



THE UNIVERSITY
of EDINBURGH

THE
ROYAL
SOCIETY

Efficient supercomputer-scale IBP reduction

Mao Zeng, University of Edinburgh

Scattering Amplitudes @ Liverpool, 26 Mar 2025

A.V. Smirnov, MZ, arXiv:2311.02370 (FIRE 6.5)

A.V. Smirnov, MZ, arXiv:2409.19099 (Balanced Zippel Reconstruction)

Bern, Herrmann, Roiban, Ruf, Smirnov, Smirnov, MZ,
arXiv:2406.01554 (SUSY black hole scattering @ 4 loops)

Outline

- Background
- Faster analytic IBP in FIRE 6.5
- Parallel finite field runs with FIRE MPI
- How to choose seed integrals

Background

Background

- Loop calculations extract precision predictions from QFT, with many applications.
 - Collider physics (QCD, electroweak)
 - Gravitational wave physics (post-Newtonian, post-Minkowskian expansions)
 - Cosmological correlators
 - Statistical physics

Background

- Integration-by-parts (IBP) reduction [Chetyrkin, Tkachov, '81] is ubiquitous in modern Feynman integral calculations.
- Integrals of total derivatives vanish in dim. reg. \Rightarrow Linear relations between integrals with different propagator / numerator powers

$$0 = \int d^d \ell \frac{\partial}{\partial \ell^\mu} \frac{k^\mu}{\rho_1^{a_1} \rho_2^{a_2} \dots \rho_n^{a_n}} \text{Seed integral}$$

Background

- Integration-by-parts (IBP) reduction [Chetyrkin, Tkachov, '81] is ubiquitous in modern Feynman integral calculations.
- Integrals of total derivatives vanish in dim. reg. \Rightarrow Linear relations between integrals with different propagator / numerator powers

$$0 = \int d^d \ell \frac{\partial}{\partial \ell^\mu} \frac{k^\mu}{\rho_1^{a_1} \rho_2^{a_2} \dots \rho_n^{a_n}}$$

IBP operator $\frac{\partial}{\partial \ell^\mu} k^\mu$

Laporta algorithm

- Solves large linear system to express complicated integrals in terms of simple integrals, under some ordering. [Laporta, '01]
- **Codes:** AIR, Reduze, LiteRed, FIRE, Kira, FiniteFlow, Blade, NeatIBP...
- Alternatives: symbolic reduction rules, intersection theory, Groebner bases, D modules... Or not doing IBP at all (SecDec, LTD, FeynTrop...)
- **Optimizations & Variations:** trimming IBP equations by Lie algebra, syzygy equations, numerical unitarity, finite fields & function reconstruction, improved master basis, block triangular form...

FIRE

- “**F**eynman **I**ntegral **R**eduction”. IBP code developed over many years [A.V. Smirnov, '08. A.V. Smirnov, V.A. Smirnov, '13. A.V, Smirnov, 14. A.V. Smirnov, F.S. Chukharev, '19. A.V. Smirnov, MZ, '23]
- Implements Laporta algorithm. Can use symmetry & reduction rules from LiteRed [R.N. Lee, '12]. Initially written in Mathematica, available in C++ since version 5. Supports modular arithmetic, MPI in version 6.
- Trims IBP equations by Lie algebra. [R.N. Lee, '08] Forward reduction w/ tail masking [Anastasiou, Lazapoulos, '04], then backward substitution.

Faster analytic IBP: FIRE 6.5 / FLINT

Faster analytic IBP: FIRE 6.5 / FLINT

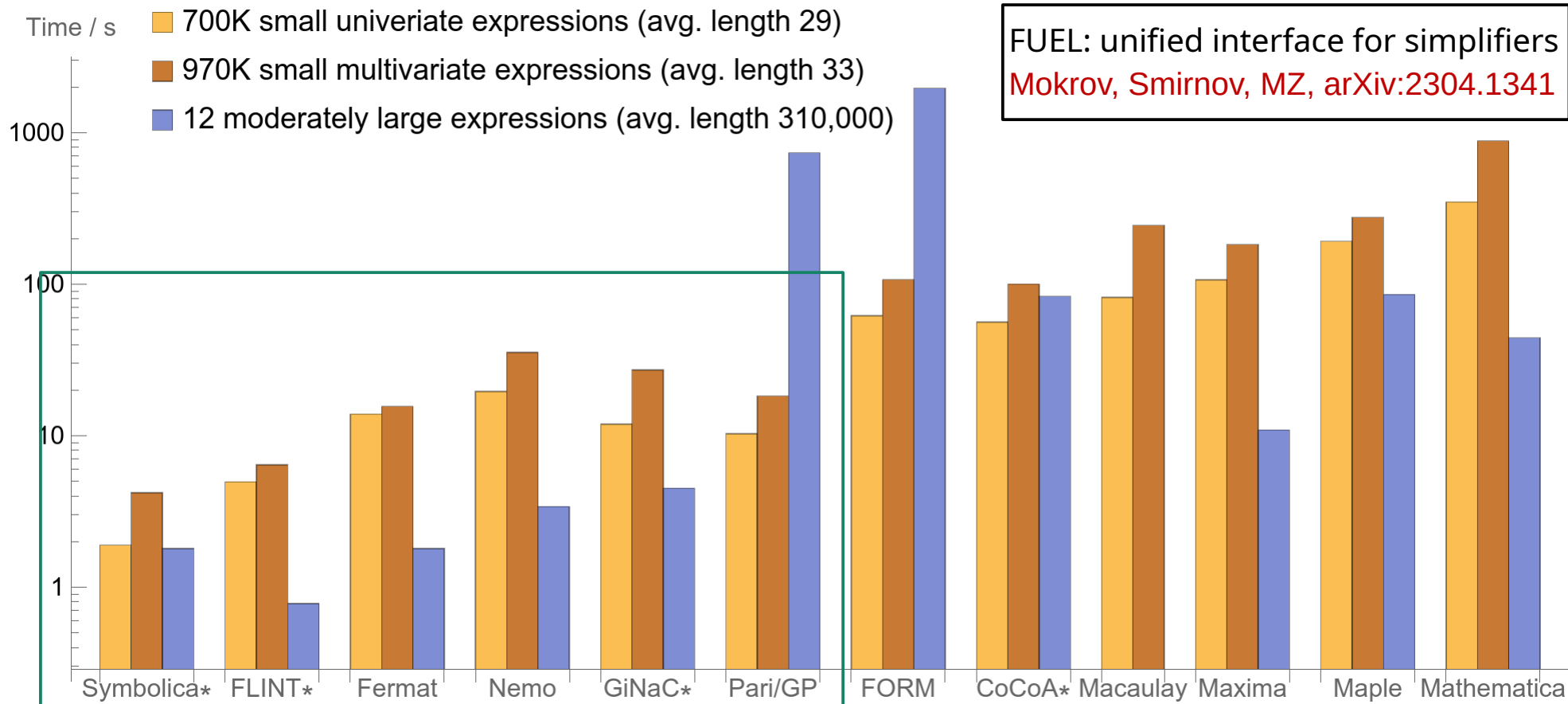
- During IBP calculation, FIRE (C++ version) needs external help in simplifying expressions of the form

$$\sum_k \frac{\frac{\text{Poly}_{k,1}}{\text{Poly}_{k,2}} \cdot \frac{\text{Poly}_{k,3}}{\text{Poly}_{k,4}}}{\frac{\text{Poly}_{k,5}}{\text{Poly}_{k,6}}} \longrightarrow \text{Polynomial in Horner form } a+x(b+x(c+dx))$$

or expanded form $a+bx+cx^2+dx^3$

- FIRE assembles the expression into a string and send to an external simplifier (Mathematica, Maple, Fermat, FLINT...)
- The simplifier simplifies the expression and sends back a string - *overhead* in string parsing/printing besides *actual simplification*.

Benchmark: small to moderate complexity



Benchmark: huge expression

$$x = \frac{(a + b + c + d + f + g)^{14} + 3}{(2a + b + c + d + f + g)^{14} + 4} - \frac{(3a + b + c + d + f + g)^{14} + 5}{(4a + b + c + d + f + g)^{14} + 6}$$

Simplifier	Time taken via FUEL (seconds)
FLINT	5.2
Symbolica	5.2
Nemo	6.9
Maple	7.9
Fermat	98.3
Maxima	112.8
Mathematica	169

FLINT is recommended simplifier

- Symbolica by Ben Ruijl (commerical but free for single-core use) also an excellent option; can be fastest in factorized mode.
- Fermat by Robert Lewis served HEP community well for many years (also e.g. Fermatica), but better options exist.
- Use option `--calc=flint` when running FIRE to select the simplifier. ~10 times faster for five-scale problems.
- Internal development versions exclusively use FLINT.

Parallel finite field runs

Analytics from numerics

- Solving linear systems over polynomials / rational functions of parameters is difficult – parallelize by solving at many **numerical** values, then reconstruct analytic form.
- **Finite field** numerics (no roundoff errors) + **reconstructing rational functions** – a mini-revolution in analytic manipulations in loop calculations. *Codes: Finred, FiniteFlow, FireFly, FIRE...*
[von Manteuffel, Schabinger, '14. Peraro, '16, '19. Klappert, Lange, '19. Klappert, Klein, Lange, '20. de Laurentis, Page, '22, Belitsky, Smirnov, Yakovlev, '23. Chawdhry, '23. Liu, '23. Maier, '24... + many process-specific papers]

Univariate reconstructions

- Polynomials: Newton reconstruction

$$f(x_i) = a_i,$$

$$f_N(x) = a_1 + (x - x_1) \left[a_2 + (x - x_2) \left[a_3 + (x - x_3) [a_4 + \dots] \right] \right]$$

- Rational functions: Thiele reconstruction

$$f_T(x) = b_1 + (x - x_1) \left[b_2 + (x - x_2) \left[b_3 + (x - x_3) [b_4 + \dots]^{-1} \right]^{-1} \right]^{-1}$$

where b_i are defined in terms of $f(x_j)$ for $j = 1, 2, \dots, i$

Challenges in multivariate reconstruction

- Builds upon univariate Newton & Thiele reconstructions.
- One approach for multivariate case: homogeneous scaling [Peraro, '15]:

$$\frac{f(x, y, z)}{g(x, y, z)} \rightarrow \frac{f(t\tilde{x}, t\tilde{y}, t\tilde{z})}{g(t\tilde{x}, t\tilde{y}, t\tilde{z})}$$

- Thiele reconstruction of rational function in t , then Newton reconstruction of coefficients as polynomials in $(\tilde{x}, \tilde{y}, \tilde{z})$.

Why not homogeneous scaling

$$\frac{f(x, y, z)}{g(x, y, z)} \rightarrow \frac{f(t\tilde{x}, t\tilde{y}, t\tilde{z})}{g(t\tilde{x}, t\tilde{y}, t\tilde{z})}$$

- Degree in t can be higher than degree in each individual variable
⇒ more complicated Thiele reconstruction
- To prevent zero constant term in denominator, need to shift variables ⇒ may destroy sparsity (if present)

Alternative – balanced reconstruction

[Belitsky, Smirnov, Yakovlev, '23]

- Preserves the “individuality” of each variable w/o mixing.
- Simple example in [Smirnov, MZ, '24] extending it to the sparse case:

$$f(x, y) = \frac{xy + 2}{xy - 2x + 4} = \frac{n(x, y)}{d(x, y)}$$

highest deg. Polynomial in denominator normalized to unit coefficient

- “Balance” the reconstruction in x with that in y to cancel normalization discrepancies, recover n and d separately.

“Balancing” example

$$f(x, y) = \frac{xy + 2}{xy - 2x + 4} = \frac{n(x, y)}{d(x, y)} \quad ??$$

- First, set y to a e.g. $y_1=4, y_2=5 \dots$ and reconstruct x dependence by Thiele

$$f(x, y_1 = 4) = \frac{4x + 2}{2x + 4} = \frac{2x + 1}{x + 2} = \frac{n'(x, y_1)}{d'(x, y_1)} \quad \text{x polynomials for each } y_i$$

highest deg. Polynomial in denominator normalized to unit coefficient

- Next, reconstruct y dependence for an arbitrary base value $x=x_0$

$$f(x = x_0, y) = \frac{y + 2/x_0}{y + 4/x_0 - 2} = \frac{n''(x = x_0, y)}{d''(x = x_0, y)} \quad \text{y polynomials for } x_0$$

$$f(x, y) = \frac{xy + 2}{xy - 2x + 4} = \frac{n(x, y)}{d(x, y)} \quad ??$$

$$f(x, y_1 = 4) = \frac{4x + 2}{2x + 4} = \frac{2x + 1}{x + 2} = \frac{n'(x, y_1)}{d'(x, y_1)} \quad \text{x polynomials for each } y_i$$

$$f(x = x_0, y) = \frac{y + 2/x_0}{y + 4/x_0 - 2} = \frac{n''(x = x_0, y)}{d''(x = x_0, y)} \quad \text{y polynomials for } x_0$$

- **Balancing:** choose an arbitrary base value e.g. $x_0 = 5$, then form the ratio

$$\frac{n'(x, y_i) \cdot n''(x_0, y_i)}{n'(x_0, y_i)} = n(x, y_i) \cdot c$$

*No y_i dependence, only depends on constant $x_0 = 5$. Now reconstruct n and d , with same extra factor, from a sequence of y_i by **Newton reconstruction**.*

$$f(x, y) = \frac{xy + 2}{xy - 2x + 4} = \frac{n(x, y)}{d(x, y)} \quad ??$$

$$f(x, y_1 = 4) = \frac{4x + 2}{2x + 4} = \frac{2x + 1}{x + 2} = \frac{n'(x, y_1)}{d'(x, y_1)} \quad \text{x polynomials for each } y_i$$

$$f(x = x_0, y) = \frac{y + 2/x_0}{y + 4/x_0 - 2} = \frac{n''(x = x_0, y)}{d''(x = x_0, y)} \quad \text{y polynomials for } x_0$$

- **Balancing:** choose an arbitrary base value e.g. $x_0 = 5$, then form the ratio

$$\frac{n'(x, y_i = 4) \cdot n''(x_0, y_i = 4)}{n'(x_0, y_i = 4)} = \frac{(2x + 1)(4 + 2/5)}{2 \cdot 5 + 1} = \frac{4x + 2}{5} = \frac{n(x, y_i)}{5}$$

*No y_i dependence, only depends on constant $x_0 = 5$. Now reconstruct n and d , with same extra factor, from a sequence of y_i by **Newton reconstruction**.*

Balanced Zippel Reconstruction

- Balanced reconstruction extended to sparse rational functions in [Smirnov, MZ, '24] by combining with Zippel method.
- FIRE MPI orchestrates finite-field reduction and reconstruction processes on clusters and supercomputers.
- In development: **multiple finite fields** run together, significant reduction of overhead.
- In development: **GPU Zippel reconstruction** by solving Vandermonde linear system. [Smirnov, Rozhnov, in progress]

How to choose seed integrals

- Laporta's golden rule: cutoff at r and s at the same values of the integrals to reduce.
 - r : total number of denominator powers
 - s : total number of ISP powers (tensor rank)
- FIRE: reduce to masters + lower sectors, then restart seed selection in lower sectors. Also uses Roman Lee's Lie algebra methods to trim seeds.

Inspiration from syzygy equations

$$0 = \int d^d \ell \frac{\partial}{\partial \ell^\mu} \frac{k^\mu}{\rho_1^{a_1} \rho_2^{a_2} \cdots \rho_n^{a_n}}$$

IBP operator $\frac{\partial}{\partial \ell^\mu} k^\mu$

Seed integral

- Syzygy equation method [Gluza, Kajda, Kosower, '10. Schabinger '14. Ita '15. Larsen, Zhang, '15...]: Take seed integral with no “dots”, but use algebraic geometry to find polynomial-linear combination of IBP operators to generate dot-free IBP linear equations.
- Success implies that you can also use (mostly) **no-dot integrals** in Laporta approach. Seed-operator pairs implicitly span syzygy solutions

Putting it together – 4-loop gravity

[Bern, Herrmann, Roiban, Ruf, Smirnov, Smirnov, MZ, arXiv:2406.01554 + ongoing]

- Classical GR dynamics from scattering amplitudes – LIGO and beyond.
- Low degree & sparse in velocity parameter y , high degree in dimension d - balanced Zippel reconstruction avoids mixing & preserves sparsity
- Mostly no-dot seed integrals favored.
- Improved pre-solving: Gaussian elimination on IBP operators
- Similar seeding improvements in Kira: worldline calculation of binary dynamics [Driesse, Jakobsen, Mogull, Plefka, Sauer, Usovitsch, '24]

Conclusion

- **FIRE** being actively developed – improvements in both analytic and finite-field reduction & reconstruction.
- **FLINT** provides open-source, high-performance polynomial simplifications.
- **Balanced Zippel reconstruction** avoids homogeneous scaling which mixes variables in reconstruction, and exploits sparsity. **MPI enabled.**
- **Seed integral selection** can have dramatic effects on IBP performance. See also recent work using *genetic algorithms & machine learning*:
 - (1) Symbolic decision tree for inclusion of seed integrals [von Hippel, Wilhelm, '25]
 - (2) Quadratic priority function for seeding [Song, Yang, Cao, Luo, Zhu, '25]