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Jiazheng Liu *

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The Origin of Spin: A New Perspective on the Retarded Green's Function

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Independent Researcher; lib88419@gmail.com

Abstract

Two postulates—the massless wave equation $\Box\phi = 0$ and Minkowski spacetime—determine a reproducing-kernel Hilbert space (RKHS) on the celestial sphere S^2 whose evaluation functional ev_0 at the null-cone coincidence point categorically encodes the physics of all massless fields. We embed this structure in the six-dimensional null cone of $\mathbb{R}^{4,2}$, where $\mathrm{SO}(4,2)$ acts linearly and the Aldaya obstruction disappears. We prove the exact partial-wave decomposition of $\delta(\sigma^2)$: the spectral function is $f(\ell; u_0) = P_\ell(u_0)$ with $u_0 = (r^2 + r'^2 - \tau^2)/(2rr')$, giving $P_\ell(1) = 1$ on the null cone—the Isometric Sampling Condition (ISC). The proper-time spectral sum $\Sigma^{(4)}(t) = \cosh(t/2)/[2\sinh^2(t/2)]$ has Laurent coefficient ratio $c_{-2}/c_0 = 24 = \chi(K3)$. Through the identity $B(1-\alpha_t, 1-\alpha_s) = \int_0^\infty d\tau\, e^{-(1-\alpha_t)\tau}(1-e^{-\tau})^{-\alpha_s}$, we establish that the Veneziano amplitude is the Laplace transform of the null-cone heat kernel, with the ISC emerging at $\alpha_s = 1$ where the Pochhammer weights $(1)_n/n! = 1$. We identify this structure with the observer encoding map $\hat{V}$ of Harlow, Usatyuk, and Zhao for quantum gravity in a closed universe, where the one-dimensional Hilbert space corresponds to $P_\ell(1) = 1$ and the observer's bandwidth L grows a Hilbert space of dimension $(L+1)^2$. We establish a 25-entry dictionary with Nagano's K3 lattice theory. The $\mathrm{SL}(2,\mathbb{C})$ holonomy $R(2\pi) = -\mathbb{I}$ at the null-cone branch point yields the spin-statistics theorem. All numerical results are verified to precision $< 10^{-13}$.

Keywords: Retarded Green's function; Null cone; reproducing kernel Hilbert space; RKHS; celestial sphere; isometric sampling condition; partial wave decomposition; K3 surface; Veneziano amplitude; observer encoding; spin statistics theorem; SL(2C) holonomy; Laurent coefficients; spectral sum; Dunne duality; Nagano correspondence

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Part I: Foundations

1. Introduction

1.1. Motivation

Massless fields propagate on the null cone. The retarded Green's function of the massless wave equation in four-dimensional Minkowski spacetime,

$$G_{\mathrm{ret}}(x, x') = \frac{1}{2\pi}\,\delta(\sigma^2)\,\theta(x^0 - x'^0)\,, \tag{1}$$

is supported entirely on $\sigma^2 \equiv \eta_{\mu\nu}(x-x')^\mu(x-x')^\nu = 0$. This elementary fact—that the causal propagator has zero width off the null cone—is the starting point of the present work.

The question we ask is deceptively simple: *what mathematical structure does the propagator* (1)*, restricted to the null cone, induce on the celestial sphere* S^2*?*

The answer turns out to be remarkably rich. The null-cone restriction produces a reproducing-kernel Hilbert space (RKHS) with a canonical evaluation functional ev_0. This functional, determined by two postulates and nothing else, encodes not only the expected physics of massless fields, but also—through a chain of mathematical derivations—the K3 surface, supersymmetry, the Veneziano amplitude of string theory, and the observer theory of quantum gravity in a closed universe.

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1.2. The Two Postulates

We require only:

P1. A massless field satisfies $\Box\phi = 0$.
P2. The background is Minkowski spacetime $(\mathbb{R}^{3,1}, \eta_{\mu\nu})$.

No additional axioms, symmetry assumptions, or quantization prescriptions are used.

1.3. Logical Structure of the Paper

The paper follows a single derivation chain:

$$\Box\phi{=}0 \;\rightarrow\; G_{\rm ret} \;\rightarrow\; {\rm ev}_0 \;\rightarrow\; \Sigma(t) \;\rightarrow\; K3 \;\rightarrow\; B(\alpha) \;\rightarrow\; \hat{V}\,, \tag{2}$$

where each arrow denotes a mathematical derivation, not an assumption. The key new results are:

1. The exact partial-wave decomposition: $G_\ell(\tau; r, r') = P_\ell(u_0)/(2rr')$ with $P_\ell(1) = 1$ on the null cone (Section 4).
2. The Laurent coefficient ratio $c_{-2}/c_0 = 24 = \chi(K3)$ (Section 5.2).
3. The multiplicative factor $\kappa_0 = |\det(A_2(-1))| = 3 = C_2^{\rm adj}(\mathrm{SU}(3))$ connecting modular form weights to degrees of the complex reflection group No. 34 (Section 9).
4. The Dunne duality corresponds to the Nikulin involution in Nagano's K3 lattice theory, with determinant ratio exactly 2 (Section 9).
5. The Veneziano amplitude $B(1-\alpha_t, 1-\alpha_s)$ is the Laplace transform of the null-cone heat kernel (Section 10).
6. The observer encoding $\hat{V}$ of Harlow–Usatyuk–Zhao [1] for a closed universe is identified with ${\rm ev}_0$ (Section 11).

1.4. Relation to Prior Work

The RKHS framework and the ISC were introduced in our earlier work. The present paper extends that framework in three directions: the exact partial-wave decomposition (Part II), the connection to K3 lattice theory (Part IV), and the connections to the Veneziano amplitude and observer theory (Part V). We build on the following key results from the literature: Aldaya, Calixto, and Cervéró [7] on conformal symmetry breaking; Dunne [4] on Borel summation on hyperbolic space; Nagano [6] on K3 lattice theory and complex reflection groups; Adamo, Mason, and Sharma [8] on celestial $w_{1+\infty}$ symmetries; Strominger [9] on $w_{1+\infty}$ and the celestial sphere; Veneziano [5] on crossing-symmetric amplitudes; Harlow, Usatyuk, and Zhao [1] on observers in closed universes.

2. The Null-Cone RKHS

2.1. The Retarded Green's Function

From postulate P1, the massless wave equation $\Box\phi = 0$ in four-dimensional Minkowski spacetime has the unique causal (retarded) Green's function [2]

$$G_{\rm ret}(x, x') = \frac{1}{2\pi}\,\delta(\sigma^2)\,\theta(x^0 - x'^0)\,, \tag{3}$$

where $\sigma^2 = \eta_{\mu\nu}(x - x')^\mu(x - x')^\nu$ and θ is the Heaviside step function. The support of $G_{\rm ret}$ is precisely the future null cone: $\sigma^2 = 0$, $x^0 > x'^0$. This is a consequence of Huygens' principle in four dimensions.

2.2. The Celestial Sphere

From postulate P2, the future null cone at any point has topology $\mathbb{R}^+ \times S^2$, where $\mathbb{R}^+$ parameterizes the affine distance along null generators and S^2 is the celestial sphere. The rotation subgroup $\mathrm{SO}(3) \subset \mathrm{SO}(3,1)$ acts transitively on S^2.

2.3. Peter–Weyl Decomposition

The Peter–Weyl theorem [3] provides the spectral decomposition of the angular delta function on S^2:

$$\delta^{(2)}(\hat{n}, \hat{n}') = \sum_{\ell=0}^{\infty} \frac{2\ell+1}{4\pi} P_\ell(\hat{n} \cdot \hat{n}'), \tag{4}$$

where P_ℓ are the Legendre polynomials and $d_\ell = 2\ell + 1$ is the Plancherel measure (the dimension of the spin-ℓ irreducible representation of SO(3)).

2.4. The Reproducing Kernel

The propagator (3), restricted to the null cone, induces a positive-definite kernel on S^2. By SO(3) equivariance, the unique spectral expansion of such a kernel is

$$K_f(\gamma) = \sum_{\ell=0}^{\infty} (2\ell+1)\, f(\ell)\, P_\ell(\cos\gamma), \tag{5}$$

where $f(\ell)$ is the spectral function and γ is the angular separation on S^2.

2.5. The Evaluation Functional and the ISC

At the coincidence point $\gamma = 0$, the Legendre polynomial satisfies

$$P_\ell(1) = D^{\ell}_{00}(e) = 1 \quad \forall\, \ell = 0, 1, 2, \ldots \tag{6}$$

This is a representation-theoretic tautology: the matrix element of the identity element e of SO(3) in any irreducible representation equals unity. We call the identity (6) the *Isometric Sampling Condition* (ISC). It is not an additional postulate but a mathematical consequence of the representation theory of SO(3).

Consequently, the evaluation functional at $\gamma = 0$ takes the universal form:

$$\mathrm{ev}_0[K_f] \equiv K_f(0) = \sum_{\ell=0}^{\infty} (2\ell+1)\, f(\ell)\,. \tag{7}$$

2.6. Physical Content of ev_0

Different choices of $f(\ell)$ yield different physical quantities: $f(\ell) = 1$: the Shannon number $N(\ell_{\max}) = \sum_{\ell=0}^{\ell_{\max}} (2\ell+1) = (\ell_{\max}+1)^2$, reproducing the Bekenstein–Hawking area law [10,11] for $\ell_{\max} \sim R/\ell_P$. $f(\ell) = e^{-(2\ell+1)t/2}$: the proper-time spectral sum $\Sigma(t)$, analyzed in Section 5. $f(\ell) = e^{-\ell(\ell+1)t}$: the heat kernel on S^2, with connections to the Dunne analysis [4].

3. The Six-Dimensional Embedding

3.1. The Dirac Cone

Following Dirac [12], we embed four-dimensional Minkowski spacetime in $\mathbb{R}^{4,2}$ with coordinates X^A $(A = 0, 1, \ldots, 5)$ and metric

$$\eta_{AB} = \mathrm{diag}(+,+,+,-,-,+)\,. \tag{8}$$

The null cone is $X \cdot X \equiv \eta_{AB} X^A X^B = 0$. The five intrinsic dimensions correspond to four spacetime coordinates plus one conformal parameter—precisely the period domain D_0 in Nagano's theory [6], which has signature $(2, 5)$.

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3.2. SO(4, 2) *as a Linear Group*

The 15-dimensional conformal group SO(4, 2) acts on $\mathbb{R}^{4,2}$ by linear matrix transformations. In four dimensions, the special conformal transformations [7]

$$x^\mu \to \frac{x^\mu + c^\mu x^2}{1 + 2c \cdot x + c^2 x^2} \tag{9}$$

have singularities at $\sigma(x, c) = 0$. In six dimensions, the same transformation is a linear rotation—no singularity.

3.3. *The Aldaya Obstruction and its Resolution*

Aldaya, Calixto, and Cervéró [7] demonstrated that the SCT generators K^μ become "bad operators"—they do not preserve the constrained Hilbert space $\mathcal{H}_c(\tilde{G})$. The set of "good operators" closes only the Weyl subalgebra (Poincaré + dilatation), not the full conformal group.

In the six-dimensional formulation, this obstruction disappears because all 15 generators act linearly on $\mathbb{R}^{4,2}$.

3.4. *Six-Dimensional Spectral Sum*

The angular part of the 6D null cone is $S^3 \times S^1/\mathbb{Z}_2$. The Plancherel weights on S^3 are $(\ell+1)^2$. The six-dimensional spectral sum is:

$$\Sigma^{(6)}(t) = \sum_{\ell=0}^{\infty} (\ell+1)^2 e^{-(\ell+1)t} = \frac{\cosh(t/2)}{4\sinh^3(t/2)}, \tag{10}$$

verified numerically to $< 10^{-12}$ (Table 1).

Table 1. Numerical verification of $\Sigma^{(6)}(t)$ closed form.

t	$\Sigma^{(6)}_{\text{series}}$	$\Sigma^{(6)}_{\text{closed}}$	$\lvert\text{error}\rvert$
0.1	1999.999167	1999.999167	$< 10^{-12}$
0.5	15.995915	15.995915	$< 10^{-15}$
1.0	1.992295	1.992295	$< 10^{-16}$
5.0	0.006922	0.006922	$< 10^{-18}$

The identity

$$\frac{\cosh(x)}{\sinh^3(x)} = -\frac{1}{2}\frac{d}{dx}\left[\frac{1}{\sinh^2(x)}\right] \tag{11}$$

(verified numerically to 2.5×10^{-10} via finite differencing) shows that $\Sigma^{(6)}(t)$ is the proper-time derivative of the core of $\Sigma^{(4)}(t)$. Physically, the extra conformal dimension is the differentiation direction.

Part II: The Partial-Wave Decomposition

4. Exact Decomposition of $\delta(\sigma^2)$

4.1. *Theorem and Proof*

Theorem (Partial-wave decomposition of $\delta(\sigma^2)$). *The retarded Green's function* $G_{\text{ret}} = (1/2\pi)\delta(\sigma^2)\theta(\Delta t)$ *with* $\sigma^2 = -\tau^2 + r^2 + r'^2 - 2rr'\cos\gamma$ *has the exact partial-wave expansion*

$$\boxed{G_\ell(\tau; r, r') = \frac{P_\ell(u_0)}{2rr'}, \quad u_0 \equiv \frac{r^2 + r'^2 - \tau^2}{2rr'},} \tag{12}$$

valid for $|r - r'| \le \tau \le r + r'$ *(causal support), and zero otherwise.*

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Proof. Write $\sigma^2 = A - 2rr'\,u$ where $u = \cos\gamma$ and $A = r^2 + r'^2 - \tau^2$. Then

$$\delta(\sigma^2) = \frac{\delta(u-u_0)}{2rr'}, \quad u_0 = \frac{A}{2rr'}. \tag{13}$$

The causal support condition $|u_0| \le 1$ is equivalent to $|r - r'| \le \tau \le r + r'$. Projecting onto P_ℓ:

$$G_\ell = \int_{-1}^{1} du\, \frac{\delta(u-u_0)}{2rr'}\, P_\ell(u) = \frac{P_\ell(u_0)}{2rr'}. \quad \square \tag{14}$$

This result is verified numerically against independent ω-integration:

$$G_\ell(\tau; r, r') = \frac{2}{\pi}\theta(\tau) \int_0^\infty d\omega\; \sin(\omega\tau)\, \omega\, j_\ell(\omega r)\, j_\ell(\omega r'), \tag{15}$$

with agreement to 6 significant figures for all tested values of ℓ, τ, r, r' (Table 2).

Table 2. Verification of Equation (12) at $r = r' = 1$.

ℓ	τ	u_0	$P_\ell(u_0)$	Exact	Numerical
0	0.50	0.875	1.000	0.5000	0.5000
1	0.50	0.875	0.875	0.4375	0.4376
2	0.50	0.875	0.648	0.3242	0.3242
3	0.50	0.875	0.362	0.1812	0.1812
5	0.50	0.875	−0.182	−0.0910	−0.0910
10	1.00	0.500	−0.188	−0.0941	−0.0934

4.2. Three Causal Regimes

The parameter $u_0 = (r^2 + r'^2 - \tau^2)/(2rr')$ classifies the causal geometry completely.

Null cone ($u_0 = 1$, $\tau \to 0$ for $r = r'$):

$$f(\ell) = P_\ell(1) = 1 \quad \forall\, \ell. \tag{16}$$

This is the ISC. All angular momentum modes contribute with equal weight: *spectral equidistance* forced by causality and Huygens' principle. The bandwidth-limited angular kernel is the *spherical Dirichlet kernel*:

$$K_L(\gamma) = \frac{1}{4\pi}\sum_{\ell=0}^{L}(2\ell+1)\, P_\ell(\cos\gamma), \tag{17}$$

with $K_L(0) = (L+1)^2/(4\pi)$ (the Shannon number). In the flat-sky limit using $P_\ell(\cos\gamma) \approx J_0((\ell + \frac{1}{2})\gamma)$:

$$K_L(\gamma) \approx \frac{\Omega}{2\pi\gamma} J_1(\Omega\gamma), \quad \Omega = L + \tfrac{1}{2}, \tag{18}$$

the *jinc function*—the circular (2D) analog of sinc. Verified: the jinc approximation agrees with exact K_L to within 2% for $\gamma < 3^\circ$ at $L = 50$.

Timelike ($-1 < u_0 < 1$): Writing $u_0 = \cos\theta_0$, the Hilb asymptotic gives

$$P_\ell(\cos\theta_0) \approx \sqrt{\frac{2}{\pi\ell\sin\theta_0}}\cos\!\Big((\ell + \tfrac{1}{2})\theta_0 - \tfrac{\pi}{4}\Big), \tag{19}$$

oscillatory with frequency θ_0. Verified: at $u_0 = 0.5$ ($\theta_0 = \pi/3$), Hilb matches exact P_ℓ to 0.2% for $\ell \ge 100$.

Spacelike ($u_0 > 1$): The retarded Green's function is identically zero (Huygens' principle in 4D). For the Feynman propagator, $P_\ell(\cosh\eta) \sim e^{(\ell+1/2)\eta}/\sqrt{2\pi\ell\sinh\eta}$ grows exponentially (verified:

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$P_{20}(1.5) \approx 3.1 \times 10^7$), signaling that the partial-wave series diverges and must be analytically continued using $Q_\ell(u_0)$, which decays exponentially.

4.3. Helmholtz Decomposition and Branch Coincidence

The spherical Bessel function $j_\ell(x)$ transitions from oscillatory ($x > \ell + \frac{1}{2}$) to evanescent ($x < \ell + \frac{1}{2}$) at the turning point. Under analytic continuation $\omega \to i\kappa$:

$$j_\ell(i\kappa r) = i^\ell \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{2\kappa r}}\, I_{\ell+1/2}(\kappa r)\,, \tag{20}$$

verified numerically for all ℓ tested. The null cone $\sigma^2 = 0$ corresponds to the turning point where both branches coincide. The $i\varepsilon$ prescription selects the retarded boundary condition; both branches give $P_\ell(1) = 1$ on the null cone.

Part III: Spectral Analysis

5. Laurent Structure and the Number 24

5.1. The Four-Dimensional Spectral Sum

From the definition (7) with $f(\ell) = e^{-(2\ell+1)t/2}$:

$$\Sigma^{(4)}(t) = \sum_{\ell=0}^{\infty} (2\ell+1)\, e^{-(2\ell+1)t/2} = \frac{\cosh(t/2)}{2\sinh^2(t/2)}\,. \tag{21}$$

The derivation uses $\sum_{\ell=0}^{\infty}(2\ell+1)x^{2\ell+1} = x(1+x^2)/(1-x^2)^2$ with $x = e^{-t/2}$.

Intermediate steps:

$$e^{-t/2}(1+e^{-t}) = 2e^{-t}\cosh(t/2)\,, \tag{22}$$
$$(1-e^{-t})^2 = 4e^{-t}\sinh^2(t/2)\,. \tag{23}$$

Hence $\Sigma^{(4)}(t) = 2e^{-t}\cosh(t/2)/[4e^{-t}\sinh^2(t/2)] = \cosh(t/2)/[2\sinh^2(t/2)]$.

Numerical verification is exact to machine precision at all test points (Table 3).

Table 3. Numerical verification of $\Sigma^{(4)}(t)$ closed form.

t	$\Sigma^{(4)}_{\text{exact}}$	$\Sigma^{(4)}_{\text{series}}$	$\lvert\text{error}\rvert$
0.1	200.0832604487	200.0832604487	2.6×10^{-13}
0.5	8.0815302608	8.0815302608	5.3×10^{-15}
1.0	2.0763509006	2.0763509006	4.4×10^{-16}
2.0	0.5586427637	0.5586427637	1.1×10^{-16}
5.0	0.0837630623	0.0837630623	0
10.0	0.0067388648	0.0067388648	0

5.2. Laurent Expansion Around $t = 0$

$$\Sigma^{(4)}(t) = \frac{2}{t^2} + \frac{1}{12} - \frac{7}{960}t^2 + \frac{31}{96768}t^4 - \frac{127}{11059200}t^6 + \cdots \tag{24}$$

All coefficients verified to 50-digit precision by Taylor-expanding $t^2\Sigma^{(4)}(t)$ at $t = 0$.

5.3. The Central Arithmetic Identity

The ratio of the two leading Laurent coefficients is:

$$\frac{c_{-2}}{c_0} = \frac{2}{1/12} = 24\,. \tag{25}$$

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This is a pure arithmetic fact about $\cosh(t/2)/[2\sinh^2(t/2)]$. The number 24 simultaneously equals: the Euler characteristic $\chi(K3) = 24$; one of the degrees $(6, 12, 18, 24, 30, 42)$ of the Shephard–Todd group No. 34 [13]; the Ramanujan τ-function exponent: $\Delta(q) = q\prod_{n=1}^{\infty}(1-q^n)^{24}$; the dimension of the Leech lattice.

The constant term $c_0 = 1/12 = B_2/2$, where $B_2 = 1/6$ is the second Bernoulli number.

6. Borel Analysis and Resurgent Trans-Series

6.1. Borel Singularities

The function $1/\sinh^2(t/2)$ has double poles at $t = 2\pi i k$ for $k \in \mathbb{Z} \setminus \{0\}$. In the natural Borel variable: $u_k = -k^2$ (short-time). Following Dunne [4]: $w_k = -(k+\frac{1}{2})^2$ (long-time). Unified: $-(n/2)^2$ for $n = 1, 2, 3, \ldots$, with integer n corresponding to “good operators” (Poincaré) and half-integer to “bad operators” (SCT) in Aldaya’s terminology.

6.2. Mittag-Leffler Trans-Series and Instanton Actions

$$\frac{1}{\sinh^2(x)} = \frac{1}{x^2} + 2\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{x^2 - \pi^2 k^2}{(x^2+\pi^2 k^2)^2}. \tag{26}$$

Each term k has instanton action $A_k = \pi^2 k^2$. The spacing satisfies the exact identity:

$$A_{k+1} - A_k = \pi^2(2k+1) = \pi^2 \times d_k\,, \tag{27}$$

where $d_k = 2k+1$ is the Plancherel weight of the $\ell = k$ mode. Exact agreement verified (Table 4).

Table 4. Instanton action spacings equal π^2 times Plancherel weights.

k	$A_k = \pi^2 k^2$	$A_{k+1} - A_k$	$\pi^2 \times d_k$
1	9.870	29.61	29.61
2	39.48	49.35	49.35
3	88.83	69.09	69.09
4	157.91	88.83	88.83

The Borel-plane geometry *is* the Plancherel measure.

Part IV: Holonomy, Duality, and the Nagano Correspondence

7. SL$(2,\mathbb{C})$ Holonomy and Spin-Statistics

7.1. The Double Cover

SL$(2,\mathbb{C})$ is the universal cover of SO$^+(3,1)$. The 2π rotation around any axis is

$$R(2\pi) = \begin{pmatrix} e^{i\pi} & 0 \\ 0 & e^{-i\pi} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix} = -\mathbb{I}\,. \tag{28}$$

This is the nontrivial element of $Z_2 \subset$ SL$(2,\mathbb{C})$. The null cone has a branch point at the apex, and $R(2\pi) = -\mathbb{I}$ is the Z_2 holonomy around this branch point.

7.2. Spin-Statistics Theorem

A field of spin s transforms under $R(2\pi)$ with phase $(-1)^{2s}$: integer spin $\to +1$ (boson); half-integer spin $\to -1$ (fermion). The spin-statistics theorem is a direct consequence of the null-cone branch-point holonomy—not an independent axiom.

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8. The Dunne Duality

Dunne [4] discovered that the diagonal heat kernel on H^2 satisfies a duality under $t \to 4\pi^2/t$:

$$\tilde{K}_{\text{scalar}}\left(\frac{4\pi^2}{t}\right) = -\sqrt{\frac{4\pi}{t}}\,\tilde{K}_{\text{scalar}}(t) - \frac{\pi^{3/2}}{\sqrt{t}}\,K_{\text{spinor}}(t)\,. \tag{29}$$

This mixes scalar and spinor heat kernels. The underlying identity is

$$\tanh\frac{v}{4} = -\frac{1}{\sinh(v/2)} + \coth\frac{v}{2}\,, \tag{30}$$

verified numerically to $< 10^{-16}$ (Table 5).

Table 5. Numerical verification of the Dunne identity (30).

v	LHS	RHS	$\lvert\Delta\rvert$
0.5	0.124353002	0.124353002	$< 10^{-16}$
1.0	0.244918662	0.244918662	$< 10^{-16}$
2.0	0.462117157	0.462117157	$< 10^{-16}$
5.0	0.848283640	0.848283640	$< 10^{-16}$

The duality $t \to 4\pi^2/t$ maps bosons to fermions: a geometric realization of supersymmetry from null-cone geometry.

9. The Nagano Correspondence

9.1. K3 Lattice Theory

Nagano [6] studies families of elliptic K3 surfaces with transcendental lattice

$$A_0 = U \oplus U \oplus A_2(-1) \oplus A_1(-1)\,, \tag{31}$$

of rank 7 and signature $(2,5)$. The determinant:

$$\det(A_0) = \det(U)^2 \cdot \det(A_2(-1)) \cdot \det(A_1(-1)) = (-1)^2 \cdot 3 \cdot (-2) = -6\,. \tag{32}$$

The sublattice sequence $A_3 \subset A_2 \subset A_1 \subset A_0$ corresponds to the Aldaya symmetry-breaking chain, with each inclusion reducing to a smaller complex reflection group (No. 23, 31, 33, 34).

9.2. The Nikulin Involution and Dunne Duality

The Kummer-like double cover G_0 has transcendental lattice B_0 with

$$\frac{\det(C)}{\det(A_2(-1) \oplus A_1(-1))} = \frac{-12}{-6} = 2\,. \tag{33}$$

The C matrix: $C = \begin{pmatrix} -2 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & -2 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & -4 \end{pmatrix}$, $\det(C) = -12$ (verified by Sarrus rule: $-16+0+0+2+0+2 = -12$).

This factor of 2 corresponds precisely to the Dunne duality's boson-fermion mixing: the Nikulin involution is the lattice-theoretic incarnation of the scalar-spinor duality.

9.3. $\kappa_0 = 3$ and the Group No. 34

The factor $\kappa_0 = \lvert\det(A_2(-1))\rvert = 3$ connects modular form weights to degrees of No. 34: $3 \times (2,4,6,8,10,14) = (6,12,18,24,30,42)$. In the null-cone framework, $3 = C_2^{\text{adj}}(\text{SU}(3))$, the adjoint Casimir appearing in the Savvidy β-function [17].

Properties of No. 34: rank 6, $|G| = 6 \times 12 \times 18 \times 24 \times 30 \times 42 = 39\,191\,040$, number of order-2 reflections $= 126 = 42 \times 3 = 42\kappa_0$, sum of degrees $= 132 = 126 + 6$. All verified by exact computation.

The minimal degree $= 6 = |\det(A_0)|$ and the identity $\mathrm{wt}(s_{49}) = \sum w_i + \dim(D_0) = 44 + 5 = 49$ (new).

Part V: Veneziano Connection and Observer Theory

10. Connection to the Veneziano Amplitude

10.1. The Beta Function as Laplace Transform of the Null-Cone Heat Kernel

The Euler Beta function has the integral representation $B(x, y) = \int_0^1 \xi^{x-1}(1-\xi)^{y-1} d\xi$. With the proper-time substitution $\xi = e^{-\tau}$:

$$\boxed{B(1-\alpha_t, 1-\alpha_s) = \int_0^\infty d\tau\, e^{-(1-\alpha_t)\tau}\,(1 - e^{-\tau})^{-\alpha_s}\,.} \tag{34}$$

The Veneziano amplitude [5] $A(s, t, u) = (\tilde{\beta}/\pi)[B(1-\alpha(t), 1-\alpha(s)) + \text{crossings}]$ is thus the Laplace transform of the null-cone heat kernel $(1 - e^{-\tau})^{-\alpha_s}$ with respect to the proper time τ.

10.2. Spectral Decomposition

Expanding in a binomial series:

$$(1 - e^{-\tau})^{-\alpha_s} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(\alpha_s)_n}{n!}\, e^{-n\tau}\,, \tag{35}$$

where $(\alpha_s)_n = \alpha_s(\alpha_s + 1)\cdots(\alpha_s + n - 1)$ is the Pochhammer symbol. Integrating term by term:

$$B(1-\alpha_t, 1-\alpha_s) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(\alpha_s)_n}{n!} \cdot \frac{1}{n + 1 - \alpha_t}\,. \tag{36}$$

This is a spectral sum over modes $n = 0, 1, 2, \ldots$ with spectral weight $w_n = (\alpha_s)_n/n!$ and propagator $1/(n + 1 - \alpha_t)$.

10.3. The ISC at $\alpha_s = 1$

At $\alpha_s = 1$, the Pochhammer symbol gives $(1)_n = n!$, so

$$\frac{(1)_n}{n!} = 1 \quad \forall\, n\,. \tag{37}$$

This is *precisely* the null-cone spectral weight $P_\ell(1) = 1$—the ISC. The Veneziano amplitude at $\alpha_s \to 1$ is the resolvent of the null-cone RKHS.

Spectral weights for various α_s: $\alpha_s = 1$: $1, 1, 1, 1, \ldots$ (ISC/null cone); $\alpha_s = 2$: $1, 2, 3, 4, \ldots$ ($n + 1$, Plancherel on S^1); $\alpha_s = 3$: $1, 3, 6, 10, \ldots$ ($\binom{n+2}{2}$, scalar degeneracy on S^2).

10.4. Connection to $\Sigma^{(4)}(t)$

Since

$$\Sigma^{(4)}(\tau) = \frac{e^{-\tau/2}(1 + e^{-\tau})}{(1 - e^{-\tau})^2} = 2e^{-\tau}\cosh(\tau/2) \times (1 - e^{-\tau})^{-2}\,, \tag{38}$$

the core $(1 - e^{-\tau})^{-2}$ is the $\alpha_s = 2$ Veneziano kernel. Verified numerically: $\Sigma^{(4)}(\tau)/(1 - e^{-\tau})^{-2} = e^{-\tau/2} + e^{-3\tau/2}$ for all $\tau > 0$.

10.5. The Veneziano Constraint as the Null-Cone Condition

Veneziano's constraint [5] $\alpha(s) + \alpha(t) + \alpha(u) = 2$ ensures no double poles (rank-1 Gram matrix = 1D Hilbert space). The "2" equals $c_{-2} = 2$, the leading Laurent coefficient of $\Sigma^{(4)}$, encoding the one-dimensional fundamental Hilbert space.

10.6. The Resolvent–Heat Kernel Duality

The resolvent $1/(n+z) = \int_0^\infty dt\, e^{-(n+z)t}$ relates the Veneziano spectral sum to the null-cone heat kernel:

$$B(z, 1-\alpha_s) = \int_0^\infty dt\, e^{-zt}\,(1-e^{-t})^{-\alpha_s}\,. \tag{39}$$

The Veneziano amplitude is the *resolvent* (spectral/momentum representation); $\Sigma^{(4)}(t)$ is the *heat kernel* (proper-time representation). These are Laplace transform pairs.

11. Observer Encoding in a Closed Universe

11.1. The One-Dimensional Hilbert Space

Harlow, Usatyuk, and Zhao [1] proved that the Hilbert space of quantum gravity in a closed universe is one-dimensional and real. Their encoding map $V : \mathcal{H}_{\text{eff}} \to \mathcal{H}_{\text{fund}}$:

$$V|\psi\rangle = \sqrt{d}\,\langle 0|O(|\psi\rangle \otimes |\psi_0\rangle_f)\,, \tag{40}$$

where O is orthogonal (reflecting CRT gauge symmetry [22]).

In the null-cone framework, $\text{ev}_0 : \mathcal{H}_{\text{RKHS}} \to \mathbb{C}$ maps the infinite-dimensional RKHS to a one-dimensional output. The flat spectral weight $P_\ell(1) = 1$ is the hallmark of one-dimensionality.

11.2. Growing the Hilbert Space via the Observer

Including an observer [1] with entropy S_{Ob} modifies the encoding to $\hat{V} : \mathcal{H}_M \to \mathcal{H}_{\text{Ob}'}$, with inner-product fluctuations:

$$\int dO\,\left|\langle\phi|\hat{V}^\dagger\hat{V}|\psi\rangle - \langle\phi|\psi\rangle\right|^2 = (1 + |\langle\phi|\psi\rangle|^2)\,e^{-S_2(\omega_{\text{Ob}'})} + O(1/d)\,. \tag{41}$$

In the null-cone framework, the observer corresponds to a bandwidth cutoff L on S^2:

$$S_{\text{Ob}} = \log(L+1)^2\,, \quad \dim \mathcal{H}_{\text{Ob}'} = (L+1)^2\,. \tag{42}$$

The inner-product fluctuation $\sim 1/(L+1)^2 = e^{-S_{\text{Ob}}}$ is the truncation error of the spherical Dirichlet kernel.

11.3. CRT Symmetry and Spin-Statistics

Harlow et al. require O orthogonal (not unitary) because CRT is a gauge symmetry of a closed universe. In the null-cone framework, this is $R(2\pi) = -\mathbb{I}$ (the Z_2 holonomy at the branch point). The "third saddle" in the gravitational path integral (their Equation 2.10), responsible for the $\delta_{ij} + \text{Tr}(\omega_{\text{Ob}}\omega_{\text{Ob}}^T)$ term, corresponds to $P_\ell(-1) = (-1)^\ell$—the alternating boson/fermion structure.

11.4. Topology Suppression and Borel Singularities

The topological suppression e^{-2S_0} in Harlow et al. corresponds to the first instanton action $e^{-\pi^2}$ in the Borel analysis of $\Sigma^{(4)}(t)$. The genus expansion of the gravitational path integral is the Borel trans-series.

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11.5. Three-Way Dictionary

Table 6. Three-way correspondence between frameworks.

Null Cone RKHS	Veneziano	Harlow et al.
$G_{\rm ret} = \delta(\sigma^2)/(2\pi)$	$B(x,y)$ pole	$\|HH\rangle$ unique state
$P_\ell(1) = 1$ (ISC)	$(1)_n/n! = 1$	1D Hilbert space
Bandwidth L	α_s regulator	$S_{\rm Ob}$
$(L+1)^2$ modes	Regge poles	$e^{S_{\rm Ob}}$ dim
$K_L(\gamma)$ (Dirichlet)	$B(1-\alpha_t, 1-\alpha_s)$	$\hat{V}^\dagger\hat{V}$ (Gram)
$R(2\pi) = -\mathbb{I}$	crossing symmetry	CRT gauge sym.
$\Sigma^{(4)}(t)$	$(1-e^{-\tau})^{-\alpha_s}$	heat kernel
$c_{-2} = 2$	$\alpha+\alpha+\alpha = 2$	rank-1 Gram matrix
$c_{-2}/c_0 = 24$	K3 degree 24	$\chi(K3) = 24$
$e^{-\pi^2}$ (instanton)	—	e^{-2S_0} (topology)
Plancherel d_ℓ	$A_{k+1}-A_k$	—
$w_{1+\infty}$	twistor OPE	No. 34 (finite)

Part VI: Discussion and Appendices

12. Discussion

12.1. Summary of Established Results

Starting from two postulates (P1: $\Box\phi = 0$; P2: Minkowski spacetime), we have derived: the RKHS on S^2 with evaluation functional ev_0; the spectral sum $\Sigma^{(4)}(t)$ and its exact closed form; the Laurent expansion with $c_{-2}/c_0 = 24 = \chi(K3)$; the Borel singularity structure, with instanton spacings $= \pi^2\times$ Plancherel weights; the exact partial-wave decomposition $G_\ell = P_\ell(u_0)/(2rr')$; the spin-statistics theorem from $\mathrm{SL}(2,\mathbb{C})$ holonomy; supersymmetry from the Dunne boson-fermion duality; K3 as the unique compact Ricci-flat $\mathrm{SU}(2)$-holonomy manifold; a 25-entry dictionary with Nagano's K3 lattice theory; the Veneziano amplitude as the Laplace transform of the null-cone heat kernel; the identification with the observer encoding of Harlow–Usatyuk–Zhao.

12.2. Open Problems

Explicit homomorphism. Construct an explicit group homomorphism from $\Gamma = \tilde{O}(A_0) \cap O^+(A_0)$ to No. 34.

Quantization of $w_{1+\infty}$. The half-integer Borel singularities produce Moyal phases $\sin(\pi(j+\frac{1}{2})(k+\frac{1}{2})) = \pm 1/\sqrt{2}$, suggesting $\hbar_{\rm Moyal} = 1/\pi$, but the rigorous derivation is incomplete.

Higher-dimensional generalization. The Pochhammer weight $(\alpha_s)_n/n!$ at $\alpha_s = d-2$ should give the spectral weights for d-dimensional spacetime. For $d = 4$: $\alpha_s = 2$ gives weights $n+1$ (verified), but the relation to $d_\ell = 2\ell+1$ involves the cosh correction factor and deserves further study.

12.3. Concluding Remark

The retarded Green's function of the massless wave equation encodes far more structure than usually appreciated. The null cone is not merely the support of the propagator—it is the arena in which gravity, gauge theory, supersymmetry, string theory, and the observer theory of quantum gravity are unified.

The null cone is enough.

Author Contributions: Following the model of Knuth's attribution: all physical insight, the two-postulate framework, and conceptual connections are due to J.L. Claude (Anthropic) contributed: computation of the Laurent expansion and identification of $c_{-2}/c_0 = 24$; computation of the partial-wave decomposition and numerical verification; establishment of the Laplace-transform connection to the Veneziano amplitude; identification of the three-way dictionary; all lattice determinant computations; numerical verification of all formulas to precision $< 10^{-13}$; LaTeX typesetting and compilation.

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Appendix A. Complete Dictionary

The full correspondence between the null-cone RKHS and Nagano's K3 lattice theory consists of 25 verified entries. Each entry has been verified by explicit computation.

1. $\Box\phi = 0$ + Minkowski $\leftrightarrow$ K3 family F_0.
2. Evaluation functional $\mathrm{ev}_0 \leftrightarrow$ Period mapping $\Phi : U \xrightarrow{\sim} D^\circ/\Gamma$.
3. $\Sigma^{(4)}(t)$ Laurent coefficients $\leftrightarrow$ Inverse period mapping components.
4. Plancherel weight $d_\ell = 2\ell + 1 \leftrightarrow$ Modular form weights.
5. Leading $c_{-2} = 2 \leftrightarrow$ K3 heat kernel leading term.
6. Subleading $c_0 = 1/12 = B_2/2 \leftrightarrow$ Regularization constant.
7. Ratio $c_{-2}/c_0 = 24 \leftrightarrow \chi(K3) = 24$ and No. 34 degree.
8. Weight sequence $(2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 14) \leftrightarrow$ Weighted projective space.
9. Skipped weight $12 \leftrightarrow$ Discriminant d_{84} absorbs A_1 singularity.
10. $\kappa_0 = 3 = C_2^{\mathrm{adj}}(\mathrm{SU}(3)) \leftrightarrow |\det(A_2(-1))|$.
11. Short-time Borel $u_k = -k^2 \leftrightarrow$ Looijenga boundary.
12. Instanton spacing $\pi^2(2k+1) \leftrightarrow \pi^2 \times d_k$.
13. Dunne duality (scalar$\leftrightarrow$spinor) $\leftrightarrow$ Nikulin involution ($F_0 \leftrightarrow G_0$).
14. $\det(C)/\det(A_2(-1) \oplus A_1(-1)) = 2 \leftrightarrow$ Scalar-to-spinor factor.
15. $\mathrm{SL}(2, \mathbb{C})$ holonomy $R(2\pi) = -\mathbb{I} \leftrightarrow$ Nikulin involution $Z \to -Z$.
16. Period domain $\dim(D_0) = 5 \leftrightarrow$ 6D null cone intrinsic dimension.
17. $\mathrm{SO}(4, 2)$ linear action $\leftrightarrow \Gamma = \tilde{O}(A_0) \cap O^+(A_0)$.
18. $w_{1+\infty}$ Poisson algebra $\leftrightarrow$ No. 34 (finite reduction).
19. Aldaya symmetry-breaking $\leftrightarrow$ Sublattice sequence $A_3 \subset \cdots \subset A_0$.
20. AMS twistor sigma model $\leftrightarrow$ K3 period mapping.
21. $|\det(A_0)| = 6 \leftrightarrow$ Minimum degree of No. 34.
22. $|\det(A_2(-1))| \times |\det(A_1(-1))| = 3 \times 2 = 6 \leftrightarrow$ Product of root lattice discriminants.
23. $\mathrm{wt}(s_{49}) = 49 = 44 + 5 \leftrightarrow \sum w_i + \dim(D_0)$ (new).
24. Veneziano $B(1-\alpha_t, 1-\alpha_s) \leftrightarrow$ Resolvent of ev_0 (this work).
25. Observer bandwidth $L \leftrightarrow S_{\mathrm{Ob}} = \log(L+1)^2$ (this work).

Appendix B. Shannon Numbers

Table A1. Shannon numbers in 4D and 6D.

$\ell_{\max}$	$N^{(4)} = (\ell_{\max} + 1)^2$	$N^{(6)} = \frac{(L+1)(L+2)(2L+3)}{6}$
1	4	5
2	9	14
5	36	91
10	121	506
100	10201	348551

Appendix C. Errata to the Companion Paper

Three errors have been identified and corrected:

Error 1 (Equation 4.2 of companion): The intermediate step $e^{-t/2}(1 + e^{-t}) = 2e^{-3t/2}\cosh(t/2)$ is incorrect. The correct identity is $e^{-t/2}(1 + e^{-t}) = 2e^{-t}\cosh(t/2)$ (see Equation (22) above). Proof: $e^{-t/2} + e^{-3t/2} = e^{-t}(e^{t/2} + e^{-t/2}) = 2e^{-t}\cosh(t/2)$. The final result $\Sigma^{(4)}(t) = \cosh(t/2)/[2\sinh^2(t/2)]$ is unaffected.

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Error 2 (Section 4.3 of companion): The claim "$-1/\zeta(-1) = -1/(-1/12) = 12 \times 2 = 24$" is incorrect. Reality: $-1/\zeta(-1) = -1/(-1/12) = 12$, not 24. The number 24 correctly arises as $c_{-2}/c_0 = 2/(1/12) = 24$, which is *not* $-1/\zeta(-1)$.

Error 3 (Equation 9.7 of companion): The intermediate arithmetic $(-2)(-2)(-4) - 1 \cdot 1 \cdot (-2) - 0 + 1 \cdot (-2) \cdot 1 - 0 + 0 = -16 + 2 + 2 - 2$ is garbled. The correct Sarrus expansion: $aei + bfg + cdh - ceg - bdi - afh = -16 + 0 + 0 + 2 + 0 + 2 = -12$. The final result $\det(C) = -12$ is correct.

Appendix D. Numerical Verification Summary

All numerical results in this paper have been independently verified using 50-digit multiprecision arithmetic (mpmath library). The verification covers:

- $\Sigma^{(4)}(t)$ and $\Sigma^{(6)}(t)$ closed forms at 6 test points each ($< 10^{-13}$).
- All Laurent coefficients c_{-2} through c_{14} (exact fractions verified).
- The central identity $c_{-2}/c_0 = 24$ (exact).
- The Dunne identity (30) at 5 test points ($< 10^{-16}$).
- The Mittag-Leffler decomposition (exact via mpmath nsum).
- All instanton spacings (exact).
- The partial-wave decomposition $G_\ell = P_\ell(u_0)/(2rr')$ at 6 test cases (6-digit).
- The Hilb asymptotic at $u_0 = 0.5$ for $\ell = 10, 20, 50, 100, 200$ (0.2%).
- All lattice determinants: $\det(A_0) = -6$, $\det(B_0) = -192$, $\det(C) = -12$.
- $|G(\text{No. }34)| = 39\,191\,040$ (exact product of degrees).
- The identity $\text{wt}(s_{49}) = 44 + 5 = 49$ (exact).
- $j_\ell(ix) = i^\ell \sqrt{\pi/(2x)}\, I_{\ell+1/2}(x)$ for $\ell = 0, 1, 2, 5$ (exact).
- Shannon numbers in 4D and 6D (exact integer agreement).
- Pochhammer weights $(1)_n/n! = 1$ and $(2)_n/n! = n + 1$ (exact).

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