



# Wald Entropy for Ghost-Free, Infinite Derivative Theories of Gravity

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(arXiv:1509.01247)  
(arXiv:1503.05568)  
18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> November 2015

# Motivation

- Study the Wald's entropy for infinite higher derivative gravity.
- Study the area law when gravity is being modified in the UV.
- Entropy of such gravity on (A)dS background.
- Study the result in the context of non-singular bouncing cosmology.

# An Old Problem!

- UV is pathological and IR is well behaved.

$$S = \frac{1}{16\pi G} \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} (R + \dots)$$

What terms shall we add so that the gravity becomes well behaved in short distances and early times?  
(While keeping the general covariance)

# Most general higher order action

$$S^{tot} = S^{EH} + S^{UV}$$
$$S^{EH} = \frac{1}{16\pi G} \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} R$$
$$S^{UV} = \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} \left[ (R^{\mu_1 \nu_1 \lambda_1 \sigma_1} \mathcal{O}_{\mu_1 \nu_1 \lambda_1 \sigma_1}^{\mu_2, \nu_2 \lambda_2 \sigma_2} R_{\mu_2, \nu_2 \lambda_2 \sigma_2}) + \dots \right]$$

○ Contains covariant operators such as D'Alembertian operator.

These corrections are expected to arise naturally in string field theory, where they are analogous to have all orders of  $\alpha'$  corrections.

E. Witten '86  
W. Siegel '01

# Simplification

- Using integration by parts, Bianchi identities and the symmetry properties of the Riemann tensor, we simplify the action to

$$S^{tot} = \frac{1}{16\pi G} \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} [R + \alpha (R\mathcal{F}_1(\square_M)R + R_{\mu\nu}\mathcal{F}_2(\square_M)R^{\mu\nu} + R_{\mu\nu\lambda\sigma}\mathcal{F}_3(\square_M)R^{\mu\nu\lambda\sigma})]$$

$\alpha$  has inverse of mass squared dimension

$$\square_M \equiv \square/M^2$$

$$\mathcal{F}_i(\square_M) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} f_{i_n}(\square_M)^n$$

# Equations of Motion

Biswas, Conroy, Koshelev, Mazumdar (2014)

$$S = \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} \left( \frac{R}{2} + R\mathcal{F}_1(\square)R + R^{\mu\nu}\mathcal{F}_2(\square)R_{\mu\nu} + C^{\mu\nu\lambda\sigma}\mathcal{F}_3(\square)C_{\mu\nu\lambda\sigma} \right)$$

$$\begin{aligned} P^{\alpha\beta} &= G^{\alpha\beta} + 4G^{\alpha\beta}\mathcal{F}_1(\square)R + g^{\alpha\beta}R\mathcal{F}_1(\square)R - 4(\nabla^\alpha\nabla^\beta - g^{\alpha\beta}\square)\mathcal{F}_1(\square)R \\ &\quad - 2\Omega_1^{\alpha\beta} + g^{\alpha\beta}(\Omega_{1\sigma}^\sigma + \bar{\Omega}_1) + 4R_\mu^\alpha\mathcal{F}_2(\square)R^{\mu\beta} \\ &\quad - g^{\alpha\beta}R_\nu^\mu\mathcal{F}_2(\square)R_\mu^\nu - 4\nabla_\mu\nabla^\beta(\mathcal{F}_2(\square)R^{\mu\alpha}) + 2\square(\mathcal{F}_2(\square)R^{\alpha\beta}) \\ &\quad + 2g^{\alpha\beta}\nabla_\mu\nabla_\nu(\mathcal{F}_2(\square)R^{\mu\nu}) - 2\Omega_2^{\alpha\beta} + g^{\alpha\beta}(\Omega_{2\sigma}^\sigma + \bar{\Omega}_2) - 4\Delta_2^{\alpha\beta} \\ &\quad - g^{\alpha\beta}C^{\mu\nu\lambda\sigma}\mathcal{F}_3(\square)C_{\mu\nu\lambda\sigma} + 4C_{\mu\nu\sigma}^\alpha\mathcal{F}_3(\square)C^{\beta\mu\nu\sigma} \\ &\quad - 4(R_{\mu\nu} + 2\nabla_\mu\nabla_\nu)(\mathcal{F}_3(\square)C^{\beta\mu\nu\alpha}) - 2\Omega_3^{\alpha\beta} + g^{\alpha\beta}(\Omega_{3\gamma}^\gamma + \bar{\Omega}_3) - 8\Delta_3^{\alpha\beta} \\ &= T^{\alpha\beta}, \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \Omega_1^{\alpha\beta} &= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} f_{1n} \sum_{l=0}^{n-1} \nabla^\alpha R^{(l)} \nabla^\beta R^{(n-l-1)}, \quad \bar{\Omega}_1 = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} f_{1n} \sum_{l=0}^{n-1} R^{(l)} R^{(n-l)}, \\ \Omega_2^{\alpha\beta} &= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} f_{2n} \sum_{l=0}^{n-1} R_\nu^{\mu;\alpha(l)} R_\mu^{\nu;\beta(n-l-1)}, \quad \bar{\Omega}_2 = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} f_{2n} \sum_{l=0}^{n-1} R_\nu^{\mu(l)} R_\mu^{\nu(n-l)}, \\ \Delta_2^{\alpha\beta} &= \frac{1}{2} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} f_{2n} \sum_{l=0}^{n-1} [R_\sigma^{\nu(l)} R^{(\beta\sigma;\alpha)(n-l-1)} - R_\sigma^{\nu;\alpha(l)} R^{\beta\sigma(n-l-1)}]_{;\nu}, \\ \Omega_3^{\alpha\beta} &= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} f_{3n} \sum_{l=0}^{n-1} C_{\nu\lambda\sigma}^{\mu;\alpha(l)} C_\mu^{\nu\lambda\sigma;\beta(n-l-1)}, \quad \bar{\Omega}_3 = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} f_{3n} \sum_{l=0}^{n-1} C_{\nu\lambda\sigma}^{\mu(l)} C_\mu^{\nu\lambda\sigma(n-l)}, \\ \Delta_3^{\alpha\beta} &= \frac{1}{2} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} f_{3n} \sum_{l=0}^{n-1} [C_{\sigma\mu}^{\lambda\nu(l)} C_\lambda^{(\beta\sigma\mu;\alpha)(n-l-1)} - C_{\sigma\mu}^{\lambda\nu;\alpha(l)} C_\lambda^{\beta\sigma\mu(n-l-1)}]_{;\nu}. \end{aligned}$$

# Linearised EoM

$$S = \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} [R + R\mathcal{F}_1(\square)R + R_{\mu\nu}\mathcal{F}_2(\square)R^{\mu\nu} + R_{\mu\nu\alpha\beta}\mathcal{F}_3(\square)R^{\mu\nu\alpha\beta}]$$

$$g^{\mu\nu} = \eta^{\mu\nu} - h^{\mu\nu} .$$

$$R_{\rho\mu\sigma\nu} = \frac{1}{2} (\partial_\sigma \partial_\mu h_{\rho\nu} + \partial_\nu \partial_\rho h_{\mu\sigma} - \partial_\nu \partial_\mu h_{\rho\sigma} - \partial_\sigma \partial_\rho h_{\mu\nu}) ,$$

$$R_{\mu\nu} = \frac{1}{2} (\partial_\sigma \partial_\mu h_\nu^\sigma + \partial_\nu \partial_\sigma h_\mu^\sigma - \partial_\nu \partial_\mu h - \square h_{\mu\nu}) ,$$

$$R = \partial_\mu \partial_\nu h^{\mu\nu} - \square h ,$$

$$\square = \eta^{\mu\nu} \partial_\mu \partial_\nu \text{ and } h = \eta^{\mu\nu} h_{\mu\nu} .$$

$$P^{\alpha\beta} = -\frac{1}{2} \left[ a(\square) \square h^{\alpha\beta} + b(\square) \partial_\sigma (\partial^\alpha h^{\sigma\beta} + \partial^\beta h^{\sigma\alpha}) + c(\square) (\partial^\alpha \partial^\beta h + \eta^{\alpha\beta} \partial_\mu \partial_\nu h^{\mu\nu}) \right. \\ \left. + d(\square) \eta^{\alpha\beta} \square h + f(\square) \square^{-1} \partial^\alpha \partial^\beta \partial_\mu \partial_\nu h^{\mu\nu} \right] ,$$

where we have defined the functions  $a, b, c, d, f$

$$a(\square) = 1 + 2\mathcal{F}_2(\square)\square + 8\mathcal{F}_3(\square)\square ,$$

$$b(\square) = -1 - 2\mathcal{F}_2(\square)\square - 8\mathcal{F}_3(\square)\square ,$$

$$c(\square) = 1 - 8\mathcal{F}_1(\square)\square - 2\mathcal{F}_2(\square)\square ,$$

$$d(\square) = -1 + 8\mathcal{F}_1(\square)\square + 2\mathcal{F}_2(\square)\square$$

$$f(\square) = 8\mathcal{F}_1(\square)\square + 4\mathcal{F}_2(\square)\square + 8\mathcal{F}_3(\square)\square .$$

# Bianchi Identities

$$a(\square)\square h_{\mu\nu} + b(\square)\partial_\sigma(\partial_\nu h_\mu^\sigma + \partial_\mu h_\nu^\sigma) + c(\square)(\eta_{\mu\nu}\partial_\rho\partial_\sigma h^{\rho\sigma} + \partial_\mu\partial_\nu h) + \eta_{\mu\nu}d(\square)\square h + f(\square)\square^{-1}\partial_\sigma\partial_\lambda\partial_\mu\partial_\nu h^{\lambda\sigma} = -2\kappa\tau_{\mu\nu} \text{ with } \kappa = M_p^{-2}$$

$$-\kappa\tau\nabla_\mu\tau_\nu^\mu = 0 = (c + d)\square\partial_\nu h + (a + b)\square h_{\nu,\mu}^\mu + (b + c + f)h_{,\alpha\beta\nu}^{\alpha\beta}$$

Which implies:

$$a + b = 0; \quad c + d = 0; \quad b + c + f = 0.$$

As long as F's are analytical functions around  $\square = 0$

We have

$$a(0) = c(0) = -b(0) = -d(0) = 1 \text{ and } f(0) = 0$$

This insures we recover GR in IR limit.



# Graviton Propagator

- Using the field equations

P. Van Nieuwenhuizen (1973)  
Talaganis, Biswas, Mazumdar (2015)

$$\Pi_{\mu\nu}^{-1\lambda\sigma} h_{\lambda\sigma} = \kappa T_{\mu\nu}$$

One obtains the graviton propagator using the spin projection operators corresponding to the spin-2, the two scalars, and the vector degree of freedom. (See Spyros Talk)

For D-dim propagator  
see (arXiv:1509.01247)

$$\Pi = \frac{P^2}{ak^2} + \frac{P_s^0}{(a-3c)k^2}$$

Assuming  $a=c$ , such that we can take the continuous limit from UV to IR

$$\lim_{k^2 \rightarrow 0} \Pi \sim \frac{1}{a(k^2)} \left[ \frac{P^2}{k^2} - \frac{P_s^0}{2k^2} \right] \rightarrow \left[ \frac{P^2}{k^2} - \frac{P_s^0}{2k^2} \right]$$

Ghost free action as no new propagating degree of freedom other than the massless graviton.

# Ghost Free Condition

- The theory will be ghost free if “a” is an entire function and “a-3c” has at most a single zero.
- Since, we do not wish to introduce any new extra degrees of freedom other than the massless graviton throughout the IR to the UV:

$$a(\square_M) = c(\square_M)$$

$$\Rightarrow 2\mathcal{F}_1(\square_M) + \mathcal{F}_2(\square_M) + 2\mathcal{F}_3(\square_M) = 0.$$

# Wald's Entropy

R. M. Wald  
V. Iyer (1993-94)

- consider a simple static, homogeneous and isotropic metric

$$ds^2 = -f(r)dt^2 + f(r)^{-1}dr^2 + r^2d\Omega^2$$

For a spherically symmetric Black hole we define the entropy as

$$S_W = -8\pi \oint \left( \frac{\delta \mathcal{L}}{\delta R_{rtrt}} \right)^{(0)} q(r) d\Omega^2$$

where we construct two normal directions along  $r$  and  $t$  with

$$\oint \equiv \oint_{r=r_H, t=\text{const}}$$

The area of the horizon:

$$\text{Area} = \oint q(r) d\Omega^2$$

Where,

$$q(r) d\Omega^2 = r^2 (d\theta^2 + \sin^2 \theta d\phi^2)$$

# Wald's Entropy

$$S^{tot} = \frac{1}{16\pi G} \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} [R + \alpha (R\mathcal{F}_1(\square_M)R + R_{\mu\nu}\mathcal{F}_2(\square_M)R^{\mu\nu} + R_{\mu\nu\lambda\sigma}\mathcal{F}_3(\square_M)R^{\mu\nu\lambda\sigma})]$$

$$S_W = \frac{\text{Area}}{4G} [1 + \alpha \{2\mathcal{F}_1(\square_M) + \mathcal{F}_2(\square_M) + 2\mathcal{F}_3(\square_M)\} R]$$

$$a(\square_M) = c(\square_M) \\ \Rightarrow 2\mathcal{F}_1(\square_M) + \mathcal{F}_2(\square_M) + 2\mathcal{F}_3(\square_M) = 0.$$

- Holographic nature of gravity remains preserved.
- Higher order corrections yield zero entropy .
- Holography is an IR effect.
- Ground state of gravity?

$$S_W = S_W^{EH} = \frac{\text{Area}}{4G}$$

# What is the entropy in the linearised limit?

- Assume that we modify the metric with two Newtonian potential such that the  $r$  and  $t$  directions take the following form

$$ds^2 = -(1 + 2\Phi(r))dt^2 + (1 - 2\Psi(r))dr^2$$

$$S_W = \frac{Area}{4G} \{1 + 2\Psi - 2\Phi + \alpha [2\mathcal{F}_1(\square_M) + \mathcal{F}_2(\square_M) + 2\mathcal{F}_3(\square_M)] (-2\Phi'')\}$$

Note that when  $\Psi = \Phi$  and  $2\mathcal{F}_1 + \mathcal{F}_2 + 2\mathcal{F}_3 = 0$ , for any source term within the linearised limit, the gravitational entropy duly reduces to that of EH entropy.

# Other scenarios?

- What if we don't consider spherically symmetric? Namely  $\Phi$  and  $\Psi$  are different?
- What if we introduce extra propagating degrees of freedom apart from the massless graviton? (Such as in  $f(R)$ -theories) (Implies "a" and "c" are not equal). This is interesting in the context of cosmological singularity.

# Black hole entropy in D-dim

- Our result can be generalised to D-dim.

$$ds^2 = -f(r)dt^2 + f(r)^{-1}dr^2 + r^2 d\Omega_{D-2}^2$$

$$A_H = \oint_{r=r_H, t=const} r^{D-2} d\Omega_{D-2}^2$$

$$S_W = -8\pi \oint_{r=r_H, t=const} \frac{\delta \mathcal{L}}{\delta R_{rtrt}} r^{D-2} d\Omega_{D-2}^2$$

$$S_W = \frac{A_H}{4G_D} \left[ 1 + \alpha(2\mathcal{F}_1(\square)R - \mathcal{F}_2(\square) \times (g^{rr} R^{tt} + g^{rr} R^{rr}) - 4\mathcal{F}_3(\square)R^{rtrt}) \right]$$

# Black hole entropy in D-dim

- We can decompose the entropy equation into (r,t) and its spherical components.

$$R = g^{\mu\nu} R_{\mu\nu} = g^{ab} R_{ab} + g^{\bar{m}\bar{n}} R_{\bar{m}\bar{n}},$$

Where the dimensions can be obtain via:

$$g^{\mu\nu} g_{\mu\nu} \equiv g^{ab} g_{ab} + g^{\bar{m}\bar{n}} g_{\bar{m}\bar{n}} = 2 + (D - 2) = D.$$

Expanding the scalar curvature into Ricci and Riemann tensors, along with the properties of the static, spherically symmetric metric

$$\begin{aligned} g^{rr} R^{tt} + g^{rr} R^{rr} &= -g_{tt} R^{tt} - g_{rr} R^{rr} = -g^{ab} R_{ab} \\ -4R_{rtrt} &= 2g^{ab} R_{ab} - 2g^{ab} g^{\bar{m}\bar{n}} R_{\bar{m}a\bar{n}b} \end{aligned}$$



# Black hole entropy in D-dim

- In a static, spherically symmetric background

$$S_W = \frac{A_H}{4G_D} [1 + \alpha(2\mathcal{F}_1(\square) + \mathcal{F}_2(\square) + 2\mathcal{F}_3(\square)) \times g^{ab} R_{ab} + 2\alpha(\mathcal{F}_1(\square)g^{\bar{m}\bar{n}} R_{\bar{m}\bar{n}} - \mathcal{F}_3(\square)g^{ab}g^{\bar{m}\bar{n}} R_{\bar{m}a\bar{n}b})].$$

The angular components of the Ricci tensor are given by

$$R_{\theta_n \theta_n} = \sin^{-2}(\theta_n) R_{\theta_{n+1} \theta_{n+1}}$$

n runs from 1 to (d-2) satisfying each angular direction.

For the given metric:

$$R_{\theta_1 \theta_1} = (D-3) - (D-3)f(r) - rf'(r) = 0$$

With solution:

$$f(r) = 1 - \frac{\mu}{r^{D-3}}$$

Considering the metric and the solution one realises Schwarzschild solution.

# Black hole entropy in D-dim

Thus, when considering a Schwarzschild solution, all  $R_{\theta_i\theta_i}$  components, will vanish. This is a consequence of the axisymmetric properties of the solution.

Therefore:

$$S_W = \frac{A_H}{4G_D} [1 + \alpha(2\mathcal{F}_1(\square) + \mathcal{F}_2(\square) + 2\mathcal{F}_3(\square)) \times g^{ab} R_{ab}]$$

Using

We recover the Area law in to all dimensions.

$$f(\square) = 0, \text{ i.e. } a(\square) = c(\square), \\ 2\mathcal{F}_1(\square) + \mathcal{F}_2(\square) + 2\mathcal{F}_3(\square) = 0$$

$$S_W = \frac{A_H}{4G_D}$$

# Black hole entropy in D-dim

- We insured that,
  1. in the context of a static, spherically symmetric metric, which asymptotes to Minkowski, the holographic nature of gravity is preserved in the IR.
  2. The higher-order corrections to the UV do not affect the gravitational entropy as long as the only propagating degrees of freedom are the massless graviton.

# D-DIMENSIONAL (A)dS ENTROPY

- The original action must be modified by the cosmological constant.

$$I^{tot} = \frac{1}{16\pi G_D} \int d^D x \sqrt{-g} [R - 2\Lambda + \alpha (R\mathcal{F}_1(\square)R + R_{\mu\nu}\mathcal{F}_2(\square)R^{\mu\nu} + R_{\mu\nu\lambda\sigma}\mathcal{F}_3(\square)R^{\mu\nu\lambda\sigma})].$$

$$\Lambda = \pm \frac{(D-1)(D-2)}{2l^2}$$

positive sign corresponds to dS, negative to AdS.

Note: hereafter, the topmost sign will refer to dS and the bottom to AdS.

# D-DIMENSIONAL (A)dS ENTROPY

- We can obtain the (A)dS metric by taking

$$f(r) = \left(1 \mp \frac{r^2}{l^2}\right)$$

Considering the entropy equation and using the definition of curvatures in (A)dS backgrounds

$$A_H^{(A)dS} \equiv l^{D-2} A_{D-2}$$

$$S_W^{(A)dS} = \frac{A_H^{(A)dS}}{4G_D} [1 + \alpha(2\mathcal{F}_1(\square) + \mathcal{F}_2(\square) + 2\mathcal{F}_3(\square)) \times g^{ab} R_{ab} + 2\alpha(\mathcal{F}_1(\square)g^{\bar{m}\bar{n}} R_{\bar{m}\bar{n}} - \mathcal{F}_3(\square)g^{ab}g^{\bar{m}\bar{n}} R_{\bar{m}a\bar{n}b})]$$

$$A_{D-2} = (2\pi^{\frac{D-1}{2}}) / \Gamma[\frac{D-1}{2}]$$

$$R_{\mu\nu\lambda\sigma} = \pm \frac{1}{l^2} g_{[\mu\lambda} g_{\nu]\sigma}, \quad R_{\mu\nu} = \pm \frac{D-1}{l^2} g_{\mu\nu}, \quad R = \pm \frac{D(D-1)}{l^2},$$

$$S_W^{(A)dS} = \frac{A_H^{(A)dS}}{4G_D} \left(1 \pm \frac{2\alpha}{l^2} \{f_{1_0} D(D-1) + f_{2_0} (D-1) + 2f_{3_0}\}\right)$$

Note that f's are now only coefficients as they are not acting on any curvature.

# 4-dim (A)dS entropy

- We note that upon using 4-dim the entropy's contribution takes the form of

$$12f_{1_0} + 3f_{2_0} + 2f_{3_0}$$

The difference from Minkowski case is due to the nature of propagator in (A)dS.

- Gauss Bonnet Gravity

$$\mathcal{L}_{GB} = \frac{\alpha}{16\pi G_D} \{R_{\mu\nu\rho\sigma}R^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} - 4R_{\mu\nu}R^{\mu\nu} + R^2\}$$

Shu (2008)

$$S = \frac{l^{D-2}A_{D-2}}{4G_D} \left(1 + \frac{\alpha D(D-2)(D-3)}{2l^2}\right)$$

Our result can be matched upon reducing the  $f$ 's to appropriate coefficients.

# NON-SINGULAR BOUNCING COSMOLOGY AND HOLOGRAPHIC ENTROPY

- The applications of seeking (A)dS gravitational entropy for an infinite derivative theory of gravity is to understand the initial conditions for the Universe.
- Non-locality in gravity solves the cosmological singularity problem, at least in the context of homogeneous and isotropic metric, such as Friedmann-Robertson-Walker (FRW) background. (T. Biswas, A. Mazumdar and W. Siegel [hep-th/0508194])

# NON-SINGULAR BOUNCING COSMOLOGY AND HOLOGRAPHIC ENTROPY

$$I_R = \frac{1}{16\pi G_4} \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} (R - 2\Lambda + \alpha R \mathcal{F}_1(\square) R)$$

$\alpha > 0$  to ensure that gravity remains ghost-free. [Conroy, Koshelev, Mazumdar \(2014\)](#)

A reduced action of this type has been studied in where it was shown in a FRW spacetime (consequently dS), that null rays can be made past-complete without violating any relevant energy conditions, thus replacing the cosmological singularity with a bounce at  $t = 0$ .

Well developed example:

$$a(\square) = e^{-\square/M^2}$$

$$\mathcal{F}_1(\square) = \frac{e^{-\square/M^2} - 1}{\square/M^2}$$



# NON-SINGULAR BOUNCING COSMOLOGY AND HOLOGRAPHIC ENTROPY

- What's the gravitational entropy at the time of bounce for a cosmological constant dominated universe?

$$S_R^{dS} = \frac{A_H^{dS}}{4G_4} \left( 1 - \frac{24\alpha}{l^2} \right)$$

## Observations:

- The entropy of a cosmological constant dominated universe is less than what we have in EH gravity.
- Upon specific choice of dimensionful  $\alpha$  the entropy vanishes entirely.

# Conclusion and future directions

- We developed our understanding for infinite derivative theory of gravity. A theory which is ghost- and singularity free.
- We obtained the entropy over (A)dS background.
- We gained some insight regarding the bouncing cosmology.
- Could our Universe have begun its journey with a zero gravitational entropy? As a zero entropy state for any system would be equivalent to realising a ground state of the system.
- In our case, it is the graviton which realises its ground state in the presence of  $\Lambda$  and non-local gravity.
- Could this lead to a new state of gravity such that our Universe would yield a condensation of gravitons, at the moment of bounce, similar to the Bose-Einstein condensate with a zero entropy state?
- Towards (A)dS / CFT?...

Thanks!