

Scattering from Geometries

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Based on works with F. Cachazo & E. Y. Yuan

PRL 113 (2014) PRD90 (2014) JHEP 1407 (2014) JHEP 1501 (2015)
JHEP 1507 (2015) PRD92 (2015) JHEP 1608 (2016)

with N. Arkani-Hamed, Y. Bai, G. Yan JHEP 1805 (2018) 096...

高能物理学术年会 上海

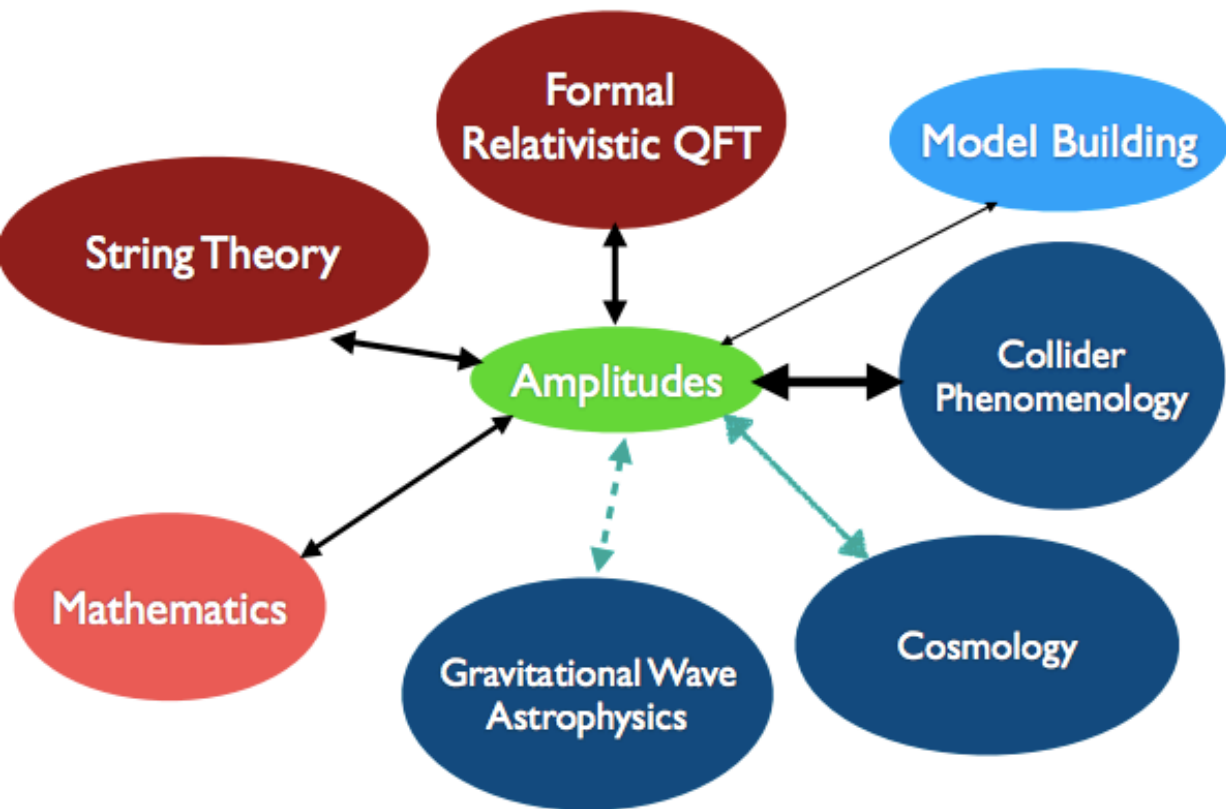
23 June 2018

A brief history of amplitudes

- **Analytic S-matrix (1960's)**: tried but failed to solve most general theories
- **Revival (1986-2003)**: spinor-helicity, gluon amps (tree & loop) in QCD & N=4 SYM, generalized unitarity method, infrared structures....
- **Explosion (since 04)**: twistor string, recursion relations & new unitarity, NLO revolution, multi-loop integrands & integrals, polylog & beyond...
- Double copy & (super-)gravity amp, string amplitudes, CHY & string-inspired methods, new mathematical structures...
- All-loop amps in N=4 SYM, Grassmannian, amplituhedron & geometries, integrability, strong-coupling & AdS/CFT...

Amplitudes 2018 (SLAC)

Who do we currently connect to?



Planar $\mathcal{N}=4$ SYM Amps

ϕ^3 theory, Pions, Gluons...

Ψ_0 [y^N theories]

Effective Field Theory

Conformal Field Theory

Amplituhedra

(Generalized) Associahedra

Cosmological Polytopes

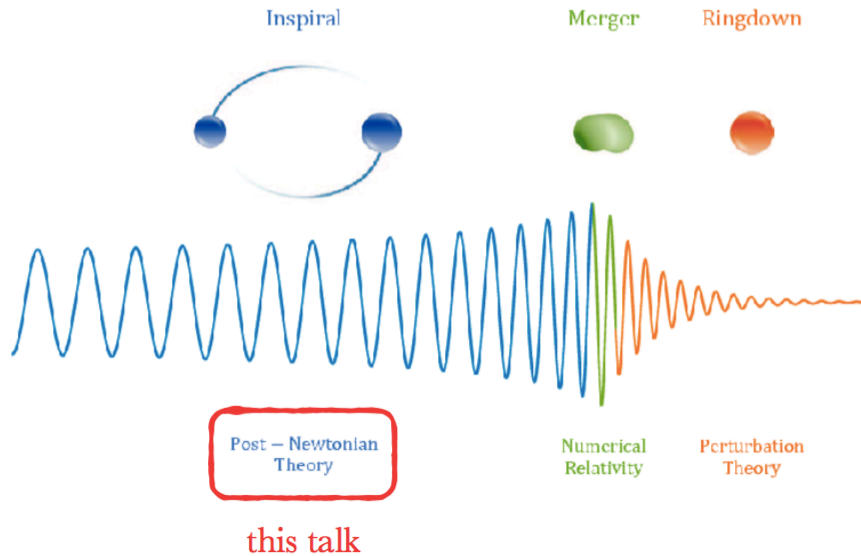
"EF Thedron"

Hidden Positive Geometry
of Causality + Unitarity

"CF Thedron"

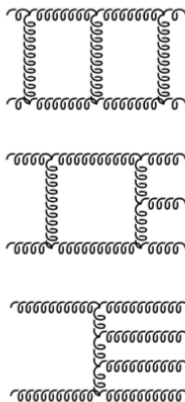
Positive Geometry of Conformal Bootstrap

Binary black hole merger in three phases:



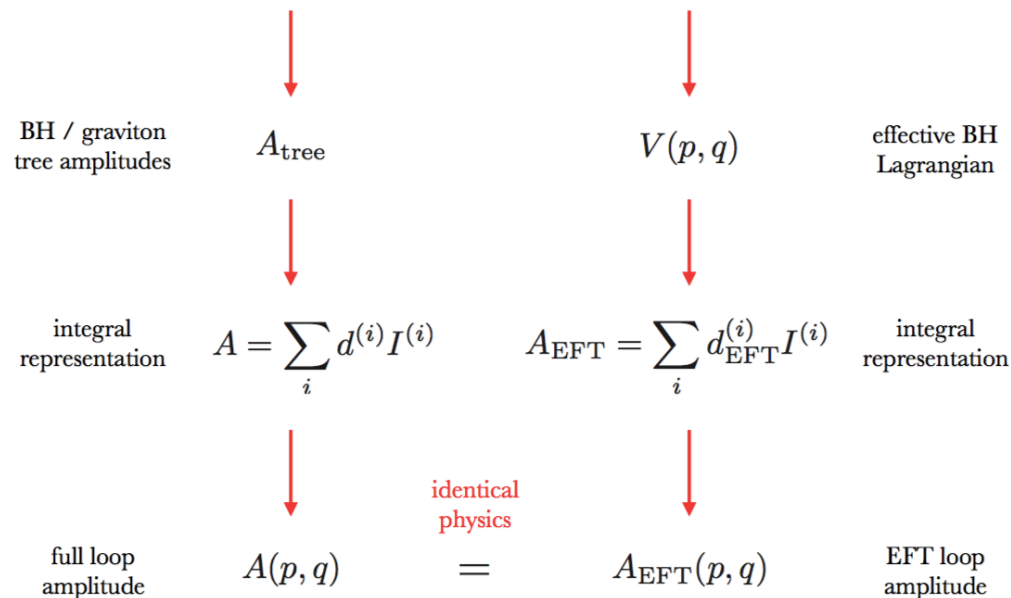
NNLO calculations

- Require three principal ingredients
 - two-loop matrix elements
 - explicit infrared poles from loop integral
 - one-loop matrix elements
 - explicit infrared poles from loop integral
 - and implicit poles from single real emission
 - tree-level matrix elements
 - implicit poles from double real emission
- Infrared poles cancel in the sum
- Combine contributions into parton-level generator



full theory

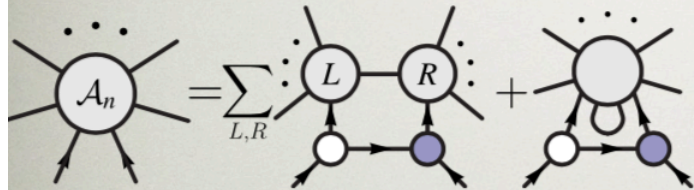
effective theory



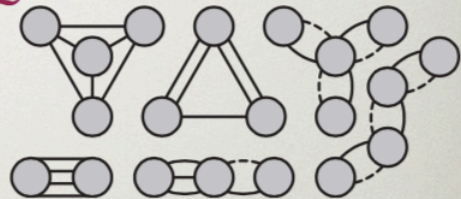
Where do we stand?

- Witnessed an NLO revolution
 - Previously unthinkable NLO QCD+EW multi-particle calculations now feasible due to technological breakthroughs
 - High-level of automation
 - Standardization of interfaces: combine different codes (providers)
 - Interface to experiment (codes, ntuples, histograms,...)?
- Substantial progress on NNLO calculations
 - Several different methods available
 - Close interplay with resummation
 - Calculations on process-by-process basis
 - Codes typically require HPC infrastructure
 - Preparing for precision phenomenology

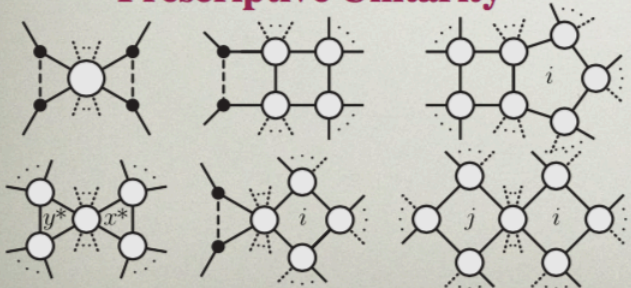
Recursion Relations



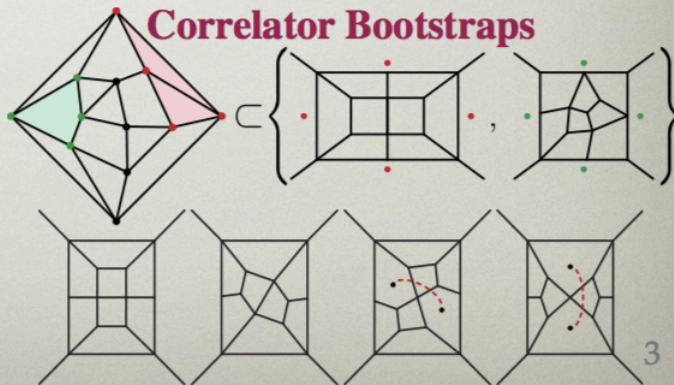
Q-cuts and Forward Limits



Prescriptive Unitarity



Correlator Bootstraps



All-loop patterns: $\mathcal{N} = 8$ SUGRA

$$\mathcal{M}_4^{(1)}|_{\text{leading}} = -3 \mathcal{K}_G \left(\frac{\kappa}{2}\right)^4 \text{ (circle diagram) },$$

Cross-order relations from removing propagators

$$\mathcal{M}_4^{(2)}|_{\text{leading}} = -8 \mathcal{K}_G \left(\frac{\kappa}{2}\right)^6 (s^2 + t^2 + u^2) \left(\frac{1}{4} \text{ (vertical line diagram) } + \frac{1}{4} \text{ (horizontal line diagram) } \right),$$

$$\mathcal{M}_4^{(3)}|_{\text{leading}} = -60 \mathcal{K}_G \left(\frac{\kappa}{2}\right)^8 stu \left(\frac{1}{6} \text{ (triangle diagram) } + \frac{1}{2} \text{ (other triangle diagram) } \right),$$

$$\mathcal{M}_4^{(4)}|_{\text{leading}} = -\frac{23}{2} \mathcal{K}_G \left(\frac{\kappa}{2}\right)^{10} (s^2 + t^2 + u^2)^2 \left(\frac{1}{4} \text{ (triangle diagram) } + \frac{1}{2} \text{ (other triangle diagram) } + \frac{1}{4} \text{ (other triangle diagram) } \right),$$

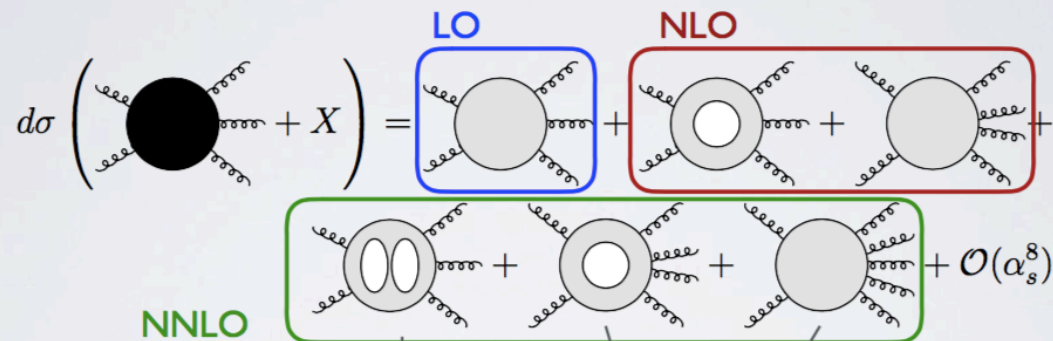
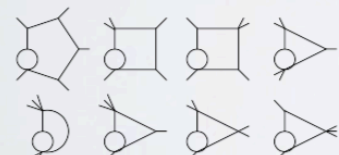
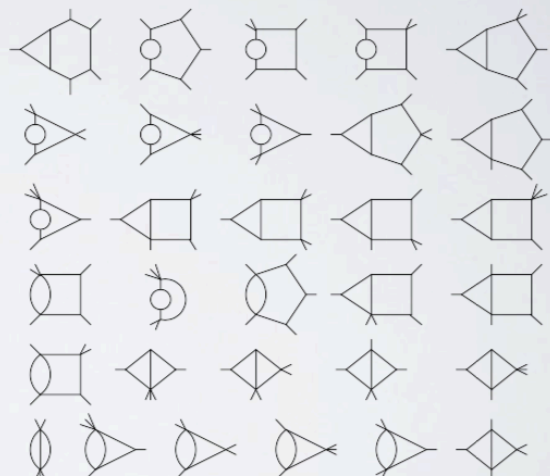
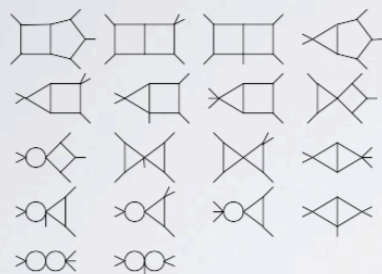
$$\mathcal{M}_4^{(5)}|_{\text{leading}} = -\frac{16 \times 629}{25} \mathcal{K}_G \left(\frac{\kappa}{2}\right)^{12} (s^2 + t^2 + u^2)^2 \left(\frac{1}{48} \text{ (square diagram) } + \frac{1}{16} \text{ (crossed square diagram) } \right),$$

No triangles + BCJ-like symmetry factors

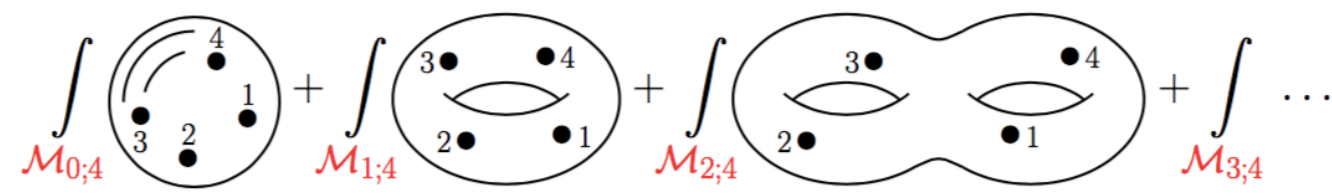


two-loop five-gluon scattering in QCD

new precision frontier: 2 → 3 scattering



Perturbative expansion (drawn for closed strings \leftrightarrow surfaces without bdy)

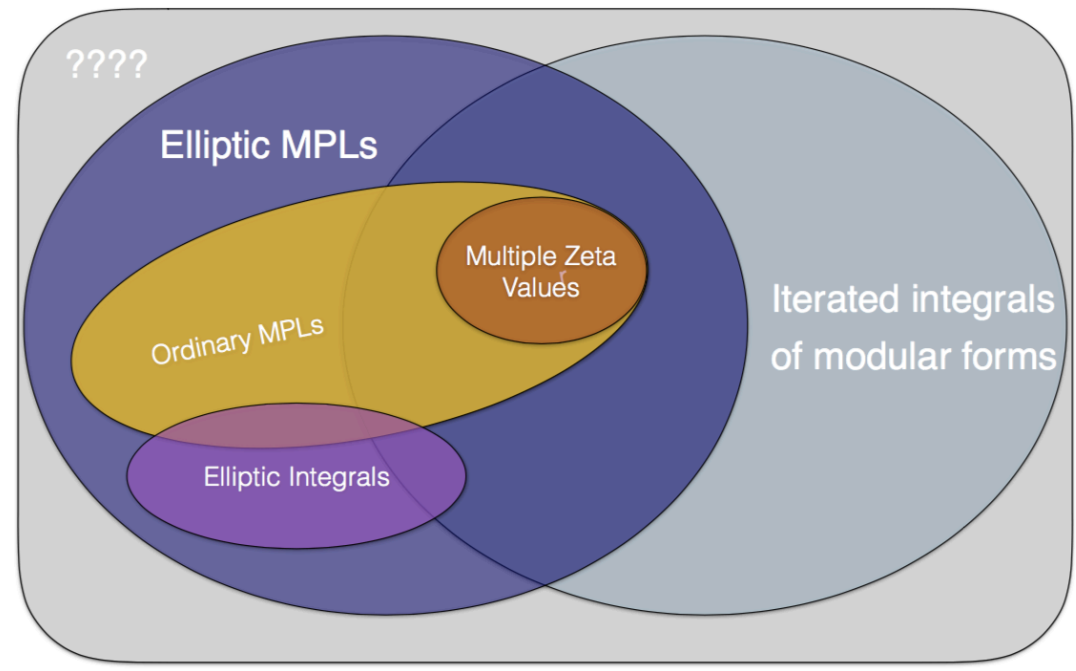
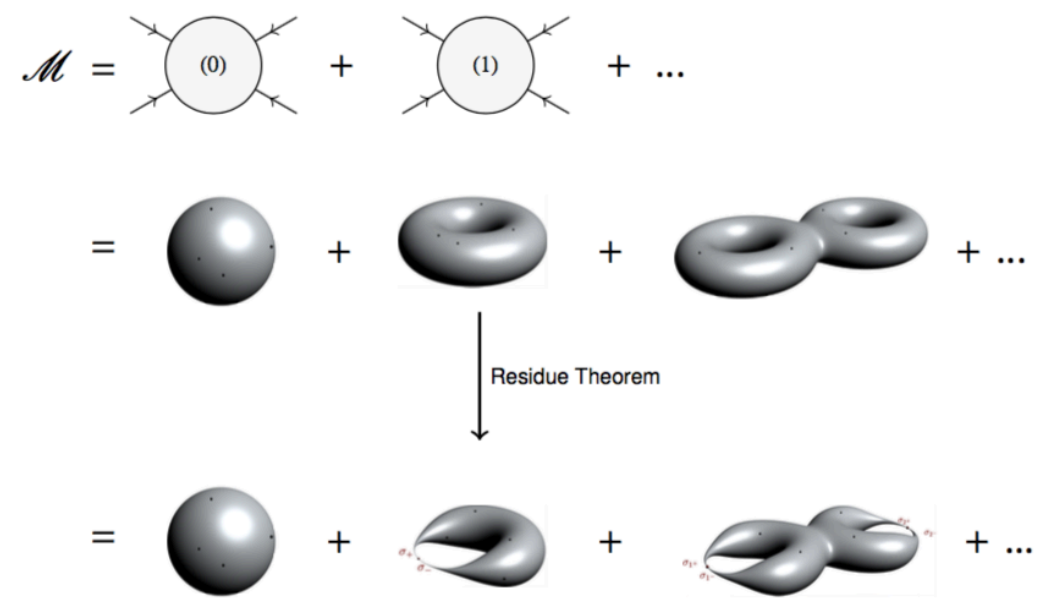
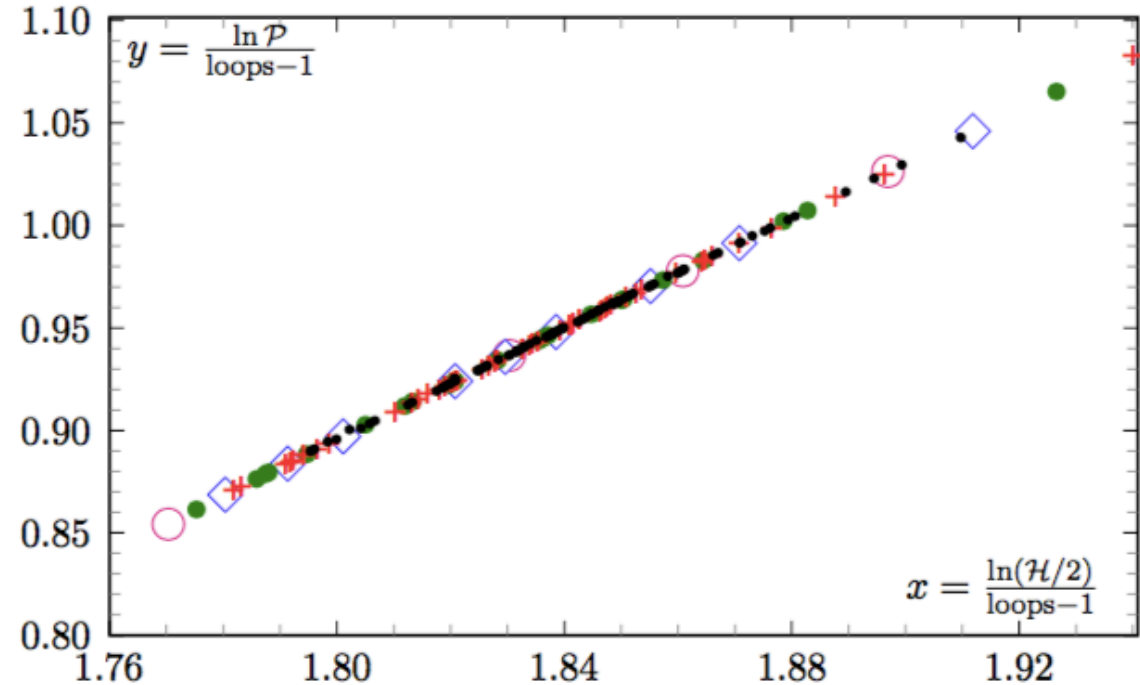


$$\mathcal{A}_{\text{string}}^{g\text{-loop}}(1, 2, \dots, n) \sim \int_{\mathcal{M}_{g;n}} \left\langle \left(\prod_j \text{PCO}(w_j) \right) V_1(z_1) V_2(z_2) \dots V_n(z_n) \right\rangle_g$$

recent years:
surprisingly
rich structures
in integrals
and integ

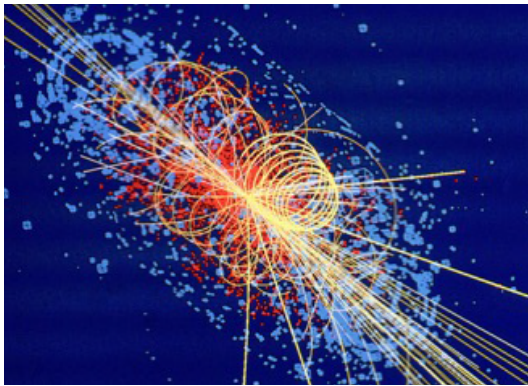
moduli space of
 n -punctured (super-)
Riemann surfaces
at genus g with or

correlation function of n vertex
operators V_j for ext. states
on Riemann surface of genus g ;
depending on g & formalism:

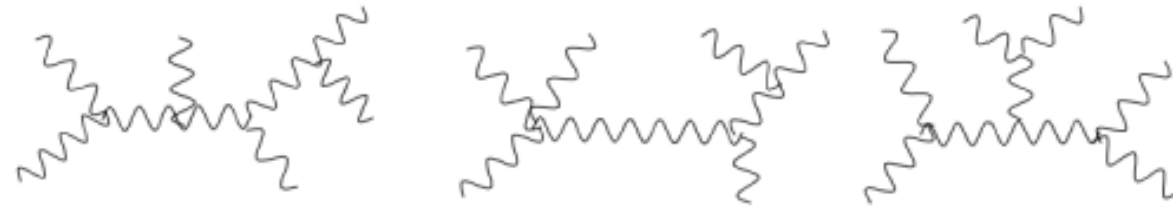


S-matrix in QFT

- **Colliders at high energies** need amplitudes of e.g. many gluons/quarks



$gg \rightarrow gg \dots g$



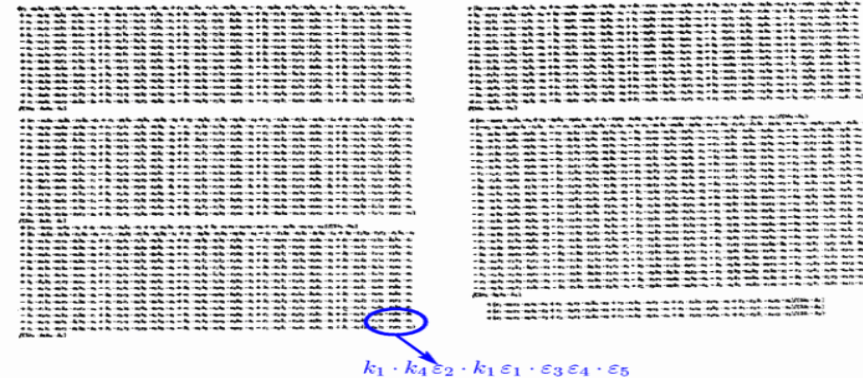
- **Fundamental level:** understanding of QFT & gravity incomplete
new structures & simplicity seen in (perturbative) scattering amplitudes
- **Goal:** new ideas & pictures of QFT & gravity from studying the S-matrix

Feynman diagrams

Nice physical picture with manifest **locality & unitarity**, but no manifest symmetry
Challenging for more legs/loops: many diagrams, many many terms, huge gauge redundancy

n-gluon scattering (tree)

<i>n</i>	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
# diagrams	4	25	220	2485	34300	559405	10525900



Gluons: 2 states $h = \pm$, but manifest locality requires 4 states (**huge redundancies**)

Much worse for **graviton scattering**: redundancies from diff invariance

A priori no reason to expect any **simplicity** or **structures** in the S-matrix

Parke-Taylor & Witten

There is something going on: “**Maximally-Helicity-Violating**” amplitudes [Parke, Taylor, 86]

$$M_n(i^-, j^-) = \frac{\langle ij \rangle^4}{\langle 12 \rangle \langle 23 \rangle \cdots \langle n1 \rangle}, \quad k_a^\mu = (\sigma^\mu)_{\alpha\dot{\alpha}} \lambda_a^\alpha \tilde{\lambda}_a^{\dot{\alpha}}, \quad \epsilon_a^\pm = \dots$$

$$\langle ab \rangle := \epsilon_{\alpha\beta} \lambda_a^\alpha \lambda_b^\beta, \quad [ab] := \epsilon_{\dot{\alpha}\dot{\beta}} \tilde{\lambda}_a^{\dot{\alpha}} \tilde{\lambda}_b^{\dot{\beta}}$$

Key observation: [Nair, 88] Parke-Taylor MHV amps = correlator on \mathbb{CP}^1

$$\lambda_i^\alpha \sim (z_i, 1), \quad PT_n := \frac{1}{(z_1 - z_2)(z_2 - z_3) \cdots (z_n - z_1)}. \quad j_A(z)j_B(z') = \frac{f_{AB}^C j_C}{z - z'} + \text{double poles} + \dots$$

Witten's twistor string theory → worldsheet model for gluon tree amplitudes

amps = string correlators with a map from \mathbb{CP}^1 to $\mathbb{CP}^{3|4}$ (twistor space) [Witten, 2003]

Cachazo-He-Yuan formulation

Witten's twistor string very special: $d=4$ $N=4$ super Yang-Mills theory

- no supersymmetry? any spacetime dimension?
- general theories: gravity, Yang-Mills, standard model, effective field theories?
- generalizations to loop level?

CHY formulation: scattering of massless particles in any dimension [CHY 2013]

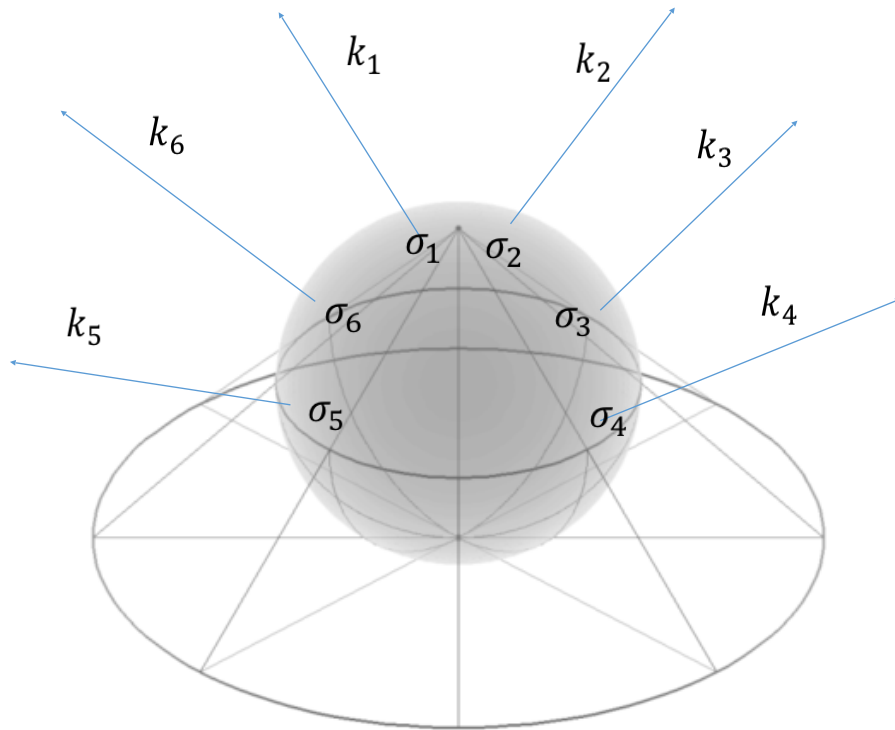
- *compact formulas* for amplitudes of gluons, gravitons, fermions, scalars, etc.
- *manifest* gauge (diff) invariance, double-copy relations, soft theorems, etc.
- *string-theory origin*: ambitwistor string [Mason, Skinner 13] \rightarrow loops from higher genus [Adamo et al 14]

Scattering equations

$$\sum_{b=1, b \neq a}^n \frac{k_a \cdot k_b}{\sigma_a - \sigma_b} = 0, \quad a = 1, 2, \dots, n \quad [\text{CHY 2013}]$$

$SL(2, \mathbb{C})$ symmetry:

n-3 variables, n-3 equations

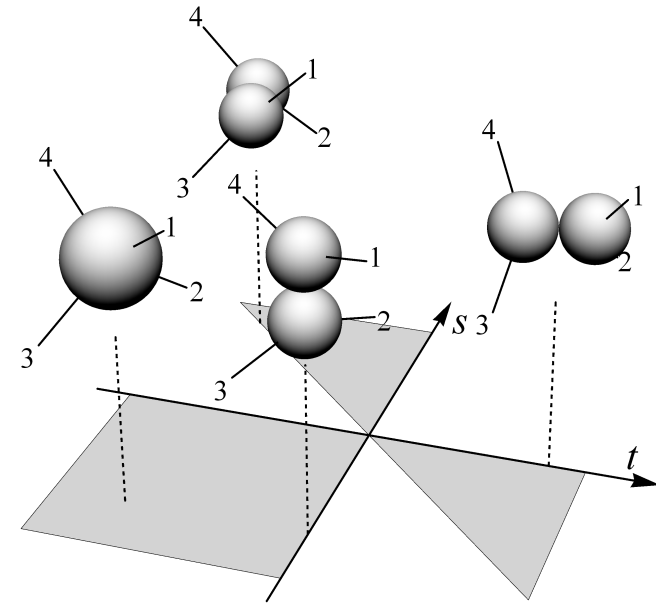


- universal, independent of theories (“kinetic part”): determine n punctures in terms of n null momenta
- non-trivial polynomial eqs: $(n-3)!$ solutions
- saddle-point eqs of string Koba-Nielson factor [Gross, Mende]

Geometries of moduli space

$$E_a := \sum_{b=1, b \neq a}^n \frac{k_a \cdot k_b}{\sigma_a - \sigma_b} = 0, \quad a = 1, 2, \dots, n$$

- Connect kinematic space of n massless particles to moduli space of n -punctured Riemann spheres
- map physical singularities to those of the moduli space
- captures universal factorization of any massless amps



$$\{\sigma_2, \sigma_3, \sigma_4\} = \{0, 1, \infty\} \quad \sigma_1 = -\frac{s_{12}}{s_{14}}$$

CHY formulas

$$M_n = \int \underbrace{\frac{d^n \sigma}{\text{vol SL}(2, \mathbb{C})} \prod'_a \delta(E_a)}_{d\mu_n} \mathcal{I}(\{k, \epsilon, \sigma\}) = \sum_{\{\sigma\} \in \text{sols.}} \frac{\mathcal{I}(\{k, \epsilon, \sigma\})}{J(\{\sigma\})}$$

- n-3 integrals with n-3 delta functions -> sum over solutions, of some “CHY integrand”
- **New picture**: scattering of massless particles via worldsheet correlators
- Feynman diagrams, Lagrangians, even spacetime itself become **emergent**

Task: find “dynamical part”, i.e. CHY integrands for various theories

Simplest CHY formulas

- Parke-Taylor factor: “half integrand” (half of the required $SL(2)$ weight)

$$PT[\pi] := \frac{1}{(\sigma_{\pi(1)} - \sigma_{\pi(2)}) (\sigma_{\pi(2)} - \sigma_{\pi(3)}) \cdots (\sigma_{\pi(n)} - \sigma_{\pi(1)})}$$

- Simplest integrand: two copies of Parke-Taylor factors with two orderings

$$m[\pi|\rho] := \int \frac{d^n \sigma}{\text{vol } SL(2, \mathbb{C})} \prod_a' \delta(E_a) PT[\pi] PT[\rho].$$

- Remarkably it computes simplest amps: [trivalent scalar Feynman diagrams \(tree\)](#)!

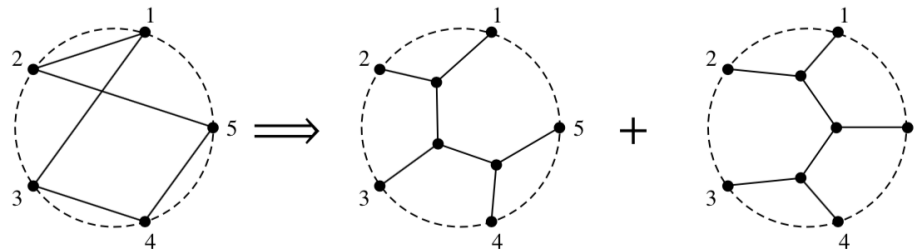
Scalar diagrams and ϕ^3 theory

- Sum of cubic diagrams that can be drawn on a disk with both orderings

$$m[1234|1234] = \frac{1}{s_{12}} + \frac{1}{s_{14}}$$

$$m[1234|1243] = \frac{1}{s_{12}}$$

$$m[12345|12543] = \frac{1}{s_{12} s_{34}} + \frac{1}{s_{12} s_{45}}$$



- These are “double-partial amplitudes” of a **bi-adjoint scalar theory**:

$$\mathcal{L}_{\phi^3} = -\frac{1}{2}(\partial\phi)^2 + \frac{\lambda}{3!} f^{IJK} f^{I'J'K'} \phi^{II'} \phi^{JJ'} \phi^{KK'}$$

$$M_n^{\phi^3} = \sum_{\pi, \rho} \text{Tr}(T^{I_{\pi(1)}} \dots T^{I_{\pi(n)}}) \text{Tr}(T^{I_{\rho(1)}} \dots T^{I_{\rho(n)}}) m[\pi|\rho]$$

Gluon scattering from CHY

- Yang-Mills? need PT for color part, but also a new ingredient for polarizations
- Inspired by the correlator of n open-string vertex operators: on the support of scattering eqs, the correlator simplifies to **Pfaffian** of a simple matrix

$$\text{Pf}'\Psi \sim \langle V^{(0)}(\sigma_1) \dots V^{(-1)}(\sigma_i) \dots V^{(-1)}(\sigma_j) \dots V^{(0)}(\sigma_n) \rangle$$

- An elegant formula for the tree-level S-matrix of n gluons in any dimensions:

$$M_n^{\text{YM}}[\pi] = \int d\mu_n \text{PT}[\pi] \text{Pf}'\Psi \quad \text{gluon amps from "heterotic strings"}$$

The Pfaffian

- The (reduced) Pfaffian of a $2n \times 2n$ skew matrix, with four blocks

$$\text{Pf}'\Psi := \frac{\text{Pf}|\Psi|_{i,j}^{i,j}}{\sigma_{i,j}}$$

$$A_{a,b} := \begin{cases} \frac{k_a \cdot k_b}{\sigma_{a,b}} & a \neq b \\ 0 & a = b \end{cases}, \quad B_{a,b} := \begin{cases} \frac{\epsilon_a \cdot \epsilon_b}{\sigma_{a,b}} & a \neq b \\ 0 & a = b \end{cases},$$

$$\Psi := \begin{pmatrix} A & -C^T \\ C & B \end{pmatrix}, \quad C_{a,b} := \begin{cases} \frac{\epsilon_a \cdot k_b}{\sigma_{a,b}} & a \neq b \\ -\sum_{c \neq a} C_{a,c} & a = b \end{cases}$$

- The Pfaffian is **gauge invariant** on the support of scattering eqs: the variation under $\epsilon_a^\mu \sim \epsilon_a^\mu + \alpha k_a^\mu$ vanishes since the matrix becomes degenerate (for each solution!)

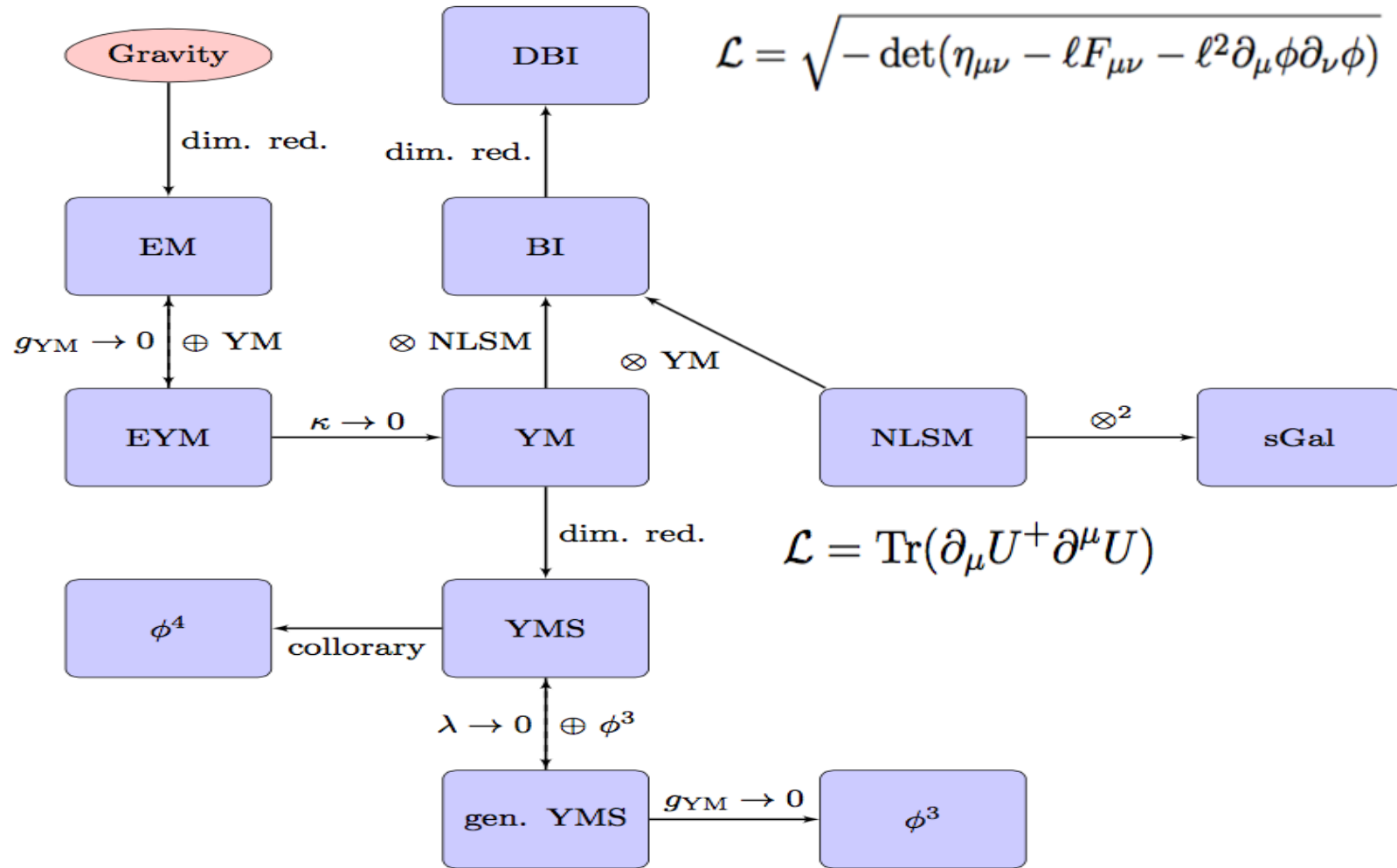
Graviton scattering from CHY

- Einstein gravity? no color but two copies of polarizations! graviton: $h^{\mu\nu} = \epsilon^\mu \epsilon^\nu$
- Natural to have two copies of Pfaffians, or Pfaffian squared=determinant

$$M_n^{h+B+\phi} = \int d\mu_n \text{Pf}'\Psi(\epsilon) \text{Pf}'\Psi(\epsilon') \longrightarrow M_n^{\text{GR}} = \int d\mu_n \det' \Psi(\epsilon) \quad \text{“closed string”}$$

- A formula for n gravitons in any dim (hidden simplicity of linearized GR)
- Diff invariance is manifest for exactly the same argument
- Double copy “ $GR \sim YM \otimes YM$ ” or more precisely $GR = YM^2 / \phi^3$

A landscape of theories



Holography for S-matrix

Asymptotically flat spacetime: S-matrix is the only observable of quantum gravity!

Natural **holographic** question: is there a “theory at infinity” (=on-shell kinematic space) that computes S-matrix without local evolution in the “bulk”? Much harder than AdS case

Boundary of AdS=ordinary flat space (standard time & locality), only needs local QFT
No such luxuries for asymptotics of flat spacetime : no time or locality!

Mystery: what principles a holographic theory for S-matrix should be based on?

New strategy: look for fundamentally new laws (usually new math structures) -> S-matrix as the answer to entirely different kinds of questions -> “discover” unitarity & causality

Geometries in kinematic space

Encouraging success: S-matrix = Answer to geometric Q's in auxiliary spaces

- Moduli space: perturbative string amps=correlators of worldsheet CFT
- Same picture for CHY: QFT amps=worldsheet correlators with scattering eqs
- Positive Grassmannian: the amplituhedron for N=4 SYM

What Q to ask, in **kinematic space**, to generate amps? Avatar of geometries?

Key: scattering amplitudes as **differential forms** in kinematic space

Simplest scalar theory: Amp (form)="volume" of associahedron in kinematic space

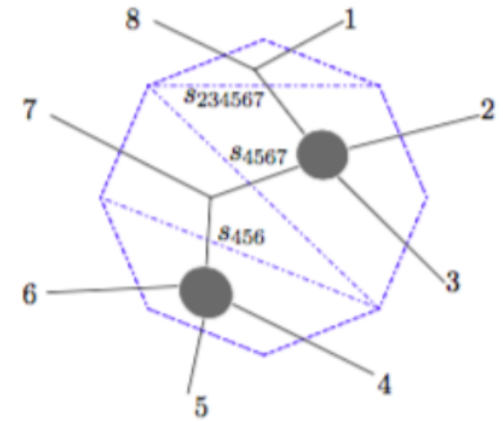
Avatar of worldsheet geometry: scattering eqs as diffeomorphism

"Geometrize" color & its duality to kinematics, forms for YM/NLSM amps etc.

Kinematic space

The kinematic space, \mathcal{K}_n , for n massless momenta p_i ($D \geq n-1$) is spanned by Mandelstam variables s_{ij} 's subject to $\sum_{j \neq i} s_{ij} = 0$, thus $\dim \mathcal{K}_n = \binom{n}{2} - n = \frac{n(n-3)}{2}$; for any subset I , $s_I = \sum_{i < j \in I} s_{ij}$

Planar variables $s_{i,i+1,\dots,j}$ for an ordering $(12 \dots n)$ are dual to $n(n-3)/2$ diagonals of a n -gon with edges p_1, p_2, \dots, p_n



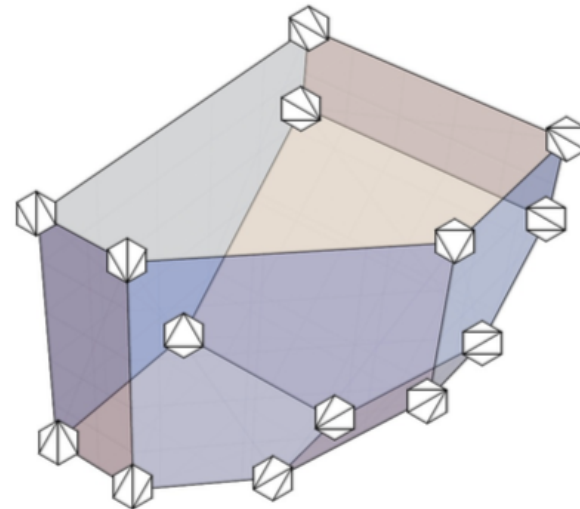
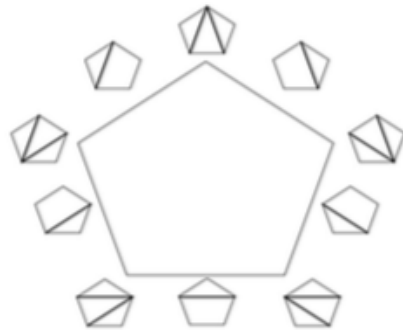
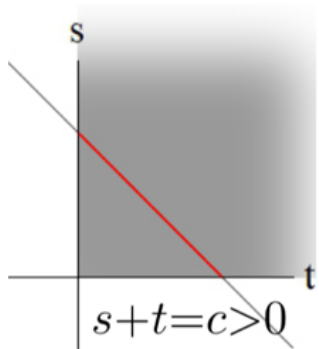
A planar cubic tree graph consists of $n - 3$ compatible planar variables as poles, and it is dual to a full triangulation of the n -gon

Kinematic associahedron

Positive region Δ_n : all planar variables $s_{i,i+1,\dots,j} \geq 0$ (top-dimension)

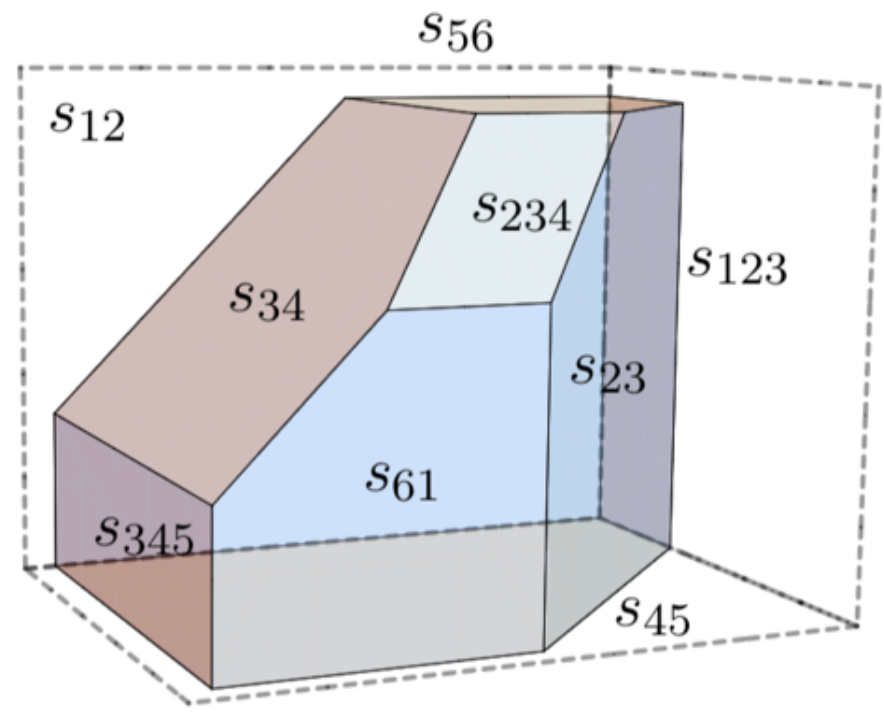
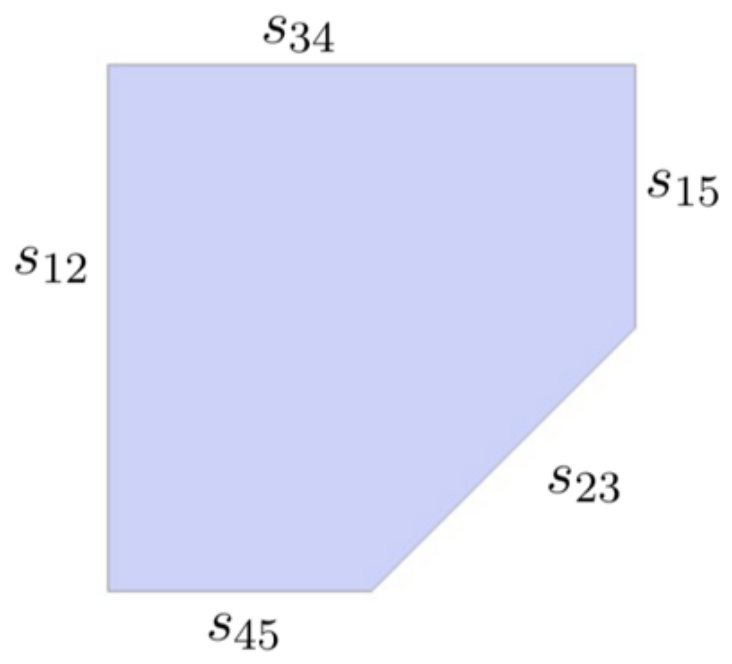
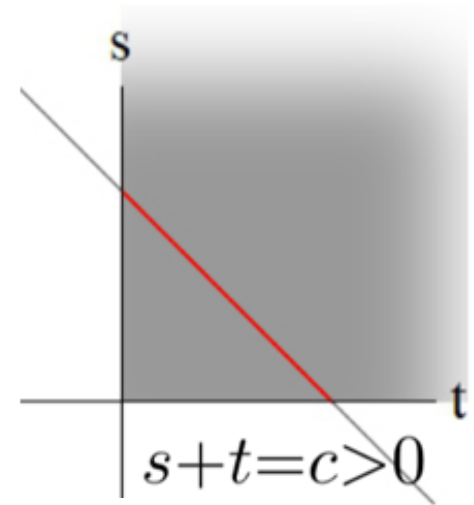
Subspace H_n : $-s_{ij} = c_{i,j}$ as *positive constants*, for all non-adjacent pairs $1 \leq i, j < n$; we have $\frac{(n-2)(n-3)}{2}$ conditions $\implies \dim H_n = n-3$.

Kinematic Associahedron is their intersection! $\mathcal{A}_n := \Delta_n \cap H_n$



e.g. $\mathcal{A}_4 = \{s > 0, t > 0\} \cap \{-u = \text{const} > 0\}$

$\mathcal{A}_5 = \{s_{12}, \dots, s_{51} > 0\} \cap \{s_{13}, s_{14}, s_{24} = \text{const} < 0\}$



Planar scattering form

The *planar scattering form* for ordering $(12 \cdots n)$

$$\Omega_n^{(n-3)} := \sum_{\text{planar } g} \text{sign}(g) \bigwedge_{a=1}^{n-3} d \log s_{i_a, i_a+1, \dots, j_a} \quad \text{e.g. } \Omega_4^{(1)} = \frac{ds}{s} - \frac{dt}{t} = d \log \frac{s}{t}$$

Projectivity: invariant under *local* $GL(1)$ transf. $s_{i, \dots, j} \rightarrow \Lambda(s) s_{i, \dots, j}$

- By pullback to certain $(n-3)$ -dim subspace, the form becomes scalar amps!
- It will be the “volume”, or “canonical form” of an associahedron polytope
- Encoding universal factorization structures of any massless tree amps

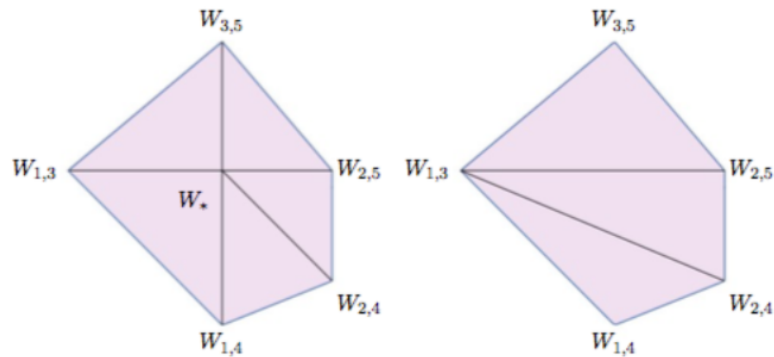
Canonical forms & amplitudes

Canonical form of $\mathcal{A}_n = \text{Pullback of } \Omega_n \text{ to } H_n \propto \text{planar } \phi^3 \text{ amplitude!}$

$$e.g. \quad \Omega(\mathcal{A}_4) = \Omega_4^{(1)}|_{H_4} = \left(\frac{ds}{s} - \frac{dt}{t}\right)|_{-u=c>0} = \left(\frac{1}{s} + \frac{1}{t}\right) ds$$

$$\Omega(\mathcal{A}_5) = \Omega_5^{(2)}|_{H_5} = \left(\frac{1}{s_{12}s_{34}} + \dots + \frac{1}{s_{51}s_{23}}\right) ds_{12} \wedge ds_{34}$$

- Associahedron is the (tree) “amplituhedron” for bi-adjoint scalar theory!
- Its canonical form, or “volume”=pullback of planar form=scalar amps
- Feynman-diagram expansion=a special triangulation, now many more new reps



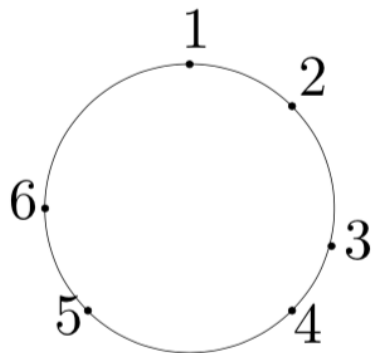
$$\begin{aligned} \Omega(\mathcal{A}_5) &= d^2\mathbf{s} \left(\frac{1}{s_{12}s_{34}} + \dots + \frac{1}{s_{51}s_{23}} \right) \\ &= d^2\mathbf{s} \left(\frac{s_{12}+s_{51}}{s_{12}s_{34}s_{51}} + \frac{s_{12}+s_{51}}{s_{12}s_{51}s_{23}} + \frac{s_{12}-s_{45}+s_{23}}{s_{12}s_{23}s_{45}} \right) \\ &= \text{sum of 3 triangles of } \mathcal{A}_5 \text{ itself} \end{aligned}$$

Worldsheet associahedron

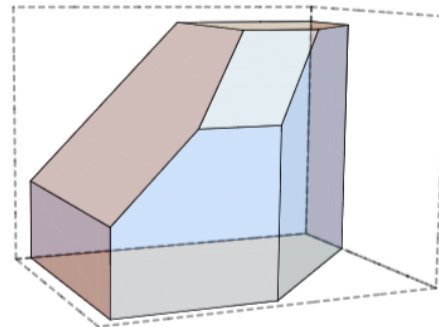
A well-known associahedron: minimal blow-up of the open-string worldsheet $\mathcal{M}_{0,n}^+ := \{\sigma_1 < \sigma_2 < \dots < \sigma_n\} / \text{SL}(2, \mathbb{R})$ [Deligne, Mumford]

The *canonical form* of $\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{0,n}^+$ is the “Parke-Taylor” form

$$\omega_n^{\text{WS}} := \frac{1}{\text{vol} [\text{SL}(2)]} \prod_{a=1}^n \frac{d\sigma_a}{\sigma_a - \sigma_{a+1}} := \text{PT}(1, 2, \dots, n) d\mu_n$$



scattering equations
as a map from $\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{0,n}$ to \mathcal{A}_n



a geometric origin of
scattering eqs & CHY

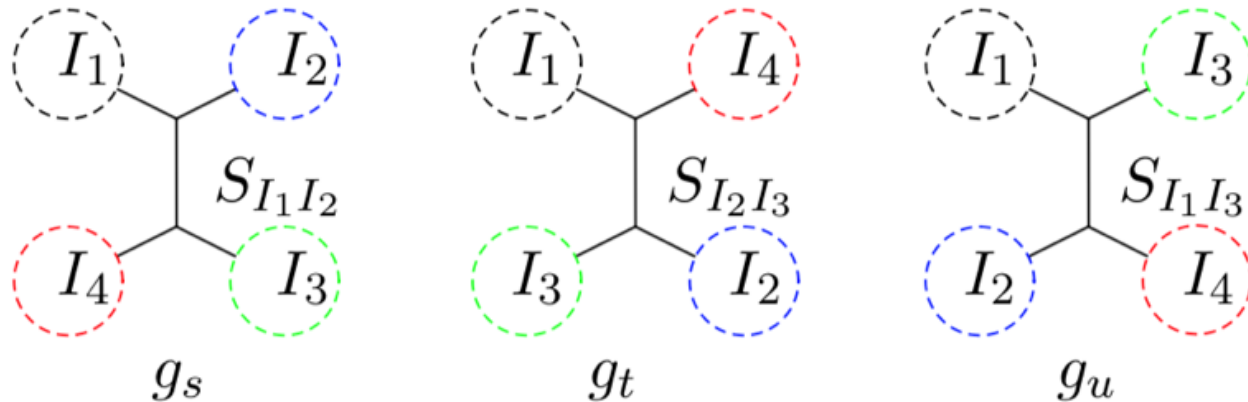
General scattering forms

Scattering forms generalize planar ones to all $(2n-5)!!$ cubic graphs:

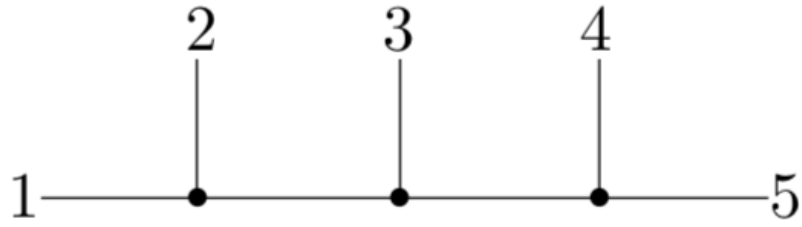
$$\Omega[N] = \sum_g N(g) \prod_I d \log s_I, \quad \text{e.g. } N_s d \log s + N_t d \log t + N_u d \log u$$

Projectivity ($s_I \rightarrow \Lambda(s)s_I$ inv.) \iff Jacobi-satisfying N 's [BCJ 08]!

$$N(g_s) + N(g_t) + N(g_u) = 0, \quad \text{e.g. } N_s + N_t + N_u = 0$$



Color is kinematics



$$C(g) = f^{a_1 a_2 b} f^{b a_3 c} f^{c a_4 a_5} \leftrightarrow$$



$$W(g) = ds_{12} \wedge ds_{45}$$

Duality between *color factors* & wedge product of ds for cubic graphs

$$C(g_s) + C(g_t) + C(g_u) = 0, \quad \leftrightarrow \quad W(g_s) + W(g_t) + W(g_u) = 0$$

Scattering forms are color-dressed amp without color factors!

$$M[N] = \sum_g N(g) C(g) \prod_I \frac{1}{s_I} \quad \leftrightarrow \quad \Omega[N] = \sum_g N(g) W(g) \prod_I \frac{1}{s_I}$$

Scattering forms for gluons & pions

Permutation invariant forms encoding full amps of gluon/pion

Gauge invariance: Ω_{YM} invariant under every shift $\epsilon_i^\mu \rightarrow \epsilon_i^\mu + \alpha p_i^\mu$

Adler zero: Ω_{NLSM} vanishes under every soft limit $p_i^\mu \rightarrow 0$

Key: forms are projective \implies **unique** Ω_{YM} and Ω_{NLSM} !

$\Omega_{\text{YM/NLSM}}$ as pushforward of **canonical, rigid worldsheet objects:**

$$\Omega_{\text{YM}}^{(n-3)} = \sum_{\text{sol.}} d\mu_n \text{Pf}' \Psi_n(\{\epsilon, p, \sigma\}) \quad \Omega_{\text{NLSM}}^{(n-3)} = \sum_{\text{sol.}} d\mu_n \det' A_n(\{s, \sigma\})$$

Summary & outlook

New picture: general massless S-matrix via punctured Riemann spheres; higher-genus for loops. A (weak-weak) QFT/String duality for S-matrix?

Applications: new relations between amps of *gluons, pions, gravitons ...*
Double copy beyond amps: *classical solutions, gravity waves,*

Geometries in kinematic space: scattering amplitudes as differential forms
“volume” of associahedron = *bi-adjoint scalar amp*; *geometric origin of CHY*
general scattering forms for gluons, pions, etc. strings from geometry?

Towards a unified geometric picture for amplitudes and beyond:
cosmological polytopes, Witten diagrams, EFThedron & CFThedron...

谢谢!

