

Steinmann Relations, Causality and the Wavefunction of the Universe

Paolo Benincasa

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&

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8 September 2020 – Cosmological Correlators Workshop

based on:

P. B.

A. J. McLeod

C. Vergu

2009.03047

P.B.

A. Di Tucci

C. Vergu

work in progress

N. Arkani-Hamed

P.B.

1811.01125

Other relevant works:

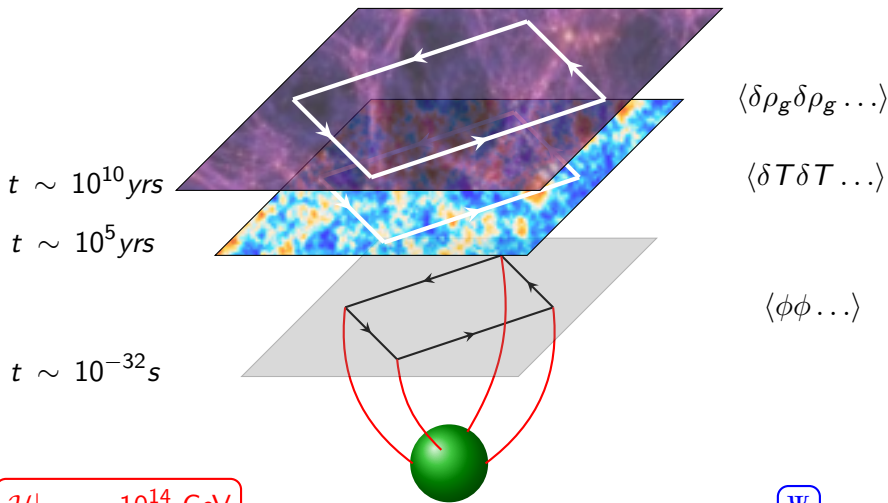
N. Arkani-Hamed; **P. B.**, A. Postnikov, 1709.02813

P. B., 1811.02515, 1909.02517

P. B., M. Parisi, 2005.03612

P. B., A. Di Tucci, work in progress

Observables and First Principles



$$\mathcal{H}|_{\text{infl.}} \sim 10^{14} \text{ GeV}$$



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Observables and First Principles

Flat space:

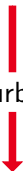
What are the rules governing physical processes?

Lorentz
Invariance



$$\mathcal{M}_n = \mathcal{M}_n(s_{i_1 \dots i_k})$$

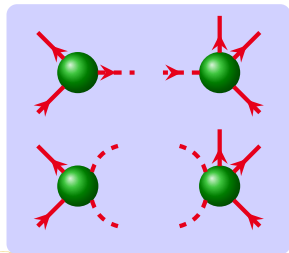
Causality



Perturbative

Sufficient Analyticity:
Poles, Branch cuts

Unitarity



- Tree-level & 1-loop fixed
- Higher loops: no complete set of rules

Observables and First Principles

Flat space:

What are the rules governing physical processes?

Lorentz
Invariance

Causality

Unitarity

- 3-particle amplitudes fixed.
- Yang's theorem; Weinberg-Witten theorem.
- Charge conservation (spin 1); Equivalence principle (spin 2).
- Consistent interactions involve spins: 0, 1/2, 1, 3/2, 2.
- Spin-1 self-interactions just for different species.
- Graviton uniqueness theorem; $\mathcal{N} = 1$ SUGRA
- Spin > 2 : No self-interactions; no interactions with $s \leq 2$;
No elementary massive particles

[Weinberg, 64; P. B., Cachazo, 07; P. B., Conde, 11;
McGady, Rodina 13; Arkani-Hamed, Huang, Huang, 17]



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Observables and First Principles

Cosmology:

What are the rules governing physical processes?

Causality

Unitarity

What's their imprint and their consequences?



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Observables and First Principles

Cosmology:

What are the rules governing physical processes?

Causality

Unitarity

What's their imprint and their consequences?

– First ϵ steps

- Cosmological Optical Theorem

[Goodhew, Jazayeri, Pajer, 20]

- Steinmann-like relations

[P. B., McLeod, Vergu, 20]

[P. B., Di Tucci, Vergu, w.i.p.]

- Bootstrap programs

[Arkani-Hamed, Baumann, Lee, Pimentel, 18]

[Baumann, Duaso Pueyo, Joyce, Lee, Pimentel, 19-20]

[Sleight, Taronna, 18-20]; [Pajer, Stefanyszyn, Supel, 20]

[P. B., Di Tucci, w.i.p.]



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Flat-Space Causality and Steinmann Relations

1 General notion of causality: $[\phi(x_1), \phi(x_2)] = 0$ for $(x - x_1)^2 > 0$

2 Retarded products:

[Lehmann, Symanzik, Zimmerman, 1957]

$$R(x; x_1) = -i\vartheta(x^0 - x_1^0)[\phi(x), \phi(x_1)]$$

$$R(x; x_1, \dots, x_n) = (-i)^n \sum_{\pi \in S_n} \vartheta(x^0 - x_{\pi(1)}^0) \cdots \vartheta(x_{\pi(n-1)}^0 - x_{\pi(n)}^0) [[\cdots [\phi(x), \phi(x_{\sigma(1)})], \cdots], \phi(x_{\sigma(n)})]$$

3 Generalised Retarded Functions:

[Steinmann, 1960; Ruelle, 1961; Araki, 1961]

$$r(x, \sigma; x_1, \sigma_1, \dots, x_n, \sigma_n) = \langle 0 | R(x, \sigma; x_1, \sigma_1, \dots, x_n, \sigma_n) | 0 \rangle$$

4 (Generalised) Steinmann Relations:

[Steinmann, 1960; Ruelle, 1961; Araki, 1961]

$$\text{E.g.: } r_{jn} - a_{ik} = a_{kl} - r_{nj}, \quad \begin{cases} r_{jn} = r(x_j, +; , x_k, -; x_l, -; x_n, +) \\ a_{jn} = r(x_j, -; , x_k, +; x_l, +; x_n, -) \end{cases}, \quad \pi = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 \\ j & k & l & n \end{pmatrix}$$

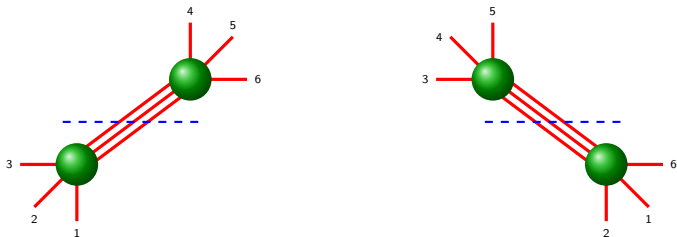
Flat-Space Causality and Steinmann Relations: S-matrix

5

Double discontinuities on partially overlapping channels vanish

[Stapp, 71; Cahill, Stapp, 73,75; Lassalle, 74]

$$\text{Disc}_{S_I} (\text{Disc}_{S_J} \mathcal{A}) = 0, \quad \begin{cases} I \not\subseteq J \\ J \not\subseteq I \\ I \cap J \neq \emptyset \end{cases}$$



- Steinmann relations constrain the analytic structure of scattering amplitudes
- Used to bootstrap amplitudes and integrals in planar $\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM
- Also valid for individual Feynmann graphs

[Caron-Huot, Dixon, Drummond, Dulat, Foster, Grudogan, Harrington, von Hippel, McLeod, Papathanasiou, Spradlin, 16-20]

[Bourjaily, Hannesdottir, McLeod, Schwartz, Vergu, 20]



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Big question:

What are the invariant properties that Ψ ought to satisfy in order to come from a consistent causal evolution in cosmological space-times?

Smaller questions:

- 1 Can we see flat-space causality emerging from the wavefunction?
- 2 Do similar constraints hold for the wavefunction?

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$$\text{Res}_{\mathcal{W}_{g_1}} (\text{Res}_{\mathcal{W}_{g_2}} \Omega(\mathcal{S}_{\mathcal{G}})) = 0 \implies \text{Disc}_{S_{g_1}} (\text{Disc}_{S_{g_2}} \mathcal{A}_{\mathcal{G}}) = 0$$

- 2 Do similar constraints hold for the wavefunction?

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- 2 Do similar constraints hold for the wavefunction?

$$\text{Res}_{E_{\mathfrak{g}_1}} (\text{Res}_{E_{\mathfrak{g}_2}} \psi_{\mathcal{G}}) = 0 \implies \text{Disc}_{S_{\mathfrak{g}_1}} (\text{Disc}_{S_{\mathfrak{g}_2}} \Psi_{\mathcal{G}}^{\text{tree}}) = 0$$

Combinatorics and the Wavefunction: the Cosmological Polytopes

- Mathematical objects with their own first-principles definition (no reference to Hilbert space and space-time)
- Any question about the (perturbative) wavefunction becomes a combinatoric-geometrical question



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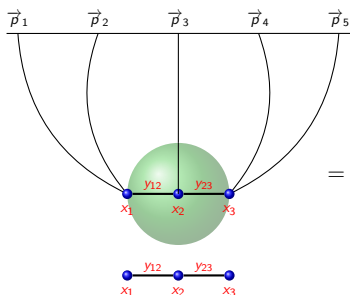
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A Combinatorial Description of the Wavefunction

[N. Arkani-Hamed, **P.B.**, A. Postnikov, 17]; [**P.B.**, 19]

$$S[\phi] = \int_{-\infty}^0 d\eta \int d^d x \left[\frac{1}{2} (\partial\phi)^2 - \sum_{k \geq 3} \frac{\lambda(\eta)}{k!} \phi^k \right],$$

$$\lambda(\eta) = \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} d\varepsilon e^{i\varepsilon\eta} \tilde{\lambda}_k(\varepsilon)$$



$$= \prod_{v \in \mathcal{V}} \left[\int_{\tilde{x}_v}^{+\infty} d x_v \tilde{\lambda}(x_v) \right] \underbrace{\int_{-\infty}^0 \prod_{v \in \mathcal{V}} [d\eta_v e^{i x_v \eta_v}] \prod_{e \in \mathcal{E}} G(y_e, \eta_{v_e}, \eta_{v'_e})}_{\psi(x_v, y_e)}$$

$$G(\eta_i, \eta_j) = \frac{1}{2y_e} \underbrace{\left[e^{-iy_e(\eta_{v_e} - \eta_{v'_e})} \vartheta(\eta_{v_e} - \eta_{v'_e}) + e^{iy_e(\eta_{v_e} - \eta_{v'_e})} \vartheta(\eta_{v'_e} - \eta_{v_e}) \right]}_{\text{Feynman propagator}} \overbrace{-e^{iy_e(\eta_{v_e} + \eta_{v'_e})}}^{\text{b.c.}}$$

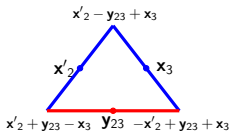
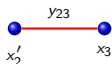
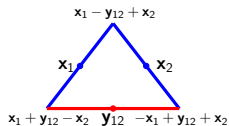
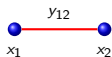


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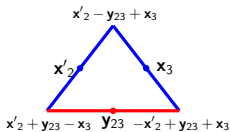
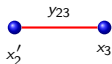
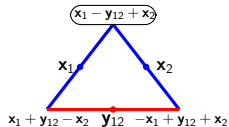
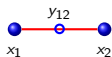
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[N. Arkani-Hamed, **P.B.**, A. Postnikov, 17]

$$\mathcal{Y} = \sum_{\mathbf{v}} x_{\mathbf{v}} \mathbf{X}_{\mathbf{v}} + \sum_{\mathbf{e}} y_{\mathbf{e}} \mathbf{Y}_{\mathbf{e}} \in \mathbb{P}^{n_{\mathbf{v}} + n_{\mathbf{e}} - 1}$$

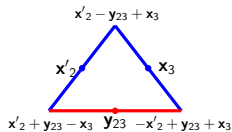
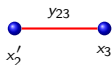
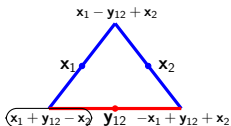
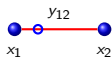
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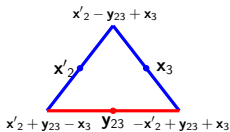
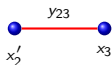
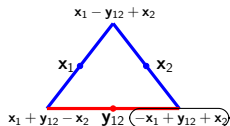
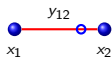
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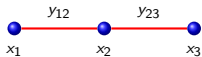
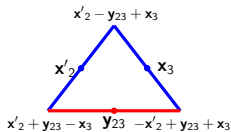
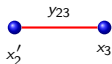
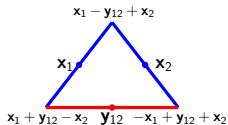
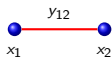
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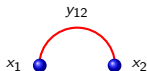
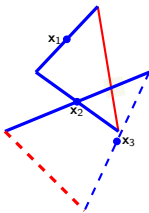
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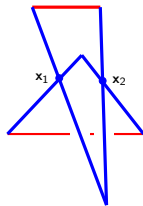
$$x_2 = x'_2$$



y_{23}

$$x_2 = x'_2$$

$$x_1 = x_3$$



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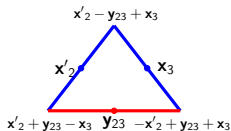
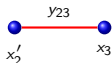
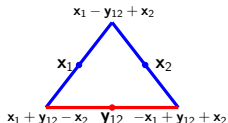
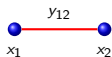


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A Combinatorial Description of the Wavefunction

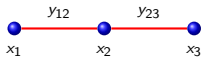
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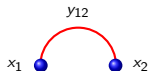
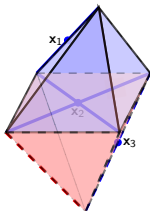


$$\psi \equiv \Omega = \frac{\langle 123 \rangle^2}{\langle y_{12} \rangle \langle y_{23} \rangle \langle y_{31} \rangle} = \frac{1}{(x_1 + x_2)(x_1 + y)(y + x_2)}$$

meromorphic function with single poles only,
with residues corresponding to codimension-1 boundaries



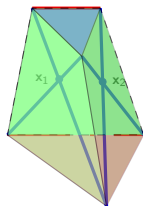
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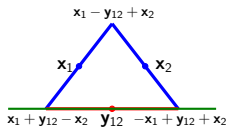
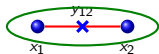
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$$x_1 + x_2 = 0$$



$$\psi \equiv \Omega = \frac{\langle 123 \rangle^2}{\langle \mathcal{Y}12 \rangle \langle \mathcal{Y}23 \rangle \langle \mathcal{Y}23 \rangle} = \frac{1}{(x_1 + x_2)(x_1 + y)(y + x_2)}$$

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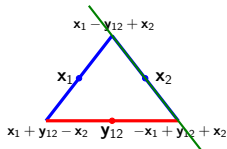
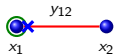
$$\Omega(\mathcal{P}_G \cap \mathcal{W}_G) \equiv \text{Res}_{\mathcal{W}_G} \Omega(\mathcal{P}_G) = \frac{1}{(x_1 + y)(y + x_2)} \Big|_{x_1 + x_2 = 0}$$

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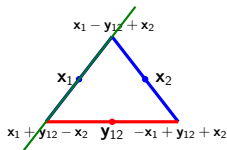
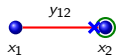
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$$\Omega(\mathcal{P}_{\mathcal{G}} \cap \mathcal{W}_{\mathfrak{g}_2}) \equiv \text{Res}_{\mathcal{W}_{\mathfrak{g}_2}} \Omega(\mathcal{P}_{\mathcal{G}}) = \frac{1}{(x_1 + x_2)(x_1 + y)} \Big|_{y+x_2=0}$$

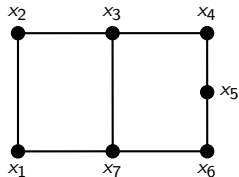
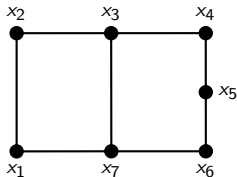
A Combinatorial Description of the Wavefunction

[N. Arkani-Hamed, P.B., A. Postnikov, 17]

Residues of $\psi \iff$ Facets \iff Connected subgraphs $g \subseteq \mathcal{G}$

Facet: $\mathcal{P}_G \cap \mathcal{W}_g \subset \mathbb{P}^{n_v+n_e-2}$

1. Marking all the internal edges of g in the middle
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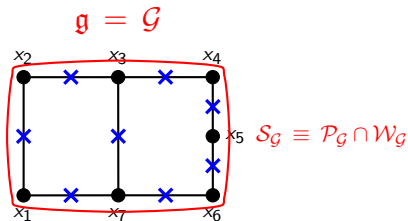
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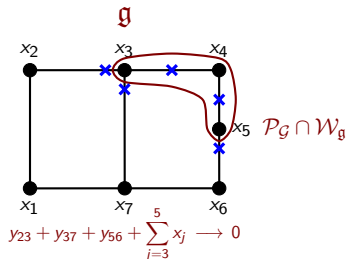
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$$\sum_{j=1}^7 x_j \rightarrow 0$$

Scattering Facet



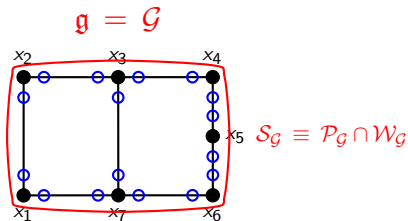
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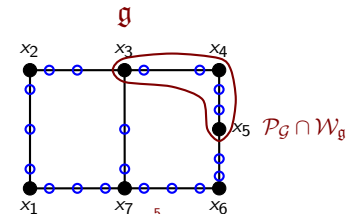
Facet: $\mathcal{P}_{\mathcal{G}} \cap \mathcal{W}_{\mathfrak{g}} \subset \mathbb{P}^{n_v + n_e - 2}$

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Scattering Facet



$$y_{23} + y_{37} + y_{56} + \sum_{j=3}^5 x_j \rightarrow 0$$



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Emergence of Flat-Space Unitarity and Causality



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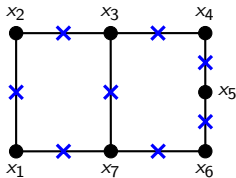


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Emergence of Flat-Space Unitarity

Scattering Facet: $\mathcal{S}_G \equiv \mathcal{P}_G \cap \mathcal{W}_G \subset \mathbb{P}^{n_v+n_e-2}$

[N. Arkani-Hamed, *P.B.*, 18]



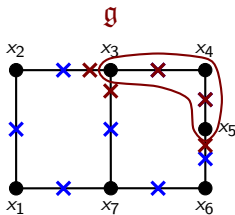
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Lower-dimensional Face:
 $\mathcal{S}_g \cap \mathcal{W}_g \subset \mathbb{P}^{n_v+n_e-3}$

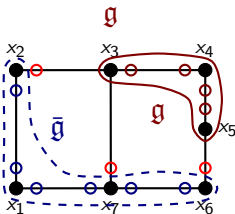
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$$\begin{aligned} \Omega(\mathcal{S}_g \cap \mathcal{W}_g) &= \Omega(\Sigma_g) \times \Omega(\mathcal{S}_g) \times \Omega(\mathcal{S}_{\bar{g}}) = \\ &= \left(\prod_{e \in \mathcal{E}} \frac{1}{2y_e} \right) \times \mathcal{A}[g] \times \mathcal{A}[\bar{g}] \end{aligned}$$

cutting rules!

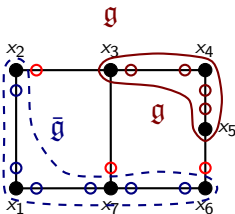
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Measure for the Lorentz Invariant Phase Space

Emergence of Flat-Space Causality

Vanishing of the double discontinuities along partially-overlapping channels
(Steinmann Relations)

[P.B., A. J. McLeod, C. Vergu, 20]



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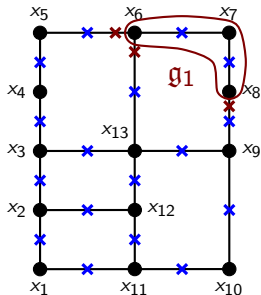
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Emergence of Flat-Space Causality

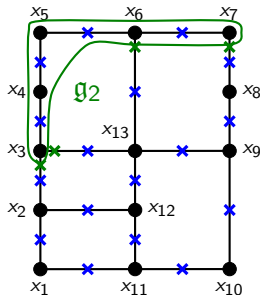
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$$\text{Subgraphs } \mathfrak{g}_1, \mathfrak{g}_2 \left\{ \begin{array}{ll} \mathfrak{g}_1 \cap \mathfrak{g}_2 \neq \emptyset & \mathfrak{g}_1 \cap \bar{\mathfrak{g}}_2 \neq \emptyset \\ \bar{\mathfrak{g}}_1 \cap \mathfrak{g}_2 \neq \emptyset & \bar{\mathfrak{g}}_1 \cap \bar{\mathfrak{g}}_2 \neq \emptyset \end{array} \right.$$



$\mathcal{S}_g \cap \mathcal{W}_{\mathfrak{g}_1}$



$\mathcal{S}_g \cap \mathcal{W}_{\mathfrak{g}_2}$

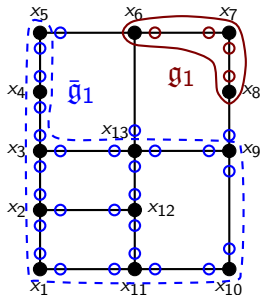
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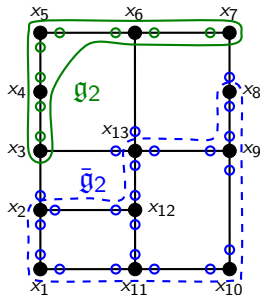
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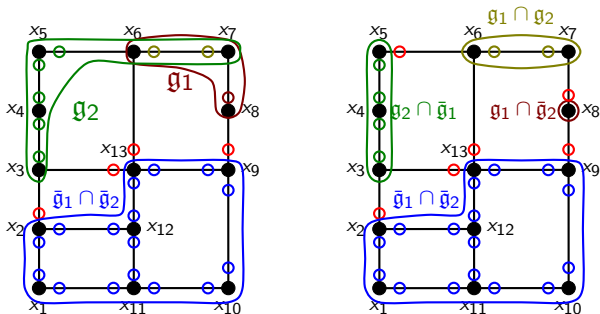
$\mathcal{S}_g \cap \mathcal{W}_{\mathfrak{g}_2}$

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Vanishing of the double discontinuities along partially-overlapping channels
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[P.B., A. J. McLeod, C. Vergu, 20]

$$\mathbb{P}^{n_v+n_e-4} \supset \mathcal{S}_G \cap \mathcal{W}_{g_1} \cap \mathcal{W}_{g_2} = \emptyset$$



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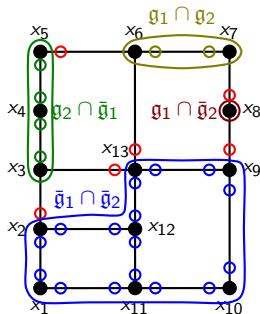
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Emergence of Flat-Space Causality

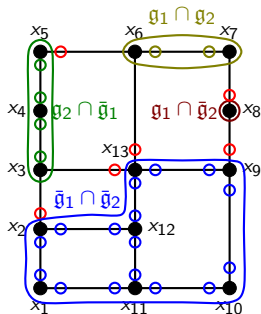
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Why don't contribution come from higher codimension intersections?

- Zeros of Ω
 - Locus of the intersections of the facets outside \mathcal{P}_G
- These higher codim intersections lay on this locus



Emergence of Flat-Space Causality

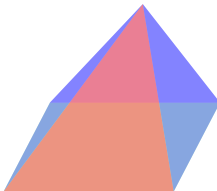
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What about the Wavefunction?



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Steinmann-like Relations and the Wavefunctions

What about the wavefunction?
Let's ask the same question!

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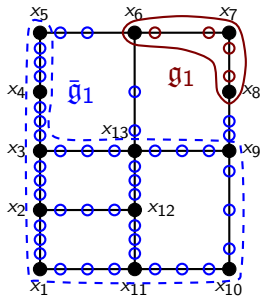
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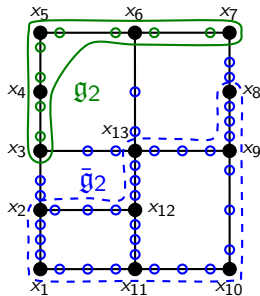
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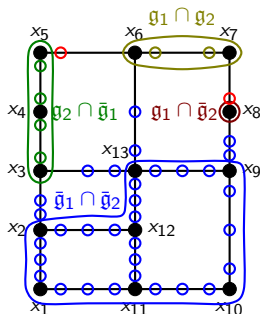
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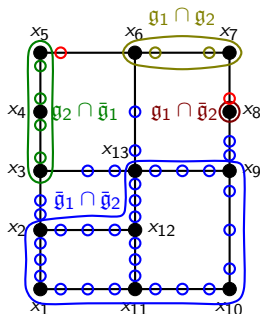
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$$\text{Disc}_{E_{g_1}} \text{Disc}_{E_{g_2}} \Psi_G^{\text{tree}} = 0$$

1. The double residues of the universal integrand ψ_G vanish $\forall G$
2. The double discontinuities of the tree-level wavefunction Ψ_G^{tree} vanish
(Ψ_G^{tree} is given in terms of polylogs)

$$E_g = \sum_{v \in g} x_v + \sum_{e \in \mathcal{E}_g^{\text{ext}}} y_e$$

[Arkani-Hamed, P.B., Postnikov, 17; Hillman, 19]



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Conclusion

- Steinmann relations for amplitudes are implied by causality.
- They arise in a simple way from the combinatorics of the scattering facet of the cosmological polytope.
- Steinmann-like constraints for the wavefunction.
- They arise via the same mechanism as the flat-space ones.
- The analysis holds for a large class of models in FRW cosmologies.
- A final proof of the relation between these new constraints on the wavefunction and causality yet to be established

[P. B., A. Di Tucci, C. Vergu; work-in-progress]

Obs: Perturbative integrands of in-in correlators as R -products



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