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Transient chaos analysis of string scattering

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ABSTRACT: It has long been thought that a highly excited string can be regarded as a black hole: the correspondence principle between strings and a black hole, while recent studies found that black holes are characterized by chaos. This suggests that highly excited strings are the source of the black hole chaoticity. We study the chaoticity of a string amplitude where a tachyon is scattered by a highly excited string. Our strategy to extract the chaos in the amplitude is a generalization of the transient chaos analysis for classical scattering. We look for the fractal structure in the plots of incoming/outgoing scattering angles, where the outgoing angle is defined as the maximum pole of the amplitude. Within our strategy, we could not identify any fractal structure in the scattering data. We also discuss other possible setups and strategies to extract the chaos, hoping that our present work serves as a step toward the formulation of chaos in string scattering amplitudes.

KEYWORDS: Bosonic Strings, Long Strings, Black Holes in String Theory

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Contents

1	Introduction and summary	1
2	Transient chaos in classical scattering	3
	2.1 Classical scattering and chaos	3
	2.2 Generalization to quantum scattering	4
3	HES-tachyon to HES-tachyon scattering	6
	3.1 Setups	6
	3.2 Amplitude and its largest pole	8
	3.3 Transient chaos analysis of the scattering amplitude	12
4	Conclusion and discussions	14
\mathbf{A}	Explicit formulas of HES-tachyon to HES-tachyon amplitude	16
	A.1 Channels	16
	A.2 Photon integral	17
	A.3 Tachyon integral	21
	A.4 Another expression for the amplitude	23

1 Introduction and summary

It has long been thought that a highly excited string can be regarded as a black hole: the correspondence principle between strings and a black hole [1-5]. The correspondence stems naturally from the fact that string theory is a quantum gravity, and that a black hole is a gravitational phenomenon in which many particles, that are strings in string theory, gather to form a "bound state." In addition, this correspondence is motivated by the effort to reveal the mystery of the black hole entropy formula, since any explicit formulation of the correspondence may lead to the way to count the quantum states of a black hole.

In recent years, black holes were characterized by chaos, in the AdS/CFT correspondence [6]. The chaotic nature of the boundary quantum field theory corresponds to the redshift due to the black hole event horizon in the gravity side [7–9]. In view of this development, chaos can be one of the best ways to confirm the correspondence principle between the highly excited string and the black hole.

Since perturbative string theory is formulated through scattering amplitudes, we need to look for any chaotic nature of the string scattering amplitudes. Recently, Gross and Rosenhaus [10] studied the amplitudes of a highly excited string decaying into two tachyons, and found that the amplitudes are highly erratic, which was interpreted as a sign of chaos. In general, erratic, non-regular nature of physical observables is a necessary condition for

the system to be chaotic. The erratic behavior was first mentioned in [11] and further confirmed in [12].¹ In addition, in our recent work [16], the imaging of the highly excited string through the decay amplitudes revealed the nontrivial spatial structure of the string: string is a double slit. The existence of such a structure suggests chaos.

In order to extract the chaos in the erratic behavior of the decay amplitude of the highly excited string, we resort to an established method: the transient chaos analysis. In classical scattering, the diagnose for finding chaos is to identify a fractal structure in the scattering data (see [17] for a review). The methods of the transient chaos analysis has been developed such that the chaos of bounded systems is generalized to unbounded systems — in the scattering processes, the chaos appears only in a limited spatial and temporal domain, while for the bounded systems one can observe the chaos using infinite amount of time.

The transient chaos analysis which we employ in this paper is summarized as follows. Consider a particle scattered by a potential. The scattering data consists of a pair of the incoming and outgoing angles of the particle motion, and we shall name it (θ, θ') . For a sufficient number of numerical experiments of the scattering, one finds a lot of the pair data, which is translated into a one-dimensional function $\theta'(\theta)$. For chaotic scattering, one should be able to find a fractal structure in this function $\theta'(\theta)$. Like in the chaotic dynamics produced by the Baker's map, the fractal structure or the self-similar structure is a typical nature of chaos. In scattering processes, if there exists the initial condition sensitivity in the system, a particle destination is shared by two or more different paths. This produces the fractal structure in the scattering data.

In this paper, we apply the transient chaos analysis described above to string scattering amplitudes. In particular, we consider scattering amplitudes of a tachyon and a highly excited string (HES), i.e. amplitudes of HES-tachyon to HES-tachyon, which mimic a scattering of a tachyon by a HES. To describe the in- and out-HES state, we follow the method adopted in the chaos analyses [10] using the DDF states [18].²

To obtain the scattering data $\theta'(\theta)$ from the quantum scattering amplitudes, we extract the outgoing angles of the largest pole θ' of the amplitude for fixed incoming angles θ . Since generically string scattering amplitudes have multiple poles, we regard the largest pole as the most probable scattering in the quantum treatment.

Our final results of the scattering data of HES-tachyon scattering in open bosonic string theory are shown in figure 4, figure 5 and figure 6. The HES states are the ones up to the string excitation level N = 27, and the photon insertions necessary for creating the HES state are taken up to J = 5, and we consider generic out-going angles. We do not see any fractal structure in the scattering data, which concludes that our HES-tachyon scattering analysis does not show the sign of transient chaos.

One caveat is that the absence of the fractal structure may originate in the quantum nature of the string scattering amplitudes. As described above, our strategy to obtain the scattering data is to pick the largest pole in the amplitude. There could be a refined strategy to extract the scattering data by taking some classical limit of the scattering amplitudes.

¹See also [13–15] for related recent work on scattering and chaos in string theory.

²The calculation of the HES amplitudes was developed in [19]. See also [20, 21] for HES states studied from the viewpoint of cosmic strings, and a recent paper [22] for a classical limit of HES amplitudes.



Figure 1. The classical scattering of a single particle in two spatial dimensions. The scattering potential is the four-hill potential (2.1) whose equal-height slice is plotted as four circles. Left: initial condition is $\theta = 0.125$ with b = 0. Right: initial condition is $\theta = 0.127$ with b = 0. For both plots, the energy is fixed to E = 0.045.

This paper is organized as follows. In section 2, we make a brief review of the transient chaos, and propose how the scattering data is extracted from the quantum scattering amplitudes, which is used in our analysis. In section 3, we calculate the HES-tachyon scattering amplitudes for various HES states and obtain the scattering data, to show that there is no fractal structure in the scattering data of the amplitudes. In section 4, we provide discussions on possible generalization of our method to find chaos in string scattering amplitudes. Appendix A is for the detailed derivation of the HES-tachyon scattering amplitudes used in section 3.

2 Transient chaos in classical scattering

In this section, we briefly review the fractal feature of transient chaos in classical scattering processes, and propose its generalization to quantum scattering processes, for our study of string scattering in the later sections.

2.1 Classical scattering and chaos

The chaos in classical scattering processes can be identified by finding a fractal structure in the scattering data. We briefly review how the fractal nature appears in the classical scattering, following [17].

Consider the motion of a single particle scattered by a potential (see figure 1). A potential is localized around the origin of the space into which the particle is shot and then scattered to reach the spatial infinity. The scattering data could be, for example, the incoming angle θ and the impact parameter b for the initial state of the particle and the outgoing angle θ' and the impact parameter b' for the final state of the particle. Thus the data consists of a set of values (θ, b, θ', b') with many numerical experiments, for a fixed

potential and fixed energy of the particle. In other words, the data is a set of functions $\theta'(\theta, b)$ and $b'(\theta, b)$.³

If one chooses a potential whose complexity is large enough, then it happens that the particle which was shot in can be trapped for a certain period of time and then escapes to the spatial infinity. During this trapping time, the particle is scattered many times by the inner structure of the potential and loses its initial information (which is θ and b). This causes chaos, the sensitivity to the initial condition.

In figure 1, two examples of the scattering of a particle which goes through the four-hill potential with the Lagrangian

$$L = \frac{1}{2}\dot{x}^2 + \frac{1}{2}\dot{y}^2 - x^2y^2e^{-x^2-y^2}$$
(2.1)

are presented. The particle is shot from the right hand side with the initial angle $\theta = 0.125$ and 0.127 respectively, with b = 0. The outcome is drastically different, although the initial conditions differ just slightly.

Generic scattering processes are different from the case of the bounded systems for which the standard definition of chaos applies: one cannot measure the chaos for infinite duration of time, because the particle can escape from the chaotic region. Therefore the chaotic nature is hidden in the scattering data of the particle which goes through the potential.

In figure 2, the scattering data of the particle which goes through the four-hill potential (2.1) is presented. We have chosen b = 0 for simplicity, and look at only the function $\theta'(\theta)$. The top-left panel is the whole view of the data. The scattering data obviously finds a lot of jumps, and in particular, the jumps are accumulated to form a dense part. If one magnifies the dense part, as seen in the other panels, one finds a similar dense structure in the scattering data. This is the fractal-like structure, which shows the transient chaos of the scattering process.

The existence of the fractal structure means that a single destination of the particle motion can have two or more paths. It is nothing but the initial condition sensitivity, that is the definition of classical chaos.

In summary, for classical scattering, the fractal structure in the scattering data $\theta'(\theta)$ shows the chaos. In this paper, we obtain the scattering data for quantum scattering of strings, in particular highly excited strings, and look for the chaos, that is, the fractal structure.

2.2 Generalization to quantum scattering

The transient chaos in classical scattering is well-understood, as we have reviewed in the previous subsection. However, string theory is built out of quantum scattering amplitudes. How can we generalize the classical analysis to the quantum scattering amplitudes? Here, let us explain our strategy to apply the transient chaos analysis for classical scattering processes which we reviewed in the previous subsection to the quantum scattering processes.

³One can choose $\theta = 0$ and ignore measuring b', then the scattering data is only $\theta'(b)$, which was used in [23].



Figure 2. The scattering data of the particle for the four-hill potential model (2.1). The particle energy is fixed to E = 0.045, and the impact parameter is also fixed to b = 0. Top-left: the whole view of the scattering data $\theta'(\theta)$. The top-right, bottom-left, bottom-right panels are the magnified plots of the scattering data, while the top-left panel is the whole view of the scattering data. In the top-left panel, one finds connected lines and scattered plots. Interestingly, also in the magnified plots in the top-right, bottom-left and bottom-right panels, one finds a similar structure. This is the fractal-like structure of the self-similarity.

First of all, we need to note that in quantum scattering processes, due to the Heisenberg uncertainty principle, we do not have all the information which the classical scattering has. Thus here we start with a discussion on what parameters are suitable for the quantum scattering processes.

The quantum scattering in standard quantum field theories is normally described by plane waves, as any particle state is a superposition of quantized plane waves. This means that, the initial state and the final state are specified only by the momenta of all the particle states, incoming and outgoing. They are the parameters for quantum scattering, and we can further reduce the number of the independent parameters by considering some limit, as follows.

In the analogy of the physical set-up of the transient chaos in classical scattering, we suppose a scattering of a light particle by a potential. In the standard 2-to-2 scattering processes in quantum field theories, this potential scattering is realized if one requires a limit where the other particle is much heavier than the light scattered particle. Thus, in this limit, what specifies the scattering amplitude is only the combination $(p_{\mu}^{(\text{ini})}, p_{\mu}^{(\text{fin})})$, which is the momenta of the light scattered particle. Furthermore, once we specify the mass m of the light particle, then with the energy conservation, we find $p_0^{(\text{ini})} = p_0^{(\text{fin})} = \sqrt{p^2 + m^2}$ for the momentum magnitude p (> 0). The scattering is specified by p and the pair (θ, θ') where θ and θ' are the angles of the incoming and the outgoing momenta $(p_i^{(\text{ini})}, p_i^{(\text{fin})})$. Thus, the scattering data is given by the scattering amplitude $\mathcal{A}(p, \theta, \theta')$.

Next, we present our procedures to extract the scattering plot similar to figure 2 from the quantum scattering amplitudes, to find the transient chaos of the system. Note that the classical scattering data is given by a map $(b, \theta) \rightarrow (b', \theta')$ for a given energy, where b is the impact parameter. In the quantum scattering we consider plane waves, meaning that the impact parameters are uniformly integrated. Once the impact parameter dependence is integrated, the classical scattering is specified by a map $\theta \rightarrow \theta'$, i.e. a function $\theta'(\theta)$ for a given energy.

We can relate this classical scattering data $\theta'(\theta)$ and the quantum scattering amplitude $\mathcal{A}(p,\theta,\theta')$ as follows. The absolute square of the scattering amplitude \mathcal{A} describes the probability. When the amplitude has a pole at some value of θ' , we can say that the value is most probable in the scattering. Since the position of the pole depends also on the other data (p,θ) , it gives θ' as an implicit function of (p,θ) . When the amplitude has multiple poles at $\theta' = \theta'_m$ for given p and θ , as

$$\mathcal{A}(p,\theta,\theta') \sim \sum_{m} \frac{R_m(p,\theta)}{\theta' - \theta'_m(p,\theta)}$$
(2.2)

then we can say that the value $\theta'_m(p,\theta)$ which gives the largest residue $|R_m(p,\theta)|$ among all poles is the most probable scattering. In this manner, we can extract the function $\theta'(p,\theta)$, which is $\theta'_m(p,\theta)$ with the largest $|R_m(p,\theta)|$, from the scattering amplitude $\mathcal{A}(p,\theta,\theta')$, and regard $\theta'(p,\theta)$ as a quantum counterpart of the classical scattering data $\theta'(\theta)$.

Note that the obtained function $\theta'(p, \theta)$ can be discontinuous, since the largest pole, or equivalently the label m of the largest residue, may differ for different θ . In general, when there are multiple poles in the scattering amplitude, the scattering data $\theta'(\theta)$ for a given value of p, which is a single-valued, consists of a set of segment functions whose domains are disjoint with each other.

In the following section, we use this definition of $\theta'(\theta)$ for the scattering data of the string scattering amplitudes.

3 HES-tachyon to HES-tachyon scattering

In this section, we study a scattering of a tachyon by a highly excited string (HES) in open bosonic string theory:

$$HES + tachyon \to HES + tachyon. \tag{3.1}$$

We compute its scattering amplitude $\mathcal{A}(p,\theta,\theta')$, and find that it has multiple poles at $\theta' = \theta'_m(\theta)$. We regard the angle associated with the largest pole as a quantum counterpart of the classical scattering data. We show that the scattering data $\theta'(\theta)$ consists of disconnected segments, and look for the fractal structure.

3.1 Setups

To construct the HES-tachyon scattering amplitude, we start with a scattering:

$$(tachyon + J photons) + tachyon \rightarrow (tachyon + J photons) + tachyon.$$
 (3.2)



Figure 3. String amplitude for the process: $(tachyon + J \text{ photons}) + tachyon \rightarrow (tachyon + J \text{ photons}) + tachyon. The external lines on the left/right hand side are the incoming/outgoing strings. After picking out poles labeled with <math>v, v'$, it describes the scattering of a tachyon by a highly excited string (HES).

Its diagram is shown in figure 3. The external lines on the left/right hand side are the incoming/outgoing strings. J photons have momenta $\{-N_aq\}_{a=1,...,J}$ and the same polarization λ is shared by all the photons. The tachyon with momentum p_2 can form an intermediate HES state by absorbing all these J photons. By picking out a pole labeled with v, we focus on the HES state. A similar construction of a HES state has been used, for example, in [10, 12]. The HES scatters another incoming tachyon with momentum p_1 . The outgoing strings are constructed in a similar but opposite processes. The incoming strings decay into an outgoing tachyon with momentum p'_1 and a HES corresponding to a pole labeled with v'. The outgoing HES state is constructed from a tachyon with momentum p'_2 and J photons which have momenta $\{-N'_bq'\}_{a=1,...,J}$ and share the same polarization λ' , or equivalently, the HES decays into a tachyon and J photons successively. The resulting amplitude with the poles v, v' extracted describes the desired process (3.1).

Let us summarize the setups and some assumptions to simplify computations. The momentum conservation law is

$$0 = p_1 + (p_2 - Nq) + (p'_2 - N'q') + p'_1$$

= $p_1 + p_2 + p'_2 + p'_1 - N(q + q')$, (3.3)

where

$$N = \sum_{a=1}^{J} N_a = \sum_{b=1}^{J} N'_b = N', \quad (N_a, N'_b \ge 1)$$
(3.4)

is the total excitation level of HES, and here, the total excitation number N' of the outgoing HES is taken to be the same as that (N) of the incoming HES. The mass M of HES is given in terms of the total excitation number N as

$$M^2 = 2(N-1). (3.5)$$

Since all photons have the same polarization, the number of photons J equals to the total angular momentum. Here note that N'_b is not necessarily equal to N_b . The on-shell conditions for the tachyons and photons are

$$p_1^2 = p_2^2 = p_2'^2 = p_1'^2 = -(-2), (3.6)$$

and

$$q^2 = q'^2 = 0, (3.7)$$

respectively. For simplicity, we assume that $q \propto q'$ and $\lambda = -\lambda'$. Then the photon momenta and polarization vectors satisfy

$$q \cdot q' = 0, \qquad \lambda^2 = \lambda'^2 = \lambda \cdot \lambda' = 0,$$

$$q \cdot \lambda = q' \cdot \lambda' = q \cdot \lambda' = q' \cdot \lambda = 0.$$
(3.8)

We also assume that

$$(p_1 + p_2) \cdot \lambda = (p'_1 + p'_2) \cdot \lambda' = 0 \tag{3.9}$$

for simplicity. This is satisfied without loss of generality, for example, by taking the center-of-mass frame of the incoming/outgoing strings. We define the Mandelstam(-like) variables as

$$s = -(p_1 + p_2 - Nq)^2 = -(p'_1 + p'_2 - N'q')^2,$$
(3.10)

$$t = -(p_1 + p'_2 - N'q')^2 = -(p'_1 + p_2 - Nq)^2, (3.11)$$

$$u = -(p_1 + p'_1)^2 = -(p_2 - Nq + p'_2 - N'q')^2.$$
(3.12)

Also we define variables to describe the HES poles as

$$v = -(p_2 - Nq)^2, (3.13)$$

$$v' = -(p'_2 - N'q')^2. aga{3.14}$$

These satisfy an identity

$$s + t + u = 4 \cdot (-2) + 2 \cdot (1 + v/2) + 2 \cdot (1 + v'/2). \tag{3.15}$$

3.2 Amplitude and its largest pole

Here, we calculate the HES-tachyon to HES-tachyon amplitude. The amplitude becomes a four point amplitude after picking out the intermediate HES poles of v- and v'-channels, and is given in the form of a worldsheet boundary integral over the position of one of four vertex operators which cannot be fixed by the conformal symmetry. The integral can be split into three segments. The amplitude contains poles of three channels: s-, t- and u-channels, and each of three segments of the integral contains contributions from two of

three channels. Here, we focus on the segment of integral \mathcal{A}_{st} which contains contributions of s- and t-channels.⁴

Some straightforward computations in appendix \mathbf{A} show that the *st*-part contribution for the HES-tachyon to HES-tachyon scattering amplitude is

$$\mathcal{A}_{st} \sim \sum_{\{i_a=2,2'\}} \sum_{\{j_b=2,2'\}} \sum_{\{k_a=0\}} \sum_{\{l_b=0\}}^{\{N_b'\}} \sum_{\{l_b=0\}} \left(\prod_{a=1}^J (p_{i_a} \cdot \lambda) c_{k_a}^{(i_a)} \right) \left(\prod_{b=1}^J (p_{j_b} \cdot \lambda') d_{l_b}^{(j_b)} \right) B(-\alpha(s) + k + l, -\alpha(t)).$$
(3.16)

Here the coefficients $c_k^{(i)}, d_l^{(j)}$ are defined by

$$c_k^{(2)} = +c_k(\alpha_2 + 1, \alpha_1 + 1, \alpha_2'), \qquad (3.17)$$

$$c_k^{(2')} = -c_{k-1}(\alpha_2, \alpha_1, \alpha_2' + 1), \qquad (3.18)$$

$$d_l^{(2)} = -c_{l-1}(\beta_2', \beta_1', \beta_2 + 1), \qquad (3.19)$$

$$d_l^{(2')} = +c_l(\beta_2' + 1, \beta_1' + 1, \beta_2), \qquad (3.20)$$

where

$$c_{k}(\alpha_{2},\alpha_{1},\alpha_{2}') = \frac{\Gamma(-\alpha_{2}+1)\Gamma(-\alpha_{1}+1)}{\Gamma(-\alpha_{2}-\alpha_{1}+2)} \frac{\Gamma(\alpha_{2}'+k)}{\Gamma(\alpha_{2}')} \frac{\Gamma(-\alpha_{2}+1+k)}{\Gamma(-\alpha_{2}+1)} \frac{\Gamma(-\alpha_{2}-\alpha_{1}+2)}{\Gamma(-\alpha_{2}-\alpha_{1}+2+k)} \frac{1}{\Gamma(k+1)}, \quad (3.21)$$

and

$$\alpha_i = -(-N_a q) \cdot p_i, \quad \beta_j = -(-N_b' q') \cdot p_j. \tag{3.22}$$

The last factor $B(-\alpha(s) + k + l, -\alpha(t))$ in (3.16) is the Beta function

$$B(x,y) = \frac{\Gamma(x)\Gamma(y)}{\Gamma(x+y)},$$
(3.23)

and k, l and α are defined by

$$\alpha(x) = 1 + x/2,$$
 $k = \sum_{a=1}^{J} k_a,$ $l = \sum_{b=1}^{J} l_b.$ (3.24)

⁴The part \mathcal{A}_{st} originates in the DDF construction of the fourth vertex operator going around one of the other three vertex operators, see appendix A for the details. Although this is a part of the whole scattering amplitude, we assume that this is enough for looking at any possible fractal structure. In fact, the complete structure of the Veneziano amplitude is determined solely by \mathcal{A}_{st} .

To evaluate the amplitude (3.16), we have taken the following parameterization of the momenta and polarization vectors,

$$-q = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2(N-1)+p^{2}}-p\cos\theta} \begin{pmatrix} 1\\0\\0\\-1 \end{pmatrix}, \qquad -(-q') = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2(N-1)+p^{2}}-p\cos\theta'} \begin{pmatrix} 1\\0\\0\\-1 \end{pmatrix}, \\\lambda = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} 0\\1\\i\\0\\0 \end{pmatrix}, \qquad -\lambda' = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} 0\\1\\i\\0\\0 \end{pmatrix}, \\p_{1} = \begin{pmatrix} \sqrt{p^{2}-2}\\p\sin\theta\\0\\p\cos\theta \end{pmatrix}, \qquad -p'_{1} = \begin{pmatrix} \sqrt{p^{2}-2}\\p\sin\theta'\cos\varphi'\\p\sin\theta'\sin\varphi'\\p\cos\theta' \end{pmatrix}, \qquad (3.25)$$

$$p_{1} + p_{2} - Nq = \begin{pmatrix} \sqrt{s}\\0\\0\\0\\0 \end{pmatrix}, \qquad -p'_{1} - p'_{2} + N'q' = \begin{pmatrix} \sqrt{s}\\0\\0\\0\\0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Here, p stands for the magnitude of the momentum of the incoming tachyon, and the scattering amplitude is parametrized by the angles⁵ θ , θ' and φ' . The Mandelstam(-like) variables are now expressed as

$$s = \left(\sqrt{2(N-1) + p^2} + \sqrt{p^2 - 2}\right)^2, \tag{3.26}$$

$$t = \left(\sqrt{2\left(N-1\right) + p^2} - \sqrt{p^2 - 2}\right)^2 - 2p^2\left(1 + \cos\theta\cos\theta' + \sin\theta\sin\theta'\cos\varphi'\right), \quad (3.27)$$

$$u = -2p^2 \left(1 - \cos\theta \cos\theta' - \sin\theta \sin\theta' \cos\varphi'\right). \tag{3.28}$$

It is straightforward to check that these variables satisfy the identify (3.15). Also we easily find for (3.22) that

$$p_{1} \cdot q = + \frac{\sqrt{2(-1)+p^{2}} + p\cos\theta}{\sqrt{2(N-1)+p^{2}} - p\cos\theta}, \quad p_{2} \cdot q = +1, \quad p_{2}' \cdot q = -\frac{\sqrt{2(N-1)+p^{2}} - p\cos\theta'}{\sqrt{2(N-1)+p^{2}} - p\cos\theta'}, \\ p_{1}' \cdot q' = + \frac{\sqrt{2(-1)+p^{2}} + p\cos\theta'}{\sqrt{2(N-1)+p^{2}} - p\cos\theta'}, \quad p_{2}' \cdot q' = +1, \quad p_{2} \cdot q' = -\frac{\sqrt{2(N-1)+p^{2}} - p\cos\theta}{\sqrt{2(N-1)+p^{2}} - p\cos\theta'},$$
(3.29)

and for the coefficients in (3.16) that

$$p_2 \cdot \lambda = -p_2 \cdot \lambda' = \frac{-1}{\sqrt{2}} p \sin \theta, \qquad (3.30)$$

$$p_2' \cdot \lambda' = -p_2' \cdot \lambda = \frac{-1}{\sqrt{2}} p e^{i\varphi'} \sin \theta'.$$
(3.31)

 $^{{}^{5}}$ In 2 \rightarrow 2 scattering of scalar particles, one can take the center of mass frame with which the scattering angle is fixed. However, our HES has a specific spatial orientation which is its polarization. Our spherical coordinate system respects the polarization of the photons which are used to make the HES. There is no remaining rotation symmetry which could fix the angular variables.

Under these parametrization, the HES-tachyon to HES-tachyon amplitude is given by the momentum and the incoming/outgoing angles $\mathcal{A} = \mathcal{A}(\{N_a\}, \{N_b'\}; p, \theta, \theta', \varphi')$.

We apply the strategy in section 2.2 to this amplitude and find the largest pole, to extract the scattering data. Let us consider the amplitude for given excitation levels $\{N_a\}, \{N'_b\}$ and magnitude of momentum p. Since the Mandelstam variable s depends only on the total excitation level N and magnitude of momentum p, the s-channel poles are independent of the angular variables. On the other hand, the t-channel poles come from the divergences of the Beta function in (3.16), and appear in certain outgoing angles for given incoming angles. The t-channel poles form a line in two-dimensional space of outgoing angles θ' and φ' . For a fixed φ' , the positions of poles in the outgoing angle $\{\theta'_m(\theta)\}$ is given as functions of the incoming angle θ . They can be obtained by solving

$$\alpha(t(\theta, \theta')) = n, \quad n \in \mathbb{Z}_{>}, \tag{3.32}$$

as the *t*-channel poles come from the poles of $\Gamma(-\alpha(t))$ in the Beta function in (3.16). We evaluate this equation numerically. Among the data $\{\theta'_m(\theta)\}$, we look for their maximum poles, which has the largest residue of the poles. The residue around the poles is

$$\tilde{\mathcal{A}}_{st} = \lim_{\alpha(t) \to n} \lim_{\{\alpha_2\} \to \{N_a\}} \lim_{\{\beta'_2\} \to \{N'_b\}} \frac{\sin \pi (-\alpha(t))}{\pi} \prod_{a=1}^J \frac{\sin \pi \alpha_2}{\pi} \prod_{b=1}^J \frac{\sin \pi \beta'_2}{\pi} \mathcal{A}_{st}$$
$$= \mathcal{A}_{st}|_{B \to \tilde{B}, c \to \tilde{c}, d \to \tilde{d}}.$$
(3.33)

Here we have defined

$$\tilde{B}(-\alpha(s)+k+l,-\alpha(t)) = \lim_{\alpha(t)\to n} \frac{\sin\pi(-\alpha(t))}{\pi} B(-\alpha(s)+k+l,-\alpha(t))$$
$$= \frac{\Gamma(-\alpha(s)+k+l)}{\Gamma(-\alpha(s)-n+k+l)\Gamma(1+n)},$$
(3.34)

$$\tilde{c}_k(\alpha_2, \alpha_1, \alpha'_2) = \lim_{\alpha_2 \to N_a} \frac{\sin \pi \alpha_2}{\pi} c_k(\alpha_2, \alpha_1, \alpha'_2)$$
$$= \frac{1}{\Gamma(k+1)\Gamma(\alpha_2 - k)} \frac{\Gamma(\alpha_2 - k + \alpha_1 - 1)}{\Gamma(\alpha_1)} \frac{\Gamma(\alpha'_2 + k)}{\Gamma(\alpha'_2)}, \quad (3.35)$$

and have also defined

$$\tilde{c}_k^{(2)} = -\tilde{c}_k(\alpha_2 + 1, \alpha_1 + 1, \alpha_2'), \qquad (3.36)$$

$$\tilde{c}_k^{(2')} = -\tilde{c}_{k-1}(\alpha_2, \alpha_1, \alpha_2' + 1), \qquad (3.37)$$

$$\tilde{d}_{l}^{(2)} = -\tilde{c}_{l-1}(\beta_{2}', \beta_{1}', \beta_{2} + 1), \qquad (3.38)$$

$$\tilde{d}_l^{(2')} = -\tilde{c}_l(\beta_2' + 1, \beta_1' + 1, \beta_2).$$
(3.39)

Note that the signs of the coefficients $\tilde{c}^{(2)}, \tilde{d}^{(2')}$ are flipped since $\sin \pi(\alpha_2 + 1) = -\sin \pi \alpha_2$. Numerically evaluating the reside at $\{\theta'_m(\theta)\}$, and finding the largest one among them, we construct the scattering data $\theta'(\theta)$ of the HES-tachyon scattering amplitudes.



Figure 4. Scattering data $\theta'(\theta)$ involving a HES with the angular momentum J = 1. The top/middle/bottom two panels are the plots when the excitation level is $N = N_1 = N'_1 = 1, 5, 9$. The three panels on the left/right hand side are the plots when $\varphi' = 0, \pi/4$. The momentum is fixed at p = 2.6. Although the plots are highly erratic, fractal structure has not been observed.

3.3 Transient chaos analysis of the scattering amplitude

In this subsection, we show numerical plots of the scattering data $\theta'(\theta)$ for various fixed parameters, and discuss their fractal feature (the self-similarity).

The results for a scattering of a tachyon and a HES with the angular momentum J = 1 are shown in figure 4. The top/middle/bottom two panels are the plots for the excitation levels $N = N_1 = N'_1 = 1, 5, 9$. The three panels on the left and right hand side are the plots for $\varphi' = 0$ and $\varphi = \pi/4$, respectively. The momentum is fixed at p = 2.6 so that the energy squared is positive, $E^2 = p^2 - 2 \approx 7 - 2 > 0$.



Figure 5. Scattering data $\theta'(\theta)$ when J = 1, N = 27. The excitation level is chosen so that as many *t*-channel poles appear as possible. Other parameters are fixed as figure 4. Still fractal structure does not appear.

The plots are highly erratic, for larger excitation levels. The tilted lines in the case N = 1 split into smaller segments in the cases N = 5, 9. However, we do not see any fractal structure. In particular, the number of the small segments does not increase exponentially in N. Note that typical fractal data is produced by a repeated action of an operation creating self-similar structure, and the number of small structure grows exponentially in the number of the action, thus also in our case, it is expected that the number of the smaller segments would have grown exponentially in N if the scattering were chaotic.

This is further confirmed in figure 5, where the excitation level is chosen as N = 27. This number $N = 27 \approx 4p^2$ was chosen so that as many *t*-channel poles, found in (3.32), appear as possible, nevertheless, the fractal feature, or the exponentially smaller structure, does not appear. Thus we conclude that the scattering data is not fractal. Assuming that the fractal nature is the sign of chaos in quantum systems, our result means that our HES-tachyon scattering is not chaotic.

The results for the scattering of the HES with J > 1 are shown in figure 6. The top, bottom-left and bottom-right panels are the plots for the excitation levels $\{N_a\} = \{N'_b\} =$ $\{5\}, \{3, 1, 1\}, \{1, 1, 1, 1, 1\}$, respectively. Other parameters are fixed as $\varphi' = 0$, p = 2.6. As the photons of which the HES with the total excitation level N consists are partitioned into more photons to form a HES with smaller excitation levels $\{N_a\}, \{N'_b\}$, we find in figure 6 that the small segments disappear. We conclude that even with the HES with J > 1 the fractal nature is not found, therefore, the scattering amplitudes are not chaotic.⁶

This behavior on the partitions is explained as follows. As seen from the examples of the case J = 1, the smaller segments appear for larger N (or N_a, N'_b). In the scattering amplitude, there exist several lines of poles. When we pick out the pole with the largest residue, the largest pole depends on the incoming angles. Thus, the line in the scattering data of the largest pole is segmented. This magnitude of the residue at each pole is mostly determined by the coefficients $c_k^{(i)}(\alpha), d_l^{(j)}(\beta)$, where α, β are proportional to N_a, N'_b times oscillating functions (see (3.22), (3.29)). These coefficients oscillate more rapidly for larger

⁶We have used the typical value of p so that the total energy is positive. Even with other values of p, the scattering data does not show the fractal structure.



Figure 6. Scattering data $\theta'(\theta)$ involving a HES with the angular momentum J > 1. The top/bottom-left/bottom-right panels are the plots when the excitation level is $\{N_a\} = \{N'_b\} = \{5\}, \{3, 1, 1\}, \{1, 1, 1, 1\}$. Other parameters are fixed as $\varphi' = 0, p = 2.6$. As the level N is partitioned into smaller numbers $\{N_a\}, \{N'_b\}$, the small segments disappear.

values of $\{N_a\}, \{N'_b\}$. Then, the largest pole frequently changes from a line to another, and then, the line of the largest pole is split into smaller segments. The minimum length of the segments is bounded by the maximum of $\{N_a\}, \{N'_b\}$.

From the reasons described above, we expect that a larger N and a change in J does not produce the fractal behavior. First of all, for the fractal structure the scattering data needs to have exponentially small segments. The smallness of the segments is bounded by the maximum of $\{N_a\}$, $\{N'_b\}$. Increasing N provides only linearly small segments, which does not help giving a fractal structure. Increasing J just lowers the maximum of $\{N_a\}$, $\{N'_b\}$ and thus reduces the fractalness. The complexity of the J-partitions of N is not related to the fractal nature.⁷ This is the reason why the scattering data is not fractal.

4 Conclusion and discussions

In this paper, following the observation of the erratic nature of the decay amplitudes of highly excited strings [10, 12], we have proposed a way to define the scattering data of quantum scattering amplitudes in open bosonic string theory, and have looked for any fractal structure in the scattering data of the scattering of a tachyon and a highly excited

⁷Note that the exponential growth of the number of states in string excitations is not related to the small segments in the scattering data. In some other setup of the amplitudes, this exponential growth might produce some chaotic behavior, though it does not in our case.

string (HES). Our search has gone up to the HES excitation level N = 27 with various manners of forming the HES states. The scattering data of the tachyon-HES amplitudes is summarized in figure 4, figure 5 and figure 6. Within our search, we could not identify any fractal structure in the scattering data. Since the fractal structure in the scattering data is one of the established diagnoses for pinning down the existence of classical transient chaos, assuming that the diagnosis can be extended to quantum cases with the largest pole extraction as we have used, we have come to the observation that the string scattering is not chaotic.

Nevertheless, it is too early to admit that string scattering has no chaos. Our HES states are made by following the construction given in [10], while generic HES can have more degrees of freedom. For example, the photons which are introduced to create the HES have shared the identical momentum/polarization in our HES, and they could be generalized. In fact, as shown in [16], the imaging of the HES by the decay amplitude of the HES to 2 tachyons, with the same definition of the HES states, results in just a set of slits which are aligned on a line in the target space. Although the classical scattering by the four-hill potential in section 2 shows chaos because the particle is scattered many times by the potential, such multiple scattering would not happen if the hills were aligned on a line. The imaging of the HES decay amplitude implies that it is difficult for any tachyon probe to be scattered many times by the HES. The HES decay amplitudes should have more complicated, namely, higher dimensional structures to have chaos. The multiple scattering is the essence of the transient chaos, thus the imaging results of the HES in [16] suggests that more general HES states are needed to produce any transient chaos. In other words, if the HES is the one formed by more variety of strings, the HES can be complicated enough to produce the chaos. This also translates to the consideration of 5-point or 6-point amplitudes.

One of the other possibilities to generate chaos is the modification of the definition of the scattering data. Since our definition of the scattering data extracts just an aspect of the quantum amplitudes (although we believe that it is a natural definition), there could be more sophisticated definition of the scattering data which may manifest possible transient chaos. For example, we have ignored the impact parameter b in our definition because usually the quantum scatterings are defined by plane waves. However, if one considers wave packets rather than the plane waves, the amplitudes would contain more information about the locality of the HES structure.

If we regard the multiple scattering in classical transient chaos as multiple scattering in string theory, it could mean that we need to visit higher loop amplitudes. The scattering amplitudes which we have studied in this paper is the tree level scattering, which is of order of the string coupling constant. However, the particle scattering by a fixed potential is a non-perturbative process in the sense that the scattering potential can be decomposed into its radial modes. Therefore, naively speaking, for a possible transient chaos, higher loop amplitudes would be necessary. As a first guess, we can use the tree level scattering data given in figure 4, figure 5 and figure 6 to produce the multiple scattering. For example, we can use the function $\theta'(\theta)$ and apply this map many times, as $\theta'(\theta'(\theta)), \cdots$. This is an analogy of the popular Baker's map which produces the chaos. Unfortunately, since the slope of the scattering data in the left panels of figure 4 and figure 5 and in figure 6 is identical to 1, this map does not work to magnify a part of the scattering data (which is necessary for any chaotic map). Therefore, at this stage, our naive multiple application of the scattering data map does not seem to produce the chaos.⁸

To explicitly formulate the correspondence principle between a black hole and highly excited strings, we need to pin down the place where the chaos shows up in string perturbation theory. One may need some statistical approach. Once the transient chaos is spotted, one may proceed to derive the Lyapunov exponent to be compared with the surface gravity of the black holes.⁹ The quest for the formulation of the correspondence principle continues, and we hope that our present work serves as a step toward the formulation of it.

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A Explicit formulas of HES-tachyon to HES-tachyon amplitude

We start with a general formula for the bosonic open string tree-level amplitude, and pick out poles corresponding to HES states as was done in [12]. We use the same strategy to compute the four-point amplitude of the scattering of the HES-tachyon to HES-tachyon, to obtain the scattering data $\theta'(\theta)$.

A.1 Channels

The general formula for the tree-level amplitude involving any number of tachyons and photons is given by

$$\mathcal{A} = \frac{1}{\text{vol.}} \int \mathrm{d}w_i \, \mathrm{d}z_a \prod_{i < j} |w_{ij}|^{p_i \cdot p_j} \prod_{a < b} |z_{ab}|^{p_a \cdot p_b} \prod_{i,a} |w_i - z_a|^{p_i \cdot p_a}$$
$$\times \exp\left[\sum_{a \neq b} \frac{\lambda_a \cdot \lambda_b}{2z_{ab}^2} - \sum_{i,a} \frac{p_i \cdot \lambda_a}{w_i - z_a}\right]\Big|_{\mathcal{O}(\lambda_a)}, \tag{A.1}$$

where $w_{ij} = w_i - w_j$, $z_{ab} = z_a - z_b$. Here the indices *i* run over the tachyons, and the indices *a* run over the photons. The photon polarizations are denoted by λ_a .

⁸The slope of some parts of the scattering data with $\varphi' = \pi/4$ exceeds 1, and the measure analysis is necessary to figure out whether the map can generate chaos or not.

 $^{^{9}}$ Recent result [15] relates the HES decay amplitudes and the Wigner-Dyson statistical spectrum which is typical for quantum chaos. Any possible relation to the fractal feature would be of importance.

We focus on the case $q \propto q'$ but applied to general integer J.¹⁰ Using the assumption $q \propto q'$, the amplitude reduces to

$$\mathcal{A} = \frac{1}{\text{vol.}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \prod_{i=1,2,2',1'} dw_i \prod_{i < j} |w_{ij}|^{p_i \cdot p_j}$$
$$\times \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \prod_{a=1}^{J} dz_a \prod_{a,i} |z_a - w_i|^{-\alpha_i} \sum_i \frac{-p_i \cdot \lambda}{w_i - z_a}$$
$$\times \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \prod_{b=1}^{J} dz'_b \prod_{b,j} |z'_b - w_j|^{-\beta_j} \sum_j \frac{-p_j \cdot \lambda'}{w_j - z'_b}$$
(A.2)

where we defined

$$\alpha_i = -(-N_a q) \cdot p_i, \quad \beta_j = -(-N'_b q') \cdot p_j. \tag{A.3}$$

The integral over w_i can be divided into six parts as in the case of the Veneziano amplitude,

$$\mathcal{A} = (\mathcal{A}_{st} + \mathcal{A}_{tu} + \mathcal{A}_{us}) + (\mathcal{A}_{ts} + \mathcal{A}_{ut} + \mathcal{A}_{su}), \qquad (A.4)$$

where

.

,

$$\mathcal{A}_{st} = \mathcal{A}|_{w_1' = -\infty, w_2 = 0, w_1 = w, w_2' = 1}$$

= $\int_0^1 \mathrm{d}w \ w^{p_1 \cdot p_2} (1 - w)^{p_1 \cdot p_2'} \prod_{a=1}^J Z_a^{212'}(\alpha, p, \lambda; w) \prod_{b=1}^J Z_b^{212'}(\beta, p, \lambda'; w)$ (A.5)

$$\mathcal{A}_{tu} = \mathcal{A}|_{w_2 = -\infty, w'_2 = 0, w_1 = w, w'_1 = 1} = \mathcal{A}_{st}|_{2 \to 2', 2' \to 1'},$$
(A.6)

$$\mathcal{A}_{us} = \mathcal{A}|_{w_2' = -\infty, w_1' = 0, w_1 = w, w_2 = 1} = \mathcal{A}_{st}|_{2 \to 1', 2' \to 2},$$
(A.7)

$$\mathcal{A}_{ts} = \mathcal{A}_{st}|_{2\leftrightarrow 2'}, \qquad (A.8)$$

$$\mathcal{A}_{ut} = \mathcal{A}_{tu}|_{2'\leftrightarrow 1'},\tag{A.9}$$

$$\mathcal{A}_{su} = \mathcal{A}_{us}|_{1'\leftrightarrow 2}.\tag{A.10}$$

Here we have defined the photon integral

$$Z_{a}^{ijk}(\alpha, p, \lambda; w) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \mathrm{d}z_{a} |z_{a}|^{-\alpha_{i}} |z_{a} - w|^{-\alpha_{j}} |z_{a} - 1|^{-\alpha_{k}} \left(\frac{-p_{i} \cdot \lambda}{-z_{a}} + \frac{-p_{j} \cdot \lambda}{w - z_{a}} + \frac{-p_{k} \cdot \lambda}{1 - z_{a}}\right)$$
(A.11)

A.2 Photon integral

To proceed, we define following integrals and evaluate them.

¹⁰See also [19] for a recent study on computation of the amplitudes.

$$\begin{array}{l}
\begin{array}{c}
\begin{array}{c}
1' & 2' \\
a & \sqrt{\infty 1} \\
0 & w \\
2 & 1
\end{array} = \int_{-\infty}^{0} \mathrm{d}z_{a} \, |z_{a}|^{-\alpha_{2}} |z_{a} - w|^{-\alpha_{1}} |z_{a} - 1|^{-\alpha_{2}'} \\
& = \int_{0}^{1} \mathrm{d}x \, \frac{x^{-2+\alpha_{2}+\alpha_{1}+\alpha_{2}'}(1-x)^{-\alpha_{2}}}{(1-(1-w)x)^{\alpha_{1}}} \quad (1-z=1/x) \\
& = \Gamma(\alpha_{2}+\alpha_{1}+\alpha_{2}'-1)\Gamma(-\alpha_{2}+1) \, \mathbf{F} \begin{pmatrix} \alpha_{1}, \, \alpha_{2}+\alpha_{1}+\alpha_{2}'-1 \\ \alpha_{1}+\alpha_{2}' & ; 1-w \end{pmatrix}, \quad (A.13)
\end{array}$$

Then the photon integrals are evaluated as follows.

$$= -(-p_{2} \cdot \lambda) \begin{vmatrix} 1' & 2' \\ 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \\ 2 & a \\ a & 1 \end{vmatrix}_{\alpha_{2} \to \alpha_{2} + 1},$$
(A.16)

$$\begin{array}{c}
\overset{(a)}{\longrightarrow} & \overset{(a)}{\longrightarrow} \\
\overset{(a)}{\longrightarrow} & \overset{(a)}{\longrightarrow} \\
\overset{(a)}{\longrightarrow} & \overset{(a)}{\longrightarrow} \\
\overset{(a)}{\longrightarrow} & \overset{(a)}{\longrightarrow} \\
& = +(-p_{1} \cdot \lambda) \begin{array}{c} \overset{(a)}{\longrightarrow} & \overset{(a)}{\longrightarrow} \\
& & 2 & \overset{(a)}{\longrightarrow} \\
& & 2 & \overset{(a)}{\longrightarrow} \\
& & 1 \\
& & 2 & \overset{(a)}{\longrightarrow} \\
& & 1 \\
& & \alpha_{1} \to \alpha_{1} + 1 \end{array} ,$$
(A.17)

Other integrals over the intervals $(-\infty, 0), (w, 1), (1, \infty)$ are evaluated in a similar manner.

We are interested in the HES-tachyon to HES-tachyon scattering. Picking out the HES-pole:

$$v, v' \sim 2(N-1),$$
 i.e. $\alpha_2 \sim N_a, \beta'_2 \sim N'_b,$ (A.19)

the photon integral reduces to

1'

2

$$Z_{a}^{212'}(\alpha, p, \lambda; w) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dz_{a} |z_{a}|^{-\alpha_{2}} |z_{a} - w|^{-\alpha_{1}} |z_{a} - 1|^{-\alpha'_{2}} \left(\frac{-p_{2} \cdot \lambda}{-z_{a}} + \frac{-p_{1} \cdot \lambda}{w - z_{a}} + \frac{-p'_{2} \cdot \lambda}{1 - z_{a}}\right)$$

$$\sim \left(\begin{array}{cccc} 1' & 2' & 1' & 2' \\ & 0 & w \\ 2 & z & 1 \end{array} \right)$$

$$+ \left(\begin{array}{cccc} 1' & 2' & 1' & 2' \\ & 0 & w \\ 2 & z & 1 \end{array} \right)$$

$$+ \left(\begin{array}{cccc} 1' & 2' & 1' & 2' \\ & 0 & w \\ 2 & z & 1 \end{array} \right)$$

$$+ \left(\begin{array}{c} 1' & 2' & 1' & 2' \\ \ddots & \ddots & 1 \\ 2 & a & 1 \end{array} \right)^{l} + \left[\begin{array}{c} a & \sqrt{2} & 1 \\ 2 & \sqrt{2} & 1 \\ 2 & 1 \end{array} \right)^{l} \\ = +(-p_{2} \cdot \lambda) \left(- \begin{array}{c} 1' & 2' & 1' & 2' \\ 2 & \alpha & 1 & 2 & 1 \end{array} \right)^{l} \\ + \left(-p_{1} \cdot \lambda \right) \left(+ \begin{array}{c} 1' & 2' & 1' & 2' \\ + & \sqrt{2} & \alpha & 1 & 2 & 1 \end{array} \right)^{l} \\ 2 & a & 1 & 2 & 1 \end{array} \right)^{l} \\ + \left(-p'_{2} \cdot \lambda \right) \left(+ \begin{array}{c} 1' & 2' & 1' & 2' \\ 2 & \alpha & 1 & 2 & 1 \end{array} \right)^{l} \\ + \left(-p'_{2} \cdot \lambda \right) \left(+ \begin{array}{c} 1' & 2' & 1' & 2' \\ 2 & \alpha & 1 & 2 & 1 \end{array} \right)^{l} \\ + \left(-p'_{2} \cdot \lambda \right) \left(+ \begin{array}{c} 1' & 2' & 1' & 2' \\ 2 & \alpha & 1 & 2 & 1 \end{array} \right)^{l} \\ + \left(-p'_{2} \cdot \lambda \right) \left(+ \begin{array}{c} 1' & 2' & 1' & 2' \\ 2 & \alpha & 1 & 2 & 1 \end{array} \right)^{l} \\ + \left(-p'_{2} \cdot \lambda \right) \left(+ \begin{array}{c} 1' & 2' & 1' & 2' \\ 2 & \alpha & 1 & 2 & 1 \end{array} \right)^{l} \\ + \left(-p'_{2} \cdot \lambda \right) \left(+ \begin{array}{c} 1' & 2' & 1' & 2' \\ 2 & \alpha & 1 & 2 & 1 \end{array} \right)^{l} \\ + \left(-p'_{2} \cdot \lambda \right) \left(+ \begin{array}{c} 1' & 2' & 1' & 2' \\ 2 & \alpha & 1 & 2 & 1 \end{array} \right)^{l} \\ + \left(-p'_{2} \cdot \lambda \right) \left(+ \begin{array}{c} 1' & 2' & 1' & 2' \\ 2 & \alpha & 1 & 2 & 1 \end{array} \right)^{l} \\ + \left(-p'_{2} \cdot \lambda \right) \left(+ \begin{array}{c} 1' & 2' & 1' & 2' \\ 2 & \alpha & 1 & 2 & 1 \end{array} \right)^{l} \\ + \left(-p'_{2} \cdot \lambda \right) \left(+ \begin{array}{c} 1' & 2' & 1' & 2' \\ 2 & \alpha & 1 & 2 & 1 \end{array} \right)^{l} \\ + \left(-p'_{2} \cdot \lambda \right) \left(+ \begin{array}{c} 1' & 2' & 1' & 2' \\ 2 & \alpha & 1 & 2 & 1 \end{array} \right)^{l} \\ + \left(-p'_{2} \cdot \lambda \right) \left(+ \begin{array}{c} 1' & 2' & 1' & 2' \\ 2 & \alpha & 1 & 2 & 1 \end{array} \right)^{l} \\ + \left(-p'_{2} \cdot \lambda \right) \left(+ \begin{array}{c} 1' & 2' & 1' & 2' \\ 2 & \alpha & 1 & 2 & 1 \end{array} \right)^{l} \\ + \left(-p'_{2} \cdot \lambda \right) \left(+ \begin{array}{c} 1' & 2 & 1' \\ 2 & 0 & 0 \end{array} \right)^{l} \\ + \left(-p'_{2} \cdot \lambda \right) \left(+ \begin{array}{c} 1' & 2 & 1' \\ 2 & 0 & 0 \end{array} \right)^{l} \\ + \left(-p'_{2} \cdot \lambda \right) \left(+ \begin{array}{c} 1' & 2 & 1' \\ 2 & 0 & 0 \end{array} \right)^{l} \\ + \left(-p'_{2} \cdot \lambda \right) \left(+ \begin{array}{c} 1' & 2 & 1' \\ 2 & 0 & 0 \end{array} \right)^{l} \\ + \left(-p'_{2} \cdot \lambda \right)^{l} \\ + \left(-p'_{2} \cdot \lambda \right) \left(+ \begin{array}{c} 1' & 2 & 1' \\ 2 & 0 & 0 \end{array} \right)^{l} \\ + \left(-p'_{2} \cdot \lambda \right)^$$

Using a formula for the hypergeometric function (see e.g. eq. 15.8.4 in [24]),

$$\begin{split} & \pm \bigvee_{2}^{1'} \bigvee_{\alpha=1}^{2'} \bigvee_{1}^{1'} \bigvee_{2}^{2'} \\ & \pm \bigvee_{2}^{1'} \bigoplus_{\alpha=1}^{1'} \bigvee_{1}^{1'} \bigvee_{2}^{2'} \\ & = \pm w^{1-\alpha_{2}-\alpha_{1}} \Gamma(-\alpha_{2}+1) \Gamma(-\alpha_{1}+1) \mathbf{F} \begin{pmatrix} \alpha_{2}', -\alpha_{2}+1 \\ -\alpha_{2}-\alpha_{1}+2 \end{pmatrix}; w \end{pmatrix} \\ & + \Gamma(\alpha_{2}+\alpha_{1}+\alpha_{2}'-1) \Gamma(-\alpha_{2}+1) \mathbf{F} \begin{pmatrix} \alpha_{1}, \alpha_{2}+\alpha_{1}+\alpha_{2}'-1 \\ \alpha_{1}+\alpha_{2}' \end{pmatrix}; 1-w \end{pmatrix} \\ & = \pm w^{1-\alpha_{2}-\alpha_{1}} \Gamma(-\alpha_{2}+1) \Gamma(-\alpha_{1}+1) \mathbf{F} \begin{pmatrix} \alpha_{2}', -\alpha_{2}+1 \\ -\alpha_{2}-\alpha_{1}+2 \end{pmatrix}; w \end{pmatrix} \\ & + \Gamma(\alpha_{2}+\alpha_{1}+\alpha_{2}'-1) \Gamma(-\alpha_{2}+1) \frac{\pi}{\sin \pi(-\alpha_{2}-\alpha_{1}+1)} \\ & \times \left[\frac{1}{\Gamma(\alpha_{2}')\Gamma(-\alpha_{2}+1)} \mathbf{F} \begin{pmatrix} \alpha_{1}, \alpha_{2}+\alpha_{1}+\alpha_{2}'-1 \\ \alpha_{2}+\alpha_{1} \end{pmatrix}; w \right) \\ & - \frac{w^{-\alpha_{2}-\alpha_{1}+1}}{\Gamma(\alpha_{1})\Gamma(\alpha_{2}+\alpha_{1}+\alpha_{2}'-1)} \mathbf{F} \begin{pmatrix} \alpha_{2}', -\alpha_{2}+1 \\ -\alpha_{2}-\alpha_{1}+2 \end{pmatrix}; w \end{pmatrix} \Big] \end{split}$$

$$\sim \pm w^{1-\alpha_{2}-\alpha_{1}}\Gamma(-\alpha_{2}+1)\Gamma(-\alpha_{1}+1) \mathbf{F} \begin{pmatrix} \alpha_{2}', -\alpha_{2}+1\\ -\alpha_{2}-\alpha_{1}+2 ; w \end{pmatrix} - \Gamma(\alpha_{2}+\alpha_{1}+\alpha_{2}'-1)\Gamma(-\alpha_{2}+1) \frac{\pi}{\sin \pi(-\alpha_{2}-\alpha_{1}+1)} \\ \times \frac{w^{-\alpha_{2}-\alpha_{1}+1}}{\Gamma(\alpha_{1})\Gamma(\alpha_{2}+\alpha_{1}+\alpha_{2}'-1)} \mathbf{F} \begin{pmatrix} \alpha_{2}', -\alpha_{2}+1\\ -\alpha_{2}-\alpha_{1}+2 ; w \end{pmatrix} \\ = \left(\pm 1 - \frac{\sin \pi \alpha_{1}}{\sin \pi(-\alpha_{2}-\alpha_{1}+1)}\right) \Gamma(-\alpha_{2}+1)\Gamma(-\alpha_{1}+1) w^{-\alpha_{2}-\alpha_{1}+1} \mathbf{F} \begin{pmatrix} \alpha_{2}', -\alpha_{2}+1\\ -\alpha_{2}-\alpha_{1}+2 ; w \end{pmatrix} \\ \sim \left(\pm 1 + (-1)^{-\alpha_{2}+1}\right) \underbrace{1' \underbrace{\infty}_{a}}_{2} \underbrace{1' \underbrace{\alpha_{2}'}_{a}}_{1}$$
 (A.21)

When N_a is even, the integral $Z_a^{212'}(\alpha, p, \lambda; w)$ trivially vanishes. Thus in the following computations, we assume that N_a is odd for any $a = 1, \ldots, J$. Then

$$Z_{a}^{212'}(\alpha, p, \lambda; w) \sim +(p_{2} \cdot \lambda)(+2) \left. \begin{array}{c} 1' & 2' \\ 0 & w \\ 2 & a \\ \end{array} \right|_{\alpha_{2} \to \alpha_{2}+1} +(p_{1} \cdot \lambda)(-2) \left. \begin{array}{c} 1' & 2' \\ 0 & w \\ 2 & a \\ \end{array} \right|_{\alpha_{1} \to \alpha_{1}+1} +(p'_{2} \cdot \lambda)(-2) \left. \begin{array}{c} 1' & 2' \\ 0 & w \\ a \\ \end{array} \right|_{\alpha_{1} \to \alpha_{1}+1} +(p'_{2} \cdot \lambda)(-2) \left. \begin{array}{c} 1' & 0 \\ 0 & w \\ 2 & a \\ \end{array} \right|_{\alpha_{2} \to \alpha_{2}+1} +(p'_{2} \cdot \lambda)(-2) \left. \begin{array}{c} 1' & 0 \\ 0 & w \\ 0 & w \\ \end{array} \right|_{\alpha_{2} \to \alpha_{2}+1} +(p'_{2} \cdot \lambda)(-2) \left. \begin{array}{c} 1' & 0 \\ 0 & w \\ 0 & w \\ 0 & w \\ \end{array} \right|_{\alpha_{2} \to \alpha_{2}+1} +(p'_{2} \cdot \lambda)(-2) \left. \begin{array}{c} 1' & 0 \\ 0 & w \\ 0 & w \\ 0 & w \\ 0 & w \\ \end{array} \right|_{\alpha_{2} \to \alpha_{2}+1} +(p'_{2} \cdot \lambda)(-2) \left. \begin{array}{c} 1' & 0 \\ 0 & w \\ 0 &$$

A.3 Tachyon integral

To proceed, let us expand the hypergeometric function as

Here we have defined

$$c_{k}(\alpha_{2},\alpha_{1},\alpha_{2}') = \frac{\Gamma(-\alpha_{2}+1)\Gamma(-\alpha_{1}+1)}{\Gamma(-\alpha_{2}-\alpha_{1}+2)} \frac{\Gamma(\alpha_{2}'+k)}{\Gamma(\alpha_{2}')} \frac{\Gamma(-\alpha_{2}+1+k)}{\Gamma(-\alpha_{2}+1)} \frac{\Gamma(-\alpha_{2}-\alpha_{1}+2)}{\Gamma(-\alpha_{2}-\alpha_{1}+2+k)} \frac{1}{\Gamma(k+1)} \\ \sim \frac{\pi}{\sin\pi\alpha_{2}} \frac{1}{\Gamma(k+1)\Gamma(\alpha_{2}-k)} \frac{\Gamma(\alpha_{2}-k+\alpha_{1}-1)}{\Gamma(\alpha_{1})} \frac{\Gamma(\alpha_{2}'+k)}{\Gamma(\alpha_{2}')}.$$
(A.24)

Then

$$Z_{a}^{212'}(\alpha, p, \lambda; w) \sim (p_{2} \cdot \lambda)(+2) w^{-\alpha_{2}-\alpha_{1}} c_{k}(\alpha_{2}+1, \alpha_{1}, \alpha_{2}') w^{k} + (p_{1} \cdot \lambda)(-2) w^{-\alpha_{2}-\alpha_{1}} c_{k}(\alpha_{2}, \alpha_{1}+1, \alpha_{2}') w^{k} + (p_{2}' \cdot \lambda)(-2) w^{-\alpha_{2}-\alpha_{1}} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} c_{k}(\alpha_{2}, \alpha_{1}, \alpha_{2}'+1) w^{k+1}.$$
(A.25)

Now let us assume that

$$(p_1 + p_2) \cdot \lambda = (p'_2 + p'_1) \cdot \lambda' = 0$$
 (A.26)

for simplicity. These conditions are satisfied, for example, in the center-of-mass frame. The first two terms in (A.25) are rearranged as

$$Z_{a}^{212'}(\alpha, p, \lambda; w) \sim (p_{2} \cdot \lambda)(+2) w^{-\alpha_{2}-\alpha_{1}} \sum_{k=0}^{\alpha_{2}\sim N_{a}} c_{k}(\alpha_{2}+1, \alpha_{1}+1, \alpha_{2}') w^{k} + (p_{2}' \cdot \lambda)(-2) w^{-\alpha_{2}-\alpha_{1}} \sum_{k=0}^{\alpha_{2}\sim N_{a}} c_{k-1}(\alpha_{2}, \alpha_{1}, \alpha_{2}'+1) w^{k}.$$
(A.27)

Similarly, by replacements $2 \leftrightarrow 2', w \to 1 - w, \alpha \to \beta, \lambda \to \lambda'$, we obtain

$$Z_{b}^{212'}(\beta, p, \lambda'; w) \sim (p_{2}' \cdot \lambda')(+2) (1-w)^{-\beta_{2}'-\beta_{1}} \sum_{l=0}^{\beta_{2}' \sim N_{b}'} c_{l}(\beta_{2}'+1, \beta_{1}+1, \beta_{2}) (1-w)^{l} + (p_{2} \cdot \lambda')(-2) (1-w)^{-\beta_{2}'-\beta_{1}} \sum_{l=0}^{\beta_{2}' \sim N_{b}'} c_{l-1}(\beta_{2}', \beta_{1}, \beta_{2}+1) (1-w)^{l}.$$
 (A.28)

Substituting these into (A.5), we can perform the integral over w. Noting that

$$p_1 \cdot p_2 - \sum_{a=1}^{J} \alpha_2 - \sum_{a=1}^{J} \alpha_1 = -2 - s/2,$$
 (A.29)

$$p_1 \cdot p'_2 - \sum_{b=1}^J \beta'_2 - \sum_{b=1}^J \beta_1 = -2 - t/2,$$
 (A.30)

the result is

$$\mathcal{A}_{st} \sim \sum_{\{i_a=2,2'\}} \sum_{\{j_b=2,2'\}} \sum_{\{k_a=0\}} \sum_{\{l_b=0\}}^{\{N_a\}} \sum_{\{l_b=0\}}^{\{N_b'\}} \left(\prod_{a=1}^J (p_{i_a} \cdot \lambda) c_{k_a}^{(i_a)}\right) \left(\prod_{b=1}^J (p_{j_b} \cdot \lambda') d_{l_b}^{(j_b)}\right) B(-\alpha(s) + k, -\alpha(t) + l)$$
(A.31)

where

$$c_k^{(2)} = c_k(\alpha_2 + 1, \alpha_1 + 1, \alpha_2'), \tag{A.32}$$

$$c_k^{(2')} = -c_{k-1}(\alpha_2, \alpha_1, \alpha'_2 + 1), \tag{A.33}$$

$$d_l^{(2)} = -c_{l-1}(\beta_2', \beta_1, \beta_2 + 1), \tag{A.34}$$

$$d_l^{(2')} = c_l(\beta_2' + 1, \beta_1 + 1, \beta_2), \tag{A.35}$$

and where

$$B(a,b) = \frac{\Gamma(a)\Gamma(b)}{\Gamma(a+b)},\qquad \qquad \alpha(x) = 1 + x/2,\qquad (A.36)$$

$$k = \sum_{a=1}^{J} k_a,$$
 $l = \sum_{b=1}^{J} l_b.$ (A.37)

Here ends the derivation of the HES-tachyon to HES-tachyon amplitude, given in (A.31).

A.4 Another expression for the amplitude

In this subsection, for a consistency check of our amplitude formula (A.31), we study another expression of the amplitude.

Similar computations show that

$$\begin{split} Z_{b}^{212'}(\beta, p, \lambda', w) \\ &\sim + (p_{2} \cdot \lambda')(+2) \begin{array}{c} 1' & \stackrel{b}{\searrow} & 2' \\ 0 & w & 1 \\ 2 & 1 \end{array} \bigg|_{\beta_{2} \to \beta_{2} + 1} + (p_{1} \cdot \lambda')(+2) \begin{array}{c} 1' & \stackrel{b}{\searrow} & 2' \\ 0 & w & 1 \\ \beta_{1} \to \beta_{1} + 1 \end{array} \\ &+ (p_{2}' \cdot \lambda')(+2) \begin{array}{c} 1' & \stackrel{b}{\searrow} & 2' \\ 0 & w & 1 \\ 2 & 1 \end{array} \bigg|_{\beta_{2}' \to \beta_{2}' + 1} \\ &\sim + (p_{2} \cdot \lambda')(+2) \left(\begin{array}{c} 1' & \stackrel{b}{\searrow} & 2' \\ 0 & w & 1 \\ 2 & 1 \end{array} \bigg|_{\beta_{2} \to \beta_{2} + 1} - \begin{array}{c} 1' & \stackrel{b}{\searrow} & 2' \\ 0 & w & 1 \\ \beta_{2} \to \beta_{2}' + 1 \end{array} \right) \\ &+ (p_{2}' \cdot \lambda')(+2) \begin{array}{c} 1' & \stackrel{b}{\searrow} & 2' \\ 0 & w & 1 \\ \beta_{2} \to \beta_{2} + 1 \end{array} \right)$$
(A.38)

Using a formula for the hypergeometric function (see e.g. eq. 15.8.1 in [24]),

$$= \Gamma(\beta_{2}' + \beta_{1} + \beta_{2})\Gamma(-\beta_{2}') \mathbf{F} \begin{pmatrix} \beta_{1}, \beta_{2}' + \beta_{1} + \beta_{2} \\ \beta_{1} + \beta_{2} \end{pmatrix}; w \end{pmatrix}$$

$$= (1 - w)^{-\beta_{2}' - \beta_{1}} \Gamma(\beta_{2}' + \beta_{1} + \beta_{2})\Gamma(-\beta_{2}') \mathbf{F} \begin{pmatrix} \beta_{2}, -\beta_{2}' \\ \beta_{1} + \beta_{2} \end{pmatrix}; w \end{pmatrix}$$

$$= (1 - w)^{-\beta_{2}' - \beta_{1}} \Gamma(-\beta_{1}')\Gamma(-\beta_{2}') \mathbf{F} \begin{pmatrix} \beta_{2}, -\beta_{2}' \\ -\beta_{2}' - \beta_{1}' \end{pmatrix}; w \end{pmatrix}$$

$$= (1 - w)^{-\beta_{2}' - \beta_{1}} \sum_{l=0}^{\beta_{2}' \sim N_{b}'} c_{l}(\beta_{2}' + 1, \beta_{1}' + 1, \beta_{2}) w^{l}.$$
(A.40)

Substituting these into (A.5), and noting that

$$p_1 \cdot p_2 - \sum_{a=1}^{J} \alpha_2 - \sum_{a=1}^{J} \alpha_1 = -2 - s/2,$$
 (A.41)

$$p_1 \cdot p'_2 - \sum_{b=1}^J \beta'_2 - \sum_{b=1}^J \beta_1 = -2 - t/2,$$
 (A.42)

we can perform the integral over w. The result is

$$\mathcal{A}_{st} \sim \sum_{\{i_a=2,2'\}} \sum_{\{j_b=2,2'\}} \sum_{\{k_a=0\}} \sum_{\{l_b=0\}}^{\{N_b^{\prime}\}} \sum_{\{l_b=0\}}^{\{N_b^{\prime}\}} \left(\prod_{a=1}^{J} (p_{i_a} \cdot \lambda) c_{k_a}^{(i_a)}\right) \left(\prod_{b=1}^{J} (p_{j_b} \cdot \lambda') d_{l_b}^{(j_b)}\right) B(-\alpha(s) + k + l, -\alpha(t))$$
(A.43)

where

$$c_k^{(2)} = c_k(\alpha_2 + 1, \alpha_1 + 1, \alpha_2'), \tag{A.44}$$

$$c_k^{(2')} = -c_{k-1}(\alpha_2, \alpha_1, \alpha_2' + 1), \tag{A.45}$$

$$d_l^{(2)} = -c_{l-1}(\beta'_2, \beta'_1, \beta_2 + 1), \tag{A.46}$$

$$d_l^{(2')} = c_l(\beta_2' + 1, \beta_1' + 1, \beta_2), \tag{A.47}$$

and where

$$k = \sum_{a=1}^{J} k_a,$$
 $l = \sum_{b=1}^{J} l_b,$ (A.48)

$$B(a,b) = \frac{\Gamma(a)\Gamma(b)}{\Gamma(a+b)}, \qquad \qquad \alpha(x) = 1 + x/2.$$
 (A.49)

In spite of the superficially different appearance of the amplitude formula (A.31) and the formula (A.43), they are equivalent. The former depends on β_1 and both of the *s*, *t*-channels are shifted, while the latter depends on β'_1 and only the *s*-channel is shifted.

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