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# Recent Progress on the Cosmological Bootstrap

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#### Primordial Cosmo = QFT in curved spacetime / Quantum Gravity

 On large scales (>> Mpc) cosmological surveys measure QFT correlators of metric fluctuation



- Gravitational floor of non-Gaussianity in single-clock inflation:  $f_{NL}^{eq}\gtrsim 10^{-2}$
- The goal of primordial cosmology is to understand QFT and QG in (approximately, asymptotically) de Sitter

#### Aspirations

- We want to learn about fundamental physics from cosmo:
  - New degrees of freedom and their interactions: Inflation requires at least one degree of freedom and three energy scales beyond the standard model.
  - The laws of gravity at short distances/high energies: probe GR and beyond at high energies
  - QFT in FLRW/de Sitter: which theories are consistent?
  - Quantum gravity in dS? Holography, string theory?

# The brute force approach

### Penrose diagram

• We work in the Poincare' patch (half of dS)

$$ds^{2} = -dt^{2} + a^{2}dx^{2} = a^{2}(-d\eta^{2} + dx^{2})$$

The future (conformal) boundary can be thought as the reheating surface after inflation and determines the statistics of LSS and CMB observations

 $\Psi[\phi;\eta \to 0]$ 



#### Correlators

• The observables of cosmology are correlators of the product of equal-time local operators  $\mathcal{O}$  at  $\eta \to 0$ 

$$\lim_{\eta \to 0} \langle \Omega | \prod_{a=1}^{n} \mathcal{O}(\mathbf{k}_{a}, \eta) | \Omega \rangle \equiv \langle \prod_{a=1}^{n} \mathcal{O}(\mathbf{k}_{a}) \rangle \equiv \langle \mathcal{O}^{n} \rangle \,.$$

they are usually computed in the interaction picture

$$\langle \mathcal{O}(\eta) \rangle = \langle 0 | \begin{bmatrix} \bar{T}e^{\left(i \int_{-\infty(1+i\epsilon)}^{\eta} d\eta' H_{\text{int}}(\eta')\right)} \end{bmatrix} \mathcal{O}_{I}(\eta) \begin{bmatrix} Te^{\left(-i \int_{-\infty(1-i\epsilon)}^{\eta} d\eta' H_{\text{int}}(\eta')\right)} \end{bmatrix} | 0 \rangle$$

$$\text{Bunch-Davies} \qquad \text{time evolution operator}$$

 We know the Feynman rules to compute correlators in perturbation theory

#### The wavefunction

- The field theoretic *wavefunction* is the projection of the quantum state  $|\Psi\rangle$  of the system onto eigenstates  $|\phi\rangle$  of the field operators,  $\hat{\phi}(x,\eta) |\phi\rangle = \phi(x,\eta) |\phi\rangle$ , namely:  $\Psi[\phi,\eta] \equiv \langle \phi | \Psi, \eta \rangle$
- It is a functional of the all fields in the theory (including the metric) at some time. It can be parameterised in terms of wavefunction coefficients ψ<sub>n</sub>

$$\Psi[\phi,\eta] = \exp\left[\sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \int_{\mathbf{k}} \psi_n(\mathbf{k}_1,\ldots,\mathbf{k}_n;\eta) \prod_a^n \phi(\mathbf{k}_a)\right]$$

• This  $\Psi$  is a large-volume solution of the wavefunction of the universe, which solves the Wheeler de Witt equation

# From $\Psi$ to correlators

- All probabilities can be computed from  $\Psi$  as in QM

$$\langle \mathcal{O} \rangle = \int d\phi \Psi^* \mathcal{O} \Psi$$

 The Ψ<sub>n</sub> are closely related to *cosmological correlators*, which determine the statistics of the Cosmic Microwave Background and Large Scale Structures. For example

$$\begin{split} \langle \phi_{\mathbf{p}}(\eta_{0})\phi_{-\mathbf{p}}(\eta_{0})\rangle' &= \frac{1}{2\operatorname{Re}\psi_{2}(p)},\\ \left\langle \prod_{a=1}^{3}\phi_{\mathbf{p}_{a}}(\eta_{0})\right\rangle' &= -2\prod_{a=1}^{3}\frac{1}{2\operatorname{Re}\psi_{2}'(p_{a})}\left[\psi_{3}(\mathbf{p}) + \psi_{3}(-\mathbf{p})\right],\\ \left\langle \prod_{a=1}^{4}\phi_{\mathbf{p}_{a}}(\eta_{0})\right\rangle' &= -2\prod_{a=1}^{4}\frac{1}{2\operatorname{Re}\psi_{2}(p_{a})}\left[\left[\psi_{4}(\mathbf{p}) + \psi_{4}(-\mathbf{p})\right]\right]\\ &- \frac{\left[\psi_{3}(\mathbf{p}_{1},\mathbf{p}_{2},-\mathbf{s}) + \psi_{3}(-\mathbf{p}_{1},-\mathbf{p}_{2},-\mathbf{s})\right]\left[\psi_{3}(\mathbf{p}_{3},\mathbf{p}_{4},\mathbf{s}) + \psi_{3}(-\mathbf{p}_{3},-\mathbf{p}_{4},-\mathbf{s})\right]}{\operatorname{Re}\psi_{2}'(s)} - t - u \end{split}$$

# Feynman Diagrams

 Given a model, the wavefunction can be computed perturbatively from a path integral

$$\Psi[\phi(\mathbf{x});\eta_0] = \int_{\text{vacuum}}^{\phi(\mathbf{x},\eta_0)} [\mathcal{D}\phi] \, e^{iS[\phi]}$$

with the following Feynman rules (equivalent to in-in):



#### Problems

Here's some obstacles:

- Calculations are hard: V-nested time integrals at tree-level!
- Gravity is harder:  $\langle \gamma_{ij}^4 \rangle$  only computed last year...
- Too many models for too little data on primordial universe. Models describe time evolution, which is not observable.
- Little theoretical guidance: what EFT's admit a UVcompletion?
- Are there any non-perturbative/quantum gravity signals to be searched for?

#### The Cosmological Bootstrap





# **Observed symmetries**

- Cosmological perturbations are observed to be statistically *homogeneous* and *isotropic*
- *Primordial* perturbations are also observed to be approximately scale invariant
- Anything else?
  - With *de Sitter boost* we can derive general results and connect with Conformal Field Theory and holography. See beautiful progress by Maldacena, Pimentel, Arkani-Hamed, Baumann, Joyce, etc...
  - If we are instead more interested in phenomenology, we cannot assume Boost invariance.



#### Broken boost [Green & EP '20]

Assuming only homogeneity, isotropy and scale invariance we have

**Theorem:** de Sitter symmetries are the largest possible set of symmetries for any single scalar field

**Theorem**: In single-clock inflation, the only theory of *curvature* perturbations  $\zeta$  with full de Sitter symmetries is the free theory

Hence we allow dS boosts to be broken by the inflaton background

$$\sum_{a=1}^{n} \vec{k}_{a} \langle \phi(k_{1}) \dots \phi(k_{n}) \rangle = 0 \qquad \text{translations}$$

$$\sum_{a=1}^{n} k_{a}^{[i} \partial_{k_{a}^{j]}} \langle \phi(k_{1}) \dots \phi(k_{n}) \rangle = 0 \qquad \text{rotations}$$

$$\sum_{a=1}^{n} (3 - \Delta + k_{a} \partial_{k_{a}}) \langle \phi(k_{1}) \dots \phi(k_{n}) \rangle = 0 \qquad \text{dilations}$$

# Analyticity

k no singularities

- The  $\psi_n$  are analytic in  $k_a = |\mathbf{k}_a|$  (defined off-shell) in the lower-half complex plane because the integral is even more convergent.
- This is a consequence of causality and it is true nonperturbatively [Aguei-Salcedo, Lee, Melville & EP 23]

$$\psi_n(k_1,\dots) \sim \int_{-\infty}^0 d\eta \, e^{ik_1\eta} F(k)$$

• Singularities are only on the negative real axis

### Singularities at tree-level

 Assuming locality, and a Bunch Davies initial state, the tree-level wavefunction has singularities when the "total energy" vanishes. The leading residue is the UV-limit of the flat-space amplitude [Maldacena & Pimentel '11; Raju '12; Arkani-Hamed et al



$$k_T = \sum_a^n |\mathbf{k}_a|$$

• Only other singularities are at vanishing partial energy

$$\lim_{E \to 0} \psi_n \sim \frac{C_n}{E^p}$$

• All residues of partial energy singularities are fixed by unitarity! [Jazayeri, EP & Stefanyszyn '21]



# Amplitude limit

- The residue of the total-energy pole (kT=k1+...+kn=0) of (tree-level) correlators is fixed by the (UV-limit of the) amplitude [Maldacena & Pimentel '11; Raju '12; Arkani-Hamed et al '17-'18; Benincasa '18]
- The precise relation is [Goodhew, Jazayeri & EP '20]

$$\lim_{k_T \to 0} B_n = \frac{(-1)^n H^{p+n-1}(p-1)!}{2^{n-1}} \times \frac{\operatorname{Re}\left(i^{1+n+p} A_n\right)}{\left(\prod_{a=1}^n k_a\right)^2 k_T^p},$$

 p is fixed by dimensional analysis and scale invariance [EP <sup>'20]</sup>

$$p = 1 + \sum (D_{\alpha} - 4)$$

## Locality

- Locality: what happens here cannot affect what happens far away. Operators commute for space-like separation and correlators factorise at large distances (*cluster decomposition*).
- There is no cluster decomposition in dS
- A common sufficient condition is *Manifest Locality*: Lagrangian interactions are products of operators at the same spacetime point, e.g.

$$\mathcal{L} \supset \dot{\phi}^3 + (\partial \phi)^2 \dot{\phi} + \dot{\phi}^4 + \dots$$

• The wavefunction of light scalars and spin-2 fields (m<sup>2</sup> < 2H<sup>2</sup>) satisfies nonperturbatively the Manifestly Local Test (MLT) [Jazayeri, EP & Stefanyszyn '21]

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial k_c} \psi_n(k_1, \dots, k_n; \{p\}; \{\mathbf{k}\}) \Big|_{k_c = 0} = 0, \qquad \forall c = 1, \dots, n,$$

#### The Cosmological Optical Theorem (COT) [Goodhew, Jazayeri, EP '20]

- Unitary time evolution,  $UU^{\dagger} = 1$ , from a Bunch-Davies state implies infinitely many relations. Let's see some examples
- The simplest example is a contact n-point functions

 This is a Cosmological Optical Theorem (COT) and can be interpreted as fixing a "discontinuity"

Disc 
$$\psi_n \equiv \psi_n(\{k\}, \{k\}) + \psi_n^*(-\{k\}, -\{k\}) = 0$$

# Exchange diagrams

• The next simplest case is a 4-particle exchange diagram (trispectrum). The Cosmo Optical Theorem (COT) is



### General diagrams

• These relations are valid to all order in perturbation theory to any number of loops for fields of any mass and spin and arbitrary interactions (around any FLRW admitting a Bunch Davies initial condition) [Goodhew, Jazayeri & EP '21; Melville & EP '21]



### Loop corrections

- Unitarity gives us also (the disc of) *loop corrections*!
- For example we can relate the disc of the 1-loop corrections to the power spectrum (or any other 2ncorrelator) to a simpler integral over tree-level 3- and 4point correlators



#### Poster child N°1: All tree-level scalar bispectra



#### Scalar bispectra

All scale-invariant tree-level bispectra of a massless scalar such as  $\zeta$  from interaction with up to p derivatives are [Pajer 20; Jazayeri, EP & Stefanyszyn 21]



#### Shapes of non-Gaussianity

- Here *p* equals the number of derivatives in the Lagrangian interaction
- The solution  $B_3^{p=0}$  is local non-Gaussianity. In single-clock inflation it must be slow-roll suppressed by Maldacena's consistency relation
- The solution for  $p \ge 1$  are in one-to-many relation to the operators in the EFT of Inflation (decoupling limit).

$$\mathcal{L}_{EFT} \sim \pi \partial \pi^2 + \pi \dot{\pi}^2 + \dot{\pi} \partial \pi^2 + \dot{\pi}^3 + \ddot{\pi} \partial \pi^2 + \pi \ddot{\pi}^2 + \dots$$
$$B_3 \sim \{p = 1\} + \{p = 2\} + \{p = 3\} + \{p = 4\} + \dots$$

Poster child N°2: No-go theorems for the parity-odd trispectrum



# Parity violation



 $\zeta(\mathbf{r}_1,\mathbf{r}_2,\mathbf{r}_3)$ 

 $\mathbb{P}\left[\zeta(\mathbf{r}_1,\mathbf{r}_2,\mathbf{r}_3)\right]$ 

- The scalar power spectrum and bispectrum are always parity even ({ k }  $\rightarrow$  { k }), non-perturbatively.
- Parity violation shows up first in the scalar trispectrum  $B_4$
- There are infinitely many parity violating interactions

$$\mathcal{L} \sim \sum_{n_1, n_2, n_3, n_4} \epsilon^{\mu_1 \mu_2 \mu_3 \mu_4} \prod_{a=1}^4 \partial_{\mu_a} \partial^{n_a} \phi$$

however...

#### **Contact interactions**



Contact interactions contribute to correlators as

$$\begin{split} \langle \varphi(\mathbf{k}_{1}) \dots \varphi(\mathbf{k}_{n}) \rangle &= \frac{\int \mathcal{D}\varphi \ \Psi \Psi^{*} \ \varphi(\mathbf{k}_{1}) \dots \varphi(\mathbf{k}_{n})}{\int \mathcal{D}\varphi \ \Psi \Psi^{*}} ,\\ B_{n}^{\mathrm{contact}}(\{k\}; \{\mathbf{k}\}) &= -\frac{\psi_{n}(\{k\}; \{\mathbf{k}\}) + \psi_{n}^{*}(\{k\}; -\{\mathbf{k}\})}{\prod_{a=1}^{n} 2 \ \mathrm{Re} \ \psi_{2}'(k_{a})} ,\\ \mathrm{parity \ odd} \qquad &\propto \psi_{n}(\{k\}; \{\mathbf{k}\}) - \psi_{n}^{*}(\{k\}; \{\mathbf{k}\}) \\ \mathrm{scaling} \qquad &\propto \psi_{n}(\{k\}; \{\mathbf{k}\}) - (-)^{3}\psi_{n}^{*}(-\{k\}; -\{\mathbf{k}\}) \\ \mathrm{cosmo \ optical \ theorem} = 0 \end{split}$$

# No-go for parity odd



 $\zeta(\mathbf{r}_1, \mathbf{r}_2, \mathbf{r}_3)$ 

 $\mathbb{P}\left[\zeta(\mathbf{r}_1,\mathbf{r}_2,\mathbf{r}_3)\right]$ 

- Assuming scale invariance, *unitarity* and a BD initial state, *IR-finite* parity-odd correlators vanish at tree-level for [Liu, Tong, Wang & Xianyu 19; Cabass, Jazayeri, EP & Stefanyszyn '22]
  - Any number of external massless scalars interacting with conformally coupled scalar fields
  - 4 external massless scalars interacting with any number of massive scalars, or massless fields of any spin
- Hence  $B_4^{PO}$  is an exceptionally sensitive probe of physics beyond vanilla inflation

# Yes-go examples

- There are several yes-go example that relax the above assumptions:
  - exchanging massive spinning fields
  - break scale invariance
  - exchange parity-odd massless spinning fields
  - modified dispersions relations (non Bunch-Davies)
  - Beyond tree level

# Leading loops



- Because tree-level vanishes, the leading contribution to  $B_4^{PO}$  is 1-loop!
- 1-loop 1-vertex vanished in dim reg (no momentum flow)
- Calculation is complicated (d-dimensional mode functions, many derivatives), but answer is simple [Lee, McCulloch, EP 23]

$$B_4^{\text{PO}} = i \frac{(\mathbf{k}_1 \times \mathbf{k}_2) \cdot \mathbf{k}_3 \operatorname{Poly}_p(\mathbf{k})}{(k_1 k_2 k_3 k_4)^3 k_T^p}$$

• Is this an observable quantum effect?

Poster child N°3: The three parityodd tensor bispectra



# All graviton bispectra

• All tree-level, scale-invariant graviton bispectra on de Sitter must take the form

$$\psi_3^{+++} = \sum \left[ e^+(\mathbf{k}_1) e^+(\mathbf{k}_2) e^+(\mathbf{k}_3) \mathbf{k}_1^{\alpha_1} \mathbf{k}_2^{\alpha_2} \mathbf{k}_3^{\alpha_3} \right] \psi_3^{\text{trim}}(k_1, k_2, k_3) ,$$

In terms of spinors this is (all other polarizations are fixed by this)

$$\psi_3^{+++} = \frac{[12]^2 [23]^2 [31]^2}{e_3^2} \sum_{\text{perm's}} h_\alpha(k_1, k_2, k_3) \psi_3^{\text{trim}}(k_1, k_2, k_3) ,$$
  

$$h_0 = 1, \quad h_1 = ik_1, \quad h_2 = k_2 k_3, \quad h_3 = iI_1 I_2 I_3, \quad h_4 = I_1^2 I_2 I_3,$$
  

$$h_{5a,b} = iI_1^3 I_2 I_3, iI_1 I_2^2 I_3^2, \quad h_6 = I_1^2 I_2^2 I_3^2, \quad h_7 = iI_1^3 I_2^2 I_3^2.$$

 The trimmed wavefunction is the most general solution to the Manifestly Local Test (MLT)

#### Parity-odd graviton bispectra

 Parity-odd graviton non-Gaussianity is a poster child of the boostless cosmo bootstrap. The are infinitely many interactions

$$L \supset \dots + \epsilon^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} R_{\rho\sigma\lambda\delta} R^{\lambda\delta}{}_{\gamma\theta} R^{\gamma\theta}{}_{\mu\nu} R^n + \dots$$

• Yet, to all orders in derivatives there are only three possible bispectra (notice no kT poles)!

$$B_{3}^{+++} = e_{ij}^{+}(\mathbf{k}_{1})e_{jk}^{+}(\mathbf{k}_{2})e_{ik}^{+}(\mathbf{k}_{3})\frac{k_{T}\left(k_{T}^{2}-2e_{2}\right)}{e_{3}^{3}},$$

$$B_{3}^{+++} = e_{ij}^{+}(\mathbf{k}_{1})e_{jk}^{+}(\mathbf{k}_{2})e_{ik}^{+}(\mathbf{k}_{3})\frac{\left(-3e_{3}+k_{T}e_{2}\right)}{e_{3}^{3}},$$

$$B_{3}^{+++} = e_{ij}^{+}(\mathbf{k}_{1})e_{jk}^{+}(\mathbf{k}_{2})e_{ik}^{+}(\mathbf{k}_{3})\frac{\left(-k_{1}+k_{2}+k_{3}\right)(k_{1}-k_{2}+k_{3})(k_{1}+k_{2}-k_{3})}{e_{3}^{3}}$$

#### Parity-odd mixed bispectra

 Similarly, parity-odd Scalar-Scalar-Tensor and Scalar-Tensor-Tensor bispectra to all orders in derivates can only be:

$$\begin{split} B_3^{00+} &= \frac{[13]^2 [23]^2}{k_3^2 [12]^2} \frac{(k_1 + k_2 - k_3)^2 k_3}{e_3^3} \,, \\ B_3^{0++} &= \frac{[23]^4}{k_2^2 k_3^2 e_3^3} [q_{1,1}(k_2 + k_3) k_1^2 + q_{1,2,a}(k_2^3 + k_3^3) + q_{1,2,b}(k_2 k_3^2 + k_3 k_2^2)] \,, \\ B_3^{0+-} &= \frac{[12]^4}{[31]^4} \frac{I_2^4}{k_2^2 k_3^2 e_3^3} \left[ q_{1,1}(k_2 - k_3) k_1^2 + q_{1,2,a}(k_2^3 - k_3^3) + q_{1,2,b}(k_2 k_3^2 - k_3 k_2^2) \right] \,, \end{split}$$

# Phenomenology

Perturbativity and the bounds on the tensor-to-scalar ratio imply various phenomenological constraints:

- Since there are only a few parity-odd shape, they should be a primary targets of observations (mostly CMB B-modes)
- Graviton bispectra have a smaller signal-to-noise ratio (S/N) than the graviton power spectrum, so they can be seen only after a detection of primordial tensor modes
- <scalar<sup>2</sup> tensor> has always a larger S/N than <tensor<sup>3</sup>> or
   <scalar tensor<sup>2</sup>> by a factor of e<sup>-1</sup>, so it should be the *first target*, unless one probes only the tensor sector

#### Horizons

- In the past 5 years we have finally understood some general consequences of locality, unitarity and causality for cosmological correlators
- This enables us to bootstrap many old and new predictions for cosmological observables
- Some results are non transparent from the standard model building point of view
- There are still basic and very general facts about quantum field theory on cosmological spacetimes that are awaiting to be discovered: *it's a wide open field of research*!



# Oscillations



- The assumptions of scale invariance greatly simplify the derivation of correlators/ wavefunction using the cosmological bootstrap, but it is not necessary
- Example beyond scale invariance: periodic oscillations in time, as in axion (monodromy) induced by gauge instantons [Duaso Pueyo & EP to appear]
- The classic example is a potential with periodic modulations  $V = V_{\rm SR}(\phi) + \Lambda^4 \cos \phi / f$
- Because in slow roll  $\phi \sim \dot{\phi}t$ , this gives periodic oscillations in the background,  $\cos(\dot{\phi}t/f)$ , which break continuous scale invariance to a discrete scale invariance
- The resulting "resonant non-Gaussianities" were computed [Flauge & Pajer '10; Leblond Pajer '10] and have been searched for in WMAP, Planck, eBOSS and other datasets.
- This was generated to oscillations in the EFT of inflation [Behbahani et al. '11; Behbahani & Green '12]
- Our goal here is to find more general resonant shapes

#### The resonant ansatz

Scale invariance is broken to a discrete subgroup

$$\exists \lambda \in \mathbb{R} : \quad \psi_n(\lambda^m \omega, \lambda^m \mathbf{k}) = \lambda^{3m} \psi_n(\omega, \mathbf{k}) \quad \forall m \in \mathbb{N}$$

Most general local, tree-level, on shell ansatz is

$$\psi_3(k_a) = \left[ \left(\frac{i\alpha}{k_T}\right)^p \operatorname{Poly}_{p+3}^{(p)}(k_a) + \left(\frac{i\alpha}{k_T}\right)^{p-1} \operatorname{Poly}_{p+2}^{(p-1)}(k_a) \right] e^{-i\alpha \log(k_T/k_*)} + O(\alpha^{p-2})$$
$$\alpha = 2\pi / \log \lambda$$

 The factors of *i* are chosen for later convenience. The bracket has to satisfy the manifestly local test

### Resonant bootstrap

- Resonant  $\psi_3$  obeys the cosmo optical theorem (COT), but this requires exponentially suppressed contributions (from the stationary phase solution for the oscillating integral)
- Instead we use a modified COT for contact diagrams

$$\psi_3(k_a,\alpha) + \psi_3^*(-k_a,-\alpha) = 0$$

- the coefficients of the polynomials are all real by unitarity
- The polynomial are fixed by the manifestly-local test to all orders in derivatives.

# Quantum interference



- To leading order we reproduce resonant non-Gaussianity  $(\phi^3)$  $\psi_3^{(0)} = C_{0,0} \left( e_3 - i \frac{k_T e_2}{\alpha} \right) e^{-i\alpha \log (k_T/k_*)}.$
- The real and imaginary part of the wavefunction interfere with each other when computing the bispectrum

$$B_{\pi^3} \propto \frac{1}{e_3^2} \left[ \cos\left(\alpha \log(k_T/k_*)\right) - \frac{1}{\alpha} \sum_{i,j} \frac{k_i}{k_j} \sin\left(\alpha \log(k_T/k_*)\right) \right]$$

• Subleading out-of-phase oscillations are a quantum effect