



# UNIVERSE+ School Exploring Positive Geometry

**Claudia Fevola: Euler integrals 101  
Lecture 1**

Les Houches, March 30 – April 10, 2026



# EULER INTEGRALS 101

Q: What is this useful for?

If I like algebra, geometry, combinatorics why should I study integrals?

EXAMPLE 0: Euler beta function



$$B(\nu, 1-s) = \int_0^1 \frac{x^\nu}{(1-x)^s} \frac{dx}{x} = \frac{\Gamma(\nu)\Gamma(1-s)}{\Gamma(\nu+1-s)}$$

where  $\Gamma(u) = \int_0^\infty t^{u-1} e^{-t} dt$  gamma function

$$X = (\mathbb{C}^*) \setminus \{1\}$$

Ex 1:  $M_{0,5}$  is the moduli space of 5 marked points on  $\mathbb{P}^1$  (up to automorph.  $PSL(2)$ )

A parametrization of  $M_{0,5}$  is given by

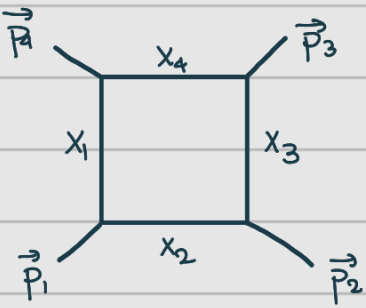
$$M = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1+x_1 & 1+x_1+x_2 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$f_{13} = 1+x_1, \quad f_{14} = 1+x_1+x_2, \quad f_{23} = x_1, \quad f_{24} = (x_1+x_2), \quad f_{34} = x_2$$

5-point string amplitude

$$\mathcal{I}_5 = (\alpha')^2 \cdot \int_{\mathbb{R}_+^2} \frac{x_1^{\alpha' s_{13}} x_2^{\alpha' s_{14}}}{(1+x_1)^{\alpha' s_{23}} (1+x_1+x_2)^{\alpha' s_{24}} (x_1+x_2)^{\alpha' s_{34}}} \frac{dx_1 dx_2}{x_1 x_2}$$

## Ex 2: Massless box diagram in Lee-Pomeransky representation



$$G = \frac{1}{2} (1 \ x_1 \ x_2 \ x_3 \ x_4) \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & s & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & t \\ 1 & s & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & t & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \\ x_4 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$= u + \mathcal{F}$$

$$s = (p_1 + p_2)^2$$

$$t = (p_2 + p_3)^2$$

$$\tilde{I}_{\text{box}} = N_D \int_{\mathbb{R}_{>0}^4} \frac{x^{\nu-1}}{G^{-D/2}} dx,$$

$$dx = dx_1 \dots dx_4$$

$$x^{\nu-1} = x_1^{\nu_1-1} x_2^{\nu_2-1} \dots x_4^{\nu_4-1}$$

$$X_{st} = (\mathbb{C}^*)^4 \setminus \{G(s,t;x) = 0\}$$

## Ex 3: Cosmological correlators

An Euler integral is an integral of the form

$$\int_{\Gamma} \frac{x_1^{\nu_1} \dots x_n^{\nu_n}}{f_1^{s_1} \dots f_\ell^{s_\ell}} \frac{dx_1}{x_1} \dots \frac{dx_n}{x_n} = \int_{\Gamma} f^{-s} x^{\nu} \frac{dx}{x}$$

$f_1, \dots, f_\ell \in \mathbb{C}[x_1^{\pm 1}, \dots, x_n^{\pm 1}]$  Laurent polynomials

$$(s, \nu) = (s_1, \dots, s_\ell, \nu_1, \dots, \nu_n) \in \mathbb{C}^{l+n}$$

Ordinary theory of single-valued functions is formalized under the name of de Rham theory. By modifying this theory we will construct a theory suitable for multivalued

Question: How to formulate Stokes' theorem for integrals of multivalued functions?

$$\int_{\Delta} d\psi = \int_{\partial\Delta} \psi = 0$$

diff form of one deg lower  
if  $\psi$  vanishes on boundary  
smooth chain

$$X = \mathbb{C}^n \setminus D$$

$$D = \bigcup_{j=1}^m D_j$$

$$D_j = \{f_j(x) = 0\}$$

$$f_j(x) = f_j(x_1, \dots, x_n) \quad 1 \leq j \leq l$$

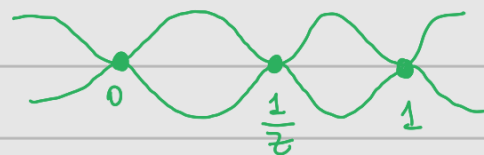
Consider a multivalued function on  $X$

$$f^{-s}(x) = \prod_{j=1}^m f_j(x)^{-s_j}, \quad s_j \in \mathbb{C} \setminus \mathbb{Z}, \quad 1 \leq j \leq l$$

1<sup>st</sup> idea (bad idea): lifting  $f$  to a covering manifold  $\tilde{X}$  of  $X$  so that  $f$  becomes single valued.

Ex:  $s_j = -\frac{1}{2}$ ,

$$\Rightarrow \tilde{X} = V(y^2 = x(1-x)(1-zx))$$



Relation between  $X$  and  $\tilde{X}$  can be very hard.

2<sup>nd</sup> idea: consider  $\omega = d \log(f^{-s}) =$

$$= \sum_{j=1}^l d \log(f_j^{-s_j}) = \sum_{j=1}^m -s_j d \log(f_j) = \sum_{j=1}^m -s_j \frac{df_j}{f_j}$$

Ex 0  $d \log(x^s(1-x)^{-s}) = s \frac{dx}{x} - s \frac{dx}{1-x}$

# INTUITIVE EXPLANATION

single valued  
holomorphic 1-form  
on  $M$

$\Delta$  singular  $k$ -simplex on  $X$

$\varphi$  smooth  $k$ -form on  $X$

$$\bigcap_{\Delta} \Omega^k(X)$$

To determine the integral of  
a multivalued  $k$ -form  $f\varphi$   
we need to fix a branch of  $f$  on  $\Delta$

$\Delta \otimes f_{\Delta} \rightarrow$  symbol to say we are  
fixing a branch of  $f$  on  $\Delta$

$$\int_{\Delta \otimes U_{\Delta}} f \cdot \varphi := \int_{\Delta} [\text{the fixed branch } f_{\Delta} \text{ of } f \text{ on } \Delta] \cdot \varphi$$

Since  $f_{\Delta}$  can be continued analytically on a sufficiently  
small neighborhood of  $\Delta$ , on this neighborhood, for a single  
valued  $p$ -form  $U_{\Delta} \cdot \varphi$  and  $\Delta$ , ordinary Stokes hold:

For  $\varphi \in \Omega^{k-1}(X)$

$$\int_{\Delta \otimes f_{\Delta}} f \cdot \nabla_w \varphi = \int_{\Delta} d(f_{\Delta} \cdot \varphi) = \int_{\partial \Delta} f_{\Delta} \cdot \varphi$$

$$\nabla_w \varphi = (d + w \wedge) \varphi$$

$$d(f_{\Delta} \cdot \varphi) = df_{\Delta} \wedge \varphi + f_{\Delta} d\varphi = f_{\Delta} \left( d\varphi + \frac{df_{\Delta}}{f_{\Delta}} \wedge \varphi \right) = f_{\Delta} \nabla_w \varphi$$

on  $\Delta$ .

$w = \frac{df}{f}$  single valued  
holomorphic 1-form

Now rewrite  
above with new symbol

Ex:  $\nabla_w \cdot \nabla_w = 0$

Then Stokes becomes

$$\int_{\Delta \otimes U_\Delta} f \cdot \nabla_w \varphi = \int_{\partial_w(\Delta \otimes f_\Delta)} f \cdot \varphi$$

Note: the underlying forms are the same but the rules for exactness have been changed.

However in our setting  $f$  vanishes on the boundary so

$$\int_{\Gamma = \Delta \otimes U_\Delta} U \cdot \nabla_w \varphi = 0$$

↑ smooth  $k$ -form on  $M$

How do  $k$ -forms on  $X$  look like?

$$\Omega^k(X) = \left\{ \sum_{i_1 < \dots < i_k} h_{i_1, \dots, i_k} dx_{i_1} \wedge \dots \wedge dx_{i_k} \mid h_{i_1, \dots, i_k} \in \sum_{\substack{a \in \mathbb{Z}^l \\ b \in \mathbb{Z}^n}} \mathbb{C} \cdot f^a z^b \right\}$$

regular  $k$ -forms on  $X$

"  
 $\Omega^0(X)$

EXAMPLE:  $w = d \log(f^{-s} z^v) \in \Omega^1(X)$

Ex 0:  $B(a+\nu, 1-s-b) = \int_0^1 \frac{x^{\nu+a}}{(1-x)^{s+b}} \frac{dx}{x} \quad a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$

$$f(x) = x^{\nu+a-1} (1-x)^{-s-b}$$

$$0 = \int_0^1 f \cdot \nabla_w(1) = \int_0^1 \frac{x^{\nu+a-1}}{(1-x)^{s+b}} \cdot \left( \frac{s}{1-x} + \frac{\nu}{x} \right) dx =$$

$$= s \int_0^1 \frac{x^{\nu+a}}{(1-x)^{s+b+1}} \frac{dx}{x} + \nu \cdot \int_0^1 \frac{x^{\nu+a-1}}{(1-x)^{s+b}} \frac{dx}{x}$$

$$\Rightarrow B(a+\nu, -s-b) = -\frac{\nu}{s} \cdot B(a+\nu-1, -s-b+1) \quad \square$$

In general, for  $\phi \in \Omega^{n-1}(X)$

$$\int_{\Gamma} x^{\nu-1} f^{-s} \nabla_w(\phi) = 0$$

where  $\nabla_w(\phi) = \sum_{(a,b)} C_{a,b}(\phi) x^a f^b dx_1 \wedge \dots \wedge dx_n$

with finitely many non-zero coefficients

This identity gives a  $\mathbb{C}$ -linear relation

$$\sum_{(a,b)} C_{a,b}(\phi) I_{a,b} = 0$$

IBP RELATIONS

So we have seen that to each  $\phi \in \Omega^{n-1}(X)$  corresponds a relation

Hence, the IBP relations correspond to  $\text{im}(\nabla_{n-1})$



Funded by  
the European Union



European Research Council  
Established by the European Commission

UNIVERSE+ is funded by the European Union (ERC, UNIVERSE PLUS, 101118787). Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Research Council Executive Agency. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.

universe+ is a cooperation of