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Minkowski box from Yangian bootstrap

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ABSTRACT: We extend the recently developed Yangian bootstrap for Feynman integrals to Minkowski space, focusing on the case of the one-loop box integral. The space of Yangian invariants is spanned by the Bloch-Wigner function and its discontinuities. Using only input from symmetries, we constrain the functional form of the box integral in all 64 kinematic regions up to twelve (out of a priori 256) undetermined constants. These need to be fixed by other means. We do this explicitly, employing two alternative methods. This results in a novel compact formula for the box integral valid in all kinematic regions of Minkowski space.

Keywords: AdS-CFT Correspondence, Conformal and W Symmetry, Integrable Field Theories, Scattering Amplitudes

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Contents

1 Introduction

The AdS/CFT correspondence continues to be one of the most inspiring and most cited conjectures of contemporary mathematical physics. Its structural deepness is e.g. seen in the quantum integrability of its free-AdS-strings/planar-Yang-Mills-theory limit.^{[1](#page-1-1)} While being equally conjectural from a rigorous, non-perturbative point of view, integrability has already brought a large number of quantities on both the string as well as the gauge theory side under its spell, often leading to exact results that could not have been computed otherwise: String spectrum/scaling dimensions, Wilson loops and defect lines, various correlation functions, scattering amplitudes, and much more.

Integrability of free/planar AdS/CFT is arguably easier to see on the string side, where the supersymmetric string sigma model^{[2](#page-1-2)} is essentially an integrable two-dimensional quantum field theory. A systematic understanding (and even definition) of quantum integrability on the side of the four-dimensional $\mathcal{N} = 4$ Super-Yang-Mills theory (SYM) seems to be a bigger challenge. What is well-known, however, is that this model's integrable structure appears for absolutely any quantity one chooses to study in perturbation theory. The most successful and complete understanding has been reached for the computation of two-point functions, where a certain type of long-range spin chain emerges. In many cases, it even allows for deriving all-loop results. Interestingly, integrability has even been 'detected' on the level of individual tree- and loop-level Feynman diagrams. Here it usually appears in the form of *Yangian invariance*, see [\[2,](#page-20-0) [3\]](#page-20-1) for an introduction. The simplest case

¹The best overall review collection is still [\[1\]](#page-20-2), even though there have been many further developments. ²Note, however, that the exact quantisation of superstrings on $AdS_5 \times S^5$ still has not been achieved.

beyond tree level is the one-loop box diagram, which appears in the computations of fourpoint correlation functions as well as four-particle scattering amplitudes. In its Euclidean version, it reads

$$
I_4^{\mathcal{E}}(x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4) = \frac{1}{\pi^2} \int_{\mathbb{R}^4} \frac{d^4 x_0}{x_{01}^2 x_{02}^2 x_{03}^2 x_{04}^2},\tag{1.1}
$$

where $x_{jk}^2 = (x_j - x_k)^2 = \sum_{\mu=1}^4 (x_j^{\mu} - x_k^{\mu})$ $k^{(k)}$ and x_1, \ldots, x_4 are pairwise distinct points in \mathbb{R}^4 . In this case the integral is finite, and has been computed a long time ago. The most succinct way to explicitly write down the result employs its *(dual) conformal symmetry*: the function $\hat{\phi}^E = x_{13}^2 x_{24}^2 I_4^E$ is invariant under arbitrary translations, four-dimensional rotations, scale transformations, as well as special conformal transformations. Defining the a priori indistinguishable pair of conformal variables z, \bar{z} through the two independent cross-ratios of the four points as

$$
z\bar{z} = u = \frac{x_{12}^2 x_{34}^2}{x_{13}^2 x_{24}^2}, \qquad (1-z)(1-\bar{z}) = v = \frac{x_{14}^2 x_{23}^2}{x_{13}^2 x_{24}^2}, \tag{1.2}
$$

the new function $\phi^{\mathbf{E}} = (z - \bar{z}) \hat{\phi}^E$ depends only on z, \bar{z} and may be written as

$$
\phi^{\mathcal{E}}(z,\bar{z}) = 2\text{Li}_2(z) - 2\text{Li}_2(\bar{z}) + (\log z + \log \bar{z})(\log(1-z) - \log(1-\bar{z})).\tag{1.3}
$$

In Euclidean space *z* and \bar{z} are necessarily related by complex conjugation. Hence, ϕ^{E} in [\(1.3\)](#page-2-0) is actually a function of the single complex variable *z*. It is a version of the dilogarithm function due to Bloch and Wigner, see [\[4\]](#page-20-3) for an in-depth discussion of its analytic properties. As was demonstrated in detail in $[5, 6]$ $[5, 6]$ $[5, 6]$, it is perfectly possible to derive this result from integrability. First, one shows that, infinitesimally, the dual conformal invariance of (1.1) is part of an even bigger symmetry: Yangian invariance. Secondly, one puts the latter to good use and derives a system of partial differential equations for $\hat{\phi}^{\text{E}}(z,\bar{z})$. These are easily solved, and lead to the following complete, fundamental system of linearly independent solutions for *φ* E:

$$
f_1 = 1,\tag{1.4}
$$

$$
f_2 = \log z - \log \bar{z},\tag{1.5}
$$

$$
f_3 = \log(1 - z) - \log(1 - \bar{z}).\tag{1.6}
$$

$$
f_4 = 2\text{Li}_2(z) - 2\text{Li}_2(\bar{z}) + (\log z + \log \bar{z})(\log(1 - z) - \log(1 - \bar{z})).\tag{1.7}
$$

Note that no assumption on the transcendental weight was made in solving the Yangian equations, cf. [\[6\]](#page-20-5). Thirdly, the correct linear combination is determined by using the permutation symmetry of the four points in Euclidean space, and the *star-triangle relation*. [3](#page-2-2) The latter is essentially a version of the Yang-Baxter equation, and therefore also based on integrability. One then indeed finds $\phi^{\text{E}} = f_4$, i.e. exactly [\(1.3\)](#page-2-0).

Now it is important to stress that AdS/CFT ultimately requires the consideration of quantum field theory in *Minkowski space*, as opposed to its 'Wick-rotated' Euclidean version. The reason is subtly but stringently built on the theory of Lie superalgebras: The

 3 Using the star-triangle relation required a generalised form of the box with generic propagator powers [\[6\]](#page-20-5).

symmetry algebra of AdS/CFT is $\mathfrak{psu}(2,2|4)$. This includes as a subalgebra the conformal algebra of Minkowski space $\mathfrak{su}(2,2) \simeq \mathfrak{so}(2,4) \supset \mathfrak{so}(1,3)$, while for Euclidean space we have $\mathfrak{so}(4) \subset \mathfrak{so}(1,5) \simeq \mathfrak{su}^*(4)$. The latter algebra $\mathfrak{su}^*(4)$ is known to *not* be a subalgebra of $\mathfrak{psu}(2,2|4)$, nor of any other real form of the complexified Lie algebra $\mathfrak{psl}(4|4)$. In Minkowski space the integral (1.1) has to be replaced by

$$
I_4(x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4) = \frac{1}{i\pi^2} \int_{\mathbb{R}^{1,3}} \frac{d^4 x_0}{(x_{01}^2 + i\epsilon)(x_{02}^2 + i\epsilon)(x_{03}^2 + i\epsilon)(x_{04}^2 + i\epsilon)},
$$
(1.8)

where $x_{jk}^2 = (x_j - x_k)^2 = (x_j^0 - x_k^0)^2 - \sum_{l=1}^3 (x_j^l - x_k^l)^2, x_1, \ldots, x_4$ are now four points in $\mathbb{R}^{1,3}$, and the Feynman-*i* eprescription has to be implemented.^{[4](#page-3-0)} Now pairwise distinction of the four points no longer suffices for finiteness. Instead, it is necessary and sufficient to demand $x_{jk}^2 \neq 0$ for all j, k with $j \neq k$. This integral has been calculated several times and studied from many different perspectives [\[7](#page-20-6)[–11\]](#page-21-0). In this case dual conformal invariance holds only on the level of the *algebra* $\mathfrak{so}(2,4)$; in particular global dual special conformal transformations in the conformal *group* of compactified Minkowski space $SO_0(2, 4)/\mathbb{Z}_2$ may move the external points into different kinematic regions, thereby sometimes changing the value of the integral [\[12\]](#page-21-1). As before, one defines a pair of conformal variables z, \overline{z} by [\(1.2\)](#page-2-3). However, depending on the signs of the individual x_{jk}^2 , the variables z, \bar{z} may now also become independently real, as well as complex conjugate pairs. In both cases the Euclidean result [\(1.3\)](#page-2-0) does not necessarily hold anymore. While the correct procedure to obtain the full result via analytic continuation in the complexified kinematical invariants (i.e. in our case, the set of six x_{jk}^2) is well-known in principle, it is quite involved in practice.

A complete analysis of the box integral [\(1.8\)](#page-3-1) in all kinematic regions was recently performed in [\[12\]](#page-21-1). Interestingly, the result suggests that in all regions the Minkowski integral is still given by a specific linear combination of the four-dimensional solution space (1.4) – (1.7) of the Yangian bootstrap, where now all four functions are needed. This is encouraging, and naturally leads to an important question: *Is the Minkowski box integral* [\(1.8\)](#page-3-1) *also completely determined by integrability, just like its Euclidean precursor* [\(1.1\)](#page-2-1)*?*

In this paper, we will *almost* answer this question: By using Yangian invariance plus a few further discrete symmetries of the Minkowski box integral, we are able to severely constrain the final answer. Note that there are 64 kinematic regions, labeled by the signs of the six kinematical invariants x_{jk}^2 , and therefore a priori $64 \times 4 = 256$ undetermined parameters, as each sector comes with a specific linear combination of the four-dimensional solution space (1.4) – (1.7) . We end up with twelve parameters that are currently undetermined by our use of integrability and symmetry. These still need to be fixed by other means. Here we provide two alternative methods: analytic continuation in the x_{jk}^2 , and evaluation for fixed spacetime configurations. Finally we present a compact formula, cf. [\(4.19\)](#page-14-1), from which the result for the box integral can be easily read off in all kinematic regions.

⁴A technical remark: Here, with $\epsilon > 0$, the variables x_k of the box integral are region momenta. Of course, the box integral also appears for spacetime Feynman diagrams, where we should replace $i\epsilon \to -i\epsilon$. In this case, 'dual' conformal symmetry is replaced by ordinary conformal symmetry in spacetime.

2 The box and its symmetries

The precise functional form of *I*⁴ depends on the *kinematic region R*, which is characterised by the sign vector of the six Mandelstam invariants, cf. [\[12\]](#page-21-1):

$$
R = \text{sign}\begin{bmatrix} x_{12}^2, x_{34}^2 \\ x_{23}^2, x_{14}^2 \\ x_{13}^2, x_{24}^2 \end{bmatrix} . \tag{2.1}
$$

Note that this notation underlines the different roles of the three rows in the above sign block, cf. the definition [\(1.2\)](#page-2-3) of the conformal cross-ratios. In the Euclidean region we have $x_{ij}^2 < 0$, and so $R = \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}$. In this region the box is invariant under all permutations of its external legs, which implies that it can be fully bootstrapped using its Yangian and permutation symmetries to be proportional to *one* of the above Yangian invariants, see [\[6\]](#page-20-5):

$$
\phi\left(\overline{\frac{z}{z}}\right) = f_4(z,\bar{z}).\tag{2.2}
$$

Here we have

$$
\phi = (z - \bar{z})\hat{\phi} = (z - \bar{z})x_{13}^2 x_{24}^2 I_4. \tag{2.3}
$$

This poses the question for the meaning of the remaining Yangian invariants f_1 , f_2 and f_3 . Clearly, at least parts of the permutation symmetries are broken once the sign vector *R* takes a less symmetric form than in the Euclidean region, and thus, imposing permutation symmetries will be less restrictive. It is the aim of this paper to extend the Yangian bootstrap from the Euclidean region discussed in [\[6\]](#page-20-5), to all $2^6 = 64$ kinematic regions of the box in Minkowski space. In order to set the stage for this analysis, let us briefly discuss the different symmetries of the box integral [\(1.8\)](#page-3-1). For this purpose it is useful to also give the Feynman parametrisation of this integral, which takes the form

$$
I_4 = \int_0^1 d^4 y \frac{\delta(1 - y_1 - y_2 - y_3 - y_4)}{(\sum_{i < j} y_i y_j x_{ij}^2 + i\epsilon)^2}.
$$
\n(2.4)

We note that this representation is already well-defined beyond physical kinematics, 5 and so can be viewed as an analytic continuation of (1.8) . In the following sections we will constrain the box integral for arbitrary real kinematics, which can then be restricted to phyiscal kinematics.

Yangian symmetry. The box integral is the simplest member of a family of fishnet Feynman integrals that are invariant under the infinite-dimensional Yangian algebra [\[5,](#page-20-4) [13\]](#page-21-2). This algebra is spanned by two finite sets of level-zero and level-one generators with local and bi-local representations on the external legs of the Feynman graphs, respectively:

$$
\mathbf{J}^{a} = \sum_{j=1}^{n} \mathbf{J}_{j}^{a}, \qquad \hat{\mathbf{J}}^{a} = \frac{1}{2} f^{a}{}_{bc} \sum_{j < k=1}^{n} \mathbf{J}_{j}^{c} \mathbf{J}_{k}^{b} + \sum_{j=1}^{n} s_{j} \mathbf{J}_{j}^{a}.
$$
\n(2.5)

⁵Physical kinematics are those which can be realised from four-point configurations in Minkowski space.

The level-zero generators are given by the ordinary conformal Lie algebra generators that act as differential operators on the variables x_i :

$$
P_j^{\mu} = -i\partial_{x_j}^{\mu},
$$

\n
$$
L_j^{\mu\nu} = ix_j^{\mu}\partial_{x_j}^{\nu} - ix_j^{\nu}\partial_{x_j}^{\mu},
$$

\n
$$
D_j = -ix_{j\mu}\partial_{x_j}^{\mu} - i\Delta_j,
$$

\n
$$
K_j^{\mu} = -i\left(2x_j^{\mu}x_j^{\nu} - \eta^{\mu\nu}x_j^2\right)\partial_{\nu} - 2i\Delta_jx_j^{\mu}.
$$
\n(2.6)

The level-one generators are constructed from these generator densities as well. The levelone momentum generator for instance takes the form

$$
\widehat{P}^{\mu} = \frac{i}{2} \sum_{j < k=1}^{n} \left(P_j^{\mu} D_k + P_{j\nu} L_k^{\mu\nu} - (j \leftrightarrow k) \right) + \sum_{j=1}^{n} s_j P_j^{\mu}.
$$
\n(2.7)

The box integral is annihilated by all level-zero and level-one generators for scaling dimensions $\Delta_i = 1$ and evaluation parameters

$$
s_j = \left(+\frac{3}{2}, +\frac{1}{2}, -\frac{1}{2}, -\frac{3}{2}\right)_j, \qquad j = 1, \dots, 4.
$$
 (2.8)

The resulting partial differential equations are highly constraining as discussed in section [3.](#page-6-0)

Permutation symmetry. As is clear from (1.8) , the box integral I_4 is invariant under all permutations $\sigma \in S_4$ of the external points

$$
\sigma: (x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4) \to (x_{\sigma(1)}, x_{\sigma(2)}, x_{\sigma(3)}, x_{\sigma(4)}). \tag{2.9}
$$

This results in the function $\phi(z,\bar{z}) = (z-\bar{z})x_{13}^2x_{24}^2I_4$ transforming very simply under permutations. σ generates transformations of the conformal invariants $z \to h_{\sigma}(z), \bar{z} \to$ $h_{\sigma}(\bar{z})$, as well as a transformation of the kinematic region $R \to R_{\sigma}$. This leads to the equation

$$
\phi(z,\bar{z}|R) = \text{sign}(\sigma)\,\phi(h_{\sigma}(z),h_{\sigma}(\bar{z})|R_{\sigma}).\tag{2.10}
$$

The full behaviour of z , \bar{z} and R under permutations is outlined in table [2](#page-17-0) of appendix [A.](#page-15-0)

Shuffling symmetry. There is a large redundancy in the space of kinematic regions *R*, which we will denote as 'shuffling' symmetry.^{[6](#page-5-0)} The box integral has a symmetry under simultaneous exchange of two pairs of kinematic variables^{[7](#page-5-1)}

$$
x_{12}^2 \leftrightarrow x_{34}^2, \t x_{12}^2 \leftrightarrow x_{34}^2, \t x_{13}^2 \leftrightarrow x_{24}^2, \t x_{13}^2 \leftrightarrow x_{14}^2, \t (2.11)
$$

which is clear from the representation (2.4) . This means that given a kinematic region *R*, represented by a sign block (2.1) , the box integral is invariant under the operation of swapping the signs in exactly two of the rows of the sign block, for example $\begin{bmatrix} ++ \\ +- \\ ++ \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} + \\ ++ \\ -++ \end{bmatrix}$. If R and R' are related by such a shuffle, then we have

$$
\phi(z,\bar{z}|R) = \phi(z,\bar{z}|R'). \tag{2.12}
$$

⁶This of course has nothing to do with the shuffle product.

⁷Note that using the Mellin representation one can show invariance under individual exchanges of these variables, however, this is not needed for our argument.

Conjugation symmetry. Simultaneous reversal of the signs of the kinematic invariants x_{ij}^2 is equivalent to complex conjugation of the integral. This is most easily expressed in terms of the function $\hat{\phi} = \phi/(z - \bar{z})$:

$$
\hat{\phi}(z,\bar{z}|R) = \hat{\phi}(z,\bar{z}|-R)^*,\tag{2.13}
$$

which is easily proven from the representation (2.4) .

3 Constraints from symmetries

In this section we impose the constraints of the above symmetries. We will find that this reduces the computation of the box integral in all kinematic regions to fixing only twelve constant parameters. These will be determined in section [4.](#page-10-0)

Yangian symmetry. Dual conformal (level-zero) invariance implies that the box integral can be written in the form

$$
I_4 = \frac{1}{x_{13}^2 x_{24}^2} \hat{\phi}(z, \bar{z}),\tag{3.1}
$$

with z, \bar{z} defined in [\(1.2\)](#page-2-3). Yangian level-one invariance $\hat{J}^a I_4 = 0$ in addition implies the two differential equations [\[6\]](#page-20-5)

$$
0 = [D_j(z) - D_j(\bar{z})]\hat{\phi}(z, \bar{z}), \qquad j = 1, 2,
$$
\n(3.2)

where we employ the differential operators

$$
D_1(z) = z(z-1)^2 \partial_z^2 + (3z-1)(z-1)\partial_z + z,\tag{3.3}
$$

$$
D_2(z) = z^2(z-1)\partial_z^2 + (3z-2)z\partial_z + z.
$$
\n(3.4)

In [\[6\]](#page-20-5) the Yangian differential equations [\(3.2\)](#page-6-1) have been solved to find that the general solution is given by a linear combination of the four basis functions (1.4) – (1.7) with (piecewise) constant coefficients. In the present paper we choose to work with a slightly different basis of these four functions given by

$$
g_1 = 2\text{Li}_2(z) - 2\text{Li}_2(\bar{z}) + (\log z + \log \bar{z})(\log(1 - z) - \log(1 - \bar{z})),\tag{3.5}
$$

$$
g_2 = \log(z) - \log(\bar{z}),\tag{3.6}
$$

$$
g_3 = \log(1 - z) - \log(1 - \bar{z}),\tag{3.7}
$$

$$
g_4 = \log\left(1 - \frac{1}{z}\right) - \log\left(1 - \frac{1}{\bar{z}}\right). \tag{3.8}
$$

This basis is motivated by the fact that the three functions g_2, g_3, g_4 can be understood as single discontinuities of the highest transcendentality function g_1 ^{[8](#page-6-2)}. Note that it was demonstrated in [\[13\]](#page-21-2) that the Yangian invariance equations do not change if we replace a $1/x_{0j}^2$ propagator by $\delta(x_{0j}^2)$. This shows that the solution space of these equations does

⁸Note on the other hand that the function basis f_1, f_2, f_3, f_4 as given in [\(1.4\)](#page-2-4)–[\(1.7\)](#page-2-5) reveals that a transcendentality-zero solution to the Yangian constraints exists. The function *g*⁴ can be understood as a single discontinuity of q_1 about $z = \infty$, with \overline{z} fixed.

also contain the cuts of the box integral, which in turn relate to its discontinuities, cf. [\[14\]](#page-21-3) and section [4.](#page-10-0)

There are a few technicalities to mention. In Euclidean space the conformal invariants are always constrained via $\bar{z} = z^*$. However, in Minkowski space *z* and \bar{z} can also be independent real numbers. The possible range of z and \bar{z} depends on the kinematic region, and is summarised for arbitrary real kinematics in table [3](#page-18-1) of appendix [A.](#page-15-0) The functions q_i have branch cuts on various intervals of the real axis, which are fixed after specifying the usual branch of the logarithm on the negative real axis. In order to consistently define the functions g_j for all possible values of z, \overline{z} , we regularise them according to

$$
g_j^-(z,\bar{z}) = g_j(z - i\delta, \bar{z} + i\delta), \qquad j = 1, 2, 3, 4,
$$
\n(3.9)

where δ is an infinitesimal positive real number. This regularisation prescription represents a choice and does not follow from Yangian symmetry as discussed above. We similarly define regularised functions g_j^+ identically to the above, but with the replacement $\delta \to -\delta$. Note that such regularisations break the antisymmetry of the functions g_j in z and \bar{z} . As such, we explicitly specify *z* and \bar{z} in terms of the cross-ratios *u* and *v* from [\(1.2\)](#page-2-3) as

$$
z = \frac{1}{2}(1+u-v) + \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{(1-u-v)^2 - 4uv},
$$

\n
$$
\bar{z} = \frac{1}{2}(1+u-v) - \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{(1-u-v)^2 - 4uv},
$$
\n(3.10)

so that in particular $z \geq \overline{z}$ when $z, \overline{z} \in \mathbb{R} \setminus \{0, 1\}$ and Im(z) > 0 when $z \in \mathbb{C} \setminus \mathbb{R}, \overline{z} = z^*$. Then the exchange $z \leftrightarrow \overline{z}$ is equivalent to $g_j^+ \leftrightarrow -g_j^-$. Note that fixing *z* and \overline{z} as in [\(3.10\)](#page-7-0) can lead to them 'swapping' after a permutation σ . For example, $\sigma = (13)$ generates the transformation of conformal invariants $z \to z' = 1 - \bar{z}$ and $\bar{z} \to \bar{z}' = 1 - z$. In general, whether *z* and \bar{z} swap after a permutation depends on both the range of *z* and \bar{z} and the permutation. Since we are imposing permutation symmetry on our final function ϕ , we allow for the appearance of both functions g_j^+ and g_j^- in our ansatz derived from Yangian invariance. In the end we can always express the functions g_j^{\pm} in terms of g_j^{\pm} to get an expression for the integral in terms of just four regularised functions g_j^- or g_j^+ , see appendix [A.](#page-15-0) Our final ansatz is

$$
\phi(R) = \sum_{i=1}^{4} \left(\alpha_i^R g_i^- + \beta_i^R g_i^+ \right),\tag{3.11}
$$

where α_i^R and β_i^R are complex numbers depending on the kinematic region *R*. In total there are $64 \times 4 = 256$ constants α_i^R to fix. β_i^R can be expressed in terms of α_i^R using the transition matrix $(A.1)$.

Permutations, shuffles, and conjugation. A priori we have $2^6 = 64$ functions $\phi(R)$ to fix, one for each of the possible kinematic regions *R*. However, permutation, shuffling, and conjugation symmetry already give very large constraints on the linear combination [\(3.11\)](#page-7-1). Under these three operations there are *six* equivalence classes of sign blocks. We list a representative from each equivalence class:

$$
R_1 = \begin{bmatrix} - & - \\ - & - \end{bmatrix}, \quad R_2 = \begin{bmatrix} - & + \\ - & + \end{bmatrix}, \quad R_3 = \begin{bmatrix} - & + \\ + & + \end{bmatrix}, \quad R_4 = \begin{bmatrix} - & - \\ - & + \end{bmatrix}, \quad R_5 = \begin{bmatrix} - & - \\ + & + \end{bmatrix}, \quad R_6 = \begin{bmatrix} - & + \\ + & + \end{bmatrix}.
$$
\n
$$
(3.12)
$$

Using shuffling symmetry, we can identify $-+ \sim +-$ in any row of the sign block whenever there is at least one other row invariant under swapping $(-\alpha + 1)$. We will always choose the order −+ when possible; the only time it is not possible is for the signature $-R_2 = \begin{bmatrix} +-1 \ +-1 \end{bmatrix}$. These considerations already restrict the number of independent signatures to $3^3 + 1 = 28$. These remaining 28 signatures organise themselves into six equivalence classes $\Lambda_1, \Lambda_2, \ldots, \Lambda_6$ under permutations and conjugations. Λ_1 contains R_1 and $-R_1$, and Λ_2 contains R_2 and $-R_2$. The remaining equivalence classes each contain six signatures, for example

$$
\Lambda_3 = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} -+ \\ ++ \\ ++ \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} ++ \\ -+ \\ ++ \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} ++ \\ -+ \\ -+ \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} -+ \\ -- \\ -- \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} -- \\ -+ \\ -+ \end{bmatrix} \right\}.
$$
 (3.13)

The full set of Λ_i is given explicitly in $(A.17)$. When the box integral is known in the representative kinematic region R_i , it can be deduced for each of the remaining signatures in Λ_i using [\(2.10\)](#page-5-2) and [\(2.13\)](#page-6-3). Therefore we only need to fix $4 \times 6 = 24$ constants, 4 for each of the R_i . We can eliminate some of these constants by using the fact that some of the R_i are invariant under a subgroup of S_4 .

Region R_1 . R_1 is fully invariant under permutations. For example, invariance under the transposition (13) gives a constraint on the ansatz (3.11) :

$$
\alpha_i^{R_1} g_i^-(z,\bar{z}) + \beta_i^{R_1} g_i^+(z,\bar{z}) = -\alpha_i^{R_1} g_i^+(1-z,1-\bar{z}) - \beta_i^{R_1} g_i^-(1-z,1-\bar{z}),\tag{3.14}
$$

where summation over *i* is assumed. In $(A.5)$ – $(A.8)$ we list the behaviour of the regularised functions g_i^{\pm} under permutations. Only g_1 and g_4 are compatible with the functional *i* equation [\(3.14\)](#page-8-0), which forces $\alpha_2^{R_1} = \beta_2^{R_1} = \alpha_3^{R_1} = \beta_3^{R_1} = 0$. Furthermore, invariance of R_1 under the transposition (14) forces $\alpha_4^{R_1} = \beta_4^{R_1} = 0$. Therefore [\(3.11\)](#page-7-1) reduces to

$$
\phi(R_1) = \alpha_1^{R_1} g_1^- + \beta_1^{R_1} g_1^+.
$$
\n(3.15)

For the possible values of z, \bar{z} in the kinematic region R_1 (see table [3\)](#page-18-1), we could use $(A.1)$ for example to deduce $g_1^+ = g_1^-$. Therefore we can rewrite (3.15) as

$$
\phi(R_1) = a_1 g_1^- = a_1 g_1^+, \tag{3.16}
$$

where $a_1 = \alpha_1^{R_1} + \beta_1^{R_1} \in \mathbb{C}$. The box integral for the other signature in Λ_1 can be calculated using [\(2.13\)](#page-6-3):

$$
\phi(-R_1) = a_1^* g_1^+ = a_1^* g_1^-.
$$
\n(3.17)

Therefore, for the equivalence class Λ_1 , there is only a single constant a_1 left to be fixed. We leave most of the details for the remaining representative signatures R_i to appendix A_i , and merely state the results.

Region R_2 . R_2 is also fully invariant under permutations, and similarly to R_1 we constrain

$$
\phi(R_2) = a_2 g_1^- = a_2 g_1^+.
$$
\n(3.18)

 $\phi(-R_2)$ is calculated analogously to [\(3.17\)](#page-8-2). Therefore, in the equivalence class Λ_2 there is also just a single constant *a*² to fix.

Region *R***3.** *R*³ is not completely invariant under permutations, and so we expect the functional form of ϕ to be less restricted. We do have invariance under the transposition (12) however, which restricts the linear combination (3.11) to

$$
\phi(R_3) = a_3 g_1^- + 2\pi i c_3 g_3^- = a_3 g_1^+ + 2\pi i (c_3 + a_3) g_3^+, \tag{3.19}
$$

so that in Λ_3 there are two constants a_3 and c_3 to fix. We write the coefficient of $g_3^$ as $2\pi i c_3$ for later convenience. We give the derivation of (3.19) in appendix [A.](#page-15-0) The box integral for the remaining signatures in Λ_3 can then be derived using [\(2.10\)](#page-5-2) and [\(2.13\)](#page-6-3).

Region R_4 . R_4 is also invariant under the transposition (12). Analogously to R_3 this leads to

$$
\phi(R_4) = a_4 g_1^- + 2\pi i c_4 g_3^- = a_4 g_1^+ + 2\pi i (c_4 + a_4) g_3^+, \tag{3.20}
$$

so that there are two constants a_4 and c_4 to fix in Λ_4 .

Region R_5 . R_5 is also invariant under the transposition (12), which leads to

$$
\phi(R_5) = a_5 g_1^- + 2\pi i c_5 g_3^-
$$

= $a_5 g_1^+ + 2\pi i c_5 g_3^+ + 4\pi i c_5 \theta_1 \bar{\theta}_1 (g_2^+ - g_3^+ + g_4^+),$ (3.21)

where $\theta_1 = \theta(z-1)$ and $\bar{\theta}_1 = \theta(\bar{z}-1)$. Therefore there are two constants a_5 and c_5 to fix in Λ_5 . Note the appearance of the theta functions in the second line of [\(3.21\)](#page-9-1) renders the g_i^- basis slightly more natural.

Region R_6 . The region R_6 has no symmetry under nontrivial permutations, and therefore we cannot derive a constraint as easily as in the previous cases. We thus have

$$
\phi(R_6) = a_6 g_1^- + 2\pi i b_6 g_2^- + 2\pi i c_6 g_3^- + 2\pi i d_6 g_4^-
$$

= $\alpha_6 g_1^+ - 2\pi i d_6 g_2^+ + 2\pi i \bar{c}_6 g_3^+ - 2\pi i b_6 g_4^+,$ (3.22)

where $\bar{c}_6 = a_6 + b_6 + c_6 + d_6$. Therefore there are still four constants a_6, b_6, c_6, d_6 to fix in Λ_6 .

Combined symmetries. To summarise, combining the above symmetries yields the following form for the box integral that depends on twelve unfixed parameters:

$$
\phi(z,\bar{z}|R) = + a_R g_1^-
$$

+ $2\pi i g_2^- \left(-c_3 \theta_{++}^{++} + \hat{c}_3^* \theta_{-+}^{-+} - c_4 \theta_{-+}^{-+} + \hat{c}_4^* \theta_{-+}^{++} - c_5 \theta_{++}^{++} + c_5 \theta_{-+}^{-+} \right)$
+ $b_6 \theta_{-+}^{-+} + d_6 \theta_{-+}^{-+} - c_6 \theta_{-+}^{++} - d_6 \theta_{-+}^{--} - b_6 \theta_{-+}^{++} - c_6 \theta_{-+}^{-+} \right)$
+ $2\pi i g_3^- \left(+ c_3 \theta_{++}^{-+} - \hat{c}_3^* \theta_{--}^{-+} + c_4 \theta_{-+}^{-+} - \hat{c}_4^* \theta_{-+}^{++} + c_5 \theta_{++}^{-+} - c_5 \theta_{--}^{++} \right)$
+ $c_6 \theta_{-+}^{-+} + c_6 \theta_{-+}^{-+} - b_6 \theta_{-+}^{++} + b_6 \theta_{-+}^{-+} + d_6 \theta_{-+}^{++} - d_6 \theta_{-+}^{-+} \right)$
+ $2\pi i g_4^- \left(-\hat{c}_3 \theta_{-+}^{++} + c_3^* \theta_{-+}^{--} - \hat{c}_4 \theta_{-+}^{-+} + c_4^* \theta_{-+}^{-+} - c_5 \theta_{-+}^{++} + c_5 \theta_{-+}^{--} \right)$
+ $d_6 \theta_{-+}^{-+} + b_6 \theta_{-+}^{-+} + d_6 \theta_{-+}^{++} - \bar{c}_6 \theta_{-+}^{-+} - \bar{c}_6 \theta_{-+}^{++} + b_6 \theta_{-+}^{-+}$ (3.23)

Here $a_R \in \{a_i, a_i^*\}$ depends on the kinematic region, e.g. $a_{R_2} = a_2$, and we abbreviate $\hat{c}_i = c_i + a_i$. Moreover, we have introduced the above theta-functions such that

$$
\theta R'(R) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } R' = R, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}
$$
 (3.24)

For instance we have

$$
\theta_{++}^{++}\left(^{++}_{++}\right) = 1, \qquad \theta_{++}^{++}\left(^{-+}_{++}\right) = 0. \tag{3.25}
$$

Alternatively, we can express the above ansatz in terms of g_i^+ as given in $(A.16)$.

4 Fixing constants

After exhausting the available symmetries of the box integral, we are left with twelve independent constants that remain to be fixed. While we are confident that in the future also these can be determined using integrability, for the moment we consider them as additional input that is obtained by some method of choice. For instance, we could calculate the box integral for a set of arbitrary numerical configurations in the relevant regions to fix these numbers. In appendix [B](#page-18-0) we show how to obtain the remaining constants by evaluating the box integral for particular 'double infinity' configurations. In the present section we explicitly demonstrate how to obtain the twelve parameters using analytic continuation.

To connect the box integral in different kinematic regions, we note that it is always represented by the same Feynman parametrised integral [\(2.4\)](#page-4-2) which gives a natural analytic continuation beyond real kinematics. In particular, this tells us that away from its poles, (2.4) is a continuous function of the x_{ij}^2 . Hence, we can relate the value of the box integral in different regions by connecting them via paths in x_{ij}^2 space on which the integral is regular. Since the integral diverges at points where one of the x_{ij}^2 vanishes, to change the signature of the kinematics on a regular path, we will have to continue the function through the complex plane. In this process, for generic complex x_{ij}^2 , z and \overline{z} will cross branch cuts of the function basis g_i . Carefully tracking the movement of z and \overline{z} and

Function	Branch cut in z, \bar{z}
91	$(-\infty,0], [1,\infty)$
92	$(-\infty,0]$
93	$[1,\infty)$
qл	[0, 1]

Table 1. Location of branch cuts for the function basis g_i .

adding or subtracting the corresponding discontinuities will therefore allow us to deduce the functional representation of the box integral in any of the regions.

As a practical definition of the discontinuity of a function we use

$$
\text{Disc}_{z=a} f(z) = \lim_{\epsilon \to 0} \left(f(\gamma(\epsilon)) - f(\gamma(1 - \epsilon)) \right),\tag{4.1}
$$

where $\gamma(t)$ is a complex contour that encircles the branch point *a* once on a clockwise path and starts and ends at *z*, i.e. $\gamma(0) = \gamma(1) = z^9$ $\gamma(0) = \gamma(1) = z^9$ For branch cuts of *f* on the real axis, this definition implies for $a, z \in \mathbb{R}$ and z on a branch cut starting at a:

$$
\text{Disc}_{z=a} f(z) = \lim_{\epsilon \to 0} \left(f(z \pm i\epsilon) - f(z \mp i\epsilon) \right),\tag{4.2}
$$

Here the sign of the $i\epsilon$ depends on the ordering of a and z . This expression is easy to evaluate and sufficiently general for the set of functions g_i . We choose the branch cuts of our function basis to lie on the real axis, which is consistent with taking the principal value of the appearing logarithm and dilogarithm functions. To be precise, we have listed the branch cuts in table [1.](#page-11-1)

For convenience, we explicitly note the non-vanishing discontinuities of the g_i around their branch points

$$
\begin{aligned}\n\text{Disc}_{z=0} g_1 &= + \text{Disc}_{\bar{z}=0} g_1 = + 2\pi i g_3, & \text{Disc}_{z=1} g_1 &= + \text{Disc}_{\bar{z}=1} g_1 = -2\pi i g_2, \\
\text{Disc}_{z=0} g_2 &= - \text{Disc}_{\bar{z}=0} g_2 = +2\pi i, & \text{Disc}_{z=1} g_3 &= - \text{Disc}_{\bar{z}=1} g_3 = +2\pi i, \\
\text{Disc}_{z=1} g_4 &= - \text{Disc}_{\bar{z}=1} g_4 = -2\pi i, & \text{Disc}_{z=0} g_4 &= - \text{Disc}_{\bar{z}=0} g_4 = -2\pi i.\n\end{aligned}\n\tag{4.3}
$$

In the Euclidean region $R_1 = \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}$ the remaining coefficient a_1 is fixed by the star-triangle relation for generic propagator powers $[6]$, such that

$$
\phi(R_1) = g_1^+ = g_1^-, \tag{4.4}
$$

i.e. $a_1 = 1$. We will use this region as a starting point of the paths leading into the five other equivalence classes. Since for real kinematics, z and \bar{z} are either real or a pair of complex conjugates in the Euclidean region (see table [3\)](#page-18-1), we can always set up an entirely real path in kinematics space that sends all x_{ij}^2 to -1 without picking up any discontinuities: any possible branch cut passage will happen simultaneously for z and \bar{z} and give cancelling

⁹In particular, this definition is equivalent to the prescription given in [\[15\]](#page-21-4) where discontinuities are evaluated via line integrals around the branch points.

contributions. Hence to connect regions where some of the x_{ij}^2 differ in sign, for simplicity we can restrict ourselves to paths of the form

$$
x_{ij}^2 = e^{i\varphi_{ij}}.\tag{4.5}
$$

To ensure that we do not encounter any poles of the integrand of [\(2.4\)](#page-4-2) we further demand $0 < \varphi_{ij} < \pi$, i.e. we always rotate the x_{ij}^2 through the upper half of the complex plane. This prescription is inherited from the positive $i\epsilon$ -shift in the original expression [\(1.8\)](#page-3-1) for the box integral, which in turn translates into a positive *i* ϵ -shift of the x_{ij}^2 in the Feynman parametrisation [\(2.4\)](#page-4-2), cf. [\[14\]](#page-21-3). Then, the paths on which we analytically continue from a region R_k to another region R_l , can be parametrised by

$$
\varphi_{ij} = \begin{cases}\n0, & \text{if } \text{sgn}_k(x_{ij}^2) = +\text{sgn}_l(x_{ij}^2) = +1 \\
\pi, & \text{if } \text{sgn}_k(x_{ij}^2) = +\text{sgn}_l(x_{ij}^2) = -1 \\
\varphi, & \text{if } \text{sgn}_k(x_{ij}^2) = -\text{sgn}_l(x_{ij}^2) = +1 \\
\pi - \varphi, & \text{if } \text{sgn}_k(x_{ij}^2) = -\text{sgn}_l(x_{ij}^2) = -1\n\end{cases} (4.6)
$$

where $\varphi \in [0, \pi]$ and $\text{sgn}_k(x_{ij}^2)$ is the sign of x_{ij}^2 in the region R_k .

Region R_2 **. For** $R_2 = \begin{bmatrix} -+1 \\ -+ \end{bmatrix}$ we have

$$
\varphi_{34} = \varphi_{14} = \varphi_{24} = \pi - \varphi \tag{4.7}
$$

and all other φ_{ij} equal to π . Hence, *u* and *v* are actually inert under this analytical continuation and so are z and \overline{z} . Therefore, we find

$$
\phi(R_2) = g_1^+ = g_1^-, \tag{4.8}
$$

fixing $a_2 = 1$.

Region R_3 **.** For $R_3 = \begin{bmatrix} -+1 \\ ++1 \end{bmatrix}$ we have

$$
\varphi_{12} = \pi \tag{4.9}
$$

as the only constant phase and all other equal to $\pi - \varphi$. The path that *z* and \bar{z} trace out under this continuation is shown in figure [1a](#page-13-0)). Since the path for \bar{z} ends on the negative real axis, the concrete expression in terms of g_i depends on the regularisation procedure. For the g_i^+ , the branch cut in \bar{z} lies slightly above the negative real axis, whereas for g_i^- it lies slightly below. Therefore, we introduce the operators θ^{\pm} that act according to

$$
\theta^{\pm} g_i^{\pm} = g_i^{\pm}, \qquad \theta^{\pm} g_i^{\mp} = 0. \qquad (4.10)
$$

Then, we can compactly write the result in the region R_3 as

$$
\phi(R_3) = (1 + \theta^+) \operatorname{Disc}_{\bar{z}=0} \phi(R_1) = g_1^- = g_1^+ + 2\pi i g_3^+, \tag{4.11}
$$

fixing $a_3 = 1 + c_3 = 1$.

Figure 1. The path of *z* (solid green) and \bar{z} (dashed red) under the continuation from R_1 to (a) R_3 or R_4 , (b) R_5 and (c) R_6 . In the last case we further introduce a factor of $1/2$, i.e. we set $x_{23}^2 = e^{i\varphi_{23}}/2$, to avoid the degenerate point $z = \bar{z}$. We denote the point where the paths begin by a dot in the respective color. Note that for (a) and (b) the branch cut of the square root in [\(3.10\)](#page-7-0) is passed immediately at the beginning of the path. Since away from the real line, $g_i^{\pm}(z,\bar{z}) = -g_i^{\pm}(\bar{z},z)$ this does not change the result for ϕ . We also include the branch cuts of g_1 as solid black lines.

Region R_4 . In order to move from $R_1 = \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}$ to $R_4 = \begin{bmatrix} -1 \\ -1 \end{bmatrix}$, we choose

$$
\varphi_{14} = \varphi_{24} = \pi - \varphi, \tag{4.12}
$$

and all other angles equal to π . Interestingly, this induces the very same path for u and v (and hence for z and \bar{z}) as the continuation in the previous paragraph. Hence, we conclude

$$
\phi(R_4) = \phi(R_3) = g_1^- = g_1^+ + 2\pi i g_3^+, \tag{4.13}
$$

fixing $a_4 = 1 + c_4 = 1$.

Region R_5 **. For the region** $R_5 = \begin{bmatrix} - & - \\ + & + \end{bmatrix}$ **we find**

$$
\varphi_{13} = \varphi_{24} = \varphi_{23} = \varphi_{41} = \pi - \varphi, \tag{4.14}
$$

and all other angles equal to π . From the *z*, \bar{z} path shown in figure [1b](#page-13-0)), we conclude

$$
\phi(R_5) = (1 + \text{Disc}_{\bar{z}=0})\phi(R_1) = g_1^{\pm} + 2\pi i g_3^{\pm},\tag{4.15}
$$

independently of the regularisation.

Region R_6 . Finally, for $R_6 = \begin{bmatrix} +1 \\ +1 \end{bmatrix}$ the non-constant phases are

$$
\varphi_{34} = \varphi_{23} = \varphi_{14} = \pi - \varphi. \tag{4.16}
$$

The corresponding path for z, \bar{z} in figure [1c](#page-13-0)) implies

$$
\phi(R_6) = (1 - \theta^-\text{Disc}_{\bar{z}=0})(1 - \text{Disc}_{z=1})\phi(R_1)
$$

= $g_1^+ + 2\pi i g_2^+ = g_1^- + 2\pi i (g_2^- - g_3^- + 2\pi i)$
= $g_1^- - 2\pi i g_4^-$, (4.17)

fixing $a_6 = -d_6 = 1$ and $b_6 = c_6 = \bar{c}_6 = 0$.

Summary. In summary, we find

$$
a_R = 1, \qquad c_6 = \bar{c}_6 = b_6 = 0, \qquad 1 + c_3 = 1 + c_4 = c_5 = -d_6 = 1,\tag{4.18}
$$

such that the ansatz (3.23) yields the full result for the box integral:

$$
\phi(R) = + g_1^-
$$

+ $2\pi i g_2^- \left(+ \theta_{-+}^{-+} + \theta_{-+}^{++} - \theta_{++}^{++} + \theta_{-+}^{-+} - \theta_{-+}^{-+} + \theta_{-+}^{--} \right)$
+ $2\pi i g_3^- \left(- \theta_{-+}^{-+} - \theta_{-+}^{++} + \theta_{-+}^{-+} - \theta_{-+}^{++} - \theta_{-+}^{-+} + \theta_{-+}^{-+} \right)$
+ $2\pi i g_4^- \left(- \theta_{-+}^{++} - \theta_{-+}^{-+} - \theta_{-+}^{++} + \theta_{-+}^{--} - \theta_{-+}^{++} - \theta_{-+}^{++} \right).$ (4.19)

For the benefit of the reader, we collect once more the definitions of the various terms in [\(4.19\)](#page-14-1). The regularised functions g_j^- are given in [\(3.5\)](#page-6-4)–[\(3.9\)](#page-7-2). The theta-functions labelled by the six signs of the kinematic invariants x_{jk}^2 are defined in [\(3.24\)](#page-10-2) with the sign block R given in (2.1) . Alternatively, the result (4.19) can be expressed in terms of the regularised functions g_j^+ , cf. [\(A.16\)](#page-17-1). We would like to stress that this novel compact formula for the box integral is valid in all 64 kinematic regions of Minkowski space, as verified by explicit comparison with the one-loop evaluation package [\[16\]](#page-21-5).

5 Conclusions and outlook

In the present paper we considered an extension of the approach to bootstrap Feynman integrals using integrability from Euclidean to Minkowski space. Employing only its symmetries, we have constrained the Minkowski box integral in all 64 kinematic regions up to six constant coefficient vectors that contain twelve free parameters. The latter can be fixed using analytic continuation as discussed in section [4,](#page-10-0) or alternatively, by computing the integral for a few fixed configurations of the external kinematics, see appendix [B.](#page-18-0) This leads to the compact result [\(4.19\)](#page-14-1).

The fact that some of the degrees of freedom in Minkowski space are not yet fixed using integrability still leaves us unsatisfied. In $[6]$ the Euclidean integral was completely constrained via its symmetries, together with the star-triangle relation well-known from integrability in a coincident-point limit. Using the latter, however, required to work with generic propagator powers to regularise the limit. This motivates to generalise the Minkowski space analysis of the present paper to the situation of generic propagator powers, in order to fill in this last missing piece of information.

The box integral can be considered the simplest example of the four-point ladder [\[17\]](#page-21-6) or Basso-Dixon correlators [\[18\]](#page-21-7). It is a natural question of whether a similarly compact formula as the Minkowski result [\(4.19\)](#page-14-1) for the box can be given for these integrals when studied in Minkowski space. That this is indeed the case is suggested by the universality of the arguments given in section [4](#page-10-0) in the context of four-point integrals.

Another natural generalisation is to study massive Feynman integrals in Minkowski space from symmetry bootstrap, cf. [\[19,](#page-21-8) [20\]](#page-21-9). Here the presence of masses implies a better

control over the complexity of different integrals and compact polylogarithmic formulas exist for the simplest Euclidean examples at one loop, see e.g. [\[21\]](#page-21-10).

The box integral [\(1.8\)](#page-3-1) represents a one-loop contribution to a time-ordered correlation function in Minkowski space. It would be natural to study more general Wightman functions [\[22\]](#page-21-11), and derive formulas similar to [\(4.19\)](#page-14-1) for arbitrary time-orderings. This would also allow for the study of the breaking of global conformal invariance in Minkowski space, as a function of time-ordering.

Throughout this paper we considered, for simplicity, the box integral for arbitrary real kinematics. The map between configurations of four points in Minkowski space and physical kinematics appears to be very complicated. In particular various 'missing' and 'rare' kinematic regions appear, discussed in [\[12\]](#page-21-1) and briefly in appendix [A.](#page-15-0) However, we do notice that the box integral has a singular behaviour as $z \to \overline{z}$ in these regions. We wonder if this could be a criterion to classify such regions, here and at higher points.

Finally, it would be desirable to come back to our starting point in the introduction and to connect the Yangian bootstrap of Feynman integrals to computations in $\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM theory. Here we note that the box integral can be understood as a correlator in the bi-scalar fishnet theory that was introduced in [\[23\]](#page-21-12) as a particular double scaling limit of gamma-deformed $\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM theory. It would be fascinating to 'reverse' these doublescaling limits and to see how the Yangian bootstrap generalizes to intermediate steps.

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A Some details

In this appendix we collect some details on the above calculations.

Relations between different regularisations. In the main text, we regularised the functions q_i that span the space of Yangian invariants by adding infinitesimal imaginary shifts to their arguments. The purpose of these shifts is to clarify on which side of a branch cut the function is supposed to be evaluated. Of course, different choices of the sign of the shifts do not change the value of the basis element but merely its functional representation. We therefore summarise the relations between the basis elements in different regularisations as

$$
\begin{pmatrix}\ng_1^+(z,\bar{z}) \\
g_2^+(z,\bar{z}) \\
g_3^+(z,\bar{z}) \\
g_4^+(z,\bar{z})\n\end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix}\n1 & \theta_1\bar{\eta}_0 - \bar{\theta}_1\eta_0 & \theta_0\bar{\eta}_1 - \bar{\theta}_0\eta_1 & \bar{\theta}_1\theta_0 - \theta_1\bar{\theta}_0 \\
0 & 1 - \theta_0 - \bar{\theta}_0 & \theta_0 + \bar{\theta}_0 & -\theta_0 - \bar{\theta}_0 \\
0 & \theta_1 + \bar{\theta}_1 & 1 - \theta_1 - \bar{\theta}_1 & \theta_1 + \bar{\theta}_1 \\
0 - \eta_0\eta_1 - \bar{\eta}_0\bar{\eta}_1 & \eta_0\eta_1 + \bar{\eta}_0\bar{\eta}_1 & -1 + \theta_0 + \bar{\theta}_0 + \theta_1 + \bar{\theta}_1\n\end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix}\ng_1^-(z,\bar{z}) \\
g_2^-(z,\bar{z}) \\
g_3^-(z,\bar{z}) \\
g_4^-(z,\bar{z})\n\end{pmatrix}, (A.1)
$$

where for compactness we use the notation

$$
\eta_a = 1 - \theta_a, \qquad \theta_0 = \theta(-z), \qquad \theta_1 = \theta(z - 1), \qquad (A.2)
$$

$$
\bar{\eta}_a = 1 - \bar{\theta}_a, \qquad \bar{\theta}_0 = \theta(-\bar{z}), \qquad \bar{\theta}_1 = \theta(\bar{z} - 1). \qquad (A.3)
$$

The relation $(A.1)$ is valid for $z, \overline{z} \in \mathbb{R} \setminus \{0,1\}$; of course g_i^+ and g_i^- are indistinguishable when $z \in \mathbb{C} \setminus \mathbb{R}, \bar{z} = z^*$. We also note the relation between the function basis f_i and g_i

$$
g_4^{\pm} = f_3^{\pm} - f_2^{\pm} \pm 2\pi i f_1,\tag{A.4}
$$

which is valid for all $z, \overline{z} \in \mathbb{R} \setminus \{0,1\}$. We also list some functional relations satisfied by the functions g_i^+ and g_i^- , for all possible z, \overline{z} . Here g_1 transforms very nicely (for the Bloch-Wigner dilogarithm this sequence of identities is also known as the 6-fold symmetry $[4]$:

$$
g_1^{\pm}(z,\bar{z}) = -g_1^{\mp}(1-z,1-\bar{z}) = -g_1^{\mp}\left(\frac{1}{z},\frac{1}{\bar{z}}\right)
$$

= $g_1^{\pm}\left(\frac{1}{1-z},\frac{1}{1-\bar{z}}\right) = g_1^{\pm}\left(1-\frac{1}{z},1-\frac{1}{\bar{z}}\right) = -g_1^{\mp}\left(\frac{z}{z-1},\frac{\bar{z}}{\bar{z}-1}\right).$ (A.5)

On the other hand *g*2*, g*3*,* and *g*⁴ have a reduced symmetry under permutations:

$$
g_2^{\pm}(z,\bar{z}) = -g_2^{\mp} \left(\frac{1}{z}, \frac{1}{\bar{z}}\right),\tag{A.6}
$$

$$
g_3^{\pm}(z,\bar{z}) = -g_3^{\mp} \left(\frac{z}{z-1}, \frac{\bar{z}}{\bar{z}-1} \right), \tag{A.7}
$$

$$
g_4^{\pm}(z,\bar{z}) = -g_4^{\mp}(1-z,1-\bar{z}).\tag{A.8}
$$

In general g_i^{\pm} are mapped into each other under permutations for $i = 1, 2, 3$. For example

$$
g_3^{\pm}(1-z, 1-\bar{z}) = g_2^{\mp}(z, \bar{z}). \tag{A.9}
$$

Permutations. Under a permutation σ of the external points, the conformal invariants transform as $z \to h_{\sigma}(z), \bar{z} \to h_{\sigma}(\bar{z})$ and $\phi \to \text{sign}(\sigma)\phi$. Permutations also transform the kinematic region R , expressed as a sign block (2.1) . Modulo shuffling, permutations permute the rows of the sign block: $R \to R_{\sigma}$. For example, $\sigma = (12)$ swaps rows 2 and 3 of the sign block:

$$
\text{sign}\begin{bmatrix} x_{12}^2, x_{34}^2 \\ x_{23}^2, x_{14}^2 \\ x_{13}^2, x_{24}^2 \end{bmatrix} \to \text{sign}\begin{bmatrix} x_{12}^2, x_{34}^2 \\ x_{13}^2, x_{24}^2 \\ x_{23}^2, x_{14}^2 \end{bmatrix}.
$$
\n(A.10)

These facts are summarised in table [2.](#page-17-0) Note that while permutations on the external points is an S_4 action, this reduces to an $S_3 = S_4/(\mathbb{Z}_2 \times \mathbb{Z}_2)$ action on the quantities of interest.

Restricting ϕ for R_3 . Consider $R_3 = \begin{bmatrix} ++1 \\ ++1 \end{bmatrix}$. Under the permutation $\sigma = (12)$ we have $z \to z' = \frac{\bar{z}}{\bar{z}-1}$ and $\bar{z} \to \bar{z}' = \frac{z}{z-1}$. Since $\sigma R_3 = R_3$ we have the constraint on the expansion [\(3.11\)](#page-7-1):

$$
\alpha_i^{R_3} g_i^-(z, \bar{z}) + \beta_i^{R_3} g_i^+(z, \bar{z}) = -\alpha_i^{R_3} g_i^+\left(\frac{z}{z-1}, \frac{\bar{z}}{\bar{z}-1}\right) - \beta_i^{R_3} g_i^-\left(\frac{z}{z-1}, \frac{\bar{z}}{\bar{z}-1}\right). \tag{A.11}
$$

σ	$h_{\sigma}(z)$	R_{σ}
(), (12)(34), (13)(24), (14)(23)	\tilde{z}	R.
(24), (13), (1234), (1432)	$1-z$	row $1 \leftrightarrow$ row 2
(23), (14), (1243), (1342)	1/z	row $1 \leftrightarrow$ row 3
(12), (34), (1423), (1324)	$\frac{z}{z-1}$	row $2 \leftrightarrow$ row 3
(234), (124), (132), (143)	$\frac{1}{1-z}$	row $1,2,3 \rightarrow$ row $2,3,1$
(243), (123), (134), (142)	$1 - 1/z$	row $1,2,3 \to \text{row } 3,1,2$

Table 2. Transformation of box integral and conformal invariants under permutations.

Because of [\(A.5\)](#page-16-0) and [\(A.7\)](#page-16-2) this gives no constraint on $\alpha_1, \beta_1, \alpha_3, \beta_3$, however we do have $\alpha_2^{R_3} = \beta_2^{R_3} = \alpha_4^{R_3} = \beta_4^{R_3} = 0$. Therefore we have

$$
\phi(R_3) = \alpha_1^{R_3} g_1^- + \alpha_3^{R_3} g_3^- + \beta_1^{R_3} g_1^+ + \beta_3^{R_3} g_3^+.
$$
\n(A.12)

For the kinematic region R_3 we have $z \in (0,1), \overline{z} \in (-\infty,0)$, and

$$
g_1^- = g_1^+ + 2\pi i g_3^+, \qquad g_3^- = g_3^+.
$$
 (A.13)

Therefore we can write $(A.12)$ in terms of either g_i^- or g_i^+ , see (3.19) where we take $a_3 = \alpha_1^{R_3} + \beta_1^{R_3}$ and $2\pi i c_3 = \alpha_3^{R_3} + \beta_3^{R_3} - 2\pi i \beta_1^{R_3}$. The rest of the sector Λ_3 can be reached from R_3 via permutations and conjugation. For example let $R'_3 = \begin{bmatrix} ++1 \\ ++1 \end{bmatrix}$ and $\tau = (13)$, so that $R_3' = \tau R_3$. τ generates the transformation $z \to 1 - \bar{z}$ and $\bar{z} \to 1 - z$. $\hat{\phi}$ is invariant under τ , and so

$$
\phi(R'_3) = -a_3 g_1^+(1-z, 1-\bar{z}) - 2\pi i c_3 g_3^+(1-z, 1-\bar{z}) = a_3 g_1^-(z, \bar{z}) - 2\pi i c_3 g_2^-(z, \bar{z}), \quad \text{(A.14)}
$$

and similarly

$$
\phi(R_3') = -a_3 g_1^-(1-z, 1-\bar{z}) - 2\pi i \hat{c}_3 g_3^-(1-z, 1-\bar{z}) = a_3 g_1^+(z, \bar{z}) - 2\pi i \hat{c}_3 g_2^+(z, \bar{z}), \quad \text{(A.15)}
$$

where we used [\(A.9\)](#page-16-3) and that $g_2^+ = g_2^-$ for $z \in (1, \infty), \overline{z} \in (0, 1)$. These and similar equations are fed into the master formulas [\(3.23\)](#page-10-1) and [\(A.16\)](#page-17-1).

Alternative form of the Yangsatz. Here we specify the ansatz based on Yangian invariance as given in terms of the alternative regularised functions g_j^+ :

$$
\phi(z,\bar{z}|R) = + a_R g_1^+
$$

\n
$$
+ 2\pi i g_2^+ \left(-\hat{c}_3 \theta_{++}^{++} + c_3^* \theta_{-+}^{-+} - \hat{c}_4 \theta_{-+}^{-+} + c_4^* \theta_{-+}^{++} - c_5 \theta_{++}^{++} + c_5 \theta_{-+}^{-+} \right)
$$

\n
$$
- d_6 \theta_{-+}^{-+} - b_6 \theta_{-+}^{-+} - \bar{c}_6 \theta_{-+}^{++} + b_6 \theta_{-+}^{--} + d_6 \theta_{-+}^{++} - \bar{c}_6 \theta_{-+}^{-+} \right)
$$

\n
$$
+ 2\pi i g_3^+ \left(+ \hat{c}_3 \theta_{++}^{-+} - c_3^* \theta_{--}^{-+} + \hat{c}_4 \theta_{-+}^{-+} - c_4^* \theta_{-+}^{++} + c_5 \theta_{++}^{-+} - c_5 \theta_{-+}^{++} \right)
$$

\n
$$
+ \bar{c}_6 \theta_{-+}^{-+} + \bar{c}_6 \theta_{-+}^{-+} - d_6 \theta_{-+}^{++} - d_6 \theta_{-+}^{-+} - b_6 \theta_{-+}^{++} + b_6 \theta_{-+}^{--} \right)
$$

\n
$$
+ 2\pi i g_4^+ \left(-c_3 \theta_{-+}^{++} + \hat{c}_3^* \theta_{-+}^{-+} - c_4 \theta_{-+}^{-+} + \hat{c}_4^* \theta_{-+}^{-+} - c_5 \theta_{-+}^{++} + c_5 \theta_{-+}^{--} \right)
$$

\n
$$
- c_6 \theta_{-+}^{-+} - d_6 \theta_{-+}^{-+} - b_6 \theta_{-+}^{++} - c_6 \theta_{-+}^{--} - c_6 \theta_{-+}^{--} - d_6 \theta_{-+}^{-+} \right)
$$

\n
$$
+ \theta \text{ functions}, \qquad (A.16)
$$

z, \bar{z} Range	Kinematic Regions (Modulo Shuffling)		
$\bar{z} = z^*$ or z, \bar{z} same interval	$\left[\frac{-}{-}\right], \left[\frac{+}{+}\right], \left[\frac{-}{-}\right], \left[\frac{+}{+}\right], \left[\frac{-}{+}\right], \left[\frac{+}{-}\right], \left[\frac{+}{-}\right], \left[\frac{+}{-}\right], \left[\frac{+}{+}\right], \left[\frac{+}{-}\right], \left[\frac{+}{-}\right], \left[\frac{+}{-}\right]$		
$z \in (0,1), \bar{z} \in (-\infty,0)$	$\begin{bmatrix} -\pm \\ +\pm \end{bmatrix}$, $\begin{bmatrix} -\pm \\ -\pm \end{bmatrix}$, $\begin{bmatrix} +\pm \\ -\pm \end{bmatrix}$, $\begin{bmatrix} -\pm \\ +\pm \end{bmatrix}$, $\begin{bmatrix} -\pm \\ +\pm \end{bmatrix}$		
$z \in (1, \infty), \bar{z} \in (0, 1)$	$\left[\begin{array}{c} + \\ + \\ + \end{array}\right], \left[\begin{array}{c} - \\ - \\ + \end{array}\right], \left[\begin{array}{c} - \\ - \\ + \end{array}\right], \left[\begin{array}{c} + \\ + \\ + \end{array}\right], \left[\begin{array}{c} + \\ - \\ + \end{array}\right], \left[\begin{array}{c} - \\ - \\ + \end{array}\right]$		
$z \in (1,\infty), \overline{z} \in (-\infty,0)$	$\left[\begin{array}{c} + \\ + \\ + \end{array}\right], \left[\begin{array}{c} - \\ - \\ - \end{array}\right], \left[\begin{array}{c} - \\ + \\ + \end{array}\right], \left[\begin{array}{c} + \\ + \\ + \end{array}\right], \left[\begin{array}{c} - \\ - \\ + \end{array}\right], \left[\begin{array}{c} + \\ - \\ - \end{array}\right].$		

Table 3. Dependence of z, \bar{z} on kinematic region for arbitrary real kinematics. z, \bar{z} 'same interval' means that both *z* and \bar{z} are in $(-\infty, 0)$, $(0, 1)$, or $(1, \infty)$.

where ' θ functions' refers to some extra terms appearing in the g_i^+ expansion, for example in the second line of [\(3.21\)](#page-9-1). These theta functions are nonzero only in the 'missing' and 'rare' kinematic regions, discussed in the next section.

Range of *z* **and** \bar{z} **.** Allowing x_{ij}^2 to be arbitrary real numbers, the range of *z* and \bar{z} in each kinematic region is summarised in table [3.](#page-18-1) Note that for physical kinematics the table is more restricted. For example for $R = \begin{bmatrix} ++1 \\ ++1 \end{bmatrix}$, $\begin{bmatrix} --1 \\ ++1 \end{bmatrix}$ or $\begin{bmatrix} ++1 \\ --1 \end{bmatrix}$ we cannot have $z, \bar{z} \in \mathbb{C} \setminus \mathbb{R}$. Moreover it is numerically observed that for physical configurations with $z, \bar{z} \in (1, \infty)$ it is not possible to have kinematic region $-R_5 = \begin{bmatrix} ++ \\ -- \end{bmatrix}$, and that the kinematic region R_5 is very rare, see [\[12\]](#page-21-1). Such 'missing' and 'rare' kinematic regions are typical in the equivalence class Λ_5 . In such regions the result for the box integral [\(4.19\)](#page-14-1) blows up for $z \to \overline{z}$.

Equivalence classes. Explicitly, the equivalence classes Λ_i are given by

$$
\Lambda_{1} = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} - - \\ - - \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} + + \\ + \\ + \end{bmatrix} \right\},
$$
\n
$$
\Lambda_{2} = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} - + \\ - + \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} + - \\ + \\ + - \end{bmatrix} \right\},
$$
\n
$$
\Lambda_{3} = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} - + \\ + + \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} + + \\ - + \\ + \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} + + \\ - + \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} - + \\ - - \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} - - \\ - - \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} - - \\ - - \end{bmatrix} \right\},
$$
\n
$$
\Lambda_{4} = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} - - \\ - + \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} - + \\ - + \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} - + \\ - + \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} + + \\ - + \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} - + \\ - + \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} - + \\ - + \end{bmatrix} \right\},
$$
\n
$$
\Lambda_{5} = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} - - \\ + + \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} + + \\ - - \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} + + \\ - - \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} - + \\ - - \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} - - \\ - - \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} - - \\ - + \end{bmatrix} \right\},
$$
\n
$$
\Lambda_{6} = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} - + \\ + + \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} + + \\ - - \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} - - \\ - + \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} - - + \\ - + \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} - - \\ - + \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} - + \\ - - \end{bmatrix} \right\}.
$$
\n(A.17)

B Fixing constants via double infinity

In the main text we constrained the box integral in Minkowski space, up to 12 undetermined constants. An alternative method to fix these constants is to compute the box integral explicitly for at most four configurations in the six kinematic regions R_i . We identify such configurations through the use of so-called 'double infinity' configurations X^{ab} = (x_1, x_2^b, x_3, x_4^a) and $Y^{ab} = (y_1, y_2^b, y_3, y_4^a)$, where $a, b \in \{+, -\}$, introduced in [\[12\]](#page-21-1).

Figure 2. Configurations X^{+-} and Y^{++} on a Penrose diagram.

Each of the four-vectors x_i and y_i have at most a single nonzero spatial component x^3 , so we denote them in coordinates $(x^0, x^3) = (x^0, 0, 0, x^3)$

$$
x_1 = (0,0), \quad x_2^b = \left(\frac{\xi_+ + \eta_b}{2}, \frac{\xi_+ - \eta_b}{2}\right), \quad x_3 = (1,0), \quad x_4^a = \left(\frac{\xi_- + \eta_a}{2}, \frac{-\xi_- + \eta_a}{2}\right),
$$

$$
y_1 = (0,0), \quad y_2^b = \left(\frac{\xi_+ - \eta_b}{2}, \frac{\xi_+ + \eta_b}{2}\right), \quad y_3 = (0,1), \quad y_4^a = \left(\frac{-\xi_- + \eta_a}{2}, \frac{\xi_- + \eta_a}{2}\right),
$$
(B.1)

where $\xi_+,\xi_-\in\mathbb{R}$ and we take $\eta_\pm \to \pm\infty$. Geometrically this corresponds to sending two of the points to null infinity. We give examples of these configurations in figure [2.](#page-19-0) For each of these configurations the cross-ratios are

$$
u = \xi_{+}(1 - \xi_{-}), \qquad v = \xi_{-}(1 - \xi_{+}). \tag{B.2}
$$

The kinematic region of these configurations is

$$
R(X^{ab}) = \text{sign}\begin{bmatrix} \xi_{+} \eta_{b} & \eta_{a}(\xi_{-} - 1) \\ \eta_{b}(\xi_{+} - 1) & \xi_{-} \eta_{a} \\ 1 & -\eta_{a} \eta_{b} \end{bmatrix}, \qquad R(Y^{ab}) = -R(X^{ab}). \qquad (B.3)
$$

By varying a, b and the range of ξ_+, ξ_- one can access a large number of kinematic regions with the configurations X and Y . We show how to access the kinematic regions R_i using these configurations in table [4.](#page-20-7) It is possible to compute the box integral for the configurations X^{ab} and Y^{ab} directly in Minkowski space. We define

$$
I_X^{ab}(\xi_+,\xi_-) = I_4(X^{ab}), \qquad I_Y^{ab}(\xi_+,\xi_-) = I_4(Y^{ab}). \tag{B.4}
$$

Using (2.13) and $(B.3)$ it is clear that

$$
I_Y^{ab}(\xi_+,\xi_-) = I_X^{ab}(\xi_+,\xi_-)^*.
$$
\n(B.5)

Moreover, using permutation covariance and translation, parity, and time-reversal invariance one can show

$$
I_X^{-+}(\xi_+,\xi_-) = I_X^{+-}(\xi_-,\xi_+), \qquad I_X^{++}(\xi_+,\xi_-) = I_X^{--}(1-\xi_+,\mathbf{1}-\xi_-). \tag{B.6}
$$

Kinematic Region	Configuration	ξ range	ξ range
R_1	$\scriptstyle{V^{+-}}$	$(-\infty,0)$	$(1,\infty)$
R_2	Y^{++}	$(1,\infty)$	$(-\infty,0)$
R_3	X^{+-}	(0,1)	$(1,\infty)$
R_{4}	Y^{--}	$(-\infty,0)$	(0,1)
R_5	X^{+-}	(0,1)	(0,1)
R_6	$V^{\rm -+}$	(0,1)	$(1,\infty)$

Table 4. How to realise kinematic regions *Rⁱ* with double infinity configurations.

Therefore, calculating the box integral for the 8 configurations X^{ab} and Y^{ab} is reduced to just calculating it for X^{+-} and X^{--} . The box integral in the remaining configurations can then be recovered using $(B.5)$ and $(B.6)$. The box integral (1.8) in these configurations simplifies considerably. For example

$$
I_X^{+-} = \frac{2i}{\pi} \int_{x,r,t} \frac{r^2}{(t^2 - r^2 + i\epsilon)((t-1)^2 - r^2 + i\epsilon)(\xi_+ - t - rx - i\epsilon')(\xi_- - t + rx + i\epsilon')},\tag{B.7}
$$

where $\epsilon' \ll \epsilon$ and $\int_{x,r,t} = \int_{-1}^{1} dx \int_{0}^{\infty} dr \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dt$. This computation was done in [\[12\]](#page-21-1), via a simple calculation of residues. After completing this calculation (and a similar one for I_X^{--}), we can evaluate the box integral in the kinematic regions R_i (see table [4\)](#page-20-7) for sufficiently many points to fix the free constants in [\(3.23\)](#page-10-1).

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