

Phys 731: String Theory - Assignment 4

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Problem 1

- a) Find the Möbius transformation that takes three given points z_1, z_2, z_3 into specified new positions z'_1, z'_2, z'_3 .
b) Show that the 4-tachyon integral

$$\int d^2 z |z_{12} z_{13} z_{23}|^2 \prod_{i < j} |z_{ij}|^{\alpha' k_i \cdot k_j}$$

is independent of the choice $z_{1,2,3}$ by considering the effect of a Möbius transformation on the terms in the integral. You will need to use momentum conservation and the mass-shell condition.

Part (a)

To solve this problem it is easiest to make two Möbius transformations: $\{z_1, z_2, z_3\} \xrightarrow{f} \{0, 1, \infty\} \xrightarrow{g} \{z'_1, z'_2, z'_3\}$. The function

$$f(z) = \left(\frac{z_2 - z_3}{z_2 - z_1} \right) \left(\frac{z - z_1}{z - z_3} \right)$$

maps the points $\{z_1, z_2, z_3\}$ to $\{0, 1, \infty\}$. Next, the function

$$g(z) = \frac{(z'_3 z'_2 - z'_3 z'_1) z + (z'_1 z'_3 - z'_1 z'_2)}{(z'_2 - z'_1) z + (z'_3 - z'_2)}$$

maps the points $\{0, 1, \infty\}$ to $\{z'_1, z'_2, z'_3\}$. Therefore, the composite function $g \circ f$

$$\begin{aligned} (g \circ f)(z) &= \frac{(z'_3 z'_2 - z'_3 z'_1) \left(\frac{z_2 - z_3}{z_2 - z_1} \right) \left(\frac{z - z_1}{z - z_3} \right) + (z'_1 z'_3 - z'_1 z'_2)}{(z'_2 - z'_1) \left(\frac{z_2 - z_3}{z_2 - z_1} \right) \left(\frac{z - z_1}{z - z_3} \right) + (z'_3 - z'_2)} \\ &= \frac{(z'_3 z'_2 - z'_3 z'_1) (z_2 - z_3) (z - z_1) + (z'_1 z'_3 - z'_1 z'_2) (z_2 - z_1) (z - z_3)}{(z'_2 - z'_1) (z_2 - z_3) (z - z_1) + (z'_3 - z'_2) (z_2 - z_1) (z - z_3)} \end{aligned}$$

takes $\{z_1, z_2, z_3\} \xrightarrow{g \circ f} \{z'_1, z'_2, z'_3\}$.

Part (b)

The 4-point tachyon amplitude is

$$\mathcal{M} = \int d^2 z_4 |z_{12} z_{13} z_{23}|^2 \prod_{i < j} |z_{ij}|^{\alpha' k_i \cdot k_j}.$$

Using conservation of momentum, $k_1 + k_2 + k_3 + k_4 = 0$, and the mass shell condition, $k_i^2 = 4/\alpha'$, we obtain the kinematic relations

$$\begin{aligned} k_1 \cdot k_2 &= k_3 \cdot k_4 \\ k_1 \cdot k_3 &= k_2 \cdot k_4 \\ k_2 \cdot k_3 &= k_1 \cdot k_4 \\ k_3 \cdot k_4 &= -\frac{4}{\alpha'} - k_1 \cdot k_4 - k_2 \cdot k_4. \end{aligned}$$

Substituting the above into the 4-point tachyon amplitude, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{M} &= \int d^2 z_4 |z_{12} z_{13} z_{23}|^2 |z_{12}|^{\alpha' k_1 \cdot k_2} |z_{13}|^{\alpha' k_1 \cdot k_3} |z_{23}|^{\alpha' k_2 \cdot k_3} |z_{14}|^{\alpha' k_1 \cdot k_4} |z_{24}|^{\alpha' k_2 \cdot k_4} |z_{34}|^{\alpha' k_3 \cdot k_4} \\ &= \int d^2 z_4 |z_{12} z_{13} z_{23}|^2 |z_{12}|^{\alpha' k_3 \cdot k_4} |z_{13}|^{\alpha' k_2 \cdot k_3} |z_{23}|^{\alpha' k_1 \cdot k_4} |z_{14}|^{\alpha' k_1 \cdot k_4} |z_{24}|^{\alpha' k_2 \cdot k_4} |z_{34}|^{\alpha' k_3 \cdot k_4} \\ &= \int d^2 z_4 |z_{12} z_{13} z_{23}|^2 |z_{13}|^{\alpha' k_2 \cdot k_4} |z_{23}|^{\alpha' k_1 \cdot k_4} |z_{14}|^{\alpha' k_1 \cdot k_4} |z_{24}|^{\alpha' k_2 \cdot k_4} \\ &\quad \times |z_{12}|^{-4 - \alpha'(k_1 \cdot k_4 + k_2 \cdot k_4)} |z_{34}|^{-4 - \alpha'(k_1 \cdot k_4 + k_2 \cdot k_4)} \\ &= \int d^2 z_4 \left(\left| \frac{z_{13} z_{23}}{z_{12}} \right|^2 |z_{34}|^{-4} \left| \frac{z_{23}}{z_{12} z_{34}} \right|^{\alpha' k_1 \cdot k_4} \left| \frac{z_{13}}{z_{12} z_{34}} \right|^{\alpha' k_2 \cdot k_4} \right) |z_{24}|^{\alpha' k_2 \cdot k_4} |z_{14}|^{\alpha' k_1 \cdot k_4} \\ &= \lim_{z_3 \rightarrow \infty} \int d^2 z_4 \left(|1/z_3 - 1|^2 \left| \frac{z_3}{z_3} \right|^4 \left| \frac{1}{1 - z_4/z_3} \right|^4 \left| \frac{1/z_3 - 1}{1 - z_4/z_3} \right|^{\alpha' k_1 \cdot k_4} \left| \frac{1}{1 - z_4/z_3} \right|^{\alpha' k_2 \cdot k_4} \right) |1 - z_4|^{\alpha' k_2 \cdot k_4} |z_4|^{\alpha' k_1 \cdot k_4} \\ &= \int d^2 z_4 |1 - z_4|^{\alpha' k_2 \cdot k_4} |z_4|^{\alpha' k_1 \cdot k_4} \end{aligned}$$

where we have used a Möbius transform to take $\{z_1, z_2, z_3\} \rightarrow \{0, 1, \infty\}$. Note that the Möbius transformation $f : \{z_1, z_2, z_3\} \rightarrow \{0, 1, \infty\}$ leaves all $z \notin \{0, 1, \infty\}$ invariant

$$\begin{aligned} f(z) &= \lim_{\{z_1, z_2, z_3\} \rightarrow \{0, 1, \infty\}} \left(\frac{z_2 - z_3}{z_2 - z_1} \right) \left(\frac{z - z_1}{z - z_3} \right) \\ &= \lim_{z_3 \rightarrow \infty} \left(\frac{1/z_3 - 1}{1} \right) \left(\frac{z}{z/z_3 - 1} \right) \\ &= z. \end{aligned}$$

Problem 2

Show that the residue of the pole in the Virasoro-Shapiro amplitude at $M^2 = 4(N-1)/\alpha'$, for integer N , is a polynomial in $t - u \propto \cos \theta$. Compare the order of the polynomial with the maximum spin of a string state at that level (e.g., the maximum eigenvalue of the rotation J_{12}). If you plot the spin versus mass-squared, what is the slope? (This is the closed string version of problem 6.5a of JBBS and is done in Headrick).

The Virasoro-Shapiro amplitude is given by

$$\mathcal{M} = 2\pi \frac{\Gamma(-1 - \alpha' s/4) \Gamma(-1 - \alpha' t/4) \Gamma(-1 - \alpha' u/4)}{\Gamma(2 + \alpha' s/4) \Gamma(2 + \alpha' t/4) \Gamma(2 + \alpha' u/4)}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} s &= -(p_1 + p_2)^2 = E_{\text{cm}}^2 \\ t &= -(p_1 + p_3)^2 = (4m^2 - E_{\text{cm}}^2) (1 - \cos \theta) \\ u &= -(p_1 + p_4)^2 = (4m^2 - E_{\text{cm}}^2) (1 + \cos \theta) \\ s + t + u &= 4m^4 \end{aligned}$$

are the Mandelstam variables for $2 \rightarrow 2$ scattering with p_1, p_2 incoming and p_3, p_4 outgoing, and $m^2 = -4/\alpha'$ is the mass of the closed string tachyon. Since the inverse Gamma function is entire ($\Gamma^{-1}(z)$ is holomorphic for all $z \in \mathbb{C}$), the poles of \mathcal{M} come from the factor $\Gamma(-1 - \alpha' s/4)$ in the numerator (here, t is held fixed). The poles in s are when

$$-1 - \frac{4}{\alpha'} s = -N \in \mathbb{N} \quad \implies \quad s = \frac{4}{\alpha'} (N - 1).$$

This represents the exchange of a particle in the s -channel of invariant mass $M^2 = 4(N - 1)/\alpha'$. Setting $s = 4(N - 1)/\alpha'$, the Mandelstam variables satisfy

$$\begin{aligned} s + t + u &= 4m^2 \\ \implies t + u &= (4m^2 - s) = -\frac{4}{\alpha'} (N + 3). \end{aligned}$$

Since the residue of the Gamma function at each negative integer is given by

$$\text{Res}[\Gamma(z); z = -n \in \mathbb{N}] = \frac{(-1)^n}{\Gamma(n + 1)},$$

the residue of \mathcal{M} at $M^2 = 4(N - 1)/\alpha'$ is

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Res} \left[\mathcal{M}; s = \frac{4}{\alpha'} (N - 1) : N \in \mathbb{N} \right] &\propto \frac{(-1)^N}{\Gamma(N + 1)} \left[\frac{\Gamma(-1 - \alpha' t/4) \Gamma(-1 - \alpha' u/4)}{\Gamma(2 + \alpha' s/4) \Gamma(2 + \alpha' t/4) \Gamma(2 + \alpha' u/4)} \right]_{s = \frac{4}{\alpha'} (N - 1)} \\ &= \frac{(-1)^N}{\Gamma^2(N + 1)} \frac{\Gamma(-1 - \alpha' t/4) \Gamma(-1 - \alpha' u/4)}{\Gamma(2 + \alpha' t/4) \Gamma(2 + \alpha' u/4)}. \end{aligned}$$

To show that the above is a polynomial in $t - u$, we want to write t and u in terms of $q = t - u$

$$\begin{aligned} t &= \frac{1}{2}(t + u) + \frac{1}{2}(t - u) = -\frac{4}{\alpha'} \frac{(N + 3)}{2} + \frac{q}{2} \\ u &= \frac{1}{2}(t + u) - \frac{1}{2}(t - u) = -\frac{4}{\alpha'} \frac{(N + 3)}{2} - \frac{q}{2}. \end{aligned}$$

Expanding the gamma functions we see that the amplitude is a polynomial in q

$$\text{Res} \left[\mathcal{M}; s = \frac{4}{\alpha'} (N - 1) : N \in \mathbb{N} \right] \propto \frac{(-1)^N}{\Gamma^2(N + 1)} \frac{\Gamma\left(-1 - \left(-\frac{(N+3)}{2} + \frac{\alpha' q}{4}\right)\right) \Gamma\left(-1 - \left(-\frac{(N+3)}{2} - \frac{\alpha' q}{4}\right)\right)}{\Gamma\left(2 + \left(-\frac{(N+3)}{2} + \frac{\alpha' q}{4}\right)\right) \Gamma\left(2 + \left(-\frac{(N+3)}{2} - \frac{\alpha' q}{4}\right)\right)} \quad (1)$$

$$\begin{aligned} &= \frac{(-1)^N}{\Gamma^2(N + 1)} \frac{\Gamma\left(\frac{1}{2}N + \frac{1}{2} - \frac{\alpha' q}{4}\right) \Gamma\left(\frac{1}{2}N + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{\alpha' q}{4}\right)}{\Gamma\left(-\frac{1}{2}N + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{\alpha' q}{4}\right) \Gamma\left(-\frac{1}{2}N + \frac{1}{2} - \frac{\alpha' q}{4}\right)} \quad (2) \\ &\sim \frac{(-1)^N}{(N!)^2} q^{2N} + \text{terms of lower powers of } q \end{aligned}$$

where

$$\frac{\Gamma\left(\frac{1}{2}N + \frac{1}{2} - \frac{\alpha' q}{4}\right)}{\Gamma\left(-\frac{1}{2}N + \frac{1}{2} - \frac{\alpha' q}{4}\right)} = \left(\frac{1}{2}(N-1) + \frac{1}{2} - \frac{\alpha' q}{4}\right) \left(\frac{1}{2}(N-2) + \frac{1}{2} - \frac{\alpha' q}{4}\right) \dots \left(-\frac{1}{2}N + \frac{1}{2} - \frac{\alpha' q}{4}\right)$$

$$\frac{\Gamma\left(\frac{1}{2}N + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{\alpha' q}{4}\right)}{\Gamma\left(-\frac{1}{2}N + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{\alpha' q}{4}\right)} = \left(\frac{1}{2}(N-1) + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{\alpha' q}{4}\right) \left(\frac{1}{2}(N-2) + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{\alpha' q}{4}\right) \dots \left(-\frac{1}{2}N + \frac{1}{2} + \frac{\alpha' q}{4}\right).$$

Since the exchange of an s -channel particle of spin- J will give a spin- J spherical harmonic (a degree J polynomial of $\cos\theta \propto q$) the amplitude will be proportional to t^J . Comparing with equation (1), we see that $J = 2N$. As a function of J , the invariant mass of the s -channel exchange particle is a straight line with slope of $2/\alpha'$ and intercept of the invariant mass squared of the tachyon

$$M^2 = \frac{2}{\alpha'}J - \frac{4}{\alpha'} = \frac{2}{\alpha'}J + m^2.$$

Problem 3

- There are three terms in the Veneziano amplitude; focus on the one that has poles in s and t . Identify the residue of the pole at $t = 0$. Show that this residue is the same as you would get in field theory from exchange of a photon between two charged scalars, and use this to determine the gauge coupling in terms of g_o .
- Show that the term that has poles in u and t makes an equal and opposite contribution to this residue.
- So far this is without Chan-Paton factors; show that the cancelation is no longer present with these, and find the result.

Part (a)

The Veneziano amplitude is given by

$$\mathcal{M}_{\text{Veneziano}} = \frac{2ig_o^2}{\alpha'} \left(\frac{\Gamma(-1 - \alpha'u)\Gamma(-1 - \alpha't)}{\Gamma(2 + \alpha's)} + \frac{\Gamma(-1 - \alpha's)\Gamma(-1 - \alpha't)}{\Gamma(2 + \alpha'u)} + \frac{\Gamma(-1 - \alpha's)\Gamma(-1 - \alpha'u)}{\Gamma(2 + \alpha't)} \right).$$

The term with s, t poles is

$$\mathcal{M}_{st} = \frac{2ig_o^2}{\alpha'} \frac{\Gamma(-1 - \alpha's)\Gamma(-1 - \alpha't)}{\Gamma(2 + \alpha'u)}.$$

To extract the residue at $t = 0$, it pays to rewrite \mathcal{M} in order to make the $t = 0$ pole explicit

$$\mathcal{M}_{st} = \frac{2ig_o^2}{\alpha'} \frac{\Gamma(-1 - \alpha's)\Gamma(\alpha't)}{\Gamma(-2 - \alpha's - \alpha't)(-1 - \alpha't)}.$$

It is now clear that the pole at $t = 0$ comes from $\Gamma(\alpha't)$. The residue at $t = 0$ is therefore given by

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Res}[\mathcal{M}_{st}; t = 0] &= \frac{2ig_o^2}{\alpha'} \text{Res}[\Gamma(\alpha't); t = 0] \left[\frac{\Gamma(-1 - \alpha's)}{\Gamma(-2 - \alpha's - \alpha't)(-1 - \alpha't)} \right]_{t=0} \\ &= \frac{2ig_o^2}{\alpha'} \left(-\frac{1}{\alpha'} \right) \frac{\Gamma(-1 - \alpha's)}{\Gamma(-2 - \alpha's)} \\ &= \frac{2ig_o^2}{\alpha'} (-2 - \alpha's) \\ &= \frac{2ig_o^2}{\alpha'} \left(\frac{2}{\alpha'} + s \right). \end{aligned}$$

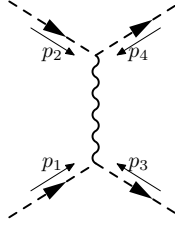


Figure 1: t-channel single photon exchange amplitude.

$$\mu \text{ --- } \gamma \text{ --- } \nu \quad = \quad \frac{-i}{q^2 + i\epsilon} \left[g_{\mu\nu} - (1 - \xi) \frac{q_\mu q_\nu}{q^2} \right]$$

$$\phi^* \text{ --- } p_2 \text{ --- } \gamma, \mu \text{ --- } \phi \quad = \quad -ie(p_1 - p_2)^\mu$$

Figure 2: Relevant Feynman rules for calculating the single photon exchange amplitude.

Next, we look at t-channel single photon exchange in scalar QED (Figure 1). In the Feynman gauge $\xi = 1$, the amplitude of Figure 1 becomes

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{M}_{\text{t-channel } \phi\phi \rightarrow \phi\phi} &= (-ie) (p_1 - p_3)^\mu \left[\frac{-ig_{\mu\nu}}{(p_1 + p_3)^2} \right] (-ie) (p_2 - p_4)^\nu \\ &= -\frac{ie^2}{t} (p_1 - p_3) \cdot (p_2 - p_4) \\ &= -\frac{ie^2}{t} (p_1 \cdot p_2 - p_3 \cdot p_2 - p_1 \cdot p_4 + p_3 \cdot p_4) \\ &= -\frac{ie^2}{t} (2p_1 \cdot p_2 - 2p_1 \cdot p_4) \\ &= -\frac{ie^2}{t} ((2m^2 - s) - (2m^2 - u)) \\ &= -ie^2 \frac{(u - s)}{t} \end{aligned}$$

where the relevant Feynman rules are given in Figure 2. The $t = 0$ residue of the above amplitude is

$$\mathcal{M}_{\text{t-channel } \phi\phi \rightarrow \phi\phi} = -ie^2 (u - s) = (4m^2 - t - s)_{t \rightarrow 0} - s = 4m^2 - 2s$$

where m is the mass of the scalars. Setting the scalar mass equal to the (open string) tachyon mass, $m^2 = -1/\alpha'$ we obtain

$$\mathcal{M}_{\text{t-channel } \phi\phi \rightarrow \phi\phi} = -ie^2 (u - s) = -ie^2 \left(-\frac{4}{\alpha'} - 2s \right) = 2ie^2 \left(\frac{2}{\alpha'} + s \right).$$

Evidently, the $t = 0$ residue of the t-channel scalar QED amplitude, $\mathcal{M}_{\text{t-channel } \phi\phi \rightarrow \phi\phi}$, and the $t = 0$ residue of \mathcal{M}_{st} match if

$$\frac{2ig_o^2}{\alpha'} = 2ie \quad \implies \quad g_o = \sqrt{e\alpha'}.$$

Part (b)

The term with u, t poles is

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{M}_{ut} &= \frac{2ig_o^2}{\alpha'} \frac{\Gamma(-1-\alpha'u)\Gamma(-1-\alpha't)}{\Gamma(2+\alpha's)} \\ &= \frac{2ig_o^2}{\alpha'} \frac{\Gamma(-1-\alpha'u)\Gamma(\alpha't)}{\Gamma(-2-\alpha'u-\alpha't)(-1-\alpha't)}.\end{aligned}$$

Its residue at $t = 0$ is

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Res}[\mathcal{M}_{ut}; t = 0] &= \frac{2ig_o^2}{\alpha'} \left(-\frac{1}{\alpha'}\right) \left[\frac{\Gamma(-1-\alpha'u)}{\Gamma(-2-\alpha'u-\alpha't)} \right]_{t=0} \\ &= -\frac{2ig_o^2}{\alpha'} \left(\frac{1}{\alpha'}\right) \frac{\Gamma(-1-\alpha'u)}{\Gamma(-2-\alpha'u)} \\ &= -\frac{2ig_o^2}{\alpha'} \left(\frac{1}{\alpha'}\right) (-2-\alpha'u) \\ &= \frac{2ig_o^2}{\alpha'} \left(\frac{2}{\alpha'} + u\right).\end{aligned}$$

At $t = 0$, the Mandelstam variables satisfy $s + u = 4m^2 = -4/\alpha'$. Writing the residue of \mathcal{M}_{ut} in terms of s , obtain

$$\text{Res}[\mathcal{M}_{ut}; t = 0] = -\frac{2ig_o^2}{\alpha'} \left(\frac{2}{\alpha'} + s\right) = -\text{Res}[\mathcal{M}_{st}; t = 0].$$

Part (c)

Recall that there were six cyclic ordering in the computation of the Veneziano amplitude given in Figure 6.3 of JBBS. If one includes Chan-Paton factors, the overall factor of 2 in the Veneziano amplitude from the addition of the six cycles is replaced by the trace over a sum of Chan-Paton factors. With a_i the Chan-Paton index for the i^{th} tachyon, the Veneziano amplitude becomes

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{M}_{\text{Veneziano}} &= \frac{2ig_o^2}{\alpha'} \left[\text{Tr}(\lambda^{a_1}\lambda^{a_2}\lambda^{a_4}\lambda^{a_3} + \lambda^{a_1}\lambda^{a_3}\lambda^{a_4}\lambda^{a_2}) \frac{\Gamma(-1-\alpha'u)\Gamma(-1-\alpha't)}{\Gamma(2+\alpha's)} \right. \\ &\quad + \text{Tr}(\lambda^{a_1}\lambda^{a_3}\lambda^{a_2}\lambda^{a_4} + \lambda^{a_1}\lambda^{a_4}\lambda^{a_2}\lambda^{a_3}) \frac{\Gamma(-1-\alpha's)\Gamma(-1-\alpha't)}{\Gamma(2+\alpha'u)} \\ &\quad \left. + \text{Tr}(\lambda^{a_1}\lambda^{a_2}\lambda^{a_3}\lambda^{a_4} + \lambda^{a_1}\lambda^{a_4}\lambda^{a_3}\lambda^{a_2}) \frac{\Gamma(-1-\alpha's)\Gamma(-1-\alpha'u)}{\Gamma(2+\alpha't)} \right].\end{aligned}$$

The $t = 0$ residues are modified to be

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Res}[\mathcal{M}_{st}; t = 0] &= \frac{2ig_o^2}{\alpha'} \left(\frac{2}{\alpha'} + s\right) \text{Tr}(\lambda^{a_1}\lambda^{a_3}\lambda^{a_2}\lambda^{a_4} + \lambda^{a_1}\lambda^{a_4}\lambda^{a_2}\lambda^{a_3}) \\ \text{Res}[\mathcal{M}_{ut}; t = 0] &= -\frac{2ig_o^2}{\alpha'} \left(\frac{2}{\alpha'} + s\right) \text{Tr}(\lambda^{a_1}\lambda^{a_2}\lambda^{a_4}\lambda^{a_3} + \lambda^{a_1}\lambda^{a_3}\lambda^{a_4}\lambda^{a_2}).\end{aligned}$$

The total residue at $t = 0$ is therefore

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Res}[\mathcal{M}_{\text{Veneziano}}; t = 0] &= \frac{2ig_o^2}{\alpha'} \left(\frac{2}{\alpha'} + s\right) \text{Tr}(\lambda^{a_1}\lambda^{a_3}[\lambda^{a_2}, \lambda^{a_4}] + \lambda^{a_1}[\lambda^{a_4}, \lambda^{a_2}]\lambda^{a_3}) \\ &= \frac{2ig_o^2}{\alpha'} \left(\frac{2}{\alpha'} + s\right) \text{Tr}(\{\lambda^{a_1}, \lambda^{a_3}\}[\lambda^{a_2}, \lambda^{a_4}]) \\ &\neq 0.\end{aligned}$$