

QCD meets Gravity

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Ultra-soft gravitational radiation from
ultra-relativistic gravitational collisions

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COLLÈGE
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—1530—

An unsolved textbook exercise

The problem of computing the *GWs* emitted by a *binary system* is (almost) as old as GR.

Most of the time these processes are in the *NR regime*, with the exception of the merging itself when moderately relativistic speeds ($v/c \sim 0.3-0.6$) are reached.

Main tools: *PN, PM, EOB, numerical relativity...*

A tough but very relevant problem.

Much less attention has been devoted in the past to an easier(?), but **apparently academic**, problem.

Consider the collision of two massless (or highly relativistic, $\gamma = E/m \gg 1$) gravitationally interacting particles in the regime in which they deflect each other's trajectory by a small angle $\theta_s = \theta_E$:

$$\theta_s \equiv \theta_E = \frac{8GE}{b} \equiv \frac{2R}{b} ; c = 1$$

"Exercise": compute the GW spectrum associated with this collision **to lowest order in θ_E** .

How can it possibly be an unsolved problem?

(**A. Gruzinov**, private conversation, early 2014)

What we do know

1. The zero frequency limit (Smarr, prl 1977)

A solid prediction for $dE^{GW}/d\omega d^2\theta$ as $\omega \rightarrow 0$.

It goes to a constant obtained either by a classical or by a quantum argument.

The result ($2 \rightarrow 2$ after integrating over angles) is classical ($c=1$ throughout):

$$\frac{dE^{GW}}{d\omega} \rightarrow \frac{Gs}{\pi} \theta_s^2 \log(4e\theta_s^{-2}) \quad ; \quad \omega \rightarrow 0 \quad ; \quad \theta_s \ll 1$$

2. Work in the seventies (P. D'Eath, K&T)

THE GENERATION OF GRAVITATIONAL WAVES.

IV. BREMSSTRAHLUNG*†‡

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AND

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ABSTRACT

This paper attempts a definitive treatment of “classical gravitational bremsstrahlung”—i.e., of the gravitational waves produced when two stars of arbitrary relative mass fly past each other with arbitrary relative velocity v , but with large enough impact parameter that

(angle of gravitational deflection of stars' orbits) $\ll (1 - v^2/c^2)^{1/2}$.

NB: $\theta_s < \gamma^{-1} \Rightarrow q = m v \gamma \theta_s < m$

Cf. extending recent PM calculations
of conservative process to UR regime

3. Numerical Relativity

(F. Pretorius, U. Sperhake, private comm. ~ 04.14)

The calculation in NR is **challenging** because the deflected particles carry with them two shock waves that travel (almost) **as fast** as the emitted GWs (and roughly in the **same direction**)

Disentangling the two becomes very tricky for γ 's $> \sim 3$ and θ_E a bit $> \gamma^{-1}$

Outline

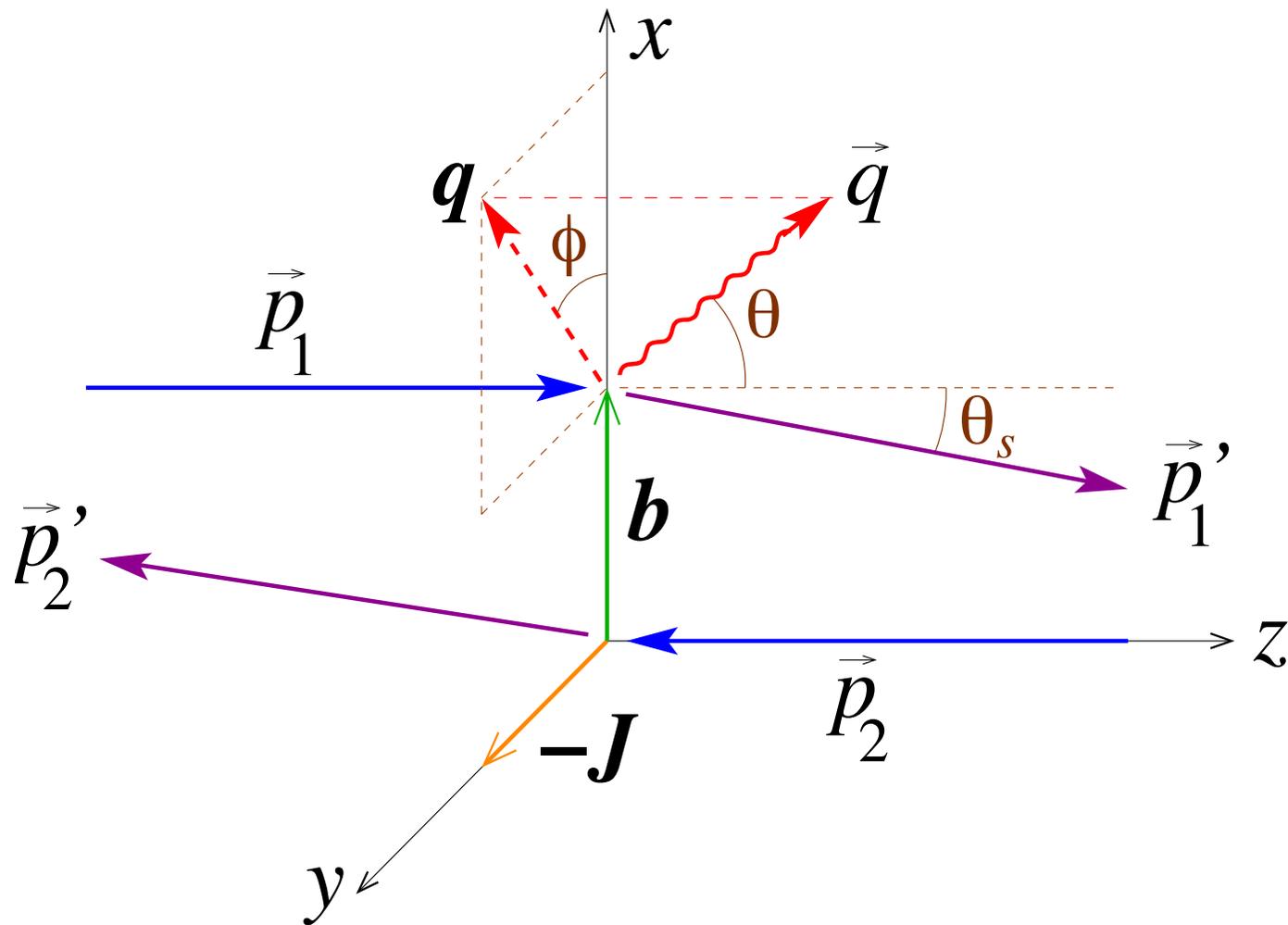
- ~~• I. Results & challenges on transplanckian gravitational **scattering**: a short summary (see also PdV's talk)~~
- II. Ultra-soft gravitational **radiation** from ultra-relativistic collisions via:
 - IIa. Classical **GR**
 - IIb. Quantum **eikonal**
 - IIc. **Soft**-theorems

Highlights

- Restoring **elastic unitarity** via eikonal resummation of **s-channel ladders**
- Gravitational **deflection** up to 3PM (ACV90)
- Unitarity-preserving **tidal excitation** of colliding strings through quadrupole moment...
- "**Pre-collapse**", $\langle E_{\text{final}} \rangle \sim M_{\text{P}}^2 / \langle E_{\text{initial}} \rangle$, analog of pre-confinement in PQCD?

II: Ultra soft gravitational radiation from ultra-relativistic collisions

The process at hand



Three possible approaches

1. Classical GR
(A. Gruzinov & GV, 1409.4555)
2. Quantum eikonal a la ACV
(CC&Coradeschi & GV, 1512.00281, Ciafaloni, Colferai & GV, 1812.08137)
3. Soft-theorems
(Laddha & Sen, 1804.09193; Sahoo & Sen 1808.03288, Addazi, Bianchi & GV, 1901.10986)

Anticipating:

- a. 2. goes over to 1. in the classical limit;
- b. They agree w/ 3. in the overlap of their respective domains of validity

Domains of validity

- The **CGR** and **quantum eikonal** approaches are limited to small-angle scattering but cover a wider range of *GW* frequencies.
- The **soft-theorem** approach is not limited to small deflection angles but is only valid in a smaller frequency range.

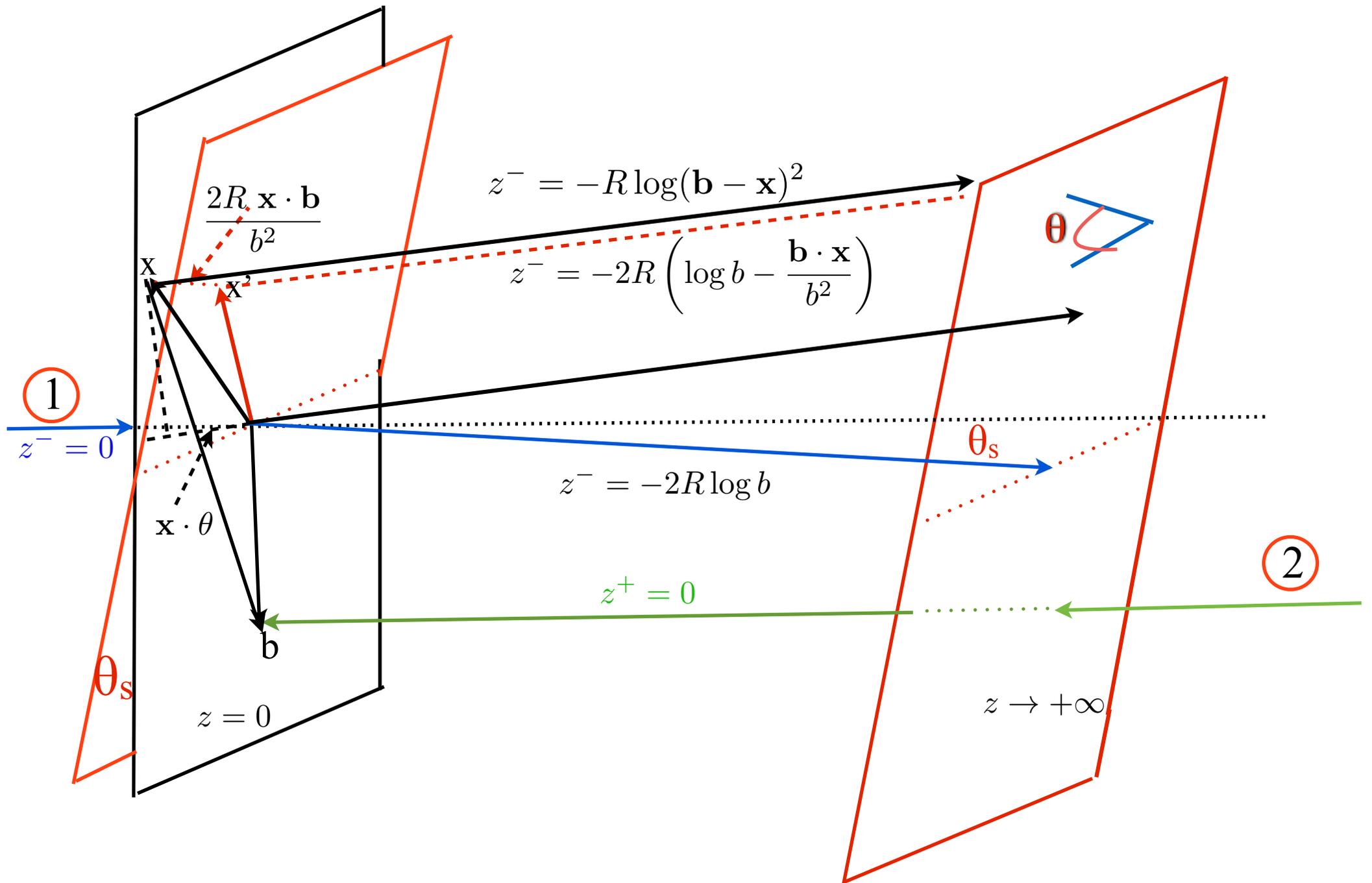
A classical GR approach

(A. Gruzinov & GV, 1409.4555)

Based on **Huygens superposition** principle.

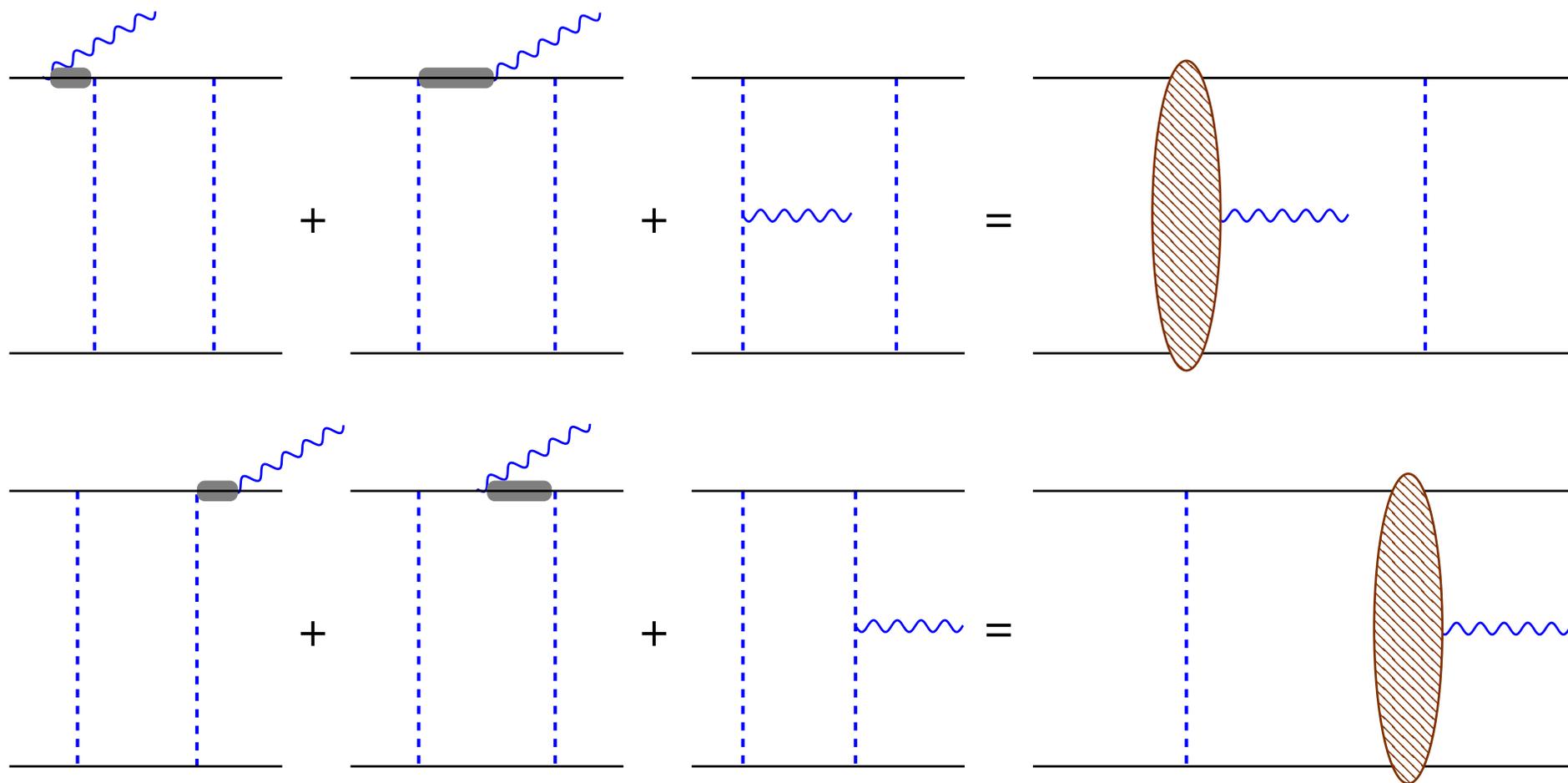
For gravity this includes in an essential way the **gravitational (Shapiro) time delay** in AS metric.

In pictures (formulae to be given later)



A quantum eikonal approach
(Ciafaloni, Colferai & GV, 1505.06619,
CC&Coradeschi & GV, 1512.00281)

Emission from external **and** internal legs **throughout** the **whole ladder** (with its suitable phase) has to be taken into account for not-so-soft gravitons.



One should also take into account the (finite) difference between the (infinite) Coulomb phase of the final 3-particle state and that of an elastic 2-particle state.

When this is done, the classical result of $G+V$ is exactly recovered for $\hbar\omega/E \rightarrow 0$!

Here it comes!

The classical result/limit

Frequency + angular spectrum ($s = 4E^2$, $R = 4GE$)

$$\frac{dE^{GW}}{d\omega d^2\tilde{\theta}} = \frac{GE^2}{\pi^4} |c|^2 ; \quad \tilde{\theta} = \theta - \theta_s ; \quad \theta_s = 2R \frac{b}{b^2}$$

$$c(\omega, \tilde{\theta}) = \int \frac{d^2x \zeta^2}{|\zeta|^4} e^{-i\omega \mathbf{x} \cdot \tilde{\theta}} \left[e^{-2iR\omega \Phi(\mathbf{x})} - 1 \right]$$

$$\zeta = x + iy \quad \Phi(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{1}{2} \ln \frac{(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{b})^2}{b^2} + \frac{\mathbf{b} \cdot \mathbf{x}}{b^2}$$

$$c(\omega, \theta) = \int \frac{d^2x \zeta^2}{|\zeta|^4} e^{-i\omega \mathbf{x} \cdot \theta} \left[e^{-iR\omega \ln \frac{(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{b})^2}{b^2}} - e^{+2iR\omega \frac{\mathbf{b} \cdot \mathbf{x}}{b^2}} \right]$$

$\text{Re } \zeta^2$ and $\text{Im } \zeta^2$ correspond to usual (+,x) GW polarizations,
 ζ^2, ζ^{*2} to the two circular ones (**not** each other's cc!).

Subtracting the deflected shock wave is **crucial!**

Analytic results:

A Hawking knee

(CC&Coradeschi & GV, 1512.00281)

& an unexpected bump

(Ciafaloni, Colferai & GV, 1812.08137)

Below $\omega = b^{-1}$ the GW-spectrum "freezes" \Rightarrow ZFL

$$\frac{dE^{GW}}{d\omega} \rightarrow \frac{4G}{\pi} \theta_s^2 E^2 \log(\theta_s^{-2})$$

For $b^{-1} < \omega < R^{-1}$ it is almost flat in ω

$$\frac{dE^{GW}}{d\omega} \sim \frac{4G}{\pi} \theta_s^2 E^2 \log(\omega R)^{-2}$$

Above $\omega = R^{-1}$ drops, takes a "scale-invariant" form:

$$\frac{dE^{GW}}{d\omega} \sim \theta_s^2 \frac{E}{\omega}$$

Hawking knee!

This gives a $\log \omega^*$ in the "efficiency" for a cutoff at ω^*

At $\omega \sim R^{-1} \theta_s^{-2}$ the above spectrum becomes $O(Gs \theta_s^4)$ i.e. of the same order as terms we neglected.

Also, if continued above $R^{-1} \theta_s^{-2}$, the so-called "Dyson bound" ($dE/dt < 1/G$) would be violated. Using $\omega^* \sim R^{-1} \theta_s^{-2}$ we find (to leading-log accuracy) a GW "efficiency"

$$\frac{E^{GW}}{\sqrt{s}} = \frac{1}{2\pi} \theta_s^2 \log(\theta_s^{-2})$$

The fine spectrum below $1/b$

The above results were very suggestive of a
monotonically decreasing spectrum

This appears **not** to be the case...

A careful study of the region $\omega R \ll 1$, but with ωb generic, shows that:

- At $\omega b \ll 1$ there are corrections of order $(\omega b)\log(\omega b)$, $(\omega b)^2\log^2(\omega b)$.
- First noticed by [Sen et al.](#) in the context of soft theorems in $D=4$.
- These logarithmically enhanced sub and sub-sub leading corrections disappear at $\omega b > 1$ so that the previously found $\log(1/\omega R)$ behavior (for $\omega b > 1 > \omega R$), as well as the Hawking knee, **remain valid**.

- The ωb (both w/ and w/out $\log(\omega b)$) correction only appears for **circularly polarized** (definite helicity) GWs but disappear **either** for the linear **+** and **x** polarizations, **or** after summing over them, **or**, finally, after integration over the azimuthal angle.
- The $(\omega b)\log(\omega b)$ terms are in **complete agreement** with what had been previously found by **A. Sen and collaborators** using soft-graviton theorems to sub-leading order (see below).

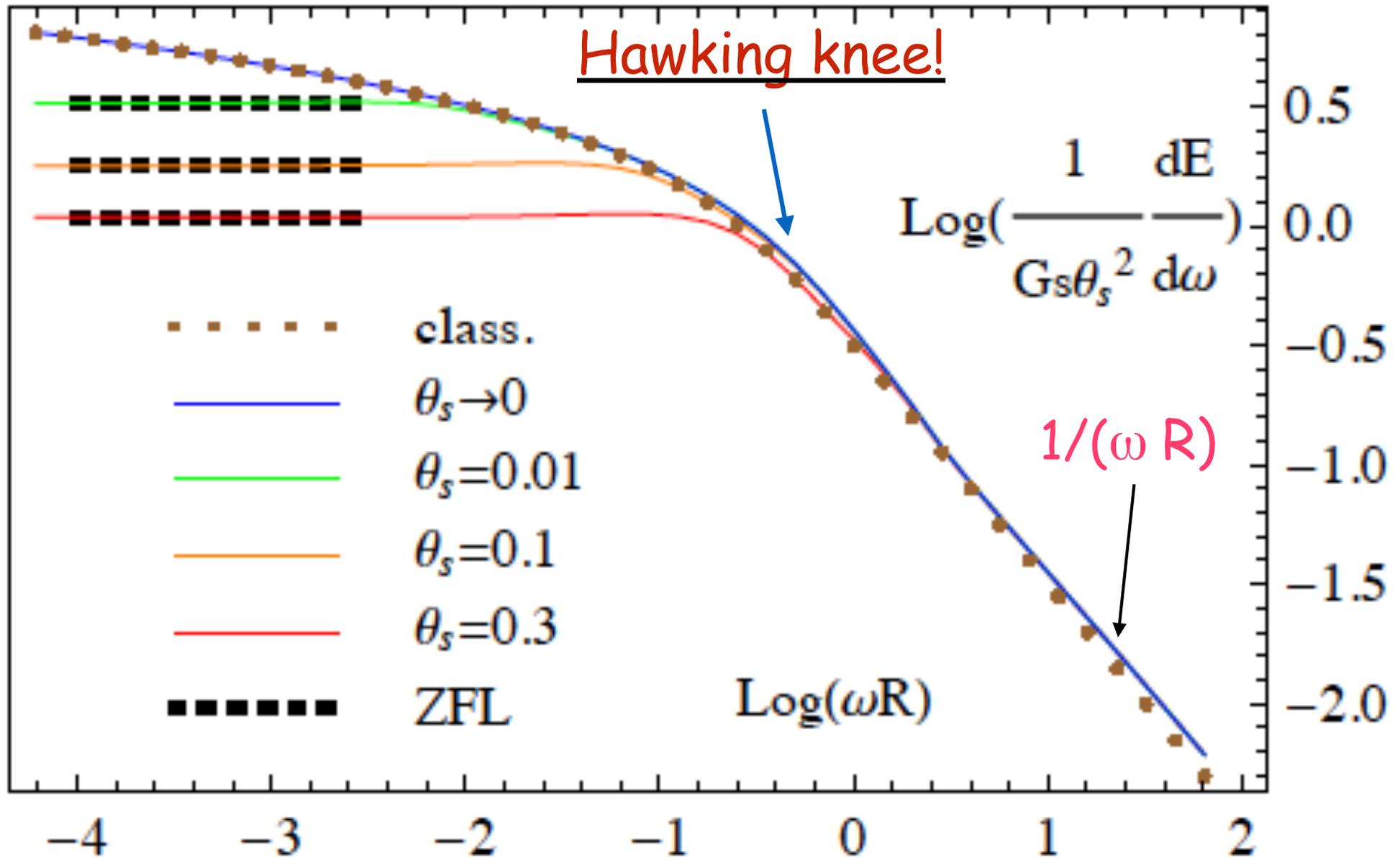
- The leading $(\omega b)^2 \log^2(\omega b)$ correction to the total flux is positive and produces a bump at $\omega b \sim 0.5$.
- Could not be compared to Sen et al. who only considered $\omega b \log(\omega b)$ corrections.
- Confirmed by Sahoo (private comm. by Sen).
- Can be compared successfully with soft-graviton approach if Sen et al.'s recipe is adopted at $O(\omega^2)$, see below.

Numerical results

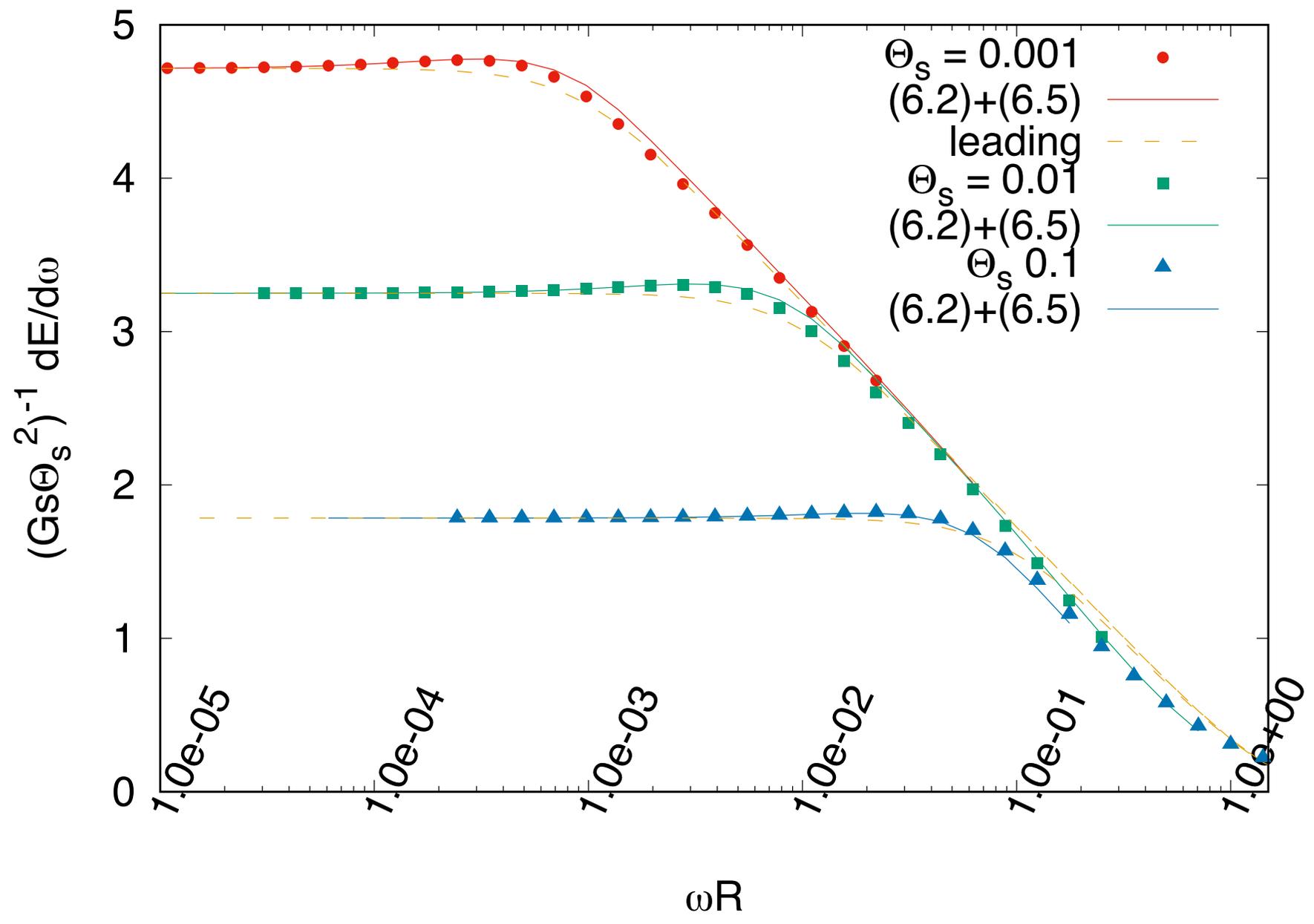
Ciafaloni, Colferai, Coradeschi & *GV-1512.00281*

Ciafaloni, Colferai & *GV-1812.08137*

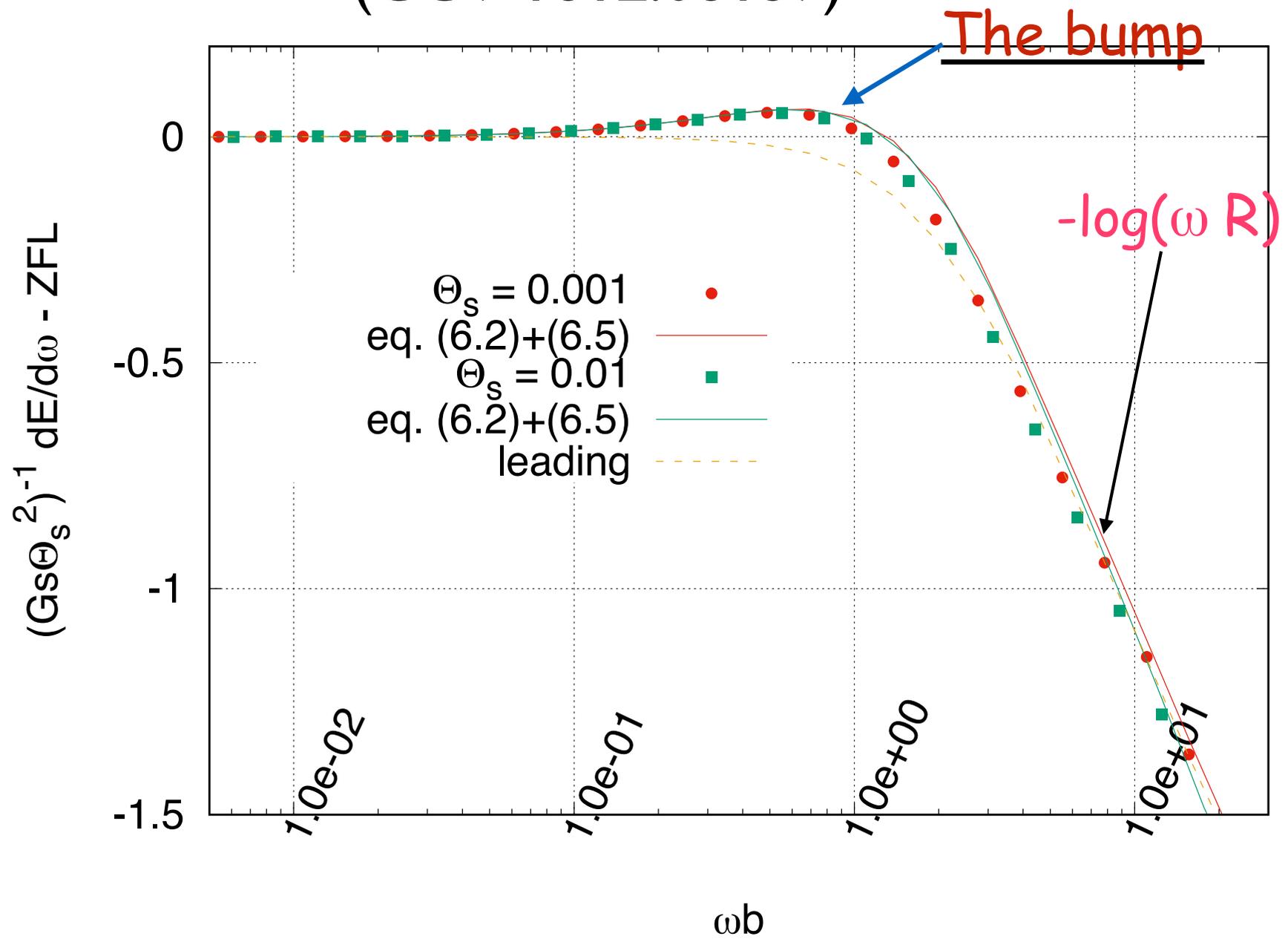
(CCCV 1512.00281)



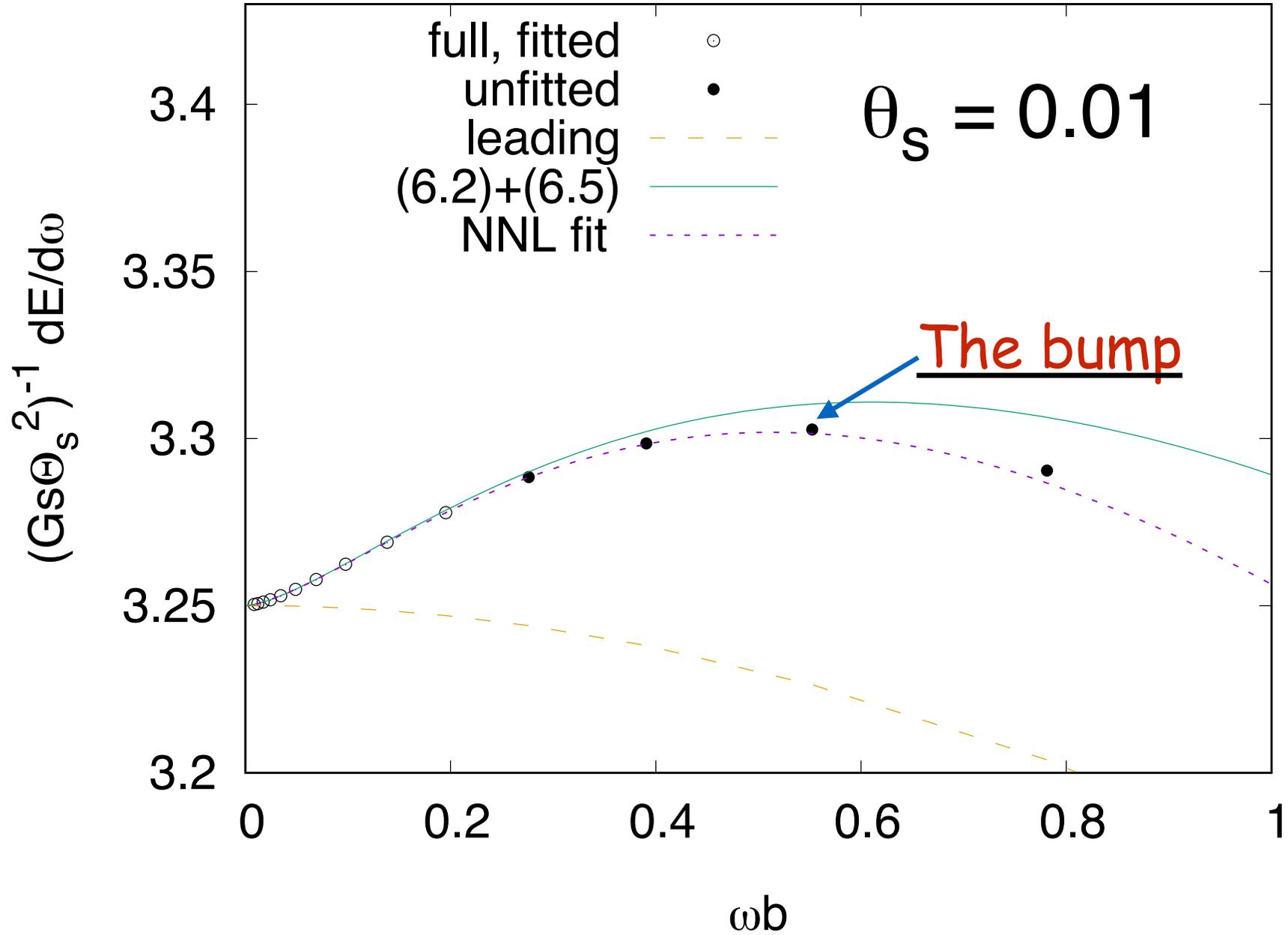
(CCV 1812.08137)



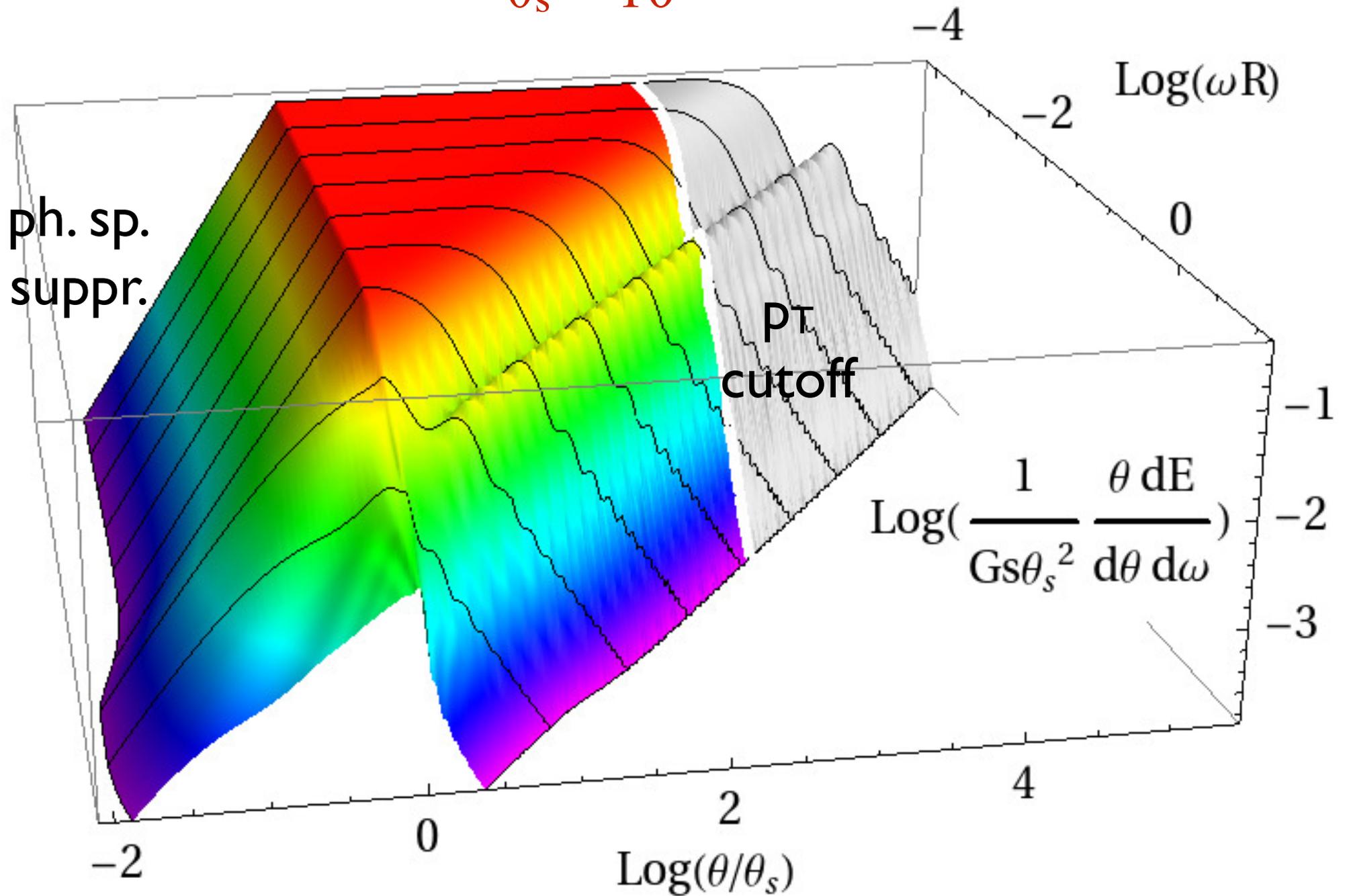
(CCV 1812.08137)



(CCV 1812.08137)



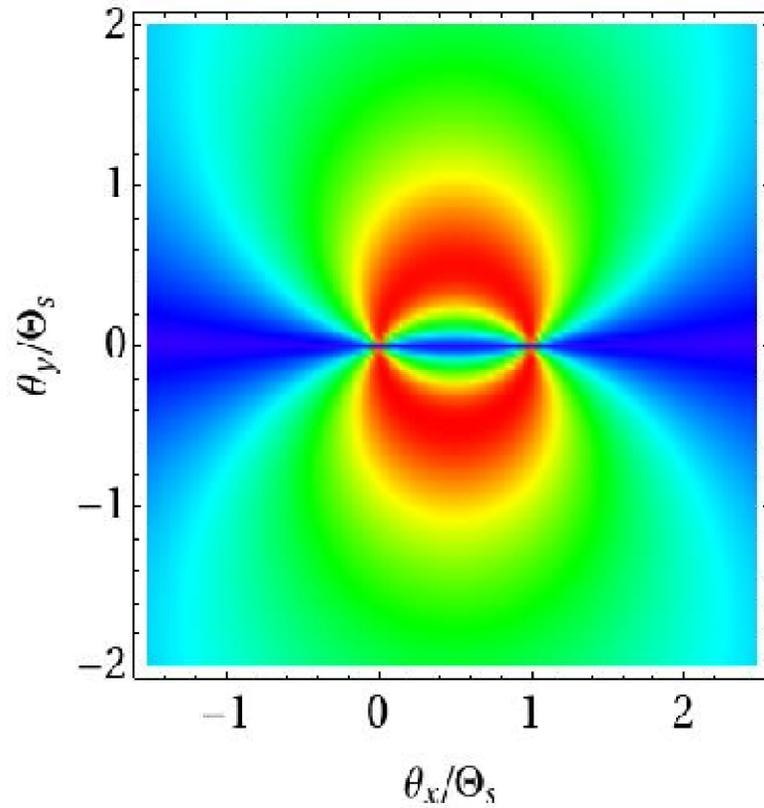
$$\theta_s = 10^{-3}$$



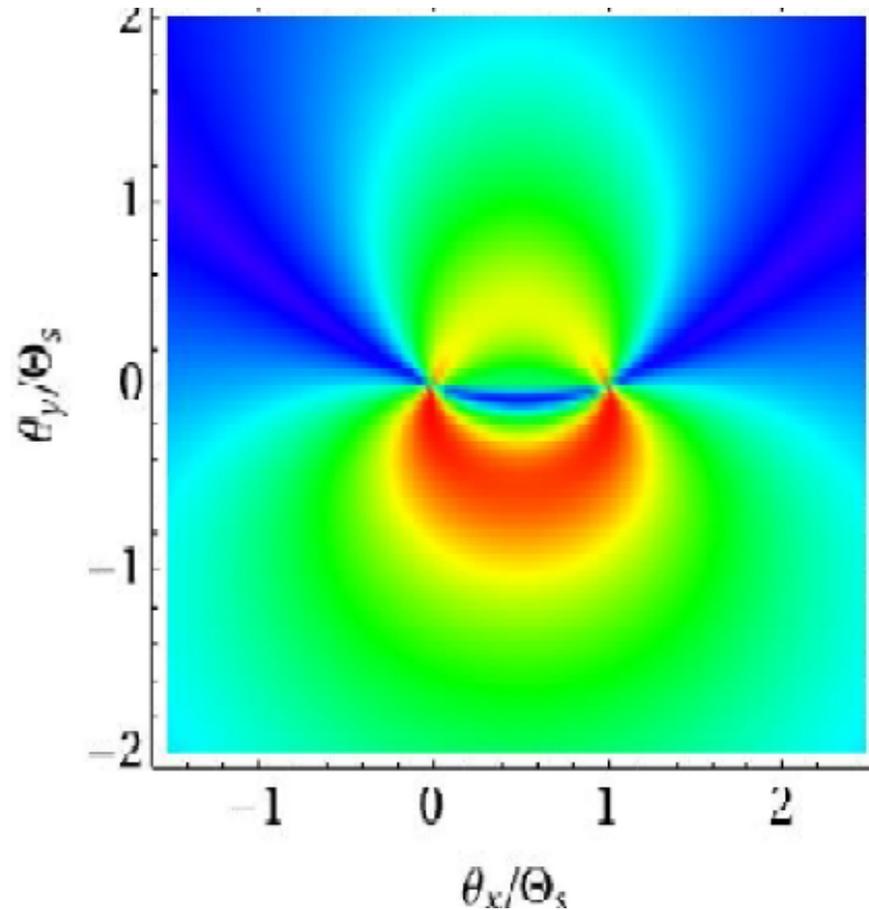
M. Ciafaloni, D. Colferai & GV, 1505.06619

Angular (polar and azimuthal) distribution

$$\omega R = 10^{-3}$$



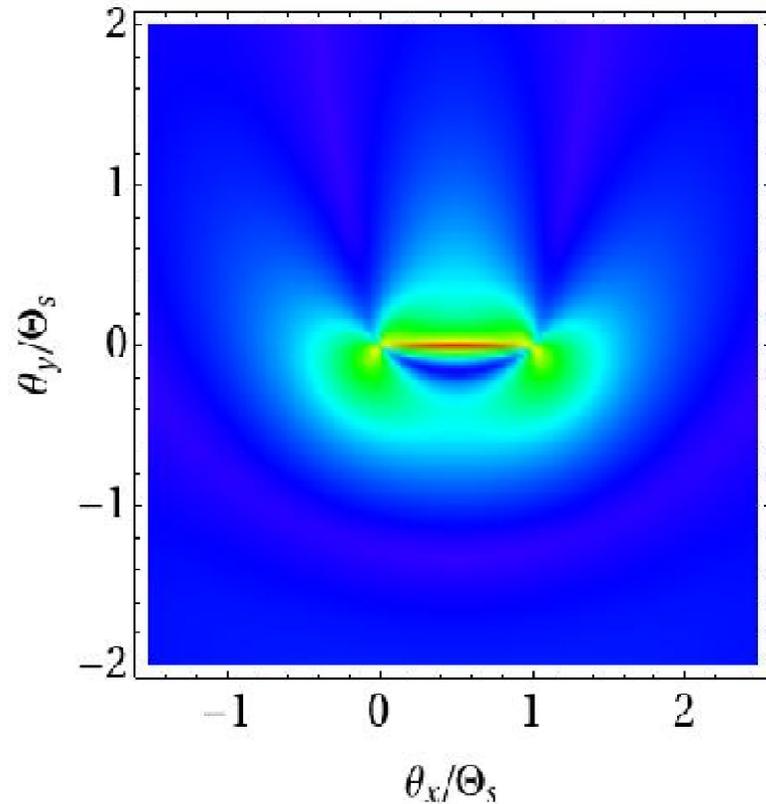
$$\omega R = 0.125$$



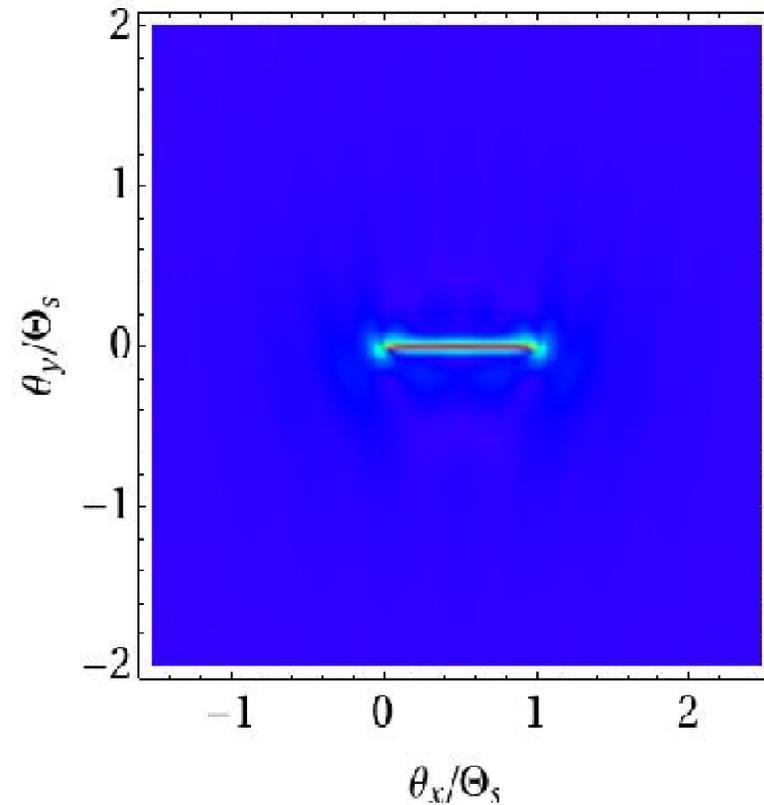
M. Ciafaloni, D. Colferai, F. Coraldeschi & GV, 1512.00281

Angular (polar and azimuthal) distribution

$$\omega R = 1.0$$



$$\omega R = 8.0$$



Selected for PRD's picture gallery...

A soft-theorem approach

Beyond the ZFL via soft theorems

(Laddha & Sen, 1804.09193;

Sahoo & Sen, 1808.03288,

Addazi, Bianchi & GV, 1901.10986)

Low-energy (soft) theorems for photons and gravitons (*Low, Weinberg, ... sixties*) had a revival recently (*Strominger, Cachazo, Bern, Di Vecchia, Bianchi...*). In the case of a soft **graviton** of momentum **q** we have (for spinless hard particles)

$$\mathcal{M}_{N+1}(p_i; q) \approx \kappa \sum_{i=1}^N \left[\frac{p_i h p_i}{q p_i} + \frac{p_i h J_i q}{q p_i} - \frac{q J_i h J_i q}{2 q p_i} \right] \mathcal{M}_N(p_i)$$

$$\equiv S(q) \mathcal{M}_N(p_i) ; S(q) = S_0(q) + S_1(q) + S_2(q)$$

$$J_i^{\mu\nu} = p_i^\mu \partial / \partial p_i^\nu - p_i^\nu \partial / \partial p_i^\mu$$

The amplitude for emitting many soft gravitons should **factorize** and the same should be true for virtual soft-graviton corrections. As a result the "bare" S-matrix element: $\mathcal{S}_{fi}^{(0)} = \langle f | \mathcal{S}^{(0)} | i \rangle$ gets dressed by a **unitary coherent-state operator**:

$$\mathcal{S}^{(0)} \rightarrow \mathcal{S} = \exp \left(\int \frac{d^3 q}{\sqrt{2\omega}} (\lambda_q^* a_q^\dagger - \lambda_q a_q) \right) \mathcal{S}^{(0)}$$

The expectation value of the energy carried by the soft-gravitons in the process at hand will be given by

$$\langle 0 | \langle i | \mathcal{S}^\dagger | f \rangle \int d^3 q \hbar \omega a_q^\dagger a_q \langle f | \mathcal{S} | i \rangle | 0 \rangle = \int_\lambda^\Lambda \frac{d^3 q}{2\omega} \hbar \omega |\lambda_q|^2 \sum_{\text{sgr}(\Lambda)} |\langle f; \text{sgr} | \mathcal{S} | i \rangle|^2$$

where we have used properties of coherent states.

Finally, we have:

$$\frac{dE^{GW}(i \rightarrow f)}{d^3q} = \frac{\hbar}{2} |\lambda_q^{(i \rightarrow f)}|^2$$

At subleading order λ_q includes differential operators that act on the amplitude itself. Thus a better way to write the above equation is

$$\frac{dE^{GW}(i \rightarrow f)}{d^3q} = \frac{\langle i | \mathcal{S}^\dagger | f \rangle \frac{\hbar}{2} |\lambda_q^{(i \rightarrow f)}|^2 \langle f | \mathcal{S} | i \rangle}{|\langle f | \mathcal{S} | i \rangle|^2}$$

where λ_q is the soft operator \mathcal{S}_q we defined earlier that can act on either side.

We want to find a general expression for $|\lambda_q|^2$ (after integrating over angles) without reference to the particular amplitude it is acting on.

Recovering the ZFL (m=0 case)

Keeping just S_0 , summing over polarizations, and integrating over the angles while keeping $\omega = |q|$ (in c.o.m.) fixed, we find (all p_i incoming)

$$\frac{dE_0^{GW}}{d\omega} = \hbar\omega \frac{dN_0}{d\omega} = -\frac{2G}{\pi} \sum_{i,j} (p_i p_j) \log \frac{|p_i p_j|}{\mu^2}$$

NB: result does not depend on μ , free of mass (collinear) divergences. For **2→2 scattering**:

$$\frac{dE^{GW}}{d\omega}(\omega = 0) = \frac{4G}{\pi} (s \log s + t \log(-t) + u \log(-u))$$

At small deflection angle ($|t| \ll s$):

$$\frac{dE^{GW}}{d\omega} \rightarrow \frac{Gs}{\pi} \theta_E^2 \log(4e\theta_E^{-2}) \quad ; \quad \omega \rightarrow 0$$

NL ($O(\omega)$) correction to the spectrum

Comes from interference between S_0 and S_1 soft operators. Basic integral is

$$B_1 = 8\pi G \int \frac{d^3 q}{2|q|(2\pi)^3} \sum_{i,j} \sum_{s=\pm 2} \left[\frac{(p_i h^s p_i)(p_j h^{(-s)} J_j q)}{q p_i q p_j} + (i \leftrightarrow j) \right]$$

to which we add a $\delta(qP + 2E\omega_0)$ (w/ P the c.o.m. momentum) to fix the c.o.m. $\omega = \omega_0$ in a covariant way. Summing over polarizations and integrating over angles we get:

$$\frac{dE_1}{d\omega} = -2 \frac{G\sqrt{s}\hbar\omega}{\pi} \sum_{ij} \frac{\log \left[\frac{-s(p_i p_j)}{2(Pp_i)(Pp_j)} \right]}{\tilde{s}_{ij}} [(p_i p_j)P - (Pp_j)p_i - (Pp_i)p_j]^\mu \left(\frac{\overleftarrow{\partial}}{\partial p_i} + \frac{\overrightarrow{\partial}}{\partial p_j} \right)_\mu$$

$$\tilde{s}_{ij} = s + \frac{2(Pp_i)(Pp_j)}{p_i p_j}$$

To be sandwiched (divided) between (by) $S_{if}^+ S_{fi}$.

Surprisingly, when applied to a 2→2 elastic process, it gives a vanishing result.

This **agrees** with what was obtained in the **eikonal** (and CGR) approach. It also **agrees** with **Sen et al.** for the log-enhanced term (recall that we summed over pol.^s!).

The sub-sub leading ($O(\omega^2)$) correction

The calculation ($|S_1|^2$ & $\text{Re}[S_0 S_2^*]$) is more involved, but **final result** takes a (relatively) simple, elegant form

$$\frac{dE_2^{GW}}{d(\hbar\omega)} |S_{if}|^2 = S_{if}^\dagger \frac{G\hbar\omega^2}{\pi} (C_1 + C_2 + C_3) S_{fi}$$

$$C_1 = -3 \sum_i \overleftarrow{D}_i \sum_j \overrightarrow{D}_j + 4 \sum_i (\overleftarrow{D}_i + \overrightarrow{D}_i)^2$$

$$C_2 = \sum_{i \neq j} \frac{P^2}{\tilde{s}_{ij}} \log \frac{P^2 p_i p_j}{2P p_i P p_j} [p_i p_j (\overleftrightarrow{\partial}_{ij})^2 - 2p_i (\overleftrightarrow{\partial}_{ij}) p_j (\overleftrightarrow{\partial}_{ij})]$$

$$C_3 = \sum_{i \neq j} \frac{2}{p_i p_j \tilde{s}_{ij}} \left[1 + \frac{P^2}{\tilde{s}_{ij}} \log \frac{P^2 p_i p_j}{2P p_i P p_j} \right] (p_i p_j)^2 \left(Q_{ij}^\mu (\overleftrightarrow{\partial}_{ij})_\mu \right)^2$$

$$D_i = p_i \partial_i \quad (\text{no sum})$$

$$\overleftrightarrow{\partial}_{ij\nu} \equiv \overleftarrow{\partial}_{i\nu} + \overrightarrow{\partial}_{j\nu} \quad Q_{ij}^\mu \equiv \left(P^\mu - \frac{P p_j}{p_i p_j} p_i^\mu - \frac{P p_i}{p_i p_j} p_j^\mu \right)$$

Specializing to a 2->2 process

$$\frac{dE_2^{GW}}{d\omega} |\mathcal{S}_{if}|^2 = 2 \frac{G\hbar^2 \omega^2}{\pi} \times \mathcal{S}_{if}^\dagger \left\{ \overleftarrow{D}^2 + \overrightarrow{D}^2 + \left[st + us \log\left(-\frac{u}{s}\right) \right] \overleftrightarrow{\Delta}_{st}^2 + \left[su + ts \log\left(-\frac{t}{s}\right) \right] \overleftrightarrow{\Delta}_{su}^2 \right\} \mathcal{S}_{fi}$$

$$D \equiv s\partial_s + t\partial_t + u\partial_u : \overleftrightarrow{\Delta}_{st} \equiv \left(\overleftarrow{\partial}_s - \overleftarrow{\partial}_t - \overrightarrow{\partial}_s + \overrightarrow{\partial}_t \right) \dots$$

The above combinations of derivatives are **unambiguous**. They act on either **$A(s,t)$** or on **$A'(s,u)$** or on **$A''(t,u)$** yielding the same result for the same **physical** amplitude. Checked at tree level in N=8 SUGRA.

Applying this after eikonal resummation

Because of phase $O(\text{action}/\hbar)$ derivatives act, to leading order, on the exponent (Cf. WKB). The powers of \hbar cancel and we get a classical contribution.

Unfortunately, the infinite Coulomb phase does NOT drop out.

The reason is quite clear: the derivative operators in J_i acting on the IR-div Coulomb phase give IR div. results (Cf. time delay as opposed to deflection angle). However, also the final soft graviton contributes an IR div. Coulomb phase which is exactly as needed for the cancellation (Cf. CCCV15).

The **standard** soft-graviton recipe **misses this piece** and should be amended.

If we follow **Sen et al's recipe** for dealing with the Coulomb IR logs we can **match** the result with the one obtained in **CCV-18** (for the unpolarized, angle-integrated flux).

We get, like in **CCV18**, a **positive** correction of order **$(\omega b)^2 \log^2(\omega b)$** confirming the already mentioned **bump** in the spectrum around **$\omega b = 0.5$** .

Summarizing

- GW's from ultra-relativistic collisions is an **interesting** (though probably academic) **theoretical problem**.
- It is **challenging** both analytically and numerically, both classically and quantum mechanically.
- The **ZFL** (for $dE^{GW}/d\omega$) is classical & **well understood**
To go beyond **two approaches** have been followed:
- The first follows the eikonal ACV approach, is limited (so far) to small deflection angles, but extends to frequencies beyond $1/R \gg 1/b$
- It is free from IR problems which, interestingly, lead to **finite logarithmic enhancements** at $\omega < 1/b$ which are responsible for a peak in the flux around $\omega b = 1$.

- There is a break/knee in the spectrum at "Hawking's" frequency $\omega = 1/R$
- The **second** approach goes via soft-graviton theorems. It is not limited to small-angle scattering but is restricted to the $\omega b < 1$ regime.
- The **sub** and **sub-sub** leading corrections to the ZFL **start to be understood**.
- Because of IR sensitivity in 4D, they produce interesting **new effects in $dE/d\omega$** in the region $\omega b < 1$.

- A **recipe** due to Sen and collaborators looks to be **confirmed** by the eikonal-based results.
- At sub-sub leading level that same recipe **confirms** the **CCV-18 prediction of a bump** in the flux @ $\omega b \sim 1$
- Eventually one would like to **extend** these results about gravitation radiation to **arbitrary masses and kinematics** and to **combine** them with the results that start to come in on the conservative **gravitational potential at 3PM** level for a full understanding of gravitational scattering at the 2-loop level.

Thank you...
and a reminder

Workshop on

Gravitational scattering,
inspiral, and radiation

(GGI, May 18-July 5, 2020)



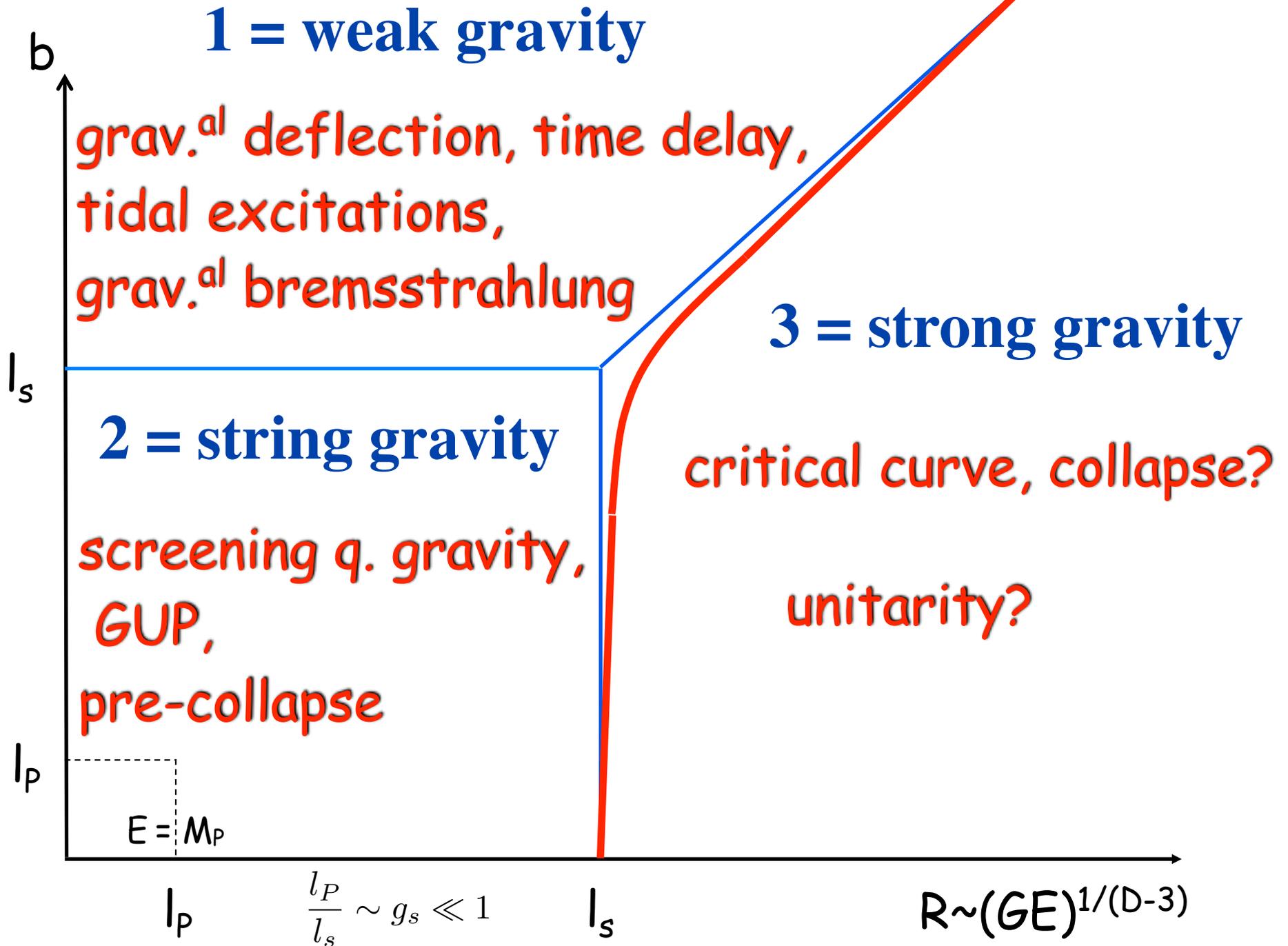
I. Results & challenges on the transplanckian gravitational scattering problem: a short summary

For a longer summary see my slides at the focus week of this year's **GGI workshop**: "string theory from a world-sheet perspective" or at my **2015 Les Houches** lecture notes

Parameter-space for string-string collisions @ $s \gg M_P^2$

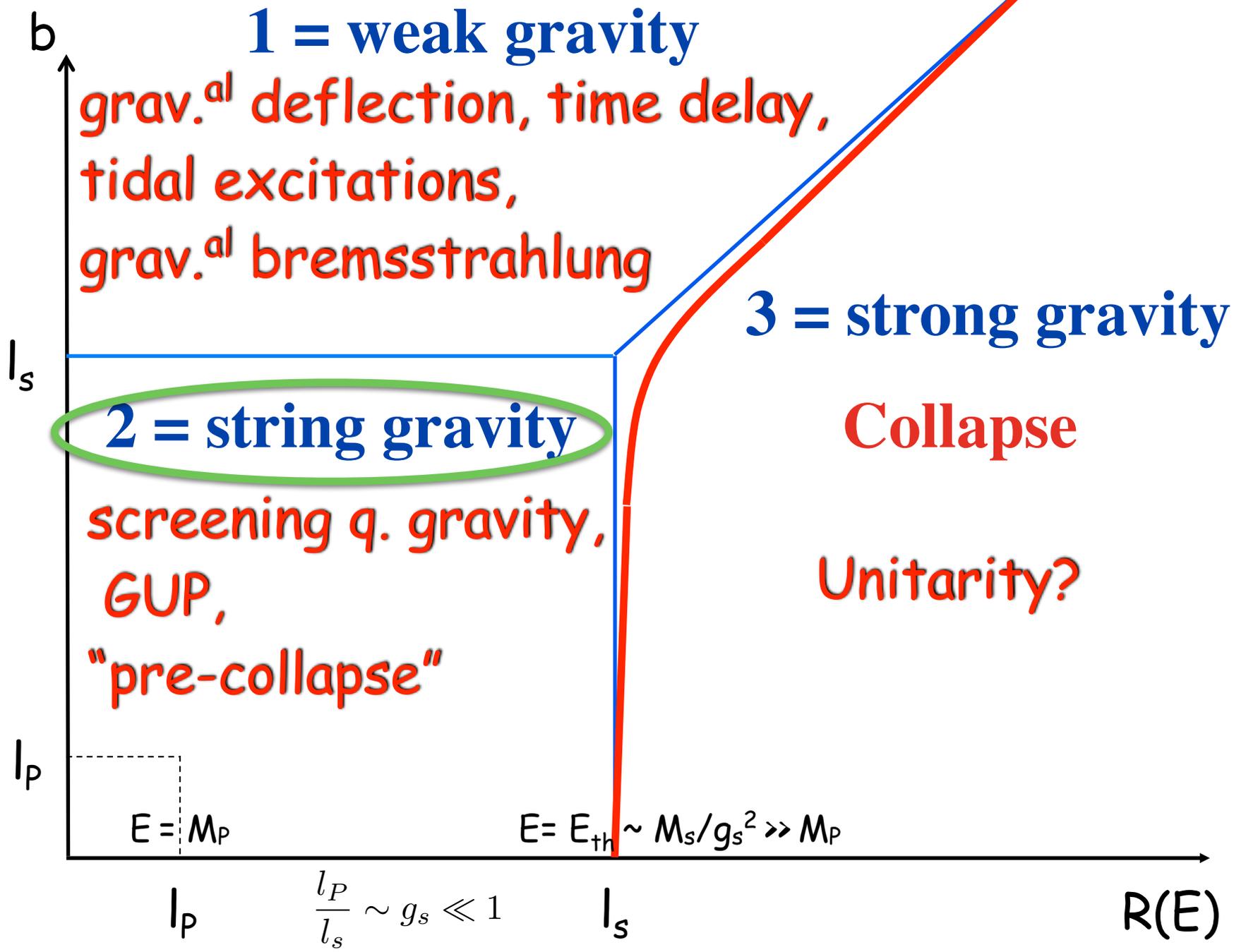
$$b \sim \frac{2J}{\sqrt{s}} \quad ; \quad R_D \sim (G\sqrt{s})^{\frac{1}{D-3}} \quad ; \quad l_s \sim \sqrt{\alpha' \hbar} \quad ; \quad G\hbar = l_P^{D-2} \sim g_s^2 l_s^{D-2}$$

- 3 relevant length scales (neglecting l_P @ $g_s \ll 1$)
- Playing w/s and g_s we can make R_D/l_s arbitrary
- Several regimes emerge. Roughly just three:



Results in the weak-gravity regime

- Restoring **elastic unitarity** via eikonal resummation of **s-channel ladders** (incl. **xed** ones)
- Gravitational **deflection & time delay**: an **emerging** Aichelburg-Sexl (AS) metric
- **t-channel "fractionation"** and **hard scattering** (large Q) from **large-distance** ($b \gg \hbar/Q$) physics
- **Tidal excitation** of colliding strings when $G_s(l_s/b)^2 > 1$, **inelastic unitarity OK**, comparison with string in AS metric.
- Gravitational **bremsstrahlung** (see Part II)



Results in the string-gravity regime

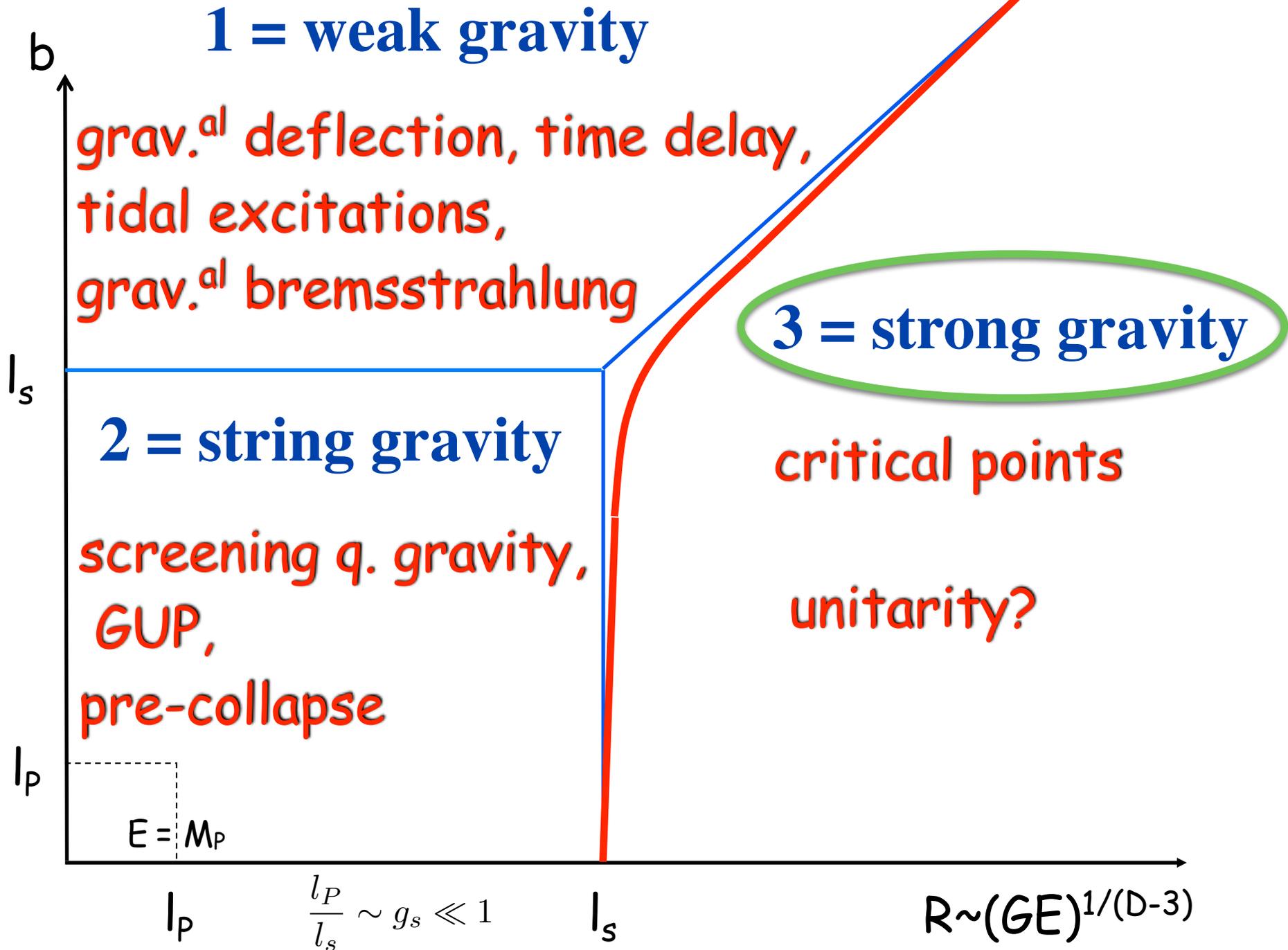
▶ String **softening** of quantum gravity @ small b : solving a **causality problem** (Edelstein et al)

• Maximal classical deflection and comparison/ agreement w/ **Gross-Mende-Ooguri**

• **Generalized Uncertainty Principle**

$$\Delta x \geq \frac{\hbar}{\Delta p} + \alpha' \Delta p \geq l_s$$

▶ **s-channel "fractionation"** and precocious **black-hole-like** behavior ($\langle E_{\text{final}} \rangle \sim M_{\text{P}}^2 / \langle E_{\text{initial}} \rangle$)



Results in the strong gravity regime

($D=4$, in **point-particle** limit. $D > 4$ easier?)

- Identifying (semi) classical contributions as effective **trees**. No classical correction to deflection at $O(R^2/b^2)$; correction estimated (correctly?) at $O(R^3/b^3)$. See also PdV's talk.
- An effective **2D field theory** (\sim Lipatov) to resum trees.
- Emergence of **critical parameters** in agreement w/ **collapse criteria** (via CTS constructions).
- Unitarity beyond cr. surf?

