

Exact results and modular invariance of integrated correlators in $\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM

Congkao Wen

Queen Mary University of London

Strings 2021, ICTP-SAIFR, São Paulo



Introduction

- Based on arXiv: 2102.09537, arXiv: 2102.08305,
with [Daniele Dorigoni](#), [Michael Green](#)



- Early work, arXiv: 1912.13365, arXiv: 2008.02713,
with [Shai Chester](#), [Michael Green](#), [Silviu Pufu](#), [Yifan Wang](#)



A four-point correlator in $SU(N)$ $\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM

- We will study four-point correlator of Chiral Primary Operators,

$$\mathcal{O}_2(x, Y) = \text{tr}(\phi_{I_1}(x)\phi_{I_2}(x))Y^{I_1}Y^{I_2},$$

where $I_p = 1, 2, \dots, 6$ and $Y \cdot Y = 0$.

- Two- and three-point correlators are protected.
- Supersymmetry and superconformal symmetries imply [Eden, Petkou, Schubert, Sokatchev][Nirschl, Osborn]

$$\langle \mathcal{O}_2 \mathcal{O}_2 \mathcal{O}_2 \mathcal{O}_2 \rangle = \langle \mathcal{O}_2 \mathcal{O}_2 \mathcal{O}_2 \mathcal{O}_2 \rangle_{\text{free}} + \mathcal{I}_4(x_i, Y_i) \mathcal{T}_N(U, V; \tau, \bar{\tau}),$$

where \mathcal{I}_4 is fixed by the symmetries and we focus on \mathcal{T}_N .
 U, V are cross ratios & $\tau = \frac{\theta}{2\pi} + i \frac{4\pi}{g_{\text{YM}}^2} = \tau_1 + i\tau_2$.

A four-point correlator in $SU(N)$ $\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM

What is known about the correlator?

- **Weak coupling expansion:**
 - Known up to **3 loops** [Drummond, Duhr, Eden, Heslop, Pennington, Smirnov].
 - In planar limit, **the integrand** was constructed up to **10 loops** [Bourjaily, Heslop, Tran].
 - The **first non-planar contribution** enters at **4 loops** [Fleury, Pereira].
- **Strong coupling expansion** can be computed using Witten diagrams [D'Hoker, Freedman, Mathur, Matusis, Rastelli]...; more recently: KK modes, loop corrections, string corrections ... [Rastelli, Zhou][Alday, Bissi, + Perlmutter][Aprile, Drummond, Heslop, Paul][Alday, Zhou][Bissi, Fardelli, Georgoudis][Drummond, Paul][Alday, Caron-Huot][Caron-Huot, Trinh][Aprile, Vieira][Abl, Heslop, Lipstein]...
- **Instanton effects** were studied in the semi-classical limit. [Bianchi, Green, Kovacs, Rossi][Dorey, Hollowood, Khoze, Mattis, Vandoren]...

Integrated correlators in $SU(N)$ $\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM

- We are interested in $SL(2, \mathbb{Z})$ modular properties and the correlator at finite coupling τ .
- This in general is very difficult; we will consider a simpler yet highly non-trivial object: integrated correlators,

$$\mathcal{G}_N(\tau, \bar{\tau}) = \int dU dV M(U, V) \mathcal{T}_N(U, V; \tau, \bar{\tau}).$$

With suitable choices of the measure to preserve supersymmetry, $\mathcal{G}_N(\tau, \bar{\tau})$ can be computed exactly.

- One may reconstruct the un-integrated correlator at finite coupling, at least for first few orders in large- N expansion.

Integrated correlators in $SU(N)$ $\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM

Two integrated correlators have been studied.

- **Integrated correlator no. 1:** [Binder, Chester, Pufu, Wang] [Chester, Pufu]

$$\mathcal{G}_{1N}(\tau, \bar{\tau}) = -\frac{8}{\pi} \int_0^\infty dr \int_0^\pi d\theta \frac{r \sin^2(\theta)}{U} \mathcal{T}_N(U, V; \tau, \bar{\tau}),$$

with $U = 1 + r^2 - 2r \cos(\theta)$, $V = r^2$.

- **Integrated correlator no. 2:** [Chester, Pufu]

$$\mathcal{G}_{2N}(\tau, \bar{\tau}) = -\frac{96}{\pi} \int_0^\infty dr \int_0^\pi d\theta \frac{r \sin^2(\theta)}{U} \bar{D}_{1111}(U, V) \mathcal{T}_N(U, V; \tau, \bar{\tau}),$$

where $\bar{D}_{1111}(U, V)$ is the 1-loop box.

Integrated correlators in $SU(N)$ $\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM

Simplicity of the integrated correlators. E.g., for $\mathcal{G}_{1N}(\tau, \bar{\tau})$.

- **1 and 2 loops**: the correlator is given by ladder diagrams

[Usyukina, Davydychev]

$$f^{(L)}(z, \bar{z}) = \sum_{r=0}^L \frac{(-1)^r (2L-r)!}{r!(L-r)!L!} \log^r(z\bar{z}) (\text{Li}_{2L-r}(z) - \text{Li}_{2L-r}(\bar{z})),$$

whereas the **integrated L -loop ladder diagram** is simply [Usyukina]

$$-2 \binom{2L+2}{L+1} \zeta(2L+1).$$

- **3 loops**: given by a pages-long expression involving **multiple polylogarithms**, however the integrated result is simply $[g_{\text{YM}}^2 N / (4\pi^2)]^3 735/16 \zeta(7)$.

Integrated correlators from localization

The integrated correlators **can be computed exactly**.

- They are determined by four derivatives of the partition function of $\mathcal{N} = 2^*$ SYM on S^4 [Binder, Chester, Pufu, Wang] [Chester, Pufu]

$$\mathcal{G}_{1N}(\tau, \bar{\tau}) = \tau_2^2 \partial_\tau \partial_{\bar{\tau}} \partial_m^2 \log Z_N(m, \tau, \bar{\tau}) \Big|_{m=0},$$

$$\mathcal{G}_{2N}(\tau, \bar{\tau}) = \partial_m^4 \log Z_N(m, \tau, \bar{\tau}) \Big|_{m=0},$$

where $Z_N(m, \tau, \bar{\tau})$ is computed using **supersymmetric localization** [Nekorasov][Pestun]...

$$Z_N(m, \tau, \bar{\tau}) = \int d^N a \delta\left(\sum_i a_i\right) \prod_{i < j} (a_i - a_j)^2 e^{-\frac{8\pi^2}{g_{\text{YM}}^2} \sum_i a_i^2} Z_{\text{pert}} |Z_{\text{inst}}|^2.$$

- We will mostly focus on $\mathcal{G}_{1N}(\tau, \bar{\tau})$ & drop "1", and briefly discuss $\mathcal{G}_{2N}(\tau, \bar{\tau})$ at the end.

Exact results of an integrated correlator

By carefully analysing $\mathcal{N} = 2^*$ SYM partition function, we conjectured **an exact expression** for $\mathcal{G}_{1N}(\tau, \bar{\tau})$ for **arbitrary N and τ** :

$$\mathcal{G}_N(\tau, \bar{\tau}) = \sum_{(p,q) \in \mathbb{Z}^2} \int_0^\infty \exp\left(-t\pi \frac{|p + q\tau|^2}{\tau_2}\right) B_N(t) dt,$$

where $B_N(t) = \frac{\mathcal{Q}_N(t)}{(t+1)^{2N+1}}$, & $\mathcal{Q}_N(t)$ is a **degree-(2N-1) polynomial**:

$$\mathcal{Q}_N(t) = -\frac{1}{4} N(N-1)(1-t)^{N-1}(1+t)^{N+1} \left\{ (3 + (8N + 3t - 6)t) P_N^{(1,-2)}(z) + \frac{3t^2 - 8Nt - 3}{t+1} P_N^{(1,-1)}(z) \right\},$$

with $z = \frac{1+t^2}{1-t^2}$, $P_N^{(\alpha,\beta)}$ is the Jacobi polynomial. E.g.

$$\mathcal{Q}_2(t) = 9t^3 - 30t^2 + 9t,$$

$$\mathcal{Q}_3(t) = 18t^5 - 99t^4 + 126t^3 - 99t^2 + 18t.$$

Exact results of an integrated correlator

Some remarks:

- $B_N(t) = 1/t B_N(1/t)$, $\int_0^\infty B_N(t) dt / \sqrt{t} = 0, \dots$
- k -instanton term $e^{2\pi i k \tau_1}$ has $k = \hat{p}q$, where \hat{p} replaces p via the Poisson sum.
- $\mathcal{G}_N(\tau, \bar{\tau})$ is manifestly $SL(2, \mathbb{Z})$ invariant.
- Formally $\mathcal{G}_N(\tau, \bar{\tau})$ can be re-expressed as an infinite sum:

$$\mathcal{G}_N(\tau, \bar{\tau}) = \sum_{s=2}^{\infty} c_N(s) E(s; \tau, \bar{\tau}).$$

The non-holomorphic Eisenstein series

$$\begin{aligned} E(s; \tau, \bar{\tau}) &= \sum_{(p,q) \neq (0,0)} \frac{\tau_2^s}{\pi^s |p + q\tau|^{2s}} \\ &= \frac{2\zeta(2s)}{\pi^s} \tau_2^s + \frac{2\zeta(2s-1)\Gamma(s-\frac{1}{2})}{\pi^{s-\frac{1}{2}}\Gamma(s)} \tau_2^{1-s} + \text{instantons}. \end{aligned}$$

Exact results of an integrated correlator

- $B_N(t)$ obeys a **differential equation**, that leads to a $SL(2, \mathbb{Z})$ invariant **Laplace-difference equation** for $\mathcal{G}_N(\tau, \bar{\tau})$,

$$\begin{aligned} (4\tau_2^2 \partial_\tau \partial_{\bar{\tau}} - 2) \mathcal{G}_N(\tau, \bar{\tau}) = N^2 & \left[\mathcal{G}_{N+1}(\tau, \bar{\tau}) - 2\mathcal{G}_N(\tau, \bar{\tau}) + \mathcal{G}_{N-1}(\tau, \bar{\tau}) \right] \\ & - N \left[\mathcal{G}_{N+1}(\tau, \bar{\tau}) - \mathcal{G}_{N-1}(\tau, \bar{\tau}) \right]. \end{aligned}$$

- As a comparison: the **non-holomorphic Eisenstein series** obeys a homogeneous **Laplace equation**

$$\left[4\tau_2^2 \partial_\tau \partial_{\bar{\tau}} - s(s-1) \right] E(s; \tau, \bar{\tau}) = 0.$$

- $\mathcal{G}_1(\tau, \bar{\tau}) = 0$. Once $\mathcal{G}_2(\tau, \bar{\tau})$ is given, the **Laplace-difference equation** determines $\mathcal{G}_N(\tau, \bar{\tau})$ for all N .
- We will now study $\mathcal{G}_N(\tau, \bar{\tau})$ in various limits.

Weak-coupling perturbative expansion

Weak-coupling perturbative expansion (loops)

$$\mathcal{G}_{N,0}(\tau_2) = 4c \left[\frac{3\zeta(3)a}{2} - \frac{75\zeta(5)a^2}{8} + \frac{735\zeta(7)a^3}{16} - \frac{6615\zeta(9)(1 + \frac{2}{7}N^{-2})a^4}{32} \right. \\ \left. + \frac{114345\zeta(11)(1 + N^{-2})a^5}{128} - \frac{3864861\zeta(13)(1 + \frac{25}{11}N^{-2} + \frac{4}{11}N^{-4})a^6}{1024} + \dots \right],$$

with $a = \lambda/(4\pi^2)$ and $4c = N^2 - 1$.

- It gives an **all-loop** prediction for any N .
- **1-, 2- and 3-loop** terms were proved to agree with known results.
- **Non-planar** contributions start to enter at **4 loops**, in agreement with known results.

Large N : small- λ expansion

Large- N expansion: $\mathcal{G}_N(\tau, \bar{\tau}) \sim \sum_{g=0}^{\infty} N^{2-2g} \mathcal{G}^{(g)}(\lambda)$.

- Small- λ expansion

$$\mathcal{G}^{(0)}(\lambda) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{4(-1)^{n+1} \zeta(2n+1) \Gamma(n + \frac{3}{2})^2}{\pi^{2n+1} \Gamma(n) \Gamma(n+3)} \lambda^n,$$

$$\mathcal{G}^{(1)}(\lambda) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n (n-5)(2n+1) \zeta(2n+1) \Gamma(n - \frac{1}{2}) \Gamma(n + \frac{3}{2})}{24 \pi^{2n+1} \Gamma(n)^2} \lambda^n,$$

⋮

- They are all **convergent with a finite radius** $|\lambda| < \pi^2$, which has been seen in $\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM, such as cusp anomalous dimension [Basso, Korchemsky, Kotanski], amplitudes [Basso, Dixon, Papathanasiou].

Large N : large- λ expansion

- Large- λ expansion:

$$\mathcal{G}^{(0)}(\lambda) \sim \frac{1}{4} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{\Gamma(n - \frac{3}{2}) \Gamma(n + \frac{3}{2}) \Gamma(2n + 1) \zeta(2n + 1)}{2^{2n-2} \pi \Gamma(n)^2 \lambda^{n+1/2}},$$

$$\mathcal{G}^{(1)}(\lambda) \sim -\frac{\sqrt{\lambda}}{16} - \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{n^2(2n + 11) \Gamma(n + \frac{1}{2}) \Gamma(n + \frac{3}{2})^2 \zeta(2n + 1)}{24 \pi^{\frac{3}{2}} \Gamma(n + 2) \lambda^{n+1/2}},$$

⋮

- They are all **asymptotic & not Borel summable**, require non-perturbative completions

$$\Delta \mathcal{G}^{(0)}(\lambda) = i \left[8 \text{Li}_0(e^{-2\sqrt{\lambda}}) + \frac{18 \text{Li}_1(e^{-2\sqrt{\lambda}})}{\lambda^{1/2}} + \frac{117 \text{Li}_2(e^{-2\sqrt{\lambda}})}{4\lambda} + \dots \right],$$

$$\Delta \mathcal{G}^{(1)}(\lambda) = i \left[-\frac{127 \text{Li}_0(e^{-2\sqrt{\lambda}})}{2^8} + \frac{927 \text{Li}_1(e^{-2\sqrt{\lambda}})}{2^{12} \lambda^{1/2}} - \frac{3897 \text{Li}_2(e^{-2\sqrt{\lambda}})}{2^{14} \lambda} + \dots \right],$$

⋮

Large N : finite YM coupling τ

Large- N expansion with finite Yang-Mills coupling τ (“very strong coupling limit”):

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathcal{G}_N(\tau, \bar{\tau}) \sim & \frac{N^2}{4} - \frac{3N^{\frac{1}{2}}}{2^4} E\left(\frac{3}{2}; \tau, \bar{\tau}\right) + \frac{45}{2^8 N^{\frac{1}{2}}} E\left(\frac{5}{2}; \tau, \bar{\tau}\right) \\
 & + \frac{3}{N^{\frac{3}{2}}} \left[\frac{1575}{2^{15}} E\left(\frac{7}{2}; \tau, \bar{\tau}\right) - \frac{13}{2^{13}} E\left(\frac{3}{2}; \tau, \bar{\tau}\right) \right] + \frac{225}{N^{\frac{5}{2}}} \left[\frac{441}{2^{18}} E\left(\frac{9}{2}; \tau, \bar{\tau}\right) - \frac{5}{2^{16}} E\left(\frac{5}{2}; \tau, \bar{\tau}\right) \right] \\
 & + \frac{63}{N^{\frac{7}{2}}} \left[\frac{3898125}{2^{27}} E\left(\frac{11}{2}; \tau, \bar{\tau}\right) - \frac{44625}{2^{25}} E\left(\frac{7}{2}; \tau, \bar{\tau}\right) + \frac{73}{2^{22}} E\left(\frac{3}{2}; \tau, \bar{\tau}\right) \right] \\
 & + \frac{945}{N^{\frac{9}{2}}} \left[\frac{31216185}{2^{31}} E\left(\frac{13}{2}; \tau, \bar{\tau}\right) - \frac{41895}{2^{26}} E\left(\frac{9}{2}; \tau, \bar{\tau}\right) + \frac{1639}{2^{27}} E\left(\frac{5}{2}; \tau, \bar{\tau}\right) \right] + \dots
 \end{aligned}$$

Recall $E(s; \tau, \bar{\tau})$ is the non-holomorphic Eisenstein series, which is $SL(2, \mathbb{Z})$ invariant.

Integrated correlator no. 2 & new modular invariants

Integrated correlator no. 2 at finite coupling τ , up to $1/N^3$:

$$\begin{aligned} \partial_m^4 \log Z|_{m=0} = & 6N^2 + 6N^{\frac{1}{2}} E\left(\frac{3}{2}; \tau, \bar{\tau}\right) + C_0 - \frac{9}{2N^{\frac{1}{2}}} E\left(\frac{5}{2}; \tau, \bar{\tau}\right) - \frac{27}{2^3 N} \mathcal{E}\left(3, \frac{3}{2}, \frac{3}{2}; \tau, \bar{\tau}\right) \\ & - \frac{9}{N^{\frac{3}{2}}} \left[\frac{375}{2^{10}} E\left(\frac{7}{2}; \tau, \bar{\tau}\right) - \frac{13}{2^8} E\left(\frac{3}{2}; \tau, \bar{\tau}\right) \right] + \frac{405}{704 N^2} [C_1 + 35 \mathcal{E}\left(6, \frac{5}{2}, \frac{3}{2}; \tau, \bar{\tau}\right) \\ & - 24 \mathcal{E}\left(4, \frac{5}{2}, \frac{3}{2}; \tau, \bar{\tau}\right)] - \frac{675}{N^{\frac{5}{2}} 2^{10}} \left[\frac{49}{4} E\left(\frac{9}{2}; \tau, \bar{\tau}\right) - E\left(\frac{5}{2}; \tau, \bar{\tau}\right) \right] \\ & + \frac{1}{N^3} \left[\alpha_3 \mathcal{E}\left(3, \frac{3}{2}, \frac{3}{2}; \tau, \bar{\tau}\right) + \sum_{r=5,7,9} [\alpha_r \mathcal{E}\left(r, \frac{3}{2}, \frac{3}{2}; \tau, \bar{\tau}\right) + \beta_r \mathcal{E}\left(r, \frac{5}{2}, \frac{5}{2}; \tau, \bar{\tau}\right) + \gamma_r \mathcal{E}\left(r, \frac{7}{2}, \frac{3}{2}; \tau, \bar{\tau}\right)] \right], \end{aligned}$$

where $\alpha_i, \beta_i, \gamma_i$ are rational numbers; \mathcal{E} is the generalised non-holomorphic Eisenstein series

$$[4\tau_2 \partial_\tau \partial_{\bar{\tau}} - r(r+1)] \mathcal{E}(r, s_1, s_2; \tau, \bar{\tau}) = -E(s_1; \tau, \bar{\tau}) E(s_2; \tau, \bar{\tau}).$$

Type IIB string amplitudes in $\text{AdS}_5 \times S^5$

- To reconstruct the **un-integrated correlator**, we write an ansatz for it, that is conveniently done in Mellin space [Mack][Penedones]

$$\mathcal{T}_N(U, V; \tau, \bar{\tau}) = \int \frac{ds dt}{(4\pi i)^2} U^{\frac{s}{2}} V^{\frac{t-4}{2}} \Gamma^2\left(\frac{4-s}{2}\right) \Gamma^2\left(\frac{4-t}{2}\right) \Gamma^2\left(\frac{s+t-4}{2}\right) \mathcal{M}_N(s, t; \tau, \bar{\tau}).$$

- Large- N ansatz (after removing an overall R^4),

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{M}(s, t; \tau, \bar{\tau}) = & \frac{ac}{(s-2)(t-2)(u-2)} + c^{1/4}b + \mathcal{M}_{1\text{-loop}}^{\text{SUGRA}}(s, t) \\ & + \frac{c_2(s^2 + t^2 + u^2) + c_1}{c^{1/4}} + \frac{d_3stu + d_2(s^2 + t^2 + u^2) + d_1}{c^{1/2}} + \dots \end{aligned}$$

- Unknown coefficients are fixed by **two integrated correlators**, and the **flat-space limit** in the case of d^6R^4 .

Type IIB string amplitudes in $\text{AdS}_5 \times S^5$

The exact result of the **un-integrated correlator** in large- N expansion (after removing an overall R^4),

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{M}(s, t; \tau, \bar{\tau}) &= \frac{8c}{(s-2)(t-2)(u-2)} + \frac{15E(\frac{3}{2}; \tau, \bar{\tau})c^{1/4}}{4\sqrt{2\pi^3}} + \mathcal{M}_{1\text{-loop}}^{\text{SUGRA}}(s, t) \\ &+ \frac{315E(\frac{5}{2}; \tau, \bar{\tau})}{128\sqrt{2\pi^5}c^{1/4}} \left[(s^2 + t^2 + u^2) - 3 \right] \\ &+ \frac{945\mathcal{E}(3, \frac{3}{2}, \frac{3}{2}; \tau, \bar{\tau})}{64\pi^3c^{1/2}} \left[stu - \frac{1}{4}(s^2 + t^2 + u^2) - 4 \right] + \dots \end{aligned}$$

In **flat-space limit**, $\mathcal{M}(s, t; \tau, \bar{\tau})$ reproduces known results of superstring amplitudes in flat space. [\[Green, Gutperle + Vanhove\]](#)[\[Green, Sethi\]](#) ...

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}_{\text{EFT}}^{\text{IIB}} &\sim \alpha'^{-4}R + \alpha'^{-1}E(\frac{3}{2}; \tau, \bar{\tau})R^4 + \alpha'E(\frac{5}{2}; \tau, \bar{\tau})d^4R^4 \\ &+ \alpha'^2\mathcal{E}(3, \frac{3}{2}, \frac{3}{2}; \tau, \bar{\tau})d^6R^4 + \dots \end{aligned}$$

Summary and comments

- The integrated correlators can be computed exactly, and provide tools for studying non-perturbative effects.
- Integrated correlator $\partial_m^4 \log Z$ at finite N & finite τ ?
- Higher-point bonus $U(1)_Y$ -violating correlators: non-holomorphic **modular forms**. [Green, C.W.]
- Correlators of higher-weight Chiral Primary Operators: Hidden 10d conformal symmetry.[see the talk by Coronado.]

Thank you!