

# CALVIN YI-REN CHEN

Theoretical Physics  
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<https://c-yr-chen.github.io>

## Education

- **Imperial College London** London, UK  
*PhD Theoretical Physics* Oct 2020 - Aug 2024
  - Funded by the President’s PhD Scholarship.
  - Supervisor: Prof. Andrew J. Tolley
- **Corpus Christi College, University of Cambridge** Cambridge, UK  
*MASt Applied Mathematics (Part III)* Oct 2019 - July 2020
  - Pass, average mark: 90.5/100 (Pass/Fail only due to COVID-19 pandemic)
  - Focus on theoretical physics: quantum field theory, relativity, string theory, geometry
  - Essay: “Lessons from the S-Matrix Programme” with Dr. Scott Melville
- **Imperial College London** London, UK  
*BSc Physics with Theoretical Physics* Oct 2016 - Jun 2019
  - First-class, average mark: 83.1%
  - Faculty of Natural Sciences Dean’s List 2017, 2018, and 2019
  - BSc project: “Gravitational Wave Constraints on Horndeski’s Theory in Cosmology” with Prof. Claudia de Rham

## Publications

- [6] C. Y.-R. Chen, E. Joung, K. Mkrtchyan, and J. Yoon, *in preparation*,
- [5] C. Y.-R. Chen, C. de Rham, and A. J. Tolley, *in preparation*,
- [4] C. Y.-R. Chen and A. J. Tolley, *in preparation*,
- [3] C. Y.-R. Chen, C. de Rham, A. Margalit, and A. J. Tolley, “Surfin’ pp-waves with Good Vibrations: Causality in the presence of stacked shockwaves,” Sep. 2023. arXiv: 2309.04534 [hep-th].
- [2] C. Y.-R. Chen, C. de Rham, A. Margalit, and A. J. Tolley, “A cautionary case of casual causality,” *JHEP*, vol. 03, p. 025, 2022. DOI: 10.1007/JHEP03(2022)025. arXiv: 2112.05031 [hep-th].
- [1] Z. Holmes, E. H. Mingo, C. Y.-R. Chen, and F. Mintert, “Quantifying athermality and quantum induced deviations from classical fluctuation relations,” Jan. 2020. DOI: 10.3390/e22010111. arXiv: 2001.04926 [quant-ph].

## Professional Experience

Intersections of String Theory and QFT III (co-organiser), Imperial College London	Apr 2023
UK-QFT XI (co-organiser), University of Cambridge	Jan 2023
Theory Group Journal Club (co-organiser), Imperial College London	2022-

## Teaching Experience

Lecturer, “JT Gravity” Special Topics Classes (MSc QFFF)	Jun 2023
Teaching assistant, Advanced Classical Physics (Y3 UG)	2022
Teaching assistant, Advanced Quantum Field Theory (MSc QFFF)	2021-2023
Teaching assistant, Quantum Mechanics (Y2 UG)	2020-2021

## Conferences, Workshops, Schools, and Seminars

### Conferences and Workshops

FPUK Meeting 2023 ( <b>poster</b> : “Causality and the EFT of Gravity”), Durham	Aug 2023
Gravity 2023 ( <b>poster</b> : “Causality and the EFT of Gravity”), Benasque	Jul 2023
FPUK and the City ( <b>poster</b> : “Causality and the EFT of Gravity”), City University London	Dec 2022
Gravity ( <b>talk</b> : “A cautionary case of casual causality”), YITP Kyoto University	Jun 2022
SCGSC 2022 ( <b>talk</b> : “A cautionary case of casual causality”), University of Amsterdam	May 2022

### Schools

Gravity ( <b>poster</b> : “Diagnosing (a)causality in the EFT of gravity”), Charles University Prague	Sep 2022
BUSSTEPP (attendee), Imperial College London	Aug 2022
STAG School (attendee), University of Southampton	Jun 2022
Higgs School (attendee), University of Edinburgh	May 2022

### Seminars

String Phenomenology: “Consistency Conditions from Causality”	Feb 2024
Theory group PhD student seminar, Internal: “Extremal Black Holes”	Dec 2023
Astrophysics Seminar, YITP Kyoto University	Nov 2023
Group Seminar, Kindai University	Nov 2023
Research seminar, ITMP Moscow State University	Oct 2023
Theory seminar, Carnegie Mellon University	Oct 2023
Particle theory seminar, Case Western Reserve University	Sep 2023
Group seminar, National Taiwan University: “A cautionary case of casual causality”	Aug 2023
GR seminar, University of Cambridge: “A cautionary case of casual causality”	May 2023
Theory group PhD student seminar, Internal: “Non-commutative Geometry”	Nov 2022
Copernicus Webinar series: “A cautionary case of casual causality”	Oct 2022
Theory group PhD student seminar, Internal: “A cautionary case of casual causality”	May 2022
EFT journal club, Internal: “JT Gravity and the SYK Model”	Mar 2022
Theory group PhD student seminar, Internal: “The SYK Model”	Feb 2022
Theory group PhD student seminar, Internal: “Dynamical RG and Perturbation Theory”	Nov 2021
EFT journal club, Internal: “Scale and Conformal Invariance, and Linearised Gravity”	Nov 2021
Theory group PhD student seminar, Internal: “ $T\bar{T}$ -Deformations”	Dec 2020
Non-equilibrium systems, Imperial College London: “Field Theory in Curved Spacetime”	Nov 2020

## Language Skills

German	native
Mandarin	fluent
English	fluent, professional proficiency

## Honours and Awards

Best poster at Gravity@Prague	2022
Dean’s Fund	2022
Imperial College London President’s PhD Scholarship	2020
German Physical Society Abitur Prize	2016
German Mathematical Society Abitur Prize	2016

## Miscellaneous

- **Abdus Salam Celebration** London, UK
- *Volunteer* 2024

- Helped with set-up of exhibition on Abdus Salam’s life, work, and legacy.
- Presented accessible poster to public about the weak gravity conjecture.
- Led Q&A session in livestream with public after lecture honouring Abdus Salam.

- **Imperial College London Maths School** London, UK  
*Volunteer* 2023-2024
  - Set a project exploring ideas in topology using Morse index and the Poincaré-Hopf theorem accessible to A-Level students.
  - Mentored students Year 12 students doing the project, providing guidance and mathematical support.
- **Mexican Caribbean Manta Project** Isla Mujeres, Mexico  
*Volunteer* 2019
  - Performed statistical data analysis of manta ray sightings and water profiles using data over past three years.
  - Implemented convolutional neural network to identify individual manta rays by ventral surface pattern.
  - Designed and built materials for outreach events.

## References

<b>Prof. Andrew J. Tolley</b> Professor of Theoretical Physics Imperial College London	<b>Dr. Karapet Mkrtchyan</b> Research Fellow Imperial College London	<b>Prof. Akihiro Ishibashi</b> Associate Professor of Physics Kinki University
<b>Prof. Claudia de Rham</b> Professor of Theoretical Physics Imperial College London	<b>Prof. Arkady Tseytlin</b> Professor of Theoretical Physics Imperial College London	