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Cosmology in delta-gravity

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Abstract

We present a model of the gravitational field based on two symmetric tensors. Gravity is affected by the new field, but if $T_{\mu\nu} = 0$, the predictions of the model coincide exactly with general relativity, so all classical tests are satisfied. We find that massive particles do not follow a geodesic, while massless particles trajectories are null geodesics of an effective metric. We study the cosmological case, where we obtain an accelerated expansion of the Universe without dark energy.

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Introduction

We know that general relativity (GR) has been tested on scales larger than a millimeter to the solar-system scale [1, 2]. Nevertheless, its quantization has proved to be difficult, though. The theory is non-renormalizable, which prevents its unification with the other forces of nature. Trying to make sense of quantum GR is the main physical motivation of string theories [3, 4]. Moreover, recent discoveries in cosmology have revealed that most part of matter is in the form of unknown matter, dark matter (DM) [5–13], and that the dynamics of the expansion of the Universe is governed by a mysterious component that accelerates the expansion, dark energy (DE) [14–18]. Although GR is able to accommodate both DM and DE, the interpretation of the dark sector in terms of fundamental theories of elementary particles is problematic [19]. Although some candidates exist that could play the role of DM, none have been detected yet . Also, an alternative explanation based on the modification of the dynamics for small accelerations cannot be ruled out [20, 21].

In GR, DE can be explained if a small cosmological constant (Λ) is present. In early times, this constant is irrelevant, but at the later stages of the evolution of the Universe Λ will dominate the expansion, explaining the acceleration. Such small Λ is very difficult to generate in quantum field theory models, because Λ is the vacuum energy, which is usually very large [22].

One of the most important mysteries in cosmology and cosmic structure formation is to understand the nature of DE in the context of a fundamental physical theory [23, 24]. In recent

years, there have been various proposals to explain the observed acceleration of the Universe. They involve some additional fields in approaches such as quintessence, chameleon, vector DE or massive gravity, the addition of higher order terms in the Einstein–Hilbert action, like f(R) theories and Gauss–Bonnet terms, and finally the introduction of extra dimensions for a modification of gravity on large scales (see [25]).

Less widely explored but interesting possibilities are the search for non-trivial ultraviolet fixed points in gravity (asymptotic safety [26]) and the notion of induced gravity [27–30]. The first possibility uses exact renormalization-group techniques [31–34] together with lattice and numerical techniques such as Lorentzian triangulation analysis [35]. Induced gravity proposes that gravitation is a residual force produced by other interactions.

Recently, in [36, 37] a field theory model explores the emergence of geometry by the spontaneous symmetry breaking of a larger symmetry where the metric is absent. Previous work in this direction can be found in [38–44].

In this paper, we present a model of gravitation that is very similar to classical GR, but could make sense at the quantum level. In the construction, we consider two different points. The first is that GR is finite on shell at one loop [45], so renormalization is not necessary at this level. The second is a type of gauge theory, δ gauge theories (DGT), presented in [46, 47], whose main properties are as follows: (a) New kinds of fields are created, ϕ_I , from the originals ϕ_I . (b) The classical equations of motion of ϕ_I are satisfied in the full quantum theory. (c) The model lives at one loop. (d) The action is obtained through the extension of the original gauge symmetry of the model, introducing an extra symmetry that we call δ symmetry, since it is formally obtained as the variation of the original symmetry. When we apply this prescription to GR we obtain δ gravity. The quantization of δ gravity is discussed in [48].

Here, we study the classical effects of δ gravity at the cosmological level. For this, we assume that the Universe only has two kinds of components, non-relativistic matter (DM, baryonic matter) and radiation (photons, massless particles), which satisfy a fluid-like equation $p = \omega \rho$. We will not include the matter dynamics, except by demanding that the energy-momentum tensor of the matter fluid is covariantly conserved. This is required in order to respect the symmetries of the model. In contrast to [49], where an approximation is discussed, in this work we find the exact solution of the equations corresponding to the above suppositions. This solution is used to fit the supernova data and we obtain a physical reason for the accelerated expansion of the Universe within the model: the existence of massless particles. If massless particles were absent, then the expansion of the Universe would be the same as in GR without a cosmological constant. In the conclusions, we speculate on a possible physical mechanism that could stop the accelerated expansion and prevent the appearance of a Big Rip.

Therefore, in the cosmological regime, we can say that the main properties of this model at the classical level are as follows. (a) It agrees with GR, far from the sources and with adequate boundary conditions. In particular, the causal structure of δ gravity in vacuum is the same as in GR. (b) When we study the evolution of the Universe, it predicts acceleration without a cosmological constant or additional scalar fields. The Universe ends in a Big Rip, similar to the scenario considered in [51]. (c) The scale factor agrees with the standard cosmology at early times and shows acceleration only at later times. Therefore, we expect that density perturbations should not have large corrections.

It was noted in [47] that the Hamiltonian of delta models is not bounded from below. Phantom cosmological models [51, 52] also have this property, although it is unclear whether or not this problem will subsist in a diffeomorphism-invariant model as δ gravity. Phantom fields are used to explain the expansion of the Universe. So, even if it could be said that our model works on similar grounds, the accelerated expansion of the Universe is really produced by a reduced quantity of a radiation component in the Universe, not by a phantom field. It should be remarked that δ gravity is not a metric model of gravity because massive particles do not move on geodesics. Only massless particles move on null geodesics of a linear combination of both tensor fields.

1. $\tilde{\delta}$ gravity action and equation of motion

Our modified model is based on a given action $S_0[\phi]$, where ϕ_I are generic fields, to which we add a new term equal to a $\tilde{\delta}$ variation with respect to the original fields. So, we have new fields given by $\tilde{\delta}\phi_I = \tilde{\phi}_I$ and the new action is invariant under new transformations of these new fields. This action is

$$S[\phi, \tilde{\phi}] = S_0[\phi] + \kappa_2 \int d^4 x \frac{\delta S_0}{\delta \phi_I(x)}[\phi] \tilde{\phi}_I(x), \qquad (1)$$

where κ_2 is a small arbitrary constant and the index *I* refers to any kind of indices. This new action shows the standard structure which is used to define any modified element or function for δ -type models. To understand this, let us consider the Einstein–Hilbert action. This action involves

$$S_0[g] = \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} \left(-\frac{1}{2\kappa} R + L_M \right)$$
⁽²⁾

$$S[g] = \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} \left(-\frac{1}{2\kappa} R + L_M + \kappa_2' (G^{\mu\nu} - \kappa T^{\mu\nu}) \tilde{g}_{\mu\nu} + \frac{\kappa_2}{2} (\lambda_{\mu;\nu} + \lambda_{\nu;\mu}) T^{\mu\nu} \right),$$
(3)

with $\kappa = \frac{8\pi G}{c^2}$, $\kappa'_2 = \frac{\kappa_2}{2\kappa}$, L_M some matter Lagrangian and where

$$T^{\mu\nu} = -2\frac{\delta L_M}{\delta g_{\mu\nu}} - g^{\mu\nu}L_M \tag{4}$$

is the energy–momentum tensor. The last term in (3), depending upon the auxiliary fields λ_{μ} , is needed to impose the condition $T_{;\nu}^{\mu\nu} = 0$ as an equation of motion in order to implement the $\tilde{\delta}$ symmetry (5) off shell. This term is null in vacuum. So, we have a gravitation model with two fields, the first is just the usual gravitational field $g_{\mu\nu}$ and the second one $\tilde{g}_{\mu\nu}$. These fields have the following transformations:

$$\begin{split} \delta g_{\mu\nu} &= \xi_{0\mu;\nu} + \xi_{0\nu;\mu} \\ \delta \tilde{g}_{\mu\nu} &= \xi_{1\mu;\nu} + \xi_{1\nu;\mu} + \tilde{g}_{\mu\rho} \xi^{\rho}_{0,\nu} + \tilde{g}_{\nu\rho} \xi^{\rho}_{0,\mu} + \tilde{g}_{\mu\nu,\rho} \xi^{\rho}_{0} \\ \delta \lambda_{\mu} &= \xi_{1\mu} + \lambda_{\rho} \xi^{\rho}_{0,\mu} + \lambda_{\mu,\rho} \xi^{\rho}_{0}, \end{split}$$
(5)

where ξ_0^{μ} and ξ_1^{μ} are infinitesimal contravariant vectors with $\xi_1^{\mu} \equiv \delta \xi_0^{\mu}$. The modified action given by (3) was constructed such that it is invariant under these transformations. We have used that

$$\begin{split} \tilde{\delta}\delta g_{\mu\nu} &= \delta \tilde{\delta} g_{\mu\nu} \\ &= \delta \tilde{g}_{\mu\nu}, \end{split}$$

where $\tilde{g}_{\mu\nu} = \tilde{\delta}g_{\mu\nu}$.

So, δ applied to the original field(s) produces the tilde field(s) and applied to the original infinitesimal transformations produces new transformations that involve the original fields as well as the tilde fields. We assume that δ commutes with the usual variation δ . Moreover, the action (1) is automatically invariant under both symmetries. For more details, see [50].

Now, if we vary the fields λ_{μ} , $\tilde{g}_{\mu\nu}$ and $g_{\mu\nu}$ in (3), then we obtain respectively the equations of motion:

$$T^{\mu\nu}_{;\nu} = 0$$
 (6)

(7)

 $G^{\mu\nu} = \kappa T^{\mu\nu}$

$$F^{(\mu\nu)(\alpha\beta)\rho\lambda}D_{\rho}D_{\lambda}\tilde{g}_{\alpha\beta} = \kappa \frac{\delta T_{\alpha\beta}}{\delta g_{\mu\nu}} (\tilde{g}^{\alpha\beta} - \lambda^{\alpha;\beta} - \lambda^{\beta;\alpha}) - \frac{1}{2} \left(R^{\mu\nu}\tilde{g}^{\sigma}_{\sigma} - R\tilde{g}^{\mu\nu} \right) + \kappa \left(T^{\mu\nu}{}_{;\alpha}\lambda^{\alpha} + T^{\mu\nu}\lambda^{\alpha}{}_{;\alpha} + T^{\mu\alpha}\lambda^{;\nu}_{\alpha} + T^{\nu\alpha}\lambda^{;\mu}_{\alpha} - g^{\mu\nu}T^{\alpha\beta}\lambda^{\alpha;\beta} \right)$$
(8)

with

$$F^{(\mu\nu)(\alpha\beta)\rho\lambda} = P^{((\rho\mu)(\alpha\beta))}g^{\nu\lambda} + P^{((\rho\nu)(\alpha\beta))}g^{\mu\lambda} - P^{((\mu\nu)(\alpha\beta))}g^{\rho\lambda} - P^{((\rho\lambda)(\alpha\beta))}g^{\mu\nu}$$
$$P^{((\alpha\beta)(\mu\nu))} = \frac{1}{4} \left(g^{\alpha\mu}g^{\beta\nu} + g^{\alpha\nu}g^{\beta\mu} - g^{\alpha\beta}g^{\mu\nu}\right), \tag{9}$$

where $(\mu\nu)$ denotes that μ and ν are in a totally symmetric combination. We can see that the Einstein equation does not change. In the application to cosmology, we assume the presence of a perfect fluid, so $T_{\alpha\beta} = pg_{\alpha\beta} + (p + \rho)U_{\alpha}U_{\beta}$, with p and ρ the pressure and density respectively and they are given by (6). U^{α} is the 4-velocity of the fluid and fulfils the identity $U_{\alpha}U^{\alpha} = -1$. Using this energy–momentum tensor, we obtain

$$\frac{\delta T_{\alpha\beta}}{\delta g_{\mu\nu}} S^{\alpha\beta} = \frac{1}{2} g_{\alpha\beta} \left(T^{\mu\alpha} S^{\nu\beta} + T^{\nu\alpha} S^{\mu\beta} \right), \tag{10}$$

with $S^{\alpha\beta} = \tilde{g}^{\alpha\beta} - \lambda^{\alpha;\beta} - \lambda^{\beta;\alpha}$. Using (7) and (10), (8) is reduced to

$$F^{(\mu\nu)(\alpha\beta)\rho\lambda}D_{\rho}D_{\lambda}\tilde{g}_{\alpha\beta} = G^{\mu\nu}{}_{;\alpha}\lambda^{\alpha} + R^{\mu\nu}\lambda^{\alpha}{}_{;\alpha} - g^{\mu\nu}R^{\alpha\beta}\lambda_{\alpha;\beta} - \frac{1}{2}\left(R^{\mu\nu}\tilde{g}^{\sigma}_{\sigma} - R^{\mu\sigma}\tilde{g}^{\nu}_{\sigma} - R^{\sigma\nu}\tilde{g}^{\mu}_{\sigma}\right) \\ + \frac{1}{2}\left(R^{\mu\alpha}\lambda^{;\nu}_{\alpha} + R^{\nu\alpha}\lambda^{;\mu}_{\alpha} - R^{\mu\alpha}\lambda^{\nu}_{;\alpha} - R^{\nu\alpha}\lambda^{\mu}_{;\alpha}\right).$$
(11)

Since λ_{μ} is an auxiliary field to implement that $T^{\mu\nu}$ is conserved, we can fix it. So, from now we will use the gauge $\lambda_{\mu} = 0$. This gauge preserves general coordinate transformations, but fixes completely the extra symmetry such that $\xi_{1\mu} = 0$. Finally, the $\tilde{g}_{\mu\nu}$ equation is

$$F^{(\mu\nu)(\alpha\beta)\rho\lambda}D_{\rho}D_{\lambda}\tilde{g}_{\alpha\beta} + \frac{1}{2}\left(R^{\mu\nu}\tilde{g}_{\sigma}^{\sigma} - R^{\mu\sigma}\tilde{g}_{\sigma}^{\nu} - R^{\sigma\nu}\tilde{g}_{\sigma}^{\mu}\right) = 0.$$
(12)

So, if we know $g_{\mu\nu}$, then we can completely determine $\tilde{g}_{\mu\nu}$ with this equation. Because, outside the sources $(T_{\mu\nu} = 0)$, $\tilde{g}_{\alpha\beta} \propto g_{\alpha\beta}$ is a solution to (11) and we have $g_{\alpha\beta} = \eta_{\alpha\beta}$ in vacuum, our boundary conditions will be $g_{\alpha\beta} = \eta_{\alpha\beta}$ and $\tilde{g}_{\alpha\beta} = \eta_{\alpha\beta}$ far from the sources.

In order to explore the phenomenology of the model, we need to know the equation of motion of a test particle. We discuss this in the following section.

2. $\tilde{\delta}$ test particle action

To find the coupling of a test particle to a gravitational background field, we follow the prescription to construct δ models (1). We know that, in the standard case, the test particle action is

$$S_0[\dot{x}, g] = -m \int dt \sqrt{-g_{\mu\nu} \dot{x}^{\mu} \dot{x}^{\nu}}.$$
 (13)

Since in our model the modified action is obtained according to (1), where in this case $\phi_I = g_{\mu\nu}$, the new test particle action is

$$S[\dot{x}, g, \tilde{g}] = m \int dt \frac{\bar{g}_{\mu\nu} \dot{x}^{\mu} \dot{x}^{\nu}}{\sqrt{-g_{\alpha\beta} \dot{x}^{\alpha} \dot{x}^{\beta}}},$$
(14)

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where $\bar{g}_{\mu\nu} = g_{\mu\nu} + \frac{\kappa_2}{2}\tilde{g}_{\mu\nu}$. But (13) and (14) are useless for massless particles. To solve this problem, we will start from

$$S_0[\dot{x}, g, v] = \frac{1}{2} \int dt (vm^2 - v^{-1}g_{\mu\nu}\dot{x}^{\mu}\dot{x}^{\nu}), \qquad (15)$$

where v is a Lagrange multiplier. This action is invariant under reparametrizations

$$\bar{x}^{\mu}(t) = x^{\mu}(t)$$

$$\bar{v}(\bar{t}) d\bar{t} = v(t) dt$$

$$\bar{t} = t - \epsilon(t).$$
(16)

From (15), we can obtain the equation of motion for v:

$$v = -\frac{\sqrt{-g_{\mu\nu}\dot{x}^{\mu}\dot{x}^{\nu}}}{m}.$$
(17)

If we substitute (17) in (15), we recover (13). In other words, (15) is a good action that includes the massless case. If we substitute (15) in (1) now, we obtain

$$S[\dot{x}, g, \tilde{g}, v, \tilde{v}] = \frac{1}{2} \int dt (vm^2 - v^{-1}(g_{\mu\nu} + \kappa_2 \tilde{g}_{\mu\nu})\dot{x}^{\mu}\dot{x}^{\nu} + \kappa_2 \tilde{v}(m^2 + v^{-2}g_{\mu\nu}\dot{x}^{\mu}\dot{x}^{\nu})).$$
(18)

This action is invariant under the reparametrization transformations (16) plus $\overline{\tilde{v}}(t) dt = \tilde{v}(t) dt$. So, (18) is the action that we need to generalize (14). Two Lagrange multipliers are unnecessary, so we will eliminate one of them. The equation of motion for \tilde{v} is

$$\tilde{v} = \frac{m^2 + v^{-2}(g_{\mu\nu} + \kappa_2 \tilde{g}_{\mu\nu}) \dot{x}^{\mu} \dot{x}^{\nu}}{2\kappa_2 v^{-3} g_{\alpha\beta} \dot{x}^{\alpha} \dot{x}^{\beta}}.$$
(19)

If we now replace (19) in (18), we obtain the δ test particle action:

$$S[\dot{x}, g, \tilde{g}, v] = \frac{1}{4} \int dt \bigg(3m^2 v - v^{-1} (g_{\mu\nu} + \kappa_2 \tilde{g}_{\mu\nu}) \dot{x}^{\mu} \dot{x}^{\nu} + \frac{m^2 v^3}{g_{\alpha\beta} \dot{x}^{\alpha} \dot{x}^{\beta}} (m^2 + v^{-2} (g_{\mu\nu} + \kappa_2 \tilde{g}_{\mu\nu}) \dot{x}^{\mu} \dot{x}^{\nu}) \bigg).$$
(20)

The equation of motion for v is still given by (17). If we substitute it in (20), then we obtain (14). So, (20) is a good modified action to represent the trajectory of a particle in the presence of a gravitational field, given by g and \tilde{g} , for the massive and massless cases, respectively. Evaluating m = 0 in (15) and (20), they respectively are

$$S_0^{(m=0)}[\dot{x}, g, v] = -\frac{1}{2} \int dt \, v^{-1} g_{\mu\nu} \dot{x}^{\mu} \dot{x}^{\nu}$$
(21)

$$S^{(m=0)}[\dot{x}, g, \tilde{g}, v] = -\frac{1}{4} \int dt v^{-1} \mathbf{g}_{\mu\nu} \dot{x}^{\mu} \dot{x}^{\nu}, \qquad (22)$$

with $\mathbf{g}_{\mu\nu} = g_{\mu\nu} + \kappa_2 \tilde{g}_{\mu\nu}$. The equation of motion for v implies that, in the usual and modified case, a massless particle will move in a null geodesic. In the usual case, we have $g_{\mu\nu}\dot{x}^{\mu}\dot{x}^{\nu} = 0$, but in our model the null geodesic is $\mathbf{g}_{\mu\nu}\dot{x}^{\mu}\dot{x}^{\nu} = 0$.

On the other hand, to describe the massive case in the usual and modified models, we can use (13) and (14), respectively. We know that (13) implies that a massive particle will move in a typical geodesic with $g_{\mu\nu}\dot{x}^{\mu}\dot{x}^{\nu} = -1$, after choosing *t* equal to the proper time. On the other side, the equation of motion of the modified action is more complicated; however, we can use the same gauge, $g_{\mu\nu}\dot{x}^{\mu}\dot{x}^{\nu} = -1$.

To conclude, in the usual case we have

$$\dot{x}^{\mu} + \Gamma^{\mu}{}_{\alpha\beta}\dot{x}^{\alpha}\dot{x}^{\beta} = 0, \tag{23}$$

with

 $\Gamma^{\mu}{}_{\alpha\beta} = \frac{1}{2}g^{\mu\gamma}(g_{\gamma\alpha,\beta} + g_{\gamma\beta,\alpha} - g_{\alpha\beta,\gamma}),$

where

$$g_{\mu\nu}\dot{x}^{\mu}\dot{x}^{\nu} = 0$$
 if: $m = 0$ (24)

$$g_{\mu\nu}\dot{x}^{\mu}\dot{x}^{\nu} = -1$$
 if: $m > 0.$ (25)

On the other hand, the equations of motion for a test particle in the modified case are

$$\ddot{x}^{\mu} + \Gamma^{\mu}{}_{\alpha\beta}\dot{x}^{\alpha}\dot{x}^{\beta} = 0 \quad \text{if:} \ m = 0 \tag{26}$$

$$M^{\mu}_{\nu}\dot{x}^{\nu} + G^{\mu}_{\alpha\beta}\dot{x}^{\alpha}\dot{x}^{\beta} + N^{\mu}_{\alpha\beta\gamma\epsilon}\dot{x}^{\alpha}\dot{x}^{\beta}\dot{x}^{\gamma}\dot{x}^{\epsilon} = 0 \quad \text{if:} \ m > 0$$
⁽²⁷⁾

with

$$\begin{split} \mathbf{\Gamma}^{\mu}{}_{\alpha\beta} &= \frac{1}{2} [\mathbf{g}^{-1}]^{\mu\gamma} (\mathbf{g}_{\gamma\alpha,\beta} + \mathbf{g}_{\gamma\beta,\alpha} - \mathbf{g}_{\alpha\beta,\gamma}) \\ M^{\mu}{}_{\nu} &= 2 \bar{g}^{\mu}{}_{\nu} + \delta^{\mu}{}_{\nu} \bar{g}_{\alpha\beta} \dot{x}^{\alpha} \dot{x}^{\beta} + 2 \bar{g}_{\nu\beta} \dot{x}^{\mu} \dot{x}^{\beta} \\ G^{\mu}{}_{\alpha\beta} &= g^{\mu\gamma} (\bar{g}_{\gamma\alpha,\beta} + \bar{g}_{\gamma\beta,\alpha} - \bar{g}_{\alpha\beta,\gamma}) \\ N^{\mu}{}_{\alpha\beta\gamma\epsilon} &= \mathrm{Sym}_{\alpha\beta\gamma\epsilon} (\bar{g}_{\beta\gamma} \Gamma^{\mu}{}_{\alpha\epsilon} + \delta^{\mu}{}_{\alpha} \bar{g}_{\beta\gamma,\epsilon}), \end{split}$$

where

$$\mathbf{g}_{\mu\nu}\dot{x}^{\mu}\dot{x}^{\nu} = 0 \quad \text{if:} \ m = 0$$
 (28)

$$g_{\mu\nu}\dot{x}^{\mu}\dot{x}^{\nu} = -1$$
 if: $m > 0.$ (29)

This means that, in our model, massive particles do not move on geodesics of a fourdimensional metric. Only massless particles move on a null geodesic of $\mathbf{g}_{\mu\nu}$. So, $\tilde{\delta}$ gravity is not a metric theory.

3. Distances and time intervals

In this paper, we will study photons emitted from the supernovas, so we will need the modified null geodesic given by (28). But, it is important to observe that the proper time is defined in terms of massive particles, so that it is necessary to reinterpret the supernova data. So, in this section, we define the measurement of time and distances in the model.

The geodesic equation, (23), preserves the proper time of the particle along the trajectory. Equation (27) satisfies the same property: along the trajectory, $g_{\mu\nu}\dot{x}^{\mu}\dot{x}^{\nu}$ is constant. So, we define proper time using the original metric $g_{\mu\nu}$,

$$d\tau = \sqrt{-g_{\mu\nu}dx^{\mu}dx^{\nu}} = \sqrt{-g_{00}}dx_0.$$
 (30)

Following [53], we consider the motion of light rays along infinitesimally near trajectories, using (28) and (30), to obtain the three-dimensional metric:

$$dl^{2} = \gamma_{ij} dx^{i} dx^{j}$$

$$\gamma_{ij} = \frac{g_{00}}{\mathbf{g}_{00}} \left(\mathbf{g}_{ij} - \frac{\mathbf{g}_{i0} \mathbf{g}_{j0}}{\mathbf{g}_{00}} \right).$$
(31)

Therefore, we measure proper time using the metric $g_{\mu\nu}$, but the space geometry is determined by both tensor fields, $g_{\mu\nu}$ and $\tilde{g}_{\mu\nu}$. These considerations are fundamental to explain the expansion of the Universe with $\tilde{\delta}$ gravity. In the following section, we will see this in detail.

4. FRW and photon trajectory

To describe the supernova data, we must use the FRW metric. When a photon emitted from the supernova travels to the Earth, the Universe expands. This means that the photon is affected by the cosmological Doppler effect. So the metric g is

$$g_{\mu\nu} = \begin{pmatrix} -c^2 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & R^2(t) & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & R^2(t)r^2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & R^2(t)r^2\sin^2(\theta) \end{pmatrix},$$
(32)

where R(t) is the scale factor that depends on the time parameter t. Assuming an isotropic and homogeneous Universe, we can use the following ansatz for \tilde{g} :

$$\tilde{g}_{\mu\nu} = \begin{pmatrix} -c^2 \tilde{A}(t) & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \tilde{B}(t) & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \tilde{B}(t)r^2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \tilde{B}(t)r^2 \sin^2(\theta) \end{pmatrix}.$$
(33)

So, \tilde{g} only has two independent functions, $\tilde{A}(t)$ and $\tilde{B}(t)$, that depend on the time parameter *t* just like R(t). We know that the Einstein equations lead to

$$\left(\frac{\dot{R}(t)}{R(t)}\right)^2 = \frac{\kappa}{3} \sum_i \rho_i(t) \tag{34}$$

$$\dot{\rho}_i(t) = -\frac{3\dot{R}(t)}{R(t)}(\rho_i(t) + p_i(t))$$
(35)

with $\dot{f}(t) = \frac{df}{dt}(t)$. But now we have additional equations arising from those of $\tilde{g}_{\mu\nu}$ given by (11). These equations are

$$\frac{\dot{R}(t)}{R(t)}\dot{\tilde{B}}(t) - \frac{\dot{R}^2(t)}{R^2(t)}\tilde{B}(t) - \frac{\ddot{R}(t)}{R(t)}\tilde{B}(t) - \dot{R}^2(t)\tilde{A}(t) = 0$$
(36)

$$\ddot{\tilde{B}}(t) - \frac{\dot{R}(t)}{R(t)}\dot{\tilde{B}}(t) - 2\frac{\ddot{R}(t)}{R(t)}\tilde{B}(t) - R(t)\dot{R}(t)\dot{\tilde{A}}(t) - R(t)\ddot{R}(t)\tilde{A}(t) - 2\dot{R}^{2}(t)\tilde{A}(t) = 0.$$
(37)

To solve the system (34)–(37), we need equations of state which relate $\rho_i(t)$ and $p_i(t)$, for which we take $p_i(t) = \omega_i \rho_i(t)$. Since we wish to explain DE with $\tilde{\delta}$ gravity, we will assume that in the Universe we only have non-relativistic matter (cold DM, baryonic matter) and radiation (photons, massless particles). So, we will require two equations of state. For non-relativistic matter, we use $p_M(t) = 0$ and for radiation $p_R(t) = \frac{1}{3}\rho_R(t)$, where we have assumed that their interaction is null. Replacing in (34)–(37) and solving them, we find the exact solution:

$$\rho(t) = \rho_M(t) + \rho_R(t) = \frac{H_0^2 \Omega_R}{\kappa C^4} \frac{X(t) + 1}{X^4(t)}$$
(38)

$$p(t) = \frac{1}{3}\rho_R(t) = \frac{H_0^2 \Omega_R}{3\kappa C^4} \frac{1}{X^4(t)}$$
(39)

$$\sqrt{X(t) + 1}(X(t) - 2) = \frac{3H_0\sqrt{\Omega_R}}{2C^2}t - 2$$
(40)

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$$\tilde{A}(t) = -\frac{\bar{l}}{\kappa_2 C^{\frac{5}{2}}} \frac{\sqrt{X(t)+1}}{X(t)(3X(t)+4)^2}$$
(41)

$$\tilde{B}(t) = -R_{\rm eq}^2 \frac{\bar{l}}{4\kappa_2 C^{\frac{5}{2}}} \frac{X(t)\sqrt{X(t)+1}}{3X(t)+4}$$
(42)

$$X(t) = \frac{R(t)}{R_{\rm eq}},\tag{43}$$

where R_{eq} is the scale factor at matter-radiation equality, that is, $\rho_M(t_{eq}) = \rho_R(t_{eq})$, \overline{l} is an arbitrary parameter, $C = \frac{\Omega_R}{\Omega_M}$, and Ω_R and Ω_M are the radiation and non-relativistic matter density in the present, respectively, with $\Omega_M = 1 - \Omega_R$. We know that $\Omega_R \ll 1$, so $\Omega_M \sim 1$ and $C \ll 1$. By definition, $X(t) \gg 1$ describes the non-relativistic era and $X(t) \ll 1$ describes the radiation era.

Since we have the cosmological solution of the δ gravity action now, we can analyze the trajectory of a supernova photon when it is traveling to the Earth. For this, we use (28) in a radial trajectory from r_1 to r = 0. So, we have

$$-(1+\kappa_2\tilde{A}(t))c^2dt^2 + (R^2(t)+\kappa_2\tilde{B}(t))\,dr^2 = 0.$$

In the usual case, we have that cdt = -R(t) dr. In the δ gravity case, we define the modified scale factor

$$\tilde{R}(t) = \sqrt{\frac{R^2(t) + \kappa_2 \tilde{B}(t)}{1 + \kappa_2 \tilde{A}(t)}}$$
(44)

such that $cdt = -\tilde{R}(t) dr$ now. With this definition, we obtain that

$$r_1 = c \int_{t_1}^{t_0} \frac{dt}{\tilde{R}(t)}.$$
 (45)

If a second wave crest is emitted at $t = t_1 + \Delta t_1$ from $r = r_1$, then it will reach r = 0 at $t = t_0 + \Delta t_0$, so

$$r_1 = c \int_{t_1 + \Delta t_1}^{t_0 + \Delta t_0} \frac{\mathrm{d}t}{\tilde{R}(t)}.$$
(46)

Therefore, for Δt_1 , Δt_0 small, which is appropriate for light waves, we obtain

$$\frac{\Delta t_0}{\Delta t_1} = \frac{\tilde{R}(t_0)}{\tilde{R}(t_1)}.$$
(47)

Since *t* is the proper time according to (30), we have that

$$\frac{\Delta \nu_1}{\Delta \nu_0} = \frac{\tilde{R}(t_0)}{\tilde{R}(t_1)},\tag{48}$$

where v_0 is the light frequency detected at r = 0, corresponding to a source emission at frequency v_1 . So, the redshift is now

$$1 + z(t_1) = \frac{R(t_0)}{\tilde{R}(t_1)}.$$
(49)

We see that $\tilde{R}(t)$ replaces the usual scale factor R(t) in the calculation of z. This means that we need to redefine the luminosity distance too. For this, let us consider a mirror of radius b that receives light from our distant source at r_1 . The photons that reach the mirror are inside a cone of half-angle ϵ with origin at the source. Let us compute ϵ . The path of the light rays is given by $\vec{r}(\rho) = \rho \hat{n} + \vec{r_1}$, where $\rho > 0$ is a parameter and \hat{n} is the direction of the light ray. Since the mirror is in $\vec{r} = 0$, then $\rho = r_1$ and $\hat{n} = -\hat{r_1} + \vec{\epsilon}$, where ϵ is the angle between $-\vec{r_1}$ and \hat{n} at the source, forming a cone. The proper distance is determined by the three-dimensional metric (31), so we obtain $b = \tilde{R}(t_0)r_1\epsilon$. Then, the solid angle of the cone is

$$\Delta \Omega = \int_0^{2\pi} d\phi \int_0^{\epsilon} \sin(\theta) d\theta = 2\pi \left(1 - \cos(\epsilon)\right)$$
$$= \pi \epsilon^2 = \frac{A}{r_1^2 \tilde{R}^2(t_0)},$$

where $A = \pi b^2$ is the proper area of the mirror. This means that $\epsilon = \frac{b}{r_1 \tilde{R}(t_0)}$. So, the fraction of all isotropically emitted photons that reach the mirror is

$$f = \frac{\Delta\Omega}{4\pi} = \frac{A}{4\pi r_1^2 \tilde{R}^2(t_0)}.$$

We know that the apparent luminosity, l, is the received power per unit mirror area. Power is energy per unit time, so the received power is $P = \frac{hv_0}{\Delta t_0} f$, where hv_0 is the energy corresponding to the received photon, and the total emitted power by the source is $L = \frac{hv_1}{\Delta t_1}$, where hv_1 is the energy corresponding to the emitted photon. Therefore, we have that

$$P = \frac{\tilde{R}^{2}(t_{1})}{\tilde{R}^{2}(t_{0})} Lf$$

$$l = \frac{P}{A}$$

$$= L \frac{\tilde{R}^{2}(t_{1})}{\tilde{R}^{2}(t_{0})} \frac{1}{4\pi r_{1}^{2} \tilde{R}^{2}(t_{0})}$$

where we have used that $\frac{\Delta t_0}{\Delta t_1} = \frac{\nu_1}{\nu_0} = \frac{\tilde{R}(t_0)}{\tilde{R}(t_1)}$. On the other hand, we know that, in a Euclidean space, the luminosity decreases with distance d_L according to $l = \frac{L}{4\pi d_L^2}$. Therefore, using (45), the luminosity distance is

$$d_{L} = \frac{\tilde{R}^{2}(t_{0})}{\tilde{R}(t_{1})} r_{1}$$

= $c \frac{\tilde{R}^{2}(t_{0})}{\tilde{R}(t_{1})} \int_{t_{1}}^{t_{0}} \frac{dt}{\tilde{R}(t)}.$ (50)

Moreover, we can use (40) to change the *t* variable for $Y = CX(t) = \frac{R(t)}{R(t_0)}$ (the scale factor normalized to one in the present), and then define $\tilde{Y} = \frac{\tilde{R}(t)}{R(t_0)}$. Using (41) and (42) in (44), we obtain

$$\tilde{Y}[Y,C,\bar{l}] = Y \sqrt{\frac{(3Y+4C)(4CY(3Y+4C)-\bar{l}\sqrt{Y+C})}{4C(Y(3Y+4C)^2-\bar{l}\sqrt{Y+C})}}.$$
(51)

We note that $\tilde{Y} \sim Y$ in the radiation era, that is, $Y \ll C$, so the Universe evolves normally in the beginning of the Universe, without differences with the usual gravity. But when $Y \gg C$, $\tilde{Y} \gg Y$ and we will have a Big Rip, i.e. $\tilde{Y} = \infty$, when the denominator is null. That is $Y \sim \left(\frac{\tilde{I}}{9}\right)^{\frac{2}{5}}$. We will give more details for this when we will study the supernova data. Now, with all our definitions, the luminosity distance is reduced to

$$d_{L} = c \frac{\sqrt{C}}{H_{0}\sqrt{\Omega_{R}}} \frac{\tilde{Y}_{0}^{2}[C,\bar{l}]}{\tilde{Y}[Y,C,\bar{l}]} \int_{Y}^{1} \frac{Y'dY'}{\tilde{Y}[Y',C,\bar{l}]\sqrt{Y'+C}}$$
(52)

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with $\tilde{Y}_0[C, \bar{l}] = \tilde{Y}[1, C, \bar{l}]$. This means that the distances will be different now. In the usual case, we have

$$d_L = \frac{c}{YH_0} \int_Y^1 \frac{\mathrm{d}Y'}{\sqrt{\Omega_\Lambda Y'^4 + \Omega_M Y' + \Omega_R}},\tag{53}$$

where $\Omega_{\Lambda} = 1 - \Omega_M - \Omega_R$ is the DE density in the present. We will use (53) to compare both, a Universe with DE and our modified gravitation model, with the supernova data.

Finally, we note that (40) gives us the time coordinate. In the new notation, it is

$$t = \frac{2C^{\frac{1}{2}}}{3H_0\sqrt{\Omega_R}}(\sqrt{Y+C}(Y-2C) + 2C^{\frac{3}{2}}).$$
(54)

Therefore, it is possible to obtain a different age of the Universe. A different perception of the distances implies a different perception of time. All these differences arise as a consequence of the modified trajectory of photons.

5. Analysis and results

Before we analyze the data, we will define the parameters to be determined. In the usual gravity, d_L depends upon four parameters: $Y, H_0 = 100h \text{ km s}^{-1} \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$, Ω_M and Ω_R according to (53). However, the CMB black body spectrum give us the photons density in the present, Ω_{γ} , and if we assume that $\Omega_R = \Omega_{\gamma} + \Omega_{\nu} = \left(1 + 3\left(\frac{7}{8}\right)\left(\frac{4}{11}\right)^{4/3}\right)\Omega_{\gamma}$, then we obtain $h^2\Omega_R = 4.15 \times 10^{-5}$. Therefore, the parameters in d_L can be reduced to three: Y, h and $h^2\Omega_M$. For the same reasons, in our modified gravity, d_L depends only on three parameters: Y, C and \bar{l} , as shown in (52). We use $H_0\sqrt{\Omega_R} = 0.644 \text{ km s}^{-1} \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$

The supernova data give the apparent magnitude as a function of redshift. For this reason, it is useful to use z instead of Y. So, we have the following.

In the usual gravity,

$$m[z, h, h^{2}\Omega_{M}] = M + 5\log_{10}\left(\frac{d_{L}[z, h, h^{2}\Omega_{M}]}{10 \text{ pc}}\right)$$
(55)

$$d_L[z, h, h^2 \Omega_M] = \frac{c(1+z) \operatorname{Mpc s}}{100 \operatorname{km}} \int_{\frac{1}{1+z}}^{1} \frac{\mathrm{d}Y'}{\sqrt{(h^2 - h^2 \Omega_M - h^2 \Omega_R)Y'^4 + h^2 \Omega_M Y' + h^2 \Omega_R}}$$
(56)

$$Y(z) = \frac{1}{1+z}.$$
(57)

In our modified gravity,

$$m[z, C, \bar{l}] = M + 5\log_{10}\left(\frac{d_L[z, C, \bar{l}]}{10 \text{ pc}}\right)$$
(58)

$$d_{L}[z, C, \bar{l}] = c(1+z) \frac{\sqrt{C}\tilde{Y}_{0}[C, \bar{l}]}{H_{0}\sqrt{\Omega_{R}}} \int_{1}^{Y(z)} \frac{Y' dY'}{\tilde{Y}[Y', C, \bar{l}]\sqrt{Y' + C}}$$
(59)

$$\tilde{Y}[Y(z), C, \bar{l}] = \frac{\tilde{Y}_0[C, \bar{l}]}{1+z},$$
(60)

where *m* is the apparent magnitude and *M* is the absolute magnitude, common to all supernova, so it is constant. To find Y(z), we must solve (60) using (51), numerically. Now we will introduce the statistical method to fit the data.

We interpret errors in data by the variance σ in a normally distributed random variable. If we are fitting a function y(x) to a set of points (x_i, y_i) with errors $(\sigma_{xi}, \sigma_{yi})$, then we must minimize [54]

$$\chi^{2}(\text{per point}) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^{N} \frac{(y_{i} - y(x_{i}))^{2}}{\sigma_{fi}^{2}}$$
$$\sigma_{fi}^{2} = \sigma_{yi}^{2} + y'(x_{i})^{2} \sigma_{xi}^{2},$$

where N is the number of data points. In our case, we want to fit the data (z_i, m_i) with errors $(\sigma_{z_i}, \sigma_{m_i})$ to the model

$$m(z) = M + 5\log_{10}\left(\frac{d_L(z)}{10pc}\right).$$

Therefore, we must minimize

$$\chi^{2}(\text{per point}) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^{N} \frac{(m_{i} - m(z_{i}))^{2}}{\sigma_{mi}^{2} + \left(\frac{dm}{dz}(z_{i})\right)^{2} \sigma_{zi}^{2}}.$$
(61)

Now, we can proceed to analyze the supernova data given in [55] with N = 162 supernovas. In both cases, d_L is given by an exact expression, but we need to use a numeric method to solve the integral and fit the data to determinate the optimum values for the parameters that represent the m v/s z of the supernova data. The parameters that minimize (61) are as follows.

In the usual gravity : $h = 0.6603 \pm 0.0078$ and $h^2 \Omega_M = 0.096 \pm 0.014$ with χ^2 (per point) = 1.033.

In our modified gravity : $\bar{l} = 34.42 \pm 4.27$ and $C = (3.61 \pm 0.21) \times 10^{-4}$ with χ^2 (per point) = 1.029.

For this, we used mathematica 7.0.¹ With these values, we can calculate the age of the Universe. We know that, in the usual case, it is 1.37×10^{10} years, but that in our model it is given by (54). Substituting the corresponding values for \bar{l} , C and taking $Y = \frac{R(t)}{R(t_0)} = 1$, we obtain 1.92×10^{10} years. Finally, we can calculate when the Big Rip will happen. For this, we need Y when $\tilde{Y} = \frac{\tilde{R}(t)}{R(t_0)} = \infty$. That is Y = 1.71, so $t_{\text{Big Rip}} = 4.3 \times 10^{10}$ years. Therefore, the Universe has lived almost half of its life. Phantom fields also produce a cosmological model that has this property [51, 52]. In the $\tilde{\delta}$ gravity model, we can avoid a Big Rip at later time by a mechanism that gives masses to all massless particles. Some options are quantum effects (which are finite in this model) or massive photons due to superconductivity [56] which could happen at very low temperatures, which are natural at the later stages of the expansion of the Universe.

Conclusions

We have proposed a modified gravity model with good properties at the quantum level. It is finite on shell in the vacuum and only lives at one loop. It incorporates a new field $\tilde{g}_{\mu\nu}$ that transforms correctly under general coordinate transformation and exhibits a new symmetry: the δ symmetry. The new action is invariant under these transformations. We call this new

¹ To minimize (61) we used **FindMinimum**. To estimate the uncertainties for the best-fit parameters we used **NonlinearModelFit** command. See the Mathematica 7.0 help for more details.

gravity model $\tilde{\delta}$ gravity. A quantum field theory analysis of $\tilde{\delta}$ gravity has been developed [48, 49].

In this paper, we study the classical effects in a cosmological setting. To this end, we require to set up the following two issues. First, we need to find the equations for δ gravity. One of them is Einstein's equation, which gives us $g_{\mu\nu}$, and the other equation is (8) to solve for $\tilde{g}_{\mu\nu}$. Second, we need the modified test particle action. This action, (20), incorporates the new field $\tilde{g}_{\mu\nu}$. We obtain that a photon, or a massless particle, moves in a null geodesic of $\mathbf{g}_{\mu\nu} = g_{\mu\nu} + \kappa_2 \tilde{g}_{\mu\nu}$ and that a massive particle is governed by the equation of motion (27). With all this basic setup, we can study any cosmological phenomenon.

In [49], it was shown that δ gravity predicts an accelerated expansion of the Universe without a cosmological constant or additional scalar fields by using an approximation corresponding to small redshift. We find in this work an exact expression for the cosmological luminosity distance and verify that δ gravity does not require dark energy. With this exact expression, we could also study very early phenomena in the Universe, for example inflation and the CMB power spectrum. This work is in progress.

On the other hand, photons move on a null geodesic of **g**, so we can define a new scale factor $\tilde{R}(t)$. If we assume that the Universe only has non-relativistic matter and radiation, then we can obtain an exact expression for $\tilde{R}(t)$. It is clear in (51) that $1 \gg C \neq 0$ is necessary to obtain an accelerated expansion of the Universe. Therefore, a minimal component of radiation explains the supernova data without dark energy. In this way, in this model, the accelerated expansion of the Universe can be understood as geometric effect.

Finally, we calculate the age of the Universe. We find that the Universe has lived a bit longer than in GR. This is not a contradiction, but rather a re-interpretation of the observations. This result is a consequence of the new equation of motion for the photons. This model ends in a Big Rip and we calculate when it will happen. The Universe has lived almost half of its life. Even though the Big Rip could be seen as a problem, we observe that other cosmological models share this property too [51, 52]. Nevertheless, in our case, we have some way outs from the Big Rip. For example, the appearance of quantum effects or massive photons at times close to the Big Rip, by effects similar to superconductivity [56]. These effects could occur at very low temperatures which are common at the later stages of the evolution of the Universe.

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