

# Bounce, genesis: how did the Universe start?

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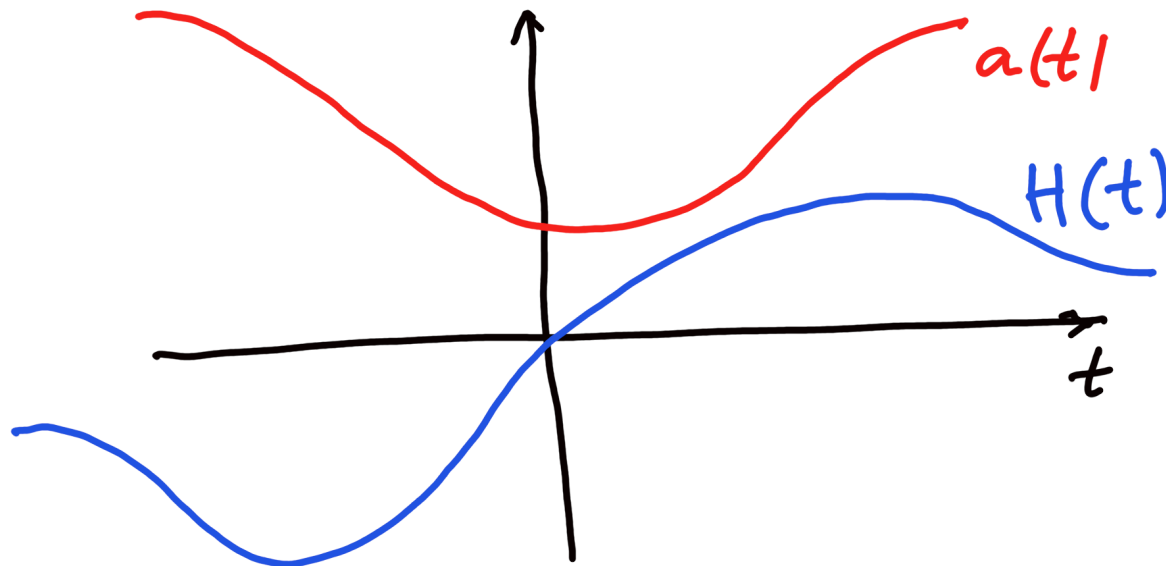
# Introduction

Focus of this talk: homogeneous isotropic, **spatially flat** Universe.

Non-singular models:

## Bounce

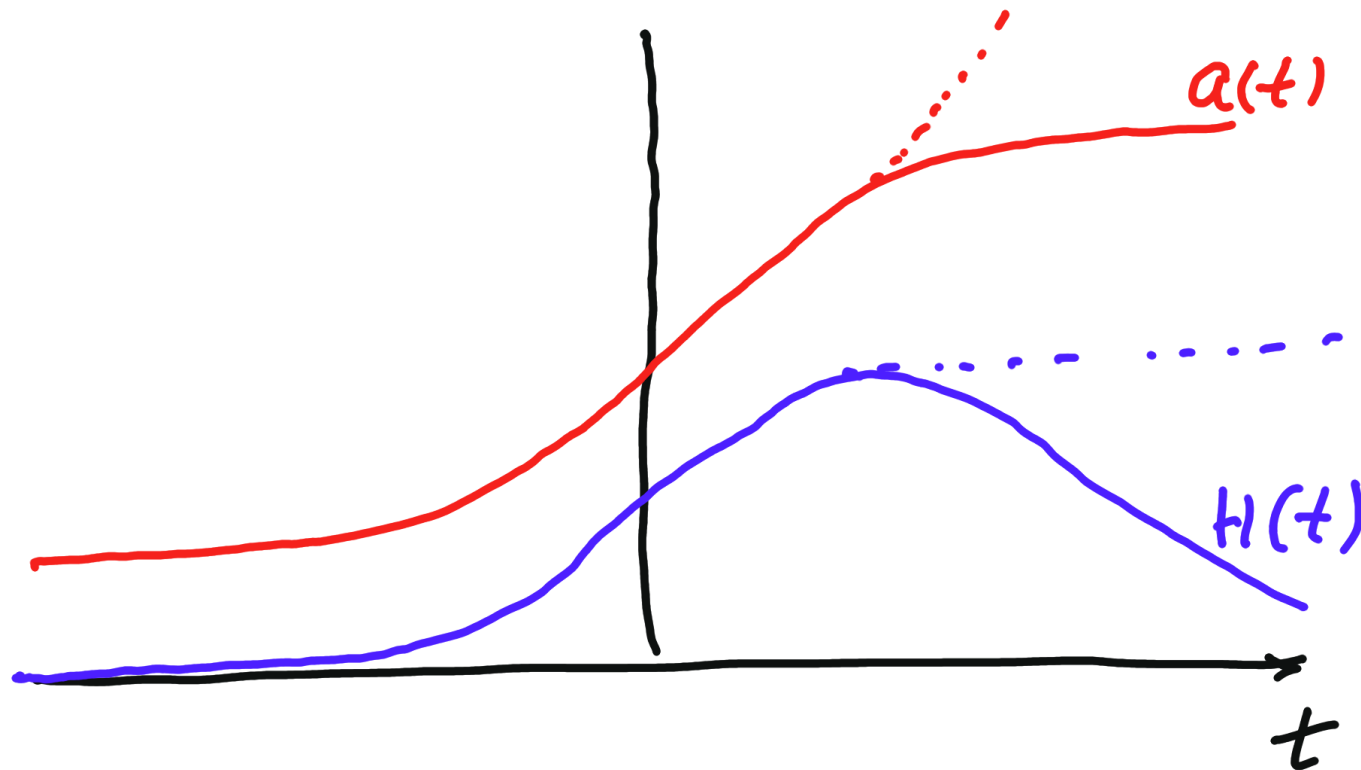
Start from slowly **contracting** Universe ( $H < 0$ ), then contraction rate increases, energy density builds up, at some moment of time contraction terminates (bounce), Universe starts to expand ( $H > 0$ ). At some point conventional hot epoch (or inflation) begins.



# Genesis

Creminelli, Nicolis, Trincherini' 2010

Start from Minkowski, empty space ( $H = 0$ ), then energy density builds up, Universe starts to expand ( $H > 0$ ), expansion accelerates. At some point conventional hot epoch (or inflation) begins.



# Motivation

- Curiosity. Always good to have alternatives even to compelling scenarios like inflation.
- No initial singularity.
- Horizon, curvature problems “solved” by assumption about initial state.  
Especially with ekpyrotic (slow) contraction

Ijjas, Pretorius, Steinhardt et. al. '2020-21

- Very long prehistory **without matter energy density**  $\implies$  useful for relaxing the cosmological constant

V.R. '99;

Mukohyama, Randall '2003

## DRAWBACK

Generation of (nearly) flat power spectrum of scalar perturbations not so automatic as compared to in inflation

Obstacle in classical GR (if spatial curvature negligible): both bounce and genesis need exotic matter which violates the Null Energy Condition,

i.e. has  $p < -\rho$ ; where  $\rho = T_0^0$ , energy density;  $p = T_1^1 = T_2^2 = T_s^3$ , effective pressure.

- If the NEC holds: a combination of Einstein equations (spatially flat):

$$\frac{dH}{dt} = -4\pi G(\rho + p)$$

Hubble parameter always decreases. No bounce, no genesis.

Penrose theorem for expanding Universe: there was a singularity in the past,  $H = \infty$ .

NEC is not violated in conventional field theories  
with Lagrangians involving first derivatives only.

Dubovsky, Gregoire, Nicolis, Rattazzi' 2006

Buniy, Hsu, Murray' 2006

NEC-violation in theories of this sort:

- Either ghosts: both kinetic and gradient terms have wrong sign. Hyperbolic equation of motion, but **negative energies**  $\iff$  **ghosts**:  $E = -\sqrt{p^2 + m^2}$  Catastrophic vacuum instability
- Or **gradient instabilities**: only gradient term has wrong sign. Elliptic equation of motion  $\implies$  **gradient instability**

$$E^2 = -(p^2 + m^2) \implies \delta\pi \propto e^{|E|t}$$

Also catastrophic

# Horndeski and $p < -\rho$

Twist: scalar-tensor theories with second derivatives in the Lagrangian.

Danger: higher order equations of motion  $\implies$  extra degrees of freedom = Ostrogradsky ghosts

Not necessarily!

● Way out # 1: Horndeski Horndeski' 1974  
aka Euler hierarchies, aka generalized Galileons, aka KGB, aka generalized Fab Four

- Second derivatives in Lagrangian, second order field equations
- Simplest case: Creminelli, Nicolis, Trincherini' 10, Deffayet, Pujolas, Sawicki, Vikman' 10, Kobayashi, Yamaguchi, Yokoyama' 10

$$L = -\frac{1}{16\pi G}R + F(\pi, X) - K(\pi, X)\square\pi$$

where again  $X = (\partial\pi)^2$ .

- Explicit examples of stable NEC-violation.

Early stages of genesis/period around bounce can be made healthy.

However, things are not so simple. **NO-GO.**

“Complete cosmologies”:  $-\infty < t < +\infty$

Explicit examples of genesis (or bounce) with Horndeski:

either Big Rip **singularity in future**,  $\pi = \infty$ ,  $H = \infty$  at  $t < \infty$

Creminelli, Nicolis, Trincherini '2010

or **gradient/ghost instability**

Cai, Easson, Brandenberger '2012; Koehn, Lehnert, Ovrut '2014;

Pirtskhalava, Santoni, Trincherini, Uttayarath '2014; Qiu, Wang '2015;

Kobayashi, Yamaguchi, Yokoyama '2015; Sosnovikov '2015

Can one avoid instability?

No-go in Horndeski! Libanov, Mironov, V.R.' 16; Kobayashi' 16



## General Horndeski theory

Require: both “Einstein” equations and  $\pi$ -field equation second order

Four arbitrary functions of  $\pi$  and  $X$ :  $F \equiv G_2$ ;  $K \equiv G_3$ ;  $G_4$ ;  $G_5$

Horndeski' 1974; Deffayet, Esposito-Farese, Vikman' 09

$$\begin{aligned} L = & F(\pi, X) - K(\pi, X)\square\pi \\ & + G_4(\pi, X)R + G_{4,X} \cdot [(\square\pi)^2 - (\nabla_\mu\nabla_\nu\pi)^2] \\ & + G_5 \cdot G^{\mu\nu}\nabla_\mu\nabla_\nu\pi - \frac{1}{6}G_{5,X} \cdot [(\square\pi)^3 - 3\square\pi \cdot (\nabla_\mu\nabla_\nu\pi)^2 + 2(\nabla_\mu\nabla_\nu\pi)^3] \end{aligned}$$

- Modified gravity (scalar-tensor).
- NB: always in Jordan frame.

No-go theorem for genesis in Horndeski: gradient/ghost instability at some stage (which may be quite late)

Libanov, Mironov, V.R.' 16; Kobayashi' 16

Choose unitary gauge  $\delta\pi = 0$ .

$$ds^2 = N^2 dt^2 - a^2 e^{2\zeta} (\delta_{ij} + h_{ij} + \frac{1}{2} h_{ik} h_{kj}) (N^i dt + dx^i) (N^j dt + dx^j)$$

Dynamical variables: transverse traceless  $h_{ij}$  and  $\zeta$  (lapse  $\delta N$  and shift  $N^i$  are not dynamical, as usual).

Upon solving for constraints, find quadratic Lagrangians for perturbations

$$L_S = \mathcal{G}_{\mathcal{F}} \dot{\zeta}^2 - a^{-2} \mathcal{F}_{\mathcal{F}} (\partial_i \zeta)^2, \quad L_T = \mathcal{G}_{\mathcal{F}} h_{ij}^2 - a^{-2} \mathcal{F}_{\mathcal{F}} (\partial_k h_{ij})^2$$

NB:  $\mathcal{G}_{\mathcal{F}}, \mathcal{F}_{\mathcal{F}} = \text{effective } M_{Pl}^2$ .

Stable background  $\iff \mathcal{G}_{\mathcal{F}}, \mathcal{F}_{\mathcal{F}}, \mathcal{G}_{\mathcal{G}}, \mathcal{F}_{\mathcal{G}} > 0$ .

To simplify formulas (but not outcome):  $G_5 = 0$ . **Tensor sector:**

$$\mathcal{G}_{\mathcal{T}} = 2G_4 - 4G_{4X}X,$$

$$\mathcal{F}_{\mathcal{T}} = 2G_4$$

**Scalar sector:**

$$\mathcal{G}_{\mathcal{S}} = \frac{\Sigma \mathcal{G}_{\mathcal{T}}^2}{\Theta^2} + 3\mathcal{G}_{\mathcal{T}},$$

$$\mathcal{F}_{\mathcal{S}} = \frac{1}{a} \frac{d\xi}{dt} - \mathcal{F}_{\mathcal{T}},$$

$$\xi = \frac{a \mathcal{G}_{\mathcal{T}}^2}{\Theta}.$$

Where

$$\Theta = -K_X X \dot{\pi} + 2G_4 H - 8HG_{4X}X - 8HG_{4XX}X^2 + G_{4\pi} \dot{\pi} + 2G_{4\pi X}X \dot{\pi}$$

$$\Sigma = F_X X + 2F_{XX}X^2 + 12HK_X X \dot{\pi} + 6HK_{XX}X^2 \dot{\pi} - K_{\pi}X - K_{\pi X}X^2$$

$$- 6H^2 G_4 + 42H^2 G_{4X}X + 96H^2 G_{4XX}X^2 + 24H^2 G_{4XXX}X^3 - 6HG_{4\pi} \dot{\pi}$$

$$- 30HG_{4\pi X}X \dot{\pi} - 12HG_{4\pi XX}X^2 \dot{\pi}$$

Key relation (by explicit calculation in general Horndeski)

$$\frac{d\xi}{dt} = a(t)(\mathcal{F}_{\mathcal{J}} + \mathcal{F}_{\mathcal{J}'})$$

$$\xi = -\frac{a(t)\mathcal{G}_{\mathcal{J}'}^2(t)}{\Theta(t)}$$

where  $\Theta(t) = -2HG_4 + \dot{\pi}XK_X + \dots$ , a complicated expression.

Main property:  $\xi$  never crosses zero ( $\Theta = \infty$  is a singularity).

$$\xi(t_f) - \xi(t_i) = \int_{t_i}^{t_f} dt a(t)(\mathcal{F}_{\mathcal{J}} + \mathcal{F}_{\mathcal{J}'})$$

Impossible for  $\mathcal{F}_{\mathcal{J}} > 0$ ,  $\mathcal{F}_{\mathcal{J}'} > 0$ , and

$$\int_{-\infty}^{t_f} dt a(t)(\mathcal{F}_{\mathcal{J}} + \mathcal{F}_{\mathcal{J}'}) = \infty, \quad \int_{t_i}^{+\infty} dt a(t)(\mathcal{F}_{\mathcal{J}} + \mathcal{F}_{\mathcal{J}'}) = \infty$$

Recall that  $a(t) \rightarrow \infty / \text{const}$  as  $t \rightarrow -\infty$  and  $a(t) \rightarrow \infty$  as  $t \rightarrow +\infty$  for  
 bounce/genesis **No-go**

$$\xi(t) - \xi(0) = \int_0^t dt a(t) (\mathcal{F}_{\mathcal{G}} + \mathcal{F}_{\mathcal{G}}) \implies \xi(t) \rightarrow +\infty \text{ as } t \rightarrow +\infty$$

$$\xi(0) - \xi(t) = \int_t^0 dt a(t) (\mathcal{F}_{\mathcal{G}} + \mathcal{F}_{\mathcal{G}}) \implies \xi(t) \rightarrow -\infty \text{ as } t \rightarrow -\infty$$

Thus,  $\xi(t)$  crosses zero, QED.

- Argument intact in presence of extra matter (obeying NEC) which interacts with Horndeski sector only gravitationally
- Extends to Horndeski theory with multiple (Horndeski or conventional) scalars

Kolevatov, Mironov '2016

Akama, Kobayashi '2017

# Way out # 1: strong gravity in the past

Within Horndeski theory, classical stability (absence of gradient instabilities and ghosts) requires

$$\int_{-\infty}^t dt a(t) (\mathcal{F}_{\mathcal{G}} + \mathcal{F}_{\mathcal{G}'}) < \infty.$$

$$\mathcal{G}_{\mathcal{G}}, \mathcal{F}_{\mathcal{G}}, \mathcal{G}_{\mathcal{G}'}, \mathcal{F}_{\mathcal{G}'} \rightarrow 0 \text{ as } t \rightarrow -\infty,$$

Kobayashi '2016; Ijjas, Steinhardt '2016

No-go theorem does not work.

But gravity tricky as  $t \rightarrow -\infty$ : effective Planck mass vanishes.

Strong coupling?

Examples:

$$\mathcal{G}_{\mathcal{G}}, \mathcal{F}_{\mathcal{G}}, \mathcal{G}_{\mathcal{G}'}, \mathcal{F}_{\mathcal{G}'} = \frac{1}{(-t)^{2\mu}} \text{ as } t \rightarrow -\infty.$$

Can one trust **classical** field theory treatment of cosmological evolution?

Energy scale of classical evolution  $E_{class} = H$ ,  $\dot{H}/H = (-t)^{-1} \rightarrow 0$

How does it compare with strong coupling scales  $E_{strong}$   
inferred from interactions of  $\zeta$  and  $h_{ij}$ ?

Classical treatment of evolution legitimate  
for  $E_{strong} \gg E_{class}$  as  $t \rightarrow -\infty$ .

Example (part of the story): tensor sector up to cubic terms.

At given moment of time rescale spatial coordinates to set  $a = 1$   
(equivalently, work in terms of physical spatial momenta  $\vec{p} = \vec{k}/a$ ).

Then (note that  $\mathcal{G}_{\mathcal{T}} = \mathcal{F}_{\mathcal{T}}$ )

$$S_{hh}^{(2,3)} = \int d^4x \left( \mathcal{F}_{\mathcal{T}} h_{ij}^2 - \mathcal{F}_{\mathcal{T}} (\partial_k h_{ij})^2 + \frac{\mathcal{F}_{\mathcal{T}}}{4} (h_{ik} h_{jl} - \frac{1}{2} h_{ij} h_{kl}) \partial_k \partial_l h_{ij} \right)$$

To figure out strong coupling energy scale, canonically normalize

$$h_{ij} = h_{ij}^{(c)} / \sqrt{\mathcal{F}_{\mathcal{T}}}$$

$$S_{hh}^{(2,3)} = \int d^4x \left( h_{ij}^{(c)2} - (\partial_k h_{ij}^{(c)})^2 + \frac{1}{4\sqrt{\mathcal{F}\mathcal{G}}} (h_{ik}^{(c)} h_{jl}^{(c)} - \frac{1}{2} h_{ij}^{(c)} h_{kl}^{(c)}) \partial_k \partial_l h_{ij}^{(c)} \right)$$

Dimension-5 operator “suppressed” by  $1/\sqrt{\mathcal{F}\mathcal{G}} \iff$   
 quantum strong coupling energy scale  $E_{strong} = \sqrt{\mathcal{F}\mathcal{G}} \propto (-t)^{-\mu}$

$E_{strong} \rightarrow 0$  as  $t \rightarrow -\infty$ , but  $E_{strong} \gg E_{class} = (-t)^{-1}$  for  $\mu < 1$ .

Healthy early bounce stage within classical field theory at weak coupling.

- This extends to scalar plus tensor sectors and all orders in perturbation theory. **Viable scenario.**

Ageeva, Evseev, Melichev, V.R.’ 18, 20;

Ageeva, V.R., Petrov’ 20, 21

Overall picture: Universe starts at very low quantum gravity scale  $E_{strong} \propto |t|^{-\alpha}$  but expands so slowly that  $E_{class} \ll E_{strong}$ . Standard Model scales are above  $E_{strong}$ . **Gravity is the strongest force.**

**Similar construction works for genesis**



# Complete cosmologies

Intelligent design: proof by example

Dubbed “Inverse method” by Ijjas, Steinhardt’ 2016

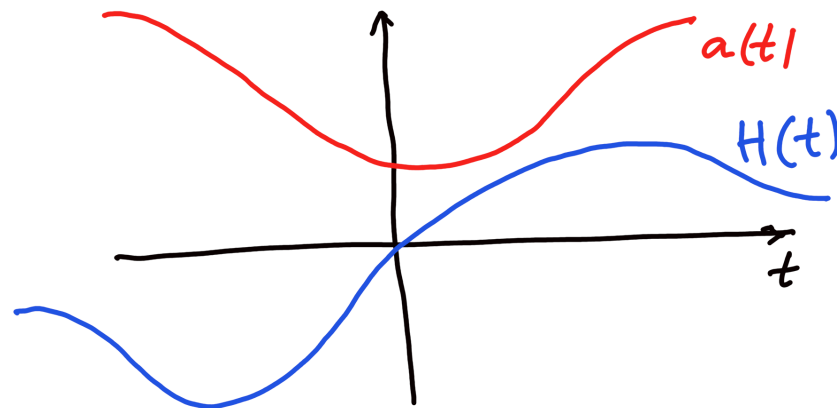
- Choose background  $\pi(t) = t$ , no loss of generality (field redefinition).

Then  $X = (\partial\pi)^2 = 1$ .

Field equations and stability conditions involve Lagrangian functions  $F$ ,  $K$ ,  $G_4$  and their  $X$ -derivatives  $F_X$ ,  $F_{XX}$ , etc, all at  $\pi(t) = t$ ,  $X = 1$ .

These are yet undetermined independent functions of time  $f_0(t) = F(\pi(t), X = 1)$ ,  $f_1(t) = F_X(\pi(t), X = 1)$ , etc..

- Choose your favorite  $H(t)$ .



In particular, theory at late times becomes GR + conventional massless scalar field  $\phi = (2/3)^{1/2} \log \pi$  (“kination”),

- Cook up Lagrangian functions in such a way that
  - Field equations are satisfied
  - Stability conditions are satisfied at all times
  - Classical field theory description of background is reliable at all times, including  $t \rightarrow -\infty$

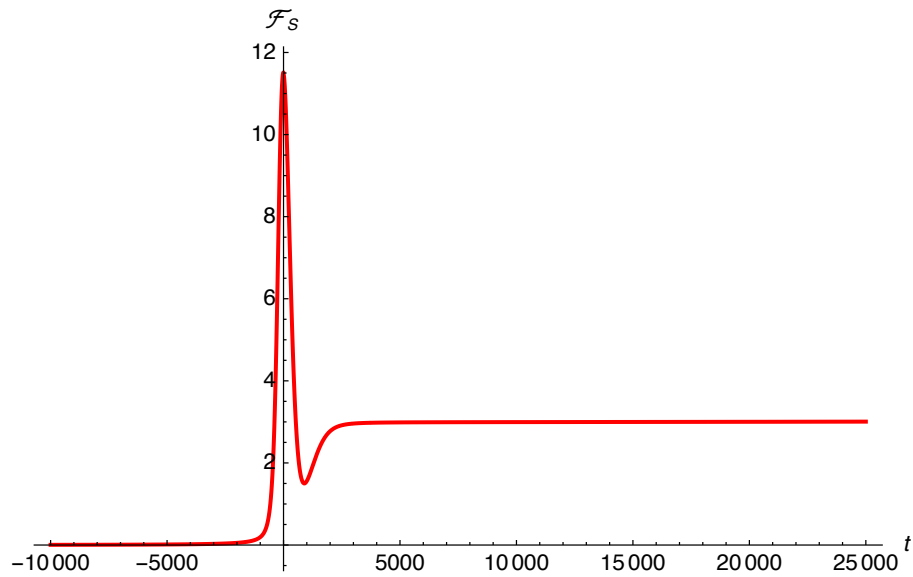
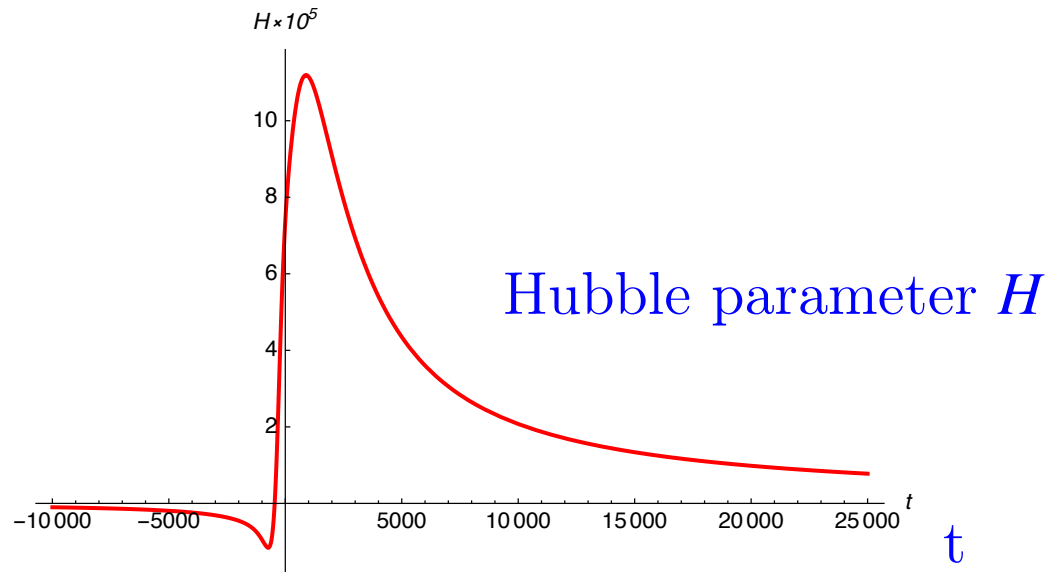
All this can be done for bounce (and also genesis)

Ageeva, Petrov, V.R.’ 2021

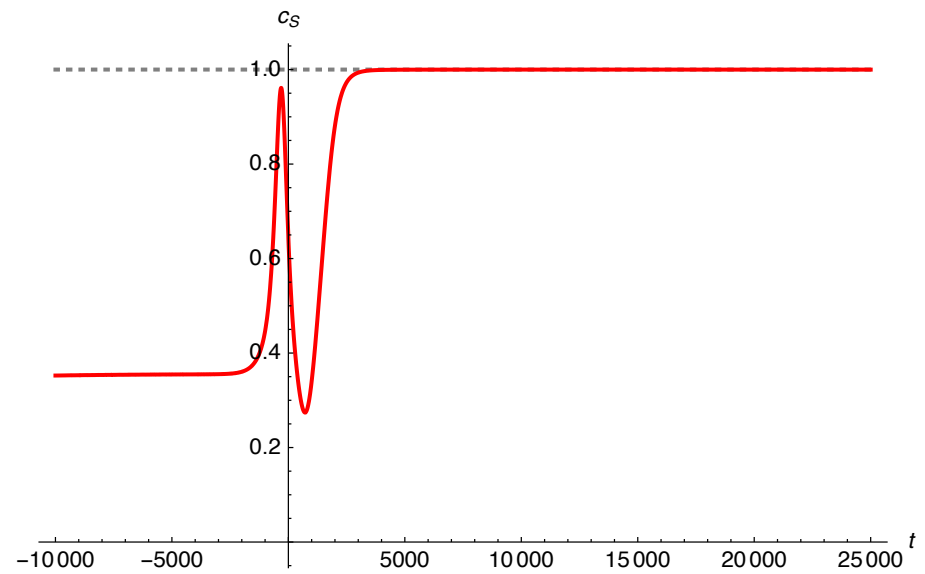
Moreover, one can design a model in such a way that

- Tensor and scalar perturbations are **subluminal** at all times (or luminal, if one wishes so)

# Bounce to kination



$\mathcal{F}_s$



speed of scalar prturbations

# Yet another approach

Horndeski is not the most general scalar-tensor theory with tensor + **one scalar** modes  $\implies$  No Ostrogradsky ghost

- Variation of action may give higher order field equations, but they may combine into **second order** equations. **Degenerate Higher-Order Scalar Tensor** theories, **DHOST**

Langlois, Noui' 16; Crisostomi, Koyama, Tasinato' 16

- Relatively simple subclass: “**beyond Horndeski**” theories

Zumalacárregui, Gacia-Bellido' 2014; Gleyzes, Langlois, Piazza, Vernizzi' 2014

Example of additional (to Horndeski) term

$$F_4(\pi, X) \varepsilon^{\mu\nu\lambda\rho} \varepsilon^{\mu'\nu'\lambda'} \pi_{,\mu} \pi_{,\mu'} \pi_{;\nu\nu'} \pi_{;\lambda\lambda'}$$

- Way to understand (sometimes): disformal transformation

$$g_{\mu\nu} \rightarrow \Omega(\pi, X) g_{\mu\nu} + \Lambda(\pi, X) \partial_\mu \pi \partial_\nu \pi$$

Horndeski  $\rightarrow$  beyond Horndeski

**NB:** This is formal trick:  $\Omega, \Lambda$  may be singular

No-go theorem no longer holds

Effective field theory: Cai et.al.' 2016, Creminelli et.al.'2016

Covariant formalism: Kolevatorov et.al.' 2017, Cai, Piao' 2017

One again has

$$\frac{d\xi}{dt} = a(t)(\mathcal{F}_{\mathcal{J}} + \mathcal{F}_{\mathcal{J}})$$

but now

$$\xi = -\frac{a(t)\mathcal{G}_{\mathcal{J}}(\mathcal{G}_{\mathcal{J}} + 2F_4X^2)}{\Theta(t)}$$

can cross zero.

**NB:**  $\Theta = 0$  not a problem, gauge artifact

Ijjas' 17;

Mironov, V.R., Volkova' 18

Concrete models again by intelligent design.

However, there is still an issue to worry about: **superluminality**.

Theory with superluminal excitations cannot descend from healthy Lorentz-invariant UV-complete theory

Adams et. al.' 2006

Not an issue in DHOST theories per se.

But things change once one allows for **extra field(s)** (“matter”)

**one of the modes is always superluminal**

unless a special non-linear constraint is imposed on functions in Lagrangian

Mionov, Volkova, VR' 2020

# To conclude

- Constructing complete ( $-\infty < t < +\infty$ ) non-singular cosmology (bounce, genesis) is difficult.
  - Within scalar-tensor gravity: non-trivial kinetic/gradient terms
  - bounce epoch, early genesis per se not so problematic
  - however, almost all complete cosmologies plagued with instability (“No-go”)
- Way out #1:

Strong gravity in the past; effective Planck mass tends to 0 as  $t \rightarrow -\infty$ . “Gravity as the strongest force”.

- Classical field theory treatment of background evolution can be rendered legitimate, nevertheless.
- Healthy bounce and genesis cosmologies constructed in this framework
- Whether realistic scalar (and tensor) perturbations may be generated without inflation, remains to be seen.

- Way out # 2:

Theories with even more complicated Lagrangians involving second derivatives: [beyond Horndeski, DHOST](#).

- Absence of Ostrogradsky ghost, catastrophic instabilities and superluminality imposes strong (non-linear!) constraints on functions in Lagrangian.
- [Is the price too high?](#)



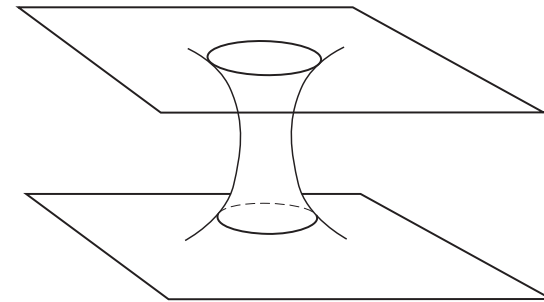
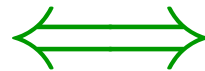
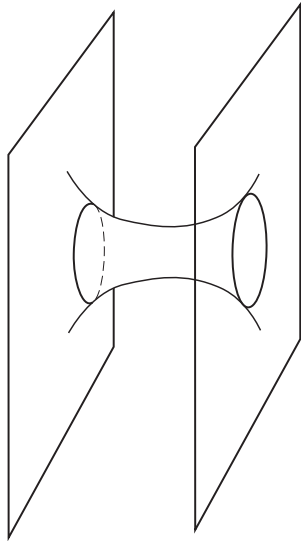
Instead of conclusion: where else DHOST may be instrumental?

● Lorentzian wormholes

Static wormhole



Bouncing Universe



No-go in NEC-preserving theories

No-go in Horndeski: no stable, static, spherically symmetric wormholes: always **ghosts**.

V.R.' 16; Evseev, Melichev' 18

Not obviously impossible in DHOST

Mironov, V.R., Volkova' 18; Francolini et. al.' 18

Studying stability HUGELY difficult.

## ● Creation of a universe in the laboratory

- Question raised in mid-80's, right after invention of inflationary theory

Berezin, Kuzmin, Tkachev' 1984; Guth, Farhi' 1986

Idea: create, in a finite region of space, inflationary initial conditions  $\implies$  this region will inflate to enormous size and in the end will look like our Universe.

- Do not need much energy: pour little more than Planckian energy into little more than Planckian volume.

If NEC holds, no way: initial singularity

Guth, Farhi' 1986; Berezin, Kuzmin, Tkachev' 1987

How about DHOST theories?

Amazingly, many questions of principle still not answered. Ahead: more to understand.

Backup

No-go theorem for theories with Lagrangians involving first derivatives of fields only (and minimal coupling to gravity)

Dubovsky, Gregoire, Nicolis, Rattazzi' 2006

Buniy, Hsu, Murray' 2006

$$L = F(X^{IJ}, \pi^I)$$

with  $X^{IJ} = \partial_\mu \pi^I \partial^\mu \pi^J \implies$

$$T_{\mu\nu} = 2 \frac{\partial F}{\partial X^{IJ}} \partial_\mu \pi^I \partial_\nu \pi^J - g_{\mu\nu} F$$

In homogeneous background

$$T_{00} \equiv \rho = 2 \frac{\partial F}{\partial X^{IJ}} X^{IJ} - F$$

$$T_{11} = T_{22} = T_{33} \equiv p = F$$

and

$$\rho + p = 2 \frac{\partial F}{\partial X^{IJ}} X^{IJ} = 2 \frac{\partial F}{\partial X^{IJ}} \dot{\pi}^I \dot{\pi}^J$$

NEC-violation: matrix  $\partial F / \partial X_c^{IJ}$  non-positive definite. **But**

Lagrangian for perturbations  $\pi^I = \pi_c^I + \delta\pi^I$

$$L_{\delta\pi} = A_{IJ} \partial_t \delta\pi^I \cdot \partial_t \delta\pi^J - \frac{\partial F}{\partial X_c^{IJ}} \partial_i \delta\pi^I \cdot \partial_i \delta\pi^J + \dots$$

Gradient instabilities and/or ghosts

**NB.** Loophole:  $\partial F / \partial X_c^{IJ}$  degenerate.

Higher derivative terms (understood in effective field theory sense) become important and help.

Ghost condensate

Simple NEC-violating Horndeski: scale-invariant model,  
 $\pi(x) \rightarrow \pi'(x) = \pi(\lambda x) + \ln \lambda$

$$L = F(Y) \cdot e^{4\pi} + K(Y) \cdot \square \pi \cdot e^{2\pi}$$

$$\square \pi \equiv \partial_\mu \partial^\mu \pi, \quad Y = e^{-2\pi} \cdot (\partial \pi)^2$$

Homogeneous solution in Minkowski space (attractor)

$$e^{\pi_c} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{Y_*} |t|}, \quad t < 0$$

●  $Y \equiv e^{-2\pi_c} \cdot (\partial_\mu \pi_c)^2 = Y_* = \text{const}$ , a solution to

$$Z(Y_*) \equiv -F + 2Y_* F_Y - 2Y_* K + 2Y_*^2 K_Y = 0$$

$$F_Y = dF/dY.$$

Perturbations about homogeneous Minkowski solution

$$\pi(x^\mu) = \pi_c(t) + \delta\pi(x^\mu)$$

- Quadratic Lagrangian for perturbations:

$$L^{(2)} = e^{2\pi_c} \mathcal{F} (\partial_t \delta\pi)^2 - \mathcal{G} (\vec{\nabla} \delta\pi)^2 + W(\delta\pi)^2$$

Absence of ghosts:  $\mathcal{F} = Z_Y \equiv dZ/dY > 0$  at  $Y = Y_*$ , no problem.

- NEC-violation and absence of gradient instabilities:

$$\rho + p = e^{4\pi_c} (F_Y - 2K + Y_* K_Y) \cdot 2Y_* < 0$$

$$\mathcal{G} = e^{2\pi_c} (F_Y - 2K + 4Y_* K_Y) > 0$$

Easy to arrange.

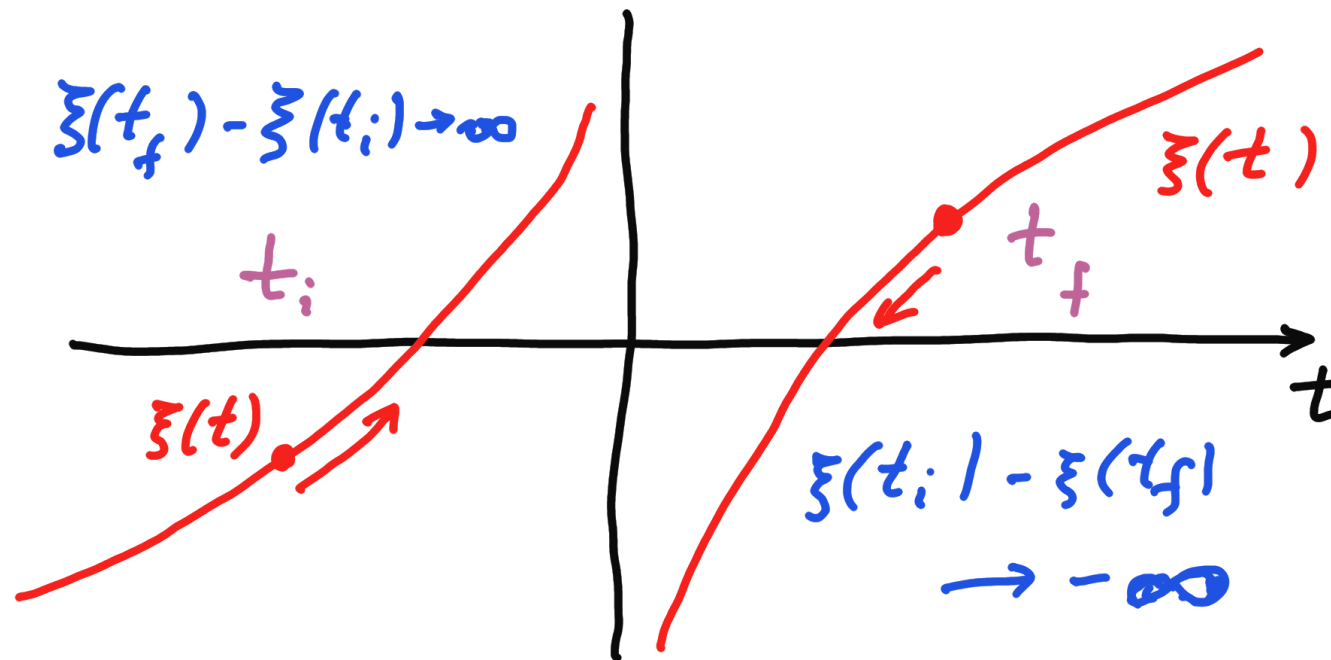
**NB:**  $\rho = 0, p < 0$        $p \rightarrow 0$  as  $t \rightarrow -\infty$

When coupled to gravity  $\implies$  early stage of Genesis.

Creminelli, Nicolis, Trincherini' 10,

# No-Go

Even if  $\Theta = 0$  at some time  $\iff \xi = \infty$ , there is necessarily  $\xi$ -crossing:



Side remark:  $\Theta$ -crossing  $\Theta = 0$  at some  $t$  is not a problem by itself.  $\mathcal{F}_{\mathcal{G}}, \mathcal{G}_{\mathcal{G}} = \infty$ , but solutions for  $\zeta$  remain finite. Also: no singularity in equations in Newtonian gauge



## DHOST with additional scalar field

Additional minimally coupled scalar:  $L_\chi = (\partial\chi)^2$

New feature: DHOST perturbations kinetically mix with  $\delta\chi$  if  $\dot{\chi}_c \neq 0$  in background:

quadratic action reads (modulo terms with less than two derivatives)

$$L_{\pi+\chi}^{(2)scalar} = G_{AB} \dot{u}^A \dot{u}^B - \frac{1}{a^2} F_{AB} \partial_i u^A \partial_i u^B$$

where  $A, B = 1, 2$ ,  $u^1 = \zeta$ ,  $u^2 = \delta\chi$ ,

$$G_{AB} = \begin{pmatrix} \mathcal{G}_\mathcal{F} & \dot{\chi}_c g \\ \dot{\chi}_c g & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad F_{AB} = \begin{pmatrix} \mathcal{F}_\mathcal{F} & \dot{\chi}_c f \\ \dot{\chi}_c f & 1 \end{pmatrix},$$

$g, f(\pi, X)$  = combinations of functions in DHOST Lagrangian.

One of the modes superluminal unless  $g = f$

$g = f \implies$  Very special DHOST theory (not beyond Horndeski), non-linear relations between terms in Lagrangian