Amplitudes and form factors in 3d superconformal Chern-Simons theory

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in progress

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<u>Plan</u>

- N=6 superconformal Chern-Simons matter theory (known as ABJM) (Aharony, Bergman, Jafferis, Maldacena)
 - original motivation: find the dual field theory to M-theory on $AdS_4 \propto S^7$ (Schwarz)
- ABJM amplitudes have surprising similarities to N=4 super Yang-Mills amplitudes

- One-loop amplitudes
 - explain certain intriguing regularities in one-loop amplitudes

- Two-loop Sudakov form factor
 - very interesting properties of integral functions, peculiar to 3d

ABJM in a nutshell

(Aharony, Bergman, Jafferis, Maldacena)

• Gauge fields (A, \hat{A})

Johansson's talk

Chern-Simons levels k and -k respectively

 $S_{ABJM} \ni S_{CS}[A] + \hat{S}_{CS}[\hat{A}]$

$$= \frac{k}{4\pi} \int \left[\text{Tr}(A \wedge dA - \frac{2}{3}iA \wedge A \wedge A) - (\hat{A} \wedge d\hat{A} - \frac{2}{3}i\hat{A} \wedge \hat{A} \wedge \hat{A}) \right]$$

- $\partial_{[\mu}A_{\nu]} = 0$ gluons appear only as internal states!
- peculiar role of gluon zero-momentum mode

• Matter fields:

- 4 complex bosons & 4 complex fermions $(\phi^A, \psi^{\alpha}_A)^I_{\bar{I}}$, $(\bar{\phi}_A, \bar{\psi}^A_{\alpha})^{\bar{I}}_I$
 - particles / anti-particles transform in the bi-fundamental $(N, \bar{N}), (\bar{N}, N)$ of U(N) × U(N) I, $\bar{I} = 1, ..., N$
 - A = 1, ..., 4 SU(4) R-symmetry index, $\alpha = 1, 2$ spin index
 - all particles transform in the (anti)-fundamental of R-symmetry group (unlike N=4 SYM)

- N=6 supersymmetry in 3d (for appropriately tuned 6-scalar and 2-fermion/2-scalar couplings)
- superconformal OSp(6|4)

• New example of AdS/CFT duality in 3d

- at large N and k << N
 - dual to M-theory on $AdS_4 \times S^7/Z_k$, weakly curved for $N >> k^5$
 - dual to type IIA string theory on $AdS_4 \times CP^3$ for $N \ll N^5$:

- at large k, there is a weakly-coupled Lagrangian description
 - 't Hooft limit: large N and k with $\lambda \equiv N/k$ fixed
 - weak coupling for $\lambda \ll 1$
 - 1/N expansion at fixed λ

• this talk: amplitudes and form factors at small λ

Amplitudes

Spinor helicity formalism

- crucial to expose the simplicity of amplitudes (as in 4d)
 - Lorentz group isomorphic to $SL(2, \mathbf{R})$: $p^{\mu} \rightarrow p_{\alpha\beta} := p^{\mu}\sigma_{\mu,\alpha\beta}$
 - For null vectors: $p_{\alpha\beta} = \lambda_{\alpha} \lambda_{\beta}$ with $\alpha, \beta = 1, 2$
 - automatically enforces $p^2 = \det(p) = 0$
 - similar to $p_{\alpha\dot{\beta}}=\lambda_{\alpha}\tilde{\lambda}_{\dot{\beta}}$ in 4d

- little group is $\lambda \rightarrow -\lambda$ hence no helicity (unlike in 4d!)
- Lorentz invariant products: $\langle i j \rangle := \lambda_{i\alpha} \lambda_{j\beta} \epsilon^{\alpha\beta}$
 - only one kind of invariant product (no [...] brackets !)

Simplest amplitude

Four-point (super)amplitude at tree level

(Agarwal, Beisert, McLoughlin)

$$\mathcal{M}(\bar{1},2,\bar{3},4) = \frac{\delta^{(3)} \left(\sum_{i=1}^{4} \lambda_i \lambda_i\right) \,\delta^{(6)} \left(\sum_{i=1}^{4} \lambda_i \eta_i\right)}{\langle 12 \rangle \langle 23 \rangle}$$

- all amplitudes with a fixed number of legs packaged into a single superamplitude
 - η^A fermionic variables, A = 1, 2, 3 is an SU(3) index (\subset SU(4))
 - N=6 supersymmetric delta functions: $\delta^{(3)} \left(\sum_{i} \lambda_{i} \lambda_{i} \right) \delta^{(6)} \left(\sum_{i} \lambda_{i} \eta_{i} \right)$
- Because of gauge invariance, particles and antiparticles must alternate, hence only amplitudes with an even number of legs are nonvanishing

• The only amplitude reminiscent of 4d MHV amplitudes

• in 3d

$$\mathcal{M}(\bar{1},2,\bar{3},4) = \frac{\delta^{(3)} \left(\sum_{i=1}^{4} \lambda_i \lambda_i\right) \,\delta^{(6)} \left(\sum_{i=1}^{4} \lambda_i \eta_i\right)}{\langle 12 \rangle \langle 23 \rangle}$$

• in 4d:

$$\mathcal{M}_{\rm MHV}(1,\ldots,4) = \frac{\delta^{(4)} \left(\sum_{i=1}^{4} \lambda_i \tilde{\lambda}_i\right) \,\delta^{(8)} \left(\sum_{i=1}^{4} \lambda_i \eta_i\right)}{\langle 12 \rangle \langle 23 \rangle \langle 34 \rangle \langle 41 \rangle}$$

Parke-Taylor (super)amplitude

Facts & similarities with N=4 SYM

- At four points in ABJM:
 - One-loop amplitude vanishes (Agarwal, Beisert, McLoughlin)
 - Two-loop amplitude matches the one-loop amplitude in N=4 SYM (Chen & Huang; Bianchi, Leoni, Mauri, Penati, Santambrogio)
 - Two-loop Wilson loop matches the one-loop Wilson loop in N=4 SYM (Henn, Plefka, Wiegandt; Wiegandt)
- Conjectured scattering amplitude-Wilson loop duality (at four points)
- Conjectured correlation function-Wilson loop duality (at four points) (Bianchi, Leoni, Mauri, Penati, Ratti, Santambrogio)

Dual (super)conformal symmetry

- for the Wilson loop (Henn, Plefka, Wiegandt)
- for the amplitudes (Gang, Huang, Koh, Lee, Lipstein; Bargheer, Beisert, Loebbert, McLoughlin)

- Yangian symmetry (Bargheer, Loebbert, Meneghelli)
 - by commuting dual conformal with conformal generators

Amplitudes represented as a Grassmannian integral (Lee)

 Spectrum of (planar) anomalous dimensions in terms of integrable spin chain (Minahan & Zarembo; Bak & Rey)

Differences with N=4 SYM

- n-point amplitudes have Grassmann degree 3n / 2
 - no MHV amplitudes, no helicity
 - no amplitudes with odd number of particles

• *n*-point amplitudes at one loop are non-vanishing for $n \ge 6$ (Bargheer, Beisert, Loebbert, McLoughlin; Bianchi, Leoni, Mauri, Penati, Santambrogio; Brandhuber, GT, Wen)

Wilson loop with odd number of edges is non-vanishing, but there is no corresponding amplitude! One-loop amplitudes

One-loop ABJM amplitudes

- Only scalar triangles because of dual conformal symmetry
 - one-mass and two-mass triangles vanish in d=3 hence

$$\mathcal{M}_{n}^{(1)} = \sum_{K_{1}, K_{2}, K_{3}} \mathcal{C}_{K_{1}, K_{2}, K_{3}} \mathcal{I}^{3m}(K_{1}, K_{2}, K_{3})$$

- three-mass triangles are finite (

$$(K_i^2 \neq 0)$$



- All one-loop amplitudes are finite!
 - we provide later a recursion relation for their coefficients

Six-point amplitude

- Tree-level:
 - Y-functions:

$$\mathcal{M}^{(0)}(\bar{1}, 2, \bar{3}, 4, \bar{5}, 6) = Y^{(1)}_{12;4} + Y^{(2)}_{12;4}$$

$$Y^{(1)}_{12;4} = \frac{\delta^{(3)}(P)\delta^{(6)}(Q)}{P^2_{24}} \frac{\delta^{(3)}(\epsilon_{ijk}\langle j k \rangle \eta_i - i \epsilon_{\bar{i}\bar{j}\bar{k}}\langle \bar{j} \bar{k} \rangle \eta_{\bar{i}})}{(\langle 2|P_{34}|5 \rangle + i\langle 3 4 \rangle \langle 6 1 \rangle)(\langle 1|P_{23}|4 \rangle + i\langle 2 3 \rangle \langle 5 6 \rangle)} \qquad i, j = 2, 3, 4$$

$$Y^{(2)}_{12;4} = \frac{\delta^{(3)}(P)\delta^{(6)}(Q)}{P^2_{24}} \frac{\delta^{(3)}(\epsilon_{ijk}\langle j k \rangle \eta_i + i \epsilon_{\bar{i}\bar{j}\bar{k}}\langle \bar{j} \bar{k} \rangle \eta_{\bar{i}})}{(\langle 2|P_{34}|5 \rangle - i\langle 3 4 \rangle \langle 6 1 \rangle)(\langle 1|P_{23}|4 \rangle - i\langle 2 3 \rangle \langle 5 6 \rangle)} \qquad \bar{i}, \bar{j} = 5, 6, 1$$

one-loop:

$$\left(\mathcal{M}^{(1)}(\bar{1},2,\bar{3},4,\bar{5},6) = \pi^3 \mathcal{S}(Y^{(1)}_{12;4} - Y^{(2)}_{12;4})\right)$$

- $S = \operatorname{sgn}(\langle 1 2 \rangle) \operatorname{sgn}(\langle 3 4 \rangle) \operatorname{sgn}(\langle 5 6 \rangle) + \operatorname{sgn}(\langle 2 3 \rangle) \operatorname{sgn}(\langle 4 5 \rangle) \operatorname{sgn}(\langle 6 1 \rangle)$

- sgn
$$(\langle m n \rangle) := -i \frac{\langle m n \rangle}{\sqrt{-(\langle m n \rangle^2 + i\varepsilon)}}$$

Determined with maximal cuts (Bargheer, Beisert, Loebbert, McLoughlin) and supergraphs (Bianchi, Leoni, Mauri, Penati, Santambrogio)

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$$Y_{12;4}^{(2)} = \frac{\delta^{(3)}(P)\delta^{(6)}(Q)}{P_{24}^2} \frac{\delta^{(3)}(\epsilon_{ijk}\langle j\,k\rangle\eta_i + i\,\epsilon_{\bar{i}\bar{j}\bar{k}}\langle\bar{j}\,\bar{k}\rangle\eta_{\bar{i}})}{(\langle 2|P_{34}|5\rangle - i\langle 3\,4\rangle\langle 6\,1\rangle)(\langle 1|P_{23}|4\rangle - i\langle 2\,3\rangle\langle 5\,6\rangle)} \qquad \bar{i}, \bar{j} = 5, 6, 1$$

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Determined with maximal cuts (Bargheer, Beisert, Loebbert, McLoughlin) and supergraphs (Bianchi, Leoni, Mauri, Penati, Santambrogio) • Goal: explain (and possibly extend) the remarkable similarity between the tree and one-loop results observed at 6 points

Strategy: look for similarities with N=4 SYM in 4d

More specifically: look for links between tree-level and oneloop expressios...



 one-loop amplitudes in N=4: rational coefficient x box function (Bern, Dixon, Dunbar, Kosower)

$$\mathcal{A}^{1-\text{loop}} = \sum_{i,j,k,l} \mathcal{C}(i,j,k,l)$$

Box coefficient from generalised unitarity (Britto, Cachazo, Feng)



- Tree/one-loop link:
 - RSV equations: n equations relating sums of two-mass hard (and one-mass) box supercofficients to the N=4 tree amplitude

(Roiban, Spradlin, Volovich)

$$\sum_{j=i+2}^{i+n-2} \mathcal{C}^{2\mathrm{mh}}(i,j) = 2\mathcal{M}^{(0)}, \quad i = 1, \dots, n$$



- LHS: quadruple cut evaluates 2mh coefficient. Note: 2 three-point vertices RHS: BCFW diagram contributing to the tree amplitude
- First hint: solutions for cut momenta \hat{l}_a, \hat{l}_b same as BCFW shifts $\hat{i}, \hat{i+1}$

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- RSV relations proved by direct calculation or IR consistency conditions (Arkani-Hamed, Cachazo, Kaplan) or using dual conformal equations (Brandhuber, Heslop, GT)
- question: do we have a similar connection in 3d?

- pessimistic answer: RSV relations are related to infrared divergences. 3d at one loop is finite, hence answer is NO.
- optimistic answer: the RSV equations are related to anomalous dual conformal symmetry, which ABJM does have (Bargheer, Beisert, Loebbert, McLoughlin)

our answer: try!

One-loop amplitudes & BCFW diagrams

(Brandhuber, GT, Wen)



- LHS: triple cut evaluates coefficient. Note: one 4-point amplitude RHS: BCFW diagram contributing to the tree amplitude
- First hint: solutions for cut momenta same as BCFW shifts
- Opposite sign for the two residues
 - curious minus signs in the one-loop amplitudes vs tree level explained

contribution of the two residues at z_1 and z_2

- In brief:
 - Recursion diagram: $\mathcal{R}_{12;i} = Y_{12;i}^{(1)} + Y_{12;i}^{(2)}$
 - Supercoefficient: $C_{12;i} = -\langle 12 \rangle \sqrt{K_1^2 K_2^2} \left(Y_{12;i}^{(1)} Y_{12;i}^{(2)} \right)$
 - Supercoefficient x integral function:

$$\int \mathcal{C}_{12;i} \mathcal{I}_{12,K_1,K_2} = -i\frac{\pi^3}{4} \frac{\langle 12 \rangle}{\sqrt{-(P_{12}^2 + i\varepsilon)}} \frac{\langle \xi \mu \rangle}{\sqrt{-(K_1^2 + i\varepsilon)}} \frac{\langle \xi' \mu' \rangle}{\sqrt{-(K_2^2 + i\varepsilon)}} \left(Y_{12;i}^{(1)} - Y_{12;i}^{(2)} \right)$$

-
$$K_{1\,ab}$$
 := $\xi_{(a}\mu_{b)}$, $K_{2\,ab}$:= $\xi_{(a}'\mu_{b)}'$

- prefactor involves sign functions

- Result obtained by adding all cut diagrams
- Can derive complete amplitudes up to 10 points

Examples

• <u>Six-point amplitude</u>

▶ Tree level: $\mathcal{M}^{(0)}(\bar{1}, 2, \bar{3}, 4, \bar{5}, 6) = Y_{12;4}^{(1)} + Y_{12;4}^{(2)}$

- Y-functions from recursive diagrams:

$$\begin{split} Y_{12;4}^{(1)} &= \frac{\delta^{(3)}(P)\delta^{(6)}(Q)}{P_{24}^2} \frac{\delta^{(3)}(\epsilon_{ijk}\langle j\,k\rangle\eta_i - i\,\epsilon_{\bar{i}\bar{j}\bar{k}}\langle\bar{j}\,\bar{k}\rangle\eta_{\bar{i}})}{(\langle 2|P_{34}|5\rangle + i\langle 3\,4\rangle\langle 6\,1\rangle)(\langle 1|P_{23}|4\rangle + i\langle 2\,3\rangle\langle 5\,6\rangle)} & i,j = 2,3,4 \\ Y_{12;4}^{(2)} &= \frac{\delta^{(3)}(P)\delta^{(6)}(Q)}{P_{24}^2} \frac{\delta^{(3)}(\epsilon_{ijk}\langle j\,k\rangle\eta_i + i\,\epsilon_{\bar{i}\bar{j}\bar{k}}\langle\bar{j}\,\bar{k}\rangle\eta_{\bar{i}})}{(\langle 2|P_{34}|5\rangle - i\langle 3\,4\rangle\langle 6\,1\rangle)(\langle 1|P_{23}|4\rangle - i\langle 2\,3\rangle\langle 5\,6\rangle)} & \bar{i},\bar{j} = 5,6,1 \end{split}$$

Six-point amplitude at one loop:

$$\mathcal{M}^{(1)}(\bar{1}, 2, \bar{3}, 4, \bar{5}, 6) = \pi^{3} \mathcal{S}(Y^{(1)}_{12;4} - Y^{(2)}_{12;4})$$
$$= i\pi^{3} \mathcal{S} \mathcal{M}^{(0)}(\bar{6}, 1, \bar{2}, 3, \bar{4}, 5)$$

 $\mathcal{S} = \operatorname{sgn}(\langle 1\,2\rangle)\operatorname{sgn}(\langle 3\,4\rangle)\operatorname{sgn}(\langle 5\,6\rangle) + \operatorname{sgn}(\langle 2\,3\rangle)\operatorname{sgn}(\langle 4\,5\rangle)\operatorname{sgn}(\langle 6\,1\rangle)$

- Derivation from earlier result:
 - Anomalous cut diagrams:





Associated recursive diagrams:



- Note: two BCFW diagrams with different shifts (same amplitude!)

BCFW recursive diagram associated to the anomalous cut:



Anomalous triple-cut diagram:



Final result from adding other diagram

• Side remark:

In general, each recursion diagram has two contributions from the two poles z1, z2:

$$\mathcal{R}_{12;i} = Y_{12;i}^{(1)} + Y_{12;i}^{(2)}$$

The two residues are separately dual conformal invariant

Recursion relation for one-loop coefficients

(Brandhuber, GT, Wen)

- Just the main idea:
 - Used already in QCD (Bern, Bjerrum-Bohr, Dunbar, Ita)
 - Typical problems:
 - spurious poles
 - large-*z* behaviour not understood
 - Example of a problematic case (in 4d gauge theory):



- Problematic situation can always be avoided in ABJM
 - can choose shifts such that legs a and b belong to the same amplitude



- reason: no amplitudes with odd number of legs
- shift i and i + 1 with i odd (e.g. 1 and 2)
- All one-loop amplitudes in ABJM under control!

Form Factors

• Partially off-shell quantities

$$F = \int d^4x \, e^{-iqx} \, \langle state | \mathcal{O}(x) | 0 \rangle = \delta^{(4)}(q - p_{state}) \, \langle state | \mathcal{O}(0) | 0 \rangle$$

• Electromagnetic form factor



• Three-loop correction to electron g-2



- wild oscillations between the values of each diagram/integral
- final result is O(1)
- another example of "unexplained" simplicity...

- A number of interesting recent results:
 - surprising similarities between two-loop, three-point form factors of 1/2 BPS operators in N=4 SYM and:
 - I. Higgs + 3 jet amplitudes in QCD
 - maximally transcendental parts are identical!
 - 2. a slice (u + v + w = 1) of the six-point MHV amplitude remainder in N=4 SYM (Brandhuber, GT, Yang)

$$\mathcal{R}_{3}^{(2)} = -2\left[J_{4}\left(-\frac{uv}{w}\right) + J_{4}\left(-\frac{vw}{u}\right) + J_{4}\left(-\frac{wu}{v}\right)\right] - 8\sum_{i=1}^{3}\left[\operatorname{Li}_{4}\left(1-u_{i}^{-1}\right) + \frac{\log^{4}u_{i}}{4!}\right] \\ -2\left[\sum_{i=1}^{3}\operatorname{Li}_{2}(1-u_{i}^{-1})\right]^{2} + \frac{1}{2}\left[\sum_{i=1}^{3}\log^{2}u_{i}\right]^{2} - \frac{\log^{4}(uvw)}{4!} - \frac{23}{2}\zeta_{4}$$

$$J_4(z) := \text{Li}_4(z) - \log(-z)\text{Li}_3(z) + \frac{\log^2(-z)}{2!}\text{Li}_2(z) - \frac{\log^3(-z)}{3!}\text{Li}_1(z) - \frac{\log^4(-z)}{48}$$

Form factors in ABJM

(Brandhuber, Korres, Gurdogan, Mooney, GT; Young)

- Simplest form factors: scalar 1/2 BPS operators
 - e.g. $O(x) = \operatorname{Tr}(\phi^A \bar{\phi}_4)(x)$
 - Sudakov form factor:

 $\langle \phi^A(p_1) \bar{\phi}_4(p_2) | O(0) | \mathbf{0} \rangle$ O is a colour singlet

- equal to 1 at tree level, one-loop correction vanishes

- Sudakov form factor controls IR divergences of amplitudes and UV divergences of Wilson loops with cusps (Korchemsky & Radyushkin)
 - zero at one-loop (consistent with finiteness of one-loop amplitudes)
 - at two loops expect $\sim \frac{\gamma_{\rm cusp}}{\epsilon^2} + {\rm finite}~{\rm from~known}$ 4- and 6-pt amplitudes

- Goal: evaluate $F(q^2) = \langle \phi^A(p_1)\bar{\phi}_4(p_2) | \operatorname{Tr}(\phi^A\bar{\phi}_4)(0) | 0 \rangle$ at two loops, $q = p_1 + p_2$
- Known technical challenge: non-planar amplitudes enter the cuts of planar form factors

- Strategy: use a combination of
 - two-particle cuts
 - three-particle cuts fix all remaining ambiguities
 - note: we work at the integrand level!

Two-loop form factors in ABJM

(Brandhuber, Korres, Gurdogan, Mooney, GT)



- LHS: glue tree-level Sudakov form factor to a four-point one-loop complete amplitude
- RHS: glue one-loop Sudakov form factor with four-point tree-level amplitude

 $\stackrel{q}{\blacktriangleright}$ (F)

- Triple cuts:
 - no odd-particle amplitudes in ABJM
 - very powerful constraint!
 - triple cuts uniquely fix potential remaining integral (which is free of double two-particle cuts)



Final result:
$$F^{(2)}(q^2) = \left(\frac{N}{k}\right)^2 \mathbf{XT}(q^2)$$



$$= -\frac{1}{(4\pi)^3} \left(-\frac{q^2 e^{\gamma_E}}{4\pi\mu^2} \right)^{-2\epsilon} \left[\frac{\pi}{\epsilon^2} + \frac{2\pi\log 2}{\epsilon} - 4\pi\log^2 2 - \frac{2\pi^3}{3} + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon) \right]$$

$$F^{(2)}(q^2) = \frac{1}{64\pi^2} \left(\frac{N}{k}\right)^2 \left(-\frac{q^2}{\mu'^2}\right)^{-2\epsilon} \left[-\frac{1}{\epsilon^2} + 6\log^2 2 + \frac{2\pi^2}{3} + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon)\right]$$

$$\mu'^2 := 8\pi e^{-\gamma_E} \mu^2$$

- agreement with the IR divergences of the known two-loop amplitudes, result has maximal degree of transcendentality

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$$= -\frac{1}{(4\pi)^3} \left(-\frac{q^2 e^{\gamma_E}}{4\pi\mu^2} \right)^{-2\epsilon} \left[\frac{\pi}{\epsilon^2} + \frac{2\pi\log 2}{\epsilon} - 4\pi\log^2 2 - \frac{2\pi^3}{3} + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon) \right]$$

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$$\pi, \log 2$$

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Comment I

- special numerator removes unwanted/unphysical infrared divergences associated to three internal momenta becoming soft. These are present even for massive external kinematics
- Already observed in amplitudes, where numerators are crucial to maintain dual conformal invariance (Bianchi, Leoni, Mauri, Penati, Santambrogio)



- Only I_{1s} I_{4s} is dual conformal. I_{1s} and I_{4s} separately IR divergent!
- Dual conformal symmetry absent in form factors, however the cancellation of unwanted IR divergences is still present and powerful

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• Comment 2

- Numerators make the integrals maximally transcendental!
- an experimental observation so far
- amplitudes and Wilson loops have uniform degree of transcendentality as in N=4 SYM

Summary

- Hidden structures/regularities in ABJM amplitudes
- One-loop amplitudes and recursion relations
 - connection between special triple cuts and BCFW diagrams
 - recursion relations for supercoefficients
- Two-loop Sudakov form factor
 - very interesting properties of integral functions, transcendental result
- Plenty of questions to ask!