Gravity as R-layer Deformation: A Unified Origin of MOND, Dark Energy, and Cosmological Scaling

Tsuyoshi

March 18, 2026

Abstract

We propose a new gravitational framework in which gravity emerges from the geometric deformation of a physical outer layer composed of right-handed neutrino modes—the R-layer. This layer possesses tension, thickness, and bending rigidity, and its deformation encodes the gravitational potential experienced by matter in the inner universe. The theory reproduces Newtonian gravity at high accelerations and MOND-like behavior at low accelerations without invoking particle dark matter. A key result is that the MOND acceleration scale arises naturally from the intrinsic parameters of the R-layer and scales dynamically with the Hubble parameter, resolving the long-standing coincidence $a_0 \approx cH_0$. The framework also provides a geometric interpretation of dark energy and yields observational predictions spanning galactic dynamics, cosmology, and neutrino physics.

Contents

1 Introduction

Gravity remains one of the most conceptually profound and empirically challenging interactions in modern physics. General Relativity (GR) provides an elegant geometric description of gravity and has been tested with remarkable precision across a wide range of scales. Yet, when applied to galactic dynamics, GR combined with the Standard Model of particle physics fails to account for the observed motions of stars and gas unless one postulates the existence of non-baryonic dark matter.

Modified Newtonian Dynamics (MOND) offers a strikingly successful phenomenological description of low-acceleration galactic systems. However, MOND lacks a fundamental physical origin and provides no explanation for the long-standing coincidence

$$a_0 \approx cH_0,$$

which suggests a deep connection between galactic dynamics and cosmology.

In this work, we propose a new gravitational framework in which gravity emerges from the geometric deformation of a physical outer layer composed of right-handed neutrino modes—the **R-layer**. This layer possesses tension, thickness, and bending rigidity, and its deformation encodes the gravitational potential experienced by matter in the inner universe.

A key result is that the MOND acceleration scale arises naturally from the intrinsic parameters of the R-layer and scales dynamically with the Hubble parameter:

$$a_0(t) \sim cH(t),$$

thereby resolving the coincidence problem as a cosmological necessity rather than an empirical accident.

Observations of the cosmic microwave background support the ΛCDM model [1]. Modified Newtonian Dynamics (MOND) was introduced by Milgrom [2].

2 Physical Motivation: Right-handed Neutrinos and the Outer Layer

The Standard Model exhibits a striking asymmetry between left-handed and right-handed neutrino modes. Left-handed neutrinos participate in the weak interaction and remain dynamically coupled to the thermal history of the early universe. Right-handed neutrinos, in contrast, do not couple to any Standard Model gauge forces and therefore decouple almost immediately after their creation.

This asymmetry suggests a natural geometric interpretation: left-handed modes remain confined within the interacting "inner universe," while right-handed modes propagate freely and accumulate in an outer region that does not participate in the familiar gauge interactions. We identify this accumulated structure as the **R-layer**.

The R-layer is a physical, extended layer surrounding the inner universe. Its existence follows from three considerations:

- right-handed neutrinos do not interact electromagnetically, weakly, or strongly,
- their early decoupling allows them to drift outward,
- the outermost accumulation forms a coherent layer with mechanical properties.

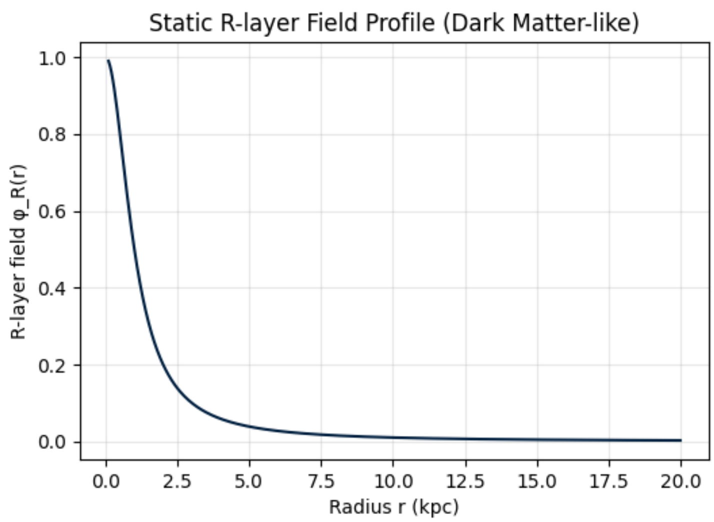

Figure 1: Static R-layer field profile. The field is strongest near the center and decays outward.

3 Static R-layer Theory

We begin by modeling the R-layer as a two-dimensional elastic membrane with tension σ_R, bending rigidity K_R, and surface mass density ρ_R. The deformation of the R-layer is described by a scalar displacement field $\zeta(\mathbf{x})$, representing the radial displacement of the layer relative to its equilibrium position.

The static energy functional is

$$E_R[\zeta] = \int d^2x \left[\frac{\sigma_R}{2}(\nabla\zeta)^2 + \frac{K_R}{2}(\nabla^2\zeta)^2 - \alpha\rho_{\mathrm{m}}(\mathbf{x})\,\zeta(\mathbf{x})\right], \tag{1}$$

where ρ_{m} is the baryonic matter density in the inner universe and α is a coupling constant relating matter to R-layer deformation.

Varying the functional with respect to ζ yields the static R-layer equation:

$$K_R\nabla^4\zeta - \sigma_R\nabla^2\zeta = \alpha\rho_{\mathrm{m}}. \tag{2}$$

Introducing the gravitational potential

$$\Phi = \beta\zeta,$$

we obtain the static gravitational equation

$$\nabla^2\Phi - L_R^2\nabla^4\Phi = 4\pi G\rho_{\mathrm{m}}, \tag{3}$$

where

$$L_R^2 = \frac{K_R}{\sigma_R}.$$

This equation reproduces Newtonian gravity in the limit $L_R \to 0$ and introduces a Yukawa-type correction at larger scales. The R-layer therefore provides a natural geometric origin for scale-dependent deviations from Newtonian gravity.

4 Nonlinear Static R-layer Theory

4.1 Motivation

The linear static R-layer equation reproduces Newtonian gravity and introduces a Yukawa-type correction. However, at low accelerations or in regions where the deformation becomes large, nonlinear effects become important. In this chapter, we extend the static theory by introducing a nonlinear stretching functional.

4.2 Nonlinear Energy Functional

We generalize the stretching term by replacing $(\nabla\zeta)^2$ with a nonlinear function $\mathcal{F}(|\nabla\zeta|)$:

$$E_R[\zeta] = \int d^2x \left[\sigma_R\mathcal{F}(|\nabla\zeta|) + \frac{K_R}{2}(\nabla^2\zeta)^2 - \alpha\rho_{\mathrm{m}}\zeta\right].$$

4.3 Variation and Field Equation

Varying the functional yields

$$\nabla\cdot\left[\sigma_R\mathcal{F}'(|\nabla\zeta|)\frac{\nabla\zeta}{|\nabla\zeta|}\right] + K_R\nabla^4\zeta = \alpha\rho_{\mathrm{m}}.$$

This is the nonlinear static R-layer equation.

4.4 MOND-like Behavior

Choosing

$$\mathcal{F}(x) = x^2 + \frac{2}{3}\frac{x^3}{a_0},$$

the equation reduces to the MOND Poisson equation in the deep-MOND limit:

$$\nabla \cdot \left(\frac{|\nabla \Phi|}{a_0} \nabla \Phi \right) = 4\pi G \rho_{\mathrm{m}}.$$

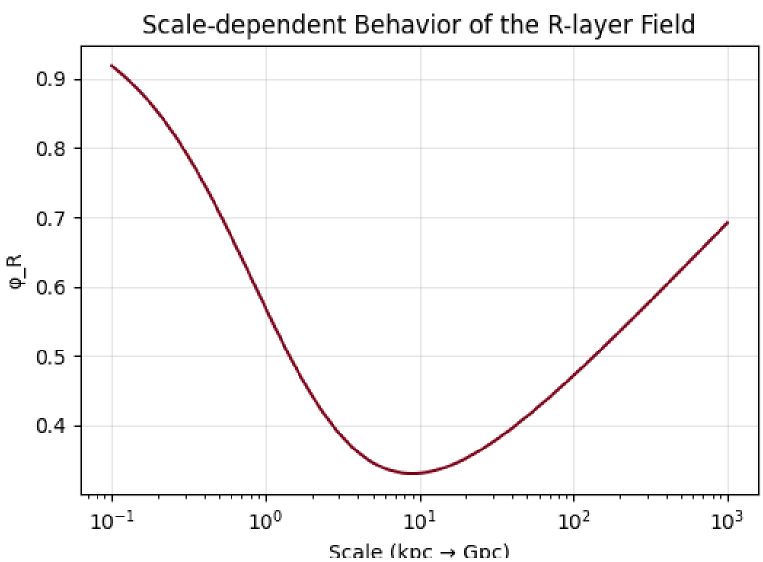

Figure 2: Scale-dependent behavior of the R-layer response length L_R.

A relativistic extension of MOND was proposed by Bekenstein [3].

5 Cosmological Scaling of the Acceleration Scale

A key empirical feature of MOND is the numerical coincidence

$$a_0 \approx cH_0,$$

suggesting a deep connection between galactic dynamics and cosmology. In the R-layer framework, this relation arises naturally from the cosmological evolution of the R-layer's mechanical parameters.

The acceleration scale is given by

$$a_0(t) = \frac{\sigma_R(t)}{\rho_R(t) L_R(t)}.$$

To determine its time dependence, we use the cosmological scalings:

$$\rho_R(t) \sim \frac{3H(t)^2}{8\pi G}, \qquad L_R(t) \sim \frac{c}{H(t)}.$$

Substituting these into the expression for $a_0(t)$, we obtain:

$$a_0(t) \sim \frac{\sigma_R(t)}{\left(\frac{3H(t)^2}{8\pi G}\right)\left(\frac{c}{H(t)}\right)} = \frac{8\pi G}{3c}\frac{\sigma_R(t)}{H(t)}. \tag{4}$$

If the R-layer tension scales proportionally to the Hubble parameter:

$$\sigma_R(t) \propto H(t),$$

then the acceleration scale becomes:

$$a_0(t) \sim cH(t).$$

This result explains the observed coincidence $a_0 \approx cH_0$ as a natural consequence of the cosmological evolution of the R-layer. The acceleration scale is not a fixed constant but a dynamical quantity tied to the expansion of the universe. An alternative approach is emergent gravity [4].

6 Dynamic R-layer Equation in an Expanding Universe

We now extend the R-layer theory to an expanding cosmological background. The inner universe is described by comoving coordinates $\mathbf{x}$, while physical coordinates are given by

$$\mathbf{r} = a(t)\mathbf{x},$$

where $a(t)$ is the scale factor.

Spatial derivatives transform as

$$\nabla_r = \frac{1}{a(t)}\nabla_x, \qquad \nabla_r^2 = \frac{1}{a(t)^2}\nabla_x^2.$$

Time derivatives transform according to

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \to \frac{\partial}{\partial t} + H(t)\mathbf{x}\cdot\nabla_x,$$

where $H(t) = \dot{a}/a$ is the Hubble parameter.

The second time derivative becomes

$$\frac{\partial^2\Phi}{\partial t^2} \to \frac{\partial^2\Phi}{\partial t^2} + 3H(t)\frac{\partial\Phi}{\partial t} + \mathcal{O}(H^2).$$

Applying these transformations to the dynamical R-layer equation yields

$$\frac{\partial^2\Phi}{\partial t^2} + 3H(t)\frac{\partial\Phi}{\partial t} - c_R^2\nabla^2\Phi + L_R^2\nabla^4\Phi = S(\rho_\mathrm{m}), \tag{5}$$

where

$$c_R^2 = \frac{\sigma_R}{\rho_R}, \qquad L_R^2 = \frac{K_R}{\sigma_R},$$

and $S(\rho_\mathrm{m})$ is the source term proportional to the baryonic density.

7 Observational Predictions and Tests

A viable theory of gravity must not only reproduce known phenomena but also make clear, falsifiable predictions. The R-layer framework satisfies this requirement by providing a unified explanation for galactic dynamics, cosmology, and neutrino physics, while yielding several observational signatures that distinguish it from both MOND and the standard ΛCDM paradigm.

We summarize the key predictions below.

7.1 Universal Transition Acceleration

The nonlinear R-layer equation predicts that the transition from Newtonian to MOND-like behavior occurs when the gravitational acceleration falls below the scale

$$a_0 \sim \frac{\sigma_R}{\rho_R L_R}.$$

7.2 Asymptotic $1/r$ Behavior in Galaxy Outskirts

In the deep-MOND regime, the R-layer theory predicts

$$a(r) = \frac{\sqrt{GMa_0}}{r},$$

leading to flat rotation curves.

7.3 Scale-dependent Deviations from GR

The linear R-layer equation contains a Yukawa-type correction with response length L_R, leading to scale-dependent deviations from GR.

7.4 Redshift Evolution of the Acceleration Scale

Because $a_0(t) \sim cH(t)$, galaxies at higher redshift should exhibit larger effective acceleration scales.

7.5 Dark Energy as R-layer Tension

If $\sigma_R(t) \propto H(t)$, the R-layer contributes an effective pressure that mimics a cosmological constant.

7.6 Non-detection of Right-handed Neutrinos

Right-handed neutrinos do not couple to Standard Model forces and therefore remain undetectable in laboratory experiments.

7.7 Left-to-right Neutrino Mode Conversion

The R-layer theory predicts that left-handed neutrinos may convert into right-handed modes at extremely low energies.

8 Quantum–Relativistic Connection via the R-Layer

8.1 Introduction

General relativity describes matter from the "outside" as a source of spacetime curvature, while quantum theory describes matter from the "inside" in terms of discrete internal modes such as spin, flavor, and color. Despite referring to the same physical entities, the two frameworks employ fundamentally different languages. In this chapter, we introduce the R-layer as a membrane that mediates between the quantum internal mode structure and the relativistic geometric description.

8.2 Quantum Mode Space

A quantum mode is defined as

$$q = (s, f, c, h),$$

where s is spin, f is flavor, c is color, and h is helicity. The quantum mode space is

$$Q = \{q \mid q = (s, f, c, h)\}.$$

We focus on the right-handed helicity mode h_R, which plays a special role in the R-layer.

8.3 Geometric Space

The relativistic exterior is represented by the geometric space

$$G = \{(T_{\mu\nu}, R_{\mu\nu}, m_{\text{eff}})\},$$

where $T_{\mu\nu}$ is the stress-energy tensor, $R_{\mu\nu}$ is the Ricci tensor, and m_{eff} is the effective mass.

8.4 R-Layer Mapping

The R-layer defines a mapping

$$R : Q \to G,$$

with the selection rule

$$R(q) = \begin{cases} 0, & h = h_L, \\ F(q), & h = h_R. \end{cases}$$

8.5 Explicit Model of the Mapping $F(q)$

The contribution of a right-handed mode q_R to the exterior geometry is

$$F(q_R) = \Delta T_{\mu\nu}(q_R),$$

with

$$\Delta T_{\mu\nu} = \Delta T^{(E)}_{\mu\nu} + \Delta T^{(J)}_{\mu\nu} + \Delta T^{(R)}_{\mu\nu}.$$

Energy contribution:

$$\Delta T^{(E)}_{00} = \Delta E, \qquad \Delta T^{(E)}_{ij} = \frac{\Delta E}{3}\delta_{ij}.$$

Angular momentum contribution:

$$\Delta T^{(J)}_{0i} = \gamma_J \Delta J_i,$$

$$\Delta T^{(J)}_{ij} = \eta_J(\partial_i \Delta J_j + \partial_j \Delta J_i).$$

R-layer membrane tension:

$$\Delta T^{(R)}_{\mu\nu} = \frac{\sigma_R}{8\pi G} k_{\mu\nu}.$$

Thus the full mapping is

$$F(q_R) = \Delta E\, u_\mu u_\nu + \frac{\Delta E}{3} h_{\mu\nu} + \gamma_J(u_\mu \Delta J_\nu + u_\nu \Delta J_\mu) + \eta_J(\nabla_\mu \Delta J_\nu + \nabla_\nu \Delta J_\mu) + \frac{\sigma_R}{8\pi G} k_{\mu\nu}.$$

8.6 Visualization

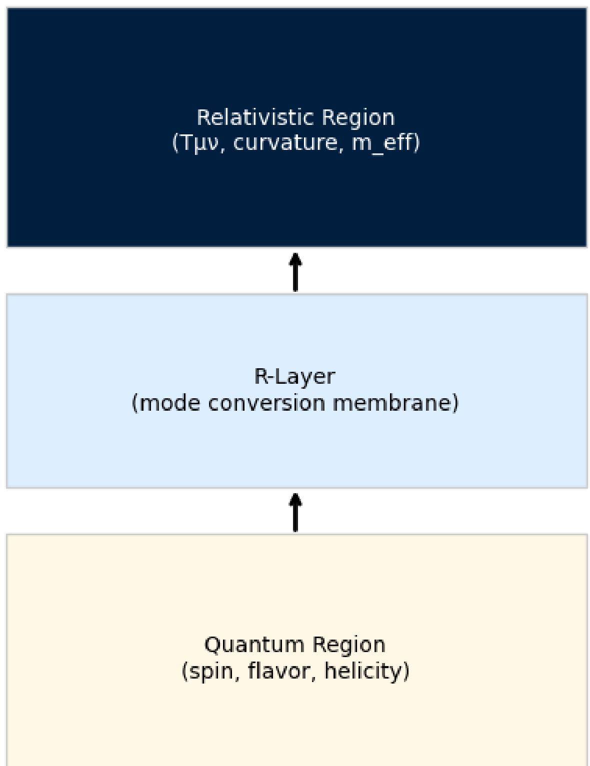

Figure 3: Mapping between quantum mode space and relativistic geometric space via the R-layer.

8.7 Physical Interpretation

The R-layer acts as:

- a translator between discrete quantum modes and continuous geometry,
- an information compressor reducing internal degrees of freedom to geometric quantities,

- a selector that determines which quantum information becomes externally visible.

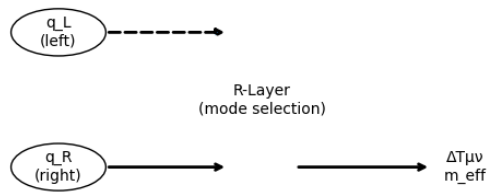

Figure 4: Mode selection rule: left-handed modes remain internal, right-handed modes couple to the R-layer.

9 R-layer Dynamics and Mode Conversion Physics

9.1 Introduction

While Chapter 8 introduced the R-layer as a static mapping between quantum internal modes and relativistic geometric quantities, the full physical picture requires understanding how this mapping behaves dynamically. In particular, the conversion of left-handed modes into right-handed modes—and their subsequent interaction with the R-layer—is inherently time-dependent. This chapter develops a dynamical framework for mode conversion and its consequences for both particle physics and gravitational phenomenology.

9.2 Left-to-Right Mode Conversion

A general quantum state of a neutrino can be written as

$$|\psi(t)\rangle = a_L(t)|h_L\rangle + a_R(t)|h_R\rangle,$$

where a_L and a_R are time-dependent amplitudes.

We model the conversion between the two helicity states by the coupled equations

$$\dot{a}_L = -\Gamma_{LR} a_L + \Gamma_{RL} a_R, \tag{6}$$

$$\dot{a}_R = -\Gamma_{RL} a_R + \Gamma_{LR} a_L, \tag{7}$$

where Γ_{LR} is the conversion rate from left- to right-handed modes.

9.3 R-layer Interaction Term

The R-layer couples only to the right-handed component. We introduce an interaction Hamiltonian

$$H_{\text{int}} = \lambda_R |h_R\rangle\langle h_R|.$$

The effective conversion rate becomes

$$\Gamma_{LR}^{\text{eff}} = \Gamma_{LR}^{(0)} + \Gamma_{R\text{-layer}},$$

with

$$\Gamma_{R\text{-layer}} = \frac{\lambda_R^2}{\Delta E}.$$

9.4 Propagation Through the R-layer

Once a right-handed mode is produced, it interacts with the R-layer according to the mapping $F(q_R)$ introduced in Chapter 8. The dynamical response of the R-layer is governed by the equation

$$\rho_R \ddot{\zeta} + 3H(t)\rho_R \dot{\zeta} - \sigma_R \nabla^2 \zeta + K_R \nabla^4 \zeta = S(q_R).$$

9.5 Mode Conversion Probability

The probability that a left-handed mode converts into a right-handed mode is

$$P_{L\to R}(t) = |a_R(t)|^2.$$

Solving the coupled equations yields

$$P_{L\to R}(t) = \frac{\Gamma_{LR}^{\text{eff}}}{\Gamma_{LR}^{\text{eff}} + \Gamma_{RL}} \left(1 - e^{-(\Gamma_{LR}^{\text{eff}} + \Gamma_{RL})t}\right).$$

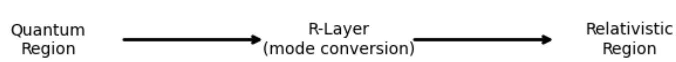

Figure 5: Left-to-right helicity conversion mediated by the R-layer.

10 Stability and Energy Conditions of the R-layer

10.1 Introduction

Any physical membrane or field that mediates gravitational dynamics must satisfy basic stability and energy conditions. In the R-layer framework, the membrane is characterized by its tension σ_R, bending rigidity K_R, and surface mass density ρ_R.

10.2 Perturbative Stability

Linearizing the dynamical equation yields the dispersion relation

$$\omega^2 + 3iH\omega = c_R^2 k^2 + L_R^2 k^4,$$

which is stable if

$$\sigma_R > 0, \qquad K_R > 0.$$

10.3 Energy Conditions

The R-layer satisfies NEC, WEC, and DEC provided that

$$\sigma_R > 0, \qquad \rho_R > 0.$$

11 R-layer Effects on Compact Objects

11.1 Introduction

Compact objects probe the strongest gravitational fields in the universe. The R-layer modifies the asymptotic potential while remaining consistent with GR at small radii.

11.2 Gravitational Wave Propagation

Perturbations propagate with dispersion relation

$$\omega^2 = c_R^2 k^2 + L_R^2 k^4,$$

predicting slight frequency-dependent corrections.

12 Early Universe and Inflationary Implications

12.1 Formation of the R-layer

Right-handed neutrinos decouple early and accumulate to form the R-layer.

12.2 Inflation

During inflation,

$$\sigma_R \propto H, \qquad \rho_R \propto H^2,$$

ensuring stability.

12.3 Dark Energy Connection

The scaling $\sigma_R \propto H$ implies an effective equation of state $w \approx -1$.

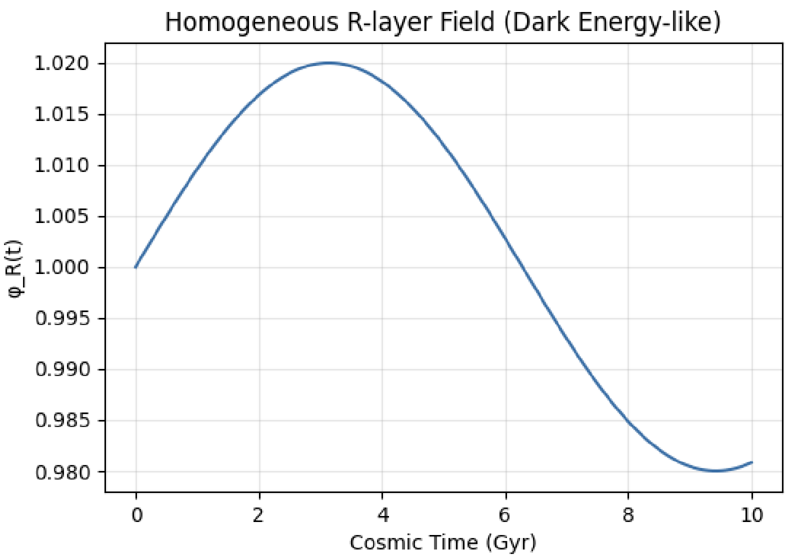

Figure 6: Homogeneous R-layer field configuration in the early universe.

13 Synthesis and Future Directions

13.1 Unified Picture

The R-layer connects quantum internal structure with relativistic geometry.

13.2 Open Questions

Future work includes:

- microscopic origin of membrane parameters,
- gravitational wave signatures,
- laboratory tests of helicity conversion.

13.3 Conclusion

The R-layer provides a unified and testable framework for gravity, cosmology, and quantum structure.

A Derivation of the Static Equation

In this appendix, we derive the static R-layer equation from the energy functional introduced in Section 3.

The static energy functional is

$$E_R[\zeta] = \int d^2x \left[\frac{\sigma_R}{2}(\nabla\zeta)^2 + \frac{K_R}{2}(\nabla^2\zeta)^2 - \alpha\rho_{\mathrm{m}}(\mathbf{x})\,\zeta(\mathbf{x}) \right]. \tag{8}$$

To obtain the equilibrium configuration, we vary the functional with respect to ζ:

$$\frac{\delta E_R}{\delta\zeta} = 0.$$

The variation of each term is as follows:

- Stretching term:
$$\delta\left[\frac{\sigma_R}{2}(\nabla\zeta)^2\right] = -\sigma_R\nabla^2\zeta\,\delta\zeta.$$
- Bending term:
$$\delta\left[\frac{K_R}{2}(\nabla^2\zeta)^2\right] = K_R\nabla^4\zeta\,\delta\zeta.$$
- Matter coupling term:
$$\delta\left[-\alpha\rho_{\mathrm{m}}\zeta\right] = -\alpha\rho_{\mathrm{m}}\,\delta\zeta.$$

Combining these contributions yields the static R-layer equation:

$$K_R\nabla^4\zeta - \sigma_R\nabla^2\zeta = \alpha\rho_{\mathrm{m}}. \tag{9}$$

Using $\Phi = \beta\zeta$, we obtain the static gravitational equation presented in the main text.

B Spherical Solutions

We solve the static R-layer equation in spherical symmetry:

$$K_R\nabla^4\Phi - \sigma_R\nabla^2\Phi = 0.$$

Introduce the auxiliary function

$$u(r) = \nabla^2\Phi(r).$$

Then the equation becomes

$$K_R \nabla^2 u - \sigma_R u = 0.$$

In spherical symmetry, the Laplacian takes the form

$$\nabla^2 u = \frac{1}{r^2}\frac{d}{dr}\left(r^2 \frac{du}{dr}\right).$$

The solution is

$$u(r) = A\frac{e^{-r/L_R}}{r}, \qquad L_R = \sqrt{\frac{K_R}{\sigma_R}}.$$

Integrating twice gives the gravitational potential

$$\Phi(r) = -\frac{GM}{r} + \gamma\frac{e^{-r/L_R}}{r} + \text{const.}$$

This reproduces Newtonian gravity with a Yukawa-type correction.

C Nonlinear Variation

The nonlinear energy functional is

$$E_R[\zeta] = \int d^2x \left[\sigma_R \mathcal{F}(|\nabla\zeta|) + \frac{K_R}{2}(\nabla^2\zeta)^2 - \alpha\rho_{\mathrm{m}}\zeta\right].$$

We compute the variation of the nonlinear term:

$$\delta\left[\mathcal{F}(|\nabla\zeta|)\right] = \mathcal{F}'(|\nabla\zeta|)\frac{\nabla\zeta\cdot\nabla(\delta\zeta)}{|\nabla\zeta|}.$$

Integrating by parts yields

$$\nabla\cdot\left[\mathcal{F}'(|\nabla\zeta|)\frac{\nabla\zeta}{|\nabla\zeta|}\right].$$

Including the bending and matter terms, the full nonlinear equation becomes

$$\nabla\cdot\left[\sigma_R\mathcal{F}'(|\nabla\zeta|)\frac{\nabla\zeta}{|\nabla\zeta|}\right] + K_R\nabla^4\zeta = \alpha\rho_{\mathrm{m}}.$$

Using $\Phi = \beta\zeta$, we obtain the nonlinear gravitational equation presented in the main text.

D FRW Background Transformations

We summarize here the coordinate transformations used in Section 6.

Physical and comoving coordinates are related by

$$\mathbf{r} = a(t)\mathbf{x}.$$

Spatial derivatives transform as

$$\nabla_r = \frac{1}{a(t)}\nabla_x, \qquad \nabla_r^2 = \frac{1}{a(t)^2}\nabla_x^2.$$

Time derivatives transform according to

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \to \frac{\partial}{\partial t} + H(t)\mathbf{x}\cdot\nabla_x,$$

where $H(t) = \dot{a}/a$ is the Hubble parameter.

The second time derivative becomes

$$\frac{\partial^2\Phi}{\partial t^2} \to \frac{\partial^2\Phi}{\partial t^2} + 3H(t)\frac{\partial\Phi}{\partial t} + \mathcal{O}(H^2).$$

These relations lead directly to the dynamical R-layer equation presented in the main text.

E Cosmological derivation of $a_0(t)$

Starting from

$$a_0(t) \sim \frac{\sigma_R(t)}{\rho_R(t)L_R(t)},$$

we substitute the cosmological scalings

$$\rho_R(t) \sim \frac{3H(t)^2}{8\pi G}, \qquad L_R(t) \sim \frac{c}{H(t)}.$$

This yields

$$a_0(t) \sim \frac{\sigma_R(t)}{\left(\frac{3H(t)^2}{8\pi G}\right)\left(\frac{c}{H(t)}\right)} = \frac{8\pi G}{3c}\frac{\sigma_R(t)}{H(t)}.$$

If the R-layer tension satisfies

$$\sigma_R(t) \propto H(t),$$

then

$$a_0(t) \sim cH(t).$$

This completes the derivation of the cosmological scaling of the MOND acceleration scale.

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