

Title: Yang-Mills conformal gravity

Date: Sep 01, 2016 01:00 PM

URL: <http://pirsa.org/16090037>

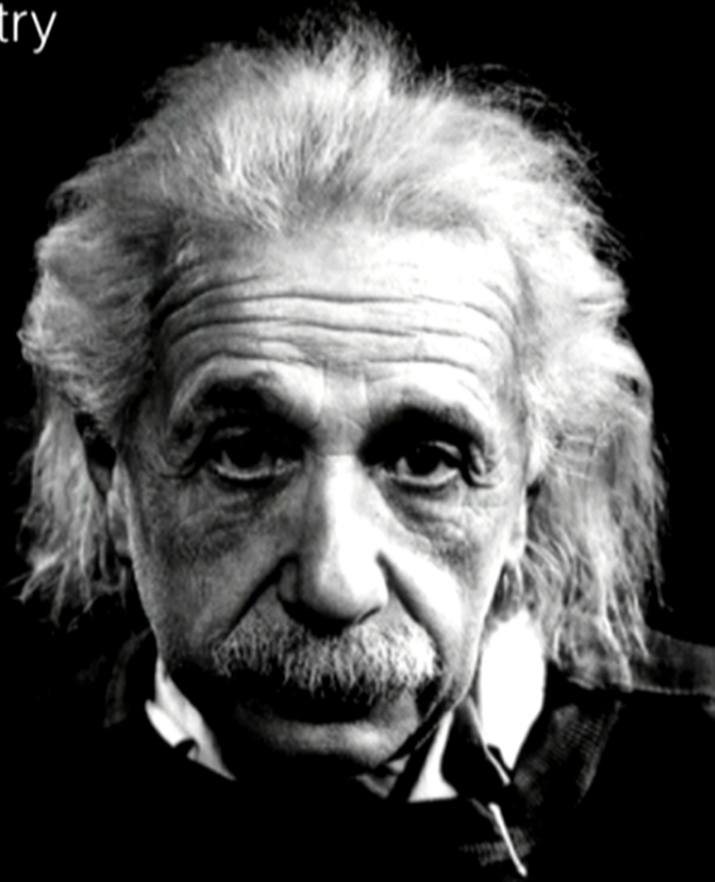
Abstract: <p>We reconsider a gauge theory of gravity in which the gauge group is the conformal group  $SO(4,2)$ , and the action is of the Yang-Mills form, quadratic in the curvature. The vacuum sector of the resulting gravitational theory exhibits local conformal symmetry. We allow for conventional matter coupled to the spacetime metric as well as matter coupled to the field that gauges special conformal transformations. When the theory is linearized about flat space, we find there is a long range gravitational force in addition to Newton's inverse square law. Furthermore, the cosmological sector of the theory exhibits late time acceleration, an early time bounce, and a post-bounce quasi-de Sitter "inflationary" phase of arbitrary duration (without an inflaton).</p>

# Yang-Mills conformal gravity

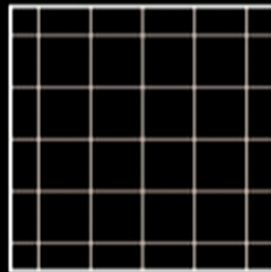
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in collaboration with:  
Jack Gegenberg and Shohreh Rahmati  
arXiv:1505.06058, arXiv:1605.06058

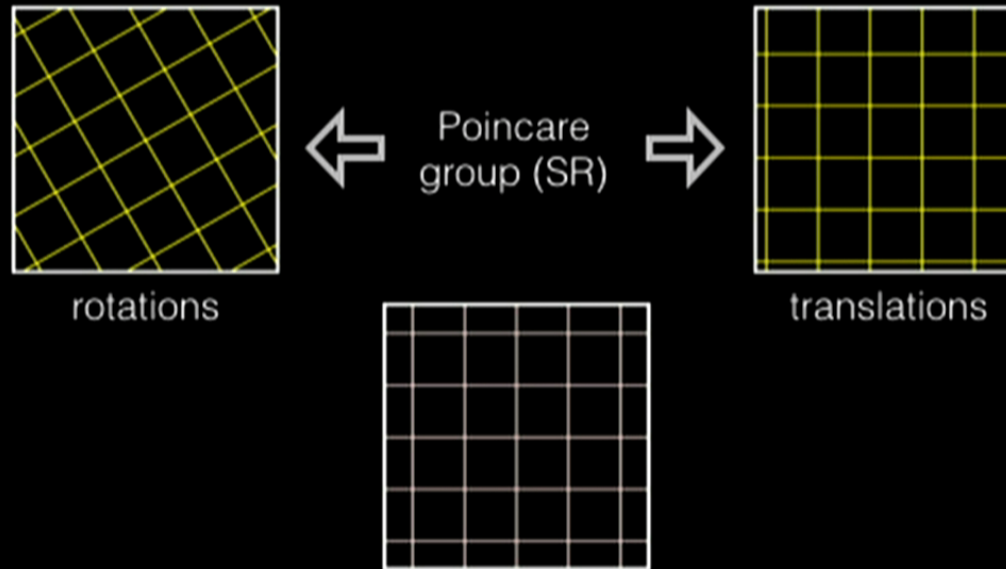
**special relativity (SR):** a theory of mechanics which respects the Lorentz symmetry of electromagnetism (EM)



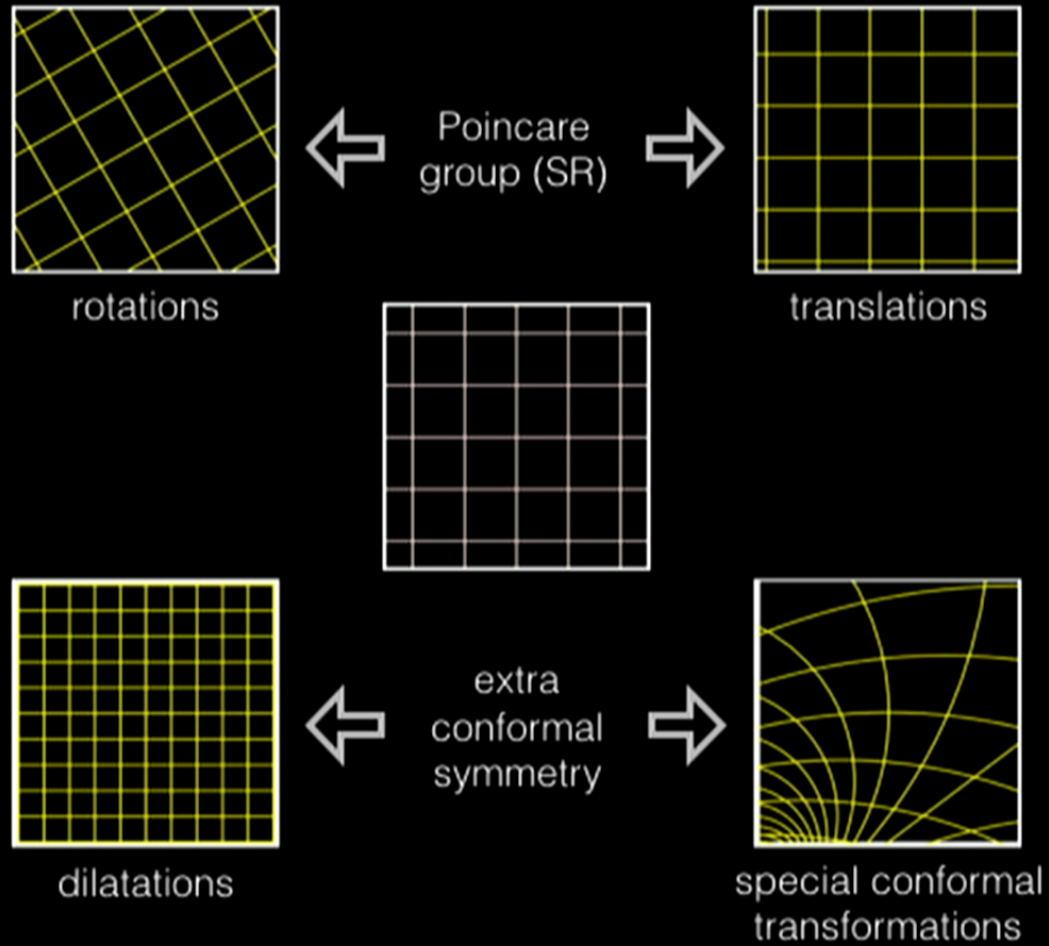
EM is invariant under the conformal group  $SO(4,2)$  made of:



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earliest conformal gravity proposal by Weyl  
(1918) as part of a unified gravity-EM theory:

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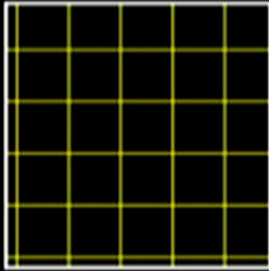
$$S = \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} C_{\alpha\beta\gamma\delta} C^{\alpha\beta\gamma\delta} + S_m$$

recently studied by Mannheim et al



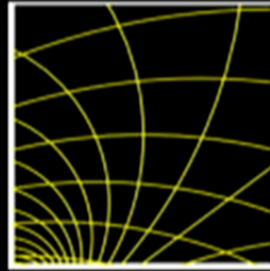
## another approach: Yang Mills (YM) gravity

4 generators:  $\mathbf{P}_a$



translations

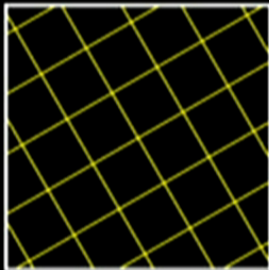
4 generators:  $\mathbf{K}_a$



special conformal transformations

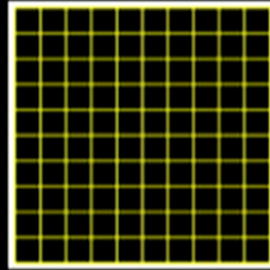
6 generators:

$$\mathbf{J}_{ab} = -\mathbf{J}_{ba}$$



rotations

1 generator:  $\mathbf{D}_a$



dilatations

$\text{SO}(4,2)$

use generators to form a vector potential:

$$\mathbf{A}_\alpha = A_\alpha^A \mathbf{J}_A = e_\alpha^a \mathbf{P}_a + l_\alpha^a \mathbf{K}_a + \omega_\alpha^{ab} \mathbf{J}_{ab} + q_\alpha \mathbf{D}$$

$$\mathbf{J}_A = \{\mathbf{P}_a, \mathbf{K}_a, \mathbf{J}_{ab}, \mathbf{D}\}$$

define field strength  $\mathbf{F}_{\alpha\beta} = F_{\alpha\beta}^A \mathbf{J}_A$   
of vector potential:

$$F_{\alpha\beta}^A = \partial_\alpha A_\beta^A - \partial_\beta A_\alpha^A + f^A_{BC} A_\alpha^B A_\beta^C$$

$$[\mathbf{J}_A, \mathbf{J}_B] = f^C_{AB} \mathbf{J}_C$$

write down YM action

$$S = -\frac{1}{2g_{\text{YM}}^2} \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} g^{\alpha\mu} g^{\beta\nu} h_{AB} F_{\alpha\beta}^A F_{\mu\nu}^B + S_m$$

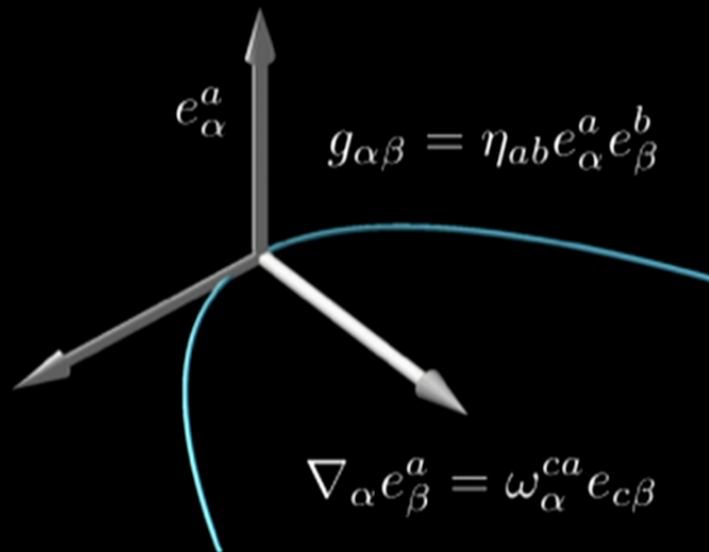
$$h_{AB} = \text{Tr}(\mathbf{J}_A \mathbf{J}_B) = f^M_{AN} f^N_{BM}$$

to obtain a theory of gravity: identify components of vector potential with geometric quantities on a 4-manifold

$$\mathbf{A}_\alpha = A_\alpha^A \mathbf{J}_A = e_\alpha^a \mathbf{P}_a + l_\alpha^a \mathbf{K}_a + \omega_\alpha^{ab} \mathbf{J}_{ab} + q_\alpha \mathbf{D}$$

$e_\alpha^a \rightarrow$  orthonormal frame

$\omega_\alpha^{ab} \rightarrow$  connection 1-forms



affine connection is metric compatible but not necessarily torsion-free

couple things to keep in mind:

$$S = -\frac{1}{2g_{\text{YM}}^2} \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} g^{\alpha\mu} g^{\beta\nu} h_{AB} F_{\alpha\beta}^A F_{\mu\nu}^B + S_m$$

the metric  $g = e^a \otimes e_a$  is an algebraic function of the gauge potential  $\mathbf{A}$ :

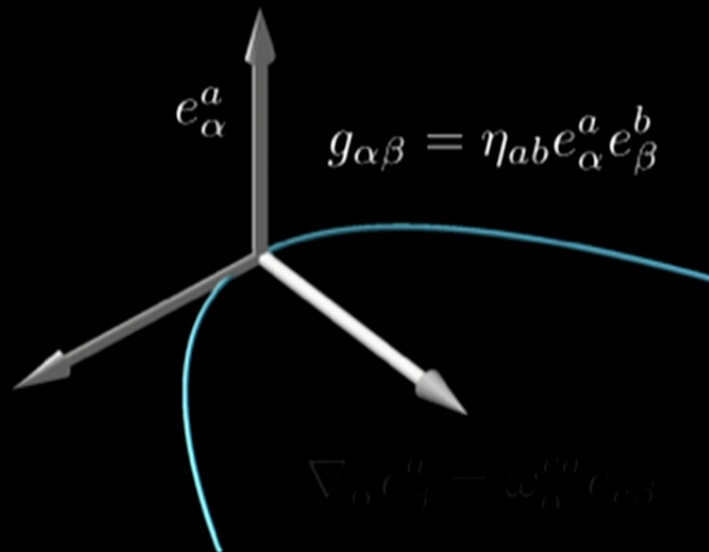
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a number of authors have considered gravity  
as a gauge theory with various groups:

gauge group	authors
Poincare	Utiyama (1956) Kibble (1961) Ivanov & Niederle (1982)
de Sitter	Townsend (1977) Ivanov & Niederle (1982) Huang et al (2008; 2009a,b; 2013a,b)
conformal	Mansouri (1979) Ivanov & Niederle (1982) Wheeler et al (1991;2014a,b)
other	MacDowell & Mansouri (1977)

decompose this current in terms of SO(4,2) generators:

$$j^{B\nu} \mathbf{J}_B = a^{a\nu} \mathbf{P}_a + b^{a\nu} \mathbf{K}_a + c^{ab\nu} \mathbf{J}_{ab} + d^\nu \mathbf{D}$$

$$b_{\alpha\beta} \propto \frac{1}{\sqrt{-g}} \frac{\delta(\sqrt{-g} \mathcal{L}_m)}{\delta g^{\alpha\beta}} \quad \text{"ordinary" stress tensor}$$

$$a_{\alpha\beta} \propto \frac{e_\beta^a}{\sqrt{-g}} \frac{\delta(\sqrt{-g} \mathcal{L}_m)}{\delta l^{a\alpha}}$$

$$c_{\alpha\beta\gamma} \propto \frac{e_\alpha^a e_\beta^b}{\sqrt{-g}} \frac{\delta(\sqrt{-g} \mathcal{L}_m)}{\delta \omega_\gamma^{ab}}$$

$$d_\alpha \propto \frac{1}{\sqrt{-g}} \frac{\delta(\sqrt{-g} \mathcal{L}_m)}{\delta q^\alpha}$$

these represent matter fields coupled to other components of the gauge potential

$$\mathbf{A}_\alpha = A_\alpha^A \mathbf{J}_A = e_\alpha^a \mathbf{P}_a + l_\alpha^a \mathbf{K}_a + \omega_\alpha^{ab} \mathbf{J}_{ab} + q_\alpha \mathbf{D}$$

with matter current defined the equations of motion are:

$$D_{\mu}F^{B\mu\nu} = k^{B\nu} + j^{B\nu}$$



with matter current defined the equations of motion are:

gauge covariant derivative

$$D_\mu F^{B\mu\nu} = \hat{\nabla}_\mu F^{B\mu\nu} + f^B_{CD} A^C_\mu F^{D\mu\nu}$$

matter current

$$D_\mu F^{B\mu\nu} = k^{B\nu} + j^{B\nu}$$

“source” due to dependence of metric on tetrad:

$$\propto F^{A\rho\mu} F^{B\sigma}_\mu - \frac{1}{4} g^{\rho\sigma} F^A_{\mu\nu} F^{B\mu\nu}$$

**second order field equations** for gauge potential  
that are complicated when expanded out

ordinary YM: action invariant under  
 $\delta A_\alpha^A = \partial_\alpha \epsilon^A + f^A_{BC} A_\alpha^B \epsilon^C$  with  
 $\epsilon^A \mathbf{J}_A = \epsilon^a \mathbf{P}_a + \lambda^a \mathbf{K}_a + \Lambda^{ab} \mathbf{J}_{ab} + \Omega \mathbf{D}$



$$S = -\frac{1}{2g_{\text{YM}}^2} \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} g^{\alpha\mu} g^{\beta\nu} h_{AB} F_{\alpha\beta}^A F_{\mu\nu}^B + S_m$$



YM gravity: since metric depends on  $\{e_\alpha^a\} \subset \{A_\alpha^A\}$ ,  
 $S$  invariant under transformations generated by

$$\epsilon^A \mathbf{J}_A = \lambda^a \mathbf{K}_a + \Lambda^{ab} \mathbf{J}_{ab} + \Omega \mathbf{D}$$

without loss of generality we can  
choose a gauge where  $q_\alpha = 0$

$$\mathbf{A}_\alpha = A_\alpha^A \mathbf{J}_A = e_\alpha^a \mathbf{P}_a + l_\alpha^a \mathbf{K}_a + \omega_\alpha^{ab} \mathbf{J}_{ab} + q_\alpha \mathbf{D}$$

equations of motion (after a partial gauge fixing):

$$a^{\alpha\nu} = \hat{\nabla}_\mu T^{\alpha\mu\nu} + R^{\alpha\nu} - \frac{1}{2}(f^{(\alpha\nu)} + \frac{1}{2}fg^{\alpha\nu})$$

$$b^{\alpha\nu} = \hat{\nabla}_\mu \theta^{\alpha\mu\nu} - f_{\lambda\mu} \Phi^{\alpha\lambda\mu\nu} - f^\alpha{}_\mu \mathcal{F}^{\mu\nu} - \frac{1}{2}\tau^{\alpha\nu}$$

$$c^{\alpha\beta\nu} = \hat{\nabla}_\mu \Phi^{\alpha\beta\mu\nu} + \frac{1}{2}\theta^{[\alpha\beta]\nu} - \frac{1}{2}f^{[\alpha|\mu|} T^{\beta]\nu}{}_\mu$$

$$d^\nu = (2\hat{\nabla}_\mu + \nabla_\mu) \mathcal{F}^{\mu\nu} + \frac{1}{2}\nabla_\mu (f^{(\mu\nu)} - g^{\mu\nu} f) + 2\mathcal{F}_{\mu\sigma} T^{[\sigma\mu]\nu}$$

fine print

$$R^{\mu\nu}{}_{\alpha\beta} = e_a^\mu e_b^\nu (d\omega^{ab} + \omega^{ac} \wedge \omega_c^b)_{\alpha\beta} = \text{Riemann tensor}$$

$$T^\alpha{}_{\beta\gamma} = e_a^\alpha (de^a + \omega^{ac} \wedge e_c)_{\beta\gamma} = 2\Gamma^\alpha{}_{[\beta\gamma]} = \text{torsion tensor}$$

$$\tau^{\rho\sigma} = h_{AB} (F^{A\rho\mu} F^{B\sigma}{}_\mu - \frac{1}{4}g^{\rho\sigma} F_{\mu\nu}^A F^{B\mu\nu})$$

$$f_{\alpha\beta} = \eta_{ab} e_\alpha^a e_\beta^b \quad \mathcal{F}_{\alpha\beta} = \frac{1}{2}f_{[\alpha\beta]}$$

$$\theta^{\mu\alpha\beta} = \nabla^\alpha f^{\mu\beta} - \nabla^\beta f^{\mu\alpha} + f^{\mu\sigma} T_\sigma{}^{\alpha\beta}$$

$$\Phi^{\alpha\beta\gamma\delta} = R^{\alpha\beta\gamma\delta} - \frac{1}{2}(g^{\gamma[\alpha} f^{\beta]\delta} - g^{\delta[\alpha} f^{\beta]\gamma})$$

$$\nabla_\alpha = \text{covariant derivative from affine connection } \Gamma^\alpha{}_{\beta\gamma}$$

$$\hat{\nabla}_\alpha = \text{Levi-Civita covariant derivative}$$

$$f_{\alpha\beta} = \eta_{ab} e^a_{(\alpha} e^b_{\beta)}$$

$\mathcal{F} = [ \quad ]$

linearize about Minkowski space with no matter:

$$g_{\alpha\beta} = \eta_{\alpha\beta} + h_{\alpha\beta} \quad H_{\alpha\beta} = h_{\alpha\beta} - \frac{1}{4}\eta_{\alpha\beta}h$$

assume torsion and some matter fields vanish at linear level:

$$c_{\alpha\beta\gamma} = 0 = d_{\alpha} \quad T^{\alpha}{}_{\beta\gamma} = 0$$

obtain Maxwell-Klein-Gordon-like equations:

$$\nabla^{[\alpha} \mathcal{F}^{\beta\nu]} = 0 \quad \nabla^{\alpha} \mathcal{F}_{\alpha\beta} = -\frac{1}{6}\nabla_{\beta}a \quad \square a = 0$$

plus fourth-order equation for metric perturbations:

$$-\frac{1}{4}\left(\frac{2}{3}\partial_{\alpha}\partial_{\beta}\partial^{\mu}\partial^{\nu}H_{\mu\nu} - 2\square\partial^{\nu}\partial_{(\alpha}H_{\beta)\nu} + \frac{1}{3}\eta_{\alpha\beta}\partial^{\mu}\partial^{\nu}\square H_{\mu\nu} + \square^2 H_{\alpha\beta}\right) = \frac{1}{2}\square a_{\alpha\beta}^{\text{TF}} + \frac{1}{4}b_{\alpha\beta} + \frac{1}{6}\partial_{\alpha}\partial_{\beta}a$$

"TF" = trace free

isn't fourth-order bad news (ghosts etc)?

$$-\frac{1}{4}\left(\frac{2}{3}\partial_\alpha\partial_\beta\partial^\mu\partial^\nu H_{\mu\nu} - 2\Box\partial^\nu\partial_{(\alpha}H_{\beta)\nu} + \frac{1}{3}\eta_{\alpha\beta}\partial^\mu\partial^\nu\Box H_{\mu\nu} + \Box^2 H_{\alpha\beta}\right) = \frac{1}{2}\Box a_{\alpha\beta}^{\text{TF}} + \frac{1}{4}b_{\alpha\beta} + \frac{1}{6}\partial_\alpha\partial_\beta a$$

recall field equations for gauge vector are second order:

$$D_\mu F^{B\mu\nu} = k^{B\nu} + j^{B\nu}$$

hence theory only looks fourth order  
when written in terms of the metric

[similar thing happens for  $f(R)$  gravity; c.f. Deser (2009)]

specialize to static sources and transverse gauge:



$$h_{\alpha\beta}^{\text{TF}}(\mathbf{r}) = \int d^3\mathbf{r}' \frac{a_{\alpha\beta}^{\text{TF}}(\mathbf{r}')}{2\pi|\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}'|} + \int d^3\mathbf{r}' \frac{|\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}'|}{8\pi} b_{\alpha\beta}(\mathbf{r}')$$

inverse square law

long range gravitational force



action: 
$$S = -\frac{1}{2g_{\text{YM}}^2} \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} g^{\alpha\mu} g^{\beta\nu} h_{AB} F_{\alpha\beta}^A F_{\mu\nu}^B + S_m$$

DOFs: 
$$\mathbf{A}_\alpha = A_\alpha^A \mathbf{J}_A = e_\alpha^a \mathbf{P}_a + l_\alpha^a \mathbf{K}_a + \omega_\alpha^{ab} \mathbf{J}_{ab} + q_\alpha \mathbf{D}$$

full EOMs pretty complicated, let's simplify things:

gauge choice (without loss of generality):	$q_\alpha = 0$
no torsion assumption (gauge invariant):	$de^a + \omega^{ac} \wedge e_c = 0$
technical assumption (gauge invariant):	$\eta_{ab}(e_\alpha^a l_\beta^b - e_\beta^a l_\alpha^b) = 0$
matter action:	$S_m = S_m[g_{\alpha\beta}, l_\alpha^a, \psi]$

EOMs now less complicated:

$$\begin{aligned}
 0 &= B^{\alpha\nu} + \frac{1}{16}g_{\text{YM}}^2 T^{\alpha\nu} - \nabla_{\mu} \nabla^{[\nu} \bar{a}^{\mu]\alpha} - Q^{\alpha\nu} \\
 0 &= \nabla^{\alpha} a_{\alpha\beta} \\
 0 &= g^{\mu\nu} \nabla_{\beta} a_{\mu\nu} \qquad \bar{a}_{\alpha\beta} = a_{\alpha\beta} - \frac{1}{6}g_{\alpha\beta} a
 \end{aligned}$$

$B^{\mu\nu}$  = Bach tensor involving fourth order metric derivatives

$$T_{\mu\nu} = -\frac{2}{\sqrt{-g}} \frac{\delta(\sqrt{-g}\mathcal{L}_m)}{\delta g^{\mu\nu}} = \text{familiar stress energy tensor}$$

$$a^{\mu\nu} = \frac{g_{\text{YM}}^2}{4\sqrt{-g}} \frac{\delta(\sqrt{-g}\mathcal{L}_m)}{\delta l_{\nu}^b} e^{b\mu} = \text{coupling of matter to } l_{\alpha}^a$$

$Q^{\mu\nu}$  = tensor quadratic in Ricci, Weyl and  $a_{\mu\nu}$  tensors

EOMs now less complicated:

$$0 = B^{\alpha\nu} + \frac{1}{16}g_{\text{YM}}^2 T^{\alpha\nu} - \nabla_{\mu} \nabla^{[\nu} \bar{a}^{\mu]\alpha} - Q^{\alpha\nu}$$

$$0 = \nabla^{\alpha} a_{\alpha\beta}$$

$$0 = g^{\mu\nu} \nabla_{\beta} a_{\mu\nu}$$

residual symmetries:

local conformal  
transformations

$$(\delta g_{\alpha\beta} = \epsilon g_{\alpha\beta})$$

diffeomorphisms

$$(\delta g_{\alpha\beta} = \mathcal{L}_{\zeta} g_{\alpha\beta})$$

assume cosmological symmetries (isotropy and homogeneity) and FRW metric ansatz:

$$ds^2 = -dt^2 + A^2(t) \left( \frac{dr^2}{1 - kr_0^2/r^2} + r^2 d\theta^2 + r^2 \sin^2 \theta d\phi^2 \right)$$

tensor characterizing exotic matter couplings must take form consistent with symmetries:

$$a^{\mu\nu} = \frac{g_{\text{YM}}^2}{4\sqrt{-g}} \frac{\delta(\sqrt{-g}\mathcal{L}_m)}{\delta l_\nu^b} e^{b\mu} = [\xi_1(t) + \xi_2(t)] u^\mu u^\nu + \xi_2(t) g^{\mu\nu}$$

$$a^{\mu\nu} = \frac{g_{\text{YM}}^2}{4\sqrt{-g}} \frac{\delta(\sqrt{-g}\mathcal{L}_m)}{\delta l_\nu^b} e^{b\mu} = -\frac{4}{3} \frac{\Pi}{A^4(t)} \left( u^\mu u^\nu + \frac{1}{4} g^{\mu\nu} \right) + \Lambda g_{\mu\nu}$$

assume ordinary matter is dust and radiation:

$$T_{\mu\nu} = -\frac{2}{\sqrt{-g}} \frac{\delta(\sqrt{-g}\mathcal{L}_m)}{\delta g^{\mu\nu}} = T_{\mu\nu}^{(m)} + T_{\mu\nu}^{(r)}$$

remaining EOMs lead to an effective Friedmann equation:

$$H^2 = \frac{\dot{A}^2}{A^2} = \frac{g_{\text{YM}}^2}{8} \left( \frac{\rho_m + \rho_r}{\Lambda + \frac{\Pi}{A^4}} \right) - \frac{k}{r_0^2 A^2} + \frac{\Lambda}{3} - \frac{\Pi}{3A^4}$$

“wrong sign”  
dark radiation

pretty  
nonstandard

dark  
energy

late time limit of Friedmann equation  $A \gg (\Pi/\Lambda)^{1/4}$ :

$$H^2 \approx \frac{\rho_m + \rho_r}{3M_{\text{Pl}}^2} - \frac{k}{r_0^2 A^2} + \frac{\Lambda}{3}$$

where we made the identification  $M_{\text{Pl}}^2 = 8\Lambda/3g_{\text{YM}}^2$

can rewrite the Friedmann equation with a time dependent Newton's constant:

$$H^2 = \frac{8\pi G_{\text{eff}}(A)}{3} (\rho_{\text{m}} + \rho_{\text{r}}) - \frac{k}{r_0^2 A^2} + \frac{\Lambda}{3} - \frac{\Pi}{3A^4}$$

$$G_{\text{eff}}(A) = \frac{3g_{\text{YM}}^2}{64\pi} \left( \frac{A^4}{\Lambda A^4 + \Pi} \right) = \frac{1}{8\pi M_{\text{Pl}}^2} \left( \frac{A^4}{A^4 + \Pi/\Lambda} \right)$$



in the early time limit...

this must be positive

dominates and diverges to negative infinity

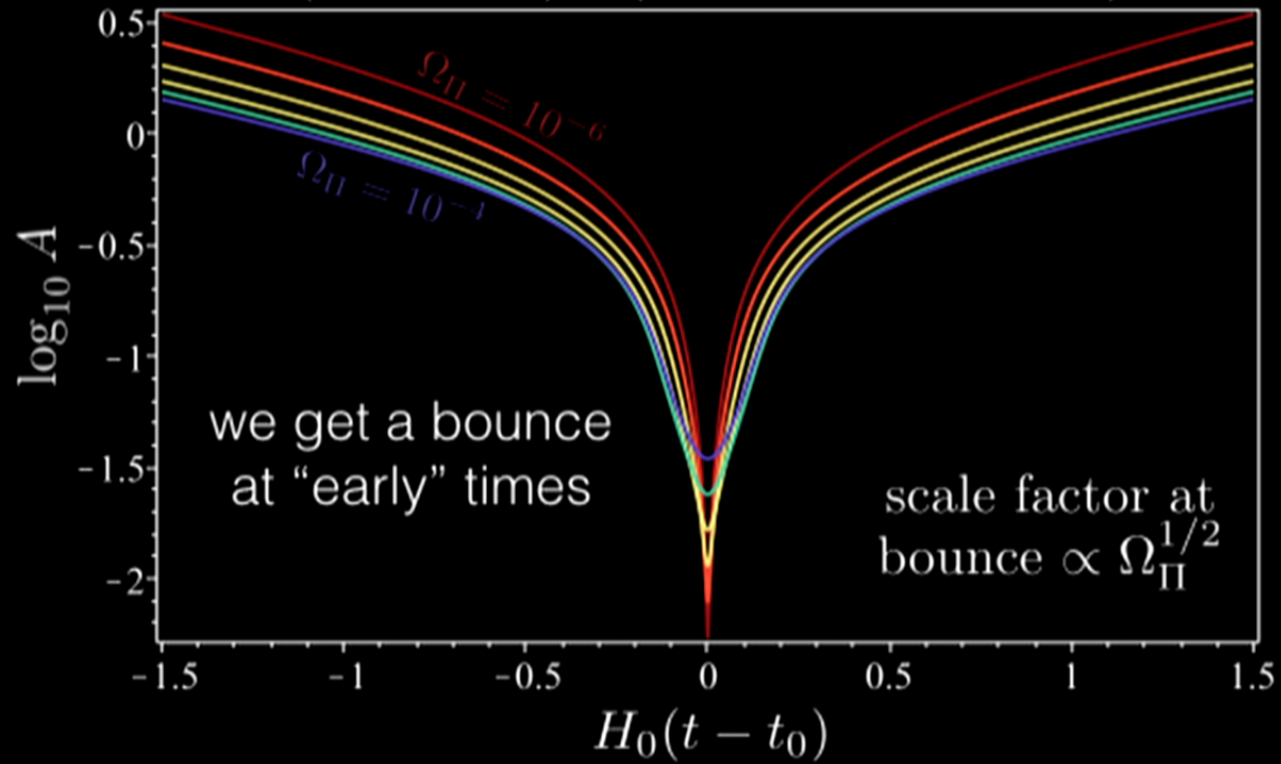
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approximately constant due to screening

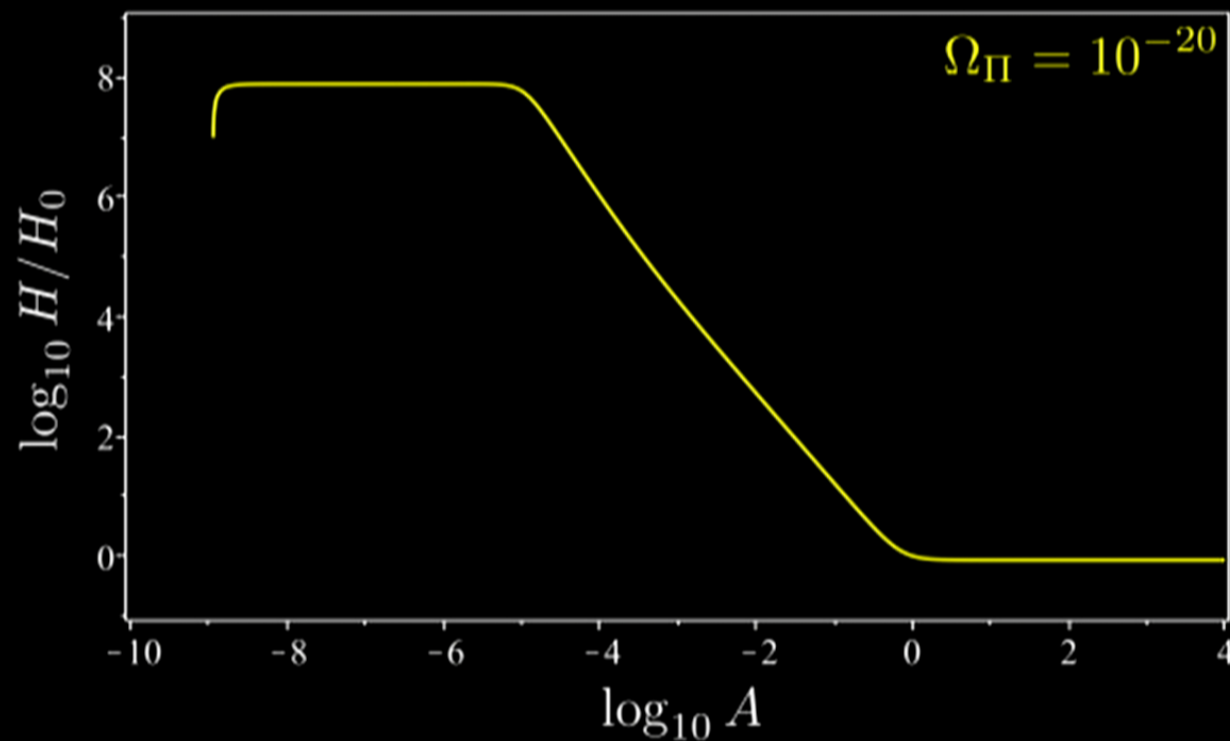
range of scale factors near zero are forbidden  $\Rightarrow$   
there must be a cosmological bounce or  
Einstein-static past attractor

# simulation results

$$(\Omega_m, \Omega_r, \Omega_\Lambda) = (0.27, 8.24 \times 10^{-5}, 0.73)$$

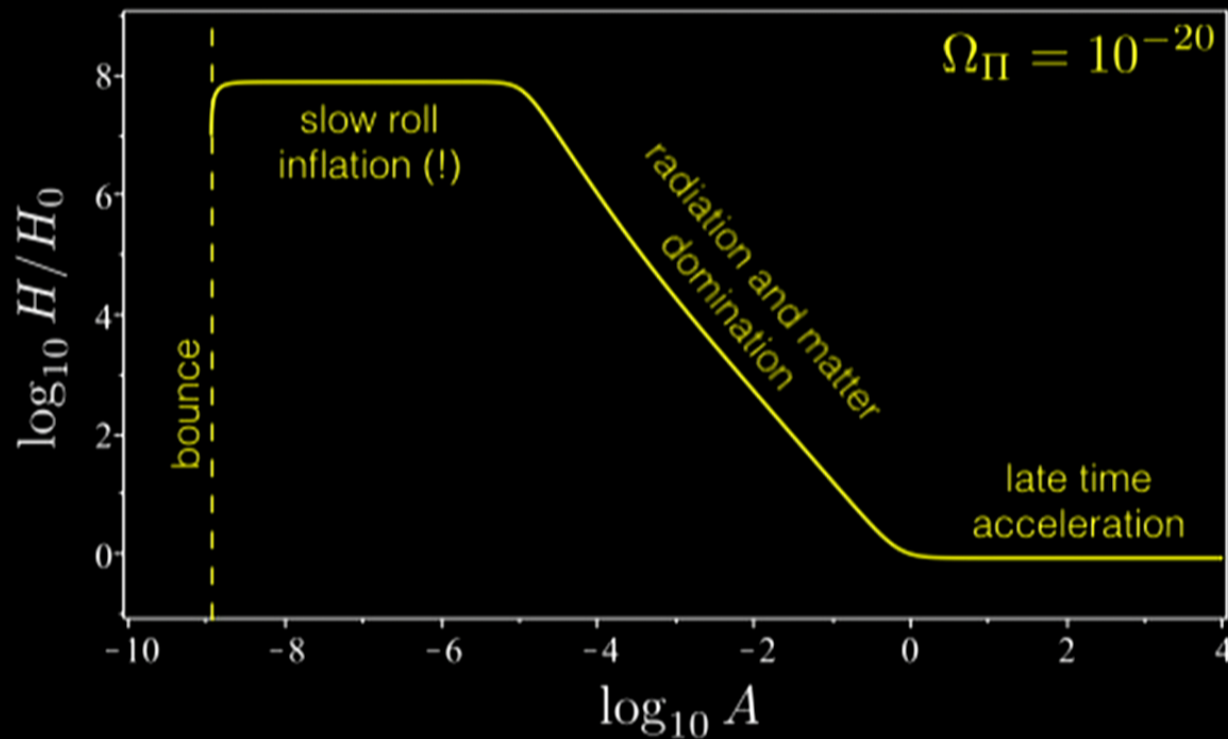


after any cosmological bounce there is an  
“inflationary period” of accelerated expansion



we can see what kind of inflation is in our  
model by plotting the Hubble factor

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quasi-de Sitter phase occurs when:

$$H^2 = \frac{\dot{A}^2}{A^2} = \frac{g_{\text{YM}}^2}{8} \left( \frac{\rho_{\text{m}} + \rho_{\text{r}}}{\Lambda + \frac{\Pi}{A^4}} \right) - \frac{k}{r_0^2 A^2} + \frac{\Lambda}{3} - \frac{\Pi}{3A^4}$$

quasi-de Sitter phase occurs when:

$$\rho_r \gg \rho_m \text{ and } \Pi \gg \Lambda A^4$$

these are small

$$H^2 = \frac{\dot{A}^2}{A^2} = \frac{g_{\text{YM}}^2}{8} \underbrace{\left( \frac{\rho_m + \rho_r}{\Lambda + \frac{\Pi}{A^4}} \right)}_{\sim \text{constant}} - \frac{k}{r_0^2 A^2} + \frac{\Lambda}{3} - \frac{\Pi}{3A^4}$$

condition for inflation:

$$\frac{\Pi^2}{g_{\text{YM}}^2 \rho_{r,0}} \ll A^4 \ll \frac{\Pi}{\Lambda}$$

how much inflation?

$$e\text{-folds of inflation} = \ln \frac{A_{\text{end}}}{A_{\text{start}}} \sim 66 - \frac{1}{4} \ln \frac{\Omega_{\Pi}}{g_{\text{YM}}^2}$$

what's the inflationary energy scale?

$$E_{\text{inf}} \sim 5 \times 10^{17} \text{ GeV} \left( \frac{\Omega_{\Pi}}{g_{\text{YM}}^2} \right)^{-1/4}$$

what's the Yang-Mills coupling?

$$g_{\text{YM}}^2 = \frac{8}{3} \frac{\Lambda}{M_{\text{Pl}}^2} \sim 10^{-120}$$

[using observational values for usual cosmological parameters]

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[using observational values for usual cosmological parameters]



in cosmological case we found:

$$a^{\mu\nu} = \frac{g_{\text{YM}}^2}{4\sqrt{-g}} \frac{\delta(\sqrt{-g}\mathcal{L}_m)}{\delta l_\nu^b} e^{b\mu} = -\frac{4}{3} \frac{\Pi}{A^4(t)} \left( u^\mu u^\nu + \frac{1}{4} g^{\mu\nu} \right) + \Lambda g_{\mu\nu}$$



this term was crucial for recovering  
Newton's constant and correct late  
time limit in Friedmann equation

add  $a_{\mu\nu} = \Lambda g_{\mu\nu}$  to our previous assumptions:

gauge choice (without loss of generality):	$q_\alpha = 0$
no torsion assumption (gauge invariant):	$de^a + \omega^{ac} \wedge e_c = 0$
technical assumption (gauge invariant):	$\eta_{ab}(e_\alpha^a l_\beta^b - e_\beta^a l_\alpha^b) = 0$
matter action:	$S_m = S_m[g_{\alpha\beta}, l_\alpha^a, \psi]$

$$G_{\alpha\beta} + \Lambda g_{\alpha\beta} - \frac{3}{4\Lambda} (8B_{\alpha\beta} + g_{\alpha\beta} C^2 - 4C_{\mu\nu\rho\alpha} C^{\mu\nu\rho}_{\beta}) = \frac{3g_{\text{YM}}^2}{8\Lambda} T_{\alpha\beta}$$

$G_{\alpha\beta}$  = Einstein tensor

$B_{\alpha\beta}$  = Bach tensor

$C_{\alpha\beta\gamma\delta}$  = Weyl tensor

Schwarzschild de-Sitter is a solution:

$$ds^2 = -f dt^2 + \frac{dr^2}{f} + r^2 d\Omega^2 \quad f = 1 - \frac{r_0}{r} - \frac{\Lambda r^2}{3}$$

possible consistency with solar system tests, but probable deviations from GR in gravitational wave dynamics

- looked at Yang-Mills gravity based on the conformal  $SO(4,2)$  group
- linear theory about Minkowski space exhibits a long range gravitational force
- cosmological solutions exhibit a bounce, long-lived quasi-de Sitter inflation, and late time acceleration
- like Lambda-CDM, no explanation of why the observed cosmological constant is so small in Planck units
- next steps: classical and quantum cosmological perturbations, including torsion, linear theory about de Sitter backgrounds, gravitational waves...

$$G_{\alpha\beta} + \Lambda g_{\alpha\beta} - \frac{3}{4\Lambda} (8B_{\alpha\beta} + g_{\alpha\beta}C^2 - 4C_{\mu\nu\rho\alpha}C^{\mu\nu\rho}{}_{\beta}) = \frac{3g_{\text{YM}}^2}{8\Lambda}T_{\alpha\beta}$$

$G_{\alpha\beta}$  = Einstein tensor

$B_{\alpha\beta}$  = Bach tensor

$C_{\alpha\beta\gamma\delta}$  = Weyl tensor