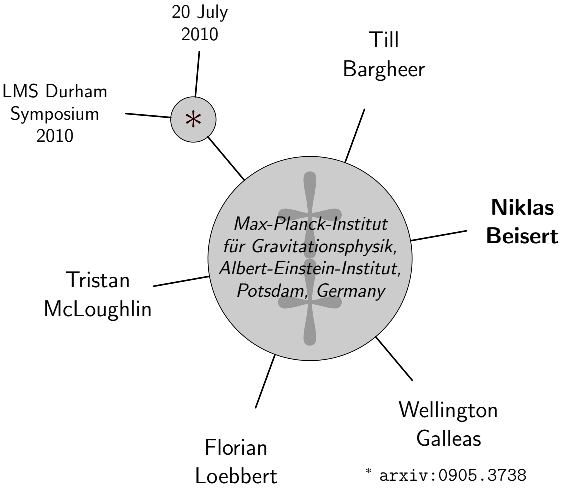
Integrability for Scattering Amplitudes in Planar $\mathcal{N} = 4$ super Yang-Mills*



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* `arxiv:0905.3738`

Motivation

Found on back of mug in Grey College / University of Durham:

> "If you have never been to
> Durham, go there at once.
> It's wonderful."
>
> **Bill Bryson**
> Chancellor of Durham University

This talk:

> "If you have never been to
> planar $\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM, go there at once.
> It's wonderful."
>
> **Niklas Beisert**
> Chancellor of AdS/CFT Integrability

Remarkable $\mathcal{N} = 4$ Super Yang–Mills

$\mathrm{U}(N_\mathrm{c})$ gauge field $\mathcal{A}_\mu$, 4 fermions Ψ^a_α, 6 scalars Φ_m

$$S_{\mathcal{N}=4} \sim \frac{N_\mathrm{c}}{\lambda} \int \frac{d^4x}{4\pi^2} \, \mathrm{Tr}\Big(\tfrac{1}{4}(\mathcal{F}_{\mu\nu})^2 + \tfrac{1}{2}(\mathcal{D}_\mu \Phi_m)^2 - \tfrac{1}{4}[\Phi_m, \Phi_n]^2 + \ldots \Big).$$

- Unique action, three unrenormalised couplings λ, N_c, θ_top.
- Exact superconformal symmetry $\mathfrak{psu}(2,2|4)$.
- And some mysterious features: AdS/CFT, integrability, dualities, ...

Magic in the Planar Limit:

- Integrability in the planar limit: $\mathfrak{psu}(2,2|4)$ Yangian.
- Planar anomalous dimensions (presumably/largely) solved.
- Simplifications for planar scattering, dual conformal symmetry.
- Novel scattering tools: Twistors, CSW/BCF, Graßmannian, TBA, ...

I. Overview:

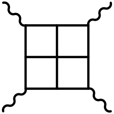
Gluon Amplitudes, Wilson Loops, AdS/CFT and Integrability

Planar Scattering Amplitudes

Intriguing result in $\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM in the planar limit $N_\mathrm{c} \to \infty$:

Four-gluon scattering amplitude obeys BDS relation [Anastasiou, Bern Dixon, Kosower][Bern Dixon Smirnov]

$$A(p,\lambda) \simeq A^{(0)}(p) \exp\Big(2D_\mathrm{cusp}(\lambda) M^{(1)}(p) + F(p,\lambda)\Big)\,.$$



Only required data: • tree level, • one loop, • cusp dimension.

- No finite remainder function $F(p,\lambda) = 0$.

Scattering amplitudes constructible by unitarity and suitable ansatz.
Verified BDS relation at $\mathcal{O}(\lambda^4)$ with [Bern Dixon Smirnov][Bern, Czakon, Dixon Kosower, Smirnov]

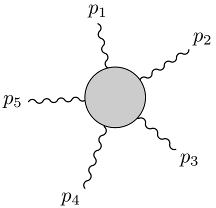
$$D_\mathrm{cusp}(\lambda) = \frac{1}{2}\,\frac{\lambda}{\pi^2} - \frac{1}{96}\,\frac{\lambda^2}{\pi^2} + \frac{11}{23040}\,\frac{\lambda^3}{\pi^2} - \left(\frac{73}{2580480} + \frac{\zeta(3)^2}{1024\pi^6}\right)\frac{\lambda^4}{\pi^2} \pm \ldots\,.$$

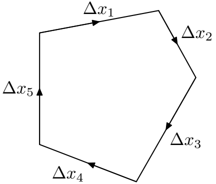
Non-trivial finite remainder for $n \geq 6$. [Alday Maldacena][Drummond, Henn Korchemsky Sokatchev][Bartels Lipatov Sabio Vera][Bern, Dixon, Kosower Roiban, Spradlin Vergu, Volovich]

Light-Like Wilson Loops

What does scattering correspond to in the dual string theory on $AdS_5 \times S^5$?

After a T-duality it relates to a light-like polygonal Wilson loop! [Alday Maldacena]





- light-like momenta $p_k^2 = 0$
- momentum conservation $\sum_k p_k = 0$
- polarisations

- light-like separations $\mathit{\Delta} x_k^2 = 0$
- closure $\sum_k \mathit{\Delta} x_k = 0$
- ? (Only MHV?)

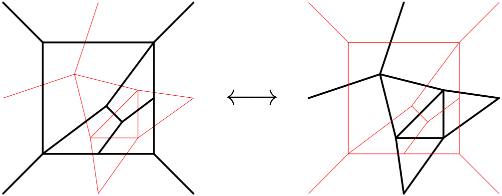
Set $p_k = \mathit{\Delta} x_k$ and match Wilson loop expectation value with amplitude.

- Functional form agrees with BDS relation at strong coupling! [Alday Maldacena]
- Amplitudes dual to Wilson loops also at weak coupling! [Drummond Korchemsky Sokatchev][Brandhuber Heslop Travaglini]

Simplicity and Dual Conformal Symmetry

Planar amplitudes and integrals simpler than expected:

- No bubbles, no triangles, typically scalar boxes (also non-planar).
- Similarity of momentum and position space propagators in $D = 4$.



- Dual amplitudes and integrals are conformal. [Drummond Korchemsky Sokatchev]...
- Dual superconformal symmetry of superspace amplitude. [Drummond, Henn Korchemsky Sokatchev]

Strings:

- Self-duality of superstrings requires also fermionic T-duality. [Berkovits Maldacena]
- Dual superconformal symmetry $\widehat{=}$ symmetry of T-dual model.
- Dual superconformal symmetry allows $F(p, \lambda)$ only for $n \geq 6$ legs.

Sketch of Scattering Amplitudes

Structure of S-matrix elements (in regularised theory):

$$\mathcal{A} \simeq \sum \text{Colour} \times \text{Polarisation} \times \text{Scalar Loop Integrals}.$$

Scalar factor contains IR divergences (massless particles)

$$\text{Scalar Factor} \simeq \exp(\text{IR Singularity} + \text{Finite Remainder}).$$

Same cusp dimension $D_{\text{cusp}}(\lambda)$ in IR singularity & integrable system:

- How to apply integrability to planar scattering amplitudes?
- Can one also compute remainder function $F(p, \lambda)$?
- Relation between (dual) superconformal symmetry and integrability?

Modern Efficient Tools related to integrability:

- Polarisation: Graßmannian. [Arkani-Hamed, Cachazo Cheung, Kaplan] [Bullimore Mason Skinner] [Kaplan 0912.0957] [Arkani-Hamed, Bourjaily Cachazo, Trnka]
- Scalar Factor: TBA. [Alday Maldacena] [Alday Gaiotto Maldacena] [Alday, Maldacena Sever, Vieira]

Outline

Symmetries of Scattering Amplitudes (S-matrix):

- Understand symmetries of S-matrix.
- Apply symmetries to (fully?) constrain S-matrix.

How to treat (super)conformal symmetry of the S-matrix in $\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM?

Concretely

- Structure of symmetries: superconformal and Yangian
- Free symmetries
- Symmetries at tree level
- Symmetries at one loop
- . . .

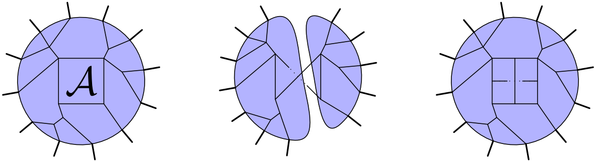
Ultimately

- Perturbative symmetries increasingly messy. Not so useful.
- Symmetries are non-perturbative!(?) Exploit them there!

II. Free Symmetries

Scattering Amplitudes

Colour-ordered scattering amplitudes (1-trace, 2-trace, genus-1):



Legs: Field $\mathit{\Omega}$ combines on-shell gluons $\mathit{\Gamma}$, fermions $\mathit{\Psi}$ & scalars $\mathit{\Phi}$:

$$\mathit{\Omega}(\lambda,\tilde{\lambda},\bar{\eta})=\mathit{\Gamma}(\lambda,\tilde{\lambda})+\bar{\eta}^a\mathit{\Psi}_a(\lambda,\tilde{\lambda})+\tfrac{1}{2}\bar{\eta}^a\bar{\eta}^b\mathit{\Phi}_{ab}(\lambda,\tilde{\lambda})+\ldots.$$

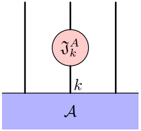
Amplitude $\mathcal{A}(\mathit{\Lambda}_1,\ldots,\mathit{\Lambda}_n)$ on spinor helicity superspace $\mathit{\Lambda}=(\lambda,\tilde{\lambda},\bar{\eta})$

$$p^{\beta\dot{\alpha}}=\lambda^\beta\tilde{\lambda}^{\dot{\alpha}},\qquad q^{\alpha b}=\lambda^\beta\bar{\eta}^a.$$

Free Superconformal Symmetry

Free representation $\mathfrak{J}$ of superconformal algebra $\mathfrak{psu}(2,2|4)$:

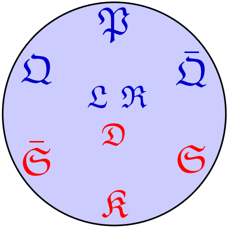
$$\mathfrak{J} = \sum_{k=1}^{n}$$



- Single-leg representation $\mathfrak{J}_k$: multiplet of free on-shell fields Ω.
- Symmetry: Amplitudes are invariant under $\mathfrak{J}$.
- Representation independent of colour structure.

Algebra Generators:

- super-Poincaré: $\mathfrak{P}$, $\mathfrak{L}$, $\mathfrak{Q}$, $\bar{\mathfrak{Q}}$, $\mathfrak{R}$
- superconformal: $\mathfrak{K}$, $\mathfrak{D}$, $\mathfrak{S}$, $\bar{\mathfrak{S}}$

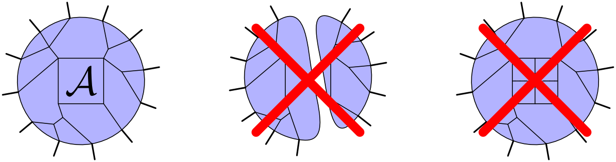


Invariance of tree (N*MHV) amplitudes:

- $\mathfrak{P}$, $\mathfrak{Q}$: manifest through delta functions,
- $\mathfrak{L}$, $\mathfrak{R}$, $\mathfrak{D}$: weight and index contractions,
- $\bar{\mathfrak{Q}}$, $\bar{\mathfrak{S}}$: medium difficulty,
- $\mathfrak{K}$, $\mathfrak{S}$: hardest.

Dual Superconformal Symmetry

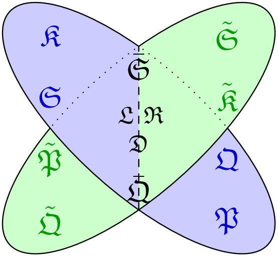
Remarkable features of disk amplitudes (single-trace, large-N_c):



- Simplifications: BDS formula.
- Only particular integrals appear.
- Dual superconformal symmetry!
- Another $\mathfrak{psu}(2,2|4)$:
  $\mathfrak{L}$, $\mathfrak{R}$, $\mathfrak{D}$, $\bar{\mathfrak{Q}}$, $\bar{\mathfrak{S}}$: shared with conventional,
  $\tilde{\mathfrak{P}}$, $\tilde{\mathfrak{Q}}$: trivial new generators,
  $\tilde{\mathfrak{K}}$, $\tilde{\mathfrak{S}}$: non-trivial new generators.

[Drummond Korchemsky Sokatchev]

[Drummond, Henn Korchemsky Sokatchev]



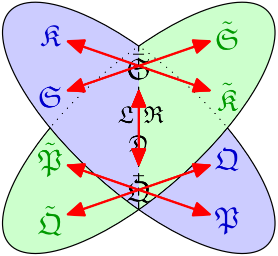
T-Self-Duality in String Theory

Detour: Consider string theory picture at strong coupling.

- Strings propagate on $AdS_5 \times S^5$ superspace.
- Background is coset space $\mathrm{PSU}(2,2|4)/\mathrm{Sp}(2) \times \mathrm{Sp}(1,1)$.
- Isometries of background are Noether symmetries: $\mathfrak{psu}(2,2|4)$.

T-duality transformation: [Alday Maldacena][Berkovits Maldacena]

- 4 bosonic + 8 fermionic T-dualities.
- terms at worldsheet boundaries: planar!
- maps $AdS_5 \times S^5$ string model to itself: self-duality!
- maps isometries to dual isometries: dual superconformal symmetry



String Theory Integrability

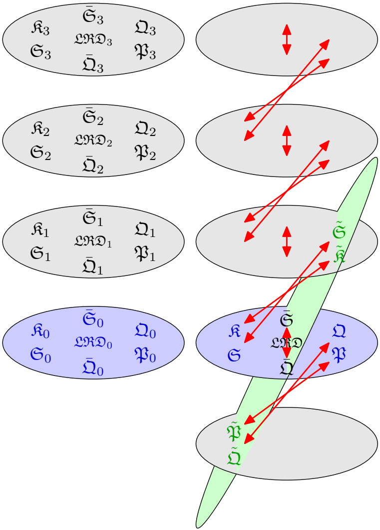
Integrability enhances conserved charges:

$$Q(z) = zQ_0 + z^2Q_1 + z^3Q_2 + \dots$$

- Q_0 are Noether charges.
- Q_k form (half) loop algebra.
- ∞-dimensional hidden symmetries.

T-self-duality [NB, Ricci Tseytlin, Wolf][Berkovits Maldacena][NB 0903.0609]

- maps loop algebra to itself.
- It shows that conventional & dual superconformal symmetry close into loop algebra.
- Quantum algebra called Yangian.

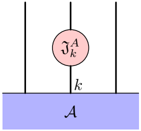


Yangian Symmetry

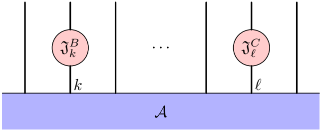
Back to scattering amplitudes in $\mathcal{N}=4$ SYM:

Free representation $\mathfrak{J}=\mathfrak{J}_0$, $\widehat{\mathfrak{J}}=\mathfrak{J}_1$ of $\mathfrak{psu}(2,2|4)$ Yangian: [Drummond Henn Plefka]

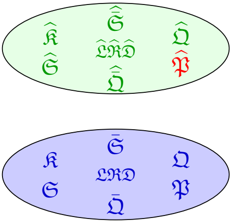
$$\mathfrak{J}^A = \sum_{k=1}^{n}$$



$$\widehat{\mathfrak{J}}^A = F^A_{BC} \sum_{k<\ell=1}^{n}$$



- Yangian Symmetry:
  Amplitudes are invariant under $\mathfrak{J}$, $\widehat{\mathfrak{J}}$. [Drummond, Henn Korchemsky Sokatchev]
- compatible with cyclic structure (exceptional)!
- $\mathfrak{J}$ & $\widehat{\mathfrak{J}}$ all one needs to know.
  In fact, only $\mathfrak{J}$ and $\widehat{\mathfrak{P}}=\tilde{\mathfrak{K}}$ sufficient.
- Representation requires planar limit & ordering;
  depends on colour structure.
- Planar amplitudes are integrable!



Meaning of Integrability

Wait a minute! Integrability makes scattering in $D > 2$ trivial!?!

- Only if integrability refers to local conserved charges.
- Here conserved charges are local in (planar) colour space: String!

Integrability is symmetry enhancement. Properties of S-matrix:

- unitarity
- (super) Poincare invariance
- (super) conformal invariance
- Yangian: Infinite-dimensional algebra (one additional constraint).

Integrability means (pragmatic definition):

- hidden symmetry constrains S-matrix uniquely.
- can calculate S-matrix efficiently: Graßmannian, TBA.

III. Superconformal Anomaly at Tree Level

Nitpicking

Graßmannian generates free Yangian invariants. [Drummond Ferro] [Korchemsky Sokatchev]

Tree level S-matrix is suitable linear combination. Which? [Drummond Henn]

Invariants?

- Individual invariants have spurious singularities. [Hodges 0905.1473]
- Individual invariants have wrong collinear behaviour. [Korchemsky Sokatchev]
- "Invariants" actually not exactly invariant. [Cachazo Svrcek Witten]
  Free symmetries have distributional anomalies!
- Ignore at tree level ⇒ hits you hard at loops.
  Anomaly smeared by loop integration.
- Repair anomaly by deformed representation. [Bargheer, NB, Galleas Loebbert, McLoughlin] [NB, Henn McLoughlin, Plefka]

Invariant!

- There can be only one invariant: the S-matrix.
- S-matrix assembled from almost-invariants.

Collinear Anomaly

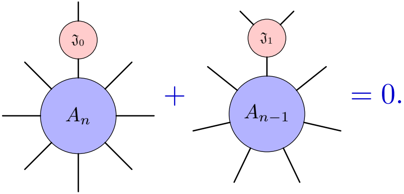
Tree amplitude has poles when particle momenta become collinear

$$\mathcal{A} \sim \langle k, k+1 \rangle^{-1}.$$

Conformal symmetry sensitive to poles. Distributional anomaly

$$\bar{\mathfrak{J}}\mathcal{A} \sim \delta^2(\langle k, k+1 \rangle).$$

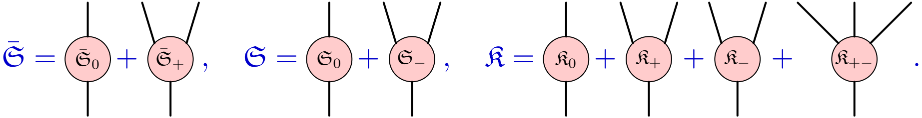
Compensate by deformation of conformal representation [Bargheer, NB, Galleas Loebbert, McLoughlin]



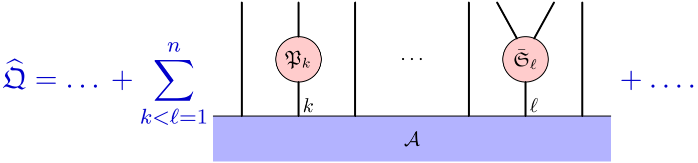
Only complete S-matrix (not individual amplitudes) invariant!

Classical Representation

We find the following corrections for representation of $\mathfrak{S}$, $\bar{\mathfrak{S}}$ and $\mathfrak{K}$



Similar deformations expected for classical Yangian representation, e.g.

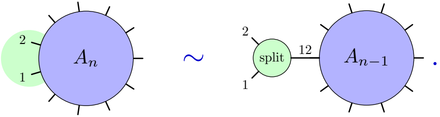


To be done:

- Does the deformation annihilate all tree amplitudes? Yes.
- Is it a consistent representation of superconformal symmetry? Yes.
- What does it mean? You'll see.

Invariance of Tree Amplitudes

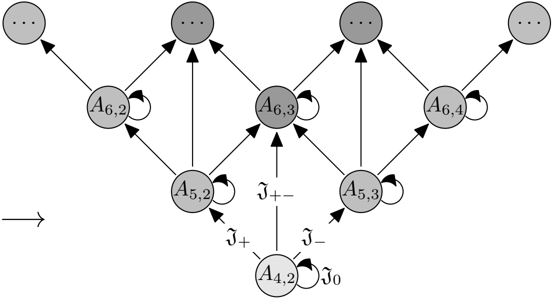
Collinear limit is universal for all (tree) amplitudes: splitting function



Follows e.g. from recursion relation by inheritance.

Exact invariance of all tree amplitudes: [Bargheer, NB, Galleas Loebbert, McLoughlin]

- Collinear singularities universal, same as for MHV.
- No anomalies from multi-particle singularities.
- Structure of cancellations $\longrightarrow$ $A_{n,k}$: n-leg N^{k-2}MHV.



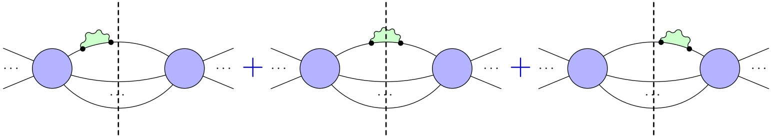
IV. Implications

Massless Asymptotic States

Reconsider conceptual problems of massless scattering:

- No mass gap: Massless particles can “decay” into particle showers

- Particle number not well-defined in asymptotic region.
- But: Shower particles are strictly collinear.
  Single massless particle physically indistinguishable from shower.
- Overcounting of collinear states leads to IR divergencies at loop level.
- Can cancel IR divergencies in cross sections:



Finite, but scattering amplitudes are more convenient.

Symmetry for Massless Asymptotic States

Asymptotic space:

- Fock space is too large; overcounts collinear states.
- Should project out collinear states: Conceptually hard!
- Rather embed asymptotic space in larger Fock space.
  Keep collinear issues in mind.

Our results are in line with the above:

- Conformal anomaly precisely where asymptotic particles overcount.
- Deformation makes superconformal representation
  compatible with embedding of asymptotic space into Fock space. (?)
- Exact conformal invariance incompatible with fixed particle number.
  Have to consider generating functional $\mathcal{A}$ instead of amplitude(s) A.
  Scattering operator for asymptotic space instead of scattering matrix.

Uniqueness

All tree amplitudes have been constructed by recursion relations [Drummond Henn]

$$A_{n,k}(p) = A_n^{\mathrm{MHV}}(p) \sum\nolimits_\alpha c_\alpha R_\alpha(p).$$

Each R is (almost) invariant under the free Yangian representation.
How to obtain the correct physical linear combination $c_\alpha = 1$?

- Demand absense of spurious singularities or equivalently [Hodges 0905.1473]
- demand correct collinear behaviour. [Korchemsky Sokatchev]

Deformed representation ensures correct collinear behaviour. [Bargheer, NB, Galleas Loebbert, McLoughlin]
Therefore symmetry alone fixes correct linear combination $c_\alpha = 1$!

Very important for construction by symmetry at higher loops:

- Adding any invariant respects symmetry: ambiguity!
- Adding tree level amounts to an overall factor; okay.

Can symmetry fix planar amplitude completely (non)perturbatively?

V. Conclusions

Conclusions

⋆ **Superconformal Symmetry at Tree Level**

- Tree amplitudes almost invariant under free superconformal symmetry.
- Invariance violated for singular configurations: Collinear momenta.
- Transformations can be corrected to make trees fully invariant.
- Dynamic corrections requires, changes number of legs.
- Superconformal algebra closes onto gauge transformations.
- Yangian appears to lead to a unique invariant ⇒ the S-matrix.

⋆ **Superconformal Symmetry at One Loop**

- Transformations can be corrected to make loops invariant. [NB, Henn McLoughlin, Plefka]

⋆ **Open Problems**

- How does the algebra at loop level close?
- What's new at two loops?
- What about conformal inversions?