

Gravitational effective action
and anomaly driven inflation
based on `arXiv:2508.INPREparation`

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- Anomaly driven inflation
- Thermal effective action — calculation
- Peculiarities of thermal effective action

- **Inflation** — cornerstone of modern classical and quantum cosmology, providing the inspiration for quantum gravity models construction and test for its validation.
- Main **observables**: amplitude and spectrum of relic photons (CMB) and gravitons.
- Models of inflation
 - Starobinsky inflation
 - Higgs inflation
 - etc
 - **Anomaly driven inflation**

Weyl anomaly

- Weyl-Invariant fields

$$S[\phi, g] \mapsto S[\phi^\sigma, g^\sigma] = S[\phi, g], \quad (g^\sigma)_{\mu\nu} = e^{2\sigma} g_{\mu\nu}, \quad \sigma = \sigma(x)$$

- Example: massless non-minimally coupled scalar

$$S[\phi, g] = \frac{1}{2} \int d^D x \sqrt{g} \left[(\nabla_\mu \phi)^2 + \xi R \phi^2 \right], \quad \xi = \frac{1}{4} \frac{D-2}{D-1}$$

- Gravitational effective action exhibits **Weyl anomaly**

$$\Gamma[g] = \frac{1}{2} \log \text{Det} [-\nabla^2 + \xi R], \quad \Gamma[g^\sigma] = \Gamma[g] + \Gamma_a[\sigma, g]$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} \Gamma_a[\sigma, g] = & \frac{1}{16\pi^2} \int d^4 x \sqrt{g} \left\{ [\alpha C^2 + \beta \mathcal{E}_4] \sigma + 2\beta \sigma \Delta_4 \sigma \right\} \\ & - \frac{1}{32\pi^2} \left(\frac{\gamma}{6} + \frac{\beta}{9} \right) \int d^4 x \left(\sqrt{g^\sigma} (R^\sigma)^2 - \sqrt{g} R^2 \right), \end{aligned}$$

Anomaly driven inflation — roadmap

- **Idea:** exploit R^2 terms in anomaly to mimic Starobinsky-like inflation
- Practical implementation:
 - take $\sigma = \log a(t)$, then the total action reads

$$S = S_{\text{EH}}[g^\sigma] + \Gamma[g] + \Gamma_{\text{a}}[\sigma, g], \quad \sigma = \log a(t)$$

- expand $\Gamma[g] = \Gamma[\bar{g} + h]$ about simple background \bar{g}
 - calculate two-point correlation function of perturbations h
- Known realizations:
 - Barvinsky, Kamenshchik 2006
 - Hawking, Hertog, Reall 2001
 - Shapiro 2006
- Choice of background \bar{g} :
 - $R^D, R \times S^d$
 - $S^1 \times R^d$ (**this talk**)
 - $S^1 \times S^d$

Gravitational effective action — flat spacetime

- How to calculate $\Gamma[\bar{g} + h]$?
- Usually calculated via **heat kernel** methods (Barvinsky, Vilkovisky 1990)

$$\Gamma[g] = \frac{1}{2} \ln \text{Det } F = -\frac{1}{2} \lim_{s \rightarrow 0} \frac{\partial}{\partial s} \frac{1}{\Gamma(s)} \int_0^\infty d\tau \tau^{s-1} \text{Tr } K(\tau)$$

- Here $\text{Tr } K(\tau) = \text{Tr } e^{-\tau F} =$
 $\text{Tr } K^{(0)}(\tau) + \text{Tr } K^{(1)}(\tau) + \text{Tr } K_1^{(2)}(\tau) + \text{Tr } K_2^{(2)}(\tau) + \dots$

$$\text{Tr } K^{(1)}(\tau) = -\tau \text{Tr}(e^{-\tau F_0} \delta F)$$

$$\text{Tr } K_1^{(2)}(\tau) = -\frac{1}{2} \tau \text{Tr}(e^{-\tau F_0} \delta^2 F)$$

$$\text{Tr } K_2^{(2)}(\tau) = \tau^2 \int_0^1 dx \text{Tr}(e^{-x\tau F_0} \delta F e^{-(1-x)\tau F_0} \delta F)$$

Gravitational effective action — flat spacetime II

- For scalar operator $F = -\nabla^2 + \xi R$

$$\text{Tr } K(\tau) = \frac{1}{(4\pi\tau)^{D/2}} \int d^D x \sqrt{g} \left[1 + \tau^2 \left(R f_1(-\tau \nabla^2) R + R_{\mu\nu} f_2(-\tau \nabla^2) R_{\mu\nu} \right) \right] + \mathcal{O}(h^3)$$

- Here **formfactorst** $f_{1,2}(t)$ are linear combinations of

$$f^{(l)}(t) = \frac{\partial^l}{\partial t^l} \int_0^1 dx e^{-x(1-x)t}$$

- This gives the following answer for $\Gamma[g]$

$$\Gamma[g] = \int d^D x \left[c_1 R_{\mu\nu} (-\nabla^2)^{D/2-2} \log(-\nabla^2) R_{\mu\nu} + c_2 R (-\nabla^2)^{D/2-2} \log(-\nabla^2) R \right]$$

Gravitational effective action — thermal case

- Inclusion of **temperature** $R^D \mapsto S^1 \times R^d$ leads to **two modifications**
- The **first** is modification of formfactor

$$\begin{aligned} f(-\tau \nabla^2) &= \int_0^1 dx e^{x(1-x)\tau \nabla^2} \mapsto f(\tau, \nabla^2, \partial_t^2) \\ &= \int_0^1 dx e^{x(1-x)\tau \nabla^2} \left[1 + 2 \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} e^{-\frac{\beta^2 n^2}{4\tau}} \cosh(\beta n \partial_t) \right] = f + f_\beta \end{aligned}$$

- This gives the following quadratic part of effective action

$$\Gamma_\beta^{(2)}[g] = \int d^D x \sqrt{g} \left(\gamma_1 R_{00}^2 + \gamma_2 R_{0i}^2 + \gamma_3 R_{ij}^2 + \gamma_4 R_{ii}^2 + \gamma_5 R_{00} R_{ii} \right)$$

where we develop **gradient expansion**

$$\gamma_i(-\partial_t^2, -\nabla^2) = \sum_{q=0}^{\infty} O_{i,q}(z, \partial_z) \operatorname{Re}[\zeta'_H(-2q, iz)]|_{2q\text{-reg}} (-\partial_t)^{2q}$$

and $O_{i,q}(z, \partial_z)$ is operator of order $2q + D/2 - 2$, $z = \frac{\beta}{2\pi} \sqrt{-\nabla^2}$.

- $\Gamma_\beta^{(2)}$ is **diffeomorphism invariant**, but **not Lorentz invariant**!

Linear term — nonlocal cosmological constant?

- The **second** modification is appearance of nontrivial linear term

$$\Gamma_{\beta}^{(1)}[g] = \int d^D x \left(d_1 h_{00} + d_2 h_{ii} \right)$$

where $d_{1,2} = d_{1,2}(\beta)$.

- How to complete linear term to diffeomorphism invariant? This is manifestly non-local for $d_1 \neq d_2$!
- The particular solution for h_{00} term is

$$\begin{aligned} \int d^D x h_{00} \mapsto \int d^D x \left[h_{00} + \frac{1}{2} \left(2h_{00}h_{ii} - 2h_{00}\frac{1}{\Delta}\partial_i\partial_j h_{ij} - 2h_{0i}^2 \right. \right. \\ \left. \left. + 2\partial_i h_{0i}\frac{1}{\Delta}\partial_j h_{0j} - 2\partial_t h_{0i}\frac{1}{\Delta}\partial_j h_{ij} + h_{ij}\frac{\partial_t^2}{\Delta}h_{ij} \right) \right] \end{aligned}$$

- This can be interpreted as **non-local cosmological constant** term.

We have:

- Finite-temperature effective action for non-minimally coupled scalar field is constructed
- Inclusion of fermions can be done by using identity $\theta_2(0, e^{-z}) = \theta_3(0, e^{-z/4}) - \theta_3(0, e^{-z})$
- Gradient expansion was extended beyond zero order, calculated by Gusev, Zelnikov 2000
- Strange nonlocal cosmological constant contribution was identified

What is next?

- Euclid \mapsto Schwinger-Keldysh
- Compact case: role of Weyl invariance and different tensor sectors
- Gravity \mapsto Yang-Mills, photon/gluon pair production?

Thank you for your attention!