

Local integrands for two-loop all-plus Yang-Mills amplitudes

Simon Badger, Gustav Mogull and Tiziano Peraro

*Higgs Centre for Theoretical Physics, School of Physics and Astronomy,
The University of Edinburgh, James Clerk Maxwell Building,
Peter Guthrie Tait Road, Edinburgh EH9 3FD, U.K.*

E-mail: simon.badger@ed.ac.uk, g.mogull@ed.ac.uk,
tiziano.peraro@ed.ac.uk

ABSTRACT: We express the planar five- and six-gluon two-loop Yang-Mills amplitudes with all positive helicities in compact analytic form using D -dimensional local integrands that are free of spurious singularities. The integrand is fixed from on-shell tree amplitudes in six dimensions using D -dimensional generalised unitarity cuts. The resulting expressions are shown to have manifest infrared behaviour at the integrand level. We also find simple representations of the rational terms obtained after integration in $4 - 2\epsilon$ dimensions.

KEYWORDS: Perturbative QCD, Scattering Amplitudes

ARXIV EPRINT: [1606.02244](https://arxiv.org/abs/1606.02244)

Contents

1	Introduction	1
1.1	Notation	3
2	One-loop local integrands	4
2.1	The box integral in $D = 4 - 2\epsilon$	4
2.2	One-loop all-plus amplitudes	5
3	D-dimensional unitarity at two loops	7
4	Two-loop local integrands	8
4.1	The five-gluon integrand	9
4.2	The six-gluon integrand	10
5	Infrared pole structure	12
5.1	Soft limits of two-loop integrals	13
5.2	Integrand-level infrared structure	14
6	Rational terms	15
7	Conclusions	16
A	Connection to local integrands in $\mathcal{N} = 4$	17
B	Two-loop integrals	19
B.1	Five-point integrals	19
B.2	Six-point integrals	19

1 Introduction

The continuing development of techniques for calculating scattering amplitudes is of vital importance for making precision predictions at collider experiments. The experimental data now being collected at Run II of the LHC will allow the study of many observables with percent-level uncertainties. This level of precision represents a serious challenge for current perturbative techniques where a minimum of next-to-next-to-leading order (NNLO) precision is desirable. This is particularly true for higher multiplicity final states where the current bottleneck lies in the unknown two-loop matrix elements.

Traditional Feynman diagram techniques have been sufficient for the majority of $2 \rightarrow 2$ matrix elements, yet combining both real and virtual corrections into fully differential

NNLO predictions is by no means a simple task. In the last few years considerable efforts have been made to develop infrared subtraction methods which have resulted in the majority of $2 \rightarrow 2$ processes becoming available at NNLO accuracy in QCD. We refer the reader to the recent Les Houches working group report and references therein for a review of known predictions [1].

High multiplicity predictions are still restricted to NLO accuracy where algebraic algorithms have been developed to overcome the increased complexity of the kinematic algebra. Integrand reduction [2], unitarity [3, 4] and generalised unitarity [5, 6] together with both on-shell and off-shell recursive techniques have been important steps in the construction of automated one-loop amplitude programs. These techniques have been the starting point for attempts to obtain a fully algebraic approach to two-loop amplitude computations in non-supersymmetric gauge theories [7–30].

With a considerable jump in complexity from one to two loops, combined with the difficulty of going beyond $2 \rightarrow 2$ kinematics, it is not clear whether useable expressions (as far as phase space integration is concerned) would be obtained from using these algorithms as they exist currently. Two main issues can be identified: there are a larger number of master integrals in comparison to those defined by integration-by-parts reduction and there are a large number of coefficients containing unphysical singularities. These issues can result in extremely large analytic expressions and slow numerical evaluation.

Expressing amplitudes in a form manifestly free of these spurious singularities can lead to remarkably efficient evaluations. This is both because numerical stability is improved but also because analytic formulae are highly constrained and compact representations can be obtained. The form of the one-loop five-gluon amplitude obtained by Bern, Dixon and Kosower is an excellent example of what can be achieved when physical properties and symmetries are manifest [31]. The basis of integral functions obtained through the multi-loop integrand reduction procedure are not unique and often hide the properties of locality and universal infrared behaviour. If one could select a basis of master integrals with these properties manifest then the reward could be considerably more compact amplitude expressions.

Progress in calculating amplitudes for supersymmetric Yang-Mills (SYM) theories, most notably maximally supersymmetric $\mathcal{N} = 4$, has gone in a different direction. Inspired by Witten’s twistor-string theory [32], more exotic techniques have been developed that go beyond conventional unitarity-based approaches. An especially exciting development has been the all-loop integrand for scattering amplitudes in the planar sector of $\mathcal{N} = 4$ [33, 34]. This generalises the BCFW recursion relations for tree amplitudes [35, 36] to loop level, building amplitudes out of chiral integrals with unit leading singularities. Amongst many other important properties, the presentation is local and makes use of infrared (IR) finite integrals. This technique has been applied to a variety of explicit cases, most recently to all multiplicity two-loop amplitudes in planar $\mathcal{N} = 4$ [37]. One naturally questions whether such an approach could be applied in pure Yang-Mills theory where it is conventional to work in $D \neq 4$.

In this article we investigate the possibility of obtaining compact two-loop QCD amplitudes free of spurious singularities using integrand reduction and generalised unitarity cuts in D -dimensions. Rather than constructing D -dimensional local integrands from first prin-

ciples, we focus on their uses in the all-plus sector of Yang-Mills theory. Since the all-plus Yang-Mills amplitudes are closely related to those in $\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM, it is a useful starting point that will allow us to directly recycle the supersymmetric expressions. The result will be a partially-determined basis of master integrals onto which we can fit cut solutions. Specifically, we will consider the planar five- and six-gluon all-plus amplitudes at two loops, integrated expressions for which have now been written down by Gehrmann, Henn and Lo Presti [38] and Dunbar and Perkins [39–41]. The resulting amplitude expressions are free of unphysical poles before integration and have a remarkably simple infrared structure.

The rest of our paper is organised as follows. In section 2 we introduce D -dimensional local integrands by considering a box integral, then use the structure to rewrite the planar five- and six-point one-loop all-plus amplitudes. In section 3 we develop the D -dimensional unitarity techniques that we will use to fit cut solutions. section 4 contains our main results: the planar five- and six-point two-loop all-plus amplitudes in local-integrand form. We study the infrared divergences of these in section 5 and then present the integrated six-point rational terms in section 6. Finally, in section 7 we draw our conclusions and discuss future directions.

1.1 Notation

Throughout this paper we will work in dimensional regularisation with different dimensions in play simultaneously:

D The number of dimensions in dimensional regularisation, $D = 4 - 2\epsilon$.

D_s The spin dimension of internal gluons.

\mathcal{D} The number of dimensions in which we embed D -dimensional momenta, $\mathcal{D} = 6$.

One can obtain results in the 't Hooft Veltman (tHV) scheme by setting $D_s = 4 - 2\epsilon$ and the the four dimensional helicity scheme by setting $D_s = 4$ [42].

We will adopt conventional notation for spinor and Lorentz products. Four-dimensional external momenta will be denoted p_i and we will use the usual shorthands

$$p_{ij\dots k} = p_i + p_j + \dots + p_k, \quad s_{ij\dots k} = p_{ij\dots k}^2. \tag{1.1}$$

Spinor products will be constructed from holomorphic (λ_a) and anti-holomorphic ($\tilde{\lambda}_{\dot{a}}$) two-component Weyl spinors, such that $\langle ij \rangle = \lambda_{i,a} \lambda_j^a$ and $[ij] = \tilde{\lambda}_i^{\dot{a}} \tilde{\lambda}_{j,\dot{a}}$. We will also find it convenient to write local integrands in terms of traces over γ -matrices,

$$\text{tr}_{\pm}(ij \dots k) = \frac{1}{2} \text{tr}((1 \pm \gamma_5) \not{p}_i \not{p}_j \dots \not{p}_k), \quad \text{tr}_5(ij \dots k) = \text{tr}(\gamma_5 \not{p}_i \not{p}_j \dots \not{p}_k), \tag{1.2}$$

where $\text{tr}_5(ijkl) = 4i\epsilon_{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} p_i^\mu p_j^\nu p_k^\rho p_l^\sigma$ and, for instance, $\text{tr}_+(ijkl) = [ij]\langle jk \rangle [kl]\langle li \rangle$.

D -dimensional loop momenta ℓ_i will sometimes be separated into their four-dimensional and (-2ϵ) -dimensional parts $\ell_i = \bar{\ell}_i + \ell_i^{[-2\epsilon]}$. Rotational invariance in the extra dimensions forces $\ell_i^{[-2\epsilon]}$ to appear in the combinations $\mu_{ij} = -\ell_i^{[-2\epsilon]} \cdot \ell_j^{[-2\epsilon]}$. For one-loop integrals we will write $\mu^2 = -(\ell^{[-2\epsilon]})^2$. These loop momenta will often be included in

Dirac traces, necessitating the use of a D -dimensional Clifford algebra. Formally our approach will follow that used by 't Hooft and Veltman [43, 44] and elaborated in in ref. [45] but in practice we will overcome such ambiguities by decomposing into four-dimensional traces

$$\mathrm{tr}_{\pm}(i_1 \cdots i_k \ell_x \ell_y i_{k+1} \cdots i_n) = \mathrm{tr}_{\pm}(i_1 \cdots i_k \bar{\ell}_x \bar{\ell}_y i_{k+1} \cdots i_n) - \mu_{xy} \mathrm{tr}_{\pm}(i_1 \cdots i_n). \quad (1.3)$$

This decomposition will allow us to evaluate the D -dimensional traces using

$$\mathrm{tr}_{\pm}(i_1 \cdots i_k \ell_x \ell_y i_{k+1} \cdots i_n) = \frac{\mathrm{tr}_{\pm}(i_1 \cdots i_n)}{s_{i_k, i_{k+1}}} \mathrm{tr}_{\pm}(i_k \ell_x \ell_y i_{k+1}), \quad (1.4)$$

where k should in this case be odd.

Finally, our integral conventions will be as follows. For a given diagram topology T defined by a set of m massless propagators $\{\mathcal{Q}_{\alpha}\}$ the one-loop integration operator will be

$$I_T^D [\mathcal{P}(p_i, \ell, \mu^2)] \equiv i(-1)^{m+1} (4\pi)^{D/2} \mu_R^{4-D} \int \frac{d^D \ell}{(2\pi)^D} \frac{\mathcal{P}(p_i, \ell, \mu^2)}{\prod_{\alpha} \mathcal{Q}_{\alpha}(p_i, \ell)}, \quad (1.5a)$$

and the two-loop integration operator will be

$$I_T^D [\mathcal{P}(p_i, \ell_i, \mu_{ij})] \equiv -(4\pi)^D \mu_R^{2(4-D)} \int \frac{d^D \ell_1 d^D \ell_2}{(2\pi)^{2D}} \frac{\mathcal{P}(p_i, \ell_i, \mu_{ij})}{\prod_{\alpha} \mathcal{Q}_{\alpha}(p_i, \ell_1, \ell_2)}, \quad (1.5b)$$

where μ_R^2 is the regularisation scale and throughout the rest of the article we will set $\mu_R^2 = 1$. In general we will identify topologies T by explicitly drawing them.¹

2 One-loop local integrands

2.1 The box integral in $D = 4 - 2\epsilon$

To motivate our discussion of local integrands we begin by considering the scalar box integral

$$I^D \left(\begin{array}{c} \ell \\ \begin{array}{cc} \text{---} & \text{---} \\ \diagup & \diagdown \\ \text{---} & \text{---} \\ \diagdown & \diagup \\ \text{---} & \text{---} \end{array} \\ \begin{array}{c} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{array} \end{array} \right) = \frac{r_{\Gamma}}{st} \left(\frac{2}{\epsilon^2} ((-s)^{-\epsilon} + (-t)^{-\epsilon}) - \ln^2 \left(\frac{s}{t} \right) - \pi^2 \right) + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon), \quad (2.1)$$

where $s = s_{12}$ and $t = s_{23}$ are Mandelstam invariants and we have introduced the standard loop prefactor $r_{\Gamma} = \Gamma(1 + \epsilon) \Gamma^2(1 - \epsilon) / \Gamma(1 - 2\epsilon)$. The ϵ pole structure is entirely due to IR divergences from soft regions, such as when $\ell \rightarrow 0$ or $\ell - p_1 \rightarrow 0$, and collinear regions, such as when ℓ approaches collinearity with p_1 . The possibility of simultaneous soft and collinear divergences gives leading poles at $\mathcal{O}(\epsilon^{-2})$.

The box integral can be rendered finite by introducing a local numerator²

$$I^D \left(\begin{array}{c} \ell \\ \begin{array}{c} \text{---} \\ \text{---} \\ \text{---} \\ \text{---} \\ \text{---} \end{array} \\ \begin{array}{c} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{array} \end{array} \right) \equiv I^D \left(\begin{array}{c} \ell \\ \begin{array}{cc} \text{---} & \text{---} \\ \diagup & \diagdown \\ \text{---} & \text{---} \\ \diagdown & \diagup \\ \text{---} & \text{---} \end{array} \\ \begin{array}{c} 1 \\ 2 \\ 3 \end{array} \end{array} \right) [\mathrm{tr}_{+}(1(\ell - p_1)(\ell - p_{12})3)]. \quad (2.2)$$

¹Notice that the conventions differ between one- and two-loop integrals.

²The ‘‘wavy line’’ notation was first introduced by Arkani-Hamed et al. to denote local integrands in maximally supersymmetric $\mathcal{N} = 4$ [33, 34]. This connection will be explored in the next section.

This numerator vanishes in all of the soft and collinear regions. To see explicitly that the new integral is finite we evaluate the Dirac trace

$$\begin{aligned} \text{tr}_+(1(\ell - p_1)(\ell - p_{12})3) &= \frac{1}{2} \text{tr}(1(\ell - p_1)(\ell - p_{12})3) + \frac{1}{2} \text{tr}_5(1(\ell - p_1)(\ell - p_{12})3) \\ &= \frac{st}{2} - \frac{t}{2} \ell^2 - \frac{s}{2} (\ell - p_1)^2 - \frac{t}{2} (\ell - p_{12})^2 - \frac{s}{2} (\ell + p_4)^2 - \frac{1}{2} \text{tr}_5(123\ell). \end{aligned} \quad (2.3)$$

The spurious tr_5 term integrates to zero. When the propagators are cancelled against their counterparts in the denominator the new box integral becomes a linear combination of scalar box and triangle integrals³

$$\begin{aligned} I^D \left(\text{Box}_{3,2}^{\ell,1} \right) &= \frac{st}{2} I^D \left(\text{Box}_{3,2}^{\ell,1} \right) + \frac{s}{2} I^D \left(\triangle_{2,1}^1 \right) + \frac{t}{2} I^D \left(\triangle_{3,2}^2 \right) + \frac{s}{2} I^D \left(\triangle_{4,3}^3 \right) + \frac{t}{2} I^D \left(\triangle_{1,4}^4 \right) \\ &= -\frac{r_\Gamma}{2} \left(\ln^2 \left(\frac{s}{t} \right) + \pi^2 \right) + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon). \end{aligned} \quad (2.4)$$

Here we have used the scalar triangle integral

$$I^D \left(\triangle_{2,1}^1 \right) = \frac{r_\Gamma}{\epsilon^2} (-s)^{-1-\epsilon}. \quad (2.5)$$

The regulated box integral can also be evaluated using a dimension shift [46, 47]

$$I^D \left(\text{Box}_{3,2}^{\ell,1} \right) = (-1 + 2\epsilon) u I^{D+2} \left(\text{Box}_{3,2}^{\ell,1} \right), \quad (2.6)$$

where $u = s_{13}$. IR finiteness follows trivially as the box integral is finite in six dimensions.

2.2 One-loop all-plus amplitudes

To continue our motivation of local integrands we now rewrite the five- and six-gluon one-loop all-plus amplitudes in $D = 4 - 2\epsilon$ [48, 49] into such a representation. We consider only the leading-colour component

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{A}^{(1)}(1^+, 2^+, \dots, n^+) \\ = g^n N_c \sum_{\sigma \in S_5} \text{tr}(T^{a_{\sigma(1)}} T^{a_{\sigma(2)}} \dots T^{a_{\sigma(n)}}) A^{(1)}(\sigma(1^+), \sigma(2^+), \dots, \sigma(n^+)) + \mathcal{O}(N_c^0), \end{aligned} \quad (2.7)$$

where T^a are the generators of $\text{SU}(N_c)$ and g is the strong coupling constant.

Our starting point is the local all-loop integrand for scattering amplitudes in the planar MHV sector of $\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM [33, 34]. These supersymmetric expressions are by now quite familiar and, amongst many other interesting properties, they are known to exhibit simple IR behaviour. To use them in the context of all-plus Yang-Mills theory we recall that the corresponding one-loop amplitudes are related by a dimension shift [50]. Before integration this is equivalent to replacing the supersymmetric delta function $\delta^8(Q)$ with $(D_s - 2)\mu^4$ in the all-plus integrand.

³Extra minus signs originate from the one-loop integral convention given in eq. (1.5a).

The momentum-twistor formalism used to write the $\mathcal{N} = 4$ expressions seemingly ties them to four dimensions so we begin by translating to a manifestly D -dimensional language. Full details of the procedure up to two loops are given in appendix A; for now we merely notice that, at one loop, pentagon integrals always operate on twistor brackets involving loop momenta. These twistor brackets are, up to a helicity-dependent scaling, equivalent to Dirac traces with a positive projector:

$$\text{Diagram} \sim \langle AB|(i-1, i, i+1) \cap (j-1, j, j+1)\rangle \sim \text{tr}_+(i\ell_x \ell_y j). \quad (2.8)$$

The only other four-dimensional one-loop integrals are scalar box integrals.

With this correspondence in mind we define D -dimensional regulated pentagon integrals as

$$I^D \left(\text{Diagram} \right) [\mathcal{P}(p_i, \ell, \mu^2)] \equiv I^D \left(\text{Diagram} \right) [\text{tr}_+(i\ell_x \ell_y j) \mathcal{P}(p_i, \ell, \mu^2)], \quad (2.9)$$

which is the same definition as we made for the regulated box in eq. (2.2). This “wavy line” notation is not quite the same as that used by Arkani-Hamed et al. but it has the same property of controlling IR divergences.

The one-loop all-plus amplitudes can now be re-expressed as

$$A^{(1)}(1^+, 2^+, 3^+, 4^+, 5^+) = -\frac{i(D_s - 2)}{\langle 12 \rangle \langle 23 \rangle \langle 34 \rangle \langle 45 \rangle \langle 51 \rangle (4\pi)^{2-\epsilon}} \times \quad (2.10a)$$

$$\times \left(\frac{\text{tr}_+(1345)}{s_{13}} I^D \left(\text{Diagram} \right) [\mu^4] + s_{23}s_{34} I^D \left(\text{Diagram} \right) [\mu^4] + s_{12}s_{15} I^D \left(\text{Diagram} \right) [\mu^4] \right),$$

$$A^{(1)}(1^+, 2^+, 3^+, 4^+, 5^+, 6^+) = -\frac{i(D_s - 2)}{\langle 12 \rangle \langle 23 \rangle \langle 34 \rangle \langle 45 \rangle \langle 56 \rangle \langle 61 \rangle (4\pi)^{2-\epsilon}} \times \quad (2.10b)$$

$$\times \left(\text{tr}_+(123456) I^D \left(\text{Diagram} \right) [\mu^6] + \frac{\text{tr}_+(1456)}{s_{14}} I^D \left(\text{Diagram} \right) [\mu^4] \right.$$

$$+ \frac{\text{tr}_+(13(4+5)6)}{s_{13}} I^D \left(\text{Diagram} \right) [\mu^4] + \frac{\text{tr}_+(245(6+1))}{s_{24}} I^D \left(\text{Diagram} \right) [\mu^4]$$

$$\left. + s_{12}s_{61} I^D \left(\text{Diagram} \right) [\mu^4] + s_{23}s_{345} I^D \left(\text{Diagram} \right) [\mu^4] + s_{34}s_{45} I^D \left(\text{Diagram} \right) [\mu^4] \right).$$

The hexagon integral, being a manifestly D -dimensional contribution, is not present in the four-dimensional $\mathcal{N} = 4$ local integrand presentation. We obtained its value from the D -dimensional presentation of the (parity-even) part of the same $\mathcal{N} = 4$ amplitude given in ref. [51]. We have checked that the above expressions agree with those previously obtained by Bern et al. [50] after integration up to terms of $\mathcal{O}(\epsilon)$. The main difference here is that, where the previous representation made use of μ^6 pentagons, we instead use Dirac traces — this keeps power counting of loop momentum within the expectations of pure Yang-Mills theory. The relevant one-loop integrals in the $\epsilon \rightarrow 0$ limit are

$$I^D \left(\text{Diagram} \right) [\mu^6] \rightarrow 0, \quad I^D \left(\text{Diagram} \right) [\mu^4] \rightarrow \frac{s_{ij}}{6}, \quad I^D \left(\text{Diagram} \right) [\mu^4] \rightarrow -\frac{1}{6}. \quad (2.11)$$

Spurious poles in s_{ij} associated with pentagons all cancel.

One can also infer this cancellation of spurious poles, and therefore the locality of the amplitudes, to all orders in ϵ by considering the unintegrated expressions. For instance, in the pentagon integral from eq. (2.10a) the identity (1.4) gives

$$\text{tr}_+(1(\ell - p_1)(\ell - p_{12})345) = \frac{\text{tr}_+(1345)}{s_{13}} \text{tr}_+(1(\ell - p_1)(\ell - p_{12})3). \quad (2.12)$$

Similar relationships are applicable to the six-point pentagon integrals. Therefore the integrands are all local despite there being unphysical kinematic variables in the denominators.

3 D -dimensional unitarity at two loops

The two-loop results presented in this paper are obtained using D -dimensional integrand reduction and generalised unitarity cuts. A generic contribution to a loop amplitude can be expressed, by means of integrand reduction methods, as a sum of irreducible integrands

$$\frac{\mathcal{P}(p_i, \ell_i, \mu_i)}{\prod_{\alpha} \mathcal{Q}_{\alpha}(p_i, \ell_i)} = \sum_T \frac{\Delta_T(p_i, \ell_i)}{\prod_{\alpha \in T} \mathcal{Q}_{\alpha}(p_i, \ell_i)}, \quad (3.1)$$

where the sum T runs over all the subtopologies of the parent topology. The irreducible numerators $\Delta_T(p_i, \ell_i)$ can be cast as linear combinations of loop-momentum-dependent basis elements $m_{T,j}$

$$\Delta_T(p_i, \ell_i) = \sum_j c_{T,j}(p_j) m_{T,j}(p_i, \ell_j), \quad (3.2)$$

where values of the unknown coefficients $c_{T,j}$ can be found by evaluating the integrand on values of the loop momenta satisfying the multiple-cut conditions $\{\mathcal{Q}_{\alpha} = 0, \alpha \in T\}$. More explicitly,

$$\Delta_T(p_i, \ell_i) = \left(\frac{\mathcal{P}(p_i, \ell_i, \mu_i)}{\prod_{\beta \notin T} \mathcal{Q}_{\beta}(p_i, \ell_i)} - \sum_{T' \supset T} \frac{\Delta_{T'}(p_i, \ell_i)}{\prod_{\beta \in T' \setminus T} \mathcal{Q}_{\beta}(p_i, \ell_i)} \right), \quad \text{if } \mathcal{Q}_{\alpha} = 0, \alpha \in T. \quad (3.3)$$

When the propagators are taken on shell, the cut integrand \mathcal{P} factorises into a product of tree-level amplitudes. These tree-level amplitudes must be evaluated in $\mathcal{D} > 4$ in order to extract the μ_{ij} terms. At two loops the minimum embedding dimension is six and we make use of the six-dimensional spinor-helicity formalism [52–54]. The $\mathcal{D} = 6$ dimensional cuts can be dimensionally reduced to the tHV or four-dimensional helicity (FDH) schemes by considering additional scalar loops [42]. At two loops we include $D_s - \mathcal{D}$ contributions with a single scalar loop and $(D_s - \mathcal{D})^2$ contributions with two scalar loops,

$$\Delta_T = \Delta_T^{(g, \mathcal{D})} + (D_s - \mathcal{D}) \Delta_T^{(s, \mathcal{D})} + (D_s - \mathcal{D})^2 \Delta_T^{(s^2, \mathcal{D})}. \quad (3.4)$$

The full reduction procedure starts from the top-level topology and recursively proceeds to lower topologies. At each step, the previously computed irreducible numerators are used to remove poles appearing in the cut numerator.

The external kinematics can be conveniently parameterised in terms of momentum-twistor variables [55]. In our implementation the six-dimensional spinors are evaluated

directly in terms of the explicit parameterisation given in ref. [56]. In the case of the six-gluon tree-level amplitudes appearing in this work, we obtained the results through BCFW recursion relations.⁴ This approach is particularly convenient since it can be applied both numerically or analytically. We have made use of the ability to evaluate using rational numerics to reconstruct the full analytic form of the cuts in cases where factorisation of intermediate polynomials became computationally expensive.

The choice for the terms $m_{T,j}(p_i, \ell_j)$ appearing in eq. (3.2) is not unique and the only requirement they must satisfy is to be independent of each other modulo the cut propagators Q_α . In the standard approach a basis of such elements is obtained via multivariate polynomial division. While this method is relatively straightforward to implement, the resulting representation for each irreducible numerator will have unphysical poles and infrared factorisation properties.

In this paper we use the local integrand structures introduced in the previous section to construct a set of basis elements $m_{T,j}(p_i, \ell_j)$ which make some properties of the amplitudes manifest. In addition to ensuring off-shell symmetries we follow a set of guidelines:

- the infrared pole structure of the amplitude should follow from its integrand representation,
- the integrand should not contain spurious singularities with respect to the external invariants,
- an n -point integrand should match the $(n - 1)$ -point result when taking soft limits of the external particles.

We will show how the infrared poles can be extracted from the integrand in section 5.1. As we shall see, this leads to an integrand form for the all-plus amplitudes presented here with a significantly lower number of non-vanishing terms compared to the one obtained with a more traditional polynomial-division-based approach.

4 Two-loop local integrands

In this section we present the leading-colour parts of the two-loop all-plus five- and six-gluon scattering amplitudes:

$$\begin{aligned} & \mathcal{A}^{(2)}(1^+, 2^+, \dots, n^+) \\ &= g^{n+2} N_c^2 \sum_{\sigma \in S_5} \text{tr}(T^{a_{\sigma(1)}} T^{a_{\sigma(2)}} \dots T^{a_{\sigma(n)}}) A^{(2)}(\sigma(1^+), \sigma(2^+), \dots, \sigma(n^+)) + \mathcal{O}(N_c), \end{aligned} \quad (4.1)$$

where once again T^a are the generators of $SU(N_c)$ and g is the strong coupling constant. The five-gluon amplitude was already written down in ref. [16]; here we show how a local integrand presentation allows us to write this result more compactly and eliminate unphysical poles before integration. The master integrals for planar $2 \rightarrow 3$ scattering are also now available in analytic form [38, 57].

⁴We are grateful to Christian Brønnum-Hansen for providing his Mathematica code for the evaluation of 6D amplitudes via BCFW recursion.

The two amplitudes are given as sums of integrals of irreducible numerators Δ_T :

$$A^{(2)}(1^+, 2^+, \dots, n^+) = -\frac{i}{\langle 12 \rangle \langle 23 \rangle \dots \langle n1 \rangle (4\pi)^{4-2\epsilon}} \sum_T I_T^D [\Delta_T], \quad (4.2)$$

where the two-loop integration operator I_T^D was defined in eq. (1.5b). The sum on T runs over a complete set of two-loop topologies, many being duplicates of the same diagrams summed over different cyclic orderings. All genuine two-loop topologies carry the D -dimensional prefactor

$$F_1(\ell_1^{[-2\epsilon]}, \ell_2^{[-2\epsilon]}) = (D_s - 2)(\mu_{11}\mu_{22} + (\mu_{11} + \mu_{22})^2 + 2\mu_{12}(\mu_{11} + \mu_{22})) + 16(\mu_{12}^2 - \mu_{11}\mu_{22}), \quad (4.3)$$

while one-loop-squared graphs are split into terms proportional to $D_s - 2$ and $(D_s - 2)^2$,

$$F_2(\ell_1^{[-2\epsilon]}, \ell_2^{[-2\epsilon]}) = 4(D_s - 2)\mu_{12}(\mu_{11} + \mu_{22}), \quad (4.4a)$$

$$F_3(\ell_1^{[-2\epsilon]}, \ell_2^{[-2\epsilon]}) = (D_s - 2)^2\mu_{11}\mu_{22}. \quad (4.4b)$$

In all cases the spurious F_2 terms integrate to zero.

4.1 The five-gluon integrand

The five-point numerators are

$$\Delta \left(\begin{array}{c} 5 \\ \text{diagram} \\ 4 \end{array} \right) = s_{45} \text{tr}_+(1(\ell_1 - p_1)(\ell_1 - p_{12})345) F_1, \quad (4.5a)$$

$$\Delta \left(\begin{array}{c} 5 \\ \text{diagram} \\ 4 \end{array} \right) = -s_{12}s_{45}s_{15} F_1, \quad (4.5b)$$

$$\Delta \left(\begin{array}{c} 5 \\ \text{diagram} \\ 4 \end{array} \right) = \text{tr}_+(1(\ell_1 - p_1)(\ell_1 - p_{12})345) \left(F_2 + F_3 \frac{s_{45} + (\ell_1 + \ell_2)^2}{s_{45}} \right), \quad (4.5c)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta \left(\begin{array}{c} 5 \\ \text{diagram} \\ 4 \end{array} \right) &= \text{tr}_+(1245)(F_2 + F_3) + \frac{F_3}{s_{12}s_{45}} \left(\text{tr}_+(123\ell_1\ell_2345) \right. \\ &\quad \left. + (s_{12}s_{45}s_{15} + (s_{12} + s_{45}) \text{tr}_+(1245))(\ell_1 + \ell_2)^2 \right), \end{aligned} \quad (4.5d)$$

of which the first two are genuine two-loop topologies. Two numerators from the original representation of ref. [16] are now zero: these are the one-mass double box and one-mass double triangle. Their contributions have been absorbed into other topologies.

In this new presentation, both genuine two-loop topologies match their counterparts from the $\mathcal{N} = 4$ all-loop integrand. The procedure for translating these supersymmetric expressions to the D -dimensional language used above is the same as that outlined in section 2.2 and elaborated in appendix A; we see that the supersymmetric delta function $\delta^8(Q)$ is now replaced with the D -dimensional prefactor F_1 .⁵ However, we also notice

⁵The matching of numerators in $\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM to all-plus Yang Mills has been conjectured at one loop in ref. [50] and at two loops in ref. [16]. In this paper we have used this property to construct ansätze which are then explicitly checked on the multiple cuts.

that, even when there are no supersymmetric counterparts to the diagrams, the same local integrands involving Dirac tr_+ objects continue to be a useful means of expressing loop-momentum dependence.

When forming integrated expressions the rearrangement of Dirac tr_+ objects demonstrated in eq. (1.4) allows the use regulated pentabox and box-triangle integrals:

$$I^D \left(\text{diagram} \right) \left[\Delta \left(\text{diagram} \right) \right] = \frac{s_{45} \text{tr}_+(1345)}{s_{13}} I^D \left(\text{diagram with wavy line} \right) [F_1], \quad (4.6a)$$

$$I^D \left(\text{diagram} \right) \left[\Delta \left(\text{diagram} \right) \right] = \frac{\text{tr}_+(1345)}{s_{13}} I^D \left(\text{diagram with wavy line} \right) [F_3] \\ + \frac{\text{tr}_+(1345)}{s_{13}s_{45}} I^D \left(\text{diagram with wavy line} \right) [F_3(\ell_1 + \ell_2)^2]. \quad (4.6b)$$

The two-loop “wavy line” notation used here follows precisely the same one-loop conventions introduced in eqs. (2.2) and (2.9).

As a final remark on this local representation we notice that the soft limits of the irreducible numerators match directly onto the four-point numerators. For example,

$$\Delta \left(\text{diagram} \right) \xrightarrow{p_2 \rightarrow 0} \Delta \left(\text{diagram} \right), \quad (4.7a)$$

$$\Delta \left(\text{diagram} \right) \xrightarrow{p_3 \rightarrow 0} \Delta \left(\text{diagram} \right), \quad (4.7b)$$

which can be checked by explicit evaluation.

4.2 The six-gluon integrand

With six gluons scattering there are twelve nonzero topologies. The six genuine two-loop topologies are

$$\Delta \left(\text{diagram} \right) = s_{123} \text{tr}_+(1(\ell_1 - p_1)(\ell_1 - p_{12})34(\ell_2 - p_{56})(\ell_2 - p_6)6)F_1, \quad (4.8a)$$

$$\Delta \left(\text{diagram} \right) = -s_{56} \text{tr}_+(123456)\mu_{11}F_1, \quad (4.8b)$$

$$\Delta \left(\text{diagram} \right) = s_{56} \text{tr}_+(1(\ell_1 - p_1)(\ell_1 - p_{123})456)F_1, \quad (4.8c)$$

$$\Delta \left(\text{diagram} \right) = s_{56} \text{tr}_+(1(\ell_1 - p_1)(\ell_1 - p_{12})3(4+5)6)F_1, \quad (4.8d)$$

$$\Delta \left(\text{diagram} \right) = -s_{12}s_{56}s_{61}F_1, \quad (4.8e)$$

$$\Delta \left(\text{diagram} \right) = -s_{12}s_{45}s_{234}F_1. \quad (4.8f)$$

With the exception of the hexagon box (4.8b) these agree with their supersymmetric counterparts. The hexagon box is a manifestly D -dimensional contribution; to obtain its value

we again referred to the D -dimensional presentation of the (parity-even) part of the supersymmetric amplitude given in ref. [51]. The six-leg pentabox (4.8d) has a counterpart related by symmetry through the horizontal axis, an expression for which can be determined by relabelling the one given above.

The one-loop-squared numerators are

$$\Delta \left(\begin{array}{c} 6 \ell_2 \ell_1 1 \\ \diagdown \quad \diagup \\ 4 \quad \quad 3 \\ \diagup \quad \diagdown \\ 5 \quad \quad 2 \end{array} \right) = \text{tr}_+(1(\ell_1 - p_1)(\ell_1 - p_{12})34(\ell_2 - p_{56})(\ell_2 - p_6)6) \times \left(F_2 + F_3 \frac{s_{123} + (\ell_1 + \ell_2)^2}{s_{123}} \right), \quad (4.9a)$$

$$\Delta \left(\begin{array}{c} 6 \ell_2 \ell_1 1 \\ \diagdown \quad \diagup \\ 5 \quad \quad 4 \\ \diagup \quad \diagdown \\ 3 \quad \quad 2 \end{array} \right) = -\text{tr}_+(123456)\mu_{11} \left(F_2 + F_3 \frac{s_{56} + (\ell_1 + \ell_2)^2}{s_{56}} \right), \quad (4.9b)$$

$$\Delta \left(\begin{array}{c} 6 \ell_2 \ell_1 1 \\ \diagdown \quad \diagup \\ 5 \quad \quad 4 \\ \diagup \quad \diagdown \\ 3 \quad \quad 2 \end{array} \right) = \text{tr}_+(1(\ell_1 - p_1)(\ell_1 - p_{123})456) \left(F_2 + F_3 \frac{s_{56} + (\ell_1 + \ell_2)^2}{s_{56}} \right). \quad (4.9c)$$

$$\Delta \left(\begin{array}{c} 6 \ell_2 \ell_1 1 \\ \diagdown \quad \diagup \\ 5 \quad \quad 4 \\ \diagup \quad \diagdown \\ 3 \quad \quad 2 \end{array} \right) = \frac{\text{tr}_+(1(\ell_1 - p_1)(\ell_1 - p_{12})3)}{s_{13}} \left(\text{tr}_+(1356)(F_2 + F_3) + \frac{F_3}{s_{123}s_{56}} \times \left(\text{tr}_+(134\ell_1\ell_2456) + (s_{123} \text{tr}_+(1356) - s_{56} \text{tr}_+(1346))(\ell_1 + \ell_2)^2 \right) \right), \quad (4.9d)$$

$$\Delta \left(\begin{array}{c} 6 \ell_2 \ell_1 1 \\ \diagdown \quad \diagup \\ 5 \quad \quad 4 \\ \diagup \quad \diagdown \\ 3 \quad \quad 2 \end{array} \right) = \text{tr}_+(1256)(F_2 + F_3) + \frac{F_3}{s_{12}s_{123}s_{56}} \left(-s_{12} \text{tr}_+(134\ell_1\ell_2456) - s_{56} \text{tr}_+(123\ell_1\ell_2346) + s_{123} \text{tr}_+(12(3+4)\ell_1\ell_2(3+4)56) + \left(s_{34} + s_{123} \frac{\text{tr}_+(2345)}{s_{23}s_{45}} \right) \text{tr}_+(123\ell_1\ell_2456) + s_{34}\mu_{12} \text{tr}_+(123456) + \left(s_{12}s_{56} \text{tr}_+(1346) - s_{123}s_{34} \text{tr}_+(1256) + s_{123}(s_{12}s_{56}s_{16} + (s_{12} + s_{56}) \text{tr}_+(1256)) \right) (\ell_1 + \ell_2)^2 \right), \quad (4.9e)$$

$$\Delta \left(\begin{array}{c} 5 \ell_2 \ell_1 1 \\ \diagdown \quad \diagup \\ 4 \quad \quad 3 \\ \diagup \quad \diagdown \\ 6 \quad \quad 2 \end{array} \right) = \text{tr}_+(1245)(F_2 + F_3) + \frac{F_3}{s_{12}s_{45}s_{123}s_{345}} \left(f_0(123456; \ell_1 - p_1, \ell_2 - p_5) + f_1(123456; \ell_1 - p_1) - f_1(216543; \ell_1 - p_1) - f_1(456123; \ell_2 - p_5) + f_1(543216; \ell_2 - p_5) + f_2(123456; \ell_1 - p_1, \ell_2 - p_5) + f_2(456123; \ell_2 - p_5, \ell_1 - p_1) + f_3(123456; \ell_1 - p_1, \ell_2 - p_5) s_{123} + f_3(456123; \ell_1 - p_1, \ell_2 - p_5) s_{345} + (\ell_1 - p_1)^2 f_4(123456) + (\ell_2 - p_5)^2 f_4(456123) \right). \quad (4.9f)$$

The s_{13} pole in the six-leg box triangle (4.9d) can be removed using trace identities - we write the expression this way for compactness. The graph has a counterpart related by symmetry through the horizontal axis. The expression for the six-leg double triangle (4.9f)

is somewhat less compact: the functions f_i can be expressed as

$$\begin{aligned}
 f_0(123456; \ell_1, \ell_2) = & -s_{123}s_{345} \operatorname{tr}_+(1245)^2 + 2(\ell_1 \cdot \ell_2) \left(s_{12}s_{123}s_{345} \operatorname{tr}_+(1245) \right. \\
 & + s_{45}s_{123}s_{345} \operatorname{tr}_+(1245) + s_{12}s_{45}s_{345} \operatorname{tr}_+(1346) \\
 & - s_{345} \operatorname{tr}_+(1236) \operatorname{tr}_+(4563) - s_{123} \operatorname{tr}_+(1236) \operatorname{tr}_+(4563) \\
 & \left. + s_{12}s_{45}s_{123} \operatorname{tr}_+(5326) + s_{12}s_{45}s_{123}s_{234}s_{345} \right) \\
 & - \mu_{12}(s_{123} + s_{345}) \operatorname{tr}_+(1236) \operatorname{tr}_+(4563), \tag{4.10}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 f_1(123456, \ell) = & -s_{123}(s_{12}s_{45}s_{56} \operatorname{tr}_+(\ell 234) + s_{12}s_{34} \operatorname{tr}_+(\ell 23654) \\
 & + s_{12}s_{345} \operatorname{tr}_+(\ell 24654) + s_{345} \operatorname{tr}_+(\ell 2451245)), \tag{4.11}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 f_2(123456; \ell_1, \ell_2) = & s_{123}s_{345} \operatorname{tr}_+(123 \ell_1 \ell_2 345) - s_{45}s_{345} \operatorname{tr}_+(123 \ell_1 \ell_2 346) \\
 & - s_{12}s_{123} \operatorname{tr}_+(623 \ell_1 \ell_2 345), \tag{4.12}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$f_3(123456; \ell_1, \ell_2) = \operatorname{tr}_+(123 \ell_1 \ell_2 65436), \tag{4.13}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 f_4(123456) = & s_{123}(s_{45}s_{345} \operatorname{tr}_+(1245) - s_{12}s_{45} \operatorname{tr}_+(2653) + s_{12}s_{345} \operatorname{tr}_+(4563) \\
 & + s_{12}s_{45} \operatorname{tr}_+(5326)). \tag{4.14}
 \end{aligned}$$

This integrand obeys the soft limits on p_3 and p_6 :

$$\Delta \left(\begin{array}{c} 5 \\ \ell_2 \quad \ell_1 \\ \diagdown \quad \diagup \\ 4 \quad 3 \quad 2 \\ 1 \end{array} \right) \xrightarrow{p_3 \rightarrow 0} \Delta \left(\begin{array}{c} 5 \\ \ell_2 \quad \ell_1 \\ \diagdown \quad \diagup \\ 4 \quad 2 \\ 1 \end{array} \right), \tag{4.15a}$$

$$\Delta \left(\begin{array}{c} 5 \\ \ell_2 \quad \ell_1 \\ \diagdown \quad \diagup \\ 4 \quad 3 \quad 2 \\ 1 \end{array} \right) \xrightarrow{p_6 \rightarrow 0} \Delta \left(\begin{array}{c} 5 \\ \ell_2 \quad \ell_1 \\ \diagdown \quad \diagup \\ 4 \quad 3 \\ 1 \end{array} \right), \tag{4.15b}$$

which can be checked using spinor algebra.

5 Infrared pole structure

Since all-plus amplitudes are zero at tree level, the universal IR structure should be that of a one-loop amplitude [58]

$$\begin{aligned}
 A^{(2)}(1^+, 2^+, \dots, n^+) \\
 = - \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{c_\Gamma}{\epsilon^2} \left(\frac{1}{-s_{i,i+1}} \right)^\epsilon A^{(1)}(1^+, 2^+, \dots, n^+) + F^{(2)}(1^+, 2^+, \dots, n^+), \tag{5.1}
 \end{aligned}$$

where $F^{(2)}$ is finite in the limit $\epsilon \rightarrow 0$ and we have reintroduced the standard loop prefactor

$$c_\Gamma = \frac{r_\Gamma}{(4\pi)^{2-\epsilon}} = \frac{\Gamma(1+\epsilon)\Gamma^2(1-\epsilon)}{(4\pi)^{2-\epsilon}\Gamma(1-2\epsilon)}. \tag{5.2}$$

Reproducing this behaviour requires us to find the IR divergences up to $\mathcal{O}(\epsilon^{-1})$ in all of our two-loop integrals. This we do by following the same approach as in ref. [59]. The two-loop integrals are broken into sums of regions with soft singularities and evaluated in their respective limits. The new feature of using local integrands is that the same approach now correctly predicts the $1/\epsilon$ poles in all cases as well as the leading $1/\epsilon^2$. It becomes unnecessary to evaluate the resulting one-loop integrals so eq. (5.1) can be verified at the integrand level.

5.1 Soft limits of two-loop integrals

All IR divergent integrals in our two-loop amplitudes come from topologies containing

$$F_1 = (D_s - 2)(\mu_{11}\mu_{22} + (\mu_{11} + \mu_{22})^2 + 2\mu_{12}(\mu_{11} + \mu_{22})) + 16(\mu_{12}^2 - \mu_{11}\mu_{22}). \quad (5.3)$$

As the external momenta p_i live in four dimensions, going into any soft region requires taking the (-2ϵ) -dimensional part of one of the loop momenta $\ell_i^{[-2\epsilon]} \rightarrow 0$. In this limit

$$F_1 \xrightarrow{\ell_1^{[-2\epsilon]} \rightarrow 0} (D_s - 2)\mu_{22}^2, \quad F_1 \xrightarrow{\ell_2^{[-2\epsilon]} \rightarrow 0} (D_s - 2)\mu_{11}^2. \quad (5.4)$$

Collinear limits also require $\ell_i^{[-2\epsilon]} \rightarrow 0$. The F_1 numerator therefore prevents any divergences beyond $\mathcal{O}(\epsilon^{-2})$ as only one of the loop momenta can enter a soft or collinear region at a time without F_1 vanishing. Further details can be found in ref. [59] where this technique has been applied to the soft singularity of the non-planar five-gluon all-plus amplitude.

Soft singularities always occur between adjacent massless legs in a loop integral. However, the introduction of local integrands renders many seemingly soft regions finite. Taking the regulated pentabox integral as an example, we notice that the integral has only one soft region: $\ell_2 \rightarrow p_5$. In this limit,

$$I^D \left(\text{pentabox}(\ell_2, \ell_1) \right) [F_1] \xrightarrow{\ell_2 \rightarrow p_5} (D_s - 2) I^D \left(\text{triangle} \right) I^D \left(\text{pentagon}(\ell_1) \right) [\mu^4]. \quad (5.5)$$

The other two supposedly soft limits $\ell_1 \rightarrow p_1$ and $\ell_1 \rightarrow p_{12}$ are finite as the numerator $\text{tr}_+(1(\ell_1 - p_1)(\ell_1 - p_{12})3)$ vanishes in these regions - this is the same phenomenon as we saw in the regulated box integral (2.2).

Having numerically evaluated the regulated pentabox integral using FIESTA's numerical sector decomposition algorithm [60, 61], we find that the decomposition (5.5) correctly predicts the IR structure at $\mathcal{O}(\epsilon^{-1})$ as well as the leading $1/\epsilon^2$ pole. The decomposition must therefore be accounting for collinear as well as soft singularities. This property does not hold true for a scalar pentabox integral with its additional soft regions $\ell_1 \rightarrow p_1$ and $\ell_1 \rightarrow p_{12}$ - in that case the same technique correctly predicts only the $1/\epsilon^2$ pole.

The only other IR-divergent five-point integral is the five-leg double box. This integral has two soft regions: $\ell_1 \rightarrow p_1$ and $\ell_2 \rightarrow p_5$. The same procedure reveals that

$$I^D \left(\text{double box}(\ell_2, \ell_1) \right) [F_1] = -(D_s - 2) \times \\ \times \left(I^D \left(\text{triangle} \right) I^D \left(\text{square}(\ell_1) \right) [\mu^4] + I^D \left(\text{square}(\ell_2) \right) [\mu^4] I^D \left(\text{triangle} \right) \right) + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon^0). \quad (5.6)$$

At six points, the genuine two-loop integrals are

$$I^D \left(\begin{array}{c} \ell_2 \ell_1 \\ \text{Diagram} \\ \end{array} \right) [F_1] = \mathcal{O}(\epsilon^0), \quad (5.7a)$$

$$I^D \left(\begin{array}{c} \ell_2 \ell_1 \\ \text{Diagram} \\ \end{array} \right) [\mu_{11} F_1] = -(D_s - 2) I^D \left(\begin{array}{c} \text{Triangle} \\ \end{array} \right) I^D \left(\begin{array}{c} \text{Hexagon} \\ \end{array} \right) [\mu^6] + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon^0), \quad (5.7b)$$

$$I^D \left(\begin{array}{c} \ell_2 \ell_1 \\ \text{Diagram} \\ \end{array} \right) [F_1] = (D_s - 2) I^D \left(\begin{array}{c} \text{Triangle} \\ \end{array} \right) I^D \left(\begin{array}{c} \text{Hexagon} \\ \end{array} \right) [\mu^4] + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon^0), \quad (5.7c)$$

$$I^D \left(\begin{array}{c} \ell_2 \ell_1 \\ \text{Diagram} \\ \end{array} \right) [F_1] = (D_s - 2) I^D \left(\begin{array}{c} \text{Triangle} \\ \end{array} \right) I^D \left(\begin{array}{c} \text{Hexagon} \\ \end{array} \right) [\mu^4] + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon^0), \quad (5.7d)$$

$$I^D \left(\begin{array}{c} \ell_2 \ell_1 \\ \text{Diagram} \\ \end{array} \right) [F_1] = -(D_s - 2) \times \\ \times \left(I^D \left(\begin{array}{c} \text{Triangle} \\ \end{array} \right) I^D \left(\begin{array}{c} \text{Square} \\ \end{array} \right) [\mu^4] + I^D \left(\begin{array}{c} \text{Square} \\ \end{array} \right) [\mu^4] I^D \left(\begin{array}{c} \text{Triangle} \\ \end{array} \right) \right) + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon^0), \quad (5.7e)$$

$$I^D \left(\begin{array}{c} \ell_2 \ell_1 \\ \text{Diagram} \\ \end{array} \right) [F_1] = -(D_s - 2) \times \\ \times \left(I^D \left(\begin{array}{c} \text{Triangle} \\ \end{array} \right) I^D \left(\begin{array}{c} \text{Square} \\ \end{array} \right) [\mu^4] + I^D \left(\begin{array}{c} \text{Square} \\ \end{array} \right) [\mu^4] I^D \left(\begin{array}{c} \text{Triangle} \\ \end{array} \right) \right) + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon^0). \quad (5.7f)$$

where we have checked all topologies with 8 or fewer propagators using the sector decomposition algorithms implemented in FIESTA [60, 61] and SecDec3.0 [62]. In the “hexabox” integral (5.7b) the extra μ_{11} term regulates the ℓ_1 loop. In this sense it plays a role analogous to the tr_+ “wavy line” structures used in the pentagon integrals.

5.2 Integrand-level infrared structure

The IR divergences in the two-loop integrals given above all arise from unregulated box subintegrals. Therefore, as the one-loop μ^4 integrals are all finite, the ϵ poles all come from triangle integrals. An explicit expression for the triangle integral was given in eq. (2.5): its analytic structure is highly reminiscent of the IR operator given in eq. (5.1). This observation motivates a simple approach to verifying the universal IR structure.

In the five-point example we proceed as follows. First we take the full two-loop amplitude and substitute the IR divergences given in eqs. (5.5) and (5.6), summing over cyclic permutations:

$$i \langle 12 \rangle \langle 23 \rangle \langle 34 \rangle \langle 45 \rangle \langle 51 \rangle (4\pi)^{4-2\epsilon} A^{(2)}(1^+, 2^+, 3^+, 4^+, 5^+) \\ = \sum_{\sigma \in Z_5} \sigma \circ \left(\frac{s_{45} \text{tr}_+(1345)}{s_{13}} I^D \left(\begin{array}{c} \ell_2 \ell_1 \\ \text{Diagram} \\ \end{array} \right) [F_1] - s_{12} s_{45} s_{15} I^D \left(\begin{array}{c} \ell_2 \ell_1 \\ \text{Diagram} \\ \end{array} \right) [F_1] + \dots \right) \\ = -(D_s - 2) \frac{r\Gamma}{\epsilon^2} \sum_{\sigma \in Z_5} \sigma \circ \left((-s_{45})^{-\epsilon} \frac{\text{tr}_+(1345)}{s_{13}} I^D \left(\begin{array}{c} \text{Hexagon} \\ \end{array} \right) [\mu^4] \right. \\ \left. + (-s_{12})^{-\epsilon} s_{45} s_{15} I^D \left(\begin{array}{c} \text{Square} \\ \end{array} \right) [\mu^4] + (-s_{45})^{-\epsilon} s_{12} s_{15} I^D \left(\begin{array}{c} \text{Square} \\ \end{array} \right) [\mu^4] \right) + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon^0), \quad (5.8)$$

where we have used the triangle integral (2.5). Next, we exploit the sum on cyclic permutations to relabel the box integral with a massive p_{23} leg:

$$\begin{aligned}
 & i\langle 12\rangle\langle 23\rangle\langle 34\rangle\langle 45\rangle\langle 51\rangle(4\pi)^{4-2\epsilon}A^{(2)}(1^+,2^+,3^+,4^+,5^+) \\
 &= -(D_s-2)\frac{r_\Gamma}{\epsilon^2}\sum_{\sigma\in Z_5}\sigma\circ(-s_{45})^{-\epsilon}\left(\frac{\text{tr}_+(1345)}{s_{13}}I^D\left(\begin{array}{c} 5 \\ \text{---} \\ 4 \end{array} \begin{array}{c} 1 \\ \text{---} \\ 2 \end{array} \begin{array}{c} 3 \\ \text{---} \\ 3 \end{array}\right)[\mu^4]+s_{23}s_{34}I^D\left(\begin{array}{c} 2 \\ \text{---} \\ 4 \end{array} \begin{array}{c} 1 \\ \text{---} \\ 3 \end{array} \begin{array}{c} 5 \\ \text{---} \\ 4 \end{array}\right)[\mu^4] \\
 & \quad +s_{12}s_{15}I^D\left(\begin{array}{c} 1 \\ \text{---} \\ 5 \end{array} \begin{array}{c} 1 \\ \text{---} \\ 2 \end{array} \begin{array}{c} 4 \\ \text{---} \\ 5 \end{array}\right)[\mu^4]\right)+\mathcal{O}(\epsilon^0), \tag{5.9}
 \end{aligned}$$

where we have extracted an overall factor of $(-s_{45})^{-\epsilon}$ inside the sum. The term in brackets we recognise from eq. (2.10a) as the planar five-gluon, one-loop all-plus amplitude (multiplied by some extra factors) - this is of course invariant under cyclic permutations. Rearranging, we arrive at the desired result:

$$A^{(2)}(1^+,2^+,3^+,4^+,5^+)= -\sum_{i=1}^5\frac{c_\Gamma}{\epsilon^2}\left(\frac{1}{-s_{i,i+1}}\right)^\epsilon A^{(1)}(1^+,2^+,3^+,4^+,5^+)+\mathcal{O}(\epsilon^0), \tag{5.10}$$

which agrees with our expectation from eq. (5.1).

The six-gluon calculation is completely analogous. By applying the IR singularities given in eqs. (5.7) to the integrated versions of the six-point numerators presented in eqs. (4.8) one can reproduce the one-loop amplitude as presented in eq. (2.10b).

6 Rational terms

The integrated forms of the finite contributions to the leading-colour amplitudes are

$$F^{(2)}(1^+,2^+,\dots,n^+)= (D_s-2)P_n^{(2)}+(D_s-2)^2R_n^{(2)}+\mathcal{O}(\epsilon), \tag{6.1}$$

where $F^{(2)}$ was introduced in eq. (5.1). The rational terms $R_n^{(2)}$ all come from the one-loop-squared topologies while the polylogarithmic terms $P_n^{(2)}$ come from the topologies shared with $\mathcal{N}=4$. These have been identified in a recent computation [40].⁶

The rational terms can be found using the one-loop squared integrals listed in appendix B. Inserting these expressions into our D -dimensional integrands we find that $R_5^{(2)}$ precisely matches the rational part of the full amplitude given in ref. [38]. At six points we find that $R_6^{(2)}$ can be written as⁷

$$R_6^{(2)}= -\frac{1}{144}\frac{i(D_s-2)^2}{\langle 12\rangle\langle 23\rangle\langle 34\rangle\langle 45\rangle\langle 56\rangle\langle 61\rangle(4\pi)^{4-2\epsilon}}\sum_{\sigma\in Z_6}\sigma\circ\left(f_R(123456)+f_R(654321)\right), \tag{6.2}$$

⁶We have not explicitly checked that the finite part our expressions match those obtained in ref. [40] owing to the complexity of the multi-scale two-loop integrals appearing. The $(\mathcal{N}=4)\times F_1$ property has been explicitly checked at five points and we have no reason to expect different behaviour at six points.

⁷The integrands of eqs. (4.9a)–(4.9f) should be combined together with the appropriate symmetry factors. The complete expression is available in an ancillary file included in the arXiv submission.

which makes its cyclic and reversal symmetry manifest. The function f_R can be written as a sum of contributions corresponding to physical pole structures in the external invariants

$$\begin{aligned}
 f_R(123456) = & \frac{2s_{23}s_{34}s_{45} \operatorname{tr}_+(1256)}{s_{12}s_{56}s_{123}} + \frac{\operatorname{tr}_+(1236)}{s_{12}s_{123}} \left(-4s_{23}s_{34} + 2 \operatorname{tr}_+(1345) + 6 \operatorname{tr}_+(2345) \right) \\
 & + \frac{1}{s_{123}} \left(-12s_{34} \operatorname{tr}_+(1236) - s_{34} \operatorname{tr}_+(1256) \right. \\
 & \quad \left. + 3(s_{12} + s_{34} + s_{56}) \operatorname{tr}_+(1346) - 16s_{12}s_{16}s_{34} \right) \\
 & - \frac{\operatorname{tr}_+(1245)^2}{s_{12}s_{45}} + \frac{\operatorname{tr}_+(1256)}{s_{12}s_{56}} \left(-2 \operatorname{tr}_+(p_{14}345) - 2 \operatorname{tr}_+(1256) \right) \\
 & + \frac{1}{s_{12}} \left(2(s_{16} - s_{34} + s_{45}) \operatorname{tr}_+(1234) + 2(s_{23} - s_{34} + s_{45} - s_{123}) \operatorname{tr}_+(1235) \right. \\
 & \quad \left. + 2(s_{23} + s_{45} - 3s_{123}) \operatorname{tr}_+(1245) \right) \\
 & - \frac{1}{4}s_{12}(59s_{23} - 8s_{34} - 56s_{45}) + \frac{1}{4}s_{123}(-4s_{12} - 4s_{23} + 39s_{34} - 40s_{234}) \\
 & + \frac{9}{4} \operatorname{tr}_+(1234) + \frac{35}{4} \operatorname{tr}_+(1235) + \frac{15}{4} \operatorname{tr}_+(1245). \tag{6.3}
 \end{aligned}$$

We have checked that this expression satisfies all universal collinear limits and agrees with the computation of Dunbar and Perkins [41].

7 Conclusions

In this paper we have explored the use of D -dimensional local integrands as a means of obtaining compact analytic representations of multi-leg two-loop amplitudes. The integrands, introduced in studies of planar $\mathcal{N} = 4$ supersymmetric Yang-Mills, were shown to be powerful tools in the context of dimensionally regulated amplitudes. As the simplest two-loop amplitudes in a non-supersymmetric theory we chose the all-plus helicity sector as a testing ground and found D -dimensional local representations of the five- and six-gluon amplitudes.

The representations benefit from highlighting certain physical properties. The infrared structure is manifest at the integrand level and the integral coefficients are free of spurious poles. This results in a reduction in the number of basis integrals, thereby constraining the overall analytic form of the amplitude. The rational terms result from one-loop squared topologies and were obtained in a compact form - at six points this is in agreement with the expressions obtained by Dunbar and Perkins using augmented BCFW recursion relations [41].

Finding expressions for the one-loop squared topologies, which depend on a six-gluon tree amplitude, proved the most complicated part of the computation. Though it was possible to find a number of different local representations, none were as compact as the other topologies. The extremely simple form of the integrated expression suggests that the integrand expression could yet be improved further. An important additional check on the integrated expression came from the known collinear limits. It may be that collinear limits

at the integrand level give additional information but would require the development of additional technology.

General two-loop amplitudes are of course far more complicated than the all-plus amplitudes considered here. Nevertheless, the techniques we have used should be applicable to the general case as well. There remain many open questions however: for instance, one would need to identify a complete basis of local integrands outside of the specific examples considered.

Finally, we note that the present study was restricted to planar amplitudes. Since the nonplanar sector can be connected to the planar sector using colour-kinematics relations, as was demonstrated at five points in ref. [59], the results presented here may be of use in identifying local representations of nonplanar amplitudes. It would be interesting to see if all-plus amplitudes continue to connect with recent studies in $\mathcal{N} = 4$ supersymmetric Yang-Mills theory [63–66].

Acknowledgments

We would like to thank David Dunbar, Johannes Henn, Alexander Ochirov, Donal O’Connell and Warren Perkins for useful discussions. We are especially grateful to Christian Brønnum-Hansen for providing Mathematica code for the evaluation of 6D tree amplitudes via BCFW recursion. S.B. is supported by an STFC Rutherford Fellowship ST/L004925/1 and T.P. is supported by Rutherford Grant ST/M004104/1. G.M. is supported by an STFC Studentship ST/K501980/1.

A Connection to local integrands in $\mathcal{N} = 4$

In this appendix we show how momentum-twistor-based expressions for planar $\mathcal{N} = 4$ local integrands up to two loops, given in ref. [33], may be converted to a form applicable in $D \neq 4$. For instance,

$$\begin{array}{c} 6 \\ \diagup \\ \text{---} \\ \diagdown \\ 5 \end{array} \begin{array}{c} 1 \\ \diagdown \\ \text{---} \\ \diagup \\ 4 \end{array} = \int_{AB} \frac{\langle 1456 \rangle \langle AB | (612) \cap (345) \rangle}{\langle AB12 \rangle \langle AB34 \rangle \langle AB45 \rangle \langle AB56 \rangle \langle AB61 \rangle}, \tag{A.1a}$$

$$\begin{array}{c} 6 \\ \diagup \\ \text{---} \\ \diagdown \\ 5 \end{array} \begin{array}{c} \ell_2 \ell_1 \\ \diagdown \\ \text{---} \\ \diagup \\ 4 \end{array} \begin{array}{c} 1 \\ \diagdown \\ \text{---} \\ \diagup \\ 2 \end{array} \begin{array}{c} 3 \\ \diagdown \\ \text{---} \\ \diagup \\ 4 \end{array} = \int_{(AB,CD)} \frac{\langle 1346 \rangle \langle AB | (612) \cap (234) \rangle \langle CD | (345) \cap (561) \rangle}{\langle AB61 \rangle \langle AB12 \rangle \langle AB23 \rangle \langle AB34 \rangle \langle CD34 \rangle \langle CD45 \rangle \langle CD56 \rangle \langle CD61 \rangle \langle ABCD \rangle}. \tag{A.1b}$$

Momentum twistors are defined with respect to dual-space coordinates x_i , themselves introduced using $p_i = x_i - x_{i-1}$. A dual-space point x is identified with a line of twistors, $Z = (\lambda, \mu)$, satisfying the incidence relation $\mu_{\dot{a}} = \lambda^a x_{a\dot{a}}$. These twistors form a projective line in \mathbb{CP}^3 . To identify a point x in dual space it therefore suffices to specify two momentum twistors, Z_i and Z_j :

$$x_{a\dot{a}} = \frac{\lambda_{i,a} \mu_{j,\dot{a}} - \lambda_{j,a} \mu_{i,\dot{a}}}{\langle ij \rangle} = x_{i,a\dot{a}} + \frac{\lambda_{i,a} \lambda_j^b (p_{i+1,\dots,j})_{b\dot{a}}}{\langle ij \rangle}, \tag{A.2}$$

where $\langle ij \rangle \equiv \epsilon_{ab} \lambda_i^a \lambda_j^b$. The latter identity, using the massless Weyl equation $\lambda_i^a p_{i,a\dot{a}} = 0$ implies that when $j = i + 1$, $x = x_i$.

As for the loop momenta, for n -point scattering at one loop we introduce $y = \ell + x_n$ associated with the line in (Z_A, Z_B) . At two loops we introduce $y_1 = \ell_1 + x_n$ and $y_2 = -\ell_2 + x_n$ associated with the lines (Z_A, Z_B) and (Z_C, Z_D) respectively.⁸

The basic building block to evaluate is the twistor four-bracket,

$$\langle i, j, k, l \rangle \equiv \epsilon_{IJKL} Z_i^I Z_j^J Z_k^K Z_l^L = \langle ij \rangle \langle kl \rangle (x - y)^2, \tag{A.3}$$

where x and y are associated with the lines (Z_i, Z_j) and (Z_k, Z_l) respectively. Using the dual-space definition (A.2) it follows that

$$\langle ijkl \rangle = \langle ij \rangle \langle kl \rangle \left(p_{i+1, \dots, k}^\mu - \frac{\langle i | \gamma^\mu p_{i+1, \dots, j} | j \rangle}{2 \langle ij \rangle} + \frac{\langle k | \gamma^\mu p_{k+1, \dots, l} | l \rangle}{2 \langle kl \rangle} \right)^2, \tag{A.4a}$$

$$\langle ABij \rangle = \langle AB \rangle \langle ij \rangle \left(\ell_1^\mu - p_{1, \dots, i}^\mu - \frac{\langle i | \gamma^\mu p_{i+1, \dots, j} | j \rangle}{2 \langle ij \rangle} \right)^2, \tag{A.4b}$$

$$\langle CDij \rangle = \langle CD \rangle \langle ij \rangle \left(\ell_2^\mu + p_{1, \dots, i}^\mu + \frac{\langle i | \gamma^\mu p_{i+1, \dots, j} | j \rangle}{2 \langle ij \rangle} \right)^2, \tag{A.4c}$$

$$\langle ABCD \rangle = \langle AB \rangle \langle CD \rangle (\ell_1 + \ell_2)^2. \tag{A.4d}$$

where $i < j < k < l$ (this can always be ensured using antisymmetry of the 4-bracket). Some frequently-encountered examples are

$$\langle i, i + 1, j, j + 1 \rangle = \langle i, i + 1 \rangle \langle j, j + 1 \rangle s_{i+1, \dots, j}, \tag{A.5a}$$

$$\langle A, B, i, i + 1 \rangle = \langle AB \rangle \langle i, i + 1 \rangle (\ell_1 - p_{1, \dots, i})^2, \tag{A.5b}$$

$$\langle C, D, i, i + 1 \rangle = \langle CD \rangle \langle i, i + 1 \rangle (\ell_2 + p_{1, \dots, i})^2, \tag{A.5c}$$

where the massless Weyl equation is again used to make these simplifications.

When evaluating four-brackets involving intersections of planes in momentum-twistor space one should use the twistor intersection formula,

$$\langle AB | (abc) \cap (def) \rangle = \langle cdef \rangle \langle ABab \rangle + \langle adef \rangle \langle ABbc \rangle + \langle bdef \rangle \langle ABca \rangle. \tag{A.6}$$

From this we have established the general pattern that

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Diagram} &\sim \langle AB | (i - 1, i, i + 1) \cap (j - 1, j, j + 1) \rangle \\ &= -\langle AB \rangle \langle i - 1, i \rangle \langle i, i + 1 \rangle \langle j - 1, j \rangle \langle j, j + 1 \rangle [i | \ell_x \ell_y | j], \end{aligned} \tag{A.7}$$

which is manifestly local. Application of $\text{tr}_+(i \ell_x \ell_y j) = [i | \ell_x \ell_y | j] \langle ji \rangle$ gives agreement with the integral definition we made in eq. (2.8). For instance, in the two examples given in

⁸For a complete introduction see ref. [34].

eqs. (A.1),

$$\langle AB|(612) \cap (345)\rangle = \frac{\langle AB\rangle\langle 61\rangle\langle 12\rangle\langle 34\rangle\langle 45\rangle}{\langle 14\rangle} \text{tr}_+(1(\ell - p_1)(\ell - p_{123})4), \quad (\text{A.8a})$$

$$\langle AB|(612) \cap (234)\rangle = \frac{\langle AB\rangle\langle 61\rangle\langle 12\rangle\langle 23\rangle\langle 34\rangle}{\langle 13\rangle} \text{tr}_+(1(\ell_1 - p_1)(\ell_1 - p_{12})3), \quad (\text{A.8b})$$

$$\langle CD|(345) \cap (561)\rangle = \frac{\langle CD\rangle\langle 34\rangle\langle 45\rangle\langle 56\rangle\langle 61\rangle}{\langle 46\rangle} \text{tr}_+(4(\ell_2 - p_{56})(\ell_2 - p_6)6). \quad (\text{A.8c})$$

When calculating complete integrands in $D \neq 4$ one should use the measure correspondences

$$\int_{AB} \frac{1}{\langle AB\rangle^4} \sim \int d^4\ell, \quad \int_{(AB,CD)} \frac{1}{\langle AB\rangle^4\langle CD\rangle^4} \sim \int d^4\ell_1 d^4\ell_2, \quad (\text{A.9})$$

at one and two loops respectively. This accounts for all factors of $\langle AB\rangle$ and $\langle CD\rangle$. An overall factor of the tree amplitude $\mathcal{A}_{\text{MHV}}^{(0),[N=4]}$ then contributes both a Parke-Taylor denominator $\langle 12\rangle \cdots \langle n-1, n\rangle\langle n1\rangle$ and the supersymmetric delta function $\delta^8(Q)$.

B Two-loop integrals

This appendix contains all the integrals required to compute the rational part of the five- and six-point all-plus amplitudes. These expressions are also available in an ancillary file included with the arXiv submission.

B.1 Five-point integrals

$$I^{4-2\epsilon} \left(\begin{array}{c} 5 \\ \ell_2 \ell_1^1 \\ \diagdown \diagup \\ \text{---} 2 \\ \diagup \diagdown \\ 4 \end{array} \right) [\mu_{11}\mu_{22}] = \frac{s_{13}}{4} + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon), \quad (\text{B.1a})$$

$$I^{4-2\epsilon} \left(\begin{array}{c} 5 \\ \ell_2 \ell_1^1 \\ \diagdown \diagup \\ \text{---} 2 \\ \diagup \diagdown \\ 4 \end{array} \right) [\mu_{11}\mu_{22}(\ell_1 + \ell_2)^2] = \frac{\text{tr}_-(1345) - s_{13}(6s_{45} - 2s_{13} - s_{34} - s_{15})}{36} + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon), \quad (\text{B.1b})$$

$$I^{4-2\epsilon} \left(\begin{array}{c} 5 \\ \ell_2 \ell_1^1 \\ \diagdown \diagup \\ \text{---} 2 \\ \diagup \diagdown \\ 4 \end{array} \right) [\mu_{11}\mu_{22}] = \frac{1}{4} + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon), \quad (\text{B.1c})$$

$$I^{4-2\epsilon} \left(\begin{array}{c} 5 \\ \ell_2 \ell_1^1 \\ \diagdown \diagup \\ \text{---} 2 \\ \diagup \diagdown \\ 4 \end{array} \right) [\mu_{11}\mu_{22} \text{tr}_+(123\ell_1\ell_2 345)] = \frac{\text{tr}_+(123(2p_1+p_2)(p_4+2p_5)345)}{36} + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon), \quad (\text{B.1d})$$

$$I^{4-2\epsilon} \left(\begin{array}{c} 5 \\ \ell_2 \ell_1^1 \\ \diagdown \diagup \\ \text{---} 2 \\ \diagup \diagdown \\ 4 \end{array} \right) [\mu_{11}\mu_{22}(\ell_1 + \ell_2)^2] = \frac{(2p_1+p_2) \cdot (p_4+2p_5)}{18} + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon). \quad (\text{B.1e})$$

B.2 Six-point integrals

$$I^{4-2\epsilon} \left(\begin{array}{c} 6 \\ \ell_2 \ell_1^1 \\ \diagdown \diagup \\ \text{---} 2 \\ \diagup \diagdown \\ 4 \end{array} \right) [\mu_{11}\mu_{22}] = \frac{s_{13}s_{46}}{4} + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon), \quad (\text{B.2a})$$

$$I^{4-2\epsilon} \left(\begin{array}{c} 6 \\ \ell_2 \ell_1^1 \\ \diagdown \diagup \\ \text{---} 2 \\ \diagup \diagdown \\ 4 \end{array} \right) [\mu_{11}\mu_{22}(\ell_1 + \ell_2)^2] = -\frac{s_{13}s_{46}(s_{23} + s_{45})}{12}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 & + \frac{s_{13}s_{46}(2p_1+p_2+p_3) \cdot (p_4+p_5+2p_6)}{18} \\
 & + \frac{s_{46} \operatorname{tr}_+(12(p_4+p_5+2p_6)3)}{36} \\
 & + \frac{s_{13} \operatorname{tr}_+(4(2p_1+p_2+p_3)56)}{36} \\
 & + \frac{\operatorname{tr}_+(125643)}{36} + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon), \tag{B.2b}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$I^{4-2\epsilon} \left(\begin{array}{c} 6 \\ \ell_2 \ell_1 1 \\ \diagdown \quad \diagup \\ 5 \quad 4 \quad 3 \quad 2 \end{array} \right) [\mu_{11}^2 \mu_{22}] = \mathcal{O}(\epsilon), \tag{B.2c}$$

$$I^{4-2\epsilon} \left(\begin{array}{c} 6 \\ \ell_2 \ell_1 1 \\ \diagdown \quad \diagup \\ 5 \quad 4 \quad 3 \quad 2 \end{array} \right) [\mu_{11}^2 \mu_{22} (\ell_1 + \ell_2)^2] = -\frac{1}{12} + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon), \tag{B.2d}$$

$$I^{4-2\epsilon} \left(\begin{array}{c} 6 \\ \ell_2 \ell_1 1 \\ \diagdown \quad \diagup \\ 5 \quad 4 \quad 3 \quad 2 \end{array} \right) [\mu_{11} \mu_{22}] = \frac{s_{14}}{4} + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon), \tag{B.2e}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 I^{4-2\epsilon} \left(\begin{array}{c} 6 \\ \ell_2 \ell_1 1 \\ \diagdown \quad \diagup \\ 5 \quad 4 \quad 3 \quad 2 \end{array} \right) [\mu_{11} \mu_{22} (\ell_1 + \ell_2)^2] &= \frac{\operatorname{tr}_-(1456) - s_{14}(5s_{23} + 6s_{56} - 2s_{14} - s_{45} - s_{16})}{36} \\
 &+ \mathcal{O}(\epsilon), \tag{B.2f}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$I^{4-2\epsilon} \left(\begin{array}{c} 6 \\ \ell_2 \ell_1 1 \\ \diagdown \quad \diagup \\ 5 \quad 4 \quad 3 \quad 2 \end{array} \right) [\mu_{11} \mu_{22}] = \frac{s_{13}}{4} + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon), \tag{B.2g}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 I^{4-2\epsilon} \left(\begin{array}{c} 6 \\ \ell_2 \ell_1 1 \\ \diagdown \quad \diagup \\ 5 \quad 4 \quad 3 \quad 2 \end{array} \right) [\mu_{11} \mu_{22} (\ell_1 + \ell_2)^2] &= -\frac{s_{13}s_{23}}{12} + \frac{\operatorname{tr}_+(12(p_5+2p_6)3)}{36} \\
 &+ \frac{s_{13}(2p_1+p_2+p_3) \cdot (p_5+2p_6)}{18} + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon), \tag{B.2h}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 I^{4-2\epsilon} \left(\begin{array}{c} 6 \\ \ell_2 \ell_1 1 \\ \diagdown \quad \diagup \\ 5 \quad 4 \quad 3 \quad 2 \end{array} \right) [\mu_{11} \mu_{22} \ell_1^\mu \ell_2^\nu] &= \frac{(2s_{13}(2p_1+p_2+p_3)^\mu + \operatorname{tr}_+(12\gamma^\mu 3))(p_5+2p_6)^\nu}{72} \\
 &+ \mathcal{O}(\epsilon), \tag{B.2i}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$I^{4-2\epsilon} \left(\begin{array}{c} 6 \\ \ell_2 \ell_1 1 \\ \diagdown \quad \diagup \\ 5 \quad 4 \quad 3 \quad 2 \end{array} \right) [\mu_{11} \mu_{22}] = \frac{1}{4} + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon), \tag{B.2j}$$

$$I^{4-2\epsilon} \left(\begin{array}{c} 6 \\ \ell_2 \ell_1 1 \\ \diagdown \quad \diagup \\ 5 \quad 4 \quad 3 \quad 2 \end{array} \right) [\mu_{11} \mu_{22} (\ell_1 + \ell_2)^2] = \frac{(2p_1+p_2) \cdot (p_5+2p_6)}{18} + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon), \tag{B.2k}$$

$$I^{4-2\epsilon} \left(\begin{array}{c} 6 \\ \ell_2 \ell_1 1 \\ \diagdown \quad \diagup \\ 5 \quad 4 \quad 3 \quad 2 \end{array} \right) [\mu_{11} \mu_{22} \ell_1^\mu \ell_2^\nu] = \frac{(2p_1+p_2)^\mu (p_5+2p_6)^\nu}{36} + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon), \tag{B.2l}$$

$$I^{4-2\epsilon} \left(\begin{array}{c} 5 \\ \ell_2 \ell_1 1 \\ \diagdown \quad \diagup \\ 4 \quad 3 \quad 2 \end{array} \right) [\mu_{11} \mu_{22}] = \frac{1}{4} + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon), \tag{B.2m}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 I^{4-2\epsilon} \left(\begin{array}{c} 5 \\ \ell_2 \ell_1 1 \\ \diagdown \quad \diagup \\ 4 \quad 3 \quad 2 \end{array} \right) [\mu_{11} \mu_{22} (\ell_1 + \ell_2 - p_1 - p_5)^2] &= \frac{(p_1-p_2) \cdot (p_5-p_4)}{18} \\
 &- \frac{s_{12} + s_{45}}{12} + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon), \tag{B.2n}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$I^{4-2\epsilon} \left(\begin{array}{c} 5 \\ \ell_2 \ell_1 1 \\ \diagdown \quad \diagup \\ 4 \quad 3 \quad 2 \end{array} \right) [\mu_{11} \mu_{22} (\ell_1 - p_1)^\mu] = \frac{p_2^\mu - p_1^\mu}{12} + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon), \tag{B.2o}$$

$$I^{4-2\epsilon} \left(\begin{array}{c} 5 \\ \diagdown \quad \diagup \\ \ell_2 \quad \ell_1 \\ \diagup \quad \diagdown \\ 3 \\ \diagdown \quad \diagup \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{array} \right) [\mu_{11}\mu_{22}(\ell_2 - p_5)^\mu] = \frac{p_4^\mu - p_5^\mu}{12} + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon), \quad (\text{B.2p})$$

$$I^{4-2\epsilon} \left(\begin{array}{c} 5 \\ \diagdown \quad \diagup \\ \ell_2 \quad \ell_1 \\ \diagup \quad \diagdown \\ 3 \\ \diagdown \quad \diagup \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{array} \right) [\mu_{11}\mu_{22}(\ell_1 - p_1)^\mu(\ell_2 - p_5)^\nu] = \frac{(p_1^\mu - p_2^\mu)(p_5^\nu - p_4^\nu)}{36} + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon), \quad (\text{B.2q})$$

$$I^{4-2\epsilon} \left(\begin{array}{c} 5 \\ \diagdown \quad \diagup \\ \ell_2 \quad \ell_1 \\ \diagup \quad \diagdown \\ 3 \\ \diagdown \quad \diagup \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{array} \right) [\mu_{11}\mu_{22}(\ell_1 - p_1)^2] = -\frac{s_{12}}{12} + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon), \quad (\text{B.2r})$$

$$I^{4-2\epsilon} \left(\begin{array}{c} 5 \\ \diagdown \quad \diagup \\ \ell_2 \quad \ell_1 \\ \diagup \quad \diagdown \\ 3 \\ \diagdown \quad \diagup \\ 2 \\ 1 \end{array} \right) [\mu_{11}\mu_{22}(\ell_2 - p_5)^2] = -\frac{s_{45}}{12} + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon). \quad (\text{B.2s})$$

Open Access. This article is distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License ([CC-BY 4.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/)), which permits any use, distribution and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author(s) and source are credited.

References

- [1] J.R. Andersen et al., *Les Houches 2015: physics at TeV colliders Standard Model working group report*, in 9th *Les Houches Workshop on Physics at TeV Colliders (PhysTeV 2015)*, Les Houches France June 1–19 2015 [[arXiv:1605.04692](https://arxiv.org/abs/1605.04692)] [[INSPIRE](#)].
- [2] G. Ossola, C.G. Papadopoulos and R. Pittau, *Reducing full one-loop amplitudes to scalar integrals at the integrand level*, *Nucl. Phys. B* **763** (2007) 147 [[hep-ph/0609007](https://arxiv.org/abs/hep-ph/0609007)] [[INSPIRE](#)].
- [3] Z. Bern, L.J. Dixon, D.C. Dunbar and D.A. Kosower, *One loop n point gauge theory amplitudes, unitarity and collinear limits*, *Nucl. Phys. B* **425** (1994) 217 [[hep-ph/9403226](https://arxiv.org/abs/hep-ph/9403226)] [[INSPIRE](#)].
- [4] Z. Bern, L.J. Dixon, D.C. Dunbar and D.A. Kosower, *Fusing gauge theory tree amplitudes into loop amplitudes*, *Nucl. Phys. B* **435** (1995) 59 [[hep-ph/9409265](https://arxiv.org/abs/hep-ph/9409265)] [[INSPIRE](#)].
- [5] R. Britto, F. Cachazo and B. Feng, *Generalized unitarity and one-loop amplitudes in N = 4 super-Yang-Mills*, *Nucl. Phys. B* **725** (2005) 275 [[hep-th/0412103](https://arxiv.org/abs/hep-th/0412103)] [[INSPIRE](#)].
- [6] W.T. Giele, Z. Kunszt and K. Melnikov, *Full one-loop amplitudes from tree amplitudes*, *JHEP* **04** (2008) 049 [[arXiv:0801.2237](https://arxiv.org/abs/hep-th/0801.2237)] [[INSPIRE](#)].
- [7] P. Mastrolia and G. Ossola, *On the integrand-reduction method for two-loop scattering amplitudes*, *JHEP* **11** (2011) 014 [[arXiv:1107.6041](https://arxiv.org/abs/hep-th/1107.6041)] [[INSPIRE](#)].
- [8] S. Badger, H. Frellesvig and Y. Zhang, *Hepta-cuts of two-loop scattering amplitudes*, *JHEP* **04** (2012) 055 [[arXiv:1202.2019](https://arxiv.org/abs/hep-th/1202.2019)] [[INSPIRE](#)].
- [9] Y. Zhang, *Integrand-level reduction of loop amplitudes by computational algebraic geometry methods*, *JHEP* **09** (2012) 042 [[arXiv:1205.5707](https://arxiv.org/abs/hep-th/1205.5707)] [[INSPIRE](#)].
- [10] P. Mastrolia, E. Mirabella, G. Ossola and T. Peraro, *Scattering amplitudes from multivariate polynomial division*, *Phys. Lett. B* **718** (2012) 173 [[arXiv:1205.7087](https://arxiv.org/abs/hep-th/1205.7087)] [[INSPIRE](#)].
- [11] S. Badger, H. Frellesvig and Y. Zhang, *An integrand reconstruction method for three-loop amplitudes*, *JHEP* **08** (2012) 065 [[arXiv:1207.2976](https://arxiv.org/abs/hep-th/1207.2976)] [[INSPIRE](#)].
- [12] R.H.P. Kleiss, I. Malamos, C.G. Papadopoulos and R. Verheyen, *Counting to one: reducibility of one- and two-loop amplitudes at the integrand level*, *JHEP* **12** (2012) 038 [[arXiv:1206.4180](https://arxiv.org/abs/hep-th/1206.4180)] [[INSPIRE](#)].

- [13] B. Feng and R. Huang, *The classification of two-loop integrand basis in pure four-dimension*, *JHEP* **02** (2013) 117 [[arXiv:1209.3747](#)] [[INSPIRE](#)].
- [14] P. Mastrolia, E. Mirabella, G. Ossola and T. Peraro, *Integrand-reduction for two-loop scattering amplitudes through multivariate polynomial division*, *Phys. Rev. D* **87** (2013) 085026 [[arXiv:1209.4319](#)] [[INSPIRE](#)].
- [15] P. Mastrolia, E. Mirabella, G. Ossola and T. Peraro, *Multiloop integrand reduction for dimensionally regulated amplitudes*, *Phys. Lett. B* **727** (2013) 532 [[arXiv:1307.5832](#)] [[INSPIRE](#)].
- [16] S. Badger, H. Frellesvig and Y. Zhang, *A two-loop five-gluon helicity amplitude in QCD*, *JHEP* **12** (2013) 045 [[arXiv:1310.1051](#)] [[INSPIRE](#)].
- [17] P. Mastrolia, T. Peraro and A. Primo, *Adaptive integrand decomposition in parallel and orthogonal space*, [arXiv:1605.03157](#) [[INSPIRE](#)].
- [18] D.A. Kosower and K.J. Larsen, *Maximal unitarity at two loops*, *Phys. Rev. D* **85** (2012) 045017 [[arXiv:1108.1180](#)] [[INSPIRE](#)].
- [19] K.J. Larsen, *Global poles of the two-loop six-point $N = 4$ SYM integrand*, *Phys. Rev. D* **86** (2012) 085032 [[arXiv:1205.0297](#)] [[INSPIRE](#)].
- [20] S. Caron-Huot and K.J. Larsen, *Uniqueness of two-loop master contours*, *JHEP* **10** (2012) 026 [[arXiv:1205.0801](#)] [[INSPIRE](#)].
- [21] H. Johansson, D.A. Kosower and K.J. Larsen, *Two-loop maximal unitarity with external masses*, *Phys. Rev. D* **87** (2013) 025030 [[arXiv:1208.1754](#)] [[INSPIRE](#)].
- [22] H. Johansson, D.A. Kosower and K.J. Larsen, *Maximal unitarity for the four-mass double box*, *Phys. Rev. D* **89** (2014) 125010 [[arXiv:1308.4632](#)] [[INSPIRE](#)].
- [23] H. Johansson, D.A. Kosower, K.J. Larsen and M. Søgaard, *Cross-order integral relations from maximal cuts*, *Phys. Rev. D* **92** (2015) 025015 [[arXiv:1503.06711](#)] [[INSPIRE](#)].
- [24] M. Søgaard and Y. Zhang, *Multivariate residues and maximal unitarity*, *JHEP* **12** (2013) 008 [[arXiv:1310.6006](#)] [[INSPIRE](#)].
- [25] M. Søgaard, *Global residues and two-loop hepta-cuts*, *JHEP* **09** (2013) 116 [[arXiv:1306.1496](#)] [[INSPIRE](#)].
- [26] M. Søgaard and Y. Zhang, *Elliptic functions and maximal unitarity*, *Phys. Rev. D* **91** (2015) 081701 [[arXiv:1412.5577](#)] [[INSPIRE](#)].
- [27] M. Søgaard and Y. Zhang, *Massive nonplanar two-loop maximal unitarity*, *JHEP* **12** (2014) 006 [[arXiv:1406.5044](#)] [[INSPIRE](#)].
- [28] M. Søgaard and Y. Zhang, *Unitarity cuts of integrals with doubled propagators*, *JHEP* **07** (2014) 112 [[arXiv:1403.2463](#)] [[INSPIRE](#)].
- [29] H. Ita, *Two-loop integrand decomposition into master integrals and surface terms*, [arXiv:1510.05626](#) [[INSPIRE](#)].
- [30] K.J. Larsen and Y. Zhang, *Integration-by-parts reductions from unitarity cuts and algebraic geometry*, *Phys. Rev. D* **93** (2016) 041701 [[arXiv:1511.01071](#)] [[INSPIRE](#)].
- [31] Z. Bern, L.J. Dixon and D.A. Kosower, *One loop corrections to five gluon amplitudes*, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **70** (1993) 2677 [[hep-ph/9302280](#)] [[INSPIRE](#)].

- [32] E. Witten, *Perturbative gauge theory as a string theory in twistor space*, *Commun. Math. Phys.* **252** (2004) 189 [[hep-th/0312171](#)] [[INSPIRE](#)].
- [33] N. Arkani-Hamed, J.L. Bourjaily, F. Cachazo, S. Caron-Huot and J. Trnka, *The all-loop integrand for scattering amplitudes in planar $N = 4$ SYM*, *JHEP* **01** (2011) 041 [[arXiv:1008.2958](#)] [[INSPIRE](#)].
- [34] N. Arkani-Hamed, J.L. Bourjaily, F. Cachazo and J. Trnka, *Local integrals for planar scattering amplitudes*, *JHEP* **06** (2012) 125 [[arXiv:1012.6032](#)] [[INSPIRE](#)].
- [35] R. Britto, F. Cachazo and B. Feng, *New recursion relations for tree amplitudes of gluons*, *Nucl. Phys. B* **715** (2005) 499 [[hep-th/0412308](#)] [[INSPIRE](#)].
- [36] R. Britto, F. Cachazo, B. Feng and E. Witten, *Direct proof of tree-level recursion relation in Yang-Mills theory*, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **94** (2005) 181602 [[hep-th/0501052](#)] [[INSPIRE](#)].
- [37] J.L. Bourjaily and J. Trnka, *Local integrand representations of all two-loop amplitudes in planar SYM*, *JHEP* **08** (2015) 119 [[arXiv:1505.05886](#)] [[INSPIRE](#)].
- [38] T. Gehrmann, J.M. Henn and N.A. Lo Presti, *Analytic form of the two-loop planar five-gluon all-plus-helicity amplitude in QCD*, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **116** (2016) 062001 [*Erratum ibid.* **116** (2016) 189903] [[arXiv:1511.05409](#)] [[INSPIRE](#)].
- [39] D.C. Dunbar and W.B. Perkins, *Two-loop five-point all plus helicity Yang-Mills amplitude*, *Phys. Rev. D* **93** (2016) 085029 [[arXiv:1603.07514](#)] [[INSPIRE](#)].
- [40] D.C. Dunbar, G.R. Jehu and W.B. Perkins, *The two-loop n -point all-plus helicity amplitude*, *Phys. Rev. D* **93** (2016) 125006 [[arXiv:1604.06631](#)] [[INSPIRE](#)].
- [41] D.C. Dunbar, G.R. Jehu and W.B. Perkins, *Two-loop six gluon all plus helicity amplitude*, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **117** (2016) 061602 [[arXiv:1605.06351](#)] [[INSPIRE](#)].
- [42] Z. Bern, A. De Freitas, L.J. Dixon and H.L. Wong, *Supersymmetric regularization, two loop QCD amplitudes and coupling shifts*, *Phys. Rev. D* **66** (2002) 085002 [[hep-ph/0202271](#)] [[INSPIRE](#)].
- [43] J.C. Collins, *Renormalization*, *Camb. Mon. Math. Phys.* **26**, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge U.K. (1986).
- [44] G. 't Hooft and M.J.G. Veltman, *Regularization and renormalization of gauge fields*, *Nucl. Phys. B* **44** (1972) 189 [[INSPIRE](#)].
- [45] Z. Bern and A.G. Morgan, *Massive loop amplitudes from unitarity*, *Nucl. Phys. B* **467** (1996) 479 [[hep-ph/9511336](#)] [[INSPIRE](#)].
- [46] Z. Bern, L.J. Dixon and D.A. Kosower, *Dimensionally regulated one loop integrals*, *Phys. Lett. B* **302** (1993) 299 [*Erratum ibid.* **B 318** (1993) 649] [[hep-ph/9212308](#)] [[INSPIRE](#)].
- [47] Z. Bern, L.J. Dixon and D.A. Kosower, *Dimensionally regulated pentagon integrals*, *Nucl. Phys. B* **412** (1994) 751 [[hep-ph/9306240](#)] [[INSPIRE](#)].
- [48] Z. Bern, G. Chalmers, L.J. Dixon and D.A. Kosower, *One loop N gluon amplitudes with maximal helicity violation via collinear limits*, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **72** (1994) 2134 [[hep-ph/9312333](#)] [[INSPIRE](#)].
- [49] G. Mahlon, *One loop multi-photon helicity amplitudes*, *Phys. Rev. D* **49** (1994) 2197 [[hep-ph/9311213](#)] [[INSPIRE](#)].
- [50] Z. Bern, L.J. Dixon, D.C. Dunbar and D.A. Kosower, *One loop selfdual and $N = 4$ super Yang-Mills*, *Phys. Lett. B* **394** (1997) 105 [[hep-th/9611127](#)] [[INSPIRE](#)].

- [51] Z. Bern et al., *The two-loop six-gluon MHV amplitude in maximally supersymmetric Yang-Mills theory*, *Phys. Rev. D* **78** (2008) 045007 [[arXiv:0803.1465](#)] [[INSPIRE](#)].
- [52] C. Cheung and D. O’Connell, *Amplitudes and spinor-helicity in six dimensions*, *JHEP* **07** (2009) 075 [[arXiv:0902.0981](#)] [[INSPIRE](#)].
- [53] Z. Bern, J.J. Carrasco, T. Dennen, Y.-T. Huang and H. Ita, *Generalized unitarity and six-dimensional helicity*, *Phys. Rev. D* **83** (2011) 085022 [[arXiv:1010.0494](#)] [[INSPIRE](#)].
- [54] S. Davies, *One-loop QCD and Higgs to partons processes using six-dimensional helicity and generalized unitarity*, *Phys. Rev. D* **84** (2011) 094016 [[arXiv:1108.0398](#)] [[INSPIRE](#)].
- [55] A. Hodges, *Eliminating spurious poles from gauge-theoretic amplitudes*, *JHEP* **05** (2013) 135 [[arXiv:0905.1473](#)] [[INSPIRE](#)].
- [56] S. Badger, *Automating QCD amplitudes with on-shell methods*, in *17th International workshop on Advanced Computing and Analysis Techniques in physics research (ACAT 2016)*, Valparaiso Chile January 18–22 2016 [[arXiv:1605.02172](#)] [[INSPIRE](#)].
- [57] C.G. Papadopoulos, D. Tommasini and C. Wever, *The pentabox master integrals with the simplified differential equations approach*, *JHEP* **04** (2016) 078 [[arXiv:1511.09404](#)] [[INSPIRE](#)].
- [58] S. Catani, S. Dittmaier and Z. Trócsányi, *One loop singular behavior of QCD and SUSY QCD amplitudes with massive partons*, *Phys. Lett. B* **500** (2001) 149 [[hep-ph/0011222](#)] [[INSPIRE](#)].
- [59] S. Badger, G. Mogull, A. Ochirov and D. O’Connell, *A complete two-loop, five-gluon helicity amplitude in Yang-Mills theory*, *JHEP* **10** (2015) 064 [[arXiv:1507.08797](#)] [[INSPIRE](#)].
- [60] A.V. Smirnov, *FIESTA 3: cluster-parallelizable multiloop numerical calculations in physical regions*, *Comput. Phys. Commun.* **185** (2014) 2090 [[arXiv:1312.3186](#)] [[INSPIRE](#)].
- [61] A.V. Smirnov, *FIESTA 4: optimized Feynman integral calculations with GPU support*, *Comput. Phys. Commun.* **204** (2016) 189 [[arXiv:1511.03614](#)] [[INSPIRE](#)].
- [62] S. Borowka, G. Heinrich, S.P. Jones, M. Kerner, J. Schlenk and T. Zirke, *SecDec-3.0: numerical evaluation of multi-scale integrals beyond one loop*, *Comput. Phys. Commun.* **196** (2015) 470 [[arXiv:1502.06595](#)] [[INSPIRE](#)].
- [63] N. Arkani-Hamed, J.L. Bourjaily, F. Cachazo and J. Trnka, *Singularity structure of maximally supersymmetric scattering amplitudes*, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* **113** (2014) 261603 [[arXiv:1410.0354](#)] [[INSPIRE](#)].
- [64] N. Arkani-Hamed, J.L. Bourjaily, F. Cachazo, A. Postnikov and J. Trnka, *On-shell structures of MHV amplitudes beyond the planar limit*, *JHEP* **06** (2015) 179 [[arXiv:1412.8475](#)] [[INSPIRE](#)].
- [65] Z. Bern, E. Herrmann, S. Litsey, J. Stankowicz and J. Trnka, *Logarithmic singularities and maximally supersymmetric amplitudes*, *JHEP* **06** (2015) 202 [[arXiv:1412.8584](#)] [[INSPIRE](#)].
- [66] Z. Bern, E. Herrmann, S. Litsey, J. Stankowicz and J. Trnka, *Evidence for a nonplanar amplituhedron*, *JHEP* **06** (2016) 098 [[arXiv:1512.08591](#)] [[INSPIRE](#)].