



A Modern View of Scattering Amplitudes

Henriette Elvang

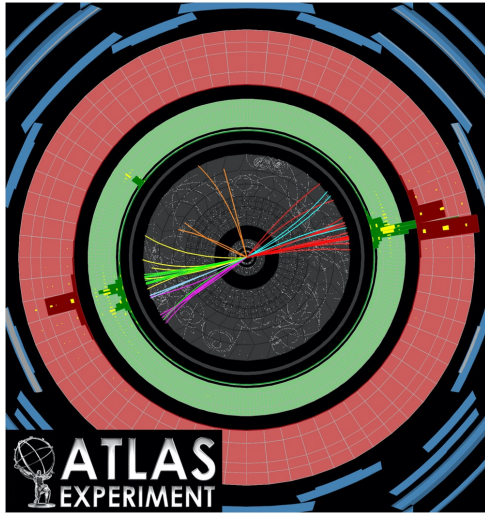
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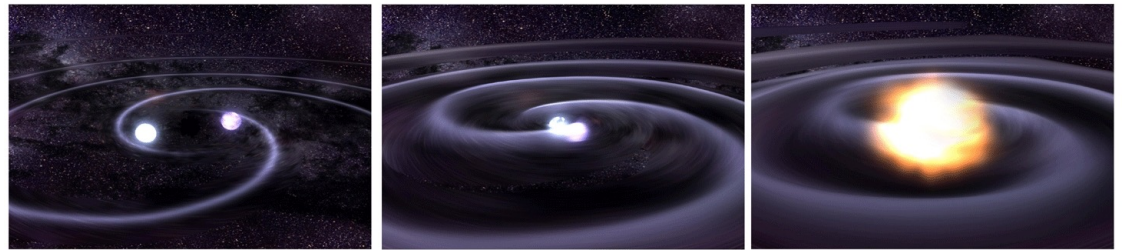
September 27, 2021

Particle Physics



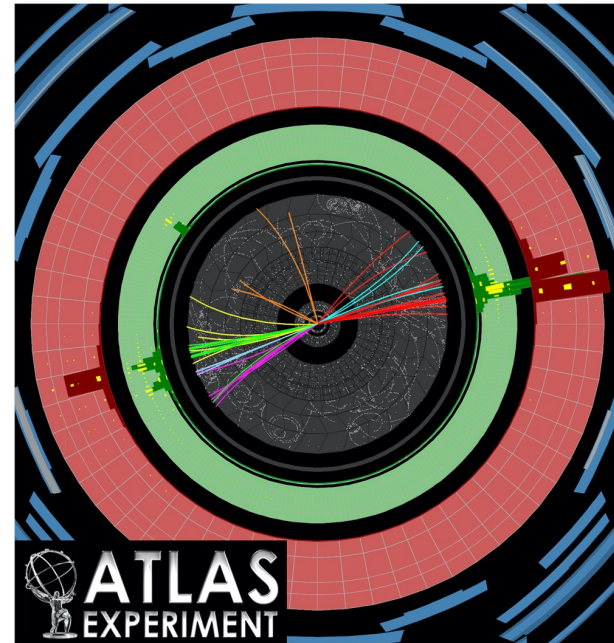
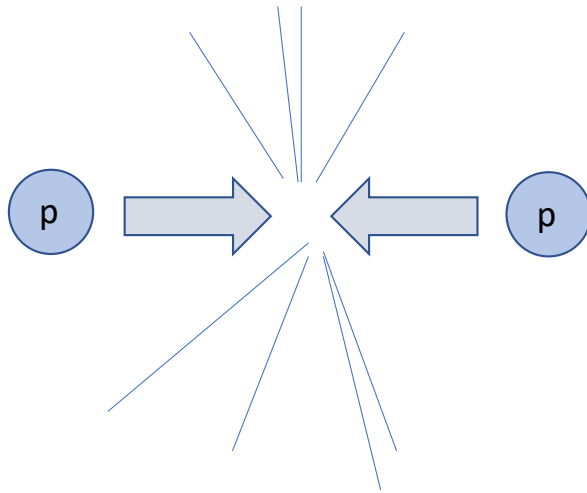
<https://atlas.cern/updates/news/search-new-physics-processes-using-dijet-events>

Gravity, gravitational waves, binary inspirals



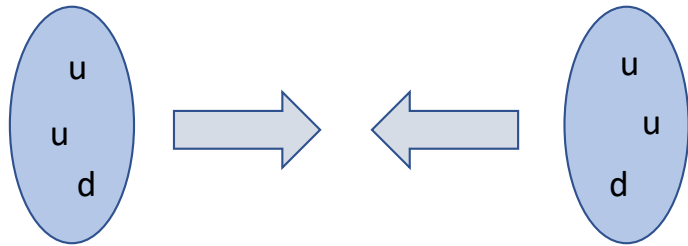
Artist's impression [Image: NASA/CXC/GSFC/T.Strohmayer]

At the LHC at CERN, **protons** collide against **protons** to give rise to a spray of particles



<https://atlas.cern/updates/news/search-new-physics-processes-using-dijet-events>

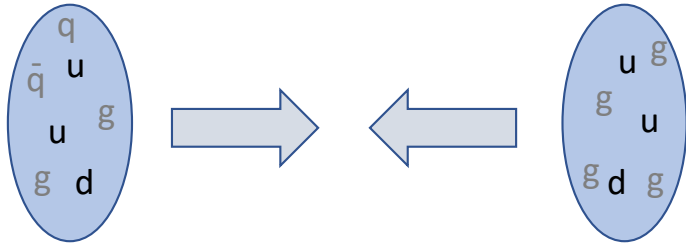
Zoom in... *partons* inside the protons



Quarks massive spin $\frac{1}{2}$ fermions
up has charge $+\frac{2}{3}$
down has charge $-\frac{1}{3}$

Each proton has 2 up-quarks and 1 down-quark

Zoom in... *partons* inside the protons



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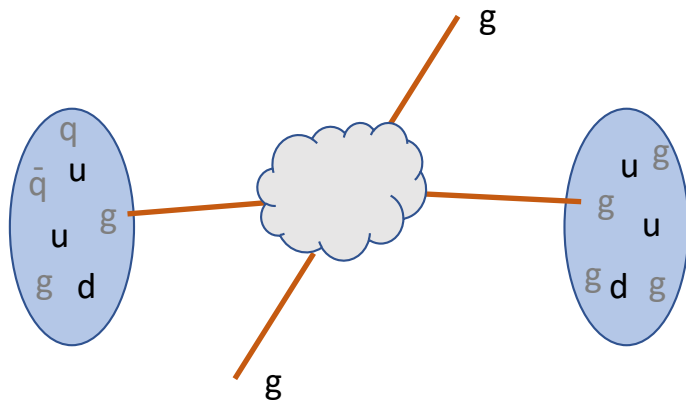
... and a quantum soup of quarks, anti-quarks, and gluons

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Gluons massless spin 1 boson, self-interacting

All this described by
QCD – Quantum Chromodynamics

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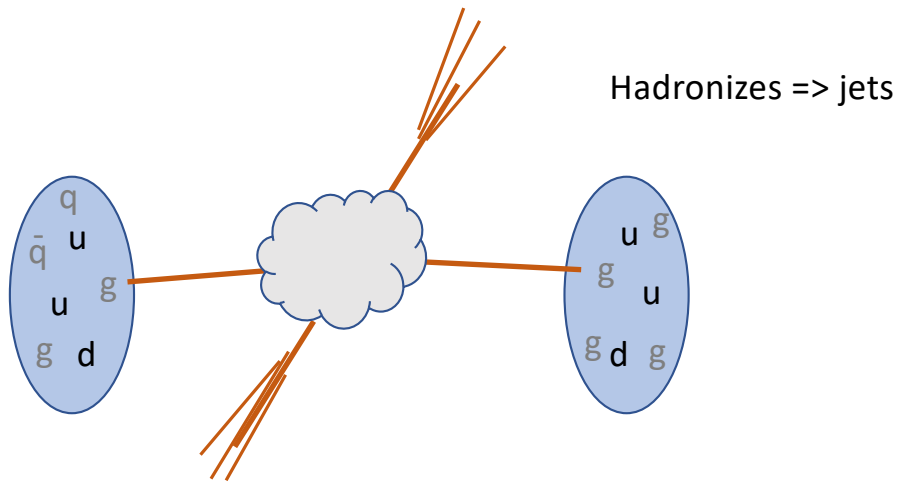
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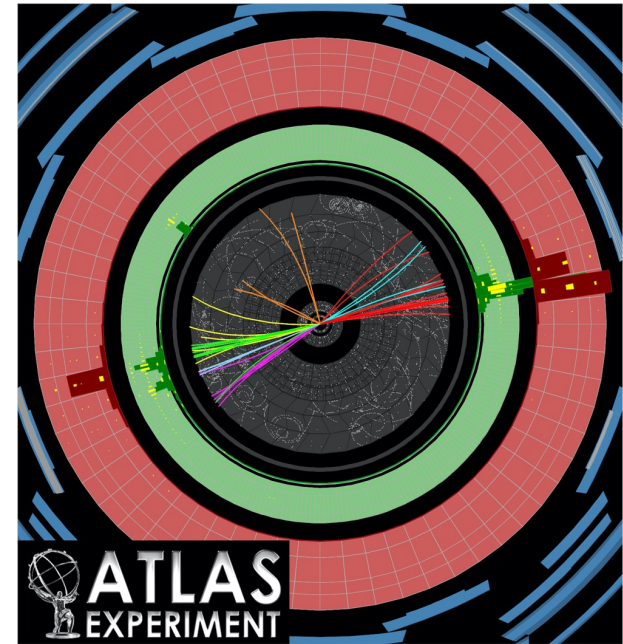
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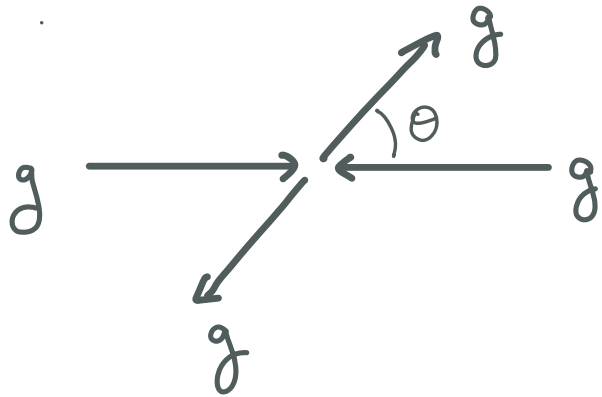
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Differential cross-section: probability of process as function of energy-momentum and scattering angles.

$$\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega} = \int |A_n|^2$$

Phase-space integral over the **|amplitude|²**

The **scattering amplitude** can be computed as the sum over Feynman diagrams

$$A_4(gg \rightarrow gg) = \text{[Diagram 1]} + \text{[Diagram 2]} + \text{[Diagram 3]} + \text{[Diagram 4]}$$

Perturbation theory in small coupling(s) => Tree-diagrams give the leading order contribution, loops are quantum corrections.

Gluon Amplitudes

gg	\rightarrow	gg	4 diagrams
gg	\rightarrow	ggg	25 diagrams
gg	\rightarrow	$gggg$	220 diagrams
gg	\rightarrow	$ggggg$	2485 diagrams
gg	\rightarrow	$gggggg$	34300 diagrams

[Mangano, Parke (1990)]

Feynman diagrams quickly become intractable... and this is only the leading order (tree-level)!

Yet, surprisingly, there exists very simple results for some of these amplitudes: *Gluons have helicity +1 or -1*

$$A_n[g^+g^+ \rightarrow g^+g^+ \dots g^+g^+] = \frac{\langle 12 \rangle^4}{\langle 12 \rangle \langle 23 \rangle \langle 34 \rangle \dots \langle n1 \rangle} \quad \text{[Parke-Taylor formula (1986)]}$$

Spinor-helicity formalism $\langle ij \rangle \sim \sqrt{(p_i \cdot p_j)}$

Efficient Calculation of Scattering Amplitudes

Up through the 90's, a lot of new methods were developed to efficiently compute amplitudes relevant for particle phenomenology (high-energy parton scattering, W and Z production, Higgs,...) e.g.

- Berends-Giele off-shell recursion (1988+1990)
- String-inspired methods & Generalized Unitarity [Bern, Dixon, Kosower,...]

Including use of supersymmetry to organize the calculations. Espc. $N=4$ Super Yang-Mills became a fruitful “testing lab” for new methods.

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2003 Witten's twistor-string => conjectured new formalism for gluon amplitudes

⇒ on-shell recursion (BCFW)
⇒ CSW, RSV, ... Many interesting new amplitudes methods.

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Shock waves....?

2003.... I was in grad school busy with other research things:
Black Holes, Black Rings, and (later) Black Saturns,...

... so while I saw excitement about amplitudes igniting those around...

... I didn't catch on...

.. not until early 2007...



<https://professional.ucsb.edu/international-programs>

Nov 2006

Is $\mathcal{N} = 8$ Supergravity Ultraviolet Finite?

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University Park, PA 16802, USA*

Conventional wisdom holds that no four-dimensional gravity field theory can be ultraviolet finite. ~~This understanding is based mainly on power counting. Recent studies confirm that one-loop $\mathcal{N} = 8$ supergravity amplitudes satisfy the so-called “no-triangle hypothesis”, which states that triangle and bubble integrals cancel from these amplitudes. A consequence of this hypothesis is that for any number of external legs, at one loop $\mathcal{N} = 8$ supergravity and $\mathcal{N} = 4$ super-Yang-Mills have identical superficial degrees of ultraviolet behavior in D dimensions. We describe how the unitarity method allows us to promote these one-loop cancellations to higher loops, suggesting that previous power counts were too conservative. We discuss higher-loop evidence suggesting that $\mathcal{N} = 8$ supergravity has the same degree of divergence as $\mathcal{N} = 4$ super-Yang-Mills theory and is ultraviolet finite in four dimensions. We comment on calculations needed to reinforce this proposal, which are feasible using the unitarity method.~~

Conventional story:

Loops are UV divergent, need renormalization.

Gravity non-renormalizable

⇒ Problem unifying QM & GR

But maybe with enough supersymmetry: could it be that all loop-divergencies cancel???

4-graviton amplitude shown to be UV finite up to an incl. 3-loops

4-loops? Higher point?

My interest: what do the symmetries have to say about these finiteness results?



What are Gravity Amplitudes?

Just like E&M is a force mediated by the **photon**,
and QCD has **gluons** ← Massless spin 1

gravity has **gravitons** ← Massless spin 2

What do we mean by “gravity”? Einstein General Relativity => Einstein’s equation


EOM of the Einstein-Hilbert action $S = \frac{1}{16\pi G} \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} R$ ← spacetime curvature

G is Newton’s constant. In units with $c = \hbar = 1$ $M_{\text{Planck}} = G^{-1/2} \approx 10^{19} \text{ GeV}$

Perturbative Gravity

Expand the metric in fluctuations around flat space $g_{\mu\nu} = \eta_{\mu\nu} + \kappa h_{\mu\nu}$ $\kappa = \sqrt{8\pi G}$

Flat space (no curvature) \rightarrow $\eta_{\mu\nu}$
fluctuation \rightarrow $h_{\mu\nu}$

$$S = \frac{1}{16\pi G} \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} R = \int d^4x \left(h \partial^2 h + \dots \right) \text{ schematically}$$


Wave equation fluctuations of spacetime: **gravitational waves!!!**

Famously detected by LIGO: first event on Sep 14, 2015, announced Feb 2016

2017 Nobel Prize (Weiss, Barish, Thorne)

Perturbative Gravity

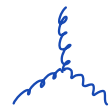
Flat space (no curvature)

fluctuation

Expand the metric in fluctuations around flat space $g_{\mu\nu} = \eta_{\mu\nu} + \kappa h_{\mu\nu}$ $\kappa = \sqrt{8\pi G}$

$$S = \frac{1}{16\pi G} \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} R = \int d^4x \left(h\partial^2 h + \kappa\partial^2 h^3 + \kappa^2\partial^2 h^4 + \kappa^3\partial^2 h^5 + \dots \right) \textit{schematically}$$

propagator



Perturbative Gravity

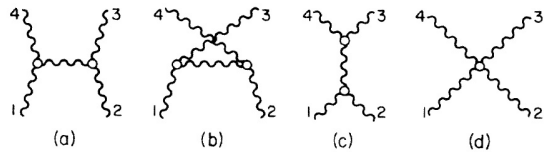
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Flat space (no curvature)
 fluctuation

$$S = \frac{1}{16\pi G} \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} R = \int d^4x \left(h \partial^2 h + \kappa \partial^2 h^3 + \kappa^2 \partial^2 h^4 + \kappa^3 \partial^2 h^5 + \dots \right) \textit{schematically}$$

The graviton vertex Feynman rules are complicated...

4-point amplitude:



[Sannan (1986)]

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{(a) gravity} = & ik^2 \left[\left(\frac{t}{2} + \frac{su}{4t} \right) (e_1 e_4)(e_2 e_3) - \frac{t}{2} [(e_1 e_4 e_2 e_3) + (e_1 e_2 e_3 e_4)] \right. \\
 & + [(k_2 e_3 k_2)(e_1 e_2 e_4) + (k_3 e_2 k_3)(e_1 e_3 e_4) + (k_1 e_4 k_1)(e_1 e_2 e_3) + (k_4 e_1 k_4)(e_2 e_3 e_4)] \\
 & + \frac{1}{2} (e_1 e_4) [(k_1 e_2 e_3 k_4) + (k_4 e_2 e_3 k_1) + 2(k_1 e_2 e_3 k_1) + 2(k_4 e_2 e_3 k_4) + 3(k_3 e_2 e_3 k_2)] \\
 & + \frac{1}{2} (e_2 e_3) [(k_2 e_1 e_4 k_3) + (k_3 e_1 e_4 k_2) + 2(k_2 e_1 e_4 k_2) + 2(k_3 e_1 e_4 k_3) + 3(k_4 e_1 e_4 k_1)] \\
 & - \frac{u}{2t} (e_1 e_4) [(k_1 e_2 e_3 k_2) + (k_3 e_2 e_3 k_4) + 2(k_3 e_2 e_3 k_1) + 2(k_4 e_2 e_3 k_2)] \\
 & - \frac{s}{2t} (e_1 e_4) [(k_3 e_2 e_3 k_1) + (k_4 e_2 e_3 k_2) + 2(k_1 e_2 e_3 k_2) + 2(k_3 e_2 e_3 k_4)] \\
 & - \frac{u}{2t} (e_2 e_3) [(k_1 e_4 e_1 k_2) + (k_3 e_4 e_1 k_4) + 2(k_1 e_4 e_1 k_3) + 2(k_2 e_4 e_1 k_4)] \\
 & \left. - \frac{s}{2t} (e_2 e_3) [(k_1 e_4 e_1 k_3) + (k_2 e_4 e_1 k_4) + 2(k_1 e_4 e_1 k_2) + 2(k_3 e_4 e_1 k_4)] \right]
 \end{aligned}$$

+ about 3 times as many terms

Do we care about graviton scattering?

$$S = \frac{1}{16\pi G} \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} R = \int d^4x \left(h \partial^2 h + \kappa \partial^2 h^3 + \kappa^2 \partial^2 h^4 + \kappa^3 \partial^2 h^5 + \dots \right) \textit{schematically}$$

The graviton interactions are controlled by $\kappa = \sqrt{8\pi G}$ which is dimensionful.

Proper dimensionless coupling is terms of the characteristic energy E of the process $E\kappa$

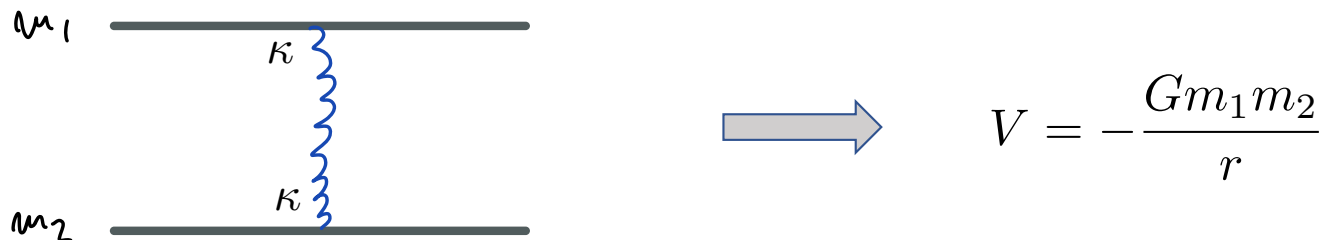
But with $\kappa \sim 10^{-19} \text{ GeV}^{-1}$, even for LHC energies $E \sim 10 \text{ TeV} \sim 10^4 \text{ GeV}$, the effective coupling is very very small.

So why care about perturbative gravity and graviton self-interactions????

Tree level scattering captures the classical physics, i.e. same physics as Einstein's equations.

Do we care about graviton scattering? Yes!

Equivalence principle: gravitons interact with all other matter with the same coupling $\kappa = \sqrt{8\pi G}$



Two classes of corrections to this:

- 1) Moving masses => non-relativistic expansion in small v/c
- 2) Higher powers in G

Post-Newtonian

Post-Minkowskian

The effective description of Black hole binary inspirals have

$$v^2 \sim \frac{Gm}{r} \ll 1$$

(Virial Theorem)

Do we care about graviton scattering? Yes!

Binary black hole inspirals:

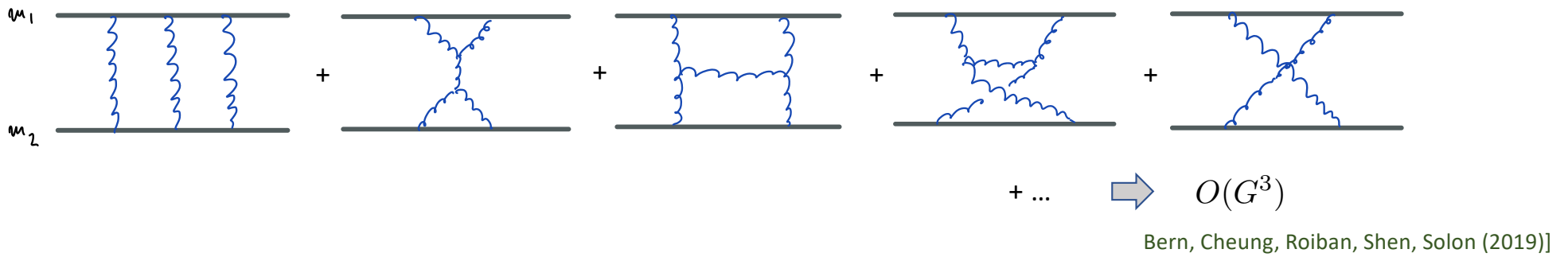
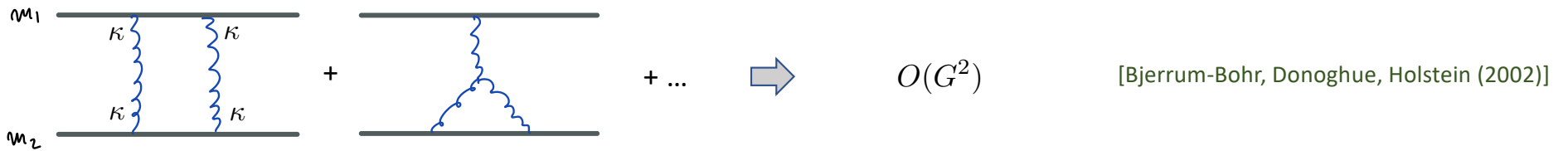
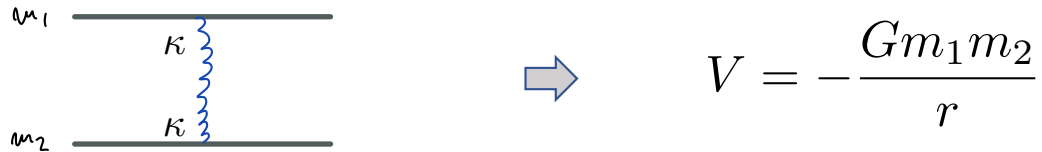
Corrections in G as important as corrections in relative velocity v

	0PN	1PN	2PN	3PN	4PN	5PN	6PN	7PN		
1PM	(1)	+ v^2	+ v^4	+ v^6	+ v^8	+ v^{10}	+ v^{12}	+ v^{14}	+ ...	G^1
2PM	(1)	+ v^2	+ v^4	+ v^6	+ v^8	+ v^{10}	+ v^{12}	+ v^{14}	+ ...	G^2
3PM	(1)	+ v^2	+ v^4	+ v^6	+ v^8	+ v^{10}	+ v^{12}	+ v^{14}	+ ...	G^3
4PM	(1)	+ v^2	+ v^4	+ v^6	+ v^8	+ v^{10}	+ v^{12}	+ v^{14}	+ ...	G^4
5PM	(1)	+ v^2	+ v^4	+ v^6	+ v^8	+ v^{10}	+ v^{12}	+ v^{14}	+ ...	G^5
6PM	(1)	+ v^2	+ v^4	+ v^6	+ v^8	+ v^{10}	+ v^{12}	+ v^{14}	+ ...	G^6
										\vdots

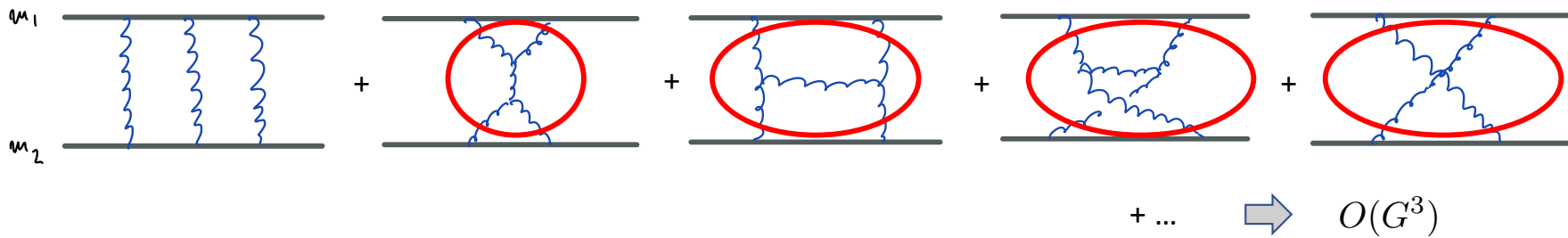
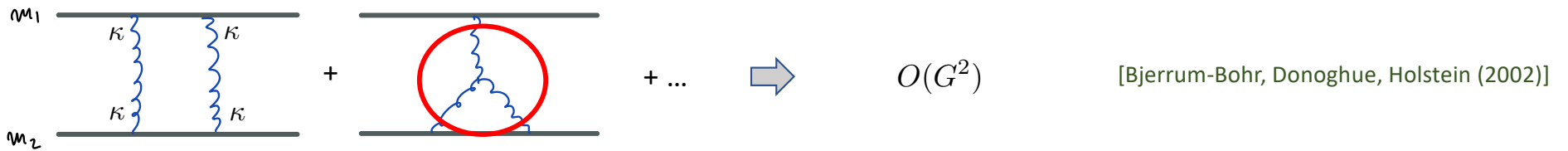
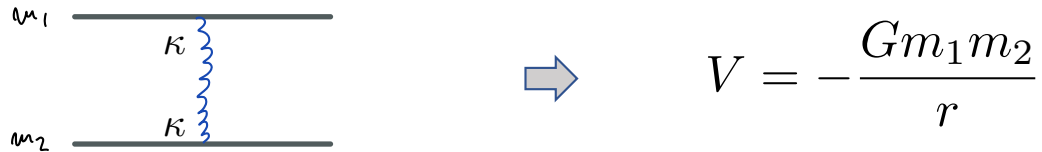
[from: Bern, Cheung, Roiban, Shen, Solon (2019)]

Also: Gravitational EFT for extended objects
[Goldberger + Rothstein 2004]

Higher powers in G ?



Higher powers in G ?



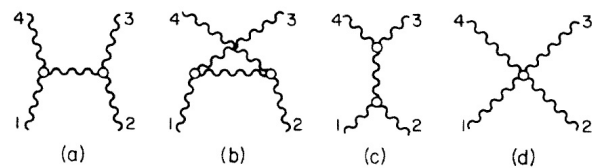
Graviton amplitudes

Bern, Cheung, Roiban, Shen, Solon (2019)]

So, graviton scattering *is* something we care about!

(but it sounds like it was very complicated... with Feynman rules anyway)

4-point amplitude:



[Sannan (1986)]

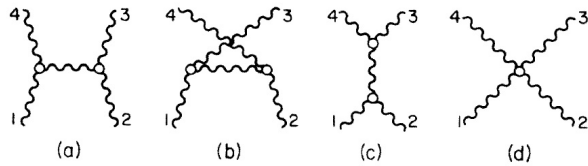
$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{(a) gravity} = & i\kappa^2 \left[\left(\frac{t}{2} + \frac{su}{4t} \right) (e_1 e_4)(e_2 e_3) - \frac{t}{2} [(e_1 e_4 e_2 e_3) + (e_1 e_2 e_3 e_4)] \right. \\
 & + [(k_2 e_3 k_2)(e_1 e_2 e_4) + (k_3 e_2 k_3)(e_1 e_3 e_4) + (k_1 e_4 k_1)(e_1 e_2 e_3) + (k_4 e_1 k_4)(e_2 e_3 e_4)] \\
 & + \frac{1}{2} (e_1 e_4) [(k_1 e_2 e_3 k_4) + (k_4 e_2 e_3 k_1) + 2(k_1 e_2 e_3 k_1) + 2(k_4 e_2 e_3 k_4) + 3(k_3 e_2 e_3 k_2)] \\
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 & - \frac{u}{2t} (e_1 e_4) [(k_1 e_2 e_3 k_2) + (k_3 e_2 e_3 k_4) + 2(k_3 e_2 e_3 k_1) + 2(k_4 e_2 e_3 k_2)] \\
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 \end{aligned}$$

Four such considerably complicated expressions from Feynman diagrams. Add them up, and...

So, graviton scattering *is* something we care about!

(but it sounds like it was very complicated... with Feynman rules anyway)

4-point amplitude:



[Sannan (1986)]

$$\begin{aligned}
 (a)_{\text{gravity}} = i\kappa^2 & \left[\left(\frac{t}{2} + \frac{su}{4t} \right) (e_1 e_4)(e_2 e_3) - \frac{t}{2} [(e_1 e_4 e_2 e_3) + (e_1 e_2 e_3 e_4)] \right. \\
 & + [(k_2 e_3 k_2)(e_1 e_2 e_4) + (k_3 e_2 k_3)(e_1 e_3 e_4) + (k_1 e_4 k_1)(e_1 e_2 e_3) + (k_4 e_1 k_4)(e_2 e_3 e_4)] \\
 & + \frac{1}{2} (e_1 e_4) [(k_1 e_2 e_3 k_4) + (k_4 e_2 e_3 k_1) + 2(k_1 e_2 e_3 k_1) + 2(k_4 e_2 e_3 k_4) + 3(k_3 e_2 e_3 k_2)] \\
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 \end{aligned}$$

Four such considerably complicated expressions from Feynman diagrams. Add them up, and...

... rather amazingly that the sum simplifies to

$$A_4^{\text{gravity}} = s A_4^{\text{YM}}[1234] A_4^{\text{YM}}[1243]$$

$hh \rightarrow hh$ $(p_1+p_2)^2$ $gg \rightarrow gg$ $gg \rightarrow gg$

Double-Copy

Similar relations for higher-point tree amplitudes too!

Double-Copy

$$\text{gravity} = (\text{Yang-Mills})^2$$

Originally from string theory
[Kawai-Lewellen-Tye (1986)]
KLT relations

Many applications: Explore the UV structure of supergravity theories (finiteness?)

Gravitational radiation (3PM)

Classical double-copy (EOM)

Enhancement of symmetries

Properties of string amplitudes

Generalizations to (A)dS

Chiral perturbation theory (e.g. pions) -> galileons

Side note

(before I tell you more about the double-copy)

A few points in Amplitudes History

1960s S-matrix program

1986 KLT double-copy relations

mid-1980s Develop methods for amplitudes (off-shell recursion, generalized unitarity, ...)

2003 Witten's twistor string missed that bus...

2006+07 Is 4d N=8 supergravity UV finite? 3-loop finiteness at 4-pt caught on =>

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2021	The Double-Copy Bootstrap	[Chi, HE, Herderschee, Jones, Paranjape (2021)]	

...

That's what I'll tell you about next



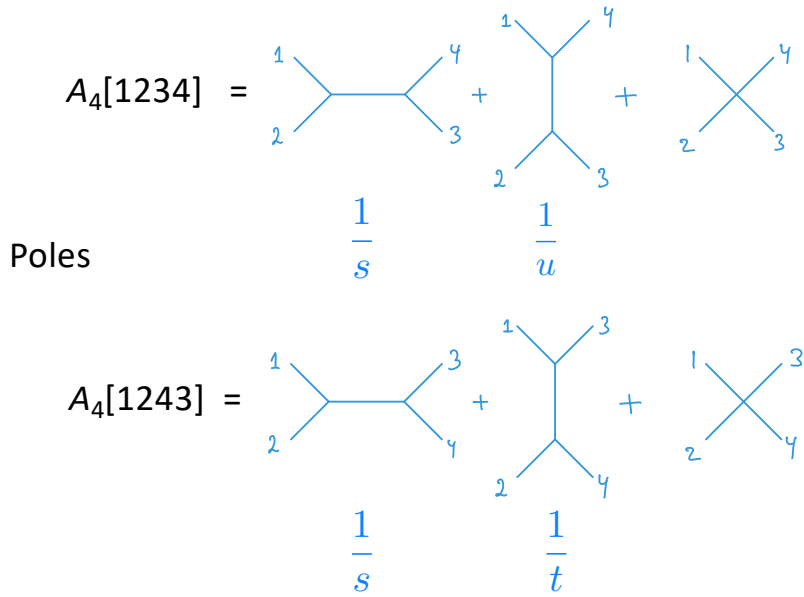
Double-Copy

gravity = (Yang-Mills)²

How can the double-copy possibly work?????

YM gluon amplitudes can be color-ordered: $A_n(1^{a_1} 2^{a_2} \dots n^{a_n}) = \sum A_n[12 \dots n] \text{Tr}(T^{a_1} T^{a_2} \dots T^{a_n})$

↑ kinematics ↑ group theory



So that means

$$s = (p_1 + p_2)^2$$

$$t = (p_1 + p_3)^2$$

$$u = (p_1 + p_4)^2$$

$$A_4[1234] A_4[1243]$$

has a double-pole $\frac{1}{s^2}$

No good, because the graviton ampl has simple poles in s,t and u

What comes to the rescue is the multiplication **KERNEL**

$$M_4 = -s A_4[1234] A_4[1243]$$

That's what makes the pole-structure work out!!

Similarly for another form of the double-copy:

$$M_4 = -\frac{su}{t} A_4[1234] A_4[1234]$$

These two relations are examples of **field theory KLT formulas** at 4-point [Kawai-Lewellen-Tye (1985)]

The double-copy kernel:

- 1) Eliminates double-poles from $A_4 * A_4$
- 2) Provides "missing" poles

Another important aspect of field theory KLT: **KKBCJ relations**

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Their difference must be zero, i.e.

$$0 = A_4[1243] - \frac{u}{t} A_4[1234]$$

And this **is** true for YM amplitudes.

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Kleiss-Kuijf	{	<p>Trace-reversal: $\mathcal{A}_4[1432] = \mathcal{A}_4[1234]$, <i>etc</i></p> <p>$U(1)$-decoupling: $\mathcal{A}_4[1234] + \mathcal{A}_4[1243] + \mathcal{A}_4[1423] = 0$,</p> <p>BCJ: $\mathcal{A}_4[1234] - \frac{t}{u} \mathcal{A}_4[1243] = 0$.</p>	}	“KKBCJ relations”
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Upshot

e.g. gluon amplitudes in Yang-Mills theory

- There exists a **double-copy** procedure that maps products of color-ordered tree-amplitudes in two theories into amplitudes of another theory.

e.g. graviton amplitudes in General Relativity (+ dilaton & axion)

Upshot

e.g. gluon amplitudes in Yang-Mills theory

- There exists a **double-copy** procedure that maps products of color-ordered tree-amplitudes in two theories into amplitudes of another theory.

e.g. graviton amplitudes in General Relativity (+ dilaton & axion)

- Not all theories can be double-copied: must have tree-amplitudes that satisfy the **KKBCJ relations**

examples

YM theory ✓

Chiral perturbation theory (pions) ✓

Super YM theory ✓

Bi-adjoint scalar model ✓

The double-copy is a **map** $FT \times FT \rightarrow FT$

The kernel defines the **multiplication rule** of this map

Multiplication table for $FT \times FT \rightarrow FT$

$FT \otimes FT$	YM	$\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM	χ PT	BAS
YM	gravity+	$\mathcal{N} = 4$ SG	BI	YM
$\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM	$\mathcal{N} = 4$ SG	$\mathcal{N} = 8$ SG	$\mathcal{N} = 4$ sDBI	$\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM
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SG = Supergravity = gravity + supersymmetry

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BI = Born-Infeld nonlinear electrodynamics [[Born and Infeld \(1937\)](#)]

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$\mathcal{N}=4$ sDBI = $\mathcal{N}=4$ supersymmetric Dirac-Born-Infeld theory = low-energy effective action on D3-branes in string theory

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sGalileon = special Galileon (shows up in cosmology, effective brane actions, massive gravity, various model building)

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Cubic Bi-Adjoint Scalar model (BAS)

This map has an **identity element 1**:
the **bi-adjoint scalar model (BAS)**

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KLT algebra

$$L = L \otimes 1, \quad R = 1 \otimes R, \quad 1 = 1 \otimes 1.$$

My recent work

Understand the double-copy structure better

$$A_{L \otimes R} = A_L \otimes A_R$$

$$A_n^{L \otimes R} = \sum_{a,b} A_n^L[a] S_n[a|b] A_n^R[b]$$

double copy kernel

The multiplication rule is defined by the double-copy kernel and it has an identity element

$$L = L \otimes \mathbf{1}, \quad R = \mathbf{1} \otimes R, \quad \mathbf{1} = \mathbf{1} \otimes \mathbf{1}.$$

***When the multiplication rule is changed,
the identity element is changed, and vice versa:
The kernel and the identity model are uniquely linked!***

Double-copy bootstrap

$$L = L \otimes 1, \quad R = 1 \otimes R, \quad 1 = 1 \otimes 1.$$



**KLT Bootstrap
Equation**

Modify the BAS model \Leftrightarrow new kernel

Double-copy bootstrap

$$L = L \otimes 1, \quad R = 1 \otimes R, \quad 1 = 1 \otimes 1.$$

Generalize the **KKBCJ / monodromy** relations

**KLT Bootstrap
Equation**

We construct new double-kernels, specifically aimed at double-copies of Effective Field Theories (EFTs)

Gives a new formalism for understanding the structure of the double-copy.

Opens a new door for studies of the effective theories and their double-copy relationships

Generalizations of the Double-Copy: the KLT Bootstrap

Huan-Hang Chi^a Henriette Elvang^a Aidan Herderschee^a Callum R. T. Jones^{a,b} Shruti Paranjape^a

^a*Leinweber Center for Theoretical Physics, Randall Laboratory of Physics
The University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1040, USA*

^b*Mani L. Bhaumik Institute for Theoretical Physics, Department of Physics and Astronomy,
UCLA, Los Angeles, CA 90095, USA*

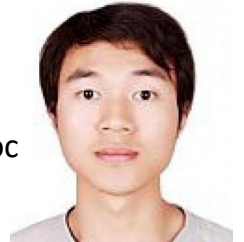
*E-mail: hhchi@umich.edu, elvang@umich.edu, aidanh@umich.edu,
cjones@physics.ucla.edu, shrpar@umich.edu*

ABSTRACT: We formulate a new program to generalize the double-copy of tree amplitudes. The approach exploits the link between the identity element of “double-copy algebra” and the KLT kernel and we demonstrate how this leads to a set of bootstrap equations that the double-copy kernel has to satisfy (in addition to the usual constraints). We solve the KLT bootstrap equations for the double-copy kernel with higher-derivative corrections to the 4d Yang-Mills theory. The resulting double-copy kernel generalizes the string KLT kernel to higher-derivative theories. It admits new color-structures in the double-copy. The double-copy provides distinct generalized KK and BCJ relations for single-color theories and is in that sense a ‘heterotic’-type double-copy. We illustrate the generalized double-copy in detail for 4d Yang-Mills theory with higher-derivative corrections that produce dilaton-axion-gravity with local operators up order $\nabla^{10}R^4$. Finally, we initiate a search for new double-copy kernels.

Use the KLT algebra as framework for new more general double-copies



Aidan Herderschee
4th year graduate student



HuanHang Chi
Michigan Postdoc

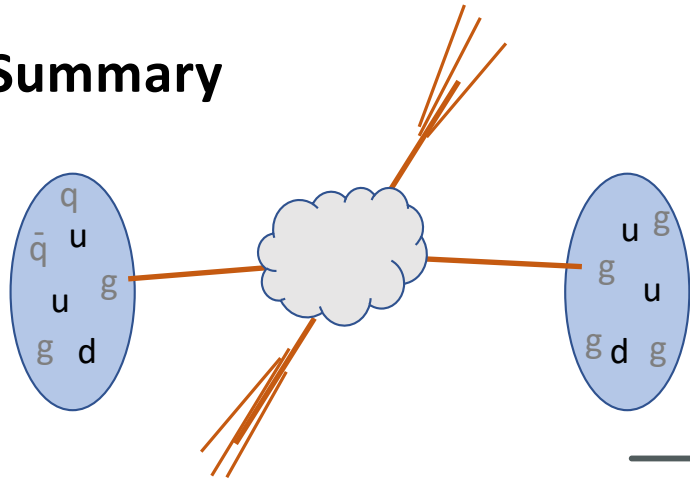


Shruti Paranjape
PhD 2021
Postdoc at
UC Davis



Callum Jones
PhD 2020
Postdoc at UCLA

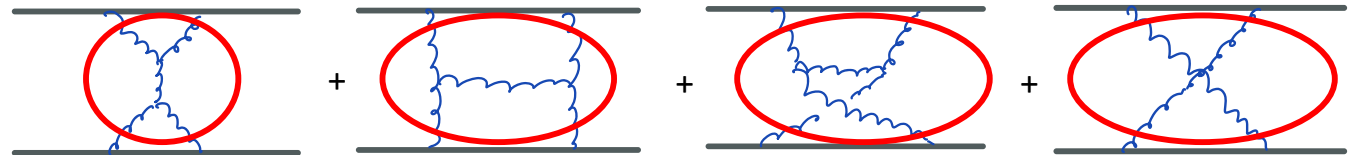
Summary



High-energy gluon scattering at particle colliders



Post-Minkowskian corrections to binary inspiral effective Hamiltonian



gravity = (Yang-Mills)²



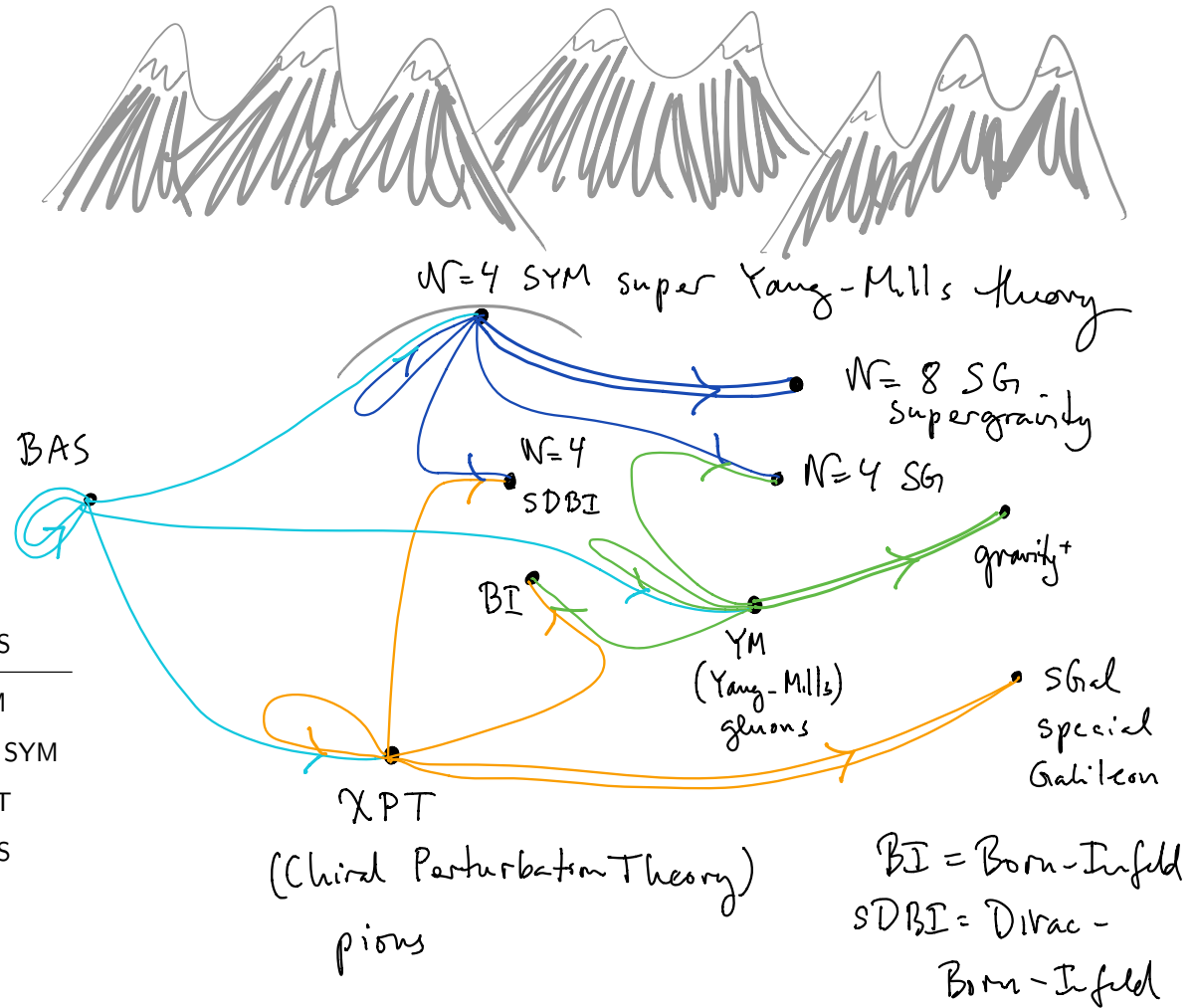
New bootstrap formalism for the double-copy
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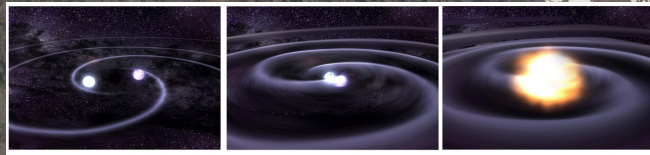
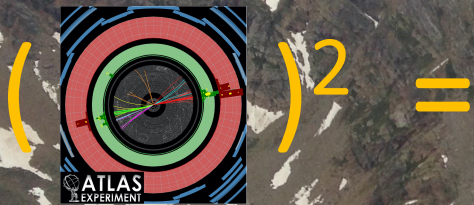
Landscape

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Thank you

The field theory landscape is incredibly rich

The double-copy is a map among theories that are extremely different:

- **Yang-Mills**: nice renormalizable theory, part of the Standard Model
- **N=4 SYM**: a conformal field theory, widely used in high energy theory
- **gravity**: non-renormalizable, but an amazing EFT!
- **chiral perturbation theory**: low-energy EFT of pions
- **BI or sDBI**: low-energy effective actions on D-branes
- **special Galileon**: used in cosmology, but by itself a swampland model

Connected by the “KLT algebra”.

The double-copy is part of exploring the space of field theories.

