# Symbol Alphabets from the Landau Singular Locus

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Motivation: Scattering Amplitudes  $A_n$  in Quantum Field Theory





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- Theoretical predictions for outcome of elementary particle collisions, central for experiments such as the LHC & High-Luminosity upgrade
- Exhibit remarkably deep mathematical structures

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Building blocks of perturbative calculations in coupling g,

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E.g. n = 4 legs and L = 2 loops,



where each graph  $G \rightarrow \text{integral } I_G = \int \prod_{l=1}^L \frac{d^D k_l}{i\pi^{D/2}} \prod_{i=1}^E \frac{1}{(-q_i^2 + m_i^2)^{\nu_i}},$ 

for each loop l, internal edge i, in  $D = D_0 - 2\epsilon$  dimensions.

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### Serious bottlenecks

- 1. Eliminate huge number of linear (IBP) relations
- 2. Evaluate basis  $\vec{f}$  of Feynman integrals (FI)

For *polylogarithmic* FI, find basis transformation  $\vec{g} = T \cdot \vec{f}$  such that [Gehrmann,Remiddi'99][Henn'13]

constant matrices

$$d\vec{g} = \epsilon \, d\widetilde{M} \, \vec{g}, \qquad \widetilde{M} \equiv \sum_{i} \overbrace{a_{i}}^{i} \log \underbrace{W_{i}}_{\text{letters}}$$

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This strategy in line with e.g. <sup>[Abreu,Ita,Moriello,Page,Tschernow,Zeng'20]</sup>

## The Role of the Landau Equations

Yield specific values of (kinematic) parameters of any (Feynman) integral, for which it may become singular. <sup>[Landau'59]</sup>



Formulated as conditions for the contour of integration  $(A \rightarrow B)$  to become trapped between two poles of integrand (×). Recent revival of their study, e.g. [Berghoff,Brown,Collins,Hannesdottir,Klausen,McLeod,Mizera,Panzer] [Schwartz,Spradlin,Telen,Vergu,Volovich,..]

Believed for long to only provide information on where  $W_i = 0$ .

### This work

Evidence through two loops: Rational letters of polylogarithmic FI captured by Landau equations, when recast as polynomial of the kinematic variables of integral, known as the *principal A-determinant*  $E_A$ !

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Example: 'Two-mass easy' box with  $p_2^2 = p_4^2 = 0$ ,  $p_1^2, p_3^2 \neq 0$ :



 $E_A$  equipped with natural factorization,  $(s = (p_1 + p_2)^2, t = (p_1 + p_4)^2)$   $E_A = (p_1^2 p_3^2 - st) p_1^2 p_3^2 st (p_1^2 + p_3^2 - s - t) (p_3^2 - t) (p_3^2 - s) (p_1^2 - t) (p_1^2 - s).$ where each factor is indeed a letter of the integral!

# Outline

Introduction and Motivation

Feynman integrals, Landau singularities & GKZ systems

One-loop principal A-determinants and symbol letters

Conclusions and Outlook

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**Conclusions and Outlook** 

Feynman Integrals in the Lee-Pomeransky Representation:

$$I_G = \frac{\Gamma(D/2)}{\Gamma((L+1)D/2 - \sum_i \nu_i)} \int_0^\infty \prod_{i=1}^E \left(\frac{x^{\nu_i - 1} dx_i}{\Gamma(\nu_i)}\right) \frac{1}{\mathcal{G}^{D/2}}$$

where  $\mathcal{G} = \mathcal{U} + \mathcal{F}$  is the sum of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Symanzik polynomials,

- Of degree L, L+1 in the  $x_i$ , respectively.
- Coefficients of U are numbers, of F depend on kinematic parameters
- Obtained easily from data of graph G.

In this form,  $I_G$  is special case<sup>1</sup> of A-hypergeometric function as defined by Gelfand, Graev, Kapranov & Zelevinsky (GKZ). [de la Cruz'19][Klausen'19]

Very active field of research, e.g.

 $[An an than arayan, Banik, Bera, Chang, Chen, Datta, Feng, Klemm, Nega, Safari, Vanhove, Walther, Zhang] \label{eq:analytical} An aray of the second secon$ 

<sup>1</sup>Generic case: All  $\mathcal G$  polynomial coefficients are variables, different from each other.

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### Singularities of GKZ-systems

Let 
$$\mathcal{G} = \sum_{j=1}^{m} c_j \prod_{i=1}^{E} x_i^{a_{ij}}$$
,  $c_j$  all independent.

GKZ-system singular for  $c_i$  values solving

 $E_A(\mathcal{G}) = 0$ 

*Principal A-determinant of G*: Polynomial in  $c_j$  with integer coefficients, that vanishes whenever equations

$$\mathcal{G} = x_1 \frac{\partial \mathcal{G}}{\partial x_1} = \ldots = x_E \frac{\partial \mathcal{G}}{\partial x_E} = 0$$
 have solution.

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 have solution.

In practice, compute via theorem factorizing it into contributions from each face  $\Gamma$  of polytope with vertices  $(a_{1j}, \ldots, a_{Ej})$ ,

$$E_A(\mathcal{G}) = \prod_{\Gamma} \Delta_{\Gamma}(\mathcal{G}_{\Gamma})$$

*A*-discriminant: Polynomial in  $c_i$ , that vanishes when  $\mathcal{G}_{\Gamma} = \mathcal{G}|_{x_{m_i}=0,m_j\notin\Gamma}$ 

$$\mathcal{G}_{\Gamma} = \frac{\partial \mathcal{G}_{\Gamma}}{\partial x_{m_1}} = \ldots = \frac{\partial \mathcal{G}_{\Gamma}}{\partial x_{m_k}} = 0 \text{ have solution} \,.$$

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#### Example: Principal A-determinant of bubble



### Interpretation of $E_A(\mathcal{G})$ polytope

Newt( $E_A(\mathcal{G})$ ), built out of exponents of  $E_A(\mathcal{G})$  polynomial: Keeps track of *triangulations* of Newt( $\mathcal{G}$ ).



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*Cluster algebras* also describe triangulations of geometric spaces [Fomin,Zelevinsky'01][Felikson,Shapiro,Tumarkin'11]

First-principle derivation of observed cluster-algebraic structure of Feynman integrals? <sup>[Chicherin,Henn,Papathanasiou'20]... [He,Liu,Tang,Yang'22]</sup>

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### One-loop principal A-determinants and symbol letters

**Conclusions and Outlook** 

Generic n-point 1-loop integrals All  $m_i, p_i^2 \neq 0$  and different from each other



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# Generic *n*-point 1-loop integrals All $m_i, p_i^2 \neq 0$ and different from each other



A-discriminants reduce to usual determinants  $\Rightarrow$ Modified Cayley matrix  $\mathcal{Y}$ ,<sup>[Melrose'65]</sup>

$$\mathcal{Y} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 1 & \cdots & 1 \\ 1 & Y_{11} & Y_{12} & \cdots & Y_{1n} \\ 1 & Y_{12} & Y_{22} & \cdots & Y_{2n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ 1 & Y_{1n} & Y_{2n} & \cdots & Y_{nn} \end{pmatrix} \quad \begin{array}{l} Y_{ii} = 2m_i^2 \\ Y_{ij} = m_i^2 + m_j^2 - s_{ij-1} \\ s_{ij} = (p_i + \dots + p_j)^2 \end{array}$$

captures all Landau singularity information.

# Generic *n*-point 1-loop integrals All $m_i, p_i^2 \neq 0$ and different from each other



•  $\Delta(\mathcal{F}) = \det Y$ : Leading<sup>1</sup> Landau singularity of type l<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Where all  $x_i \neq 0$ <sup>2</sup>Type I (II): Integration contour pinched at finite ( $\infty$ ) values of loop momentum k.

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- $\Delta(\mathcal{F}) = \det Y$ : Leading<sup>1</sup> Landau singularity of type I<sup>2</sup>
- $\Delta(\mathcal{G}) = \det \mathcal{Y}$ : Leading<sup>1</sup> Landau singularity of type II<sup>2</sup>

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- $\Delta(\mathcal{G}) = \det \mathcal{Y}$ : Leading<sup>1</sup> Landau singularity of type II<sup>2</sup>
- Subleading Landau singularity where  $x_{i_1}, \ldots, x_{i_m} = 0 \sim$  Leading singularity of subgraph where internal edges  $i_1, \ldots, i_m$  removed [Klausen'21]

<sup>1</sup>Where all  $x_i \neq 0$ 

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### 1-loop Subleading Landau Singularities=Subdeterminants

For any matrix A with elements  $a_{mn}$ , let (j,k)-th minor of A be

$$A^{j}_{k} = \begin{bmatrix} a_{1,1} & a_{1,2} & a_{1,3} & \cdots & a_{1,k-1} & k & a_{1,k+1} & \cdots & a_{1,N} \\ a_{2,1} & a_{2,2} & a_{2,3} & \cdots & a_{2,k-1} & & a_{2,k+1} & \cdots & a_{2,N} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & & \vdots & & \\ a_{j-1,1} & a_{j-1,2} & a_{j-1,3} & \cdots & a_{j-1,k-1} & & & \\ a_{j-1,k+1} & \cdots & a_{j-1,N} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & & \vdots & & \\ a_{j+1,1} & a_{j+1,2} & a_{j+1,3} & \cdots & a_{j+1,k-1} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & & \vdots & & \\ a_{N,1} & a_{N,2} & a_{N,3} & \cdots & a_{N,k-1} & & & a_{N,k+1} & \cdots & a_{N,N} \end{bmatrix},$$

where shading indicates removal of row and column. Similarly  $A\begin{bmatrix} i_1 \dots i_k \\ j_1 \dots j_k \end{bmatrix}$ ,  $A\begin{bmatrix} \cdot \\ \cdot \end{bmatrix} = \det A$ .

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### Principal A-determinant of generic 1-loop graphs

Gathering previous bits of information, arrive at

$$E_A(\mathcal{G}) = \mathcal{Y}\left[ \begin{array}{c} \cdot \\ \cdot \end{array} \right] \prod_{i=1}^{n+1} \mathcal{Y}\left[ \begin{array}{c} i \\ i \end{array} \right] \cdots \prod_{i_{n-1} > \ldots > i_1 = 1}^{n+1} \mathcal{Y}\left[ \begin{array}{c} i_1 \dots i_{n-1} \\ i_1 \dots i_{n-1} \end{array} \right] \prod_{i=2}^{n+1} \mathcal{Y}_{ii} \,.$$

Contains all diagonal k-dimensional minors of  $\mathcal{Y}$ ,  $1 \le k \le n+1$ , but  $\mathcal{Y}_{11} = 0$ .

$$2^{n+1} - n - 2$$
 factors, e.g.  $1, 4, 11, 26, 57, 120$  factors for  $n = 1, \dots, 6$ .

Each factor = polynomial symbol letter  $W_i$ ! Polylogarithmic integral singular for  $W_i = 0 \Rightarrow E_A(\mathcal{G}) = 0$  From 1-loop polynomial to square-root letters

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Idea Re-factorize  $E_A$  with Jacobi determinant identities of the form  $p \cdot q = f^2 - g = (f - \sqrt{g})(f + \sqrt{g}),$ 

1. where p, q factors of  $E_A$ , i.e. polynomial letters.

2.  $f \pm \sqrt{g}$  contain leading singularity of FI in 2<sup>nd</sup> term. <sup>[Cachazo'08]</sup>

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Motivation: 1-loop integrals = volumes of spherical simplices. [Davydychev,Delbourgo'99]

Crucial for their computation are the Jacobi identities,

$$A\begin{bmatrix} \cdot \\ \cdot \end{bmatrix} A\begin{bmatrix} i & j \\ i & j \end{bmatrix} = A\begin{bmatrix} i \\ i \end{bmatrix} A\begin{bmatrix} j \\ j \end{bmatrix} - A\begin{bmatrix} i \\ j \end{bmatrix} A\begin{bmatrix} j \\ i \end{bmatrix} A\begin{bmatrix} j \\ - A\begin{bmatrix} i \\ i \end{bmatrix} A\begin{bmatrix} j \\ - A\begin{bmatrix} i \\ j \end{bmatrix}^2$$

Point 2 adopts widely observed pattern in 1- and 2-loop computations.

### All 1-loop letters I

Need only ratio  $\frac{f-\sqrt{g}}{f+\sqrt{g}}$ , as product already contained in polynomial alphabet. Letting  $D = D_0 - 2\epsilon$ , obtain N letters of type,

$$W_{1,\dots,(i-1),\dots,n} = \begin{cases} \frac{\mathcal{Y}\begin{bmatrix}i\\1\end{bmatrix} - \sqrt{-\mathcal{Y}\begin{bmatrix}\cdot\\\\\end{bmatrix}} \mathcal{Y}\begin{bmatrix}1&i\\1&i\end{bmatrix}}{\mathcal{Y}\begin{bmatrix}i\\1\end{bmatrix} + \sqrt{-\mathcal{Y}\begin{bmatrix}\cdot\\\\\end{bmatrix}} \mathcal{Y}\begin{bmatrix}1&i\\1&i\end{bmatrix}}, & D_0 + n \text{ odd,} \\\\ \frac{\mathcal{Y}\begin{bmatrix}i\\1\end{bmatrix} - \sqrt{\mathcal{Y}\begin{bmatrix}i\\\\\end{bmatrix}} \mathcal{Y}\begin{bmatrix}1\\1\end{bmatrix}}{\mathcal{Y}\begin{bmatrix}1\\1\end{bmatrix}}, & D_0 + n \text{ even.} \end{cases}$$

### All 1-loop letters II

In addition, n(n-1)/2 letters of type,

$$W_{1,\dots,(i-1),\dots,(j-1),\dots,n} = \begin{cases} \mathcal{Y} \begin{bmatrix} i \\ j \end{bmatrix} - \sqrt{-\mathcal{Y} \begin{bmatrix} \cdot \\ \cdot \end{bmatrix} \mathcal{Y} \begin{bmatrix} i & j \\ i & j \end{bmatrix}}, & D_0 + n \text{ odd}, \\ \mathcal{Y} \begin{bmatrix} i \\ j \end{bmatrix} + \sqrt{-\mathcal{Y} \begin{bmatrix} \cdot \\ \cdot \end{bmatrix} \mathcal{Y} \begin{bmatrix} i & j \\ i & j \end{bmatrix}}, & D_0 + n \text{ odd}, \\ \mathcal{Y} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & j \\ 1 & i \end{bmatrix} - \sqrt{-\mathcal{Y} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \mathcal{Y} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & i & j \\ 1 & i & j \end{bmatrix}}, & D_0 + n \text{ even}, \end{cases}$$

### All 1-loop letters III

Our procedure also predicts  $\mathcal{Y}[:]$  and  $\mathcal{Y}[\frac{1}{1}]$  as individual rational letters, but in fact only the ratio

$$W_{1,2,\ldots,n} = \frac{\mathcal{Y}\left[ \begin{array}{c} \cdot \\ \cdot \end{array} \right]}{\mathcal{Y}\left[ \begin{array}{c} 1 \\ 1 \end{array} \right]},$$

appears, as we'll get back to in next slide.

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Total letter count: Assuming  $n \le d+1$  for external kinematics dimension d,

$$|W| = 2^{n-3} \left( n^2 + 3n + 8 \right) - \frac{1}{6} \left( n^3 + 5n + 6 \right) ,$$

e.g. |W| = 1, 5, 18, 57, 166 for  $n = 1, \dots, 5$  and  $D_0$  even.

### Verification through differential equations & comparison with literature

From letter prediction, derived canonical differential equations through numeric IBP relations  $\Rightarrow$  confirmation.

By explicit computation up to n = 10, infer general form, e.g.  $n + D_0$  even:

$$\begin{split} d\mathcal{J}_{1\dots n} = & \epsilon \ d\log W_{1\dots n} \ \mathcal{J}_{1\dots n} \\ & + \epsilon \sum_{1 \leq i \leq n} (-1)^{i + \left\lfloor \frac{n}{2} \right\rfloor} d\log W_{1\dots(i)\dots n} \ \mathcal{J}_{1\dots \widehat{i}\dots n} \\ & + \epsilon \sum_{1 \leq i < j \leq n} (-1)^{i + j + \left\lfloor \frac{n}{2} \right\rfloor} d\log W_{1\dots(i)\dots(j)\dots n} \ \mathcal{J}_{1\dots \widehat{i}\dots \widehat{j}\dots n}. \end{split}$$

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Furthermore, compared to previous results for  $D_0$  even based on

- 1. the diagrammatic coaction <sup>[Abreu,Britto,Duhr,Gardi'17]</sup>
- 2. the Baikov representation <sup>[Chen,Ma,Yang'22]</sup>

Agreement in form of CDE, as well as in letters for orientations presented in 2, see also. <sup>[Jiang, Yang'23]</sup>

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$$\det Y = 0 + 2\sum_{i=1}^{3} p_i^2 (m_i^2 - m_{i-1}^2) (m_{i+1}^2 - m_{i-1}^2) + \mathcal{O}(p_j^2 p_k^2),$$

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While limits of individual factors in  $E_A$  depend on limit order,  $E_A$  as a whole does not, since different orders produce factors it already contains.

G.Papathanasiou — Symbol Alphabets from Landau Singularities One-loop principal A-determinants and symbol letters 22/27

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Strong evidence that non-generic FI alphabet obtained as limit.

### Mathematica Notebook

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### Two-loop example of principal A-determinant-alphabet relation



Agrees precisely with (2dHPL) alphabet known to describe 2-loop master integrals with these kinematics!  $^{\rm [Gehrmann, Remiddi'00]}$ 

Further mathematical properties of Feynman integrals: Cohen-Macauley

Guarantees that

# master integrals = volume of Newt(G)

Proved it for currently largest known class of 1-loop integrals, including completely on-shell/massless. For earlier work, see <sup>[Tellander,Helmer'21][Walther'22]</sup>

Relation to other properties:



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Further mathematical properties of Feynman integrals :Generalized permutohedron (GP) property

A polytope  $P \subset \mathbb{R}^n$  is GP if and only if every edge is parallel to  $\mathbf{e}_i - \mathbf{e}_j$ , where  $\mathbf{e}_i$  is unit vector on coordinate axis, for some  $i, j \in \{1, \ldots, n\}$ . E.g.



Practical utility: This property facilitates new methods for fast Monte Carlo evaluation of Feynman integrals. <sup>[Borinsky'20][Borinsky,Munch,Tellander'23]</sup>

Previously proven for generic kinematics. <sup>[Schultka'18]</sup> Here: Generalized to any graph where all external vertices joined by massive path.

Evidence that rational letters of polylogarithmic FI captured by polynomial form of Landau equations in terms of *principal A-determinant*  $E_A$ !

- Through 2 loops
- ▶ 1 loop: Also obtain square-root letters from Jacobi identities + CDE
- Strong evidence for well-defined limits to non-generic kinematics
- Easy-to-use Mathematica file with our results

# Next Stage

- 1. More efficient evaluation of  $E_A$  + more 2-loop checks [Helmer, GP, Tellander'24]
- 2. New predictions for pheno, e.g. letters for  $2 \rightarrow 3$  with 2 massive legs [Les Houches Standard Model Precision Wishlist'21]
- 3. Explore implications for beyond-polylogarithmic case