

# *Motivic Superstring Amplitudes*

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*Polylogarithms as a Bridge between  
Number Theory and Particle Physics*

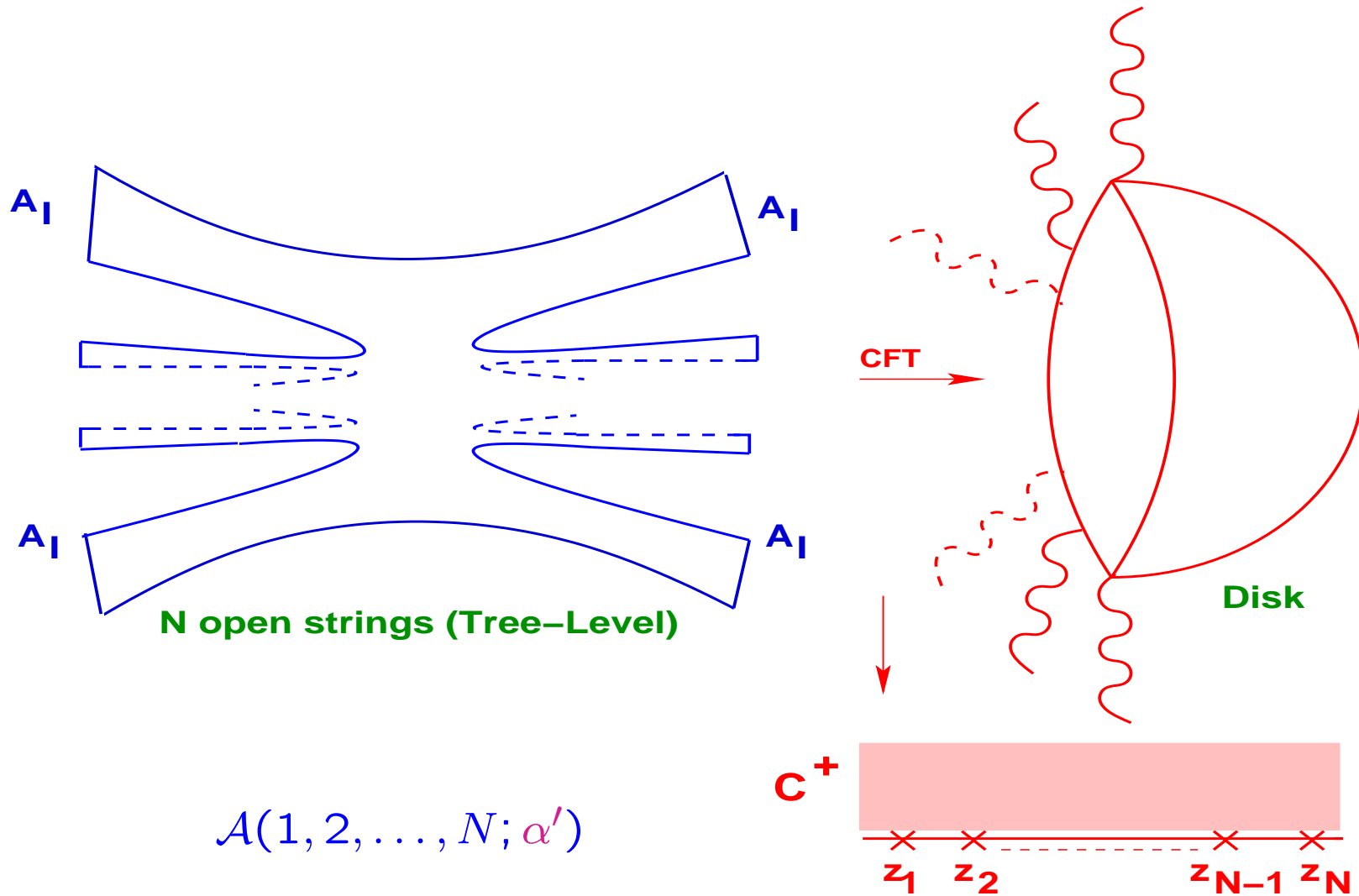
London Mathematical Society – EPSRC Durham Symposium  
July, 8 – 12, 2013

## *Outline: Superstring amplitudes*

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- Superstring amplitudes: generalized Euler integrals, multiple Gaussian hypergeometric functions
- Structure of  $\alpha'$ -expansions is encoded by decomposition of motivic multi zeta values
- coproduct maps the  $\alpha'$ -expansion onto a non-commutative Hopf algebra
- Graded Lie algebra structure of the  $\alpha'$ -expansion: interesting algebras related to Grothendieck's Galois theory
- Multiple inverse Mellin transformations: string amplitudes treated as distributions

# Disk scattering of open strings



## Disk scattering of open strings

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Compact and short expression

in terms of a *minimal basis* of  $(N - 3)!$  *building blocks*:

$$\mathcal{A}(1, 2, \dots, N; \alpha') = \sum_{\sigma \in S_{N-3}} A_{YM}(1, 2_\sigma, \dots, (N-2)_\sigma, N-1, N) F_{(1, \dots, N)}^\sigma(\alpha')$$

Mafra, Schlotterer, St.St., [arXiv:1106.2645](#) and [arXiv:1106.2646](#)  
St.St., Taylor, [arXiv:1204.3848](#)

$A_{YM}$  Yang–Mills subamplitudes with colour ordering  $1, 2, \dots, N$   
 $F^\sigma(\alpha')$  generalized Euler integral,  
multiple Gaussian hypergeometric functions

## Scattering of $N$ open strings

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Consider (generalized) Selberg integrals:

$$F[\{n_{ij}^I\}] = \int_{z_i < z_{i+1}} \left( \prod_{j=2}^{N-2} dz_j \right) \prod_{1 \leq i < j \leq N-1} |z_i - z_j|^{s_{ij}} (z_j - z_i)^{n_{ij}^I}$$

Integration over  $N - 3$  ordered points

$$s_{ij} = \alpha'(k_i + k_j)^2 = 2\alpha'k_i k_j, \quad n_{ij}^I \in \mathbf{Z}$$

With parameterization:

$$z_1 = 0, \quad z_{N-1} = 1,$$

$$z_k = \prod_{l=k-1}^{N-3} x_l, \quad k = 2, \dots, N-2$$

Generalized Euler integrals:

$$B_N[n] = \left( \prod_{i=1}^{N-3} \int_0^1 dx_i \right) \prod_{j=1}^{N-3} x_j^{a_j} (1 - x_j)^{b_j} \prod_{j < k}^{N-3} (1 - x_j x_{j+1} \dots x_k)^{c_{jk}}$$

## Scattering of $N$ open strings

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- $\frac{1}{2}N(N - 3)$  Laurent polynomials = number of kinematic invariants  $s_{ij}$
- Integrals on the moduli space of Riemann spheres with  $N$  marked points  $\mathcal{M}_{0,N}$
- There is a basis of  $(N - 3)!$  independent integrals  $F[\{n_{ij}^I\}]$

Examples:

$$B_4[n] = \int_0^1 dx x^{s_{12}+n_{12}} (1-x)^{s_{23}+n_{23}} = \frac{\Gamma(s_{12} + n_{12} + 1) \Gamma(s_{23} + n_{23} + 1)}{\Gamma(s_{12} + s_{23} + n_{12} + n_{23} + 2)}$$

$$B_5[n] = \int_0^1 dx_1 \int_0^1 dx_2 x_1^{s_{12}+n_{12}} x_2^{s_{45}+n_{45}} (1-x_1)^{s_{23}+n_{23}} (1-x_2)^{s_{34}+n_{34}} (1-x_1x_2)^{s_{24}+n_{24}}$$

$$= \frac{\Gamma(1 + s_{12} + n_{12})\Gamma(1 + s_{45} + n_{45})\Gamma(1 + s_{23} + n_{23})\Gamma(1 + s_{34} + n_{34})}{\Gamma(2 + s_{12} + s_{23} + n_{12} + n_{23}) \Gamma(2 + s_{34} + s_{45} + n_{34} + n_{45})}$$

$$\times {}_3F_2 \left[ \begin{matrix} 1 + s_{12} + n_{12}, 1 + s_{45} + n_{45}, -s_{24} - n_{24} \\ 2 + s_{12} + s_{23} + n_{12} + n_{23}, 2 + s_{34} + s_{45} + n_{34} + n_{45} \end{matrix} \right]$$

## $\alpha'$ -expansion $\iff$ multiple Euler–Zagier sums

E.g.  $N=7$ :

$$\int_0^1 dx \int_0^1 dy \int_0^1 dz \int_0^1 dw \frac{x^{s_2} (1-x)^{s_3} y^{t_2} (1-y)^{s_4} z^{t_6} (1-z)^{s_5} w^{s_7} (1-w)^{s_6}}{(1-xy)(1-wz)(1-yz)} (1-wxyz)^{s_1-t_1+t_4-t_7}$$

$$\times (1-xy)^{-s_3-s_4+t_3} (1-wz)^{-s_5-s_6+t_5} (1-yz)^{-s_4-s_5+t_4} (1-wyz)^{s_5+t_1-t_4-t_5} (1-xyz)^{s_4-t_3-t_4+t_7}$$

$$= \mathcal{I}_0 + \mathcal{I}_{1a} (s_1 + s_2 + s_3 + s_4 + s_5 + s_6 + s_7) + \mathcal{I}_{1b} (t_1 + t_2 + t_3 + t_4 + t_5 + t_6 + t_7) + \mathcal{O}(\alpha'^2)$$

with Multiple Euler–Zagier sums  $\mathcal{I}_0, \mathcal{I}_{1a}, \mathcal{I}_{1b}$ :

$$\mathcal{I}_0 = \int \frac{1}{(1-xy)(1-wz)(1-yz)} = \sum_{\substack{n_1, n_2=0 \\ n_3=1}}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n_3 (1+n_1) (n_1+n_2+1) (n_2+n_3)} = \frac{27}{4} \zeta(4)$$

$$\mathcal{I}_{1a} = \int \frac{\ln w}{(1-xy)(1-wz)(1-yz)} = \sum_{\substack{n_1, n_3=1 \\ n_2=0}}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n_1 n_3^2 (n_1+n_2) (n_2+n_3)} = \frac{7}{2} \zeta(5) - 4\zeta(2)\zeta(3)$$

$$\mathcal{I}_{1b} = \int \frac{\ln y}{(1-xy)(1-wz)(1-yz)} = \sum_{\substack{n_1, n_2=1 \\ n_3=0}}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n_1 n_2 (n_2+n_3) (n_1+n_3)^2} = -\frac{9}{2} \zeta(5) + \zeta(2)\zeta(3)$$

## Generalized Selberg integrals

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$$z_1 = 0, \quad z_{N-1} = 1$$

$$\int_{z_i < z_{i+1}} \left( \prod_{j=2}^{N-2} dz_j \right) \prod_{1 \leq i < j \leq N-1} |z_i - z_j|^{s_{ij}} (z_j - z_i)^{n_{ij}}$$

Terasoma & Brown: The coefficients of the Taylor expansion of the Selberg integrals w.r.t. the variables  $s_{ij}$  can be expressed as linear combinations of MZVs over  $\mathbb{Q}$ .

However:

$$\int_{z_i < z_{i+1}} \left( \prod_{j=2}^5 dz_j \right) \prod_{1 \leq i < j \leq 6} |z_{ij}|^{s_{ij}} \frac{1}{z_{14} z_{16} z_{24} z_{35} z_{46}} = 2 \zeta(2) + 2 \zeta(3) + \dots$$

$$\int_{z_i < z_{i+1}} \left( \prod_{j=2}^5 dz_j \right) \prod_{1 \leq i < j \leq 6} |z_{ij}|^{s_{ij}} \frac{1}{z_{13} z_{16} z_{24} z_{35} z_{46}} = \frac{27}{4} \zeta(4) + \dots$$



## Selberg integrals

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Graphs:

$$\frac{1}{z_{14}z_{16}z_{24}z_{35}z_{46}} = \begin{array}{c} 6 \\ \bullet \\ / \quad \backslash \\ \bullet \quad \bullet \\ | \quad | \\ \bullet \quad \bullet \\ 1 \quad 4 \quad 2 \quad 3 \quad 5 \end{array}$$

$$\frac{1}{z_{13}z_{16}z_{24}z_{35}z_{46}} = \begin{array}{c} \bullet \quad \bullet \quad \bullet \quad \bullet \quad \bullet \\ | \quad | \quad | \quad | \quad | \\ \bullet \quad \bullet \quad \bullet \quad \bullet \quad \bullet \\ 2 \quad 4 \quad 6 \quad 1 \quad 3 \quad 5 \end{array}$$

↪ mixing criterion from graphs

St.St., Taylor, [arXiv:1204.3848](https://arxiv.org/abs/1204.3848)  
Mafra, Schlotterer, St.St., [arXiv:1106.2646](https://arxiv.org/abs/1106.2646)

## $\alpha'$ -expansion and multiple polylogarithms

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**Multiple polylogarithms** appear to be suitable language to **systemize** our task

Consider (regular) integral:

$$z_1 = 0, \quad z_{N-1} = 1, \quad z_N = \infty$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 I_{\{a_k\}} &= \prod_{k=2}^{N-2} \int_0^{z_{k+1}} \frac{dz_k}{z_k - a_k} \underbrace{\prod_{i < j} |z_{ij}|^{s_{ij}}}_{\text{expand w.r.t. } \alpha'}, \quad a_k \in \{0, z_{k+1}, z_{k+2}, \dots, z_{N-2}, 1\} \\
 &= \prod_{k=2}^{N-2} \int_0^{z_{k+1}} \frac{dz_k}{z_k - a_k} \prod_{i < j} \left( \sum_{n_{ij}=0}^{\infty} (s_{ij})^{n_{ij}} \frac{(\ln |z_{ij}|)^{n_{ij}}}{n_{ij}!} \right)
 \end{aligned}$$

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$$\begin{aligned}
 I &= \frac{1}{2} s_{23}^2 \int_0^1 \frac{dz_3}{z_3 - 1} \int_0^{z_3} \frac{dz_2}{z_2} [\ln(z_3 - z_2)]^2 \\
 &= \frac{1}{2} s_{23}^2 \int_0^1 \frac{dz_3}{z_3 - 1} \int_0^{z_3} \frac{dz_2}{z_2} \left\{ [\ln(z_3)]^2 + 2 \ln z_3 \ln \left( 1 - \frac{z_2}{z_3} \right) + \left[ \ln \left( 1 - \frac{z_2}{z_3} \right) \right]^2 \right\}
 \end{aligned}$$

## Performing the integration using multiple polylogarithms

**Multiple polylogarithms:**  $G(a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n; z) := \int_0^z \frac{dt}{t - a_1} G(a_2, \dots, a_n; t)$

Multiple polylogarithms constitute a graded Lie algebra with shuffle product:

$$G(a_1, \dots, a_r; z) G(a_{r+1}, \dots, a_{r+s}; z) = \sum_{\sigma \in \Sigma(r, s)} G(a_{\sigma(1)}, \dots, a_{\sigma(r+s)}; z)$$

$$G(\underbrace{0, 0, \dots, 0}_w; z) = \frac{1}{w!} (\ln z)^w \quad G(\underbrace{1, 1, \dots, 1}_w; z) = \frac{1}{w!} \ln^w(1 - z)$$

$$G(\underbrace{a, a, \dots, a}_w; z) = \frac{1}{w!} \ln \left(1 - \frac{z}{a}\right)^w$$

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$$I = \int_0^1 \frac{dz_3}{z_3 - 1} \int_0^{z_3} \frac{dz_2}{z_2} \left\{ G(0, 0; z_3) + G(0; z_3) G(z_3; z_2) + G(z_3, z_3; z_2) \right\}$$

$$= \int_0^1 \frac{dz_3}{z_3 - 1} \left\{ G(0, 0; z_3) G(0; z_3) + G(0; z_3) G(0, z_3; z_3) + G(0, z_3, z_3; z_3) \right\} = \frac{\zeta_2^2}{5}$$

## Performing the integration using multiple polylogarithms

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Problem, e.g.:

$$\begin{aligned} I &= \int_0^1 \frac{dz_3}{z_3 - 1} \int_0^{z_3} \frac{dz_2}{z_2} G(z_3; z_2) G(1; z_2) \\ &= \int_0^1 \frac{dz_3}{z_3 - 1} \left\{ G(0, z_3, 1; z_3) + G(0, 1, z_3; z_3) \right\} \end{aligned}$$

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↔ How to write a multiple polylogarithm of the form

$$G(\{0, a_1, a_2, \dots, z, \dots, a_n\}_w; z)$$

in terms of objects without  $z$  in their labels ?

Proceed as follows:

- use Hopf-algebra structure of polylogarithms
- decompose polyogs step by step using coproduct
- express the result in the appropriate basis

## Performing the integration using multiple polylogarithms

Example:  $G(0, z, 1; z) = G(0, 0, 1; z) - G(1, 0, 1; z) - G(1; z) \zeta_2$

$$G(0, 1, z; z) = -2G(0, 0, 1; z) + G(0, 1, 1; z) + G(1, 0, 1; z) + G(1; z) \zeta_2$$

$$\begin{aligned} G(a_1, \dots, a_{i-1}, z, a_{i+1}, \dots, a_n; z) &= G(a_{i-1}, a_1, \dots, a_{i-1}, \hat{z}, a_{i+1}, \dots, a_n; z) \\ &- G(a_{i+1}, a_1, \dots, a_{i-1}, \hat{z}, a_{i+1}, \dots, a_n; z) \\ &- \int_0^z \frac{dt}{t - a_{i-1}} G(a_1, \dots, \hat{a}_{i-1}, t, a_{i+1}, \dots, a_n; t) \\ &+ \int_0^z \frac{dt}{t - a_{i+1}} G(a_1, \dots, a_{i-1}, t, \hat{a}_{i+1}, \dots, a_n; t) \\ &+ \int_0^z \frac{dt}{t - a_1} G(a_2, \dots, a_{i-1}, t, a_{i+1}, \dots, a_n; t) \end{aligned}$$

## Scattering of $N$ open strings

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Recall, we had an ordering:

$$\int_{z_i < z_{i+1}} \left( \prod_{j=2}^{N-2} dz_j \right) \dots$$

↪ an other set of  $(N - 3)!$  different orderings !

↪ basis of  $(N - 3)! \times (N - 3)!$  hypergeometric functions

↪ put them into a matrix  $F$

$F$  = period matrix of the moduli space of Riemann spheres with  $N$  marked points

$$\text{rk}(F) = (N - 3)! \quad (\text{Goncharov, private communication})$$

## Superstring amplitude :

$$A = F A$$

Mafra,  
Schlotterer,  
St.St.

$A = (N - 3)!$  dimensional vector encoding the **string basis**

$F = (N - 3)! \times (N - 3)!$  matrix encoding  $\alpha'$ -expansion

$A = (N - 3)!$  dimensional vector encoding the **YM-basis**

*E.g.*  $N = 5$ : 
$$F = \begin{pmatrix} F_1 & F_2 \\ \tilde{F}_2 & \tilde{F}_1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \tilde{F}_1 = F_1|_{2 \leftrightarrow 3}, \quad \tilde{F}_2 = F_2|_{2 \leftrightarrow 3}$$

$$\begin{aligned} F_1 &= s_{12} s_{34} \int_0^1 dx \int_0^1 dy x^{s_{45}} y^{s_{12}-1} (1-x)^{s_{34}-1} (1-y)^{s_{23}} (1-xy)^{s_{24}} \\ &= 1 + \zeta(2) (s_1 s_3 - s_3 s_4 - s_1 s_5) \\ &\quad - \zeta(3) (s_1^2 s_3 + 2s_1 s_2 s_3 + s_1 s_3^2 - s_3^2 s_4 - s_3 s_4^2 - s_1^2 s_5 - s_1 s_5^2) + \mathcal{O}(\alpha'^4), \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} F_2 &= s_{13} s_{24} \int_0^1 dx \int_0^1 dy x^{s_{45}} y^{s_{12}} (1-x)^{s_{34}} (1-y)^{s_{23}} (1-xy)^{s_{24}-1} \\ &= \zeta(2) s_{13} s_{24} - \zeta(3) s_{13} s_{24} (s_1 + s_2 + s_3 + s_4 + s_5) + \mathcal{O}(\alpha'^4). \end{aligned}$$

with:  $s_{ij} = \alpha' (k_i + k_j)^2$ ,  $s_i \equiv s_{i,i+1} = \alpha' (k_i + k_{i+1})^2$ ,  $i+5 \equiv i$

## Aspects of multiple zeta values

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$$\zeta_{n_1, \dots, n_r} := \zeta(n_1, \dots, n_r) = \sum_{0 < k_1 < \dots < k_r} \prod_{l=1}^r k_l^{-n_l}, \quad n_l \in \mathbb{N}^+, \quad n_r \geq 2.$$

E.g.: Riemann zeta-function:  $\zeta_n = \sum_{k>0} \frac{1}{k^n}$ ,  $\zeta_{2n} = \frac{2^{2n-1} \pi^{2n}}{(2n)!} |B_{2n}|$

- $w = \sum_{l=1}^r n_l$  is called the transcendental degree or weight
- $r$  depth of MZV

$$\zeta_{n_1, \dots, n_r} = (-1)^r G(\underbrace{0, \dots, 0}_{n_r-1}, 1, \dots, \underbrace{0, \dots, 0}_{n_1-1}, 1; 1)$$

$$\zeta_{n_1, \dots, n_r} = (-1)^r I_\gamma(0; \rho(n_1 \dots n_r); 1) \quad , \quad \rho(n_1, \dots, n_r) = 10^{n_1-1} \dots 10^{n_r-1}$$

$$I_\gamma(a_0; a_1, \dots, a_n; a_{n+1}) = \int_{\Delta_{n,\gamma}} \frac{dt_1}{t_1 - a_1} \wedge \dots \wedge \frac{dt_n}{t_n - a_n}$$



(Commutative) graded  $\mathbb{Q}$ -algebra:

$$\mathcal{Z} = \bigoplus_{k \geq 0} \mathcal{Z}_k \quad , \quad \dim_{\mathbb{Q}}(\mathcal{Z}_N) = d_N \quad ,$$

with:  $d_N = d_{N-2} + d_{N-3}$ ,  $d_0 = 1$ ,  $d_1 = 0$ ,  $d_2 = 1, \dots$  (Zagier)

$w$	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12		
$\mathcal{Z}_w$	$\zeta_2$	$\zeta_3$	$\zeta_2^2$	$\zeta_5$ $\zeta_2 \zeta_3$	$\zeta_3^2$ $\zeta_2^3$	$\zeta_7$ $\zeta_2 \zeta_5$ $\zeta_2^2 \zeta_3$	$\zeta_{3,5}$ $\zeta_3 \zeta_5$ $\zeta_2 \zeta_3^2$ $\zeta_2^4$	$\zeta_9$ $\zeta_3^3$ $\zeta_2 \zeta_7$ $\zeta_2^2 \zeta_5$ $\zeta_2^3 \zeta_3$	$\zeta_{3,7}$ $\zeta_3 \zeta_7$ $\zeta_5^2$ $\zeta_2 \zeta_{3,5}$ $\zeta_2 \zeta_3 \zeta_5$ $\zeta_2^2 \zeta_3^2$ $\zeta_2^5$	$\zeta_{3,3,5}$ $\zeta_{3,5} \zeta_3$ $\zeta_{11}$ $\zeta_3^2 \zeta_5$ $\zeta_2^4 \zeta_3$	$\zeta_2 \zeta_3^3$ $\zeta_2 \zeta_9$ $\zeta_2^2 \zeta_7$ $\zeta_2^3 \zeta_5$	$\zeta_{1,1,4,6}$ $\zeta_{3,9}$ $\zeta_3 \zeta_9$ $\zeta_5 \zeta_7$ $\zeta_3^4$ $\zeta_2^3 \zeta_3^2$ $\zeta_2^6$	$\zeta_2 \zeta_{3,7}$ $\zeta_2^2 \zeta_{3,5}$ $\zeta_2 \zeta_5^2$ $\zeta_2 \zeta_3 \zeta_7$ $\zeta_2^2 \zeta_3 \zeta_5$
$d_w$	1	1	1	2	2	3	4	5	7	9	12		

E.g. weight 12 :  $\zeta_{5,7} = \frac{14}{9} \zeta_{3,9} + \frac{28}{3} \zeta_5 \zeta_7 - \frac{776224}{1576575} \zeta_2^6$

## Structure of open string amplitude

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$$F = P Q : \exp \left\{ \sum_{n \geq 1} \zeta_{2n+1} M_{2n+1} \right\} :$$

$$P = (N-3)! \times (N-3)! \text{ matrix encoding } \alpha' \text{-expansions with } \zeta_2^k$$

$$M_{2n+1} = (N-3)! \times (N-3)! \text{ matrix encoding } \alpha' \text{-expansions with } \zeta_{2n+1}$$

$$Q = (N-3)! \times (N-3)! \text{ matrix encoding } \alpha' \text{-expansions with } \zeta_{n_1, \dots, n_r}$$

with:

$$P = 1 + \sum_{n \geq 1} \zeta_2^n P_{2n} := 1 + \sum_{n \geq 1} \zeta_2^n F|_{\zeta_{2n}}$$
$$M_{2n+1} = F|_{\zeta_{2n+1}}$$

## Structure of open string amplitude

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and:

$$\begin{aligned} Q &= 1 + \frac{1}{5} \zeta_{3,5} [M_5, M_3] + \left\{ \frac{3}{14} \zeta_5^2 + \frac{1}{14} \zeta_{3,7} \right\} [M_7, M_3] \\ &+ \left\{ 9 \zeta_2 \zeta_9 + \frac{6}{25} \zeta_2^2 \zeta_7 - \frac{4}{35} \zeta_2^3 \zeta_5 + \frac{1}{5} \zeta_{3,3,5} \right\} [M_3, [M_5, M_3]] \\ &+ \left\{ \frac{2}{9} \zeta_5 \zeta_7 + \frac{1}{27} \zeta_{3,9} \right\} [M_9, M_3] \\ &+ \frac{48}{691} \left\{ \frac{18}{35} \zeta_2^3 \zeta_3^2 + \frac{1}{5} \zeta_2^2 \zeta_3 \zeta_5 - 10 \zeta_2 \zeta_3 \zeta_7 - \frac{7}{2} \zeta_2 \zeta_5^2 - \frac{3}{5} \zeta_2^2 \zeta_{3,5} - 3 \zeta_2 \zeta_{3,7} \right. \\ &\quad \left. - \frac{1}{12} \zeta_3^4 - \frac{467}{108} \zeta_5 \zeta_7 + \frac{799}{72} \zeta_3 \zeta_9 + \frac{2665}{648} \zeta_{3,9} + \zeta_{1,1,4,6} \right\} \{ [M_9, M_3] - 3 [M_7, M_5] \} + \dots \end{aligned}$$

This form is bolstered by the algebraic structure of **motivic MZVs**

## Structure of $\alpha'$ -expansions

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Illustrate the structure of the matrices  $P$  and  $M$ , e.g.:  $P_2$  and  $M_3$ :

$$P_2 = \begin{pmatrix} -s_3s_4 + s_1 (s_3 - s_5) & s_{13} s_{24} \\ s_1 s_3 & (s_1 + s_2) (s_2 + s_3) - s_4s_5 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$M_3 = \begin{pmatrix} m_{11} & m_{12} \\ m_{21} & m_{22} \end{pmatrix}$$

with:

$$m_{11} = s_3 [ -s_1 (s_1 + 2s_2 + s_3) + s_3s_4 + s_4^2 ] + s_1s_5 (s_1 + s_5) ,$$

$$m_{12} = -s_{13} s_{24} (s_1 + s_2 + s_3 + s_4 + s_5) ,$$

$$m_{21} = s_1 s_3 [ s_1 + s_2 + s_3 - 2 (s_4 + s_5) ] ,$$

$$m_{22} = (s_2 + s_3) [ (s_1 + s_2)(s_1 + s_3) - 2 s_1s_4 ] - [ 2s_1s_3 - s_4^2 + 2s_2 (s_3 + s_4) ]s_5 + s_4s_5^2 ,$$

and  $s_i \equiv \alpha'(k_i + k_{i+1})^2$  subject to cyclic identification  $k_{i+N} \equiv k_i$ .

## *Structure of $\alpha'$ -expansions*

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More material to download from:

<http://mzv.mpp.mpg.de>

Broedel, Schlotterer, St.St., arXiv:1304.7267 [hep-th]

## Structure of $\alpha'$ -expansions

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Open string  $\alpha'$ -expansions:

E.g. weight 8:

$$\begin{aligned} F |_{\zeta_3 \zeta_5} &= M_5 M_3 \\ F |_{\zeta_{3,5}} &= \frac{1}{5} [M_5, M_3] \\ &\vdots \end{aligned}$$

E.g. weight 10:

$$\begin{aligned} F |_{\zeta_3 \zeta_7} &= M_7 M_3 \\ F |_{\zeta_{3,7}} &= \frac{1}{14} [M_7, M_3] \\ F |_{\zeta_5^2} &= \left( \frac{1}{2} M_5 M_5 + \frac{3}{14} [M_7, M_3] \right) \\ &\vdots \end{aligned}$$

## Remarks

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- There is an **intrinsic form** in  $Q$  given by the commutator terms:

$$\zeta_{n_1, \dots, n_r} [M_{n_2}, [M_{n_3}, \dots, [M_{n_r}, M_{n_1}]] \dots]$$

↪ Minimal depth representation with Euler sums

- $Q$  may be written as an **exponential**:

$$Q = \exp \left\{ \frac{1}{5} \zeta_{3,5} [M_5, M_3] + \left( \frac{3}{14} \zeta_5^2 + \frac{1}{14} \zeta_{3,7} \right) [M_7, M_3] + \dots \right\}$$

- Forms of  $Q$  and  $M$  are **basis dependent** !

E.g.:  $\zeta_{3,5} = -\frac{5}{2} \zeta_{2,6} + 5 \zeta_3 \zeta_5 - \frac{21}{25} \zeta_2^4$  changes form of  $Q$ .

- Consider **Hoffman basis**: *Every MZV is a  $Q$ -linear combination of*

$$\{ \zeta_{n_1, \dots, n_r} \mid n_1, \dots, n_r \in \{2, 3\} \}, \text{ e.g.: } \begin{pmatrix} \zeta_{3,2} \\ \zeta_{2,3} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{9}{2} & -2 \\ -\frac{11}{2} & 3 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \zeta_5 \\ \zeta_2 \zeta_3 \end{pmatrix}$$

↪ Coproduct structure will remove all these ambiguities !

## Aspects of motivic MZVs

---

Recall: 
$$\zeta_{1,3,7} = -\zeta_{3,3,5} + \frac{703}{4} \zeta_{11} + \frac{1}{2} \zeta_5 (\zeta_3)^2 - \frac{173}{2} \zeta_9 \zeta_2 - \frac{47}{5} \zeta_7 (\zeta_2)^2 - \frac{52}{35} \zeta_5 (\zeta_2)^3 - \frac{6}{35} \zeta_3 (\zeta_2)^4$$

↔ How to determine coefficients  $\in \mathbf{Q}$  ?

Task:

To explicitly describe the structure of the algebra  $\mathcal{Z}$   
MZVs are replaced by their symbols (or motivic MZVs)

Goncharov, Brown, . . .

$$\begin{array}{l} \zeta^m \longrightarrow \zeta \\ \mathcal{H} \longrightarrow \mathcal{Z} \end{array}$$

This defines a commutative graded **Hopf algebra**:  $\mathcal{H} = \bigoplus_{n \geq 0} \mathcal{H}_n$



## Aspects of motivic MZVs

---

For for  $a_0, \dots, a_{n+1} \in \{0, 1\}$  define **motivic MZVs**:

$$\zeta^m(n_1, \dots, n_r) = (-1)^r I^m(0; \rho(n_1, \dots, n_r); 1)$$

with period map:  $per : \mathcal{H} \longrightarrow \mathbf{R}$

Non-canonical isomorphism:

$$\mathcal{H} \simeq \mathcal{H} / \zeta_2^m \mathcal{H} \otimes_{\mathbf{Q}} \mathbf{Q}[\zeta_2^m]$$

Note:  $\mathcal{H}_k \rightarrow \mathcal{Z}_k$  is surjective, i.e.:  $\dim_{\mathbf{Q}}(\mathcal{Z}_k) \leq \dim_{\mathbf{Q}}(\mathcal{H}_k) = d_k$

Deligne, Goncharov, Brown

## Aspects of motivic MZVs

---

Work of F. Brown: *On the decomposition of motivic MZVs:*

To explicitly describe the structure of  $\mathcal{H}$  introduce the (trivial) algebra-comodule:

introduce elements  $f_i$ :

$$\mathcal{U} = \mathbb{Q}\langle f_3, f_5, \dots \rangle \otimes_{\mathbb{Q}} \mathbb{Q}[f_2]$$

There exists a morphism  $\phi$  of graded algebra-comodules:

$$\phi : \mathcal{H} \longrightarrow \mathcal{U}$$

normalized by:  $\phi(\zeta_n^m) = f_n$  ,  $n \geq 2$  .

Note:

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} \zeta & \longleftarrow & \zeta^m & \longrightarrow & \phi(\zeta^m) \\ \mathcal{Z} & \longleftarrow & \mathcal{H} & \longrightarrow & \mathcal{U} \end{array}$$

It is believed:  $\mathcal{Z}_n \simeq \mathcal{U}_n$  over  $\mathbb{Q}$

## Aspects of motivic MZVs

---

Map  $\phi$  sends every motivic MZV  $\xi \in \mathcal{H}_{N+1}$  to a non-commutative polynomial in the  $f_i$ 's:

$$\phi(\xi) = \sum_{3 \leq 2r+1 \leq N} f_{2r+1} \xi_{2r+1} \in \mathcal{U}_{N+1}$$

expansion w.r.t. basis  $\{f_{2r+1}\}$   
 coefficients  $\xi_{2r+1} \in \mathcal{U}_{N-2r}$   
 computed from coproduct

Example: weight 10

$$B_{10} = \{ \zeta_{3,7}^m, \zeta_3^m \zeta_7^m, (\zeta_5^m)^2, \zeta_{3,5}^m \zeta_2^m, \zeta_3^m \zeta_5^m \zeta_2^m, (\zeta_3^m)^2 (\zeta_2^m)^2, (\zeta_2^m)^5 \}$$

Compute  $\phi(B_{10})$ :

$$\begin{aligned} \phi(\zeta_{3,7}^m) &= -14 f_7 f_3 - 6 f_5 f_5, & \phi(\zeta_3^m \zeta_7^m) &= f_3 \sqcup f_7, \\ \phi((\zeta_5^m)^2) &= f_5 \sqcup f_5, & \phi(\zeta_{3,5}^m \zeta_2^m) &= -5 f_5 f_3 f_2, \\ \phi(\zeta_3^m \zeta_5^m \zeta_2^m) &= f_3 \sqcup f_5 f_2, & \phi((\zeta_3^m)^2 (\zeta_2^m)^2) &= f_3 \sqcup f_3 f_2^2 \\ \phi((\zeta_2^m)^5) &= f_2^5 \end{aligned}$$

## Decomposition of motivic MZVs

---

$\implies$  Inverting the map  $\phi$  gives the decomposition of  $\zeta^m(n_1, \dots, n_r)$  w.r.t. to a basis  $B_n$  of motivic MZVs.

Moving to motivic MZVs allows to compute the decomposition directly:

$$\begin{aligned} \xi_{10} = & a_0 (\zeta_2^m)^5 + a_1 (\zeta_2^m)^2 (\zeta_3^m)^2 + a_2 \zeta_2^m \zeta_3^m \zeta_5^m + a_3 (\zeta_5^m)^2 \\ & + a_4 \zeta_2^m \zeta_{3,5}^m + a_5 \zeta_3^m \zeta_7^m + a_6 \zeta_{3,7}^m \end{aligned}$$

Operators acting on  $\phi(\xi_{10})$ :

$$\begin{aligned} a_1 &= \frac{1}{2} c_2^2 \partial_3^2, \quad a_2 = c_2 \partial_5 \partial_3, \quad a_3 = \frac{1}{2} \partial_5^2 + \frac{3}{14} [\partial_7, \partial_3] \\ a_4 &= \frac{1}{5} c_2 [\partial_5, \partial_3], \quad a_5 = \partial_7 \partial_3, \quad a_6 = \frac{1}{14} [\partial_7, \partial_3] \end{aligned}$$

## Decomposition of motivic MZVs and $\alpha'$ -expansion

---

Example: weight 11

$$\phi(\zeta_{3,3,5}^m) = -\frac{5}{2} f_5(f_3 \sqcup f_3) + \frac{4}{7} f_5 f_2^3 - \frac{6}{5} f_7 f_2^2 - 45 f_9 f_2 ,$$

⋮

Exact match in the coefficient and commutator structure  
by identifying the  
**motivic derivation operators  $\partial$**  and the **matrix operators  $M$**   
and the **coefficient operator  $c_2$**  with the **matrix operators  $P_2$**

$$\begin{aligned} \partial_{2n+1} &\simeq M_{2n+1} , \\ c_2^k &\simeq P_{2k} \quad , \quad k \geq 1 . \end{aligned}$$

↪ Motivic multi zeta values encapsulate  $\alpha'$ -expansion

## Motivic structure of the open superstring amplitude

---

E.g:  $\phi \left( \zeta_3^m \zeta_5^m M_5 M_3 + \frac{1}{5} \zeta_{3,5}^m [M_5, M_3] \right) = f_3 f_5 M_5 M_3 + f_5 f_3 M_3 M_5$

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

↪ Motivic period matrix  $F^m$  takes simple structures in terms of Hopf algebra !

Schlotterer, Stieberger, [arXiv:1205.1516](https://arxiv.org/abs/1205.1516) [hep-th]

Remark:  $\phi(F^m) = \left( \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} f_2^k P_{2k} \right) \left( 1 - \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} f_{2k+1} M_{2k+1} \right)^{-1}$

Proof in Broedel, Schlotterer, St.St., Terasoma, to appear

## *Lie algebra structure of the $\alpha'$ -expansion*

---

Recall: Commutator structure in  $Q$ :  $[M_{n_2}, [M_{n_3}, \dots, [M_{n_r}, M_{n_1}]]]$

Graded Lie algebra over  $Q$

$$\mathcal{L} = \bigoplus_{r \geq 1} \mathcal{L}_r ,$$

which is generated by the symbols  $M_{2n+1}$  of degree  $2n + 1$ ,  
with the Lie bracket  $(M_i, M_j) \mapsto [M_i, M_j]$ .

The algebra  $\mathcal{L}$  is generated by the following elements:

$$M_3, M_5, M_7, [M_5, M_3], M_9, [M_7, M_3],$$

$$M_{11}, [M_3, [M_5, M_3]], [M_9, M_3], [M_7, M_5], \dots$$

*Linearly independent elements in  $\mathcal{L}_m$  and primitive MZVs*

---

$m$	$\dim(\mathcal{L}_m)$	linearly independent elements at $\alpha^m$	irreducible MZVs
1	0	—	—
2	0	—	—
3	1	$M_3$	$\zeta_3$
4	0	—	—
5	1	$M_5$	$\zeta_5$
6	0	—	—
7	1	$M_7$	$\zeta_7$
8	1	$[M_5, M_3]$	$\zeta_{3,5}$
9	1	$M_9$	$\zeta_9$
10	1	$[M_7, M_3]$	$\zeta_{3,7}$
11	2	$M_{11}, [M_3, [M_5, M_3]]$	$\zeta_{11}, \zeta_{3,3,5}$
12	2	$[M_9, M_3], [M_7, M_5]$	$\zeta_{3,9}, \zeta_{1,1,4,6}$



$m$	$\delta_m$	linearly independent elements at $\alpha^m$	irreducible MZVs
11	2	$M_{11}, [M_3, [M_5, M_3]]$	$\zeta_{11}, \zeta_{3,3,5}$
12	2	$[M_9, M_3], [M_7, M_5]$	$\zeta_{3,9}, \zeta_{1,1,4,6}$
13	3	$M_{13}, [M_3, [M_7, M_3]], [M_5, [M_5, M_3]]$	$\zeta_{13}, \zeta_{3,3,7}, \zeta_{3,5,5}$
14	3	$[M_{11}, M_3], [M_9, M_5], [M_3, [M_3, [M_5, M_3]]]$	$\zeta_{3,11}, \zeta_{5,9}, \zeta_{3,3,3,5}$
15	4	$M_{15},$ $[M_3, [M_9, M_3]], [M_5, [M_7, M_3]], [M_7, [M_5, M_3]]$	$\zeta_{15}$ $\zeta_{5,3,7}, \zeta_{3,3,9}, \zeta_{1,1,3,4,6}$
16	5	$[M_{13}, M_3], [M_{11}, M_5], [M_9, M_7],$ $[M_3, [M_5, [M_5, M_3]]], [M_3, [M_3, [M_7, M_3]]]$	$\zeta_{3,13}, \zeta_{5,11}, \zeta_{1,1,6,8},$ $\zeta_{3,3,3,7}, \zeta_{3,3,5,5}$
17	7	$M_{17},$ $[M_3, [M_3, [M_3, [M_5, M_3]]], [M_7, [M_7, M_3]], [M_5, [M_7, M_5]],$ $[M_3, [M_{11}, M_3]], [M_9, [M_5, M_3]], [M_5, [M_9, M_3]]$	$\zeta_{17},$ $\zeta_{3,3,3,3,5}, \zeta_{1,1,3,6,6}, \zeta_{5,5,7},$ $\zeta_{3,3,11}, \zeta_{5,3,9}, \zeta_{3,5,9}$
18	8	$[M_{15}, M_3], [M_{13}, M_5], [M_{11}, M_7],$ $[M_5, [M_5, [M_5, M_3]]], [M_3, [M_3, [M_7, M_5]]],$ $[M_5, [M_3, [M_7, M_3]]], [M_3, [M_3, [M_9, M_3]]], [M_3, [M_5, [M_7, M_3]]]$	$\zeta_{3,15}, \zeta_{5,13}, \zeta_{1,1,6,10},$ $\zeta_{3,5,5,5}, \zeta_{5,3,3,7},$ $\zeta_{3,3,3,9}, \zeta_{3,5,3,7}, \zeta_{1,1,3,3,4,6}$
19	11	$M_{19},$ $[M_3, [M_{13}, M_3]], [M_7, [M_9, M_3]], [M_9, [M_7, M_3]],$ $[M_5, [M_{11}, M_3]], [M_{11}, [M_5, M_3]], [M_5, [M_9, M_5]],$ $[M_7, [M_7, M_5]],$ $[M_3, [M_3, [M_5, [M_5, M_3]]], [M_5, [M_3, [M_3, [M_5, M_3]]],$ $[M_3, [M_3, [M_3, [M_7, M_3]]]$	$\zeta_{19},$ $\zeta_{3,3,13}, \zeta_{7,3,9}, \zeta_{1,1,3,6,8},$ $\zeta_{5,3,11}, \zeta_{3,5,11}, \zeta_{5,5,9},$ $\zeta_{1,1,5,6,6},$ $\zeta_{3,3,5,3,5}, \zeta_{3,3,3,5,5},$ $\zeta_{3,3,3,3,7}$
20	13	$[M_{17}, M_3], [M_{15}, M_5], [M_{13}, M_7], [M_{11}, M_9],$ $[M_3, [M_3, [M_3, [M_3, [M_5, M_3]]]],$ $[M_5, [M_5, [M_7, M_3]]], [M_3, [M_5, [M_7, M_5]]], [M_3, [M_3, [M_9, M_5]]],$ $[M_3, [M_7, [M_7, M_3]]], [M_3, [M_5, [M_9, M_3]]], [M_3, [M_3, [M_{11}, M_3]]],$ $[M_5, [M_3, [M_7, M_5]]], [M_5, [M_3, [M_9, M_3]]]$	$\zeta_{7,13}, \zeta_{5,15}, \zeta_{3,17}, \zeta_{1,1,8,10},$ $\zeta_{3,3,3,3,3,5},$ $\zeta_{5,5,3,7}, \zeta_{3,5,5,7}, \zeta_{5,3,3,9},$ $\zeta_{3,3,7,7}, \zeta_{3,5,3,9}, \zeta_{3,3,3,11},$ $\zeta_{1,1,3,3,4,8}, \zeta_{1,1,5,3,4,6}$

$$\delta_m := \dim(\mathcal{L}_m)$$

A similar algebra  $\mathcal{F}$  has been studied by **Ihara** to relate the **Galois Lie algebra**  $\mathcal{G}$  of the Galois group  $G$  to the more tractable object  $\mathcal{F}$ .

The **free graded Lie algebra**  $\mathcal{F}$  over  $\mathbb{Q}$  is freely generated by the symbols  $\tau_{2n+1}$  of degree  $2n + 1$ , with the dimension  $\dim(\mathcal{F}_m)$ .

Consider graded space of irreducible (primitive) MZVs:

$$\frac{\mathcal{Z}_{>0}}{\mathcal{Z}_{>0} \mathcal{Z}_{>0}}, \quad \text{with: } \mathcal{Z}_{>0} = \bigoplus_{w>0} \mathcal{Z}_w$$

Goncharov:

$$\frac{\mathcal{Z}_{>0}}{\mathcal{Z}_{>0} \mathcal{Z}_{>0}} \simeq \langle \zeta_2 \rangle_{\mathbb{Q}} \oplus \mathcal{F}$$

Observation:  $\dim(\mathcal{L}_m) = \dim(\mathcal{F}_m) \quad \text{i.e.: } M_{2n+1} \simeq \tau_{2n+1}$

This relates linearly independent elements  $\mathcal{L}_m$  in  $\alpha'$ -expansion to primitive MZVs

*Linearly independent elements in  $\mathcal{L}_m$  for  $N = 5$*

---

E.g.  $N = 5$  : For any nested commutator

$$Q_{(r)} = [M_{n_2}, [M_{n_3}, \dots, [M_{n_r}, M_{n_1}]] \dots], \quad r \geq 2 :$$

$$r_1 + r_2 \in 2\mathbf{Z} : \quad [ Q_{(r_1)}, \tilde{Q}_{(r_2)} ] = 0$$

$$r_1 + r_2 \in 2\mathbf{Z} + 1 : \quad \{ Q_{(r_1)}, \tilde{Q}_{(r_2)} \} = 0$$

As a consequence, e.g.  $w = 18 : [M_3, [M_5, [M_7, M_3]]] = [M_5, [M_3, [M_7, M_3]]]$

General counting formula for  $\dim(\mathcal{L}_m)$   
 in Broedel, Schlotterer,  
 St.St., Terasoma, to appear

$m$	$\dim(\mathcal{F}_m)$	$\dim(\mathcal{L}_m)$	irreducible MZVs
18	8	7	7
19	11	11	11
20	13	11	11
21	17	16	16
22	21	16	16
23	28	25	...

$\mathcal{L}$  gives rise to an other algebra, which may be related to Galois Lie group

*Linearly independent elements in  $\mathcal{L}_m$  for  $N = 5$*

---

$$\begin{aligned}\dim(\mathcal{L}_{2r}) &= w^8 + w^{10} + 2w^{12} + 3w^{14} + 5w^{16} + 7w^{18} + 11w^{20} \\ &+ 16w^{22} + 24w^{24} + 34w^{26} + 49w^{28} + 69w^{30} + 98w^{32} + \dots\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\dim(\mathcal{L}_{2r+1}) &= t^{11} + 2t^{13} + 3t^{15} + 6t^{17} + 10t^{19} + 15t^{21} + 24t^{23} \\ &+ 36t^{25} + 54t^{27} + 80t^{29} + 116t^{31} + 166t^{33} + 237t^{35} \\ &+ 334t^{37} + 466t^{39} + 646t^{41} + 889t^{43} + 1213t^{45} + \dots\end{aligned}$$

Broedel, Schlotterer, St.St., Terasoma, to appear

## String theory in Mellin space

---

Taylor, St.St. arXiv:1303.1532

Mellin transformation:

$$M_f(s) := \int_0^\infty x^{s-1} f(x)$$

Inverse Mellin transformation:

$$f(x) = (2\pi i)^{-1} \int_{-i\infty+c}^{+i\infty+c} ds x^{-s} M_f(s)$$

Consider multiple inverse Mellin transformations:

$$\frac{1}{(2\pi i)^2} \int_{-i\infty+c}^{+i\infty+c} ds \int_{-i\infty+c}^{+i\infty+c} du x^{-s} y^{-u} \frac{\Gamma(s) \Gamma(u)}{\Gamma(s+u)} = \delta(1-x-y) \theta(1-x) \theta(1-y)$$

Kang: Extension of Mellin transformation to distributional setup

## String theory in Mellin space

---

$$\frac{1}{s} + \frac{1}{u} - \zeta(2) (s + u) + \dots$$

$$\simeq \theta(1-x) \theta(1-y) \left\{ \delta(1-x) + \delta(1-y) + \zeta(2) \left[ x \delta'(1-x) + y \delta'(1-y) \right] \right\} + \dots$$

Introduce  $m = \frac{1}{2}N(N-3)$  dihedral coordinates  $u_{i,j}$ :

$$\begin{aligned} & (2\pi i)^{-m} \left( \prod_{(i,j) \in P} \int_{-i\infty+c}^{+i\infty+c} ds_{i,j} u_{i,j}^{-s_{i,j}} \right) B_N(\{s_{k,l}\}, \{n_{k,l}\}) \\ &= \left( \prod_{(i,j) \in P} u_{i,j}^{n_{i,j}} \theta(1-u_{i,j}) \right) \delta(\{u_{k,l}\}) . \end{aligned}$$

Polylogarithms and MZVs from expanding delta-functions !

## *Superstring amplitudes*

---

- Superstring amplitudes:  
generalized Euler integrals, multiple polylogarithms and MZVs
- Structure of  $\alpha'$ -expansions is encoded by  
decompositon of motivic multi zeta values
- coproduct maps the  $\alpha'$ -expansion onto a  
non-commutative Hopf algebra
- Graded Lie algebra structure of the  $\alpha'$ -expansion:  
interesting algebras related to Galois Lie algebra
- Multiple inverse Mellin transformations:  
polylogarithms and MZVs from expanding delta-functions !

## Appendix: Hopf algebra

---

A Hopf algebra is an **algebra**  $\mathcal{A}$  with **multiplication**  $\mu : \mathcal{A} \otimes \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathcal{A}$ , i.e.

$\mu(x_1 \otimes x_2) = x_1 \cdot x_2$  and associativity. At the same time it is also a **coalgebra** with **coproduct**  $\Delta : \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathcal{A} \otimes \mathcal{A}$  and coassociativity such that the product and coproduct are compatible:  $\Delta(x_1 \cdot x_2) = \Delta(x_1) \cdot \Delta(x_2)$ , with  $x_1, x_2 \in \mathcal{A}$ .

$$I^m(x; a_1, \dots, a_r; y) \cdot I^m(x; a_{r+1}, \dots, a_{r+s}; y) = \sum_{\sigma \in \Sigma(r,s)} I^m(x; a_{\sigma(1)}, \dots, a_{\sigma(r+s)}; y)$$

$$\text{with } \Sigma(r,s) = \{\sigma \in \Sigma(r+s) \mid \sigma^{-1}(1) < \dots < \sigma^{-1}(r) \cap \sigma^{-1}(r+1) < \dots < \sigma^{-1}(r+s)\}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta I^m(a_0; a_1, \dots, a_n; a_{n+1}) &= \sum_{0=i_0 < i_1 < \dots < i_k < i_{k+1} = n+1} I^m(a_0; a_{i_1}, \dots, a_{i_k}; a_{n+1}) \\ &\otimes \prod_{p=0}^k I^m(a_{i_p}; a_{i_p+1}, \dots, a_{i_{p+1}-1}; a_{i_{p+1}}), \end{aligned}$$

with  $0 \leq k \leq n$  and  $a_i, x, y \in F$ .