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False Vacuum Decay Rate of a Scalar Field at One Loop

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Introduction

- False vacuum decay: tunnelling from false vacuum (FV) to true vacuum (TV)
- Motivation:
 - D = 4: metastable Standard Model (SM) potential
 - D = 3 : early universe
 - D = 2 : spin chains



• General renormalizable potential of a real scalar field ϕ :

$$V(\phi) = \frac{\lambda}{8} \left(\phi^2 - v^2\right)^2 + \lambda \Delta v^3 \left(\phi - v\right) = \lambda v^2 \tilde{V}(\phi) \qquad \varphi = \phi/v$$

Problem Framework

- $0 < \lambda \ll 1$ and $0 < \Delta \ll 1$
- Dimensionless coupling $\Delta,~\Delta_{\rm max}=1/\sqrt{27}\approx 0.19245$



$$\frac{\Gamma}{V} = \left(\frac{S_R}{2\pi\hbar}\right)^{D/2} \left| \frac{\det'\left[-\partial^2 + m_B^2\right]}{\det\left[-\partial^2 + m_{\rm FV}^2\right]} \right|^{-1/2} e^{-S_R/\hbar - S_{\rm ct}}$$
$$m_B^2 = V''(\bar{\phi}), \quad m_{\rm FV}^2 = V''(\phi_{\rm FV})$$

- The decay rate should vanish at $\Delta=0$ and $\Delta=\Delta_{\rm max}$

Bounce Solution

- Unstable instanton configuration
- Extremizes the (Euclidean) action
- Radial O(D) symmetry

$$\varphi'' + \frac{D-1}{\rho'} \varphi' - \frac{\partial \tilde{V}}{\partial \varphi} = 0 \quad \begin{array}{l} \rho' = \sqrt{\lambda v^2} \rho \\ \bar{\varphi}'(0) = \bar{\varphi}'(\infty) = 0, \quad \bar{\varphi}(0) = \varphi_{\rm in}, \quad \bar{\varphi}(\infty) = \varphi_{\rm FV} \end{array}$$



Bounce Solution

• Thin-wall limit:

$$\bar{\varphi} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \Delta^n \varphi_n \quad r = \frac{1}{\Delta} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \Delta^n r_n \quad \longrightarrow \quad \begin{bmatrix} \varphi_0(z) = \tanh(z/2) \\ r_0 = (D-1)/3 \end{bmatrix} z = \rho' - r$$

• Absolute deviation of the thin-wall solution of order $\mathcal{O}(\Delta^2)$:



- $\varphi_{\rm in} \neq \varphi_{\rm TV}$ for numerical solution

Bounce Action

$$S = \frac{v^{4-D}}{\lambda^{D/2-1}} \frac{\Omega_D}{\Delta^{D-1}} \int_0^\infty \mathrm{d}\rho' \left(\Delta\rho'\right)^{D-1} \left[\frac{1}{2}\varphi'^2 + \tilde{V}(\varphi) - \tilde{V}(\varphi_{\rm FV})\right] = \frac{v^{4-D}}{\lambda^{D/2-1}} \frac{\Omega_D}{\Delta^{D-1}} \tilde{S}$$
$$\Omega_D = 2\pi^{D/2} / \Gamma(D/2)$$

• Thin wall limit: $\tilde{S} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \Delta^n \tilde{S}_n$

$$\tilde{S}_0 = \frac{\Omega_D}{\Delta^{D-1}} \frac{2}{3D} \left(\frac{D-1}{3}\right)^{D-1}$$

first order $\mathcal{O}(\Delta^0)$



Renormalized Bounce Action

• Counterterm potential:

$$V_{\rm ct}(\phi) = \frac{\delta_{\lambda}}{8}\phi^4 - \frac{\lambda\delta_{\nu}}{4}\phi^2 + \lambda\nu^3\delta_{\Delta}\phi$$

• Counterterms cancel divergencies at one loop:



Dimensional regularization with minimal subtraction (MS) scheme

Renormalized Bounce Action

• In D = 3 all counterterms vanish in MS scheme

Quantum Fluctuations

• Contribution from quantum fluctuations: O(D) symmetry

$$\left|\frac{\det'\mathcal{O}}{\det\mathcal{O}_{\rm FV}}\right|^{-1/2} = \left|\frac{\det'\left[-\partial^2 + m_{\rm B}^2\right]}{\det\left[-\partial^2 + m_{\rm FV}^2\right]}\right|^{-1/2} \stackrel{}{=} \left|\prod_{\ell=0}^{\infty} \frac{\det'\mathcal{O}_{\ell}}{\det\mathcal{O}_{\rm FV,\ell}}\right|^{-1/2}$$

• Gel'fand Yaglom:

$$\mathcal{O}_{\ell} \psi_{\ell}(\rho) = 0, \quad \mathcal{O}_{\mathrm{FV},\ell} \psi_{\mathrm{FV},\ell}(\rho) = 0 \quad \psi_{(\mathrm{FV}),\ell}(\rho \sim 0) = \rho^{\ell}$$

does not remove the zero eigenvalues!

Quantum Fluctuations

- Ratio $R_{\ell}(\rho \to \infty)$
 - < 0 for $\ell = 0 \longrightarrow$ single negative eigenvalue
 - = 0 for $\ell = 1 \longrightarrow$ zero eigenvalues
 - $\bullet \quad \to 1 \text{ for } \ell \gg 1 \longrightarrow \mathcal{O}_{\ell} \approx \mathcal{O}_{\mathrm{FV},\ell}$



Low Multipoles

• Low multipoles $\nu < 1/\Delta$:

$$R_{\ell,\text{low}}(\rho \to \infty) = \Delta^2 e^{D-1} \frac{3}{4} \frac{(\ell-1)(\ell+D-1)}{(D-1)^2} \quad \text{of order } \mathcal{O}(\Delta^2)$$

- Correct behaviour for $\ell = 0,1$
- Does not converge to 1 for $\ell \gg 1$



General Multipoles

- New multipole notation: $\nu = \ell + D/2 1$
- Treat $\nu \Delta$ as of order $\mathcal{O}(\Delta^0)$

$$R_{\nu,\text{gen}}(\rho \to \infty) = \frac{\left(k_{\nu} - 1\right)\left(2k_{\nu} - 1\right)}{\left(k_{\nu} + 1\right)\left(2k_{\nu} + 1\right)}e^{3r_{0}\left(k_{\nu} - \sqrt{k_{\nu}^{2} - 1}\right)}, \quad k_{\nu}^{2} = 1 + \frac{\Delta^{2}\nu^{2}}{r_{0}^{2}}$$

- Does converge to 1 for $\ell \gg 1$
- Does not recover the low multipole result



of order $\mathcal{O}(\Delta^0)$

Removal of Zero Eigenvalues

- Using Gel'fand Yaglom does not account for removal of zero eigenvalues at $\ell=1$
- Add dimensionful μ_{ε}^2 : $(\mathcal{O}_1 + \mu_{\varepsilon}^2) \psi_1^{\varepsilon} = 0 \rightarrow R_1^{\varepsilon} = \psi_1^{\varepsilon}/\psi_{\text{FV},1}$



Renormalized Ratio of Functional Determinants

$$\left|\frac{\det \mathscr{O}}{\det \mathscr{O}_{\rm FV}}\right|^{-1/2} = \left(\left|R_0\right| R_1'^D \prod_{\ell=2}^{\infty} \frac{\det \mathscr{O}_{\ell}}{\det \mathscr{O}_{\rm FV,\ell}}\right)^{-1/2}$$

• In thin-wall limit the ratio is dominated by high multipoles

$$\ln \left| \frac{\det' \mathcal{O}}{\det \mathcal{O}_{FV}} \right| \longrightarrow D \left[\ln \tilde{R}'_1 - \ln \left(\lambda v^2 \right) \right] + \sum_{\nu = \nu_0}^{\infty} \frac{\ln \left(\frac{\det \mathcal{O}}{\det \mathcal{O}_{FV}} \right)}{\tilde{R}'_1 = e^{D-1/12}} \right]$$

• The sum diverges:

$$\sum_{\nu \gg 1} d_{\nu} \ln R_{\nu} \approx \frac{3r_0 \left(2 - r_0\right)}{(D - 2)!} \sum_{\nu \gg 1} \nu^{D-2} \left[\frac{1}{\nu} - \frac{1}{\nu^3} \left(\frac{r_0}{2\Delta}\right)^2\right] \qquad \begin{array}{l} \text{Both terms diverge in} \\ D = 4, \text{ only the first term} \\ \text{diverges in } D = 2,3 \end{array}$$

Apply MS scheme

$$\sum_{\nu=\nu_0}^{\infty} d_{\nu} \ln R_{\nu} \to \sum_{\nu=\nu_0}^{\infty} d_{\nu} \left(\ln R_{\nu} - \ln R_{\nu}^a \right) + a_i \tilde{I}_i$$
 Added in even dimensions, with ε and μ dependence

Renormalized Ratio of Functional Determinants

$$-S_{R} - S_{ct} - \frac{1}{2} \ln \left(\frac{\det \mathcal{O}}{\det \mathcal{O}_{FV}} \right) \Big|_{D=4} \approx -S - \frac{1}{\Delta^{3}} \frac{27 - 2\sqrt{3}\pi}{96}$$

$$-S_{R} - S_{ct} - \frac{1}{2} \ln \left(\frac{\det \mathcal{O}}{\det \mathcal{O}_{FV}} \right) \Big|_{D=3} \approx -S - \frac{1}{\Delta^{2}} \frac{20 + 9 \ln 3}{54} \quad \text{add } \tilde{R}'_{1} \quad \frac{\Gamma}{V} \propto \exp \left[-S - \frac{1}{2} \Sigma_{D}^{f} \right]$$

$$-S_{R} - S_{ct} - \frac{1}{2} \ln \left(\frac{\det \mathcal{O}}{\det \mathcal{O}_{FV}} \right) \Big|_{D=2} \approx -S - \frac{1}{\Delta} \frac{\sqrt{3}\pi - 18}{18}$$

• The finite contribution of quantum fluctuations in the thin-wall limit:

$$\Sigma_{4}^{f} = \frac{1}{\Delta^{3}} \frac{27 - 2\sqrt{3}\pi}{48} + 12 - 4\ln 12$$

$$\Sigma_{3}^{f} = \frac{1}{\Delta^{2}} \frac{20 + 9\ln 3}{27} + 6 - 3\ln 12$$

$$\Sigma_{2}^{f} = \frac{1}{\Delta} \frac{\sqrt{3}\pi - 18}{9} + 2 - 2\ln 12$$

Renormalized Ratio of Functional Determinants

• Comparing the thin-wall and numerical results:





Decay Rate

$$\frac{\Gamma}{V} \approx \left(\frac{S_R}{2\pi}\lambda_0 v_0^2\right)^{D/2} \exp\left(-S - \frac{1}{2}\Sigma_D^f\right)$$

• Renormalization scale dependence in even dimensions

$$S_R \approx \begin{cases} S \left[1 + \frac{9\lambda_0}{(4\pi)^2} \ln \frac{\mu}{\mu_0} \right], & \text{for } D = 4 \\ S_R \approx \begin{cases} S \left[1 + \frac{15}{4\pi v_0^2} \ln \frac{\mu}{\mu_0} \right], & \text{for } D = 2 \end{cases} \end{cases}$$

Conclusion

- We explored false vacuum decay rate at one loop in various dimensions
- Found bounce solution and its action, which had to be renormalized
- Quantum fluctuations around the bounce solution give contribution to the decay rate through a ratio of functional determinants
- The decay rate vanishes in both limits, as expected
- The renormalization scale dependance has to be eliminated in even dimensions (higher order corrections)
- Future work could include additional scalars, would-be Goldstones, gauge bosons and fermions

Additional slides

Thin-Wall Limit Expansions

• Bounce solution: $\varphi_0(z) = \tanh\left(\frac{z}{2}\right)$, $\varphi_1(z) = -1,$ $\varphi_2(z) = \frac{3}{4(D-1)\cosh^2(z/2)} \left\{ \left[2 - D - 2\left(4 + \cosh z \right) \ln \left(1 + e^z \right) \right] \sinh z \right\}$ $-z\left[D-e^{z}\left(4+\sinh z\right)\right]$ $+3 \left[\text{Li}_{2}(-e^{z}) - \text{Li}_{2}(-e^{-z}) \right]$ • Bounce radius: $r_0 = \frac{D-1}{3}$, $r_1 = 0$, $r_2 = \frac{6\pi^2 - 40 + D(26 - 4D - 3\pi^2)}{3(D-1)}$ • Bounce action: $\tilde{S}_0 = \frac{\Omega_D}{\Lambda^{D-1}} \left(\frac{D-1}{3}\right)^{D-1} \frac{2}{3D}$, $\tilde{S}_2 = \frac{\Omega_D}{\Delta^{D-1}} \frac{-8D^2 + (25 - 3\pi^2)D + 1}{2(D-1)},$ $\tilde{S}_4 = \frac{\Omega_D}{\Lambda^{D-1}} \frac{1}{40(D-1)^3} \left[320D^5 + 80D^4 \left(3\pi^2 - 49 \right) \right]$ $-3D^{3}(550\pi^{2}+3\pi^{4}-6185)$ $+5D^{2}(426\pi^{2}+45\pi^{4}-648\zeta(3)-7843)$ + $D(3240\zeta(3) + 30635 + 360\pi^2 - 414\pi^4) + 105]$ 18/17

Gel'fand Yaglom Theorem

• Contribution of quantum fluctuations:

$$\begin{split} \left| \frac{\det' \mathcal{O}}{\det \mathcal{O}_{\rm FV}} \right|^{-1/2} &= \left| \prod_{\ell=0}^{\infty} \frac{\det' \mathcal{O}_{\ell}}{\det \mathcal{O}_{\rm FV,\ell}} \right|^{-1/2} \\ \mathcal{O}_{\ell} &= -\frac{d^2}{d\rho^2} - \frac{D-1}{\rho} \frac{d}{d\rho} + \frac{\ell \left(\ell + D - 2\right)}{\rho^2} + m_{\rm B}^2, \\ \mathcal{O}_{\rm FV,\ell} &= -\frac{d^2}{d\rho^2} - \frac{D-1}{\rho} \frac{d}{d\rho} + \frac{\ell \left(\ell + D - 2\right)}{\rho^2} + m_{\rm FV}^2. \end{split}$$

• Gel'fand Yaglom:

Gel'fand Yaglom Theorem

• Contribution of quantum fluctuations:

$$\left|\frac{\det'\mathcal{O}}{\det\mathcal{O}_{\rm FV}}\right|^{-1/2} = \left|\prod_{\ell=0}^{\infty} \frac{\det'\mathcal{O}_{\ell}}{\det\mathcal{O}_{\rm FV,\ell}}\right|^{-1/2}$$

$$\mathcal{O}_{\mathcal{C}} = -\frac{\mathrm{d}^2}{\mathrm{d}\rho^2} - \frac{D-1}{\rho} \frac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{d}\rho} + \frac{\ell\left(\ell + D - 2\right)}{\rho^2} + m_{\mathrm{B}}^2,$$
$$\mathcal{O}_{\mathrm{FV},\mathcal{C}} = -\frac{\mathrm{d}^2}{\mathrm{d}\rho^2} - \frac{D-1}{\rho} \frac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{d}\rho} + \frac{\ell\left(\ell + D - 2\right)}{\rho^2} + m_{\mathrm{FV}}^2$$

Gel'fand Yaglom:



Renormalized Ratio in Thin-Wall Limit

• Renormalized ratio:

$$\ln\left(\frac{\det \mathcal{O}}{\det \mathcal{O}_{FV}}\right)\Big|_{D=4} = \sum_{\nu=1}^{\infty} \nu^{2} \left(\ln R_{\nu} - \frac{1}{2\nu}I_{1} + \frac{1}{8\nu^{3}}I_{2}\right) - \frac{1}{8}\tilde{I}_{2}$$

$$\ln\left(\frac{\det \mathcal{O}}{\det \mathcal{O}_{FV}}\right)\Big|_{D=3} = \sum_{\nu=1/2}^{\infty} 2\nu \left(\ln R_{\nu} - \frac{1}{2\nu}I_{1}\right)$$

$$\ln\left(\frac{\det \mathcal{O}}{\det \mathcal{O}_{FV}}\right)\Big|_{D=2} = 2\ln R_{0} + \sum_{\nu=1}^{\infty} 2\left(\ln R_{\nu} - \frac{1}{2\nu}I_{1}\right) + \tilde{I}_{1}$$
dependent on ε and μ

• UV integrals:

$$\begin{split} I_{1} &= \int_{0}^{\infty} \mathrm{d}\rho \,\rho \left(m_{\mathrm{B}}^{2} - m_{\mathrm{FV}}^{2}\right) \approx -3 \left(2 - r_{0}\right) \left(\frac{r_{0}}{\Delta}\right), \\ I_{2} &= \int_{0}^{\infty} \mathrm{d}\rho \,\rho^{3} \left[\left(m_{\mathrm{B}}^{2}\right)^{2} - \left(m_{\mathrm{FV}}^{2}\right)^{2}\right] \approx -3 \left(2 - r_{0}\right) \left(\frac{r_{0}}{\Delta}\right)^{3}, \\ \tilde{I}_{1} &= \int_{0}^{\infty} \mathrm{d}\rho \,\rho \left(m_{\mathrm{B}}^{2} - m_{\mathrm{FV}}^{2}\right) \left[\frac{1}{\varepsilon} + \gamma + \ln \left(\frac{\mu\rho}{2}\right)\right]^{D} \approx^{2} - \frac{1}{6\Delta} + \left[\frac{1}{\varepsilon} + \gamma + \ln \frac{\mu}{6\sqrt{\lambda_{0}}v_{0}\Delta}\right] I_{1}, \\ \tilde{I}_{2} &= \int_{0}^{\infty} \mathrm{d}\rho \,\rho^{3} \left[\left(m_{\mathrm{B}}^{2}\right)^{2} - \left(m_{\mathrm{FV}}^{2}\right)^{2}\right] \left[\frac{1}{\varepsilon} + \gamma + 1 + \ln \left(\frac{\mu\rho}{2}\right)\right]^{D} \approx^{4} I_{2} \left[\frac{1}{\varepsilon} + \gamma + \frac{5}{4} + \ln \frac{\mu}{2\sqrt{\lambda_{0}}v_{0}\Delta}\right] \end{split}$$

Numerical Methods

• Finding bounce solution using shooting method:



• Finite sum: $\Sigma_{4}^{f} = \ln |R_{1}| - \frac{1}{2}I_{1} + \frac{1}{8}I_{2} + 4\left(\ln R_{2}' - \frac{1}{4}I_{1} + \frac{1}{64}I_{2}\right)$ $+ \sum_{\nu=3}^{\infty} \nu^{2}\left(\ln R_{\nu} - \frac{1}{2\nu}I_{1} + \frac{1}{8\nu^{3}}I_{2}\right) - \frac{1}{8}\tilde{I}_{2}^{R},$ without ε term and $\mu = 1$ $\Sigma_{3}^{f} = \ln |R_{1/2}| - I_{1} + 3\left(\ln R_{3/2}' - \frac{1}{3}I_{1}\right) + \sum_{\nu=5/2}^{\infty} 2\nu\left(\ln R_{\nu} - \frac{1}{2\nu}I_{1}\right),$ $\Sigma_{2}^{f} = \ln |R_{0}| + 2\left(\ln R_{1}' - \frac{1}{2}I_{1}\right) + \sum_{\nu=2}^{\infty} 2\left(\ln R_{\nu} - \frac{1}{2\nu}I_{1}\right) + \tilde{I}_{1}^{R}$

Numerical Methods



• Finding reduced ratio $R'_{D/2}$:

$$\left(\mathcal{O}_{R,D/2} - \mu_{\varepsilon}^{2}\right) \left(R_{D/2}(\rho) + \mu_{\varepsilon}^{2} R_{D/2}'(\rho)\right) = 0 \longrightarrow \mathcal{O}_{R,D/2} R_{D/2}'(\rho) = R_{D/2}(\rho)$$

Dimensional Analysis and Dimensionless Quantities

- Known dimensionalities: $[x^{\mu}] = -1$, $[dx^{\mu}] = -1$, $[\partial_{\mu}] = 1$, [S] = 0
- We get:

$$[S] = [d^{D}x\partial_{\mu}\phi\partial^{\mu}\phi] = D[dx] + 2[\partial_{\mu}] + 2[\phi] \equiv 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad [\phi] = \frac{1}{2}(D-2),$$

$$[S] = [d^{D}x\lambda\phi^{4}] = D[dx] + 4[\phi] + [\lambda] \equiv 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad [\lambda] = 4 - D,$$

$$[S] = [d^{D}x\lambda\nu^{4}] = D[dx] + [\lambda] + 4[\nu] \equiv 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad [\nu] = \frac{1}{2}(D-2),$$

$$[S] = [d^{D}x\lambda\nu^{4}\Delta] = D[dx] + [\lambda] + 4[\nu] + [\Delta] \equiv 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad [\Delta] = 0$$

• In thermal (D = 4) field theory time dimension becomes compactified, reducing the effective dimensionality of the theory to D = 3

$$\longrightarrow [S] = [d^3x\lambda v^4\Delta] = 1 \quad \stackrel{\text{divide } S \text{ by } T}{\longrightarrow} [S/T] = [S] - [T] = 0$$

• Decay rate and ratio of determinants:

$$[\Gamma] = -[\tau] = 1 \longrightarrow [\Gamma/V] = D = \left[\left| \frac{\det'\left[-\partial^2 + m_{\rm B}^2 \right]}{\det\left[-\partial^2 + m_{\rm FV}^2 \right]} \right|^{-1/2} \right]$$

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Path Integral in Euclidean Space

• Path integral in quantum mechanics (QM):



$$G(x_f, t_f; x_i, t_i) = N \sum_{\text{all paths } x(t)} e^{iS[x(t)]/\hbar} = N \int \mathcal{D}x \, e^{iS[x(t)]/\hbar}$$

• Path integral in scalar quantum field theory (SQFT):



$$G(\phi_f, t_f; \phi_i, t_i) = \int \mathcal{D}\phi \, e^{\mathrm{i} S[\phi]/\hbar}$$

• Euclidean space $t \rightarrow -it_E$:

QM:
$$G_E(x_f, t_f; x_i, t_i) = N \int \mathscr{D}x \, e^{-S_E[x(t)]/\hbar}, \quad S_E[x(t)] = \int dt_E \, L_E$$

SQFT: $G_E(\phi_f, t_f; \phi_i, t_i) = \int \mathscr{D}\phi \, e^{-S_E[\phi]/\hbar}, \quad S_E[\phi] = \int d^4 x_E \, \mathscr{L}_E$