From amplitudes to correlation functions in $\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM

Gregory Korchemsky IPhT, Saclay

Work in collaboration with

Burkhard Eden, Paul Heslop, Vladimir Smirnov, Emery Sokatchev

arXiv:1108.3557; 1201.5329; 1202.5733

Amplitudes versus correlation functions

Carry different/supplementary information about gauge theory:

 $G_n = \langle \mathcal{O}(x_1) \dots \mathcal{O}(x_n) \rangle =$ off-shell (anomalous dimensions, structure constants of OPE)

 $A_n = \langle p_1, \dots, p_n | S | 0 \rangle = \text{on-shell (S-matrix)}$

Amplitudes are **not** well-defined in D = 4 dimensions

Suffer from IR divergences and require a regularization

X Part of symmetries (conformal + dual conformal) are broken by IR regulator

 \checkmark Correlation functions of half-BPS operators are well-defined in D = 4 dimensions

- X Do not require a regularization for generic positions of operators
- × Inherits all (unbroken) symmetries of $\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM

✓ They are related to each other in planar $\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM:

$$\lim_{x_{i,i+1}^2 \to 0} \ln G_n(x_i) \sim 2 \ln A_n(p_i), \qquad p_i = x_i - x_{i+1}$$

This talk:

Correlation functions have a new hidden symmetry in $\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM (no need for planar limit!) Allows us to predict correlators/amplitudes at higher loops without any Feynman graph calculations!

Gluon amplitudes

✓ Four-gluon amplitude in $\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM at weak coupling $a = g^2 N_c / (8\pi^2)$

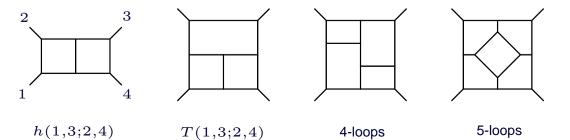
$$A_4/A_4^{(\text{tree})} = 1 + a \, st I^{(1)}(s,t) + O(a^2)$$

Scalar box in the dimensional regularization (for IR divergences) with $D=4-2\epsilon$

$$I^{(1)}(s,t) = \underbrace{x_2}_{p_1} \underbrace{x_5}_{x_4} x_4_{x_1} \sim \int \frac{d^D x_5}{x_{15}^2 x_{25}^2 x_{35}^2 x_{45}^2}, \qquad (x_{12}^2 = x_{23}^2 = x_{34}^2 = x_{41}^2 = 0)$$

Dual variables $p_i = x_i - x_{i+1}$ with $p_i^2 = x_{i,i+1}^2 = 0$

- (Broken) dual conformal symmetry
- All-loop BDS ansatz / AdS prediction / Wilson loop duality
- Explicit expressions for loop *integrands* up to 7 loops
- Seemingly increasing complexity of diagrams at higher loops



[Bourjaily, DiRe, Shaikh, Spradlin, Volovich'12]

Amplitudes 2012, March 6th, 2012 - p. 3/20

Correlation functions

Protected superconformal operators made from six real scalars Φ^I

$$\mathcal{O}(x) = \operatorname{Tr}(ZZ), \qquad \tilde{\mathcal{O}}(x) = \operatorname{Tr}(\bar{Z}\bar{Z}), \qquad Z = \Phi^1 + i\Phi^2$$

- X All-loop scaling dimension = tree level dimension
- **X** Two- and three-point correlation functions do not receive quantum corrections
- Simplest correlation function

$$G_4 = \langle \mathcal{O}(x_1)\tilde{\mathcal{O}}(x_2)\mathcal{O}(x_3)\tilde{\mathcal{O}}(x_4) \rangle = G_4^{(0)} \left[1 + 2a x_{13}^2 x_{24}^2 g(1,2,3,4) + O(a^2) \right]$$

One-loop 'cross' integral

$$g(1,2,3,4) = \frac{1}{4\pi^2} \int \frac{d^4 x_5}{x_{15}^2 x_{25}^2 x_{35}^2 x_{45}^2}, \qquad (x_{12}^2, x_{23}^2, x_{34}^2, x_{41}^2 \neq 0)$$

- ✓ Loop corrections to the amplitude and to the correlator involve *the same* integral g(1, 2, 3, 4) but for *different* kinematics: on-shell $x_{i,i+1}^2 = 0$ for A_4 and off-shell $x_{i,i+1}^2 \neq 0$ for G_4
- Amplitude/correlation function duality

$$\lim_{x_{i,i+1}^2 \to 0} \ln \left(G_4 / G_4^{(0)} \right) = \ln \left(A_4 / A_4^{(\text{tree})} \right)$$

Understood at the level of integrands in planar $\mathcal{N}=4$ SYM

A hidden symmetry

Examine one-loop correction to the correlator

2

4

The corresponding integrand

$$[G_4^{(1)}]_{\rm Integrand} \sim \frac{1}{x_{15}^2 x_{25}^2 x_{35}^2 x_{45}^2}$$

The r.h.s. has S_4 permutation symmetry w.r.t. exchange of the external points 1, 2, 3, 4Equivalent form of writing

$$[G_{4}^{(1)}]_{\text{Integrand}} \sim x_{12}^2 x_{13}^2 x_{14}^2 x_{23}^2 x_{24}^2 x_{34}^2 \times \left[\prod_{i < j} \frac{1}{x_{ij}^2}\right]$$
$$= x_{12}^2 x_{13}^2 x_{14}^2 x_{23}^2 x_{24}^2 x_{34}^2 \times \left[\sqrt[2]{4}\right]^3 x_{14}^4 x_{24}^2 x_{24}^2 x_{34}^2 \times \left[\sqrt[2]{4}\right]^3 x_{14}^4 x_{24}^2 x_{24}^2 x_{24}^2 x_{34}^2 \times \left[\sqrt[2]{4}\right]^3 x_{14}^4 x_{24}^2 x_{24}^2$$

The second factor in the r.h.s. has the complete S_5 permutation symmetry!

Two loops

Explicit two-loop calculation:

[Eden,Schubert,Sokatchev'00],[Bianchi,Kovacs,Rossi,Stanev'00]

$$G^{(2)} = h(1,2;3,4) + h(3,4;1,2) + h(2,3;1,4) + h(1,4;2,3) + h(1,3;2,4) + h(2,4;1,3) + \frac{1}{2} \left(x_{12}^2 x_{34}^2 + x_{13}^2 x_{24}^2 + x_{14}^2 x_{23}^2 \right) [g(1,2,3,4)]^2$$

h(1,2;3,4)- 'double' scalar box integral

Go to a common denominator

$$G_4^{(2)} = x_{12}^2 x_{13}^2 x_{14}^2 x_{23}^2 x_{24}^2 x_{34}^2 \int d^4 x_5 d^4 x_6 f^{(2)}(x_1, \dots, x_6)$$

✓ 7 integrals in $G_4^{(2)}$ are described by a single *f*-function

$$f^{(2)}(x_1, \dots, x_6) = \frac{1}{48} \sum_{\sigma \in S_6} \frac{x_{\sigma_1 \sigma_2}^2 x_{\sigma_3 \sigma_4}^2 x_{\sigma_5 \sigma_6}^2}{\prod_{1 \le i < j \le 6} x_{ij}^2} = \int_{\sigma_3}^{\sigma_2} \int_{\sigma_1}^{\sigma_4} \int_{\sigma_6}^{\sigma_4} \int_{\sigma_6}^{\sigma_6} \int_{\sigma_6}$$

Has the complete S_6 permutation symmetry !

Integrand of the correlator has the complete permutation symmetry exchanging the external and integration points (no need for the planar limit !) ... Where does it come from?

$\mathcal{N} = 4$ stress-tensor supermultiplet

$$G_4 = \langle \mathcal{O}(x_1, y_1) \dots \mathcal{O}(x_4, y_4) \rangle = \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} a^l G_4^{(\ell)}(1, 2, 3, 4)$$

Half-BPS operators made of the six scalars (complex null vector, $y^2 \equiv y_I y_I = 0$)

$$\mathcal{O}(x,y) = y_I \, y_J \, \mathcal{O}_{\mathbf{20}'}^{IJ}(x) = y_I \, y_J \, \operatorname{tr} \left[\Phi^I \Phi^J(x) \right]$$

The lowest-weight state of the $\mathcal{N} = 4$ stress-tensor (chiral) supermultiplet

$$\mathcal{T}(x,\rho,y) = \exp\left(\rho_{\alpha}^{a} Q_{a}^{\alpha}\right) \mathcal{O}(x,y) = \mathcal{O}(x,y) + \ldots + (\rho)^{4} \mathcal{L}_{\mathcal{N}=4}(x)$$

The on-shell action of the $\mathcal{N} = 4$ theory

$$S_{\mathcal{N}=4} = \int d^4x \int d^4\rho \, \mathcal{T}(x,\rho,y)$$

Compute loop corrections using the method of Lagrangian insertions:

$$a\frac{\partial}{\partial a}G_4 = a\frac{\partial}{\partial a}\int D\Phi \,\mathrm{e}^{-\frac{1}{a}S_{\mathcal{N}=4}[\Phi]}\,\mathcal{O}(x_1, y_1)\dots\mathcal{O}(x_4, y_4)$$
$$= \int d^4x_5\,\langle \mathcal{O}(x_1, y_1)\dots\mathcal{O}(x_4, y_4)\mathcal{L}_{\mathcal{N}=4}(x_5)\rangle$$

The loop correction is determined by integrated 5-point correlation function with insertions of the $\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM action

Method of Lagrangian insertions

The ℓ -loop correction – (integrated) tree-level correlation function with ℓ insertions of $\mathcal{L}_{\mathcal{N}=4}$

$$G_4^{(\ell)}(1,2,3,4) = \int d^4 x_5 \dots \int d^4 x_{4+\ell} \left\langle \mathcal{O}(x_1,y_1) \dots \mathcal{O}(x_4,y_4) \mathcal{L}(x_5) \dots \mathcal{L}(x_{4+\ell}) \right\rangle^{(0)}$$

The operators $\mathcal{O}(x, y)$ and $\mathcal{L}(x)$ into the same supermultiplet!

$$G_4^{(\ell)}(1,2,3,4) = \int d^4 x_5 \dots d^4 x_{4+\ell} \left(\int d^4 \rho_5 \dots d^4 \rho_{4+\ell} \left\langle \mathcal{T}(1) \dots \mathcal{T}(1) \mathcal{T}(5) \dots \mathcal{T}(4+\ell) \right\rangle^{(0)} \right)$$

The integrand of the loop corrections to the four-point correlation function

$$\left[G_4^{(\ell)}(1,2,3,4)\right]_{\text{Integrand}} = \int d^4 \rho_5 \dots d^4 \rho_{4+\ell} \, \langle \mathcal{T}(1) \dots \mathcal{T}(1) \mathcal{T}(5) \dots \mathcal{T}(4+\ell) \rangle^{(0)}$$

The correlation function $\langle \mathcal{T}(1)...\mathcal{T}(1)\mathcal{T}(5)...\mathcal{T}(4+\ell)\rangle$ is symmetric under exchange of points:

- ✓ Integrand reveals a new permutation $S_{4+\ell}$ symmetry involving all the $(4 + \ell)$ points
- The OPE leads to powerful restrictions on the form of the integrand of the correlation function
- This information is sufficient to unambiguously fix the form of the integrand to all loops

All-loop integrand

Loop corrections to 4-point correlator

$$G_4^{(\ell)}(1,2,3,4) = x_{12}^2 x_{13}^2 x_{14}^2 x_{23}^2 x_{24}^2 x_{34}^2 \int d^4 x_5 \dots d^4 x_{4+\ell} f^{(\ell)}(x_1,\dots,x_{4+\ell})$$

✓ General form of $f^{(\ell)}$ for arbitrary ℓ :

$$f^{(\ell)}(x_1 \dots, x_{4+\ell}) = \frac{P^{(\ell)}(x_1, \dots, x_{4+\ell})}{\prod_{1 \le i < j \le 4+\ell} x_{ij}^2}$$

Can be deduced from the OPE analysis of the tree-level correlator

✓ The polynomial $P^{(\ell)}$ should satisfy the conditions:

× be invariant under $S_{4+\ell}$ permutations of $x_1, ..., x_{4+\ell}$

× have a uniform conformal weight $(1 - \ell)$ at each point, both external and internal

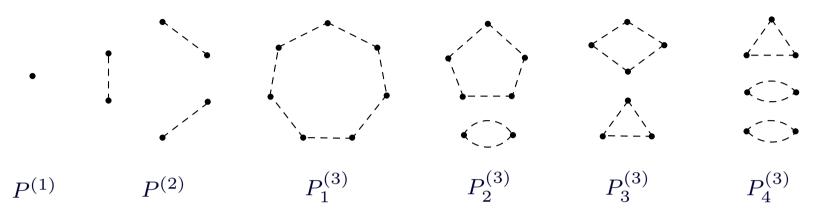
$$P^{(\ell)}(x_i^{-1}) = \prod_{i=1}^{4+\ell} (x_i^2)^{-\ell+1} P^{(\ell)}(x_i)$$

Graph theory solution:

 $P^{(\ell)} \mapsto$ Multi-graph with $(4 + \ell)$ vertices of degree $(\ell - 1)$

Properties of the *P***-graphs**

 $P^{(\ell)}$ = loop-less multigraph with $(4 + \ell)$ vertices $(\ell - 1)$ edges attached to each vertex



Can be easily generated at each loop level ℓ using standard graph-theoretical tools The number of isomorphism classes (n_{ℓ}) of the *P*-graphs up to six loops

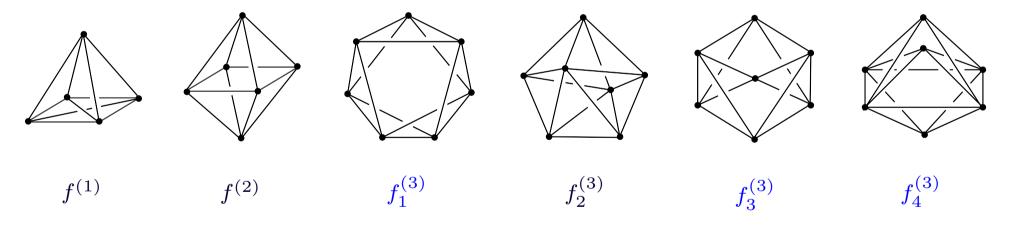
l	1	2	3	4	5	6
n_ℓ	1	1	4	32	930	189341
$n_\ell^{ m planar}$	1	1	1	3	7	36
$n_\ell^{ m rung-rule}$	-	1	1	2	6	23
$n_{\ell}^{ m non-rung-rule}$	-	0	0	1	1	13

The vast majority of graphs produce non-planar corrections Planar topologies $(n_{\ell}^{\text{planar}})$ have an interesting iterative structure, the "rung rule" The majority of the planar graphs $(n_{\ell}^{\text{rung-rule}})$ can be obtained from lower loops Only a smal number of non-rung-rule planar graphs $(n_{\ell}^{\text{non-rung-rule}})$ require a different approach. The general form of the integrand

$$f^{(\ell)}(x) = \sum_{\alpha=1}^{n_{\ell}} c_{\alpha}^{(\ell)} \frac{P_{\alpha}^{(\ell)}(x_1, \dots, x_{4+\ell})}{\prod_{1 \le i < j \le 4+\ell} x_{ij}^2} = \sum_{\alpha=1}^{n_{\ell}} c_{\alpha}^{(\ell)} f_{\alpha}^{(\ell)}(x_1, \dots, x_{4+\ell})$$

 $c_{\alpha}^{(\ell)}$ -arbitrary (rational) coefficients

 $f_{\alpha}^{(\ell)} \mapsto \text{ connected graph with } (4+\ell) \text{ vertices of degree} \geq 4$



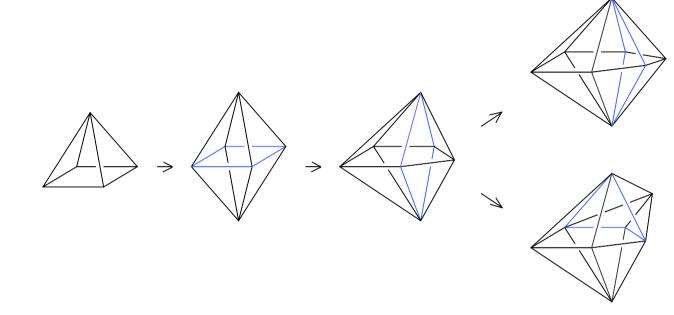
Large N_c scaling of the coefficients $c_{\alpha}^{(\ell)}$ is determined by the genus of f-graphs

$$c[f_2^{(3)}] = O(1/N_c^0), \qquad c[f_1^{(3)}], c[f_3^{(3)}], c[f_4^{(3)}] = O(1/N_c^2)$$

Planar f-graphs have an iterative structure

Rung rule

 $f^{(\ell)} =$ Glue $f^{(1)}$ (a square pyramid) to any planar $f^{(\ell-1)}$ – loop graph across rectangle face



From amplitude/correlation function duality, in the light-cone limit

$$\lim_{x_{i,i+1}^2 \to 0} \left(1 + 2\sum_{\ell \ge 1} a^{\ell} F^{(\ell)}(x_i) \right) = \left(1 + \sum_{\ell \ge 1} a^{\ell} \mathcal{M}^{(\ell)}(p_i) \right)^2$$

this is *precisely* the "rung rule" for the planar four-particle amplitude $\mathcal{M}^{(\ell)}$

The rule also fixes the coefficients of the new "rung-rule" topologies

Starting from 4 loops there are non-rung-rule topologies

OPE constraints

✓ Correlation function in the like-cone limit $x_{12}^2, x_{23}^2, x_{34}^2, x_{41}^2 \rightarrow 0$

$$\ln G_4(1,2,3,4) \sim \Gamma_{\rm cusp}(a) \ln u \ln v + O(a \ln u, a \ln v), \qquad u, v \to 0$$

Conformal cross-ratios
$$u = \frac{x_{12}^2 x_{34}^2}{x_{13}^2 x_{24}^2}$$
, $v = \frac{x_{23}^2 x_{41}^2}{x_{13}^2 x_{24}^2}$

Examine two-loop integrand

$$\ln G_4 \sim a \, G_4^{(1)} + a^2 \left[G_4^{(2)} - \frac{1}{2} (G_4^{(1)})^2 \right]$$
$$= a \frac{x_{13}^2 x_{24}^2}{x_{15}^2 x_{25}^2 x_{35}^2 x_{45}^2} + a^2 \frac{x_{13}^2 x_{24}^2 [x_{13}^2 (x_{25}^2 x_{46}^2 + x_{45}^2 x_{26}^2) + x_{24}^2 (x_{36}^2 x_{15}^2 + x_{16}^2 x_{35}^2) - x_{13}^2 x_{24}^2 x_{56}^2]}{2x_{15}^2 x_{25}^2 x_{35}^2 x_{45}^2}$$

Divergences come from integration over x_5 and x_6 approaching the light-like edges, e.g. $x_5 \rightarrow x_1 - \alpha x_{12}$

$$x_{5i}^2 \to \alpha x_{1i}^2 + (1-\alpha) x_{2i}^2$$
, $0 \le \alpha \le 1$

- ✓ For the integral to have at most double-log asymptotics $\sim \ln u \ln v$ the polynomial in the numerator should vanish in this limit
- ✓ This condition alone fixes all the coefficients $c_i^{(\ell)}$. Checked to 2-, 3-, 4-, 5- and 6-loops. Permutation symmetry + OPE constraints allow us to construct the integrand of G_4 up to 6 loops!

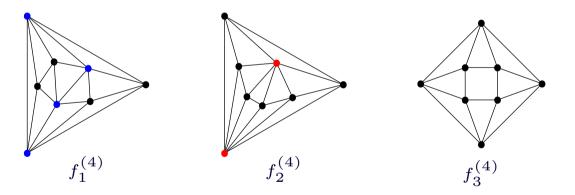
4 loops

$$F^{(4)}(x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4) = \frac{x_{12}^2 x_{13}^2 x_{14}^2 x_{23}^2 x_{24}^2 x_{34}^2}{4! (-4\pi^2)^4} \int d^4 x_5 d^4 x_6 d^4 x_7 d^4 x_8 f^{(4)}(x_1, \dots, x_8),$$

There are in total 32 f-graphs: 3 planar and 29 of genus 1

$$f^{(4)} = \sum_{\alpha=1}^{32} c_{\alpha}^{(4)} f_{\alpha}^{(4)}(x_1, \dots, x_8) = f_{g=0}^{(4)}(x_i) + \frac{1}{N_c^2} f_{g=1}^{(4)}(x_i) \,.$$

Planar four-loop f-graphs



The only non-rung-rule graph $f_3^{(4)}$

Correct asymptotics of the planar correlator in the light-cone limit

$$c_1^{(4)} = c_2^{(4)} = 1, \qquad c_3^{(4)} = -1$$

4 loops, nonplanar sector

$$\ln G_4 = \ln \left(G_{g=0} + \frac{1}{N_c^2} G_{g=1} + \dots \right) = \ln G_{g=0} + \frac{1}{N_c^2} \frac{G_{g=1}}{G_{g=0}} + \dots$$

Nonplanar correction starts at 4 loops

$$G_{
m g=1} \sim a^4 F_{
m g=1}^{(4)}(x_i) =$$
 sum of all 32 $f-$ graphs

A new feature: 3 conformal Gram determinants

$$\sum_{i=1}^{32} (a_k)_i f_i^{(4)}(x_1, \dots, x_8) = 0, \qquad a_{1,2,3} - \text{lists of 32 coefficients}$$

Correct asymptotics on the light cone leads to

$$F_{g=1}^{(4)}(x_i) = c_1^{(4)}Q_1(x_i) + c_2^{(4)}Q_2(x_i) + c_3^{(4)}Q_3(x_i) + c_4^{(4)}Q_4(x_i),$$

 Q_k – 'special' linear combinations of 32 integrals; $c_k^{(4)}$ are arbitrary rational coefficients Remarkable simplification in the short-distance limit $x_1 \to x_2$ and $x_3 \to x_4$

$$\lim_{\substack{x_1 \to x_2 \\ x_3 \to x_4}} Q_{1,2,3,4} = \int \frac{d^4 x_5 \dots d^4 x_8 x_{13}^8}{(x_{15}^2 x_{35}^2) \dots (x_{18}^2 x_{38}^2)} \frac{\left(x_{56}^2 x_{78}^2 + x_{57}^2 x_{68}^2 + x_{58}^2 x_{67}^2\right)}{x_{56}^2 x_{57}^2 x_{58}^2 x_{67}^2 x_{68}^2 x_{78}^2}$$

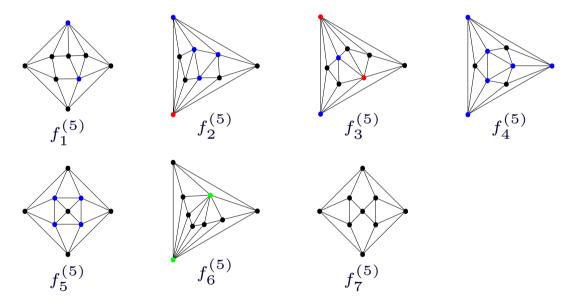
Can be evaluated analytically (see Volodya's talk)

Amplitudes 2012, March 6th, 2012 - p. 15/20

5 loops

$$F^{(5)}(x_i) = F^{(5)}_{g=0} + \frac{1}{N_c^2} F^{(5)}_{g=1} + \frac{1}{N_c^4} F^{(5)}_{g=2},$$

Among 930 five-loop f-graphs only 7 are planar



 $f_7^{(5)}$ is the only non-rung-rule five-loop graph

Asymptotic behavior of the correlation in the light-cone limit leads to

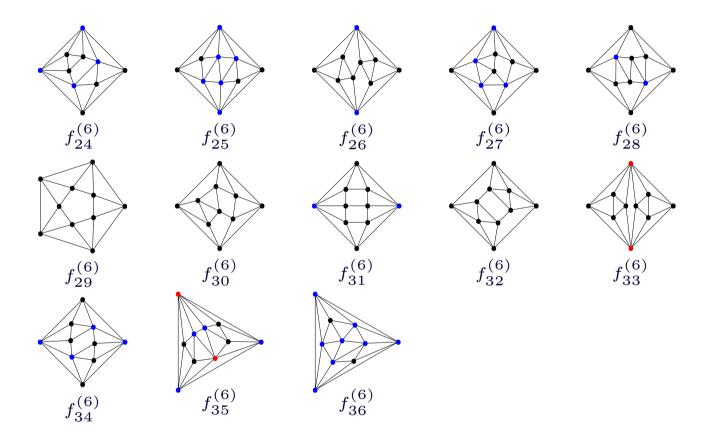
$$-c_1^{(5)} = c_2^{(5)} = c_3^{(5)} = c_4^{(5)} = -c_5^{(5)} = c_6^{(5)} = c_7^{(5)} = 1$$

The first six coefficients are in agreement with the rung rule $c_i^{(5)} = c_i^{(4)}$

6 loops

At six loops there are 189341 different f-graphs, but only 36 are planar

23 planar graphs are rung-rule induced, the remaining 13 non-rung-rule graphs are



In fact, only $f_{28}^{(6)}$, $f_{29}^{(6)}$ and $f_{31}^{(6)}$ contribute

$$c_{28}^{(6)} = c_{31}^{(6)} = 1, \quad c_{29}^{(6)} = 2, \quad c_{24}^{(6)} = c_{25}^{(6)} = c_{26}^{(6)} = c_{27}^{(6)} = c_{30}^{(6)} = c_{32}^{(6)} = c_{34}^{(6)} = c_{35}^{(6)} = c_{36}^{(6)} = 0$$

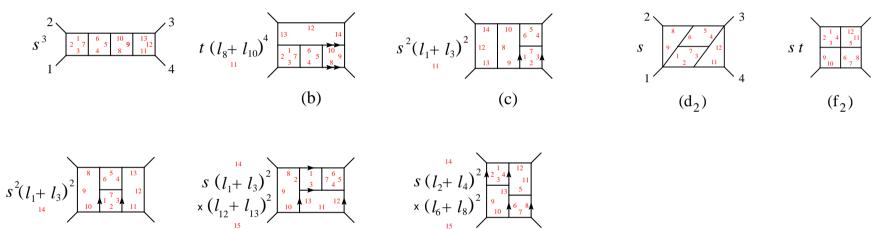
Back to the amplitudes: 4-loop 4-gluons

Amplitude/correlator duality

(d)

$$M_4^{(4)} = \lim_{x_{i,i+1}^2 \to 0} \left[\frac{1}{2} G_4^{(4)} - \frac{1}{4} G_4^{(3)} G_4^{(1)} - \frac{1}{8} (G_4^{(2)})^2 + \frac{3}{16} G_4^{(2)} (G_4^{(1)})^2 - \frac{5}{128} (G_4^{(1)})^4 \right]$$

All pseudo-conformal integrals that contribute to four-loop four-point amplitude



Perfect agreement with the known 4-loop result

[Bern,Czakon,Dixon,Kosower,Smirnov'06]

$$M_{4}^{(4)} = \mathcal{I}^{(a)}(s,t) + \mathcal{I}^{(a)}(t,s) + 2\mathcal{I}^{(b)}(s,t) + 2\mathcal{I}^{(b)}(t,s) + 2\mathcal{I}^{(c)}(s,t) + 2\mathcal{I}^{(c)}(t,s) + \mathcal{I}_{4}^{(d)}(s,t) + \mathcal{I}_{4}^{(d)}(s,t) + \mathcal{I}^{(d)}(t,s) + 4\mathcal{I}^{(e)}(s,t) + 4\mathcal{I}^{(e)}(t,s) + 2\mathcal{I}^{(f)}(s,t) + 2\mathcal{I}^{(f)}(t,s) - 2\mathcal{I}^{(d_{2})}(s,t) - 2\mathcal{I}^{(d_{2})}(t,s) - \mathcal{I}^{(f_{2})}(s,t) + \mathcal{I}^{(f_{2})}(s,t$$

(f)

All 15 relative signs/coefficients follow from $c_1^{(4)} = c_2^{(4)} = -c_3^{(4)} = 1$!

(e)

Agreement between correlators and amplitudes verified up to 6 loops

Conclusions

- The all-loop integrand of 4-point correlator possesses a complete symmetry under the exchange of the four external and all internal (integration) points
- This symmetry alone + OPE constraints allow us to construct 6-loop integrand of the correlation function in the planar limit (without doing Feynman diagram calculation!)
- In the light-cone limit, the scattering amplitude/correlator duality predicts the integrand for 4-gluon amplitude
- In the short-distance limit, the OPE leads to analytical result for the Konishi anomalous dimension at 5 loops [Volodya's talk]



For more information, see http://www.ihes.fr/~vanhove/QFT2012/