

Dark Energy: an Effective Field Theory approach

Federico Piazza



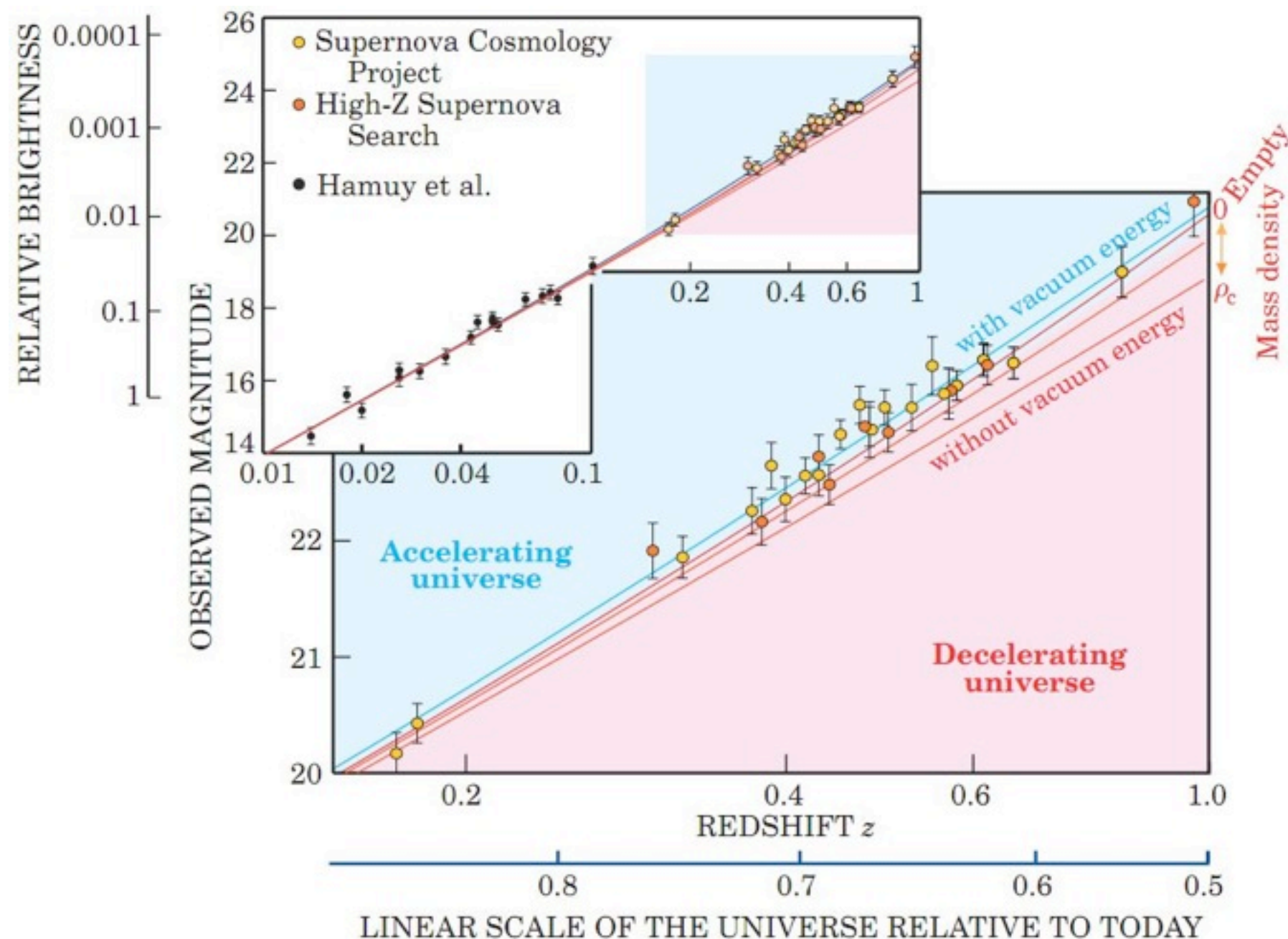
**Paris Centre for
Cosmological Physics**

Gubitosi, F. P., Vernizzi, 1210.0201
Gleyzes, Langlois, F.P., Vernizzi, 1304.4840



Nobel Prize in Physics 2011

The Universe is accelerating!



The energy budget

Non-relativistic matter
(dark matter, baryons)

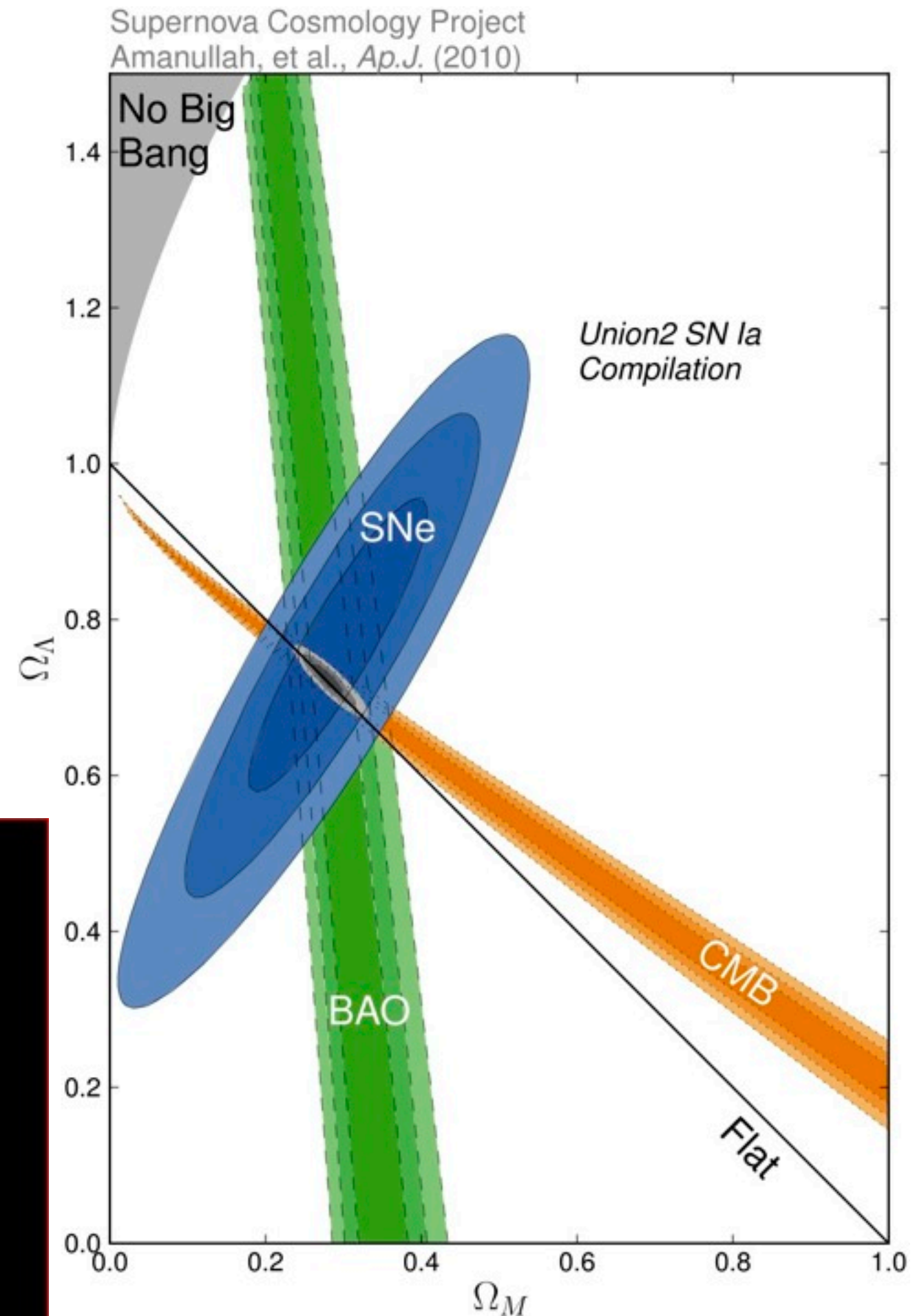
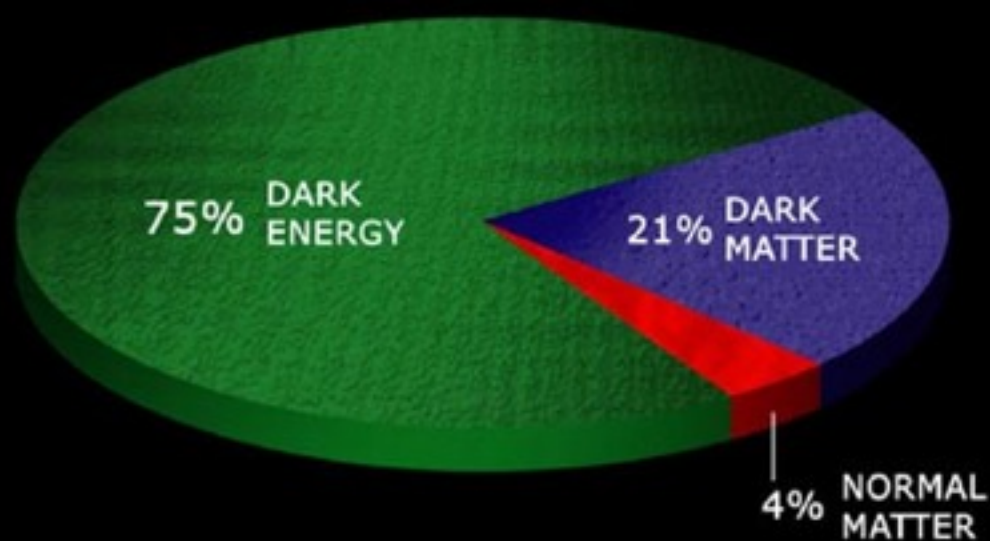
$$p_M \sim 0$$

$$\Omega_M \sim 0.3$$

Dark Energy

$$p_{DE} < -\frac{1}{3}\rho_{DE}$$

$$\Omega_{DE} \sim 0.7$$



Beyond the Cosmological Constant...

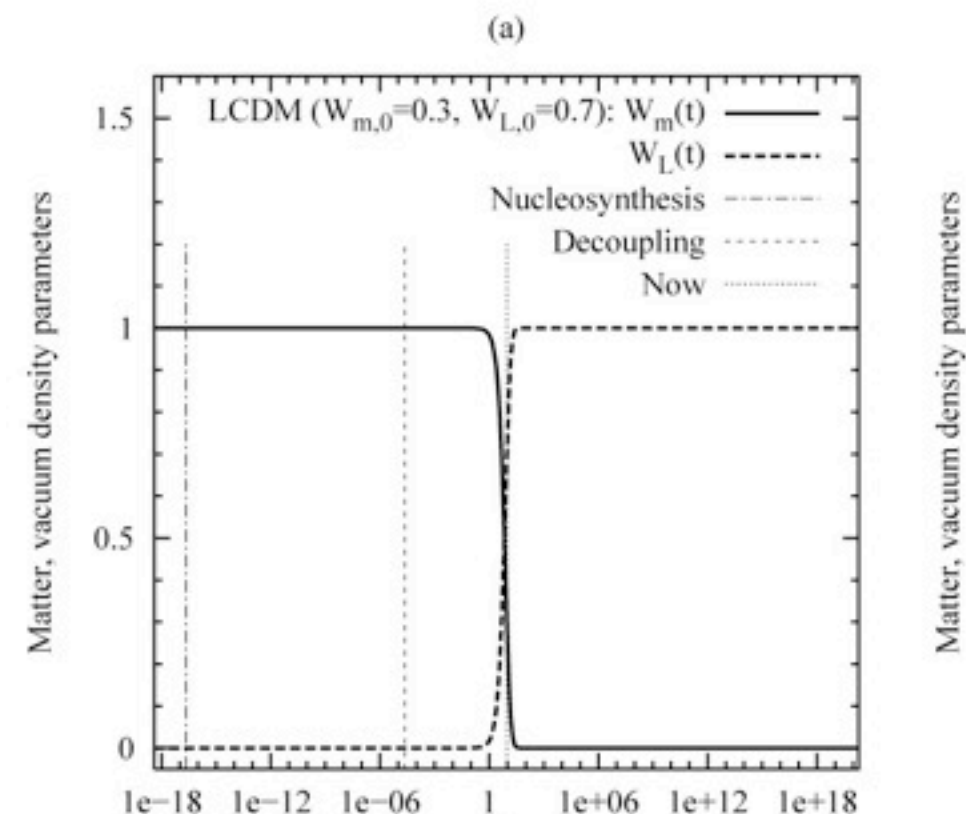
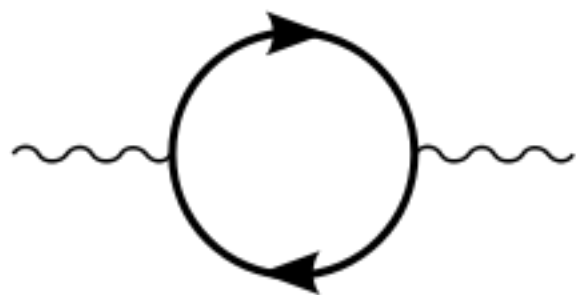
The first obvious candidate for Dark Energy is a cosmological constant

$$S = \int \sqrt{-g} \left(M_{\text{Pl}}^2 R - \Lambda \right)$$

However:

Naturalness problem (perhaps $\Lambda = 0$ is better than $\Lambda \sim (10^{-3} \text{eV})^4$)

Coincidence problem (why $\rho_{\text{DE}} \sim \rho_{\text{M}}$ now?!).

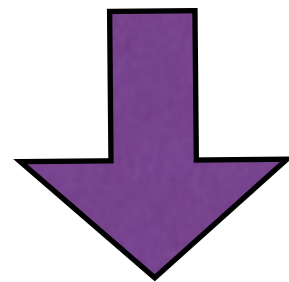


Beyond the Cosmological Constant...

The first obvious candidate for Dark Energy is a cosmological constant

$$S = \int \sqrt{-g} \left(M_{\text{Pl}}^2 R - \Lambda \right)$$

$$DE \neq \Lambda$$



there is a **new propagating degree of freedom** in the theory ϕ

- There is `no shortage' of dark energy and modified gravity (DE) models (>5000 papers on Spires)
- Each one with its motivations, number and type of parameters etc...
- EUCLID and BigBoss will be sensitive to dynamical properties of DE
- Need for a Unifying and Effective description of DE

Ideally...

- A limited number of effective operators, each one responsible for an observable dynamical feature (e.g. flavor-changing neutral currents in physics beyond Standard Model)

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$$S[\phi, g_{\mu\nu}, \Psi_m]$$

Background

$$\begin{aligned}\phi &= \phi_0(t) \\ ds^2 &= -dt^2 + a^2(t)dx^2 \\ \rho_m &= \rho_m(t)\end{aligned}$$

Expand in perturbations

$$\delta\rho_m(t, \vec{x}) \longleftrightarrow \delta\phi(t, \vec{x})$$

physics beyond Standard Model

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Hint:

Most DE models reduce, in their relevant regimes, to scalar tensor-theories

$$S = \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} \left[\frac{M^2}{2} f(\phi) R - \frac{1}{2} (\partial\phi)^2 - V(\phi) + \mathcal{F}[\phi, g^{\mu\nu}] \right] + S_m[g_{\mu\nu}, \Psi_m]$$

One possible strategy: (Weinberg '08, Park, Zurek and Watson '10, Bloomfield and Flanagan '11)

Apply covariant EFT to explore $\mathcal{F}[\phi, g^{\mu\nu}]$: **field**/derivative expansion

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$$V = V_1\phi + V_2\phi^2 + V_3\phi^3 + V_4\phi^4$$

$$= V_2\delta\phi^2 + V_3\phi_0(t)\delta\phi^2 + 6V_4\phi_0^2(t)\delta\phi^2$$

All terms potentially important in cosmological perturbation theory!

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Ghost Condensate

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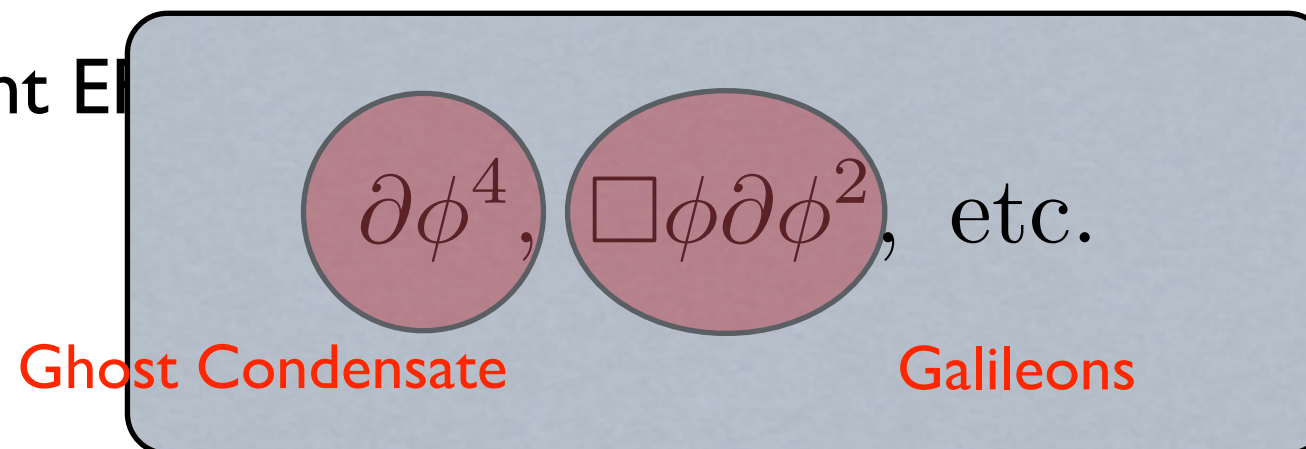
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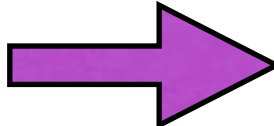
Apply covariant EFT to explore $\mathcal{F}[\phi, g^{\mu\nu}]$: **field**/derivative expansion

However:

- 1) Expansion in number of fields is not necessarily meaningful
- 2) Naively ``perturbations'' but not always so...
- 3) Only halfway through the work to be done (background first + expand..)

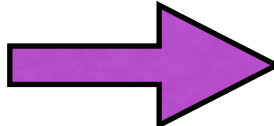
EFT: a theory for the relevant low-energy d.o.f.

Examples:

I) **QCD**: quarks and gluons  nucleons and pions at low energies

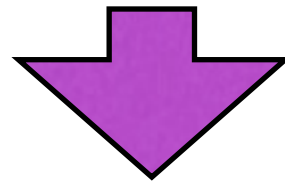
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Examples:

1) QCD: quarks and gluons  nucleons and pions at low energies

2) EW theory: 4 massless vector bosons, 2 complex scalars etc.

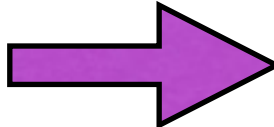
UNITARY GAUGE



3 massive vector bosons, 1 massive ``Higgs'' field etc.

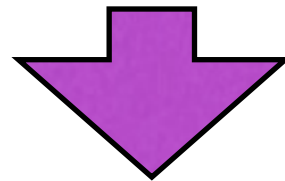
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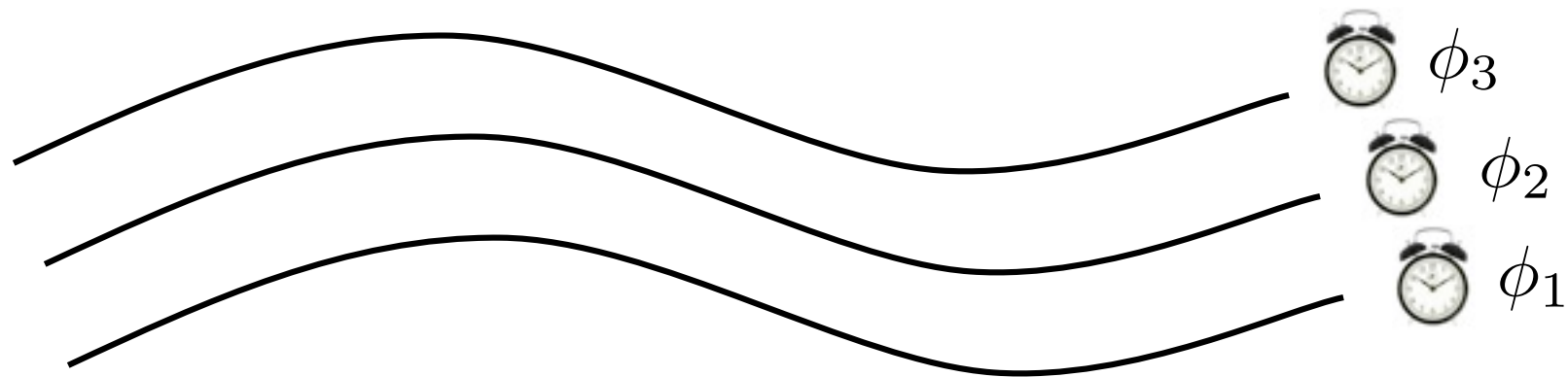
3) Cosmology: ...Cosmological Perturbations!

Unitary Gauge in Cosmology

The Effective Field Theory of Inflation (Creminelli et al. '06, Cheung et al. '07)

Main idea: scalar degrees of freedom are 'eaten' by the metric. Ex:

$$\phi(t, \vec{x}) \rightarrow \phi_0(t) \quad (\delta\phi = 0) \quad -\frac{1}{2}\partial\phi^2 \rightarrow -\frac{1}{2}\dot{\phi}_0^2(t) g^{00}$$



Bennett et al, 2012 (Final WMAP paper) constrain inflation EFT operators

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Our Recipe for Dark Energy: (Gubitosi, F.P., Vernizzi 2012)

- 1) Assume WEP (universally coupled metric $S_m[g_{\mu\nu}, \Psi_i]$)
- 2) Write the most generic action for $g_{\mu\nu}$ compatible with the residual un-broken symmetries (3-diff).

The Action

$$S = \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} \left[\frac{M^2}{2} f(t) R - \Lambda(t) - c(t) g^{00} \right] + S_{DE}^{(2)}$$

The most generic action written in terms of $g_{\mu\nu}$ compatible with the residual symmetry of spatial diffeomorphisms

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Genuine 4-dim covariant terms are still allowed, but will in general be multiplied by functions of time cause time translations are broken

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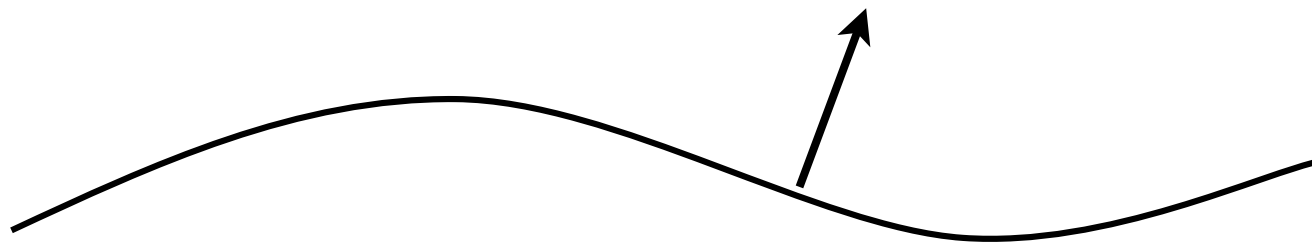
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...as well as tensors with free '0' indices

Essentially: contractions with $n_\mu = -\frac{\partial_\mu \phi}{\sqrt{-(\partial\phi^2)}}$



The Action: main message

$$S = \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} \left[\underbrace{\frac{M^2}{2} f(t) R - \Lambda(t) - c(t) g^{00}}_{\text{blue bar}} \right] + \underbrace{S_{DE}^{(2)}}_{\text{purple bar}}$$

Any arbitrarily complicate action with one scalar d.o.f. will reduce to **this** in Unitary gauge, plus **terms** that start explicitly quadratic in the perturbations

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Example:

$$\partial\phi^2 R = \dot{\phi}_0^2 (-1 + \delta g^{00}) (R^{(0)} + \delta R) = \dot{\phi}_0^2 \left[-R + R^{(0)}(t) + R^{(0)}(t) g^{00} + \delta g^{00} \delta R \right]$$

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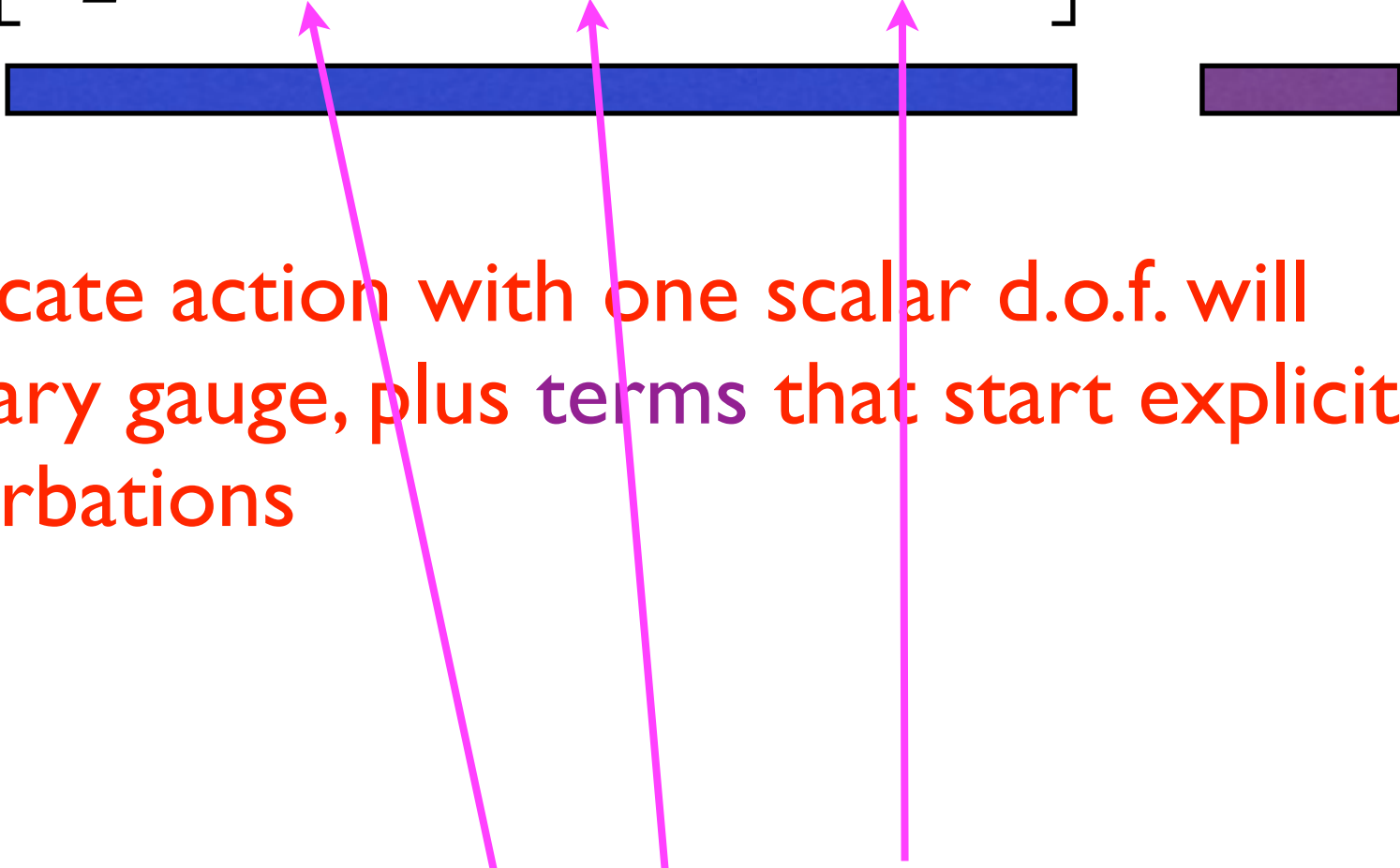
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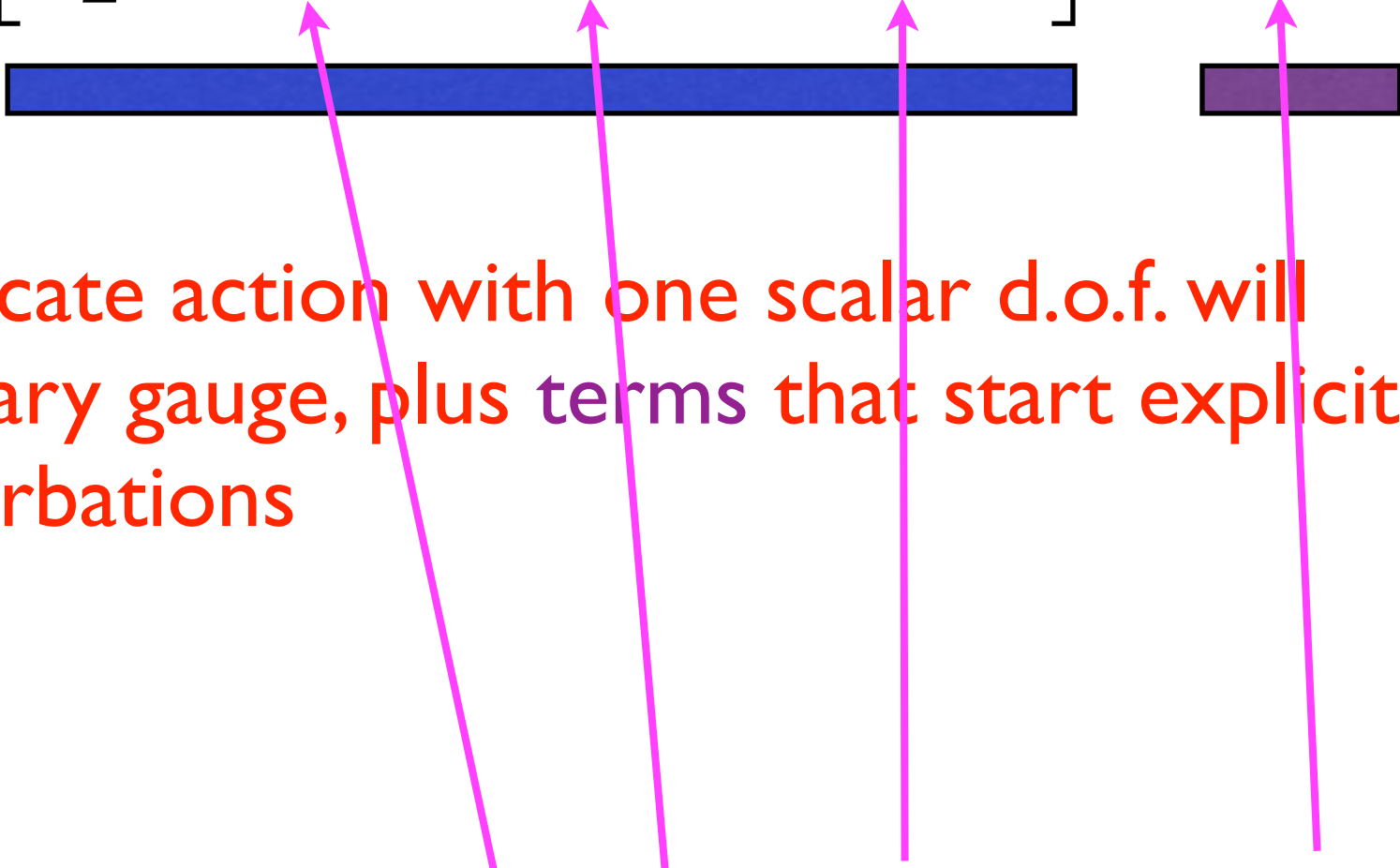
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Enough for background equations:

$$c = \frac{1}{2}(-\ddot{f} + H\dot{f})M^2 + \frac{1}{2}(\rho_D + p_D)$$

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Generally Related to post-newtonian parameters

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Matter + Dark matter (in practice $\rho_m \propto a^{-3}$)

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The Action: perturbations

$$S = \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} \left[\frac{M^2}{2} f(t) R - \Lambda(t) - c(t) g^{00} \right] + S_{DE}^{(2)}$$


Explicitly quadratic in the perturbations:

$$S_{DE}^{(2)} = \frac{M_2^4}{2} (\delta g^{00})^2 - \frac{\bar{m}_1^3}{2} \delta g^{00} \delta K - \frac{\bar{M}_2^2}{2} \delta K^2 - \frac{\bar{M}_3^2}{2} \delta K_\mu{}^\nu \delta K^\mu{}_\nu + \dots$$

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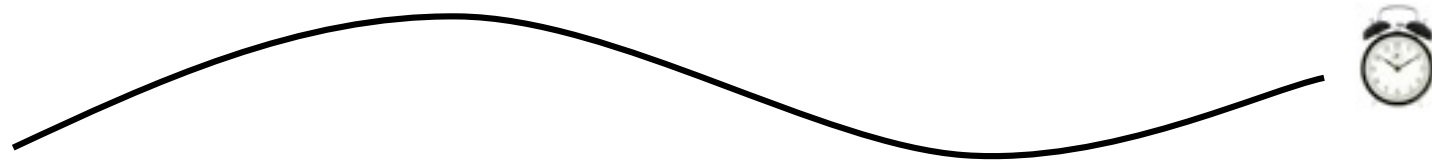


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Extrinsic curvature: $n_\mu = -\frac{\partial_\mu \phi}{\sqrt{-(\partial\phi^2)}}$ $h_{\mu\nu} \equiv g_{\mu\nu} + n_\mu n_\nu$

$$K_{\mu\nu} = h_\mu{}^\sigma \nabla_\sigma n_\nu \quad \delta K_{\mu\nu} = K_{\mu\nu} - H h_{\mu\nu}$$



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Action in **standard form** (no ambiguities, field redefinitions)

Examples

$$S = \int \sqrt{-g} \left(\frac{M^2}{2} f R - \Lambda - c g^{00} + \frac{M_2^4}{2} (\delta g^{00})^2 - \frac{\bar{m}_1^3}{2} \delta g^{00} \delta K + \frac{M_3^4}{6} (\delta g^{00})^3 + \dots \right)$$

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Non-minimally coupled scalar field

$$S = \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} \left[\frac{M^2}{2} F(\phi) R - \frac{1}{2} (\partial\phi)^2 - V(\phi) \right]$$

$$f(t) = F(\phi_0(t)) , \quad \Lambda(t) = V(\phi_0(t)) , \quad c(t) = \dot{\phi}_0^2(t)$$

Examples

$$S = \int \sqrt{-g} \left(\frac{M^2}{2} f R - \Lambda - c g^{00} + \frac{M_2^4}{2} (\delta g^{00})^2 - \frac{\bar{m}_1^3}{2} \delta g^{00} \delta K + \frac{M_3^4}{6} (\delta g^{00})^3 + \dots \right)$$

K-essence (Amendariz-Picon et al., 2000)

$$S = \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} P(\phi, X) \quad X \equiv g^{\mu\nu} \partial_\mu \phi \partial_\nu \phi$$

Expansion: $X = \dot{\phi}_0^2(t)(-1 + \delta g^{00})$

$$\Lambda(t) = c(t) - P(\phi_0(t), \dot{\phi}_0^2(t)) , \quad c(t) = \left. \frac{\partial P}{\partial X} \right|_{\phi=\phi_0, X=\dot{\phi}_0^2} ,$$

$$M_n^4(t) = \left. \frac{\partial^n P}{\partial X^n} \right|_{\phi=\phi_0, X=\dot{\phi}_0^2} \quad (n \geq 2)$$

Examples

$$S = \int \sqrt{-g} \left(\frac{M^2}{2} f R - \Lambda - c g^{00} + \frac{M_2^4}{2} (\delta g^{00})^2 - \frac{\bar{m}_1^3}{2} \delta g^{00} \delta K + \frac{M_3^4}{6} (\delta g^{00})^3 + \dots \right)$$

“Galilean Cosmology” (Chow and Khoury, 2009)

$$S = \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} \left[\frac{M^2}{2} e^{-2\phi/M} R - \frac{r_c^2}{M} (\partial\phi)^2 \square\phi \right]$$

$$f(t) = e^{-2\frac{\phi_0}{M}} \quad , \quad \Lambda(t) = -\frac{r_c^2}{M} \dot{\phi}_0^2 (\ddot{\phi}_0 + 3H\dot{\phi}_0) \quad , \quad c(t) = \frac{r_c^2}{M} \dot{\phi}_0^2 (\ddot{\phi}_0 - 3H\dot{\phi}_0) \quad ,$$

$$M_2^4(t) = -\frac{r_c^2}{2M} \dot{\phi}_0^2 (\ddot{\phi}_0 + 3H\dot{\phi}_0) \quad , \quad M_3^4(t) = -\frac{3r_c^2}{4M} \dot{\phi}_0^2 (\ddot{\phi}_0 + H\dot{\phi}_0) \quad , \quad \bar{m}_1^3(t) = -\frac{r_c^2}{M} 2\dot{\phi}_0^3 \quad ,$$

More examples, more operators...

$$S = \int \sqrt{-g} \left(\frac{M^2}{2} f R - \Lambda - c g^{00} + \frac{M_2^4}{2} (\delta g^{00})^2 - \frac{\bar{m}_1^3}{2} \delta g^{00} \delta K + \frac{M_3^4}{6} (\delta g^{00})^3 + \dots \right)$$

“Generalized Galileons” (\equiv Horndeski)

(Deffayet et al., 2011)

$$\mathcal{L}_2 = A(\phi, X) ,$$

$$\mathcal{L}_3 = B(\phi, X) \square \phi ,$$

$$\mathcal{L}_4 = C(\phi, X) R - 2C_{,X}(\phi, X) [(\square \phi)^2 - (\nabla_\mu \nabla_\nu \phi)^2] ,$$

$$\mathcal{L}_5 = D(\phi, X) G^{\mu\nu} \nabla_\mu \nabla_\nu \phi + \frac{1}{3} D_{,X}(\phi, X) [(\square \phi)^3 - 3(\square \phi)(\nabla_\mu \nabla_\nu \phi)^2 + 2(\nabla_\mu \nabla_\nu \phi)^3] ,$$

More examples, more operators...

$$S = \int \sqrt{-g} \left(\frac{M^2}{2} f R - \Lambda - c g^{00} + \frac{M_2^4}{2} (\delta g^{00})^2 - \frac{\bar{m}_1^3}{2} \delta g^{00} \delta K + \frac{M_3^4}{6} (\delta g^{00})^3 + \dots \right)$$

Only 1 more quadratic operator!



“Generalized Galileons” (\equiv Horndeski)

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$$\mathcal{L}_2 = A(\phi, X) ,$$

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$$\mathcal{L}_5 = D(\phi, X) G^{\mu\nu} \nabla_\mu \nabla_\nu \phi + \frac{1}{3} D_{,X}(\phi, X) [(\square \phi)^3 - 3(\square \phi)(\nabla_\mu \nabla_\nu \phi)^2 + 2(\nabla_\mu \nabla_\nu \phi)^3] ,$$

The Power of EFT of DE

- Completely democratic (quintessence and modified gravity on same foot)
- Mixing with gravity studied systematically

Mixing with gravity:

$$S = \int \sqrt{-g} \left(\frac{M^2}{2} f R - \Lambda - c g^{00} + \frac{M_2^4}{2} (\delta g^{00})^2 - \frac{\bar{m}_1^3}{2} \delta g^{00} \delta K + \frac{1}{2} T^{\mu\nu} \delta g_{\mu\nu} \right)$$

Apply “Stueckelberg trick”
and go to Newtonian Gauge

$$t \rightarrow t + \pi(x)$$
$$ds^2 = -(1 + 2\Phi)dt^2 + a^2(1 - 2\Psi)\delta_{ij}dx^i dx^j$$

Expand at quadratic order and retain only kinetic operators (2 derivatives):

$$\dot{\Psi}^2, \quad (\vec{\nabla}\Psi)^2, \quad \text{etc.}$$

Modified Gravity \approx Kinetic mixing

$$\dot{\Psi}\dot{\pi}, \quad \vec{\nabla}\Psi\vec{\nabla}\pi, \quad \text{etc.}$$

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$$S = \int \sqrt{-g} \left(\frac{M^2}{2} f R - \Lambda - c g^{00} + \frac{M_2^4}{2} (\delta g^{00})^2 - \frac{\bar{m}_1^3}{2} \delta g^{00} \delta K + \frac{1}{2} T^{\mu\nu} \delta g_{\mu\nu} \right)$$

Apply “Stueckelberg trick”
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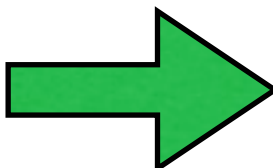
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Modified Gravity \approx Kinetic mixing $\dot{\Psi}\dot{\pi}, \quad \vec{\nabla}\Psi\vec{\nabla}\pi, \quad \text{etc.}$

Ex: $\delta g^{00} \delta K \simeq \dot{\Psi}\dot{\pi} + \nabla\Phi\nabla\pi$  Anisotropic stress,
Renormalized Newton Constant
etc.

The Power of EFT of DE

- Completely democratic (quintessence and modified gravity on same foot)
- Mixing with gravity studied systematically
- Stability, speed of sound etc.

Model building v.s. General treatment (with Gubitosi, Piazza, 2012)

$$S = \int \sqrt{-g} \left(\frac{M^2}{2} f R - \Lambda - c g^{00} + \frac{M_2^4}{2} (\delta g^{00})^2 - \frac{\bar{m}_1^3}{2} \delta g^{00} \delta K + \frac{M_3^4}{6} (\delta g^{00})^3 + \dots \right)$$

Find, once and for all, the action for the scalar degree of freedom:

$$S_{\pi}^{\text{kinetic}} = \int a^3 \left\{ \left[c + 2M_2^4 + \frac{3}{4} \frac{\dot{f}^2}{f} M^2 - \frac{3}{2} \bar{m}_1^3 \frac{\dot{f}}{f} + \frac{3}{4} \frac{\bar{m}_1^6}{M^2} \right] \dot{\pi}^2 - \left[c + \frac{3}{4} \frac{\dot{f}^2}{f} M^2 - \frac{1}{2} \bar{m}_1^3 \frac{\dot{f}}{f} - \frac{1}{4} \frac{\bar{m}_1^6}{M^2} + \frac{1}{2} (\dot{\bar{m}}_1^3 + H \bar{m}_1^3) \right] \frac{(\vec{\nabla} \pi)^2}{a^2} \right\}$$

And address, once and for all, all questions of stability, speed of sound and deviations from GR:

$$1 - \gamma = \frac{1}{2} \frac{(M^2 \dot{f}^2 + \bar{m}_1^3 \dot{f})/f}{c + M^2 \dot{f}^2/f + \frac{1}{2}(\bar{m}_1^3 + H \bar{m}_1^3)}$$

$$G_{\text{eff}} = \frac{1}{8\pi M^2 f} \frac{c + M^2 \dot{f}^2/f + \frac{1}{2}(\bar{m}_1^3 + H \bar{m}_1^3)}{c + \frac{3}{4} M^2 \dot{f}^2/f - \frac{1}{2} \bar{m}_1^3 \dot{f}/f - \frac{1}{4} \bar{m}_1^6/M^2 + \frac{1}{2}(\bar{m}_1^3 + H \bar{m}_1^3)}$$

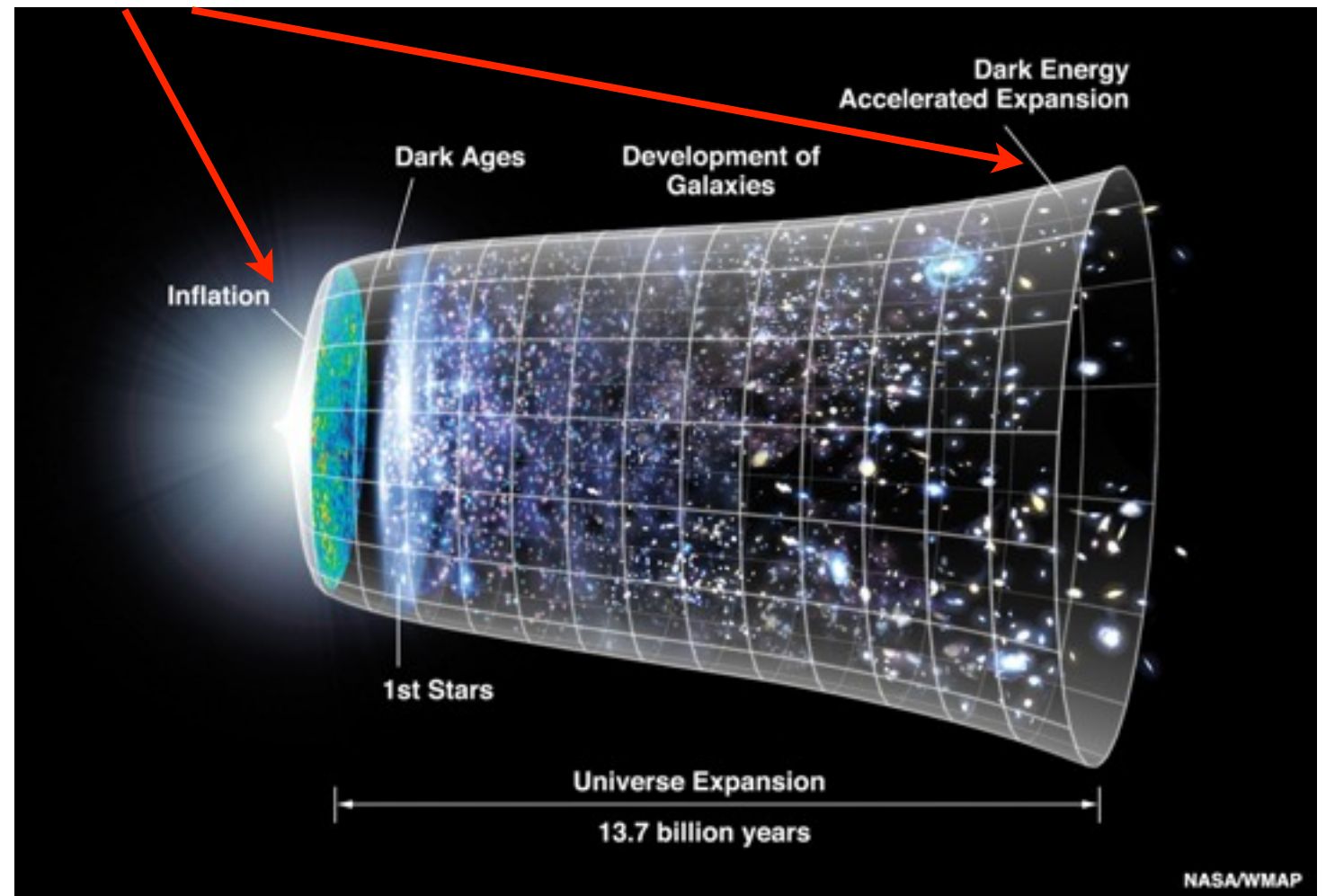
Conclusions

- Unifying framework for dark energy/modified gravity
- Effective language: cosmological perturbations as the relevant d.o.f.
- Dark energy and modified gravity on the same foot
- Unambiguous way to address mixing, stability, speed of sound etc.
- See also Bloomfield et al. 1211.7054. Much work in progress

A venturesome path

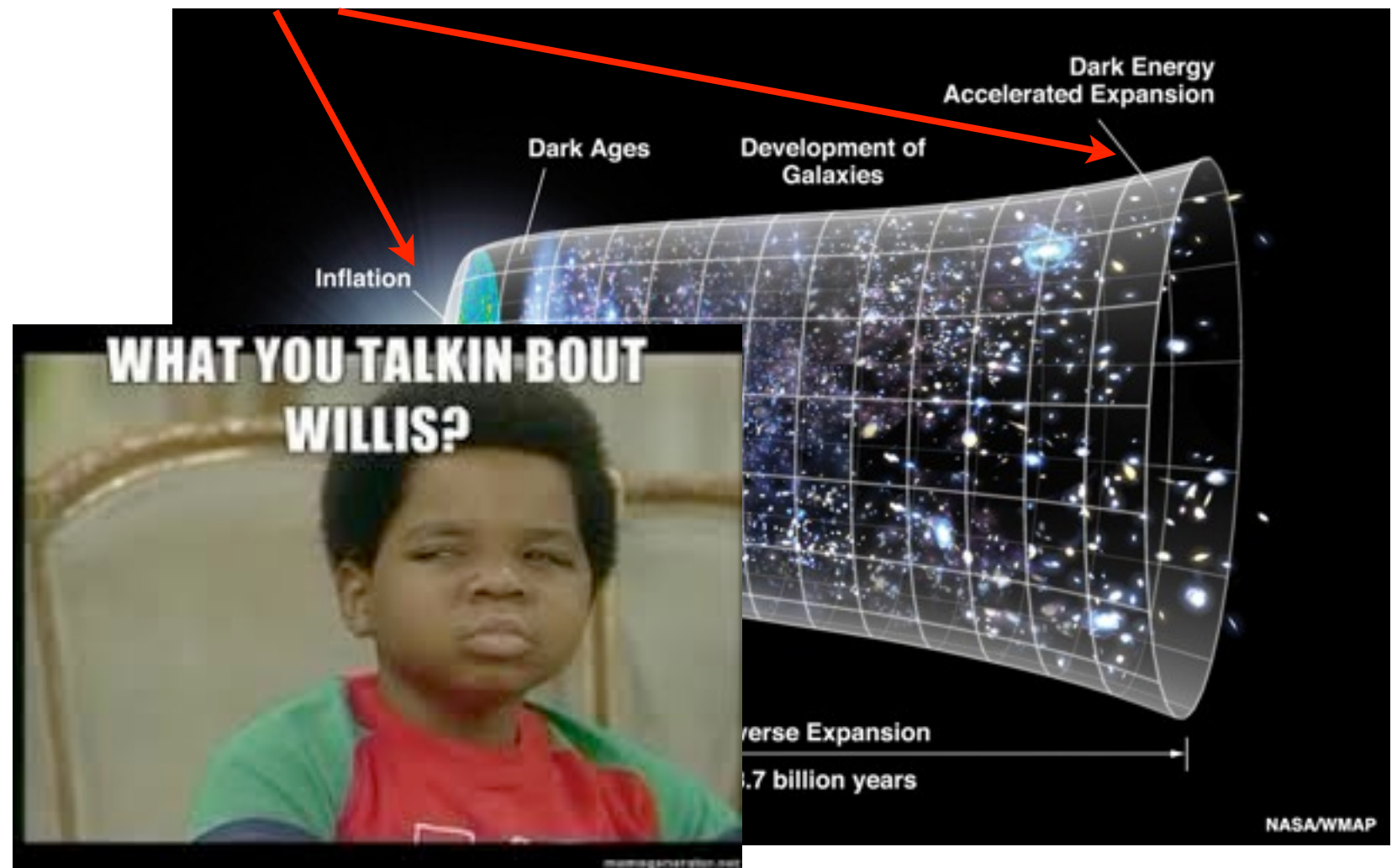
A venturesome path

The Universe has accelerated... twice!



A venturesome path

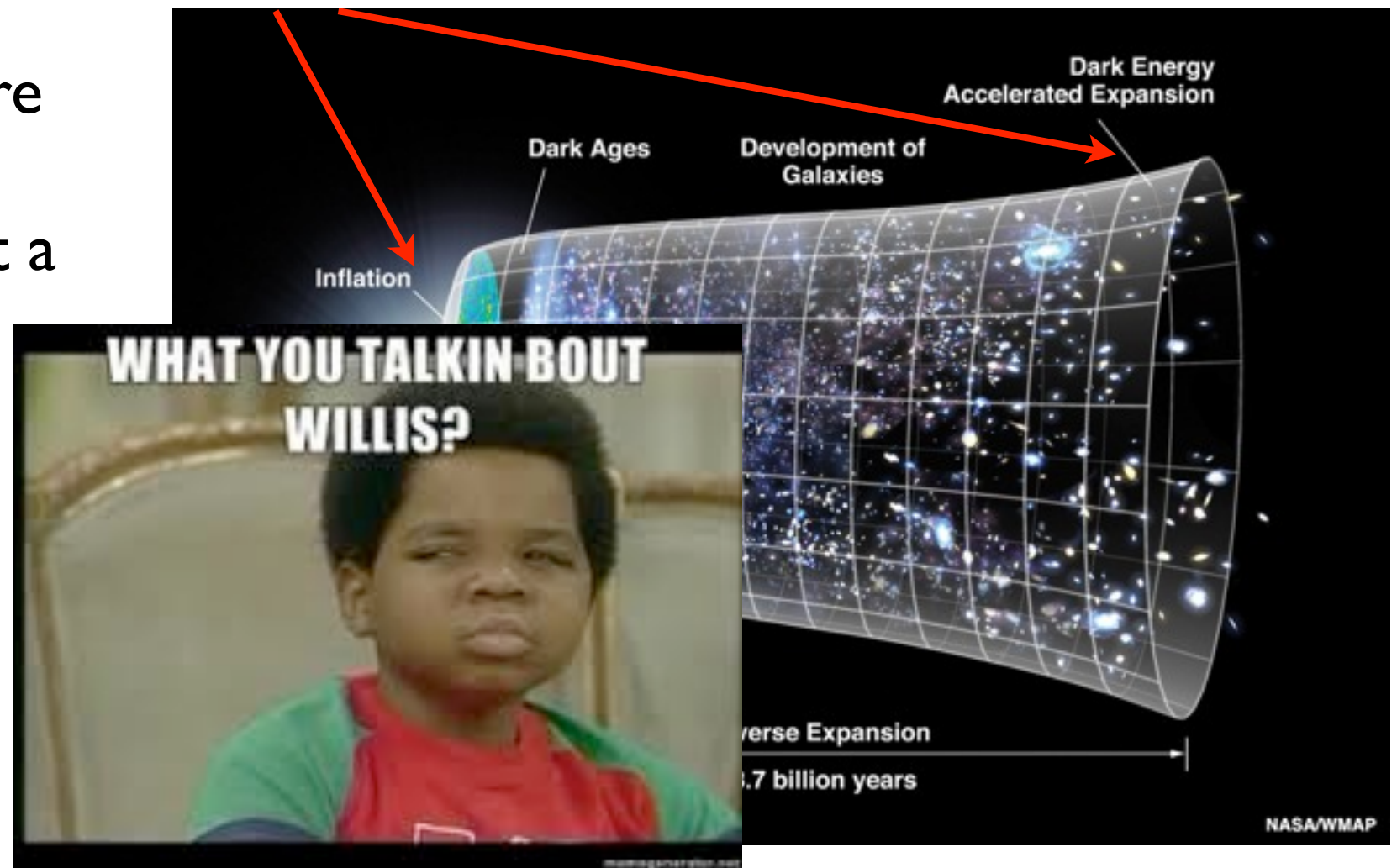
The Universe has accelerated... twice!



A venturesome path

The Universe has accelerated... twice!

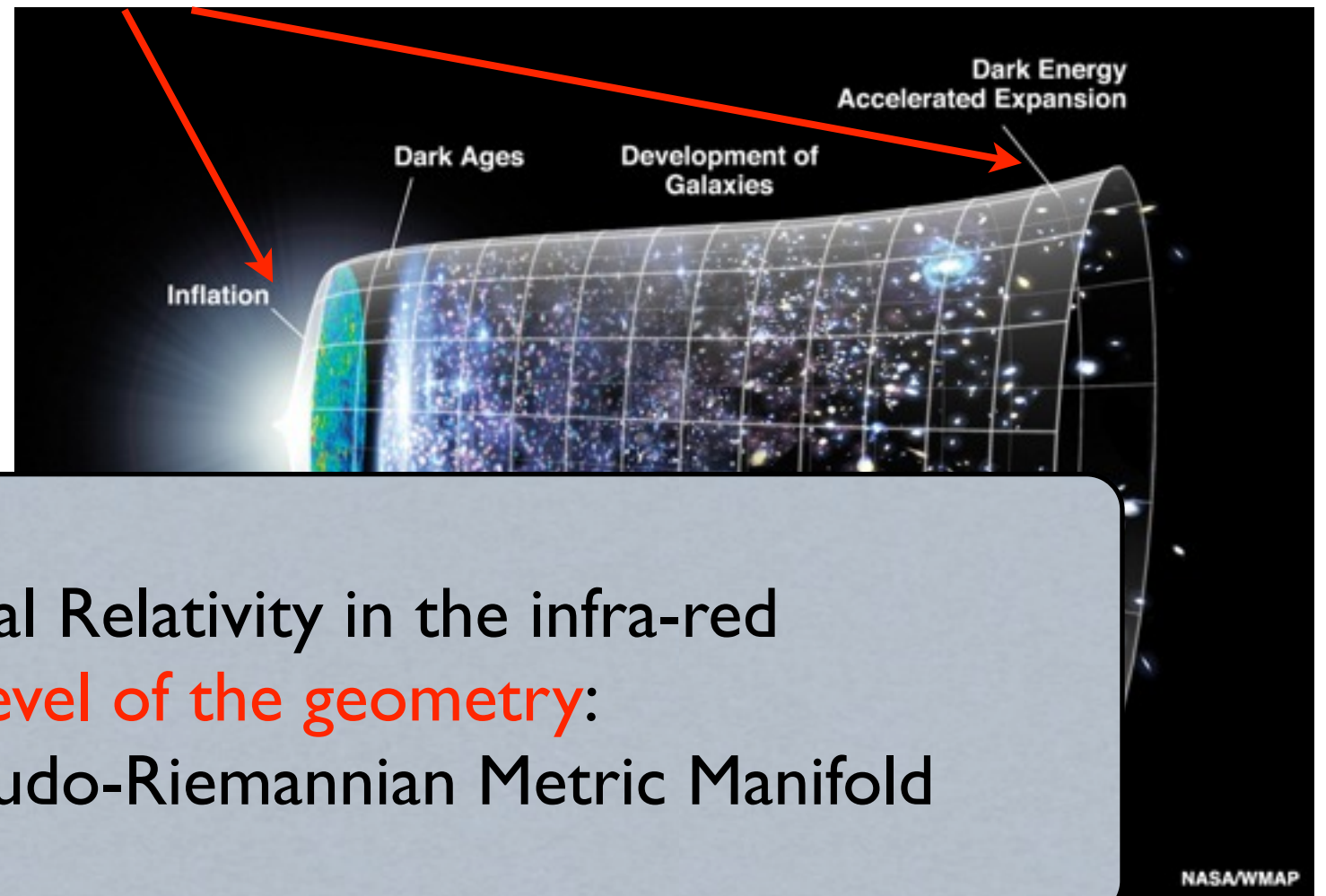
Both **DE** and **Inflation** are (at face value) Infra-red issues. Can't we attempt a Unifying description?



A venturesome path

The Universe has accelerated... twice!

Both **DE** and **Inflation** are (at face value) Infra-red issues. Can't we attempt a Unifying description?



Modify General Relativity in the infra-red
at the level of the geometry:
Go beyond the Pseudo-Riemannian Metric Manifold

0904.4299 (JMPA)

0907.0765 (NJP, "best of 2009")

0910.3949 (PLB, with S. Nesseris and S. Tsujikawa)

0910.4677, 1204.4099, in progress...

Rest of the talk: not concerned about this. Unifying approach for DE and more conventional modifications of gravity.

Mixing with gravity 1: Brans-Dicke

$$S = \int \sqrt{-g} \left(\frac{M^2}{2} f R - \Lambda - c g^{00} + \frac{M_2^4}{2} (\delta g^{00})^2 - \frac{\bar{m}_1^3}{2} \delta g^{00} \delta K + \frac{1}{2} T^{\mu\nu} \delta g_{\mu\nu} \right)$$

Apply Stueckelberg and go to
Newtonian Gauge

$$ds^2 = -(1 + 2\Phi)dt^2 + a^2(1 - 2\Psi)\delta_{ij}dx^i dx^j$$

$$S^{\text{kinetic}} = \int M^2 f \left[-3\dot{\Psi}^2 - 2\vec{\nabla}\Phi\vec{\nabla}\Psi + (\vec{\nabla}\Psi)^2 + c\dot{\pi}^2 - c(\vec{\nabla}\pi)^2 + 3(\dot{f}/f)\dot{\Psi}\dot{\pi} + (\dot{f}/f)\vec{\nabla}\pi(\vec{\nabla}\Phi - 2\vec{\nabla}\Psi) \right]$$

Mixing

Mixing with gravity 1: Brans-Dicke

$$S = \int \sqrt{-g} \left(\frac{M^2}{2} f R - \Lambda - c g^{00} + \frac{M_2^4}{2} (\delta g^{00})^2 - \frac{\bar{m}_1^3}{2} \delta g^{00} \delta K + \frac{1}{2} T^{\mu\nu} \delta g_{\mu\nu} \right)$$

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De-mixing = conformal transformation

Mixing

$$\begin{aligned}\Phi_E &= \Phi + \frac{1}{2}(\dot{f}/f)\pi \\ \Psi_E &= \Psi - \frac{1}{2}(\dot{f}/f)\pi\end{aligned}$$

Mixing with gravity 1: Brans-Dicke

$$S = \int \sqrt{-g} \left(\frac{M^2}{2} f R - \Lambda - c g^{00} + \frac{M_2^4}{2} (\delta g^{00})^2 - \frac{\bar{m}_1^3}{2} \delta g^{00} \delta K + \frac{1}{2} T^{\mu\nu} \delta g_{\mu\nu} \right)$$

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$$1 - \gamma \equiv \frac{\Phi - \Psi}{\Phi} = \frac{M^2 \dot{f}^2 / f}{2(c + M^2 \dot{f}^2 / f)}$$

anisotropic stress

Newtonian
limit



$$G_{\text{eff}} = \frac{1}{8\pi M^2 f} \frac{c + M^2 \dot{f}^2 / f}{c + \frac{3}{4} M^2 \dot{f}^2 / f}$$

dressed Newton constant

Mixing with gravity 2:

(Cf. braiding: Deffayet et al., 2010)

$$S = \int \sqrt{-g} \left(\frac{M^2}{2} f R - \Lambda - c g^{00} + \frac{M_2^4}{2} (\delta g^{00})^2 - \frac{\bar{m}_1^3}{2} \delta g^{00} \delta K + \frac{1}{2} T^{\mu\nu} \delta g_{\mu\nu} \right)$$

$f(t) = 1$

Apply Stueckelberg and go to
Newtonian Gauge

$$ds^2 = -(1 + 2\Phi)dt^2 + a^2(1 - 2\Psi)\delta_{ij}dx^i dx^j$$

$$S^{\text{kinetic}} \int M^2 \left[-3\dot{\Psi}^2 - 2\vec{\nabla}\Phi\vec{\nabla}\Psi + (\vec{\nabla}\Psi)^2 \right] + c\dot{\pi}^2 - c(\vec{\nabla}\pi)^2 - 3\bar{m}_1^3\dot{\Psi}\dot{\pi} - \bar{m}_1^3\vec{\nabla}\Phi\vec{\nabla}\pi$$

De-mixing \neq conformal transformation

$$\begin{aligned}\Phi_E &= \Phi + \frac{\bar{m}_1^3}{2M^2}\pi \\ \Psi_E &= \Psi + \frac{\bar{m}_1^3}{2M^2}\pi\end{aligned}$$

Mixing

Mixing with gravity 2:

(Cf. braiding: Deffayet et al., 2010)

$$S = \int \sqrt{-g} \left(\frac{M^2}{2} f R - \Lambda - c g^{00} + \frac{M_2^4}{2} (\delta g^{00})^2 - \frac{\bar{m}_1^3}{2} \delta g^{00} \delta K + \frac{1}{2} T^{\mu\nu} \delta g_{\mu\nu} \right)$$

$f(t) = 1$

Apply Stueckelberg and go to
Newtonian Gauge

$$ds^2 = -(1 + 2\Phi)dt^2 + a^2(1 - 2\Psi)\delta_{ij}dx^i dx^j$$

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Mixing

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$f(t) = 1$

Apply Stueckelberg and go to
Newtonian Gauge

$$ds^2 = -(1 + 2\Phi)dt^2 + a^2(1 - 2\Psi)\delta_{ij}dx^i dx^j$$

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Mixing

Speed of Sound of DE

$$c_s^2 = \frac{c + \frac{1}{2}(H\bar{m}_1^3 + \dot{\bar{m}}_1^3) - \frac{1}{4}\bar{m}_1^6/M^2}{c + \frac{3}{4}\bar{m}_1^6/M^2}$$

Mixing with gravity 2:

(Cf. braiding: Deffayet et al., 2010)

$$S = \int \sqrt{-g} \left(\frac{M^2}{2} f R - \Lambda - c g^{00} + \frac{M_2^4}{2} (\delta g^{00})^2 - \frac{\bar{m}_1^3}{2} \delta g^{00} \delta K + \frac{1}{2} T^{\mu\nu} \delta g_{\mu\nu} \right)$$

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$$1 - \gamma = \frac{\Phi - \Psi}{\Phi} = 0$$

NO anisotropic stress

Newtonian
limit



$$G_{\text{eff}} = \frac{1}{8\pi M^2 f} \left(1 - \frac{\bar{m}_1^3}{4cM^2} \right)^{-1}$$

dressed Newton constant

Detailed model building v.s. general treatments

$$S = \int \sqrt{-g} \left(\frac{M^2}{2} f R - \Lambda - c g^{00} + \frac{M_2^4}{2} (\delta g^{00})^2 - \frac{\bar{m}_1^3}{2} \delta g^{00} \delta K + \frac{M_3^4}{6} (\delta g^{00})^3 + \dots \right)$$

More interesting operators to come...

(Gleyzes, Langlois, F.P., Vernizzi, in progress)

Conclusions

- Unifying framework for dark energy/modified gravity
- Effective language: cosmological perturbations as the relevant d.o.f.
- Dark energy and modified gravity on the same foot
- Unambiguous way to address mixing, stability, speed of sound etc.
- See also Bloomfield et al. 1211.7054. Much work in progress