

On the Stability of the Einstein Static Universe in $f(R)$ -gravity

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- topology $R \times S^3$, metric: $ds^2 = -dt^2 + a_0^2 \left[\frac{dr^2}{1 - r^2} + r^2 d\Omega^2 \right]$ with **fixed finite radius a_0** ($R = {}^3R = 6 / a_0^2$)

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- abandoned when observations showed that the universe is expanding

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 - ▶ reason for this “Non-Newtonian” stability: maximum scale (finite “size” of the universe) \Rightarrow fluctuations oscillate rather than grow

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- ▶ **find orbits** in the dynamical systems analysis **corresponding to one of the scenarios above**

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 - ▶ Λ CDM model does **not give theoretical explanation** for late time acceleration ==> it is more of an empirical fit to data
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 - ▶ quantum regime?
- one option to avoid introducing dark components: **modify theory of gravity itself** on relevant scales
 - ▶ interesting to note: unique status of GR was questioned by Weyl (1919) and Eddington (1922) by considering higher order invariants in the GR action

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- $R \rightarrow$ function of Ricci scalar f(R)
- ▶ f(R) is good toy model: simple, but has the nice feature of **admitting late time accelerating models** (alternative to DE)

linearized 1+3 eqs. around FRW

$$\Theta^2 = 3 \left[\rho^T + \frac{\Lambda}{f'} \right] - \frac{3}{2} \tilde{R}$$

$$\dot{\rho}^m = -\Theta \rho^m (1 + w)$$

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- ▶ interesting constraint!

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- ▶ together with the normalization $D \equiv \sqrt{\left(\Theta + \frac{3(n-1)}{2} \frac{\dot{R}}{R}\right)^2 + \frac{3}{2}\tilde{R}}$

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- **five variables** together with **two constraints** \Rightarrow **three-dimensional system**

The dynamical system

The dynamical system

- the system is fully described by the equations

$$Q' = [(3-n)x^2 - n(y-1) - 1] \frac{Q^2}{3} + [(3-n)x^2 - n(y-1) + 1] \frac{Qx}{3} + \frac{1}{3} \left[x^2 - 1 + \frac{ny}{n-1} \right],$$

$$y' = \frac{2yx^2}{3} (3-n)(x+Q) + \frac{2xy}{3} \left[\frac{(n^2 - 2n + 2)}{n-1} - ny \right] + \frac{2}{3} Qny(1-y),$$

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- ▶ find **equilibrium points** defined by $Q'=y'=x'=0$
- ▶ to each equil. point, find the **eigenvalues** \Rightarrow local stability

Equilibrium points

Point	(Q, x, y)	constraints	Solution/Description
\mathcal{N}_ϵ	$(0, \epsilon, 0)$	$n \in [1, 3]$	Vacuum Minkowski
\mathcal{L}_ϵ	$(2\epsilon, -\epsilon, 0)$	$n \in [1, 3]$	Vacuum Minkowski
\mathcal{B}_ϵ	$\left(\frac{\epsilon}{3-n}, \epsilon \frac{n-2}{n-3}, 0\right)$	$n \in [1, 2.5]$	Vacuum Minkowski
\mathcal{A}_ϵ	$\left(\epsilon \frac{2n-1}{3(n-1)}, \epsilon \frac{n-2}{3(n-1)}, \frac{8n^2-14n+5}{9(n-1)^2}\right)$	$n \in [1.25, 3]$	Vacuum, Flat, Acceleration $\neq 0$ Decelerating for $P_+ < n < 2$ $a(t) = a_0 (a_1 + k(n)t)^{-3k(n)}$
Line \mathcal{LC}	$\left(Q, -Q(n-1), \frac{j(n)Q+n-1}{n}\right)$	$ Q \leq \frac{1}{2-n}$ for $n \in [1, P_+]$ $ Q \leq \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}(n-1)}$ for $n \in [P_+, 3]$	Non-Accelerating curved $a(t) = a_2 t + a_3$, $\rho^m(t) > 0$

- ▶ recover all the points from standard R^n -gravity
- ▶ the line \mathcal{LC} including the ES model is an artifact of the n -w correspondence - in R^n -gravity we only get a point, and no ES model

dust: $w=0$ ($n=3/2$)

 radiation: $w=1/3$ ($n=2$)

Stability properties

point	type	range of n				
		(1, 5/4)	(5/4, P_+)	(P_+ , 3/2)	(3/2, 5/2)	(5/2, 3)
\mathcal{A}_+	expanding	–	saddle	sink		
\mathcal{A}_-	collapsing	–	saddle	source		
\mathcal{B}_\pm	static	saddle				–
\mathcal{L}_+	static	saddle	source			saddle
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 - ▶ recover the GR result but without the need of cosmological constant!

Outline

- why are we interested in the Einstein static (ES) model?
 - ▶ historical review
- why modified gravity, in particular $f(R)$ -gravity?
 - ▶ derive basic field equations
- dynamical systems analysis of the closed FRW state space (including the ES model)
- briefly summarize **linear covariant perturbations** around the ES background
- compare and interpret the results obtained from the two approaches

linear perturbations around ES

(see Phys. Rev. D78:044011, 2008)

- define **perturbation quantities** that **vanish for this background**
⇒ gauge-invariant
- **harmonic decomposition**: use the trace-free symmetric tensor eigenfunctions of the spatial Laplace-Beltrami operator defined by
- **decompose** into scalar, vector and tensor parts
- in each case, **expand all first order quantities** as
- note: for **spatially closed** models, the **spectrum of eigenvalues** is discrete $k^2 = n(n + 2)$, where the co-moving wave number n is $n=1,2,3\dots$ ($n=1$ is a gauge mode)

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linear perturbations around ES

- ES **neutrally stable** against **vector, tensor** perturbations for **all w, k**
- ES **neutrally stable** against **scalar** perturbations for all $k^2 \geq 8$ if **$w > 0.21$**
- the homogeneous mode ($n=0$)
 - ▶ was not considered previously, since it corresponds to a **change in the background** (reflecting the fact that the model is unstable against homog, perturbations and will expand/collapse)
 - ▶ perturbations oscillate for $w < 0$
 - ▶ one growing and one decaying mode for $w > 0$
 - ▶ perturbation constant in time for dust ($w=0$) \Rightarrow must include higher order terms
 - ▶ exactly **matches** the results from the **dynamical systems analysis**

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 - ▶ **similar to GR**, where same result hold for $w > 1/5 = 0.2$

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- for $w = 1/3$, the **ES** model is **unstable** against **homogeneous** perturbations, but **stable** against **inhomogeneous** perturbations
- in the closed FRW state space, we find
 - ▶ an **accelerating future attractor** without the need for a cosmological constant
 - ▶ **no expanding past attractor** (\Rightarrow NO Big Bang)
 - ▶ orbits connecting the collapsing decelerating point to the expanding accelerating point via ES (\Rightarrow **bouncing solutions?**)