

Multiloop soft theorem of the dilaton in the bosonic string

Paolo Di Vecchia,^{1,2} Raffaele Marotta,³ and Matin Mojaza⁴

¹*NORDITA, KTH Royal Institute of Technology and Stockholm University Roslagstullsbacken 23, SE-10691 Stockholm, Sweden*

²*The Niels Bohr Institute, University of Copenhagen, Blegdamsvej 17, DK-2100 Copenhagen Ø, Denmark*

³*Istituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare (INFN), Sezione di Napoli, Complesso Universitario di Monte S. Angelo edificio 6, via Cintia, 80126, Napoli, Italy*

⁴*Albert-Einstein-Institute, Max-Planck-Institute for Gravitational Physics, Am Mühlenberg 1, DE-14476 Potsdam-Golm, Germany*



(Received 10 July 2019; published 7 August 2019)

We show that by fixing the multiloop Green function in the closed bosonic string to be Arakelov’s Green function, one obtains factorization of scattering amplitudes with a softly emitted dilaton to the same level as with a graviton to all loop order. This extends our previous analysis at one loop to all loop orders and confirms that some high-energy quantum symmetry in the bosonic string protects the factorization of amplitudes with softly emitted dilatons.

DOI: [10.1103/PhysRevD.100.041902](https://doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevD.100.041902)

I. INTRODUCTION

In [1] we showed that in the bosonic string the h -loop amplitude of n closed tachyons, carrying momentum k_i , and one massless closed string with polarization $\epsilon_q^\mu \bar{\epsilon}_q^\nu$, carrying momentum q , is given by

$$M_{n,1}^{(h)} = C_h N_0^n \int d\mu_h^{(d)} \int_{\Sigma_h} \prod_{i=1}^n d^2 z_i \prod_{i<j=1}^n e^{\frac{d}{2} k_i k_j \mathcal{G}_h(z_i, z_j)} \times N_0 \epsilon_q^\mu \bar{\epsilon}_q^\nu \int_{\Sigma_h} d^2 z \prod_{\ell=1}^n e^{\frac{d}{2} k_\ell q \mathcal{G}_h(z, z_\ell)} I_{\mu\nu}(z_i, z; k_i, q), \quad (1)$$

where C_h and N_0 are normalization factors, $d\mu_h^{(d)}$ is the integration measure of the moduli space of dimension 1 for $h = 1$ and dimension $3h - 3$ for $h \geq 2$ including a factor arising from compactifying $26 - d$ spatial dimensions. Their explicit form, irrelevant for the current discussion, was derived in [1] using Schottky parametrization. The Koba-Nielsen variables z_i and z are integrated over the genus h compact Riemann surface, Σ_h . \mathcal{G}_h is the two-point Green function, considered in more detail shortly. Finally, the integrand $I_{\mu\nu}$ is given by

$$I^{\mu\nu} = I_h^{\mu\nu} + 2\pi h \eta^{\mu\nu} \mathcal{K}_h, \quad (2)$$

$$I_h^{\mu\nu} = \frac{\alpha'}{2} \sum_{i,j=1}^n k_i^\mu k_j^\nu \partial_z \mathcal{G}_h(z, z_i) \partial_{\bar{z}} \mathcal{G}_h(z, z_j), \quad (3)$$

$$\mathcal{K}_h = \frac{1}{4\pi h} \sum_{I,J=1}^h \omega_I(z) (2\pi \text{Im}\tau)_{IJ}^{-1} \bar{\omega}_J(z), \quad (4)$$

where ω_I and τ_{IJ} are the Abelian one-forms and the period matrix of Σ_h , whose explicit expressions in terms of the Schottky group parameters were also given in [1]. Equation (1) is also valid at genus $h = 0$ with $\mathcal{K}_0 = 0$ [and $\mathcal{G}_0(z, w) = \ln|z - w|^2$] and with the measure properly replaced by one over the $SL(2, \mathbb{C})$ volume form, cf. [2].

As explicitly shown in [1], \mathcal{K}_h has the property that

$$\int_{\Sigma_h} d^2 z \mathcal{K}_h = 1, \quad (5)$$

showing that $\mathcal{K}_h d^2 z$ forms a genus h unit volume form. In fact, \mathcal{K}_h is the metric induced from the pullback of the Kähler form from the Jacobian variety of Σ_h , a Kähler flat manifold, as recently discussed in [3,4] in relation to modular graph functions. We will here make important use of this fact.

In [1] we showed that when restricted to symmetric polarizations of the massless closed string the z -integral in (1) is by a soft expansion in q fully localized through the order q , apart from the $\eta^{\mu\nu}$ -term at order q , by only using generic properties of the multiloop Green function, in particular its Laplacian

$$\partial_z \partial_{\bar{z}} \mathcal{G}_h(z, w) = \pi \delta^{(2)}(z - w) + r_h(z), \quad (6)$$

where $r_h(z)$ is a genus-dependent function ensuring Gauss’ law on Σ_h , i.e., $\int d^2 z \partial_z \partial_{\bar{z}} \mathcal{G}_h(z, w) = 0$. More explicitly, we were able to show that, on the support of momentum conservation, for any h ,

Published by the American Physical Society under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International license. Further distribution of this work must maintain attribution to the author(s) and the published article’s title, journal citation, and DOI. Funded by SCOAP³.

$$\int_{\Sigma_h} d^2z \prod_{\ell=1}^n e^{g_{\ell}^{\mu\nu} \mathcal{G}_h(z, z_{\ell})} I_h^{\mu\nu}(z_i, z; k_i, q) = f^{\mu\nu}(\mathcal{G}_h(z_i, z_j); k_i, q) + \mathcal{O}(q^2), \quad (7)$$

where $f^{\mu\nu}$ is a universal function whose z_i and genus dependence enter only implicitly through the Green

function in its argument. This is a remarkable result reflecting a large number of nontrivial cancellations taking place among all terms that cannot be localized on the δ -function by repeated use of integrations by part. These cancellations are an imprint of some underlying symmetry of the theory. They are, however, not totally surprising; the soft graviton theorem generates, in fact, $f^{\mu\nu}$, i.e.,

$$\prod_{i \neq j}^n e^{\alpha' k_i \cdot k_j x} f^{\mu\nu}(x; k_i, q) = 2\pi \sum_{i=1}^n \left[\frac{k_i^{\mu} k_i^{\nu}}{k_i \cdot q} - i \frac{q_{\rho} k_i^{\mu} L_i^{\nu\rho}}{k_i \cdot q} - \frac{q_{\rho} q_{\sigma}}{2k_i \cdot q} : L_i^{\mu\rho} L_i^{\nu\sigma} : \right] \prod_{i \neq j}^n e^{\alpha' k_i \cdot k_j x}, \quad (8)$$

where $L_i^{\mu\nu} = i(k_i^{\mu} \partial_{k_i}^{\nu} - k_i^{\nu} \partial_{k_i}^{\mu})$ is the (orbital) angular momentum operator, and the notation $:$ means that derivatives are normal ordered (all act to the right). It is thus an explicit demonstration of the recently extended soft theorem of the graviton [5–8] at the multiloop level in the bosonic string.

This result, however, goes beyond the graviton soft theorem, since tracelessness in the polarization of the external massless closed string state was not assumed. This is also why normal ordering is important in the subsubleading generator of $f^{\mu\nu}$.

At genus zero, this is all there is, thus establishing a unified soft theorem for both the graviton and dilaton at the tree level [2,9]. But at higher genus the additional term proportional to $\eta^{\mu\nu}$ in $I^{\mu\nu}$ becomes relevant for the soft behavior of the dilaton, and this is the term we here wish to discuss. We will do this by first reviewing the genus one case in a slightly different way than outlined in [1]. Subsequently, we will generalize the analysis to all-loop order, by making use of the Arakelov construction for the Green function [10,11].

II. SOFT FACTORIZATION AT GENUS ONE

The genus one Green function in the Schottky parametrization reads (see the Appendix for derivations and expressions)

$$\mathcal{G}_1(z_1, z_2) = \log \left| \frac{\theta_1(z_1/z_2|\kappa)}{\theta_1(0|\kappa)} \right|^2 + \log \left| \frac{(2\pi z_1)(2\pi z_2)}{V_1'(0)V_2'(0)} \right| - \frac{1}{2\pi\tau_2} \log^2 \left| \frac{z_1}{z_2} \right|, \quad (9)$$

where θ_1 is the Jacobi theta function [Eq. (A6)] and κ is the Schottky group multiplier. The modular parameter on the torus, $\tau = \tau_1 + i\tau_2$, here arises as the “dimension one” period matrix and is related to the multiplier by the identity: $\kappa = e^{2\pi i\tau}$. $V_i(z)$ are projective transformations that define the local coordinates around each puncture z_i on the Riemann surface (here the torus) such that $V_i(0) = z_i$ and inversely $V_i^{-1}(z_i) = 0$. The second term thus expresses

the “gauge freedom” due to world sheet diffeomorphism invariance, and by inspection of (1) it is evident that the amplitude is independent of this term on shell and on support of momentum conservation.

There is a coordinate choice which gets rid of the second term above altogether, reading $V_i(z) = 2\pi z_i z + z_i$, with its inverse being $V_i^{-1} = (z - z_i)/(2\pi z_i)$, thus satisfying the coordinate conditions. Since then $V_i'(0) = 2\pi z_i$, it follows that the second term vanishes, yielding the usual bosonic Green function on the torus, which is translationally invariant in the variables ν_i , defined through $z_i = e^{2\pi i\nu_i}$, i.e.,

$$G_B(\nu_{12}|\tau) = \log \left| \frac{\theta_1(\nu_{12}|\tau)}{\theta_1(0|\tau)} \right|^2 - \frac{2\pi}{\tau_2} (\text{Im}(\nu_{12}))^2, \quad (10)$$

where $\nu_{12} = \nu_1 - \nu_2$. There is, however, an even more useful choice of coordinates, which reduces the Green function to a certain lattice sum, namely by choosing V_i such that $V_i'(0) = z_i/(2\pi|\eta(\tau)|^2)$, where $\eta(\tau) = [\theta_1'(0|\tau)/(2\pi)]^{1/3}$ is the Dedekind eta function, whereby the Green function instead takes the form

$$G_A(\nu_{12}|\tau) = \log \left| \frac{\theta_1(\nu_{12}|\tau)}{\eta(\tau)} \right|^2 - \frac{2\pi}{\tau_2} (\text{Im}(\nu_{12}))^2. \quad (11)$$

By going to the lattice parameters, $\nu_{12} = \alpha + \tau\beta$ where $\alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{R}/\mathbb{Z}$, such that $\nu_{12} \simeq \nu_{12} + 1$ and $\nu_{12} \simeq \nu_{12} + \tau$ are identified to form the (α, β) -homology cycles, it can be shown that the previous Green function is given by the lattice sum:

$$G_A(\nu_{12}|\tau) = -\frac{\tau_2}{\pi} \sum_{(m,n) \neq (0,0)} \frac{e^{2\pi i(m\beta - n\alpha)}}{|m + \tau n|^2}, \quad (12)$$

which shows that this Green function is normalized such that it vanishes upon integration over the homology cycles, i.e.,

$$\int_0^1 d\alpha \int_0^1 d\beta G_A(\alpha + \tau\beta|\tau) = 0. \quad (13)$$

With these explicit forms for the Green function, it now becomes easy to calculate the $\eta^{\mu\nu}$ -terms appearing in the soft expansion of the massless closed string. At one loop the ‘‘Kähler form’’ reduces to $\mathcal{K}_1 = \frac{1}{8\pi^2\tau_2|z|^2}$, and the integral to be calculated is

$$\int_{\Sigma_1} \frac{d^2z}{4\pi\tau_2|z|^2} \left(1 + \sum_{\ell=1}^n \frac{\alpha'}{2} k_\ell q \mathcal{G}_1(z, z_\ell) \right) + \mathcal{O}(q^2). \quad (14)$$

Using that $d^2z = idz \wedge d\bar{z} = 8\pi^2\tau_2|z|^2 d\alpha d\beta$, the first term trivially gives 2π . This is of course a more general consequence of (5), here shown explicitly. The heart of our problem is the second term. To make use of (13) we simply make the change of variables $z = e^{2\pi i(x+\tau y)}$ and $z_\ell = e^{2\pi i(x_\ell+\tau y_\ell)}$, whereby the second integral above becomes

$$2\pi \sum_{\ell} \frac{\alpha'}{2} k_\ell q \int dx \int dy \mathcal{G}_1(\nu, \nu_\ell) = 0. \quad (15)$$

The zero on the right-hand side follows immediately by choosing $\mathcal{G}_1 = G_A$ due to its translational invariance and its norm (13). However, it should also follow from any other choice, in particular from the choice $\mathcal{G}_1 = G_B$, which was what we showed in [1]. But in this case it is not the integral that vanishes: Since G_B is related to G_A by $G_B = G_A - \log|2\pi\eta(\tau)|^2$, i.e., by a term independent of z and z_ℓ , the integral just yields a constant in terms of z_ℓ . Thus the full expression vanishes, not functionally, but distributionally due to momentum conservation; i.e., $\sum_{\ell} k_\ell q = -q^2 = 0$. The lesson to learn is that by making a proper choice of coordinates on the world sheet, the vanishing of this term becomes functionally manifest, while for other choices it is obscured due to momentum conservation. At higher genus this difference becomes much more important as translational invariance of the Green function is no longer at hand.

III. SOFT FACTORIZATION AT GENUS $h \geq 2$

The higher genus generalization of (9) takes the form [1]

$$\mathcal{G}_h(z_1, z_2) = \log|E(z_1, z_2)|^2 - \log|V_1'(0)V_2'(0)| + \text{Re} \left(\int_{z_j}^{z_i} \omega_I \right) (2\pi \text{Im}\tau)_{IJ}^{-1} \text{Re} \left(\int_{z_i}^{z_j} \omega_J \right), \quad (16)$$

where E is the prime form, which also has an explicit expression in terms of the Schottky group parameters (cf. [1]). The relation to the usual higher genus bosonic Green function is $\mathcal{G}_h = G_B^{(h)} - \log|V_1'(0)V_2'(0)|$, which satisfies (cf. [12], Sec. II G 2, where $G_B^{(h)}$ is denoted $-\text{Ln } F$)

$$\partial_z \partial_{\bar{z}} G_B^{(h)}(z, w) = \pi \delta^{(2)}(z - w) - 2\pi h \mathcal{K}_h(z). \quad (17)$$

It was shown in [1] that one can choose coordinates V_i around each puncture by using the flat metric induced from the complex plane. In the conformal gauge $ds^2 = \rho dz d\bar{z}$, the relation between V_i and ρ is given through

$$|V_i'(0)| = \rho(z_i)^{-1/2}. \quad (18)$$

On the other hand, as explained in the Introduction, \mathcal{K}_h is also a flat metric on the Riemann surface, induced from its Jacobian variety, and there is an easy way to relate it to ρ , namely through the Gauss-Bonnet theorem:

$$\int d^2z \sqrt{g} R(g) = -2 \int d^2z \partial_z \partial_{\bar{z}} \log \rho = 8\pi(1 - h). \quad (19)$$

Since we are dealing with $h \geq 2$, and since \mathcal{K}_h satisfies (5), we get the identity

$$\partial_z \partial_{\bar{z}} \log \rho = 4\pi(h - 1)\mathcal{K}_h. \quad (20)$$

This fixes ρ only up to multiplication by holomorphic functions $f(z)$ and $\bar{f}(\bar{z})$ and constants c . It, however, uniquely fixes the Laplacian of \mathcal{G}_h to be

$$\partial_z \partial_{\bar{z}} \mathcal{G}_h(z, w) = \pi \delta^{(2)}(z - w) - 2\pi \mathcal{K}_h(z). \quad (21)$$

This shows that the particular choice of local coordinates we here have made, gives rise to a so-called Arakelov-type Green function [10,11]. The arbitrariness left in ρ , and thus in the Green function, can be fixed by demanding a higher genus generalization of (13): Since a general solution of (20) takes the form $\rho = \tilde{\rho} e^{-f(z) - \bar{f}(\bar{z}) + c}$, where $\tilde{\rho}$ is a particular solution, then the general Green function has the property that

$$\int d^2z \mathcal{K}_h(z) \mathcal{G}_h(z, w) = \int d^2z \mathcal{K}_h \tilde{\mathcal{G}}_h - \int d^2z \mathcal{K}_h \gamma(z) - \gamma(w) + c, \quad (22)$$

where $\gamma = (f + \bar{f})/2$ and $\tilde{\mathcal{G}}_h$ is the Green function associated with $\tilde{\rho}$. Now, since f , \bar{f} and c are arbitrary, we can fix them such that the right-hand side above vanishes; i.e.,

$$\gamma(z) := \int d^2w \mathcal{K}_h(w) \tilde{\mathcal{G}}_h(z, w), \quad (23)$$

$$c := \int d^2z \mathcal{K}_h(z) \int d^2w \mathcal{K}_h(w) \tilde{\mathcal{G}}_h(z, w). \quad (24)$$

[γ is a harmonic function due to (21).] The Green function \mathcal{G}_h with the choice of coordinates (18) with ρ given by (20),

and c and γ fixed as above, is the Arakelov Green function. It is the natural generalization of the genus one Green function G_A given in (12). Finally, we can show that it immediately, i.e., with no reference to momentum conservation, computes the remaining integral at higher genus:

$$\int d^2z \mathcal{K}_h \prod_{\ell} e^{\frac{d}{2} k_{\ell} q \mathcal{G}_h(z, z_{\ell})} = 1 + \mathcal{O}(q^2), \quad (25)$$

which follows from the general property (5) and the special property of the Arakelov Green function just derived:

$$\int d^2z \mathcal{K}_h \mathcal{G}_h(z, w) = 0, \quad (26)$$

$$\mathcal{M}_{n;\phi}(k_i; q) = \frac{\kappa_d}{\sqrt{d-2}} \left[-\sum_{i=1}^n \frac{m_i^2}{k_i q} e^{q \partial_{k_i}} + \frac{d-2}{2} g_d \frac{\partial}{\partial g_d} - \sqrt{\alpha'} \frac{\partial}{\partial \sqrt{\alpha'}} + q_{\mu} \sum_{i=1}^n K_i^{\mu} \right] \mathcal{M}_n(k_i) + \mathcal{O}(q^2), \quad (27)$$

where $\mathcal{M}_{n;\phi}$ and \mathcal{M}_n are the all-loop amplitudes with and without the soft dilaton, κ_d and g_d are, respectively, the d -dimensional gravitational and string coupling constants, m_i are the masses of the hard external states carrying momentum k_i , α' is the inverse string tension, and K_i^{μ} is the momentum space generator of special conformal transformations, all explicitly defined in [1]. We have compactified $26-d$ spacetime dimensions, but the choice of compactification geometry is irrelevant to our final result. The role of IR divergences was discussed in [1], and shown to be irrelevant for this factorization property of the amplitude in d -dimensions greater than four.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The workshops ‘‘String theory from a worldsheet perspective’’ at the Galileo Galilei Institute (GGI) and ‘‘Supergravity divergences, modular forms and string amplitudes’’ at Uppsala University, were pivotal for this work. P. D. V. was supported as a Simons GGI scientist from the Simons Foundation Grant No. 4036 341344 AL.

APPENDIX: FROM SCHOTTKY TO JACOBI AT ONE LOOP

From the explicit formulas in Sec. B of [1], we readily derive the explicit expressions for the Abelian differentials, period ‘‘matrix,’’ and prime form at one loop in the Schottky parametrization:

$$\omega(z) = \frac{1}{z}, \quad \bar{\omega}(\bar{z}) = \frac{1}{\bar{z}}, \quad (A1)$$

$$2\pi i \tau = \log \kappa, \quad (\kappa = e^{2\pi i \tau}) \quad (A2)$$

for any $h \geq 2$. Thus the entire discussion made in [1] about the dilaton soft theorem at one loop, directly goes through to any higher loop order.

IV. CONCLUSION

We have calculated the remaining multiloop term in the soft expansion of the string amplitude involving n closed string tachyons and one soft dilaton in the bosonic string and shown that it vanishes, just like at the one loop level. This is achieved by fixing the remaining gauge freedom in (16) in such a way that \mathcal{G}_h becomes the Arakelov Green function as described in Sec. III. Equation (26) importantly implies that scattering amplitudes involving one soft dilaton with momentum q factorizes at any loop order as follows [1] [see [13] for a recent $\mathcal{O}(q^0)$ application in supergravity]:

$$E(z_1, z_2) = e^{i\pi(\nu_1 + \nu_2)} 2i \sin(\pi\nu_{12}) \times \prod_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(1 - \kappa^n e^{2\pi i \nu_{12}})(1 - \kappa^n e^{-2\pi i \nu_{12}})}{(1 - \kappa^n)^2}, \quad (A3)$$

where κ is the genus one Schottky group multiplier, and $\nu_{ij} = \nu_i - \nu_j$ with $z_i = e^{2\pi i \nu_i}$. We note that at genus one, the ‘‘period matrix’’ is just the usual modular parameter, and the prime form has, apart from the prefactor $e^{i\pi(\nu_1 + \nu_2)} = \sqrt{z_1 \bar{z}_2}$, translational invariance in the ν_i variables, i.e.,

$$E(z_1, z_2) = i\sqrt{z_1 \bar{z}_2} \mathcal{E}(\nu_1 - \nu_2 | \tau). \quad (A4)$$

\mathcal{E} can be written in terms of the Jacobi theta function and its derivative $\partial_{\nu} \theta_1(\nu | \tau) := \theta'_1(\nu | \tau)$ as follows:

$$\mathcal{E}(\nu | \tau) = 2\pi \frac{\theta_1(\nu | \tau)}{\theta'_1(0 | \tau)}, \quad (A5)$$

as easily seen from the product representation of θ_1 :

$$\theta_1(\nu | \tau) = 2\kappa^{1/12} \sin(\pi\nu) \eta(\tau) \prod_{n=1}^{\infty} (1 - 2\kappa^n \cos(2\pi\nu) + \kappa^{2n}),$$

$$\theta'_1(0 | \tau) = 2\pi \eta(\tau)^3, \quad (A6)$$

where we introduced the Dedekind eta function,

$$\eta(\tau) = \kappa^{1/24} \prod_{n=1}^{\infty} (1 - \kappa^n). \quad (A7)$$

Inserting these expressions in the h -loop expression for the Green function one readily finds Eq. (9).

- [1] P. Vecchia, R. Marotta, and M. Mojaza, Multiloop soft theorem for gravitons and dilatons in the bosonic string, *J. High Energy Phys.* **01** (2019) 038.
- [2] P. Di Vecchia, R. Marotta, and M. Mojaza, Soft theorem for the graviton, dilaton and the Kalb-Ramond field in the bosonic string, *J. High Energy Phys.* **05** (2015) 137.
- [3] E. D'Hoker, M. B. Green, and B. Pioline, Higher genus modular graph functions, string invariants, and their exact asymptotics, *Commun. Math. Phys.* **366**, 927 (2019).
- [4] A. Basu, Eigenvalue equation for genus two modular graphs, *J. High Energy Phys.* **02** (2019) 046.
- [5] F. Cachazo and A. Strominger, Evidence for a new soft graviton theorem, [arXiv:1404.4091](https://arxiv.org/abs/1404.4091).
- [6] Z. Bern, S. Davies, P. Di Vecchia, and J. Nohle, Low-energy behavior of gluons and gravitons from gauge invariance, *Phys. Rev. D* **90**, 084035 (2014).
- [7] J. Broedel, M. de Leeuw, J. Plefka, and M. Rosso, Constraining subleading soft gluon and graviton theorems, *Phys. Rev. D* **90**, 065024 (2014).
- [8] A. Laddha and A. Sen, Sub-subleading soft graviton theorem in generic theories of quantum gravity, *J. High Energy Phys.* **10** (2017) 065.
- [9] P. Di Vecchia, R. Marotta, and M. Mojaza, Subsubleading soft theorems of gravitons and dilatons in the bosonic string, *J. High Energy Phys.* **06** (2016) 054.
- [10] E. D'Hoker and D.H. Phong, Functional determinants on Mandelstam diagrams, *Commun. Math. Phys.* **124**, 629 (1989).
- [11] R. Wentworth, The asymptotics of the Arakelov-Green's function and Faltings' delta invariant, *Commun. Math. Phys.* **137**, 427 (1991).
- [12] E. D'Hoker and D.H. Phong, The geometry of string perturbation theory, *Rev. Mod. Phys.* **60**, 917 (1988).
- [13] M. B. Green and C. Wen, Modular forms and $SL(2, \mathbb{Z})$ -covariance of type IIB superstring theory, *J. High Energy Phys.* **06** (2019) 087.