# Amplitude Calculation for Inflaton, Reheaton, and Graviton

## Quan-feng WU\*

Institute of High Energy Physics, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing 100049, CHINA

March 4,  $2025^{\dagger}$ 

#### Abstract

In this Git repository [1], the amplitude calculations for the inflaton, reheaton, and graviton are presented, including the reproducible Wolfram Mathematica notebooks<sup>1</sup> in the directory Mathematica notebooks/ and the technical details in this note. This Git repository is the supplementary material for the paper TBD: arXiv:2503:xxxxx. If it is helpful for your research, please cite the paper<sup>2</sup>.

## Contents

1	Introduction	2
2	Lagrangians and Feynman Rules	2
	2.1 Vertices	2
	2.1.1 Pure Graviton Vertex	2
	2.1.2 Vertices of $\phi$ - $\phi$ - $h$ and $\varphi$ - $\varphi$ - $h$	
	2.1.3 Vertices of $\phi$ - $\phi$ - $h$ - $h$ and $\varphi$ - $\varphi$ - $h$ - $h$	3
	2.1.4 Vertices of $\phi$ - $\varphi$ - $\varphi$ (- $h$ )	
	2.2 Propagators and External Legs	
3	Amplitudes	4
	$3.1  \phi \to \varphi \varphi  \dots  \dots  \dots  \dots  \dots  \dots  \dots  \dots  \dots$	5
	3.2 $\phi + \phi \rightarrow h_{\mu\nu} + h_{\rho\sigma}$	
	3.3 $\phi + \varphi \rightarrow h_{\mu\nu} + \varphi$	
A	Conventions	8
	A.1 Spacetime: Metric and Curvature	8
	A.2 Natural Units and (reduced) Planck Mass	8
	A.3 Kinematics	
Re	References	10

<sup>\*</sup>E-mail: wuquanfeng@ihep.ac.cn

<sup>†</sup>This note © 2024 by Quan-feng WU is licensed under CC BY-NC-ND 4.0. @ (1986)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>All of the Wolfram Mathematica notebooks are licensed under the MIT License.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>It would be greatly appreciated if the reader cite this Git repository explicitly as well (see README.md for the citation information).

## 1 Introduction

This note is inspired by Refs. [2] and [3]. We consider the inflaton  $\phi$ , the reheaton  $\varphi$  as two real scalar fields, and separate the spacetime metric into two parts as [2, Eq. (2.13)]

$$g_{\mu\nu}(x) = \eta_{\mu\nu} + 2\kappa h_{\mu\nu}(x),\tag{1}$$

where  $\eta_{\mu\nu} = \mathrm{diag}(-1,1,1,1)$  is the Minkowski metric,  $\kappa = \sqrt{8\pi G_{\mathrm{N}}}$  is the perturbation parameter, and  $h_{\mu\nu}(x)$  is a metric fluctuation such that  $\kappa |h_{\mu\nu}| \ll 1$ .

**Important Note:** This note adopts the convention of (+++) instead of (--+) in TBD: arXiv:2503:xxxxx. Please check Appendix A for details.

# 2 Lagrangians and Feynman Rules

The corresponding action is given by

$$S = \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} \left[ \frac{R}{2\kappa^2} + \mathcal{L}_{\phi} + \mathcal{L}_{\varphi} + \mathcal{L}_{\phi\varphi^2} \right], \tag{2}$$

where R is the Ricci scalar, and the Lagrangians are given by

$$\mathcal{L}_{\phi} = -\frac{1}{2}g^{\mu\nu}(\nabla_{\mu}\phi)\nabla_{\nu}\phi - \frac{1}{2}m_{\phi}^{2}\phi^{2},\tag{3}$$

$$\mathcal{L}_{\varphi} = -\frac{1}{2}g^{\mu\nu}(\nabla_{\mu}\varphi)\nabla_{\nu}\varphi - \frac{1}{2}m_{\varphi}^{2}\varphi^{2},\tag{4}$$

$$\mathcal{L}_{\phi\varphi^2} = \frac{\lambda}{2!} \phi \varphi^2. \tag{5}$$

Usually, the inflaton  $\phi$  is considered heavier than the reheaton  $\varphi$ , i.e.,  $m_{\phi} > m_{\varphi}$ .

#### 2.1 Vertices

All of the vertices are derived in Mathematica\_notebooks/Feynman-rules-for-Vertices-via-xAct.nb, which is the reproducible Wolfram Mathematica notebook. The xAct bundle<sup>3</sup> (including xPert [4] and xTras [5]) is applied to derive the Feynman rules for vertices.

#### 2.1.1 Pure Graviton Vertex

For the pure graviton vertex, the Feynman rule could be derived the Einstein-Hilbert action of

$$S_{\rm EH} = \frac{1}{2\kappa^2} \int \mathrm{d}^4 x \sqrt{-g} R,\tag{6}$$

In this note, we only derive the triple-graviton vertex, where we use the package XPERT to expand the perturbation of the Einstein-Hilbert action in  $\mathcal{O}(\kappa)$  as<sup>4</sup>

ExpandPerturbation[Perturbed[LEH, 3] - Perturbed[LEH, 2]]

with LEH =  $\sqrt{-g}\mathcal{L}_{EH} = \sqrt{-g}R/(2\kappa^2)$ . After some manipulations, we obtain the Feynman rule for the triple-graviton vertex as

$$h_{\mu\nu} \qquad h_{\rho\sigma}$$

$$p_1 \qquad p_2 \qquad p_3 \qquad = iV_{(\mu\nu)(\rho\sigma)(\alpha\beta)}(p_1, p_2, p_3). \qquad (7)$$

$$h_{\alpha\beta} \qquad p_3 \qquad p_4 \qquad p_5 \qquad p_6 \qquad p_6 \qquad p_7 \qquad p_8 \qquad p_9 \qquad$$

The corresponding expression is too lengthy to be presented here, but it could be found in the reproducible Mathematica notebook Mathematica\_notebooks/Feynman-rules-for-Vertices-via-xAct.nb.

<sup>3</sup>https://www.xAct.es

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup>Notice that there are  $\kappa^2$  terms in the denominator of the Lagrangian.

#### 2.1.2 Vertices of $\phi$ - $\phi$ -h and $\varphi$ - $\varphi$ -h

For the vertices of  $\phi$ - $\phi$ -h and  $\varphi$ - $\varphi$ -h, the action of

$$S_{\phi+\varphi} = \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} [\mathcal{L}_{\phi} + \mathcal{L}_{\varphi}]$$
 (8)

is considered. The Feynman rules for the vertices of  $\phi$ - $\phi$ -h and  $\varphi$ - $\varphi$ -h are derived via the package XPERT in  $\mathcal{O}(\kappa)$  as

ExpandPerturbation[Perturbed[LN[Phi], 1] - Perturbed[LN[Phi], 0]] ExpandPerturbation[Perturbed[LN[CurlyPhi], 1] - Perturbed[LN[CurlyPhi], 0]]

where  $L\phi = \sqrt{-g}\mathcal{L}_{\phi}$  and  $L\varphi = \sqrt{-g}\mathcal{L}_{\varphi}$ . Then the Feynman rules for the vertices of  $\phi$ - $\phi$ -h and  $\varphi$ - $\varphi$ -h read

$$h_{\mu\nu} = -i\kappa \left[ p_1^{\mu} p_2^{\nu} + p_1^{\nu} p_2^{\mu} - \eta^{\mu\nu} \left( p_1 \cdot p_2 - m_{\phi}^2 \right) \right], \tag{9}$$

and

#### 2.1.3 Vertices of $\phi$ - $\phi$ -h-h and $\varphi$ - $\varphi$ -h-h

For the vertices of  $\phi$ - $\phi$ -h-h and  $\varphi$ - $\varphi$ -h-h, the action of

$$S_{\phi+\varphi} = \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} [\mathcal{L}_{\phi} + \mathcal{L}_{\varphi}]$$
 (11)

is considered. The Feynman rules for the vertices of  $\phi$ - $\phi$ -h-h and  $\varphi$ - $\varphi$ -h-h are derived via the package XPERT in  $\mathcal{O}(\kappa^2)$  as

ExpandPerturbation[Perturbed[LN[Phi], 2] - Perturbed[LN[Phi], 1]] ExpandPerturbation[Perturbed[LN[CurlyPhi], 2] - Perturbed[LN[CurlyPhi], 1]]

The Feynman rules are too lengthy to be presented here but could be found in the reproducible Mathematica notebook Mathematica\_notebooks/Feynman-rules-for-Vertices-via-xAct.nb.

#### 2.1.4 Vertices of $\phi$ - $\varphi$ - $\varphi$ (-h)

For the vertices of  $\phi$ - $\varphi$ - $\varphi$ (-h), the action of

$$S_{\phi\varphi^2} = \int d^4x \sqrt{-g} \mathcal{L}_{\phi\varphi^2} \tag{12}$$

is considered. The Feynman rules for the vertices of  $\phi$ - $\varphi$ - $\varphi$ (-h) are derived via the package XPERT, which are given by

$$\varphi \qquad \qquad = i\lambda, \tag{13}$$

and

$$\varphi \qquad \phi \qquad \qquad = i\kappa\lambda\eta_{\mu\nu}.$$

$$\varphi \qquad h_{\mu\nu}$$
(14)

## 2.2 Propagators and External Legs

In this note, we do not consider the derivation of the Feynman rules for the propagators and external legs. For the scalar fields, the propagators are simply given by [6, Sec. 10]

and

The external legs for scalar fields are always 1 [6, Sec. 10].

For the graviton, the propagator in the Feynman gauge is given by [2, Eq. (2.81)]

$$\mu\nu > \rho\sigma = \frac{1}{2} \frac{-i}{p^2 - i0^+} (\eta_{\mu\rho}\eta_{\nu\sigma} + \eta_{\mu\sigma}\eta_{\nu\rho} - \eta_{\mu\nu}\eta_{\rho\sigma}). \tag{17}$$

The external legs for the graviton are given by

$$\stackrel{p}{\longrightarrow} \mu\nu = \varepsilon_{\mu\nu}(\mathbf{p}, \pm 2), \tag{18}$$

and

$$\mu\nu \longrightarrow = \varepsilon_{\mu\nu}^*(\mathbf{p}, \pm 2), \tag{19}$$

where  $\varepsilon_{\mu\nu}(\mathbf{p},\pm 2)$  and  $\varepsilon_{\mu\nu}^*(\mathbf{p},\pm 2)$  are the polarization tensors of the graviton ( $\pm 2$  for helicities). We do not discuss the details of the polarization tensors here but refer to Ref. [2, Sec. 2.2] for details. However, we are interested in the summation over the helicities as [7, Eq. (A.6)]

$$P_{\mu\nu,\rho\sigma} := \sum_{h=\pm 2} \varepsilon_{\mu\nu}(\mathbf{p}, h) \varepsilon_{\rho\sigma}^*(\mathbf{p}, h) = \frac{1}{2} (\bar{\eta}_{\mu\rho}\bar{\eta}_{\nu\sigma} + \bar{\eta}_{\mu\sigma}\bar{\eta}_{\nu\rho} - \bar{\eta}_{\mu\nu}\bar{\eta}_{\rho\sigma}), \tag{20}$$

where

$$\bar{\eta}_{\mu\nu} = \eta_{\mu\nu} - \frac{p_{\mu}r_{\nu} + r_{\mu}p_{\nu}}{p \cdot r}$$
 (21)

with  $r^{\mu}$  being an arbitrary null vector for reference. Notice that

$$q^{\alpha}P_{\mu\nu,\rho\sigma} \equiv 0 \quad \text{for} \quad q = p, r \quad \text{and} \quad \alpha = \mu, \nu, \rho, \sigma$$
 (22)

and

$$g^{\mu\nu}P_{\mu\nu,\rho\sigma} = g^{\rho\sigma}P_{\mu\nu,\rho\sigma} = 0, \tag{23}$$

which means the polarization tensors are transverse and traceless as expected.

# 3 Amplitudes

With the Feynman rules we have derived, we could calculate the amplitudes for the processes of interest, where the package FeynCalc [8-11] is applied. In Mathematica\_notebooks/FeynmanRules.m, the generated Feynman rules are automatically loaded for the calculation of the amplitudes in the following sections.

**Important Note:** In FeynCalc, the metric signature is -2 instead of +2. The Feynman rules derived in the previous section should be modified accordingly:

```
outputRule = {
    ph1[a_] -> FV[ph1, a], ph2[a_] -> FV[ph2, a], ph3[a_] -> FV[ph3, a],
    pN[Phi]1[a_] -> FV[pN[Phi]1, a], pN[Phi]2[a_] -> FV[pN[Phi]2, a],

    pN[CurlyPhi]1[a_] -> FV[pN[CurlyPhi]1, a],
    pN[CurlyPhi]2[a_] -> FV[pN[CurlyPhi]2, a],

    N[Eta][a_, b_] -> -MT[a, b], FV[p1_, a_] FV[p2_, -a_] -> -SP[p1, p2]
} // HoldForm;
```

#### $3.1 \quad \phi \rightarrow \varphi \varphi$

For the process of  $\phi(p) \to \varphi(k_1) + \varphi(k_2)$ , the Feynman diagram and the corresponding amplitude are given by

$$\phi \xrightarrow{p} \stackrel{k_1}{\underset{\varphi}{}} = i\lambda, \tag{24}$$

The norm squared of the amplitude with the summation over the spins/helicities of final states and the average over the spins/helicities of initial states is then

$$\overline{\left|\mathcal{M}_{\phi\to\varphi\varphi}\right|^2} = \lambda^2. \tag{25}$$

Therefore, the decay width of  $\phi \to \varphi \varphi$  is given by [12, Eq. (49.18)]

$$\Gamma_{\phi \to \varphi \varphi} = \frac{1}{2m_{\phi}} \int \widetilde{dk_1} \, \widetilde{dk_2} \, (2\pi)^4 \delta^{(4)} (p - k_1 - k_2) \frac{\overline{\left| \mathcal{M}_{\phi \to \varphi \varphi} \right|^2}}{2} \\
= \frac{\lambda^2}{32\pi m_{\phi}^2} \sqrt{m_{\phi}^2 - 4m_{\varphi}^2}, \tag{26}$$

where the factor 1/2 is due to the identical particles in the final state. If  $m_{\varphi} \to 0$ , we have

$$\Gamma_{\phi \to \varphi \varphi} = \frac{\lambda^2}{32\pi m_{\phi}}.\tag{27}$$

## $3.2 \quad \phi + \phi \rightarrow h_{\mu\nu} + h_{\rho\sigma}$

For the process of  $\phi(p_1) + \phi(p_2) \to h_{\mu\nu}(k_1) + h_{\rho\sigma}(k_2)$ , the corresponding Feynman diagrams are shown in Fig. 1.

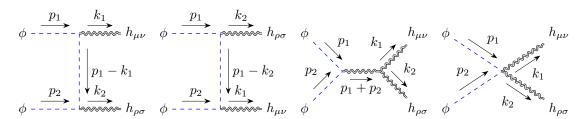


Figure 1: Feynman diagrams for  $\phi(p_1) + \phi(p_2) \to h_{\mu\nu}(k_1) + h_{\rho\sigma}(k_2)$ : t-, u-, s-, and contact channels.

The corresponding amplitudes are calculated in Mathematica\_notebooks/phi-phi-to-h-h.nb. Since the  $P_{\mu\nu,\rho\sigma}$  is TT as shown in Eqs. (22) and (23), we could make the replacements to simplify the calculations, which are given by

$$k_i \to 0, \qquad p_2 \to -p_1, \qquad \eta_{\mu\nu} \to 0, \qquad \eta_{\rho\sigma} \to 0.$$
 (28)

In the WOLFRAM MATHEMATICA notebook, the magicRule consists of the replacements, which reads

Therefore, the amplitudes are simplified to

$$i\mathcal{M}_t \simeq -\frac{4i\kappa^2}{t - m_\phi^2} p_1^\mu p_1^\nu p_1^\rho p_1^\sigma \varepsilon_{\mu\nu} \varepsilon_{\rho\sigma},\tag{29}$$

$$i\mathcal{M}_u \simeq -\frac{4i\kappa^2}{u - m_\phi^2} p_1^\mu p_1^\nu p_1^\rho p_1^\sigma \varepsilon_{\mu\nu} \varepsilon_{\rho\sigma},\tag{30}$$

$$i\mathcal{M}_s \simeq \cdots$$
, (31)

$$i\mathcal{M}_4 \simeq \cdots,$$
 (32)

where the expressions for  $i\mathcal{M}_s$  and  $i\mathcal{M}_4$  are too lengthy to be presented here. Please refer to the WOL-FRAM MATHEMATICA notebook for details. The norm squared of the amplitudes with the summation over the spins/helicities of all external particles is then

$$\sum |\mathcal{M}_{\phi+\phi\to h+h}|^2 = \frac{2\kappa^2}{s^2 \left(t - m_{\phi}^2\right)^2 \left(s + t - m_{\phi}^2\right)^2} \begin{bmatrix} m_{\phi}^{16} - 8m_{\phi}^{14}t - 8m_{\phi}^2 t^4 (s+t)^3 + t^4 (s+t)^4 \\ + 4m_{\phi}^{12}t (s+7t) + 4m_{\phi}^4 t^3 (s+t)^2 (s+7t) \\ - 8m_{\phi}^{10}t^2 (3s+7t) - 8m_{\phi}^6 t^3 (s+t) (3s+7t) \\ + m_{\phi}^8 \left(s^4 + 6s^2t^2 + 60st^3 + 70t^4\right) \end{bmatrix}.$$
(33)

This lengthy expression could be simplified by considering the non-relativistic (NR) limit or the ultra-relativistic (UR) limit.

For the NR limit, we have

$$s \to 4m_{\phi}^2$$
,  $t \to -m_{\phi}^2$ , and  $u \to -m_{\phi}^2$ , (34)

which leads to  $\mathcal{M}_t \mathcal{M}_i^* = \mathcal{M}_i^* \mathcal{M}_t = \mathcal{M}_u \mathcal{M}_i^* = \mathcal{M}_i^* \mathcal{M}_u = 0$  for i being t, u, s or 4. The non-vanishing terms are

$$\left|\mathcal{M}_{s}\right|^{2} = 18\kappa^{4}m_{\phi}^{4},\tag{35}$$

$$\left|\mathcal{M}_{4}\right|^{2} = 32\kappa^{4}m_{\phi}^{4},\tag{36}$$

$$\mathcal{M}_s \mathcal{M}_4^* + \mathcal{M}_4 \mathcal{M}_s^* = -48\kappa^4 m_\phi^4, \tag{37}$$

and the sum is then

$$\sum \left| \mathcal{M}_{\phi + \phi \to h + h} \right|^2 = 2\kappa^4 m_\phi^4. \tag{38}$$

These results are consistent with Eq. (A3) of Ref. [13].

In the UR limit, we have  $m_{\phi} \to 0$ , which leads to

$$\sum |\mathcal{M}_{\phi + \phi \to h + h}|^2 = \frac{2\kappa^2 t^2 u^2}{s^2},\tag{39}$$

which is consistent with Eq. (25) of Ref.  $[14]^5$ .

## 3.3 $\phi + \varphi \rightarrow h_{\mu\nu} + \varphi$

For the process of  $\phi(p_{\phi}) + \varphi(p_{\varphi}) \to h_{\mu\nu}(k_h) + \varphi(k_{\varphi})$ , the corresponding Feynman diagrams are shown in Fig. 2.

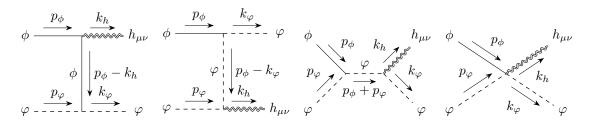


Figure 2: Feynman diagrams for  $\phi(p_{\phi}) + \varphi(p_{\varphi}) \to h_{\mu\nu}(k_h) + \varphi(k_{\varphi})$ : t-, u-, s-, and contact channels.

The corresponding amplitudes are calculated in Mathematica\_notebooks/phi-varphi-to-h-varphi.nb. Also following the condition that the  $P_{\mu\nu,\rho\sigma}$  is TT as shown in Eqs. (22) and (23), we could make the replacements to simplify the calculations, which are given by

$$k_h \to 0, \qquad k_\varphi \to p_\phi + p_\varphi, \qquad \eta_{\mu\nu} \to 0,$$
 (40)

or equivalently in the Wolfram Mathematica notebook,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup>Notice that  $\kappa = M_{\rm Pl}^{-1}$  in this note, while  $\kappa = 2M_{\rm Pl}^{-1}$  in Ref. [14].

Therefore, the amplitudes are simplified to

$$i\mathcal{M}_t \simeq -\frac{2i\kappa\lambda}{t - m_\phi^2} p_\phi^\mu p_\phi^\nu \varepsilon_{\mu\nu},$$
 (41)

$$i\mathcal{M}_u \simeq -\frac{2i\kappa\lambda}{u-m_{\varphi}^2}p_{\varphi}^{\mu}p_{\varphi}^{\nu}\varepsilon_{\mu\nu},$$
 (42)

$$i\mathcal{M}_s \simeq -\frac{2i\kappa\lambda}{s-m_{\varphi}^2}k_{\varphi}^{\mu}k_{\varphi}^{\nu}\varepsilon_{\mu\nu},$$
 (43)

$$i\mathcal{M}_4 = i\kappa\lambda\eta^{\mu\nu}\varepsilon_{\mu\nu} \simeq 0,$$
 (44)

which are consistent with Eqs. (A.9)-(A.12) of Ref. [15]. The norm squared of the amplitudes with the summation over the spins/helicities of all external particles is then

$$\sum |\mathcal{M}_{\phi+\varphi\to h+\varphi}|^2 = \frac{2\lambda^2}{M_{\rm Pl}^2} \frac{\left(m_{\phi}^4 m_{\varphi}^2 - m_{\phi}^2 t \left(s + m_{\varphi}^2\right) + t \left[st + \left(s - m_{\varphi}^2\right)^2\right]\right)^2}{\left(s - m_{\varphi}^2\right)^2 \left(t - m_{\phi}^2\right)^2 \left(m_{\phi}^2 + m_{\varphi}^2 - s - t\right)^2},\tag{45}$$

where  $\kappa = M_{\rm Pl}^{-1}$  is used. Considering the NR limit of  $\phi$  and UR limit of  $\varphi$ , *i.e.*,  $p_{\phi} \simeq (m_{\phi}, \mathbf{0})$  and  $m_{\varphi} \to 0$ , we will have

$$s \simeq m_{\phi}^2 + m_{\varphi}^2 + 2m_{\phi}E_{\varphi},$$
  

$$\simeq m_{\phi}^2 + 2m_{\phi}E_{\varphi},$$
  

$$t \simeq m_{\phi}^2 - 2m_{\phi}E_{h}.$$
(46)

Then, the sum of the norm squared of the amplitudes is simplified to

$$\sum \left| \mathcal{M}_{\phi + \varphi \to h + \varphi} \right|^2 = \frac{2\lambda^2}{M_{\text{Pl}}^2} \left( 1 - \frac{m_\phi}{2E_h} \right)^2, \tag{47}$$

which is also consistent with Eq. (A.13) of Ref. [15].

## A Conventions

Here, we list the conventions used in this note.

## A.1 Spacetime: Metric and Curvature

We use the Greek indices  $\mu, \nu, \dots$  for spacetime indices and the Latin indices  $i, j, \dots$  for spatial indices. For D-dimensional spacetime, we have the spacetime indices run from 0 to D-1, and the spatial indices run from 1 to D-1, where 0 is the time index and other indices are spatial indices. Usually, we consider D=4 spacetime dimensions.

In four-dimensional spacetime, the metric signature is chosen to be +2, e.g.,

$$\eta_{\mu\nu} = \begin{pmatrix}
-1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\
0 & +1 & 0 & 0 \\
0 & 0 & +1 & 0 \\
0 & 0 & 0 & +1
\end{pmatrix} 
\tag{A.1}$$

for the Minkowski metric.

The covariant and contravariant vectors in spacetime are denoted as  $A_{\mu}$  and  $A^{\mu}$ , respectively. They are related by the metric  $g_{\mu\nu}$  as

$$A_{\mu} \equiv g_{\mu\nu}A^{\nu}$$
 and  $A^{\mu} \equiv g^{\mu\nu}A_{\nu}$ , (A.2)

where  $g^{\mu\nu}$  is the inverse of  $g_{\mu\nu}$ , *i.e.*,

$$g^{\mu\nu}g_{\nu\rho} = \delta^{\mu}_{\ \rho} \quad \text{and} \quad g_{\mu\nu}g^{\nu\rho} = \delta_{\mu}^{\ \rho}.$$
 (A.3)

Here we adopt the Einstein summation convention, where indices appearing twice with one as a superscript and the other as a subscript are summed over. Without specification, the Einstein summation convention is applied throughout this note.

The Riemman curvature tensor for the spacetime is defined as [16, Eq. (3.4)]

$$R^{\rho}_{\ \sigma\mu\nu} := \partial_{\mu}\Gamma^{\rho}_{\ \nu\sigma} - \partial_{\nu}\Gamma^{\rho}_{\ \mu\sigma} + \Gamma^{\rho}_{\ \mu\lambda}\Gamma^{\lambda}_{\ \nu\sigma} - \Gamma^{\rho}_{\ \nu\lambda}\Gamma^{\lambda}_{\ \mu\sigma}, \tag{A.4}$$

where  $\Gamma^{\rho}_{\ \mu\nu}$  is the Christoffel symbol defined as [16, Eq. (3.1)]

$$\Gamma^{\rho}_{\ \mu\nu} := \frac{1}{2} g^{\rho\sigma} (\partial_{\mu} g_{\nu\sigma} + \partial_{\nu} g_{\mu\sigma} - \partial_{\sigma} g_{\mu\nu}). \tag{A.5}$$

The Ricci tensor and scalar curvature are then given by [16, Eqs. (3.144) and (3.146)]

$$R_{\mu\nu} := R^{\rho}_{\ \mu\rho\nu},\tag{A.6}$$

$$R := g^{\mu\nu} R_{\mu\nu}. \tag{A.7}$$

The Einstein tensor is defined as [16, Eq. (3.151)]

$$G_{\mu\nu} := R_{\mu\nu} - \frac{1}{2}g_{\mu\nu}R,$$
 (A.8)

and the Einstein field equation is then [16, Eq. (4.100)]

$$G_{\mu\nu} + \Lambda g_{\mu\nu} = \kappa^2 T_{\mu\nu},\tag{A.9}$$

where  $\Lambda$  is the cosmological constant,  $\kappa^2 = 8\pi G_N$  [2, Eq. (2.1)] with  $G_N = 6.70883(15) \times 10^{-39}$  GeV<sup>-2</sup> being the Newton's constant [12], and  $T_{\mu\nu}$  is the energy-momentum tensor.

This convention is also adopted in MTW's Gravitation [17], which is known as (+ + +) convention.

#### A.2 Natural Units and (reduced) Planck Mass

The natural unit systems are given by

$$c = \hbar = k_{\rm B} = \varepsilon_0 = 1, \tag{A.10}$$

where c is the speed of light in vacuum,  $\hbar$  is the reduced Planck constant,  $k_{\rm B}$  is the Boltzmann constant, and  $\varepsilon_0$  is the vacuum permittivity. We have the vacuum magnetic permeability  $\mu_0 = 1$  as well in the natural unit systems since  $c^2 = (\varepsilon_0 \mu_0)^{-1}$ .

The Planck mass is defined as

$$m_{\rm Pl} := \frac{1}{\sqrt{G_{\rm N}}},\tag{A.11}$$

In this note, the reduced Planck mass is widely used, which is defined as

$$M_{\rm Pl} := \frac{1}{\sqrt{8\pi G_{\rm N}}} \equiv \frac{m_{\rm Pl}}{\sqrt{8\pi}}.$$
 (A.12)

#### A.3 Kinematics

The four-momentum p is defined as  $p^{\mu}=(E,\mathbf{p})$ , where E is the energy and  $\mathbf{p}$  is the spatial momentum. The on-shell condition is given by  $p^2=-m^2$  for metric signature +2.

In the  $n \to m$  scattering process  $p_1 + p_2 + \cdots + p_n \to k_1 + k_2 + \cdots + k_m$  with  $p_i$ 's and  $k_j$ 's the four-momenta of the incoming and outgoing particles, respectively, the four-momentum conservation is given by

$$p_1 + p_2 + \dots + p_n = k_1 + k_2 + \dots + k_m.$$
 (A.13)

We denote the masses of the particles as  $m_i$ 's for  $p_i$ 's and  $\mathfrak{m}_j$ 's for  $k_j$ 's, *i.e.*,

$$\begin{cases} p_i^2 = -m_i^2, \\ k_j^2 = -\mathfrak{m}_j^2. \end{cases}$$
 (A.14)

The Lorentz-invairant phase space element for the four-momentum p is defined as

$$\widetilde{\mathrm{d}p} := \frac{\mathrm{d}^3 \mathbf{p}}{(2\pi)^3 2E},\tag{A.15}$$

where  $p = (E, \mathbf{p})$  and  $p^2 = -E^2 + \mathbf{p}^2 = -m^2$ .

For the  $2 \to 2$  scattering process  $p_1 + p_2 \to k_1 + k_2$ , the Mandelstam variables are defined as

$$s := -(p_1 + p_2)^2 \equiv -(k_1 + k_2)^2,$$
  

$$t := -(p_1 - k_1)^2 \equiv -(p_2 - k_2)^2,$$
  

$$u := -(p_1 - k_2)^2 \equiv -(p_2 - k_1)^2.$$
(A.16)

For the  $1 \to 3$  scattering process  $p_1 \to k_1 + k_2 + k_3$ , the Mandelstam variables are defined as

$$s := -(p_1 - k_3)^2 \equiv -(k_1 + k_2)^2,$$
  

$$t := -(p_1 - k_1)^2 \equiv -(k_2 + k_3)^2,$$
  

$$u := -(p_1 - k_2)^2 \equiv -(k_1 + k_3)^2.$$
(A.17)

## References

- [1] Quan-feng Wu. Amplitude Calculation of Inflaton, Reheaton, and Graviton. 2025. URL: https://github.com/Fenyutanchan/amplitude-for-inflaton-reheaton-graviton.git.
- [2] Ivano Basile et al. Lectures in Quantum Gravity. Dec. 2024. arXiv: 2412.08690 [hep-th].
- [3] Anna Tokareva. Graviton Scattering Amplitudes on xAct. 2024. URL: https://github.com/tokareva90/Graviton-scattering-amplitudes-on-xAct.
- [4] David Brizuela, Jose M. Martin-Garcia, and Guillermo A. Mena Marugan. "xPert: Computer algebra for metric perturbation theory". In: Gen. Rel. Grav. 41 (2009), pp. 2415–2431. DOI: 10.1007/s10714-009-0773-2. arXiv: 0807.0824 [gr-qc].
- [5] Teake Nutma. "xTras: A field-theory inspired xAct package for mathematica". In: Comput. Phys. Commun. 185 (2014), pp. 1719–1738. DOI: 10.1016/j.cpc.2014.02.006. arXiv: 1308.3493 [cs.SC].
- [6] M. Srednicki. Quantum field theory. Cambridge University Press, Jan. 2007. ISBN: 978-0-521-86449-7, 978-0-511-26720-8. DOI: 10.1017/CB09780511813917.
- [7] Basabendu Barman et al. "Gravitational wave from graviton Bremsstrahlung during reheating". In: *JCAP* 05 (2023), p. 019. DOI: 10.1088/1475-7516/2023/05/019. arXiv: 2301.11345 [hep-ph].
- [8] R. Mertig, M. Bohm, and Ansgar Denner. "FEYN CALC: Computer algebraic calculation of Feynman amplitudes". In: Comput. Phys. Commun. 64 (1991), pp. 345–359. DOI: 10.1016/0010-4655(91)90130-D.
- [9] Vladyslav Shtabovenko, Rolf Mertig, and Frederik Orellana. "New Developments in FeynCalc 9.0". In: Comput. Phys. Commun. 207 (2016), pp. 432–444. DOI: 10.1016/j.cpc.2016.06.008. arXiv: 1601.01167 [hep-ph].
- [10] Vladyslav Shtabovenko, Rolf Mertig, and Frederik Orellana. "FeynCalc 9.3: New features and improvements". In: Comput. Phys. Commun. 256 (2020), p. 107478. DOI: 10.1016/j.cpc.2020.107478. arXiv: 2001.04407 [hep-ph].
- [11] Vladyslav Shtabovenko, Rolf Mertig, and Frederik Orellana. "FeynCalc 10: Do multiloop integrals dream of computer codes?" In: *Comput. Phys. Commun.* 306 (2025), p. 109357. DOI: 10.1016/j.cpc.2024.109357. arXiv: 2312.14089 [hep-ph].
- [12] S. Navas et al. "Review of particle physics". In: Phys. Rev. D 110.3 (2024), p. 030001. DOI: 10.1103/ PhysRevD.110.030001.
- [13] Gongjun Choi, Wenqi Ke, and Keith A. Olive. "Minimal production of prompt gravitational waves during reheating". In: *Phys. Rev. D* 109.8 (2024), p. 083516. DOI: 10.1103/PhysRevD.109.083516. arXiv: 2402.04310 [hep-ph].
- [14] Jacopo Ghiglieri, Jan Schütte-Engel, and Enrico Speranza. "Freezing-in gravitational waves". In: *Phys. Rev. D* 109.2 (2024), p. 023538. DOI: 10.1103/PhysRevD.109.023538. arXiv: 2211.16513 [hep-ph].
- [15] Yong Xu. "Ultra-high frequency gravitational waves from scattering, Bremsstrahlung and decay during reheating". In: *JHEP* 10 (2024), p. 174. DOI: 10.1007/JHEP10(2024)174. arXiv: 2407.03256 [hep-ph].
- [16] Sean M. Carroll. Spacetime and Geometry: An Introduction to General Relativity. Cambridge University Press, July 2019. ISBN: 978-0-8053-8732-2, 978-1-108-48839-6, 978-1-108-77555-7. DOI: 10.1017/9781108770385.
- [17] Charles W. Misner, K. S. Thorne, and J. A. Wheeler. Gravitation. San Francisco: W. H. Freeman, 1973. ISBN: 978-0-7167-0344-0, 978-0-691-17779-3.