Celestial amplitudes: from UV constraints to conformal blocks

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Celestial amplitudes describe scattering in a basis of boost eigenstates. In this basis, 4-point scattering is characterized by two variables: the sum over the boost weights β which is dual to the center of mass energy, and a cross ratio z related to the bulk scattering angle. In this talk I will describe two aspects of the physics captured by the β and z dependence. I will first show that the UV behavior of 4-point scattering is encoded in the analytic structure of celestial amplitudes in the complex β plane. The residues of the poles at negative even integer β are related to coefficients of higher-dimension operators in the low-energy effective action hence subject to positivity constraints, while poles at positive even integer β arise from UV asymptotics. I will then show that the z dependence contains information about the celestial spectrum and three-point couplings. For scalar 4-point scattering mediated by massive exchange, the conformal blocks include massive scalar states with positive integer conformal weights, as well as intermediate exchanges of spinning light-ray states.

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