

Twistor actions, grassmannians and correlahedra

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review with Adamo, Bullimore & Skinner 1104.2890, & work with Lipstein arxiv:1212.6228, 1307.1443, more recently with Eden, Heslop, Agarwala.

[Also. work by Alday, Arkani-Hamed, Cachazo, Caron-Huot, Drummond, Heslop, Korchemsky, Maldacena, Sokatchev, Trnka. (Annecy, Oxford, Perimeter and Princeton IAS).]

Twistors, amplitudes, Wilson loops & 'hedra

Background [Penrose, Boels, M, Skinner, Adamo, Bullimore...]:

- Twistor space $\mathbb{CP}^{3|4} \leftrightarrow$ space-time; Klein correspondence.
- $N = 4$ Super Yang-Mills has twistor action in twistor space.
- Axial gauge Feynman diagrams \rightsquigarrow 'MHV diagrams'. for amplitudes, Wilson loops & Correlators.
- Planar Wilson-loop/amplitude duality is planar duality for MHV diagrams.
- Super Amplitude/Correlator/Wilson-loop triality.

Focus of this talk [with Lipstein, Agarwala, Eden & Heslop]:

- Twistor Feynman rules give grassmannian and 'hedra formulations.
- Feynman diagrams define cells in positive grassmannian.
- Potentially tile amplituhedra and other correlahedra.

$\mathcal{N} = 4$ Super Yang-Mills

The harmonic oscillator of the 21st century?

- Toy version of standard model, contains QCD and more classically.
- Best behaved nontrivial 4d field theory (UV finite, superconformal $SU(2, 2|4)$ symmetry, ...).
- Particle spectrum

helicity	-1	-1/2	0	1/2	1
# of particles	1	4	6	$\bar{4}$	1

- Susy changes helicity so particles form irrep of 'super'-group $SU(2, 2|4)$ like single particle.
- 'completely integrable' in planar (large N) sector.
- much twistor geometry in their amplitudes:
 - 1 (Ambi-)Twistor string & action descriptions,
 - 2 Grassmannian residue formulae,
 - 3 polyhedra volumes \rightsquigarrow the amplituhedron,

Scattering amplitudes for $\mathcal{N} = 4$ super Yang-Mills

4-Momentum:

$$p = (E, p_1, p_2, p_3) = E(1, v_1, v_2, v_3),$$

$$\text{massless} \Leftrightarrow |\mathbf{v}| = c = 1 \Leftrightarrow p \cdot p := E^2 - p_1^2 - p_2^2 - p_3^2 = 0. \Leftrightarrow$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} E + p_3 & p_1 + ip_2 \\ p_1 - ip_2 & E - p_3 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \lambda_0 \\ \lambda_1 \end{pmatrix} (\tilde{\lambda}_{0'} \quad \tilde{\lambda}_{1'})$$

Supermomentum: $P = (\lambda, \tilde{\lambda}, \eta) \in \mathbb{C}^{4|0} \times \mathbb{C}^{0|4}$, where $\eta_i, i = 1, \dots, 4$ anti-commute \leadsto wave functions:

$$\Psi(P) = a_+ + \psi^i \eta_i + \phi^{ij} \eta_i \eta_j + \tilde{\psi}^{ijk} \eta_i \eta_j \eta_k + a_- \eta_1 \eta_2 \eta_3 \eta_4.$$

Amplitude: for n -particle process is

$$\mathcal{A}(1, \dots, n) = \mathcal{A}(P_1, \dots, P_n)$$

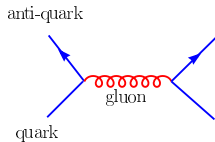
MHV degree: $k \in \mathbb{Z}, k + 2 = \#$ of $-ve$ helicity particles,

susy $\Rightarrow \mathcal{A} = 0$ for $k = -1, -2$

For $k = 0, \mathcal{A} \neq 0$, 'Maximal Helicity Violating' (MHV).

Ordinary Feynman diagrams

Contributions



Feynman diagrams are more than pictures. They represent algebraic formulas for the propagation and interaction of particles.



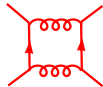
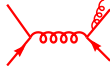
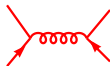
$$\frac{\eta_{\mu\nu}}{p^2}$$



$$g\gamma^\mu$$



$$g[(p_1 - p_2)_\rho \eta_{\mu\nu} + (p_2 - p_3)_\mu \eta_{\nu\rho} + (p_3 - p_1)_\nu \eta_{\rho\mu}]$$

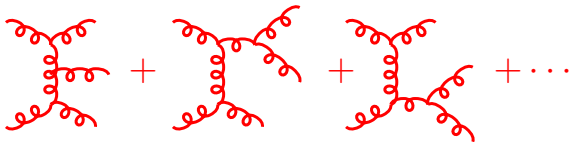


Trees \leftrightarrow classical, loops \leftrightarrow quantum.

Locality: only simple poles from propagators at $(\sum p_i)^2 = 0$.

Consider the five-gluon tree-level amplitude of QCD. Enters in calculation of multi-jet production at hadron colliders.

Described by following Feynman diagrams:



If you follow the textbooks you discover a disgusting mess.

The Parke-Taylor MHV amplitude

However, result for helicity $(+ + - - -)$ part of the amplitude is

$$\mathcal{A}(1, 2, 3, 4, 5) = \delta \left(\sum_{a=1}^5 p_a \right) \frac{\langle \lambda_b \lambda_c \rangle^4}{\langle \lambda_1 \lambda_2 \rangle \langle \lambda_2 \lambda_3 \rangle \langle \lambda_3 \lambda_4 \rangle \langle \lambda_4 \lambda_5 \rangle \langle \lambda_5 \lambda_1 \rangle}$$

where b and c are the $+$ helicity particles and

$$\langle ij \rangle := \langle \lambda_i \lambda_j \rangle := \lambda_{i0} \lambda_{j1} - \lambda_{i1} \lambda_{j0}$$

(similarly use $[i, j]$ for $\tilde{\lambda}_i$'s).

More generally (Parke-Taylor 1984, Nair 1986)

$$\mathcal{A}_{MHV}^{tree}(1, \dots, n) = \frac{\delta^{4|8} \left(\sum_{a=1}^n (p_a, \eta_a \lambda_a) \right)}{\prod_{a=1}^n \langle \lambda_a \lambda_{a+1} \rangle}$$

Super twistor space is $\mathbb{C}P^{3|4}$ with homogeneous coords:

$$Z = (\lambda_\alpha, \mu^{\dot{\alpha}}, \chi_a) \in \mathbb{T} := \mathbb{C}^2 \times \mathbb{C}^2 \times \mathbb{C}^{0|4}, \quad Z \sim \zeta Z, \zeta \in \mathbb{C}^* .$$

\mathbb{T} = fund. reprn of superconformal group $SU(2, 2|4)$.

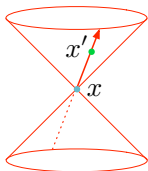
Super Minkowski space, $\mathbb{M} = G(2, 4|4) \supset \mathbb{R}^{4|8}$,

Incidence: a point $\mathbf{x} = (x, \theta) \leftrightarrow$ a line $X = \mathbb{C}P^1 \subset \mathbb{P}\mathbb{T}$ via

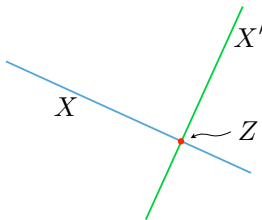
$$\mu^{\dot{\alpha}} = ix^{\alpha\dot{\alpha}} \lambda_\alpha, \quad \chi_i = \theta_i^\alpha \lambda_\alpha .$$

Two points x, x' are null separated iff X and X' intersect.

Space-time



Twistor Space



Supersymmetric Ward correspondence

Super Calabi-Yau: $\mathbb{CP}^{3|4}$ has weightless super volume form

$$D^{3|4}Z = D^3Z d\chi_1 \dots d\chi_4 \in \Omega_{Ber}.$$

'Super-Ward' for $\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM:

A dbar-op $\bar{\partial}_A = \bar{\partial}_0 + A$ on bundle over $\mathbb{CP}^{3|4}$ has expansion

$$A = a + \chi_a \psi^a + \chi_a \chi_b \phi^{ab} + \chi^{3a} \tilde{\psi}_a + \chi^4 b$$

and $\bar{\partial}_A^2 = 0 \leftrightarrow$ solns to self-dual $\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM on space-time.

Action for fields with self-dual interactions:[Sokatchev, Witten]

SD interactions \leftrightarrow holomorphic Chern-Simons action

$$S_{sd} = \int_{PT} \text{tr} \left(A \wedge \bar{\partial} A + \frac{2}{3} A^3 \right) \wedge D^{3|4} Z.$$

Extension to full SYM:

$$S_{full}[A] = S_{sd}[A] + S_{int}[A]$$

includes non-local interaction term:

$$\begin{aligned} S_{int}[A] &= g^2 \int_{\mathbb{M}} d^{4|8} \mathbf{x} \log \det(\bar{\partial}_A|_X) \\ &= g^2 \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n} \int_{\mathbb{M} \times X^n} d^{4|8} \mathbf{x} \frac{\text{tr}(A_1 A_2 \dots A_n) D\sigma_1 \dots D\sigma_n}{\langle \sigma_1 \sigma_2 \rangle \langle \sigma_2 \sigma_3 \rangle \dots \langle \sigma_n \sigma_1 \rangle} \end{aligned}$$

$X = \mathbb{CP}_{\mathbf{x}}^1 \subset \mathbb{PT}$ for $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{M}^{4|8}$, $\sigma_i \in X_i$, i th factor,

$$A_i = A(Z(\sigma_i)), \quad \text{and} \quad K_{ij} = \frac{D\sigma_j}{\langle \sigma_i \sigma_j \rangle}$$

is Cauchy kernel of $\bar{\partial}^{-1}$ on X at σ_i, σ_j .

Axial gauge Feynman rules

Choose 'reference twistor' Z_* , impose gauge: $\bar{Z}_* \cdot \frac{\partial}{\partial \bar{Z}} \lrcorner A = 0$.

Payoff: Cubic Chern-Simons vertex = 0 \rightsquigarrow Feynman rules:

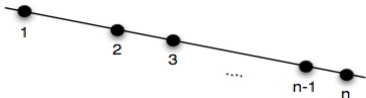
- Propagator = delta-function forcing Z, Z', Z_* to be collinear.

$$\Delta(Z, Z') = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \bar{\delta}^{2|4}(Z, Z_*, Z') := \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int \frac{dc dc'}{cc'} \bar{\delta}^{4|4}(Z_* + cZ + c'Z')$$

- log-det term gives 'MHV vertices':

$$V(Z_1, \dots, Z_n) = \int_{\mathbb{M} \times X^n} \frac{d^{4|4} Z_A d^{4|4} Z_B}{\text{Vol } GL(2)} \prod_{r=1}^n \frac{\bar{\delta}^{3|4}(Z_r, Z_A + \sigma_r Z_B)}{(\sigma_{r-1} - \sigma_r)} d\sigma_r.$$

Vertices force Z_1, \dots, Z_n to lie on line $X = \{Z(\sigma) = Z_A + \sigma Z_B\}$



Simplicity: # propagators = MHV degree + $2 \times$ # loops.

Amplitudes: Transform rules to momentum space \rightsquigarrow ‘MHV rules’ [CSW 2005] where vertices = off-shell MHV amplitudes.

But MHV diagrams also give Wilson loops etc.:

Null polygons: Supermomentum conservation for colour ordered momenta \rightsquigarrow null polygon $\{\mathbf{x}_i\} = \{(x_i, \theta_i)\} \subset \mathbb{M}$:

$$(p_i^{AA'}, \eta_i^a \lambda^A) = (x_i^{AA'} - x_{i+1}^{AA'}, \theta_i^A - \theta_{i+1}^A).$$

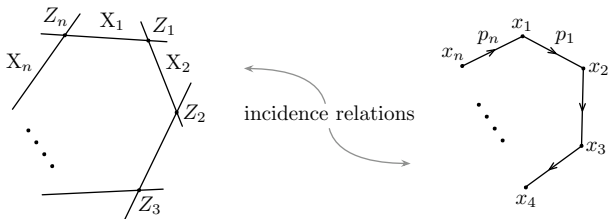
Conjecture (Alday, Maldacena)

Let $W(x_1, \dots, x_n) =$ Wilson-loop around momentum polygon.

All loop MHV amplitude = MHV tree $\times \langle W(x_1, \dots, x_n) \rangle$.

Momentum polygons in twistor space

Generic polygon in $\mathbb{P}T$ [Hodges] \leftrightarrow null polygon in space-time.



Change variables so that $(X_1, \dots, X_n) = (Z_1, \dots, Z_n)$.

Important simplification: $Z_i \in \mathbb{P}T$ are unconstrained.

What is Wilson loop in $\mathbb{P}T$?

Holomorphic Wilson loops

For Wilson-loop, need holonomy around polygon in \mathbb{PT} .

- Vertices Z_i ,
- Edges $X_i = \{Z(\sigma) = \sigma Z_{i-1} + Z_i, \sigma \in \mathbb{C} \cup \infty\}$.
- Global frame $F_i(\sigma)$ of $E|_{X_i}$ on X_i with

$$\bar{\partial}_{\mathcal{A}}|_{X_i} F_i(\sigma) = 0, \quad F_i(\infty) = F_i|_{Z_{i-1}} = 1.$$

- Perturbatively iterate $F_i = 1 + \bar{\partial}^{-1}(\mathcal{A}F_i)$ to get

$$F_i = 1 + \sum_{r=1}^{\infty} \prod_{s=1}^r \bar{\partial}_{s-1}^{-1} \mathcal{A}(\sigma_s), \quad (\bar{\partial}_{rs}^{-1} f)(\sigma_r) = \int_{L_{X_i}} \frac{f(\sigma_s) d\sigma_s}{\sigma_r - \sigma_s}$$

- Define

$$W = \text{tr} \prod_{i=1}^n F_i|_{Z_i} = \text{tr} \prod_{i=1}^n F_i(0).$$

Agrees with space-time Wilson loop on-shell.

The S-matrix as a holomorphic Wilson loop

Theorem (Bullimore, M., Skinner, 2010-11)

For planar $\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM:

Amplitude loop-integrands = (holomorphic) Wilson loop integrand

$$\mathcal{A}(1, \dots, n) = \langle W(Z_1, \dots, Z_n) \rangle \mathcal{A}_{MHV}^{tree}.$$

- *Tree amplitudes \leftrightarrow Wilson-loop in self-dual sector ($g=0$).*
- *Loop expansion for \mathcal{A} = g -expansion for W .*
- *The Axial gauge twistor space diagrams for amplitude are planar duals of those for Wilson-loop correlator.*

Proof: comparison of Feynman rules on \mathbb{PT} (or BCFW).

NMHV case: for A^2 part of $\langle W \rangle$, $\langle A(Z)A(Z') \rangle = \Delta(Z, Z')$: gives $\langle W \rangle = \sum_{i < j} \Delta_{ij}$ where $\Delta_{ij} =$

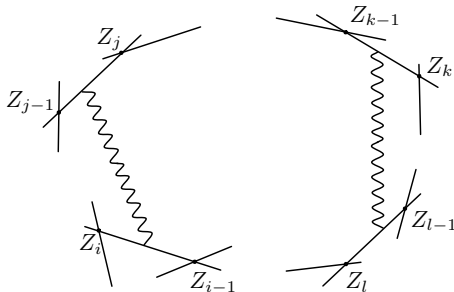
$$= [*, i-1, i, j-1, j],$$

$$[1, 2, 3, 4, 5] := \int \frac{dc_1 dc_2 dc_3 dc_4 dc_5}{c_1 c_2 c_3 c_4 c_5} \frac{1}{\text{Vol Gl}(1)} \delta^4 |4 \left(\sum_{i=1}^5 c_i Z_i \right),$$

$$= \frac{\prod_{a=1}^4 ((1234)\chi_5^a + \text{cyclic})}{(1234)(2345)(3451)(4512)(5123)}$$

is the 'R-invariant'.

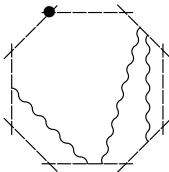
N^2 MHV: quartic terms in A in W give two Wick contractions



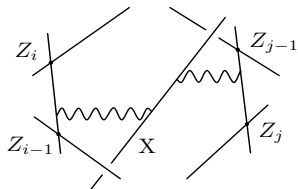
No crossed propagators for planarity.

N^k MHV tree amplitudes $\leftrightarrow k$ propagators $\rightsquigarrow k$ R-invariants.

But now have 'Boundary diagrams' e.g.



At MHV with one MHV vertex obtain $\sum_{i,j} K_{ij}$ with $K_{ij} =$



$$= \int_{\Gamma} D^{3|4} Z_A \wedge D^{3|4} Z_B [*, i-1, i, A, B'] [*, j-1, j, A, B'']$$

Loop momenta \leftrightarrow location of line $X = \langle Z_A Z_B \rangle$. Recall:

$$[*, i-1, i, A, B] := \int \frac{dc_1 dc_2 dc_3 dc_4}{c_1 c_2 c_3 c_4} \bar{\delta}^{4|4} (Z_* + c_1 Z_A + c_2 Z_B + c_3 Z_{i-1} + c_4 Z_i)$$

can integrate $\frac{D^{4|4} Z_A \wedge D^{4|4} Z_B}{\text{vol } GL_2}$ against delta functions

$$K_{ij} = \frac{1}{(2\pi i)^2} \int \frac{dc_0 dc_1 db_0 db_1}{c_0 c_1 b_0 b_1}$$

External data encoded in integration contour (see later).

Loop integrands and correlators

Lagrangian insertions: $S_{int}[\mathcal{A}] = \int d^4x \mathcal{L}_{int}(x)$ where

$$\mathcal{L}_{int}(x) = \int d^8\theta \log \det(\bar{\partial}_{\mathcal{A}}|_X).$$

Forming tree correlator with ℓ insertions gives loop integrand

$$\langle W(\mathbf{x}_1, \dots, \mathbf{x}_n) \mathcal{L}(x_1) \dots \mathcal{L}(x_\ell) \rangle_{tree}.$$

Super BPS operators: it is invariant to integrate over just 4 θ s

$$\mathcal{O}(x, \theta, Y) := \text{tr}(\Phi(\mathbf{x}) \cdot Y)^2 = \int (Y^{ab} d\theta_{a\alpha} d\theta_b^\alpha)^2 \log \det(\bar{\partial}_{\mathcal{A}}|_X)$$

where $Y^{[ab} Y^{cd]} = 0$ (so depends on the 4 θ s with $\theta_{a\alpha} Y^{ab} = 0$).

Proposition (Alday, Eden, Korchemsky, Maldacena, Sokachev, Heslop, Adamo, Bullimore, M., Skinner)

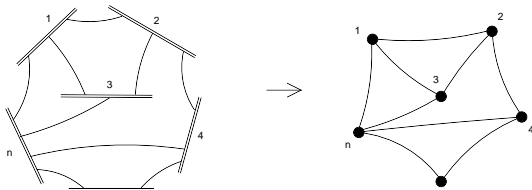
$$\lim_{(x_i - x_{i+1})^2 \rightarrow 0} \left\langle \prod_{i=1}^n \frac{(x_i - x_{i+1})^2}{Y_i \cdot Y_{i+1}} \mathcal{O}(\mathbf{x}_i, Y_i) \right\rangle = \langle W(\mathbf{x}_1, \dots, \mathbf{x}_n) \rangle^2.$$

Gives 'trinality' Amplitude \leftrightarrow Wilson loop \leftrightarrow BPS correlator.

MHV diagrams for correlators

[Chicherin, Doobary, Eden, Heslop, Korchemsky, M., Sokatchev]

- Obtain diagrams in twistor space for $\langle \mathcal{O}(\mathbf{x}_1) \dots \mathcal{O}(\mathbf{x}_n) \rangle$.



- Double line \leftrightarrow line $X_I = \langle Z_{I1}, Z_{I2} \rangle \subset \mathbb{P}T \leftrightarrow \mathbf{x}_i$.
- Solid lines \leftrightarrow twistor propagators.
- As $(x_i - x_{i+1})^2 \rightarrow 0$, consecutive lines join.
- Diagram $\rightarrow 0$ unless consecutive lines are connected by propagator \rightsquigarrow Wilson loop.

The momentum twistor Grassmannian

Recall from Nima's talks:

Grassmannian contour integral formula:[M. & Skinner (2009)]

For $C_{ri} \in G(k, n)$ consider

$$\oint_{\Gamma_{4k}} \frac{d^{nk} C \prod_{r=1}^k \bar{\delta}^{4|4}(C_{ri} Z_i)}{\text{vol } GL(k)(1 \dots k)(2 \dots k+1) \dots (n1 \dots k-1)}.$$

Contour-integrate down to $4k$ -cycles and fix remaining parameters against delta-functions

\rightsquigarrow terms in BCFW expansion (and leading singularities).

Loop integrands: include L lines $(Z_{A_1}, Z_{B_1}), \dots, (Z_{A_L}, Z_{B_L})$ in $(Z_1, \dots, Z_n) \rightsquigarrow$ extend to $G(k+2L, n+2L)$.

$4k + 8L$ -cycles are characterized as positive cells.

Wilson loop diagrams in positive Grassmannian

- With $k + 2L$ propagators diagram gives

$$\prod_{r=1}^{k+2L} \int_{\mathbb{C}P^4} \frac{d\mathbf{c}_{r0} d\mathbf{c}_{r i_1^r} d\mathbf{c}_{r i_2^r} d\mathbf{c}_{r i_3^r} d\mathbf{c}_{r i_4^r}}{\text{Vol } GL(1) c_{r0} c_{r i_1^r} c_{r i_2^r} c_{r i_3^r} c_{r i_4^r}} \bar{\delta}^{4|4} (Y_r),$$

where $Y_r = c_{r0} Z_* + \sum_{p=1}^4 c_{r i_p^r} Z_{i_p^r}$

- Taking this into account we can write

$$Y_r = \sum_{i=1}^n c_{r0} Z_* + C_{ri} Z_i \quad C_{ri} = C_{ri} (c_{r i_p^r})$$

The $C_{ri}(c_{r i_p^r})$ define $3k$ -cycle in $Gr(k + 2L, n + 2L)$.

- c_{r0} provides k extra parameters to get to $4k$ -cycle.
- $4k$ -cycles have d-log volume forms in parameters $c_{r i_p^r}$.

Proposition (Agarwala, Marin-Amat)

The $3k$ -cycles are $3k$ -cells in the positive Grassmannian.

Positive Grassmannians questions

- Is d-log parametrization for $4k$ -cycle determined by positive $3k$ -cell?
- What is correspondence between Wilson-loop diagram and standard classification of positive cells?
- **Key question:** Do all $3k$ -cells arise? If not, how can we characterize those that do?

See Susama's talk for more on these questions.

Conjecture

The $3k$ -cells that arise are those that project to $3k$ -cells in the amplituhedron.

Bosonization, positivity and 'hedronizing

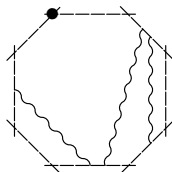
- Take real and bosonize fermionic parts of Y, Z by

$$\mathbb{C}^{4|4} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{4+k} \quad \text{with} \quad Z^r = \chi \cdot \phi^r, \quad r = 1, \dots, k.$$

- The r th fermionic delta-function arises by

$$\delta^{0|4}(\chi) = \int (Y^r)^4 d^4 \phi^r.$$

- Take data $\{Z_1, \dots, Z_n\}$ positive.
- Planarity \Rightarrow positivity of $c_{rj_p} \Rightarrow C_{ri} \in Gr_+(k, n)$ encoding planarity of 'Boundary diagrams' such as:



Tiling Amplituhedra/Wilsonhedra/Correlahedra

w/ Agarwala, Eden, Heslop, following Arkani-Hamed, Hodges, Trnka

- Positive $c_r i_p^j$ gives $4k$ -dimensional tiles in $Gr(k, k+4)$

$$Y_r = c_{r0} Z_* + C_{ri} Z_i.$$

where $C = C(c_r i_p^j)$ and $c_{r0} = 0 \rightsquigarrow$ positive $3k$ -cell.

- Can we tile amplituhedra? Correlahedra?

$$0 < \langle Y_1 \dots Y_{k+2L} Z_{i-1} Z_i Z_{j-1} Z_j \rangle$$

$$0 < \langle Y_1 \dots Y_{k+2L} Z_{l1} Z_{l2} Z_{j-1} Z_j \rangle$$

$$0 < \langle Y_1 \dots Y_{k+2L} Z_{l1} Z_{l2} Z_{m1} Z_{m2} \rangle$$

- Above gives $\langle W \rangle^2$ (cf correlator \leftrightarrow Wilson-loop).
- Unlike BCFW, tiles lie both inside and out for $k \geq 2$.
- Spurious boundaries cancel (subtle for bdy diagrams).
- Gives 'hedra formulation for correlators.

[Work in progress.]

Summary & conclusions

- Geometry of amplituhedra and Grassmannians is built into Feynman rules of twistor action in axial gauge.
- Framework extends to more general correlahedra.
- MHV diagram tiling is imperfect with tiles crossing in and out of correlahedra.
- Need to turn it into a better oiled machine for the actual integrals (unitarity, motives, symbols, cluster algebras, Fuchsian differential equations, integrability, regularization....).

Thank You!