

# Internal boundaries of the amplituhedron

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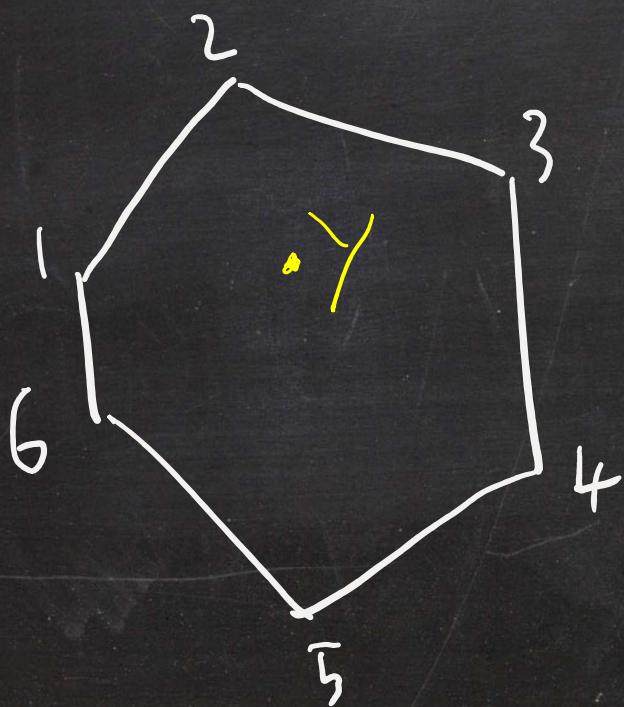
based on 2207.12464 with Gabriele Dian, Alastair  
Stewart

# Outline

- Intro to Amplituhedron, positive geometry, canonical form
- Loop amplituhedron needs generalisation of positive geometry!
- Reason? Internal boundaries
- Suggests weighted positive geometries (WPGs)
- Deepest cuts

# The amplituhedron

Toy model: polygons in  $\mathbb{P}^2$ ,  $Y, Z_i \in \mathbb{P}^2$



$Y$  in polygon

$Y$  to the right of line  $(i, i+1)$

$$\langle Y \ i \ i+1 \rangle > 0$$

$$\langle Y \ Z_i \ Z_{i+1} \rangle$$

note

$$\langle Y \ 1 \ i \rangle = (+, \dots, +, -, \dots, -)$$

$$i=2,3,4,5$$

Flips once from + to - Flipping Number 1

# Natural Generalization [Arkani-Hamed, Trnka + Thomas]

Toy model  
Polygons in  $\mathbb{P}^2$

"Tree  
Amplituhedron"

$A_{n,k,m}$  (physics  
 $m=4$ )

$$Y \in \mathbb{P}^2 = \text{Gr}(1,3) \longrightarrow \text{Gr}(k, k+m)$$

$k$ -planes in  $\mathbb{R}^{k+m}$

$$Z_i \in \mathbb{P}^2 \longrightarrow \mathbb{P}^{m+k-1}$$

lines in  $\mathbb{R}^{k+m}$

$$\langle Y \ i \ i+1 \rangle > 0 \longrightarrow \langle Y \ i \ i+1 \ j \ j+1 \rangle > 0$$

( $m=4$ )

$i=1..n$

$\langle Y \ 1 \ i \rangle$  has  
One sign flip

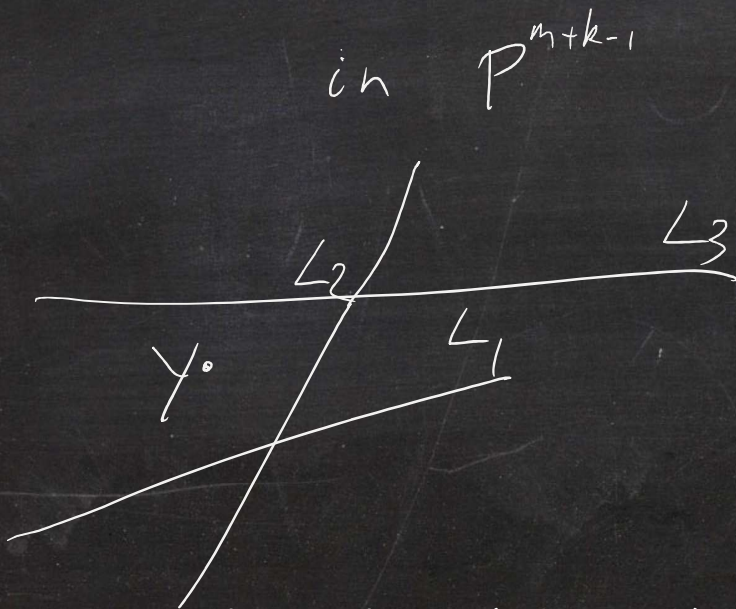


$\langle Y \ 1 \ 2 \ 3 \ i \rangle$  has  $k$  sign flips (max possible)

$$\left( \text{Polygons in } \mathbb{P}^2 = A_{n,1,2} \text{ amplituhedron} \right)$$

# Loops too!! (Integrand)

L-Loop amplituhedron  $A_{n,k,l,m}$  = amplituhedron  $\gamma$  together with L lines  $L_i, i=1, \dots, L \in Gr(2, m+k)$



$$\langle \gamma L_i L_{j+1} \rangle > 0$$

$$\langle \gamma L_i L_j \rangle > 0$$

loop flipping number.

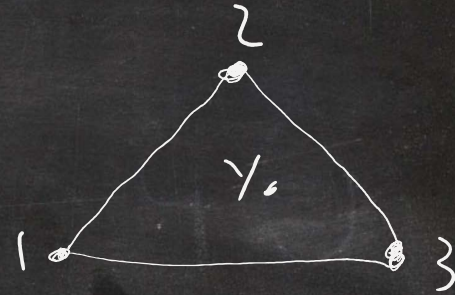
Claim: canonical form of the  $(n,k,l,m=4)$  amplituhedron = planar, 1-loop,  $N^k$  MHV, n-point amplitude (integrand) [Arkani-Hamed, Trnka]

# Canonical Form

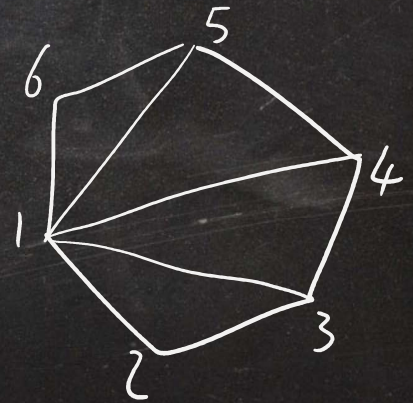
- Natural map from geometry to differential form: "canonical form"

- Eg Triangle:  $A_{3,1,2}$

$$\int_{\Delta} \omega = [1, 2, 3] := \frac{\langle \gamma, d^2 \gamma \rangle \langle 123 \rangle^2}{\langle \gamma_{12} \rangle \langle \gamma_{23} \rangle \langle \gamma_{31} \rangle}$$



- Polygon:  $A_{n,1,2}$   $\int_{\sigma} \omega = \text{sum of triangles} = \sum_{i=2}^{n-1} [1, i, i+1]$



Positive geometry = region possessing a canonical form

# Amplitude = Canonical Form of Amplituhedron

- Eg 2:  $A_{5,1,4}$

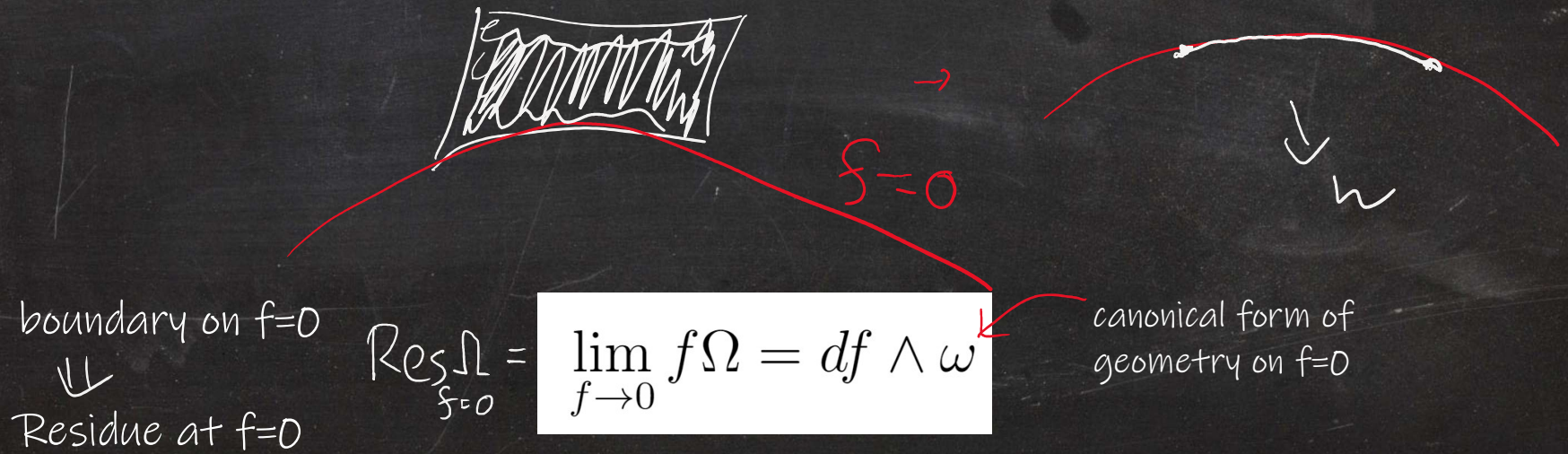
$$[12345] = \frac{\langle Yd^4Y \rangle \langle 12345 \rangle^2}{\langle Y1234 \rangle \langle Y2345 \rangle \langle Y3451 \rangle \langle Y4512 \rangle \langle Y5123 \rangle}$$

- $A_{n,1,4} = \sum_{i,j} [1, i, i+1, j, j+1]$

- This is precisely the  $n$ -point NMHV tree-level superamplitude in  $N=4$  SYM !!
- Claim: The canonical form of the  $(n,k,4)$  amplituhedron is the  $n$ -point,  $N^k$  MHV, tree-level, planar scattering amplitude in  $N=4$  SYM [Arkani-Hamed, Trnka]
- Similar geometry with fewer sign flips  $\rightarrow$  products of amplitudes
- Similar geometry without sign flip constraint  $\rightarrow$  square of superamplitude [Dian, PH]

# Canonical form

- Canonical Form (and hence positive geometry) defined recursively via it's residues [Arkani-Hamed, Bai, Lam]
- Canonical form = volume form; log divergences on the boundary
- residue on boundary = canonical form of boundary



(True for all boundary components)



Eventually reach dimension 0 boundaries

$\int \Omega(\sigma) = \pm 1$  (depending on orientation)



Maximal residues of positive geometries = +/- 1

**Note:**

Multiple residue = Residues of residue of residue ...



Boundary components of boundary components of boundary components....

# (Small Aside) Multiple residue not unique Higher codimension boundaries not unique

- In general multiple residues depend on the order you take single residues
- Analogous statement true for boundaries
- Everything perfectly consistent!

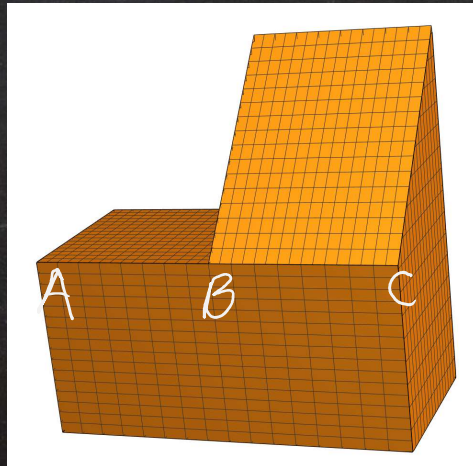
(Boundary component of)  $k$  geometry

$\neq$

Codimension  $k$  boundary component of geometry

(not clear what interpretation of this is for  $k > 1$ )

Simple example



Codimension 2 boundary =  $[A,C]$   
Boundary of sloping roof boundary =  $[B,C]$   
Boundary of flat roof boundary =  $[A,B]$

# Small Problem

Loop amplitude has max residues different from +/- 1 !!!

2 loop MHV:



eg.

$$\text{MHV}(2) = \frac{\langle A_1 B_1 d^2 A_1 \rangle \langle A_1 B_1 d^2 B_1 \rangle \langle A_2 B_2 d^2 A_2 \rangle \langle A_2 B_2 d^2 B_2 \rangle \langle 1234 \rangle^3}{\langle A_1 B_1 A_2 B_2 \rangle \langle A_1 B_1 14 \rangle \langle A_1 B_1 12 \rangle \langle A_2 B_2 23 \rangle \langle A_2 B_2 34 \rangle} \times$$

$$\times \left[ \frac{1}{\langle A_1 B_1 34 \rangle \langle A_2 B_2 12 \rangle} + \frac{1}{\langle A_1 B_1 23 \rangle \langle A_2 B_2 14 \rangle} \right] + A_1 B_1 \leftrightarrow A_2 B_2 .$$

- Parametrise  $4 \times 4$   $Z = (Z_1 Z_2 Z_3 Z_4)$  as identity and the loops as

$$\begin{pmatrix} A_i \\ B_i \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & a_i & 0 & -b_i \\ 0 & c_i & 1 & d_i \end{pmatrix} .$$

Then (omitting the differential)

$$\text{MHV}(2) = - \frac{a_2 d_1 + a_1 d_2 + b_2 c_1 + b_1 c_2}{a_1 a_2 b_1 b_2 c_1 c_2 d_1 d_2 ((a_1 - a_2)(d_1 - d_2) + (b_1 - b_2)(c_1 - c_2))}$$

- Now we take the residues in  $b_1 = 0, c_1 = 0, b_2 = 0, c_2 = 0$
- complicated pole factorises revealing new pole

$$-\frac{a_2 d_1 + a_1 d_2}{a_1 a_2 d_1 d_2 (a_1 - a_2) (d_1 - d_2)} .$$

- Now take the residue in  $a_1$  at  $a_1 = a_2$

$$-\frac{(d_1 + d_2)}{a_2 d_1 d_2 (d_1 - d_2)} .$$

- Now take residue in  $d_1$  at  $d_1 = d_2$ ,

$$-\frac{\overset{\text{max res}=2}{2}}{a_2 d_2} ,$$

Loop amplituhedron  $\neq$  positive geometry!!??

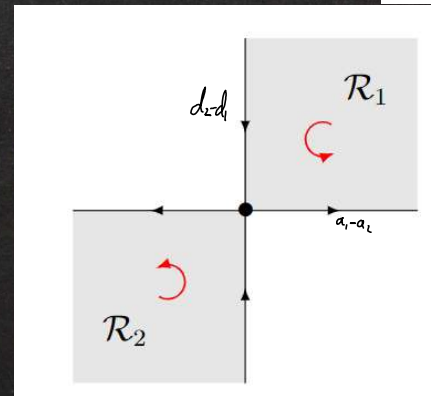
- Examine the above residues **geometrically**.
- Start with amplituhedron. Carefully take boundaries corresponding to each of the above residues:

$$a_i > 0, \quad d_i > 0, \quad -(a_1 - a_2)(d_1 - d_2) > 0 \rightarrow \mathcal{R} = \frac{a_2 d_1 + a_1 d_2}{a_1 a_2 d_1 d_2 (a_1 - a_2) (d_1 - d_2)}$$

$$\mathcal{R}_1 := \{a_1, a_2, d_1, d_2 \mid a_1 > a_2 > 0 \wedge d_2 > d_1 > 0\}$$

$$\mathcal{R}_2 := \{a_1, a_2, d_1, d_2 \mid a_2 > a_1 > 0 \wedge d_1 > d_2 > 0\}$$

$\mathcal{R}_1, \mathcal{R}_2$  same orientation



$d_2 - d_1 = 0$  boundary.



$a_1 - a_2$

"internal boundary" separating two regions of **opposite** orientation (so not oriented!)

Previously unnoticed feature:

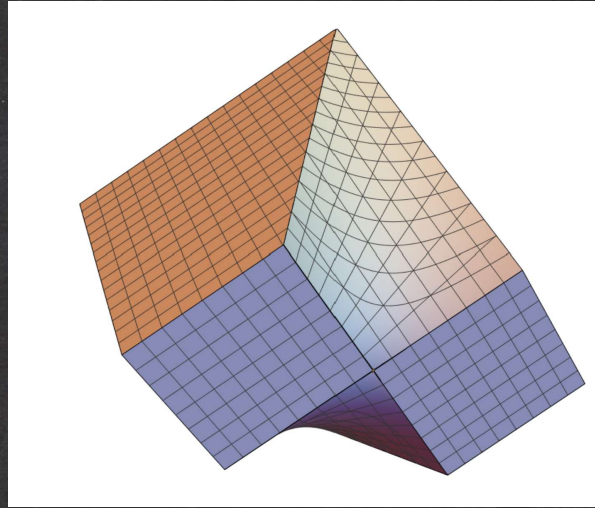
The (loop) amplituhedron contains internal boundaries!

# Simple toy example:

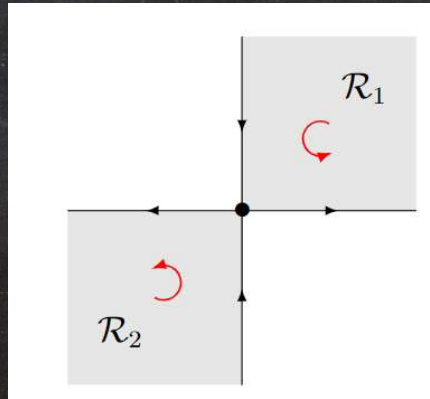
$$xy + z > 0, z > 0$$

$$\mathcal{L} = \frac{2}{z(z+xy)}$$

Composite singularity [Arkani-Hamed, Cachazo, Cheung, and Kaplan]



$z=0$  boundary:



$y=0$  boundary:



# Generalised positive geometry

Generalized canonical form recursive def:

$$\text{Res}_{\xi} \Omega = \lim_{f \rightarrow 0} f \Omega = df \wedge (\omega_{\text{ext}} + 2\omega_{\text{int}})$$

canonical form of  
standard (external)  
boundary region

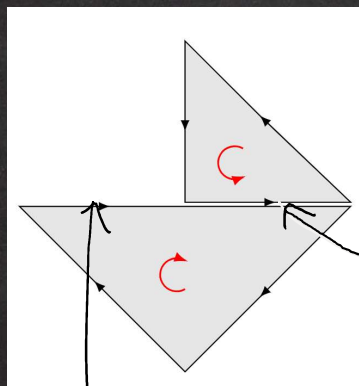


canonical form of  
internal boundary region





eg.



$$\Omega(R_1) = \frac{dx dy}{xy(x+y-1)} + \frac{2dx dy}{y(x+y+1)(x-y-1)}$$

(just subtract the two triangles)

Internal boundary

External boundary

$$\text{Res}_{y=0} \Omega = \lim_{y \rightarrow 0} y \Omega = dx \left( \frac{1}{x} - \frac{1}{x+1} \right) + 2dx \left( \frac{1}{x-1} - \frac{1}{x} \right) = \Omega([-1, 0]) + 2\Omega([0, 1])$$

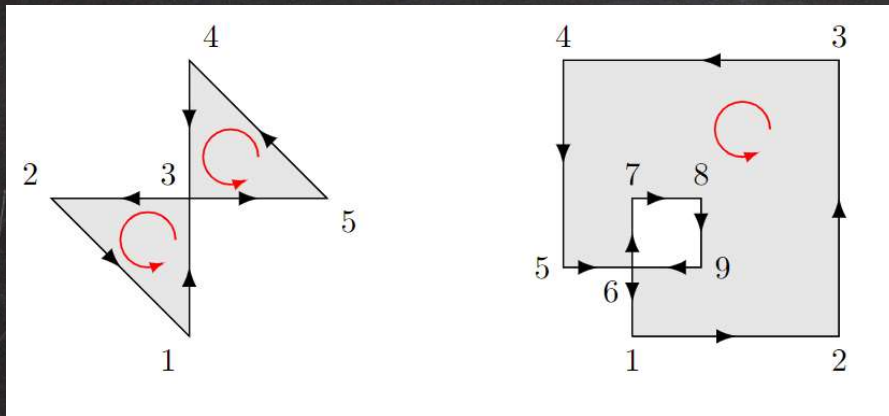
- Agrees with the formula

External boundary

Internal boundary

GPGs more complete than PGs:  
Anything that triangulates in GPGs is a GPG

- not true for positive geometries eg.



But suggests further generalisation:  
Weighted Positive Geometry (WPG)

First recall:

Orientation = volume form  $O \sim \lambda O, \lambda > 0$

Generalise: "weighted orientation"

$$(w, O) \sim (\text{sign}(\lambda)w, \lambda O) \quad \lambda \neq 0$$

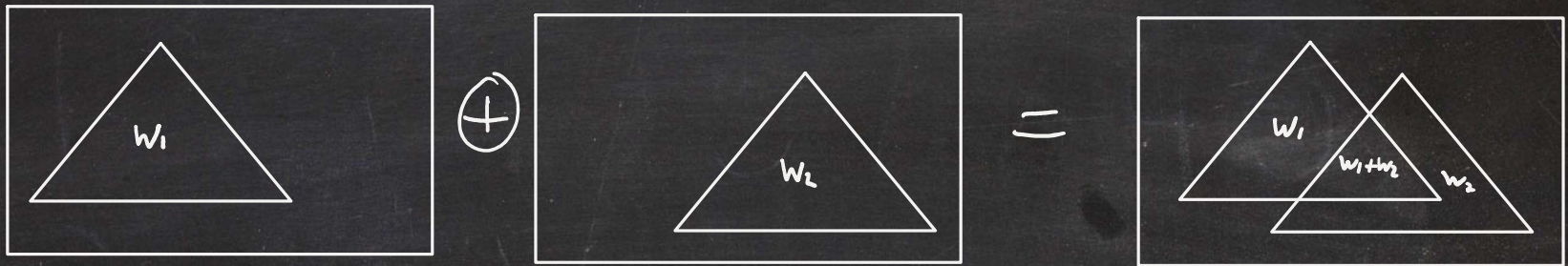
Integer valued

Volume form

- Define geometry by a piecewise constant  $\mathbb{Z}$ -valued weight function  $w$  (and orientation form  $O$ )

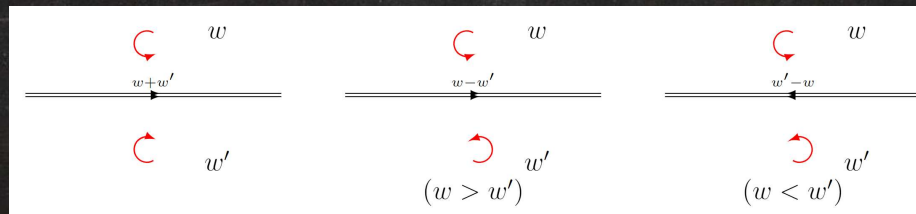
## Weighted Positive Geometry (WPG):

- Natural additive structure (geometries can overlap - makes proofs easier!)
- $(w_1, O_1) \oplus (w_2, O_2) = (w_1 + \text{sign}(\lambda)w_2, O_1)$
- where  $O_1 = \lambda O_2$



- Natural Projection operator onto boundaries (discontinuities):

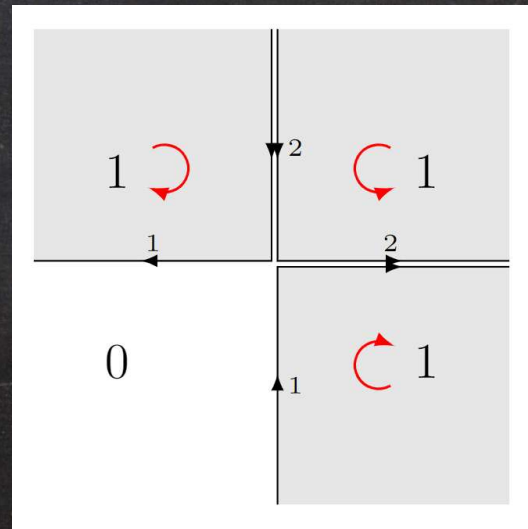
$$\Pi_c(w, O) = (w^+|_c, O^+|_c) \oplus (w^-|_c, O^-|_c)$$



Residue of canonical form is canonical form of the projection:

$$\text{Res}_c \Omega(w, O) = \Omega(\Pi_c(w, O))$$

eg



$$\text{Res}_{y=0, x=0} \Omega = -\text{Res}_{x=0, y=0} \Omega = 3$$

# WPGs $\rightarrow$ GPGs and PGs

- GPGs are WPGs with  $w = 1$  (in the GPG), 0 everywhere else
- Positive Geometries (PGs) are WPGs with  $w = \pm 1, 0$  everywhere (so a GPG) AND induced weight on all nested boundary components is  $\pm 1, 0$ .
- WPGs are a concrete realisation of the more abstract Grothendieck group of pseudo-positive geometries (formal sum) introduced in [Arkani-Hamed, Bai, Lam]

# Characterising Generalised Positive Geometries?

- any region defined by **multi-linear inequalities** is a GPG
- canonical form given uniquely via cylindrical decomposition:  
(algorithm one uses to convert integration over region into multiple integral)

$$\bullet \mathcal{R}_i := \{x_1, \dots, x_d\} \text{ st } \begin{cases} a_1 < x_1 < b_1 \\ a_2(x_1) < x_2 < b_2(x_1) \\ \dots \\ a_d(x_1, \dots, x_{d-1}) < x_d < b_d(x_1, \dots, x_{d-1}) \end{cases}$$

changing variables to:

$$x'_j = -\frac{x_j - a_j}{x_j - b_j},$$

$$\mathcal{R}_i := \{x'_1, \dots, x'_d\} \text{ st } x'_j > 0 \text{ for all } j$$

$$\Omega(\mathcal{R}_i) = \prod_{j=1}^d \frac{dx'_j}{x'_j}$$

$$= \prod_{j=1}^d \left( \frac{1}{x_j - a_j} - \frac{1}{x_j - b_j} \right) dx_j$$

Push forward

Only if change of variables rational  
Multilinear inequalities ensures this

# Characterising Generalised Positive Geometries?

- Multi-linear regions = very wide class
- Includes ALL amplituhedron geometries = multi-linear (inequalities defined by determinants which are multi-linear functions of the matrix components)
- But non exhaustive: there are GPGs which are not multi-linear regions
- (eg  
hyperbolic:  $x \cdot y + 1 > 0, x > 0$  is multi-linear but...  
region involving a circle  $x^2 + y^2 - 1 < 0, y > 0$  is not)
- Most general characterisation? Boundaries rational varieties?



# Deepest cuts

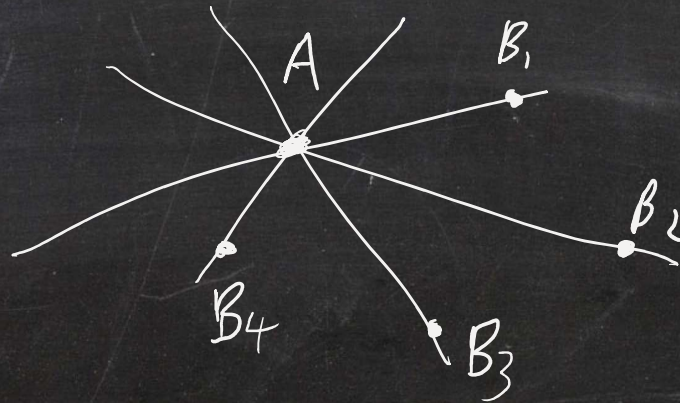
- All loop proposal for a multiple  $(2L-3)$ -dim residue of loop amplitudes

[Arkani-Hamed, Langer, Srikant, Trnka]

- Geometrical configuration: All loop lines intersect in a common point (or all in a plane)

$$A_i = A$$

$$L_i = (A_i B_i)$$



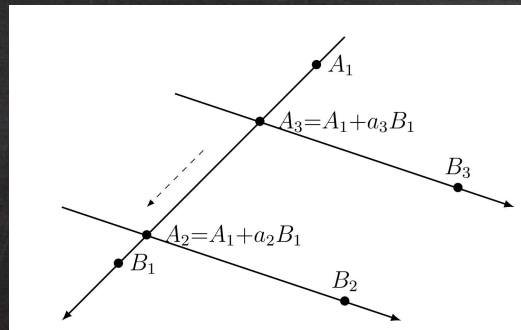
- Canonical form of this configuration can be written down at arbitrary loop order

But how to get this result algebraically?

- We find that sequences of single residues don't give this result!
- Eg 3 loop:

$$\frac{\langle \text{Ad}^3 A \rangle \prod_{i=1}^3 \langle AB_i d^2 B_i \rangle}{\langle AB_1 B_2 B_3 \rangle} \times \left( \frac{\langle 1234 \rangle^3 \langle AB_1 23 \rangle}{\langle AB_1 14 \rangle \langle AB_1 12 \rangle \langle AB_1 34 \rangle \langle AB_2 12 \rangle \langle AB_2 23 \rangle \langle AB_3 23 \rangle \langle AB_3 34 \rangle} + \text{symmetry} \right)$$

"Intersect and slide"



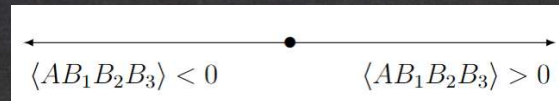
- A new pole appears at:

$$\langle AB_1 B_2 B_3 \rangle = 0$$

- Geometrically: two regions with opposite orientation separated by an internal boundary

$$\mathcal{R}^{\text{dc}} = \mathcal{R}_1^{\text{dc}} \cup \mathcal{R}_2^{\text{dc}}$$

- $\mathcal{R}_1^{\text{dc}} = \mathcal{A}_{dc}^{(3)} \cap \{ \langle AB_1B_2B_3 \rangle > 0 \}$       positive orientation
- $\mathcal{R}_2^{\text{dc}} = \mathcal{A}_{dc}^{(3)} \cap \{ \langle AB_1B_2B_3 \rangle < 0 \}$       negative orientation



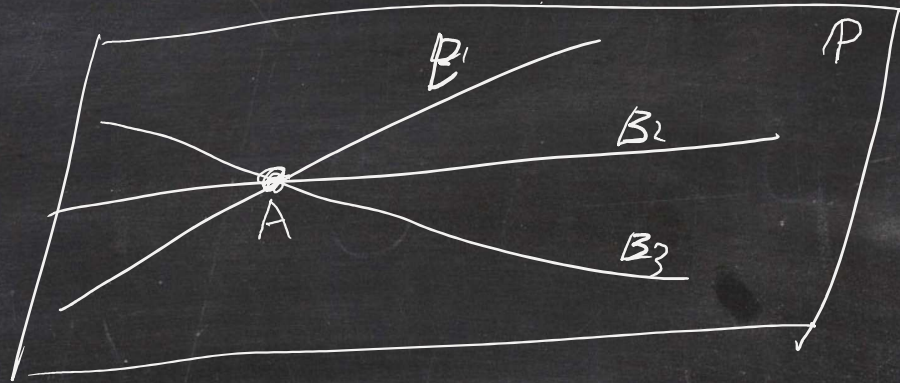
Higher loops?

- Above 3 loop result unique (different orderings of intersect / slide give same result up to sign)
- From 4 loops: different orderings of intersect / slide give different results
- All include further  $\langle ABBB \rangle$  type poles / internal boundaries

- One can analyse the boundary of boundary .... Corresponding to multiple residues to very high loop order
- No explicit all loop formula but **very quick predictive algorithm!**
- Impossible without amplituhedron
- Huge amounts of info about the amplitude
- Determine higher 4-point amplitude/correlator to even higher (that ten-) loop order?
- **Construct** the relevant f-graphs (rather than using a basis)

# Maximal loop-loop residue

All in one point AND all in one plane AND only three loop lines remaining



CLAIM: ANY way you reach **this** configuration gives the same answer (up to a numerical factor = number of internal boundaries crossed)

# Final comments:

- Internal boundaries first found in **squared amplituhedron** [Dian, PH]
- **Amplituhedron-like** (non max winding number) = amplitude x amplitude
- Sum of amplituhedron-like = squared amplituhedron = limit of correlahedron [Eden, Mason, PH]
- Squared amplitude contains non-unit max residues (but more trivially -- almost disconnected sum of positive geometries)
- This talk: So does loop amplitude, not a positive geometry!
- Loop amplituhedron = GPG or WPG

## Future:

- Look back at amplituhedron boundary structure (+ relation to symbol etc.):

Eg [Dennen, Prlina, Spradlin, Stankowicz, Stanojevic, Volovich]

- Use cuts via amplituhedron to determine amplitude / correlator at higher loops (constructive approach?)

- Applications of weighted positive geometry? - Cosmological polytope [Arkani-Hamed, Benincasa, Postnikov], negative geometries [Arkani-Hamed, Henn, Trnka], non-planar amplitude [Arkani-Hamed, Bourjaily, Cachazo, Postnikov, and Trnka], momentum amplituhedron [Damgaard, L. Ferro, T. Lukowski, and R. Moerman] etc.?

# Amplituhedron, Amplituhedron-like geometries

Amplituhedron: [Arkani-Hamed, Thomas, Trnka]

$$\mathcal{A}_{n,k} := \left\{ Y \in Gr(k, k+4) \left| \begin{array}{l} \langle Y_{ii+1jj+1} \rangle > 0 \quad 1 \leq i < j-1 \leq n-2 \\ \langle Y_{ii+11n} \rangle (-1)^k > 0 \quad 1 \leq i < n-1 \\ \{ \langle Y_{123i} \rangle \} \quad \text{has } k \text{ sign flips as } i = 4, \dots, n \end{array} \right. \right\} \quad (\text{tree level})$$

for  $Z \in Gr_+(k+4, n)$ .

Natural generalization

Amplituhedron-like: [Dian, PH]

$$\mathcal{H}_{n,k}^{(f)} := \left\{ Y \in Gr(k, k+4) \left| \begin{array}{l} \langle Y_{ii+1jj+1} \rangle > 0 \quad 1 \leq i < j-1 \leq n-2 \\ \langle Y_{ii+11n} \rangle (-1)^f > 0 \quad 1 \leq i < n-1 \\ \{ \langle Y_{123i} \rangle \} \quad \text{has } f \text{ sign flips as } i = 4, \dots, n \end{array} \right. \right\}$$

for  $Z \in Gr_+(k+4, n)$ .

$$0 \leq f \leq k$$

We only consider

$$k = n - 4$$

$$\mathcal{A}_{n,k} = \mathcal{H}_{n,k}^{(k)}$$

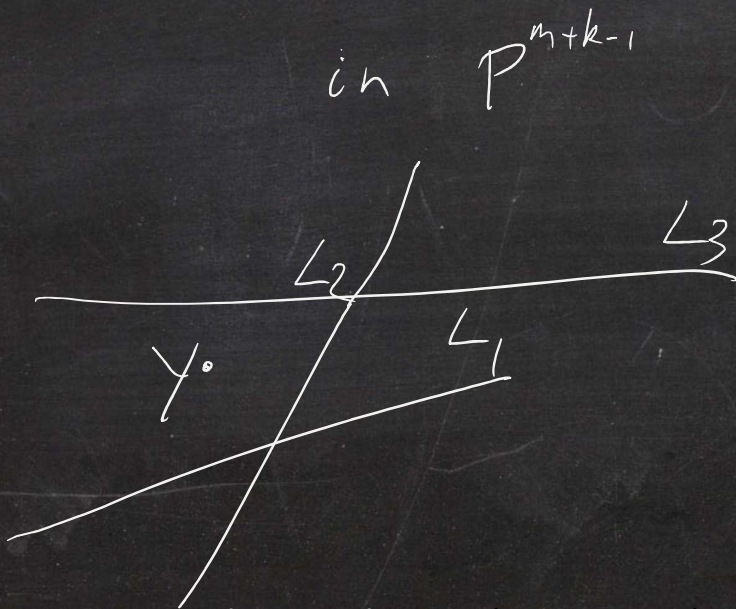
what do these give?

Loop versions also ( $k = n - 4$ )



# Loops too!! (Integrand)

L-Loop amplituhedron  $A_{n,k,l,m}$  = amplituhedron  $\gamma$  together with L lines  $L_i, i=1, \dots, L \in Gr(2, m+k)$



$$\langle \gamma L_i L_{j+1} \rangle > 0$$

$$\langle \gamma L_i L_j \rangle > 0$$

loop flipping number.

Claim: canonical form of the  $(n,k,l,m=4)$  amplituhedron = planar, 1-loop,  $N^k$  MHV, n-point amplitude (integrand) [Arkani-Hamed, Trnka]

Amplituhedron  $\rightarrow$  amplitudes (N=4 SYM planar, perturbative integrands)

Amplituhedron-like  $\rightarrow$  products of amplitudes

Main claim:

$$\Omega \left( \mathcal{H}_{n,4}^{(f)} \right) =$$

$$H_{n,n-4}^{(f)} = A_{n,f} * A_{n,n-f-4} \cdot$$

canonical form

products of superamplitudes

$M=4$

- Loop version too!

\*-product

$$\left( \prod_{a=1}^m \langle I_a \rangle_{k_1+m} \right) * \left( \prod_{b=1}^m \langle J_b \rangle_{k_2+m} \right) = \frac{(-1)^{(k_1 k_2 + k_2)m}}{m!} \sum_{\sigma \in S_m} \prod_{a=1}^m \langle Y(I_a \cap J_{\sigma(a)}) \rangle_{k_1+k_2+m}$$

K1+k2 plane

$$\langle Y(I \cap J) \rangle = \sum_{i \in M(I)} \langle Y i \rangle \langle \bar{i} J \rangle \operatorname{sgn}(i \bar{i})$$

$M(I) = \binom{I}{m}$  = set of ordered  
m elements in I

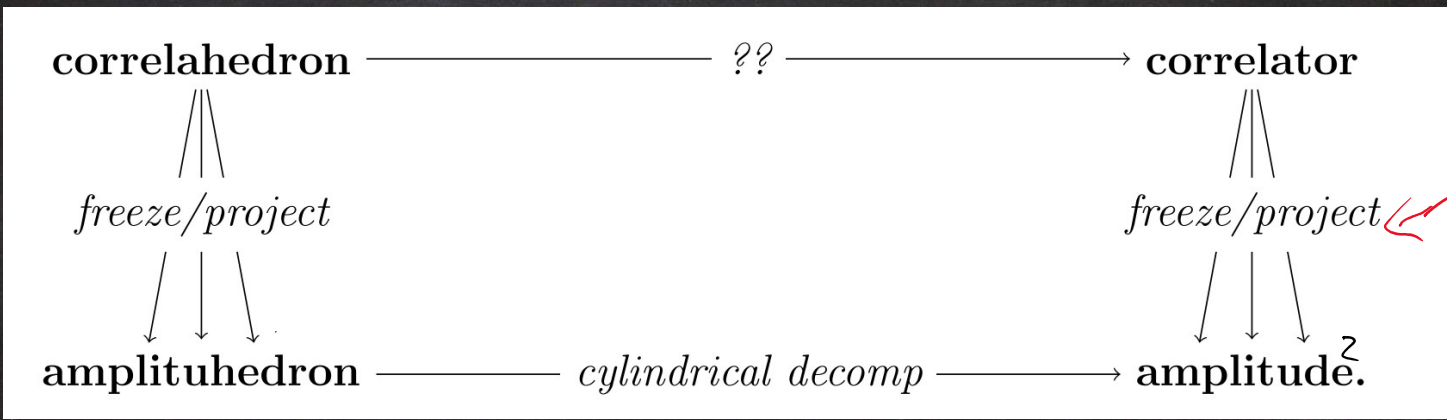
# Correlahedron <sup>[Eden, Mason, P+]</sup>

*n+k-plane 2-planes*

Geometry

$$\mathcal{Y} \in G_r(n+k; n+k+4) \langle \mathcal{Y} X_i X_j \rangle > 0 \equiv G_{n;k}$$

*Large dimension but simple, no winding number constraint*



*light-like limit in amplituhedron space*

*squared*

- Correlahedron gives all half BPS single trace correlators [see SAGEX review!]
- All correlators = new observation!! Consequence from [Caron-Huot, Coronado]
- previously thought just stress-tensor multiplet
- Equivalent to all IIB gravity amplitudes in AdS

# Proofs (are hard!)

(amplituhedron-like  $\rightarrow$  products of amplitudes)

- **Alternative definition** of amplituhedron-like (analogue of original amplituhedron definition via a positive  $C$  matrix  $Y=C.Z$  but now  $C$  splits into two pieces )
- Partial proof of equivalence of definitions (prove defn1 contains defn2, assuming equivalence of amplituhedron definitions)
- Prove **products of onshell diagrams** give a tessellation of amplituhedron-like geometries (defn2)
- Tree level only. Similar proof should work for loops. Not done in general but interesting special cases.

# "squared amplituhedron"

- Simpler object (to describe);
- physical inequalities
- no flipping constraint
- ie union over all flipping constraints

Squared amplituhedron:

$$\mathcal{H}_{n,n-4,l} := \mathcal{H}_{n,n-4,l}^+ \cup \mathcal{H}_{n,n-4,l}^-$$

Cyclic +  
twisted cyclic

$$\mathcal{H}_{n,k,l}^\pm := \left\{ Y, (AB)_1, \dots, (AB)_l \left| \begin{array}{ll} \langle Y_{ii+1} j_{j+1} \rangle > 0 & 1 \leq i < j-1 \leq n-2 \\ \pm \langle Y_{ii+1} 1n \rangle > 0 & 1 \leq i < n-1 \\ \langle Y(AB)_j ii+1 \rangle > 0 & \forall j, \forall i = 1, \dots, n-1 \\ \pm \langle Y(AB)_j 1n \rangle > 0 & \forall j \\ \langle Y(AB)_i (AB)_j \rangle > 0 & \forall i \neq j \end{array} \right. \right\}$$

for  $Z \in Gr_{>}(k+4, n)$

physical inequalities only

squared amplituhedron = union of amplituhedron-like

squared  
amplituhedron

$$\mathcal{H}_{n,n-4,l} = \bigcup_{f,l'} \mathcal{H}_{n,n-4,l}^{(f,l')}$$

Orientations  
match precisely!



$$H_{n,n-4,L} = \sum_{f,l'}^{(f,l')} H_{n,n-4,L} = \sum_{f,l'} A_{n,f,l'} * A_{n,n-4-f,l-l'}$$

$$= \left( A_n^{*2} \right)_{n-4,L}$$

(agreeing with correlahedron)

Squared amplituhedron -> Square of amplitude!

# Problem:

- **Canonical form** (amplitude from amplituhedron) means max residues = 0, +/-1
- the maximal residues of the squared amplituhedron are not only +/- 1

eg.  $(A^2)_{6,2} = 2A_{6,2} + A_{6,1} + A_{6,1}$

max residues = 0, +/-2, +/-4