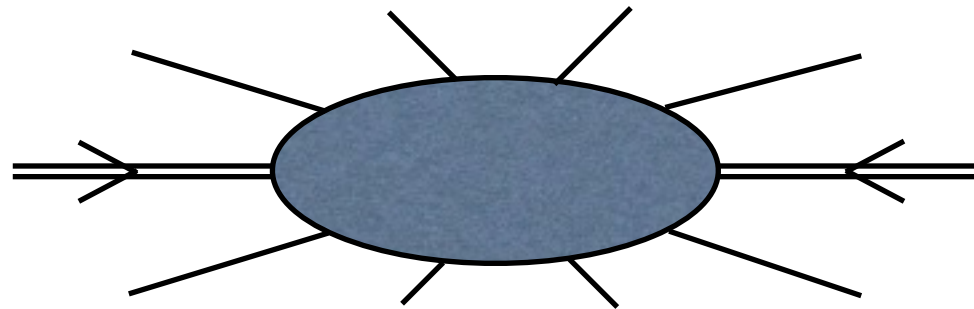


# Review of bootstraps for scattering amplitudes

James Drummond  
University of Southampton

Based on 1412.3763 [JMD, Papathanasiou, Spradlin],  
1507.08982 [JMD, Papathanasiou],  
1606.08807 [Del Duca, Druc, JMD, Duhr, Dulat, Marzucca,  
Papathanasiou, Verbeek],  
1612.08976 [Dixon, JMD, Harrington, Mcleod,  
Papathanasiou, Spradlin]  
+ more to come...

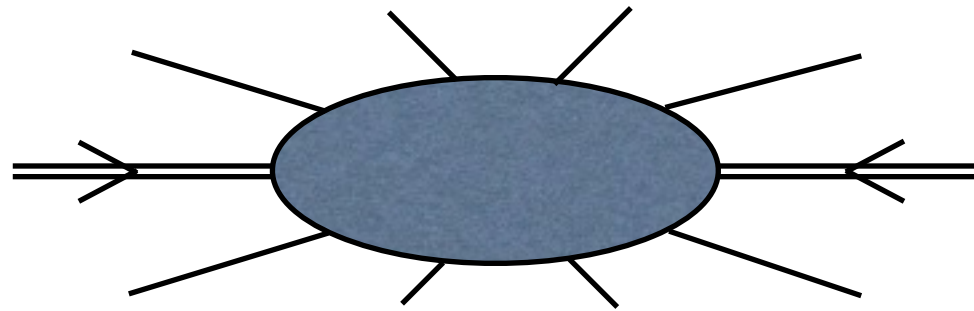
# Motivation



- Scattering amplitudes are basic quantities in QFT
- Collider experiments require good estimates of background



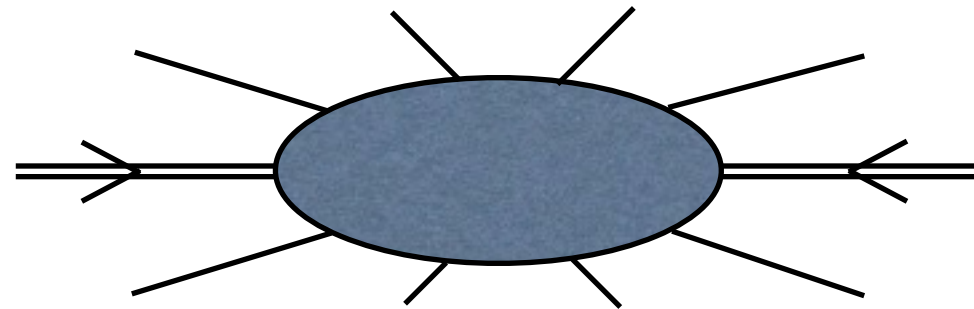
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Calculations !

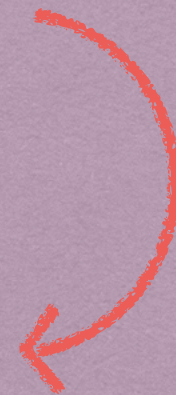
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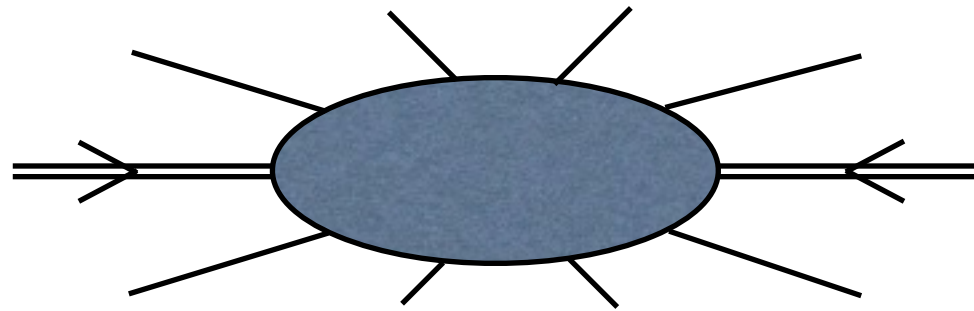
Calculations !

New techniques !

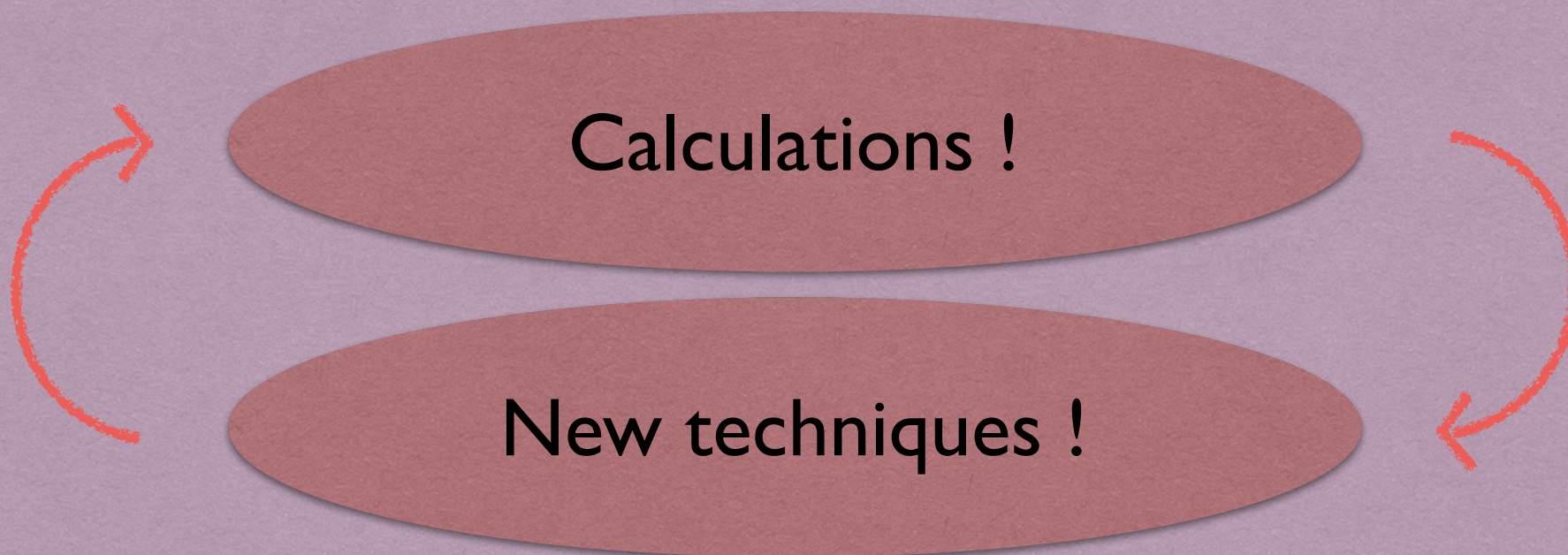




# Motivation

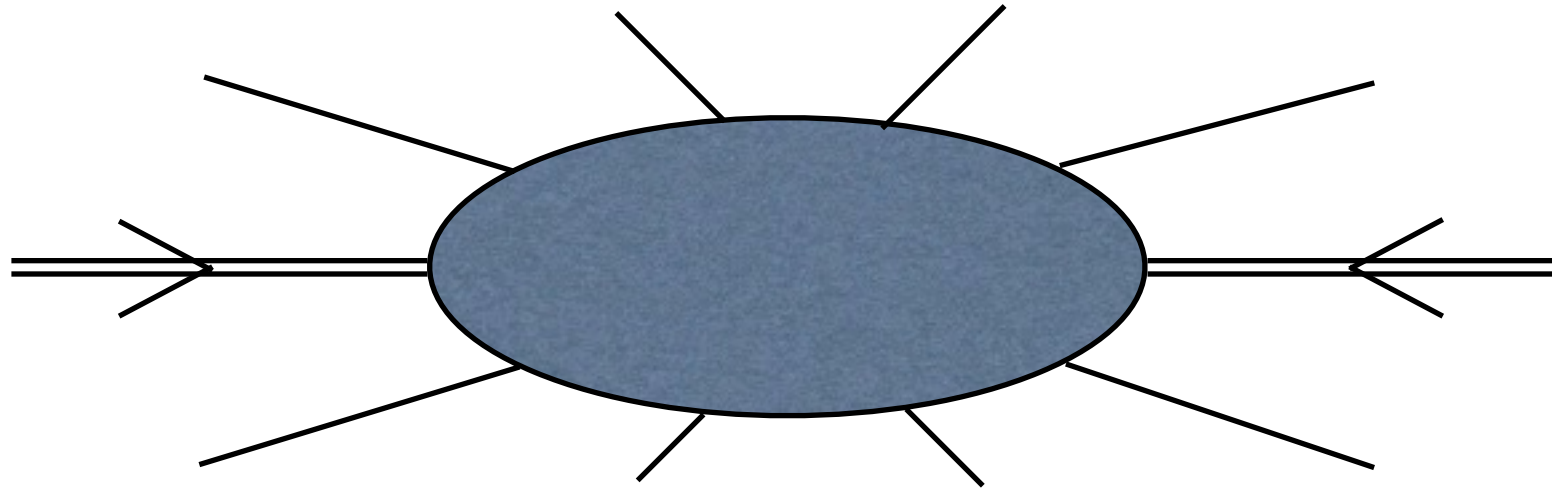


- Scattering amplitudes are basic quantities in QFT
- Collider experiments require good estimates of background



- Amazing progress in understanding on-shell quantities

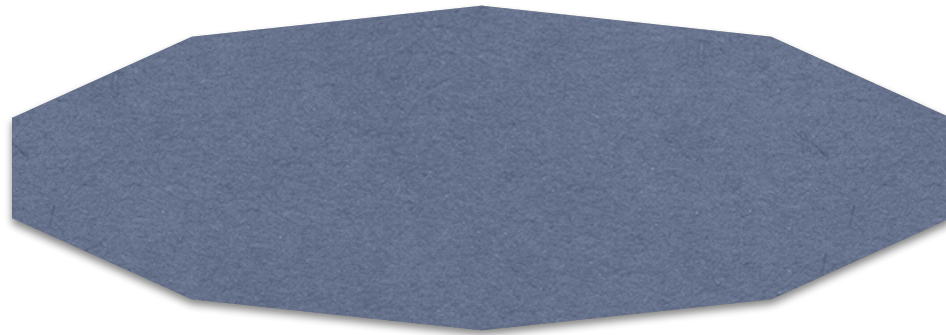
# Motivation



- Analytic S-matrix programme
- Dream goal: define and calculate scattering amplitudes in terms of the analytic properties they obey.
- Singularities: poles and cuts correspond to physical processes.
- Properties like unitarity should heavily constrain the results.



# Motivation



- $N=4$  super Yang-Mills the simplest 4d gauge theory.
- Integrability in the planar limit gives even more structure.
- Duality between amplitudes and light-like Wilson loops.
- Analytic structure is more tractable.

# Bootstrap programme

- Proceed experimentally:
- Observe that in perturbation theory amplitudes/Wilson loops are described by particular classes of functions.
- Make an ansatz in terms of these functions.
- Constrain ansatz with some physical input:

Branch cuts (locality/unitarity), collinear limits, supersymmetry, OPE for Wilson loops, Regge limits for amplitudes...



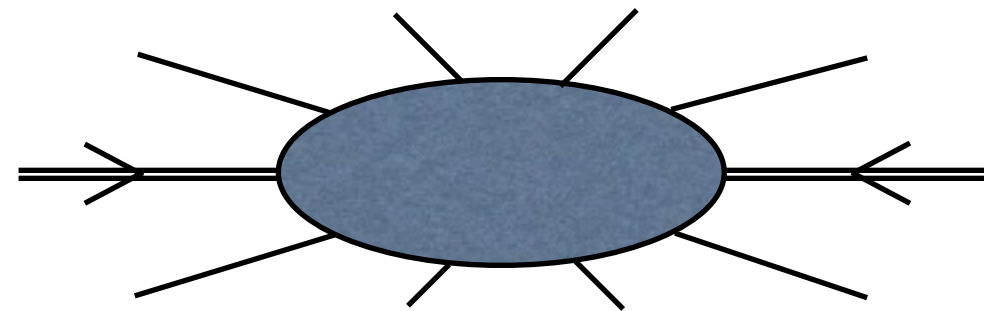
# Scattering amplitudes

Amplitudes depend on:

On-shell (light-like) momenta  $p_i^{\alpha\dot{\alpha}} = \lambda_i^\alpha \tilde{\lambda}_i^{\dot{\alpha}}$

Helicities  $h_i \in \left\{ -1, -\frac{1}{2}, 0, \frac{1}{2}, 1 \right\}$

Colour labels  $a_i$



Planar limit: 
$$\mathcal{A}_{\text{full}} = \sum_{\sigma} \text{Tr}(T^{a_{\sigma(1)}} \dots T^{a_{\sigma(n)}}) \underbrace{\mathcal{A}(\sigma(1), \dots, \sigma(n))}_{\text{Colour-ordered partial amplitude}}$$

$\mathcal{A}(- - + + \dots +)$

(MHV)

$\mathcal{A}(- - - + \dots +)$

(NMHV)

Functions of  
momenta only

# N=4 supersymmetry

## On-shell supermultiplet

$$\Phi(\eta) = G_+ + \eta^A \Gamma_A + \frac{1}{2} \eta^A \eta^B S_{AB} + \frac{1}{3!} \eta^A \eta^B \eta^C \epsilon_{ABCD} \bar{\Gamma}^D + \frac{1}{4!} \eta^4 G_-$$

## Supersymmetry generators

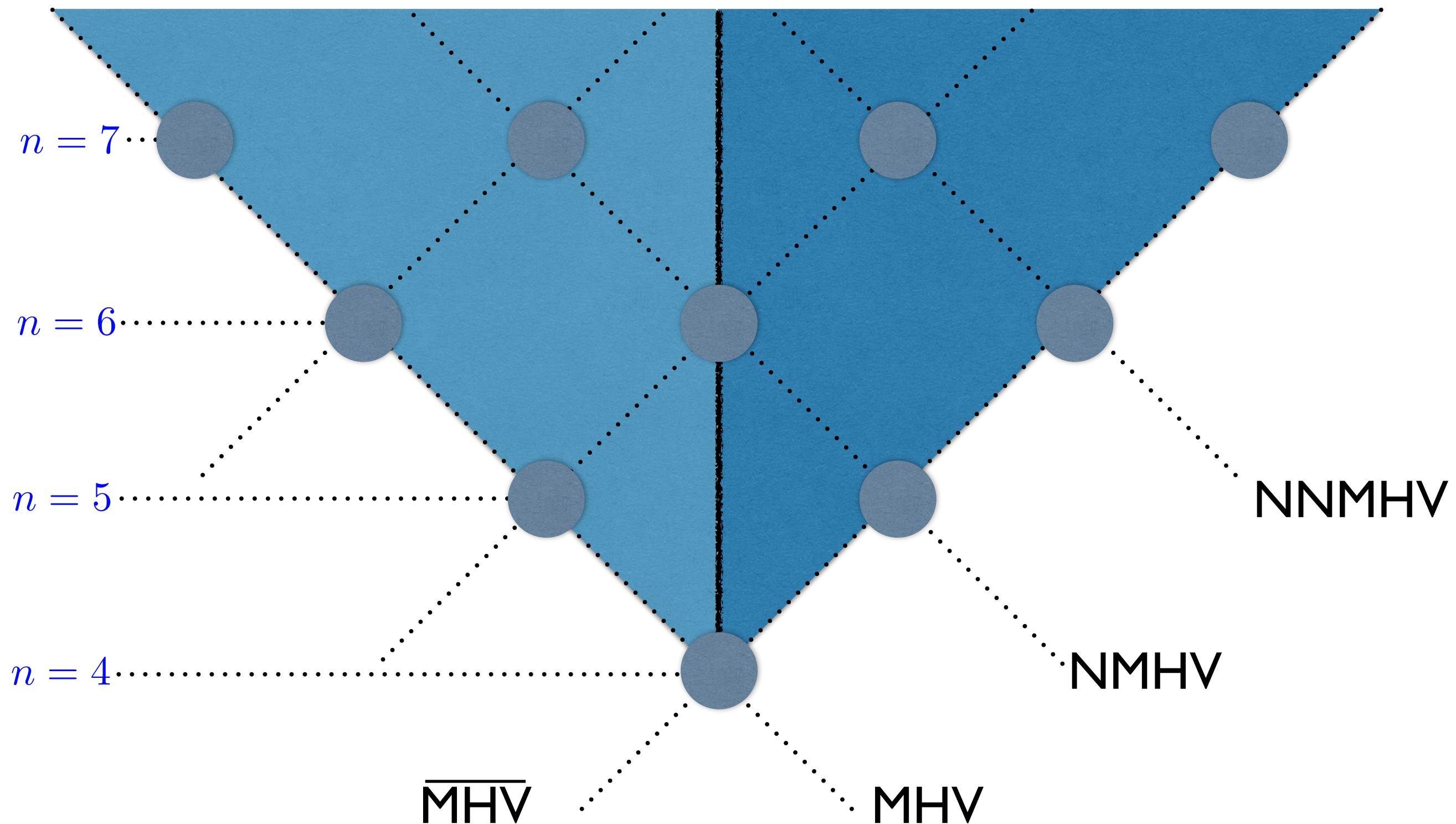
$$p^{\alpha\dot{\alpha}} = \lambda^\alpha \tilde{\lambda}^{\dot{\alpha}}, \quad q^{\alpha A} = \lambda^\alpha \eta^A, \quad \bar{q}_A^{\dot{\alpha}} = \tilde{\lambda}^{\dot{\alpha}} \frac{\partial}{\partial \eta^A}$$

## Superamplitude

$$\mathcal{A}(\Phi_1, \dots, \Phi_n) = \frac{\delta^4(p) \delta^8(q)}{\langle 12 \rangle \dots \langle n1 \rangle} \left[ \mathcal{P}^{(0)} + \mathcal{P}^{(4)} + \dots \mathcal{P}^{(4n-16)} \right]$$

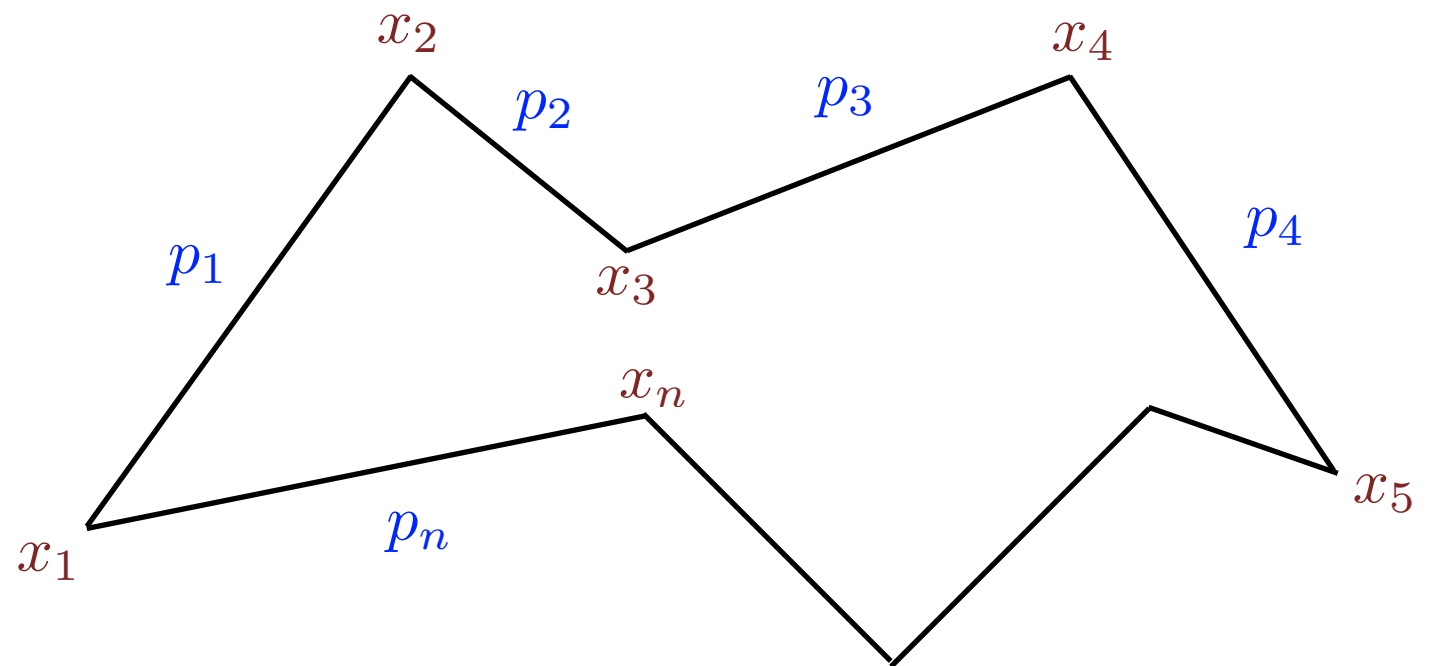


# MHV expansion



# Wilson loops

$$\left\langle \text{tr } \mathcal{P} \exp \int_C A \right\rangle$$



- Naturally come with a dihedral symmetry.
- Large N: Colour-ordered MHV amplitudes and Wilson loops coincide!  
[Alday, Maldacena], [JMD, Korchemsky, Sokatchev], [Brandhuber, Heslop, Travaglini], [JMD, Henn, Korchemsky, Sokatchev],...
- Super Wilson loops for non-MHV amplitudes.  
[Mason, Skinner], [Caron-Huot]
- Conformal symmetry of Wilson loop is symmetry of amplitude.



# Dual conformal symmetry

- Space of light-like polygons stable under conformal transformations.
- Conformal symmetry of Wilson loops broken by ultraviolet divergences.
- Divergences factorise and exponentiate.
- Interesting piece is the conformally invariant finite ‘remainder’.

$$\left\langle \text{tr } \mathcal{P} \exp \int_C A \right\rangle = \exp(\text{UV div}) \exp R$$

- Divergences organised so that remainder begins at two loops in pert. theory.

- First conformal invariants at six points:

$$u = \frac{x_{13}^2 x_{46}^2}{x_{14}^2 x_{36}^2}, \quad v = \frac{x_{24}^2 x_{15}^2}{x_{14}^2 x_{25}^2}, \quad w = \frac{x_{35}^2 x_{26}^2}{x_{25}^2 x_{36}^2}.$$

- Four and five points fixed!

[Anastasiou, Bern, Dixon, Kosower], [Bern, Dixon, Smirnov], [JMD, Henn, Korchemsky Sokatchev]

# Dual conformal symmetry

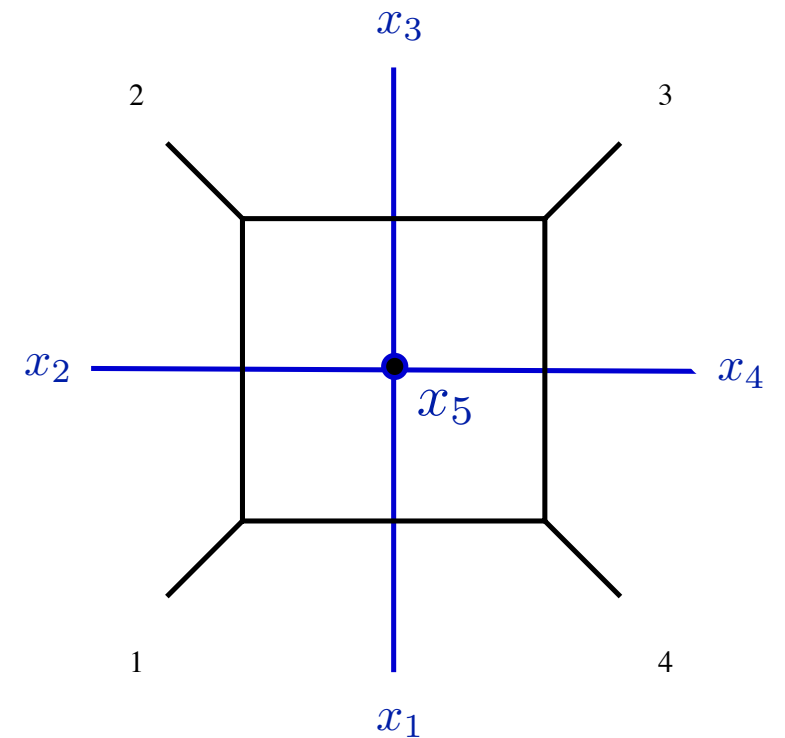
Dual variables

$$p_i = x_{i+1} - x_i$$

$$I_{\square} = \int \frac{d^4 x_5}{x_{15}^2 x_{25}^2 x_{35}^3 x_{45}^2}$$

Integrands exhibit symmetry

[JMD, Henn, Smirnov, Sokatchev]





# Dual conformal symmetry

$$\begin{aligned}
 A_4 = A_4^{\text{tree}} & \left[ 1 + a \quad \text{[square diagram]} \right. \\
 & + a^2 \left( \text{[two squares side-by-side]} \quad \text{[two squares stacked]} \right) \\
 & \left. + a^3 \left( \text{[three squares side-by-side]} \quad \text{[three squares stacked]} \quad \text{[other diagrams]} \right) + \dots \right]
 \end{aligned}$$

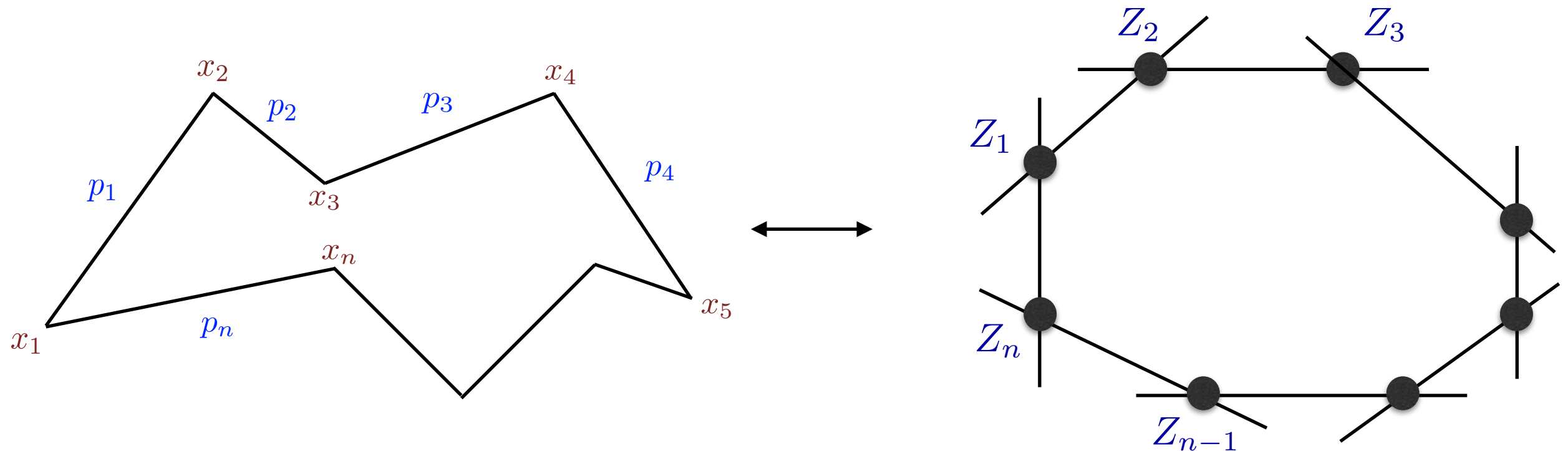
Simple integrand...

... and simple integrals!

[Anastasiou, Bern, Dixon, Kosower], [Bern, Dixon, Smirnov]

$$A_4 = A_4^{\text{tree}} \exp \left\{ -\frac{1}{4} \sum_{l=1}^{\infty} a^l \left[ \frac{\Gamma_{\text{cusp}}^{(l)}}{(l\epsilon)^2} + \frac{\Gamma_{\text{col}}^{(l)}}{l\epsilon} \right] \sum_{i=1}^n \left( \frac{\mu^2}{-s_{i,i+1}} \right)^{l\epsilon} + \frac{1}{2} \Gamma_{\text{cusp}}(a) \log^2 \frac{s}{t} + O(\epsilon) \right\}$$

# Twistors



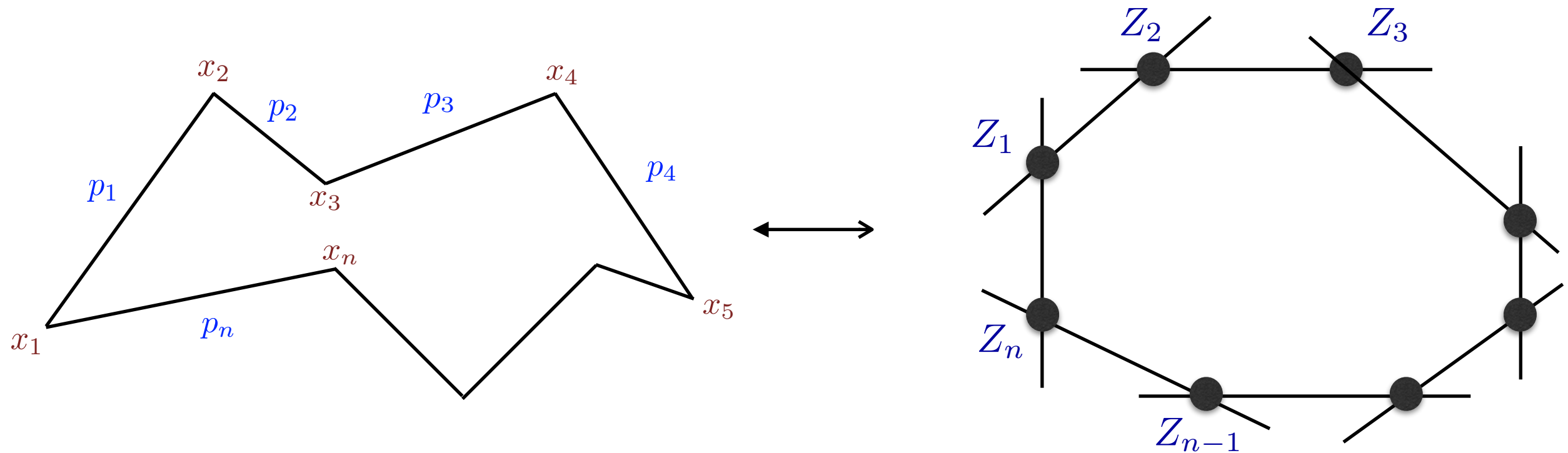
- Best to describe a sequence of intersecting null rays via twistors  $Z_i \in \mathbb{CP}^3$
  - Due to the relation to particle momenta, often called ‘momentum twistors’.
- [Hodges]

- The corners of the loop map to lines in twistor space  $x_i \sim \frac{Z_{i-1} \wedge Z_i}{\langle Z_{i-1} Z_i I \rangle}$

- Mandelstam variables  $(p_i + p_{i+1} + \dots p_{j-1})^2 = (x_i - x_j)^2 = \frac{\langle Z_{i-1} Z_i Z_{j-1} Z_j \rangle}{\langle Z_{i-1} Z_i I \rangle \langle Z_{j-1} Z_j I \rangle}$



# Twistors



Arrange the twistors into a  $(4 \times n)$  matrix:  $(Z_i^A)$

Gives a description of the Grassmannian  $G(4, n)$

Kinematical space identified with:  $\text{Conf}_n(\mathbb{P}^3) = G(4, n)/(\mathbb{C}^*)^{n-1}$

# Polylogarithms

[Chen], [Goncharov], [Brown], ...

Classical polylogarithms:  $\text{Li}_n(x) = \int_0^x \frac{dt}{t} \text{Li}_{n-1}(t), \quad \text{Li}_1(x) = -\log(1-x)$

More generally, polylogarithms in many variables:

$$df^{(k)} = \sum_{\phi} f_{\phi}^{(k-1)} d \log \phi, \quad f^{(1)} = \sum_{\phi} r_{\phi} \log \phi$$

The ‘letters’  $\phi$  run over a finite set of rational functions.

‘Symbol’ recursively defined  
[Goncharov, Spradlin, Vergu, Volovich]

$$S(f^{(k)}) = \sum_{\phi} S(f_{\phi}^{(k-1)}) \otimes \phi, \quad S(\log \phi) = \phi$$

Examples:

$$S(\text{Li}_2(x)) = -[(1-x) \otimes x], \quad S(\log^2 x) = 2[x \otimes x]$$

Integrability:

$$d^2 f^{(k)} = 0 \quad \implies \quad \sum_{\phi} df_{\phi}^{(k-1)} \wedge d \log \phi = 0$$



# Cluster algebras

The letters (singularities) will be dictated by cluster algebras associated to

$$\mathrm{Conf}_n(\mathbb{P}^3) = G(4, n)/(\mathbb{C}^*)^{n-1}$$

Cluster algebras: [Fomin, Zelevinsky]

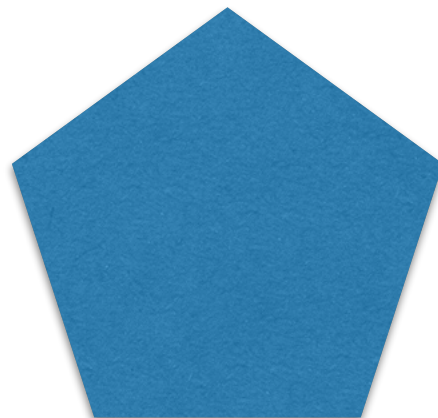
- Commutative algebras with distinguished set of generators (cluster variables).
- Variables grouped into overlapping sets (clusters).
- Clusters constructed from initial cluster via a process called ‘mutation’.

# $A_2$ example

- Cluster variables:  $a_m, m \in \mathbb{Z}$
- Initial cluster:  $\{a_1, a_2\}$
- Clusters:  $\{a_m, a_{m+1}\}$
- Mutation:  $\{a_{m-1}, a_m\} \rightarrow \{a_m, a_{m+1}\}, \quad a_{m+1} = \frac{1 + a_m}{a_{m-1}}$

Finite number of clusters:

$$a_3 = \frac{1 + a_2}{a_1}, \quad a_4 = \frac{1 + a_1 + a_2}{a_1 a_2}, \quad a_5 = \frac{1 + a_1}{a_2}, \quad a_6 = a_1, \quad a_7 = a_2$$



Topology of mutations  
is a pentagon.



# Quivers

More generally, consider a quiver diagram, corresponding to a cluster.

Each cluster variable corresponds to node.

Mutation on node  $k$  yields a new quiver via the rules:

For each  $i \rightarrow k \rightarrow j$

add new arrow  $i \rightarrow j$

reverse all arrows to/from  $k$

delete opposing pairs and returning arrows

$$a_k \rightarrow a'_k = \frac{1}{a_k} \left( \prod_{i \rightarrow k} a_i + \prod_{k \rightarrow j} a_j \right)$$

Sometimes finite, sometimes infinite.

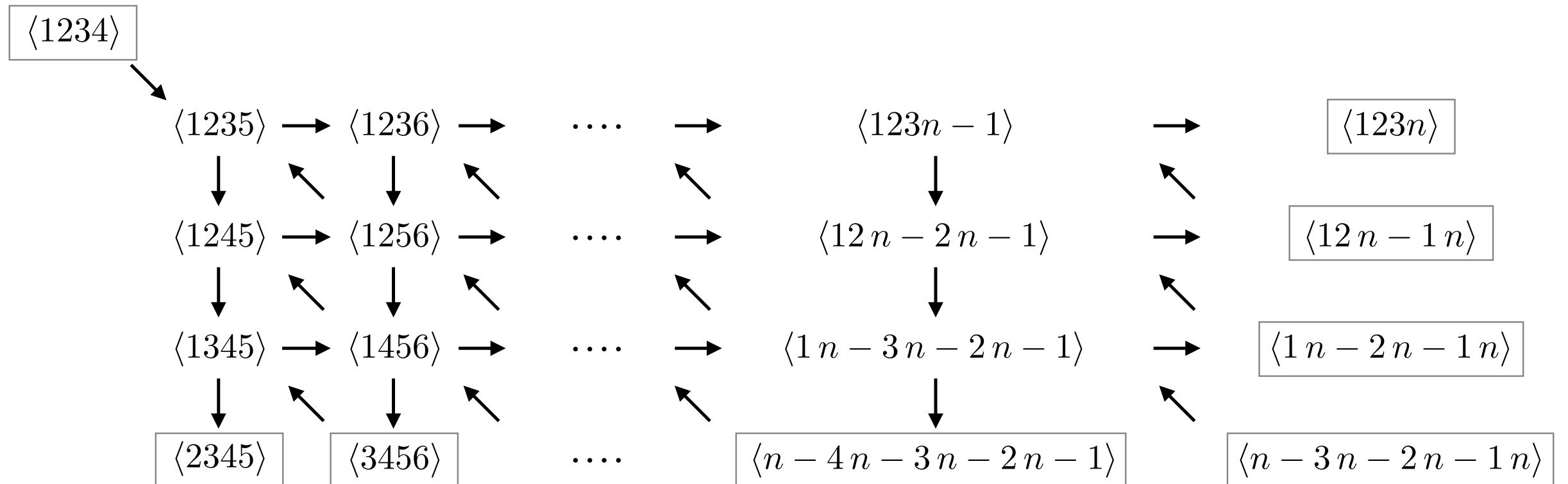
$A_2$  Initial quiver  $1 \longrightarrow 2$  becomes  $1' \longleftarrow 2$

with  $a_3 = a'_1 = \frac{1 + a_2}{a_1}$

# Grassmannian $G(4,n)$

Can associate a cluster algebra to the Grassmannian  $G(4,n)$  [Scott]

Initial cluster given by specified set of 4-brackets  $\langle ijkl \rangle$





# Grassmannian $G(4,n)$

Can associate a cluster algebra to the Grassmannian  $G(4,n)$  [Scott]

Initial cluster given by specified set of 4-brackets  $\langle ijkl \rangle$

Mutation generates homogeneous polynomials in 4-brackets

For  $n = 6, 7$  algebras are finite (correspond to  $A_3$  and  $E_6$ )

For  $n \geq 8$  algebra is infinite.

Observation: [Golden, Goncharov, Spradlin, Vergu, Volovich]

known two-loop results show that letters are cluster A-coordinates.

Cluster bootstrap ansatz: letters are A-coordinates.

For hexagon: 9 A-coordinates,  
For heptagon: 42 of them.

# Hexagons

Mutations generate letters,

$$u_1 = \frac{\langle 1236 \rangle \langle 3456 \rangle}{\langle 1346 \rangle \langle 2356 \rangle}, \quad 1 - u_1 = \frac{\langle 1356 \rangle \langle 2346 \rangle}{\langle 1346 \rangle \langle 2356 \rangle}, \quad y_1 = \frac{\langle 1345 \rangle \langle 2456 \rangle \langle 1236 \rangle}{\langle 1235 \rangle \langle 3456 \rangle \langle 1246 \rangle}$$

and those related by cyclic rotation of the labels.

Once obtained, any multiplicatively independent set of nine will do.

Topology of mutations is Stasheff polytope.

Can replace 4-brackets with 2-brackets:  $\langle 1234 \rangle \rightarrow \langle 56 \rangle$

Space of functions identified with polylogarithms on  $\mathcal{M}_{0,6}$



# Heptagons

For heptagons we generate the following letters

$$a_{11} = \frac{\langle 1234 \rangle \langle 1567 \rangle \langle 2367 \rangle}{\langle 1237 \rangle \langle 1267 \rangle \langle 3456 \rangle},$$

$$a_{41} = \frac{\langle 2457 \rangle \langle 3456 \rangle}{\langle 2345 \rangle \langle 4567 \rangle},$$

$$a_{21} = \frac{\langle 1234 \rangle \langle 2567 \rangle}{\langle 1267 \rangle \langle 2345 \rangle},$$

$$a_{51} = \frac{\langle 1(23)(45)(67) \rangle}{\langle 1234 \rangle \langle 1567 \rangle},$$

$$a_{31} = \frac{\langle 1567 \rangle \langle 2347 \rangle}{\langle 1237 \rangle \langle 4567 \rangle},$$

$$a_{61} = \frac{\langle 1(34)(56)(72) \rangle}{\langle 1234 \rangle \langle 1567 \rangle}$$

and those obtained by cyclic rotation of the labels.

$$\langle a(bc)(de)(fg) \rangle \equiv \langle abde \rangle \langle acfg \rangle - \langle abfg \rangle \langle acde \rangle$$

Unlike in the hexagon case, the space of singularities depends on the choice of dihedral structure.

Naturally associated to the kinematic space of light-like Wilson loops.

# Heptagon symbols

Heptagon symbols:

Now we want to build integrable words from the 42 heptagon letters

Locality: initial letters are  $a_{1i}$

Weight  $k = 2l$

Symbol of heptagon Wilson loop remainder should be a heptagon symbol

Supersymmetry: final letters are  $a_{2i}, a_{3i}$

Collinear limit:  $R_n \rightarrow R_{n-1} \quad (i||i+1)$



# Results

Weight $k =$	1	2	3	4	5	6
Number of heptagon symbols	7	42	237	1288	6763	?
well-defined in the $7 \parallel 6$ limit	3	15	98	646	?	?
which vanish in the $7 \parallel 6$ limit	0	6	72	572	?	?
well-defined for all $i+1 \parallel i$	0	0	0	1	?	?
with MHV last entries	0	1	0	2	1	4
with both of the previous two	0	0	0	1	0	1

Table 1: Heptagon symbols and their properties.

The symbol of the two-loop remainder function is the only weight 4 heptagon symbol which is well-defined in all collinear limits.

There is a unique weight 6 heptagon symbol which obeys the final entry and is finite in all collinear limits.

We conclude this must be the symbol of the three-loop heptagon remainder.

# Results

For comparison, hexagon symbols:

Weight $k =$	1	2	3	4	5	6
Number of hexagon symbols	3	9	26	75	218	643
well-defined (hence vanish) in the $6 \parallel 5$ limit	0	2	11	44	155	516
well-defined (hence vanish) for all $i+1 \parallel i$	0	0	2	12	68	307
with MHV last entries	0	3	7	21	62	188
with both of the previous two	0	0	1	4	14	59

Table 1: Hexagon symbols and their properties.

- In hexagon case must appeal to further input to fix the Wilson loop.
- OPE data or information from Regge limit required.
- Heptagon bootstrap more powerful than hexagon one!
- Hexagon can be recovered from heptagon by collinear limit.



# Steinmann Relations

[Dixon, JMD, Harrington, Macleod, Papathanasiou, Spradlin]  
See work of: [Caron-Huot, Dixon, Macleod, von Hippel]

Consider (for  $n=6,7$ ):

$$\mathcal{A}_n = \mathcal{A}_n^{\text{BDS-like}} \mathcal{E}_n$$

vs

$$\mathcal{A}_n = \mathcal{A}_n^{\text{BDS}} e^{R_n}$$

Only 2-particle invariants

$$s_{i,i+1} = x_{i+2,i}^2$$

Exponentiated one-loop formula

$$\mathcal{E}_n = \exp\left(R_n - \frac{1}{4}\Gamma_{\text{cusp}} Y_n\right)$$

$$Y_6 = \sum_i \text{Li}_2(1 - u_i) + \frac{1}{2} \log^2 u_i$$

$$Y_7 = \sum_i \text{Li}_2\left(1 - \frac{1}{u_i}\right) + \frac{1}{2} \log\left(\frac{u_{i+2}u_{i+5}}{u_{i+3}u_i u_{i+4}}\right) \log u_i$$

Has no overlapping 3-particle cuts

$$\Delta_{s_{123}} \Delta_{s_{234}} \mathcal{E} = 0$$



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Has no overlapping 3-particle cuts

$$\Delta_{a_1 i} \Delta_{a_1, i \pm 1} \mathcal{E} = 0$$

$$\Delta_{a_1 i} \Delta_{a_1, i \pm 2} \mathcal{E} = 0$$



# Results

Weight $k =$	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	7''
parity +, flip +	4	16	48	154	467	1413	4163	3026
parity +, flip -	3	12	43	140	443	1359	4063	2946
parity -, flip +	0	0	3	14	60	210	672	668
parity -, flip -	0	0	3	14	60	210	672	669
Total	7	28	97	322	1030	3192	9570	7309

Imposing the MHV final entry condition we find:

- 1 function at 2 loops
- 2 functions at 3 loops
- 4 functions at 4 loops

In each case there is a unique function with finite collinear limits, independent of the momentum fraction.

Once again, heptagon bootstrap requires fewer constraints than hexagon one!

# Results

In fact we can even drop the final entry condition!

At three loops, the MHV heptagon and hexagon amplitudes are uniquely fixed by dihedral symmetry and good behaviour in the collinear limit up to a single ambiguity (which fails the  $N=4$  final entry condition).

Possibly this ambiguity can be interpreted as a contribution in a theory with less supersymmetry.

NMHV: Up to three loops also uniquely fixed in a similar manner to MHV case.



# Multi-Regge Kinematics

[Del Duca, Druc, JMD, Duhr, Dulat, Marzucca, Papathanasiou, Verbeek]

We can take a limit where incoming particles 1 and 2 essentially pass through almost undisturbed.

The other particles are then widely separated in rapidities:

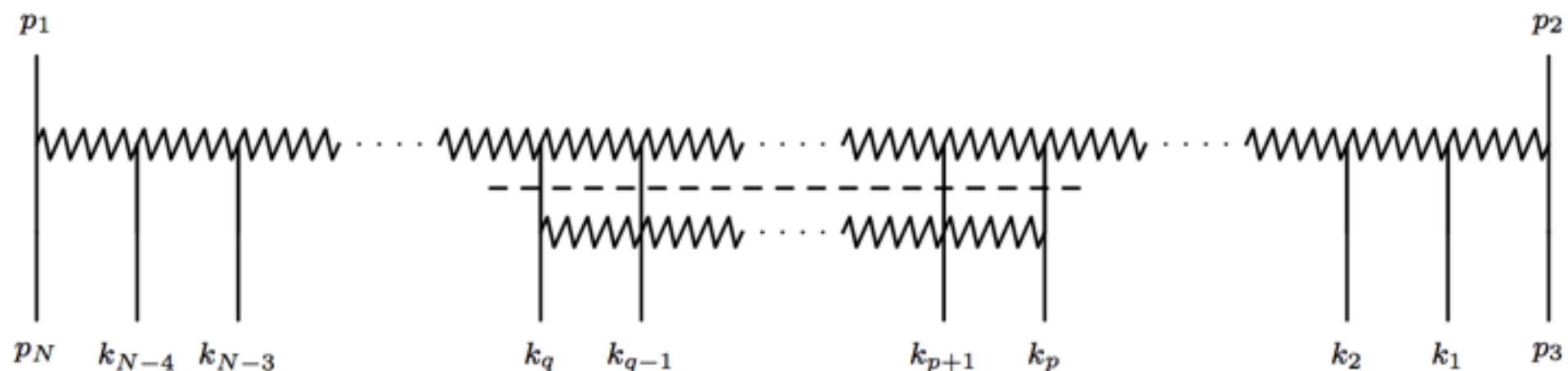
$$p_3^+ \gg p_4^+ \gg \dots \gg p_{N-1}^+$$

This implies a hierarchy among the Mandelstam invariants:

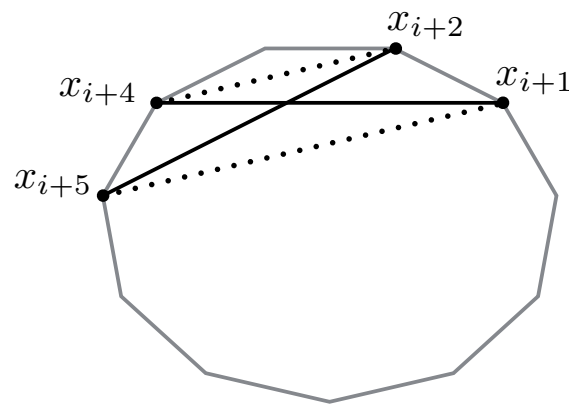
$$s_{3,\dots,N} \gg s_{3,\dots,N-1}, s_{4,\dots,N} \gg \dots \gg s_{34}, s_{45}, \dots, s_{N-1,N} \gg -s_{2,\dots,i}$$

The remaining dependence is through the transverse components of

$$p_4, \dots, p_{N-1} = k_1, \dots, k_{N-4}$$

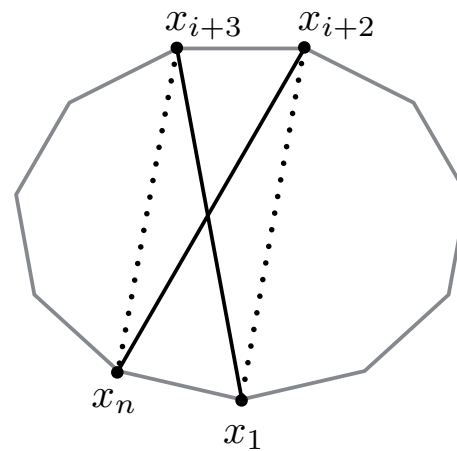


# Twistor description of MRK



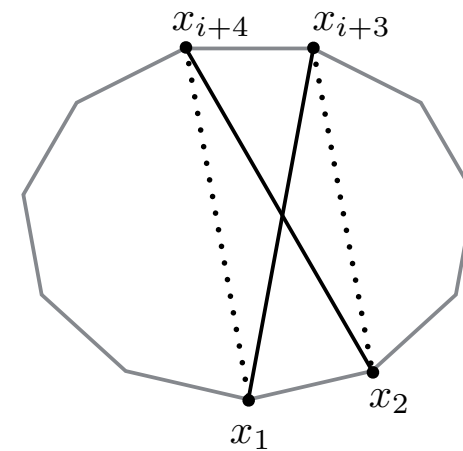
$u_{1i}$

$$u_{1i} \rightarrow 1$$



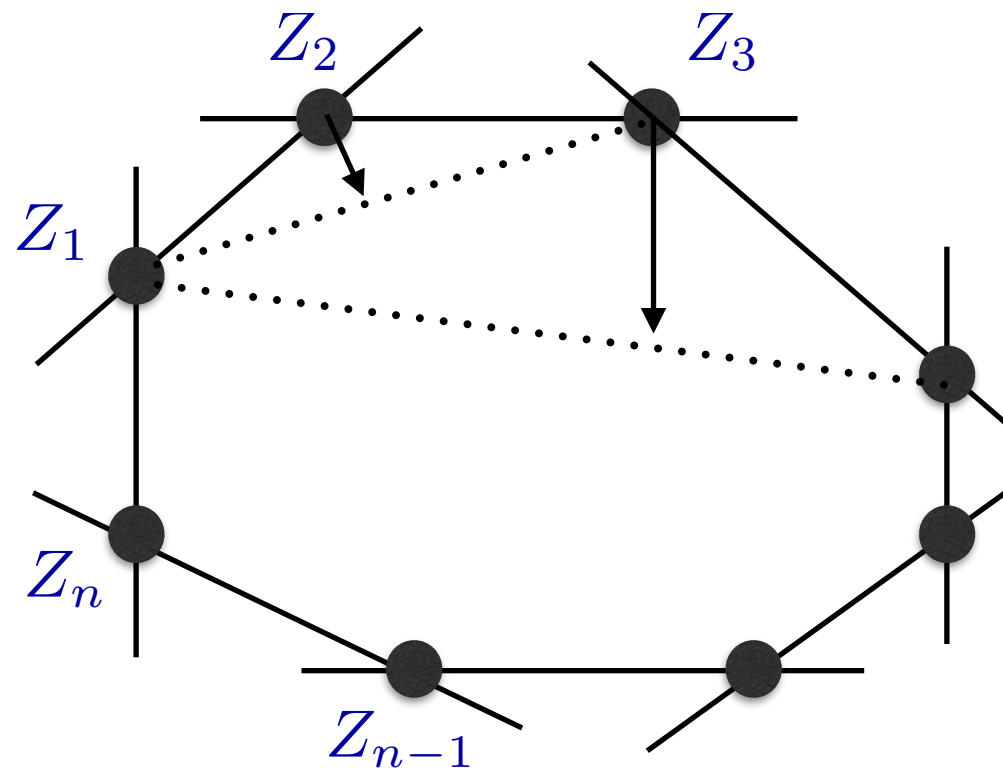
$u_{2i}$

$$u_{2i} \rightarrow 0$$



$u_{3i}$

$$u_{3i} \rightarrow 0$$



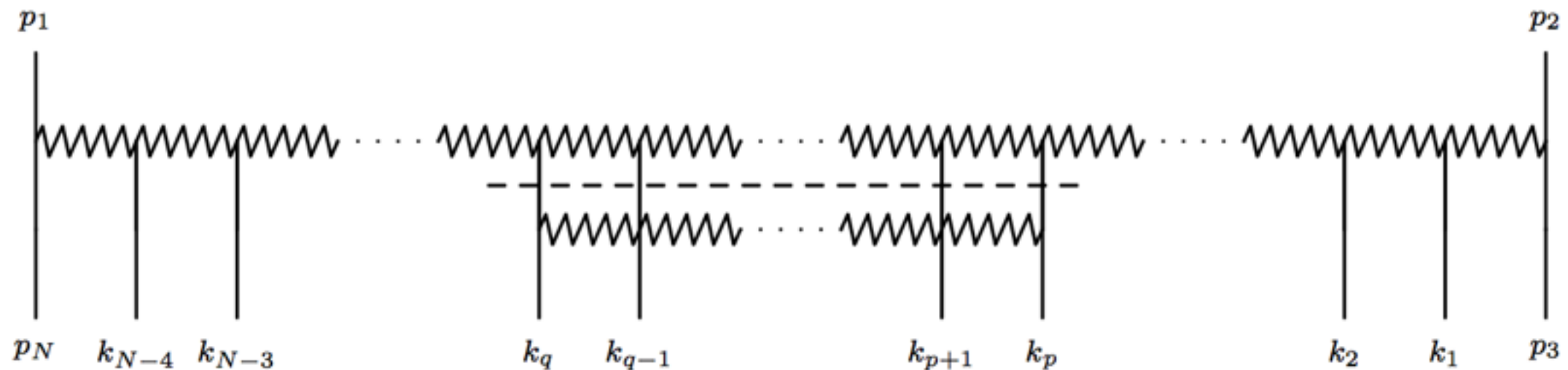
Equivalent to  
multi-soft limit



# Mandelstam Regions

Since Multi-Regge kinematics is equivalent to the multi-soft limit, we must analytically continue to obtain non-vanishing result:

Take a cut in  $(k_p + \dots + k_q)^2$



# Leading-log formula

Generalised from previous work by [Bartels, Prygarin, Lipatov]

$$\mathcal{R}_{h_1 \dots h_{N-4}}^{[p,q]} = 1 + a i \pi r_{h_1 \dots h_{N-4}}^{[p,q],(1)} + a i \pi (-1)^{q-p} \left[ \prod_{k=p}^{q-1} \sum_{n_k=-\infty}^{+\infty} \left( \frac{z_k}{\bar{z}_k} \right)^{n_k/2} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \frac{d\nu_k}{2\pi} |z_k|^{2i\nu_k} \right]$$

$$\times \left[ -1 + \prod_{k=p}^{q-1} \tau_k^{a E_{\nu_k n_k}} \right] \chi^{h_p}(\nu_p, n_p) \left[ \prod_{k=p}^{q-2} C^{h_{k+1}}(\nu_k, n_k, \nu_{k+1}, n_{k+1}) \right] \chi^{-h_q}(\nu_{q-1}, n_{q-1})$$

$$\tau_i = \sqrt{u_{2i} u_{3i}}$$

Each log appears  
with BFKL  
eigenvalue  $E_{\nu,n}$

Impact factors and central emission blocks.

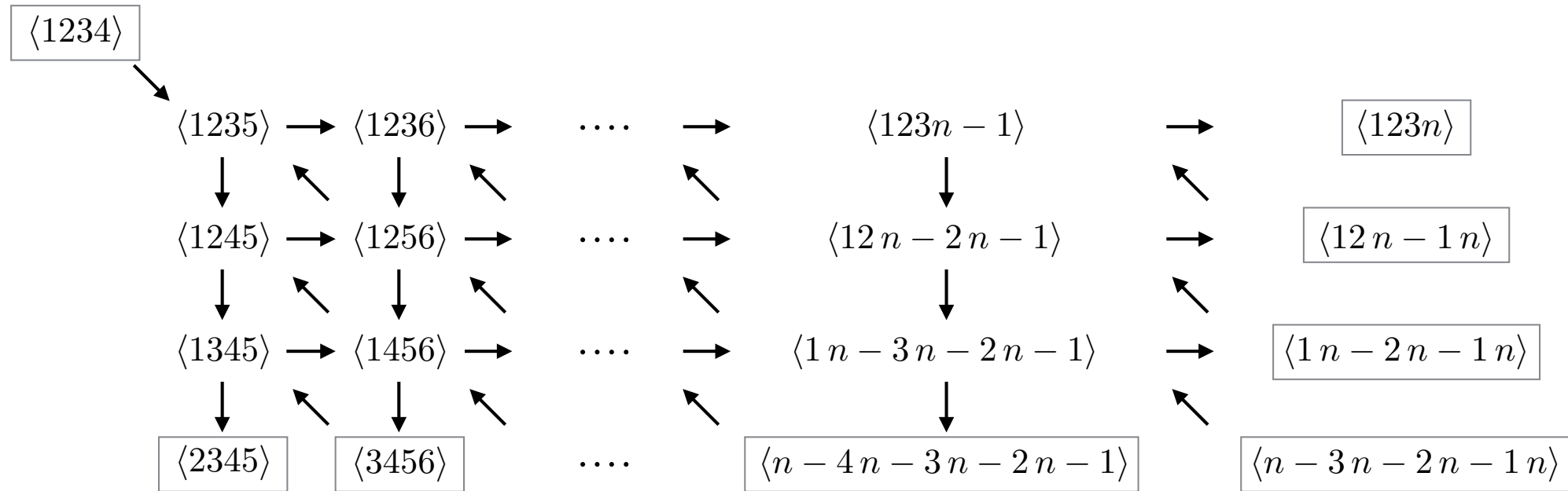
Mellin integrals and Fourier sums  
evaluate to single-valued multiple  
polylogarithms

Related work:

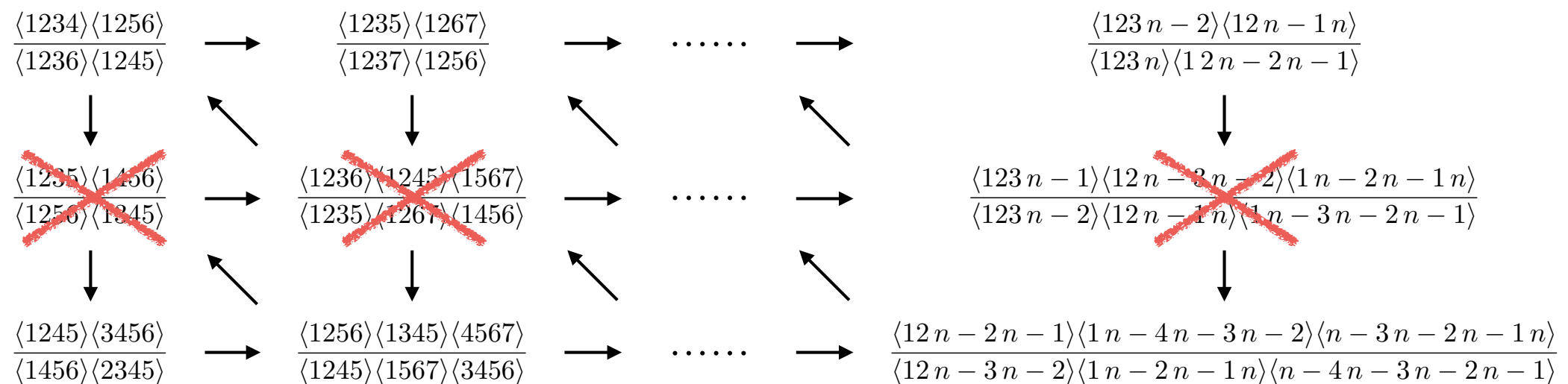
[Bartels, Schomerus, Sprenger],  
[Bargheer, Papathanasiou, Schomerus],  
[Bargheer],  
[Basso, Caron-Huot, Sever],  
[JMD, Papathanasiou],  
[Broedel, Sprenger]



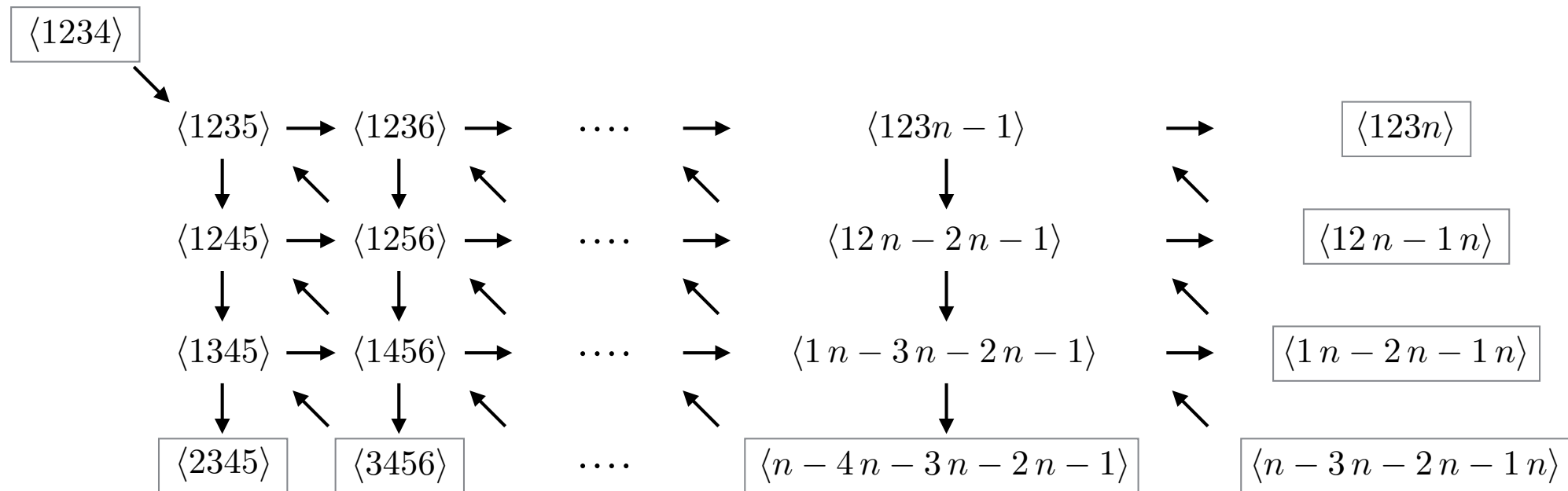
# Cluster structure for MRK



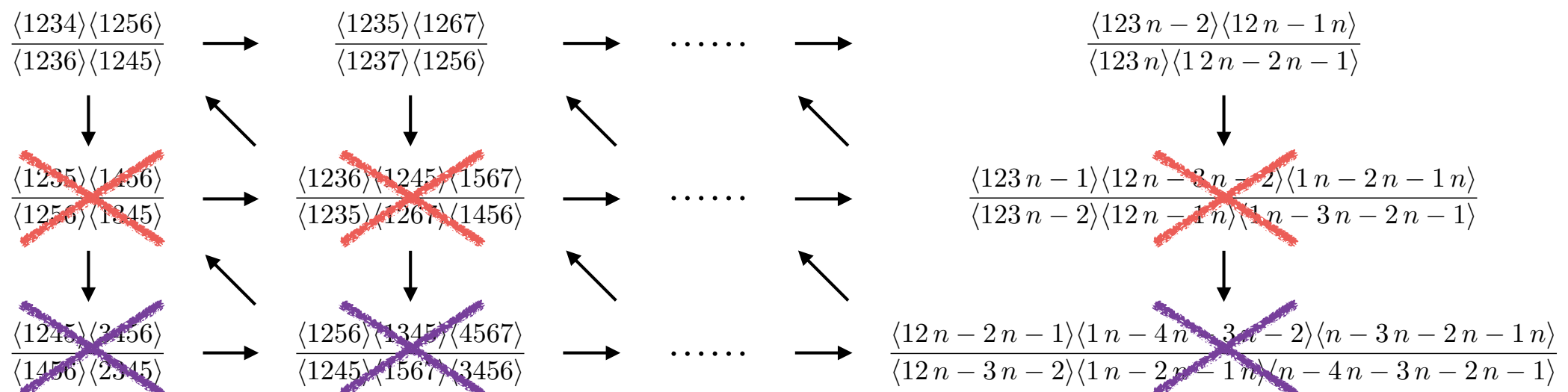
$$\text{Conf}_n(\mathbb{P}^3) \rightarrow A_{n-5} \times A_{n-5} \quad (\text{Single-valued})$$



# Cluster structure for MRK



$$\text{Conf}_n(\mathbb{P}^3) \rightarrow A_{n-5} \times \cancel{A_{n-5}} \quad (\text{holomorphic})$$





# Discussion and Outlook

Using the notion of cluster algebras there is a natural conjecture for the space of singularities for planar MHV amplitudes/Wilson loops to all orders.

We have tested this structure with three-loop and four-loop seven-point calculations.

Surprisingly, the bootstrap for the heptagon is actually more powerful than for the hexagon.

Steinmann relations allow a greater reach in orders in perturbation theory.

The bootstrap calculations require no input from the Wilson loop OPE. This approach provides a test of OPE conjectures.

Perhaps an alternative formulation of integrability?

Intuitively it feels that the structure should be applicable more generally to light-like Wilson loops in any weakly coupled conformal gauge theory.

Requires further investigation...

# Discussion and Outlook

Perturbative data via bootstrap approach allows detailed investigations of various limits.

In particular MRK can be fully explored in terms of single-valued polylogarithms in momentum variables and also in Mellin space.

Four-loop data allows up to NNNLLA expressions.