

The Cosmological Bootstrap

Daniel Baumann University of Amsterdam

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Based on work with

Nima Arkani-Hamed, Hayden Lee, Guilherme Pimentel, Carlos Duaso Pueyo and Austin Joyce The physics of the early universe is encoded in **spatial correlations** between cosmological structures at late times:



A central challenge of modern cosmology is to construct a **consistent history** of the universe that explains these correlations.

The correlations can be traced back to **primordial correlations** at the beginning of the hot big bang.



To explain the observed fluctuations in the CMB, these fluctuations must be created **before the hot big bang**!

What is the space of consistent histories?



- What are the rules that consistent correlators have to satisfy?
- How are these rules encoded in the boundary observables?

Similar questions have been asked for scattering amplitudes:



In that case, the rules of **quantum mechanics** and **relativity** are very constraining.

Does a similar **rigidity** exist for cosmological correlators?



Goal: Develop an understanding of cosmological correlators that parallels our understanding of flat-space scattering amplitudes.

The connection to scattering amplitudes is also relevant because the early universe was like a giant **cosmological collider**:



During inflation, the rapid expansion can produce very **massive** particles ($\sim 10^{14}$ GeV) whose decays lead to nontrivial correlations.

At late times, these correlations will leave an imprint in the distribution of galaxies:



<< 1 sec



Goal: Develop a systematic way to predict these signals.

Any Questions?

Outline

The Cosmological Bootstrap

New Developments

The Cosmological Bootstrap



Bootstrap Philosophy



Modern scattering amplitudes programme

See Yu-tin's book.

The S-Matrix Bootstrap

The structure of scattering amplitudes at tree level is fixed by Lorentz invariance, locality and unitarity:

$$A(s,t) = \sum a_{nm}s^{n}t^{m} + \frac{g^{2}}{s-M^{2}}P_{S}\left(1+\frac{2t}{M^{2}}\right)$$

$$M,S$$

- No Lagrangian or Feynman diagrams are needed to derive this.
- Basic principles allow only a small menu of possibilities.

The Challenge

Even tree-level processes are hard to compute in cosmology:



The Cosmological Bootstrap

In the cosmological bootstrap, the primordial correlators are determined from consistency conditions alone:

Arkani-Hamed, DB, Lee and Pimentel [2018] DB, Duaso Pueyo, Joyce, Lee and Pimentel [2019] DB, Duaso Pueyo, Joyce, Lee and Pimentel [2020]

> Arkani-Hamed and Maldacena [2015] Arkani-Hamed, Benincasa, and Postnikov [2017] Sleight and Taronna [2019] Sleight [2019]

Inflation → De Sitter

If inflation is correct, then all primordial correlations live on the boundary of an approximate de Sitter spacetime:



- Isometries of dS become conformal symmetries on the boundary.
- This constrains the correlations of weakly interacting particles.

De Sitter → Inflation

Inflationary three-point functions are obtained from de Sitter four-point functions by evaluating one of the external legs on the background:



We can therefore study de Sitter four-point functions as the fundamental building blocks of inflationary correlators.

Symmetries

If the couplings between particles are weak, then the primordial correlations inherit the symmetries of the quasi-de Sitter spacetime:



Kinematics

The kinematical data of correlators and amplitudes is similar:



Raju [2012] Maldacena and Pimentel [2011]

Ward Identities

Invariance under dilatations and SCTs imply the following Ward identities:

$$0 = \left[9 - \sum_{n=1}^{4} \left(\Delta_n - \vec{k}_n \cdot \partial_{\vec{k}_n}\right)\right] F$$
$$0 = \sum_{n=1}^{4} \left[(\Delta_n - 3)\partial_{\vec{k}_n} - (\vec{k}_n \cdot \partial_{\vec{k}_n})\partial_{\vec{k}_n} + \frac{\vec{k}_n}{2}(\partial_{\vec{k}_n} \cdot \partial_{\vec{k}_n})\right] F$$

This is the analog of Lorentz invariance of the amplitude:

A(s,t)

Ward Identities

These Ward identities dictate how the strength of the correlations changes as we change the external momenta:



Singularities

The solutions to the Ward identities can be classified by their **singularities**:



Contact solutions only

have total-energy poles.



Exchange solutions have additional partial-energy poles.

Exchange Solutions

There are **distinct solutions** for distinct microscopic processes during inflation:



Exchange Solutions

There are **distinct solutions** for distinct microscopic processes during inflation:



Remarkably, all solutions can be reduced to a **unique building block**.

• The dilatation Ward identity for the seed is solved if

$$F = \frac{1}{s}\hat{F}(\boldsymbol{u},\boldsymbol{v})$$



where we have introduced $\ u\equiv rac{s}{k_1+k_2}$ and $\ v\equiv rac{s}{k_3+k_4}$.

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• The conformal Ward identity then becomes

$$(\Delta_u - \Delta_v)\hat{F} = 0$$

where $\Delta_u \equiv u^2(1-u^2)\partial_u^2 - 2u^3\partial_u$.

For tree exchange, the conformal Ward identity reduces to:

$$(s - M^2)$$
 \longrightarrow $=$ \checkmark

For tree exchange, the conformal Ward identity reduces to:

$$(\Delta_u + M^2)\hat{F} = \hat{F}_c$$

Need **boundary conditions** to solve this ODE:





The explicit solution for the seed function is

$$(uv)^{\frac{1}{2}\pm iM} {}_{2}F_{1} \left[\begin{array}{c} \frac{1}{4} \pm iM, \frac{3}{4} \pm iM \\ 1 \pm iM \end{array} \middle| u^{2} \right] {}_{2}F_{1} \left[\begin{array}{c} \frac{1}{4} \pm iM, \frac{3}{4} \pm iM \\ 1 \pm iM \end{array} \middle| v^{2} \right]$$

$$F = \sum_{m,n} c_{mn}(M) \, u^{2m+1} \left(\frac{u}{v} \right)^{n} + \frac{\pi}{\cosh(\pi M)} g(u, v)$$

$$F_{2|0|1} \left[\begin{array}{c} \frac{1}{2}, 1 \\ \frac{5+2iM}{4}, \frac{5-2iM}{4} \\ \frac{1}{2} + iM \end{array} \middle| u^{2}, \frac{u^{2}}{v^{2}} \right]$$

The Collapsed Limit

In the collapsed limit, the solution oscillates:



$= \sin[M\log(s/k_{12})]$

Noumi, Yamaguchi and Yokoyama [2013] Arkani-Hamed and Maldacena [2015] Arkani-Hamed, DB, Lee and Pimentel [2018]

Particle Production

These oscillations are a key signature of **particle production** during inflation:

$$e^{iMt} \Rightarrow$$

Oscillations in the superhorizon evolution become oscillations in the boundary correlations at late times.

Cosmological Collider Physics

This signal is the analog of **resonances** in collider physics:



Any Questions?

New Developments
So far, we have studied the correlations of scalar fields.

Arkani-Hamed, DB, Lee and Pimentel [2018] DB, Duaso Pueyo, Joyce, Lee and Pimentel [2019]

Now, we would like to extend the bootstrap to **spinning correlators**, especially to **massless** fields with spin.

DB, Duaso Pueyo, Joyce, Lee and Pimentel [2020]

Massless Particles in Flat Space

• Massless bosons mediate long-range forces:



• The interactions of massless particles are highly constrained:

Beyond Feynman Diagrams

- Computations using Feynman diagrams are complicated.
- Physical answers are simple.

Parke and Taylor [1985] De Witt [1967]

- Bootstrap methods are a necessity, not a luxury:
 - Massless 3pt amplitudes are fixed by Poincare invariance:



- Higher-point amplitudes are constrained by locality:



The Four-Particle Test

• Consistent factorisation is a nontrivial constraint:



• Only consistent for spins $S = \{ 0, \frac{1}{2}, 1, \frac{3}{2}, 2 \}$

Benincasa and Cachazo [2007] McGady and Rodina [2010]

SUSY

YM

Massless Particles in de Sitter Space

- Fluctuations of all massless fields are amplified during inflation.
- Every inflationary model has two massless modes:



- Not much is known about tensor correlators beyond 3pt functions.
- Even less is known about the consistency of partially massless fields:

$$\Sigma_{i_1...i_S}$$

partially massless

Beyond Feynman Diagrams

• Direct computations of spinning correlators are very complicated.



• Bootstrap methods are a necessity, not a luxury.

Two Approaches

In our new paper, we derive a large class of spinning correlators in de Sitter space. We use two different approaches:

1) Spin-raising operators



2) Singularities

In the following, I will describe the second approach.

DB, Duaso Pueyo, Joyce, Lee and Pimentel [2020]

Singularities of Cosmological Correlators

The four-point function is controlled by **three** singularities:



Singularities occur when energies add up to zero. Maldacena and Pimentel [2012] Arkani-Hamed, Benincasa, and Postnikov [2017]

A Simple Example

Consider **Compton scattering** in de Sitter space.

• The factorisation limits of the s-channel are





 $E_L \equiv k_{12} + s$ $E_R \equiv k_{34} + s$ $E \equiv k_{12} + k_{34}$

A Simple Example

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• The factorisation limits of the s-channel are





 $E_L \equiv k_{12} + s$ $E_R \equiv k_{34} + s$ $E \equiv k_{12} + k_{34}$

 $E_L E_R \xrightarrow{E \to 0} S$

• The unique solution that is consistent with these limits is

$$\langle J\phi J\phi \rangle_s = \frac{(\vec{\xi_1} \cdot \vec{k_2})(\vec{\xi_3} \cdot \vec{k_4})}{E_L E_R E}$$

• The total energy singularity has the correct residue.

A More Complicated Example

Consider Compton scattering of gravitons.

• The solution in the s-channel is

fixed by factorisation

$$= (\vec{\xi_1} \cdot \vec{k_2})^2 (\vec{\xi_3} \cdot \vec{k_4})^2 \left[\frac{1}{E_L^2 E_R^2} \left(\frac{2sk_1k_3}{E^2} + \frac{2k_1k_3 + E_Lk_3 + E_Rk_1}{E} \right) \right]$$
$$\frac{1}{E_L E_R} \left(\frac{2k_1k_3}{E^3} + \frac{k_{13}}{E^2} + \frac{1}{E} \right) \right]$$
fixed by total energy singularity fixed by conformal symmetry

A More Complicated Example

Consider Compton scattering of gravitons.

• The solution in the s-channel is

$$\begin{aligned} \vec{\xi}_{1} &= (\vec{\xi}_{1} \cdot \vec{k}_{2})^{2} (\vec{\xi}_{3} \cdot \vec{k}_{4})^{2} \left[\frac{1}{E_{L}^{2} E_{R}^{2}} \left(\frac{2sk_{1}k_{3}}{E^{2}} + \frac{2k_{1}k_{3} + E_{L}k_{3} + E_{R}k_{1}}{E} \right) \\ \frac{1}{E_{L}E_{R}} \left(\frac{2k_{1}k_{3}}{E^{3}} + \frac{k_{13}}{E^{2}} + \frac{1}{E} \right) \right] \end{aligned}$$

• The solution in the u-channel is

$$= \frac{1}{E_L^2 E_R^2} \left(\frac{2k_1 k_3}{E^2} + \frac{E_L}{E} \right) \mathcal{N}(\vec{\xi_1}, \vec{\xi_3}, \vec{k_2}, \vec{k_4})$$

+
$$\frac{1}{E_L E_R} \left(\frac{2k_1 k_3}{E^3} + \frac{k_{13}}{E^2} + \frac{1}{E} \right) \mathcal{M}(\vec{\xi_1}, \vec{\xi_3}, \vec{k_2}, \vec{k_4})$$

fixed by total energy singularity fixed by conformal symmetry

One Channel Is Not Enough

Consider the correlator of one photon and three scalars:



• Can we have $e_3 = e_4 = 0$?



One Channel Is Not Enough

Consider the correlator of one photon and three scalars:



• Let $e_4 \neq 0$:



Lorentz-violation disappears when

$$e_2 + e_4 = 0$$

charge conservation

Discovering Yang-Mills

Consider two gluons and two scalars:



 The sum of all channels is only consistent if the couplings satisfy the Lie algebra:



$$[T^A, T^B]_{ab} = f^{ABC} T^C_{ab}$$

• Consistency also fixes the contact term required by gauge invariance.

Equivalence Principle (without falling elevators)

Consider one graviton and three scalars:



- The individual channels are not consistent.
- The sum of all channels is consistent if and only if

$$\kappa_2 = \kappa_3 = \kappa_4$$

Equivalence Principle (without falling elevators)

Consider two gravitons and two scalars:



• The sum of all channels is only consistent if all gravitational couplings are **universal**:



$$\kappa_a = \kappa_b = \kappa_c$$

Ruling Out Theories

The bootstrap approach will also allow us to rule out theories:

- Couplings of massless gravitinos will **not** be supersymmetric.
- Couplings of higher-spin particles will **not** be local.
- Multiple gravitons must be decoupled.
- Interactions of partially massless particles will be highly constrained.

We hope to report on such no-go results in the future.

Any Questions?

Future Challenges

We have only scratched the surface of a fascinating subject:



Much more remains to be discovered.

Open Problems

Beyond Feynman Diagrams

- What is the on-shell formulation of cosmological correlators?
- What are the fundamental building blocks?
- How are these building blocks connected?
- Is there a cosmological analog of Parke-Taylor?
- Where is the hidden simplicity?

Ultraviolet Completion

- What are the rules?
- How is unitarity encoded in the boundary correlators?
- Are there interesting positivity constraints?
- How does this constrain the space of consistent correlators?
- Does this motivate new observational targets?



Thank you for your attention!



Dramatic progress in the study of **scattering amplitudes**:

- on-shell recursion relations
- color-kinematics duality
- soft theorems
- hidden positivities
- spinor helicity formalism
- generalised unitarity
- momentum twistors
- ...



SCATTERING AMPLITUDES IN GAUGE THEORY AND GRAVITY

and YU-TIN HUANG

Do these insights translate to **cosmological correlators**?

Amplitudes *live inside* **correlators**.



Raju [2012] Maldacena and Pimentel [2011]

Insights from the modern scattering amplitudes programme must therefore be relevant for cosmology.

What is the goal?

Relate low-energy predictions to high-energy physics:



Define observational targets.

What are the rules?

The closer we get to the real world, the less we understand:



Causality

Consistent time evolution is encoded in the **analytic structure** (poles and branch cuts) of amplitudes and correlators:



Locality

Locality is encoded in **factorization**:



Scattering amplitudes



Cosmological correlators

Unitarity

Unitarity is encoded in **positivity**:

$$A(s, t \to 0) = \sum_{n} a_{n} s^{n}$$
$$a_{n} > 0$$

Scattering amplitudes

Cosmological correlators

Landscape vs Swampland

The ultraviolet completion of scattering amplitudes is highly constrained by these basic physical principles:

Exchange of Spinning Particles

Strategy

We wish to find differential operators that relate scalar exchange to spin exchange:



It turns out that the spin raising is best implemented in embedding space and then Fourier transformed.

CFTs in Embedding Space

Consider the following embedding of d-dimensional Euclidean space into (d+2)-dimensional Minkowski space:



Dirac [1936] Costa, Penedones, Poland and Rychkov [2011]

CFTs in Embedding Space

Lorentz transformations in embedding space become conformal transformations on the Euclidean section:



Dirac [1936] Costa, Penedones, Poland and Rychkov [2011]
CFTs in Embedding Space

Conformal correlators in embedding space are simply the most general Lorentz-invariant expressions with the correct scaling behavior:

$$\begin{split} \langle \phi_1 \phi_2 \rangle &= \frac{1}{X_{12}^{\Delta_1}} \,, \\ \langle \phi_1 \phi_2 \phi_3 \rangle &= \frac{1}{X_{12}^{(\Delta_1 + \Delta_2 - \Delta_3)/2} X_{23}^{(\Delta_2 + \Delta_3 - \Delta_1)/2} X_{31}^{(\Delta_3 + \Delta_1 - \Delta_2)/2}} \,, \\ \phi_1 \phi_2 \phi_3 \phi_4 \rangle &= f(u, v) \prod_{n < m}^4 \frac{1}{X_{nm}^{\Delta_n + \Delta_m - \Delta_t/3}} \,, \end{split}$$

where $X_{mn} \equiv X_n \cdot X_m \rightarrow (x_n - x_m)^2$.

Dirac [1936] Costa, Penedones, Poland and Rychkov [2011]

Spin-Raising Operator

Correlators of spinning fields can be written in terms of scalar seeds. For example:

$$\left\langle \phi \tilde{\phi} \Sigma^M \right\rangle = \frac{X_1^M X_{23} - X_2^M X_{13}}{(X_{12} X_{23} X_{31})^{1/2}} \left\langle \phi \tilde{\phi} \Sigma \right\rangle \ = \ \mathcal{S}^M \left\langle \phi \tilde{\phi} \Sigma \right\rangle \,,$$

where

$$\mathcal{S}^M \equiv (X_3 \cdot X_2) \frac{\partial}{\partial X_3^M} - X_2^M X_3 \cdot \frac{\partial}{\partial X_3} \, .$$

In Fourier space, this becomes

$$\mathcal{S}^i \equiv (\partial_{k_3^i} - \partial_{k_2^i}) + \frac{k_3^i}{2} (\partial_{k_3^j} - \partial_{k_2^j}) (\partial_{k_3^j} - \partial_{k_2^j})$$

Karateev, Kravchuk and Simmons-Duffin [2018] Costa, Penedones, Poland and Rychkov [2011]

Bootstrapping Spin Exchange

Using this spin-raising operator, we have



which can be written as

$$\hat{F}_S = \sum_{\lambda=0}^{S} \Pi_{S,\lambda}(\text{angles}) \mathcal{D}_{uv}^{(S,\lambda)} \hat{F}_0$$

e.g.
$$\mathcal{D}_{uv}^{(S,S)} \equiv [(uv)^2 \partial_u \partial_v]^S$$

Arkani-Hamed, DB, Lee and Pimentel [2018]