

Title: A tale of two geometries

Speakers: Tzu Chen Huang

Series: Particle Physics

Date: April 20, 2021 - 1:00 PM

URL: <http://pirsa.org/21040030>

Abstract: It is known that constraints imposed by causality and unitarity of four-particle scattering amplitudes lead to non-trivial requirements on the low energy effective field theory coefficients. We introduce families of linear and nonlinear inequalities resulting from a systematic study of positive geometry structure hidden in those constraints.



A tale of two geometries

Tzu-Chen Huang

California Institute of Technology

April 20, 2021





Intro ○	The geometries ○○○○○○○○○○○○○○	The EFThedron ○○○○	Summary ○
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Outline

- 1 Intro
- 2 The geometries
- 3 The EFThedron
- 4 Summary

Bounding EFTs

- Integrating out massive UV states produces IR effective couplings
- Naive EFTs can be in conflict with fundamental physical requirements [Adams, Arkani-Hamed, Dubovsky, Nicolis, Rattazzi] [Penedones, Silva, Zhiboedov] [de Rham, Melville, Tolley, Zhou] [Caron-Huot, Duong] [Hebbar, Karateev, Penedones]...
- Dispersion relation

$$\frac{i}{2\pi} \oint_{C_0} \frac{ds}{s^{n+1}} M(s, t^*) = \sum_j \frac{1}{s_j^{n+1}} \text{Res}_{s=s_j} M(s, t^*) + \int \frac{ds'}{s'^{n+1}} \text{Disc} M.$$

together with an IR amplitude applicable when C_0 is near origin

$$M^{\text{IR}}(s, t) = (\text{massless poles}) + \sum c_{a,b} s^a t^b$$

connects our knowledge of **spectral density** and **residues/discontinuities** to Wilson coefficients $c_{a,b}$.

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$$+ \int_{\infty} \frac{ds}{s^{n+1}} M.$$

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Gegenbauer positivity

- Tree-level Four point massless superstring amplitude [Kawai, Lewellen, Tye]:

$$M = -\frac{\Gamma(-s)\Gamma(-t)}{\Gamma(1+u)} K_{\alpha_1\alpha_2\alpha_3\alpha_4} \eta_1^{\alpha_1} \eta_2^{\alpha_2} \eta_3^{\alpha_3} \eta_4^{\alpha_4}.$$

- Expanding on Gegenbauer polynomial basis

$$\text{Res}_{s=m_i^2} M = \sum_j c_j(D) G_j^{(\frac{D-2}{2})} \left(1 + \frac{2t}{m_i^2}\right), \quad c_j(D) \geq 0.$$

- Forward limit positivity bound: $G_n^{(\alpha)}(1) > 0$.
- Beyond forward limit: $G_n^{(\alpha)}(1+x) = \sum_i v_{n,i}^{(\alpha)} x^i$. Consider $(1, t, t^2)$. Collect contribution from each spin into the following table

$$\sum_i c_i \begin{pmatrix} 1 & & & & \\ & \frac{1}{m_i^2} & & & \\ & & \frac{1}{m_i^4} & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & & \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & \dots \\ 0 & 2 & 6 & 12 & \dots \\ 0 & 0 & 6 & 30 & \dots \end{pmatrix}$$

- m_i^2 dependence. Needs better way of organizing coefficients.



Spectral density

- Recall the Källén-Lehmann representation:

$$\Delta(p) = \int d\mu^2 \rho(\mu^2) \frac{1}{\mu^2 - s} \rightarrow \sum_n \underbrace{\left(\int d\mu^2 \rho(\mu^2) \frac{1}{\mu^{2n+2}} \right)}_{m_n} s^n.$$

- We already know that $\rho(\mu^2) \geq 0$, guaranteeing non-negative coefficients in small s expansion.
- Moment problem: given a sequence of numbers (m_0, m_1, \dots) , does there exist a positive Borel measure σ such that

$$m_n = \int_{\mathcal{K}} x^n d\sigma(x) \quad ?$$

$$\mathcal{K} = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbb{R} \\ \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0} \\ [0, 1] \end{pmatrix} \Rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} \text{Hamburger} \\ \text{Stieltjes} \\ \text{Hausdorff} \end{pmatrix} \text{ moment criteria.}$$

- m_n being non-negative is not enough.

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- Naive EFTs can be in conflict with fundamental physical requirements [Adams, Arkani-Hamed, Dubovsky, Nicolis, Rattazzi] [Penedones, Silva, Zhiboedov] [de Rham, Melville, Tolley, Zhou] [Caron-Huot, Duong] [Hebbar, Karateev, Penedones]...
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No assumption on spectrum: Stieltjes

- Since μ^2 must be non-negative for physical states, we take \mathcal{K} to be $\mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$.
- Infinite sequence case:

$$K[\vec{m}] = \begin{pmatrix} m_0 & m_1 & \dots \\ m_1 & m_2 & \dots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots \end{pmatrix} \geq 0, \quad \tilde{K}[\vec{m}] = \begin{pmatrix} m_1 & m_2 & \dots \\ m_2 & m_3 & \dots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots \end{pmatrix} \geq 0.$$

- For truncated case, the above is **sufficient** when both matrices are non-singular. Otherwise one needs an extra condition. [Curto, Fialkow]
- Example (massless superstring):

$$\vec{m} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{2}{5}\zeta_2^2 \\ \zeta_5 \\ \frac{8}{35}\zeta_2^3 \\ \zeta_7 \\ \frac{24}{175}\zeta_2^4 \end{pmatrix} \Rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} \frac{2}{5}\zeta_2^2 & \zeta_5 & \frac{8}{35}\zeta_2^3 \\ \zeta_5 & \frac{8}{35}\zeta_2^3 & \zeta_7 \\ \frac{8}{35}\zeta_2^3 & \zeta_7 & \frac{24}{175}\zeta_2^4 \end{pmatrix} \geq 0, \quad \begin{pmatrix} \zeta_5 & \frac{8}{35}\zeta_2^3 \\ \frac{8}{35}\zeta_2^3 & \zeta_7 \end{pmatrix} \geq 0.$$

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Spectrum with gap: Hausdorff

- Without loss of generality let's suppose $\mu_{\text{gap}}^2 = 1$.
- Again consider the sequence \vec{m} . Criteria for feasibility is that of Stieltjes plus

$$K[\vec{m}] \geq \tilde{K}[\vec{m}].$$

- (Alternative characterization) Introduce the difference operator

$$\Delta \vec{m} = (m_1 - m_0, m_2 - m_1, \dots).$$

Then,

$$(-1)^n \Delta^n \vec{m}$$

must have non-negative entries for every $n \in \mathbb{N}$. [Englert, Giudice, Greljo, McCullough][Bellazzini, Miró, Rattazzi, Riembau, Riva]

- Example:

$$-\Delta \vec{m} = \left(\frac{\pi^4}{90} - \zeta_5, -\frac{\pi^6}{945} + \zeta_5, \frac{\pi^6}{945} - \zeta_7, -\frac{\pi^8}{9450} + \zeta_7 \right) \geq 0,$$

$$\Delta^2 \vec{m} = \left(\frac{\pi^4}{90} + \frac{\pi^6}{945} - 2\zeta_5, -2\frac{\pi^6}{945} + \zeta_5 + \zeta_7, \frac{\pi^6}{945} + \frac{\pi^8}{9450} - 2\zeta_7 \right) \geq 0.$$

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Revisiting the Gegenbauer positivity

- Now that we know the geometries that arise when expanding in s and t directions separately, let us try putting them together

$$a_{k,q} = \frac{1}{q!} \frac{d^q}{dt^q} \left(\int_{\mathcal{K} \times \mathbb{N}} d\sigma(\mu^2, \ell) \frac{G_\ell(1 + \frac{2t}{\mu^2})}{\mu^{2k-2q+2}} \right) \Big|_{t=0}.$$

- Consider terms with the same total mass dimension ($k = 4$):

$$a_{4,0}s^4 + a_{4,1}s^3t + a_{4,2}s^2t^2 + a_{4,3}st^3 + a_{4,4}t^4$$

- mass dependence can be factored out and gives

$$\Rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} a_{4,0} \\ a_{4,1} \\ a_{4,2} \end{pmatrix} = \int_{\mathcal{K} \times \mathbb{N}} d\sigma(\mu^2, \ell) \frac{1}{\mu^{10}} \begin{pmatrix} v_{\ell,0} \\ v_{\ell,1} \\ v_{\ell,2} \end{pmatrix}.$$

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Intro



The geometries



The EFThedron

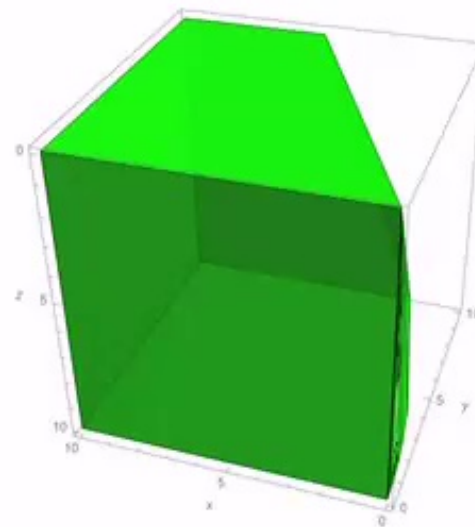


Summary



Revisiting the Gegenbauer positivity

- The allowed region for coefficients corresponding to a fixed mass dimension is a **positive cone** of $\vec{v}_{\ell,*}$, where ℓ runs over spins.
- $(a_{4,0}, a_{4,1}, a_{4,2})$ must lie inside



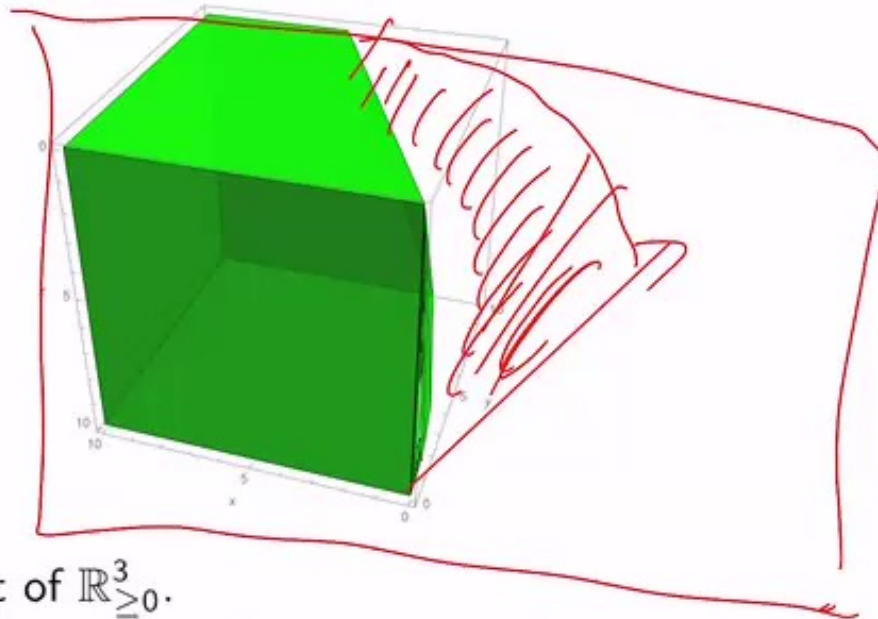
which is a proper subset of $\mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}^3$.

- How to determine the facets of a polytope with infinite number of vertices?

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$$\underline{a_{4,0} \geq 0.}$$



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Intro



The geometries

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The EFThedron

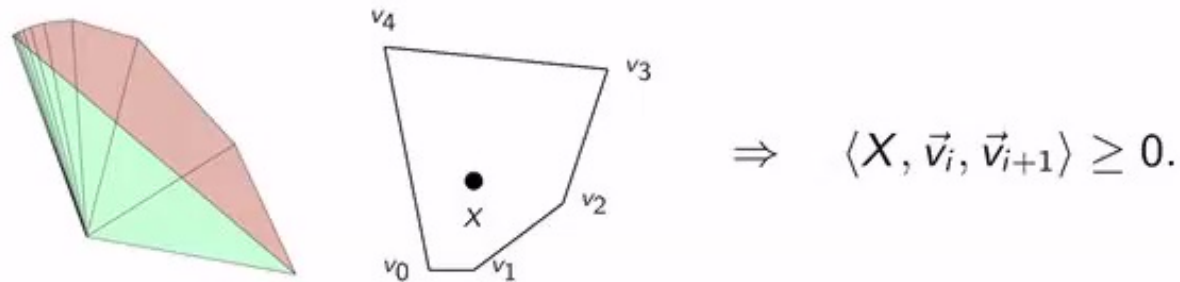
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Summary



Cyclicity of Gegenbauer polytope

- Cyclicity \Rightarrow co-dimension 1 facets given by adjacent spin vertices:



- In the 3-component example, we have

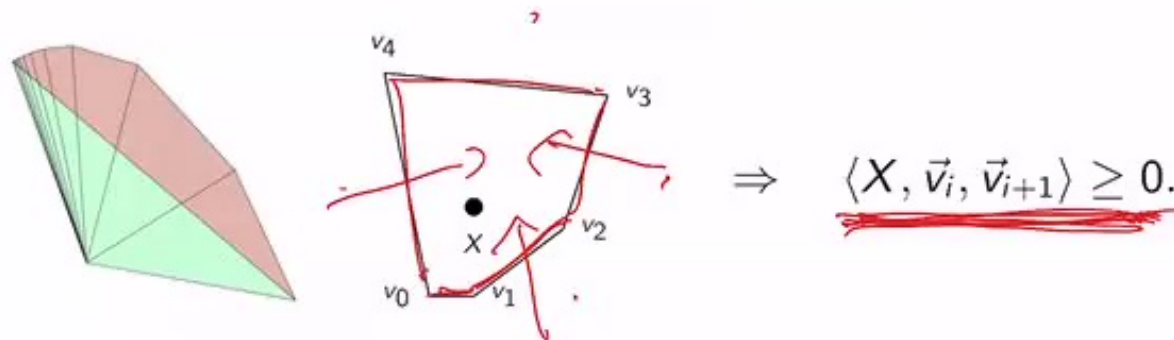
$$\mathcal{W}^T \cdot \begin{pmatrix} a_{4,0} \\ a_{4,1} \\ a_{4,2} \end{pmatrix} \geq 0, \quad \mathcal{W} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 6 & 18 & 120 & \dots \\ 0 & -3 & -4 & -15 & \dots \\ 1 & 2 & 1 & 2 & \dots \end{pmatrix}$$

where \mathcal{W} is given by collecting normal vectors of co-dimension 1 facets.

- The fact that one can derive the exact form of the walls are crucial to deriving bounds.

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Cyclicity of Gegenbauer polytope

- Cyclicity is determined by examining the non-negativity of **ordered minors** of the matrix formed by collecting corresponding vectors.
- Consider a matrix where entries are Taylor coefficients of Gegenbauer polynomials

$$v_{\ell,q}^D = \frac{(\Delta)_\ell}{q!(\ell)!} \frac{(\ell)_{-q}(\ell + \Delta)_q}{\prod_{a=1}^q (\Delta + 2a - 1)}, \quad \Delta := D - 3.$$

Factors that depend on either ℓ or q alone can be factored out.

$$\begin{aligned} \Rightarrow \text{Det}[v_{\ell_i,j}^D]_{i,j=0,\dots,n} &= \prod_{i=1}^{n+1} \frac{(\Delta)_{\ell_i}}{\ell_i!} \frac{1}{\prod_{a=1}^q (\Delta + 2a - 1)a!} \\ &\quad \cdot \text{Det}[(\ell_i)_{-j}(\ell_i + \Delta)_j]_{i,j=0,\dots,n} \end{aligned}$$

- The last determinant should have a factor $\prod_{i>j}(\ell_i - \ell_j)$ due to alternating symmetry. Together with the invariance under $\ell_i \rightarrow -\ell_i - \Delta$ from

$$(-a)_b = (-1)^b (a)_{-b}$$

we deduce that the last determinant is just $\prod_{i>j}(\ell_i - \ell_j)(\Delta + \ell_i + \ell_j)$, a positive factor.

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 $(-a) \cdot (1-a) \cdot (2-a) \dots$

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Intro



The geometries



The EFThedron



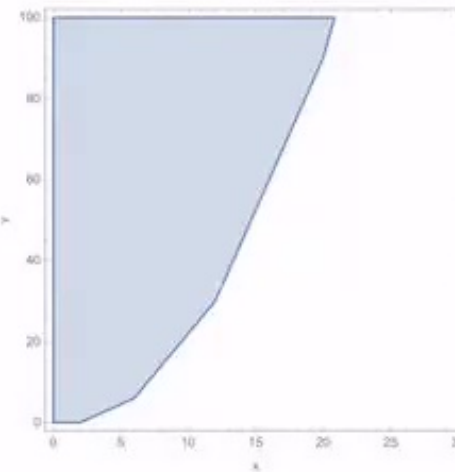
Summary



General Gegenbauer polytope

- Expand to higher order in Mandelstam variables, a coefficient vector $\in \mathbb{P}^p$ should lie within the higher dimensional Gegenbauer polytope. Boundary structure:
 - $\langle X, \vec{v}_i, \vec{v}_{i+1}, \vec{v}_j, \vec{v}_{j+1}, \dots \rangle \geq 0$ for even p
 - $\langle 0, X, \vec{v}_i, \vec{v}_{i+1}, \vec{v}_j, \vec{v}_{j+1}, \dots \rangle \geq 0$ and $\langle X, \vec{v}_i, \vec{v}_{i+1}, \dots, \infty \rangle \geq 0$ for odd p .
- Example: $(1, x, y, y) \in \mathbb{P}^3$ that satisfies permutation invariance.

$$\langle X, \vec{v}_i, \vec{v}_{i+1}, \infty \rangle \geq 0 \Rightarrow$$



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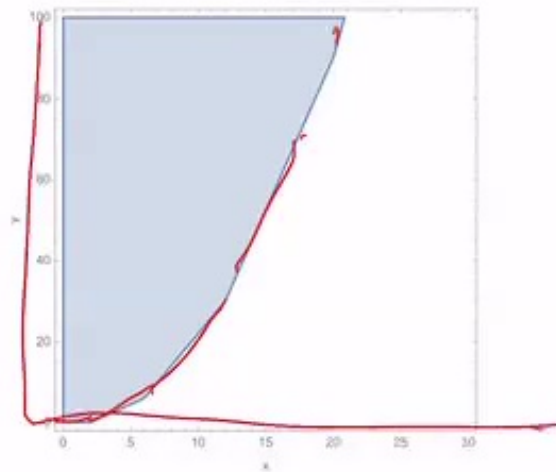
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Summary



Spinning polytope

- When external particles have spins, the Legendre polynomials become **Wigner d-matrices**:

$$G_{\ell}^{h_1, h_2, h_3, h_4}(\cos \theta) = \langle \ell, h_1 - h_2 | e^{-i\theta J_y} | \ell, h_3 - h_4 \rangle.$$

- One can similarly expand amplitudes on this basis with proper helicity configuration:

$$\text{Res}_{s=3} u^2 \left(\frac{\Gamma(-s)\Gamma(-t)}{\Gamma(1+u)} + \text{sym.} \right) = \frac{27}{28} G_4^{h_i} + \frac{9}{4} G_3^{h_i} + \frac{39}{14} G_2^{h_i},$$

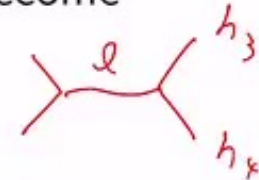
where $h_i = 1^+ 2^- 3^+ 4^-$.

- The vectors formed by taking derivative of $G_{\ell}^{h_i}(1+x)$ also furnish a cyclic polytope for any h_i . On the other hand, for $h_i = 1^+ 2^- 3^- 4^+$ we should be expanding $G_{\ell}^{h_i}(1 + \frac{2u}{s}) = G_{\ell}^{h_i}(-1 - \frac{2t}{s})$, which translates to an alternating sign $(-1)^{\ell}$ when using $1 + \frac{2t}{s}$ as argument.

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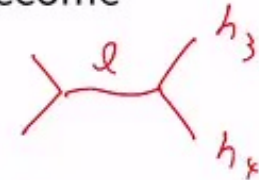
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where $h_i = 1^+ 2^- 3^+ 4^-$.

- The vectors formed by taking derivative of $G_{\ell}^{h_i}(1+x)$ also furnish a cyclic polytope for any h_i . On the other hand, for $h_i = 1^+ 2^- 3^- 4^+$ we should be expanding $G_{\ell}^{h_i}(1 + \frac{2u}{s}) = G_{\ell}^{h_i}(-1 - \frac{2t}{s})$, which translates to an alternating sign $(-1)^{\ell}$ when using $1 + \frac{2t}{s}$ as argument.



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Summary



u -channel mixing in moment curves

- Consider

$$-\sum_i \frac{c_i G_{\ell_i} \left(1 + \frac{2t}{m_i^2}\right)}{s - m_i^2} + \frac{d_i G_{\ell'_i} \left(1 + \frac{2t}{m_i^2}\right)}{u - m_i^2}.$$

$$\frac{G_{\ell} \left(1 + \frac{2t}{m^2}\right)}{m^2 - u} = \frac{1}{m^2} \left(1 - \frac{s+t}{m^2} + \frac{s^2 + 2st + t^2}{m^4} + \dots\right) \left(1 + 2v_{\ell,1} \frac{t}{m^2} + \dots\right).$$

- Fixed mass dimension coefficients in u -channel are now "deformed":

$$s^{2-i} t^i : \frac{1}{m^6} \left(s^2 + (2 - 2v_{\ell,1}) st + (1 - 2v_{\ell,1} + 4v_{\ell,2}) t^2 \right)$$

but still cyclic.

- Not necessarily cyclic when combining vectors from both s - and u -channel.



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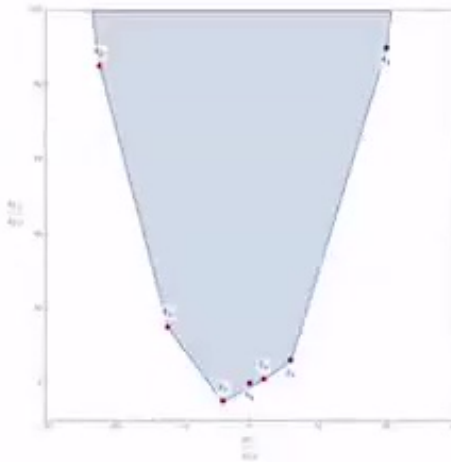


Summary



$s - u$ polytope

- For $\langle - - ++ \rangle$ or $\langle - + - + \rangle$ configuration, we have to take Minkowski sum of two separate polytopes

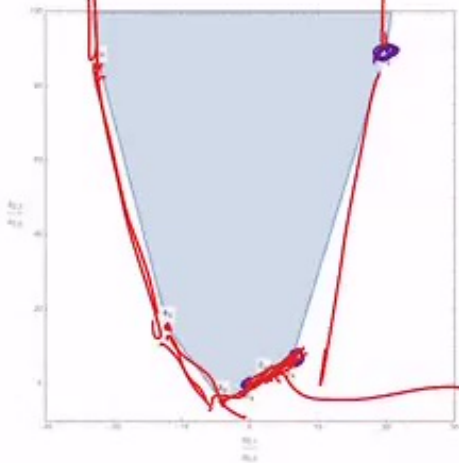


$$\Rightarrow \langle X, \tilde{v}_{s,2}, \tilde{v}_{s,4} \rangle \geq 0, \langle X, \tilde{v}_{u,4}, \tilde{v}_{u,3} \rangle \geq 0 \dots$$

- Observe that the resulting polytope still retains cyclic polytope boundaries. The only addition here are a few mixed boundaries between s - and u -vectors, e.g. $\langle X, \tilde{v}_{u,2}, \tilde{v}_{s,2} \rangle \geq 0$.

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Combined constraints

- Two families of constraints: the moment problem in s -expansion, and the Gegenbauer/spinning polytope for fixed mass dimension coefficients

$$\underbrace{a_{k,q} \mathcal{W}_l^q \geq 0}_{\text{Polytope}} \quad \text{and} \quad \underbrace{K[\vec{a}_{*,q}] \geq 0, \tilde{K}[\vec{a}_{*,q}] \geq 0}_{\text{Moment}}$$

- s -channel EFThedron: $K[(\overrightarrow{a \cdot \mathcal{W}})_l] \geq 0, \tilde{K}[(\overrightarrow{a \cdot \mathcal{W}})_l] \geq 0$.
- The above constraints are always necessary for any scalar amplitudes that has physical spectrum in the s -channel.
- Sufficiency is not established, and in fact one might need extra constraints. Related to the fact that bivariate moment problems are more than tensor product of ordinary moment problems.

$$\begin{pmatrix} m_{00} & m_{01} & m_{02} & \cdots \\ m_{10} & m_{11} & m_{12} & \cdots \\ m_{20} & m_{21} & m_{22} & \cdots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots \end{pmatrix} = \sum_i c_i \begin{pmatrix} 1 & x_i & x_i^2 & \cdots \\ y_i & x_i y_i & x_i^2 y_i & \cdots \\ y_i^2 & x_i y_i^2 & x_i^2 y_i^2 & \cdots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots \end{pmatrix}$$

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Deformed moment curves and scalar EFThedron

- Example of a deformed moment problem:

$$(a_0, a_1, a_2, \dots)_q = \sum_i c_i \left(u_{\ell_i, 2, q}, u_{\ell_i, 4, q} \frac{1}{m_i^2}, u_{\ell_i, 6, q} \frac{1}{m_i^4}, \dots \right).$$

The problem does not depend on q before because the scaling factor was universal. Now the factor $u_{\ell_i, 2n+2, q}$ in front of $\frac{1}{m_i^{2n}}$ is spin-dependent and can be negative!

- Combine the whole family of moment problems parametrized by $q \in \mathbb{N}$:

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- Recall definition of walls \mathcal{W}_l : every vector v^l inside the convex hull will have to satisfy $v^l \mathcal{W}_l \geq 0$. This includes vectors coming from a single spin!
 \Rightarrow The outermost boundary is the Minkowski sum of $\{\text{Walls}(k) \text{ of } \vec{u}_{\ell_i, k}\}$

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Deformed moment curves and scalar EFThedron

- For increasing k , the walls are actually contained within each other. Let the largest total mass dimension be K .

$$\Rightarrow \alpha_{\ell,k} = \mathcal{W}_I^K \cdot \vec{u}_{\ell,k} \geq 0.$$

- The deformed moment curve becomes

$$\sum_i c_i \left(\alpha_{\ell_i,2}, \frac{\alpha_{\ell_i,4}}{m_i^2}, \dots \right)_I, \quad \alpha_{\ell_i,n} \geq 0.$$

- Taking the convex hull again, we arrive at "boundaries" of convex hulls of moment curves deformed by $\alpha_{\ell,k}$. For example, suppose we want to find the outermost wall for $\sum_i p_i \left(\alpha_{\ell_i,2}, \frac{\alpha_{\ell_i,4}}{m_i^2}, \frac{\alpha_{\ell_i,6}}{m_i^4} \right)$, which can be written as the positive cone of $(1, x, \tilde{\alpha}x^2)$. We would simply find $\tilde{\alpha}$ such that

$$\begin{pmatrix} \alpha_{\ell,2} & \alpha_{\ell,4} \\ \alpha_{\ell,4} & \frac{\alpha_{\ell,6}}{\tilde{\alpha}} \end{pmatrix} \geq 0. \quad \forall \ell$$

- The full EFThedron for the deformed case is then $K[\vec{A}_I]_{\tilde{\alpha}} \geq 0$.

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Caveat & Example

- For some spin ℓ there must exist a piece of wall such that $\mathcal{W} \cdot \vec{u}_{\ell,k} = 0$. This occurs for the largest value of k . The moment problem then becomes

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- Fix: scan over all sets of walls that are outside of the largest k one to find the strongest bound.
- Consider

$$\begin{pmatrix} a_{4,0} & a_{4,2} \\ a_{6,0} & a_{6,2} \\ a_{8,0} & a_{8,2} \end{pmatrix} = \sum_i c_i \begin{pmatrix} x_i^4 u_{\ell_i,4,0} & x_i^4 u_{\ell_i,4,2} \\ x_i^6 u_{\ell_i,6,0} & x_i^6 u_{\ell_i,6,2} \\ x_i^8 u_{\ell_i,8,0} & x_i^8 u_{\ell_i,8,2} \end{pmatrix}.$$

Furthermore let $\beta_n := \frac{a_{n,2}}{a_{n,0}}$.

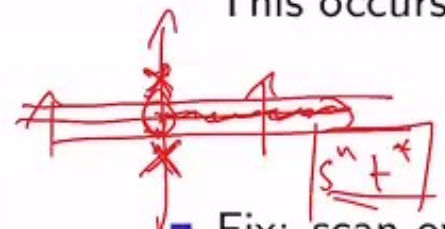
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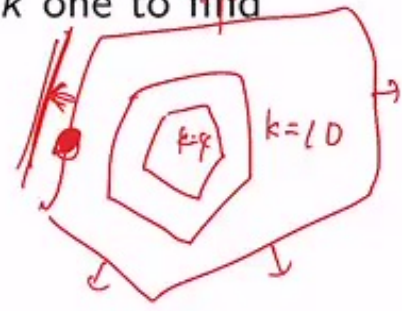
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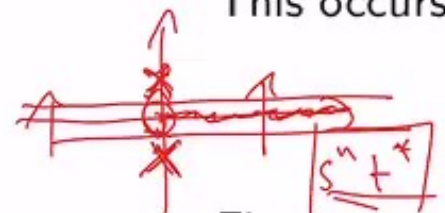
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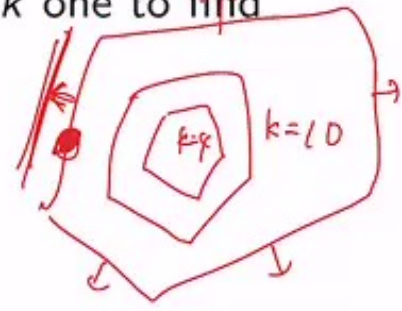
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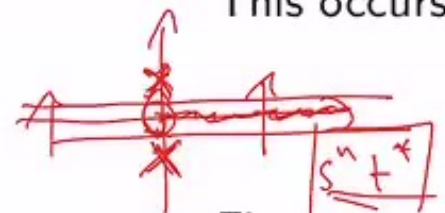
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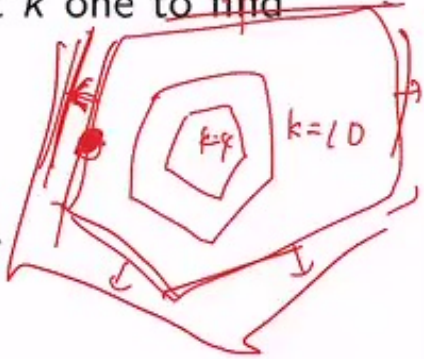


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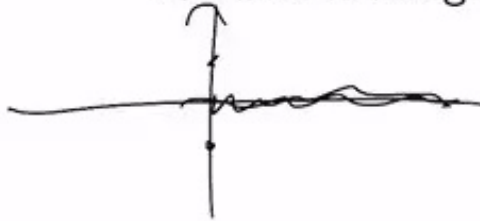


Summary

- Legendre/spinning polytopes naturally arise when considering forward limit expansion of residue
- Positivity of spectral density can be rephrased in terms of moment problems, and they come with rigorous criteria for determining feasibility
- The union of constraints from Stieltjes moment problem and Gegenbauer polytopes are probably not sufficient for the full EFThedron, which calls for further investigation.
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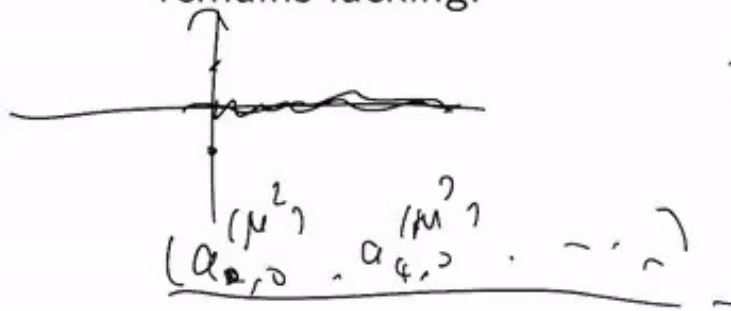
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$$\int \frac{dt}{(t-\epsilon)}$$

$$a_{n,0}^{(M^2)} = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \oint \frac{ds}{(s^2 + M^2)^{n+1}} \text{MCS.} \odot$$