



From geometry to high-energy scattering in N=4 Super Yang Mills at all orders

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 Scattering amplitudes are among the most fundamental objects in particle physics.

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- Proton = bound state of quarks and gluons.
- LHC = Collisions of quarks and gluons.



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 H^0

 $\mathrm{Proba} \sim |\mathcal{A}_N|^2$

• Need to compute amplitudes in gauge theory as efficiently as possible!





- In general we do not know how to compute amplitudes exactly.
 - ➡ Need to resort to perturbation theory.

$$\mathcal{A}_N = \mathcal{A}_N^{(0)} + \alpha_s \, \mathcal{A}_N^{(1)} + \alpha_s^2 \, \mathcal{A}_N^{(2)} + \dots \quad \alpha_s = \text{ coupling constant}$$

Precision increases with the number of terms we compute.





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- ➡ Precision increases with the number of terms we compute.
- $\mathcal{A}_N^{(L)}$ receives contributions from Feynman diagrams with L loops.



Each diagram translates into an analytic formula.
In principle: can compute anything we like.





- In practise: Life is hard!
- The number of diagrams grows factorially with the number of external legs.
 - → Example: # tree diagrams contributing to $gg \rightarrow (N-2)g$

N-2	2	3	4	5	6	
# diagrams	4	45	510	5040	40320	•••





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• Beyond tree level: very tough integrals over momentum of unresolved particle.



- \rightarrow 1 loop: usually doable.
- → 2 loop: some $2 \rightarrow 2$.
- → 3 loop: some $2 \rightarrow 1$.





• What should we expect?

$$\xrightarrow{p} (k) \xrightarrow{p} \sim \int \frac{d^4k}{k^2 (k-p)^2} \sim \int_0^{\Lambda^2} \frac{dk^2}{(k-p)^2} \sim \log \frac{\Lambda^2}{p^2}$$





• What should we expect?

$$\xrightarrow{p} \left(\begin{array}{c} k \end{array} \right)^{p} \quad \sim \int \frac{d^4k}{k^2 (k-p)^2} \quad \sim \int_0^{\Lambda^2} \frac{dk^2}{(k-p)^2} \sim \log \frac{\Lambda^2}{p^2}$$

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• In general: multi-variable generalisations of logarithms.

$$G(a_1, \dots, a_n; z) = \int_0^z \frac{dt}{t - a_1} G(a_2, \dots, a_n; t) \qquad G(a_1; z) = \log\left(1 - \frac{z}{a_1}\right)$$
$$G(0, 1; z) = -\text{Li}_2(z)$$

Beyond one loop: Also elliptic functions may appear.

N=4 Super Yang-Mills







- Supersymmetric cousin of $SU(N_c)$ Yang-Mills theory.
- Spectrum:
 - ➡ Gluon (spin 1, 2 pol.)
 - Gluino (spin 1/2, 2 pol., 4 kinds)
 - Scalar (spin 0, 6 kinds)

8 bosonic and 8 fermionic d.o.f.

- Conformal at the quantum level.
- Expected to be dual to string theory on $AdS_5 \times S^5$ via AdS/CFT correspondence.
 - Allows to explore strongly coupled regime.
- Could be looking at the first exactly solvable gauge theory in 4D.
 - ➡ N=4 SYM is the 'hydrogen atom of the 21st centruy'.



A new way of doing QFT



Dual conformal symmetry:

[Drummond, Henn, Korchemsky, Sokatchev]

- → In the planar limit $N_c \rightarrow \infty$ scattering amplitudes in N=4 SYM have additional symmetries.
- Closes with ordinary conformal symmetry into an infinitedimensional Yangian symmetry. [Drummond, Henn, Plefka]



Dual conformal symmetry fixes 4 & 5-point amplitudes completely!



A new way of doing QFT



'Maximal transcendentality':

[Kotikov, Lipatov]

 \rightarrow An L loop amplitude only contains polylogarithms of 'transcendentality'/weight 2L.

$$\mathcal{A}_{4}^{(1)} \sim \frac{1}{2} \log^2 \frac{s}{t} + \frac{2\pi^2}{3} \qquad \qquad G(\underbrace{a_1, \dots, a_n}_{\text{weight } n}; z) = \int_0^z \frac{dt}{t - a_1} G(a_2, \dots, a_n; t)$$

- → MHV (--++...) amplitudes are 'pure': coefficients in front of polylogarithms are rational numbers (not functions!)
- <u>Geometric description of amplitudes:</u> <u>I Contenatory, Opraumi, Volovien,</u> Arkani-Hamed, Bourjaily, Cachazo, Goncharov,
 - Cluster algebras.
 - Positive Grassmannians.
 - Amplituhedron.
 - ➡ So far: only describes the loop integrand.

[Golden, Goncharov, Spradlin, Volovich; Postnikov, Trnka; Arkani-Hamed, Trnka]





Flux tube picture



• The sides of the polygon source a flux tube.



• Can describe the Wilson loop/amplitude via the excitations of the flux tube. [Alday, Gaiotto, Maldacena, Sever, Vieira]

 $= \sum_{\psi} \int d\mu P(0|\psi) e^{-E\tau + ip + im\phi_1} P(\psi|0)$ $\Rightarrow \text{ Energy spectrum and S-matrix of excitations} \text{ from integrability.} \qquad [Basso, Sever, Vieira]$ $W = \sum_{\psi} \int d\mu P(0|\psi) e^{-E\tau + ip(\psi)} e^{-E\tau + ip(\psi)}$



The big puzzle





The integrability side of the story





• High-energy limit = Forward scattering.







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 $s = (p_1 + p_2)^2 = E_{CM}^2 \gg |t| = -(p_1 - p_3)^2 = E_1 E_3 (1 - \cos \theta)$



erc

 p_4





 $s = (p_1 + p_2)^2 = E_{CM}^2 \gg |t| = -(p_1 - p_3)^2 = E_1 E_3 (1 - \cos \theta)$

• Generalises to more external legs (multi-Regge kinematics).



- Hierarchy in 'angles' with respect to the beam axis.
- ➡ No hierarchy in transverse plane.





- Amplitudes factorises into a set of building blocks:
 - ➡ Balitsky-Fadin-Kuraev-Lipatov (BFKL) equation.







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MRK vs Flux Tube



• BFKL-type equation very reminiscent of flux tube formula!

BFKL eigenvalue Impact factor & central emission block Spectrum of excitations Transition probability $P(\psi_1|\psi_2)$





$$\sum_{n} \left(\frac{z}{\bar{z}}\right)^{n/2} \int \frac{d\nu}{2\pi} |z|^{2i\nu} \chi_1^{h_3} \tau_1^{\omega_1} \chi_1^{-h_4} \qquad \sum_{\psi} \int d\mu \, P(0|\psi) \, e^{-E\tau + ip + im\phi_1} \, P(\psi|0)$$





 Basso, Caron-Huot and Sever: BFKL eigenvalue and impact factors for all values of the coupling by analytic continuation of the flux tub data!

$$\sum_{n} \left(\frac{z}{\bar{z}}\right)^{n/2} \int \frac{d\nu}{2\pi} |z|^{2i\nu} \chi_1^{h_3} \tau_1^{\omega_1} \chi_1^{-h_4} \qquad \sum_{\psi} \int d\mu P(0|\psi) e^{-\mathbf{E}\tau + ip + im\phi_1} P(\psi|0)$$

• We have recently also determined the central emission block to all orders in the coupling!

$$\sum_{n_1} \left(\frac{z_1}{\bar{z}_1} \right)^{\frac{n_1}{2}} \int \frac{d\nu_1}{2\pi} |z_1|^{2i\nu_1} \sum_{n_2} \left(\frac{z_2}{\bar{z}_2} \right)^{\frac{n_2}{2}} \int \frac{d\nu_2}{2\pi} |z_2|^{2i\nu_2} \chi_1^{h_3} \tau_1^{\omega_1} C_{12}^{h_4} \tau_2^{\omega_2} \chi_2^{-h_5}$$



Convolutions



• Next step: what happens in momentum space?



$$\sim \prod_{j=1,2} \sum_{n_j} \left(\frac{z_j}{\bar{z}_j} \right)^{n_j/2} \int \frac{d\nu_j}{2\pi} |z_j|^{2i\nu_j} \chi^{h_3} \tau_1^{aE_{\nu_1n_1}} C^{h_4} \tau_2^{aE_{\nu_2n_2}} \chi^{-h_5}$$

$$\sim \sum_{i_1,i_2} \frac{a^{i_1+i_2}}{i_1!i_2!} \log^{i_1} \tau_1 \log^{i_2} \tau_2 g^{(i_1,i_2)}_{h_3h_4h_5}(z_1, z_2)$$
[Bartels, Lipatov, Sabio-Vera; Lipatov, Prygaryn, Schnitzer; Bartels, Lipatov, Kormilitzin, Prygaryn]

- Fourier-Mellin transform: $\mathcal{F}[F(\nu,n)] = \sum_{n=-\infty}^{+\infty} \left(\frac{z}{\overline{z}}\right)^{n/2} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \frac{d\nu}{2\pi} |z|^{2i\nu} F(\nu,n)$
- Which $F(\nu, n)$ can appear?



FM building blocks



 Integrability: In perturbation theory, integrand is a polynomial in multiple zeta values and

$$E = -\frac{1}{2} \frac{|n|}{\nu^2 + \frac{n^2}{4}} + \psi \left(1 + i\nu + \frac{|n|}{2} \right) + \psi \left(1 - i\nu + \frac{|n|}{2} \right) - 2\psi(1)$$

$$V = \frac{i\nu}{\nu^2 + \frac{n^2}{4}} \qquad N = \frac{n}{\nu^2 + \frac{n^2}{4}} \qquad D_{\nu} = -i\partial_{\nu}$$

$$M = \psi \left(i(\nu_k - \nu_l) - \frac{n_k - n_l}{2} \right) + \psi \left(1 - i(\nu_k - \nu_l) - \frac{n_k - n_l}{2} \right)$$

• Example: NLO BFKL eigenvalue: $\omega = -E - a E^{(1)} - a^2 E^{(2)} + \dots$

$$E^{(1)} = -\frac{1}{4} D_{\nu}^{2} E + \frac{1}{2} V D_{\nu} E - \zeta_{2} E - 3 \zeta_{3}$$



FM building blocks



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$$\begin{split} E &= -\frac{1}{2} \frac{|n|}{\nu^2 + \frac{n^2}{4}} + \psi \left(1 + i\nu + \frac{|n|}{2} \right) + \psi \left(1 - i\nu + \frac{|n|}{2} \right) - 2\psi(1) \\ F &= -2\psi(1) + \psi \left(1 + i\nu - \frac{n}{2} \right) + \psi \left(1 - i\nu - \frac{n}{2} \right) \\ V &= \frac{i\nu}{\nu^2 + \frac{n^2}{4}}, \qquad N = \frac{n}{\nu^2 + \frac{n^2}{4}}, \qquad D_{\nu}^n \equiv (-i)^n \partial_{\nu}^n \\ M &= \psi \left(i(\nu_k - \nu_l) - \frac{n_k - n_l}{2} \right) + \psi \left(1 - i(\nu_k - \nu_l) - \frac{n_k - n_l}{2} \right) \end{split}$$

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• FM transform maps products into convolutions:

$$\mathcal{F}[F \cdot G] = \mathcal{F}[F] * \mathcal{F}[G] = f * g = \frac{1}{\pi} \int \frac{d^2w}{|w|^2} f(w) g\left(\frac{z}{w}\right)$$

The building blocks have simple FM transforms, e.g.:

$$E = -\frac{1}{2} \frac{|n|}{\nu^2 + \frac{n^2}{4}} + \psi \left(1 + i\nu + \frac{|n|}{2}\right) + \psi \left(1 - i\nu + \frac{|n|}{2}\right) - 2\psi(1)$$

$$\mathcal{F}[E] = -\frac{z + \bar{z}}{2|1 - z|^2}$$

• How to evaluate the convolutions?

Doing the integrals

The geometry side of the story



Multi-Regge kinematics



• Non-trivial kinematical dependence in transverse plane.





Multi-Regge kinematics



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Multi-Regge kinematics



• Non-trivial kinematical dependence in transverse plane.



→ Kinematics encoded into N - 2 points in transverse plane.

- Dual conformal invariance in transverse plane:
 - ➡ Functional dependence only on N 5 cross ratios in transverse plane:

$$z_{i} = \frac{(\mathbf{x}_{1} - \mathbf{x}_{i+3}) (\mathbf{x}_{i+2} - \mathbf{x}_{i+1})}{(\mathbf{x}_{1} - \mathbf{x}_{i+1}) (\mathbf{x}_{i+2} - \mathbf{x}_{i+3})}$$



The moduli space $\mathfrak{M}_{0,n}$



- $\mathfrak{M}_{0,n}$ = moduli space space of Riemann spheres with *n* marked points.
 - = space of configurations of *n* points on the Riemann sphere.



• For $n = N - 2 : \mathfrak{M}_{0,N-2}$ is 'phase space' of MRK.



- Fix 3 points to $0, 1, \infty$.
- $ightarrow \dim_{\mathbb{C}} \mathfrak{M}_{0,n} = n 3$
- Coordinates are collection of n 3 = N 5cross ratios $z_i = \frac{(\mathbf{x}_1 - \mathbf{x}_{i+3})(\mathbf{x}_{i+2} - \mathbf{x}_{i+1})}{z_i = \frac{(\mathbf{x}_1 - \mathbf{x}_{i+3})(\mathbf{x}_{i+2} - \mathbf{x}_{i+1})}{z_i = \frac{(\mathbf{x}_1 - \mathbf{x}_{i+3})(\mathbf{x}_{i+2} - \mathbf{x}_{i+1})}{z_i = \frac{(\mathbf{x}_1 - \mathbf{x}_{i+3})(\mathbf{x}_{i+3} - \mathbf{x}_{i+3})(\mathbf{x}_{i+3} - \mathbf{x}_{i+3})}{z_i = \frac{(\mathbf{x}_1 - \mathbf{x}_{i+3})(\mathbf{x}_1 - \mathbf{x}_{i+3})}{z_i = \frac{(\mathbf{x}_1 - \mathbf{x}_1 - \mathbf{x}_{i+3})(\mathbf{x}_1 - \mathbf{x}_{i+3})}{z_i = \frac{(\mathbf{x}_1 - \mathbf{x}_1 - \mathbf{x}_{i+3})(\mathbf{x}_1 - \mathbf{x}_{i+3})}{z_i = \frac{(\mathbf{x}_1 - \mathbf{x}_1 - \mathbf{x}_{i+3})}{z_i = \frac{(\mathbf{x}_1 - \mathbf{x}_1 - \mathbf{x}_1$

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The moduli space $\mathfrak{M}_{0,n}$



- Fix three points to $0, 1, \infty$.
- $\mathfrak{M}_{0,4}$ = complex plane with the points $0, 1, \infty$ removed.



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Iterated integrals on $\mathfrak{M}_{0,n}$



- Singularities: 'Degenerate' configurations of points.
 - = 2 points become equal.
 - Physically: momentum is soft.
 - What are 'natural integrals' on this space?
 - Should have singularities at most when $x_i = x_j$.





Iterated integrals on $\mathfrak{M}_{0,n}$



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 - = 2 points become equal.
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 - P3 Physically: momentum is soft.
 X6 What are 'natural integrals' on this space?
 - \rightarrow Should have singularities at most when $\mathbf{x}_i = \mathbf{x}_j$.
 - All iterated integrals on $\mathfrak{M}_{0,n}$ can be written in terms of polylogarithms. [Brown]

$$G(a_1, \dots, a_n; z) = \int_0^z \frac{dt}{t - a_1} G(a_2, \dots, a_n; t) \qquad \begin{array}{l} G(a_1; z) = \log\left(1 - \frac{z}{a_1}\right) \\ G(0, 1; z) = -\text{Li}_2(z) \end{array}$$

- Consequence: Amplitudes in MRK can be written in terms of polylogarithms.
 - Must have branch cuts dictated by unitarity!

Polylogarithms & Amplitudes



- Branch cuts of massless amplitudes:
 - \rightarrow Unitarity: The only branch cuts start at $(p_{i+1} + \ldots + p_j)^2 = 0$.
 - \rightarrow Example: $\log s_{12}$ is allowed, $\log(s_{12} s_{34})$ is not.



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 - \blacktriangleright Example: $\log(x_i x_j)^2$.
- In 2D transverse space: $\log |\mathbf{x}_i \mathbf{x}_j|^2$.

Unitarity: There is no branch cut in 2D transverse plane!





- Single-valued polylogarithms = combinations of polylogarithms and their complex conjugates such that all branch cuts cancel.
- For every polylogarithm there is a single-valued analogue.
 Can be constructed algorithmically. [Brown]
 - → Example: $\log z \longrightarrow \log |z|^2$ $\operatorname{Li}_2(z) \longrightarrow \operatorname{Li}_2(z) - \operatorname{Li}_2(\bar{z}) - \log |z|^2 \log(1 - \bar{z})$

• Conclusion:

N-point scattering amplitudes in planar N=4 SYM in MRK are single-valued iterated integrals on $\mathfrak{M}_{0,N-2}$.

[Dixon, Duhr, Pennington; Del Duca, Duhr, Dulat, Drummond, Druc, Marzucca, Papathanasiou, Verbeek]

Stokes' theorem & residues



- performed in terms of Stokes' theorem.
 - → All singularities are isolated.
 - Singularity structure of $\mathfrak{M}_{0,n}$ known.
 - → Can integrate over the boundary of the punctured complex plane.



$$\int \frac{d^2 z}{\pi} f(z) = \operatorname{Res}_{z=\infty} F(z) - \sum_{i} \operatorname{Res}_{z=a_i} F(z) \qquad \bar{\partial}_z F = f \qquad [Schnetz]$$

Computation of FM integral reduces to a simple residue computation!



N = 4 SYM in the high-energy limit

From integrality & geometry to dynamics



Convolutions



Dynamics described by an all-order factorisation formula.



 $\begin{array}{c} & \longrightarrow p_{3} + \\ & \longrightarrow p_{4} h_{4} \end{array} \sim \prod_{j=1,2} \sum_{n_{j}} \left(\frac{z_{j}}{\bar{z}_{j}} \right)^{n_{j}/2} \int \frac{d\nu_{j}}{2\pi} |z_{j}|^{2i\nu_{j}} \chi^{h_{3}} \tau_{1}^{aE_{\nu_{1}n_{1}}} C^{h_{4}} \tau_{2}^{aE_{\nu_{2}n_{2}}} \chi^{-h_{5}} \\ & \longrightarrow p_{5} h_{5} \\ & \longrightarrow \sum_{i_{1},i_{2}} \frac{a^{i_{1}+i_{2}}}{i_{1}!i_{2}!} \log^{i_{1}} \tau_{1} \log^{i_{2}} \tau_{2} g^{(i_{1},i_{2})}_{h_{3}h_{4}h_{5}}(z_{1},z_{2}) \\ & \longrightarrow p_{6} h_{6} \\ & \longrightarrow p_{7} + \end{array}$ [Bartels, Lipatov, Sabio-Vera; Lipatov, Prygaryn, Schnitzer; Bartels, Lipatov, Kormilitzin, Prygaryn]

- Fourier-Mellin transform: $\mathcal{F}[F(\nu,n)] = \sum_{n=-\infty}^{+\infty} \left(\frac{z}{\overline{z}}\right)^{n/2} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \frac{d\nu}{2\pi} |z|^{2i\nu} F(\nu,n)$
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Factorisation



• Consequence 1: Convolutions imply a factorisation theorem!





Factorisation



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numbers of legs.





- Consequence: At *L* loops an MHV amplitudes in MRK is determined by amplitudes with at most L + 4 external legs.
- Two loops, LLA:

[Prygarin, Spradlin, Vergu, Volovich; Bartels, Prygarin, Lipatov]

$$\mathcal{R}^{(2)}_{+\dots+} = \sum_{1 \le i \le N-5} \log \tau_i g^{(1)}_{++}(\rho_i)$$





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• Three loops, LLA:

$$\mathcal{R}_{+\ldots+}^{(3)} = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{1 \le i \le N-5} \log^2 \tau_i \, g_{++}^{(2)}(\rho_i) + \sum_{1 \le i < j \le N-5} \log \tau_i \, \log \tau_j \, g_{+++}^{(1,1)}(\rho_i,\rho_j) \, .$$



• Factorisation theorem still holds for non-MHV amplitudes.



Unlike MHV: infinite number building blocks per loop.
Example:

$$\mathcal{R}_{-+\dots}^{(2)} = \log \tau_1 g_{-+}^{(1)}(\rho_1) + \sum_{j=2}^{N-5} \log \tau_j g_{-++}^{(0,1)}(\rho_1, \rho_j)$$

$$\mathcal{R}_{+-+\dots}^{(2)} = \log \tau_1 g_{+-+}^{(1,0)}(\rho_1, \rho_2) + \log \tau_2 g_{+-+}^{(0,1)}(\rho_1, \rho_2) + \sum_{j=3}^{N-5} \log \tau_j g_{+-++}^{(0,0,1)}(\rho_1, \rho_2, \rho_j)$$



Helicity flips



• Consequence 2: Non-MHV amplitudes from MHV ones.



• Helicity flip kernel: $\mathcal{F}[\chi^-/\chi^+] = -\frac{z}{(1-z)^2}$

• Helicity flips on central emission block are similar.



Transcendentality



- Consequence 3: Complete characterisation of the function space.
- Integrability: In perturbation theory, integrand is a polynomial in multiple zeta values and

$$E \qquad V \qquad N \qquad M \qquad D_{\nu}$$

• Example: NLO BFKL eigenvalue

$$E^{(1)} = -\frac{1}{4} D_{\nu}^{2} E + \frac{1}{2} V D_{\nu} E - \zeta_{2} E - 3 \zeta_{3}$$

• Theorem: If $\mathcal{A}(z)$ is a pure combination of SVMPLs of uniform weight n, then $\mathcal{A}(z) * \mathcal{F}[X]$, with $X \in \{E, V, N, M, D\}$, is a pure combination of SVMPLs of uniform weight n + 1.



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 weight 1

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Transcendentality



Theorem: All amplitudes in MRK in planar N=4 SYM are combinations of uniform weight of SVMPLs, (single-valued) multi zeta values and powers of $2\pi i$. In addition:

- MHV amplitudes are pure functions (no rational prefactors).
- Non-MHV amplitudes are not pure.

[Del Duca, Druc, Drummond, CD, Dulat, Marzucca, Papathanasiou, Verbeek]

First proof that an infinite class of amplitudes can be expressed in terms of polylogarithms, for arbitrary number of legs, loops and helicity configurations.



Conclusion



