DESY theory workshop: Lessons from the first phase of the LHC

Motivic multiple zeta values and superstring amplitudes

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based on: 1205.1516: OS, St. Stieberger

1106.2645, 1106.2646: C. Mafra, OS, St. Stieberger

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# Introduction: Superstring N point disk amplitude

Color stripped tree amplitude for scattering N massless open string states

$$\mathcal{A}(1,2,\ldots,N;\alpha') = \sum_{\pi \in S_{N-3}} \mathcal{A}^{\mathrm{YM}}(1,2_{\pi},\ldots,(N-2)_{\pi},N-1,N) F^{\pi}(\alpha')$$

[Mafra, OS, Stieberger 1106.2645, 1106.2646]

• decomposes into (N-3)! field theory subamplitudes  $\mathcal{A}_{\pi \in S_{N-3}}^{\text{YM}}$ 

• string effects ( $\alpha'$  dependence) from generalized Euler integrals  $F^{\pi}(\alpha')$ 

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- decomposes into (N-3)! field theory subamplitudes  $\mathcal{A}_{\pi \in S_{N-3}}^{\text{YM}}$
- string effects ( $\alpha'$  dependence) from generalized Euler integrals  $F^{\pi}(\alpha')$
- consistent with field theory limit:  $F^{\pi}(\alpha' \to 0) = \delta^{\pi}_{(2,3,...,N-2)}$

• valid for states of  $\mathcal{N} = 1$  SYM in D = 10 (or  $\mathcal{N} = 4$  SYM in D = 4)

• remain valid for the gluon's SUSY multiplet for  $\mathcal{N} < 4$  compactification

Euler integrals  $F^{\pi}$  only depend on dimensionless Mandelstam variables:

$$s_{ij} = \alpha' (k_i + k_j)^2$$

In a disk boundary parametrization  $z \in \mathbb{R}$  with  $(z_1, z_{N-1}, z_N) = (0, 1, \infty)$ :

$$F^{\pi}(\alpha') = \prod_{\substack{k=2\\N-3 \text{ integrations}}}^{N-2} \int_{z_i < z_{i+1}} \mathrm{d}z_k \prod_{\substack{i < j\\ result \text{ of CFT correlation function}}}^{N-2} \prod_{\substack{k=2\\m=1}}^{N-2} \sum_{m=1}^{k-1} \frac{s_{\pi(m)\pi(k)}}{z_{\pi(m)\pi(k)}},$$
  
Taylor expansion of  $F^{\pi}$  in  $s_{ij} \longrightarrow \alpha'$  expansion of stringy physics

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 $\forall \text{ color ordering } \Sigma \in S_N \exists \text{ separate set of functions } \{F_{\Sigma}^{\pi}, \ \pi \in S_{N-3}\}:$  $\mathcal{A}\big(\Sigma(1,2,\ldots,N);\alpha'\big) \iff F_{\Sigma}^{\pi}(\alpha') = \prod_{k=2}^{N-2} \int_{z_{\Sigma(i)} < z_{\Sigma(i+1)}} \mathrm{d} z_k \ldots$ 

 $\Sigma$  dependent integration range

Any subamplitude  $\mathcal{A}(\Sigma(1, 2, ..., N); \alpha')$  with  $\Sigma \in S_N$  can be expanded in

the basis 
$$\left\{ \mathcal{A}_{\sigma}(\alpha') \equiv \mathcal{A}(1, \sigma(2, 3, \dots N - 2), N - 1, N; \alpha'), \sigma \in S_{N-3} \right\}$$

[Bjerrum-Bohr, Damgaard, Vanhove 0907.1425; Stieberger 0907.2211]

 $\implies$  sufficient to compute  $\mathcal{A}_{\sigma}(\alpha')$  with  $\sigma \in S_{N-3}$ :

$$\mathcal{A}_{\boldsymbol{\sigma}}(\boldsymbol{\alpha}') = \sum_{\boldsymbol{\pi} \in S_{N-3}} F_{\boldsymbol{\sigma}}^{\boldsymbol{\pi}}(\boldsymbol{\alpha}') \mathcal{A}_{\boldsymbol{\pi}}^{\mathrm{YM}}$$

 $\alpha'$  dependent  $(N-3)! \times (N-3)!$  matrix  $F_{\sigma}^{\pi}(\alpha')$  acting on the

(N-3)! cpt. vector  $\mathcal{A}_{\pi}^{\mathrm{YM}} \equiv \mathcal{A}^{\mathrm{YM}}(1, \pi(2, 3, \dots, N-2), N-1, N)$ 

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Aim of the talk: Investigate the structure of the matrix  $F_{\sigma}^{\pi}(\alpha')$ 

... and the appearance of multiple zeta values  $\zeta_{n_1,n_2,\ldots,n_r}$  therein.

#### <u>Outline</u>

I. Multiple zeta values and their  $\mathbb{Q}$  relations

II. First look at disk amplitude: matrix multiplications

III. Motivic multiple zeta values

IV. Second look at disk amplitude: motivic structure

V. Main result

# I. Multiple zeta values and their ${\mathbb Q}$ relations

 $\alpha'$  expansion of string amplitudes give rise to multiple zeta values (MZV's)

$$\zeta_{n_1,\dots,n_r} := \sum_{0 < k_1 < \dots < k_r} \frac{1}{k_1^{n_1} k_2^{n_2} \dots k_r^{n_r}}, \quad n_i \in \mathbb{N}, \ n_r \ge 2$$

of various weights (transcendentality degree)  $w = \sum_{i=1}^{r} n_i$  and depth r.

MZV relations over  $\mathbb{Q}$  leave the following conjectural weight w bases  $\mathcal{Z}_w$ :

w	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
$\mathcal{Z}_w$	1	Ø	$\zeta_2$	$\zeta_3$	$\zeta_4$	$\zeta_5$	$\zeta_6$	$\zeta_7,  \zeta_2 \zeta_5$	$\zeta_8,\zeta_3\zeta_5$	$\zeta_9,\zeta_3^3,\zeta_2\zeta_7$	$\zeta_{10},\zeta_5^2,\zeta_{3,7},\zeta_7\zeta_3$
						$\zeta_3\zeta_2$	$\zeta_3^2$	$\zeta_4\zeta_3$	$\zeta_{3,5},\ \zeta_2\zeta_3^2$	$\zeta_4\zeta_5,\ \zeta_6\zeta_3$	$\zeta_4\zeta_3^2,\zeta_2\zeta_{3,5},\zeta_2\zeta_3\zeta_5$
$d_w$	1	0	1	1	1	2	2	3	4	5	7

where  $d_w := \dim_{\mathbb{Q}} \mathbb{Z}_w = d_{w-2} + d_{w-3}$  with  $d_0 = 1$  and  $d_1 = 0$ .

[Zagier]

w	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
$\mathcal{Z}_w$	1	Ø	$\zeta_2$	$\zeta_3$	$\zeta_4$	$\zeta_5$	$\zeta_6$	$\zeta_7,  \zeta_2 \zeta_5$	$\zeta_8,\zeta_3\zeta_5$	$\zeta_9,\zeta_3^3,\zeta_2\zeta_7$	$\zeta_{10},\zeta_5^2,\zeta_{3,7},\zeta_7\zeta_3$
						$\zeta_3\zeta_2$	$\zeta_3^2$	$\zeta_4\zeta_3$	$\zeta_{3,5}, \zeta_2\zeta_3^2$	$\zeta_4\zeta_5,\ \zeta_6\zeta_3$	$\zeta_4\zeta_3^2,\zeta_2\zeta_{3,5},\zeta_2\zeta_3\zeta_5$
$d_w$	1	0	1	1	1	2	2	3	4	5	7

Unlike odd single zeta values  $\zeta_{2n+1}$ , even single  $\zeta_{2n}$  are related over  $\mathbb{Q}$ ,

$$\zeta_2 = \frac{\pi^2}{6}, \qquad \zeta_{2n} = \frac{(-1)^{n+1}}{2(2n)!} B_{2n} (2\pi)^{2n} \in \mathbb{Q} \cdot \pi^{2n}$$

w	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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						$\zeta_3\zeta_2$	$\zeta_3^2$	$\zeta_4\zeta_3$	$\underline{\zeta_{3,5}},\zeta_2\zeta_3^2$	$\zeta_4\zeta_5,\ \zeta_6\zeta_3$	$\zeta_4\zeta_3^2,\zeta_2\underline{\zeta_{3,5}},\zeta_2\zeta_3\zeta_5$
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MZVs of different depth related by shuffle & stuffle relations such as:

 $\zeta_m \zeta_n = \zeta_{m,n} + \zeta_{n,m} + \zeta_{m+n}$  $\zeta_{3,5} = -\frac{5}{2}\zeta_{2,6} - \frac{21}{25}\zeta_2^4 + 5\zeta_3\zeta_5$ 

MZVs of depth > 1 become inevitable starting from weight w = 8:

#### II. First look at disk amplitude: matrix multiplications

Observe a matrix-multiplicative structure in the  $\alpha'$  expansion of  $F(\alpha')$ 

$$\mathcal{A}(\alpha')\Big|_{N=5} = \left(1 + \zeta_2 P_2 + \zeta_3 M_3 + \zeta_4 P_4 + \zeta_5 M_5 + \underline{\zeta_2 P_2 \zeta_3 M_3}\right)$$

 $+ \zeta_{6} P_{6} + \frac{1}{2} \zeta_{3}^{2} M_{3}^{2} + \zeta_{7} M_{7} + \frac{\zeta_{2} P_{2} \zeta_{5} M_{5}}{\zeta_{2} P_{2} \zeta_{5} M_{5}} + \frac{\zeta_{4} P_{4} \zeta_{3} M_{3}}{\zeta_{4} P_{4} \zeta_{3} M_{3}} + \mathcal{O}(\alpha'^{8}) A^{YM}$ 

where entries of  $P_w, M_w$  are degree w polynomials in  $\alpha'$  or  $s_{ij}$ , e.g.

$$P_2 = \begin{pmatrix} s_{12}s_{34} - s_{34}s_{45} - s_{51}s_{12} & s_{13}s_{24} \\ s_{12}s_{34} & s_{13}s_{24} - s_{24}s_{45} - s_{51}s_{13} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$M_{3} = \begin{pmatrix} m_{11} & m_{12} \\ m_{21} & m_{22} \end{pmatrix}, \qquad m_{11} = s_{34}s_{45}(s_{34} + s_{45}) + s_{51}s_{12}(s_{51} + s_{12}) \\ - s_{12}s_{34}(s_{12} + s_{34}) - 2s_{12}s_{23}s_{34} \\ m_{12} = s_{13}s_{24}(s_{12} + s_{23} + s_{34} + s_{45} + s_{51}) \\ m_{21} = m_{12} \Big|_{2 \leftrightarrow 3}, \qquad m_{22} = m_{11} \Big|_{2 \leftrightarrow 3}$$

Promising pattern up to weight  $w \leq 7 \dots$ 

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{A}(\alpha') \Big|_{N=5} &= \left( 1 + \zeta_2 P_2 + \zeta_3 M_3 + \zeta_4 P_4 + \zeta_5 M_5 + \zeta_2 P_2 \zeta_3 M_3 \right. \\ &+ \left. \zeta_6 P_6 + \frac{1}{2} \zeta_3^2 M_3^2 + \zeta_7 M_7 + \zeta_2 P_2 \zeta_5 M_5 + \zeta_4 P_4 \zeta_3 M_3 + \mathcal{O}(\alpha'^8) \right) A^{\text{YM}} \end{aligned}$$

... in contrast to higher weights with depth  $\geq 2$  MZVs. E.g. at w = 11:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{A} \Big|_{\substack{w=11\\N=5}} &= \left( \zeta_{11} M_{11} + \frac{1}{5} \zeta_{3,3,5} \left[ M_3, \left[ M_5, M_3 \right] \right] + \frac{1}{5} \zeta_{3,5} \zeta_3 \left[ M_5, M_3 \right] M_3 + \zeta_3 \zeta_2^4 P_8 M_3 \right. \\ &+ \frac{1}{2} \zeta_3^2 \zeta_5 M_5 M_3^2 + \frac{1}{6} \zeta_3^3 \zeta_2 P_2 M_3^3 + \zeta_9 \zeta_2 \left( P_2 M_9 + 9 \left[ M_3, \left[ M_5, M_3 \right] \right] \right) \right. \\ &+ \left. \zeta_7 \zeta_2^2 \left( P_4 M_7 + \frac{6}{25} \left[ M_3, \left[ M_5, M_3 \right] \right] \right) + \left. \zeta_5 \zeta_2^3 \left( P_6 M_5 - \frac{4}{35} \left[ M_3, \left[ M_5, M_3 \right] \right] \right) \right) A^{\text{YM}} \end{aligned}$$

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• ugly coefficients  $\frac{1}{5}$ , 9,  $\frac{6}{25}$ ,  $\frac{4}{35} \in \mathbb{Q}$  along with MZV's &  $M_i$  commutators

• preferred depth  $r \geq 2$  element in the MZV bases  $\mathcal{Z}_{w\geq 8}$  unclear, e.g.

$$\zeta_{3,5} = \zeta_3 \zeta_5 - \zeta_8 - \zeta_{5,3} = -\frac{5}{2} \zeta_{2,6} - \frac{21}{25} \zeta_2^4 + 5 \zeta_3 \zeta_5$$

# III. Motivic MZVs

Lift the true MZVs  $\in \mathbb{R}$  to motivic MZVs  $\zeta_{n_1,...,n_r}^{\mathfrak{m}}$  which are defined purely

algebraically, form a Hopf algebra and satisfy relations of  $\zeta_{n_1,...,n_r} \in \mathbb{R}$ :

• eliminate the ambiguity of MZV basis choice

 $\bullet$  automatically build in  $\mathbb{Q}$  relations among MZVs

[Brown 1102.1310]

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- $\bullet$  automatically build in  $\mathbb Q$  relations among MZVs

[Brown 1102.1310]

Can map them to another Hopf algebra with more transparent basis:

$$\mathcal{U} = \underbrace{\mathbb{Q}\langle f_3, f_5, f_7, \ldots \rangle}_{\text{Hopf algebra on cogenerators } f_{odd}} \otimes \underbrace{\mathbb{Q}[f_2]}_{\text{commutes with } f_{odd}}$$

$$= \operatorname{span}\{ (\text{non-commutative polynomials in } f_{odd}) \otimes f_2^k, k \in \mathbb{N}_0 \}$$

$$\implies \text{reproduces recursion } d_w = d_{w-2} + d_{w-3} \text{ for conjectural } \dim_{\mathbb{Q}} \mathbb{Z}_w$$

Need isomorphism  $\phi : \{\zeta_{n_1,\dots,n_r}^{\mathfrak{m}}\} \to \mathcal{U}$  preserving Hopf algebra structures.

- on single zetas: pick normalization  $\phi(\zeta_n^{\mathfrak{m}}) = f_n$  where  $f_{2k} = \frac{\zeta_{2k}}{(\zeta_2)^k} (f_2)^k$
- on depth  $\geq 2$  MZVs: determined by the coproduct, see [Brown 1102.1310]
- on products:  $\phi(\zeta_{n_1,\dots,n_r}^{\mathfrak{m}} \cdot \zeta_{p_1,\dots,p_s}^{\mathfrak{m}}) = \phi(\zeta_{n_1,\dots,n_r}^{\mathfrak{m}}) \sqcup \phi(\zeta_{p_1,\dots,p_s}^{\mathfrak{m}})$  where

$$f_2^p f_{i_1} \dots f_{i_r} \sqcup f_2^q f_{i_{r+1}} \dots f_{i_s} = f_2^{p+q} \sum_{\sigma \in \Sigma(r,s)} f_{i_{\sigma(1)}} \dots f_{i_{\sigma(r+s)}}, \qquad i_j \in 2\mathbb{N} + 1$$

shuffle product  $\sqcup$  preserves relative order in  $\{f_{i_1} \dots f_{i_r}\}$  and  $\{f_{i_{r+1}} \dots f_{i_s}\}$ .

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Examples at weights w = 8 and w = 11:

$$\phi(\zeta_{3,5}^{\mathfrak{m}}) = -5f_5f_3, \qquad \phi(\zeta_3^{\mathfrak{m}}\zeta_5^{\mathfrak{m}}) = f_3f_5 + f_5f_3$$
$$\phi(\zeta_{3,3,5}^{\mathfrak{m}}) = -5f_5f_3^2 + \frac{4}{7}f_5f_2^3 - \frac{6}{5}f_7f_2^2 - 45f_9f_2$$
$$\phi(\zeta_{3,5}^{\mathfrak{m}}\zeta_3^{\mathfrak{m}}) = -5f_5f_3 \sqcup f_3 = -5f_3f_5f_3 - 10f_5f_3^2$$

#### IV. Second look at disk amplitude: motivic structure

To simplify weight w = 11, pass to motivic MZVs  $\zeta_{n_1,...n_r} \mapsto \zeta_{n_1,...n_r}^{\mathfrak{m}} \dots$  $\mathcal{A}^{\mathfrak{m}}\Big|_{\substack{w=11\\N=5}} = \left(\zeta_{11}^{\mathfrak{m}} M_{11} + \frac{1}{5}\zeta_{3,3,5}^{\mathfrak{m}} [M_3, [M_5, M_3]] + \frac{1}{5}\zeta_{3,5}^{\mathfrak{m}} \zeta_3^{\mathfrak{m}} [M_5, M_3]M_3 + \zeta_3^{\mathfrak{m}} (\zeta_2^{\mathfrak{m}})^4 P_8 M_3 + \frac{1}{2} (\zeta_3^{\mathfrak{m}})^2 \zeta_5^{\mathfrak{m}} M_5 M_3^2 + \frac{1}{6} (\zeta_3^{\mathfrak{m}})^3 \zeta_2^{\mathfrak{m}} P_2 M_3^3 + \zeta_9^{\mathfrak{m}} \zeta_2^{\mathfrak{m}} (P_2 M_9 + 9 [M_3, [M_5, M_3]]) + \zeta_7^{\mathfrak{m}} (\zeta_2^{\mathfrak{m}})^2 (P_4 M_7 + \frac{6}{25} [M_3, [M_5, M_3]]) + \zeta_5^{\mathfrak{m}} (\zeta_2^{\mathfrak{m}})^3 (P_6 M_5 - \frac{4}{35} [M_3, [M_5, M_3]]) \right) A^{\mathrm{YM}}$ 

... and apply isomorphism  $\phi : \{\zeta_{n_1,...,n_r}^{\mathfrak{m}}\} \to \mathcal{U}$ 

$$\phi(\mathcal{A}^{\mathfrak{m}})\Big|_{\substack{w=11\\N=5}} = \left(f_{11}M_{11} + f_3^2 f_5 M_5 M_3^2 + f_3 f_5 f_3 M_3 M_5 M_3 + f_5 f_3^2 M_3^2 M_5 + P_2 f_2 (f_9 M_9 + f_3^3 M_3^3) + P_4 f_2^2 f_7 M_7 + P_6 f_2^3 f_5 M_5 + P_8 f_2^4 f_3 M_3\right) A^{\mathrm{YM}}$$

• unit coefficients everywhere (instead of the  $\frac{1}{5}$ , 6,  $\frac{6}{25}$ ,  $\frac{4}{35}$  above)

• democratic treatment of  $(f_3, M_3)$  and  $(f_5, M_5)$ 

To summarize everything we know up to weight w = 11:

$$\begin{split} \phi(\mathcal{A}^{\mathfrak{m}}) \Big|_{N=5} &= \left(1 + f_2 P_2 + f_2^2 P_4 + f_2^3 P_6 + f_2^4 P_8 + f_2^5 P_{10}\right) \\ \times \left\{1 + f_3 M_3 + f_5 M_5 + f_3^2 M_3^2 + f_7 M_7 + f_3 f_5 M_5 M_3 + f_5 f_3 M_3 M_5 \right. \\ &+ f_9 M_9 + f_3^3 M_3^3 + f_5^2 M_5^2 + f_3 f_7 M_7 M_3 + f_7 f_3 M_3 M_7 + f_{11} M_{11} \\ &+ f_3^2 f_5 M_5 M_3^2 + f_3 f_5 f_3 M_3 M_5 M_3 + f_5 f_3^2 M_3^2 M_5 \left.\right\} A^{\mathrm{YM}} + \mathcal{O}(\alpha'^{12}) \end{split}$$

The  $f_2$  powers with matrices  $P_{2k}$  act by left multiplication on

all non-commutative words in  $\overrightarrow{f_{odd}} \overleftarrow{M_{odd}}$ .

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The  $f_2$  powers with matrices  $P_{2k}$  act by left multiplication on

all non-commutative words in  $\overrightarrow{f_{odd}} \overleftarrow{M_{odd}}$ . Tempting to generalize:

$$\phi(\mathcal{A}^{\mathfrak{m}}) = \left(\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} f_2^k P_{2k}\right) \left\{\sum_{\substack{p=0\\ i_1,\dots,i_p\\ \in 2\mathbb{N}+1}}^{\infty} \int_{i_1} f_{i_1} f_{i_2} \dots f_{i_p} M_{i_p} \dots M_{i_2} M_{i_1}\right\} A^{\mathrm{YM}}$$

Explicit checks done up to  $w \leq 16$  for N = 5 and  $w \leq 8$  for N = 6.

## V. Main result

 $\alpha'$  expansion of N-point disk amplitude:

[OS, Stieberger 1205.1516]

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- "even sector": commutative element  $f_2 = \phi(\zeta_2^{\mathfrak{m}})$  with matrices  $P_{2k}$
- "odd sector": democratic sum over all non-commutative polynomials

$$f_{i_1}f_{i_2}\dots f_{i_p}M_{i_p}\dots M_{i_2}M_{i_1} \equiv \overrightarrow{f_{odd}} \overleftarrow{M_{odd}}$$
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• at each weight w, only one matrix  $P_w, M_w \sim s_{ij}^w$  to determine

• form of  $\phi(\mathcal{A}^{\mathfrak{m}})$  independent on basis choice for  $\mathcal{Z}_w$ 

• The isomorphism  $\phi$  is invertible, so  $\phi(\mathcal{A}^{\mathfrak{m}})$  carries complete information

### **Concluding remarks**

- Complete superstring disk amplitudes follows via matrix-vector-product from (N-3)! YM subamplitudes:  $\mathcal{A}_{\sigma}(\alpha') = \sum_{\pi \in S_{N-3}} F_{\sigma}^{\pi}(\alpha') \mathcal{A}_{\pi}^{\text{YM}}$
- $\alpha'$  expansion of  $F(\alpha')$  involves MZVs of weight w at order  $\alpha'^w$ .
- The structure of  $F(\alpha')$  greatly simplifies when lifting  $\zeta_{n_1,...,n_r}$  to motivic version  $\zeta_{n_1,...,n_r}^{\mathfrak{m}}$  and making use of their Hopf algebra structure: Isomorphism  $\phi : \{\zeta_{n_1,...,n_r}^{\mathfrak{m}}\} \to \{\prod_j f_{i_j}\}$  allows for all-weight-formula.

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Thank you for your attention !

Since the  $\phi$  map is invertible,  $\phi(\mathcal{A}^{\mathfrak{m}})$  contains all information on  $\mathcal{A}^{\mathfrak{m}}$ , e.g.

The shown  $d_8 \times d_8$  and  $d_{11} \times d_{11}$  matrices are non-singular!

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The shown  $d_8 \times d_8$  and  $d_{11} \times d_{11}$  matrices are non-singular  $\forall X, Y$ 

However: Coproduct cannot detect  $f_w$  in  $\phi(\zeta_{n_1,...,n_r}^{\mathfrak{m}})$  with  $r \geq 2$  $\implies$  ambiguity in  $P_w$  or  $M_w \sim$  commutators of lower weight  $M_{odd}$ .