

Multi-loop string amplitudes and Feynman Graphs

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Based on work done with LORENZO MAGNEA and STEFANO SCIUTO (Torino) and RODOLFO RUSSO (Queen Mary University of London).

- L. Magnea, S. Playle, R. Russo, and S. Sciuto, “Multi-loop open string amplitudes and their field theory limit,” *JHEP* **1309** (2013) 081, arXiv:1305.6631 [hep-th].
- S. Playle, “Gauge theory effective actions from open strings,” (QMUL Ph.D. thesis) 2014.
- Forthcoming:
L. Magnea, S. Playle, R. Russo, and S. Sciuto, “Multi-loop Yang-Mills graphs from superstrings,” arXiv:14XX.XXXX [hep-th].

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Some background

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Summary

- It was noticed in the early days of string theory that in the limit of infinite string tension $\alpha' \rightarrow 0$, string theory reduces to Yang-Mills gauge theory coupled to gravity.

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- String amplitudes have been used to find individual Feynman graphs to compute e.g. one-loop Yang-Mills renormalization scattering [Di Vecchia, Lerda, Magnea, Marotta, Russo 1996a] and Φ^3 scalar scattering at 2-loops. [Di Vecchia, Lerda, Magnea, Marotta, Russo 1996b]

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[Schwinger 1954, Ritus 1977]

- The 1 loop amplitude for open strings in a magnetic field was calculated in the mid 1980s.

[Fradkin, Tseytlin 1985; Abouelsaood, Callan, Nappi, Yost 1988 etc]

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Sewing

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- Schottky groups
- The bosonic g -loop measure

The string measure

The string measure

- g -loop string vertices can be obtained by ‘sewing’ together
 3 -reggeon vertices $\mathcal{V} \in \mathcal{H}_{\text{string}}^{*\otimes 3}$.

[Sciuto 1969; Caneschi, Schwimmer, Veneziano 1969; Della Selva, Saito 1970; Di Vecchia, Nakayama, Petersen, Sciuto 1986]

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- ‘Sewing’ two legs i, j means acting on the i th Hilbert space $\mathcal{H}_{\text{string}}^{*,i}$ with the BRST-invariant propagator $D(x)$ ([Di Vecchia, Frau, Lerda, Sciuto 1987]) then contracting with the dual of the string Hilbert space on leg j : $\mathcal{H}_{\text{string}}^j$.

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- Sewing N -reggeons leads *automatically* to an amplitude written in terms of quantities on a Riemann surface $(\tau_{ij}, \omega_i(z), E(z, w), \dots)$ expressed in the *Schottky group* formalism.

[Lovelace 1970; Kaku, Yu 1970; Alessandrini 1971]

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- Möbius maps obey the same composition rule as 2×2 matrices $\begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} \in \text{PSL}(2, \mathbf{C})$.

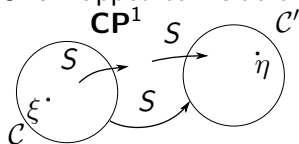
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- Fixed points \leftrightarrow eigenvectors; multiplier $k \leftrightarrow$ ratio of eigenvalues.
- Up to a global change of coordinates on the Riemann sphere (one taking $\eta \rightarrow 0$, $\xi \rightarrow \infty$), any Möbius map is equivalent to $z \mapsto kz$.

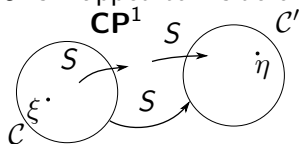
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- Given a Möbius map, we can find circles \mathcal{C} and $\mathcal{C}' = S(\mathcal{C})$ around ξ and η , such that inside of \mathcal{C} is mapped to outside of \mathcal{C}' , and outside of \mathcal{C} is mapped to inside of \mathcal{C}' .

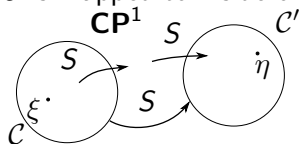


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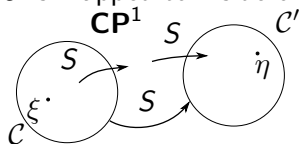
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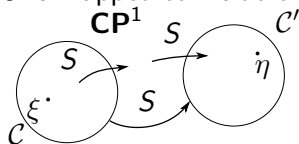
- Imposing $z \sim S(z) \Leftrightarrow$ cutting out \mathcal{C} and \mathcal{C}' and gluing their boundaries \Rightarrow adding a handle to the RS.
- To get a RS with g handles, we repeat this with g different Möbius maps S_1, \dots, S_g such that the circles don't overlap.

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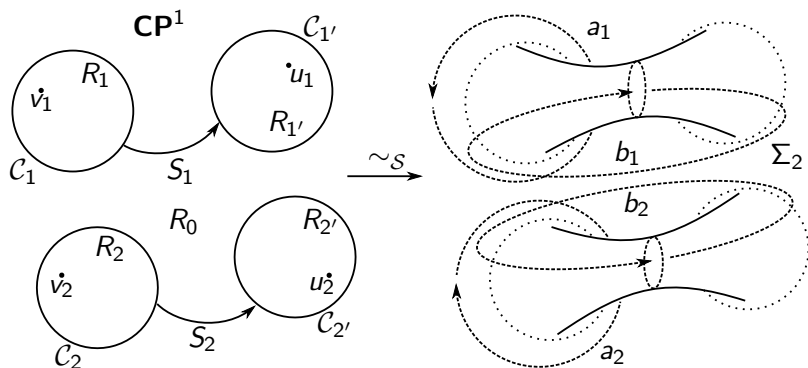
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- I.e.* we impose $z \sim T_\alpha(z)$ for **all** T_α in the *Schottky group*, the group of Möbius maps freely generated by S_1, \dots, S_g .

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- I.e. we impose $z \sim T_\alpha(z)$ for **all** T_α in the *Schottky group*, the group of Möbius maps freely generated by S_1, \dots, S_g .
- Nice geometric realization $(k_\mu, \eta_\mu, \xi_\mu)$ of $\dim(\mathcal{M}_g) = 3g - 3$.

The Schottky group



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- The g -loop bosonic string measure (vacuum diagram) is given by

[Di Vecchia, Frau, Lerda, Sciuto 1987 Phys.Lett.B199]

$$Z_g = \int \frac{1}{dV_{abc}} \prod_{\mu=1}^g \left(\frac{dk_\mu d\xi_\mu d\eta_\mu}{k_\mu^2 (\eta_\mu - \xi_\mu)^2} \right) \frac{1}{(\det \operatorname{Im} \tau)^{D/2}} \\ \times \left(\prod_{\alpha}' \prod_{n=1}^{\infty} (1 - k_{\alpha}^n)^{-D+2} \right) \left(\frac{\prod_{\mu=1}^M (1 - k_{\mu})^2}{\prod_{\alpha}' (1 - k_{\alpha})^2} \right). \quad (1)$$

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- Expressed in terms of the fixed points of the g Schottky generators as well as the multipliers k_{α} of all Schottky group elements.

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- *E.g.*: the ‘super-Riemann sphere’ $\mathbf{CP}^{1|1}$ defined by quotienting $\mathbf{C}^{2|1} - \mathbf{0}$ by the equivalence $(w, z|\theta) \sim (\lambda w, \lambda z|\lambda \theta)$; $\lambda \in \mathbf{C}_*$.

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- There is a superconformal generalization of Möbius maps, easiest to write down as $(2|1) \times (2|1)$ $\text{OSp}(1|2)$ matrices acting on the homogenous coordinates of $\mathbf{CP}^{1|1}$:

$$\begin{pmatrix} z_1 \\ z_2 \\ \theta \end{pmatrix} \mapsto \left(\begin{array}{cc|c} a & b & \alpha \\ c & d & \beta \\ \gamma & \delta & e \end{array} \right) \begin{pmatrix} z_1 \\ z_2 \\ \theta \end{pmatrix} \quad (2)$$

where (for superconformality)

$$\begin{pmatrix} -\delta \\ \gamma \end{pmatrix} = \sqrt{ad - bc} \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix}^{-1} \begin{pmatrix} \alpha \\ \beta \end{pmatrix} \quad (3)$$

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- Independent of overall factor, so fix super-determinant to 1, yielding $(5|4) - (2|2) = 3|2$ parameters.

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- As in the bosonic case, we can characterize a super-Möbius map by two super-fixed-points and one multiplier:

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- Z, U, V represent super-points $Z = z|\psi$, $U = u|\theta$ etc and $Z \dot{-} U$ is the superconformal difference

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- $(z|\psi \mapsto Z \dot{-} U|\psi - \theta$ is superconformal).
- Geometric realization of the $2 \times (1|1) + (1|0) = 3|2$ parameters.

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$$xy = -k; \quad y\theta = k^{\frac{1}{2}}\psi; \quad x\psi = -k^{\frac{1}{2}}\theta; \quad \theta\psi = 0. \quad (7)$$

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- Super-fixed-points & multipliers minus $\mathrm{OSp}(1|2)$ gauge fixing gives geometric realization of $\dim(\mathfrak{M}_g) = 3g - 3|2g - 2$.

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- Depends on fixed points of generators, period matrix τ , and multipliers of all SSG elements.
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- Signs of $k_\mu^{1/2}$ are to be summed; this implements the Gliozzi-Scherk-Olive projection (in the NS sector).

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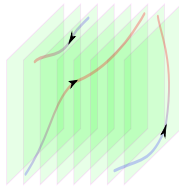
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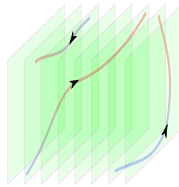
The string theory setup

The string theory setup



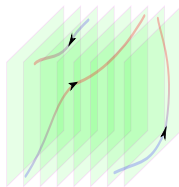
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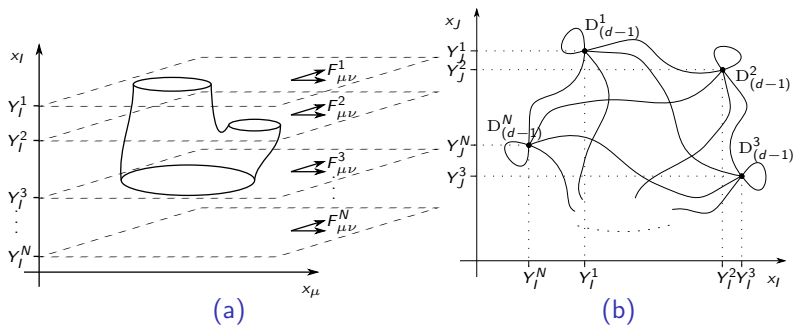


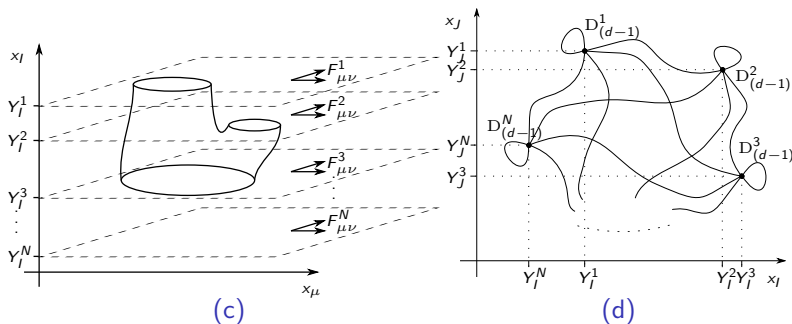
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- We look only at the NS sector of open strings, so we only get the bosonic sector of $\mathcal{N} = 4$, *i.e.* gauge fields (from parallel string modes) & 6 adjoint scalars (perpendicular modes).
- Separating branes breaks $U(N) \rightarrow U(1)^N$ and gives masses.

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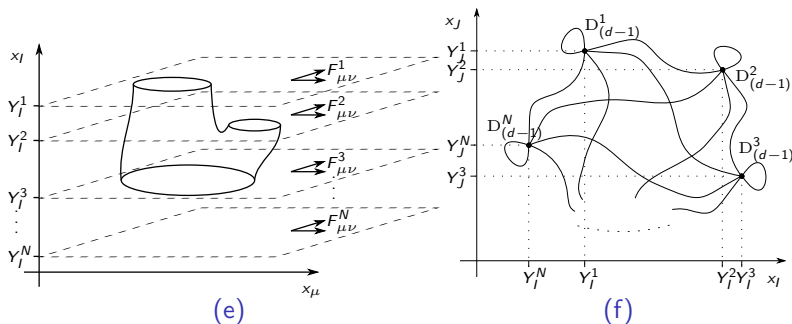
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- We put *commuting* U(1) constant background fields on the brane world volumes.



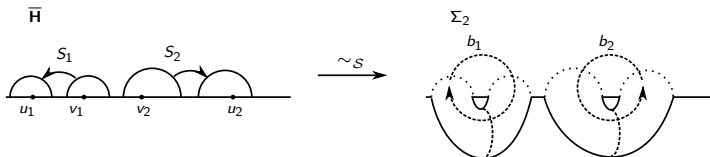
- We put *commuting* U(1) constant background fields on the brane world volumes.
- The D-branes are separated arbitrarily, giving masses $m_{ij}^2 = |(\vec{Y}_i - \vec{Y}_j)|^2 / (2\pi\alpha')^2$ to strings between i 'th, j 'th branes.

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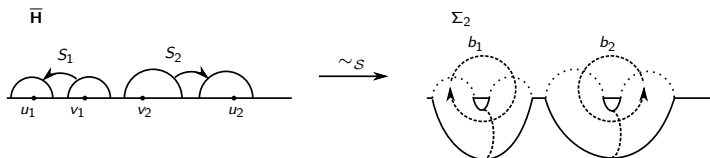
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- The supermoduli space \mathfrak{M}_2 now has *real* dimension $3g - 3 | 2g - 2 = 3 | 2$.

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- The effect of separating the D-branes is to insert a factor

$$\mathcal{Y} = \prod_{i=1}^{N_s} e^{2\pi i \alpha' \vec{m}_i \cdot \tau \cdot \vec{m}_i}$$

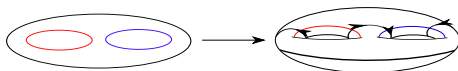
where $\vec{m}_i \equiv (m_i^{13}, m_i^{23})$ with $m_i^{ab} \equiv (Y_i^a - Y_i^b)/(2\pi\alpha')$ encodes the distances between the 3 D-branes to which the worldsheet is attached. [[Frau, Lerda, Pesando, Russo, Sciuto 1997](#)]

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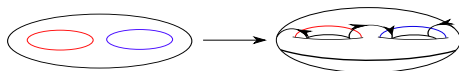
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- The worldsheet action is still free; only boundary conditions are changed by the background fields.

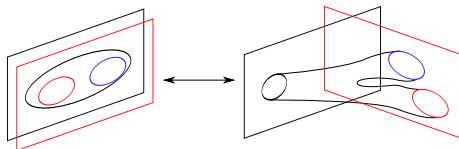
- The worldsheet action is still free; only boundary conditions are changed by the background fields.
- On the double of the surface, $Z = X^1 + iX^2$ has non-trivial monodromy $Z \mapsto e^{i\epsilon_{ij}} Z$ around cycles crossing boundaries i and j for $\epsilon_{ij} = \arctan[2\alpha'(B_i - B_j)]$.



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- Hard to implement the background fields directly, but can use T-duality with closed strings propagating between D-branes at an angle ϵ & sew explicitly. [Russo, Sciuto 2003]



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- The background fields can be implemented in the string amplitude by including the ϵ -dependent factor [Russo, Sciuto 2004 & 2007; Magnea, Russo, Sciuto 2004]:

$$\mathcal{R}(\vec{\epsilon}) = e^{-i\pi\vec{\epsilon}\cdot\tau\cdot\vec{\epsilon}} \frac{\det(\text{Im } \tau)}{\det(\text{Im } \tau_{\vec{\epsilon}})} \prod'_{\alpha} \prod_{n=1}^{\infty} \left\{ \left(\frac{1 - k_{\alpha}^{n-\frac{1}{2}}}{1 - k_{\alpha}^n} \right)^{-2} \right. \\ \left. \times \frac{(1 - e^{2i\pi\vec{\epsilon}\cdot\tau\cdot\vec{N}_{\alpha}} k_{\alpha}^{n-\frac{1}{2}})(1 - e^{-2i\pi\vec{\epsilon}\cdot\tau\cdot\vec{N}_{\alpha}} k_{\alpha}^{n-\frac{1}{2}})}{(1 - e^{2\pi i\vec{\epsilon}\cdot\tau\cdot\vec{N}_{\alpha}} k_{\alpha}^n)(1 - e^{-2\pi i\vec{\epsilon}\cdot\tau\cdot\vec{N}_{\alpha}} k_{\alpha}^n)} \right\}.$$

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 \end{aligned}$$

- The ‘twisted determinant’ $\det(\text{Im } \tau_{\vec{\epsilon}})$ is an ϵ -dependent generalization of $\det(\text{Im } \tau)$.

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- If we write

$$\mathcal{Z}_2 = \prod_{\alpha}' \left[\prod_{n=1}^{\infty} \left(\frac{1 - k_{\alpha}^{n-1/2}}{1 - k_{\alpha}^n} \right)^2 \right]$$

then

$$\mathcal{Z}_{\parallel} = \frac{\mathcal{R}(\vec{\epsilon}) \mathcal{Z}_2}{(\det \text{Im } \tau)}; \quad \mathcal{Z}_{\perp} = \left(\frac{\mathcal{Z}_2}{\det \text{Im } \tau} \right)^{\frac{d-2}{2}}; \quad \mathcal{Z}_{\text{sc}} = \mathcal{Y}(\vec{m}_I) (\mathcal{Z}_2)^{\frac{10-d}{2}}$$

and \mathcal{Z}_{bc} = everything else.

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- In the Dirichlet directions $M = I$ we put $\partial_I \mapsto 0$ and give the background field a VEV $A_I \mapsto \frac{1}{g} M_I$ and write $Q_I = \Phi_I$, a scalar.
- In the Neumann directions (parallel to the D brane) we put a background field $A_\mu(x) = Bx_1\eta_{\mu 2}$ which gives a constant field strength $F_{\mu\nu} = B(\eta_{\mu 1}\eta_{\nu 2} - \eta_{\mu 2}\eta_{\nu 1})$.

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- It has been known since the early days of string theory that the divergences of string theory give Yang-Mills theory in the “Gervais-Neveu” gauge $\partial_M Q^M + i\gamma g Q_M Q^M = 0$.[\[Gervais, Neveu 1972\]](#)

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- Secondly, we impose the gauge condition *before* dimensional reduction, so afterwards it looks like

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- This gives us e.g. $mc\bar{c}\Phi$ vertices needed for matching with string theory.

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- In our background $A_\mu(x) = Bx_1\eta_{\mu 2}$, the scalar and gluon *position space* propagators can be written down exactly in B in terms of a heat kernel [Magnea, Russo, Sciuto 2004; Ritus 1977]:

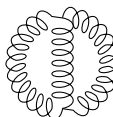
$$\begin{aligned}
 G^{ij}(x, y) &= \int_0^\infty dt \mathcal{K}^{ij}(x, y; t) \\
 G_{\mu\nu}^{ij}(x, y) &= - \int_0^\infty dt \exp(2igF^{ij}t)_{\mu\nu} \mathcal{K}^{ij}(x, y; t) \\
 \mathcal{K}^{ij}(x, y; t) &= \frac{e^{-\frac{i}{2}gB^{ij}(x_1+y_1)(x_2-y_2)-tm_{ij}^2}}{(4\pi t)^{\frac{d}{2}}} \frac{gB^{ij}t}{\sinh(gB^{ij}t)} \\
 &\quad \times \exp\left[\frac{1}{4}(x_\mu - y_\mu)\beta(F^{ij}, t)^{\mu\nu}(x_\nu - y_\nu)\right] \\
 \beta(F^{ij}, t)^{\mu\nu} &= \text{diag}\left(\frac{1}{t}, \frac{gB^{ij}}{\tanh(gB^{ij}t)}, \frac{gB^{ij}}{\tanh(gB^{ij}t)}, \frac{1}{t}, \dots, \frac{1}{t}\right).
 \end{aligned}$$

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- Using these propagators, we can compute all of the 2-loop Feynman diagrams:

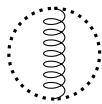
- Using these propagators, we can compute all of the 2-loop Feynman diagrams:



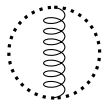
$$\begin{aligned}
 &= \frac{g^2}{(4\pi)^d} \int_0^\infty \frac{\prod_{i=1}^3 dt_i e^{-t_i m_i^2}}{\Delta_0^{d/2-1} \Delta_F} \left\{ -\frac{3-\gamma^2}{2} \frac{(d-2)(d-3)}{\Delta_0} (t_1 + t_2 + t_3) \right. \\
 &\quad - \frac{2(d-2)}{\Delta_F} \left(\frac{\sinh(gF_1 t_1)}{gF_1} \left(\frac{1-\gamma^2}{2} \cosh(gB_2 t_2 - gB_3 t_3) \right. \right. \\
 &\quad \quad \left. \left. + \cosh(2gB_1 t_1 - gB_2 t_2 - gB_3 t_3) + \text{cyclic permutations} \right) \right) \\
 &\quad - \frac{2(d-2)}{\Delta_0} \left(\left(t_1 + \frac{1-\gamma^2}{2} t_2 \right) \cosh(2B_2 t_2 - 2B_3 t_3) + \text{cyclic permutations} \right) \\
 &\quad - \frac{2}{\Delta_F} \left(\frac{\sinh(gB_1 t_1)}{gB_1} \left(\cosh(2gB_1 t_1 - gB_2 t_2 - gB_3 t_3) \right. \right. \\
 &\quad \left. \left. + \frac{1-\gamma^2}{2} \cosh(3gB_3 t_3 - 2gB_1 t_1 - gB_2 t_2) \right) + \text{cyclic permutations} \right) \left. \right\}
 \end{aligned}$$

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
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$$\begin{aligned}
 &= \frac{1 + \gamma^2}{2} \frac{g^2}{(4\pi)^d} \int_0^\infty \frac{\prod_{i=1}^3 dt_i e^{-t_i m_i^2}}{\Delta_0^{d/2-1} \Delta_F} \left\{ \frac{2}{\Delta_F} \frac{\sinh(F_3 t_3)}{F_3} \cosh(2F_3 t_3 - F_1 t_1 - F_2 t_2) \right. \\
 &\quad \left. + \frac{d-2}{\Delta_0} t_3 + \text{cyclic permutations} \right\}
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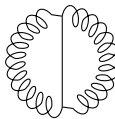
$$= \frac{1 + \gamma^2}{2} \frac{g^2}{(4\pi)^d} \int_0^\infty \frac{\prod_{i=1}^3 dt_i e^{-t_i m_i^2}}{\Delta_0^{d/2-1} \Delta_F} \left\{ \frac{2}{\Delta_F} \frac{\sinh(F_3 t_3)}{F_3} \cosh(2F_3 t_3 - F_1 t_1 - F_2 t_2) \right. \\ \left. + \frac{d-2}{\Delta_0} t_3 + \text{cyclic permutations} \right\}$$



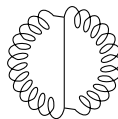
$$= -N_s \frac{g^2}{(4\pi)^d} \int_0^\infty \frac{\prod_{i=1}^3 dt_i e^{-t_i m_i^2}}{\Delta_0^{d/2-1} \Delta_F} \left\{ \frac{d-2}{\Delta_0} \left(t_3 + \frac{1-\gamma^2}{4} (t_1 + t_2) \right) \right. \\ \left. + \frac{2}{\Delta_F} \left(\frac{\sinh(gB_3 t_3)}{gB_3} \cosh(2gB_3 t_3 - gB_1 t_1 - gB_2 t_2) \right. \right. \\ \left. \left. + \frac{1-\gamma^2}{4} \left(\frac{\sinh(gB_1 t_1)}{gB_1} \cosh(gB_3 t_3 - gB_2 t_2) \right. \right. \right. \\ \left. \left. \left. + \frac{\sinh(gB_2 t_2)}{gB_2} \cosh(gB_3 t_3 - gB_1 t_1) \right) \right) + \text{cyclic permutations} \right\}$$

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
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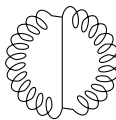
$$\begin{aligned}
 &= i \frac{g^2}{(4\pi)^d} \int_0^\infty \frac{\prod_{i=1}^3 dt_i e^{-t_i m_i^2}}{\Delta_0^{d/2-1} \Delta_F} \left\{ \left(\frac{1+\gamma^2}{2} m_3^2 - m_1^2 - m_2^2 \right) \right. \\
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
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
$$= -i \frac{g^2}{(4\pi)^d} \int_0^\infty \frac{\prod_{i=1}^3 dt_i e^{-t_i m_i^2}}{\Delta_0^{d/2-1} \Delta_F} (m_3^2 - m_1^2 - m_2^2) + \text{cyclic permutations}.$$



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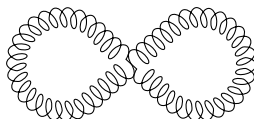
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$$= i (N_s - 1) \frac{3 - \gamma^2}{2} (m_1^2 + m_2^2 + m_3^2) \frac{g^2}{(4\pi)^d} \int_0^\infty \frac{\prod_{i=1}^3 dt_i e^{-t_i m_i^2}}{\Delta_0^{d/2-1} \Delta_F}.$$

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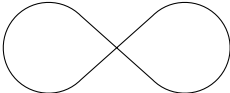
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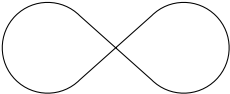
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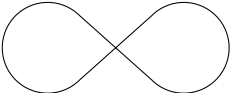
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- Some e.g. the scalar-gluon Fig. of 8 completely vanish.

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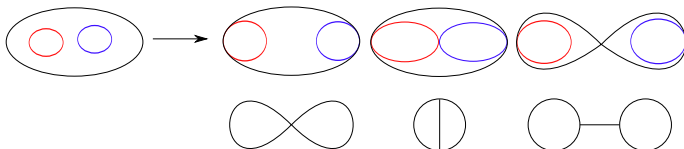
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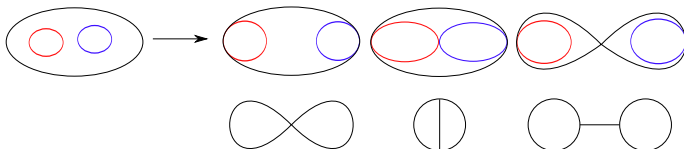
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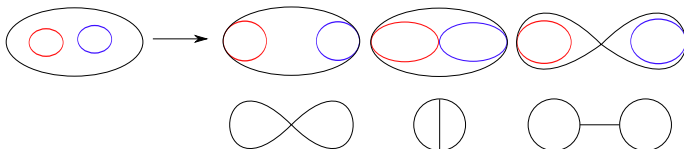
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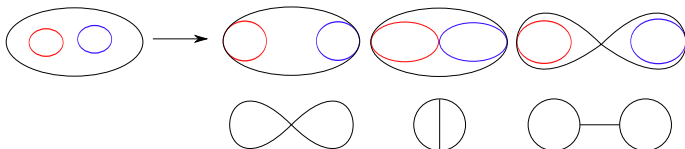
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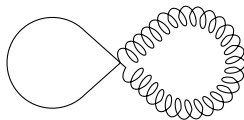
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- The factor we take $k_\mu^{\frac{1}{2}}$ from determines the field propagating in the corresponding leg of the Feynman diagram.

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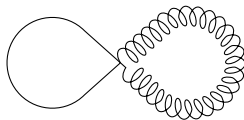
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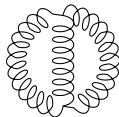
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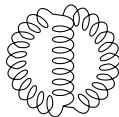
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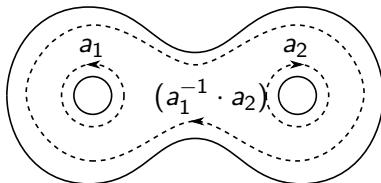


- The 3 bosonic worldsheet moduli we are integrating over are not symmetric (2 multipliers from the two handles; 1 anharmonic ratio of the fixed points) are not symmetric, so how can we map them onto Schwinger times?

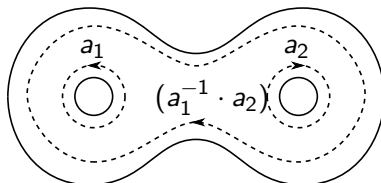
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- The solution is to recognize that the worldsheet has a 3-fold symmetry between homology cycles:

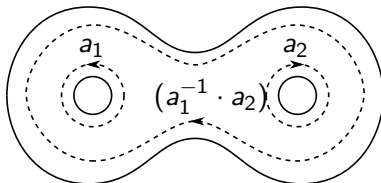


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- So choose as the bosonic moduli p_i , $i = 1, 2, 3$ where

$$p_1 p_3 = k_1; \quad p_2 p_3 = k_2; \quad p_1 p_2 = k(\mathbf{S}_1^{-1} \mathbf{S}_2),$$

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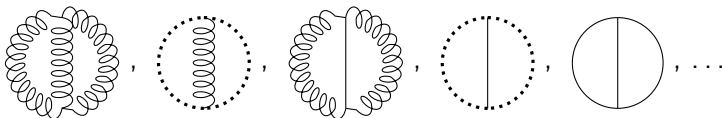
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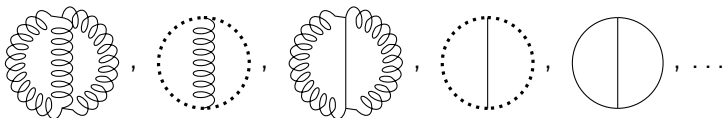
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- Unlike with bosonic strings, the $dp_i/p_i^{3/2}$ pole disappears after Grassmann integration + GSO projection (so no tachyons).

- After carrying out this procedure mechanically, we obtain exactly all the Feynman graphs with this topology, in GN gauge $\gamma^2 = 1$:



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- Diagrams with an odd number of scalars originate from sub-leading terms in the expansion of

$$e^{2\pi i \vec{m}_l \cdot \tau \cdot \vec{m}_l} = p_1^{\alpha' m_1^2} p_2^{\alpha' m_2^2} p_3^{\alpha' m_3^2} \left(1 + \alpha' m_3^2 \theta_1 \theta_2 (\sqrt{p_3} + \sqrt{p_1 p_2 p_3}) + \dots \right)$$

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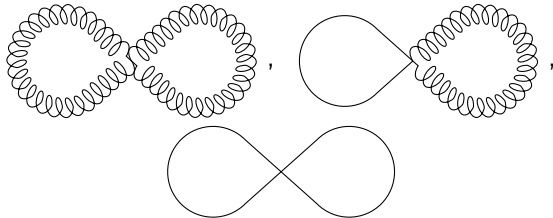
- We need to precisely identify the boundaries of super-moduli space to evaluate the integral.
- *E.g.* the integral $\int du d\theta d\phi \frac{1}{u} = \int d\theta d\phi d(\log u)$ differs by 1 depending on whether we take the lower limit as $u = 0$ or $p_3 \sim u(1 + \theta\phi) = 0$ (despite the same leading behaviour).

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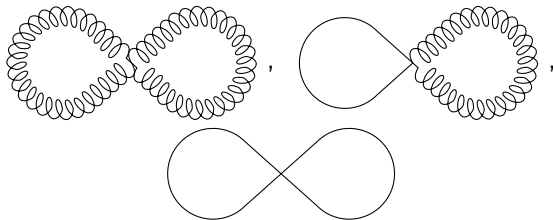
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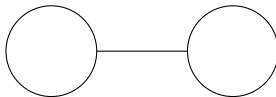
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- the $1/(1 - u + \theta\phi)$ term gives a contribution which has the structure of 1PR diagrams but with a wrong factor of 2—maybe the wrong integration limit (*cf.* u vs. p_3).



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- This should allow us to compute e.g. the effective action for Yang-Mills quite directly from string theory.
- Direction in which the work can be extended: spacetime fermions (Ramond sector), gravity amplitudes (with closed strings), more loops.

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Grazie!