

On-Shell Methods in Field Theory

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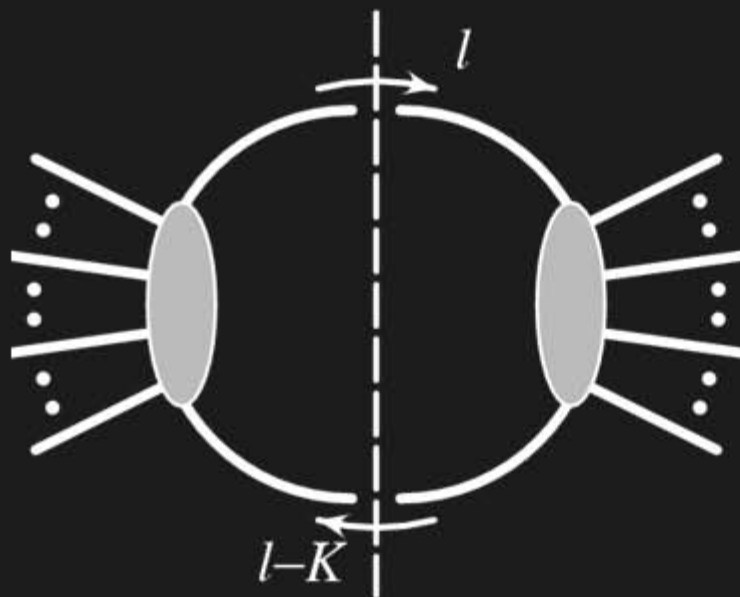
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Lecture V

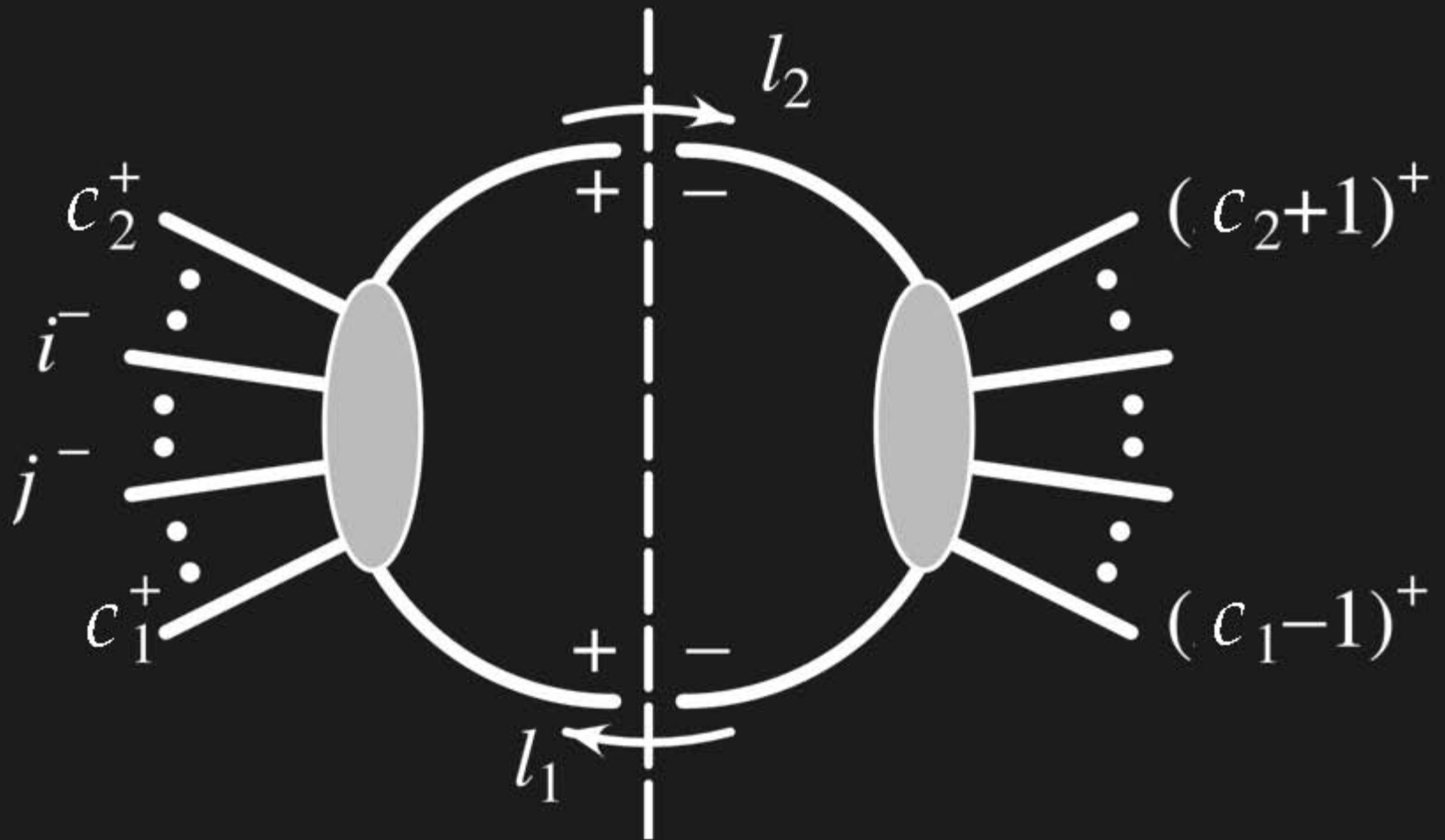
Unitarity-Based Method for Loops



Bern, Dixon, Dunbar, & DAK,
ph/9403226, ph/9409265

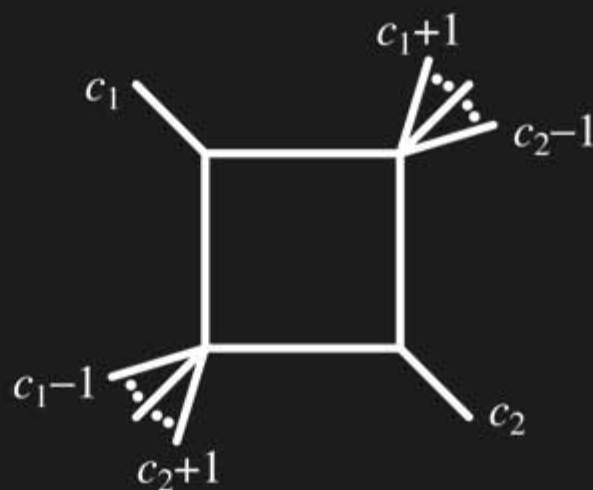
$$A^{\text{1-loop}} = \sum_{\text{cuts}} \int \frac{d^{4-2\epsilon} \ell}{K^2} \frac{i}{\ell^2} A_{\text{left}}^{\text{tree}} \frac{i}{(\ell - K)^2} A_{\text{right}}^{\text{tree}}$$

Example: MHV at One Loop



The result,

$$-A^{\text{tree}}(1^+, \dots, i^-, \dots, j^-, \dots, n^+) \\ \times \sum_{\text{easy 2 mass}} \text{Box} \cdot \frac{1}{2}(\text{its denominator})$$

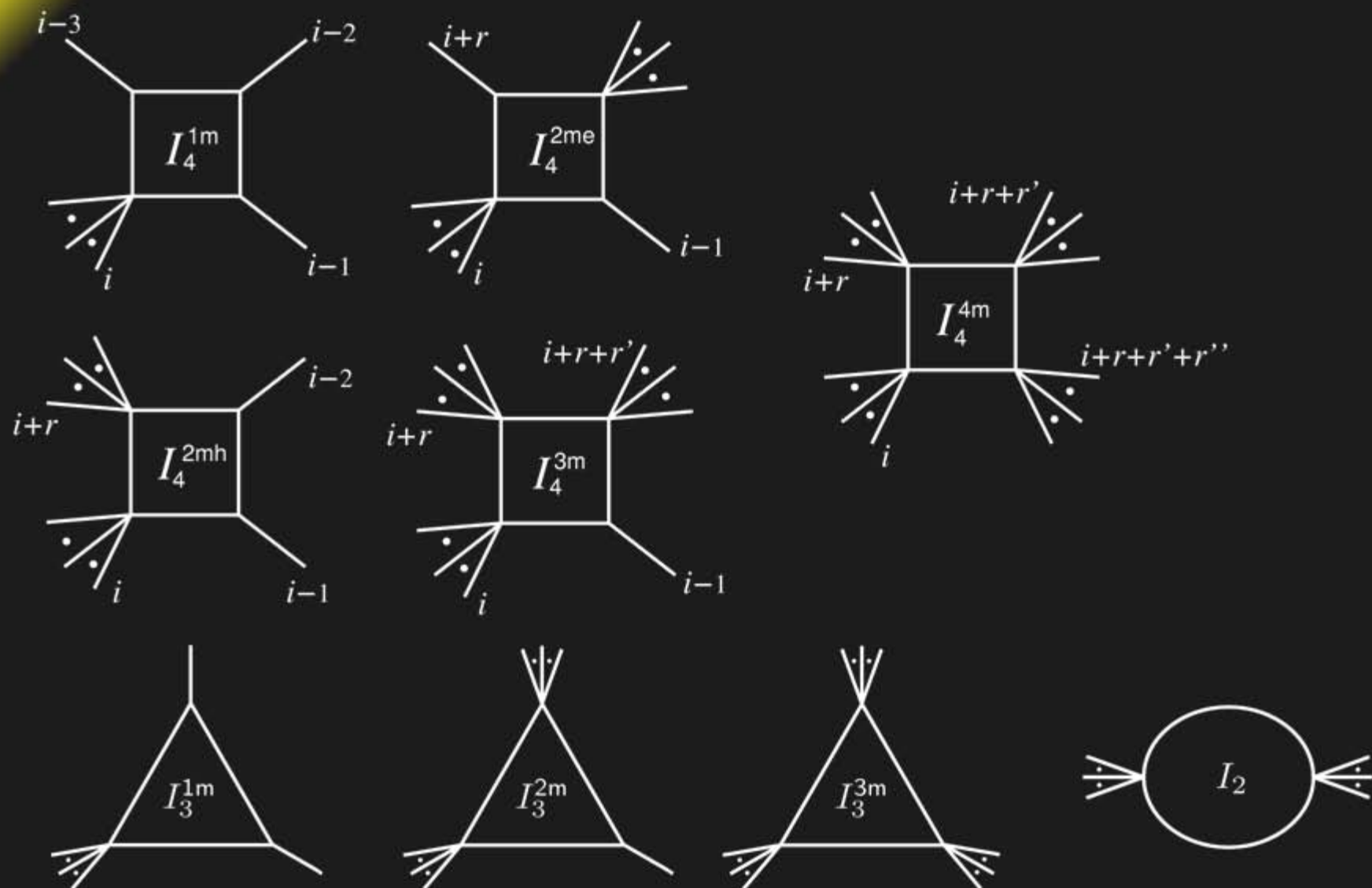


Have We Seen This Denominator Before?

Consider

$$\langle 5^- | 3 + 4 | 2^- \rangle$$

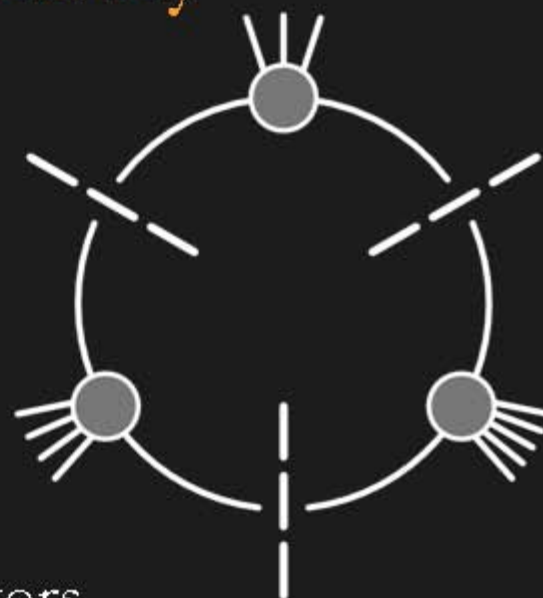
$$\langle c_1^- | \cancel{K}_{c_1 \dots c_2} | c_2^- \rangle \langle c_2^- | \cancel{K}_{c_1 \dots c_2} | c_1^- \rangle =$$



$$A = \sum_j c_j I_j$$

Generalized Unitarity

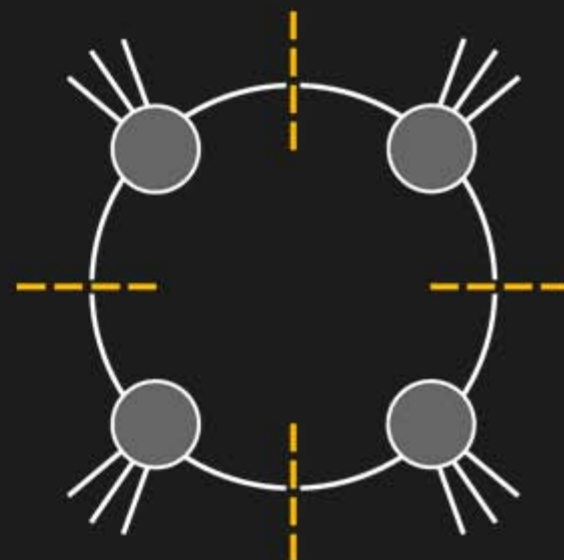
- Can sew together more than two tree amplitudes
- Corresponds to ‘leading singularities’
- Isolates contributions of a smaller set of integrals: only integrals with propagators corresponding to cuts will show up



Bern, Dixon, DAK (1997)

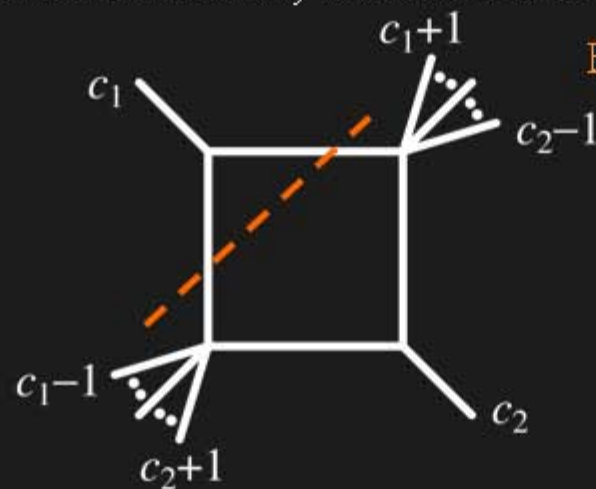
- Example: in triple cut, only boxes and triangles will contribute

- Can we isolate a **single** integral?
- Quadruple cuts would isolate a single box
- Can't do this for one-mass, two-mass, or three-mass boxes because that would isolate a three-point amplitude
- Unless...



Cuts in Massless Channels

- With complex momenta, can form cuts using three-vertices too



Britto, Cachazo, & Feng, th/0412103

$\Rightarrow$ all box coefficients can be computed directly and algebraically, with no reduction or integration

- $\mathcal{N}=1$ and non-supersymmetric theories need triangles and bubbles, for which integration is still needed

Quadruple Cuts

Work in $D=4$ for the algebra

$$\int \frac{d^4 \ell}{(2\pi)^4} \delta^{(+)}(\ell^2) \delta^{(+)}(\ell^2) \frac{1}{\ell^2 (\ell - k_1)^2} \delta^{(+)}(\ell^2) \frac{1}{\ell^2 (\ell - K_{12})^2} \delta^{(+)}(\ell^2) \frac{1}{\ell^2 (\ell - K_{123})^2}$$

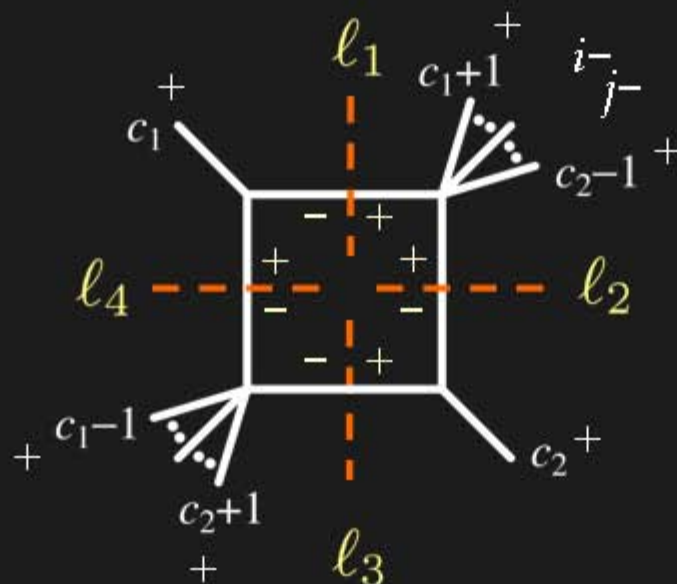
Four degrees of freedom & four delta functions

$\Rightarrow$ no integrals left, only algebra

$$\begin{array}{c} 1 \\ \text{\# solutions} \\ \downarrow \\ 2 \end{array} \sum_{\substack{\text{solutions} \\ \text{helicities}}} A_a^{\text{tree}} A_b^{\text{tree}} A_c^{\text{tree}} A_d^{\text{tree}}$$

MHV

- Coefficient of a specific easy two-mass box: only one solution will contribute



$$\langle \ell_1 c_1 \rangle = 0 = \langle \ell_4 c_1 \rangle ,$$

$$\langle \ell_2 c_2 \rangle = 0 = \langle \ell_3 c_2 \rangle$$

$$\begin{aligned}
& \frac{1}{2} A_3((-l_4)^+, c_1^+, l_1^-) A((-l_1)^+, c_1+1, \dots, i^-, \dots, j^-, \dots, c_2-1, l_2^+) \\
& \times A_3((-l_2)^-, c_2^+, l_3^+) A((-l_3)^-, c_2+1, \dots, c_1-1, l_4^-) \\
& = \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{[l_4 c_1]^3}{[c_1 l_1] [l_1 l_4]} \right) \left(\frac{\langle i j \rangle^4}{\langle l_1 (c_1+1) \rangle \langle (c_1+1) \cdots (c_2-1) \rangle \langle (c_2-1) l_2 \rangle \langle l_2 l_1 \rangle} \right) \\
& \quad \times \left(\frac{[c_2 l_3]^3}{[l_2 c_2] [l_3 l_2]} \right) \left(\frac{\langle l_4 l_3 \rangle^3}{\langle l_3 (c_2+1) \rangle \langle (c_2+1) \cdots (c_1-1) \rangle \langle (c_1-1) l_4 \rangle} \right) \\
& = \frac{1}{2} A_n^{\text{tree}}(1^+, \dots, i^-, \dots, j^-, \dots, n^+) \\
& \quad \times \frac{\langle (c_1-1) c_1 \rangle \langle c_1 (c_1+1) \rangle \langle (c_2-1) c_2 \rangle \langle c_2 (c_2+1) \rangle}{\langle (c_1-1) l_4 \rangle \langle l_1 (c_1+1) \rangle \langle (c_2-1) l_2 \rangle \langle l_3 (c_2+1) \rangle} \\
& \quad \times \frac{\langle c_1^+ | \not{l}_4 \not{l}_3 | c_2^- \rangle^3}{\langle c_1^+ | \not{l}_1 \not{l}_2 | c_2^- \rangle [l_1 l_4] [l_2 l_3]}
\end{aligned}$$

Using momentum conservation

$$\begin{aligned}\langle c_1^+ | \ell_4 \ell_3 | c_2^- \rangle &= \langle c_1^+ | \ell_1 \ell_2 | c_2^- \rangle \\ \frac{\langle (c_1 - 1) c_1 \rangle}{\langle (c_1 - 1) \ell_4 \rangle [\ell_1 \ell_4]} &= \frac{1}{[\ell_1 c_1]}\end{aligned}$$

our expression becomes

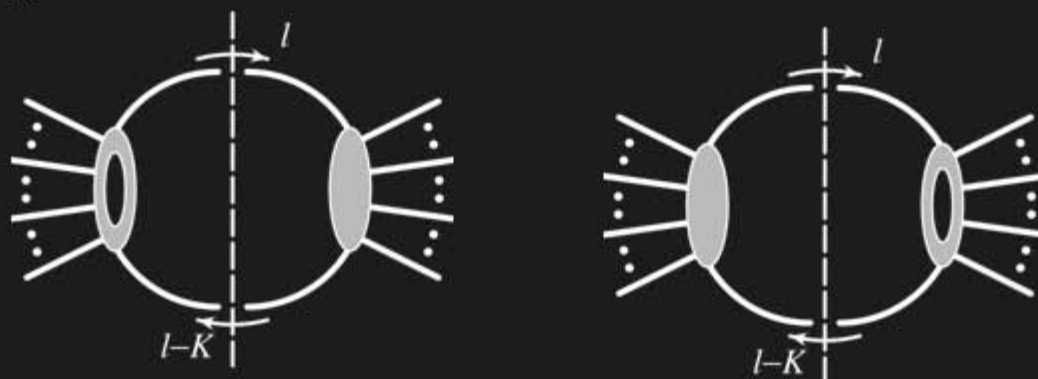
$$\begin{aligned}& \frac{1}{2} A_n^{\text{tree}}(1^+, \dots, i^-, \dots, j^-, \dots, n^+) \frac{\langle c_1^+ | \ell_4 \ell_3 | c_2^- \rangle^2 [\ell_1 \ell_4] [\ell_2 \ell_3]}{[c_1 \ell_1] [c_1 \ell_4] [\ell_3 c_2] [\ell_2 c_2]} \\&= \frac{1}{2} A_n^{\text{tree}}(1^+, \dots, i^-, \dots, j^-, \dots, n^+) [\ell_1 \ell_4] \langle \ell_4 \ell_3 \rangle [\ell_3 \ell_2] \langle \ell_2 \ell_1 \rangle \\&= A_n^{\text{tree}}(1^+, \dots, i^-, \dots, j^-, \dots, n^+) \\&\quad \times \langle c_1^- | \ell_1 + \ell_2 | c_2^- \rangle \langle c_2^- | \ell_3 + \ell_4 | c_1^- \rangle \\&= -A_n^{\text{tree}}(1^+, \dots, i^-, \dots, j^-, \dots, n^+) \\&\quad \times \langle c_1^- | K_{(c_1+1)\dots(c_2-1)} | c_2^- \rangle \langle c_2^- | K_{(c_1+1)\dots(c_2-1)} | c_1^- \rangle \\&= \frac{1}{2} A_n^{\text{tree}}(1^+, \dots, i^-, \dots, j^-, \dots, n^+) (m_2^2 m_4^2 - st)\end{aligned}$$

Higher Loops

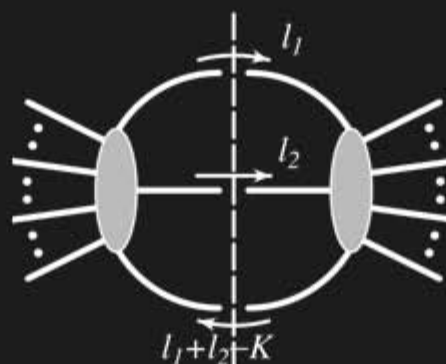
- Technology for finding a set of *master* integrals for any given process: “integration by parts”, solved using Laporta algorithm
- But no general basis is known
- So we may have to reconstruct the integrals in addition to computing their coefficients

Unitarity-Based Method at Higher Loops

- Loop amplitudes on either side of the cut



- Multi-particle cuts in addition to two-particle cuts



- Find integrand/integral with given cuts in all channels

Generalized Cuts

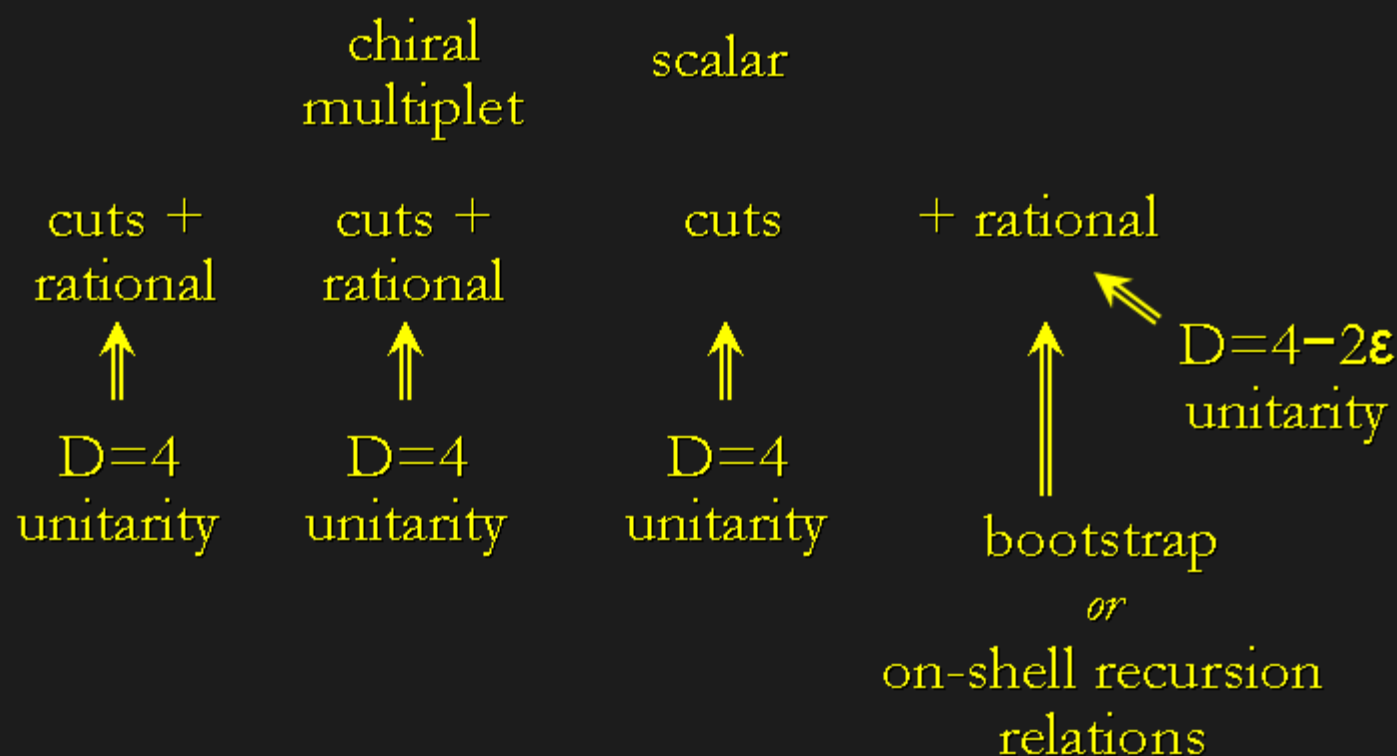
- In practice, replace loop amplitudes by their cuts too



Computing QCD Amplitudes

$\mathcal{N}=4$ = pure QCD + 4 fermions + 3 complex scalars

$$\text{QCD} = \mathcal{N}=4 + \delta\mathcal{N}=1 + \delta\mathcal{N}=0$$



Rational Terms

- At tree level, we used on-shell recursion relations
- We want to do the same thing here
- Need to confront
 - Presence of branch cuts
 - Structure of factorization

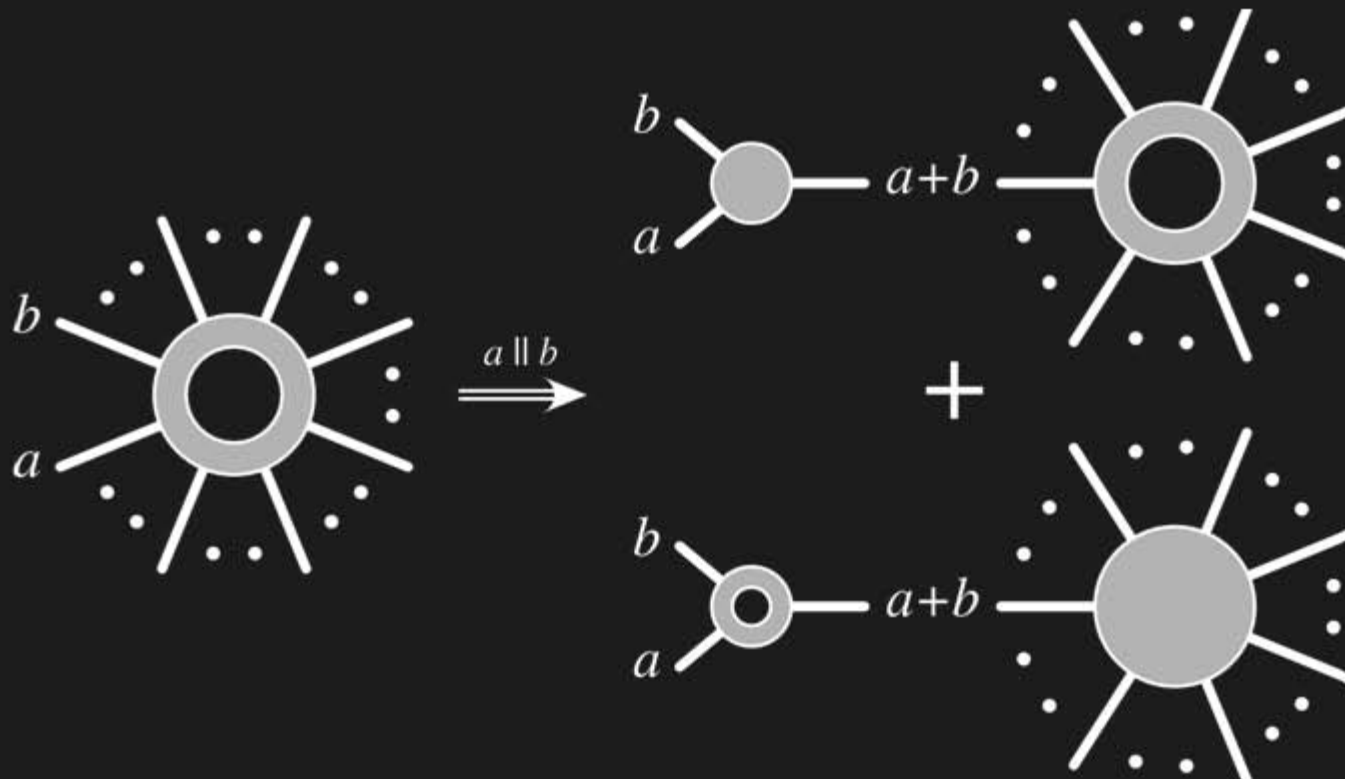
- At tree level,

$$A_n(1^\pm, 2^+, \dots, n^+) = 0$$

- True in supersymmetric theories at all loop orders
- Non-vanishing at one loop in QCD
- but finite: no possible UV or IR singularities
- Separate V and F terms

$$A_n = V_n A_n^{\text{tree}} + F_n$$

Factorization at One Loop



Collinear Factorization at One Loop

- Most general form we can get is antisymmetric + nonsingular: two independent tensors for splitting amplitude

$$f_1(s_{ab}, z) \frac{1}{s_{ab}} \left(\varepsilon_a^\mu \varepsilon_b \cdot k_a - \varepsilon_b^\mu \varepsilon_a \cdot k_b + \frac{1}{2} (k_b^\mu - k_a^\mu) \varepsilon_a \cdot \varepsilon_b \right)$$
$$f_2(s_{ab}, z) \frac{(k_a^\mu - k_b^\mu)}{s_{ab}} \left(\varepsilon_a \cdot \varepsilon_b - \frac{\varepsilon_a \cdot k_b \varepsilon_b \cdot k_a}{k_a \cdot k_b} \right)$$

- Second tensor arises only beyond tree level, and only for like helicities

- Explicit form of +++ splitting amplitude

$$\text{Split}_+^{1\text{-loop, scalar}}(z; a^+, b^+) = -\frac{1}{48\pi^2} \sqrt{z(1-z)} \frac{[a\,b]}{\langle a\,b \rangle^2}$$

- No general theorems about factorization in complex momenta
- Just proceed
- Look at $-+\dots++$

- Amplitudes contain factors like $\frac{[a\,b]}{\langle a\,b\rangle^2}$ known from collinear limits
 - Expect also $\frac{[a\,b]}{\langle a\,b\rangle}$ as ‘subleading’ contributions, seen in explicit results
 - Double poles with vertex $V_3(+ + +)$
 - Non-conventional single pole: one finds the double-pole, multiplied by
- ‘unreal’ poles
-

$$s_{ab} \text{Soft}(\hat{a}, (-\hat{P}_{ab})^-, b) \text{Soft}(b+1, \hat{P}_{ab}^+, a-1)$$

On-Shell Recursion at Loop Level

Bern, Dixon, DAK (1–7/2005)

- Finite amplitudes are purely rational
- We can obtain simpler forms for known finite amplitudes
(Chalmers, Bern, Dixon, DAK; Mahlon)
- These again involve spurious singularities
- Obtained last of the finite amplitudes: $f^- f^+ g^+ \dots g^+$

On-Shell Recursion at Loop Level

Bern, Dixon, DAK (1–7/2005)

- Complex shift of momenta $[j, l]$

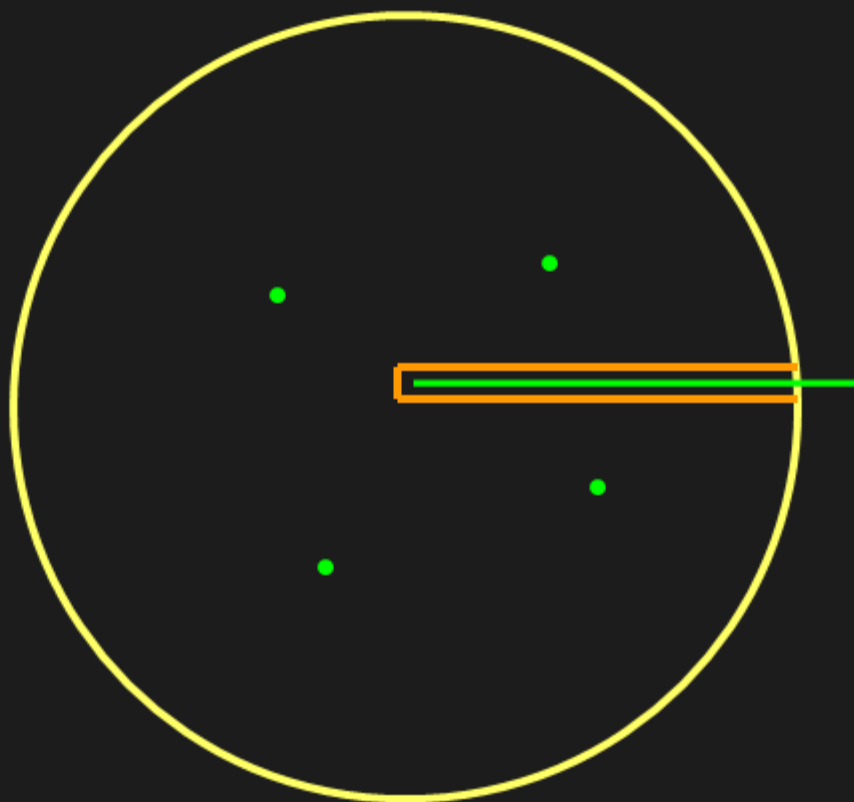
$$p_j^\mu \rightarrow p_j^\mu(z) = p_j^\mu - \frac{z}{2} \langle j^- | \gamma^\mu | l^- \rangle,$$

$$p_l^\mu \rightarrow p_l^\mu(z) = p_l^\mu + \frac{z}{2} \langle j^- | \gamma^\mu | l^- \rangle.$$

- Behavior as $z \rightarrow \infty$: require $A(z) \rightarrow 0$
- Basic complex analysis: treat branch cuts
- Knowledge of *complex* factorization:
 - at tree level, tracks known factorization for **real** momenta
 - at loop level, same for multiparticle channels; and $- \rightarrow - +$
 - Avoid $\pm \rightarrow ++$

Rational Parts of QCD Amplitudes

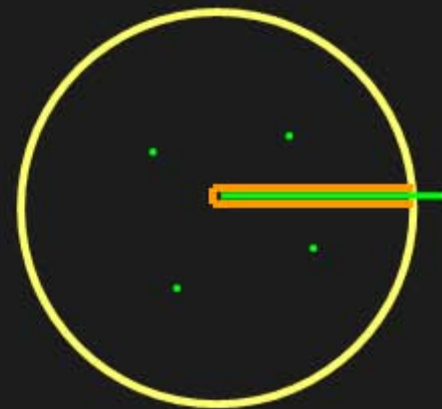
- Start with cut-containing parts obtained from unitarity method, consider same contour integral



Derivation

- Consider the contour integral

$$\frac{1}{2\pi i} \oint_C \frac{dz}{z} A(z)$$



- Determine $A(0)$ in terms of other poles and branch cuts

$$A(0) = - \left(\sum_{\text{poles } \alpha} \text{Res}_{z=z_\alpha} \frac{A(z)}{z} \right) - \int_{\text{Branch}} \frac{dz}{z} \text{Disc}_B A(z)$$

Rational terms

Cut terms

- Cut terms have spurious singularities $\Rightarrow$ rational terms do too

$$\frac{\ln(s_1/s_2)}{(s_1 - s_2)^2}$$

- $\Rightarrow$ the sum over residues includes spurious singularities, for which there is no factorization theorem at all

Completing the Cut

- To solve this problem, define a modified ‘completed’ cut, adding in rational functions to cancel spurious singularities

$$\frac{\ln(s_1/s_2)}{(s_1 - s_2)^2} + \frac{1}{s_1 - s_2}$$

- We know these have to be there, because they are generated together by integral reductions
- Spurious singularity is unique
- Rational term is not, but difference is free of spurious singularities

- This eliminates residues of spurious poles
- $\hat{C}$ entirely known from four-dimensional unitarity method
- Assume $\hat{C}(z) \rightarrow 0$ as $z \rightarrow \infty$
- Modified separation

$$A_n(z) = c_\Gamma [\hat{C}(z) + \hat{R}(z)]$$

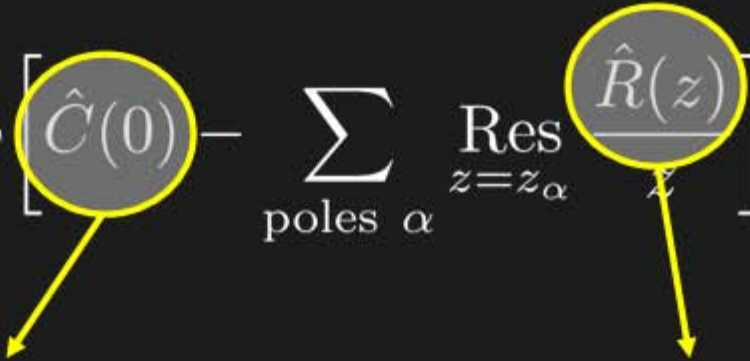
so

$$\begin{aligned}
 A(0) = & - \sum_{\text{poles } \alpha} \text{Res}_{z=z_\alpha} \frac{\hat{C}(z)}{z} - \int_{\text{Branch}} \frac{dz}{z} \text{Disc}_B \hat{C}(z) \\
 & - \sum_{\text{poles } \alpha} \text{Res}_{z=z_\alpha} \frac{\hat{R}(z)}{z}
 \end{aligned}$$

- Perform integral & residue sum for $\hat{C}$

$$\hat{C}(0) = - \sum_{\text{poles } \alpha} \text{Res}_{z=z_\alpha} \frac{\hat{C}(z)}{z} - \int_{\text{Branch}} \frac{dz}{z} \text{Disc}_B \hat{C}(z)$$

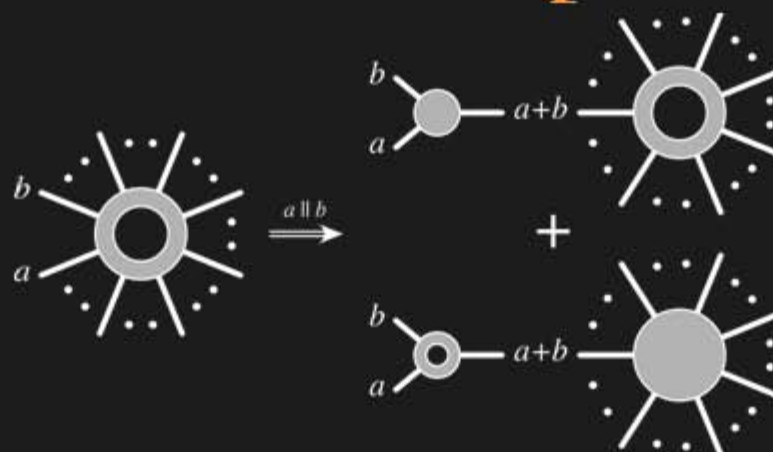
so

$$A(0) = c_\Gamma \left[\hat{C}(0) - \sum_{\text{poles } \alpha} \text{Res}_{z=z_\alpha} \frac{\hat{R}(z)}{z} \right]$$


Unitarity Method

???

A Closer Look at Loop Factorization



- Only single poles in splitting amplitudes with cuts (like tree)
- Cut terms $\rightarrow$ cut terms
- Rational terms $\rightarrow$ rational terms
- Build up the latter using recursion, analogous to tree level

- Recursion on rational pieces would build up rational terms R , not $\hat{R}$
- Recursion gives

$$\text{Recursive} = - \sum_{\text{poles } \alpha} \text{Res}_{z=z_\alpha} \frac{\text{Rational}[\hat{C}(z)]}{z} - \sum_{\text{poles } \alpha} \text{Res}_{z=z_\alpha} \frac{\hat{R}(z)}{z}$$

Double-counted: ‘overlap’

- Subtract off overlap terms

$$A(0) = c_{\Gamma} \left[\hat{C}(0) + \text{Recursive} + \sum_{\text{poles } \alpha} \text{Res}_{z=z_{\alpha}} \frac{\text{Rational}[\hat{C}(z)]}{z} \right]$$

Compute explicitly from known $\hat{C}$:
also have a diagrammatic expression

Tree-level On-Shell Recursion Relations

- Partition P : two or more cyclicly-consecutive momenta containing j , such that complementary set $\bar{P}$ contains l ,

$$\begin{aligned} P &\equiv \{P_1, P_2, \dots, j, \dots, P_{-1}\}, \\ \bar{P} &\equiv \{\bar{P}_1, \bar{P}_2, \dots, l, \dots, \bar{P}_{-1}\}, \\ P \cup \bar{P} &= \{1, 2, \dots, n\} \end{aligned}$$

- The recursion relations are

$$\begin{aligned} A_n(1, \dots, n) &= \sum_{\substack{\text{partitions } P \\ h=\pm}} A_{\#P+1}(k_{P_1}, \dots, \hat{j}, \dots, k_{P_{-1}}, -\hat{P}^h) \\ &\quad \times \frac{i}{P^2} \times A_{\#\bar{P}+1}(k_{\bar{P}_1}, \dots, \hat{l}, \dots, k_{\bar{P}_{-1}}, \hat{P}^{-h}) \end{aligned}$$

Recursive Diagrams

$$\begin{aligned}
 & - \sum_{\text{poles } \alpha} \text{Res}_{z=z_\alpha} \frac{R_n(z)}{z} \equiv \text{Recursive Diagrams} \\
 & = \sum_{\substack{\text{partitions } P \\ h=\pm}} \left\{ R_n^{(1)}(k_{P_1}, \dots, \hat{k}_j, \dots, k_{P_{-1}}, -\hat{P}^h) \right. \\
 & \quad \times \frac{i}{P^2} \times A_n^{\text{tree}}(k_{\bar{P}_1}, \dots, \hat{k}_l, \dots, k_{\bar{P}_{-1}}, \hat{P}^{-h}) \\
 & \quad + A_n^{\text{tree}}(k_{P_1}, \dots, \hat{k}_j, \dots, k_{P_{-1}}, -\hat{P}^h) \\
 & \quad \times \frac{i}{P^2} \times R_n^{(1)}(k_{\bar{P}_1}, \dots, \hat{k}_l, \dots, k_{\bar{P}_{-1}}, \hat{P}^{-h}) \\
 & \quad + A_n^{\text{tree}}(k_{P_1}, \dots, \hat{k}_j, \dots, k_{P_{-1}}, -\hat{P}^h) \\
 & \quad \left. \times \frac{i R^{\text{Fact}}}{P^2} \times A_n^{\text{tree}}(k_{\bar{P}_1}, \dots, \hat{k}_l, \dots, k_{\bar{P}_{-1}}, \hat{P}^{-h}) \right\}
 \end{aligned}$$

Five-Point Example

- Look at $F_5^s(1^-, 2^-, 3^+, 4^+, 5^+)$

- Cut terms

$$\frac{1}{6} \frac{\langle 1 2 \rangle^2 (\langle 2 3 \rangle [3 4] \langle 4 1 \rangle + \langle 2 3 \rangle [4 5] \langle 5 1 \rangle)}{\langle 2 3 \rangle \langle 3 4 \rangle \langle 4 5 \rangle \langle 5 1 \rangle} \frac{L_0\left(\frac{-s_{23}}{-s_{51}}\right)}{s_{51}}$$

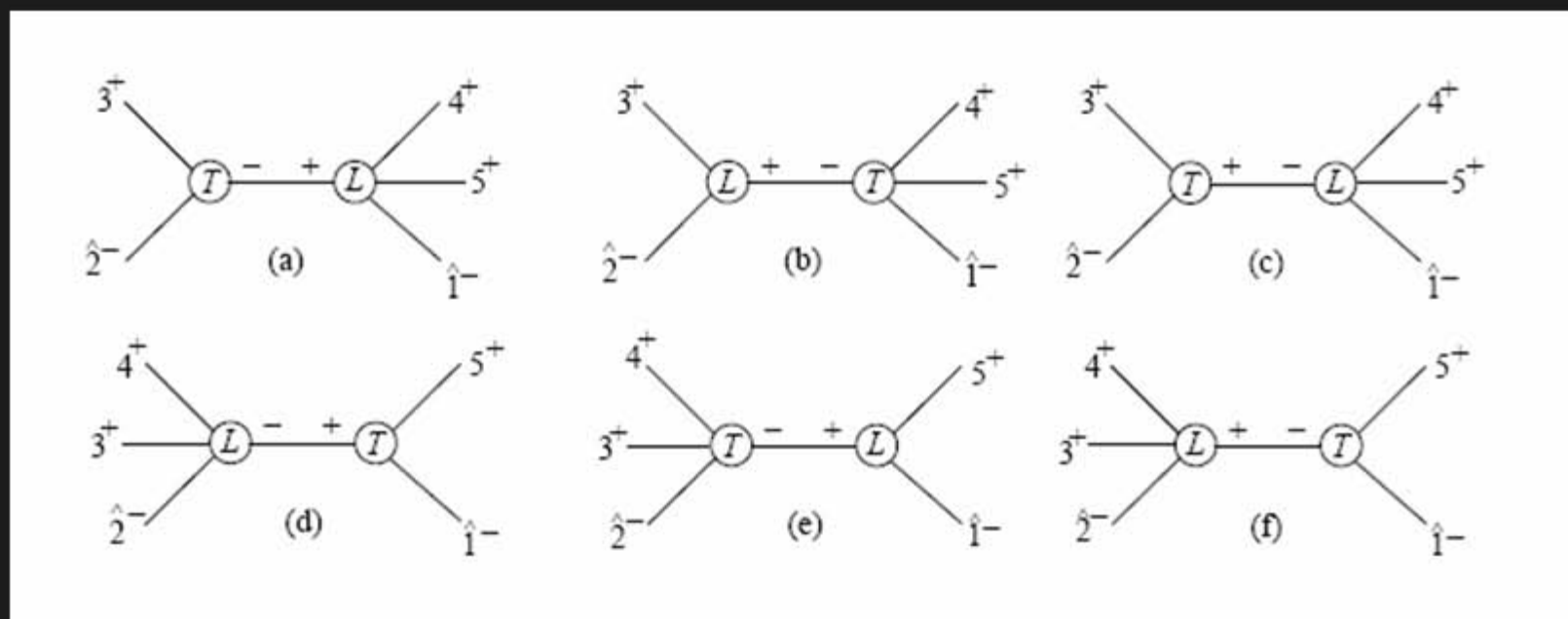
$$- \frac{1}{3} \frac{[3 4] \langle 4 1 \rangle \langle 2 4 \rangle [4 5] (\langle 2 3 \rangle [3 4] \langle 4 1 \rangle + \langle 2 3 \rangle [4 5] \langle 5 1 \rangle)}{\langle 3 4 \rangle \langle 4 5 \rangle} \frac{L_2\left(\frac{-s_{23}}{-s_{51}}\right)}{s_{51}^3}$$

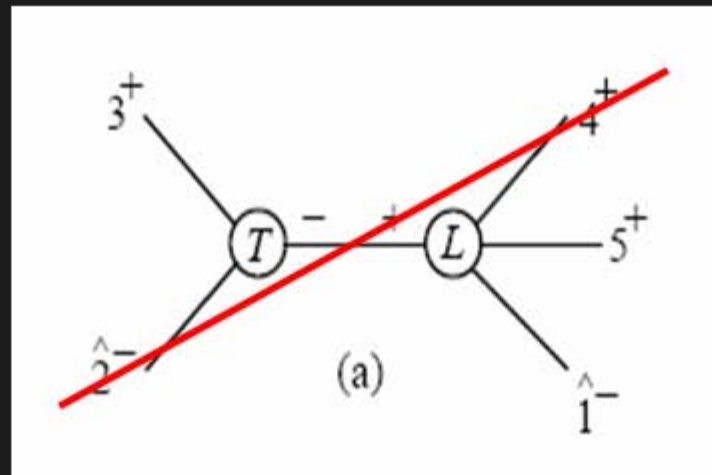
- have required large- z behavior

$$L_0(r) = \frac{\ln r}{1-r}, \quad L_2(r) = \frac{\ln r - (r - 1/r)/2}{(1-r)^3}$$

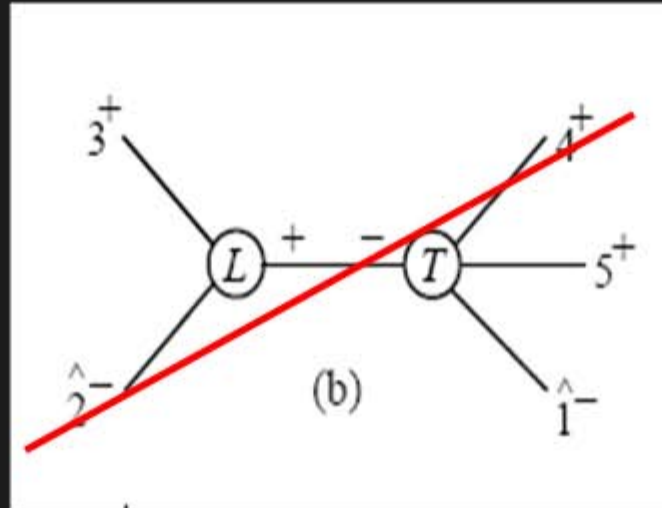
Five-Point Example

- Look at $F_5^s(1^-, 2^-, 3^+, 4^+, 5^+)$
- Recursive diagrams: use $[1, 2\rangle$ shift

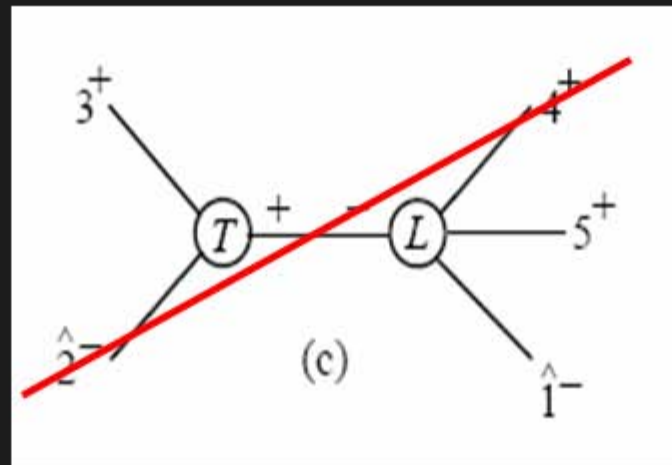




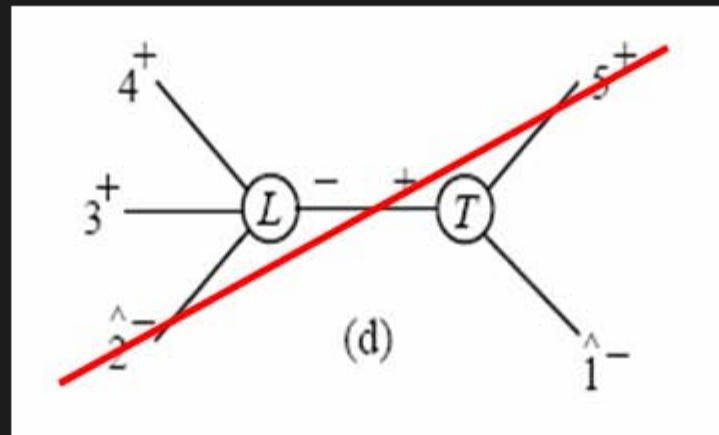
(a) Tree vertex $A(\hat{2}^-, 3^+, -\hat{P}^-)$ vanishes



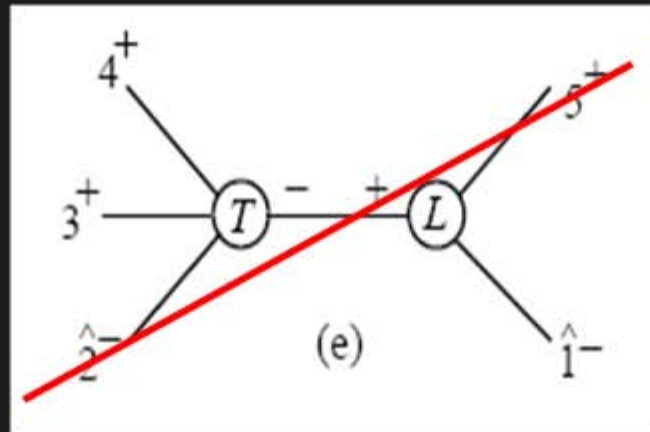
(b) Loop vertex $R(\hat{2}^-, 3^+, -\hat{P}^-)$ vanishes



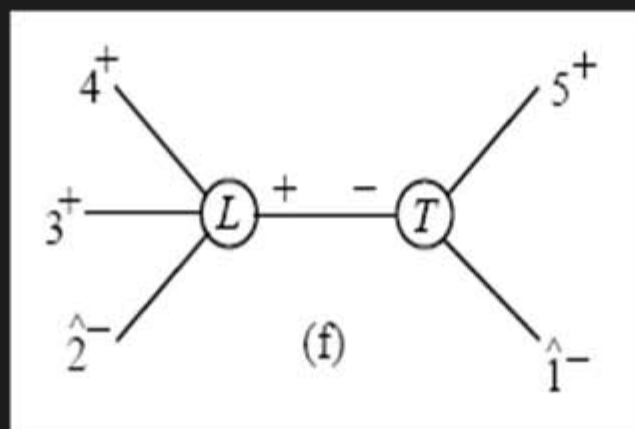
(c) Loop vertex $R_4(\hat{1}^-, \hat{P}^-, 4^+, 5^+)$ vanishes



(d) Tree vertex $A(\hat{1}^-, 5^+, \hat{P}^+)$ vanishes



(e) Loop vertex $R(\hat{1}^-, 5^+, \hat{P}^+)$ vanishes



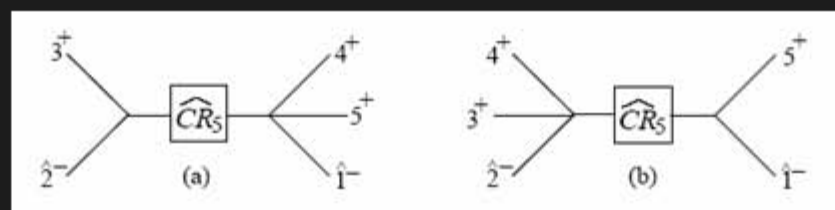
(f) Diagram doesn't vanish

$$D_5^{(f)} = A_3^{\text{tree}}(5^+, \hat{1}^-, -\hat{P}^-) \times \frac{i}{s_{51}} \times R_4(\hat{2}^-, 3^+, 4^+, \hat{P}^+)$$

$$\begin{aligned}
D_5^{(f)} &= -\frac{1}{3} \frac{\langle \hat{1} (-\hat{P}) \rangle^3}{\langle 5 \hat{1} \rangle \langle (-\hat{P}) 5 \rangle} \frac{1}{s_{51}} \frac{\langle 3 \hat{P} \rangle [3 \hat{P}]^3}{[\hat{2} 3] \langle 3 4 \rangle \langle 4 \hat{P} \rangle [\hat{P} \hat{2}]} \\
&= \frac{1}{3} \frac{\langle 1^- | 5 | 2^- \rangle^3}{\langle 5 1 \rangle \langle 5^- | 1 | 2^- \rangle} \frac{1}{\langle 5 1 \rangle [1 5] \langle 1^- | 5 | 2^- \rangle^2} \\
&\quad \times \frac{\langle 3^- | 4 | 2^- \rangle \langle 1^- | 5 | 3^- \rangle^3}{[2 3] \langle 3 4 \rangle \langle 4^- | 3 | 2^- \rangle \langle 1^- | 5 | 2^- \rangle} \\
&= -\frac{1}{3} \frac{[2 4] [3 5]^3}{\langle 3 4 \rangle [1 2] [1 5] [2 3]^2}
\end{aligned}$$

Five-Point Example (cont.)

- ‘Overlap’ contributions $F_5^s(1^-, 2^-, 3^+, 4^+, 5^+)$



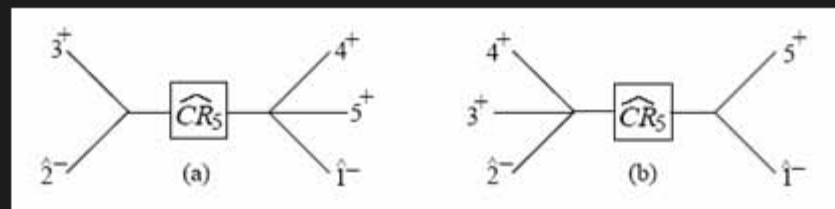
- Take rational terms in $\hat{C}$

$$\widehat{CR}_5 = -\frac{1}{6} \frac{s_{51} + s_{23}}{s_{23}s_{51}(s_{51} - s_{23})^2} \times \frac{[34] \langle 41 \rangle \langle 24 \rangle [45] (\langle 23 \rangle [34] \langle 41 \rangle + \langle 24 \rangle [45] \langle 51 \rangle)}{\langle 34 \rangle \langle 51 \rangle}$$

- Apply shift, extract residues in each “channel”

$$\begin{aligned}
 \widehat{CR}_5(z) = & -\frac{1}{6} \frac{[3\,4] \langle 4\,1 \rangle (\langle 2\,4 \rangle + z \langle 1\,4 \rangle) [4\,5]}{\langle 3\,4 \rangle \langle 4\,5 \rangle} \\
 & \times \frac{\left((\langle 2\,3 \rangle + z \langle 1\,3 \rangle) [3\,4] \langle 4\,1 \rangle + (\langle 2\,4 \rangle + z \langle 1\,4 \rangle) [4\,5] \langle 5\,1 \rangle \right)}{\left(s_{51} - s_{23} - z \langle 1^- | (3+5) | 2^- \rangle \right)^2} \\
 & \times \frac{s_{51} + s_{23} - z \langle 1^- | 5 | 2^- \rangle + z \langle 1^- | 3 | 2^- \rangle}{(\langle 2\,3 \rangle + z \langle 1\,3 \rangle) [3\,2] \langle 1\,5 \rangle ([5\,1] - z [5\,2])}
 \end{aligned}$$

- ‘Overlap’ contributions $F_5^s(1^-, 2^-, 3^+, 4^+, 5^+)$



$$O_5^{(a)} = -\frac{1}{6} \frac{\langle 1 2 \rangle^2 \langle 1 4 \rangle [3 4]}{\langle 1 5 \rangle \langle 2 3 \rangle \langle 3 4 \rangle \langle 4 5 \rangle [2 3]}$$

$$O_5^{(b)} = \frac{1}{6} \frac{\langle 1 4 \rangle [3 4] [3 5] (\langle 1 4 \rangle [3 4] - \langle 1 5 \rangle [3 5])}{\langle 1 5 \rangle \langle 3 4 \rangle \langle 4 5 \rangle [1 5] [2 3]^2}$$

On-Shell Methods

- Physical states
- Use of properties of amplitudes as calculational tools
- Kinematics: Spinor Helicity Basis $\Leftrightarrow$ Twistor space
- Tree Amplitudes: On-shell Recursion Relations $\Leftarrow$ Factorization
- Loop Amplitudes: Unitarity (SUSY)
Unitarity + On-shell Recursion QCD