

New Dualities in Three-dimensional Scattering

Tristan McLoughlin
AEI, Potsdam

Ginzburg Conference
2012

Based on work with A. Agarwal, T. Bargheer, N. Beisert, S. He, Y-t Huang, F. Loebbert.

Superconformal Chern Simons matter theories

- Such three-dimensional theories (for example $\mathcal{N} = 6$ ABJM & $\mathcal{N} = 8$ BLG) describe the low energy dynamics of multiple M2-branes.
 - $\mathcal{N} = 6$ ABJM has many properties in common with 4D $\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM. Spectrum of anomalous dimensions is integrable in the planar limit & it possesses a holographic dual string theory.
 - Scattering amplitudes also share many features with $\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM however the $\mathcal{N} = 6$ ABJM theories are less constrained by supersymmetry and provide interesting generalisations.
 - Some evidence that onshell they are related to three-dimensional supergravity in flat space e.g.

$$“\mathcal{N} = 8 \text{ BLG}”^2 \equiv \mathcal{N} = 16 E_{8(8)} \text{ sugra}$$

$\mathcal{N} = 6$ ABJM theory

Onshell field content: four complex bosons and four fermions

$$\phi^{\hat{I}}(p)^A_{\bar{A}} \quad \& \quad \psi_{\hat{I}}(p)^A_{\bar{A}} \quad \hat{I} = 1, \dots, 4$$

transforming in bifundamental rep. of $U(N_c) \times U(N_c)$ gauge group.

Useful to introduce real* spinors for onshell momenta

$$p^{\alpha\beta} = \lambda^\alpha \lambda^\beta \quad \alpha = 1, 2$$

and Grassmann variables η^I , $I = 1, 2, 3$ for onshell superfield

$$\Phi = \phi^4 + \eta^I \psi_I + \frac{1}{2} \epsilon_{IJK} \eta^I \eta^J \phi^K + \frac{1}{3!} \epsilon_{IJK} \eta^I \eta^J \eta^K \psi_4$$

& conjugate fermionic superfield

$$\bar{\Phi} = \bar{\psi}^4 + \dots$$

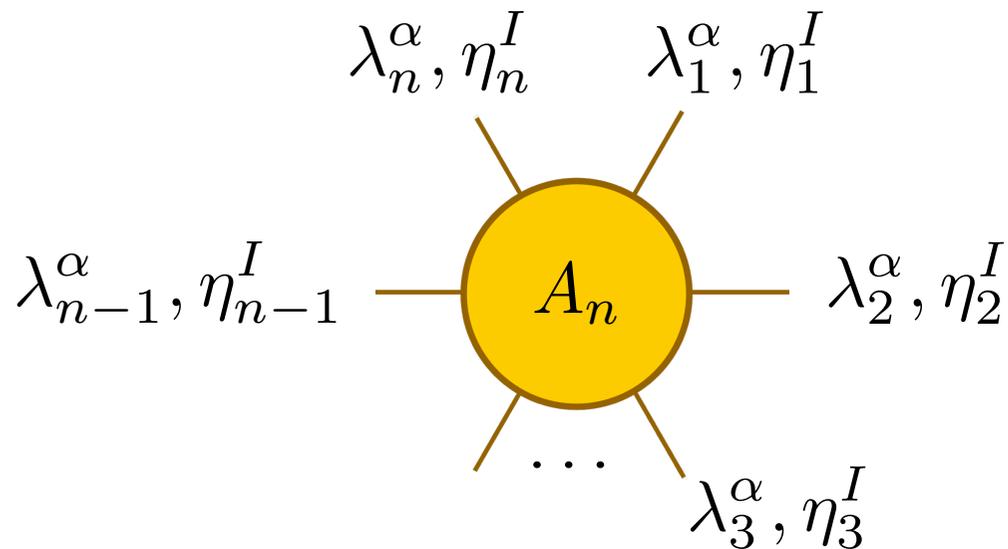
* caveat emptor



We can define colour ordered, planar amplitudes

$$\mathcal{A}(\bar{\Phi}(p_1)^{\bar{A}_1}{}_{A_1}, \Phi(p_2)^{B_2}{}_{\bar{B}_2}, \dots, \Phi(p_n)^{B_n}{}_{\bar{B}_n}) = A(\bar{1}, 2, \dots, n) \delta^{B_2}{}_{A_1} \delta^{\bar{A}_3}{}_{\bar{B}_2} \dots \delta^{\bar{A}_1}{}_{\bar{B}_n} + \dots$$

sum over all permutations of even and odd sites modulo cyclic permutations by two sites.



We can define colour ordered, planar amplitudes

$$\mathcal{A}(\bar{\Phi}(p_1)^{\bar{A}_1}{}_{A_1}, \Phi(p_2)^{B_2}{}_{\bar{B}_2}, \dots, \Phi(p_n)^{B_n}{}_{\bar{B}_n}) = A(\bar{1}, 2, \dots, n) \delta^{B_2}{}_{A_1} \delta^{\bar{A}_3}{}_{\bar{B}_2} \dots \delta^{\bar{A}_1}{}_{\bar{B}_n} + \dots$$

sum over all permutations of even and odd sites modulo cyclic permutations by two sites.

Ex. Four-points tree-level

$$A_4(\bar{\Phi}_1, \Phi_2, \bar{\Phi}_3, \bar{\Phi}_4) = \frac{\delta^{(3)}(P)\delta^{(6)}(Q)}{\langle 12 \rangle \langle 23 \rangle}$$

[Bargheer, Loebbert, Meneghelli]

Lorentz invariants: $\langle ij \rangle = \lambda_i^\alpha \epsilon_{\alpha\beta} \lambda_j^\beta$

(Super)momenta:

$$P^{\alpha\beta} = \sum_{a=1}^n \lambda_a^\alpha \lambda_a^\beta, \quad Q^{I\alpha} = \sum_{a=1}^n \eta_a^I \lambda_a^\alpha$$



Symmetries

Amplitudes have $\mathcal{N} = 6$ superconformal symmetry i.e. $\text{OSp}(6|4)$

$$J^A A_n = 0, \quad J^A = \sum_{a \in \text{legs}} J_a^A$$

e.g. $S_\alpha^I = \eta^I \partial_\alpha$. N.B. “anomalies” on multi-collinear configurations.

Yangian symmetries: $J^{(1)A} = f_{BC}^A \sum_{a < b} J_a^B J_b^C$ [Bargheer, Loebbert, Meneghelli]

Can interpret part of the Yangian as dual conformal symmetry with dual space:

[Huang & Lipstein]

$$x_{a,a+1} = x_a - x_{a+1} = \lambda_a \lambda_{a+1},$$
$$\theta_{a,a+1} = \lambda_a \eta_a, \quad y_{a,a+1}^{IJ} = \eta_a^I \eta_{a+1}^J$$

↖ dual R-sym coords

- BCFW recursion relations generates all tree-level amplitudes (in principle) and proves Yangian symmetry to all tree-level amplitudes. [Gang, Huang, Koh, Lee, & Lipstein]
- Orthogonal Grassmannian formulation. [Lee]
- Four point tree and one-loop amplitudes in the mass-deformed version which preserves all susy and the symmetry algebra have

$$SL(2, \mathbb{R}) \times PSU(2|2)^2 \times \mathbb{R}^3$$

been calculated. [Agarwal, Beisert, TMcL]

- Dual to AdS₄ x CP³ type-IIA string theory
 - ▶ evidence of classical integrability
 - ▶ integrable spectrum (ABA & TBA/Y-system) [Gromov & Vieira]
[Gromov, Kazakov, Vieira][Bombardelli, Fioravanti and Tateo]



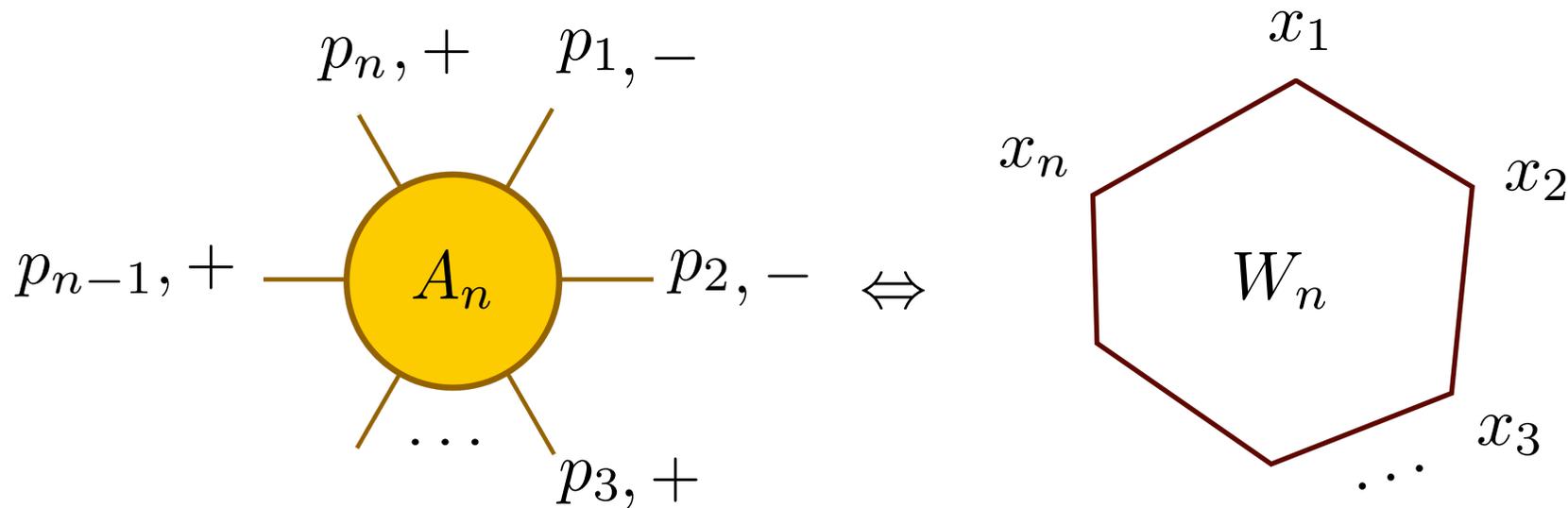
- In $\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM dual superconformal symmetry is related to the self-duality of $\text{AdS}_5 \times \text{S}^5$ under a combination of bosonic and fermionic T-dualities.

[Berkovits&Maldacena] [Beisert, Ricci, Tseytlin & Wolf]

- Maps planar amplitudes to polygonal, light-like (super)-Wilson loops.

[Alday&Maldacena]

- ▶ Simplest case: MHV amplitudes to bosonic Wilson loops.



- ▶ For N^k MHV amplitudes we need to consider super-Wilson loops. [Mason & Skinner] [Caron-Huot]

- ABJM has no notion of chirality, no MHV subsector.
 - ▶ In ABJM what is five sided Wilson loop dual to?
 - ▶ T-dualities (bosonic and fermionic) are singular in $AdS_4 \times CP^3$.
- Nonetheless \exists evidence for some form of the duality in ABJM
 - ▶ At four points: one-loop amplitude vanishes as does bosonic Wilson loop, two-loops matches.
 - ▶ n-pt bosonic Wilson loop vanishes at one-loop and matches functional form of $\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM answer at two-loops.

[Agarwal, Beisert & TMcL], [Henn, Plefka, Wiegandt], [Chen&Huang], [Bianchi et al],
[Wiegandt]



- ABJM has no notion of chirality, no MHV subsector.
 - ▶ In ABJM what is five sided Wilson loop dual to?
 - ▶ T-dualities (bosonic and fermionic) are singular in $AdS_4 \times CP^3$.
- Nonetheless \exists evidence for some form of the duality in ABJM
 - ▶ At four points: one-loop amplitude vanishes as does bosonic Wilson loop, two-loops matches.
 - ▶ n-pt bosonic Wilson loop vanishes at one-loop and matches functional form of $\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM answer at two-loops.

[Agarwal, Beisert & TMcL], [Henn, Plefka, Wiegandt], [Chen&Huang], [Bianchi et al], [Wiegandt]

Need to consider higher point amplitudes.

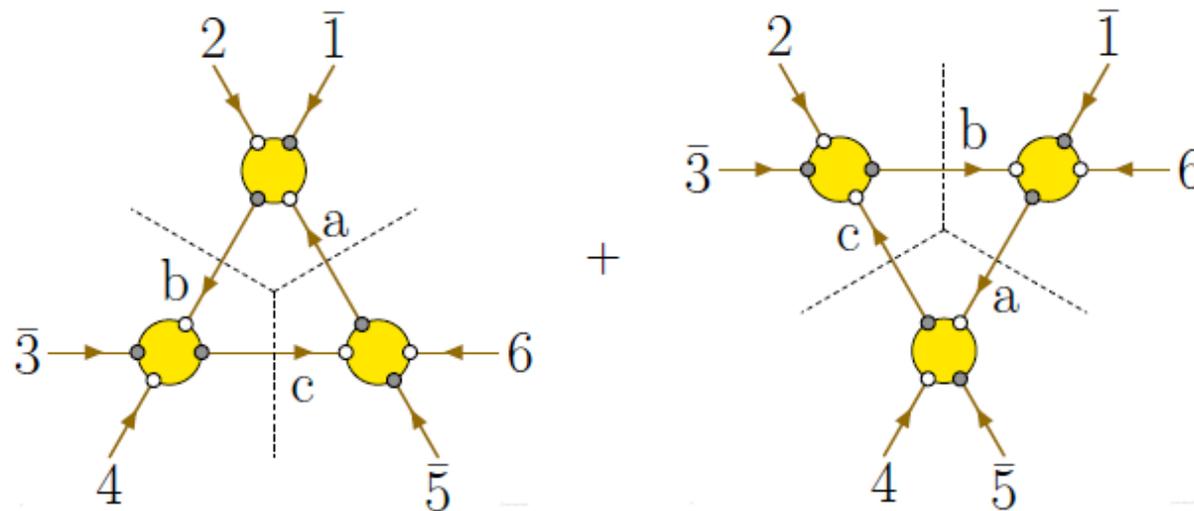


Six-point one-loop amplitude

All one-loop amplitudes can be written as linear combination of scalar triangle integrals:

$$A_n^{(1)} = \sum_i d_i \mathcal{I}_{3,i}$$

We can find coefficient by calculating maximal cuts:



e.g.

$$d_1 = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{\text{sol}} \int \prod d^3 \eta_i A_4^{(0)}(\bar{1}, 2, -\bar{b}, a) A_4^{(0)}(\bar{3}, 4, -\bar{c}, b) A_4^{(0)}(\bar{5}, 6, -\bar{a}, c).$$

Six-point one-loop amplitude

Final result [Bargheer, Beisert, Loebbert, TMcL]:

$$A_6^{(1)}(\bar{1}, 2, \bar{3}, 4, \bar{5}, 6) = \frac{\pi}{4} c_6(\bar{1}, \bar{2}, \bar{3}, \bar{4}, \bar{5}, \bar{6}) A_6^{(0)}(\bar{6}, 1, \bar{2}, 3, \bar{4}, 5)$$

where

$$c_6(\bar{1}, \bar{2}, \bar{3}, \bar{4}, \bar{5}, \bar{6}) = \text{sgn}\langle 12 \rangle \text{sgn}\langle 34 \rangle \text{sgn}\langle 56 \rangle + \text{sgn}\langle 61 \rangle \text{sgn}\langle 23 \rangle \text{sgn}\langle 45 \rangle.$$

- ▶ Answer is proportional to Yangian invariants, however there are additional discontinuities when two particles become collinear.
- ▶ Consistent with predictions of “anomalous” symmetries.
- ▶ Also found in a Feynman graph calculation. [Bianchi, Leoni, Mauri, Penati, Santambrogio]
- ▶ Doesn't match bosonic Wilson loop, more akin to N=4 SYM NMHV amplitude. Optimistic conclusion:

Need a new super-Wilson loop.

SCS as a three-algebra theory

Can express the ABJM theory by rewriting the $U(N_c) \times U(N_c)$ color structure as a three-algebra [Bagger & Lambert]:

Complex vector space with basis T^a , $a = 1, \dots, N_c^2$ and trilinear bracket

$$[T^a, T^b; \bar{T}^c] = f^{abc\bar{d}} T^d \quad \text{s.t.} \quad f^{abc\bar{d}} = -f^{ba\bar{c}d}$$

Additionally one has a trace form and a reality condition

$$h^{\bar{a}b} = \text{Tr}(\bar{T}^a, T^b) \quad \& \quad f^{abc\bar{d}} = f^{*\bar{c}dab}$$

Key property is fundamental identity (c.f. Jacobi identity)

$$f^{ef\bar{g}}_b f^{*\bar{a}d\bar{c}b} + f^{fe\bar{a}}_b f^{*\bar{g}d\bar{c}b} + f^{ecd\bar{b}} f^{*\bar{g}a\bar{f}b} + f^{cfd\bar{b}} f^{*\bar{g}a\bar{e}b} = 0$$

$$\text{Diagram 1} + \text{Diagram 2} + \text{Diagram 3} + \text{Diagram 4} = 0$$

SCS as a three-algebra theory

Can express the ABJM theory by rewriting the $U(N_c) \times U(N_c)$ color structure as a three-algebra [Bagger & Lambert]:

Enhanced $\mathcal{N} = 8$ susy (BLG-theory) when vector space is real and structure constants are totally antisymmetric

$$[T^a, T^b, T^c] = f^{abc}{}_d T^d \quad \text{s.t.} \quad f^{abcd} = f^{[abcd]}$$

Only one finite dimensional example.

SCS as a three-algebra theory

Superfields transform as fundamental representations of three-*alg*.

Four point amplitudes:

$$\mathcal{N} = 6 : \quad \mathcal{A}(\bar{1}, 2, \bar{3}, 4) = \frac{4\pi i}{k} \frac{\delta^{(3)}(P)\delta^{(6)}(Q)}{\langle 12 \rangle \langle 23 \rangle} f^{a_2 a_4 \bar{a}_1 \bar{a}_3}$$

$$\mathcal{N} = 8 : \quad \mathcal{A}(1, 2, 3, 4) = \frac{4\pi i}{k} \frac{\delta^{(3)}(P)\delta^{(8)}(Q)}{\langle 12 \rangle \langle 23 \rangle \langle 31 \rangle} f^{a_1 a_2 a_3 a_4} \quad \text{[Huang Lipstein]}$$

In general is written as a sum of quartic graphs:

$$\mathcal{A}_n \propto \sum_{i \in \text{graphs}} \frac{n_i c_i}{\prod_{\alpha_i} \ell_{\alpha_i}^2}$$

$c_i : f^{a_n a_2 \bar{a}_1} b_1 f^{* \bar{a}_3 \bar{a}_5 b_1} \bar{b}_2 \dots$
 $\ell_i^2 : \text{inverse propagators}$
 $n_i : \text{kinematic numerators}$

e.g.

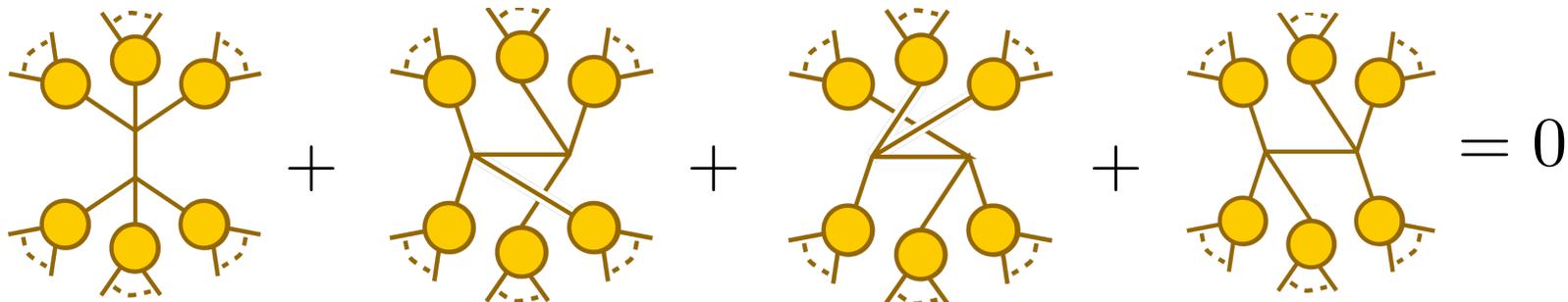
$$c_1 : f^{a_6 a_2 \bar{a}_1} b_1 f^{* \bar{a}_3 \bar{a}_5 a_4 b_1}$$

Color-kinematics duality

Claim: there exists a duality between color and kinematics analogous to that in YM [Bern, Johansson & Carrasco]:

$$A_n \propto \sum_{i \in \text{graphs}} \frac{n_i c_i}{\prod_{\alpha_i} \ell_{\alpha_i}^2}$$

Different color structures are related by Fundamental identity:



$$c_s + c_t + c_u + c_v = 0$$

There exists numerators satisfying the same relations:

$$n_s + n_t + n_u + n_v = 0$$

Evidence: four points (trivial) and six points (non-trivial)

- Implies non-trivial relations between color ordered amplitudes

[Bargheer,
He, TMcL]

Doubling to Supergravity

Given numerators satisfying the fundamental identities we can replace the color structures with another copy of the numerators:

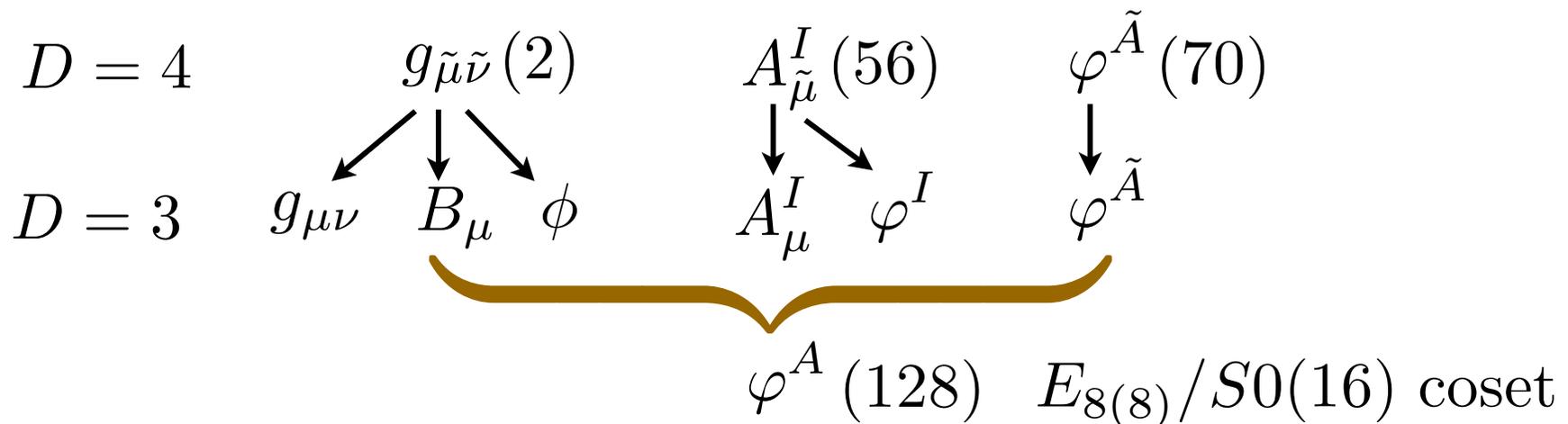
$$\mathcal{M}_n = \sum_{i \in \text{graphs}} \frac{n_i n_i}{\prod_{\alpha_i} \ell_i^2}$$

This defines the scattering amplitudes for a theory with a spectrum given by the square of gauge theory (c.f. KLT, BCJ)

- $\mathcal{N} = 8$ BLG case gives a theory with 128 bosons + 128 fermions and $\mathcal{N} = 16$ supersymmetry.
- Only has amplitudes with even numbers of external legs.
- This theory will have a hidden three-algebra structure in its kinematics!

$\mathcal{N} = 16$ Supergravity

- Maximally supersymmetric 3D supergravity constructed by Marcus and Schwarz has 128 bosons and 128 fermions transforming as $SO(16)$ spinors \Rightarrow correct spectrum and no odd-point amplitudes.
- Can be found by dimensional reduction and duality transformation of 4D $\mathcal{N} = 8$ supergravity:



using $\Delta^2 F_{\mu\nu} = \epsilon_{\mu\nu\lambda} \partial^\lambda \varphi$

$\mathcal{N} = 16$ Supergravity

- Maximally supersymmetric 3D supergravity constructed by Marcus and Schwarz has 128 bosons and 128 fermions transforming as $SO(16)$ spinors \Rightarrow correct spectrum and no odd-point amplitudes.
- Can be found by dimensional reduction and duality transformation of 4D $\mathcal{N} = 8$ supergravity.
- Four-point amplitude is the square of BLG four-point:

$$\mathcal{M}_4 = \frac{i\kappa^2 \delta^{(3)}(P)\delta^{(16)}(Q)}{4 (\langle 12 \rangle \langle 23 \rangle \langle 31 \rangle)^2}$$

- Six-point is:

$$\mathcal{M}_6 = \sum_{i \in \text{graphs}} \frac{n_i n_i}{\prod_{\alpha_i} \ell_i^2}$$

where the numerators are those of the SCS theory and the sum is over the same quartic graphs.

Conclusions & Outlook

- ✂ Provided evidence for tree-level color-kinematics in ABJM (and BLG) theories when written as three-algebra theories.
- ✂ Provided evidence that one can, á la BCJ, “double” BLG theory into $\mathcal{N} = 16$ E_8 supergravity and hence for a hidden three-algebra structure in 3D supergravity.
- * Does this color-kinematics duality persist to higher points? Loop integrands?
- * Is $\mathcal{N} = 16$ 3D supergravity finite?