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Causality bounds on gravitational EFTs

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EFT space: “Not everything goes!”

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

UV
|
IR
mixing



**Positivity bounds/
Causality bounds**

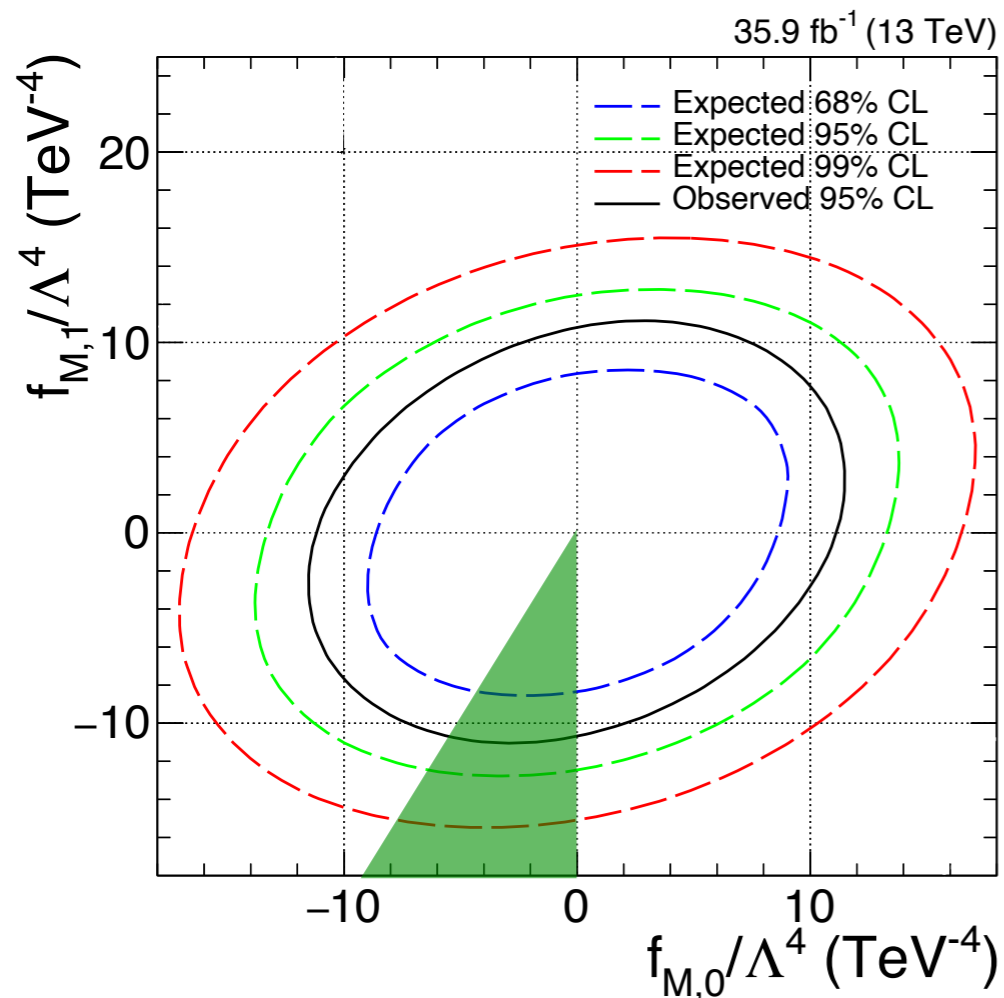
*a bootstrap approach
swampland idea*

low energy EFT
constraints on EFT coefficients

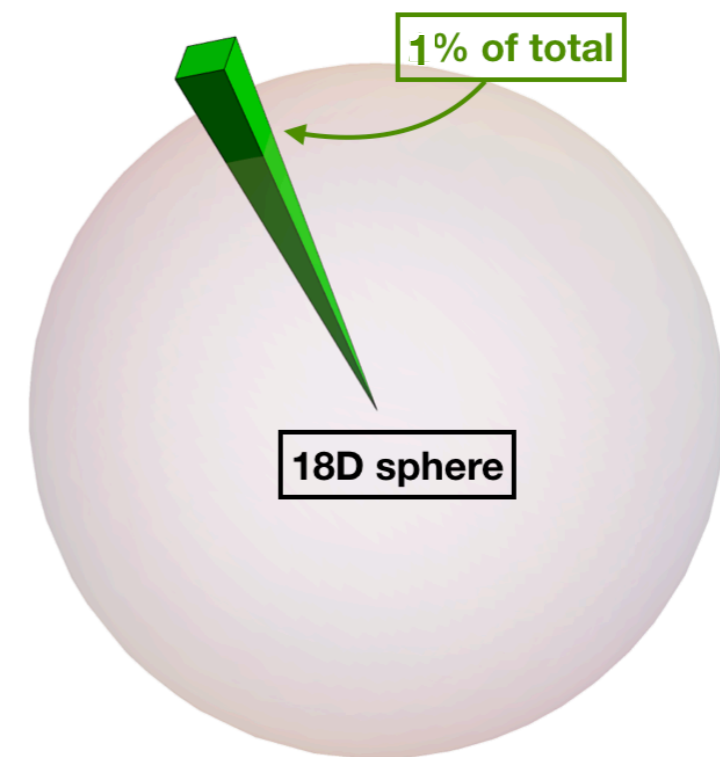
Example: Strong bounds on Standard Model EFT

Vector Boson Scattering: $V_1 + V_2 \rightarrow V_3 + V_4$, $V_i \in \{Z, W^+, W^-, \gamma\}$

O_{M0} and O_{M1}



Space of 18 dim-8 Wilson coeff's



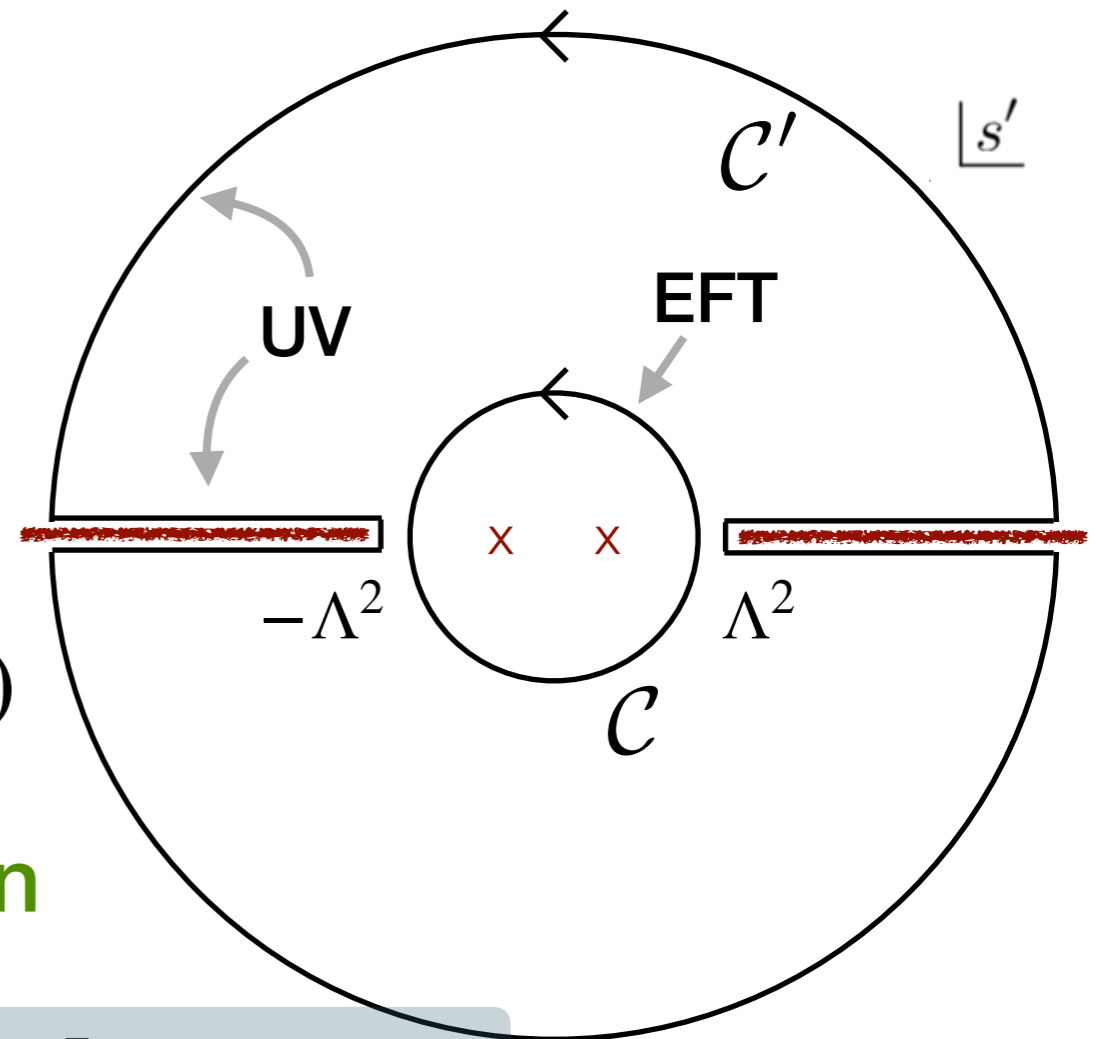
Only **<1%** of the total aQGC parameter space admits an analytic UV completion!

Causality \Rightarrow Analyticity \Rightarrow 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

$$A(s, t) \sim \int_{\Lambda^2}^{\infty} \frac{ds'}{\pi s'^2} \left[\frac{s^2}{s' - s} + \frac{u^2}{s' - u} \right] \text{Im} A(s', t)$$

s' : scale of UV particles

EFT amplitude

IR—UV connection

UV full amplitude

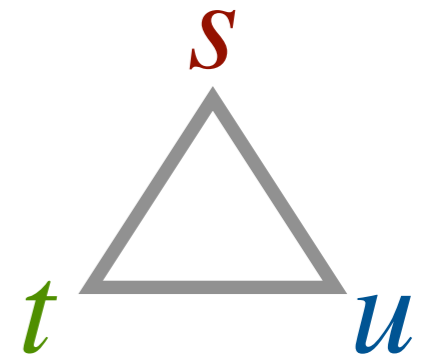
Dimensional analysis on firm footing

Identical scalar

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

su dispersion relation

additional st crossing



Null constraints

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

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

weakly coupled IR

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

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

Two-sided bounds on cosmological scalars

In decoupling limit

Xu & SYZ, 2306.06639

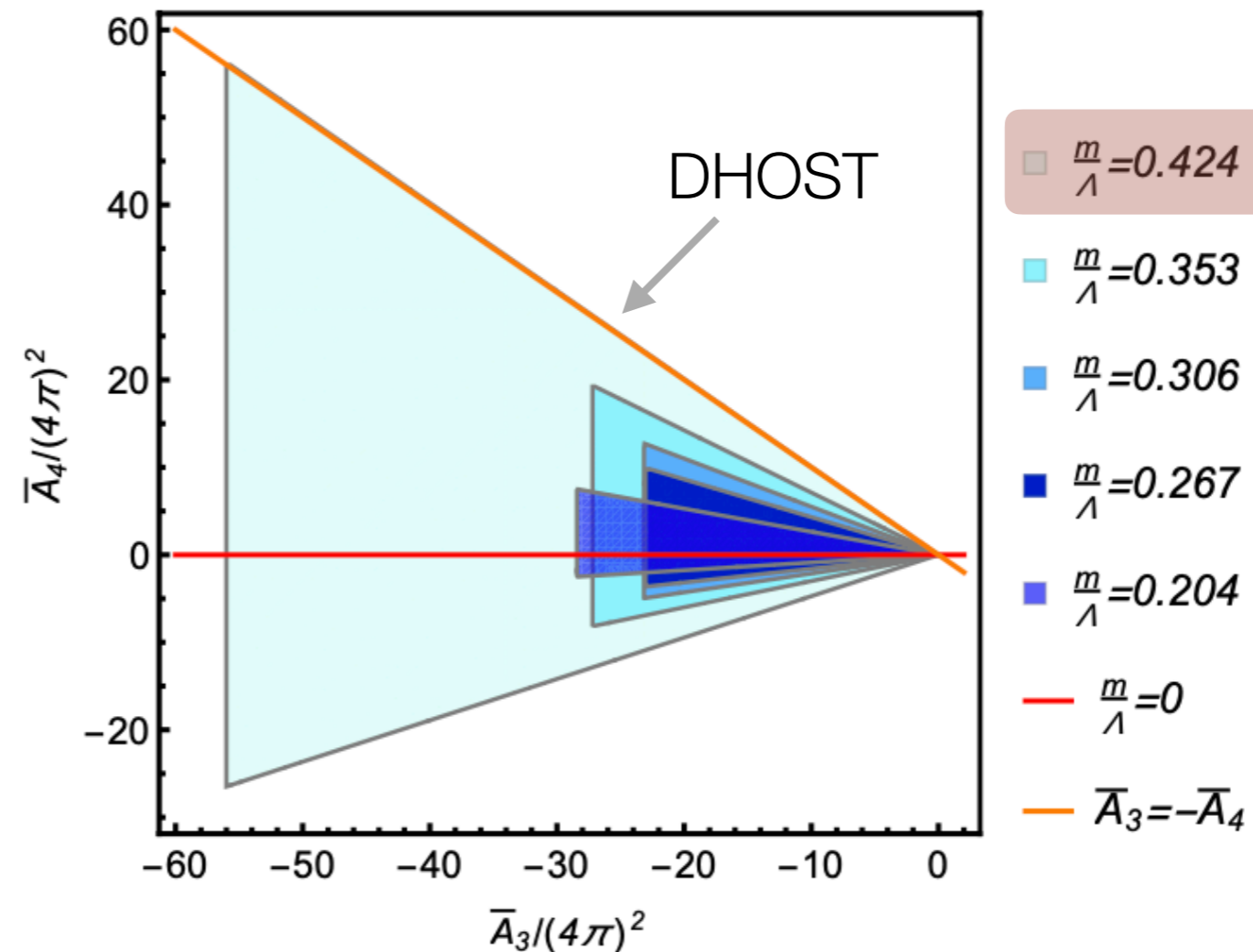
	Class		Positivity bounds		Consistency		
					massless	massive	
Horndeski (4.1-4.4)	Generic		(4.12-4.14)		✓	✓	
	$G_i = G_i(X)$	K-essence ($G_3 = G_4 = G_5 = 0$)	(4.15) Fig 7-10	(4.17)	✓	✓	
		Kinetic braiding ($G_4 = G_5 = 0$)		(4.19)	✓	✓	
		Galileon (4.20)		(4.21)	×	✓	
Beyond Horndeski	DHOST (5.1)	N-I (5.1)+(5.12)	Generic	(5.11)	✓	✓	
			GW constraints (5.13)		(5.14) Fig 11	×	✗
		M-I (5.1)+(5.18)	Generic		(5.19) Fig 12	×	✓
			beyond Horndeski [34] +(5.20)		(5.21)	×	✗
	M-II (5.1)+(5.22)		(5.23) Fig 13	×	✓		
	Combining Horndeski & DHOST (5.28)			(5.29), Fig 14	✓	✓	

Example: rule out DHOST

Effectively rule out models due to $\Lambda \sim m$

Xu & SYZ, 2306.06639

GW speed
constrained class



similar result for original beyond Horndeski model

Two-sided bounds on specific EFTs

- Identical scalar EFT

- Fixed t dispersion relation

Tolley, Wang & **SYZ**, 2011.02400

Caron-Huot & Duong, 2011.02957

- Moment problem approach

Chiang, Huang, Li, Rodina & Weng, 2105.02862

- Fully symmetric dispersion relation

Sinha & Zahed, 2012.04877

- Multi-(scalar) field EFT

Du, Zhang & **SYZ**, 2111.01169

- Einstein EFT

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

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

Chiang, Huang, Li, Rodina & Weng, 2201.07177

- Einstein-Maxwell EFT

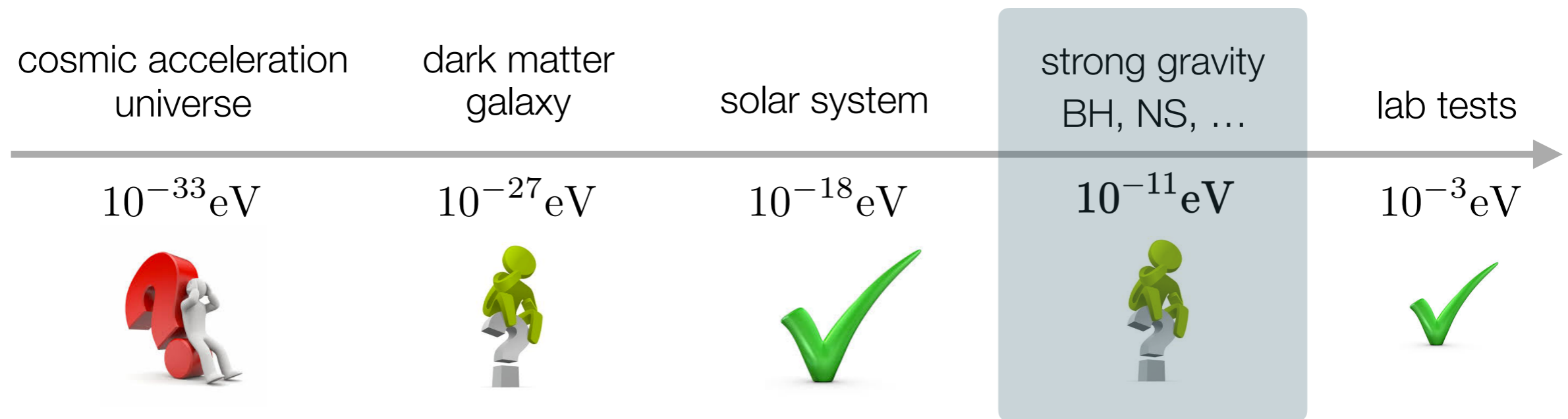
Henriksson, McPeak, Russo & Vichi, 2203.08164

- Scalar-tensor EFT

Hong, Wang, **SYZ**, 2304.01259

Causality bounds on scalar-tensor EFTs

Motivation from phenomenology



Possible deviations from General Relativity in strong gravity regime?

Scalar-tensor EFT

being constrained in astrophysics (**GWs, EHT...**)

Light DoFs: $g_{\mu\nu}$ + scalar ϕ

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

Hairy black holes

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

uniqueness of BHs even in presence of matter fields

scalar field case: 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 n.m. coupling

Used as a fiducial model to

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

Spontaneous scalarization

- GR solution with $\phi = 0$ in weak gravity
- Deviates from GR in strong gravity

Neutron stars

Damour & Esposito-Farese, 1995

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

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

Fixed t dispersion relations with graviton

$$\delta_{k,2} a_{k,-1}^{1234} \frac{1}{t} + \sum_{n=0} a_{k,n}^{1234} t^n = \left\langle \frac{\partial_s^k}{k!} \left[\frac{s^2 d_{h_{12},h_{43}}^{\ell,\mu,t} c_{\ell,\mu}^{12} c_{\ell,\mu}^{*\bar{3}\bar{4}}}{\mu^2(\mu-s)} + \frac{(-s-t)^2 d_{h_{14},h_{23}}^{\ell,\mu,t} c_{\ell,\mu}^{14} c_{\ell,\mu}^{*\bar{3}\bar{2}}}{\mu^2(\mu+s+t)} \right] \Big|_{s \rightarrow 0} \right\rangle,$$

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

$\langle \dots \rangle := 16\pi \sum_{\ell, X} (2\ell + 1) \int_{\Lambda^2}^{\infty} \frac{d\mu}{\pi} (\dots)$

st crossing symmetry

$$a_{k,n}^{1234} = a_{n,k}^{1324}, \quad n \geq 3$$

Thrice subtracted
dispersion relations

Improved dispersion relations

$$\delta_{k,2} a_{2,-1}^{1234} \frac{1}{t} + a_{k,0}^{1234} + a_{k,1}^{1234} t + a_{k,2}^{1234} t^2 = \left\langle F_{k,\ell}^{1234}(\mu, t) \right\rangle$$

suitable to use even when $t \sim \Lambda$

More than 50 dispersion relations for leading few coefficients

$$-\frac{1}{M_P^2} + 2\alpha t - \gamma_4 t^2 = \langle F_{1,\ell}^{0000}(\mu, t) \rangle \quad (\text{B.2})$$

$$-\frac{1}{M_P^2} \frac{1}{t} + 2\alpha - \gamma_4 t + 12g_{0,2}^S t^2 = \langle F_{4,\ell}^{0000}(\mu, t) \rangle \quad (\text{B.5})$$

$$\frac{\beta_1}{M_P^3} t - \frac{\gamma_3}{M_P} t^2 = \langle F_{1,\ell}^{+000}(\mu, t) \rangle \quad (\text{B.6})$$

$$\frac{\beta_1}{M_P^3} - \frac{\gamma_3}{M_P} t = \langle F_{2,\ell}^{+000}(\mu, t) \rangle \quad (\text{B.7})$$

$$-4g_{1,1}^{M_5} t^2 = \langle F_{3,\ell}^{+000}(\mu, t) \rangle \quad (\text{B.8})$$

$$-2g_{1,1}^{M_5} t + g_{2,0}^{M_5} t^2 = \langle F_{4,\ell}^{+000}(\mu, t) \rangle \quad (\text{B.9})$$

$$-\frac{\gamma_1}{M_P^3} t^2 = \langle F_{1,\ell}^{++++0}(\mu, t) \rangle \quad (\text{B.10})$$

$$-\frac{\gamma_1}{M_P^3} t = \langle F_{2,\ell}^{++++0}(\mu, t) \rangle \quad (\text{B.11})$$

$$-4g_{1,1}^{M_1} t^2 = \langle F_{3,\ell}^{++++0}(\mu, t) \rangle \quad (\text{B.12})$$

$$-2g_{1,1}^{M_1} t + g_{2,0}^{M_1} t^2 = \langle F_{4,\ell}^{++++0}(\mu, t) \rangle \quad (\text{B.13})$$

$$= \langle F_{2,\ell}^{0000}(\mu, t) \rangle \quad (\text{B.3})$$

$$8g_{0,2}^S - 4g_{1,1}^S t^2 = \langle F_{3,\ell}^{0000}(\mu, t) \rangle \quad (\text{B.4})$$

$$4g_{0,2}^S - 2g_{1,1}^S t + (g_{2,0}^S + 48g_{3,0}^S) t^2 = \langle F_{4,\ell}^{0000}(\mu, t) \rangle \quad (\text{B.5})$$

$$-\frac{\gamma_0}{M_P^4} t^2 = \langle F_{1,\ell}^{++++}(\mu, t) \rangle \quad (\text{B.14})$$

$$-\frac{\gamma_0}{M_P^4} t = \langle F_{2,\ell}^{++++}(\mu, t) \rangle \quad (\text{B.15})$$

$$0 = \langle F_{3,\ell}^{++++}(\mu, t) \rangle \quad (\text{B.16})$$

$$g_{2,0}^{T_2} t^2 = \langle F_{4,\ell}^{++++}(\mu, t) \rangle \quad (\text{B.17})$$

$$\left(-\frac{10\gamma_0}{M_P^4} + \frac{3\beta_1^2}{M_P^4}\right) t^2 = \langle F_{1,\ell}^{++++}(\mu, t) \rangle \quad (\text{B.18})$$

$$\left(-\frac{10\gamma_0}{M_P^4} + \frac{3\beta_1^2}{M_P^4}\right) t + 12g_{0,2}^{T_3} t^2 = \langle F_{2,\ell}^{++++}(\mu, t) \rangle \quad (\text{B.19})$$

$$8g_{0,2}^{T_3} t - 4g_{1,1}^{T_3} t^2 = \langle F_{3,\ell}^{++++}(\mu, t) \rangle \quad (\text{B.20})$$

$$4g_{0,2}^{T_3} - 2g_{1,1}^{T_3} t + (g_{2,0}^{T_3} + 48g_{0,3}^{T_3}) t^2 = \langle F_{4,\ell}^{++++}(\mu, t) \rangle \quad (\text{B.21})$$

$$\frac{\beta_2}{M_P^2} - \frac{\gamma_0}{M_P^4} t - g_{2,1}^{M_3} t^2 = \langle F_{2,\ell}^{++00}(\mu, t) \rangle \quad (\text{B.22})$$

$$\frac{\gamma_2}{M_P^2} + \frac{\beta_1^2}{M_P^4} - g_{2,1}^{M_3} t - g_{3,1}^{M_3} t^2 = \langle F_{3,\ell}^{++00}(\mu, t) \rangle \quad (\text{B.23})$$

$$g_{4,0}^{M_3} - g_{3,1}^{M_3} t + (g_{2,2}^{M_3} - g_{4,1}^{M_3}) t^2 = \langle F_{4,\ell}^{++00}(\mu, t) \rangle \quad (\text{B.24})$$

$$-\frac{\gamma_0}{M_P^4} t^2 = \langle F_{1,\ell}^{+0+0}(\mu, t) \rangle \quad (\text{B.25})$$

$$-\frac{\gamma_0}{M_P^4} t - g_{2,1}^{M_3} t^2 = \langle F_{2,\ell}^{+0+0}(\mu, t) \rangle \quad (\text{B.26})$$

$$0 = \langle F_{3,\ell}^{+0+0}(\mu, t) \rangle \quad (\text{B.27})$$

$$g_{2,2}^{M_3} t^2 = \langle F_{4,\ell}^{+0+0}(\mu, t) \rangle \quad (\text{B.28})$$

$$-\frac{\beta_1^2}{M_P^4} t + g_{0,2}^{M_4} t^2 = \langle F_{2,\ell}^{+-00}(\mu, t) \rangle \quad (\text{B.29})$$

$$g_{1,2}^{M_4} t^2 = \langle F_{3,\ell}^{+-00}(\mu, t) \rangle \quad (\text{B.30})$$

$$g_{2,2}^{M_4} t^2 = \langle F_{4,\ell}^{+-00}(\mu, t) \rangle \quad (\text{B.31})$$

$$-\frac{1}{M_P^2} - \frac{\beta_1^2}{M_P^4} t^2 = \langle F_{1,\ell}^{+0-0}(\mu, t) \rangle \quad (\text{B.32})$$

$$-\frac{1}{M_P^2} \frac{1}{t} - \frac{\beta_1^2}{M_P^4} t + g_{0,2}^{M_4} t^2 = \langle F_{2,\ell}^{+0-0}(\mu, t) \rangle \quad (\text{B.33})$$

$$0 = \langle F_{3,\ell}^{+0-0}(\mu, t) \rangle \quad (\text{B.34})$$

$$0 = \langle F_{4,\ell}^{+0-0}(\mu, t) \rangle \quad (\text{B.35})$$

$$-\frac{1}{M_P^2} \frac{1}{t} = \langle F_{2,\ell}^{++--}(\mu, t) \rangle \quad (\text{B.49})$$

$$-\frac{\beta_1^2}{M_P^4} - \frac{\gamma_0^2}{M_P^6} t^2 = \langle F_{3,\ell}^{++--}(\mu, t) \rangle \quad (\text{B.50})$$

$$= \langle F_{2,\ell}^{+0-0}(\mu, t) \rangle \quad (\text{B.33})$$

$$2g_{0,2}^{M_4} t + 2g_{1,2}^{M_4} t^2 = \langle F_{3,\ell}^{+0-0}(\mu, t) \rangle \quad (\text{B.34})$$

$$g_{0,2}^{M_4} + g_{1,2}^{M_4} t + (g_{2,2}^{M_4} - 3g_{0,3}^{M_4}) t^2 = \langle F_{4,\ell}^{+0-0}(\mu, t) \rangle \quad (\text{B.35})$$

$$\frac{\beta_1}{M_P^3} + \frac{\beta_1 \gamma_0}{M_P^5} t^2 = \langle F_{2,\ell}^{0-++}(\mu, t) \rangle \quad (\text{B.36})$$

$$\frac{\gamma_0 \beta_1}{M_P^5} t - g_{3,1}^{M_2} t^2 = \langle F_{3,\ell}^{0-++}(\mu, t) \rangle \quad (\text{B.37})$$

$$-g_{3,1}^{M_2} t - g_{4,1}^{M_2} t^2 = \langle F_{4,\ell}^{0-++}(\mu, t) \rangle \quad (\text{B.38})$$

$$0 = \langle F_{1,\ell}^{0-++}(\mu, t) \rangle \quad (\text{B.39})$$

$$\frac{\gamma_0 \beta_1}{M_P^5} t^2 = \langle F_{2,\ell}^{0-++}(\mu, t) \rangle \quad (\text{B.40})$$

$$0 = \langle F_{3,\ell}^{0-++}(\mu, t) \rangle \quad (\text{B.41})$$

$$0 = \langle F_{4,\ell}^{0-++}(\mu, t) \rangle \quad (\text{B.42})$$

$$0 = \langle F_{1,\ell}^{+-+-}(\mu, t) \rangle \quad (\text{B.43})$$

$$0 = \langle F_{2,\ell}^{+-+-}(\mu, t) \rangle \quad (\text{B.44})$$

$$0 = \langle F_{3,\ell}^{+-+-}(\mu, t) \rangle \quad (\text{B.45})$$

$$0 = \langle F_{4,\ell}^{+-+-}(\mu, t) \rangle \quad (\text{B.46})$$

$$g_{4,0}^{T_1} - \frac{\gamma_0^2}{M_P^6} t - g_{4,1}^{T_1} t^2 = \langle F_{4,\ell}^{++--}(\mu, t) \rangle \quad (\text{B.51})$$

$$g_{5,0}^{T_1} - g_{4,1}^{T_1} t - g_{5,1}^{T_1} t^2 = \langle F_{5,\ell}^{++--}(\mu, t) \rangle \quad (\text{B.52})$$

$$g_{6,0}^{T_1} - g_{5,1}^{T_1} t + (g_{4,2}^{T_1} - g_{6,1}^{T_1}) t^2 = \langle F_{6,\ell}^{++--}(\mu, t) \rangle \quad (\text{B.53})$$

+ higher order forward sum rules

$$F_{k,\ell}^{1234}(\mu, t) = \frac{\partial_s^k}{k!} \left(\frac{s^2}{\mu^2(\mu-s)} d_{h_{12}, h_{43}}^{\ell, \mu, t} c_{\ell, \mu}^{12} c_{\ell, \mu}^{* \bar{3} \bar{4}} + \frac{(-s-t)^2}{\mu^2(\mu+s+t)} d_{h_{14}, h_{23}}^{\ell, \mu, t} c_{\ell, \mu}^{14} c_{\ell, \mu}^{* \bar{3} \bar{2}} \right) \Big|_{s \rightarrow 0} - \frac{\partial_t^k}{k!} \left(\frac{s^3}{\mu^3(\mu-s)} d_{h_{13}, h_{42}}^{\ell, \mu, t} c_{\ell, \mu}^{13} c_{\ell, \mu}^{* \bar{2} \bar{4}} + \frac{(-s)^3}{(\mu+t)^3(\mu+s+t)} d_{h_{14}, h_{32}}^{\ell, \mu, t} c_{\ell, \mu}^{14} c_{\ell, \mu}^{* \bar{2} \bar{3}} \right) \Big|_{t \rightarrow 0, s \rightarrow t}$$

Hong, Wang, **SYZ**, 2304.01259

Graviton t -channel pole

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

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

Bounds are **not strictly positive**

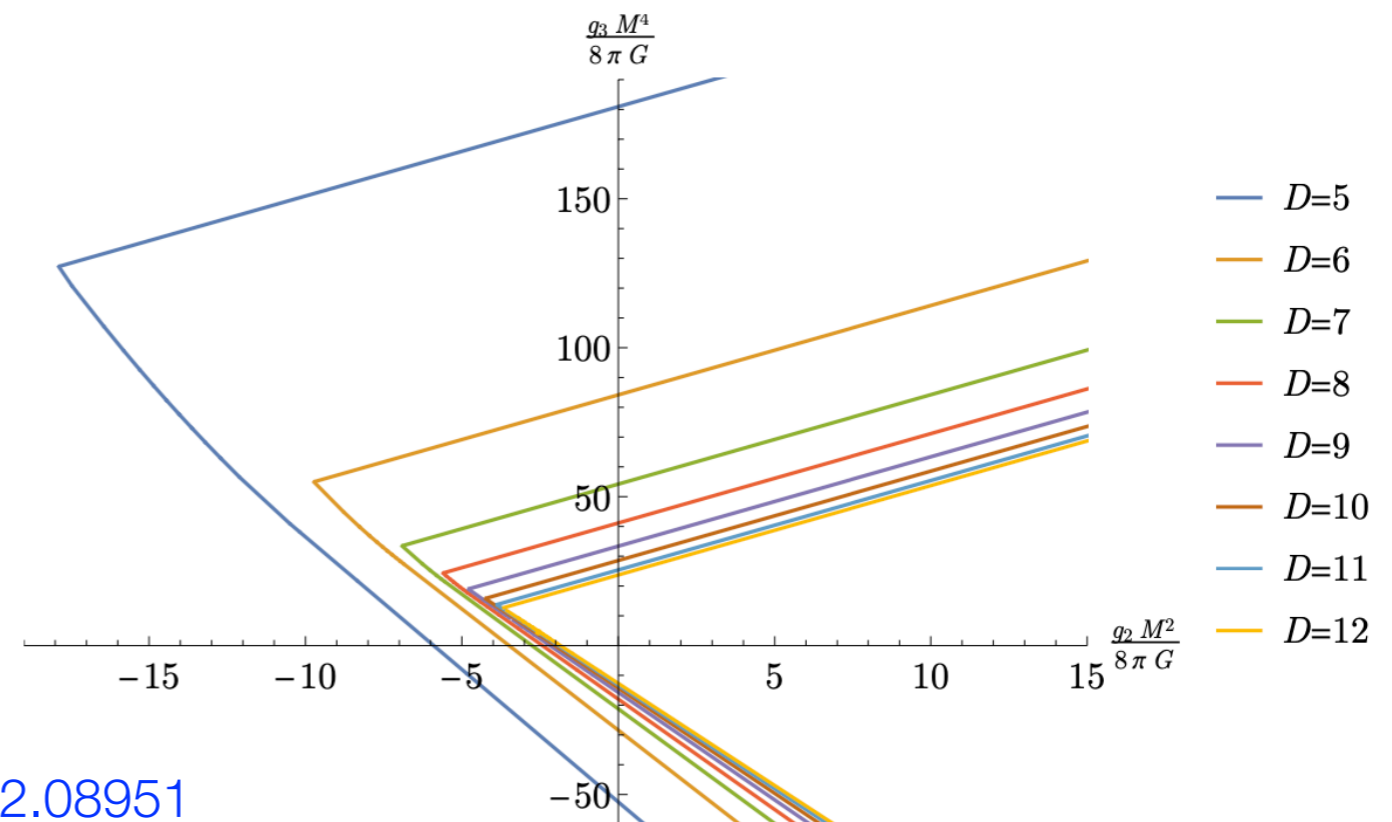
Alberte, de Rham, Jaitly & Tolley, 2007.12667
Tokuda, Aoki & Hirano, 2007.15009

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

Functional optimization

Use impact parameter

$$t \rightarrow b = 2\ell / \mu^{1/2}$$



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

Functional optimization

Optimize against weight functions $\phi_k^{1234}(p)$ $t := -p^2$

$$\sum_{1234,k} \int_0^\Lambda dp \phi_k^{1234}(p) \left[\delta_{k,2} a_{k,-1}^{1234} \frac{-1}{p^2} + a_{k,0}^{1234} + a_{k,1}^{1234} (-p^2) + a_{k,2}^{1234} p^4 \right] = \left\langle \sum_{1234,k} \int_0^\Lambda dp \phi_k^{1234}(p) F_{k,l}^{1234}(\mu, -p^2) \right\rangle$$

Wilson coefficients

$$\sum \int \phi(p) a_{k,n} \geq 0$$

UV information

$$\sum \int \phi(p) F \geq 0$$



Factor out UV spectral functions $c_{P_X, \ell, \mu} = \left(c_{P_X, \ell, \mu}^{00} \ c_{P_X, \ell, \mu}^{+0} \ c_{P_X, \ell, \mu}^{++} \ c_{P_X, \ell, \mu}^{+-} \right)^T$

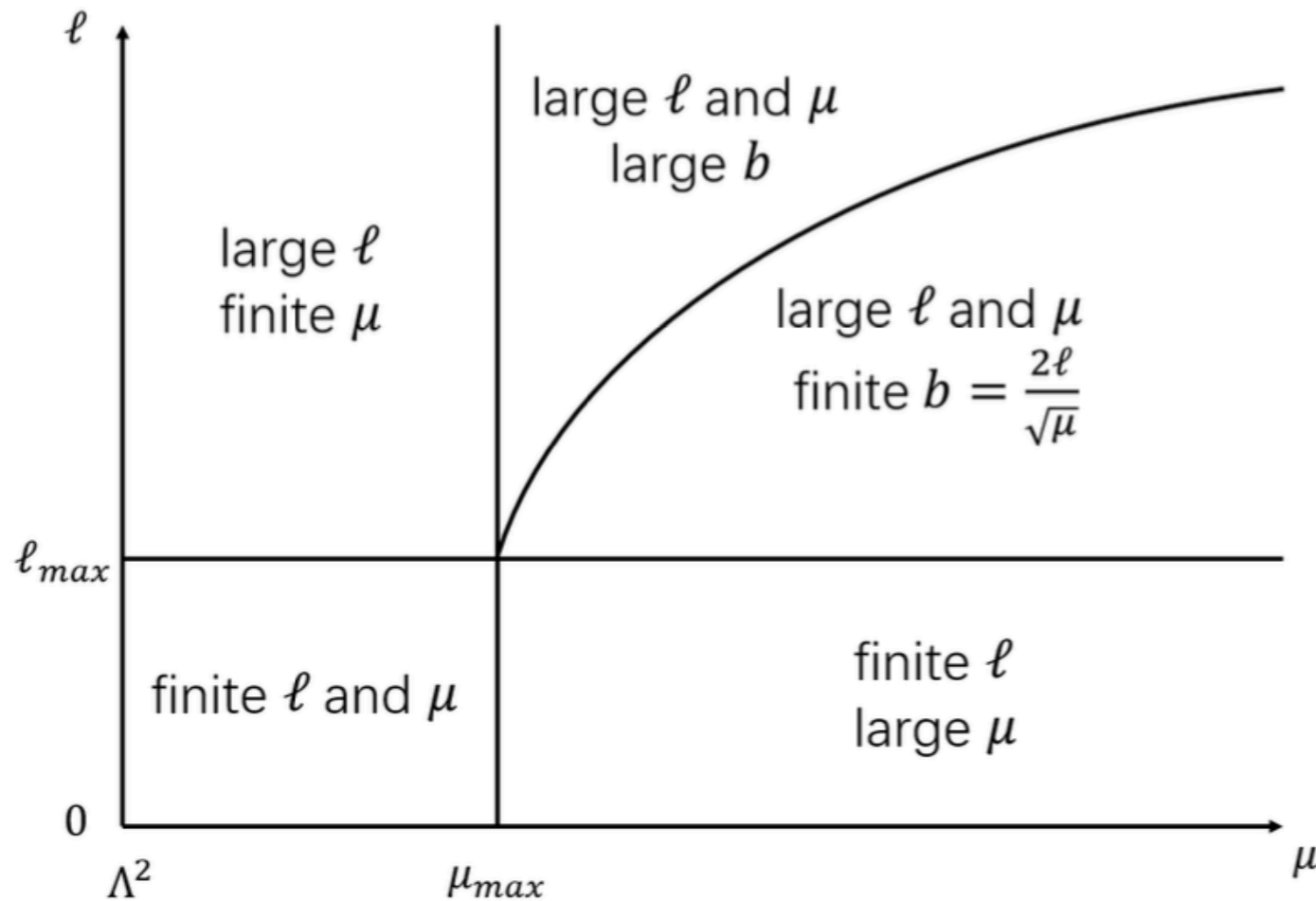
$$\sum_{1234,k} \int_0^\Lambda dp \phi_k^{1234}(p) F_{k,l}^{1234}(\mu, -p^2) := \sum_{P_X = \pm 1} \sum_{\mathbb{A}, \mathbb{B}} B_{P_X, \ell}^{\mathbb{A}, \mathbb{B}}(\mu) c_{P_X, \ell, \mu}^{\mathbb{A}} c_{P_X, \ell, \mu}^{\mathbb{B}}$$

$$B_{P_X, \ell}(\mu) \succeq 0, \quad \text{for } P_X = \pm 1, \text{ all possible } \ell \text{ and all } \mu \geq \Lambda^2$$

Numerical implementation

Sampling the UV constraint space

ℓ : UV spins μ : UV mass



- various approximations
- polynomials for $\phi_k^{1234}(p)$
- impact parameter sampling

$$\text{fixed } b = 2\ell/\sqrt{\mu}.$$

- in 4D, IR cutoff needed

$$\int_0^1 dp \frac{\phi(p)}{p^2} = \infty \Rightarrow \int_{m_{\text{IR}}}^1 dp \frac{\phi(p)}{p^2} \sim \log \frac{\Lambda}{m_{\text{IR}}}$$

$$\text{eg, } \log \frac{\Lambda}{m_{\text{IR}}} \geq \left\{ \dots \right\} \frac{\gamma_0^2}{M_P^4} + \left\{ \dots \right\} \frac{\beta_1^2}{M_P^2}$$

- add higher order forward sum rules

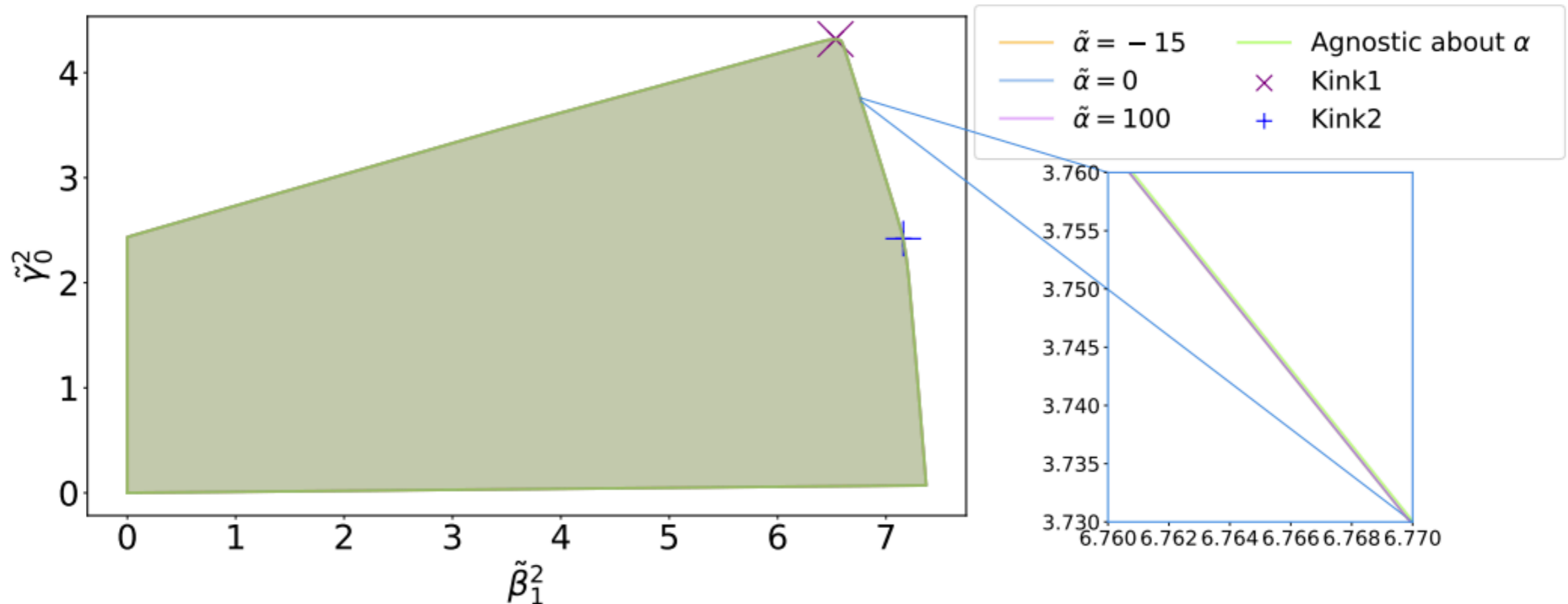
SDP: ~400 decision variables
 ~16000 4X4 matrix constraints

Results

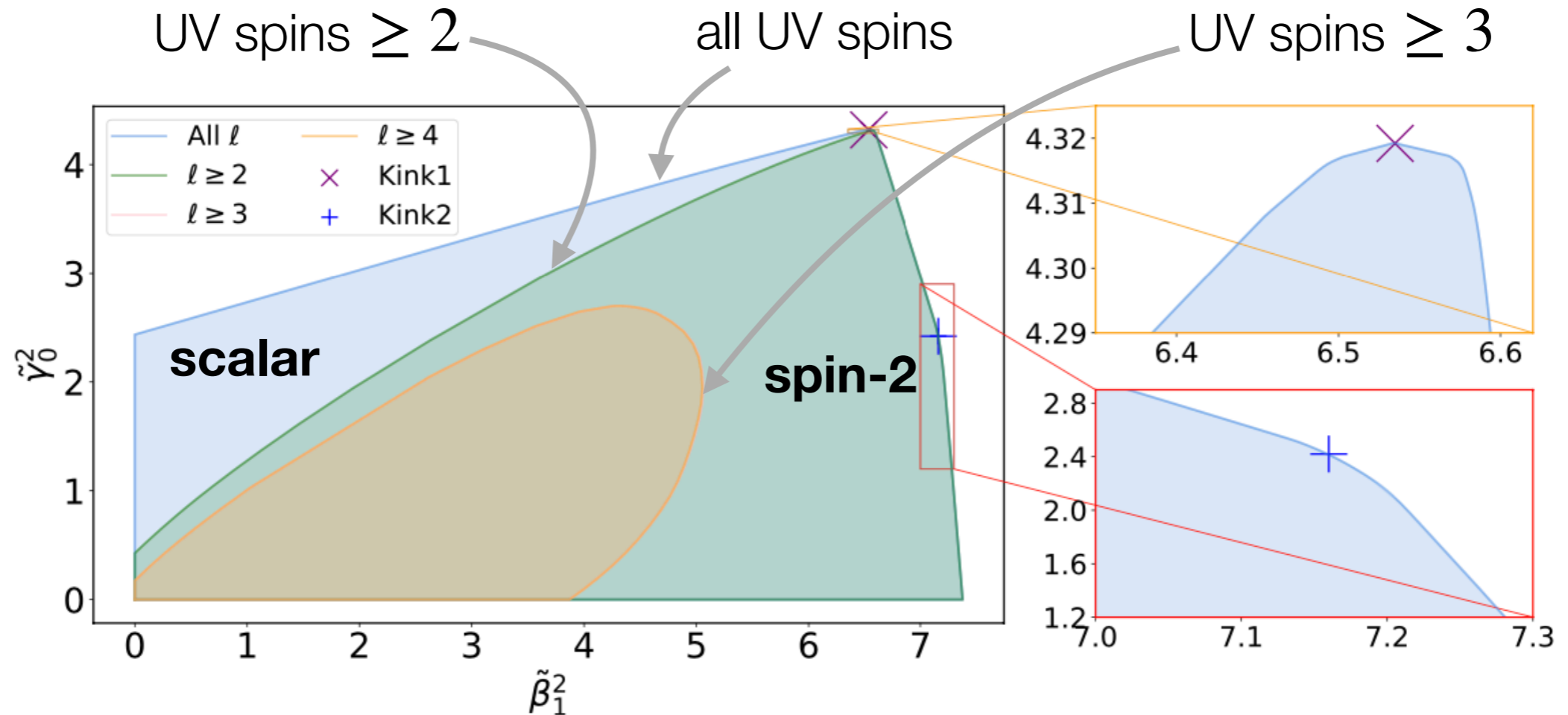
Two-sided bounds on leading coefficients

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

leading corrections



Inferring UV spectrum



only with $\ell \geq 5$ is inconsistent

only with $\ell < \ell_M \Rightarrow \gamma_0 = \beta_1 = 0$

Spin selection rules

Hong, Wang, [SYZ, 2304.01259](#)

$$\text{Disc} \mathcal{M}^{1234}(\mu, t) \sim \sum_{\ell} d_{h_{12}, h_{43}}^{\ell} (\arccos(1 + 2t/\mu)) c_{\ell, \mu}^{12} (c_{\ell, \mu}^{\bar{3}\bar{4}})^*$$

$\ell = 1$: either $d_{h_{12}, h_{43}}^{\ell} = 0$ or $c_{\ell, \mu}^{12} = 0$

$\ell = 3$: mostly either $d_{h_{12}, h_{43}}^{\ell} = 0$ or $c_{\ell, \mu}^{12} = 0$

Fine-tuned EFTs

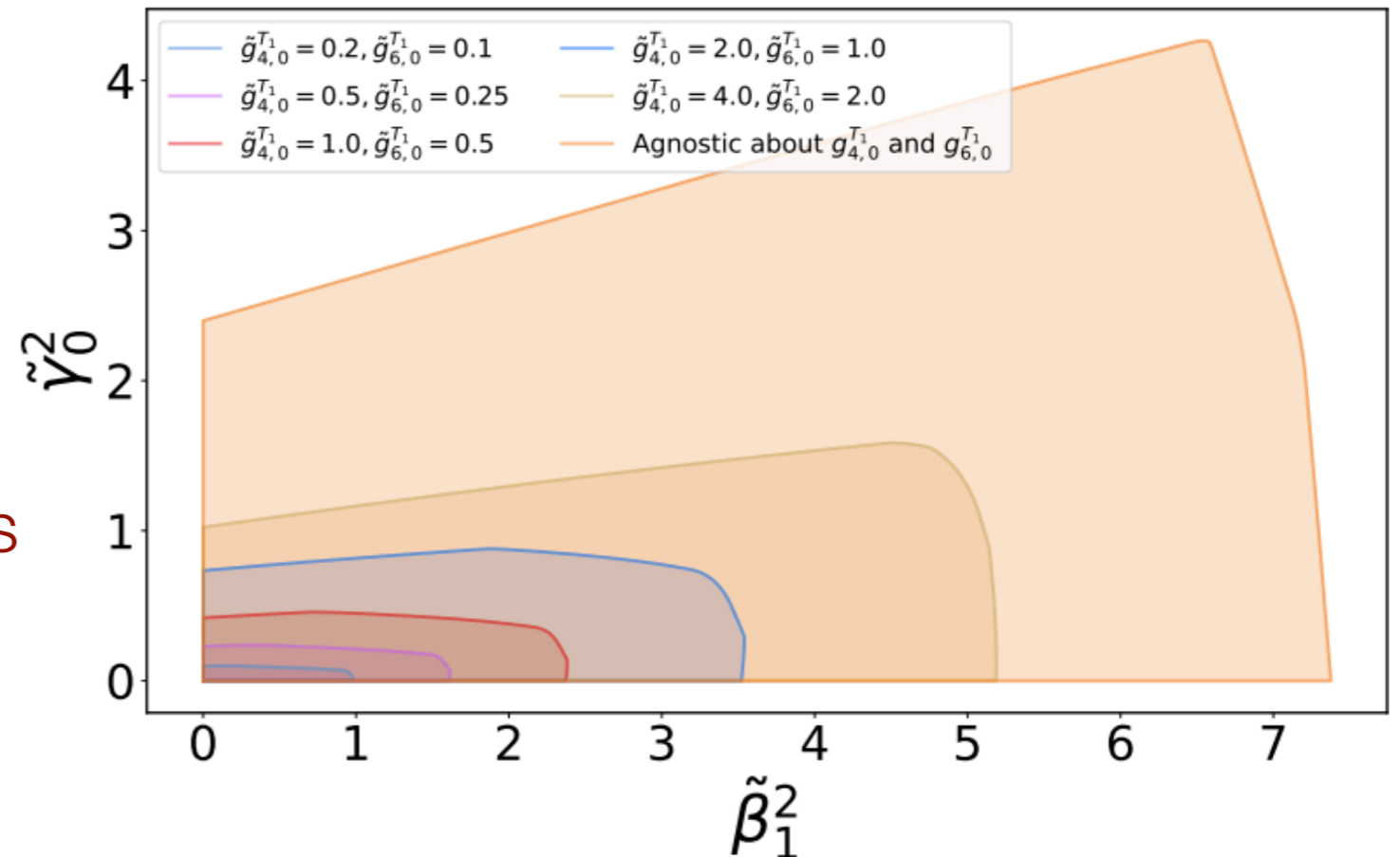
eg $\mathcal{L} = \sqrt{-g} \left(\frac{M_P^2}{2} R - \frac{1}{2} (\partial\phi)^2 + \left(\frac{\beta_1}{2!} \phi + \frac{\beta_2}{4} \phi^2 + \dots \right) \mathcal{G} \right)$ set HO coeff's to 0

$$\left. \begin{aligned} & \left\langle \frac{1}{\mu^5} \left(|c_{l,\mu}^{++}|^2 + |c_{l,\mu}^{+-}|^2 \right) \right\rangle = 0 \\ -\frac{1}{M_P^2} \frac{1}{t} &= \left\langle \frac{1}{\mu^3} d_{0,0}^l |c_{l,\mu}^{++}|^2 + \frac{1}{(\mu+t)^3} d_{4,4}^l |c_{l,\mu}^{+-}|^2 \right\rangle \end{aligned} \right\} \Rightarrow M_P \rightarrow \infty \Rightarrow \text{inconsistent}$$

Avoid: $c_{l,\mu}^{00} = 0$ or $c_{l,\mu}^{+0} = 0$
 or $c_{l,\mu}^{++} = c_{l,\mu}^{+-} = 0$

Suppressed coeff's?

LO coeff's bounded by HO coeff's



Is scalarization natural?

Generically, causality bounds require

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

hairy BH

spontaneous scalarization

$\phi^2 \mathcal{G}$ term can be much bigger

Scalarization is natural!

Three EFT theorists

Two scales in Einstein EFT: M_P , Λ

How shall 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

What about adding matter fields?

Power counting via dispersion relations

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

Example $c_{\ell,\mu}^{++}, c_{\ell,\mu}^{+-}$: UV partial amplitude

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

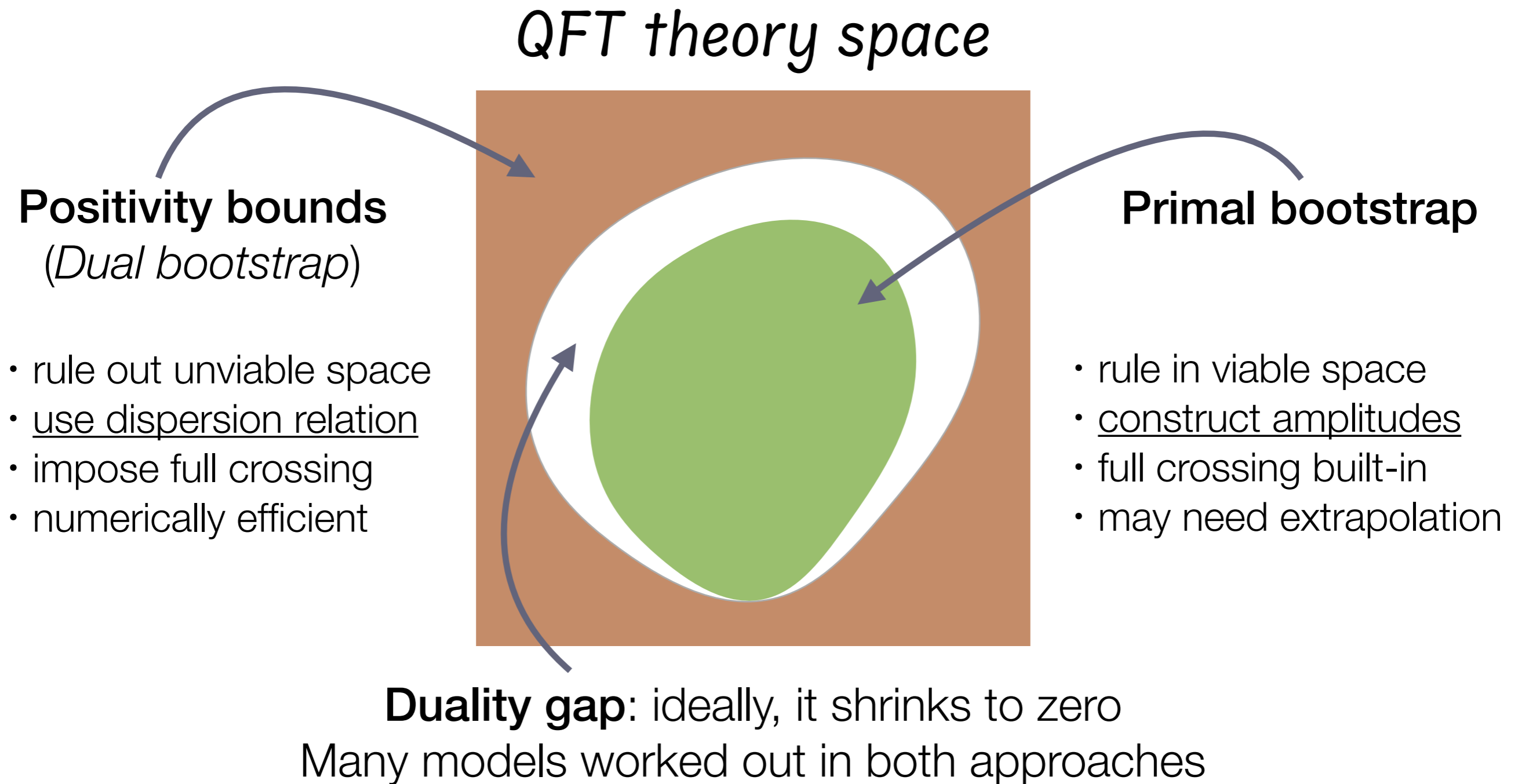
For lowest few orders

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

Summary

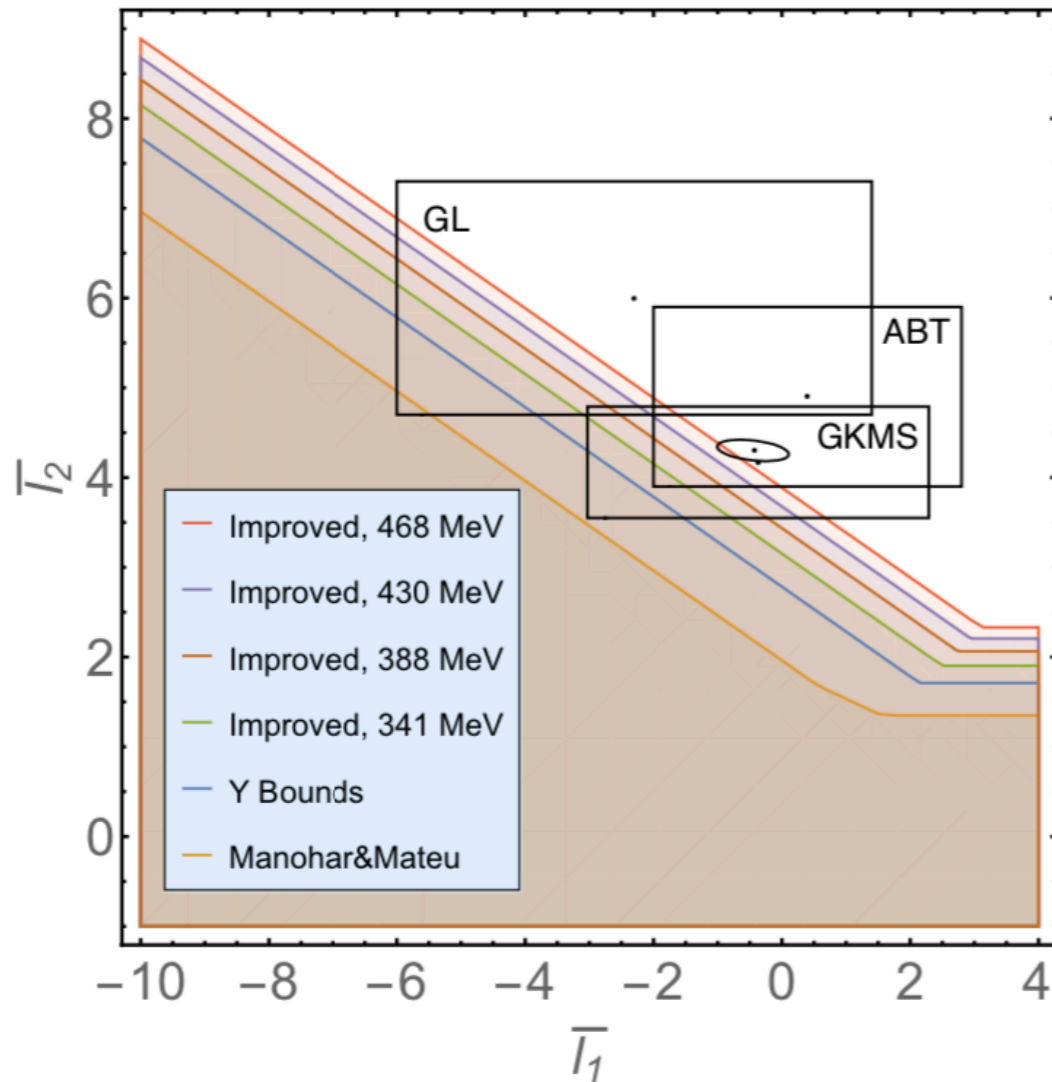
- Causality bounds are UV unitarity conditions passed down to IR by causality/analyticity/dispersion relations.
- Computed causality bounds on scalar-tensor EFTs
 - Another nontrivial multi-field example for **two-sided bounds**
 - not easy due to graviton t -channel pole
 - Relevant for relativistic astrophysics (hairy BH, scalarization, ...)
 - parameter space for **scalarization is natural**
- Found simple way to power-count gravitational EFT operators via dispersion relations

Positivity bounds vs primal (S-matrix) bootstrap

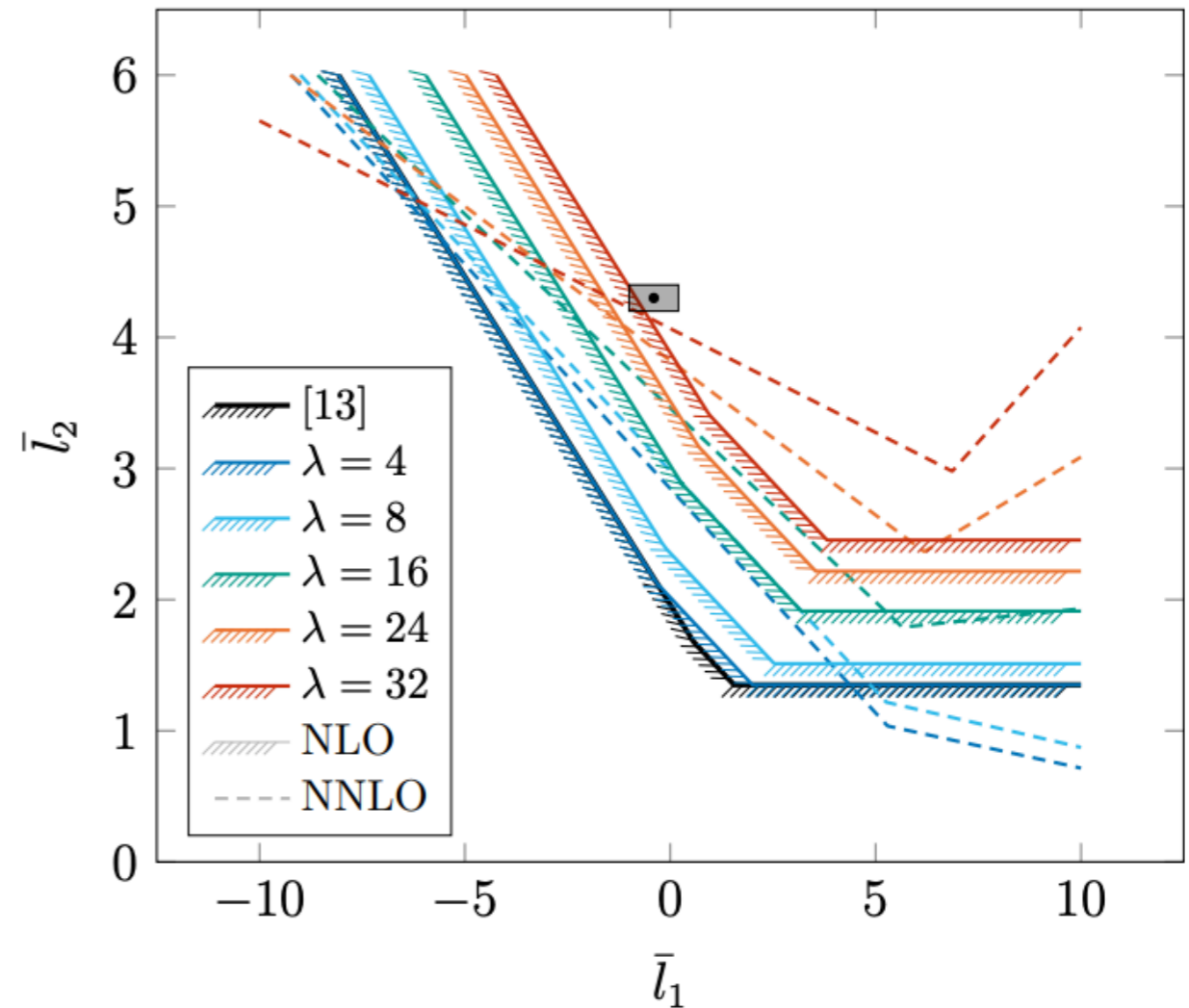


Applications on Chiral PT

For example, bounds on $O(p^4)$ coefficients



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



Alvarez, Bijens, Sjo, 2112.04253

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

Example: shift-symmetric Horndeski theory

Horndeski theory

$$\mathcal{L}_2^H = M_P^2 \Lambda^2 G_2(\phi, X),$$

$$\mathcal{L}_3^H = \frac{M_P^2}{\Lambda} G_3(\phi, X) \square \phi,$$

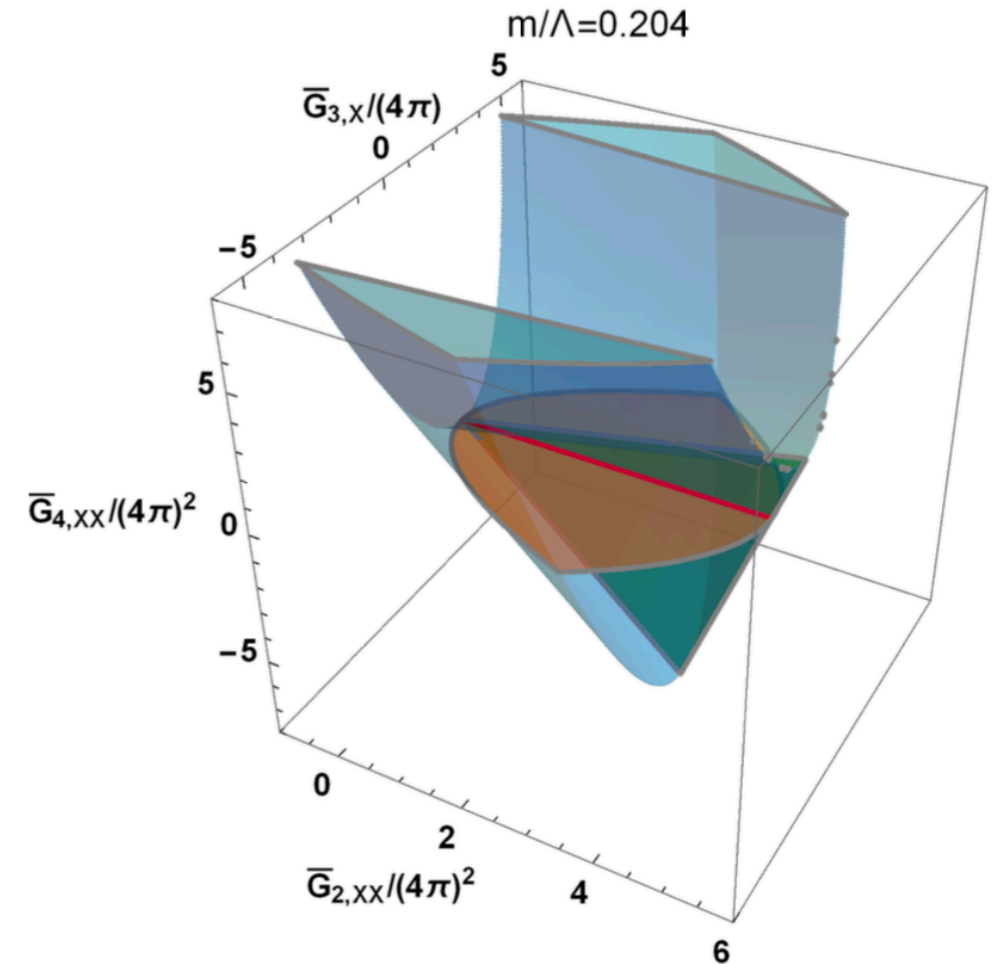
$$\mathcal{L}_4^H = M_P^2 G_4(\phi, X) R + \frac{M_P^2}{\Lambda^4} G_{4,X} ((\square \phi)^2 - (\nabla_\mu \nabla_\nu \phi)^2),$$

$$\mathcal{L}_5^H = \frac{M_P^2}{\Lambda^3} G_5(\phi, X) G_{\mu\nu} \nabla^\mu \nabla^\nu \phi - \frac{M_P^2 G_{5,X}}{6\Lambda^7} ((\square \phi)^3 - 3\square \phi (\nabla_\mu \nabla_\nu \phi)^2 + 2(\nabla_\mu \nabla_\nu \phi)^3)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{M_P^2}{\Lambda^2} G_i(\phi, X) = & \left(\frac{M_P^2}{\Lambda^2} \right)^{\eta_i} \bar{G}_i + \frac{\bar{G}_{i,\phi}}{\Lambda} \phi + \frac{\bar{G}_{i,\phi\phi}}{2\Lambda^2} \phi^2 + \bar{G}_{i,X} X + \frac{\bar{G}_{i,\phi X}}{\Lambda} \phi X \\ & + \frac{\bar{G}_{i,\phi\phi X}}{\Lambda^2} \phi^2 X + \frac{1}{2} \bar{G}_{i,XX} X^2 + \dots \end{aligned}$$

Optimized two-sided bounds:

$$\begin{cases} \left(\frac{3\bar{G}_{3,X}^2 - 6\bar{G}_{4,XX}}{4} - \left(\frac{\bar{G}_{2,XX}}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{m}{\Lambda} \right)^2 (3\bar{G}_{3,X}^2 - 4\bar{G}_{4,XX}) \right) \right) \bar{c}_{\min}^{2,1}(m) \geq 0 \\ \left(\frac{3\bar{G}_{3,X}^2 - 6\bar{G}_{4,XX}}{4} - \left(\frac{\bar{G}_{2,XX}}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{m}{\Lambda} \right)^2 (3\bar{G}_{3,X}^2 - 4\bar{G}_{4,XX}) \right) \right) \bar{c}_{\max}^{2,1}(m) \leq 0 \\ 0 \leq \frac{\bar{G}_{2,XX}}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{m}{\Lambda} \right)^2 (3\bar{G}_{3,X}^2 - 4\bar{G}_{4,XX}) \leq \Lambda^4 \bar{c}_{\max}^{2,0}(m). \end{cases}$$



Single field vs multiple fields

Optical theorem (for identical particle)

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

use **linear programming** to obtain optimal bounds

Du, Zhang & **SYZ**, 2111.01169

Generalized optical theorem (for multiple fields)

$$\text{Im } a_{\ell}^{ijkl} = \sum_X a_{\ell}^{ij \rightarrow X} (a_{\ell}^{kl \rightarrow X})^* \quad \text{positive matrix}$$

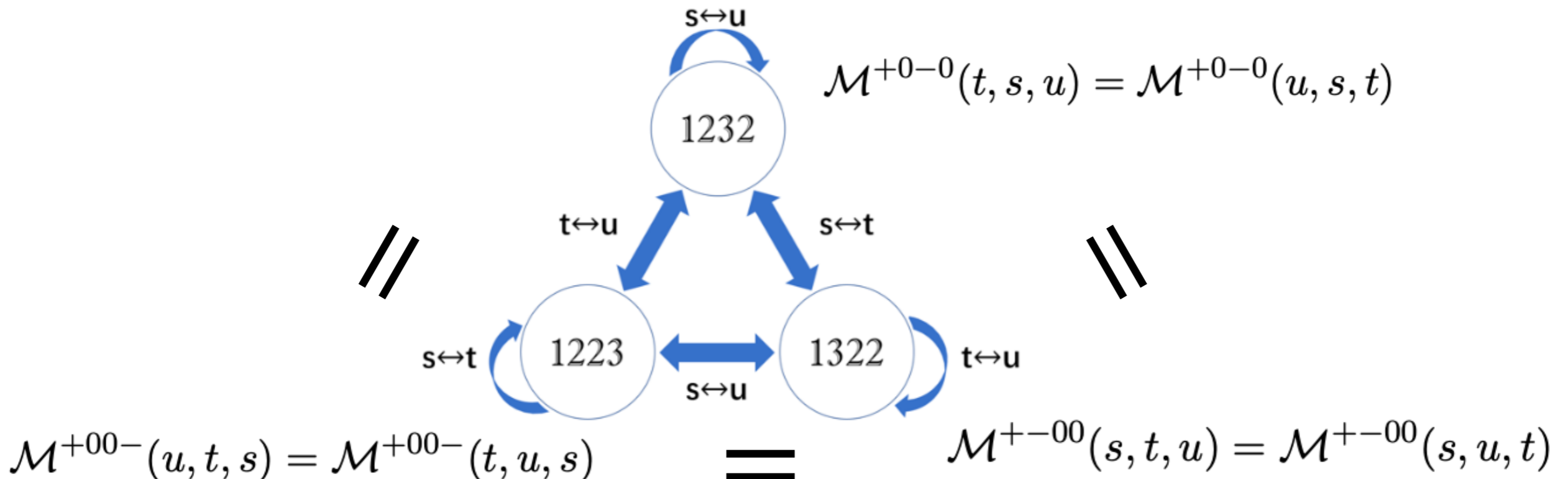
use **semi-definite programming** to obtain optimal bounds

Crossing symmetries & relations

Full permutation symmetries (5 cases), eg,

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{M}^{0000}(s, t, u) &= \mathcal{M}^{0000}(u, t, s) = \mathcal{M}^{0000}(t, s, u), \\ \mathcal{M}^{+000}(s, t, u) &= \mathcal{M}^{+000}(u, t, s) = \mathcal{M}^{+000}(t, s, u), \\ \mathcal{M}^{+++0}(s, t, u) &= \mathcal{M}^{+++0}(u, t, s) = \mathcal{M}^{+++0}(t, s, u), \end{aligned}$$

Only one symmetry + crossing links (4 groups), eg,



Fixed t dispersion relations with graviton

Partial wave expansion

$$\mathcal{M}^{1234}(s, t, u) = 16\pi \sum_{\ell} (2\ell + 1) d_{h_{12}, h_{43}}^{\ell} \left(1 + \frac{2t}{s}\right) A_{\ell}^{1234}(s).$$

UV unitarity conditions

$$\text{Abs } A_{\ell}^{1234}(s) = \sum_X c_{\ell, s}^{12 \rightarrow X} c_{\ell, s}^{*\bar{3}\bar{4} \rightarrow X}$$

Froissart-like bounds

$$\begin{cases} \lim_{|s| \rightarrow \infty} \mathcal{M}(s, t)/s^2 = 0, & t < 0, \\ \lim_{|s| \rightarrow \infty} \mathcal{M}(s, t)/s^3 = 0, & 0 \leq t \leq \xi, \end{cases}$$

Twice subtracted dispersion relations

$$\delta_{k,2} a_{k,-1}^{1234} \frac{1}{t} + \sum_{n=0} a_{k,n}^{1234} t^n = \left\langle \frac{\partial_s^k}{k!} \left[\frac{s^2 d_{h_{12}, h_{43}}^{\ell, \mu, t} c_{\ell, \mu}^{12} c_{\ell, \mu}^{*\bar{3}\bar{4}}}{\mu^2(\mu - s)} + \frac{(-s - t)^2 d_{h_{14}, h_{23}}^{\ell, \mu, t} c_{\ell, \mu}^{14} c_{\ell, \mu}^{*\bar{3}\bar{2}}}{\mu^2(\mu + s + t)} \right] \Big|_{s \rightarrow 0} \right\rangle,$$

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

$$\langle \dots \rangle := 16\pi \sum_{\ell, X} (2\ell + 1) \int_{\Lambda^2}^{\infty} \frac{d\mu}{\pi} (\dots)$$

Bounds on $(\partial\phi)^4$ coefficient

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

Without graviton

$$\alpha \geq 0 \quad \text{reason for name of positivity bounds}$$

With graviton

$$\alpha \geq -16.091 \frac{\log(\Lambda/m_{\text{IR}})}{\Lambda^2 M_P^2} \quad \alpha \geq 0 \quad \text{as } M_P \rightarrow \infty$$

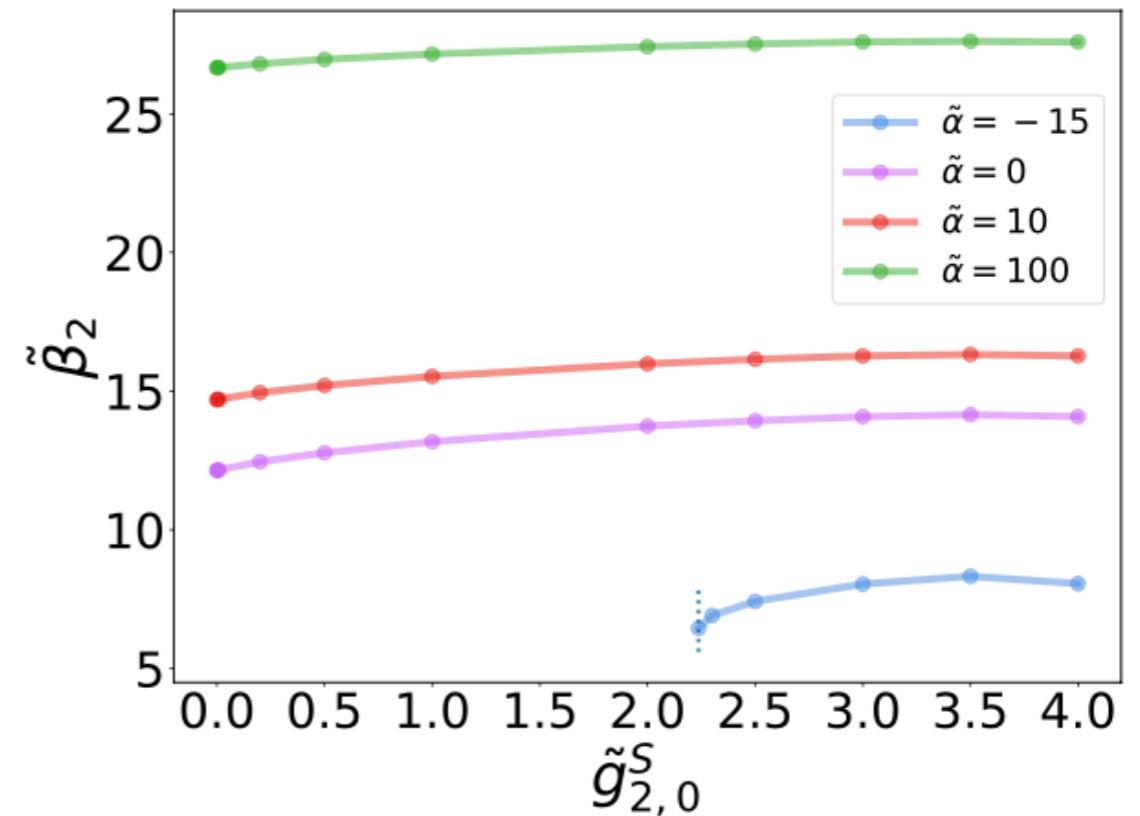
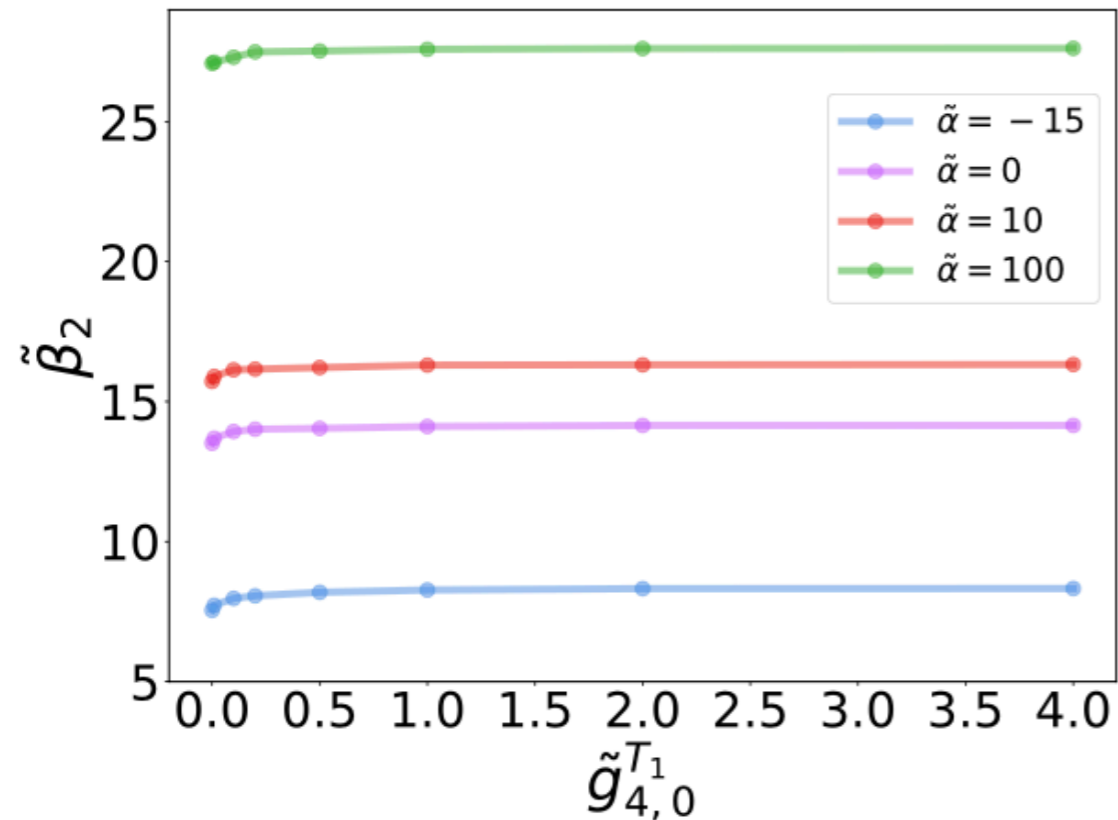
Other coefficients' dependence on α

Hong, Wang, [SYZ](#), 2304.01259

Insensitive to α : $\gamma_0 \sim \frac{M_P^2}{\Lambda^4}, \quad \gamma_1 \sim \frac{M_P}{\Lambda^4}, \quad \beta_1 \sim \frac{M_P}{\Lambda^2}, \quad \dots$

Sensitive to α : $\gamma_2 \sim \frac{M_P}{\Lambda^5}, \quad \gamma_3 \sim \frac{1}{\Lambda^5}, \quad \gamma_4 \sim \frac{1}{\Lambda^6}, \quad \dots$ when $\alpha \sim \frac{1}{\Lambda^4}$
 $\gamma_2 \sim \frac{1}{\Lambda^4}, \quad \gamma_3 \sim \frac{1}{M_P \Lambda^4}, \quad \gamma_4 \sim \frac{1}{M_P^2 \Lambda^4}, \quad \dots$ when $\alpha \sim \frac{1}{M_P^2 \Lambda^2}$

Inensitivity for some coefficients



Can be inspected from SDP

Hong, Wang, [SYZ, 2304.01259](#)

$$B_{P_X, \ell} \sim (\dots) + y_* \mathcal{O}(\mu^{-n_*}) + y_{4,0}^{T_1} \mathcal{O}(\mu^{-5}) \succeq 0$$

$$[\dots] + y_* \beta_* + y_{4,0}^{T_1} g_{4,0}^{T_1} \geq 0$$