

The diagram illustrates the kinematics of N-jet processes in Soft-Collinear Effective Theory (SCET). It features a central vertex from which several jets emerge. Two primary collinear jets are shown as horizontal grey arrows, labeled C_b on the left and C_a on the right. Two other collinear jets are shown as red arrows pointing upwards and downwards, labeled C_1 and C_2 . Soft gluon emissions are represented by wavy yellow lines. Angles θ_1 and θ_2 are indicated between the collinear jets and the soft gluon emission lines. A dashed line represents the soft-collinear direction.

Soft-Collinear Effective Field Theory

N -jet processes

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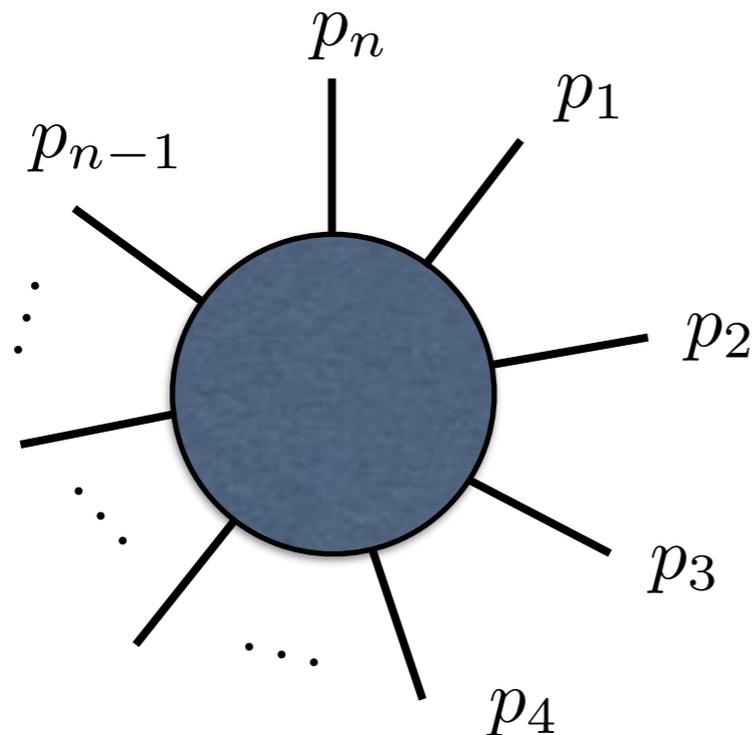
N -jet processes

The simplest application of SCET involve energetic particles in two directions. Interesting to look at the generalization to more directions for

- jet processes at LHC (three directions, even for 1-jet processes!)
- non-global observables (sensitive to emissions from individual hard partons)
- study IR structure of N -point amplitudes

n -point Green's function

Start with n -point off-shell Green's functions in the limit of small off-shellness p_i^2 and large momentum transfers s_{ij} .



$$s_{ij} = (p_i \pm p_j)^2$$

+ if both incoming or outgoing
- otherwise

$$p_k^2 \ll |s_{ij}|$$

Introduce reference vectors $n_i = (1, \hat{n}_i)$ and $\bar{n}_i = (1, -\hat{n}_i)$ with $n_i \cdot \bar{n}_i = 2$.

SCET for n -jet processes

The effective theory contains collinear fields ξ_i , A_i^μ for each direction and a soft fields q_s , A_s^μ which interact with the collinear sectors.

Convenient to use building blocks

$$\chi_i(x) = W_i^\dagger(x) \xi_i(x) = W_i^\dagger(x) \frac{\not{n}_i \not{\bar{n}}_i}{4} \psi_i(x),$$

$$\mathcal{A}_\perp^\mu(x) = W_i^\dagger(x) [iD_\perp^\mu, W_i(x)].$$

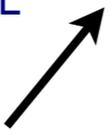
where $W_i(x) = \mathbf{P} \exp \left(ig \int_{-\infty}^0 ds \bar{n}_i \cdot A_i(x + s\bar{n}_i) \right)$

Note: the $\mathcal{A}_{i\perp}^\mu$ components are sufficient since $n \cdot \mathcal{A}_i$ is power suppressed and $\bar{n} \cdot \mathcal{A}_i = 0$.

Collinear Lagrangian

The collinear Lagrangians have exactly the same in each sector, only the reference vectors are different.

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{SCET}} = \bar{q}_s i\not{D}_s q_s - \frac{1}{4} (F_{\mu\nu}^{sa})^2$$

$$+ \sum_{i=1}^n \left\{ \bar{\xi}_i \frac{\not{n}_i}{2} \left[i n_i \cdot D + i\not{D}_{ci\perp} \frac{1}{i\bar{n}_i \cdot D_{ci}} i\not{D}_{ci\perp} \right] \xi_i - \frac{1}{4} (F_{\mu\nu}^{cia})^2 \right\}$$


Only the $n_i \cdot A_s(x_-)$ components interacts with the i -collinear fields.

$$\left[x_-^\mu = \bar{n}_i \cdot x \frac{n_i^\mu}{2} \right]$$

Decoupling transformation

The soft interactions can be decoupled from the collinear Lagrangian by the field redefinitions

$$\begin{aligned}\chi_i(x) &= S_i(x_-) \chi_i^{(0)}(x), \\ \mathcal{A}_{i\perp}^\mu(x) &= S_i(x_-) \mathcal{A}_{i\perp}^{(0)\mu}(x) S_i^\dagger(x_-)\end{aligned}$$

with

$$S_i(x) = \mathbf{P} \exp \left(ig \int_{-\infty}^0 dt n_i \cdot A_s^a(x + tn_i) t^a \right),$$

To have a unified treatment of quarks and gluons, let's denote a generic collinear field by $(\phi_i)_{a_i}^{\alpha_i}(x)$, where a_i is the color index and α_i the Lorentz/Dirac index. For such a field, the decoupling takes the form

$$(\phi_i)_{a_i}^{\alpha_i}(x) = [\mathbf{S}_i(x_-)]_{a_i b_i} (\phi_i)^{(0)}_{b_i}{}^{\alpha_i}(x)$$

where \mathbf{S}_i is the soft Wilson line in the appropriate color representation \mathbf{T}_i^a . For example

$$\mathbf{T}_i^a = t^a \quad \text{for quarks}$$

$$\mathbf{T}_i^a = -(t^a)^T \quad \text{for anti-quark}$$

 gives anti-path ordering

Color-space formalism

Basetto, Ciafaloni, Marchesini '84; Catani, Seymour '96

Represent amplitudes as vectors in color space:

$$|c_1, c_2, \dots, c_n\rangle$$

← color index of first parton

Color generator for i^{th} parton $\mathbf{T}_i^a |c_1, c_2, \dots, c_n\rangle$ acts as a matrix:

- t^a for quarks, $-(t^a)^T$ for q's and $-if^{abc}$ for gluons
- product $\mathbf{T}_i \cdot \mathbf{T}_j = \sum_a \mathbf{T}_i^a \mathbf{T}_j^a$ (commutative)
- charge conservation $\sum_i^a \mathbf{T}_i^a = 0$ implies:

$$\sum_{i \neq j} \mathbf{T}_i \cdot \mathbf{T}_j = - \sum_i \mathbf{T}_i^2 = - \sum_i C_i$$

← C_F or C_A

Leading-power n -jet operators

The leading power operator contains *exactly one* collinear field (χ_i , $\bar{\chi}_i$, or $\mathcal{A}_{i\perp}$) from each sector.

$$\mathcal{H}_n^{\text{eff}} = \int dt_1 \dots dt_n \tilde{\mathcal{C}}_{\alpha_1 \dots \alpha_n}^{a_1 \dots a_n}(t_1, \dots, t_n, \mu) \\ \times (\phi_1)_{a_1}^{\alpha_1}(x + t_1 \bar{n}_1) \dots (\phi_n)_{a_n}^{\alpha_n}(x + t_n \bar{n}_n)$$

Uncommon to let the Wilson coefficients depend on color and spin indices, but it allow us to write $\mathcal{H}_n^{\text{eff}}$ in color-space notation as

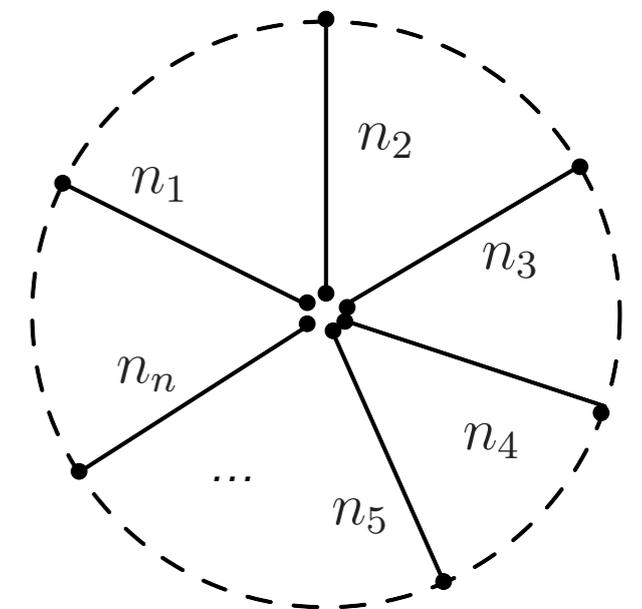
$$\mathcal{H}_n^{\text{eff}} = \int dt_1 \dots dt_n \langle O_n(\{\underline{t}\}, \mu) | \tilde{\mathcal{C}}_n(\{\underline{t}\}, \mu) \rangle$$

Soft function

The SCET decoupling transformation removes soft interactions among collinear fields and absorbs them into soft Wilson lines

$$\mathcal{S}_i = \mathbf{P} \exp \left[ig \int_{-\infty}^0 dt \, \underbrace{n_i}_{n_i \sim p_i \text{ light-like reference vector}} \cdot A_a(tn_i) T_i^a \right]$$

For n-jet operator one gets:



$$\mathcal{S}(\{\underline{n}\}, \mu) = \langle 0 | \mathcal{S}_1(0) \dots \mathcal{S}_n(0) | 0 \rangle = \exp(\tilde{\mathcal{S}}(\{\underline{n}\}, \mu))$$

Soft-collinear factorization: n jet case

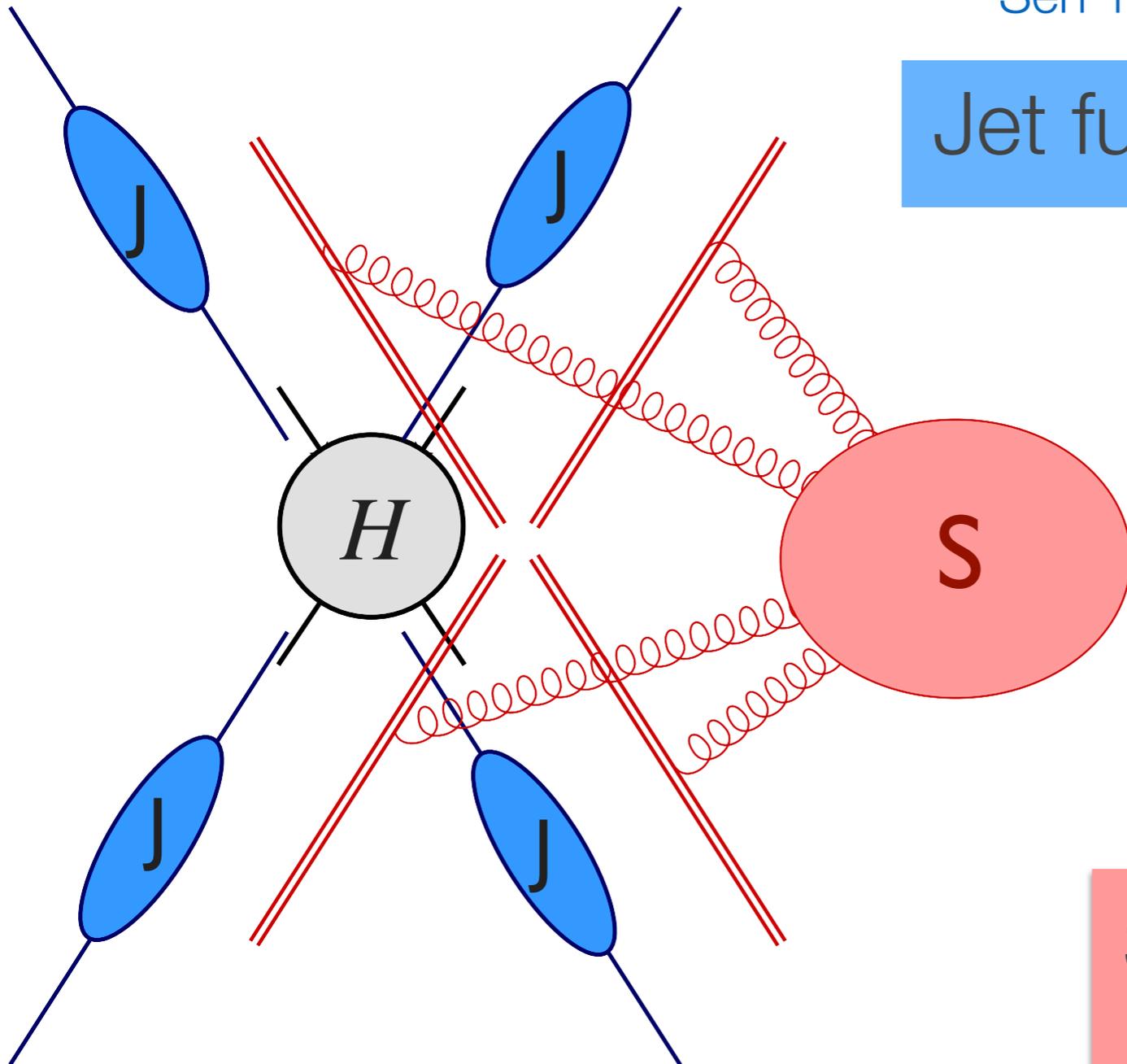
Sen 1983; Kidonakis, Oderda, Sterman 1998

Jet functions $J_i = J_i(p_i^2)$

Hard function $H \equiv C_n$
depends on large
momentum transfers
 s_{ij} between jets

Soft function S depends

on scales $\Lambda_{ij} = \frac{p_i^2 p_j^2}{s_{ij}}$



One-loop result

An explicit calculation gives the the following results for the divergent part of the soft and jet functions

$$\mathcal{J}_q(p^2, \mu) = 1 + \frac{\alpha_s}{4\pi} C_F \left(\frac{2}{\epsilon^2} + \frac{2}{\epsilon} \ln \frac{\mu^2}{-p^2} + \frac{3}{2\epsilon} \right) + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon^0),$$

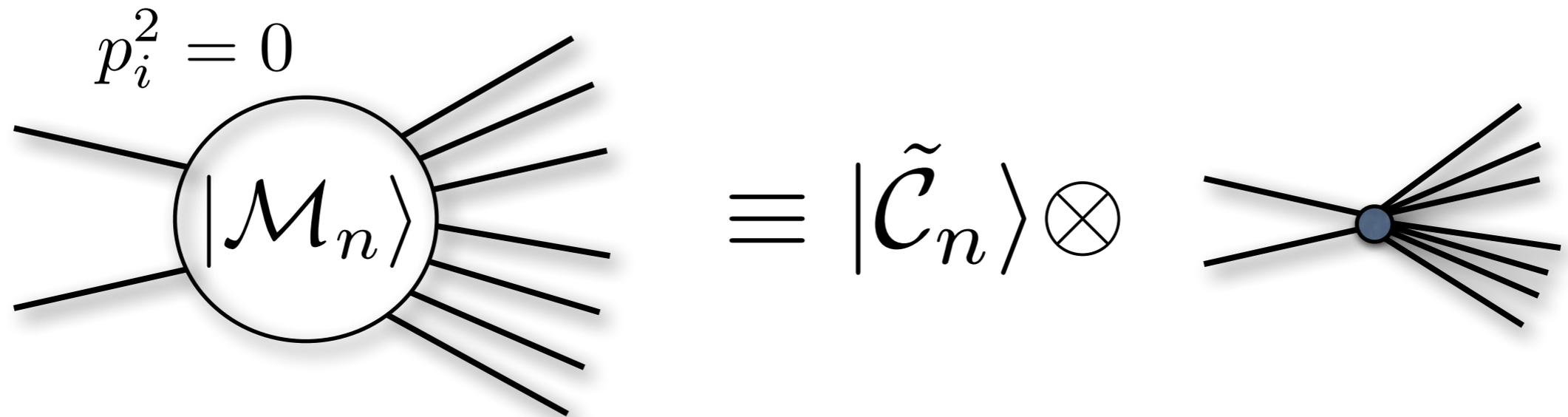
$$\mathcal{J}_g(p^2, \mu) = 1 + \frac{\alpha_s}{4\pi} \left[C_A \left(\frac{2}{\epsilon^2} + \frac{2}{\epsilon} \ln \frac{\mu^2}{-p^2} \right) + \frac{\beta_0}{2\epsilon} \right] + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon^0),$$

$$\mathcal{S}(\{\underline{p}\}, \mu) = 1 + \frac{\alpha_s}{4\pi} \sum_{(i,j)} \frac{\mathbf{T}_i \cdot \mathbf{T}_j}{2} \left(\frac{2}{\epsilon^2} + \frac{2}{\epsilon} \ln \frac{-s_{ij} \mu^2}{2(-p_i^2)(-p_j^2)} \right) + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon^0).$$

see our Sudakov form factor calculation in the first lecture!

On-shell matching

To determine the hard function, calculate on-shell amplitudes $|\mathcal{M}_n(\epsilon, \{\underline{p}\})\rangle$ in QCD and effective theory.



In effective theory **all loop corrections vanish on-shell**, because integrals are scaleless. The IR divergences of the on-shell amplitudes are equal to the UV divergences of \mathcal{C}_n .

symbolically:

$$\frac{1}{\epsilon_{\text{IR}}} = \frac{1}{\epsilon_{\text{UV}}} + \underbrace{\left(\frac{1}{\epsilon_{\text{IR}}} - \frac{1}{\epsilon_{\text{UV}}} \right)}_{\text{soft and collinear loop integrals}}$$

\nearrow on-shell amp. \uparrow \mathcal{C}_n

On-shell matching

The tree-level matrix element of SCET fields are

$$\langle 0 | (\chi_j)_\alpha^a(t_j \bar{n}_j) | p_i; a_i, s_i \rangle = \delta_{ij} \delta_{a_i a} e^{-it_i \bar{n}_i \cdot p_i} u_\alpha(p_i, s_i),$$

$$\langle 0 | (\mathcal{A}_{j\perp})_\mu^a(t_j \bar{n}_j) | p_i; a_i, s_i \rangle = \delta_{ij} \delta_{a_i a} e^{-it_i \bar{n}_i \cdot p_i} \epsilon_\mu(p_i, s_i).$$

and the convolutions in

$$\mathcal{H}_n^{\text{eff}} = \int dt_1 \dots dt_n \langle O_n(\{\underline{t}\}, \mu) | \tilde{\mathcal{C}}_n(\{\underline{t}\}, \mu) \rangle,$$

produce the Fourier transformed Wilson coefficient $\mathcal{C}_n(\{\underline{p}\}, \mu)$ which depend on the large momentum components $\bar{n}_i \cdot p_i$, or equivalently s_{ij} since

$$s_{ij} = 2\sigma_{ij} p_i \cdot p_j = \frac{1}{2} \sigma_{ij} n_i \cdot n_j \bar{n}_i \cdot p_i \bar{n}_j \cdot p_j + \mathcal{O}(\lambda)$$

$$p_i^\mu = \bar{n}_i \cdot p_i \frac{n_i^\mu}{2} + \mathcal{O}(\lambda)$$


Renormalization

So (up to spinors and polarization vectors) the on-shell amplitudes in QCD are equal to bare Wilson coefficients of n -jet operators in SCET.

Renormalize

$$|\mathcal{C}_n(\{\underline{p}\}, \mu)\rangle = \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0} \mathbf{Z}^{-1}(\epsilon, \{\underline{p}\}, \mu) |\mathcal{M}_n(\epsilon, \{\underline{p}\})\rangle$$

renormalization factor
(minimal subtraction of IR poles)



TB, Neubert 2009

- IR poles of scattering amplitudes mapped onto UV poles of n -jet SCET operators
- Multiplicative subtraction, controlled by RG

Renormalization

The scale dependence of the Wilson is governed by a renormalization group equation

$$\frac{d}{d \ln \mu} |\mathcal{C}_n(\{p\}, \mu)\rangle = \mathbf{\Gamma}(\mu, \{p\}) |\mathcal{C}_n(\{p\}, \mu)\rangle$$

anomalous-dimension matrix

with

$$\mathbf{\Gamma}(\{\underline{p}\}, \mu) = -\mathbf{Z}^{-1}(\epsilon, \{\underline{p}\}, \mu) \frac{d}{d \ln \mu} \mathbf{Z}(\epsilon, \{\underline{p}\}, \mu).$$

Formal solution

$$\mathbf{Z}(\epsilon, \{\underline{p}\}, \mu) = \mathbf{P} \exp \left[\int_{\mu}^{\infty} \frac{d\mu'}{\mu'} \mathbf{\Gamma}(\{\underline{p}\}, \mu') \right],$$

Two-loop result for Γ

Anomalous dimension is extremely simple:

$$\Gamma(\{\underline{p}\}, \mu) = \sum_{(i,j)} \frac{\mathbf{T}_i \cdot \mathbf{T}_j}{2} \gamma_{\text{cusp}}(\alpha_s) \ln \frac{\mu^2}{-(p_i + p_j)^2} + \sum_i \gamma^i(\alpha_s)$$

color charges
anom. dimensions,
known to three-loop order
sum over pairs
 $i \neq j$ of partons
 $(p_i + p_j)^2$

- simple structure, reminiscent of QED
- IR poles determined by color charges and momenta of external partons
- color dipole correlations, like at one-loop order

Z factor to three loops

Explicit result:

$$\ln \mathbf{Z}(\epsilon, \{\underline{p}\}, \mu) = \int_0^{\alpha_s} \frac{d\alpha}{\alpha} \frac{1}{2\epsilon - \beta(\alpha)/\alpha} \left[\Gamma(\{\underline{p}\}, \mu, \alpha) + \int_0^\alpha \frac{d\alpha'}{\alpha'} \frac{\Gamma'(\alpha')}{2\epsilon - \beta(\alpha')/\alpha'} \right]$$

d-dimensional β -function



where

$$\Gamma'(\alpha_s) \equiv \frac{\partial}{\partial \ln \mu} \Gamma(\{\underline{p}\}, \mu, \alpha_s) = -\gamma_{\text{cusp}}(\alpha_s) \sum_i C_i$$

Perturbative expansion:

$$\begin{aligned} \ln \mathbf{Z} &= \frac{\alpha_s}{4\pi} \left(\frac{\Gamma'_0}{4\epsilon^2} + \frac{\Gamma_0}{2\epsilon} \right) + \left(\frac{\alpha_s}{4\pi} \right)^2 \left[-\frac{3\beta_0 \Gamma'_0}{16\epsilon^3} + \frac{\Gamma'_1 - 4\beta_0 \Gamma_0}{16\epsilon^2} + \frac{\Gamma_1}{4\epsilon} \right] \\ &+ \left(\frac{\alpha_s}{4\pi} \right)^3 \left[\frac{11\beta_0^2 \Gamma'_0}{72\epsilon^4} - \frac{5\beta_0 \Gamma'_1 + 8\beta_1 \Gamma'_0 - 12\beta_0^2 \Gamma_0}{72\epsilon^3} + \frac{\Gamma'_2 - 6\beta_0 \Gamma_1 - 6\beta_1 \Gamma_0}{36\epsilon^2} + \frac{\Gamma_2}{6\epsilon} \right] + \dots \end{aligned}$$

\Rightarrow exponentiation yields Z factor at three loops!

Constraints on Γ

There are many constraints on the anomalous dimension

- **Soft-Collinear factorization** relates

$$\Gamma_H = \Gamma_S + \sum_i \Gamma_{J_i} \mathbf{1}$$

- **Non-abelian exponentiation** constrains possible color structures in Γ_S
- **Collinear factorization** of amplitudes gives constraints on coefficient functions

Two-loop result is so simple because of these constraints, only at three-loop order new structures appear!

Factorization constraint on Γ

- Operator matrix elements must evolve in the same way as hard matching coefficients, such that physical observables are scale independent

- Factorization of matrix element then implies

(with $\Lambda_{ij} = \frac{p_i^2 p_j^2}{s_{ij}}$):

$$\Gamma(s_{ij}) = \Gamma_s(\Lambda_{ij}) + \sum_i \Gamma_c^i(p_i^2) \mathbf{1}$$

trivial color structure

p_i^2 dependence must cancel!

- suggests logarithmic dependence on s_{ij} and M_i^2
- Γ and Γ_s must have same color structure

Non-abelian exponentiation

The soft function is a matrix element of Wilson lines.

$$\mathcal{S}(\{\underline{n}\}, \mu) = \langle 0 | \mathbf{S}_1(0) \dots \mathbf{S}_n(0) | 0 \rangle = \exp(\tilde{\mathcal{S}}(\{\underline{n}\}, \mu))$$

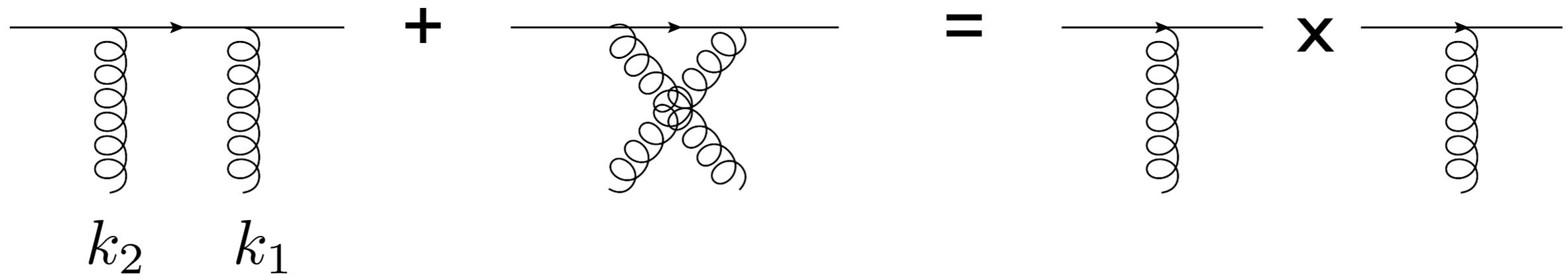
In massive QED, eikonal identities

$$\frac{1}{n \cdot k_1} \frac{1}{n \cdot (k_1 + k_2)} + \frac{1}{n \cdot k_2} \frac{1}{n \cdot (k_1 + k_2)} = \frac{1}{n \cdot k_1} \frac{1}{n \cdot k_2}$$

imply that such matrix elements exponentiate, i.e. that the exponent $\tilde{\mathcal{S}}$ does not receive higher order corrections!

QCD case is more complicated because the color matrices in the numerator do not commute.

Diagrammatically:



$$\frac{1}{n \cdot k_1} \frac{1}{n \cdot (k_1 + k_2)} + \frac{1}{n \cdot k_2} \frac{1}{n \cdot (k_1 + k_2)} = \frac{1}{n \cdot k_1} \frac{1}{n \cdot k_2}$$

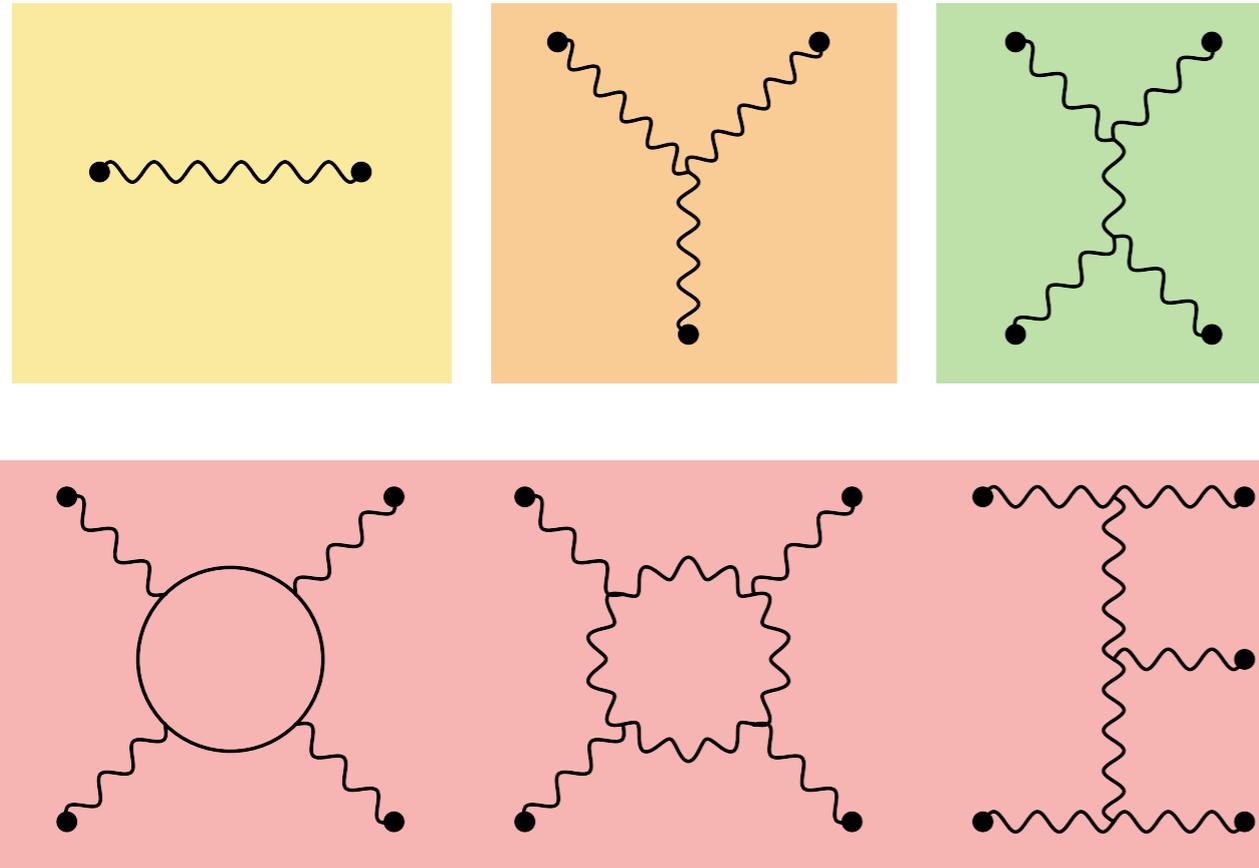
Non-abelian exponentiation

Gatheral 1983; Frenkel and Taylor 1984

- The exponent $\tilde{\mathcal{S}}$ receives contributions only from Feynman diagrams whose color weights are “color-connected” (or “maximally non-abelian”)
- Color-weight graphs associated with each Feynman diagram can be simplified using the Lie commutator relation:

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \begin{array}{c} \text{---} \\ \text{wavy} \end{array} \begin{array}{c} \text{---} \\ \text{wavy} \end{array} \\
 \mathbf{T}^a \mathbf{T}^b
 \end{array}
 -
 \begin{array}{c}
 \begin{array}{c} \text{wavy} \\ \text{---} \end{array} \begin{array}{c} \text{---} \\ \text{wavy} \end{array} \\
 \mathbf{T}^b \mathbf{T}^a
 \end{array}
 =
 \begin{array}{c}
 \begin{array}{c} \text{wavy} \\ \text{---} \end{array} \\
 i f^{abc} \mathbf{T}^c
 \end{array}$$

Color-connected webs



$$\mathcal{D}_{ij} = \mathbf{T}_i^a \mathbf{T}_j^a \equiv \mathbf{T}_i \cdot \mathbf{T}_j, \quad \geq 1 \text{ loops}$$

$$\mathcal{T}_{ijk} = i f^{abc} (\mathbf{T}_i^a \mathbf{T}_j^b \mathbf{T}_k^c)_+, \quad \geq 2 \text{ loops}$$

$$\mathcal{T}_{ijkl} = f^{ade} f^{bce} (\mathbf{T}_i^a \mathbf{T}_j^b \mathbf{T}_k^c \mathbf{T}_l^d)_+, \quad \geq 3 \text{ loops}$$

$$\mathcal{D}_{ijkl}^R = d_R^{abcd} \mathbf{T}_i^a \mathbf{T}_j^b \mathbf{T}_k^c \mathbf{T}_l^d,$$

$$\mathcal{T}_{ijklm} = i f^{adf} f^{bcg} f^{efg} (\mathbf{T}_i^a \mathbf{T}_j^b \mathbf{T}_k^c \mathbf{T}_l^d \mathbf{T}_m^e)_+$$

$\geq 4 \text{ loops}$

The dots indicate attachments to a leg. Can always symmetrize products of generators.

Soft-collinear factorization constraint

- With off-shellness $p_i^2 \neq 0$ as IR regulator to define the soft and collinear scales, we obtain:

The diagram illustrates the decomposition of the soft-collinear factorization constraint. At the top, a yellow box contains the equation:

$$\beta_{ij} = L_i + L_j - \ln \frac{\mu^2}{-s_{ij}}$$

Below this, three components are shown with arrows pointing to the corresponding terms in the boxed equation:

- soft log**: $\beta_{ij} = \ln \frac{-s_{ij} \mu^2}{(-p_i^2)(-p_j^2)}$ (indicated by a red arrow pointing to $L_i + L_j$)
- collinear log**: $L_i = \ln \frac{\mu^2}{-p_i^2}$ (indicated by a blue arrow pointing to L_i)
- hard log**: $-\ln \frac{\mu^2}{-s_{ij}}$ (indicated by a grey arrow pointing to the $-\ln$ term)

Soft anomalous-dimension matrix

Decompositions:

$$\Gamma(\{\underline{p}\}, \mu) = \Gamma_s(\{\underline{\beta}\}, \mu) + \sum_i \Gamma_c^i(L_i, \mu)$$

$$\Gamma_c^i(L_i) = -\Gamma_{\text{cusp}}^i(\alpha_s) L_i + \gamma_c^i(\alpha_s)$$

Key equation:

Gardi, Magnea, arXiv:0901.1091

$$\frac{\partial \Gamma_s(\{\underline{s}\}, \{\underline{L}\}, \mu)}{\partial L_i} = \Gamma_{\text{cusp}}^i(\alpha_s)$$

Suggests linearity in β_{ij} and significantly restricts color structures.

Conformal cross ratios

- Only exception is dependence on conformal cross ratios, which are independent of collinear scales:

$$\beta_{ijkl} = \beta_{ij} + \beta_{kl} - \beta_{ik} - \beta_{jl} = \ln \frac{(-s_{ij})(-s_{kl})}{(-s_{ik})(-s_{jl})}$$

Gardi, Magnea 2009

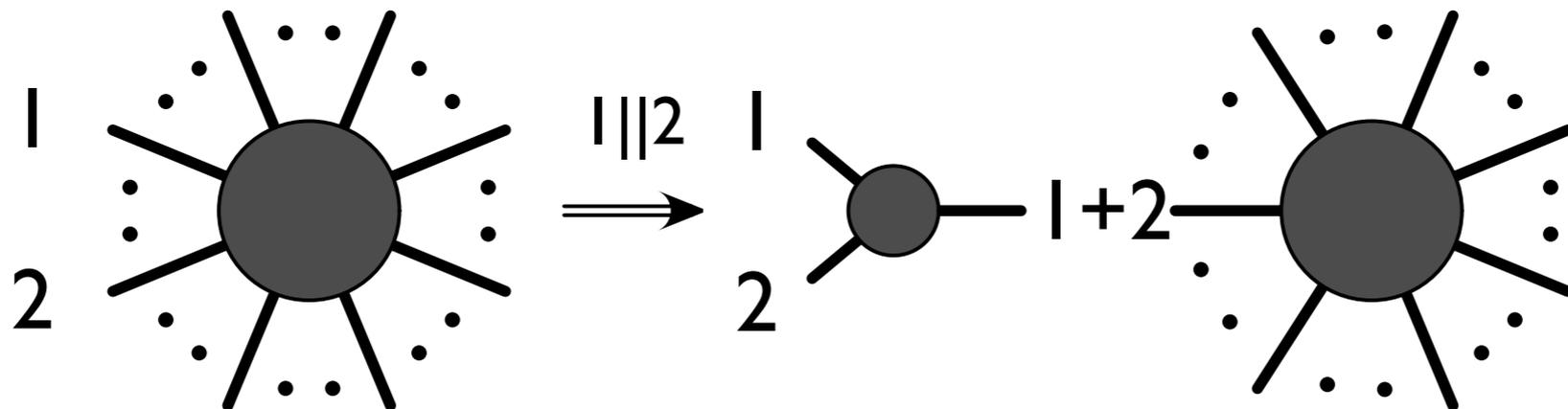
- Dependence on such ratios is restricted by consistency with collinear limits.

Consistency with collinear limits

- When two partons become collinear, an n -point amplitude \mathcal{M}_n reduces to an $(n-1)$ -parton amplitude times a splitting function:

Berends, Giele 1989; Mangano, Parke 1991
Kosower 1999; Catani, de Florian, Rodrigo 2003

$$|\mathcal{M}_n(\{p_1, p_2, p_3, \dots, p_n\})\rangle = \mathbf{Sp}(\{p_1, p_2\}) |\mathcal{M}_{n-1}(\{P, p_3, \dots, p_n\})\rangle + \dots$$



$$\Gamma_{\text{Sp}}(\{p_1, p_2\}, \mu) = \Gamma(\{p_1, \dots, p_n\}, \mu) - \Gamma(\{P, p_3, \dots, p_n\}, \mu) \Big|_{\mathbf{T}_P \rightarrow \mathbf{T}_1 + \mathbf{T}_2}$$

TB, Neubert 2009

- Γ_{Sp} must be independent of momenta and colors of the partons 3, ..., n

4-loop form of Γ

TB, Neubert 2019

$$\begin{aligned}
 \Gamma(\{\underline{s}\}, \mu) = & \sum_{(i,j)} \frac{\mathbf{T}_i \cdot \mathbf{T}_j}{2} \gamma_{\text{cusp}}(\alpha_s) \ln \frac{\mu^2}{-s_{ij}} + \sum_i \gamma^i(\alpha_s) \mathbf{1} \\
 & + f(\alpha_s) \sum_{(i,j,k)} \mathcal{T}_{iijk} + \sum_{(i,j,k,l)} \mathcal{T}_{ijkl} F(\beta_{ijlk}, \beta_{iklj}; \alpha_s) \\
 & + \sum_R g^R(\alpha_s) \left[\sum_{(i,j)} (\mathcal{D}_{iijj}^R + 2\mathcal{D}_{iiij}^R) \ln \frac{\mu^2}{-s_{ij}} + \sum_{(i,j,k)} \mathcal{D}_{ijkk}^R \ln \frac{\mu^2}{-s_{ij}} \right] \\
 & + \sum_R \sum_{(i,j,k,l)} \mathcal{D}_{ijkl}^R G^R(\beta_{ijlk}, \beta_{iklj}; \alpha_s) + \sum_{(i,j,k,l)} \mathcal{T}_{ijkli} H_1(\beta_{ijlk}, \beta_{iklj}; \alpha_s) \\
 & + \sum_{(i,j,k,l,m)} \mathcal{T}_{ijklm} H_2(\beta_{ijkl}, \beta_{ijmk}, \beta_{ikmj}, \beta_{jiml}, \beta_{jlmj}; \alpha_s) + \mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^5).
 \end{aligned}$$

Three-loop result is fully known [Almelid, Duhr, Gardi '16](#)
 at four loops only $\ln \mu$ terms and γ^i .