

Energy-momentum divergences and the renormalization of gravity

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this work: [hep-th/0605107](#)

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see also chapter 6 of Birrell & Davies

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We begin with a simple question

How is the *classical* gravitational action affected by the presence of a *quantum* field?

The various divergences in field—since it is a source for gravity—lead to a need to renormalize the parameters of the gravitational theory

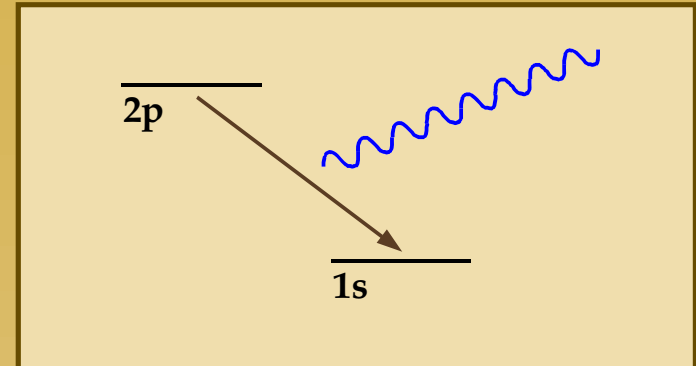
(as long as the space-time symmetries are unbroken)

Overview

- Flat space—the cosmological constant
- An adiabatic description of a field
- Renormalization of classical gravity
- The energy-momentum tensor in an expanding background
- A few words on boundary renormalization

Flat space & the cosmological constant, Λ

- We begin with a simple and familiar example, the renormalization of the vacuum energy, or cosmological constant
- In ordinary quantum field theories there is not usually an idea of absolute scales
- what we typically measure are transitions from one state to another
 - e.g. a decay, a scattering from one 2-particle state to a different 2-particle state, etc.
- However, gravity—or *classical* gravity, at any rate—is acutely sensitive to absolute scales
 - different values of the vacuum energy produce dramatically different cosmologies



both the sign

$\Lambda > 0$, de Sitter

$\Lambda = 0$, Minkowski

$\Lambda < 0$, anti-de Sitter

and the magnitude

$\Lambda < (\text{few meV})^4$
for a reasonable
cosmology

A free scalar field in flat space

- This talk will examine how we can still treat a quantum field theory consistently even in a curved, classical background
 - divergences in the quantum theory lead to a renormalization of the parameters of the gravitational theory
 - ultimate goal: to understand the analogous renormalization of the boundary divergences of a particular initial state
- Consider the simplest possible example, a free scalar field in Minkowski space
- The source for gravity is provided by the distribution of matter and energy, which in Einstein's equations corresponds to the energy-momentum tensor, $T_{\mu\nu}$
- In particular, the energy density contained in the field corresponds to T_0^0

action

$$S_\varphi = \int d^4x \left[\frac{1}{2} \partial_\mu \varphi \partial^\mu \varphi - \frac{1}{2} m^2 \varphi^2 \right]$$

energy-momentum tensor

$$T_{\mu\nu} = \partial_\mu \varphi \partial_\nu \varphi - \frac{1}{2} \eta_{\mu\nu} \left(\partial_\lambda \varphi \partial^\lambda \varphi - m^2 \varphi^2 \right)$$

the energy density

$$T_0^0 = \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{d\varphi}{dt} \right)^2 + \frac{1}{2} \nabla \varphi \cdot \nabla \varphi + \frac{1}{2} m^2 \varphi^2$$

The energy density

- At this point, to relate the presence of the field to its effect on the classical gravitational background, we must reduce the operator T_0^0 to a *classical* quantity
 - if the field is in a particular state, for example the standard vacuum, we can evaluate the expectation value of T_0^0
- If we expand the field as a sum of creation and annihilation operators,

$$\varphi = \int \frac{d^3 \mathbf{k}}{(2\pi)^3} \left[u_{\mathbf{k}}(t) e^{i\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{x}} a_{\mathbf{k}} + u_{\mathbf{k}}^*(t) e^{-i\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{x}} a_{\mathbf{k}}^\dagger \right]$$

the standard vacuum eigenmodes are

$$u_{\mathbf{k}}(t) = \frac{e^{-i\omega_{\mathbf{k}} t}}{\sqrt{2\omega_{\mathbf{k}}}}, \quad \omega_{\mathbf{k}} = \sqrt{k^2 + m^2}$$

energy density

$$\rho = \langle 0 | T_0^0 | 0 \rangle$$

three assumptions fix the form of the vacuum modes:

1. they obey the Klein-Gordon equation

$$\frac{d^2 u_{\mathbf{k}}}{dt^2} = -\omega_{\mathbf{k}}^2 u_{\mathbf{k}}$$

2. the field satisfies the equal time commutation relation

$$[\varphi(t, \mathbf{x}), \varphi(t, \mathbf{y})] = -i\delta^3(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y})$$

3. positive energy eigenstates

A divergent vacuum energy

- Evaluating the energy density contained within the scalar field, we find an infinite result
- What does this mean with respect to gravity?
- The result becomes more transparent if we also evaluate the pressure, p
- In this form, the pressure and density are not particularly suggestive; but if we dimensionally regularize the momentum integrals we discover that

$$\rho = -p = -\frac{m^4}{64\pi^2} \frac{1}{\epsilon} + \dots$$

energy density

$$\begin{aligned}\rho &= \langle 0 | T_0^0 | 0 \rangle \\ &= \int \frac{d^3 \mathbf{k}}{(2\pi)^3} \left\{ \frac{1}{2} \left| \frac{du_k}{dt} \right|^2 + \frac{1}{2} \omega_k^2 |u_k|^2 \right\} \\ &= \int \frac{d^3 \mathbf{k}}{(2\pi)^3} \left\{ \frac{1}{2} \omega_k \right\}\end{aligned}$$

pressure

$$\begin{aligned}p \delta_i^j &= -\langle 0 | T_i^j | 0 \rangle \\ p &= \frac{1}{6} \int \frac{d^3 \mathbf{k}}{(2\pi)^3} \left\{ \omega_k - \frac{m^2}{\omega_k} \right\}\end{aligned}$$

Renormalization of the cosmological constant

- The divergent part of the pressure is exactly the same as the density in magnitude but with the opposite sign
- Both are divergent, but both are also time-independent so they have precisely the form of a cosmological constant
- We can restore our flat background by assuming that there is actually a “bare” cosmological constant that precisely cancels this vacuum energy density from the scalar field
- Thus the presence of a quantum field φ and the divergences associated with its energy-momentum (ρ, p) has led to a need to renormalize the gravitational part of the theory

$$\rho = -p = -\frac{m^4}{64\pi^2} \frac{1}{\epsilon} + \dots$$

gravity (Λ, G, \dots)
+
scalar field: $\langle 0 | T_{\mu\nu} | 0 \rangle$
↓
renormalized
gravity (Λ_R, G, \dots)

$$2\Lambda + \frac{m^4}{64\pi^2} \frac{1}{\epsilon} = 2\Lambda_R = 0$$

An isotropically expanding universe

- Let us next generalize to an isotropically expanding background, described by a conformally flat metric
- When a quantum scalar field is placed in this background, the spatial flatness still allows an expansion in plane waves

$$\varphi(\eta, \mathbf{x}) = \int \frac{d^3 \mathbf{k}}{(2\pi)^3} \left[\varphi_{\mathbf{k}}(\eta) e^{i\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{x}} a_{\mathbf{k}} + \varphi_{\mathbf{k}}^*(\eta) e^{-i\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{x}} a_{\mathbf{k}}^\dagger \right]$$

where the modes satisfy

$$\varphi_{\mathbf{k}}'' + 2aH\varphi_{\mathbf{k}}' + (k^2 + a^2 m^2) \varphi_{\mathbf{k}} = 0$$

- We again can ask how this field affects the gravitational background, particularly through its short-distance divergences

metric

$$ds^2 = a^2(\eta) \left[d\eta^2 - d\mathbf{x} \cdot d\mathbf{x} \right]$$

$$S_\varphi = \int d^4 x \sqrt{-g} \left[\frac{1}{2} g^{\mu\nu} \partial_\mu \varphi \partial_\nu \varphi - \frac{1}{2} m^2 \varphi^2 \right]$$

Hubble scale

$$H = \frac{a'}{a^2} = \frac{1}{a^2} \frac{\partial a}{\partial \eta}$$

The standard vacuum modes

- For now we shall choose the “vacuum” modes; yet we seem to have reached an impasse, since we do not have an explicit solutions for even these modes in general
- However, since the divergences occur only at short distances, it is sufficient to solve only for the $k \rightarrow \infty$ behavior of the modes
- First, we write the modes in a form reminiscent of the flat space vacuum modes
- $\Omega_k(\eta)$ generalizes the flat space frequency and satisfies its own Klein-Gordon eqn

$$\Omega_k^2 = k^2 + a^2 m^2 - \frac{a''}{a} - \frac{1}{2} \frac{\Omega_k''}{\Omega_k} + \frac{3}{4} \frac{\Omega_k'^2}{\Omega_k^2}$$

vacuum modes

$$\varphi_k(\eta) \rightarrow U_k(\eta)$$

$$U_k(\eta) = \frac{e^{-i \int_{\eta_0}^{\eta} d\eta' \Omega_k(\eta')}}{a(\eta) \sqrt{2\Omega_k(\eta)}}$$

define a 0th order frequency

$$\omega_k^2 = k^2 + a^2 m^2$$

An adiabatic approximation

- To isolate the leading k dependence, we shall use an expansion based on assuming that time-derivatives are small—an adiabatic approximation

$$\Omega_k = \Omega_k^{(0)} + \Omega_k^{(1)} + \Omega_k^{(2)} + \dots$$

- More precisely, the derivatives of the n^{th} term determine the form of the $(n+1)^{\text{st}}$ term
- For example, the 0^{th} and 1^{st} order terms in this approximation are shown to the right
- For the standard renormalization of gravity, the first term is sufficient
 - but more terms are needed when we extend to a general initial state

Klein-Gordon equation

$$\Omega_k^2 = k^2 + a^2 m^2 - \frac{a''}{a} - \frac{1}{2} \frac{\Omega_k''}{\Omega_k} + \frac{3}{4} \frac{\Omega_k'^2}{\Omega_k^2}$$

zeroth order term

$$[\Omega_k^{(0)}]^2 = k^2 + a^2 m^2 - \frac{a''}{a} = \omega_k^2 - \frac{a''}{a}$$

first order term

$$\Omega_k^{(1)} = -\frac{1}{4} \frac{[\Omega_k^{(0)}]''}{[\Omega_k^{(0)}]^2} + \frac{3}{8} \frac{1}{\Omega_k^{(0)}} \frac{[\Omega_k^{(0)}]'^2}{[\Omega_k^{(0)}]^2}$$

The renormalization of gravity

- The renormalization of the cosmological constant is simply the first example of a general renormalization of the parameters of the gravitational action required in the presence of a quantum field
- As an effective theory, the gravitational action can be expressed as a series arranged by powers of derivatives
 - in four dimensions the Gauss-Bonnet term is purely topological
 - the Weyl tensor vanishes for a conformally flat metric

$$S_g = \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} \left[2\Lambda + M_{\text{pl}}^2 R + \alpha R^2 + \beta R_{\mu\nu} R^{\mu\nu} + \gamma R_{\lambda\mu\nu\sigma} R^{\lambda\mu\nu\sigma} + \dots \right]$$

- Thus, in practice we shall require only one of the the four-derivative terms

$$\Lambda, M_{\text{pl}}^2 = \frac{1}{16\pi G}, \dots$$

The Gauss-Bonnet term

$$R^2 - 4R_{\mu\nu} R^{\mu\nu} + R_{\lambda\mu\nu\sigma} R^{\lambda\mu\nu\sigma}$$

Weyl² term

$$C_{\lambda\mu\nu\sigma} C^{\lambda\mu\nu\sigma} = \frac{1}{3} R^2 - 2R_{\mu\nu} R^{\mu\nu} + R_{\lambda\mu\nu\sigma} R^{\lambda\mu\nu\sigma}$$

$$\int d^4x \sqrt{-g} \left[2\Lambda + M_{\text{pl}}^2 R + \alpha R^2 \right]$$

Renormalization of gravity—equations of motion

- Varying this action with respect to $\delta g_{\mu\nu}$ yields the gravitational contribution to the equations of motion,

$$\int d^4x \sqrt{-g} \left[2\Lambda + M_{\text{pl}}^2 R + \alpha R^2 \right]$$

$$\frac{2}{\sqrt{-g}} \frac{\delta S_g}{\delta g^{\mu\nu}} = 2\Lambda g_{\mu\nu} - 2M_{\text{pl}}^2 \left[R_{\mu\nu} - \frac{1}{2} g_{\mu\nu} R \right] - 4\alpha \left[\nabla_\mu \nabla_\nu R - g_{\mu\nu} \nabla^2 R + R R_{\mu\nu} - \frac{1}{4} g_{\mu\nu} R^2 \right]$$

- The other component comes from the scalar field. Since the energy-momentum tensor is an operator, we must take its expectation value to learn its effect on gravity,

energy-momentum tensor

$$T_{\mu\nu} = -\frac{2}{\sqrt{-g}} \frac{\delta S_\varphi}{\delta g^{\mu\nu}}$$

$$\langle 0 | T_{\mu\nu} | 0 \rangle = 2\Lambda g_{\mu\nu} - 2M_{\text{pl}}^2 \left[R_{\mu\nu} - \frac{1}{2} g_{\mu\nu} R \right] - 4\alpha \left[\nabla_\mu \nabla_\nu R - g_{\mu\nu} \nabla^2 R + R R_{\mu\nu} - \frac{1}{4} g_{\mu\nu} R^2 \right]$$

Symmetries of the background

- Before evaluating the divergences in $\langle 0 | T_{\mu\nu} | 0 \rangle$, it is helpful to use the symmetries of the background to isolate the independent components of this tensor
- The spatial flatness implies that this tensor can be written—completely generally—as
- Although we shall evaluate both the density and the pressure, there is in fact some redundancy implied by $\nabla_\mu T^\mu{}_\lambda = 0$
- Thus,

$$\langle 0 | T_\mu^\nu | 0 \rangle = \text{diag}[\rho(\eta), -p(\eta), -p(\eta), -p(\eta)]$$

conservation equation

$$\rho' = -3aH(\rho + p)$$

$$\rho = 2\Lambda + M_{\text{pl}}^2 \frac{6}{a^2} \frac{a'^2}{a^2} + \frac{36\alpha}{a^4} \left[2 \frac{a'''}{a} \frac{a'}{a} - \frac{a''^2}{a^2} - 4 \frac{a''}{a} \frac{a'^2}{a^2} \right]$$

$$p = -2\Lambda + M_{\text{pl}}^2 \frac{2}{a^2} \left[\frac{a'^2}{a^2} - 2 \frac{a''}{a} \right] - \frac{24\alpha}{a^4} \left[\frac{a'''}{a} - 5 \frac{a'''}{a} \frac{a'}{a} - \frac{5}{2} \frac{a''^2}{a^2} + 8 \frac{a''}{a} \frac{a'^2}{a^2} \right]$$

A few assumptions

- Before proceeding, we should be a little more explicit about some of our assumptions for the field
- Both the action and the state chosen respect the same classical symmetries as the background
 - therefore the divergences should have the same structure as the previous gravitational terms
 - states that break the classical symmetries of the background can produce additional divergences that are not of the form of the terms we have included thus far (boundary terms)
- The standard approach, which we have been following, is to reduce the field contribution to a classical function
 - however, in a more general setting, this reduction may not itself be sufficient to understand the renormalization
 - we should instead treat the gravitational side quantum mechanically (at tree level) so that it can properly respond to the scalar field

$$[\nabla^2 + m^2]\varphi(\eta, \mathbf{x}) = 0$$

$$|0\rangle \rightarrow \begin{cases} \text{maximally} \\ \text{symmetric} \\ \text{state} \end{cases}$$

Divergences in the energy & momentum

- In a curved background, the energy density contained within the scalar field in its standard vacuum is

$$\rho = \frac{1}{2} a^{-2} \langle 0 | [\dot{\varphi}^2 + \nabla\varphi \cdot \nabla\varphi + a^2 m^2 \varphi^2] | 0 \rangle$$

which becomes (point-splitting)

$$\rho = \frac{1}{2} \frac{1}{a^2} \int \frac{d^3\mathbf{k}}{(2\pi)^3} \left\{ |U'_k|^2 + (k^2 + a^2 m^2) |U_k|^2 \right\}$$

- To apply our adiabatic approximation, to isolate the leading short-distance behavior, we rewrite the integrand in terms of $\Omega_k(\eta)$,

$$\rho = \frac{1}{4} \frac{1}{a^4} \int \frac{d^3\mathbf{k}}{(2\pi)^3} \frac{1}{\Omega_k} \left\{ 2\Omega_k^2 + \frac{a''}{a} + \frac{a'^2}{a^2} + \frac{a'}{a} \frac{\Omega'_k}{\Omega_k} + \frac{1}{2} \frac{\Omega''_k}{\Omega_k} - \frac{1}{2} \frac{\Omega_k'^2}{\Omega_k^2} \right\}$$

vacuum modes

$$U_k(\eta) = \frac{e^{-i \int_{\eta_0}^{\eta} d\eta' \Omega_k(\eta')}}{a(\eta) \sqrt{2\Omega_k(\eta)}}$$

Adiabatic approximation

$$\begin{aligned} \Omega_k &= \omega_k - \frac{1}{2} \frac{1}{\omega_k} \frac{a''}{a} - \frac{1}{4} \frac{a^2 m^2}{\omega_k^3} \\ &+ \frac{1}{8} \frac{1}{\omega_k^3} \left[\frac{a''''}{a} - 2 \frac{a'''}{a} \frac{a'}{a} - 2 \frac{a''^2}{a^2} + 2 \frac{a''}{a} \frac{a'^2}{a^2} \right] \\ &+ \dots \\ \omega_k^2 &= k^2 + a^2 m^2 \end{aligned}$$

The adiabatic approximation of the density

- The adiabatic approximation allows us to isolate the divergent behavior without solving for the exact form of the modes,

$$\rho = \frac{1}{2} \frac{1}{a^4} \int \frac{d^3 \mathbf{k}}{(2\pi)^3} \omega_k + \frac{1}{4} \frac{1}{a^4} \frac{a'^2}{a^2} \int \frac{d^3 \mathbf{k}}{(2\pi)^3} \left[\frac{1}{\omega_k} + \frac{a^2 m^2}{\omega_k^3} \right]$$

$$- \frac{1}{16} \frac{1}{a^4} \left[2 \frac{a'''}{a} \frac{a'}{a} - \frac{a''^2}{a^2} - 4 \frac{a''}{a} \frac{a'^2}{a^2} \right] \int \frac{d^3 \mathbf{k}}{(2\pi)^3} \frac{1}{\omega_k^3}$$

+ finite

- Even before evaluating the integrals, we can see that the divergences have the same form as the gravitational terms,

$$\rho = 2\Lambda + M_{\text{pl}}^2 \frac{6}{a^2} \frac{a'^2}{a^2}$$

$$+ \frac{36\alpha}{a^4} \left[2 \frac{a'''}{a} \frac{a'}{a} - \frac{a''^2}{a^2} - 4 \frac{a''}{a} \frac{a'^2}{a^2} \right]$$

general form

$$\int \frac{d^3 \mathbf{k}}{(2\pi)^3} \frac{1}{\omega_k^n}$$

$$\omega_k^2 = k^2 + a^2 m^2$$

infrared regulator

A little aside on dimensional regularization

- The structure of the momentum integrals that diverge at short distances have a structure similar to the standard form encountered in an S -matrix calculation
 - they are already purely spatial, so no Wick rotation is necessary
- We regulate the integrals by extending the number of spatial dimensions to $3 - 2\varepsilon$
 - since k is actually the comoving momentum we include a factor of the scale a along with the renormalization scale μ
 - the logarithms thus do not depend on $a(\eta)$
- We then extract the poles by taking $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$

$$\begin{aligned} I_n^0 &= \int \frac{d^3 \mathbf{k}}{(2\pi)^3} \frac{1}{\omega_k^n} \\ &= \int \frac{d^3 \mathbf{k}}{(2\pi)^3} \frac{1}{(k^2 + a^2 m^2)^{n/2}} \end{aligned}$$

$$I_n^\varepsilon = \int \frac{d^{3-2\varepsilon} \mathbf{k}}{(2\pi)^{3-2\varepsilon}} \frac{(a\mu)^{2\varepsilon}}{(k^2 + a^2 m^2)^{n/2}}$$

$$I_n^\varepsilon = \frac{\sqrt{\pi}}{8\pi^2} \frac{\Gamma(\varepsilon - \frac{3-n}{2})}{\Gamma(\frac{n}{2})} \left[\frac{4\pi\mu^2}{m^2} \right]^\varepsilon (am)^{3-n}$$

Renormalizing classical gravity

- Extracting just the pole terms we discover that the divergences in the energy density of the scalar field,

$$\rho = -\frac{m^4}{64\pi^2} \frac{1}{\epsilon} + \frac{m^2}{192\pi^2} \frac{6}{a^2} \frac{a'^2}{a^2} \frac{1}{\epsilon}$$

$$-\frac{1}{2304\pi^2} \frac{36}{a^4} \left[2 \frac{a'''}{a} \frac{a'}{a} - \frac{a''^2}{a^2} - 4 \frac{a''}{a} \frac{a'^2}{a^2} \right] \frac{1}{\epsilon}$$

$$+ \dots$$

precisely match the scale-dependences the gravitational terms,

$$\rho = 2\Lambda + M_{\text{pl}}^2 \frac{6}{a^2} \frac{a'^2}{a^2}$$

$$+ \frac{36\alpha}{a^4} \left[2 \frac{a'''}{a} \frac{a'}{a} - \frac{a''^2}{a^2} - 4 \frac{a''}{a} \frac{a'^2}{a^2} \right]$$

e.g., in the MS scheme

cosmological constant

$$\Lambda_R = \Lambda + \frac{m^4}{128\pi^2} \frac{1}{\epsilon}$$

Planck mass (Newton constant)

$$M_{\text{pl},R}^2 = M_{\text{pl}}^2 - \frac{m^2}{192\pi^2} \frac{1}{\epsilon}$$

four-derivative terms

$$\alpha_R = \alpha + \frac{1}{2304\pi^2} \frac{1}{\epsilon}$$

A few words on boundary renormalization

- Our ultimate interest is to derive the analogous renormalization of the background geometry that occurs when we chose a more general effective initial state for the scalar field
- Let us recall the philosophy behind an effective initial state
 - the usual vacuum is a derived based upon a particular choice for the low energy theory, which is extrapolated to arbitrary scales
- The true vacuum may differ from this state
 - new dynamics at short distances
 - broken or deformed symmetries
 - new physical principles
- The effective state then provides a general parameterizations of the possible differences between the standard and the true vacuum states

define the state at an initial time through

$$n^\mu \nabla_\mu \varphi_k \Big|_{\eta=\eta_0} = -i\varpi_k \varphi_k(\eta_0)$$

$$\varpi_k = \frac{1 - f_k}{1 + f_k} \frac{\Omega_k}{a} - iH - \frac{i}{2} \frac{\Omega'_k}{\Omega_k}$$

$$\varphi_k(\eta) = \frac{U_k(\eta) + f_k U_k^*(\eta)}{\sqrt{1 - f_k f_k^*}}$$

e.g., for a “trans-Planckian” initial state,

$$f_k = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} c_n \frac{\omega^n}{(aM)^n}$$

A few words on boundary renormalization

- A more general effective state produces new divergences in the energy-momentum tensor
 - because of the oscillatory factor, these divergences occur at the initial boundary
- These divergences then require modifying the gravitational side of the theory, by adding new boundary counterterms
 - For example, in Minkowski space there is only one possible surface counterterm—a surface tension—but that is enough
 - More generally we have terms built from the extrinsic and intrinsic curvatures
- The calculation is more complicated, but the approach is the same
 - expand to the appropriate adiabatic order
 - and counterterms with the same scale dependence (subtlety—dynamics)

including the new contribution

$$\rho \rightarrow \rho + \rho_{\text{surf}}$$

where

$$\rho_{\text{surf}} = \frac{1}{4} \frac{1}{a^4} \int \frac{d^3 \mathbf{k}}{(2\pi)^3} f_k^* \frac{e^{-2i \int_{\eta_0}^{\eta} d\eta' \Omega_k(\eta')}}{\Omega_k} \times \left\{ 2i \frac{a'}{a} \Omega_k + \frac{a''}{a} + \frac{a'^2}{a^2} + i\Omega_k' + \frac{a'}{a} \frac{\Omega_k'}{\Omega_k} + \frac{1}{2} \frac{\Omega_k''}{\Omega_k} - \frac{1}{2} \frac{\Omega_k'^2}{\Omega_k^2} \right\}$$

for example, if $f_k \approx k/M$

$$\rho_{\text{surf}} \propto \int \frac{d^3 \mathbf{k}}{(2\pi)^3} \frac{\omega_k}{M} \times \frac{1}{\omega_k^4} \times \text{four derivatives of } a$$

A controversy and its possible resolution

- Treating gravity completely classically, however, may not be sufficient to capture the effects we are seeking
 - the state explicitly breaks some of the background symmetries
 - allow the geometry to adjust to match that of the scalar field state
- However, by treating gravity on the same footing as the scalar field—and at tree level—it should be possible to resolve an important question about the naturalness of trans-Planckian initial conditions
 - in this framework, there would be no fine-tuning in the initial state as some groups have previously claimed
 - the subtle point concerns normal derivatives in the boundary counterterms

simplified back-reaction calculations:

- Porrati, 2004–2005
- Greene, Schalm, Shiu, & van der Shaar, 2004–2005

possible counterterm action

$$S_{\text{surf}} = \int d^3x \sqrt{-h} \left\{ \sigma + g_1 K + g_2 K^2 + g'_2 n^\mu \nabla_\mu K + \dots \right\}$$

extrinsic curvature

$$K_{\mu\nu} = h_\mu^\lambda \nabla_\lambda n_\nu$$
$$h_{\mu\nu} = g_{\mu\nu} - n_\mu n_\nu$$

Conclusions

- The purpose of this talk has been somewhat modest—to show how the presence of quantum fields in a classical gravitational background leads to a renormalization of the gravitational parameters
- as well as to provide a brief overview of the new elements for the energy-momentum associated with a general effective initial state
- Because the standard vacuum respects the symmetries at arbitrarily short-distances, the counterterms will be of exactly the same form as those already in the action
 - but for other states, the broken symmetries mean that we can include other counterterms consistent with the remaining unbroken symmetry
 - the field is, after all, the source for gravity

renormalizing “bulk” gravity

$$\Lambda_R = \Lambda + \frac{m^4}{128\pi^2} \frac{1}{\epsilon}$$
$$M_{\text{pl},R}^2 = M_{\text{pl}}^2 - \frac{m^2}{192\pi^2} \frac{1}{\epsilon}$$
$$\alpha_R = \alpha + \frac{1}{2304\pi^2} \frac{1}{\epsilon}$$

the geometry must be allowed to adapt to the form of the state for a consistent treatment

$$S_{\text{surf}} = \int d^3x \sqrt{-h} \left\{ \sigma + g_1 K + g_2 K^2 + g'_2 n^\mu \nabla_\mu K + \dots \right\}$$