

The Weak Equivalence Principle in the strong gravity regime

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Talk based on work carried out at the University of Nottingham

Topics:

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- Equivalence Principles

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- Brans-Dicke and the solar system

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- Future work

Equivalence Principles

Definitions based on¹

¹Will 2014.

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- Weak Equivalence Principle
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- Einstein Equivalence Principle
 - ▶ WEP + Local Lorentz Invariance

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 - ▶ EEP but test particles \rightarrow self-gravitating systems*

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- Weak Equivalence Principle
 - ▶ Test particles have universal free-fall
- Einstein Equivalence Principle
 - ▶ WEP + Local Lorentz Invariance
- Strong Equivalence Principle
 - ▶ EEP but test particles → self-gravitating systems*
 - ▶ can also be formulated in terms of existence of “isolated systems”

¹Will 2014.

Jordan frame:

$$S = \frac{1}{16\pi} \int d^4x \sqrt{-\tilde{g}} \left[\Phi \tilde{R} - \frac{\omega_0}{\Phi} \partial_\mu \Phi \partial^\mu \Phi \right] + S_m[\tilde{g}, \psi_m].$$

²See Jordan 1959; Brans et al. 1961 and more generally e.g. Fujii et al. 2007; Faraoni 2004

Brans-Dicke theory ²

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Where:

$$\tilde{g} = A^2(\phi)\mathbf{g}, \quad A^2(\phi) = \frac{1}{G\Phi(\phi)}, \quad d\phi = \frac{\sqrt{3+2\omega_0}}{\Phi} d\Phi.$$

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Brans-Dicke theory: Solar system tests

Two parameters at first PPN order:

- $\gamma = (1 + \omega_0) / (2 + \omega_0)$
- ϕ_∞ - *c.f.* isolated systems definition of SEP

Only γ from pure solar system. Current constraints effectively render BD uninteresting³.

³Bertotti et al. 2003.

For our purposes need Einstein frame:

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Useful to define:

$$\alpha(\phi) = \frac{d}{d\phi} \log \phi$$

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Scalar-tensor theories: Spontaneous scalarization

Simple, and relevant, example of a “screening mechanism”⁵:

⁵Damour et al. 1993; Damour et al. 1996.

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Linear scalar field equation around GR solution with constant scalar ϕ_0 :

$$\square\varphi = \left(m^2 - 4\pi GT\beta\right)\varphi$$

where

$$\phi = \phi_0 + \varphi + \dots, \quad m^2 = \frac{1}{4}V''(\phi_0), \quad \beta = \alpha'(\phi_0).$$

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Upshot: screened SEP violations which show up in strong gravity (just one example).

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WEP violations: some motivation

Broad motivation:⁶

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2. Theoretical considerations
3. Additional ways to search for extra degrees of freedom

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$$- \frac{1}{4} \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} [F_{\mu\nu} F^{\mu\nu}] + S_m[A^2(|\phi|)\mathbf{g}, \psi_m],$$

where:

$$\mathcal{D}_\mu \phi = \partial_\mu \phi - iqA_\mu \phi,$$

A_μ is a $U(1)$ gauge field and ϕ is $U(1)$ charged.

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If the spontaneous scalarization mechanism is undamaged, this is the $U(1)$ Higgs mechanism*.

The gravitational Higgs mechanism: spherical symmetry

By making a gauge choice we can write the gauge field's equation of motion in a Proca-like form:

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This can then be transformed away ($\phi = |\phi| \exp i\theta \rightarrow |\phi| \exp i(\theta + q\lambda)$ and so $\lambda = -\theta/q$ does this for us).

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In spherical symmetry and staticity the r (areal radius) component of the gauge fields equation reads:

$$m_\gamma^2 A_r = 0,$$

(in the above gauge) and so $A_\mu = (A_t, 0, 0, 0)$.

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Following the Bekenstein proof⁷ of the no-hair theorem for the Einstein-Proca system we can also prove that in this situation the $U(1)$ field must be trivial.

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Sketch: Contract the Proca-like equation with A^ν and integrate over some spacetime volume, \mathcal{V} ,

$$\int_{\mathcal{V}} d^4x \sqrt{-g} [A^\nu \nabla^\mu F_{\mu\nu} - m_\gamma A^\nu A_\nu] = 0.$$

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Finally look at the integrand of the left-hand-side, it is sign definite and one gets $A_t = 0$.

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The gravitational Higgs mechanism: mass generation

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It turns out that this mechanism is extremely effective. Using the expression for the effective mass from earlier:

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For comparison, weak field tests of the photon mass give an upper bound $\sim 10^{-42} M_{\text{Pl}}$, *i.e.* even for small amounts of scalarization there can be large changes in the matter sector.

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 - ▶ ϕ dependent equations of state

Compare the flatspace Klein-Gordon equation with a field dependent mass:

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Future: smoking guns

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So in dynamical situations can expect some excitation of ψ (*c.f.* reheating).

Future: beyond the $U(1)$ model

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- Maintaining some tractability

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Thank you!

Questions?