Domain-wall brane model building From chirality to cosmology

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PhD completion seminar – 17th October 2008



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- Supervisory panel: Bruce McKellar, Lloyd Hollenberg.
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PhD summary

Focus of PhD: theory of domain-wall brane models, with applications to the standard model of particle physics and cosmology.

Papers published:

- G. Dando, A. Davidson, D.P. George, R.R. Volkas and K.C. Wali The clash of symmetries in a Randall-Sundrum-like spacetime Phys. Rev. D 72 045016 (2005), arXiv:hep-ph/0507097
- D.P. George and R.R. Volkas
 Stability of domain walls coupled to Abelian gauge fields
 Phys.Rev. D 72 105011 (2005), arXiv:hep-ph/0508206
- E. Di Napoli, D. George, M. Hertzberg, F. Metzler and E. Siegel
 Dark Matter In Minimal Trinification Proceedings of the LXXXVI Les Houches Summer School, pp 517–524 (2006), arXiv:hep-ph/0611012
- D.P. George and R.R. Volkas
 Kink modes and effective four dimensional fermion and Higgs brane models
 Phys. Rev. D 75 105007 (2007), arXiv:hep-ph/0612270
- R. Davies and D.P. George Fermions, scalars and Randall-Sundrum gravity on domain-wall branes Phys. Rev. D 76 104010 (2007), arXiv:0705.1391
- R. Davies, D.P. George and R.R. Volkas The standard model on a domain-wall brane? Phys. Rev. D 77 124038 (2008), arXiv:0705.1584
- \blacksquare A. Davidson, D.P. George, A. Kobakhidze, R.R. Volkas and K.C. Wali SU(5) grand unification on a domain-wall brane from an E_6 -invariant action Phys. Rev. D 77 085031 (2008), arXiv:0710.3432
- D.P. George, M. Trodden, R.R. Volkas Domain-wall brane cosmology In preparation

Talk outline

Context: physics beyond the standard model – extra dimensions.

We will cover:

- Randall-Sundrum 2 model with delta-function brane.
- Domain walls (kinks/solitons).
- Trapping scalar and fermion fields to a domain wall.
- Using Dvali-Shifman mechanism to trap gauge fields.
- SU(5) grand unified domain-wall model.
- Extending SU(5) to E_6 .
- Cosmology the expansion of a brane universe.

Introduction

We are inspired by the Randall-Sundrum warped metric solution.

RS1 is a compact extra dimension: provides a solution to the hierarchy problem – lots of work on this model. Branes are string theory like objects. Warped throats, inflation, dark matter, ...

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(Randall & Sundrum, PRL83, 3370 (1999))
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RS2 is an infinite extra dimension: solves the trapping of low-energy gravity. Not as much interest because it doesn't solve any major problems, just introduces another dimension.

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(Randall & Sundrum, PRL83, 4690 (1999))
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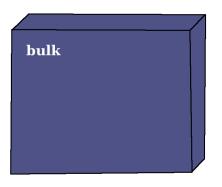
We will pursue RS2 because it seems a natural extension of 3+1 space.

Premise:

- take the standard model and general relativity
- add an *infinite* extra space dimension
- recover the standard model and general relativity at low energies

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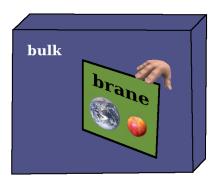
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$$S = \int \!\! d^4x \int \!\! dy \sqrt{|g|} \left[-M^3 R + \delta(y) \mathcal{L}_{\text{SM}} \right]$$

RS2 model

Need brane and bulk sources:

$$S = \int \!\! d^4x \int \!\! dy \left[\sqrt{|g|} (-M^3 R - \Lambda_{\rm bulk}) + \sqrt{|g^{(4)}|} \delta(y) (\mathcal{L}_{\rm SM} - \Lambda_{\rm brane}) \right] \tag{1}$$

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Solve the theory:

- Randall-Sundrum metric ansatz: $ds^2 = e^{-2k|y|}g^{(4)}_{\mu\nu}dx^{\mu}dx^{\nu} dy^2$
- Solve Einstein's equations ($\mathcal{L}_{SM} = 0$ and $R^{(4)} = 0$):

$$\Lambda_{\rm bulk} = -12k^2M^3 \qquad \qquad \Lambda_{\rm brane} = 12kM^3$$

 \blacksquare Write R in terms of $R^{(4)}\colon\thinspace R=e^{2k|y|}R^{(4)}-16k\delta(y)+20k^2$

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Substitute into (1) and integrate over y:

$$\mathcal{S} = \int \!\! d^4x \sqrt{|g^{(4)}|} \left[-\frac{M^3}{k} R^{(4)} + \mathcal{L}_{\text{SM}} \right] \label{eq:SM}$$

A dimensionally reduced theory.

Newton's law

Just need to check Newton's law. Linear tensor fluctuations are:

$$g_{\mu\nu} = e^{-2k|y|} \eta_{\mu\nu} + \sum_{n} h_{n \mu\nu}^{(4)}(x^{\mu}) \psi_n(y)$$

The zero mode $h_{0 \mu\nu}^{(4)}$ dominates the Kaluza-Klein tower.

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Newton's law is modified to:

$$V(r) = -G_N \frac{m_1 m_2}{r} \left(1 + \frac{\epsilon^2}{r^2} \right)$$
 (where $\epsilon = 1/k$)

Current experimental bounds are very weak:

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- We have what we wanted: a 5D theory that at low energies looks like our 4D universe.
- But almost no new phenomenology.
- Next step: brane forms naturally.



Thick and smooth RS2

We want to remove the $\delta(y)$ part of the action:

$$\mathcal{S} = \int\!\! d^4x \int\!\! dy \left[\sqrt{|g|} (-M^3R - \Lambda_{\rm bulk}) + \sqrt{|g^{(4)}|} \delta(y) (\mathcal{L}_{\rm SM} - \Lambda_{\rm brane}) \right]$$

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Geometry, hence gravity, is 5D. So why not try to make all fields 5D?

- First we show how to make a dynamical brane.
- Then we show how to trap scalars, fermions and gauge fields to the brane.
- \blacksquare Finally we present a 4+1-d SU(5) based extension to the standard model.

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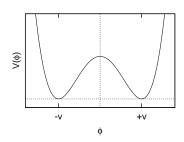
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Turn off warped gravity for now - just think about trapping 5D fields.

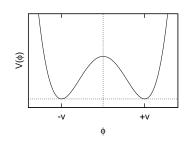
A domain wall as a brane



A *domain-wall* is a (thin) region separating two vacua.

The field ϕ interpolates between two vacua as one moves along the extra-dimension.

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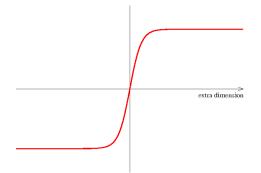
Lagrangian for $\phi(x^{\mu}, y)$:

$$\mathcal{L} = \frac{1}{2} \partial_M \phi \ \partial^M \phi - V(\phi)$$

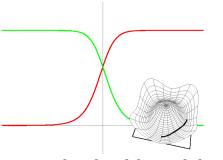
A solution is the kink:

$$\phi(y) = v \tanh(\sqrt{2\lambda}vy)$$

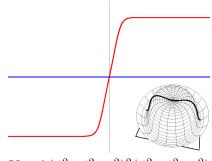
It is stable!



These examples use two scalar fields to form the wall.

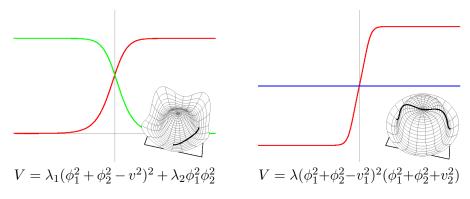


$$V = \lambda_1(\phi_1^2 + \phi_2^2 - v^2)^2 + \lambda_2\phi_1^2\phi_2^2$$



$$V = \lambda(\phi_1^2 + \phi_2^2 - v_1^2)^2(\phi_1^2 + \phi_2^2 + v_2^2)$$

These examples use two scalar fields to form the wall.



In a realistic model, symmetries dictate V.

To determine stability, expand ϕ in normal modes about the background: $\phi(x,t)=\phi_{\mathrm{bg}}(x)+\sum_n \xi_n(x)e^{i\omega_nt}.$ Make sure $\omega_n^2\geq 0$

Trapping matter fields

Aim: to trap a 5D scalar field $\Xi(x^{\mu}, y)$ to the brane.

A simple quartic coupling works:

$$S = \int d^4x \int dy \left[\frac{1}{2} \partial^M \phi \ \partial_M \phi - V(\phi) + \frac{1}{2} \partial^M \Xi \ \partial_M \Xi - W(\Xi) - g \phi^2 \Xi^2 \right]$$

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Expand Ξ in extra dimensional (Kaluza-Klein) modes:

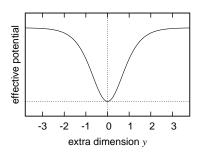
$$\Xi(x^{\mu}, y) = \sum_{n} \xi_n(x^{\mu}) k_n(y)$$

 ξ_n are the 4D fields, k_n their extra-dimensional profile. The profiles satisfy a Schrödinger equation:

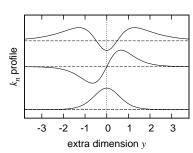
$$\left(-\frac{d^2}{dy^2} + 2g\phi_{\mathsf{bg}}^2\right)k_n(y) = E_n^2 k_n(y)$$

The energy eigenvalues E_n are related to the mass of the 4D field ξ_n .

The effective potential acts like a well.

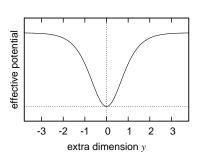


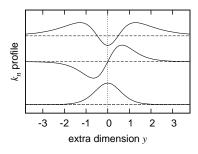
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To get 4D theory, substitute mode expansion into action and integrate y:

$$\mathcal{S} = \int\!\! d^4x \left[\sum_n \left(\frac{1}{2} \partial^\mu \xi_n \partial_\mu \xi_n - m_n^2 \xi_n^2 \right) + (\text{higher order terms}) \right]$$

- lacktriangle Orthonormal basis $k_n \implies$ diagonal kinetic and mass terms.
- \blacksquare m_n can be tuned.

We can trap a fermion $\Psi(x^{\mu},y)$ to the brane with a Yukawa coupling:

$$S = \int d^4x \int dy \left[\frac{1}{2} \partial^M \phi \ \partial_M \phi - V(\phi) + \overline{\Psi} i \Gamma^M \partial_M \Psi - h \phi \overline{\Psi} \Psi \right]$$

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Decompose into left- and right-chiral fields and Kaluza-Klein modes:

$$\Psi(x^{\mu}, y) = \sum_{n} \left[\psi_{Ln}(x^{\mu}) f_{Ln}(y) + \psi_{Rn}(x^{\mu}) f_{Rn}(y) \right]$$

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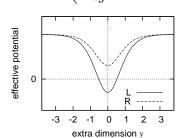
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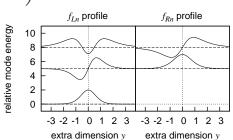
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Schrödinger equation (mode index n suppressed):

$$\left(-\frac{d^2}{du^2} + (h^2 \phi_{\mathsf{bg}}^2 \mp h \phi_{\mathsf{bg}}')\right) f_{L,R}(y) = m^2 f_{L,R}(y)$$





Gravity and matter fields

Brane (domain wall/kink), trapped scalar and fermion. Plus gravity:

$$S = \int d^4x \int dy \sqrt{|g|} \left[-M^3 R - \Lambda_{\text{bulk}} + \frac{1}{2} \partial^M \phi \ \partial_M \phi - V(\phi) \right]$$
$$+ \frac{1}{2} \partial^M \Xi \ \partial_M \Xi - W(\Xi) - g \phi^2 \Xi^2$$
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Dimensionally reduce by integrating over y:

$$\begin{split} \mathcal{S} &= \int\!\! d^4x \sqrt{|g^{(4)}|} \Big[-M_{\text{4D}}^2 R^{(4)} + \text{(brane dynamics)} \\ &+ \frac{1}{2} \partial^\mu \xi_n \partial_\mu \xi_n - m_n^2 \xi_n^2 - \tau_{mnop} \xi_m \xi_n \xi_o \xi_p - \text{(brane interactions)} \\ &+ \overline{\psi}_{L0} i \gamma^\mu \partial_\mu \psi_{L0} + \overline{\psi}_n (i \gamma^\mu \partial_\mu - \mu_n) \psi_n - \text{(brane interactions)} \Big] \end{split}$$

4D parameters (M_{4D} , m_n , τ_{mnop} , μ_n , brane dynamics) determined by eigenvalue spectra and overlap integrals.

Warped metric $ds^2 = e^{-2\sigma(y)}\eta_{\mu\nu}dx^{\mu}dx^{\nu} - dy^2$ modifies profile equation:

$$\left(-\frac{d^2}{dy^2} + 5\sigma'\frac{d}{dy} + 2\sigma'' - 6\sigma'^2 + U(y)\right)f_{Ln}(y) = m_n^2 e^{2\sigma} f_{Ln}(y)$$

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Conformal coordinates $ds^2 = e^{-2\sigma(y(z))} (\eta_{\mu\nu} dx^{\mu} dx^{\nu} - dz^2).$

Rescale $f_{Ln}(y) = e^{2\sigma} \tilde{f}_{Ln}(z)$:

$$\left(-\frac{d^2}{dz^2} + e^{-2\sigma(y(z))}U(y(z))\right)\tilde{f}_{Ln}(z) = m_n^2 \tilde{f}_{Ln}(z)$$

Matter trapping potentials are warped down.

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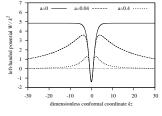
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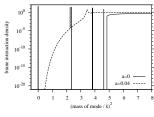
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Matter trapping potentials are warped down.

- Finite bound state lifetimes.
- Resonances.
- Tiny probability of interaction with continuum.





 $(a \sim 1/M^3 \sim 5 \text{D Newton's constant})$

Trapping gauge fields

Confining gauge fields

Need to trap gauge fields or e.g. Coulomb potential would be $V_{\rm Coulomb} \sim 1/r^2.$

Not as simple as a Kaluza-Klein mode expansion:

- Photon and gluons *must* remain massless.
- Need to preserve gauge universality at 3+1-d level.

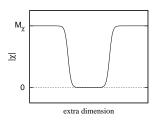
We use the Dvali-Shifman mechanism, Dvali & Shifman, PLB396, 64 (1997).

The following discussion is based on Dvali, Nielsen & Tetradis, PRD77, 085005 (2008).

Abelian Higgs model

U(1) gauge theory (think 5d photon). Charged Higgs χ (gives mass to photon).

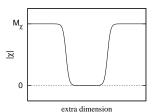


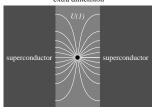


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In the bulk:

- U(1) is broken, massive photon $\sim M_{\chi}$.
- Higgs vacuum is a superconductor.
- Electric charges are screened.

On the brane:

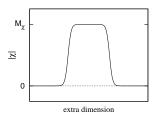
- \blacksquare U(1) is restored, massless photon.
- Electric field ends on Higgs vacuum.

Charge screening leaks onto the brane!

Using a dual superconductor

SU(2) gauge theory (3 "gluons"). Adjoint Higgs $\chi^a\ (a=1,2,3)$ (gives mass).

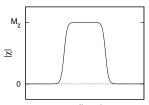


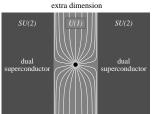


Using a dual superconductor

$$SU(2)$$
 gauge theory (3 "gluons"). Adjoint Higgs $\chi^a\ (a=1,2,3)$ (gives mass).







In the bulk:

- lacksquare SU(2) is restored, in confining regime.
- Large mass gap $\sim M_\chi$ to colourless state.
- QCD-like vacuum is dual superconductor.

On the brane:

- \blacksquare SU(2) broken to U(1), massless photon.
- Electric field repelled from dual superconductor.

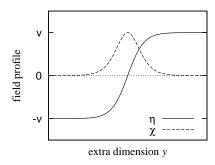
For distances much larger than brane width, electric potential $\sim 1/r.$

Dvali-Shifman model

Stabilise the domain wall with an extra uncharged scalar field η :

$$\begin{split} \mathcal{S} &= \int \!\! d^4x \int \!\! dy \left[\frac{-1}{4g^2} G^{aMN} G^a_{MN} + \frac{1}{2} \partial^M \eta \partial_M \eta + \frac{1}{2} (D^M \chi^a)^\dagger D_M \chi^a \right. \\ & \left. - \lambda (\eta^2 - v^2)^2 - \frac{\lambda'}{2} (\chi^a \chi^a + \kappa^2 - v^2 + \eta^2)^2 \right] \end{split}$$

- \blacksquare η has a kink profile.
- If $\kappa^2 v^2 < 0$, χ becomes tachyonic near domain wall (where $\eta \sim 0$).
- True vacuum has $\chi \neq 0$ near domain wall.
- χ breaks symmetry near wall and confines gauge fields.

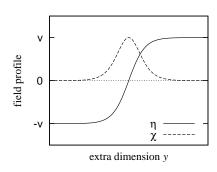


Dvali-Shifman model

Stabilise the domain wall with an extra uncharged scalar field η :

$$\begin{split} \mathcal{S} &= \int \!\! d^4x \int \!\! dy \left[\frac{-1}{4g^2} G^{aMN} G^a_{MN} + \frac{1}{2} \partial^M \eta \partial_M \eta + \frac{1}{2} (D^M \chi^a)^\dagger D_M \chi^a \right. \\ &\left. - \lambda (\eta^2 - v^2)^2 - \frac{\lambda'}{2} (\chi^a \chi^a + \kappa^2 - v^2 + \eta^2)^2 \right] \end{split}$$

- \blacksquare η has a kink profile.
- If $\kappa^2 v^2 < 0$, χ becomes tachyonic near domain wall (where $\eta \sim 0$).
- True vacuum has $\chi \neq 0$ near domain wall.
- χ breaks symmetry near wall and confines gauge fields.



Can add gravity: self consistently solve σ (warped metric profile), η , χ .

Dvali-Shifman mechanism

The Dvali-Shifman mechanism:

- Works with any non-Abelian SU(N) theory.
- \blacksquare Assumes the SU(N) theory is confining (not proven for 5D).
- Has gauge universality:
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Obvious choice for SU(N) group is SU(5).

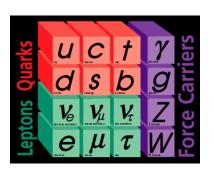
SU(5) basics

Quantum numbers of the standard model

Representations under
$$SU(3) \times SU(2)_L \times U(1)_Y$$
:

$$q_L \sim (\mathbf{3}, \mathbf{2})_{1/3} \quad u_R \sim (\mathbf{3}, \mathbf{1})_{4/3} \quad d_R \sim (\mathbf{3}, \mathbf{1})_{-2/3}$$

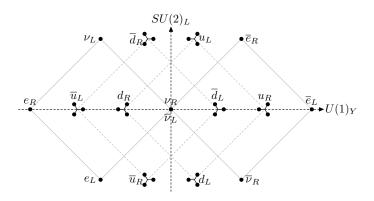
 $l_L \sim (\mathbf{1}, \mathbf{2})_{-1} \quad \nu_R \sim (\mathbf{1}, \mathbf{1})_0 \quad e_R \sim (\mathbf{1}, \mathbf{1})_{-2}$



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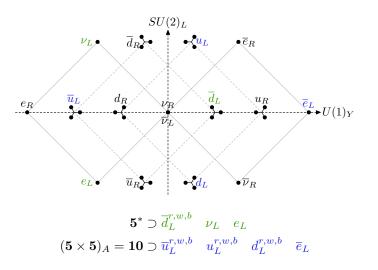
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Putting it all together

Want the standard model on the brane: $SU(3) \times SU(2)_L \times U(1)_Y$.

Dvali-Shifman needs a *larger* gauge group in the bulk:

SU(5) is a perfect fit!

Unify the fermions as usual: $\mathbf{5}^*$, $\mathbf{10}$.

Higgs doublet goes in a 5^* .

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Summary:

- \blacksquare 4 + 1-dimensional theory all spatial dimensions the same.
- SU(5) local gauge symmetry, \mathbb{Z}_2 discrete symmetry.
- Field content:
 - **a** gauge fields: $G_{MN} \sim \mathbf{24}$.
 - scalars: $\eta \sim 1$, $\chi \sim 24$, $\Phi \sim 5^*$.
 - \blacksquare fermions: $\Psi_5 \sim \mathbf{5}^*$, $\Psi_{10} \sim \mathbf{10}$.
- The standard model emerges as a low energy approximation.

Ignore gravity for now.

The theory is described by:

$$\begin{split} \mathcal{S} &= \int\!\! d^4x \int\!\! dy \bigg[\frac{-1}{4g^2} G^{aMN} G^a_{MN} + \frac{1}{2} \partial^M \eta \partial_M \eta + \mathrm{Tr} \left((D^M \chi)^\dagger (D_M \chi) \right) \\ &+ (D^M \Phi)^\dagger (D_M \Phi) + \overline{\Psi}_5 i \Gamma^M D_M \Psi_5 + \overline{\Psi}_{10} i \Gamma^M D_M \Psi_{10} \\ &- h_{5\eta} \overline{\Psi}_5 \Psi_5 \eta - h_{5\chi} \overline{\Psi}_5 \chi^T \Psi_5 \\ &- h_{10\eta} \operatorname{Tr} (\overline{\Psi}_{10} \Psi_{10}) \eta + 2 h_{10\chi} \operatorname{Tr} (\overline{\Psi}_{10} \chi \Psi_{10}) \\ &- h_{-} \overline{(\Psi_5)^c} \Psi_{10} \Phi - h_{+} (\epsilon \overline{(\Psi_{10})^c} \Psi_{10} \Phi^*) + \mathrm{h.c.} \\ &- (c\eta^2 - \mu_\chi^2) \operatorname{Tr} (\chi^2) - d\eta \operatorname{Tr} (\chi^3) \\ &- \lambda_1 \left[\operatorname{Tr} (\chi^2) \right]^2 - \lambda_2 \operatorname{Tr} (\chi^4) - l (\eta^2 - v^2)^2 \\ &- \mu_\Phi^2 \Phi^\dagger \Phi - \lambda_3 (\Phi^\dagger \Phi)^2 - \lambda_4 \Phi^\dagger \Phi \eta^2 \\ &- 2 \lambda_5 \Phi^\dagger \Phi \operatorname{Tr} (\chi^2) - \lambda_6 \Phi^\dagger (\chi^T)^2 \Phi - \lambda_7 \Phi^\dagger \chi^T \Phi \eta \end{split}$$

with kinetic, brane trapping, mass and Dvali-Shifman terms.

Let Ψ_{nY} be the components of Ψ_5 and Ψ_{10} (n=5,10, Y= hypercharge of component), e.g. $\Psi_5\supset\Psi_{5,-1}=l_L$. Dirac equation:

$$\left[i\Gamma^{M}\partial_{M}-h_{n\eta}\eta(y)-\sqrt{\frac{3}{5}}\frac{Y}{2}h_{n\chi}\chi_{1}(y)\right]\Psi_{nY}(x^{\mu},y)=0$$

Each Ψ_{nY} is a non-chiral 5D field: need to extract the confined left-chiral zero-mode (recall the mode expansion and Schrödinger equation approach):

$$\Psi_{nY}(x^{\mu},y) = \psi_{nY,L}(x^{\mu})f_{nY}(y) + \text{massive modes}$$

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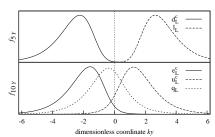
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The effective Schrödinger potential ξ depends on Y.

Thus each component $\psi_{nY,L}$ has a ξ different profile f_{nY} .



 Φ contains the Higgs doublet Φ_w and a coloured triplet Φ_c . Mode expand $\Phi_{w,c}(x^\mu,y)=\phi_{w,c}(x^\mu)p_{w,c}(y)$. Schrödinger equation for $p_{w,c}$ is:

$$\left(-\frac{d^2}{dy^2} + \frac{3Y^2}{20}\lambda_6\chi_1^2 + \sqrt{\frac{3}{5}}\frac{Y}{2}\lambda_7\eta\chi_1 + \dots\right)p_{w,c}(y) = m_{w,c}^2 p_{w,c}(y)$$

Critical that ground states have:

- \blacksquare $m_w^2 < 0$ to break electroweak symmetry.
- \blacksquare $m_c^2 > 0$ to preserve QCD.

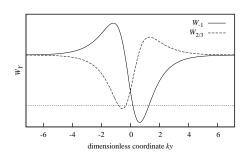
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Large enough parameter space to allow this.



Standard model parameters are computed from overlap integrals.

With one generation of fermions, parameters are easy to fit.

The model overcomes the major SU(5) obstacles:

- $lacktriangleq m_e = m_d$ not obtained due to naturally split fermions.
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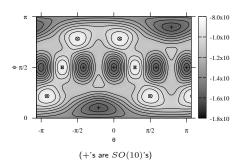
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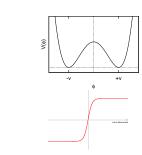
Adding gravity:

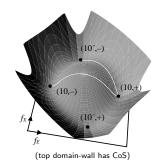
- Solve for warped metric, kink and Dvali-Shifman background.
- Continuum fermion and scalar modes are highly suppressed on the brane.
- Main features remain.

One promising extension is to the E_6 group:

- \blacksquare $E_6 \rightarrow SO(10)$ in the bulk.
- $SO(10) \rightarrow SU(5)$ on the brane due to clash-of-symmetries (CoS) and Dvali-Shifman.
- Can eliminate kink scalar field η .
- Can unify Ψ_5 and Ψ_{10} .
- Large reduction of free parameters.







Domain-wall cosmology

The scale factor on a brane

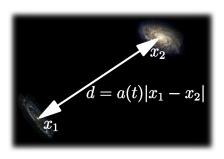
Most important cosmological fact: expanding universe.

FRW:
$$ds^2 = -dt^2 + a^2(t) d\mathbf{x} \cdot d\mathbf{x}$$

Energy density ρ dictates expansion:

$$H = \frac{\dot{a}}{a} \qquad \qquad H^2 = \frac{8\pi G}{3}\rho$$

(Hubble parameter) (spatially flat universe)



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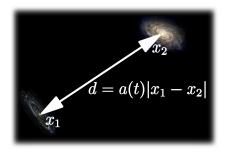
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FRW for a brane:
$$ds^2 = -n^2(t, y)dt^2 + a^2(t, y) d\mathbf{x} \cdot d\mathbf{x} + dy^2$$

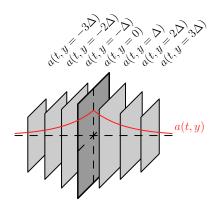
$$H_{\mathsf{brane}}^2 = \frac{8\pi G}{3} \left(1 + \frac{\rho}{2\sigma} \right) \rho$$

 σ is the energy density (tension) of the brane; $\sigma\gg (1MeV)^4$ from BBN.

(Binétruy, Deffayet & Langlois, Nucl. Phys. B565, 269 (2000))

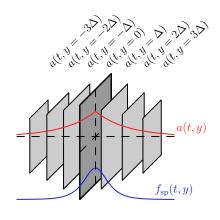
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Each slice at constant y has a different scale factor.



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For thick branes, different species (electron, quark, KK mode) experience different expansion rates.

$$a_{\rm sp}(t) = a_0(t) \left(1 + \frac{\dot{\rho}}{2\sigma H_0} I_{\rm sp}(t)\right) \label{eq:asp}$$

$$I_{\rm sp}(t) = \frac{\int f_{\rm sp}^2(t,y) \; dy}{\int f_{\rm sp}^2(t,y) \; e^{-\sigma |y|/6M_5^3} dy} - 1$$

Different localisation profile f_{sp} for different energies! No chiral fermions!

Summary and outlook

Our universe may be a brane residing in a higher dimensional bulk.

We have investigated the possibility that the brane is in fact a domain-wall.

Main results:

- Scalar field: forms stable domain wall.
- RS2 warped metric: traps gravity.
- Dvali-Shifman mechanism: traps gauge fields.
- SU(5) domain-wall model: overcomes major SU(5) obstacles.
- \blacksquare E_6 extension: unify fields and reduce parameters.
- Cosmology: species-dependent expansion rate.

Outlook: extra-dimensions a real possibility! Will be tested by LHC (e.g. KK modes) and cosmological observations.