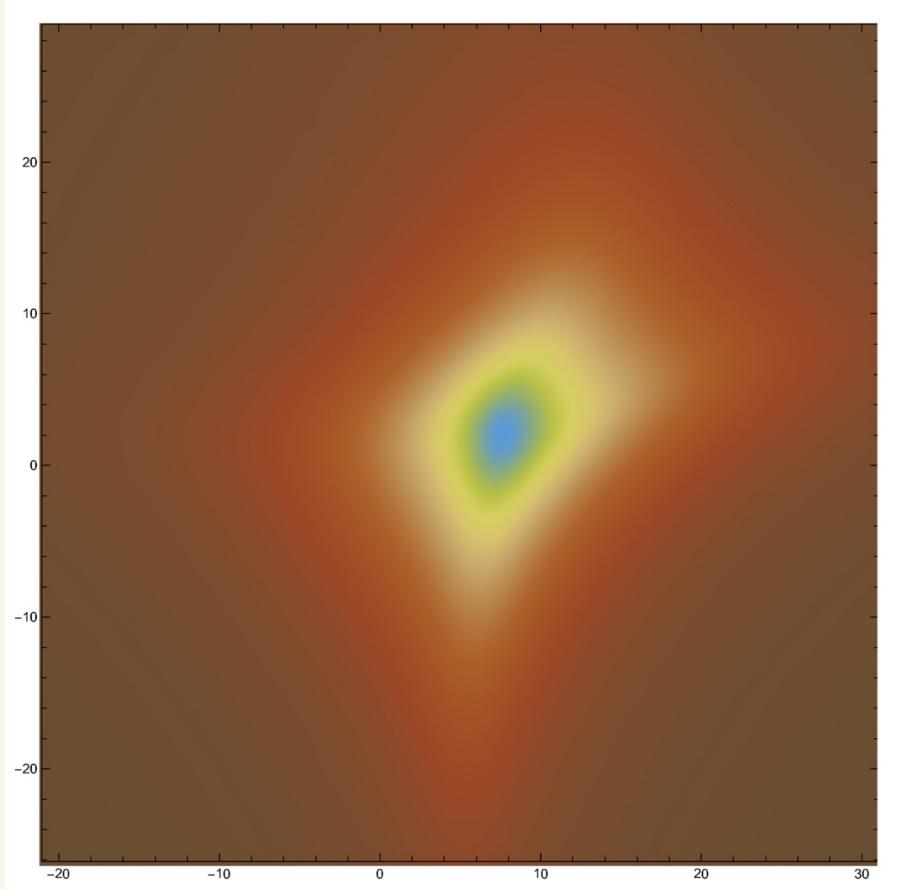
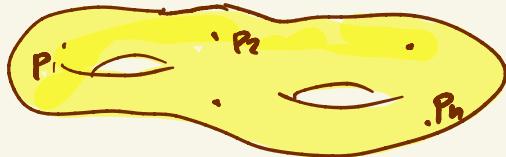


Scattering Amplitudes of Stable Curves



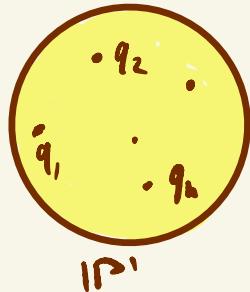
Jenia Tevelov (Umass Amherst)

Probabilistic Drill-Neftler theory



$$C \in \text{M}_{g,n}$$

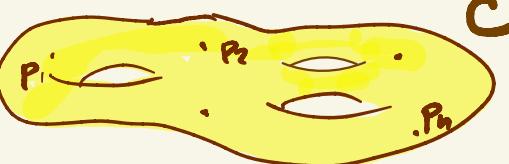
random
meromorphic
function φ



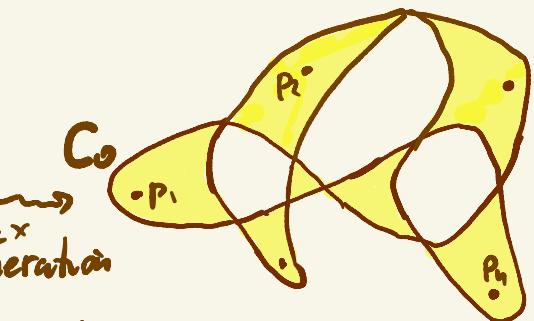
What can we say about the distribution of (q_1, \dots, q_n) ?

Def MHV case: $d = g+1, n = g+3$. $\varphi = \varphi_L$, where $L \in \text{Pic}^d C = \mathbb{C}^3 / \wedge$ uniformly distributed w.r.t. dz_1, \dots, dz_g . Scattering amplitude is the probability distribution of $(q_1, \dots, q_n) \in M_{0,n}$

Degenerations



$C \rightsquigarrow$
max
degeneration



scattering amplitude
of a smooth curve

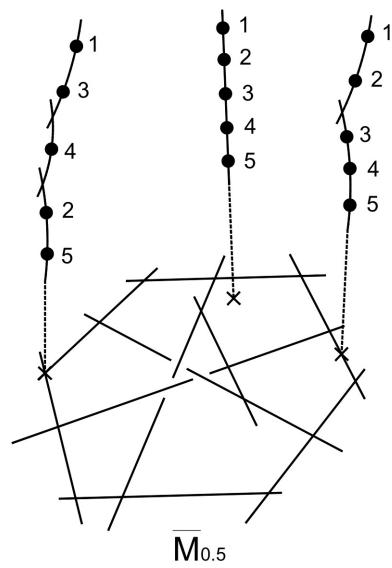
degenerate
& choose branch

leading singularity of a
MHV scattering amplitude from
of n particles in $N=4$ SYM
obtained by putting some
internal particles on-shell
(Arkani-Hamed, Bourjaily,
[ABC+] Cachazo, Postnikov, Trnka)

Origins of the question

What is $\text{Eff}(\overline{M}_{0,n})$?

- Every boundary divisor is contracted by a birational morphism (to \mathbb{P}^{n-3}) \Rightarrow it generates an extremal ray
- (Keel, Vermaire) new divisors are necessary already for $M_{0,6}$



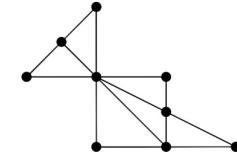
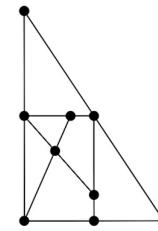
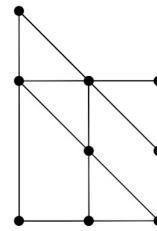
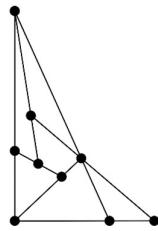
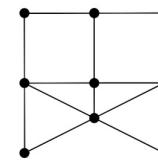
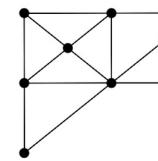
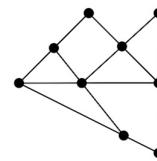
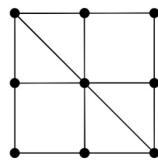
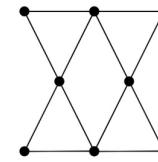
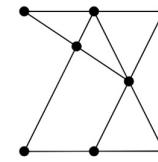
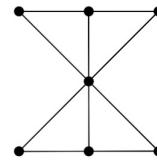
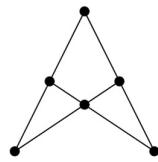
- (Castravet - T) A **hypertree** is a collection of triples $\Gamma_1, \dots, \Gamma_d \subset \{1 \dots n\}$ such that

$$|\bigcup_{j \in S} \Gamma_j| \geq |S| + 2 \quad \text{for every } S \subset \{1 \dots d\}$$

triples	sticky curve	on-shell diagram
$\begin{matrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 1 & 2 & 4 \\ 2 & 3 & 5 \end{matrix}$		
$\begin{matrix} 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 1 & 2 & 5 \\ 3 & 4 & 5 \end{matrix}$		

Th (Castravet-T, Crelle 2013)

If a hypertree is irreducible (i.e. $| \cup_{j \in S} T_j | > |S| + 2$ unless $|S|=1$ or $d-2$) then it gives an effective divisor on $\overline{M}_{0,n}$ contractible by a "Brill-Noether"-type birational contraction,
⇒ it gives an extremal ray of $\overline{\text{Eff}}(\overline{M}_{0,n})$.



But... $\overline{\text{Eff}}(\overline{M}_{0,n})$ has more generators!

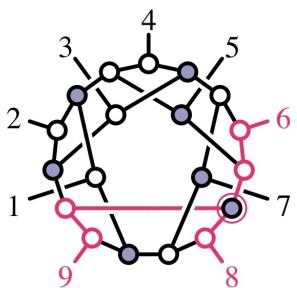
(Opie, Doran-Giansiracusa-Jensen, ...)

Th (Cachavet - Lafave - T. Ugaglia, 2020)

$\overline{\text{Eff}}(\bar{M}_{0,n})$ is infinitely generated for $n \geq 10$,

What kind of geometric objects on $M_{0,n}$ correspond to arbitrary hypertrees?

Leading singularities of scattering amplitudes!



$$\Leftrightarrow \begin{Bmatrix} (1\ 2\ 4) \\ (1\ 8\ 9) \\ (2\ 9\ 3) \\ (3\ 6\ 4) \\ (4\ 6\ 5) \\ (6\ 8\ 7) \\ (6\ 8\ 9) \end{Bmatrix}$$

[ABC+]

$$\frac{((91)\langle 32\rangle\langle 46\rangle - \langle 16\rangle\langle 43\rangle\langle 29\rangle)^2}{(12)\langle 24\rangle\langle 41\rangle\langle 18\rangle\langle 91\rangle\langle 29\rangle\langle 93\rangle\langle 32\rangle\langle 36\rangle\langle 43\rangle\langle 65\rangle\langle 54\rangle\langle 87\rangle\langle 76\rangle\langle 69\rangle}.$$

monomial Parke-Taylor amplitudes, ...

classical BN theory



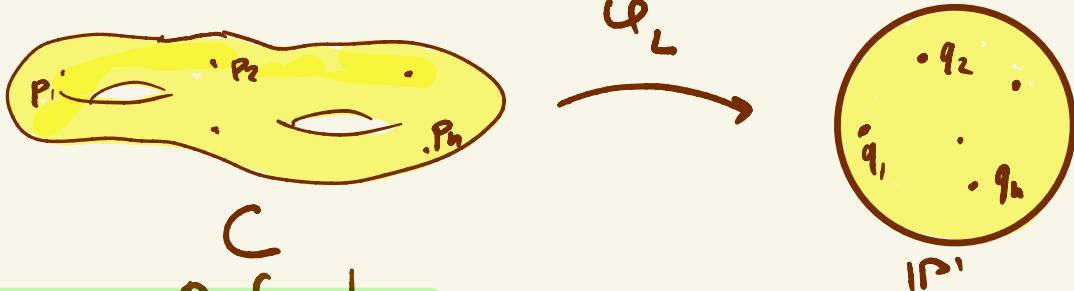
irreducible hypertree divisors

probabilistic BN theory



leading singularities of MHV scattering amplitudes

MHV case: $d = g+1$, $n = g+3$.



Lemma-Definition

$\Lambda : \text{Pic}^d C \rightarrow M_{g,n}$, $L \mapsto (\varphi_L(p_1), \dots, \varphi_L(p_n))$
is a generically finite scattering amplitude map

$A = dz_1 \wedge \dots \wedge dz_g$ (viewed as a multivalued
meromorphic top degree form on $M_{g,n}$)
is a scattering amplitude form

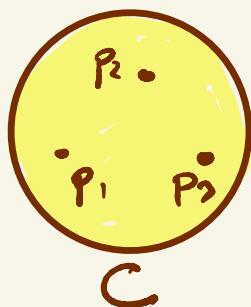
Theorem Λ has degree 2^g
for a general $(C; p_1, \dots, p_n) \in M_{g,n}$

Goal: "Separate" 2^g branches of Λ
(to have single-valued probability measures)

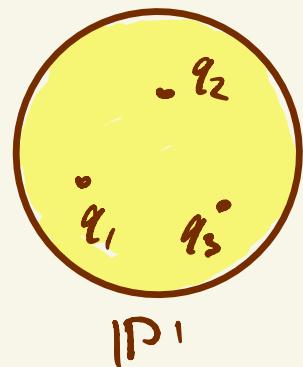
I will give several interpretations of 2^g .
Another approach is due to Cela-Pandhanpande
& Farkas-Lian - Schmitt

$g=0$

$d=1, h=3$



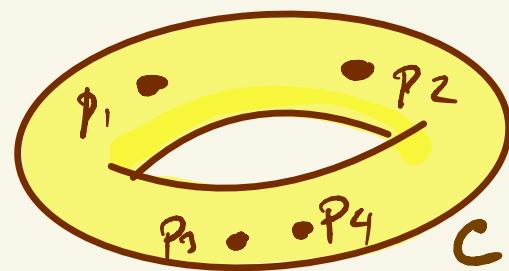
$\varphi_{\mathcal{O}(1)}$
1:1



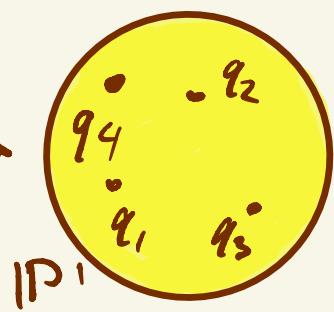
$\Lambda: \text{Pic}^1 C \rightarrow M_{0,3}$
identity map

$g=1$

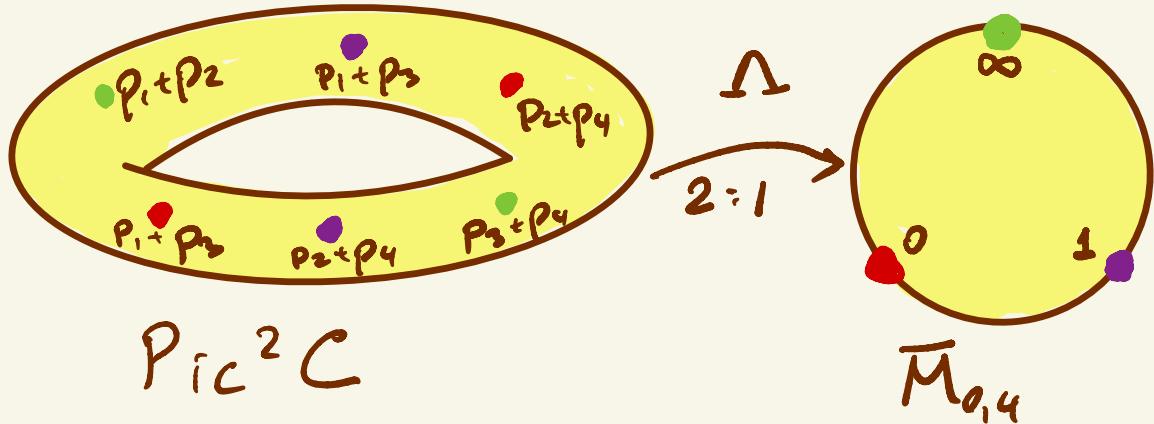
$d=2, h=4$



φ_L
2:1



$\Lambda: \text{Pic}^2 C \rightarrow M_{0,4} = \mathbb{P}^1 - \{0, 1, \infty\}$
 $L \mapsto$ cross-ratio of $q_1, \dots, q_4 \in \mathbb{P}^1$



$A = dz = \frac{dx}{\sqrt{f_4(x)}}$ is an integrand of an elliptic integral

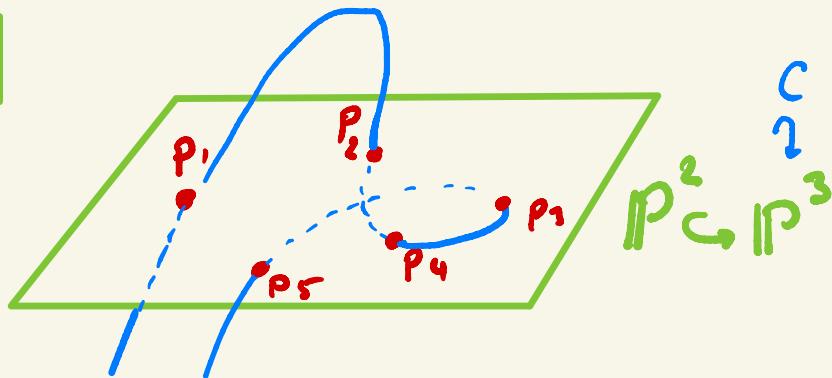
A recovers $(C; p_1 \dots p_4) \in M_{1,4}$ modulo the action of the Klein 4-group on $\{p_1 \dots p_4\}$

$g=2$

(1) For hyperelliptic curves ($g \geq 2$), we assume (following Mumford) that $p_i \neq \bar{p}_j$ for $i \neq j$.

(2) [Halphen] $\varphi_{p_1 + \dots + p_n}: C \hookrightarrow \mathbb{P}^3$ (for general $p_1 \dots p_n$)

$\mathfrak{g} = 2$



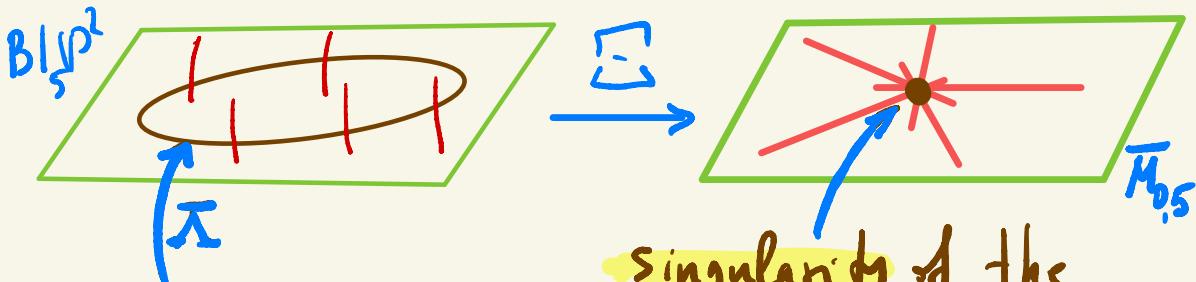
$$\text{Sym}^2 C \xrightarrow{4:1} P^2 \quad (p, q) \mapsto l^P \cap l_{pq}$$

$$\text{Bl}_{1,5} \text{ Sym}^2 C \xrightarrow[\text{finite}]{} \text{Bl}_5 P^2$$

$$(p, q) \downarrow \qquad \qquad \qquad \downarrow \Sigma$$

$$\mathcal{O}(\sum p_i - p_j)$$

$$\text{Bl}_{1,5} \text{ Pic}^3 C \xrightarrow[\text{gen. finite}]{} \overline{M}_{0,5} \quad (\simeq \text{Bl}_4 P^2)$$



$$K_C + C \subset \text{Pic}^3 C$$

singularity of the scattering amplitude form

$$\text{Bl}_{16} \text{Pic}^3 C \xrightarrow[4:1]{\pi} \text{Bl}_5 \mathbb{P}^2$$

16 (-1)-curves
16 Θ -divisors \longrightarrow 16 (-1)-curves

Classical Case: $p_1 \dots p_5 \in C$ are Weierstrass points. Then π factors

$$\overline{\pi} : \text{Bl}_{16} \text{Pic}^3 C \xrightarrow[2:1]{} K3 \xrightarrow[2:1]{} \text{Bl}_5 \mathbb{P}^2$$

↑
minimal resolution of
the Kummer surface

when marked points $p_1 \dots p_5 \in C$ move away from the Weierstrass points, the $K3$ disappears but the $4:1$ cover survives!

Hyperelliptic curves $C = \{y^2 = f(z)\}$

$$\psi_h : C \xrightarrow[2:1]{} \mathbb{P}^1 \quad \psi_h(p_i) = z_i, \quad z_i \neq z_j$$

$$\text{Pic}^d C \xrightarrow{\Delta} \text{Bun}(\mathbb{P}'; z_1, \dots, z_n)$$

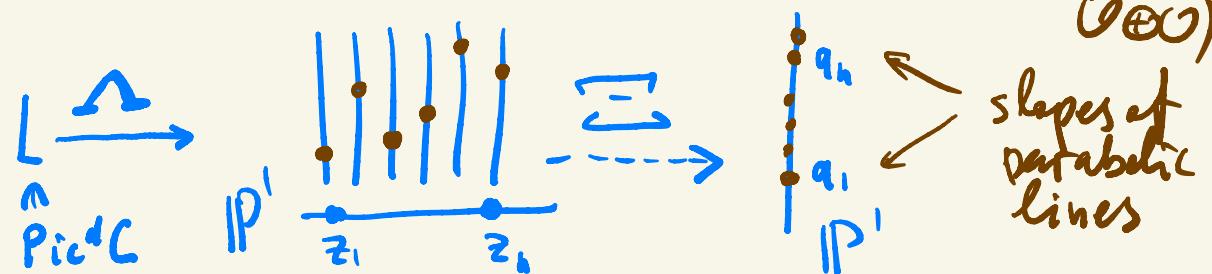
$\Delta \downarrow \quad \downarrow \Sigma$ (birational)
 $M_{0,n}$

Bun is a stack of quasi-parabolic vector bundles on \mathbb{P}' of rank 2, determinant 0.

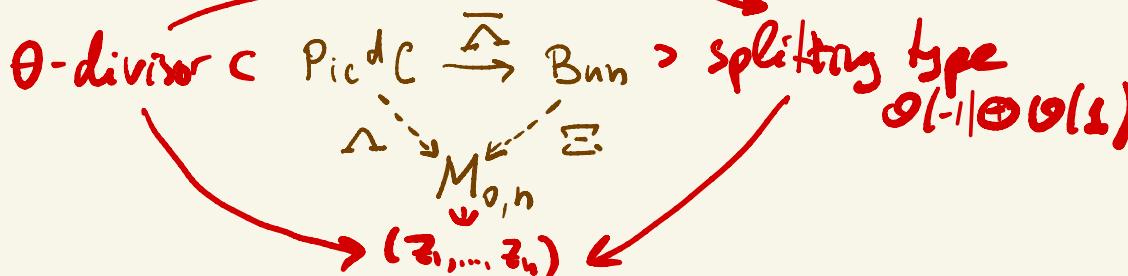
$$\Delta : L \mapsto E = (\varphi_i)_* L$$

parabolic lines $V_i = \text{Ker}[E_{z_i} \rightarrow L_{\varphi_i}]$

Generically, $\mathbb{P}(E) = \mathbb{P}' \times \mathbb{P}'$ (splitting type $\mathcal{O} \oplus \mathcal{O}$)



Singularities in the scattering amplitude form:



Matrix Model

$M(z)$

$$\text{Pic}^d C - \Theta = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} v(z) & u(z) \\ w(z) & -v(z) \end{bmatrix} : \begin{array}{l} \deg u, v, w \leq d \\ v^2 + uw = f(z) \end{array} \right\}$$

~~PGL₂~~

Δ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓
 Slope of one of the eigen spaces of $N(z_i)$

$$M_{0,n} \subset (\mathbb{P}^1)^n / \text{PGL}_2$$

$$\deg \Delta = \frac{|\{M(z)\} \cap \{\text{matrices with fixed eigen spaces at } z_1, \dots, z_n\}|}{2^n}$$

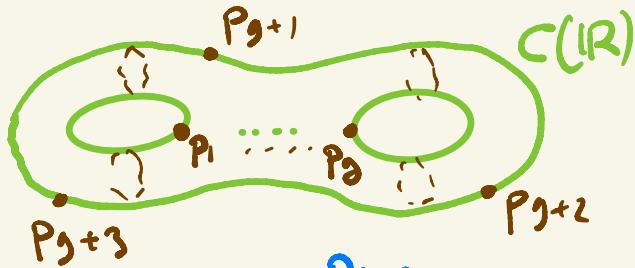
$$= \frac{2^{2g+3}}{2^n} \quad \begin{array}{l} \text{\# of coefficients} \\ \text{of } f(z) \end{array}$$

$$= 2^g$$

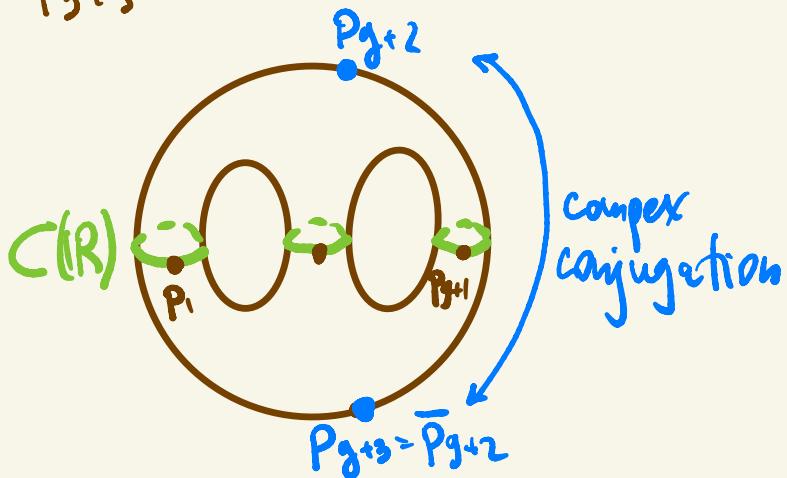
Amplification. Translation-invariant vector fields on $\text{Pic}^d C$ are given by the **lax pair** differential equations in the matrix model. Multivalued form A on $M_{0,n}$ is obtained by wedging these fields, dualizing and expressing in terms of slopes of eigenspaces

Scattering on M-curves

$$C(\mathbb{R}) = C_1 \cup \dots \cup C_{g+1}$$



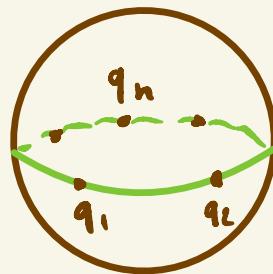
(Type A)



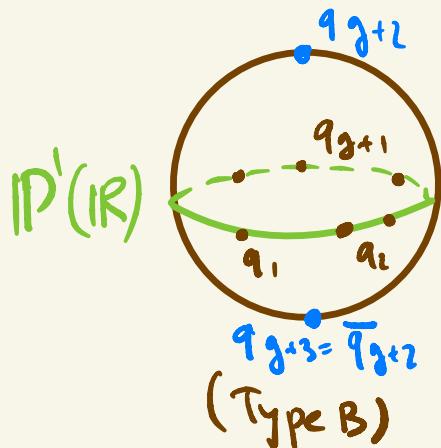
(Type B)

$$\Delta(Pic^d(C)(\mathbb{R})) \hookrightarrow M_{0,n}^{A/B}(\mathbb{R})$$

real form :



(Type A)



(Type B)

$$M_{0,4}^A(\mathbb{R}) = \mathbb{R} - \{0, 1, \infty\}$$

$$M_{0,4}^B(\mathbb{R}) = \{\operatorname{Re} z = \frac{1}{2}\}$$

For an M-curve C , $\text{Pic}^d(C)(\mathbb{R})$ has 2^g connected components indexed by subsets $I \subset \{1, \dots, g+1\}$ such that $|I| \equiv d \pmod{2}$

$L \in \text{Pic}_I \Leftrightarrow L = \mathcal{O}(D)$ where $D = \bar{D}$ and $\deg(D \cap C_i) \equiv I \cap \{i\} \pmod{2}$

Each Pic_I is a torsor over $\text{Pic}_{\emptyset} \cong (\mathbb{R}/\mathbb{Z})^g$

Main Theorem

The scattering amplitude $\Lambda : \text{Pic}^d(C) \rightarrow M_{0,n}$ satisfies

- (1) $\Lambda^{-1}(M_{0,n}^{A/B}(\mathbb{R})) \subset \text{Pic}^d(C)(\mathbb{R})$
- (2) Λ induces a real-analytic isomorphism $(\mathbb{R}/\mathbb{Z})^g \cong \text{Pic}_I \supset U_I \xrightarrow{\Lambda} V_I \subset M_{0,n}^{A/B}(\mathbb{R})$

Zariski open

Corollary $\Lambda : \text{Pic}^d(C) \rightarrow M_{0,n}$ has degree 2^g for a general $C \in M_{g,n}$

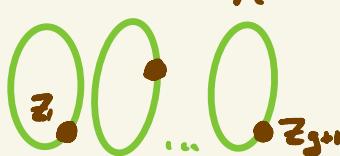
Pf The locus of M-curves of type A (or B) is Zariski-dense in $M_{g,n}$ and $M_{0,n}^{A/B}(\mathbb{R})$ is Zariski-dense in $M_{0,n}$ ■

Amplification Volume forms
 on $\text{Pic}_\mathbb{C} = (\mathbb{R}/\mathbb{Z})^g$ give 2^g single-valued probability distributions
 on $M_{0,n}^{A/B}(\mathbb{R})$

Amplification

$\text{Pic}_H := \text{Pic}_{\{1, \dots, g+1\}}$ is called
 the **Huisman component**

$D \in \text{Pic}_H$ effective
 $\Leftrightarrow D = Z_1 + \dots + Z_{g+1}$

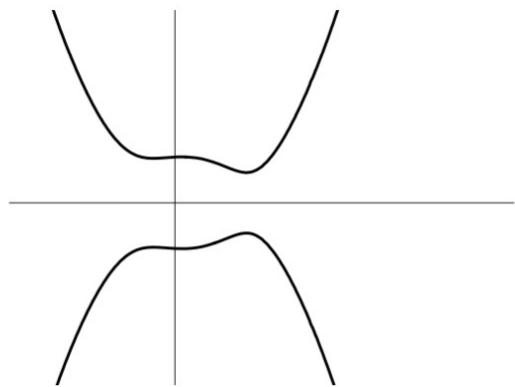
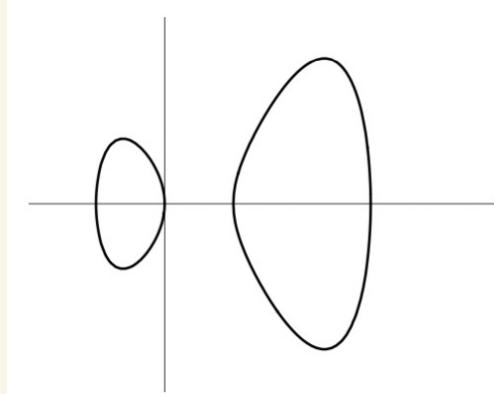
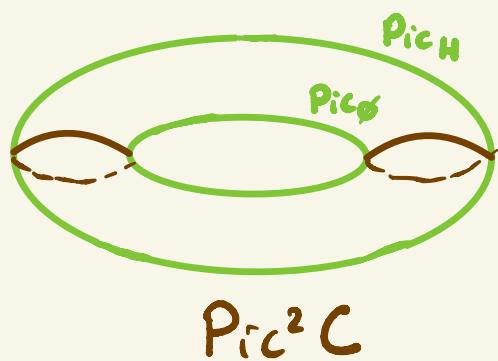
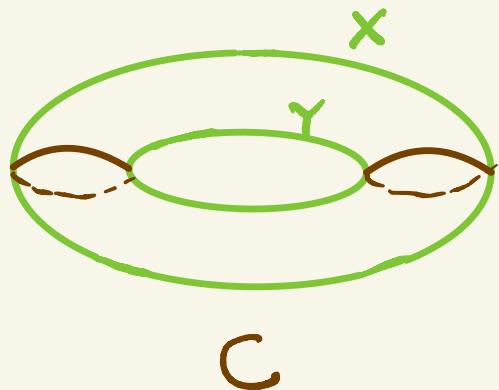


$Z_i \in C_i$

Theorem Compactify $M_{0,n}$
 by (P') & using cross-ratios
 $\pi_{i, g+1, g+2, g+3} : M_{0,n} \rightarrow M_{0,4} \quad i=1 \dots g$.
 Then Δ induces a real analytic
 isomorphism $\text{Pic}_H \rightarrow (\mathbb{R} P')^g$

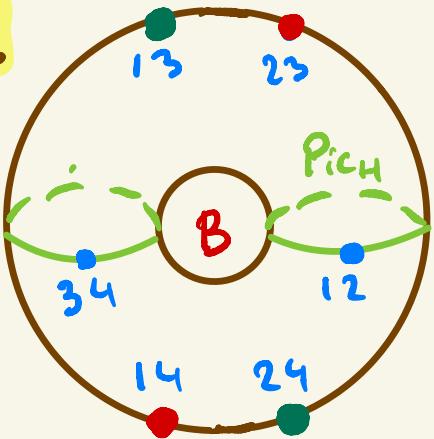
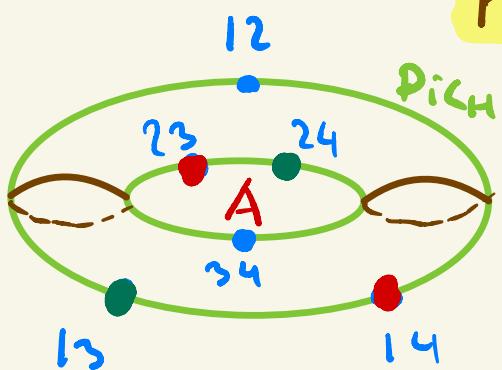
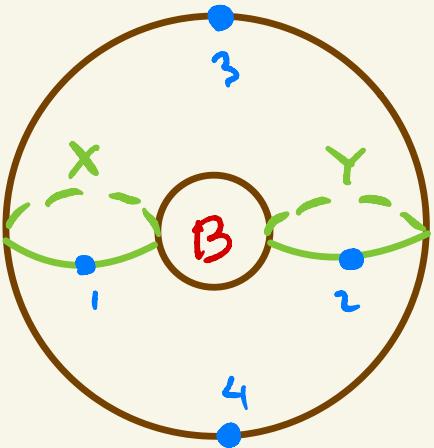
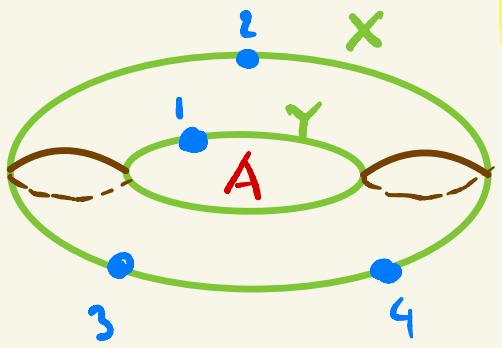
The corresponding probability density
 is smooth and positive.

$g=1$



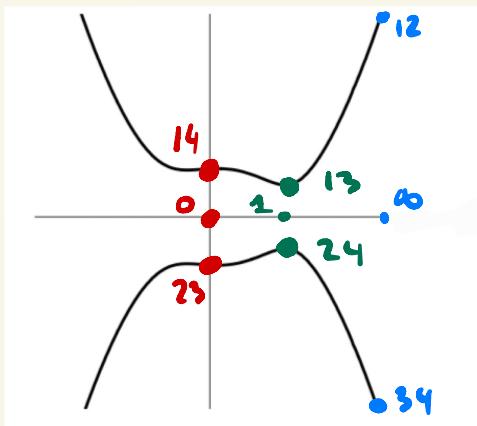
$L \in \text{Pic}_C$

$L \in \text{Pic}^2 C$

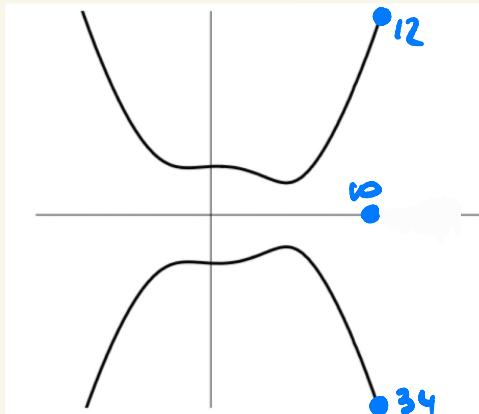


$\Delta: \text{Pic}^2 C \xrightarrow{2:1} M_{0,4} = P^1$ is given by

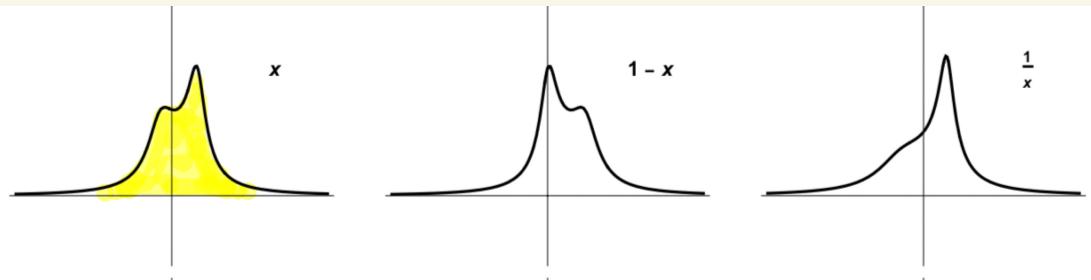
$$\vartheta(p_{12} + p_{34}) = \vartheta(p_{13} + p_{24}) \approx \vartheta(p_{23} + p_{14}) \in \text{Pic}_H(\text{Pic}^2 C)$$



Δ

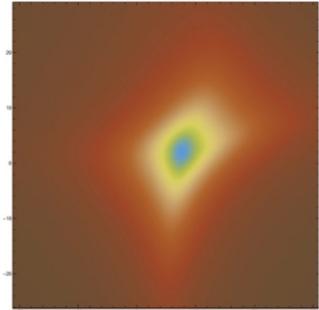
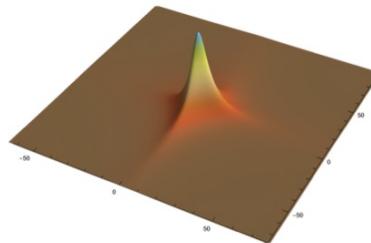


Genus 1 scattering measure

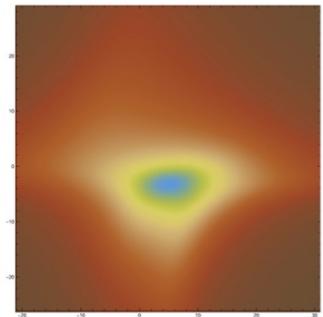
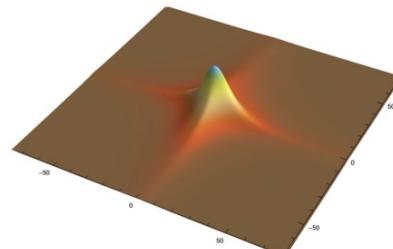


Genus 2, Huisman's Component

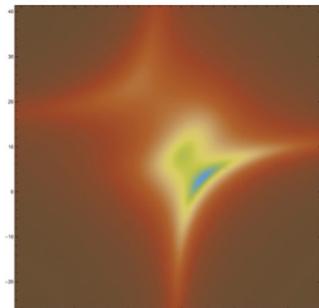
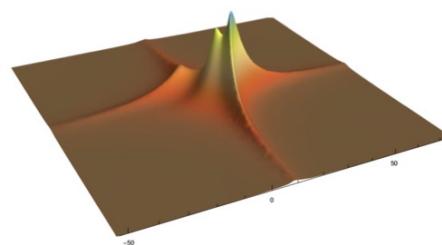
Roots: -1, 0, 1, 2, 3
Marked points:
(-0.7, 1.8885)
(1.3, 1.03317)
(3.3, 3.56769)
(3.45, 4.95408)
(4.2, -13.5832)



Roots: -1, 0, 1, 2, 3
Marked points:
(-0.1, 0.802801)
(1.9, 0.738573)
(3.9, 9.73481)
(4.35, 15.727)
(6.6, -68.2029)



Roots: -2, -0.2, 0.2, 2, 7
Marked points:
(-1.28, 5.59063)
(0.92, 3.93215)
(7.4, 33.3322)
(7.6, 43.1488)
(8.6, -90.9632)



Planar locus $W = \{L : h^0(L) > 2\}$

has codimension 3 in $\text{Pic}^d C$

$$E \subset \text{Bl}_w \text{Pic}^d C$$



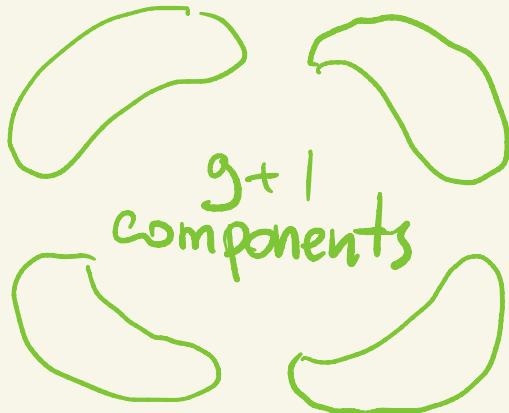
$$W \subset \text{Pic}^d C \xrightarrow{\Delta} M_{0,n}$$

$D = \widetilde{\Delta}(E)$ is a divisor on $M_{0,n}$
and its equation f contributes
to the numerator of the form A :

$$A = f^2 \tilde{A}$$

why can't this happen along the
Huisman component Pic_H ?

For a general M-curve C , a general $L \in W(R)$ realizes C as a **Harnack curve** in \mathbb{P}^2 of degree $d=g+1$:



$$\frac{g(g-3)}{2} \text{ achodes}$$

$g \text{ odd} \Rightarrow$ all components are ovals
 (separate \mathbb{RP}^2 into a disc and a Möbius)
 $g \text{ even} \Rightarrow g$ components are ovals and
 one is a pseudoline (generates $\pi_1(\mathbb{RP}^2)$)

$\Rightarrow L \in \text{Pic}_{\mathcal{M}}$ (g odd) or $L \in \text{Pic}_{0,\dots,0,1,0,\dots,0}$ (g even)
 $\Rightarrow W(R)$ is disjoint from $\text{Pic}_{\mathcal{H}}$

Extension to stable curves.

$$C \in \overline{M}_{g,n}$$

$$\begin{aligned} n &= g+3 \\ d &= \sum d_i = g+1 \end{aligned}$$

\vec{d}' is a multidegree (one for each irreducible component)

Def (C, \vec{d}') is an MHV curve if

a general LEPic $^{\vec{d}'} C$ is

- ① not special $\Leftrightarrow h^0(L) = 2$
- ② globally generated
- ③ $\Lambda : \text{Pic}^{\vec{d}'} C \dashrightarrow M_{0,n}$

$$L \mapsto \varphi_L(p_1), \dots, \varphi_L(p_n)$$

is generically finite

Scattering amplitude from A is a translation-invariant form on $\text{Pic}^{\vec{d}'} C$ viewed as a multivalued form on $M_{0,n}$ via Λ

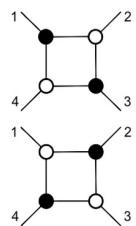
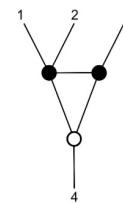
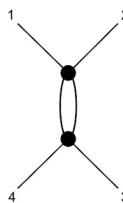
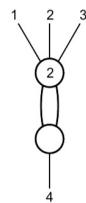
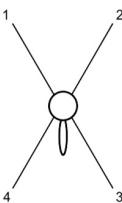
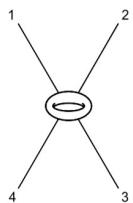
A smooth $C \in Mg,n$ is always MHV
but a curve with a separating node



is never MHV (one-channel factorization)

$g=1$

MHV curves:



On-shell diagram

$\circ = P^1$ (if higher genus, decorate with holes)

If ≥ 2 components, decorate with multidegrees $\bullet = 1$, $\circ = \emptyset$

Theorem Δ behaves well in families:

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \text{open substack} \\
 \text{in the MOP} \\
 \text{stack of stable} \\
 \text{quotients} \rightarrow
 \end{array}
 \mathcal{Q}_{g,n,d}^{\text{MHV}} \xrightarrow{\text{ev}} ((P'))^n \setminus \bigcup_{i,j} D_{ij}$$

\downarrow /GL_2 \downarrow /PGL_2

$$\text{open substack} \\
 \text{in the stack} \\
 \text{of pairs } (C,L) \rightarrow \mathcal{P}_{\text{ico}}^{\text{MHV}} \mathcal{C} \xrightarrow{\Delta} M_{0,n}$$

\downarrow

$$\text{open substack} \\
 \text{of } \overline{M}_{g,n} \rightarrow \overline{M}_{g,n}^{\text{MHV}}$$

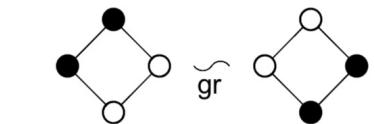
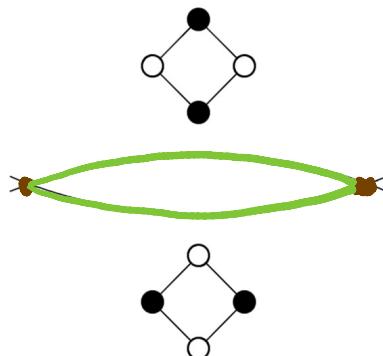
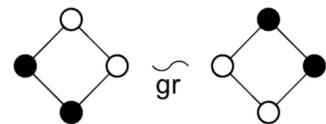
Amplification MHV line bundles

$L \in \mathcal{P}_{\text{ico}}^{\text{MHV}} \mathcal{C}$ are **stable** with respect to the divisor $K_C + \frac{4}{n}(P_1 + \dots + P_n)$ (which is ample on MHV curves).

$\Rightarrow \mathcal{P}_{\text{ico}}^{\text{MHV}} \mathcal{C}$ is separated and admits a compactification by a family of compactified Jacobians.

$\mathfrak{g} = 1$

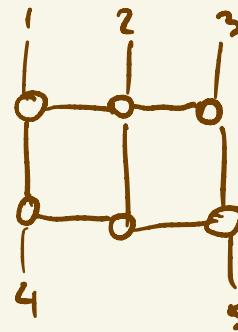
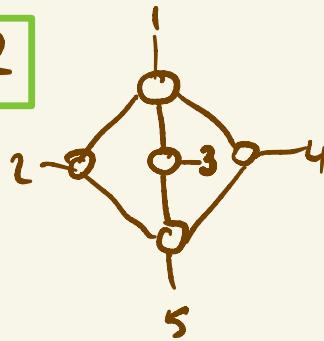
$\overline{\text{Pic}^{\text{MHV}} \mathcal{C}}$



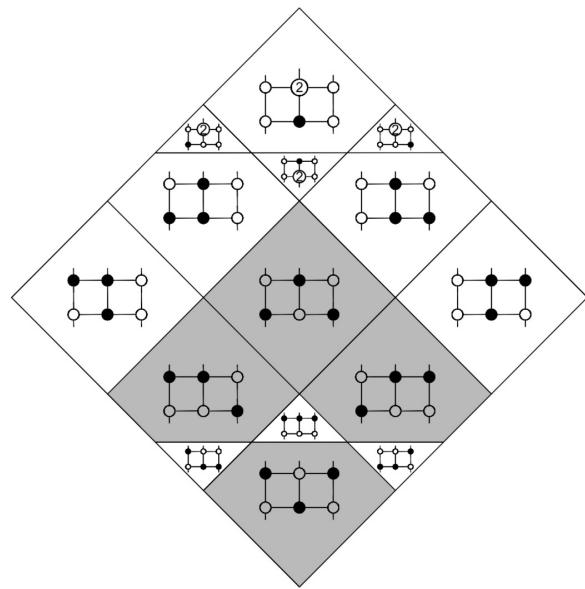
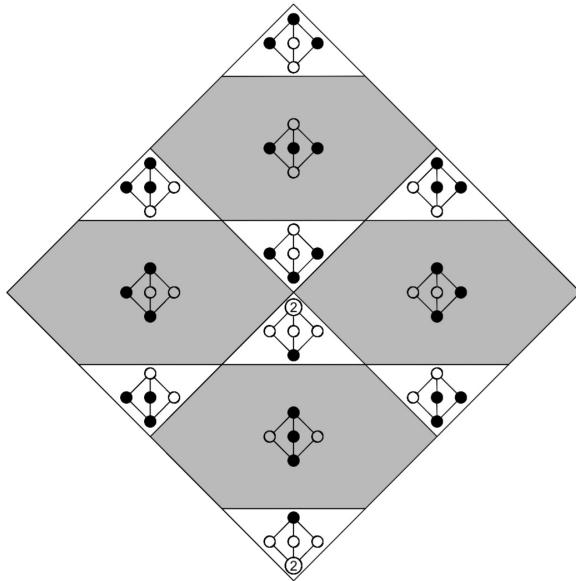
$$\Lambda \downarrow 2:1$$
$$\widetilde{M}_{0,4} = \mathbb{P}^1$$

Λ is an isomorphism on each component and $A = \frac{d\bar{z}}{z}$ is the same
(square move)

$g=2$



no strictly semistable line bundles



MHV components are shaded gray

$\Delta: \text{Pic}^{\text{MHV}} C \dashrightarrow M_{0,5}$ is 4:1 with a
birational restriction to each MHV component

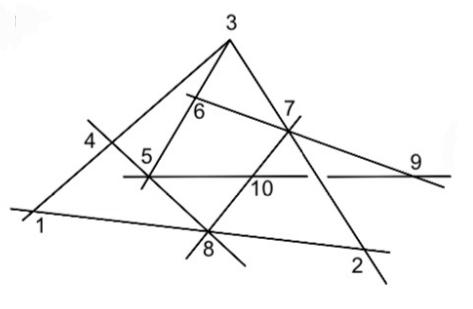
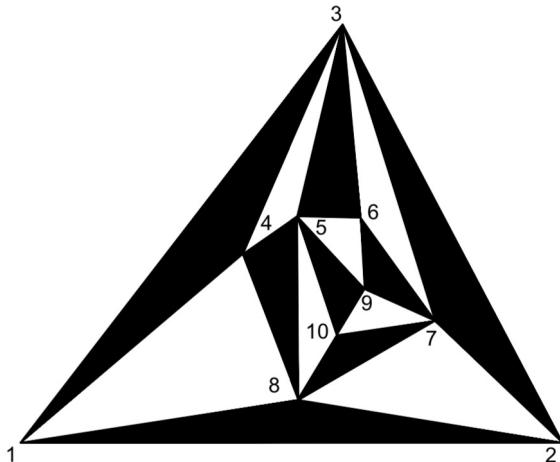
An MHV curve is maximally degenerate if every component $\cong \mathbb{P}^1$ with 3 "special" points

Lemma ($[ABC+]+[Castravet-T]$)

Maximally degenerate MHV curves correspond to hypertrees

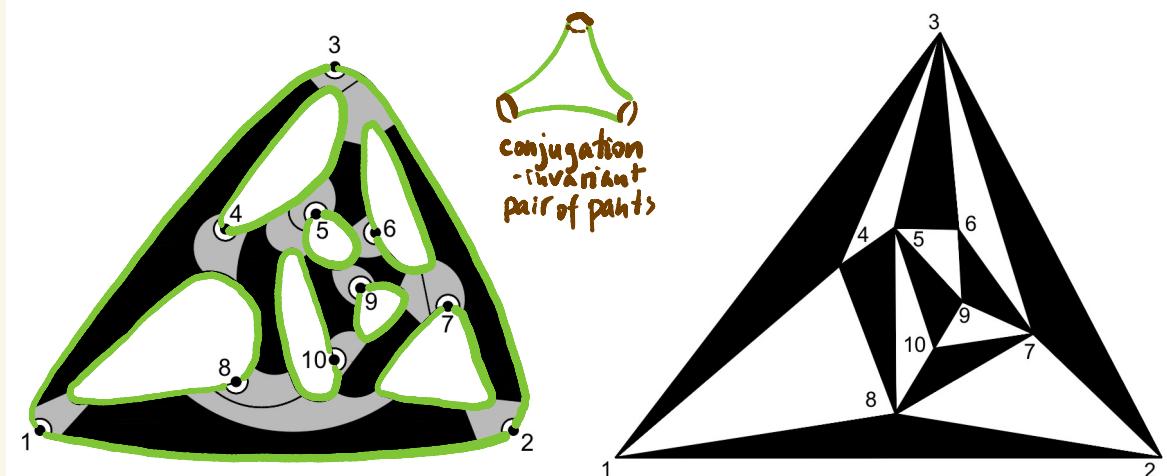
How about MHV M-curves?

Theorem (Castravet-T) Every bicolored triangulation of S^2 gives a hypertree.



Spherical hypertree

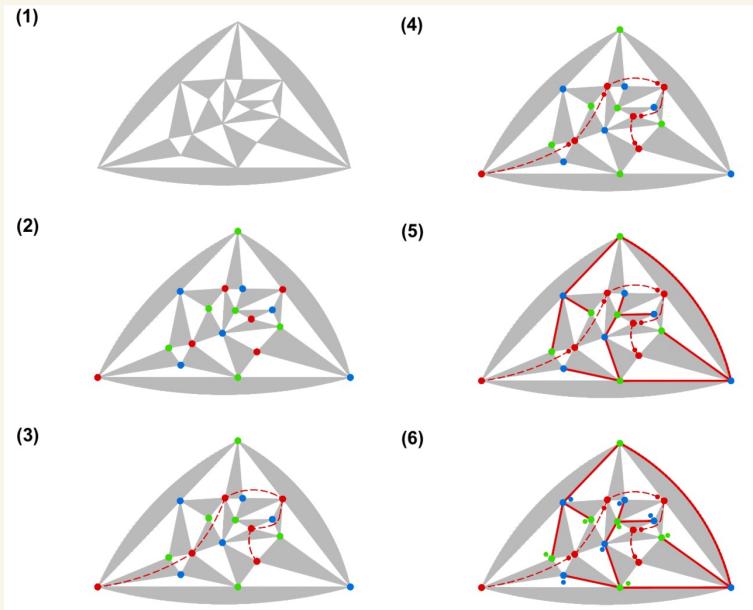
Theorem Spherical MHV curves are stable limits of real MHV M-curves of type A



Proof = results of Seppälä on stable
real curves

+

Tutte
Trinity
Theorem



Why is our form the same as
in $[ABC^+]$?

$$\widetilde{\text{Pic}^d C} \longrightarrow G_0(2,n)$$

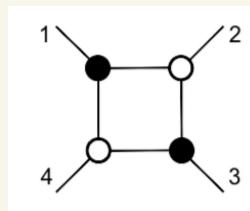
$$\downarrow / G_m^{n-1} \qquad \qquad \qquad \downarrow / G_m^{n-1}$$

$$\widetilde{\text{Pic}^d C} \xrightarrow{\Delta} M_{0,n}$$

$$\widetilde{\text{Pic}^d C} = \{ L \in \text{Pic}^d C, \quad L_{\mathbb{P}_i} \stackrel{\Psi_i}{\cong} \mathbb{C} \}$$

Maximally degenerate MHV case :

$$\widetilde{\text{Pic}^d C} \simeq G_m^{2d} \simeq \prod \widetilde{\text{Pic}}' \left(\begin{array}{c} a \\ b \\ c \end{array} \right)$$



Translation-invariant form on

$$\widetilde{\text{Pic}}' \left(\begin{array}{c} a \\ b \\ c \end{array} \right) \simeq G_m^3 / G_m \quad \text{is}$$

$$\frac{1}{G_m} \frac{da}{a} \wedge \frac{db}{b} \wedge \frac{dc}{c}$$

Wedging them together gives the translation-invariant form A on $\widetilde{\text{Pic}^d C}$

A similar G_m^d -torsor over $G_0(2,n)$ gives a non-vanishing top degree form

$$A_0 = \prod_{\substack{a \\ \text{---} \\ c}} \left(\frac{\perp}{G_m} \frac{d(ab)}{(ab)} \wedge \frac{d(ac)}{(ac)} \wedge \frac{d(bc)}{(bc)} \right)$$

We have $A = \Psi A_0$

\nwarrow Jacobian matrix

Take a $d \times (d+2)$ matrix

$$\text{triple } \{a, b, c\} \quad \begin{bmatrix} a & b & c \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ \dots (bc) & \dots (ac) & \dots (ab) \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \end{bmatrix}$$

Lemma ([ABC]) for leading singularity)

$\Psi = \text{Det}^2$, where Reduced determinant

$$\text{Det} = \frac{1}{(ab)} \det \left[\begin{array}{c} \text{remove} \\ \text{columns } a, b \end{array} \right]$$

(does not depend on a, b)

"Physics" \hookrightarrow (Complexified) momenta of
n 4D particles $\Leftrightarrow 2 \times 2$ matrices P_1, \dots, P_n

Momentum conservation $\Leftrightarrow \sum P_i = 0$

Massless particles $\Leftrightarrow \det P_i = 0$

Write $P_i = \lambda_i \tilde{\lambda}_i^T$, **spinor variables** (2D)

Arrange spinor variables into $2 \times n$
matrices $\lambda, \tilde{\lambda}$

[Eventually, n points in \mathbb{P}^1 will correspond to λ
and $\tilde{\lambda}$ will be ignored]

Momentum conservation $\Leftrightarrow \lambda \cdot \lambda^T = 0 \Leftrightarrow \mathcal{S}^{2 \times 2}(\lambda\lambda)$

Little group $(\lambda_i, \tilde{\lambda}_i) \rightarrow (t_i \lambda_i, t_i^{-1} \tilde{\lambda}_i)$

Not supersymmetric scattering amplitudes

$$A_n(t_i \lambda_i, t_i^{-1} \tilde{\lambda}_i; h_i) = n t_i^{-2h_i} A_n(\lambda_i, \tilde{\lambda}_i; h_i)$$

half-integer helicities

For $N=4$ SYM, helicity states can be assembled into a **Grassmann Coherent state** labelled by Grassmann variables η_i^I , $I=1..4$ (scales like $\tilde{\lambda}_i$ under little group)

Complete superamplitude

$$A_n(\lambda_i, \tilde{\lambda}_i, \tilde{\eta}_i) = \sum A_n^{(k)}(\lambda_i, \tilde{\lambda}_i, \tilde{\eta}_i)$$

↑
degree $4k$ in $\tilde{\eta}_i$.

MHV case ($\Rightarrow k=2$)

Theorem (ABC+) Leading singularity of the MHV amplitude given by an on-shell diagram is $A \underbrace{\delta^{2 \times 4}(\lambda \cdot \tilde{\eta}^\top) \delta^{2 \times 2}(\tilde{\lambda} \tilde{\eta}^\top)}$

“out” scattering amplitude

Supermomentum conservation