle$

If vacuum is energy parity inv then  $|0'\rangle = |0\rangle$  and so

$$\langle 0|H|0\rangle = -\langle 0|H|0\rangle = 0$$

# 1) Universe Multiplication - Linde (1988)

$$S = \int d^4x \int d^4y \sqrt{g(x)} \sqrt{g(y)} \left\{ \frac{M_{pl}^2}{2} R(x) - \mathcal{L}_m(x) - \frac{M_{pl}^2}{2} R(y) + \mathcal{L}_m(y) \right\}$$

$$M_{pl}^2 G_{\mu\nu}(x) = T_{\mu\nu}(x) - g_{\mu\nu}(x) \left\langle \frac{M_{pl}^2}{2} R(y) - \mathcal{L}_m(y) \right\rangle \quad \langle Q(x) \rangle = \frac{\int d^4x Q(x) \sqrt{g(x)}}{\int d^4x \sqrt{g(x)}}$$
$$M_{pl}^2 G_{\mu\nu}(y) = T_{\mu\nu}(y) - g_{\mu\nu}(y) \left\langle \frac{M_{pl}^2}{2} R(x) - \mathcal{L}_m(x) \right\rangle$$

$$\langle 0 | \mathcal{L}_m | 0 \rangle = V_{vac} \quad T_{\mu\nu}(x) = -V_{vac} g_{\mu\nu}(x)$$

⇒  $V_{vac}$  cancels

Assumes  $V_{vac}$  in  $M(x)$  same as  $V_{vac}$  in  $M(y)$   
⇒ same effective description for  $\mathcal{L}_m(x)$  &  $\mathcal{L}_m(y)$   
... is this justified?

Ghosts? Field in  $M(x)$  can exchange a graviton  $h_{\mu\nu}(x)$  with fields in  $M(y)$   
whose couplings are local in  $M(x)$  but global in  $M(y)$

Kaplan & Sundrum hep-th/0505265

$$\mathcal{L} = \sqrt{g} \left\{ \frac{M_{\text{pl}}^2}{2} R + \underbrace{\mathcal{L}_m(\psi)}_{\text{ordinary matter}} - \underbrace{\mathcal{L}_m(\hat{\psi})}_{\text{ghosts}} \right\}$$

$E \rightarrow -E$  broken only by gravity

Effective theory for gravity only valid up to  $\mu \sim \text{meV}$

At  $E > \mu$ , require LV with some way of suppressing mediation between ghost & non ghost

At  $E < \mu$ , only QG loops contribute to  $\Lambda \sim \mu^4$

Instabilities:



Claim is these get suppressed thanks to low cutoff  $\mu$  & weak grav'l coupling  $\frac{1}{M_{\text{pl}}}$

— Highly speculative

— Need ghost-nonghost asymm to explain why we don't see antigravity (gh-gh interactions antigravitate, as can gh-nongh)