

STRINGS 2014

Scattering Equations (Massless Particles)

Based on:
w. Song He & Ellis Yuan
1309.0885, 1307.2199
w. Humberto Gomez
to appear.

Freddy Cachazo
Perimeter Institute

In this talk I concentrate on a new formula
for a very OLD object.

In this talk I concentrate on a new formula
for a very OLD object.

The S-matrix of
massless particles (scalars, gluons, gravitons)

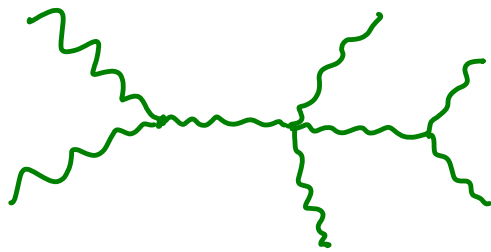
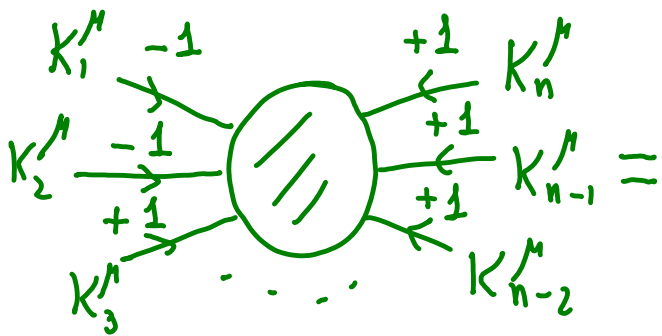
$$\mathcal{M}_n = \text{[diagram of a circle with diagonal lines and 6 external lines]} = \text{[diagram of a tree-level Feynman diagram with 6 external lines]} + \dots$$

Why look for a new formula?

First indications:

* 1980's Parke-Taylor

$\{K_a^M, E_a^M, A_a\}$ $\xrightarrow{\text{color}}$ SU(N) index



+ { Hundreds more even for small n }

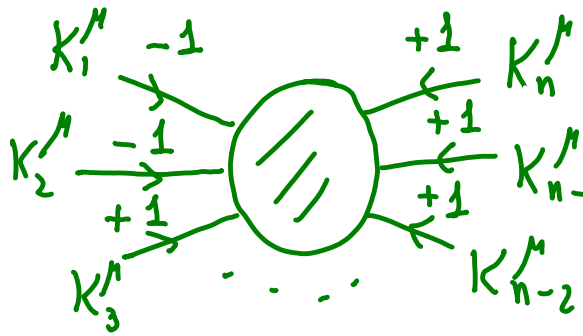
$$K_a^M \sim (1 + z_a \bar{z}_a, z_a + \bar{z}_a, -i(z_a - \bar{z}_a), 1 - z_a \bar{z}_a)$$

$E_a^M \sim$ Similar formula which depends on $h = \pm 1$ and a reference (ω or $\bar{\omega}$).

$$= (z_1 - z_2)^4 \left(\frac{\text{Tr}(T A_1 T A_2 \dots T A_n)}{(z_1 - z_2)(z_2 - z_3) \dots (z_n - z_1)} + \text{perm} \right)$$

$$K_a^\mu \sim (1 + z_a \bar{z}_a, z_a + \bar{z}_a, -i(z_a - \bar{z}_a), 1 - z_a \bar{z}_a)$$

$E_a^\mu \sim$ Similar formula which depends on $h = \pm 1$ and a reference (ω or $\bar{\omega}$).



$$= (z_1 - z_2)^4$$

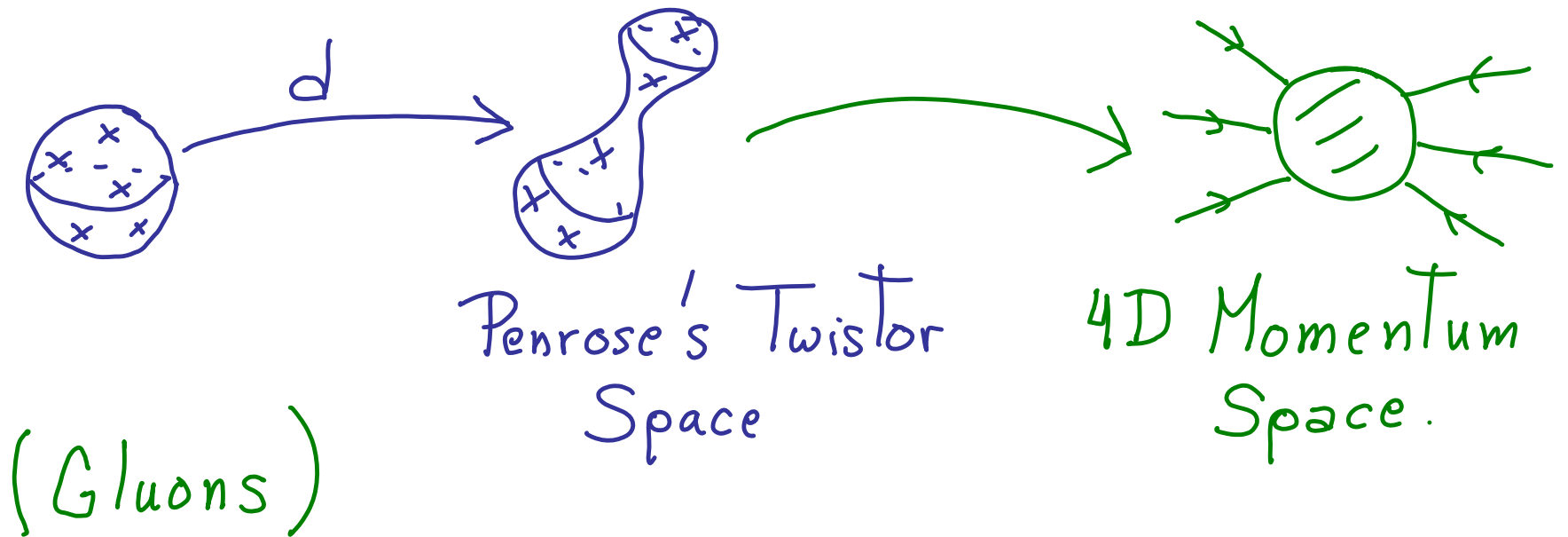
$$\left(\frac{\text{Tr}(T A_1 T A_2 \dots T A_n)}{(z_1 - z_2)(z_2 - z_3) \dots (z_n - z_1)} + \text{perm} \right)$$

Does this miraculous simplification occur for other helicity configurations?

* Nair 90's

Parke-Taylor = Correlation function on \mathbb{CP}^1 .

* Witten 2003



Natural Questions :

- * Is there a similar formula for gravitons (and for scalars)?
- * Is there a formulation in any dimension or is it special to 4D where the magic variables (z, \bar{z}) exist?
- * Can it work at tree and loops?

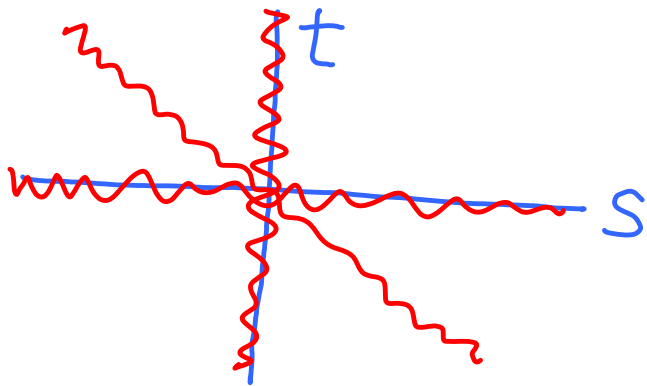
How can we search for such an object?

* Space of Kinematic invariants

$$S_{ab} \equiv (K_a + K_b)^2$$

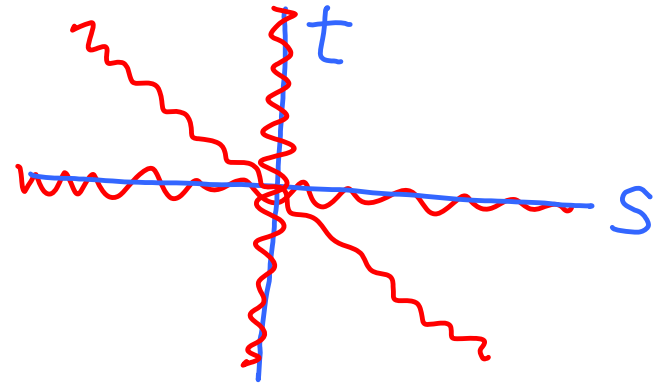
$$[K_a \cdot K_a = 0 \quad \forall a]$$

Consider $n=4$ (Four particle scattering)
 $S \equiv S_{12}$ $t \equiv S_{14}$ $u \equiv S_{13}$ $S+t+u=0$

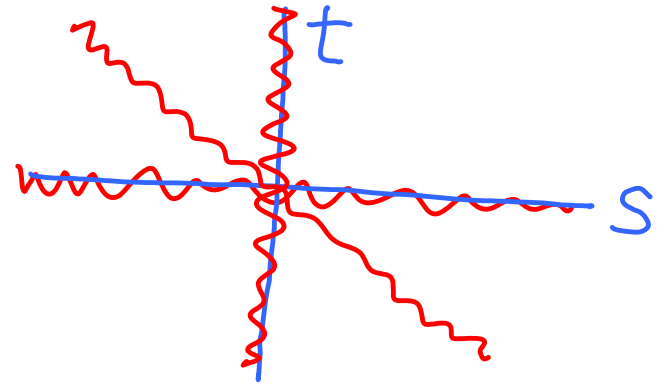


Singularities of \mathcal{M}_4 @ $s=0$ or $t=0$
or $u=0$.

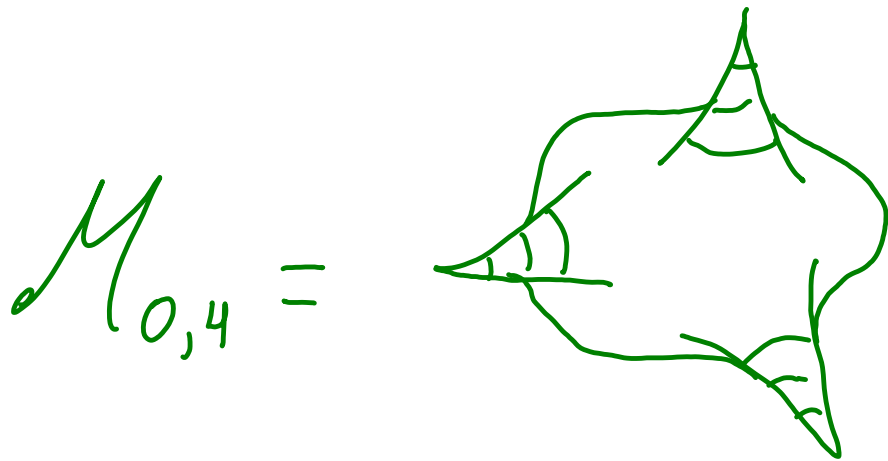
This space clearly does not know much
PHYSICS! ▽



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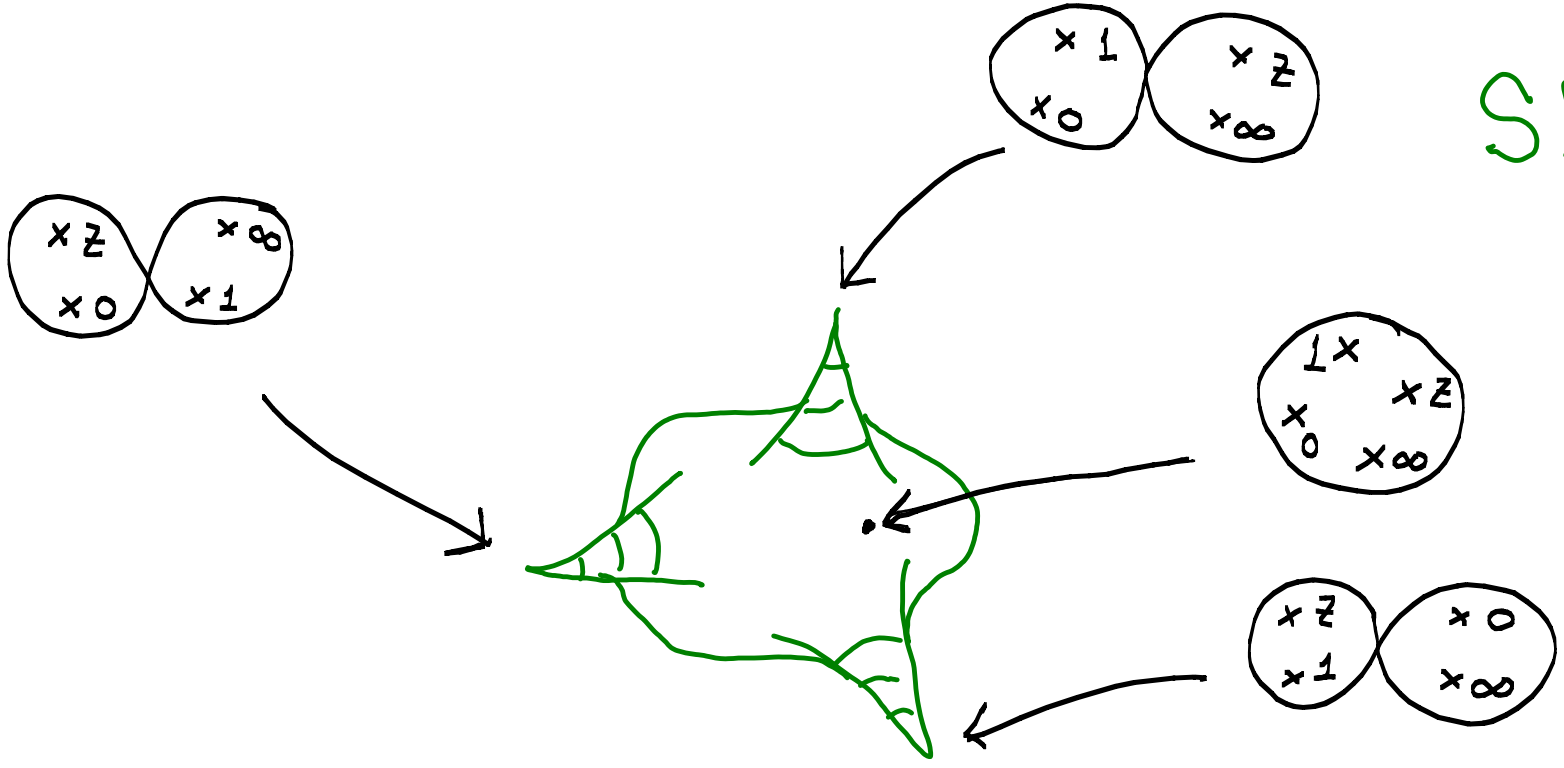


Riemann Spheres

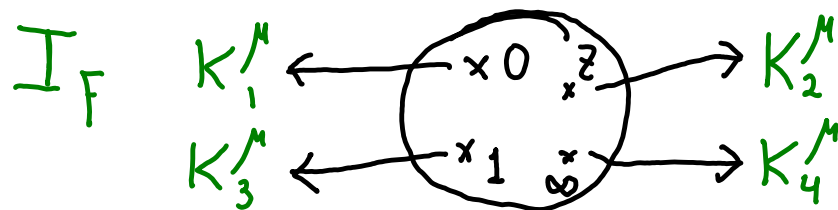
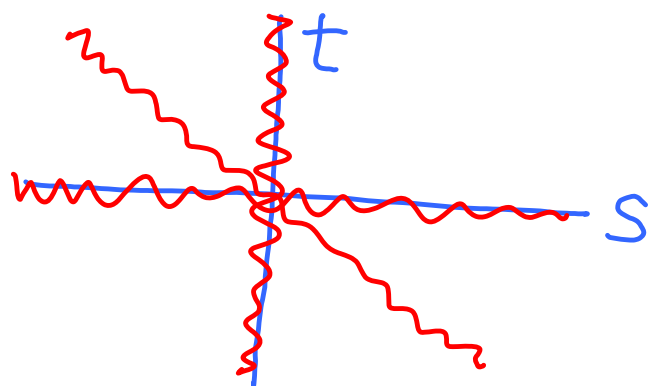
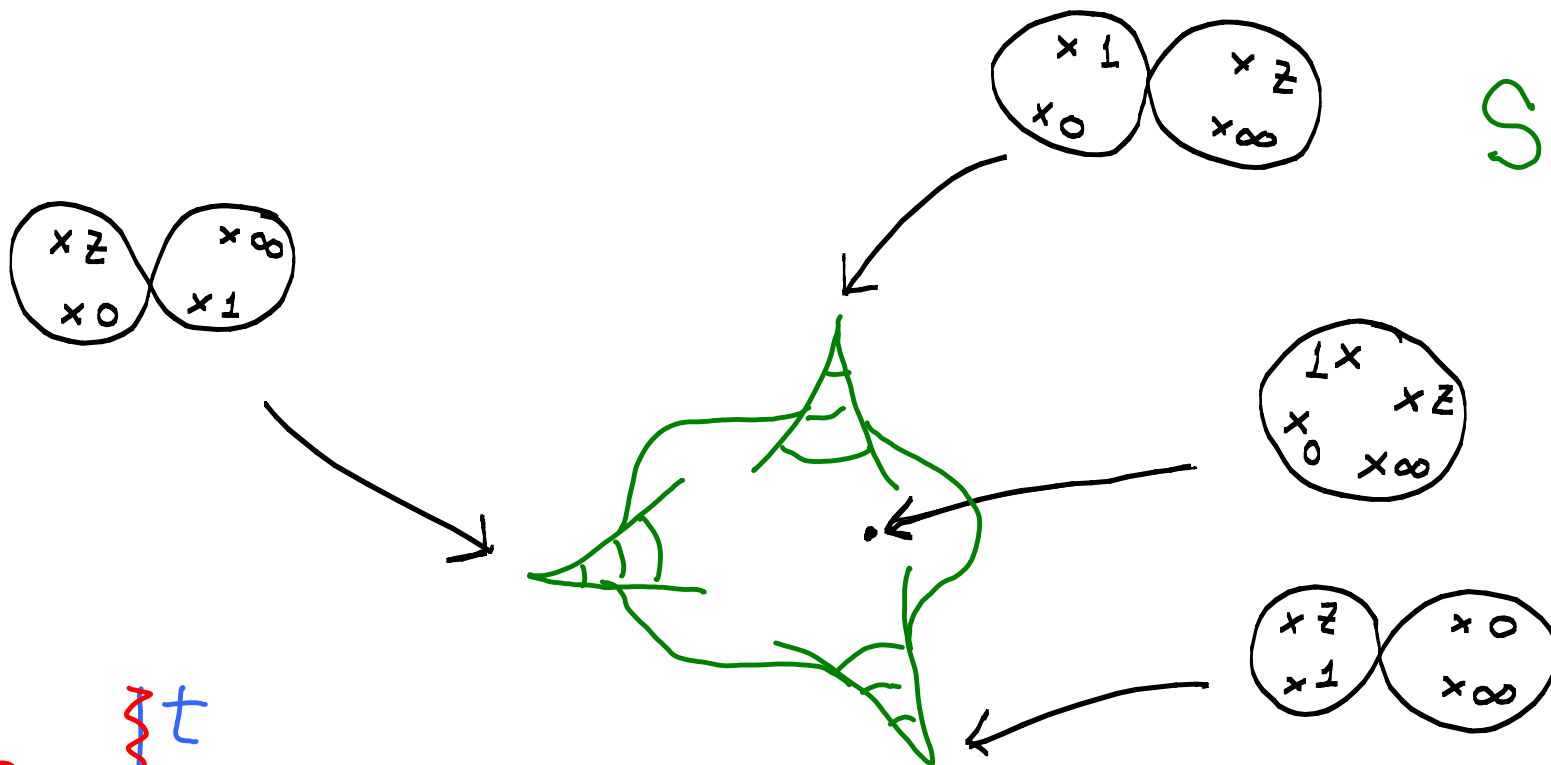


It has
3 singular points! ▽

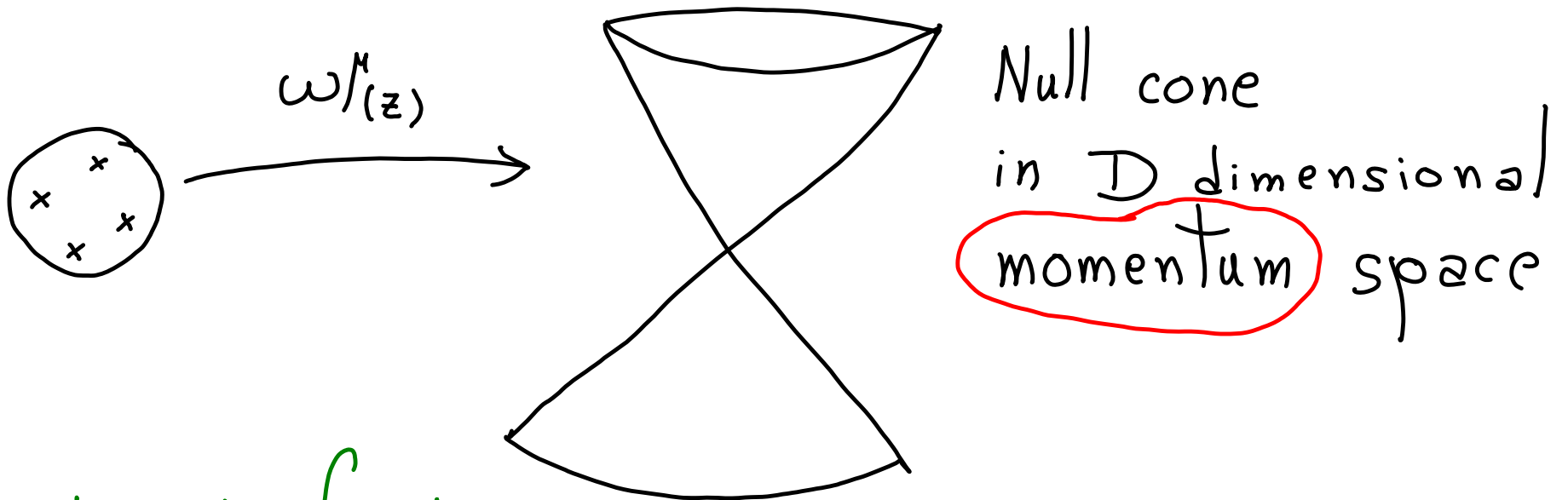
$SL(2, \mathbb{C})$



$SL(2, \mathbb{C})$



Riemann Knows a lot of Physics!



Want $\frac{1}{2\pi i} \oint_{|z - \sigma_a| = \epsilon} \omega^\mu(z) dz = K_a^\mu$ & $\omega^\mu(z) \omega_\mu(z) dz^2 = 0$

Scattering Equations

$$\textcircled{1} \quad \omega^\mu(z) = \sum_{a=1}^n \frac{K_a^\mu}{z - \sigma_a} \quad \checkmark$$

Obs:
 $\omega^\mu(z)$'s residue
at $z = \infty$ is
 $\sum_{a=1}^n K_a^\mu = 0 \quad \nabla_0$

$$\textcircled{2} \quad \omega^\mu(z) \omega_\mu(z) = \sum_{a,b} \frac{K_a \cdot K_b}{(z - \sigma_a)(z - \sigma_b)} = 0$$

\Leftrightarrow All its residues are 0.

$$\sum_{\substack{b=1 \\ b \neq a}}^n \frac{K_a \cdot K_b}{\sigma_a - \sigma_b} = 0$$

Scattering Equations

* Link n points on $\mathbb{C}P^1$ to the space of kinematic invariants.

* Map singularities of $\mathcal{M}_{0,n}$ \Leftrightarrow Physical Factorization

$$\sum_{\substack{b=1 \\ b \neq a}}^n \frac{K_a \cdot K_b}{\sqrt{s_a} - \sqrt{s_b}} = 0$$

History

- 1972 Fairlie and Roberts (Unpublished)
[Dual Models]
- 1988 Gross and Mende
[High Energy Scattering of Strings]
- 2004 Witten [Parity in the Twistor String]
- 2012 Makeenko & Olesen [Wilson Loops]
- 2012 F.C. [BCJ from the Witten-RSV formula]

Proposal

[w. Song He & Ellis Yuan]

$$\mathcal{M}_n^{\text{Gravitons}} = \int \prod_{a=1}^n d\sigma_a \prod_{a=1}^n \int \left(\sum_{\substack{b=1 \\ b \neq a}}^n \frac{K_a \cdot K_b}{\sigma_a - \sigma_b} \right) E(\epsilon^{\mu\nu}, K^\mu, \sigma)$$

Formula for the complete tree level
S-matrix of Gravitons in D dimensions.

Proposal

$$\mathcal{M}_n^{\text{Gravitons}} = \int \prod_{a=1}^n d\sigma_a \prod_{a=1}^n \int \left(\sum_{\substack{b=1 \\ b \neq a}}^n \frac{K_a \cdot K_b}{\sigma_a - \sigma_b} \right) E(\epsilon^{\mu\nu}, K^M, \sigma)$$

- Hints :
- * Permutation invariance.
 - * Gauge invariance.
 - * Weinberg's soft theorems.
 - * Multilinear in $\epsilon_a^{\mu\nu}$.

ψ-Matrix

ψ =

$$\begin{bmatrix}
 0 & \frac{K_1 \cdot K_2}{\sigma_1 - \sigma_2} & \dots & \frac{K_1 \cdot K_n}{\sigma_1 - \sigma_n} & C_{11} & \frac{K_1 \cdot E_2}{\sigma_1 - \sigma_2} & \dots & \frac{K_1 \cdot E_n}{\sigma_1 - \sigma_n} \\
 \frac{K_2 \cdot K_1}{\sigma_2 - \sigma_1} & 0 & & & \frac{K_2 \cdot E_1}{\sigma_2 - \sigma_1} & & & \vdots \\
 \vdots & & \ddots & & \vdots & & & \vdots \\
 \frac{K_n \cdot K_1}{\sigma_n - \sigma_1} & & & 0 & \vdots & & & C_{nn} \\
 -C_{11} & \frac{E_1 \cdot K_2}{\sigma_1 - \sigma_2} & \dots & \frac{E_1 \cdot K_n}{\sigma_1 - \sigma_n} & 0 & \frac{E_1 \cdot E_2}{\sigma_1 - \sigma_2} & \dots & \frac{E_1 \cdot E_n}{\sigma_1 - \sigma_n} \\
 \frac{E_2 \cdot K_1}{\sigma_2 - \sigma_1} & & & & \frac{E_2 \cdot E_1}{\sigma_2 - \sigma_1} & & & \vdots \\
 \vdots & & & & \vdots & & & \vdots \\
 -C_{nn} & \frac{E_n \cdot E_1}{\sigma_n - \sigma_1} & \dots & & \frac{E_n \cdot E_1}{\sigma_n - \sigma_1} & & & 0
 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$C_{aa} = \sum_{b \neq a} \frac{E_a \cdot K_b}{\sigma_a - \sigma_b}$$

Ψ -Matrix

$$E = \det \Psi = \det$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & \frac{K_1 \cdot K_2}{\sigma_1 - \sigma_2} & \dots & \frac{K_1 \cdot K_n}{\sigma_1 - \sigma_n} & C_{11} & \frac{K_1 \cdot E_2}{\sigma_1 - \sigma_2} & \dots & \frac{K_1 \cdot E_n}{\sigma_1 - \sigma_n} \\ \frac{K_2 \cdot K_1}{\sigma_2 - \sigma_1} & 0 & & & \frac{K_2 \cdot E_1}{\sigma_2 - \sigma_1} & & & \vdots \\ \vdots & & \ddots & & \vdots & & & \vdots \\ \frac{K_n \cdot K_1}{\sigma_n - \sigma_1} & & & 0 & \vdots & & & C_{nn} \\ -C_{11} & \frac{E_1 \cdot K_2}{\sigma_1 - \sigma_2} & \dots & \frac{E_1 \cdot K_n}{\sigma_1 - \sigma_n} & 0 & \frac{E_1 \cdot E_2}{\sigma_1 - \sigma_2} & \dots & \frac{E_1 \cdot E_n}{\sigma_1 - \sigma_n} \\ \frac{E_2 \cdot K_1}{\sigma_2 - \sigma_1} & & & & \frac{E_2 \cdot E_1}{\sigma_2 - \sigma_1} & & & \vdots \\ \vdots & & & & \vdots & & & \vdots \\ -C_{nn} & \frac{E_n \cdot E_1}{\sigma_n - \sigma_1} & \dots & & & & & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$C_{aa} = \sum_{b \neq a} \frac{E_a \cdot K_b}{\sigma_a - \sigma_b}$$

Checks: Gauge Invariance $E_1^M \rightarrow K_1^M$

$$E = \det \Psi = \det$$

$$C_{11} = \sum_{b \neq 1} \frac{E_1 \cdot K_b}{\sigma_1 - \sigma_b} = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow E = 0$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & \frac{K_1 \cdot K_2}{\sigma_1 - \sigma_2} & \dots & \frac{K_1 \cdot K_n}{\sigma_1 - \sigma_n} & C_{11} & \frac{K_1 \cdot E_2}{\sigma_1 - \sigma_2} & \dots & \frac{K_1 \cdot E_n}{\sigma_1 - \sigma_n} \\ \frac{K_2 \cdot K_1}{\sigma_2 - \sigma_1} & 0 & & & \frac{K_2 \cdot E_1}{\sigma_2 - \sigma_1} \rightarrow K_1 & & & \vdots \\ \vdots & & \ddots & & \vdots & & & \vdots \\ \frac{K_n \cdot K_1}{\sigma_n - \sigma_1} & & & 0 & \rightarrow K_1 & & & C_{nn} \\ -C_{11} & \frac{E_1 \cdot K_2}{\sigma_1 - \sigma_2} & \dots & \frac{E_1 \cdot K_n}{\sigma_1 - \sigma_n} & 0 & \frac{E_1 \cdot E_2}{\sigma_1 - \sigma_2} & \dots & \frac{E_1 \cdot E_n}{\sigma_1 - \sigma_n} \\ \vdots & & & & & \frac{E_2 \cdot E_1}{\sigma_1 - \sigma_2} \rightarrow K_1 & & \vdots \\ \vdots & & & & & \vdots & & \vdots \\ -C_{nn} & \frac{E_n \cdot E_1}{\sigma_n - \sigma_1} & \dots & & \rightarrow K_1 & & & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Proposal

$$\mathcal{M}_n^{\text{Gravitons}} = \int \prod_{a=1}^n d\sigma_a \prod_{a=1}^n \int \left(\sum_{\substack{b=1 \\ b \neq a}}^n \frac{K_a \cdot K_b}{\sigma_a - \sigma_b} \right) \det \Psi(\epsilon, K, \sigma)$$

Proposal

$$\mathcal{M}_n^{\text{Gravitons}} = \int \prod_{a=1}^n d\sigma_a \prod_{a=1}^n \int \left(\sum_{\substack{b=1 \\ b \neq a}}^n \frac{K_a \cdot K_b}{\sigma_a - \sigma_b} \right) \det \Psi(\epsilon, k, \sigma)$$

How about Gluons? Hint: $\Psi = -\Psi^T$

$$\Rightarrow \det \Psi = (\text{Pf } \Psi)^2$$

↘ Pfaffian

Proposal

$$\mathcal{M}_n^{\text{Gravitons}} = \int \prod_{a=1}^n d\sigma_a \prod_{a=1}^n \int \left(\sum_{\substack{b=1 \\ b \neq a}}^n \frac{K_a \cdot K_b}{\sigma_a - \sigma_b} \right) \left(P_F \Psi(\epsilon, k, \sigma) \right)^2$$

$$\mathcal{M}_n^{\text{Gluons}} = \int \prod_{a=1}^n d\sigma_a \prod_{a=1}^n \int \left(\sum_{\substack{b=1 \\ b \neq a}}^n \frac{K_a \cdot K_b}{\sigma_a - \sigma_b} \right) P_F \Psi(\epsilon, k, \sigma) \times \mathcal{L}$$

Something
that contains color info.

Proposal

$$\mathcal{M}_n^{\text{Gravitons}} = \int \prod_{a=1}^n d\sigma_a \prod_{a=1}^n \int \left(\sum_{\substack{b=1 \\ b \neq a}}^n \frac{K_a \cdot K_b}{\sigma_a - \sigma_b} \right) \left(P_F \Psi(\epsilon, k, \sigma) \right)^2$$

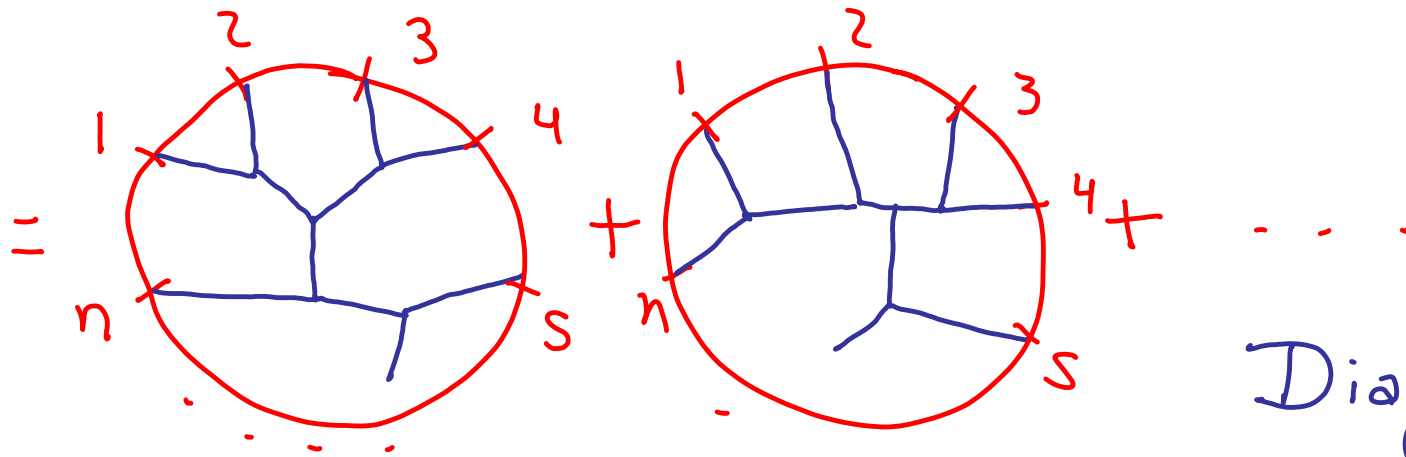
$$\mathcal{M}_n^{\text{Gluons}} = \int \prod_{a=1}^n d\sigma_a \prod_{a=1}^n \int \left(\sum_{\substack{b=1 \\ b \neq a}}^n \frac{K_a \cdot K_b}{\sigma_a - \sigma_b} \right) P_F \Psi(\epsilon, k, \sigma) \times \mathcal{L}$$

$$\mathcal{L} = \left(\frac{\text{tr}(T^{A_1} T^{A_2} \dots T^{A_n})}{(\sigma_1 - \sigma_2)(\sigma_2 - \sigma_3) \dots (\sigma_n - \sigma_1)} + \text{perm} \right)$$

$$\mathcal{M}_n^{\text{Scalars}} = \int \prod_{a=1}^n d\sigma_a \prod_{a=1}^n \int \left(\sum_{\substack{b=1 \\ b \neq a}}^n \frac{K_a K_b}{\sigma_a - \sigma_b} \right) \mathcal{L}^2$$

$$E_{\text{Grav.}} = (P_F \Psi)^2 \rightarrow E_{\text{YM}} = P_F \Psi \times \mathcal{L} \rightarrow E_{\text{Scalar}} = \mathcal{L}^2$$

$$M_n^{\text{Scalars}} = \int \prod_{a=1}^n d\sigma_a \prod_{a=1}^n \int \left(\sum_{\substack{b=1 \\ b \neq a}}^n \frac{K_a \cdot K_b}{\sigma_a - \sigma_b} \right) \left(\frac{1}{(\sigma_1 - \sigma_2)(\sigma_2 - \sigma_3) \cdots (\sigma_n - \sigma_1)} \right)^2$$



Diagrams in ϕ^3 .

[If color factors are removed, then one gets $\lambda \phi^3$]
Dolan & Goddard

Further Developments (Partial list)

- Monteiro & O'Connell [Kinematic Algebras]
- Mason & Skinner [Ambitwistor Strings]
- Dolan & Goddard [Proof in YM, Polynomial form]
- Berkovits, Gomez, Yuan [Infinite tension Limits]
- Casali, Mason, Skinner [Loop amplitudes in Ambitwistor Strings]
- Geyer, Lipstein, Mason [Ambitwistors in 4D]
- • •

Hyperelliptic Scattering Equations

[w. Humberto Gomez]

Hyperelliptic Scattering Equations

At genus 0 :

1. Construct a Lorentz vector of meromorphic differentials $\Omega^M = \omega^M(z) dz$ with simple poles at $z = \sigma_a$ and residue K_a^M .
2. Impose that the Lorentz scalar quadratic differential $\Omega^M \Omega_\mu$ vanishes.

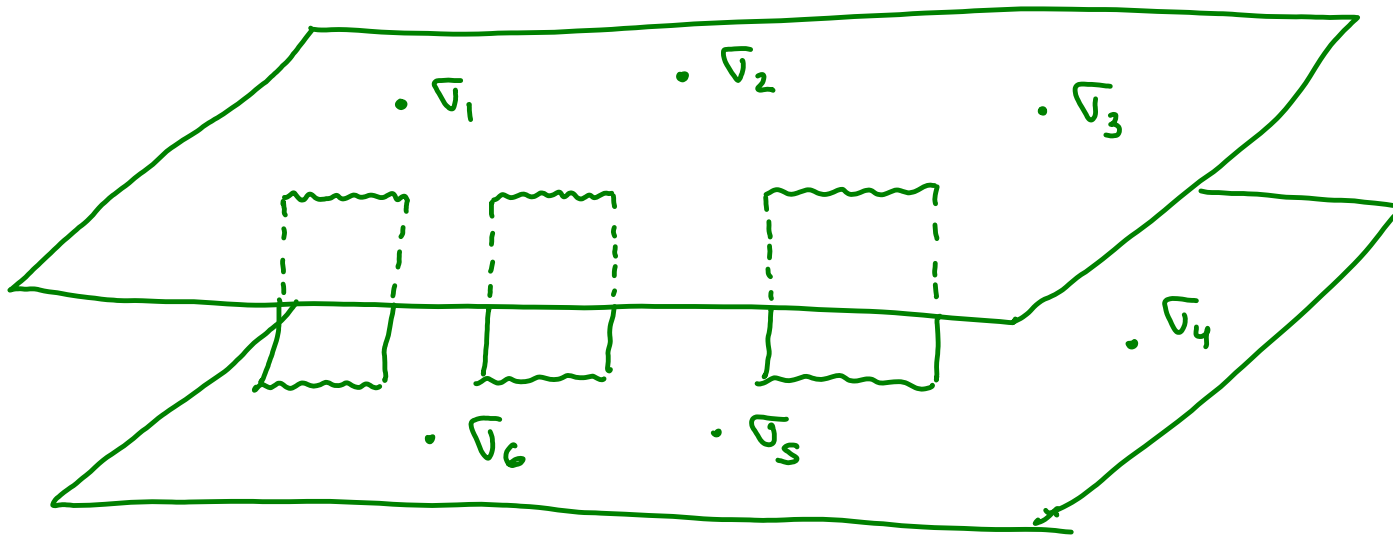
Hyperelliptic Scattering Equations

At genus g :

1. Construct a Lorentz vector of meromorphic differentials $\Omega^M = \omega^M(z) dz$ with simple poles at $z = \sigma_a$ and residue K_a^M .
2. Impose that the Lorentz scalar quadratic differential $\Omega^M \Omega_\mu$ vanishes.

Hyperelliptic Construction

1. $y^2 = z(z^2 - 1) \prod_{i=1}^{2g-1} (z - \lambda_i)$



Hyperelliptic Construction

$$1. \quad y^2 = z(z^2 - 1) \prod_{i=1}^{2g-1} (z - \lambda_i)$$

2. $\tau_{P,Q}$ = Meromorphic differential with simple poles at P and Q with residues $+1$ and -1 . (Unique if $\int_{A_m} \tau = 0$).

3. Consider the combination

$$\sum_{a=1}^{n-1} K_a^M \tau_{\sigma_a, \sigma_n}$$

Simple pole at σ_a
with residue K_a^M
 $a \in \{1, 2, \dots, n-1\}$

Simple pole at σ_n
with residue $-K_1^M - K_2^M - \dots - K_{n-1}^M = K_n^M$

3. Consider the combination

$$\Omega^M - \sum_{a=1}^{n-1} K_a^M \tau_{\nabla_a, \nabla_n} = \text{Holomorphic}$$
$$= \sum_{i=1}^g l_i^M z^{i-1} \frac{dz}{y(z)}$$

3. Consider the combination

$$\Omega_G^M = \sum_{a=1}^{n-1} K_a^M \tau_{\sigma_a, \sigma_n} + \sum_{i=1}^g l_i^M z^{i-1} \frac{dz}{y(z)}$$

4. Impose $\Omega_G^M \Omega_{\mu} = 0$.

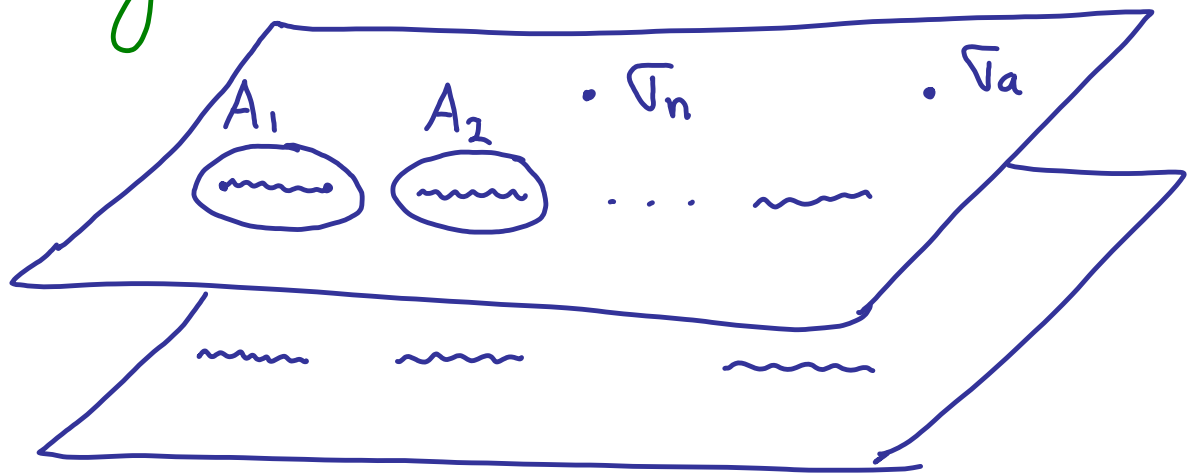
3. Consider the combination

$$\Omega^M = \sum_{a=1}^{n-1} K_a^M \tau_{\nu_a, \nu_n} + \sum_{i=1}^g l_i^M z^{i-1} \frac{dz}{y(z)}$$

4. Impose $\Omega^M \Omega_\mu = 0$.

How can we construct them?

Luckily, this problem is familiar in Physics (SW, MM, etc.)



$$\tau_{\sigma_a, \sigma_n} = d \log \left(\frac{P_a(z) - \sqrt{P_a^2(z) - b_a(z - \sigma_a)} Q(z)}{P_n(z) - \sqrt{P_n^2(z) - b_n(z - \sigma_n)} Q(z)} \right)$$

Need $P_a^2(z) - b_a(z - \sigma_a) Q(z) = y^2(z) H_a^2(z)$

$y^2 = z(z^2 - 1) \prod_{i=1}^g (z - \lambda_i)$, $Q(z)$ same polynomial $\forall a$.

These equations together with

$\Omega_\mu' \Omega_\mu = 0$ are the

Hyperelliptic Scattering Equations.

Example I: Genus 0

$$y^2 = z^2 - 1$$

$$P_a^2(z) - b_a(z - \sigma_a)Q(z) = (z^2 - 1)H_a^2(z)$$

Minimal Solution: $P_a(z) = z - p_a$, $Q(z) = 1$, $H_a(z) = 1$.

$$\Rightarrow (z - p_a)^2 - b_a(z - \sigma_a) = (z^2 - 1)$$

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{p_a = \sigma_a - y(\sigma_a)}$$

Form : $\Omega^M = \sum_{a=1}^n K_a^M d \log (z - \sigma_a - (y(z) - y(\sigma_a)))$

S.E : $\sum_{c=1, c \neq a}^{n-1} K_a \cdot K_c \frac{d}{dz} \log \left(\frac{z - \sigma_c - (y(z) - y(\sigma_c))}{z - \sigma_n - (y(z) - y(\sigma_n))} \right) \Big|_{z = \sigma_a} = 0$

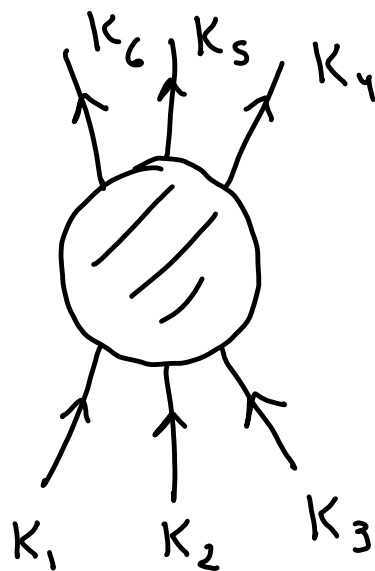
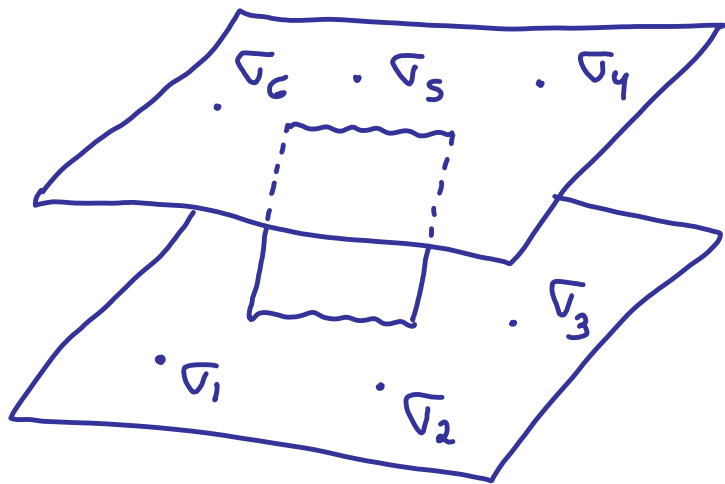
Form : $\Omega^M = \sum_{a=1}^n K_a^M d \log (z - \sigma_a - (y(z) - y(\sigma_a)))$

S.E : $\sum_{c=1, c \neq a}^{n-1} K_a \cdot K_c \frac{d}{dz} \log \left(\frac{z - \sigma_c - (y(z) - y(\sigma_c))}{z - \sigma_n - (y(z) - y(\sigma_n))} \right) \Big|_{z = \sigma_a} = 0$

Back to Original Presentation : $z = \frac{1}{2i} \left(\tilde{z} - \frac{1}{\tilde{z}} \right) \quad \sigma_a = \frac{1}{2i} \left(\tilde{\sigma}_a - \frac{1}{\tilde{\sigma}_a} \right)$

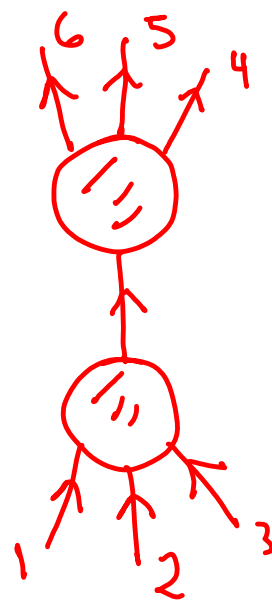
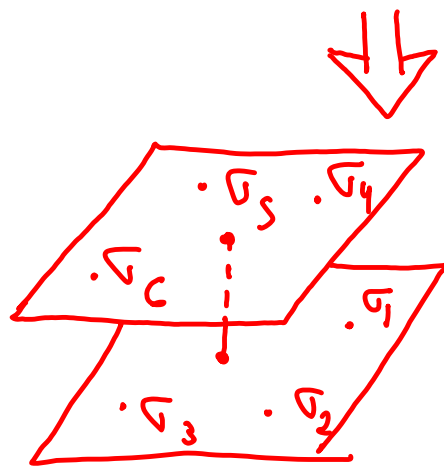
$\Rightarrow \sum_{c=1}^n \frac{K_a \cdot K_c}{\tilde{\sigma}_a - \tilde{\sigma}_c} = 0 .$

Crossing & Factorization

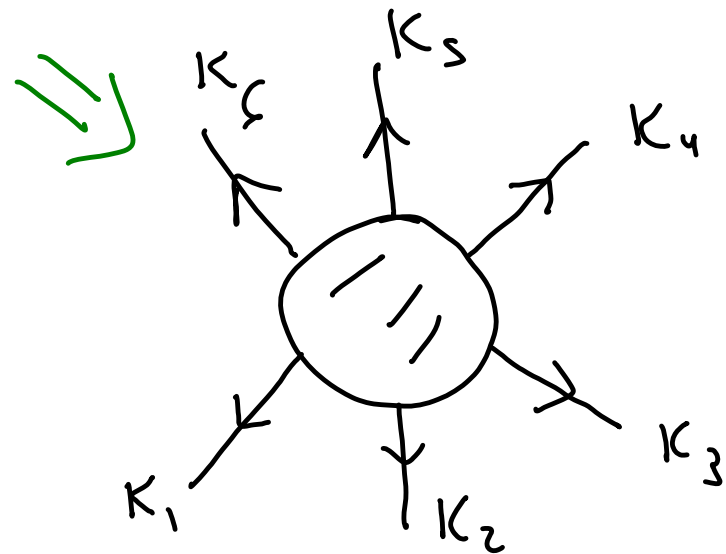
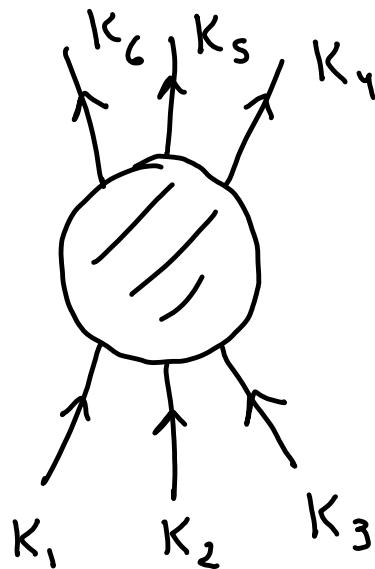
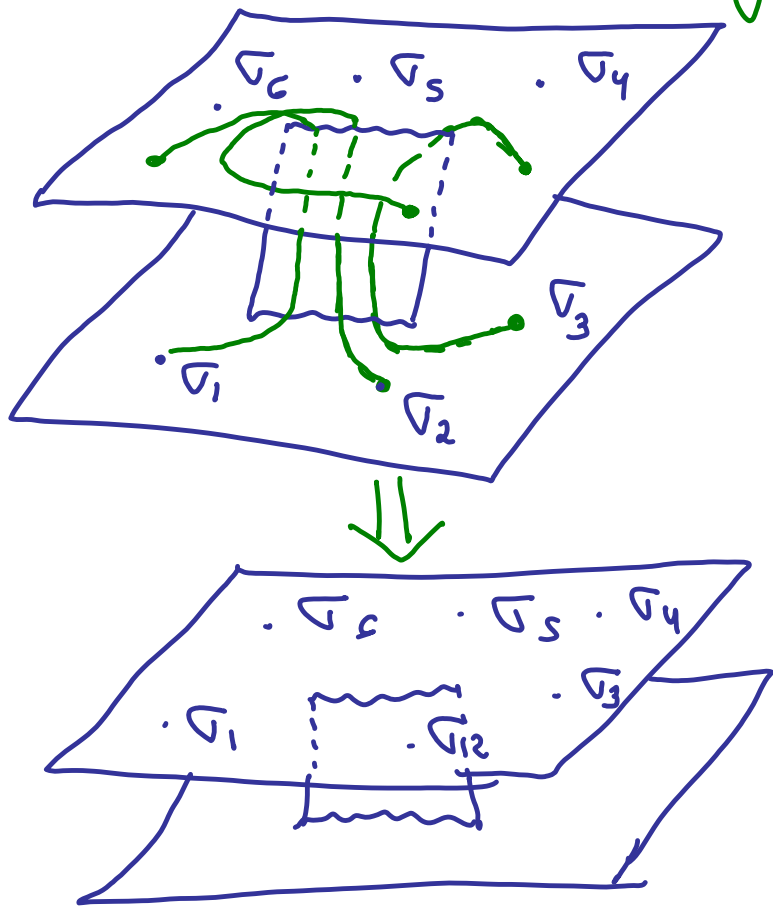


$$y^2 = z^2 - \Lambda^2$$

$$\Lambda^2 \sim (K_1 + K_2 + K_3)^2$$



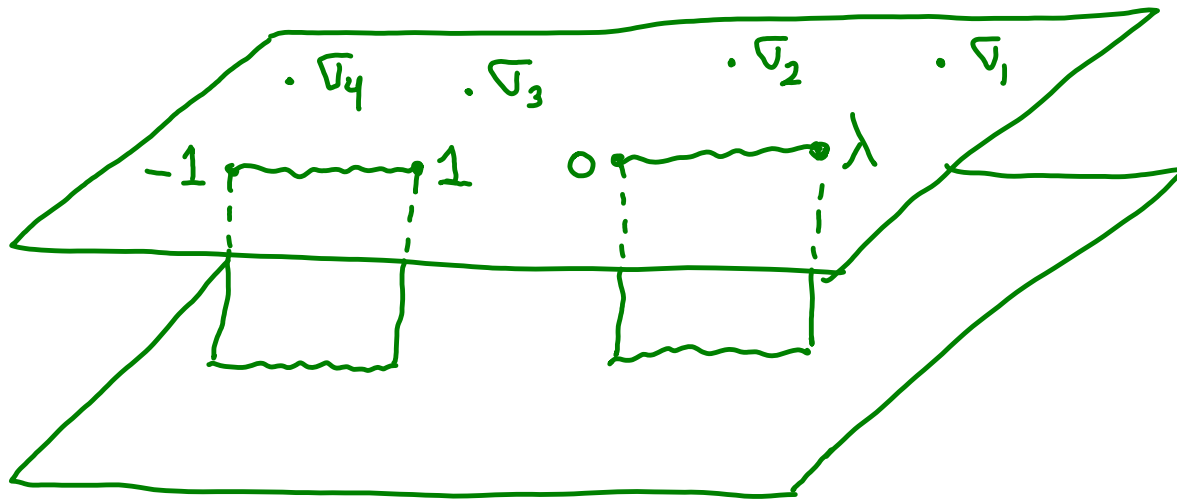
Crossing & Factorization



Example II : $g = 1$

Curve : $y^2 = z(z^2 - 1)(z - \lambda)$

Form : $\Omega^M = \sum_{a=1}^n K_a^M d \log(P_a(z) - y(z)H_a(z)) + \ell^M \frac{dz}{y(z)}$



Example II : $g = 1$

Curve : $y^2 = z(z^2 - 1)(z - \lambda)$

Embedding : $P_a(z) - b_a(z - \sigma_a)Q(z) = y^2(z)H_a^2(z)$

S.E. :
$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \sum_{a=1}^n K_a \cdot K_c \frac{d}{dz} \log(P_a(z) - y(z)H_a(z)) \Big|_{z=\sigma_a} + \frac{l \cdot K_c}{y(\sigma_c)} = 0 \\ l^2 = \lambda \left(\sum_{a=1}^n K_a l \frac{H_a(0)}{P_a(0)} - \frac{\lambda}{2} \left(\sum_{a=1}^n K_a \frac{H_a(0)}{P_a(0)} \right)^2 \right) \end{array} \right.$$

Observations

1. These are all polynomial equations! ∇
2. $l^2 \sim \lambda$ $y^2 = z(z^2 - 1)(z - \lambda) \Rightarrow l^\mu \sim \text{Loop momentum?}$
3. Any integral of the form
$$\int d\lambda \int_a^{\infty} \prod \frac{d\sigma_a}{y(\sigma_a)} \delta(l^2 - \lambda(\dots)) \prod \delta(\sum k_a \cdot k_c \dots) \mathcal{I}(\dots)$$

is a rational function of $k_a \cdot k_b, l^2$ & $l \cdot k_a$ ∇
[Loop Integrands]

Open Questions

Q1: What's the number of solutions?

Q2: Is there a systematic way of constructing integrands?

Q3: For $g = 0, 1, 2$ this is complete.
How about non-hyperelliptic RS $g \geq 3$.

Q4: Can general perturbative QFT S-matrices be formulated in this "pre-String" form?

Q5: How can the pre-String form be deformed into a full String theory?

