Form factors and the dilatation operator from on-shell methods

Matthias Wilhelm, Humboldt University Berlin



Amplitudes 2015, Zürich July 8th, 2015

[1410.6309]

[1410.8485] with D. Nandan, C. Sieg and G. Yang [1504.06323] with F. Loebbert, D. Nandan, C. Sieg and G. Yang



2 Form factors as spin chains

3 One-loop form factors and the complete one-loop dilatation operator

4 Two-loop results



Motivation to study form factors (1)



Photo by DAVID ILIFF. License: CC-BY-SA 3.0

⇒ Form factors as bridge between purely on-shell amplitudes and purely off-shell correlation functions [van Neerven (1985)] [Boels, Bork, Brandhuber, Engelund, Gehrmann, Gurdogan, Henn, Huber, Kazakov, Kniehl, Moch, Mooney, Naculich, Penante, Roiban, Spence, Tarasov, Travaglini, Vartanov, Wen, Yang (2010–2014)]

Previous studies have focused on a special class of operators

 $\rightarrow\,$ Study form factor of generic operator

[MW(2014)]

Motivation to study form factors (2)







Connection between dilatation operator and amplitudes [Zwiebel (2011)]

Motivated study of amplitudes at weak coupling via integrability [Ferro, Lukowski,Meneghelli,Plefka,Staudacher,Chicherin,Derkachov,Kirschner,Frassek,Kanning, Ko,Beisert,Broedel,Rosso,de Leeuw,Bargheer,Huang,Loebbert,Yamazaki (2012–2014)]

Form factors as bridge between on-shell methods and integrability

→ Revisit spectral problem via on-shell methods, field-theoretic derivation and extension of connection between dilatation operator and amplitudes [MW (Oct.2014)],[Nandan,Sieg,MW,Yang (Oct.2014)] [Loebbert,Nandan,Sieg,MW,Yang (Apr.2015)]

Further on-shell approaches to the dilatation operator via correlation functions [Engelund,Roiban (2012)], [Koster,Mitev,Staudacher (Oct.2014)], [Brandhuber,Penante,Travaglini,Young (Dec.2014,Feb.2015)]





One-loop form factors and the complete one-loop dilatation operator

4 Two-loop results

5 Summary and outlook

Super spinor helicity variables for super form factors

Fourier transform to momentum space

$$\mathcal{F}_{\mathcal{O}}(1,\ldots,n;q) = \int d^{4}x \, e^{-iqx} \langle 1,\ldots,n | \mathcal{O}(x) | 0 \rangle$$
$$= \delta^{4} \left(q - \sum_{i=1}^{n} p_{i} \right) \langle 1,\ldots,n | \mathcal{O}(0) | 0 \rangle$$

Spinor helicity variables:
$$p_i^{lpha \dot{lpha}} = p_i^{\mu} \sigma_{\mu}^{lpha \dot{lpha}} = \lambda_i^{lpha} \tilde{\lambda}_i^{\dot{lpha}} \qquad (p_i^2 = 0)$$

Nair's $\mathcal{N} = 4$ on-shell super field

$$\Phi = g^{+} + \eta^{A} \bar{\psi}_{A} + \frac{1}{2!} \eta^{A} \eta^{B} \phi_{AB} + \eta^{A} \eta^{B} \eta^{C} \psi_{ABC} + \eta^{1} \eta^{2} \eta^{3} \eta^{4} g^{-}$$

Colour-ordered super form factors

$$\mathcal{F}_{\mathcal{O}}(1,\ldots,n;q) = \sum_{\sigma \in \mathbb{S}_n/\mathbb{Z}_n} \operatorname{tr}[\mathsf{T}^{a_{\sigma(1)}} \cdots \mathsf{T}^{a_{\sigma(n)}}] \hat{\mathcal{F}}_{\mathcal{O}}(\sigma(1),\ldots,\sigma(n);q) + \text{multi-trace terms}$$

Gauge-invariant local composite operators

Single-trace operators

$$\mathcal{O}(x) = tr(W_1(x)W_2(x)\ldots W_L(x))$$

with $W_i \in$

$$\begin{cases} \mathsf{D}_{(\alpha_{1}\dot{\alpha}_{1}}\cdots\mathsf{D}_{\alpha_{k}\dot{\alpha}_{k}}\bar{F}_{\dot{\alpha}_{k+1}\dot{\alpha}_{k+2}}) & \stackrel{\cong}{=} & (\mathbf{a}^{\dagger})^{k+2}(\mathbf{b}^{\dagger})^{k} & \mathbf{d}^{\dagger 1}\mathbf{d}^{\dagger 2}\mathbf{d}^{\dagger 3}\mathbf{d}^{\dagger 4} \mid 0 \rangle, \\ \mathsf{D}_{(\alpha_{1}\dot{\alpha}_{1}}\cdots\mathsf{D}_{\alpha_{k}\dot{\alpha}_{k}}\bar{\psi}_{\dot{\alpha}_{k+1}})_{A} & \stackrel{\cong}{=} & (\mathbf{a}^{\dagger})^{k+1}(\mathbf{b}^{\dagger})^{k} & \mathbf{d}^{\dagger A}\mathbf{d}^{\dagger B}\mathbf{d}^{\dagger C} \mid 0 \rangle, \\ \mathsf{D}_{(\alpha_{1}\dot{\alpha}_{1}}\cdots\mathsf{D}_{\alpha_{k}\dot{\alpha}_{k}}\phi_{AB} & \stackrel{\cong}{=} & (\mathbf{a}^{\dagger})^{k} & (\mathbf{b}^{\dagger})^{k} & \mathbf{d}^{\dagger A}\mathbf{d}^{\dagger B} \mid 0 \rangle, \\ \mathsf{D}_{(\alpha_{1}\dot{\alpha}_{1}}\cdots\mathsf{D}_{\alpha_{k}\dot{\alpha}_{k}}\psi_{\alpha_{k+1}})_{ABC} & \stackrel{\cong}{=} & (\mathbf{a}^{\dagger})^{k} & (\mathbf{b}^{\dagger})^{k+1}\mathbf{d}^{\dagger A} \mid 0 \rangle, \\ \mathsf{D}_{(\alpha_{1}\dot{\alpha}_{1}}\cdots\mathsf{D}_{\alpha_{k}\dot{\alpha}_{k}}F_{\alpha_{k+1}\alpha_{k+2}}) & \stackrel{\cong}{=} & (\mathbf{a}^{\dagger})^{k} & (\mathbf{b}^{\dagger})^{k+2} \mid 0 \rangle \} \end{cases}$$

Irreducible fields transforming in the singleton representation \mathcal{V}_{S} of $\mathfrak{psu}(2,2|4)$ in oscillator picture using $(\mathbf{a}_{i}^{\dagger\alpha}, \mathbf{b}_{i}^{\dagger\dot{\alpha}}, \mathbf{d}_{i}^{\dagger A})$ [Günaydin, Saçlioglu (1982)], [Günaydin, Minic, Zagermann (1998)], [Beisert (2003)]



Colour-ordered minimal (n = L) tree-level super form factor for generic operator O

$$\hat{\mathcal{F}}_{\mathcal{O}}^{(0)}(1,\ldots,L;q) = L\delta^{4}\left(q - \sum_{i=1}^{L}\lambda_{i}^{\alpha}\tilde{\lambda}_{i}^{\dot{\alpha}}\right)\begin{pmatrix}\mathbf{a}_{i}^{\alpha} \to \lambda_{i}^{\alpha}\\\mathbf{b}_{i}^{\dagger\dot{\alpha}} \to \lambda_{i}^{\dot{\alpha}}\\\mathbf{d}_{i}^{\dagger A} \to \eta_{i}^{A}\\\text{in oscillator picture}\end{pmatrix}$$

⇒ Minimal form factors yield the spin chain of $\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM theory in super spinor helicity variables, making it accessible to on-shell methods from the study of amplitudes

[MW(2014)]





One-loop form factors and the complete one-loop dilatation operator





Dilatation operator measures (anomalous) scaling dimensions

ightarrow Observables in a CFT

One-loop dilatation operator \mathfrak{D}_2 = Hamiltonian of integrable spin chain

Nearest-neighbour interaction: $\mathfrak{D}_2 = \sum_{i=1}^{L} (\mathfrak{D}_2)_{i\,i+1}$

Spectral problem can be solved by Bethe ansatz techniques

[Minahan, Zarembo (2002)] [Beisert (2003)] [Beisert, Staudacher (2003)]

General structure of loop corrections to from factors

ℓ -loop minimal form factor

$$\mathcal{F}_\mathcal{O} = ig(1+g^2\mathcal{I}^{(1)}+g^4\mathcal{I}^{(2)}+\dotsig)\mathcal{F}^{(0)}_\mathcal{O}$$

 $\mathcal{I}^{(\ell)}$ are operators, as the $\mathcal O$ do not renormalise diagonally!

General structure of divergences in $4-2\varepsilon$ dimensions

$$\log \left(\mathcal{I} \right) = \sum_{\ell=1}^{\infty} g^{2\ell} \left[-\frac{\gamma_{\mathsf{cusp}}^{(\ell)}}{8(\ell\varepsilon)^2} - \frac{\mathcal{G}_0^{(\ell)}}{4\ell\varepsilon} \right] \sum_{i=1}^n (-s_{i\,i+1})^{-\ell\varepsilon} \\ -\sum_{\ell=1}^{\infty} g^{2\ell} \frac{\mathfrak{D}_{2\ell}}{2\ell\varepsilon} + \mathsf{Finite}(g^2) + \mathcal{O}(\varepsilon)$$

Universal IR divergences [Mueller (1979)], [Collins (1980)], [Sen (1981)], [Magnea, Sterman (1990)], [Bern, Dixon, Smirnov (2005)], ... but operator-valued UV divergences

 \Rightarrow We can compute ${\cal I}$ via on-shell methods and extract the $\ell\text{-loop}$ dilatation operator $\mathfrak{D}_{2\ell}$

General ansatz for one-loop minimal form factor

General ansatz from integral basis:



⇒ Determine coefficients via cuts Cut: $\frac{1}{l^2} \rightarrow \delta(l^2)\Theta(l_0)$

Triple cut and triangle coefficient

Triple cut between p_1 , p_2 and the rest of the diagram:



Double cut and bubble coefficient

Double cut between p_1 , p_2 and the rest of the diagram:



One-loop minimal form factor of a generic operator ${\cal O}$

$$\hat{\mathcal{F}}_{\mathcal{O}}^{(1)}(1,\ldots,L;q) = g^2 \mathcal{I}^{(1)} \hat{\mathcal{F}}_{\mathcal{O}}^{(0)}(1,\ldots,L;q), \quad \mathcal{I}^{(1)} = \sum_{i=1}^{L} \mathcal{I}_{i\,i+1}^{(1)}$$



IR divergence, Universal

$${\sf UV} \; {\sf divergence} \Rightarrow (\mathfrak{D}_2)_{i\,i+1} = -2\mathbb{B}_{i\,i+1}$$

 \mathfrak{D}_2 agrees with result of [Beisert (2003)] in formulation of [Zwiebel (2007)] after replacing $(\mathbf{a}_i^{\dagger \alpha}, \mathbf{b}_i^{\dagger \dot{\alpha}}, \mathbf{d}_i^{\dagger A})$ by $(\lambda_i^{\alpha}, \tilde{\lambda}_i^{\dot{\alpha}}, \eta_i^A)$. Field-theoretic derivation of a connection between amplitudes and dilatation operator which was observed in [Zwiebel (2011)].

[MW(2014)]



Porm factors as spin chains

3 One-loop form factors and the complete one-loop dilatation operator

Two-loop results

5 Summary and outlook

- Prime example of non-protected operators
- $\mathcal{K} = \mathrm{tr}[\phi' \phi']$
- No mixing
- Anomalous dimension $\gamma_{\mathcal{K}}$ known via field theory up to five loops [Eden, Heslop, Korchemsky, Smirnov, Sokatchev (2012)] and via integrability up to ten loops [Marboe, Volin (2014)]

Subtleties in on-shell method occur Observed missmatch for $\gamma_{\mathcal{K}}^{(2)}$ [Boucher-Veronneau, Dixon, Pennington (private communication)]

Subtleties concerning the regularisation in $D = 4 - 2\varepsilon$

Four-dimensional-helicity scheme	Dimensional reduction
[Bern, Kosower (1991)],	from $D=10$ to $D=4-2arepsilon$
	[Siegel (1979)],
$N_{\phi}=6$	$N_{\phi}=6+2arepsilon$
$\mathcal{K}_6 = \frac{1}{2} \epsilon^{ABCD} \operatorname{tr}(\phi_{AB} \phi_{CD})$	${\cal K}={\sf tr}(\phi^I\phi^I)$

$$\mathcal{K}$$
 and \mathcal{K}_6 differ by 2ε scalars,
similar to $\mu^2 = \ell_{D=4}^2 - \ell_{D=4-2\varepsilon}^2$ terms

Four-dimensional on-shell methods yield form factors for \mathcal{K}_6

But: Only \mathcal{K} is primary operator of the Konishi multiplet with known Konishi anomalous dimension!

[Nandan, Sieg, MW, Yang (2014)]

Solution to subtleties

Group-theoretic decomposition of the contributions to $\langle \phi^K \phi^L | \operatorname{tr}(\phi^I \phi^K) | 0 \rangle$:



Yields correct one- and two-loop Konishi anomalous dimensions

Similar subtleties also arise for other operators and can be solved analogously.

[Nandan, Sieg, MW, Yang (2014)]

Form factors in the $\mathfrak{su}(2)$ sector

Single-trace operators built from $\uparrow = \phi_{14}$ and $\downarrow = \phi_{24}$

Two-loop minimal form factor can be computed via unitarity

Sums of densities of range two and three. E.g.



 \Rightarrow Two-loop dilatation operator

[Loebbert, Nandan, Sieg, MW, Yang (2015)]

Remainder functions in the $\mathfrak{su}(2)$ sector

BDS remainder for form factors

$$R^{(2)} = \underline{\mathcal{I}}^{(2)}(\varepsilon) - \frac{1}{2} \left(\underline{\mathcal{I}}^{(1)}(\varepsilon) \right)^2 - f^{(2)}(\varepsilon) \underline{\mathcal{I}}^{(1)}(2\varepsilon) + \mathcal{O}(\varepsilon)$$

with $f^{(2)}(\varepsilon) = -2\zeta_2 - 2\zeta_3\varepsilon - 2\zeta_4\varepsilon^2$ [Bern, Dixon, Smirnov (2005)]

Properties

- Operator, given by sum of densities
- $\mathfrak{su}(2)$ Ward identities: $[J^A, R^{(2)}] = 0$
- Mixed tanscendentality, but highest transcendentality piece universal and agrees with the result of [Brandhuber, Penante, Travaglini, Wen (2014)] for tr(ϕ_{14}^L)

Conjecture

Highest transcendentality piece universal also beyond $\mathfrak{su}(2)$ sector \Rightarrow Extension of maximal transcendentality principle

[Loebbert, Nandan, Sieg, MW, Yang (2015)]





One-loop form factors and the complete one-loop dilatation operator

4 Two-loop results



Summary

- $\bullet\,$ Study of form factors for generic operators in $\mathcal{N}=4$ SYM
- Minimal tree-level form factors yield the spin chain of integrability in super spinor helicity variables
- Cut-constructible part of one-loop minimal form factor
 → Complete one-loop dilatation operator from generalised
 unitarity (includes all sectors), field-theoretic derivation of
 [Zwiebel (2011)]
 [MW (20)

[MW (2014)]

- Two-point two-loop form factor of the Konishi operator
 → Two-loop Konishi anomalous dimension
- Extension of the four-dimensional unitarity method [Nandan, Sieg, MW, Yang (2014)]
- Minimal two-loop form factors in the su(2) sector
 → Two-loop dilatation operator and remainder function
 [Loebbert, Nandan, Sieg, MW, Yang (2015)]

- Two-loop form factor for generic operator → Complete two-loop dilatation operator
- Twistor action for form factors
- On-shell diagrams, Graßmannians and Integrability for form factors [Frassek, Meidinger, Nandan, MW (last week)] → Poster

Bubble coefficient operator

$$\begin{split} \mathbb{B}_{i\,i+1} \hat{\mathcal{F}}_{\mathcal{O}}^{(0)}(\Lambda_1,\ldots,\Lambda_L;q) &= \\ &-2\delta_{\mathcal{C}_i,0} \int_0^{\pi/2} \mathrm{d}\theta \cot\theta \Big(\hat{\mathcal{F}}_{\mathcal{O}}^{(0)}(\Lambda_1,\ldots,\Lambda_i,\Lambda_{i+1},\ldots,\Lambda_L;q) \\ &- \hat{\mathcal{F}}_{\mathcal{O}}^{(0)}(\Lambda_1,\ldots,\Lambda_i',\Lambda_{i+1}',\ldots,\Lambda_L;q) \Big) \end{split}$$

with

$$\left(\begin{array}{c}\Lambda'_{i}\\\Lambda'_{i+1}\end{array}\right) = \left(\begin{array}{c}\cos\theta & -\sin\theta\\\sin\theta & \cos\theta\end{array}\right) \left(\begin{array}{c}\Lambda_{i}\\\Lambda_{i+1}\end{array}\right), \quad \Lambda_{i} = (\lambda^{\alpha}_{i}, \tilde{\lambda}^{\dot{\alpha}}_{i}, \eta^{A}_{i})$$

Polynomial in $\cos \theta$ and $\sin \theta$

 \Rightarrow Evaluates to Euler β -function or harmonic number

$$\beta(x, y) = 2 \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} d\theta (\sin \theta)^{2x-1} (\cos \theta)^{2y-1} h(y) = 2 \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{2}} d\theta \cot \theta \left(1 - (\cos \theta)^{2y}\right)^{2y}$$

Example: $\mathfrak{su}(2)$ sector

Single-trace operators built from $\uparrow = \phi_{24}$ and $\downarrow = \phi_{34}$

E.g.
$$\mathcal{O} = \operatorname{tr}(\uparrow\downarrow\uparrow\downarrow) \Rightarrow$$

 $\hat{\mathcal{F}}_{\mathcal{O}}^{(0)}(1,2,3,4) = \delta^4(q - \sum_{i=1}^4 \lambda_i \tilde{\lambda}_i) (\eta_1^2 \eta_1^4 \eta_2^3 \eta_2^4 \eta_3^2 \eta_4^3 \eta_4^3 \eta_4^4 + \operatorname{cyclic})$



UV divergence $\Rightarrow (\mathfrak{D}_2)_{i\,i+1} = 2(\mathbb{1} - \mathbb{P})_{i\,i+1}$

Hamiltonian of Heisenberg XXX spin chain

[MW(2014)]

One-loop Konishi form factor



Lift and Passarino-Veltman reduction



Two-point Konishi form factor



Non-planar double-double cut

 p_2

Triple cut p_1 ۹_{5.tree} p_2

Two-point Konishi form factor

Final result:



[Nandan, Sieg, MW, Yang (2014)]

Remainder functions in the $\mathfrak{su}(2)$ sector

Can be written in terms of three functions

$$\begin{split} (R_{i}^{(2)})_{XXX}^{XXX} &= -\text{Li}_{4}(1-u_{i}) - \text{Li}_{4}(u_{i}) + \text{Li}_{4}\left(\frac{u_{i}-1}{u_{i}}\right) - \log\left(\frac{1-u_{i}}{w_{i}}\right) \left[\text{Li}_{3}\left(\frac{u_{i}-1}{u_{i}}\right) - \text{Li}_{3}\left(1-u_{i}\right)\right] \\ &\quad -\log\left(u_{i}\right) \left[\text{Li}_{3}\left(\frac{v_{i}}{1-u_{i}}\right) + \text{Li}_{3}\left(-\frac{w_{i}}{v_{i}}\right) + \text{Li}_{3}\left(\frac{v_{i}-1}{u_{i}}\right) - \frac{1}{3}\log^{3}\left(v_{i}\right) - \frac{1}{3}\log^{3}\left(v_{i}\right) - \frac{1}{3}\log^{3}\left(1-u_{i}\right)\right] \\ &\quad -\text{Li}_{2}\left(\frac{u_{i}-1}{u_{i}}\right) \text{Li}_{2}\left(\frac{v_{i}}{1-u_{i}}\right) + \text{Li}_{2}\left(u_{i}\right) \left[\log\left(\frac{1-u_{i}}{w_{i}}\right) - \log\left(u_{i}\right)\log\left(v_{i}\right) + \frac{1}{2}\log^{2}\left(\frac{1-u_{i}}{w_{i}}\right)\right] \\ &\quad +\frac{1}{24}\log^{4}\left(u_{i}\right) - \frac{1}{8}\log^{2}\left(u_{i}\right)\log^{2}\left(v_{i}\right) - \frac{1}{2}\log^{2}\left(1-u_{i}\right)\log\left(u_{i}\right)\log\left(\frac{w_{i}}{v_{i}}\right) \\ &\quad -\frac{1}{2}\log\left(1-u_{i}\right)\log^{2}\left(u_{i}\right)\log\left(v_{i}\right) - \frac{1}{6}\log^{3}\left(u_{i}\right)\log\left(w_{i}\right) \\ &\quad -\frac{1}{2}\log\left(1-u_{i}\right)\log\left(\frac{1-v_{i}}{v_{i}}\right) + \frac{1}{2}\log^{2}\left(\frac{1-u_{i}}{w_{i}}\right) - \frac{1}{2}\log^{2}\left(u_{i}\right)\right] \\ &\quad +\zeta_{3}\log(u_{i}) + \frac{\zeta_{4}}{2} + G\left(\left\{1-u_{i}, 1-u_{i}, 1, 0\right\}, v_{i}\right) + (u_{i} \leftrightarrow v_{i}) \quad [Brandhuber, Penante, Travaglini, Wen(2014)] \\ (R_{i}^{(2)})_{XXY}^{XYY} = \left[\text{Li}_{3}\left(-\frac{u_{i}}{w_{i}}\right) - \log\left(u_{i}\right)\text{Li}_{2}\left(\frac{v_{i}}{1-u_{i}}\right) + \frac{1}{2}\log\left(1-u_{i}\right)\log\left(u_{i}\right)\log\left(\frac{w_{i}}{1-u_{i}}\right) \\ &\quad -\frac{1}{2}\text{Li}_{3}\left(-\frac{u_{i}v_{i}}{w_{i}}\right) - \frac{1}{2}\log\left(u_{i}\right)\log\left(v_{i}\right)\log\left(w_{i}\right) - \frac{1}{12}\log^{3}\left(w_{i}\right) + (u_{i} \leftrightarrow v_{i})\right] \\ &\quad -\text{Li}_{3}\left(1-v_{i}\right) + \text{Li}_{3}\left(u_{i}\right) - \frac{1}{2}\log^{2}\left(v_{i}\right)\log\left(\frac{1-v_{i}}{u_{i}}\right) + \frac{1}{6}\pi^{2}\log\left(\frac{w_{i}}{w_{i}}\right) - \frac{1}{6}\pi^{2}\log\left(-s_{i\,i+1,2}\right) \\ &\quad +\text{Li}_{2}\left(1-u_{i}\right) + \text{Li}_{3}\left(u_{i}\right) - \frac{1}{2}\log^{2}\left(v_{i}\right)\log\left(v_{i}\right) - \frac{1}{2}\log\left(-s_{i+1,2}\right)\log\left(\frac{w_{i}}{w_{i}}\right) + \frac{1}{2}\log\left(-s_{i,i+1}\right) + \frac{\pi^{2}}{3} - 7 \\ (R_{i}^{(2)})_{XXY}^{XXY} = \frac{1}{2}\log\left(-s_{i+1,i+2}\right)\log\left(\frac{u_{i}}{w_{i}}\right) - \text{Li}_{2}\left(1-u_{i}\right) - \log\left(u_{i}\right)\log\left(v_{i}\right) + \frac{1}{2}\log^{2}\left(v_{i}\right) + \log\left(-s_{i+1,i+2}\right) - 2\log\left(-s_{i,i+1}\right) + \frac{\pi^{2}}{2} \end{bmatrix}$$

[Loebbert, Nandan, Sieg, MW, Yang (2015)]

Matthias Wilhelm Form Factors and the Dilatation Operator