



中国科学技术大学
University of Science and Technology of China

Gravitational EFTs

周双勇 (中科大 / 彭桓武高能基础理论研究中心)

第十二届新物理研讨会, 青岛, 2023年7月25日



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Gravitational EFTs and positivity bounds

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Outline

- Positivity bounds on EFT coefficients
- Einstein EFT
- Scalar-tensor EFTs

Positivity bounds

Snowmass White Paper: UV Constraints on IR Physics, de Rham, Kundu, Reece, Tolley & SYZ, 2203.06805

high energy UV theory
maybe unknown, but assume causality, unitarity, ...

- Apply to generic LI EFTs
- For gravity, more subtle

**Positivity bounds
(Causality bounds)**

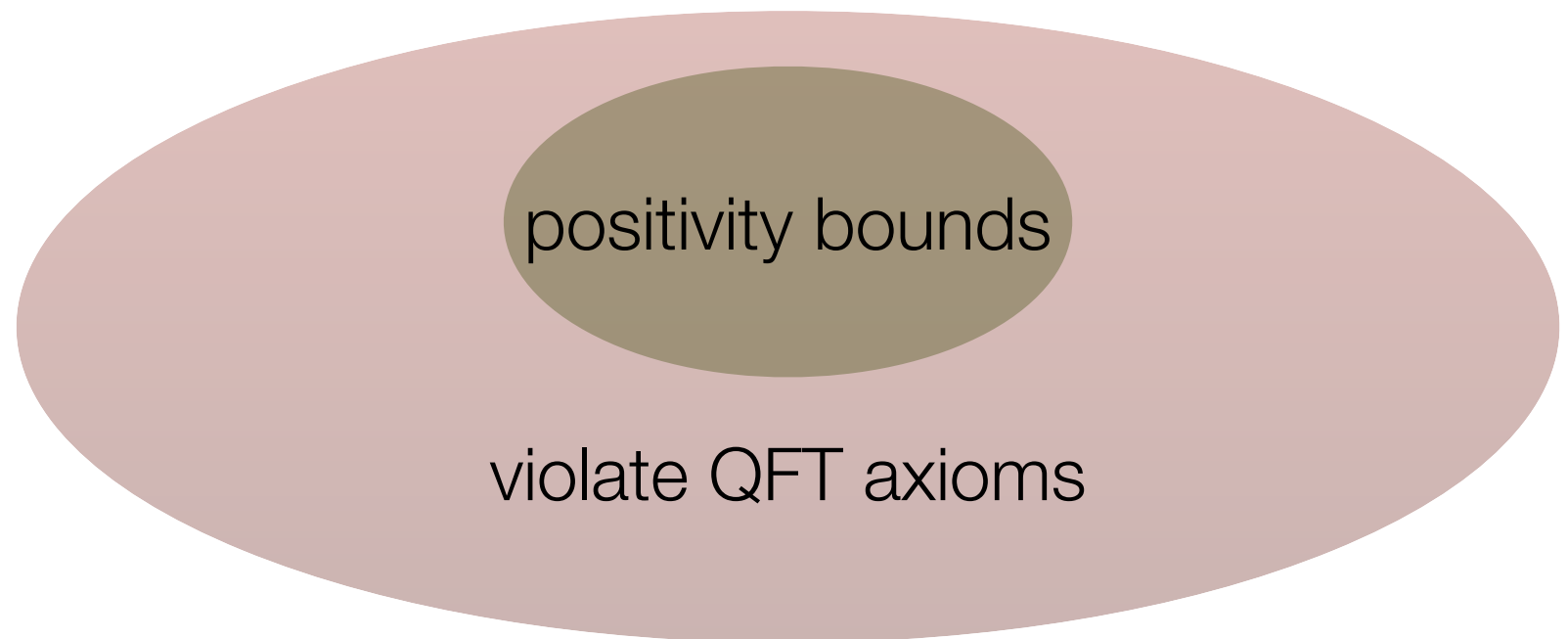
S-matrix bootstrap

low energy EFT
constraints on Wilson coefficients

these are not unitarity bounds!

Carving out EFT space

Naive EFT space
(Wilson coefficient space)



Simple example

Adams, Arkani-Hamed, Dubovsky, Nicolis, Rattazzi, 2006

$$\mathcal{L} = -\frac{1}{2}\partial_\mu\phi\partial^\mu\phi + \frac{\lambda}{\Lambda^4}(\partial_\mu\phi\partial^\mu\phi)^2 + \dots$$

$$A(s, t=0) = \dots + \frac{2\lambda s^2}{\Lambda^4} + \dots$$

“First” positivity bound: $\lambda > 0$

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{DBI}} \sim -\sqrt{1 + (\partial\phi)^2} \quad \checkmark$$

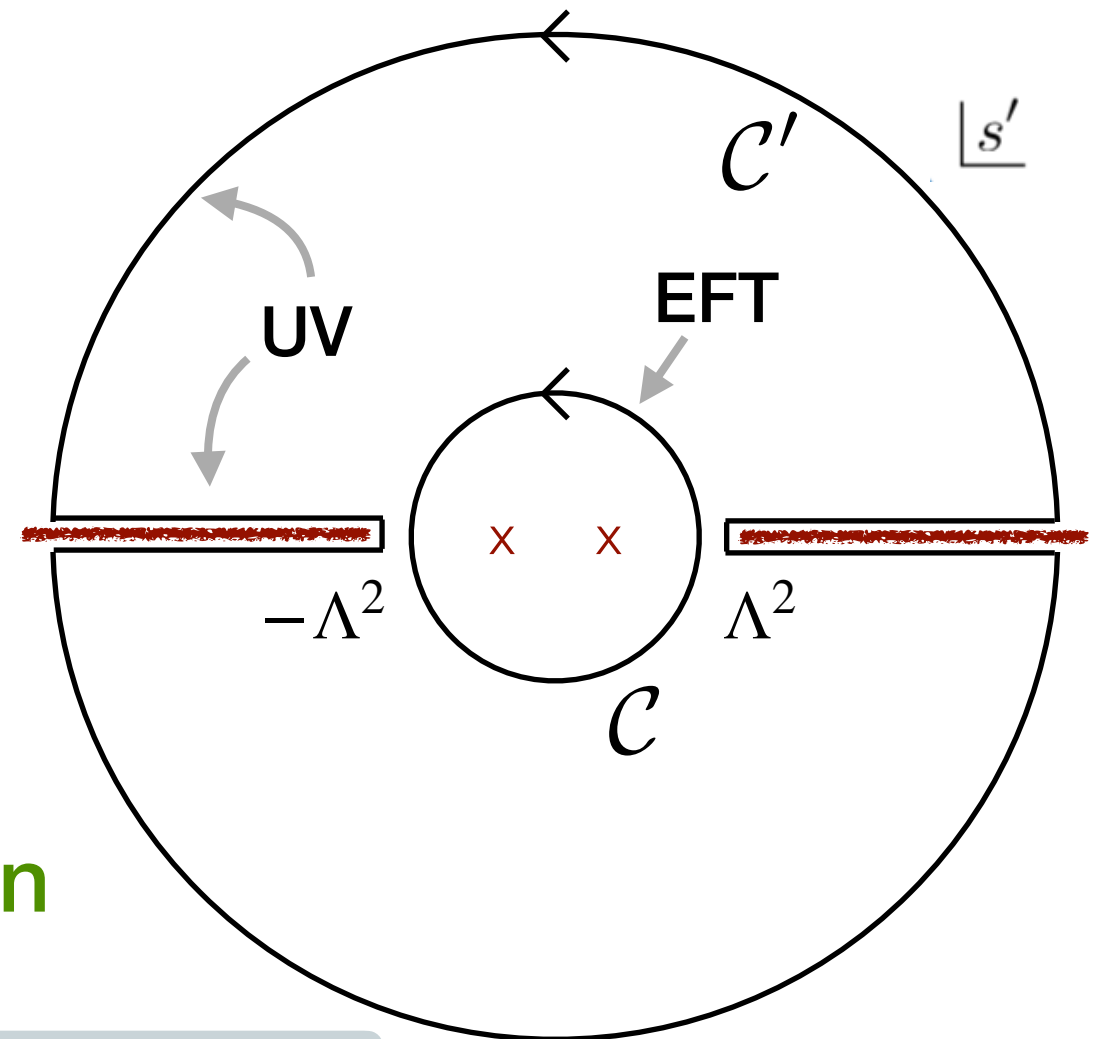
$$\mathcal{L}_{\overline{\text{DBI}}} \sim \sqrt{1 - (\partial\phi)^2} \quad \times$$

Dispersion relation (causality implies analyticity)

- Analyticity in complex s plane (fixed t)

$$A(s, t) = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \oint_{\mathcal{C}} ds' \frac{A(s', t)}{s' - s}$$

- Froissart bound $|A(s' \rightarrow \infty, t)| < s'^{2-\epsilon}$
- su crossing symmetry $A(s, t) = A(u, t)$



Twice subtracted dispersion relation

$$A(s, t) \sim \int_{\Lambda^2}^{\infty} \frac{d\mu}{\pi\mu^2} \left[\frac{s^2}{\mu - s} + \frac{u^2}{\mu - u} \right] \text{Im } A(\mu, t)$$

EFT amplitude

IR/UV connection

UV full amplitude

UV unitarity
 $\text{Im } a_{\ell}(\mu) > 0$

Two-sided bounds using full crossing symmetry

$$A(s, t) \sim c_{2,0}s^2 + c_{2,1}s^2t + c_{2,2}s^2t^2 + \dots$$

Tolley, Wang & **SYZ**, 2011.02400
Caron-Huot & Duong, 2011.02957

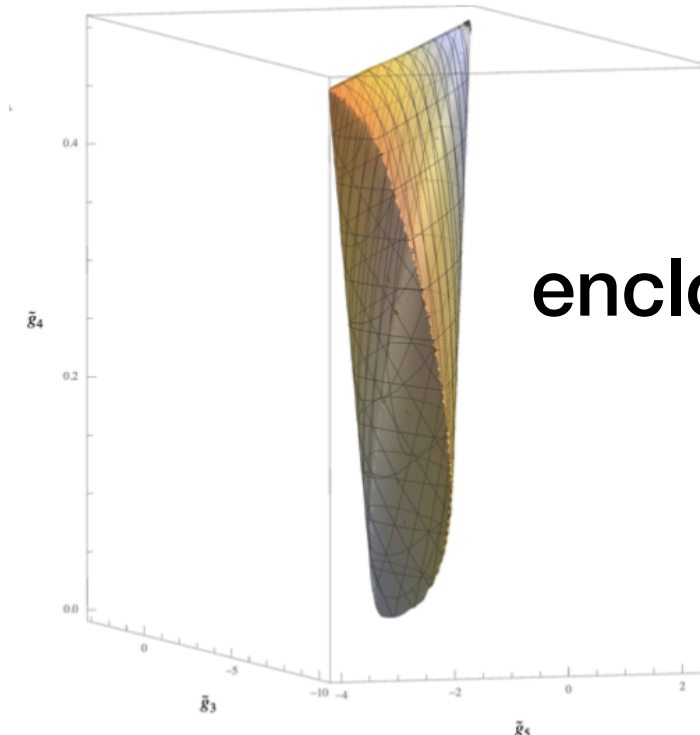
All Wilson coefficients are parametrically $\lesssim O(1)$!

Example of single scalar theory

assuming EFT is weakly coupled

both upper and lower bound

(m, n)	Lower bounds	Upper bounds
(1, 1)	$c_{1,1} > -\frac{3}{2}\sqrt{c_{1,0}c_{2,0}}$	$c_{1,1} < 8\sqrt{c_{1,0}c_{2,0}}$
(2, 1)	$c_{2,1} > -\frac{5}{2}\sqrt{c_{2,0}c_{3,0}}$	$c_{2,1} < \frac{465}{38}\sqrt{c_{2,0}c_{3,0}}$
(2, 2)	$c_{2,2} > -\frac{9}{2}c_{3,0}$	$c_{2,2} < \frac{2961}{58}c_{3,0}$
(3, 1)	$c_{3,1} > -\frac{7}{2}\sqrt{c_{3,0}c_{4,0}}$	$c_{3,1} < \frac{1097}{58}\sqrt{c_{3,0}c_{4,0}}$
(3, 2)	$c_{3,2} > -7c_{4,0}$	$c_{3,2} < \frac{10027}{59}c_{4,0}$
(3, 3)	$c_{3,3} + \frac{3}{4}c_{4,1} > -\frac{147}{8}\sqrt{c_{4,0}c_{5,0}},$ $c_{3,3} - 8c_{4,1} > -154\sqrt{c_{4,0}c_{5,0}},$ $c_{3,3} - \frac{4}{3}c_{4,1} > -\frac{177}{8}\sqrt{c_{4,0}c_{5,0}},$ $c_{3,3} - 10c_{4,1} > -3369\sqrt{c_{4,0}c_{5,0}}$	$c_{3,3} - \frac{650}{41}c_{4,1} < -\frac{2310}{41}\sqrt{c_{4,0}c_{5,0}}$
(4, 2)	$c_{4,2} > -\frac{17}{2}c_{5,0}$	$c_{4,2} < \frac{3923}{12}c_{5,0}$
(4, 3)	$c_{4,3} + \frac{3}{4}c_{5,1} > -\frac{253}{8}\sqrt{c_{5,0}c_{6,0}},$ $c_{4,3} - \frac{180}{41}c_{5,1} > -\frac{8705}{82}\sqrt{c_{5,0}c_{6,0}},$ $c_{4,3} - \frac{325}{12}c_{5,1} > -\frac{16825}{24}\sqrt{c_{5,0}c_{6,0}},$ $c_{4,3} - \frac{169}{2}c_{5,1} > -\frac{11187}{4}\sqrt{c_{5,0}c_{6,0}},$ $c_{4,3} - \frac{743}{4}c_{5,1} > -\frac{63279}{8}\sqrt{c_{5,0}c_{6,0}}$	$c_{4,3} - \frac{73153}{1748}c_{5,1} < -\frac{708543}{3496}\sqrt{c_{5,0}c_{6,0}}$
(4, 4)	$c_{4,4} + \frac{25}{24}c_{5,2} > -\frac{147}{8}c_{6,0},$ $c_{4,4} - \frac{125}{37}c_{5,2} > -\frac{71175}{74}c_{6,0},$ $c_{4,4} - \frac{785}{52}c_{5,2} > -\frac{83490}{13}c_{6,0},$ $c_{4,4} - \frac{2485}{69}c_{5,2} > -\frac{1144125}{46}c_{6,0}$	$c_{4,4} - 15c_{5,2} < -\frac{195}{2}c_{6,0},$ $c_{4,4} + \frac{368085}{36544}c_{5,2} < -\frac{2365845}{18272}c_{6,0}$

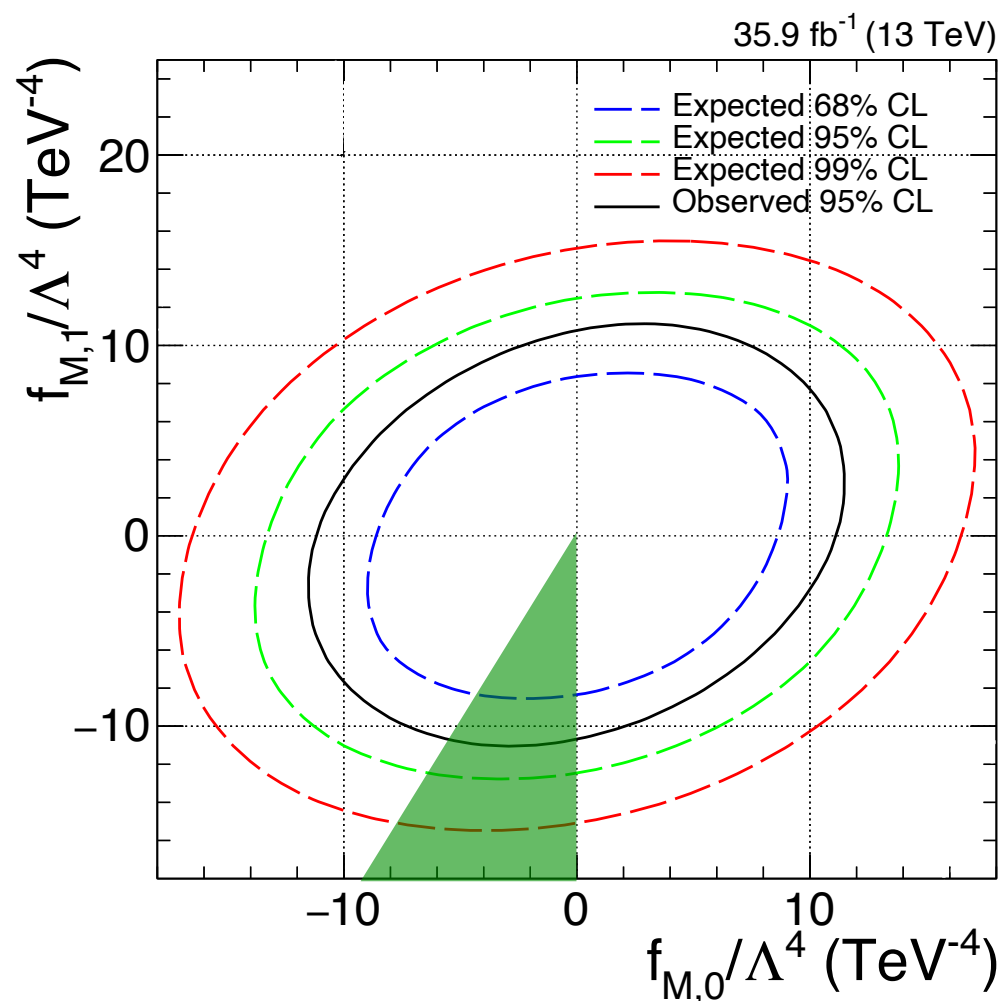


naturalness/dimensional analysis is a rigorous QFT theorem

Positivity bounds for SMEFT

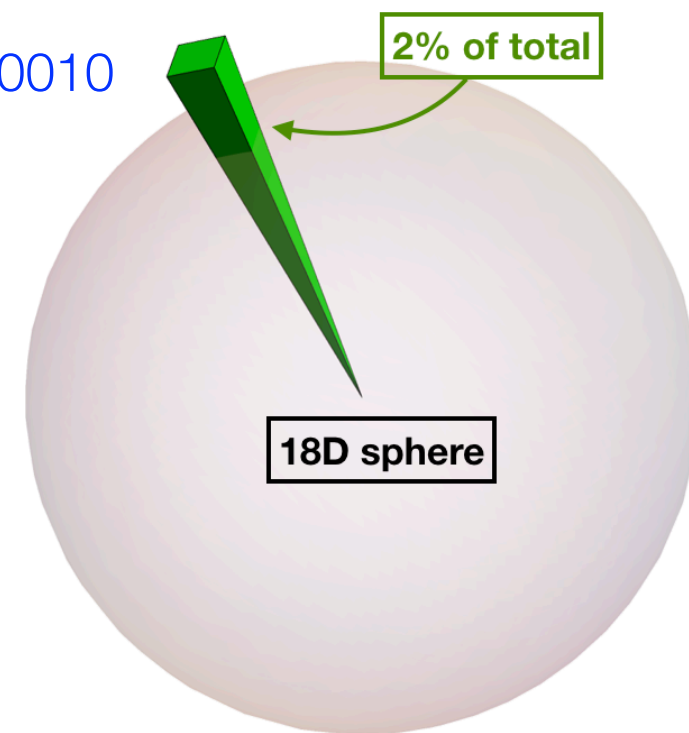
Consider VBS $V_1 + V_2 \rightarrow V_3 + V_4$, $V_i \in \{Z, W^+, W^-, \gamma\}$

$\mathcal{O}_{M0}$ and $\mathcal{O}_{M1}$



Space of 18 Wilson coeff's for aQGCs

Zhang & **SYZ**, 1808.00010



Only **<2%** of the total aQGC parameter space admits an analytic UV completion!

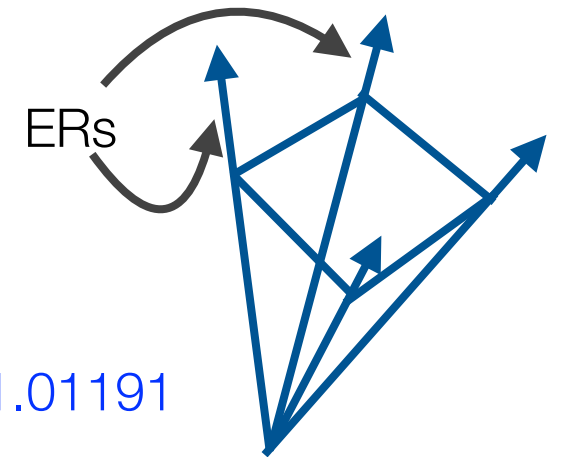
See also: Rodd & Remmen, 2004.02885; Gu, Wang & Zhang, 2011.03055; Li & Zhou, 2202.12907; ...

Positivity cone and the inverse problem

Best s^2 bounds form a positivity cone

Extremal Ray $\longleftrightarrow$ **UV Particle**

Zhang & **SYZ**, 2005.03047; Li, Xu, Yang, Zhang & **SYZ**, 2101.01191

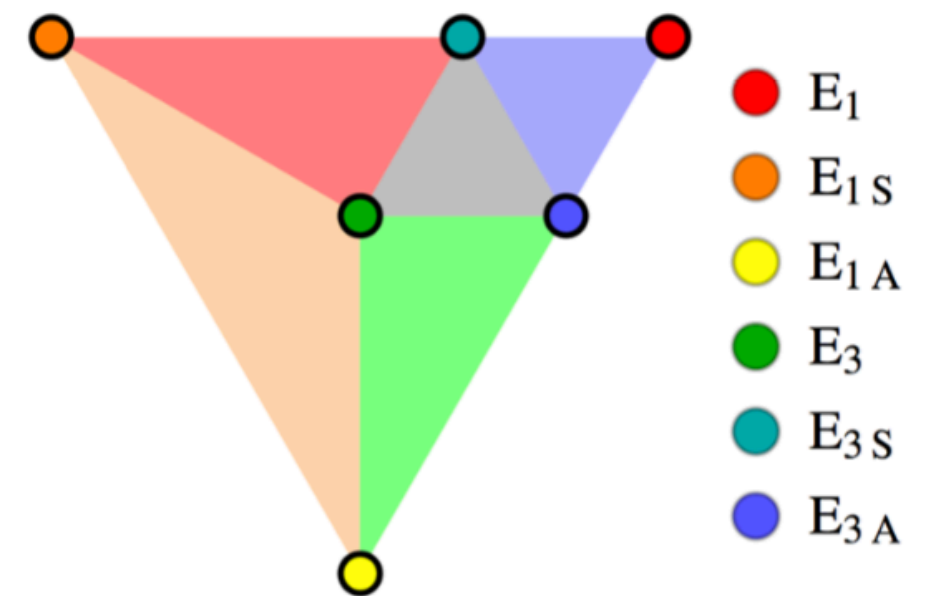


Example: Higgs positivity cone in SMEFT

Wilson coeffs fall in blue region

E_1 must exit

new UV state ($SU(2)_L$ singlet, $Y = 1$)

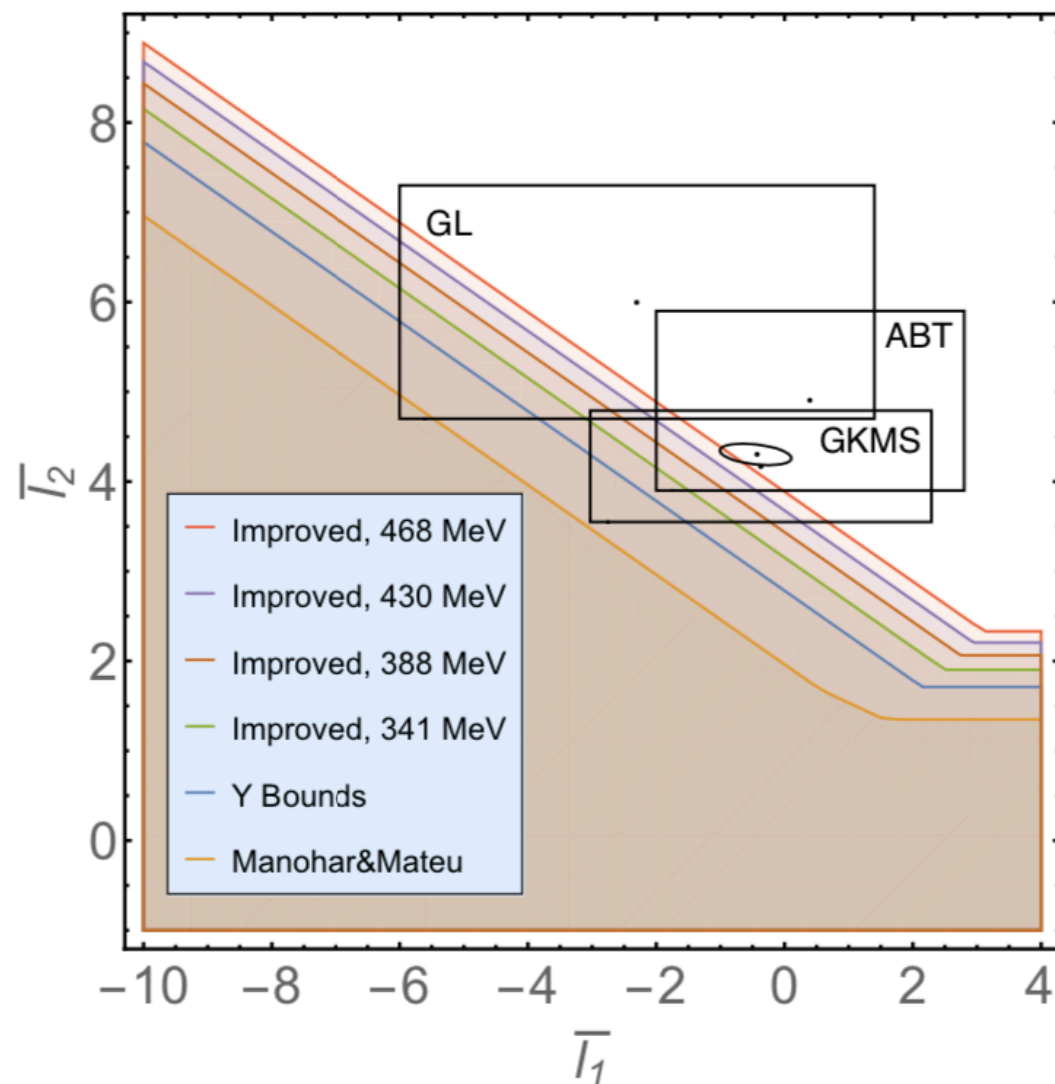


Positivity bounds (or dim-8 operators) are important to reverse-engineer UV physics!

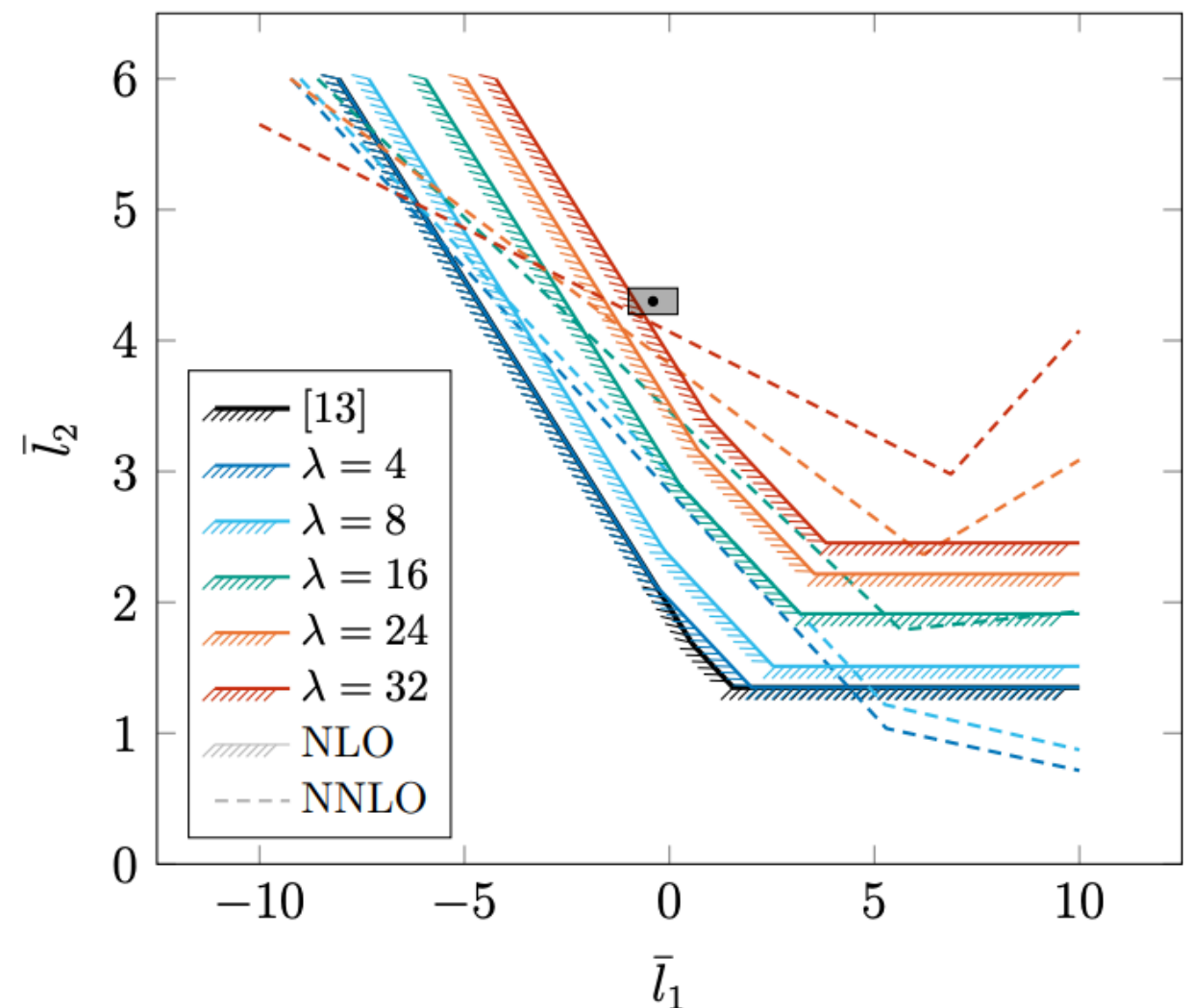
Zhang, 2112.11665

Positivity bounds for Chiral PT

For example, bounds on $\mathcal{O}(p^4)$ coefficients



Wang, Feng, Zhang & **SYZ**, 2004.03992



Alvarez, Bijns, Sjo, 2112.04253

See also: Manohar & Mateu, 0801.3222; Du, Guo, Meibner & Yao, 1610.02963
Guerrieri, Penedones & Vieira, 2011.02802

Einstein EFT

General relativity is an EFT

Around Minkowski space $\eta_{\mu\nu}$: $g_{\mu\nu} = \eta_{\mu\nu} + \frac{2}{M_P} h_{\mu\nu}$

$h_{\mu\nu}$: massless spin-2 field $\Rightarrow$ graviton weak-field limit: $|h_{\mu\nu}| \ll 1$

Einstein gravity $\mathcal{L}_{EH} = \frac{M_P^2}{2} \sqrt{-g} R \sim \partial^2 h^2 + \frac{1}{M_P} \partial^2 h^3 + \frac{1}{M_P^2} \partial^2 h^4 + \dots$

Gravity alone: EFT cutoff $\Lambda = M_P$

Symmetries: $h'_{\rho\sigma} = \Lambda_\rho{}^\mu \Lambda_\sigma{}^\nu h_{\mu\nu}$ $h'_{\mu\nu} = h_{\mu\nu} + 2\partial_{(\mu} \epsilon_{\nu)}$

cosmic acceleration
universe

10^{-33}eV



dark matter
galaxy

10^{-27}eV



solar system

10^{-18}eV



strong gravity
BH, NS, ...

10^{-11}eV



lab tests

10^{-3}eV



Higher order corrections to GR

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{grav.EFT}} \sim \mathcal{L}_{EH} + \sum_{i,j>2} \frac{1}{M_P^{i+j-4}} \partial^i h^j \quad \xrightarrow[\text{field redef.}]{\text{diff. invariance}}$$

combine into curvature tensors

use leading Einstein equation $R_{\mu\nu} = 0$

$$S = \frac{M_P^2}{2} \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} \left[R - \frac{1}{3!} \left(\alpha_3 R^{(3)} + \tilde{\alpha}_3 \tilde{R}^{(3)} \right) + \frac{1}{4} \left(\alpha_4 \left(R^{(2)} \right)^2 + \alpha'_4 \left(\tilde{R}^{(2)} \right)^2 + 2\tilde{\alpha}_4 R^{(2)} \tilde{R}^{(2)} \right) + \dots \right]$$

$$R^{(2)} = R_{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} R^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma}, \quad \tilde{R}^{(2)} = R_{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} \tilde{R}^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma}, \quad \tilde{R}_{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} \equiv \frac{1}{2} \epsilon_{\mu\nu}^{\alpha\beta} R_{\alpha\beta\rho\sigma}$$

$$R^{(3)} = R_{\mu\nu}{}^{\rho\sigma} R_{\rho\sigma}{}^{\alpha\beta} R_{\alpha\beta}{}^{\mu\nu}, \quad \tilde{R}^{(3)} = R_{\mu\nu}{}^{\rho\sigma} R_{\rho\sigma}{}^{\alpha\beta} \tilde{R}_{\alpha\beta}{}^{\mu\nu}$$

Integrating out DoFs

EFT cutoff $\Lambda \sim$ mass scale of lightest particle

A tale of 3 EFT theorists

Two scales in Einstein EFT: M_P , Λ

How do we do power counting?

Caron-Huot, Li, Parra-Martinez & Simmons-Duffin, 2201.06602

$$\sim \partial^2 h^2 + \frac{O(1)}{\Lambda^5} \partial^6 h^3$$
$$\mathcal{L} \sim M_P^2 R + \frac{O(1) M_P^3}{\Lambda^5} R^{(3)}$$

too relaxed

basically ignores M_P

$$\mathcal{L} \sim M_P^2 R + \frac{O(1)}{\Lambda^2} R^{(3)}$$

too restrictive

string theory violates it

$$\mathcal{L} \sim M_P^2 \left(R + \frac{O(1)}{\Lambda^4} R^{(3)} \right)$$

suggested
positivity bounds!

correction < GR

Einstein EFT Wilson coefficients: $\alpha_3, \tilde{\alpha}_3 \sim \frac{1}{\Lambda^4}, \quad \alpha_4, \alpha'_4, \tilde{\alpha}_4 \sim \frac{1}{\Lambda^6}$

Deviation from GR in strong gravity regime?

- Gravitational waves from aLIGO
- Black hole shadows from EHT



Observe strong gravity regime for first time

Endlich, Gorbenko, Huang & Senatore, 1704.01590

Generalize Goldberger-Rothstein EFT to include h.d. corrections

$$S_{\text{eff}} = \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} 2M_{\text{pl}}^2 \left(-R + \frac{\mathcal{C}^2}{\Lambda^6} + \frac{\tilde{\mathcal{C}}^2}{\tilde{\Lambda}^6} + \frac{\tilde{\mathcal{C}}\mathcal{C}}{\Lambda_-^6} + \dots \right) \quad \begin{aligned} \mathcal{C} &\equiv R_{\alpha\beta\gamma\delta} R^{\alpha\beta\gamma\delta} \\ \tilde{\mathcal{C}} &\equiv R_{\alpha\beta\gamma\delta} \tilde{R}^{\alpha\beta\gamma\delta} \end{aligned}$$

Consider $\Lambda, \tilde{\Lambda}, \Lambda_- \sim \text{km}^{-1}$

- Easily pass weak gravity tests
- Likely for table-top tests

Match to:

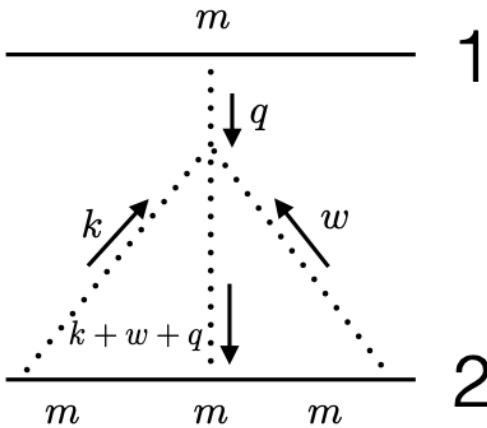
$$S_{\text{ext. obj.}} = \int dt \left\{ \underbrace{\left[m_1 + m_2 + \frac{1}{2} \mu(t) \mathbf{v}_{\text{rel}}^2 - V(r(t)) \right]}_{\text{potential}} + \underbrace{\frac{1}{2} Q_{ij}(t) R^{i0j0}}_{\text{quadrupole moment}} - \underbrace{\frac{1}{3} J_{ij}(t) \epsilon_{jkl} R^{kli0}}_{\text{current quadrupole moment}} + \dots \right\}$$

	Parity Even		Parity Odd
Operator	$\mathcal{C}^2$	$\tilde{\mathcal{C}}^2$	$\mathcal{C}\tilde{\mathcal{C}}$
$\Delta V/V$	v^4	$v^7 a$	$v^6 a$
$\Delta \omega/\omega$	v^4	$v^7 a$	$v^6 a$
$\Delta Q_{ij}/Q_{ij}$	v^4	—	v^5
$\Delta J_{ij}/J_{ij}$	—	v^4	v^3

	Parity Even		Parity Odd
Operator	$\mathcal{C}^2$	$\tilde{\mathcal{C}}^2$	$\mathcal{C}\tilde{\mathcal{C}}$
$\Delta P/P$	v^4	v^6	$v^6 a$
$\Delta h/h$	v^4	v^5	v^4

often at observable 2PN

eg Feynman diagram



Speed of gravity

de Rham and Tolley, 1909.00881

In *classical* GR

due to equivalence principle

In Minkowski vacuum $c_{\text{gw}} = 1$ On nontrivial background $c_{\text{gw}}^{(\text{LB})} \leq 1$

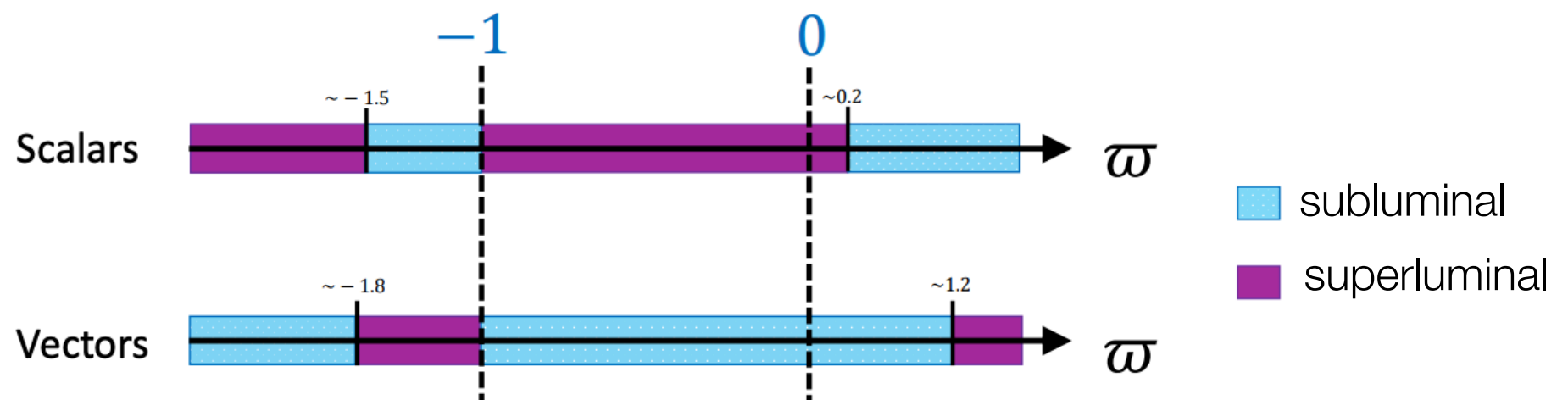
In Einstein EFT (with h.d. corrections)

On nontrivial background $c_{\text{gw}}^{(\text{LB})} > 1$

allowed by positivity bounds
seen in loop UV example
or string theory example

even if background preserves null energy condition

eg, Integrate out matter loops & on FRW background



Similar to photon's velocity in curved space Drummond & Hathrell, 1980

Graviton t -channel pole

Spin-2 pole s^2/t survives twice subtraction

$$\frac{1}{M_{Pl}^2 t} + (\cdots) \sim \int_{\Lambda^2}^{\infty} \frac{d\mu}{\mu^3} \text{Im } A(\mu, t) (\cdots)$$

Bounds are **not strictly positive**

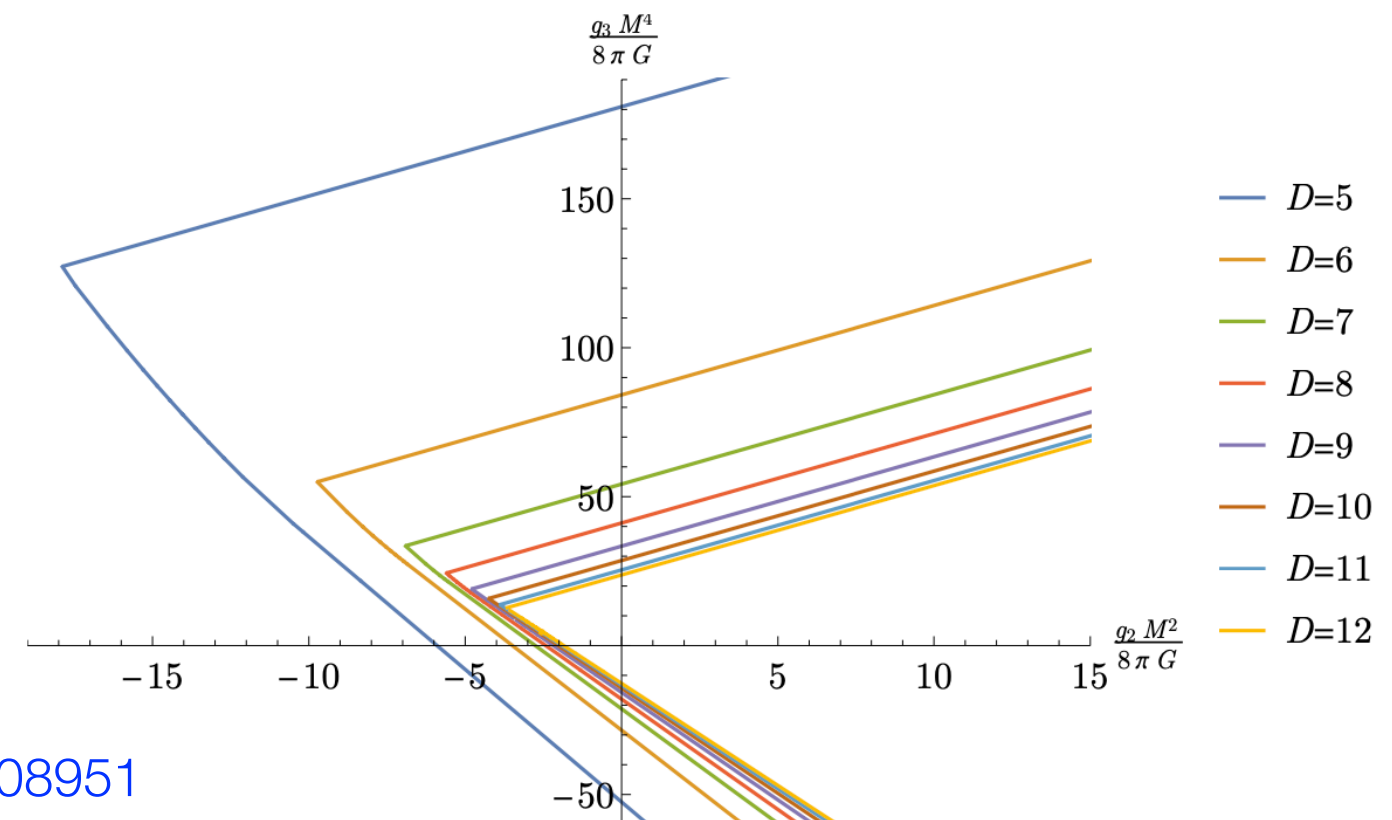
Alberte, de Rham, Jaitly & Tolley, 2007.12667
Tokuda, Aoki & Hirano, 2007.15009

$$a_{2,0} > -\frac{\Lambda^2}{M_{Pl}^2} \times \mathcal{O}(1)$$

Numerical bounds

functional optimization

impact parameter $b = \ell/\mu$



Caron-Huot, Mazac, Rastelli, Simmons-Duffin, 2102.08951

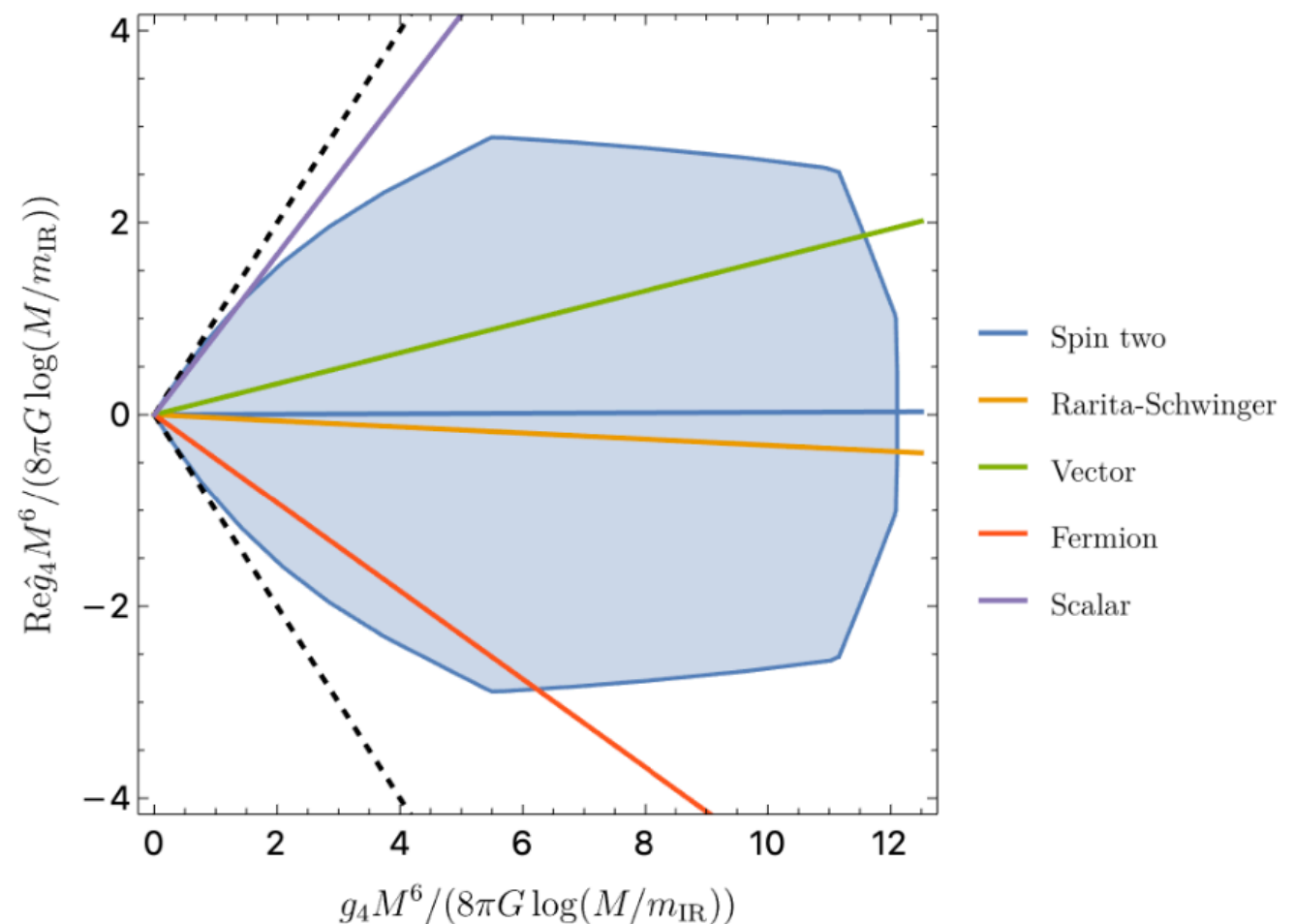
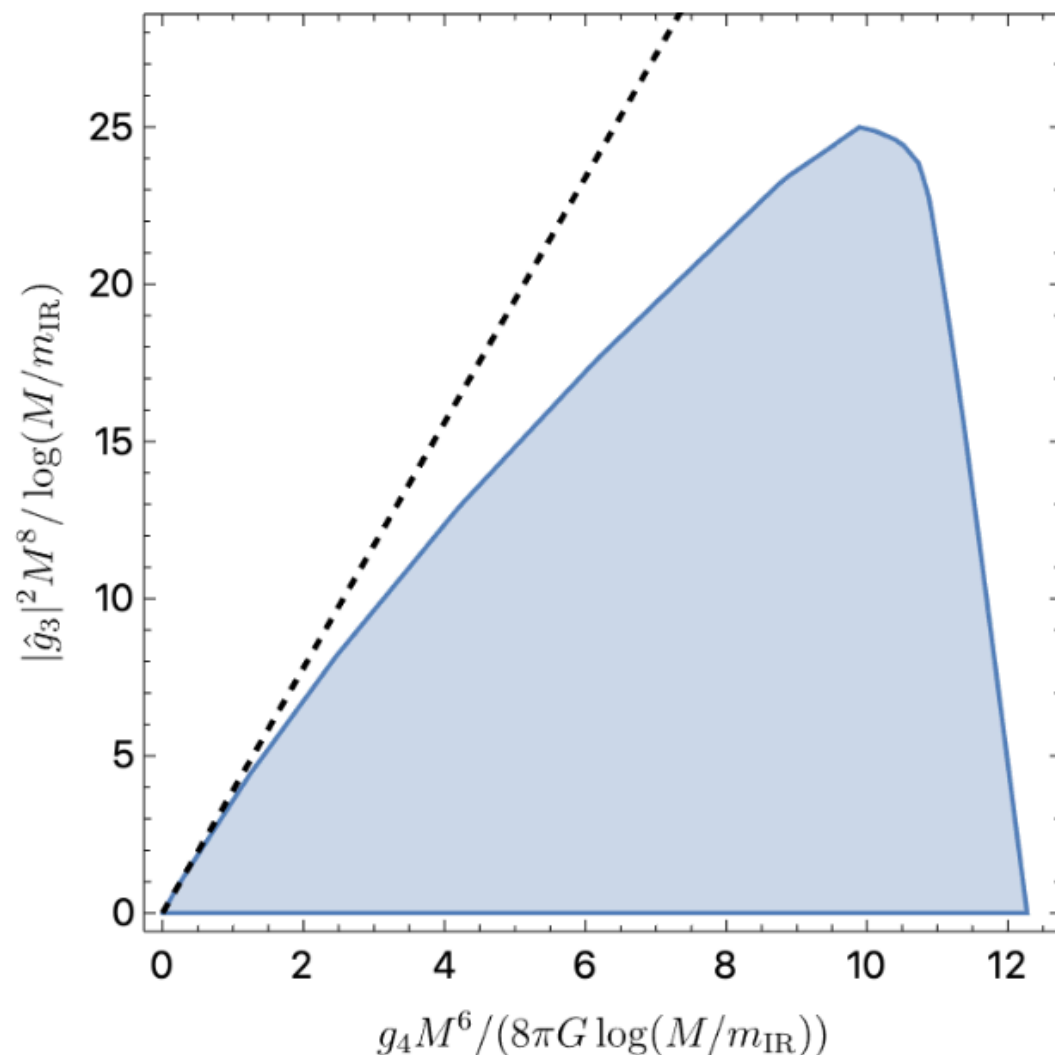
Positivity bounds on Einstein EFT

Massless graviton

Caron-ho, Li, Parra-Martinez & Simmons-Duffin, 2201.06602
Chiang, Huang, Li, Rodina & Weng, 2201.07177

IR divergence $\Rightarrow$ introduce cutoff m_{IR}

project bounds to $\log(\Lambda/m_{\text{IR}}) \sim O(10)$



Low spin dominance

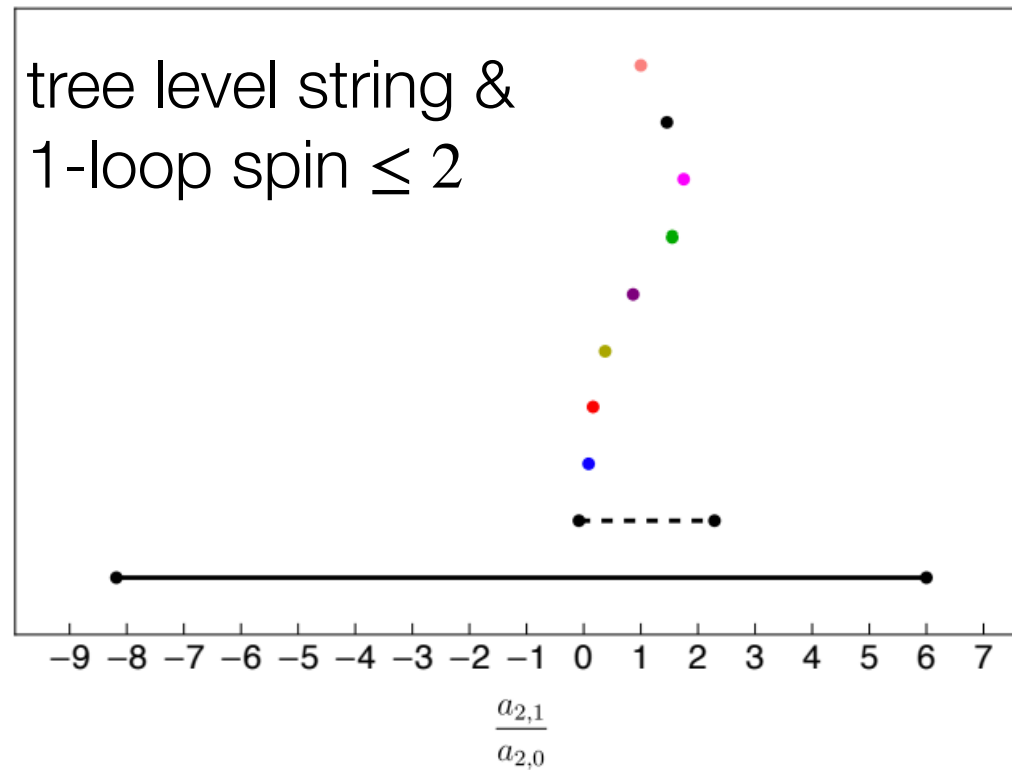
Bern, Kosmopoulos & Zhiboedov, 2103.12728

Assume spectral density

$$\langle \rho_4^{+-} \rangle_k \geq \alpha \langle \rho_{J>4}^{+-} \rangle_k$$

$$\langle \rho_0^{++} \rangle_k \geq \alpha \langle \rho_{J>0}^{++} \rangle_k$$

choose by-hand $\alpha = 10^2$



- Superstring
- Heterotic string
- Bosonic string
- Spin two
- Rarita-Schwinger
- Vector
- Fermion
- Scalar
- low spin dominance
- Allowed

Low spin dominance

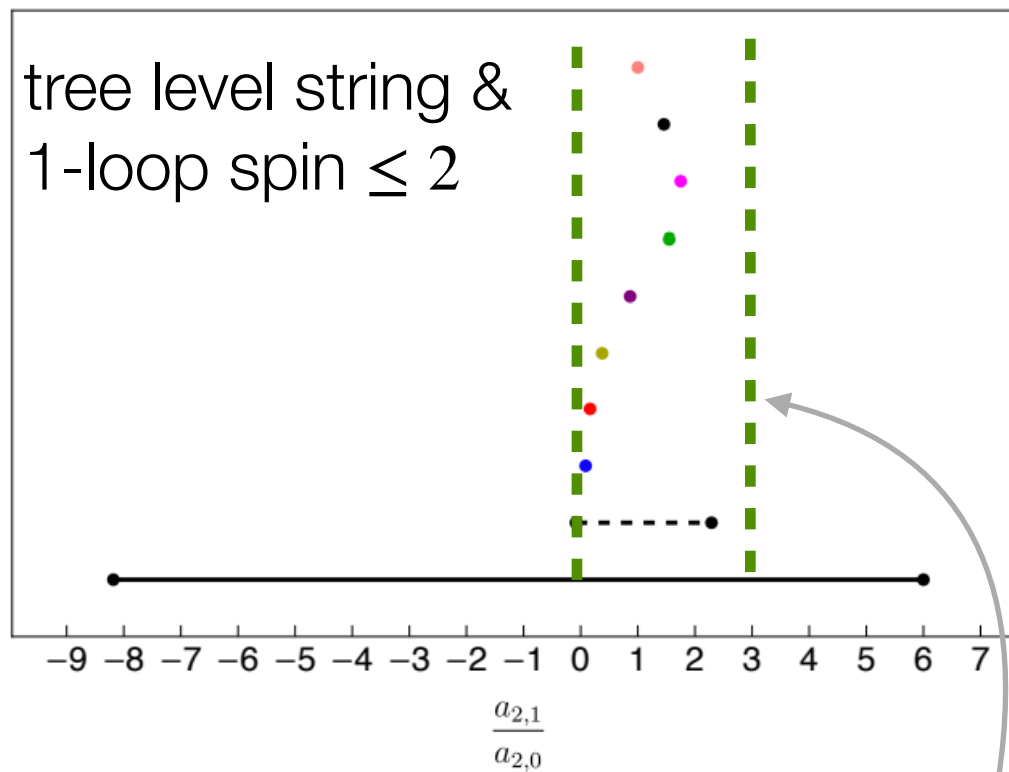
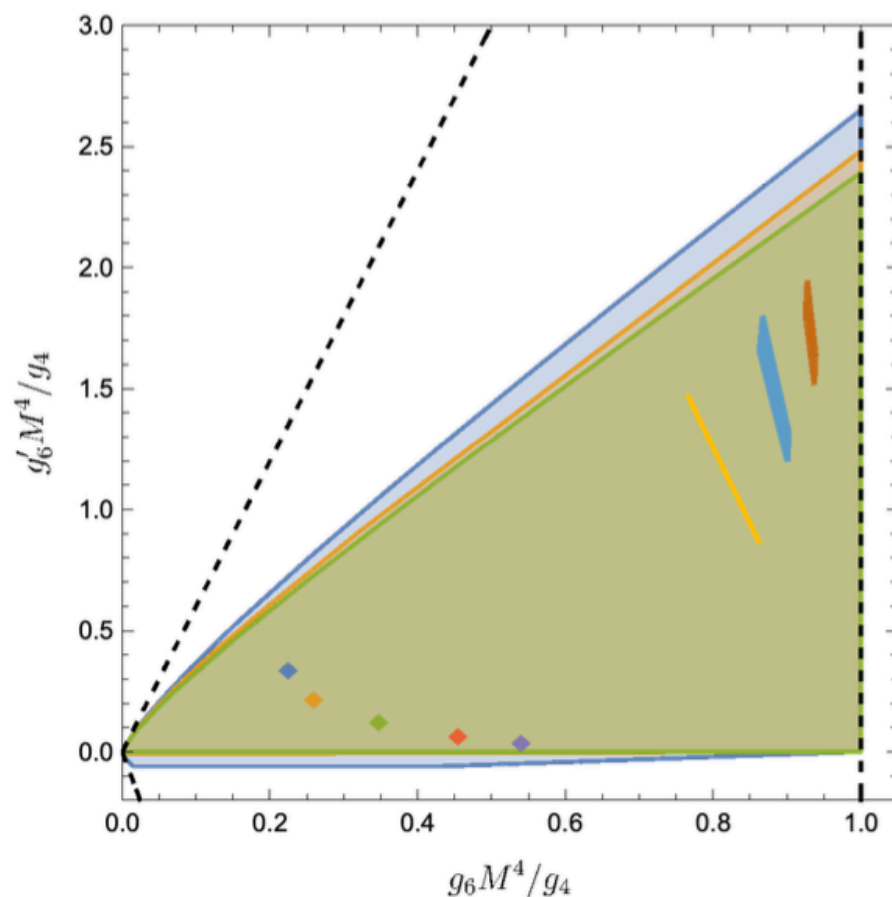
Bern, Kosmopoulos & Zhiboedov, 2103.12728

Assume spectral density

$$\langle \rho_4^{+-} \rangle_k \geq \alpha \langle \rho_{J>4}^{+-} \rangle_k$$

$$\langle \rho_0^{++} \rangle_k \geq \alpha \langle \rho_{J>0}^{++} \rangle_k$$

choose by-hand $\alpha = 10^2$



positivity bounds by Caron-Hot *et al*

no need to assume
low spin dominance!

Bern et al used weak positivity bounds

Caron-hot, Li, Parra-Martinez & Simmons-Duffin, 2201.06602

Einstein-Maxwell EFT

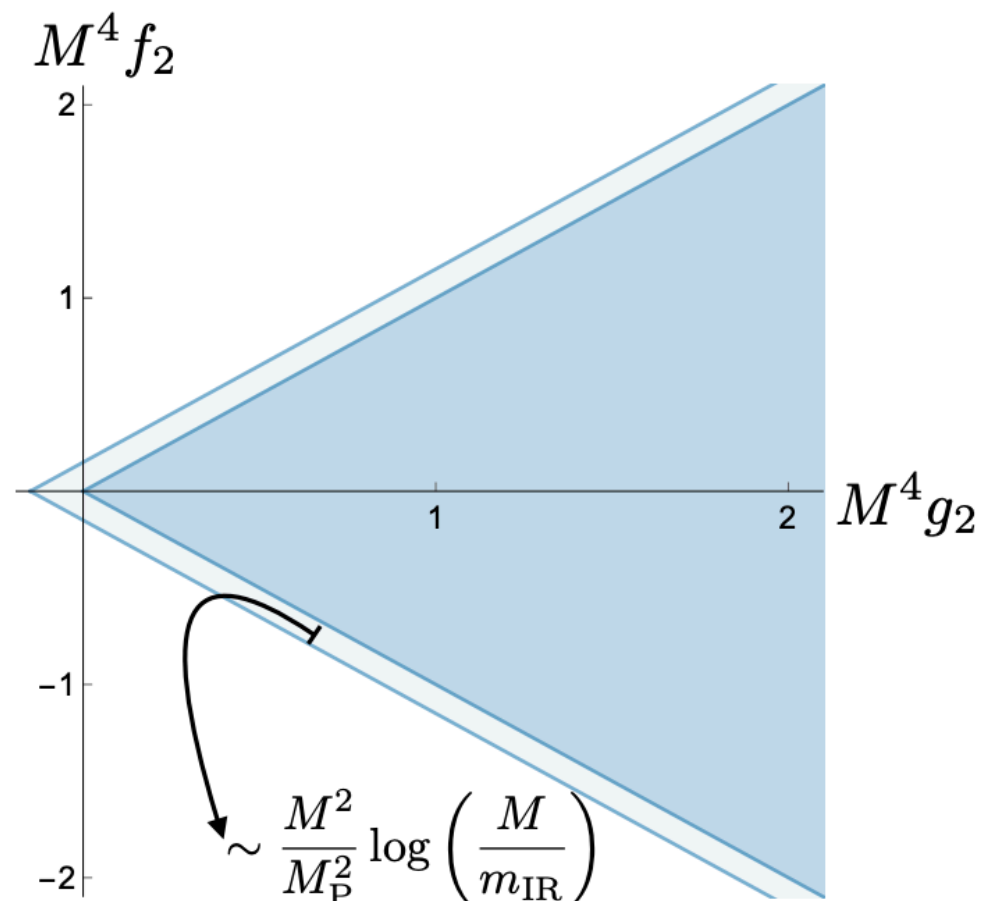
At lowest energies

known massless particles: graviton & photon

$$\mathcal{L} = \sqrt{-g} \left(\frac{M_{\text{P}}^2}{2} R - \frac{1}{4} F_{\mu\nu} F^{\mu\nu} + \alpha_1 (F_{\mu\nu} F^{\mu\nu})^2 + \alpha_2 (F_{\mu\nu} \tilde{F}^{\mu\nu})^2 + \beta W_{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} F^{\mu\nu} F^{\rho\sigma} + \dots \right)$$

Weak gravity conjecture $q \geq \frac{m}{\sqrt{2} M_{\text{P}}}$ or $4\alpha_1 \pm \frac{1}{M_{\text{P}}^2} \beta > 0, \alpha_2 > 0$

WGC implied by positivity bounds if t -channel pole is ignorable



Cheung & Remmen, 1407.7865; Noumi & Shiu, 1810.03637
Bellazzini, Lewandowski & Serra, 1902.03250

However, t -channel pole is not ignorable

Alberte, de Rham, Jaitly & Tolley, 2007.12667, 2012.05798

Explicitly compute with t -channel pole
Positivity bounds do not imply weak gravity conjecture

Henriksson, McPeak, Russo & Vichi, 2203.08164

Causality bounds within EFT

Shapiro time delay (around a BH)

$$\frac{d^2 \Psi_{\omega\ell}^{\pm}}{dr_*^2} = - [\omega^2 - V_{\text{GR}}^{\pm}(r; \ell) - \text{EFT corrections } c_1 \mu V^{\pm}(r; \ell, \omega)] \Psi_{\omega\ell}^{\pm},$$

At infinity $r_* \rightarrow -\infty$ $\Psi_{\ell} \propto e^{2i\delta_{\ell}} e^{i\omega r_*} - (-1)^{\ell} e^{-i\omega r_*}$

Time delay $T_{\ell} = 2 \frac{\partial \delta_{\ell}(\omega)}{\partial \omega} \equiv T_{\ell}^{\text{GR}} + T_{\ell}^{\text{EFT}}$ often $T_{\ell}^{\text{EFT}} < 0$
ie, time advance

- Asymptotic causality $-T_{\ell} < \omega^{-1}$ eg, Camanho, Edelstein, Maldacena & Zhiboedov, 1407.5597
- Infrared causality $-T_{\ell}^{\text{EFT}} < \omega^{-1}$ de Rham, Tolley & Zhang, 2112.05054

Example $S_{\text{D8}}^{(1)} = \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} \frac{M_{\text{Pl}}^2}{2} \left[R + \frac{c_1}{\Lambda^6} (R_{abcd} R^{abcd})^2 \right]$

Infrared causality for $3M_{\odot}$ BH $\Rightarrow \Lambda \gtrsim 7 \times 10^{-11} \text{eV}$

but current GW experiments can only reach $\Lambda \sim 10^{-13} \text{eV}$

Quantum corrections

[Feynman, 1963](#); [De Witt, 1967](#); [Donoghue, gr-qc/9405057](#)

Wrong statements often seen in popular science:

- “We can’t quantize general relativity!”
- “General relativity is incompatible with quantum mechanics.”
- “General relativity is non-renormalizable, so we can’t quantize it.”
- ...

We can quantize general relativity.

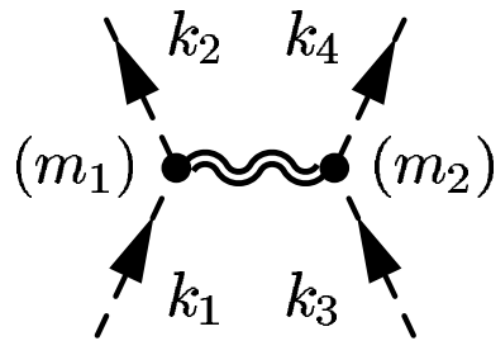
Example: quantum correction to Newton’s law

$$V(r) = -\frac{Gm_1m_2}{r} \left[1 + 3\frac{G(m_1 + m_2)}{r} + \frac{41}{10\pi} \frac{G\hbar}{r^2} \right]$$

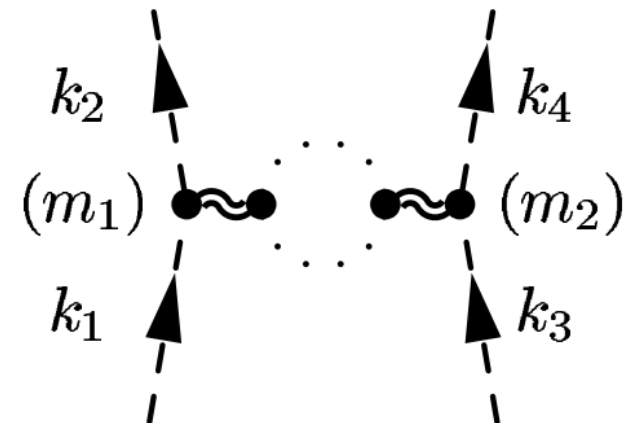
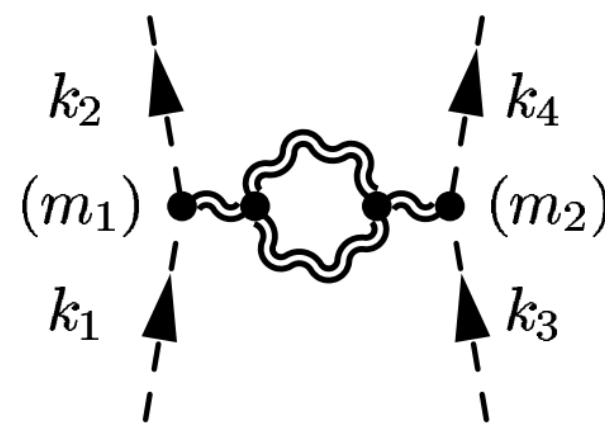
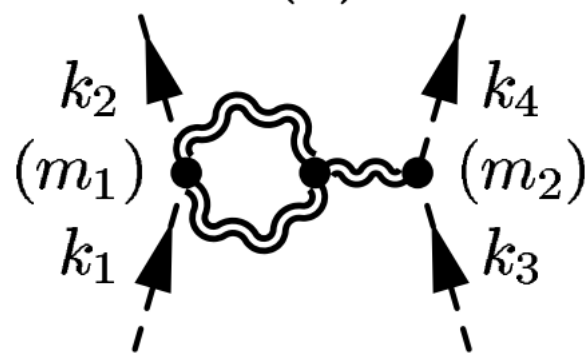
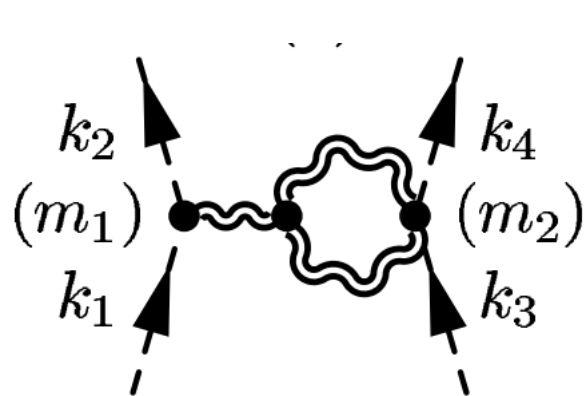
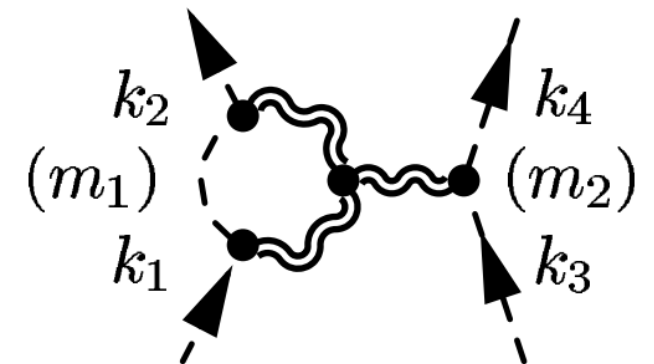
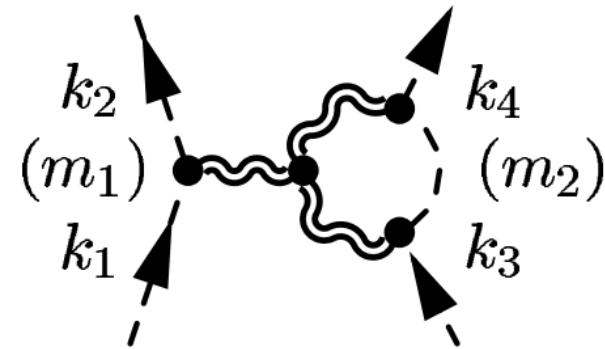
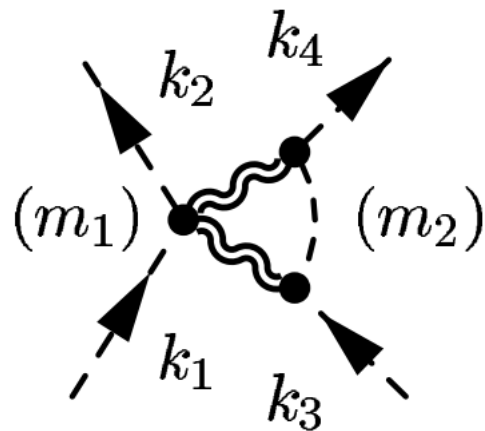
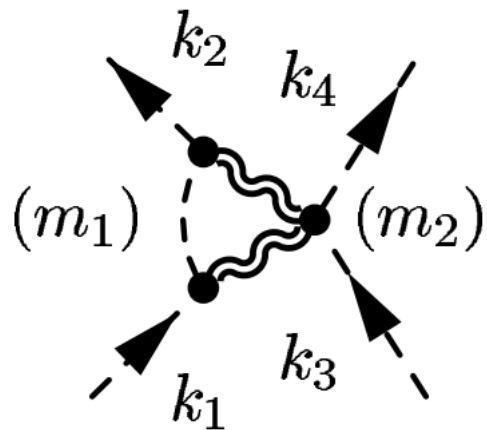
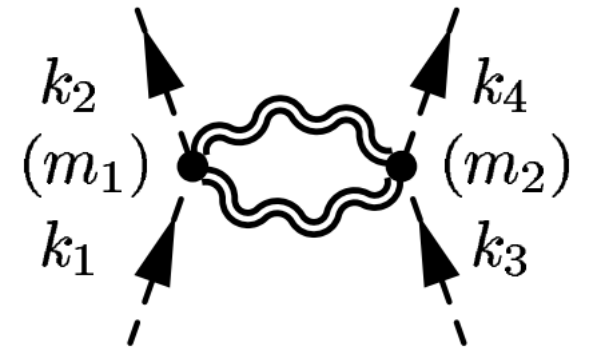
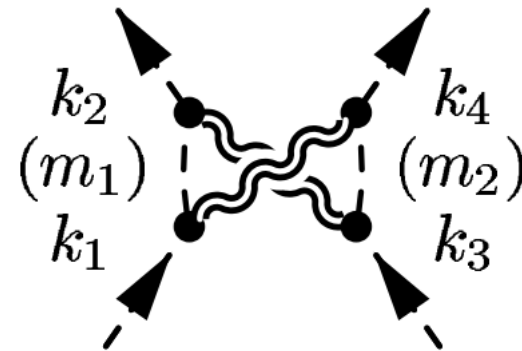
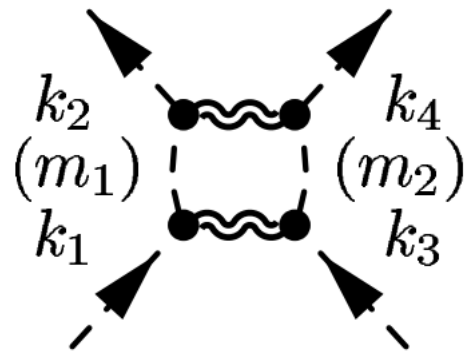
[Bjerrum-Bohr, Donoghue and Holstein, hep-th/0211072](#)

quantum correction

Compute potential from Feynman diagrams



Newtonian



Scalar-tensor EFTs

Scalar-tensor theory

Theory with light DoFs: $g_{\mu\nu}$ + (real) scalar ϕ

not Higgs

Cosmologists like scalar fields!

- inflaton
- dark energy
- dilaton, axion
- ...
- easy to be consistent with cosmo. principle
- form classical configurations, unlike fermions
- many of them from string/M theory

Earliest example: Brans-Dicke theory $\Rightarrow$ variable G_N

$$S = \frac{1}{16\pi} \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} \left(\phi R - \frac{\omega}{\phi} \partial_a \phi \partial^a \phi \right)$$

current bound $\omega \gtrsim 10^5$
by solar system tests of GR

More generally, a scalar-tensor EFT being constraints by observations

$$S = \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} \left(\frac{M_P^2}{2} R - \frac{1}{2} \nabla_\mu \phi \nabla^\mu \phi - \frac{\lambda_3}{3!} \phi^3 - \frac{\lambda_4}{4!} \phi^4 + \frac{\alpha}{2} (\nabla_\mu \phi \nabla^\mu \phi)^2 + \frac{\beta_1}{2!} \phi \mathcal{G} + \frac{\beta_2}{4} \phi^2 \mathcal{G} \right. \\ \left. + \frac{\gamma_0}{3!} \mathcal{R}^{(3)} + \frac{\gamma_1}{3!} \phi \mathcal{R}^{(3)} + \frac{\gamma_2}{2} \nabla_\mu \phi \nabla^\mu \phi \mathcal{R}^{(2)} - \frac{4\gamma_3}{3} \nabla_\mu \phi \nabla_\rho \phi \nabla_\nu \nabla_\sigma \phi R^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} + \dots \right)$$

Hairy black holes

BH uniqueness theorems in GR

Kerr BH is unique solution

No-hair theorems [Ruffini & Wheeler, 1971](#)

uniqueness of BHs in presence of matter fields

Case of scalar field: a few no-go theorems

[Hawking, 1972](#); [Bekenstein, 1995](#)

[Sotiriou & Faraoni, 1109.6324](#)

[Hui & Nicolis, 1202.1296](#)

But there are hairy BHs [Sotiriou & SYZ, 1312.3622](#)

$$S = \frac{M_p^2}{2} \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} \left(R - \frac{1}{2} \partial_\mu \phi \partial^\mu \phi + \alpha \phi \mathcal{G} \right) \quad \mathcal{G}: \text{Gauss-Bonnet invariant}$$

from EFT viewpoint, easy to have hairy BHs: $\phi \mathcal{G}$ is leading coupling

Used as a fiducial model to

test deviations from GR in strong gravity regime (GWs, ...)

Spontaneous scalarization

- GR solution with $\phi = \text{const}$ in weak gravity
- Deviates from GR only in strong gravity regime

Neutron stars

[Damour & Esposito-Farese, 1995](#)

$$S = \frac{1}{16\pi G_*} \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} [R - 2\nabla_\mu \varphi \nabla^\mu \varphi] + S_m \left[\Psi_m; \mathcal{A}^2(\varphi) g_{\mu\nu} \right]$$

non-minimal coupling

Black holes

[Doneva & Yazadjiev, 1711.01187](#)

[Silva, Sakstein, Gualtieri, Sotiriou & Berti, 1711.02080](#)

$$S = \frac{1}{16\pi G} \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} \left[R - \frac{1}{2} \nabla_\mu \varphi \nabla^\mu \varphi + f(\varphi) \mathcal{G} \right]$$

$f(\varphi) = a\varphi^2 + b\varphi^4 + \dots$ no linear term, so not always hairy

Both of them rely on tachyonic instability in scalar sector

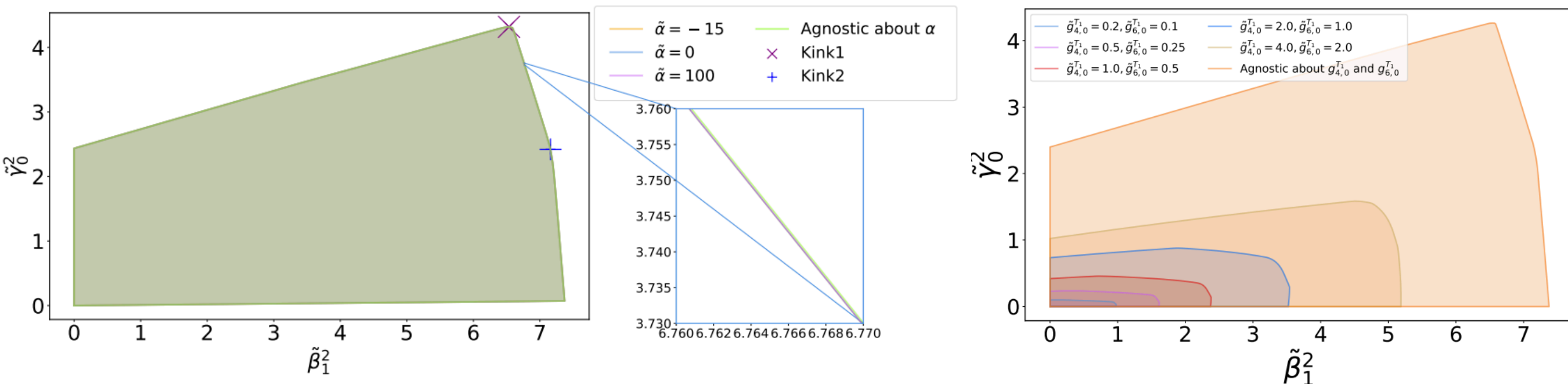
$\square \delta\varphi + m^2(\mathcal{G}, T) \delta\varphi + \dots = 0$	$m^2 > 0$	stay in GR solution
	$m^2 < 0$	roll down to hairy solution

Positivity bounds on scalar-tensor EFT

Scalar-tensor EFT

Hong, Wang, **SYZ**, 2304.01259

$$S = \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} \left(\frac{M_P^2}{2} R - \frac{1}{2} \nabla_\mu \phi \nabla^\mu \phi - \frac{\lambda_3}{3!} \phi^3 - \frac{\lambda_4}{4!} \phi^4 + \frac{\alpha}{2} (\nabla_\mu \phi \nabla^\mu \phi)^2 + \frac{\beta_1}{2!} \phi \mathcal{G} + \frac{\beta_2}{4} \phi^2 \mathcal{G} \right. \\ \left. + \frac{\gamma_0}{3!} \mathcal{R}^{(3)} + \frac{\gamma_1}{3!} \phi \mathcal{R}^{(3)} + \frac{\gamma_2}{2} \nabla_\mu \phi \nabla^\mu \phi \mathcal{R}^{(2)} - \frac{4\gamma_3}{3} \nabla_\mu \phi \nabla_\rho \phi \nabla_\nu \nabla_\sigma \phi R^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} + \dots \right)$$



$\phi \mathcal{G}$ and $\phi^2 \mathcal{G}$ generate hair BHs and spontaneous scalarization

$$\mathcal{L} \supset M_P^2 \sqrt{-g} \left(\frac{\mathcal{O}(1)}{\Lambda^2} \phi \mathcal{G} + \frac{\mathcal{O}(1) M_P}{\Lambda^3} \phi^2 \mathcal{G} \right)$$

scalarization is natural!

Power counting via dispersion relations

Use normalized dispersion relations

Hong, Wang, **SYZ**, 2304.01259

$$-\frac{1}{M_P^2 t} = \sum_{\ell, X} 16\pi(2\ell + 1) \int_{\Lambda^2} \frac{d\mu}{\pi} \left[\frac{d_{0,0}^{\ell, \mu, t} |c_{\ell, \mu}^{++}|^2}{\mu^3} + \frac{d_{4,4}^{\ell, \mu, t} |c_{\ell, \mu}^{+-}|^2}{(\mu + t)^3} \right] \Rightarrow \frac{\Lambda^2}{M_P^2} = -\hat{t} \sum_{\ell, X} \int_1^\infty d\hat{\mu} \left[\frac{d_{0,0}^{\ell, \hat{\mu}, \hat{t}} |\hat{c}_{\ell, \mu}^{++}|^2}{\hat{\mu}^3} + \frac{d_{4,4}^{\ell, \hat{\mu}, \hat{t}} |\hat{c}_{\ell, \mu}^{+-}|^2}{(\hat{\mu} + \hat{t})^3} \right]$$

$c_{\ell, \mu}^{++}, c_{\ell, \mu}^{+-}$: UV partial amplitude $d_{h_1, h_2}^{\ell, \mu, t}$: Wigner d-matrices

Find correspondences

$$\frac{\Lambda}{M_P} \Leftrightarrow \hat{c}_{\ell, \mu}^{++}, \hat{c}_{\ell, \mu}^{+-}, \hat{c}_{\ell, \mu}^{-+}, \hat{c}_{\ell, \mu}^{--} \quad \frac{\Lambda}{M_P} \Leftrightarrow \hat{c}_{\ell, \mu}^{+0}, \hat{c}_{\ell, \mu}^{-0}, c_{\ell, \mu}^{0+}, \hat{c}_{\ell, \mu}^{0-} \quad \begin{cases} 1 \Leftrightarrow \hat{c}_{\ell, \mu}^{00} \\ \frac{\Lambda}{M_P} \Leftrightarrow \hat{c}_{\ell, \mu}^{00} \end{cases}$$

$$\text{eg, } -\frac{\Lambda^6 \gamma_1}{M_P^3} = \sum_{\ell, X} \int_1^\infty d\hat{\mu} \left[\frac{(2\hat{\mu} - 3\hat{t}) d_{2,0}^{\ell, \hat{\mu}, \hat{t}} \hat{c}_{\ell, \mu}^{+0} \hat{c}_{\ell, \mu}^{*, -0}}{\hat{t} \hat{\mu}^4} - \frac{\hat{t} \partial_{\hat{t}} d_{0,-2}^{\ell, \hat{\mu}, 0} \hat{c}_{\ell, \mu}^{++} \hat{c}_{\ell, \mu}^{*, -0}}{\hat{\mu}^3 (\hat{\mu} - \hat{t})} + \frac{\hat{t} \partial_{\hat{t}} d_{2,0}^{\ell, \hat{\mu}, 0} \hat{c}_{\ell, \mu}^{+0} \hat{c}_{\ell, \mu}^{*, -0}}{\hat{\mu}^3 (\hat{\mu} + \hat{t})} \right] \Rightarrow \gamma_1 \sim \frac{M_P}{\Lambda^4}$$

For lowest few orders

$$\hat{\mathcal{O}}_{\phi R} \sim M_P^2 \Lambda^2 \left[\frac{\nabla}{\Lambda} \right]^{N_\nabla} \left[\frac{R}{\Lambda^2} \right]^{N_R} \left[\frac{\phi}{M_P} \right]^{N_\phi} \left[\frac{M_P}{\Lambda} \right]^{\tilde{N}_\phi} \quad \tilde{N}_\phi = \lfloor N_\phi / 2 \rfloor$$

for higher orders, use the above correspondence rules

Horndeski theory

Most general scalar-tensor theory with at most 2nd derivatives in EoMs

$$S = \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} (\mathcal{L}_2^H + \mathcal{L}_3^H + \mathcal{L}_3^H + \mathcal{L}_4^H + \mathcal{L}_5^H)$$

Horndeski, 1974

$$\mathcal{L}_2^H = \Lambda^4 G_2(\phi, X),$$

$G_i(\phi, X)$: generic functions

$$\mathcal{L}_3^H = \Lambda G_3(\phi, X) \square \phi,$$

$$X \equiv -\partial_\mu \phi \partial^\mu \phi / (2\Lambda^4)$$

$$\mathcal{L}_4^H = M_P^2 G_4(\phi, X) R + \frac{G_{4,X}}{\Lambda^2} ((\square \phi)^2 - (\nabla_\mu \nabla_\nu \phi)^2),$$

$$\mathcal{L}_5^H = \frac{M_P^2}{\Lambda^3} G_5(\phi, X) G_{\mu\nu} \nabla^\mu \nabla^\nu \phi - \frac{G_{5,X}}{6\Lambda^5} ((\square \phi)^3 - 3\square \phi (\nabla_\mu \nabla_\nu \phi)^2 + 2(\nabla_\mu \nabla_\nu \phi)^3),$$

re-discovered as generalized galileon

Deffayet, Deser & Esposito-Farese, 0906.1967

Built upon galileon theory

Nicolis, Rattazzi & Trincherini, 0811.2197

$$\mathcal{L} = \sum_{n=1}^D g_n \phi \partial^{\mu_1} \partial_{[\mu_1} \phi \partial^{\mu_2} \partial_{\mu_2} \phi \dots \partial^{\mu_n} \partial_{\mu_n]} \phi$$

Goldstone mode

$$\phi \rightarrow \phi + c + b_\mu x^\mu$$

galileon arise in decoupling limit DGP braneworld, dRGT massive gravity

GW speed constraints on Horndeski theory

First binary neutron star merger

GW170817: both GWs and EMs $\Rightarrow |c_{\text{gw}} - 1| \sim 10^{-15}$

multi-messenger astronomy!

Leftover of Horndeski theory after GW speed constraint

if taken as dark energy model

$$\mathcal{L}_2^{\text{H}} = \Lambda^4 G_2(\phi, X),$$

$$\mathcal{L}_3^{\text{H}} = \Lambda G_3(\phi, X) \square \phi,$$

$$\mathcal{L}_4^{\text{H}} = M_P^2 G_4(\phi, X) R + \frac{G_{4,X}}{\Lambda^2} ((\square \phi)^2 - (\nabla_\mu \nabla_\nu \phi)^2),$$

$$\mathcal{L}_5^{\text{H}} = \frac{M_P^2}{\Lambda^3} G_5(\phi, X) G_{\mu\nu} \nabla^\mu \nabla^\nu \phi + \frac{G_{5,X}}{6\Lambda^5} ((\square \phi)^3 - 3\square \phi (\nabla_\mu \nabla_\nu \phi)^2 + 2(\nabla_\mu \nabla_\nu \phi)^3),$$

Creminelli & Vernizzi, 1710.05877

Ezquiaga & Zumalacárregui, 1710.05901

Sakstein & Jain, 1710.05893

Copeland, Kopp, Padilla, Saffin

& Skordis, 1810.08239

Caveat for the GW constraints

GWs from LIGO: 10 – 100 Hz

de Rham & Melville, 1806.09417

Cutoff for Horndeksi for dark energy: $\Lambda_3 = (M_P H_0^2)^{\frac{1}{3}} \sim 100 \text{ Hz}$

LIGO GW frequencies ~ EFT cutoff

The GW speed constraints should be taken with a pinch of salt!

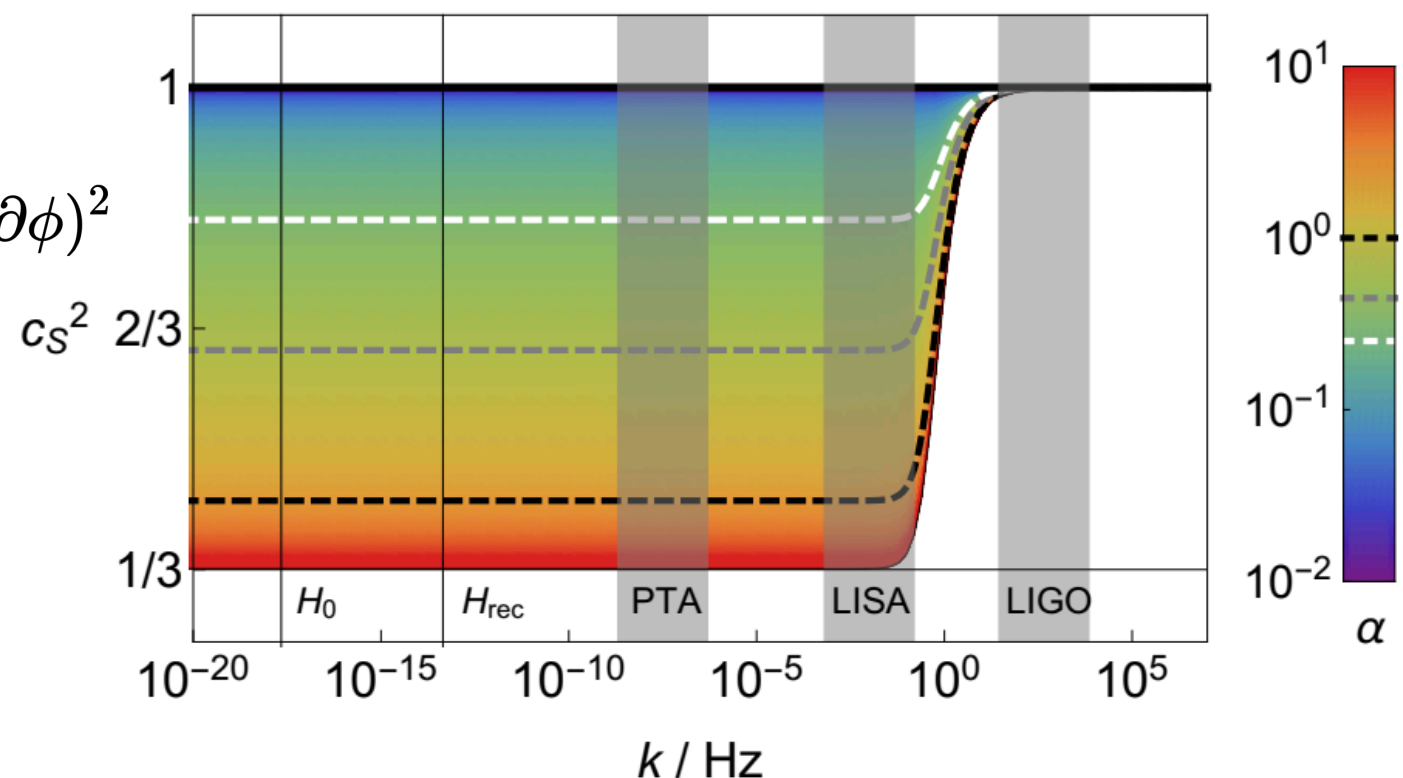
Toy model

$$\mathcal{L}_{\Lambda_*} = -\frac{1}{2}(\partial\phi)^2 - \frac{1}{2}(\partial\chi)^2 - \frac{1}{2}M^2\chi^2 + \frac{\chi}{\Lambda_*}(\partial\phi)^2$$

Integrating out $\Rightarrow$

$$\mathcal{L} = -\frac{1}{2}(\partial\phi)^2 + \frac{1}{2\Lambda^4}(\partial\phi)^2 \frac{M^2}{M^2 - \square}(\partial\phi)^2$$

$$\omega^2 = k^2 - \frac{4\alpha^2}{1 + 2\alpha^2} \frac{\omega^2 M^2}{M^2 - \omega^2 + k^2}$$



LISA will settle it!

Beyond Horndeski theory/DHOST

not 2nd order, yet no Ostrogradski ghost

Degenerate Lagrangians

can't fully Legendre transform from $\dot{q}_i$ to p_i

Horndeski theory: degenerate within scalar

beyond Horndeski: degenerate between scalar & metric

Degenerate Higher Order Scalar Tensor (DHOST)

$$\mathcal{L}_1^d = \frac{1}{\Lambda^2} A_1(\phi, X) \nabla_\mu \nabla_\nu \phi \nabla^\mu \nabla^\nu \phi$$

+ Horndeski terms

$$\mathcal{L}_2^d = \frac{1}{\Lambda^2} A_2(\phi, X) (\Box \phi)^2$$

$$\mathcal{L}_3^d = \frac{1}{\Lambda^6} A_3(\phi, X) (\Box \phi) \nabla_\mu \phi \nabla^\mu \nabla^\nu \phi \nabla_\nu \phi$$

subject to:

degenerate conditions

$$\mathcal{L}_4^d = \frac{1}{\Lambda^6} A_4(\phi, X) \nabla_\mu \phi \nabla^\mu \nabla^\rho \phi \nabla_\rho \nabla_\nu \phi \nabla^\nu \phi$$

$$\mathcal{L}_5^d = \frac{1}{\Lambda^{10}} A_5(\phi, X) (\nabla^\mu \phi \nabla_\mu \nabla_\nu \phi \nabla^\nu \phi)^2$$

Gleyzes, Langlois, Piazza & Vernizzi, 1404.6495

Deffayet, Deser & Esposito-Farese, 0906.1967

Gao, 1406.0822

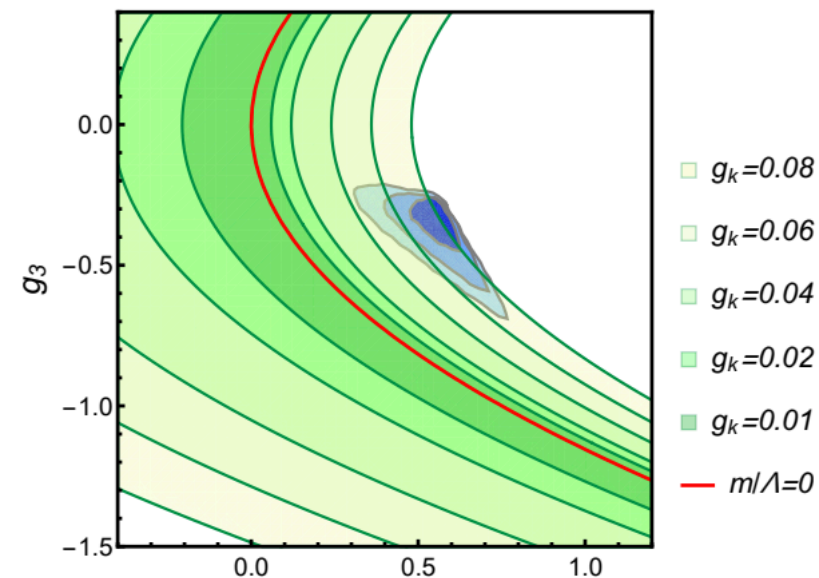
.....

Positivity bounds on Horndeski and beyond

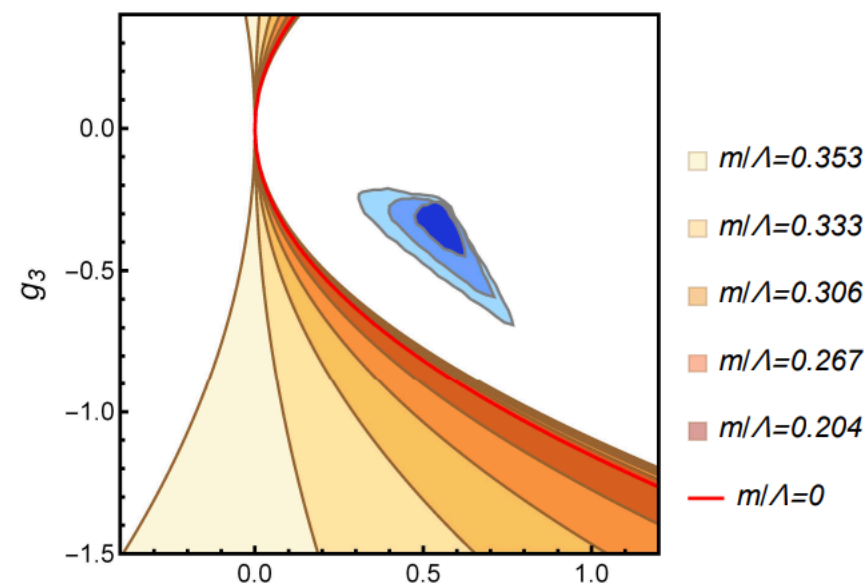
Even positivity bounds on scalar sector already rule out a lot of models!

Positivity bounds + cosmo. data

$(\partial\phi)^4$ deformed
galileon

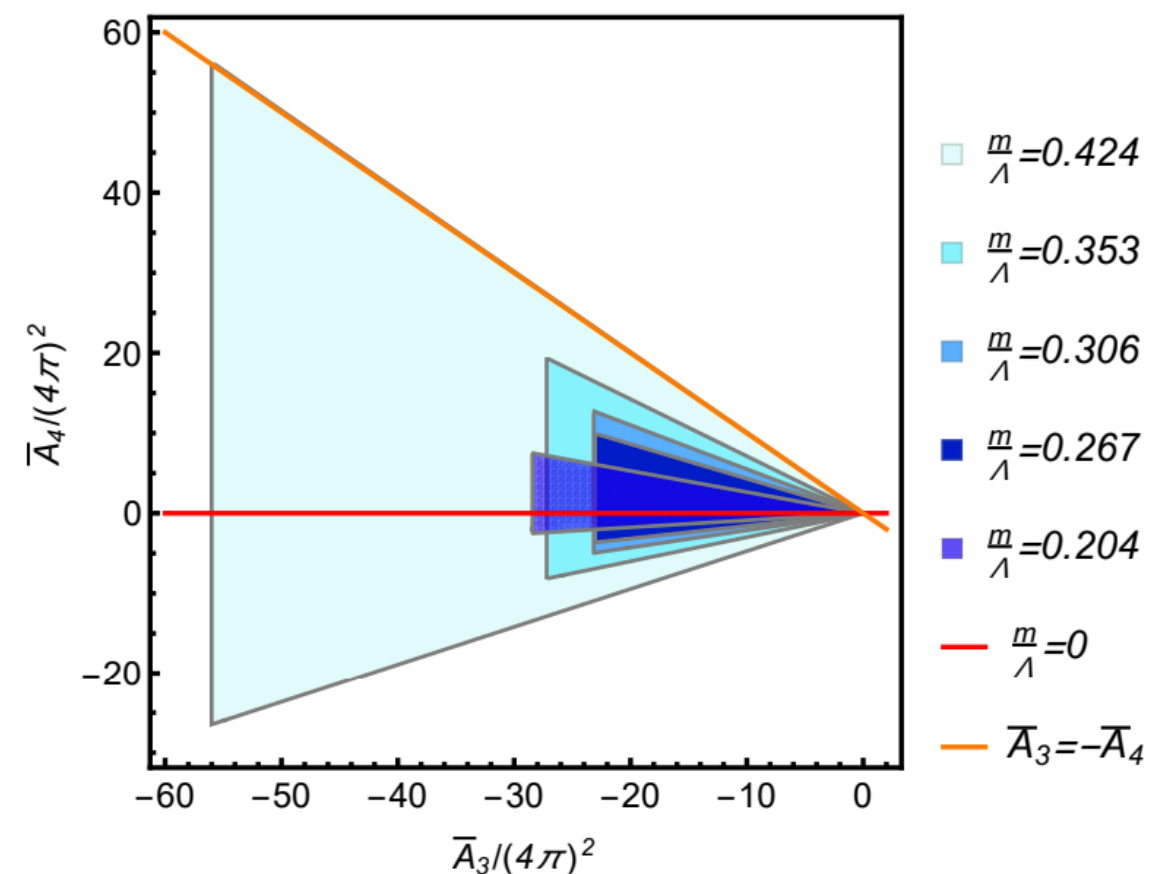


massive
galileon



N-I class DHOST

(satisfies GW speed data)



EFT of inflation

Weinberg approach $\Delta\mathcal{L} = \sqrt{-g}(f_1(\varphi)(\partial\varphi)^2 + f_9(\varphi)C_{\mu\nu\rho\sigma}^2 + f_{10}(\varphi)\tilde{C}C)$
 $M \gg \sqrt{2\epsilon}M_P$ Weinberg, 0804.4291

EFT in broken phase $M^2 \gg \epsilon H M_P$ Cheung, Creminelli, Fitzpatrick,
Kaplan & Senatore, 0709.0293

Inflaton background $\phi_0(t)$ choose ϕ as clock $x^i \rightarrow x^i + \xi^i(t, \vec{x})$

$$S = \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} \left[\frac{1}{2} M_{\text{Pl}}^2 R + M_{\text{Pl}}^2 \dot{H} g^{00} - M_{\text{Pl}}^2 (3H^2 + \dot{H}) + \frac{1}{2!} M_2(t)^4 (g^{00} + 1)^2 + \frac{1}{3!} M_3(t)^4 (g^{00} + 1)^3 + \right. \\ \left. - \frac{\bar{M}_1(t)^3}{2} (g^{00} + 1) \delta K_{\mu\mu}^\mu - \frac{\bar{M}_2(t)^2}{2} \delta K_{\mu}^\mu{}^2 - \frac{\bar{M}_3(t)^2}{2} \delta K_{\nu}^\mu \delta K_{\mu}^\nu + \dots \right].$$

unitarity gauge $\delta\phi = 0$, inflaton eaten by graviton generic non-Gaussianities
modified sound speed

Goldstone mode (equivalence theorem)

$$S_\pi = \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} \left[M_{\text{Pl}}^2 \dot{H} (\partial_\mu \pi)^2 + 2M_2^4 \left(\dot{\pi}^2 + \dot{\pi}^3 - \dot{\pi} \frac{1}{a^2} (\partial_i \pi)^2 \right) - \frac{4}{3} M_3^4 \dot{\pi}^3 - \frac{\bar{M}^2}{2} \frac{1}{a^4} (\partial_i^2 \pi)^2 + \dots \right]$$

easy to compute high energy corrections

EFTs of dark energy and black holes

EFT of dark energy (similar to EFT of inflation) [Gubitosi, Piazza & Vernizzi, 1210.0201](#)

$$\begin{aligned} S = \frac{1}{2} \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} \bigg[& M_*^2 f R - \rho_D + p_D - M_*^2 (5H \dot{f} + \ddot{f}) - \left(\rho_D + p_D + M_*^2 (H \dot{f} - \ddot{f}) \right) g^{00} \\ & + M_2^4 (\delta g^{00})^2 - \bar{m}_1^3 \delta g^{00} \delta K - \bar{M}_2^2 \delta K^2 - \bar{M}_3^2 \delta K_\mu^\nu \delta K^\mu_\nu + m_2^2 h^{\mu\nu} \partial_\mu g^{00} \partial_\nu g^{00} \\ & + \lambda_1 \delta R^2 + \lambda_2 \delta R_{\mu\nu} \delta R^{\mu\nu} + \mu_1^2 \delta g^{00} \delta R + \gamma_1 C^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} C_{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} + \gamma_2 \epsilon^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} C_{\mu\nu}{}^{\kappa\lambda} C_{\rho\sigma\kappa\lambda} \\ & + \frac{M_3^4}{3} (\delta g^{00})^3 - \bar{m}_2^3 (\delta g^{00})^2 \delta K + \dots \bigg], \end{aligned}$$

useful for perturbation theory

dark energy and modified gravity in a given FRW background

EFT of hairy black holes [Franciolini, Hui, Penco, Santoni & Trischerini, 1810.07706](#)
[Hui, Podo, Santoni & Trischerini, 2111.02072](#)

Hairy background: spherically symmetric & slowly rotating

parametrize perturbations in scalar-tensor theory

Summary

- EFTs are widely in gravitational and cosmological models
 - Einstein EFT
 - Scalar-tensor EFT
- In the theoretical side, a lot of effects have been trying to understand and derive positivity/causality bounds on the Wilson coefficients.
- Positivity bounds are constraints on the IR physics from the UV information. They are robust because they only rely on fundamental principles of S-matrix.
- Positivity bounds on gravitational EFTs are more subtle.

Thank you

Positivity bounds on EFTs

“Anything goes” for EFT coefficients?

EFTs are widely used in modern physics!

Lagrangian $\mathcal{L}_{\text{EFT}} = \sum_i \Lambda^4 c_i \mathcal{O}_i \left(\frac{\text{boson}}{\Lambda}, \frac{\text{fermion}}{\Lambda^{3/2}}, \frac{\partial}{\Lambda} \right)$

Λ : EFT cutoff c_i : Wilson coefficients
or low energy constants

Amplitude $\mathcal{A}_{\text{EFT}}(s, t) = \sum_{m,n} \frac{c_{m,n}}{\Lambda^{2m+2n}} s^m t^n$

Question: Are Wilson coefficients $c_{m,n}$ allowed to take any values?

Answer: **No!**

Positivity/Causality bounds

high energy UV theory
maybe unknown, but assume causality, unitarity, ...



**Positivity bounds/
Causality bounds**

S-matrix / EFT bootstrap

low energy EFT
constraints on Wilson coefficients

Simple example

Adams, Arkani-Hamed, Dubovsky, Nicolis, Rattazzi, 2006

$$\mathcal{L} = -\frac{1}{2}\partial_\mu\phi\partial^\mu\phi + \frac{\lambda}{\Lambda^4}(\partial_\mu\phi\partial^\mu\phi)^2 + \dots$$

$$A(s, t=0) = \dots + \frac{2\lambda s^2}{\Lambda^4} + \dots$$

“First” positivity bound: $\lambda > 0$

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{DBI}} \sim -\sqrt{1 + (\partial\phi)^2} \quad \checkmark$$

$$\mathcal{L}_{\overline{\text{DBI}}} \sim \sqrt{1 - (\partial\phi)^2} \quad \times$$

Significant advances since 2017:

Adams, Alberte, Aoki, Arkani-Hamed, Baumann, Bellazzini, Bern, Caron-Huot, Chandrasekaran, Cheung, Chiang, Creminelli, de Rham, Dubovsky, Elias Miro, Fuks, Grall, Green, Guerrieri, Hanada, Henriksson, Herrero-Valea, Hirano, Huang, Jaitly, Janssena, Jenkins, Kim, Kundu, Lee, Lewandowski, Li, Liu, McPeak, Melville, Momeni, Noller, Noumi, Nicolis, O’Connell, Penedones, Porto, Rattazzi, Remmen, Riembau, Riva, Rodd, Rodina, Russo, Rumbutis, Santos-Garcia, Senatore, Serra, Sgarlata, Shahbazi-Moghaddam, Shiu, Sinha, Timiryasov, Tokareva, Tokuda, Tolley, Trincherini, Trott, Van Duong, Vichi, Wang, Weng, Xu, Yamashita, Yang, Yao, Zahed, Zhang, Zhiboedov, Zhou, ...

Similar to swampland idea

But positivity bounds take more conservative approach

Parameter Space of EFTs



landscape



satisfied by
positivity bounds



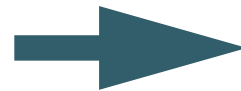
swampland

Causality implies analyticity

Kramers-Kronig dispersion relation

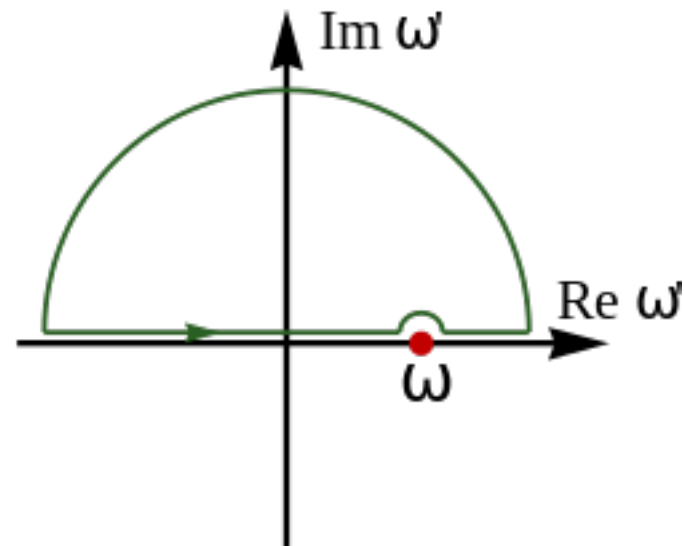
$$f(t < 0) = 0$$

$\tilde{f}(\omega)$ square-integrable



Titchmarsh's theorem

$\tilde{f}(\omega)$ analytic in upper ω plane



$$\tilde{f}(\omega) = \frac{1}{i\pi} \mathcal{P} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \frac{d\omega'}{\omega' - \omega} \tilde{f}(\omega')$$

eg, complex refractive index n

Relativistic version: response restricted with light-cone

$$f(t, \mathbf{x}) = \theta(t - \boldsymbol{\xi} \cdot \mathbf{x}) f(t, \mathbf{x})$$

$$\boldsymbol{\xi}^2 < 1$$

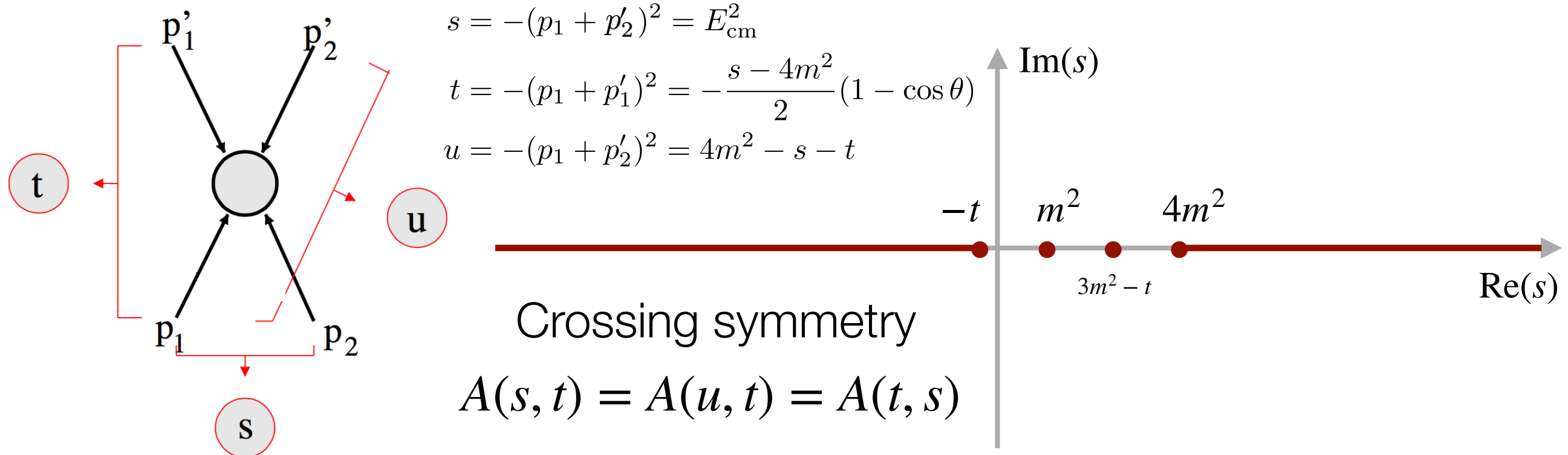


$$\tilde{f}(\omega, \mathbf{k}_0 + \omega \boldsymbol{\xi}) = \frac{1}{i\pi} \mathcal{P} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \frac{d\omega'}{\omega' - \omega} \tilde{f}(\omega', \mathbf{k}_0 + \omega' \boldsymbol{\xi})$$

Analyticity of scattering amplitude

$A(s, t)$ as analytic function

S-matrix program in 60'
Mandelstam, Martin, ...



Locality: $A(s, t)$ is polynomially bounded at high energies

Froissart(-Martin) bound: [Froissart, 1961](#); [Martin, 1962](#)

$$\lim_{s \rightarrow \infty} |A(s, t)| < C s^{1+\epsilon(t)}, \quad t < 4m^2, \quad 0 < \epsilon(t) < 1$$

Unitarity

Unitarity: conservation of probabilities $S^\dagger S = 1 \Rightarrow T - T^\dagger = iT^\dagger T$

Generalized optical theorem

$$A(I \rightarrow F) - A^*(F \rightarrow I) = i \sum_X \int d\Pi_X (2\pi)^4 \delta^4(p_I - p_X) A(I \rightarrow X) A^*(F \rightarrow X)$$

$$\text{optical theorem } (\theta = 0): \text{Im}[A(I \rightarrow I)] \sim \sum_X \sigma(I \rightarrow X) > 0$$

Partial wave expansion: $A(s, t) \sim \sum_{\ell=0}^{\infty} (2\ell + 1) P_\ell(\cos \theta) a_\ell(s)$
(2-2 scattering, for scalar)

Partial wave unitary bounds:

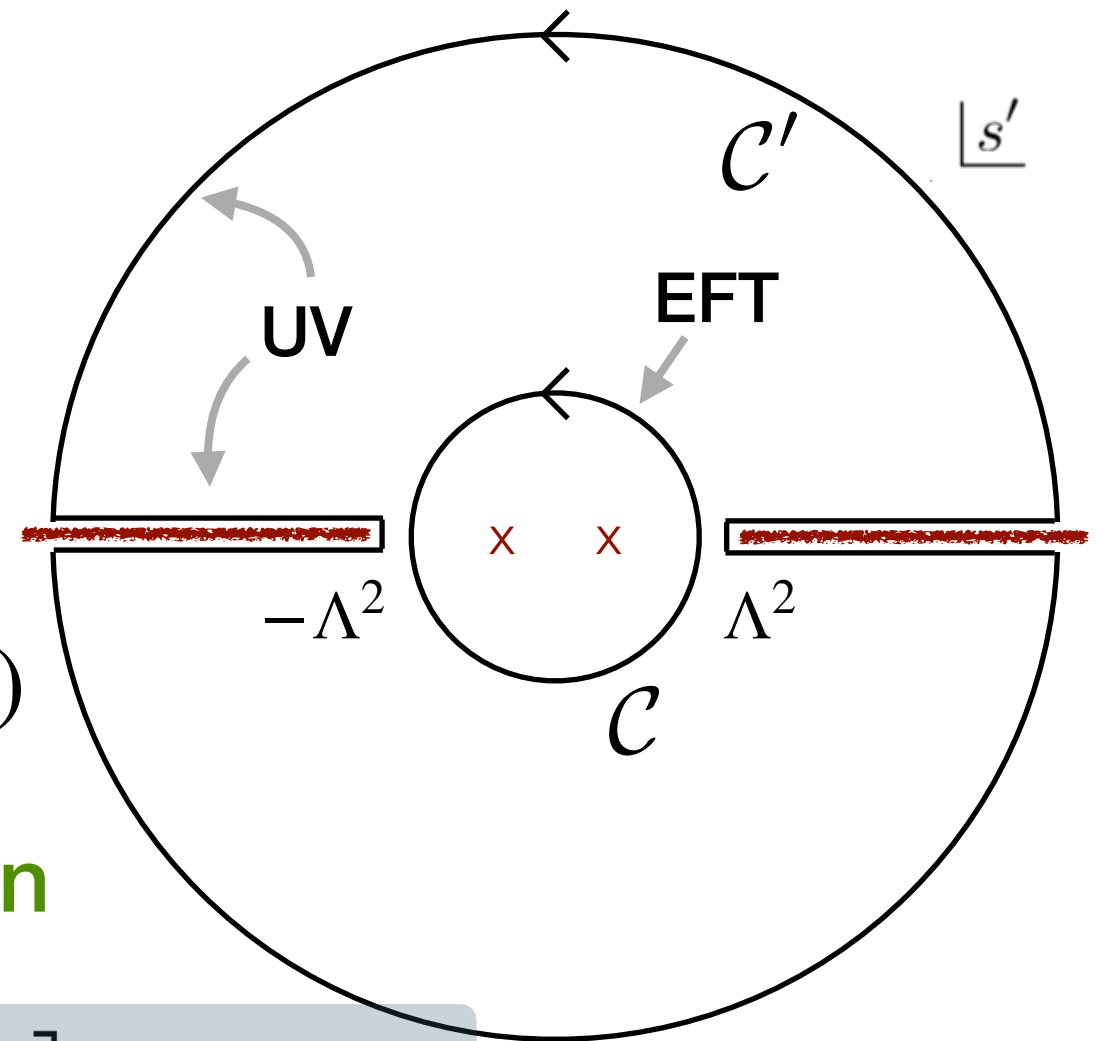
$$0 \leq |a_\ell(s)|^2 \leq \text{Im } a_\ell(s) \leq 1$$

Fixed t dispersion relation

- Analyticity in complex s plane (fixed t)

$$A(s, t) = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \oint_{\mathcal{C}} ds' \frac{A(s', t)}{s' - s}$$

- Froissart bound $|A(s' \rightarrow \infty, t)| < s'^{2-\epsilon}$
- su crossing symmetry $A(s, t) = A(u, t)$



Twice subtracted dispersion relation

$$A(s, t) \sim \int_{\Lambda^2}^{\infty} \frac{d\mu}{\pi \mu^2} \left[\frac{s^2}{\mu - s} + \frac{u^2}{\mu - u} \right] \text{Im } A(\mu, t)$$

EFT amplitude

IR/UV connection

UV full amplitude

Forward positivity bounds

Forward limit $t = 0$

$$A(s, 0) \sim \int_{\Lambda^2}^{\infty} \frac{d\mu}{\pi\mu^2} \left[\frac{s^2}{\mu - s} + \frac{s^2}{\mu + s} \right] \text{Im } A(\mu, 0)$$



$$c_{2,0}s^2 + c_{4,0}s^4 + \dots = \left(\int \frac{2 d\mu}{\pi\mu^3} \text{Im } A(\mu, 0) \right) s^2 + \left(\int \frac{2 d\mu}{\pi\mu^5} \text{Im } A(\mu, 0) \right) s^4 + \dots$$



Sum rules:

$$c_{2n,0} = \int \frac{2 d\mu}{\pi\mu^{1+2n}} \text{Im } A(\mu, 0)$$

“First” bounds

μ : scale of UV particles

Optical theorem
 $\text{Im}[A(s, 0)] \propto \sigma(s) > 0$



$$c_{2n,0} > 0$$

Recent developments of positivity bounds

Generalization away from $t = 0$

$$A(s, t) \sim \int_{\Lambda^2}^{\infty} \frac{d\mu}{\pi\mu^2} \left[\frac{s^2}{\mu - s} + \frac{u^2}{\mu - u} \right] \text{Im } A(\mu, t) \quad \begin{array}{l} \text{partial wave unitarity} \\ \text{positivity of Legendre polynomial} \end{array}$$

$$\frac{\partial^n}{\partial t^n} \text{Im}[A(s, t)] > 0, \quad s \geq 4m^2, \quad 0 \leq t < 4m^2$$

Recurrent Y bounds:

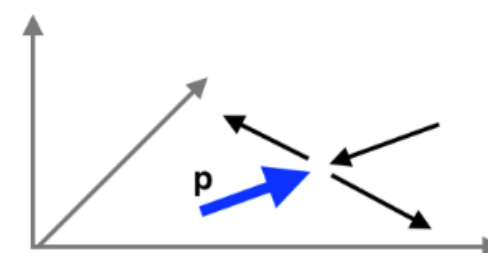
de Rham, Melville, Tolley & **SYZ**, 1702.06134

$$Y^{(2N, M)} = \sum_{r=0}^{M/2} c_r B^{(2N+2r, M-2r)} + \frac{1}{\mathcal{M}^2} \sum_{k \text{ even}}^{(M-1)/2} (2(N+k) + 1) \beta_k Y^{(2(N+k), M-2k-1)} > 0$$

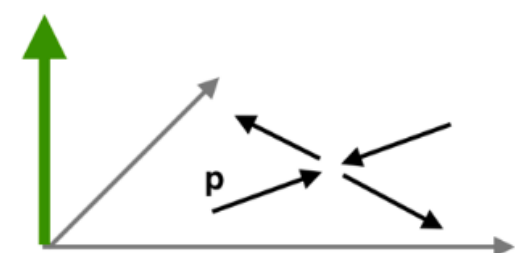
Valid for massive particles with spin
if use transversity formalism

de Rham, Melville, Tolley & **SYZ**, 1706.02712

Helicity



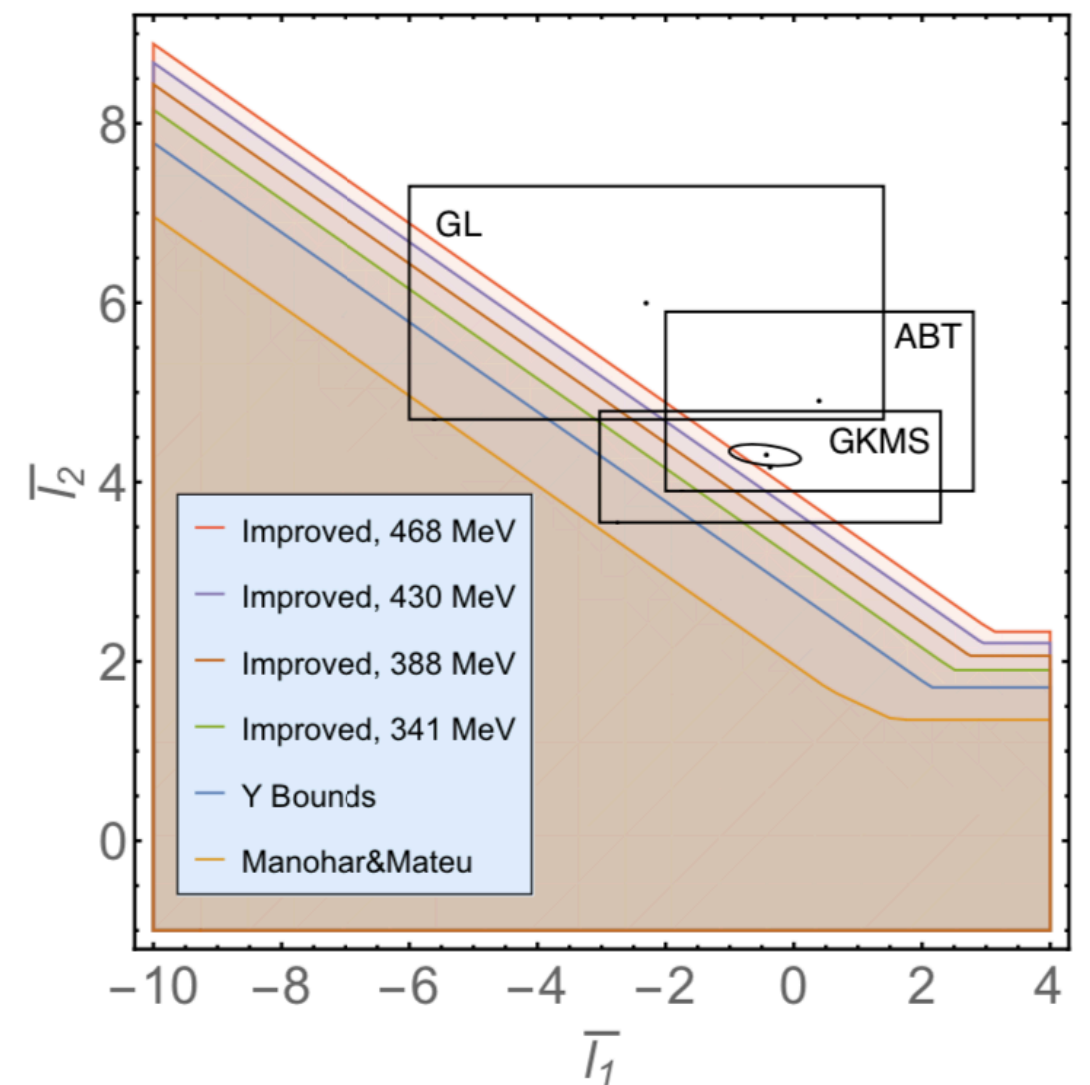
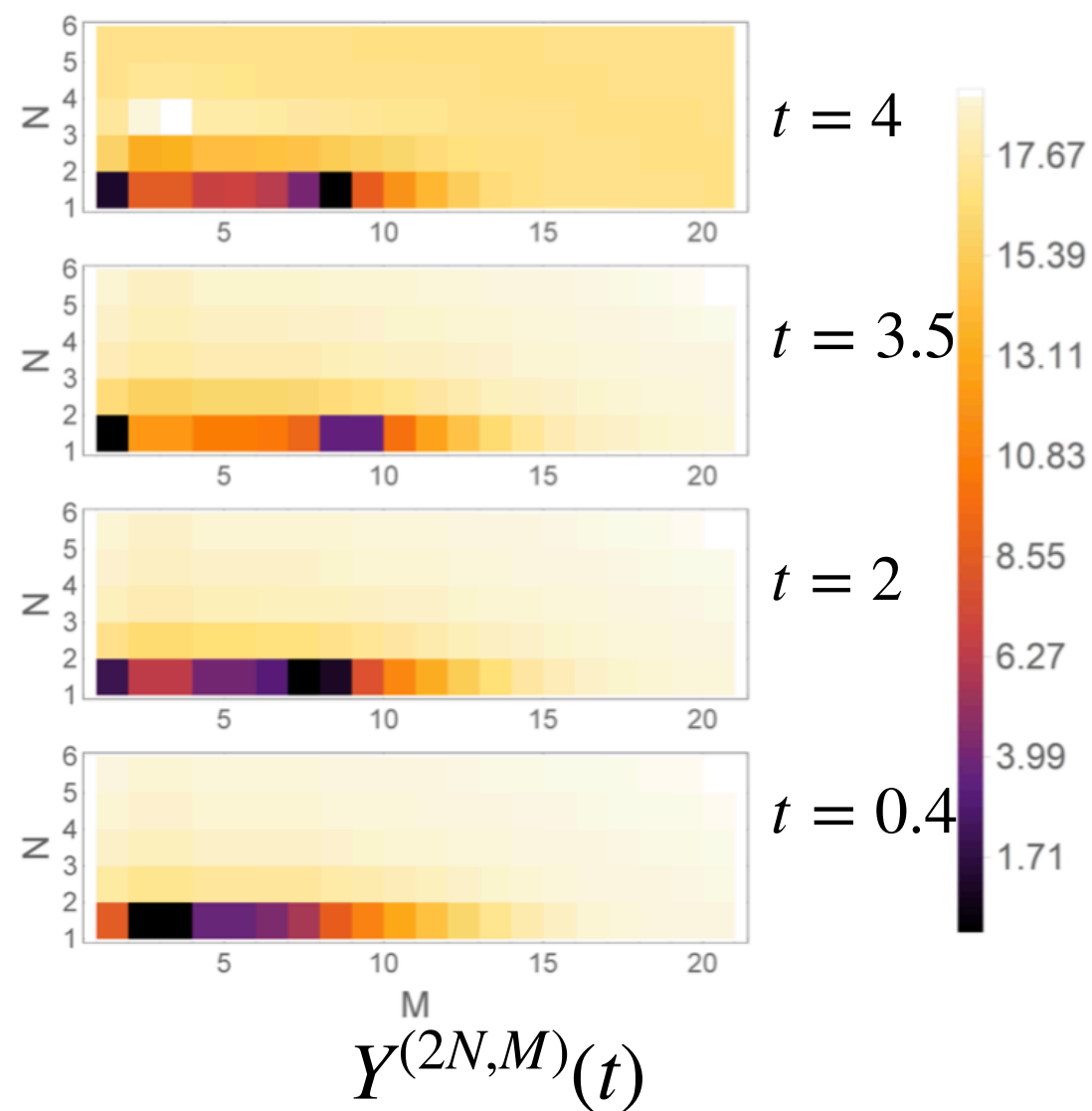
Transversity



Y bounds on SU(2) ChPT

Wang, Feng, Zhang & **SYZ**, 2004.03992

best bounds are away from $t = 0$



bounds on $O(p^4)$ coefficients

EFT-Hedron for $t = 0$

Arkani-Hamed, Huang & Huang, *talks in 2017*, 2012.15849
 Bellazzini, Miro, Rattazzi, Riembau & Riva, 2011.00037

$$c_{2n,0} = \int_{\Lambda^2}^{\infty} \frac{2 \, d\mu}{\pi \mu^{1+2n}} \operatorname{Im} A(\mu, 0) \quad \xrightarrow{x \equiv \Lambda/\mu} \quad c_{2n,0} = \int_0^1 x^n d\rho(x)$$

This is a Hausdorff moment problem!

Solution:

Define Hankel matrix $H(c_{2n,0}) =$

$$\begin{pmatrix} c_{2,0} & c_{4,0} & c_{6,0} & \dots \\ c_{4,0} & c_{6,0} & c_{8,0} & \dots \\ c_{6,0} & c_{8,0} & c_{10,0} & \dots \\ \vdots & & & \ddots \end{pmatrix}$$

nonlinear positivity bounds

$$\begin{aligned} H(c_{2n,0}) \succeq 0 \quad & \& \quad H^{\text{shift}}(c_{2n,0}) \equiv H(c_{2n,0}) \big|_{c_{2n,0} \rightarrow c_{2n+2,0}} \succeq 0 \\ & \& \quad H(c_{2n,0}) - H^{\text{shift}}(c_{2n,0}) \succeq 0 \end{aligned}$$

Why su bounds typically one-sided?

$$\sum_{i,j} c_{i,j} s^i t^j = A(s, t) \sim \int_{\Lambda^2} \frac{d\mu}{\pi \mu^2} \left[\frac{s^2}{\mu - s} + \frac{u^2}{\mu - u} \right] \text{Im } A(\mu, t)$$

Expand dispersion relation and match $s^i t^j$ on both sides

partial wave expansion: $A(s, t) \sim \sum_{\ell} P_{\ell}(1 + 2t/s) a_{\ell}(s)$

unitarity: $0 \leq |a_{\ell}(s)|^2 \leq \text{Im } a_{\ell}(s) \leq 1$

**Sum rules
for $t \neq 0$:**

$$c_{i,j} \sim \sum_{\ell} \int d\tilde{\mu} \frac{D_{i,j}(\eta)}{\mu^{i+j}}$$

$$d\tilde{\mu} \equiv d\mu \text{Im } a_{\ell}(s)$$

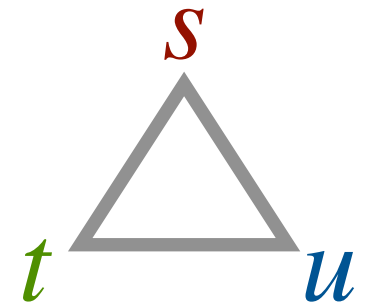
$$\eta \equiv \ell(\ell + 1)$$

$D_{i,j}$ is polynomial of η that is bounded below

Lower bounds $c_{i,j} \sim \sum_{\ell} \int d\tilde{\mu} \frac{D_{i,j}(\eta)}{\mu^{i+j}} > D_{i,j}^{\min} \sum_{\ell} \int d\tilde{\mu} \frac{1}{\mu^{i+j}} = D_{i,j}^{\min} c_{2,0}$

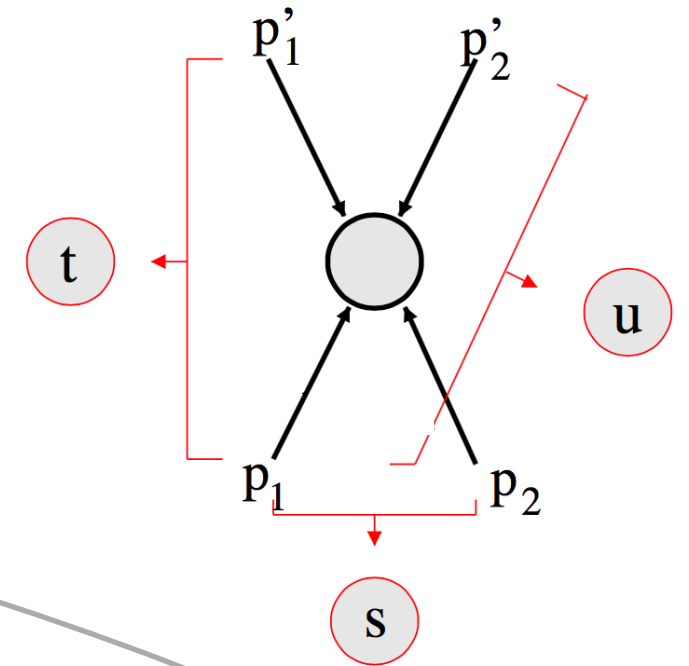
$$D_{i,j}^{\min} = \min_{\eta} [D_{i,j}(\eta)]$$

Magic of crossing symmetry



We have not used st symmetry

$$A(u, t) = A(s, t) = A(t, s)$$



$$\int_{\Lambda^2} \frac{d\mu}{\pi\mu^2} \left[\frac{s^2}{\mu - s} + \frac{u^2}{\mu - u} \right] \text{Im } A(\mu, t) \sim \int_{\Lambda^2} \frac{d\mu}{\pi\mu^2} \left[\frac{t^2}{\mu - t} + \frac{u^2}{\mu - u} \right] \text{Im } A(\mu, s)$$

Null constraints

Tolley, Wang & **SYZ**, 2011.02400
Caron-Huot & Duong, 2011.02957

$$\sum_{\ell} \int d\mu \frac{\text{Im} a_{\ell}(\mu)}{\mu^{i+j}} \Gamma_{i,j}^{(n)}(\ell) = 0$$

st crossing imposes constraints on $\text{Im} a_{\ell}$

Powerful two-sided bounds

Add null constraints to sum rules:

$$c_{i,j} \sim \sum_{\ell} \int d\tilde{\mu} \frac{D_{i,j}(\eta) + \sum_n \alpha_n \Gamma_{i,j}^{(n)}(\eta)}{\mu^{i+j}}$$

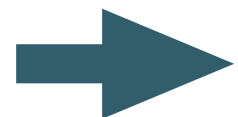
$$\sum_{\ell} \int d\tilde{\mu} \frac{\Gamma_{i,j}^{(n)}(\eta)}{\mu^{i+j}} = 0$$

can choose α_n to make $D_{i,j} + \sum_n \alpha_n \Gamma_{i,j}^{(n)}$ bounded from below and above

α_n can be positive or negative

before: $D_{i,j}$ only has **min**

now: $D_{i,j} + \sum_n \alpha_n \Gamma_{i,j}^{(n)}$ can have **min and max**



Wilson coeff's $c_{i,j}$ have two-sided bounds

Tolley, Wang & **SYZ**, 2011.02400

Can further add different order $\Gamma_{i,j}^{(n)}(\eta)$

optimize via linear programming

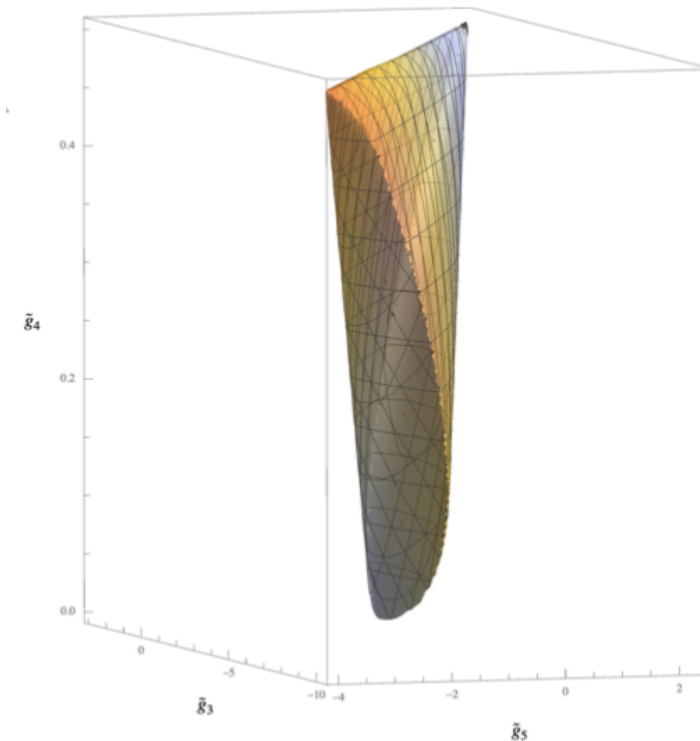
Caron-Huot & Duong, 2011.02957

Two-sided bounds

$$A(s, t) \sim c_{2,0}s^2 + c_{2,1}s^2t + c_{2,2}s^2t^2 + \dots$$

All Wilson coefficients are parametrically $\lesssim O(1)$!

(m, n)	Lower bounds	Upper bounds
(1, 1)	$c_{1,1} > -\frac{3}{2}\sqrt{c_{1,0}c_{2,0}}$	$c_{1,1} < 8\sqrt{c_{1,0}c_{2,0}}$
(2, 1)	$c_{2,1} > -\frac{5}{2}\sqrt{c_{2,0}c_{3,0}}$	$c_{2,1} < \frac{465}{38}\sqrt{c_{2,0}c_{3,0}}$
(2, 2)	$c_{2,2} > -\frac{9}{2}c_{3,0}$	$c_{2,2} < \frac{2961}{58}c_{3,0}$
(3, 1)	$c_{3,1} > -\frac{7}{2}\sqrt{c_{3,0}c_{4,0}}$	$c_{3,1} < \frac{1097}{58}\sqrt{c_{3,0}c_{4,0}}$
(3, 2)	$c_{3,2} > -7c_{4,0}$	$c_{3,2} < \frac{10027}{59}c_{4,0}$
(3, 3)	$c_{3,3} + \frac{3}{4}c_{4,1} > -\frac{147}{8}\sqrt{c_{4,0}c_{5,0}},$ $c_{3,3} - 8c_{4,1} > -154\sqrt{c_{4,0}c_{5,0}},$ $c_{3,3} - \frac{481}{12}c_{4,1} > -\frac{7777}{8}\sqrt{c_{4,0}c_{5,0}},$ $c_{3,3} - 104c_{4,1} > -3369\sqrt{c_{4,0}c_{5,0}}$	$c_{3,3} - \frac{650}{41}c_{4,1} < -\frac{2310}{41}\sqrt{c_{4,0}c_{5,0}}$
(4, 2)	$c_{4,2} > -\frac{17}{2}c_{5,0}$	$c_{4,2} < \frac{3923}{12}c_{5,0}$
(4, 3)	$c_{4,3} + \frac{3}{4}c_{5,1} > -\frac{253}{8}\sqrt{c_{5,0}c_{6,0}},$ $c_{4,3} - \frac{180}{41}c_{5,1} > -\frac{8705}{82}\sqrt{c_{5,0}c_{6,0}},$ $c_{4,3} - \frac{325}{12}c_{5,1} > -\frac{16825}{24}\sqrt{c_{5,0}c_{6,0}},$ $c_{4,3} - \frac{169}{2}c_{5,1} > -\frac{11187}{4}\sqrt{c_{5,0}c_{6,0}},$ $c_{4,3} - \frac{743}{4}c_{5,1} > -\frac{63279}{8}\sqrt{c_{5,0}c_{6,0}}$	$c_{4,3} - \frac{73153}{1748}c_{5,1} < -\frac{708543}{3496}\sqrt{c_{5,0}c_{6,0}}$
(4, 4)	$c_{4,4} + \frac{25}{24}c_{5,2} > -\frac{147}{8}c_{6,0},$ $c_{4,4} - \frac{125}{37}c_{5,2} > -\frac{71175}{74}c_{6,0},$ $c_{4,4} - \frac{785}{52}c_{5,2} > -\frac{83490}{13}c_{6,0},$ $c_{4,4} - \frac{2485}{69}c_{5,2} > -\frac{1144125}{46}c_{6,0}$	$c_{4,4} - 15c_{5,2} < -\frac{195}{2}c_{6,0},$ $c_{4,4} + \frac{368085}{36544}c_{5,2} < -\frac{2365845}{18272}c_{6,0}$



tree-level in EFT

**used to be a folklore, called “naturalness/dimensional analysis”
but now a rigorous QFT theorem**

Tolley, Wang & **SYZ**, 2011.02400
Caron-Huot & Duong, 2011.02957

Ruling out Galileon

$$\pi \rightarrow \pi + c + b_\mu x^\mu, \quad c, b_\mu = \text{const}$$

- linked to dRGT massive gravity, DGP braneworld
- applications in cosmology

original Galileon marginally ruled out by

Adams, Arkani-Hamed, Dubovsky,
Nicolis, Rattazzi, 2006

Weakly broken Galileon theories $\mathcal{L} \sim \mathcal{L}_{\text{galileon}} - \frac{m^2}{2} \pi^2$



stu symmetric bounds

$\Lambda \sim m$ **not a valid EFT**

Tolley, Wang & **SYZ**, 2011.02400

also inconsistent with observational constraints

Xu & **SYZ**, 2306.XXXXX

Alternative methods

Fully crossing symmetric dispersion relation

$$\mathcal{M}_0(s_1, s_2) = \alpha_0 + \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{\frac{2\mu}{3}}^{\infty} \frac{ds'_1}{s'_1} \mathcal{A}\left(s'_1; s_2^{(+)}(s'_1, a)\right) \times H\left(s'_1; s_1, s_2, s_3\right)$$

[Sinha & Zahed, PRL, 2012.04877](#) + locality constraints; connection to geometric function theory

Locality constraints analytically solved

[Song, 2305.03669](#)

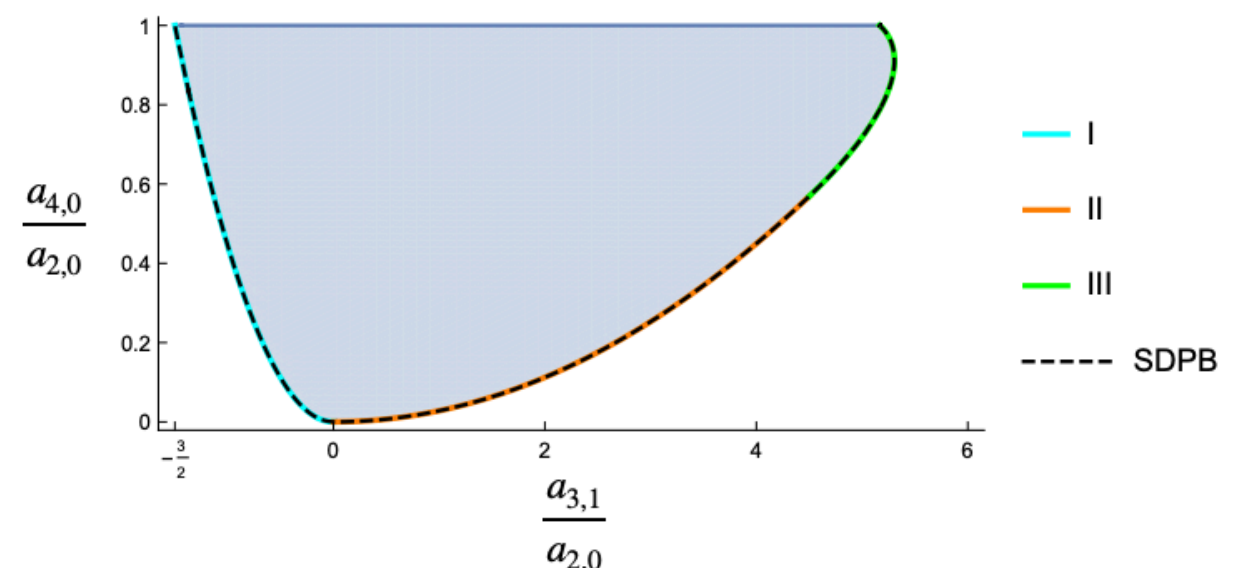
$$\mathcal{M}^{(s)}(\mathbf{s}) = \alpha_0 + \frac{1}{\pi} \int \frac{d\sigma}{\sigma} \left(\frac{(2\sigma^3 + s_1 s_2 s_3) \mathcal{A}(\sigma, s_{\pm}(\sigma, -s_1 s_2 s_3 / \sigma^3))}{(\sigma - s_1)(\sigma - s_2)(\sigma - s_3)} - 2\mathcal{A}(\sigma, 0) \right)$$

stu EFTHedron

reduce to bi-variate moment problem
(GL rotations + triple-crossing slices)

mostly analytical method

[Chiang, Huang, Li, Rodina & Weng, 2105.02862](#)



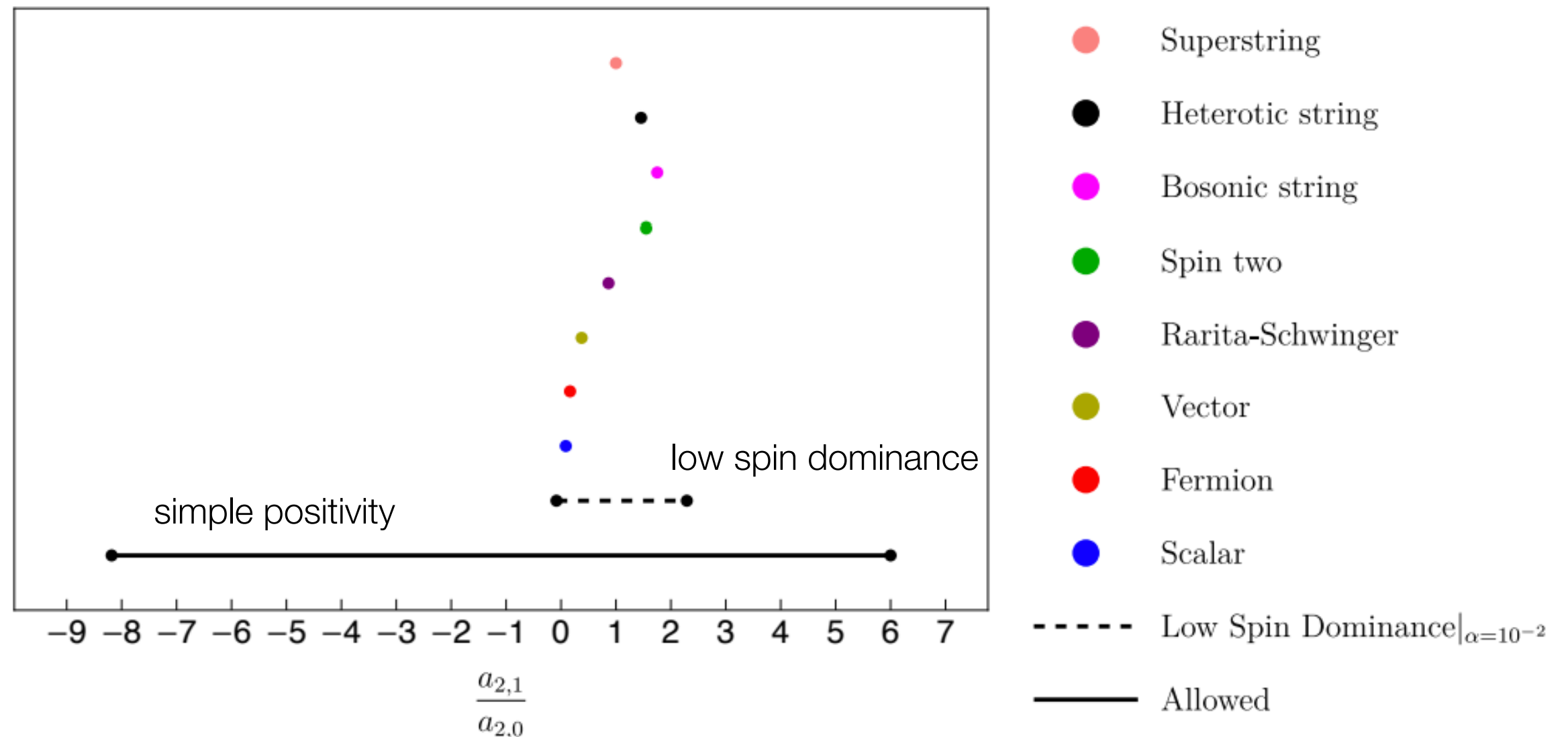
Bounds on gravitational EFT

Bern, Kosmopoulos & Zhiboedov, 2103.12728

Known theories $\ll$ positivity ?

tree level string amplitude

1-loop $hh \rightarrow hh$ amplitude with heavy matter



Multi-field generalization

Partial wave unitary (for identical particle)

$$\text{Im } a_\ell^{iiii} = \sum_X a_\ell^{ii \rightarrow X} (a_\ell^{ii \rightarrow X})^* = \sum_X |a_\ell^{ii \rightarrow X}|^2 > 0$$

use **linear programming** to obtain optimal bounds

Generalized optical theorem (for multiple fields)

$$\text{Im } a_\ell^{ijkl} = \sum_X a_\ell^{ij \rightarrow X} (a_\ell^{kl \rightarrow X})^* \succeq 0$$

use **semi-definite programming** to obtain optimal bounds

SDP with a continuous decision variable

μ : the UV scale; solvable by SDPB

Du, Zhang & **SYZ**, 2111.01169

Bi-scalar theory

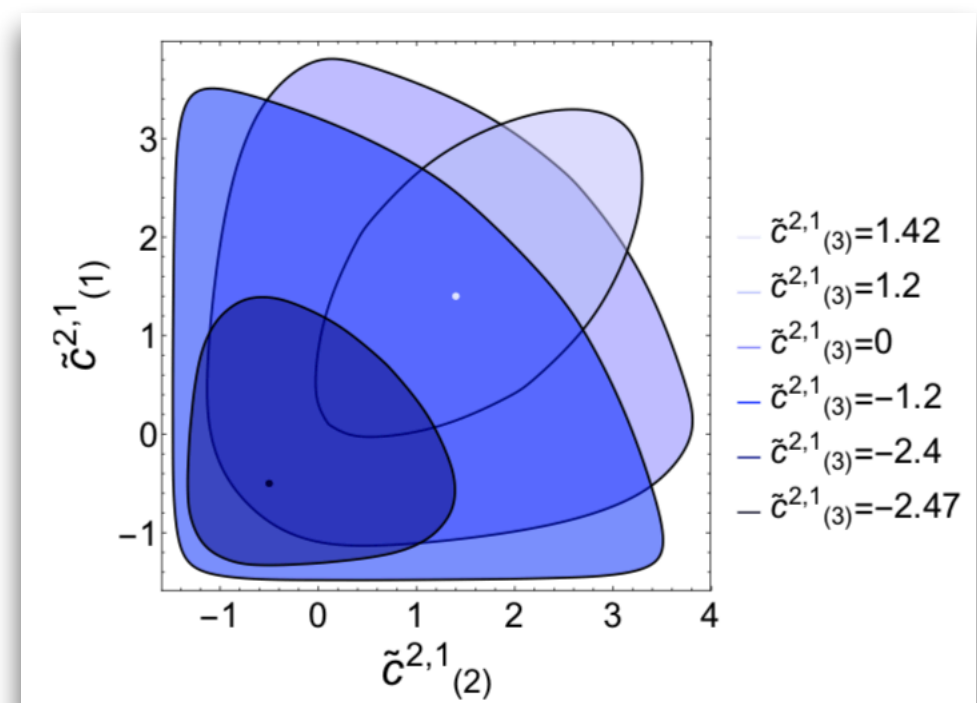
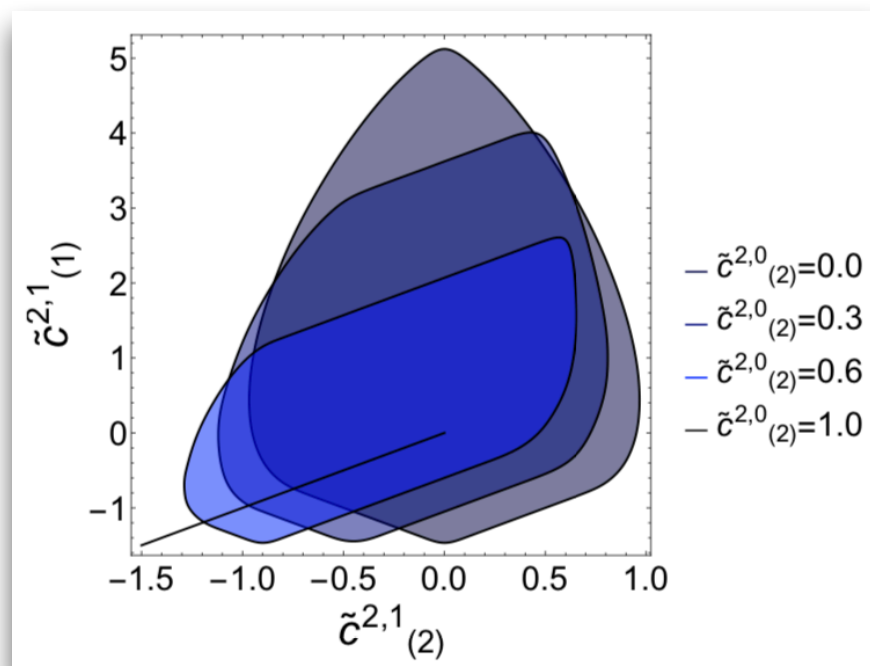
Sum rules

$$c_{ijkl}^{m,n} = \left\langle C_{ijkl}^{m,n} \right\rangle \equiv \left\langle \left[m_{\ell}^{ij} m_{\ell}^{kl} + (-1)^m m_{\ell}^{il} m_{\ell}^{kj} \right] \frac{C_{\ell}^{m,n}}{\mu^{m+n+1}} \right\rangle \quad m_{\ell}^{ij} \sim \text{Im } a_{\ell}^{ij \rightarrow X}$$

and more null constraints

Z_2 bi-scalar theory

Du, Zhang & **SYZ**, 2111.01169



Graviton t -channel pole

Spin-2 pole s^2/t survives twice subtraction

$$\frac{1}{M_{Pl}^2 t} + (\dots) \sim \int_{\Lambda^2}^{\infty} \frac{d\mu}{\mu^3} \text{Im } A(\mu, t) (\dots)$$

Bounds are **not strictly positive**

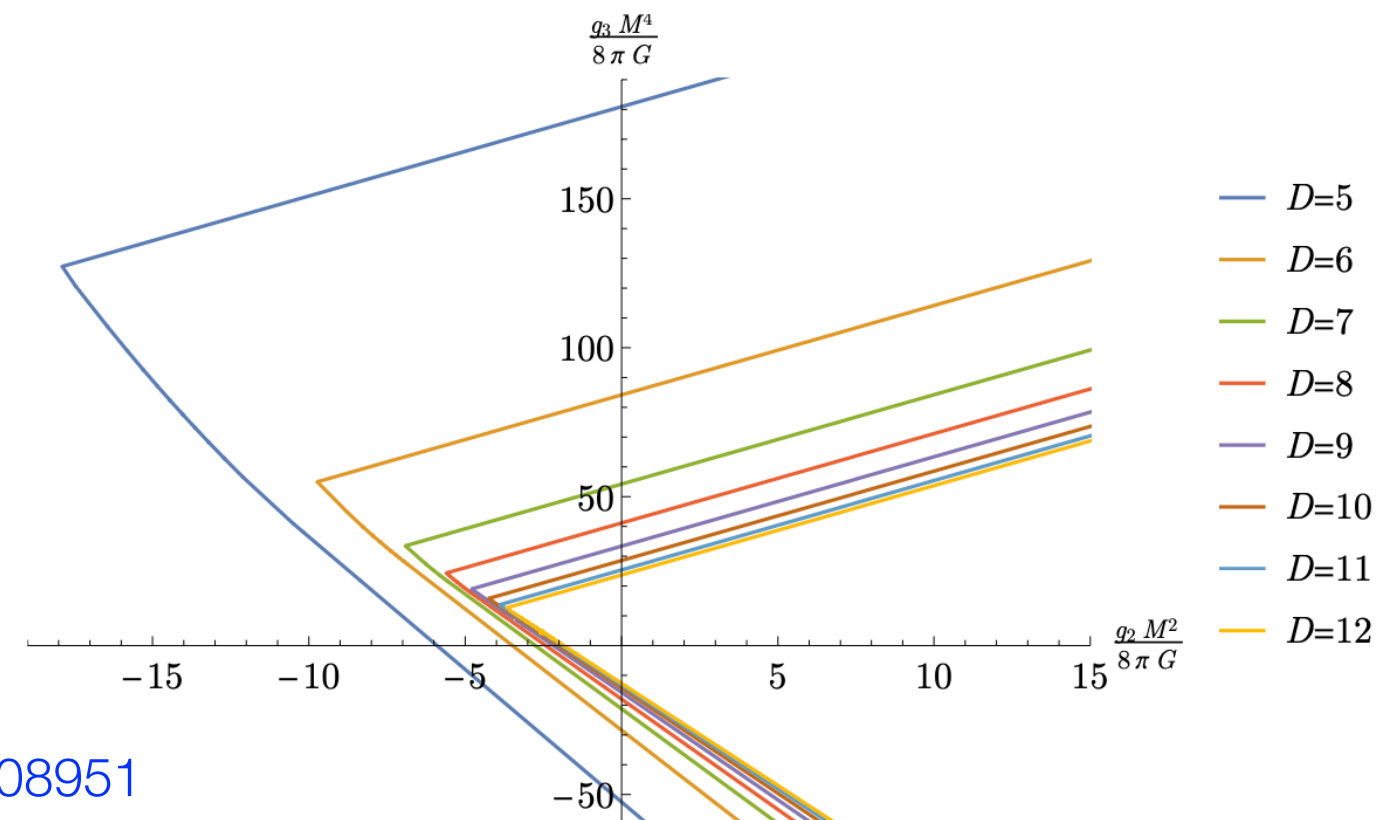
Alberte, de Rham, Jaitly & Tolley, 2007.12667
Tokuda, Aoki & Hirano, 2007.15009

$$a_{2,0} > -\frac{\Lambda^2}{M_{Pl}^2} \times \mathcal{O}(1)$$

Numerical bounds

functional optimization

impact parameter $b = \ell/\mu$

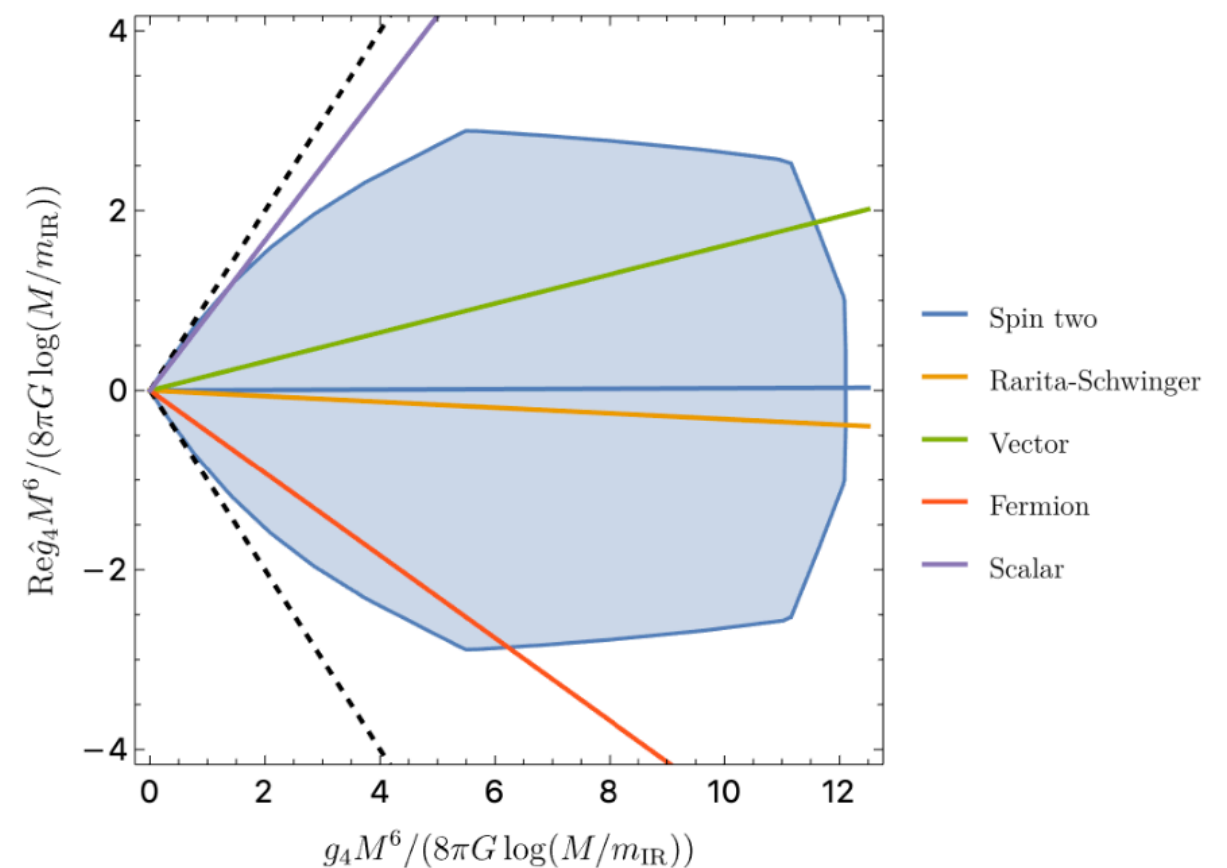
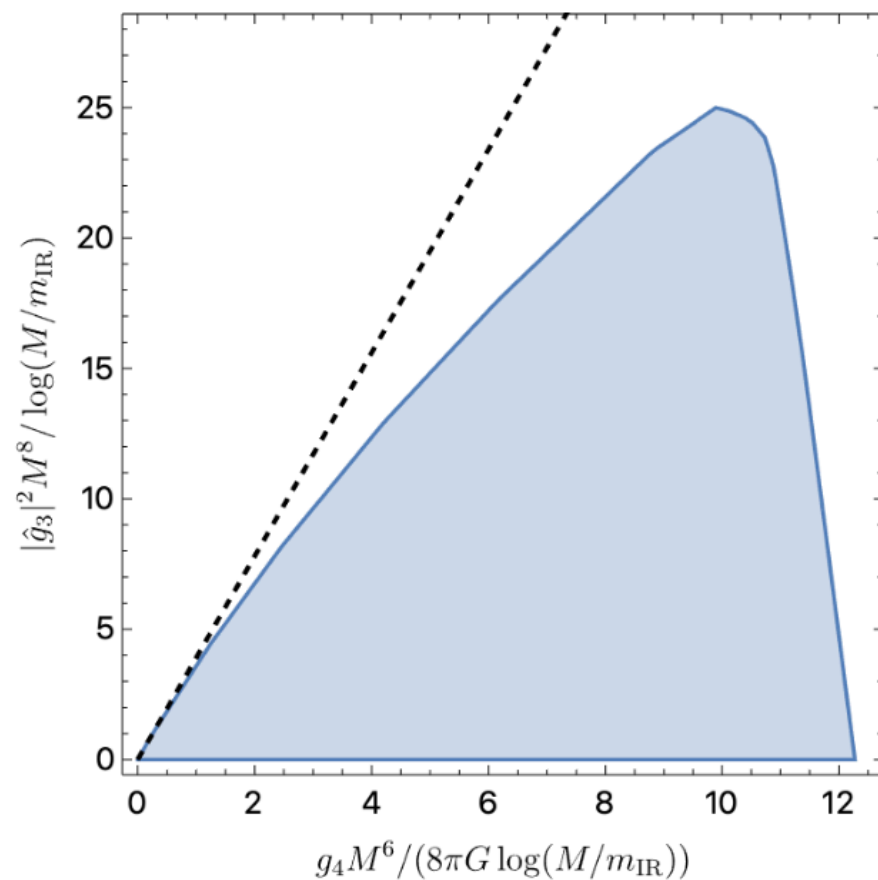


Caron-Huot, Mazac, Rastelli, Simmons-Duffin, 2102.08951

Sharp bounds on gravitational EFT

EFT of Einstein gravity

Caron-hot, Li, Parra-Martinez & Simmons-Duffin, 2201.06602
Chiang, Huang, Li, Rodina & Weng, 2201.07177



EFT of Einstein-Maxwell

Henriksson, McPeak, Russo & Vichi, 2203.08164

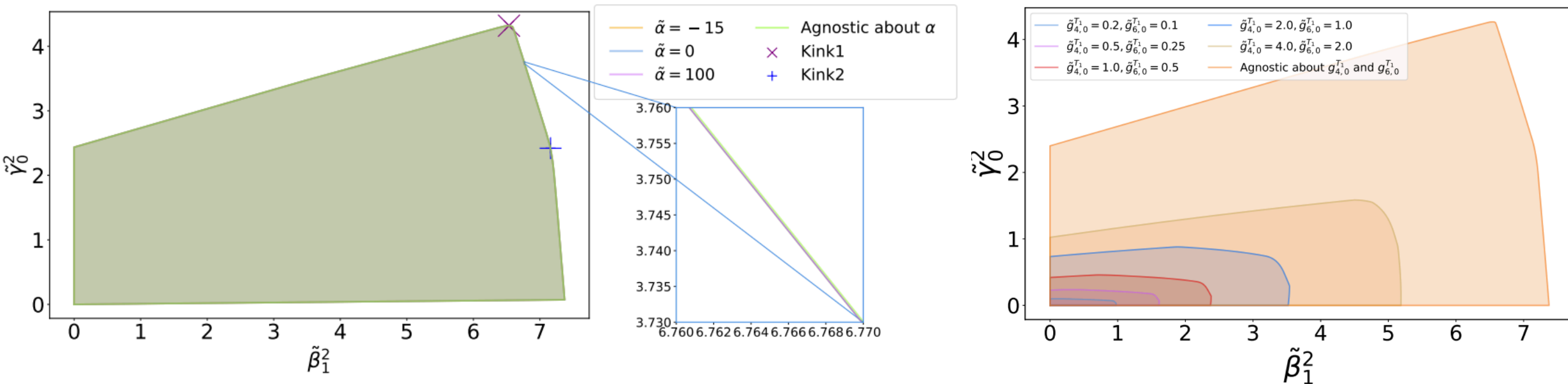
cannot prove weak gravity conjecture with positivity bounds

Bounds on scalar-tensor theory

Hong, Wang, **SYZ**, 2304.01259

Tests of GR in strong gravity with gravitational waves

$$S = \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} \left(\frac{M_P^2}{2} R - \frac{1}{2} \nabla_\mu \phi \nabla^\mu \phi - \frac{\lambda_3}{3!} \phi^3 - \frac{\lambda_4}{4!} \phi^4 + \frac{\alpha}{2} (\nabla_\mu \phi \nabla^\mu \phi)^2 + \frac{\beta_1}{2!} \phi \mathcal{G} + \frac{\beta_2}{4} \phi^2 \mathcal{G} \right. \\ \left. + \frac{\gamma_0}{3!} \mathcal{R}^{(3)} + \frac{\gamma_1}{3!} \phi \mathcal{R}^{(3)} + \frac{\gamma_2}{2} \nabla_\mu \phi \nabla^\mu \phi \mathcal{R}^{(2)} - \frac{4\gamma_3}{3} \nabla_\mu \phi \nabla_\rho \phi \nabla_\nu \nabla_\sigma \phi R^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} + \dots \right)$$



$\phi \mathcal{G}$ and $\phi^2 \mathcal{G}$ generate hair BHs and spontaneous scalarization

$$\mathcal{L} \supset M_P^2 \sqrt{-g} \left(\frac{\mathcal{O}(1)}{\Lambda^2} \phi \mathcal{G} + \frac{\mathcal{O}(1) M_P}{\Lambda^3} \phi^2 \mathcal{G} \right)$$

scalarization is natural!

Positivity bounds in SMEFT

$$A_{ijkl}(s, t) \sim c_{ijkl}^{2,0} s^2 + c_{ijkl}^{2,1} s^2 t + c_{ijkl}^{2,2} s^2 t^2 + \dots$$

- lowest order positivity bounds: dim-8 or (dim-6)²
- phenomenologically more relevant

SMEFT: large DoFs

SM Effective Field Theory (SMEFT)

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{SMEFT}} = \mathcal{L}_{\text{SM}} + \sum_j \frac{c_j^{(6)} O_j^{(6)}}{\Lambda^2} + \sum_i \frac{c_i^{(8)} O_i^{(8)}}{\Lambda^4} + \dots$$

- SM particle contents
- SM symmetries
- Parametrize new physics
- Popular current approach

Standard Model of Elementary Particles

three generations of matter (fermions)						interactions / force carriers (bosons)		
I			II			III		
mass charge spin	$\approx 2.2 \text{ MeV}/c^2$ $\frac{2}{3}$ $\frac{1}{2}$	u up	$\approx 1.28 \text{ GeV}/c^2$ $\frac{2}{3}$ $\frac{1}{2}$	c charm	$\approx 173.1 \text{ GeV}/c^2$ $\frac{2}{3}$ $\frac{1}{2}$	t top	0 0 1	g gluon
	$\approx 4.7 \text{ MeV}/c^2$ $-\frac{1}{3}$ $\frac{1}{2}$	d down	$\approx 96 \text{ MeV}/c^2$ $-\frac{1}{3}$ $\frac{1}{2}$	s strange	$\approx 4.18 \text{ GeV}/c^2$ $-\frac{1}{3}$ $\frac{1}{2}$	b bottom	0 0 1	γ photon
	$\approx 0.511 \text{ MeV}/c^2$ -1 $\frac{1}{2}$	e electron	$\approx 105.66 \text{ MeV}/c^2$ -1 $\frac{1}{2}$	μ muon	$\approx 1.7768 \text{ GeV}/c^2$ -1 $\frac{1}{2}$	τ tau	0 1	Z Z boson
LEPTONS	$< 1.0 \text{ eV}/c^2$ 0 $\frac{1}{2}$	ν_e electron neutrino	$< 0.17 \text{ MeV}/c^2$ 0 $\frac{1}{2}$	ν_μ muon neutrino	$< 18.2 \text{ MeV}/c^2$ 0 $\frac{1}{2}$	ν_τ tau neutrino	$\approx 80.39 \text{ GeV}/c^2$ ± 1 1	W W boson
								H higgs

QUARKS (I, II, III)

LEPTONS (e, μ , τ)

GAUGE BOSONS VECTOR BOSONS (g, γ , Z, W)

SCALAR BOSONS (H)

if consider up to dim-8, or order s^2

still huge parameter space!

How much can positivity bounds reduce the parameter space?

Elastic (forward) positivity bounds

$$A_{ijkl}(s, t) \sim c_{ijkl}^{2,0} s^2 + c_{ijkl}^{2,1} s^2 t + c_{ijkl}^{2,2} s^2 t^2 + \dots$$

Elastic scattering: particle i + particle $j \rightarrow$ particle i + particle j

$$M^{ijij} = c_{2,0}^{ijij} > 0 \quad \text{use optical theorem}$$

Generalized elastic scattering: $a + b \rightarrow a + b$

superposed states $|a\rangle = \sum_i u_i |i\rangle, \quad |b\rangle = \sum_j v_j |j\rangle$

massless limit

u_i, v_i : arbitrary constants

$$M^{abab} = \sum_{ijkl} u_i v_j u_k^* v_l^* M^{ijkl} = \sum_{ijkl} u_i v_j u_k^* v_l^* c_{2,0}^{ijkl} > 0$$

First example: Vector boson scattering

$$V_1 + V_2 \rightarrow V_3 + V_4, \quad V_i \in \{Z, W^+, W^-, \gamma\}$$

$$\begin{aligned} O_{S,0} &= [(D_\mu \Phi)^\dagger D_\nu \Phi] \times [(D^\mu \Phi)^\dagger D^\nu \Phi] \\ O_{S,1} &= [(D_\mu \Phi)^\dagger D^\mu \Phi] \times [(D_\nu \Phi)^\dagger D^\nu \Phi] \\ O_{S,2} &= [(D_\mu \Phi)^\dagger D_\nu \Phi] \times [(D^\nu \Phi)^\dagger D^\mu \Phi] \\ O_{M,0} &= \text{Tr} \left[\hat{W}_{\mu\nu} \hat{W}^{\mu\nu} \right] \times [(D_\beta \Phi)^\dagger D^\beta \Phi] \\ O_{M,1} &= \text{Tr} \left[\hat{W}_{\mu\nu} \hat{W}^{\nu\beta} \right] \times [(D_\beta \Phi)^\dagger D^\mu \Phi] \\ O_{M,2} &= \left[\hat{B}_{\mu\nu} \hat{B}^{\mu\nu} \right] \times [(D_\beta \Phi)^\dagger D^\beta \Phi] \\ O_{M,3} &= \left[\hat{B}_{\mu\nu} \hat{B}^{\nu\beta} \right] \times [(D_\beta \Phi)^\dagger D^\mu \Phi] \\ O_{M,4} &= \left[(D_\mu \Phi)^\dagger \hat{W}_{\beta\nu} D^\mu \Phi \right] \times \hat{B}^{\beta\nu} \\ O_{M,5} &= \left[(D_\mu \Phi)^\dagger \hat{W}_{\beta\nu} D^\nu \Phi \right] \times \hat{B}^{\beta\mu} \\ O_{M,7} &= \left[(D_\mu \Phi)^\dagger \hat{W}_{\beta\nu} \hat{W}^{\beta\mu} D^\nu \Phi \right] \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} O_{T,0} &= \text{Tr} \left[\hat{W}_{\mu\nu} \hat{W}^{\mu\nu} \right] \times \text{Tr} \left[\hat{W}_{\alpha\beta} \hat{W}^{\alpha\beta} \right] \\ O_{T,1} &= \text{Tr} \left[\hat{W}_{\alpha\nu} \hat{W}^{\mu\beta} \right] \times \text{Tr} \left[\hat{W}_{\mu\beta} \hat{W}^{\alpha\nu} \right] \\ O_{T,2} &= \text{Tr} \left[\hat{W}_{\alpha\mu} \hat{W}^{\mu\beta} \right] \times \text{Tr} \left[\hat{W}_{\beta\nu} \hat{W}^{\nu\alpha} \right] \\ O_{T,5} &= \text{Tr} \left[\hat{W}_{\mu\nu} \hat{W}^{\mu\nu} \right] \times \hat{B}_{\alpha\beta} \hat{B}^{\alpha\beta} \\ O_{T,6} &= \text{Tr} \left[\hat{W}_{\alpha\nu} \hat{W}^{\mu\beta} \right] \times \hat{B}_{\mu\beta} \hat{B}^{\alpha\nu} \\ O_{T,7} &= \text{Tr} \left[\hat{W}_{\alpha\mu} \hat{W}^{\mu\beta} \right] \times \hat{B}_{\beta\nu} \hat{B}^{\nu\alpha} \\ O_{T,8} &= \hat{B}_{\mu\nu} \hat{B}^{\mu\nu} \times \hat{B}_{\alpha\beta} \hat{B}^{\alpha\beta} \\ O_{T,9} &= \hat{B}_{\alpha\mu} \hat{B}^{\mu\beta} \times \hat{B}_{\beta\nu} \hat{B}^{\nu\alpha}, \\ O_{T,10} &= \text{Tr}[\hat{W}_{\mu\nu} \tilde{W}^{\mu\nu}] \text{Tr}[\hat{W}_{\alpha\beta} \tilde{W}^{\alpha\beta}], \\ O_{T,11} &= \text{Tr}[\hat{W}_{\mu\nu} \tilde{W}^{\mu\nu}] \hat{B}_{\alpha\beta} \tilde{B}^{\alpha\beta}. \end{aligned}$$

They lead to anomalous Quartic Gauge Couplings (aQGCs)

dim-6 ops require dim-8 ops

If dim-6 ops alone, all elastic positivity bounds are violated

$$\mathcal{O}(\Lambda^{-4}) : \quad \sum_i (-C_i) \left(\sum_j D_j f_j^{(6)} \right)^2 \geq 0, \quad C_i > 0$$

Positivity bounds require the existence of higher dim ops!

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & (\text{dim-8 part}) - (\text{dim-6 part}) > 0 & \\ & \downarrow \text{weak but simpler bounds} & \\ \mathcal{O}(\Lambda^{-4}) : & (\text{dim-8 part}) > 0 & \rightarrow \sum_i E_i f_i^{(8)} \geq 0 \end{array}$$

Elastic positivity bounds on aQGCs

$$M_{S,ij} F_{S,j} > 0$$

$$M_{M,ij} F_{M,j} > 0$$

$$M_{T,ij} F_{T,j} > 0$$

$$M_S = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$M_M = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -2c_W^4 & 0 & -s_W^4 & 0 & s_W^2 c_W^2 & c_W^4 \\ 0 & -2c_W^4 & 0 & -s_W^4 & 0 & -s_W^2 c_W^2 & c_W^4 \\ 0 & -2 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & -2 & 0 & -1 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & -2 & 0 & -1 & 0 & -1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

+ a few nonlinear bounds

$$M^{abab} = \sum_{ijkl} u_i v_j u_k^* v_l^* M^{ijkl} > 0$$

$$F_{S,i} = (F_{S,0}, F_{S,1}, F_{S,2})^T$$

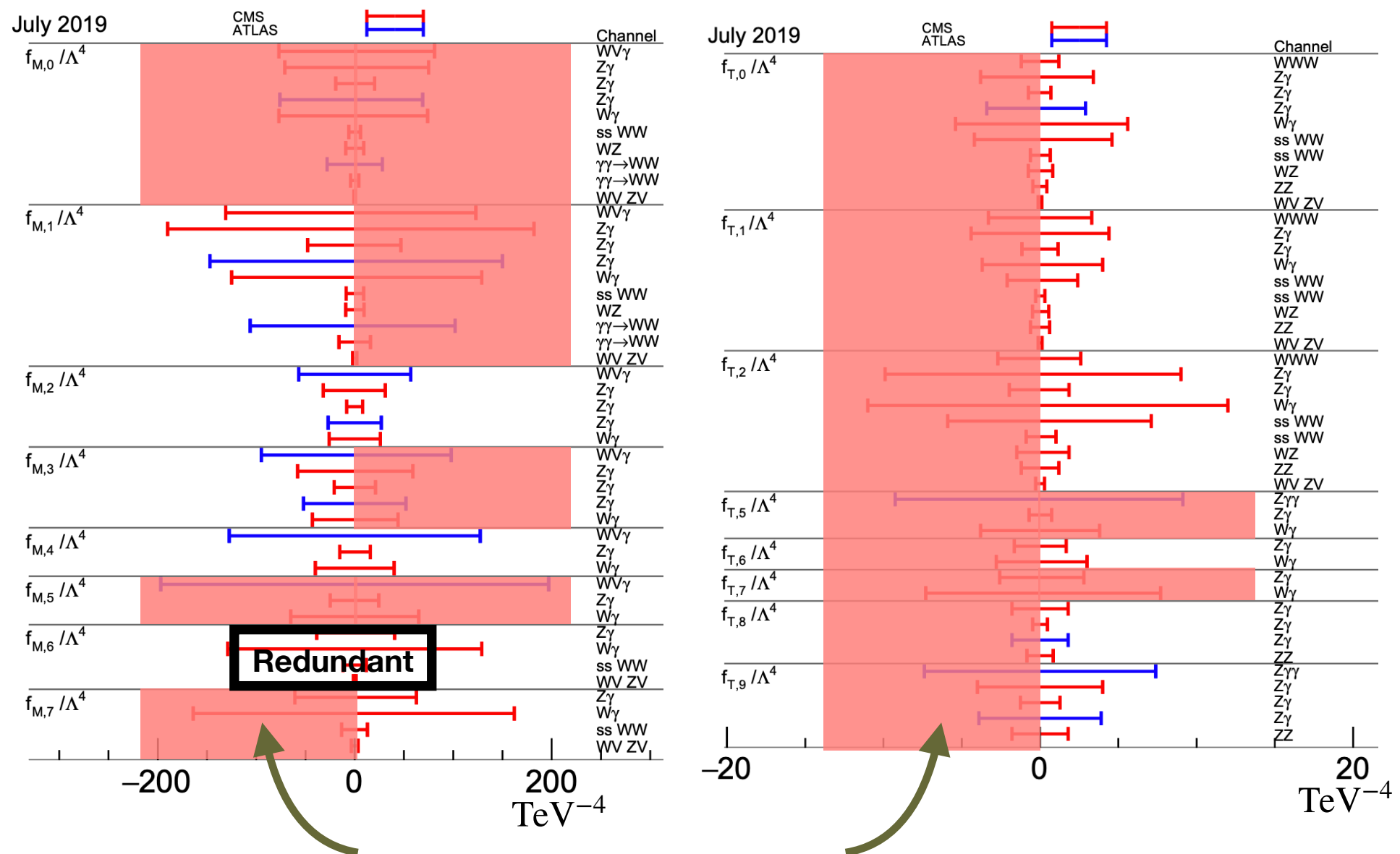
$$F_{M,i} = (F_{M,0}, F_{M,1}, F_{M,2}, F_{M,3}, F_{M,4}, F_{M,5}, F_{M,7})^T$$

$$F_{T,i} = (F_{T,0}, F_{T,1}, F_{T,2}, F_{T,5}, F_{T,6}, F_{T,7}, F_{T,8}, F_{T,9})^T$$

$$M_T = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 2 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 8 & 12 & 5 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 8c_W^8 & 8c_W^8 & 4c_W^8 & 4c_W^4 s_W^4 & 4c_W^4 s_W^4 & 2c_W^4 s_W^4 & 2s_W^8 & s_W^8 & \\ 0 & 0 & 4c_W^8 & 0 & 0 & 2c_W^4 s_W^4 & 0 & s_W^8 & \\ 0 & 0 & 4c_W^4 & 0 & 0 & s_W^4 & 0 & 0 & \\ 0 & 16c_W^4 & 4c_W^4 & 0 & 4s_W^4 & s_W^4 & 0 & 0 & \\ 0 & 0 & 4 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & \\ 0 & 16 & 4 & 0 & 4 & 1 & 0 & 0 & \\ 0 & 0 & 8c_W^4 & 0 & 0 & (c_W^2 - s_W^2)^2 & 0 & 2s_W^4 & \\ 32c_W^4 & 32c_W^4 & 16c_W^4 & -16c_W^2 s_W^2 & 4(c_W^2 - s_W^2)^2 & 1 - 8s_W^2 c_W^2 & 8s_W^4 & 4s_W^4 & \\ 0 & 0 & 4 & 0 & 0 & 2 & 0 & 1 & \\ 8 & 8 & 4 & 4 & 4 & 2 & 2 & 1 & \end{pmatrix}$$

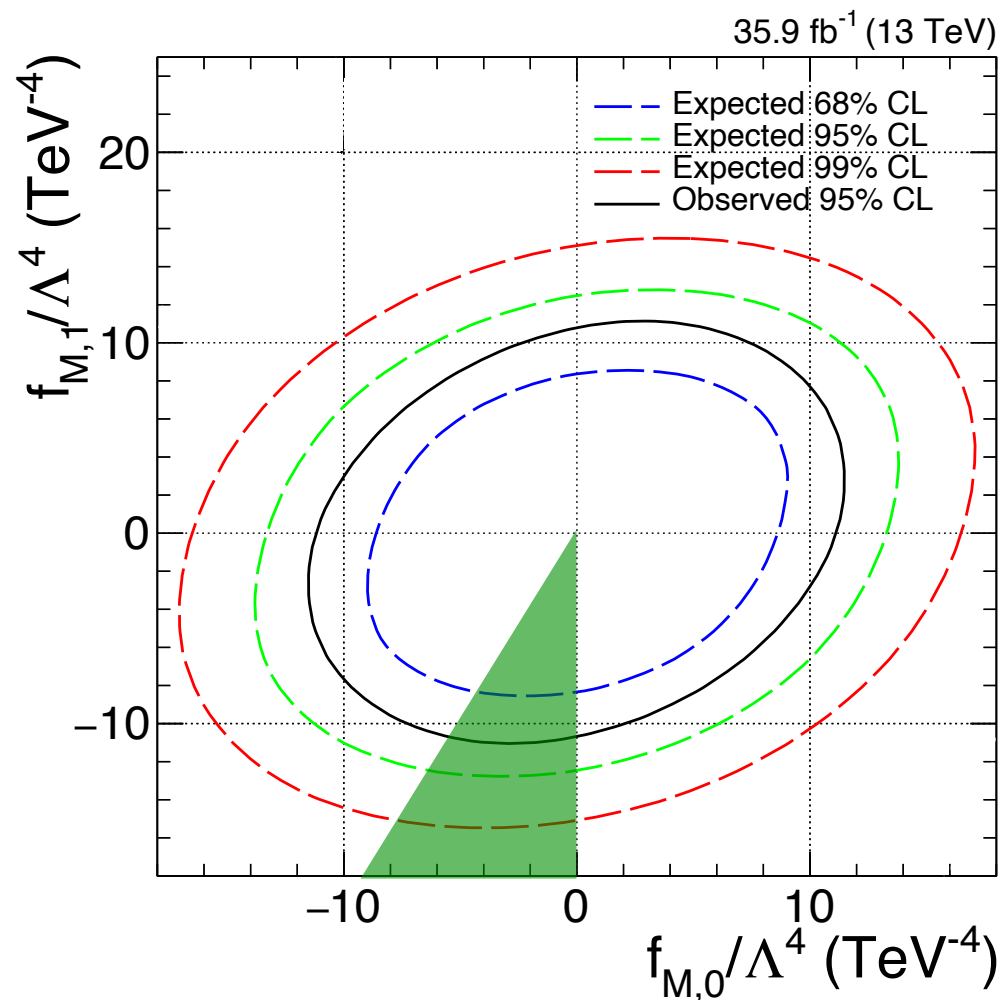
Positivity vs experimental bounds (1D bounds)

Constraining aGQC in VBS

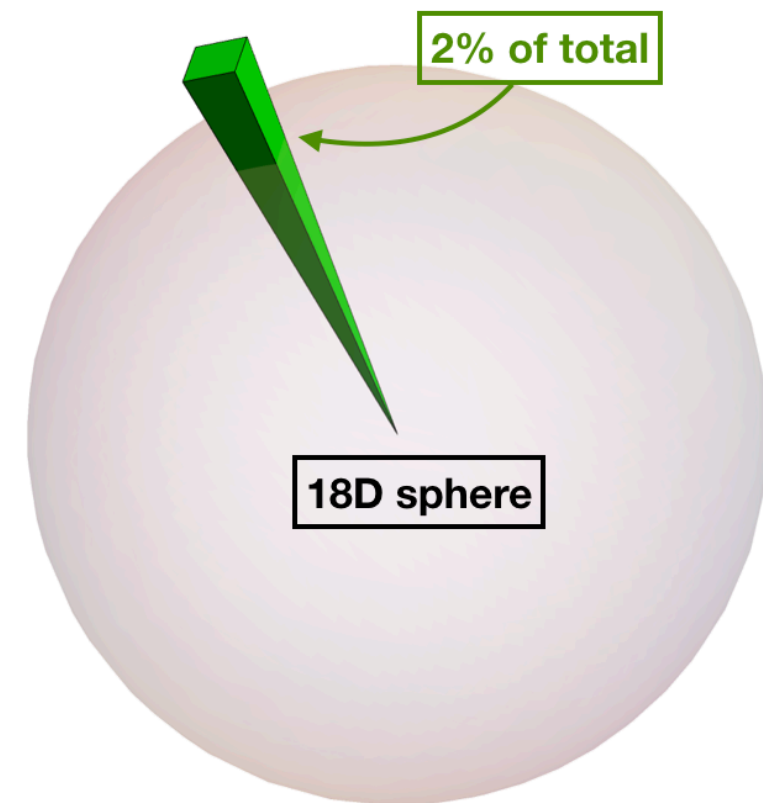


Higher dimensional bounds

O_{M0} and O_{M1}



Space of 18 Wilson coeffs for aQGCs



Only ~**2%** of the total aQGC parameter space admits an analytic UV completion!

Example: Flavor constraints from positivity

Consider 4-fermion scattering

Flavor-violating couplings bounded by
flavor-conserving couplings

$$\text{eg: } |\mathcal{C}_{1231}|^2 < \mathcal{C}_{1221}\mathcal{C}_{1331}$$

lepton no, strong isospin, strangeness, CP, etc

Application [Rodd & Remmen, PRL, 2004.02885](#)

eg: Mu3e experiment targets $c_{1112}^{e,1}$ with

$$\text{Br}(\mu \rightarrow 3e) \sim 10^{-16} - 10^{-12} \text{ requires } c_{1112}^{e,1} \gtrsim (300 \text{ GeV})^{-4}$$

$$\text{Positivity: } |c_{1112}^{e,1}|^2 < c_{1111}^{e,1} c_{2112}^{e,1}$$

$$\text{LEP: } c_{2112}^{e,1}, c_{1111}^{e,1} \lesssim (500 \text{ GeV})^{-4}$$

LEP preclude certain operators in upcoming $\mu \rightarrow 3e$ experiment

$$\mathcal{O}_1[\psi] = -c_{mnpq}^{\psi,1} \partial_\mu J_\nu[\psi]_{mn} \partial^\mu J^\nu[\psi]_{pq},$$

$$\mathcal{O}_2[\psi] = -c_{mnpq}^{\psi,2} \partial_\mu J_\nu[\psi]_{mn}^I \partial^\mu J^\nu[\psi]_{pq}^I,$$

$$\mathcal{O}_3[\psi] = -c_{mnpq}^{\psi,3} \partial_\mu J_\nu[\psi]_{mn}^a \partial^\mu J^\nu[\psi]_{pq}^a,$$

$$\mathcal{O}_4[Q] = -c_{mnpq}^{Q,4} \partial_\mu J_\nu[Q]_{mn}^{Ia} \partial^\mu J^\nu[Q]_{pq}^{Ia}.$$

$$\mathcal{O}_{J1}[\psi, \chi] = -b_{mnpq}^{\psi\chi,1} \partial_\mu J_\nu[\psi]_{mq} \partial^\mu J^\nu[\chi]_{np},$$

$$\mathcal{O}_{J2}[Q, L] = -b_{mnpq}^{QL,2} \partial_\mu J_\nu[Q]_{mq}^I \partial^\mu J^\nu[L]_{np}^I,$$

$$\mathcal{O}_{J3}[\psi, \chi] = -b_{mnpq}^{\psi\chi,3} \partial_\mu J_\nu[\psi]_{mq}^a \partial^\mu J^\nu[\chi]_{np}^a,$$

$$\mathcal{O}_{K1}[\psi, \chi] = -a_{mnpq}^{\psi\chi,1} K_{\mu\nu}[\psi]_{mq} K^{\nu\mu}[\chi]_{np},$$

$$\mathcal{O}_{K2}[Q, L] = -a_{mnpq}^{QL,2} K_{\mu\nu}[Q]_{mq}^I K^{\nu\mu}[L]_{np}^I,$$

$$\mathcal{O}_{K3}[\psi, \chi] = -a_{mnpq}^{\psi\chi,3} K_{\mu\nu}[\psi]_{mq}^a K^{\nu\mu}[\chi]_{np}^a,$$

Stronger positivity bounds?

Is it possible such that

$$M^{abab} = \sum_{ijkl} u_i v_j u_k^* v_l^* M^{ijkl} = \sum_{ijkl} u_i v_j u_k^* v_l^* c_{2,0}^{ijkl} > 0$$

$$M^T = \sum_{ijkl} T_{ijkl} M^{ijkl} > 0, \text{ and } \{T_{ijkl}\} \supset \{u_i v_j u_k^* v_l^*\} ?$$

Yes, T_{ijkl} is more than $u_i v_j u_k^* v_l^*$!

Example: W -boson scatterings in SMEFT

$$F_{T,2} \geq 0, \quad 4F_{T,1} + F_{T,2} \geq 0$$

$$F_{T,2} + 8F_{T,10} \geq 0, \quad 8F_{T,0} + 4F_{T,1} + 3F_{T,2} \geq 0$$

$$12F_{T,0} + 4F_{T,1} + 5F_{T,2} + 4F_{T,10} \geq 0$$

$$4F_{T,0} + 4F_{T,1} + 3F_{T,2} + 12F_{T,10} \geq 0$$

$$\text{old: } |a\rangle |b\rangle \rightarrow |a\rangle |b\rangle$$

$$\text{new: } |U\rangle \rightarrow |U\rangle$$

scatterings of entangled states

$$T_{ijkl} \sim \sum_n \lambda_n U_{ij}^n U_{kl}^n$$

Best bounds from ERs of $\mathcal{T}$ cone

generalized optical theorem

$$\rightarrow T_{ijkl} \in \mathcal{T} \equiv \mathcal{T}^+ \cap \vec{\mathcal{S}} \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \mathcal{T}^+ \equiv \left\{ T_{ijkl} \mid T_{ij,kl} \succeq 0 \right\} \\ \vec{\mathcal{S}} \equiv \left\{ T_{ijkl} \mid T_{ijkl} = T_{ilkj} = T_{kjil} = T_{jilk} \right\} \end{array} \right.$$

$\mathcal{T}$ is a spectrahedron

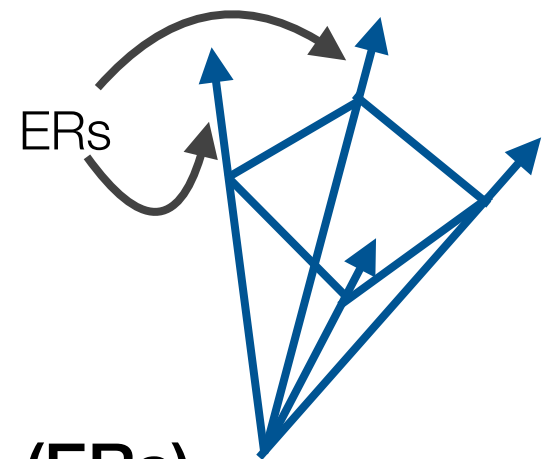
Li, Xu, Yang, Zhang & **SYZ**, PRL, 2101.01191

(spectrahedron) = (convex cone of PSD matrices) $\cap$ affine-linear space

To get best bounds, find all ERs of $\mathcal{T}$

all elements of $\mathcal{T}$: $T_{ijkl} = \sum_p \alpha_p T_{ijkl}^{(p)}, \alpha_p > 0$

p enumerates all **Extreme Rays (ERs)**



Best positivity bounds:

$$\sum_{ijkl} T_{ijkl}^{(p)} M^{ijkl} > 0$$

Semi-definite program (SDP)

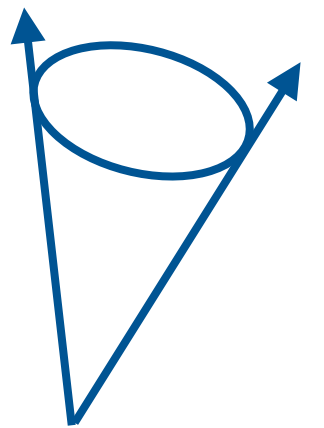
spectrahedron is parameter space of a semi-definite program

Use SDP to find best positivity bounds

$$\text{minimize: } \sum_{ijkl} T_{ijkl} M^{ijkl}$$

$$\text{subject to: } T_{ijkl} \in \mathcal{T} \equiv \mathcal{T}^+ \cap \vec{\mathbf{S}}$$

$\min(T \cdot M) > 0$, then M^{ijkl} is within positivity bounds



Compared to elastic approach ($uvuvM > 0$)

- **stronger bounds**
- **more efficient (polynomial complexity)**

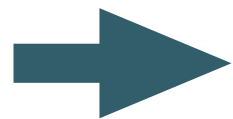
Convex cone $\mathcal{C}$ of amplitudes

$$\mathcal{C} \equiv \{M^{ijkl}\} = \text{cone} \left(\{m^{i(j}m^{k|l)}\} \right) \quad m^{ij} \sim M^{ij \rightarrow X}$$

X : intermediate state

$\mathcal{C}$ is dual cone of $\mathcal{T}$: $\mathcal{T} \equiv \left\{ T^{ijkl} \mid T \cdot M \equiv \sum_{ijkl} T_{ijkl} M^{ijkl} > 0 \right\}$

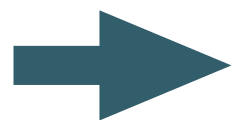
For m^{ij} to be extremal, it can not be split to two amplitudes



$$m_{(\text{ER})}^{ij} \sim M^{ij \rightarrow X_{\text{irrep}}} \sim C_{i,j}^{r,\alpha}$$

CG coefficient

Get $\mathcal{C}$ cone by symmetries of EFT



$$\mathcal{C} = \text{cone} \left(\{P_r^{i(j|k|l)}\} \right)$$

$$P_r^{ijkl} \equiv \sum_{\alpha} C_{i,j}^{r,\alpha} \left(C_{k,l}^{r,\alpha} \right)^*$$

group projector

The inverse problem

Structure of $\mathcal{C}$ cone implies

Zhang & SYZ, PRL, 2005.03047

Extremal Ray



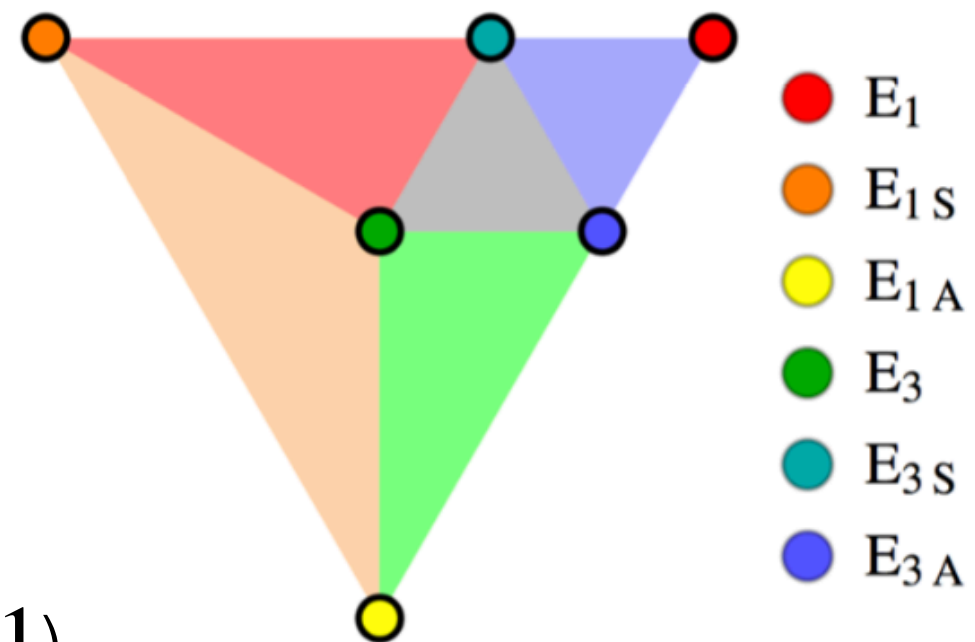
UV Particle

Example: Higgs $\mathcal{C}$ cone in SMEFT

Wilson coeffs fall in blue region

E_1 must exit

new UV state ($SU(2)_L$ singlet, $Y = 1$)



$P_r^{i(j|k|l)}$

**ERs of $\mathcal{C}$ (or dim-8 operators) are important
to reverse-engineer UV physics!**

Zhang, 2112.11665

VBS and 4-gluon interactions

- Transversal VBS

10D parameter space: 0.681%

Yamashita, Zhang & **SYZ**, 2009.04490

$$\begin{aligned}
 O_{T,0} &= \text{Tr}[\hat{W}_{\mu\nu}\hat{W}^{\mu\nu}]\text{Tr}[\hat{W}_{\alpha\beta}\hat{W}^{\alpha\beta}] \\
 O_{T,2} &= \text{Tr}[\hat{W}_{\alpha\mu}\hat{W}^{\mu\beta}]\text{Tr}[\hat{W}_{\beta\nu}\hat{W}^{\nu\alpha}] \\
 O_{T,5} &= \text{Tr}[\hat{W}_{\mu\nu}\hat{W}^{\mu\nu}]\hat{B}_{\alpha\beta}\hat{B}^{\alpha\beta} \\
 O_{T,7} &= \text{Tr}[\hat{W}_{\alpha\mu}\hat{W}^{\mu\beta}]\hat{B}_{\beta\nu}\hat{B}^{\nu\alpha} \\
 O_{T,8} &= \hat{B}_{\mu\nu}\hat{B}^{\mu\nu}\hat{B}_{\alpha\beta}\hat{B}^{\alpha\beta} \\
 O_{T,1} &= \text{Tr}[\hat{W}_{\alpha\nu}\hat{W}^{\mu\beta}]\text{Tr}[\hat{W}_{\mu\beta}\hat{W}^{\alpha\nu}] \\
 O_{T,10} &= \text{Tr}[\hat{W}_{\mu\nu}\tilde{W}^{\mu\nu}]\text{Tr}[\hat{W}_{\alpha\beta}\tilde{W}^{\alpha\beta}] \\
 O_{T,6} &= \text{Tr}[\hat{W}_{\alpha\nu}\hat{W}^{\mu\beta}]\hat{B}_{\mu\beta}\hat{B}^{\alpha\nu} \\
 O_{T,11} &= \text{Tr}[\hat{W}_{\mu\nu}\tilde{W}^{\mu\nu}]\hat{B}_{\alpha\beta}\tilde{B}^{\alpha\beta} \\
 O_{T,9} &= \hat{B}_{\alpha\mu}\hat{B}^{\mu\beta}\hat{B}_{\beta\nu}\hat{B}^{\nu\alpha}
 \end{aligned}$$

- 4-gluon SMEFT operators

7D parameter space: 1.6628%

obtained bounds both in $\mathcal{C}$ and $\mathcal{T}$ cone

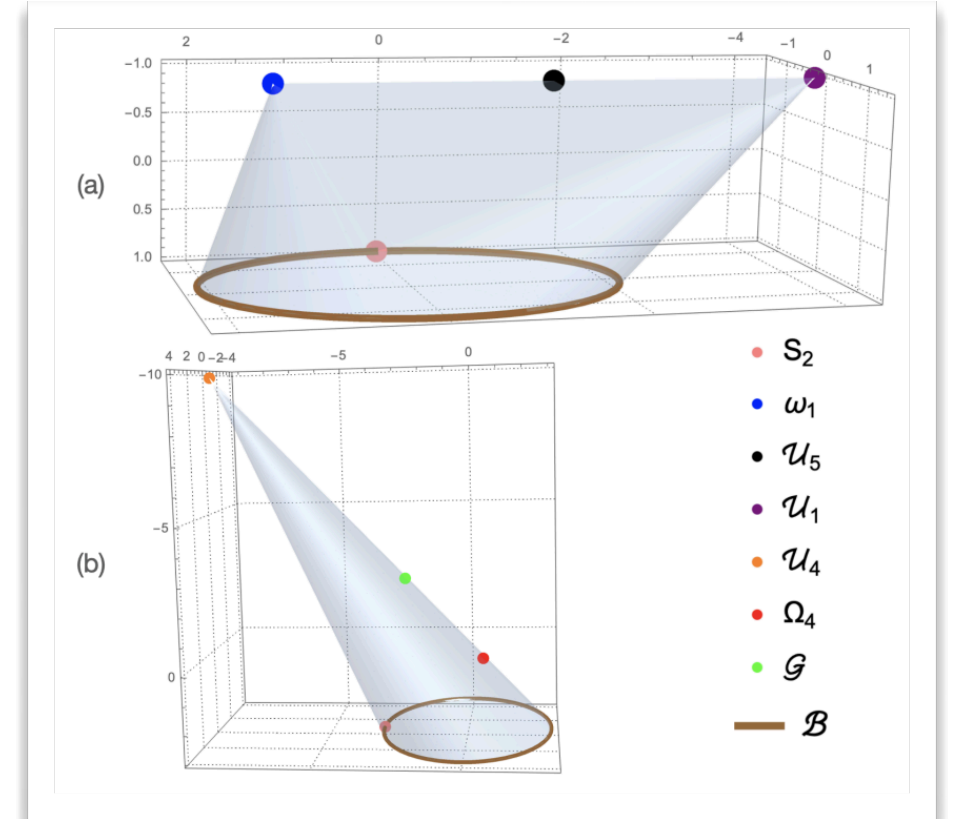
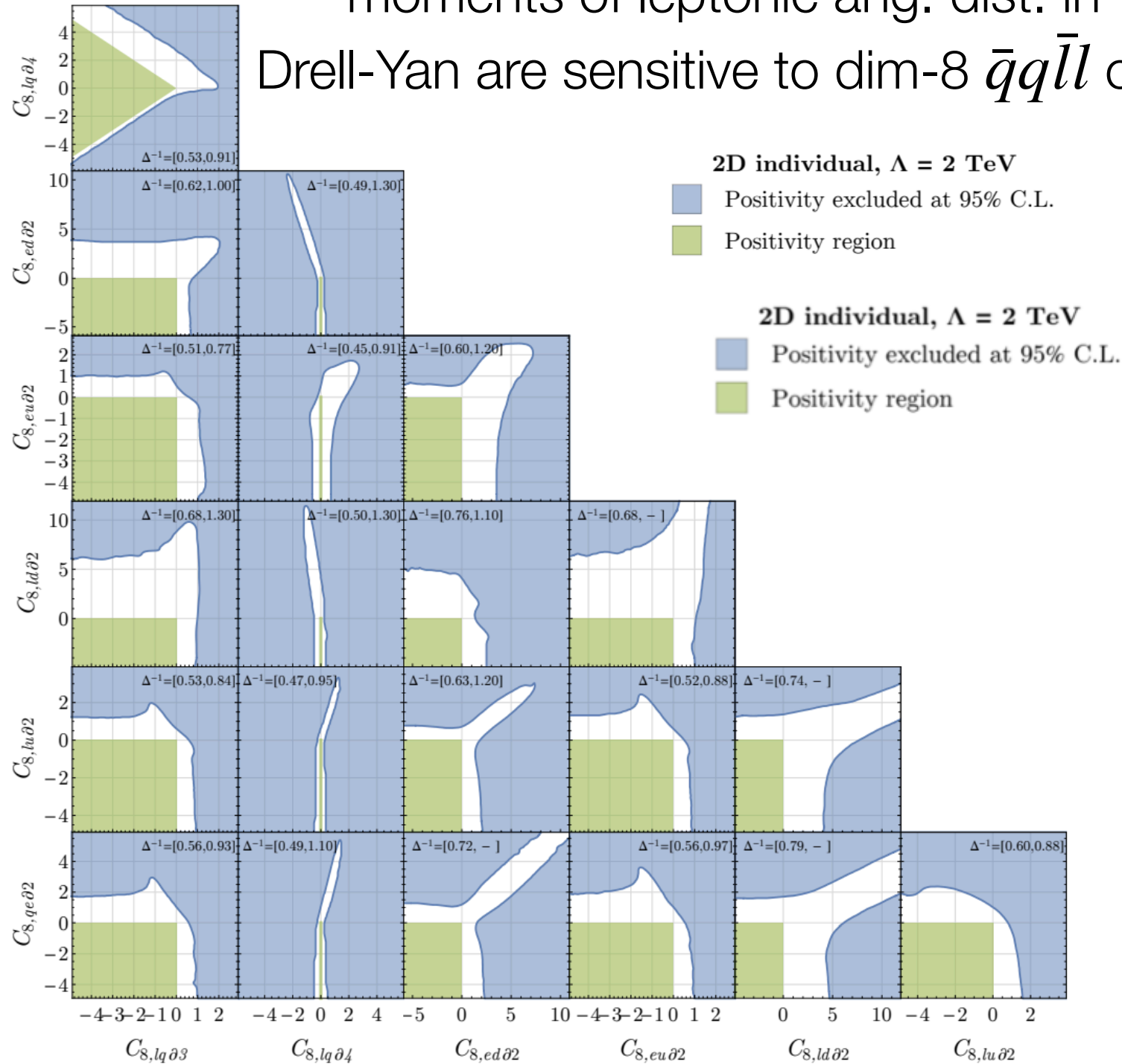
Li, Xu, Yang, Zhang & **SYZ**, PRL, 2101.01191

$Q_{G^4}^{(1)}$	$(G_{\mu\nu}^A G^{A\mu\nu})(G_{\rho\sigma}^B G^{B\rho\sigma})$
$Q_{G^4}^{(2)}$	$(G_{\mu\nu}^A \tilde{G}^{A\mu\nu})(G_{\rho\sigma}^B \tilde{G}^{B\rho\sigma})$
$Q_{G^4}^{(3)}$	$(G_{\mu\nu}^A G^{B\mu\nu})(G_{\rho\sigma}^A G^{B\rho\sigma})$
$Q_{G^4}^{(4)}$	$(G_{\mu\nu}^A \tilde{G}^{B\mu\nu})(G_{\rho\sigma}^A \tilde{G}^{B\rho\sigma})$
$Q_{G^4}^{(7)}$	$d^{ABE} d^{CDE} (G_{\mu\nu}^A G^{B\mu\nu})(G_{\rho\sigma}^C G^{D\rho\sigma})$
$Q_{G^4}^{(8)}$	$d^{ABE} d^{CDE} (G_{\mu\nu}^A \tilde{G}^{B\mu\nu})(G_{\rho\sigma}^C \tilde{G}^{D\rho\sigma})$
Q_G	$f^{ABC} G_{\mu}^{A\nu} G_{\nu}^{B\rho} G_{\rho}^{C\mu}$

Test positivity with Drell-Yan at LHC

Li, Mimasu, Yamashita, Yang, Zhang & **SYZ**, 2204.13121

moments of leptonic ang. dist. in
Drell-Yan are sensitive to dim-8 $\bar{q}q\bar{l}l$ ops

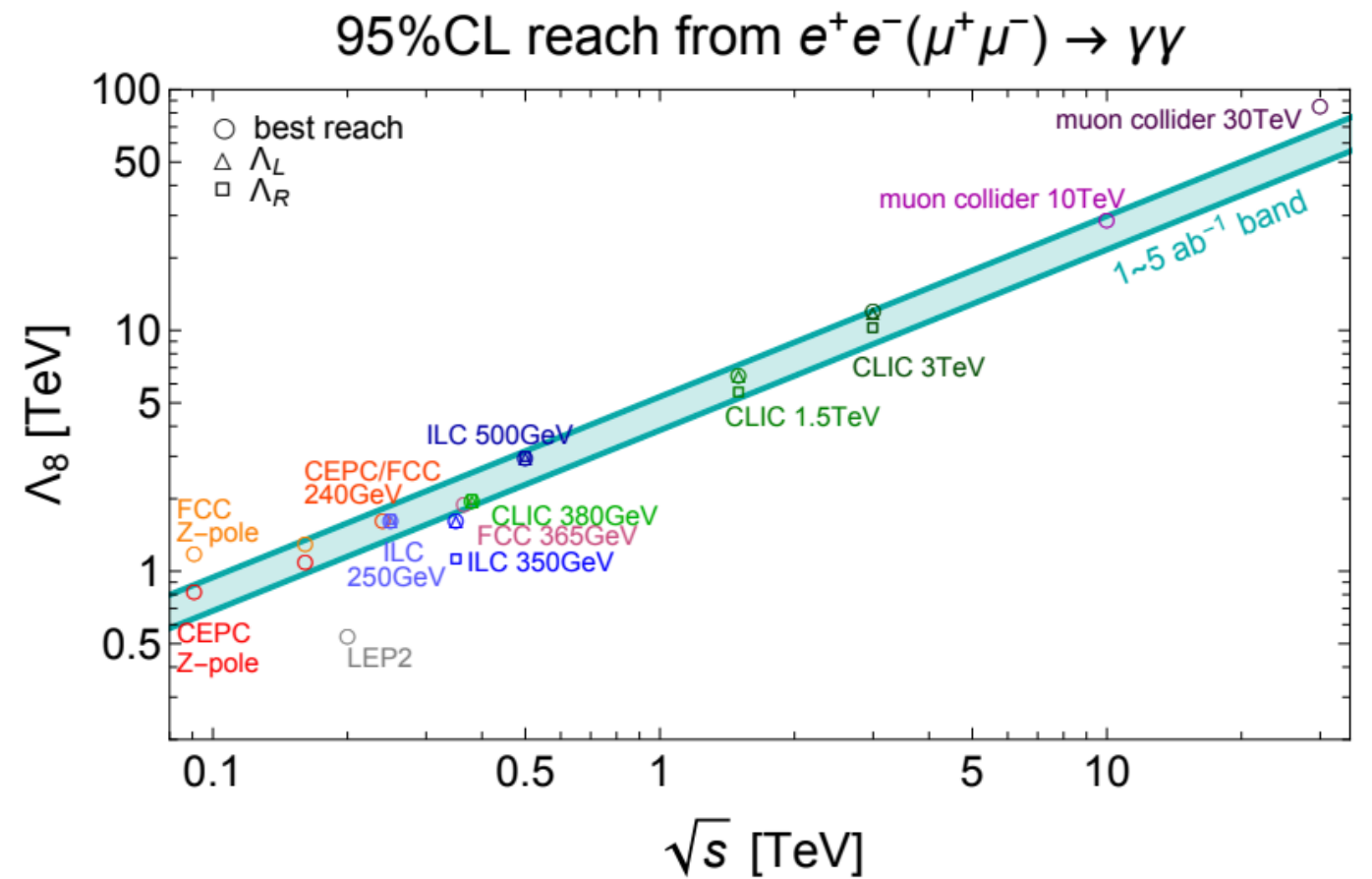
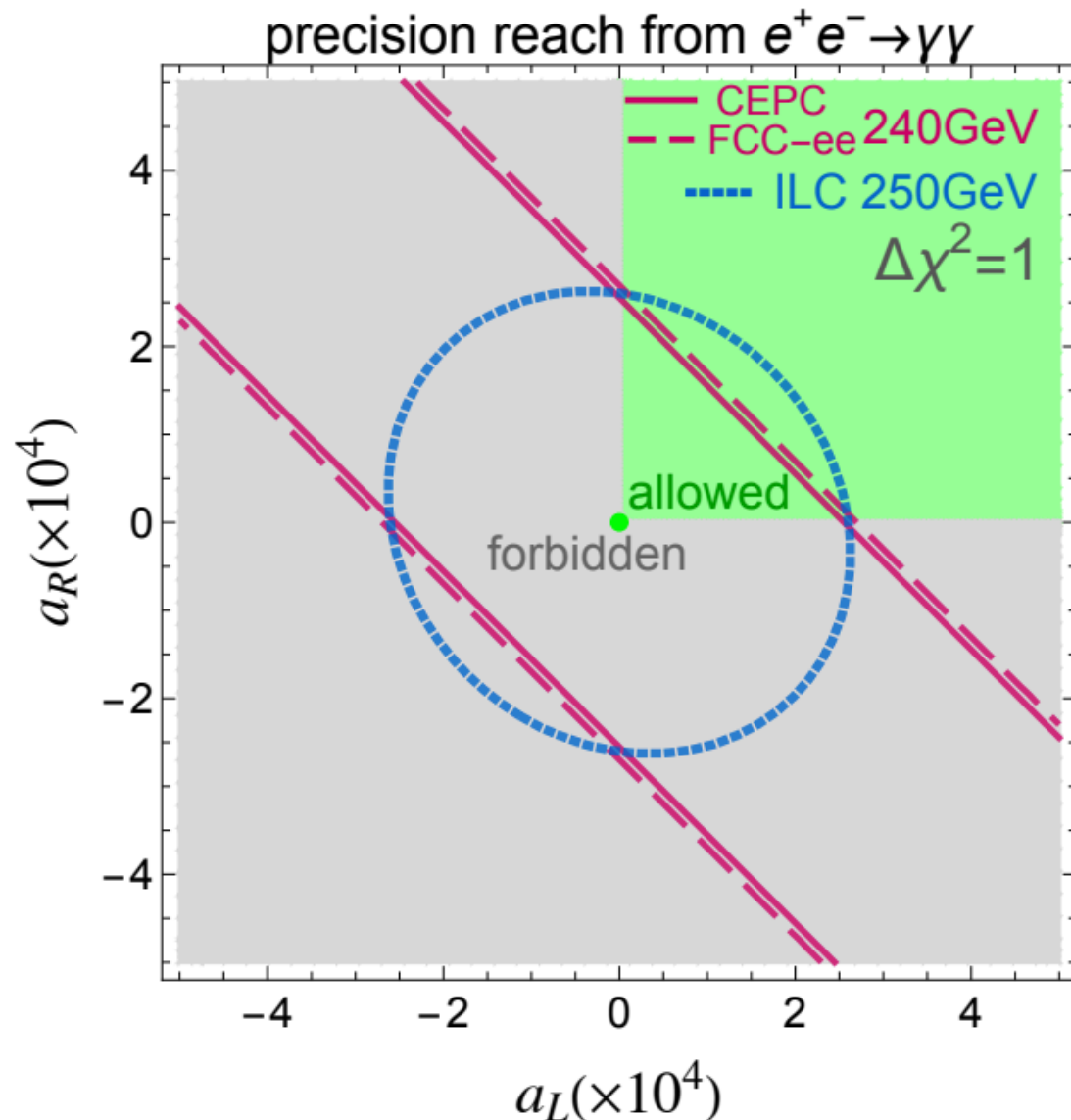


UV particle H	$\lambda_{\max} [\text{TeV}^{-4}]$	$\frac{M_H}{\sqrt{g_H}} [\text{TeV}]$
S_2	0.0015	≥ 5.1
$\mathcal{U}_4$	1.2	≥ 0.95
Ω_4	1.1	≥ 0.97
ω_1	0.092	≥ 1.8
$\mathcal{U}_5$	0.046	≥ 2.2
$\mathcal{B}$	0.00075	≥ 6.1
$\mathcal{G}$	2.5	≥ 0.80
$\mathcal{U}_1$	0.092	≥ 1.8

Unambiguous test of positivity at lepton colliders

Leading diphoton channel is from dim-8 [Gu, Wang & Zhang, PRL, 2011.03055](#)

$$e^+e^-(\mu^+\mu^-) \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$$



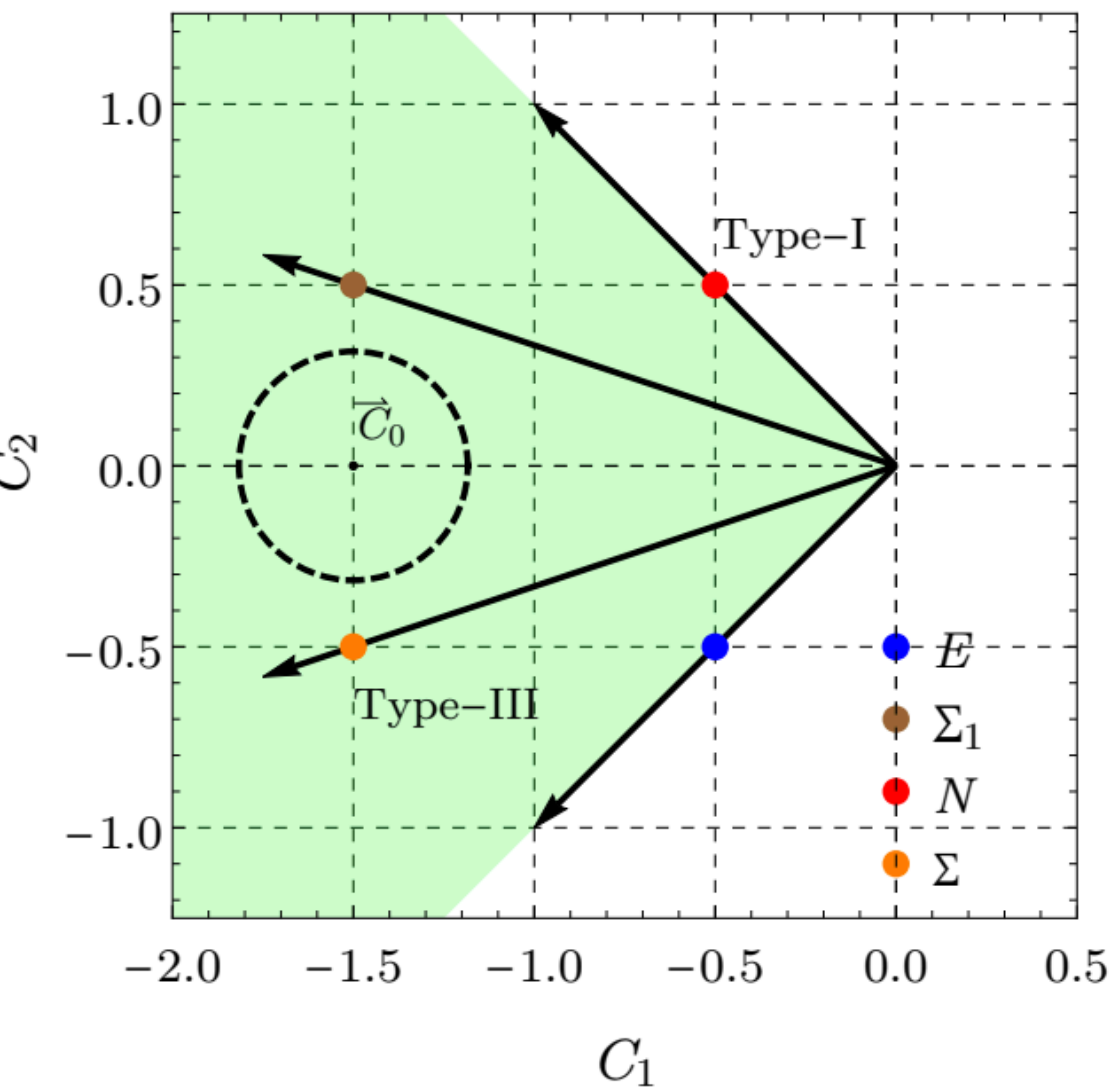
$$a_L = -2 \frac{v^4}{\Lambda^4} \left(c_W^2 c_{l^2 B^2 D} - 2 s_W c_W c_{l^2 W B D}^{(2)} + s_W^2 c_{l^2 W^2 D}^{(1)} \right)$$

$$a_R = -2 \frac{v^4}{\Lambda^4} \left(c_W^2 c_{e^2 B^2 D} + s_W^2 c_{e^2 W^2 D} \right)$$

Positivity cone and neutrino seesaw types

UV State	Spin	$SU(2)_L \otimes U(1)_Y$	Interaction	Seesaw	Extremal Ray	$\vec{c}$
N	$1/2$	$\mathbf{1}_0$	$g\bar{N} (H^T \epsilon L)$	Type-I	✓	$\frac{1}{2}(-1, 1, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0)$
Σ	$1/2$	$\mathbf{3}_0$	$g\bar{\Sigma}^I (H^T \epsilon \sigma^I L)$	Type-III	✗	$\frac{1}{2}(-3, -1, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0)$
Ξ_1	0	$\mathbf{3}_1$	$g\Xi_1^I [M(H^\dagger \epsilon \sigma^I H^*) + x(\bar{L}^c \epsilon \sigma^I L)]$	Type-II	✗	$\frac{1}{2}(0, 0, -3x^2, -x^2, 0, 16, 0)$

Li & Zhou, 2202.12907



$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathcal{O}_1 &= (\bar{L} \gamma_\mu i \overleftrightarrow{D}_\nu L) (D^\mu H^\dagger D^\nu H), \\
 \mathcal{O}_2 &= (\bar{L} \gamma_\mu \sigma^I i \overleftrightarrow{D}_\nu L) (D^\mu H^\dagger \sigma^I D^\nu H) \\
 \mathcal{O}_3 &= \partial_\nu (\bar{L} \gamma^\mu L) \partial^\nu (\bar{L} \gamma_\mu L), \\
 \mathcal{O}_4 &= \partial_\nu (\bar{L} \gamma^\mu \sigma^I L) \partial^\nu (\bar{L} \gamma_\mu \sigma^I L) \\
 \mathcal{O}_5 &= (D_\mu H^\dagger D_\nu H) (D^\nu H^\dagger D^\mu H) \\
 \mathcal{O}_6 &= (D_\mu H^\dagger D_\nu H) (D^\mu H^\dagger D^\nu H) \\
 \mathcal{O}_7 &= (D_\mu H^\dagger D^\mu H) (D_\nu H^\dagger D^\nu H)
 \end{aligned}$$

only type-I seesaw is an Extremal Ray

type-II and type III live inside positivity cone

Higgs sector: 1 loop corrections

Li, 2212.12227

Improved positivity bounds [de Rham, Melville, Tolley & SYZ, 1702.08577](#)

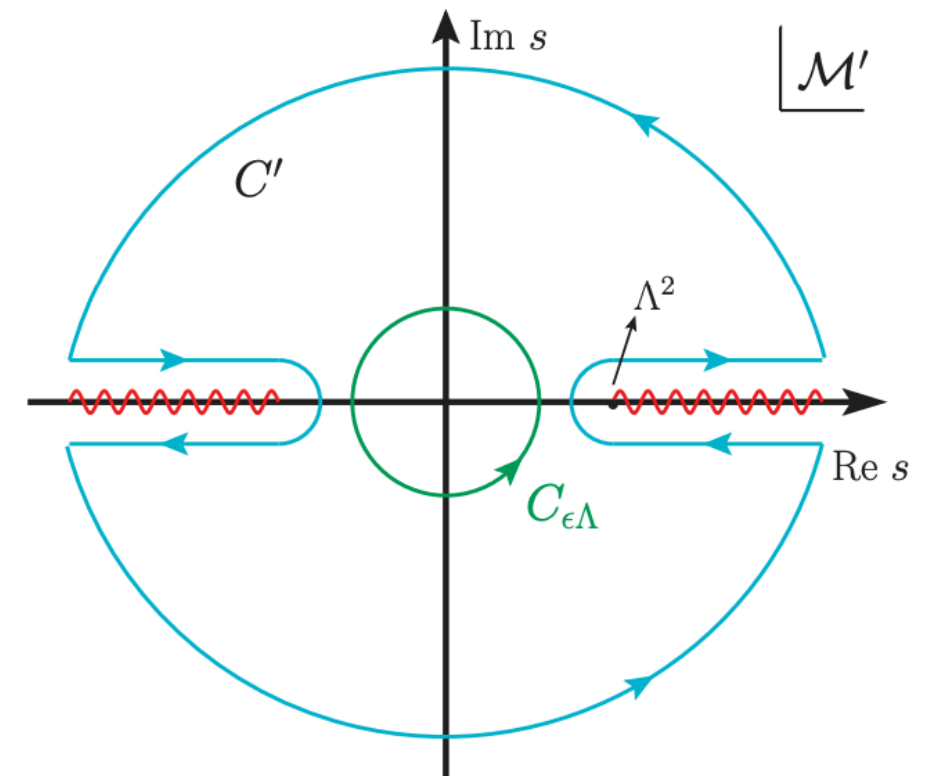
$$M'(s) = M(s) - \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{-\Lambda^2}^{+\Lambda^2} ds' \frac{\text{Disc} M(s')}{s' - s}$$

Positivity cone up to 1-loop [Li, 2212.12227](#)

$$\log(-s) \rightarrow \log(-s) - \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_0^{\Lambda^2} ds' \frac{\text{Disc} \log(-s')}{s' - s} = \log(\Lambda^2 - s)$$

$$C'_2 \geq 0, \quad C'_1 + C'_2 \geq 0, \quad C'_1 + C'_2 + C'_3 \geq 0$$

for example $c'_1 = C_{H1}^{(8)} - \frac{\Delta\lambda(36C_{H1}^{(8)} + 13C_{H2}^{(8)} + 13C_{H3}^{(8)} - 18\Delta\lambda)}{72\pi^2}$
 $+ \frac{13C_{H1}^{(6)2} + 26C_{H1}^{(6)}C_{H2}^{(6)} + 8C_{H2}^{(6)2} - 10C_{H\psi_L}^{(1)2} + 10C_{H\psi_L}^{(3)2} - 5C_{H\psi_R}^2 + 5C_{Hud}^2}{36\pi^2}$

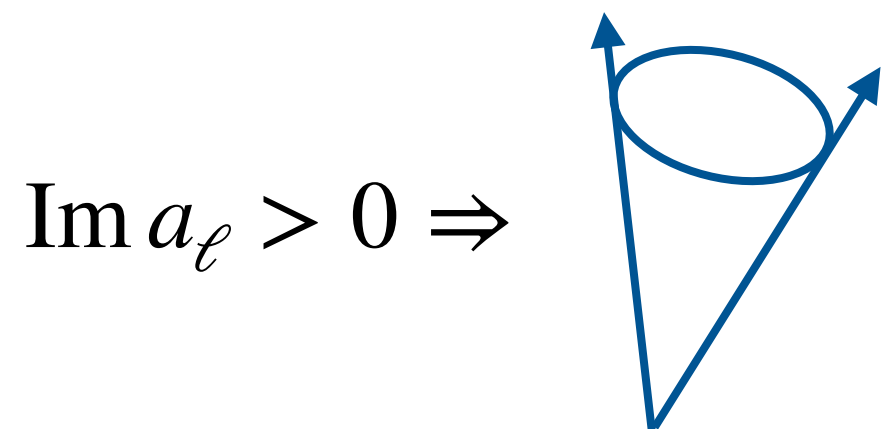


cone structure is same as tree level, but with small corrections

see also arc variables [Bellazzini, Miro, Rattazzi, Riembau & Riva, 2011.00037](#)

Higgs upper bounds

fuller use of unitarity & crossing $\Rightarrow$ two-sided bounds

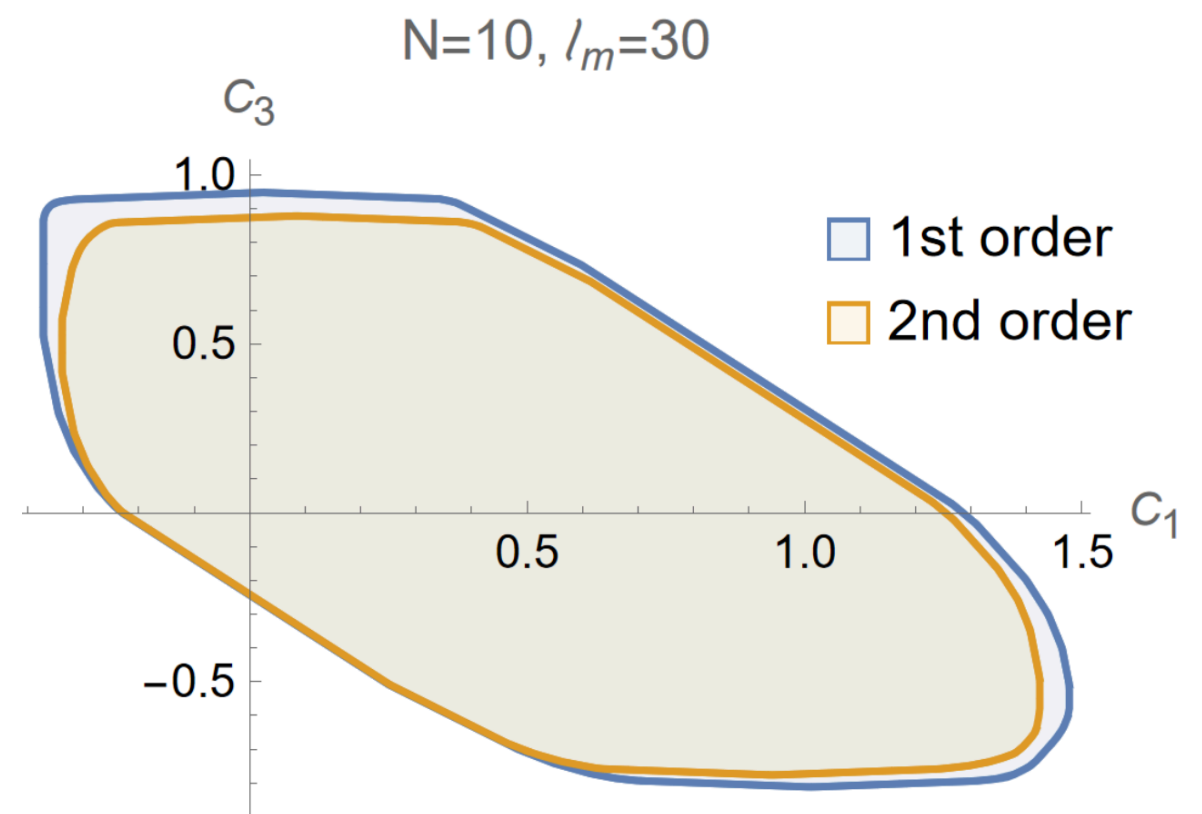
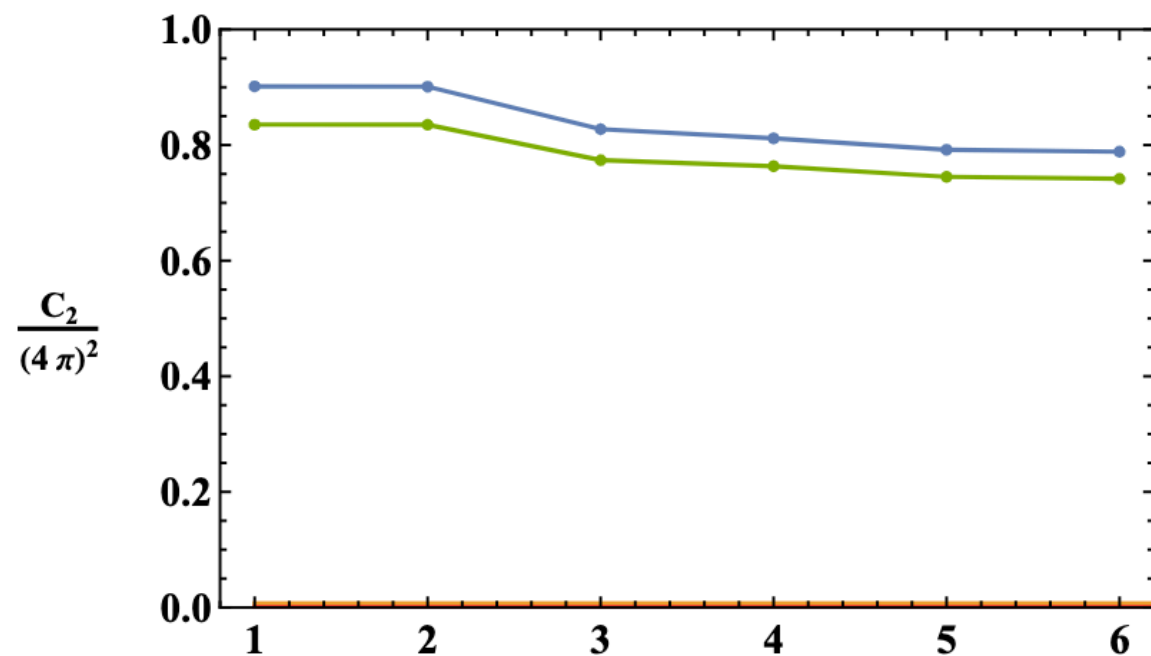
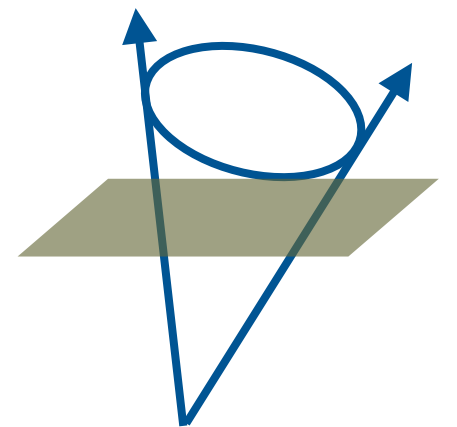


$$\text{Im } a_\ell > 0$$

$$\text{Im } a_\ell < 1$$

null constraints

$\Rightarrow$



Reverse bootstrapping

Regge behavior $\lim_{s \rightarrow +\infty} \text{Disc } \mathcal{A}(s, t) = r(t) s^{\alpha(t)}$

t -channel pole subtracted positivity bound Planck mass suppressed

$$\partial_s^2 \hat{\mathcal{A}}(0, 0) > -\beta_s (2(\ln r_s)' - (\ln \alpha_s')') + s \leftrightarrow u$$

Consider $h\gamma \rightarrow h\gamma$: $\partial_s^2 \hat{\mathcal{A}}(0, 0) \sim -q_e^2/m_e^2$

$$1) (\ln r)' \geq (m_e/q_e)^{-2} \sim (10^{-3} \text{GeV})^{-2}$$

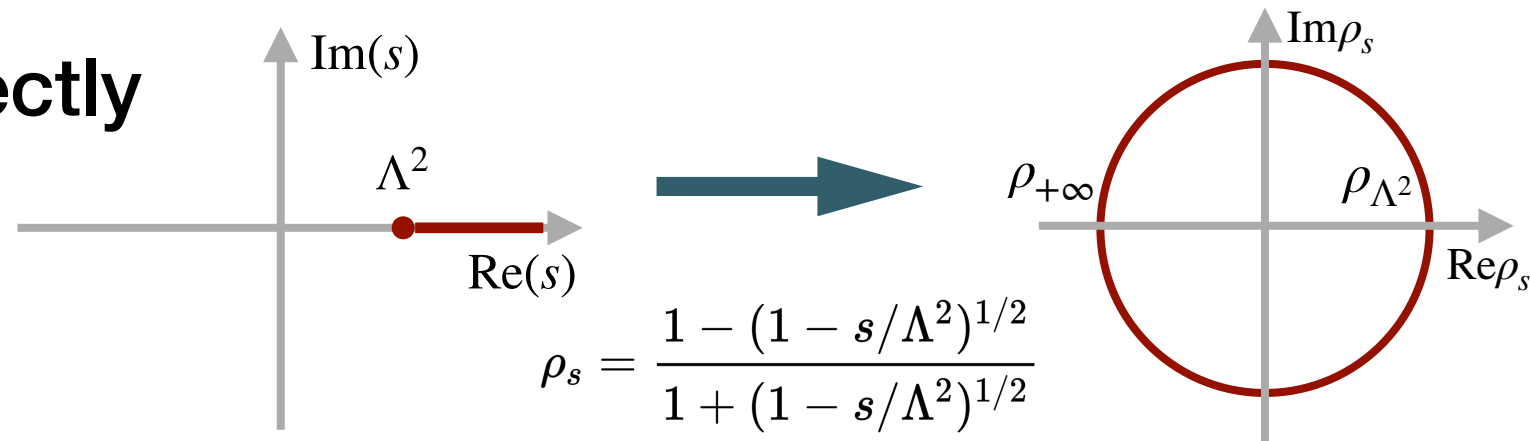
$$2) |\ln \alpha'|' \sim m_e^2/q_e^2 \Rightarrow \text{higher spin } \sqrt{m_e M_s/q_e} \lesssim 10^4 \text{TeV}$$

Known IR physics constrains UV physics

Primal S-matrix bootstrap

1) Parametrize amplitude directly

$$\mathcal{M}(s, t, u) = \sum_{a,b,c=0} \alpha_{a,b,c} \rho_s^a \rho_t^b \rho_u^c$$



analyticity and crossing symmetry are built-in
but need to truncate the amplitude expansion

Paulos, Penedones, Toledo,
van Rees, Vieira, 1708.06765

2) Impose full unitarity

$$2 \operatorname{Im} A_\ell(s) \geq |A_\ell(s)|^2$$

stronger results
numerically less stable

Primal: rule in space

Dispersion relation: rule out space

EFT of Maxwell (photons):

Haring, Hebbar, Karateev, Meineri & Penedones, 2211.05795

Compare primal and dual:

Miro, Guerrieri & Gumus, 2210.01502

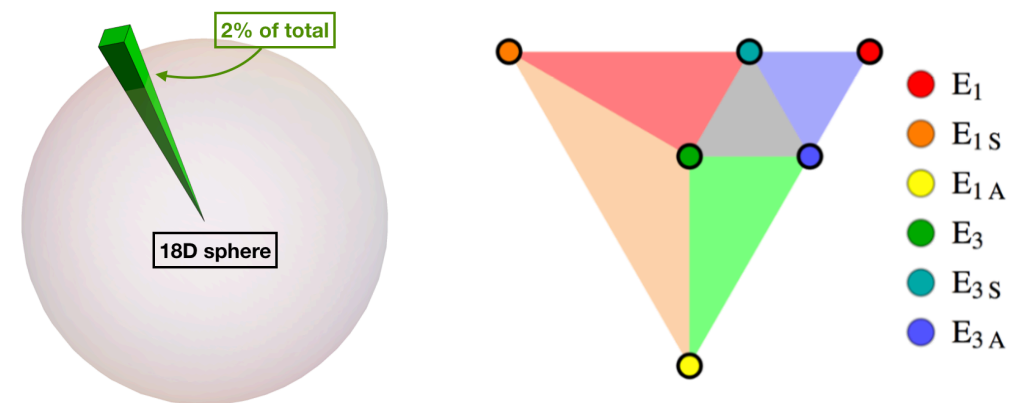
Summary

- Positivity bounds are **robust** — from axioms of QFT
- Wilson coefficients of EFT are typically bounded to be:

$$c_i \sim O(1)$$

“naturalness” is a rigorous result!

- Applications in many areas including SMEFT.
- **Significantly constrain** SMEFT
- Venue to test QFT principles
- Important to **reverse engineer UV theory** (thus dim-8)



Thank you!