

The Cosmological Bootstrap

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Based on work with

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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 10¹⁴ 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 I.

New Developments II.

The Cosmological I. Bootstrap

$$
S = \int d^4x \mathcal{L} \left[\frac{1}{2} \partial_\mu \phi \partial^\mu \phi - \frac{1}{2} m^2 \phi^2 + \cdots \right]
$$

locality Lorentz parameters

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**:

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

- 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 \rightarrow 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 \rightarrow 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

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

 $v \equiv$ *s* $k_3 + k_4$ $u \equiv$ *s* $k_1 + k_2$ where we have introduced $u \equiv \frac{1}{1}$ and $v \equiv \frac{1}{1}$.

• The dilatation Ward identity for the seed is solved if

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

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

• 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:

$$
\boxed{(\Delta_u + M^2)\hat{F} = \hat{F}_c}
$$
 CONTACT SOLUTION
Mass OF THE EXCHANGE PARTICLE

$$
(\Delta_u + M^2)
$$

$$
(\Delta_v + M^2)
$$

$$
(s-M^2) \quad \text{mod} \quad = \quad \text{mod}
$$

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

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

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

$$
F_{2|0|1}^{2|1|3} \left[\begin{array}{c} \frac{1}{2}, 1 \\ \frac{5+2iM}{4}, \frac{5-2iM}{4} \end{array} \middle| \begin{array}{c} 1 \\ - \end{array} \middle| \begin{array}{c} \frac{5+2iM}{4}, \frac{5-2iM}{4}, \frac{1}{2} + iM \\ \frac{3}{2} + iM \end{array} \middle| u^{2}, \frac{u^{2}}{v^{2}} \right]
$$

The Collapsed Limit

In the collapsed limit, the solution oscillates:

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:

$$
e^{iMt} \Rightarrow \int
$$

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?

II. 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:

$$
spin 2 = GR
$$
 spin 1 = YM

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:

YM

 $\qquad \qquad \uparrow \qquad \qquad$ GR

SUSY

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

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

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:

$$
\boxed{\phantom{\begin{bmatrix}1\end{bmatrix}}\sum_{i_1\ldots i_S}\phantom{\begin{bmatrix}1\end{bmatrix}}}
$$

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. The Raju [2012] Maldacena and Pimentel [2011] 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

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

• The factorisation limits of the s-channel are

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

 $E \rightarrow 0$ $\xrightarrow{E \to 0} S$

A More Complicated Example

Consider Compton scattering of **gravitons**.

• The solution in the s-channel is

fixed by factorisation

$$
\frac{\sum_{k=1}^{K} \left(\sum_{k=1}^{K} \vec{k}_{2} \right)^{2} (\vec{\xi}_{3} \cdot \vec{k}_{4})^{2} \left[\frac{1}{E_{L}^{2} E_{R}^{2}} \left(\frac{2sk_{1}k_{3}}{E^{2}} + \frac{2k_{1}k_{3} + E_{L}k_{3} + E_{R}k_{1}}{E} \right) \right]
$$
\n
$$
\frac{1}{E_{L} E_{R}} \left(\frac{2k_{1}k_{3}}{E^{3}} + \frac{k_{13}}{E^{2}} + \frac{1}{E} \right) \right]
$$
\nfixed by total energy singularity

A More Complicated Example

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• The solution in the s-channel is

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

• 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

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**

$$
e_2+e_4=0
$$

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?

III. 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
- …

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 (Scattering amplitudes and Lucas Cosmological correlators

Unitarity

Unitarity is encoded in **positivity**:

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

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:

$$
\langle \phi_1 \phi_2 \rangle = \frac{1}{X_{12}^{\Delta_1}},
$$

$$
\langle \phi_1 \phi_2 \phi_3 \rangle = \frac{1}{X_{12}^{(\Delta_1 + \Delta_2 - \Delta_3)/2} X_{23}^{(\Delta_2 + \Delta_3 - \Delta_1)/2} X_{31}^{(\Delta_3 + \Delta_1 - \Delta_2)/2}},
$$

$$
\phi_1 \phi_2 \phi_3 \phi_4 \rangle = f(u, v) \prod_{n \le m}^4 \frac{1}{X_{nm}^{\Delta_n + \Delta_m - \Delta_t/3}},
$$

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:

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

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

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

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

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