

Modular graph functions as iterated Eisenstein integrals

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Elliptic integrals in Mathematics and Physics
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- ① MGF: modular graph functions (Green, Vanhove, D'Hoker, Gürdogan)
- ② eMPL: elliptic multiple polylogarithms (Brown, Vanhove)
- ③ single-valued integration (Schnetz)
- ④ eMZV: elliptic multiple zeta values (Enriquez, Matthes, Zerbini)
- ⑤ iEi: iterated Eisenstein integrals (Schlotterer, Brödel)

Modular graph functions

The genus 1 contribution to the graviton amplitude of closed superstrings are integrals over the moduli $\tau = \tau_1 + i\tau_2 \in \mathfrak{M}_{1,1} \cong \mathbb{H}/\mathrm{PSL}_2(\mathbb{Z})$ of

$$\mathcal{B}_4(\{s_{ij}\}|\tau) = \left(\prod_{k=1}^3 \int_{\mathcal{E}_\tau} \frac{d^2 z_k}{\tau_2} \right) \exp \left(\sum_{1 \leq i < j \leq 4} s_{ij} \mathcal{G}(z_i - z_j|\tau) \right) \Big|_{z_4=0}.$$

The Green's function on the torus $\mathcal{E}_\tau = \mathbb{C}/\Lambda_\tau$ with $\Lambda_\tau = \mathbb{Z} \oplus \tau\mathbb{Z}$ is

$$\mathcal{G}(z|\tau) = \frac{\tau_2}{\pi} \sum_{\omega \in \Lambda_\tau \setminus \{0\}} \frac{1}{\omega^2} \exp \left[\frac{\pi}{\tau_2} (\omega \bar{z} - \bar{\omega} z) \right].$$

The low energy expansion is indexed by simple graphs G , with coefficients

$$\mathbf{D}[G](\tau, \bar{\tau}) := \left(\prod_{v \in V(G)} \int_{\mathcal{E}_\tau} \frac{d^2 z_k}{\tau_2} \right) \prod_{i \rightarrow j \in E(G)} \mathcal{G}(z_i - z_j|\tau).$$

Examples:

$$\mathbf{D} \left[\text{circle with two dots} \right] = \int_{\mathcal{E}_\tau} \frac{d^2 z_1}{\tau_2} \mathcal{G}(z_1|\tau)^2$$

$$\mathbf{D} \left[\text{triangle} \right] = \int_{\mathcal{E}_\tau} \frac{d^2 z_1}{\tau_2} \int_{\mathcal{E}_\tau} \frac{d^2 z_2}{\tau_2} \mathcal{G}(z_1|\tau) \mathcal{G}(z_2|\tau) \mathcal{G}(z_1 - z_2|\tau)$$

$$\mathbf{D} \left[\text{circle with two dots and a line} \right] = \int_{\mathcal{E}_\tau} \frac{d^2 z_1}{\tau_2} \mathcal{G}(z_1|\tau)^3$$

MGFs are modular invariant, real analytic, with MZV coefficients $d_k^{(m,n)}$:

$$\mathbf{D}[G] = \sum_k (\pi\tau_2)^k \sum_{n,m \geq 0} q^m \bar{q}^n d_k^{(m,n)}$$

Examples:

$$\mathbf{D} \left[\text{circle with two dots} \right] = \int_{\mathcal{E}_\tau} \frac{d^2 z_1}{\tau_2} \mathcal{G}(z_1|\tau)^2 = E_2$$

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$$\mathbf{D} \left[\text{circle with two dots and a line between them} \right] = \int_{\mathcal{E}_\tau} \frac{d^2 z_1}{\tau_2} \mathcal{G}(z_1|\tau)^3$$

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Real analytic Eisenstein series

$$E_k(\tau, \bar{\tau}) = \left(\frac{\tau_2}{\pi} \right)^k \sum_{\omega \in \Lambda_\tau \setminus \{0\}} \frac{1}{|\omega|^{2k}}$$

Many identities, for example

$$\mathbf{D} \left[\text{circle with chord} \right] = \mathbf{D} \left[\text{triangle} \right] + \zeta_3 \quad (\text{Zagier})$$

$$\mathbf{D} \left[\text{circle with two chords} \right] = 24\mathbf{D} \left[\text{triangle with two internal edges} \right] - 18\mathbf{D} \left[\text{square} \right] + 3\mathbf{D} \left[\text{circle with chord} \right]^2$$

$$10\mathbf{D} \left[\text{triangle with three internal edges} \right] = 20\mathbf{D} \left[\text{square with two internal edges} \right] - 4\mathbf{D} \left[\text{pentagon} \right] + 3\zeta_5$$

Eigenvalue equations with respect to $\Delta = 4\tau_2^2 \partial_\tau \partial_{\bar{\tau}}$, e.g.

$$(\Delta - k(k-1)) E_k = 0$$

$$(\Delta - 2) \mathbf{D} \left[\text{triangle with two internal edges} \right] = 9E_4 - E_2^2$$

$$(\Delta - 6) \mathbf{D} \left[\text{square with two internal edges} \right] = \frac{86}{5} E_5 - 4E_2 E_3 + \frac{1}{10} \zeta_5$$

iterated integrals (Chen 1973)

Take a manifold X and differential forms $\omega_1, \dots, \omega_n \in \Omega^1(X)$. Integrating these along a path $\gamma \in C^1([0, 1], X)$, we can construct functions (on γ):

$$\int_{\gamma} \omega_1 := \int_0^1 \gamma^*(\omega_1)(t_1)$$

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- 1 If $\omega = df$ is exact, $\int_{\gamma} \omega = f(\gamma(1)) - f(\gamma(0))$ is boring.
- 2 Not all iterated integrals are homotopy invariant.

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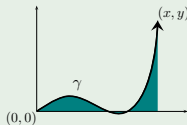
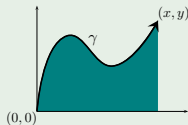
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Example

Take $\omega = ydx \in \Omega^1(\mathbb{R}^2)$, then $\int_{\gamma} \omega$ is the area between γ and the x -axis.



\Rightarrow integrability condition (Chen), simplest case:

$$\int_{\gamma} \omega \text{ homotopy invariant} \Leftrightarrow d\omega = 0$$

Elliptic polylogarithms (Brown & Levin)

Consider $X = \mathcal{E}_\tau = \mathbb{C}/\Lambda_\tau$ where $\Lambda_\tau = \mathbb{Z} \oplus \tau\mathbb{Z}$. The series

$$F(z, \alpha|\tau) = \frac{\vartheta'(0|\tau)\vartheta(z + \alpha|\tau)}{\vartheta(z|\tau)\vartheta(\alpha|\tau)} = \sum_{k \geq 0} \alpha^{k-1} g_k(z|\tau)$$

defines meromorphic functions $g_k(z)$ on \mathbb{C} with

$$g_k(z + 1|\tau) = g_k(z|\tau) \quad g_k(z + \tau|\tau) = g_k(z|\tau) + \sum_{j=1}^k g_{k-j}(z|\tau) \frac{(-2i\pi)^j}{j!}.$$

Examples

$$g_0 = 1, \quad g_1(z) = \frac{\vartheta'(z)}{\vartheta(z)} = \frac{1}{z} + \mathcal{O}(z) \quad g_2(z) = \frac{\wp(z) - g_1^2(z)}{2}$$

- g_k is smooth for all $k \neq 1$ (on the fundamental domain)
- g_1 has first order poles (with unit residue) on Λ_τ

Fix a finite set $\Sigma \subset \mathbb{C}$ of punctures to define closed forms

$$\omega_{\sigma}^{(n)}(z) = g_n(z - \sigma) dz \in \Omega^1(\mathbb{C} \setminus (\sigma + \Lambda_{\tau}))$$

for each $n \geq 0$ and $\sigma \in \Sigma$. Elliptic MPL are their iterated integrals:

$$\int_0^z \omega_{z_1}^{(n_1)} \cdots \omega_{z_r}^{(n_r)} = \tilde{\Gamma} \left(\begin{matrix} n_1 \cdots n_r \\ z_1 \cdots z_r \end{matrix}; z \right) = \int_0^z dt g_{n_1}(t - z_1) \tilde{\Gamma} \left(\begin{matrix} n_2 \cdots n_r \\ z_2 \cdots z_r \end{matrix}; z \right)$$

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Remarks

- 1 holomorphic, homotopy invariant
- 2 not doubly-periodic, not even the forms $\omega_{\sigma}^{(n)}$
- 3 functions live on the cover $\mathbb{C} \setminus \bigcup_{\sigma \in \Sigma} (\sigma + \Lambda_{\tau})$ of $\mathcal{E} \setminus \Sigma$

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$$\mathcal{G}(z|\tau) = -\ln \left| \frac{\vartheta(z|\tau)}{\eta(\tau)} \right|^2 - \frac{\pi}{2\tau_2} (z - \bar{z})^2$$

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$$\mathcal{G}(z|\tau) \sim -\ln \left| \frac{\vartheta(z|\tau)}{\vartheta'(0|\tau)} \right|^2 - \frac{\pi}{2\tau_2} (z - \bar{z})^2$$

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$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{G}(z|\tau) &\sim -\ln \left| \frac{\vartheta(z|\tau)}{\vartheta'(0|\tau)} \right|^2 - \frac{\pi}{2\tau_2} (z - \bar{z})^2 \\ &= -\tilde{\Gamma} \left(\begin{matrix} 1 \\ 0 \end{matrix}; z \right) + \text{c.c.} - \frac{\pi}{\tau_2} \left(\tilde{\Gamma} \left(\begin{matrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{matrix}; z \right) + \text{c.c.} - \tilde{\Gamma} \left(\begin{matrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{matrix}; z \right) \tilde{\Gamma}^* \left(\begin{matrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{matrix}; z \right) \right) \end{aligned}$$

So, the integrand of MGFs is contained in the algebra \mathcal{A}_n generated by

$$\int_{\sigma_0}^{\sigma_{r+1}} \omega_{z_1}^{(n_1)} \cdots \omega_{z_r}^{(n_r)} \quad \text{and their c.c.}$$

where $n_i \geq 0$ and $\sigma_i \in \Sigma$. This \mathcal{A}_n defines a subsheaf of $\Omega^0(\text{Conf}_n(\mathcal{E}_\tau))$.

Approach

Integrate out each puncture sequentially along the fibrations

$$\mathcal{E}_\tau \setminus \{z_1, \dots, z_{n-1}\} \hookrightarrow \text{Conf}_n(\mathcal{E}_\tau) \twoheadrightarrow \text{Conf}_{n-1}(\mathcal{E}_\tau)$$

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Every period $f \in \mathcal{A}_n$ is an iterated integral on the fibre, e.g.

$$f = \sum_{u,v} \int_0^{z_n} u \cdot \left(\int_0^{z_n} v \right)^* \cdot f_{u,v}$$

where $f_{u,v} \in \mathcal{A}_{n-1}$ and u, v are forms independent of z_n .

Example

$$\tilde{r} \left(\begin{matrix} 1 & 1 \\ z & 0 \end{matrix}; z \right) = 2\tilde{r} \left(\begin{matrix} 0 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 \end{matrix}; z \right) + \tilde{r} \left(\begin{matrix} 2 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 \end{matrix}; z \right) - 2\tilde{r} \left(\begin{matrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{matrix}; z \right) + \zeta_2$$

Integration

Suppose we have written the integrand in the form

$$f = \left[\sum_{u,v} \int_0^{z_n} u \cdot \left(\int_0^{z_n} v \right)^* \cdot f_{u,v} \right] \cdot dz_n \wedge d\bar{z}_n,$$

Then we can easily find a primitive F with $dF = f$ as

$$F = \left[\sum_{u,v} \int_0^{z_n} \omega_0^{(0)} u \cdot \left(\int_0^{z_n} v \right)^* \cdot f_{u,v} \right] \cdot d\bar{z}_n.$$

Idea

Apply Stokes to the fundamental domain $D = [0, 1] \times [0, \tau] \setminus \Sigma$:

$$\int_D f = \int_{\partial D} F.$$

Problem: F does not extend to a smooth function on D° . In other words, F is not **single-valued**.

Path concatenation

Let $\gamma \star \eta$ denote the concatenation of γ and η at $\gamma(1) = \eta(0) = (\gamma \star \eta)(\frac{1}{2})$:



To decompose

$$\int_{\gamma \star \eta} \omega_2 \omega_1 = \int_{0 \leq t_1 \leq t_2 \leq 1} (\gamma \star \eta)^*(\omega_2)(t_2) (\gamma \star \eta)^*(\omega_1)(t_1),$$

split the interval

$$\underbrace{\{t_1 \leq t_2\}}_{\int_{\gamma \star \eta} \omega_2 \omega_1} = \{t_1 \leq t_2 \leq \frac{1}{2}\} \cup \{t_1 \leq \frac{1}{2} \leq t_2\} \cup \{\frac{1}{2} \leq t_1 \leq t_2\}$$

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More generally, the **path concatenation** formula reads

$$\int_{\gamma \star \eta} \omega_r \cdots \omega_1 = \sum_{k=0}^r \int_{\eta} \omega_r \cdots \omega_{k+1} \int_{\gamma} \omega_k \cdots \omega_1.$$

Monodromy

Analytic continuation \mathcal{M}_η along a closed loop η with $\eta(0) = \eta(1) = 0$ is

$$\mathcal{M}_\eta \int_0^z \omega_r \cdots \omega_1 = \sum_{k=0}^r \int_0^z \omega_r \cdots \omega_{k+1} \underbrace{\int_\eta \omega_k \cdots \omega_1}_{\in \mathcal{A}_{n-1}}.$$

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Monodromy and derivatives commute

$$\partial_z (\mathcal{M}_\eta - \text{id}) F = (\mathcal{M}_\eta - \text{id}) \partial_z F = (\mathcal{M}_\eta - \text{id}) f = 0$$

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\Rightarrow the monodromies of F are antiholomorphic:

$$(\mathcal{M}_{\eta_\sigma} - \text{id}) F = \sum_u \left(\int_0^{z_n} u \right)^* F_u^\sigma$$

for any basis $\eta_\sigma \in \pi_1(\mathcal{E}_\tau \setminus \Sigma)$ of loops. We can choose them such that

$$\int_{\eta_\sigma} \omega_z^{(n)} = (2i\pi) \delta_{\sigma,z} \delta_{1,n}$$

Note that the leading length of the monodromy is

$$(\mathcal{M}_\eta - \text{id}) \int_0^z \omega_n \cdots \omega_1 = \int_0^z \omega_n \cdots \omega_2 \int_\eta \omega_1 + \text{lower length}$$

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So there is an antiholomorphic form with the opposite monodromies:

$$(\mathcal{M}_{\eta\sigma} - \text{id}) \left\{ \sum_{\rho \in \Sigma} \sum_u \left(\int_0^{z_n} u \omega_p^1 \right) \frac{F_u^\sigma}{2i\pi} \right\} = - \sum_u \left(\int_0^{z_n} u \right)^* F_u^\sigma + \text{lower length}$$

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Corollary: Existence of single-valued primitives

By adding antiholomorphic functions, we can find a primitive $F \in \mathcal{A}_n$ with

$$dF = f \quad \text{and} \quad (\mathcal{M}_{\eta_\sigma} - \text{id}) F = 0 \quad \text{for all } \sigma \in \Sigma$$

insert picture of fundamental domain

Stokes' theorem $\int_D f = \int_{\partial D} F$ gets contributions from

- 1 the punctures $\sigma \in \Sigma$:

$$\lim_{r \rightarrow 0} \oint_{|z-\sigma|=r} F = 0$$

- 2 the sides of D :

$$\int_0^1 F + \int_{1+\tau}^\tau F = - \int_0^1 (\mathcal{M}_{[0,\tau]} - \text{id}) F$$
$$\int_1^{1+\tau} F + \int_\tau^0 F = \int_0^\tau (\mathcal{M}_{[0,1]} - \text{id}) F$$

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Recall

The monodromies

$$(\mathcal{M}_{[0,\tau]} - \text{id}) F \quad \text{and} \quad (\mathcal{M}_{[0,1]} - \text{id}) F$$

are antiholomorphic iterated integrals.

Summary

Given a function $f \in \mathcal{A}_n$ single-valued on $\text{Conf}_n(\mathcal{E}_\tau)$:

- 1 There is a function $\mathcal{F} \in \mathcal{A}_n$ that is single-valued on D° with $\partial_{z_n} \mathcal{F} = f$.
- 2 We can apply Stokes' theorem to $d(\mathcal{F}d\bar{z}_n) = f dz_n \wedge d\bar{z}_n$.
- 3 All contributions are eMPL on the base \mathcal{A}_{n-1} .
- 4 Due to convergence, the result is necessarily single-valued and descends to $\text{Conf}_{n-1}(\mathcal{E}_\tau)$.

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Corollary

After integrating out all but one puncture, a MGF is thus expressed in terms of iterated integrals on \mathcal{E}_τ^\times , that is, eMZV and their c.c.

$$\omega_A(n_1, \dots, n_r) = \int_0^1 \omega_0^{(n_1)} \cdots \omega_0^{(n_r)}, \quad \omega_B(n_1, \dots, n_r) = \int_0^\tau \omega_0^{(n_1)} \cdots \omega_0^{(n_r)}$$

Iterated Eisenstein integrals

Theorem (Enriquez, Matthes, Brödel, Schlotterer, Mafra, Zerbini)

eMZV can be written as iterated Eisenstein integrals.

$$\begin{aligned} 2\pi i \partial_\tau \int_a^b g_{n_1} \cdots g_{n_r} &= n_1 g_{1+n_1}(b) \int_a^b g_{n_2} \cdots g_{n_r} - n_r g_{1+n_r}(a) \int_a^b g_{n_1} \cdots g_{n_{r-1}} \\ &+ \sum_{\mu=1}^{r-1} \sum_{k=0}^{n_\mu+n_{\mu+1}+1} (n_\mu + n_{\mu+1} - k) \left[\binom{k-1}{n_{\mu+1}-1} - \binom{k-1}{k-n_\mu} \right] G_{n_\mu+n_{\mu+1}+1-k} \\ &\quad \times \int_a^b g_{n_1} \cdots g_{n_{\mu-1}} g^k g_{n_{\mu+2}} \cdots g_{n_r} \end{aligned}$$

extras

Shuffle product

The **shuffle product** of two words

$$w_{n+m} \cdots w_{n+1} \sqcup w_n \cdots w_1 = \sum_{\sigma} w_{\sigma(n+m)} \cdots w_{\sigma(1)}$$

is the sum of all their **shuffles** σ , i.e. permutations which preserve the relative order of letters in both factors:

$$\sigma^{-1}(1) < \cdots < \sigma^{-1}(n) \quad \text{and} \quad \sigma^{-1}(n+1) < \cdots < \sigma^{-1}(n+m).$$

For arbitrary words u and v , we find that (\int_{γ} is linearly extended)

$$\left(\int_{\gamma} u \right) \cdot \left(\int_{\gamma} v \right) = \int_{\gamma} (u \sqcup v).$$

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$$\int_{\gamma} \omega_3 \cdot \int_{\gamma} \omega_2 \omega_1 = \int_{\gamma} \omega_3 \omega_2 \omega_1 + \int_{\gamma} \omega_2 \omega_3 \omega_1 + \int_{\gamma} \omega_2 \omega_1 \omega_3$$
$$\{t_3\} \times \{t_1 \leq t_2\} = \{t_1 \leq t_2 \leq t_3\} \cup \{t_1 \leq t_3 \leq t_2\} \cup \{t_3 \leq t_1 \leq t_2\}$$

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$$\begin{aligned}
d\tilde{\Gamma} \left(\begin{matrix} n_1 \cdots n_r \\ z_1 \cdots z_r \end{matrix}; z \right) &= \sum_{p=1}^{k-1} (-1)^{n_p+1} \tilde{\Gamma} \left(\begin{matrix} \cdots n_{p-1} & 0 & n_{p+1} \cdots \\ \cdots z_{p-1} & 0 & z_{p+1} \cdots \end{matrix} \right) \omega_{p,p+1}^{n_p+n_{p+1}} \\
&+ \sum_{p=1}^k \sum_{r=0}^{n_p+1} \left[\begin{pmatrix} n_{p-1} + r - 1 \\ n_{p-1} - 1 \end{pmatrix} \tilde{\Gamma} \left(\begin{matrix} \cdots n_{p-1} + r & n_{p+1} & \cdots \\ \cdots z_{p-1} & z_{p+1} & \cdots \end{matrix} \right) \omega_{p,p-1}^{n_p-r} \right. \\
&\quad \left. - \begin{pmatrix} n_{p+1} + r - 1 \\ n_{p+1} - 1 \end{pmatrix} \tilde{\Gamma} \left(\begin{matrix} \cdots n_{p-1} & n_{p+1} + r & \cdots \\ \cdots z_{p-1} & z_{p+1} & \cdots \end{matrix} \right) \omega_{p,p+1}^{n_p-r} \right]
\end{aligned}$$

where

$$\omega_{ij}^n = (dz_j - dz_i) g_n(z_j - z_i; \tau) + \frac{nd\tau}{2i\pi} g_{n+1}(z_j - z_i; \tau)$$