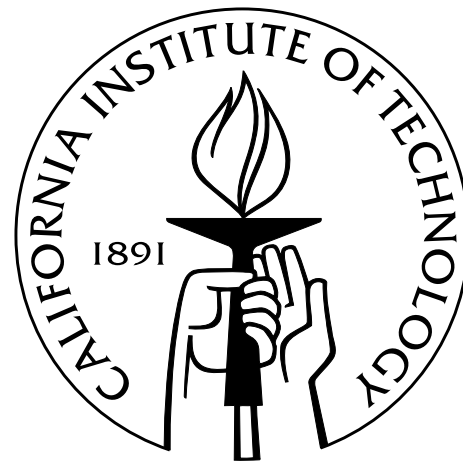


# Unification from Scattering Amplitudes

Clifford Cheung



CC, Remmen, Shen, Wen (1709.04932)

CC, Shen, Wen (1705.03025)

CC, Shen (1612.00868)

CC, Kampf, Novotny, Shen, Trnka (1611.03137)

principles



action



observables

Poincare invariance,  
spacetime locality, etc.



parameters not fixed by  
symmetry are couplings



calculate via  
Feynman diagrams

principles



~~action~~



observables

modern  
scattering  
amplitudes  
program



Poincare invariance,  
spacetime locality, etc.



parameters not fixed by  
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calculate via  
Feynman diagrams

Some “symmetries” of the action are in truth redundancies of description.

$$A_\mu \rightarrow A_\mu + \partial_\mu \theta$$

$$h_{\mu\nu} \rightarrow h_{\mu\nu} + \partial_\mu \theta_\nu + \partial_\nu \theta_\mu$$

Gauge invariance is an invention devised to manifest locality and Lorentz invariance for interacting massless particles of spin.

# Gauge symmetry yields immense complexity.

$$A(g_1^{h_1} g_2^{h_2} g_3^{h_3} g_4^{h_4} g_5^{h_5}) =$$

# Feynman diagrams

[illegible]

# Gauge symmetry yields immense complexity.

[illegible]

# Feynman diagrams

$$A(g_1^{h_1} g_2^{h_2} g_3^{h_3} g_4^{h_4} g_5^{h_5}) =$$

$$A(g_1^+ g_2^+ g_3^+ g_4^+ g_5^+) = A(g_1^- g_2^+ g_3^+ g_4^+ g_5^+) = 0$$

$$A(g_1^- g_2^+ g_3^- g_4^+ g_5^+) = \frac{\langle 13 \rangle^4}{\langle 12 \rangle \langle 23 \rangle \langle 34 \rangle \langle 45 \rangle \langle 51 \rangle}$$

$$A(g_1^- g_2^- g_3^+ g_4^+ g_5^+) = \frac{\langle 12 \rangle^3}{\langle 23 \rangle \langle 34 \rangle \langle 45 \rangle \langle 51 \rangle}$$

modern  
methods

This redundancy becomes ever more taxing at higher orders in perturbation theory.

n-pt	4	5	6	7	8
Feynman diagrams	4	25	220	2485	34300
recursion relations	1	1	3	6	20

# The situation is even worse for gravity.

$$\frac{\delta^3 S}{\delta \varphi_{\mu\nu} \delta \varphi_{\sigma'\tau'} \delta \varphi_{\rho'\lambda'}} \rightarrow$$

$$\text{Sym} \left[ -\frac{1}{4} P_3 (p \cdot p' \eta^{\mu\nu} \eta^{\sigma\tau} \eta^{\rho\lambda}) - \frac{1}{4} P_6 (p^\sigma p^\tau \eta^{\mu\nu} \eta^{\rho\lambda}) + \frac{1}{4} P_3 (p \cdot p' \eta^{\mu\sigma} \eta^{\nu\tau} \eta^{\rho\lambda}) + \frac{1}{2} P_6 (p \cdot p' \eta^{\mu\nu} \eta^{\sigma\rho} \eta^{\tau\lambda}) + P_3 (p^\sigma p^\lambda \eta^{\mu\nu} \eta^{\tau\rho}) \right.$$

$$\left. - \frac{1}{2} P_3 (p^\tau p'^\mu \eta^{\nu\sigma} \eta^{\rho\lambda}) + \frac{1}{2} P_3 (p^\rho p'^\lambda \eta^{\mu\sigma} \eta^{\nu\tau}) + \frac{1}{2} P_6 (p^\rho p^\lambda \eta^{\mu\sigma} \eta^{\nu\tau}) + P_6 (p^\sigma p'^\lambda \eta^{\tau\mu} \eta^{\nu\rho}) + P_3 (p^\sigma p'^\mu \eta^{\tau\rho} \eta^{\lambda\nu}) \right.$$

$$\left. - P_3 (p \cdot p' \eta^{\nu\sigma} \eta^{\tau\rho} \eta^{\lambda\mu}) \right], \quad (2.6)$$

3pt graviton  
Feynman vertex

$$\frac{\delta^4 S}{\delta \varphi_{\mu\nu} \delta \varphi_{\sigma'\tau'} \delta \varphi_{\rho'\lambda'} \delta \varphi_{\iota''\kappa''\lambda''}} \rightarrow$$

$$\text{Sym} \left[ -\frac{1}{8} P_6 (p \cdot p' \eta^{\mu\nu} \eta^{\sigma\tau} \eta^{\rho\lambda} \eta^{\iota\kappa}) - \frac{1}{8} P_{12} (p^\sigma p^\tau \eta^{\mu\nu} \eta^{\rho\lambda} \eta^{\iota\kappa}) - \frac{1}{4} P_6 (p^\sigma p'^\mu \eta^{\nu\tau} \eta^{\rho\lambda} \eta^{\iota\kappa}) + \frac{1}{8} P_6 (p \cdot p' \eta^{\mu\sigma} \eta^{\nu\tau} \eta^{\rho\lambda} \eta^{\iota\kappa}) \right.$$

$$+ \frac{1}{4} P_6 (p \cdot p' \eta^{\mu\nu} \eta^{\sigma\tau} \eta^{\rho\iota} \eta^{\lambda\kappa}) + \frac{1}{4} P_{12} (p^\sigma p^\tau \eta^{\mu\nu} \eta^{\rho\iota} \eta^{\lambda\kappa}) + \frac{1}{2} P_6 (p^\sigma p'^\mu \eta^{\nu\tau} \eta^{\rho\iota} \eta^{\lambda\kappa}) - \frac{1}{4} P_6 (p \cdot p' \eta^{\mu\sigma} \eta^{\nu\tau} \eta^{\rho\iota} \eta^{\lambda\kappa})$$

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4pt graviton  
Feynman vertex



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4pt graviton  
Feynman vertex

$$A(H_1^- H_2^- H_3^+) = \frac{\langle 12 \rangle^6}{\langle 13 \rangle^2 \langle 32 \rangle^2}$$

$$A(H_1^- H_2^- H_3^+ H_4^+) = \frac{\langle 12 \rangle^4 [34]^4}{stu}$$

modern  
methods

Even worse, some “non-symmetries” of the action are also redundancies.

$$\mathcal{L} = \frac{(\partial\phi)^2}{2} \times g(\phi)$$

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All on-shell scattering amplitudes vanish!

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$$\mathcal{L} = \frac{(\partial\phi)^2}{2} \times g(\phi) \longleftrightarrow \mathcal{L} = \frac{(\partial\phi)^2}{2}$$

All on-shell scattering amplitudes vanish!

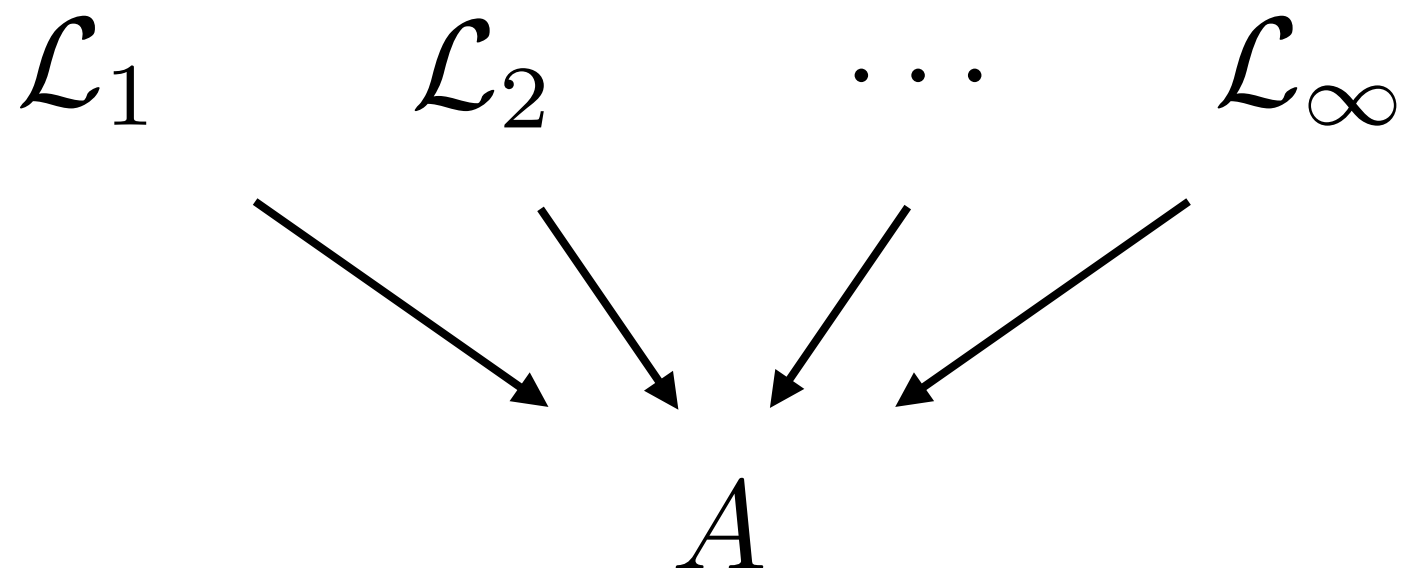
$$f(\phi) \longleftrightarrow \phi \quad \text{where} \quad f'(\phi)^2 = g(\phi)$$

Amplitudes are field redefinition invariant.

“integration variable”

$$Z[J] \sim \int [d\phi] e^{iS[\phi] + i\int J\phi}$$


Many Lagrangians yield the same observables.



# The action can obscure important physics.

- absolute rigidity of certain QFTs

“only of all possible worlds...”

- unification of these QFTs

“gravity as the mother of all theories...”

rigidity of QFTs

Nature conforms to two physical criteria.

- Poincare Invariance
- Locality

These uniquely define certain theories!

massless spin one = gluon

massless spin two = graviton



# Poincare Invariance fixes the 3pt amplitudes.

gluon

$$A(1^- 2^- 3^+) = \frac{\langle 12 \rangle^3}{\langle 13 \rangle \langle 32 \rangle}$$

$$A(1^+ 2^+ 3^-) = \frac{[12]^3}{[13][32]}$$

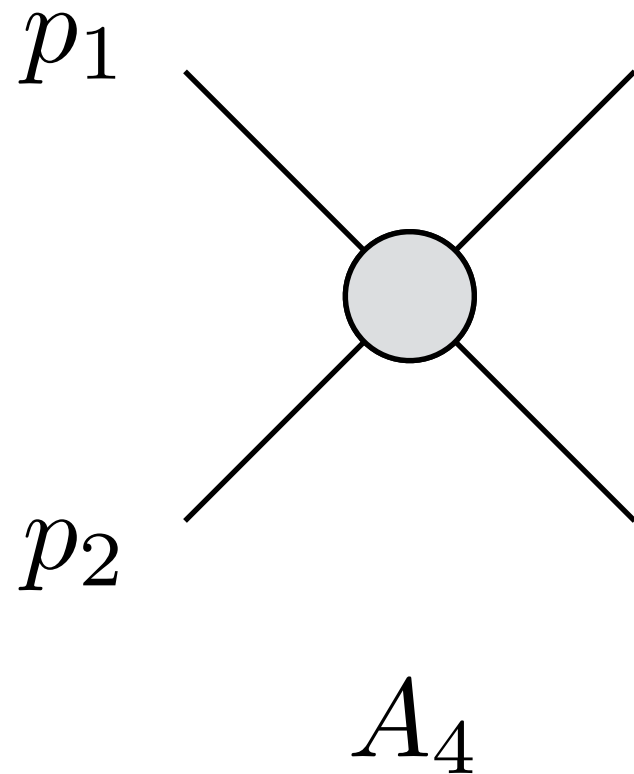
graviton

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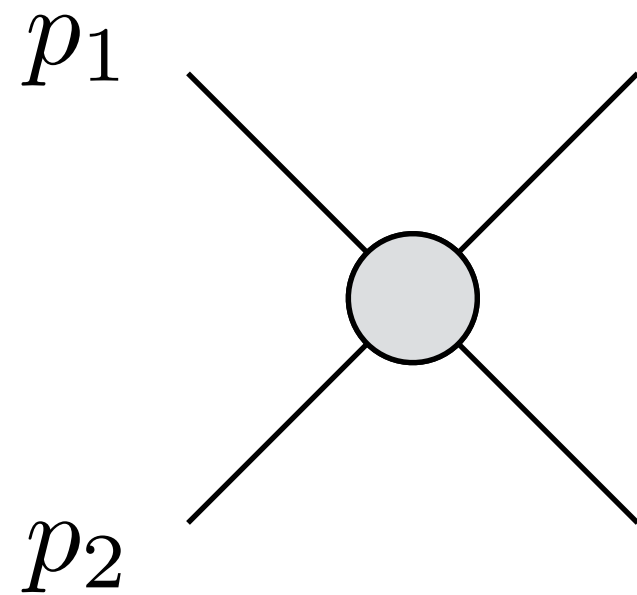
$$A(1^+ 2^+ 3^-) = \frac{[12]^6}{[13]^2 [32]^2}$$

simplest example of “gluon<sup>2</sup> = graviton”

Locality fixes the 4pt amplitudes and higher.



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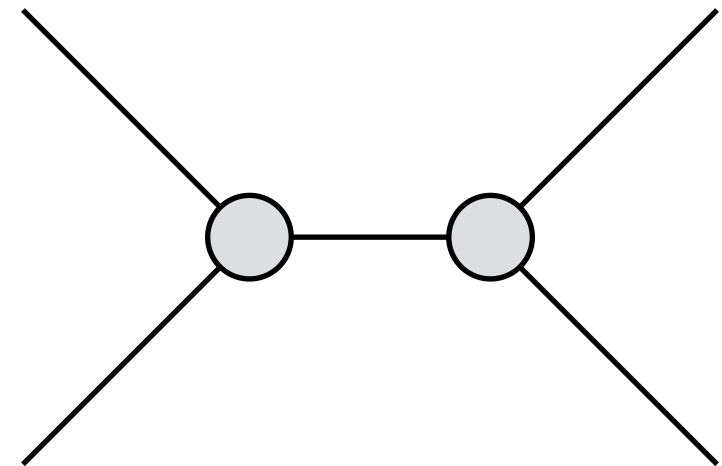


$A_4$

$$(p_1 + p_2)^2 \rightarrow 0$$

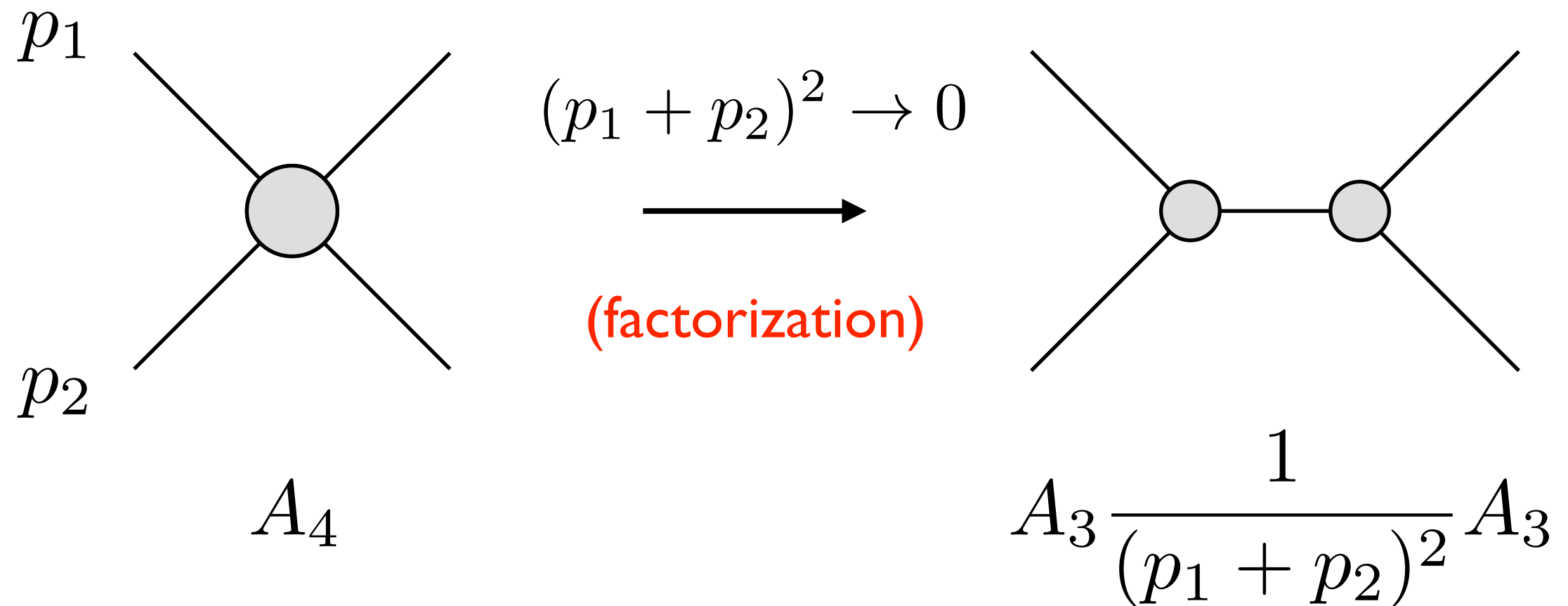


(factorization)



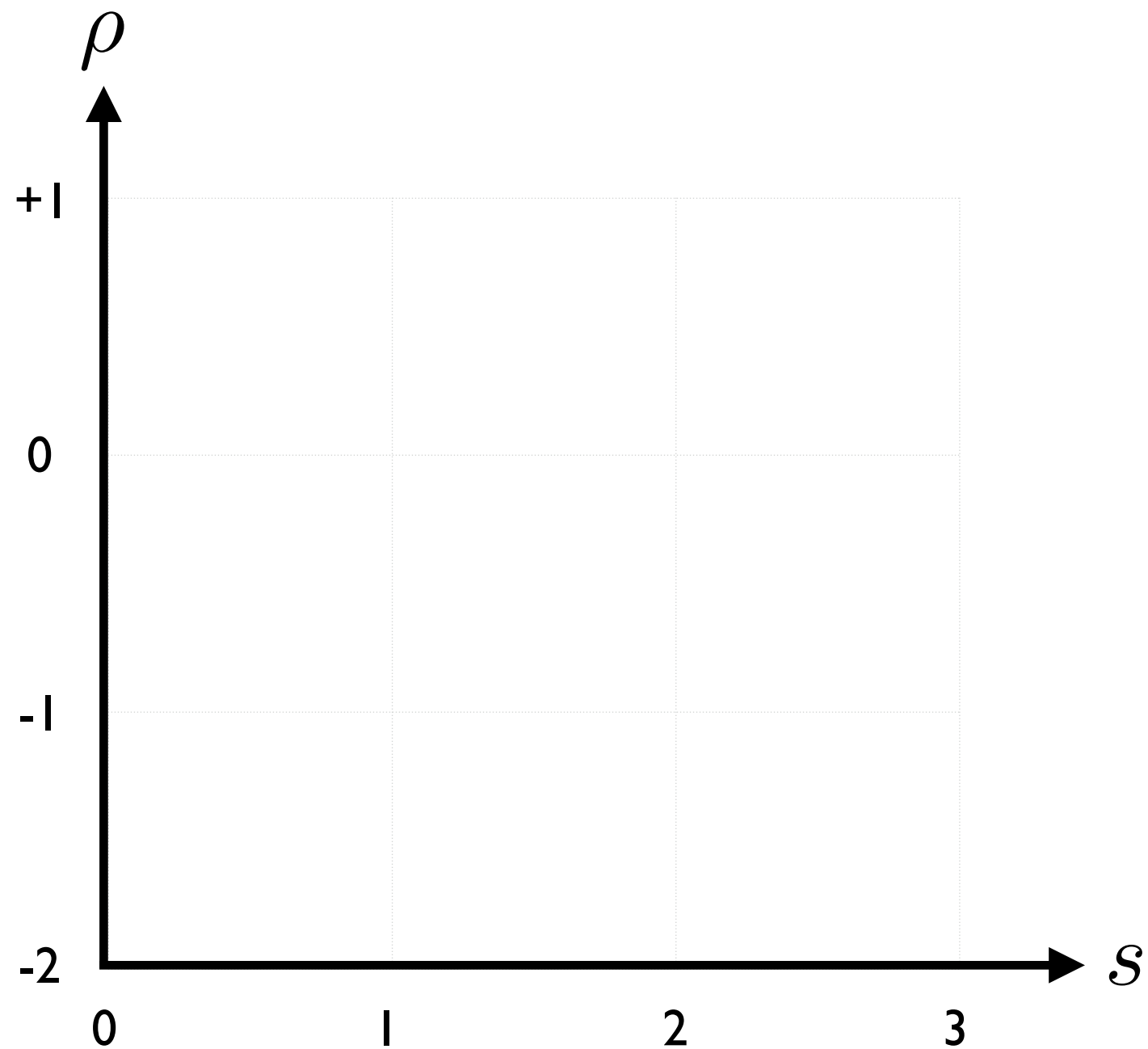
$$A_3 \frac{1}{(p_1 + p_2)^2} A_3$$

Locality fixes the 4pt amplitudes and higher.



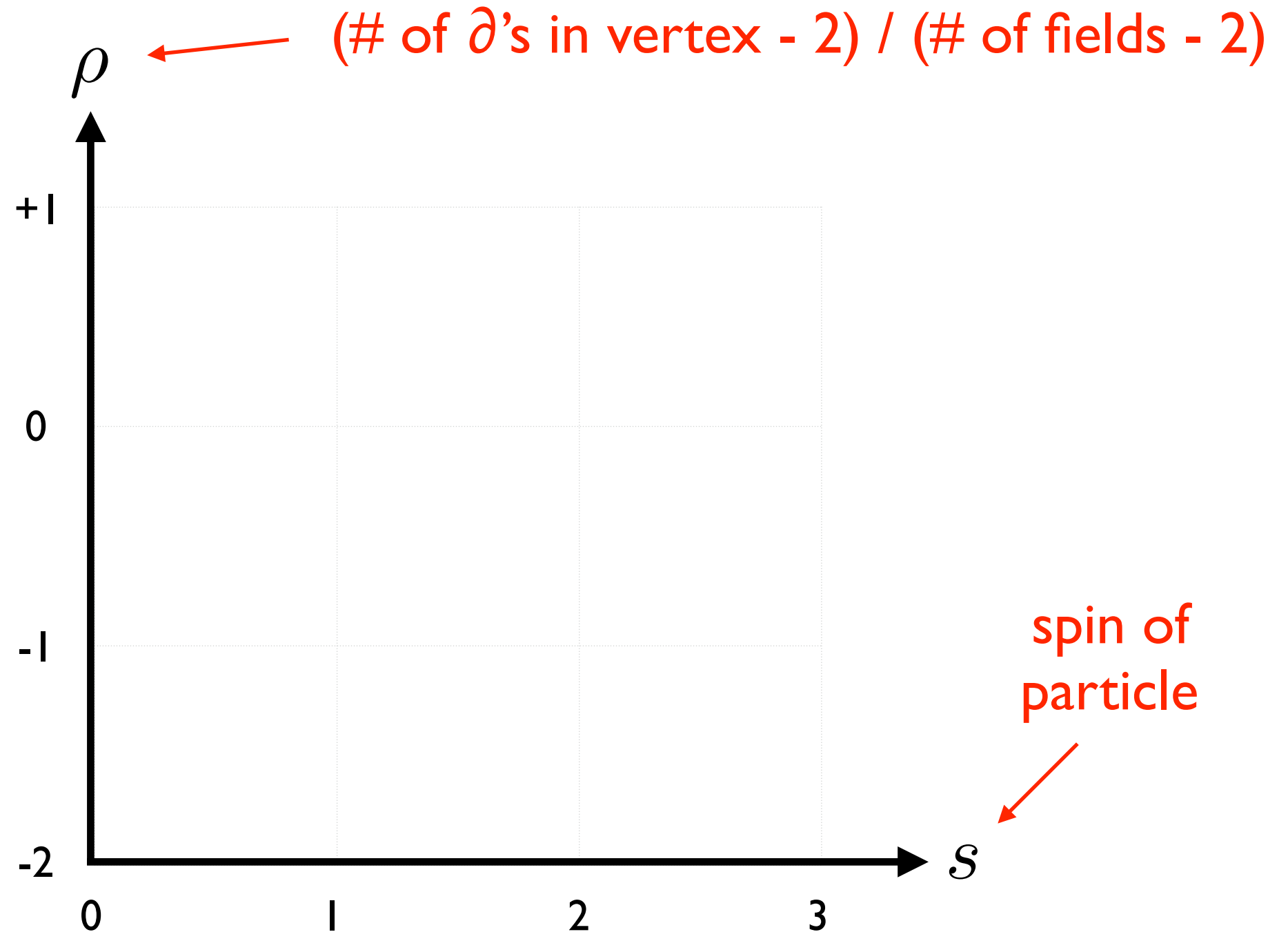
On-shell recursion relations automate this.  
Optional: matter fields, masses, SUSY.

Map the “theory space” of massless particles.



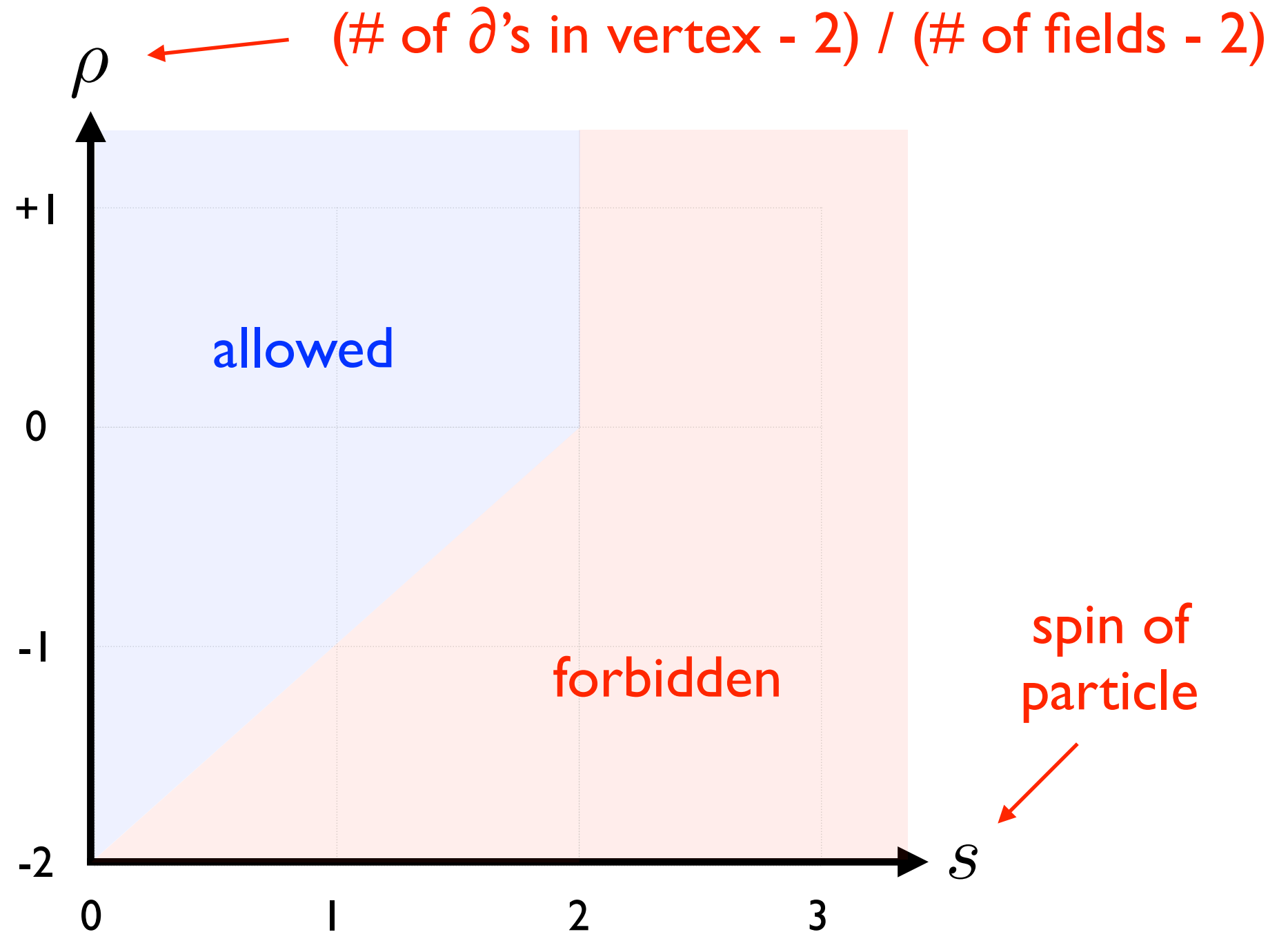
Characterize by power counting and spin.

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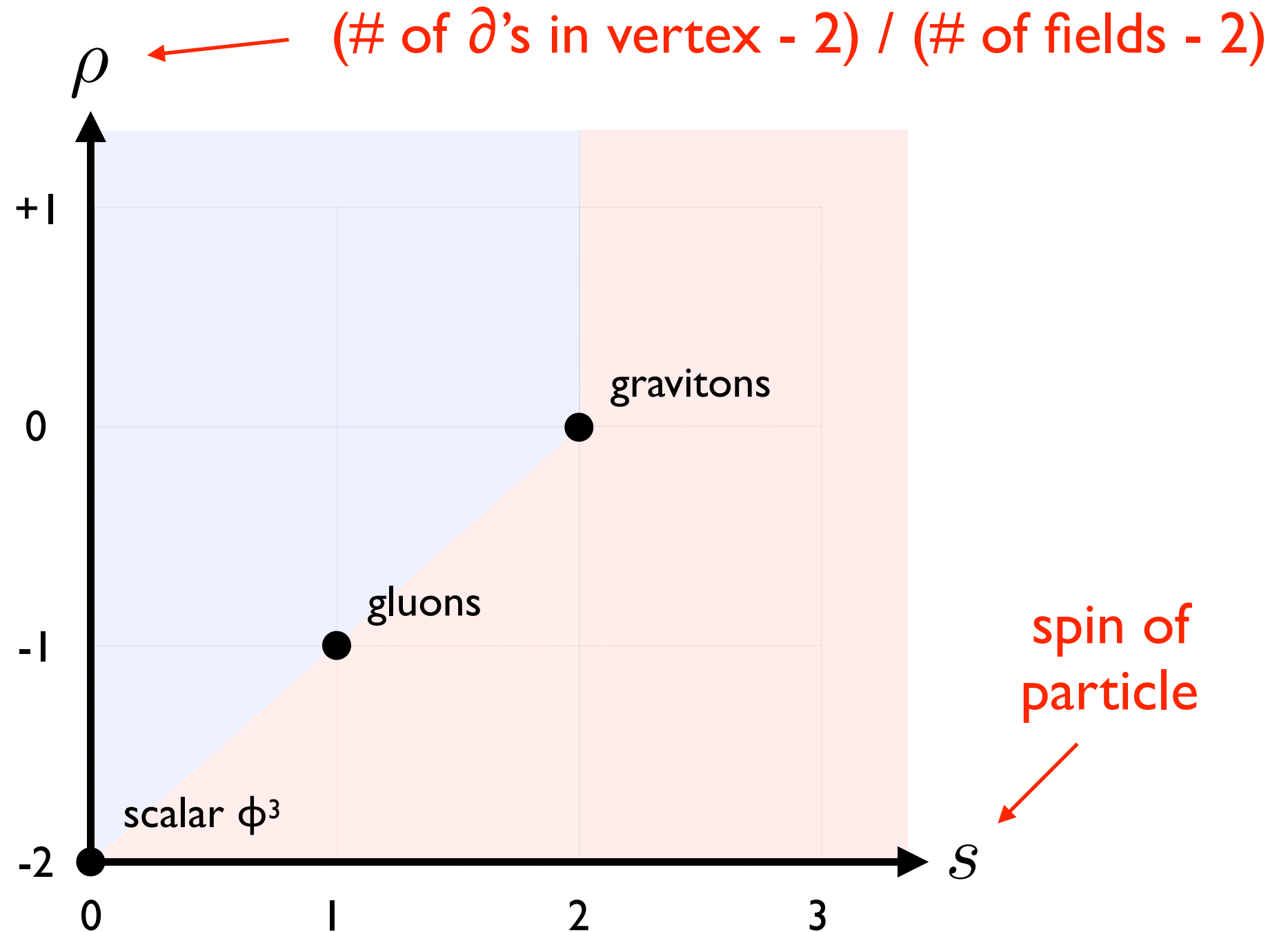
Characterize by power counting and spin.

# Map the “theory space” of massless particles.



## Factorization excludes massless spin $> 2$ .

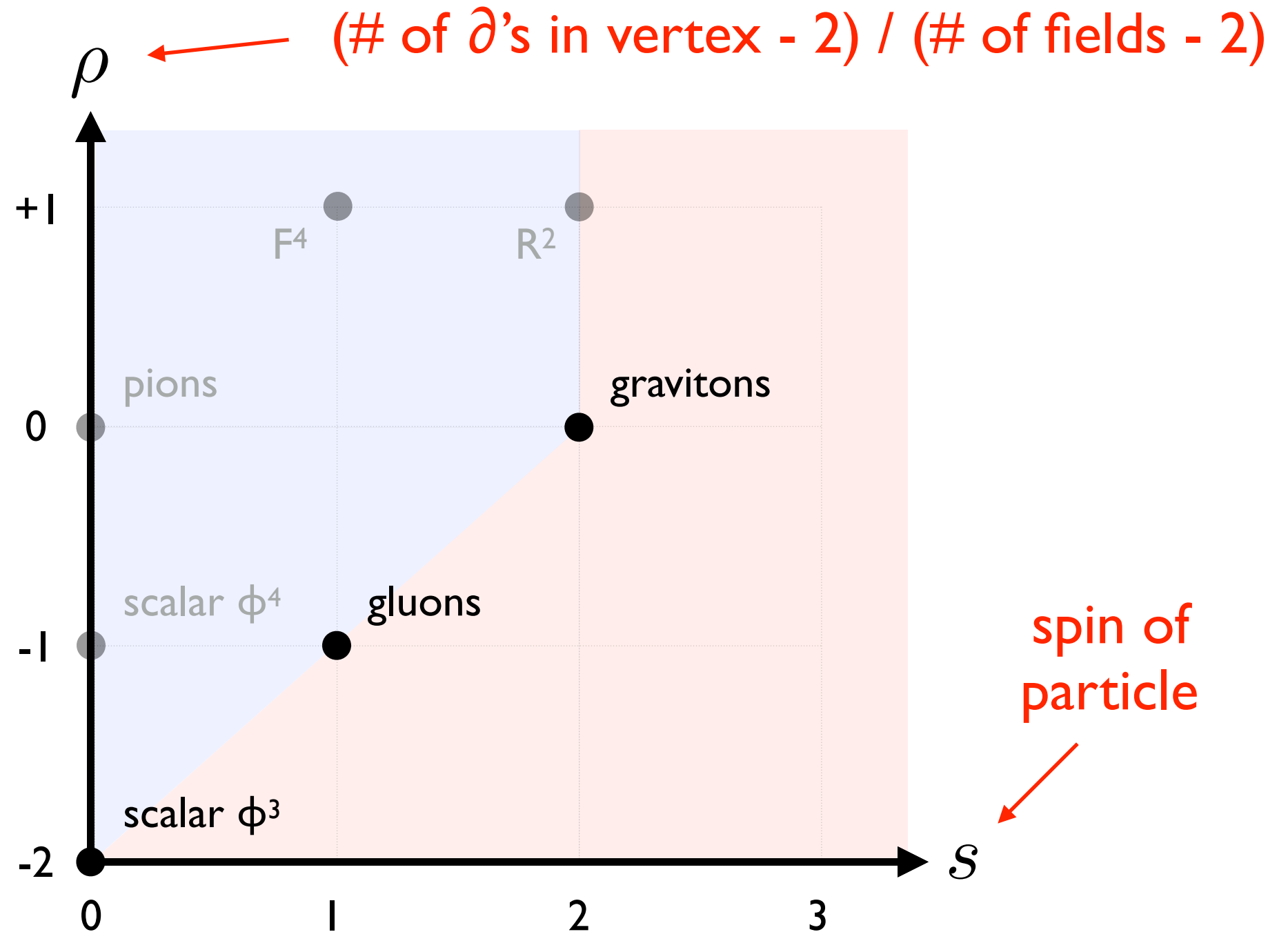
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Factorization excludes massless spin  $> 2$ .

The tree-level S-matrices of many theories can be constructed from on-shell recursion.

- Yang-Mills theory and gravity
- QCD, SM, SUSY theories
- all renormalizable 4D QFTs

Non-renormalizable operators seem difficult.

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very much  
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- Poincare Invariance
- Locality
- ? ? ?

EFTs like pion theory hinge upon symmetry breaking. What we can do without an action?

# What about effective field theories (EFTs)?


- Poincare Invariance
- Locality
- Infrared Structure

EFTs like pion theory hinge upon symmetry breaking. What we can do without an action?

In soft limit, the momentum of an external particle is taken to zero.

$$A(p, \dots) \stackrel{p \rightarrow 0}{\sim} p^\sigma \quad \text{where } \sigma \in \mathbb{N}$$

generalized “Adler zero”



Enhanced infrared behavior corresponds a soft degree greater than expected from number of derivatives per field.

$$\sigma > \rho$$

Consider a single Nambu-Goldstone boson.

$$\mathcal{L} = \sum_n c_n (\partial\phi)^{2n}$$

Amplitudes vanish in the soft limit due to a shift symmetry. There are an infinite number of free coupling constants.

$$A(p, \dots) \stackrel{p \rightarrow 0}{\sim} p$$

Now demand a faster soft limit.

$$A(p, \cdots) \stackrel{p \rightarrow 0}{\sim} p^2 \longrightarrow \begin{aligned} c_1 &= 1/2 \\ c_2 &= \lambda/8 \\ c_3 &= \lambda^2/16 \\ c_4 &= 5\lambda^3/128 \\ &\vdots \end{aligned}$$



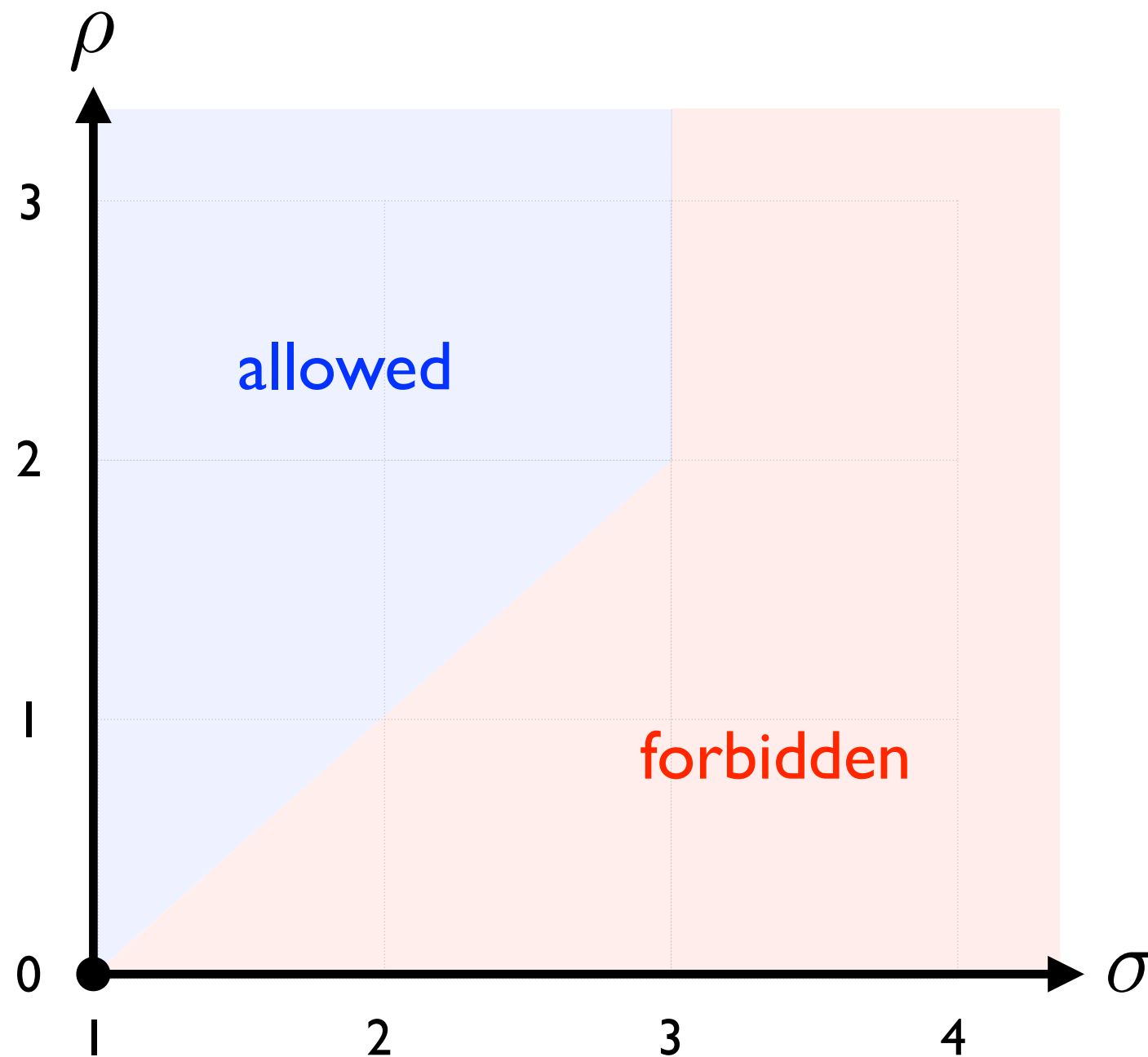
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This sums to Dirac-Born-Infeld theory (DBI).

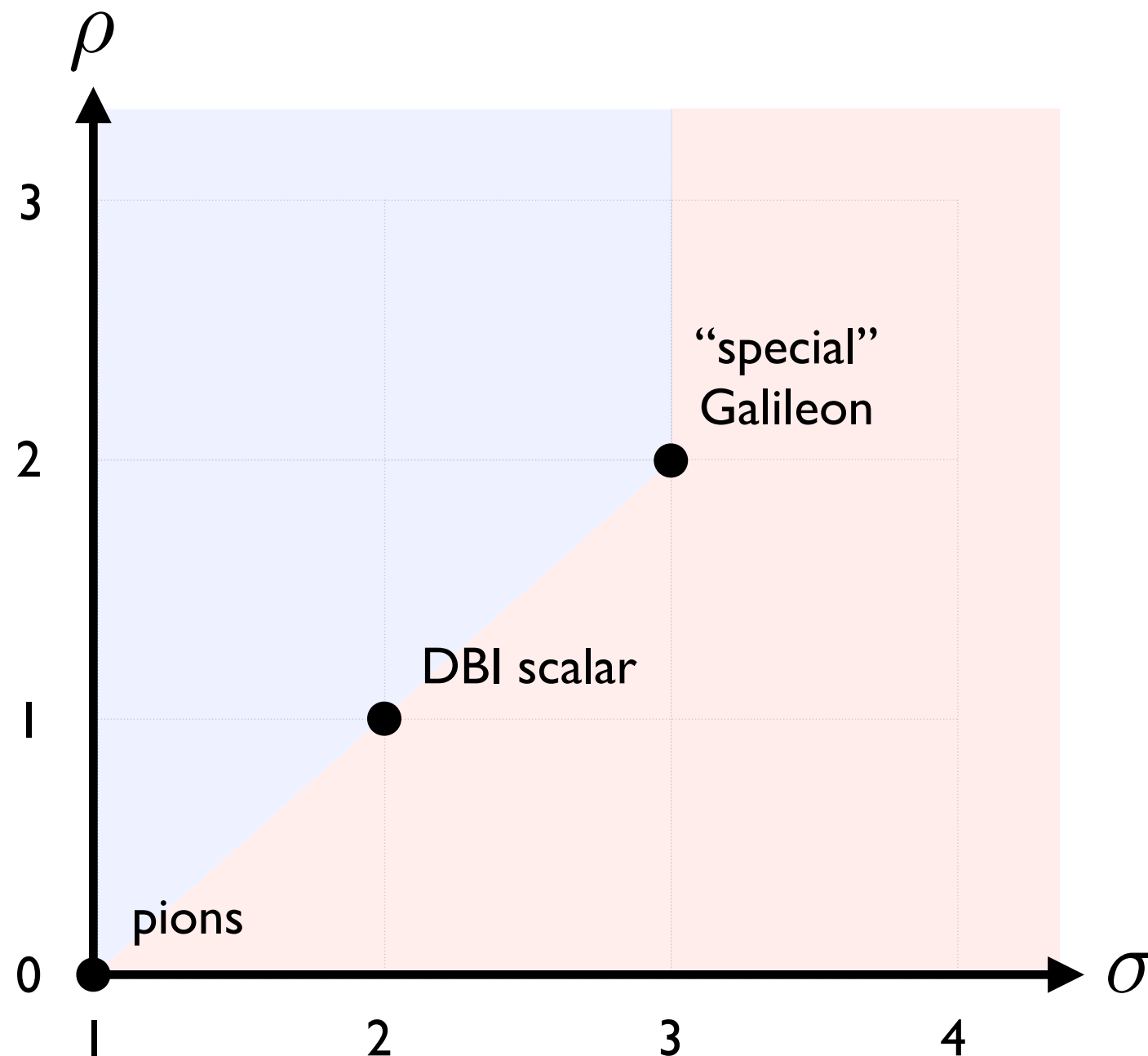
$$\mathcal{L} = -\frac{1}{\lambda} \sqrt{1 - \lambda(\partial\phi)^2} + \text{const}$$

There is an organizing structure of EFTs.



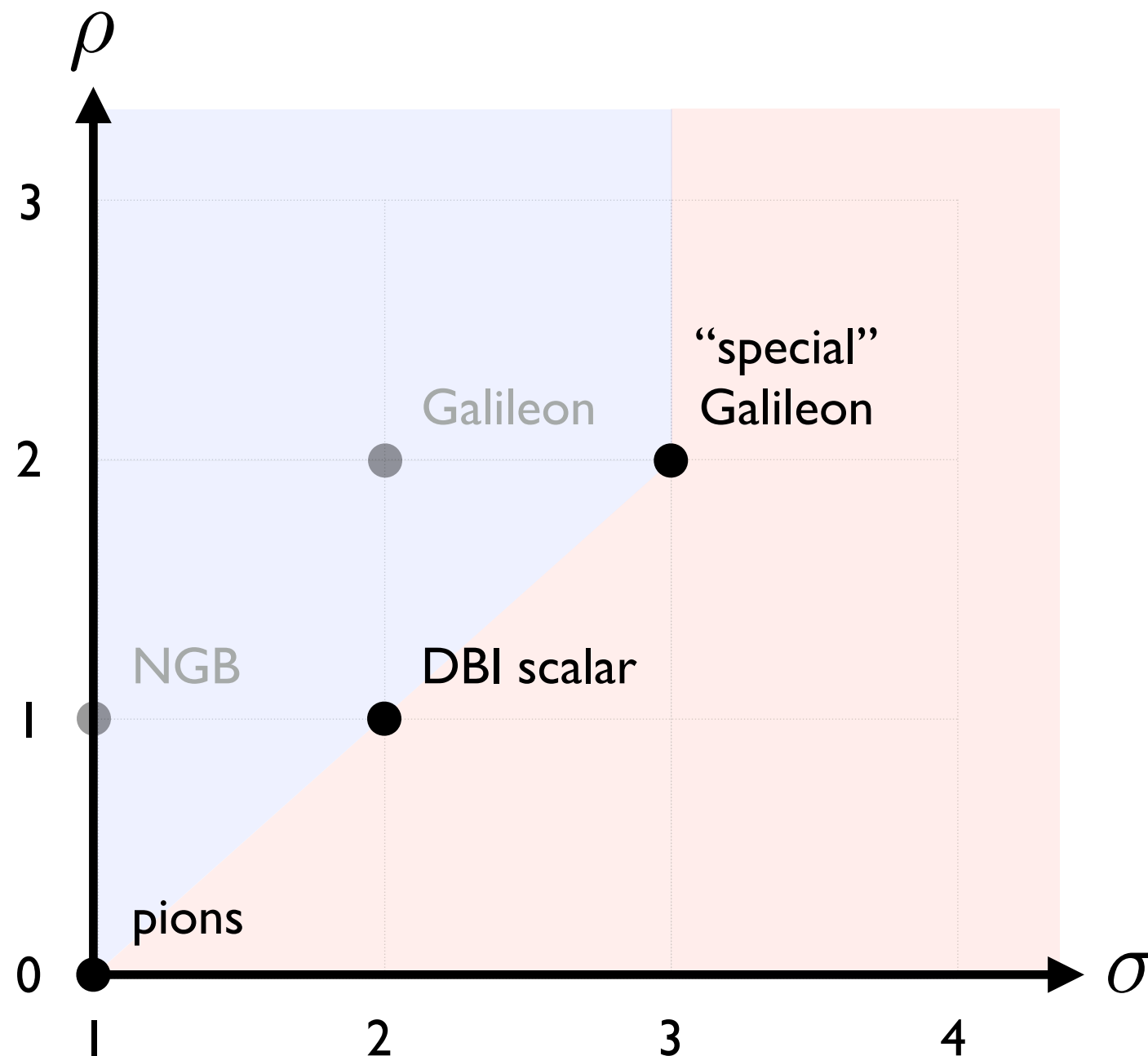
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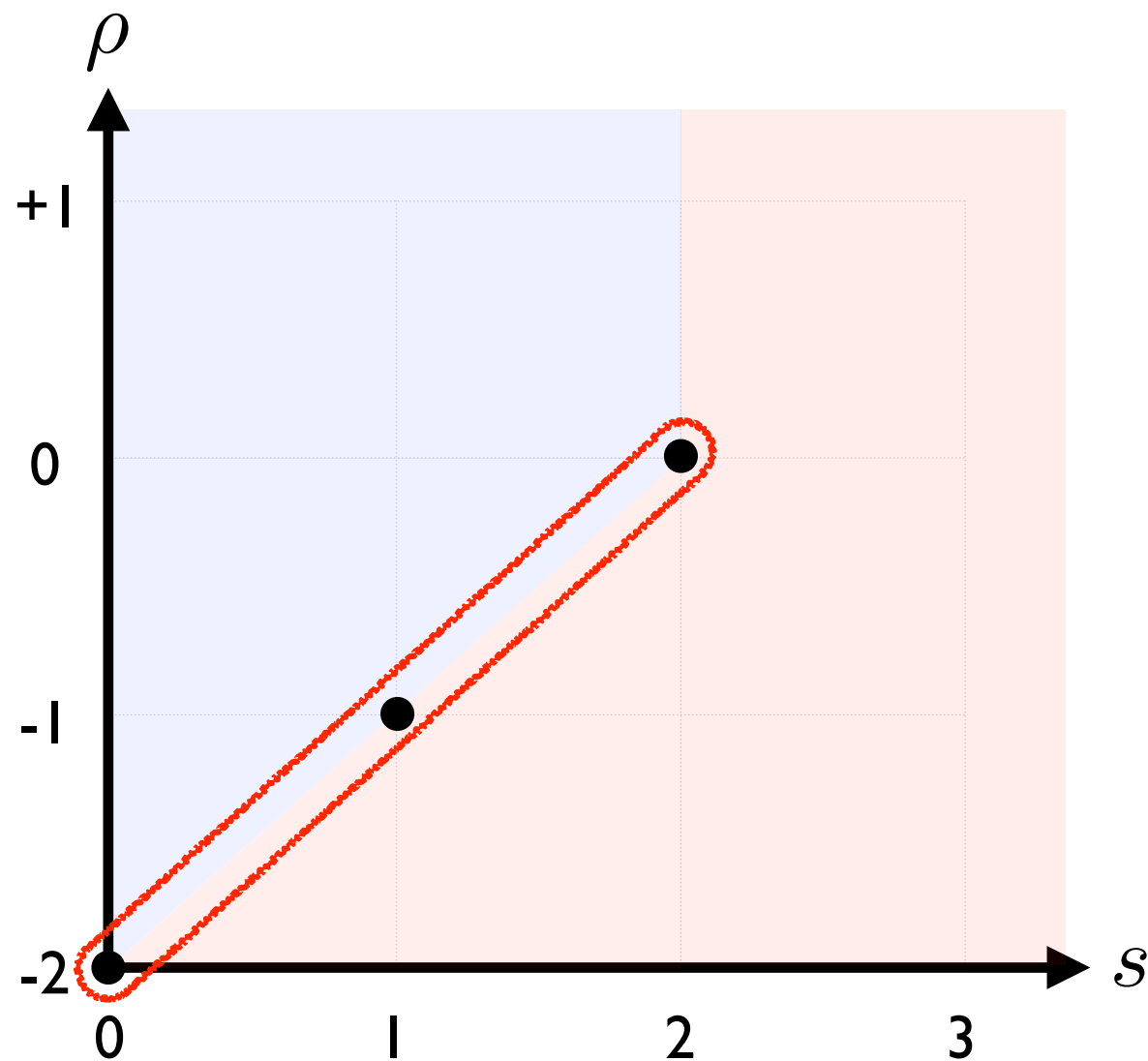
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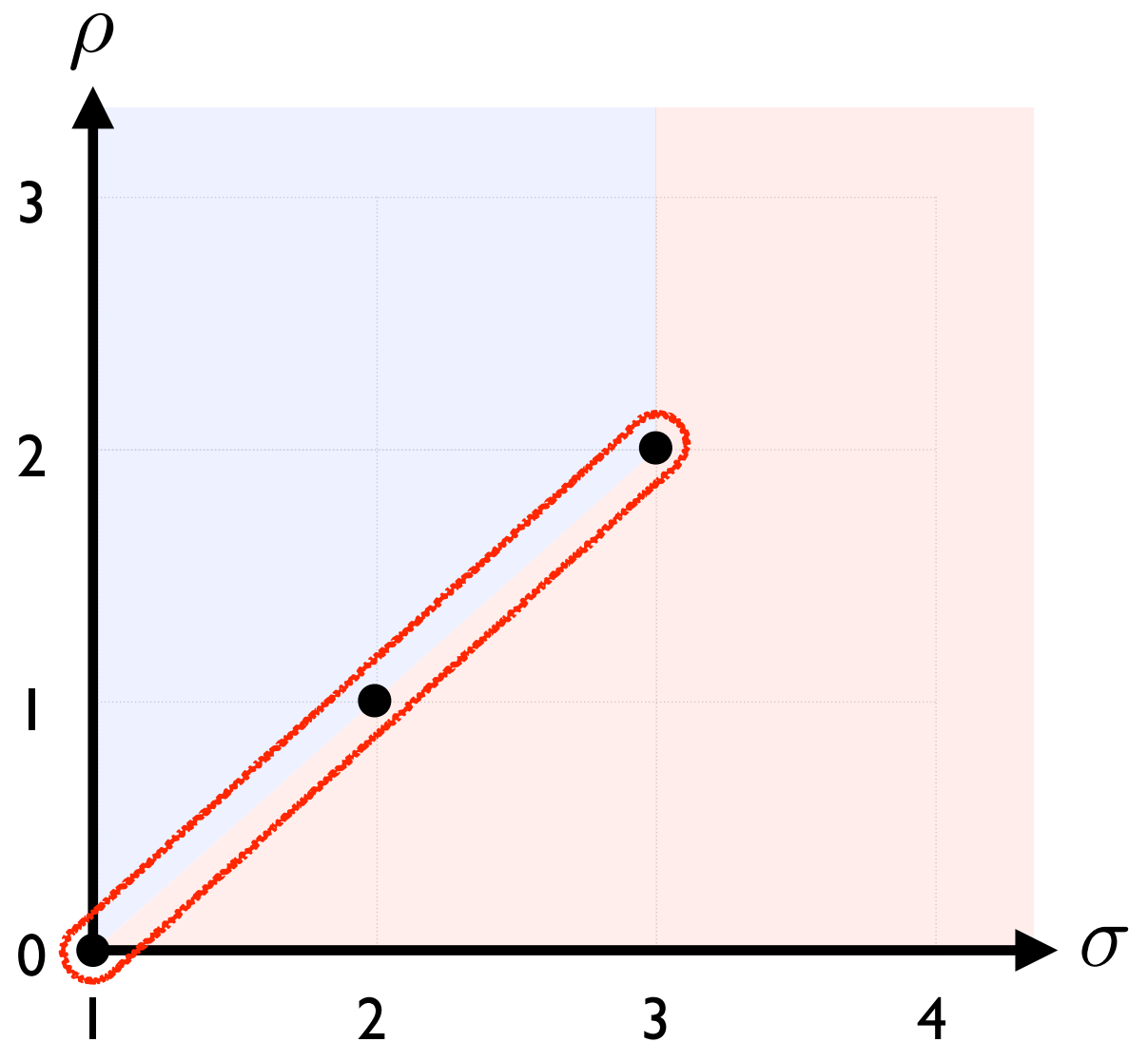
The tree-level S-matrices of many theories can be constructed from on-shell recursion.

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- all 4D renormalizable QFTs
- EFTs like NLSM, DBI, Galileon

gauge / gravity



EFT



“Edge” theories are maximally constrained  
and moreover they are secretly connected!

unification of QFTs



Textbook unification runs from UV to IR.

energy



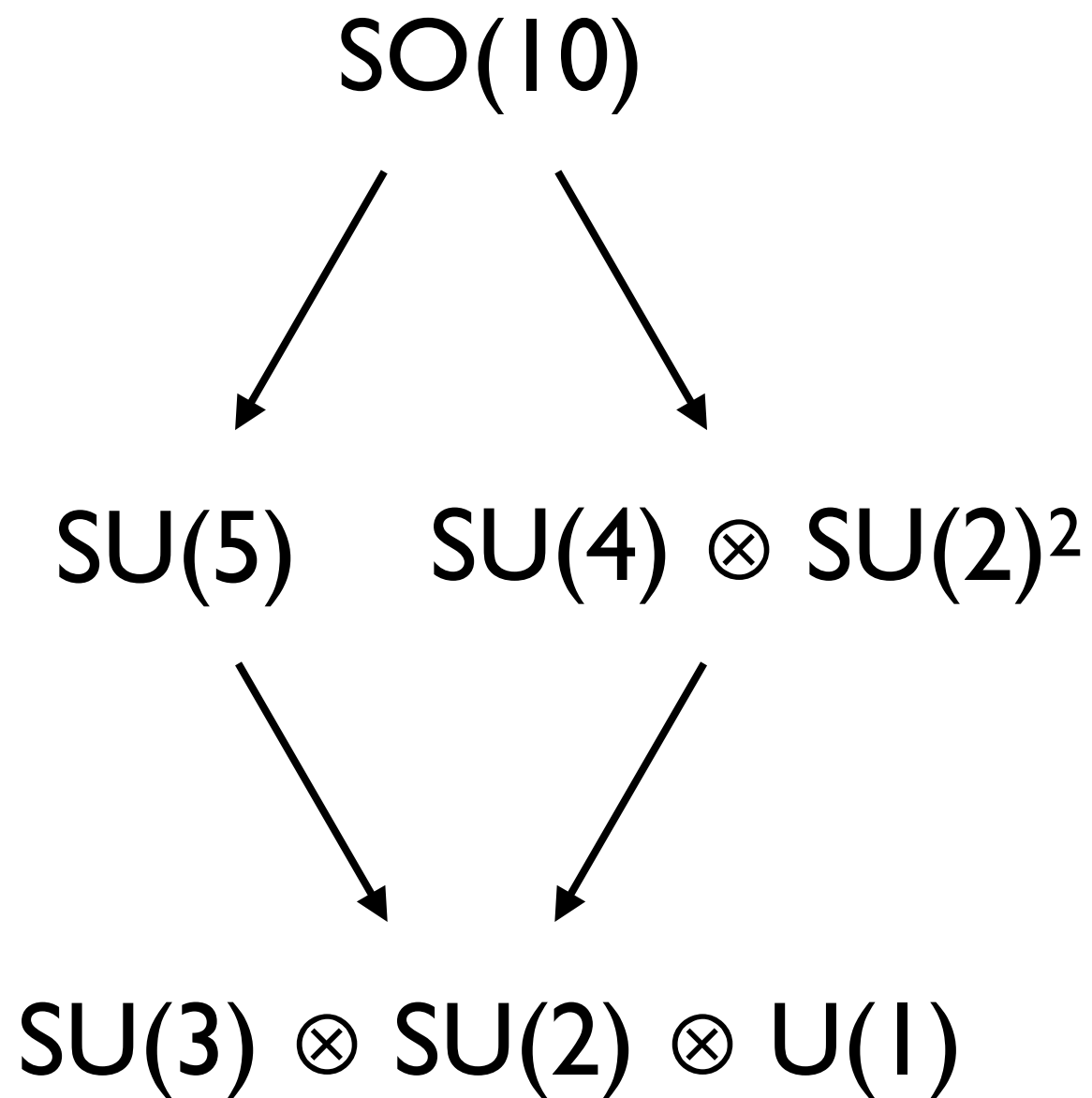
symmetry



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# Scattering amplitudes reveal a hidden unity!

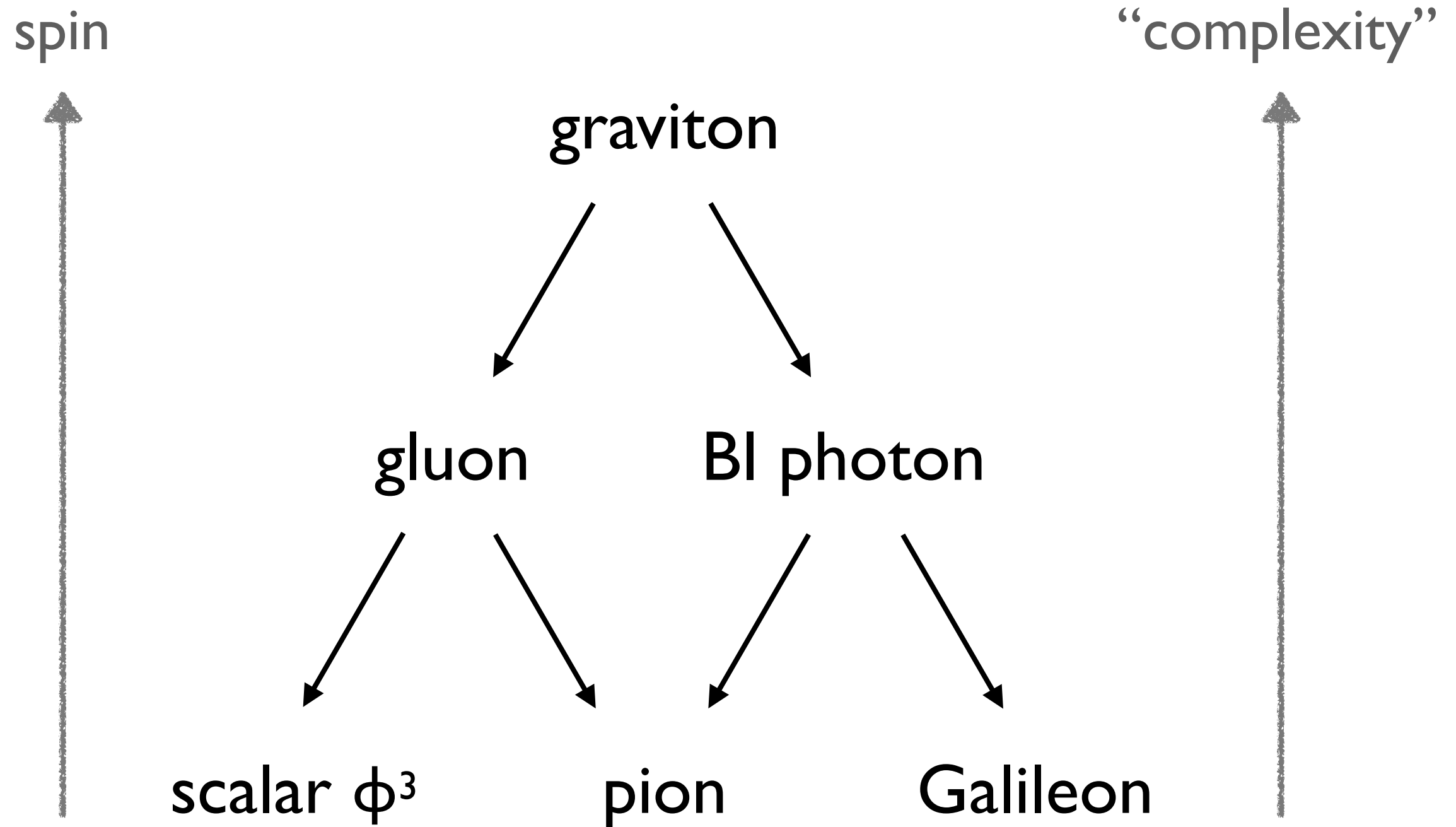
spin



“complexity”



# Scattering amplitudes reveal a hidden unity!



Recast an amplitude as an abstract function.

$$A = e_1^{\mu_1} e_2^{\mu_2} \cdots e_n^{\mu_n} A_{\mu_1 \mu_2 \cdots \mu_n}$$

= scalar function of  $p_i p_j, p_i e_j, e_i e_j$

Crucially, we maintain on-shell conditions.

massless

helicity basis

$$p_i p_i = p_i e_i = e_i e_i = 0$$


transverse

Physical amplitudes satisfy the Ward identity.

$$A \Big|_{e_i=p_i} = \mathcal{W}_i \cdot A = 0$$

We define an operator that implements the Ward identity and annihilates the amplitude.

$$\mathcal{W}_i = \sum_v p_i v \partial_{v e_i}$$

 runs over  
all  $p_i$  and  $e_i$


Physical amplitudes conserve momentum.

$$\mathcal{P}_v \cdot A = 0$$

We define an operator that implements momentum conservation.

$$\mathcal{P}_v = \sum_i p_i v$$

any  $p_i$  and  $e_i$



Define an operator  $\mathcal{T}$  which acts on an amplitude  $A$  and builds a new one  $\mathcal{T} \cdot A$ .

If the operator satisfies the conditions,

$$[\mathcal{W}_i, \mathcal{T}] \sim 0 \qquad [\mathcal{P}_v, \mathcal{T}] \sim 0$$

then the resulting object can be physical!

$$\mathcal{W}_i \cdot (\mathcal{T} \cdot A) = 0 \qquad \mathcal{P}_v \cdot (\mathcal{T} \cdot A) = 0$$



We thus obtain “transmutation” operators.

$$\mathcal{T}_{ij} = \partial_{e_i e_j}$$

$$\mathcal{T}_{ijk} = \partial_{p_i e_j} - \partial_{p_k e_j}$$

$$\mathcal{L}_i = \sum_j p_i p_j \partial_{p_j e_i}$$

We thus obtain “transmutation” operators.

$$\mathcal{T}_{ij} = \partial_{\boxed{e_i e_j}}$$

2 gluon  $\rightarrow$  2 scalar

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We have proven this to be true with on-shell recursion, with explicit checks up to 8pt.

example 1) gluon to charged scalar

$$\mathcal{T}_{12} \cdot \mathcal{T}_{34} \cdot A(g_1 g_2 g_3 g_4) = \frac{p_1 p_3}{p_1 p_2}$$

color-ordered  
gluon amplitude

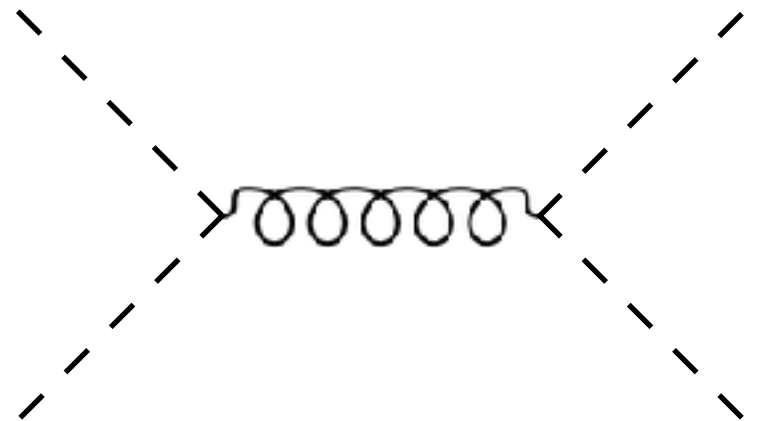
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$$= A(\phi_1 \phi_2, \phi_3 \phi_4) =$$

scalar matter  
scattering via gluons

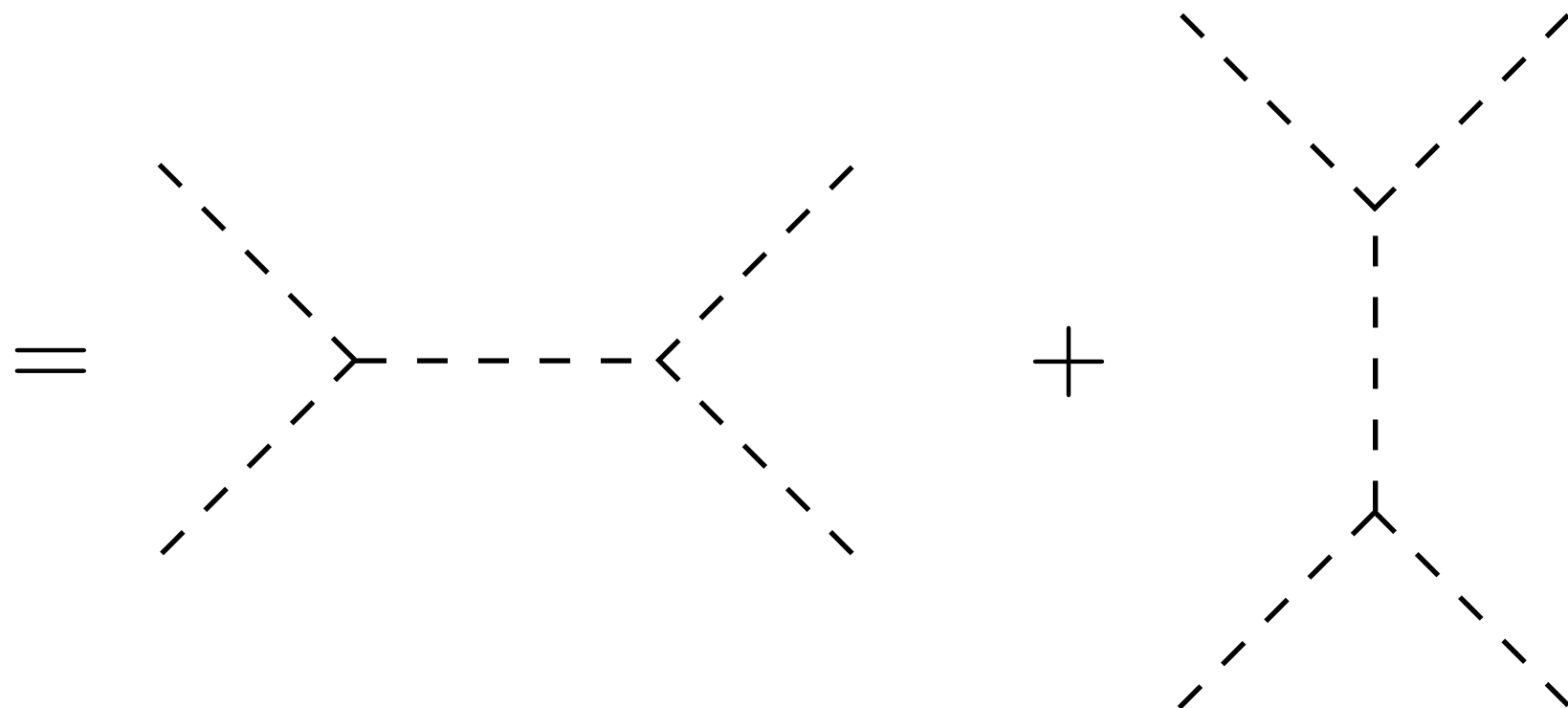


example 2) gluon to scalar  $\phi^3$

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example 3) gluon to pion

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cyclic invariance  
obscured



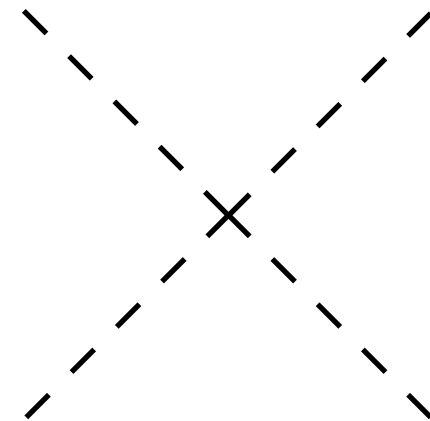
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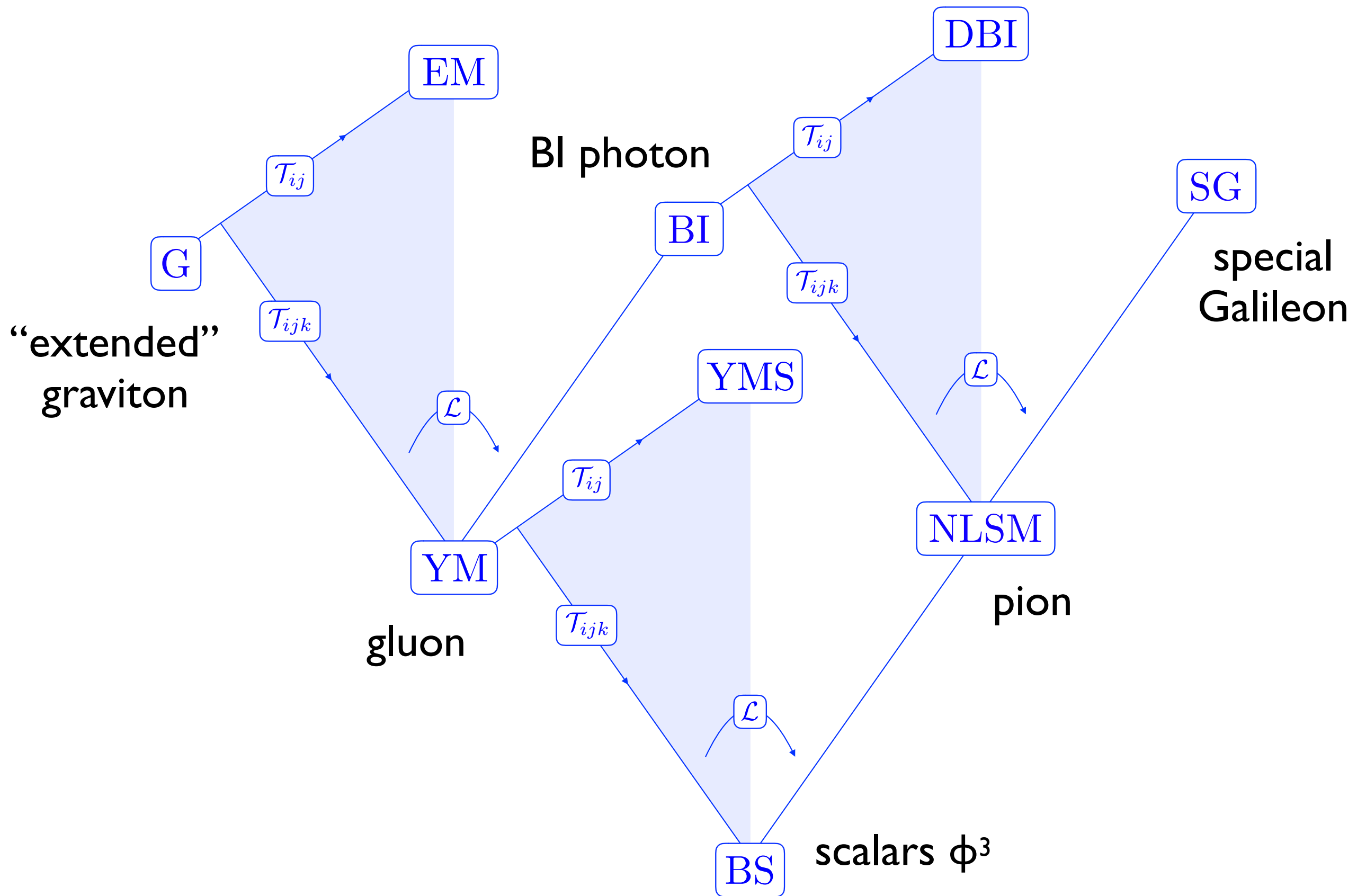
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flavor-ordered  
pion amplitude





Now translate this procedure to the action.

$$\mathcal{T}_{12} \cdot \mathcal{T}_{34} \cdot A(g_1 g_2 g_3 g_4) = A(\phi_1 \phi_2, \phi_3 \phi_4)$$

This extracts the  $(e_1 e_2)(e_3 e_4)$  component and is equivalent to dimensional reduction.

$$e_1^\mu = e_2^\mu = (0, 1, 0)$$

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momenta have support on  
d-dimensional subspace

For pions, the reduction is peculiar.

$$\mathcal{T}_{14} \cdot \mathcal{L}_2 \cdot \mathcal{L}_3 \cdot A(g_1 g_2 g_3 g_4) = A(\pi_1 \pi_2 \pi_3 \pi_4)$$

Some states are longitudinally polarized.

$$e_2^\mu = (p_2^\alpha, 0, ip_2^\beta) \qquad e_3^\mu = (p_3^\alpha, 0, ip_3^\beta)$$

$$\longrightarrow A_\mu = \left( \frac{X_\alpha + Z_\alpha}{\sqrt{2}}, Y, \frac{X_\beta - Z_\beta}{i\sqrt{2}} \right)$$

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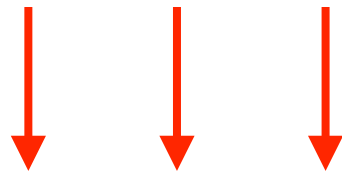


$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{NLSM}} = \text{Tr} \left( X_{\alpha} \square Z^{\alpha} + \frac{1}{2} Y \square Y + \right. \\ \left. + i X_{\alpha\beta} [Z^{\alpha}, Z^{\beta}] + i Z^{\alpha} [Y, \partial_{\alpha} Y] \right)$$



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Recast pions as higher-dimensional gluons!

$$A(\pi_1 \cdots \pi_n) = A(Z_1 \cdots Y_i \cdots Y_j \cdots Z_n)$$

cyclic invariance obscured

Now replace flavor with kinematics.

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{NLSM}} = \text{Tr} \left( X_\alpha \square Z^\alpha + \frac{1}{2} Y \square Y + \right. \\ \left. + i X_{\alpha\beta} [Z^\alpha, Z^\beta] + i Z^\alpha [Y, \partial_\alpha Y] \right)$$

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$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{SG}} = X_{\alpha\bar{\alpha}} \square Z^{\alpha\bar{\alpha}} + \frac{1}{2} Y \square Y \\ + X_{\alpha\beta\bar{\alpha}\bar{\beta}} Z^{\alpha\bar{\alpha}} Z^{\beta\bar{\beta}} + Z^{\alpha\bar{\alpha}} Y \partial_{\alpha} \partial_{\bar{\alpha}} Y$$

Now replace flavor with kinematics.

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{NLSM}} = \text{Tr} \left( X_\alpha \square Z^\alpha + \frac{1}{2} Y \square Y + \right. \\ \left. + i X_{\alpha\beta} [Z^\alpha, Z^\beta] + i Z^\alpha [Y, \partial_\alpha Y] \right)$$



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So we arrive at “pion<sup>2</sup> = Galileon”.

This pion action has several notable features.

- Interactions are purely cubic, in sharp contrast with the typical formulation.
- Permutation invariance and pion parity are obscured.
- Kinematic algebra of pions comes from the higher-dimensional Poincare algebra.
- Weinberg gluon soft theorem maps to the Adler zero condition.

**conclusions**

- Gauge theory, gravity, and effective field theories can be derived from S-matrix properties rather than vice versa.
- The very simplest theories are secretly unified and can be derived directly from the extended graviton S-matrix.
- This construction translates to a version of dimensional reduction that recasts pions as higher-dimensional gluons.

**thank you!**



# basics of on-shell recursion

Shift momenta with complex parameter  $z$ :

$$p_i \rightarrow p_i + z q_i \quad A \rightarrow A(z)$$

To maintain physical momenta, we impose

momentum  
conservation:

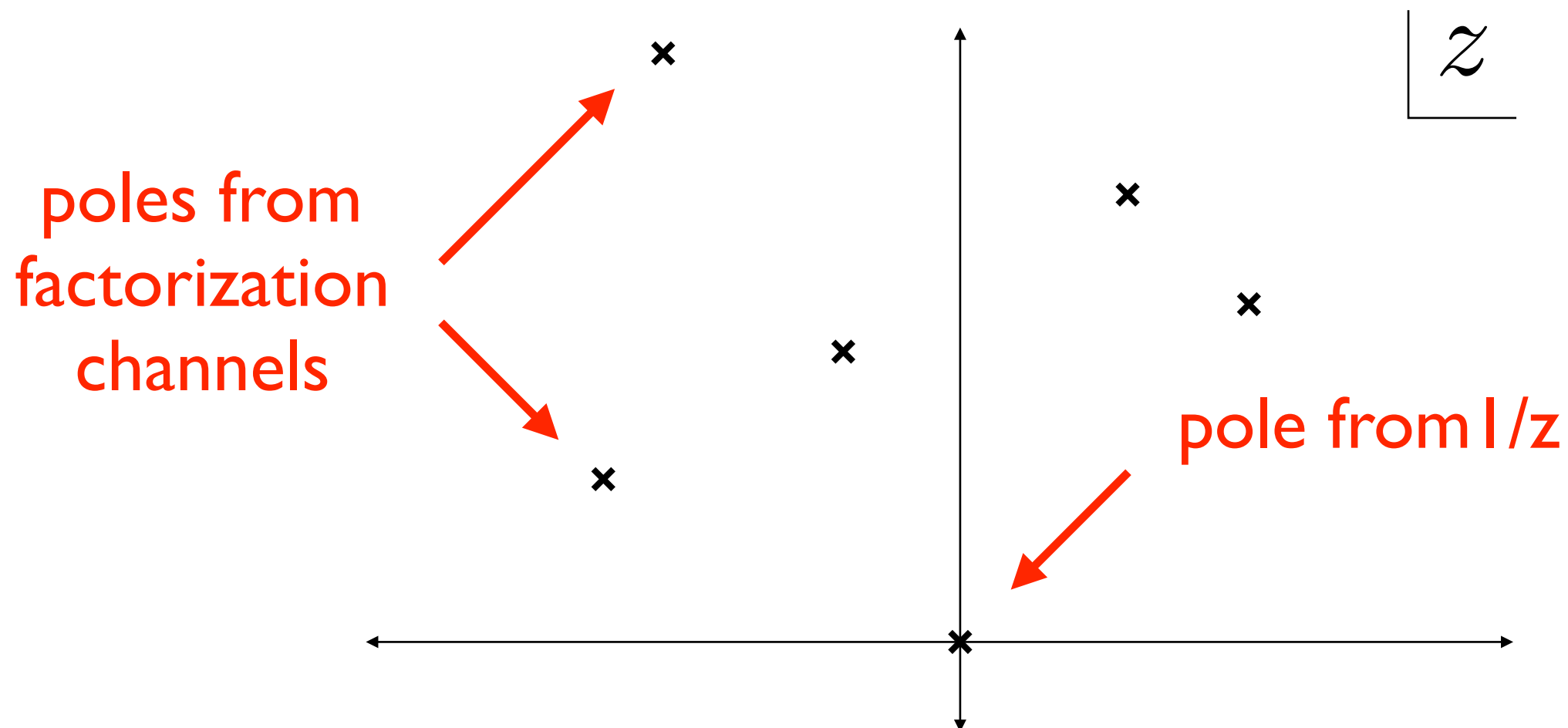
$$\sum_i q_i = 0$$

on-shell:

$$q_i \cdot q_i = q_i \cdot p_i = 0$$

Apply Cauchy's theorem to shifted amplitude.

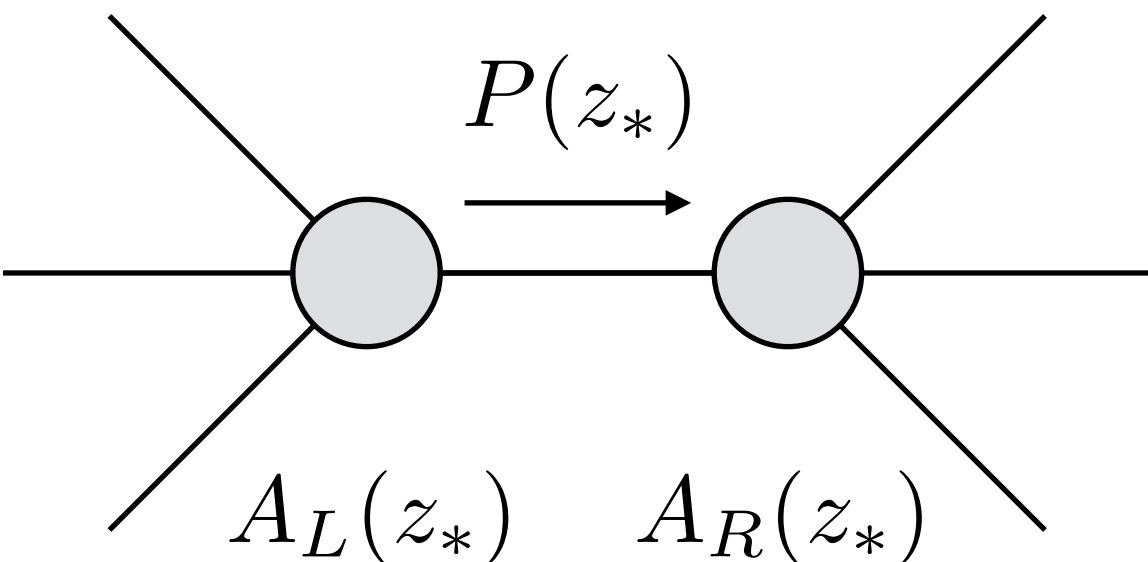
$$A(0) = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \oint_{z=0} \frac{A(z)}{z} = \sum_{z_*} \text{Res}_{z=z_*} \left( \frac{A(z)}{z} \right)$$



Here  $z_*$  is fixed by factorization,  $P(z_*)^2 = 0$

$$A(0) = \sum_{z_*} A_L(z_*) \frac{1}{P^2} A_R(z_*) + \text{Res}_{z=\infty} \left( \frac{A(z)}{z} \right)$$

$$= \sum_{z_*} \begin{array}{c} \text{diagram} \end{array} + \text{boundary term}$$



$A(z) \xrightarrow{z \rightarrow \infty} 0$   
 (required for recursion)