

## Heat kernel and scaling of gravitational constants

Diego A. R. Dalvit<sup>1</sup> and Francisco D. Mazzitelli<sup>1,2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>*Departamento de Física, Facultad de Ciencias Exactas y Naturales,*

*Universidad de Buenos Aires- Ciudad Universitaria, Pabellón I, 1428 Buenos Aires, Argentina*

<sup>2</sup>*Instituto de Astronomía y Física del Espacio, Casilla de Correo 67-Sucursal 28, 1428 Buenos Aires, Argentina*

(Received 5 October 1994)

We consider the nonlocal energy-momentum tensor of quantum scalar and spinor fields in  $2w$ -dimensional curved spaces. Working to lowest order in the curvature we show that, while the nonlocal terms proportional to  $\square\mathcal{R}$ ,  $\square\square\mathcal{R}$ ,  $\dots$ ,  $\square^{w-2}\mathcal{R}$  are fully determined by the early-time behavior of the heat kernel, the terms proportional to  $\mathcal{R}$  depend on the asymptotic late-time behavior. This fact explains a discrepancy between the running of the Newton constant dictated by the RG equations and the quantum corrections to the Newtonian potential.

PACS number(s): 04.62.+v

In a recent paper [1] we have computed the corrections to the Newtonian potential due to a quantum massive scalar field coupled to the metric in a  $R + R^2$  theory of gravitation. This computation was carried out by

means of a nonlocal approximation to the effective action (EA) [2,3], from which the effective gravitational equations of motion were deduced. Expanding in powers of  $-\frac{m^2}{\square}$ , these equations read

$$\begin{aligned} & \left[ \alpha_0 - \frac{1}{64\pi^2} \left( \left( \xi - \frac{1}{6} \right)^2 - \frac{1}{90} \right) \ln \left( -\frac{\square}{\mu^2} \right) \right] H_{\mu\nu}^{(1)} + \left[ \beta_0 - \frac{1}{1920\pi^2} \ln \left( -\frac{\square}{\mu^2} \right) \right] H_{\mu\nu}^{(2)} \\ & + \left[ -\frac{1}{8\pi G} + \frac{m^2}{16\pi^2} \left( \xi - \frac{1}{6} \right) \left( -1 + \ln \frac{m^2}{\mu^2} \right) \right] \left( R_{\mu\nu} - \frac{1}{2} R g_{\mu\nu} \right) \\ & - \frac{m^2}{384\pi^2} \ln \left( -\frac{\square}{m^2} \right) \frac{1}{\square} \left[ (1 - 12\xi^2) H_{\mu\nu}^{(1)} - 2H_{\mu\nu}^{(2)} \right] = O(\mathcal{R}^2), \end{aligned} \quad (1)$$

where  $m$  is the mass of the scalar field,  $\xi$  is the coupling to the scalar curvature, and

$$\begin{aligned} H_{\mu\nu}^{(1)} &= 4\nabla_\mu \nabla_\nu R - 4g_{\mu\nu} \square R + O(\mathcal{R}^2), \\ H_{\mu\nu}^{(2)} &= 2\nabla_\mu \nabla_\nu R - g_{\mu\nu} \square R - 2\square R_{\mu\nu} + O(\mathcal{R}^2). \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

The gravitational constants  $\alpha_0, \beta_0$ , and  $G$  depend on the scale  $\mu$  according to the renormalization-group equations (RGE's) [4]

$$\mu \frac{d\alpha_0}{d\mu} = -\frac{1}{32\pi^2} \left[ \left( \xi - \frac{1}{6} \right)^2 - \frac{1}{90} \right], \quad (3)$$

$$\mu \frac{d\beta_0}{d\mu} = -\frac{1}{960\pi^2}, \quad (4)$$

$$\mu \frac{dG}{d\mu} = \frac{G^2 m^2}{\pi} \left( \xi - \frac{1}{6} \right). \quad (5)$$

These are basically given by the Schwinger-DeWitt (SDW) coefficients and can be obtained by imposing Eq. (1) to be independent of the renormalization scale  $\mu$ . Comparing the RGE's with the effective Eq. (1) one readily notes that, while the corrections proportional to  $\ln(-\frac{\square}{\mu^2})$  can be interpreted as nonlocal modifications to  $\alpha_0$  and  $\beta_0$ , this is not the case for the Newton constant. Indeed, because of the identity

$$R_{\mu\nu} - \frac{1}{2} R g_{\mu\nu} = \left( \frac{1}{4} \square \right) (H_{\mu\nu}^{(1)} - 2H_{\mu\nu}^{(2)}) + O(\mathcal{R}^2) \quad (6)$$

the nonanalytic corrections proportional to

$-\frac{m^2}{\square} \ln(-\frac{\square}{m^2})$  can be interpreted as modifying  $G$  only for  $\xi = 0$ . This has also been pointed out in Ref. [5].

This discrepancy can also be seen at the level of the Newtonian potential, which has  $\frac{\ln r}{r}$  and  $r^{-3}$  quantum corrections [1]. The  $r^{-3}$  corrections come from the  $\ln(-\frac{\square}{\mu^2})$  terms in the effective equations and survive in the massless limit (similar corrections due to the graviton sector of the theory have been found in [6]). The  $\frac{\ln r}{r}$  corrections come from the term proportional to  $-\frac{m^2}{\square} \ln(-\frac{\square}{m^2})$ . In principle, one could “derive” these logarithmic corrections from the RGE (5), replacing in the classical potential  $V_{\text{cl}}(r)$  the Newtonian constant by its running counterpart and identifying  $\mu \leftrightarrow r^{-1}$ . The resulting “Wilsonian” potential  $V(r) = -G(\mu = r^{-1})/r$  coincides with the one obtained in Ref. [1] only for minimal and conformal coupling.<sup>1</sup>

The aim of this work is to elucidate the origin of the discrepancy between the scaling behavior of the Newton constant deduced from the effective equations of motion and that obtained through the RGE's. To this end we will show that there is a qualitative difference between the nonlocal corrections proportional to  $\ln(-\square)$  and those proportional to  $-\frac{m^2}{\square} \ln(-\square)$ . While the former are linked

<sup>1</sup>The coincidence at  $\xi = 1/6$  takes place only after tracing the equations of motion.

to the *early-time* behavior of the heat kernel [7] (and consequently are determined by the  $\hat{a}_2$  SDW coefficient), the latter depend on the *late-time* behavior and produce the above-mentioned discrepancy. In the following we will prove this claim and we will also extend the four-dimensional (4D) results to arbitrary dimensions. Finally we will analyze the same problem for spinor fields.

We emphasize that throughout this paper we will consider quantum matter fields on a classical gravitational background. This will be enough for our main discussion, since at this *semiclassical* level we already have running coupling constants and quantum corrections to the field equations and Newtonian potential. Therefore we can compare both answers and look for the reason of the discrepancy.

In order to go beyond the semiclassical theory, there are two alternatives. If the  $R + R^2$  theory is considered as an effective, low-energy field theory [8,9], the inclusion of the graviton sector can be done along the lines of Ref. [6], and we expect additional  $r^{-3}$  corrections to the Newtonian potential. On the other hand, if the  $R + R^2$  theory is considered as a complete and renormalizable theory of gravity, due to asymptotic freedom [10], the graviton sector could produce an important increase of  $G$  with distance [11]. However, in this case the  $R + R^2$  theory is nonunitary, and no definite conclusions can be drawn. This point is beyond the scope of this paper.

Let us consider the evaluation of the one-loop contribution of a massive quantum scalar field to the gravitational EA:  $\Gamma = \frac{1}{2} \ln \det(-\square + m^2 + \xi R)$ . The task of evaluating this functional determinant on an arbitrary background is quite complicated and approximation methods are compelling. Using the early-time expansion of the heat kernel, the EA in  $2w$  dimensions reads [2,3,7]

$$\Gamma = -\frac{1}{2} \lim_{L^2 \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{(4\pi)^w} \int_{1/L^2}^{\infty} \frac{ds}{s^{w+1}} \exp(-sm^2) \times \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} s^n \int d^{2w}x \sqrt{g} \hat{a}_n(x), \quad (7)$$

where the ultraviolet divergence is regularized by the introduction of a positive lower limit in the proper-time integral. Here all the functions  $\hat{a}_n(x)$  are the coincident limit of the SDW coefficients.

As suggested by Vilkovisky [7], when the background fields are weak but rapidly varying, one can obtain a non-local expansion of the EA by summing all terms with a given power of the curvature and any number of derivatives in the SDW series. The result is well behaved in the massless limit and can be written as

$$\Gamma = -\frac{1}{2} \frac{1}{(4\pi)^w} \int d^{2w}x \sqrt{g} \lim_{L^2 \rightarrow \infty} [h_0 + h_1(\frac{1}{6} - \xi)R + RF_1(\square)R + R_{\mu\nu}F_2(\square)R_{\mu\nu} + O(\mathcal{R}^3)], \quad (8)$$

where  $h_n = \int_{1/L^2}^{\infty} ds s^{n-w-1} e^{-sm^2}$ ,  $F_i(\square) = \int_{1/L^2}^{\infty} ds \frac{e^{-sm^2}}{s^{w-1}} f_i(-s\square)$ , and the form factors  $f_i$  are functions to be defined afterwards.

Up to here no assumptions about the mass  $m$  have been made. In the large mass limit,  $m^2 \mathcal{R} \gg \nabla \nabla \mathcal{R}$ , the SDW expansion is recovered, while in the opposite one, the

form factors can be expanded in powers of  $z \equiv -\frac{m^2}{\square}$ . We shall be working in the latter limit. We have to evaluate the integral

$$I_w \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \lim_{L^2 \rightarrow \infty} \int_{1/L^2}^{\infty} ds \frac{e^{-m^2 s}}{s^{w-1}} \sigma(-s\square), \quad (9)$$

where  $\sigma$  denotes generically the  $f_i$ 's. In order to study the behavior of  $I_w$  in terms of the small quantity  $z$ , we split up the integral into two terms:

$$I_w = \lim_{L^2 \rightarrow \infty} (A_w + B_w),$$

$$A_w = (-\square)^{w-2} \int_{-\square/L^2}^C \frac{d\eta}{\eta^{w-1}} e^{-\eta z} \sigma(\eta),$$

$$B_w = (-\square)^{w-2} \int_C^{\infty} \frac{d\eta}{\eta^{w-1}} e^{-\eta z} \sigma(\eta), \quad (10)$$

where  $C$  is chosen such that  $z^{-1} \gg C \gg 1$ . Let us analyze the two integrals separately.

For the  $A_w$  integral, one can use the Taylor expansion of the form factor, namely  $\sigma(\eta) = \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \sigma_n \eta^{n-2}$ . The constants  $\sigma_n$  can be read from the corresponding SDW coefficient  $\hat{a}_n$ , as follows from Eqs. (7) and (8). The  $n \geq w + 1$  terms have a finite  $L^2 \rightarrow \infty$  limit that gives a  $\square$ -dependent contribution that is analytic in the variable  $z$ , while the  $2 \leq n \leq w$  terms are UV divergent. Expanding the exponential in  $A_w$  in powers of the small quantity  $\eta z$  we obtain its final expression:

$$A_w = -(-\square)^{w-2} \ln\left(-\frac{\square}{L^2}\right) \sum_{n=2}^w \frac{\sigma_n}{(w-n)!} \left(-\frac{m^2}{\square}\right)^{w-n} + (-\square)^{w-2} \sum_{n=2}^w \sum_{k=0}^{w-n-1} \frac{\sigma_n}{(w-n-k)k!} \times \left(\frac{m^2}{\square}\right)^2 \left(-\frac{L^2}{\square}\right)^{w-n-k} + \dots, \quad (11)$$

where the ellipsis denotes finite terms, analytic in the small quantity  $-\frac{m^2}{\square}$ . Note that both the divergent and nonanalytic parts of  $A_w$  are determined by the first  $w$  SDW coefficients. In order to renormalize the theory, the infinities have to be canceled by means of suitable counterterms in the classical Lagrangian of the form  $\mathcal{R}\mathcal{R}$ ,  $\mathcal{R}\square\mathcal{R}$ ,  $\mathcal{R}\square^2\mathcal{R}$ , ...,  $\mathcal{R}\square^{w-2}\mathcal{R}$ , these being the only quadratic counterterms that can appear. The UV divergences proportional to  $\ln(L^2)$  that appear in both  $A_w$  and the  $h_n$  integrals are absorbed in the bare constants, being renormalized by terms of the form  $\ln(\frac{L^2}{\mu^2})$ , where  $\mu$  is an arbitrary scale parameter with units of mass. The fact that the EA must not depend on this arbitrary parameter implies that the gravitational constants scale with  $\mu$ , the scaling being given by the RGE's [see Eqs. (3)–(5) for the  $w = 2$  case].

As for the  $B_w$  integral, its leading behavior in powers of  $-\frac{m^2}{\square}$  is governed by the asymptotic expansion of the form factor. Assuming that  $\sigma(\eta) = \frac{k}{\eta}$  as  $\eta \rightarrow \infty$ , where  $k$  is a numerical factor, the integral  $B_w$  reads

$$B_w = k \frac{(-1)^w}{(w-1)!} (-\square)^{w-2} \left(-\frac{m^2}{\square}\right)^{w-1} \ln\left(-\frac{m^2}{\square}\right) + \dots, \quad (12)$$

the ellipsis being analytic terms.

Given the EA one can derive the effective gravitational field equations. After a straightforward calculation we find

$$\begin{aligned} & \left[ -\frac{1}{8\pi G} + \frac{(-1)^w (m^2)^{w-1}}{(4\pi)^w (w-1)!} \left( \xi - \frac{1}{6} \right) \ln \left( \frac{m^2}{\mu^2} \right) \right] \left( R_{\mu\nu} - \frac{1}{2} R g_{\mu\nu} \right) + \sum_{j=0}^{w-2} \left[ \alpha_j \square^j H_{\mu\nu}^{(1)} + \beta_j \square^j H_{\mu\nu}^{(2)} \right] \\ & = \langle T_{\mu\nu} \rangle \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} -\frac{1}{2(4\pi)^w} [F_1(\square) H_{\mu\nu}^{(1)} + F_2(\square) H_{\mu\nu}^{(2)}] + O(\mathcal{R}^2). \end{aligned} \quad (13)$$

In this equation the cosmological constant term has been omitted and  $\alpha_j$  and  $\beta_j$  denote the gravitational constants associated with the higher order terms in the classical Lagrangian.

In four-dimensional space-time the basic integral  $I_w$  can be calculated using Eqs. (11) and (12). Up to analytic terms in  $-\frac{m^2}{\square}$  it is given by

$$\begin{aligned} I_{w=2} & = -\sigma_2 \ln \left( -\frac{\square}{\mu^2} \right) - k \frac{m^2}{\square} \ln \left( -\frac{m^2}{\square} \right) \\ & + O \left( \left( -\frac{m^2}{\square} \right)^2 \right). \end{aligned} \quad (14)$$

The corresponding stress tensor reads

$$\begin{aligned} \langle T_{\mu\nu} \rangle & = \frac{1}{32\pi^2} \left[ \ln \left( -\frac{\square}{\mu^2} \right) [\sigma_2^{(1)} H_{\mu\nu}^{(1)} + \sigma_2^{(2)} H_{\mu\nu}^{(2)}] \right. \\ & \left. + \frac{m^2}{\square} \ln \left( -\frac{m^2}{\square} \right) [k^{(1)} H_{\mu\nu}^{(1)} + k^{(2)} H_{\mu\nu}^{(2)}] \right], \end{aligned} \quad (15)$$

the  $\sigma_2^{(i)}$  and  $k^{(i)}$  being the numerical constants in Eq. (14), respectively, associated with the  $R^2$  and  $R_{\mu\nu} R_{\mu\nu}$  terms in the EA.

The  $m^2$ -independent terms in  $\langle T_{\mu\nu} \rangle$  can be interpreted as being quantum corrections to the gravitational constants  $\alpha_0$  and  $\beta_0$ . As was already mentioned, the numerical coefficients  $\sigma_2^{(i)}$  associated with these corrections are basically given by the  $\hat{a}_2$  SDW coefficient (early-time behavior of the heat kernel). When the equations of motion are traced and solved, these terms produce  $r^{-3}$  quantum corrections to the Newtonian potential [1].

In an analogous way, one would expect that the  $m^2$ -dependent terms in  $\langle T_{\mu\nu} \rangle$ , namely,

$$\frac{m^2 k^{(1)}}{32\pi^2} \ln \left( -\frac{m^2}{\square} \right) \frac{1}{\square} \left( H_{\mu\nu}^{(1)} + \frac{k^{(2)}}{k^{(1)}} H_{\mu\nu}^{(2)} \right), \quad (16)$$

could be expressed in a combination proportional to  $m^2 \ln \left( -\frac{\square}{m^2} \right) (R_{\mu\nu} - \frac{1}{2} R g_{\mu\nu})$ , so that they can be interpreted as a quantum correction to the Newton constant. From Eq. (16) we see that the aforementioned combination comes up only for  $k^{(2)}/k^{(1)} = -2$ , a condition that is not always met. Also note that the correction depends on the numerical coefficients  $k^{(i)}$ , which are given by the asymptotic late-time behavior of the heat kernel. The terms in Eq. (16) produce a  $\frac{\ln r}{r}$  correction to the Newtonian potential [1].

The coefficients  $\sigma_n$ 's and  $k$ 's can be evaluated from the form factors  $f_i$ 's. These are defined through the basic form factor  $f(\eta) = \int_0^1 dt e^{-t(1-t)\eta}$  as [3,12]

$$\begin{aligned} f_1(\eta) & = \frac{f(\eta)}{8} \left[ \frac{1}{36} + \frac{1}{3\eta} - \frac{1}{\eta^2} \right] \\ & - \frac{1}{16\eta} + \frac{1}{8\eta^2} + \left( \xi - \frac{1}{6} \right) \left[ \frac{f(\eta)}{12} + \frac{f(\eta) - 1}{2\eta} \right] \\ & + \frac{1}{2} \left( \xi - \frac{1}{6} \right)^2 f(\eta), \\ f_2(\eta) & = [f(\eta) - 1 + \eta/6]/\eta^2. \end{aligned} \quad (17)$$

From here the relevant coefficients for the four-dimensional theory can be calculated:  $\sigma_2^{(i)} = f_i(0)$  and  $k^{(i)} = \lim_{\eta \rightarrow \infty} \eta f_i(\eta)$ . Therefore we have

$$\begin{aligned} \sigma_2^{(1)} & = \frac{1}{2} \left[ \left( \frac{1}{6} - \xi \right)^2 - \frac{1}{90} \right], & \sigma_2^{(2)} & = \frac{1}{60}, \\ k^{(1)} & = \xi^2 - \frac{1}{12}, & k^{(2)} & = \frac{1}{6}. \end{aligned} \quad (18)$$

It is straightforward to see that only for minimal coupling ( $\xi = 0$ ) can the  $m^2$ -dependent part of  $\langle T_{\mu\nu} \rangle$  be interpreted as correcting the Newton constant.

All this reasoning can be extended for arbitrary values of  $w$ . For example, in 6D space-time the integral  $I_w$  can be calculated using Eqs. (11) and (12) and is given by

$$\begin{aligned} I_{w=3} & = \sigma_3 \square \ln(-\square/\mu^2) + \sigma_2 m^2 \ln(-\square/\mu^2) \\ & - k(m^4/2\square) \ln(-\square/m^2). \end{aligned} \quad (19)$$

For this theory the coefficients  $\sigma_2$  and  $k$  are the same as those of the four-dimensional one, while the  $\sigma_3$  coefficients are obtained from the term of the form factors that is linear in  $\eta$  and read

$$\sigma_3^{(1)} = -\frac{1}{336} + \frac{\xi}{30} - \frac{\xi^2}{12}, \quad \sigma_3^{(2)} = -\frac{1}{840}. \quad (20)$$

In this case one obtains that the  $m^0$  ( $m^2$ ) terms in  $\langle T_{\mu\nu} \rangle$  are interpreted as quantum corrections to the gravitational coefficients  $\alpha_0, \beta_0$  ( $\alpha_1, \beta_1$ ) and depend on the  $\hat{a}_2$  ( $\hat{a}_3$ ) SDW coefficient. As before, one can view the  $m^4$  terms as a quantum correction to the Newton constant only for minimal coupling.

Having evaluated the energy-momentum tensor, we shall make a brief comment on the trace anomaly. As is well known [4], the classical theory is conformally invariant for  $m = 0$  and  $\xi = \frac{1}{4} \frac{2w-2}{2w-1}$ . Because of quantum effects, a trace anomaly in  $\langle T_{\mu}^{\mu} \rangle$  appears, which is local and proportional to the  $\hat{a}_w$  SDW coefficient. In our computation of the energy-momentum tensor we have concentrated on the nonlocal terms and we have absorbed the local ones into the renormalized classical gravitational constants. Using the expressions for the coefficients  $\sigma_w^{(i)}$  evaluated at conformal coupling [see Eqs. (18) and (20) for the  $w = 2$  and  $w = 3$  cases] one can readily prove that the trace of the nonlocal and mass-independent terms of the energy-momentum tensor vanishes. Although the local terms are irrelevant for the main point of this work, which is thoroughly developed

in previous paragraphs, their evaluation from the integral  $A_w$  is straightforward. At conformal coupling these terms give the correct trace anomaly, up to the order we are working.

Now we shall extend the reasoning to spinor fields in four dimensions. The one-loop contribution to EA of the free Dirac field on a gravitational background is

$$\begin{aligned}\Gamma &= -\frac{1}{2}\text{Tr}\ln\hat{K}, \\ \hat{K}\Psi &= (\gamma_\mu\nabla_\mu + m)(-\gamma_\nu\nabla_\nu + m)\Psi \\ &= (-\square + m^2 + \frac{1}{4}R)\Psi.\end{aligned}\quad (21)$$

Therefore we have to evaluate the trace of an operator similar to that associated with the scalar field for  $\xi = 1/4$  and trace over the spinor indexes.

We shall evaluate the EA following the method described in the previous section [see Eq. (8)]. The second order term in curvatures can be written as [2,3]

$$\begin{aligned}\Gamma^{(2)} &= \frac{1}{32\pi^2}\int d^4x\sqrt{g}[4RF_1(\square)R + 4R_{\mu\nu}F_2(\square)R_{\mu\nu} \\ &\quad + \text{Tr}(\mathcal{R}_{\mu\nu}F_3(\square)\mathcal{R}_{\mu\nu})],\end{aligned}\quad (22)$$

where  $\mathcal{R}_{\mu\nu} = [\nabla_\mu, \nabla_\nu] = \frac{1}{8}[\gamma_\alpha(x), \gamma_\beta(x)]R_{\alpha\beta\mu\nu}(x)$  is the commutator of the covariant derivatives [13]. Here  $F_1(\square)$  and  $F_2(\square)$  are the scalar field-form factor integrals evaluated at  $\xi = 1/4$ . We have a new contribution pro-

portional to  $F_3(\square) = \int_{1/L^2}^\infty ds \frac{e^{-sm^2}}{s^{w-1}} \frac{f(-s\square)-1}{2s\square}$ , due to the nonvanishing commutator of the covariant derivatives.

Using the expression for  $\mathcal{R}_{\mu\nu}$  and calculating the trace of the product of four  $\gamma$  matrices, the last term in Eq. (22) can be written as  $\text{Tr}\mathcal{R}_{\mu\nu}F_3(\square)\mathcal{R}_{\mu\nu} = -\frac{1}{2}R_{\alpha\beta\mu\nu}F_3(\square)R_{\alpha\beta\mu\nu}$ . Finally, using integration by parts, the Bianchi identities and the nonlocal expansion of the Riemann tensor in terms of the Ricci tensor [3,12]

$$\begin{aligned}R_{\alpha\beta\mu\nu} &= \frac{1}{\square}\{\nabla_\mu\nabla_\alpha R_{\nu\beta} + \nabla_\nu\nabla_\beta R_{\mu\alpha} - \nabla_\nu\nabla_\alpha R_{\mu\beta} \\ &\quad - \nabla_\mu\nabla_\beta R_{\nu\alpha}\} + O(\mathcal{R}^2),\end{aligned}\quad (23)$$

one can rewrite the last expression through a kind of generalized Gauss-Bonnet identity: namely,

$$\begin{aligned}\int d^4x\text{Tr}\mathcal{R}_{\mu\nu}F_3(\square)\mathcal{R}_{\mu\nu} \\ = \int d^4x\left[\frac{1}{2}RF_3(\square)R - 2R_{\mu\nu}F_3(\square)R_{\mu\nu} + O(\mathcal{R}^3)\right].\end{aligned}\quad (24)$$

In view of this identity, the stress tensor is basically the one for the scalar field, modified as

$$\begin{aligned}\langle T_{\mu\nu} \rangle &= -\frac{1}{32\pi^2}\left\{\ln\left(-\frac{\square}{\mu^2}\right)\left[\left(4\sigma_2^{(1)} + \frac{1}{2}\sigma_2^{(3)}\right)H_{\mu\nu}^{(1)} + \left(4\sigma_2^{(2)} - 2\sigma_2^{(3)}\right)H_{\mu\nu}^{(2)}\right] \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \frac{m^2}{\square}\ln\left(-\frac{m^2}{\square}\right)\left[\left(4k^{(1)} + \frac{1}{2}k^{(3)}\right)H_{\mu\nu}^{(1)} + \left(4k^{(2)} - 2k^{(3)}\right)H_{\mu\nu}^{(2)}\right]\right\}.\end{aligned}\quad (25)$$

The new coefficients, associated to the form factor integral  $F_3$ , are given by  $\sigma_2^{(3)} = 1/12$  (early-time behavior) and  $k^{(3)} = 1/2$  (late-time behavior), and the other coefficients, written in Eq. (18), are evaluated at  $\xi = 1/4$ . Therefore the  $m^2$ -dependent terms in  $\langle T_{\mu\nu} \rangle$  can be seen as correcting the Newton constant since  $(4k^{(2)} - 2k^{(3)})/(4k^{(1)} + \frac{k^{(3)}}{2}) = -2$ . The spinor field behaves, in this respect, as the minimally coupled scalar field.

Finally, after tracing and solving the equations of motion, the quantum correction to the Newtonian poten-

tial reads  $\delta V(r) = -\frac{G^2 M m^2}{3\pi} \frac{\ln \frac{r}{r_0}}{r}$  which coincides with the Wilsonian potential, obtained from the RGE for the Newton constant  $G(\mu)$ .

F.D.M. would like to thank C. Fosco for useful discussions on related matters, and IAEA and UNESCO for hospitality at ICTP. This research was supported by Universidad de Buenos Aires, Consejo Nacional de Investigaciones Científicas y Técnicas and by Fundación Antorchas.

- 
- [1] D. A. R. Dalvit and F. D. Mazzitelli, *Phys. Rev. D* **50**, 1001 (1994).  
 [2] G. A. Vilkovisky, in *Proceedings of the Strasbourg Meeting between Physicists and Mathematicians* (unpublished).  
 [3] A. O. Barvinsky and G. A. Vilkovisky, *Nucl. Phys.* **B282**, 163 (1987); **B333**, 471 (1990).  
 [4] N. D. Birrell and P. C. W. Davies, *Quantum Fields in Curved Space* (Cambridge University Press, London, 1982).  
 [5] L. Parker and D. J. Toms, *Phys. Rev. D* **32**, 1409 (1985).  
 [6] J. F. Donoghue, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **72**, 2996 (1994).  
 [7] G. A. Vilkovisky, in *Quantum Theory of Gravity*, edited by S. M. Christensen (Hilger, Bristol, 1984).  
 [8] J. Z. Simon, *Phys. Rev. D* **41**, 3720 (1990); **43**, 308 (1991).  
 [9] F. D. Mazzitelli, *Phys. Rev. D* **45**, 2814 (1992).  
 [10] I. G. Avramidi and A. O. Barvinsky, *Phys. Lett.* **159B**, 269 (1985).  
 [11] T. Goldman *et al.*, *Phys. Lett. B* **281**, 219 (1992).  
 [12] A. O. Barvinsky *et al.*, *J. Math. Phys.* **35**, 3525 (1994); **35**, 3543 (1994).  
 [13] S. M. Christensen, *Phys. Rev. D* **17**, 946 (1978).