High-energy showers inside the QGP:

weak vs. strong couping, the LPM effect, & overlapping sequential bremsstrahlung

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Reporting (eventually) on work with



Shahin Iqbal

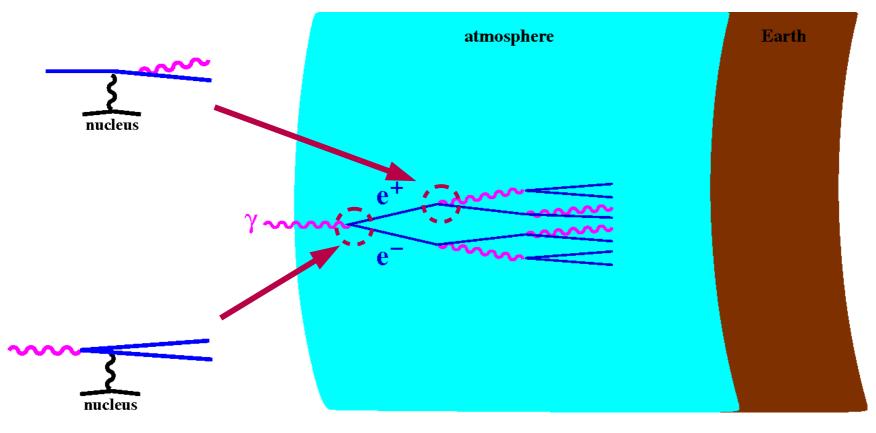
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University of Virginia; Technische Universität Darmstadt



High energy particles traveling through matter lose energy via successive bremsstrahlung and pair production:



[Oversimplification: Only electromagnetic shower shown.]

Part 1 THE LPM EFFECT IN QED

[LPM = Landau, Pomeranchuk, Migdal]

Review of high-energy bremsstrahlung

Collisions with the medium generate chances for bremsstrahlung

Naively,

prob of emission ~ α per collision

BUT

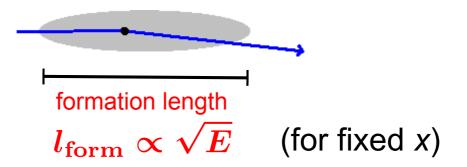
Light can't resolve features on small scales.

Non-relativistic:



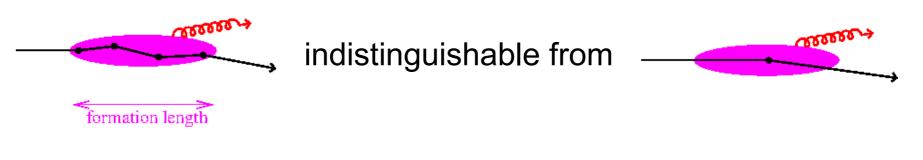
Extremely relativistic, nearly-collinear motion:

Similar effect, but size of fuzziness stretched out!



Qualitative point for later:

The less collinear the bremsstrahlung, the shorter the formation length.



So

prob of emission ~ α per <u>formation length</u> $l_{\rm form} \propto \sqrt{E}$

Calculated quantitatively by

LPM for QED (1950s) BDMPS-Z for QCD (1990s)

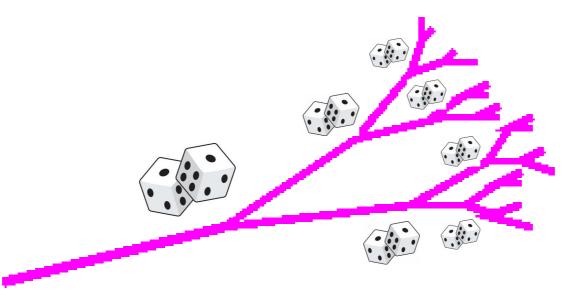
and investigated in many ways by many people since.

<u>Consequence</u>: At high enough energy, the effective bremsstrahlung rate in medium is reduced by factor $\propto \sqrt{E}$

Part 2

A new puzzle for LPM calculations in the 2nd Millenium

An idealized Monte Carlo picture of in-medium evolution



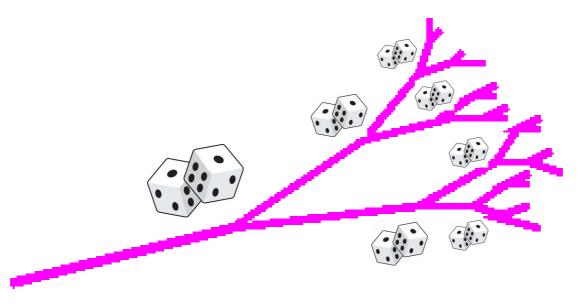
As time passes,

roll classical dice for probability of each splitting

weighted by the quantum calculation of the single splitting rate



An idealized Monte Carlo picture of in-medium evolution



Built-in assumption:

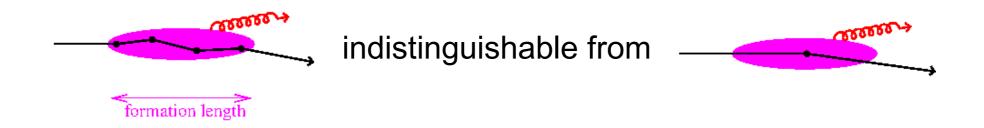
Consecutive splittings are quantum-mechanically independent.

(Are they ?)

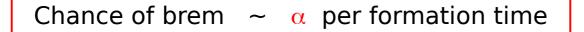
Remember from previous discussion:



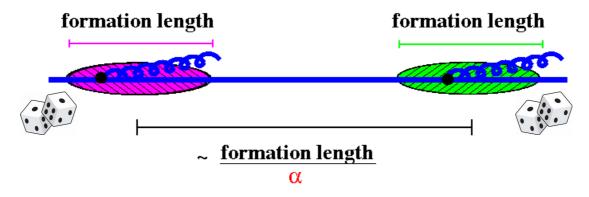
because



Consecutive emissions



means that two consecutive splittings will typically look like



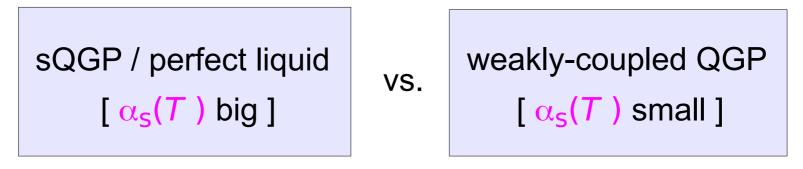
So chance of overlap (i.e. "rolling dice separately" breaking down) is



How big is " α " ??

How big is α_s ?

Nothing to do with whether medium is



 α_{s} on previous slide associated with emission vertex:

 $\begin{array}{c} & \quad \text{versus} \\ \text{costs roughly } \alpha_{\mathsf{s}}(Q_{\perp}) \text{ with } Q_{\perp} \sim (\hat{q}E)^{1/4} \lesssim \text{ a few GeV} \\ \\ & \quad \text{panic and/or fool around} \\ & \quad \text{with AdS/CFT energy loss} \\ & \quad \text{[} \alpha_{\mathsf{s}}(Q_{\perp}) \text{ big]} \end{array} \quad \text{vs.} \quad \begin{array}{c} \text{LPM-based analysis} \\ & \quad \text{[} \alpha_{\mathsf{s}}(Q_{\perp}) \text{ small]} \end{array}$

Does the wisdom of the ages tell us if α_{s} (few GeV) is small?

Particle physics in vacuum:

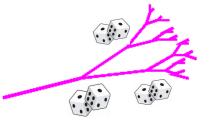
Small for some things, like matching lattice calculations to continuum MS-bar $\alpha_{\rm S}$

High-temperature physics:

Bad news (except possibly if one does sophisticated resummations of perturbation series)

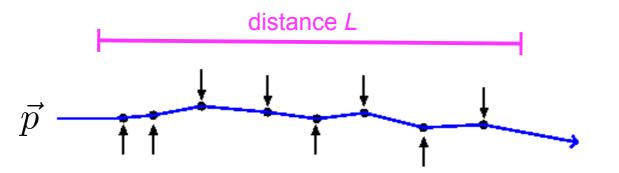
Overlapping formation times effects on cascade:

 ∞ **or effect on**

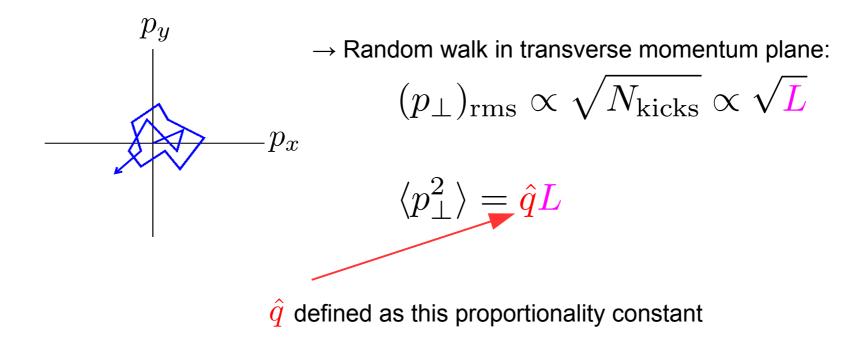


We should calculate it and see.

Characterizing the medium: \hat{q}



Random kicks from medium change p_T by tiny amounts << E



It's the only characteristic of the medium that matters for the problem under discussion.

Soft emission

Soft emissions are generally enhanced by logs. Path-breaking authors found small-*x*-like double logs in this case,

$$\propto \alpha_{\rm s} \ln^2 \left(\frac{E}{\hat{q} \tau_{\rm mfp}}\right)$$

Blaizot & Mehtar-Tani; Iancu; Wu (2014)

This is a BIG effect for large *E*. But they found soft emission effects could be absorbed into the medium parameter $\hat{q} \rightarrow \hat{q}_{\text{eff}}(E) \propto E^{\#\sqrt{\alpha_s}}$

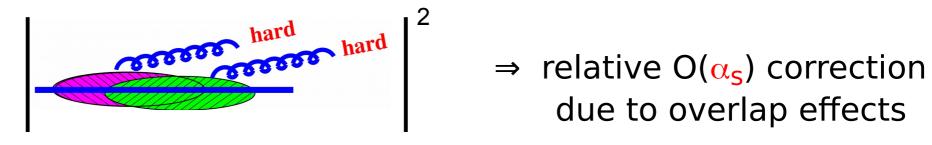
following Liou, Mueller, Wu (2013)

Refined question

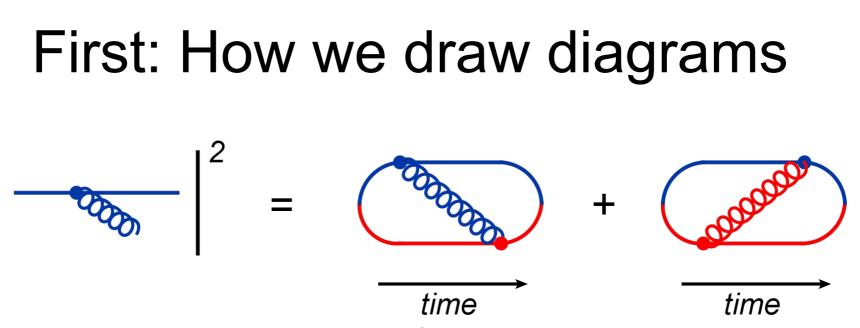
What about overlap effects that can't be absorbed into \hat{q} ?

Our program

Compute the effect of the overlap for hard emissions



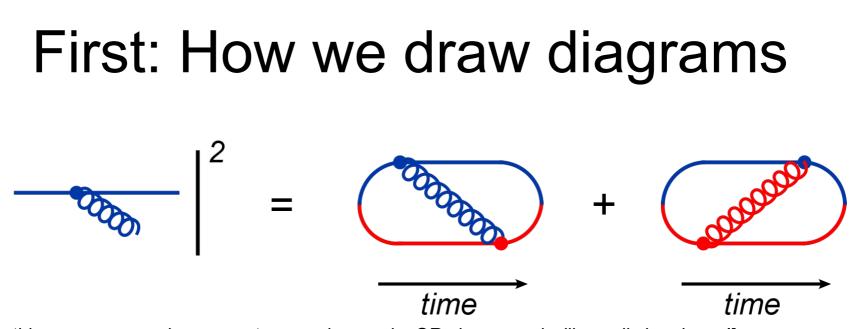
In broad brush: interesting and fun field theory problem. In calculational detail: a pain in the ass.



[In this paper, non-curly propagators can be quarks OR gluons, and will usually be gluons!]

First: How we draw diagrams $\frac{1}{2} = \underbrace{1}_{time} + \underbrace{1}_{time} \underbrace{1}_{time$

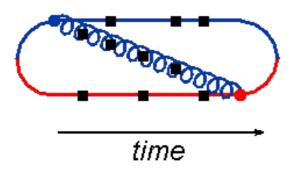
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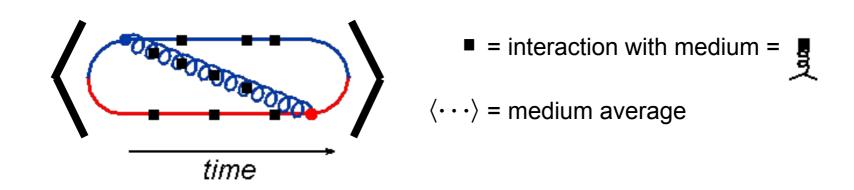
implicitly including interactions with the medium (in invisible ink above):



= interaction with medium =

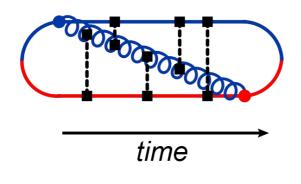
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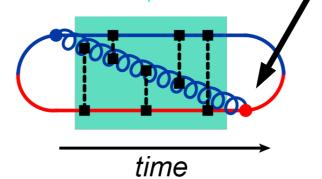
implicitly including interactions with the medium (in invisible ink above):



- = interaction with medium
- = correlations in medium (relatively localized in time) taken from
 - perturbation theory
 - AdS/CFT [Liu, Rajagopal, Weidemann '06]
 - or phenomenological fit to $\,\hat{q}\,$

Medium-averaged evolution can be treated (at high energy) as (non-Hermitian) 2-dim quantum mechanics problem in transverse plane.

High-energy splitting vertices can be taken from QFT (DGLAP splitting amplitudes).



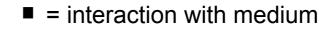
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$$\epsilon_p = \sqrt{p_z^2 + p_\perp^2} \simeq p_z + \frac{p_\perp^2}{2p_z} \qquad \text{is like} \qquad \text{const} + \frac{p_\perp^2}{2M}$$

time

Medium-averaged evolution can be treated (at high energy) as (non-Hermitian) 2-dim quantum mechanics problem in transverse plane.

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 $f \cdot$ or phenomenological fit to $\,\hat{q}$

Simplifying assumptions in this talk

"infinite" medium

i.e. homogenous on scale of formation time

Medium correlations (our QM "potential") characterized by \hat{q}

Formally justified in high-energy limit*

 \rightarrow (non-Hermitian) harmonic oscillator approximation to the QM "potential"

* Won't discuss today caveats and counter caveats!

And for what we'll be doing next (overlapping formation times),

Large-N_c limit

We know in principle how to do N_c =3, but much harder calculation (which would require much harder numerics).

$\frac{16/28}{16/28}$ $\frac{16/28}{16/28}$

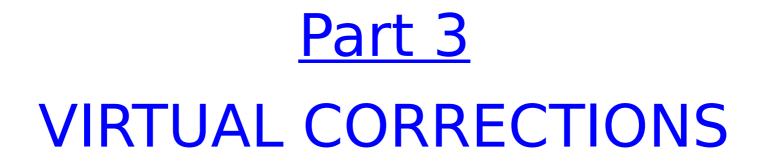
[calculated with Shahin Iqbal and Han-Chih Chang]

UV Issue:

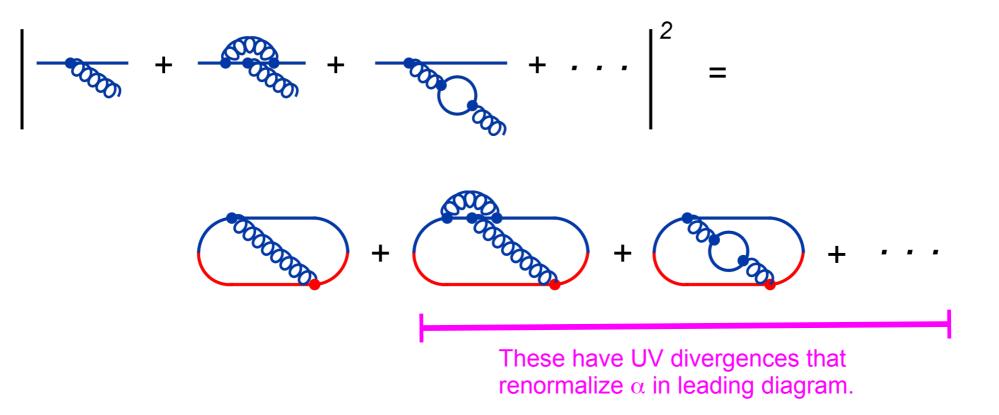
Above is a tree-level process, but *individual time-ordered* diagrams are UV divergent! UV divergences cancel at end of the day, but must be careful to consistently regularize each diagram. Yecch! (We use dimensional regularization.)

$$\frac{\text{Infrared Issue:}}{dx \, dy} \sim \frac{d\Gamma}{xy^{3/2}} \sqrt{\frac{\hat{q}}{E}} \qquad (\text{for } y \lesssim x),$$

giving power-law IR-divergent contributions to energy loss, etc.



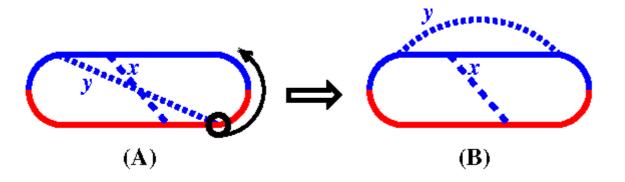
Need virtual corrections to single splitting



There are a *lot* of UV-regularized time-ordered loop diagrams to compute. Fortunately, there are tricks to get *almost* all of them from previous calculations...

"Back-end" tansformations

Move the *latest*-time vertex from amplitude to conjugate amplitude or visa versa:



Then

$$\left[\frac{d\Gamma}{dx}\right]_{(B)} = -\int_{0}^{1-x} dy \left[\frac{d\Gamma}{dx \, dy}\right]_{(A)}$$

which could be notationally summarized as essentially just a minus sign:

$$\mathbf{``} \left[\frac{d\Gamma}{dx \, dy} \right]_{(B)}^{"} = - \left[\frac{d\Gamma}{dx \, dy} \right]_{(A)}$$

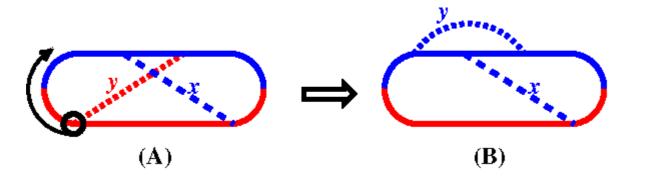
Handwaving reason: Related to conservation of probability.

Amazing consistency check: The physically-irrelevant UV divergence of the time-ordered diagram (A) for a tree-level process reproduces the physically-relevant UV divergence of (B).

Technical note: Limits on above integral not (-∞,+∞) because we organize our calculation using Light Cone Perturbation Theory.

"Front-end" tansformations

Move the *earliest*-time vertex from amplitude to conjugate amplitude or visa versa:



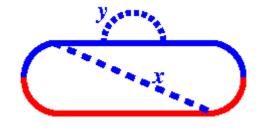
Then

$$\begin{bmatrix} \frac{d\Gamma}{dx} \end{bmatrix}_{(B)} = -\int_{0}^{1-x} dy \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} \frac{d\Gamma}{dx \, dy} \end{bmatrix}_{(A)} \text{ with } (x, y, E) \longrightarrow \left(\frac{x}{1-y}, \frac{-y}{1-y}, (1-y)E \right) \right\}$$
Equivalent to $xE \longrightarrow xE$ (unchanged)
 $yE \longrightarrow -yE$ (changed from red line to blue line)
 $(1-y)E \longrightarrow E$ (initial particle line changed)

Technical note: also needs overall factor of $(1-y)^{-\varepsilon}$ in $4-\varepsilon$ dimensions.

What Remained?

The only time-ordered diagram we can't get from another diagram is (can be taken to be)



Remember: All time evolution is in medium background, statistically averaged over medium fluctuations.

Took a lot of work to do in dimensional regularization, but we did – first in large- N_f QED [Arnold,Iqbal '19] then converted to large- N_c QCD [Arnold,Gorda,Iqbal '00]

Our final formula...

(drum roll please)

a. Crossed Diagrams

Here we collect the result for the crossed diagrams [21] as corrected by ref. [23]. A brief summary of the interpretation of each piece below can be found in section VIII of ref. [21].

$$\left[\frac{d\Gamma}{dx \, dy}\right]_{\text{crossed}} = A(x, y) + A(z, y) + A(x, z)$$
 (A10)

$$A(x,y) = A^{\text{pole}}(x,y) + \int_0^\infty d(\Delta t) \, 2 \operatorname{Re} \left[B(x,y,\Delta t) + B(y,x,\Delta t) \right] \tag{A11}$$

$$B(x, y, \Delta t) = C(\{\hat{x}_i\}, \alpha, \beta, \gamma, \Delta t\} + C(\{x'_i\}, \beta, \alpha, \gamma, \Delta t\} + C(\{\hat{x}_i\}, \gamma, \alpha, \beta, \Delta t)$$

= $C(-1, y, z, x, \alpha, \beta, \gamma, \Delta t) + C(-(1-y), -y, 1-x, x, \beta, \alpha, \gamma, \Delta t)$
+ $C(-y, -(1-y), x, 1-x, \gamma, \alpha, \beta, \Delta t)$ (A12)

$$C = D - \lim_{\hat{q} \to 0} D$$
 (A13)

$$\begin{split} D(x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4, \alpha, \beta, \gamma, \Delta t) &= \\ & \frac{C_A^2 \alpha_s^2 M_i M_f}{32 \pi^4 E^2} \left(-x_1 x_2 x_3 x_4 \right) \Omega_+ \Omega_- \csc(\Omega_+ \Delta t) \csc(\Omega_- \Delta t) \\ & \times \left\{ (\beta Y_y Y_{\bar{y}} + \alpha \overline{Y}_{y \bar{y}} Y_{y \bar{y}}) I_0 + (\alpha + \beta + 2\gamma) Z_{y \bar{y}} I_1 \\ & + \left[(\alpha + \gamma) Y_y Y_{\bar{y}} + (\beta + \gamma) \overline{Y}_{y \bar{y}} Y_{y \bar{y}} \right] I_2 - (\alpha + \beta + \gamma) (\overline{Y}_{y \bar{y}} Y_{\bar{y}} I_3 + Y_y Y_{y \bar{y}} I_4) \right\} \end{split}$$
(A14)

$$A^{\text{pole}}(x, y) = \frac{C_A^2 \alpha_s^2}{8\pi^2} xyz(1-x)(1-y) \operatorname{Re}\left(-i\left(\Omega_{-1,1-x,x} + \Omega_{-(1-y),z,x} + \Omega_{-1,1-y,y} + \Omega_{-(1-x),z,y}\right) \times \left\{\left((\alpha+\beta)z(1-x)(1-y) + (\alpha+\gamma)xyz\right)\left[\ln\left(\frac{z}{(1-x)(1-y)}\right) - i\pi\right] + 2(\alpha+\beta+\gamma)xyz\right\}\right)$$
(A15)

$$I_0 = \frac{4\pi^2}{(X_y X_{\bar{y}} - X_{y\bar{y}}^2)}$$
(A16a)

$$I_1 = -\frac{2\pi^2}{X_{y\bar{y}}} \ln \left(1 - \frac{X_{y\bar{y}}^2}{X_y X_{\bar{y}}}\right) \qquad (A16b)$$

$$I_2 = \frac{2\pi^2}{X_{y\bar{y}}^2} \ln \left(1 - \frac{X_{y\bar{y}}^2}{X_y X_{\bar{y}}}\right) + \frac{4\pi^2}{(X_y X_{\bar{y}} - X_{y\bar{y}}^2)} \quad (A16c)$$

$$I_{3} = \frac{4\pi^{-} X_{y\bar{y}}}{X_{\bar{y}}(X_{y}X_{\bar{y}} - X_{y\bar{y}}^{2})}$$
(A16d)

$$I_4 = \frac{4\pi^2 A_{y\bar{y}}}{X_y (X_y X_{\bar{y}} - X_{y\bar{y}}^2)}$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} X_y & Y_y \\ Y_y & Z_y \end{pmatrix} \equiv \begin{pmatrix} |M_i|\Omega_i & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} - ia_y^{-1\top} \underline{\Omega} \cot(\underline{\Omega} \Delta t) a_y^{-1}$$
 (A17a)

$$\begin{pmatrix} X_{\bar{y}} & Y_{\bar{y}} \\ Y_{\bar{y}} & Z_{\bar{y}} \end{pmatrix} \equiv \begin{pmatrix} |M_f|\Omega_f & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} - ia_{\bar{y}}^{-1} \underline{\Omega} \cot(\underline{\Omega} \Delta t) a_{\bar{y}}^{-1}$$
 (A17b)

$$\begin{pmatrix} X_{y\bar{y}} & Y_{y\bar{y}} \\ \overline{Y}_{y\bar{y}} & Z_{y\bar{y}} \end{pmatrix} \equiv -ia_y^{-1T} \underline{\Omega} \csc(\underline{\Omega} \Delta t) a_{\bar{y}}^{-1}$$
(A17c)

$$\underline{\Omega} \equiv \begin{pmatrix} \Omega_+ \\ & \Omega_- \end{pmatrix}$$
(A18)

$$M_i = x_1 x_4 (x_1+x_4)E$$
, $M_f = x_3 x_4 (x_3+x_4)E$ (A19a)

$$\Omega_{\rm i} = \sqrt{-\frac{i\hat{q}_{\rm A}}{2E} \left(\frac{1}{x_1} + \frac{1}{x_4} - \frac{1}{x_1 + x_4}\right)}, \qquad \Omega_{\rm f} = \sqrt{-\frac{i\hat{q}_{\rm A}}{2E} \left(\frac{1}{x_3} + \frac{1}{x_4} - \frac{1}{x_3 + x_4}\right)} \quad (A19b)$$

$$Ω_{\xi_1,\xi_2,\xi_3} = \sqrt{-\frac{i\hat{q}_A}{2E}\left(\frac{1}{\xi_1} + \frac{1}{\xi_2} + \frac{1}{\xi_3}\right)}$$
(A20)

$$a_{\tilde{y}} = \begin{pmatrix} C_{34}^+ & C_{34}^- \\ C_{12}^+ & C_{12}^- \end{pmatrix}$$
 (A21)

$$a_{y} = \frac{1}{(x_{1} + x_{4})} \begin{pmatrix} -x_{3} & -x_{2} \\ x_{4} & x_{1} \end{pmatrix} a_{\tilde{y}}$$
(A22)

$$\begin{pmatrix} \alpha \\ \beta \\ \gamma \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} - \\ + \\ + \end{pmatrix} \left[\left| \frac{x}{y^3 z (1-x)^3 (1-y)^3} \right| + \left| \frac{y}{x^3 z (1-x)^3 (1-y)^3} \right| \right] \\ + \left| \frac{1-x}{x^3 y^3 z (1-y)^3} \right| + \left| \frac{1-y}{x^3 y^3 z (1-x)^3} \right| \right] \\ + \begin{pmatrix} + \\ - \\ + \end{pmatrix} \left[\left| \frac{x}{y^3 z^3 (1-x) (1-y)} \right| + \left| \frac{y}{x^3 z^3 (1-x) (1-y)} \right| \right] \\ + \left| \frac{z}{x^3 y^3 (1-x) (1-y)} \right| + \left| \frac{1}{x^3 y^3 z^3 (1-x) (1-y)} \right| \right] \\ + \begin{pmatrix} + \\ - \\ + \\ - \end{pmatrix} \left[\left| \frac{1-x}{x y z^3 (1-y)^3} \right| + \left| \frac{1-y}{x y z^3 (1-x)^3} \right| \\ + \left| \frac{z}{x y (1-x)^3 (1-y)^3} \right| + \left| \frac{1}{x y z^3 (1-x)^3 (1-y)^3} \right| \right]$$
(A23)

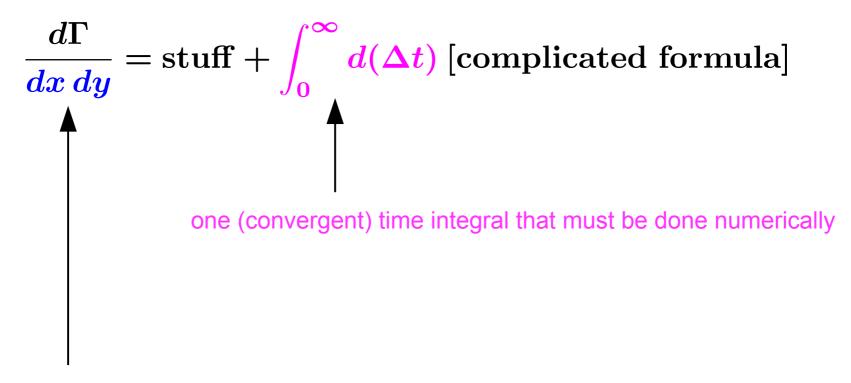
Note that the (α, β, γ) used in the definition (A12) of *B* are implicitly functions (A46) of the arguments *x* and *y* of $B(x, y, \Delta t)$ [with $z \equiv 1-x-y$]. This is important in formulas such as (A11), where in some terms those local arguments are replaced by other variables.

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plus 3 more unreadable slides, as intricate as this one.

(A16e)

Schematic form of results



In applications, will appear in integrals where *x* and *y* must also be integrated (numerically) and IR divergences must be subtracted and organized.

Sanity Checks

1. Total UV divergence of virtual diagrams correctly renormalizes coupling of 1990's LPM single-splitting calculation (BDMPS-Z):

$$\begin{array}{c} & & & \\ & & \\ \end{array} + \begin{array}{c} & \\ \end{array} + \begin{array}{c} & & \\ \end{array} + \end{array} + \begin{array}{c} & \\ \end{array} + \end{array} + \end{array} + \begin{array}{c} & \\ \end{array} + \end{array} + \begin{array}{c} & \\ \end{array} + \end{array} + \\ = \end{array} + \end{array} + \left = \end{array} + \\ = \end{array} + \left = \end{array} + \\ = \end{array} + \left = \\ + \\ + \\ = \end{array} + \left = \\ + \\ = \end{array} + \left = \\ + \\ = \end{array} + \left = \\ + \\ = \end{array} + \\ = \\ + \\ = \end{array} + \\ = \\ = \end{array} + \left = \\ + \\ = \end{array} + \\ = \\ = \end{array} + \\ = \\ = \\ = \end{array} + \\ = \\ = \end{array} + \\ = \\ = \end{array} + \\ = \\$$

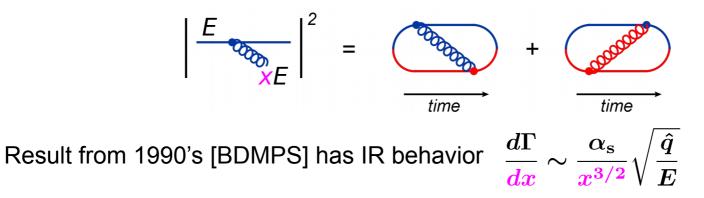
- 2. Power-law IR divergences cancel between real and virtual processes.
- 3. Double-log IR divergences match known leading-log results.

[And we now have the first calculation, so far numerical, of sub-leading single-log IR divergences. Analytic results coming in the future.]



MORE ON POWER-LAW IR DIVERGENCES

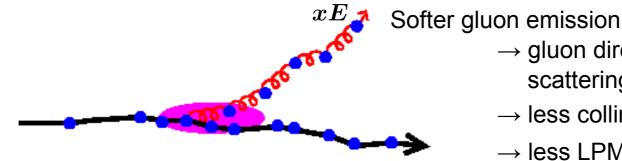
IR behavior of single splitting



Integrate over $x \rightarrow total bremsstrahlung rate \Gamma$ has *power-law* IR divergence in QCD!

Q: Why more divergent than usual logarithmic IR divergence for brem in vacuum? A: Because in a medium, there is *less* LPM rate suppression for *softer* gluon brem...

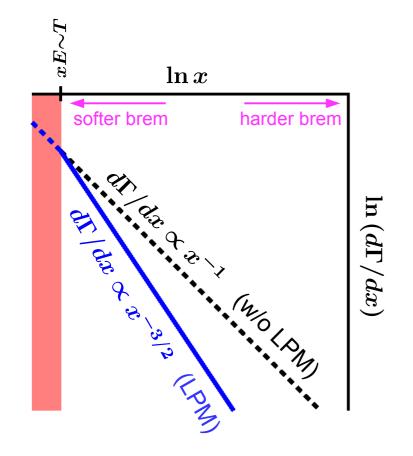
Why? Remember: LPM suppression depends on collinearity of the splitting.



 \rightarrow gluon direction more easily changed by scattering from medium

 \rightarrow less collinear

 \rightarrow less LPM suppression!



is where all high-energy approxs break down: no LPM effect \hat{q} approximation invalid 2d QM description invalid

Fortunately, this IR divergence is still mild enough to not generate a divergence in <u>energy</u> loss!

e.g.
$$\int dx \, x E \, \frac{d\Gamma}{dx}$$
 converges.

xE

IR behavior of double splitting

But the same effect is a potential problem for (overlapping) double splitting:

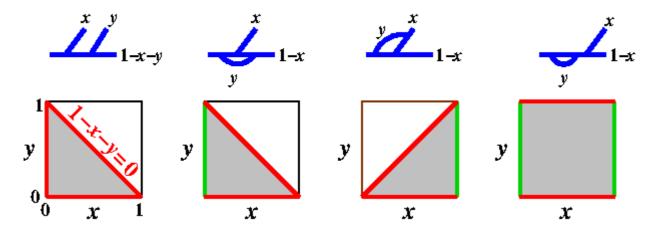
$$rac{d\Gamma}{dx\,dy}\sim rac{lpha_{
m s}^2}{xy^{3/2}}\,\sqrt{rac{\hat{q}}{E}}~~({
m for}~y\lesssim x)$$

gives a power-law divergent contribution to energy loss!

e.g.
$$\int dx \, dy \, (xE + yE) \, \frac{d\Gamma}{dx \, dy}$$
 diverges due to $y \rightarrow 0$ behavior.

As mentioned before: power-law divergences cancel with virtual diagrams. But the organization of that cancellation is complicated!

Integration regions for different types of amplitudes



Example – Time evolution of distribution *N* of high-energy particles in a shower:

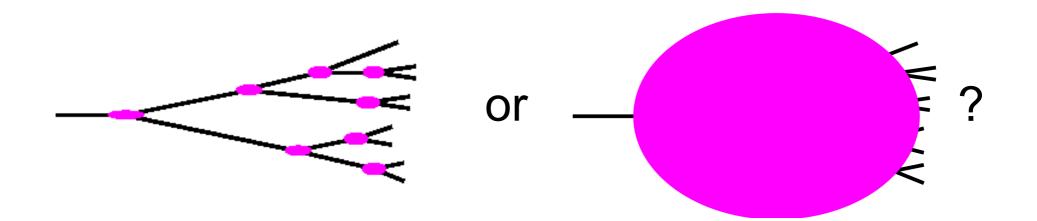
$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t}N(\zeta, E_0, t) = -\Gamma(\zeta E_0) N(\zeta, E_0, t) + \int_{\zeta}^{1} \frac{dx}{x} \left[\frac{d\Gamma}{dx}\left(x, \frac{\zeta E_0}{x}\right)\right]_{\text{net}} N\left(\frac{\zeta}{x}, E_0, t\right)$$

with $\left[\frac{d\Gamma}{dx}\right]_{\text{net}} = \left[\frac{d\Gamma}{dx}\right]_{g \to gg} + \frac{1}{2}\int_{0}^{1-x} dy \left[\frac{d\Gamma}{dx \, dy}\right]_{g \to ggg}$

Can't just add together integrands and get power-law divergence free integrals. But it's possible to reorganize integrations to make cancellation explicit.

Part 5

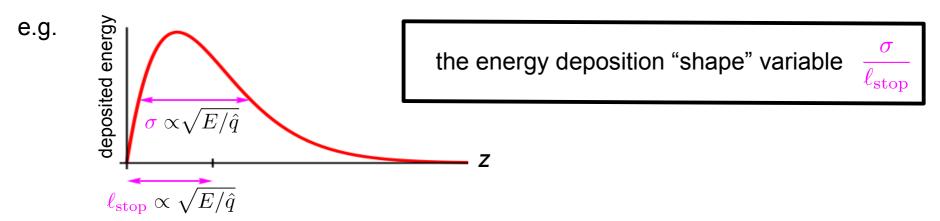
So what's the answer?



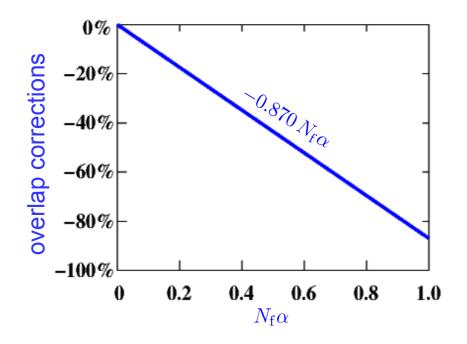
Remember the question

What size are overlap effects that *can't* be absorbed into \hat{q} ?

A clean way to answer would be to compute dimensionless characteristics of shower devoplment in which \hat{q} cancels out.



We've done this in the case of large- $N_{\rm f}$ QED (in the \hat{q} approximation), with result



[for charge deposition in this case]

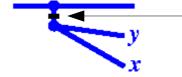
1. The double-log IR divergence causes trouble, despite the fact that it can be absorbed by $\hat{q} \longrightarrow \hat{q}_{\text{eff}}(E)$.

The problem is actually the sub-leading single-log divergences.

We are currently working on analytic analysis of the single logs.

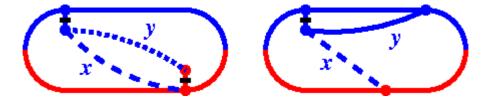
2. There is a class of diagrams we haven't included yet, involving longitudinal gluon exchange.

e.g.



 longitudinal polarized gluon exchange
 an instantaneous interaction in Light Cone Perturbation Theory (LCPT)

and so time-ordered interference diagrams like



We've done this for large- N_f QED. Work in progress for QCD.



Why formation time grows with collinearity

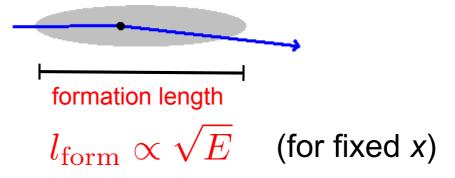
Return to previous slide...

Non-relativistic:



Extremely relativistic, nearly-collinear motion:

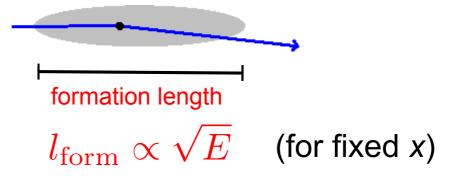
Similar effect, but size of fuzziness stretched out.





Extremely relativistic, nearly-collinear motion:

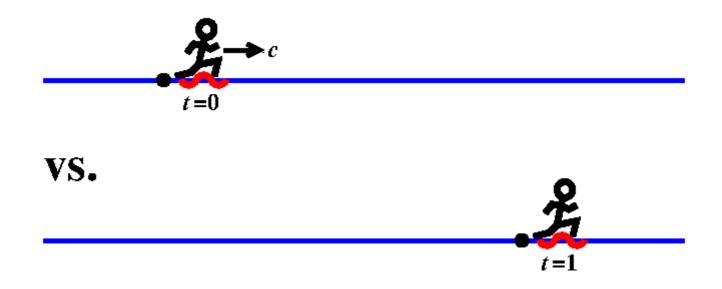
Similar effect, but size of fuzziness stretched out.



One way to understand stretched version:

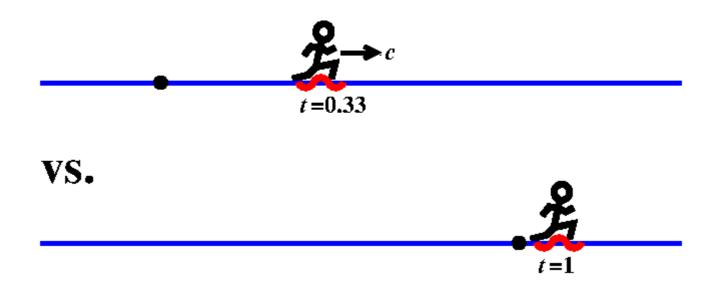
Run along with the ultra-relativisitic electon.

Compare light emitted at two different times.



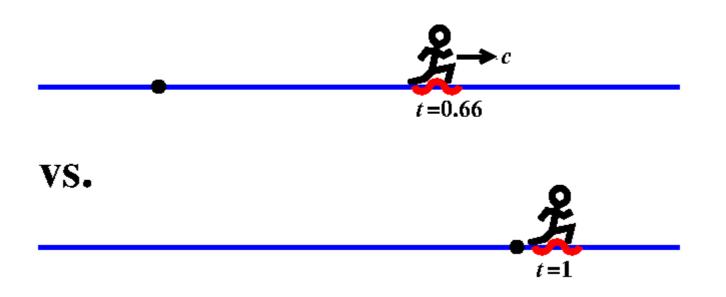
Run along with the ultra-relativisitic electon.

Compare light emitted at two different times.



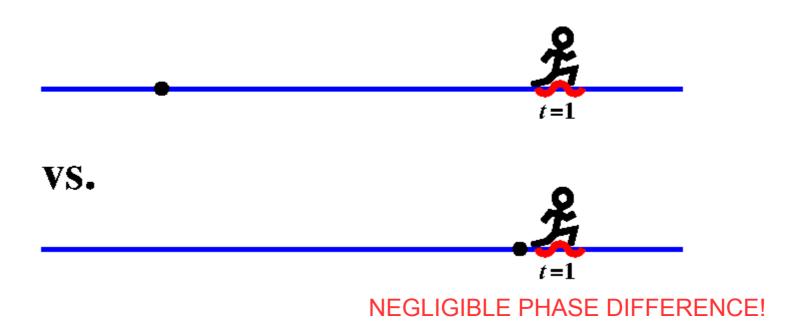
Run along with the ultra-relativisitic electon.

Compare light emitted at two different times.



Run along with the ultra-relativisitic electon.

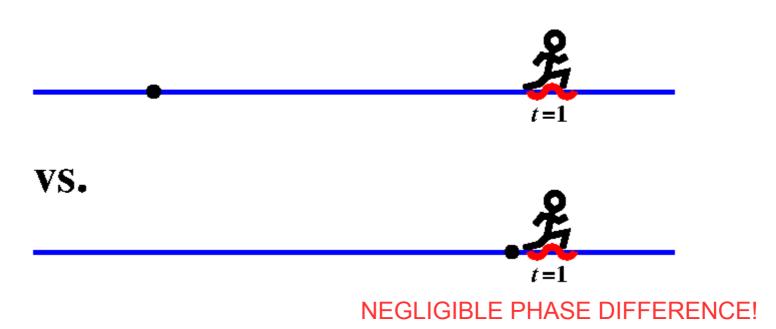
Compare light emitted at two different times.



Run along with the ultra-relativistic electron.

Compare light emitted at two different times.

Focus on collinear limit.



<u>Take-away</u>

• LPM suppression requires particles have same velocity ($v\simeq c)$

• and process be nearly **<u>collinear</u>**.