# Cosmology with an increasing refractive index

Xavier Sarazin, LAL, CNRS-IN2P3 / Univ. Paris-Saclay

en collaboration avec François Couchot (LAL), Marcel Urban (LAL) et Arache Djannati-Ataï (APC)

This work has been published in Eur. Phys. J. C (2018) 78:444 (arXiv:1805.03503)

Colloque national "Dark Energy" 23-25 Octobre 2018 IAP, Paris, France







# Gravitation and Vacuum

 $\succ$  Einstein is the first one to note that the vacuum refractive index and c are affected by the gravitation:

- Einstein, A. 'Über den Einfluss der Schwerkraft auf die Ausbreitung des Lichtes', Annalen der Physik 35, 898-908 (1911)
- "The constancy of the velocity of light can be maintained only insofar as one restricts oneself to spatio-temporal regions of constant gravitational potential" (Einstein A., Ann. Physik 38 (1912) 1059)
- $\blacktriangleright$  Einstein generalized the « c = constante » relativity principle thanks to the introduction of a *curved spacetime* 
  - $\Rightarrow$  General Relativity is a « *geo-metric* » theory
    - $\Rightarrow$  Vacuum has no physical role anymore

metric

Deflection of light first observed by Eddington in 1919



## Gravitation and Vacuum

Another empirical approach initially proposed by Wilson (1921) and Dicke (1957)

- ✓ Euclidean flat metric
- ✓ Spatial change of  $\varepsilon_0$  and  $\mu_0$  by the gravitational potential

 $\Rightarrow$  Modification of the vacuum optical index and inertial test mass

#### n(r) formally identical to $g_{00}$ in General Relativity

 $\Rightarrow$  See Landau & Lifshitz (1975) : "A static gravitational field is formally identical to a medium with electric and magnetic permeabilities  $\varepsilon_0 = \mu_0 = 1/\sqrt{g_{00}}$ "

**Exemple : Static spherical gravitational field** (Wilson-Dicke Analogy)

$$\begin{cases} n(r) = 1 + \frac{2GM}{rc_{\infty}^2} \\ m(r) = m_{\infty} \times n^{3/2}(r) \end{cases}$$
 (to preserve the equivalence principle)

Wilson, Phys. Rev. 17, 54 (1921) Dicke, Rev. Mod. Phys. 29, 363 (1957)

# Gravitation and Vacuum

- Flat metric (x,y,z,t)  $dx^2 + dy^2 + dz^2 = c_{\infty}^2 \times dt^2$
- Defined by the speed of light  $c_{\infty}$  in the absence of gravitational potential  $(n(r \to \infty) = 1)$

$$\begin{aligned} \varepsilon_0(r) &= n(r) \times \varepsilon_{0,\infty} \\ \mu_0(r) &= n(r) \times \mu_{0,\infty} \\ c(r) &= n^{-1}(r) \times c_\infty \\ E_{atom}(r) &= n^{-1/2}(r) \times E_{atom,\infty} \\ m(r) &= n^{3/2}(r) \times m_\infty \end{aligned} \qquad e, \hbar \text{ are constant} \\ \Rightarrow \alpha &= \frac{e^2}{4\pi\varepsilon_0\hbar c} \text{ is constant} \end{aligned}$$



• Example : Gravitational blue-shift observed by Pound & Rebka (in a static spherical gravitational field)  $E_{atom}(r + h) = n^{-1/2}(r + h) \times E_{atom,\infty}$ • The photon energy keeps constant during its propagation • The photon energy levels are really modified • The atomic energy levels are really modified  $n(r) = 1 + \frac{2GM}{rc_{\infty}^2} \Rightarrow \Delta E = \frac{GM}{Rc_{\infty}^2} \frac{h}{R} \times E_{atom,\infty}$ in agreement with R.G.

# Cosmology with a vacuum index increasing with time

#### > 1<sup>st</sup> Dicke's remark

n(r)

$$= 1 + \frac{2GM}{rc_{\infty}^{2}}$$
Dicke's idea:  $1 = n(t = 0) = \int \frac{2G(r)4\pi\rho r^{2}}{rc^{2}(r)} dr$ 

$$\Rightarrow n(t) \text{ increases with time}$$

#### > 2<sup>nd</sup> Dicke's remark

e.m. wave propagating through a medium with an index increasing in time, uniformely in space

 $\Rightarrow$  Frequency  $\nu$  (energy  $h\nu$ ) increases with time as  $\nu(t) = \nu_0/n(t)$ 

### Cosmology with a vacuum index increasing with time

We assume :

- Flat and static metric  $(x,y,z,t) \rightarrow$  There is no expansion of the metric
- The metric is defined by the speed of light today  $c_0 = c(t = 0)$

n(t = 0) = 1 and  $dt^2 = 1/c_0^2 \times (dx^2 + dy^2 + dz^2)$ 

- n(t) increases with time
- The relative index variation is time-independent (at least for recent epoch of the Univers)  $dn(t)/n(t) = \text{constant} \Rightarrow n(t) = \exp(-t/\tau_0)$
- A photon propagates in vacuum with  $\lambda = \text{constant}$ , and  $\nu(t) = \nu_0/n(t)$
- Spacetime metric expansion is replaced by an increase with time of  $\varepsilon_0$  and  $\mu_0$

$$\begin{cases} \varepsilon_0(t) = n(t) \times \varepsilon_{0,0} \\ \mu_0(t) = n(r) \times \mu_{0,0} \\ c(t) = n^{-1}(t) \times c_0 \\ E_{atom}(t) = n^{-1/2}(t) \times E_{atom,0} \\ m(t) = n^{3/2}(t) \times m_0 \end{cases} e, \hbar \text{ are constant} \Rightarrow \alpha \text{ constant}$$

### Cosmological redshift



### Fit Supernovae Type Ia

Hubble diagram: Distance modulus  $\mu_{mes}$  vs redshift z

$$\left[\mu_{mes} = m_b - M_b + \alpha X - \beta C = 5 \log_{10} \left(\frac{d_L}{10 \text{ pc}}\right)\right]$$

 $\begin{bmatrix} X = \text{stretch factor} \\ C = \text{color-band factor} \\ \alpha \text{ and } \beta : \text{global nuisance parameters} \end{bmatrix}$ 

 $m_{b} = \text{magnitude at peak} = -2.5 \log(\mathcal{F}) + M_{b} \qquad M_{b} = -19.25 \quad (Richardson, AJ, 2014)$   $\mathcal{F} = \text{obs. flux in the SNIa rest frame (at emission)} = \frac{\mathcal{L}}{4\pi d_{L}^{2}(1+z)^{2}}$   $\mathcal{L} = \text{peak luminosity}$   $d_{L} = \text{luminosity distance} \quad d_{L} = \int_{t}^{0} c(t')dt' = c_{0} \int_{t}^{0} \frac{dt'}{n(t')}$  $n(t) = \exp(t/\tau_{0}) \quad (t<0) \implies d_{L} = 2c_{0}\tau_{0}(n^{-1}(t) - 1) = 2c_{0}\tau_{0}((1+z)^{2} - 1)$ 

$$\mu_p = 5log_{10} \left( (1+z)^2 - 1 \right) + 5log_{10} \left( \frac{c_0 \tau_0}{10 \text{ pc}} \right)$$

#### Fit Supernovae Type Ia

Data from the joint analysis SDSS-II and SNLS (Betoule et al., A&A, 2014)

$$\chi^{2}(\alpha,\beta,\tau_{0}) = \sum_{i} \frac{\left(\mu_{mes,i}(\alpha,\beta) - \mu_{p,i}(z,\tau_{0})\right)^{2}}{\sigma_{\mu,i}^{2}}$$

$$\mu_p = 5\log_{10}((1+z)^2 - 1) + 5\log_{10}\left(\frac{c_0\tau_0}{10 \text{ pc}}\right)$$

$$n(t) = \exp(t/\tau_0) \quad (t<0)$$
  
$$\tau_0 = 8.0 \pm 0.7 \text{ Gy}$$
  
$$\Rightarrow \frac{\Delta n}{n} = 4 \ 10^{-18} \text{ s}^{-1}$$



#### Cosmological time dilatation in SN-Ia



#### Evolution of the CMB



### Evolution of the CMB

The energy density 
$$\mathcal{E}_{\gamma}$$
 of the CMB radiation is  $\mathcal{E}_{\gamma}(\nu)d\nu = \frac{8\pi h}{c^3} \frac{\nu^3 d\nu}{\exp\left(\frac{h\nu}{k_B T}\right) - 1}$   
 $\mathbf{E}$  Standard cosmology:  
Energy  $\gamma: E_{\gamma} \propto (1 + z)$   
Energy mass of baryons  $E_b$  = constante  
 $\mathcal{E}_{\gamma} = n_{\gamma} \times E_{\gamma} \propto (1 + z)^3 \times (1 + z) = (1 + z)^4$   
 $\mathcal{E}_{\gamma} = \frac{\pi^2 k_B^4}{15\hbar^3 c^3} T^4 \Rightarrow T = 1 + z$   
 $\nu = 1 + z$   $\Rightarrow$  CMB black body shape is preserved

Cosmology with increasing index:

 $E_{\gamma} \propto n^{-1}(t) = (1+z)^{2}$   $E_{b} = mc^{2} \propto n^{-1/2}(t) = (1+z)^{2}$  $\Rightarrow \text{Apparent energy } \gamma, \text{ relatively to baryon, decreases as } n^{-1/2}(t) = (1+z)$ 

In a volume defined with physical rods,  $n_{\gamma} \propto n^{-3/2}(t) = (1+z)^3$ 

- $\Rightarrow$  The energy density  $\mathcal{E}_{\gamma}$ , relatively to baryons, decreases as  $(1 + z)^4$ , as in standard cosmology
- $\Rightarrow$  If  $k_B$  is constant (as  $\hbar$ ), then the temperature (relatively to physical temp.°)  $T \propto n^{-1/2}(t) = 1 + z$ , as in standard cosmology, and the black body spectral shape is preserved

Also  $n_{\gamma}/n_b$  is constant with time

### Variation of the gravitational constant G?

$$\alpha = \frac{e^2}{4\pi\varepsilon_0\hbar c} \quad \text{is constant with time}$$

$$\alpha_G = \frac{Gm^2}{\hbar c} \quad \text{is also constant with time ?}$$

$$\blacksquare \quad G(t) = G(t = 0) \times n^{-4}(t)$$

Some consequences:

- ✓ Intensity of the gravitational force  $G \times m^2$  varies as  $n^{-1}(t)$
- $\checkmark$  In highest redshift, gravitation was much stronger
- $\checkmark$  Acoustic waves started when the gravitation became weaker than the radiation pressure
- $\checkmark$  Gravitation of the seed was much more intense
- $\Rightarrow$  CMB anisotropy and acoustic waves must be studied within this new framework...

# Local apparent expansion ?

Increase of *n* with time  $\Delta n/n = 4 \ 10^{-18} \ \mathrm{s}^{-1}$ 



Decrease of  $E_{atom}$  with time  $\Delta E_{atom}/E_{atom} = -2 \ 10^{-18} \ s^{-1} \cong H_0$ 

Hubble flow at small scale (inside the galaxy cluster, solar system ?)



# Local apparent expansion ?

Increase of *n* with time  $\Delta n/n = 4 \ 10^{-18} \ \mathrm{s}^{-1}$ 



Decrease of  $E_{atom}$  with time  $\Delta E_{atom}/E_{atom} = -2 \ 10^{-18} \ s^{-1} \cong H_0$ 



Cosmological redshift must affect any atoms, in deep space but also in the laboratory **Laboratory experiment to measure the decrease of atomic energy level ?** 



# Cosmology with a vacuum index increasing with time

- ✓ Cosmological redshift of the SN-Ia well fitted by a simple exponential increase  $n(t) = \exp(-t/\tau_0)$
- ✓ Cosmological dilatation of clocks as (1+z)
- $\checkmark\,$  Evolution of the CMB consistent with the standard cosmology
- $\checkmark$  This study is obviously not complete. Other cosmological probes as CMB anisotropies must be studied
- $\checkmark$  The observed flateness of the Univers does not require any fine-tuning since the metric is Euclidean
- ✓ If  $n(t) = \exp(-t/\tau_0)$  is true at the highest redshift

 $\Rightarrow$  Absence of begining (*t*=0) of the Universe

 $\Rightarrow$  Two given location is space were causally connected in past, which solve the horizon problem

# Conclusion

- $\checkmark$  Cosmology with static Euclidean metric + vacuum index increasing with time
  - Cosmological redshift of the SN-Ia well fitted by  $n(t) = \exp(-t/\tau_0)$
  - Cosmological dilatation of clocks as (1+z)
  - Evolution of the CMB consistent with the standard cosmology
  - Despite the static metric, the universe is not stationary: early universe is also hot with radiative period...
  - This framework is different to « tired light » models and VSL
- ✓ This study is obviously not complete. Other cosmological probes as CMB anisotropies must be studied
   ⇒ Possible variation of G with time
- ✓ The observed flateness of the Univers does not require any fine-tuning since the metric is Euclidean
   ⇒ Dark energy is not required...
- ✓ If  $n(t) = \exp(-t/\tau_0)$  is true at the highest redshift, then absence of begining (*t*=0) of the Universe ⇒ two given location is space were causally connected in past, which solve the horizon problem
- $\checkmark$  Local apparent expansion is a possible but challenging experimental test

This work has been published in Eur. Phys. J. C (2018) 78:444 (arXiv:1805.03503)

