

# Universal One-Loop Effective Action in Gravity

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(LPSC, Grenoble)

Based on “The Universal One-Loop Effective Action in Gravity”  
J. Quevillon, R.L, [[2303.10203](#)]



# Outline of the talk

- **Introduction**

Effective Field Theory (EFT) - Universal One-Loop Effective Action

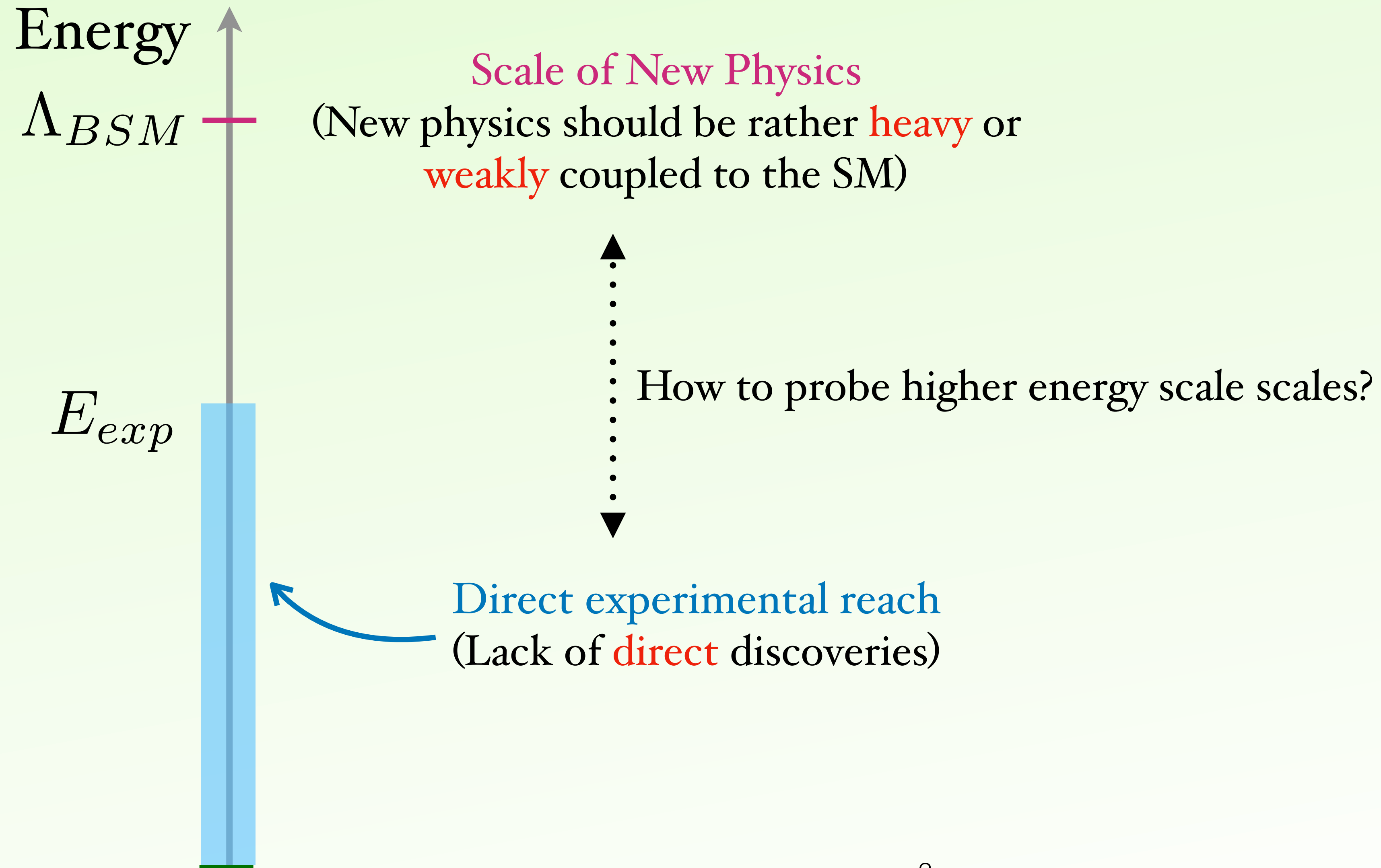
- **Matching from the path integral**

Functional methods - heat kernel vs CDE - limits of the bosonisation - curved spacetime methods

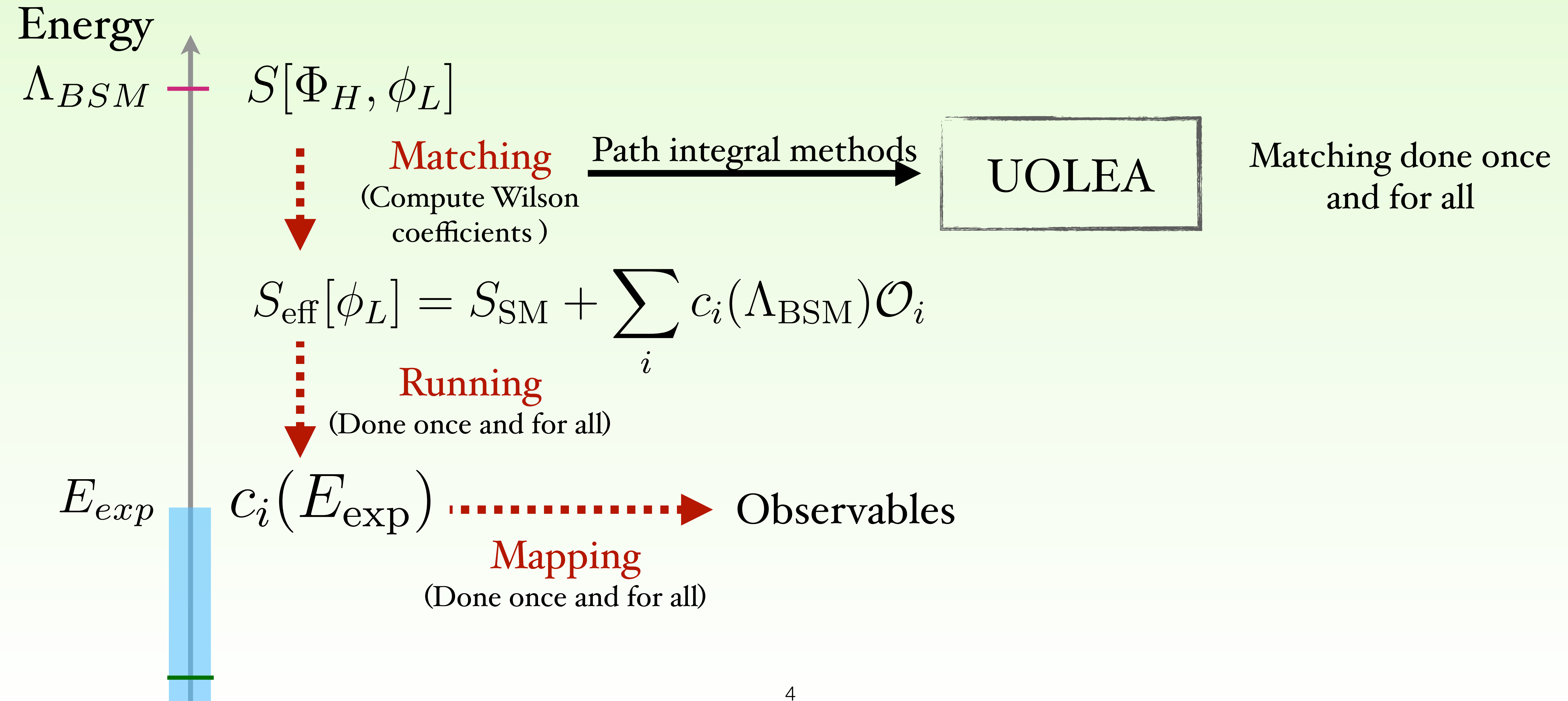
- **Results**

New effective operators - possible applications

# EFT from the UV point of View



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# Matching

$$e^{iS_{\text{eff}}[\phi_L]} = \int \mathcal{D}\Phi_H e^{iS[\Phi_H, \phi_L]} \Rightarrow iS_{\text{eff}}[\phi_L] = \log \det \left[ \frac{\delta^2 S}{\delta \Phi_H^2} \right]$$

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Assume a generic form for the action:

$$S[\Phi_H, \phi_L] = \int d^d x \Phi_H \left( D^2 + m^2 + U[\Phi_H, \phi_L] \right) \Phi_H$$

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$\Rightarrow$

$$c_i(m, \mu) \mathcal{O}_i(D, U)$$

**UOLEA**

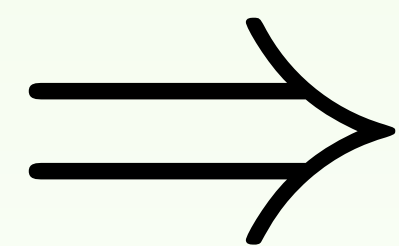
Example:  $\mathcal{L} = \Phi(D^2 + m^2 - \eta|H|^2)\Phi \Rightarrow \mathcal{O}_6 = |H|^6, c_6 = 24\eta^3$

# Matching in gravity

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Assume a generic form for the action:

$$S[\Phi_H, \phi_L] = \int d^d x \sqrt{-g} \Phi_H \left( D^2 + m^2 + U[\Phi_H, \phi_L, R] \right) \Phi_H$$



$$c_i(m, \mu) \mathcal{O}_i(D, U, R)$$



# Functional methods

- Heat kernel

Position space representation

$$\log \det [D^2 + m^2 + U] \simeq \sum_n \int d\tau \tau^{n-3} a_n$$

Iterative procedure, quite involved, lack of physical insight

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- Covariant Derivative Expansion (CDE)

Momentum space, systematic, several codes exist

$$\log \det [D^2 + m^2 + U] \simeq \int d^d q \operatorname{tr} \sum_{n \geq 0} [\Delta (D^2 + 2iq \cdot D + U)]^n \Delta$$

$$\Delta = (q^2 - m^2)^{-1} \simeq \left( \int d^d q \Delta^k q^{2j} \right) \operatorname{tr} U^l D^k$$

# Limits of the bosonic action

$$S = \int d^d x \bar{\psi} (i\not{D} - m - Q) \psi \xrightarrow{\text{Bosonisation}} \log \det [D^2 + m^2 + U[Q]]$$

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- Chiral fermion: fermionic CDE (S.Ellis, J.Quevillon, H.Pham Ngoc Hoa, Z.Zhang, “The Fermionic Universal One-Loop Effective Action”)

$$\log \det [i\not{D} - m - Q] \simeq \int d^d q \sum_{n \geq 0} [\Delta(-i\not{D} + Q)]^n \Delta$$

$$\Delta = -(\not{q} + m)^{-1} \simeq \left( \int d^d q \Delta^i q^{2j} \right) \text{tr } U^k \not{D}^l \gamma' s$$

# Curved spacetime functional methods

- Curved spacetime methods for computing **bosonic** determinants :  
Heat kernel (Avramidi 90', De Witt 75',...), CDE  
(Gaillard 89', Alonso 20')
- They remain quite involved
- **Nothing available for a chiral UV theory**

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- Does not allow to obtain non-covariant results (anomalies, B.Filoché, R.L, J.Quevillon, H. Pham Ngoc Vuong, “Anomalies from an Effective Field Theory Perspective”)
- We introduce a coordinate-independent Fourier transform

# CDE in curved spacetime

- Previous CDE in curved spacetime were manifestly covariant, but computation much more involved
- Very systematic procedure, easy to automatise
- Still have the factorisation of momentum and operator part : universality
- Expansion greatly simplified in Riemann Normal Coordinates, plus it is manifestly covariant

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Recover the Euler-Heisenberg Effective Action

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New effective renormalisable operators:  $A^2 R, W_1^2 R, AW_1 R$

and non-renormalisable operators:  $W_0 A A R, A V W_1 R, W_0 W_1^2 R, \dots$

$$\begin{aligned}
S_{\text{eff}}^{\text{bos}} = & \frac{c_s}{16\pi^2} \int \sqrt{-g} d^4x \text{tr} \left\{ m^2 \left( 1 - \log \left( \frac{m^2}{\mu^2} \right) \right) \left( \frac{1}{6} R + U \right) \right. \\
& + \log \left( \frac{m^2}{\mu^2} \right) \left[ -\frac{1}{72} R^2 + \frac{1}{180} R_{\mu\nu} R^{\mu\nu} - \frac{1}{180} R_{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} R^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} - \frac{1}{30} (\square R) \right. \\
& \quad \left. \left. - \frac{1}{6} RU - \frac{1}{6} (\square U) - \frac{1}{2} U^2 - \frac{1}{12} F^2 \right] \right. \\
& + \frac{1}{m^2} \left[ -\frac{1}{72} RF^2 - \frac{1}{90} R_{\mu\nu} F^{\mu\lambda} F^\nu{}_\lambda - \frac{1}{180} R_{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} F^{\mu\nu} F^{\rho\sigma} \right. \\
& \quad + \left( \frac{1}{90} - \frac{a}{2} \right) (\mathcal{D}_\mu F^{\mu\nu})^2 + a F_\mu{}^\nu F_\nu{}^\rho F_\rho{}^\mu + \left( \frac{1}{360} + \frac{a}{4} \right) (\mathcal{D}_\mu F_{\nu\rho}) (\mathcal{D}^\mu F^{\nu\rho}) \\
& \quad \left. - \frac{1}{12} U(\square U) - \frac{1}{36} R(\square U) - \frac{1}{12} RU^2 - \frac{1}{6} U^3 - \frac{1}{12} UF^2 + \mathcal{O}(R^2) \right] \\
& \left. + \mathcal{O}(1/m^4) \right\}.
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
S_{\text{eff}}^{\text{ferm}} \supset & \frac{-1}{16\pi^2} \int \sqrt{-g} d^4x \text{tr} \left\{ -m^2 \frac{1}{6} R \left( 1 - \log \left( \frac{m^2}{\mu^2} \right) \right) + m \frac{1}{3} \log \left( \frac{m^2}{\mu^2} \right) R W_0 \right. \\
& + \log \left( \frac{m^2}{\mu^2} \right) \left[ -\frac{1}{144} R^2 + \frac{1}{90} R_{\mu\nu} R^{\mu\nu} + \frac{7}{720} R_{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} R^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} + \frac{1}{60} (\square R) \right] \\
& \quad \left. + \frac{1}{3} R W_0^2 \left( 1 + \frac{1}{2} \log \left( \frac{m^2}{\mu^2} \right) \right) + \frac{1}{3} R W_1^2 \left( -1 + \frac{1}{2} \log \left( \frac{m^2}{\mu^2} \right) \right) \right. \\
& + \frac{1}{m} \left[ W_1 \left( -\frac{1}{48} \varepsilon_{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} R_{\alpha\beta}{}^{\mu\nu} R^{\alpha\beta\rho\sigma} \right) \right. \\
& \quad \left. + W_0 \left( \frac{1}{45} R^{\mu\nu} R_{\mu\nu} - \frac{1}{72} R^2 + \frac{7}{360} R^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} R_{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} + \frac{1}{3} (\square R) \right) \right. \\
& \quad \left. + R^{\mu\nu} \left( -\frac{4}{3} W_0 A_\mu A_\nu + i \frac{4}{3} A_\mu (\mathcal{D}_\nu W_1) + 2i W_1 (\mathcal{D}_\mu A_\nu) + \frac{2}{3} A_\mu [X_\nu, W_1] \right) \right. \\
& \quad \left. + R \left( -\frac{1}{3} A^\mu [X_\mu, W_1] + \frac{1}{9} W_0^3 + \frac{1}{3} W_0 W_1^2 - i \frac{1}{3} W_1 (\mathcal{D}_\mu A^\mu) \right) \right] + \mathcal{O}(1/m^2) \left. \right\}.
\end{aligned}$$



# Applications

- Powerful tool to understand the behavior of quantum particles on a curved background (inflation, black holes, baryogenesis, ...), including chiral particles (axion models, neutrinos, ...)

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- Quantisation of gravity (as an EFT):
  - Study interaction of a particle with the graviton on a curved background
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- Up to bottom approach to modified gravity theories, large scale structure EFTs
- Quantisation of gravity (as an EFT):
  - Study interaction of a particle with the graviton on a curved background
  - Compute the saddle points of the gravitational path integral (integrate out the graviton)
- Non-perturbative and coordinate independent computation of gravitational anomalies, crucial in model building when including gravity

Thanks for you attention

# Momentum representation

- Define a contra-variant vector  $q_\mu$  such that  $\frac{\partial q_\mu}{\partial x^\nu} = 0$
- Can show that if  $\mathcal{O}$  is covariant, then  $\int d^d x d^d q e^{iq \cdot x} \mathcal{O} e^{-iq \cdot x}$  is coordinate independent, even though  $q \cdot x$  is not
- Lose the commutativity of  $q^2$  and  $\partial$   
Generates the gravity operators
- Can define a coordinate independent functional trace