



UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI
DI TRENTO
Dipartimento di Fisica

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Towards a causal (effective) thermodynamics of scalar-tensor gravity

Abstract:

The thermal analogy between the effective fluid of scalar-tensor gravity and Eckart's irreversible thermodynamics is extended to the causal Israel-Stewart model, adopting the minimal ansatz of promoting the heat flux density to a timelike vector. This choice yields analytically manageable constitutive equations, allowing for the first consistent decoupling of the effective temperature T and the effective thermal conductivity κ of scalar-tensor gravity. Crucially, this new framework preserves the interpretation of general relativity as the equilibrium state approached via a dynamical relaxation process in the vanishing- T limit. This new causal formalism is finally applied to exact solutions in cosmology.

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