

Towards a numerical unitarity approach for two-loop amplitudes in QCD

based on: [[arXiv 1510.05626](#), HI]



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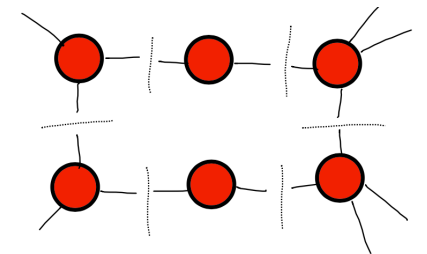
**Loops and Legs 2016
(April 24th - 29th)
Leipzig**

Content

Physics Motivation

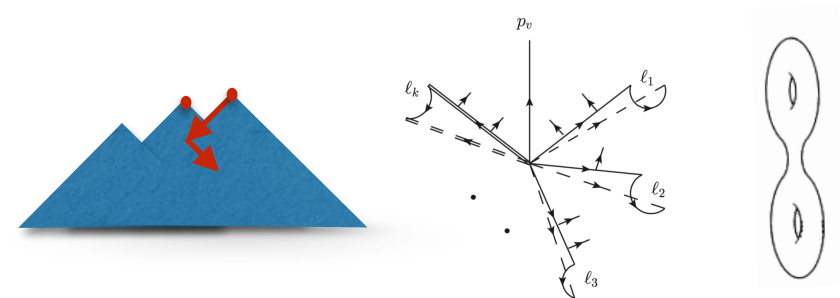


Loop Computations



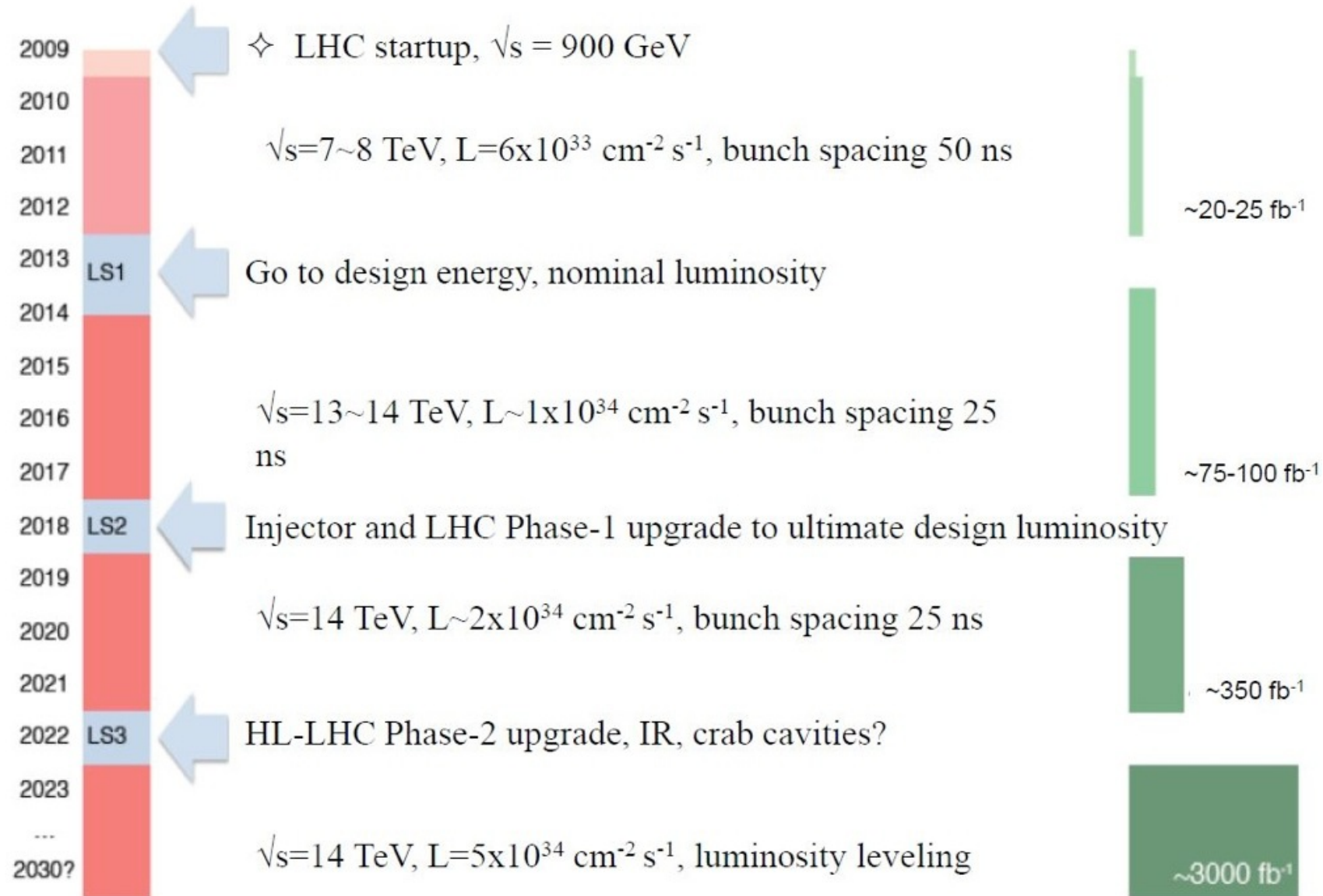
Surface-Terms

Formal Structures



LHC Timeline

Taken from Rolf Heuer in CERN General Meeting January 2013.

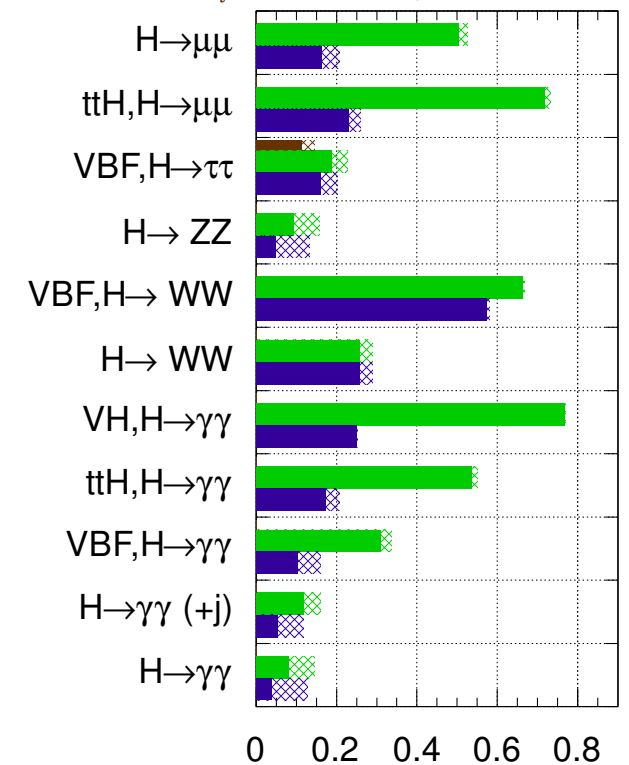


(LS = Long Shutdown)



ATLAS Simulation

$\sqrt{s} = 14$ TeV: $\int L dt = 300 \text{ fb}^{-1}$; $\int L dt = 3000 \text{ fb}^{-1}$
 $\int L dt = 300 \text{ fb}^{-1}$ extrapolated from 7+8 TeV



Potential: new physics & percent-level cross sections.

$\frac{\Delta\mu}{\mu}$

Theory Input

- **Precision** theory predictions at the few percent level (input parameters, backgrounds, predictions)
- **Broad** range of predictions for indirect detection & characterisation of New Physics
- Go **deep** by inclusion of multiple final states (new channels, resolve kinematic dependence of interactions)
- **Complete** including of higher-order effects (electroweak, final-state description)

Complex dynamic of proton collisions:

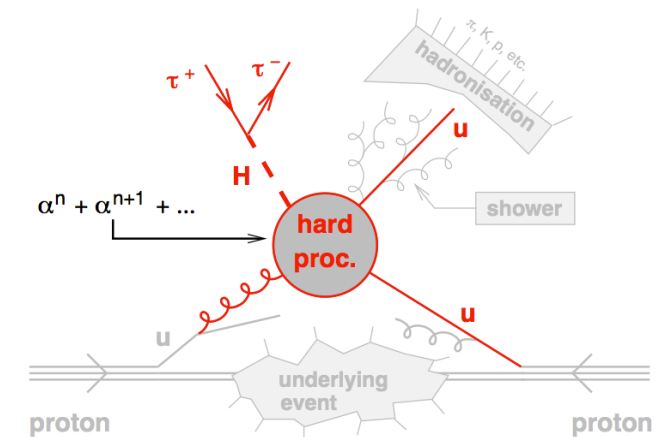


diagram from G. Salam

Precise predictions are a multilayered problem:

$$\begin{aligned}
 d\hat{\sigma}_{ij,NNLO} = & \int_{d\Phi_{n+2}} [d\hat{\sigma}_{ij,NNLO}^{RR} - d\hat{\sigma}_{ij,NNLO}^S] \\
 & + \int_{d\Phi_{n+1}} [d\hat{\sigma}_{ij,NNLO}^{RV} - d\hat{\sigma}_{ij,NNLO}^T] \\
 & + \int_{d\Phi_n} [d\hat{\sigma}_{ij,NNLO}^{VV} - d\hat{\sigma}_{ij,NNLO}^U]
 \end{aligned}$$

[Antenna subtraction; Gehrmann-De Ridder, Gehrmann, Glover; Kosower]

Current frontier: NNLO computations in QFT

NLO Progress

Driving ideas & methods:

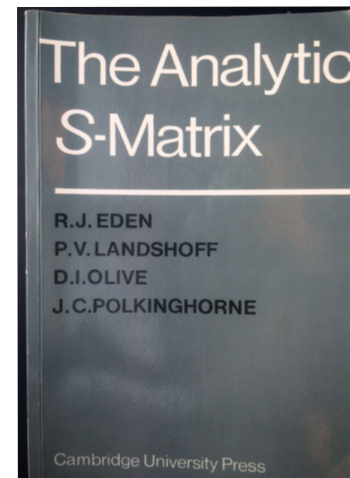
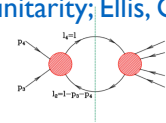
- Unitarity and numerical unitarity methods [Bern, Dixon, Kosowers; Britto Cachazo Feng; Ossola, Papadopoulos, Pittau; Ellis, Giele, Kunszt, Melnikov; Forde; Badger + many others]
- Integral reduction algorithms [e.g. COLLIER; Denner, Dittmaier, Hofer; GOLEM; Binoth, Guillet, Pilon, Heinrich, Schubert]
- Refined techniques; single cuts, spinor helicity, color tricks, recursions [e.g. Berends, Giele; Britto, Cachazo, Feng, Witten; many contribution from amplitudes field]

Mature tools; e.g.:

- Sherpa, Munich, Madgraph
- BlackHat, GoSam, Hawk, MCFM, Madgraph, NJet, OpenLoops, Recola, Rocket, Prophecy4f,...

Ideas:

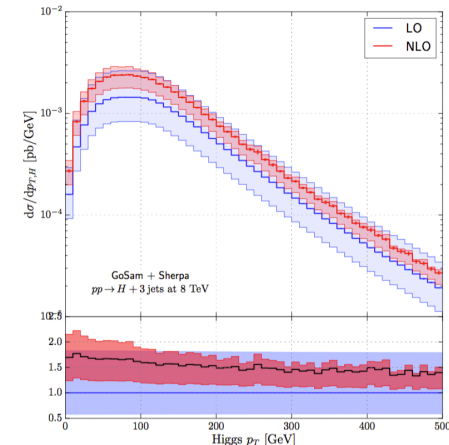
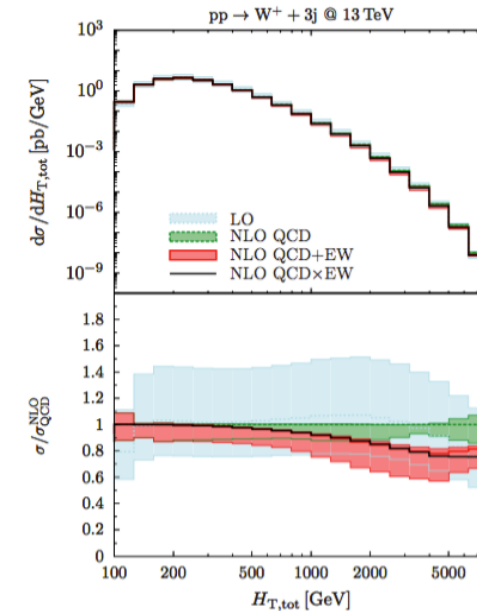
[Numerical unitarity; Ellis, Giele Kunszt '07]



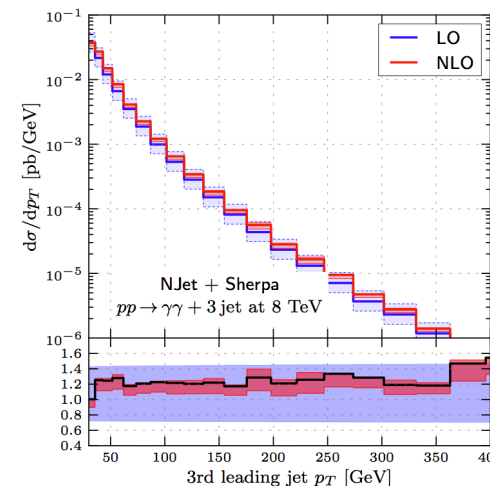
Some state-of-the-art predictions:

[OpenLoops; Kallweit, Lindert, Maierhofer, Pozzorini, Schonherr, '14]

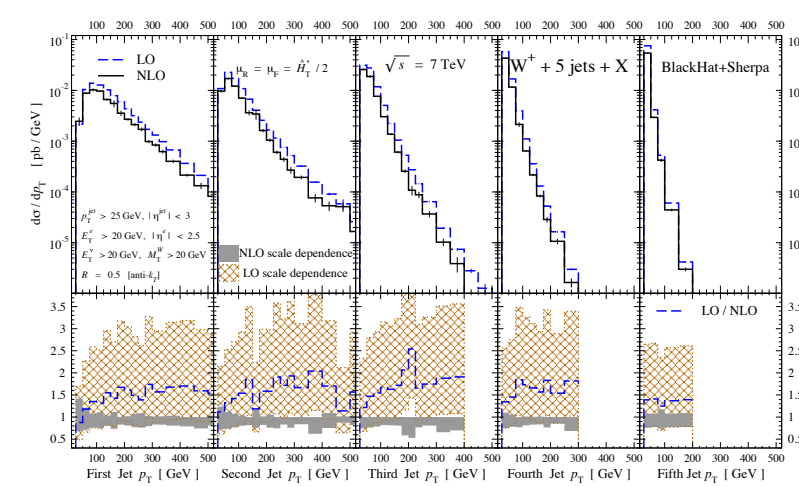
[GoSam; Cullen, van Deurzen, Greiner, Luisoni, Mastrolia, Mirabella, Ossola, Peraro, Tramontano, '13]



[NJet; Badger, Biedermann, Guffanti, Uwer, Yundin, '14]



[BlackHat; Bern, Dixon, Febres Cordero, HI, Kosower, Maitre, '13]



NNLO Progress (2 to 2)

Recent highlights for proton collisions:

[see talk by K. Ellis]

- di-photon: [Catani, Cieri, di Florian, Ferrera, Grazzini 11; Campbell, Ellis, Li, Williams 16]
- dijet: [Currie, Gehrmann-De Ridder, Gehrmann, Glover, Pires, Wells 14]
- W+ l-jet: [Boughezal, Focke, Liu, Petriello 15]
- Z+ l-jet: [Gehrmann-De Ridder, Gehrmann, Glover, Huss, Morgan 15, 16; Boughezal, Campbell, Ellis, Focke, Giele, Liu, Petriello 15]
- H+ l-jet: [Chen, Gehrmann, Glover, Jaquier 14; Caola, Melnikov, Schulze 15; Boughezal, Focke, Giele, Liu, Petriello 15]
- tt: [Czakon, Fiedler, Heymes, Mitov 15, 16]
- WW: [Gehrmann, Grazzini, Kallweit, Maierhöfer, v.Mannteuffel, Pozzerini, Rathlev, Tancredi 14; Caola, Melnikov, Rötsch, Tancredi 15]
- ZZ: [Cascoli, Gehrmann, Grazzini, Kallweit, Maierhöfer, v.Mannteuffel, Pozzerini, Rathlev, Tancredi, Weihs 14; Grazzini, Kallweit, Rathlev 15; Caola, Melnikov, Rötsch, Tancredi 15]
- ZH: [Ferrera, Grazzini, Tramontano 14; Campbell, Ellis, Williams 16]
- Z/Wphoton: [Grazzini, Kallweit, Rathlev, Torre 14, 16]

A frontier:

- 3jets : amplitudes [Badger, Frellesvig, Zhang 15; Gehrmann, Henn, Lo Presti 15]

Three/more final states? Masses? Jets as probes of interactions?
Complexity bottleneck?

Unitarity Approach @ Two-loops

Status:

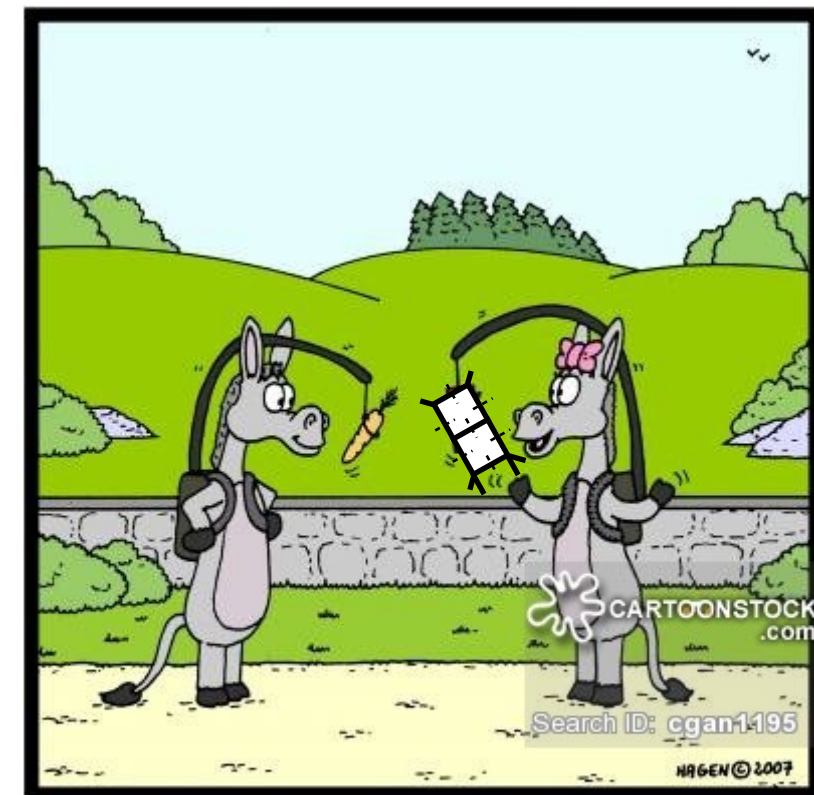
- Selected analytic computations of QCD amplitudes [see talk by S. Badger]
- Many formal computation in gravity & N=4 SYM [amplitudes field]

Discussed here:

- Integral coefficients
- Extend one-loop ideas for multi-loop amplitudes
- Numerical algorithm for QFT

Applications:

- QCD amplitudes for NNLO, integral-reduction tools [see talk by K. Larsen]
- Perturbative quantum-gravity theories



Loop Computations

Loop Computations

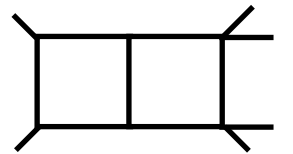
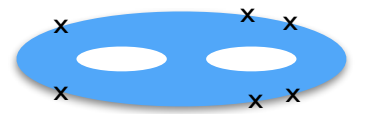
Feynman amplitude:

$$A(p_i) = \int [d^{(nD)} \ell] \tilde{A}(\ell, p_i)$$

Universal ansatz:

$$A(p_i) = \sum_{\text{integral basis}} c_j(p_i) \mathcal{I}_j(p_i)$$

$$\int [d^{(nD)} \ell] \frac{m_j(\ell, p_i)}{\rho^1 \dots \rho^N}$$

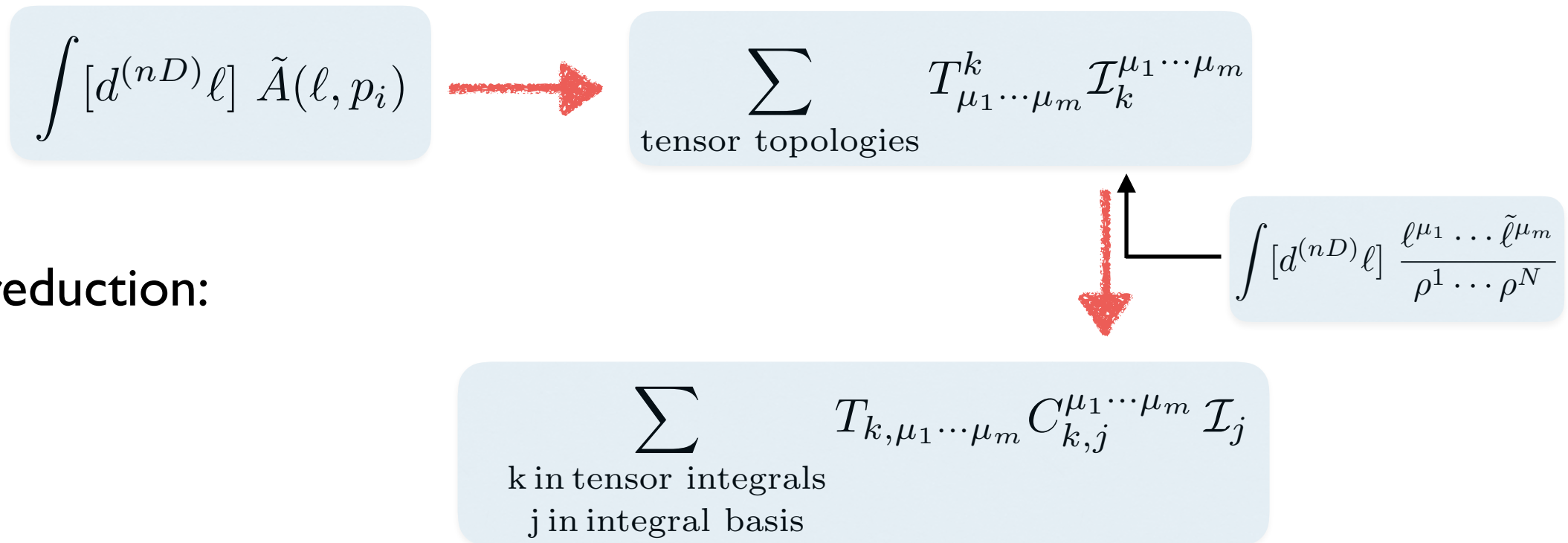


Challenges: number of diagrams, integral reduction, integrals, algebra, numerical stability

Is there a viable process-independent approach to obtain coefficients?

Classical - Approach

Isolate tensor integrals:



Integral reduction:

2-loop methods: Tensor reduction [[Tarasov 96](#); [Anastasiou, Glover, Oleari 99](#)], Integration-by-parts identities [[Tkachov, Chetyrkin 81](#)], Lorentz invariance identities [[Gehrmann, Remiddi 99](#)], Laporta algorithm [[Laporta 01](#)]

Programs in use: Reduze [[Mannteuffel, Studerus](#)], AIR [[Anastasiou, Lazopoulos](#)], FIRE [[Smirnov, Smirnov](#)], LiteRed [[Lee](#)], SecDec [[Borowka, Heinrich, Jahn, Jones, Kerner, Schlenk, Zirke](#)]; COLLIER [[Denner, Dittmaier, Hofer](#)], GOLEM [[Binoth, Guillet, Pilon, Heinrich, Schubert](#)]

Unitarity Approach

Exploit analytic structure and use cutting rules:

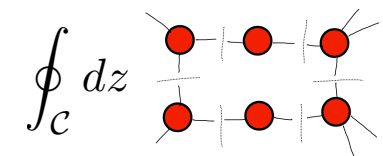
$$\int_{\mathcal{C}} [\text{dLIPS}] \tilde{A}_1(\ell, p_i) \times \cdots \times \tilde{A}_m(\ell, p_i)$$

$$= \sum_{\text{integrals with cuts}} c_j(p_i) \int_{\mathcal{C}} [\text{dLIPS}] \frac{m_j(\ell, p_i)}{(\text{uncut propagator terms})}$$

Properties:

- Fine-grained set of equations
- Organise equations: from maximal to minimal number of cut propagators
- Remaining integration
- Analytic approach for very compact results

Multi-loop pioneers [[Bern, Dixon, Kosower, Dunbar 94](#); [Bern, Dixon, Dunbar, Perelstein, Rozowsky 98](#); [Bern, Dixon, Kosower 00](#)]



Recently: duality between master integrals and contours [[Kosower, Larsen 11](#); [Caron-Huot, Larsen 12](#); [Georgoudis, Zhang 15](#); [Sogaard, Zhang 14](#); [H1 15](#)]

Unitarity Approach - Integrands

Use integrand basis and remove integration:

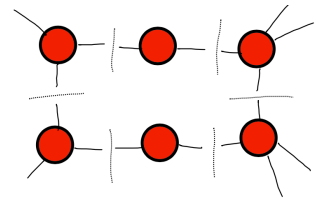
$$\tilde{A}(\ell, p_i) = \sum_{j \text{ in integrand basis}} c_j(p_i) \frac{m_j(\ell, p_i)}{\rho^1 \dots \rho^N}$$

[see talks by G. Ossola, P.P. Mastrolia and S. Badger]

Classification of integrands
[Badger, Frellesvig, Zhang 12;
Mastrolia, Mirabella, Ossola,
Peraro 12]

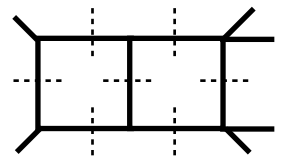
Factorisation in loop momenta [Ellis, Giele, Kunszt 07]:

$$\lim_{\{\rho^i\} \rightarrow 0} \tilde{A}(\ell, p_i) \rightarrow \tilde{A}_1(\ell, p_i) \times \dots \times \tilde{A}_m(\ell, p_i) \frac{1}{(\text{large propagator terms})}$$



Algebraic equations using tree-level data:

$$\tilde{A}_1(\ell, p_i) \times \dots \times \tilde{A}_m(\ell, p_i) = \sum_{j \text{ in large integrands}} c_j(p_i) m_j(\ell, p_i) + \text{previously computed topologies}$$



Properties:

- Universal and numerical
- But: additional integral reduction required

Numerical Unitarity Approach

Integrand basis as direct sum of vanishing integrals and master integrals:

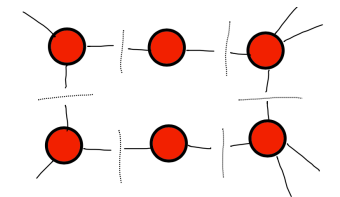
$$\tilde{A}(\ell, p_i) = \sum_{j \text{ in master integrands}} c_j(p_i) \frac{m_j(\ell, p_i)}{\rho^1 \dots \rho^N} + \sum_{j \text{ in surface terms}} \hat{c}_j(p_i) \frac{\hat{m}_j(\ell, p_i)}{\rho^1 \dots \rho^N}$$

@ one-loop [[Ossola Papadopoulos, Pittau 07](#); [Ellis, Giele Kunszt 07](#); [Giele Kunszt, Melnikov 08](#)]

@ two-loop [[HI15](#)]

Properties:

- Unitarity cuts give fine set of equations for coefficients
- Integral reduction implicit: just drop surface terms
- Process & multiplicity independent numerical approach



How to construct vanishing integrals?

- Use particular integration-by-parts identities [[HI 15](#)]

IBPs

Vanishing Integrals

Surface Terms

Integration-by-parts identities:

$$0 = \int [d^{((n=2)D)} \ell] \left[\partial_\mu \left(\frac{u^\mu}{\rho^1 \dots \rho^N} \right) + \tilde{\partial}_\nu \left(\frac{\tilde{u}^\nu}{\rho^1 \dots \rho^N} \right) \right]$$

loop momenta: $(\ell, \tilde{\ell})$

[Tkachov, Chetyrkin 81]

Doubled propagators entangle unitarity equations:

$$\partial_\mu \left(\frac{u^\mu}{\rho^i(\ell)} \right) = \frac{1}{\rho^i(\ell)} \partial_\mu u^\mu - \frac{1}{(\rho^i(\ell))^2} u^\mu \partial_\mu \rho^i(\ell)$$

IBP-generating vectors:

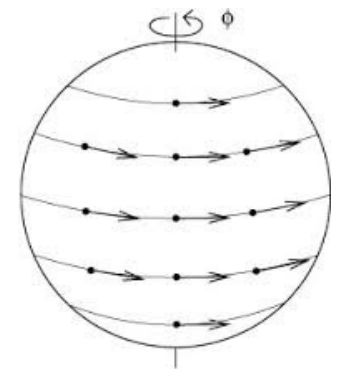
$$(u^\mu \partial_\mu + \tilde{u}^\nu \tilde{\partial}_\nu) \rho^i(\ell, \tilde{\ell}) = f^i(\ell, \tilde{\ell}) \rho^i(\ell, \tilde{\ell}) \quad \text{for all } \rho^i(\ell, \tilde{\ell})$$

[Gluza, Kajda, Kosower 10]

Geometric interpretation [Zhang 14; H1 15]:

- **Unitarity-cut surface:** defined by $\rho^i(\ell, \tilde{\ell}) = 0$
- Solutions are tangent vectors to unitarity cut surface
- Intrinsic structure of unitarity cut

Unitarity-cut surface and IBP-generating vector field:



Natural Coordinates (I)

Need to solve

$$(u^\mu \partial_\mu + \tilde{u}^\nu \tilde{\partial}_\nu) \rho^i(\ell, \tilde{\ell}) = f^i(\ell, \tilde{\ell}) \rho^i(\ell, \tilde{\ell}) \quad \text{for all } \rho^i(\ell, \tilde{\ell})$$

solutions with computer algebra
[[Gluza, Kajda, Kosower 10](#);
[Schabinger 11](#)];

explicit solutions [[HI 15](#)];
recently [[Larsen, Zhang 15](#)]

General coordinate transformation [[HI 15](#)]

$$(\ell, \tilde{\ell}) \rightarrow (\rho^i, \alpha^a)$$

inverse propagators

auxiliary coordinates

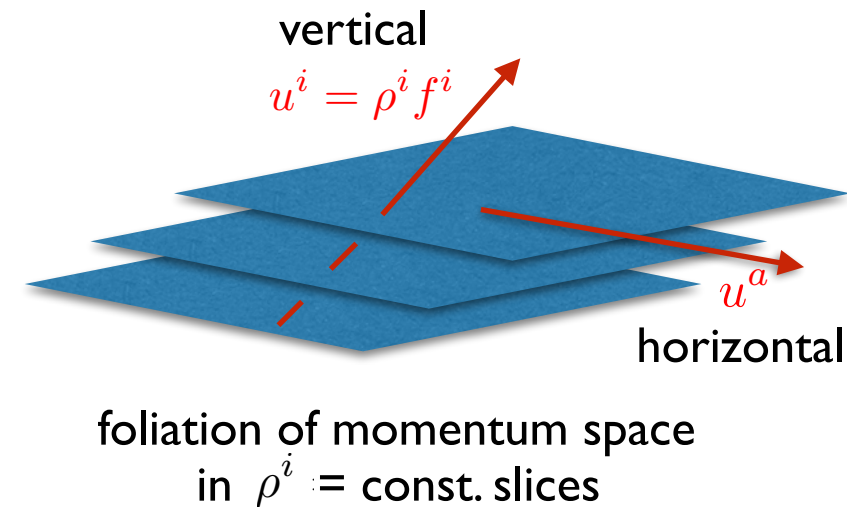
Coordinates [[e.g. Cutkosky 60](#)]

$$\left(u^j \frac{\partial}{\partial \rho^j} + u^a \frac{\partial}{\partial \alpha^a} \right) \rho^i = u^j \delta_j^i = f^i \rho^i \quad \longrightarrow \quad (u^i, u^a) = (f^i \rho^i, u^a)$$

Properties:

- Simple solution
- But: want polynomial vector fields for polynomial surface terms;
careful treatment of algebraic structure — no problem

... continued



Classification of IBP-generating vectors:

- Horizontal:

$$(u^i, u^a) = (0, u^a)$$



relations within
integral topology

- Vertical:

$$(u^i, u^a) = (f^i \rho^i, 0)$$



relations between distinct
integral topologies

- Mixed:

$$(u^i, u^a) = (f^i \rho^i, u^a)$$



massless integrals,
D-dependent relations

Role of intrinsic vector component u^a :

- Local translations/rotations
- Conformal transformations (massless integrals)

IBP-generating vectors (I)

van Neerven Vermaseren basis:

- External momenta

$$\{p_1, p_2, \dots, p_{N-1}\}$$

- Dual basis

$$v^{i\mu} = (G^{-1})^{ij} p_j^\mu, \quad \text{with} \quad G_{ij} = p_i^\mu p_{j\mu}$$

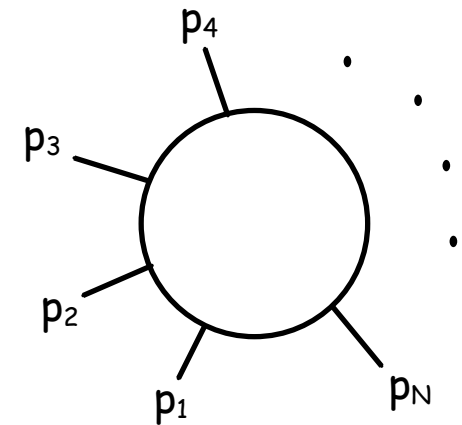
$$\rightarrow v^{i\mu} p_{j\mu} = (G^{-1} G)^i_j = \delta_j^i$$

$$\rightarrow v^{i\mu} \text{ in span of } p_i^\mu$$

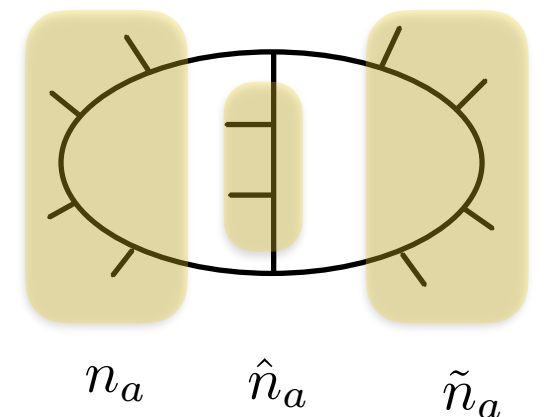
- Transverse space

$$n_a, \quad \text{with} \quad n_a^\mu p_{i\mu} = 0$$

one NV basis: n_a



three NV bases:



IBP-generating vectors (2)

One-loop integrals:

- Inverse propagators

$$\ell^2, (\ell - p_1)^2 - m_1^2, (\ell - p_1 - p_2)^2 - m_2^2, \dots$$

- IBP-generating vectors are rotation generators

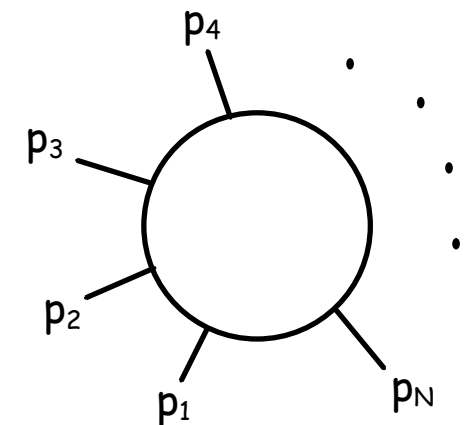
$$u_{[ab]}^\nu \partial_\nu = n_{[a]}^\mu \ell_\mu n_{|b]}^\nu \partial_\nu$$

- Check

$$u_{[ab]}^\nu \partial_\nu (\ell^2) = 2 n_{[a]}^\mu \ell_\mu n_{|b]}^\nu \ell_\nu = 0 \quad (\text{anti-symmetry})$$

$$u_{[ab]}^\nu \partial_\nu (\ell^\sigma p_i^\sigma) = 2 n_{[a]}^\mu \ell_\mu n_{|b]}^\nu p_{i\nu} = 0 \quad (\text{transversality})$$

one NV basis: n_a



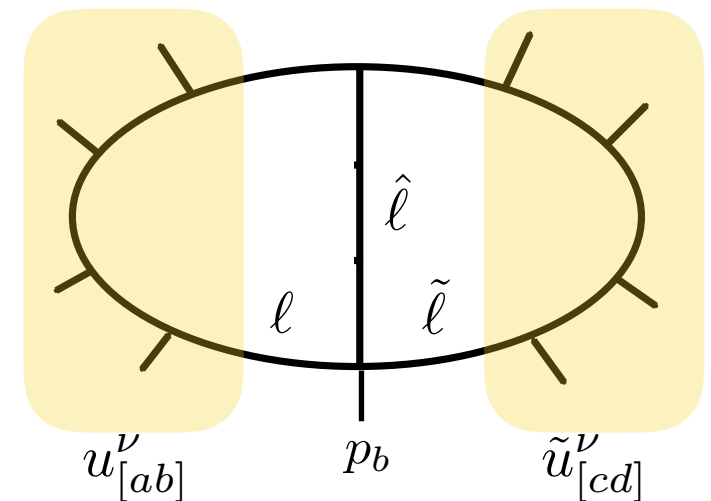
Remark: complete for massive integrals

IBP-generating vectors (3)

Two-loop integrals: planar, massive

Combine vectors of sub loops:

- Type (a) $u_{[abc]}^\nu \partial_\nu = n_{[a]}^\kappa \hat{\ell}_\kappa n_{|b]}^\mu \ell_\mu n_{|c]}^\nu \partial_\nu$
- Type (b) $n_{[a]}^\mu \ell_\mu n_{|b]}^\nu \partial_\nu + n_{[a]}^\mu \tilde{\ell}_\mu n_{|b]}^\nu \tilde{\partial}_\nu$ for $n_a = \tilde{n}_a$
- Type (c) $\tilde{u}_{[ab]}^\nu \tilde{\partial}_\nu (\hat{\ell}^2) u_{[cd]}^\mu \partial_\mu - u_{[cd]}^\mu \partial_\mu (\hat{\ell}^2) \tilde{u}_{[ab]}^\nu \tilde{\partial}_\nu$



Properties:

- Integral topology determines types and number of vectors
- Multiplication with loop momentum polynomial give complete set of IBP-generating vectors
- Relations from type (b) known as 'spurious terms' [Badger, Frellesvig, Zhang 12; Mastrolia, Mirabella, Peraro Ossola 12]

[see talk by P.P. Mastrolia]

Surface terms

Properties of IBP-generating vectors:

- Horizontal: $[u^\mu \partial_\mu + \tilde{u}^\nu \tilde{\partial}_\nu] \rho^i = 0$
- Divergence free (observation): $\partial_\mu u^\mu + \tilde{\partial}_\nu \tilde{u}^\nu = 0$

Surface terms:

$$\left[\partial_\mu \left(\frac{g u^\mu}{\rho^1 \dots \rho^N} \right) + \tilde{\partial}_\nu \left(\frac{g \tilde{u}^\nu}{\rho^1 \dots \rho^N} \right) \right] = \frac{[u^\mu \partial_\mu + \tilde{u}^\nu \tilde{\partial}_\nu] g}{\rho^1 \dots \rho^N}$$

Algorithm:

- Input: numerator polynomials
- Directional derivatives
- Remove linear dependent terms

Reproduces known results @ one-loop level.

Construction of IBP-vectors

Natural Coordinates (2)

Loop momentum parametrization:

$$\ell = v^i r_i + \alpha^a n^a$$

- Linear equations: $(p_i, \ell) = -\frac{1}{2} ((\rho^i + m_i^2 - q_i^2) - (\rho^{i-1} + m_{i-1}^2 - q_{i-1}^2)) = r_i$
- Quadratic equations (implicit):

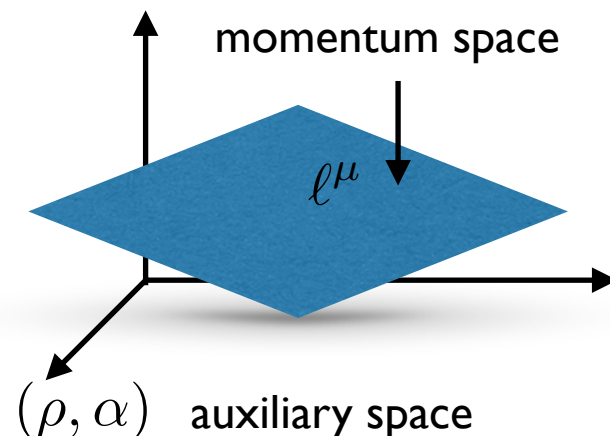
$$c(\rho, \alpha) := (\ell^2 - m_0^2) - \rho^0 = \sum_a (\alpha^a)^2 + (G^{-1})^{ij} r_i r_j - \rho^0 - m_0^2 = 0$$

- Each strand gives a quadratic expression:

@ 1-loops: $c(\rho, \alpha)$

@ 2-loops: $c(\rho, \alpha)$, $\tilde{c}(\tilde{\rho}, \tilde{\alpha})$ and $\hat{c}(\rho, \alpha, \tilde{\rho}, \tilde{\alpha}) = (\ell + \tilde{\ell} + p_b)^2 - \hat{\rho}^0 - \hat{m}_0^2$

(many useful different coordinate choices [[Larsen, Zhang '15](#)])



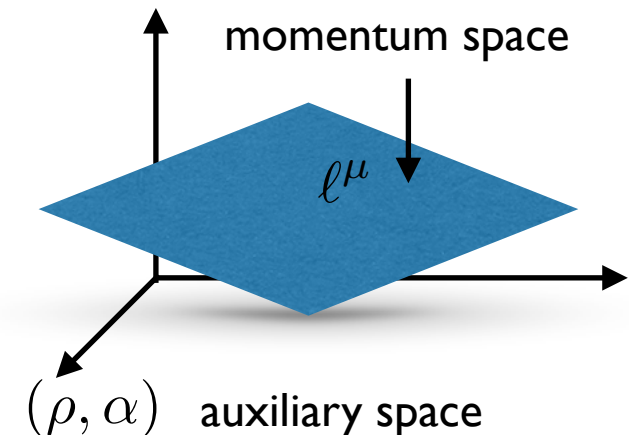
Coordinates applied @
one-loop by [[Ellis, Giele Kunszt 07](#)]

Natural Coordinates (3)

Numerators give polynomials

$$t^{\mu_1 \dots \mu_k} \ell_{\mu_1} \dots \ell_{\mu_k} \sim (\rho, \alpha) - \text{polynomials}$$

- Auxiliary space as coordinate space
- Momentum space as algebraic variety from $\{c, \tilde{c}, \hat{c}\} = 0$



Vector fields:

- Map polynomials to polynomials — polynomial components
- Tangent to momentum space

$$(u^a \partial_a + u^k \partial_k) \{c, \tilde{c}, \hat{c}\} = 0$$

for $\{c, \tilde{c}, \hat{c}\} = 0$

equations give rotation
generators as solutions

**syzygy
equations**

One-loop Examples

One-loop relation:

$$c(\rho, \alpha, \mu) := (\ell^2 - m_0^2) - \rho^0 = \sum_a (\alpha^a)^2 + \sum_i (\mu^i)^2 + (G^{-1})^{ij} r_i r_j - \rho^0 - m_0^2 = 0$$

Rotation:

$$u_{[ab]} = \alpha^a \frac{\partial}{\partial \alpha^b} - \alpha^b \frac{\partial}{\partial \alpha^a}$$

Scaling:

$$u_s = f_s \alpha^a \frac{\partial}{\partial \alpha^a} + \sum_i f_s^i \rho^i \frac{\partial}{\partial \rho^i} \quad \text{for} \quad C(0) = 0$$

D-dim rotation:

$$u_a = \alpha^a \mu^b \partial_{\mu^b} - (\mu^b \mu^b) \partial_{\alpha^a}$$

Completeness of IBP-vectors

Cutting loop integral:

$$\int \frac{t}{\rho^1 \dots \rho^N} J[d\alpha d\rho] \xrightarrow{\text{cut}} \int t J[d\alpha]$$

middle rank
holomorphic form

IBP-relations give exact forms on shell:

$$\int \left[\left(\sum_i \frac{\rho^i \partial_i (f^i J)}{\rho^1 \dots \rho^N} \right) + \left(\frac{\partial_a (u^a J)}{\rho^1 \dots \rho^N} \right) \right] [d\alpha d\rho] \xrightarrow{\text{cut}} \int \partial_a (u^a J) [d\alpha]$$

exact form

Master integrands:

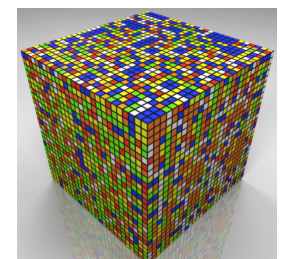
- (holomorphic forms) modulo (exact forms) $\sim$ (cohomology of unitarity cut variety)

a topological count gives
master integrands



Completeness of generators:

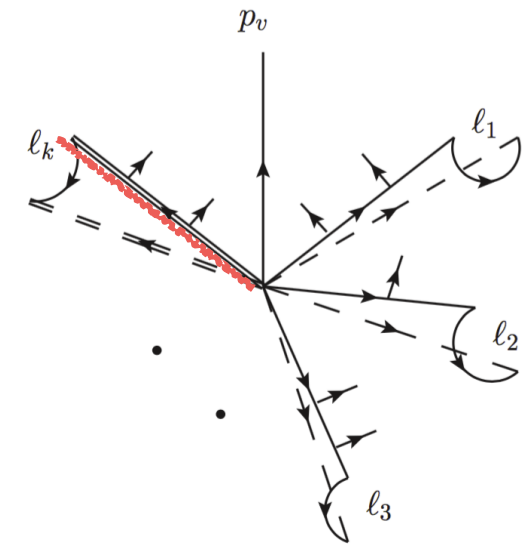
- compare number of (exact forms) vs. (on-shell IBP-relations) — OK!



Formal structures

IBP-generating vectors:

- Rotation/scaling generators for each rung, consistent with momentum conservation at vertices.
- Scaling vectors and off-shell extension

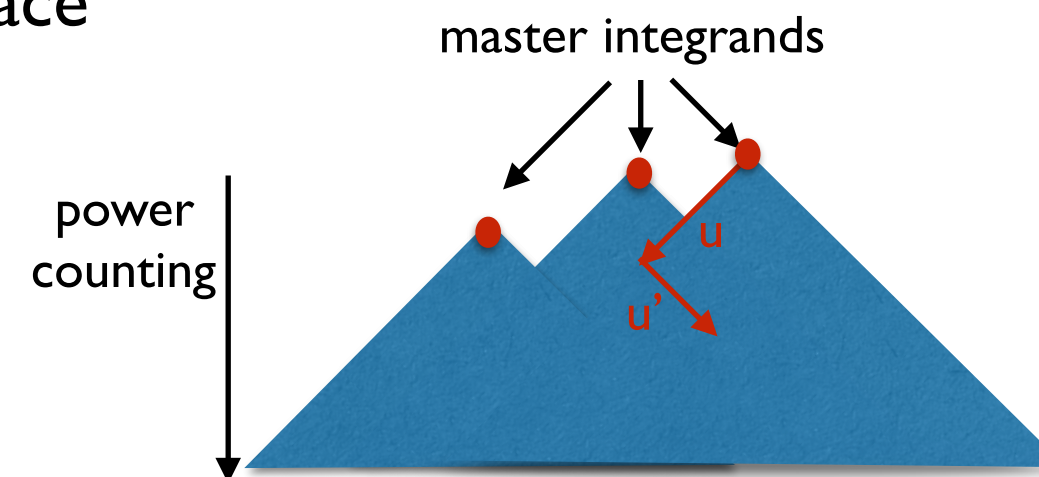


Lie algebra structure: $[u_a, u_b] = f_{ab}^c(\ell, p_i) u_c$

- Representation theory
- Can we understand unitarity-cut phase-space from algebra?

Purely vertical IBP-generators, cycles, intersection numbers ...

Numerator polynomials:



Conclusions

Methods for numerical unitarity approach presented

- Numerical, universal approach

Next steps to setup:

- Special cases (massless topologies, D -dim)
- Explicit proof-of-principle computation

Structures:

- Unitarity-cut phase spaces
- Coordinates adapted to integrals
- Classification of IBP vectors

... continued

Open questions:

- Representation theory of current algebra
- Further lessons from natural coordinates (integrals, diff. equations)
- Topology of unitarity-cut phase-spaces
- Efficiency of numerical approach
- Doubled propagators (cut less approach).
- Analytic realisations [\[see K. Larsen's talk\]](#)

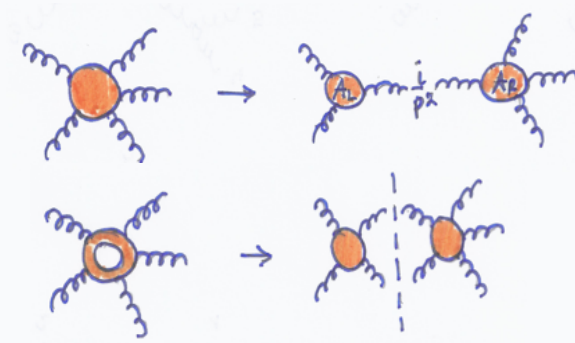
Thanks!

History of Unitarity Method

Origins in **bootstrap program** for strong interactions in 60s:

- Reconstruct amplitudes directly from analytic properties:
 - Poles explained by factorization.
 - Branch cuts from optical theorem.

[Chew, Mandelstam; Eden, Landshoff, Olive, Polkinghorne; Veneziano; Virasoro, Shapiro; ...]



Replaced in 70s by rise of **field theory** (QCD) and Feynman rules.
Return of analyticity within perturbative field theory:

- Cutting rules, on-shell and unitarity methods.
- Adding to field theory methods.

[Bern, Dixon, Dunbar, Kosover]



Numerical unitarity methods are algorithm to construct complicated loop amplitudes from simpler tree amplitudes:

Many contributors: [Badger, Berger, Bern, Bjerrum-Bohr, Brandhumer, Britto, Cachazo, Dixon, Dunbar, Ellis, Febres-Cordero, Feng, Forde, Giele, Harmeren, Kosower, Kunszt, Mastrolia, Melnikov, Ossola, Papadopoulos, Pittau, Schwinn, Spence, Travaglini, Weinzierl, Witten]

- Built from analytic inspiration, N=4 SYM, etc



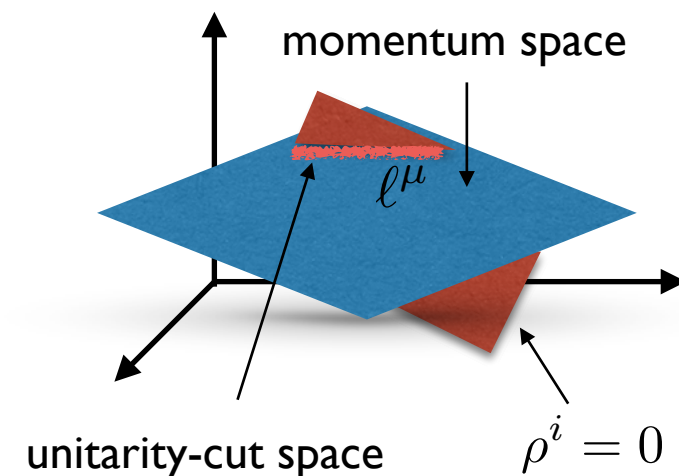
Numerator Basis

Numerators and Unitarity cuts:

- Numerators modulo lower topologies = modulo inverse props
- Function algebra on on-shell varieties

$$\rho^i \sim 0, \{c, \tilde{c}, \hat{c}\} = 0$$

- Remove redundant surface terms on-shell
- Finally consider the linear independent surface terms off shell.



**unitarity cut as
algebraic variety**

