Modern amplitude techniques

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ABSTRACT: Notes on modern amplitude techniques written as part of a research project with Jaroslav Trnka.

Contents

1 3 point amplitudes bootstrapping

Three particle amplitudes are special since they can be completely determined by their little group scaling. From momentum conservation as well as on-shell massless kinematics we have

$$p_1 + p_1 + p_3 = 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad \begin{cases} s_{12} = (p_1 + p_2)^2 = \langle 12 \rangle [21] = p_3^3 = 0 \\ s_{13} = (p_1 + p_3)^2 = \langle 13 \rangle [31] = p_2^3 = 0 \\ s_{23} = (p_2 + p_3)^2 = \langle 23 \rangle [32] = p_1^3 = 0 \end{cases} \tag{1.1}$$

For complex momenta we can treat $\rangle p|$ and $[p|$ as independent and so for the above relations to be satisfied we need either

$$[12] = [23] = [13] = 0 \quad \text{or} \quad \langle 12 \rangle = \langle 23 \rangle = \langle 13 \rangle = 0. \tag{1.2}$$

Denoting the helicity of the i'th particle by h_i the following result for the 3 point amplitude can be obtained by using the fact that under a little group scaling, the amplitudes transforms with weight according to that particles helicity:

$$A(1^{h_1}, 2^{h_2}, 3^{h_3}) = \begin{cases} \langle 12 \rangle^{h_3-h_2-h_1} \langle 23 \rangle^{h_1-h_2-h_3} \langle 13 \rangle^{h_2-h_3-h_1}, & \sum_i h_i \leq 0 \\ [12]^{h_1+h_2-h_3}[23]^{h_2+h_3-h_1}[13]^{h_1+h_3-h_2}, & \sum_i h_i \geq 0 \end{cases} \tag{1.3}$$

where the two cases arise because of *locality*, which means that only terms that show up in a local Lagrangian such as $AA\partial A$ (from gauge term $\text{Tr}[F^{\mu\nu}F_{\mu\nu}]$) can contribute. The condition is then there to get the correct mass dimension, meaning only amplitudes with dimensions according to local lagrangian interaction terms.

2 Recursion Relations

On-shell recursion is a systematic procedure for relating an amplitude to its values at singular kinematics. In order to probe these kinematic configurations we define a momentum shift, which is a one-parameter deformation of the external momenta engineered to sample various kinematic limit.
A shift of the form

$$p_i \to p_i(z) = p_i + zq_i, \quad z \in \mathbb{C}. \tag{2.1}$$

Not all momenta have to be shifted and we restrict the shifted momenta to satisfy momentum conservation as well as being on-shell

$$\sum_i p_i(z) = 0, \quad p_i(z)^2 = 0 \tag{2.2}$$

This implies the following for the shifts q_i

$$\sum_i q_i = 0, \quad q_i^2 = q_i p_i = 0. \tag{2.3}$$

These conditions preserve the kinematics of the corresponding shifted amplitude

$$A \to A(z) \tag{2.4}$$

We can obtain the original amplitude from the residue

$$A(0) = \oint_{z=0} \mathrm{d}z \frac{A(z)}{z}. \tag{2.5}$$

One can think of the contour integral as a deltafunction in the point $z = 0$.
Using Cauchy's theorem this can be expressed as minus the sum of all the other residues

$$A(0) = -\sum_I \mathrm{Res}_{z=z_I} \left[\frac{A(z)}{z} \right] + B_\infty, \tag{2.6}$$

where B_∞ is a boundary term that vanishes when $A(z) \to 0$ for $z \to \infty$. This will be another condition on what variables we shift.
If we take a subset of momenta $\{p_i\}_{\in I}$ and define the sum over these

$$P_I \equiv \sum_{i \in I} p_i, \tag{2.7}$$

then we can also defined the shifted momenta $P_I(Z)$

$$P_I(z) = \sum_{i \in I} p_i(z) = P_I + zQ_I, \quad \text{with } Q_I = \sum_{i \in I} q_i \tag{2.8}$$

For simplicity we will assume $q_i q_j = 0$ leading to $Q_I^2 = 0$. In this case $P_I(z)^2$ is linear in z

$$P_I(z)^2 = (P_I + zQ_I)^2 = P_I^2 + zP_I Q_I = -\frac{P_I^2}{z_I}(z - z_I), \tag{2.9}$$

where we have defined $z_I \equiv -\frac{P_I^2}{2P_I Q_I}$.
For some reason the amplitude should factorize into a product of two lower point on-shell amplitudes when $z = z_I$ and $P_I^2(z)$ goes on-shell

$$\lim_{z \to z_I} A(z) = A_L(z_I) \frac{1}{P_I^2(z)} A_R(z_I) = -\frac{z_I}{z - z_I} A_L(z_I) \frac{1}{P^2} A_R(z_I) \tag{2.10}$$

Using this to take the residue at $z = z_I$

$$= -\mathrm{Res}_{z=z_I} \left[\frac{A(z)}{z} \right] = \mathrm{Res}_{z=z_I} \left[\frac{z_I}{z(z - z_I)} A_L(z_I) \frac{1}{P_I^2} A_R(z_I) \right] \tag{2.11}$$

The residue is found by multiplying by $(z - z_I)$ and setting $z = z_I$. Summing over all residues we find the amplitude

$$A(0) = \sum_I A_L(z_I) \frac{1}{P_I^2} A_R(z_I) + B_\infty \tag{2.12}$$

The boundary contribution B_∞ has no similar general expression in terms of lower-point amplitudes and the simplest way to make it vanish is by requiring

$$A(z) \to 0, \qquad \text{for } z \to \infty \tag{2.13}$$

If this holds then

$$A = \sum_I A_L(z_I) \frac{1}{P_I^2} A_R(z_I) = \sum_{\text{Diagrams } I} \quad \vdots\, \boxed{L} \overset{\hat{P}_I}{\relbar\joinrel\relbar} \boxed{R}\, \vdots \tag{2.14}$$

2.1 BCFW-recursion

A particular recursion technique used often is called BCFW recursion. In four dimensions this can be implemented in the spinor-helicity basis. Denoting the shifted variables by a hat, the shifts that we will employ are

$$|\hat{i}] = |i] + z|j], \qquad |\hat{j}] = |j], \qquad |\hat{i}\rangle = |i\rangle, \qquad |\hat{j}\rangle = |j\rangle - z|i\rangle \tag{2.15}$$

It can be shown that for Yang-Mills the amplitude vanishes at $z \to \infty$ for the following helicity configurations

$$[i,j\rangle \quad [-,-\rangle \quad [-,+\rangle \quad [+,+\rangle \quad [+,-\rangle \tag{2.16}$$

$$A_n(z) \sim \quad \frac{1}{z} \qquad \frac{1}{z} \qquad \frac{1}{z} \qquad z^3 \tag{2.17}$$

The first 3 types of shifts will be referred to as *good shifts*.

2.2 Example of BCFW-recursion

As an example, let us calculate the amplitude $A_5(1_g^+, 2_g^-, 3_g^+, 4_g^-, 5_g^-)$ Since we are dealing with an $\overline{\text{MHV}}$ amplitude we can immediately read of the good shift since the shifts

$$|1] \to |\hat{1}] = |1] + z|5] \tag{2.18}$$

$$|5\rangle \to |\hat{5}\rangle = |5\rangle - z|1\rangle \tag{2.19}$$

will shift the amplitude by

$$A_5(1^+, 2^-, 3^+, 4^-, 5^-) = \frac{[13]^4}{[12][23][34][45][51]} \to \frac{\langle([13] + z[53])^4\rangle}{([12] + z[52])[23][34][45]} \sim z^3$$

While the shifts

$$|5] \to |\hat{5}] = |5] + z|1] \tag{2.20}$$

$$|1\rangle \to |\hat{1}\rangle = |1\rangle - z|5\rangle \tag{2.21}$$

will shift the amplitude by

$$A_5(1^+, 2^-, 3^+, 4^-, 5^-) = \frac{[13]}{[12][23][34][45][51]} \rightarrow \frac{[13]^4}{[12][23][34]([45] + z[41])([51] \underbrace{+z[11]}_{0})} \sim \frac{1}{z}$$

Now since we want $A \to 0$ for $z \to \infty$ the *good shift* is the second one, meaning $[5]\,|1\rangle$ which corresponds to a $[-, +\rangle$ shift in Elvangs notation. We could have seen the good shifts by little group scaling of the amplitude since leg one has little group weight 1 and so will the amplitude under a shift will scale like z if we shift the square brackets The corresponding diagrams are
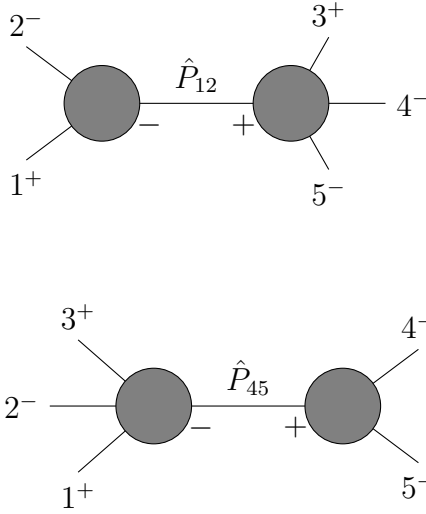
Looking at the first diagram we see that it contains a 3-point MHV amplitude

$$A_3(1^+, 2^-, -\hat{P}_{12}^-) = \frac{\left\langle 2\hat{P}_{12} \right\rangle^3}{\left\langle \hat{1}2 \right\rangle \left\langle \hat{P}_{12}\hat{1} \right\rangle} \tag{2.22}$$

Since we impose that the propagating momentum is on shell we see that

$$0 = \hat{P}_{12} = \left\langle \hat{1}2 \right\rangle [\hat{1}2] = \left\langle \hat{1}2 \right\rangle [12]$$

So the only way to impose on shell conditions is by setting $\left\langle \hat{1}2 \right\rangle = 0$ similarly one can show that the numerator vanishes and we must have

$$A_3(1^+, 2^-, -\hat{P}_{12}^-) = 0$$

which means the first diagram doesn't contribute. For the second diagram we also have a 3-point MHV amplitude, but in this case the shift is in $|5]$ so the sub-diagram isn't zero.

We can then proceed to calculate the second diagram explicitly

$$A_5(1^+, 2^-, 3^+, 4^-, 5^-) = A_3(\hat{P}_{45}^+, 4^-, \hat{5}^-) \frac{1}{P_{45}^2} A_4(\hat{1}^{,+}, 2^-, 3^+, -\hat{P}_{45}^-)$$

$$= \frac{\langle 4\hat{5}\rangle^3}{\langle \hat{P}_{45}4\rangle \langle \hat{5}\hat{P}_{45}\rangle} \frac{1}{\langle 45\rangle [45]} \frac{[\hat{1}3]^4}{[\hat{1}2][23][3\hat{P}_{45}][\hat{P}_{45}\hat{1}]}$$

Since the shift is in $[5, 1\rangle$ we can remove the hat on all but the P's:

$$A_5(1^+, 2^-, 3^+, 4^-, 5^-) = \frac{\langle 45\rangle^3}{\langle \hat{P}_{45}4\rangle \langle 5\hat{P}_{45}\rangle} \frac{1}{\langle 45\rangle [45]} \frac{[13]^4}{[12][23][3\hat{P}_{45}][\hat{P}_{45}1]}$$

$$= \frac{\langle 45\rangle^3}{\langle \hat{P}_{45}4\rangle \langle 5\hat{P}_{45}\rangle} \frac{1}{\langle 45\rangle [45]} \frac{[13]^4}{[12][23][3\hat{P}_{45}][\hat{P}_{45}1]}$$

We can the rewrite the $\hat{P}$ terms in the following way:

$$\langle \hat{P}_{45}4\rangle [\hat{P}_{45}1] = -\langle 4\hat{P}_{45}\rangle [\hat{P}_{45}1] = \langle 4|\hat{P}_{45}|1] = \langle 4|4 + \hat{5}|1] = \langle 4|\hat{5}|1] = -\langle 4\hat{5}\rangle [\hat{5}1] = -\langle 45\rangle [51]$$

$$\langle 5\hat{P}_{45}\rangle [3\hat{P}_{45}] = -\langle 5\hat{P}_{45}\rangle [\hat{P}_{45}3] = \langle 5|\hat{P}_{45}|3] = \langle 5|4 + \hat{5}|4] = \langle 5|4|3] + \langle 5|\hat{5}|3]$$

$$= -\langle 54\rangle [43] - \langle 5\hat{5}\rangle [\hat{5}3] = -\langle 54\rangle [43] = -\langle 45\rangle [34]$$

where we in the first terms have used the fact that $|\hat{5}\rangle = |5\rangle$ and $[\hat{5}1] = [51] + z[11] = [51]$, while in the second term using $\langle 5\hat{5}\rangle = \langle 55\rangle = 0$. Inserting this into the amplitude we get

$$A_5(1^+, 2^-, 3^+, 4^-, 5^-) = \frac{[13]^4 \langle 45\rangle^3}{[12][23][45] \langle 45\rangle^3 [51][34]}$$

$$= \frac{[13]^4}{[12][23][34][45][51]}$$

which is the expected result.

2.3 Soft limit factorization

The soft-limit factorization for tree amplitudes is that for $k_s \to 0$ we can write an n-point amplitude as

$$A_n^{\text{tree}}(1, 2, \ldots, a, s^{\pm}, b, \ldots, n) = \mathcal{S}(a, s^{\pm}, b) \times A_{n-1}^{\text{tree}}(1, 2, \ldots, a, b, \ldots, n) \tag{2.23}$$

where

$$\mathcal{S}(a, s^+, b) = \frac{\langle ab\rangle}{\langle as\rangle \langle sb\rangle}, \qquad \mathcal{S}(a, s^-, b) = -\frac{[ab]}{[as][sb]} \tag{2.24}$$

Here this gets us

$$A_5(1^+, 2^-, 3^+, 4^-, 5^-) = -\frac{[41]}{[45][51]} \times \frac{[13]^4}{[12][23][34][41]}$$

which is a valid factorization of the full result.

2.4 Co-linear limit

In the co-linear limit for leg 1 and 2 we have the two momenta k_1 and k_2 that become parallel with intermediate momentum k_P. The spinors also have the following relations

$$\lambda_a \simeq \sqrt{z}\lambda_P, \qquad \lambda_b \simeq \sqrt{1-z}\lambda_P$$
$$\tilde{\lambda}_{\dot{a}} \simeq \sqrt{z}\tilde{\lambda}_P, \qquad \tilde{\lambda}_{\dot{b}} \simeq \sqrt{1-z}\tilde{\lambda}_P$$

taking the amplitude we calculated in part a and shifting it in this limit gives

$$A_5(1^+, 2^-, 3^+, 4^-, 5^-) \to \frac{z^2}{\sqrt{z(1-z)}[12]} \frac{[P3]^4}{[P3][34][45][5P]}$$

which is the result we expected from Dixon:

$$A_n^{\text{tree}}(\ldots, a^{\lambda_a}, b^{\lambda_b}, \ldots) \to \sum_{\lambda_p = \pm} \text{Split}_{-\lambda_P}(a^{\lambda_a}, b^{\lambda_b}; z) A_{n-1}^{\text{tree}}(\ldots, P^{\lambda_P}, \ldots) \qquad (2.25)$$

where

$$\text{Split}_-(a^+, b^-) = \frac{z^2}{\sqrt{z(1-z)}[ab]} \qquad (2.26)$$

3 Unitarity

3.1 Loops in general

Feynman rules require momentum conservation at each vertex of a Feynman diagram. At tree-level, this fixes all momenta of the internal lines in terms of the external momenta. At loop-level, momentum conservation leaves one momentum undetermined per loop and one must integrate over all such unfixed momenta. Thus in D-dimensions, one has a D-dimensional loop-integral for each loop.

4 Unitarity

Take a general analytic function of some variable x

$$f(x) = \beta(x) + i\alpha(x) \qquad (4.1)$$

Defining the discontinuity of this function as $\text{Disc}[f(x)] = if(x + i\epsilon) - if(x - i\epsilon)$ we find as we let $\epsilon \to 0$

$$\begin{aligned}
if(x + i\epsilon) - if(x - i\epsilon) &= i\beta(x + i\epsilon) - \alpha(x + i\epsilon) - i\beta(x - i\epsilon) - \alpha(x - i\epsilon) \\
&= -2\left(\alpha(x) + i\beta(i\epsilon)\right) + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon^2) \\
&= -2\alpha(x) + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon) \\
&= -2\,\text{Im}[f(x)]
\end{aligned} \qquad (4.2)$$

The scattering matrix is unitary

$$S = \mathbb{1} + iT \tag{4.3}$$

Taking

$$
\begin{aligned}
S^\dagger S &= (\mathbb{1} - iT^\dagger)(\mathbb{1} - iT) = 1 \\
&= \mathbb{1} - i(T - T^\dagger) - T^\dagger T = 1 \\
\Rightarrow T^\dagger T &= i(T^\dagger - T) = i\left[(\mathrm{Re}[T] - i\,\mathrm{Im}[T]) - (\mathrm{Re}[T] + i\,\mathrm{Im}[T])\right] \\
&= 2\,\mathrm{Im}[T] = -\mathrm{Disc}[iT]
\end{aligned}
\tag{4.4}
$$

Expanding this order by order in perturbation theory we have for instance at four and five point

$$
\begin{aligned}
T_4 &= g^2 T_4^{(0)} + g^4 T_4^{(1)} + g^6 T_4^{(2)} \\
T_5 &= g^3 T_5^{(0)} + g^5 T_5^{(1)} + g^7 T_5^{(2)}
\end{aligned}
\tag{4.5}
$$

with $T_n^{(L)}$ being the n-point gluon amplitude at L-loop. By inserting these into the equation for the discontinuity we find first to order g^2

$$\mathrm{Disc}[T_4^{(0)}] = 0 \tag{4.6}$$

Since we cant construct the amplitude from the product of two other amplitudes. This simply states that tree level amplitudes have no branch cuts. At order g^4 we have

$$\mathrm{Disc}[T_4^{(1)}] = T_4^{(0)\,\dagger} T_4^{(0)} \tag{4.7}$$

This is equivalent to cutting to lines in the one loop diagram and obtaining two four point tree-level diagrams with an on-shell propagator in between, which momentum obviously must depend on the loop momentum ℓ.

Using the optical theorem the Discontinuity of a function is related directly to the scattering cross-section.

5   Generalized unitarity

When we take the momenta in the scattering amplitudes to be complex and use the unitarity method, we get *generalized unitarity*. The inclusion of complex momenta opens up the possibility of cutting more than two lines. e.g. the three-point amplitudes are only non-zero for complex momenta, so for the four-point one-loop amplitude we could cut four lines and end up with a product of four three-point amplitudes.

In general we will in fact only be able to cut up to four lines since we need momentum conservation at the vertices as well as having the cut momentum being on-shell. This imposes one new condition for every cut, and since ℓ^μ has four components we need 4 equations.

6 Exterior derivatives and forms

An n-form $F_{(n)}$ is a completely antisymmetric tensor

$$F_{\mu_1 \mu_2 \mu_3 \cdots \mu_n} = -F_{\mu_1 \mu_3 \mu_2 \cdots \mu_n} = F_{\mu_3 \mu_1 \mu_2 \cdots \mu_n} \tag{6.1}$$

On this n-form, we can define an exterior derivative, which is an $(n+1)$ form:

$$\mathrm{d}F_{\mu_1 \mu_2 \mu_3 \cdots \mu_n} = (n+1)\partial_{[\mu_1} F_{\mu_2 \mu_3 \cdots \mu_n]}, \tag{6.2}$$

where the square brackets just mean that we antisymmetrize in the indices, e.g.

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathrm{d}F_{\mu\nu} =& \frac{(1+1)}{2!}\left(\partial_\mu F_\nu - \partial_\nu F_\mu\right) \\
=& \partial_\mu F_\nu - \partial_\nu F_\mu, \\
\mathrm{d}F_{\mu\nu\rho} =& \frac{(2+1)}{3!}\left(\partial_\mu F_{\nu\rho} - \partial_\mu F_{\rho\nu} - \partial_\nu F_{\mu\rho} + \partial_\nu F_{\rho\mu} - \partial_\rho F_{\nu\mu} + \partial_\rho F_{\mu\nu}\right) \\
=& \partial_\mu F_{\nu\rho} + \partial_\nu F_{\rho\mu} + \partial_\rho F_{\mu\nu}
\end{aligned} \tag{6.3}$$

Furthermore we have the property

$$\mathrm{d}^2 F = 0 \tag{6.4}$$

And the following nomenclature

- *Exact form*: if we can write $\qquad F = \mathrm{d}G$

- *Closed form*: if $\qquad\qquad\quad \mathrm{d}F = 0$

- $\Rightarrow$ All exact forms are closed.

We also define the wedge product of forms. Given two forms $F_{(n)}$ and $G_{(m)}$, we can define the $n+m$ form $F \wedge G$

$$(F \wedge G)_{\mu_1 \cdots \mu_{n+m}} = \frac{(n+m)!}{n!m!} F_{[\mu_1 \cdots \mu_n} G_{\mu_{n+1} \cdots \mu_{n+m}]} \tag{6.5}$$

For instance

$$\begin{aligned}
F_\mu \wedge G_\nu =& \frac{(1+1)!}{1!1!}\left(F_\mu G_\nu - F_\nu G_\mu\right) \\
=& 2[F_\mu, G_\nu]
\end{aligned} \tag{6.6}$$

Lastly we can define the *Hodge dual*, as the $(D-n)$-form
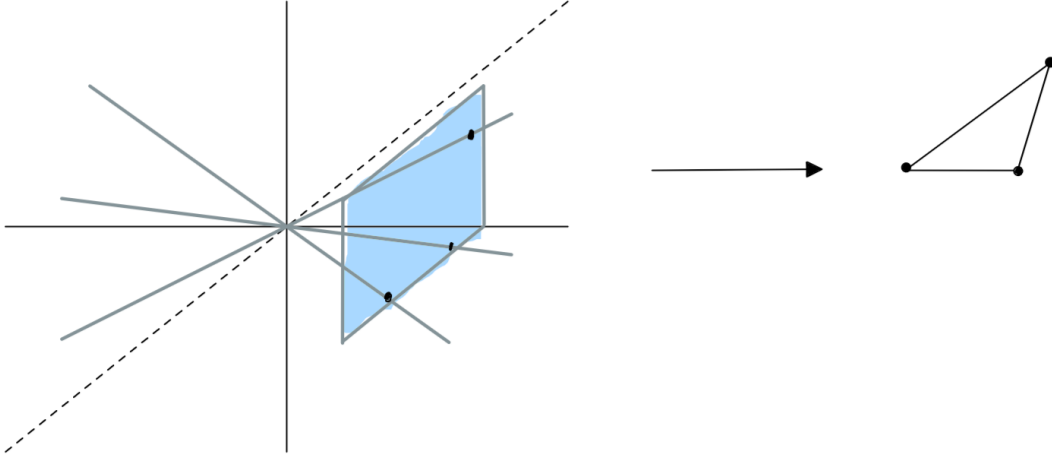
$$^*F^{\mu_{n+1} \mu_{n+2} \cdots \mu_D} = \frac{1}{n!} F_{\mu_1 \mu_2 \cdots \mu_n} \epsilon^{\mu_1 \mu_2 \cdots \mu_n \mu_{n+1} \mu_{n+2} \cdots \mu_D} \tag{6.7}$$

Using this notation we can write the source-less Maxwell equations as:

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathrm{d}F &= 0 \\
\mathrm{d}^*F &= 0
\end{aligned} \tag{6.8}$$

7 Projective spaces

We will start by considering $\mathbb{P}^2$. Any geometric questions that do not involve distance are best thought of projectively. All lines that intersect the origin in $\mathbb{R}^3$ can be though of as points crossing a plane

If we denote the points by $Z_I = \begin{pmatrix} Z_0 \\ Z_1 \\ Z_2 \end{pmatrix}$ these can always be rescaled by some factor t while still preserving the geometry of the points in the plane. This means that we really have two degrees of freedom per point (which should not surprise since we have a plane), so that $Z_I = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ x_1 \\ x_2 \end{pmatrix}$. The space has an SL(3) = Translations

+ $\underbrace{\text{Rotations}}_{\text{SL(2)}}$ symmetry, meaning all symmetries that map straight lines to straight lines.

The only invariant tensor is ϵ_{IJK}.

Example: straight line A straight line obeys the following equation

$$ax + by + c = 0 \tag{7.1}$$

This can be written using the Z_I variables

$$Z_I = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ x \\ y \end{pmatrix}, \qquad W^I = \begin{pmatrix} c \\ a \\ b \end{pmatrix}, \qquad Z_I W^I = 0 \tag{7.2}$$

where W is a line. Take e.g. $Z^1 = \{1, x^1, y^2\} = \{1, 1, 0\}$ and $Z^2 = \{1, x^2, y^2\} = \{1, 10, 10\}$. We check that this gives the expected result

```
In[403]:=  ClearAll["Global'*"]

(*Below we define two points from which we then find the line*)

In[404]:=  Z1 = {1, x1, y1};
Z2 = {1, x2, y2};
a = (y2 − y1)/(x2 − x1);
W = Z1 . LeviCivitaTensor[3] . Z2;
s = Collect[Solve[W . {1, x, y} == 0, y], x][[1]][[1]];
Equal @@ s;
y = (x (y1 − y2))/(x1 − x2) + (−x2 y1 + x1 y2)/(x1 − x2);

In[411]:=  (*Testing against the usual formula*)
x1 = 1; x2 = 10; y1 = 0; y2 = 10;
yy = a x + (y2 − a x2);
yy == y

Out[413]=  True
```

Similarly the point where two lines cross is given by

$$Z_I = \epsilon_{IJK} W_1^J W_2^K \tag{7.3}$$

8 Polytopes

Let us define the five-bracket

$$[i, j, k, l, m] \equiv \frac{\delta^4(\chi_{iA} \langle jklm \rangle + \text{ cyclic })}{\langle ijkl \rangle \langle jklm \rangle \langle klmi \rangle \langle lmij \rangle \langle mijk \rangle} \tag{8.1}$$

with $\langle ijkl \rangle \equiv \epsilon_{IJKL} Z_i^I Z_j^J Z_k^K Z_l^L$ and the Z_i^I's are the bosonic component of the momentum supertwistors $Z_i^I = (|i\rangle, [\mu_i|)$. One can write the five-bracket completely in terms of bosonic parts by introducing a five vector $\mathsf{Z}_i^{\mathcal{I}}$,

$$\mathsf{Z}_i^{\mathcal{I}} = \begin{pmatrix} Z_i^I \\ \chi_i \cdot \psi \end{pmatrix}, \qquad \mathcal{I} = 1, \dots, 5 \tag{8.2}$$

with the ψ being an auxiliary Grassmann valued field. The five-bracket can then be written only in terms of the five-vectors by integrating out the fermionic auxilary field.

$$[i, j, k, l, m] = \frac{1}{4!} \int d^4\psi \frac{\langle ijklm \rangle^4}{\langle 0ijkl \rangle \langle 0jklm \rangle \langle 0klmi \rangle \langle 0lmij \rangle \langle 0mijkl \rangle} \tag{8.3}$$

where we have introduced the auxiliary reference spinor

$$
\mathsf{Z}_0^{\mathcal{I}} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}
\tag{8.4}
$$

Focusing on the integrand, it is invariant under $\mathsf{Z}_i^{\mathcal{I}} \to t_i \mathsf{Z}_i^{\mathcal{I}}$ and hence appear projectively which means they can be thought of as points in $\mathbb{CP}^4$ with the reference vector introduced being the only thing that breaks projective invariance. This is similar to the map between the dual momentum coordinates and the momentum twistors

$$
y_{ij}^2 = \frac{\langle i-1, i, j-1, j \rangle}{\langle I_0, i-1, i \rangle \langle I_0, j-1, j \rangle}, \qquad I_0^{IJ} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \epsilon_{\dot{a}\dot{b}} \end{pmatrix}
\tag{8.5}
$$

where the I_0 is known as infinity twistor that is inserted to break SL(4) conformal invariance and gives a definition of distance. The fact that the reference spinor appears five times in equation (8.1) is analogous to how I_0 appears twice to give the distance between i and j, and can be regarded as giving the volume of a simplices.

8.1 Definitions and examples

Simplex: Generalization of the notion of a triangle or tetrahedron to arbitrary dimensions

n-simplex: Convex hull of a set of $n+1$ points. E.g. 2-simplex is a triangle.

Polygon: Triangle, quadrilateral, pentagon etc.

Tetrahedron: Solids with polygons on each face, e.g. cubes, pyramids etc.

Convex set C: Has property that any line between two points lies inside the set (a star would not be convex).

Convex hull: Given a set of points S, the convex hull of S is the intersection of all convex sets containing S. The convex hull of three points is a triangle. One could add one more point. If the added point is inside the triangle the convex hull is the same triangle, while it is a convex quadrilateral if the point is outside the triangle.

The area of a triangle in a 2 dimensional plane can be computes through the determinant

$$A_{\text{triangle}} = \frac{1}{2} \begin{vmatrix} x_1 & x_2 & x_3 \\ y_1 & y_2 & y_3 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \end{vmatrix}$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \left[-x_2 y_1 + x_3 y_1 + x_1 y_2 - x_3 y_2 - x_1 y_3 + x_2 y_3 \right] \tag{8.6}$$

using $y_1 = y_3$

$$A_{\text{triangle}} = \frac{1}{2} \left[(x_3 - x_1)(y_2 - y_1) \right]$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \left[\text{base} \times \text{height} \right] \tag{8.7}$$

The redundancy created by the ones in the determinant can be used as a feature by defining vectors

$$\mathsf{Z}_0^I = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}, \qquad \mathsf{W}_{iI} = \begin{pmatrix} x_i \\ y_i \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} \tag{8.8}$$

The triangles area is then computed by
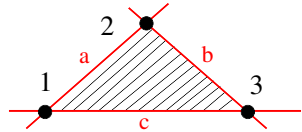
$$\begin{aligned} A_{\text{triangle}} &= \frac{1}{2} \frac{\langle 1\,2\,3 \rangle}{(\mathsf{Z}_0 \cdot \mathsf{W}_1)(\mathsf{Z}_0 \cdot \mathsf{W}_2)(\mathsf{Z}_0 \cdot \mathsf{W}_3)} \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \frac{\epsilon^{IJK} \mathsf{W}_{1I} \mathsf{W}_{2J} \mathsf{W}_{3K}}{(\mathsf{Z}_0 \cdot \mathsf{W}_1)(\mathsf{Z}_0 \cdot \mathsf{W}_2)(\mathsf{Z}_0 \cdot \mathsf{W}_3)} \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \left[-x_2 y_1 + x_3 y_1 + x_1 y_2 - x_3 y_2 - x_1 y_3 + x_2 y_3 \right] \end{aligned} \tag{8.9}$$

This version is projectively invariant. To rewrite everything in terms of angle brackets we define coordinates, W, and lines, Z, that satisfy

$$Z^I W_I = 0 \tag{8.10}$$

with two lines crossing at a point defined by

$$\mathsf{W}_{1,I} = \epsilon_{IJK} \mathsf{Z}_c^J \mathsf{Z}_a^K \tag{8.11}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathsf{W}_1 &= \langle *, \mathsf{Z}_c, \mathsf{Z}_a \rangle \\ \rightarrow \quad \mathsf{W}_2 &= \langle *, \mathsf{Z}_a, \mathsf{Z}_b \rangle \\ \mathsf{W}_3 &= \langle *, \mathsf{Z}_b, \mathsf{Z}_c \rangle, \end{aligned} \tag{8.12}$$

9 Grassmanian

The Grassmanian $G(k,n)$ is the space of k-planes going through the origin in n dimensions. It can be though of as a generalization of P^{n-1} which is the space of
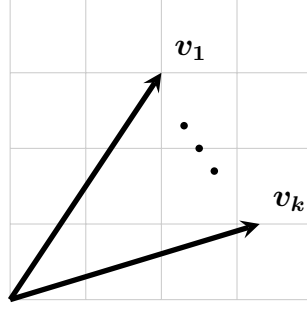
lines going through the origin in n-dimensions since $G(1, n) = P^{n-1}$. One can e.g. take k vectors in n dimensions The span of these vectors give me the k- plane. If we stack them we get

$$k \left[\begin{array}{c} \overbrace{}^{n} \\ V_1 \\ \vdots \\ V_k \end{array} \right] \equiv C_{\alpha a}, \qquad \alpha = 1, \ldots, k \quad a = 1, \ldots, n \tag{9.1}$$

These are in general not unique since there is a $\mathrm{GL}(k)$ redundant.

$$C_{\alpha a} \sim L_\alpha^\beta C_{\beta a} \tag{9.2}$$

The dimensionality of the Grassmanian is

$$\dim G(k, n) = \overbrace{k \times n}^{k \times n \ \mathrm{matrix}} \underbrace{-k^2}_{GL(k) \ \mathrm{red}} \tag{9.3}$$

The redudancy means that we can gaugefix the matrix using a linear transformation by setting any $k \times k$ blok to the identity. This is equivalent to the rescaling of vectors in projective space to $\begin{pmatrix} 1 & v_2 & v_3 & v_4 \cdots \end{pmatrix}$. Taking e.g. $G(3, 5)$, we have six degrees of freedom:

$$G(3, 5) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & x_4 & x_5 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & y_4 & y_5 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & z_4 & z_5 \end{bmatrix} \tag{9.4}$$

The dimensionality of the Grassmanian are symmetric under $n \leftrightarrow k$. This is because there is a bijection between the Grassmania: k and $n - k$ planes in n dimensions, since these planes are orthogonal. In the case above $C^\perp$ is a 2-plane in 5 dimensions, so

$$\left[\begin{array}{ccc|cc} 1 & 0 & 0 & x_4 & x_5 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & y_4 & y_5 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & z_4 & z_5 \\ \hline -x_4 & -y_4 & -z_4 & 1 & 0 \\ -x_5 & -y_5 & -z_5 & 0 & 1 \end{array} \right] \tag{9.5}$$
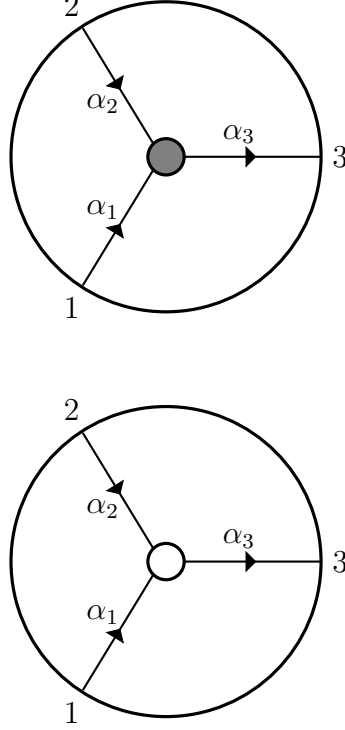
With the bottom part just being the negative transpose of the x, y and z coordinates in the upper right corner.

$\mathrm{SL}(k)$ invariant are determinants of any k coloumns of the matrix (the minors), labeling these by their indices:

$$\begin{pmatrix} a_1 & a_2 & \cdots & a_k \end{pmatrix} \tag{9.6}$$

10 On-shell diagrams

10.1 Using three point on shell functions

These produce the two following C matrices respectively

$$C = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & \alpha_1\alpha_2 \\ 0 & 1 & \alpha_2\alpha_3 \end{pmatrix}$$
$$C = \begin{pmatrix} \alpha_1\alpha_3\alpha_2\alpha_3 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

(10.1)

Note that as opposed to what we will see in the four-point case, here we have no choice in what starting points we take, since e.g. in the MHV (k=2) case, we have to pick 1 and 2. Because of momentum conservation and little group invariance, the solution of the delta functions in this case leads to

$$A_3^{\text{MHV}}(1,2,3) = \frac{\delta^8\left(\sum_{i=1}^3 \lambda_i\tilde{\eta}_i\right)\delta^4\left(\sum_{i=1}^3 \lambda_i\tilde{\lambda}_i\right)}{\langle 12\rangle\langle 23\rangle\langle 31\rangle}$$

$$A_3^{\overline{\text{MHV}}}(1,2,3) = \frac{\delta^8\left([12]\tilde{\eta}_3 + [23]\tilde{\eta}_1 + [31]\tilde{\eta}_2\right)\delta^4\left(\sum_{i=1}^3 \lambda_i\tilde{\lambda}_i\right)}{[12][23][31]}$$

(10.2)

To construct the four-point diagram we then glue four three-point amplitudes together by integrating over the internal degrees of freedom through

$$\prod_I \int \mathrm{d}^4\eta_I \int \frac{d^2\lambda_I d^2\tilde{\lambda}_I}{GL(1)}$$

(10.3)

We take
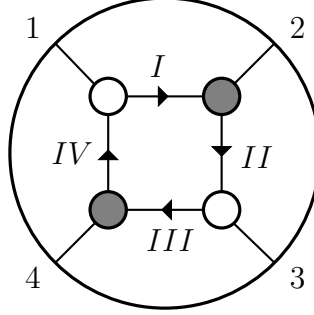
We have the following integral

$$\int \prod_{i=I}^{IV} \mathrm{d}\eta_i \int \frac{d^2\lambda_i d^2\tilde{\lambda}_i}{GL(4)} \frac{\delta^8\left(\lambda_1\tilde{\eta}_1 + \lambda_I\tilde{\eta}_I + \lambda_{IV}\tilde{\eta}_{IV}\right)\delta^4\left(\lambda_1\tilde{\lambda}_1 + \lambda_I\tilde{\lambda}_I - \lambda_{IV}\tilde{\lambda}_{IV}\right)}{\langle 1I\rangle\langle I(IV)\rangle\langle(IV)1\rangle}$$

$$\times \frac{\delta^8\left(\lambda_3\tilde{\eta}_3 + \lambda_{II}\tilde{\eta}_{II} + \lambda_{III}\tilde{\eta}_{III}\right)\delta^4\left(\lambda_3\tilde{\lambda}_3 - \lambda_{II}\tilde{\lambda}_{II} + \lambda_{III}\tilde{\lambda}_{III}\right)}{\langle(II)3\rangle\langle3(III)\rangle\langle(III)(II)\rangle}$$

$$\times \frac{\delta^8\left([2I]\tilde{\eta}_{II} + [I(II)]\tilde{\eta}_2 + [(II)2]\tilde{\eta}_I\right)\delta^4\left(\lambda_2\tilde{\lambda}_2 - \lambda_I\tilde{\lambda}_I + \lambda_{II}\tilde{\lambda}_{II}\right)}{[(II)2][2I][I(II)]}$$

$$\times \frac{\delta^8\left([4(III)]\tilde{\eta}_{IV} + [(III)(IV)]\tilde{\eta}_4 + [(IV)4]\tilde{\eta}_{III}\right)\delta^4\left(\lambda_4\tilde{\lambda}_4 - \lambda_{III}\tilde{\lambda}_{III} + \lambda_{IV}\tilde{\lambda}_{IV}\right)}{[(II)2][2I][I(II)]}$$

(10.4)

The grassmann integral is easily seen to just produce $\delta^8(\sum_i \lambda_i\tilde{\eta}_i)$ while the bosonic delta functions collapse the spinor products into a single delta-function $\delta^4(\sum_i \lambda_i\tilde{\lambda}_i)$. Finally

10.2 Four-point directly from C(2,4) matrix

The calculation this C-matrix can be performed either using face or edge variables. We are going to do both for good measure. The four-point diagram with face-variables looks like this
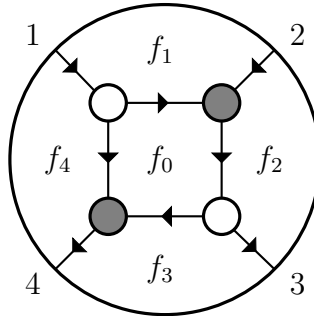
While the

$$C_{ab} = -\sum_{\Gamma(a \to b)} \prod_j (-f_j), \qquad \text{on the right} \tag{10.5}$$

with the constraint

$$\prod_j f_j = -1 \tag{10.6}$$

$$C = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & f_0 f_3 f_4 & f_4(1-f_0) \\ 0 & 1 & -f_0 f_1 f_3 f_4 & f_0 f_1 f_4 \end{pmatrix} \tag{10.7}$$

Note that f_2 doesn't show up, which means that according to (10.6) we can take the remaining f's as independent.

Positivity (all minors are positive) then demands that

$$f_0 < 0, \quad f_1 > 0, \quad f_2 < 0, \quad f_3 < 0, \tag{10.8}$$

While the perpendicular C-matrix satisfying $C \cdot C^\perp = 0$ is easily obtained

$$C^\perp = \begin{pmatrix} -f_0 f_3 f_4 & f_0 f_1 f_3 f_4 & 1 & 0 \\ -f_4(1-f_0) & -f_0 f_1 f_4 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \tag{10.9}$$

we can then find the form through

$$d\Omega = \frac{df_0}{f_0} \frac{df_1}{f_1} \frac{df_3}{f_3} \frac{df_4}{f_4} \delta(C \cdot \tilde{\lambda}) \delta(C^\perp \cdot \lambda) \delta(C \cdot \tilde{\eta}) \tag{10.10}$$

First let us look at the delta-functions, such that we can specify the face-variables in terms of the spinor products. We start by looking at $C \cdot C^\perp = 0$, from which we can two equations

$$C^\perp \cdot \lambda = 0 \Rightarrow \begin{cases} -\lambda_1 f_0 f_3 f_4 + \lambda_2 f_0 f_1 f_3 f_4 + \lambda_3 &= 0 \\ -\lambda_1 f_4(1-f_0) - \lambda_2 f_0 f_1 f_4 + \lambda_4 &= 0 \end{cases} \tag{10.11}$$

By multiplying the first equation by $\tilde{\lambda}_2$ one obtains $f_0 f_3 f_4 = -\frac{\langle 23 \rangle}{\langle 12 \rangle}$. Similarly multiplying the second equation by $\tilde{\lambda}_1$ we get $f_0 f_1 f_4 = \frac{\langle 14 \rangle}{\langle 12 \rangle}$. Combining these two,

$$f_1 = -\frac{\langle 14 \rangle}{\langle 23 \rangle} f_3 \tag{10.12}$$

Then multiplying the first equation by $\tilde{\lambda}_1$ we have $f_0 f_1 f_3 f_4 = -\frac{\langle 13 \rangle}{\langle 12 \rangle}$ together with the previous result, this leads to

$$f_3 = -\frac{\langle 13 \rangle}{\langle 14 \rangle} \qquad \text{and} \qquad f_1 = \frac{\langle 13 \rangle}{\langle 23 \rangle} \tag{10.13}$$

The other equations are solved similarly and we obtain

$$f_0 = -\frac{\langle 14 \rangle \langle 23 \rangle}{\langle 12 \rangle \langle 34 \rangle}$$

$$f_4 = -\frac{\langle 34 \rangle}{\langle 13 \rangle}$$

(10.14)

Let us now evaluate the two remaining delta-functions. From $C \cdot \tilde{\lambda}$ we get two equations.

$$0 = \tilde{\lambda}_1 + f_0 f_3 f_4 \tilde{\lambda}_3 + f_4(1 - f_0)\tilde{\lambda}_4 = \tilde{\lambda}_1 + \frac{\langle 32 \rangle}{\langle 12 \rangle}\tilde{\lambda}_3 + \frac{\langle 42 \rangle}{\langle 12 \rangle}\tilde{\lambda}_4$$

(10.15)

and

$$0 = \tilde{\lambda}_2 + \frac{\langle 13 \rangle}{\langle 12 \rangle}\tilde{\lambda}_3 + \frac{\langle 14 \rangle}{\langle 12 \rangle}\tilde{\lambda}_4$$

(10.16)

where we have used a Schouten identity for the coefficient of $\tilde{\lambda}_4$

$$\langle 41 \rangle \langle 23 \rangle + \langle 12 \rangle \langle 34 \rangle = \langle 13 \rangle \langle 24 \rangle$$

(10.17)

We see that these equations can all be obtained from a momentum conservation delta-function by contracting it with λ_1 and λ_2

$$\delta^4(\lambda_1\tilde{\lambda}_1 + \lambda_2\tilde{\lambda}_2 + \lambda_3\tilde{\lambda}_3 + \lambda_4\tilde{\lambda}_4) \equiv \delta^4(P)$$

(10.18)

For the last delta-function we get the exact same thing except for replacing $\tilde{\lambda}_i \to \tilde{\eta}_i$

$$\delta^8(\lambda_1\tilde{\eta}_1 + \lambda_2\tilde{\eta}_2 + \lambda_3\tilde{\eta}_3 + \lambda_4\tilde{\eta}_4) \equiv \delta^8(\mathcal{Q})$$

(10.19)

Note that we get an extra factor of $\frac{1}{\langle 12 \rangle^4}$ from re-writing the delta-functions by projecting along λ_1 and λ_2. Finally we get a Jacobian.

$$J = |J_{ij}| = f_0^2 f_1 f_3 f_4^3 = \frac{\langle 23 \rangle \langle 34 \rangle \langle 41 \rangle}{\langle 12 \rangle^2 \langle 13 \rangle}$$

(10.20)

where

$$J_{ij} = \frac{\partial E_i}{\partial f_j} = \begin{pmatrix} f_3 f_3 & 0 & f_0 f_3 & f_0 f_4 \\ f_1 f_3 f_4 & f_0 f_3 f_4 & f_0 f_1 f_4 & f_0 f_1 f_3 \\ f_4 & 0 & 0 & 1 - f_0 \\ f_1 f_4 & f_0 f_4 & 0 & f_0 f_1 \end{pmatrix}$$

(10.21)

and

$$E_1 = f_0 f_3 f_4, \quad E_2 = f_0 f_1 f_3 f_4, \quad E_3 = f_4(1 - f_0), \quad E_4 = f_0 f_1 f_3$$

(10.22)
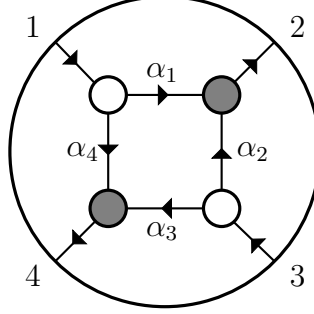
Now using

$$f_0 f_1 f_3 f_4 = \frac{\langle 13 \rangle}{\langle 12 \rangle}$$

(10.23)

We can put it all together to obtain the form

$$d\Omega = \frac{\langle 12 \rangle}{\langle 13 \rangle} \times \frac{\langle 12 \rangle^2 \langle 13 \rangle}{\langle 23 \rangle \langle 34 \rangle \langle 41 \rangle} \times \frac{1}{\langle 12 \rangle^4} \times \delta^4(P)\delta^8(\mathcal{Q}) = \frac{\delta^8(\mathcal{Q})\,\delta^4(P)}{\langle 12 \rangle \langle 23 \rangle \langle 34 \rangle \langle 41 \rangle} \quad (10.24)$$

For the edge-variable case let us try a different orientation

Here the C-matrix is now giving by

$$C_{ab} = \sum_{\Gamma(a \to b)} \prod_j \alpha_j \quad (10.25)$$

SO we get the following

$$C = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \alpha_1 & 0 & \alpha_4 \\ 0 & \alpha_2 & 1 & \alpha_3 \end{pmatrix} \quad (10.26)$$

With the inverse

$$C^\perp = \begin{pmatrix} -\alpha_1 & 1 & -\alpha_2 & 0 \\ -\alpha_4 & 0 & -\alpha_3 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad (10.27)$$

$$C^\perp \cdot \lambda = 0 \Rightarrow \begin{cases} -\alpha_1 \lambda_1 + \lambda_2 - \alpha_3 \lambda_3 & = 0 \\ -\alpha_4 \lambda_1 - \alpha_2 \lambda_3 + \lambda_4 & = 0 \end{cases} \quad (10.28)$$

turns into

$$\langle 21 \rangle - \alpha_2 \langle 31 \rangle = 0 \Rightarrow \alpha_2 = \frac{\langle 12 \rangle}{\langle 13 \rangle}$$

$$\alpha_1 \langle 12 \rangle - \alpha_3 \langle 23 \rangle = 0 \Rightarrow \alpha_1 = \alpha_2 \frac{\langle 23 \rangle}{\langle 12 \rangle} = \frac{\langle 23 \rangle}{\langle 13 \rangle} \quad (10.29)$$

Similarly we find

$$\alpha_3 = \frac{\langle 14 \rangle}{\langle 13 \rangle}, \qquad \alpha_4 = \frac{\langle 43 \rangle}{\langle 13 \rangle} \quad (10.30)$$

For the other delta functions $C \cdot \tilde{\lambda}$ gives us two equations. The first one is

$$0 = \tilde{\lambda}_1 + \alpha_2 \tilde{\lambda}_2 + \alpha_4 \tilde{\lambda}_4 = \tilde{\lambda}_1 + \frac{\langle 23 \rangle}{\langle 13 \rangle} \tilde{\lambda}_2 + \frac{\langle 43 \rangle}{\langle 13 \rangle} \tilde{\lambda}_4$$

$$\Rightarrow 0 = \langle 13 \rangle \tilde{\lambda}_1 + \langle 23 \rangle \tilde{\lambda}_2 + \langle 43 \rangle \tilde{\lambda}_4 \quad (10.31)$$

While the second one is found similarly

$$0 = \langle 21 \rangle \tilde{\lambda}_2 + \langle 31 \rangle \tilde{\lambda}_2 + \langle 41 \rangle \tilde{\lambda}_4 \tag{10.32}$$

We see that the two equations can be obtained from a single momentum conservation equation by contracting with λ_3 and λ_1 respectively. I.e. we have

$$\delta^4(\lambda_1\tilde{\lambda}_1 + \lambda_2\tilde{\lambda}_2 + \lambda_3\tilde{\lambda}_3 + \lambda_4\tilde{\lambda}_4) \equiv \delta^4\left(P\right) \tag{10.33}$$

For the last delta-function we get the exact same thing except for replacing $\tilde{\lambda}_i \to \tilde{\eta}_i$

$$\delta^8(\lambda_1\tilde{\eta}_1 + \lambda_2\tilde{\eta}_2 + \lambda_3\tilde{\eta}_3 + \lambda_4\tilde{\eta}_4) \equiv \delta^8\left(\mathcal{Q}\right) \tag{10.34}$$

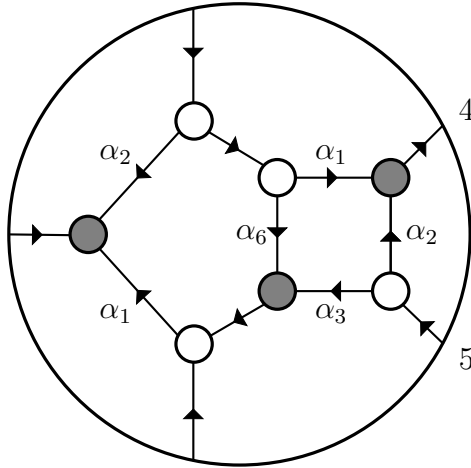Note that we get an extra factor of $\frac{1}{\langle 13 \rangle^4}$ from re-writing the delta-functions in by projecting along λ_1 and λ_3. Finally we have

$$\frac{1}{\alpha_1\alpha_2\alpha_3\alpha_4} = \frac{\langle 13 \rangle^4}{\langle 12 \rangle \langle 23 \rangle \langle 34 \rangle \langle 41 \rangle} \tag{10.35}$$

We can now calculate the form

$$\mathrm{d}\Omega = \frac{\delta^8\left(\mathcal{Q}\right)\delta^4\left(P\right)}{\langle 12 \rangle \langle 23 \rangle \langle 34 \rangle \langle 41 \rangle} \tag{10.36}$$

10.3 Five point

References

[1] N. E. J. Bjerrum-Bohr, J. F. Donoghue and P. Vanhove, "On-shell Techniques and Universal Results in Quantum Gravity," JHEP **02** (2014), 111 doi:10.1007/JHEP02(2014)111 [arXiv:1309.0804 [hep-th]].