



Existence and uniqueness of solutions of the semiclassical Einstein equation in cosmological models

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Introduction



QFT vs. GR

How to describe quantum matter and gravity **interplay** (*Quantum gravity*)?

In first approximation,

- **QFT on curved spacetimes:** quantum matter field ϕ on a physical state ω propagating over fixed Lorentzian manifolds (\mathcal{M}, g)
- **Semiclassical gravity:** backreaction on the background geometry

$$G_{\mu\nu} = 8\pi G \langle :T_{\mu\nu}: \rangle_{\omega} \quad G_{\mu\nu} = R_{\mu\nu} - \frac{1}{2}g_{\mu\nu}R$$

- **Physical applications:** black hole physics (*Hawking radiation, evaporation*), cosmological models for the early Universe (*Starobinsky inflation*)



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Initial-value problem

A well-posed initial-value formulation of semiclassical gravity is requested to search for physically relevant solutions



Quantization



The quantum stress-energy tensor

How to compute $\langle :T_{\mu\nu}: \rangle_\omega$

- Stress-energy tensor of a scalar field

$$T_{\mu\nu} = \frac{1}{2} \nabla_\mu \nabla_\nu \phi^2 + \frac{1}{4} g_{\mu\nu} \square \phi^2 - \phi \nabla_\mu \nabla_\nu \phi + \frac{1}{2} g_{\mu\nu} g^{\rho\sigma} \phi \nabla_\rho \nabla_\sigma \phi + \\ + \xi (G_{\mu\nu} - \nabla_\mu \nabla_\nu - g_{\mu\nu} \square) \phi^2 - \frac{1}{2} g_{\mu\nu} m^2 \phi^2$$

- Quantum scalar field $\phi(f)$ over globally hyperbolic spacetimes (\mathcal{M}, g) :

$$\phi(Pf) = 0, \quad P = -\square + m^2 + \xi R, \quad [\phi(f_1), \phi(f_2)] = i\Delta(f_1, f_2)\mathbb{1}$$

- Hadamard point-splitting regularization $:\phi^2:$, $:\phi \nabla_\mu \nabla_\nu \phi:$, $:T_{\mu\nu}:$

$$\omega_2 \doteq \mathcal{H}_{0+} + \mathcal{W} \quad \mathcal{H}_{0+} = \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \left(\frac{U}{\sigma_\epsilon} + V \log \left(\frac{\sigma_\epsilon}{\lambda^2} \right) \right) \quad \text{Hadamard state}$$

- Renormalization freedoms

$$:\tilde{T}_{\mu\nu}: := :T_{\mu\nu}: + c_1 m^4 g_{\mu\nu} + c_2 m^2 G_{\mu\nu} + c_3 J_{\mu\nu} + c_4 J_{\mu\nu}$$

- Locality and conservation

$$\langle :T_{\mu\nu}: \rangle_\omega \doteq \lim_{x' \rightarrow x} D_{\mu\nu} (\omega_2(x, x') - H_{0+}(x, x')) \quad \text{locally covariant}$$

$$\nabla^\mu \langle :T_{\mu\nu}: \rangle_\omega = 0 \quad \text{covariantly conserved}$$



Semiclassical Einstein Equation on cosmological spacetimes



Semiclassical Einstein equations in cosmological models (1/2)

Cosmological spacetime

- **Friedmann-Lemaître-Robertson-Walker metric** (\mathcal{M}, g) , where $\mathcal{M} = I_t \times \Sigma$

$$g = -dt \otimes dt + a(t)^2 \sum_{i=1}^3 dx^i \otimes dx^i$$

- t **cosmological time**
- $a(t)$ **scale factor** describes the history of the Universe
- $H(t) = \frac{1}{a} \frac{da}{dt}$ the **Hubble function**
- $d\tau = a^{-1} dt$ **conformal time** such that $g = a^2 \eta$, $\eta = (-1, 1, 1, 1)$

Classical model for the matter

- **Matter as perfect fluid** $T_{\mu}^{\nu} = \text{diag}(-\varrho, p, p, p)$
- **Equation of state** $p = w\varrho$, where $w = 0, 1/3, -1$ for ordinary matter, radiation and dark energy due to a cosmological constant Λ .
- **Friedmann equations**

$$H^2 = \frac{8\pi G}{3} \varrho + \frac{\Lambda}{3}, \quad \frac{\ddot{a}}{a} = -\frac{4\pi G}{3} (\varrho + 3p) + \frac{\Lambda}{3}$$

From now, $\Lambda = 0$.



Semiclassical cosmological model

- Semiclassical equations

$$-R = 8\pi G \langle :T: \rangle_\omega \quad \nabla^\mu \langle :T_{\mu\nu}: \rangle_\omega = 0$$

- The initial condition is the validity of the **energy constraint** at the initial time

$$H_0^2 = \frac{8\pi G}{3} \langle :g_{00}: \rangle_\omega$$

- Since the state is not a local object, the semiclassical equations are **non-local**
- **Initial-value formulation** for the FLRW spacetime (\mathcal{M}, g) and the free quantum matter field (ϕ, ω) with initial data $(a_0, a'_0, a''_0, a_0^{(3)})$

$$\begin{cases} -R = 8\pi G \langle :T: \rangle_\omega \\ G_{00}(\tau_0) = 8\pi G \langle :T_{00}: \rangle_\omega(\tau_0) \\ \nabla^\mu \langle :T_{\mu\nu}: \rangle_\omega = 0 \quad \checkmark \end{cases}$$

- We look for **existence and uniqueness** of solutions of that system in case of **non-conformal coupling**, namely for $\xi \neq \frac{1}{6}$.



Energy constraint



Quantum state for FLRW spacetimes (1/3)

First step

Fix a **regular state** ω at $\tau = \tau_0$ which fulfils the initial energy constraint

$$G_{00}(\tau_0) = 8\pi G \langle :T_{00}: \rangle_{\omega}(\tau_0)$$

- **Vacuum-like state:** quasi-free, pure, homogeneous and isotropic

$$\omega_2(x, y) = \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{1}{(2\pi)^3} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \frac{\bar{\zeta}_k(\tau_x)}{a(\tau_x)} \frac{\zeta_k(\tau_y)}{a(\tau_y)} e^{i\vec{k} \cdot (\vec{x} - \vec{y})} e^{-\epsilon k} d\vec{k} \quad k \doteq |\vec{k}|$$

- **Temporal modes** $\zeta_k(\tau)$

$$\zeta_k''(\tau) + \Omega_k^2(\tau) \zeta_k(\tau) = 0 \quad \Omega_k = \sqrt{k^2 + w(\tau)}$$

with the potential $w(\tau) = a^2 m^2 + (\xi - 1/6) a^2 R > 0$.

- **Conformal vacuum state** ω^c : a solution $\chi_k(\tau)$ can be constructed as convergent Dyson series using a **perturbative potential** $V(\tau) = w(\tau) - w(\tau_0)$ with respect to the initial conditions

$$\chi_k(\tau_0) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2k_0}} e^{ik_0\tau_0} \quad \chi_k'(\tau_0) = \frac{ik_0}{\sqrt{2k_0}} e^{ik_0\tau_0} \quad k_0^2 \doteq \Omega_k^2(\tau = \tau_0).$$



Quantum state for FLRW spacetimes (2/3)

- **Point-splitting regularization mode-wise** for $\langle:\phi^2:\rangle_\omega$ and $\langle:T_{00}:\rangle_\omega$

$$\langle:\phi^2:\rangle_\omega = \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{1}{(2\pi)^3 a^2} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \left(|\zeta_k|^2 - C_{\phi^2}^{\mathcal{H}}(\tau, k) \right) e^{-\epsilon k} d\vec{k} + \text{rest}$$

$$\langle:T_{00}:\rangle_\omega = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^3 a^4} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \left(\varrho_k[\zeta_k, \zeta'_k] - C_{\varrho}^{\mathcal{H}}(\tau, k) \right) d\vec{k} + \text{rest}$$

Functions $C_{\phi^2}^{\mathcal{H}}, C_{\varrho}^{\mathcal{H}}$ and rests depend up to $a^{(3)}(\tau)$ ▶ point-splitting

- ω^c gives a finite $\langle:\phi^2:\rangle_{\omega^c} \in C^0([\tau_0, \tau_1])$, but it is **not regular** enough for $\xi \neq 1/6$ to compute $\partial_\tau \langle:\phi^2:\rangle_\omega$ and $\langle:T_{00}:\rangle_\omega$
- Changing the initial conditions of χ_k corresponds to change the state with a **Bogoliubov transformation**

$$\zeta_k(\tau) = A_k \chi_k(\tau) + B_k \bar{\chi}_k(\tau)$$

- Coefficients A_k, B_k are fixed by the **initial data** and can be chosen sufficiently regular to construct other states



Regular states

- Modes ζ_k define a **regular state** ω if at $\tau = \tau_0$

$$|\zeta_k^2(\tau)| - C_{\phi^2}^{\mathcal{H}}(\tau, k), \quad \frac{d}{d\tau} \left[|\zeta_k^2(\tau) - C_{\phi^2}^{\mathcal{H}}(\tau, k) \right], \quad \varrho_k[\zeta_k, \zeta'_k] - C_{\varrho}^{\mathcal{H}}(\tau, k) \in L^1(k^2 dk)$$

and

$$\langle :\phi^2: \rangle_{\omega} \in C^2([\tau_0, \tau_1]) \quad \langle :T_{00}: \rangle_{\omega} \in C^0([\tau_0, \tau_1])$$

- **Examples:** Parker's fourth-order adiabatic states (*Phys.Rev.D* 36, 2963), instantaneous vacuum state (*Phys.Rev.D* 91, 064051), Olbermann states of low energy (*Class. Quantum Grav.* 24), ...



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- **Examples:** Parker's fourth-order adiabatic states (*Phys.Rev.D* 36, 2963), instantaneous vacuum state (*Phys.Rev.D* 91, 064051), Olbermann states of low energy (*Class. Quantum Grav.* 24), ...

Proposition

Given the initial data $(a_0, a'_0, a''_0, a_0^{(3)})$, it is always possible to select initial conditions that fix the regular state ω in such a way that the **energy constraint**

$$G_{00} = 8\pi G \langle : T_{00} : \rangle_{\omega}$$

is satisfied at $\tau = \tau_0$.

From now, the quantum state ω will be considered fixed once and for all



The traced semiclassical Einstein equation



Second step

Solving the **traced semiclassical Einstein equation**: $-R = 8\pi G \langle :T: \rangle_\omega$

$$\langle :T: \rangle_\omega = \left(3 \left(\xi - \frac{1}{6} \right) \square - m^2 \right) \langle :\phi^2: \rangle_\omega + T_A + \beta_1 m^4 + \beta_2 m^2 R + \beta_3 \square R.$$

- **State-dependent contribution:**

$$\langle :\phi^2: \rangle_\omega = \lim_{x' \rightarrow x} (\omega_2(x, x') - \mathcal{H}_{0+}(x, x')) = \mathcal{W}(x, x)$$

- **Trace anomaly** arising because \mathcal{H} is not solution of the equation of motion:

$$T_A = \frac{1}{4\pi^2} \left(\frac{(6\xi - 1)^2 R^2}{288} + \frac{R_{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} R^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} - R_{\mu\nu} R^{\mu\nu}}{720} \right) \quad \text{up to ren. fr.}$$

- **Renormalization constants:**

$$\beta_1 \Rightarrow \Lambda \quad \beta_2 \Rightarrow G \quad \beta_3 \Rightarrow \text{Quantum freedom}$$

- **Non-classical dynamics:**

1. $\square \langle :\phi^2: \rangle_\omega$ and $\square R$ contain **higher order derivatives** of $a(\tau)$ than the second
2. $\square \langle :\phi^2: \rangle_\omega$ is highly **non-local functional** of $a(\tau)$



- We shall rewrite this semiclassical equation as a **system of equations**

$$\begin{cases} (-\square + M_c)F = S \\ \langle :\phi^2: \rangle_\omega - c_\xi R = F \end{cases}$$

where $M_c \propto m^2$, $c_\xi \propto \beta_3$ and the source function

$$S \doteq \frac{1}{3(\xi - 1/6)} \left(\beta_1 m^4 + \frac{R}{8\pi G} + \beta_2 m^2 R + \beta_3 M_c R + T_A \right)$$

depends on the derivatives of $a(\tau)$ up to the **second order**

- In case of **FLRW**,

$$\begin{cases} P_c F = S \\ \langle :\phi^2: \rangle_\omega - c_\xi R = F \end{cases} \quad P_c \doteq \frac{1}{a^3(\tau)} \left(\partial_\tau^2 + a^2(\tau) M_c - \frac{1}{6} a^2(\tau) R \right) a(\tau)$$

- The initial data $(F, F')(\tau_0) = (F_0, F'_0)$ for the function $F(a, R)$ are constructed out to the initial data of the geometry $(a_0, a'_0, a''_0, a_0^{(3)})$ and the regular state ω
- There exist a **unique solution** $F(a, r)$ in the finite interval $[\tau_0, \tau_1]$ which depends continuously on the initial data.
- Estimates for the solution can be obtained using the **Grönwall lemma** or constructing the **retarded operator** Δ_c^R related to P_c



New semiclassical equation

- The traced semiclassical Einstein equation is reduced to

$$\langle : \phi^2 : \rangle_\omega = \mathfrak{G} \quad \mathfrak{G} \doteq c_\xi R + F(a, R)$$

where $F(a, R)$ is the unique solution constructed previously

- We shall study its **time derivative**

$$\partial_\tau (a^2 (\langle : \phi^2 : \rangle_\omega - c_\xi R - F(a, R))) = 0.$$

in order to be able to impose the initial data $a^{(3)}(\tau_0) = a_0^{(3)}$

- Prove that $\partial_\tau (a^2 (\langle : \phi^2 : \rangle_\omega - c_\xi R - F(a, R))) = 0$ is a **fixed point equation**

$$X' = \mathcal{C}[X'] \quad X \doteq \frac{1}{6} a^2 R = \frac{a''}{a}$$

- Construct a **contraction map** $\mathcal{C} : \mathcal{B}_\delta \subset C([\tau_0, \tau_1]) \rightarrow \mathcal{B}_\delta$ on the closed ball

$$\mathcal{B}_\delta \doteq \{X' \in C([\tau_0, \tau_1]) \mid X'(\tau_0) = X'_0\} \quad \delta > 0$$

equipped with the uniform norm $\|\cdot\|_\infty$, when $\tau_1 - \tau_0$ is sufficiently small

- The existence and uniqueness of a solution is consequence of the **Banach fixed point theorem**



The unbounded operator in the state contribution

The source of the regularity issues

- The analysis of $\partial_\tau (a^2 \langle : \phi^2 : \rangle_\omega)$ yields that the semiclassical equation has the form

$$\mathcal{T}_{\tau_0}[V'] = h \quad V = m^2 (a^2 - a_0^2) + (\xi - 1/6) \left(\frac{a''}{a} - \frac{a_0''}{a_0} \right).$$

where h is a combination of functions and functionals of V

$$\mathcal{T}_{\tau_0}[f] \doteq -\frac{1}{8\pi^2} \int_{\tau_0}^{\tau} f'(\eta) \log(\tau - \eta) d\eta \quad f \in C^1([\tau_0, \tau]).$$

1. **Retarded operator:** \mathcal{T}_{τ_0} depends on $[\tau_0, \tau]$
2. **Higher-order derivative:** \mathcal{T}_{τ_0} acts on V'' , which contains $a^{(4)}$.
3. **Unbounded operator:** one can prove that $\|\mathcal{T}_{\tau_0}[f]\|_\infty \not\leq C\|f\|_\infty$
4. **Generality:** \mathcal{T}_{τ_0} does not depend on the details of the state

- A way to overcome this problem is to study an **inversion formula** for $\mathcal{T}_{\tau_0}[f] = h$ and to prove the continuity of the associated inverse operator $\mathcal{T}_{\tau_0}^{-1}[h]$



Properties of $\mathcal{T}_{\tau_0}^{-1}$

- The inversion formula for $h = \mathcal{T}_{\tau_0}[f]$, $f \in C^1([\tau_0, \tau_1])$ is

$$f(\tau) = f(\tau_0) + \int_{\tau_0}^{\tau} K(\tau - \eta)h(\eta)d\eta$$

where the kernel K is obtained by the **inverse Laplace transform** and yields

$$K(x) \doteq \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{\alpha - i\infty}^{\alpha + i\infty} e^{sx} \frac{8\pi^2}{\gamma + \log s} ds, \quad \alpha > e^{-\gamma}, \quad \gamma : \text{Euler-Mascheroni constant}$$

- The inverse operator $\mathcal{T}_{\tau_0}^{-1}[h]$ is continuous on $C([\tau_0, \tau])$:

$$\|\mathcal{T}_{\tau_0}^{-1}[h]\|_{\infty} \leq \left(\int_{\tau_0}^{\tau} |K(\tau - \eta)| d\eta \right) \|h\|_{\infty} \leq C_{\infty} \|f\|_{\infty}.$$

- The constant C_{∞} depends continuously on $\tau - \tau_0$ and **vanishes for** $\tau \rightarrow \tau_0$
- It is a **retarded operator**, so causality is respected

$\mathcal{T}_{\tau_0}^{-1}$ can play the role of **contraction map** in the **semiclassical equation**: adopting the inversion formula, equation $\mathcal{T}_{\tau_0}[V'] = h$ can be written as

$$V' = V'_0 + \mathcal{T}_{\tau_0}^{-1}[h]$$



Existence and uniqueness of solutions of local mild solutions (1/2)

The semiclassical equation becomes a fixed point equation

$$X' = C[X'] \quad C[X'] \doteq X'_0 - \frac{2m^2}{(6\xi - 1)}(aa' - a_0a'_0) - \frac{1}{(6\xi - 1)}\mathcal{T}_{\tau_0}^{-1}[h]$$

Proposition

Fix $\delta > 0$ and let \mathcal{B}_δ the closed ball in the Banach space $C([\tau_0, \tau_1])$ with finite $\tau_1 > \tau_0$, centred in X'_0 . For τ_1 sufficiently small, the map $C : \mathcal{B}_\delta \subset C([\tau_0, \tau_1]) \rightarrow \mathcal{B}_\delta$ is a **contraction** on \mathcal{B}_δ , namely there exists $C \in (0, 1)$ such that

$$\|C[X'] - X'_0\|_\infty \leq \delta, \quad \|C[X'_2] - C[X'_1]\|_\infty = C\|X'_2 - X'_1\|_\infty$$

Hence, there exists a **unique fixed point** of the equation $X' = C[X']$ in \mathcal{B}_δ .

▶ details



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[▶ details](#)

Theorem

Given some initial data $(a_0, a'_0, a''_0, a_0^{(3)})$ at $\tau = \tau_0$ and a regular quasi-free compatible state ω , there exists a non-empty interval $[\tau_0, \tau_1]$ and a closed ball \mathcal{B}_δ such that a **unique mild solution** of $X' = C[X']$ exists



Conclusions



- Solving the semiclassical Einstein equation in FLRW spacetimes means to apply the **Banach fixed-point theorem** and construct a contraction map
- When higher-order derivatives terms are involved, the proof is achieved after rewriting the semiclassical equation in a **new non-standard form**
- Looking for **numerical algorithms** to find approximate solutions

Open questions

- Existence and uniqueness of **strong solutions** and **global solutions**
- Implications on cosmological models (inflation)
- Can this analysis be applied to **other spacetimes**?



References

- *Utiyama & DeWitt (1962), Starobinski (1980), Anderson (1983)*
- *Pinamonti (2011), Pinamonti & Siemssen (2015)*
- *Gottschalk & Siemssen (2018)*

Thanks for the attention!



Expectation values of $\langle \phi^2 \rangle$ and $\langle T_{00} \rangle$:

Point-splitting regularization mode-wise

$$\begin{aligned}\langle \phi^2 \rangle_\omega &= \frac{1}{(2\pi)^3 a^2} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} (|\zeta_k|^2 - C_{\phi^2}^{\mathcal{H}}(\tau, k)) d\vec{k} + \frac{w(\tau)^2}{8\pi^2 a^2} \log\left(\frac{w(\tau_0)}{a(\tau)}\right) - \frac{w(\tau_0)^2}{16\pi^2 a^2} + \alpha_1 m^2 + \alpha_2 R(\tau) \\ \langle T_{00} \rangle_\omega &= \frac{1}{(2\pi)^3 a^4} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \left(\frac{|\zeta'_k|^2}{2} + (k^2 + a^2 m^2 - (6\xi - 1) a^2 H^2) \frac{|\zeta_k|^2}{2} + aH(6\xi - 1) 2\text{Re}(\bar{\zeta}_k \zeta'_k) - C_{\phi^2}^{\mathcal{H}}(\tau, k) \right) d\vec{k} \\ &\quad - \frac{H^4}{960\pi^2} + \left(\xi - \frac{1}{6}\right)^2 \frac{3H^2 R}{8\pi^2} + k_1 m^4 + k_2 m^2 G_{00} + k_3 l_{00}\end{aligned}$$

Point-splitting functions

$$\begin{aligned}C_{\phi^2}^{\mathcal{H}}(\tau, k) &\doteq \frac{1}{2k_0} - \frac{V(\tau)}{4k_0^3}, \\ C_{\phi^2}^{\mathcal{H}}(\tau, k) &\doteq \frac{k}{2} + \frac{a^2 m^2 - a^2 H^2 (6\xi - 1)}{4k} - \frac{a^4 m^4 + 12\left(\xi - \frac{1}{6}\right) m^2 a^4 H^2 - a^4 \left(\xi - \frac{1}{6}\right)^2 2l_{00}(\tau)}{16k(k^2 + \frac{a^2}{\lambda^2})}\end{aligned}$$

References

J. Schlemmer (*PhD Thesis*), A. Degner (*PhD Thesis*), T.P. Hack (*arXiv:1306.3074s*),
D. Siemssen (*arXiv:1503.01826*)



Details about the contraction map \mathcal{C}

Functional derivative

- Given a functional $\mathcal{F} : \mathcal{D} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$ in a Banach space \mathcal{D} , \mathcal{F} is **Gateaux differentiable** at $V \in \mathcal{D}$ if there exists the **functional (or Gateaux) derivative**

$$\delta\mathcal{F}[V, W] \doteq \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{\mathcal{F}[V + \epsilon W] - \mathcal{F}[V]}{\epsilon} \quad \forall W \in \mathcal{D}$$

- If $\delta\mathcal{F}$ is (uniformly) continuous in V for every W , then \mathcal{F} is **locally Lipschitz**

$$\|\delta\mathcal{F}[V, W]\|_{\mathcal{D}} \leq C\|W\|_{\mathcal{D}} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \|\mathcal{F}[V] - \mathcal{F}[W]\|_{\mathcal{D}} \leq C\|V - W\|_{\mathcal{D}}$$

Strategy of the proof

- \mathcal{C} is a linear combination of compositions of functions or functionals of a , V and X which are **continuous** and have continuous functional derivative with respect to X .
- Fixed the initial data, X is **uniquely** assigned from X' by

$$X(\tau) = X_0 + \int_{\tau_0}^{\tau} X'(\eta) d\eta$$

and determines a unique **FLRW spacetime** $(\mathcal{M}, g[X])$ with the scale factor $a[X](\tau)$ constructed as the unique solution of $a'' = Xa$

- The proof follows from the continuity of $\mathcal{T}_{\tau_0}^{-1}$ and from the property of C_{∞}

