



# $f(T)$ Gravity and Cosmology

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# Goal

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- We investigate **cosmological scenarios** in a universe governed by  **$f(T)$  gravity**
- Note:  
A **consistent** or **interesting** cosmology is **not** a **proof** for the **consistency** of the **underlying gravitational theory**



# Talk Plan

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- 1) **Introduction:** Gravity as a gauge theory, modified Gravity
- 2) **Teleparallel Equivalent of General Relativity** and **f(T) modification**
- 3) **Perturbations** and **growth** evolution
- 4) **Bounce** in **f(T)** cosmology
- 5) **Non-minimal** scalar-torsion theory
- 6) **Black-hole** solutions
- 7) **Solar system constraints**
- 8) **Conclusions-Prospects**

- Einstein 1916: **General Relativity**:  
energy-momentum source of spacetime Curvature  
Levi-Civita connection: Zero Torsion
- Einstein 1928: **Teleparallel Equivalent of GR**:  
Weitzenbock connection: Zero Curvature
- **Einstein-Cartan** theory: energy-momentum  
source of Curvature, spin source of Torsion  
[Hehl, Von Der Heyde, Kerlick, Nester Rev.Mod.Phys.48]

- **Gauge Principle:** global symmetries replaced by local ones:

The group generators give rise to the compensating fields

It works perfect for the standard model of strong, weak and E/M interactions

$$SU(3) \times SU(2) \times U(1)$$

- Can we apply this to gravity?



## Introduction

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- Formulating the **gauge theory** of gravity (mainly after 1960):
  - Start from **Special Relativity**
    - ⇒ Apply (Weyl-Yang-Mills) **gauge principle** to its **Poincaré-group** symmetries
    - ⇒ Get **Poincaré gauge theory**:
      - Both curvature and torsion appear as field strengths
  - **Torsion** is the **field strength** of the **translational group** (Teleparallel and Einstein-Cartan theories are subcases of **Poincaré** theory)



## Introduction

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- One could **extend** the gravity gauge group (SUSY, conformal, scale, metric affine transformations) obtaining **SUGRA, conformal, Weyl, metric affine gauge theories of gravity**
- In all of them **torsion** is always related to the **gauge structure**.
- Thus, a possible way towards **gravity quantization** would need to bring **torsion** into gravity description.



## Introduction

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- 1998: Universe acceleration

⇒ Thousands of work in **Modified Gravity**

( $f(R)$ , Gauss-Bonnet, Lovelock, nonminimal scalar coupling,  
nonminimal derivative coupling, Galileons, Hordenski etc)

[Copeland, Sami, Tsujikawa *Int.J.Mod.Phys.D15*], [Nojiri, Odintsov *Int.J.Geom.Meth.Mod.Phys. 4*]

- Almost all in the **curvature-based formulation** of gravity





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- Almost all in the **curvature-based formulation** of gravity
- So **question**: **Can we modify gravity** starting from its **torsion-based** formulation?

torsion  $\Rightarrow$  gauge ?  $\Rightarrow$  quantization

modification  $\Rightarrow$  full theory ?  $\Rightarrow$  quantization



## Teleparallel Equivalent of General Relativity (TEGR)

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- Let's start from the **simplest torsion-based** gravity formulation, namely **TEGR**:
- **Vierbeins**  $e_A^\mu$  : four linearly independent fields in the **tangent space**
- Use **curvature-less Weitzenböck connection** instead of **torsion-less Levi-Civita** one:  $\Gamma_{\nu\mu}^{\lambda\{W\}} = e_A^\lambda \partial_\mu e_\nu^A$
- **Torsion tensor**:

$$T_{\mu\nu}^\lambda = \Gamma_{\nu\mu}^{\lambda\{W\}} - \Gamma_{\mu\nu}^{\lambda\{W\}} = e_A^\lambda (\partial_\mu e_\nu^A - \partial_\nu e_\mu^A) \quad [\text{Einstein 1928}], [\text{Pereira: Introduction to TG}]$$



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$$g_{\mu\nu}(x) = \eta_{AB} e_\mu^A(x) e_\nu^B(x)$$
- Use **curvature-less Weitzenböck connection** instead of **torsion-less Levi-Civita** one:  $\Gamma_{\nu\mu}^{\lambda\{W\}} = e_A^\lambda \partial_\mu e_\nu^A$

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- Lagrangian** (imposing coordinate, Lorentz, parity invariance, and up to 2<sup>nd</sup> order in torsion tensor)

$$L \equiv T = \frac{1}{4} T^{\rho\mu\nu} T_{\rho\mu\nu} + \frac{1}{2} T^{\rho\mu\nu} T_{\nu\mu\rho} - T_{\rho\mu}^\rho T_\nu^{\nu\mu}$$

- Completely equivalent** with **GR** at the level of **equations**



## f(T) Gravity and f(T) Cosmology

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- **f(T) Gravity**: Simplest torsion-based modified gravity
- Generalize T to **f(T)** (inspired by **f(R)**)

$$S = \frac{1}{16\pi G} \int d^4x e [T + f(T)] + S_m \quad [\text{Bengochea, Ferraro PRD 79}], [\text{Linder PRD 82}]$$

- **Equations of motion:**

$$e^{-1} \partial_\mu (e e_A^\rho S_\rho^{\mu\nu}) (1 + f_T) - e_A^\lambda T_{\mu\lambda}^\rho S_\rho^{\nu\mu} + e_A^\rho S_\rho^{\mu\nu} \partial_\mu (T) f_{TT} - \frac{1}{4} e_A^\nu [T + f(T)] = 4\pi G e_A^\rho T_\rho^{\nu\{\text{EM}\}}$$

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- **f(T) Cosmology:** Apply in FRW geometry:

$$e_\mu^A = \text{diag}(1, a, a, a) \Rightarrow ds^2 = dt^2 - a^2(t) \delta_{ij} dx^i dx^j \quad (\text{not unique choice})$$

- **Friedmann equations:**

$$H^2 = \frac{8\pi G}{3} \rho_m - \frac{f(T)}{6} - 2f_T H^2$$

$$\dot{H} = -\frac{4\pi G(\rho_m + p_m)}{1 + f_T - 12H^2 f_{TT}}$$

- Find easily

$$T = -6H^2$$



## f(T) Cosmology: Background

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- Effective **Dark Energy** sector:

$$\rho_{DE} = \frac{3}{8\pi G} \left[ -\frac{f}{6} + \frac{T}{3} f_T \right]$$

[Linder PRD 82]

$$w_{DE} = -\frac{f - Tf_T + 2T^2 f_{TT}}{[1 + f_T + 2Tf_{TT}][f - 2Tf_T]}$$

- Interesting cosmological behavior: **Acceleration**, Inflation etc
- At the **background level indistinguishable** from other **dynamical DE models**



## f(T) Cosmology: Perturbations

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- Can I find **imprints** of f(T) gravity? Yes, but need to go to **perturbation level**

$$e_{\mu}^0 = \delta_{\mu}^0(1 + \psi) \ , \ e_{\mu}^{\alpha} = \delta_{\mu}^{\alpha}\alpha(1 - \phi) \ \Rightarrow \ ds^2 = (1 + 2\psi)dt^2 - a^2(1 - 2\phi)\delta_{ij}dx^i dx^j$$

- Obtain **Perturbation Equations:**

$$L.H.S = R.H.S$$

...

$$L.H.S = R.H.S$$

[Chen, Dent, Dutta, Saridakis PRD 83],  
[Dent, Dutta, Saridakis JCAP 1101]

- Focus on **growth of matter overdensity**  $\delta \equiv \frac{\delta\rho_m}{\rho_m}$  go to Fourier modes:

$$3H(1 + f_T - 12H^2 f_{TT})\dot{\phi}_k + [(3H^2 + k^2/a^2)(1 + f_T) - 36H^4 f_{TT}]\phi_k + 4\pi G\rho_m \delta_k = 0$$

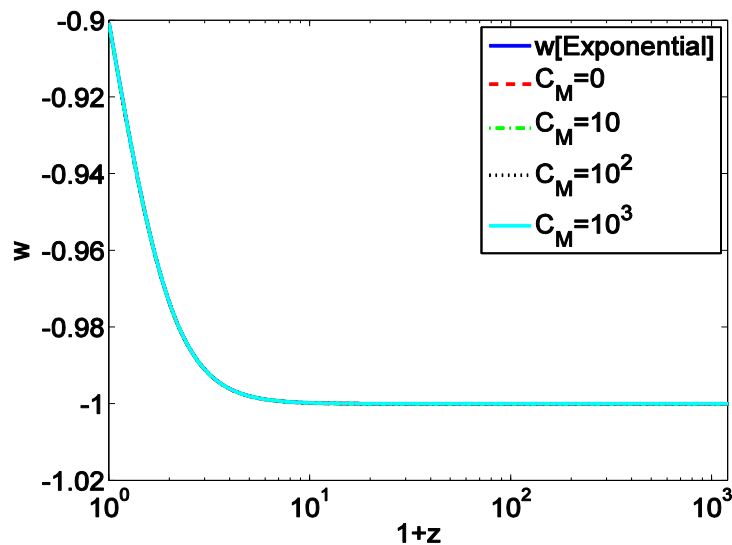
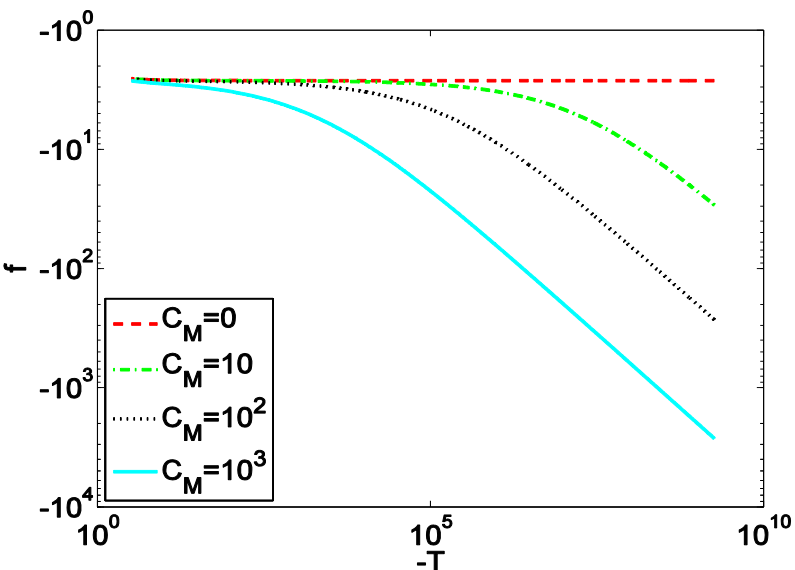
[Chen, Dent, Dutta, Saridakis PRD 83]

# f(T) Cosmology: Perturbations

- Application: Distinguish  $f(T)$  from quintessence
- 1) Reconstruct  $f(T)$  to coincide with a given **quintessence** scenario:

$$f(H) = 16\pi GH \int \frac{\rho_Q}{H^2} dH + CH \quad \text{with} \quad \rho_Q = \dot{\phi}^2/2 + V(\phi) \quad \text{and} \quad H = \sqrt{-T/6}$$

[Dent, Dutta, Saridakis JCAP 1101]

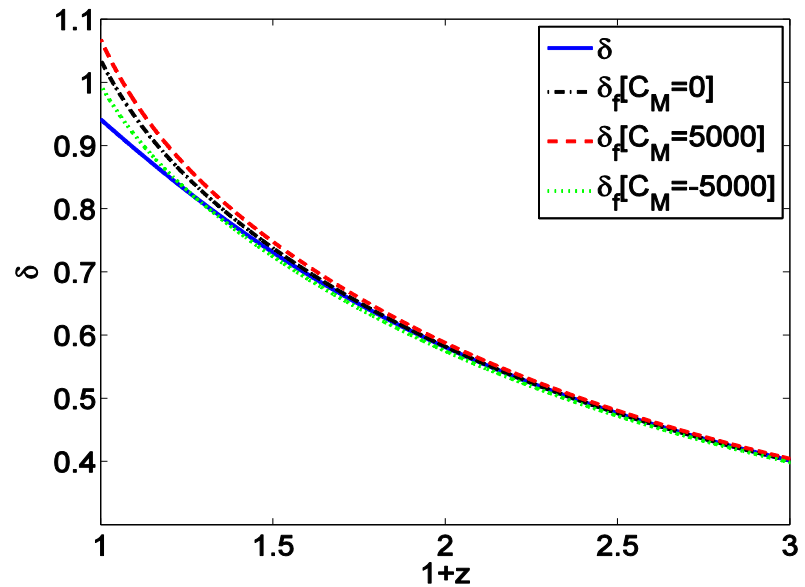
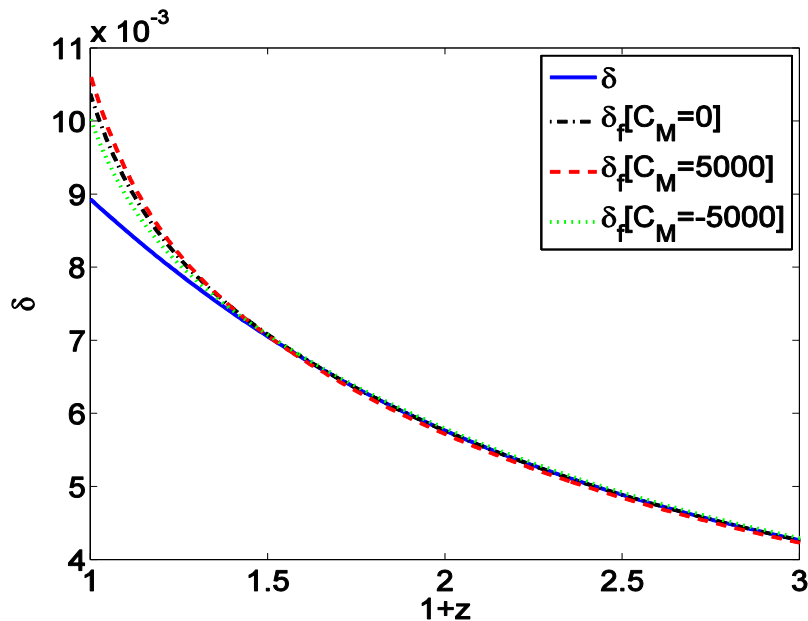




# f(T) Cosmology: Perturbations

- Application: Distinguish f(T) from quintessence
- 2) Examine evolution of matter overdensity  $\delta \equiv \frac{\delta\rho_m}{\rho_m}$

[Dent, Dutta, Saridakis JCAP 1101]





## Bounce and Cyclic behavior

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- **Contracting** ( $H < 0$ ), **bounce** ( $H = 0$ ), **expanding** ( $H > 0$ )  
near and at the bounce  $\dot{H} > 0$
- **Expanding** ( $H > 0$ ), **turnaround** ( $H = 0$ ), **contracting** ( $H < 0$ )  
near and at the turnaround  $\dot{H} < 0$



## Bounce and Cyclic behavior in $f(T)$ cosmology

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- **Contracting** ( $H < 0$ ), **bounce** ( $H = 0$ ), **expanding** ( $H > 0$ )  
near and at the bounce  $\dot{H} > 0$
- **Expanding** ( $H > 0$ ), **turnaround** ( $H = 0$ ), **contracting** ( $H < 0$ )  
near and at the turnaround  $\dot{H} < 0$

$$H^2 = \frac{8\pi G}{3} \rho_m - \frac{f(T)}{6} - 2f_T H^2$$

$$\dot{H} = -\frac{4\pi G(\rho_m + p_m)}{1 + f_T - 12H^2 f_{TT}}$$

- **Bounce** and **cyclicity** can be easily obtained

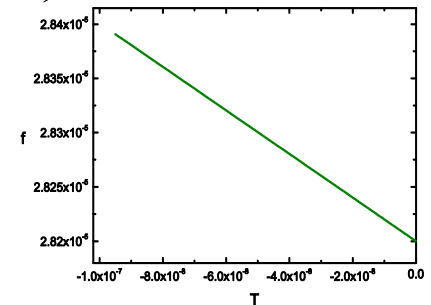
[Cai, Chen, Dent, Dutta, Saridakis CQG 28]

## Bounce in f(T) cosmology

- Start with a **bouncing scale factor**:  $a(t) = a_B \left( 1 + \frac{3}{2} \sigma t^2 \right)^{1/3}$

$$\Rightarrow t(T) = \pm \left( -\frac{4}{3T} - \frac{2}{3\sigma} + \frac{4\sqrt{T\sigma^3 + \sigma^4}}{3T\sigma^2} \right)$$

$$\Rightarrow f(t) = \frac{4t}{(2 + 3\sigma t^2)M_p^2} \left[ \frac{\rho_{mB}}{t} + \frac{6tM_p^2\sigma^2}{2 + 3\sigma t^2} + \sqrt{6\sigma}\rho_{mB} \text{ArcTan} \left( \sqrt{\frac{3s}{2}}t \right) \right]$$

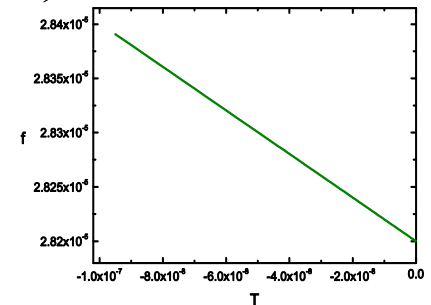


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- Examine the **full perturbations**:

$$\ddot{\phi}_k + \alpha \dot{\phi}_k + \mu^2 \phi_k + c_s^2 \frac{k^2}{a^2} \phi_k = 0 \quad \text{with } \alpha, \mu^2, c_s^2 \text{ known in terms of } H, \dot{H}, f, f_T, f_{TT} \text{ and matter}$$

$$\left( \ddot{h}_{ij} + 3H\dot{h}_{ij} - \frac{\nabla^2}{a^2} h_{ij} \right) - \frac{12H\dot{H}f_{TT}}{1 + f_T} \dot{h} = 0$$

- $\Rightarrow$  **Primordial power spectrum**:  $P_\zeta = \frac{\sigma}{288\pi^2 M_p^2}$
- $\Rightarrow$  **Tensor-to-scalar ratio**:  $r \approx 2.8 \times 10^{-3}$



## Non-minimally coupled scalar-torsion theory

---

- In **curvature-based** gravity, apart from  $R + f(R)$  one can use  $R + \xi R \varphi^2$
- Let's do the same in **torsion-based** gravity:

$$S = \int d^4x e \left[ \frac{T}{2\kappa^2} + \frac{1}{2} (\partial_\mu \varphi \partial^\mu \varphi + \xi T \varphi^2) - V(\varphi) + L_m \right]$$

[Geng, Lee, Saridakis, Wu PLB704]



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[Geng, Lee, Saridakis, Wu PLB704]

- **Friedmann equations** in FRW universe:

$$H^2 = \frac{\kappa^2}{3} (\rho_m + \rho_{DE})$$

$$\dot{H} = -\frac{\kappa^2}{2} (\rho_m + p_m + \rho_{DE} + p_{DE})$$

with **effective Dark Energy** sector:  $\rho_{DE} = \frac{\dot{\phi}^2}{2} + V(\phi) - 3\xi H^2 \phi^2$

$$p_{DE} = \frac{\dot{\phi}^2}{2} - V(\phi) + 4\xi H \phi \dot{\phi} + \xi (3H^2 + 2\dot{H}) \phi^2$$

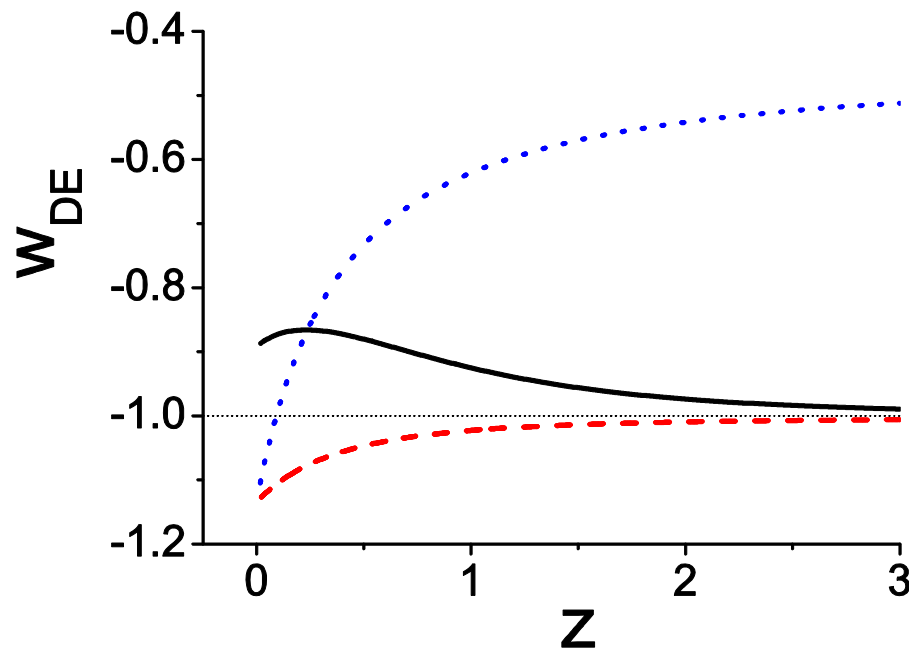
- **Different** than **non-minimal quintessence!**

[Geng, Lee, Saridakis, Wu PLB 704]

(no conformal transformation in the present case)

## Non-minimally coupled scalar-torsion theory

- Main advantage: **Dark Energy** may lie in the **phantom regime** or/and experience the **phantom-divide crossing**
- **Teleparallel Dark Energy**:



[Geng, Lee, Saridakis, Wu PLB 704]



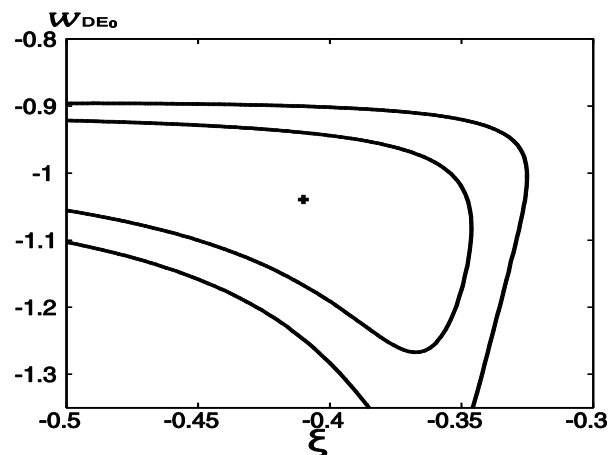
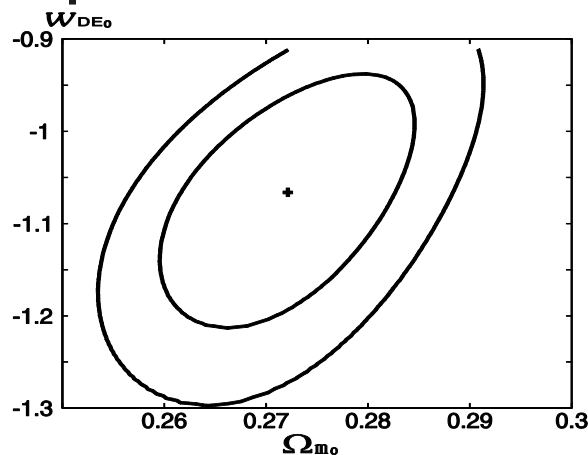


## Observational constraints on Teleparallel Dark Energy

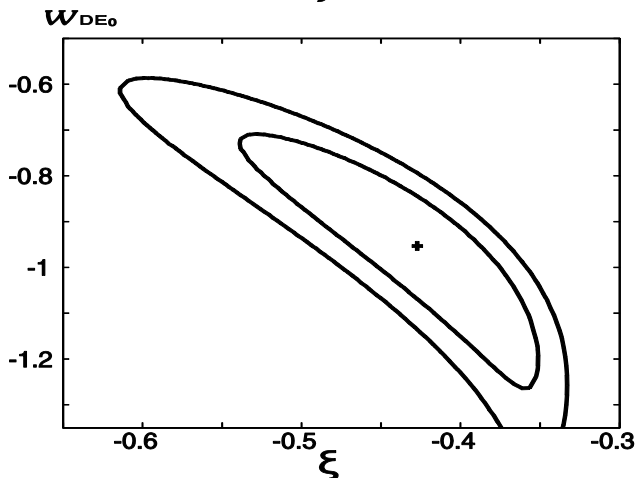
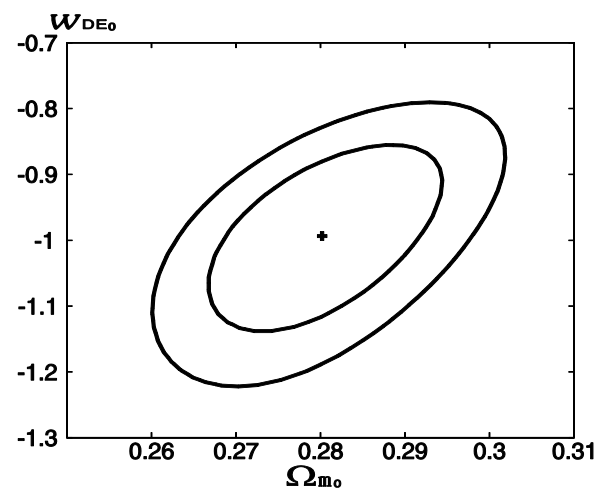
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- Use **observational** data (SNIa, BAO, CMB) to **constrain** the parameters of the theory
- Include **matter** and standard **radiation**:  $\rho_M = \rho_{M0} / a^3, \rho_r = \rho_{r0} / a^4, 1 + z = 1/a$
- We fit  $\Omega_{M0}, \Omega_{DE0}, w_{DE0}, \xi$  for various  $V(\varphi)$

# Observational constraints on Teleparallel Dark Energy



Exponential potential



Quartic potential



## Phase-space analysis of Teleparallel Dark Energy

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- Transform cosmological system to its **autonomous** form:

$$x = \frac{\kappa\dot{\varphi}}{\sqrt{6H}}, \quad y = \frac{\kappa\sqrt{V(\varphi)}}{\sqrt{3H}}, \quad z = \sqrt{|\xi|}\kappa\varphi$$

$$\Rightarrow \Omega_m \equiv \frac{\rho_m}{3H^2} = 1 - x^2 - y^2 + z^2 \operatorname{sgn}(\xi), \quad \Omega_{DE} \equiv \frac{\rho_{DE}}{3H^2} = x^2 + y^2 - z^2 \operatorname{sgn}(\xi)$$

$$w_{DE} = w_{DE}(x, y, z, \xi)$$

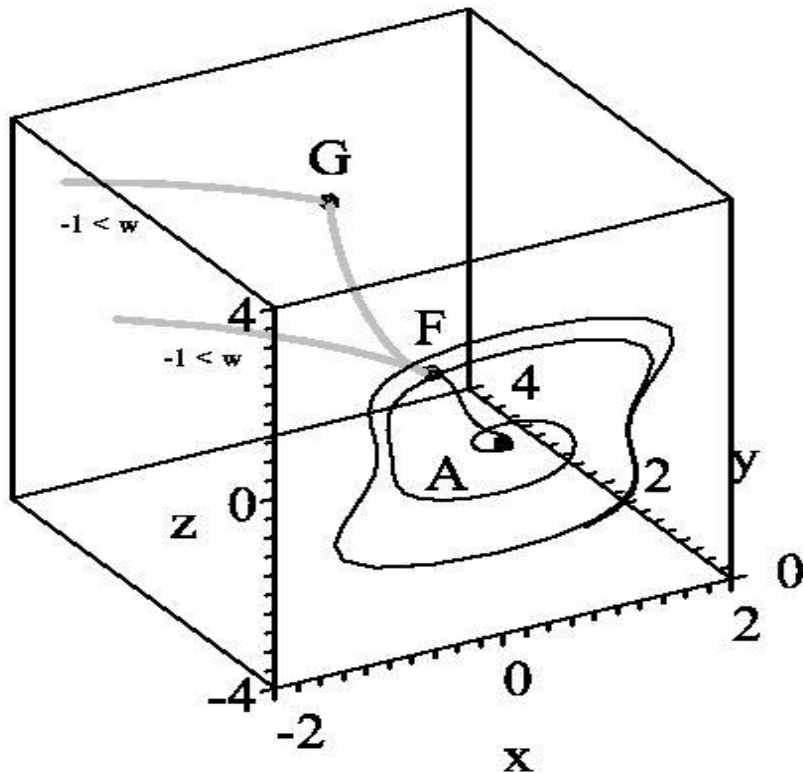
[Xu, Saridakis, Leon, JCAP 1207]

$$\Rightarrow X' = f(X), \quad X'|_{X=X_C} = 0$$

- **Linear Perturbations:**  $X = X_C + U \Rightarrow U' = QU$
- **Eigenvalues** of  $Q$  determine **type** and **stability** of C.P

## Phase-space analysis of Teleparallel Dark Energy

- Apart from **usual quintessence points**, there exists an **extra stable** one for  $\lambda^2 < \xi$  corresponding to  $\Omega_{DE} = 1$ ,  $w_{DE} = -1$ ,  $q = -1$



- At the critical points  $w_{DE} \geq -1$  however during the evolution it can lie in **quintessence** or **phantom** regimes, or experience the **phantom-divide crossing!**

[Xu, Saridakis, Leon, JCAP 1207]



## Exact charged black hole solutions

---

- Extend  $f(T)$  gravity in  $D$ -dimensions (focus on  $D=3, D=4$ ):

$$S = \frac{1}{2\kappa} \int d^D x e [T + f(T) - 2\Lambda]$$

- Add  $E/M$  sector:  $L_F = -\frac{1}{2} F \wedge *F$  with  $F = dA, A \equiv A_\mu dx^\mu$

- Extract **field equations**:  $L.H.S = R.H.S$  [Gonzalez, Saridakis, Vasquez, JHEP 1207]  
[Capozziello, Gonzalez, Saridakis, Vasquez, JHEP 1302]



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- Extract **field equations**:  $L.H.S = R.H.S$

- Look for **spherically symmetric solutions**:

$$e^0 = F(r)dt, \quad e^1 = \frac{1}{G(r)}dr, \quad e^2 = rdx_1, \quad e^3 = rdx_2, \quad \dots$$

$$\Rightarrow ds^2 = F(r)^2 dt^2 - \frac{1}{G(r)^2} dr^2 - r^2 \sum_1^{D-2} dx_i^2$$

- Radial Electric field:  $E_r = \frac{Q}{r^{D-2}} \Rightarrow F(r)^2, G(r)^2$  **known**

[Gonzalez, Saridakis, Vasquez, JHEP 1207], [Capozziello, Gonzalez, Saridakis, Vasquez, JHEP 1302]

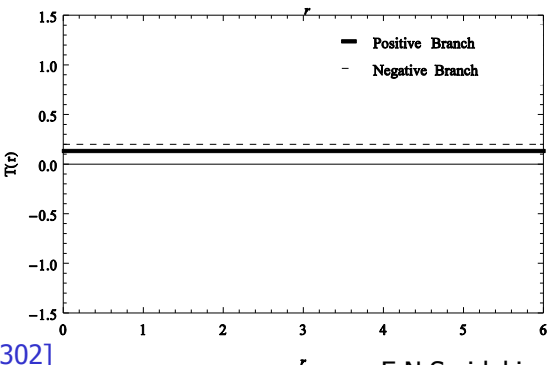
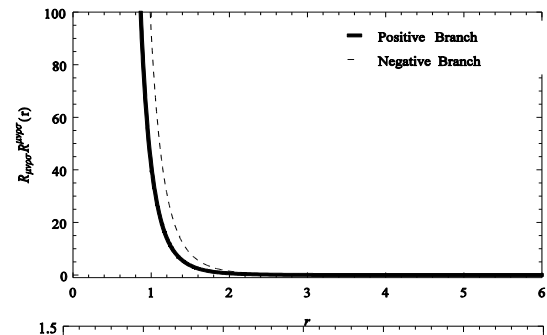
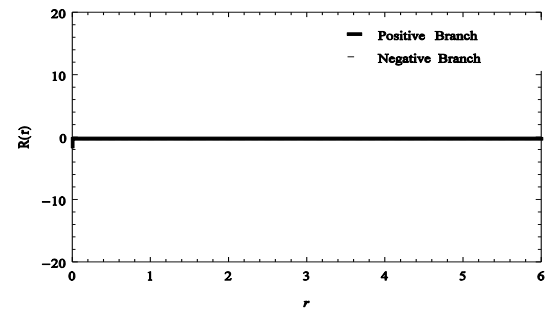
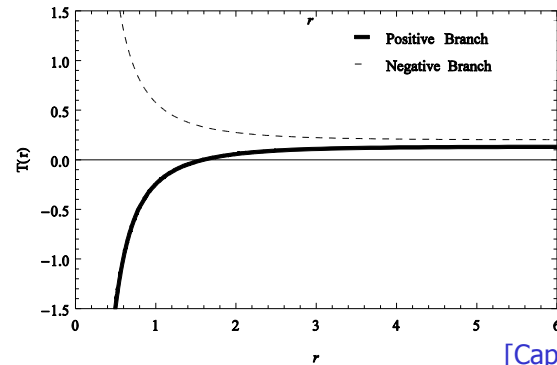
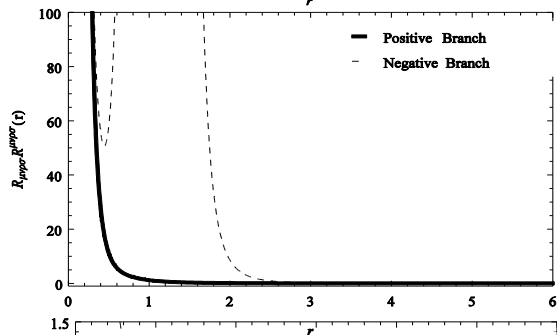
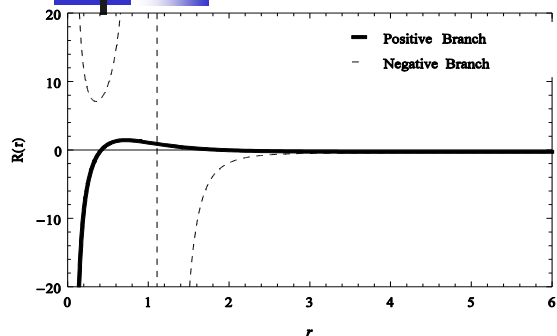


## Exact charged black hole solutions

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- **Horizon** and **singularity** analysis:
  - 1) **Vierbeins**, **Weitzenböck connection**, **Torsion invariants**:  
T(r) known  $\Rightarrow$  obtain horizons and singularities
  - 2) **Metric**, **Levi-Civita connection**, **Curvature invariants**:  
R(r) and Kretschmann  $R_{\mu\nu\rho\sigma}R^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma}(r)$  known  
 $\Rightarrow$  obtain horizons and singularities

# Exact charged black hole solutions







## Exact charged black hole solutions

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- **More singularities** in the **curvature** analysis than in **torsion** analysis!  
(some are naked)
- The **differences disappear** in the  $f(T)=0$  case, or in the **uncharged** case.
- Should we go to **quartic torsion** invariants?
- $f(T)$  brings **novel features**.
- **E/M** in **torsion formulation** was known to be **nontrivial** (E/M in Einstein-Cartan and Poinaré theories)



## Solar System constraints on $f(T)$ gravity

---

- Apply the **black hole** solutions in **Solar System**:
- Assume **corrections** to TEGR of the form  $f(T) = \alpha T^2 + O(T^3)$

$$\Rightarrow F(r)^2 = 1 - \frac{2GM}{c^2 r} - \frac{\Lambda}{3} r^2 + \alpha \left[ -6\Lambda - \frac{6}{r^2} - \frac{4GM\Lambda}{c^2 r} \right]$$

$$\Rightarrow G(r)^2 = 1 - \frac{2GM}{c^2 r} - \frac{\Lambda}{3} r^2 + \alpha \left[ \frac{8\Lambda}{3} - \frac{24}{r^2} - 2\Lambda^2 r^2 - \frac{2GM}{c^2 r} \left( 8\Lambda - \frac{8}{r^2} \right) \right]$$



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- Use **data** from **Solar System orbital motions**:

$$\Delta U_{f(T)} \leq 6.2 \times 10^{-10}$$

[Iorio, Saridakis, Mon.Not.Roy.Astron.Soc 427]

$T \ll 1$  so consistent

- $f(T)$  divergence** from TEGR is **very small**
- This was already known from **cosmological observation constraints** up to  $O(10^{-1} - 10^{-2})$  [Wu, Yu, PLB 693], [Bengochea PLB 695]
- With Solar System constraints, **much more stringent bound**.



## Open issues of $f(T)$ gravity

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- $f(T)$  cosmology is very interesting. But  $f(T)$  gravity and nonminimally coupled teleparallel gravity has many open issues [Li, Sotiriou, Barrow PRD 83a], [Geng, Lee, Saridakis, Wu PLB 704]
- For nonlinear  $f(T)$ , Lorentz invariance is not satisfied
- Equivalently, the vierbein choices corresponding to the same metric are not equivalent (extra degrees of freedom) [Li, Sotiriou, Barrow PRD 83c], [Li, Miao, Miao JHEP 1107]



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- Black holes are found to have different behavior through curvature and torsion analysis [Capozziello, Gonzalez, Saridakis, Vasquez JHEP 1302]
- Thermodynamics also raises issues [Bamba, Geng JCAP 1111], [Miao, Li, Miao JCAP 1111] [Bamba, Myrzakulov, Nojiri, Odintsov PRD 85]
- Cosmological and Solar System observations constraint  $f(T)$  very close to linear-in- $T$  form



## Gravity modification in terms of torsion?

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- So **can we modify gravity** starting from its **torsion formulation**?
- The **simplest**, a bit **naïve** approach, through **f(T) gravity** is interesting, but has **open issues**
- Additionally, **f(T) gravity is not** in **correspondence** with **f(R)**
- Even if we find a way to modify gravity in terms of **torsion**, will it be still in **1-1 correspondence** with **curvature-based** modification?
- What about **higher-order corrections**, but using **torsion invariants** (similar to Gauss Bonnet, Lovelock, Hordenski modifications)?
- Can we modify **gauge theories** of gravity themselves? E.g. can we **modify Poincaré gauge theory**?



# Conclusions

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- i) **Torsion** appears in all approaches to **gauge gravity**, i.e to the first step of **quantization**.
- ii) Can we **modify** gravity based in its **torsion formulation**?
- iii) Simplest choice: **f(T) gravity**, i.e extension of **TEGR**
- iv) **f(T) cosmology**: Interesting phenomenology. Signatures **in growth structure**.
- v) We can obtain **bouncing** solutions
- vi) **Non-minimal** coupled **scalar-torsion** theory  $T + \xi T \varphi^2$ : **Quintessence**, **phantom** or **crossing** behavior.
- vii) Exact **black hole** solutions. **Curvature** vs **torsion** analysis.
- viii) **Solar system constraints**: f(T) divergence from T less than  $10^{-10}$
- ix) Many **open issues**. Need to search **for other torsion-based modifications** too.

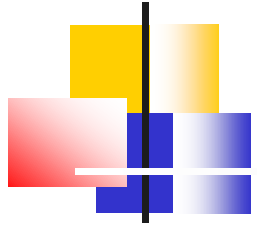


# Outlook

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- Many subjects are **open**. Amongst them:
  - i) Examine **thermodynamics** thoroughly.
  - ii) Extend **f(T) gravity** in the **braneworld**.
  - iii) Understand the **extra degrees of freedom** and the extension to **non-diagonal vierbeins**.
  - iv) Try to modify TEGR using **higher-order torsion invariants**.
  - v) Try to **modify Poincaré gauge theory** (extremely hard!)
  - vi) What to quantize? **Metric**, **vierbeins**, or **connection**?
  - vii) **Convince** people to **work** on the **subject**!





**THANK YOU!**