

Physics of Trans-Planckian gravity

Cristiano Germani

LMU, ASC, Munich, Germany

IV Black Hole Conference, Aveiro, Portugal

Based on Dvali, Folkerts, CG 1006.0984 (PRD)

Main point

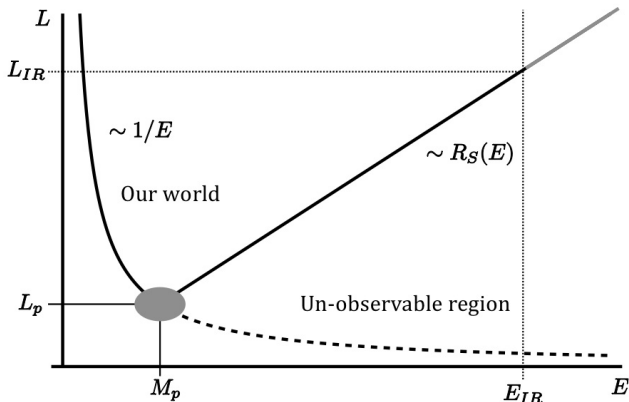
GR is the weakest theory of gravitons

Trans-Planckian gravity is hidden behind BH

Quantum Gravity is un-observable

Conclusions

Main point: For *any* healthy theory of gravity



Main point

GR is the weakest theory of gravitons

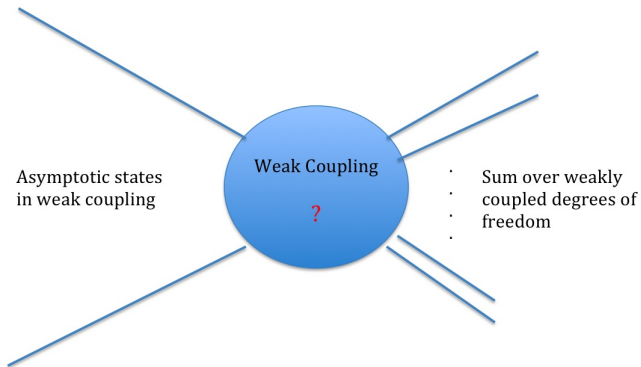
Trans-Planckian gravity is hidden behind BH

Quantum Gravity is un-observable

Conclusions

Suppose we want to describe a scattering of two particles

S-Matrix spectral Theorem



Main point

GR is the weakest theory of gravitons

Trans-Planckian gravity is hidden behind BH

Quantum Gravity is un-observable

Conclusions

Framework

Main point

GR is the weakest
theory of gravitons

Trans-Planckian
gravity is hidden
behind BH

Quantum Gravity
is un-observable

Conclusions

Framework

- The spacetime is *asymptotically flat* (or at least approximately so wrt the energies in the game)

Main point

GR is the weakest theory of gravitons

Trans-Planckian gravity is hidden behind BH

Quantum Gravity is un-observable

Conclusions

Framework

- The spacetime is *asymptotically flat* (or at least approximately so wrt the energies in the game)
- The theory of Gravity is Diffeomorphism invariant

Main point

GR is the weakest theory of gravitons

Trans-Planckian gravity is hidden behind BH

Quantum Gravity is un-observable

Conclusions

Framework

- The spacetime is *asymptotically flat* (or at least approximately so wrt the energies in the game)
- The theory of Gravity is Diffeomorphism invariant
- Gravity is *universally coupled*: $h_{\mu\nu} T^{\mu\nu}$

Main point

GR is the weakest theory of gravitons

Trans-Planckian gravity is hidden behind BH

Quantum Gravity is un-observable

Conclusions

Framework

- The spacetime is *asymptotically flat* (or at least approximately so wrt the energies in the game)
- The theory of Gravity is Diffeomorphism invariant
- Gravity is *universally coupled*: $h_{\mu\nu} T^{\mu\nu}$
- The gravity theory is *weakly coupled* at large distances

Main point

GR is the weakest theory of gravitons

Trans-Planckian gravity is hidden behind BH

Quantum Gravity is un-observable

Conclusions

Framework

- The spacetime is *asymptotically flat* (or at least approximately so wrt the energies in the game)
- The theory of Gravity is Diffeomorphism invariant
- Gravity is *universally coupled*: $h_{\mu\nu} T^{\mu\nu}$
- The gravity theory is *weakly coupled* at large distances
- Matter *energy conditions* are not violated

Main point

GR is the weakest theory of gravitons

Trans-Planckian gravity is hidden behind BH

Quantum Gravity is un-observable

Conclusions

Framework

- The spacetime is *asymptotically flat* (or at least approximately so wrt the energies in the game)
- The theory of Gravity is Diffeomorphism invariant
- Gravity is *universally coupled*: $h_{\mu\nu} T^{\mu\nu}$
- The gravity theory is *weakly coupled* at large distances
- Matter *energy conditions* are not violated
- The theory of gravity is not necessarily GR but at **IR** approaches **GR**

Main point

GR is the weakest theory of gravitons

Trans-Planckian gravity is hidden behind BH

Quantum Gravity is un-observable

Conclusions

S-Matrix

(one-graviton) scattering amplitude of two *external* sources
(only gravity involved)

$$A(p) = \frac{1}{M_p^2} T^{\mu\nu} \langle h_{\mu\nu} h_{\alpha\beta} \rangle \tau^{\alpha\beta} ,$$

Main point

GR is the weakest theory of gravitons

Trans-Planckian gravity is hidden behind BH

Quantum Gravity is un-observable

Conclusions

S-Matrix

(one-graviton) scattering amplitude of two *external* sources
(only gravity involved)

$$A(p) = \frac{1}{M_p^2} T^{\mu\nu} \langle h_{\mu\nu} h_{\alpha\beta} \rangle \tau^{\alpha\beta} ,$$

$\langle h_{\mu\nu} h_{\alpha\beta} \rangle$ is the “gravity” propagator and

T and τ are the energy momentum tensors of the external sources

Main point

GR is the weakest theory of gravitons

Trans-Planckian gravity is hidden behind BH

Quantum Gravity is un-observable

Conclusions

S-Matrix

(one-graviton) scattering amplitude of two *external* sources
(only gravity involved)

$$A(p) = \frac{1}{M_p^2} T^{\mu\nu} \langle h_{\mu\nu} h_{\alpha\beta} \rangle \tau^{\alpha\beta} ,$$

$\langle h_{\mu\nu} h_{\alpha\beta} \rangle$ is the “gravity” propagator and

T and τ are the energy momentum tensors of the external sources

Note: gravitons are **massless spin-2** only in GR!

Main point

GR is the weakest theory of gravitons

Trans-Planckian gravity is hidden behind BH

Quantum Gravity is un-observable

Conclusions

Spectral decomposition theorem:

$A(p)$ is a sum over massive and massless spin-0,2
with *spectral densities* $\rho_{0,2}$

$$A(p) = \frac{1}{M_p^2} \left\{ \underbrace{\frac{T_{\mu\nu}\tau^{\mu\nu} - \frac{1}{2}T\tau}{p^2}}_{\text{massless spin 2}} + \right.$$

$$\left. + \underbrace{\int_0^\infty ds \rho_2(s) \frac{T_{\mu\nu}\tau^{\mu\nu} - \frac{1}{3}T\tau}{p^2 + s}}_{\text{massive spin-2}} + \underbrace{\int_0^\infty ds \rho_0(s) \frac{T\tau}{p^2 + s}}_{\text{spin-0}} \right\}$$

Main point

GR is the weakest theory of gravitons

Trans-Planckian gravity is hidden behind BH

Quantum Gravity is un-observable

Conclusions

GR is the weakest theory of gravity

In absence of ghosts

$$\rho_0(s) \geq 0, \rho_2(s) \geq 0$$

Main point

GR is the weakest theory of gravitons

Trans-Planckian gravity is hidden behind BH

Quantum Gravity is un-observable

Conclusions

GR is the weakest theory of gravity

In absence of ghosts

$$\rho_0(s) \geq 0, \rho_2(s) \geq 0$$



$$A(p)_{GR} \leq A(p) !!!$$

$$A(p)_{GR} \equiv A(p) \Big|_{\rho_0=\rho_2=0}$$

Main point

GR is the weakest theory of gravitons

Trans-Planckian gravity is hidden behind BH

Quantum Gravity is un-observable

Conclusions

GR is the weakest theory of gravity

In absence of ghosts

$$\rho_0(s) \geq 0, \rho_2(s) \geq 0$$



$$A(p)_{GR} \leq A(p) !!!$$

$$A(p)_{GR} \equiv A(p) \Big|_{\rho_0=\rho_2=0}$$

More than GR **dof** exchanged \Rightarrow stronger than GR interaction

Main point

GR is the weakest theory of gravitons

Trans-Planckian gravity is hidden behind BH

Quantum Gravity is un-observable

Conclusions

Consequence for Black Holes

Main point

GR is the weakest theory of gravitons

Trans-Planckian gravity is hidden behind BH

Quantum Gravity is un-observable

Conclusions

Consequence for Black Holes

- Large ($M_{BH} \geq M_p$) GR BHs are weakly coupled:
curvatures are sub-Planckian

Main point

GR is the weakest
theory of gravitons

Trans-Planckian
gravity is hidden
behind BH

Quantum Gravity
is un-observable

Conclusions

Consequence for Black Holes

- Large ($M_{BH} \geq M_p$) GR BHs are weakly coupled:
curvatures are sub-Planckian
- Large BHs are macroscopic objects:
very large number of soft gravitons exchanged

Main point

GR is the weakest
theory of gravitons

Trans-Planckian
gravity is hidden
behind BH

Quantum Gravity
is un-observable

Conclusions

Consequence for Black Holes

- Large ($M_{BH} \geq M_p$) GR BHs are weakly coupled:
curvatures are sub-Planckian
- Large BHs are macroscopic objects:
very large number of soft gravitons exchanged



For *any* theory of gravity BH horizons size (R_H)

$$R_H(M_{BH}) \geq R_{GR}(M_{BH})$$

$R_{GR}(M_{BH})$ is the Schwarzschild radius for a given mass M_{BH}

Main point

GR is the weakest theory of gravitons

Trans-Planckian gravity is hidden behind BH

Quantum Gravity is un-observable

Conclusions

Consequence for the effective Planck mass

The one-graviton exchange may be re-parameterized as

$$A(p) = \frac{\alpha(p)}{(p^2)^2} (T_{\mu\nu}T^{\mu\nu} + b(p)T_{\tau})$$

α is the effective (dimensionless) gravity coupling

Main point

GR is the weakest theory of gravitons

Trans-Planckian gravity is hidden behind BH

Quantum Gravity is un-observable

Conclusions

Consequence for the effective Planck mass

The one-graviton exchange may be re-parameterized as

$$A(p) = \frac{\alpha(p)}{(p^2)^2} (T_{\mu\nu}T^{\mu\nu} + b(p)T\tau)$$

α is the effective (dimensionless) gravity coupling

$$\text{In GR: } \alpha_{GR} \equiv 16\pi G_N p^2$$



$$G_N^{eff}(p) \geq G_N$$

Gravity may be asymptotically safe only if strongly coupled!!!

Main point

GR is the weakest theory of gravitons

Trans-Planckian gravity is hidden behind BH

Quantum Gravity is un-observable

Conclusions

Work Assumptions

Main point

GR is the weakest theory of gravitons

Trans-Planckian gravity is hidden behind BH

Quantum Gravity is un-observable

Conclusions

Work Assumptions

- GR Thorne hoop conjecture is correct

Main point

GR is the weakest theory of gravitons

Trans-Planckian gravity is hidden behind BH

Quantum Gravity is un-observable

Conclusions

Work Assumptions

- GR Thorne hoop conjecture is correct
- Our theory of gravity does not propagate ghosts

Main point

GR is the weakest theory of gravitons

Trans-Planckian gravity is hidden behind BH

Quantum Gravity is un-observable

Conclusions

Work Assumptions

- GR Thorne hoop conjecture is correct
- Our theory of gravity does not propagate ghosts



A BH is formed *before* than in GR

Main point

GR is the weakest theory of gravitons

Trans-Planckian gravity is hidden behind BH

Quantum Gravity is un-observable

Conclusions

Work Assumptions

- GR Thorne hoop conjecture is correct
- Our theory of gravity does not propagate ghosts



A BH is formed *before* than in GR



High energy scatterings ($E \gg M_p$)
with impact parameter $< R_H(E)$ form BHs!

Main point

GR is the weakest theory of gravitons

Trans-Planckian gravity is hidden behind BH

Quantum Gravity is un-observable

Conclusions

Work Assumptions

- GR Thorne hoop conjecture is correct
- Our theory of gravity does not propagate ghosts



A BH is formed *before* than in GR



High energy scatterings ($E \gg M_p$)
with impact parameter $< R_H(E)$ form BHs!

(Strong) Quantum Gravity is hidden behind BHs!!

Main point

GR is the weakest theory of gravitons

Trans-Planckian gravity is hidden behind BH

Quantum Gravity is un-observable

Conclusions

Work Assumptions

- GR Thorne hoop conjecture is correct
- Our theory of gravity does not propagate ghosts



A BH is formed *before* than in GR



High energy scatterings ($E \gg M_p$)
with impact parameter $< R_H(E)$ form BHs!

(Strong) Quantum Gravity is hidden behind BHs!!

UV gravity turn around and become IR

Main point

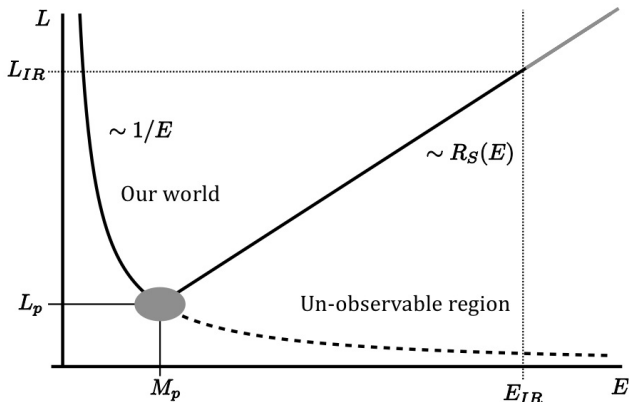
GR is the weakest theory of gravitons

Trans-Planckian gravity is hidden behind BH

Quantum Gravity is un-observable

Conclusions

We proved the main point: For *any* healthy theory of gravity



Main point

GR is the weakest theory of gravitons

Trans-Planckian gravity is hidden behind BH

Quantum Gravity is un-observable

Conclusions

Are there any observable related to QG?

- a) Can it exist a degree of freedom with mass $m \geq M_p$ that can be excited by high energy scattering?

Main point

GR is the weakest theory of gravitons

Trans-Planckian gravity is hidden behind BH

Quantum Gravity is un-observable

Conclusions

Are there any observable related to QG?

- a) Can it exist a degree of freedom with mass $m \geq M_p$ that can be excited by high energy scattering?

No!

Main point

GR is the weakest theory of gravitons

Trans-Planckian gravity is hidden behind BH

Quantum Gravity is un-observable

Conclusions

Are there any observable related to QG?

- a) Can it exist a degree of freedom with mass $m \geq M_p$ that can be excited by high energy scattering?

No!

A degree of freedom with $m \geq M_p$ has a Compton wavelength smaller than R_S

Main point

GR is the weakest theory of gravitons

Trans-Planckian gravity is hidden behind BH

Quantum Gravity is un-observable

Conclusions

Are there any observable related to QG?

- a) Can it exist a degree of freedom with mass $m \geq M_p$ that can be excited by high energy scattering?

No!

A degree of freedom with $m \geq M_p$ has a Compton wavelength smaller than R_S



It is a BH!

Main point

GR is the weakest theory of gravitons

Trans-Planckian gravity is hidden behind BH

Quantum Gravity is un-observable

Conclusions

Are there any observable related to QG?

- b) Can I scatter particles at center of mass energy $E \gg M_p$
and impact parameter $L \ll L_p$?

Main point

GR is the weakest
theory of gravitons

Trans-Planckian
gravity is hidden
behind BH

Quantum Gravity
is un-observable

Conclusions

Are there any observable related to QG?

- b) Can I scatter particles at center of mass energy $E \gg M_p$
and impact parameter $L \ll L_p$?

No!

Main point

GR is the weakest
theory of gravitons

Trans-Planckian
gravity is hidden
behind BH

Quantum Gravity
is un-observable

Conclusions

Main point

GR is the weakest theory of gravitons

Trans-Planckian gravity is hidden behind BH

Quantum Gravity is un-observable

Conclusions

Are there any observable related to QG?

- b) Can I scatter particles at center of mass energy $E \gg M_p$ and impact parameter $L \ll L_p$?

No!

As discussed before I will form before a large classical BH

Are there any observable related to QG?

- b) Can I scatter particles at center of mass energy $E \gg M_p$ and impact parameter $L \ll L_p$?

No!

As discussed before I will form before a large classical BH



No scattering can probe sub-Planckian distances!

Are there any observable related to QG?

c) Can Trans-Planckian isolated ghosts leave a signature?

Main point

GR is the weakest theory of gravitons

Trans-Planckian gravity is hidden behind BH

Quantum Gravity is un-observable

Conclusions

Are there any observable related to QG?

c) Can Trans-Planckian isolated ghosts leave a signature?

No!

Main point

GR is the weakest theory of gravitons

Trans-Planckian gravity is hidden behind BH

Quantum Gravity is un-observable

Conclusions

Are there any observable related to QG?

c) Can Trans-Planckian isolated ghosts leave a signature?

No!

They have mass larger than the Planck scale

Main point

GR is the weakest theory of gravitons

Trans-Planckian gravity is hidden behind BH

Quantum Gravity is un-observable

Conclusions

Are there any observable related to QG?

c) Can Trans-Planckian isolated ghosts leave a signature?

No!

They have mass larger than the Planck scale



They give exponentially suppressed contribution!

Main point

GR is the weakest theory of gravitons

Trans-Planckian gravity is hidden behind BH

Quantum Gravity is un-observable

Conclusions

Are there any observable related to QG?

d) Can a continuum of Trans-Planckian ghosts leave a signature (as in Asymptotic Safety)?

Main point

GR is the weakest theory of gravitons

Trans-Planckian gravity is hidden behind BH

Quantum Gravity is un-observable

Conclusions

Are there any observable related to QG?

d) Can a continuum of Trans-Planckian ghosts leave a signature (as in Asymptotic Safety)?

No!

Main point

GR is the weakest theory of gravitons

Trans-Planckian gravity is hidden behind BH

Quantum Gravity is un-observable

Conclusions

Are there any observable related to QG?

d) Can a continuum of Trans-Planckian ghosts leave a signature (as in Asymptotic Safety)?

No!

Their contribution is weaker than non-linearities of GR

Main point

GR is the weakest theory of gravitons

Trans-Planckian gravity is hidden behind BH

Quantum Gravity is un-observable

Conclusions

Are there any observable related to QG?

d) Can a continuum of Trans-Planckian ghosts leave a signature (as in Asymptotic Safety)?

No!

Their contribution is weaker than non-linearities of GR



BH formation cannot be stopped

Main point

GR is the weakest theory of gravitons

Trans-Planckian gravity is hidden behind BH

Quantum Gravity is un-observable

Conclusions

Are there any observable related to QG?

e) Can I prepare a low energy ($E \leq M_p^2 L$) scattering experiment with small impact parameter ($L \leq L_p$)?

Main point

GR is the weakest theory of gravitons

Trans-Planckian gravity is hidden behind BH

Quantum Gravity is un-observable

Conclusions

Are there any observable related to QG?

e) Can I prepare a low energy ($E \leq M_p^2 L$) scattering experiment with small impact parameter ($L \leq L_p$)?

No!

Main point

GR is the weakest theory of gravitons

Trans-Planckian gravity is hidden behind BH

Quantum Gravity is un-observable

Conclusions

Main point

GR is the weakest theory of gravitons

Trans-Planckian gravity is hidden behind BH

Quantum Gravity is un-observable

Conclusions

Are there any observable related to QG?

e) Can I prepare a low energy ($E \leq M_p^2 L$) scattering experiment with small impact parameter ($L \leq L_p$)?

No!

The $R_S(E) > L$

Main point

GR is the weakest theory of gravitons

Trans-Planckian gravity is hidden behind BH

Quantum Gravity is un-observable

Conclusions

Are there any observable related to QG?

e) Can I prepare a low energy ($E \leq M_p^2 L$) scattering experiment with small impact parameter ($L \leq L_p$)?

No!

The $R_S(E) > L$



The Compton wavelength of the experiment is inside a BH!

Are there any observable related to QG?

f) Can I prepare an experiment in the strong coupling region and observe it?

Main point

GR is the weakest theory of gravitons

Trans-Planckian gravity is hidden behind BH

Quantum Gravity is un-observable

Conclusions

Are there any observable related to QG?

f) Can I prepare an experiment in the strong coupling region and observe it?

No!

Main point

GR is the weakest theory of gravitons

Trans-Planckian gravity is hidden behind BH

Quantum Gravity is un-observable

Conclusions

Are there any observable related to QG?

f) Can I prepare an experiment in the strong coupling region and observe it?

No!

If the experiment communicate with a distant observer it will emit a signal crossing the weak coupling

Main point

GR is the weakest theory of gravitons

Trans-Planckian gravity is hidden behind BH

Quantum Gravity is un-observable

Conclusions

Are there any observable related to QG?

f) Can I prepare an experiment in the strong coupling region and observe it?

No!

If the experiment communicate with a distant observer it will emit a signal crossing the weak coupling



Gauss law \Rightarrow whenever a Trans-Planckian signal is emitted

A BH is formed!

Main point

GR is the weakest theory of gravitons

Trans-Planckian gravity is hidden behind BH

Quantum Gravity is un-observable

Conclusions

Trans-Planckian physics is hidden behind Black Holes
for *any* (healthy) theory of gravity

Main point

GR is the weakest
theory of gravitons

Trans-Planckian
gravity is hidden
behind BH

Quantum Gravity
is un-observable

Conclusions

Trans-Planckian physics is hidden behind Black Holes
for *any* (healthy) theory of gravity



Gravity is UV completed but not in a Wilsonian sense!

Main point

GR is the weakest theory of gravitons

Trans-Planckian gravity is hidden behind BH

Quantum Gravity is un-observable

Conclusions

Trans-Planckian physics is hidden behind Black Holes
for *any* (healthy) theory of gravity



Gravity is UV completed but not in a Wilsonian sense!



No need of strongly coupled Quantum Gravity!

Main point

GR is the weakest theory of gravitons

Trans-Planckian gravity is hidden behind BH

Quantum Gravity is un-observable

Conclusions

Trans-Planckian physics is hidden behind Black Holes
for *any* (healthy) theory of gravity



Gravity is UV completed but not in a Wilsonian sense!



No need of strongly coupled Quantum Gravity!

Thank you!

Main point

GR is the weakest
theory of gravitons

Trans-Planckian
gravity is hidden
behind BH

Quantum Gravity
is un-observable

Conclusions