

From the twistor action to Correlahedra

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review with Adamo, Bullimore & Skinner 1104.2890, & work with Lipstein arxiv:1212.6228, 1307.1443, more recently with Agarwala, Eden, Heslop, etc..

[Also. work by Alday, Arkani-Hamed, Cachazo, Caron-Huot, Drummond, Heslop, Korchemsky, Maldacena, Sokatchev, Trnka. (Annecy, Oxford, Perimeter and Princeton IAS).]

Twistors, amplitudes, Wilson loops, 'hedra & polylogs

Background [Penrose, Boels, M, Skinner, Adamo, Bullimore...]:

- Twistor space $\mathbb{CP}^{3|4} \leftrightarrow$ space-time; Klein correspondence.
- $N = 4$ Super Yang-Mills has twistor action in twistor space.
- Axial gauge Feynman diagrams \rightsquigarrow 'MHV diagrams'.
- Also get MHV diagrams for Wilson loops & Correlators.
- Planar Wilson-loop/amplitude duality is planar duality for MHV diagrams.
- Super Amplitude/Correlator/Wilson-loop triality.

Focus of this talk [with Lipstein, Agarwala, Eden & Heslop]:

- Twistor Feynman rules do lead to 'hedra formulations.
- Diagrams give tilings of amplituhedra/correlahedra.
- give dlog form for loop integrands.
- Integration requires Feynman $i\epsilon$ in Lorentz signature.
- New formulae at 1-loop.

Super twistor space is $\mathbb{CP}^{3|4}$ with homogeneous coords:

$$Z = (\lambda_\alpha, \mu^{\dot{\alpha}}, \chi_a) \in \mathbb{T} := \mathbb{C}^2 \times \mathbb{C}^2 \times \mathbb{C}^{0|4}, \quad Z \sim \zeta Z, \zeta \in \mathbb{C}^* .$$

\mathbb{T} = fund. reprn of superconformal group $SU(2, 2|4)$.

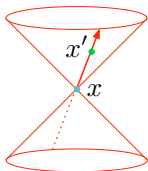
Super Minkowski space, $\mathbb{M} = \mathbb{R}^{4|8}$,

Incidence: a point $\mathbf{x} = (x, \theta) \leftrightarrow$ a line $X = \mathbb{CP}^1 \subset \mathbb{PT}$ via

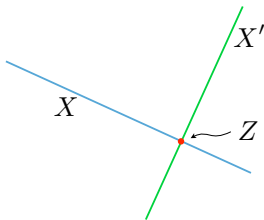
$$\mu^{\dot{\alpha}} = ix^{\alpha\dot{\alpha}} \lambda_\alpha, \quad \chi_i = \theta_i^\alpha \lambda_\alpha .$$

Two points x, x' are null separated iff X and X' intersect.

Space-time



Twistor Space



Supersymmetric Ward correspondence

Super Calabi-Yau: $\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^{3|4}$ has weightless super volume form

$$D^{3|4}Z = D^3Z d\chi_1 \dots d\chi_4 \in \Omega_{Ber}.$$

'Super-Ward' for $\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM:

A dbar-op $\bar{\partial}_{\mathcal{A}} = \bar{\partial}_0 + \mathcal{A}$ on bundle over $\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^{3|4}$ has expansion

$$\mathcal{A} = a + \chi_a \psi^a + \chi_a \chi_b \phi^{ab} + \chi^{3a} \tilde{\psi}_a + \chi^4 b$$

and $\bar{\partial}_{\mathcal{A}}^2 = 0 \leftrightarrow$ solns to self-dual $\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM on space-time.

Action for fields with self-dual interactions:[Sokatchev, Witten]

SD interactions \leftrightarrow holomorphic Chern-Simons action

$$S_{sd} = \int_{PT} \text{tr}(\mathcal{A} \wedge \bar{\partial} \mathcal{A} + \frac{2}{3} \mathcal{A}^3) \wedge D^{3|4}Z.$$

Extension to full SYM:

$$S_{full}[\mathcal{A}] = S_{sd}[\mathcal{A}] + S_{int}[\mathcal{A}]$$

includes non-local interaction term:

$$\begin{aligned} S_{int}[\mathcal{A}] &= g^2 \int_{\mathbb{M}} d^{4|8} \mathbf{x} \log \det(\bar{\partial}_{\mathcal{A}|X}) \\ &= g^2 \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n} \int_{\mathbb{M} \times X^n} d^{4|8} \mathbf{x} \frac{\text{tr}(\mathcal{A}_1 \mathcal{A}_2 \dots \mathcal{A}_n) D\sigma_1 \dots D\sigma_n}{\langle \sigma_1 \sigma_2 \rangle \langle \sigma_2 \sigma_3 \rangle \dots \langle \sigma_n \sigma_1 \rangle} \end{aligned}$$

$X = \mathbb{CP}_{\mathbf{x}}^1 \subset \mathbb{PT}$ for $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{M}^{4|8}$, $\sigma_i \in X_i$, i^{th} factor,

$$\mathcal{A}_i = \mathcal{A}(Z(\sigma_i)), \quad \text{and} \quad K_{ij} = \frac{D\sigma_j}{\langle \sigma_i \sigma_j \rangle}$$

is Cauchy kernel of $\bar{\partial}^{-1}$ on X at σ_i, σ_j .

Axial gauge Feynman rules

Choose 'reference twistor' Z_* , impose gauge: $\bar{Z}_* \cdot \frac{\partial}{\partial \bar{Z}} \lrcorner \mathcal{A} = 0$.

Payoff: Cubic Chern-Simons vertex = 0 \rightsquigarrow Feynman rules:

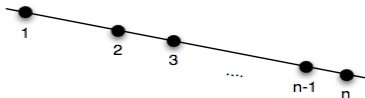
- Propagator = delta-function forcing Z, Z', Z_* to be collinear.

$$\Delta(Z, Z') = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \bar{\delta}^{2|4}(Z, Z_*, Z') := \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int \frac{dc dc'}{cc'} \bar{\delta}^{4|4}(Z_* + cZ + c'Z')$$

- log-det term gives 'MHV vertices':

$$V(Z_1, \dots, Z_n) = \int_{\mathbb{M} \times X^n} \frac{d^{4|4} Z_A d^{4|4} Z_B}{\text{Vol } GL(2)} \prod_{r=1}^n \frac{\bar{\delta}^{3|4}(Z_r, Z_A + \sigma_r Z_B)}{(\sigma_{r-1} - \sigma_r)} d\sigma_r.$$

Vertices force Z_1, \dots, Z_n to lie on $X = \{Z(\sigma) = Z_A + \sigma Z_B\}$



Simplicity: arises versus standard Feynman diagrams as
 number of propagators = MHV degree + 2 × # loops.

Amplitudes: Transform rules to momentum space \leadsto ‘MHV rules’ [CSW 2005] where vertices = off-shell MHV amplitudes.

Null polygons: Supermomentum conservation for colour ordered momenta \leadsto null polygon $\{\mathbf{x}_i\} = \{(x_i, \theta_i)\} \subset \mathbb{M}$:

$$(p_i^{AA'}, \eta_i^a \lambda^A) = (x_i^{AA'} - x_{i+1}^{AA'}, \theta_i^A - \theta_{i+1}^A).$$

Conjecture (Alday, Maldacena)

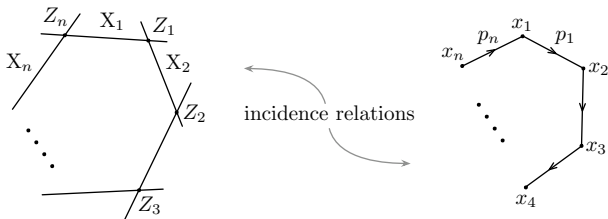
Let $W(x_1, \dots, x_n) =$ Wilson-loop around momentum polygon.

$$\text{All loop MHV amplitude} = \text{MHV tree} \times \langle W(x_1, \dots, x_n) \rangle.$$

New diagram formulation can also be used for correlation functions of Wilson loops etc..

Momentum polygons in twistor space

Generic polygon in $\mathbb{P}T$ [Hodges] \leftrightarrow null polygon in space-time.



Change variables so that $(X_1, \dots, X_n) = (Z_1, \dots, Z_n)$.

Important simplification: $Z_i \in \mathbb{P}T$ are unconstrained.

What is Wilson loop in $\mathbb{P}T$?

Holomorphic Wilson loops

For Wilson-loop, need holonomy around polygon in \mathbb{PT} .

- Vertices Z_i ,
- Edges $X_i = \{Z(\sigma) = \sigma Z_{i-1} + Z_i, \sigma \in \mathbb{C} \cup \infty\}$.
- Global frame $F_i(\sigma)$ of $E|_{X_i}$ on X_i with

$$\bar{\partial}_{\mathcal{A}}|_{X_i} F_i(\sigma) = 0, \quad F_i(\infty) = F_i|_{Z_{i-1}} = 1.$$

- Perturbatively iterate $F_i = 1 + \bar{\partial}^{-1}(\mathcal{A}F_i)$ to get

$$F_i = 1 + \sum_{r=1}^{\infty} \prod_{s=1}^r \bar{\partial}_{s-1}^{-1} \mathcal{A}(\sigma_s), \quad (\bar{\partial}_{rs}^{-1} f)(\sigma_r) = \int_{L_{X_i}} \frac{f(\sigma_s) d\sigma_s}{\sigma_r - \sigma_s}$$

- Define

$$W = \text{tr} \prod_{i=1}^n F_i|_{Z_i} = \text{tr} \prod_{i=1}^n F_i(0).$$

Agrees with space-time Wilson loop on-shell.

The S-matrix as a holomorphic Wilson loop

Theorem (Bullimore, M., Skinner, 2010-11)

For planar $\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM:

Amplitude loop-integrands = (holomorphic) Wilson loop integrand

$$A(1, \dots, n) = \langle W(Z_1, \dots, Z_n) \rangle A_{MHV}^{tree}.$$

- *Tree amplitudes \leftrightarrow Wilson-loop in self-dual sector ($g=0$).*
- *Loop expansion for \mathcal{A} = g -expansion for W .*
- *The Axial gauge twistor space diagrams for amplitude are planar duals of those for Wilson-loop correlator.*

Proof: comparison of Feynman rules on \mathbb{PT} (or BCFW).

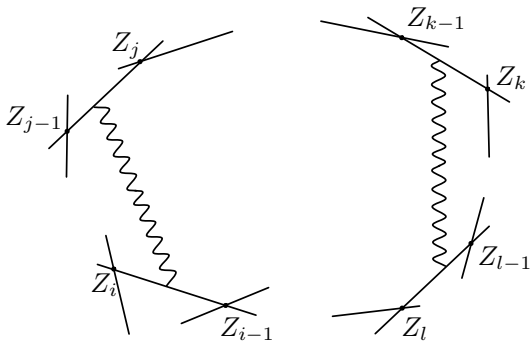
NMHV case: for \mathcal{A}^2 part of $\langle W \rangle$, $\langle \mathcal{A}(Z)\mathcal{A}(Z') \rangle = \Delta(Z, Z')$:
 obtain $\langle W \rangle = \sum_{i < j} \Delta_{ij}$ where $\Delta_{ij} =$

$$= [*, i-1, i, j-1, j],$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 [1, 2, 3, 4, 5] &:= \int \frac{dc_1 dc_2 dc_3 dc_4 dc_5}{c_1 c_2 c_3 c_4 c_5} \frac{1}{\text{Vol Gl}(1)} \delta^4 |4 \left(\sum_{i=1}^5 c_i Z_i \right), \\
 &= \frac{\prod_{a=1}^4 ((1234)\chi_5^a + \text{cyclic})}{(1234)(2345)(3451)(4512)(5123)}
 \end{aligned}$$

is the 'R-invariant'.

N^2 MHV: quartic terms in \mathcal{A} in W give Wick contractions



No crossed propagators for planarity.

N^k MHV tree amplitudes $\leftrightarrow k$ propagators $\rightsquigarrow k$ R-invariants.

Loop integrands and correlators

Lagrangian insertions: $S_{int}[\mathcal{A}] = \int d^4x \mathcal{L}_{int}(x)$ where

$$\mathcal{L}_{int}(x) = \int d^8\theta \log \det(\bar{\partial}_{\mathcal{A}}|_X).$$

Forming tree correlator with ℓ insertions gives loop integrand

$$\langle W(\mathbf{x}_1, \dots, \mathbf{x}_n) \mathcal{L}(x_1) \dots \mathcal{L}(x_\ell) \rangle_{tree}.$$

Super BPS operators: it is invariant to integrate over just 4 θ s

$$\mathcal{O}(x, \theta, Y) := \text{tr}(\Phi(\mathbf{x}) \cdot Y)^2 = \int (Y^{ab} d\theta_{a\alpha} d\theta_b^\alpha)^2 \log \det(\bar{\partial}_{\mathcal{A}}|_X)$$

where $Y^{[ab} Y^{cd]} = 0$ (so depends on the 4 θ s with $\theta_{a\alpha} Y^{ab} = 0$).

Proposition (Alday, Eden, Korchemsky, Maldacena, Sokachev, Heslop, Adamo, Bullimore, M., Skinner)

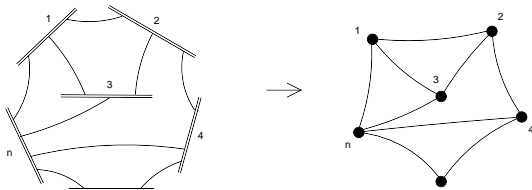
$$\lim_{(x_i - x_{i+1})^2 \rightarrow 0} \left\langle \prod_{i=1}^n \frac{(x_i - x_{i+1})^2}{Y_i \cdot Y_{i+1}} \mathcal{O}(\mathbf{x}_i, Y_i) \right\rangle = \langle W(\mathbf{x}_1, \dots, \mathbf{x}_n) \rangle^2.$$

Gives 'trinality' Amplitude \leftrightarrow Wilson loop \leftrightarrow BPS correlator.

MHV diagrams for correlators

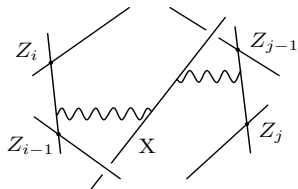
[Chicherin, Doobary, Eden, Heslop, Korchemsky, M., Sokatchev]

- Obtain diagrams in twistor space for $\langle \mathcal{O}(\mathbf{x}_1) \dots \mathcal{O}(\mathbf{x}_n) \rangle$.



- Double line \leftrightarrow line $X_i = \langle Z_{i1}, Z_{i2} \rangle \subset \mathbb{P}T \leftrightarrow \mathbf{x}_i$.
- Solid lines \leftrightarrow twistor propagators.
- As $(x_i - x_{i+1})^2 \rightarrow 0$, consecutive lines join.
- Diagram $\rightarrow 0$ unless consecutive lines are connected by propagator \rightsquigarrow Wilson loop.

At MHV with one MHV vertex obtain $\sum_{i,j} K_{ij}$ with $K_{ij} =$



$$= \int_{\Gamma} D^{3|4} Z_A \wedge D^{3|4} Z_B [* , i-1, i, A, B'] [* , j-1, j, A, B'']$$

Loop momenta \leftrightarrow location of line $X = \langle Z_A Z_B \rangle$. Recall:

$$[* , i-1, i, A, B] := \int \frac{dc_1 dc_2 dc_3 dc_4}{c_1 c_2 c_3 c_4} \delta^{4|4} (Z_* + c_1 Z_A + c_2 Z_B + c_3 Z_{i-1} + c_4 Z_i)$$

can integrate $\frac{D^{4|4} Z_A \wedge D^{4|4} Z_B}{\text{vol } GL_2}$ against delta functions

$$K_{ij} = \frac{1}{(2\pi i)^2} \int \frac{dc_0 dc_1 db_0 db_1}{c_0 c_1 b_0 b_1}.$$

External data encoded in integration contour (see later).

- A N^k MHV Wilson-loop diagram has k propagators gives

$$\prod_{r=1}^k \int_{\mathbb{CP}^4} \frac{d c_{r0} d c_{r i_1^r} d c_{r i_2^r} d c_{r i_3^r} d c_{r i_4^r}}{\text{Vol } GL(1) c_{r0} c_{r i_1^r} c_{r i_2^r} c_{r i_3^r} c_{r i_4^r}} \bar{\delta}^{4|4} (Y_r),$$

where $Y_r = c_{r0} Z_* + \sum_{p=1}^4 c_{r i_p^r} Z_{i_p^r}$

- For diagrams with propagators r and $r + 1$ on same edge $\langle Z_{i-1}, Z_i \rangle$, must replace $Z_{i_2^{r+1}} = Z_i$ by $c_{r i_1^r} Z_{i-1} + c_{r i_2^r} Z_i$ etc..
- Taking this into account we can write

$$Y_r = \sum_{i=1}^n c_{r0} Z_* + C_{ri} Z_i \quad C_{ri} = C_{ri} (c_{r i_p^r})$$

and $C_{ri}(c_{r i_p^r})$ defines $4k$ -cycle in $Gr(k, n)$.

Similarly $Gr(k + 2L, n + 2L)$ for loop integrands and correlators.

Bosonization, positivity and 'hedronizing

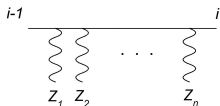
- Take real and bosonize fermionic parts of Y, Z by

$$\mathbb{C}^{4|4} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{4+k} \quad \text{with} \quad Z^r = \chi \cdot \phi^r, \quad r = 1, \dots, k.$$

- The r th fermionic delta-function arises by

$$\delta^{0|4}(\chi) = \int (Y^r)^4 d^4 \phi^r.$$

- Take data $\{Z_*, Z_1, \dots, Z_n\}$ positive.
- Planarity \Rightarrow positivity of $c_{r i}^j \Rightarrow C_{ri} \in Gr_+(k, n)$.
- Positivity respects 'Boundary diagrams' with



Tiling Amplituhedra/Wilsonohedra/Correlahedra

w/ Agarwala, Eden, Heslop, following Arkani-Hamed, Hodges, Trnka

- Positive $c_r i_p^j$ gives $4k$ -dimensional tiles in $Gr(k, k+4)$

$$Y_r = c_{r0} Z_* + C_{ri} Z_i.$$

where $C = C(c_r i_p^j)$.

- Can we tile amplituhedra? Correlahedra?

$$0 < \langle Y_1 \dots Y_{k+2L} Z_{i-1} Z_i Z_{j-1} Z_j \rangle$$

$$0 < \langle Y_1 \dots Y_{k+2L} Z_{l1} Z_{l2} Z_{j-1} Z_j \rangle$$

$$0 < \langle Y_1 \dots Y_{k+2L} Z_{l1} Z_{l2} Z_{m1} Z_{m2} \rangle$$

- Above gives $\langle W \rangle^2$ (cf correlator \leftrightarrow Wilson-loop).
- Unlike BCFW, tiles lie both inside and out for $k \geq 2$.
- Spurious boundaries cancel (subtle for boundary diagrams).
- Gives definition for correlators.

[Still work in progress.]

Loop integrand: L loop 4-momenta p_l , $l = 1, \dots, L$.

$$\langle W \rangle = \int_{(\mathbb{R}^4)^L} F(p_l, Z_i) \prod_{l=1}^L d^4 p_l.$$

Expect $\langle W \rangle =$ polylogs of degree $2L$ of invariants a_j of Z_i .

Definition

(Naive) A polylog of weight $2L$ is an iterated integral

$$\text{Plog}(a_1, a_2, \dots) = \int_{[0,1]^{2L}} \prod_{m=1}^{2L} \frac{dR_m}{R_m}$$

where $R_m =$ rational fns of a_j and integration parameters s_m .

Conjecture: At MHV amplitude is polylog of degree $2L$.

- loop order $L = \#$ MHV vertices, $p_l \leftrightarrow (Z_{A_l}, Z_{B_l})$.
- MHV \Leftrightarrow two propagators per vertex.
- integrate Z_{A_l}, Z_{B_l} against δ -functions in propagators

Theorem (Lipstein, M. (cf also Princeton+ group))

The MHV loop integrand can be explicitly expressed as

$$\langle W \rangle = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^{2L}} \int_C \prod_{m=1}^{4L} \frac{ds_m}{s_m}$$

$C =$ compact contour depending on Z_i .

- At N^k MHV have $(d \log s)^{4(L+k)} \times (\delta^{4|4}(Z + \dots))^k$.
- Gives weight $2L = 4L - 2L$ with $(d \log)^{4L} \times (2\pi)^{-2L}$.
- **Strategy:** decompose graph into 'Kermits'=1-loop MHV's.

$$\text{1-loop MHV} = \sum_{i < j} K_{ij}, \quad K_{ij} = \int_{C_{ij}} \frac{ds_0 ds dt_0 dt}{s_0 t_0 s t}.$$

Contour C_{ij} : $X_0 = Z_A \wedge Z_B$ must be real.

Support of δ -functions \Rightarrow

$$Z_A = is_0 Z_* + \frac{Z_{i-1} + sZ_i}{1+s}, \quad Z_A = it_0 Z_* + \frac{Z_{i-1} + tZ_i}{1+t}$$

Set $Z_i \cdot \bar{Z}_* = 1$ and $a_{ij} = Z_i \cdot \bar{Z}_j$, then reality \Rightarrow

$$s_0 = \bar{s}_0, \quad t_0 = \bar{t}_0, \quad \text{and } s = -\frac{(a_{i-1j} - v)\bar{t} + a_{i-1j-1} - v}{(a_{ij} - v)\bar{t} + a_{ij-1} - v},$$

with $v = s_0 - t_0$.

The real s_0, t_0 integrals need $i\epsilon$: with $Z_* = (0, \eta)$

$$s_0 = \frac{x_{oi}^2}{\langle \bar{\eta} | x_{oi} | \eta \rangle} \rightarrow s_0 + i\epsilon f_i := \frac{x_{oi}^2 + i\epsilon}{\langle \bar{\eta} | x_{oi} | \eta \rangle}, \quad \text{etc.}$$

Integration without Feynman parameters

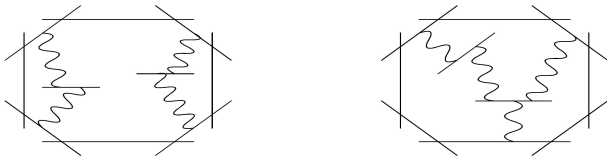
- $s_0 + t_0$ decouples \rightsquigarrow contour integral incorporating $i\epsilon$'s.
- Outputs step function $\theta(-f_i f_j)$.
- \rightsquigarrow definite integral in $v \in [v_*, \infty]$, $v_* = x_{ij}^2/2\langle\bar{\eta}|x_{ij}|\eta\rangle$.
- Stokes reduces compact complex integrals \rightsquigarrow logs [Nima].

$$K_{ij} = \text{Li}_2\left(\frac{a_{ij}}{v_*}\right) + \text{Li}_2\left(\frac{a_{i-1j-1}}{v_*}\right) - \text{Li}_2\left(\frac{a_{i-1j}}{v_*}\right) - \text{Li}_2\left(\frac{a_{ij-1}}{v_*}\right) + \text{c.c.}$$

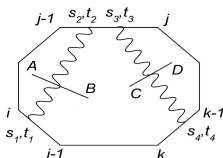
For $j = i + 1$ integrals diverge. Mass regularization \rightsquigarrow :

$$K_{ii+1} = -\frac{1}{4} \left(\ln^2\left(\frac{m^2}{x_{ii+2}^2}\right) + \ln\left(\frac{x_{i-1i+1}^2}{x_{ii+2}^2}\right) \ln\left(x_{ii+2}^2\right) \right) - \frac{2\pi^2}{3} + \mathcal{O}(m).$$

- At two loops many diagrams are products of 1-loop terms.



- Nontrivial cases when diagram just connects three edges.



- Diagrams are concatenation of 'kermits'

$$\int_{v_*}^{\infty} d \ln v \int_{\Gamma} d \ln s d \ln t \operatorname{Li}_2 \left(\frac{at + b}{t + 1} \right), \quad s = \frac{\bar{t} - c(v)}{t - d(v)},$$

a, b , invariants, c, d mobius transformations.

$$\begin{aligned}
& \int_{v_*}^{\infty} d \ln v \int_{\Gamma} d \ln s d \ln t \operatorname{Li}_2\left(\frac{at+b}{t+1}\right) = \\
& 2\pi i \int_{v_*}^{\infty} d \ln v \left[\ln\left(\frac{c(v)}{d(v)}\right) \operatorname{Li}_2(b) + \int_{\bar{c}(v)}^{\bar{d}(v)} d \ln t \operatorname{Li}_2\left(\frac{at+b}{t+1}\right) \right. \\
& \left. + (b-a) \int_1^{\infty} \frac{dz}{(a-z)(b-z)} \ln\left(\frac{(c(v)+1)z - c(v)a - b}{(d(v)+1)z - d(v)a - b}\right) \ln z \right].
\end{aligned}$$

General structure:

- Diagrams still decompose into Kermits.
- Products of 1-loop or more generally lower loop terms when Kermits widely separated.
- At L loops, first new cases when diagram connects $L + 1$ edges. Remaining terms are degenerations.

Integration:

- At L loops, $2L$ integrals are real; must insert $i\epsilon$ s for each.
- L real integrals decouple. Contour Integration incorporates $i\epsilon$'s to get L step functions $\theta(-f_i f_j)$ (surprisingly DCI).
- Remaining real integrals are indefinite.
- Havent succeeded in decoupling these from complex integrals for hard 2-loop diagram ($Li_{2,2}$).

Summary & conclusions

- Geometry of amplituhedra and Grassmannians is built into Feynman rules of twistor action in axial gauge.
- Framework extends to more general correlahedra.
- MHV diagram tiling is imperfect with tiles crossing in and out of correlahedra.
- Need to turn it into a better oiled machine (unitarity, motives, symbols, clusters, Fuchsian differential equations, integrability, regularization....)
- Some progress towards pure weight/transcendentality conjecture (down to 3/ rational integrals).

Thank You!