The double copy in twistor space

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Based on an upcoming paper with T. Adamo

What is the double copy?

gravity = gauge \otimes gauge

 The original double copy relation was discovered by Kawai-Lewellen-Tye (KLT) in 1986, relating closed and open string amplitudes



• Taking the field theory limit this amounts

$$\mathcal{M}_{\text{tree}}^{\text{GR}}(1,\ldots,n) = \sum_{\alpha,\beta} \mathcal{A}_{\text{tree}}^{\text{YM}}(\alpha) \underbrace{\mathcal{S}[\alpha|\beta]}_{\otimes} \mathcal{A}_{\text{tree}}^{\text{YM}}(\beta)$$

• Exists in many guises: colour-kinematics duality (BCJ), CHY, classical (Kerr-Schild), etc.

Tree-level amplitudes: maximally helicity violating (MHV)



• Surprisingly beautiful structures in tree-level amplitudes were first seen with the Parke-Taylor (PT) ['86] formula, at *all multiplicity*

$$\mathcal{A}_{\text{tree}}^{\text{YM}}\underbrace{(1^{-}2^{-}3^{+}\dots n^{+})}_{\text{MHV}} = \delta^{4}(\cdots)\frac{\langle 12\rangle^{4}}{\langle 12\rangle\langle 23\rangle\cdots\langle n1\rangle}, \quad p_{i}^{\alpha\dot{\alpha}} = |i\rangle^{\dot{\alpha}}[i|^{\alpha}$$

In gravity, there is a corresponding expression (Hodges formula) ['12]

$$\mathcal{M}_{\text{tree}}^{\text{GR}}(1^{-}2^{-}3^{+}\dots n^{+}) = \delta^{4}(\cdots)\langle 12\rangle^{8} \text{det}'(\text{H})$$

Tree-level amplitudes: $N^{d-1}MHV$ from twistor space



• At N^{*d*-1}MHV level (with *d* + 1 negative helicity particles), we have [Witten:'04; Roiban-Spradlin-Volovich:'04]

$$\mathcal{A}_{n,d}^{\mathrm{YM}}[\rho] = \int \mathrm{d}\mu_d \, |\mathbf{\tilde{g}}|^4 \operatorname{PT}_n[\rho] \prod_{i \in \mathbf{g}} a_i \prod_{j \in \mathbf{\tilde{g}}} \bar{a}_j$$

where $\operatorname{PT}_n[\rho] = \frac{1}{(\rho(1)\rho(2))\dots(\rho(n)\rho(1))}$ and $\mathcal{A}_{n,d} = \sum_{\rho} \operatorname{Tr}[\mathcal{T}^{\rho}]\mathcal{A}_{n,d}[\rho]$

• And for gravity the CS formula [Cachazo-Skinner:'12]

$$\mathcal{M}_{n,d}^{\mathrm{GR}} = \int \mathrm{d}\mu_d \, |\tilde{\mathbf{h}}|^8 \, \mathrm{det}'(\mathbb{H}) \, \mathrm{det}'(\mathbb{H}^{\vee}) \, \prod_{i \in \mathbf{h}} h_i \prod_{j \in \tilde{\mathbf{h}}} \bar{h}_j$$

$\mathsf{MHV}\to\mathsf{N}^{d-1}\mathsf{MHV}$

$$\frac{\langle 12 \rangle^4}{\langle 12 \rangle \langle 23 \rangle \cdots \langle n1 \rangle} \quad \rightarrow \quad \frac{|\tilde{\mathbf{g}}|^4}{(12)(23)\cdots(n1)}$$

$$\langle 12\rangle^8 {\rm det}'({\rm H}) \quad \rightarrow \quad |\tilde{\boldsymbol{h}}|^8 \, {\rm det}'({\mathbb H}) \, {\rm det}'({\mathbb H}^{\vee})$$

and then integrate these over

$$\mathrm{d}\mu_d \prod_{\substack{i \in \text{pos.helicity} \\ \mathbf{g}/\mathbf{h}}} \xi_i(Z) \prod_{\substack{j \in \text{neg.helicity} \\ \tilde{\mathbf{g}}/\tilde{\mathbf{h}}}} \bar{\xi}_i(Z)$$

Tree-level amplitudes: CHY [Cachazo, He, Yuan: '13]

 This formulation rests on evaluating integrands on the support of solutions σ₁,..., σ_n ∈ CP¹ to the scattering equations for

$$P(\sigma) = \sum_{i=1}^{n} \frac{k_i}{\sigma - \sigma_i}, \qquad k_i \cdot P(\sigma_i) = \sum_{j \neq i} \frac{k_i \cdot k_j}{\sigma_i - \sigma_j} = 0$$

• A generic scattering amplitude is

$$\mathcal{A}_n^{\text{tree}} = \sum_{\substack{\text{solutions}\\k_i \cdot P(\sigma_i) = 0}} \frac{1}{J(\sigma_i, k_i)} \ \mathcal{I}_n(\sigma_i, k_i, \epsilon_i)$$

The CHY double copy

• The theory is captured in the form of the integrand

Gravity: $\mathcal{I}_n^{\mathrm{GR}} = \mathrm{Pf}'(\Phi) \, \mathrm{Pf}'(\tilde{\Phi}),$

Yang-Mills:
$$\mathcal{I}_n^{\mathrm{YM}}[\alpha] = \mathrm{PT}_n(\alpha) \mathrm{Pf}'(\Phi),$$

(Bi-adjoint scalar: $\mathcal{I}_n^{BAS}[\alpha|\beta] = PT_n(\alpha) PT_n(\beta)$)

• Equivalently

$$\mathcal{I}_{n}^{\text{GR}} = \mathcal{I}_{n}^{\text{YM}}[\alpha] \underbrace{\frac{1}{\mathcal{I}_{n}^{\text{BAS}}[\alpha|\beta]}}_{\otimes} \tilde{\mathcal{I}}_{n}^{\text{YM}}[\beta]$$



New amplitudes relations? Double copy on curved spacetimes?



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This talk

- Tree-level amplitude formulae
- Applications of graph theory
- Double copy in twistor space
- Conclusion and outlook

Tree-level amplitude formulae



Map moduli integrals

$$\mathcal{M}_{n,d} = \int \mathrm{d} \mu_{\boldsymbol{d}} \, \mathcal{I}_{n,d}(Z) \, \prod_{i \in \mathbf{h}} \xi_i \prod_{j \in \mathbf{\tilde{h}}} ar{\xi_i}$$



• For $N^{d-1}MHV$ we consider maps of degree d

$$\mathcal{Z}:\mathbb{CP}^1\to\mathbb{PT},\qquad\mathbb{PT}\overset{\text{open}}{\subset}\mathbb{CP}^3$$

with coordinates on \mathbb{CP}^1 given by $\sigma = (\sigma^0, \sigma^1) \sim r(\sigma^0, \sigma^1)$, and

$$\mathcal{Z}(r\sigma) = r^{d}\mathcal{Z}(\sigma), \quad \mathcal{Z}((u,1)) = U_{d}u^{d} + U_{d-1}u^{d-1} + \ldots + U_{0}$$

- Each map has 4(d + 1) degrees of freedom up to proj. scalings
- The integration measure of the moduli space of these maps and n marked points on \mathbb{CP}^1

$$\mathrm{d}\mu_d \coloneqq \frac{\mathrm{d}^{4(d+1)}U}{\mathrm{vol}\,\mathbb{C}^* \times \mathrm{SL}(2,\mathbb{C})} \prod_{i=1}^n (\sigma_i \,\mathrm{d}\sigma_i)$$

External states - twistor representatives

$$\mathcal{M}_{n,d} = \int \mathrm{d}\mu_d \, \mathcal{I}_{n,d}(Z) \, \prod_{i \in \mathbf{h}} \xi_i \prod_{j \in \mathbf{\tilde{h}}} \bar{\xi}_j$$

• The Penrose transform: equates solutions of the zero-rest-mass equations on spacetime to cohomology classes on twistor space

$$\phi^h(Z) \in H^{0,1}(\mathbb{PT}, \mathcal{O}(2h-2)), \qquad h = helicity$$

• The twistor wavefunctions for momentum eigenstates take the form

$$\phi_i^h(Z) = \int_{\mathbb{C}^*} \frac{\mathrm{d}t_i}{t_i^{2h-1}} \,\overline{\delta}^2(\kappa_i - t_i \,\lambda) \, e^{it_i[\mu \,\overline{\kappa}_i]}$$

where $Z = (\mu^{\dot{\alpha}}, \lambda_{\alpha})$ and $k_i^{\alpha \dot{\alpha}} = \tilde{\kappa}_i^{\alpha} \kappa_i^{\dot{\alpha}}$

For our theories of interest

GR:
$$\frac{1}{t_i^3}$$
, t^5 ; YM: $\frac{1}{t_i}$, t_i^3 ; BAS: t_i

Integrands in twistor space

$$\mathcal{M}_{n,d} = \int \mathrm{d}\mu_d \, \mathcal{I}_{n,d}(Z) \prod_{i \in \mathbf{h}} \xi_i \prod_{j \in \tilde{\mathbf{h}}} \bar{\xi}_j$$

Vandermonde:
$$|\mathbf{A}| = \prod_{\{i,j\}\in\mathbf{A}} (ij), \quad (ij) = \epsilon_{ab}\sigma_i^a\sigma_j^b$$

Yang-Mills: $\frac{|\tilde{\mathbf{g}}|^4}{(\rho(1)\rho(2))\cdots(\rho(n-1)\rho(n))(\rho(n)\rho(1))}$

 $\begin{array}{ll} \mathsf{Gravity:} & |\tilde{\boldsymbol{\mathsf{h}}}|^8 \, \mathsf{det}'(\mathbb{H}) \, \mathsf{det}'(\mathbb{H}^{\vee}) \end{array}$

Integrands in twistor space

$$\mathsf{Gravity:} \quad |\tilde{\mathbf{\mathsf{h}}}|^8 \, \mathsf{det}'(\mathbb{H}) \, \mathsf{det}'(\mathbb{H}^{\vee})$$

• Hodges matrix has entries for $i, j \in \mathbf{h} \ (+ hel.)$

$$\mathbb{H}_{ij} = \frac{\left[\frac{\partial}{\partial \mu(\sigma_i)} \frac{\partial}{\partial \mu(\sigma_j)}\right]}{(ij)}, \qquad \mathbb{H}_{ii} = -\sum_{\substack{j \in \mathbf{h} \\ j \neq i}} \mathbb{H}_{ij} \prod_{l \in \tilde{\mathbf{h}}} \frac{(jl)}{(il)}$$

• Dual Hodges matrix has entries for $i, j \in \tilde{\mathbf{h}}$ (- hel.)

$$\mathbb{H}_{ij}^{\vee} = \frac{\langle \lambda(\sigma_i) \, \lambda(\sigma_j) \rangle}{(ij)}, \qquad \mathbb{H}_{ii}^{\vee} = -\sum_{\substack{j \in \tilde{\mathbf{h}} \\ j \neq i}} \mathbb{H}_{ij}^{\vee} \prod_{\substack{k \in \tilde{\mathbf{h}} \setminus \{i,j\}}} \frac{(ki)}{(kj)}$$

• The reduced determinants are

$$\mathsf{det}'(\mathbb{H}) = \frac{|\mathbb{H}_b^b|}{|\tilde{\mathbf{h}} \cup \{b\}|^2}, \qquad \mathsf{det}'(\mathbb{H}^{\vee}) = \frac{|\mathbb{H}_a^{\vee a}|}{|\tilde{\mathbf{h}} \setminus \{a\}|^2}$$

Example: MHV n = 4

Here $\tilde{\mathbf{h}} = \{3, 4\}$ and $\mathbf{h} = \{1, 2\}$ $\mathbb{H} = \begin{pmatrix} -\frac{t_1 t_2 [12]}{(12)} \frac{(23)(24)}{(13)(14)} & \frac{t_1 t_2 [12]}{(12)} \\ \frac{t_1 t_2 [12]}{(12)} & -\frac{t_1 t_2 [12]}{(12)} \frac{(13)(14)}{(23)(24)} \end{pmatrix}$ Example: MHV n = 4

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Choosing b = 2 in $|\mathbb{H}_b^b|$

$$\Rightarrow \mathsf{det}'(\mathbb{H}) = -\frac{t_1 t_2[12]}{(12)} \frac{(23)(24)}{(13)(14)} / |\{\mathbf{2}, \mathbf{3}, \mathbf{4}\}|^2 = \frac{-t_1 t_2[12]}{(12)(13)(14)(23)(24)(34)^2}$$

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And for dual Hodges

$$\mathbb{H}^{\vee} = \begin{pmatrix} -\frac{\langle \lambda_3 \, \lambda_4 \rangle}{(34)} & \frac{\langle \lambda_3 \, \lambda_4 \rangle}{(34)} \\ \frac{\langle \lambda_3 \, \lambda_4 \rangle}{(34)} & -\frac{\langle \lambda_3 \, \lambda_4 \rangle}{(34)} \end{pmatrix} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \mathsf{det}'(\mathbb{H}^{\vee}) = -\frac{\langle \lambda_3 \, \lambda_4 \rangle}{(34)}$$

Integrands:

Yang-Mills:
$$|\tilde{\mathbf{g}}|^4$$
 $(\rho(1)\rho(2))\cdots(\rho(n-1)\rho(n))(\rho(n)\rho(1))$ Gravity: $|\tilde{\mathbf{h}}|^8 \det'(\mathbb{H}) \det'(\mathbb{H}^\vee)$

Applications of graph theory

Tree graphs

Def: A tree graph is a set of edges E over vertices V, that is connected and has no loops.

 It's possible to associate a weight w_{ij} with each possible edge (i - j)

Weighted Matrix-Tree Theorem

$$\sum_{\substack{\text{tree graphs}\\\text{on }V}} \left(\prod_{(i-j)} w_{ij}\right) = |W(V)_a^a|$$

where the weighted Laplacian matrix is

$$W(V)_{ij} = \begin{cases} \sum_{(k-i)} w_{ik} & \text{if } i = j \\ -w_{ij} & \text{if } i \neq j \end{cases}$$



Can rewrite the Hodges' reduced determinants in this language! For the positive helicity piece:

where

$$\det'(\mathbb{H}) = \frac{1}{|\tilde{h}|^2} \prod_{\substack{k \in \mathbf{h} \\ l \in \tilde{h}}} \frac{1}{(kl)^2} \times \sum_{\substack{T \\ \text{spanning } \mathbf{h} \\ |B_a|}} \prod_{\substack{(i-j) \\ |B_a|}} B_{ij}$$
where
$$B_{ij} = \frac{\left[\frac{\partial}{\partial \mu(\sigma_i)} \frac{\partial}{\partial \mu(\sigma_j)}\right]}{(ij)} \prod_{\substack{l \in \tilde{h} \\ l \in \tilde{h}}} (il)(jl)$$
and similarly for the negative helicity piece

$$\det'(\mathbb{H}^{ee}) = |\tilde{\mathbf{h}}|^2 imes \sum_{\substack{ ilde{ au} \ ext{spanning } \mathbf{\tilde{h}}}} \prod_{(i-j)} B_{ij}^{ee}$$

Orderings and tree graphs

- It's possible to direct a tree graph by giving it a root. The edges now obtain a direction (i → j)
- Taking *b* as the root, we can associate a set of orderings to each tree graph





Proposition (Frost '21)

For a directed tree \mathcal{T} on vertices V and generic $x \in \mathbb{CP}^1$

$$\prod_{(i\to j)\in T} \frac{(jx)}{(ij)(ix)} =$$

$$PT(b\rho x)(bx)^2$$

compatible ords. $\rho^T b$ of T

$$\det'(\mathbb{H}) = \frac{1}{|\tilde{\mathbf{h}}|^2} \prod_{l \in \tilde{\mathbf{h}}} \frac{1}{(bl)^2} \times \sum_{\substack{T_b \\ \text{spanning } \mathbf{h}}} \prod_{(i \to j)} B_{ij}$$

For each specific tree T_b

$$\begin{split} \prod_{(i \to j)} \mathcal{B}_{ij} &\equiv \prod_{(i \to j)} \frac{[\partial_{\mu}(\sigma_{i}) \partial_{\mu}(\sigma_{j})]}{(ij)} \prod_{l \in \tilde{\mathbf{h}}} \frac{(jl)}{(il)} \\ &= \sum_{b\rho} \Pr(b\rho \mathbf{x}) (b\mathbf{x})^{2} \prod_{(i \to j)} [\partial_{\mu}(\sigma_{i}) \partial_{\mu}(\sigma_{j})] \prod_{l \in \tilde{\mathbf{h}} \setminus \{x\}} \frac{(jl)}{(il)} \\ &= \sum_{b\rho, b\sigma} \Pr(b\rho \mathbf{x}) \Pr(b\sigma \mathbf{y}) (b\mathbf{x})^{2} (b\mathbf{y})^{2} \prod_{(i \to j)} [\partial_{\mu}(\sigma_{i}) \partial_{\mu}(\sigma_{j})] (ij) \prod_{l \in \tilde{\mathbf{h}} \setminus \{x, y\}} \frac{(jl)}{(il)} \end{split}$$

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Weighted tree \rightarrow (Parke-Taylor)² × something

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Doing the sum over the weighted trees

$$\sum_{\substack{T_b \\ \text{spanning } \mathbf{h}}} \prod_{(i \to j)} \tilde{B}_{ij} = \sum_{\substack{T_b \\ \text{spanning } \mathbf{h}}} \sum_{\substack{b\rho, b\sigma \\ \text{comp. } T_b}} PT(b\rho x) PT(b\sigma y) \times \mathscr{M}$$
$$= \sum_{b\rho, b\sigma} PT(b\rho x) PT(b\sigma y) \sum_{\substack{\text{trees compatible} \\ \text{with } b\rho, b\sigma}} \mathscr{M}$$

So we've found that

 $det'(\mathbb{H}) = \sum_{b\rho,b\sigma} PT(b\rho x) PT(b\sigma y) \times something[\rho|\sigma]$

Repeat the same for $\det'(\mathbb{H}^{\vee})$

KLT kernel in twistor space [Adamo, SK; '24]

• Combining the contributions from trees over h and \tilde{h} (gluing together the PT factors) the gravity integrand can be rewritten as

$$\sum_{\substack{\tilde{a}\tilde{\rho}b\rho\\\tilde{\omega}^{T}ab\omega}} |\tilde{\mathbf{h}}|^{8} \operatorname{PT}[\tilde{a}\tilde{\rho}b\rho] \underbrace{S_{n,d}[\rho,\tilde{\rho}|\omega,\tilde{\omega}]}_{\operatorname{KLT \ kernel} in \ twistor \ space} \operatorname{PT}[\tilde{\omega}^{T}ab\omega]$$
where
$$S_{n,d}[\rho,\tilde{\rho}|\omega,\tilde{\omega}] = \mathcal{D}[\omega,\tilde{\omega}] \left[\sum_{\tilde{T}\in\mathcal{T}^{a}_{\tilde{\rho},\tilde{\omega}}}\prod_{(i\to j)}\tilde{\phi}_{ij}\right] \times \left[\sum_{T\in\mathcal{T}^{b}_{\rho,\omega}}\prod_{(i\to j)}\phi_{ij}\right]$$

• The weights on each of the sets of trees are

$$\begin{split} \phi_{ij} &\coloneqq [\partial_{\mu}(\sigma_{i}) \,\partial_{\mu}(\sigma_{i})](ij) \prod_{l \in \tilde{\mathbf{h}} \setminus \{a, y\}} (il)(jl), \qquad i, j \in \mathbf{h}, \\ \tilde{\phi}_{ij} &\coloneqq \frac{\langle \lambda(\sigma_{i}) \,\lambda(\sigma_{j}) \rangle}{(ij)} \prod_{k \in (\tilde{\mathbf{h}} \cup \{b, t\}) \setminus \{i, j\}} \frac{1}{(ki)(kj)} \qquad i, j \in \tilde{\mathbf{h}} \end{split}$$

$$S_{n,d}[\rho, \tilde{\rho}|\omega, \tilde{\omega}] = \mathcal{D}[\omega, \tilde{\omega}] \left[\sum_{\tilde{T} \in \mathcal{T}^{a}_{\tilde{\rho}, \tilde{\omega}}} \prod_{(i \to j)} \tilde{\phi}_{ij} \right] \times \left[\sum_{T \in \mathcal{T}^{b}_{\rho, \omega}} \prod_{(i \to j)} \phi_{ij} \right]$$
$$= \mathcal{D}(\omega, \tilde{\omega}) \sum_{\tilde{T}:T} \left[\overbrace{\tau, \tau}^{h} \times \overbrace{t}^{h} \right]$$

$$\begin{split} \phi_{ij} &:= [\partial_{\mu}(\sigma_i) \, \partial_{\mu}(\sigma_i)](ij) \prod_{l \in \tilde{\mathbf{h}} \setminus \{a, y\}} (il)(jl), \qquad i, j \in \mathbf{h}, \\ \tilde{\phi}_{ij} &:= \frac{\langle \lambda(\sigma_i) \, \lambda(\sigma_j) \rangle}{(ij)} \prod_{k \in (\tilde{\mathbf{h}} \cup \{b, t\}) \setminus \{i, j\}} \frac{1}{(ki)(kj)} \qquad i, j \in \tilde{\mathbf{h}} \end{split}$$

$$\mathcal{M}_{n,d}^{\mathsf{GR}} = \int \mathrm{d}\mu_d \sum_{\substack{a\tilde{\rho}b\rho\\\tilde{\omega}^{\mathsf{T}}ab\omega}} |\tilde{\mathbf{h}}|^8 \mathrm{PT}[a\tilde{\rho}b\rho] \underbrace{S_{n,d}[\rho,\tilde{\rho}|\omega,\tilde{\omega}]}_{\mathsf{KLT \ kernel}} \mathrm{PT}[\tilde{\omega}^{\mathsf{T}}ab\omega]\prod_i h_i^{\pm}(Z)$$

$\mathbb{P}\mathbb{T}$ formulae

integrands!

$$\det'(\mathbb{H})\det'(\mathbb{H}^{\vee}) = \sum_{\alpha,\beta} \operatorname{PT}[\alpha] \underset{\mathsf{kernel}}{\otimes} \operatorname{PT}[\beta]$$

Helicity graded double copy kernel!

Double copy in twistor space

Interpretation of KLT kernel

$$\mathcal{M}_{n,d}^{\mathsf{GR}} = \int \mathrm{d}\mu_d \sum_{\substack{\tilde{a}\tilde{\rho}b\rho\\\tilde{\omega}^{\mathsf{T}}ab\omega}} |\tilde{\mathbf{h}}|^8 \mathrm{PT}[\underline{a\tilde{\rho}b\rho}] \underbrace{S_{n,d}[\rho,\tilde{\rho}|\omega,\tilde{\omega}]}_{\mathsf{KLT \ kernel}} \mathrm{PT}[\tilde{\omega}^{\mathsf{T}}ab\omega] \prod_i h_i^{\pm}(Z)$$

- A matrix on orderings of **h** and $\tilde{\mathbf{h}}$: basis has $(n d 2)! \times (d)!$ elements
- Graded by helicity, where # negative gravitons = d + 1
- Contrast with CHY kernel: 1 basis element Spacetime KLT kernel: (n-3)! basis elements

Inverse of the KLT kernel in twistor space

- It has been proven [CHY:'13;Mizera:'16; Mafra:'20;Frost,Mafra,Mason:'21] that the matrix inverse of the usual field theory kernel is equal to the scattering amplitudes of bi-adjoint scalar theory (BAS)
- We prove in [Adamo, SK: '24] (using amplitude recursion relations in twistor space) a new representation of BAS amplitudes in twistor space:

$$m_n(a ilde{
ho}b
ho| ilde{\omega}^Tab\omega) = \int \mathrm{d}\mu_d \ S^{-1}_{n,d}[
ho, ilde{
ho}|\omega, ilde{\omega}] \ \prod_i \phi_i(Z)$$

Summary and outlook

- We found a new double copy structure between gravity and YM tree amplitudes labelled by helicity
- This is naturally manifested in twistor space as a KLT kernel integrand, whose integrated inverse is the colour-ordered BAS amplitude

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- Web of double copies: e.g. EYM = YM \otimes (YM + ϕ^3) as twistor space formulae [Adamo, Casali, Roehrig, Skinner:'17;Roehrig:'17]?
- Double copy on curved backgrounds from amplitude formulae on curved backgrounds [Adamo, Mason, Sharma: '20, '22]?
- Does this teach us something new about helicity and the double copy?

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