

# Future Challenges for (N)NLO Accuracy in QCD



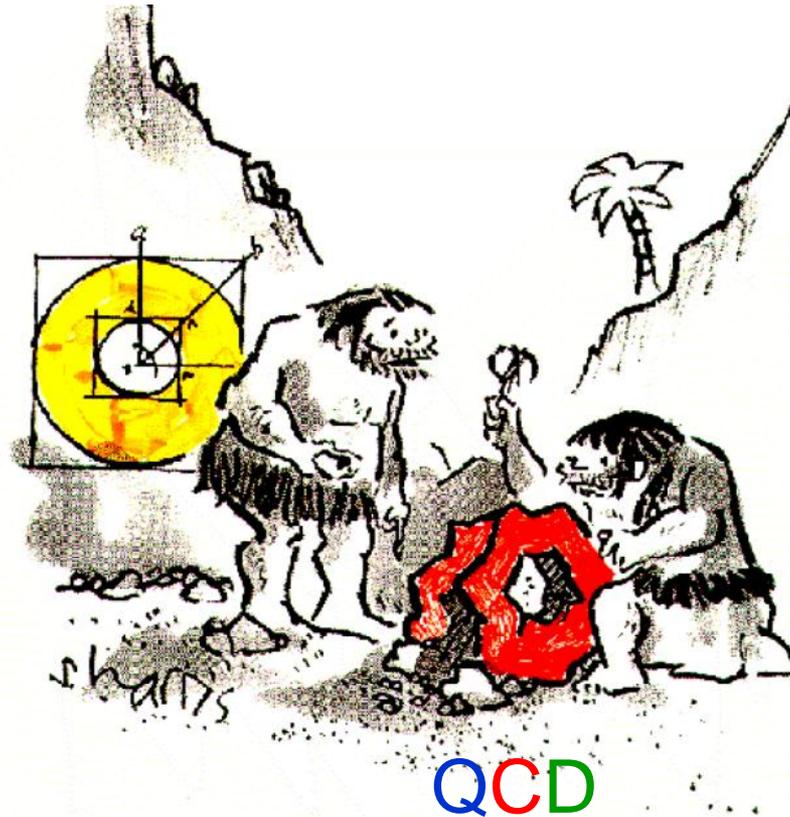
Lance Dixon (CERN & SLAC)  
ECT\* Workshop on QCD at the LHC  
21 Sept. 2010

# Motivation

- “The past few years have seen a revolution in our understanding of **scattering amplitudes**, particularly in maximally supersymmetric theories [in the limit  $N_c \rightarrow \infty$ ]”
  - M. Spradlin, 22/09/2010; also first sentence of ~100 recent papers
- Can we exploit this progress for plain old, non-supersymmetric,  $N_c=3$ , **QCD**?
- What other results can be expected, and what other novel tools might be developed, in addition to the ones we have already?

# From “science” to “technology”

N=4 SYM



*“I guess there’ll always be a gap between science and technology.”*

# Levels of approximations

- Basic Monte Carlo [PYTHIA, HERWIG, Sherpa, ...]
- LO QCD parton level
- LO QCD matched to parton showers [MadGraph/MadEvent, ALPGEN/PYTHIA, Sherpa, ...]
  
- NLO QCD at parton level
- NLO matched to parton showers [MC@NLO, POWHEG, ...]
- NLO matched to [N](N)NLL accurate resummation
- + NLO electroweak
  
- NNLO inclusive at parton level
- NNLO with flexible cuts at parton level ( $V+X$ ,  $H+X$ )
- NNLO matched to [N](N)NLL accurate resummation
- NNLO matched to parton showers
  
- NNNLO QCD at parton level

Increasing accuracy →

Decreasing availability →

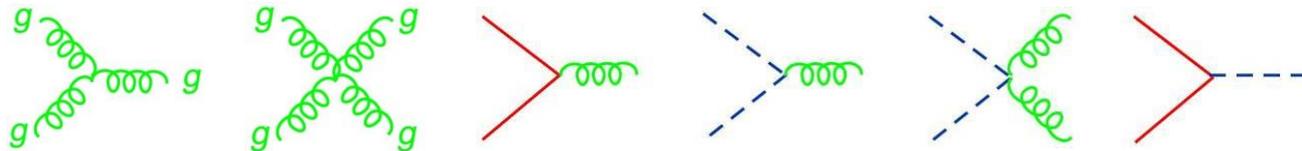
# How can maximal supersymmetry help?

- N=4 super-Yang-Mills theory essentially contains QCD with massless quarks
- Much is known about N=4 SYM scattering amplitudes: the “hydrogen atom” of relativistic scattering in D=4
- Many symmetries, both explicit and subtle
- At tree level, very easy to exploit N=4 SYM results
- At each loop order, becomes progressively more difficult to disentangle unwanted states
- Not trivial to include massive (top) quarks or too many electroweak or BSM particles

# N=4 SYM (vs. QCD)

massless spin 1 gluon		
4 massless spin 1/2 gluinos		wrong color
6 massless spin 0 scalars		

all states in adjoint representation, all linked by N=4 supersymmetry



Interactions all proportional to same *dimensionless* coupling constant,  $g$ .  
 $\beta(g) = 0 \rightarrow$  conformal invariance:  $SO(1,3) \rightarrow SO(2,4)$

4 supersymmetries give powerful constraints on S matrix (at any loop order): Supersymmetry Ward Identities

Grisaru, Pendleton, van Nieuwenhuizen (1977)

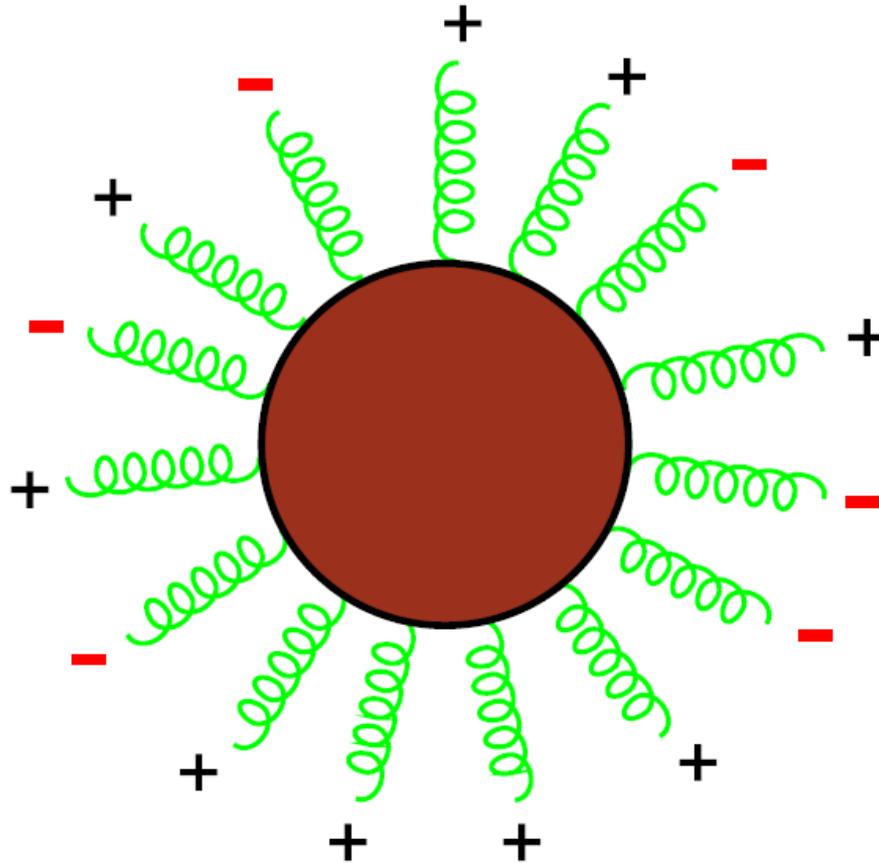
SWI already applied to QCD at LO in 1980s

Parke, Taylor; Kunszt (1985)

# N=4 SYM even more amazing for a large number of colors ( $N_c$ )

- Described by topological string in twistor space Witten (2004)
- Strong-coupling  $\leftrightarrow$  strings in 5-dimensional Anti-DeSitter space  
Alday, Maldacena (2007)
- Dual (momentum space) conformal invariance  
Drummond, Henn, Korchemsky, Smirnov, Sokatchev, ... (2006-7)
- Part of a larger “Yangian” symmetry, associated with extra conserved currents: integrability, solvability  
Dolan, Nappi, Witten; Drummond, Ferro; Beisert et al., ...
- Conjecture that all loop amplitudes are determined by a particular analytic property, “leading singularities” Arkani-Hamed et al. (2008)
- Recursive formula recently proposed, “manifesting full Yangian symmetry”, for integrands for all N=4 loop amplitudes. Expressed in Grassmannians (space of complex planes) & momentum-twistor space, related to dual (sector) variables. Arkani-Hamed et al. (2008)

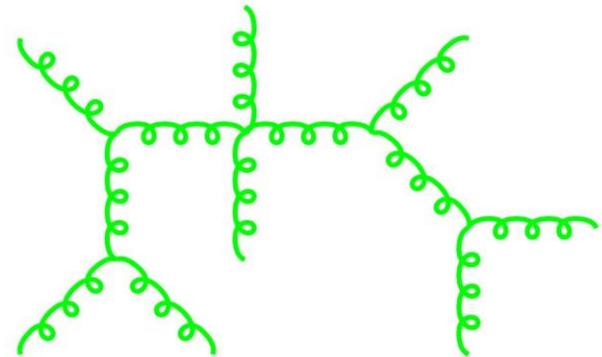
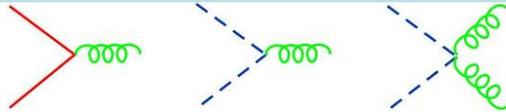
# Trees



# QCD and N=4 SYM at tree level (LO)

They are essentially identical

Consider a tree amplitude for  $n$  gluons  
 Fermions and scalars cannot appear  
 because they are produced in pairs



Hence the amplitude is the same in QCD and N=4 SYM.  
 The QCD tree amplitude “secretly” obeys all identities of  
 N=4 supersymmetry:

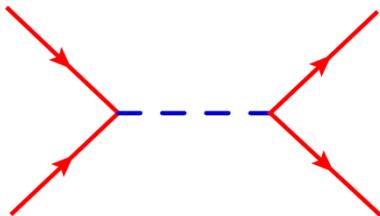
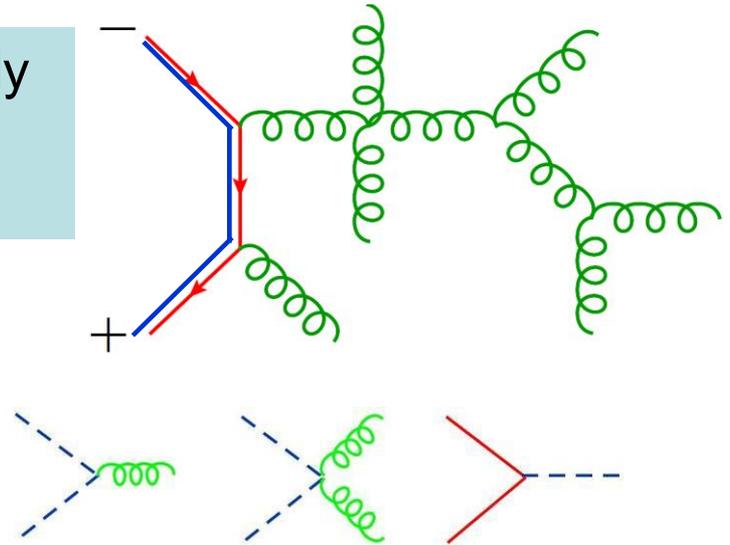
$$\begin{aligned}
 & \left( \begin{array}{c} + \\ + \\ + \\ + \end{array} \right) \text{ [diagram] } = \left( \begin{array}{c} + \\ - \\ + \\ + \end{array} \right) \text{ [diagram] } = 0 \\
 & \frac{1}{\langle ij \rangle^4} \times \left( \begin{array}{c} + \\ + \\ + \\ + \end{array} \right) \text{ [diagram] } \text{ independent of } i, j
 \end{aligned}$$

# What about fermions?

Gluininos are adjoint, quarks are fundamental

Color not a problem because it's easily manipulated – common to work with “color stripped” amplitudes anyway

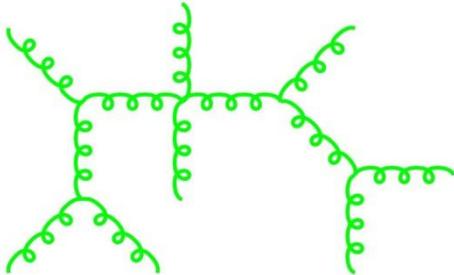
No unwanted scalars can enter amplitude with only one fermion line: Impossible to destroy them once created, until you reach two fermion lines:



Can use flavor of gluinos to pick out desired QCD amplitudes, through (at least) three fermion lines (all color/flavor orderings), and including V+jets trees  
LD, Henn, Plefka, Schuster, to appear

# All N=4 SYM trees now known in closed form

Drummond, Henn, 0808.2475



For example, for  
3 (-) gluon helicities and  $[n-3]$  (+) gluon helicities,  
extract from:

$$\mathcal{P}_n^{\text{NMHV}} = \sum_{2 \leq a_1, b_1 \leq n-1} R_{n; a_1 b_1}$$

5 (-) gluon helicities and  $[n-5]$  (+) gluon helicities:

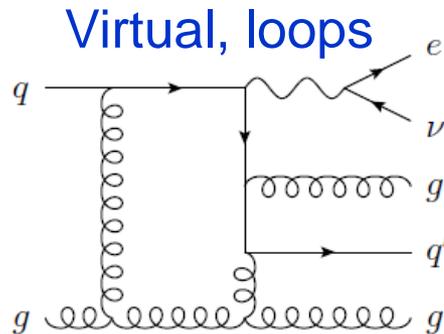
$$\mathcal{P}_n^{\text{N}^3\text{MHV}} = \sum_{2 \leq a_1, b_1 \leq n-1} R_{n; a_1 b_1} \left[ \begin{aligned} & \sum_{a_1+1 \leq a_2, b_2 \leq b_1} R_{n; b_1 a_1; a_2 b_2}^0 \left( \sum_{a_2+1 \leq a_3, b_3 \leq b_2} R_{n; b_1 a_1; b_2 a_2; a_3 b_3}^0 + \sum_{b_2 \leq a_3, b_3 \leq b_1} R_{n; b_1 a_1; a_2 b_2; a_1 b_1}^{b_1 a_1 a_2 b_2; a_1 b_1} + \sum_{b_1 \leq a_3, b_3 \leq n-1} R_{n; a_3 b_3}^{a_1 b_1; 0} \right) \\ & + \sum_{b_1 \leq a_2, b_2 \leq n-1} R_{n; a_2 b_2}^{a_1 b_1; 0} \left( \sum_{a_2+1 \leq a_3, b_3 \leq b_2} R_{n; b_2 a_2; a_3 b_3}^0 + \sum_{b_2 \leq a_3, b_3 \leq n-1} R_{n; a_3 b_3}^{a_2 b_2; 0} \right) \end{aligned} \right].$$

# Why “waste time” talking about trees?

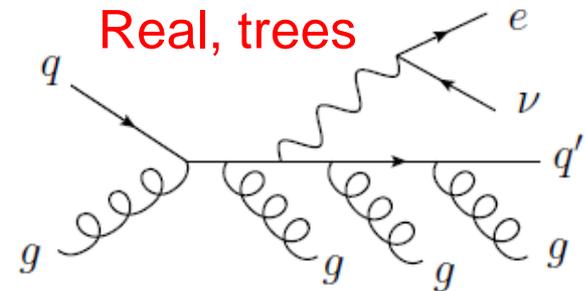
- Because numerical (N)NLO programs “waste [computer] time” evaluating trees:
  - directly, to compute real emission terms
  - Inside loop computations, when using unitarity-based methods (at NLO)



# NLO real emission



Infrared singularities cancel



- General subtraction methods for integrating real-emission contributions developed in mid-1990s

Frixione, Kunszt, Signer, hep-ph/9512328;

Catani, Seymour, hep-ph/9602277, hep-ph/9605323

- Automated by several groups in last few years

Gleisberg, Krauss, 0709.2881;

Seymour, Tevlin, 0803.2231;

Hasegawa, Moch, Uwer, 0807.3701;

Frederix, Gehrmann, Greiner, 0808.2128;

Czakon, Papadopoulos, Worek, 0905.0883;

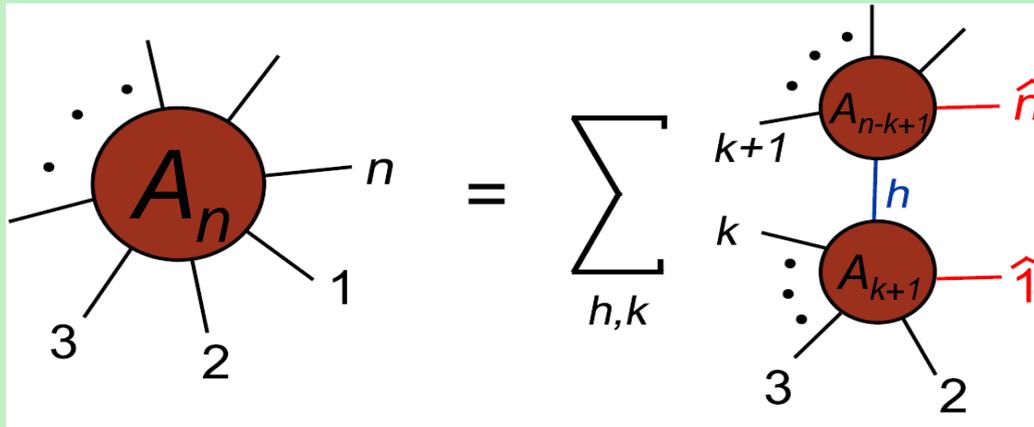
Frederix, Frixione, Maltoni, Stelzer, 0908.4272

BH+Sherpa evaluates **trees** about 100 times as often as **loops**

# How to use N=4 SYM trees?

- Could use analytic formulae directly for all helicities needed.
- **Or:** use simplest nontrivial formulae (through NMHV), plus **on-shell recursion relations.**

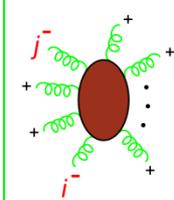
BCFW (2004-5)



- $A_{k+1}$  and  $A_{n-k+1}$  are **on-shell** tree amplitudes with **fewer** legs, and with momenta **shifted** by a **complex** amount
- NMHV covers **every** tree amplitude through 7 external massless legs: (- - - + + + +).
- For NLO  $W + 4$  jets, encounter up to 9-point amplitudes ( $W \rightarrow l\nu$ )  
 $\rightarrow$  at most 2 recursions needed

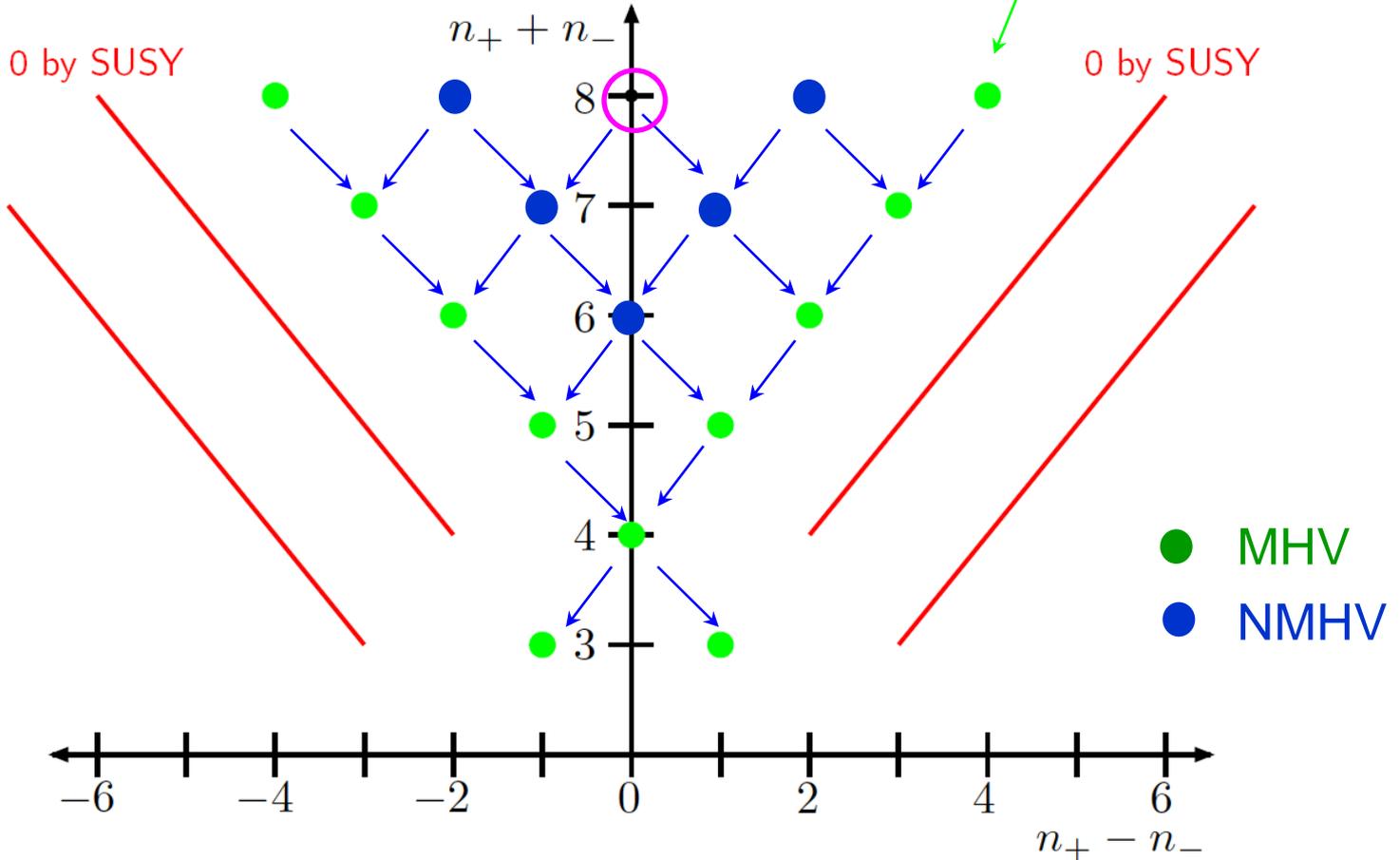
BlackHat

# Improving initial data

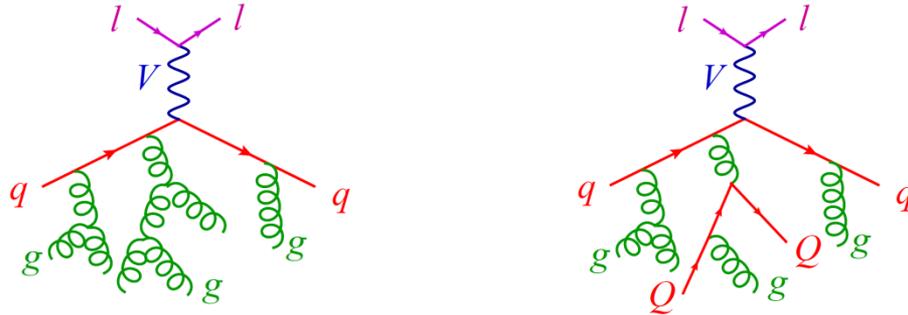


$$= \frac{\langle ij \rangle^4}{\langle 12 \rangle \langle 23 \rangle \dots \langle n1 \rangle}$$

Parke-Taylor formula

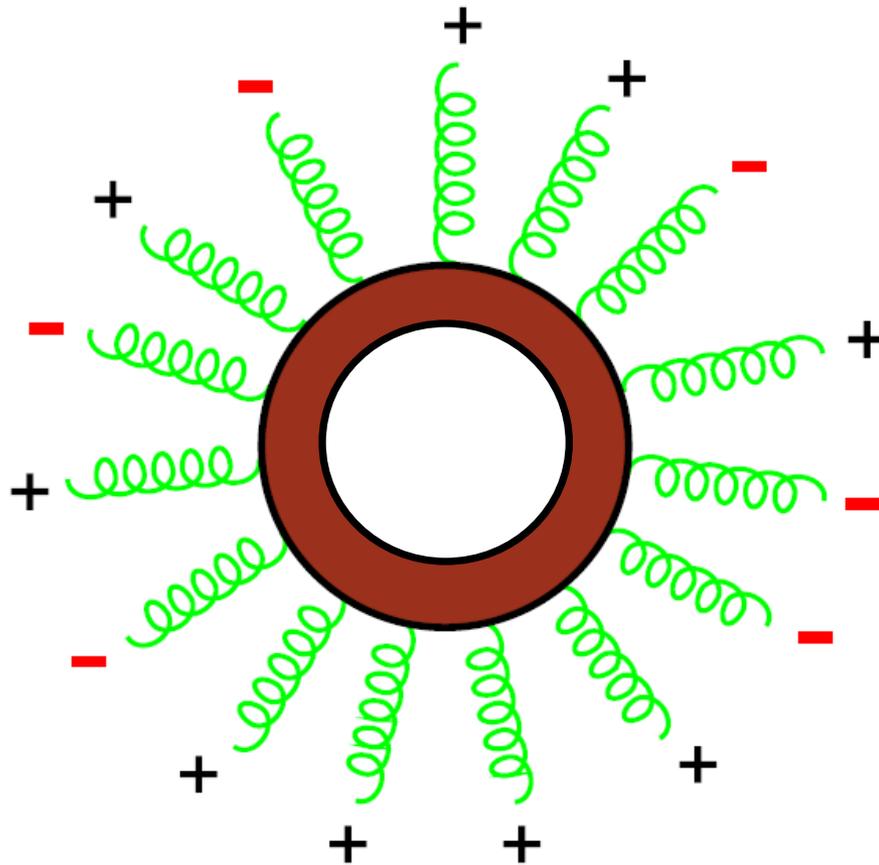


# Fast trees from N=4 SYM(?)



- Within Blackhat (V + jets), N=4 SYM NMHV trees speed up numerical implementation of on-shell (BCFW) recursion relations significantly (~ factor of 4 in sum over all helicities).
- However, there are a lot of fast – and very versatile – LO matrix element generators based on
  - Feynman diagrams (e.g. MadGraph)
  - off-shell recursion relations (e.g. Berends-Giele) or Dyson-Schwinger-type relations (e.g. ALPHA, HELAC).
- **Future** will tell whether N=4 SYM can help LO generators, for selected processes, such as V + jets...

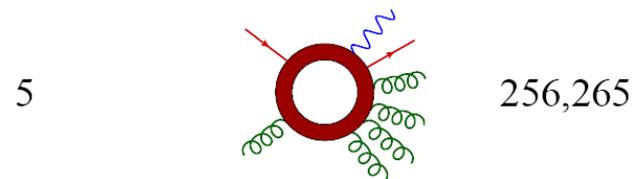
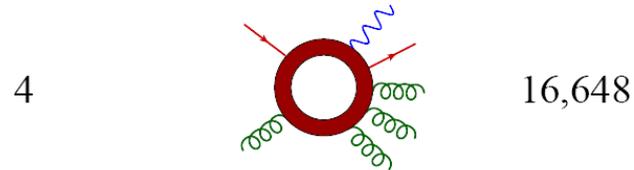
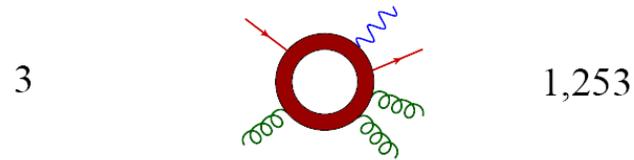
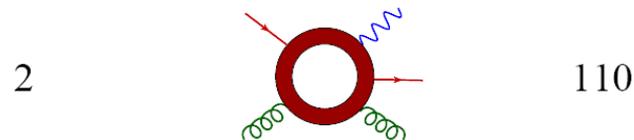
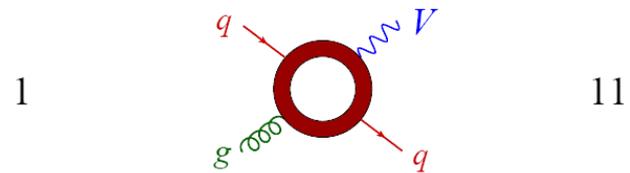
# One loop [NLO]



# One-loop QCD amplitudes via Feynman diagrams

**For  $V + n$  jets** (maximum number of external gluons only)

# of jets                      # 1-loop Feynman diagrams



Motivates “on-shell” methods, which exploit unitarity to reduce loop amplitudes to products of tree amplitudes

# NLO in pretty good shape right now

## Les Houches Experimenters' Wish List

2010

process wanted at NLO	background to
1. $pp \rightarrow VV + \text{jet}$	$t\bar{t}H$ , new physics Dittmaier, Kallweit, Uwer; Campbell, Ellis, Zanderighi
2. $pp \rightarrow H + 2 \text{ jets}$	$H$ in VBF BCDEGMRSW; Campbell, Ellis, Williams Campbell, Ellis, Zanderighi; Ciccolini, Denner Dittmaier
3. $pp \rightarrow t\bar{t}b\bar{b}$	$t\bar{t}H$ Bredenstein, Denner Dittmaier, Pozzorini; Bevilacqua, Czakon, Papadopoulos, Pittau, Worek
4. $pp \rightarrow t\bar{t} + 2 \text{ jets}$	$t\bar{t}H$ Bevilacqua, Czakon, Papadopoulos, Worek
5. $pp \rightarrow VVb\bar{b}$	VBF $\rightarrow H \rightarrow VV$ , $t\bar{t}H$ , new physics
6. $pp \rightarrow VV + 2 \text{ jets}$	VBF $\rightarrow H \rightarrow VV$ VBF: Bozzi, Jäger, Oleari, Zeppenfeld
7. $pp \rightarrow V + 3 \text{ jets}$	new physics Berger Bern, Dixon, Febres Cordero, Forde, Gleisberg, Ita, Kosower, Maitre; Ellis, Melnikov, Zanderighi
8. $pp \rightarrow VVV$	SUSY trilepton Lazopoulos, Melnikov, Petriello; Hankele, Zeppenfeld; Binoth, Ossola, Papadopoulos, Pittau
9. $pp \rightarrow b\bar{b}b\bar{b}$	Higgs, new physics GOLEM

Feynman  
diagram  
methods

now joined  
by

on-shell  
methods

table courtesy of  
C. Berger

# Some On-Shell Programs for NLO QCD

## CutTools:

Ossola, Papadopolous, Pittau, 0711.3596

NLO  $WWW, WWZ, \dots$

Binoth+OPP, 0804.0350

NLO  $t\bar{t}b\bar{b}, t\bar{t} + 2 \text{ jets}$

Bevilacqua, Czakon, Papadopoulos, Pittau, Worek, 0907.4723; 1002.4009

## Rocket:

Giele, Zanderighi, 0805.2152

Ellis, Giele, Kunszt, Melnikov, Zanderighi, 0810.2762

NLO  $W + 3 \text{ jets}$  (large  $N_c$  adjustment)  $W^+W^+ + 2 \text{ jets}$

EMZ, 0901.4101, 0906.1445; Melnikov, Zanderighi, 0910.3671;

Melia, Melnikov, Rontsch, Zanderighi, 1007.5313

**SAMURAI:** Mastrolia, Ossola, Reiter, Tramontano, 1006.0710

**Blackhat:** Berger, Bern, LD, Febres Cordero, Forde, H. Ita, D. Kosower, D. Maître; T. Gleisberg, 0803.4180, 0808.0941, 0907.1984, 0912.4927, 1004.1659, 1009.2338

+ **Sherpa** → NLO production of  $W,Z + 3 \text{ or } 4 \text{ jets}$

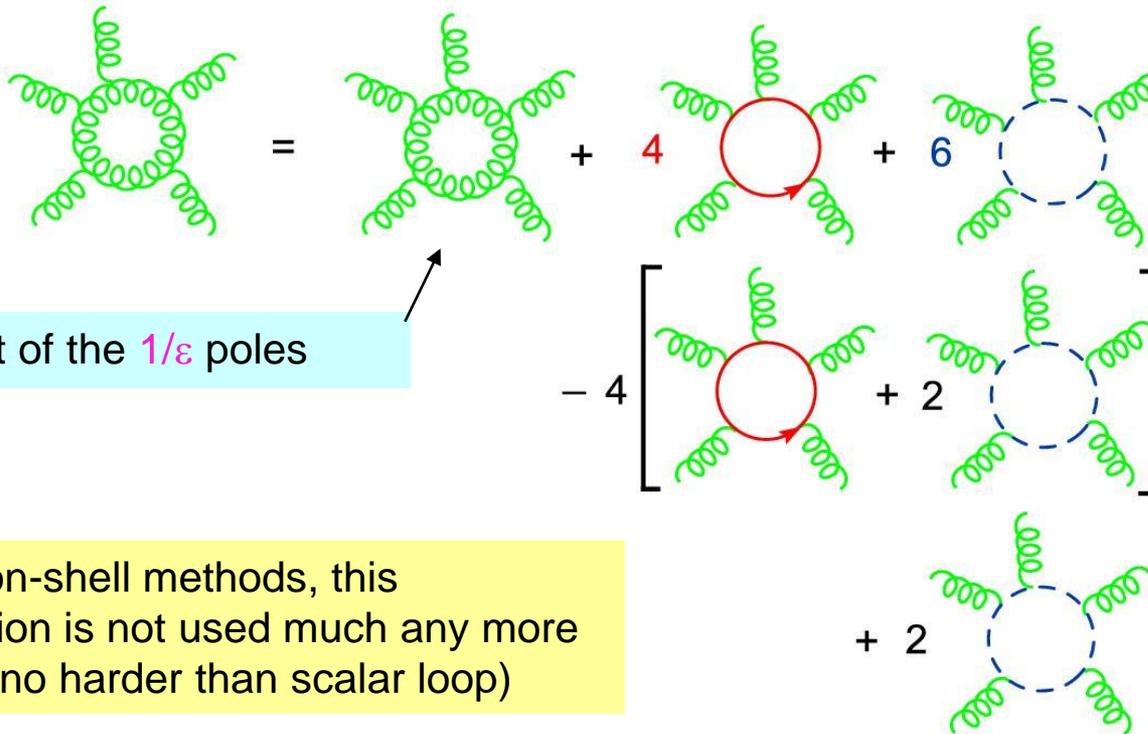
# Another indicator of NLO progress

$pp \rightarrow W + 0 \text{ jet}$	1978	Altarelli, Ellis, Martinelli
$pp \rightarrow W + 1 \text{ jet}$	1989	Arnold, Ellis, Reno
$pp \rightarrow W + 2 \text{ jets}$	2002	Campbell, Ellis
$pp \rightarrow W + 3 \text{ jets}$	2009	Berger et al.; Ellis et al.
$pp \rightarrow W + 4 \text{ jets}$	2010	Berger et al.

# At loop-level, QCD and N=4 SYM differ

In the early days of multi-parton loop amplitudes (1990s), it was profitable to rearrange the QCD computation to exploit supersymmetry

gluon loop



contains most of the  $1/\epsilon$  poles

N=4 SYM

N=1 multiplet

In modern on-shell methods, this decomposition is not used much any more (gluon loop no harder than scalar loop)

scalar loop  
– no SUSY,  
but also no  
spin tangles in  
Feynman  
diagrams

# One-loop amplitudes reduced to trees

When all external momenta are in  $D = 4$ , loop momenta in  $D = 4 - 2\epsilon$  (dimensional regularization), one can write (inspired by N=4 SYM):

Bern, LD, Dunbar, Kosower (1994)



coefficients are all rational functions – determine algebraically from products of trees using (generalized) unitarity

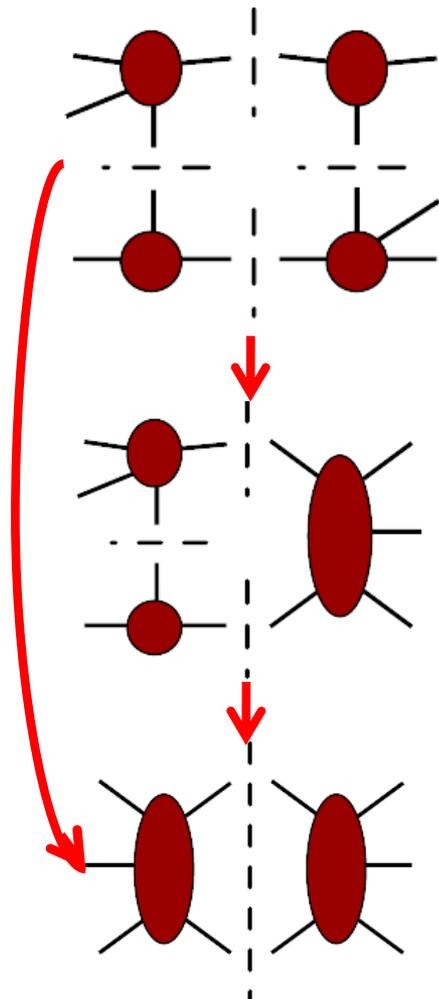
$$A^{1\text{-loop}} = \sum_i d_i \text{[box diagram]} + \sum_i c_i \text{[triangle diagram]} + \sum_i b_i \text{[bubble diagram]}$$

$$+ R + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon)$$

rational part

well-known scalar one-loop integrals, master integrals, same for all amplitudes

# Unitarity method (numerical version)



Each box coefficient uniquely isolated by a “quadruple cut” given simply by a product of 4 tree amplitudes

Britto, Cachazo, Feng, hep-th/0412103

Ossola, Papadopolous, Pittau, hep-ph/0609007;  
Mastrolia, hep-th/0611091; Forde, 0704.1835;  
Ellis, Giele, Kunszt, 0708.2398; Berger et al., 0803.4180;...

triangle coefficients come from triple cuts, product of 3 tree amplitudes, but these are also “contaminated” by boxes

bubble coefficients come from ordinary double cuts, after removing contributions of boxes and triangles

# Generalized unitarity for N=4 SYM

One-loop N=4 amplitudes contain only boxes, due to SUSY cancellations of loop momenta in numerator:

Bern, LD, Dunbar, Kosower (1994)

$$(\ell^\mu)^n \Rightarrow (\ell^\mu)^{n-4}$$

$$A^{1\text{-loop}} = \sum_i d_i \text{ (box diagram)} + \sum_i c_i \text{ (triangle diagram)} + \sum_i b_i \text{ (bubble diagram)} + \text{ (crossed terms)} + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon)$$

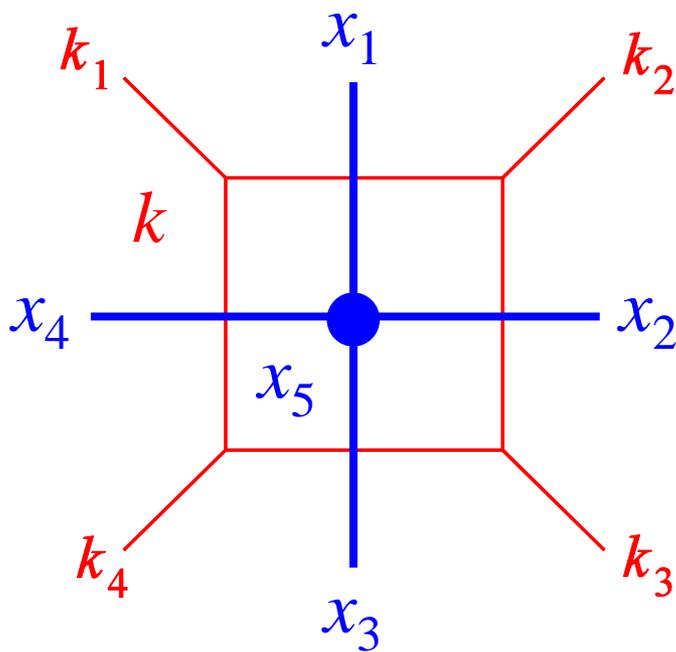
**L-loop generalization** of this property recently **conjectured** for N=4:  
 All amplitudes determined by “leading-singularities” – imposing  $4L$  cuts on the  $L$  loop momenta in D=4

Cachazo, Skinner, 0801.4574; Arkani-Hamed, Cachazo, Kaplan, 0808.1446

# Dual Conformal Invariance

Broadhurst (1993); Lipatov (1999); Drummond, Henn, Smirnov, Sokatchev, hep-th/0607160

A conformal symmetry acting in momentum space, on dual (sector) variables  $x_i$   
 First seen in N=4 SYM planar amplitudes within loop integrals  
 Conformal group can be generated by usual Lorentz group, plus inversion



L. Dixon (N)NLO Future

$$I = \int d^4 k \frac{(k_1 + k_2)^2 (k_2 + k_3)^2}{k^2 (k - k_1)^2 (k - k_1 - k_2)^2 (k + k_4)^2}$$

$$I = \int d^4 x_5 \frac{x_{24}^2 x_{13}^2}{x_{15}^2 x_{25}^2 x_{35}^2 x_{45}^2}$$

$$k_1 = x_{41}$$

$$k_2 = x_{12}$$

$$k_3 = x_{23}$$

$$k_4 = x_{34}$$

$$k = x_{45}$$

invariant under inversion:

$$x_i^\mu \rightarrow \frac{x_i^\mu}{x_i^2}$$

$$x_{ij}^2 \rightarrow \frac{x_{ij}^2}{x_i^2 x_j^2}$$

$$d^4 x_i \rightarrow \frac{d^4 x_i}{x_i^8}$$

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# Dual Conformal Invariance (cont.)

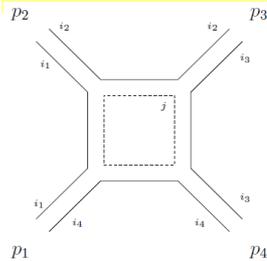
- A powerful constraint on integrands of amplitudes  
Bern, Czakon, LD, Kosower, Roiban, Smirnov;  
Bern, Carrasco, Johansson, Kosower (2006-7)
- Apparently only holds for planar contributions (those that dominate in the limit of large  $N_c$ ).
- Does not hold for  $N < 4$  planar theories (violated by triangle terms in QCD starting at one loop).
- Requires  $D=4$ . This means it is violated by IR divergences if regulated by dimensional regularization ( $D=4-2\epsilon$ ).
- If we are going to make use of it, have to somehow sidestep these difficulties.
- Start with the last one.

# Higgs Regulator

- In planar limit, it's possible to regulate non-Abelian gauge amplitudes by spontaneously breaking gauge invariance, but without changing the IR content of the theory

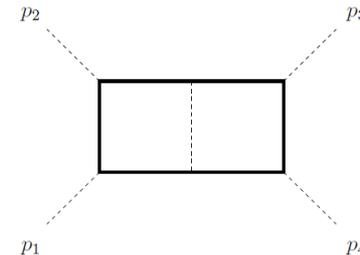
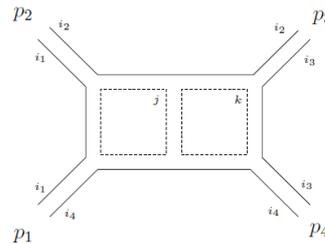
Alday, Henn, Plefka, Schuster, 0908.0684

- Mass  $\sim$  momentum in 5<sup>th</sup> dimension.
- Only “outer” propagators get a mass
- Dual conformal symmetry can be retained.



$$I^{(1)}(s, t, m_i) = c_0 \int d^4 x_5 \frac{(x_{13}^2 + (m_1 - m_3)^2)(x_{24}^2 + (m_2 - m_4)^2)}{(x_{15}^2 + m_1^2)(x_{25}^2 + m_2^2)(x_{35}^2 + m_3^2)(x_{45}^2 + m_4^2)}$$

Planar 2-loop example:



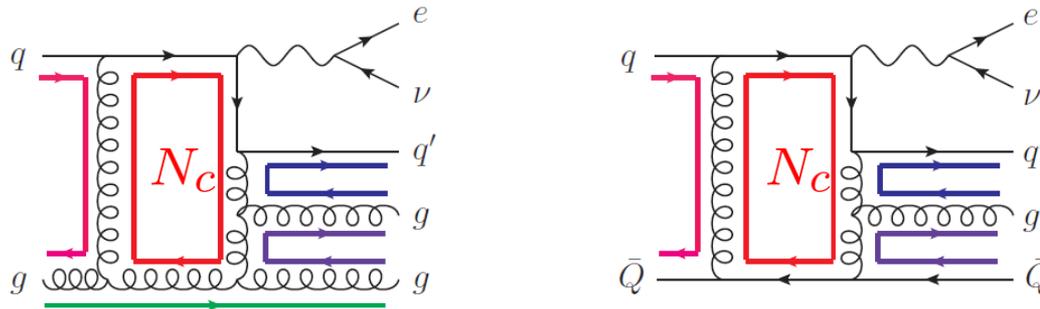
# Higgs Regulator for QCD?

- All one-loop graphs are really planar graphs.
- Can we use a Higgs regulator for QCD, independent of dual conformal invariance (which inspired it)?
- $1/\epsilon \leftrightarrow \ln(m^2)$
- Keep only log terms as  $m^2 \rightarrow 0$ .
- Advantage of Higgs regulator over dimensional regularization:
  - At one loop: No need for D-dimensional unitarity
  - At two loops and beyond: No need to expand lower-loop amplitudes to higher order in  $\epsilon$ . No such thing as  $1/\ln(m^2)$ . (Like QED with electron and photon mass.)

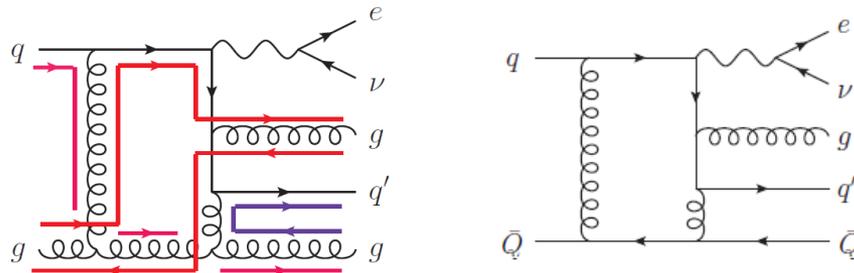
- Phase space integrals for real radiation should be done this way too. Can this be done consistently at one loop without subtraction terms?

# Subleading-color terms small at one loop → neglect at two loops?

Leading-color terms in pp → W + 3 jets at NLO:

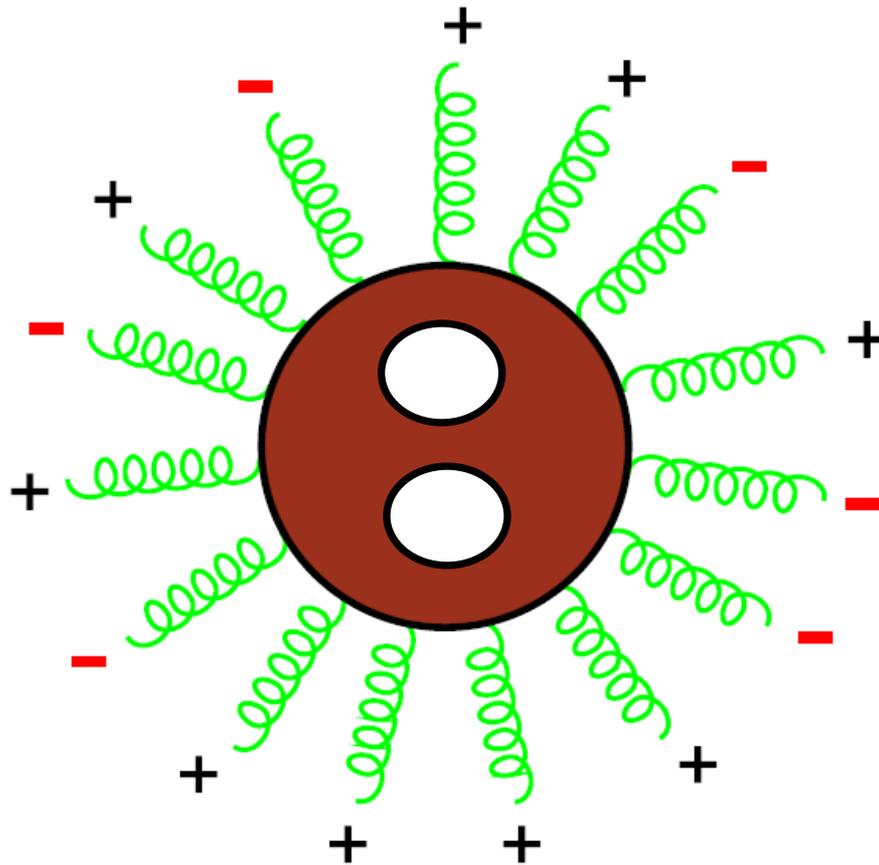


Subleading-color terms:



Latter include **many more terms**, and are much more **time-consuming** for computer to evaluate. But they are much **smaller, suppressed by  $1/N_c^2$**  ( $\sim 1/30$  of total cross section for W + 3 jets). Drop altogether in some cases...

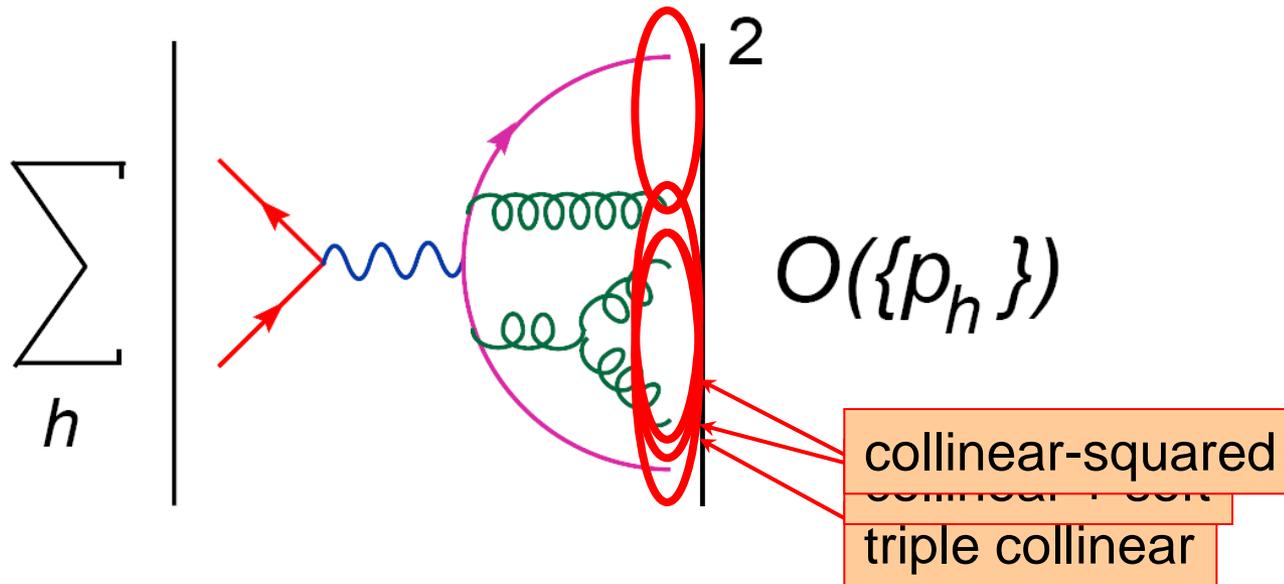
# Two loops [NNLO]



# NNLO bottlenecks

- Current NNLO bottleneck is doing phase space integrations of double-real emissions, not availability of two-loop amplitudes.
- Worked out already for  $e^+e^- \rightarrow 3 \text{ jets}$

Gehrmann-DeRidder, Gehrmann, Glover, Heinrich, 2006-9; Weinzierl (2008)



Corresponding problems for LHC, NNLO  $pp \rightarrow V + 1 \text{ jet}$  and  $pp \rightarrow 2 \text{ jets}$  are a bit more general (ISR as well as FSR) and are being attacked right now.

# Two loop amplitudes

- Those needed for  $e^+e^- \rightarrow 3 \text{ jets}$ ,  $pp \rightarrow V + \text{jet}$ ,  $pp \rightarrow jj$  were all computed around 2001-3

Anastasiou et al., Bern et al., Gehrmann et al.

- In one case (Bern et al.) generalized unitarity was used, in other cases Feynman diagrams.
- Main issues: reducing loop integrands to basis of master integrals, and evaluating the integrals Smirnov, Veretin; Tausk; Anastasiou et al., Gehrmann, Remiddi
- Recent steps taken toward a general basis for two-loop planar integrals Gluza, Kajda, Kosower, 1009.0472
- If integrals can also be evaluated, should make it possible to extend on-shell methods to general processes at two loops
- Also much recent work on two-loop integrals and amplitudes for processes with more massive lines, e.g. for NNLO top-quark production Czakon et al.

# “N=4” ideas for evaluating integrals

Drummond, Henn, Trnka (to appear):

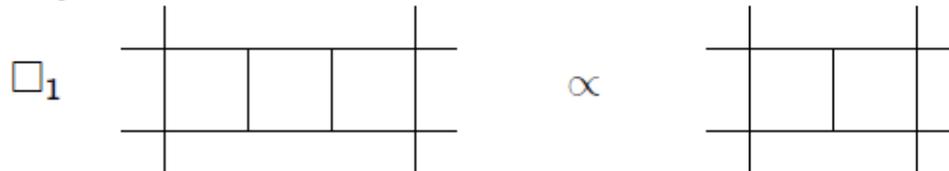
- Using dual (sector) variables, find second order differential equations for L-loop integrals with (L-1)-loop integrals as source terms.

- Basic idea: use Laplace equation

[Drummond, J.H., Smirnov, Sokatchev 2006]

$$\square_1 \frac{1}{(x_1 - x_i)^2} \propto \delta^{(4)}(x_1^\mu - x_i^\mu)$$

- reduces loop order by one:



- Momentum twistors  $Z$  seem to work even better (do not require off-shell legs next to loop to be removed).

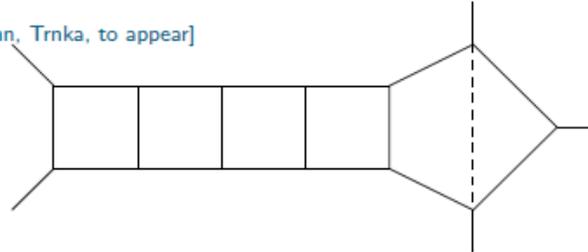
$$p_b^\mu = \sigma_{\alpha\dot{\alpha}}^\mu \lambda_b^\alpha \tilde{\lambda}_b^{\dot{\alpha}}$$

$$Z^D = \begin{pmatrix} \lambda \\ \mu \\ \eta \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\tilde{\lambda}_b = \frac{\langle b+1 b \rangle \mu_{b-1} + \langle b-1 b+1 \rangle \mu_b + \langle b b-1 \rangle \mu_{b+1}}{\langle b-1 b \rangle \langle b b+1 \rangle}$$

# “N=4” ideas for evaluating integrals (cont.)

- five-point example: [Drummond, Henn, Trnka, to appear]  
integral regulated by  $m^2$



- differential equations (variables  $y_1 = x_{35}^2/x_{13}^2, y_2 = x_{25}^2/x_{24}^2, y_3 = x_{14}^2/m^2$ )  
 $y_1 \partial_{y_1} y_2 \partial_{y_2} \Psi^{(L)}(y_1, y_2, y_3) = \Psi^{(L-1)}(y_1, y_2, y_3) + \mathcal{O}(m^2)$

- Solution

$$\Psi^{(1)} = -\frac{1}{2} \log^2(y_1 y_2 y_3) - 2 \text{Li}_2(1 - y_1) - 2 \text{Li}_2(1 - y_2) + \frac{\pi^2}{6} + \mathcal{O}(m^2)$$

$$\Psi^{(2)} = h(y_1 y_2 y_3) - 2 \log(y_1 y_2 y_3) [f(y_1) + f(y_2)] + [g(y_1) + g(y_2)] + \mathcal{O}(m^2)$$

$$h(x) = -\frac{7}{40} \pi^4 + 2\zeta_3 \log(x) - \frac{1}{4} \pi^2 \log^2(x) - \frac{1}{24} \log^4(x),$$

$$g(x) = -\frac{2}{3} \pi^2 H_2(x) + 2H_0(x)H_{2,0}(x) - 4H_{3,0}(x) - 2H_{2,0,0}(x) - 4H_{2,1,0}(x),$$

$$f(x) = H_{0,1,0}(x).$$

First examples have been planar, but that is probably not necessary

# Conclusions

- The future of (N)NLO QCD may well benefit from studying properties of amplitudes in  $N=4$  SYM – as it has in the past, both at tree level and one loop.
- This benefit could be technical as well as conceptual
- However, as in the past, the key is to **abstract important principles** from the most useful **and versatile** of the properties being uncovered.

Whether or not this is achieved, the future of higher order computation in QCD is very bright!



# Extra Slides

# Dual variables and strong coupling

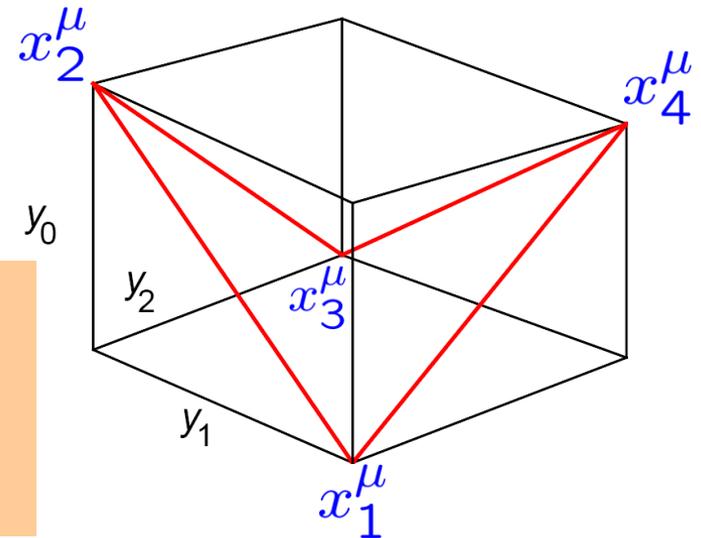
- T-dual momentum variables  $y^\mu$  introduced by [Alday, Maldacena](#)

- Boundary values for world-sheet are light-like segments in  $y^\mu$ :

$$\Delta y^\mu = 2\pi k^\mu \quad \text{for gluon with momentum } k^\mu$$

- For example, for  $gg \rightarrow gg$  90-degree scattering,  $s = t = -u/2$ , the boundary looks like:

Corners (cusps) are located at  $x_i^\mu$   
– same dual momentum variables appear at weak coupling (in planar theory)



# N=4 numerators at 3 loops

Omit overall  $st A_4^{\text{tree}}$

$$s_{12}^2$$

$$s_{iM} = (k_i + \ell_M)^2$$

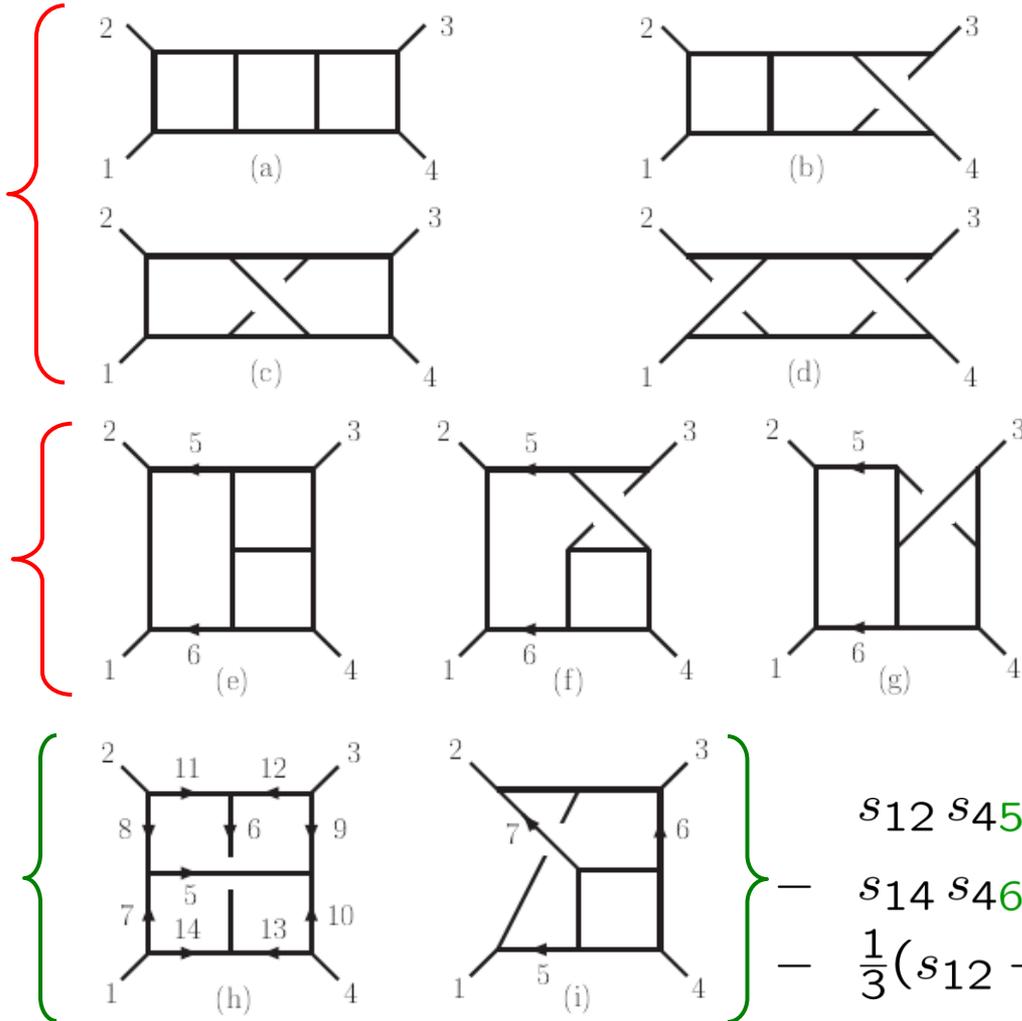
$$\tau_{iM} = 2k_i \cdot \ell_M$$

$$s_{12} s_{46}$$

$$s_{12}(\tau_{26} + \tau_{36})$$

$$+ s_{14}(\tau_{15} + \tau_{25})$$

$$+ s_{12}s_{14}$$



$$s_{12} s_{45}$$

$$- s_{14} s_{46}$$

$$- \frac{1}{3}(s_{12} - s_{14}) \ell_7^2$$

manifestly quadratic in loop momentum  $\ell_M$

# Dual conformal invariance at 4 loops

- Simple graphical rules:

4 (net) lines into inner  $x_i$

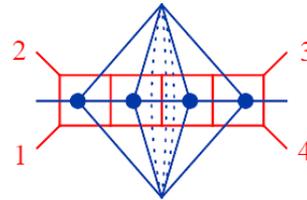
1 (net) line into outer  $x_i$

- Dotted lines are for numerator factors

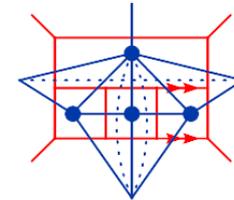
4 loop planar integrals  
all of this form

also true at 5 loops

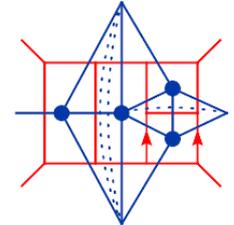
BCJK, 0705.1864



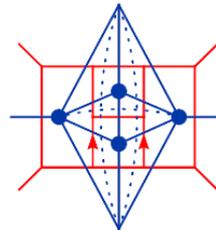
(a)



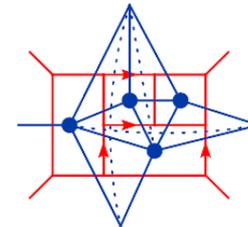
(b)



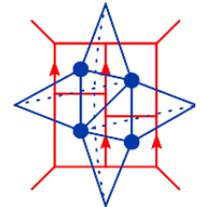
(c)



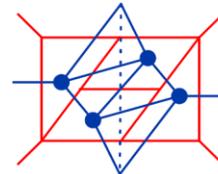
(d)



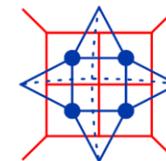
(e)



(f)



(d<sub>2</sub>)



(f<sub>2</sub>)

BCDKS,  
hep-th/0610248