

# Repulsive Vacuum Forces and GR Alternative Cosmologies

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# Outline

- On Einstein's Cosmological Constant

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- The Sign of the Vacuum Forces
- Repulsion from Higher Dimensions and BCs
- Emergent GR and Effective Cosmologies
- With THANKS to:

S Carloni, G Cognola, J Haro, S Nojiri, S Odintsov,  
D Sáez-Gómez, A Saharian, P Silva, S Zerbini,  
and several more ...

# On Einstein's Cosmological Constant

Our universe seems to be spatially flat and to possess a non-vanishing  $\Lambda$

- For cosmologists and general relativists: a great mistake (Einstein)

$$R_{\mu\nu} - \frac{1}{2}g_{\mu\nu}R = -(8\pi G/c^4)T_{\mu\nu} + \Lambda g_{\mu\nu}$$

- For elementary particle physicists: a great embarrassment  
no way to get rid off (Coleman, Weinberg, Polchinski)

- The  $\Lambda$  is indeed a peculiar quantity

- has to do with cosmology Einstein's eqs., FRW universe
- has to do with the local structure of elementary particle physics  
stress-energy density  $\mu$  of the vacuum

$$L_{\Lambda} = \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} \mu^{\Lambda} = \frac{1}{8\pi G} \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} \Lambda$$

In other words: two contributions on the same footing (Pauli 20s, Zel'dovich '68)

$$\frac{\Lambda c^2}{8\pi G} + \frac{1}{\text{Vol}} \frac{\hbar c}{2} \sum_i \omega_i$$



# Einstein Eqs, FLRW Sol, Hubble Const

Einstein Equations (1915-17):  $G_{\mu\nu} - \lambda g_{\mu\nu} = -(8\pi G/c^4)T_{\mu\nu}$

Geometry = Energy-Matter

$G_{\mu\nu}$  linear combination of the metric  $g_{\mu\nu}$  and 1st & 2nd derivatives

$T_{\mu\nu}$  energy-momentum tensor

$$R_{\mu\nu} - \frac{1}{2}g_{\mu\nu}R = -(8\pi G/c^4)T_{\mu\nu} + \lambda g_{\mu\nu}$$

Schwarzschild solution (1916)

$r, \theta, \varphi$  comoving co

$$ds^2 = \left(1 - \frac{2MG}{r}\right) dt^2 - \left(1 - \frac{2MG}{r}\right)^{-1} dr^2 - r^2 d\theta^2 - r^2 \sin^2 \theta d\varphi^2$$

Friedmann-Lemaître-Robertson-Walker (1935-36) solut (A. Friedmann 1922)

$$ds^2 = dt^2 - a^2(t) \left( \frac{dr^2}{1 - kr^2} + r^2 d\theta^2 + r^2 \sin^2 \theta d\varphi^2 \right)$$

gen fam: *homog + isotrop*,  $k$  par  $\pm 1, 0$  Keeler/Slipher/Campbell 1918, Hubble ea 1923-29

One field eq looks like Newtonian eq for the gravit pot:  $\nabla^2 \phi = 4\pi G (\rho + 3p/c^2)$

density & pressure contribute to the gravit pot  $\lambda = 8\pi G \rho_{vac}$ ,  $p_{vac} = -\rho_{vac} c^2$

From the FRW metric and Einstein Eqs, an “equation of motion” of the universe

$$H^2 \equiv \left(\frac{\dot{a}}{a}\right)^2 = \frac{8\pi G}{3}\rho + \frac{\lambda}{3} - \frac{k}{a^2}$$

# From GR to Cosmology

With the definitions:

$$\Omega_m \equiv \frac{8\pi G}{3H^2} \rho_m, \quad \Omega_\lambda \equiv \frac{\lambda}{3H^2}, \quad \Omega_k \equiv -\frac{k}{H^2}$$

The equation of motion becomes

$$\left(\frac{da}{dt}\right)^2 = H_0^2 \left[ \frac{\Omega_m^{(0)}}{a} + a^2 \Omega_\lambda^{(0)} + \Omega_k^{(0)} \right]$$

(the superscript (o) represents quantities measured at the present time)

In other terms, **Friedmann equation in Cosmology:**

$$\frac{\dot{a}^2}{a^2} = H_0^2 \left[ \Omega_R \left(\frac{a_0}{a}\right)^4 + \Omega_{NR} \left(\frac{a_0}{a}\right)^3 + \Omega_k \left(\frac{a_0}{a}\right)^2 + \Omega_\lambda \right]$$

$\Omega_R$  relativistic matter ( $p_R = \frac{1}{3}\rho_R$ ;  $\rho_R \propto a^{-4}$ ) **Mach's princ** [Wilczek PT Ap04]

$\Omega_{NR}$  nonrelativistic matter ( $p_{NR} = 0$ ;  $\rho_{NR} \propto a^{-3}$ )

$\Omega_\lambda$  cosmological constant ( $p_\lambda = -\rho_\lambda$ ;  $\rho_\lambda = \text{const}$ )

$\Omega = \Omega_R + \Omega_{NR} + \Omega_\lambda$  total energy density (**cosmic triangle**)

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**QFT** vacuum to vacuum transition:  $\langle 0|H|0\rangle$

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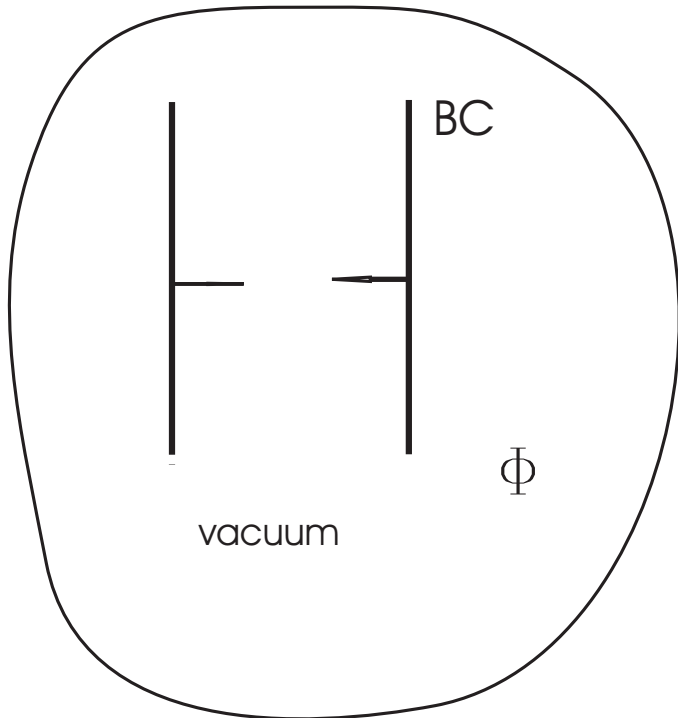
Even then: Has the final value real sense ?



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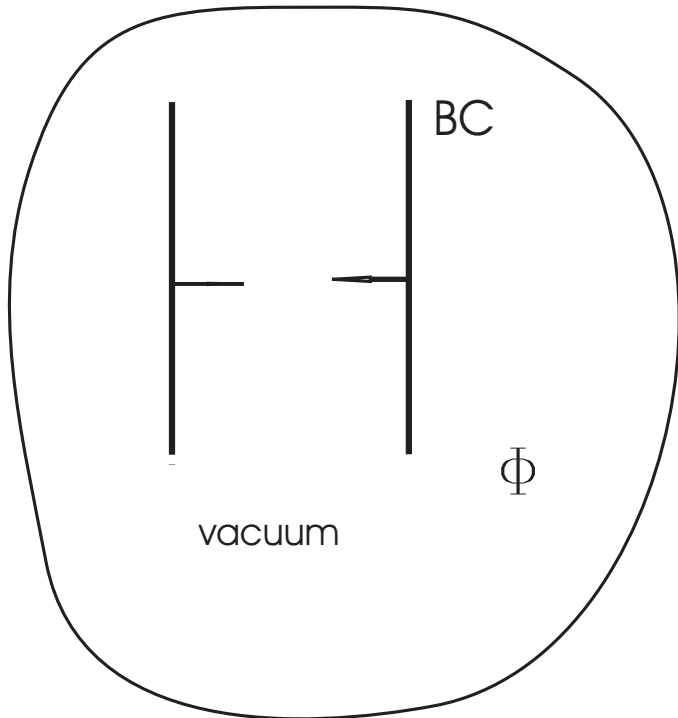
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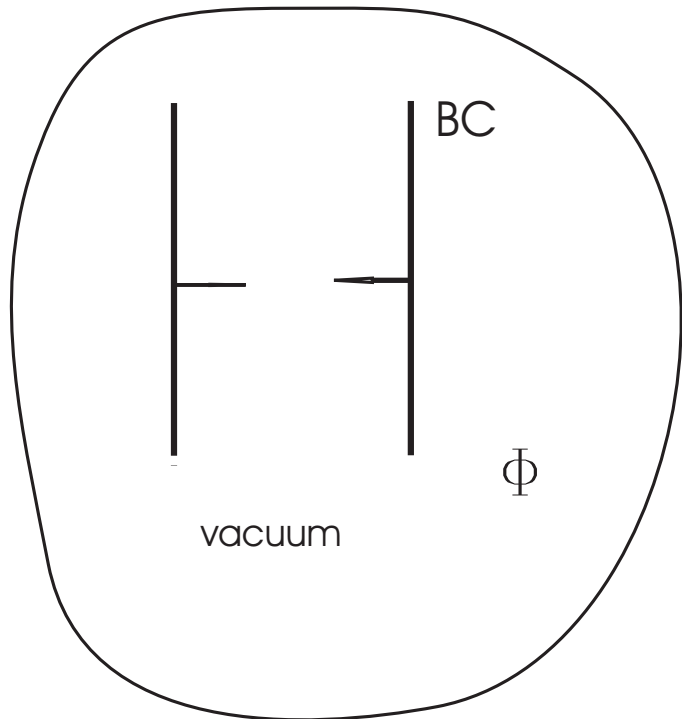
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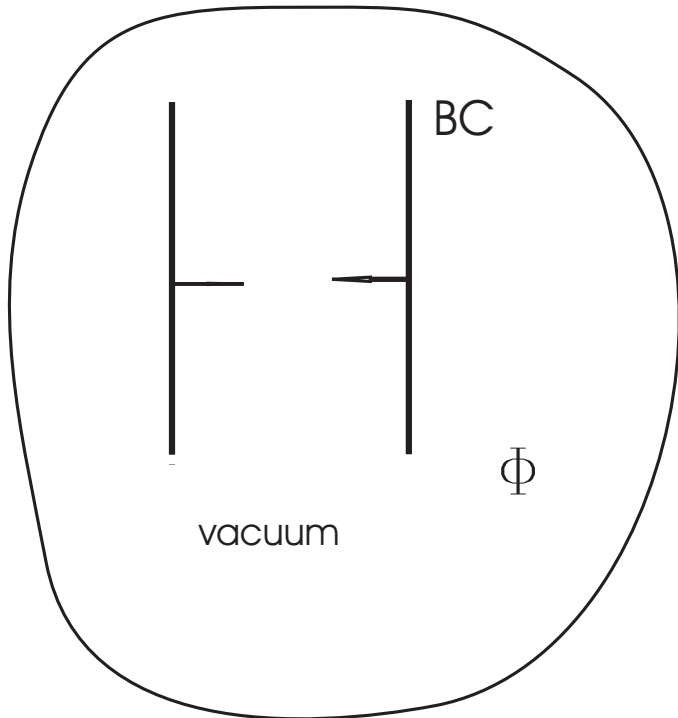
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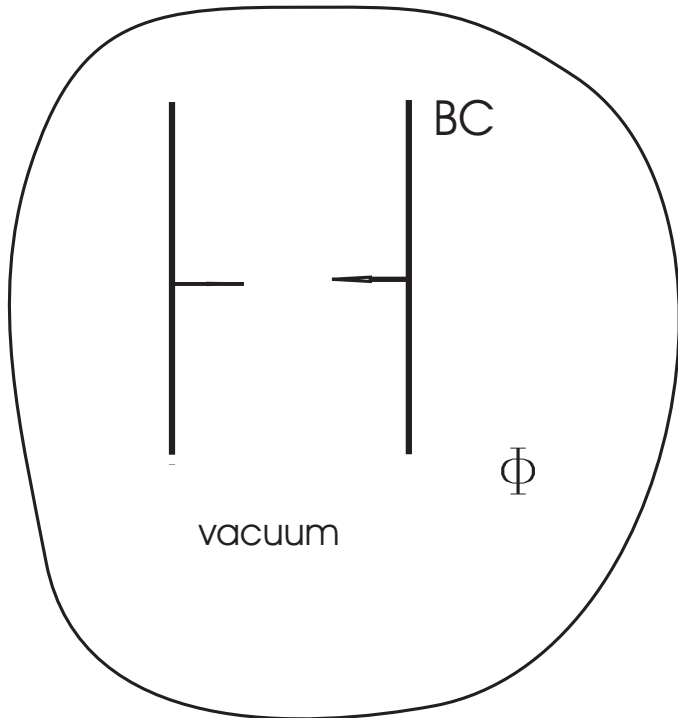
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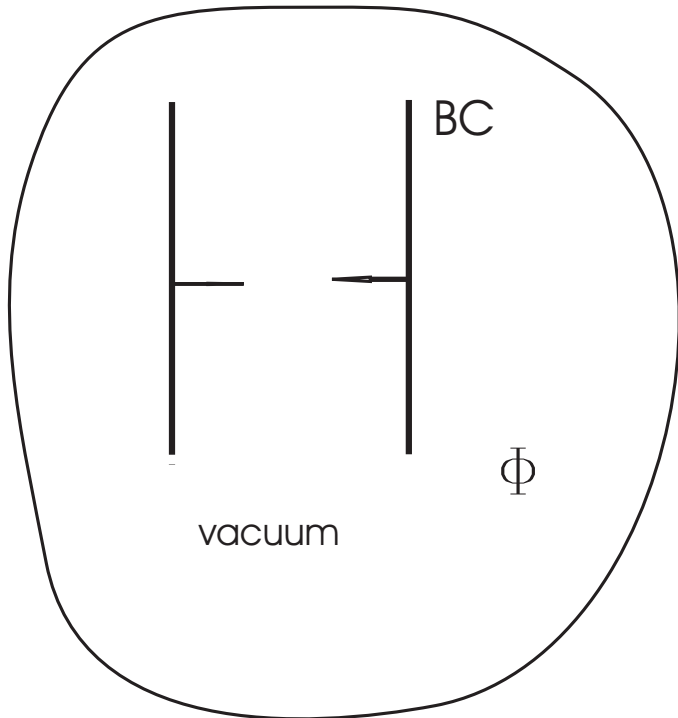
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Universal process:

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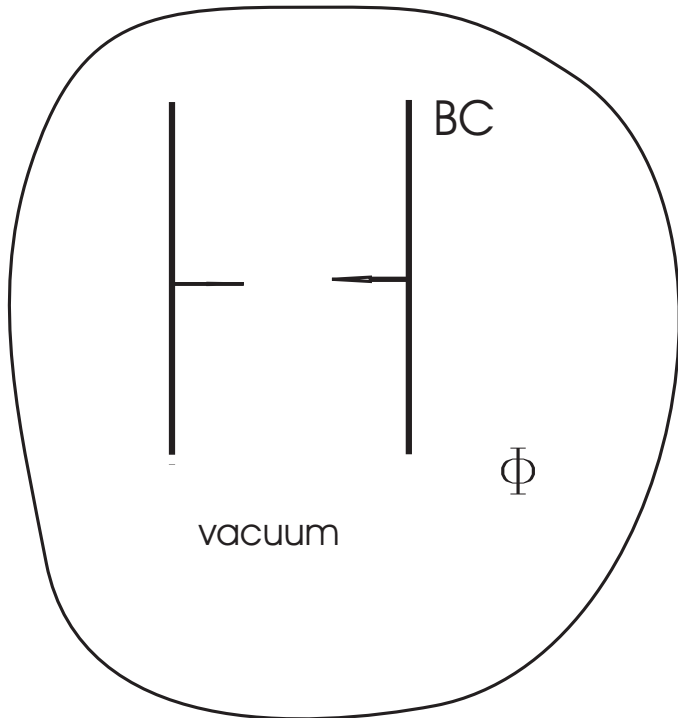
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- Dynamical CE
- Lateral CE
- Extract energy from vacuum
- CE and the cosmological constant  $\Leftarrow$



# Quantum Vacuum Fluct's & the CC

● The main issue: [S.A. Fulling et. al., hep-th/070209](#)

energy **ALWAYS** gravitates, **therefore** the energy density of the vacuum, **more precisely**, the vacuum expectation value of the stress-energy tensor

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- **Idea**: zero point fluctuations can contribute to the **cosmological constant** **Pauli 20s, Zeldovich '68**

# CC PROBLEM

- Relativistic field: collection of harmonic oscill's (scalar field)

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- What we **do consider** —with relative success in some different approaches— is the **additional** contribution to the cc coming from the **non-trivial topology** of space or from specific **boundary conditions** imposed on braneworld models:

$\implies$  **kind of cosmological Casimir effect**

# Cosmo-Topol Casimir Eff't & Alternat's

- A. Assuming one is able to prove that the ground value of the cc is zero [Dolgov 1983; Ford 1987, 2002; Tsamis & Woodard 1998]  
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- B. Other alternatives: (i) L Faddeev 0911.0282 (Adler '82)  
Newton const in E-H Lag has dim of mass → non-renormalizability  
Describe gravity by vector field (as Higgs mechanism)  
(ii) Porto & Zee 0910.3716 Dynamical critical behavior of gravity in euIR sector and a mechanism to relax the cc. Also Shapiro+Sola, ...



## More recent alternatives (a sample)

- (iii) E Mottola 1006.3567 Effective field theory approach
  - Casimir effect in flat s-t and large quantum backreaction are effects at the horizon scale of cosmological s-t
  - imply the cosmological VE is dynamical
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- (iv) T Padmanabhan Ad Sci Lett 2 74 09 cc problem and explaining DE independent issues: first find mechanism to make the cc vanish
  - new degrees of freedom, kind of ‘gauge freedom’
    - to absorb any  $\lambda$  while maintaining general covariance
  - could succeed in making gravity decouple from the bulk VE
  - emergent gravity approach: thermodynamic description is far more general than just Einstein theory
  - observed cc should be a relic of quantum gravitational physics and arise from degrees of freedom which scale as the surface area
  - numerics:  $L_\Lambda/L_P \sim \exp \sqrt{2} \pi^4 \sim 10^{60}$  (hierarchy squared)  $\sim 10^{61}$

- (v) Shao & Chen 1005.1920 no attempt at explaining the old cc prob
  - an extremely small quantum correction can in fact be produced quite naturally from a massive bulk field, introducing a massive bulk fermion
  - naturally as superpartner of the radion field in a SUSY theory (especially the string theory realization) of brane-world scenario
  - in particle physics Grossman and Neubert used a massive bulk fermion to understand the neutrino mass hierarchy
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- (vi) [JA Dixon 1006.2334](#) CyberSUSY solves the cc problem
  - a new mechanism for SUSY breaking
  - its realization mixes elementary and composite states
  - SUSY anomalies present, generates spectrum for SUSY breaking consistent with known particles
  - no cc generated, because SUSY is not spontaneously broken ...

# The Braneworld Case

1. Braneworld may help to solve:

- the hierarchy problem
- the cosmological constant problem

2. Presumably, the bulk Casimir effect will play a role in the construction (radion stabilization) of braneworlds [A Flachi]

- Bulk Casimir effect (effective potential) for a conformal or massive scalar field
- Bulk is a 5-dim AdS or dS space with 2/1 4-dim dS brane (our universe)
- Consistent with observational data even for relatively large extra dimension

Previous work:

- flat space brane
- bulk conformal scalar field
- conclusion: no CE

We used **zeta regularization** at full power, with **positive** results!

EE, Nojiri, Odintsov, Ogushi, PRD67(2003)063515, hep-th/0209242 *Casimir effect in de Sitter and Anti-de Sitter braneworlds* EE, Odintsov, Saharian PRD79(2009)065023, 0902.0717 *Repulsive Casimir effect from extra dimensions and Robin BC: from branes to pistons*

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- Possibly not relevant at lab scales, but very important for cosmological models

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- Casimir calculation: **attractive** force
- Boyer got **repulsion** [TH, *Phys Rev*, 174 (1968)] for a spherical shell. It is a special case requiring stringent material properties of the sphere and a perfect geometry and BC
- Systematic calculation, for different fields, BCs, and dimensions  
**J Ambjørn, S Wolfram, Ann Phys NY 147, 1 (1983)**      **attract, repuls**
- Possibly not relevant at lab scales, but very important for cosmological models
- More general results:      **Kenneth, Klich, PRL 97, 160401 (2006)**  
a mirror pair of dielectric bodies always attract each other  
**CP Bachas, J Phys A40, 9089 (2007)** from a general property of  
Euclidean QFT '**reflection positivity**' (Osterwalder - Schrader 73, 75):  
∃ of positive Hilbert space and self-adjoint non-negative Hamiltonian

- E.g.  $\exists$  correlation inequality:  $\langle f\Theta(f) \rangle > 0$   
 $\Theta$  reflection with respect to a 3-dim hyperplane in  $R^4$   
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  - Robin BCs in general  $\Leftarrow$

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- Quantum scalar field with Robin BCs on boundary of cavity violates Bekenstein's entropy-to-energy bound near certain points in the space of the parameter defining the boundary condition [Solodukhin 01]

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For arbitrary internal space, **interaction part of the Casimir energy** given by

$$\Delta E_{[a_1, a_2]} = \frac{(4\pi)^{-D_1/2}}{\Gamma(D_1/2)} \sum_{\beta} \int_{m_{\beta}}^{\infty} dx x (x^2 - m_{\beta}^2)^{D_1/2-1} \times \ln \left[ 1 - \frac{(\beta_1 x + 1)(\beta_2 x + 1)}{(\beta_1 x - 1)(\beta_2 x - 1)} e^{-2ax} \right] \quad (*)$$

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For **Dirichlet and Neumann** BCs on **both plates** this leads to

$$\Delta E_{[a_1, a_2]}^{(J, J)} = - \frac{2a^{-D_1}}{(8\pi)^{(D_1+1)/2}} \sum_{\beta} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{f_{(D_1+1)/2}(2nam_{\beta})}{n^{D_1+1}}$$

with  $f_{\nu}(z) = z^{\nu} K_{\nu}(z)$   $\longrightarrow$  energy **always negative**

For **Dirichlet BC on one plate** and **Neumann on the other**, the interaction component of the vacuum energy is

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta E_{[a_1, a_2]}^{(D, N)} &= \frac{(4\pi)^{-D_1/2} a}{\Gamma(D_1/2 + 1)} \sum_{\beta} \int_{m_{\beta}}^{\infty} dx \frac{(x^2 - m_{\beta}^2)^{D_1/2}}{e^{2ax} + 1} \\ &= \frac{2a^{-D_1}}{(8\pi)^{(D_1+1)/2}} \sum_{\beta} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{f_{(D_1+1)/2}(2nam_{\beta})}{(-1)^{n+1} n^{D_1+1}} \end{aligned}$$

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In the case of a **conformally coupled** massless field on the background of a spacetime conformally related to the one described by the line element

$$ds^2 = g_{MN} dx^M dx^N = \eta_{\mu\nu} dx^{\mu} dx^{\nu} - \gamma_{il} dX^i dX^l$$

$\eta_{\mu\nu} = \text{diag}(1, -1, \dots, -1)$  metric of  $(D_1 + 1)$ -dim Minkowski st and  $X^i$  coordinates of  $\Sigma$ , with the conformal factor  $\Omega^2(x^{D_1})$ . Interaction part of Casimir energy is given (\*), with coeffs  $\beta_j$  related to coeffs of the Robin BCs

$$(1 + \bar{\beta}_j n^M \nabla_M) \bar{\varphi}(x) = [1 + (-1)^{j-1} \Omega_j^{-1} \bar{\beta}_j \partial_{D_1}] \bar{\varphi}(x) = 0, \quad \Omega_j = \Omega(x_j^{D_1})$$

& conformal factor  $\beta_j = \left[ \Omega_j + (-1)^j \frac{D-1}{2\Omega_j} \bar{\beta}_j \Omega'_j \right]^{-1} \bar{\beta}_j, \quad \Omega'_j = \Omega'_j(x_j^{D_1})$

In **Randall-Sundrum 2-brane model** with compact internal space, the Robin coefficients are  $\bar{\beta}_j^{-1} = (-1)^j c_j/2 - 2D\zeta/r_D$ ,  $c_1, c_2$  mass parameters in the surface action of the scalar field for the left and right branes, respectively  
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$$P = -\frac{2(4\pi)^{-D_1/2}}{V_\Sigma \Gamma(D_1/2) a^{D_1+1}} \sum_\beta \int_{am_\beta}^\infty dx \frac{x^2 (x^2 - a^2 m_\beta^2)^{D_1/2-1}}{\frac{(b_1 x-1)(b_2 x-1)}{(b_1 x+1)(b_2 x+1)} e^{2x} - 1}$$

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With independence of the geometry of the internal space, the force is **attractive** for Dirichlet or Neumann boundary conditions on **both** plates

$$\begin{aligned} P^{(J,J)} &= -\frac{2(4\pi)^{-D_1/2}}{V_\Sigma \Gamma(D_1/2)} \sum_{\beta} \int_{m_{\beta}}^{\infty} dx x^2 \frac{(x^2 - m_{\beta}^2)^{D_1/2-1}}{e^{2ax} - 1} \\ &= \frac{2a^{-D_1-1}}{(8\pi)^{(D_1+1)/2} V_\Sigma} \sum_{\beta} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^{D_1+1}} [f_{(D_1+1)/2}(2nam_{\beta}) - f_{(D_1+3)/2}(2nam_{\beta})] \end{aligned}$$

$J = D, N$ , and **repulsive** for Dirichlet BC on one plate and Neumann on the other,  
 a **monotonic function** of the distance



⇒ For general Robin BCs the Casimir force can be **either attractive** (negative  $P$ ) or **repulsive** (positive  $P$ ), depending on the Robin coefficients and distance between plates [also [L P Teo arXiv:0907.2989](#) [arXiv:0907.5258](#)]

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For small values of the inter-plate distance Casimir forces generically attractive, except for Dirichlet BCs on one plate and non-Dirichlet BCs on the other: then Casimir force is **repulsive at small distances**. When separation is large, the sign depends not only on BCs, but also on **geometry of transversal dimens**

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⇒ **Remarks:** (i) This property could be used in the **proposal of a Casimir experiment** with the purpose to carry out an explicit detailed observation of **'large' extra dimensions** as allowed by some models of particle physics  
(ii) Possible **laboratory** verification (Robin BCs model skin depth of material)

# Gravity Eqs as Eqs of State: $f(R)$ Case

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- C. Eling, R. Guedens, T. Jacobson [PRL2006]: extension to polynomial  $f(R)$  gravity but as non-equilibrium thermodyn.  
Also Erik Verlinde (private discussions)

● **Jacobson's argument:** basic thermodynamic relation

$$\delta Q = T\delta S$$

- entropy proportional to variation of the horizon area:  $\delta S = \eta \delta \mathcal{A}$
- local temperature  $T$  defined as **Unruh temp**:  $T = \hbar k / 2\pi$
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- **Case of  $\mathbf{f}(R)$  gravities:**  $\mathbf{L} = \mathbf{f}(R, \nabla^n R)$

- Also the concept of an **effective Newton constant** for graviton exchange (**effective propagator**)

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- Final result, for  $\mathbf{f}(R)$  gravities:  
*the local field equations can be thought of as an equation of state of equilibrium thermodynamics* (as in the GR case)

- Jacobson's argum **non-trivially extended to  $f(R)$**  gravity field eqs as EoS of local space-time thermodynamics  
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- By means of a **more general** definition of local entropy, using **Wald's definition** of dynamic BH entropy  
RM Wald PRD1993; V Iyer, RM Wald PRD1994
- And also the concept of an **effective Newton constant** for graviton exchange (effective propagator)  
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