

Introduction to QCD Lecture 1

HASCO Summer School 2024 Göttingen

Christian T Preuss (University of Wuppertal)



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Hadron collisions in experiments



Hadron collisions in theory



Hadron collisions in theory



QCD



Lecture 1 (today):

- · Hadrons, partons, and all that
- Colour charges
- QCD Lagrangian and Feynman rules
- QCD at test
- QCD-improved parton model

Lecture 2 (tomorrow):

- Fixed-order calculations and jets
- QCD radiation
- Running coupling and confinement
- QCD in event generators

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I'm standing on the shoulders of giants...

The content of these lectures is compiled from many different sources.

Previous HASCO lectures:

- Enrico Bothmann 2021 & 2022
- Daniel Reichelt 2023
- "Standard" text books:
- Griffiths Introduction to Elementary Particles
- Halzen, Martin Quarks & Leptons
- Ellis, Stirling, Webber QCD and Collider Physics
- Thomson Modern Particle Physics



QCD describes **strong interaction** in the Standard Model of particle physics

Ingredients:

- quarks/antiquarks:
 - · basic constituents of matter
 - 3 "families", 6 "flavours"

(up, down, charm, strange, top, bottom)

- 3 "colours"
- gluons:
 - · "mediators" of the strong force
 - 8 "colours"
- strong coupling $\alpha_{
 m s} pprox 0.1$



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In hadron colliders we collide protons with (anti-)protons.

Protons (and hadrons in general) are not elementary particles, but composite. \rightarrow need to understand the proton structure first!

We need a clean "projectile" to break up messy proton \rightarrow electron beams



To resolve proton substructure we need electron wave lengths $\lambda \ll r_{\rm p}$

 \rightarrow deep inelastic scattering

Deep inelastic scattering (DIS) I

beyond the

Assumption: point-like electrons scatter from point-like quarks inside the proton



Ansatz* for double-differential cross section in terms of structure functions:

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}^2 \sigma}{\mathrm{d}x \mathrm{d}Q^2} = \frac{4\pi \alpha^2}{Q^2} \left((1-y) \frac{F_2(x,Q^2)}{x} + \frac{y}{2} 2F_1(x,Q^2) \right)$$
*its derivation is beyond the scope of these lectures
electric + magnetic

Two important observations:

Bjørken scaling: to first approximation, structure functions are independent of Q^2

$$F_1(x, Q^2) \rightarrow F_1(x)$$
 and $F_2(x, Q^2) \rightarrow F_2(x)$

Callan-Gross relation: electrons scatter from point-like spin- $\frac{1}{2}$ constituents (quarks)

$$F_2(x) = 2xF_1(x)$$



Adapted from Thomson, data from [Friedman, Kendall ARNPS 22 (1972) 203] and [Bodek et al. PRD 20 (1979) 1471] ¹²

The strong interaction treats all quarks equally

→ assume **approximate** flavour symmetry between light quarks u, d, and sNot exact, because $m_u \neq m_d \neq m_s$, but differences at most ~ 100 MeV, which is a lot smaller than typical hadron binding energies ~ 1 GeV.

Express symmetry by unitary rotation in flavour space

$$\begin{pmatrix} u' \\ d' \\ s' \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} U_{11} & U_{12} & U_{13} \\ U_{21} & U_{22} & U_{23} \\ U_{31} & U_{32} & U_{33} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} u \\ d \\ s \end{pmatrix}$$

• ignoring a trivial "rotation" $U = 1e^{i\phi}$, the matrices U form the group SU(3)

- each matrix can be written in terms of the eight generators T^a as $U = e^{i\lambda^a T^a}$
- the generators T^a form a Lie algebra with commutator $[T^a, T^b] = i f^{abc} T^c$

sum convention

The SU(3) generators can be written in terms of Gell-Mann matrices as $T^a = \frac{1}{2}\lambda^a$

$$\lambda_{1} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \lambda_{4} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \lambda_{6} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$
$$\lambda_{2} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -i & 0 \\ i & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \lambda_{5} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & -i \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ i & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \lambda_{7} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -i \\ 0 & i & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$
$$\lambda_{3} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \lambda_{8} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -2 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Only two of these commute \Rightarrow two observable quantities ("quantum numbers")

 \rightarrow third component of isospin: eigenstates of $T_3 = \frac{1}{2}\lambda_3$

 \rightarrow flavour hypercharge: eigenstates of $Y = \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}\lambda_8$

The light quarks are identified with the eigenstates of T_3 and Y

$$u \equiv \begin{pmatrix} 1\\0\\0 \end{pmatrix}, d \equiv \begin{pmatrix} 0\\1\\0 \end{pmatrix}, s \equiv \begin{pmatrix} 0\\0\\1 \end{pmatrix}$$

 \rightarrow light quarks form a flavour triplet, antiquarks a flavour anti-triplet:











Light baryons

Baryons: bound qqq (or $\overline{q}\overline{q}\overline{q}$) states

Light baryon structure arises from Clebsch-Gordan decomposition of direct product of three flavour triplets:



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Problem: we observe hadrons in states such as $|\Delta^{++}\rangle \equiv |u_{\uparrow}u_{\uparrow}u_{\uparrow}\rangle$

- · this is a completely symmetric state
- does this violate Fermi-Dirac statistics?

Solution: with an additional quantum number ("**colour**") with three states, this can be anti-symmetrised as $\left|\Delta^{++}\right\rangle = \varepsilon_{ijk} \left|u_{\uparrow}^{i}u_{\uparrow}^{j}u_{\uparrow}^{k}\right\rangle$

All observed particles are **colour-neutral**, i.e., this quantum number is not observed directly! \rightarrow confinement



The three colour charges of quarks can be represented as

$$r \equiv \begin{pmatrix} 1\\0\\0 \end{pmatrix}, g \equiv \begin{pmatrix} 0\\1\\0 \end{pmatrix}, b \equiv \begin{pmatrix} 0\\0\\1 \end{pmatrix}$$

and each quark wave function carries an additional colour index ψ_q^i flavour Just as in QED, we impose invariance under a **local** gauge transformation

$$\psi_q^i(x) \to U_j^i \psi_q^j(x) = \left(\mathrm{e}^{\mathrm{i}\lambda^a(x)T^a} \right)_j^i \psi_q^j$$

- ignoring a trivial "rotation" $U = 1e^{i\phi}$, the matrices U form the group SU(3)
- each matrix can be written in terms of the eight generators T^a as $U = e^{i\lambda^a(x)T^a}$
- the generators T^a form a Lie algebra with commutator $[T^a, T^b] = i f^{abc} T^c$

We have seen this before!

But: despite the same structure, flavour SU(3) and colour SU(3) describe very different concepts!

Colour gauge group II

Quarks transform according to the fundamental representation of SU(3)

$$(T^a)^i_j = \frac{1}{2} (\lambda^a)^i_j$$
 with indices $i, j \in \{1, 2, 3\}$



Antiquarks transform according to the anti-fundamental representation of SU(3)

$$(T^{a})_{i}^{j} = -\frac{1}{2} (\lambda^{a^{*}})_{i}^{j}$$
 with indices $i, j \in \{1, 2, 3\}$

Gluons transform according to the adjoint representation of SU(3)

$$(T^a_{adj})^{bc} = -if^{abc}$$
 with indices $b, c \in \{1, \dots, 8\}$

Here, λ^a are the 3 \times 3 Gell-Mann matrices





Colour algebra I

Choose normalisation of generators as $Tr(T^aT^b) = T_R\delta^{ab}$ with $T_R = \frac{1}{2}$

Casimir invariants

Fundamental Casimir:
$$(T^a)^i_j(T^a)^j_k = C_F \delta^i_k$$
 with $C_F = T_R \frac{N_C^2 - 1}{N_C}$
Adjoint Casimir: $f^{acd} f^{bcd} = C_A \delta^{ab}$ with $C_A = N_C$

• Fierz identity:

$$(T^a)^i_j(T^a)^k_l = T_{\rm R}\left(\delta^i_l\delta^k_j - \frac{1}{N_{\rm C}}\delta^i_j\delta^k_l\right)$$

Example: calculate fundamental Casimir using Fierz identity

$$(T^{a})_{j}^{i}(T^{a})_{k}^{j} = T_{\mathrm{R}} \left(\delta_{k}^{i} \delta_{j}^{j} - \frac{1}{N_{\mathrm{C}}} \delta_{j}^{i} \delta_{k}^{j} \right) = T_{\mathrm{R}} \left(N_{\mathrm{C}} - \frac{1}{N_{\mathrm{C}}} \right) \delta_{k}^{i}$$
$$= T_{\mathrm{R}} \frac{N_{\mathrm{C}}^{2} - 1}{N_{\mathrm{C}}} \delta_{k}^{i} = C_{\mathrm{F}} \delta_{k}^{i}$$

Task: express structure constant in terms of fundamental generators

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Solution:

$$\begin{split} [T^{a}, T^{b}] &= \mathrm{i} f^{abc} T^{c} \\ \Rightarrow & [T^{a}, T^{b}] T^{d} = \mathrm{i} f^{abc} T^{c} T^{d} \\ \Rightarrow & \mathrm{Tr} \left([T^{a}, T^{b}] T^{d} \right) = \mathrm{i} f^{abc} \mathrm{Tr} \left(T^{c} T^{d} \right) = \mathrm{i} T_{\mathrm{R}} f^{abc} \delta^{cd} = \mathrm{i} T_{\mathrm{R}} f^{abd} \\ \Leftrightarrow & f^{abd} = -\frac{\mathrm{i}}{T_{\mathrm{R}}} \mathrm{Tr} \left([T^{a}, T^{b}] T^{d} \right) \end{split}$$

+ Fierz identity: all colour factors can be expressed in terms of (anti-)colour lines δ_i^i



Birdtracks I

Colour factors can most easily be calculated using birdtrack diagrams

• Kronecker deltas are represented by colour lines (+ implicit summation over colour indices)

$$i \longrightarrow j = \delta^i_j \qquad a \text{ lilled } b = \delta^{ab}$$

· generators and structure constants are represented by vertices



[Keppeler 1707.07280]

Rewrite $SU(N_C)$ identities as birdtracks

Casimir invariants



• Fierz identity:



Example: calculate fundamental Casimir using Fierz identity with birdtracks



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Free quark Lagrangian:

$$\mathscr{L}_{\text{quark}} = \overline{\psi}_{q\,i} \mathrm{i} \gamma^{\mu} \partial_{\mu} \psi^{i}_{q} - m_{q} \overline{\psi}_{q\,i} \psi^{i}_{q}$$

- yields the free Dirac equation $({
 m i}\gamma^\mu\partial_\mu-m)\psi^i_q=0$
- not invariant under SU(3) transformations $\psi_q \rightarrow {
 m e}^{{
 m i}g_{
 m s}\lambda^a(x)T^a}\psi_q$

Introduce covariant derivative to restore local gauge invariance:

$$(D_{\mu})_{j}^{i} := \delta_{j}^{i} \partial_{\mu} - ig_{s}(T^{a})_{j}^{i} A_{\mu}^{a}$$

This introduces **interactions** between the quark spinors ψ_q^i and the gluon field A_{μ}^a :

$$(i\gamma^{\mu}\partial_{\mu} - m)\psi_{q}^{i} = -g_{s}\gamma^{\mu}T^{a}A_{\mu}^{a}\psi_{q}^{i}$$

The field-strength tensor is defined as the commutator of the covariant derivative:

$$F_{\mu\nu}^{c} = \frac{1}{\mathrm{i}g_{\mathrm{s}}} \left[D_{\mu}, D_{\nu} \right]$$
$$= \partial_{\mu}A_{\nu}^{c} - \partial_{\nu}A_{\mu}^{c} - g_{\mathrm{s}}f^{abc}A_{\mu}^{a}A_{\nu}^{b}$$

It obeys the Yang-Mills equation of motion

$$\partial_{\mu}F^{a\,\mu\nu} + g_{s}f^{abc}A^{b}_{\mu}F^{c\,\mu\nu} = g_{s}\overline{\psi}_{q}\gamma^{\nu}T^{a}\psi_{q}$$

compare to Maxwell eqs. in Lorenz gauge: $\partial_{\mu}\partial^{\mu}A^{\nu}=j^{\nu}$

The corresponding Lagrangian is given by

$$\mathscr{L}_{\text{gluon}} = -\frac{1}{4} F^a_{\mu\nu} F^{a\,\mu\nu}$$

which is invariant under SU(3) transformations due to gauge freedom of A_{μ}^{a}

Quark Lagrangian:

$$\mathscr{L}_{\text{quark}} = \overline{\psi}_{q\,i} i \gamma^{\mu} (D_{\mu})^{i}_{j} \psi^{i}_{q} - m_{q} \overline{\psi}_{q\,i} \psi^{i}_{q}$$

Gluon Lagrangian:

$$\mathscr{L}_{gluon} = -\frac{1}{4} F^a_{\mu\nu} F^{a\,\mu\nu} \quad \text{with} \quad F^c_{\mu\nu} = \partial_\mu A^c_\nu - \partial^\nu A^c_\mu - g_s f^{abc} A^a_\mu A^b_\nu$$

Final QCD Lagrangian:

$$\mathscr{L}_{\text{QCD}} = -\frac{1}{4} F^a_{\mu\nu} F^{a\,\mu\nu} + \overline{\psi}_{q\,i} \left(i\gamma^{\mu} (D_{\mu})^i_j - \delta^i_j m_q \right) \psi^j_q$$

Note: quantisation requires gauge-fixing terms and so-called ghost fields (ignored for now).

Two approaches to solve equations of motions as governed by QCD Lagrangian



Lattice QCD

Idea: [Wilson PRD 10 (1974) 2445]

- quantise QCD on a discrete lattice in euclidean space time
- finite lattice spacing a acts as infrared regulator
- solve path integrals numerically
- \rightarrow suitable to calculate non-perturbative hadron properties
- \rightarrow not suitable for large-scale collider processes



 $U_{\mu}(\mathbf{x})$

x+µa

Idea:

at high scales $\alpha_{\rm s} \approx 0.1 \Rightarrow$ series expansion in powers of the strong coupling $\alpha_{\rm s}$

$$d\sigma \sim C_0 + \alpha_s C_1 + \underline{\alpha_s^2 C_2} + \underline{\alpha_s^3 C_3} + \underline{\ldots}$$

small smaller ne

negligible?

 \rightarrow improve prediction by successively correcting leading-order approximation (leading order, next-to-leading order, next-to-next-to-leading order, ...)

Example:



Need: set of universal rules to calculate cross sections order by order

Feynman rules of QCD — vertices

Three types of vertices in QCD

• quark-gluon vertex (\sim fermion-photon vertex in QED)



• pure gluon vertices (result of non-abelian structure of SU(3))



Propagators $\hat{=}$ Green's functions of inhomogeneous equations of motion

• gluon propagator (vector propagator)

$$\begin{array}{c} \mathbf{A}, \boldsymbol{\alpha} \quad \mathbf{p} \quad \mathbf{B}, \boldsymbol{\beta} \\ \boldsymbol{\beta} \quad \boldsymbol{\beta} \quad$$

• quark propagator (spinor propagator)

a,i p b,j =
$$\delta_b^a \frac{\mathrm{i}p + m}{p^2 - m^2 + \mathrm{i}\varepsilon}$$

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Quark production at lepton colliders

Simplest process involving quarks: $e^+e^- \rightarrow \gamma^*/Z \rightarrow q\overline{q}$ (does not actually involve any QCD!)



Differential cross section:

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}\sigma_{\mathrm{e^+e^-}\to q\overline{q}}}{\mathrm{d}\Omega} = \frac{\alpha^2}{4s} (1 + \cos^2\theta) N_{\mathrm{C}} \sum_{q} Q_{q}^2$$

Inclusive cross section via integration over solid angle $\int d\Omega = \int_{-1}^{1} d\cos\theta \int_{0}^{2\pi} d\phi$: $\sigma_{e^+e^- \to q\overline{q}} = \frac{4\pi\alpha^2}{3s} N_C \sum_{q} Q_q^2$



The *R*-ratio



[Particle Data Group]

Existence of the gluon



[Wu, Zobernig TASSO Note No. 84]









[Bethke PR 403-404 (2004) 203]



Proton structure revisited

 Q^2/GeV^2





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In our simple DIS model we neglected QCD dynamics in the proton!





Consider the $s\text{-channel contribution to }\gamma^*q \to qg$















Consider the $s\text{-channel contribution to }\gamma^*q \to qg$

$$q \qquad p_3 = \bar{u}(p_3)(-ig_s)T^a\gamma^{\mu}\frac{i(p_3 + p_4)}{(p_3 + p_4)^2}(-ie)\gamma^{\nu}u(p_2)\varepsilon_{\nu}(q)\varepsilon_{\mu}^*(p_4)$$

$$p_2 \qquad p_4 = \bar{u}(p_3)(-ig_s)T^a\gamma^{\mu}\frac{ip_{34}}{p_{34}^2}(-ie)\gamma^{\nu}u(p_2)\varepsilon_{\nu}(q)\varepsilon_{\mu}^*(p_4)$$
In the collinear limit 3 || 4, = $\bar{u}(p_3)(-ig_s)T^a\gamma^{\mu}\frac{ip_{34}}{p_{34}^2}(-ie)\gamma^{\nu}u(p_2)\varepsilon_{\nu}(q)\varepsilon_{\mu}^*(p_4)$
the intermediate quark goes on-shell $p_{34}^2 \to 0$

Consider the $s\text{-channel contribution to }\gamma^*q \to qg$

$$q \qquad p_{3} = \bar{u}(p_{3})(-ig_{8})T^{a}\gamma^{\mu}\frac{i(p_{3}+p_{4})}{(p_{3}+p_{4})^{2}}(-ie)\gamma^{\nu}u(p_{2})\varepsilon_{\nu}(q)\varepsilon_{\mu}^{*}(p_{4})$$

$$p_{2} \qquad p_{4} = \bar{u}(p_{3})(-ig_{8})T^{a}\gamma^{\mu}\frac{ip_{34}}{p_{34}^{2}}(-ie)\gamma^{\nu}u(p_{2})\varepsilon_{\nu}(q)\varepsilon_{\mu}^{*}(p_{4})$$
In the collinear limit 3 || 4, = $\bar{u}(p_{3})(-ig_{8})T^{a}\gamma^{\mu}\frac{ip_{34}}{p_{34}^{2}}(-ie)\gamma^{\nu}u(p_{2})\varepsilon_{\nu}(q)\varepsilon_{\mu}^{*}(p_{4})$
the intermediate quark goes on-shell $p_{34}^{2} \rightarrow 0$
for on-shell p

$$\sum_{\lambda} u_{\lambda}(p)\bar{u}_{\lambda}(p) = p$$

In the collinear limit, the squared amplitude becomes

$$|\mathcal{M}_{\gamma^* q \to qg}|^2 \sim g_s^2 \frac{1}{p_{34}^2} P_{qg}(z) |\mathcal{M}_{\gamma^* q \to q}|^2, \ P_{qg}(z) = C_F \frac{1+z^2}{1-z}$$

The effect of the gluon emission on the cross section is given by

$$\sigma_{\gamma^* q \to qg} \sim \sigma_{\gamma^* q \to q} g_s^2 \frac{1}{8\pi^2} \int_{\mu^2}^{Q^2} \frac{ds_{34}}{s_{34}} P_{qg}(z) = \sigma_{\gamma^* q \to q} \frac{\alpha_s}{2\pi} P_{qg}(z) \log \frac{Q^2}{\mu^2}$$
reference scale

We can now write the structure functions as

$$2F_1(x, Q^2) = \sum_i Q_i^2 \int_x^1 \frac{dy}{y} f_i(y) \left(\delta \left(1 - \frac{x}{y} \right) + \frac{\alpha_s}{2\pi} P_{qg} \left(\frac{x}{y} \right) \log \frac{Q^2}{\mu^2} \right)$$
parton distribution function
no scaling
logarithmic scaling



logarithmic scaling \checkmark

Parton distribution functions (PDFs) $f_a(x_a, Q^2)$ parametrise the probability to find a parton *a* with energy fraction x_a at scale Q^2 in the proton.

PDFs are intrinsically non-perturbative and have to be measured at some scale Q^2 .

"Running" of PDFs with scale Q^2 described by collinear evolution. see previous slides



Assume that at scale $\mu_{\rm F}$ the hadronic cross section **factorises** into long-distance (hadronic) and short-distance (partonic) parts:

$$d\sigma_{pp\to X} = \sum_{a,b} \int_{0}^{1} dx_a \int_{0}^{1} dx_b f_a(x_a, \mu_F) f_b(x_b, \mu_F) d\hat{\sigma}(x_a, x_b, \mu_F)$$

Factorisation in terms of transverse momentum $p_{\rm T}$ of partons

- emissions with $p_{\rm T} \lesssim \mu_{\rm F}$ implicitly included in PDFs
- emissions with $p_{\rm T}\gtrsim\mu_{\rm F}$ explicitly described by hard process

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Tomorrow we'll see how we can utilise this to simulate collider events...