

Cuts and Feynman amplitudes beyond polylogarithms

Lorenzo Tancredi

CERN TH - Geneva

Loops and Legs in Quantum Field Theory
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Based on collaborations with *J. Brödel, C. Duhr, F. Dulat, B. Penante,
A. von Manteuffel, A. Primo, E. Remiddi*

Functions **beyond polylogs** appear everywhere in particle physics

- Already in **QED** at two/three loops (form factors, electron self-energy, ...)
- **QCD** Two-loop corrections to H +jet, (similarly V +jet production)
- **QCD** Two-loop corrections to HH (similarly VV production)
- **QCD** Two-loop corrections to $t\bar{t}$
- **NNLO** QCD corrections to Higgs production
- **NNLO** QCD corrections to heavy quarkonium production and decays
- More or less “any two-loop amplitude” in the **EW theory**

Precision physics at the LHC seems to require “elliptic functions”¹

[See C. Duhr, A. De Freitas, S. Weinzierl talks]

¹Or, at least, reliable numerical results for scattering amplitudes that would evaluate to elliptic generalizations of MPLs...

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One possible point of view – **Differential equations method**

[Kotikov '90, Remiddi '97, **Gehrmann-Remiddi '00**,..., **J. Henn '13**; C. Papadopoulos '14]



Direct consequence of **Integration-by-parts (IBPs)** identities in d -dimensions!

$$\int \prod_{j=1}^l \frac{d^d k_j}{(2\pi)^d} \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial k_j^\mu} v_\mu \frac{S_1^{\sigma_1} \dots S_s^{\sigma_s}}{D_1^{\alpha_1} \dots D_n^{\alpha_n}} \right) = 0, \quad v^\mu = k_j^\mu, p_k^\mu$$

Reduced to **N master integrals**, $l_i(d; x_k)$ with $i = 1, \dots, N$.



Differentiating the masters and using the **IBPs** we get a system of
N coupled differential equations

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x_k} l_i(d; x_k) = \sum_{j=1}^N c_{ij}(d; x_k) l_j(d; x_k).$$

Let's look more in detail - *we should recall* that equations are in block form

$$l_j(d; x_k) = (m_j(d; x_k), \text{sub}_j(d; x_k))$$

⇓

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x_k} m_i(d; x_k) = \sum_{j=1}^N h_{ij}(d; x_k) m_j(d; x_k) + \sum_{j=1}^M n h_{ij}(d; x_k) \text{sub}_j(d; x_k).$$

Let's look more in detail - *we should recall* that equations are in block form

$$I_j(d; x_k) = (m_j(d; x_k), \text{sub}_j(d; x_k))$$

⇓

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x_k} m_i(d; x_k) = \sum_{j=1}^N \underbrace{h_{ij}(d; x_k)}_{\downarrow} m_j(d; x_k) + \sum_{j=1}^M n h_{ij}(d; x_k) \text{sub}_j(d; x_k).$$

homogeneous piece is MAIN source of complexity

⇓

Loosely speaking:

- if decoupled as $d \rightarrow 4$, **MPLs**
- if coupled as $d \rightarrow 4$, **Elliptic...?**
[\[L.Tancredi '15; L.Adams, S.Weinzierl '17\]](#)

How do we solve them? In general:

1- Solve the **homogeneous equations** in the limit $d \rightarrow 4$

$$\frac{d}{dx} \vec{I}(d; x) = A(x) \vec{I}(d; x) + (d - 4) B(x) \vec{I}(d; x) + \mathcal{O}(d - 4)^2,$$

with $A(x)$ $n \times n$, depending on how many eqs are coupled

Find $n \times n$ matrix homogeneous solutions $G(x)$, with

$$\frac{d}{dx} G(x) = A(x) G(x), \quad \rightarrow \quad \vec{I}(d; x) = G(x) \vec{m}(d; x)$$

then

$$\frac{d}{dx} \vec{m}(d; x) = (d - 4) G^{-1}(x) B(x) G(x) \vec{m}(d; x) + \mathcal{O}(d - 4)^2,$$

- 2- Solution given by **iterative integrals** over kernels that contain **homogeneous solutions**, and previous orders

By expanding in $(d - 4)$:

$$\vec{m}^{[n]}(x) = \int^x dy G^{-1}(y) B(y) G(y) \vec{m}^{[n-1]}(y) + \text{simpler terms},$$

Or equivalently for the original functions

$$\vec{l}^{[n]}(x) = G(x) \int^x dy G^{-1}(y) B(y) \vec{l}^{[n-1]}(y) + \text{simpler terms},$$

Two Questions:

- How do I get the matrix $G(x)$ if the system is coupled?
- What are the functions defined by the integrals above?

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How to solve the homogeneous equation?

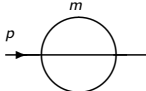
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Solution:

- Take an older idea by [S.Laporta, E.Remiddi '04]
- Generalize it to all cases [A.Primo, L.Tancredi '16, '17]


$$\left(\frac{d^2}{ds^2} + A(d; s) \frac{d}{ds} + B(d; s) \right)^p \rightarrow \text{Diagram} + G(d; s) \text{Tad}(d; m^2) = 0$$


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
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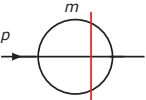
$$\left(\frac{d^2}{ds^2} + A(d; s) \frac{d}{ds} + B(d; s) \right)^p \rightarrow \text{Bubble}(d, m) + G(d; s) \text{Tad}(d; m^2) = 0$$


Cut $\rightarrow \left(\frac{d^2}{ds^2} + A(d; s) \frac{d}{ds} + B(d; s) \right)^p \rightarrow \text{Bubble}(d, m) = 0$



Maximal cut solves homogeneous differential equations

[A.Primo, L.Tancredi '16, '17]



$$= \frac{1}{\sqrt{(3m - \sqrt{s})(\sqrt{s} + m)^3}} \mathcal{K} \left(\frac{16m^3 \sqrt{s}}{(3m - \sqrt{s})(\sqrt{s} + m)^3} \right)$$

where $\mathcal{K}(x)$ is the complete elliptic integral of the first kind.

$$\mathcal{K}(x) = \int_0^1 \frac{dt}{\sqrt{(1-t^2)(1-x^2 t^2)}}$$

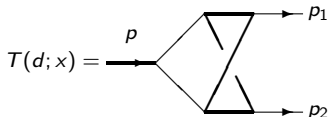
Computation of the maximal cut can be simplified in **Baikov representation**

[Papadopoulos, Frellesvig '17; Bosma, Sogaard, Zhang '17; Harley, Moriello, Schabinger '17]

What are the functions defined by these **iterated integrals**?

[See C. Duhr, S. Weinzierl, ...]

An explicit example: [M. Czakon, A. Mitov '08; A. von Manteuffel, L. Tancredi '17]



- $p_1^2 = p_2^2 = 0$, four massive lines
- $x = -p^2/m^2$
- 2 master integrals, $T_1(x)$, $T_2(x)$
- Satisfy 2 **coupled diff. eqs**
- Needed for NNLO $\gamma\gamma$, $t\bar{t}$, ...

All **subtopologies** can be written in terms of (*not trivial!*)

$$\ln(f(l_i)), \text{Li}_n(f(l_i)), \text{Li}_{2,2}(f(l_i), g(l_j)),$$

with

$$l_i = \{\sqrt{x}, \frac{1}{2}(\sqrt{x} + \sqrt{x+4}), \sqrt{x+4}, \frac{1}{2}(\sqrt{x} + \sqrt{x-4}), \sqrt{x-4}\}$$

Maximal cut gives homogeneous solutions as **Elliptic Integrals**:

$$I_1(t) = \sqrt{x} K\left(\frac{x}{16}\right), \quad J_1(x) = \sqrt{x} K\left(1 - \frac{x}{16}\right).$$

$$I_2(x) = -\sqrt{x} E\left(\frac{x}{16}\right), \quad J_2(x) = \sqrt{x} \left[E\left(1 - \frac{x}{16}\right) - K\left(1 - \frac{x}{16}\right) \right],$$

Solving 2nd order diff eq. we find for the **finite part** in $\epsilon = 0$:

[A. von Manteuffel, L. Tancredi '17]

$$T_1^{(0)}(x) = \frac{2}{\pi} \left[J_1(x) \int_0^x dt I_1(t) Q(t) - I_1(x) \int_0^x dt J_1(t) Q(t) \right],$$

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with

$$Q(x) = 5 \ln^2(l_2) - I_1 \frac{3/2 \zeta_2 + 3 \ln^2(l_4) + 3 \text{Li}_2(-1/l_4^2)}{I_5}$$

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Can we write these functions in terms of **Elliptic polylogarithms**?

[See. [C. Duhr's Talk](#)]

Let us start from an **elliptic curve** given by

$$P_4(x) = (x - a_1)(x - a_2)(x - a_3)(x - a_4) = y^2$$

I will use the definition of **elliptic polylogarithms** as iterated integrals over the following kernels [See C. Duhr's talk]:

$$E_4(n_1 \dots n_k; x) = \int_0^x dt \psi_{n_1}(c_1, t) E_4(n_2 \dots n_k; t),$$

$$\begin{aligned} \psi_0(0, x) &= \frac{c_4}{y}, & \psi_1(c, x) &= \frac{1}{x - c}, \\ \psi_{-1}(c, x) &= \frac{y_c}{y(x - c)}, & \psi_{-1}(\infty, x) &= \frac{x}{y}, \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} c_4 &= \frac{\sqrt{(a_1 - a_3)(a_2 - a_4)}}{2}, \\ y_c &= \sqrt{P_4(c)}. \end{aligned}$$

And (**important!**)

$$G(c_1, \dots, c_n, x) = E_4\left(\frac{1}{c_1} \dots \frac{1}{c_n}; x\right)$$

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N.B.

There is actually an **infinite tower** of kernels, but they are mostly irrelevant for physical results and their definition is immaterial for what follows.

It turns out to be easier to go through **Feynman parameters** (in $d = 4!$)

$$\begin{aligned}
 T(4; x) &= \int \frac{d^4 k d^4 l}{(k^2 - m^2)(l^2 - m^2)((k - p_1)^2 - m^2)((l - p_2)^2 - m^2)(k - l - p_1)^2(l - k - p_2)^2} \\
 &= \int_0^1 \prod_{i=1}^6 dx_i \delta\left(1 - \sum_{i=1}^6 x_i\right) \frac{1}{[F(x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4, x_5, x_6, p^2, m^2)]^2}
 \end{aligned}$$

with

$$\begin{aligned}
 F(x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4, x_5, x_6, p^2, m^2) &= \\
 &\left(p^2 [((x_3 + x_4) x_5 + x_2 (x_3 + x_5)) x_6 + x_1 x_5 (x_4 + x_6)] + m^2 (x_1 + x_2 + x_3 + x_4) \right. \\
 &\left. \times (x_3 x_4 + x_5 x_4 + x_6 x_4 + x_3 x_5 + x_3 x_6 + x_2 (x_3 + x_5 + x_6) + x_1 (x_2 + x_4 + x_5 + x_6)) \right)
 \end{aligned}$$

Cheng-Wu theorem, re-arrange Feynman parameters, given any subset S :

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_0^1 \prod_{i=1}^N dx_i \delta \left(1 - \sum_{i=1}^N x_i \right) f(x_1, \dots, x_N) \\ &= \int_0^\infty \prod_{i \notin S} dx_i \int_0^1 \prod_{i \in S} dx_i \delta \left(1 - \sum_{i \in S} x_i \right) f(x_1, \dots, x_N) \end{aligned}$$

By using parametrization by [M. Hidding, F. Moriello '17] we have (forget prefactors for simplicity)

$$\begin{aligned} T(4; a) &= \int_0^1 dx_2 \int_0^{1-x_2} dx_4 \int_0^{-1-x_2-x_4} dx_3 \\ &\quad \times \int_0^\infty dx_5 \int_0^\infty dx_6 \frac{1}{[F(x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4, x_5, x_6, p^2, m^2)]^2} \end{aligned}$$

where $a = 1/x = -m^2/p^2$.

After the first two integrations in x_5 and x_6 we are left with:

$$\begin{aligned}
 T(4; p^2) = & a^2 \int_0^1 dx_2 \int_0^{1-x_2} dx_4 \int_0^{1-x_2-x_4} dx_3 \\
 & \times \frac{1}{(a - x_3 x_4)(a - x_2(1 - x_2 - x_3 - x_4))} \\
 & \times \left[\log(a + x_2 x_3) + \log(a + x_4(1 - x_2 - x_3 - x_4)) \right. \\
 & \left. - \log(a) - \log(1 - x_2 - x_4) - \log(x_2 + x_4) \right]
 \end{aligned}$$

It is then trivial to rewrite the log-s as $G(\dots, x_3)$ and perform in this way the integration in x_3 .

Finally (with a small variable re-definition $x_2 \rightarrow \bar{x}_2$)

$$\begin{aligned}
 T(4; a) &= \frac{1}{3} \int_0^1 d\bar{x}_2 \frac{a^2}{\sqrt{(\bar{x}_2 - 1) \bar{x}_2} \sqrt{4a + (\bar{x}_2 - 1) \bar{x}_2}} \\
 &\times \left[6 \left(G((\bar{x}_2 - 1) \bar{x}_2, a) \left(G_m \left(-\frac{a}{\bar{x}_2 - 1}, \bar{x}_2 \right) + 2G_m(\bar{x}_2, \bar{x}_2) \right) \right. \right. \\
 &+ G(0, \bar{x}_2) \left(2G_m(\bar{x}_2, \bar{x}_2) - G_m \left(\frac{a}{\bar{x}_2 - 1} + \bar{x}_2, \bar{x}_2 \right) \right) - G(1, \bar{x}_2) G_m \left(\frac{a}{\bar{x}_2 - 1} + \bar{x}_2, \bar{x}_2 \right) \\
 &+ 2G_m \left(0, \frac{a}{\bar{x}_2 - 1}, \bar{x}_2 \right) + G_m \left(-\frac{a}{\bar{x}_2 - 1}, \frac{a - \bar{x}_2^2 + \bar{x}_2}{1 - \bar{x}_2}, \bar{x}_2 \right) \\
 &+ 2G_m \left(\bar{x}_2, \frac{a - \bar{x}_2^2 + \bar{x}_2}{1 - \bar{x}_2}, \bar{x}_2 \right) + G_m \left(\frac{a}{\bar{x}_2 - 1} + \bar{x}_2, \frac{a}{\bar{x}_2 - 1}, \bar{x}_2 \right) \\
 &- 2 \log(a) G_m(\bar{x}_2, \bar{x}_2) + \log(a) G_m \left(\frac{a}{\bar{x}_2 - 1} + \bar{x}_2, \bar{x}_2 \right) + 2G(1, \bar{x}_2) G_m(\bar{x}_2, \bar{x}_2) \left. \right) \\
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 &+ 2G_m \left(\bar{x}_2, \frac{a - \bar{x}_2^2 + \bar{x}_2}{1 - \bar{x}_2}, \bar{x}_2 \right) + G_m \left(\frac{a}{\bar{x}_2 - 1} + \bar{x}_2, \frac{a}{\bar{x}_2 - 1}, \bar{x}_2 \right) \\
 &- 2 \log(a) G_m(\bar{x}_2, \bar{x}_2) + \log(a) G_m \left(\frac{a}{\bar{x}_2 - 1} + \bar{x}_2, \bar{x}_2 \right) + 2G(1, \bar{x}_2) G_m(\bar{x}_2, \bar{x}_2) \\
 &- G_m(\bar{x}_2) \left(6G(0, \bar{x}_2) G((1 - \bar{x}_2) \bar{x}_2, a) + 6G(1, \bar{x}_2) G((1 - \bar{x}_2) \bar{x}_2, a) \right. \\
 &\left. \left. + 6G(0, (1 - \bar{x}_2) \bar{x}_2, a) + 6G(0, (\bar{x}_2 - 1) \bar{x}_2, a) - 6 \log(a) G((1 - \bar{x}_2) \bar{x}_2, a) + \pi^2 \right) \right]
 \end{aligned}$$

The **quartic root** defines an **elliptic curve!**

$$P_4(x) = x(x-1)(4a + x(x-1))$$

and we defined

$$G_m(\vec{n}, x) = G(r_p, \vec{n}, x) - G(r_m, \vec{n}, x)$$

with

$$\begin{aligned} r_{p/m} &= \frac{-\bar{x}_2(1-\bar{x}_2) \pm \sqrt{(\bar{x}_2-1)\bar{x}_2}\sqrt{4a-\bar{x}_2(1-\bar{x}_2)}}{2(\bar{x}_2-1)} \\ &= \frac{-\bar{x}_2(1-\bar{x}_2) \pm \sqrt{P_4(\bar{x}_2)}}{2(\bar{x}_2-1)} \end{aligned}$$

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Now, it turns out that G s with a quartic root in the indices can be written in terms elliptic polylogs

[E. Remiddi, L. Tancredi '17; J. Broedel, F. Dulat, C. Duhr, B. Penante, L. Tancredi]

$$G_m(\bar{x}_2) = G(r_p, \bar{x}_2) - G(r_m, \bar{x}_2) = \log \left(\frac{\bar{x}_2(1 - \bar{x}_2) + \sqrt{P_4(\bar{x}_2)}}{\bar{x}_2(1 - \bar{x}_2) - \sqrt{P_4(\bar{x}_2)}} \right)$$

such that

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and integrating back in \bar{x}_2

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We can rewrite all G s in terms of E_4 functions, and then perform trivially the last integration.

We obtain [PRELIMINARY!]:

$$\begin{aligned}
 T(4, a) = & \frac{2a^2}{c_4^2} \left[5E_4 \left(\begin{matrix} 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & r_{mp} \end{matrix}; 1 \right) + 5E_4 \left(\begin{matrix} 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & r_{pp} \end{matrix}; 1 \right) + 5E_4 \left(\begin{matrix} 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & r_{mp} \end{matrix}; 1 \right) + 5E_4 \left(\begin{matrix} 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & r_{pp} \end{matrix}; 1 \right) \right. \\
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SUMMARY and OUTLOOK

What have we learnt:

- Remember [C. Duhr's talk], E_4 functions are equivalent to **Brown-Levin's Elliptic polylogarithms**
- Until now these functions used only for Sunrise graph (2-point function with trivial subtopologies)
- First example of a **3-point function** (very much relevant for pheno!) that can be expressed in terms of these functions

What remains to be done:

- Result expressed in terms of $E_4(\dots, 1)$, **non-unique representation** (there might be **hidden zeros!**)
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THANKS!