# The Steinmann Cluster Bootstrap for $\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM Amplitudes

Georgios Papathanasiou









1412.3763 w/ Drummond,Spradlin 1612.08976 w/ Dixon,Drummond,Harrington,McLeod,Spradlin + in progress w/ Caron-Huot,Dixon,McLeod,von Hippel

# Outline

Motivation: Why Planar  $\mathcal{N} = 4$  Amplitudes?

The Bootstrap Philosophy

Cluster Algebra Upgrade The 3-loop MHV Heptagon

Steinmann Upgrade The 3-loop NMHV/4-loop MHV Heptagon

New Developments

Conclusions & Outlook

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- Integrable structures  $\Rightarrow$  All loop quantities! [Beisert, Eden, Staudacher]

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or more recently the 3-loop QCD soft anomalous dimension.

[Almelid, Duhr, Gardi, McLeod, White]

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Motivated by this progress, we upgraded this procedure for n = 7, with information from the cluster algebra structure of the kinematical space. Surprisingly, more powerful than n = 6! <sup>[Drummond,GP,Spradlin]</sup>

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$$\mathcal{S}(f_k) = \sum_{\alpha_1,\ldots,\alpha_k} f_0^{(\alpha_1,\alpha_2,\ldots,\alpha_k)} \left( \phi_{\alpha_1} \otimes \cdots \otimes \phi_{\alpha_k} \right).$$

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Empeirical evidence: *L*-loop amplitudes=MPLs of weight k = 2L[Duhr,Del Duca,Smirnov] [Arkani-Hamed,Bourjaily,Cachazo,Goncharov,Postnikov,Trnka] [GP]

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#### What are the right variables?

More precisely, what is the symbol alphabet? [See talk by Volovich]

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The latter is a collection of n ordered momentum twistors  $Z_i$  on  $\mathbb{P}^3$ , (an equivalent way to parametrise massless kinematics), modulo dual conformal transformations. <sup>[Hodges][See talks by Arkani-Hammed,Bai,Ferro]</sup>



 $x_i \sim Z_{i-1} \wedge Z_i$ 

 $(x_i - x_j)^2 \sim \epsilon_{IJKL} Z_{i-1}^I Z_i^J Z_{j-1}^K Z_j^L = \det(Z_{i-1} Z_i Z_{j-1} Z_j) \equiv \langle i - 1ij - 1j \rangle$ 

## Cluster algebras <sup>[Fomin,Zelevinsky]</sup>

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Mutate  $a_2$ : New cluster

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2. In new quiver/cluster,  $a_k \rightarrow a'_k = \left(\prod_{\text{arrows } i \rightarrow k} a_i + \prod_{\text{arrows } k \rightarrow j} a_j\right)/a_k$ 

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The latter is closely related to a Graßmannian: [See talks by Arkani-Hammed...]

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- Crucial observation: For all known cases, symbol alphabet of *n*-point amplitudes for n = 6, 7 are Gr(4, n) cluster variables (also known as  $\mathcal{A}$ -coordinates) [Golden,Goncharov,Spradlin,Vergu,Volovich]

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## Heptagon Symbol Letters

Multiply *A*-coordinates with suitable powers of (i i + 1 i + 2 i + 3) to form conformally invariant cross-ratios,

$$\begin{aligned} a_{11} &= \frac{\langle 1234 \rangle \langle 1567 \rangle \langle 2367 \rangle}{\langle 1237 \rangle \langle 1267 \rangle \langle 3456 \rangle}, \qquad a_{41} &= \frac{\langle 2457 \rangle \langle 3456 \rangle}{\langle 2345 \rangle \langle 4567 \rangle}, \\ a_{21} &= \frac{\langle 1234 \rangle \langle 2567 \rangle}{\langle 1267 \rangle \langle 2345 \rangle}, \qquad a_{51} &= \frac{\langle 1(23)(45)(67) \rangle}{\langle 1234 \rangle \langle 1567 \rangle}, \\ a_{31} &= \frac{\langle 1567 \rangle \langle 2347 \rangle}{\langle 1237 \rangle \langle 4567 \rangle}, \qquad a_{61} &= \frac{\langle 1(34)(56)(72) \rangle}{\langle 1234 \rangle \langle 1567 \rangle}, \end{aligned}$$

where

$$\langle ijkl \rangle \equiv \langle Z_i Z_j Z_k Z_l \rangle = \det(Z_i Z_j Z_k Z_l)$$
  
$$\langle a(bc)(de)(fg) \rangle \equiv \langle abde \rangle \langle acfg \rangle - \langle abfg \rangle \langle acde \rangle ,$$

together with  $a_{ij}$  obtained from  $a_{i1}$  by cyclically relabeling  $Z_m \rightarrow Z_{m+j-1}$ .

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3. Dual superconformal symmetry  $\Rightarrow$  constrains last symbol entry of amplitudes (MHV 7-pts:  $a_{2j}, a_{3j}$ ) <sup>[Caron-Huot,He]</sup>

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Define n-gon symbol: A symbol of the corresponding n-gon alphabet, obeying 1 & 2.

Weight k =		2	3	4	5	6
Number of heptagon symbols		42	237	1288	6763	?
well-defined in the $7 \parallel 6$ limit	3	15	98	646	?	?
which vanish in the $7 \parallel 6$ limit	0	6	72	572	?	?
well-defined for all $i+1 \parallel i$	0	0	0	1	?	?
with MHV last entries	0	1	0	2	1	4
with both of the previous two		0	0	1	0	1

Table: Heptagon symbols and their properties.

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Table: Heptagon symbols and their properties.

The symbol of the three-loop seven-particle MHV amplitude is the only weight-6 heptagon symbol which satisfies the last-entry condition and which is finite in the  $7 \parallel 6$  collinear limit.

Weight $k$ =	1	2	3	4	5	6
Number of hexagon symbols	3	9	26	75	218	643
well-defined (vanish) in the $6\parallel 5$ limit	0	2	11	44	155	516
well-defined (vanish) for all $i+1 \parallel i$	0	0	2	12	68	307
with MHV last entries	0	3	7	21	62	188
with both of the previous two	0	0	1	4	14	59

Table: Hexagon symbols and their properties.

Surprisingly, heptagon bootstrap more powerful than hexagon one! Fact that  $\lim_{7\parallel 6} R_7^{(3)} = R_6^{(3)}$ , as well as discrete symmetries such as cyclic  $Z_i \rightarrow Z_{i+1}$ , flip  $Z_i \rightarrow Z_{n+1-i}$  or parity symmetry **follow for free**, not imposed a priori.

# Upgrade II: Steinmann Relations [Steinmann][Cahill,Stapp][Bartels,Lipatov,Sabio Vera]

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## Dramatically simplify n-gon function space

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Heptagon: No  $a_{1,i\pm 1}, a_{1,i\pm 2}$  after  $a_{1,i}$  on second symbol entry

## Results: Steinmann Heptagon symbols

Weight <i>k</i> =	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	7″
parity +, flip +	4	16	48	154	467	1413	4163	3026
parity +, flip –	3	12	43	140	443	1359	4063	2946
parity -, flip +	0	0	3	14	60	210	672	668
parity –, flip –	0	0	3	14	60	210	672	669
Total	7	28	97	322	1030	3192	9570	7309

Table: Number of Steinmann heptagon symbols at weights 1 through 7, and those satisfying the MHV next-to-final entry condition at weight 7. All of them are organized with respect to the discrete symmetries  $Z_i \rightarrow Z_{i+1}$ ,  $Z_i \rightarrow Z_{8-i}$  of the MHV amplitude.

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1. Compare with 7, 42, 237, 1288, 6763 non-Steinmann heptagon symbols

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Weight <i>k</i> =	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	7″
parity +, flip +	4	16	48	154	467	1413	4163	3026
parity +, flip –	3	12	43	140	443	1359	4063	2946
parity -, flip +	0	0	3	14	60	210	672	668
parity –, flip –	0	0	3	14	60	210	672	669
Total	7	28	97	322	1030	3192	9570	7309

Table: Number of Steinmann heptagon symbols at weights 1 through 7, and those satisfying the MHV next-to-final entry condition at weight 7. All of them are organized with respect to the discrete symmetries  $Z_i \rightarrow Z_{i+1}$ ,  $Z_i \rightarrow Z_{8-i}$  of the MHV amplitude.

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- 4. E.g. 6-fold reduction already at weight 5!

In this manner, obtained 3-loop NMHV and 4-loop MHV heptagon



The 6-loop, 6-particle N+MHV amplitude

[Caron-Huot,Dixon,McLeod,GP,von Hippel;to appear]



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Our result is purely MPL, thus lending no support to this claim.



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2. Application of heptagon ideas simplifying construction of function bases New alphabet:  $\{a, b, c, m_u, m_v, m_w, y_u, y_v, y_w\}$ , where

$$a = \frac{u}{vw}, \qquad m_u = \frac{1-u}{u}, \qquad u = \frac{\langle 6123 \rangle \langle 3456 \rangle}{\langle 6134 \rangle \langle 2356 \rangle}, \qquad y_u = \frac{\langle 1345 \rangle \langle 2456 \rangle \langle 1236 \rangle}{\langle 1235 \rangle \langle 3456 \rangle \langle 1246 \rangle} \text{ \& cyclic}$$



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Simplest formulation of Steinmann relations for the amplitude:

No b, c can appear after a in  $2^{nd}$  symbol entry & cyclic



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Observed empirically at first, must be consequence of original Steinmann holding not just in the Euclidean region, but also on other Riemann sheets.

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 $\mathsf{E.g.} \ \Omega^{(2)} \equiv \int \frac{d^4 Z_{AB} d^4 Z_{CD} (i\pi^2)^{-2} \langle AB13 \rangle \langle CD46 \rangle \langle 2345 \rangle \langle 5612 \rangle \langle 3461 \rangle}{\langle AB61 \rangle \langle AB12 \rangle \langle AB23 \rangle \langle AB34 \rangle \langle ABCD \rangle \langle CD34 \rangle \langle CD45 \rangle \langle CD56 \rangle \langle CD61 \rangle}$ 

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Can in fact resum  $\Omega \equiv \sum \lambda^L \Omega^{(L)}$  in terms of a simple integral.

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- The two  $A_{N-5}$  factors not independent: Related by single-valuedness

Therefore multi-Regge limit important stepping stone towards bootstrapping higher-point amplitudes, and also closely related to integrability & collinear OPE limit. <sup>[Basso,Caron-Huot,Sever][Drummond,Papathanasiou]</sup>

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Ultimately, can the integrability of planar SYM theory, together with a thorough knowledge of the analytic structure of its amplitudes, lead us to the theory's exact S-matrix?

# Momentum Twistors $Z^{I \ [\mathrm{Hodges}]}$

▶ Represent dual space variables  $x^{\mu} \in \mathbb{R}^{1,3}$  as projective null vectors  $X^{M} \in \mathbb{R}^{2,4}$ ,  $X^{2} = 0$ ,  $X \sim \lambda X$ .

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Comparing the two matrices,

$$\operatorname{Conf}_n(\mathbb{P}^3) = Gr(4,n)/(C^*)^{n-1}$$

Given a random symbol S of weight k > 1, there does not in general exist any function whose symbol is S. A symbol is said to be **integrable**, (or, to be an **integrable word**) if it satisfies

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Planar colour-ordered amplitudes in massless theories: Only happens when

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Define a **heptagon symbol**: An integrable symbol with alphabet  $a_{ij}$  that obeys first-entry condition.

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- Combination of two symmetries gives rise to a Yangian [Drummond,Henn,Plefka][Drummond,Ferro]
- Although broken at loop level by IR divergences, Yangian anomaly equations governing this breaking have been proposed [Caron-Huot,He]

Consequence for MHV amplitudes: Their differential is a linear combination of  $d \log \langle i j - 1 j j + 1 \rangle$ , which implies

**Last-entry condition**: Only (ij-1jj+1) may appear in the last entry of the symbol of any MHV amplitude.

- Tree-level amplitudes exhibit (usual + dual) superconformal symmetry [Drummond,Henn,Korchemsky,Sokatchev]
- Combination of two symmetries gives rise to a Yangian [Drummond,Henn,Plefka][Drummond,Ferro]
- Although broken at loop level by IR divergences, Yangian anomaly equations governing this breaking have been proposed [Caron-Huot,He]

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Particularly here: Only the 14 letters  $a_{2j}$  and  $a_{3j}$  may appear in the last symbol entry of  $R_7$ .

### Imposing Constraints: The Collinear Limit

It is baked into the definition of the BDS normalized n-particle L-loop MHV remainder function that it should smoothly approach the corresponding (n-1)-particle function in any simple collinear limit:

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A function has a well-defined  $i+1 \parallel i$  limit only if its symbol is independent of all nine of these letters.

## Step 1 (Straightforward)

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"Just" linear algebra, however for e.g. 4-loop MHV hexagon A boils down to a size of  $941498 \times 60182$ . Tackled with fraction-free variants of Gaussian elimination that bound the size of intermediate expressions, implemented in Integer Matrix Library and Sage. <sup>[Storjohann]</sup>

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BDS-like normalized amplitudes obey Steinmann relations, BDS normalized ones do not!

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### NMHV final entry conditions

[Caron-Huot]

$$\begin{array}{l} (34)\log a_{21}, \quad (14)\log a_{21}, \quad (15)\log a_{21}, \quad (16)\log a_{21}, \quad (13)\log a_{21}, \quad (12)\log a_{21}, \\ (45)\log a_{37}, \quad (47)\log a_{37}, \quad (37)\log a_{37}, \quad (27)\log a_{37}, \quad (57)\log a_{37}, \quad (67)\log a_{37}, \\ (45)\log \frac{a_{34}}{a_{11}}, \quad (14)\log \frac{a_{34}}{a_{11}}, \quad (14)\log \frac{a_{11}a_{24}}{a_{46}}, \quad (14)\log \frac{a_{14}a_{31}}{a_{34}}, \\ (24)\log \frac{a_{44}}{a_{42}}, \quad (56)\log a_{57}, \quad (12)\log a_{57}, \quad (16)\log \frac{a_{67}}{a_{26}}, \\ (13)\log \frac{a_{41}}{a_{26}a_{33}} + ((14) - (15))\log a_{26} - (17)\log a_{26}a_{37} + (45)\log \frac{a_{22}}{a_{34}a_{35}} - (34)\log a_{33}, \end{array}$$

Loop order $L$ =	1	2	3
Steinmann symbols	$15 \times 28$	15×322	$15 \times 3192$
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Strong tension between collinear properties and Steinmann relations.

Phenomenologically relevant high-energy gluon scattering



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Perfect match, currently computing 4 loops

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