Nonlocal low-energy effective action for gravity with torsion

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In this work we calculate the low-energy effective action for gravity with torsion, obtained after the integration of scalar and fermionic matter fields, using the local momentum representation based on the Riemann normal coordinates expansion. By considering this expansion around different space-time points, we also compute the nonlocal terms together with the more usual divergent ones. Finally we discuss the applicability of our results to the calculation of particle production probabilities.

I. INTRODUCTION

The absence of a quantum theory of gravitation is probably one of the most important open problems in theoretical physics. In fact all of our knowledge about gravitation refers only to its classical aspects which are well described by General Relativity and other generalizations of this theory with the same low-energy limit. On the other hand, the other interactions (strong and electroweak) are well described, even at the quantum level, by the Standard Model, as it has been confirmed in detail in the last years at the Large Electron-Positron Collider (LEP) and many other experiments. Moreover it seems reasonable to think that there may exist some physical regime where the gravitational field could be treated classically whereas matter is quantized. In fact this is the only regime that can be studied by now without making extra hypothesis beyond what has already been checked experimentally. In this very conservative approach one considers, on the one hand, the quantum gauge and matter fields propagating on a curved space-time and, on the other hand, the dynamics of the classical degrees of freedom associated to the space-time. This is the so-called semi-classical approximation. It is clear that space-time curvature or torsion (see [1,2] for a review) can affect the quantum fields in different ways. In addition, space-time is also affected by the presence of the quantum matter fields, as it happens, for instance, in the electromagnetic field case, where fermion loops modify the electromagnetic dynamics by means of the vacuum polarization and other effects.

In order to study these new effects due to matter fields loops, it is specially appropriate the use of the gravitational effective action (EA). This EA is obtained after integrating out the matter fields. In general the EA will be a nonlocal and non-analytical functional of the metric and the connection. The exact expression for the EA, obtained after integrating out the matter fields \(W[g_{\mu\nu}]\) is not known for arbitrary space-time geometries. However there are several techniques that have been proposed for its approximate calculation, namely: perturbation theory, in which the metric tensor is divided in a flat metric and a small fluctuation. The main difficulty of this method is that general covariance is explicitly lost [3,4]. The Schwinger-DeWitt proper time representation [5] allows us to obtain a covariant asymptotic expansion for the EA, but as far as it is local, it does not allow to describe particle creation processes. These difficulties are intended to be solved by experiments of the partial resummation of the Schwinger-DeWitt series [6]. There are also perturbative methods that respect general covariance, such as the so called covariant perturbation theory [7]. Finally the local momentum representation [8] is based on the Riemann normal coordinate expansion. This technique has the advantage of combining the usual flat space-time methods with formally covariant expressions. It has allowed to calculate the divergent local parts of the one loop effective action for scalar and fermionic theories. The main aim of the present work is to find a representation of the nonlocal finite parts of the effective action in this formalism.

Once we know the EA, we have all the information concerning the semi-classical gravitational evolution. The corresponding equations of motion will modify the Einstein field equations taking into account quantum effects. Moreover, the EA could have a non-vanishing imaginary part, which can be interpreted as the particle production probability [6,11].

In this work we show our results concerning the computation of the one-loop EA after integrating out scalar and fermionic fields by using the local momentum representation. Our computation includes not only the divergences but also the nonlocal finite terms that can lead to instabilities of the classical solutions by particle emission. As we will show, the use of normal coordinates allows us to obtain a useful representation of the nonlocal form factors. Such representation has been succesfully applied in a recent work to obtain particle production in different cosmological contexts in a remarkably easy way [11]. In addition, the results will shed some light about the boundary conditions
on the metric tensor which permit a definition of the effective action.

The work is organized as follows. In Section 2 we do a brief review of the Euler-Heisenberg effective lagrangian for Quantum Electrodynamics (QED). This model will be a guide for the calculation of the corresponding gravitational EA. In Section 3 we present the method to generate the derivative expansions of the EA by means of Riemann normal
coordinates. Applying such method to the scalar theory in the presence of gravitation, we obtain the divergences as well as the finite nonlocal pieces of the EA up to quadratic terms in the curvature. In Section 4 we do the same with fermionic matter fields, obtaining the corresponding gravitational EA up to quadratic terms in the curvature and in this case also in the torsion. In particular we apply our results to the Standard Model particle content. Finally Section 5 contains the main conclusions of this work an a brief discussion on their possible applications to the computation of particle production probabilities. We have also included an Appendix containing the dimensional regularization formulae and some normal coordinates expansions used in the text.

II. THE EULER-HEISENBERG LAGRANGIAN

The historical origin of the semi-classical EA can be traced back to the Euler-Heisenberg lagrangian for QED [12]. When the momentum $p$ of photons is much smaller than the electron mass $M$, the one-loop effects, such as vacuum polarization, can be taken into account by adding local non-linear terms to the classical electromagnetic lagrangian. Consider the QED EA given by:

\[ e^{iW[A]} = \int [d\psi][d\overline{\psi}] e^{-\frac{i}{\hbar} \int d^4x F_{\mu\nu} F^{\mu\nu}} \exp \left( i \int d^4x \overline{\psi} (i \not{D} - M + i\epsilon) \psi \right) = e^{-\frac{i}{\hbar} \int d^4x F_{\mu\nu} F^{\mu\nu} \det(i \not{D} - M + i\epsilon)} \]  

where as usual $\not{D} = \gamma^\mu (\partial_\mu - ieA_\mu)$. Using dimensional regularization (see Appendix), it is possible to find the following expression up to quadratic terms in the photon field:

\[ W[A] = -\frac{1}{4} \int d^4x F_{\mu\nu} F^{\mu\nu} - i \text{Tr} \log((i \not{D} - M + i\epsilon)) = -\frac{1}{4} \int d^4x F_{\mu\nu} F^{\mu\nu} + i \sum_{k=1}^\infty \frac{(-e)^k}{k} \text{Tr}[(i\not{D} - M)^{-1} A]^k \]

\[ = \int d^4x \left[ -\frac{1}{4} F_{\mu\nu} F^{\mu\nu} - \frac{e^2 \Delta}{3(4\pi)^2} F_{\mu\nu} F^{\mu\nu} + \frac{2e^2}{(4\pi)^2} F_{\mu\nu} \left( \frac{2M^2}{3\Box} + \frac{1}{6} \left( 1 - \frac{2M^2}{\Box} \right) F(-\Box; M^2) \right) \right] + O(A^4) \]

where $\Delta = N_e - \log(M^2/\mu^2)$, with $N_e = 2/\epsilon + \log 4\pi - \gamma$ and $\gamma \approx 0.577$ is the Euler constant. We have performed the formal Taylor expansion of the logarithm and used the expression:

\[ F(-\Box; M^2) F_{\mu\nu}(x) = \int d^4y \frac{d^4p}{(2\pi)^4} e^{ip(x-y)} F(p^2; M^2) F_{\mu\nu}(y) \]

with:

\[ F(p^2; M^2) = 2 + \int_0^1 dt \log \left( 1 - \frac{p^2}{M^2} t(1-t) \right) \]

In a similar way, the inverse operator $1/\Box$ can be defined with the usual boundary conditions on the fields as:

\[ \frac{1}{-\Box} F_{\mu\nu}(x) = \int d^4y \frac{d^4p}{(2\pi)^4} e^{ip(x-y)} \frac{1}{p^2 + i\epsilon} F_{\mu\nu}(y) \]

The expression (5) for the EA is nonlocal and has a regular massless limit. In fact, for small $p$ compared with $M$, the Mandelstam function $F(p^2; M^2)$ behaves as:

\[ F(p^2; M^2) = -\log \left( \frac{M^2}{-p^2 - i\epsilon} \right) + O(M^2) \]

From (6) we can see that the only contributions in the massless limit are those coming, on one hand from the $\Delta$ factor and, on the other hand, from the Mandelstam function. Both logarithmic contributions equal, up to sign, so that they cancel each other and we obtain:

\[ W[A] = \int d^4x \left( -\frac{1}{4} F_{\mu\nu} F^{\mu\nu} - \frac{e^2}{3(4\pi)^2} F_{\mu\nu} \Gamma(\Box) F_{\mu\nu} \right) + O(A^4) \]
where we have used the following notation:

\[ \Gamma(\Box) = N_c - \log \left( \frac{\Box}{\mu^2} \right) \] (8)

to be understood as in the previous cases through the corresponding Fourier transform, with the \( ie \) factor as shown in (3).

The EA (8) allows us to derive in an exact fashion the photon two-point one loop Green functions. This, in turn, allows us to obtain for example the vacuum polarization. The EA can be expanded as a power series in \( p^2/M^2 \), and also in \( A \) to obtain the well-known Euler-Heisenberg local lagrangian [12].

**III. INTEGRATION OF MATTER FIELDS IN A GRAVITATIONAL BACKGROUND**

Consider a scalar field in a curved space-time. The corresponding classical action is given by:

\[ S[\phi] = -\frac{1}{2} \int d^4x \sqrt{g} \phi (\Box + m^2 + \xi R) \phi \] (9)

where \( \Box \phi = g^{\mu\nu} \nabla_\mu \nabla_\nu \phi = g^{-1/2} \partial_\mu \left( g^{\mu\nu} \sqrt{g} \partial_\nu \phi \right) \). The non-minimal term \( \xi R \) is included so that for \( m = 0 \) and \( \xi = 1/6 \), the classical lagrangian is invariant under local conformal transformations.

The EA for the gravitational fields that arises after integrating out real scalar matter fields is given by the following expression in Lorentzian signature:

\[ e^{iW[g_{\mu\nu}]} = \int [d\phi] e^{iS[g_{\mu\nu}, \phi]} = \int [d\phi] e^{-\frac{i}{2} \int d^4x \sqrt{g} \phi (\Box + m^2 + \xi R - ie) \phi} = (\det O)^{-1/2} \] (10)

where \( O_{xy}(m^2) = (\Box - m^2 - \xi R(y) + ie)\delta^0(x, y) \) with \( \delta^0(x, y) \) being the covariant delta \( \delta^0(x, y) = g^{-1/2}(x)\delta(x, y) \). Therefore we can write:

\[ W[g_{\mu\nu}] = \frac{i}{2} \log \det O(m^2) = \frac{i}{2} \text{Tr} \log O(m^2) \] (11)

Since in this expression we have only integrated the scalars out, the gravitational field is treated classically. Accordingly, this EA is analogous to the classical action but including the quantum effects due to the matter fields. In addition, (10) is the generating functional of the Green functions containing only scalar loops and gravitational external legs.

Let us now consider a fermion field propagating in a curved space-time with torsion [1]. The corresponding classical action will be given by:

\[ S = \int d^4x \sqrt{g} \bar{\psi}(i \not{D} - M) \psi = \int d^4x \sqrt{g} \bar{\psi} \left[ i\gamma^\mu \left( \partial_\mu - \frac{i}{2} \Gamma_a^b \Sigma_{ab} + \frac{i}{8} S_\mu \Gamma_5 \right) - M \right] \psi \] (12)

where \( S_\mu = \epsilon_{\rho\sigma\lambda\mu} T^\rho\sigma\lambda \) is the torsion pseudotrace, \( \Gamma_a^b \) are the Levi-Civita spin-connection components and \( \Sigma_{ab} \) are the Lorentz group generators. The fermionic EA is given by:

\[ e^{iW[\epsilon, \hat{\Gamma}, A]} = \int [d\psi d\bar{\psi}] \exp \left( i \int d^4x \sqrt{g} \bar{\psi}(i \not{D} - M + ie) \psi \right) = \det(i \not{D} - M + ie) \] (13)

where \( \epsilon \) denotes the vierbein, \( \hat{\Gamma} \) the full connection with torsion and \( A \) collectively denotes the possible gauge fields. Accordingly:

\[ W[\epsilon, \hat{\Gamma}, A] = -i \log \det(i \not{D} - M + ie) = -i \text{Tr} \log(i \not{D} - M + ie) \] (14)

In the massless limit, \( M = 0 \), the classical fermionic lagrangian is also conformally invariant.

Since the above model does not posses self-interactions, the one-loop calculation is exact. This does not mean that it is possible to explicitly calculate the EA for an arbitrary space-time geometry. In those cases in which there is a high degree of symmetry, as in maximally symmetric manifolds, or in the so called conformally trivial situations, i.e, conformally flat manifolds and conformally invariant theories, it is possible to find the explicit form of the modified Einstein equations coming from the EA [13].
In order to consider more general geometries, we will use an approximation scheme similar to the one used for the Euler-Heisenberg lagrangian. It consists in treating the curvature as a small perturbation. When we integrate massive fields out, this is equivalent to consider that the Compton wavelength corresponding to the massive particle is much smaller than the characteristic length scale of the gravitational field. In this framework, the expression for the EA will be an expansion in metric tensor derivatives over the particle mass. Such expansion will be generated by the normal coordinates expansions of the $O(m^2)$ and $(iD - M)$ operators. In the massless case, or if we are interested in the high-energy regime, it is possible to obtain an alternative expansion in powers of the curvatures (Riemann and Ricci tensors and scalar curvature), generically denoted $\mathcal{R}$.

A. Riemann normal coordinates

Let $x^\alpha_0$ be the coordinates of $P$ in a given coordinate system and consider the set of geodesics passing through $P$, that we will write as $x^\alpha(\tau)$. We will choose the $\tau$ parameter in such a way that $x^\alpha(0) = x^\alpha_0$. Each of these geodesics will be characterized by the tangent vector at $P$,

$$\xi^\alpha = \left. \frac{dx^\alpha}{d\tau} \right|_{\tau=0}$$

and each point $A$ on each geodesic by certain value of the $\tau$ parameter. The Riemann coordinates $y^\alpha$ of $A$ are defined as $y^\alpha = \xi^\alpha \tau$ \[14\]. In a neighborhood of $P$ where any other point $A$ can be joined to $P$ by a unique geodesic (normal neighborhood), the correspondence between the $x^\alpha$ and $y^\alpha$ coordinates is one to one.

When torsion is present and it is completely antisymmetric, the geodesic equation agrees with that obtained using the Levi-Civita connection and therefore, some given Riemann coordinates respect to the Levi-Civita connection will also be Riemann respect to the connection with torsion \[15\]. By means of a linear real homogeneous coordinate transformation, it is possible to write the metric tensor at $y_0$ in the Minkowski form $\eta_{\mu\nu}$. The new coordinates are also Riemannian and they are known as Riemann normal coordinates.

Let us consider the components of some tensor field at $y$, that we will assume to be analytic functions in a neighborhood of the normal coordinates origin $y_0$. From their Taylor expansion around $y_0$ we can obtain an expression that is written as a series in curvatures and their covariant derivatives. In particular for the metric tensor components we get \[14\]:

$$g_{\mu\nu}(y) = \eta_{\mu\nu} + \frac{1}{3}R_{\mu\alpha\nu\beta}(y_0)y^\alpha y^\beta - \frac{1}{6}R_{\mu\alpha\nu\beta\gamma}(y_0)y^\alpha y^\beta y^\gamma + \left[ \frac{1}{20}R_{\mu\alpha\nu\beta\gamma\delta}(y_0) + \frac{2}{45}R_{\alpha\beta\gamma\delta}(y_0)R^{\lambda}_{\gamma\nu\delta}(y_0) \right] y^\alpha y^\beta y^\gamma y^\delta + \mathcal{O}(\partial^5)$$

Here, $\mathcal{O}(\partial^5)$ denotes terms with 5 or more derivatives and the indices in those tensors evaluated in $y_0$ are raised and lowered with the flat metric $\eta_{\mu\nu}$. In the Appendix, we have written the expansions corresponding to the metric determinant and other useful expressions. It is important to note that \[16\] is a superposition of two kind of expansions: on one hand, terms are organized by the number of metric derivatives, but on the other hand, those terms with a certain number of derivatives can be classified according to the number of curvature tensors they have.

It will also be useful to introduce the following relation: $2\sigma(x, x') = y_0 y^\alpha$, where the biscalar $\sigma(x, x')$ represents half of the geodesic distance between the $x$ and $x'$ points and $y^\alpha$ denotes the normal coordinates of the $x$ point with origin at $x'$. On the other hand, $\partial^\alpha_\alpha \sigma(x, x')$ is a tangent vector at $x$ to the geodesic joining $x$ and $x'$, whose length equals the geodesic distance between these two points and it is oriented in the $x' \rightarrow x$ direction. In turn, $\partial^\alpha_\alpha \sigma(x, x')$ is tangent to the same geodesic at $x'$, with the same modulus and oriented in the opposite sense.

In normal coordinates with origin at $x'$, according to the previous expressions, we can write:

$$\sigma_\alpha(x, x') = \frac{\partial}{\partial x^\alpha} \sigma(x, x') = y_0$$

i.e., $y_\alpha$ are components of a vector tangent at the origin.

The use of normal coordinates, apart from being basic to obtain the derivative expansions of the EA, allows us to work in momentum space in a similar way to the flat space-time. Let us consider some scalar function $f(x, y_0)$ with normal coordinates with origin at $y_0$. We can define its covariant Fourier transform through \[14\]:

$$f(x, y_0) = \int \frac{d^4k}{(2\pi)^4} \hat{f}(k, y_0) e^{-ikx}$$
In a similar way we can introduce the covariant Dirac delta:

$$\delta^0(x, y_0) = \int \frac{d^4k}{(2\pi)^4} e^{-ikx}$$  \hspace{1cm} (19)

As far as one of the delta arguments is the origin of coordinates, we will have $\delta^0(x, y_0) = \delta(x, y_0)$. In the general case, (arbitrary arguments) there is also a covariant definition whose expression in arbitrary coordinates is given by [3]:

$$\delta^0(x, y) = g^{1/4}(x)g^{1/4}(y)\Delta^{1/2}(x, y_0)\Delta^{1/2}(y_0, y)\int \frac{d^4k}{(2\pi)^4} g^{-1/2}(y_0) \exp(ik_\mu(\sigma^\mu(y, y_0) - \sigma^\mu(x, y_0)))$$  \hspace{1cm} (20)

where $k_\mu, \sigma_\mu(y, y_0)$ and $\sigma_\mu(x, y_0)$ are tangent vectors at $y_0$ and $\Delta(x, x')$ is the Van Vleck-Morette determinant, defined as: $\Delta(x, x') = g^{-1/2}(x) \det(-\nabla_\mu \nabla_\nu \sigma(x, x'))g^{-1/2}(x')$. If we take $y_0$ as origin, we will have $\Delta(x, y_0) = g^{-1/2}(x)$, this expression reduces then to:

$$\delta^0(x, y) = g^{-1/2}(x) \int \frac{d^4k}{(2\pi)^4} \exp(-ik_\mu(x^\mu - y^\mu))$$  \hspace{1cm} (21)

All these definitions are valid only in normal neighborhoods of the origin in which geodesics do not intersect.

**B. Derivative expansions**

In normal coordinates there is a privileged point around which we perform the expansions. In addition, the different curvature tensors are defined on the tangent plane corresponding to that point. This fact, together with the general coordinate invariance of the EA will allow us to obtain a covariant derivative expansion for the effective lagrangian around the origin. In the following we will discuss in detail the scalar case, although the procedure is the same for fields with different spin.

Let us start with the scalar EA [11]. Using the normal coordinates expansion for the metric tensor it is easy to split the operator $O_{xy}(m^2) = (-\Box - m^2 - \xi R(y) + i\epsilon)\delta^0(x, y)$ in a free part, that coincides with the flat space-time Klein-Gordon operator

$$A_{xy}(m^2) = (-\Box_0 - m^2 + i\epsilon)\delta^0(x, y)$$  \hspace{1cm} (22)

with $\Box_0^\mu = \eta^{\mu\nu}\partial_\mu \partial_\nu$, and the interaction part $B_{xy}$ that includes all the curvature dependence:

$$B_{xy} = \left[ -\frac{2}{3} R^{\lambda}_{\mu \rho}(y_0) y^\mu \partial_\alpha \partial_\lambda + \frac{1}{3} R^{\mu \nu}_{\epsilon \beta}(y_0) y^\mu y^\nu \partial_\beta \partial_\epsilon - \xi R(y_0) - \left( \frac{1}{20} R^{\nu \beta}_{\lambda \gamma}(y_0) + \frac{1}{20} R^{\nu \gamma}_{\lambda \beta}(y_0) - \frac{1}{20} R^{\mu \nu}_{\lambda \beta \gamma}(y_0) \right) \right. \right.$$

$$\left. - \frac{1}{20} R^{\lambda}_{\mu \beta \gamma}(y_0) - \frac{8}{45} R_{\alpha \lambda \beta}(y_0) R^{\lambda}_{\mu \gamma \nu}(y_0) + \frac{1}{15} R^{\mu}_{\beta \lambda}(y_0) R^{\lambda}_{\nu \mu \gamma}(y_0) + \frac{4}{45} R^{\mu}_{\beta \lambda}(y_0) R^{\lambda}_{\gamma \nu \mu}(y_0) + \frac{1}{40} R^{\beta \gamma}_{\mu \gamma}(y_0) \right] y^\alpha y^\beta y^\gamma \partial_\mu \partial_\nu$$

$$\left. - \frac{1}{20} R^{\mu}_{\rho \epsilon \delta}(y_0) + \frac{1}{15} R^{\mu}_{\rho \epsilon \lambda}(y_0) R^{\lambda}_{\delta \epsilon \gamma}(y_0) \right) \delta^0(x, y) + ...$$  \hspace{1cm} (23)

We have only written the two and four derivatives contributions since terms with an odd number of metric derivatives are shown to be irrelevant for the final result. Therefore we have: $O_{xy}(m^2) = A_{xy}(m^2) + B_{xy}$

We will also assume that space-time is asymptotically flat and this will allows us to discard total derivatives of the curvatures in the EA. We have included the covariant Dirac delta $\delta^0(x, y)$ in the definition of the free operator so that we can use the covariant integration measure $d^4x g^{1/2}(x)$. Taking all this into account we can write the EA as:

$$W[g_{\mu\nu}] = \int d^4x L_{eff}(x) = \frac{i}{2} \text{Tr} \log O(m^2) = \frac{i}{2} \text{Tr} \log(A + B)$$  \hspace{1cm} (24)

As far as the calculations will be done in normal coordinates with respect to the $y_0$ point, any term in the effective lagrangian is evaluated in that point. For that reason the integration involved in the $\text{Tr}$ symbol cannot be done immediately. This, in turn, keep us from expanding the logarithm, which only makes sense inside the trace. A way to avoid the problem consists in formally differentiating the EA with respect to $m^2$ [17]:
\[
\frac{d}{dm^2}W[g_{\mu\nu}] = \frac{i}{2} \text{Tr} \frac{1}{O(m^2)} = -\frac{i}{2} \text{Tr}((A + B)^{-1}) = -\frac{i}{2} \text{Tr}(A^{-1} - A^{-1}BA^{-1} + A^{-1}BA^{-1}BA^{-1} - \ldots) \tag{25}
\]

In the last step the inverse of \(A + B\) has been expanded. This can be done without taking the functional trace.

The lowest order term in \(B\) is linear in the Riemann tensor and therefore it contains two metric derivatives. The term in \(B\) with two \(B\) factors will be \(O(R^2)\) and will contain at least four metric derivatives, etc. Since we are only interested in the result up to \(O(R^2)\), it will be enough to consider the first three terms in \(B\).

C. Divergent parts

In order to calculate the divergent parts of the EA, we consider the previous expansions. Since normal coordinates allows us to do momentum space integrations, we can use the flat space-time regularization techniques such as dimensional regularization. Our calculation method is based on the local momentum representation proposed in [10], but adapted to the EA techniques. The results agree with the well-known expressions in [13].

First we find the scalar propagator \(A^{-1}_{yz}\), given by: \(A_{yz}A^{-1}_{yz} = \delta^0(x, z)\), where we have used the De Witt generalized summation convention for repeated indices. Using (21), we can write this equation as:

\[
\int d^4yg^{1/2}(y)\delta(x, y)g^{-1/2}(y) \int \frac{d^4k}{(2\pi)^4} e^{-ik(y-z)}G(k) = \frac{\delta(x, z)}{g^{1/2}(x)} \tag{26}
\]

The \(G(k)\) function is easily obtained and finally the propagator reads:

\[
A^{-1}_{yz} = \frac{1}{g^{1/2}(y)} \int \frac{d^4k}{(2\pi)^4} e^{-ik(y-z)} \frac{1}{k^2 - m^2 + i\epsilon} \tag{27}
\]

The first term in the EA expansion \([23]\) can be immediately evaluated and it reads:

\[
A^{-1}_{0000} = \int dk^0 \frac{1}{k^2 - m^2} = -\frac{i}{(4\pi)^{D/2}} \frac{\Gamma(1 - D/2)\mu^D}{(m^2)^{1-D/2}} \tag{28}
\]

with the notation \(dk^0 = d^Dk\mu^D/(2\pi)^D\). When \(y_0\) appears as a repeated subindex it must be understood that the integration in \(y_0\) has not been done. This final integration, that corresponds to the trace in \([23]\), will be performed below in an explicit way. In the last step we have used the equation \([23]\) from the Appendix. Performing the \(m^2\) integration we have the lowest order term in the effective lagrangian:

\[
L^{(0)}_{d\nu}(y_0) = \frac{1}{64\pi^2} m^4 \left( \Delta + \frac{3}{2} \right) \tag{29}
\]

where we have defined \(\Delta = N_c + \log(\mu^2/m^2)\). As is well-known, this first term will give rise to the cosmological constant renormalization. The integration constant can be set to zero without loosing generality since it can be absorbed in the renormalization procedure as we will show below.

Up to two metric derivatives, only the second term in \([25]\) contributes:

\[
(A^{-1}_{\nu0}B_{yz}A^{-1}_{yz})^{(2)} = \int d^4y d^4z g^{1/2}(y)d^4z g^{1/2}(z) \int d\tilde{k} \frac{e^{iky}}{k^2 - m^2} \left( -\frac{2}{3} R^\lambda_{\rho\nu}(y_0) z^\rho \partial_\lambda \right)
+ \frac{1}{3} \frac{\partial^\mu}{\partial_\nu}(y_0)z^\rho \partial_\mu \partial_\nu - \xi R(y_0) \right) \frac{\delta(y, z)}{g^{1/2}(y) g^{1/2}(z)} \int d\tilde{q} \frac{e^{-iqz}}{q^2 - m^2} \tag{30}
\]

Integrating by parts and removing the coordinates \(z\) through \(z \to i\partial_\mu\), we can rewrite this expression as:

\[
(A^{-1}_{\nu0}B_{yz}A^{-1}_{yz})^{(2)} = \int d^4z d\tilde{p} d\tilde{q} \frac{e^{-ipz}}{q^2 - m^2} \left( \frac{4R(y_0) - \xi R(y_0)}{(q - p)^2 - m^2} - \frac{2}{3} \frac{R^{\mu\nu}(y_0) q_\mu q_\nu}{((q - p)^2 - m^2)^2} \right)
= \frac{i}{(4\pi)^{D/2}} \frac{\Gamma(2 - D/2)}{(m^2)^{2-D/2}} \left( \frac{1}{6} - \xi \right) R(y_0) \tag{31}
\]

In the last step we have done the \(z\) integration first and then those corresponding to the momenta. Finally integrating in \(m^2\) we find the effective lagrangian contribution to order \(O(\partial^2)\):
Now we derive the divergences with four metric derivatives. In this case, there are contributions from $A^{-1} B A^{-1}$ and $A^{-1} B^{-1} A B^{-1}$:

\[
(A^{-1}_{y_0 y} B_{yz} A^{-1}_{z y_0})^{(4)} = \int d^4 y g^{1/2}(y) d^4 z g^{1/2}(z) \int \frac{e^{iky}}{k^2 - m^2} \left[ \left( \frac{1}{20} R_{\alpha \beta \gamma \delta}(y_0) R^{\alpha \beta \gamma \delta}(y_0) - \frac{1}{20} R_{\alpha \beta 
abla \gamma \delta}(y_0) R^{\alpha \beta \gamma \delta}(y_0) \right) - \frac{1}{20} R^{\alpha \beta \gamma \delta}(y_0) R_{\alpha \beta \gamma \delta}(y_0) + \frac{1}{15} R_{\alpha \beta \gamma \delta}(y_0) R^{\alpha \beta \gamma \delta}(y_0) + \frac{4}{15} R_{\alpha \beta \gamma \delta}(y_0) R^{\alpha \beta \gamma \delta}(y_0) + \frac{1}{20} R_{\alpha \beta \gamma \delta}(y_0) R^{\alpha \beta \gamma \delta}(y_0) \right] \frac{e^{-iqz}}{q^2 - m^2}
\]

Removing the coordinates as before and integrating in positions and momenta we find:

\[
(A^{-1}_{y_0 y} B_{yz} A^{-1}_{z y_0})^{(4)} = -i \frac{\Gamma(3 - D/2)}{(4\pi)^{D/2} (m^2)^{3-D/2}} \left( \frac{1}{180} R^{\mu \nu \lambda \rho}(y_0) R_{\mu \nu \lambda \rho}(y_0) - \frac{1}{270} R^{\mu \nu \lambda \rho}(y_0) R_{\mu \nu \lambda \rho}(y_0) + \frac{1}{6} \left( \frac{1}{5} - \xi \right) \Box R(y_0) \right)
\]

Notice that this result is finite. The divergences will appear when doing the $m^2$ integration. We add to this term the lowest order contribution from the next one, namely:

\[
(A_{y_0 y} B_{yz} A^{-1}_{z y_0} B_{tu} A_{u y_0})^{(4)} = \int d^4 y g^{1/2}(y) d^4 z g^{1/2}(z) d^4 t g^{1/2}(t) d^4 u g^{1/2}(u) \int \frac{e^{iky}}{k^2 - m^2} \left[ \left( \frac{2}{3} R^{\mu \nu \lambda \rho}(y_0) z^{\mu \nu} \delta_{\lambda \rho} z^{\alpha \beta} \delta_{\mu \alpha} \delta_{\nu \beta} - \frac{1}{3} R^{\mu \nu \lambda \rho}(y_0) z^{\mu \nu} \delta_{\lambda \rho} z^{\alpha \beta} \delta_{\mu \alpha} \delta_{\nu \beta} - \xi R(y_0) \right) \frac{e^{-iqz}}{q^2 - m^2} \right]
\]

\[
(A_{y_0 y} B_{yz} A^{-1}_{z y_0} B_{tu} A_{u y_0})^{(4)} = -i \frac{\Gamma(3 - D/2)}{(4\pi)^{D/2} (m^2)^{3-D/2}} \left( \frac{1}{180} R^{\mu \nu \lambda \rho}(y_0) R_{\mu \nu \lambda \rho}(y_0) - \frac{1}{108} R^{\mu \nu \lambda \rho}(y_0) R_{\mu \nu \lambda \rho}(y_0) \right)
\]

Subtracting (34) from (36) and integrating in $m^2$ we obtain the divergent lagrangian up to $O(\partial^4)$:

\[
\mathcal{L}^{(2)}_{\text{div}}(y_0) = \frac{\Delta}{32\pi^2} \left( \frac{1}{180} R^{\mu \nu \lambda \rho}(y_0) R_{\mu \nu \lambda \rho}(y_0) - \frac{1}{180} R^{\mu \nu \lambda \rho}(y_0) R_{\mu \nu \lambda \rho}(y_0) - \frac{1}{6} \left( \frac{1}{5} - \xi \right) \Box R(y_0) + \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{1}{5} - \xi \right)^2 R(y_0) \right)
\]

Comparing with the well-known Schwinger-DeWitt expansion, we see that $\mathcal{L}^{(2)}_{\text{div}}(y_0)$ is proportional to $a_1(O, y_0)$ and $\mathcal{L}^{(4)}_{\text{div}}(y_0)$ to $a_2(O, y_0)$. As far as the above expressions are scalars they will have the same form in any coordinate system, not necessarily geodesic. We can then perform a coordinate change and integrate to obtain the corresponding EA:

\[
W[g_{\mu \nu}]_{\text{div}} = \int d^4 x \mathcal{L}^{(4)}_{\text{div}}(x)
\]

We have included in $\mathcal{L}_{\text{div}}(x)$ the $g^{1/2}(x)$ factor coming from the integration measure. It is possible, in principle, that when doing the coordinate change, new non-covariant terms appear provided they vanish only for geodesic coordinates. However, in absence of gravitational anomalies the EA is scalar and accordingly such terms are not permitted. On the other hand, terms with an odd number of derivatives yield terms with an odd number of momenta in the numerator which vanish in dimensional regularization. The above are the only possible divergences, higher derivative terms give rise to momentum integrals with more momenta in the denominator that turn out to be finite.
Apart from the divergences, which are purely local contributions, the EA also contains finite nonlocal pieces that are responsible for the pair creation processes. We have seen that in the QED case \([3]\), the massless limit is well-defined due to the cancellation of the mass logarithmic dependence associated to the divergences with that coming from the nonlocal pieces. This fact allows us to extract some information about the nonlocal terms from the knowledge of the divergences. In next section we will profit this connection to find part of the nonlocal structure of the gravitational EA by means of a point-splitting procedure in the divergences.

D. Nonlocal contributions

In the previous section we have obtained local contributions up to order \(\mathcal{O}(R^2)\). If we continue the calculation to higher orders, we would get a power series with terms of the following type:

\[
\frac{\nabla^n R^p(y_0)}{m^{2p+n-4}}
\]  

(39)

where \(\nabla\) denotes the covariant derivative. This is a typical derivative (or adiabatic) expansion which is only valid at low energies.

All the terms in \([3]\) can be classified by the number of curvatures they contain. Those terms with a fixed number of curvatures will give rise to a series with an increasing number of covariant derivatives. If we could add all these terms together, we would obtain nonlocal contributions that would provide the exact n-point Green functions (with curvatures in the external legs) \([3][3][4]\). These Green functions will be valid for any value of the mass \(m\), as in the QED case \([4]\).

In this section we propose a method that effectively carries out that resummation for the quadratic operators, i.e, we are interested in those terms of the form \(\nabla^n R^2\). The basic idea is to perform a point-splitting in the quadratic parts in curvatures in \([3]\) and \([3]\), at the end of the section we will argue that this procedure gives rise to the correct resummation up to \(\mathcal{O}(m^2R^2)\) terms.

As we have just commented, all the terms in \([3]\) are local and finite. The reason why we have not obtained nonlocal terms as in \([3]\) is that the normal coordinates expansions are performed around a single point \(y_0\). In \([3]\) and \([3]\) there are products of curvatures evaluated at the same point, i.e, \(\mathcal{R}(y_0)\mathcal{R}(y_0)\). Using again the normal coordinates expansion we can rewrite these products as:

\[
\mathcal{R}(y_0)\mathcal{R}(y_0) = \mathcal{R}(y_0)\mathcal{R}(y) + (\mathcal{R}(y_0)\nabla \mathcal{R}(y_0)y + \mathcal{R}(y_0)\nabla^2 \mathcal{R}(y_0)y + y + \cdots) + (\mathcal{R}(y_0)\nabla \mathcal{R}(y_0)y + \mathcal{R}(y_0)\nabla^2 \mathcal{R}(y_0)y + y + \cdots) + \cdots
\]

(40)

This expression allows us to split the points, the price to pay is the modification of the coefficients of the infinite higher order terms. We will not modify the linear part in \(\mathcal{R}\) in \([3]\). Let us first obtain the nonlocal result and then we will argue that the new terms \(\nabla^n R^2\) generated in \([3]\) will exactly cancel those coming from the expansion in \([3]\).

By means of the above point-splitting, the \(R^2\) contributions in \([3]\) and \([3]\) will remain as:

\[
(A_{y_0y}^{-1} B_{yz} A_{z y_0}^{-1}(R^2)) = \int d^4yg^{1/2}(y)d^4zg^{1/2}(z) \int dk \frac{e^{iky}}{k^2 - m^2} \left[ \left( \frac{8}{45} R_{\alpha\beta\gamma}(y_0)R_{\mu\nu\gamma}(y) - \frac{1}{15} R_{\alpha\beta\mu\nu}(y_0)R_{\lambda\mu\nu}(y) \right) z^\alpha z^\beta z^\gamma \partial_\mu \partial_\nu - \frac{1}{15} R_{\rho\epsilon\lambda\delta}(y_0)R_{\delta\alpha\beta\epsilon}(y) z^\rho z^\epsilon z^\alpha z^\beta \partial_\mu \partial_\nu \right] \delta(y, z) g^{1/2}(y)g^{1/2}(z)
\]

(41)

and:

\[
(A_{y_0y}^{-1} B_{yz} A_{z y_0}^{-1} B_{tu} A_{u y_0}^{-1}(R^2)) = \int d^4yg^{1/2}(y)d^4zg^{1/2}(z)\int d^4tg^{1/2}(t)d^4u g^{1/2}(u) \int dk dq \frac{e^{iky}}{k^2 - m^2} \frac{e^{-iqu}}{q^2 - m^2} \left( \left( -\frac{2}{3} R_{\rho\gamma}(y_0)z^\rho \partial_\gamma + \frac{1}{3} R_{\epsilon\beta\gamma}(y_0)z^\epsilon z^\beta \partial_\mu \partial_\nu - \xi R(y_0) \right) \frac{\delta(t, u)}{g^{1/2}(y)}g^{-1/2}(z) e^{-iq(t-u)} + \frac{2}{3} R_{\rho}(y_0)z^\rho \partial_\gamma + \frac{1}{3} R_{\epsilon\beta}(y_0)z^\epsilon z^\beta \partial_\mu \partial_\nu - \xi R(t) \right) \frac{\delta(t, u)}{g^{1/2}(y)}g^{-1/2}(u) + \mathcal{O}(\nabla^2 R^2)
\]

(42)

where, as mentioned before, \(\mathcal{O}(\nabla^2 R^2)\) denotes local finite terms with two curvatures and an arbitrary even number of derivatives. There are in principle different ways of performing the splitting, depending on the choice of the pair of points, but all them are equivalent up to higher order terms as can be seen from \([10]\).
Removing the explicit coordinates occurrences, we obtain:

\[
(A_{xy}^{-1} A_{yz}^{-1} B_{tu} A_{u0}^{-1})^{(R^2)} = \int d^4tdq \frac{e^{ipt}}{p^2} \left( \left( \frac{1}{q^2} - \frac{\xi}{m^2} \right)^2 - \frac{2}{3} R_{\mu\nu}(y_0) - \frac{q_\mu q_\nu}{(q^2 - m^2)^3} \right) 
\times \left( \frac{-\xi R(t)}{((p + q)^2 - m^2)} + \frac{2 R_{\mu\nu}(p)(p + q)_{\mu}}{(p + q)^2 - m^2) + O(\nabla^2 R^2) \right) \]  

Using the equations (47), (41) and (22) from the Appendix, neglecting higher order terms and integrating in \( m^2 \), we obtain the following contributions to the effective lagrangian:

\[
L^{(R^2)}_1(y_0) = \frac{1}{32\pi^2} \int d^4tdq \frac{e^{ipt}}{p^2} \left( \Delta - F(p^2; m^2) \right) \left[ \frac{1}{2} \left( 1 - \xi \right)^2 R(y_0) R(t - \frac{1}{108} R_{\mu\nu}(y_0) R_{\mu\nu}(t) \right) + O(\nabla^2 R^2) \]  

\[
F(p^2; m^2) \text{ being given in (43).} 
\]

Apart from the local divergent and nonlocal finite terms, in the dimensional regularization procedure, finite local terms do arise. However, their coefficients will be absorbed in the definition of the renormalized parameters and they will not be explicitly considered.

In the same form as before we obtain from (42):

\[
L^{(R^2)}_2(y_0) = \frac{1}{32\pi^2} \int d^4tdq \frac{e^{ipt}}{p^2} \left( \Delta - F(p^2; m^2) \right) \left[ \frac{1}{180} R_{\mu\nu\lambda\rho}(y_0) R_{\mu\nu\lambda\rho}(t) + \frac{1}{270} R_{\mu\nu}(y_0) R_{\mu\nu}(t) \right] + O(\nabla^2 R^2) \]  

Adding both contributions in (44) and (45) and including the 0 and 2 derivatives divergent contributions given in (24) and (32), we can write the nonlocal EA in a slightly different notation:

\[
W[g_{\mu\nu}] = \frac{1}{32\pi^2} \int d^4x \sqrt{g} \left[ \frac{m^4}{2} \left( \Delta + \frac{3}{2} \right) - m^2 \left( \Delta + 1 \right) \left( \frac{1}{6} - \xi \right) R(x) + \Delta \left( \frac{1}{180} R_{\mu\nu\lambda\rho}(x) R_{\mu\nu\lambda\rho}(x) 
\right.
- \frac{1}{180} R_{\mu\nu}(x) R_{\mu\nu}(x) + \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{1}{6} - \xi \right)^2 R(x) \right) \left( \frac{1}{180} R_{\mu\nu\lambda\rho}(x) F(\Box; m^2) R_{\mu\nu\lambda\rho}(x) 
- \frac{1}{180} R_{\mu\nu}(x) F(\Box; m^2) R_{\mu\nu}(x) + \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{1}{6} - \xi \right)^2 R(x) F(\Box; m^2) R(x) \right) + O(m^2 R^2) \right] + O(\nabla^2 R^2) \]  

Here the \( F(\Box; m^2) \) operator action should be understood through the expressions (44) y (45) as we did in the QED case (2), in addition we have neglected local finite terms and total derivatives. On the other hand, we see that the quadratic divergences agree with those obtained in the previous section.

Consider now the massless limit of the EA in (46). For small masses compared with \( p \), the Mandelstam function behaves as shown in (47). As in the QED case, the term proportional to \( \log(m^2) \), associated to the divergences in (46), has the same coefficient but with opposite sign as that coming from the Mandelstam function. Therefore they exactly cancel. This allows us to obtain the regular massless limit:

\[
W[g_{\mu\nu}] = \frac{1}{32\pi^2} \int d^4x \sqrt{g} \left( \frac{1}{180} R_{\mu\nu\lambda\rho}(x) R_{\mu\nu\lambda\rho}(x) - \frac{1}{180} R_{\mu\nu}(x) \Gamma(\Box) R_{\mu\nu}(x) 
+ \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{1}{6} - \xi \right)^2 R(x) \Gamma(\Box) R(x) \right) + O(\nabla^2 R^2) \]  

where \( \Gamma(\Box) \) is given in (48). This result is what one had expected on dimensional grounds (49), however we have got in addition an explicit representation, completely analogous to the flat space-time case, for the form factors. In principle, the result in (46) cannot be considered, strictly speaking, as the \( O(\nabla^2 R^2) \) contribution in the curvature expansion since in the calculation we have not considered those terms with two curvatures and an arbitrary number of covariant derivatives, denoted by \( O(\nabla^2 R^2) \). We have obtained a nonlocal expression, but the infinite \( O(\nabla^2 R^2) \) terms could in principle modify it. However, we have seen in the previous section that the divergences have a logarithmic dependence in \( m^2 \) (whose calculation is unambiguous). In addition, we showed in Section 2 in the QED case that the coefficients of the \( \log(m^2) \) in the divergent part have to be the same as those of the \( \log(p^2) \) in the nonlocal pieces, in order to have a regular massless limit. In (47) we have seen that our result indeed possesses a regular massless limit. Since the
$O(\nabla^2 R^2)$ terms are finite, they could only modify the finite local and nonlocal part, but not the divergences. However such a modification in the nonlocal part could spoil the regularity of the massless limit. Accordingly, we conclude that the $O(\nabla^2 R^2)$ terms can only modify the local finite pieces and those proportional to $m^2$, but not the nonlocal ones containing $\log(m^2)$. For that reason, the result in (14) includes all the quadratic curvature contributions except for those containing an arbitrary mass power denoted $O(m^2 R^2)$.

A compatible result has been obtained using partial resummation of the Schwinger-DeWitt expansion [8] and also by means of the so called covariant perturbation theory [1], in this case it was possible to derive the cubic terms in curvatures for asymptotically flat manifolds. Notice however that the boundary conditions that normal coordinates impose on the metric tensor are slightly more general than the asymptotically Minkowskian condition. In fact, we have only required that the curvatures and their covariant derivative vanish at infinity. This condition includes, for instance, those Robertson-Walker manifolds in which the expansion rate $\dot{a}/a$ asymptotically vanishes in the future, although the scale factor itself $a(t)$ does not tend to a constant. This kind of manifolds are known to accept the definition of the so-called adiabatic vacua [13]. In (14) the possibility of defining such vacua was extremely useful for the interpretation of the effective action as vacuum persistence amplitude.

To summarize, the procedure we have just presented makes it possible a partial resummation of the higher order terms in the EA, within the mentioned limits. Neglecting $O(R^3)$ terms implies that (14) will be a good approximation for $\nabla^2 R \gg R^2$. In a similar fashion, when we neglect $O(m^2 R^2)$ terms we are assuming that $\nabla^2 R \gg m^2 R$. However, if we are only interested in the two point Green functions with external curvature legs, the massless limit in (14) is exact. The renormalization of the EA can be done following the standard procedure in the classical references (13 and 2). Here we will only mention that from the viewpoint of the Appelquist and Carrazone decoupling theorem [24], the scalar field does not decouple from gravity since there are new terms in the EA (46) which are not present in the Einstein-Hilbert action and they are not suppressed by powers of the particle mass $m$.

IV. INTEGRATION OF THE STANDARD MODEL MATTER FIELDS: THE EA FOR TORSION

Up to now we have only worked with scalar fields. However, in order to include the effect of the matter content present in the SM in the gravitational EA, we have to deal with the integration of fermionic fields. In this case we can proceed in a similar way using (14) in order to obtain the EA for the gauge fields and gravitation by integrating out the SM matter fields. The main novelty is that, in addition to the gravitational field (the vierbein), fermions couple also to the pseudotrace of the torsion as it was discussed at the beginning of the previous section. The SM matter lagrangian in a curved space-time with torsion can be written as [21]:

$$\mathcal{L}_M = \sqrt{\gamma} (\overline{Q}(i \gamma^\mu D^Q_\mu - M^Q)Q + \overline{L}(i \gamma^\mu D^L_\mu - M^L)L)$$

(48)

where:

$$D^Q_\mu = \gamma^\mu (\partial_\mu + \Omega^Q_\mu + S^Q_\mu \gamma_5), \quad D^L_\mu = \gamma^\mu (\partial_\mu + \Omega^L_\mu + S^L_\mu \gamma_5)$$

(49)

with $M^Q$ and $M^L$ the mass matrices of quarks and leptons. We have followed the notation in [21]. In the following we will concentrate only in the gravitational couplings, so that we have neglected the gauge fields contributions in the operators.

In order to obtain the torsion contribution to the EA up to $O(S^2)$, we first consider a flat space-time with torsion and afterwards we will include the effect of curvature. From the above lagrangian we see that torsion behaves as the gravitational field. In order to introduce the space-time curvature, we recall that the SM matter sector is locally conformally invariant (for massless fermions), this is also the case of the counterterms [22], (see [23] where the renormalization procedure has been studied for manifolds with torsion). When including the curvature, apart from those in (41), there could be quadratic terms in torsion in the generic form $RS^2$. However such terms are not conformally invariant. Therefore the
ones obtained above are the only possible divergences. Next we will confirm these results with an explicit calculation of the divergences in a space-time with curvature.

The SM Dirac operators in Euclidean space are not Hermitian because of the electroweak gauge couplings and the absence of the right neutrinos. However, in Euclidean space the EA divergences are real [18], thus it is enough to calculate: 2Re $W[e, \hat{\Gamma}] = -\log \det(O)$, where $O = (D + M)^{1/2} (D + M)$ and $D$ and $M$ denotes the joint Euclidean Dirac operator and mass matrix for quarks and leptons. The heat-kernel expansion together with dimensional regularization allows us to obtain:

$$-\frac{1}{2} \mathrm{Tr} \log(O) = \frac{\mu^2}{2(4\pi)^{D/2}} \mathrm{Tr} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} M^{D-2n} \Gamma \left( n - \frac{D}{2} \right) \int d^4 x \sqrt{g} \ a_n(O, x)$$

(51)

The well-known HMDS coefficients $a_n$ are given for the above operators by:

$$a_0(O, x) = 1, \quad a_1(O, x) = \frac{1}{6} R - X$$

$$a_2(O, x) = \frac{1}{12} [D_{\mu}, D_{\nu}] [D^\mu, D^\nu] + \frac{1}{6} [D_{\mu}, [D^\mu, X]] + \frac{1}{2} X^2 - \frac{1}{6} RX$$

$$- \frac{1}{30} R_{\mu\nu}^a + \frac{1}{72} R^2 + \frac{1}{180} (R_{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} R^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} - R_{\mu\nu} R^{\mu\nu})$$

(52)

where, when we neglect the gauge fields contributions, the operator can be written as:

$$O = D_{\mu} D^{\mu} + X + M^2, \quad \text{with} \quad X = \gamma_5 S_{\mu}^{\nu} + 2 S_{\mu} S^{\nu} - \frac{1}{4} \left[ \gamma_{\mu}, \gamma_{\nu}\right] [d_{\mu}, d_{\nu}]$$

and

$$\gamma_5 S_{\mu}^{\nu} = D_{\mu} \gamma_5 + \Omega_{\mu} - \frac{1}{2} \gamma_5 [\gamma_{\mu}, \gamma_{\nu}] S_{\nu} = d_{\mu} - \frac{1}{2} \gamma_5 [\gamma_{\mu}, \gamma_{\nu}] S_{\nu}$$

Writing the result in Lorentzian signature we have (see also the previous works [23]):

$$W_{\text{div}}[e, \hat{\Gamma}] = - \sum_f \sum_i N_i \frac{1}{32 \pi^2} \int d^4 x \sqrt{g} \left[ M_i^4 \left( \frac{\Delta_i}{2} + \frac{3}{4} \right) - M_i^2 (\Delta_i + 1) \left( -\frac{1}{12} R + \frac{1}{32} S^2 \right) \right]$$

$$+ \Delta_i \left( \frac{1}{384} S_{\mu}^{\nu} S_{\mu}^{\nu} - \frac{7}{1440} R_{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} R^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} - \frac{1}{180} R_{\mu\nu} R^{\mu\nu} + \frac{1}{288} R^2 \right)$$

(53)

$\sum_f$ denotes sum over the different families and $\sum_i = \sum_{\text{lept.}} + N_c \sum_{\text{quarks}}$ over the different flavors in each family, including quarks and leptons. On the other hand, $N_i$ is the number of spinor components: 2 for neutrinos and 4 for the rest of fermions. $M_i$ are the different fermion masses, $\Delta_i = N_i + \log(\mu^2/M_i^2)$ and $\mu$ the renormalization scale.

This formula is compatible with the flat space-time result in [5]. There is no $R S^2$ term, as commented before, and we have discarded total derivatives. Following similar steps as for the scalar case, i.e. including $\log(\Box/M^2)$ factors and taking the massless limit, we obtain the finite nonlocal contributions depending on curvature and torsion from the divergences. In the mentioned limit we have:

$$W[e, \hat{\Gamma}] = - \frac{N_f (8N_c + 6)}{32 \pi^2} \int d^4 x \sqrt{g} \left( \frac{1}{384} S_{\mu}^{\nu} \Gamma(\Box) S_{\mu}^{\nu} + \frac{1}{288} R \Gamma(\Box) R \right)$$

$$- \frac{7}{1440} R_{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} \Gamma(\Box) R^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} - \frac{1}{180} R_{\mu\nu} \Gamma(\Box) R^{\mu\nu} + O(R^3) + O(S^3)$$

(54)

where $\Gamma(\Box)$ is given in [3], and $O(S^3)$ denotes terms with 3 or more torsion fields. Finally, due to the presence of chiral fermions, the EA could contain an abnormal parity sector, responsible for the gauge and gravitational anomalies. However, as far as the previous result has been derived from the real part of the EA (with normal parity), this sector is not taken into account.

The renormalization procedure in this case will require, not only the introduction of quadratic terms and a constant, but also a kinetic and mass terms for the torsion field. Accordingly, the starting classical action should be:

$$S_G = \int d^4 x \sqrt{g} \left( \frac{R - 2\Lambda}{16\pi G} + a_2 R_{\mu\nu\lambda\rho} R^{\mu\nu\lambda\rho} + a_3 R_{\mu\nu} R^{\mu\nu} + a_4 R^2 + a_5 S_{\mu\nu} S^{\mu\nu} + a_6 S^2 \right)$$

(55)

The divergences can be absorbed by constants redefinition:
The expression that we have obtained for the nonlocal form factors is particularly appropriate for the calculation of spectra thus providing an alternative method to the more commonly used based on the Bogolyubov transformations.

The imaginary part of the effective action evaluated on classical solutions, can be used to compute particle production rates and evaluated on them, are unstable by particle radiation even if they are stable at the classical level. Moreover, the computed here, are complex in general. Classical solutions that give rise to an imaginary part when the effective action is propagated.

We have discussed the renormalization of this effective action and we have found that a kinetic term is generated for the torsion including the divergent and the nonlocal finite terms up to quadratic terms in the curvature and the torsion. In addition to the gravitational field. Thus we have obtained the low-energy effective action for the gravitational field and the magnetic field.

The physical effects. In particular, the low-energy effective action can be applied for the study of the quantum stability of classical solutions of the Einstein equations of motion. More specifically, the nonlocal terms of the effective action which have been computed here, are complex in general. Classical solutions that give rise to an imaginary part when the effective action is evaluated on them, are unstable by particle radiation even if they are stable at the classical level. Moreover, the imaginary part of the effective action evaluated on classical solutions, can be used to compute particle production rates and spectra thus providing an alternative method to the more commonly used based on the Bogolyubov transformations. The expression that we have obtained for the nonlocal form factors is particularly appropriate for the calculation of spectra thus providing an alternative method to the more commonly used based on the Bogolyubov transformations.

\[
a_j \rightarrow a'_j = a_j(\mu) - \frac{1}{32\pi^2} C_j N_c + \text{finite constants, } j = 0.6
\]

where \( a_0 = -2\Lambda/(16\pi G) \) and \( a_1 = 1/(16\pi G) \). The values of \( C_j \) are shown in Table 3.1.

The scale dependence of the renormalized constants is derived from the renormalization group equation, in an analogous way to the scalar case. As a consequence, if at a given scale \( \mu \), the constants have certain values \( a'_i(\mu) \), their values at a different scale \( \mu' \) will be given by:

\[
a'_i(\mu') = a'_i(\mu) + \frac{C_i}{32\pi^2} \log \left( \frac{\mu^2}{\mu'^2} \right)
\]

where the \( C_i \) constants are those appearing in Table 3.1. In particular, the renormalized Newton constant \( G'(\mu) \) has a scale dependence and therefore its value should be specified for a given \( \mu \). Thus \( G \) will depend on the size of the system we are considering and this could have an enormous importance in cosmology (see [25]).

| \( C_0 \) | \( C_1 \) | \( C_2 \) | \( C_3 \) |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| \( -\sum_i \sum_j N_i \frac{M^2}{4\Lambda} \) | \( -\sum_i \sum_j N_i \frac{M^2}{4\Lambda} + \frac{7}{180} N_f N_c + \frac{7}{252} N_f \) | \( \frac{4}{216} N_f N_c + \frac{1}{17} N_f \) |
| \| \| \| |
| \( -\frac{1}{30} N_f N_c - \frac{1}{48} N_f \) | \( -\frac{1}{48} N_f N_c - \frac{1}{60} N_f \) | \( \sum_i \sum_j N_i \frac{M^2}{80} \) |

Table 3.1: Renormalization constants for the SM case

In the renormalized effective action we can generate a torsion kinetic term by means of a \( S_\rho \) finite normalization as follows:

\[
S_\rho' = Z_3^{-1/2}(\mu) S_\rho, \quad \text{where } a_5'(\mu) = -\frac{1}{4} Z_3^{-1}(\mu).
\]

Thus in the massless limit we have:

\[
W'[S^\rho] = \int d^4x \sqrt{g} \left( -\frac{1}{4} S'^\rho_\mu S'^\rho_\mu + \text{nonlocal terms} + \mathcal{O}(S^3) \right)
\]

As a consequence the physical torsion field \( S'_\rho \) will behave as an abelian gauge field. Therefore, we have generated a kinetic term for torsion even starting from a theory without propagating torsion.

V. CONCLUSIONS AND DISCUSSION

In this work we have dealt with the computation of the low-energy effective action (EA) for gravity obtained when matter fields, both scalar and fermionic, are integrated out. As a much simpler exercise, we have started with by reviewing the low-energy EA for the electromagnetic field obtained when the electromagnetic field is integrated out. Special attention has been paid to the nonlocal terms which are related to the particle production probabilities.

In order to integrate the scalar fields to compute the effective action for gravity, we have used the normal coordinate expansion. This method has been used previously to compute the divergent terms of the effective action. By comparison of this kind of expansion around different space-time points, we have been able to extend the previous work to obtain also the nonlocal finite terms of the effective action up to quadratic terms in the curvature. In particular, we have arrived to the conclusion that the scalar field does not decouple from the effective action in the large mass limit in the Appelquist-Carrazone sense. Finally, we have also discussed the meaning of the expansion in the massless limit.

In order to be able to consider the matter field content present in the Standard Model, we have also studied the case of fermionic matter. The main novelty in this case is that this kind of fields can also couple to the torsion pseudotrace in addition to the gravitational field. Thus we have obtained the low-energy effective action for the gravitational field and the torsion including the divergent and the nonlocal finite terms up to quadratic terms in the curvature and the torsion. We have discussed the renormalization of this effective action and we have found that a kinetic term is generated for the torsion pseudotrace. This result is quite interesting since in the standard Einstein-Cartan action, the torsion does not propagate.

Finally, we would like to stress that the results obtained in this work can be useful for the study of some interesting physical effects. In particular, the low-energy effective action can be applied for the study of the quantum stability of classical solutions of the Einstein equations of motion. More specifically, the nonlocal terms of the effective action which have been computed here, are complex in general. Classical solutions that give rise to an imaginary part when the effective action is evaluated on them, are unstable by particle radiation even if they are stable at the classical level. Moreover, the imaginary part of the effective action evaluated on classical solutions, can be used to compute particle production rates and spectra thus providing an alternative method to the more commonly used based on the Bogolyubov transformations. The expression that we have obtained for the nonlocal form factors is particularly appropriate for the calculation...
of particle production probabilities in cosmological space-times. The boundary conditions imposed by the normal coordinates expansion, allow to apply this method not only to asymptotically flat manifolds, but also to some other cosmological manifolds where the expansion rate asymptotically vanishes. Work has been done in this direction and it will be presented elsewhere [11].

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VI. APPENDIX

Dimensional regularization formulae

In dimensional regularization [26], the space-time dimension is taken to be $D = 4 - \epsilon$ and the poles are parametrized through $N$, that was defined in Section II. We will use the notation $d\tilde{q} = \mu^{\epsilon} d^{D}q/(2\pi)^{D}$ where $\mu$ is the renormalization scale. Some useful expressions are:

$$\int \frac{d\tilde{q}}{(q^{2} - R^{2})^{m}} = i \frac{(-1)^{r-m} \Gamma(r+D/2) \Gamma(m-r-D/2)}{\Gamma(D/2) \Gamma(m)(R^{2})^{m-r-D/2}}$$

(59)

$$I_{1}(p, m^{2}) = \int \frac{d\tilde{q}}{(q^{2} - m^{2})^{2}((q + p)^{2} - m^{2})} = i \frac{(-1)^{D/2}}{2(4\pi)^{D/2}} \Gamma(3 - D/2) \int_{0}^{1} dt(1-t)(-m^{2} + p^{2}t(1-t))^{D/2-3}$$

$$\int_{m^{2}}^{\infty} I_{1}(p, m^{2}) dm^{2} = \frac{i\mu^{\epsilon}}{2(4\pi)^{2}} \left( N_{\epsilon} + 2 - \log \frac{m^{2}}{\mu^{2}} - F(p^{2}; m^{2}) \right)$$

(60)

$$I_{2}^{\mu\nu}(p, m^{2}) = \int \frac{d\tilde{q}}{(q^{2} - m^{2})^{3}((q + p)^{2} - m^{2})}$$

$$= i \frac{(-1)^{D/2}}{2(4\pi)^{D/2}} \Gamma(4 - D/2) \int_{0}^{1} dt(1-t)^{2}(-m^{2} + p^{2}t(1-t))^{D/2-4} \left( p^{\mu}p^{\nu} + g^{\mu\nu} \frac{m^{2} + p^{2}t(1-t)}{2(3-D/2)} \right)$$

$$\int_{m^{2}}^{\infty} I_{2}^{\mu\nu}(p, m^{2}) dm^{2} = \frac{i\mu^{\epsilon}}{12(4\pi)^{2}} \left( N_{\epsilon} + \frac{13}{6} - \log \frac{m^{2}}{\mu^{2}} - F(p^{2}; m^{2}) \right) g^{\mu\nu} + O(p^{2})$$

(61)

$$I_{3}^{\mu\alpha\beta}(p, m^{2}) = \int \frac{d\tilde{q}}{(q^{2} - m^{2})^{4}((q + p)^{2} - m^{2})}$$

$$= i \frac{(-1)^{D/2}}{6(4\pi)^{D/2}} \Gamma(5 - D/2) \int_{0}^{1} dt(1-t)^{3}(-m^{2} + p^{2}t(1-t))^{D/2-3} \frac{g^{\alpha\mu}g^{\beta\nu} + g^{\alpha\nu}g^{\beta\mu} + g^{\alpha\beta}g^{\mu\nu}}{(6-D)(8-D)}$$

$$+ O(p^{2})$$

$$\int_{m^{2}}^{\infty} I_{3}^{\mu\alpha\beta}(p, m^{2}) dm^{2} = \frac{i\mu^{\epsilon}}{96(4\pi)^{2}} \left( N_{\epsilon} + \frac{7}{3} - \log \frac{m^{2}}{\mu^{2}} - \left( 1 - \frac{2m^{2}}{p^{2}} \right) F(p^{2}; m^{2}) - \frac{4m^{2}}{p^{2}} \right)$$

$$\times \left( g^{\alpha\mu}g^{\beta\mu} + g^{\alpha\nu}g^{\beta\nu} + g^{\alpha\beta}g^{\mu\nu} \right) + O(p^{2})$$

(62)

where $F(p^{2}; M^{2})$ is given in [1]. These expressions have been obtained in the Minkowski space-time. We have not explicitly included the $+i\epsilon$ terms accompanying the momenta in order to avoid the confusion with that coming from dimensional regularization.

Normal coordinates expansions

We will show the Riemann normal coordinates expansions for different objects up to order $O(\partial^{4})$. We will take the point $y_{0}$ as the coordinates origin. For the inverse metric tensor we have:
\[ g^{\mu\nu}(y) = \eta^{\mu\nu} - \frac{1}{3} R^\mu_{\alpha \beta} y^\alpha y^\beta + \frac{1}{6} R^\mu_{\alpha \beta \gamma} y^\alpha y^\beta y^\gamma + \left[ -\frac{1}{20} R^\mu_{\alpha \beta \gamma \delta} (y_0) + \frac{1}{15} R^\mu_{\alpha \beta \lambda} (y_0) R^\lambda_{\gamma \delta} (y_0) \right] y^\alpha y^\beta y^\gamma y^\delta + O(\partial^5) \] (63)

The metric determinant \( g = |\det g_{\mu\nu}| \) has the following expansion:

\[ g(y) = 1 + \frac{1}{3} R_{\alpha\beta}(y_0) y^\alpha y^\beta - \frac{1}{6} R_{\alpha\beta\gamma\delta} y^\alpha y^\beta y^\gamma + \left( \frac{1}{18} R_{\alpha\beta} R_{\gamma\delta} - \frac{1}{90} R_{\lambda\alpha\beta\kappa} R^\lambda_{\gamma\delta} + \frac{1}{20} R_{\alpha\beta;\gamma\delta} \right) y^\alpha y^\beta y^\gamma y^\delta + O(\partial^5) \] (64)

For the square root of the metric determinant and its inverse we have:

\[ g^{1/2}(y) = 1 + \frac{1}{6} R_{\alpha\beta}(y_0) y^\alpha y^\beta - \frac{1}{12} R_{\alpha\beta\gamma\delta} y^\alpha y^\beta y^\gamma + \left( \frac{1}{72} R_{\alpha\beta} R_{\gamma\delta} - \frac{1}{180} R_{\lambda\alpha\beta\kappa} R^\lambda_{\gamma\delta} + \frac{1}{40} R_{\alpha\beta;\gamma\delta} \right) y^\alpha y^\beta y^\gamma y^\delta + O(\partial^5) \] (65)

\[ g^{-1/2}(y) = 1 - \frac{1}{6} R_{\alpha\beta}(y_0) y^\alpha y^\beta + \frac{1}{12} R_{\alpha\beta\gamma\delta} y^\alpha y^\beta y^\gamma + \left( \frac{1}{72} R_{\alpha\beta} R_{\gamma\delta} + \frac{1}{180} R_{\lambda\alpha\beta\kappa} R^\lambda_{\gamma\delta} - \frac{1}{40} R_{\alpha\beta;\gamma\delta} \right) y^\alpha y^\beta y^\gamma y^\delta + O(\partial^5) \] (66)