

# EFT approach for gravitational binaries

Saturday, February 1, 2025 8:56 PM

## References:

- Porto 1601.04914 (Review)
- Levi 1807.01699 (Review, focusing on spin)
- Goldberger, Rothstein, hep-th/0409156 (NRGR)

## Basic idea of EFT:

If there exist a hierarchy of scales.

↓  
Separate UV from IR.

↓  
In IR, Simpler dynamical Dof.

Universal description of interactions

$$\text{UV physics} \rightarrow \sum_i C_i \mathcal{O}_i$$

↑ Higher dimensional operators, universal Wilson coefficients; encode UV physics

$$\frac{1}{p^2 - M^2} = -\frac{1}{M^2} \left( 1 + \frac{p^2}{M^2} + \dots \right)$$

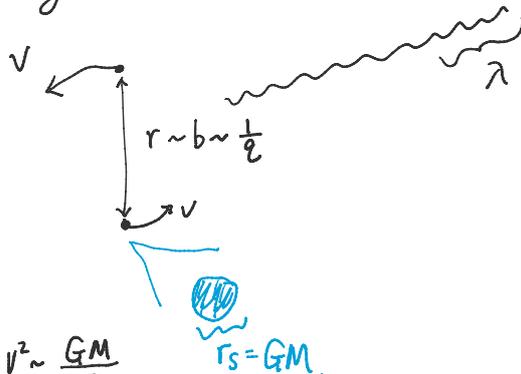
Standard Model ↔ QFT  
Quantum gravity.

Newtonian mechanics ↔ GR.

In the context of gravitational binaries

- \* What are the relevant scales?
- \* What are the relevant Dof?
- \* How to integrate out certain Dof?

## Gravitational binary



Bound system:  $v^2 \sim \frac{GM}{r}$

Unbound scattering:  $v^2 < 1$

Point particle approximation is valid

$$\underbrace{\lambda_{\text{Compton}}}_{\text{classical}} \ll r_s \ll b$$

Compton  
classical.

$r_s \ll b \rightarrow \frac{Gm}{b} \sim Gmq \ll 1 \rightarrow Gmq$  is the small parameter in the classical perturbative expansion.

$\lambda_{\text{Compton}} \ll r_s \rightarrow Gm^2 \gg 1 \rightarrow$  usual loop expansion in QFT assumes  $Gm^2 \ll 1$   
 \* Classical physics is encoded in loop amplitudes  
 \* Re-summation.

$\lambda_{\text{Compton}} \ll cb \rightarrow \frac{q}{m} \ll 1 \rightarrow$  Bohr's correspondence principle. ( $J \gg \hbar \rightarrow$  classical)  
 (or  $J = mvr \gg \hbar$ ) "classical region" for gravitons.

### Relevant DOF

Gravitons: potential q.l.  $\sim (v|\vec{e}_1, \vec{e}_2)$   
 radiation q.l.  $\sim (v|\vec{e}_1, v\vec{e}_2)$   
 hard q.l.  $\sim (m, \vec{P})$

BH / NS:



Integrate out hard graviton internal dynamics  $\rightarrow$  point particle description

$$g_{\mu\nu} = g_{\mu\nu}^L + g_{\mu\nu}^S$$

$$x^\mu = x_{cm}^\mu + \delta x^\mu$$

$$S_{EH} = -\frac{1}{16\pi G} \int d^4x \sqrt{|g|} R$$

$$\int Dg_{\mu\nu}^S D\delta x^\mu \exp \left[ i S_{EH}(g_{\mu\nu}^L + g_{\mu\nu}^S) + i S_{\text{matter}}(x_{cm}^\mu + \delta x^\mu, g_{\mu\nu}^L + g_{\mu\nu}^S) \right] = \exp \left[ i S_{EH}(g_{\mu\nu}^L) + i S_{pp}(x_{cm}^\mu, g_{\mu\nu}^L) \right]$$

\* world-line EFT:  $S_{pp} = \underbrace{-m \int dz}_{\downarrow}$  +  $\underbrace{\sum_i C_i(r_s) \int dz O_i(z)}_{\leftarrow \text{Finite size effect}}$

$$-m \int dt \sqrt{g_{\mu\nu}(x(t)) \dot{x}^\mu(t) \dot{x}^\nu(t)}$$

Example:  $C_E \int dz E_{\mu\nu} E^{\mu\nu} + C_B \int dz B_{\mu\nu} B^{\mu\nu}$   
 $\downarrow$   $R_{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} R^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma}$      \*  $R_{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} u^\mu u^\nu$

\* Field theory:  $S_{pp} = \int d^4x \left( \frac{1}{2} (\partial_t \phi)^2 - \frac{1}{2} m^2 \phi^2 + C_E R_{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} R^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} \partial^\mu \phi \partial^\nu \phi + \dots \right)$

### Bottom-up construction of one-particle EFT

symmetries: general coordinate transformation  
 world-line reparameterization

symmetries : general coordinate transformation  
 world-line reparameterization  
 Lorentz invariance of the local frame

Two-body effective interaction.

We may view the point particles as the source of the massless field DOF.

$$Z[J] = \int \mathcal{D}\phi e^{iS} = e^{iW[J]},$$

$$W[J] = - \int dt V[J] \rightarrow \text{identified as the two-body potential.}$$

For the problem of gravitational binaries

Integrating out soft region gravitons (hard region has been integrated out)

↑ use method of regions

gives the two-body effective interaction.

Consider a toy model:

$$S = -m_1 \int dt \left( 1 - \frac{1}{M} \phi(z_1(t)) \right) - m_2 \int dt \left( 1 - \frac{1}{M} \phi(z_2(t)) \right) + \int d^4x \left( \frac{1}{2} (\partial_\mu \phi)^2 - \lambda \phi^3 \right)$$

$$= -m_1 \int dt - m_2 \int dt + \int d^4x \left[ \frac{1}{2} (\partial_\mu \phi)^2 - \lambda \phi^3 + J(x) \phi(x) \right]$$

$$J(x) = \frac{m_1}{M} \int dt \delta^{(4)}(x - z_1(t)) + \frac{m_2}{M} \int dt \delta^{(4)}(x - z_2(t))$$

$$z_1^\mu(t) = (t, \vec{z}_1(t)), \quad z_2^\mu(t) = (t, \vec{z}_2(t))$$

$$= \frac{m_1}{M} \delta^{(3)}(\vec{x} - \vec{z}_1(t)) + \frac{m_2}{M} \delta^{(3)}(\vec{x} - \vec{z}_2(t))$$

$$Z[J, \lambda] = \sum_{n \in \mathbb{C}} \frac{(-i\lambda)^n}{n!} \frac{i^n}{n!} \int d^4x_1 \dots d^4x_n J(x_1) \dots J(x_n)$$

(this is a full quantum calculation)

$$\times \langle \phi(x_1) \dots \phi(x_n) \int d^4y_1 \phi^3(y_1) \dots \int d^4y_n \phi^3(y_n) \rangle_{\text{free}}$$

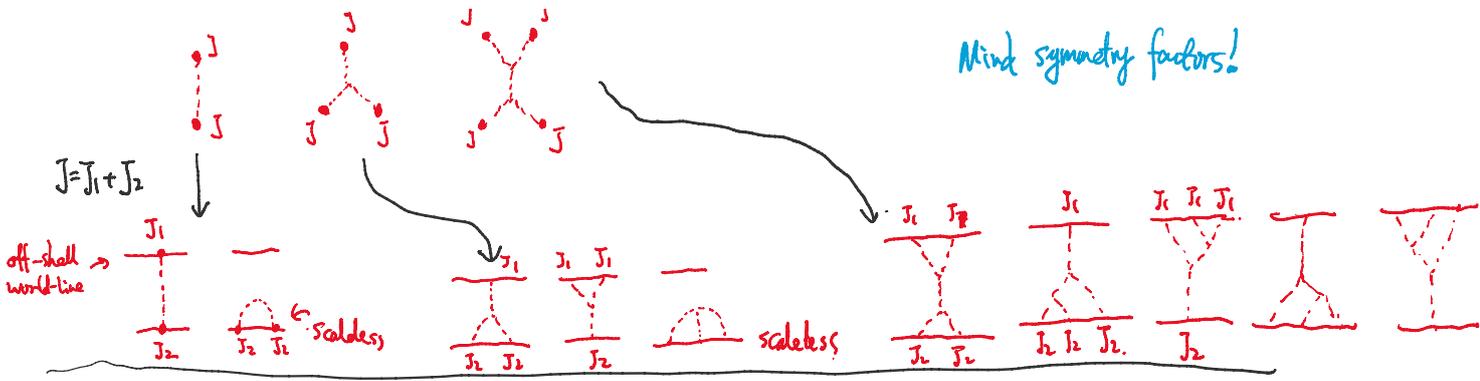
$$\text{where } \langle \phi(x_1) \dots \phi(x_n) \rangle_{\text{free}} = \int \mathcal{D}\phi \phi(x_1) \dots \phi(x_n) \exp \left[ i \int d^4x \frac{1}{2} (\partial_\mu \phi)^2 \right]$$

(computed by Wick contractions)

Saddle point  $Z = e^{\frac{i}{\hbar} S} \rightarrow$  classical limit  $\rightarrow$  only connected tree-level Feynman diagrams



Mind symmetry factors!



## NRGR

Lagrangian:  $\mathcal{L}_{pp} = -m \int d\tau = -m \int d\sigma \sqrt{g_{\mu\nu}(x(\sigma))} \dot{U}^\mu \dot{U}^\nu$

$U^\mu(\sigma) = \frac{dx^\mu(\sigma)}{d\sigma}$   
 choose  $x^\mu(\sigma) = (\sigma, x^i(\sigma))$   
 then  $U^\mu(\sigma) = (1, v^i(\sigma))$

$= \int d^4x \sqrt{g(x)} g_{\mu\nu}(x) T_{pp}^{\mu\nu}$

$T_{pp}^{\mu\nu} = \frac{-m}{\sqrt{-g(x)}} \int d\sigma \frac{\dot{U}^\mu \dot{U}^\nu}{\sqrt{U^2}} \delta^4(x - x(\sigma))$

$g_{\mu\nu} = \eta_{\mu\nu} + \kappa h_{\mu\nu} = \eta_{\mu\nu} + \frac{1}{M_{pl}^2} h_{\mu\nu}$

perturbative expansion:

	OPN	1PN	2PN	3PN	4PN	5PN
(tree) 1PM	G	1	V <sup>2</sup>	V <sup>4</sup>	V <sup>6</sup>	V <sup>8</sup>
(1-loop) 2PM	G <sup>2</sup>	1	V <sup>2</sup>	V <sup>4</sup>	V <sup>6</sup>	V <sup>8</sup>
(2-loop) 3PM	G <sup>3</sup>		1	V <sup>2</sup>	V <sup>4</sup>	V <sup>6</sup>
(3-loop) 4PM	G <sup>4</sup>			1	V <sup>2</sup>	V <sup>4</sup>
(4-loop) 5PM	G <sup>5</sup>				1	V <sup>2</sup>

Consider PN expansion.

$$\mathcal{L}_{pp} = \int d\sigma \left[ -m \sqrt{1-v^2} - \frac{m h_{00}}{2M_{pl}} - \frac{m h_{0i} v^i}{M_{pl}} - \frac{m h_{ij} v^i v^j}{2M_{pl}} - \frac{m h_{00} v^2}{4M_{pl}} - \frac{m h_{0i} v^i v^2}{2M_{pl}} + \frac{m (h_{00})^2}{8M_{pl}^2} + \frac{m h_{00} h_{0i} v^i}{2M_{pl}^2} + \dots \right]$$

Graviton propagator:

$\langle h_{\mu\nu}(t_1, \vec{x}_1) h_{\alpha\beta}(t_2, \vec{x}_2) \rangle = \int \frac{d^4p}{(2\pi)^4} \frac{i P_{\mu\nu\alpha\beta}}{p^2 + i\epsilon} e^{-ip \cdot (x_1 - x_2)}$

potential graviton  $\frac{1}{p^2} = \frac{1}{(p^0)^2 - (\vec{p})^2} = -\frac{1}{(\vec{p})^2} \left( 1 + \frac{(p^0)^2}{(\vec{p})^2} + \dots \right)$

$\int d^3\vec{p} \left( \delta(t_1 - t_2) \cdot \frac{d^2}{dt_1 dt_2} \delta(t_1 - t_2) \right) \int d^3\vec{p} \cdot \vec{x}_1 - \vec{x}_2$

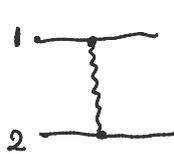
$$= -i P_{\mu\nu} \int \frac{d^3\vec{p}}{(2\pi)^3} \left[ \frac{\delta(t_1 - t_2)}{p^2} + \frac{\frac{d^2}{dt_1 dt_2} \delta(t_1 - t_2)}{p^4} + \dots \right] e^{i\vec{p} \cdot (\vec{x}_1 - \vec{x}_2)}$$

Graviton vertex:

At 1PN, only one vertex is relevant.

$$\langle h_{00}(t_1, \vec{p}_1) h_{00}(t_2, \vec{p}_2) h_{00}(t_3, \vec{p}_3) \rangle = \frac{i}{4M_{pl}^2} \delta(t_1 - t_2) \delta(t_1 - t_3) \left( \frac{-i}{\vec{p}_1^2} \right) \left( \frac{-i}{\vec{p}_2^2} \right) \left( \frac{-i}{\vec{p}_3^2} \right) (\vec{p}_1^2 + \vec{p}_2^2 + \vec{p}_3^2) (2\pi)^3 \delta^{(3)}(\vec{p}_1 + \vec{p}_2 + \vec{p}_3)$$

First, let's consider the Newtonian potential



$$= \int d\sigma_1 d\sigma_2 \left( \frac{-i m_1}{2M_{pl}} \right) \langle h_{00}(\sigma_1, \vec{z}_1(\sigma_1)) h_{00}(\sigma_2, \vec{z}_2(\sigma_2)) \rangle \left( \frac{-i m_2}{2M_{pl}} \right)$$

$$= \left( -\frac{m_1 m_2}{4M_{pl}^2} \right) \int d\sigma_1 d\sigma_2 (-i P_{0000}) \int \frac{d^3\vec{p}}{(2\pi)^3} \frac{\delta(\sigma_1 - \sigma_2)}{p^2} e^{i\vec{p} \cdot (\vec{z}_1(\sigma_1) - \vec{z}_2(\sigma_2))} \quad (P_{0000} = 1/2)$$

$$= \frac{i m_1 m_2}{8 M_{pl}^2} \int d\sigma \int \frac{d^3\vec{p}}{(2\pi)^3} \frac{1}{p^2} e^{i\vec{p} \cdot (\vec{z}_1(\sigma) - \vec{z}_2(\sigma))}$$

$$\hookrightarrow \int \frac{d^D p}{(2\pi)^D} \frac{1}{(p^2)^\alpha} e^{i\vec{p} \cdot \vec{x}} = \frac{1}{(4\pi)^{D/2}} \frac{\Gamma(\frac{D}{2} - \alpha)}{\Gamma(\alpha)} \left( \frac{x^2}{4} \right)^{\alpha - \frac{D}{2}}$$

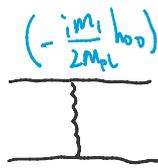
$$= \int d\sigma \frac{i m_1 m_2}{32\pi M_{pl}^2 |\vec{z}_1(\sigma) - \vec{z}_2(\sigma)|} \sim \frac{1}{M_{pl}^2} = \kappa^2 = 32\pi G \quad \begin{matrix} D=3 & \alpha=1 \\ = & \frac{1}{4\pi \cdot 1} \end{matrix}$$

Is this correct?

$$W = (-i) \log Z = (-i) \left[ \int d\sigma \frac{G m_1 m_2}{|\vec{z}_1(\sigma) - \vec{z}_2(\sigma)|} \right]$$

$$W = - \int d\sigma V \rightarrow V = - \frac{G m_1 m_2}{r} \quad \text{Newtonian potential}$$

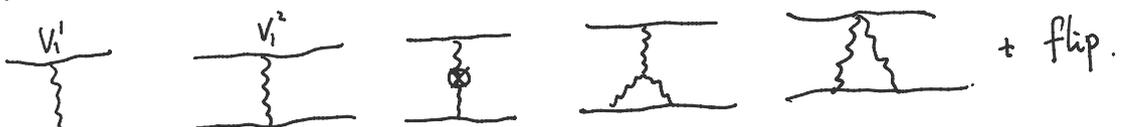
$O(v')$  is absent:

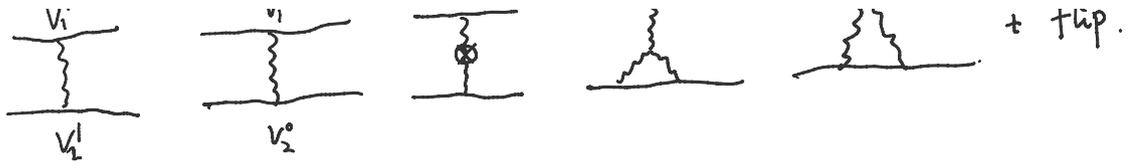


$$\sim \langle h_{00} h_{0i} \rangle \sim P_{000i} = 0$$

$$\left( \frac{-i m_1 h_{00}}{2M_{pl}} \right) \quad \left( \frac{-i m_2 h_{0i} v_i}{M_{pl}} \right)$$

1PN:





$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{Diagram} &= \int d\sigma_1 d\sigma_2 \left( \frac{-im_1}{2M_{pl}} \right) (-iP_{0000}) \int \frac{d^3\vec{p}}{(2\pi)^3} \frac{\frac{d}{d\sigma_1 d\sigma_2} \delta(\sigma_1 - \sigma_2) e^{i\vec{p} \cdot (\vec{z}_1(\sigma_1) - \vec{z}_2(\sigma_2))}}{p^2} \left( \frac{-im_2}{2M_{pl}} \right) \\
 &= \frac{im_1 m_2}{8M_{pl}^2} \int d\sigma_1 d\sigma_2 \frac{d}{d\sigma_1 d\sigma_2} \delta(\sigma_1 - \sigma_2) \left( -\frac{|\vec{z}_1(\sigma_1) - \vec{z}_2(\sigma_2)|}{8\pi} \right) \\
 &= -\frac{im_1 m_2}{64\pi M_{pl}^2} \int d\sigma_1 d\sigma_2 \delta(\sigma_1 - \sigma_2) \frac{d^2}{d\sigma_1 d\sigma_2} |\vec{z}_1(\sigma_1) - \vec{z}_2(\sigma_2)| \\
 &\approx -\frac{im_1 m_2}{64\pi M_{pl}^2} \int d\sigma d\sigma_2 \delta(\sigma_1 - \sigma_2) \frac{d}{d\sigma_2} \frac{\vec{v}_1 \cdot (\vec{z}_1(\sigma_1) - \vec{z}_2(\sigma_2))}{|\vec{z}_1(\sigma_1) - \vec{z}_2(\sigma_2)|} \\
 &= \int d\sigma \frac{im_1 m_2}{64\pi M_{pl}^2} \left[ \frac{\vec{v}_1 \cdot \vec{v}_2}{r} - \frac{\vec{v}_1 \cdot \vec{r} \vec{v}_2 \cdot \vec{r}}{r^3} \right] \quad r = |\vec{z}_1(\sigma) - \vec{z}_2(\sigma)|
 \end{aligned}$$

$$V[\text{Diagram}] = -\frac{Gm_1 m_2}{2r} \left[ \vec{v}_1 \cdot \vec{v}_2 - \frac{\vec{v}_1 \cdot \vec{r} \vec{v}_2 \cdot \vec{r}}{r^2} \right]$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{Diagram} &= \int d\sigma_1 d\sigma_2 \left( \frac{-im_1 v_1^i}{M_{pl}} \right) (-iP_{0i0j}) \int \frac{d^3\vec{p}}{(2\pi)^3} \frac{\delta(\sigma_1 - \sigma_2) e^{i\vec{p} \cdot (\vec{z}_1(\sigma_1) - \vec{z}_2(\sigma_2))}}{p^2} \left( \frac{-im_2 v_2^j}{M_{pl}} \right) \\
 &\quad \downarrow P_{0i0j} = -\frac{1}{2} \delta_{ij} \\
 &= -\frac{im_1 m_2}{2M_{pl}^2} \frac{\vec{v}_1 \cdot \vec{v}_2}{4\pi r} \\
 &= (-i) \frac{4Gm_1 m_2}{r} \vec{v}_1 \cdot \vec{v}_2
 \end{aligned}$$

$$V\left[\frac{v_1^i}{v_1^i}\right] = \frac{4Gm_1 m_2}{r} \vec{v}_1 \cdot \vec{v}_2$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{Diagram} &= \int d\sigma_1 d\sigma_2 \left( -\frac{im_1 v_1^i v_1^j}{2M_{pl}} \right) (-iP_{ij00}) \frac{\delta(\sigma_1 - \sigma_2)}{4\pi r} \left( \frac{-im_2}{2M_{pl}} \right) \quad P_{ij00} = \frac{1}{2} \delta_{ij} \\
 &\quad + \left( -\frac{im_1 v_1^i}{4M_{pl}} \right) (-iP_{0000}) \frac{\delta(\sigma_1 - \sigma_2)}{4\pi r} \left( \frac{-im_2}{2M_{pl}} \right) \quad P_{0000} = \frac{1}{2} \\
 &= \int d\sigma_1 (i) \frac{3Gm_1 m_2 v_1^2}{2r}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$V\left[\frac{v_1^i}{v_1^i}\right] = -\frac{3Gm_1 m_2 v_1^2}{2r}$$

$$V\left[\frac{v_1^i}{v_1^i} + \frac{v_2^i}{v_2^i}\right] = -\frac{3Gm_1 m_2 (v_1^2 + v_2^2)}{2r}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \langle \text{Diagram} \rangle &= \int d\sigma_1 d\sigma_2 d\sigma'_1 \left( \frac{i m_1}{8 M_{\text{pl}}^2} \right) \langle h_{00}(\sigma_1, \vec{z}_1(\sigma_1)) h_{00}(\sigma_2, \vec{z}_2(\sigma_2)) \rangle \langle h_{00}(\sigma_1, \vec{z}_1(\sigma_1)) h_{00}(\sigma'_1, \vec{z}'_1(\sigma'_1)) \rangle \left( \frac{-i m_2}{2 M_{\text{pl}}} \right)^2 \\
 &= -\frac{i m_1 m_2^2}{32 M_{\text{pl}}^4} \int d\sigma \underbrace{(-i P_{0000})^2}_{(-i/4)^2 = -1/4} \underbrace{\left[ \int \frac{d^3 p}{(2\pi)^3} \frac{1}{\vec{p}^2} e^{i \vec{p} \cdot \vec{r}} \right]^2}_{\frac{1}{(4\pi r)^2}} \\
 &= \int d\sigma (i) \frac{G^2 m_1 m_2^2}{2 r^2}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$V[\text{Diagram}] = -\frac{G^2 m_1 m_2^2}{2 r^2} \quad V[\text{Diagram} + \text{Diagram}] = -\frac{G^2 m_1 m_2 (m_1 + m_2)}{2 r^2}$$

symmetry factor  
↓

$$\begin{aligned}
 \langle \text{Diagram} \rangle &= \frac{1}{2} \int d\sigma_1 d\sigma_2 d\sigma'_1 \left( -\frac{i m_1}{2 M_{\text{pl}}} \right) \langle h_{00}(\sigma_1, \vec{z}_1(\sigma_1)) h_{00}(\sigma_2, \vec{z}_2(\sigma_2)) h_{00}(\sigma_2, \vec{z}_2(\sigma'_1)) \rangle \left( -\frac{i m_2}{2 M_{\text{pl}}} \right)^2 \\
 &= \frac{-i m_1 m_2^2}{16 M_{\text{pl}}^3} \times (\dots)
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 &\int d\sigma_1 d\sigma_2 d\sigma'_1 \langle h_{00}(\sigma_1, \vec{z}_1(\sigma_1)) h_{00}(\sigma_2, \vec{z}_2(\sigma_2)) h_{00}(\sigma_2, \vec{z}_2(\sigma'_1)) \rangle \\
 &= \int d\sigma_1 d\sigma_2 d\sigma'_1 \int \frac{d^3 p_1}{(2\pi)^3} \int \frac{d^3 p_2}{(2\pi)^3} \int \frac{d^3 p_3}{(2\pi)^3} \frac{i}{4 M_{\text{pl}}} \delta(\sigma_1 - \sigma_2) \delta(\sigma_1 - \sigma'_1) \left( \frac{-i}{\vec{p}_1^2} \right) \left( \frac{-i}{\vec{p}_2^2} \right) \left( \frac{-i}{\vec{p}_3^2} \right) (\vec{p}_1^2 + \vec{p}_2^2 + \vec{p}_3^2) (2\pi)^0 \delta(\vec{p}_1 + \vec{p}_2 + \vec{p}_3) \\
 &\quad \times e^{i \vec{p}_1 \cdot \vec{z}_1(\sigma_1)} e^{i \vec{p}_2 \cdot \vec{z}_2(\sigma_2)} e^{i \vec{p}_3 \cdot \vec{z}_2(\sigma'_1)} \quad \text{solve } \vec{p}_3 \\
 &= \frac{-i}{4 M_{\text{pl}}} \int d\sigma \int \frac{d^3 p_1}{(2\pi)^3} \int \frac{d^3 p_2}{(2\pi)^3} \left[ \frac{1}{\vec{p}_2^2 (\vec{p}_1 + \vec{p}_2)^2} + \frac{1}{\vec{p}_1^2 (\vec{p}_1 + \vec{p}_2)^2} + \frac{1}{\vec{p}_1^2 \vec{p}_2^2} \right] e^{i \vec{p}_1 \cdot (\vec{z}_1(\sigma) - \vec{z}_2(\sigma))} \\
 &= \frac{-i}{4 M_{\text{pl}}} \int d\sigma \int \frac{d^3 p_1}{(2\pi)^3} \frac{1}{8 (\vec{p}_1^2)^{3/2}} e^{i \vec{p}_1 \cdot \vec{r}} \\
 &= -\frac{i}{64 \pi^3 M_{\text{pl}}} \frac{1}{r^2}
 \end{aligned}$$

$p_2$  integral is scaleless; set to zero in method of regions

$$\int \frac{d^3 k}{(2\pi)^3} \frac{1}{(k^2)^\alpha ((k+\vec{p})^2)^\beta} = \frac{1}{(4\pi)^{3/2}} \frac{\Gamma(\alpha+\beta-\frac{3}{2})}{\Gamma(\alpha)\Gamma(\beta)} \frac{\Gamma(\frac{3}{2}-\alpha)\Gamma(\frac{3}{2}-\beta)}{\Gamma(\alpha+\beta-\frac{3}{2})} (p^2)^{\frac{3}{2}-\alpha-\beta}$$

Final result:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \langle \text{Diagram} \rangle &= \frac{i m_1 m_2^2}{16 M_{\text{pl}}^3} \times \left( -\frac{1}{64 \pi^3 M_{\text{pl}} r^2} \right) = (-i) \frac{G^2 m_1 m_2^2}{r^2} \\
 V[\text{Diagram}] &= \frac{G^2 m_1 m_2^2}{r^2} \quad V[\text{Diagram} + \text{Diagram}] = \frac{G^2 m_1 m_2 (m_1 + m_2)}{r^2}
 \end{aligned}$$

ADD ... together

Adding everything together.

$$V_{1PN} = - \frac{Gm_1m_2}{2r} \left( 3(\vec{v}_1^2 + \vec{v}_2^2) - 7\vec{v}_1 \cdot \vec{v}_2 - \frac{\vec{v}_1 \cdot \vec{r} \vec{v}_2 \cdot \vec{r}}{r^2} \right) + \frac{G^2 m_1 m_2 (m_1 + m_2)}{2r^2}$$

2PN and beyond

\*   $\rightarrow V(x, \dot{x}, \ddot{x}, \dots) \rightarrow$  Ostrogradsky instability  
 $H \sim p$  instead of  $p^2$

Higher order derivatives are spurious. They are due to our arbitrary choice of world-line time

$$z^\mu(\sigma) = (\sigma, \vec{z}(\sigma))$$

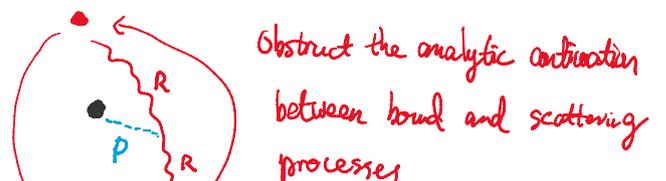
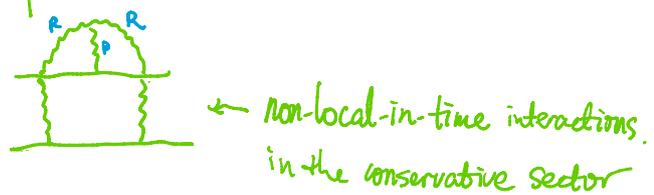
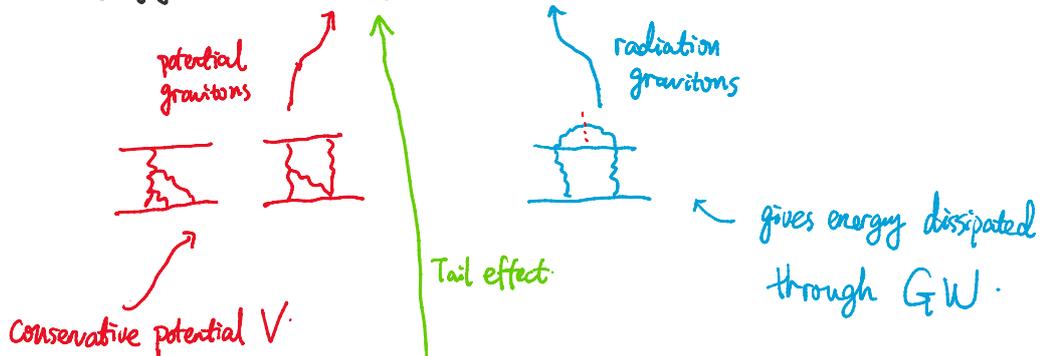
They can be removed by a re-definition of position variables.

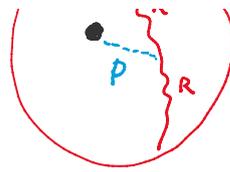
$$\vec{z} = \vec{x} + O(G, v^2) \rightarrow V(\vec{z}, \dot{\vec{z}})$$

See Damour, Schafer, Journal of Mathematical Physics 32, 127. (1991)

\*  $W[J]$  in general is complex.

$$W[J] = \text{Re } W[J] + i \text{Im } W[J]$$





between bound and scattering  
processes