

RUSSIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

L.D Landau
INSTITUTE FOR
THEORETICAL
PHYSICS



Dynamics of self-sustained vacuum & cosmological "constant"

Landau Institute

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Euler Institute, July 3, 2009



- * quantum vacuum as Lorentz invariant medium
- * dynamics of quantum vacuum and decay of cosmological constant
- * problem of remnant cosmological constant
- * remnant cosmological constant from quantum chromodynamics
- * remnant cosmological constant from electroweak physics

$$\Lambda_{\text{exp}} \sim 2\text{-}3 \epsilon_{\text{Dark Matter}} \sim 10^{-123} \Lambda_{\text{bare}}$$

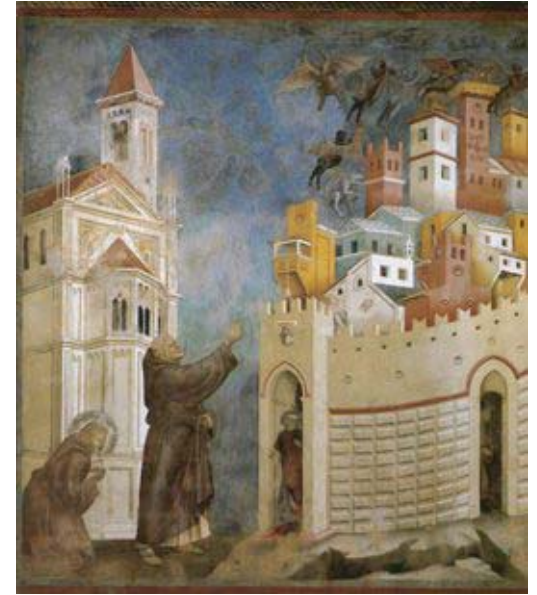
$$\Lambda_{\text{bare}} \sim \epsilon_{\text{zero point}}$$

*it is easier to accept that $\Lambda = 0$ than 123 orders smaller

*magic word: *regularization*

wisdom of particle physicist:

$$\frac{1}{0} = 0$$



*Polyakov conjecture: dynamical screening of Λ by infrared fluctuations of metric

A.M. Polyakov

Phase transitions and the Universe, UFN **136**, 538 (1982)

De Sitter space and eternity, Nucl. Phys. **B 797**, 199 (2008)

*Dynamical evolution of Λ similar to that of gap Δ in superconductors after kick

V. Gurarie, Nonequilibrium dynamics of weakly and strongly paired superconductors: 0905.4498

A.F. Volkov & S.M. Kogan, JETP **38**, 1018 (1974)

Barankov & Levitov, ...

dynamic relaxation of vacuum to its equilibrium state

dynamics of Λ in cosmology

$$\Lambda(t) \sim \omega^2 \frac{\sin^2 \omega t}{t^2}$$

$$\omega \sim E_{\text{Planck}}$$

F.R. Klinkhamer & G.E. Volovik
 Dynamic vacuum variable &
 equilibrium approach in cosmology
 PRD **78**, 063528 (2008)
 Self-tuning vacuum variable &
 cosmological constant,
 PRD **77**, 085015 (2008)

nonequilibrium vacuum with $\Lambda \sim E_{\text{Planck}}^4$

superconductor with nonequilibrium gap Δ

dynamics of Δ in superconductor

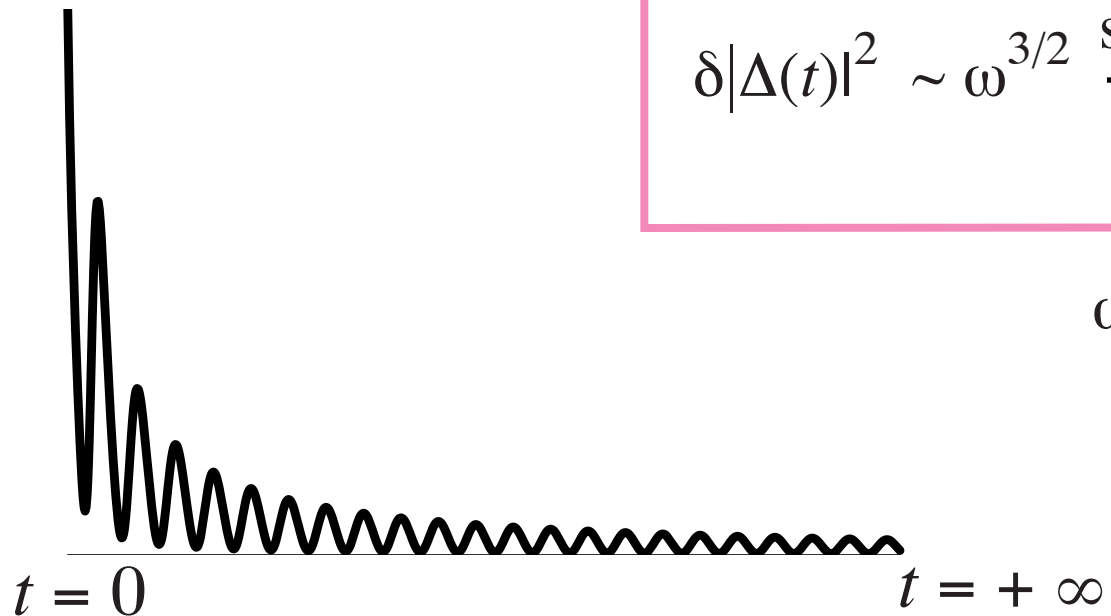
$$\delta|\Delta(t)|^2 \sim \omega^{3/2} \frac{\sin \omega t}{t^{1/2}}$$

$$\omega = 2\Delta$$

equilibrium vacuum with $\Lambda = 0$

ground state of superconductor

$$\varepsilon(t) - \varepsilon_{\text{vac}} \sim \omega \frac{\sin^2 \omega t}{t}$$



initial states:

final states:

reversibility of the process

$$\Lambda(t) \sim \omega^2 \frac{\sin^2 \omega t}{t^2}$$

$$\omega \sim E_{\text{Planck}}$$

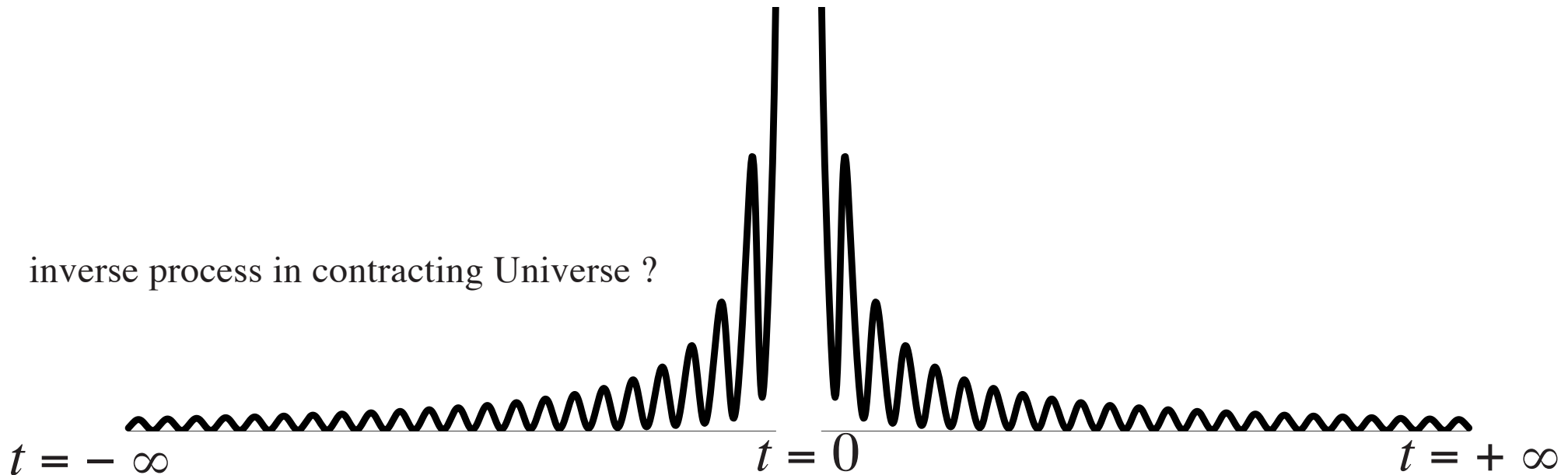
reversible energy transfer
from vacuum to gravity

$$\delta|\Delta(t)|^2 \sim \omega^{3/2} \frac{\sin \omega t}{t^{1/2}}$$

$$\omega = 2\Delta$$

reversible energy transfer
from coherent degree of freedom (vacuum)
to particles (Landau damping)

inverse process in contracting Universe ?



Phenomenology of quantum vacuum

how to describe quantum vacuum & vacuum energy Λ ?

$$\Lambda = \epsilon_{\text{vac}} = w_{\text{vac}} P_{\text{vac}}$$

* quantum vacuum has equation of state $w = -1$

$$w_{\text{vac}} = -1$$

* quantum vacuum is Lorentz-invariant

* quantum vacuum is a self-sustained medium,
which may exist in the absence of environment

Hawking suggested to introduce special field which describes the vacuum only
Hawking, Phys. Lett. B **134**, 403 (1984)

Vacuum variable

- * quantum vacuum is a self-sustained medium, which may exist in the absence of environment
- * for that, vacuum must be described by conserved charge q
- * q is analog of particle density n in liquids

q must be Lorentz invariant

$$L q = q$$

*charge density n
is not Lorentz invariant*

$$L n = \gamma(n + \mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{j})$$

does such q exist ?

relativistic invariant conserved charges q

$$\nabla_{\alpha} q^{\alpha\beta\gamma\dots} = 0$$

possible vacuum variables

$$\langle q^{\alpha\beta} \rangle_{\text{vac}} = q g^{\alpha\beta}$$

$$\langle q^{\alpha\beta\mu\nu} \rangle_{\text{vac}} = q e^{\alpha\beta\mu\nu}$$

$$\langle q_{\alpha\beta\mu\nu} \rangle_{\text{vac}} = q (g_{\alpha\mu}g_{\beta\nu} - g_{\alpha\nu}g_{\beta\mu})$$

impossible

$$\langle q^{\alpha} \rangle_{\text{vac}} = 0$$

Lorentz invariance of vacuum forbids vacuum vector fields:
only even rank tensors may describe the vacuum state

distinct from: D. Gal'tsov

Non-Abelian condensates as alternative for dark energy, arXiv:0901.0115

possible

$$\langle \nabla_{\alpha} q_{\beta} \rangle_{\text{vac}} = q g_{\alpha\beta}$$

Polyakov deformation field,
modification of Jacobson Einstein-aether theory, ...

examples of vacuum variable q

4-form field

$$F_{\kappa\lambda\mu\nu} = \nabla_{[\kappa} A_{\lambda\mu\nu]}$$

Duff & van Nieuwenhuizen
Phys. Lett. B **94**, 179 (1980)
Hawking
Phys. Lett. B **134**, 403 (1984)

$$F_{\kappa\lambda\mu\nu} = q (-g)^{1/2} e_{\kappa\lambda\mu\nu}$$

$$q^2 = - \frac{1}{24} F_{\kappa\lambda\mu\nu} F^{\kappa\lambda\mu\nu}$$

gluon condensates in QCD

$$\langle \mathbf{G}_{\alpha\beta} \mathbf{G}_{\mu\nu} \rangle = \frac{q}{12} (g_{\alpha\mu} g_{\beta\nu} - g_{\alpha\nu} g_{\beta\mu})$$

$$q = \langle \mathbf{G}_{\alpha\beta} \mathbf{G}^{\alpha\beta} \rangle \quad \langle \mathbf{G}_{\alpha\beta} \rangle = 0$$

$$\langle \mathbf{G}_{\alpha\beta} \mathbf{G}_{\mu\nu} \rangle = \frac{q}{24} (-g)^{1/2} e_{\alpha\beta\mu\nu}$$

$$q = \langle \tilde{\mathbf{G}}_{\alpha\beta} \mathbf{G}^{\alpha\beta} \rangle \quad \text{topological charge density}$$

Einstein-aether theory (T. Jacobson)

$$\nabla_{\mu} u_{\nu} = q g_{\mu\nu}$$

**dynamics of vacuum variable q and gravity $g_{\mu\nu}$ is universal
does not depend on particular realization of q**

thermodynamics in flat space *the same as in cond-mat*

**conserved
charge Q**

$$Q = \int dV q$$

**thermodynamic
potential**

$$E - \mu Q = \int dV \Omega$$

$$\Omega = \varepsilon(q) - \mu q$$

**Lagrange multiplier
or chemical potential μ**

equilibrium vacuum

$$d\Omega/dq = 0$$

$$d\varepsilon/dq = \mu$$

**vacuum
pressure**

$$P = -dE/dV = -\varepsilon + q d\varepsilon/dq = -\varepsilon + \mu q = -\Omega$$

$$E = V \varepsilon(Q/V)$$

**Ω is candidate for
cosmological constant**

$$w_{\text{vac}} = -1$$

equilibrium self-sustained vacuum

$$d\Omega/dq = 0$$

$$\Omega = -P = 0$$

vacuum energies in equilibrium self-sustained vacuum

$$\Omega = \varepsilon - \mu q = -P$$

$$q \sim \mu \sim E_{\text{Planck}}^2$$

vacuum variable in equilibrium vacuum

$$\varepsilon(q) \sim E_{\text{Planck}}^4$$

energy of equilibrium vacuum

$$\Omega = \varepsilon - \mu q = 0$$

energy of equilibrium self-sustained vacuum


$$E_{\text{Planck}}^4 \quad E_{\text{Planck}}^4$$

self-tuning:

two Planck-scale quantities cancel each other
in equilibrium self-sustained vacuum

$$\Lambda = \Omega = -P = 0$$

nullification of cosmological constant
in equilibrium self-sustained vacuum

dynamics of q in flat space

whatever is the origin of q the motion equation for q is the same

action $S = \int dV dt \varepsilon(q)$

motion equation $\nabla_{\kappa} (d\varepsilon/dq) = 0$

solution $d\varepsilon/dq = \mu$

integration constant μ in dynamics becomes chemical potential in thermodynamics

4-form field $F_{\kappa\lambda\mu\nu}$ as an example of conserved charge q in relativistic vacuum

$$q^2 = - \frac{1}{24} F_{\kappa\lambda\mu\nu} F^{\kappa\lambda\mu\nu}$$

$$F_{\kappa\lambda\mu\nu} = \nabla_{[\kappa} A_{\lambda\mu\nu]}$$

$$F^{\kappa\lambda\mu\nu} = q e^{\kappa\lambda\mu\nu}$$

Maxwell equation

$$\nabla_{\kappa} (F^{\kappa\lambda\mu\nu} q^{-1} d\varepsilon/dq) = 0$$

$$\nabla_{\kappa} (d\varepsilon/dq) = 0$$



general dynamics of q in curved space

action

$$S = \int d^4x (-g)^{1/2} [\varepsilon(q) + K(q)R] + S_{\text{matter}}$$

gravitational coupling $K(q)$ is determined by vacuum and thus depends on vacuum variable q

motion equation

$$d\varepsilon/dq + R dK/dq = \mu \quad \text{integration constant}$$

Einstein equations

$$K(Rg_{\mu\nu} - 2R_{\mu\nu}) + (\varepsilon - \mu q)g_{\mu\nu} - 2(\nabla_{\mu}\nabla_{\nu} - g_{\mu\nu}\nabla^{\lambda}\nabla_{\lambda})K = T_{\mu\nu}$$

Einstein tensor

cosmological term $\neq \varepsilon g_{\mu\nu}$

$$\nabla_{\mu} T^{\mu\nu} = 0$$

matter

case of $K=const$ restores original Einstein equations

$$K = \frac{1}{16\pi G}$$

G - Newton constant

**motion
equation**

$$d\varepsilon/dq = \mu \quad q = \text{const}$$

**original
Einstein
equations**

$$\frac{1}{16\pi G} (Rg_{\mu\nu} - 2R_{\mu\nu}) + \Lambda g_{\mu\nu} = T_{\mu\nu}$$

$$\Lambda = \varepsilon - \mu q$$

Λ - cosmological constant

Minkowski solution

Maxwell equations

$$d\varepsilon/dq + R dK/dq = \mu$$

Einstein equations

$$K(Rg_{\mu\nu} - 2R_{\mu\nu}) + (\varepsilon - \mu q)g_{\mu\nu} - 2(\nabla_{\mu}\nabla_{\nu} - g_{\mu\nu}\nabla^{\lambda}\nabla_{\lambda})K = T_{\mu\nu}$$

Einstein tensor

cosmological term

matter

$$\nabla_{\mu} T^{\mu\nu} = 0$$

Minkowski vacuum solution

$$R = 0 \quad d\varepsilon/dq = \mu$$

$$\Lambda = \varepsilon(q) - \mu q = 0$$

vacuum energy in action: $\varepsilon(q) \sim E_{\text{Planck}}^4$

thermodynamic vacuum energy: $\varepsilon - \mu q = 0$

Model vacuum energy

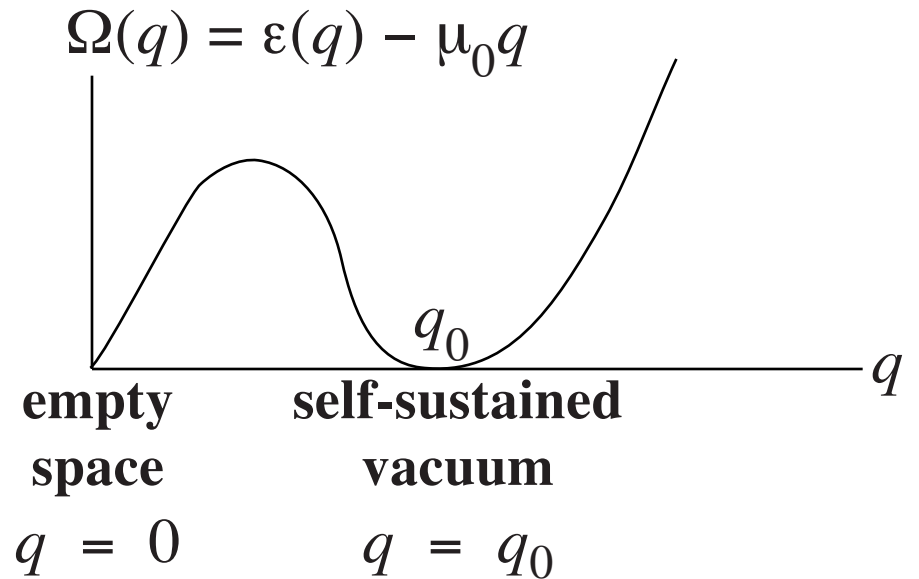
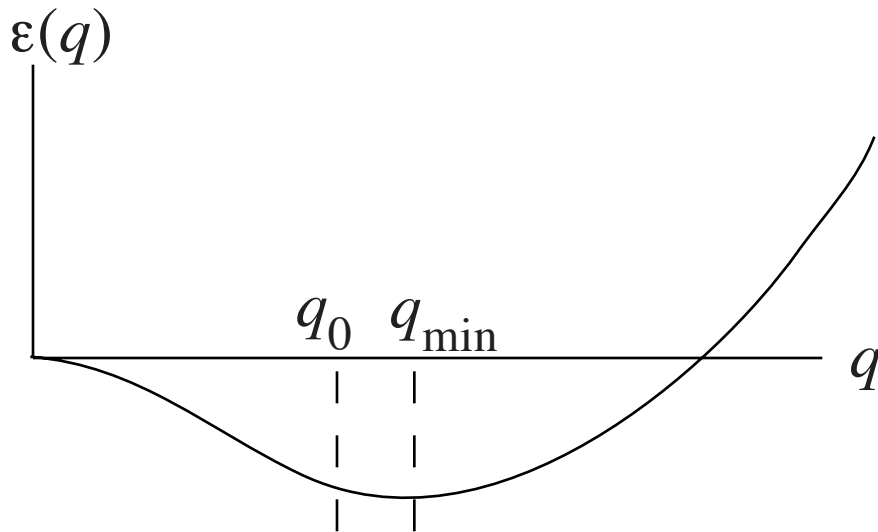
$$\varepsilon(q) = \frac{1}{2\chi} \left(-\frac{q^2}{q_0^2} + \frac{q^4}{3q_0^4} \right)$$

Minkowski vacuum solution

$$\begin{aligned} d\varepsilon/dq &= \mu \\ \varepsilon - \mu q &= 0 \end{aligned}$$



$$\begin{aligned} q &= q_0 \\ \mu &= \mu_0 = -\frac{1}{3\chi q_0} \end{aligned}$$



vacuum compressibility

$$\chi = -\frac{1}{V} \frac{dV}{dP}$$

$$\frac{1}{\chi} = \left(q^2 \frac{d^2\varepsilon}{dq^2} \right)_{q=q_0} > 0 \quad \text{vacuum stability}$$

Minkowski vacuum (q-independent properties)

$$\Lambda = \Omega_{\text{vac}} = -P_{\text{vac}}$$

↑ ↑
energy density pressure
of vacuum of vacuum

$$P_{\text{vac}} = -dE/dV = -\Omega_{\text{vac}}$$
$$\chi_{\text{vac}} = -(1/V) dV/dP$$

compressibility of vacuum

$$\langle (\Delta P_{\text{vac}})^2 \rangle = T/(V\chi_{\text{vac}})$$
$$\langle (\Delta\Lambda)^2 \rangle = \langle (\Delta P)^2 \rangle$$

pressure fluctuations

*natural value of Λ
determined by macroscopic
physics*

$$\Lambda = 0$$

*natural value of χ_{vac}
determined by microscopic
physics*

$$\chi_{\text{vac}} \sim E_{\text{Planck}}^{-4}$$

*volume of Universe
is large:*

$$V > T_{\text{CMB}}/(\Lambda^2\chi_{\text{vac}})$$

$$V > 10^{28} V_{\text{hor}}$$



dynamics of q in curved space: relaxation of Λ

**motion
equation**

$$d\varepsilon/dq + R dK/dq = \mu$$

**Einstein
equations**

$$K(Rg_{\mu\nu} - 2R_{\mu\nu}) + g_{\mu\nu} \Lambda(q) - 2(\nabla_{\mu}\nabla_{\nu} - g_{\mu\nu}\nabla^{\lambda}\nabla_{\lambda})K = T_{\mu\nu}^{\text{matter}}$$

$$\Lambda(q) = \varepsilon(q) - \mu_0 q$$

dynamic solution: approach to equilibrium vacuum

$$q(t) - q_0 \sim q_0 \frac{\sin \omega t}{t}$$

$$\Lambda(t) \sim \omega^2 \frac{\sin^2 \omega t}{t^2}$$

$$H(t) = \frac{\dot{a}(t)}{a(t)} = \frac{2}{3t} (1 - \cos \omega t)$$

$$\omega \sim E_{\text{Planck}}$$

similar to scalar field with mass $M \sim E_{\text{Planck}}$
A.A. Starobinsky, Phys. Lett. **B 91**, 99 (1980)

Relaxation of Λ (generic q-independent properties)

$$\Lambda(t) \sim \omega^2 \frac{\sin^2 \omega t}{t^2}$$

cosmological "constant"

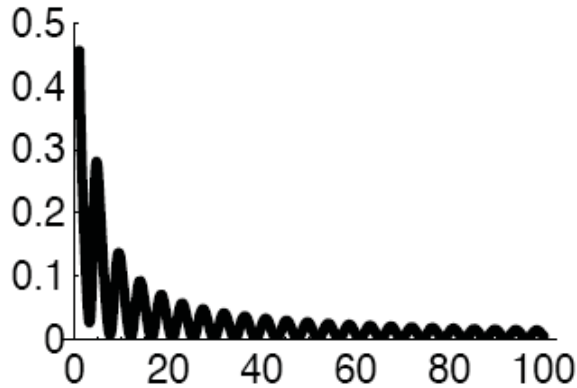
$$H(t) = \frac{\dot{a}(t)}{a(t)} = \frac{2}{3t} (1 - \cos \omega t)$$

Hubble parameter

$$\omega \sim E_{\text{Planck}}$$

$$G(t) = G_N \left(1 + \frac{\sin \omega t}{\omega t} \right)$$

Newton "constant"



$$\langle \Lambda(t_{\text{Planck}}) \rangle \sim E_{\text{Planck}}^4$$

$$\Lambda(t = \infty) = 0$$

natural solution of the main cosmological problem ?

**Λ relaxes from natural Planck scale value
to natural zero value**

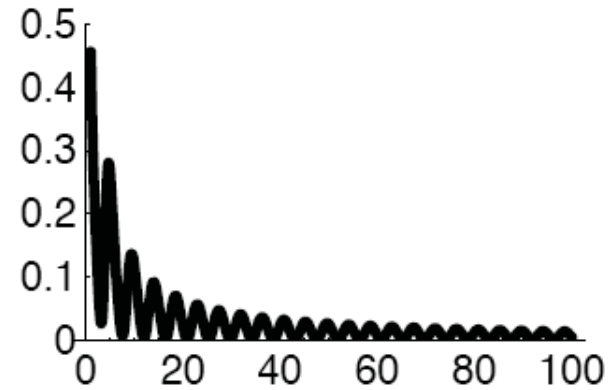


present value of Λ

$$\Lambda(t) \sim \omega^2 \frac{\sin^2 \omega t}{t^2}$$

$$\omega \sim E_{\text{Planck}}$$

**dynamics of Λ :
from Planck to present value**



$$\langle \Lambda(t_{\text{Planck}}) \rangle \sim E_{\text{Planck}}^4$$

$$\langle \Lambda(t_{\text{present}}) \rangle \sim E_{\text{Planck}}^2 / t_{\text{present}}^2 \sim 10^{-120} E_{\text{Planck}}^4$$

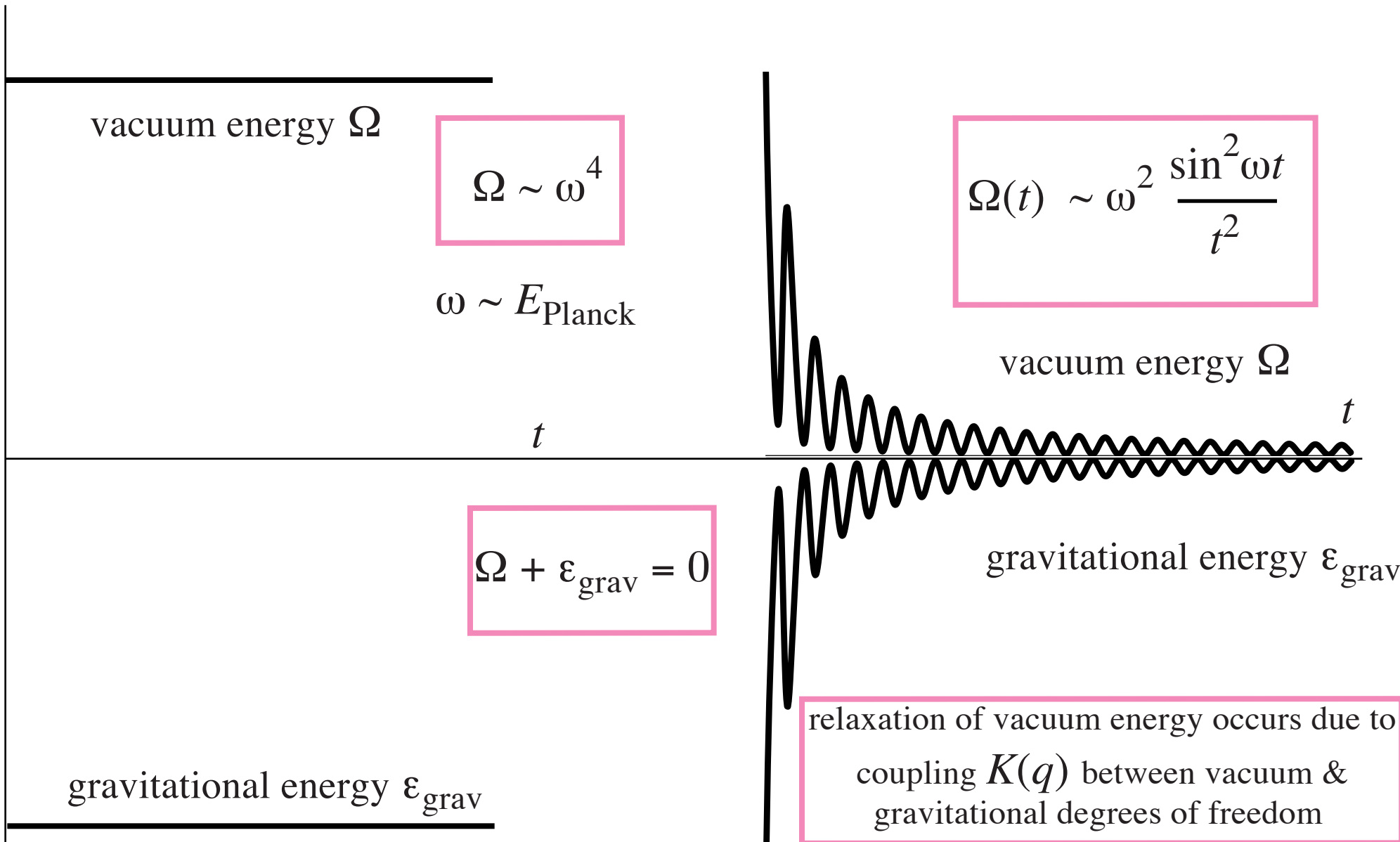
coincides with present value of dark energy
something to do with coincidence problem ?



balance between vacuum and gravitational energies

$K = \text{const}$
de Sitter expansion

$K(q)$
relaxation with oscillations



cold matter simulation

$$\Lambda(t) \sim \omega^2 \frac{\sin^2 \omega t}{t^2}$$

$$H(t) = \frac{\dot{a}(t)}{a(t)} = \frac{2}{3t} (1 - \cos \omega t)$$

$$\langle H(t) \rangle = \frac{2}{3t}$$

$$\langle a(t) \rangle \sim t^{2/3}$$

$$\langle \Lambda(t) \rangle \sim \frac{E_{\text{Planck}}^2}{t^2} \sim E_{\text{Planck}}^4 \frac{a^3(t_{\text{Planck}})}{a^3(t)}$$

relaxation of vacuum energy mimics expansion of cold dark matter

$$\rho(t) a^3(t) = \text{const}$$



though equation of state corresponds to Λ

$$\Lambda = \Omega = -P$$

$$\Omega = \varepsilon(q) - \mu q$$

another example of vacuum variable: from 4-vector *version of Ted Jacobson's Einstein-Aether theory*

energy density $\epsilon_{\text{vac}}(u^\mu_\nu)$ of vacuum is function of $u^\mu_\nu = \nabla_\nu u^\mu$

equilibrium vacuum is obtained from equation

$$\delta\epsilon_{\text{vac}}/\delta u^\mu = \nabla_\nu (\delta\epsilon_{\text{vac}}/\delta u^\mu_\nu) = 0$$

equilibrium solution:

$$u_{\mu\nu} = q g_{\mu\nu} \quad q = \text{const}$$

vacuum variable

microscopic vacuum energy

$$\epsilon_{\text{vac}}(q) \sim E_{\text{Planck}}^4$$



cosmological constant

$$\Lambda = \Omega(q_0) = 0$$

macroscopic thermodynamic vacuum energy:
from energy momentum tensor

$$T_{\mu\nu} = \delta S / \delta g^{\mu\nu} = (\epsilon_{\text{vac}}(q) - q d\epsilon_{\text{vac}}/dq) g_{\mu\nu}$$




It is $T_{\mu\nu}$ which is gravitating, thus cosmological constant is

$$\Lambda = \Omega(q) = \epsilon_{\text{vac}}(q) - q d\epsilon_{\text{vac}}/dq$$


relativistic quantum vacuum vs cond-mat

microscopic energy

natural Planck scale


$$\varepsilon_{\text{vac}}(q) \sim E_{\text{Planck}}^4$$

natural atomic scale

$$\varepsilon(n) \text{ is atomic}$$


macroscopic energy

$$\Omega = \varepsilon(q) - q \, d\varepsilon / dq = -P_{\text{vac}}$$

$$\Omega = \varepsilon(n) - n \, d\varepsilon / dn = -P$$

in the absence of environment

$$\Lambda = \Omega = -P_{\text{vac}} = 0$$

$$\Omega = -P = 0$$

two microscopic quantities cancel each other without fine tuning

self tuning due to **thermodynamics**



Why is the present Λ nonzero ?

remnant cosmological constant from infrared QCD (*highly speculative*)

Klinkhamer -Volovik

Gluonic vacuum, q -theory, and the cosmological constant

Phys. Rev. **D 79**, 063527 (2009)

Klinkhamer

Gluon condensate, modified gravity, and the accelerating Universe

arXiv:0904.3276

de Sitter expansion and nonzero Λ are induced by QCD anomaly

$$\Lambda \sim G^2 \lambda_{\text{QCD}}^6$$

$\lambda_{\text{QCD}} \sim 100 \text{ MeV}$ is QCD energy scale

close to present cosmological constant

supports suggestion by Zeldovich

$$\Lambda \sim G^2 m_{\text{proton}}^6$$

JETP Lett. **6**, 316 (1967)

Lifshitz point

$$\omega^2 = k^2 + m^2(k)$$

$$m(k) = \frac{k^z}{\lambda^{z-1}}$$

Lifshitz point in QCD

effective gluon mass diverges in $k \rightarrow 0$ limit

$$z = -1$$

$$m(k) \sim \frac{\lambda_{\text{QCD}}^2}{k}$$

Gribov picture of confinement

$$z = -2$$

$$m(k) \sim \frac{\lambda_{\text{QCD}}^3}{k^2}$$

alternative picture of confinement

Cabo et al. arXiv:0906.0494

remnant cosmological constant from QCD

estimation of vacuum energy in expanding Universe

$$\Omega = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\mathbf{k}} [\omega(\mathbf{k}, H) - \omega(\mathbf{k}, 0)] \sim \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\mathbf{k}} [m(\mathbf{k}, H) - m(\mathbf{k}, 0)]$$

$z = -1$

$$m(\mathbf{k}) \sim \frac{\lambda_{\text{QCD}}^2}{k}$$

Gribov scenario

$$m(\mathbf{k}, H) \sim \frac{\lambda_{\text{QCD}}^2}{(k^2 + H^2)^{1/2}}$$

$$\Omega \sim \lambda_{\text{QCD}}^2 H^2$$

negligible correction to Einstein action

$z = -2$

$$m(\mathbf{k}) \sim \frac{\lambda_{\text{QCD}}^3}{k^2}$$

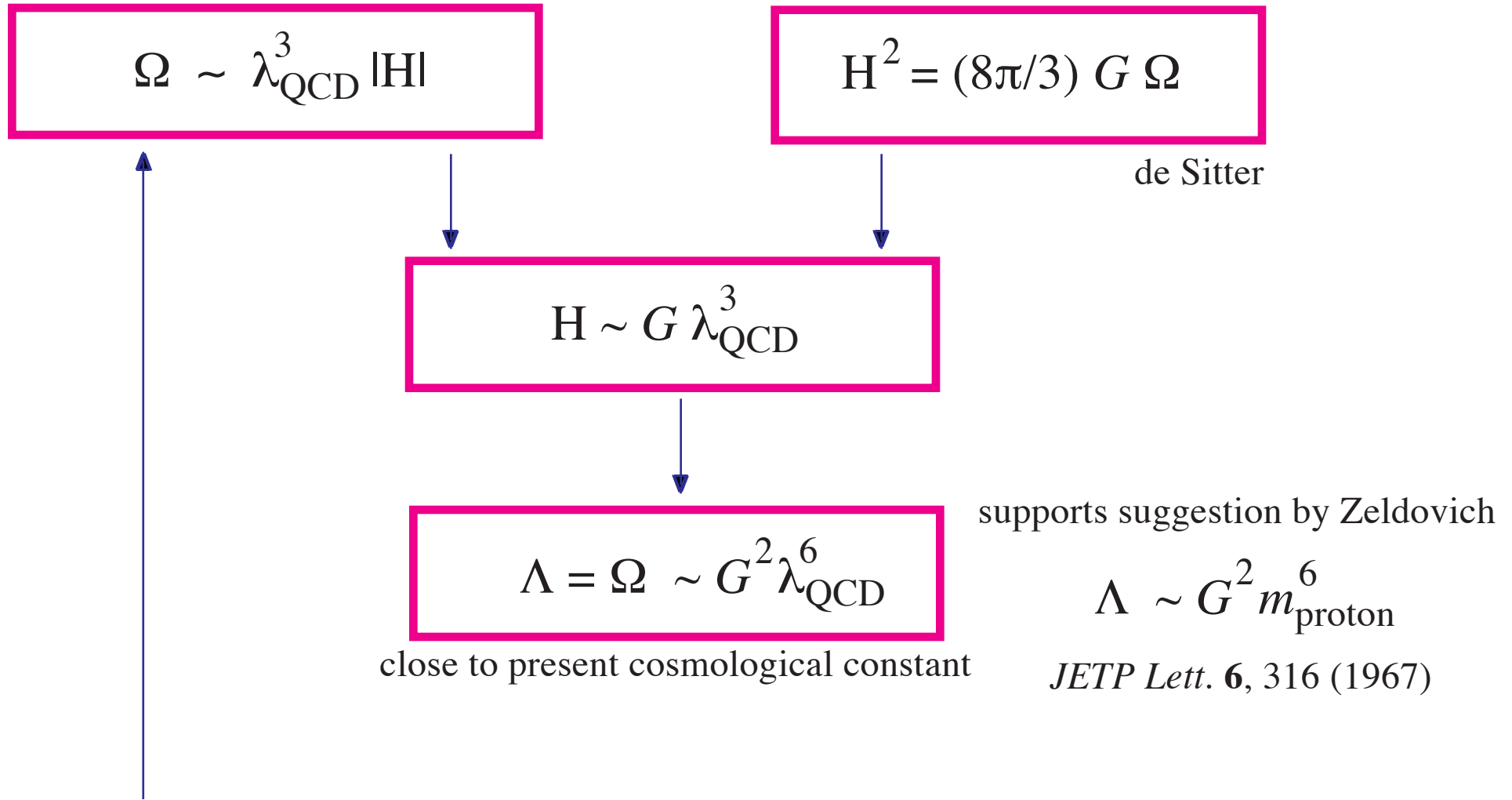
Cabo et al. arXiv:0906.0494

$$m(\mathbf{k}, H) \sim \frac{\lambda_{\text{QCD}}^3}{k^2 + H^2}$$

$$\Omega \sim \lambda_{\text{QCD}}^3 |H|$$

dominates at small Hubble parameter H

asymptotic de Sitter state due to infrared QCD



J. Bjorken, The classification of universes, astro-ph/0404233

R. Schutzhold, Small cosmological constant from the QCD trace anomaly? *PRL* **89**, 081302 (2002)

Klinkhamer & Volovik, Gluonic vacuum, q-theory & the cosmological constant, *PRD* **79**, 063527 (2009)

Urban & Zhitnitsky,

The cosmological constant from the Veneziano ghost which solves the U(1) problem in QCD, 0906.2162

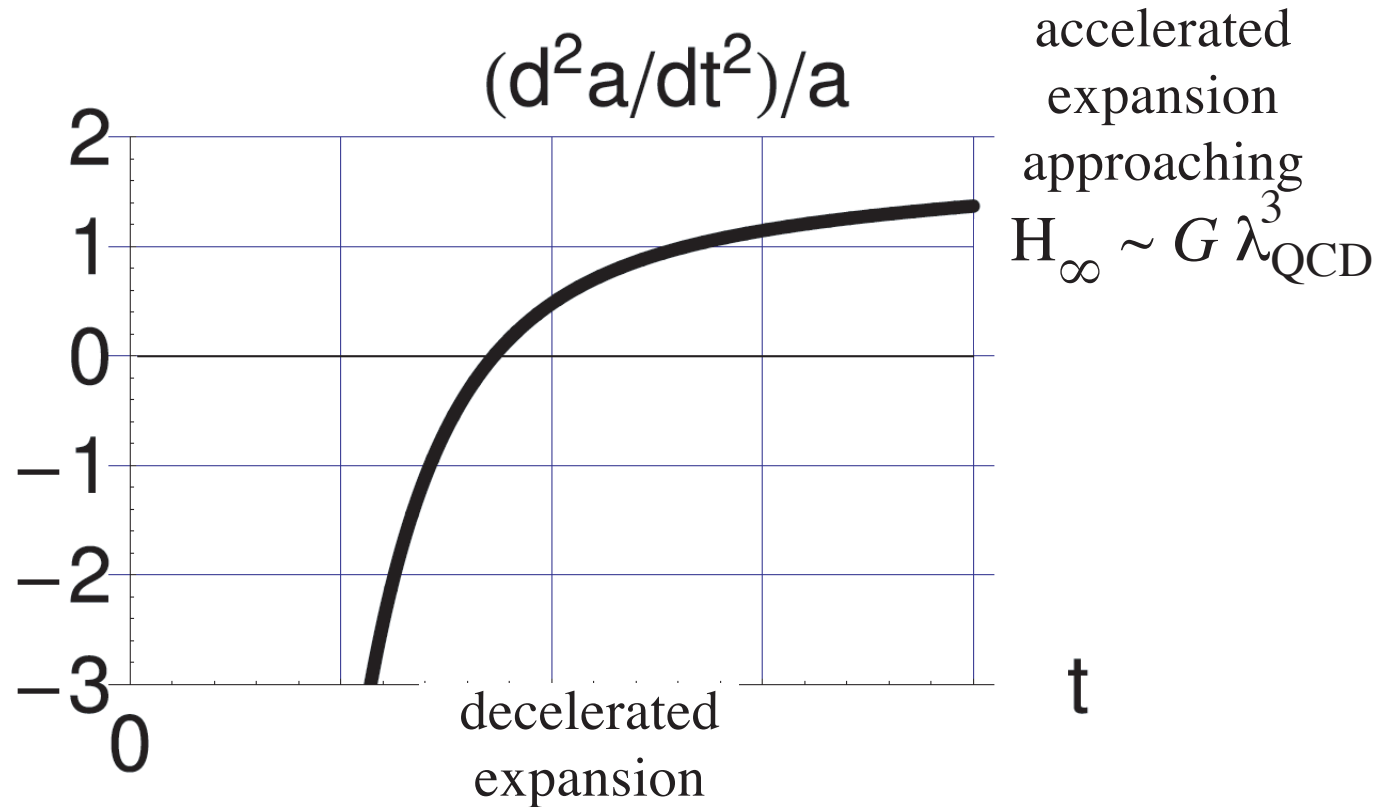
Cosmological constant, violation of cosmological isotropy & CMB, 0906.3541

asymptotic de Sitter state from q-theory with QCD

Klinkhamer

Gluon condensate, modified gravity, and the accelerating Universe

arXiv:0904.3276



Carneiro & Tavakol

On vacuum density, the initial singularity and dark energy

arXiv:0905.3131

$$H(t) = H_\infty \frac{\exp(3H_\infty t)}{\exp(3H_\infty t) - 1}$$

q-theory with QCD and f(R) theory

at small curvature R approaches particular $f(R)$ theory with $f(R) = R + |R|^{1/2}$

$$\lambda_{\text{QCD}}^3 |H| \rightarrow \lambda_{\text{QCD}}^3 |R|^{1/2}$$

$$q = \langle \mathbf{G}_{\alpha\beta} \mathbf{G}^{\alpha\beta} \rangle \sim \lambda_{\text{QCD}}^4$$

action

$$S = \int d^4x (-g)^{1/2} \left[\varepsilon(q) - \mu q + KR + q^{3/4} |R|^{1/2} \right] + S_{\text{matter}}$$

$$\varepsilon(q) - \mu q = q \ln \frac{q}{q_0} \quad q_0 = \lambda_{\text{QCD}}^4$$

here q_0 is equilibrium value of gluon condensate in equilibrium vacuum with $\Omega = \Lambda = 0$

however instead of equilibrium vacuum the Universe approaches de Sitter state with

$$H \sim G q_0^{3/4}$$

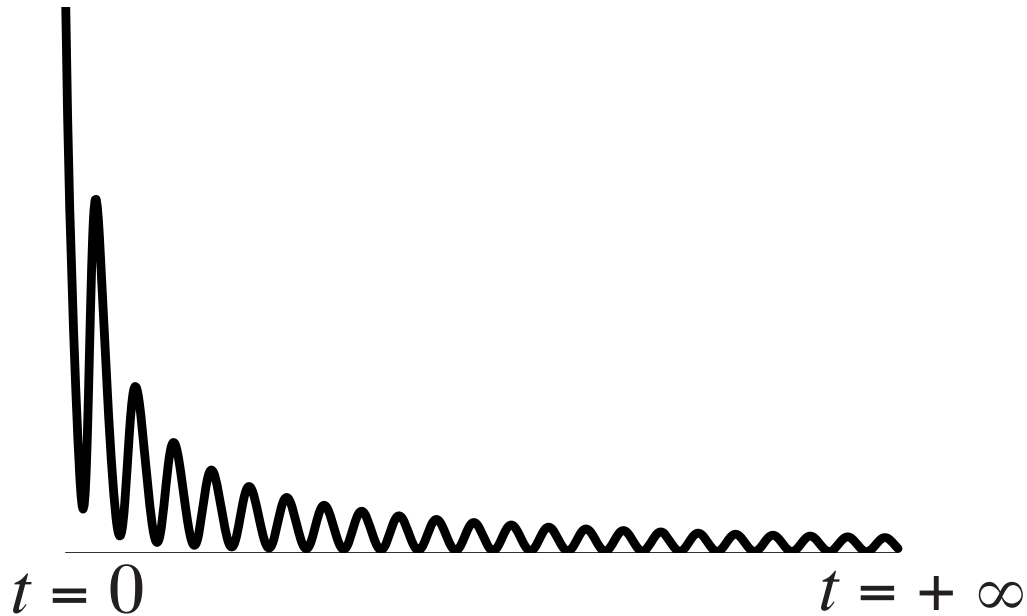
$$\Lambda \sim G^2 q_0^{3/2}$$

two regimes of vacuum dynamics

decay with oscillations

$$\Lambda(t) \sim \omega^2 \frac{\sin^2 \omega t}{t^2}$$

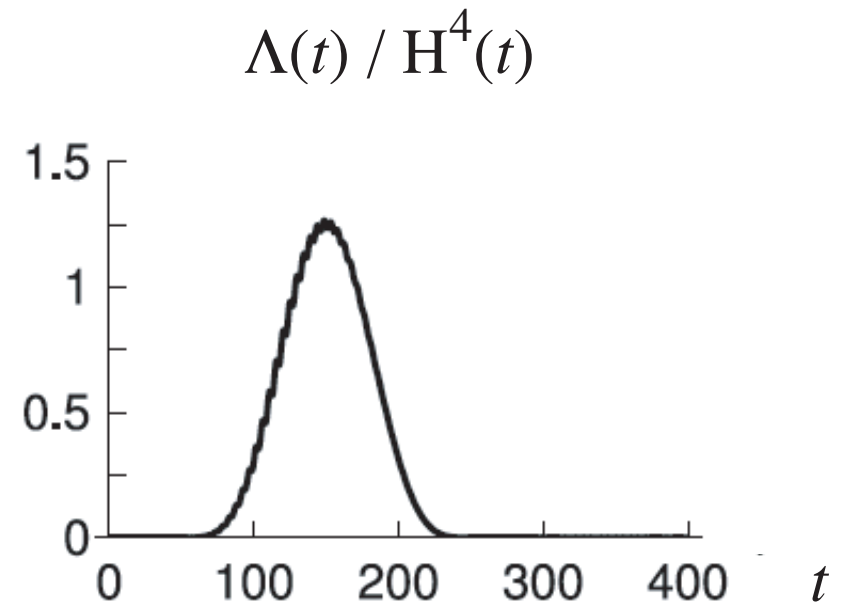
$$\omega \sim E_{\text{Planck}}$$



response to perturbation of matter

$$\Lambda(t) \sim (w(t) - 1/3)^2 H^4(t) + \text{small oscillations}$$

$w(t)$ matter equation of state



remnant cosmological constant from electroweak crossover

response to perturbation of matter without dissipation

$$\Lambda_0(t) \sim (w(t) - 1/3)^2 H^4(t)$$

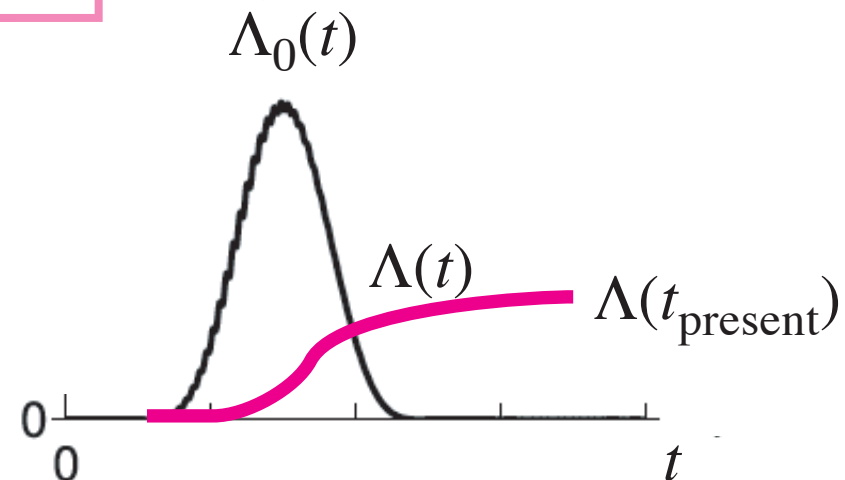
$w(t) - 1/3 \neq 0$ during electroweak crossover, when $H(t_{\text{ew}}) \sim E_{\text{ew}}^2 / E_{\text{Planck}}$

$$\Lambda_0(t_{\text{ew}}) \sim H^4(t_{\text{ew}}) \sim E_{\text{ew}}^8 / E_{\text{Planck}}^4 \sim \Lambda(t_{\text{present}})$$

if for some reason $\Lambda(t)$ become frozen after crossover

this may explain present value of Λ

$$\dot{\Lambda} = -\Gamma(t) (\Lambda(t) - \Lambda_0(t))$$

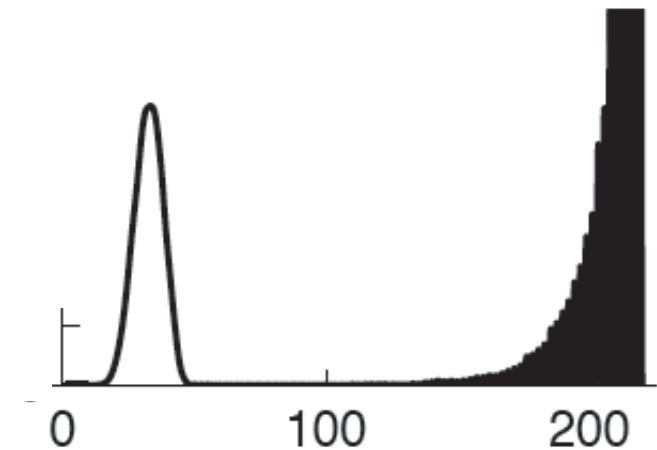
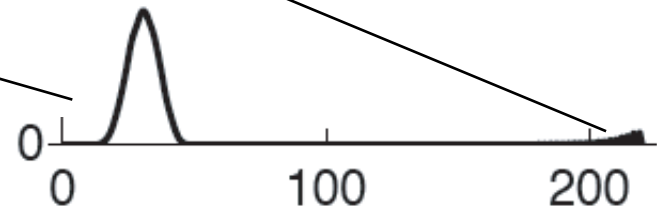


vacuum instability in contracting universe

response to perturbation of matter

$$\Lambda(t) \sim (w(t) - 1/3)^2 H^4(t) + \text{small oscillations}$$

Klinkhamer & Volovik, arXiv:0905.1919



catastrophic growth of oscillating vacuum energy & collapse

conclusion

properties of relativistic quantum vacuum as a self-sustained system

- * quantum vacuum is characterized by conserved charge q

q has Planck scale value in equilibrium

$$\varepsilon(q) \sim E_{\text{Planck}}^4$$

- * vacuum energy has Planck scale value in equilibrium
but this energy is not gravitating

$$T_{\mu\nu} = \Lambda g_{\mu\nu} \neq \varepsilon(q) g_{\mu\nu}$$

- * gravitating energy which enters Einstein equations
is thermodynamic vacuum energy

$$\Omega(q) = \varepsilon - q d\varepsilon/dq$$

$$T_{\mu\nu} = \Lambda g_{\mu\nu} = \Omega(q) g_{\mu\nu}$$

- * thermodynamic energy
of equilibrium
self-sustained vacuum

$$\Omega(q_0) = \varepsilon(q_0) - q_0 d\varepsilon/dq_0 = 0$$

- * non-equilibrium vacuum with large initial Λ relaxes with fast oscillations

- * small remnant cosmological constant may come from :
QCD, electroweak crossover, radiation/dissipation
or other minor effects at late stage of expansion,
which destroy perfect balance between vacuum and gravity

- * this is open question