Title: From Trees to Loops and Back

Date: May 16, 2006 02:00 PM

URL: http://pirsa.org/06050006

Abstract:

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### From Trees to Loops and Back

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based on hep-th/0510253 AB-Spence-Travaglini

#### and also

hep-th/0412108 Bedford-AB-Spence-Travaglini

hep-th/0410280 Bedford-AB-Spence-Travaglini

hep-th/0407214 AB-Spence-Travaglini

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#### Outline

- Motivation & Aims
- Scattering Amplitudes in Gauge Theory
  - Colour Decomposition & Spinor Helicity Formalism
  - Twistor Space
  - MHV Diagrams
- I-Loop Amplitudes from MHV Vertices
- Proof of Equivalence of MHV & Feynman Diagrams
  - Covariance of MHV Loop-Diagrams Feynman Tree Theorem
  - Discontinuities
  - Factorisation: Collinear Limits & Soft Limits

#### Conclusions

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#### Witten 2003

#### weak/weak

Perturbative N=4 SYM = Topological String on Twistor Space

### Why is that interesting?

- Explains unexpected simplicity of scattering amplitudes in Yang Mills & gravity
  - Simple Geometric Structure in Twistor Space
    - New Differential Equations for Amplitudes
- New tools to calculate amplitudes
  - MHV Diagrams for trees and loops

Generalized Unitarity

New Recursion Relations

#### Motivation

- LHC is coming
  - Precision pert. QCD calculations
  - Long wishlist of processes to be computed
- New techniques are needed
  - Textbook methods hide simplicity of amplitudes
  - Intermediate expressions are large
  - Factorial growth of nr. of diagrams, e.g. gluon scattering

g g => m g	m=5	m=6	m=8
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#### Motivation cont'd

- Luckily we do not have to use textbook techniques
  - color decomposition
  - spinor helicity
  - unitarity
  - supersymmetry
  - string theory
  - .....
- and since 2004
  - twistor string (inspired) techniques

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## Color Decomposition

$$\mathcal{A}_n(1,2,3,\ldots,n) = \sum_{\sigma \in S_n/Z_n} \operatorname{Tr}(T^{a_{\sigma(1)}} \ldots T^{a_{\sigma(n)}}) A_n(\sigma(1),\ldots,\sigma(n))$$

- at tree level Yang-Mills is planar
- only diagrams with fixed cyclic ordering contribute to the "color stripped amplitudes"  $A_n$ 
  - analytic structure simpler
- At loop level, also multi-traces; subleading in 1/N
  - At one-loop simple relation between planar & nonplanar terms

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# Spinor helicity formalism

- Responsible for the existence of compact formulas of tree and loop amplitudes in massless theories
- The 4D Lorentz Group (complexified)  $SL(2,\mathbb{C}) \times SL(2,\mathbb{C})$

$$p_{\mu} \Longleftrightarrow p_{a\dot{a}} = p_{\mu}\sigma^{\mu}_{a\dot{a}}; \ a, \dot{a} = 1, 2$$

massless on-shell 
$$p_{\mu}p^{\mu}=\det p_{a\dot{a}}=0 \Rightarrow p_{a\dot{a}}=\lambda_{a}\tilde{\lambda}_{\dot{a}}$$

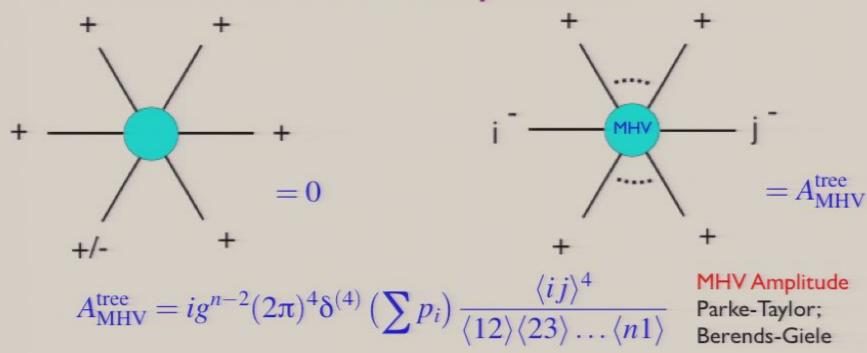
Note: In real Mink  $\tilde{\lambda} = \overline{\lambda}$ 

Spinor Products

$$\langle ij \rangle \equiv \lambda_a^i \lambda_b^j \varepsilon^{ab} , \ [ij] \equiv \tilde{\lambda}_{\dot{a}}^i \tilde{\lambda}_{\dot{b}}^j \varepsilon^{\dot{a}\dot{b}} \qquad \Rightarrow \ 2p_i \cdot p_j = \langle ij \rangle [ji]$$

•  $\{p_i^\mu, \epsilon_i^\mu\}$  are redundant; the spinor variables  $\left\{\lambda_i^a, \tilde{\lambda}_i^{\dot{a}}\right\}$  contain just the right d.o.f. to describe momentum & wavefnct./polarization of massless particles of arbitrary helicity h

### n-Gluon Tree MHV-Amplitudes



- Very Simple!
- Holomorphic, depends only on  $\lambda_i$ , not on  $\tilde{\lambda}_i$
- Correct for Super Yang-Mills, pure glue & QCD
- In N=4 SYM similar formulas for amplitudes with two gluons replaced by fermions/scalars

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## Twistor Space

... is a "1/2 Fourier transform" of spinor space:

$$(\lambda_a, \tilde{\lambda}_{\dot{a}}) \Rightarrow (\lambda_a, \mu_{\dot{a}})$$

- Twistor Space is complex 4 dim'l  $(\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \mu^1, \mu^2)$
- Amplitudes are homogeneous functions on twistor space



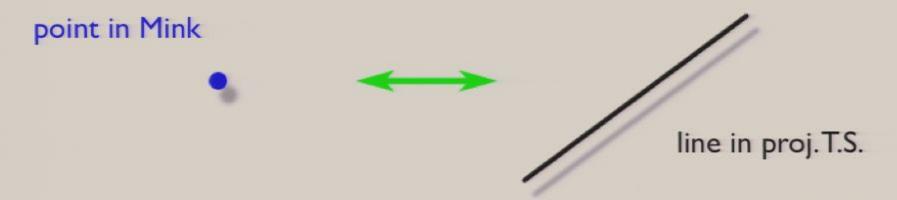
Projective Twistor Space  $\mathbb{CP}^3$ 

$$(\lambda, \mu) \sim (t\lambda, t\mu)$$

### Twistor Space cont'd

Relations between Minkowski space and projective T. S.

Incidence Relation: 
$$\mu^{\dot{a}} + x^{a\dot{a}}\lambda_a = 0$$



#### nullplane in Mink



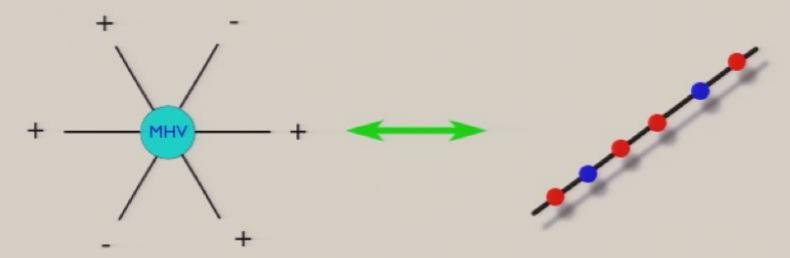
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### Amplitudes in Twistor Space

 MHV amplitudes are holomorphic (except for momentum conservation); perform 1/2 Fourier transform

$$\Rightarrow A_{\text{MHV}} \int dx \int \prod_{i} d\tilde{\lambda}_{i} e^{i\mu_{i}\tilde{\lambda}_{i}} e^{ix\lambda_{i}\tilde{\lambda}_{i}} \sim \prod_{i} \delta^{(2)}(\mu_{i} + x\lambda_{i})$$

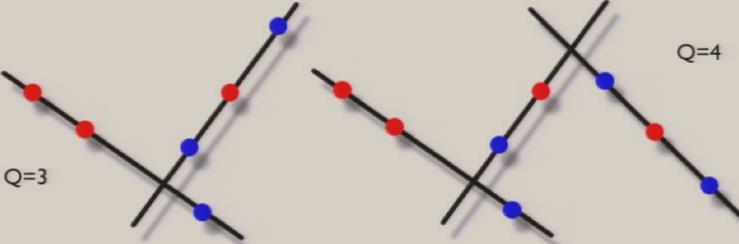
Hence: For MHV amplitudes all points (=ext. gluons) lie on a line in projective Twistor Space



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# Amplitudes in Twistor Space cont'd

- Witten's conjecture (2003): L-loop amplitudes with Q negative helicity gluons localise on curves of degree=Q-I+L and genus<=L
- Localisation properties of amplitudes in proj. T.S. translate into differential operators obeyed by the amplitudes in momentum space:  $\mu \rightarrow i\partial/\partial\lambda$
- For non-MHV tree amplitudes "experiments" with diff. operators reveal (curves are actually degenerate):

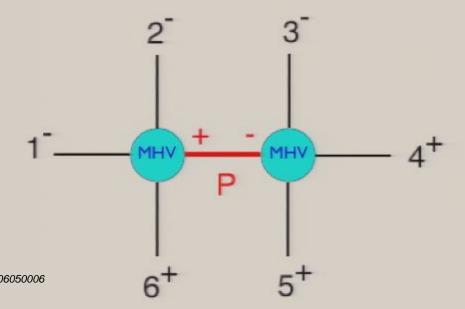


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## MHV Diagrams

- MHV amplitude = Line in T.S. = local interaction in Mink
- CSW Rules (Cachazo-Svrcek-Witten)
  - MHV amplitudes continued off-shell as local vertices
  - Connect MHV vertices with scalar propagators:  $\frac{1}{P^2}$
  - Sum diagrams with fixed cyclic ordering of ext. lines

Ex: 
$$\langle 1^-2^-3^-4^+5^+6^+ \rangle$$



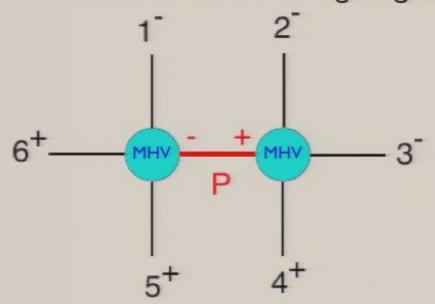
#### Off-shell continuation of spinor:

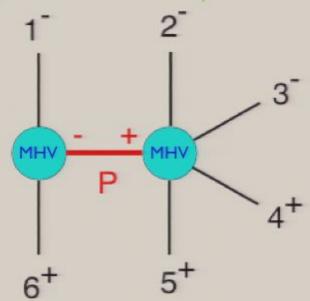
$$\lambda_{Pa} = P_{a\dot{a}} \eta^{\dot{a}}$$

 $\eta^{\dot{a}}$ ...reference spinor

# MHV diagrams cont'd

some of the 5 missing diagrams of  $\langle 1^{-2} - 3^{-4} + 5^{+6} + \rangle$ 





- Reproduce known and obtain new scattering amplitudes in any massless gauge theory dramatic simplifications
- Correct factorisation: multiparticle poles & collinear/soft limits
- η dependence disappears in sum over diagrams

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# MHV diagrams - applications

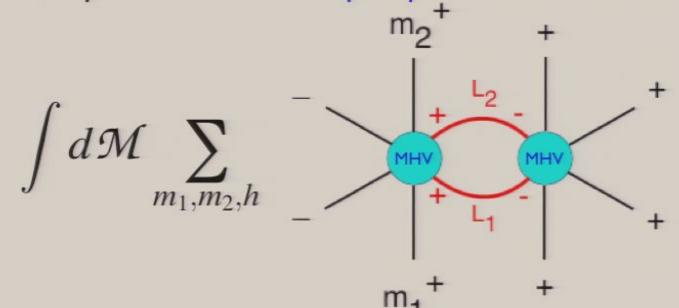
- Amplitudes of gluons with fermions/scalars Georgiou-Khoze, Wu-Zhu
- Amplitudes with quarks Georgiou-Khoze, Su-Wu
- Higgs plus partons Dixon-Glover-Khoze, Badger-Glover-Khoze
- Electroweak vector boson currents Bern-Forde-Kosower-Mastrolia
- Lagrangian Derivation? Initial Steps have been made using light cone formalism (Mansfield hep-th/0511264, Gorsky-Rosly hep-th/ 0510111)

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### From Trees to Loops

(AB-Spence-Travaglini)

- Original prognosis from twistor string theory was negative (Berkovits-Witten), "pollution" with Conformal SUGRA modes
- Try anyway:
  - Connect V=Q-I+L MHV vertices, using the same offshell continuation as for trees
  - Chose measure, perform loop integration (Dim. Reg.)
- Simplest Ex.: MHV 1-loop amplitudes in N=4 SYM

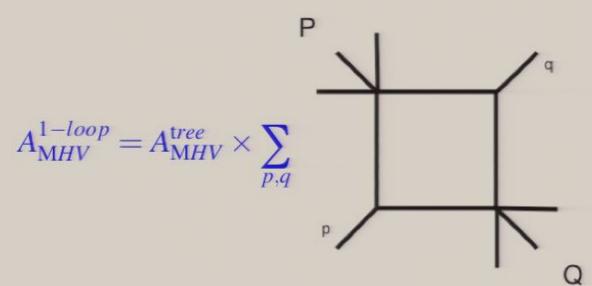


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### MHV one-loop amplitudes in N=4 SYM

- Computed by Bern-Dixon-Dunbar-Kosower (1994) using four-dim'l cut-constructibility (works for SUSY, massless theories) = Unitarity
- Result is expressed in terms of "2-mass easy box functions"

$$I^{2me}(s,t,P^2,Q^2) = \int d^{4-2\varepsilon}L \frac{1}{L^2(L-p)^2(L-P-p)^2(L+Q)^2}$$



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### MHV vertices at one-loop

Loop integration 
$$A_{\mathrm MHV}^{1-loop} = \sum_{m_1,m_2,h} \int d\mathcal M A_L^{\mathrm tree}(-L_1,m1,\ldots,m_2,L_2)$$
 (schematically):  $\times A_R^{\mathrm tree}(-L_2,m2+1,\ldots,m_1-1,L_1)$ 

Loop measure: 
$$d\mathcal{M} = \frac{d^4L_1}{L_1^2 + i\varepsilon} \frac{d^4L_2}{L_2^2 + i\varepsilon} \delta^{(4)} (L_2 - L_1 + P_L)$$

Off-shell continutation (as before)  $L_{\mu} = l_{\mu} + z \eta_{\mu}$ 

$$L_u = l_u + z \eta_u$$

reference null-vector

Hence

$$\frac{d^4L}{L^2 + i\varepsilon} = \frac{dz}{z} \times d^4l\delta^{(+)}(l^2)$$

dipersive measure

phase space measure

## N=4 SYM one-loop cont'd

Putting everything together and integrating over  $z' = z_1 + z_2$ we find, using  $z = z_1 - z_2$ 

$$d\mathcal{M} = \frac{dz}{z} \times dLIPS(l_2, -l_1; \mathbf{P_{L;z}})$$

$$P_{L:z} = P_L - z\eta$$

dLIPS is the 2-particle Lorentz inv. phase space measure and the corresponding integral calculates the branchcut or discontinuity of the amplitude! Note however the shift in  $P_{L:z} = P_L - z\eta$ 

The remaining integration over z is a dispersion (type) integral, which reproduces the full amplitude!

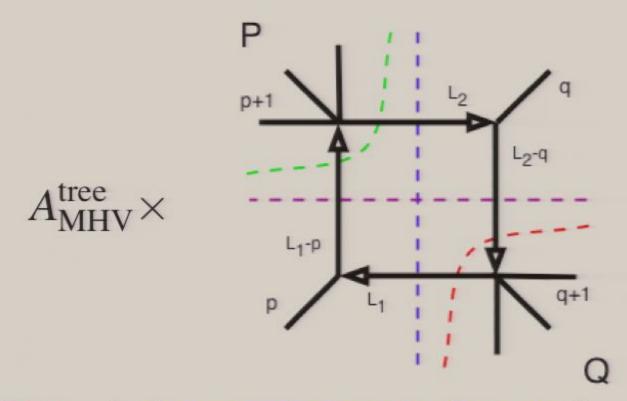


The Return of the Analytic S-Matrix

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# N=4 SYM one-loop cont'd

After some manipulations we find the result to be the sum over contributions from all possible cuts of all possible 2-mass easy box functions (to all orders in DR parameter  $\varepsilon$ )



Note: only after summing over the four cuts dependence on  $\eta$  disappears!

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## Summary of N=4 SYM at 1-loop

- Agrees with result of (Bern-Dixon-Dunbar-Kosower)
- Incorporates large numbers of conventional Feynman diags
- Naturally leads to "dispersion integrals"
- Non-trivial check of MHV diagrammatic method
  - covariance (no dependence on η )
  - non-MHV amplitudes (later in the talk)
- Simpler form of "2-mass easy box function"

$$I^{2me}(s,t,P^{2},Q^{2}) = -\frac{1}{\varepsilon^{2}} \Big[ (-s)^{-\varepsilon} + (-t)^{-\varepsilon} - (-P^{2})^{-\varepsilon} - (-Q^{2})^{-\varepsilon} \Big]$$

$$+ \text{L}i_{2}(1-aP^{2}) + \text{L}i_{2}(1-aQ^{2}) - \text{L}i_{2}(1-as) - \text{L}i_{2}(1-at),$$

$$a = \frac{P^{2} + Q^{2} - s - t}{P^{2}Q^{2} - st} = \frac{u}{P^{2}Q^{2} - st}$$

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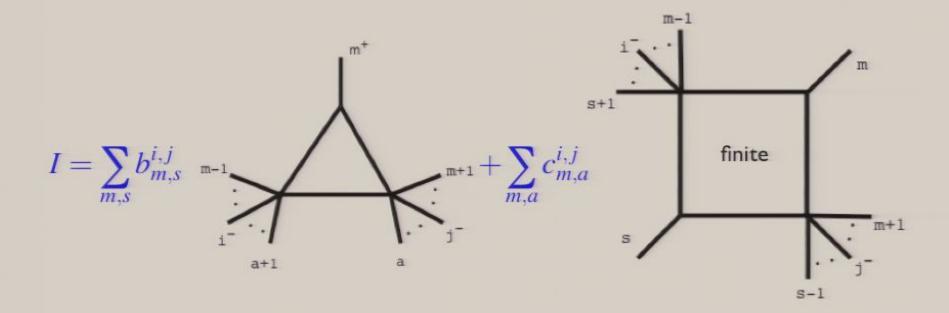
#### Generalisations

- In principle our approach can readily be applied to non-MHV amplitudes and theories with less supersymmety
- MHV, one-loop amplitudes in N=1 SYM (Bedford-AB-Spence-Travaglini)
  - Contribution of a chiral multiplet (susy decomposition)  $A^{\mathcal{N}=1,\text{vector}} = A^{\mathcal{N}=4} 3A^{\mathcal{N}=1,\text{chiral}}$
  - Result involves scalar box & triangle functions
  - MHV diagram method agrees with BDDK
  - Works despite the absence of Twistor String Dual of N=1 SYM

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# MHV, one-loop in N=1 SYM

$$A_{\mathrm chiral}^{1-loop,MHV} = A^{\mathrm tree,MHV} \times I$$



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# MHV, I-loop amplitudes in Yang-Mills

- non-supersymmetric theories are not "4D cutconstructible"
  - Amplitudes contain rational terms that are not linked to terms containing cuts (can be obtained from new onshell recursion relations (Bern, Forde, Dixon, Kosower))
- From MHV vertices we obtain cut-containing terms
- SUSY decomposition

$$A^g = (A^g + 4A^f + 3A^s) - 4(A^f + A^s) + A^s$$

To be computed

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# Yang-Mills, 1-loop cont'd

Result is expressed in terms of

• finite box functions: 
$$I_{finite}^{2me} = B(s, t, P^2, Q^2)$$

• triangle functions: 
$$T^{(r)}(p,P,Q) = \frac{\log(Q^2/P^2)}{(Q^2-P^2)^r}$$

- Coefficient of B is:  $\left(b_{m_1m_2}^{ij}\right)^2$
- Agrees with 5-point result and the case of adjacent negative helicity gluons of (BDDK)
- New Result for negative helicity gluons in arbitrary position
  - First new result for QCD from MHV diagrams!

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## Evidence for MHV diagrams so far

- Tree Level Amplitudes 
   several proofs (CSW, Britto-Cachazo-Feng-Witten, Risager)
- One-Loop Amplitudes in (S)YM
  - MHV 1-loop Amplitudes in N=4 SYM (AB-Spence-Travaglini)
  - MHV 1-loop amplitudes in N=1 SYM (Bedford-AB-Spence-Travaglini, Quigley-Rozali)
  - Cut-Constructible Parts of MHV 1-loop Amplitudes in pure Yang-Mills (Bedford-AB-Spence-Travaglini)

Q: Do MHV Diagrams provide a new, complete, perturbative expansion of SUSY Yang-Mills?

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### From Loops Back to Trees

via the Feynman Tree Theorem (FTT)

- We want to show that MHV diagrams are equivalent to Feynman diagrams for generic one-loop amplitudes in SYM
  - Step 1: Proof of Covariance
  - Step 2: Discontinuities
  - Step 3: Kinematic Limits
- Step1: proof of covariance using FTT
- FTT is based on the decomposition of the usual Feynman propagator:  $\Delta_F(P) = \Delta_R(P) + 2\pi \delta^{(-)}(P^2 m^2)$

$$\delta^{(-)}(P^2 - m^2) \equiv \delta(P^2 - m^2)\theta(-P_0)$$

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#### FTT cont'd

- Assume we use Feynman rules with  $\Delta_R(P)$  instead of  $\Delta_F(P)$
- Since  $\Delta_R(P)$  is a causal propagator (contrary to  $\Delta_F(P)$ ) any loop integral with local vertices has support for:

$$t_1 > t_2 > \cdots > t_n > t_1$$

Since there are no closed time-like curves in Minkowski space this integral vanishes!

$$I_R = \int \prod_i d^4x_i \, \Delta_R(x_1 - x_2) V(x_2) \Delta_R(x_2 - x_3) V(x_3) \cdots \Delta_R(x_n - x_1) V(x_1) = 0$$

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#### FTT cont'd

• Now use the decomposition of  $\Delta_R(P)$  into  $\Delta_F(P)$  and an on-shell delta-function

$$I_R := \int \frac{d^4L}{(2\pi)^4} f(L, \{K_i\}) \prod_i \left[ \Delta_F(L + K_i) - 2\pi \delta^{(-)} ((L + K_i)^2) \right] = 0$$

to find the FTT

$$I_F = -\int \frac{d^4L}{(2\pi)^4} f(L, \{K_i\}) \prod_i' \left[ \Delta_F(L+K_i) - 2\pi\delta^{(-)} ((L+K_i)^2) \right]$$

In a nutshell: the FTT reduces Loops to Trees! Or more precisely to the sum of all possible cuts.

$$I_F = I_{1-cut} + I_{2-cut} + I_{3-cut} + I_{4-cut}$$

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# FTT and MHV Diagrams

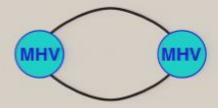
- Because of the local character in Minkowski space of MHV vertices we can apply the FTT directly to MHV diagrams.
- This will allow us to find a simple proof of covariance for the sum of MHV diagrams contributing to generic (one-)loop amplitudes
- The amplitude is given by a sum of terms in which at least one loop leg is cut

$$\mathcal{A} = \mathcal{A}_{1-cut} + \mathcal{A}_{2-cut} + \mathcal{A}_{3-cut} + \mathcal{A}_{4-cut}$$

The key point is that each set of p-particle cut diagrams sums to a covariant expression!

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MHV one-loop amplitudes

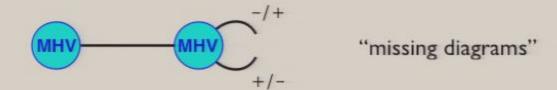


The MHV diagrams have the following 1-particle and 2-particle cuts



The 2-particle cuts give a phase space integral of a product of on-shell tree amplitudes and hence are covariant

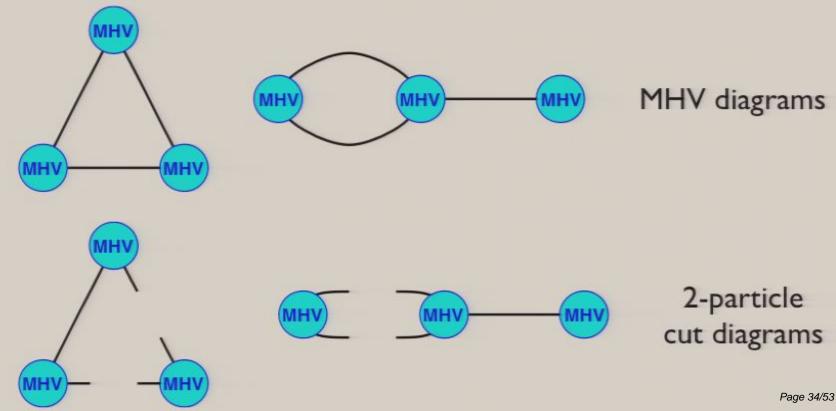
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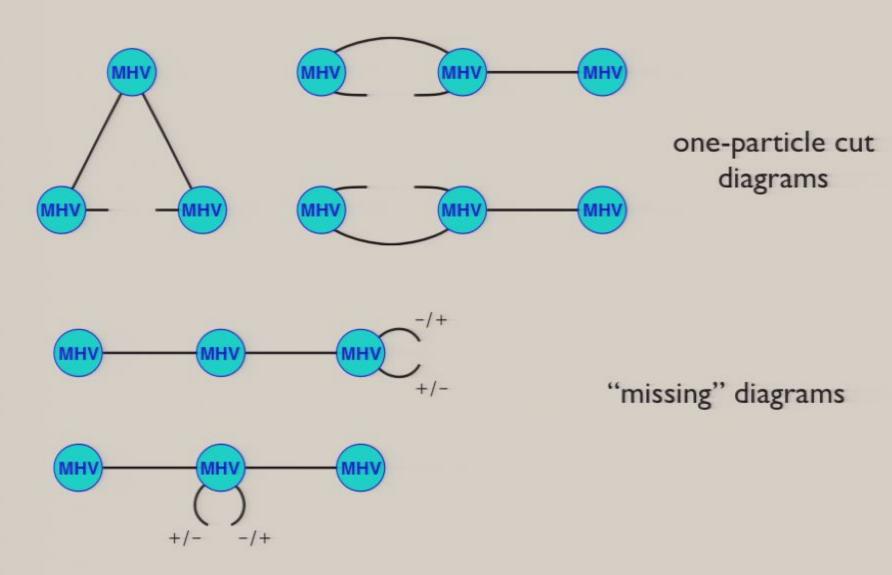
- More care needed for 1-particle cuts: sum only over diagrams with cut legs on different MHV vertices.
- Two alternative justifications to exclude these diagrams
  - In supersymmetric theories the missing diagrams give a vanishing integrand, after summing over internal particle species.
  - cut legs are (anti-)collinear
     "missing diagram" = (splitting function) x (tree diagram)
     These tree diagrams sum to an amplitude.

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- more complicated examples can be treated in complete analogy
- NMHV Amplitudes



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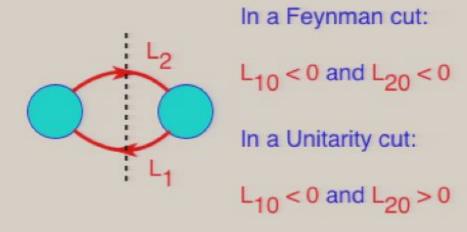
#### Discontinuities

- One-loop MHV diagrams give covariant expressions
- Step 2: check that these expressions have the correct discontinuities or unitarity cuts in all channels.
- Straightforward; the diagrammatics is the same for Feynman
   2-particle cuts in the FTT and a unitarity 2-particle cuts.
- In a particular channel one fixes two propagators and replaces them by two on-shell delta functions. Summing all MHV diagrams sharing the same 2-particle cut, one obtains the full tree amplitudes on both sides of the cut. LIPS integration produces then the expected discontinuity.

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#### Discontinuities cont'd

- This argument applies also to generalised unitarity cuts.
- Note: although the diagrammatics look the same, a Feynman 2-particle cut is different from a unitarity 2-particle cut.
   In particular a Feynman/Unitarity 2-particle cut vanishes above/below the 2-particle threshold!



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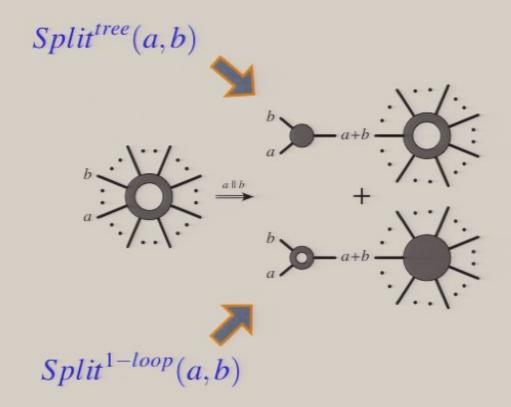
#### **Factorisation**

- MHV one-loop diagrams give covariant formulas with all the correct (generalised) cuts
- Step 3: Check that all physical poles in possible kinematic limits are correct. In particular we will check the universal collinear and some of the soft limits.
- Unphysical, η-dependent singularities (and cuts) can be excluded by our proof of covariance
- The remaining ambiguity must be a polynomial term, which can be ruled out on dimensional grounds (as in BCFW)

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#### Universal collinear factorisation

• Consider a one-loop amplitude  $\mathcal{A}_n^{1-loop}$  in the limit when momenta a and b become collinear (parallel)



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#### Universal Collinear Factorisation

Involves tree and one-loop splitting functions:

$$Split_{-}^{tree}(a^{+},b^{+}) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{z(1-z)}} \frac{1}{\langle ab \rangle}, \ Split_{+}^{tree}(a^{-},b^{-}) = -\frac{1}{\sqrt{z(1-z)}} \frac{1}{[ab]}$$

With 
$$k_a := zk_P, k_b := (1-z)k_P, k_P^2 \to 0$$

The one-loop splitting function is

$$Split^{1-loop}(a,b) = Split^{tree}(a,b) \times r(z)$$

• All order in  $\in$  expression for r(z) was calculated by

(Kosower-Uwer, Bern-Del Duca-Kilgore-Schmidt)

$$r(z) := \frac{c_{\Gamma}}{\varepsilon^2} \left( \frac{-s_{ab}}{\mu^2} \right)^{-\varepsilon} \left[ 1 - {}_2F_1 \left( 1, -\varepsilon, 1 - \varepsilon, \frac{z-1}{z} \right) - {}_2F_1 \left( 1, -\varepsilon, 1 - \varepsilon, \frac{z}{z-1} \right) \right]$$

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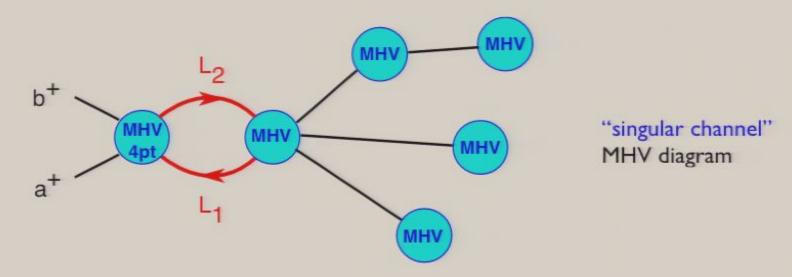
## Collinear Limits from MHV Diagrams

- At tree level, collinear limits come out as expected (CSW)
  as well as soft limits
- Two types of collinear limits in MHV diagram method
  - A-type:  $++ \Rightarrow +$  and  $+- \Rightarrow -$
  - B-type:  $+- \Rightarrow +$  and  $-- \Rightarrow -$
- Both legs belong to the same MHV vertex, for B-type this must be a 3-point vertex

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### Collinear Limits from MHV Diagrams

- Also at I-loop level we have to distinguish A/B-type
- "singular channel" (Kosower) and "non-singular channel" MHV diagrams
  - "non-singular channel": Tree splitting function
  - "singular channel": 1-loop splitting function



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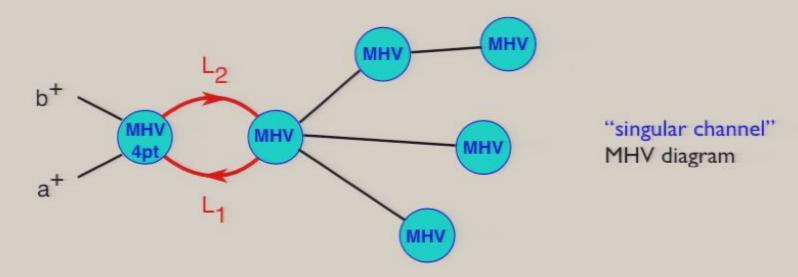
# I-loop splitting functions from MHV diagrams

- If legs a and b end on different MHV vertices
  - no contribution to collinear limit
- A-type collinear limits
  - all order 1-loop splitting function from generic "singular channel" diagram shown before
  - requires all order in E form of the 2-mass easy box function (slight generalisation of calculation in (AB-Spence-Travaglini))
  - tree-level splitting function from "non-singular channel" diagrams, where legs a and b are a proper subset of legs attached to MHV vertex

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### Collinear Limits from MHV Diagrams

- Also at I-loop level we have to distinguish A/B-type
- "singular channel" (Kosower) and "non-singular channel" MHV diagrams
  - "non-singular channel": Tree splitting function
  - "singular channel": 1-loop splitting function



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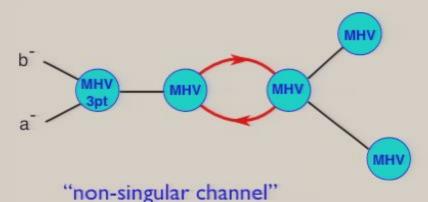
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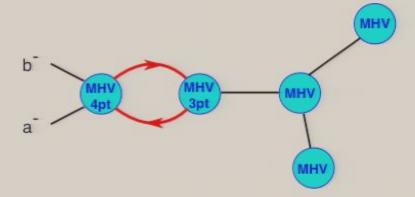
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# One-loop splitting functions cont'd

- B-type collinear limits need special attention
  - all order one-loop splitting function from "singular channel" diagram
  - agrees with known results



MHV diagram, contributes to tree level splitting function



"singular channel" MHV diagram

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#### Soft Limits

 Behaviour of one-loop amplitudes when one leg s becomes soft is given by:

$$\mathcal{A}_{n}^{1-loop}(1,\ldots,a,s,b,\ldots,n) \xrightarrow{k_{s}\to 0}$$

$$Soft^{tree}(a,s,b) \mathcal{A}_{n-1}^{1-loop}(1,\ldots,a,b,\ldots,n)$$

$$+ Soft^{1-loop}(a,s,b) \mathcal{A}_{n-1}^{tree}(1,\ldots,a,b,\ldots,n)$$

with

$$Soft^{tree}(a,s^+,b) = \frac{\langle ab \rangle}{\langle as \rangle \langle sb \rangle}$$

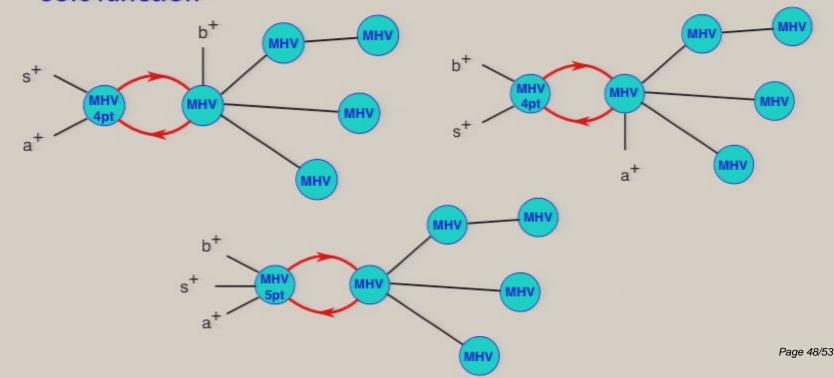
$$Soft^{1-loop}(a,s,b) = Soft^{tree}(a,s,b) \left( -\frac{c_{\Gamma}}{\varepsilon^2} \frac{\pi \varepsilon}{\sin(\pi \varepsilon)} \right) \left( -\frac{s_{ab}}{s_{as}s_{sb}} \mu^2 \right)^{\varepsilon}$$

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## Soft Limits from MHV Diagrams

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- For concreteness we discuss the soft limit:  $a^+s^+b^+ \longrightarrow a^+b^+$
- Three MHV diagrams contribute in this case, the first two being familiar from the collinear limits
- Again the MHV diagrams reproduce the all order, one-loop soft function



## Summary

- MHV diagrams are an efficient tool to calculate tree and 1-loop amplitudes in (S)YM
- In SYM at 1-loop we have shown
  - covariance (from FTT)
  - correct cuts (by construction)
  - correct soft and collinear limits, (to all orders in € )
    - Multiparticle Poles?
- Further applications of FTT
  - rederivation of MHV 1-loop measure
  - FTT applies also to massive/non-susy theories

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#### Outlook

- MHV diagrams work better than expected
  - all order in ∈ one-loop splitting and soft functions and 4-point one-loop amplitude in N=4 SYM
- Should work for higher loops (work in progress)
  - Connections with integrability (Minahan-Zarembo ...) and higher loop recursion relations (Anastasiou-Bern-Dixon-Kosower, Bern-Dixon-Smirnov, Cachazo-Spradlin-Volovich, Bern-Czakon-Kosower-Roiban-Smirnov)?

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