

A massive S-matrix from massless amplitudes

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Princeton University

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based on:

N. Craig, H. Elvang, MK, T. Slatyer 1104.2050

MK 1105.5385

On-shell methods: **Successes**

Tremendous conceptual progress in

- **massless**
- **planar**
- **maximally supersymmetric** Yang-Mills theory.

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- **draw lessons** for less “special” theories from massless $\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM

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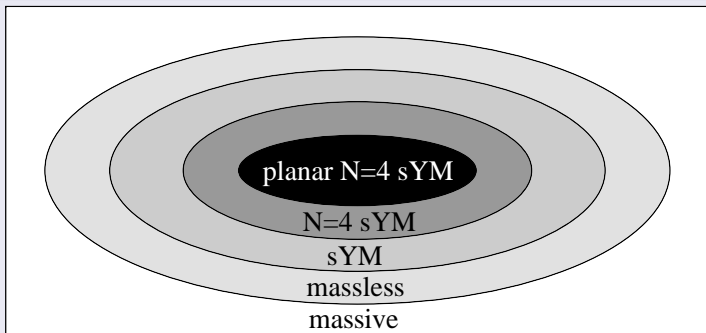
- **massless**
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Challenges

- **draw lessons** for less “special” theories from massless $\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM
- Even better:
Recycle results in massless $\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM for other theories?

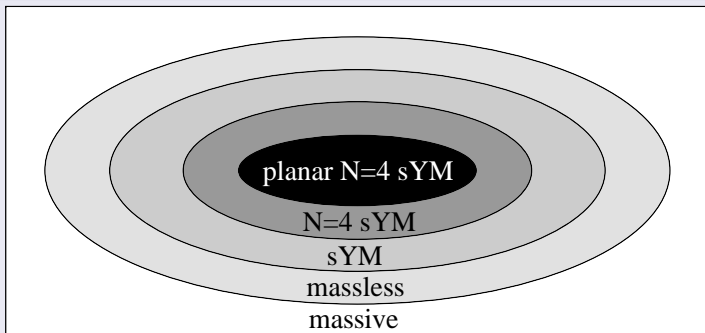
Motivation

Level of Difficulty [L. Dixon, 1105.0771]



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Can we somehow cheat:

Compute **massive** amplitudes from **massless on-shell** amplitudes?

QFT phenomena studied using on-shell methods

- on-shell amplitudes
- light-like **Wilson loops**
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What about **spontaneous symmetry breaking**?

Specifically: Can we compute amplitudes in the spontaneously broken theory from **on-shell amplitudes in the unbroken theory**?

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Coulomb branch: the simplest case

scalar vevs: $\langle (\phi_{12})_A^B \rangle = \langle (\phi_{34})_A^B \rangle = m \delta_A^B$ for $1 \leq A, B \leq M$.

brane picture:



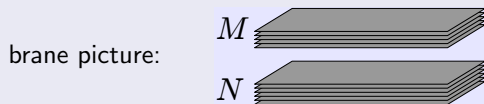
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spontaneously breaks gauge and R-symmetry group:

$$U(M+N) \rightarrow U(M) \times U(N), \quad SU(4)_R \rightarrow Sp(4) \supset SU(2) \times SU(2).$$

states decompose as:

$$A_\mu = \begin{pmatrix} (A_\mu)_{N \times N} & (W_\mu)_{N \times M} \\ (\bar{W}_\mu)_{M \times N} & (\tilde{A}_\mu)_{M \times M} \end{pmatrix}.$$

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Recent interest in Coulomb branch amplitudes

- as a **regulator** of IR divergences in the massless theory
[Alday, Henn, Naculich, Plefka, Schnitzer, Schuster]
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Crucial simple properties

- massive and massless phase **connected on moduli space** of vacua
- masses of any amplitude sum to zero: $\sum_i m_i = 0$.
(obvious from **6d momentum conservation**)

Explicit amplitudes

Convenient variables to express Coulomb-branch amplitudes?

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Review: Massless **spinor helicity formalism**

$$p_i \leftrightarrow |i\rangle[i] \quad \Rightarrow \quad \text{e.g.} \quad \langle g_1^- g_2^- g_3^+ \cdots g_n^+ \rangle = \frac{\langle 12 \rangle^4}{\langle 12 \rangle \langle 23 \rangle \cdots \langle n1 \rangle} .$$

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Reference vector q

- introduced as a **technical tool**, defines a **basis** of “helicity amplitudes”
- BUT: has **no direct physical significance or interpretation!**

Example: Ultra-helicity violating (UHV) amplitudes

4-point amplitude: $\langle W_1^- \bar{W}_2^+ g_3^+ g_4^+ \rangle = - \frac{m^2 \langle q1^\perp \rangle^2 [34]}{\langle q2^\perp \rangle^2 \langle 34 \rangle (P_{23}^2 + m^2)} .$

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n-point amplitude: [see also: Forde, Kosower; Ferrario et al]

$$\langle W_1^- \bar{W}_2^+ g_3^+ \dots g_n^+ \rangle$$
$$= - \frac{m^2 \langle q1^\perp \rangle^2}{\langle q2^\perp \rangle^2 \langle 34 \rangle \langle 45 \rangle \dots \langle n-1, n \rangle (P_{n1}^2 + m^2)} \times \left[3 \left| \prod_{j=3}^{n-2} \left[1 + \frac{P_j |j+1\rangle [j+1]}{P_j^2 + m^2} \right] \right| \right] |n\rangle .$$

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Example: Maximally $SU(4)$ -violating amplitudes

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Probe the moduli space through **scalar soft limits!**

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Compare: Adler zeros, Soft-pion theorems

- Goldstone bosons: soft-limits probe vacuum manifold
- BUT: Goldstone bosons \Leftrightarrow global symmetry \Leftrightarrow **all vacua equivalent**
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$$\lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0} \langle \phi_{\epsilon q} \dots \rangle = 0.$$

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- old theorem with modern applications:
finiteness of $\mathcal{N} = 8$ supergravity for $L < 7$ loops!

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Naive ansatz:

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- 4 RHS generically ill-defined due to **soft divergences**!

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LHS now depends on one **arbitrary massless reference spinor** $q \Leftrightarrow$ RHS?

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Puzzle 3: How to choose **soft-scalar momenta** q_i ?

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$$\langle W_1 \bar{W}_2 \dots \rangle \stackrel{?}{=} \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \sum_{s=0}^{\infty} \langle g_1 \phi_{\varepsilon q_1}^{\text{vev}} \phi_{\varepsilon q_2}^{\text{vev}} \dots \phi_{\varepsilon q_s}^{\text{vev}} g_2 \dots \rangle .$$

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New Puzzle: collinear divergences as $q_i \rightarrow q$!

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Resolution: **Symmetrize** in q_i before taking the limit $q_i \rightarrow q$.

Makes sense, because **vev scalars should not be color-ordered!**

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Puzzle 4: **soft-divergences** in the limit $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$

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Finite soft limits at **leading** non-vanishing order!

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Divergent soft limits at **subleading** orders!

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Related problem: **$O(m^2)$ violation of momentum conservation** on RHS

$$\sum_i p_i^\perp = \sum_i \left(p_i + \frac{m_i^2}{2 q \cdot p_i} q \right) = \left[\sum_{i=1}^n \frac{m_i^2}{2 q \cdot p_i} \right] q \neq 0.$$

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Special choice of q

We **must** impose

$$\sum_{i=1}^n \frac{m_i^2}{2 q \cdot p_i} = 0$$

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- prevent $1/\varepsilon$ divergence at first subleading order on RHS.
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only constrains choice of helicity **basis**!

any Coulomb-branch amplitude expressible in any q -helicity basis!

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Special choice of q for **two massive lines**

Simple orthogonality relation: $q \cdot (p_1 + p_2) = 0.$

Massive amplitudes from massless amplitudes

Summary: Refined proposal

$$\langle W_1 \bar{W}_2 \dots \rangle = \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \sum_{s=0}^{\infty} \langle g_1 \phi_{\varepsilon q}^{\text{vev}} \phi_{\varepsilon q}^{\text{vev}} \dots \phi_{\varepsilon q}^{\text{vev}} g_2 \dots \rangle_{\text{sym}}.$$

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\pm -helicity gluon

W-boson, pol ϵ_q^L

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scalar $\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(\phi^{12} + \phi^{34})$

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Open questions:

- show that proposal is **free of soft divergences** to all orders
- verify proposal for explicit Coulomb-branch amplitudes

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BUT: Infinite sum, vev-scalar symmetrization... daunting task in practice?

- 1 Review: The Coulomb-branch of $\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM
- 2 Coulomb-branch S -matrix from massless amplitudes
- 3 Tests of Proposal**
- 4 A CSW-like expansion on the Coulomb branch

Convenient representation for massless amplitudes

$$\langle W_1 \bar{W}_2 \dots \rangle = \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \sum_{s=0}^{\infty} \langle g_1 \phi_{\varepsilon q}^{\text{vev}} \phi_{\varepsilon q}^{\text{vev}} \dots \phi_{\varepsilon q}^{\text{vev}} g_2 \dots \rangle_{\text{sym}}.$$

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The CSW expansion for massless amplitudes

MHV vertices, connected by **scalar propagators**:

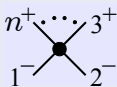
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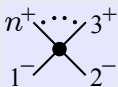
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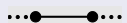
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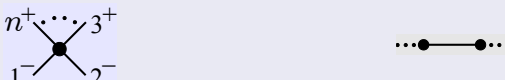
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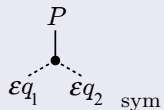


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holomorphic in $|i^\perp\rangle$, **CSW prescription** $|P_I^\perp\rangle \equiv P_I^\perp |q\rangle$ for internal P_I^\perp

Simplification through vev-scalar symmetrization

Vanishing vertices



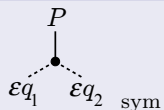
The diagram shows a central black dot representing a vertex. A solid vertical line extends upwards from the dot to the label P . Two dashed lines extend downwards and outwards from the dot to the labels εq_1 and εq_2 . The label sym is positioned to the right of the εq_2 label.

$$\propto \frac{1}{\langle Pq_1 \rangle \langle q_1 q_2 \rangle \langle q_2 P \rangle} + \frac{1}{\langle Pq_2 \rangle \langle q_2 q_1 \rangle \langle q_1 P \rangle} = 0$$

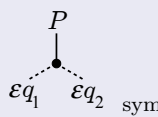
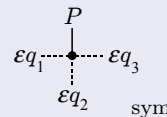
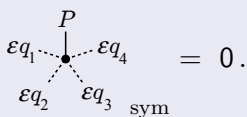
(obvious from **antisymmetry** of 3-point amplitude)

Simplification through vev-scalar symmetrization

Vanishing vertices


$$\text{sym} \left(\begin{array}{c} P \\ | \\ \bullet \\ / \quad \backslash \\ \varepsilon q_1 \quad \varepsilon q_2 \end{array} \right) \propto \frac{1}{\langle Pq_1 \rangle \langle q_1 q_2 \rangle \langle q_2 P \rangle} + \frac{1}{\langle Pq_2 \rangle \langle q_2 q_1 \rangle \langle q_1 P \rangle} = 0$$

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$$\text{sym} \left(\begin{array}{c} P \\ | \\ \bullet \\ \dots \quad \dots \\ \varepsilon q_1 \quad \varepsilon q_3 \\ | \\ \varepsilon q_2 \end{array} \right) = 0,$$

$$\text{sym} \left(\begin{array}{c} P \\ | \\ \bullet \\ \dots \quad \dots \\ \varepsilon q_1 \quad \varepsilon q_4 \\ \dots \quad \dots \\ \varepsilon q_2 \quad \varepsilon q_3 \end{array} \right) = 0.$$

(obvious from **$U(1)$ -decoupling identity**)

Simplification through vev-scalar symmetrization

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$$\begin{array}{c} P \\ | \\ \bullet \\ / \quad \backslash \\ \varepsilon q_1 \quad \varepsilon q_2 \end{array} \text{sym} = 0, \quad \begin{array}{c} P \\ | \\ \bullet \\ \dots \quad \dots \\ \varepsilon q_1 \quad \varepsilon q_3 \\ | \\ \varepsilon q_2 \end{array} \text{sym} = 0, \quad \begin{array}{c} P \\ | \\ \bullet \\ \dots \quad \dots \\ \varepsilon q_1 \quad \varepsilon q_4 \\ \backslash \quad / \\ \varepsilon q_2 \quad \varepsilon q_3 \end{array} \text{sym} = 0.$$

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vanishing vertices with more non-vev lines:

$$\begin{array}{c} P \\ | \\ \bullet \\ | \\ \varepsilon q \end{array} = 0, \quad \begin{array}{c} \dots \\ \backslash \quad / \\ \bullet \\ \dots \quad \dots \\ | \\ \varepsilon q \end{array} \text{sym} = 0, \quad \begin{array}{c} \dots \\ \backslash \quad / \\ \bullet \\ \dots \quad \dots \\ \backslash \quad / \\ \varepsilon q_1 \quad \varepsilon q_2 \end{array} \text{sym} = 0.$$

A four-point tree-level example

The 4-point amplitude $\langle W^- \bar{W}^+ \phi^{34} \phi^{34} \rangle$

$$\langle W^- \bar{W}^+ \phi^{34} \phi^{34} \rangle = -\frac{m^2 \langle 1^\perp | q | 2^\perp \rangle}{\langle 2^\perp | q | 1^\perp \rangle (P_{23}^2 + m^2)} = -\frac{m^2 \langle 1^\perp | q | 2^\perp \rangle}{\langle 2^\perp | q | 1^\perp \rangle [(P_{23}^\perp)^2 - m^2 \frac{q \cdot P_{23}}{q \cdot p_2} + m^2]}$$

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leading order

Only one diagram contributes to the massless NMHV amplitude:

$$\lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \langle g_1^- \phi_{\varepsilon q}^{\text{vev}} \phi_{\varepsilon q}^{\text{vev}} g_2^+ \phi_3^{34} \phi_4^{34} \rangle_{\text{sym}} = g_1^- \begin{array}{c} \phi_4^{34} \\ | \\ \bullet \\ | \\ \vdots \end{array} \text{---} \begin{array}{c} \phi_3^{34} \\ | \\ \bullet \\ | \\ \vdots \end{array} g_2^+ = -\frac{m^2 \langle 1^\perp | q | 2^\perp \rangle}{\langle 2^\perp | q | 1^\perp \rangle (P_{23}^\perp)^2}.$$

A four-point tree-level example

The 4-point amplitude $\langle W^- \bar{W}^+ \phi^{34} \phi^{34} \rangle$

$$\langle W^- \bar{W}^+ \phi^{34} \phi^{34} \rangle = -\frac{m^2 \langle 1^\perp | q | 2^\perp \rangle}{\langle 2^\perp | q | 1^\perp \rangle (P_{23}^2 + m^2)} = -\frac{m^2 \langle 1^\perp | q | 2^\perp \rangle}{\langle 2^\perp | q | 1^\perp \rangle [(P_{23}^\perp)^2 - m^2 \frac{q \cdot P_{23}}{q \cdot p_2} + m^2]}$$

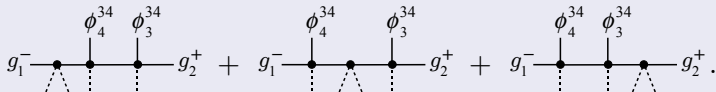
Subleading order: $\langle g_1^- \phi_{\varepsilon q}^{\text{vev}} \phi_{\varepsilon q}^{\text{vev}} \phi_{\varepsilon q}^{\text{vev}} \phi_{\varepsilon q}^{\text{vev}} g_2^+ \phi_3^{34} \phi_4^{34} \rangle_{\text{sym}}$

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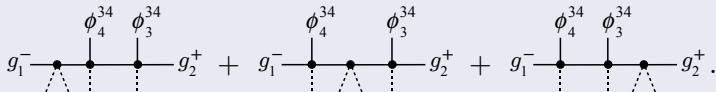


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crucial vertex:

$$P \text{---} \bullet \begin{array}{l} \text{---} \\ \text{---} \end{array} \begin{array}{l} \text{---} \\ \text{---} \end{array} \begin{array}{l} \text{---} \\ \text{---} \end{array} \varepsilon q \quad \text{sym} = -\frac{1}{2} \langle \phi_{ab} \rangle \langle \phi^{ab} \rangle = -m^2.$$

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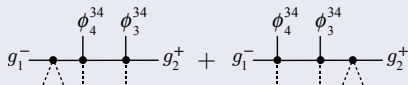
Finite contribution, builds up '+m²' in propagator!

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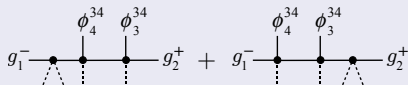
$$= \frac{m^2 \langle 1^\perp | q | 2^\perp \rangle}{\langle 2^\perp | q | 1^\perp \rangle (P_{23}^\perp)^2} \times \left[\frac{1}{\varepsilon} \left(\frac{m^2}{4 q \cdot p_1} + \frac{m^2}{4 q \cdot p_2} \right) - \frac{m^2 q \cdot P_{23}}{(P_{23}^\perp)^2 q \cdot p_2} + O(\varepsilon) \right].$$

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Finite sum of **divergent** diagrams, builds up $p_2^\perp \rightarrow p_2$ in propagator!

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All orders in m



- **Internal** 4-point vertices  build up '+m²' in propagator
- **External** 4-point vertices  build up ' $p_2^\perp \rightarrow p_2$ ' in propagator

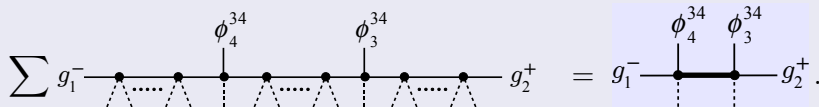
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The diagrammatic equation shows a sum over a series of diagrams on the left, equated to a single diagram on the right. The left side shows a sequence of diagrams connected by a horizontal line, with external legs g_1^- and g_2^+ . The diagrams consist of a chain of vertices, with internal vertices represented by triangles and external vertices by crosses. The right side shows a single diagram with a thick horizontal line representing the propagator, with external legs g_1^- and g_2^+ , and two external legs labeled ϕ_4^{34} and ϕ_3^{34} .

Checks and Generalizations of the proposal

$$\langle W_1 \bar{W}_2 \dots \rangle = \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \sum_{s=0}^{\infty} \langle g_1 \phi_{\varepsilon q}^{\text{vev}} \phi_{\varepsilon q}^{\text{vev}} \dots \phi_{\varepsilon q}^{\text{vev}} g_2 \dots \rangle_{\text{sym}}.$$

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Non-trivial Checks

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$$\langle W_1^- \bar{W}_2^+ \phi_3^{34} \dots \phi_n^{34} \rangle =$$

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- Proof of **finite soft limit**, to **all orders in m** , for any amplitude!

Checks and Generalizations of the proposal

Generalizations of proposal

- natural proposal for CB amplitudes with **arbitrary masses**.

$$\text{breaking } U(N) \rightarrow \prod_k U(M_k) \Rightarrow \langle \phi \rangle \sim v_k \Rightarrow m_X = v_{k_1} - v_{k_2}$$

with particle X in **bifundamental** of $U(M_{k_1}) \times U(M_{k_2})$.

Checks and Generalizations of the proposal

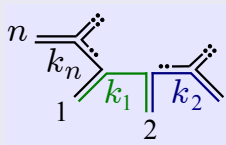
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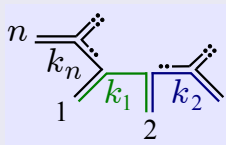
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$$= \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \sum_{s=0}^{\infty} \sum_{s_1 + \dots + s_n = s} \langle Y_1 \underbrace{\phi_{\varepsilon q}^{\text{vev}} \dots \phi_{\varepsilon q}^{\text{vev}}}_{s_1 \text{ times}} Y_2 \underbrace{\phi_{\varepsilon q}^{\text{vev}} \dots \phi_{\varepsilon q}^{\text{vev}}}_{s_2 \text{ times}} Y_3 \dots Y_n \underbrace{\phi_{\varepsilon q}^{\text{vev}} \dots \phi_{\varepsilon q}^{\text{vev}}}_{s_n \text{ times}} \rangle_{\text{sym}}$$

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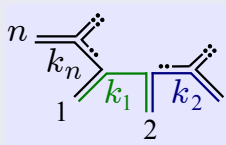
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- similar proposal for **loop integrand** (SUSY important!)

- 1 Review: The Coulomb-branch of $\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM
- 2 Coulomb-branch S -matrix from massless amplitudes
- 3 Tests of Proposal
- 4 A CSW-like expansion on the Coulomb branch

Convenient representation for massless amplitudes

$$\langle W_1 \bar{W}_2 \dots \rangle = \lim_{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} \sum_{s=0}^{\infty} \langle g_1 \phi_{\varepsilon q}^{\text{vev}} \phi_{\varepsilon q}^{\text{vev}} \dots \phi_{\varepsilon q}^{\text{vev}} g_2 \dots \rangle_{\text{sym}}.$$

- **infinite sum** over massless amplitudes, complicated **symmetrization**
- in simple examples:
infinite sum \Rightarrow **single diagram with massive propagators**:

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- is this always possible? what are the massive Feynman rules?

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- is this **always** possible? what are the **massive Feynman rules**?
 \Rightarrow **on-shell derivation** of Feynman rules in the broken phase?

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Resummation \Rightarrow Massive CSW-like rules:

- massive scalar propagators: $\dots \bullet \text{---} \bullet \dots = \frac{1}{p_l^2 + m_l^2}, \quad m_l = \sum_{i \in l} m_i.$

- MHV vertex:
$$\begin{array}{c} W_n^+ \dots W_3^+ \\ \times \\ W_1^- \dots W_2^- \end{array} = \frac{\langle 1^\perp 2^\perp \rangle^4}{\langle 1^\perp 2^\perp \rangle \dots \langle n^\perp 1^\perp \rangle}.$$

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- UHV \times MHV vertex:
$$\begin{array}{c} W_n^+ \dots W_3^+ \\ \times \\ W_1^- \dots w_2^{34} \end{array} = K \frac{\langle q^\perp 1^\perp \rangle^2 \langle 1^\perp 2^\perp \rangle^2}{\langle 1^\perp 2^\perp \rangle \dots \langle n^\perp 1^\perp \rangle}.$$

All- n amplitudes from the CSW-like expansion

A simple example: $\langle W_1^- \overline{W}_2^+ \phi_3^{34} \dots \phi_n^{34} \rangle$

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$$W_1^- \text{---} \overset{\phi_n^{34}}{\circ} \dots \overset{\phi_4^{34}}{\circ} \text{---} \overset{\phi_3^{34}}{\circ} \text{---} \bar{W}_2^+ = \frac{-m^{n-2} \langle 1^\perp | q | 2^\perp \rangle}{\langle 2^\perp | q | 1^\perp \rangle (P_{23}^2 + m^2) \dots (P_{23\dots n-1}^2 + m^2)} .$$

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- should be compared to **BCFW** form of same amplitude:

$$- \frac{m^2 \langle q 1^\perp \rangle^2}{\langle q 2^\perp \rangle^2 \langle 3 4 \rangle \langle 4 5 \rangle \dots \langle n-1, n \rangle (P_{n1}^2 + m^2)} \times \left[3 \left| \prod_{j=3}^{n-2} \left[1 + \frac{P_j |j+1\rangle [j+1|}{P_j^2 + m^2} \right] \right| n \right].$$

- similar complexity**, but **no recursion to solve!**

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- infinite sum over diagrams can be resummed
 \Rightarrow **CSW-like expansion** for Coulomb-branch amplitudes

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- applied proposal to particular massless amplitude representation:

massless CSW \longrightarrow *proposal* $\xrightarrow{\text{resum}}$ massive CSW-like expansion .

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For example, to make **6d dual conformal invariance** manifest?

- **apply** CSW-like expansion at tree and loop level
- massive amplitudes useful for **rational terms** in QCD [Badger, Boels]