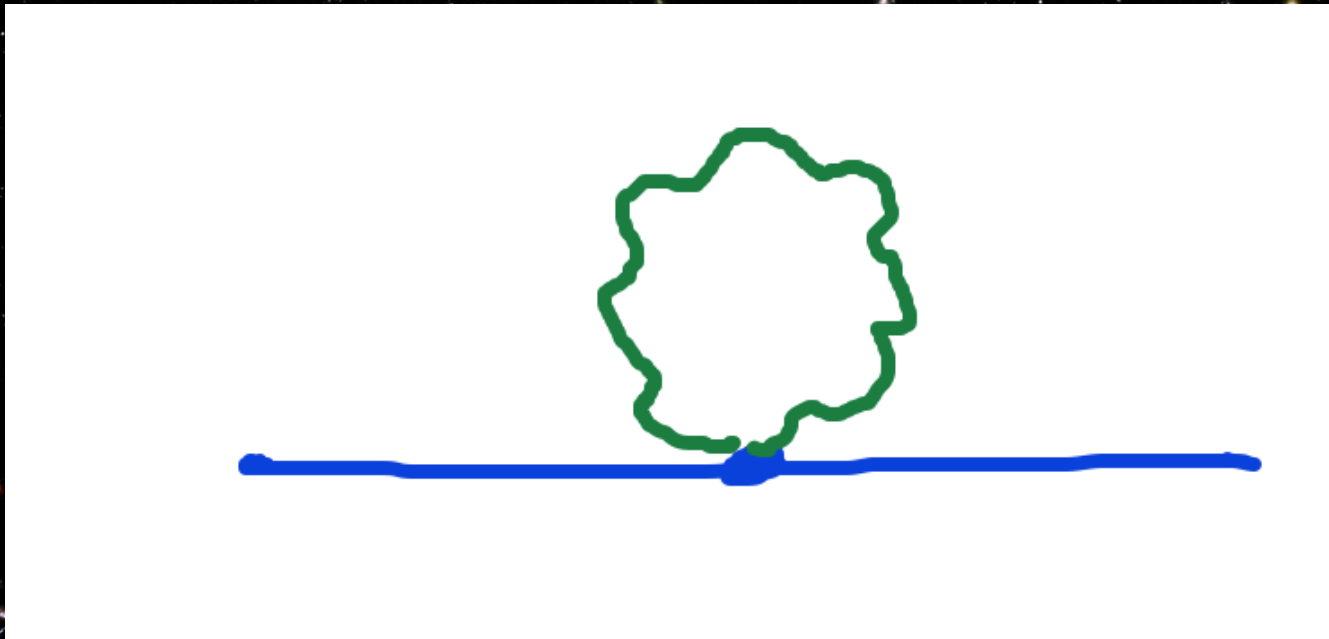


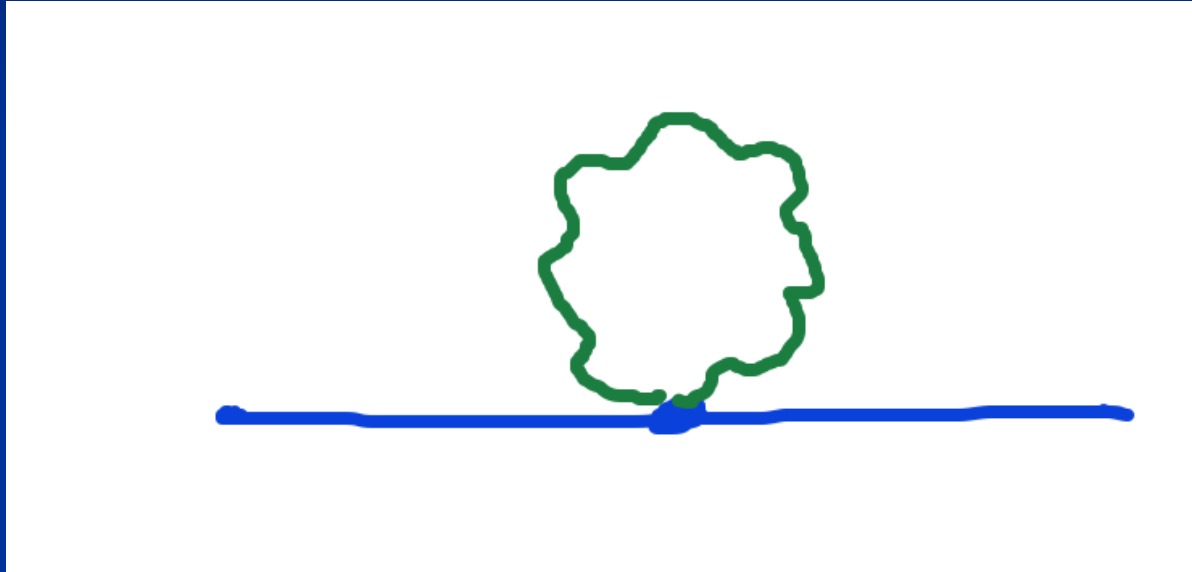
# What is Quantum Gravity ?



???

- Quantisation of space ?
- No time ?
- Wave function of the Universe ?
- Change of quantum mechanics ?

# Fluctuations of metric field matter



Quantum gravity needs method to take them into account

# Quantum gravity

- Gravity is **field theory**. Similar to electrodynamics. Metric field.
- Gravity is **gauge theory**. Similar to QED or QCD. Gauge symmetry: general coordinate transformations ( diffeomorphisms )
- Quantum gravity: include **metric fluctuations** in **functional integral**

# Quantum gravity

- Quantum gravity is similar to other quantum field theories
- Difference: metric is tensor, gauge bosons are vectors (vierbein, spin connection : vectors)
- Difference: Quantum (Einstein-) gravity is not **perturbatively** renormalizable
- no small dimensionless coupling constant, effective coupling  $q^2/M^2$

# Strength of gravity

Characteristic mass scale:

Planck mass  $M=2.4 \cdot 10^{18} \text{ GeV}$  ,  $M^{-1}=8 \cdot 10^{-33} \text{ cm}$

Proton mass 1 GeV , LHC energy  $10^3 \text{ GeV}$

- Strength of gravity  $q^2/M^2$
- Very weak interaction between particles on energy scales of everyday life – much weaker than electromagnetic forces
- Important due to collective effect : many atoms
- Interaction becomes strong for  $q^2 \gg M^2$

# Quantum gravity

Quantum gravity is

not perturbatively renormalizable

Asymptotic safety : non-perturbative renormalizability

Weinberg, Reuter, ...

Use functional renormalization !

*Fields*



# Fields

Fields have a value for  
every position in space  $(x,y,z)$   
and for every time  $t$

example:

electric field

$$\vec{E}(t, x, y, z)$$

$$\vec{E} = (E_x, E_y, E_z)$$

magnetic field

$$\vec{B}(t, x, y, z)$$

$$\vec{B} = (B_x, B_y, B_z)$$

# Gravitational potential : field

$$\Phi(t, x, y, z)$$

- For every moment in time  $t$ , and for every position  $(x, y, z)$  the gravitational potential has a value  $\Phi$

# metric field

$$g_{\mu\nu} : \begin{pmatrix} g_{00} & g_{01} & g_{02} & g_{03} \\ g_{10} & g_{11} & g_{12} & g_{13} \\ g_{20} & g_{21} & g_{22} & g_{23} \\ g_{30} & g_{31} & g_{32} & g_{33} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$g_{\mu\nu} = g_{\nu\mu}$$

Newton –  
approximation :  
gravitational  
potential

$$g_{\mu\nu} : \begin{pmatrix} -(1 + 2\phi) & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

# action

- the action is a **functional** of fields
- it associates to every field ( - configuration ) a value  $S[ \Phi ] = S[ \Phi(t,x,y,z) ]$
- variation with respect to the fields yields **field equations** ( functional derivative )
- symmetry:  $S$  is invariant under a particular field transformation

# Maxwell action

$$S = \int d^4x \sqrt{g} \frac{Z_F}{4} F^{\mu\nu} F_{\mu\nu}$$

$A_\mu$ : gauge field

$$F_{\mu\nu} = \partial_\mu A_\nu - \partial_\nu A_\mu$$

$$g = \det(g_{\mu\nu})$$

$$F^{\mu\nu} = g^{\mu\rho} g^{\nu\sigma} F_{\rho\sigma}$$

inverse metric  $g^{\mu\nu}$

$$\sum_{\rho=0}^3 g_{\mu\rho} g^{\rho\nu} = \delta_\mu^\nu = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{wenn } \mu = \nu \\ 0 & \text{sonst} \end{cases}$$

For  $g_{\mu\nu} = \eta_{\mu\nu}$  field equations derived from  $S$  are Maxwell equations

# Einstein Hilbert action

$$S = \int d^4x \sqrt{g} \left\{ -\frac{M^2}{2} R + \frac{Z_F}{4} F^{\mu\nu} F_{\mu\nu} + \dots \right\}$$

- Field equations derived from Einstein – Hilbert action are the Einstein equations

# Riemann tensor and curvature scalar

$$R_{\mu\nu} = \sum_{\rho=0}^3 \left( \frac{\partial \Gamma_{\mu\nu}^{\rho}}{\partial x^{\rho}} - \frac{\partial \Gamma_{\nu\rho}^{\rho}}{\partial x^{\mu}} \right) + \sum_{\rho=0}^3 \sum_{\tau=0}^3 (\Gamma_{\mu\nu}^{\tau} \Gamma_{\tau\rho}^{\rho} - \Gamma_{\mu\rho}^{\tau} \Gamma_{\nu\tau}^{\rho})$$

Riemann tensor

$$\Gamma_{\mu\nu}^{\rho} = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\tau=0}^3 g^{\rho\tau} \left( \frac{\partial g_{\nu\tau}}{\partial x^{\mu}} + \frac{\partial g_{\mu\tau}}{\partial x^{\nu}} - \frac{\partial g_{\mu\nu}}{\partial x^{\tau}} \right)$$

connection

inverse metric  $g^{\mu\nu}$

$$\sum_{\rho=0}^3 g_{\mu\rho} g^{\rho\nu} = \delta_{\mu}^{\nu} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{wenn } \mu = \nu \\ 0 & \text{sonst} \end{cases}$$

$$R = \sum_{\mu=0}^3 \sum_{\nu=0}^3 g^{\mu\nu} R_{\mu\nu}$$

curvature scalar

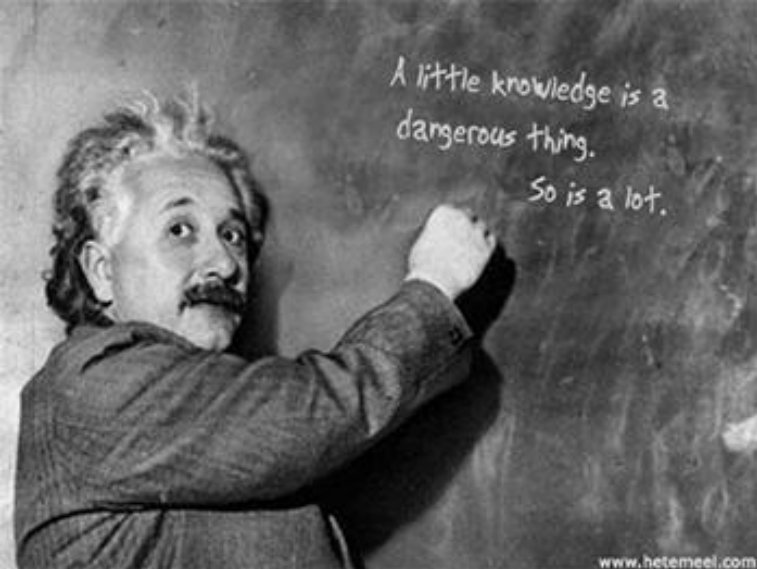
# Einstein equation

$$M^2(R_{\mu\nu} - \frac{1}{2}Rg_{\mu\nu}) = T_{\mu\nu}$$

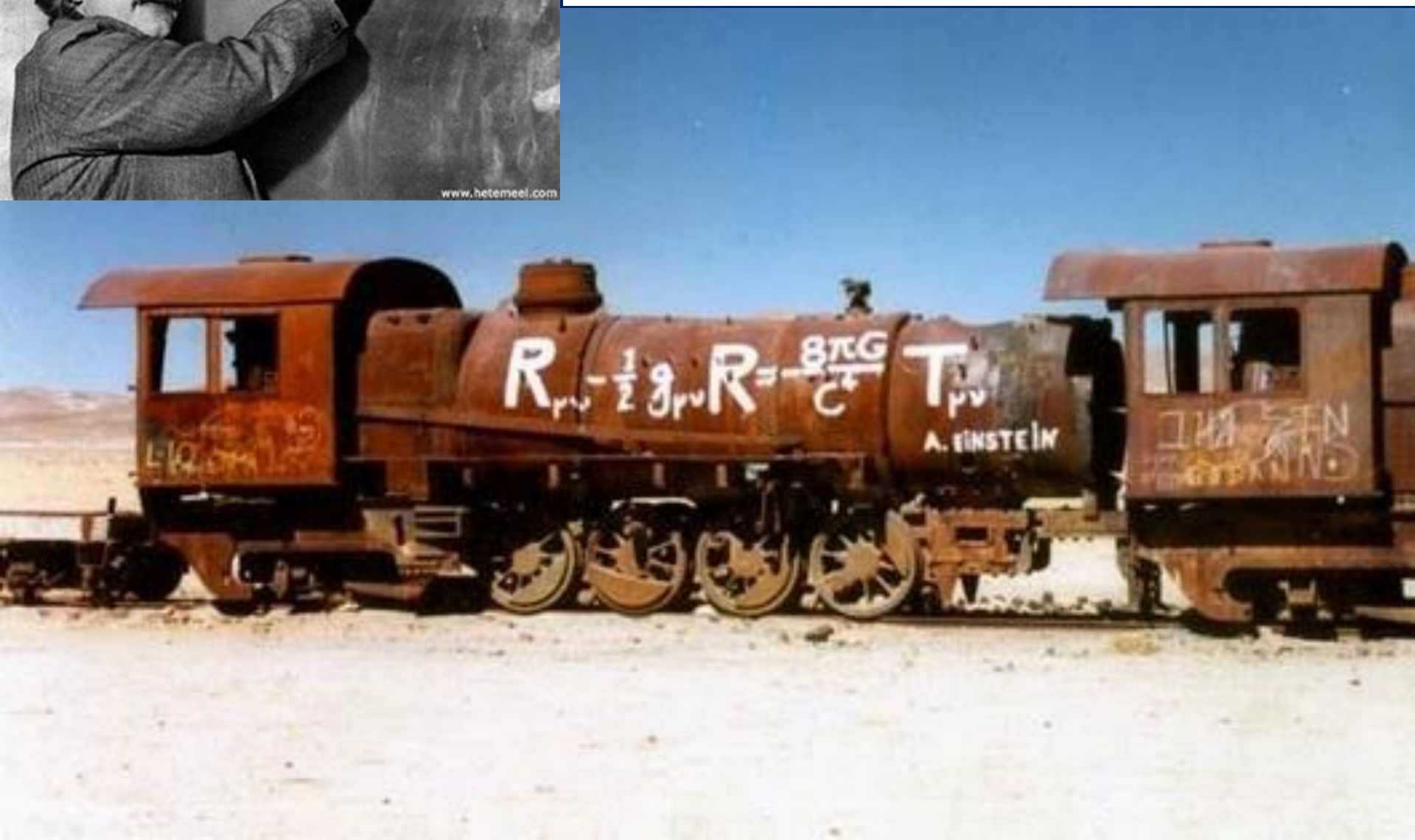
- Differential equation for gravitational field (metric)
- Links geometry and matter  
( energy-momentum –tensor  $T_{\mu\nu}$  )
- Needs additional equation for energy momentum tensor ( equation of state)

$$S = \int d^4x \sqrt{g} \left\{ -\frac{M^2}{2} R + \frac{Z_F}{4} F^{\mu\nu} F_{\mu\nu} + \dots \right\}$$





$$M^2(R_{\mu\nu} - \frac{1}{2}Rg_{\mu\nu}) = T_{\mu\nu}$$



# Einstein equation

$$M^2(R_{\mu\nu} - \frac{1}{2}Rg_{\mu\nu}) = T_{\mu\nu}$$

**M** : Planck-Masse  
verknüpft mit  
Gravitationskonstante **G**

$$G = \frac{1}{8\pi M^2}$$





# Newton Gravitation

$$g_{\mu\nu} : \begin{pmatrix} -(1 + 2\phi) & , & 0 & , & 0 & , & 0 \\ 0 & , & 1 & , & 0 & , & 0 \\ 0 & , & 0 & , & 1 & , & 0 \\ 0 & , & 0 & , & 0 & , & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

Einstein Gleichung  
für zeitunabhängiges  $\Phi$  :

$$-M^2 \vec{\nabla}^2 g_{00} = T_{00}$$

$$\vec{\nabla}^2 \phi = \frac{\rho}{2M^2}$$

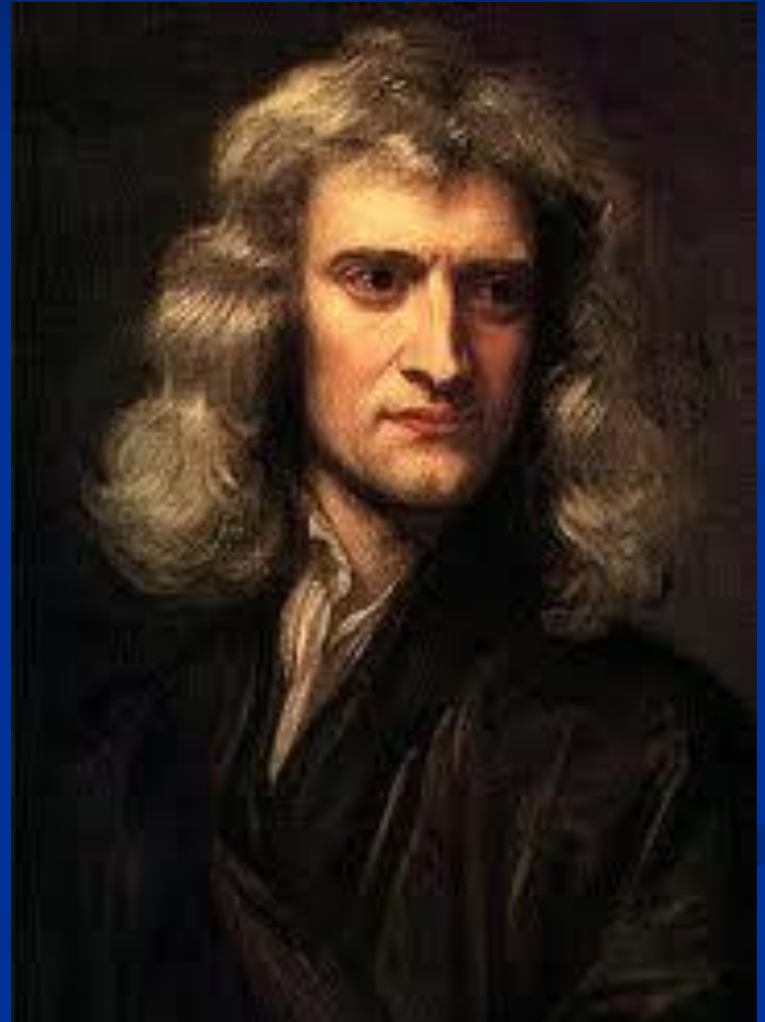
# Newton - Gravitation

$$\vec{\nabla}^2 \phi = \frac{\rho}{2M^2}$$

$$\phi = -\frac{m}{8\pi M^2 r} = -\frac{Gm}{r}$$

$$G = \frac{1}{8\pi M^2}$$

$$\frac{d^2 \vec{x}}{dt^2} = -\vec{\nabla} \phi$$



# metric of the Universe

## homogenous and isotropic

$$g_{\mu\nu} = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & a^2(t) & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & a^2(t) & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & a^2(t) \end{pmatrix}$$

$$ds^2 = g_{\mu\nu} dx^\mu dx^\nu = -dt^2 + a^2(t) dx^i dx^j \delta_{ij}$$

Space distances are proportional  $a(t)$   
Expansion of space if  $a(t)$  increases

# Expansion of space

- Field changes its value
- That's all
- not: “space is created” etc.



# Friedmann Gleichung for cosmic evolution

$$\frac{\partial a}{\partial t} = \sqrt{\frac{\rho}{3M^2}} a$$

$a(t)$  : scale factor

$\rho(t)$  : energy-  
density

$t$  : cosmic time

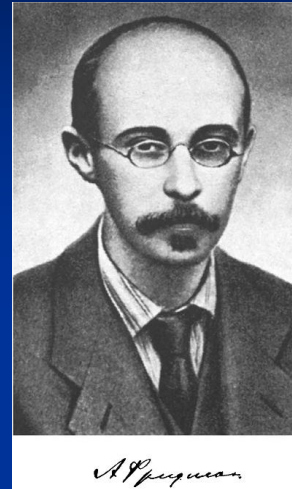
$M$  : Planck-mass

$$G = \frac{1}{8\pi M^2}$$



# Friedmann equation

- describes evolution
  - of homogeneous and
  - isotropic universe
- 
- special case of  
Einstein Gleichung  
( no spatial curvature )



$$\frac{\partial a}{\partial t} = \sqrt{\frac{\rho}{3M^2}} a$$

# Hubble parameter

$$\frac{\partial a}{\partial t} = v$$

$$\dot{a} = v$$

$$v = aH$$

$$\dot{a} = Ha$$

$$H = \frac{\dot{a}}{a}$$

$$\frac{\partial a}{\partial t} = \sqrt{\frac{\rho}{3M^2}} a$$

$$3M^2 H^2 = \rho$$

# What is behind the Einstein equation ?

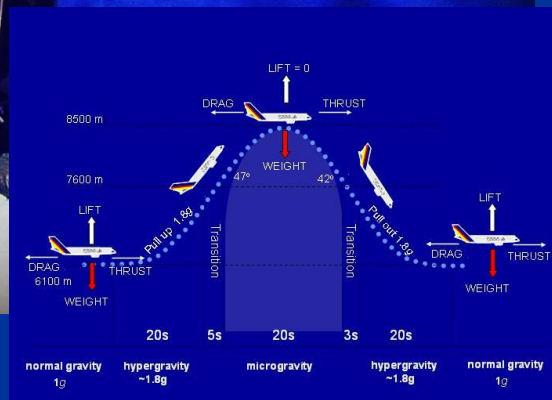
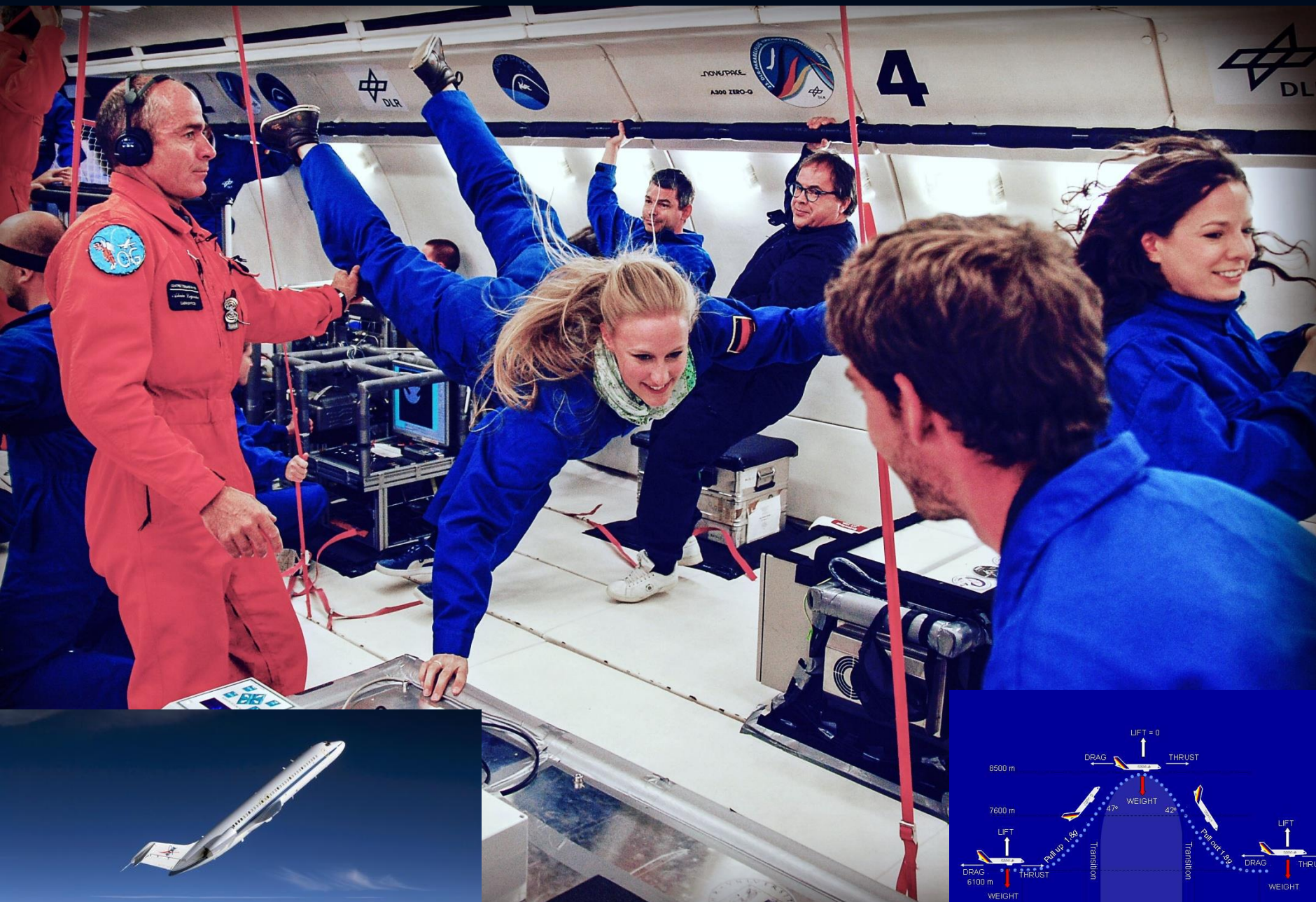
Symmetry under

- general coordinate transformations (diffeomorphisms )
- action  $S$  invariant
- general relativity

# Symmetry principle

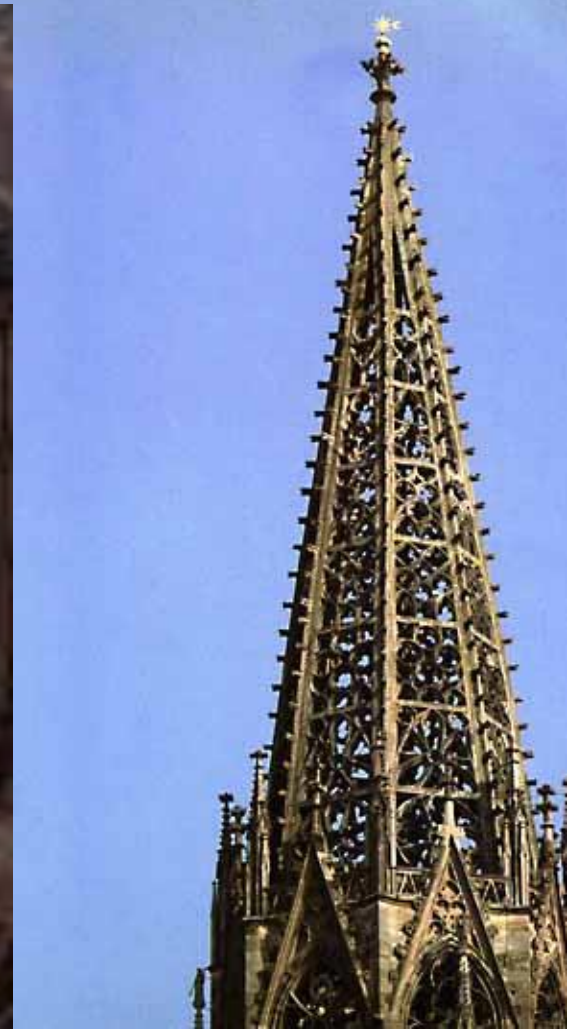
*Physics is the same in  
all free falling systems*







guiding principle : symmetry  
general relativity



*Functional integral  
for  
effective action*

# quantum field theory

- probabilistic theory
- fluctuations matter
- expectation values obtain by summing over fluctuations with a weight factor
- quantum field theory is defined by a **functional integral**
- sum over fields ( functions )



# The need for quantum gravity

- Energy momentum tensor is expectation value for a quantum field theory
- Metric must be expectation value of a microscopic metric field ( fluctuating field )

$$M^2(R_{\mu\nu} - \frac{1}{2}Rg_{\mu\nu}) = T_{\mu\nu}$$

# Effective action

- Effective action is functional of field expectation values
- Field equation obtained from variation of effective action is exact
- Effective action replaces classical action
- It can be computed from the action

$$\Gamma[\chi] = -\ln \int \mathcal{D}\hat{\chi} \exp \left\{ -S[\chi + \hat{\chi}] + \int_x \frac{\partial \Gamma}{\partial \chi(x)} \hat{\chi}(x) \right\}$$

# Functional integral

## Integral over fluctuations

$$\Gamma[\chi] = -\ln \int \mathcal{D}\hat{\chi} \exp \left\{ -S[\chi + \hat{\chi}] + \int_x \frac{\partial \Gamma}{\partial \chi(x)} \hat{\chi}(x) \right\}$$

$\chi'(x)$  microscopic field

$\chi(x)$  expectation value of microscopic field =  
macroscopic field

$\hat{\chi}(x) = \chi'(x) - \chi(x)$  fluctuation field

# Functional integral

Solving a quantum field theory =

Computation of effective action

- Too complex to be done exactly if interactions are present
- Approximations are needed
- Perturbative expansion in strength of interaction diverges

$$\Gamma[\chi] = -\ln \int \mathcal{D}\hat{\chi} \exp \left\{ -S[\chi + \hat{\chi}] + \int_x \frac{\partial \Gamma}{\partial \chi(x)} \hat{\chi}(x) \right\}$$

# *Functional renormalization*

# Flowing couplings

Couplings change with momentum scale due to quantum fluctuations.

Renormalization scale  $k$  : Only fluctuations with momenta larger  $k$  are included in functional integral

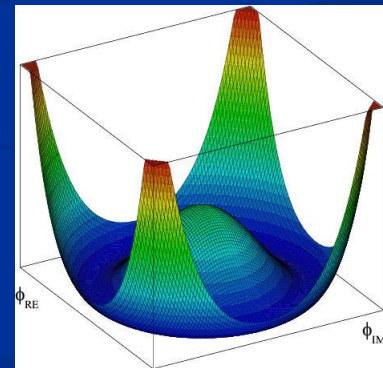
Flow of  $k$  to zero : all fluctuations included, **IR**

Flow of  $k$  to infinity : **UV**

# Effective average action : couplings depend on k

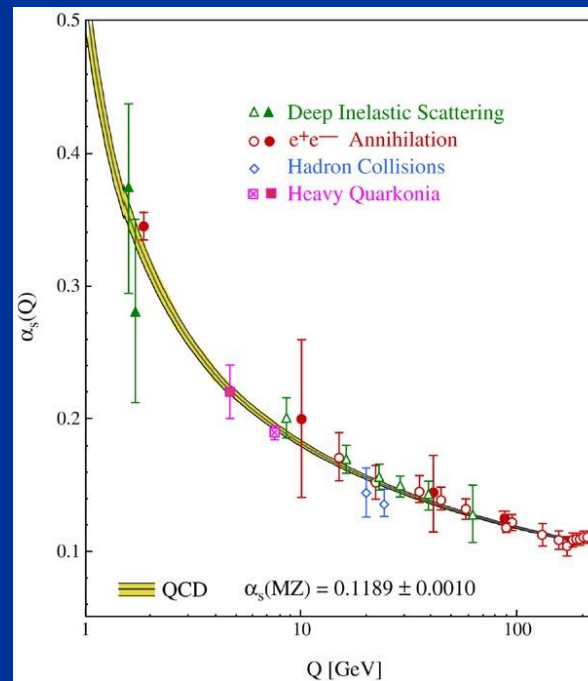
$$\Gamma = \int_x \sqrt{g} \left\{ -\frac{M^2}{2} R + U_E(\varphi) + \frac{1}{2} Z \partial^\mu \varphi \partial_\mu \varphi \right\}$$

$$\begin{aligned} V(\varphi) &= -\mu^2 \varphi^\dagger \varphi + \frac{1}{2} \lambda (\varphi^\dagger \varphi)^2 \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \lambda (\varphi^\dagger \varphi - \varphi_0^2)^2 + \text{const.} \end{aligned}$$



# Renormalization

*How do couplings or physical laws change  
with scale  $k$  ?*





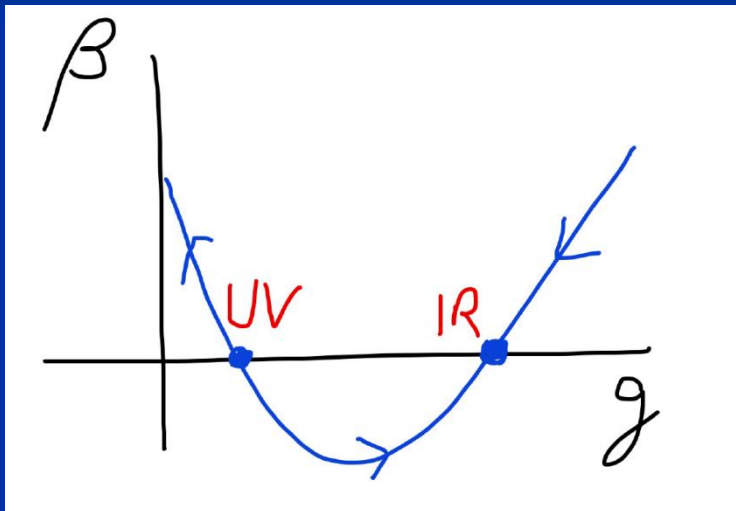
# Renormalizability

*Theory can be extrapolated to  
infinitely small distances or  
infinitely large energies:  
such a theory has no infinities -  
it is renormalizable*

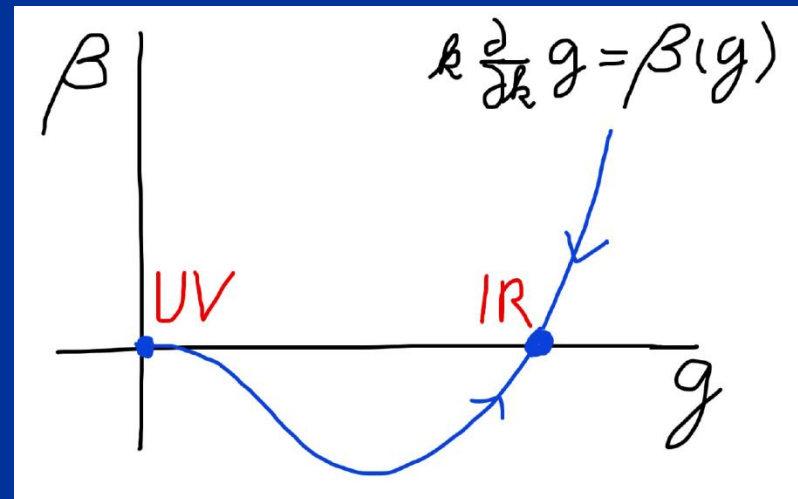
# Ultraviolet fixed point

- Flow of dimensionless couplings stops as  $k$  increases towards infinity
- Renormalizable theories from ultraviolet fixed point in the scale dependence of couplings  
( renormalization flow )
- Theory can be extrapolated to arbitrarily short distances
- UV-Completeness

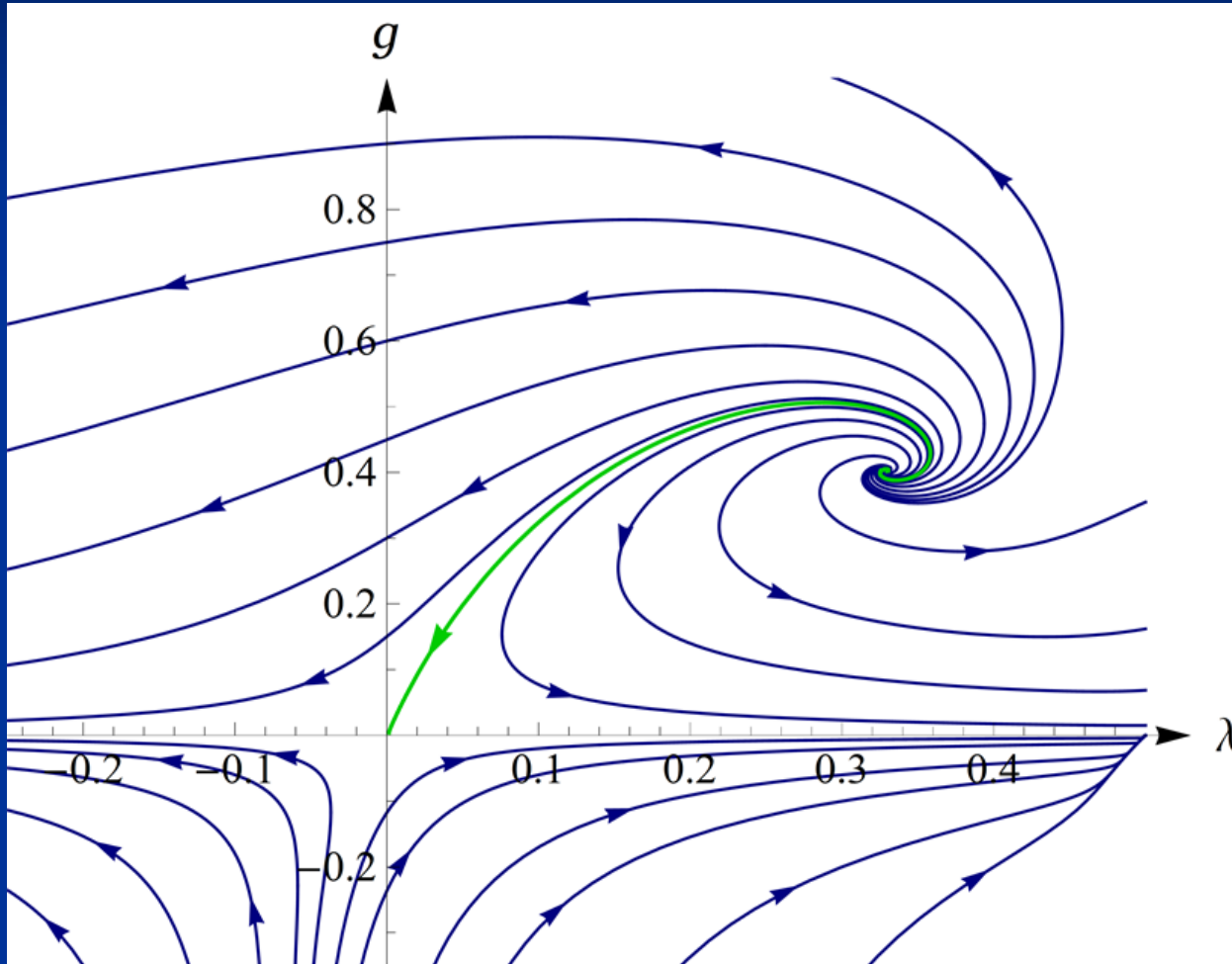
# Asymptotic safety



# Asymptotic freedom



# UV- fixed point for quantum gravity



Wikipedia

*How to compute non-perturbative  
quantum gravity effects ?*

# Quantum gravity computation by functional renormalization

*Introduce infrared cutoff with scale  $k$ ,  
such that only fluctuations with  
(covariant) momenta larger than  $k$   
are included.*

*Then lower  $k$  towards zero*

# Exact renormalization group equation

Exact flow equation

for scale dependence of average action

$$\partial_k \Gamma_k[\varphi] = \frac{1}{2} \text{Tr} \left\{ \left( \Gamma_k^{(2)}[\varphi] + R_k \right)^{-1} \partial_k R_k \right\}$$

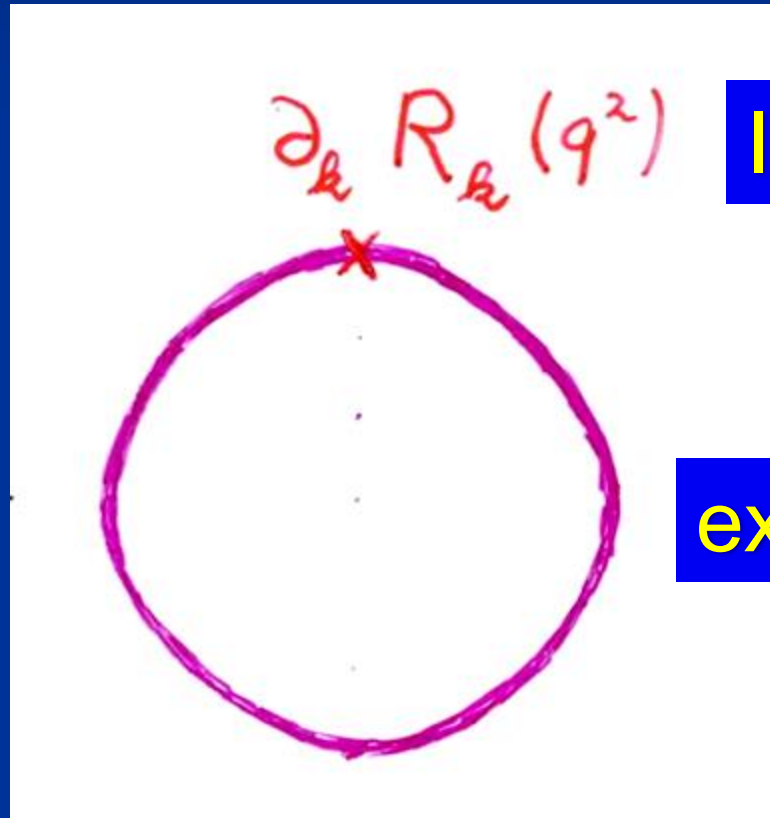
'92

$$\left( \Gamma_k^{(2)} \right)_{ab}(q, q') = \frac{\delta^2 \Gamma_k}{\delta \varphi_a(-q) \delta \varphi_b(q')}$$

$$\text{Tr} : \sum_a \int \frac{d^d q}{(2\pi)^d}$$

(fermions : STr)

# Functional flow equation for scale dependent effective action

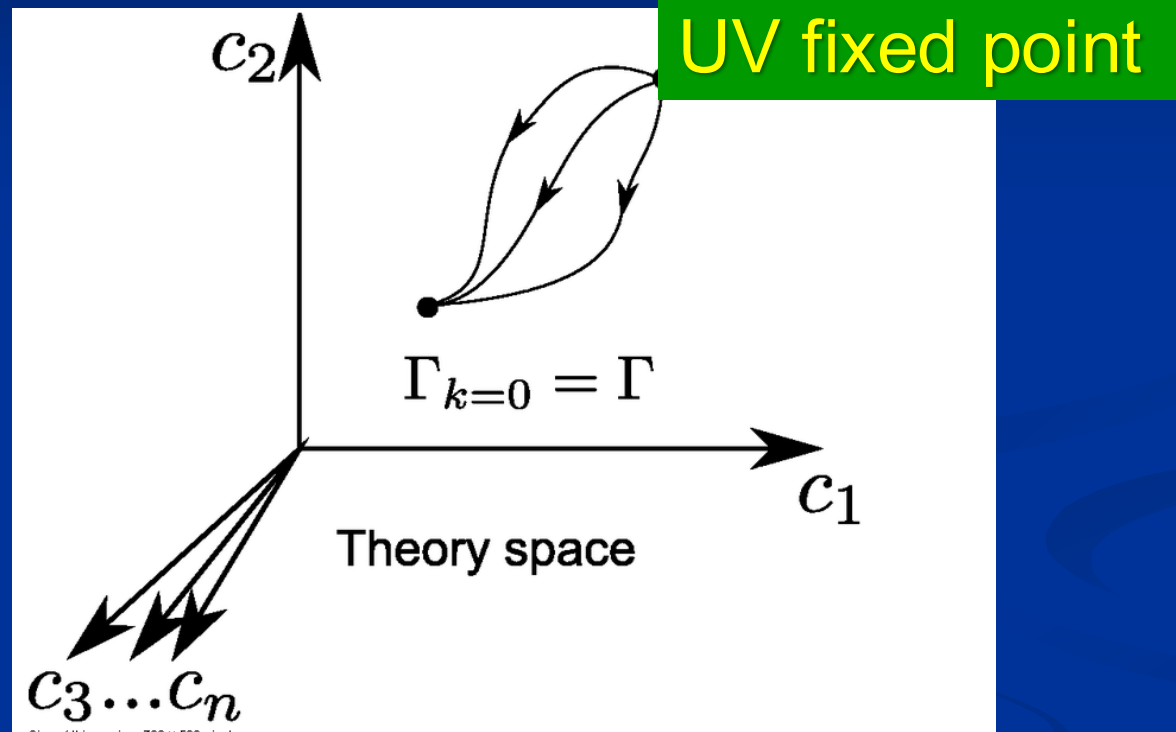


IR cutoff

exact propagator



# Ultraviolet fixed point



Extrapolation of microscopic law to infinitely short distances is possible.

Complete theory

# Asymptotic safety of quantum gravity

if UV fixed point exists :

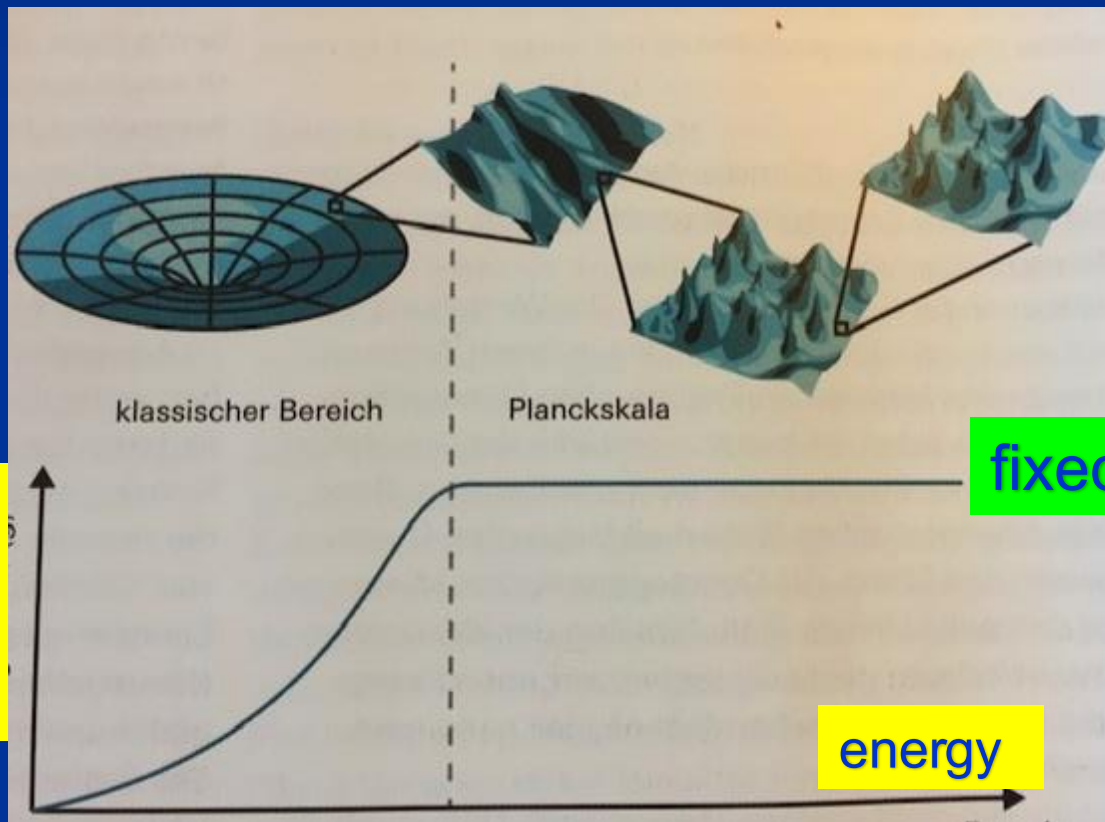
*quantum gravity is  
non-perturbatively renormalizable !*

S. Weinberg , M. Reuter

# Strength of gravity

classical gravity

quantum gravity



strength  
of  
gravity  
 $g_{\text{grav}}$

fixed point

energy

inverse distance

# Quantum Gravity

*Quantum Gravity is a  
renormalisable quantum field theory*

*Standard model of particle physics (or extension )  
coupled to the metric is ultraviolet complete*

*Nothing else is needed ?*

*One can construct an ultraviolet complete  
quantum field theory for gravity  
based on the metric,*

*but is it the correct one ?*

# *Predictions of quantum gravity*



# Prediction of mass of Higgs boson

## Asymptotic safety of gravity and the Higgs boson mass

Mikhail Shaposhnikov

*Institut de Théorie des Phénomènes Physiques, École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, CH-1015 Lausanne, Switzerland*

Christof Wetterich

*Institut für Theoretische Physik, Universität Heidelberg, Philosophenweg 16, D-69120 Heidelberg, Germany*

12 January 2010

### Abstract

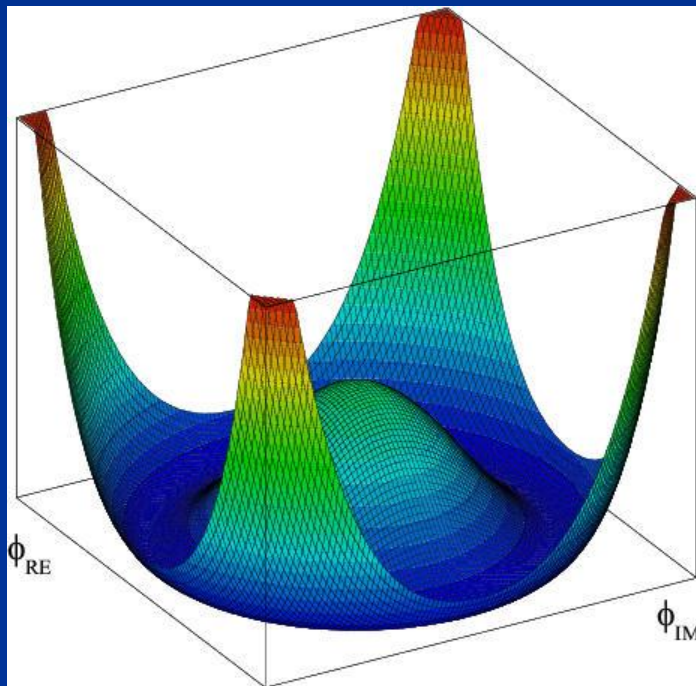
There are indications that gravity is asymptotically safe. The Standard Model (SM) plus gravity could be valid up to arbitrarily high energies. Supposing that this is indeed the case and assuming that there are no intermediate energy scales between the Fermi and Planck scales we address the question of whether the mass of the Higgs boson  $m_H$  can be predicted. For a positive gravity induced anomalous dimension  $A_\lambda > 0$  the running of the quartic scalar self interaction  $\lambda$  at scales beyond the Planck mass is determined by a fixed point at zero. This results in  $m_H = m_{\min} = 126$  GeV, with only a few GeV uncertainty. This prediction is independent of the details of the short distance running and holds for a wide class of extensions of the SM as well.

s in  $m_H = m_{\min} = 126$  GeV, with o



*Why can quantum gravity make  
predictions for particle physics ?*

# Effective potential for Higgs scalar



$$V(\varphi) = -\mu^2 \varphi^\dagger \varphi + \frac{1}{2} \lambda (\varphi^\dagger \varphi)^2$$
$$= \frac{1}{2} \lambda (\varphi^\dagger \varphi - \varphi_0^2)^2 + \text{const.})$$

Fermi scale

$$\varphi_0 = 175 \text{ GeV}$$

# Quartic scalar coupling

prediction of mass of Higgs boson

=

prediction of value of quartic scalar coupling  $\lambda$   
at Fermi scale

$$m^2 = 2\lambda\varphi_0^2$$

*Why can quantum gravity make  
predictions for quartic scalar coupling ?*

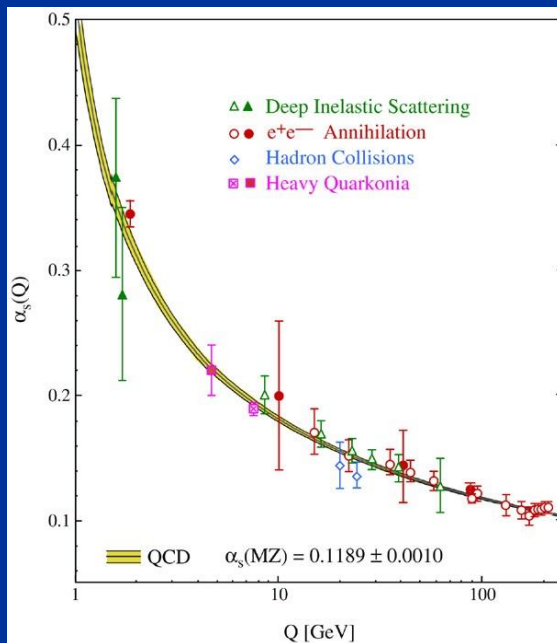
# Mass scales

- Fermi scale  $\varphi_0 \sim 100 \text{ GeV}$
- Planck mass  $M \sim 10^{18} \text{ GeV}$
- Gravity at Fermi scale is very weak : How can it influence the effective potential for the Higgs scalar and the mass of the Higgs boson ?

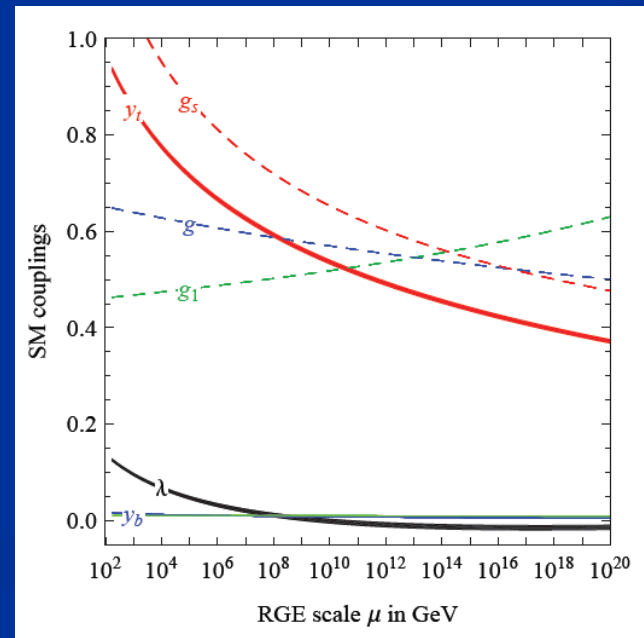
$$\varepsilon = \frac{\varphi_0^2}{M^2} = 5 \cdot 10^{-33}$$

# Quantum fluctuations induce running couplings

- possible violation of scale symmetry
- well known in QCD or standard model



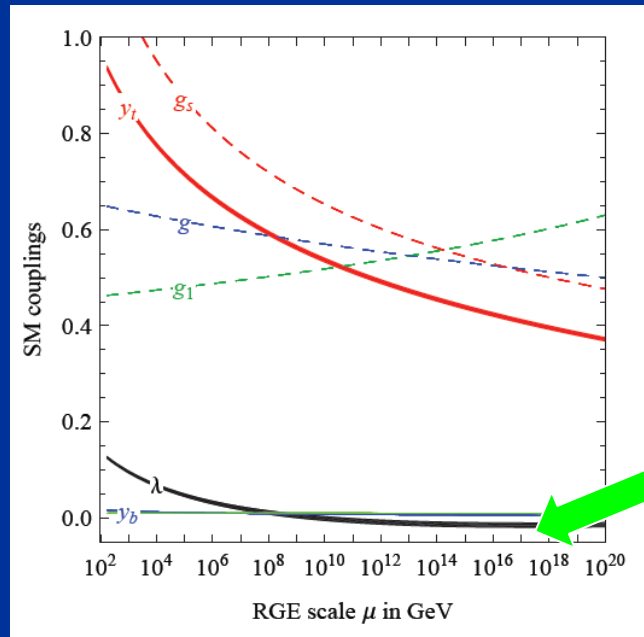
Bethke



Degrassi et al

# Quantum fluctuations induce running couplings

flow of couplings in standard model

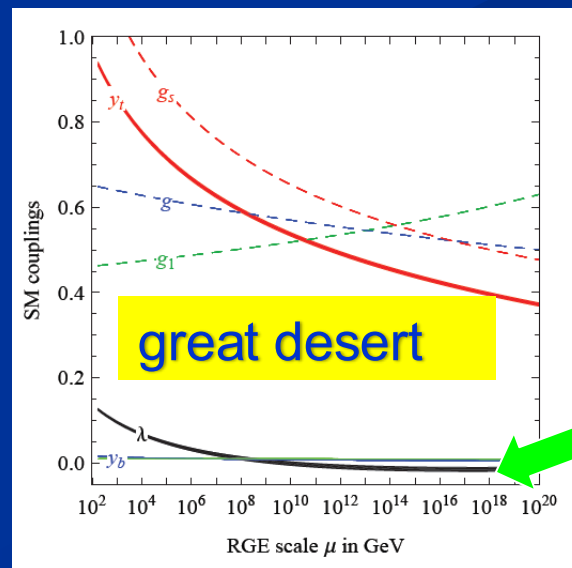


prediction of  
quantum gravity



# key points

- great desert
- high scale fixed point
- vanishing scalar coupling at fixed point



# The mass of the Higgs boson, the great desert, and asymptotic safety of gravity







# Planck scale, gravity

no multi-Higgs model

no technicolor

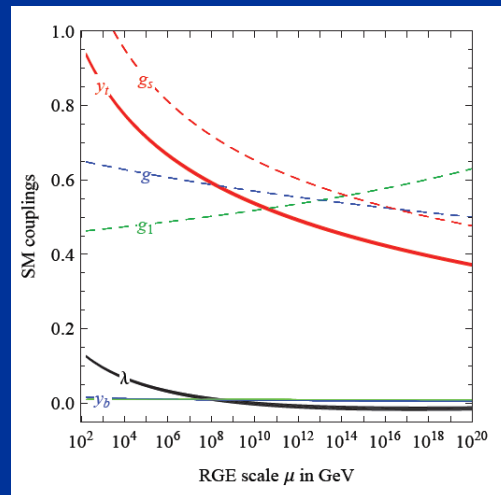
no low scale  
higher dimensions

no supersymmetry

# Essential point for prediction of Higgs boson mass:

Initial value of quartic scalar coupling near Planck mass is predicted by quantum gravity

Extrapolate perturbatively to Fermi scale



Results in prediction for ratio Higgs boson mass over W- boson mass, or Higgs boson mass over top quark mass

*Near Planck mass gravity is not weak !*

*Predictive power !*

# Great desert

*Big chance  
for understanding of  
quantum gravity !*



# *Pregeometry*

# Microscopic degrees of freedom

Is the metric the fundamental microscopic degree of freedom ?

alternatives:

- superstrings
- triangles ( lattice quantum gravity )
- fermions ( spinor quantum gravity )

# Composite metric

- Metric may be a collective or composite field
- At the end, every theory of quantum gravity has to construct a metric and compute the effective action for the metric

superstrings

triangles ( lattice quantum gravity )

fermions ( spinor quantum gravity )

# Conclusions

- Quantum gravity is a renormalizable quantum field theory, realized by UV - fixed point of running couplings or flowing effective action
- Quantum gravity is predictive :
  - Mass of the Higgs boson ( and more ...? )
  - Properties of inflation
  - Properties of dark energy

The background is a solid dark blue color. On the right side, there are several thick, wavy, light blue lines that flow from the top towards the bottom, creating a sense of movement or a stylized landscape feature like a river or a path.

end

*How does asymptotic safety  
predict the quartic scalar coupling ?*

# Graviton fluctuations erase quartic scalar coupling

Renormalization scale  $k$  : Only fluctuations  
with momenta larger  $k$  are included

$$k \frac{\partial \lambda}{\partial k} = A \lambda$$

gravity induced  
anomalous dimension

$$A > 0$$

# Graviton fluctuations erase quartic scalar coupling

for  $k$  beyond Planck scale :

$$k \frac{\partial \lambda}{\partial k} = A \lambda$$

gravity induced  
anomalous dimension  
 $A$  : positive constant of  
order one

$$\lambda(k) = \lambda(\mu) \left( \frac{k}{\mu} \right)^A$$

$$k \rightarrow 0 \Rightarrow \lambda \rightarrow 0$$



# Fixed point

$$k \frac{\partial \lambda}{\partial k} = A \lambda$$

$$\lambda(k) = \lambda(\mu) \left( \frac{k}{\mu} \right)^A$$

The quartic scalar coupling  $\lambda$  has a  
**fixed point** at  $\lambda=0$

It flows towards the fixed point as  $k$  is lowered :  
**irrelevant coupling**

For a UV – complete theory it is predicted to  
assume the fixed point value

# Gravitational contribution to running quartic coupling

$$\partial_t \lambda = A_\lambda \lambda$$

$$A = \frac{1}{48\pi^2 \tilde{M}_p^2} \left[ \frac{20}{(1 - v_0)^2} + \frac{1}{(1 - v_0/4)^2} \right]$$

$$\partial_t = k \partial_k$$

running Planck mass :

$$M_p^2(k) = M^2 + \tilde{M}_{p*}^2 k^2$$

dimensionless  
squared Planck mass

$$\tilde{M}_p^2 = \frac{M_p^2}{k^2}$$

# UV – fixed point for quartic coupling

Flow equation for  $\lambda$  :

$$\partial_t \lambda_H = A \lambda_H - C_H$$

$$C_H^{(p)} = -\beta_\lambda^{(SM)}$$

$$\approx -\frac{1}{16\pi^2} \left\{ 12\lambda_H^2 + 12y_t^2 \lambda_H - 12y_t^4 + \frac{9}{4}g_2^2 + \frac{9}{10}g_2^2 g_1^2 + \frac{27}{100}g_1^4 - \left( 9g_2^2 + \frac{9}{5}g_1^2 \right) \lambda_H \right\}$$

Fixed point :  $\lambda = C / A$

$$\lambda(k_{tr}) \approx 0, \quad \beta_\lambda(k_{tr}) \approx 0$$

# Strength of gravity

$$g_{\text{grav}} = 1 / w$$

running gravitational coupling

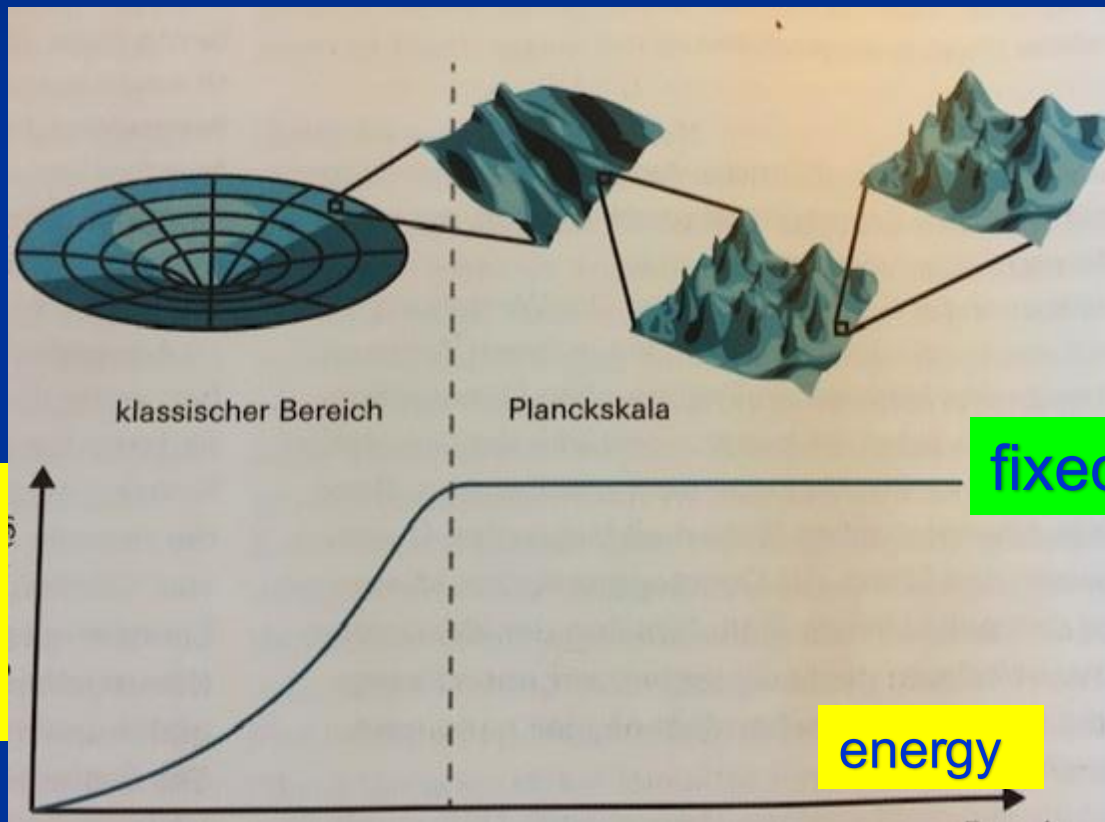
$$w = \frac{M^2}{2k^2}$$

M : Planck mass

# Strength of gravity

classical gravity

quantum gravity



# Flowing dimensionless Planck mass

- Renormalization scale  $k$  : Only fluctuations with momenta larger  $k$  are included

Flowing  
Planck mass  $M^2(k)$

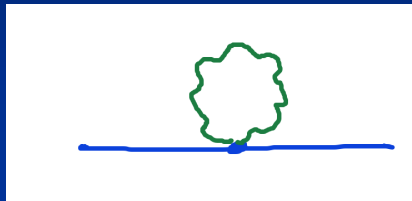
$$\partial_t M^2 = 4ck^2$$

$$\partial_t = k\partial_k$$

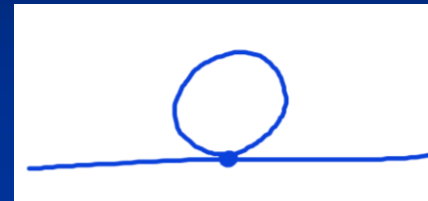
# Universality of gravity



scalar loop,  
fermion loop



gauge boson  
loop



graviton  
loop

for massless particles :  
c is independent of coupling constants

$$\partial_t M^2 = 4ck^2$$

# Flowing dimensionless Planck mass

- Renormalization scale  $k$  : Only fluctuations with momenta larger  $k$  are included

Flowing  
Planck mass  $M^2(k)$

$$\partial_t M^2 = 4ck^2$$

$$\partial_t = k\partial_k$$

matter  
contribution

$$c_M = \frac{\mathcal{N}_M}{192\pi^2}$$

$$\mathcal{N}_M = 4 N_V - N_S - N_F$$

with graviton  
contribution

$$c_M = \frac{1}{192\pi^2} \left( \mathcal{N}_M + \frac{43}{6} + \frac{75(1 - \eta_g/6)}{2(1 - v)} \right)$$



# Flowing dimensionless Planck mass

Flowing  
Planck mass  $M^2(k)$

$$\partial_t M^2 = 4ck^2$$

$$\partial_t = k\partial_k$$

solution :

$$M^2(k) = M^2 + 2c_M k^2$$

# Flowing dimensionless Planck mass

Flowing  
Planck mass  $M^2(k)$

$$\partial_t M^2 = 4ck^2$$

Dimensionless  
squared Planck mass

$$w = \frac{M^2}{2k^2}$$

$$\partial_t w = -2w + 2c$$

solution :

$$w = c + \frac{\bar{M}^2}{2k^2}$$

$$M^2(k) = M^2 + 2c_M k^2$$

# Fixed point and flow away from fixed point

UV - fixed point

$$w_* = c$$

$$\partial_t w = -2w + 2c$$

approached  
for  $k \rightarrow \infty$

$$w = c + \frac{\bar{M}^2}{2k^2}$$

$$M^2(k) = M^2 + 2c_M k^2$$

Near UV – fixed point :  $M \sim k$

$$\tilde{M}_{p*}^2 = 2c$$

*Transition to constant  $M$  for small  $k$ ,  
gravity gets weak,  $w^{-1}$  decreases to zero*

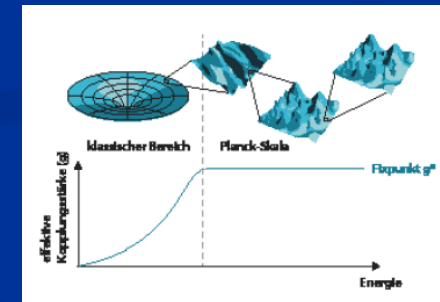
*$M$  is **relevant parameter**, cannot be predicted*

# Weak and constant gravity

$$M_p^2(k) = \begin{cases} \tilde{M}_{p*}^2 k^2 & \text{for } k > k_t \\ M^2 & \text{for } k < k_t \end{cases}$$

$$k_t^2 = \frac{M^2}{\tilde{M}_{p*}^2}$$

$$M_p^2(k) = M^2 + \tilde{M}_{p*}^2 k^2$$



Two regimes for the  
( inverse ) strength  
of gravity

$$\tilde{M}_p^2 = \frac{M_p^2}{k^2} = \tilde{M}_{p*}^2 \left[ \left( \frac{k_t}{k} \right)^2 + 1 \right]$$

# Gravitational contribution to running quartic coupling

$$\partial_t \lambda = A_\lambda \lambda$$

$$A = \frac{1}{48\pi^2 \tilde{M}_p^2} \left[ \frac{20}{(1 - v_0)^2} + \frac{1}{(1 - v_0/4)^2} \right]$$

$$\partial_t = k \partial_k$$

running Planck mass :

$$M_p^2(k) = M^2 + \tilde{M}_{p*}^2 k^2$$

dimensionless  
squared Planck mass

$$\tilde{M}_p^2 = \frac{M_p^2}{k^2} = \tilde{M}_{p*}^2 \left[ \left( \frac{k_t}{k} \right)^2 + 1 \right]$$

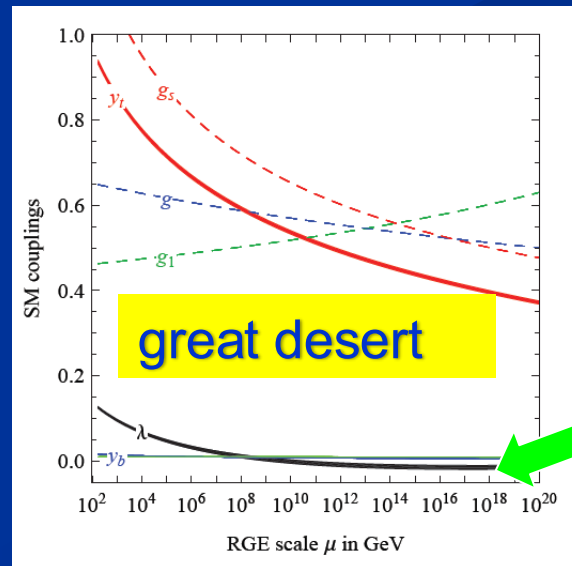
$$k_t^2 = \frac{M^2}{\tilde{M}_{p*}^2}$$

large  $k$  : constant  $A$   
small  $k$ :  $A \sim k^2 / M^2$

transition at  
 $k_t \sim 10^{19} \text{ GeV}$

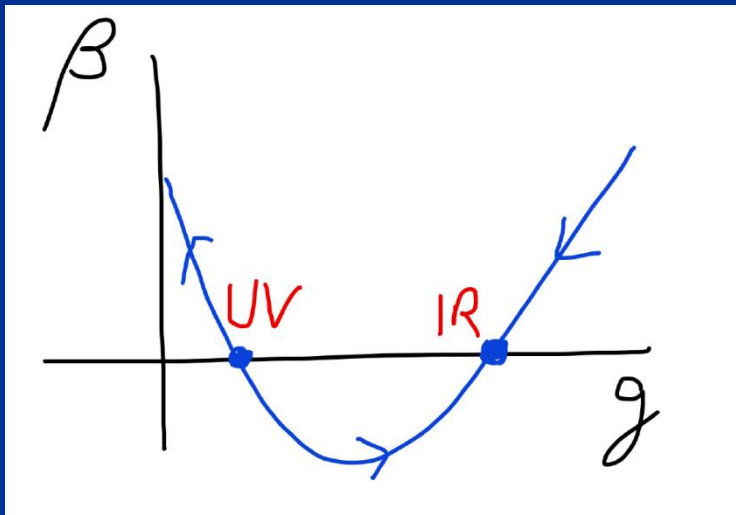
# Prediction for quartic Higgs coupling

- high scale fixed point
- quartic scalar coupling predicted to be very small at transition scale where gravity decouples
- below Planck mass: quartic scalar coupling increases

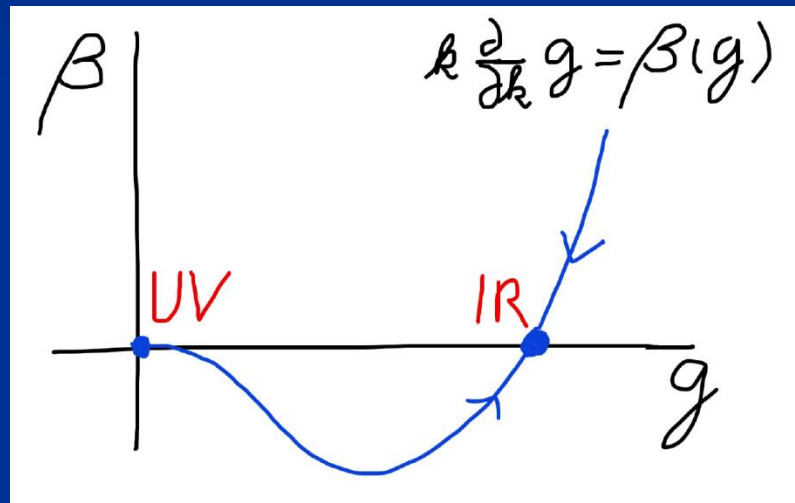


*Predictivity for asymptotically safe  
quantum gravity*

## Asymptotic safety



## Asymptotic freedom



Relevant parameters yield undetermined couplings.  
Quartic scalar coupling is not relevant and can  
therefore be predicted.



# Enhanced predictivity for UV – fixed point

- Free parameters of a theory correspond to relevant parameters for small deviations from fixed point.
- If the number of relevant parameters at the UV-fixed point is smaller than the number of free parameters ( renormalizable couplings ) in the standard model:
- Relations between standard model parameters become predictable !

# Fixed points

$$g = \{g_1, \dots, g_i, \dots\}$$

couplings

$$\tilde{g}_i = g_i k^{-d_i}$$

dimensionless

Flow equation

$$\partial_t \tilde{g}_i = \beta_i(\tilde{g})$$

Fixed points: zeros of beta-function

No running  No scale

Quantum scale symmetry

# Stability matrix

$$g = \{g_1, \dots, g_i, \dots\}$$

couplings

$$\tilde{g}_i = g_i k^{-d_i}$$

dimensionless

Flow equation

$$\partial_t \tilde{g}_i = \beta_i(\tilde{g}) = -d_i \tilde{g}_i + f_i(\tilde{g})$$

Expand in  
vicinity of  
fixed point

$$\partial_t \tilde{g}_i = \sum_j \left. \frac{\partial \beta_i}{\partial \tilde{g}_j} \right|_{\tilde{g}=\tilde{g}_*} (\tilde{g}_j - \tilde{g}_{j*}) = -T_{ij}(\tilde{g}_j - \tilde{g}_{j*})$$

T : stability matrix

# Critical exponents

$$\partial_t \tilde{g}_i = \sum_j \left. \frac{\partial \beta_i}{\partial \tilde{g}_j} \right|_{\tilde{g}=\tilde{g}_*} (\tilde{g}_j - \tilde{g}_{j*}) = -T_{ij}(\tilde{g}_j - \tilde{g}_{j*})$$

$\theta_l$  : Eigenvalues of stability matrix T  
= Critical exponents

Linearized  
solution

$$\tilde{g}_i = \tilde{g}_{i*} + \sum_l C_l V_i^l \left( \frac{k}{\mu} \right)^{-\theta_l}$$

Irrelevant parameters: eigenvectors in  
coupling constant space with  $\theta_l < 0$

flow **towards** fixed point values as k is  
lowered

# Irrelevant parameters

- “Forget” information about initial values
- Central ingredient for  
predictivity of quantum field theories
- For UV – complete theories : irrelevant parameters have to take precisely the fixed point values
- **Relevant parameters** flow away from fixed point as  $k$  is lowered – they are the only free parameters

# Predictivity at fixed point

- Irrelevant parameters are predicted to take fixed point values
- Only relevant parameters are free
- Number of free parameters of a renormalizable quantum field theory = number of relevant parameters at the fixed point

# a prediction...

## Asymptotic safety of gravity and the Higgs boson mass

Mikhail Shaposhnikov

*Institut de Théorie des Phénomènes Physiques, École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, CH-1015 Lausanne, Switzerland*

Christof Wetterich

*Institut für Theoretische Physik, Universität Heidelberg, Philosophenweg 16, D-69120 Heidelberg, Germany*

12 Jan 2010

### Abstract

There are indications that gravity is asymptotically safe. The Standard Model (SM) plus gravity could be valid up to arbitrarily high energies. Supposing that this is the case and assuming that there are no intermediate energy scales between the Fermi and Planck scales we ask the question of whether the mass of the Higgs boson  $m_H$  can be predicted. For a positive gravity induced anomalous dimension  $\gamma_\lambda > 0$  the running of the quartic scalar self interaction  $\lambda$  at scales beyond the Planck mass is determined by its value at zero. This results in  $m_H = m_{\min} = 126$  GeV, with only a few GeV uncertainty. This prediction is independent of the details of the short distance running and holds for a wide class of extensions of the SM as well.

As in  $m_H = m_{\min} = 126$  GeV, with o

Quartic scalar coupling is irrelevant coupling

*Quartic scalar couplings are  
irrelevant couplings  
for all models  
( within range of validity of truncation )*



*Quartic scalar couplings are predicted  
for given quantum field theories  
with gravity*