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# The Interplay of Quantum Gravity and Gauge Theories

NC, Eichhorn: arXiv:1702.07724

NC, Litim, Pawlowski: in prep

NC, Eichhorn, Held: in prep

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# Outline

- UV Completions: Asymptotic Safety
  - The Standard Model and Quantum Gravity
- Gravity Coupled to Gauge Theories
  - General Structure: „Interacting Asymptotic Freedom"
  - Quantum Gravity Corrections to U(1): A solution to the triviality problem and the role of higher order operators
  - Gravity and SU(N)
  - UV-safe Gauge-Yukawa Models
- Summary and Outlook

# ...known territory ...

- UV behavior of gauge couplings

Gockeler et al 98,
Gies & Jaeckel 04

QED: $\beta_\alpha = \#\alpha^2 + \ldots \quad , \quad \# > 0$ → Triviality (non-pert)

QCD/YM: $\beta_\alpha = \#\alpha^2 + \ldots \quad , \quad \# < 0$ → Asymptotic Freedom

- General Relativity:

$$S_{\rm EH} = \frac{1}{16\pi G_{\rm N}} \int {\rm d}^4x \sqrt{g}(-R(g) + 2\Lambda)$$

→ (perturbatively) non-renormalizable

- Ultimate goal:

UV-completion of: Standard Model (+ something?) + Gravity

# ...what nobody really knows: UV completion

- Widely believed (for a good reason):

Need a Theory of Quantum Gravity

- for energy scales $E \ll M_{\rm Pl}$ → effective field theory
- UV completion ?
  - String Theory
  - Loop Quantum Gravity
  - ……
- perturbation theory as the root of all problems ?
  - → stick to framework of ordinary QFT
  - ↓ **non-perturbative construction**

**Asymptotic Safety Scenario**

based on non-Gaussian **UV fixed point**

# Asymptotic Safety in a Nutshell

- properties of fundamental theory:
  - finiteness
  - finite number of free parameters (predictive)
- Parametrization of correlation functions with **coupling constants** $G_i$
- Quantum fluctuations → **scale dependent couplings**

$$g_i \longrightarrow g_i(k)$$

energy scale

dimensionless coupling

$$g_i = \frac{G_i}{k^{\dim(G_i)}}$$

- **UV fixed point:**

S.Weinberg (1979)

$$\lim_{k\to\infty} g_i(k) = g_{i,*}$$

finite fixed point value

- finite couplings → no unphysical divergences in the S-matrix
- Evidence for Asymptotic Safety in Quantum Gravity

Reuter 97, .....many more....

# Gauge Theories & Gravity

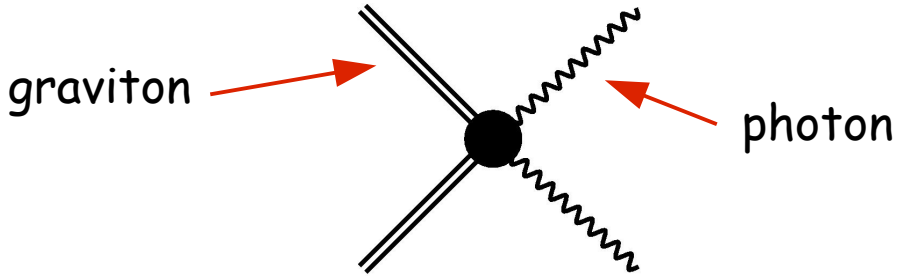
- Can we find Asymptotic Safety in coupled gauge-gravity systems?

$$\Gamma[g, A] = \Gamma_{\rm grav}[g] + \Gamma_{\rm gauge}[g, A]$$

- Minimal coupling of gravity to gauge theories already in $F^2$ term

$$\int \mathrm{d}^4x \sqrt{g}\, g^{\mu\alpha} g^{\nu\beta} F_{\alpha\beta} F_{\mu\nu}$$

→ vertices with gauge bosons and gravitons. e.g.:




→ What is the possible UV-structure of such theories?

# „Interacting Asymptotic Freedom" I

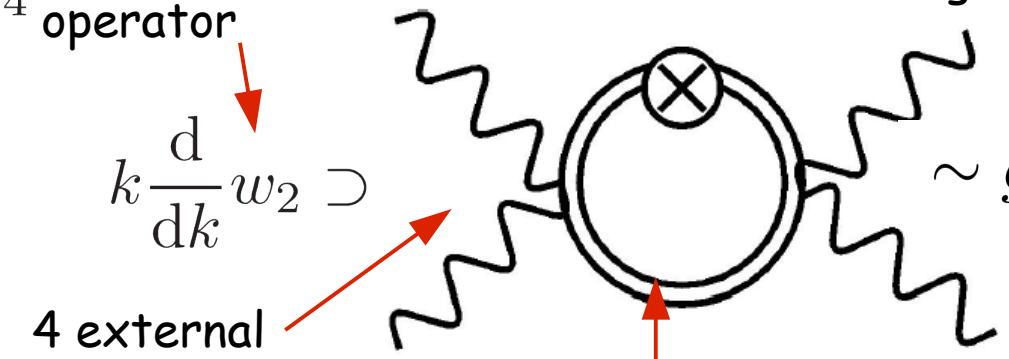
- Assume non-vanishing gravitational coupling:

$$g > 0$$

- gravity contribution to the running of higher order operators in the gauge sector:

e.g. $w_n F^{2n}$

coupling of $F^4$ operator




independent of $w_2$

Eichhorn 12,
Christiansen & Eichhorn 17

→ Even if $w_2$ is zero at some scale:

$\beta_{w_2} \neq 0$ due to gravity fluctuations!

# „Interacting Asymptotic Freedom" II

- Structure of the beta-function

$$\beta_{w_n} = A + Bg^2$$

gravitational coupling

contains gauge couplings

$$A\left((g_{\rm gauge}, \vec{w}) = 0\right) = 0$$

independent of gauge couplings

$(g_{\rm gauge}, \vec{w}) = 0$ is not a fixed point

For $g > 0$ only non-Gaussian FP possible: $\vec{w}^* \neq 0$

- Fixed point can be fully interacting $g^*_{\rm gauge} > 0$ or

$\left(g^*_{\rm gauge} = 0, \vec{w}^* \neq 0\right)$ „Interacting Asymptotic Freedom"

# U(1) & Quantum Gravity

- Beta function of U(1) gauge coupling

Harst & Reuter 11

$$\beta_{g^2_{U(1)}} = g^2_{U(1)}\,\eta_A$$ ← anomalous dimension

- anomalous dimension of the photon

$\eta_A \equiv 0$ without fermions and gravitons (free theory)

$\eta_A > 0$ with fermions only (triviality)

- As argued: Gravity and higher order operators are important!

$$\Gamma[g,A] = \int (R - 2\Lambda) + \frac{1}{g^2_{U(1)}} \int F^2 + \bar{w}_2 \int F^4 + \text{gauge}$$

gravity min. term higher order op.

- Can gravity cure UV-problems?

Christiansen, Eichhorn 17

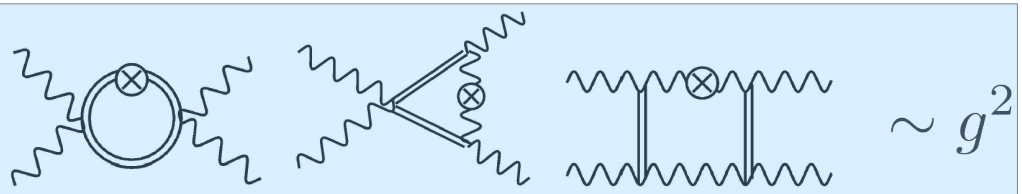
→ Beta functions using the Wetterich equation (FRG)

# U(1) & Quantum Gravity

- Beta function of the higher order coupling $w_2$

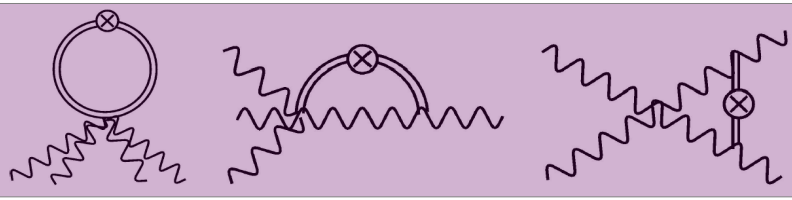
$$\beta_{w_2} = 4w_2 + 2\eta_A\, w_2 + \beta_{w_2}\big|_{\text{induced}} + \beta_{w_2}\big|_{\text{mixed}} + \beta_{w_2}\big|_{\text{pure-photon}}$$

induced: shift the GFP!



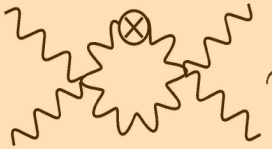
$\sim g^2$

mixed:



$\sim g w_2$

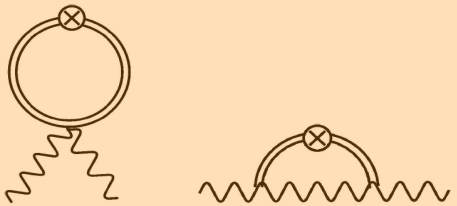
pure photon



$\sim w_2^2$

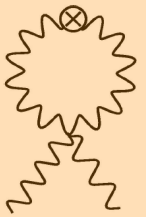
- Beta function of the gauge coupling $g^2_{U(1)}$

direct gravity contr.



$\sim g^2_{U(1)} g$

mediated contr.



$\sim g^2_{U(1)} w_2$

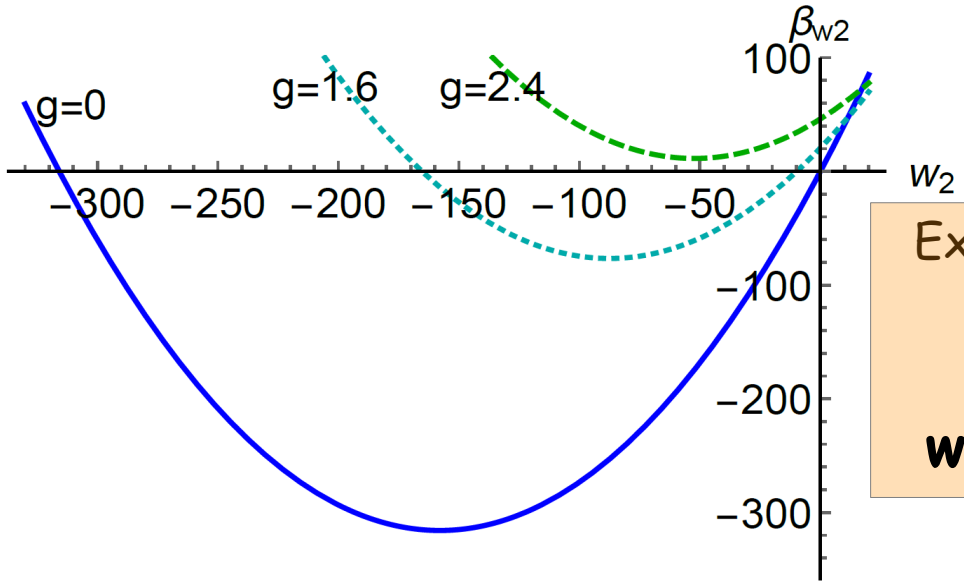
# U(1) & Quantum Gravity

- Qualitative effects all visible in approximated beta-functions

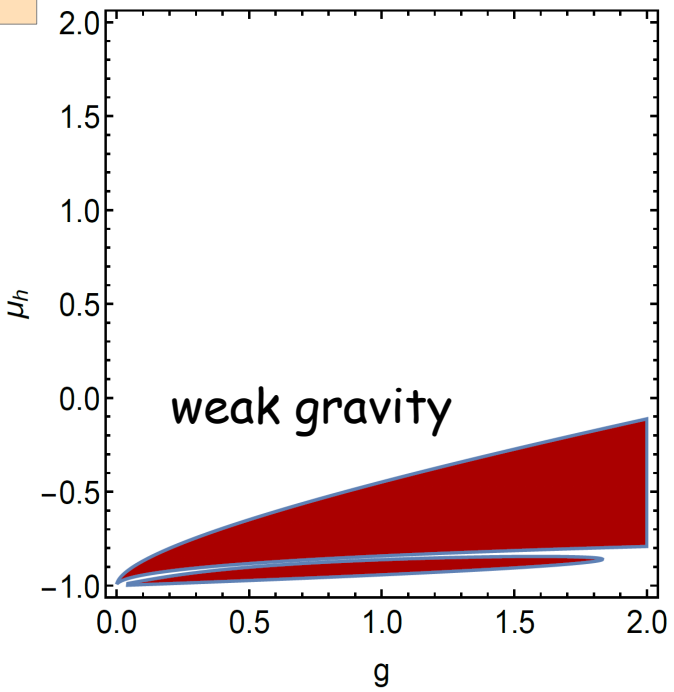
$$\beta_{g^2_{U(1)}}|_{\text{loops: }\eta=0} = \left(-\frac{g}{2\pi} - \frac{w_2}{3\pi^2}\right) g^2_{U(1)},$$

$$\beta_{w_2}|_{\text{loops: }\eta=0} = 4w_2 + 8g^2 - \frac{7}{2\pi} g\, w_2 + \frac{1}{8\pi^2} w_2^2$$

Fixed Point $g^*_{U(1)} = 0 \quad , \quad w_2^* < 0$ ← shifted Gaussian FP




Existence of FP:
$g^* < g_{\text{crit}}$
↓
**weak gravity**



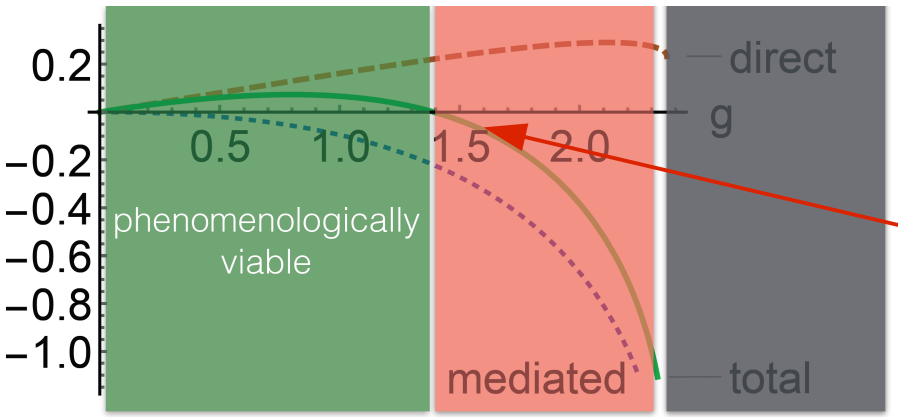
# U(1) & Quantum Gravity

- Critical exponents and stability: Interacting Asymptotic Freedom?

$$\theta_{w_2} = -\frac{\partial \beta_{w_2}}{\partial w_2}\Big|_{w_2 = w_{2\,\mathrm{sGFP}}}$$

remains negative, i.e. irrelevant

contributions to $\theta_{g_{U(1)}{}^2}$




$g_{\mathrm{zero}}$ depends on FP-values in the gravity sector.

$g_{\mathrm{zero}}$

$g_{U(1)}$ relevant if $g < g_{\mathrm{zero}}$

gravity-induced interactions destroy asymptotic freedom

gravity too strong to support fixed point in gauge sector

Interacting Asymptotic Freedom .....for weak gravity

- If the gauge coupling is irrelevant → FP becomes IR-attractive

→ Therefore $g_{U(1)}(k = M_{\mathrm{Pl}}) = 0$: no connection to SM

# U(1) & Quantum Gravity

- Adding Fermions does not change that picture

→ Fermions contribute at $\mathcal{O}\left(g_{U(1)}^4\right)$

→ Leading contribution from gravity!

$$\beta_{g^2_{U(1)}} = A\, g g^2_{U(1)} + B\, w_2 g^2_{U(1)} + C g^4_{U(1)} + \dots$$

gravity, direct — gravity, mediated — fermions

→ At $g^*_{U(1)} = 0$ fermions do not contribute to the critical exp.

→ If $g < g_{\text{zero}}$ QED coupled to QG exhibits

→ Interacting Asymptotic Freedom

- With fermions → also NGFP possible:

Harst, Reuter 11
Eichhorn, Versteegen in prep

# SU(N) & Quantum Gravity

- YM-theory: Does Asymptotic Freedom survive when coupled to gravity?
- Calculation is similar to U(1)

→ direct gravity contributions support Asymptotic Freedom

Daum, Harst, Reuter 09
Folkerts, Litim, Pawlowski 12
....

↓

Also in extended approximation

Christiansen, Litim, Pawlowski in prep.

- Gluon contributions to the gravity sector: Fully coupled system

→ stability of the NGFP in gravity

Preliminary!

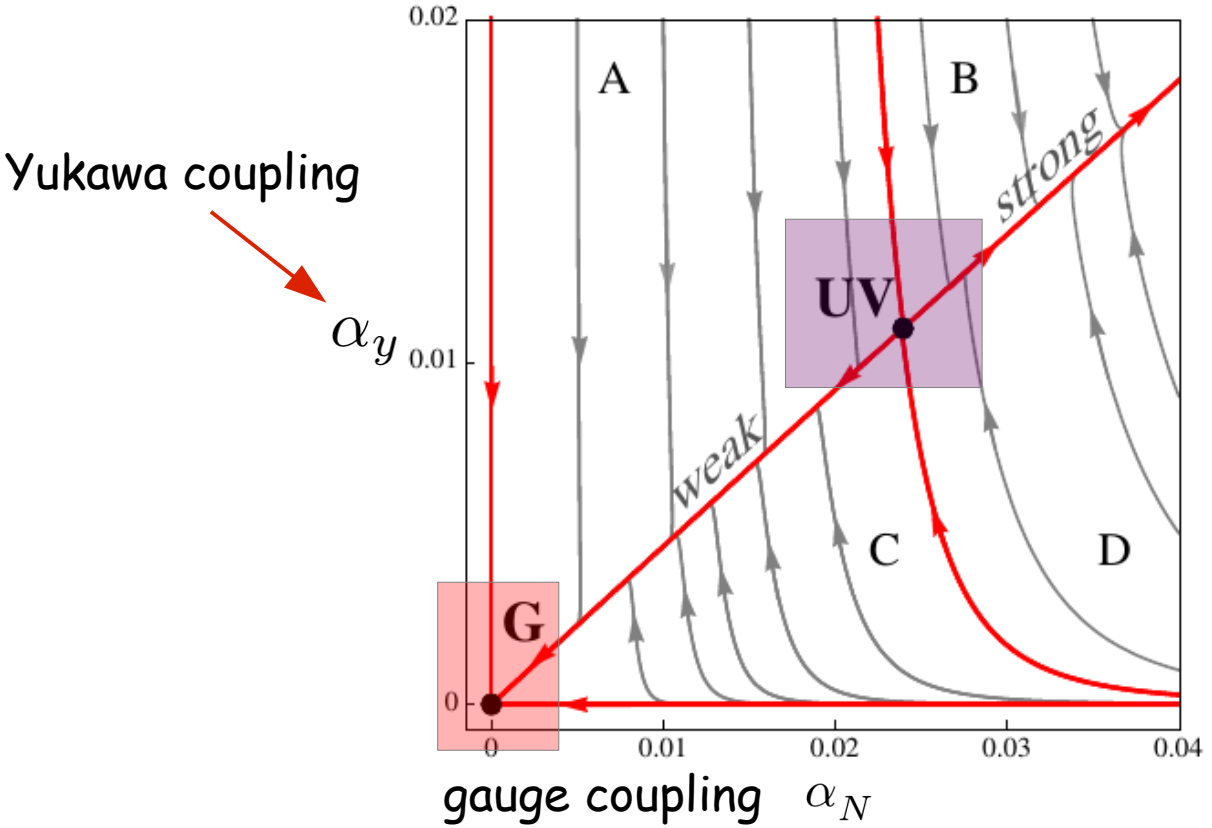
Christiansen, Litim, Pawlowski in prep.

# UV safe Gauge-Yukawa models

- Perturbative asymptotic safety in gauge-Yukawa models:

→ Veneziano Limit: $\epsilon = \frac{N_F}{N_c} - \frac{11}{2} \ll 1$ Litim & Sannino 14

- Fixed points and phase diagram without gravity




Non-Gaussian UV-Fixed Point

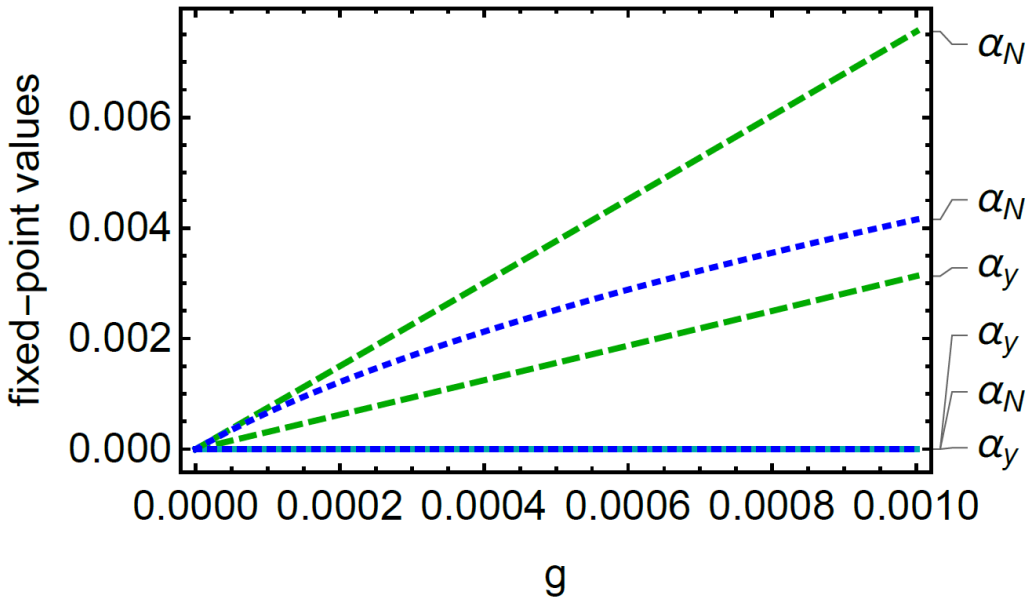
Gaussian IR-Fixed Point

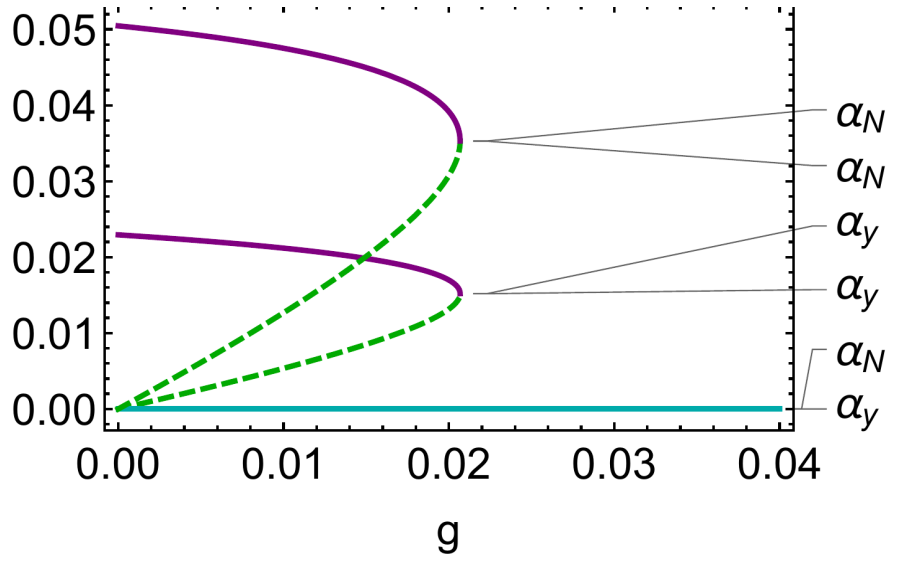
# UV safe matter models

- Adding gravity contributions to the beta-functions

Christiansen, Eichhorn, Held in prep

Preliminary!




Gaussian FP splits into 3 FP's if $g > 0$

New non-Gaussian IR fixed point

Annihilation of IR -NGFP with UV- NGFP at some $g_{\rm crit}$

Annihilation sensitive to ratio of gravity contr. to $\alpha_y$ and $\alpha_N$

# Summary and Outlook

- Quantum Gravity coupled to gauge theories:

  → gravity induces higher order operators:

  Interacting Asymptotic Freedom

- gravity and U(1) gauge theories:

  → gravity induces non-Gaussian FP in F^4 coupling

  → „weak gravity": gravity induces Asymptotic Freedom in F^2 coupling

  solution to the triviality problem

  weak gravity bound!

**Outlook**

- Non-Abelian gauge theories
- Fully coupled gauge-gravity system
- More gerneal matter sector!

# Thank You!!!