

# On the consistency of universally non-minimally coupled $f(R, T, R_{\mu\nu}T^{\mu\nu})$ theories

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Based on: [arXiv:1411.1636](https://arxiv.org/abs/1411.1636) [hep-th]

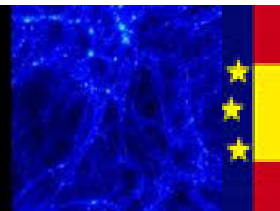
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**MultiDark**  
Multimessenger Approach  
for Dark Matter Detection



# Outline

## 1. Introduction

- Motivation

## 2. Recently developed theory

- The Multi-Scalar representation
- Conformal transformation in these theories

## 3. Dependence with the Lagrangian matter

- Canonical Scalar Field
- Vector Fields

## 4. Particular models for scalar field

## 5. Conclusions

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# Why these theories?

- Possible extensions of Einsteinian gravity resides in the coupling of gravity and matters fields → possibility of non-minimal coupling in cosmological scales.

But... are all models possible?

No. We need criteria which aims to guarantee the absence of instabilities.

$$S = \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} [f(R, T, R_{\mu\nu} T^{\mu\nu}) + \mathcal{L}_m(g_{\mu\nu}, \Psi)]$$

Example of instability:

Ostrogradski:

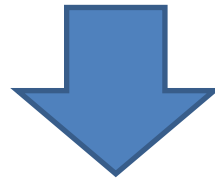
It is that there is a linear instability in the Hamiltonian associated with Lagrangians which depend upon more than one time derivative in such a way that the dependence cannot be eliminated by partial integration.

M. Ostrogradski, Mem. Ac. St. Petersbourg VI 4, 385 (1850)

# How can we avoid the presence of Ostrogradski instability?

Requiring the Euler-Lagrange equations to be second order.

C. Deffayet, G. Esposito-Farese, A. Vikman, Phys. Rev. D **79**, 084003 (2009) [arXiv:0901.1314]



G. W. Horndeski, Int. J. Theor. Phys. **10** (1974) 363-384

A first great leap: the **Horndeski's theorem**.

$$\mathcal{L}_2 = K(\phi, X)$$

$$\mathcal{L}_3 = G_3(\phi, X)\square\phi$$

$$\mathcal{L}_4 = G_4(\phi, X)R - G_{4,X}(\phi, X)\left[(\square\phi)^2 - (\nabla_\mu\nabla_\nu\phi)^2\right]$$

$$\mathcal{L}_5 = G_5(\phi, X)G_{\mu\nu}\nabla^\mu\nabla^\nu\phi + \frac{1}{6}G_{5,X}(\phi, X)\left[(\square\phi)^3 - 3(\square\phi)(\nabla_\mu\nabla_\nu\phi)^2 + 2(\nabla_\mu\nabla_\nu\phi)^3\right]$$

$$X \equiv \frac{1}{2}\partial_\mu\phi\partial^\mu\phi$$

✓ **f(R) case**: avoid the Ostrogradski instability through a conformal transformation and not with the Horndeski's theorem.

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# Recently developed theory :

$$S = \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} \left[ f(R, T, R_{\mu\nu} T^{\mu\nu}) + \mathcal{L}_m(g_{\mu\nu}, \Psi) \right]$$

Z. Haghani, T. Harko, F. S. N. Lobo, H. R. Sepangi and S. Shahidi, *Phys. Rev. D* **88** (2013) 4, 044023 [arXiv:1304.5957 [gr-qc]]

S. D. Odintsov and D. Sáez-Gómez, *Phys. Lett. B* **725** (2013) 437 [arXiv:1304.5411 [gr-qc]].

# Recently developed theory :

$$S = \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} \left[ f(R, T, R_{\mu\nu} T^{\mu\nu}) + \mathcal{L}_m(g_{\mu\nu}, \Psi) \right]$$

Multi-scalar representation  $\chi_1 = R$   $\chi_2 = T$   $\chi_3 = R_{\mu\nu} T^{\mu\nu}$

$$S = \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} \left[ f(\chi_1, \chi_2, \chi_3) + \sum_{i=1}^3 f_{\chi_i} (P_i - \chi_i) + \mathcal{L}_m \right]$$

Condition: the determinant  $\frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial \chi_i \partial \chi_j}$  is non zero.  $\varphi_i = -f_{\chi_i}$

$$S = \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} \left[ \mathcal{U}(\varphi_1, \varphi_2, \varphi_3) - \varphi_1 R - \varphi_2 T - \varphi_3 R_{\mu\nu} T^{\mu\nu} + \mathcal{L}_m \right]$$



An useful tool: the **conformal transformation**

$$g_{\mu\nu} = e^{2\Omega} \tilde{g}_{\mu\nu}$$

$$\rightarrow R_{\mu\nu} = \tilde{R}_{\mu\nu} - 2\tilde{\nabla}_\mu \tilde{\nabla}_\nu \Omega + 2\tilde{\nabla}_\mu \Omega \tilde{\nabla}_\nu \Omega - (2\tilde{g}^{\alpha\beta} \partial_\alpha \Omega \partial_\beta \Omega + \tilde{\square} \Omega) \tilde{g}_{\mu\nu}$$

$$\rightarrow R = e^{-2\Omega} \left( \tilde{R} - 6\tilde{g}^{\alpha\beta} \partial_\alpha \Omega \partial_\beta \Omega - 6\tilde{\square} \Omega \right)$$

$$\rightarrow \tilde{T}_{\mu\nu} = e^{2\Omega} T_{\mu\nu}$$

## An useful tool: the conformal transformation

$$g_{\mu\nu} = e^{2\Omega} \tilde{g}_{\mu\nu}$$

$$\rightarrow R_{\mu\nu} = \tilde{R}_{\mu\nu} - 2\tilde{\nabla}_\mu \tilde{\nabla}_\nu \Omega + 2\tilde{\nabla}_\mu \Omega \tilde{\nabla}_\nu \Omega - (2\tilde{g}^{\alpha\beta} \partial_\alpha \Omega \partial_\beta \Omega + \tilde{\square} \Omega) \tilde{g}_{\mu\nu}$$

$$\rightarrow R = e^{-2\Omega} \left( \tilde{R} - 6\tilde{g}^{\alpha\beta} \partial_\alpha \Omega \partial_\beta \Omega - 6\tilde{\square} \Omega \right)$$

$$\rightarrow \tilde{T}_{\mu\nu} = e^{2\Omega} T_{\mu\nu}$$

The result for  $\Omega = \log \frac{1}{\sqrt{16\pi G \varphi_1}}$  Minimal coupling

$$S = \int d^4x \sqrt{-\tilde{g}} \left\{ e^{4\Omega} \mathcal{U}(\Omega, \varphi_2, \varphi_3) - \frac{1}{16\pi G} \left( \tilde{R} - 6\tilde{g}^{\alpha\beta} \partial_\alpha \Omega \partial_\beta \Omega \right) - \varphi_2 \tilde{T} \right. \\ \left. - e^{-2\Omega} \varphi_3 \left[ \tilde{R}_{\mu\nu} - 2\tilde{\nabla}_\mu \tilde{\nabla}_\nu \Omega + 2\tilde{\nabla}_\mu \Omega \tilde{\nabla}_\nu \Omega - (2\tilde{g}^{\alpha\beta} \partial_\alpha \Omega \partial_\beta \Omega + \tilde{\square} \Omega) \tilde{g}_{\mu\nu} \right] \tilde{T}^{\mu\nu} \right. \\ \left. + e^{4\Omega} \mathcal{L}_m(e^{2\Omega} \tilde{g}_{\mu\nu}, \Psi) \right\}$$

# Potentially problematic terms

## Problem!

Non-minimal coupling of the Ricci tensor to the energy-momentum tensor

For a fixed curved background, this coupling will modify the kinetic term  $\rightarrow$  could turn into a ghost.

For dynamical gravitational fields, this will introduce additional propagating degrees of freedom  $\rightarrow$  Ostrogradski instability.

$$\begin{aligned}
 S = & \int d^4x \sqrt{-\tilde{g}} \left\{ \hat{U}(\Omega, \tilde{T}, \varphi_3) - \frac{1}{16\pi G} \left( \tilde{R} - 6\tilde{g}^{\alpha\beta} \partial_\alpha \Omega \partial_\beta \Omega \right) \right. \\
 & - e^{-2\Omega} \varphi_3 \left[ \tilde{R}_{\mu\nu} \tilde{T}^{\mu\nu} - \left( 2\tilde{T}^{\mu\nu} + \tilde{T} \tilde{g}^{\mu\nu} \right) \tilde{\nabla}_\mu \tilde{\nabla}_\nu \Omega + 2 \left( \tilde{T}^{\mu\nu} - \tilde{T} \tilde{g}^{\mu\nu} \right) \tilde{\nabla}_\mu \Omega \tilde{\nabla}_\nu \Omega \right] \\
 & \left. + e^{4\Omega} \mathcal{L}_m(e^{2\Omega} \tilde{g}_{\mu\nu}, \Psi) \right\}
 \end{aligned}$$

## Problem!

It contains first derivatives of the matter fields so it will lead to higher-order equations of motion and the propagation of additional degrees of freedom  $\rightarrow$  Ostrogradski instability

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# CANONICAL SCALAR FIELD

$$\mathcal{L}_m = \mathcal{L}_\phi = \frac{1}{2} \partial_\mu \phi \partial^\mu \phi - V(\phi)$$

$$T_{\mu\nu} = \partial_\mu \phi \partial_\nu \phi - g_{\mu\nu} \mathcal{L}_\phi$$

$$T = -(\partial\phi)^2 + 4V(\phi)$$

$$R_{\mu\nu} T^{\mu\nu} = G_{\mu\nu} \partial^\mu \phi \partial^\nu \phi + R V(\phi)$$

→ With **Horndeski**:

$$S = \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} \left[ (c_1 + c_2 V(\phi)) R + \frac{1}{2} (g^{\mu\nu} + c_2 G^{\mu\nu}) \partial_\mu \phi \partial_\nu \phi - V(\phi) + f(T) \right]$$

→ With **Multiscalar-tensor** representation:

$$S = \int d^4x \sqrt{-\tilde{g}} \left\{ \hat{U}(\Omega, \tilde{T}, \varphi_3) - \frac{1}{16\pi G} [\tilde{R} - 6(\partial\Omega)^2] - \varphi_3 \left[ \tilde{G}^{\mu\nu} \partial_\mu \phi \partial_\nu \phi + 2(\partial_\mu \Omega \partial^\mu \phi)^2 + (\partial\Omega)^2 (\partial\phi)^2 + 2(\tilde{g}^{\mu\nu} (\partial\phi)^2 - \partial^\mu \phi \partial^\nu \phi) \tilde{\nabla}_\mu \tilde{\nabla}_\nu \Omega \right] \right\}$$

# CANONICAL SCALAR FIELD

$$\mathcal{L}_m = \mathcal{L}_\phi = \frac{1}{2} \partial_\mu \phi \partial^\mu \phi - V(\phi)$$

$$T_{\mu\nu} = \partial_\mu \phi \partial_\nu \phi - g_{\mu\nu} \mathcal{L}_\phi$$

$$T = -(\partial\phi)^2 + 4V(\phi)$$

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→ With **Horndeski**:

$$S = \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} \left[ (c_1 + c_2 V(\phi)) R + \frac{1}{2} (g^{\mu\nu} + c_2 G^{\mu\nu}) \partial_\mu \phi \partial_\nu \phi - V(\phi) + f(T) \right]$$

→ With **Multiscalar-tensor** representation:

$$S = \int d^4x \sqrt{-\tilde{g}} \left\{ \hat{U}(\Omega, \tilde{T}, \varphi_3) - \frac{1}{16\pi G} \left[ \tilde{R} - 6(\partial\Omega)^2 \right] - \alpha \left[ \tilde{G}^{\mu\nu} \partial_\mu \phi \partial_\nu \phi + 2(\partial_\mu \Omega \partial^\mu \phi)^2 + (\partial\Omega)^2 (\partial\phi)^2 + 2(\tilde{g}^{\mu\nu} (\partial\phi)^2 - \partial^\mu \phi \partial^\nu \phi) \tilde{\nabla}_\mu \tilde{\nabla}_\nu \Omega \right] \right\}$$

# VECTORS FIELDS

$$\mathcal{L}_m = -\frac{1}{4}F_{\mu\nu}F^{\mu\nu} + \frac{1}{2}M^2 A^2$$

$$T_{\mu\nu} = -F_{\mu\alpha}F_{\nu}{}^{\alpha} + \frac{1}{4}g_{\mu\nu}F^2 - \frac{M^2}{2}g_{\mu\nu}A^2 + M^2 A_{\mu}A_{\nu}$$

$$T = -M^2 A^2$$

$$R_{\mu\nu}T^{\mu\nu} = \frac{1}{4}\left(RF_{\mu\nu}F^{\mu\nu} - 4R_{\mu\nu}F^{\mu\alpha}F^{\nu}{}_{\alpha}\right) + M^2 G_{\mu\nu}A^{\mu}A^{\nu}$$

→ Don't have the Horndeski's terms

→ Multi-scalar representation:

Almost Horndeski term

$$S = \int d^4x \sqrt{-\tilde{g}} \left\{ e^{4\Omega} \hat{\mathcal{U}} - \frac{1}{16\pi G} \left[ \tilde{R} - 6(\partial\Omega)^2 \right] - \varphi_3 M^2 \tilde{G}^{\mu\nu} A_{\mu} A_{\nu} - \varphi_3 e^{-2\Omega} \left( \frac{1}{4} \tilde{F}^2 \tilde{R} - \tilde{R}_{\mu\nu} \tilde{F}^{\mu\alpha} \tilde{F}^{\nu}{}_{\alpha} \right) \right. \\ \left. + 2\varphi_3 \left[ e^{-2\Omega} \left( \frac{1}{4} \tilde{F}^2 \tilde{g}^{\mu\nu} - \tilde{F}^{\mu\alpha} \tilde{F}^{\nu}{}_{\alpha} \right) - M^2 \left( \tilde{A}^2 \tilde{g}^{\mu\nu} - \tilde{A}^{\mu} \tilde{A}^{\nu} \right) \right] \tilde{\nabla}_{\mu} \tilde{\nabla}_{\nu} \Omega \right. \\ \left. - 2\varphi_3 \left[ e^{-2\Omega} \left( \frac{1}{4} \tilde{F}^2 \tilde{g}^{\mu\nu} - \tilde{F}^{\mu\alpha} \tilde{F}^{\nu}{}_{\alpha} \right) + M^2 \left( \tilde{A}^2 \tilde{g}^{\mu\nu} + \tilde{A}^{\mu} \tilde{A}^{\nu} \right) \right] \tilde{\nabla}_{\mu} \Omega \tilde{\nabla}_{\nu} \Omega + e^{4\Omega} \mathcal{L}_m \left( e^{2\Omega} \tilde{g}_{\mu\nu}, \tilde{A} \right) \right\}$$

# VECTORS FIELDS

Direct coupling of vector fields with the scalar curvature.  
The coupling through the Einstein tensor guarantees the absence of an extra mode

Almost Horndeski term

$$\begin{aligned}
 S = & \int d^4x \sqrt{-\tilde{g}} \left\{ e^{4\Omega} \hat{\mathcal{U}} - \frac{1}{16\pi G} \left[ \tilde{R} - 6(\partial\Omega)^2 \right] - \varphi_3 M^2 \tilde{G}^{\mu\nu} A_\mu A_\nu - \varphi_3 e^{-2\Omega} \left( \frac{1}{4} \tilde{F}^2 \tilde{R} - \tilde{R}_{\mu\nu} \tilde{F}^{\mu\alpha} \tilde{F}^\nu{}_\alpha \right) \right. \\
 & + 2\varphi_3 \left[ e^{-2\Omega} \left( \frac{1}{4} \tilde{F}^2 \tilde{g}^{\mu\nu} - \tilde{F}^{\mu\alpha} \tilde{F}^\nu{}_\alpha \right) - M^2 \left( \tilde{A}^2 \tilde{g}^{\mu\nu} - \tilde{A}^\mu \tilde{A}^\nu \right) \right] \tilde{\nabla}_\mu \tilde{\nabla}_\nu \Omega \\
 & \left. - 2\varphi_3 \left[ e^{-2\Omega} \left( \frac{1}{4} \tilde{F}^2 \tilde{g}^{\mu\nu} - \tilde{F}^{\mu\alpha} \tilde{F}^\nu{}_\alpha \right) + M^2 \left( \tilde{A}^2 \tilde{g}^{\mu\nu} + \tilde{A}^\mu \tilde{A}^\nu \right) \right] \tilde{\nabla}_\mu \Omega \tilde{\nabla}_\nu \Omega + e^{4\Omega} \mathcal{L}_m \left( e^{2\Omega} \tilde{g}_{\mu\nu}, \tilde{A} \right) \right\}
 \end{aligned}$$

Coupling of the conformal mode to F is pathological → we can find higher-order equations of motion

We conclude these theories lead to Ostrogradski instabilities in a very general manner when coupled to vector fields



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# PARTICULAR MODELS

1. Model:  $f(R, T, R_{\mu\nu}T^{\mu\nu}) = \alpha R^n + \beta(R_{\mu\nu}T^{\mu\nu})^m$

- $n=1$  and  $m=1$ .
- Arbitrary  $n$  and  $m=1$ .
- Arbitrary  $n$  and  $m$ .  $\longrightarrow$  **Instabilities appear!**
- Case  $f(R, T, R_{\mu\nu}T^{\mu\nu}) = -\frac{R}{16\pi G} + \beta(R_{\mu\nu}T^{\mu\nu})^m$

Free of instabilities

$$\begin{aligned}
 S = & \int d^4x \sqrt{-\tilde{g}} \left\{ e^{4\Omega} \mathcal{U}(\Omega, \phi) - \frac{1}{16\pi G} \left( R + 6(\partial\Omega)^2 \right) \right. \\
 & + \frac{1 - e^{-2\Omega}}{16\pi G V(\phi)} \left[ \tilde{G}^{\mu\nu} \partial_\mu \phi \partial_\nu \phi + 2(\partial^\alpha \Omega \partial_\alpha \phi)^2 + (\partial\Omega)^2 (\partial\phi)^2 + 2(\tilde{g}^{\mu\nu} (\partial\phi)^2 - \partial^\mu \phi \partial^\nu \phi) \tilde{\nabla}_\mu \tilde{\nabla}_\nu \Omega \right] \\
 & \left. + e^{4\Omega} \mathcal{L}_m(\phi, e^{2\Omega} \tilde{g}_{\mu\nu}) \right\}
 \end{aligned}$$

Free of instabilities

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# CONCLUSIONS

- We have considered a class of universal non-minimally coupled where the gravitational Lagrangian is of the form:  $f(R, T, R_{\mu\nu}T^{\mu\nu})$
- We have studied instabilities in these theories. We have found **two sources of instabilities**:
  1. Derivative non-minimal coupling of the matter fields to curvature.
  2. Conformal mode with second derivatives in the action.
- We have analyzed some cases for the matter sector and we found **conditions** for these theories
- The universal nature of the non-minimal coupling should be abandoned because, although it is possible to obtain stable models for scalar fields, it is troublesome to have couplings to vector fields