Twistor inspired developments in perturbative QCD

Nigel Glover

IPPP, University of Durham

SUSY 2005

The Millennium Window to Particle Physics

Durham, 20 July 2005

How to calculate scattering amplitudes

- **Off-shell** methods
  Traditional Feynman diagram approach for off-shell Greens functions
- **On-shell** methods
  Based on S-matrix ideas of 1960's but recently inspired by **Witten**'s proposal to relate **perturbative gauge theory amplitudes** to **topological string theory in twistor space**

  Witten, hep-th/0312171

  $\Rightarrow$ MHV rules
  $\Rightarrow$ BCFW recursion relations
  $\Rightarrow$ Generalised unitarity
- Common methods
  - Colour ordered amplitudes
  - Spinor helicity approach

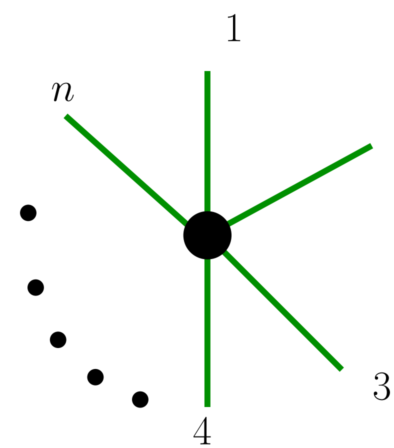
Common methods : Colour Ordered Amplitudes

$$\mathcal{A}_n(1,\ldots,n) = \sum_{perms} Tr(T^{a_1}\ldots T^{a_n}) A_n(1,\ldots,n)$$

Colour-stripped amplitudes A_n: cyclically ordered

Order of external gluons fixed

The subamplitudes A_n have nice properties in the infrared limits.



Can reconstruct the full amplitude $\mathcal{A}_n$ from A_n.
In the large N limit,

$$|\mathcal{A}_n(1,\ldots,n)|^2 \sim N^{n-2} \sum_{perms} |A_n(1,\ldots,n)|^2$$

Common methods : Spinor Helicity Formalism

- In Weyl (chiral) representation, each helicity state is represented by a bi-spinor ($a = 1, 2$)

$$u_+(p) = \lambda_{pa}, \qquad u_-(p) = \tilde{\lambda}_p^{\dot{a}},$$
$$\overline{u_+(p)} = \tilde{\lambda}_{p\dot{a}}, \qquad \overline{u_-(p)} = \lambda_p^a$$

so that

$$\begin{aligned} \langle ij \rangle &= \overline{u_-(p_i)} u_+(p_j) = \lambda_i^a \lambda_{ja} = \epsilon_{ab} \lambda_i^a \lambda_j^b \\ [ij] &= \overline{u_+(p_i)} u_-(p_j) = \tilde{\lambda}_{i\dot{a}} \tilde{\lambda}_j^{\dot{a}} = -\epsilon_{\dot{a}\dot{b}} \tilde{\lambda}_i^{\dot{a}} \tilde{\lambda}_j^{\dot{b}} \end{aligned}$$

- We can write massless vector

$$p_{a\dot{a}} \equiv p_\mu \sigma^\mu_{a\dot{a}} = \lambda_{pa} \tilde{\lambda}_{p\dot{a}}$$

Common methods : Spinor Helicity Formalism

- Polarisation vectors for particle i:

$$\varepsilon^{-}_{ia\dot{a}} = \frac{\lambda_{ia}\tilde{\eta}_{\dot{a}}}{[\tilde{\lambda}_i\tilde{\eta}]}, \qquad \varepsilon^{+}_{ia\dot{a}} = \frac{\eta_a\tilde{\lambda}_{i\dot{a}}}{\langle\eta\lambda_i\rangle}$$

- For **real** momenta in Minkowski space,

$$\tilde{\lambda} = \lambda^*$$

- For space-time signature $(+,+,-,-)$, $\tilde{\lambda}, \lambda$ are real and independent
- Amplitudes are functions of the λ_i and $\tilde{\lambda}_i$

Off-shell methods: Feynman diagrams

- ✓ Direct link to Lagrangian
- ✓ Easy to adapt to any model
- ✓ Easy to include massive particles with/without spin
- ✓ Easy to automate
  $\Rightarrow$ tree-level packages `Madgraph/Grace/CompHep/...`
- ✓ Off-shell Berends-Giele recursion relations
  $\Rightarrow$ tree-level packages `Alpgen/HELAC/PHEGAS/...`
- ✗ Many Feynman diagrams
- ✗ Large cancellations between diagrams
- ✗ Loop amplitudes manpower intensive

Example

Multi-jet production at the LHC using HELAC/PHEGAS

Draggiotis, Kleiss, Papadopoloulos

# of jets	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
# of dist.processes	10	14	28	36	64	78	130
total # of processes	126	206	621	861	1862	2326	4342
$\sigma(nb)$	-	91.41	6.54	0.458	0.030	0.0022	0.00021
% Gluonic	-	45.7	39.2	35.7	35.1	33.8	26.6

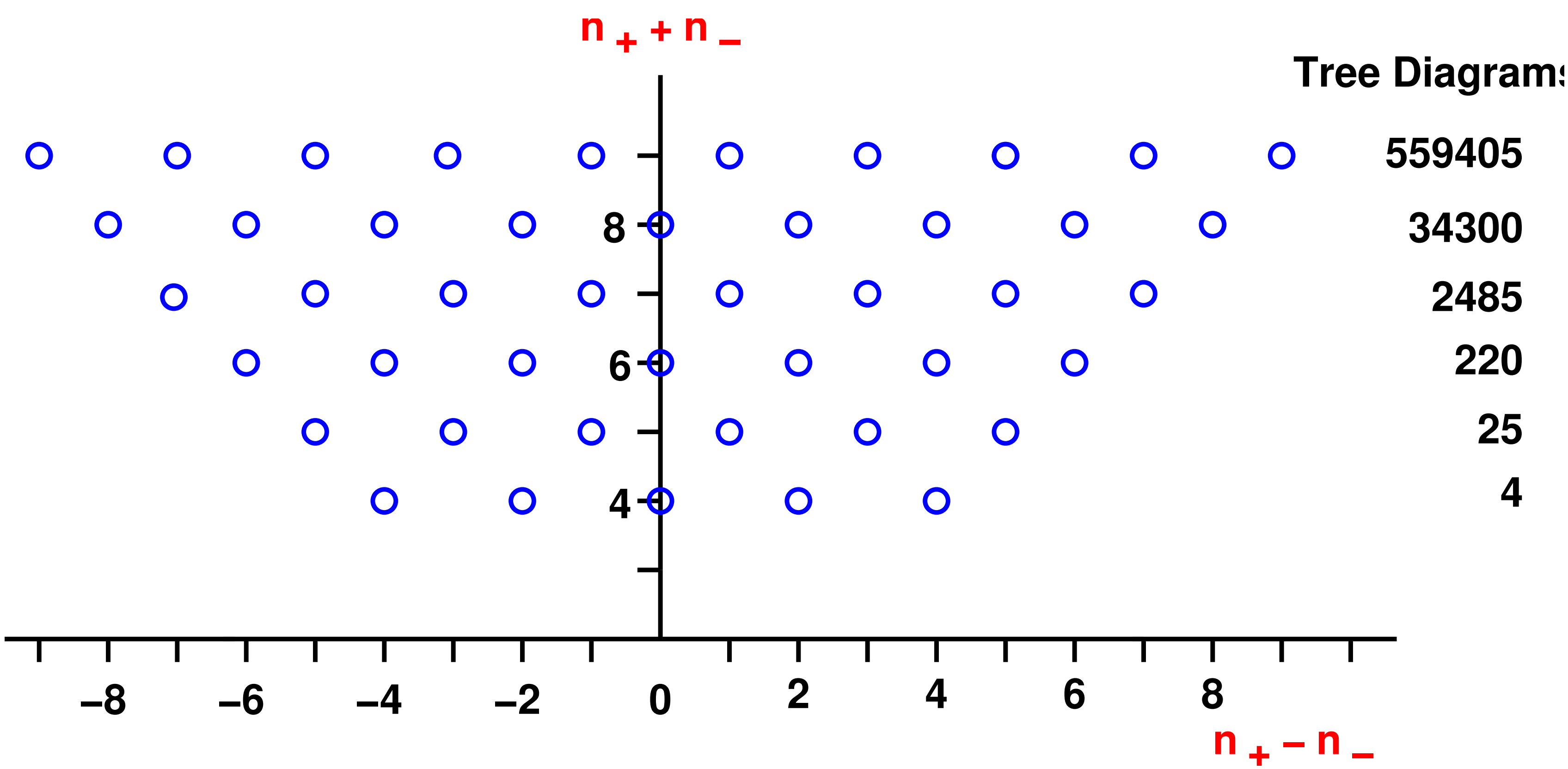
- The number of Feynman diagrams for an n gluon process increases very quickly with n

$\Rightarrow$ for the 10 gluon amplitude there are 10,525,900 diagrams

$\Rightarrow$ Feynman diagrams very inefficient for many legs

- Control the quantum numbers of the scattering particles

Gluonic helicity amplitudes



Each row describes scattering with n_+ positive helicities and n_- negative helicities.
Each circle represents an allowed helicity configuration - from all positive on the right to all negative on the left

Gluonic helicity amplitudes

For example, the result of computing the 25 diagrams for the five-gluon process yields

$$\begin{aligned} A_5(1^\pm,2^+,3^+,4^+,5^+) &= 0 \\ A_5(1^-,2^-,3^+,4^+,5^+) &= \frac{\langle 12\rangle^4}{\langle 12\rangle\langle 23\rangle\langle 34\rangle\langle 45\rangle\langle 51\rangle} \end{aligned}$$

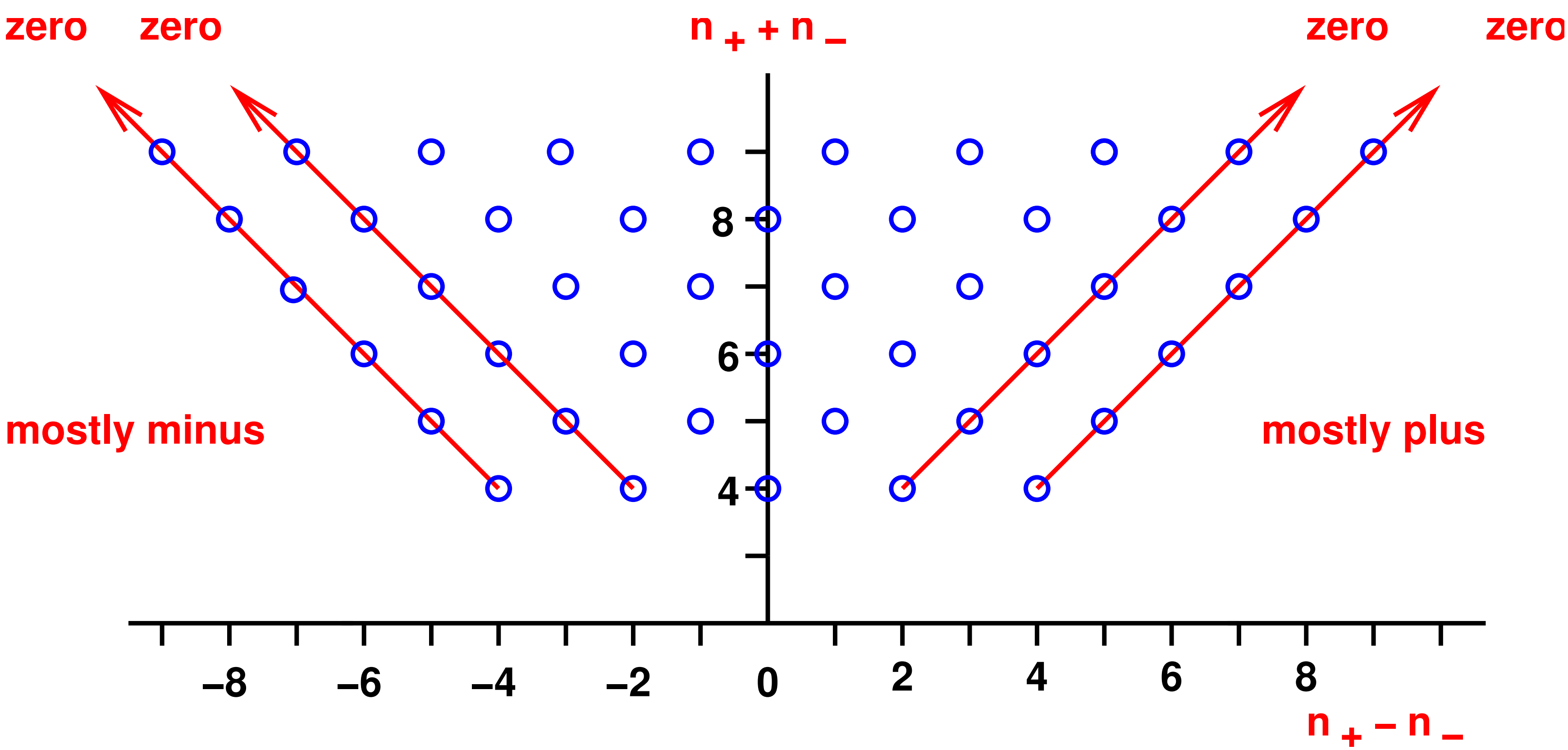
In fact, for n point amplitudes,

$$\begin{aligned} A_n(1^\pm,2^+,3^+,,\ldots,n^+) &= 0 \\ A_n(1^-,2^-,3^+,\ldots,n^+) &= \frac{\langle 12\rangle^4}{\langle 12\rangle\langle 23\rangle\cdots\langle n1\rangle} \end{aligned}$$

Maximally helicity violating (MHV) amplitudes

Parke, Taylor; Berends, Giele

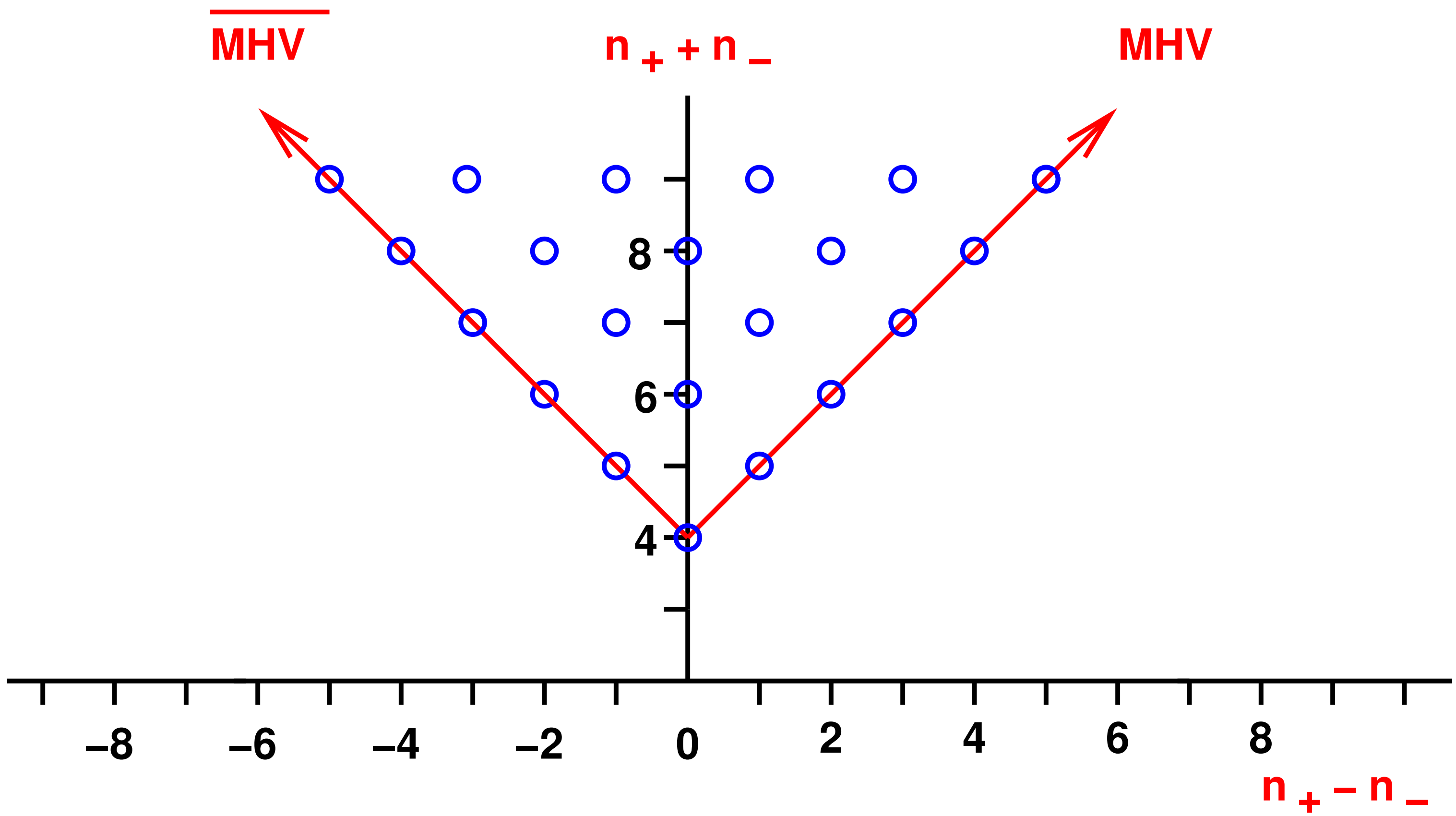
Gluonic helicity amplitudes



$$A_n(1^{\pm}, 2^{+}, 3^{+}, , \ldots, n^{+}) = 0$$

effective tree-level supersymmetry

Gluonic helicity amplitudes



$$A_n(1^-, 2^-, 3^+, \ldots, n^+) \quad = \quad \frac{\langle 12 \rangle^4}{\langle 12 \rangle \langle 23 \rangle \cdots \langle n1 \rangle}$$

Twistor Space

Penrose, 1967

Amplitudes in twistor space obtained by Fourier transform with respect to positive helicity spinors,

$$\tilde{\lambda}_{\dot{a}} = i \frac{\partial}{\partial \mu^{\dot{a}}}, \qquad \mu^{\dot{a}} = i \frac{\partial}{\partial \tilde{\lambda}_{\dot{a}}}$$

Momentum conservation yields

$$\delta\left(\sum k_i\right) = \int d^4x \exp\left(i x^{a\dot{a}} \sum_j \lambda_{ja} \tilde{\lambda}_{j\dot{a}}\right)$$

so that the amplitude in twistor space is

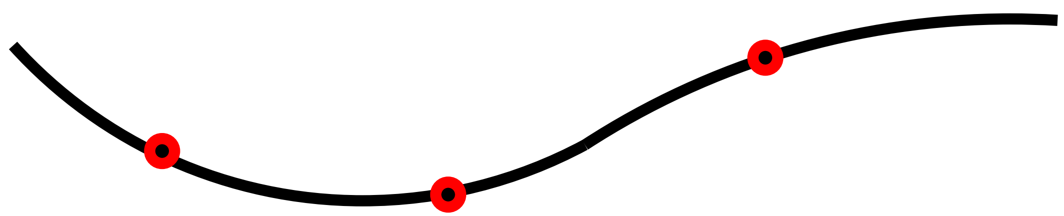
$$\tilde{A}(\lambda_i, \mu_{\dot{i}}) = \int d^4x \int \prod_i \frac{d^2\tilde{\lambda}_i}{(2\pi)^2} \exp\left(i \sum_j \left(\mu_j^{\dot{a}} + x^{a\dot{a}} \lambda_{ja}\right) \tilde{\lambda}_{j\dot{a}}\right) A(\lambda_i, \tilde{\lambda}_i)$$

Twistor Space

Witten, hep-th/0312171

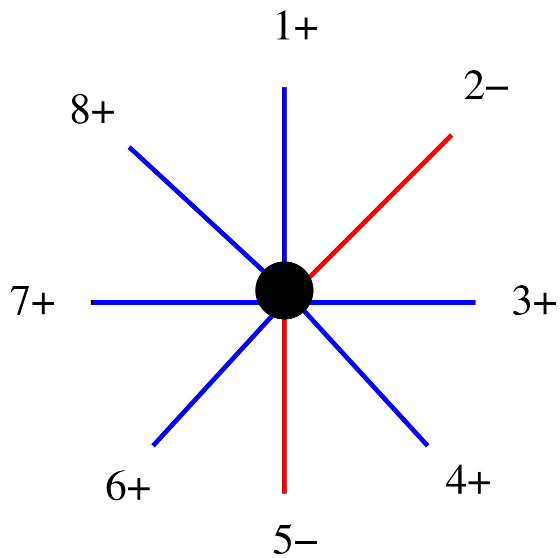
Witten observed that in twistor space external points lie on certain algebraic curves
$\Rightarrow$ degree of curve is related to the number of negative helicities and loops

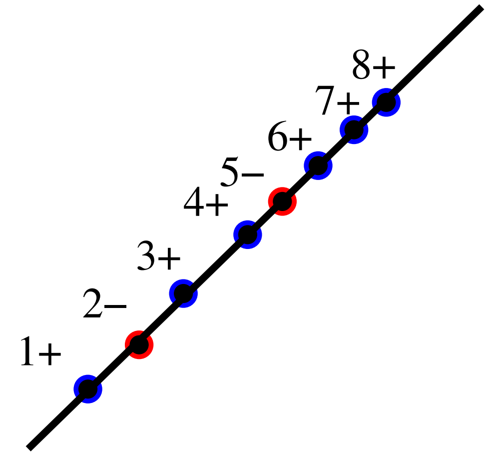
$$d = n_- - 1 + l$$



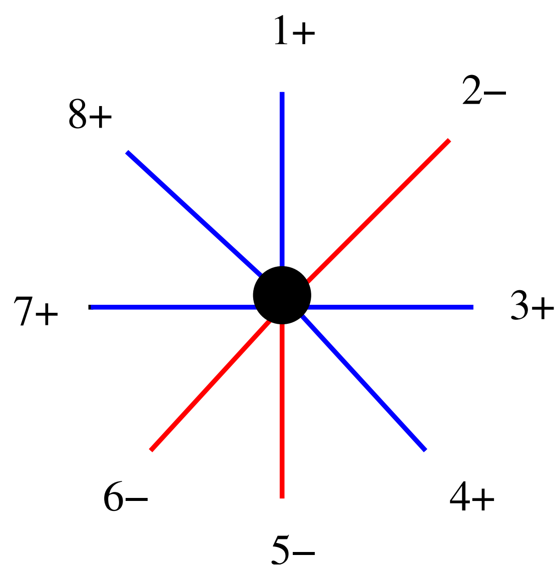
Twistor Space

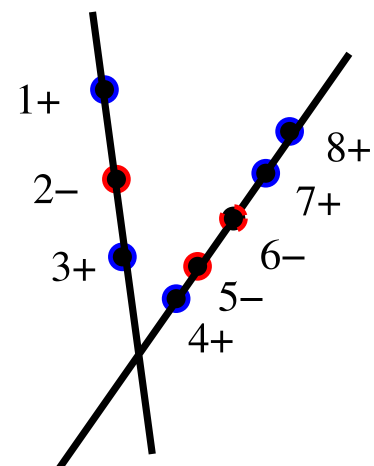
MHV





NMHV



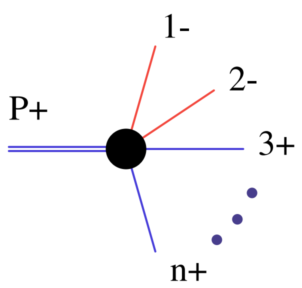


MHV rules

Start from on-shell MHV amplitude and define off-shell vertices

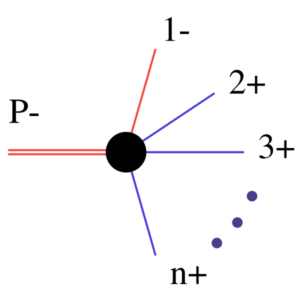
Cachazo, Svrcek and Witten

$$V(1^-,2^-,3^+,\ldots,n^+,P^+) = \frac{\langle 12\rangle^4}{\langle 12\rangle\cdots\langle n-1n\rangle\langle nP\rangle\langle P1\rangle}$$



and

$$V(1^-,2^+,3^+,\ldots,n^+,P^-) = \frac{\langle 1P\rangle^4}{\langle 12\rangle\cdots\langle n-1n\rangle\langle nP\rangle\langle P1\rangle}$$



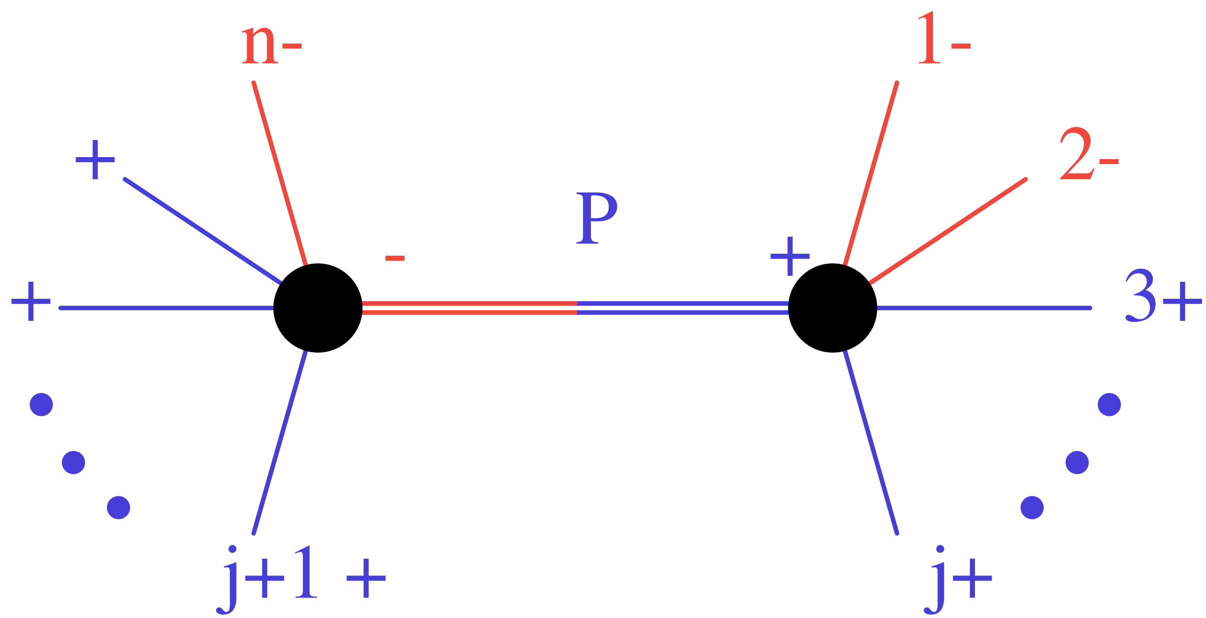
Crucial step is off-shell continuation $P^2 \neq 0$:

$$\langle iP\rangle = \frac{\langle i^-|\not{P}|\eta^-]}{[P\eta]} = \sum_j \frac{\langle i^-|\not{j}|\eta^-]}{[P\eta]}$$

where $P = \sum_j j$ and η is lightlike auxiliary vector

MHV rules

Must connect up a positive helicity off-shell line to a negative helicity off-shell line with a scalar propagator



Connecting two MHV's $\Rightarrow$ amplitude with 3 negative helicities

Connecting three MHV's $\Rightarrow$ amplitude with 4 negative helicities

etc.

Example: six gluon scattering

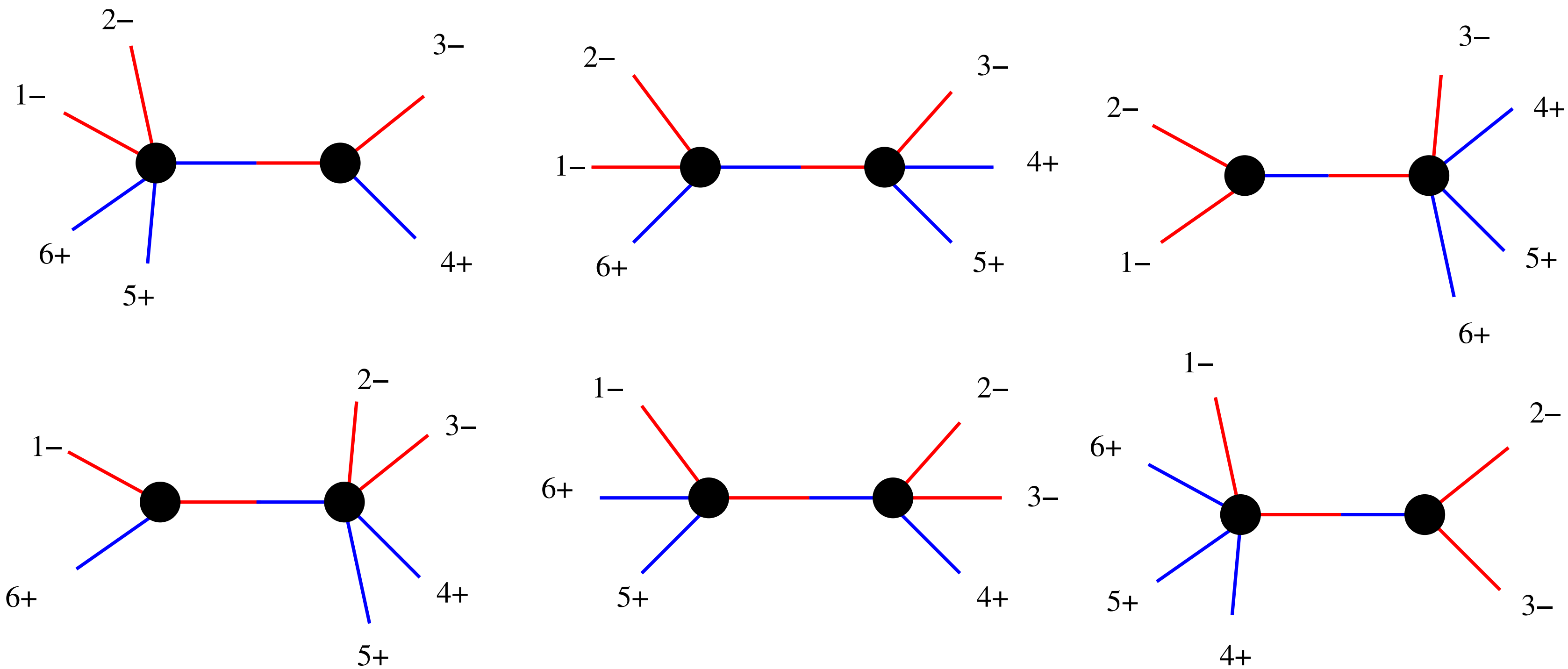
As an example, lets use the MHV rules to calculate one of the first non-MHV amplitudes

$$A_6(1^-, 2^-, 3^-, 4^+, 5^+, 6^+)$$

Step 1 Draw all the allowed MHV diagrams

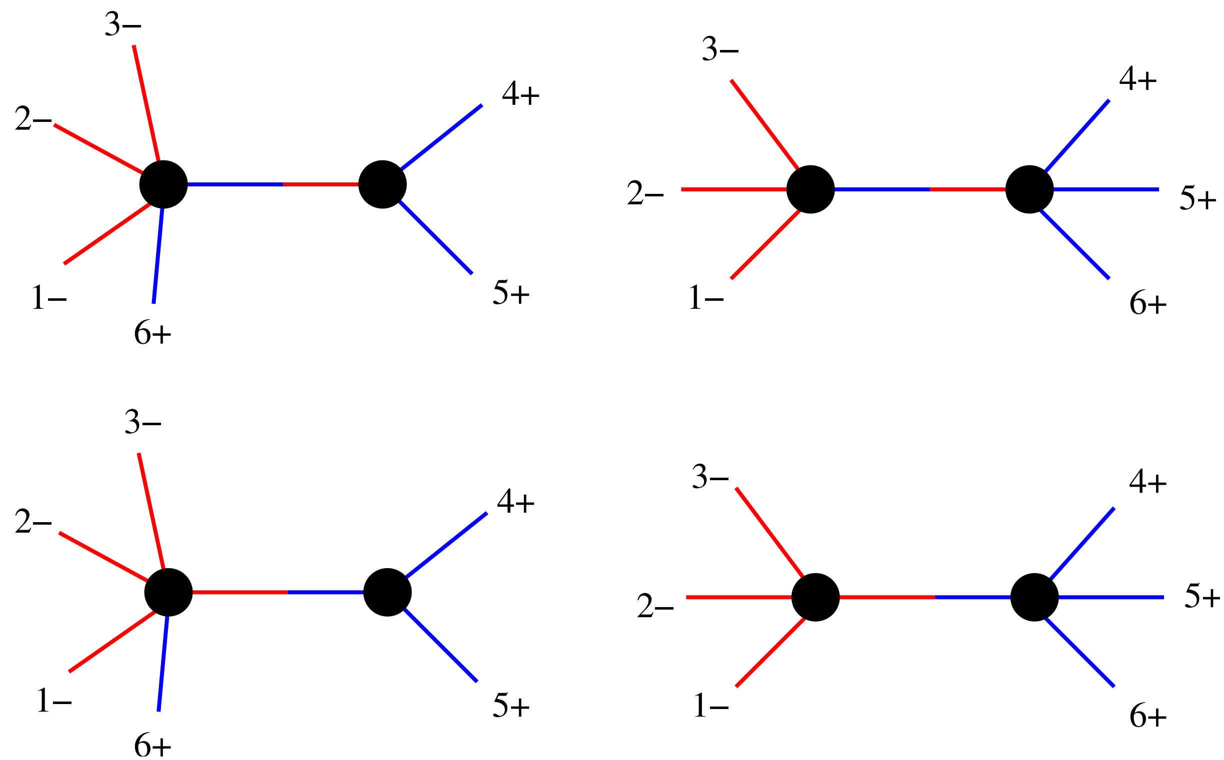
Example: six gluon scattering

There are six MHV graphs



Example: six gluon scattering

Some graphs are not allowed e.g.



Example: six gluon scattering

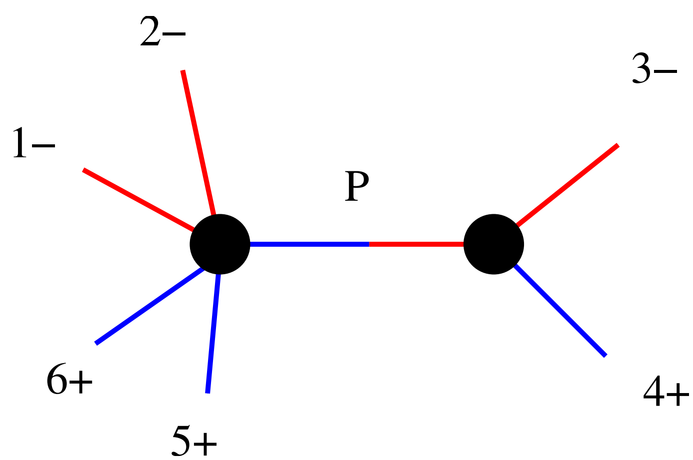
As an example, lets use the MHV rules to calculate one of the first non-MHV amplitudes

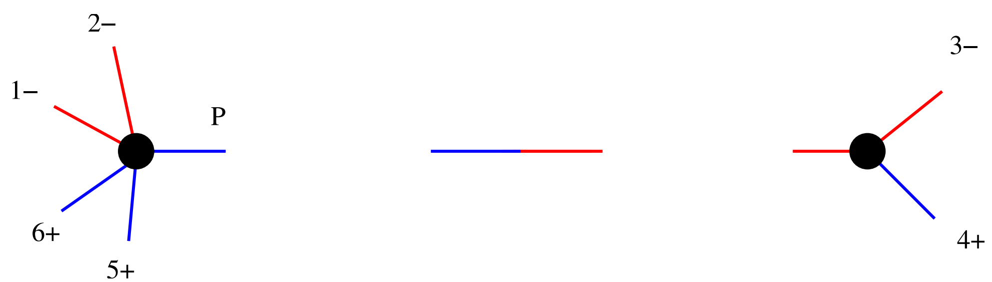
$$A_6(1^-, 2^-, 3^-, 4^+, 5^+, 6^+)$$

Step 1 Draw all the allowed MHV diagrams

Step 2 Apply MHV rules to each diagram

Example: six gluon scattering: diagram 1

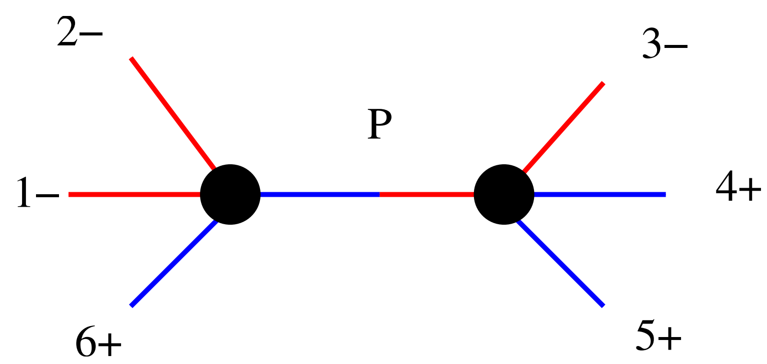


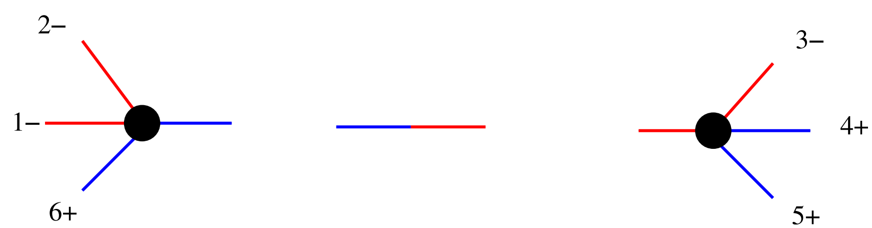


$$\frac{\langle 12\rangle^4}{\langle 56\rangle\langle 61\rangle\langle 12\rangle\langle 2|P|\eta]\langle 5|P|\eta]} \times \frac{1}{s_{34}} \times \frac{\langle 3|P|\eta]^4}{\langle 34\rangle\langle 4|P|\eta]\langle 3|P|\eta]}$$

with $P = 3 + 4 = -(1 + 2 + 5 + 6)$

Example: six gluon scattering: diagram 2





$$\frac{\langle 12\rangle^4}{\langle 61\rangle\langle 12\rangle\langle 2|P|\eta]\langle 6|P|\eta]} \times \frac{1}{s_{345}} \times \frac{\langle 3|P|\eta]^4}{\langle 34\rangle\langle 45\rangle\langle 5|P|\eta]\langle 3|P|\eta]}$$

with $P = 3 + 4 + 5 = -(1 + 2 + 6)$

Example: six gluon scattering

As an example, lets use the MHV rules to calculate one of the first non-MHV amplitudes

$$A_6(1^-, 2^-, 3^-, 4^+, 5^+, 6^+)$$

Step 1 Draw all the allowed MHV diagrams

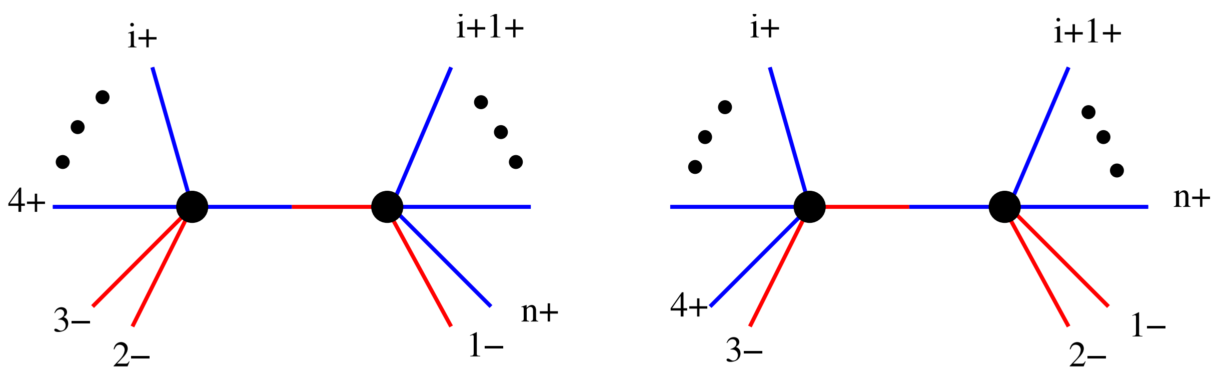
Step 2 Apply MHV rules to each diagram

Step 3 Add up diagrams and check η independence

Next-to MHV amplitude for n gluons

Simplest case: $A_n(1^-, 2^-, 3^-, 4^+, \ldots, n^+)$ $\qquad$ $2(n-3)$ **graphs**

Cachazo, Svrcek and Witten



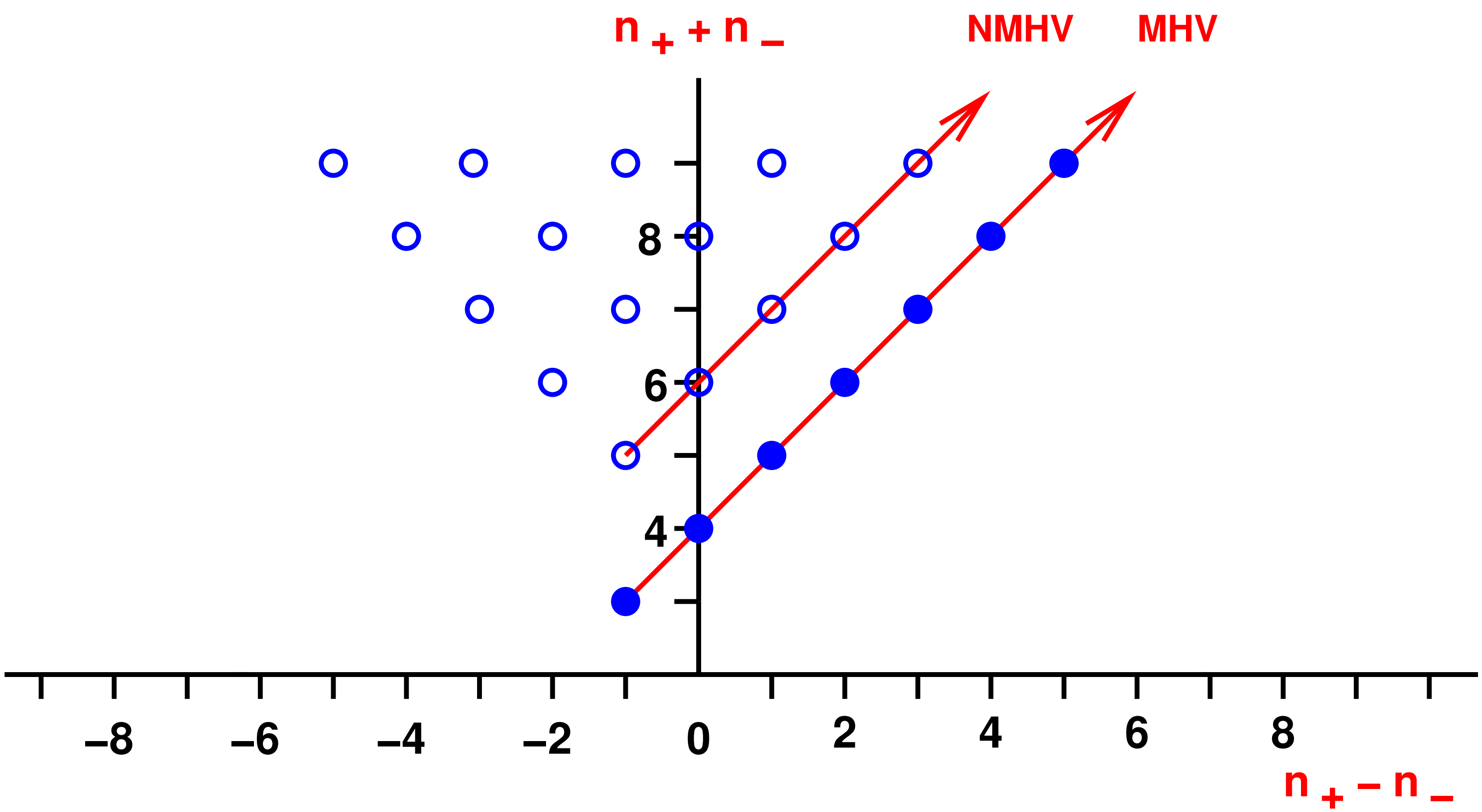
$$
\begin{aligned}
A \quad &= \sum_{i=3}^{n-1} \frac{\langle 1|(2,i)|\eta]^3}{\langle (i+1)|(2,i)|\eta]\langle i+1\, i+2\rangle \ldots \langle n1\rangle} \frac{1}{s_{2,i}^2} \frac{\langle 23\rangle^3}{\langle 2|(2,i)|\eta]\langle 34\rangle \cdots \langle i|(2,i)|\eta]} \\
&+ \sum_{i=4}^{n} \frac{\langle 12\rangle^3}{\langle 2|(3,i)|\eta]\langle (i+1)|(3,i)|\eta] \ldots \langle n1\rangle} \frac{1}{s_{3,i}^2} \frac{\langle 3|(3,i)|\eta]^3}{\langle 34\rangle \cdots \langle i-1\, i\rangle\rangle\langle i|(3,i)|\eta]} .
\end{aligned}
$$

where $(k,i) = k + \cdots + i$ **is the off-shell momentum**

$\Rightarrow$ **Lorentz invariant and gauge invariant expressions**

Generating all the tree amplitudes

Amplitudes with $i-$ and $j+$ helicities



- MHV rules always adds one negative helicity and any number of positive helicities
  $\Rightarrow$ maps out all allowed tree amplitudes

Other processes

MHV rules have been generalised to many other processes

- ✓ with massless fermions - quarks, gluinos

  Georgiou and Khoze; Wu and Zhu; Georgiou, EWNG and Khoze

- ✓ with massless scalars - squarks

  Georgiou, EWNG and Khoze; Khoze

- ✓ with an external Higgs boson

  Dixon, EWNG, Khoze; Badger, EWNG, Khoze

- ✓ with an external weak boson

  Bern, Forde, Kosower and Mastrolia

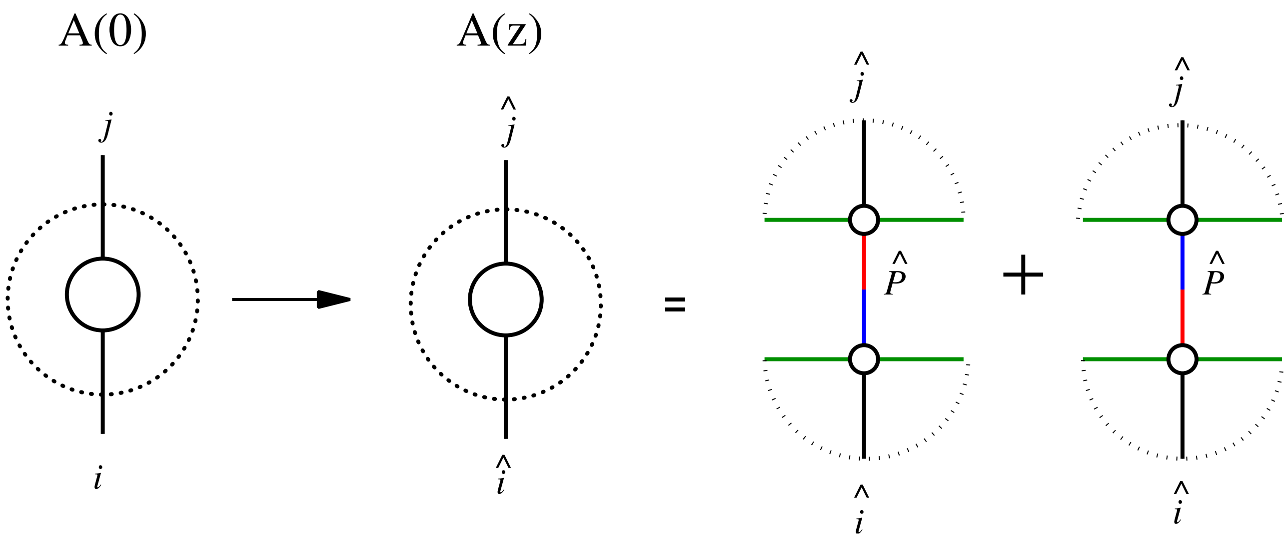
Has provided **new** analytic results for n-particle amplitudes
Also useful for studying infrared properties of amplitudes

Birthwright, EWNG, Khoze and Marquard

BCFW on-shell recursion relations

Britto, Cachazo, Feng; Roiban, Spradlin, Volovich

Lets consider an n particle amplitude $A(0)$.



hatted momenta are shifted to put on-shell

$$\hat{i} = i + z\eta, \qquad \hat{j} = j - z\eta, \qquad \hat{P} = P + z\eta$$

$\Rightarrow$ each vertex is an **on-shell** amplitude

BCFW recursion relations

- It turns out that the shift η is not a momentum, but

$$\eta = \lambda_i \tilde{\lambda}_j \qquad OR \qquad \eta = \lambda_j \tilde{\lambda}_i$$

- The parameter z is fixed by $\hat{P}^2 = 0$

$$z = \frac{P^2}{\langle j|P|i]}$$

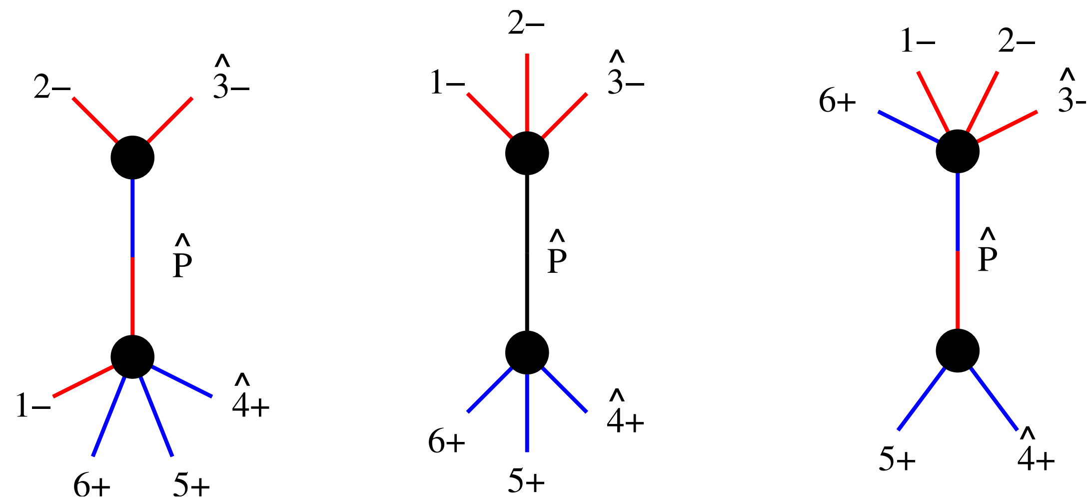
- Easy to prove that by complex analysis based on fact that only simple poles in z occur and that $A(z)$ vanishes as $z \to \infty$

Britto, Cachazo, Feng and Witten

- Requires on-shell three-point vertex contributions - both MHV and $\overline{\mathrm{MHV}}$.

BCFW - six gluon example

If we select 3 and 4 to be the special gluons, there are only three diagrams (for any helicities)



For this helicity assignment, the middle diagram is zero!.

$A_6(1^-, 2^-, 3^-, 4^+, 5^+, 6^+)$

$$= \frac{1}{\langle 5|\not{3}+\not{4}|2\rangle}\left(\frac{\langle 1|\not{2}+\not{3}|4\rangle^3}{[23][34]\langle 56\rangle\langle 61\rangle s_{234}} + \frac{\langle 3|\not{4}+\not{5}|6\rangle^3}{[61][12]\langle 34\rangle\langle 45\rangle s_{345}}\right)$$

Extremely compact analytic results for up to 8 gluons

Other processes

BCF recursion relations have been generalised to other processes

✓ with massless fermions - quarks, gluinos

Luo and Wen

✓ gravitons

Bedford, Brandhuber, Spence and Travaglini; Cachazo and Svrcek

There is nothing (in principle) to stop this approach being applied to particles with mass.

✓ massive coloured scalars

Badger, EWNG, Khoze and Svrcek

✓ massive vector bosons and heavy quarks

Badger, EWNG and Khoze

One loop amplitudes

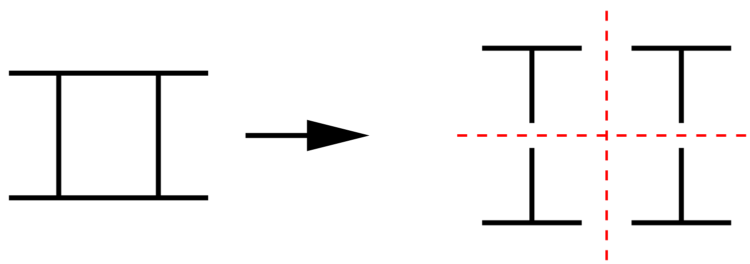
- So far, supersymmetry was not a major factor - tree level amplitudes same for $\mathcal{N}=4$ $\mathcal{N}=1$ and QCD
- Not true at the loop level due to circulating states

$$
\begin{aligned}
A_n^{\mathcal{N}=4} &= A_n^{[1]} + 4A_n^{[1/2]} + 3A_n^{[0]} \\
A_n^{\mathcal{N}=1,chiral} &= A_n^{[1/2]} + A_n^{[0]} \\
A_n^{glue} &= A_n^{\mathcal{N}=4} - 4A_n^{\mathcal{N}=1,chiral} + A_n^{[0]}
\end{aligned}
$$

- All plus and nearly all-plus amplitudes do not vanish for non-supersymmetric QCD
- A lot of progress by a lot of people

One loop amplitudes

- Key point is that loop amplitudes contain **both poles** and **cuts** - e.g. $\log(x)$ has cut for negative x
- **Cut** contributions are constructible by using **unitarity** - Cut lines are **on-shell** and 4-dimensional



Bern, Dixon, Dunbar, Kosower; Britto, Cachazo, Feng

- **Pole** contributions are amenable to adapted BCFW recursion relations

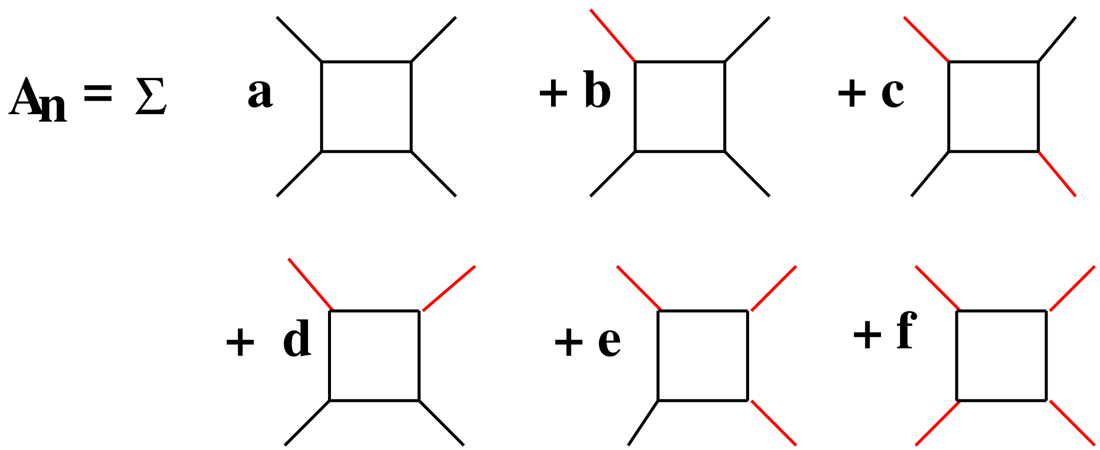
Bern, Dixon, Kosower

SUSY QCD loops

- ✓ $\mathcal{N}=4$ and $\mathcal{N}=1$ one-loop amplitudes are constructible from their 4-dimensional cuts
  $\Rightarrow$ employ unitarity techniques

  Bern, Dixon, Dunbar, Kosower

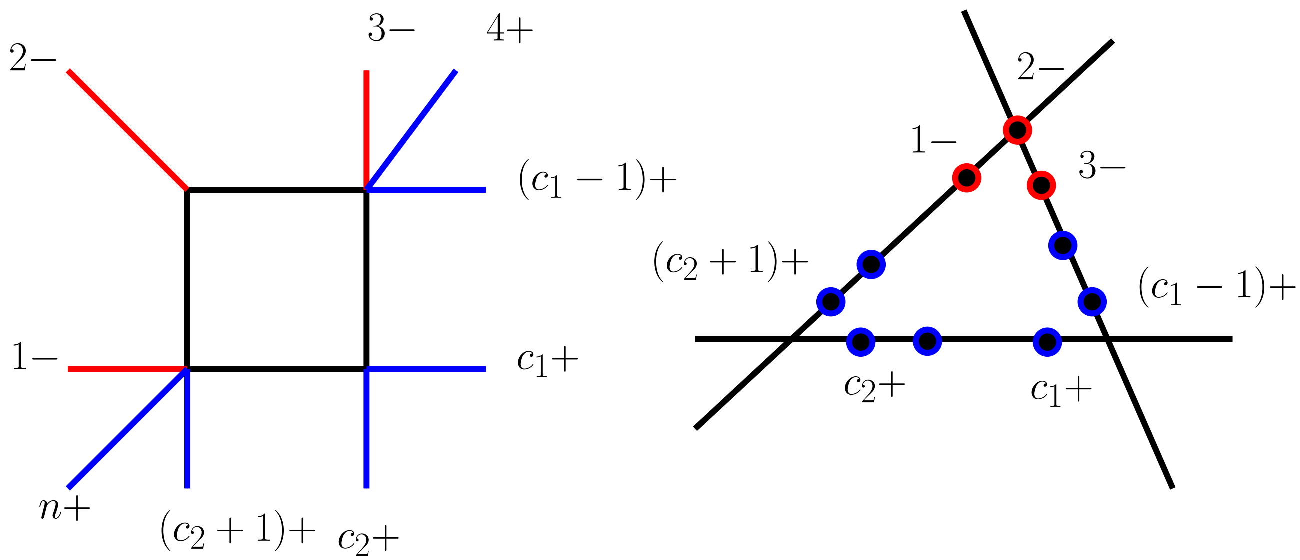
- ✓ For $\mathcal{N}=4$ **all** amplitudes are a linear combination of known box integrals



Twistor space interpretation

- **Coefficients of boxes have very interesting structures.**

Bern, Del Duca, Dixon, Kosower; Britto, Cachazo, Feng

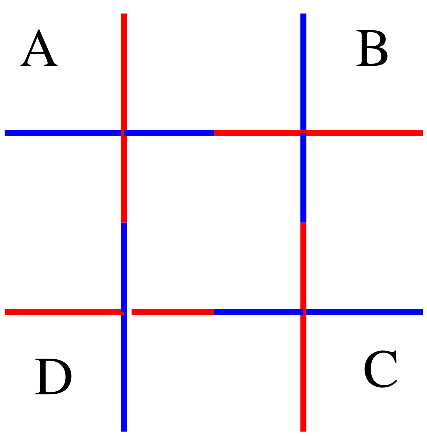


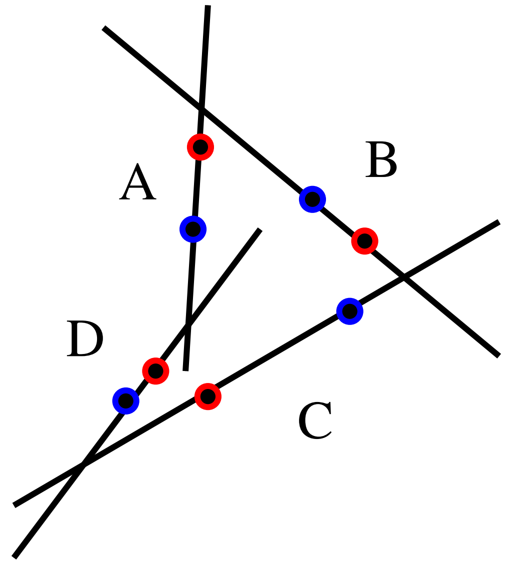
Twistor space interpretation

- **Four mass box first appears in eight-point amplitude with four negative and four positive helicities**

Bern, Dixon, Kosower

e.g.





QCD loops

QCD amplitudes more complicated

(a) Not 4-dimensional cut constructible. Rational function contribution not probed by 4-d cut

(b) All plus and almost all plus amplitudes not zero - but rational functions. Not protected by SWI.

Nevertheless, all four-point and five-point amplitudes known:
Recent progress

✓ On-shell recurrence relations for all plus and almost all plus amplitudes

Bern, Dixon and Kosower, hep-ph/0501240 and 0505055

Recursion relations complicated by double pole terms and boundary terms

✓ Rational parts of infrared divergent amplitudes computed using **on-shell** recursion relation

Bern, Dixon and Kosower, hep-ph/0507005

Summary

- **On-shell** techniques are a very exciting and rapidly developing field
- **MHV** rules for tree-level
  Very simple way of deriving n-point amplitudes for massless partons
- **BCFW** recursion relations for tree-level
  Very powerful method for deriving amplitudes for both massless and massive particles

  Badger, EWNG, Khoze and Svrcek

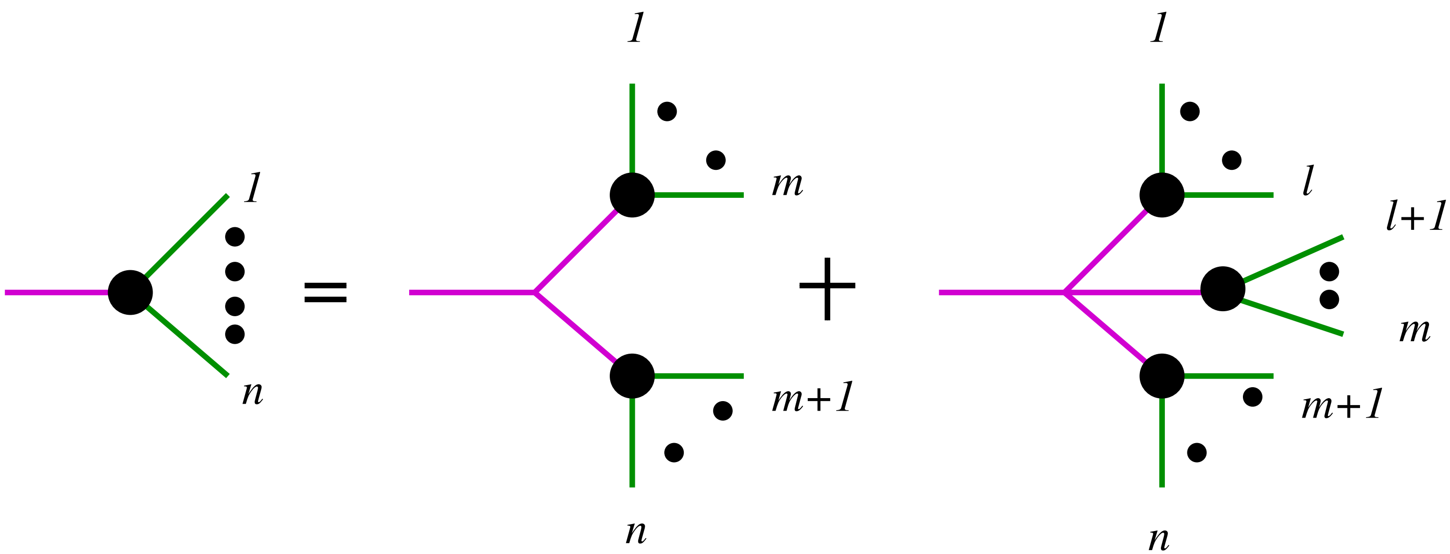
- **Generalised unitarity** and one-loop amplitudes
  SUSY amplitudes cut constructible - coefficients of loop integrals can be *read off* from graphs
  QCD amplitudes contain cut-non constructible parts. These simple pole terms can be attacked using the BCFW relations

  Bern, Dixon, Kosower

  Expect all one-loop six-point gluon amplitudes soon

Berends-Giele : Off-shell recursion relations

Full amplitudes can be built up from simpler amplitudes with fewer particles



Purple gluons are off-shell, green gluons are on-shell.
This is a recursion relation built from off-shell currents.

Berends, Giele

Particularly suited to numerical solution

ALPGEN, HELAC/PHEGAS