

### Geometric picture for scattering amplitudes Jaroslav Trnka

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Grateful to Institute for Particle and Nuclear Physics, Charles University in Prague, and Institute for Advanced Study (IAS) in Princeton for hospitality

#### Particle experiments: our probe to fundamental laws of Nature



What happens during the scattering process of elementary particles?

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at least in a specific case....

# Scattering amplitudes

- Outcomes of particle experiments probabilistic and given by mathematical functions: scattering amplitudes
  - $\mathcal{M}(p, s, \dots)$
  - QCD background: new physics searches
- At high energies proton scattering dominated by gluon interactions





#### Gluon amplitudes

 Early 80s: plans for new "supercolliders" - need for new calculations of gluon amplitudes

Brute force calculation 24 pages of result

Leading order

 $gg \to ggg$ 



and many others



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કે છે. આપણ નામ્યુય એક પેલા ખેતાવું આવ્યું છે. આ કે પણ નામ્યુય આપણા માટે પણ આપણા માટે પણ ખેતાવું છે. કંઈને આપણ માથે તેવું કે છે, આપણે માટે આપણા કે છે. આપણા માટે આ ગામ છે. આ ગામ આપણા માટે આ ગામ છે. આ ગામ આપણી દેશે કંઈને આપણ માથે તેવું કે છે. આપણા માટે આપણા માટે આપણા માટે આ ગામ છે. આ ગામ આપણા માટે આ ગામ છે. આ ગામ આપણા માટે આ

 $(k_1 \cdot k_4)(\epsilon_2 \cdot k_1)(\epsilon_1 \cdot \epsilon_3)(\epsilon_4 \cdot \epsilon_5)$ 



- \* Next process on the list:  $gg \rightarrow gggg$
- ✤ 220 Feynman diagrams ~100 pages of calculations
- Calculation finished in 1985
- Paper with 14 pages of result







Stephen J. Parke and T.R. Taylor Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory P.O. Box 500, Batavia, IL 60510 U.S.A.

GLUONIC TWO GOES TO FOUR

ABSTRACT

The cross section for two gluon to four gluon scattering is given in a form suitable for fast numerical calculations.



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Our result has succesfully passed both these numerical checks. Details of the calculation, together with a full exposition of our techniques, will be given in a forthcoming article. Furthermore, we hope to obtain a simple analytic form for the answer, making our result not only an experimentalist's, but also a theorist's delight.



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Within a year they realized

Spinor-helicity variables

$$A_{6} = \frac{\langle 12 \rangle^{4}}{\langle 12 \rangle \langle 23 \rangle \langle 34 \rangle \langle 45 \rangle \langle 56 \rangle \langle 61 \rangle}$$

$$p^{\mu} = \sigma^{\mu}_{a\dot{a}}\lambda_{a}\tilde{\lambda}_{\dot{a}}$$
$$\langle 12 \rangle = \epsilon_{ab}\lambda^{(1)}_{a}\lambda^{(2)}_{b}$$
$$[12] = \epsilon_{\dot{a}\dot{b}}\tilde{\lambda}^{(1)}_{\dot{a}}\tilde{\lambda}^{(2)}_{\dot{b}}$$



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 $|A_6|^2 \sim \frac{(p_1 \cdot p_2)^3}{(p_2 \cdot p_3)(p_3 \cdot p_4)(p_4 \cdot p_5)(p_5 \cdot p_6)(p_6 \cdot p_1)}$ 



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 $A_n = \frac{\langle 12 \rangle^4}{\langle 12 \rangle \langle 23 \rangle \langle 34 \rangle \langle 45 \rangle \dots \langle n1 \rangle}$ 

AN AMPLITUDE FOR n GLUON SCATTERING

STEPHEN J. PARKE and T. R. TAYLOR

Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory P.O. Box 500, Batavia, IL 60510.

# Change of strategy



Modern methods use both:Calculate the amplitude directlyUse perturbation theory

Lesson from Parke-Taylor:

- On-shell gauge invariant objects
- Helicity amplitudes  $A_{n,k}$ e.g.  $k = 2: 1^{-}2^{-}3^{+}4^{+}5^{+} \dots n^{+}$ Parke-Taylor formula

#### New methods for amplitudes

#### New efficient methods of calculations

Unitarity methods



(Bern, Dixon, Kosower, 1993-today)

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BlackHat collaboration QCD background for LHC

#### Recursion relations



(Britto, Cachazo, Feng, Witten, 2005)

Build amplitude recursively from simpler amplitudes



Feynman diagrams Recursion relations

g	$g \to 4g$	$gg \rightarrow 5g$	$gg \to 6g$
S	220	2485	34300
S	3	6	20

## Amplitudes as a new field

 Studying and calculating scattering amplitudes became a new direction in theoretical physics



CENTER FOR QUANTUM MATHEMATICS AND PHYSICS

QMAP University of California Davis

JUNE 11-15, 2018

**AMPLITUDES SUMMER SCHOOL** 

- Major motivations:
  - Efficient calculations for particle colliders
  - Use amplitudes as a probe to explore quantum field theory

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#### New formulation of QFT

- Big goal: find a new formulation of QFT where the picture of interacting particles in spacetime, locality and unitarity is replaced by other principles
- Hopefully it would make calculation easier
- Deep motivation comes from gravity: difficult to incorporate gravity in QFT
- We have one example now: Amplituhedron





(Hodges 2009)

#### Amplitude as a volume

- \* New variables:  $p, \epsilon \rightarrow Z$  momentum twistors
- BCFW recursion relations for  $A_6(1^-2^-3^-4^+5^+6^+)$



 $\begin{array}{c} \langle 1234 \rangle \\ \parallel \\ \det(Z_1 Z_2 Z_3 Z_3) \end{array}$ 

 $\frac{\langle 1345\rangle^3}{\langle 1234\rangle\langle 1245\rangle\langle 2345\rangle\langle 1235\rangle} \qquad \frac{\langle 1356\rangle^3}{\langle 1235\rangle\langle 1256\rangle\langle 2356\rangle\langle 1236\rangle}$ 



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Each face labeled by  $\langle abcd \rangle$ 

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Amplitude is a volume of polyhedron



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(Hodges 2009)

Feynman diagrams is another (more complicated) triangulation

(Arkani-Hamed, JT 2013)

All tree-level amplitudes of gluons

- Volume = scattering amplitude
- Position of vertices: energies and spins of particles



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positive Grassmannian "curvy" space

(Arkani-Hamed, JT 2013)

All tree-level amplitudes of gluons

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#### Definition fits on one slide



(Arkani-Hamed, JT 2013)

- Loop amplitudes of gluons: can not do in QCD yet
- Toy model for QCD: planar N=4 super Yang-Mills
  - It is a 4d interacting theory with hidden symmetry
  - Analogue to integrable models: Kepler problem and Hydrogen atom





$$\vec{A} = \frac{1}{2} \left( \vec{p} \times \vec{L} - \vec{L} \times \vec{p} \right) - \mu \frac{\lambda}{4\pi} \frac{\vec{x}}{|x|}$$

Analogue of Runge-Lenz vector: dual conformal symmetry

(Arkani-Hamed, JT 2013)

Calculating amplitude is reduced to the math problem

- Calculate volume of certain geometric object
- Triangulation provides an expansion (e.g. Feynman diagrams)
- Can not derive Amplituhedron from QFT
  - We can prove that the volume function satisfies all properties of scattering amplitudes: factorization etc.
- In this very specific case we achieved the goal of finding a new definition for the scattering amplitude

# Step 1.1.1. in the program

- Maybe this is very special and no reformulation exists in general, maybe it exists but it is something else
- Right/wrong: analyze "theoretical data", look for new structures, make proposals and check them

Step-by-step process, all steps require new ideas

- Masses, quarks
- Loop amplitudes in QCD
- Standard model
- Correlation functions
- Resummation, beyond perturbation theory

Establish as an efficient computational tool

# Physics vs geometry

Dynamical particle interactions in 4-dimensions





 Static geometry in high dimensional space



#### Thank you for your attention