

# Weak gravity conjecture in an accelerating Universe

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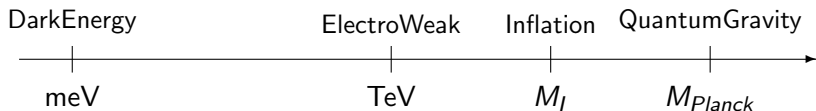


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# Universe evolution: based on positive cosmological constant

- Dark Energy  
simplest case: infinitesimal (tuneable) +ve cosmological constant
- Inflation (approximate de Sitter)  
describe possible accelerated expanding phase of our universe [8]



Relativistic dark energy 70-75% of the observable universe

negative pressure:  $p = -\rho \Rightarrow$  cosmological constant

$$R_{ab} - \frac{1}{2}Rg_{ab} + \Lambda g_{ab} = \frac{8\pi G}{c^4} T_{ab} \Rightarrow \rho_\Lambda = \frac{c^4 \Lambda}{8\pi G} = -p_\Lambda$$

Two length scales:

- $[\Lambda] = L^{-2} \leftarrow$  size of the observable Universe

$$\Lambda_{obs} \simeq 0.74 \times 3H_0^2/c^2 \simeq 1.4 \times (10^{26} \text{ m})^{-2}$$

Hubble parameter  $\simeq 73 \text{ km s}^{-1} \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$

- $[\frac{\Lambda}{G} \times \frac{c^3}{\hbar}] = L^{-4} \leftarrow$  dark energy length  $\simeq 85 \mu\text{m}$

# de Sitter spacetime

vacuum solution of Einstein equations with +ve cosmological constant  
and maximal symmetry: 10 isometries like flat space

hyperboloid from 5 dimensions:  $-y_0^2 + \vec{y}^2 = \frac{1}{H^2}$  SO(4, 1) vs Poincaré  $E_4$

$$R_{\mu\nu\lambda\rho} = H^2(g_{\mu\lambda}g_{\nu\rho} - g_{\mu\rho}g_{\nu\lambda}) \quad R = 12H^2 = 4\Lambda$$

Flat slicing:  $ds^2 = -dt^2 + e^{2Ht} d\vec{x}^2$  exponential expansion

FRW with flat 3-space and scale factor  $a(t) = e^{Ht}$

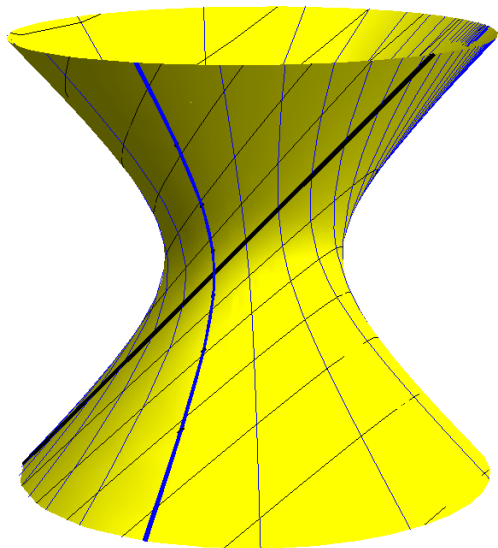
isometries: 3 space translations, 3 rotations, 1 scale, 3 special conformal

e.g. scale:  $\vec{x} \rightarrow \omega^2 \vec{x}$  and  $t \rightarrow t - \omega/H$

Closed slicing:  $ds^2 = -dt^2 + \frac{1}{H^2} ch^2 Ht d\Omega_3^2$  ← unit sphere  $S^3$

Open slicing:  $ds^2 = -dt^2 + \frac{1}{H^2} sh^2 Ht dH_3^2$  ← unit hyperbolic  $H^3$

# de Sitter spacetime



# de Sitter spacetime: static coordinates

$$ds^2 = -(1 - H^2 r^2) dt^2 + \frac{dr^2}{1 - H^2 r^2} + r^2 d\Omega_2^2 \quad \leftarrow \text{unit sphere } S^2$$

describes 1/4 of the spacetime

similarity with a black hole metric:

no singularity but cosmological horizon at  $r = H^{-1} \equiv r_C$  [11] [13]

Observed Universe: homogeneous, isotropic and (spacially) flat

⇒ all regions causally connected in the past

But in contradiction with Einstein's equations

observed universe has a huge number of causally disconnected regions

**Inflation** proposal:

postulates an exponentially expanding period in early times

a small region becomes fast exponentially large

⇒ explains homogeneity, isotropy and flatness problems

it needs 50-60 e-foldings of expansion at least

It predicts also small anisotropies from slight deviation from de Sitter space  
temperature/density perturbations from quantum fluctuations

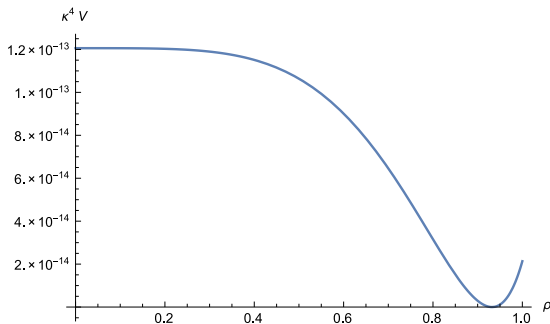
## Inflation:

Theoretical paradigm consistent with cosmological observations

But phenomenological models with not real underlying theory [2]

introduce a new scalar field that drives Universe expansion at early times

## Inflaton potential



slow-roll region with  $V'$ ,  $V''$  small compared to the de Sitter curvature



# Swampland de Sitter conjecture

String theory: vacuum energy and inflation models  
related to the moduli stabilisation problem

Difficulties to find dS vacua led to a conjecture:

$$\frac{|\nabla V|}{V} \geq c \quad \text{or} \quad \min(\nabla_i \nabla_j V) \leq -c' \quad \text{in Planck units}$$

with  $c, c'$  positive order 1 constants

Ooguri-Palti-Shiu-Vafa '18

Dark energy: forbid dS minima but allow maxima

Inflation: forbid standard slow-roll conditions

Assumptions: heuristic arguments, no quantum corrections

→ ongoing debate...

Not all effective field theories can consistently coupled to gravity

-anomaly cancellation is not sufficient

- consistent ultraviolet completion can bring non-trivial constraints

those which do not, form the 'swampland'

criteria  $\Rightarrow$  conjectures

supported by arguments based on string theory and black-hole physics

The first and most established example is the Weak Gravity Conjecture:

gravity is the weakest force implying a minimal non-trivial charge

$$q \geq m/\sqrt{2} \quad \text{in Planck units } 8\pi G = \kappa^2 = 1$$

Arkani-Hamed, Motl, Nicolis, Vafa '06

# Reissner-Nordstøm black hole

$$ds^2 = -f(r)dt^2 + \frac{dr^2}{f(r)} + r^2(d\theta^2 + \sin^2\theta d\phi^2)$$

$$f(r) = 1 - \frac{2M}{r} + \frac{Q^2}{r^2} \quad M = \frac{m}{8\pi}, \quad Q = \frac{q}{32\pi^2}$$

$Q^2$ : repulsive electric energy, while  $-2M$ : attractive gravity force [6]

Two horizons at  $r = r_{\pm}$  satisfying  $f(r) = 0$ :  $r_{\pm} = M \left( 1 \pm \sqrt{1 - \frac{Q^2}{M^2}} \right)$

- $Q^2 < M^2$ : two real roots with  $0 < r_-$  (inner)  $< r_+$  (outer horizon)  
 $r_-$  hides the singularity at  $r = 0$ , while between horizons  $t$  is space like
- $Q^2 = M^2$ :  $r_- = r_+ \Rightarrow$  extremal BH  
electric and gravity forces are balanced
- $Q^2 > M^2$ : complex roots, no horizon  $\Rightarrow$  naked singularity at  $r = 0$   
the repulsive force is stronger than gravity and forbids BH horizons

# Weak Gravity conjecture

Existence of states with  $Q^2 > M^2$     minimal non-trivial charge

⇒ Charged black holes can decay

no BH remnants

since naked singularities are forbidden by the Weak Cosmic Censorship

Next: generalisation to de Sitter space using similar arguments

I.A.-Benakli '20

# Reissner-Nordstøm black hole in de Sitter space <sup>[6]</sup>

$$ds^2 = -f(r)dt^2 + \frac{dr^2}{f(r)} + r^2(d\theta^2 + \sin^2\theta d\phi^2)$$

$$f(r) = 1 - \frac{2M}{r} + \frac{Q^2}{r^2} - \frac{\Lambda}{3}r^2 \quad M = \frac{m}{8\pi}, \quad Q = \frac{q^2}{32\pi^2}, \quad \Lambda = \frac{3}{l^2} = 3H^2$$

$f(r) = 0 \Rightarrow$  4 roots: one -ve (unphysical), one +ve, two +ve or complex

Define  $P(r) \equiv -r^2f(r) = l^{-2}r^4 - r^2 + 2Mr - Q^2$

$\Rightarrow$  its discriminant  $\Delta \propto -\frac{27}{l^2}(MI)^4 + (l^2 + 36Q^2)(MI)^2 - Q^2(l^2 + 4Q^2)^2$

- $\Delta > 0 \Rightarrow$  3 positive roots:  $0 < r_- < r_+ < r_C$

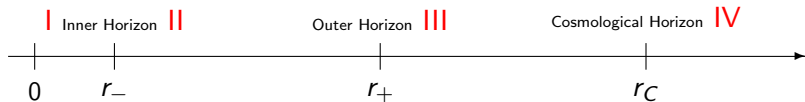
$r_C$ : cosmological horizon ( $\rightarrow \infty$  when  $\Lambda \rightarrow 0$ )

- $\Delta = 0 \Rightarrow r_- = r_+ < r_C$ , or  $r_- < r_+ = r_C$

- $\Delta < 0 \Rightarrow r_{\pm}$  complex and  $r_C > 0$ , or  $r_- > 0$  and  $r_+, r_C$  complex

# Reissner-Nordstøm black hole in de Sitter space

$\Delta > 0 \Rightarrow 3$  Horizons    4 Regions



$\Delta$  is quadratic polynomial of  $M^2/l^2$  with roots

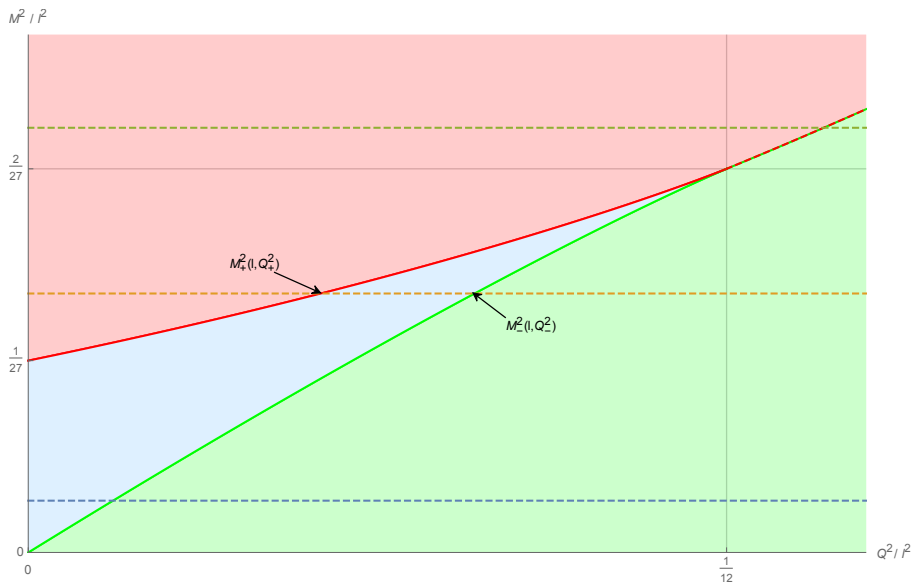
$$M_{\pm}^2(l, Q^2) = \frac{1}{54l} \left[ l(l^2 + 36Q^2) \pm (l^2 - 12Q^2)^{3/2} \right]$$

$\Delta < 0$  outside the roots (for  $l^2 \geq 12Q^2$ ), or for  $l^2 \leq 12Q^2$

For  $\Delta > 0 \Rightarrow$  four regions:  $0 < r_- < r_+ < r_C$

- **Region IV:**  $r > r_C$   
 $t$  space-like, the cosmological constant dominant over all forces
- **Region III:**  $r_+ \leq r \leq r_C$   $f(r) \sim 1$  constant
- **Region II:**  $r_- \leq r \leq r_+$  BH interior  
 $t$  space-like, dominance of gravitational attraction
- **Region I:**  $0 < r \leq r_-$  dominance of electromagnetic repulsion

Define  $Q_{\pm}$ :  $M_{\pm}^2(l, Q_{\pm}^2) = M^2$   $Q_+ \leq Q_-$



[19]



# Comparison of forces

- ①  $M^2 < \frac{l^2}{27}$ :  $Q_+$  does not exist

As  $Q \nearrow$ ,  $Q < Q_-$  and  $M > M_-(l, Q^2) \Rightarrow r_- \nearrow, r_+ \searrow, r_c \nearrow$

Region II shrinks with  $r_+ \rightarrow r_-$

As  $Q > Q_-$  and  $M^2 < M_-^2(l, Q^2) \Rightarrow \Delta < 0$  and Region II disappears

The repulsive electric force is stronger and forbids BH horizons

- ②  $\frac{l^2}{27} \leq M^2 \leq \frac{2l^2}{27}$ : 3 horizons  $\Rightarrow Q \in [Q_+, Q_-], M \in [M_-, M_+]$

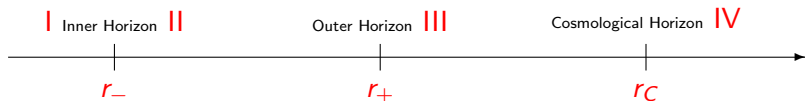
As  $Q \searrow$  towards  $Q_+ \Rightarrow r_- \searrow, r_+ \nearrow$  and  $r_c \searrow$  Region III shrinks

For  $Q < Q_+$  Region III disappears and dS space is 'eaten' by the BH

As  $Q \nearrow$  towards  $Q_- \Rightarrow r_- \nearrow, r_+ \searrow$  and  $r_c \nearrow$  Region II disappears

For  $Q > Q_-$  the electric force is strong and forbids again BH horizons

# Comparison of forces



③  $M^2 = \frac{2l^2}{27} \Rightarrow Q_+ = Q_- = l/\sqrt{12}$

at  $Q = Q_{\pm}$  the 3 horizons coincide  $r_- \rightarrow r_+ \rightarrow r_C \rightarrow l/\sqrt{6}$

④  $M^2 > \frac{2l^2}{27}$ : there is only one horizon defined at  $\delta M = \delta Q^2/l$

in the parametrization  $M = \sqrt{\frac{2}{27}} l + \delta M$ ,  $Q^2 = \frac{l^2}{12} + \sqrt{\frac{2}{3}} \delta Q^2$

$\delta M > \delta Q^2/l$ : dS 'eaten' by the BH

$\delta M < \delta Q^2/l$ : electric repulsion forbids BH horizons

Weak Gravity conjecture in dS space: minimal non-trivial charge  $q_{\min}(m, l)$

defined in the green region of the figure [16]

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- Small charge:  $Q^2 \leq \frac{l^2}{12} \left( q^2 \leq \frac{\pi}{\Lambda G} \right):$

$$M^2 < M_-^2(l, Q^2) = \frac{1}{54l} \left[ l(l^2 + 36Q^2) - (l^2 - 12Q^2)^{3/2} \right]$$

$$\Rightarrow \text{flat space limit: } Q^2 > M^2 + \frac{M^4}{l^2} + \mathcal{O}(1/l^4)$$

- Large charge:  $Q^2 \geq \frac{l^2}{12} \left( q^2 \geq \frac{\pi l^2}{3G} \right): M^2 < \frac{3}{2} \frac{1}{l^2} \left( Q^2 + \frac{5}{36} l^2 \right)^2$

$$\Rightarrow \text{strong curvature limit } (l \rightarrow 0): Q^2 > \sqrt{\frac{2}{3}} l M - \frac{5}{36} l^2$$

$$\text{independent of the Newton constant: } q > \left( \frac{32\pi^2}{3} \right)^{1/4} \sqrt{l m}$$

# Conclusions

Weak gravity conjecture in an accelerating Universe:

- existence of a state with charge larger than a minimal value  
generalising the flat space result  $Q^2 > M^2$  in Planck units  
minimal charge depends on the mass and the Hubble constant
- small cosmological constant  $H < M$  (also  $H < \frac{M_P}{\sqrt{12}Q}$ )  $\Rightarrow$   
power corrections to the flat result  $Q^2 > M^2 + M^4 H^2$
- large cosmological constant  $\Rightarrow$   
minimal charge<sup>2</sup> linear in mass  $Q_{\min}^2 \sim M/H$   
constraints for particle physics models of inflation