

# A tale of tails via QCD insights

Alex Edison

with

Michèle Levi

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arXiv:2310.20066

PIKIMO, May 04 2024

Northwestern

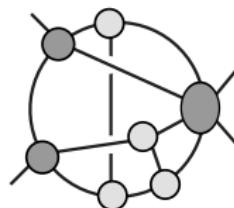
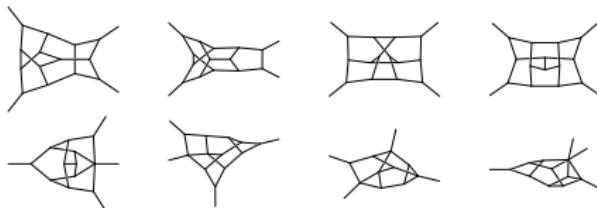
# Who am I?

- **UCLA** The Mani L. Bhaumik Institute for Theoretical Physics



→ Northwestern

- Expertise: multi-loop methods in (supersymmetric) Yang–Mills, (super)gravity



- Current interests: applications in BBH/GW physics, EFTofLSS

# TL;DR

New approach to GW tails (scale-crossing interference)

- Bringing together insights from particle physics, dissipative systems, GR EFT
- Discovering hidden patterns and iterations
- Surpassing traditional GR methods.  
Them:  $T$  in 1988,  $T^3$  in 2017.  
Us:  $T - T^3$  in 2022,  $T^4$  in 2023.

Assumption: objects are *slow-moving* and *weakly interacting*.  
 Good approximation for quasi-circular inspiral.

- ① Classical effective action – multipoles coupled to gravity:

$$S_{\text{GR+matter}} = \frac{1}{16\pi G} \int d^4x \sqrt{g} R + S_{\text{mp}}$$

$$S_{\text{mp}} = \int dt \sqrt{g} [E(t) - \sum_{l=2}^{\infty} \frac{1}{l!} I^L(t) \nabla_{L-2} \mathcal{E}_{i_{l-1} i_l} + \dots]$$

- ② GR is non-linear  $\Rightarrow$  radiation and potential modes can interfere  
 ③ Goal: “Integrate out” gravitational field
- Iteratively solve EoM DiffEqs
  - Use Feynman diagrams
  - Use modern unitarity methods

End result: perturbative effective action for evolution of multipoles

$$S_{\text{tails}} = \int d\omega f(\omega) I^{ij}(\omega) \underbrace{I_{ij}(-\omega)}_{\kappa(\omega)}$$

Radiated energy via modified action principles (Schwinger-Keldysh)

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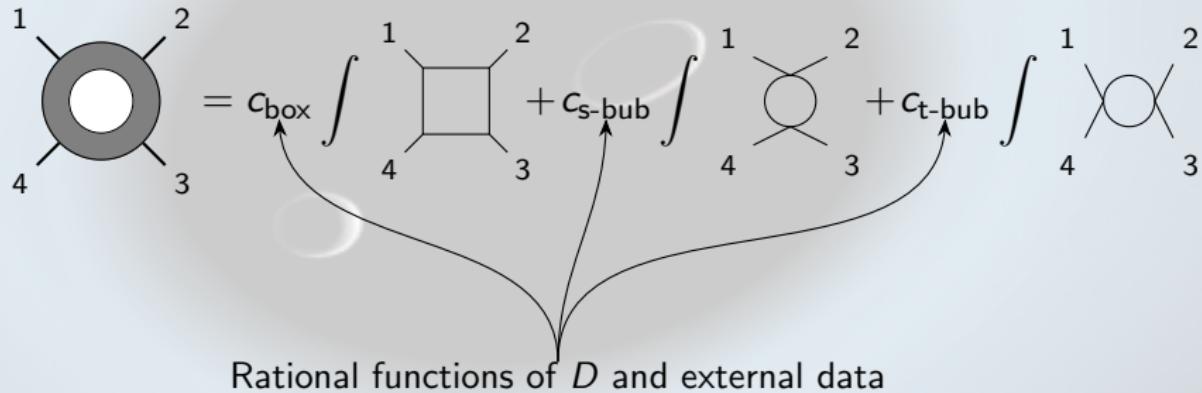
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Radiated energy via modified action principles (Schwinger-Keldysh)

# Unitarity: loops from trees

Two important facts:

- Feynman integrals (including numerators) can be reduced to a basis of scalar integrals using integration-by-parts relations (IBPs)  
EX: 4-point massless one-loop



# Unitarity: loops from trees

- Basis coefficients  $c_X$  can be determined by matching *generalized unitarity cuts*, constructed via repeated application of the QFT optical theorem

$$\text{Cut}_G = \sum_{\substack{\text{states} \\ \text{of } E(G)}} \prod_{v \in V(G)} A_{\text{tree}}(v)$$

$$\text{Cut}_{\text{box}} = \sum_{\substack{\text{states}}} \begin{array}{c} 1 \\ \diagdown \quad \diagup \\ \text{wavy lines} \\ \text{--- blue dashed line} \\ 4 \quad \quad \quad 3 \end{array} \equiv \sum_{\substack{\text{states}}} \begin{array}{c} 1 \\ \diagdown \quad \diagup \\ \text{dots} \\ \text{--- blue dashed line} \\ 4 \quad \quad \quad 3 \end{array} \xrightarrow{\text{IBPs}} c_{\text{box}}$$

$$\sum_{\substack{\text{states}}} \epsilon_k^{\mu\nu} \epsilon_k^{\alpha\beta} - P_k^{\mu\nu;\alpha\beta} = \frac{1}{2} \left( P_k^{\mu\alpha} P_k^{\nu\beta} + P_k^{\nu\beta} P_k^{\mu\alpha} - \frac{2}{D-2} P_k^{\mu\nu} P_k^{\alpha\beta} \right)$$

$$P_k^{\mu\nu} \equiv \eta^{\mu\nu} - \frac{k^\mu q^\nu + k^\nu q^\mu}{k \cdot q}$$

Gauge invariance  $\Leftrightarrow$  Cut is independent of  $q$

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$$\text{Cut}_{\text{box}} = \sum_{\substack{\text{states}}} \text{Diagram} \xrightarrow{\text{IBPs}} c_{\text{box}}$$

The diagram consists of two parts. On the left, a box cut of a four-point vertex with external legs labeled 1, 2, 3, 4. The top and bottom edges of the box are blue dashed lines. On the right, the same box cut is shown with internal propagators (blue dashed lines) and vertices (grey circles) explicitly drawn.

$$\sum_{\substack{\text{states}}} \varepsilon_k^{\mu\nu} \varepsilon_k^{\alpha\beta} \equiv \mathcal{P}_k^{\mu\nu;\alpha\beta} = \frac{1}{2} \left( P_k^{\mu\alpha} P_k^{\nu\beta} + P_k^{\mu\beta} P_k^{\nu\alpha} - \frac{2}{D-2} P_k^{\mu\nu} P_k^{\alpha\beta} \right)$$

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# Building tails

- ① Identify basis integrals and corresponding cuts
- ② Model quadrupole-gravity coupling as spin-1 particle coupled to gravity

$$\mathcal{M}_{Qg} \equiv \lambda_Q J_m^{\mu\nu} \varepsilon_{\mu\nu} = \text{---}^{ij} \bullet \text{---} \varepsilon_{\mu\nu}$$

$$\sim (\omega_g k_g^i \varepsilon_g^0 \varepsilon_g^j + \omega_g k_g^j \varepsilon_g^0 \varepsilon_g^i - k_g^i k_g^j \varepsilon_g^0 \varepsilon_g^0 - \omega_g^2 \varepsilon_g^i \varepsilon_g^j)$$

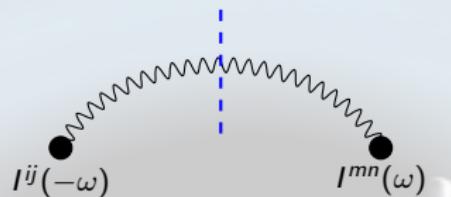
- ③ Similarly, model potential mode sources as massive spin-0 coupled to gravity

$$\mathcal{M}_{Mg} = \mathcal{M}_{sgs} = \frac{\lambda_E}{m_s^2} p_s^\mu p_s^\nu \varepsilon_{\mu\nu} = M \bullet \text{---} \varepsilon_{\mu\nu}$$

$$\mathcal{M}_{Mgg} = \lim_{m_s \rightarrow \infty} \mathcal{M}_{sggs} = M \bullet \text{---} \varepsilon_1^{\mu\nu} \varepsilon_2^{\rho\sigma}$$

- ④ Sew sources together with bulk graviton amplitudes
- ⑤ Integrate over *spatial* graviton momenta (energy is “external” input)

# Radiation reaction: Unitarity



Basis integral:

$$F^{(1)}(1; \omega^2) = \int \frac{d^d \ell_E}{(2\pi)^d} \frac{1}{(-\ell_E^2 + \omega^2)} = -\frac{\Gamma(1-d/2)(-\omega^2)^{d/2-1}}{(4\pi)^{d/2}}$$

Effective Action:

$$S_{RR} = \int \frac{d\omega}{2\pi} c_{RR} F^{(1)}(1; \omega^2)$$

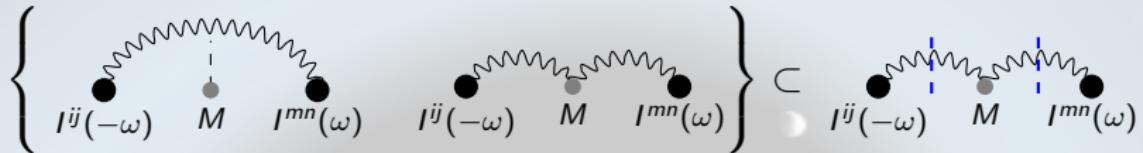
$$\text{Cut}_{RR} = \lambda_Q^2 J_1^{\mu\nu} \mathcal{P}^{\mu\nu;\alpha\beta} J_2^{\alpha\beta} \delta(\ell_E^2 - \omega^2) = \delta(P_\ell) \lambda_Q^2 \frac{(d+1)(d-2)}{(d+2)(d-1)} \underbrace{\omega^4 \kappa_{ab}(\omega)}_{I_a^{ij}(-\omega) I_{ij,b}(\omega)}$$

Effective action (after CTP sum):

Reproduces Einstein quadrupole  $E \sim I^{(3)} I^{(3)}$

$$S_{RR} = -i \frac{G_N}{5} \int \frac{d\omega}{2\pi} \omega^5 \kappa_{-+}(\omega) \leftarrow$$

# Leading tail via unitarity



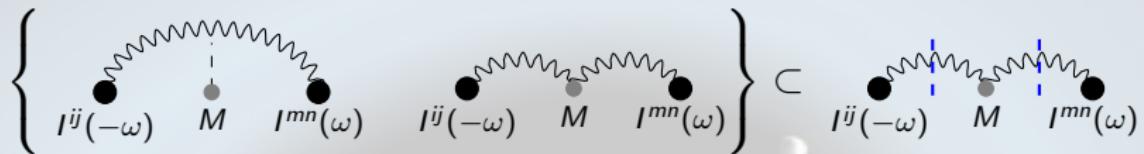
Basis integral:

$$F^{(2)}(1, 1, 0) \equiv \int \frac{d^d \ell_1 d^d \ell_2}{(2\pi)^{2d}} \frac{1}{(-\ell_1^2 + \omega^2)(-\ell_2^2 + \omega^2)} = F^{(1)}(1; \omega^2)^2$$

Cut that we need to calculate

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Cut}_{\text{tail}} &= \sum_{\text{states}} \mathcal{M}_{Qg(-\omega)} \mathcal{M}_{sggs} \mathcal{M}_{Qg(\omega)} \Big|_{\substack{P_{\ell_1}=0, P_{\ell_2}=0 \\ m_s \rightarrow \infty}} \\ &= \lambda_Q^2 \delta(P_{\ell_1}) \delta(P_{\ell_2}) J_{I(-\omega)}^{\mu\nu} P^{\mu\nu; \alpha\beta} \mathcal{M}_{sggs}^{\alpha\beta; \gamma\sigma} P^{\gamma\sigma; \rho\tau} J_{I(\omega)}^{\rho\tau} \Big|_{m_s \rightarrow \infty} \end{aligned}$$

# Leading tail via unitarity



After integral reduction, CTP sum, and DimReg ( $d \rightarrow 3 + \epsilon_d$ )

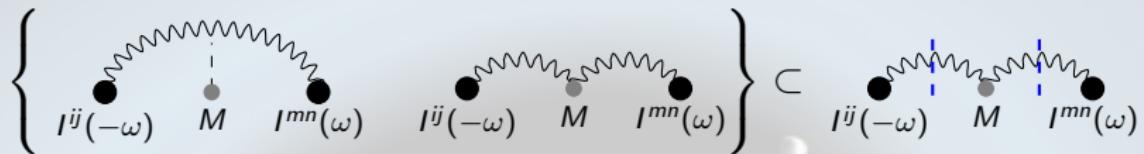
$$S_T = \frac{2}{5} G_N^2 E \int \frac{d\omega}{2\pi} \omega^6 \kappa_{-+}(\omega) \left[ \frac{1}{\epsilon_d} + \log \left( \frac{\omega^2}{\mu_T^2} \right) - i\pi \operatorname{sgn}(\omega) \right],$$

Goldberger & Ross 2009,  
Galley et.al. 2016

Keep this in mind for later:

$$S_T = \int \frac{d\omega}{2\pi} \kappa_{ab}(\omega) \omega^4 \frac{(2\pi G_N)(d+1)(d-2)}{(d+2)(d-1)} \left( -(16\pi G_N E) \frac{12 - 2d + 5d^2 - 4d^3 + d^4}{2(d-3)(d-1)d(d+1)} \right) F^{(1)}(1; \omega^2, Y)$$

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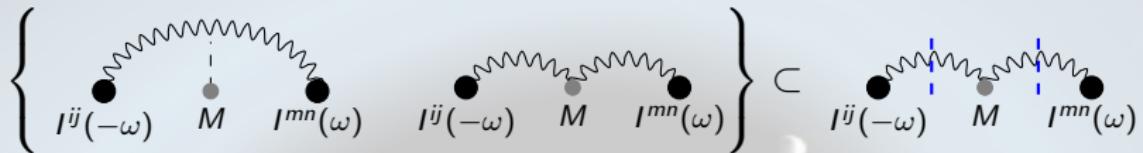
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Repeated from RR

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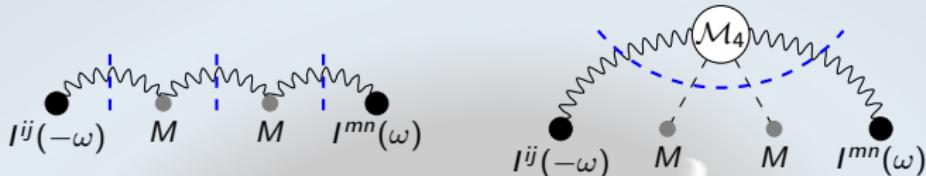
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New in T →

$$\boxed{\left( -(16\pi G_N E) \frac{12 - 2d + 5d^2 - 4d^3 + d^4}{2(d-3)(d-1)d(d+1)} \right) F^{(1)}(1; \omega_{ab}^2)^2}$$

# Tail-of-tail



vs  $\sim 5$  Feynman diagrams

Related to  
Goldberger  
& Ross 2009

$$S_{TT} = \frac{107}{175} G_N^3 E^2 \int \frac{d\omega}{2\pi} \omega^7 \kappa_{-+}(\omega) \left[ \pi \operatorname{sgn}(\omega) + i \left[ \frac{2}{3\epsilon_d} + \log \left( \frac{\omega^2}{\mu_{TT}^2} \right) \right] \right]$$

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Iteration of T!  $\longrightarrow$

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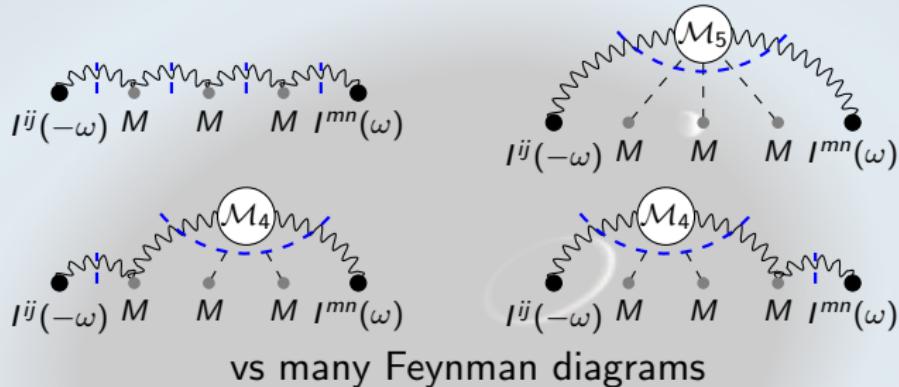
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$$S_{TT}^{\text{right}} \sim \int \frac{d\omega}{2\pi} \kappa_{ab}(\omega) \frac{\deg 9 \text{ poly in } d}{(d-3)\dots} \underbrace{\int}_{\text{known integral}}$$

# Tail-of-tail-of-tail

Never approached via EFT – GR via Blanchet 2017

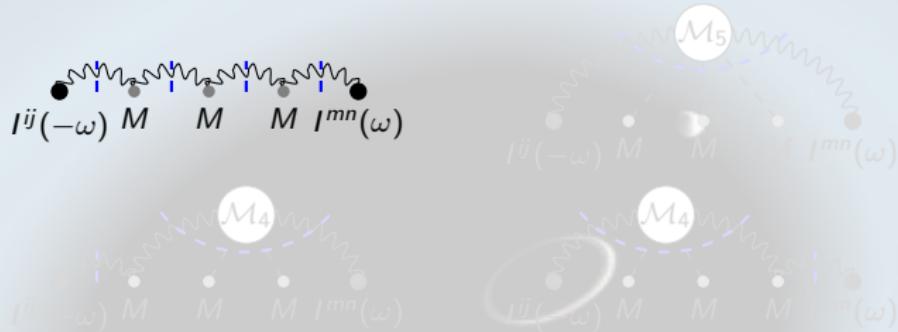


vs many Feynman diagrams

$$S_{TTT} = -\frac{4}{525} G_N^4 E^3 \int \frac{d\omega}{2\pi} \omega^8 \kappa_{-+}(\omega) \left[ \frac{107}{2\epsilon_d^2} + \frac{107}{\epsilon_d} \log \left( \frac{\omega^2}{\mu_{TTT}^2} \right) + 107 \log^2 \left( \frac{\omega^2}{\mu_{TTT}^2} \right) \right. \\ \left. + \frac{20707426967}{60399360} - \frac{3103}{4} \zeta_2 - 420 \zeta_3 - i\pi \operatorname{sgn}(\omega) \left[ \frac{107}{\epsilon_d} + 214 \log \left( \frac{\omega^2}{\mu_{TTT}^2} \right) \right] \right],$$

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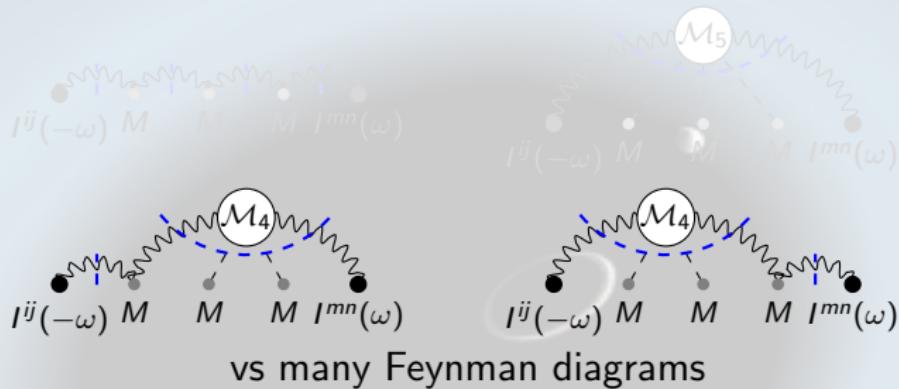
vs many Feynman diagrams

$$S_{\text{TTT}}^{\text{top-left}} = \int \frac{d\omega}{2\pi} \frac{(2\pi G_N)(d+1)(d-2)}{(d+2)(d-1)} \omega^4 \kappa_{ab}(\omega) \xleftarrow{\text{Repeated from RR}}$$

Iteration of T!  $\longrightarrow \left( - (16\pi G_N E) \frac{12 - 2d + 5d^2 - 4d^3 + d^4}{2(d-3)(d-1)d(d+1)} \right)^3 F^{(1)}(1; \omega_{ab}^2)^4$

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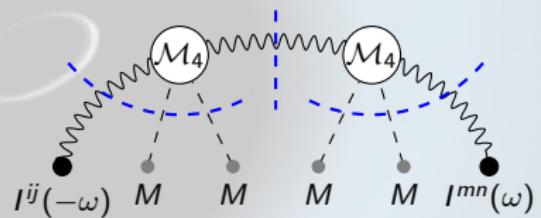
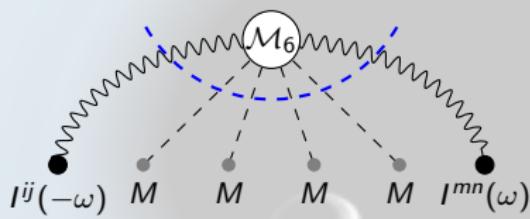
$$S_{\text{TTT}}^{\text{bottom}} = \int \frac{d\omega}{2\pi} (\text{term from } M_4 \text{ including integral})$$

$$\times \left( -(16\pi G_N E) \frac{12 - 2d + 5d^2 - 4d^3 + d^4}{2(d-3)(d-1)d(d+1)} \right) F^{(1)}(1; \omega_{ab}^2)$$

# Tail-of-tail-of-tail-of-tail

Never before computed in generality!

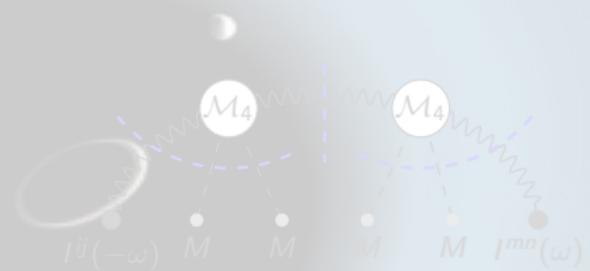
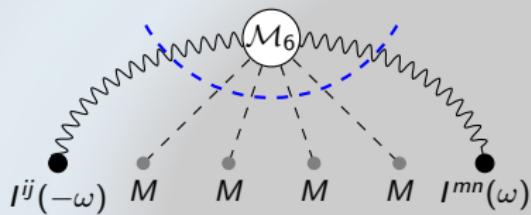
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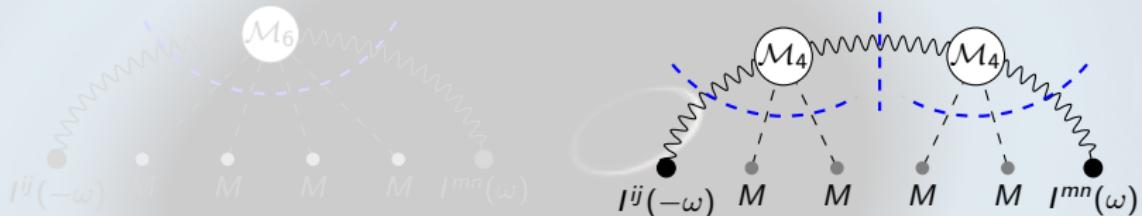
$$S_{T^4}^{\text{left}} \sim \int \frac{d\omega}{2\pi} \kappa_{ab}(\omega) \text{ (ratio of deg 22 polys in } d)$$



# Tail-of-tail-of-tail-of-tail

Never before computed in generality!

Mostly predicted by iteration, need two new diagrams.



$$S_{T^4}^{\text{right}} \sim \int \frac{d\omega}{2\pi} \kappa_{ab}(\omega) (\mathcal{M}_4 \text{ term})^2 \underbrace{\int}_{\text{numerical integral}}$$

# Conclusions

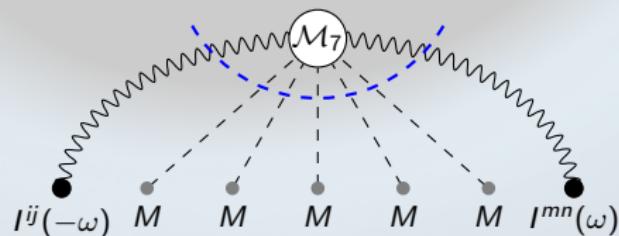
New approach to GW tails!

- Established new state of the art
- Exploited efficient methods from particle physics in new context
- Found interesting structure, hints of more

Future directions:

- Search for more structure
- Translate energy losses to orbit shifts
- Explore BSM contributions?

Thanks for your attention!

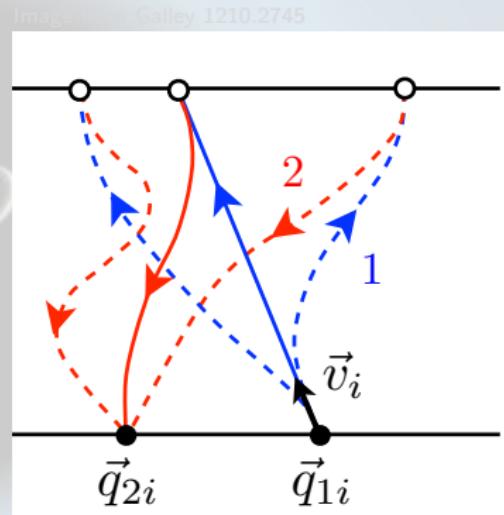


Backup slides

**Closed Time Path: action/variation principles for systematically handling non-conservative systems** (classical implementation of Schwinger/Keldysh)

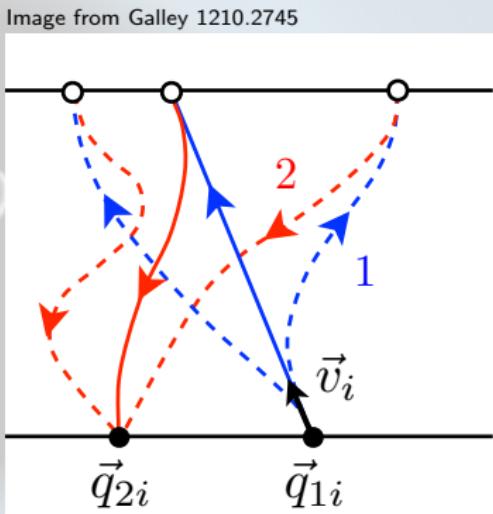
- 1 Double all degrees of freedom  $(-, +)$ , “causal”  $(- \rightarrow +)$  and “anti-causal”  $(+ \rightarrow -)$  branches
- 2 “Integrate out” inaccessible DoF
- 3 Conservative piece, L:  $(-, +)$  symmetric; Non-conservative, K: asymmetric
- 4 Calculus of variations with “-” variables

NB: Enters momentum-space calculations by changing  $i0$  prescription, analytic continuations



Closed Time Path: action/variation principles for systematically handling non-conservative systems (classical implementation of Schwinger/Keldysh)

- ① Double all degrees of freedom  $(-, +)$ , “causal”  $(- \rightarrow +)$  and “anti-causal”  $(+ \rightarrow -)$  branches
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- ④ Calculus of variations with “ $-$ ” variables

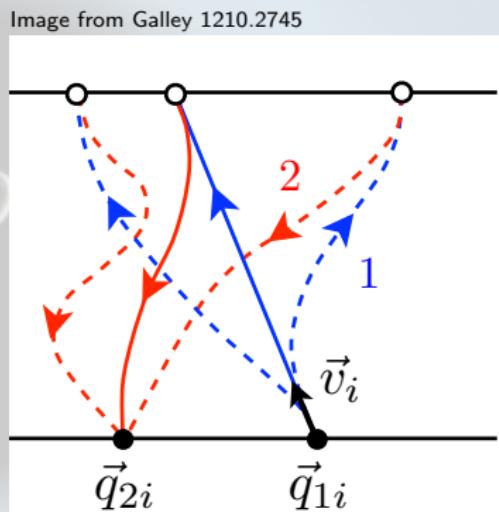


NB: Enters momentum-space calculations by changing  $i0$  prescription, analytic continuations

Closed Time Path: action/variation principles for systematically handling non-conservative systems (classical implementation of Schwinger/Keldysh)

- ① Double all degrees of freedom  $(-, +)$ , “causal”  $(- \rightarrow +)$  and “anti-causal”  $(+ \rightarrow -)$  branches
- ② “Integrate out” inaccessible DoF
- ③ Conservative piece, L:  $(-, +)$  symmetric; Non-conservative, K: asymmetric
- ④ Calculus of variations with “ $-$ ” variables

NB: Enters momentum-space calculations by changing  $i0$  prescription, analytic continuations



# Extracting energy spectra from CTP actions

CTP extension to Noether theorem:

$$\frac{dE}{dt} = -\frac{\partial L}{\partial t} + \dot{q}^J \left[ \frac{\partial K}{\partial q_-^J} \right]_{PL} + \ddot{q}^J \left[ \frac{\partial K}{\partial \dot{q}_-^J} \right]_{PL} + \frac{\partial}{\partial \text{higher time derivs}}$$

$$\int \frac{dE}{dt} dt = \Delta E = \int \frac{dE}{d\omega} d\omega = \int d\omega (i\omega) q^J(\omega) \left[ \frac{\partial K}{\partial q_-^J(\omega)} \right]_{PL}$$

Remove symmetric in  $(-, +)$

Generic tail actions:

$$S_{T^*} = \int d\omega f(\omega) l_-^{ij}(-\omega) l_{j+}^{ij}(\omega)$$
$$\Rightarrow \Delta E = \int d\omega (-i\omega) \text{Im } f_{\text{odd}}(\omega)$$

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# Raw energy spectra

$$(\Delta E)_{RR} = -\frac{G_N}{5\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} d\omega \kappa(\omega) \omega^6 \left\{ 1 - \frac{\epsilon_d}{2} \left[ \frac{9}{10} - \log \left( \frac{\omega^2 e^{\gamma_E}}{\mu^2 \pi} \right) \right] + \dots \right\}$$

$$(\Delta E)_T = -\frac{2}{5} G_N^2 E \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} d\omega \kappa(\omega) \omega^7 \left\{ 1 + \epsilon_d \left[ \log \left( \frac{\omega^2 e^{\gamma_E}}{\mu^2 \pi} \right) - \frac{41}{30} \right] + \dots \right\}$$

$$(\Delta E)_{TT} = \frac{214 G_N^3 E^2}{525 \pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} d\omega \kappa(\omega) \omega^8 \left\{ \frac{1}{\epsilon_d} + \left[ \frac{3}{2} \log \left( \frac{\omega^2 e^{\gamma_E}}{\mu^2 \pi} \right) - \frac{420 \zeta_2}{107} - \frac{675359}{89880} \right] \right\}$$

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Need to deal with the DimReg divergences. renormalize quadrupole coupling

$$\kappa(\omega) \rightarrow \kappa(\omega, \mu) \left( 1 + 2 \left( \frac{107}{105} \frac{(G_N E \omega)^2}{\epsilon_d} + \frac{107^2}{105^2} \frac{(G_N E \omega)^4}{\epsilon_d^2} \right) + \frac{1695233}{105^3} \frac{(G_N E \omega)^6}{\epsilon_d^3} + \dots \right)$$

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# The renormalized energy spectrum and RG flow

Einstein Term	Blanchet & Damour Tail	
$(\Delta E)_{T^4}^{\text{inc}} = \int d\omega \kappa(\omega, \mu) \left[ -\frac{\omega^6 G_N}{5\pi} - \frac{2}{5} \omega^7 G_N^2 E \right.$		
$+ \frac{1}{\pi} G_N^3 E^2 \omega^8 \left( \frac{214}{525} \log \left( \frac{\omega^2 e^{\gamma_E}}{\mu^2 \pi} \right) - \frac{634913}{220500} - \frac{8\zeta_2}{5} \right)$	Goldberger & Ross 2009, Bini & Geralico 2021 (FT of Blanchet 1997)	
$+ G_N^4 E^3 \omega^9 \left( \frac{428}{525} \log \left( \frac{\omega^2 e^{\gamma_E}}{\mu^2 \pi} \right) - \frac{634913}{110250} \right)$	New for generic quadrupole!	
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$\left. + \log \left( \frac{\omega^2 e^{\gamma_E}}{\mu^2 \pi} \right) \left[ \frac{8301847}{257250} + 2^4 \frac{107}{105} \zeta_2 - 2 \frac{107^2}{105^2} \log \left( \frac{\omega^2 e^{\gamma_E}}{\mu^2 \pi} \right) \right] \right\}$		

Logs skip orders!

Renormalized coupling includes a scale dependence to balance log scaling

$$\frac{d}{d\mu} (\Delta E)_{T^4}^{\text{inc}} = 0 \Rightarrow \frac{d \kappa(\omega, \mu)}{d \log \mu} = -(2G_N E \omega)^2 \kappa(\omega, \mu) \left( \frac{107}{105} + \frac{1695233}{105^3} (G_N E \omega)^2 + \mathcal{O}(1/\mu) \right)$$

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