

Review Article

On Spacetime as a Damped Harmonic Oscillator and The Dark Universe

Balungi Francis*

Independent Researcher at Bill Stone Services, Uganda

*Corresponding author

Balungi Francis, Independent Researcher at Bill Stone Services, Kampala, Uganda

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Abstract

We present the structure of space-time as an oscillating Hubble Scale Mass (HSM) particle in a viscous fluid of Planck mass relics. Due to this particle oscillations and its interaction with a residual Planck mass, spacetime is undergoing a damped harmonic oscillation. This means that spacetime has a physical structure and is therefore foamy on small scales. Applying our damped harmonic oscillator model to cosmology we rediscover the Friedman-Lemaître equations for an expanding Universe. From the expanding Universe model we predict that cosmic acceleration, driven by an oscillating HSM and its gravitational interaction with a cosmic medium or Planck mass relics, manifests as the universe's expansion accelerating over time, with a corresponding acceleration of roughly $10^{-10}m/s^2$. Depending on the model, the "damping" aspect of the oscillator is interpreted as a constant dark gravity force which is also a representation of dark energy, a mysterious force causing the universe's expansion to accelerate. We derive an estimate of the strength of this extra force in terms of the Gravitational constant, Planck mass, Hubble acceleration scale cH_0 , fine structure constant, cold dark matter Ω_c , dark energy Ω_Λ and baryon density Ω_b , and provide evidence for the fact that this 'dark gravity force' explains the observed phenomena for an accelerating expansion of the Universe currently attributed to dark energy. Lastly we present a model for an accelerating expanding universe in the early Universe using an oscillating Planck mass particle in a viscous fluid of a Hubble scale mass as our space-time model.

INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY

According to Einstein's theory of general relativity space-time has no physical structure other than its four-dimensional continuum, essentially weaving space and time together as a single entity, with the structure of space-time being described by its curvature, which is influenced by the presence of mass and energy, causing massive objects to "bend" space-time around them; this curvature is what we perceive as gravity. This conventional point of view has been challenged by current theories and observations. From the observational side, the fact that 95% of our Universe consists of mysterious forms of energy or matter gives sufficient motivation to reconsider this basic starting point and from a theoretical perspective, insights from black hole physics and string theory indicate that our 'macroscopic' notions of space-time and gravity are emergent from an underlying microscopic description in which they have no a priori meaning [1].

According to Wheeler and Nesterov [2,3], over sufficiently small distances and sufficiently brief intervals of time, the "very geometry of spacetime fluctuates". These fluctuations could be large enough to cause significant departures from the smooth spacetime seen at macroscopic scales, giving spacetime a "foamy" character. This spacetime foam significantly impacts the effective cosmological constant, which is determined by the density of topological geons, implying that the source of dark energy is topological geons. Also according to Hinterbichler [4], one could hope to explain the acceleration of the universe without dark energy by choosing the graviton mass to be of order the Hubble constant.

To differ from Wheeler and Nesterov [2,3], we present the structure of space-time as a damped oscillator of a Hubble Scale Mass (HSM) particle [5-9], in a viscous fluid [10], and using the equations of a simple harmonic oscillator as in classical physics, we show that the fabric of

spacetime experiences oscillations that gradually decrease in amplitude over time, similar to how a physical object like a mass on a spring would lose energy and eventually come to rest when subject to a damping force; in this case, the “damping” would be caused by some mechanism within the spacetime itself that dissipates energy from the oscillations. Some potential mechanisms that could lead to such oscillations may include; dark energy dynamics and scalar fields [11].

Like any damped oscillation, the amplitude of the spacetime ripples would decrease exponentially with time, meaning the “waves” in spacetime would become smaller and smaller until they are negligible [11].

In cosmology, theories suggest that the early universe might have experienced a period of damped spacetime oscillations, potentially explaining the observed uniformity of the cosmic microwave background radiation (see section 3). In quantum gravity frameworks, spacetime oscillations could be linked to the nature of quantum particles and their interactions [12,13].

The implication of space-time oscillations on cosmology is that if space undergoes damped oscillations, it could potentially affect our understanding of the universe’s ultimate fate, including whether it will continue to expand indefinitely or eventually collapse.

Currently, there is no definitive observational evidence for a damped oscillating space- time of the universe, although some studies of distant supernovae and the cosmic microwave background radiation could potentially provide hints about past fluctuations in the expansion rate [14].

The aim of this paper is therefore to prove that space-time is undergoing a damped oscillation and that the cause of this oscillation is attributed to the dynamics of the dark force.

$$\nabla^2 \psi = 2m_a(V - \mu)\psi. \quad (2)$$

The goal of this paper is to give a completely satisfactory microscopic description of space-time with a negative pressure and a positive cosmological constant to fully explain the cause of an accelerating expansion of the Universe.

In this paper we provide evidence for the fact that the observed dark energy, the phenomena currently attributed to dark matter and the damped oscillation of space-time have a common origin and are connected to the rotational motion of a Hubble scale mass particle of space-time in the present Universe.

This paper is structured as follows: In section two we apply the classical equations of a simple harmonic oscillator to an oscillating Hubble scale mass version of space-time. From this model we calculate the angular frequency, damping ratio and exponential decay of the oscillator. In (section 2.1) we apply the differential equation of a HSM damped oscillator to cosmology. In section three we apply the classical equations of a simple harmonic oscillator to an oscillating Planck mass version of space-time with implications for the early Universe.

FIRST MODEL: OSCILLATION OF A HUBBLE SCALE MASS PARTICLE IN A VISCOUS FLUID

Consider any region of space in the Universe where a vacuum of space is defined by an oscillating Hubble Scale Mass Particle (HSM) with mass, $m_s = \frac{H_s \hbar}{c^2} = 0.2134 \times 10^{-68}$ kg in a fluid or vacuum of viscous damping coefficient $\sigma = m_p H_s = 3.960 \times 10^{-26}$ kg/s, where $m_p = \left(\frac{\hbar c}{G}\right)^{1/2} = 2.176 \times 10^{-8}$ kg, is the Planck mass [15].

The damping coefficient given results from the presence of a residual Planck mass in the vacuum of space and the damping is therefore caused by a negative gravitational attraction of a HSM with the cosmic medium of a residual Planck mass.

The particle’s oscillating mass and the damping coefficient are therefore proportional to the Hubble angular frequency scale $H_s = (\Omega_\Lambda)^{1/2} = 1.8200 \times 10^{-18} \text{s}^{-1}$ (where $H_0 = 2.1928 \times 10^{-18} \text{s}^{-1}$ is the present Hubble constant parameter [16], $\Omega_\Lambda = 0.6889$ is the density parameter [16], $\hbar$ is the reduced Planck constant, and c is the constant speed of light).

Friction, or damping, slows the motion of the system and is always in a direction to oppose the motion. Due to frictional force, the velocity decreases in proportion to the acting frictional force as $F_f = -\sigma v = -m_p H_s v$.

Consider the forces acting on the HSM particle; for a mass oscillating in a viscous fluid, the net force is equal to the restoring force $F_r = -kx$ (where k is the force constant and x is the displacement from the initial equilibrium position) and the damping force F_f as,

$$F_{Net} = -F_f - F_r$$

Writing this as an equation in mass m , acceleration a , velocity v and displacement, x , we have

$$F_{Net} = -\sigma v - kx = m_s a_s \quad (1)$$

Using dimensional analysis, the force constant or spring constant k of a HSM particle is related to the

current Hubble scale radius $L = \frac{c}{H_0 \sqrt{\Omega_\Lambda}} = 1.9316 \times 10^{27} \text{m}$ and the cosmological constant Λ as, $k = \frac{c^4 \Lambda L}{3G}$ (where G , is the Gravitational constant).

Putting in the values of the viscous damping coefficient σ and the force constant k we have,

$$F_{Net} = -(m_p H_s) v - \left(\frac{c^4 \Lambda L}{3G} \right) x = m_s a_s \quad (2)$$

Writing this as a differential equation [17] in x , we obtain

$$m_s \frac{d^2 x}{dt^2} + (m_p H_s) \frac{dx}{dt} + \left(\frac{c^4 \Lambda L}{3G} \right) x = 0 \quad (3)$$

This can be rewritten into the form [18-21]

$$\frac{d^2 x}{dt^2} + 2\zeta \omega_o \frac{dx}{dt} + \omega_o^2 x = 0$$

From which the undamped angular frequency of the oscillator is given by an equation,

$$\omega_o = \sqrt{\frac{k}{m_s}} = \sqrt{\frac{c^4 \Lambda L}{3G m_s}} = c \sqrt{\frac{\Lambda L}{3R_s}}, \quad (\text{Where } R_s = \frac{G m_s}{c^2}, \quad (\text{Where } R_s = \frac{G m_s}{c^2} \text{ is the Schwarzschild radius of a HSM particle}).$$

The damping ratio is calculated to be, $\zeta = \frac{\sigma}{2\sqrt{m_s k}} = \frac{m_p H_s}{2c^2} \sqrt{\frac{3G}{\Lambda L m_s}}$. This value of the damping ratio ζ determines the behavior of the system.

The exponential decay of the damped harmonic oscillator is given by, $\lambda = \omega_o \zeta = \frac{m_p H_s}{2m_s} = 9.2791 \times 10^{42} \text{s}^{-1}$

The value λ obtained implies that space is vibrating at extremely high frequencies, potentially corresponding to the Planck time scale, $\frac{1}{\lambda} = 1.078 \times 10^{-43} \text{s}$, which is the smallest unit of time at any given point in space. Space-time therefore is an oscillation of tiny Planck length HSM particles.

This damped model might imply a universe that once oscillated more violently during the Big Bang and is now settling into a quieter state. In quantum gravity or string theory, the model might imply that space-time can also oscillate at tiny scales.

The concept of "space-time as a damped harmonic oscillator" is therefore a metaphorical analogy that attempts to describe the universe's expansion and potential deceleration by comparing it to the behavior of a damped harmonic oscillator, where an oscillating system gradually loses energy over time due to friction-like forces, causing its amplitude to decrease exponentially; essentially suggesting that the universe's expansion might be slowing down as time progresses due to some inherent "damping" mechanism.

Application of First Model to Cosmology

Let the frictional force be a repulsive gravitational force resulting from an interaction of a HSM particle with the Planck mass. Because friction or damping is always in a direction to oppose the motion, this leads to a large negative pressure within the interaction. Therefore the large negative pressure P has repulsive gravity and can lead to the observed accelerated expansion of the universe. If we consider a small area of the vacuum of space, the frictional force or repulsive gravity acting perpendicular on the area A is the negative pressure P and is given by a simple equation, $F_f = -(m_p H_s) v = -PA$.

Let the displacement x' of a HSM particle from its equilibrium position be given by, $x' = (3\alpha_e)^{1/2} l_p = \left(\frac{3\alpha_e \hbar G}{c^3} \right)^{1/2} = 2.392 \times 10^{-36} \text{m}$ and its velocity by $v = \omega_s x' = (3\alpha_e)^{1/2} c$ (where $\alpha_e = 1/137$, is the fine structure constant or electromagnetic coupling constant, l_p is the Planck length and $\omega_s = \frac{c}{l_p}$, is the angular frequency or natural frequency of a simple harmonic oscillator of a HSM particle). The displacement is known as the string length scale of a particle due to its extended nature.

The angular acceleration of a HSM particle is thus given as $a_s = -\omega_s^2 x'$, which then gives a net force on a HSM particle as $F_{Net} = m_s a_s = -m_s \omega_s^2 x'$. Then Eq2 can be written as,

$$PA - \left(\frac{c^4 \Lambda L}{3G} \right) x' = -m_s \omega_s^2 x'$$

When the allowed calculable area for any region of space due to the foamy nature of space-time (space-time foam, [22]) is $As = 4\pi L x' = 4\pi (3\alpha_e)^{1/2} l_p L = 5.8046 \times 10^{-8} \text{m}^2$, we then have

$$4\pi (3\alpha_e)^{1/2} l_p L P - \left(\frac{\Lambda}{3} \right) \frac{(3\alpha_e)^{1/2} l_p L c^4}{G} = -m_s \omega_s^2 x'$$

Where $R_s = (3\alpha_e)^{1/2} \frac{G m_s}{c^2}$ is the Schwarzschild radius of a HSM Or,

$$\frac{4\pi G}{c^2} P - \frac{\Lambda}{3} c^2 = -\frac{(3\alpha_e)^{1/2} G m_s}{L_n l_p^2} = -\frac{(3\alpha_e)^{1/2} G m_s}{V_s}$$

For an accelerating expansion of the Universe, the R.H.S of the above model equation shows that, the Hubble length scale takes on a new length scale $L_n = (3\alpha_e)^{1/2} L = 2.858 \times 10^{26} \text{m}$.

Still from our model, the minimum volume at the R.H.S of the equation denominator is given by $V_s = L_n l_p^2 = L_n l_p^2 = 3.679 \times 10^{-45} \text{m}^3$. This volume is determined by the Planck area l_p^2 and the new Hubble scale length L_n .

According to Ng [22], this is the allowed calculable volume for any region of space representing the foamy

nature of space-time at small scales. The space-time foam is a result of quantum vacuum fluctuations represented by the oscillation of a HSM particle and its interaction with a Planck mass.

It is also worth noting that our model predicts cosmic acceleration at large cosmic length scales as,

$$\frac{4\pi G}{c^2}P - \frac{\Lambda}{3}c^2 = -\frac{a_m}{L_n} \quad (5)$$

Where;

$a_m = \omega_s^2 R_s = \frac{(3\alpha_e)^{1/2} G m_s}{l_p^2} = 0.81 \times 10^{-10} m/s^2$, is the value of cosmic acceleration of the observable Universe. The cosmic acceleration, driven by an oscillating HSM and it's gravitational attraction with a cosmic medium or Planck mass relics, manifests as the universe's expansion accelerating over time, with a Hubble parameter (H) on the order of $H_s = H_o(\Omega_\Lambda)^{1/2} = 1.8200 \times 10^{-18} s^{-1}$ and a corresponding acceleration of roughly $10^{-10} m/s^2$.

According to the equation given above, a_m is the acceleration due gravity or the gravitational field of an oscillating HSM particle at Planck length scales. This implies that these particles act as tiny black holes oscillating at great Planck frequencies creating space curvature and a constant gravitational field. If the cosmic medium was a residual Planck mass, then its interaction with the gravitational field would cause a repulsive force like friction which will lead to an accelerated expansion of the medium at a Hubble scale parameter $H_s = H_o(\Omega_\Lambda)^{1/2}$ and a reduced velocity of the HSM particle of $v = (3\alpha_e)^{1/2}c$ due to damping. The acceleration of the cosmic medium is therefore given as $a_m = cH_o\sqrt{3\alpha_e\Omega_\Lambda}$ and is related to the gravitational field and the angular acceleration of a HSM by the equation,

$$a_m = \omega_s^2 R_s = \frac{(3\alpha_e)^{1/2} G m_s}{l_p^2} = cH_o\sqrt{3\alpha_e\Omega_\Lambda}$$

This means that there is no difference between an accelerating HSM and the cosmic medium presented by a residual Planck mass. Therefore the friction force or repulsive gravity that derives an accelerated expansion of the Universe is,

$$F_f = -m_p a_m = -m_p \omega_s^2 R_s = -\frac{(3\alpha_e)^{1/2} G m_s m_p}{l_p^2} = -\frac{m_s c^2}{l_p}$$

Or,

$$F_f = -m_p c H_o \sqrt{3\alpha_e \Omega_\Lambda}$$

This acceleration is also related to the Hubble parameter H_o and the Mond acceleration constant Milogram [23,24] $a_o = 1.2 \times 10^{-10} m/s^2$ as

$$a_m = \frac{(3\alpha_e)^{1/2} G m_s}{l_p^2} = cH_o\sqrt{3\alpha_e\Omega_\Lambda} = a_o h$$

Where, $h = 0.6755$, is the dimensionless reduced Hubble parameter. To be more precise, $5.5a_o = cH_o$

It is also worth noting that the dimensionless parameter $\sqrt{3\alpha_e\Omega_\Lambda}$ can be expressed in terms of the physical baryon density today $\Omega_b h^2$ and physical cold dark matter density today $\Omega_c h^2$ as,

$$\Omega_c h^2 = \sqrt{3\alpha_e\Omega_\Lambda} = \sqrt{\Omega_b h^2 \Omega_\Lambda}$$

Notice here, $3\alpha_e = \Omega_b h^2$ which gives a connection between cold dark matter Ω_c , dark energy Ω_Λ and baryon density Ω_b as,

$$\Omega_c = \frac{1}{h} \sqrt{\Omega_b \Omega_\Lambda}$$

This relation holds remarkably well for the values of Ω_c , Ω_b and Ω_Λ obtained by the Planck(2018) collaborations.

Finally the dark gravity force can be expressed as,

$$F_f = -m_p c H_o h \sqrt{\Omega_b \Omega_\Lambda} = -m_p c H_o \Omega_c h^2$$

SECOND MODEL: OSCILLATION OF A PLANCK MASS-SIZED PARTICLE IN A VISCOUS FLUID

In this model, instead of an oscillating HSM we consider an oscillating Planck mass as described below.

Let the system of space at any given point be described as an oscillating Planck mass particle with mass $m_p = \frac{H_p \hbar}{c^2} = 2.176 \times 10^{-8} kg$, in a fluid with a viscous damping coefficient $\sigma = m_s H_p = 0.3961 \times 10^{-25} kg/s$, where m_s is the Hubble scale mass $m_s = \frac{H_s \hbar}{c^2} = 0.2134 \times 10^{-68} kg$. The particle's oscillating mass is therefore proportional to the early Hubble constant $H_p = \frac{c}{l_p} = 1.856 \times 10^{43} s^{-1}$.

Due to a frictional force, the velocity decreases in proportion to the acting frictional force

$$F_f = -\sigma v = -m_s H_p v.$$

The force constant or spring constant k is here proportional to the product of the Planck

$$\text{length and Cosmological constant as, } k = \frac{c^4 \Lambda l_p}{3G}$$

Therefore the net force on the mass m_p is:

$$F_{Net} = -F_f - F_r$$

Writing this as an equation in mass m , acceleration a , velocity v and displacement, x we obtain,

$$F_{Net} = -\sigma v - kx = m_p a_t \quad (6)$$

Putting in the values of the viscous damping coefficient σ and the force constant k we have,

$$F = -(m_s H_p) v - \left(\frac{c^4 \Lambda_p}{3G} \right) x = m_p a_t \quad (7)$$

Writing this as a differential equation in x , we have

$$m_p \frac{d^2 x}{dt^2} + (m_s H_p) \frac{dx}{dt} + \left(\frac{c^4 \Lambda_p}{3G} \right) x = 0 \quad (8)$$

This can be rewritten into the form

$$\frac{d^2 x}{dt^2} + 2\zeta \omega_o \frac{dx}{dt} + \omega_o^2 x = 0$$

From which the “undamped” angular frequency of oscillating space-time in the early universe had a value

$$\omega_o = \sqrt{\frac{k}{m_p}} = \sqrt{\frac{c^4 \Lambda_p}{3m_p G}}, \text{ and a damping ratio of, } \zeta = \frac{\sigma}{2\sqrt{m_p k}} = \frac{m_s H_p}{2\sqrt{m_p k}}.$$

The exponential decay of this damped harmonic oscillator is given by $\lambda = \omega_o \zeta = \frac{m_s H_p}{2m_p} = 0.9101 \times 10^{-18} s^{-1}$. This value implies that space was vibrating at extremely low frequencies at the early age of the Universe.

APPLICATION OF SECOND MODEL TO COSMOLOGY

Let the frictional force be a repulsive gravitational force resulting from an interaction of a Planck mass with a HSM particle. Because friction or damping is always in a direction to oppose the motion, this leads to a large negative pressure within the interaction. Therefore the large negative pressure P has repulsive gravity and can lead to the observed accelerated expansion of the universe. If we consider a small area of the vacuum of space, the frictional force or repulsive gravity acting perpendicular on the area A is the negative pressure P and is given by a simple equation, $F_f = -(m_s H_p) v = -PA$.

Let the displacement x' of a Planck particle from its equilibrium position be given by, $x'' = (3\alpha_e)^{1/2} L$ and its velocity by $v = \omega_t x'' = (3\alpha_e)^{1/2} c$ (where $\alpha_e = 1/137$, is the fine structure constant or electromagnetic coupling constant, $L = \frac{c}{H_0 \sqrt{\Omega_\Lambda}}$ is the Hubble length and $\omega_t = \frac{c}{L}$, is the angular frequency or natural frequency of a simple harmonic oscillator of a Planck mass particle).

The angular acceleration of a Planck mass particle is thus given as $a_s = -\omega_t^2 x''$, which then gives a net force on a Planck particle as $F_{Net} = m_p a_s = -m_p \omega_t^2 x''$. Then Eq8 can be written as

$$PA - \left(\frac{c^4 \Lambda_p}{3G} \right) x'' = -m_p \omega_t^2 x''$$

When the allowed calculable area for any region of space due to the foamy nature of space-time (space-time foam, [15]) is $A_s = 4\pi l_p x'' = 4(3\alpha_e)^{1/2} l_p L$, we then have

$$4\pi(3\alpha_e)^{1/2} l_p L P - \left(\frac{\Lambda}{3} \right) \frac{(3\alpha_e)^{1/2} L l_p c^4}{G} = -m_p \omega_t^2 x''$$

Multiplying both sides by $\frac{G}{(3\alpha_e)^{1/2} L l_p c^2}$, we obtain the modified Friedman equation as,

$$\frac{4\pi G}{c^2} P - \frac{\Lambda}{3} c^2 = -\frac{G m_p \omega_t^2 x''}{(3\alpha_e)^{1/2} L l_p c^2} = \frac{\omega_s^2 R_s}{L_y} \quad (9)$$

Where $R_s = (3\alpha_e)^{1/2} \frac{G m_p}{c^2}$ is the Schwarzschild radius of a Planck mass particle and $L_y = (3\alpha_e)^{1/2} l_p$

Or

$$\frac{4\pi G}{c^2} P - \frac{\Lambda}{3} c^2 = -\frac{(3\alpha_e)^{1/2} G m_p}{L_y L^2} = -\frac{(3\alpha_e)^{1/2} G m_p}{V_s}$$

The minimum volume at the R.H.S of the equation denominator is given by $V_s = l_y L^2$.

According to Ng [22], this is the allowed calculable volume for any region of space representing the foamy nature of space-time at small scales.

It is also worth noting that our model predicts cosmic acceleration at large cosmic length scales as,

$$\frac{4\pi G}{c^2} P - \frac{\Lambda}{3} c^2 = -\frac{a_y}{l_y} \quad (10)$$

Where $a_y = \omega_t^2 R_s = \frac{(3\alpha_e)^{1/2} G m_p}{L^2} = 5.7564 \times 10^{-74} m/s^2$, is the value of cosmic acceleration in the early universe

CONCLUSION

The idea of space-time as a damped oscillator is an intriguing concept that emerges from certain theoretical frameworks in physics, blending classical mechanics with cosmology or quantum gravity. Let's break it down naturally.

Imagine space-time as a kind of fabric that vibrates, much like a guitar string or a spring. In a damped oscillator, those vibrations don't go on forever—they fade out over time due to some kind of friction or energy loss. In the context of space-time, this could suggest that the universe's expansion, curvature, or even gravitational waves might behave like oscillations that gradually wind down. The “damping” could come from energy being dissipated into matter, radiation, or some exotic field.

One place this idea might connect is cosmology. The universe's expansion seems to accelerate due to dark energy, but if we flip the script, a damped model might imply a universe that once oscillated more violently (see section3)—say, during the Big Bang—and is now settling into a quieter state (see section2). Think of the cosmic microwave background as a faint echo of that early “ringing” of space-time, damped by billions of years of expansion and cooling.

In quantum gravity or string theory, space-time could also oscillate at tiny scales. Some physicists speculate that space-time isn't perfectly smooth but has a foamy, vibrating structure. If those vibrations lose energy—maybe to virtual particles popping in and out of existence—it's not hard to picture a damped oscillator-like behavior at the Planck scale.

General relativity treats space-time as a smooth, dynamic geometry shaped by mass and energy, not a mechanical oscillator. To make the damped oscillator idea rigorous, you'd need a model specifying what's oscillating (space-time metric? a scalar field?) and what's doing the damping (viscosity of the vacuum? interaction with a cosmic medium?).

This study has clearly shown that oscillating HSM and its gravitational interaction with a cosmic medium or Planck mass relics, manifests as the universe's expansion accelerating over time, with a corresponding acceleration of roughly $10\text{--}10m/s^2$. Depending on the model, the "damping" aspect of the oscillator is interpreted as a constant dark gravity force which is also a representation of dark energy, a mysterious force causing the universe's expansion to accelerate.

DISCLAIMER

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

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