

# Twistor Space, Amplitudes and No-Triangle Hypothesis in Gravity

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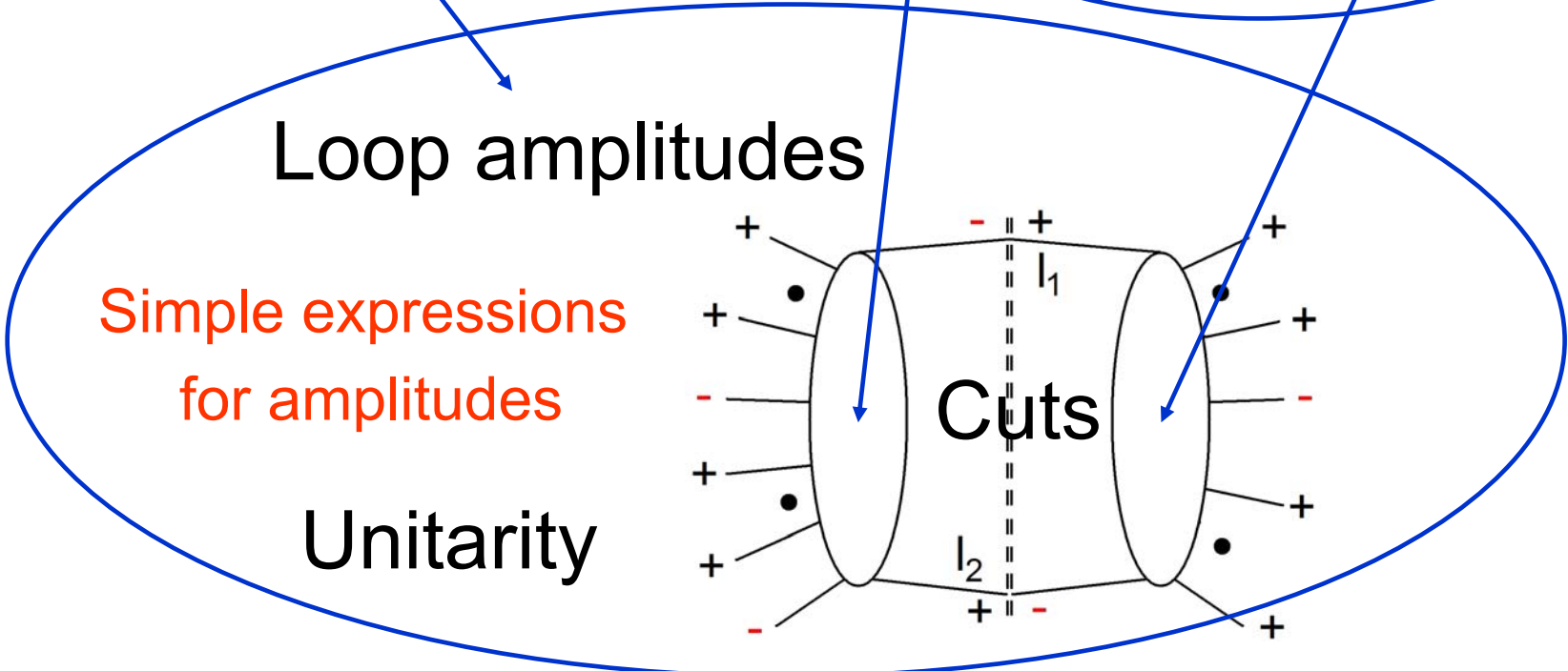
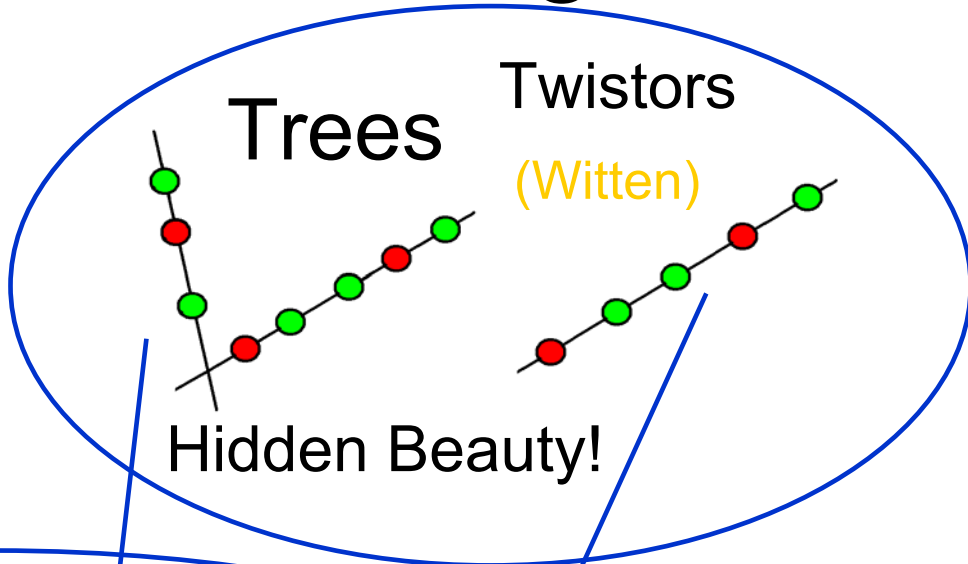
Includes work in collaboration with

Z. Bern, D.C. Dunbar, H. Ita, W. Perkins, K. Risager and P. Vanhove

# Introduction

# Twistor space / New insights

Amplitudes  $N=4$ ,  
 $N=1$ , QCD  
at NLO, Gravity..



# Outline

Quantum gravity from Perturbation Theory

KLT and spinor helicity formalism

Twistor space structure

New techniques for gravity tree amplitudes

Loop amplitudes from Unitarity

N=8 Supergravity

No-triangle hypothesis

New insights? .. 2-loops, 3-loops n-loops ..

– Insights from string theory??

# Quantum theory for gravity

- Gravity as a theory of **point-like interactions**
- **Non-renormalisable** theory! Dimensionful  
 $G_N = 1/M_{\text{planck}}^2$
- Traditional belief : – no **known symmetry** can **remove higher derivative divergences..** String theory can by introducing new length scale
- Focus: N=8 supergravity – **maximal supersymmetry**  
(Cremmer, Julia,  
Scherk; Cremmer,  
Julia)
  - **Also cancellations in pure gravity as well..**

# Calculation of perturbative amplitudes

# Feynman diagrams:

**Factorial Growth!**

Momentum vectors :

$(p_i f p_j)$

Generic Feynman amplitudes



Sum over topological  
different diagrams

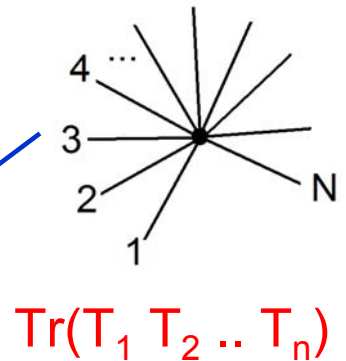
External polarisation  
tensors :

$(p_i f \epsilon_j) (\epsilon_i f \epsilon_j)$

# Amplitudes

Specifying external  
polarisation tensors ( $\epsilon_i, \epsilon_j$ )

Colour ordering



Simplifications

Recursion

Spinor-helicity  
formalism

Loop amplitudes  
(Unitarity,  
Supersymmetric  
decomposition)

# Gravity Trees



# Gravity Amplitudes

Expand Einstein-Hilbert Lagrangian :

Infinitely  
many  
vertices

$$\mathcal{L}_{EH} = \int d^4x \left[ \sqrt{-g} R \right]$$



$$g_{\mu\nu} \equiv \eta_{\mu\nu} + \kappa h_{\mu\nu}$$

Vertices: 3pt, 4pt, 5pt,...n-pt

Feynman diagrams:

Complicated expressions for vertices!

not attractive...!

$$\begin{aligned}
 V_{\mu\alpha,\nu\beta,\sigma\gamma}^{(3)}(k_1, k_2, k_3) = & \kappa \text{sym} \left[ -\frac{1}{2} P_3(k_1 \cdot k_2 \eta_{\mu\alpha} \eta_{\nu\beta} \eta_{\sigma\gamma}) - \frac{1}{2} P_6(k_{1\nu} k_{1\beta} \eta_{\mu\alpha} \eta_{\sigma\gamma}) \right. \\
 & + \frac{1}{2} P_3(k_1 \cdot k_2 \eta_{\mu\nu} \eta_{\alpha\beta} \eta_{\sigma\gamma}) + P_6(k_1 \cdot k_2 \eta_{\mu\alpha} \eta_{\nu\sigma} \eta_{\beta\gamma}) + 2P_3(k_{1\nu} k_{1\gamma} \eta_{\mu\alpha} \eta_{\beta\sigma}) \\
 & - P_3(k_{1\beta} k_{2\mu} \eta_{\alpha\nu} \eta_{\sigma\gamma}) + P_3(k_{1\sigma} k_{2\gamma} \eta_{\mu\nu} \eta_{\alpha\beta}) + P_6(k_{1\sigma} k_{1\gamma} \eta_{\mu\nu} \eta_{\alpha\beta}) \\
 & \left. + 2P_6(k_{1\nu} k_{2\gamma} \eta_{\beta\mu} \eta_{\alpha\sigma}) + 2P_3(k_{1\nu} k_{2\mu} \eta_{\beta\sigma} \eta_{\gamma\alpha}) - 2P_3(k_1 \cdot k_2 \eta_{\alpha\nu} \eta_{\beta\sigma} \eta_{\gamma\mu}) \right],
 \end{aligned}$$

45 terms  
+ sym  
(Sannan)

# Gravity Amplitudes

KLT relationship (Kawai, Lewellen and Tye)

The KLT relationship relates open and closed strings

Not manifest crossing symmetry

$$A_{\text{closed}}^M \sim \sum_{\Pi, \tilde{\Pi}} e^{i\pi\Phi(\Pi, \tilde{\Pi})} A_M^{\text{left open}}(\Pi) A_M^{\text{right open}}(\tilde{\Pi})$$

$$\left[ \left( \begin{array}{c} \text{=} \\ \text{=} \end{array} \right)^{\mu\mu'\nu\nu'\beta\beta'} \right] = \left[ \left( \begin{array}{c} \sim \\ \sim \end{array} \right)^L_{\mu\nu\beta} \right] \otimes \left[ \left( \begin{array}{c} \sim \\ \sim \end{array} \right)^R_{\mu'\nu'\beta'} \right]$$

KLT not manifestly crossing symmetric – explicit representation :

$$M_3^{\text{tree}}(1, 2, 3) = -iA_3^{\text{tree}}(1, 2, 3)A_3^{\text{tree}}(1, 2, 3),$$

$$M_4^{\text{tree}}(1, 2, 3, 4) = -is_{12}A_4^{\text{tree}}(1, 2, 3, 4)A_4^{\text{tree}}(1, 2, 4, 3)$$

$$M_5^{\text{tree}}(1, 2, 3, 4, 5) = is_{12}s_{34}A_5^{\text{tree}}(1, 2, 3, 4, 5)A_5^{\text{tree}}(2, 1, 4, 3, 5) + is_{13}s_{24}A_5^{\text{tree}}(1, 3, 2, 4, 5)A_5^{\text{tree}}(3, 1, 4, 2, 5)$$

KLT not the simplest form but better than Feynman diagrams

Momentum prefactors cancel double poles

Simplicity of YM amplitudes!!

# Spinor Helicity

# Helicity states formalism

Spinor products :

$$\langle i j \rangle = \epsilon^{mn} \lambda_m^i \lambda_n^j \quad [i j] = \epsilon^{\dot{m}\dot{n}} \tilde{\lambda}_{\dot{m}}^i \tilde{\lambda}_{\dot{n}}^j$$

Different representations of  
the Lorentz group

$$p_{a\dot{a}} = \sigma_{a\dot{a}}^\mu p_\mu$$

$$p^\mu p_\mu = 0 \quad p_{a\dot{a}} = \lambda_a \tilde{\lambda}_{\dot{a}}$$

Momentum parts of amplitudes:

$$q_{a\dot{a}} = \mu_a \tilde{\mu}_{\dot{a}} \quad p_{a\dot{a}} = \lambda_a \tilde{\lambda}_{\dot{a}} \quad 2(p \cdot q) = s_{ij} = -\langle \lambda, \mu \rangle [\tilde{\lambda}, \tilde{\mu}]$$

Spin-2 polarisation tensors in terms of helicities,  
(squares of those of YM):

$$\varepsilon_{a\dot{a}}^- = \frac{\lambda_a \tilde{\mu}_{\dot{a}}}{[\tilde{\lambda}, \tilde{\mu}]} \quad \tilde{\varepsilon}_{a\dot{a}}^+ = \frac{\mu_a \tilde{\lambda}_{\dot{a}}}{\langle \mu, \lambda \rangle} \quad \begin{array}{cc} \varepsilon^- & \varepsilon^- \\ \tilde{\varepsilon}^+ & \tilde{\varepsilon}^+ \end{array}$$

(Xu, Zhang,  
Chang)

# Yang-Mills MHV-amplitudes

(n) same helicities vanishes

$$A^{\text{tree}}(1^+, 2^+, 3^+, 4^+, \dots) = 0$$

(n-1) same helicities vanishes

$$A^{\text{tree}}(1^+, 2^+, \dots, j^-, \dots) = 0$$

(n-2) same helicities:

$$A^{\text{tree}}(1^+, 2^+, \dots, j^-, \dots, k^-, \dots) \neq 0$$

$A^{\text{tree MHV}}$  Given by the formula  
(Parke and Taylor) and proven  
by (Berends and Giele)

Tree amplitudes

First non-trivial  
example,

(M)aximally

(H)elicity (V)iolating  
(MHV) amplitudes

One single term!!

$$i \frac{\langle j k \rangle^4}{\langle 1 2 \rangle \langle 2 3 \rangle \cdots \langle n 1 \rangle}$$

# Gravity MHV amplitudes

- Can be generated from KLT via YM MHV amplitudes.

$$M_4^{\text{tree}}(1^-, 2^-, 3^+, 4^+) = i \langle 1 2 \rangle^8 \frac{[1 2]}{\langle 3 4 \rangle N(4)}$$

$$M_5^{\text{tree}}(1^-, 2^-, 3^+, 4^+, 5^+) = i \langle 1 2 \rangle^8 \frac{\varepsilon(1, 2, 3, 4)}{N(5)}$$

Anti holomorphic  
Contributions  
– feature in gravity

$$\varepsilon(i, j, m, n) \equiv 4i\varepsilon_{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} k_i^\mu k_j^\nu k_m^\rho k_n^\sigma = [i j] \langle j m \rangle [m n] \langle n i \rangle - \langle i j \rangle [j m] \langle m n \rangle [n i]$$

- (Berends-Giele-Kuijf) recursion formula

$$M_n^{\text{tree}}(1^-, 2^-, 3^+, \dots, n^+) = -i \langle 1 2 \rangle^8 \times \left[ \frac{[1 2] [n-2 \ n-1]}{\langle 1 \ n-1 \rangle N(n)} \left( \prod_{i=1}^{n-3} \prod_{j=i+2}^{n-1} \langle i j \rangle \right) \prod_{l=3}^{n-3} (-[n | K_{l+1, n-1} | l \rangle) + \mathcal{P}(2, 3, \dots, n-2) \right]$$

# Simplifications from Spinor-Helicity

$$s_{ij} = -\langle \lambda, \mu \rangle [\tilde{\lambda}, \tilde{\mu}]$$

Huge simplifications

$$V_{\mu\alpha,\nu\beta,\sigma\gamma}^{(3)}(k_1, k_2, k_3) = \kappa \text{sym} \left[ -\frac{1}{2} P_3(k_1 \cdot k_2 \eta_{\mu\alpha} \eta_{\nu\beta} \eta_{\sigma\gamma}) - \frac{1}{2} P_6(k_{1\nu} k_{1\beta} \eta_{\mu\alpha} \eta_{\sigma\gamma}) \right. \\ \left. + \frac{1}{2} P_3(k_1 \cdot k_2 \eta_{\mu\nu} \eta_{\alpha\beta} \eta_{\sigma\gamma}) + P_6(k_1 \cdot k_2 \eta_{\mu\alpha} \eta_{\nu\sigma} \eta_{\beta\gamma}) + 2P_3(k_{1\nu} k_{1\gamma} \eta_{\mu\alpha} \eta_{\beta\sigma}) \right. \\ \left. - P_3(k_{1\beta} k_{2\mu} \eta_{\alpha\nu} \eta_{\sigma\gamma}) + P_3(k_{1\sigma} k_{2\gamma} \eta_{\mu\nu} \eta_{\alpha\beta}) + P_6(k_{1\sigma} k_{1\gamma} \eta_{\mu\nu} \eta_{\alpha\beta}) \right. \\ \left. + 2P_6(k_{1\nu} k_{2\gamma} \eta_{\beta\mu} \eta_{\alpha\sigma}) + 2P_3(k_{1\nu} k_{2\mu} \eta_{\beta\sigma} \eta_{\gamma\alpha}) - 2P_3(k_1 \cdot k_2 \eta_{\alpha\nu} \eta_{\beta\sigma} \eta_{\gamma\mu}) \right],$$

45 terms  
+ sym

Vanish in spinor helicity formalism

Contractions

$$\varepsilon_{a\dot{a}}^- = \frac{\lambda_a \tilde{\mu}_{\dot{a}}}{[\tilde{\lambda}, \tilde{\mu}]} \quad \tilde{\varepsilon}_{a\dot{a}}^+ = \frac{\mu_a \tilde{\lambda}_{\dot{a}}}{\langle \mu, \lambda \rangle}$$

Gravity:

$$\begin{matrix} \varepsilon^- & \varepsilon^- \\ \tilde{\varepsilon}^+ & \tilde{\varepsilon}^+ \end{matrix}$$

$$A_3(1^-, 2^-, 3^+)$$

$$\parallel \\ -i \frac{\langle 12 \rangle^6}{\langle 23 \rangle \langle 31 \rangle}$$

# Scattering amplitudes in D=4

Amplitudes in gravity theories as well as YM can hence be expressed completely specifying

The external helicities

e.g. :  $A(1^+, 2^-, 3^+, 4^+, \dots)$

$$\lambda_i \quad \bar{\lambda}_i$$

The spinor variables

Spinor Helicity formalism



# Note on notation

We will use the notation:

$$s_{i,i+1} \equiv K_{i,i+1}^2 = (p_i + p_{i+1})^2 \quad \text{and} \quad t_{i,j} \equiv K_{i,j}^2 = (p_i + \dots + p_j)^2$$

$$\langle i j \rangle = \epsilon^{mn} \lambda_m^i \lambda_n^j$$

$$[i j] = \epsilon^{\dot{m}\dot{n}} \tilde{\lambda}_{\dot{m}}^i \tilde{\lambda}_{\dot{n}}^j$$

$$[k|K_{i,j}|l\rangle \equiv \langle k^+|K_{i,j}|l^+\rangle \equiv \langle l^-|K_{i,j}|k^-\rangle \equiv \langle l|K_{i,j}|k\rangle \equiv \sum_{a=i}^j [k a] \langle a l \rangle$$

$$\langle k|K_{i,j}K_{m,n}|l\rangle \equiv \langle k^-|K_{i,j}K_{m,n}|l^+\rangle \equiv \sum_{a=i}^j \sum_{b=m}^n \langle k a \rangle [a b] \langle b l \rangle$$

Traces...

$$2(p \cdot q) = s_{ij} = -\langle \lambda, \mu \rangle [\tilde{\lambda}, \tilde{\mu}]$$

# Twistor space Properties

# Twistor space

- Transformation of amplitudes into twistor space (Penrose)

$$\tilde{\lambda}_{\dot{a}} \rightarrow i \frac{\partial}{\partial \mu^{\dot{a}}}, \quad -i \frac{\partial}{\partial \tilde{\lambda}_{\dot{a}}} \rightarrow \mu_{\dot{a}}$$

- In metric signature ( + + - - ) : 2D Fourier transform

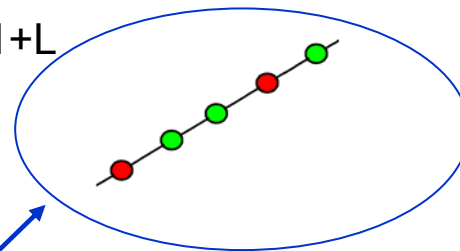
$$\Phi(\mu) = \int \frac{d^2 \tilde{\lambda}}{(2\pi)^2} \exp(i\mu^{\dot{a}} \tilde{\lambda}_{\dot{a}}) \Phi(\tilde{\lambda})$$

- In twistor space : plane wave function is a line:

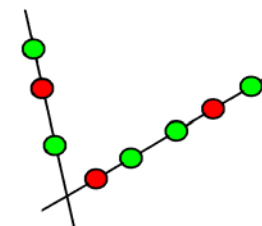
$$\int \frac{d^2 \tilde{\lambda}}{(2\pi)^2} \exp(i\mu^{\dot{b}} \tilde{\lambda}_{\dot{b}}) \exp(ix^{a\dot{a}} \lambda_a \tilde{\lambda}_{\dot{a}}) = \delta^2(\mu_{\dot{a}} + x_{a\dot{a}} \lambda^a)$$

- Tree amplitudes in YM on degenerate algebraic curves

Degree : N-1+L



(Witten)



Degree : number of negative helicities

# Collinear and Coplanar Operators

Another way to look at twistor space support..

$$[F_{ijk}, \eta] = \langle ij \rangle \left[ \frac{\partial}{\partial \tilde{\lambda}_k}, \eta \right] + \langle jk \rangle \left[ \frac{\partial}{\partial \tilde{\lambda}_i}, \eta \right] + \langle ki \rangle \left[ \frac{\partial}{\partial \tilde{\lambda}_j}, \eta \right]$$

$$K_{ijkl} = \frac{1}{4} \left[ \langle ij \rangle \epsilon^{\dot{a}b} \frac{\partial}{\partial \tilde{\lambda}_k^{\dot{a}}} \frac{\partial}{\partial \tilde{\lambda}_l^{\dot{b}}} - \langle ik \rangle \epsilon^{\dot{a}b} \frac{\partial}{\partial \tilde{\lambda}_j^{\dot{a}}} \frac{\partial}{\partial \tilde{\lambda}_l^{\dot{b}}} + \langle il \rangle \epsilon^{\dot{a}b} \frac{\partial}{\partial \tilde{\lambda}_j^{\dot{a}}} \frac{\partial}{\partial \tilde{\lambda}_k^{\dot{b}}} \right. \\ \left. + \langle jk \rangle \epsilon^{\dot{a}b} \frac{\partial}{\partial \tilde{\lambda}_i^{\dot{a}}} \frac{\partial}{\partial \tilde{\lambda}_l^{\dot{b}}} + \langle jl \rangle \epsilon^{\dot{a}b} \frac{\partial}{\partial \tilde{\lambda}_k^{\dot{a}}} \frac{\partial}{\partial \tilde{\lambda}_i^{\dot{b}}} - \langle kl \rangle \epsilon^{\dot{a}b} \frac{\partial}{\partial \tilde{\lambda}_j^{\dot{a}}} \frac{\partial}{\partial \tilde{\lambda}_i^{\dot{b}}} \right]$$

$$F_{ijk} A_n^{\text{tree MHV}}(1 \dots n) = 0$$

$$K_{ijkl} A_n^{\text{tree NMHV}}(1 \dots n) = 0$$

# Review: CSW expansion of YM amplitudes

- In the CSW-construction : off-shell MHV-amplitudes building blocks for more complicated amplitude expressions  
(Cachazo, Svrcek and Witten) Vertex construction §  
spin off of twistor support properties
- MHV vertices:

$$V(1, 2, \dots, r^-, \dots, s^-, \dots, n-1, Q^+) = \frac{\langle \lambda_r, \lambda_s \rangle^4}{\prod_{i=1}^{n-1} \langle \lambda_i, \lambda_{i+1} \rangle \langle \lambda_{n-1}, \lambda_Q \rangle \langle \lambda_Q, \lambda_1 \rangle}$$

$$V(1, 2, \dots, r^-, \dots, n-1, Q^-) = \frac{\langle \lambda_r, \lambda_Q \rangle^4}{\prod_{i=1}^{n-1} \langle \lambda_i, \lambda_{i+1} \rangle \langle \lambda_{n-1}, \lambda_Q \rangle \langle \lambda_Q, \lambda_1 \rangle}$$

$$\langle \lambda_i, \lambda_Q \rangle = \sum_j \langle \tilde{\lambda}_i, \tilde{\lambda}_{q_j} \rangle [\lambda_{q_j}, \eta] = \langle i | Q | \eta \rangle$$



# Twistor space properties for gravity

- Twistor-space properties N=8 Supergravity:  
More complicated!

$$A_n^{\text{tree MHV}}(1^+, 2^+, \dots, p^-, \dots, q^-, \dots, n^+)(\lambda_i, \mu_i) \sim \mathbf{N=4}$$

$$\sim \int d^4x \prod_{i=1}^n \delta^2(\mu_{i\dot{a}} + x_{a\dot{a}} \lambda_i^a) A_n^{\text{tree MHV}}(1^+, 2^+, \dots, p^-, \dots, q^-, \dots, n^+)(\lambda_i)$$

$\delta$ -functions

Signature of non-locality § typical in gravity

Anti-holomorphic  
pieces in gravity  
amplitudes

Derivatives of  $\delta$ -functions  
 $\mathbf{N=8}$

$$M_n^{\text{tree MHV}}(1^+, 2^+, \dots, p^-, \dots, q^-, \dots, n^+)(\lambda_i, \mu_i) \sim \int d^4x P\left(-i \frac{\partial}{\partial \mu_{i\dot{a}}}\right) \prod_{i=1}^n \delta^2(\mu_{i\dot{a}} + x_{a\dot{a}} \lambda_i^a)$$

# Twistor space properties

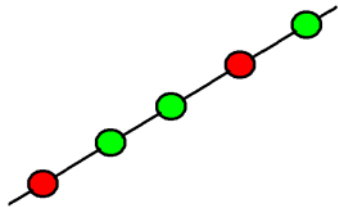
- For gravity : Guaranteed that Acting with differential operators F and K

$$F^P M_n^{\text{tree MHV}}(1 \dots n) = 0, \quad \text{for } P > 2(n - 3)$$

- Five-point amplitude. (Giombi, Ricci, Rablles-Llana and Trancanelli; Bern, NEJBB and Dunbar)

$$K^2 M_5^{\text{tree googly}} = K K' M_5^{\text{tree googly}} = 0$$

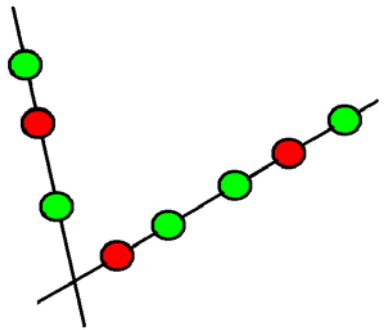
- Tree amplitudes : Gravity



$$\begin{aligned} F_{ijk}^4 M_6^{\text{tree MHV}} &= 0 \\ F_{ijk}^5 M_7^{\text{tree MHV}} &= 0 \\ F_{ijk}^6 M_8^{\text{tree MHV}} &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} K_{ijkl}^3 M_6^{\text{tree}(-\text{---}+\text{+++})} &= 0 \\ K_{ijkl}^4 M_7^{\text{tree}(-\text{---}+\text{+++})} &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} F_{ijk}^{n-2} M_n^{\text{tree MHV}} &= 0 \\ K_{ijkl}^{n-3} M_n^{\text{tree NMHV}} &= 0 \end{aligned}$$



(Bern, NEJBB and Dunbar)

# Gravity tree properties

## MHV rules for gravity

$$\sum k_{i_2}^+ \begin{array}{c} k_{i_3}^+ \dots \\ \diagup \quad \diagdown \\ \bullet \\ \diagdown \quad \diagup \\ k_{i_1}^- \end{array} \times \frac{1}{p_{j_1}^2} \times \begin{array}{c} \diagdown \quad \diagup \\ \bullet \\ \diagup \quad \diagdown \end{array} \times \dots \times \begin{array}{c} \diagdown \quad \diagup \\ \bullet \\ \diagup \quad \diagdown \end{array}$$

(NEJBB, Dunbar, Ita, Perkins, Risager)

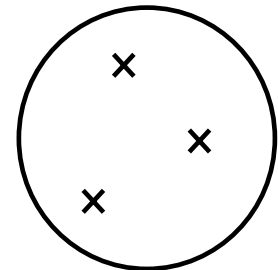
**MHV**

## Recursion

(Bedford, Brandhuber, Spence, Travaglini; Cachazo, Svrtec; NEJBB, Dunbar, Ita)

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{\lambda}_a &\rightarrow \tilde{\lambda}_a + z \tilde{\lambda}_b \\ \lambda_b &\rightarrow \lambda_b - z \lambda_a \end{aligned}$$

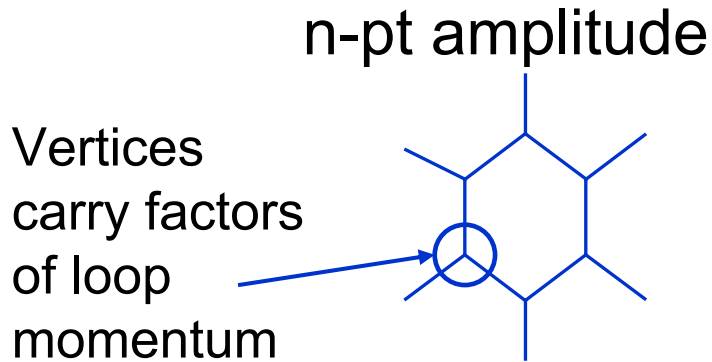
$$A(0) = - \sum_{\alpha} \text{Res}_{z=z_{\alpha}} \frac{A(z)}{z}$$





Gravity loops

# General 1-loop amplitudes



$$\int d^4 \ell \frac{F^p(\ell, k, \epsilon)}{\prod_i p_i^2}$$

$p = 2n$  for gravity  
 $p = n$  for YM  
 Propagators

**(Passarino-Veltman) reduction**

$$2(k \cdot \ell) = (k - \ell)^2 - \ell^2$$

Collapse of a propagator

$$I_r[P^m(l)] \longrightarrow \sum_i I_{r-1}^i[P^{m-1}(l)]$$

$$I_4^i[P^{m'}(l)] \longrightarrow c_i I_4^i[1] + \sum_j I_3^j[P^{m'-1}(l)]$$

$$M^{1\text{-loop}} = \sum_a c_a I_4^a + \sum_a d_a I_3^a + \sum_a e_a I_2^a + R$$

# No-Triangle Hypothesis

Justified suggestion.....

$$M_{\mathcal{N}=8}^{1\text{-loop}} = \sum_{i \in \mathcal{C}} c_i I_4^i$$


Consequence: N=8 supergravity same one-loop structure as N=4 SYM

## Evidence?

True for 4pt

(Green, Schwarz, Brink)

n-point MHV

(Bern, Dixon, Perelstein, Rozowsky)

6pt NMHV (IR)

(Bern, NEJBB, Dunbar, Ita)

6pt Proof

(NEJBB, Dunbar, Ita, Perkins, Risager)

7pt evidence

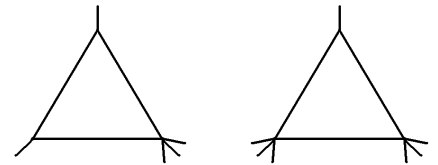
Direct  
evaluation  
of cuts

Factorisation suggests this is true for all one-loop amplitudes

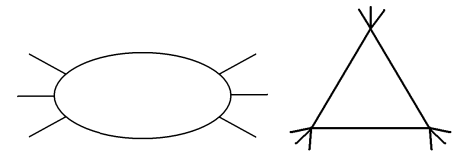
# No-Triangle Hypothesis by Cuts

Attack different parts of amplitudes 1) .. 2) .. 3) ..

- (1) Look at **soft divergences (IR)**  
\$ **1m and 2m triangles**



- (2) Explicit unitary cuts  
\$ **bubble and 3m triangles**



- (3) Factorisation  
\$ **rational terms.**

(NEJBB, Dunbar, Ita, Perkins, Risager)

# Infrared for loops

(1)

Gravity IR loop relation :

$$M_{\epsilon^{-1}}^{\text{one-loop}}(1, 2, \dots, n) = ic_{\Gamma} \kappa^2 \times \left( \frac{\sum_{i < j} s_{ij} \ln(-s_{ij})}{2\epsilon} \right) \times M^{\text{tree}}(1, 2, \dots, n)$$

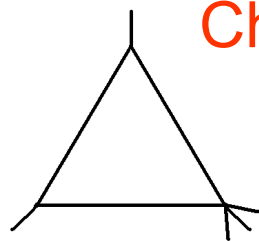
Compact result for SYM tree amplitudes (Bern, Dixon and Kosower; Roiban Spradlin and Volovich)

Check that boxes gives the correct IR divergences

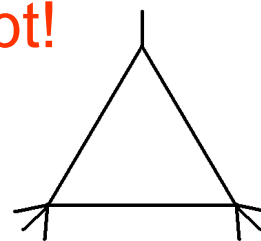
**No one mass and two mass triangles**

(no statement about three mass triangles)

**Checked until 7pt!**



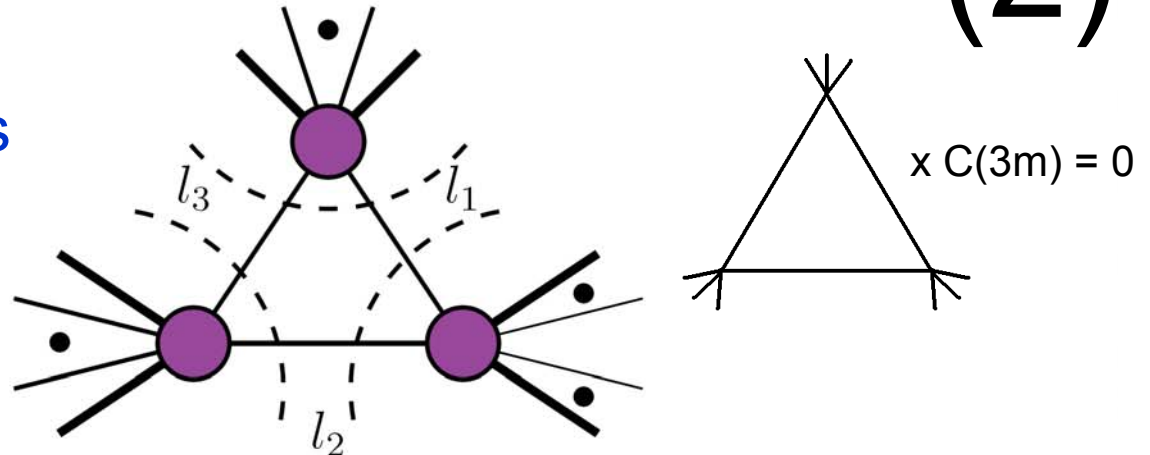
$$\times C(1m) = 0$$



$$\times C(2m) = 0$$

# No-Triangle Hypothesis (2)

Three mass triangles



$$C_3 = \sum_{h_i \in \mathcal{S}'} \int d^4 l_1 \delta(l_1^2) \delta(l_2^2) \delta(l_3^2) M((l_1)^{h_1}, i_m, \dots, i_j, (-l_2)^{-h_2}) \\ \times M((l_2)^{h_2}, i_{j+1}, \dots, i_l, (-l_3)^{-h_3}) \times M((l_3)^{h_3}, i_{l+1}, \dots, i_{m-1}, (-l_1)^{-h_1})$$

$$C_3 = \sum c_i (I_4^i)_{\text{triple-cut}} + d_{3m} (I_3^{3m})_{\text{triple-cut}}$$

$$d_3^{3m} [\{1^-, 2^-\}, \{3^-, 4^+\}, \{5^+, 6^+\}] = 0$$

$$d_3^{3m} [\{1^-, 4^+\}, \{2^-, 5^+\}, \{3^-, 6^+\}] = 0$$

$$d_3^{3m} [\{1^-, 2^-\}, \{3^-, 4^+\}, \{5^+, 6^+, 7^+\}] = 0$$

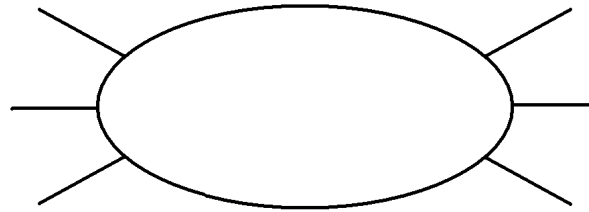
$$d_3^{3m} [\{1^-, 2^-\}, \{3^-, 4^+, 5^+\}, \{6^+, 7^+\}] = 0$$

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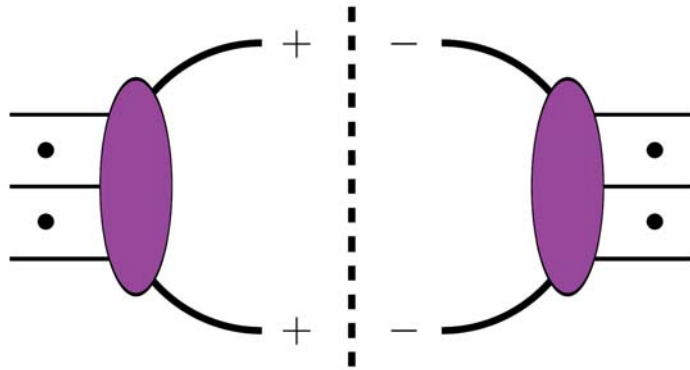
# No-Triangle Hypothesis (2)

Evaluate double cuts  
Directly using various methods,  
Identify singularities.

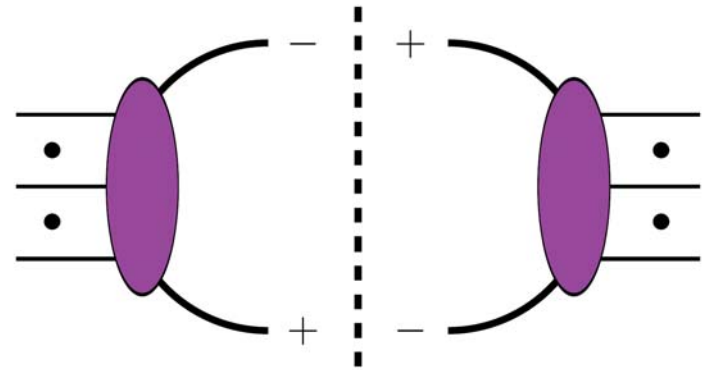


$$\times C(\text{bubble}) = 0$$

(e.g. Buchbinder, Britto, Cachazo Feng, Mastrolia)



SINGLET



NON-SINGLET

$$C_{12} \Rightarrow i \int d\mu M_4^{\text{tree}}((-l_1)^+, 1^-, 2^-, (l_2)^+) \times M_6^{\text{tree}}((l_1)^-, 3^-, 4^+, 5^+, 6^+, (-l_2)^-)$$

$$\text{where } d\mu = d^4 l_1 d^4 l_2 \delta^{(+)}(l_1^2) \delta^{(+)}(l_2^2) \delta^{(4)}(l_1 - l_2 - k_1 - k_2),$$

# No-Triangle Hypothesis (3)

No possibility for rational pieces until 7pt..

Bootstrap methods for QCD should work similarly for  
the rational parts of  $N=8$

(Berger, Bern, Dixon, Forde, Kosower; Su, Xiao, Yang, Zhu)

Multiparticle factorisation and other  
physical limits such as soft, collinear  
makes huge constraints on the possibilities  
of having a rational term at (n)pt



# No-triangle for multiloops

- No-triangle hypothesis 1-loop
  - Consequences for powercounting arguments above one-loop..

$$D < 10/L + 2$$

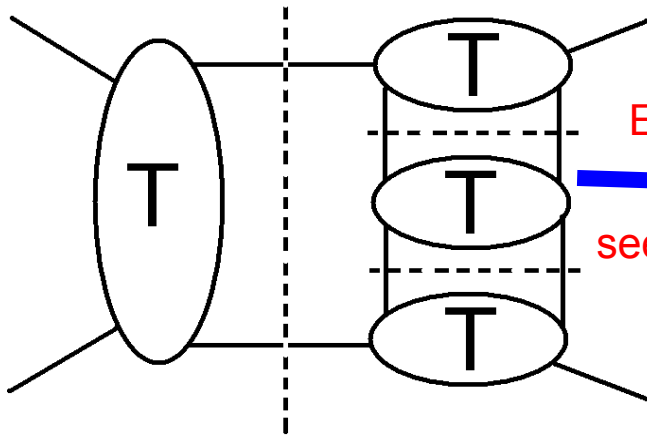
Two-particle cut might miss certain cancellations

Possible to obtain YM bound???

$$D < 6/L + 4 \text{ for gravity???$$

Bound might be too conservative!!

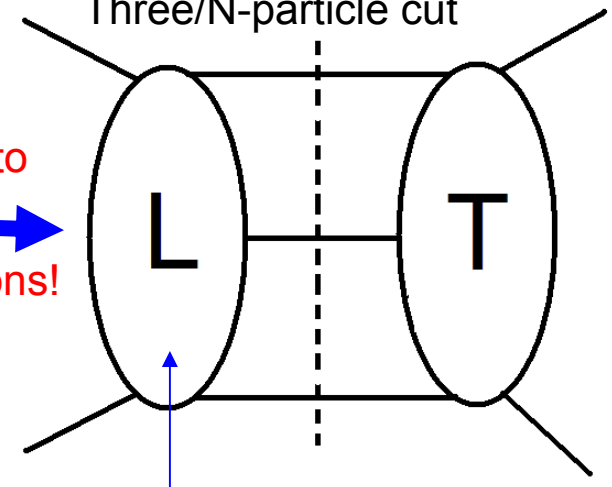
Iterated two-particle cut



Explicitly possible to

see extra cancellations!

Three/N-particle cut



# Three-Loop SYM/ Supergravity

- Three-loop four-point amplitude of **N=8 supergravity** directly constructed via unitarity.
- The amplitude is **ultraviolet finite** in four dimensions.
- Degree of divergence in D dimensions at three loop to be no worse than that of N=4 super-Yang-Mills theory. **Confirms 'no-triangle hypothesis'** for three loops.
  - Remark: **Surprising extra cancellations** between diagrams which are not just 'triangle-type'..  
(Bern, Carrasco, Dixon, Johansson, Kosower, Roiban)

# N=8/N=4 UV pattern

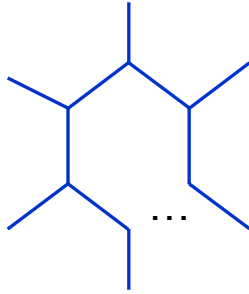
## Honest calculation/ conjecture

|      |               |                                  |     |     |     |     |
|------|---------------|----------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| D=11 | 0             | $\#/\epsilon$                    |     |     |     |     |
| D=10 | 0(!)          | $\#/\epsilon$                    |     |     |     |     |
| D=9  | 0             | $\#/\epsilon$                    |     |     |     |     |
| D=8  | $\#/\epsilon$ | $\#'/\epsilon^2 + \#''/\epsilon$ |     |     |     |     |
| D=7  |               | $\#/\epsilon$                    |     |     |     |     |
| D=6  | 0             | 0                                |     |     |     |     |
| D=5  | 0             | 0                                | 0   |     |     |     |
| D=4  | 0             | 0                                | 0   | 0   |     |     |
|      | L=1           | L=2                              | L=3 | L=4 | L=5 | L=6 |

**N=8 SUGRA** (indicated by a blue arrow pointing to the L=4 column)

**N=4 SYM** (indicated by a red arrow pointing to the L=6 column)

# Explicit cancellations



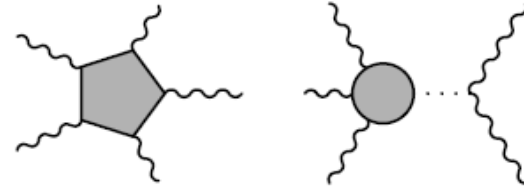
String theory limit of n-pt function

$$\alpha^3 \not\propto 0$$

$$\tau_2 \not\propto 0$$



Field theory limit of IIA and IIB  
string theory on a torus



(a)

(b)

Two contributions

Limit finite dist between operators (a) Irred

Pinch interactions (colliding vertices) (b) Red

$$\mathcal{M}_5^{1PI} = C_5^{(D)} I_5^{(D)} \left[ |\mathcal{A}_5^{(1)\infty}|^2 \right] + \pi^{-1} C_5^{(D+2)} I_5^{(D+2)} \left[ \mathcal{A}_5^{(2)\infty} \right] \quad (a)$$

$$\mathcal{M}_5^{1PR} = \lim_{\alpha' \rightarrow 0} \kappa_{(D)}^{-2} \mathcal{A}_{5,1PR}^{e/e} = \pi^{\frac{D-8}{2}} \Gamma\left(\frac{8-D}{2}\right) \sum_{i \neq j} t_{(ij)} \prod_{r=1}^4 \int_0^1 d\nu_r Q_4(P_i)^{\frac{D}{2}-4} \delta(\nu_4 - 1) \quad (b)$$

$$I_n^{(D)}[f(\nu)] \equiv \prod_{i=1}^n \int_0^1 d\nu_i f(\nu_i) Q_n^{\frac{D}{2}-n} \delta(\nu_n - 1)$$

$$Q_n(k_i) = \sum_{1 \leq i < j \leq n} (k_i \cdot k_j) \left[ (\nu_i - \nu_j)^2 - |\nu_i - \nu_j| \right]$$

(NEJBB and P. Vanhove)

hep-th/0802.0868

# Explicit cancellations

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathcal{A}_5^{(1)\infty} &= t_{10} \cdot F^5 + \pi \sum_{i \neq j} (h_i \cdot k_j) \dot{G}_B(\nu_i - \nu_j) (t_8 \cdot F_i^4) & H &= \sum_{i=1}^5 h_i (t_8 \cdot F_i^4) \\
 &= t_{10} \cdot F^5 - \frac{\pi}{2} \sum_{i \neq j} (h_i \cdot k_j) G_F(\nu_i - \nu_j) (t_8 \cdot F_i^4) - \pi H \cdot K_{[5]} & \bar{H} &= \sum_{i=1}^5 \bar{h}_i (t_8 \cdot \bar{F}_i^4) \\
 \mathcal{A}_5^{(2)\infty} &= \sum_{i \neq j} h_i \cdot \bar{h}_j (t_8 \cdot F_i^4) (t_8 \cdot F_j^4)
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\mathcal{M}_5^{1PI} = C_5^{(D)} I_5^{(D)} \left[ |\mathcal{A}_5^{(1)\infty}|^2 \right] + \pi^{-1} C_5^{(D+2)} I_5^{(D+2)} \left[ \mathcal{A}_5^{(2)\infty} \right]$$

$$M_5[1] = C_5^{(D)} I_5^{(D)} \left[ \left| t_{10} \cdot F^5 - \frac{\pi}{2} \sum_{i \neq j} (h_i \cdot k_j) G_F(\nu_i - \nu_j) (t_8 \cdot F_i^4) \right|^2 \right] \quad \wedge \quad \Sigma \text{ 1m Boxes}$$

$$M_5[\nu] = -\pi C_5^{(D)} I_5^{(D)} \left[ \left( t_{10} \cdot F^5 - \frac{\pi}{2} \sum_{i \neq j} (k_i \cdot h_j) G_F(\nu_i - \nu_j) (t_8 \cdot F_i^4) \right) (H \cdot K_{[5]}) \right] \quad \wedge \quad \Sigma \text{ 1m Boxes}$$

$$M_5[\nu^2] = \pi^2 C_5^{(D)} (t_8 \cdot F_i^4) (t_8 \cdot F_j^4) I_5^{(D)} \left[ (H \cdot K_{[5]}) (\bar{H} \cdot K_{[5]}) \right] \quad \wedge \quad \Sigma \text{ 1m Boxes} + \Sigma \text{ Triangles}$$

Potential dangerous terms

# Explicit cancellations

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathcal{R}^{1PI} &= -I_5^{(D)} \left[ (k_4 \cdot K_{[5]})(k_5 \cdot K_{[5]}) \right] \\
 &- \frac{1}{2} I_5^{(D)} \left[ \left( \sum_{i=1}^5 (k_5 \cdot k_i) \text{sign}(\nu_5 - \nu_i) \right) (k_4 \cdot K_{[5]}) \right] + (4 \leftrightarrow 5) \\
 &- \frac{1}{4} I_5^{(D)} \left[ \sum_{i,j=1}^5 (k_5 \cdot k_i) \text{sign}(\nu_5 - \nu_i) (k_4 \cdot k_j) \text{sign}(\nu_4 - \nu_j) \right] \\
 &- (k_4 \cdot k_5) I_5^{(D+2)} [1]
 \end{aligned}$$

Cancellations of  
longitudinal modes  
 $\hat{\epsilon}_i \hat{k}_i$



$$\mathcal{R}^{1PR} \equiv \lim_{\alpha' \rightarrow 0} \lim_{4 \rightarrow 5} \mathcal{R} = -(k_4 \cdot k_5) I_4^{(45)} [1]$$

Integrals are given as:

$$I_n^{(D)} [f(\nu)] \equiv \prod_{i=1}^n \int_0^1 d\nu_i f(\nu_i) Q_n^{\frac{D}{2}-n} \delta(\nu_n - 1)$$

$$I_5^{(D)} \left[ (k_4 \cdot K_{[5]})(k_5 \cdot K_{[5]}) \right] = (k_4 \cdot k_5) I_5^{(D+2)} [1]$$

Sum over orderings

Exact Identity

$$\begin{aligned}
 &+ \frac{1}{2} I_5^{(D)} \left[ \left( \sum_{i=1}^5 (k_5 \cdot k_i) \text{sign}(\nu_5 - \nu_i) \right) (k_4 \cdot K_{[5]}) \right] + (4 \leftrightarrow 5) \\
 &+ \frac{1}{4} I_5^{(D)} \left[ \sum_{i,j=1}^5 (k_5 \cdot k_i) \text{sign}(\nu_5 - \nu_i) (k_4 \cdot k_j) \text{sign}(\nu_4 - \nu_j) \right] \\
 &+ (k_4 \cdot k_5) I_4^{(45)} [1]
 \end{aligned}$$

# Explicit cancellations

Now cancellations

$$H = \sum_{i=1}^4 c_i k_i + q_{\perp}, \quad \bar{H} = \sum_{i=1}^4 \bar{c}_i k_i + \bar{q}_{\perp}$$

Express H and bar H  
In basis of momentum vector

Only needed  
beyond D = 4

$$M_5[\nu^2] = \pi^2 I_5^{(D)} \left[ (H \cdot K_{[5]}) (\bar{H} \cdot K_{[5]}) \right] \quad \sum_{i=1}^6 h_i t_i = \begin{cases} \sum_{i=1}^4 c_i k_i & \text{for } D = 4 \\ \sum_{i=1}^5 c_i k_i + q_{\perp} & \text{for } D \geq 5 \end{cases}$$

5pt

Irred part of amplitude

Cancellation of triangles!!

$$M_5[\nu^2] \propto \sum_{i,j=1}^4 c_i \bar{c}_j I_5^{(D)} \left[ (k_i \cdot K_{[5]}) (k_j \cdot K_{[5]}) \right]$$

6pt

**Conclusion:** no triangles from Irred part of amplitude by **cancellations of longitudinal modes**  
no triangles from Red part of amplitude by **supersymmetry**

# Explanations + things to do

## No-triangles

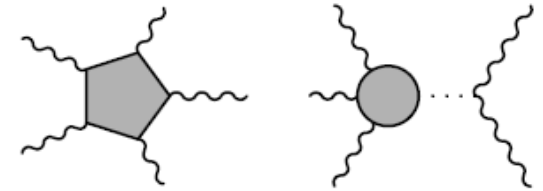
- String based rules
  - Field theory limit of string theory used to generate results.

### Hint:

- Gauge symmetry

+ crossing symmetry !

Link to cancellations at 1-loop and trees



Longitudinal modes

(Bern, Carrasco, Forde,  
Ita, Johansson and Arkani-  
Hamed and Kaplan )

- Further investigations no-triangle hypothesis
  - 5pt ! 6pt and higher. (String based rules useful)
  - Gauge symmetry cancellations at multi-loop level



# Conclusions

– More perturbative calculations of loop amplitudes  
\$ helpful to understand cancellations...

– Will theories with less supersymmetry have similar surprising cancellations??

According to string based analysis most of cancellations are in the Irred part of amplitude

– KLT : Gravity  $\sim$  (Yang Mills) x (Yang Mills')  
seems to play some role (even at loop level)  
although not critical for observed cancellations

# Conclusions

- The calculation of gravity amplitudes benefit hugely from the use of new techniques developed for gauge theories.
  - Both recursion and MHV –vertex formulations for the calculation of gravity amplitudes exist.
  - The perturbative expansion of  $N=8$  seems to be surprisingly simple and very similar to  $N=4$  at one-loop. **At three loop no worse UV-divergences than  $N=4$ !**
  - This may have important consequences ..
    - Hints from String theory?? Explanation ??? (Berkovits) (Green, Russo, Vanhove)
    - Perturbative finite / Non-perturbative completion??? (Abou-Zeid, Hull and Mason)  
**Twistor-string theory for gravity?? – likely if perturbative finiteness holds**
- Mass-less modes with non-perturbative origin??** (Schnitzer)  
(Green, Ooguri, Schwarz)