

# **Perturbative structure of bimetric gravity and a cosmological application**

**Angris Schmidt-May**



**String Theory and Quantum Gravity  
Ascona, 04/07/2017**

# Contents



- 📌 Motivation
- 📌 Massless & massive spin-2 fields
- 📌 The ghost-free theory
- 📌 Perturbative expansion
- 📌 General relativity limit
- 📌 Cosmology
- 📌 Summary

Motivation

## Consistent Field Theories

## Standard Model of Particle Physics & General Relativity

Spin 0: Higgs boson  $\phi$

Spin 1/2: leptons, quarks  $\psi^a$

Spin 1: gluons, photon, W- & Z-boson  $A_\mu$

Spin 2: graviton  $g_{\mu\nu}$

massless  
& massive

MASSLESS !





How do we make a  
spin-2 field massive ?

# Massless + Massive Spin-2 Fields

# General Relativity

Einstein-Hilbert action:  $S_{\text{EH}}[g] = M_{\text{P}}^2 \int d^4x \sqrt{g} (R(g) - 2\Lambda)$

Einstein's equations:  $R_{\mu\nu} - \frac{1}{2}g_{\mu\nu}R + \Lambda g_{\mu\nu} = 0$

Maximally symmetric solutions:  $\bar{R}_{\mu\nu} = \Lambda \bar{g}_{\mu\nu}$

Linear perturbations of Einstein's equations,  $g_{\mu\nu} = \bar{g}_{\mu\nu} + \delta g_{\mu\nu}$  :

$$\bar{\mathcal{E}}_{\mu\nu}{}^{\rho\sigma} \delta g_{\rho\sigma} = 0 \quad \bar{\mathcal{E}} \sim \nabla\nabla + \Lambda$$

⇒ equation for a massless spin-2 field with 2 degrees of freedom,

tensor analogue of  $\square\phi = 0$

Hamiltonian analysis ⇒ 2 d.o.f. also at the nonlinear level



General Relativity  
=  
unique description of  
self-interacting massless spin-2 field

# Linear Massive Gravity

Fierz & Pauli (1939)

Equation for a massive spin-2 field:

$$\bar{\mathcal{E}}_{\mu\nu}{}^{\rho\sigma} \delta g_{\rho\sigma} + \frac{m_{\text{FP}}^2}{2} (\delta g_{\mu\nu} - \mathbf{a} \bar{g}_{\mu\nu} \delta g) = 0$$

tensor analogue of  $\square\phi - m^2\phi = 0$

✂ propagates 5 degrees of freedom for  $\mathbf{a} = 1$

✂ for  $\mathbf{a} \neq 1$  there is an additional scalar mode which gives rise to a ghost instability (negative kinetic energy)

➡ need extra constraint to remove the 



Can we write down  
a nonlinear mass term ?

## Nonlinear Mass Term

... should not contain derivatives nor loose indices.

Examples:

scalar (spin 0)

$$-g^{\mu\nu} \partial_\mu \phi \partial_\nu \phi - m^2 \phi^2$$

vector (spin 1)

$$-g^{\mu\rho} g^{\nu\sigma} F_{\rho\sigma} F_{\mu\nu} - m^2 g^{\mu\nu} A_\mu A_\nu$$

For the spin-2 tensor contracting indices of the metric gives:  $g^{\mu\nu} g_{\mu\nu} = 4$

This is not a mass term.

Simplest way out: Introduce second “metric” to contract indices:

$$g^{\mu\nu} f_{\mu\nu} = \text{Tr} (g^{-1} f) \qquad f^{\mu\nu} g_{\mu\nu} = \text{Tr} (f^{-1} g)$$

⇒ Massive gravity action: 
$$S_{\text{MG}}[g] = \underbrace{S_{\text{EH}}[g]}_{\text{kinetic term}} - \underbrace{\int d^4x V(g, f)}_{\text{mass term}}$$

## Nonlinear Mass Term

... should not contain derivatives nor loose indices.

Examples:

$$-\frac{1}{2}m^2 g^{\mu\nu} A_\mu A_\nu$$

For the spin-2 field

This is not a mass term

Simplest way out

$$g^{\mu\nu} f_{\mu\nu}$$

What determines  $f_{\mu\nu}$  ?  
Shouldn't it be dynamical ?



Massive graviton action:

$$S_{\text{MG}}[g] = S_{\text{EH}}[g] - \int d^4x V(g, f)$$

kinetic term

mass term



# Bimetric Theory

Nonlinear action for two interacting tensors:

$$\begin{aligned} S_b[g, f] = & m_g^2 \int d^4x \sqrt{g} \left( R(g) - 2\Lambda \right) \\ & + m_f^2 \int d^4x \sqrt{f} \left( R(f) - 2\tilde{\Lambda} \right) - \int d^4x V(g, f) \end{aligned}$$

- ✎ both metrics are dynamical and treated on equal footing
- ✎ should describe massive & massless spin-2 field (5+2 d.o.f.)

This looks good, but what about



?

## The Nonlinear Ghost

Can we extend the Fierz-Pauli mass term  
by nonlinear interactions ?

$$\frac{m_{\text{FP}}^2}{2} (\delta g_{\mu\nu} - \bar{g}_{\mu\nu} \delta g) + \mathbf{c}_1 \delta g_\mu{}^\rho \delta g_{\rho\nu} + \mathbf{c}_2 \delta g \delta g_{\mu\nu} + \dots$$

 Can we choose coefficients  $\mathbf{c}_i$  such that the  remains absent ?

Boulware & Deser (1972): Beyond linear order this is impossible!

No consistent nonlinear massive gravity / bimetric theory ?



# The Ghost-Free Theory



## - free Bimetric Theory

de Rham, Gabadadze, Tolley (2010);  
Hassan, Rosen, ASM, von Strauss (2011)

$$S_b[g, f] = m_g^2 \int d^4x \sqrt{g} R(g) + m_f^2 \int d^4x \sqrt{f} R(f) - \int d^4x V(g, f)$$

$$V(g, f) = m^4 \sqrt{g} \sum_{n=0}^4 \beta_n e_n \left( \sqrt{g^{-1} f} \right)$$

- ✦ arbitrary spin-2 mass scale  $m$
- ✦ 3 interaction parameters  $\beta_n$
- ✦ square-root matrix  $S$  defined through  $S^2 = g^{-1} f$



## - free Bimetric Theory

de Rham, Gabadadze, Tolley (2010);  
Hassan, Rosen, ASM, von Strauss (2011)

$$S_b[g, f] = m_g^2 \int d^4x \sqrt{g} R(g) + m_f^2 \int d^4x \sqrt{f} R(f) - \int d^4x V(g, f)$$

$$V(g, f) = m^4 \sqrt{g} \sum_{n=0}^4 \beta_n e_n \left( \sqrt{g^{-1}f} \right) = m^4 \sqrt{f} \sum_{n=0}^4 \beta_{4-n} e_n \left( \sqrt{f^{-1}g} \right)$$

**elementary  
symmetric polynomials:**

$$e_1(S) = \text{Tr}[S] \quad e_2(S) = \frac{1}{2} \left( (\text{Tr}[S])^2 - \text{Tr}[S^2] \right) \\ e_3(S) = \frac{1}{6} \left( (\text{Tr}[S])^3 - 3 \text{Tr}[S^2] \text{Tr}[S] + 2 \text{Tr}[S^3] \right)$$



Ghost-free bimetric theory  
=  
unique description of  
massless + massive spin-2

# Perturbative Expansion

## Proportional solutions

Hassan, ASM, von Strauss (2012)

Ansatz:  $\bar{f}_{\mu\nu} = c^2 \bar{g}_{\mu\nu}$  with  $c = \text{const.}$

✧ gives two copies of Einstein's equations ( $\alpha \equiv m_f/m_g$ ) :

$$R_{\mu\nu}(\bar{g}) - \frac{1}{2} \bar{g}_{\mu\nu} R(\bar{g}) + \Lambda_g(\alpha, \beta_n, c) \bar{g}_{\mu\nu} = 0$$

$$R_{\mu\nu}(\bar{g}) - \frac{1}{2} \bar{g}_{\mu\nu} R(\bar{g}) + \Lambda_f(\alpha, \beta_n, c) \bar{g}_{\mu\nu} = 0$$

✧ consistency condition:  $\Lambda_g(\alpha, \beta_n, c) = \Lambda_f(\alpha, \beta_n, c)$  determines  $c$

➡ Maximally symmetric backgrounds with  $R_{\mu\nu}(\bar{g}) = \Lambda_g \bar{g}_{\mu\nu}$



# Mass spectrum

Perturbations around proportional backgrounds:

$$g_{\mu\nu} = \bar{g}_{\mu\nu} + \delta g_{\mu\nu} \quad f_{\mu\nu} = c^2 \bar{g}_{\mu\nu} + \delta f_{\mu\nu}$$

Can be diagonalised into mass eigenstates:

$$\delta G_{\mu\nu} \propto \delta g_{\mu\nu} + \alpha^2 \delta f_{\mu\nu} \quad \text{massless (2 d.o.f.)}$$

$$\delta M_{\mu\nu} \propto \delta f_{\mu\nu} - c^2 \delta g_{\mu\nu} \quad \text{massive (5 d.o.f.)}$$

Linearised equations:

$$\bar{\mathcal{E}}_{\mu\nu}^{\rho\sigma} \delta G_{\rho\sigma} = 0$$

$$\bar{\mathcal{E}}_{\mu\nu}^{\rho\sigma} \delta M_{\rho\sigma} + \frac{m_{\text{FP}}^2}{2} (\delta M_{\mu\nu} - \bar{g}_{\mu\nu} \delta M) = 0$$

with Fierz-Pauli mass  $m_{\text{FP}} = m_{\text{FP}}(\alpha, \beta_n, c)$

# Structure of Vertices

(bimetric action expanded in mass eigenstates)

Quadratic (Fierz-Pauli)

$\delta G^2$	$\delta G \delta M$	$\delta M^2$
$1, \Lambda$	0	$1, \Lambda, m_{\text{FP}}^2$

what about higher orders?

$$S_{(2)} = \frac{1}{2} \int d^4x \left[ \delta G_{\mu\nu} \mathcal{E}^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} \delta G_{\rho\sigma} + \delta M_{\mu\nu} \mathcal{E}^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} \delta M_{\rho\sigma} \right. \\ \left. - \frac{m_{\text{FP}}^2}{2} (\delta M^{\mu\nu} \delta M_{\mu\nu} - \delta M^2) - \frac{1}{m_{\text{Pl}}} (\delta G^{\mu\nu} - \alpha \delta M^{\mu\nu}) T_{\mu\nu} \right]$$

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathcal{L}_{\text{GM}}^{(3)} = & -\frac{m_{\text{FP}}^2(1+\alpha^2)(\beta_1+\beta_2)}{4\alpha\mu^2}e_3(\delta M) \\
& -\frac{m_{\text{FP}}^2}{24\alpha}\left[-2[\delta M]^3+9[\delta M][\delta M^2]-7[\delta M^3]\right. \\
& \quad +\alpha\left(-3[\delta G][\delta M]^2+12[\delta M][\delta G\delta M]+3[\delta G][\delta M^2]-12[\delta G\delta M^2]\right) \\
& \quad \left.+\alpha^2\left([\delta M]^3-6[\delta M][\delta M^2]+5[\delta M^3]\right)\right] \\
& -\frac{\Lambda}{4}\left[[\delta G][\delta M]^2-4[\delta M][\delta G\delta M]-2[\delta G][\delta M^2]+8[\delta G\delta M^2]\right] \\
& +\frac{1}{4}\left[\delta G^{\mu\nu}\left(\nabla_\mu\delta M_{\rho\sigma}\nabla_\nu\delta M^{\rho\sigma}-\nabla_\mu\delta M\nabla_\nu\delta M+2\nabla_\nu\delta M\nabla_\rho\delta M_\mu{}^\rho+2\nabla_\nu\delta M_\mu{}^\rho\nabla_\rho\delta M\right.\right. \\
& \quad -2\nabla_\rho\delta M\nabla^\rho\delta M_{\mu\nu}+2\nabla_\rho\delta M_{\mu\nu}\nabla_\sigma\delta M^{\rho\sigma}-4\nabla_\nu\delta M_{\rho\sigma}\nabla^\sigma\delta M_\mu{}^\rho-2\nabla_\rho\delta M_{\nu\sigma}\nabla^\sigma\delta M_\mu{}^\rho \\
& \quad \left.+2\nabla_\sigma\delta M_{\nu\rho}\nabla^\sigma\delta M_\mu{}^\rho\right) \\
& \quad +\frac{1}{2}\delta G\left(\nabla_\rho\delta M\nabla^\rho\delta M-\nabla_\rho\delta M_{\mu\nu}\nabla^\rho\delta M^{\mu\nu}-2\nabla_\rho\delta M\nabla_\mu\delta M^{\mu\rho}+2\nabla_\rho\delta M_{\mu\nu}\nabla^\nu\delta M^{\mu\rho}\right)\Big] \\
& +\frac{1}{2}\left[\delta M^{\mu\nu}\left(\nabla_\mu\delta G_{\rho\sigma}\nabla_\nu\delta M^{\rho\sigma}-\nabla_\mu\delta G\nabla_\nu\delta M+\nabla^\rho\delta G_{\rho\mu}\nabla_\nu\delta M+\nabla_\nu\delta G_{\mu\rho}\nabla^\rho\delta M\right.\right. \\
& \quad -\nabla_\rho\delta G_{\mu\nu}\nabla^\rho\delta M+\nabla_\rho\delta G^{\rho\sigma}\nabla_\sigma\delta M_{\mu\nu}-2\nabla_\mu\delta G^{\rho\sigma}\nabla_\sigma\delta M_{\nu\rho}+\nabla_\mu\delta G\nabla^\rho\delta M_{\rho\nu} \\
& \quad +\nabla^\rho\delta G_{\mu\nu}\nabla^\sigma\delta M_{\rho\sigma}-2\nabla_\rho\delta G_{\mu\sigma}\nabla_\nu\delta M^{\rho\sigma}-2\nabla^\rho\delta G_{\mu\sigma}\nabla^\sigma\delta M_{\nu\rho}+2\nabla^\rho\delta G_{\mu\sigma}\nabla_\rho\delta M_\nu{}^\sigma \\
& \quad \left.+ \nabla^\rho\delta G\nabla_\nu\delta M_{\mu\rho}-\nabla^\rho\delta G\nabla_\rho\delta M_{\mu\nu}\right) \\
& \quad +\frac{1}{2}\delta M\left(\nabla_\rho\delta G\nabla^\rho\delta M-\nabla_\rho\delta G_{\mu\nu}\nabla^\rho\delta M^{\mu\nu}-\nabla_\rho\delta G\nabla_\sigma\delta M^{\rho\sigma}\right. \\
& \quad \left.-\nabla_\rho\delta G^{\rho\sigma}\nabla_\sigma\delta M+2\nabla_\rho\delta G_{\mu\nu}\nabla^\nu\delta M^{\mu\rho}\right)\Big]
\end{aligned}$$

# Higher-Order Vertices

Babichev, Marzola, Raidal, ASM,  
Urban, Veermäe, von Strauss (2016)

## Quadratic (Fierz-Pauli)

$\delta G^2$	$\delta G \delta M$	$\delta M^2$
$1, \Lambda$	0	$1, \Lambda, m_{\text{FP}}^2$

## Cubic (suppressed by $m_{\text{Pl}}^{-1}$ )

$\delta G^3$	$\delta G^2 \delta M$	$\delta G \delta M^2$	$\delta M^3$
$1, \Lambda$	0	$1, \Lambda, m_{\text{FP}}^2$	$\alpha, \alpha\Lambda, \alpha m_{\text{FP}}^2$ $\frac{1}{\alpha}, \frac{1}{\alpha}\Lambda, \frac{1}{\alpha}m_{\text{FP}}^2$

✧ self-interactions of massless spin-2 sum up to Einstein-Hilbert action

$$S(g, f)|_{\delta M=0} = m_{\text{Pl}}^2 \int d^4x \sqrt{|G|} (R(G) - 2\Lambda) \quad G_{\mu\nu} = \bar{g}_{\mu\nu} + \frac{1}{m_{\text{Pl}}} \delta G_{\mu\nu}$$

✧ no terms linear in massive fluctuation



Ghost-free bimetric theory  
=  
Massive spin-2 in background  
set by massless spin-2



What is the physical metric ?

How much does the theory  
differ from GR ?

General Relativity Limit

# Matter Coupling

Yamashita, de Felice, Tanaka;  
de Rham, Heisenberg, Ribeiro (2015)

$$\begin{aligned} S_b[g, f] &= m_g^2 \int d^4x \sqrt{g} R(g) \\ &+ m_f^2 \int d^4x \sqrt{f} R(f) - \int d^4x V(g, f) \\ &+ \int d^4x \sqrt{g} \mathcal{L}_{\text{matter}}(g, \phi) \end{aligned}$$

Absence of ghosts: only one metric can couple to matter!

⇒  $g_{\mu\nu}$  is gravitational metric



## Mass Eigenstates

Baccetti, Martin-Moruno, Visser (2012);  
Hassan, ASM, von Strauss (2012/14);  
Akrami, Hassan, Koennig, ASM, Solomon (2015)

$$\begin{aligned} S_b[g, f] &= m_g^2 \int d^4x \sqrt{g} R(g) \\ &+ m_f^2 \int d^4x \sqrt{f} R(f) - \int d^4x V(g, f) \\ &+ \int d^4x \sqrt{g} \mathcal{L}_{\text{matter}}(g, \phi) \end{aligned}$$

(linearised) gravitational metric:

$$\delta g_{\mu\nu} \propto \underbrace{\delta G_{\mu\nu}}_{\text{massless}} - \alpha^2 \underbrace{\delta M_{\mu\nu}}_{\text{massive}} \quad (\alpha \equiv m_f/m_g)$$

The gravitational metric is not massless but a superposition of mass eigenstates.

## Mass Eigenstates

Baccetti, Martin-Moruno, Visser (2012);  
Hassan, ASM, von Strauss (2012/14);  
Akrami, Hassan, Koennig, ASM, Solomon (2015)

$$\begin{aligned} S_b[g, f] &= m_g^2 \int d^4x \sqrt{g} R(g) \\ &+ m_f^2 \int d^4x \sqrt{f} R(f) - \int d^4x V(g, f) \\ &+ \int d^4x \sqrt{g} \mathcal{L}_{\text{matter}}(g, \phi) \end{aligned}$$

(linearised) gravitational metric:

$$\delta g_{\mu\nu} \propto \underbrace{\delta G_{\mu\nu}}_{\text{massless}} - \alpha^2 \underbrace{\delta M_{\mu\nu}}_{\text{massive}} \quad (\alpha \equiv m_f/m_g)$$

- ⇒ for small  $\alpha = m_f/m_g$  gravity is dominated by the massless mode
- ⇒ the massive spin-2 field interacts only weakly with matter

## Mass Eigenstates

Baccetti, Martin-Moruno, Visser (2012);  
Hassan, ASM, von Strauss (2012/14);  
Akrami, Hassan, Koennig, ASM, Solomon (2015)

$$\begin{aligned} S_b[g, f] &= m_g^2 \int d^4x \sqrt{g} R(g) \\ &+ m_f^2 \int d^4x \sqrt{f} R(f) - \int d^4x V(g, f) \\ &+ \int d^4x \sqrt{g} \mathcal{L}_{\text{matter}}(g, \phi) \end{aligned}$$

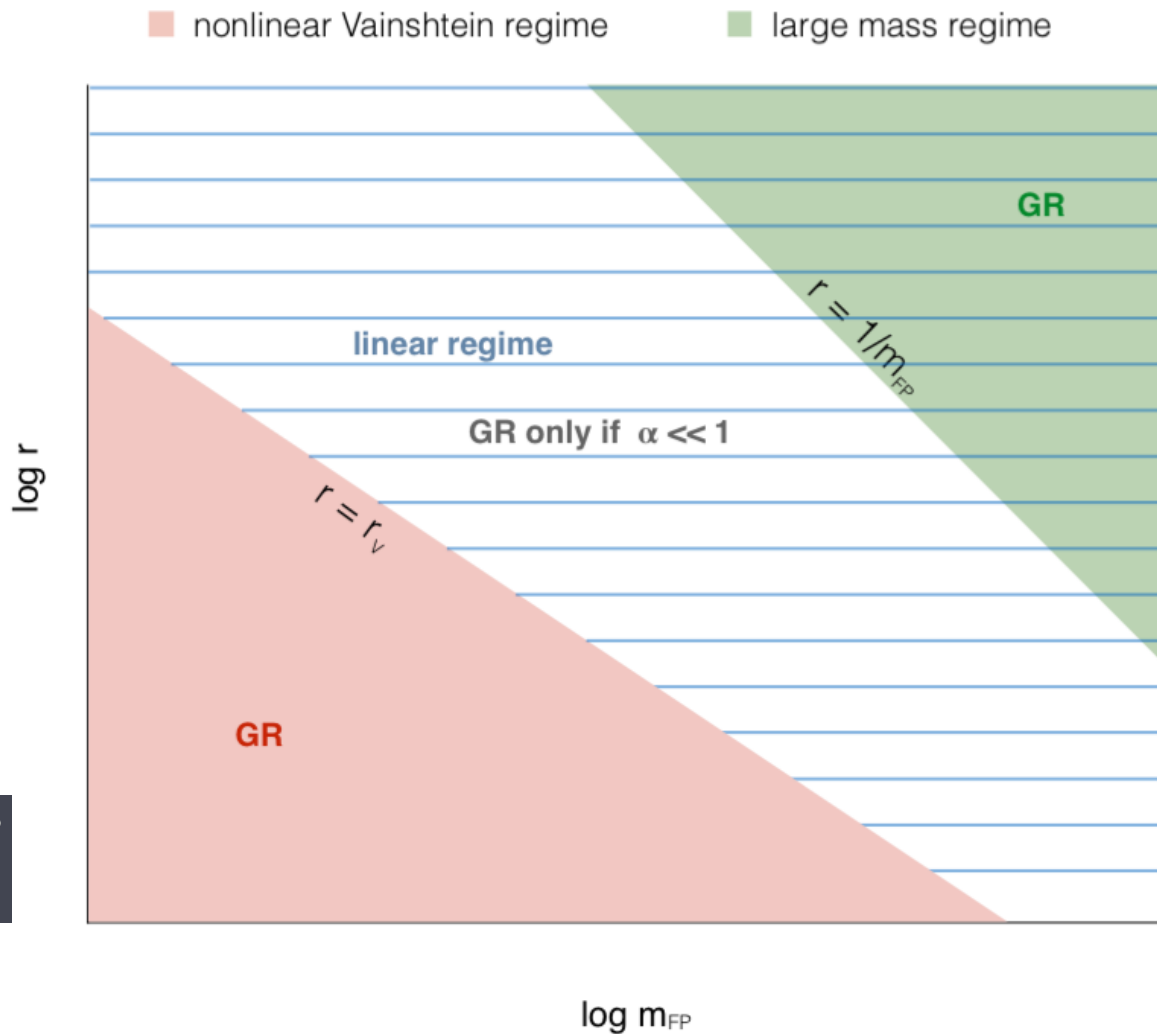
$$\alpha = m_f/m_g \rightarrow 0$$

is the General Relativity limit of bimetric theory

# Recovery of GR

Babichev, Marzola,  
Raidal, ASM,  
Urban, Veermäe,  
von Strauss (2016)

$$r_V = \left( \frac{r_S}{m_{\text{FP}}^2} \right)^{1/3}$$





Ghost-free bimetric theory  
=  
General Relativity +  
additional tensor field

# Cosmology

Symmetries?

“partial masslessness”

massive spin-2 ?

$\Lambda$ ?

25%  
**Dark Matter**

70%  
**Dark Energy**

Viable  
cosmology with  
self-accelerating  
solutions

5%  
**normal  
matter**

Akrami, Hassan, König, ASM, Solomon (2015);  
König, Patil, Amendola (2014);  
Akrami, Koivisto, Mota, Sandstad (2013);  
Volkov; von Strauss, ASM, Enander, Mörtzell, Hassan;  
Comelli, Crisostomi, Nesti, Pilo (2011)

Babichev, Marzola, Raidal, ASM,  
Urban, Veermäe, von Strauss (2016);  
Aoki, Mukohyama (2016)

Apolo, Hassan (2016)  
Hassan, von Strauss, ASM (2012/13)  
Deser, Waldron (2001)

## Dark Matter

- ✧ unidentified type of matter comprising  $\sim 27\%$  of energy in the universe
- ✧ very weak interactions with ordinary matter, but gravitates normally
- ✧ observed in galaxy rotation curves, cosmic microwave background, gravitational lensing, structure formation, matter power spectra, ...
- ➡ Standard paradigm (tons of different models, e.g. MSSM):  
cold relic density of weakly interacting massive particle (WIMP)
- ➡ possibly directly detectable, but so far null results



Babichev, Marzola, Raidal, ASM,  
Urban, Veermäe, von Strauss (2016)

Recall the (linearised) gravitational metric:

$$\delta g_{\mu\nu} \propto \underbrace{\delta G_{\mu\nu}}_{\text{massless}} - \alpha^2 \underbrace{\delta M_{\mu\nu}}_{\text{massive}}$$

**and the General Relativity limit of bimetric theory:**  $\alpha = m_f/m_g \rightarrow 0$

⇒ gravity is weak because the physical Planck mass is large  
 $(m_{Pl} = m_g \sqrt{1 + \alpha^2})$

➡ massive spin-2 field decouples from matter, interacts only with gravity

# Structure of Vertices

## Quadratic (Fierz-Pauli)

$\delta G^2$	$\delta G \delta M$	$\delta M^2$
$1, \Lambda$	0	$1, \Lambda, m_{\text{FP}}^2$

## Cubic

$\delta G^3$	$\delta G^2 \delta M$	$\delta G \delta M^2$	$\delta M^3$
$1, \Lambda$	0	$1, \Lambda, m_{\text{FP}}^2$	$\alpha, \alpha\Lambda, \alpha m_{\text{FP}}^2$ $\frac{1}{\alpha}, \frac{1}{\alpha}\Lambda, \frac{1}{\alpha}m_{\text{FP}}^2$

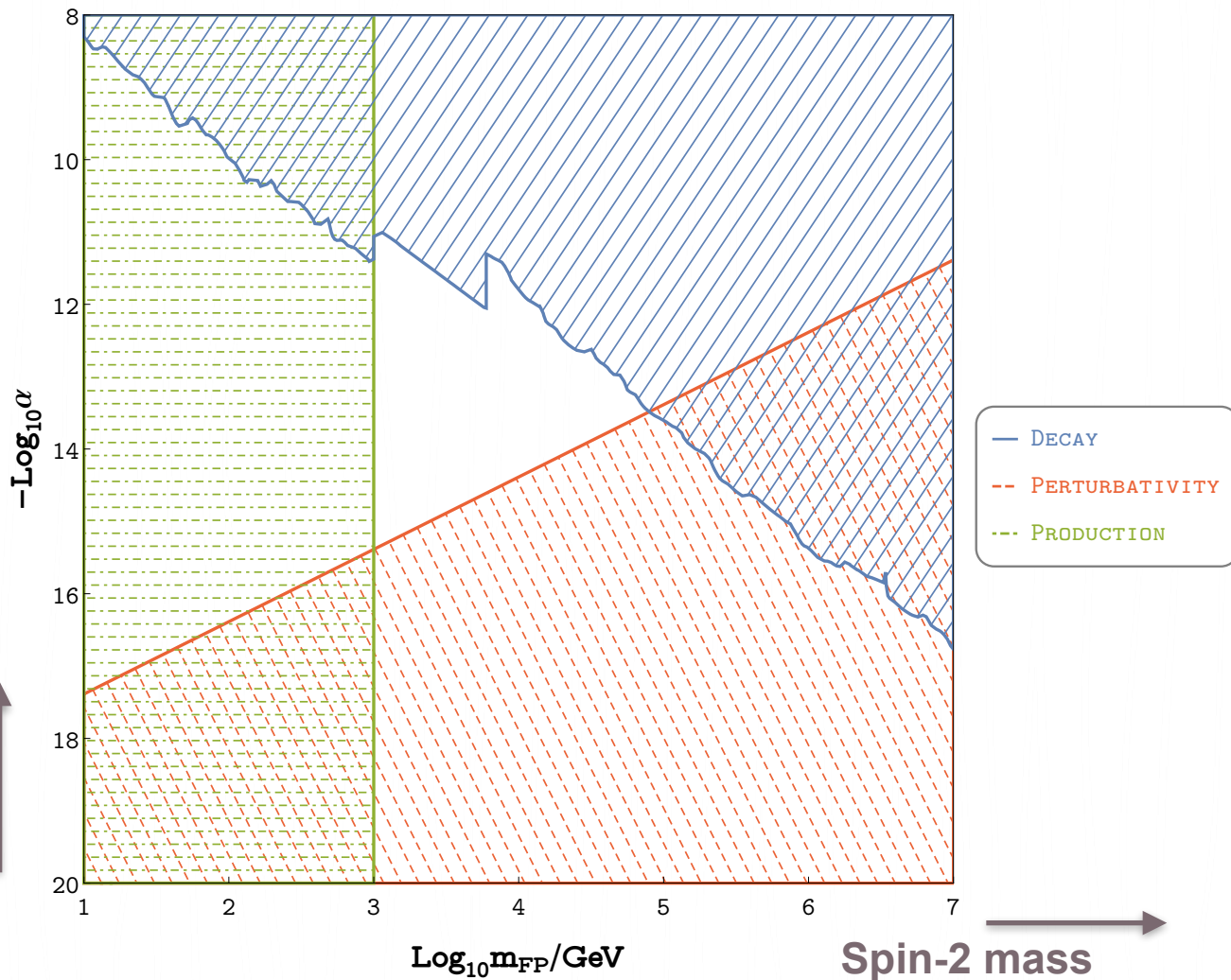
- ✂ no vertices giving rise to decay of massive into massless spin-2
- ✂ massive field gravitates just like baryonic matter, even in GR limit
- ✂ self-interactions of massive spin-2 are enhanced in the GR limit

DM mass

Decay rate:

$$\Gamma(\delta M \rightarrow XX) \sim \frac{\alpha^2 m_{\text{FP}}^3}{m_{\text{Pl}}^2}$$

ratio of  
Planck masses



## Features of Spin-2 DM

- ✧ heavy spin-2 field automatically resembles dark matter when gravity resembles General Relativity
- ✧ interactions with baryonic matter are suppressed by the Planck mass
- ✧ spin-2 mass and interaction scale are on the order of a few TeV
- ➡ no need for extra fields, artificial symmetries or fine tuning
- ➡ bimetric theory could explain dark matter in the context of gravity
- ➡ massive spin-2 field is a natural addition to the Standard Models



Summary

## Ghost-free bimetric theory...

- ✚ is one of the few known consistent modifications of General Relativity
- ✚ describes nonlinear interactions of massless and massive spin-2 fields
- ✚ can be interpreted as gravity in the presence of an extra spin-2 field
- ✚ contains an interesting dark matter candidate whose coupling to baryonic matter is suppressed by the Planck scale  
(but can we detect it ?)

review: ASM, Mikael von Strauss; 1512.00021

*Thank you for your attention!*

