

Superprotected n -point functions of local operators in $\mathcal{N} = 4$ supersymmetric YM

Nadav Druker

Humboldt Universität zu Berlin

Kavli Institute for Theoretical Physics

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Introduction

$\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM

Matter content: Gluons A_μ , 6 scalars Φ^I , 4 gluinos $\Psi_\alpha^A, \Psi_{\dot{\alpha}}^A$.

Most symmetric 4d gauge theory, symmetry $psu(2, 2|4)$ including $so(4, 2) \times so(6)$:

Conformal: $P_\mu, K_\mu, M_{\mu\nu}, D,$

R-symmetry: R_{IJ}

SUSY: $Q_\alpha^A, \bar{Q}_{A\dot{\alpha}},$

Superconformal: $S_A^\alpha, \bar{S}^{A\dot{\alpha}}$

In total 32 supercharges.

Dual to string theory on $AdS_5 \times S^5$ (will not use today).

I've been involved in finding interesting families of operators with 16 or fewer SUSYs.

This gives enough freedom to be interesting but still under control.

Chiral primary operators

Simplest operators: $\text{Tr} [\Phi_{\{I_1} \cdots \Phi_{I_J\}}]$ with $\{\dots\}$ sym. traceless.

A nice basis is $Z_u(x) = u^I \Phi^I(x)$ and take $\mathcal{O} = \text{Tr} [Z_u(x)^J]$.

SUSY: $\delta\Phi^I = \bar{\Psi}\gamma^5\rho^I(\epsilon_0 + \gamma_\mu x^\mu \epsilon_1)$.

$$\delta Z(0) = 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad u^I \rho^I \epsilon_0 = 0 \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad u \cdot u = 0$$

$\text{Tr} Z^J$ preserves 24 supersymmetry generators.

$\langle \text{Tr} Z_1^J(x_1) \text{Tr} Z_2^J(x_2) \rangle \sim J \left(\frac{u_1^I \cdot u_2^I}{(x_1 - x_2)^2} \right)^J \equiv J[12]^J$ is an exact statement and receives no quantum corrections.

$\text{Tr} Z^J(x_2)$ preserves also 24 generators. It shares 16 preserved supercharges with the other one. Which generators are common depends on the positions x_1, x_2 .

The three-point function:

$$\langle \text{Tr } Z_1^{J_1}(x_1) \text{Tr } Z_2^{J_2}(x_2) \text{Tr } Z_3^{J_3}(x_3) \rangle \sim [12]^{J_1+J_2-J_3} [23]^{J_2+J_3-J_1} [13]^{J_3+J_1-J_2}$$

This is an exact statement and receives no quantum corrections. (Lee, Minwalla, Rangamani, Seiberg)

All three operators share at least 8 supercharges.

The 4-point function is very complicated

$$\begin{aligned} & \langle \text{Tr } Z_1^k(x_1) \text{Tr } Z_2^k(x_2) \text{Tr } Z_3^k(x_3) \text{Tr } Z_4^k(x_4) \rangle \\ & = \text{tree} + \mathcal{R} \sum_{m+n+l=k-2} \mathcal{F}_{mnl}^{(k)}(s, t, \lambda) \mathcal{X}^m \mathcal{Y}^n \mathcal{Z}^l \end{aligned}$$

where (Arutyunov, Dolan, Osborn, Penati, Santambrogio, Sokatchev, ...)

$$\mathcal{X} = [12][34], \quad \mathcal{Y} = [13][24], \quad \mathcal{Z} = [14][23].$$

The conformal invariant cross ratios are

$$s = \frac{x_{12}^2 x_{34}^2}{x_{13}^2 x_{24}^2}, \quad t = \frac{x_{14}^2 x_{23}^2}{x_{13}^2 x_{24}^2}, \quad x_{ij}^2 = (x_i - x_j)^2.$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{R} = s \mathcal{X}^2 + \mathcal{Y}^2 + t \mathcal{Z}^2 + (s - t - 1) \mathcal{Y} \mathcal{Z} \\ + (1 - s - t) \mathcal{X} \mathcal{Z} + (t - s - 1) \mathcal{X} \mathcal{Y}. \end{aligned}$$

$\mathcal{F}_{mnl}^{(k)}(s, t, \lambda)$ is known to two loop order.

We would like to attribute the complexity of the 4-point function to the fact that four $1/2$ BPS local operators will generically not share any supersymmetries.

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1. Are there ways to choose four operators or more to preserve SUSY?
2. Will the n -point function be simpler than the generic case?
3. Can this be used to understand more general n -point functions?

Outline

- Introduction
- Trivial example
- Example I
 - four-point function
 - Symmetry
- Example II
- Side result: General one-loop insertion formula
- Some five and six-point functions
- Outlook

Trivial example

Take $u_i^I = (1, i, 0, 0, 0, 0)$, so $Z = \Phi^1 + i\Phi^2$.

$\text{Tr } Z^J(0)$ preserves 8 super-Poincaré charges (Q s) and all 16 superconformal ones (the S s). At a different position $\text{Tr } Z^J(x)$ will no longer preserve the S s, but it will still preserve the same eight Q s (as well as 16 other linear combinations of generators).

Any number of such operators will therefore share eight supercharges.

Indeed the n -point function is protected

$$\langle \text{Tr } Z^{J_1}(x_1) \text{Tr } Z^{J_2}(x_2) \cdots \text{Tr } Z^{J_n}(x_n) \rangle = 0.$$

This is a rather trivial example....

Same is almost true with $\mathcal{N} = 1$ SUSY — chiral ring.

Example I

Central idea: Make $u^I = u^I(x)$ space-time dependent.

We will take the following combination of the six real scalar fields

de Medeiros, Hull, Spence, Figueroa-O'Farrill, hep-th/0111190

$$C = 2i x_\mu \Phi^\mu + i(1 - (x)^2)\Phi^5 + (1 + (x)^2)\Phi^6.$$

For example

$$C(0) \propto \Phi^6 + i\Phi^5, \quad C(\infty) \propto \Phi^6 - i\Phi^5, \quad C(1, 0, 0, 0) \propto \Phi^6 + i\Phi^1.$$

A crucial property:

$$[12] = \langle C(x_1) C(x_2) \rangle \propto \frac{(1 + x_1^2)(1 + x_2^2) - (1 - x_1^2)(1 - x_2^2) - 4x_1^\mu x_2^\mu}{(x_1 - x_2)^2}$$

This is a constant independent of x_1 and x_2 !

four-point function

2 and 3-point functions of chiral operators are always given by free contractions. For operators $\text{Tr } C^{J_i}$ it will depend on J_1 , J_2 and J_3 , but not on the coupling and not on the positions.

The 4-point functions has the tree-contractions and generally the interactions

$$\begin{aligned} & \langle \text{Tr } C^k(x_1) \text{Tr } C^k(x_2) \text{Tr } C^k(x_3) \text{Tr } C^k(x_4) \rangle \\ & = \text{tree} + \mathcal{R} \sum_{m+n+l=k-2} \mathcal{F}_{mnl}^{(k)}(s, t) \mathcal{X}^m \mathcal{Y}^n \mathcal{Z}^l \end{aligned}$$

s and t are arbitrary, but for our operators $\mathcal{X} = \mathcal{Y} = \mathcal{Z}$, so

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{R} & = s \mathcal{X}^2 + \mathcal{Y}^2 + t \mathcal{Z}^2 + (s - t - 1) \mathcal{Y} \mathcal{Z} \\ & \quad + (1 - s - t) \mathcal{X} \mathcal{Z} + (t - s - 1) \mathcal{X} \mathcal{Y} = 0. \end{aligned}$$

I will prove later that there are no one-loop corrections to any n -point function of these operators.

$$C = 2i x_\mu \Phi^\mu + i(1 - (x)^2)\Phi^5 + (1 + (x)^2)\Phi^6$$

$$C = \Phi^6 + ix_m \Phi^m, \quad m = 1, \dots, 5 \quad x^2 = 1$$

Supersymmetry

Require $\delta C = 0$ for all $x^\mu \Rightarrow (\gamma^{\mu\nu} + \rho^{\mu\nu})\epsilon_0 = 0, \quad \epsilon_1 = i\gamma^1\rho^{16}\epsilon_0.$

Break R-symmetry $su(4) \rightarrow su(2) \times su(2)$ such that $\mathbf{4} \rightarrow (\mathbf{2}, \mathbf{1}) \oplus (\mathbf{1}, \mathbf{2})$

Two solutions: $\epsilon_0^{+\alpha} = \delta_a^\alpha \epsilon_0^+$ and $\epsilon_0^{-\dot{\alpha}} = \delta_{\dot{a}}^{\dot{\alpha}} \epsilon_0^-.$

Writing the generators schematically as

$$\left(\begin{array}{c|c} P, K, M, D & Q \\ \hline S & R \end{array} \right)$$

The preserved supercharges are $\text{tr}_{su(4)} Q$ and $\text{tr}_{su(4)} S.$

Our operators are covariant under the twisted generators

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{P}_\mu &= P_\mu + T_{5\mu} + iT_{6\mu}, & \tilde{M}_{\mu\nu} &= M_{\mu\nu} + T_{\mu\nu}, \\ \tilde{D} &= D + iT_{56}, & \tilde{K}_\mu &= K_\mu - T_{5\mu} + iT_{6\mu}. \end{aligned}$$

with twisted dimension $\tilde{\Delta} = 0.$

Hence the two point function is a constant!

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- Three operators (or any number of operators along a line/circle) will share 8 supercharges.
- Four operators (or any number of operators along a plane/sphere) will share 4 supercharges.
- The most generic configuration will share 2 supercharges.
- They all transform covariantly under the “twisted symmetries”. Including 15 bosonic generators of $so(5, 1)$, and 15 fermionic ones. Together they make the algebra $q(4)$.

As part of the algebra we can generate one copy of $so(5, 1)$ from the fermionic generators

$$\tilde{P}_\mu = \{Q^\pm, \tilde{Q}_\mu^\pm\}, \quad \tilde{D} = \{Q^\pm, \tilde{Q}_D^\pm\},$$

Using the Ward identity

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{\partial}{\partial x_1^\mu} \langle \text{Tr } C^{J_1}(x_1) \cdots \text{Tr } C^{J_n}(x_n) \rangle \\ &= Q^+ \langle J_1 \text{Tr} [\{Q_\mu^+, C\} C^{J_1-1}(x_1)] \cdots \text{Tr } C^{J_n}(x_n) \rangle = 0. \end{aligned}$$

So it is position-independent.

Can also write $\mathcal{S} = \{Q^\pm, \Psi^\pm\}$, do

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{\partial}{\partial g_{YM}^2} \langle \text{Tr } C^{J_1}(x_1) \text{Tr} \cdots \text{Tr } C^{J_n}(x_n) \rangle_{\text{pert}} \\ & \propto Q^+ \langle \Psi^+ \text{Tr } C^{J_1}(x_1) \cdots \text{Tr } C^{J_n}(x_n) \rangle_{\text{pert}} = 0. \end{aligned}$$

So there are no perturbative correction to the free field-theory answer.

Example II

Using the complex coordinates $w = x_1 + ix_2$ and $\bar{w} = x_1 - ix_2$ in the plane

$$Z = i(1 - \bar{w}^2)\Phi^1 + (1 + \bar{w}^2)\Phi^2 - 2i\bar{w}\Phi^3.$$

This is not the same as C restricted to the plane!

Generically four supercharges are preserved.

Now the two-point function is

$$[12] = \langle Z(w_1) Z(w_2) \rangle \propto \frac{(\bar{w}_1 - \bar{w}_2)^2}{|w_1 - w_2|^2} = \frac{\bar{w}_1 - \bar{w}_2}{w_1 - w_2}$$

the same as a (matrix) 2d conformal field of weight $(\frac{1}{2}, -\frac{1}{2})$.

Symmetry

There is a natural $SL(2, \mathbb{C}) \simeq SL(2, \mathbb{R}) \times \bar{SL}(2, \mathbb{R})$ and $su(2)_{123} \times su(2)_{456}$.

Z has weight $\frac{1}{2}$ under $SL(2, \mathbb{R})$.

Z has weight $-\frac{1}{2}$ under $\bar{SL}(2, \mathbb{R}) + su(2)_{123}$.

The commutators of supercharges gives $\bar{SL}(2, \mathbb{R}) + \frac{1}{2}su(2)_{123}$.

Under these generators Z has dimension zero, but is not a primary.

Topological theory?

four-point function

Now we write the complex cross ratio

$$s = \mu\bar{\mu}, \quad t = (1 - \mu)(1 - \bar{\mu}), \quad \mu = \frac{w_{12}w_{34}}{w_{13}w_{24}}.$$

Then

$$\mathcal{R} = \left(\mu(\mathcal{X} - \mathcal{Z}) + \mathcal{Z} - \mathcal{Y} \right) \left(\bar{\mu}(\mathcal{X} - \mathcal{Z}) + \mathcal{Z} - \mathcal{Y} \right).$$

Now using

$$\frac{\mathcal{X}}{\mathcal{Y}} = \frac{\bar{\mu}}{\mu}, \quad \frac{\mathcal{Z}}{\mathcal{Y}} = \frac{1 - \bar{\mu}}{1 - \mu}.$$

We find

$$\mu(\mathcal{X} - \mathcal{Z}) + \mathcal{Z} - \mathcal{Y} = 0,$$

so again there are no quantum corrections to the four-point functions.

Summing over all possible insertions of these interactions, they all cancel unless the points 1234 are distinct and all the complicated terms in F cancel against corner interaction, so we are left with an effective four-point interaction

$$\begin{aligned}
 D_{1234} &\equiv \begin{array}{c} u_1 \qquad u_2 \\ \bullet \quad \bullet \\ \diagdown \quad \diagup \\ \text{\textcircled{X}} \\ \diagup \quad \diagdown \\ \bullet \quad \bullet \\ u_4 \qquad u_3 \end{array} = \begin{array}{c} \bullet \quad \bullet \\ \text{---} \\ \text{---} \\ \text{---} \\ \bullet \quad \bullet \end{array} + \begin{array}{c} \bullet \quad \bullet \\ \text{---} \\ \text{---} \\ \text{---} \\ \bullet \quad \bullet \end{array} + \begin{array}{c} \bullet \quad \bullet \\ \diagdown \quad \diagup \\ \diagup \quad \diagdown \\ \bullet \quad \bullet \end{array} - \text{corners} \\
 &= \frac{\lambda}{2} \frac{X_{1234}}{I_{13}I_{24}} \left(2 [13][24] + (s-1-t)[14][23] + (t-1-s)[12][34] \right)
 \end{aligned}$$

So the general one loop graph is the sum over choices of four points

$$\begin{aligned}
 \left\langle \mathcal{O}_{J_1}^{u_1} \cdots \mathcal{O}_{J_n}^{u_n} \right\rangle_{1\text{-loop}} &= \sum_{i,j,k,l} J_i J_j J_k J_l D_{ijkl} \\
 &\quad \left\langle \mathcal{O}_{J_i-1}^{u_i} \mathcal{O}_{J_j-1}^{u_j} \mathcal{O}_{J_k-1}^{u_k} \mathcal{O}_{J_l-1}^{u_l} \mid \mathcal{O}_{J_1}^{u_1} \cdots \mathcal{O}_{J_n}^{u_n} \right\rangle_{\text{tree, disc}}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\left\langle \mathcal{O}_{k_i-1}^{u_i} \mathcal{O}_{k_j-1}^{u_j} \mathcal{O}_{k_l-1}^{u_l} \mathcal{O}_{k_m-1}^{u_m} \left| \prod_{p \neq i,j,l,m} \mathcal{O}_{k_p}^{u_p} \right. \right\rangle_{\text{tree, disc}} = \mathcal{O}_{k_j-1}^{u_j} \mathcal{O}_{k_l-1}^{u_l} \mathcal{O}_{k_m-1}^{u_m} \mathcal{O}_{k_p}^{u_p}$$

Using this we calculated some four, five and six point functions at one loop.

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \mathcal{O}_2^{u_1} \mathcal{O}_2^{u_2} \mathcal{O}_2^{u_3} \mathcal{O}_2^{u_4} \rangle_{1\text{-loop}} &= 16 \left(D_{1234} \langle \mathcal{O}_1^{u_1} \mathcal{O}_1^{u_2} \mathcal{O}_1^{u_3} \mathcal{O}_1^{u_4} \rangle_{\text{tree, disc}} \right. \\ &\quad \left. + D_{1324} \langle \mathcal{O}_1^{u_1} \mathcal{O}_1^{u_3} \mathcal{O}_1^{u_2} \mathcal{O}_1^{u_4} \rangle_{\text{tree, disc}} + D_{1243} \langle \mathcal{O}_1^{u_1} \mathcal{O}_1^{u_2} \mathcal{O}_1^{u_4} \mathcal{O}_1^{u_3} \rangle_{\text{tree, disc}} \right). \end{aligned}$$

For a given ordering there are two planar tree diagrams with a pair of contractions: \mathcal{X} , \mathcal{Y} and \mathcal{Z}

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \mathcal{O}_2^{u_1} \mathcal{O}_2^{u_2} \mathcal{O}_2^{u_3} \mathcal{O}_2^{u_4} \rangle_{1\text{-loop}} &= 16 \left(D_{1234} (\mathcal{X} + \mathcal{Z}) + D_{1243} (\mathcal{Y} + \mathcal{X}) + D_{1324} (\mathcal{Z} + \mathcal{Y}) \right) \\ &= -16 \left(D_{1234} \mathcal{Y} + D_{1243} \mathcal{Z} + D_{1324} \mathcal{X} \right) = -\frac{\lambda}{\pi^2} \Phi(s, t) \mathcal{R}. \end{aligned}$$

Used $(D_{1234} + D_{1243} + D_{1324}) = 0$.

The result is minus the sum of all non-planar contractions.

Some 5-point functions

The 5-point function

$$\langle \mathcal{O}_2^{u_1} \mathcal{O}_2^{u_2} \mathcal{O}_2^{u_3} \mathcal{O}_3^{u_4} \mathcal{O}_3^{u_5} \rangle_{1\text{-loop}}$$

can be written as sum of terms like

$$\begin{aligned} & D_{1234} \langle \mathcal{O}_1^{u_1} \mathcal{O}_1^{u_2} \mathcal{O}_1^{u_3} \mathcal{O}_2^{u_4} \mid \mathcal{O}_3^{u_5} \rangle_{\text{tree, disc}} + 1 \leftrightarrow 2 + 2 \leftrightarrow 3 \\ & + D_{1245} \langle \mathcal{O}_1^{u_1} \mathcal{O}_1^{u_2} \mathcal{O}_2^{u_4} \mathcal{O}_2^{u_5} \mid \mathcal{O}_3^{u_3} \rangle_{\text{tree, disc}} + 1 \leftrightarrow 2 + 2 \leftrightarrow 4 \\ & + \dots \end{aligned}$$

Using $(D_{1234} + D_{1243} + D_{1324}) = 0$ it can be written in terms of four and five-point functions of operators of dimension two times free-field contractions

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{9}{4} [45] \langle \mathcal{O}_2^{u_1} \mathcal{O}_2^{u_2} \mathcal{O}_2^{u_3} \mathcal{O}_2^{u_4} \mathcal{O}_2^{u_5} \rangle_{1\text{-loop}} + \frac{9}{2} [41][15] \langle \mathcal{O}_2^{u_2} \mathcal{O}_2^{u_3} \mathcal{O}_2^{u_4} \mathcal{O}_2^{u_5} \rangle_{1\text{-loop}} \\ & + \frac{9}{2} [42][25] \langle \mathcal{O}_2^{u_1} \mathcal{O}_2^{u_3} \mathcal{O}_2^{u_4} \mathcal{O}_2^{u_5} \rangle_{1\text{-loop}} + \frac{9}{2} [43][35] \langle \mathcal{O}_2^{u_1} \mathcal{O}_2^{u_2} \mathcal{O}_2^{u_4} \mathcal{O}_2^{u_5} \rangle_{1\text{-loop}}. \end{aligned}$$

Another example:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \langle \mathcal{O}_2^{u_1} \mathcal{O}_2^{u_2} \mathcal{O}_2^{u_3} \mathcal{O}_5^{u_4} \mathcal{O}_5^{u_5} \rangle &= \frac{25}{4} [45]^3 \langle \mathcal{O}_2^{u_1} \mathcal{O}_2^{u_2} \mathcal{O}_2^{u_3} \mathcal{O}_2^{u_4} \mathcal{O}_2^{u_5} \rangle \\
 &+ \frac{75}{2} [35][35][45]^2 \langle \mathcal{O}_2^{u_1} \mathcal{O}_2^{u_2} \mathcal{O}_2^{u_4} \mathcal{O}_2^{u_5} \rangle + \frac{75}{2} [25][25][45]^2 \langle \mathcal{O}_2^{u_1} \mathcal{O}_2^{u_3} \mathcal{O}_2^{u_4} \mathcal{O}_2^{u_5} \rangle \\
 &+ \frac{75}{2} [15][15][45]^2 \langle \mathcal{O}_2^{u_2} \mathcal{O}_2^{u_3} \mathcal{O}_2^{u_4} \mathcal{O}_2^{u_5} \rangle
 \end{aligned}$$

In all the examples we checked they can be written as the basic four and five-point functions times free contractions.

Would require better understanding of planar disc graphs to generalize.

Back to the “superprotected” operators

$$D_{1234} = \frac{\lambda}{2} \frac{X_{1234}}{I_{13}I_{24}} (2\mathcal{Y} + (s-1-t)\mathcal{Z} + (t-1-s)\mathcal{X}) \propto \frac{\partial \mathcal{R}}{\partial \mathcal{Y}}$$

$\frac{X_{1234}}{I_{13}I_{24}}$ is a transcendental function of the cross-ratios s and t , so cancelations should happen for each choice of four points independently.

Indeed for example I: $\mathcal{X} = \mathcal{Y} = \mathcal{Z}$ are constant, so $D_{ijkl} = 0!$

For example II this doesn't happen. We have to use the modular property

$$D_{1234} = -\frac{1}{\mu} D_{1324} = -\frac{1}{1-\mu} D_{1243}.$$

We checked five and six-point functions with total weight ≤ 16 and found that the sum of these triplets always vanished for example II!

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- Many open questions:
 - Prove that there are no quantum corrections.
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But on \mathbb{R}^2 , \mathbb{R}^3 ?
Use $\mathcal{R} = 0$?
- Grand goal: Using these operators as the starting point to calculate n -point functions of other operators. BPS or not.
Take operators deviating only by a small amount from those:
Insert other fields into long operators...

The end