

Hidden Amplitude Zeros and Residues at Infinity



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QCD Meets Gravity 2024
LeCosPA, National Taiwan University

Based on [arXiv:2403.10594](https://arxiv.org/abs/2403.10594) with C Bartsch, T Brown, K Kampf,
U Oktem and J Trnka and [arXiv:2501.xxxxx](https://arxiv.org/abs/2501.xxxxx) with C Jones

Tree Amplitudes

At tree-level, the amplitude is a rational function of kinematic variables,

$$\mathcal{A}_n = \frac{\text{numerator}}{\text{denominator}}$$

Additionally, a lot is known about the singularity structure from:

- **Locality:** Poles and branch cuts of the amplitudes

$$\lim_{p_i^2 \rightarrow 0} \mathcal{A}_n \sim \frac{1}{p_i^2}$$

- **Unitarity:** Factorization into lower-point amplitudes

$$\text{Res}_{p_i^2=0} \mathcal{A}_n = A_L \times A_R$$



What About Numerators?

Zeros and poles fully determine any rational function \Rightarrow do amplitudes have **zeros**?

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Vanishing soft limits	Pion EFTs [Weinberg]
Radiation zeros	Gauge boson 4-point amplitudes in SM [Baur, Han, Ohnemus][Dixon, Kunszt, Signer]
Stringy zeros	Dual resonant amplitude [D'Adda, Sciuto, D'Auria, Gliozzi]
Helicity zeros	$\mathcal{N} = 8$ SUGRA MHV amplitude [Koefler, Oktem, SP, Trnka, Zakovic]

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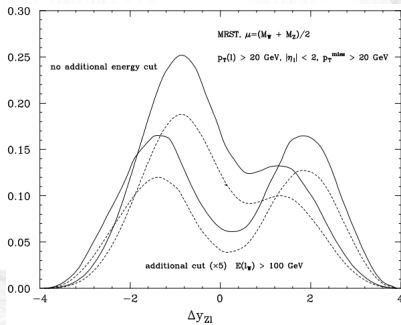
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Example of a Zero

- ▶ Amplitudes of pions have an **Adler zero** i.e. they vanish in the limit of vanishing external pion momentum.
- ▶ **Radiation zeros** exist at tree-level in standard model processes like $q_1 \bar{q}_2 \rightarrow W^\pm Z$ at specific angles.



[Baur, Han, Ohnemus][Dixon, Kunszt, Signer]

Hidden Zeros

Hidden zeros are present in partial amplitudes of a certain class of theories: NLSM, Yang-Mills and $\text{Tr}(\phi^3)$.

[Arkani-Hamed, Cao, Dong, Figueiredo, He]

In d -dimensional scalar theories, partial amplitudes vanish when a specific set of Mandelstam invariants $s_{ij} = (p_i + p_j)^2$ is zero,

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{4-point} & s_{13} = 0 \\ \text{5-point} & s_{13} = s_{14} = 0 \\ \text{6-point} & s_{13} = s_{14} = s_{15} = 0 \quad C_2 \\ & s_{14} = s_{15} = s_{24} = s_{25} = 0 \quad C_3 \end{array}$$

Note: The first type of zero is one Mandelstam away from being an Adler zero $p_1 \rightarrow 0$.

Example in $\text{Tr}(\phi^3)$

$$A_4^{\text{Tr}(\phi^3)}[1234] = \frac{1}{s_{12}} + \frac{1}{s_{14}} + \frac{1}{s_{13}}$$

We only include diagrams **compatible** with color ordering 1234:

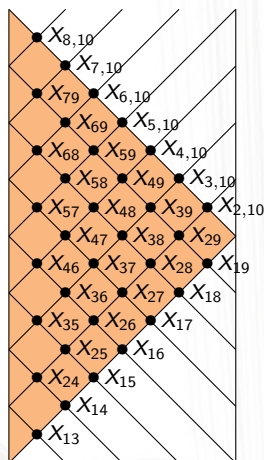
$$A_4^{\text{Tr}(\phi^3)}[1234] = \frac{1}{s_{12}} + \frac{1}{s_{14}} = -\frac{s_{13}}{s_{12}s_{14}} \xrightarrow{s_{13} \rightarrow 0} 0$$

Hidden zeros do **not** occur diagram by diagram. They exist because $\text{Tr}(\phi^3)$ amplitudes are canonical forms on associahedra that are Minkowski sums of components:

$$A_2 = \sum c_{24} \text{---} + c_{14} \text{---} + c_{13} \text{---}$$

Why do YM and NLSM have zeros?

Introducing the Kinematic Mesh

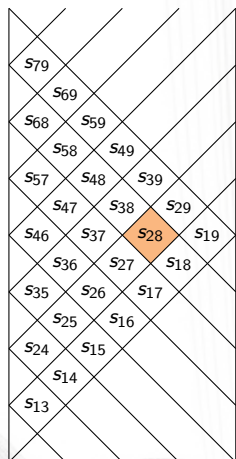


$$X_{ij} = (p_i + p_{i+1} + \cdots + p_{j-1})^2$$

The planar variables live on the vertices and the triangular region gives the variables that the amplitude depends on.

(see Song's talk)

Introducing the Kinematic Mesh



$$s = X_L + X_R - X_B - X_T$$

e.g. $s_{38} = X_{39} + X_{48} - X_{38} - X_{49}$

The non-planar variables (which can never be poles) live on the plaquettes.

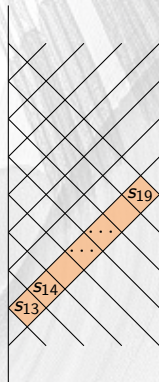
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Kinematic Mesh and n -Point Zeros

For scalar theories like NLSM and $\text{Tr}(\phi^3)$,
 $A_n|_{C_m} = 0$ where the zero condition is given
by

$$C_m = \begin{cases} s_{1m+1} = s_{1m+2} = \cdots = s_{1n-1} = 0 \\ s_{2m+1} = s_{2m+2} = \cdots = s_{2n-1} = 0 \\ \vdots \\ s_{m-1m+1} = \cdots = s_{m-1n-1} = 0 \end{cases}$$

where $m = 2, \dots, \lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor$.



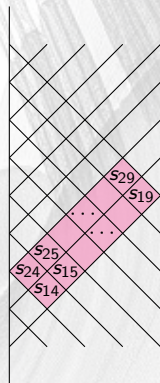
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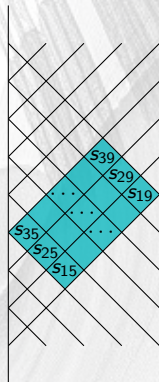
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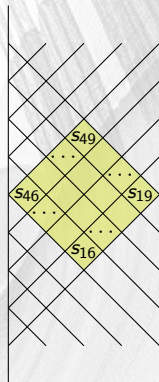
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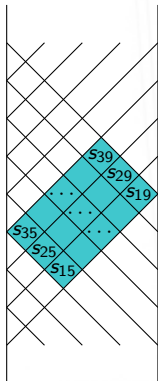
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Factorization Near Zeros

Like near poles, the amplitude **factorizes near zeros** into lower-point amplitudes, when all-but-one Mandelstam in C_m vanishes.

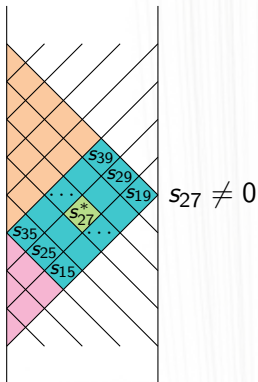


Unlike near poles, there is **no physical principle** that tells us why this should be the case.

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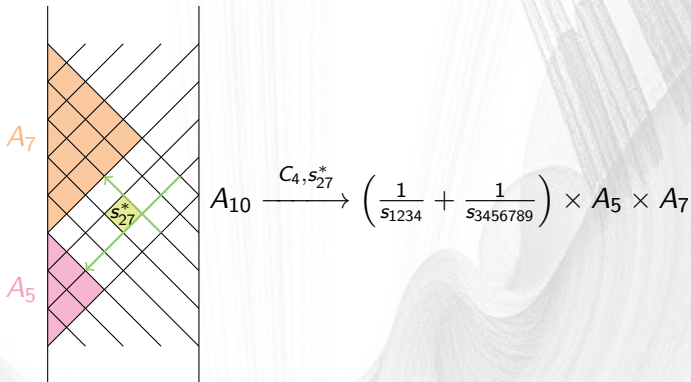


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Spinning Zeros

For gluons, we need to extend the zero conditions slightly to now include **polarization vectors** as well i.e.

if $s_{ij} = 0$ on C_m ,

$(p_i \cdot p_j) = (\varepsilon_i \cdot p_j) = (p_i \cdot \varepsilon_j) = (\varepsilon_i \cdot \varepsilon_j) = 0$ on C_m^{spinning}

4-point YM has contact+pole terms:

$$(\varepsilon_1 \cdot \varepsilon_3)(\varepsilon_2 \cdot \varepsilon_4) \xrightarrow{(\varepsilon_1 \cdot \varepsilon_3) \rightarrow 0} 0$$

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$$\begin{aligned} & (\varepsilon_1 \cdot \varepsilon_3)(\varepsilon_2 \cdot \varepsilon_4) \xrightarrow{(\varepsilon_1 \cdot \varepsilon_3) \rightarrow 0} 0 \\ & \frac{1}{s_{12}} ((\varepsilon_1 \cdot \varepsilon_2)p_1^\mu + (\varepsilon_1 \cdot p_2)\varepsilon_2^\mu + (\varepsilon_2 \cdot p_1)\varepsilon_1^\mu) \\ & \times ((\varepsilon_3 \cdot \varepsilon_4)p_3^\nu + (\varepsilon_3 \cdot p_4)\varepsilon_4^\nu + (\varepsilon_4 \cdot p_3)\varepsilon_3^\nu) \eta_{\mu\nu} + \text{cyc} \xrightarrow{C_2} 0 \end{aligned}$$

Can this be seen from any of the **many** constructions we have for YM amplitudes?

In This Talk

1. See the zeros as a consequence of color-kinematic duality / BCJ relations
2. Understand the relation between vanishing residues at infinity and splitting near zeros
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Theories with Hidden Zeros

So far, we've seen that the following theories have hidden zeros:

- $\text{Tr}(\phi^3)$ theory of adjoint scalars
- $\text{SU}(N)$ non-linear sigma model
- Yang-Mills theory
- Yang-Mills + scalar

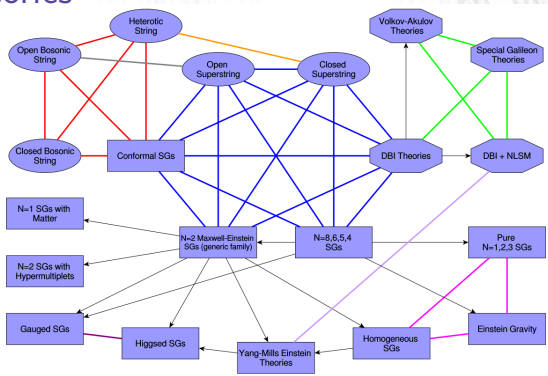
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They all “play a role” in the double copy.

Web of Theories



For example:

[Bern, Carrasco, Chiodaroli, Johansson, Roiban]

$$BI = YM \otimes NLSM \quad \text{e.g.} \quad \mathcal{M}_4^{BI}(1234) = \frac{US}{t} A_4^{YM}[1234] A_4^{NLSM}[1234]$$

All theories with hidden zeros are related to this map, including

$$A_n^{\phi^3}[\alpha|\alpha] = A_n^{\text{Tr}(\phi^3)}[\alpha]$$

BCJ Relations at 6-Point

$$A_6[123456] = \frac{1}{s_{12}s_{123}s_{56}} \left[\begin{aligned} & s_{13}s_{25}(s_{56} - s_{24}) A_6[162543] \\ & + s_{15}(s_{12} + s_{23})(s_{14} - s_{56}) A_6[162345] \\ & - s_{14}(s_{12} + s_{23})(s_{25} + s_{35}) A_6[162354] \\ & + s_{13}s_{15}s_{24} A_6[162435] \\ & + s_{13}s_{24}(s_{15} + s_{35}) A_6[162453] \\ & - s_{14}s_{25}(s_{12} + s_{23}) A_6[162534] \end{aligned} \right]$$

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The amplitudes on the RHS are doubly color-ordered bi-adjoint scalar amplitudes, while the one on the LHS is that of $\text{Tr}(\phi^3)$.

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- ▶ YM: The amplitude factorizes on 2-particle poles into

$$A_n \xrightarrow{p_1 \cdot p_2 = 0} A_3(p_1, p_2, -(p_1 + p_2)) \times A_{n-1}$$
$$= \left[(\varepsilon_1 \cdot \varepsilon_2)(\varepsilon_3 \cdot p_1) + (\varepsilon_2 \cdot \varepsilon_3)(\varepsilon_1 \cdot p_2) + (\varepsilon_3 \cdot \varepsilon_1)(\varepsilon_2 \cdot p_3) \right] \times A_{n-1}$$



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- ▶ $(DF)^2 + h.d.$: Non-local extension of YM also has an A_3 that cancels 2-particle poles.
- ▶ $(F)^3 + h.d.$: Higher-derivative extension of YM also has an A_3 that cancels 2-particle poles.



BCJ Relation at n -Point

$$A_n[123 \cdots n] = (-1)^n \sum_{\sigma(3 \dots n-1)} A_n[1n2\sigma] \times \prod_{k=3}^{n-1} \frac{\mathcal{F}_k[2\sigma 1]}{s_{kk+1 \dots n}}$$

[Bern, Carrasco, Johansson]

The factors \mathcal{F}_k are given by

$$\mathcal{F}_k[\rho] = \begin{cases} \sum_{l=t_k}^{n-1} \mathcal{S}_{k,\rho_l} & \text{if } t_k > t_{k+1} \\ -\sum_{l=1}^{t_k} \mathcal{S}_{k,\rho_l} & \text{if } t_k < t_{k+1} \end{cases} + \begin{cases} s_{kk+1 \dots n} & \text{if } t_{k-1} > t_k > t_{k+1} \\ -s_{kk+1 \dots n} & \text{if } t_{k-1} < t_k < t_{k+1} \\ 0 & \text{else,} \end{cases}$$

where t_k is the position of leg k in the ordered list $\rho = \{2\sigma 1\}$ and ρ_l denotes its l -th element and

$$t_2 = 0, \quad t_n = t_{n-2}$$
$$s_{i,j} = \begin{cases} s_{ij} & \text{if } i > j \text{ or } j = 1, 2 \\ 0 & \text{else} \end{cases}$$

BCJ + absence of 2-particle poles \Rightarrow Hidden zeros

[Bartsch, Brown, Kampf, Oktem, SP, Trnka]

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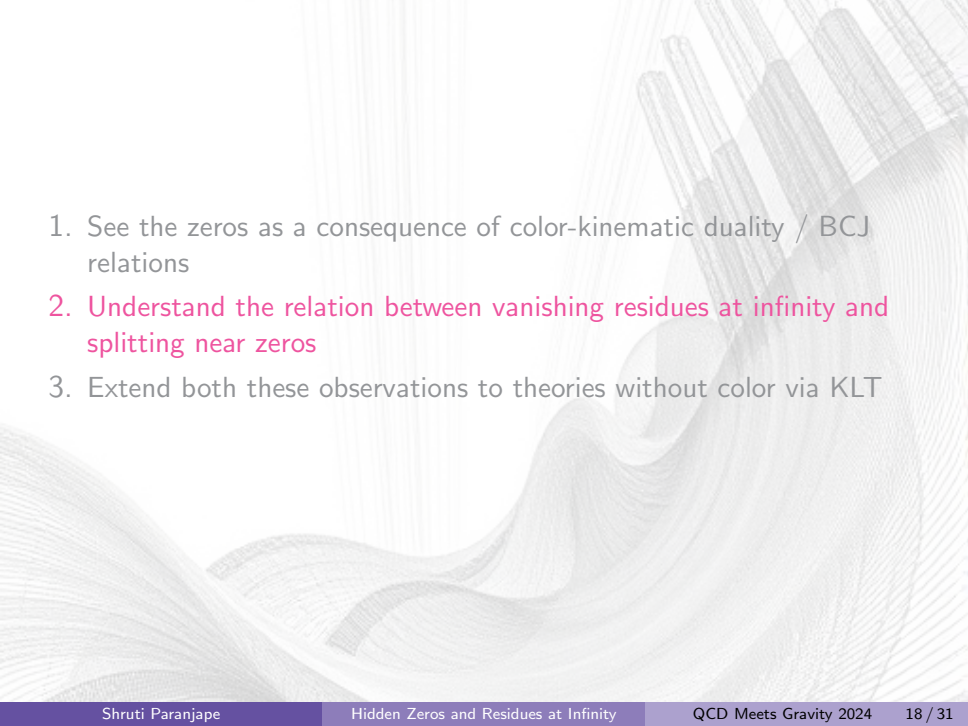
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- 
- The background features a complex, abstract pattern of thin, overlapping lines that create a sense of depth and movement. A prominent feature is a hand-like shape on the right side, formed by several parallel, slightly curved lines that suggest fingers. The overall color palette is light and monochromatic, with shades of gray and white.
1. See the zeros as a consequence of color-kinematic duality / BCJ relations
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Zero and Infinity

Recursion relations have showed us that many properties of amplitudes at finite kinematic points can be understood via their behaviour at infinity.

Let us revisit the splitting relation:

$$\begin{aligned} A_6 [1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6] &\xrightarrow{s_{14}=s_{24}=s_{25}=0} \left(\frac{1}{X_{14}} + \frac{1}{X_{36}} \right) A_4 [1, 2, 3, 4] A_4 [3, 4, 5, 6] \\ &= \left(\frac{s_{15}}{X_{14}X_{36}} \right) A_4 [1, 2, 3, 4] A_4 [3, 4, 5, 6] \end{aligned}$$

This appears to be a sum of two residues: at $X_{14} \rightarrow 0$ and $X_{36} \rightarrow 0$. Also, the splitting relation \Rightarrow existence of zero.

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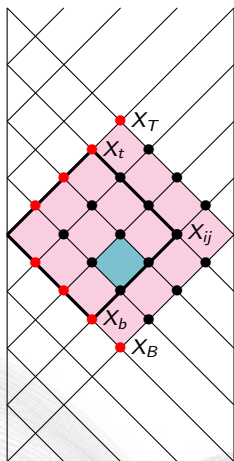
This appears to be a sum of two residues: at $X_{14} \rightarrow 0$ and $X_{36} \rightarrow 0$. Also, the splitting relation \Rightarrow existence of zero.

Can we design a shift of our variables such that **Cauchy's theorem** gives us the splitting relation?

$$\hat{X}_{14} = X_{14} - z, \quad \hat{X}_{36} = X_{36} + z$$

[Jones, SP]

Shifting X



The only X_{ij} 's that we need to shift are a subset of the black vertices on the mesh.

$$\hat{X}_{15} = X_{14} + X_{35} - z,$$

$$\hat{X}_{26} = X_{24} + X_{36} + z$$

We have poles at z_{ij} where $\hat{X}_{ij}(z_{ij}) = 0$, in addition to \hat{X}_{14} and \hat{X}_{36} .

$$X_{ij} = X_b + X_t - c$$

[Jones, SP]

Residues on Poles

Cauchy's theorem gives

$$\oint \frac{dz}{2\pi i} \frac{A_n(z)}{z} = 0 \xrightarrow{?} A_6 \xrightarrow{s_{14}=s_{24}=s_{25}=0} \left(\frac{1}{X_{14}} + \frac{1}{X_{36}} \right) A_4 \times A_4$$

where the residues are at

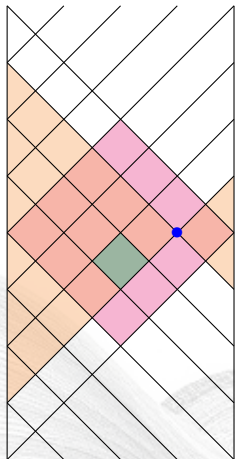
1. $z=0$: $A_n(0)$ is the amplitude on split kinematics
2. $z = -X_{13}$ and $z = X_{46}$: These residues give the splitting relation
3. $z = \infty$: **Vanishing residues at infinity**
4. $z = z_{ij}$: The residues on the poles z_{ij} vanish due to lower-point zeros.

$$A_6 [1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6] \xrightarrow{X_{26} \rightarrow 0} \frac{A_3 \times A_5 [p_{61}, 2, 3, 4, 5]}{X_{26}}$$

[Jones, SP]

Residue Theorem from Kinematic Mesh

This always happens:



For every pole, one of the subamplitudes is evaluated on a zero and vanishes.

$$\text{Res}_{z=0} A_n(z) = \text{Res}_{z=X_{13}} A_n(z) + \text{Res}_{z=X_{46}} A_n(z) + \text{Res}_{z=\infty} A_n(z)$$

[Jones, SP]

Residues at Infinity

Res vanishing + lower-point zeros \Leftrightarrow splitting and zeros at all n
 $z=\infty$

Residue vanishes in all checks - particularly surprising in NLSM due to **derivative counting!** Related to the existence of a c -expansion.

This means that

BCJ \Rightarrow Hidden zeros $\xrightarrow[\text{Res}=\infty]{\text{Res}=0}$ Splitting

Residues at Infinity

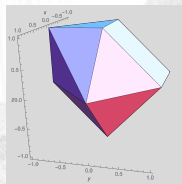
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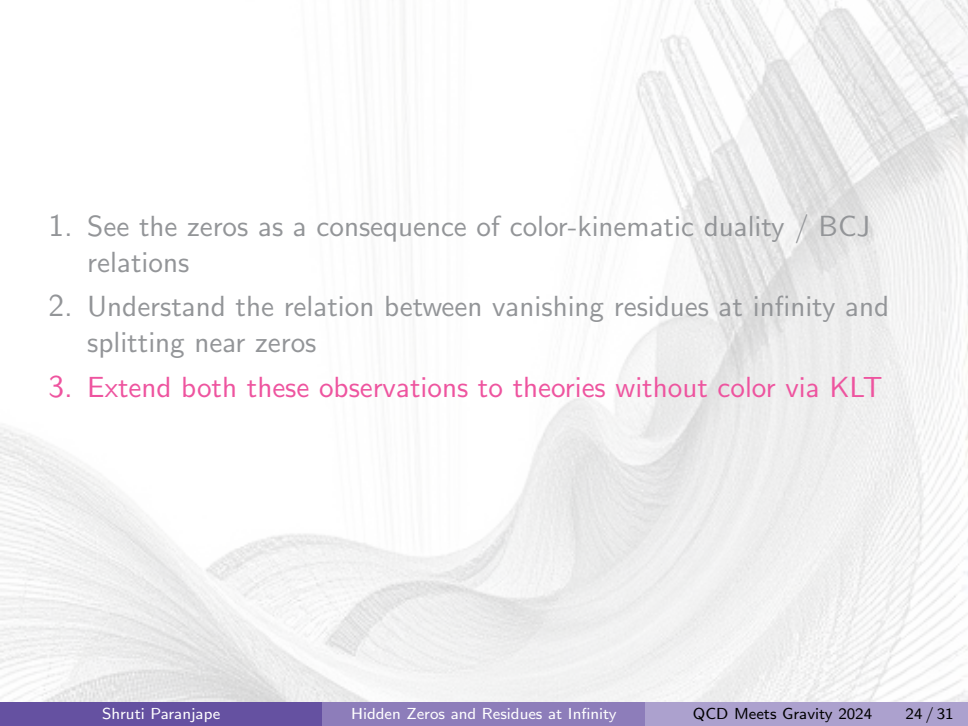
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BCJ \Rightarrow Hidden zeros $\xrightarrow[\text{Res}=0]{z=\infty}$ Splitting

In $\text{Tr}(\phi^3)$, behaviour at infinity is given by a **subset of simplices** of the ABHY associahedron.



[SP, Skowronek, Spradlin, Volovich]

- 
1. See the zeros as a consequence of color-kinematic duality / BCJ relations
 2. Understand the relation between vanishing residues at infinity and splitting near zeros
 3. Extend both these observations to theories without color via KLT

Doubling Zeros

Remember that the KLT relation at 5-point:

$$\mathcal{M}_5 = \sum_{\alpha\beta} A_5[152\alpha(34)] S[\alpha|\beta] A_5[1\beta(34)25]$$

where $S[\alpha|\beta]$ is the KLT kernel. Consider the **matrix**

$$\begin{bmatrix} s_{13}s_{14} & (s_{13} + s_{34})s_{14} \\ s_{13}(s_{14} + s_{34}) & s_{13}s_{14} \end{bmatrix}$$

[Bartsch, Brown, Kampf, Oktem, SP, Trnka]

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$$C_2 = \{s_{13} = s_{23} = 0\}$$

Thus it is important to choose the correct KLT basis in order to **manifest** a particular zero.

Since the BCJ relations imply **basis independence**, we expect the zeros to survive through the double copy.

[Bartsch, Brown, Kampf, Oktem, SP, Trnka]

KLT Relation at n -Point

At n -point,

$$\mathcal{M}_n = \sum_{\alpha\beta} A_n[1mn\alpha] S[\alpha|\beta] A_n[1\beta mn]$$

where the kernel is

$$S_{[i_1, \dots, i_m | j_1 \dots j_m]_p} = \left(\frac{1}{2}\right)^{-m} \prod_{t=1}^m \left(p \cdot k_{i_t} + \sum_{q>t}^m \theta(i_t, i_q) k_{i_t} \cdot k_{i_q} \right)$$

where $\theta(i_t, i_q) = 1$ if the ordering of i_t and i_q is the opposite in $\{i_1, \dots, i_m\}$ and $\{j_1, \dots, j_m\}$ and 0 if the same.

This manifests the m^{th} type of zero i.e.

KLT + absence of 2-particle poles \Rightarrow hidden zeros

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2-Particle Poles?

- ▶ $\text{SGal} + \text{h.d.} = \text{NLSM} + \text{h.d.} \otimes \text{NLSM} + \text{h.d.}$: NLSM only has 4-particle interactions so **no 2-particle poles**
- ▶ $\text{BI} + \text{h.d.} = \text{NLSM} + \text{h.d.} \otimes \text{YM} + \text{h.d.}$: A_3^{YM} vanishes on the polarization conditions, leading to **no 2-particle poles**



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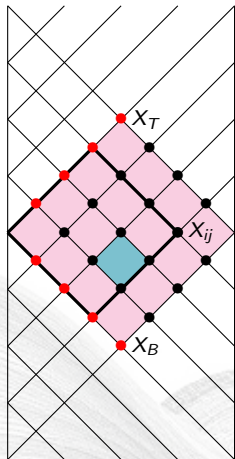
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- ▶ Conformal gravity = $(DF)^2 \otimes (DF)^2$: Same polarization selection rule as above
- ▶ Higher-derivative gravity = $\text{YM+h.d.} \otimes \text{YM} + \text{h.d.}$: Same polarization selection rule as above



c's and X's

Let us revisit our shift \hat{X}_B and \hat{X}_T , along with the other X's.



Under this shift, none of the $\hat{c} = c$ and so there are **no extra poles** in these non-planar variables in the case of uncolored theories \Rightarrow the residue theorem also works for **uncolored theories**.

$$A_6(1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6) \xrightarrow{s_{14}=s_{24}=s_{25}=0} \left(\frac{1}{X_{14}} + \frac{1}{X_{36}} \right) A_4(1, 2, 3, 4) A_4(3, 4, 5, 6)$$

(see Giulio's talk?)

[Jones, SP]

Residues at Infinity and KLT

Like large- z BCFW scaling, large- z behaviour under these splitting shifts is also implied by the double copy.

Choosing the same basis that guarantees the presence of zeros, **most** of the elements of the KLT matrix vanish.

For the ones that don't: The scaling of the corresponding ordered amplitudes in NLSM at 6-point e.g. behave as $\mathcal{O}\left(\frac{1}{z}\right)$.

Thus the double copy behaves as

$$M_6^{\text{sGal}} \sim \mathcal{O}(z^0) \times \mathcal{O}\left(\frac{1}{z}\right) \times \mathcal{O}\left(\frac{1}{z}\right) \sim \mathcal{O}\left(\frac{1}{z^2}\right)$$

i.e. **Double copy** \Rightarrow **good z -scaling** \Rightarrow **splitting and zeros**.

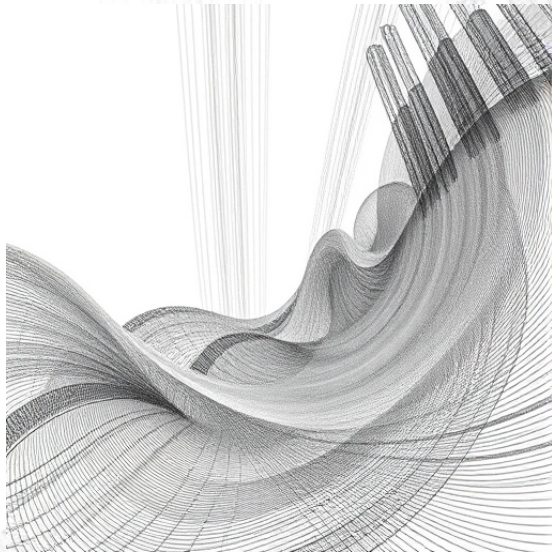
[Jones, SP]

Next Questions

- The BCJ relations **guarantee the presence of hidden zeros** in single-copy amplitudes.
- Theories have zeros and split near them if and only if their residue at infinity vanishes.
- The KLT relations guarantees the presence of hidden zeros in **double-copy amplitudes**.
- The z scaling at infinity double copies via the KLT relations, extending these results to uncolored theories.

Next Questions

- The BCJ relations guarantee the presence of hidden zeros in single-copy amplitudes.
- Theories have zeros and split near them if and only if their residue at infinity vanishes.
- The KLT relations guarantees the presence of hidden zeros in double-copy amplitudes.
- The z scaling at infinity double copies via the KLT relations, extending these results to uncolored theories.
- Is there a **polytopal** description of the function at infinity?
- Which theories have vanishing residues at infinity?
- To what extent do **gravitational theories** exhibit zeros and factorization?
- Do hidden zeros in double copy theories also have **geometric origin**?



Thank You