

Correlation functions in $N=4$ super-Yang-Mills theory

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Outline

- Four-point correlation function of half-BPS operators with **different** weights in $\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM in the **three-loop** approximation

$$\langle \mathcal{O}_{\text{BPS}}(x_1) \mathcal{O}_{\text{BPS}}(x_2) \mathcal{O}_{\text{BPS}}(x_3) \mathcal{O}_{\text{BPS}}(x_4) \rangle$$

- 1 loop: $\mathcal{N} = 1$ Feynman supergraphs
- 2 loops: $\mathcal{N} = 2$ harmonic supergraphs + superconformal symmetry
- **3 loops**: are not accessible by a Feynman graph calculation
- Motivation
- General properties of the four-point correlators
- Integrands of correlators and Lagrangian insertions
- Amplitude/correlator duality
- Fixing coefficients in the ansatz
- Conclusion

Motivation

- Correlators are **master objects** in any CFT. They are **finite and conformal**, need no regularization
- The integrand of the four-point correlation function of the half-BPS operator $\mathcal{O}_{20'}$, which is at the bottom of the stress-tensor multiplet, has been found up to 6 loops in the planar limit [Eden, Heslop, Korchemsky, Sokatchev '11 '12] Five-loop anomalous dimension of the Konishi [Eden, Heslop, Korchemsky, V. Smirnov, Sokatchev '12] Three-loop structure constants of the twist 2 operators [Eden '12]
- Duality correlators/amplitudes

$$\lim_{x_{i,i+1}^2 \rightarrow 0} G(x_1, \dots, x_n) = (\mathcal{A}(p_1, \dots, p_n))^2, \quad p_i = x_i - x_{i+1}$$

works at tree-level and for integrands of loop corrections.

Extensively tested on the **stress-tensor supermultiplet** [Eden, Heslop, Korchemsky, Sokatchev '10 '11] and the **Konishi operator** [Adamo, Bullimore, Mason, Skinner '11]

What about other correlators?

- Integrability based predictions for **structure constants** $\langle \mathcal{O}_{BPS} \mathcal{O}_{BPS} \mathcal{O}_S \rangle$ [Vieira, Wang '13] [Basso, Komatsu, Vieira '15]

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} g^{2n} \sum_{m=0}^n y^m \mathcal{P}_S^{(n,m)} = \sum_{\substack{\text{primaries} \\ \text{with spin } S \\ \text{twist } L}} C_{BPS;BPS;i} \times \tilde{C}_{BPS;BPS;i} \exp(\gamma_i y)$$

Four-point correlators

$$\mathcal{O}^{(k)}(x, y) = Y^{l_1} \dots Y^{l_k} \text{Tr}(\phi^{l_1} \dots \phi^{l_n})$$

The lowest component of a half-BPS multiplet in $\mathcal{N} = 4$. Dimension = k , irrep. $[0, k, 0]$ of the R symmetry $SO(6)$. Lightlike auxiliary vectors $Y^I Y^I = 0$

$$\mathcal{G}_{k_1 k_2 k_3 k_4} = \langle \mathcal{O}^{(k_1)}(x_1, Y_1) \mathcal{O}^{(k_2)}(x_2, Y_2) \mathcal{O}^{(k_3)}(x_3, Y_3) \mathcal{O}^{(k_4)}(x_4, Y_4) \rangle$$

The R-charge conservation implies $k_1 + k_2 + k_3 + k_4 = 2n$, $k_i \leq \sum_{j \neq i} k_j$

Extremal $k_1 = k_2 + k_3 + k_4$, next-to-extremal $k_1 = k_2 + k_3 + k_4 - 2$ do NOT have quantum corrections

$$\mathcal{G}_{k_1 k_2 k_3 k_4} = \mathcal{G}_{k_1 k_2 k_3 k_4}^0 + \mathcal{G}_{k_1 k_2 k_3 k_4}^{\text{loop}}$$

The free part \mathcal{G}^0 is polynomial in the scalar field propagators $d_{ij} = \frac{1}{4\pi^2} \frac{y_{ij}^2}{x_{ij}^2}$; parametrization of Y_I by unconstrained complex 2×2 matrices $y_{a'}^a$: $Y_i^I Y_j^I = \det ||y_i - y_j|| \equiv y_{ij}^2$

$$\mathcal{G}_{k_1 k_2 k_3 k_4}^0 = \sum_{\{a_{ij}\}} \left(\prod_{1 \leq i < j \leq 4} (d_{ij})^{a_{ij}} \right) C_{\{a_{ij}\}}$$

$\sum_j a_{ij} = k_i$ for each $i = 1, \dots, 4$

Loop corrections

Factorization of the interacting part according to the 'partial non-renormalization' theorem [Eden, Petkou, Schubert, Sokatchev '00] [Heslop, Howe '02]

↪ weights $k_1 - 2, k_2 - 2, k_3 - 2, k_4 - 2$

$$\mathcal{G}_{k_1 k_2 k_3 k_4}^{\text{loop}} = C_{k_1 k_2 k_3 k_4} R(1, 2, 3, 4) \times \sum_{\{b_{ij}\}} \left(\prod_{1 \leq i < j \leq 4} (d_{ij})^{b_{ij}} \right) F_{\{b_{ij}\}}(u, v)$$

weights $2, 2, 2, 2$ ↪

Universal rational factor

$$\begin{aligned} R(1, 2, 3, 4) &= x_{12}^2 x_{34}^2 d_{12}^2 d_{34}^2 + x_{13}^2 x_{24}^2 d_{13}^2 d_{24}^2 + x_{14}^2 x_{23}^2 d_{14}^2 d_{23}^2 \\ &+ d_{12} d_{23} d_{34} d_{14} (x_{13}^2 x_{24}^2 - x_{12}^2 x_{34}^2 - x_{14}^2 x_{23}^2) \\ &+ d_{12} d_{13} d_{24} d_{34} (x_{14}^2 x_{23}^2 - x_{12}^2 x_{34}^2 - x_{13}^2 x_{24}^2) \\ &+ d_{13} d_{14} d_{23} d_{24} (x_{12}^2 x_{34}^2 - x_{14}^2 x_{23}^2 - x_{13}^2 x_{24}^2) \end{aligned}$$

The weights of the renormalized part are lowered $\sum_j b_{ij} = k_i - 2, i = 1, \dots, 4$

Several functions $F_{\{b_{ij}\}}$ describe the quantum corrections

Perturbative expansion in the 't Hooft coupling $a = g^2 N_c / (4\pi^2)$

$$F_{\{b_{ij}\}}(u, v) = \sum_{\ell \geq 1} a^\ell F_{\{b_{ij}\}}^{(\ell)}(u, v)$$

Conformal cross-ratios

$$u = \frac{x_{12}^2 x_{34}^2}{x_{13}^2 x_{24}^2}, \quad v = \frac{x_{14}^2 x_{23}^2}{x_{13}^2 x_{24}^2}$$

Lagrangian insertions

$$\mathcal{G}_{k_1 k_2 k_3 k_4}^{(\ell)} = \frac{1}{\ell!} \int d^4 x_5 \dots d^4 x_{4+\ell} \langle \mathcal{O}^{(k_1)}(1) \mathcal{O}^{(k_2)}(2) \mathcal{O}^{(k_3)}(3) \mathcal{O}^{(k_4)}(4) \mathcal{L}(5) \dots \mathcal{L}(4+\ell) \rangle_{\text{Born}}$$

quantum corrections:
$$F_{\{b_{ij}\}}^{(\ell)}(u, v) = \frac{1}{\ell! (-4\pi^2)^\ell} \int d^4 x_5 \dots d^4 x_{4+\ell} f_{\{b_{ij}\}}^{(\ell)}(x_1, \dots, x_{4+\ell})$$

- a rational function with conformal weights $+1, +1, +1, +1, \underbrace{+4, \dots, +4}_{\ell \text{ inner points}}$
- permutation symmetry of $\prod_{1 \leq i < j \leq 4} (d_{ij})^{b_{ij}}$

How general can $f_{\{b_{ij}\}}^{(\ell)}$ be? OPE & protectedness of half-BPS operators lead to

$$f_{\{b_{ij}\}}^{(\ell)}(x_1, \dots, x_{4+\ell}) = \frac{P_{\{b_{ij}\}}^{(\ell)}(x_1, \dots, x_{4+\ell})}{\prod_{i=1}^4 \prod_{j=5}^{4+\ell} X_{ij}^2 \cdot \prod_{5 \leq j < k \leq 4+\ell} X_{jk}^2}$$

$P_{\{b_{ij}\}}^{(\ell)}$ is a polynomial with conformal weights $1 - \ell$ at each point

If some $k_i = 2$ then the **permutation symmetry** is enhanced. It swaps the **internal and external points** [Eden, Heslop, Korchemsky, Sokatchev '11] **Stress-tensor supermultiplet**

$$\mathcal{T}(x, y, \rho) = \mathcal{O}^{(2)}(x, y) + \dots + \rho^4 \mathcal{L}(x)$$

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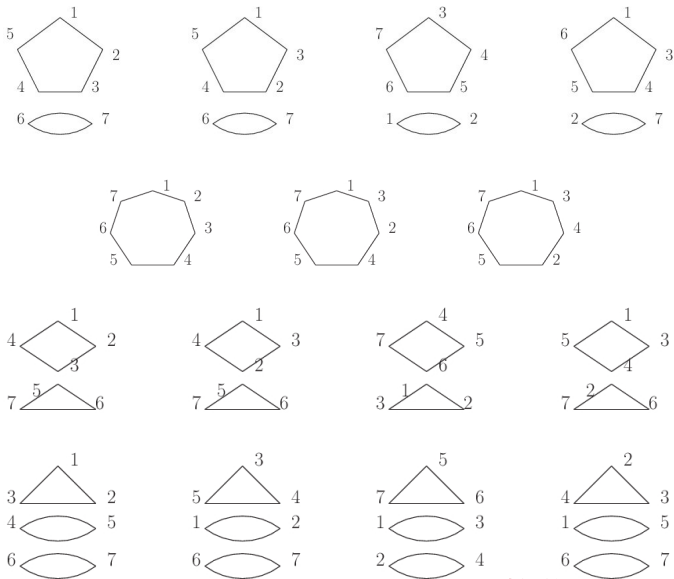
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Example. Three-loop polynomial ansatz for the correlator 3322

Permutation symmetry $S_2 \times S_{2+3}$

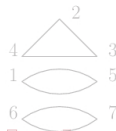
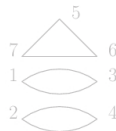
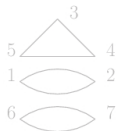
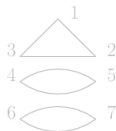
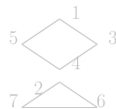
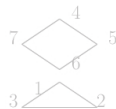
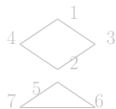
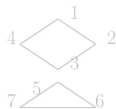
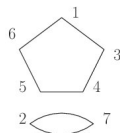
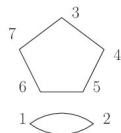
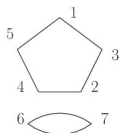
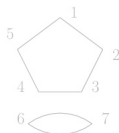
15 polynomials



Example. Three-loop polynomial ansatz for the correlator 3322

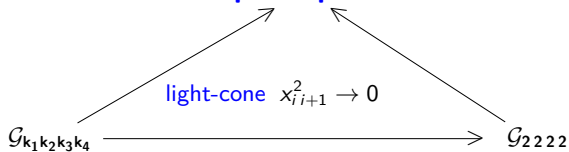
Permutation symmetry $S_2 \times S_{2+3}$

15 polynomials, but only 3 of them survive in the planar limit

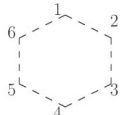
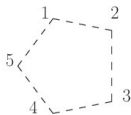
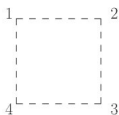


Superamplitude/supercorrelator duality

Superamplitude



Light-cone limit



...

Integrand of $\mathcal{G}^{(\ell)}$ \rightarrow

ℓ -loop
MHV

$(\ell - 1)$ -loop
NMHV

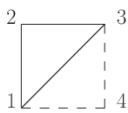
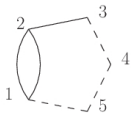
$(\ell - 2)$ -loop
 N^2 MHV

Several functions $F_{\{b_{ij}\}}$ describe quantum corrections

The duality works for some of them

$b_{ij} \neq 0 \implies x_{ij}^2 = 0$ inscribe edges $i \leftrightarrow j$ in the light-like polygon

allowed \implies



\iff forbidden

Fixing coefficients in the polynomial ansatz

Two loops

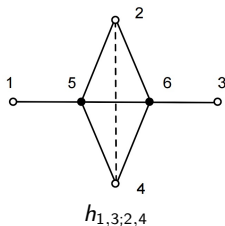
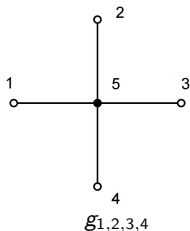
| | 2222 | $kk22, k \geq 3$ | 4332 | 3333 | 4444 | 4433 | 5533 | 5544 | 5555 |
|----------|------|------------------|------|------|---------|---------|---------|-----------------|-------------|
| ansatz | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | $4 + 4$ | $5 + 7$ | $5 + 7$ | $5 + 7 + 7 + 5$ | $4 + 6 + 2$ |
| planar | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | $3 + 3$ | $3 + 3$ | $3 + 3$ | $3 + 5 + 3 + 1$ | $3 + 2 + 1$ |
| amp/corr | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | $1 + 1$ | $1 + 0$ | $1 + 0$ | $1 + 2 + 1 + 1$ | $1 + 2 + 1$ |

Three loops

| | 2222 | 3322 | $kk22, k \geq 4$ | 4332 | 3333 | 4444 | 4433 | 5533 |
|----------|------|------|------------------|------|------|-----------|------------|------------|
| ansatz | 4 | 15 | 15 | 37 | 41 | $41 + 41$ | $64 + 102$ | $64 + 102$ |
| planar | 1 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 6 | $5 + 4$ | $8 + 11$ | $8 + 9$ |
| amp/corr | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | $0 + 1$ | $1 + 3$ | $1 + 1$ |

| | 5544 | 5555 |
|----------|-----------------------|----------------|
| ansatz | $64 + 102 + 102 + 64$ | $41 + 68 + 19$ |
| planar | $7 + 10 + 6 + 5$ | $5 + 4 + 1$ |
| amp/corr | $0 + 2 + 2 + 5$ | $0 + 1 + 1$ |

Conformal integrals. One and two loops



[Usyukina, Davydychev '93]

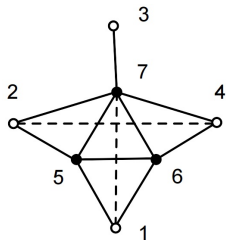
Take into account the identities for conformal integrals that are not obvious at the level of the integrand [Drummond, Henn, V. Smirnov, Sokatchev '06]

$$F^{(1)} = g_{1,2,3,4}$$

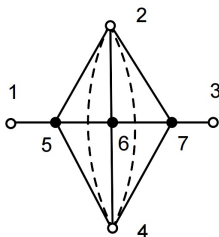
$$F^{(2)} = \text{linear combination of 6 functions}$$

$$h_{1,2;3,4}, h_{1,4;2,3}, h_{1,3;2,4}, x_{12}^2 x_{34}^2 g^2, x_{13}^2 x_{24}^2 g^2, x_{14}^2 x_{23}^2 g^2$$

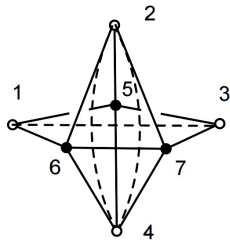
Conformal integrals. Three loops



$T_{1,3;2,4}$

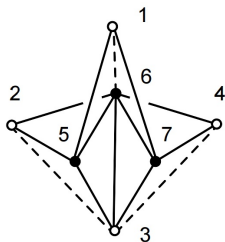


$L_{1,3;2,4}$

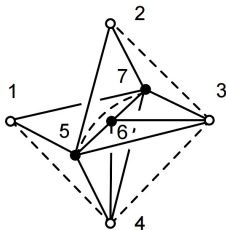


$g \times h_{1,3;2,4}$

[Drummond, Henn, V. Smirnov, Sokatchev '06] [Broadhurst '93]



$E_{1,3;2,4}$



$H_{1,3;2,4}$

Linear combination
of 15 functions

$$g \times h_{1,2;3,4}, g \times h_{1,3;2,4}, g \times h_{1,4;2,3},$$

$$L_{1,2;3,4}, L_{1,3;2,4}, L_{1,4;2,3},$$

$$E_{1,2;3,4}, E_{1,3;2,4}, E_{1,4;2,3},$$

$$H_{1,2;3,4}, H_{1,3;2,4}, H_{1,4;2,3},$$

$$1/v H_{1,2;3,4}, u/v H_{1,3;2,4}, u H_{1,4;2,3}$$

[Drummond, Duhr, Eden, Heslop, Pennington, V. Smirnov '13]

How to fix the remaining coefficients ?

- Several unfixed coefficients stand in front of the same conformal integral
- Double short-distance OPE
Example: Correlator \mathcal{G}_{3322} . 1 unfixed coefficients after amp/corr

$$\mathcal{O}^{(2)} \times \mathcal{O}^{(3)} = c_{50} \frac{y_{12}^2}{x_{12}^2} \mathcal{O}^{(3)} + c_6 \frac{y_{12}^4}{x_{12}^2} K_6 + \dots$$

Non-protected K_6 in vector rep. of $SO(6)$, dimension = 3

$$\log\left(1 + 4x_{12}^4 \sum_{\ell \geq 1} a^\ell F_{\{1,0,0,0,0,0\}}^{(\ell)}\right) \rightarrow \frac{1}{2} \gamma_6 \log v + O(v^0) \quad \text{at } v \rightarrow 0, u \rightarrow 1$$

The constraint works at the level of the **integrand**

- OPE analysis & consistency of different correlators
Example: \mathcal{G}_{2222} , \mathcal{G}_{3322} are already known, \mathcal{G}_{3333} contains 1 unfixed coefficient

$$\mathcal{G}_{3322} \implies C_{\mathcal{O}^{(2)}\mathcal{O}^{(2)}K} C_{\mathcal{O}^{(3)}\mathcal{O}^{(3)}K}, \quad \mathcal{G}_{2222} \implies (C_{\mathcal{O}^{(2)}\mathcal{O}^{(2)}K})^2, \quad \mathcal{G}_{3333} \implies (C_{\mathcal{O}^{(3)}\mathcal{O}^{(3)}K})^2$$

Conclusion

- We found a number of four-point correlators with **different charges** in the three-loop approximation in the planar limit
- The permutation symmetry is smaller than in the case \mathcal{G}_{2222} , so there are much more coefficients in the ansatz but **planarity** excludes most of them
- The light-cone limits of the correlator are not sufficient to fix all the coefficients, so we apply OPE analysis and check the consistency of different correlators with each other
- NO new conformal integrals as compared to \mathcal{G}_{2222}
- The method works at higher-loop orders as well and is extremely restrictive. For example, we completely fix \mathcal{G}_{3322} at **four** loops at the level of the integrand (without calculating the integrals !!!)