

# PROJECTIVE INVARIANCE AS THE FOUNDATIONAL PRINCIPLE BENEATH DARK ENERGY AND INFLATION

Kory Stiffler

Brown University and the University of Iowa



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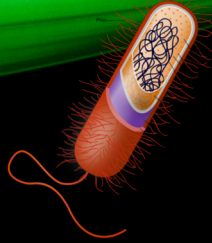
Washington University in St. Louis

Based on: [1907.05334](#), [2009.06730](#), [2203.04435](#)

Collaborators: [Muhammad Abdullah'](#), [Calvin Bavor^](#), Samuel Brensinger\*, [Biruk Chafamo'](#), Kenneth Heitritter\*, [Xiaole Jiang'](#), [Muhammad Hamza Kalim'](#), Vincent Rodgers\*, Catherine Whiting'^

'Bates College, ^Colorado Mesa University, \*The University of Iowa, [undergraduate co-authors in yellow](#)

Bacteria Size



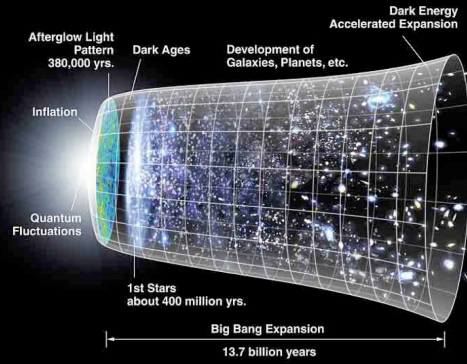
Inflation at  $t \sim 10^{-35}$  s



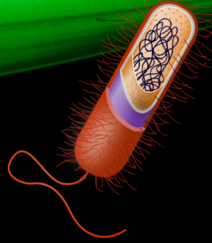
Galaxy Size



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Bacteria Size



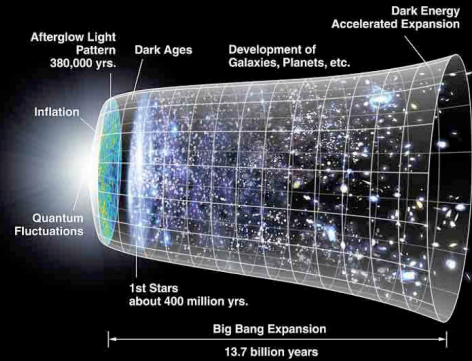
Inflation at  $t \sim 10^{-35}$  s



Galaxy Size

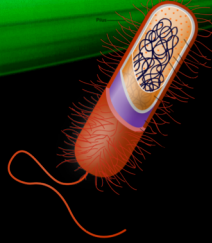


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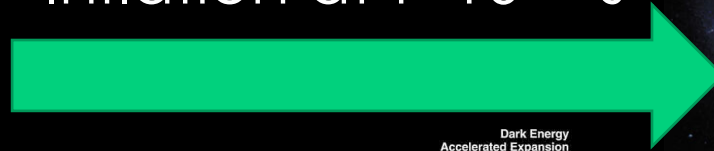


- No known principle behind inflation: ad-hoc models

Bacteria Size



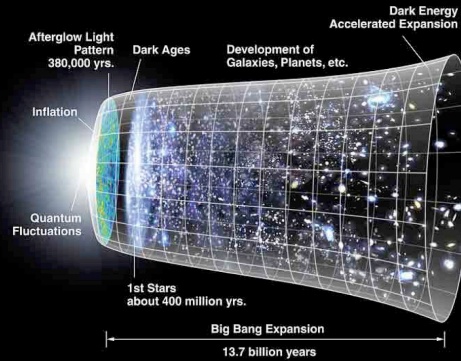
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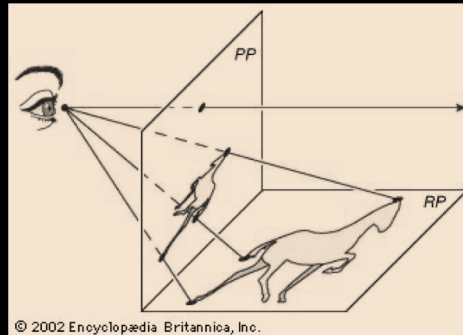
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By: This vector image is completely made by Ati Zifan - Own work; used information from Biology 10e Textbook (chapter 4, Pg. 43) by: Peter Raven, Kenneth Mason, Jonathan Losos, Susan Singer - McGraw-Hill Education. CC BY-SA 4.0. <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=44194140>

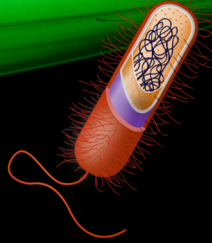


- No known principle behind inflation: ad-hoc models
- Thomas-Whitehead (TW) gravity: projective symmetry is this principle
  - Einstein-Hilbert (EH) gravity augmented with projective symmetry
  - Additional dynamical Rank two tensor and non-Levi-Civita connection





Bacteria Size



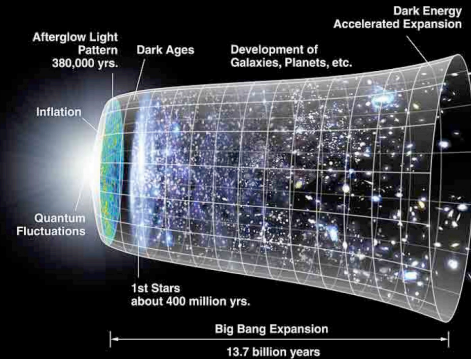
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Galaxy Size



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- No known principle behind inflation: ad-hoc models
- Thomas-Whitehead (TW) gravity: projective symmetry is this principle
  - Einstein-Hilbert (EH) gravity augmented with projective symmetry
  - Additional dynamical Rank two tensor and non-Levi-Civita connection
- TW Rank two tensor  $\Rightarrow$  TW scalar mode  $\Rightarrow$  Inflaton field
  - Potential specified by TW gravity
  - Dark Energy considerations from constant modes

# THOMAS-WHITEHEAD (TW) GRAVITY

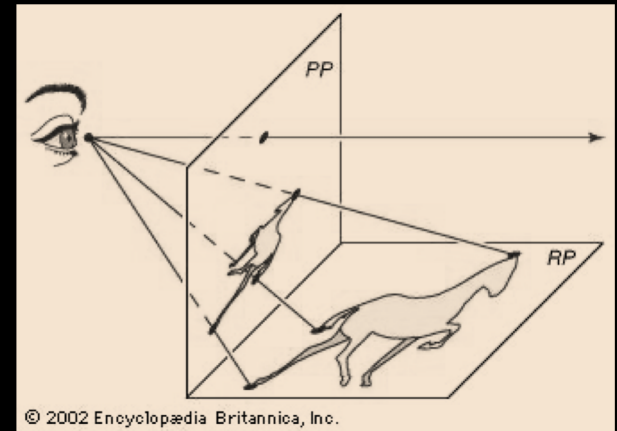
$$S_{TW} = -\frac{1}{2\tilde{\kappa}_0} \int dl d^d x \sqrt{|G|} (\mathcal{K} + 2\Lambda_0) - \tilde{J}_0 c \int dl d^d x \sqrt{|G|} [\mathcal{K}^2 - 4\mathcal{K}_{\alpha\beta}\mathcal{K}^{\alpha\beta} + \mathcal{K}^\alpha_{\beta\mu\nu}\mathcal{K}^\beta_{\alpha^{\mu\nu}}]$$

$$\mathcal{K}^\mu_{\nu\alpha\beta} \equiv \tilde{\Gamma}^\mu_{\nu[\beta,\alpha]} + \tilde{\Gamma}^\rho_{\nu[\beta}\tilde{\Gamma}^\mu_{\alpha]\rho}$$

$$G_{\alpha\beta} = \delta^a_\alpha \delta^b_\beta g_{ab} - \lambda_0^2 g_\alpha g_\beta$$

Projective Direction

$$\ell \equiv \lambda/\lambda_0$$



Greek Indices

$$\alpha, \beta, \gamma, \dots = 0, 1, \dots, d, \text{ excluding } \lambda$$

Latin Indices

$$a, b, c, \dots = 0, 1, \dots, d - 1$$

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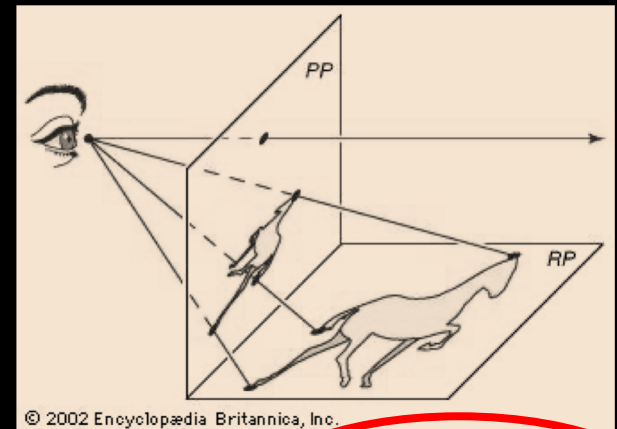
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**Projective Invariance:**

$$\Gamma^a_{bc} = \hat{\Gamma}^a_{bc} + \delta^a_b v_c + \delta^a_c v_b$$

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**Dynamical Fields Circled in Red**

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$$g_{\alpha} = (g_a, 1/\lambda)$$

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$$\alpha_{\rho} = (\alpha_a, \lambda^{-1})$$

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Generally Not Levi-Civita

Dynamical Fields Circled in Red



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$$\tilde{\Gamma}^{\lambda}_{bc} = \lambda(\mathcal{P}_{bc} + \partial_b \alpha_c - \Gamma^e_{bc} \alpha_e - \alpha_b \alpha_c)$$

Generally Not Levi-Civita

Projective Schouten Tensor  $\mathcal{P}_{bc}$

# TW GRAVITY

Expand in terms of  $\mathcal{P}$  and  $R$

$$S_{TW} = -\frac{1}{2\tilde{\kappa}_0} \int d\ell \ell^{-1} \int d^d x \sqrt{|g|} (R + (d-1)\mathcal{P} + 2\Lambda_0) - \tilde{J}_0 c \int d\ell \ell^{-1} S_{GB} \\ + \tilde{J}_0 c \int d\ell \ell^{-1} \int d^d x \sqrt{|g|} \left( \lambda_0^2 K_{abc} K^{abc} - \mathcal{P}_{ab} \tilde{\mathcal{P}}_*^{ab} - p(d) \mathcal{P}_{ab} \mathcal{P}^{[ab]} \right)$$

$$S_{GB} = \int d^d x \sqrt{|g|} (R^2 - 4R_{ab} R^{ab} + R^a{}_{bcd} R_a{}^{bcd}) \quad , \quad p(d) = 2(4d^2 - 3d - 2)$$

Projective Cotton-York Tensor

$$\tilde{\mathcal{P}}_{ab} \equiv (d-1)\mathcal{P}_{ab} + 2R_{ab}$$

$$\tilde{\mathcal{P}}_*^{ab} \equiv (d-1)g^{ab}\tilde{\mathcal{P}} - 2(2d-3)\tilde{\mathcal{P}}^{ab}$$

$$K_{nab} = \nabla_{[a}\mathcal{P}_{b]n} - \Delta_n \mathcal{P}_{[ab]} + \Delta_{[a}\mathcal{P}_{b]n} + \Delta_m R^m{}_{nab}$$

$$\Delta_a = g_a - \alpha_a$$

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$$\frac{1}{\tilde{\kappa}_0} \int_{\ell_i}^{\ell_f} d\ell \ell^{-1} = \frac{\ln(\ell_f/\ell_i)}{\tilde{\kappa}_0} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \kappa_0 \equiv \frac{\tilde{\kappa}_0}{\ln(\ell_f/\ell_i)} \\ \tilde{J}_0 \int_{\ell_i}^{\ell_f} d\ell \ell^{-1} = \tilde{J}_0 \ln(\ell_f/\ell_i) \quad \Rightarrow \quad J_0 \equiv \tilde{J}_0 \ln(\ell_f/\ell_i)$$

“Renormalize”

“On-shell (Levi-Civita)”

$$\Gamma^m{}_{ab} = \frac{1}{2} g^{mn} (g_{n(a,b)} - g_{ab,n})$$

# TW GRAVITY

“Renormalized and On-Shell (Levi-Civita)”

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$$+ J_0 c \int d^d x \sqrt{|g|} \left[ \lambda_0^2 K_{abc} K^{abc} - \mathcal{P}_{ab} \tilde{\mathcal{P}}_*^{ab} \right] - J_0 c S_{GB}$$

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$$\tilde{J}_0 \int_{\ell_i}^{\ell_f} d\ell \ell^{-1} = \tilde{J}_0 \ln(\ell_f/\ell_i) \Rightarrow J_0 \equiv \tilde{J}_0 \ln(\ell_f/\ell_i)$$

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- Natural Units  $\kappa_0 = n_\kappa M_p^{-2}$ ,  $\lambda_0 = n_\lambda M_p^{-1}$ ,  $J_0 = n_J \hbar = n_J$
- Decompose in terms of trace and traceless

$$\mathcal{P}_{ab} = \frac{M_p}{n_\lambda} \phi g_{ab} + w_0 W_{ab}$$

# TW GRAVITY

In Natural Units, Decomposed trace/traceless

$$S_{TW} = -\frac{M_p^2}{2n_\kappa} \int d^d x \sqrt{|g|} [f(\phi)R + 2\Lambda_0] + w_0 \int d^d x \sqrt{|g|} \mathcal{L}_W$$

$$+ 4(d-1)n_J \int d^d x \sqrt{|g|} \left[ \frac{1}{2} \nabla_a \phi \nabla^a \phi - V(\phi) \right] - J_0 c S_{GB}$$

$$\mathcal{L}_W = w_0 \frac{2n_J n_\lambda^2}{M_p^2} \left[ \nabla^m W^{nb} \nabla_{[m} W_{n]b} + \frac{(d-1)(2d-3)M_p^2}{n_\lambda^2} W^{ab} W_{ab} \right] + 4(2d-3)n_J R_{ab} W^{ab}$$

$$- \frac{4n_J n_\lambda}{M_p} \nabla_a \phi \nabla_b W^{ab} - \frac{4n_J n_\lambda}{M_p} W \left[ \square \phi + \frac{(d-1)M_p^3}{8n_\lambda n_J n_\kappa} f(\phi) + \frac{(d-1)M_p}{2n_\lambda} R \right] + \hat{\lambda} W^2$$

$$f(\phi) = 1 + \frac{4(d-2)(d-3)n_\kappa n_J}{n_\lambda M_p} \phi \quad , \quad V(\phi) = \frac{dM_p^4}{64n_J^2 n_\kappa^2 (d-2)(d-3)} (f(\phi)^2 - 1) \quad .$$

- Natural Units  $\kappa_0 = n_\kappa M_p^{-2}$ ,  $\lambda_0 = n_\lambda M_p^{-1}$ ,  $J_0 = n_J \hbar = n_J$
- Decompose in terms of trace and traceless  $\mathcal{P}_{ab} = \frac{M_p}{n_\lambda} \phi g_{ab} + w_0 W_{ab}$

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Set  $w_0 = 0$   Non-minimal Coupled  
EH gravity

# TW- $\rightarrow$ NON-MINIMAL COUPLED EH GRAVITY

$$S = -\frac{M_p^2}{2n_\kappa} \int d^4x \sqrt{|g|} f(\phi) R + 12n_J \int d^d x \sqrt{|g|} \left[ \frac{1}{2} \nabla_a \phi \nabla^a \phi - V(\phi) \right]$$

$$f(\phi) = 1 + \frac{8}{\hat{n}M_p} \phi \quad , \quad V(\phi) = \frac{M_p^4}{32n_J^2 n_\kappa^2} (f(\phi)^2 - 1) \quad , \quad \hat{n} = \frac{n_\lambda}{n_J n_\kappa}$$

Set  $w_0 = 0$   Non-minimal Coupled  
EH gravity



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$$A(\phi) = \frac{288}{\hat{n}^2 f(\phi)^2} \left( 1 + \frac{\hat{n} n_\lambda}{24} f(\phi) \right) \quad , \quad B(\phi) = -\frac{24M_p}{\hat{n} f(\phi)}$$

$$\tilde{V}(\phi) \equiv \frac{3M_p^4}{8n_J} \left( 1 - \frac{1}{f(\phi)^2} \right)$$

# EINSTEIN FRAME

$$S = \int d^4x \sqrt{|\tilde{g}|} \left( -\frac{M_p^2}{2} \tilde{R} + A(\phi) \frac{1}{2} \tilde{\nabla}_a \phi \tilde{\nabla}^a \phi + B(\phi) \frac{1}{2} \tilde{\square} \phi - \tilde{V}(\phi) \right)$$

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**Integrate by Parts**

$$S = \int d^4x \sqrt{|\tilde{g}|} \left( -\frac{M_p^2}{2} \tilde{R} + C(\phi) \frac{1}{2} \tilde{\nabla}_a \phi \tilde{\nabla}^a \phi - \tilde{V}(\phi) \right)$$

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**Absorb C:**  $\frac{dh}{d\phi} = \sqrt{C(\phi)}$

$$S = \int d^4x \sqrt{|\tilde{g}|} \left( -\frac{M_p^2}{2} \tilde{R} + \frac{1}{2} \tilde{\nabla}_a h \tilde{\nabla}^a h - \tilde{V}(\phi(h)) \right)$$

# TW CANONICAL SCALAR FIELD INFLATON

$$S = \int d^4x \sqrt{|\tilde{g}|} \left( -\frac{M_p^2}{2} \tilde{R} + \frac{1}{2} \tilde{\nabla}_a h \tilde{\nabla}^a h - \tilde{V}(\phi(h)) \right)$$

Specific Potential  
Predicted by Projective  
Symmetry

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$$\hat{n} = \frac{n_\lambda}{n_J n_\kappa}$$

Three free parameters remaining from  
Thomas-Whitehead Gravity:

$$n_\lambda$$

$$n_J$$

$$n_\kappa$$



# TW INFLATION AND DARK ENERGY

$$S = \int d^4x \sqrt{|\tilde{g}|} \left( -\frac{M_p^2}{2} \tilde{R} + \frac{1}{2} \tilde{\nabla}_a h \tilde{\nabla}^a h - \tilde{V}(\phi(h)) \right)$$

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Matches Inflation Data

$$n_J \sim 10^{10}$$

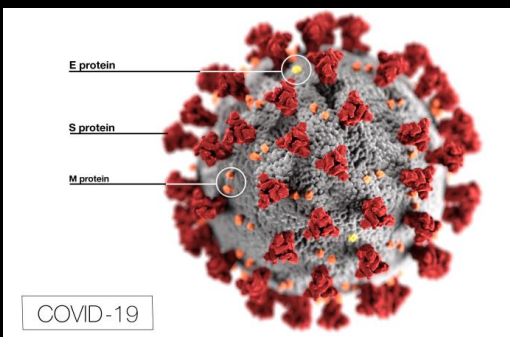


Image Credit: phil.cdc.gov

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Matches Inflation Data **OR** Matches Dark Energy Data

$$n_J \sim 10^{10}$$

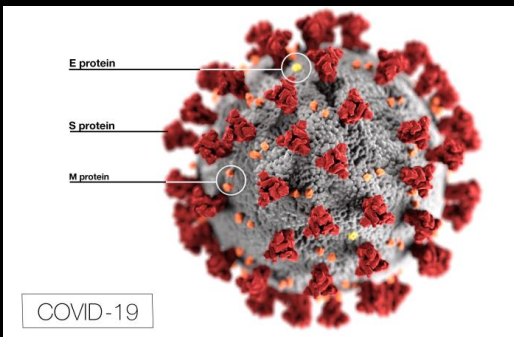
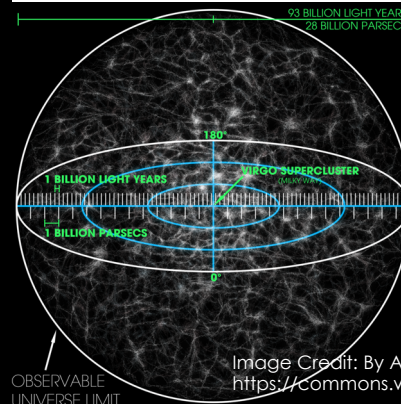


Image Credit: phil.cdc.gov

$$n_J \sim 10^{120}$$

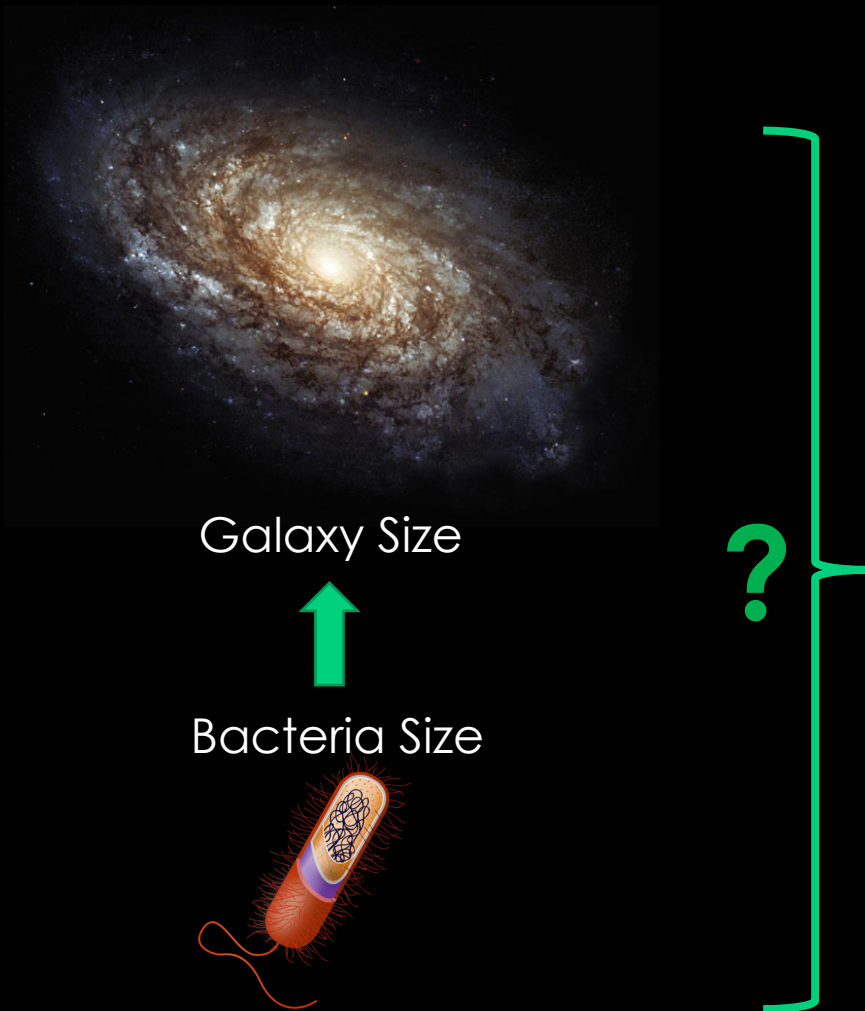


OBSERVABLE  
UNIVERSE LIMIT

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# INFLATION

- Objects the size of atoms inflated to the size of small galaxies
- Occurs somewhere between  $10^{-36}$  s and  $10^{-32}$  s



## TW Gravity: “Renormalized”

$$\frac{1}{\tilde{\kappa}_0} \int_{l_i}^{l_f} d\ln l^{-1} = \frac{\ln(l_f/l_i)}{\tilde{\kappa}_0} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \kappa_0 \equiv \frac{\tilde{\kappa}_0}{\ln(l_f/l_i)}$$
$$\tilde{J}_0 \int_{l_i}^{l_f} d\ln l^{-1} = \tilde{J}_0 \ln(l_f/l_i) \quad \Rightarrow \quad J_0 \equiv \tilde{J}_0 \ln(l_f/l_i)$$

# SUMMARY AND FUTURE OUTLOOK

- Proposed principle behind inflation: projective symmetry

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  - inflaton field that match current data, constraining TW parameters
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## Future Work

- Does TW inflation influence the projective direction?
- Contributions from traceless sector?
- Contributions from non-Levi-Civita connection dynamics?