

# On a Family of Non-local Gravity Models

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II Russian-Spanish Congress, Sankt Peterburg, Oct 4, 2013

# Outline

- Intro: recalling a past story
- The accelerating Universe
- Different types of models
- Several problems
- Models with non-local interactions (Deser & Woodard): motivations
- Our model of type  $f(\square^{-1}R)$

With THANKS to:

Sergey Yu. Vernov, Ying-li Zhang, Ekaterina Pozdeeva,  
Sergei Odintsov, Misao Sasaki, Guido Cognola, Sergio  
Zerbini

12+

SMITHSONIAN  
WASHINGTON

26 APRIL 1920

HARLOW  
SHAPLEY

VS

HEBER  
CURTIS

GREAT DEBATE



WORLD HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP

WBA / IBF / WBO / IBO

MOSCOW 2013



РОСЧЕФТ

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- Present “island Universe”: Josiah McElheny, glass artist, White Cube London, Nat Mus Reina Sofia Madrid – **The Multiverse** **Feeney et al '11**



# The accelerating Universe

**Dark Energy:** effects on the expansion rate of Universe, 3 approaches:

- Standard candles: measure luminosity distance as function of redshift
- Standard rulers: angular diam distance & expansion rate as f of redsh
- Growth of fluctuations: generated at origin of U & amplified by inflation

Both **angular diameter** and **luminosity distances** are integrals of (inverse) expansion rate: **encode effects of DE**

To get **competitive constraints** on DE need see changes in  $H(z)$  at 1% would give statistical errors in DE EoS of  $O(10\%)$

- **calibrate the ruler** accurately over most of the age of the universe
- **measure the ruler** over much of the volume of the universe
- **make ultra-precise measurements** of the ruler

On large scales or early times the **perturbative** treatment is valid: calculations are perfectly **under control**

Length scales from physics of the early universe are **imprinted** on the distribution of mass and radiation: they form **time-independent rulers**

(M White, Berkeley)

# The accelerating Universe (II)

Evidence for the acceleration of the Universe expansion:

- distant supernovae

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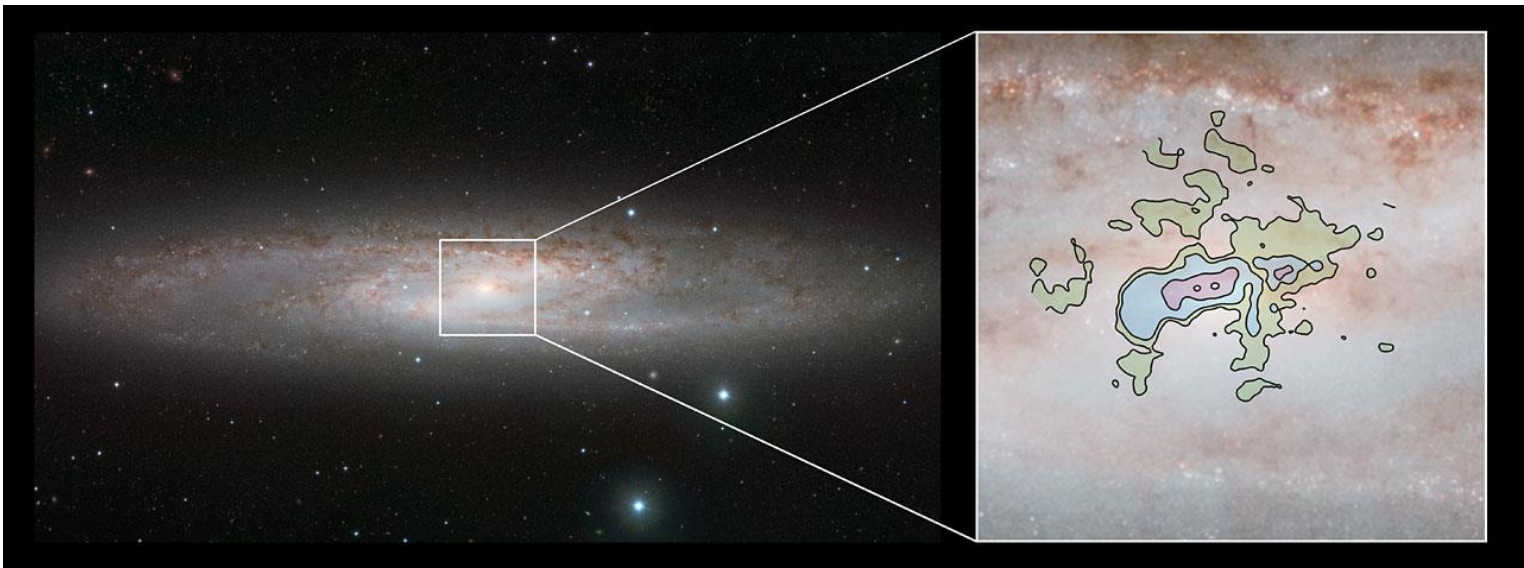
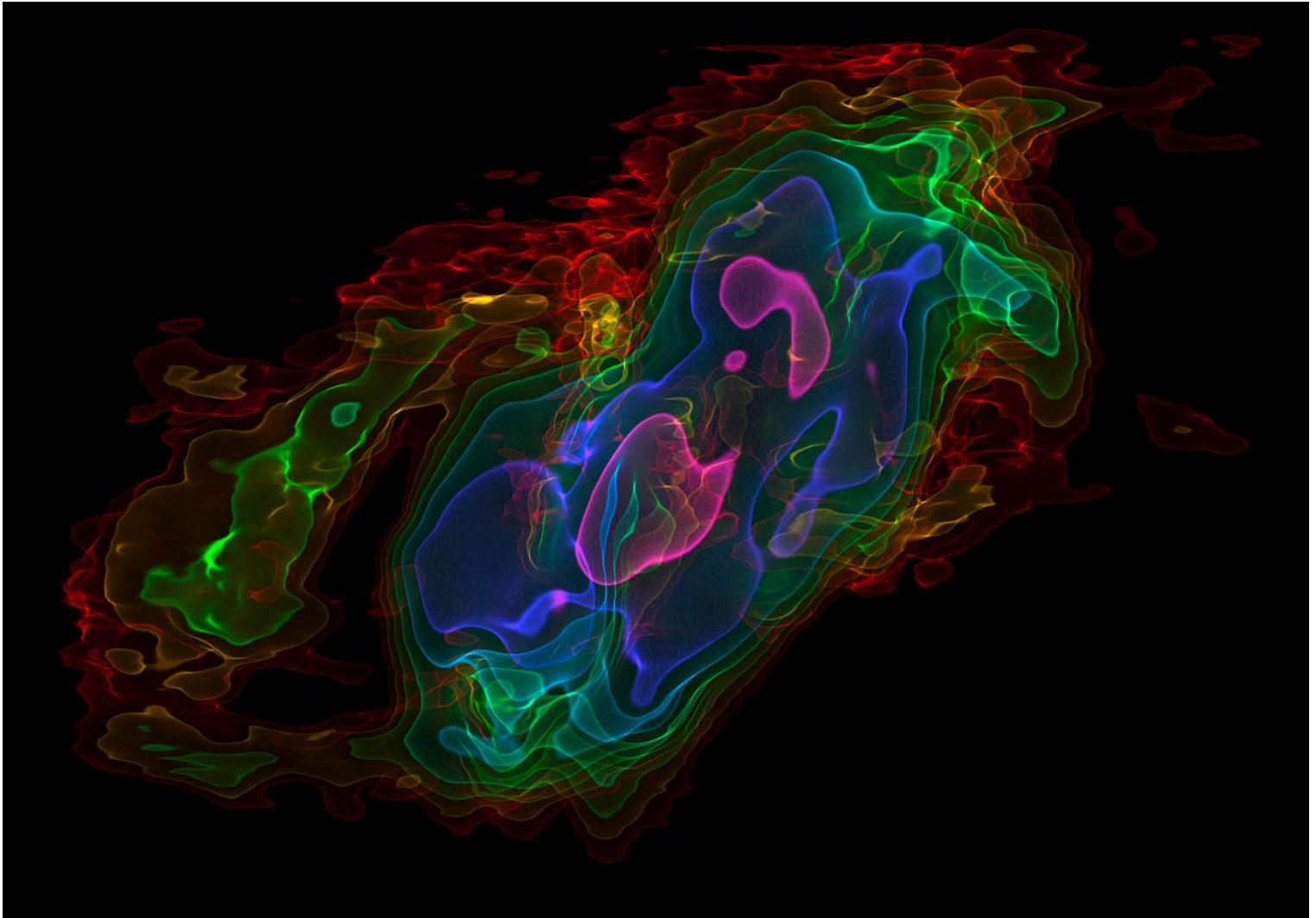
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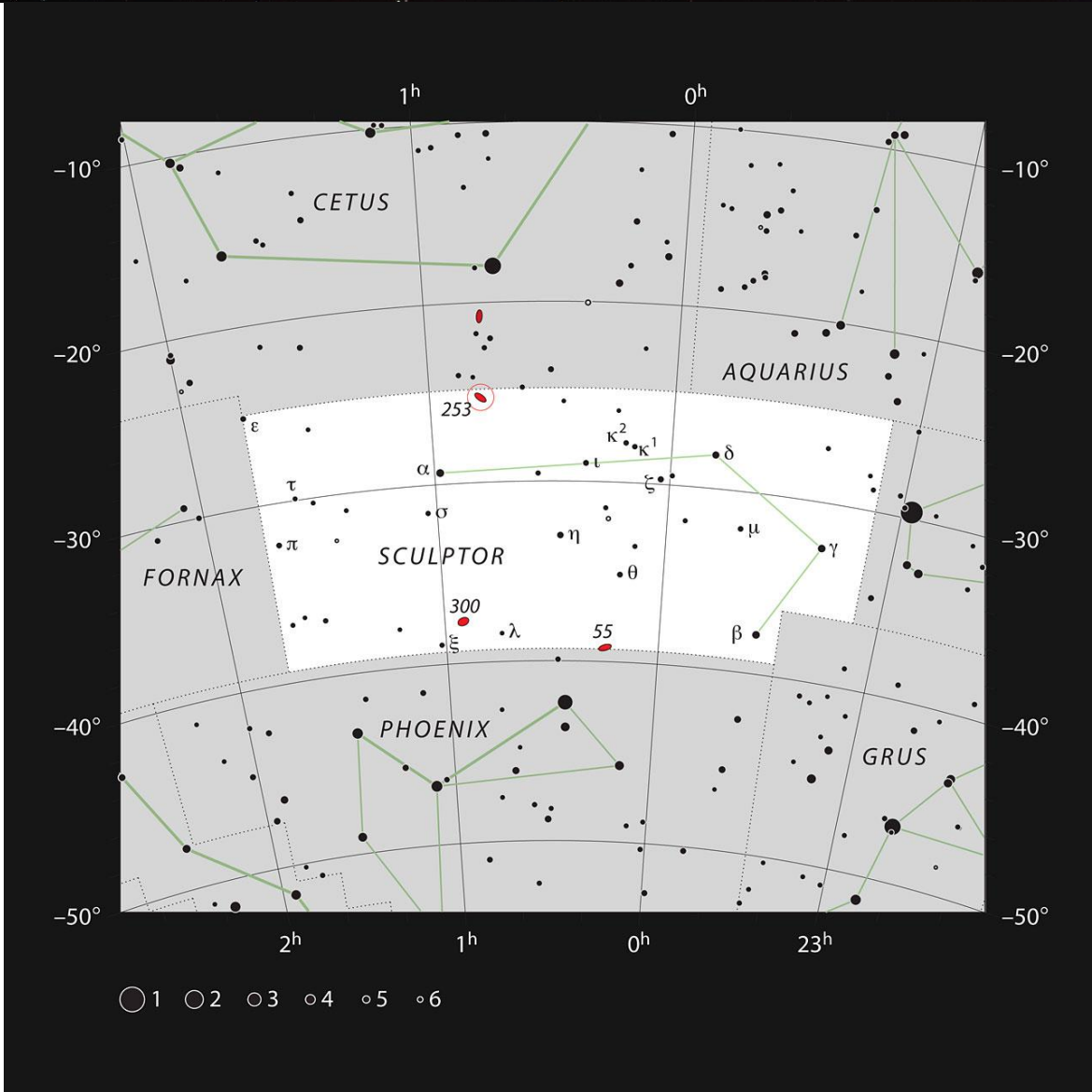
Multiple sets of evidence: **no systematics** affect the conclusion that  $\ddot{a} > 0$ ,  $a$  scale factor of the Universe

# Starburst to Star Bust

ALMA on Mystery of Missing Massive Galaxies, *Nature*, 25 July 2013



Vigorous star formation can **blast gas** out of a galaxy and **starve future generations** of stars of the fuel they need to form and grow. **Enormous outflows of molecular gas** are ejected by star-forming regions in the nearby **Sculptor Galaxy NGC253 (11.5MLY)** They help explain the strange **paucity of very massive galaxies in the Universe.**





# Different types of models

In **General Relativity** (GR): **Gravity** leads to **deceleration**

But **pressure** also influences geometry: R Tolman '32

**negative** pressure can drive **acceleration**

Cosmological evidence could be explained by an undiscovered substance with negative pressure, so-called **dark energy**

J.A. Frieman ea '95, K. Coble ea '97, R. Caldwell ea '97, B. Ratra, P.J.E. Peebles '98, C. Wetterich '98, D. Huterer, M.S. Turner '99

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- Another possib: GR is (**wrong!**) not accurate enough at large scales

S.M. Carroll, V. Duvvuri, M. Trodden, M.S. Turner '04, Capozziello '04

GR was developed using information and intuition at Solar System scales, it is (almost) only checked there, it could need to be modified on large scales

A. Starobinsky arrived at same conclusion, through very different arguments based on quantum corrections to ordinary GR: lead to terms of second order in  $R$ , and higher

# Several problems

Do **not** have simple guidelines, gedanken experiment, reasons of **elegance and simplicity**, as those of Einstein in constructing GR

Besides that, even if beauty is abandoned, a modification of gravity must still confront **three additional problems** (Park & Dodelson)

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- Almost all models contain a **mass scale** to be set much smaller than any mass found in nature,  $< 10^{-33}$  eV

What is the **meaning** of this small mass scale?

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How can it be **protected** from interactions with the rest of physics?
- A **fine tuning problem in time**: the modifications to gravity happen to be important only **today**, not at any time in the past
- Another problem: modified gravity models should **comply with the successes of GR** in the Solar System  
These constraints already doomed one of the first most promising modified gravity models introduced to explain acceleration and **still place tight constraints** on many models

# Models with non-local interactions

- One class of modified gravity models that overcomes most of these problems contains non-local interactions

S. Deser and R. Woodard, *Phys.Rev.Lett.* 99, 111301 (2007), 0706.2151

Deser and Woodard consider terms that are functionals of  $\square^{-1}R$

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- At cosmological scales,  $\square^{-1}R$  grows **very slowly**:

- as  $(t/t_{eq})^{1/2}$  in the radiation dominated era

- **logarithmically** in the matter dominated era

- So, at the time of Nucleosynthesis  $\square^{-1}R$  is about  $10^{-6}$   
and at matter-radiation equilibrium it is only order 1

In a **natural** way, these terms are **irrelevant at early times** and begin to affect the dynamics of the Universe only after the matter-radiation transition

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- Since  $\square^{-1}R$  is dimless, the functional  $\times R$  has **no new mass** parameter

- Finally, because  $\square^{-1}R$  is extremely small in the Solar System, these models **easily pass local tests** of gravity

# Sufficient theoretical motivation

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S. Nojiri, S.D. Odintsov, Phys. Lett. B659, 821 (2008), 0708.0924
- A realistic model for acceleration, with an arbitrary function of  $R \square^{-1} R$ , reproducing the expansion history of  $\Lambda$ CDM  
C. Deffayet, R. Woodard, JCAP 0908, 023 (2009), 0904.0961  
Used by S. Park & S. Dodelson, arXiv:1209.0836, to discuss structure formation in a nonlocally modified gravity

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- But a **very interesting** aspect of modified gravity models in general is that, even if they are constructed to reproduce the expansion history equivalent to that of a given dark energy model (such as  $\Lambda$ CDM), **perturbations will often evolve differently** than in a model with **standard GR plus dark energy**



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- Indeed, the way to **distinguish** DE models from modified gravity is to measure the **growth of structure** in the Universe

The **deviations** from dark energy models are at the **10 to 30% level** and have a characteristic signature as a function of redshift, which suggests that the class of models **could be tested by upcoming surveys**

# Our model of type $f(\square^{-1}R)$

Consider a **nonlocal gravity** which contains a **function** of the  $\square^{-1}$  operator, thus **not** assuming the existence of a **new dimensional parameter** in the action. We focus on the study of cosmological solutions **both in Jordan and Einstein frames**, including **matter** in the last case

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- Several models are able to reproduce observations, as **quintom models**, which involve two fields: a **phantom** and an **ordinary** scalar

E Elizalde, S Nojiri, S Odintsov, Phys.Rev.D70(2004)043539, hep-th/0405034

W Zhao and Y Zhang, Phys.Rev. D73 (2006) 123509, arXiv:astro-ph/0604460

H Štefančić, Phys.Rev. D71(2005)124036, arXiv:astro-ph/0504518

# Our model (cont.)

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- We consider gravity models with a **cosmological constant  $\Lambda$**  and including a **perfect fluid**, and study in detail their cosmological solutions with a **power-law** cosmic scalar factor:  $a \propto t^n$ . The solutions thus obtained are proven to generalize solutions found by **Odintsov ea & Bamba ea**



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- In the **Jordan frame** we obtain an **exhaustive class of power-law solutions** (we prove that other power-law solutions **cannot exist**)

- We analyze the **correspondence** between solutions got in different frames and prove explicitly how knowledge of power-law solutions in **Jordan's frame** **can be used to get** power-law solutions in **Einstein's one**

# The action

Consider a class of nonlocal gravities, with action

$$S = \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} \left\{ \frac{1}{2\kappa^2} [R (1 + f(\square^{-1}R)) - 2\Lambda] + \mathcal{L}_m \right\}$$

where  $\kappa^2 = 8\pi G = 8\pi/M_{\text{Pl}}^2$ , the Planck mass being  $M_{\text{Pl}} = G^{-1/2} = 1.2 \times 10^{19}$  GeV,  $f$  differentiable function (characterizes nature of nonlocality),  $\square^{-1}$  inverse of d'Alembertian operator,  $\Lambda$  cosmological constant, and  $\mathcal{L}_m$  matter Lagrangian. For definiteness, we assume that matter is a perfect fluid. We use the signature  $(-, +, +, +)$ ,  $g$  determinant of  $g_{\mu\nu}$

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Introducing two scalar fields:  $\psi = \square^{-1} R$  & Lagrange multiplier  $\xi$

$$S_{loc} = \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} \left\{ \frac{1}{2\kappa^2} [R (1 + f(\psi)) + \xi (R - \square\psi) - 2\Lambda] + \mathcal{L}_m \right\}$$

Original **non-local** action is **recast** as a **local** action in the **Jordan frame**.

Varying this action with respect to  $\xi$  and  $\psi$ , one resp gets the field eqs

$$\square\psi = R, \quad \square\xi = f_{,\psi}(\psi)R,$$

where  $f_{,\psi}(\psi) \equiv df/d\psi$

# The action (II)

- The corresponding Einstein equations are obtained by **variation of the local action** wrt the metric tensor

$$\frac{g_{\mu\nu}}{2} [R\Psi + \partial_\rho \xi \partial^\rho \psi - 2(\Lambda + \square\Psi)] - R_{\mu\nu} \Psi - \frac{1}{2} (\partial_\mu \xi \partial_\nu \psi + \partial_\mu \psi \partial_\nu \xi) + \nabla_\mu \partial_\nu \Psi = -\kappa^2 T_{(m)\mu\nu}$$

where  $\Psi \equiv 1 + f(\psi) + \xi$ , and  $T_{(m)\mu\nu}$  energy-momentum tensor of matter sector

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

Note the system of equations here does not include the function  $\psi$  itself, but instead  $f(\psi)$  and  $f_{,\psi}(\psi)$ , together with time derivatives of  $\psi$ . Also,  $f(\psi)$  can only be determined up to a constant: one may add a constant to  $f(\psi)$  and subtract the same constant from  $\xi$  without changing eqs

# The action (II)

- The corresponding Einstein equations are obtained by **variation of the local action** wrt the metric tensor

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- Here, we assume a spatially flat FLRW universe

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

and consider the case where the scalar fields  $\psi(t)$  and  $\xi(t)$  are functions of the cosmological time  $t$  **only**

# The action (III)

● Thus, the system of Eqs. reduces to

$$\begin{aligned}3H^2\Psi &= -\frac{1}{2}\xi\dot{\psi} - 3H\dot{\Psi} + \Lambda + \kappa^2\rho_m \\(2\dot{H} + 3H^2)\Psi &= \frac{1}{2}\xi\dot{\psi} - \ddot{\Psi} - 2H\dot{\Psi} + \Lambda - \kappa^2 P_m \\ \ddot{\psi} &= -3H\dot{\psi} - 6\left(\dot{H} + 2H^2\right) \\ \ddot{\xi} &= -3H\dot{\xi} - 6\left(\dot{H} + 2H^2\right) f_{,\psi}(\psi)\end{aligned}$$

dot means differentiation with respect to time,  $t$ , in the Jordan frame:

$\dot{A}(t) \equiv dA(t)/dt$ ,  $H = \dot{a}/a$  Hubble parameter

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The continuity equation is

$$\dot{\rho}_m = -3H(P_m + \rho_m)$$

Adding them we obtain a 2nd order linear differential equation for  $\Psi$

$$\ddot{\Psi} + 5H\dot{\Psi} + (2\dot{H} + 6H^2)\Psi - 2\Lambda + \kappa^2(P_m - \rho_m) = 0$$



# Power-law sol's with $f(\psi)$ exp funct

- Consider the case when  $f(\psi)$  exponential function

$$f(\psi) = f_0 e^{\alpha\psi}$$

$f_0$  and  $\alpha$  nonzero real parameters. The motivation: (i) **simplest** model with **power-law and de Sitter** solutions (only exp or a sum of exps); (ii) **better studied** case among all possible functions for expanding universe sol's (with Hubble parameter  $H = n/t$ , with  $n$  a nonzero constant)

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- We consider matter with the EoS parameter  $w_m \equiv P_m/\rho_m$  being a constant but **not** equal to  $-1$ . For power-law solutions  $H = n/t$ , the continuity eq has the following **general solution** ( $\rho_0$  arbitrary const)

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- Solutions with  $H = n/t$ .** Inserting  $H = n/t$

$$\psi(t) = \psi_1 t^{1-3n} - \frac{6n(2n-1)}{3n-1} \ln\left(\frac{t}{t_0}\right)$$

$\psi_1, t_0$  integration const's. We consider real solutions at  $t > 0$ , hence,  $t_0 > 0$ . Note these valid provided  $n \neq 1/3$  and  $n \neq 1/2$  (special cases, other sect)

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- Local constraints
  - **Newtonian limit** of the theory, described by corresponding local action check whether the power-law solutions found can satisfy this constraint
  - Depending on the integration constant  $\xi_1$  being **vanishing or not**, we draw very **different constraints** on the Post-Newtonian parameter  $\gamma$ :
    - $\xi_1 \neq 0$ , the constraint can be **easily satisfied** for a wide range of choices of the parameter  $\alpha$
    - $\xi_1 = 0$  one needs to **tune the parameter  $\alpha$**  to at least  $10^{-5}$  order, to satisfy the local constraint

Note that, in previous papers,  $\xi_1 = 0$  for simplicity. Analysis of the local constraint shows that solutions with nonzero  $\xi_1$  allow to change the restrictions on the parameter  $\alpha$ , which are indeed necessary in order to make the model compatible with astronomical observations

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**Varying** the nonlocal action wrt the metric  $g_{\mu\nu}$ , under the spatially flat FLRW metric, the independent components of the field equations are

$$3H^2 + \Delta G_{00} = \kappa^2 \rho_m + \Lambda, \quad -2\dot{H} - 3H^2 + \frac{1}{3a^2} \delta^{ij} \Delta G_{ij} = \kappa^2 P_m - \Lambda$$

$\Delta G_{00}$  and  $\Delta G_{ij}$  are the **modifications coming from the nonlocal terms**

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta G_{00} &= [3H^2 + 3H\partial_t] \left\{ f(\square^{-1}R) + \square^{-1} \left[ R \frac{df}{d(\square^{-1}R)} \right] \right\} \\ &+ \frac{1}{2} \partial_t (\square^{-1}R) \partial_t \left( \square^{-1} \left[ R \frac{df}{d(\square^{-1}R)} \right] \right), \\ \Delta G_{ij} &= a^2 \delta_{ij} \left[ \frac{1}{2} \partial_t (\square^{-1}R) \partial_t \left( \square^{-1} \left[ R \frac{df}{d(\square^{-1}R)} \right] \right) \right. \\ &\left. - \left[ 2\dot{H} + 3H^2 + 2H\partial_t + \partial_t^2 \right] \left\{ f(\square^{-1}R) + \square^{-1} \left[ R \frac{df}{d(\square^{-1}R)} \right] \right\} \right] \end{aligned}$$



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- **Identifying** the scalar fields  $\psi$  and  $\xi$  with corresponding terms in original action

$$\psi(t) = \square^{-1}R, \quad \xi(t) = \square^{-1} \left[ R \frac{df}{d(\square^{-1}R)} \right]$$

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- We conclude that these solutions **are solutions of the initial nonlocal model as well**, what can be checked immediately by **direct** substitution

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- Recasting the original form into the biscalar-tensor representation, one needs to **invert the relationship**  $\psi = \square^{-1} R$ , as  $\square\psi = R$ . For a given background, the solution for the latter eq is unique up to a harmonic function  $\chi$  st  $\square\chi = 0$

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In fact, if we write  $\psi \longrightarrow \psi + \chi$  the corresponding term is

$$\xi(\square\psi - R) \longrightarrow \xi(\square(\psi + \chi) - R)$$

after integration by parts, change is  $g^{\mu\nu} \partial_\mu \xi \partial_\nu \psi \longrightarrow g^{\mu\nu} \partial_\mu \xi \partial_\nu (\psi + \chi)$

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● However, imposing appropriate BC, as  $\chi = 0$ , to recover original form, this would-be extra dof can be eliminated. Issue of **choice of correct BC** should be the only non-equivalence between original form and biscalar-tensor representation. Thus, eg, **Woodard ea** determine the inverse d'Alembert op using the **retarded Green function**: they fix a solution of eq  $\square R = 0$  putting  $\tilde{t}_0 = 0$  and  $\eta_0 = 0$

● A final comment. As stated above, the biscalar-tensor representation introduces two scalars,  $\psi$  and  $\xi$ , therefore, working in this way it seems that one will encounter a **ghost-like behavior** (Koivisto, Nojiri, Bamba, Sasaki). However, since the original nonlocal model **does not** introduce any new degree of freedom, the ghost-like behavior of the biscalar-tensor theory may **not be physically relevant**: associated terms can be cast as a **boundary term** of the nonlocal operators (Koivisto 2010). At **classical level**, a necessary way to check this physical relevance is by considering the **equivalence of the solutions** coming from the original nonlocal formulation and from its biscalar-tensor form

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Action and equations of motion in the Einstein frame

The Jordan and Einstein frames

Once a modified gravity theory is recast into its scalar-tensor presentation, it immediately follows that both the Jordan frame (where the matter sector minimally couples to gravity) and the Einstein one (where the Ricci is linear but matter couples to gravity non-minimally) are available

They are related by conformal transformation  $g_{\mu\nu} = \Omega^2 g_{\mu\nu}^{(E)}$   
metric in Jordan frame is  $g_{\mu\nu}$ , in Einstein frame,  $g_{\mu\nu}^{(E)}$

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- First, formulate diff eqn for the conformal factor under which power-law sol's in Jordan's correspond to other power-law sol's in Einstein's

# Conclusions

- In GR, **power-law solutions** of type  $H = n/t$  correspond to models with a **perfect fluid** whose EoS param  $w_m \equiv P_m/\rho_m$  is related to power-index by  $w_m = -1 + 2/(3n)$



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- In Einstein's, we obtained the power-law solutions either by **solving the EoM**, or by performing a **conformal transformation** of the sol's obtained in Jordan's. For this purpose, we extended the correspondence to include the **matter sector**. Using this powerful, non-trivial tool, we got the sol's when  $w_m = 1/3$  and  $w_m = 1$  (very **difficult** to obtain by directly solving the system), thus proving the **usefulness** of the method

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- Theories with **higher derivatives** often suffer from a **ghost problem**, namely a **wrong sign** in the kinetic term, resulting in dangerous **instabilities**. Good aspect of conformal transformation technique between frames: obtain corresponding **ghost-free conditions**

- We previously showed that not only models with  $\exp f(\psi)$  can have power-law and de Sitter solutions: a **sum of exp's** too. Another generalization of this analysis is to **include several perfect fluid components** with different constant values of  $w_m$
- From de Sitter solutions, interesting to check possibilities for **Universe evolution** as obtained **from these nonlocal models**, from inflationary dS stage to late power-law Universe. Check for **deviations** from standard GR case, its **distinction from other modified gravities**
- Theories with **higher derivatives** often suffer from a **ghost problem**, namely a **wrong sign** in the kinetic term, resulting in dangerous **instabilities**. Good aspect of conformal transformation technique between frames: obtain corresponding **ghost-free conditions**
- The biscalar-tensor representation introduces **two extra scalars**. Can lead to a **ghost problem**. Equivalence between the initial nonlocal theory and local formulation has **not been established yet** The **ghost-like behavior** of the biscalar-tensor theory **may not be a physical problem**, since the associated terms can be cast as **boundary terms** of the nonlocal operators (would-be ghost mode **might correspond to an inappropriate choice of BC**). Plan to consider this important question in future work

● An analysis of the **stability of the solutions** here encountered, of the **ghost-free conditions**, and of the **cosmological perturbations** corresponding to these models will be carried out next



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- E. Elizalde, E.O. Pozdeeva, S.Yu. Vernov, Y.-I. Zhang  
**Cosmological solutions of a nonlocal model with a perfect fluid**  
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