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The cosmological constant as a classical eigenvalue

We propose to recast Einstein's field equations as a nonlinear eigenvalue problem, where the cosmological constant Λ plays the role of the (smallest) eigenvalue. This mathematical interpretation is fully worked out for a simple classical model of scalar gravity. The essential ingredient for the feasibility of this approach is that the classical field equations be nonlinear, i.e., that the gravitational field is itself a source of gravity. The cosmological consequences and implications of this approach are developed and discussed.

G. Manfredi, *Gen Relativ Gravit* **53**, 31 (2021). ArXiv:2102.09601.

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