## QCD at Colliders Lecture 2



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## How to organize pQCD amplitudes

 Avoid tangled algebra of color and Lorentz indices generated by Feynman rules

$$\begin{array}{l} \rho \\ q \\ \rho \\ \rho \\ \nu \\ \rho \end{array} \begin{array}{l} k \\ c \\ \mu \end{array} = ig f^{abc} [\eta_{\nu\rho}(p-q)_{\mu} + \eta_{\rho\mu}(q-k)_{\nu} + \eta_{\mu\nu}(k-p)_{\rho}] \\ \\ structure \ constants \end{array}$$

- Take advantage of physical properties of amplitudes
- Basic tools:

- review: LD, hep-ph/9601359
- dual (trace-based) color decompositions
- spinor helicity formalism

Color

**Book by Cvitanovic** 

Standard color factor for a QCD graph has lots of structure constants contracted in various orders; for example:



$$\propto f^{a_1a_2b} f^{a_3a_4c} f^{bca_5}$$

We can write every *n*-gluon tree graph color factor as a sum of traces of matrices  $T^a$  in the fundamental (defining) representation of  $SU(N_c)$ :  $Tr(T^{a_1}T^{a_2}\cdots T^{a_n})$  + all non-cyclic permutations Use definition:  $[T^a, T^b] = i f^{abc} T^c$ + normalization:  $Tr(T^aT^b) = \delta^{ab}$   $\Rightarrow$   $f^{abc} = -i Tr([T^a, T^b]T^c)$ 

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- Always single traces (at tree level)
- $Tr(T^{a_1}T^{a_2}\cdots T^{a_n})$  comes only from those planar diagrams with cyclic ordering of external legs fixed to 1,2,...,n

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#### Trace-based (dual) color decomposition



In summary, for the *n*-gluon trees, the color decomposition is



• Because  $A_n^{\text{tree}}(1^{h_1}, 2^{h_2}, \dots, n^{h_n})$  comes from planar diagrams with cyclic ordering of external legs fixed to 1,2,...,n, it only has singularities in cyclicly-adjacent channels  $s_{i,i+1}$ , ...

## **Color-ordered Feynman rules**



## Color sums

In the end, we want to sum/average over final/initial colors  $d\sigma^{\text{tree}} \propto \sum \sum |\mathcal{A}_n^{\text{tree}}(\{k_i, a_i, h_i\})|^2$ (as well as helicities): Inserting:  $\mathcal{A}_{n}^{\text{tree}}(\{k_{i}, a_{i}, h_{i}\}) = g^{n-2} \operatorname{Tr}(T^{a_{1}}T^{a_{2}} \cdots T^{a_{n}}) A_{n}^{\text{tree}}(1^{h_{1}}, 2^{h_{2}}, \dots, n^{h_{n}})$ + non-cyclic perm's Exercise: and doing the color sums diagrammatically: Convince 0000 0000 yourself  $= N_c^n \times \frac{1}{N^2}$ 000 000  $= N_c^n$ of this! 000 we get: 0000  $\overline{d\sigma^{\text{tree}}} \propto N_c^n$  $\sum \sum |A_n^{\text{tree}}(\sigma(1^{h_1}), \sigma(2^{h_2}), \dots, \sigma(n^{h_n}))|^2 + \mathcal{O}(N_c^{-2})$  $\sigma \in S_n/Z_n h_i$ 

→ Up to  $1/N_c^2$  suppressed effects, squared subamplitudes have definite color flow – important for handoff to parton shower programs

# Spinor helicity formalism

Scattering amplitudes for massless plane waves of definite momentum: Lorentz 4-vectors  $k_i^{\mu}$   $k_i^2=0$ 

Natural to use Lorentz-invariant products (invariant masses):  $s_{ij} = 2k_i \cdot k_j = (k_i + k_j)^2$ 

But for elementary particles with **spin** (*e.g.* all observed ones!) **there is a better way:** 

Take "square root" of 4-vectors  $k_i^{\mu}$  (spin 1) use Dirac (Weyl) spinors  $u_{\alpha}(k_i)$  (spin ½) right-handed:  $(\lambda_i)_{\alpha} = u_{\pm}(k_i)$  left-handed:  $(\tilde{\lambda}_i)_{\dot{\alpha}} = u_{\pm}(k_i)$  $q, g, \gamma$ , all have 2 helicity states,  $h = \pm \qquad (f_{\lambda_i})_{\lambda_i} = (k_i)$ 

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## Spinor products

Instead of Lorentz products:  $s_{ij} = 2k_i \cdot k_j = (k_i + k_j)^2$ Use spinor products:  $\bar{u}_-(k_i)u_+(k_j) = \varepsilon^{\alpha\beta}(\lambda_i)_{\alpha}(\lambda_j)_{\beta} = \langle ij \rangle$  $\bar{u}_+(k_i)u_-(k_j) = \varepsilon^{\dot{\alpha}\dot{\beta}}(\tilde{\lambda}_i)_{\dot{\alpha}}(\tilde{\lambda}_j)_{\dot{\beta}} = [ij]$ 

Identity 
$$k_i^{\mu}(\sigma_{\mu})_{\alpha\dot{\alpha}} = (k_i)_{\alpha\dot{\alpha}} = u_+(k_i)\bar{u}_+(k_i) = (\lambda_i)_{\alpha}(\tilde{\lambda}_i)_{\dot{\alpha}}$$
  
 $\Rightarrow$  These are **complex square roots** of Lorentz products:  
 $\langle ij \rangle [ji] = \frac{1}{2} \operatorname{Tr} [k_i \ k_j] = 2k_i \cdot k_j = s_{ij}$   
 $\langle ij \rangle = \sqrt{s_{ij}} e^{i\phi_{ij}} \qquad [ji] = \sqrt{s_{ij}} e^{-i\phi_{ij}}$ 

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#### Most famous (simplest) Feynman diagram



#### Sometimes useful to rewrite answer



## Symmetries for all other helicity config's



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#### Unpolarized, helicity-summed cross sections

(the norm in QCD)

$$\frac{d\sigma(e^+e^- \to q\bar{q})}{d\cos\theta} \propto \sum_{\text{hel.}} |A_4|^2 = 2\left\{ \left| \frac{\langle 24 \rangle^2}{\langle 12 \rangle \langle 34 \rangle} \right|^2 + \left| \frac{\langle 14 \rangle^2}{\langle 12 \rangle \langle 34 \rangle} \right|^2 \right\}$$
$$= 2\frac{s_{24}^2 + s_{14}^2}{s_{12}^2}$$
$$= \frac{1}{2} \left[ (1 - \cos\theta)^2 + (1 + \cos\theta)^2 \right]$$
$$= 1 + \cos^2\theta$$

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# Reweight helicity amplitudes → electroweak/QCD processes

For example, Z exchange



$$v_L^f = \frac{2I_3^f - 2Q_f \sin^2 \theta_W}{\sin 2\theta_W} \qquad v_R^f = -\frac{2Q_f \sin^2 \theta_W}{\sin 2\theta_W}$$

#### Next most famous pair of Feynman diagrams

(to a higher-order QCD person)



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#### Helicity formalism for massless vectors

Berends, Kleiss, De Causmaecker, Gastmans, Wu (1981); De Causmaecker, Gastmans, Troost, Wu (1982); Xu, Zhang, Chang (1984); Kleiss, Stirling (1985); Gunion, Kunszt (1985)

$$(\varepsilon_{i}^{+})_{\mu} = \varepsilon_{\mu}^{+}(k_{i},q) = \frac{\langle i^{+}|\gamma_{\mu}|q^{+}\rangle}{\sqrt{2}\langle iq\rangle}$$

$$(\varepsilon_{i}^{+})_{\alpha\dot{\alpha}} = \varepsilon_{\alpha\dot{\alpha}}^{+}(k_{i},q) = \frac{\sqrt{2}\tilde{\lambda}_{i}^{\dot{\alpha}}\lambda_{q}^{\alpha}}{\langle iq\rangle}$$
is null,  $q^{2} = 0$ 

$$(\varepsilon_{i}^{+})_{\alpha\dot{\alpha}} = \varepsilon_{\alpha\dot{\alpha}}^{+}(k_{i},q) = \frac{\sqrt{2}\tilde{\lambda}_{i}^{\dot{\alpha}}\lambda_{q}^{\alpha}}{\langle iq\rangle}$$
obeys
$$\varepsilon_{i}^{+} \cdot k_{i} = 0$$
(required transversality)
$$\varepsilon_{i}^{+} \cdot q = 0$$
(bonus)
under azimuthal rotation about  $k_{i}$  axis, helicity +1/2
$$\tilde{\lambda}_{i}^{\dot{\alpha}} \rightarrow e^{i\phi/2}\tilde{\lambda}_{i}^{\dot{\alpha}}$$
helicity -1/2
$$\lambda_{i}^{\alpha} \rightarrow e^{-i\phi/2}\lambda_{i}^{\alpha}$$
so
$$\varepsilon_{i}^{+} \propto \frac{\tilde{\lambda}_{i}^{\dot{\alpha}}}{\lambda_{i}^{\alpha}} \rightarrow e^{i\phi} \notin_{i}^{+}$$
as required for helicity +1

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## $e^+e^- \rightarrow qg\bar{q}$ (cont.)

$$A_{5} = \frac{\langle 25 \rangle}{s_{12}} \frac{\langle 1^{+} | (k_{3} + k_{4}) \not e_{4}^{+} | 3^{-} \rangle}{\sqrt{2} s_{34}} \\ + \frac{[13]}{s_{12}} \frac{\langle 2^{-} | (k_{4} + k_{5}) \not e_{4}^{+} | 5^{+} \rangle}{\sqrt{2} s_{45}} \\ = \frac{\langle 25 \rangle}{s_{12}} \frac{\langle 1^{+} | (k_{3} + k_{4}) | q^{+} \rangle [43]}{s_{12}} \\ + \frac{[13]}{s_{12}} \frac{\langle 2^{-} | (k_{4} + k_{5}) | 4^{-} \rangle \langle q 5 \rangle}{s_{45} \langle 4 5 \rangle} \\ = \frac{\langle 25 \rangle}{s_{12}} \frac{\langle 1^{+} | (k_{3} + k_{4}) | 5^{+} \rangle [43]}{s_{34} \langle 4 5 \rangle} \\ = -\frac{\langle 25 \rangle [12] \langle 25 \rangle [43]}{\langle 12 \rangle [21] \langle 34 \rangle [43] \langle 4 5 \rangle} \\ A_{5} = \frac{\langle 25 \rangle^{2}}{\langle 12 \rangle \langle 34 \rangle \langle 4 5 \rangle} \end{aligned}$$

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Properties of 
$$\mathcal{A}_5(e^+e^- \rightarrow qg\bar{q})$$

1. Soft gluon behavior 
$$k_4 \rightarrow 0$$
  
 $A_5 = \frac{\langle 25 \rangle^2}{\langle 12 \rangle \langle 34 \rangle \langle 45 \rangle} = \frac{\langle 35 \rangle}{\langle 34 \rangle \langle 45 \rangle} \times \frac{\langle 25 \rangle^2}{\langle 12 \rangle \langle 35 \rangle}$   
 $\rightarrow S(3, 4^+, 5) \times A_4(1^+, 2^-, 3^+, 5^-)$ 



Universal "eikonal" factors for emission of soft gluon *s* between two hard partons *a* and *b*   $S(a, s^+, b) = \frac{\langle a b \rangle}{\langle a s \rangle \langle s b \rangle}$  $S(a, s^-, b) = -\frac{[a b]}{[a s][s b]}$ 

Soft emission is from the classical chromoelectric current: independent of parton type (*q vs. g*) and helicity – only depends on momenta of *a,b*, and color charge

Properties of 
$$\mathcal{A}_5(e^+e^- \rightarrow qg\bar{q})$$
 (cont.)

2. Collinear behavior  $\begin{array}{ll} k_3 \mid\mid k_4 \colon & k_3 = z \, k_P, \ k_4 = (1-z) \, k_P \ k_P \equiv k_3 + k_4, \ k_P^2 \to 0 \ \lambda_3 \approx \sqrt{z} \lambda_P, \ \lambda_4 \approx \sqrt{1-z} \lambda_P, \ \text{etc.} \end{array}$ 



Universal collinear factors, or splitting amplitudes Split\_ $h_P(a^{h_a}, b^{h_b})$  depend on parton type and helicity h

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#### Collinear limits (cont.)

We found, from	$k_3    k_4$ :	$\operatorname{Split}_{-}(a_q^+, b_g^+) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-z} \langle a b \rangle}$
Similarly, from	$k_4    k_5$ :	$Split_+(a_g^+,b_{\bar{q}}^-) = \frac{1-z}{\sqrt{z}\langle a b \rangle}$
Applying C and I	<b>&gt;</b> :	$\operatorname{Split}_{-}(a_q^+, b_g^-) = -\frac{z}{\sqrt{1-z} [a  b]}$

## Simplest pure-gluonic amplitudes



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## MHV amplitudes with massless quarks



Related to pure-gluon MHV amplitudes by a secret supersymmetry: after stripping off color factors, massless quarks ~ gluinos

Grisaru, Pendleton, van Nieuwenhuizen (1977); Parke, Taylor (1985); Kunszt (1986)

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## **Properties of MHV amplitudes**

1. Verify soft limit  $k_{s} \rightarrow 0 \quad \frac{\langle ij \rangle^{4}}{\langle 12 \rangle \cdots \langle as \rangle \langle sb \rangle \cdots \langle n1 \rangle} = \frac{\langle ab \rangle}{\langle as \rangle \langle sb \rangle} \frac{\langle ij \rangle^{4}}{\langle 12 \rangle \cdots \langle ab \rangle \cdots \langle n1 \rangle}$   $\rightarrow \text{Soft}(a, s^{+}, b) \times A_{n-1}^{ij, \text{ MHV}}$ 2. Extract gluonic collinear limits:  $k_a \mid\mid k_b$  (b = a + 1) $\frac{\langle ij\rangle^4}{\langle 12\rangle\cdots\langle a-1,a\rangle\langle ab\rangle\langle b,b+1\rangle\cdots\langle n1\rangle} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{z(1-z)}\langle ab\rangle}\frac{\langle ij\rangle^4}{\langle 12\rangle\cdots\langle a-1,P\rangle\langle P,b+1\rangle\cdots\langle n1\rangle}$  $\rightarrow$  Split\_ $(a^+, b^+) \times A_{n-1}^{ij, \text{ MHV}}$ So Split\_ $(a^+, b^+) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{z(1-z)} \langle a b \rangle}$ and Split<sub>+</sub> $(a^-, b^+) = \frac{z^2}{\sqrt{z(1-z)} \langle a b \rangle}$ plus parity conjugates  $\text{Split}_{+}(a^{+}, b^{-}) = \frac{(1-z)^{2}}{\sqrt{z(1-z)}} (ab)$ 

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## **Spinor Magic**

Spinor products precisely capture **square-root + phase** behavior in **collinear limit**. Excellent variables for **helicity amplitudes** 



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#### From splitting amplitudes to probabilities



#### Space-like splitting

- The case relevant for parton evolution
- Related by crossing to time-like case
- Have to watch out for flux factor, however

$$q \rightarrow qg$$
:  $k_P = x k_5$ ,  $k_4 = (1-x) k_5$ 

$$A_{5} = \frac{\langle 25 \rangle^{2}}{\langle 12 \rangle \langle 34 \rangle \langle 45 \rangle} \approx \frac{\frac{1}{x}}{\sqrt{\frac{1-x}{x}} \langle 45 \rangle} \times \frac{\langle 2P \rangle^{2}}{\langle 12 \rangle \langle 3P \rangle}$$
$$= \frac{1}{\sqrt{x}} \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-x}} \langle 45 \rangle} \times \frac{\langle 2P \rangle^{2}}{\langle 12 \rangle \langle 3P \rangle}$$
absorb into flux factor:  $d\sigma_{5} \sigma_{5}$ 

$$d\sigma_5 \propto \frac{1}{s_{15}}$$
$$d\sigma_4 \propto \frac{1}{s_{1P}} = \frac{1}{x \, s_{15}}$$

1<sup>+</sup>

5

ē

When dust settles, get exactly the same splitting kernels (at LO)

2

**q** 3<sup>+</sup>

#### Similarly for gluons

$$g \to gg:$$

$$P_{gg}(z) \propto C_A \left\{ \left| \frac{1}{\sqrt{z(1-z)}} \right|^2 + \left| \frac{z^2}{\sqrt{z(1-z)}} \right|^2 + \left| \frac{(1-z)^2}{\sqrt{z(1-z)}} \right|^2 \right\}$$

$$= C_A \frac{1+z^4+(1-z)^4}{z(1-z)} \qquad C_A = N_C$$

$$= 2C_A \left[ \frac{z}{1-z} + \frac{1-z}{z} + z(1-z) \right] \qquad z < 1$$

Again a soft-gluon singularity. Gluon number not conserved. But momentum is. Momentum conservation mixes  $g \rightarrow gg$  with

$$\rightarrow q \bar{q}$$
:  $P_{qg}(z) = T_R \left[ z^2 + (1-z)^2 \right]$   $T_R = \frac{1}{2}$ 

(can deduce, up to color factors, by taking  $e^+ || e^-$  in  $\mathcal{A}_5(e^+e^- \to qg\bar{q})$ )

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g –

#### Gluon splitting (cont.)

$$g \rightarrow gg: \quad \text{Applying momentum conservation,} \\ \int_0^1 dz \, z \left[ P_{gg}(z) + 2n_f P_{qg}(z) \right] = 0 \quad \text{Exercise:} \\ \text{Work out } b_0 \\ \text{gives} \quad P_{gg}(z) \, = \, 2C_A \left[ \frac{z}{(1-z)_+} + \frac{1-z}{z} + z(1-z) \right] \, + \, b_0 \, \delta(1-z) \\ b_0 \, = \, \frac{11C_A - 4n_f T_R}{6} \\ \end{cases}$$

Amusing that first  $\beta$ -function coefficient enters, since no loops were done, except implicitly via unitarity:

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## End of Lecture 2

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