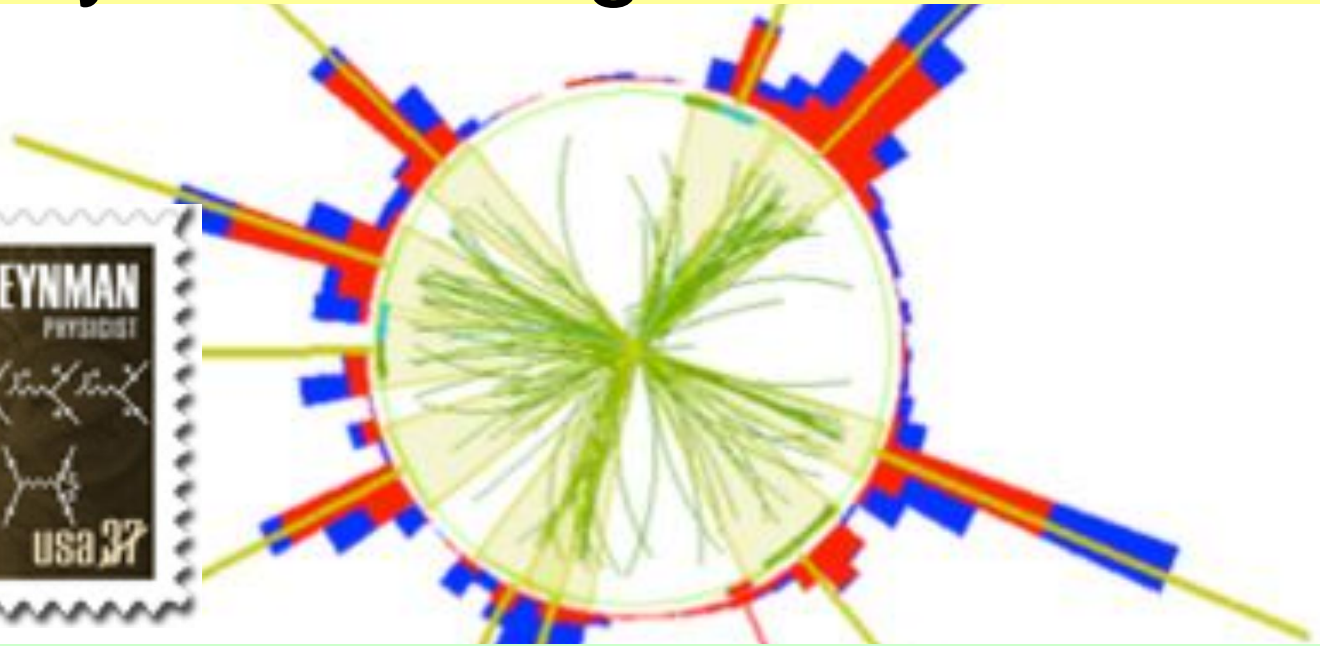
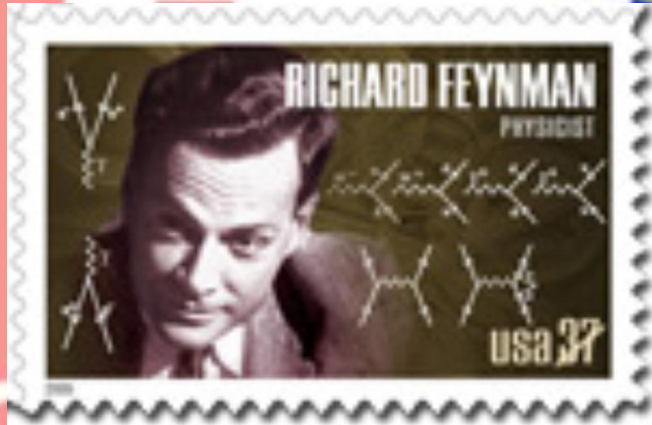


# Seven Decades of Particle Scattering from Feynman Diagrams to the LHC



Lance Dixon (SLAC)

Richard Feynman at 100

Nanyang Technological University

October 23, 2018

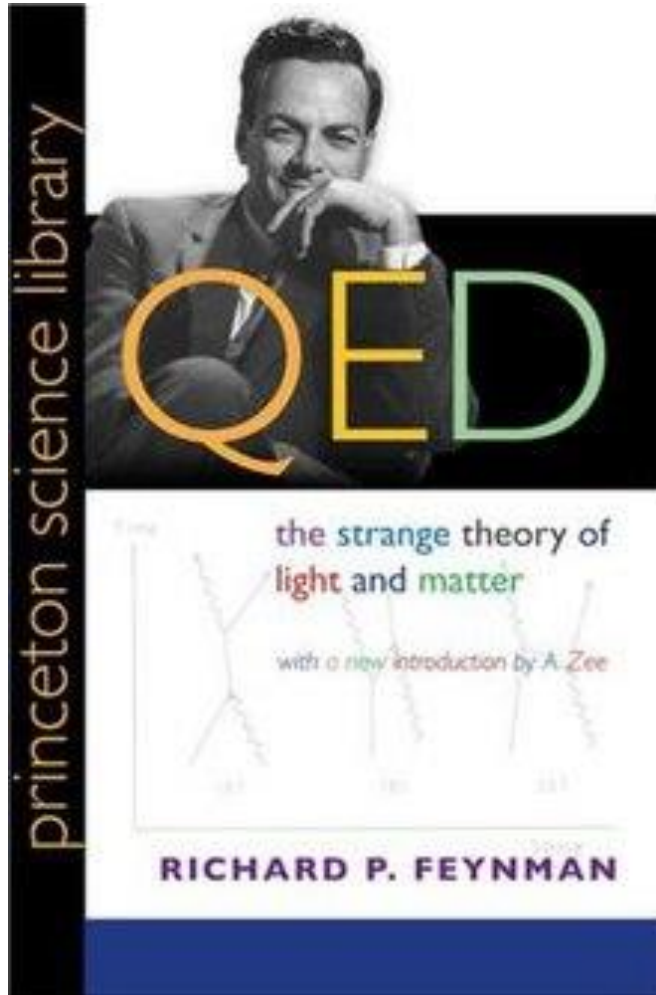


# Outline

- Feynman, Feynman diagrams and QED
- Feynman and early QCD
- QCD at the LHC – beyond Feynman diagrams
- Particle scattering in other theories
- Conclusions

- **Disclaimers:**
- I'm not a historian
- Half of the 7 decades happened before I entered graduate school

# Feynman's revolutionary insights into scattering of quantum particles



were initially for  
Quantum ElectroDynamics

Theory of how **electrons**  
interact with the particles  
associated with light or  
electromagnetism = **photons**

**The most precise theory of all  
– good to a part per trillion!**

# Shelter Island, June 1947



NAS  
Archives

## Dirac theory of electron incomplete:

- Willis Lamb reports on Lamb shift between 2S and 2P hydrogen
- Isadore Rabi reports on electron anomaly [Nafe, Nelson, Rabi]

# Feynman's thesis work birthplace of the path integral

## REVIEWS OF MODERN PHYSICS

VOLUME 20, NUMBER 2

APRIL, 1948

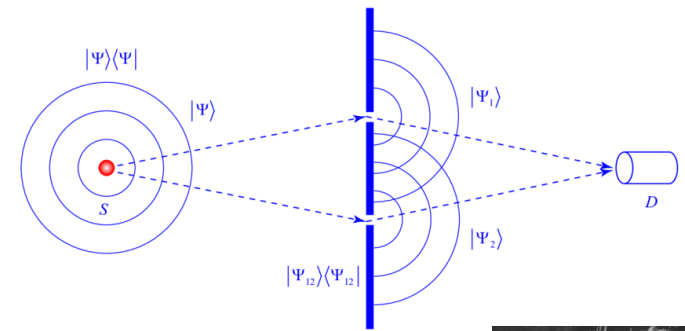
### Space-Time Approach to Non-Relativistic Quantum Mechanics

R. P. FEYNMAN

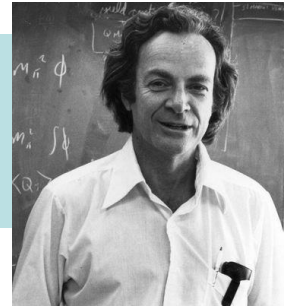
*Cornell University, Ithaca, New York*

Non-relativistic quantum mechanics is formulated here in a different way. It is, however, mathematically equivalent to the familiar formulation. In quantum mechanics the probability of an event which can happen in several different ways is the absolute square of a sum of complex contributions, one from each alternative way. The probability that a particle will be found to have a path  $x(t)$  lying somewhere within a region of space time is the square of a sum of contributions, one from each path in the region. The contribution from a single path is postulated to be an exponential whose (imaginary) phase is the classical action (in units of  $\hbar$ ) for the path in question. The total contribution from all paths reaching  $x, t$  from the past is the wave function  $\psi(x, t)$ . This is shown to satisfy Schroedinger's equation. The relation to matrix and operator algebra is discussed. Applications are indicated, in particular to eliminate the coordinates of the field oscillators from the equations of quantum electrodynamics.

$$\int [D\phi(t, x)] \exp\left\{\frac{i}{\hbar} S[\phi(t, x)]\right\}$$



~ How Feynman introduced  
quantum mechanics to us  
Caltech undergrads in 1979



Path integrals really come to  
life in lattice gauge theory  
– talk by **M. Creutz**

# The beginning of Feynman diagrams



PHYSICAL REVIEW

VOLUME 76, NUMBER 6

SEPTEMBER 15, 1949

## The Theory of Positrons

R. P. FEYNMAN

*Department of Physics, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York*

(Received April 8, 1949)

PHYSICAL REVIEW

VOLUME 76, NUMBER 6

SEPTEMBER 15, 1949

## Space-Time Approach to Quantum Electrodynamics

R. P. FEYNMAN

*Department of Physics, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York*

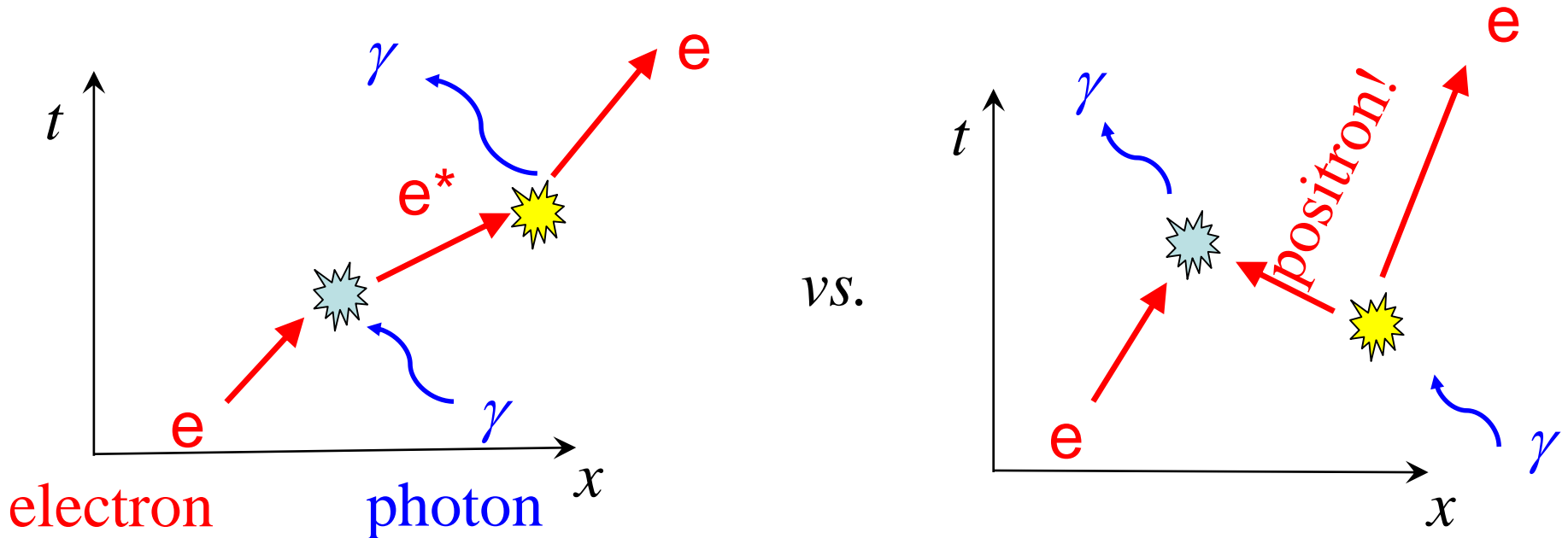
(Received May 9, 1949)

- Before Feynman, quantum-mechanical calculations were strictly ***time-ordered***, based on the Hamiltonian  $H$  which evolves states forward in time:

$$|\psi(t)\rangle = \exp(-iHt/\hbar)|\psi(0)\rangle$$

# Covariance and positrons

Feynman realized that time ordering is *ambiguous* in special relativity: Two observers moving with respect to each other can see the same two events happen in different order.

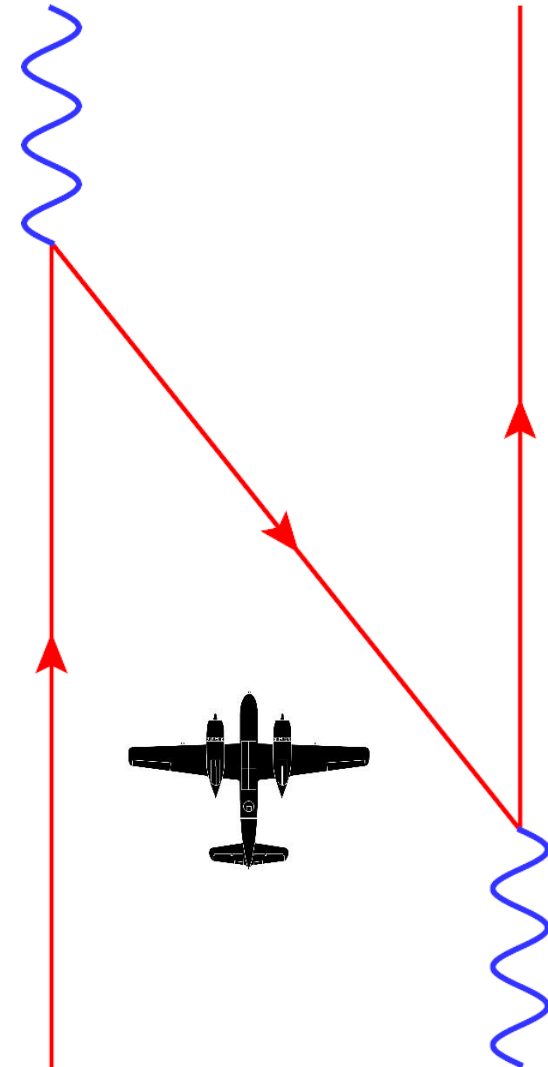


A positron is an electron moving backward in time

These two **time-ordered** contributions naturally belong together!

# A holistic view

Following the charge rather than the particles corresponds to considering this continuous world line as a whole rather than breaking it up into its pieces. It is as though a bombardier flying low over a road suddenly sees three roads and it is only when two of them come together and disappear again that he realizes that he has simply passed over a long switchback in a single road.



# On and off the “mass shell”

- Einstein: energy of a particle at rest is  $E = mc^2$
- Energy of a particle in motion with momentum  $\mathbf{p}$ :  
 $E^2 = (\mathbf{p}c)^2 + (mc^2)^2 = \mathbf{p}^2 + m^2$  for  $c = 1$ .
- Energy & momentum form a relativistic four vector,  
 $p^\mu = (p^0, p^1, p^2, p^3) = (E, \mathbf{p})$
- Its relativistically invariant “length” is its mass:  
 $p^2 = p^\mu p_\mu = E^2 - \mathbf{p}^2 = m^2$
- **Real** particles are **on**-shell,  $p^2 = m^2$
- **Virtual** particles are **off**-shell,  $p^2 \neq m^2$

# Neither advanced nor retarded

In order to combine the two contributions, Feynman needed to construct a new “propagator” – the rule for how the electron gets from point A to point B. It also had to move positrons (sometimes called negative energy solutions) backward in time from point B to point A.

Retarded propagator only propagates effects to later time, it is causal.

$$G_{\text{ret}}(p) = \frac{1}{(p^0 + i\varepsilon)^2 - \mathbf{p}^2 - m^2}$$



Advanced propagator only propagates effects to earlier time, it's anti-causal

$$G_{\text{adv}}(p) = \frac{1}{(p^0 - i\varepsilon)^2 - \mathbf{p}^2 - m^2}$$



Feynman propagator does either, depending on energy, it's covariant

$$G_F(p) = \frac{1}{p^2 - m^2 + i\varepsilon}$$



# Freeman Dyson, interlocutor



PHYSICAL REVIEW

VOLUME 75, NUMBER 3

FEBRUARY 1, 1949

## The Radiation Theories of Tomonaga, Schwinger, and Feynman

F. J. DYSON

*Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, New Jersey*

(Received October 6, 1948)

A unified development of the subject of quantum electrodynamics is outlined, embodying the main features both of the Tomonaga-Schwinger and of the Feynman radiation theory. The theory is carried to a point further than that reached by these authors, in the discussion of higher order radiative reactions and vacuum polarization phenomena. However, the theory of these higher order processes is a program rather than a definitive theory, since no general proof of the convergence of these effects is attempted.

The chief results obtained are (a) a demonstration of the equivalence of the Feynman and Schwinger theories, and (b) a considerable simplification of the procedure involved in applying the Schwinger theory to particular problems, the simplification being the greater the more complicated the problem.

Dyson as Ben Jonson to Feynman's Shakespeare

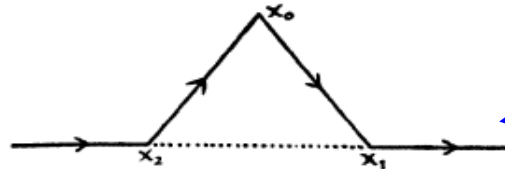


FIG. 1.

First Feynman diagram in print!

“Nature herself was proud of his designs, and joyed to wear the dressing of his lines.”

# The most iconic Feynman diagram

772

Phys. Rev. 76, 769

R. P. FEYNMAN

electron-electron  
scattering in QED

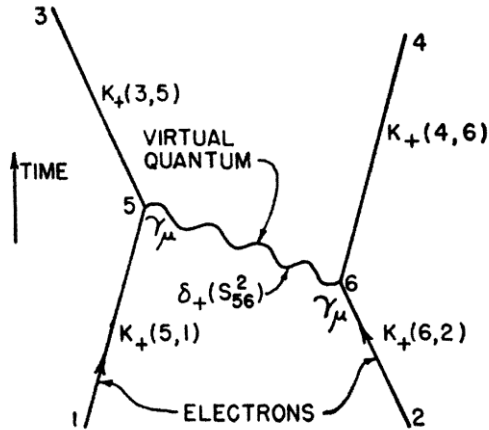


FIG. 1. The fundamental interaction Eq. (4). Exchange of one quantum between two electrons.

But it can be repurposed to also describe the most important processes in the Standard Model

Carved in stone in Tuva  
(courtesy of Glen Cowan,  
Ralph Leighton)



# Feynman parameters

RPF, Phys. Rev. 76, 769

The integrals so far only contain one factor in the denominator. To obtain results for two factors we make use of the identity

$$a^{-1}b^{-1} = \int_0^1 dx (ax + b(1-x))^{-2}, \quad (14a)$$

(suggested by some work of Schwinger's involving Gaussian integrals). This represents the product of two reciprocals as a parametric integral over one and will therefore permit integrals with two factors to be expressed in terms of one. For other powers of  $a$ ,  $b$ , we make use of all of the identities, such as

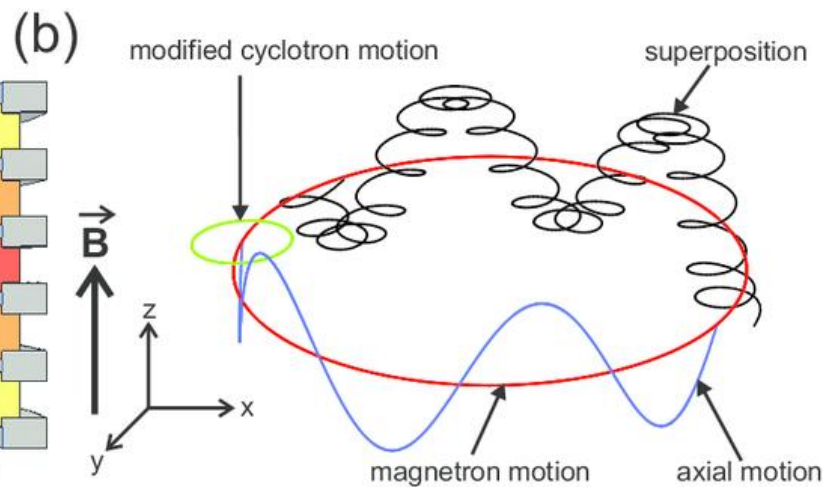
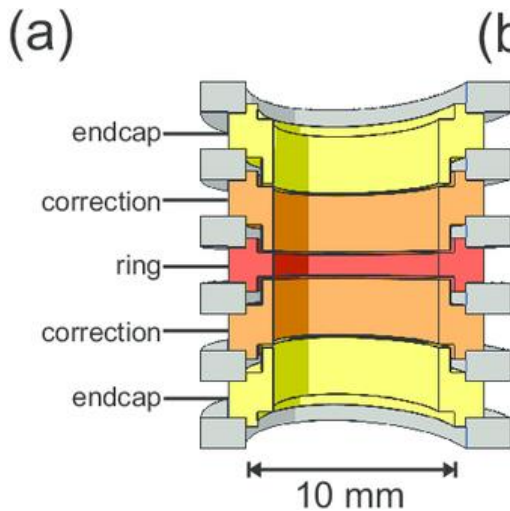
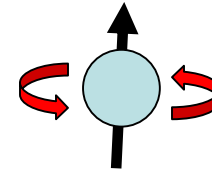
$$a^{-2}b^{-1} = \int_0^1 2x dx (ax + b(1-x))^{-3}, \quad (15a)$$

deducible from (14a) by successive differentiations with respect to  $a$  or  $b$ .

A mathematical trick, but an incredibly useful one.

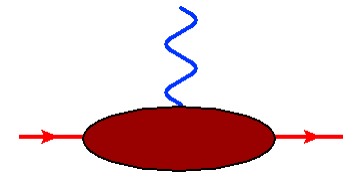
# The electron anomalous magnetic moment, a (precious) “baby” scattering amplitude

$$\vec{\mu}_e = g_e \frac{e\hbar}{2m_e c} \vec{S}_e$$



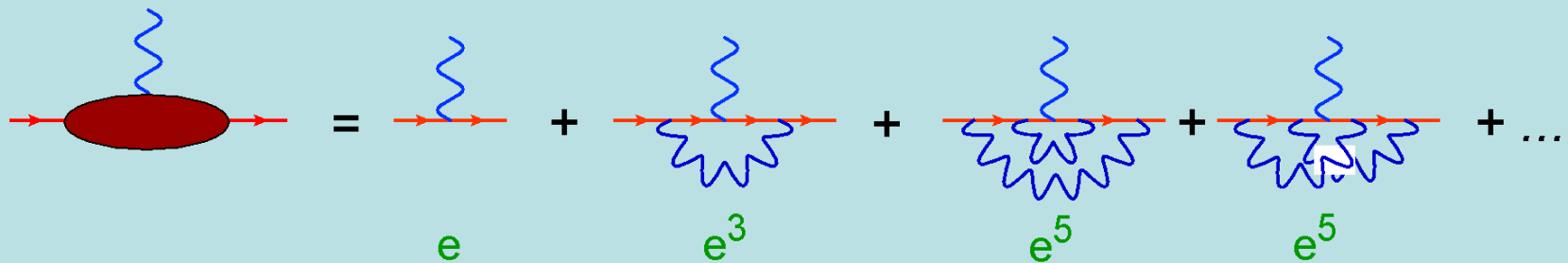
BASE, Eur. Phys. J. ST  
224, 16, 3055 (2015)

Measurement doesn't look much like particle scattering, but  $a_e = (g_e - 2)/2$  can be computed from spin-flip part of  $\gamma e \rightarrow e$  process as photon momentum  $\rightarrow 0$ .



# The loop expansion

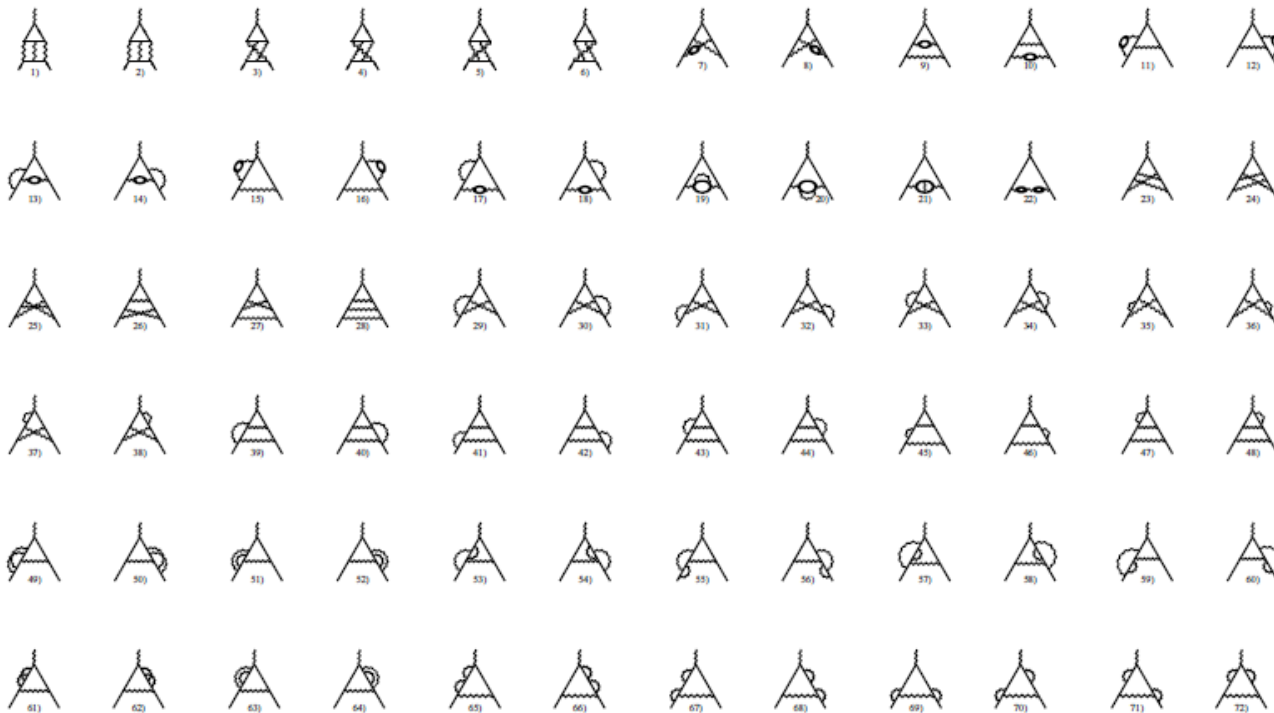
- **Feynman:** Draw all diagrams with specified incoming and outgoing particles, weight them by coupling factors at each vertex. For a given process, extra powers of coupling for each closed loop.



In QED, each additional loop suppressed by the fine structure constant

$$\frac{e^2}{4\pi\hbar c} \equiv \alpha = \frac{1}{137.035999\dots}$$

# By 3 loops, 72 diagrams!



Without Feynman's methods, hopeless.

Even with Feynman diagrams, reaching this precision would take decades.

Fig. 7. The universal third order contribution to  $a_\mu$ . All fermion loops here are muon-loops (first 22 diagrams). All non-universal contributions follow by replacing at least one muon in a closed loop by some other fermion

# QED state of art today: 5 loops, 12,672 diagrams

56

M. Hayakawa

30 gauge invariant sets

The most difficult set,  
6354 diagrams,  
leading to 389 integrals.  
Evaluated numerically  
after Feynman  
Parameterization.

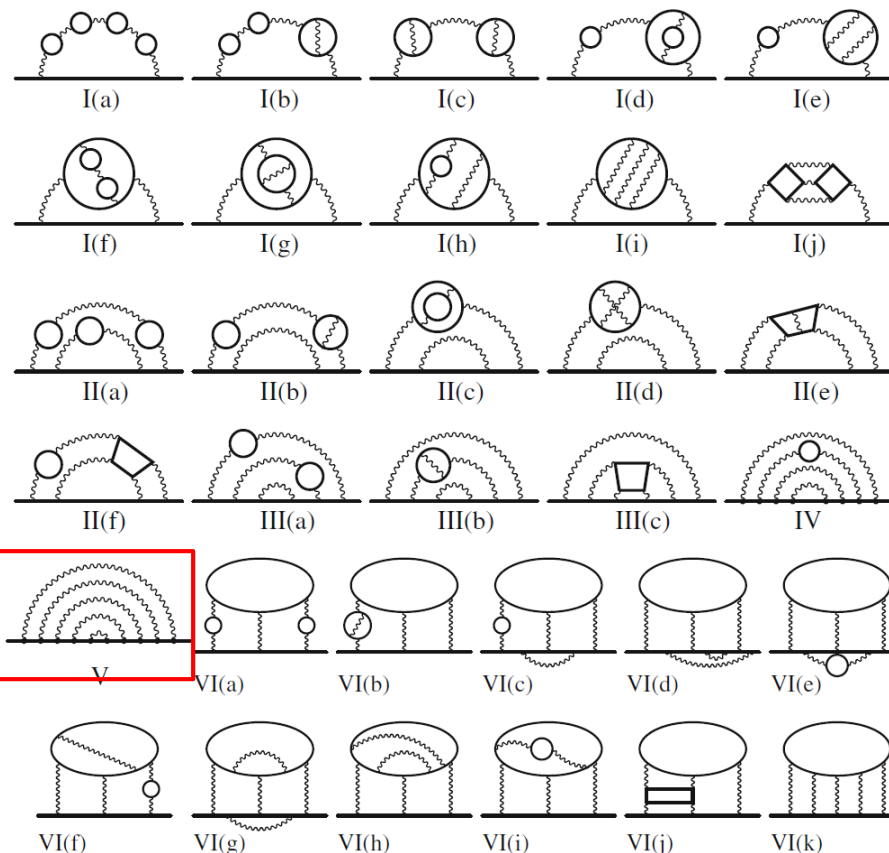


Fig. 2.7 Gauge-invariant subsets of self-energy-like diagrams at the tenth order

Aoyama, Hayakawa,  
Kinoshita, Nio, Watanabe,  
2006-2017

# 7 decades of $g_e-2$ theory

fully analytic

$$\begin{aligned}
 a_e = & \frac{\alpha}{\pi} \cdot \frac{1}{2} \quad \leftarrow \text{Schwinger 1948} \\
 & + \left(\frac{\alpha}{\pi}\right)^2 \left[ \frac{197}{144} + \frac{\pi^2}{12} - \frac{\pi^2}{2} \ln 2 + \frac{3}{4} \zeta_3 \right] \quad \leftarrow \text{Karplus, Kroll 1950} \\
 & + \left(\frac{\alpha}{\pi}\right)^3 \left[ \frac{28259}{5184} + \frac{17101}{810} \pi^2 - \frac{298}{9} \pi^2 \ln 2 + \frac{139}{18} \zeta_3 \right. \\
 & \quad \left. - \frac{239}{2160} \pi^4 + \frac{100}{3} \left\{ \text{Li}_4\left(\frac{1}{2}\right) + \frac{1}{24} (\ln^4 2 - \pi^2 \ln^2 2) \right\} \right. \\
 & \quad \left. + \frac{83}{72} \pi^2 \zeta_3 - \frac{215}{24} \zeta_5 \right] + \dots \quad \leftarrow \text{Petermann 1957} \\
 & \quad \quad \quad \leftarrow \text{Sommerfield 1957} \\
 & \quad \quad \quad \leftarrow \text{Kinoshita, Cvitanovic 1972} \\
 & \quad \quad \quad \leftarrow \text{Laporta, Remiddi 1996}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \zeta_p &= \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{k^p} \\
 \text{Li}_4\left(\frac{1}{2}\right) &= \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{2^k k^4}
 \end{aligned}$$

numerical

$$\begin{aligned}
 = & 0.5 \frac{\alpha}{\pi} \\
 & - 0.3284789655791 \dots \left(\frac{\alpha}{\pi}\right)^2 \quad \leftarrow \text{Aoyama, Hayakawa, Kinoshita, Nio, 2005-2007} \\
 & + 1.1812414565872 \dots \left(\frac{\alpha}{\pi}\right)^3 \quad \leftarrow \text{Laporta arXiv:1704.06996} \\
 & - 1.9122457649264 \dots \left(\frac{\alpha}{\pi}\right)^4 \\
 & + 6.7(\pm 0.2) \left(\frac{\alpha}{\pi}\right)^5 \quad \leftarrow \text{Aoyama, Hayakawa, Kinoshita, Nio, Watanabe, 2006-2017}
 \end{aligned}$$

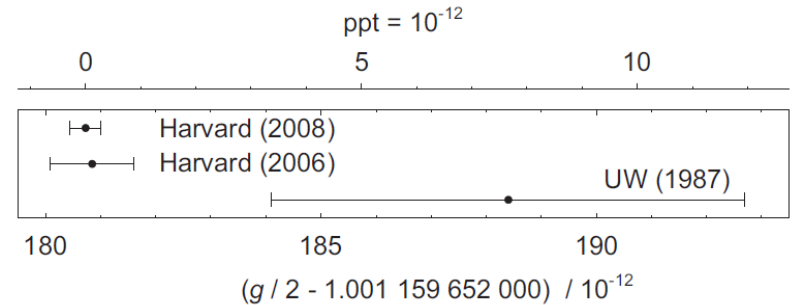
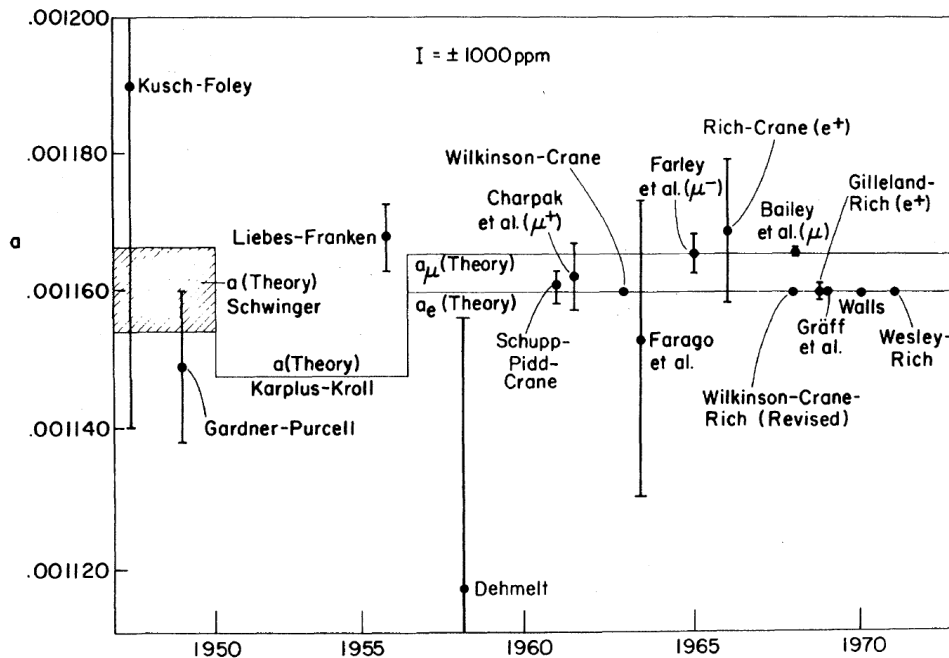
(+ mass-dep.)

# All needed to match incredible improvements in experimental precision

252 REVIEWS OF MODERN PHYSICS • APRIL 1972

Rich, Wesley 1972

Van Dyck, Schwinger, Dehmelt, 1977-1987



Hanneke, Hoogerheide, Gabrielse, 2006-2010

$$g/2 = 1.001\,159\,652\,180\,73\,(28) \quad [0.28 \text{ ppt}]$$

# Magnetic anomaly anomalies?

- New measurement of fine structure constant in cesium:

$$\alpha^{-1}(\text{Cs}) = 137.035999046(27).$$

- Leads to  $2.4\sigma$  discrepancy for electron

Davoudiasl, Marciano  
arXiv:1806.10252

$$\begin{aligned}\Delta a_e &\equiv a_e^{\text{exp}} - a_e^{\text{SM}} \\ &= [-87 \pm 28 (\text{exp}) \pm 23 (\alpha) \pm 2 (\text{theory})] \\ &\times 10^{-14},\end{aligned}$$

Measuring Earth-Moon distance to width of human hair:  $10^{-13}$

- Opposite in sign to better known  $3.7\sigma$  discrepancy for muon

$$\Delta a_\mu \equiv a_\mu^{\text{exp}} - a_\mu^{\text{th}} = (2.74 \pm 0.73) \times 10^{-9}$$

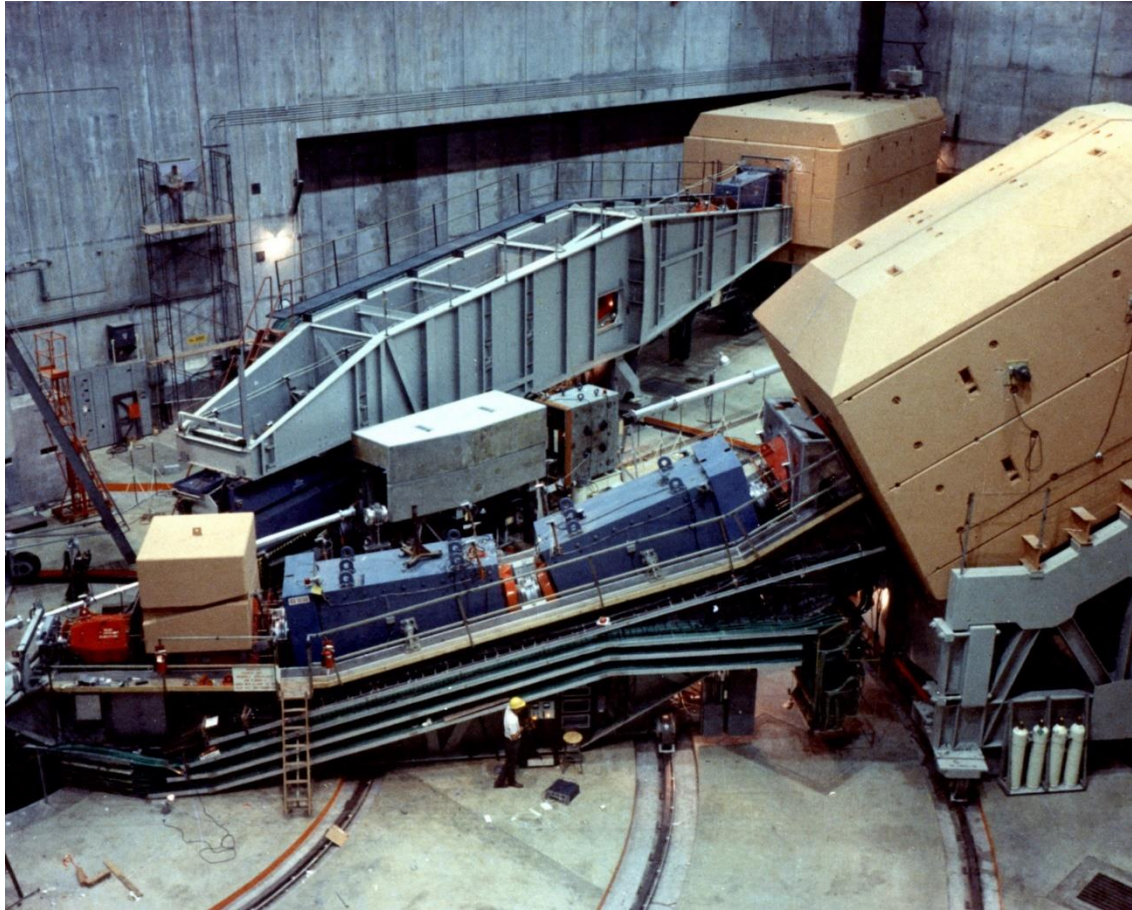
- Could one or both of these be harbingers of new physics?
- Or statistical fluctuations or other issues?

# On to real (violent) particle scattering

- Feynman's role in understanding structure of matter: the proton as a bound state of more fundamental objects, **quarks** and **gluons**.
- Gell-Mann and Zweig proposed **quarks** in early 1960s, but were they real, or a mathematical tool to represent symmetries?
- SLAC, a lab built in the 1960s to scatter electrons off protons at record energies, could answer question directly



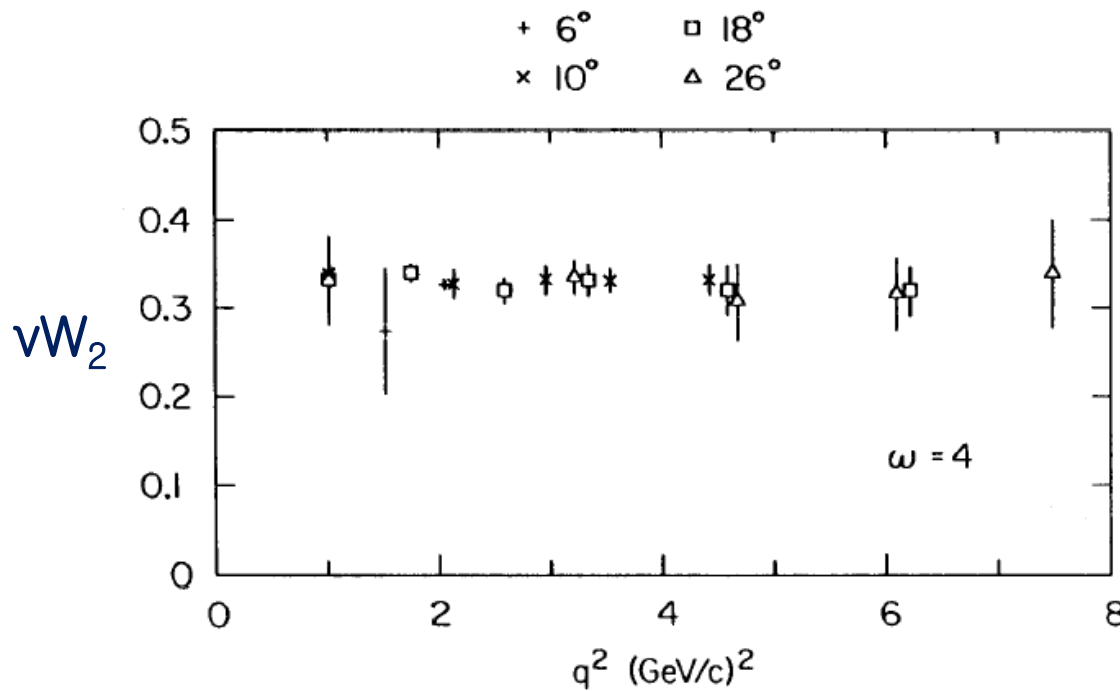
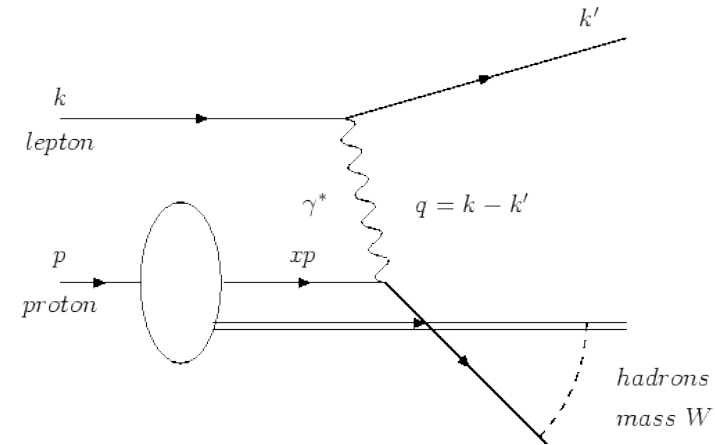
# Where quarks were found



End Station A at SLAC, where “deep inelastic” scattering experiments were performed that revealed “Bjorken Scaling”

Talk by Marty Breidenbach at SLAC Summer Institute 2018, “50 years of the Standard Model”

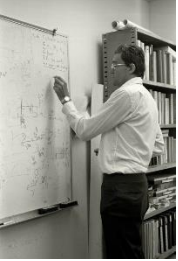
# Scaling: $\nu W_2$ for fixed $\omega$ vs $q^2$



$$q^2 = \text{photon virtuality}$$

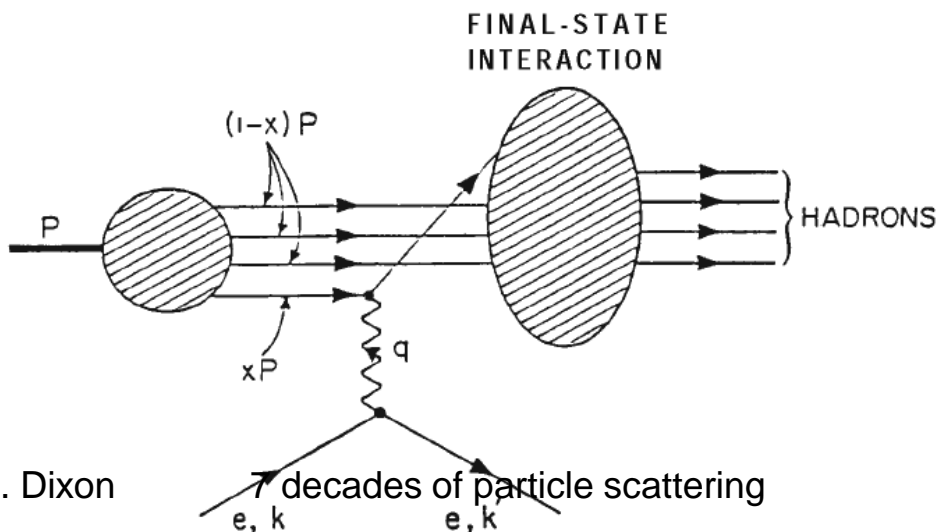
$$\omega = \frac{2p \cdot q}{q^2} = \frac{2M_p \nu}{q^2} = \frac{1}{x}$$

M. Breidenbach, SSI 2018



# Partons

- Many of us did not understand bj's current algebra motivation for scaling
- Feynman visited SLAC in August 1968. He had been working on hadron-hadron interactions with point like constituents called partons. We showed him the early data on the weak  $q^2$  dependence and scaling – and he (instantly!) explained the data with his parton model.
- In an infinite momentum frame, the point like partons were slowed, and the virtual photon simply elastically scatters from one parton without interactions with the other partons – the impulse approximation.
- This was a wonderful, understandable model for us.



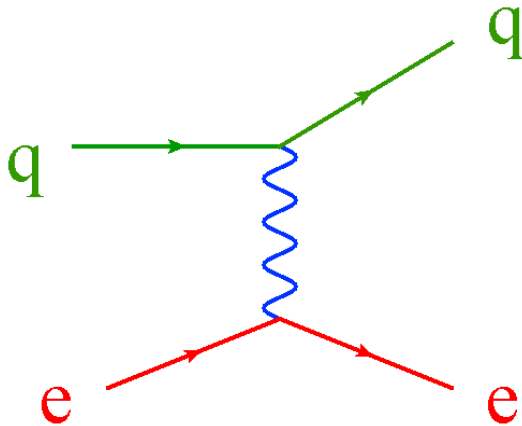
$$W_2^{(i)}(\nu, q^2) = Q_i^2 \delta(\nu - q^2/2Mx_i) = Q_i^2 x_i / \nu \delta(x_i - q^2/2M\nu)$$

$$\nu W_2(\nu, q^2) = \sum_N \mathcal{P}(N) \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^N Q_i^2 \right\} x f_N(x) = F_2(x)$$

$$x = \frac{q^2}{2M\nu} = \frac{1}{\omega}$$

"pdf"

# Same iconic Feynman diagram, now with quarks



Two deep inelastic structure functions,  $F_1$  and  $F_2$   
 But this diagram depends on spin of partons, and for spin  $\frac{1}{2}$ , get Callan-Gross relation,  $F_2 = 2xF_1$

$$W_{\mu\nu} = \left( -g_{\mu\nu} + \frac{q_\mu q_\nu}{q^2} \right) F_1(x, Q^2) + \frac{\hat{P}_\mu \hat{P}_\nu}{P \cdot q} F_2(x, Q^2)$$

Confirmed experimentally early on  
 (at large  $x$  where gluon can be neglected)

Scaling  $\rightarrow$  asymptotic freedom  
 $\rightarrow$  nonabelian gauge theories  
 $\rightarrow$  Quantum Chromodynamics, QCD (SU(3) color)

Gross, Wilczek; Politzer 1973  
 Fritsch, Gell-Mann 1972;  
 Weinberg 1973

# Feynman and the weak interaction

## V – A left-handed structure

also Sudarshan, Marshak

PHYSICAL REVIEW

VOLUME 109, NUMBER 1

JANUARY 1, 1958

### Theory of the Fermi Interaction

R. P. FEYNMAN AND M. GELL-MANN  
*California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, California*

(Received September 16, 1957)

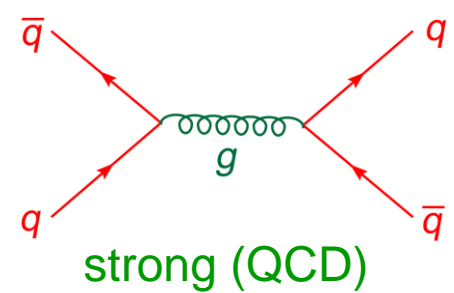
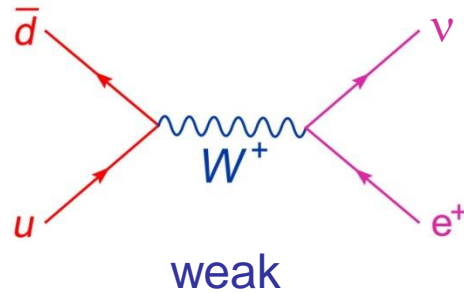
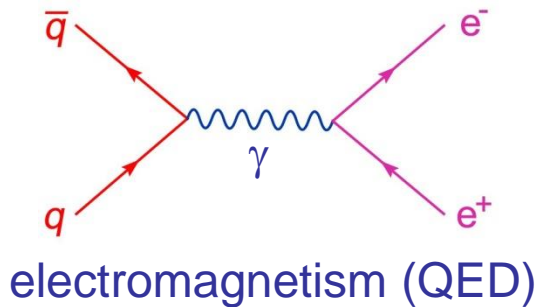
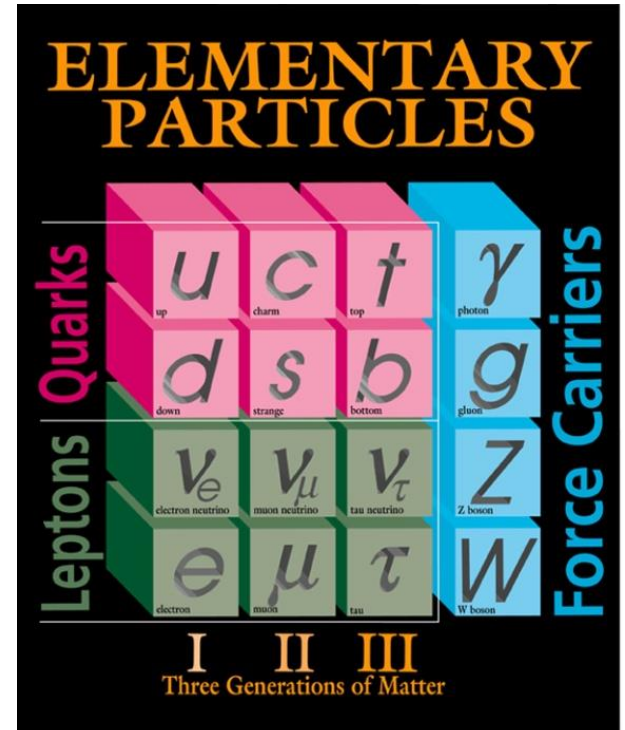
The representation of Fermi particles by two-component Pauli spinors satisfying a second order differential equation and the suggestion that in  $\beta$  decay these spinors act without gradient couplings leads to an essentially unique weak four-fermion coupling. It is equivalent to equal amounts of vector and axial vector coupling with two-component neutrinos and conservation of leptons. (The relative sign is not determined theoretically.) It is taken to be “universal”; the lifetime of the  $\mu$  agrees to within the experimental errors of 2%. The vector part of the coupling is, by analogy with electric charge, assumed to be not renormalized by virtual mesons. This requires, for example, that pions are also “charged” in the sense that there is a direct interaction in which, say, a  $\pi^0$  goes to  $\pi^-$  and an electron goes to a neutrino. The weak decays of strange particles will result qualitatively if the universality is extended to include a coupling involving a  $\Lambda$  or  $\Sigma$  fermion. Parity is then not conserved even for those decays like  $K \rightarrow 2\pi$  or  $3\pi$  which involve no neutrinos. The theory is at variance with the measured angular correlation of electron and neutrino in  $\text{He}^6$ , and with the fact that fewer than  $10^{-4}$  pion decay into electron and neutrino.

Later completed to  $\text{SU}(2)_L \times \text{U}(1)$   
with neutral currents  
and a Higgs mechanism

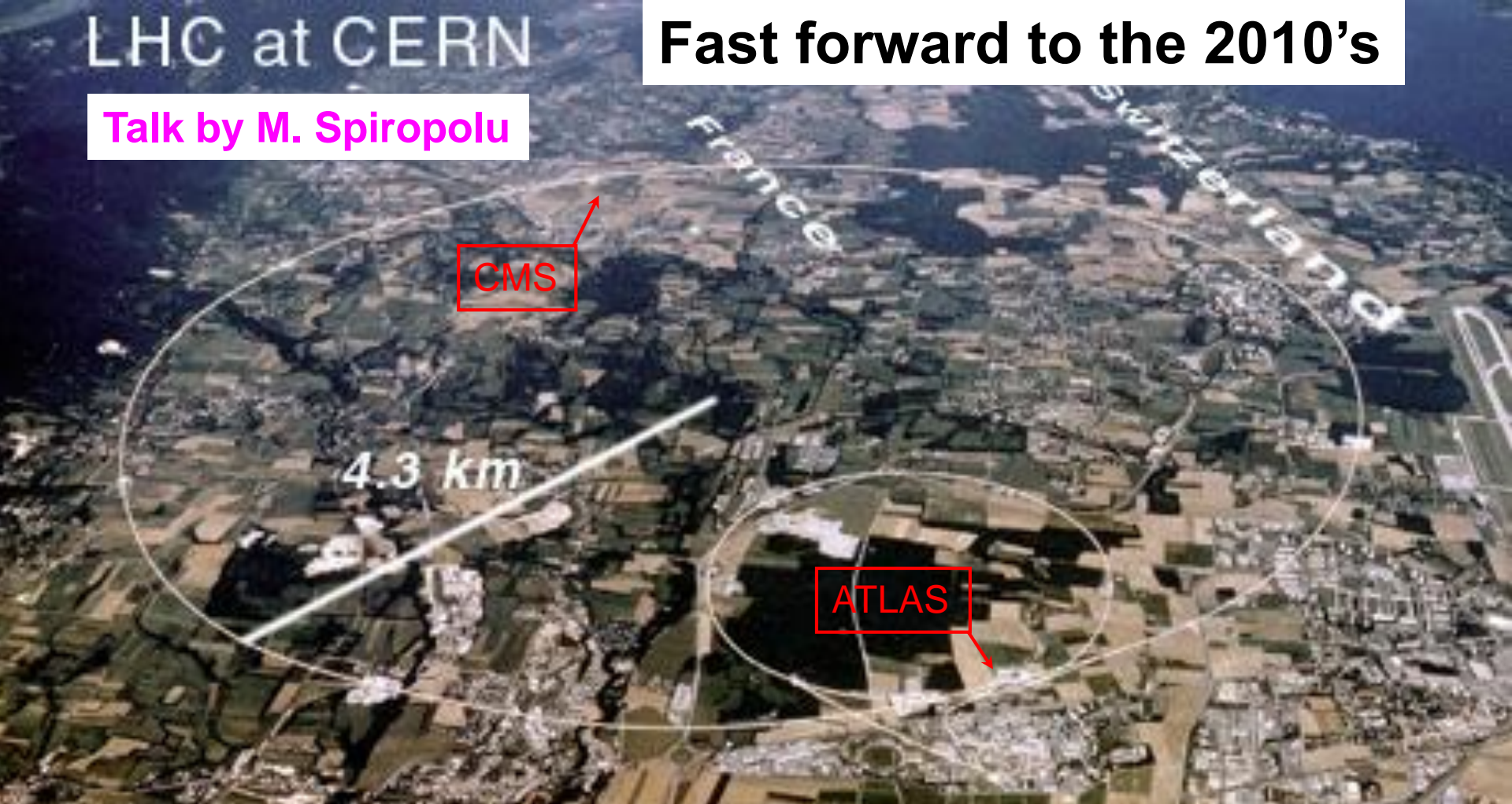
Glashow, Weinberg, Salam 1961-1968  
Brout, Englert; Higgs;  
Guralnik, Hagen, Kibble 1964

# Standard Model

- All elementary forces except gravity in same basic framework
- Matter made of spin 1/2 fermions
- Force vectors
- Add explanation → first quantum
- Solid



Talk by M. Spiropolu



CMS

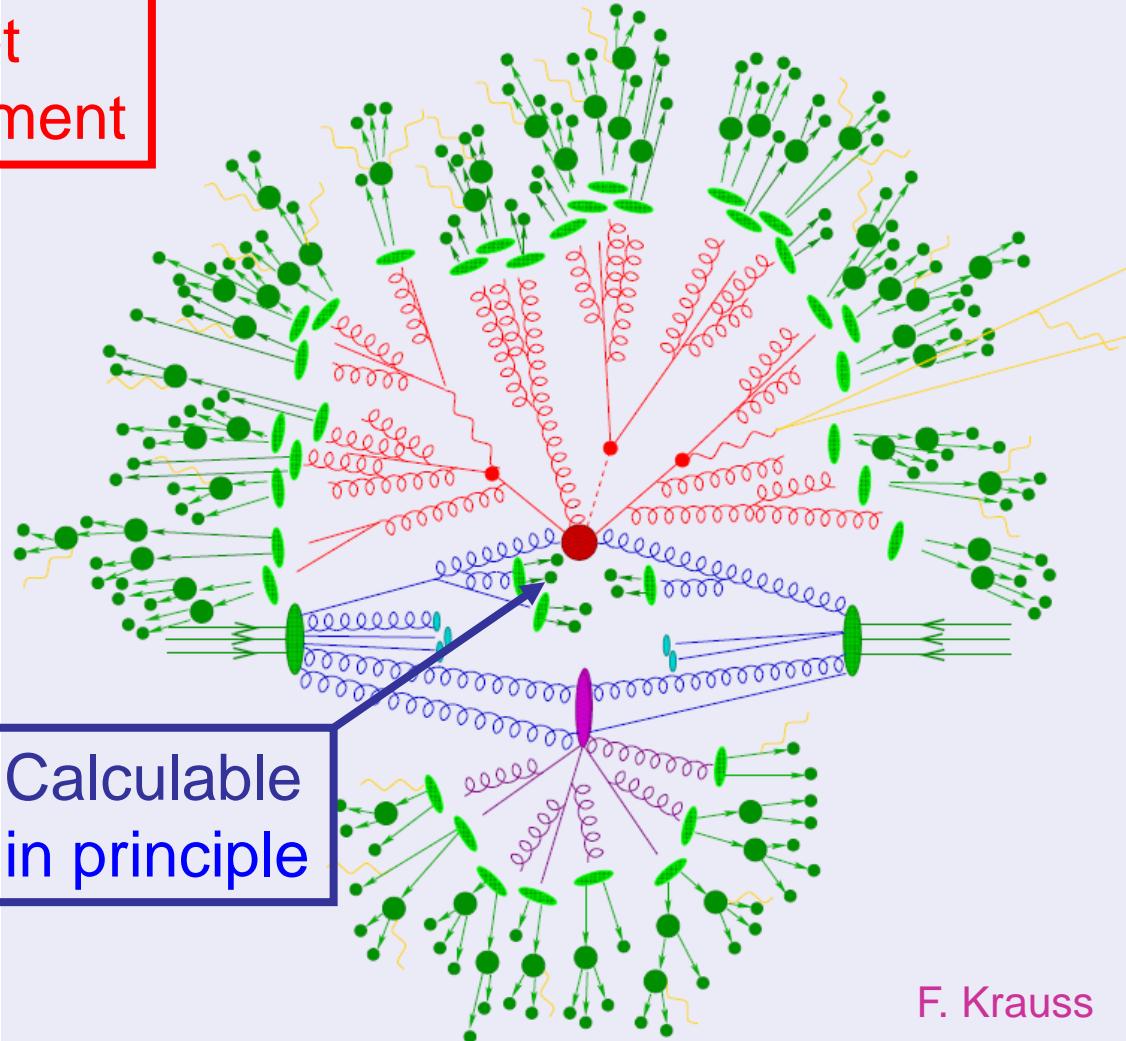
4.3 km

ATLAS

- The current “Energy Frontier” of particle physics
- Make particles that cannot be made anywhere else
- Higgs boson discovered in 2012, but properties still need exploring
- Will accumulate ~ 20 times as many collisions by ~ 2030

# Typical LHC Collision

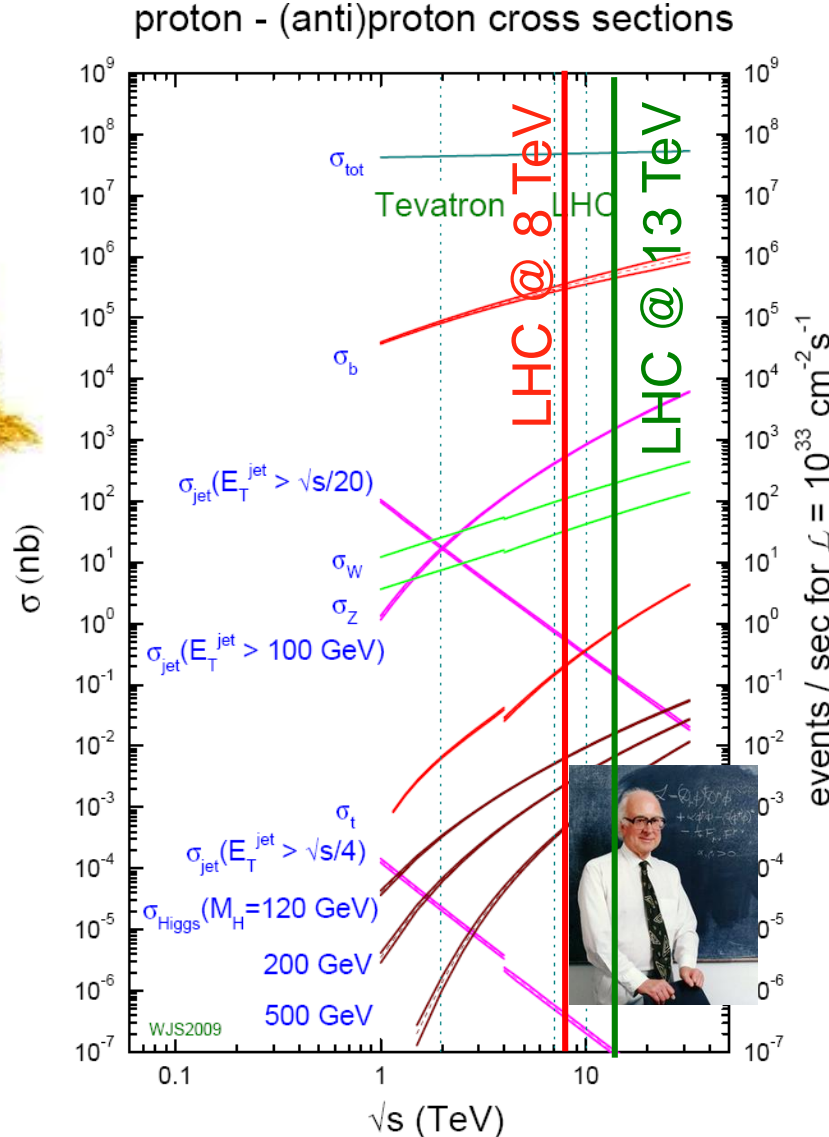
Model or get  
from experiment



# LHC Data Dominated by Jets



new physics →



**Jets** from quarks and gluons.

- $q, g$  from decay of new particles?
- Or old physics?

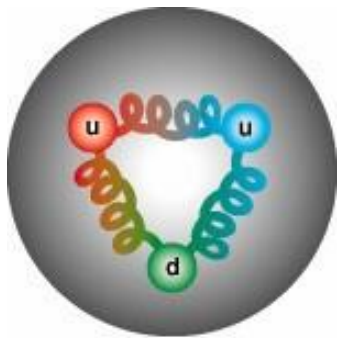
• Every process shown also with one more jet at  $\sim 1/5$  the rate

• Need accurate production rates for  $X + 1, 2, 3, \dots$  jets in Standard Model

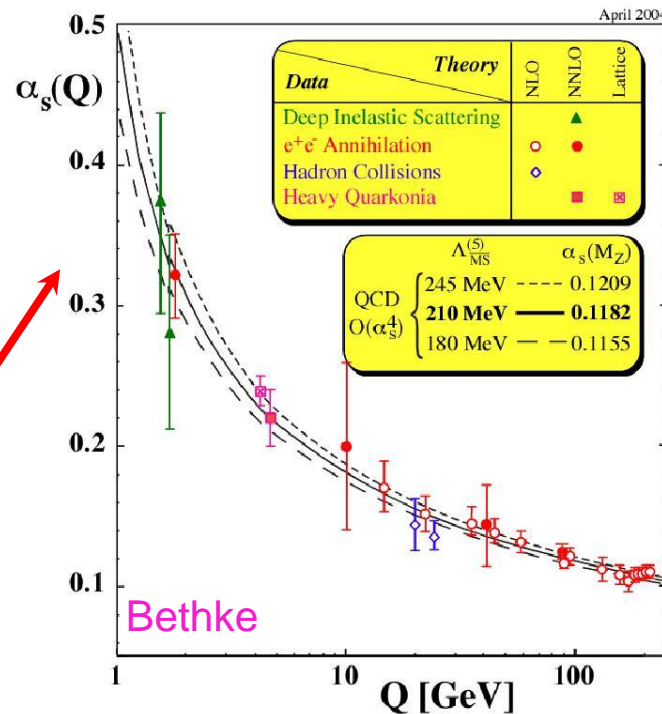
# Asymptotic Freedom

Gross, Wilczek, Politzer (1973)

Gluons **anti**-screen charge: Interaction strength  $\alpha_s$  for QCD is a **small number at short distances**, so we can expand in this small parameter  $\rightarrow$  perturbation theory  $\rightarrow$  Feynman diagrams



confining

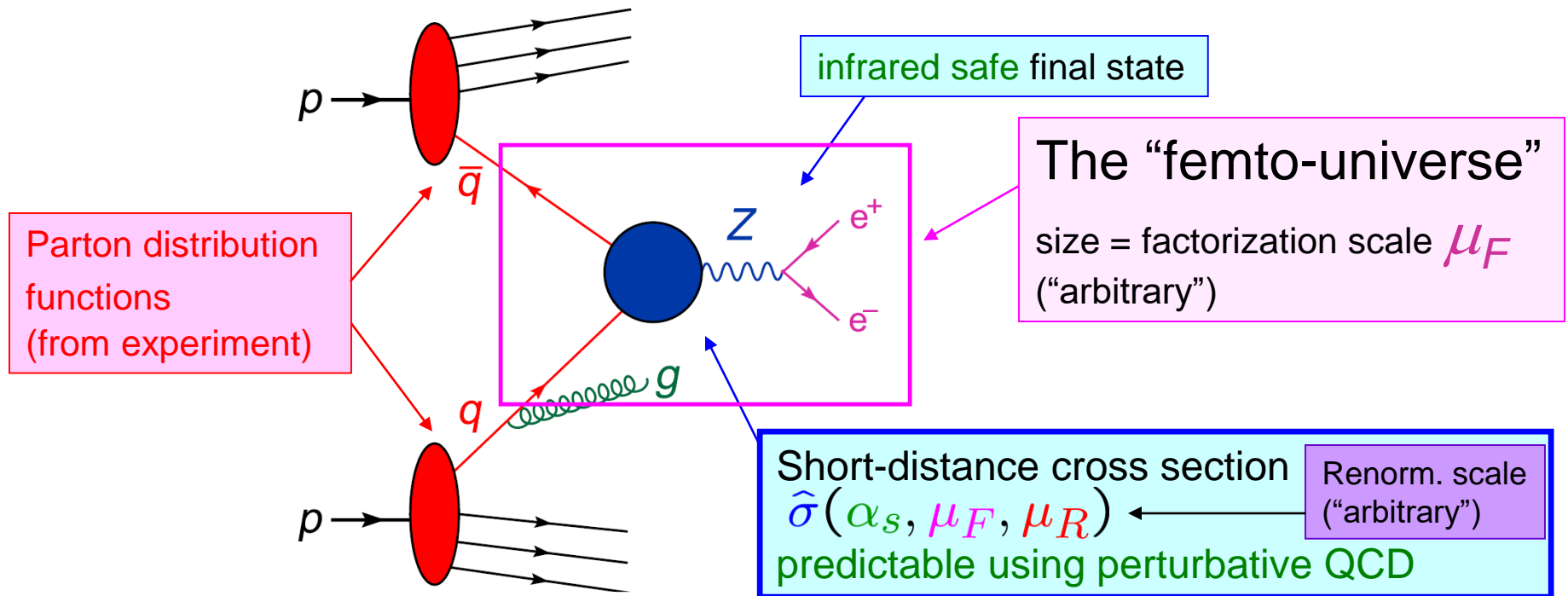


Bethke

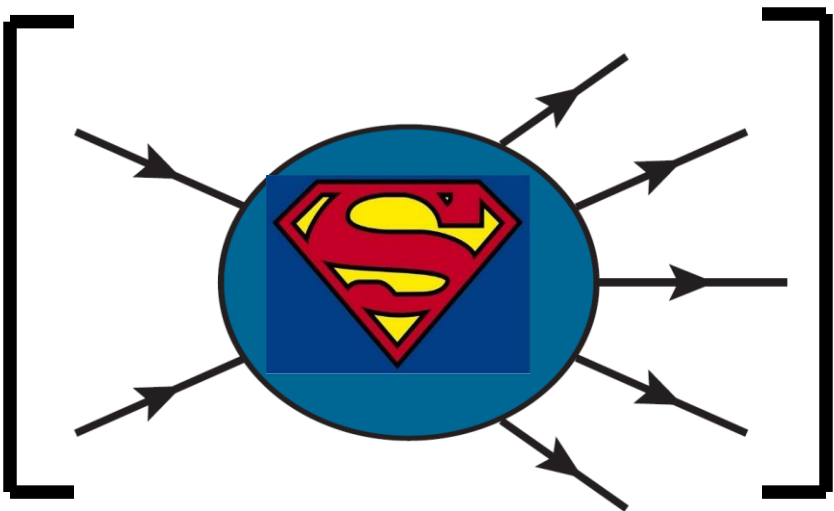
calculable

# QCD Factorization & Parton Model

At short distances, **quarks** and **gluons** (**partons**) in proton are **almost free**.  
 Sampled “one at a time” due to impulse approximation



# Short-distance cross sections built out of scattering amplitudes, **S**-matrix elements

$$\sigma = f \left[ \text{diagram} \right]$$


# Short-Distance Cross Section in Perturbation Theory

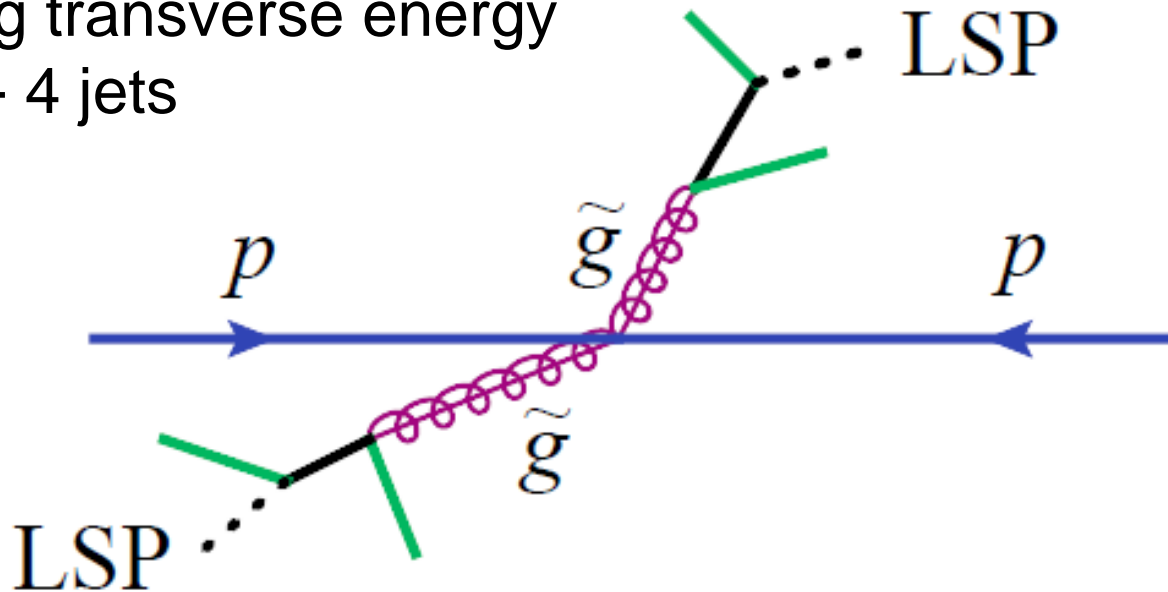
$$\hat{\sigma}(\alpha_s, \mu_F, \mu_R) = [\alpha_s(\mu_R)]^{n_\alpha} \left[ \underbrace{\hat{\sigma}^{(0)}}_{\text{LO}} + \frac{\alpha_s}{2\pi} \underbrace{\hat{\sigma}^{(1)}}_{\text{NLO}}(\mu_F, \mu_R) + \left(\frac{\alpha_s}{2\pi}\right)^2 \underbrace{\hat{\sigma}^{(2)}}_{\text{NNLO}}(\mu_F, \mu_R) + \dots \right]$$

- **Problem:** Leading-order (LO) predictions only **qualitative** due to **poor convergence** of expansion in  $\alpha_s(\mu) \sim 0.1$
- Can easily get  **$\sim 50\text{-}100\%$  uncertainties in LO predictions**
- Uncertainties brought under much better control with NLO corrections:  **$\sim 50\text{-}100\% \rightarrow \sim 15\text{-}20\%$**
- NNLO becoming increasingly available  **$\rightarrow \sim 3\text{-}8\%$  uncertainties**

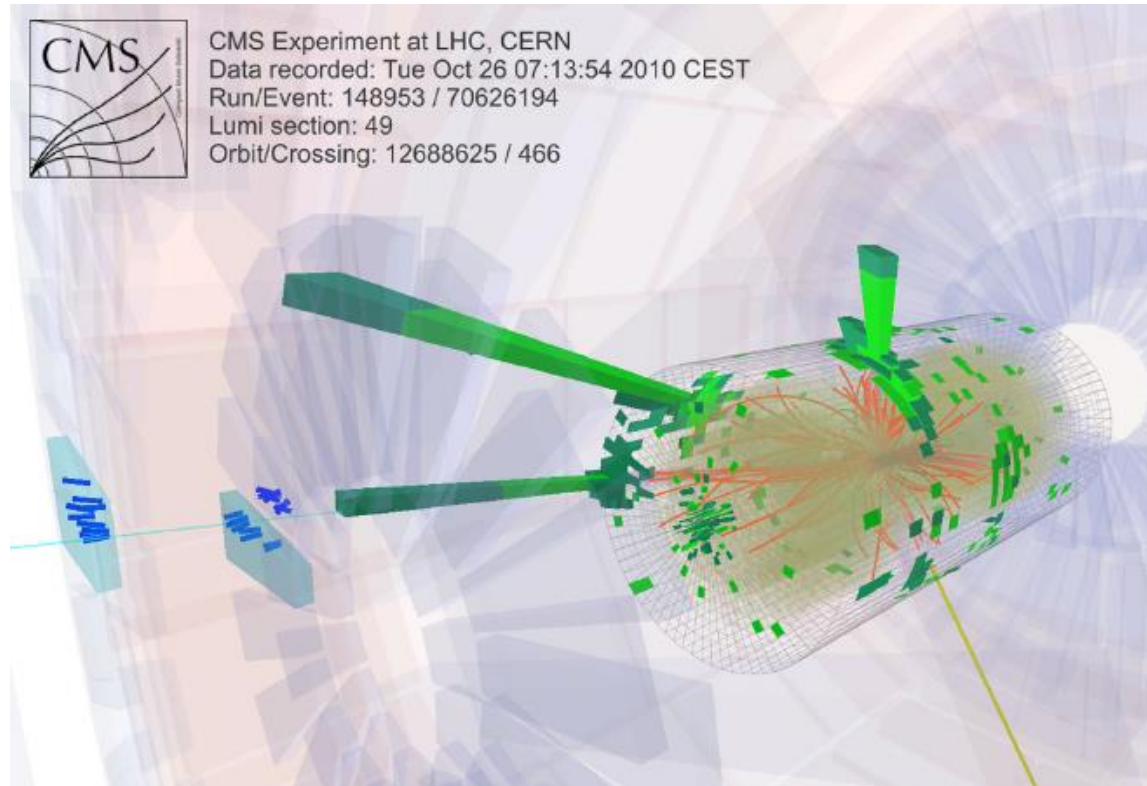
# LHC might be making dark matter

Heavy colored particles could decay rapidly to stable Weakly Interacting Massive Particle (WIMP = LSP) plus jets

→ Missing transverse energy  
MET + 4 jets



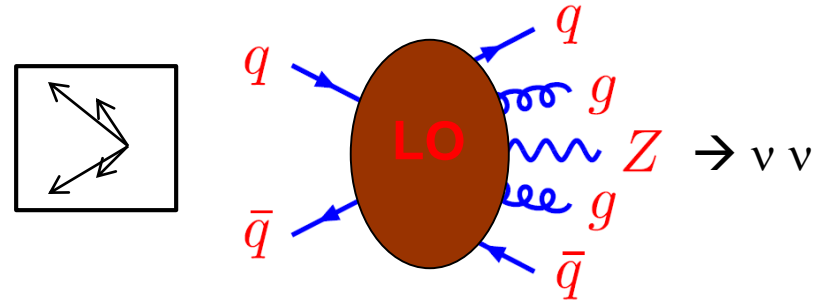
# Is LHC already making dark matter?



- 5 jets
- sum of jet transverse momenta  $H_T = 1132 \text{ GeV}$
- missing transverse energy  $H_{T\text{Miss}} = 693 \text{ GeV}$

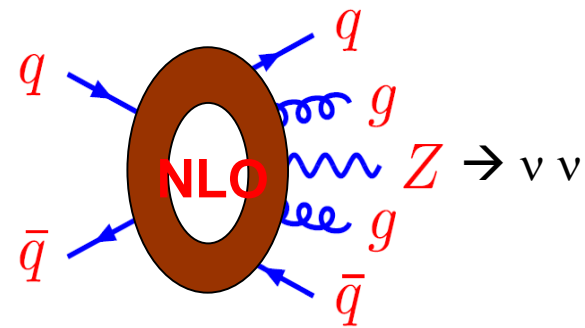
# No! Happens in Standard Model too

- MET + 4 jets from  
 $pp \rightarrow Z + 4 \text{ jets},$   
 $Z \rightarrow \text{neutrinos}$   
Neutrinos escape detector.  
**Irreducible background.**



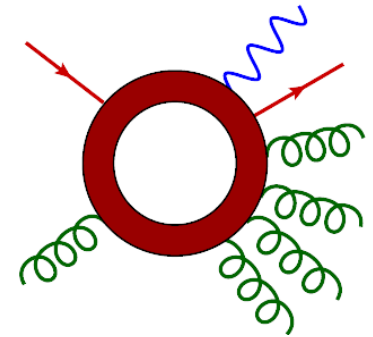
State of art for  $Z + 4 \text{ jets}$   
was based on  
**Leading Order (LO)**  
**approximation in QCD**  
→ normalization uncertain

Now available at  
**Next to Leading Order,**  
greatly reducing  
theoretical uncertainties

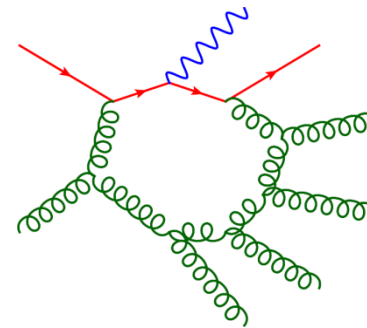


# A Better Way to Compute?

- **Backgrounds** (and many **signals**) at NLO require one-loop scattering amplitudes for **many** ultra-relativistic (“massless”) particles – especially **quarks** and **gluons** of QCD



- **Feynman** told us how to do this – in principle



+ 256,264 more

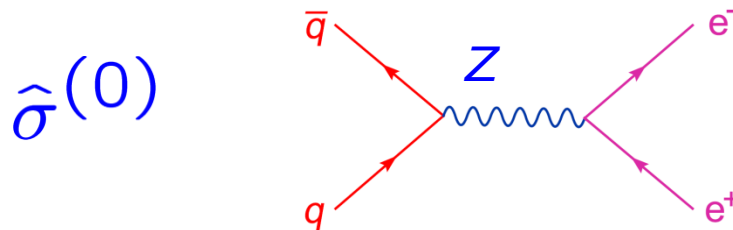
- **Feynman diagrams**, while **very general and powerful**, are **not optimized** for these processes
- **There are much more efficient methods**



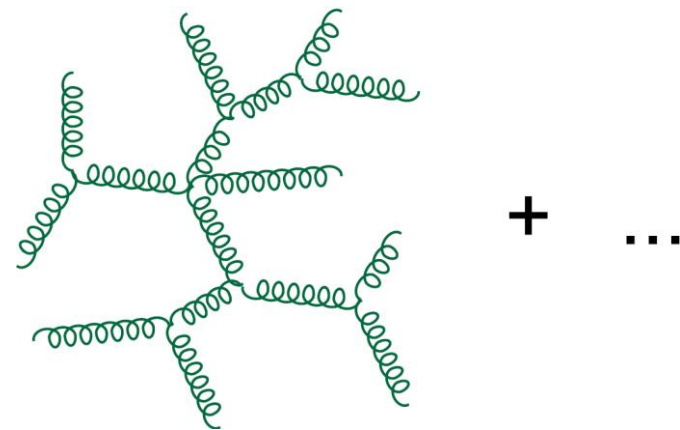
# LO = Trees

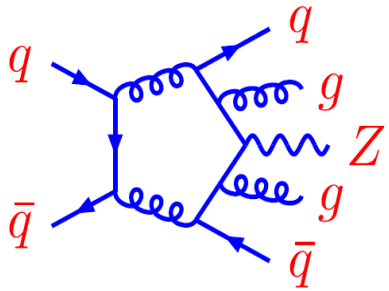
LO cross section uses only Feynman diagrams with **no closed loops** – **tree diagrams**.

Here's a very simple one:



Although there are many kinds of trees, some harder than others, “textbook” methods often suffice





# NLO = Loops

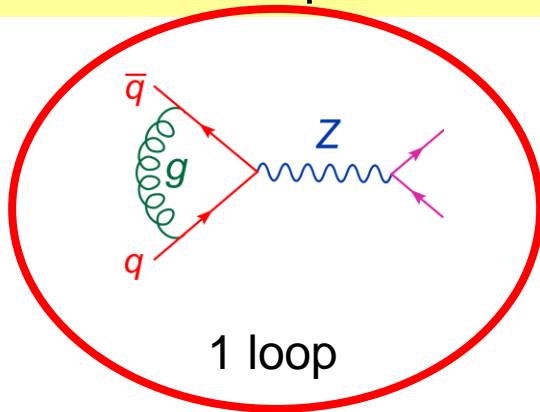
NLO cross section needs Feynman diagrams with **exactly one closed loop**

Textbook methods quickly fail, even with very powerful computers

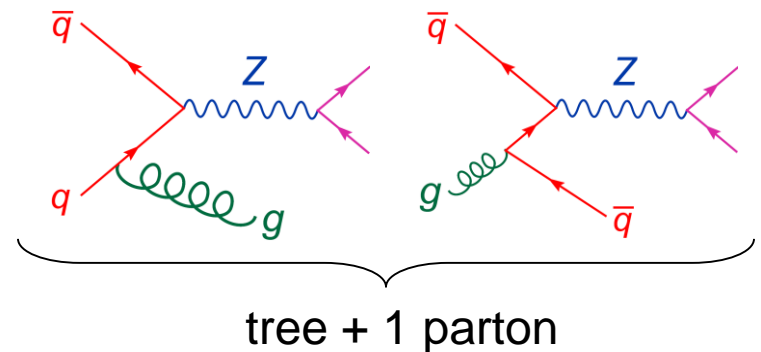
- NLO also needs tree-level amplitudes with one more parton
- Both terms **infinite(!)** – combine them to get a finite result
- Now also a solved problem

$\hat{\sigma}(1)$

NLO



1 loop



tree + 1 parton

# Quantifying the one-loop QCD challenge

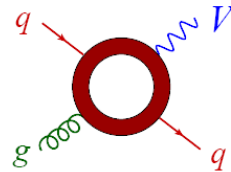
$pp \rightarrow W + n \text{ jets}$

(amplitudes with most gluons)

# of jets

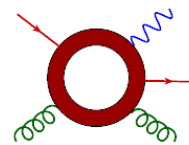
# 1-loop Feynman diagrams

1



11

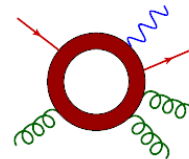
2



110

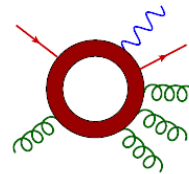
Current limit with  
Feynman diagrams

3



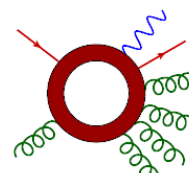
1,253

4



16,648

5



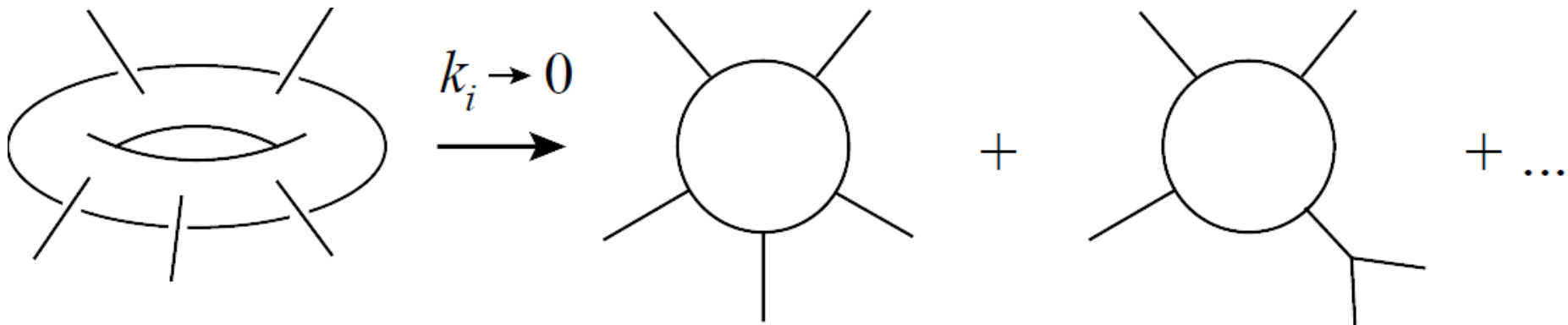
256,265

Current limit with  
the new methods

# Back to the early 1990's

Bern, Kosower (1991)

- Zvi Bern, David Kosower used string theory, which has **all Feynman diagrams in one package**:



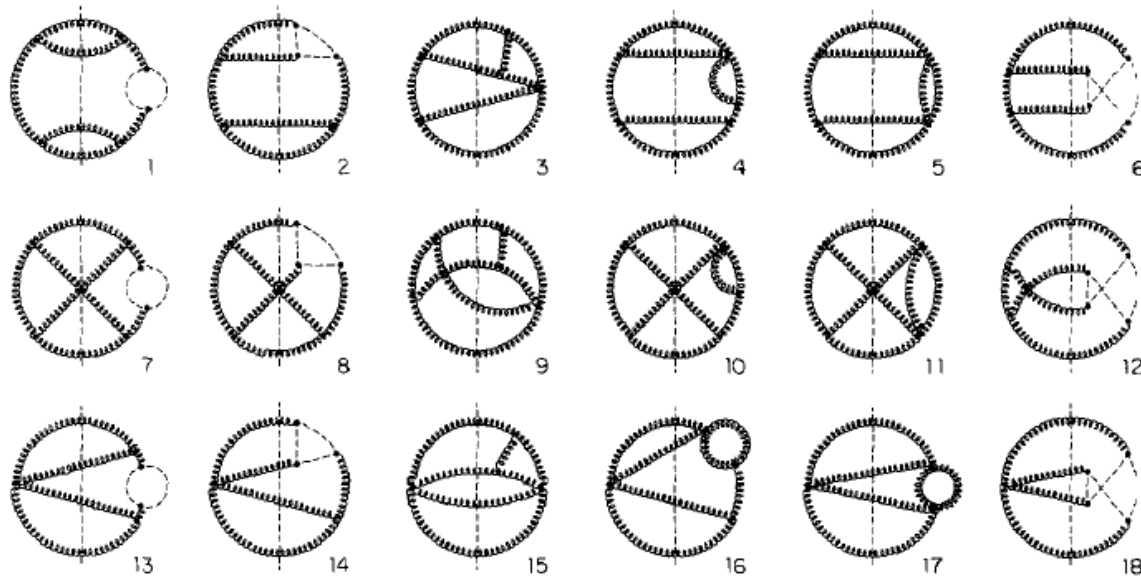
- Low-energy limit (large string tension limit)  
→ Bern-Kosower rules.
- Computed  $gg \rightarrow gg$  at 1-loop in terms of helicity amplitudes

# $gg \rightarrow gg$ computed previously

Ellis, Sexton (1986)

- Using Feynman diagrams, and as interference with tree amplitude, summed over all colors and helicities

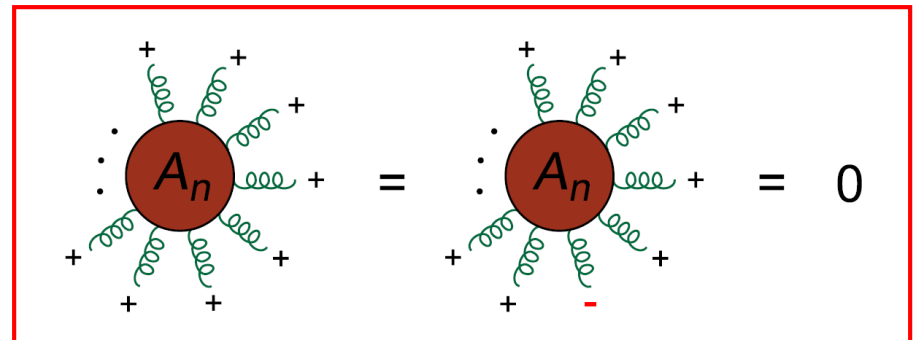
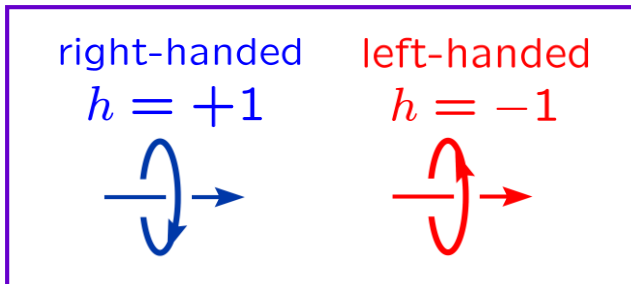
*R.K. Ellis, J.C. Sexton / QCD radiative corrections*

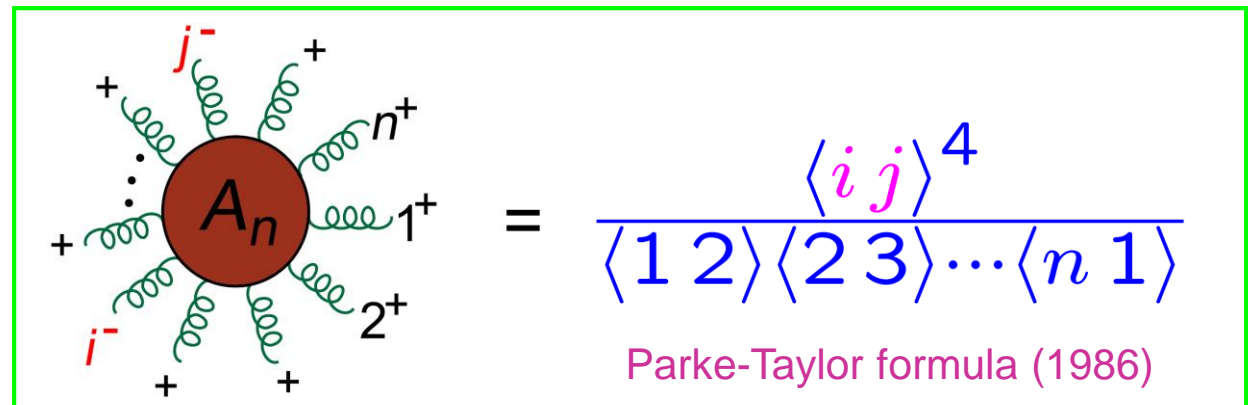


- Powerful and important result; however, sum obscured underlying simplicity of helicity amplitudes

# Helicity Formalism Exposes Tree-Level Simplicity in QCD

Many tree-level **helicity** amplitudes either vanish or are very short





$$A_n = \frac{\langle ij \rangle^4}{\langle 12 \rangle \langle 23 \rangle \dots \langle n1 \rangle}$$

Parke-Taylor formula (1986)

Very opaque from Feynman diagrams

# Spinor helicity formalism (1980s)

Instead of Lorentz products:

$$s_{ij} = 2k_i \cdot k_j = (k_i + k_j)^2$$

Use spinor products:

$$\langle ij \rangle = \sqrt{s_{ij}} e^{i\phi_{ij}}$$

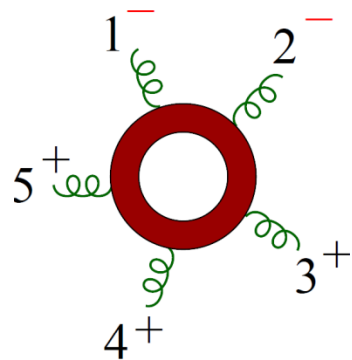
$$[ji] = \sqrt{s_{ij}} e^{-i\phi_{ij}}$$

If momenta are real, they are complex square roots of Lorentz products. Complex variables, natural for complex amplitudes.

# A new result: $gg \rightarrow ggg$

Bern, LD, Kosower (1993)

- String formalism allowed us to push to one more leg.
- First  $2 \rightarrow 3$  loop amplitude. “Just complicated enough.”
- Could start to see clearly how it was organized.



$$V^f = -\frac{5}{2\epsilon} - \frac{1}{2} \left[ \ln\left(\frac{\mu^2}{-s_{23}}\right) + \ln\left(\frac{\mu^2}{-s_{51}}\right) \right] - 2, \quad V^s = -\frac{1}{3}V^f + \frac{2}{9}$$

$$F^f = -\frac{1}{2} \frac{\langle 12 \rangle^2 (\langle 23 \rangle [34] \langle 41 \rangle + \langle 24 \rangle [45] \langle 51 \rangle)}{\langle 23 \rangle \langle 34 \rangle \langle 45 \rangle \langle 51 \rangle} \frac{L_0\left(\frac{-s_{23}}{-s_{51}}\right)}{s_{51}}$$

$$F^s = -\frac{1}{3} \frac{[34] \langle 41 \rangle \langle 24 \rangle [45] (\langle 23 \rangle [34] \langle 41 \rangle + \langle 24 \rangle [45] \langle 51 \rangle)}{\langle 34 \rangle \langle 45 \rangle} \frac{L_2\left(\frac{-s_{23}}{-s_{51}}\right)}{s_{51}} - \frac{1}{3}F^f$$

Only log arguments:

$s_{23}$  and  $s_{51}$

– not  $s_{12}$ ,  $s_{34}$  or  $s_{45}$

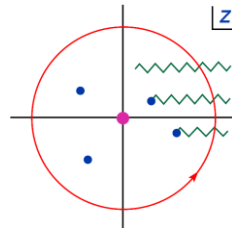
Why??

$$-\frac{1}{3} \frac{\langle 35 \rangle [35]^3}{[12] [23] \langle 34 \rangle \langle 45 \rangle [51]} + \frac{1}{3} \frac{\langle 12 \rangle [35]^2}{[23] \langle 34 \rangle \langle 45 \rangle [51]} + \frac{1}{6} \frac{\langle 12 \rangle [34] \langle 41 \rangle \langle 24 \rangle [45]}{s_{23} \langle 34 \rangle \langle 45 \rangle s_{51}}$$

denominators related to collinear limits

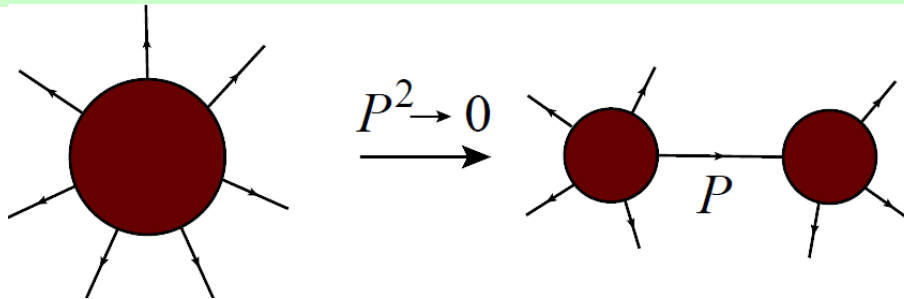


# 1960's Analytic S-Matrix



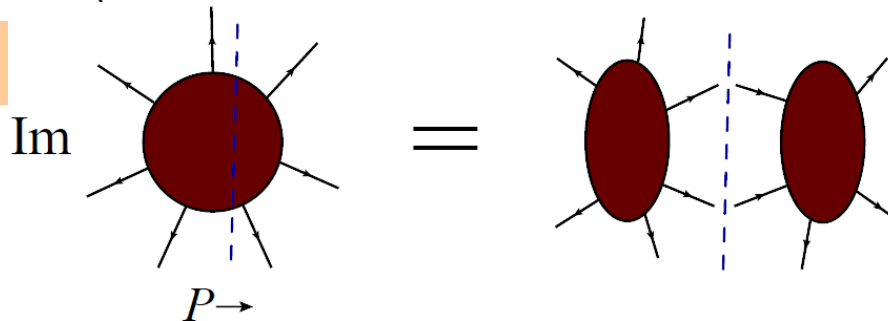
No QCD, no Lagrangian or Feynman rules for strong interactions. Bootstrap program: Reconstruct scattering amplitudes **directly** from analytic properties: “on-shell” information

• Poles



Landau; Cutkosky; Chew, Frautschi, Mandelstam; Eden, Landshoff, Olive, Polkinghorne; Veneziano; Virasoro, Shapiro; ... (1960s)

• Branch cuts



**Analyticity** fell out of favor in 1970s with the rise of QCD & Feynman rules

**Resurrect** it for computing amplitudes in **perturbative QCD**

– as **alternative to Feynman diagrams!**      **Unitarity method.**

**Perturbative information would assist analyticity.**

$$\text{Im} \int_{\mathcal{C}} \mathcal{M} = 0$$

Tree vanishes

$$\text{Im} \int_{\mathcal{C}'} \mathcal{M} \neq 0$$

Tree doesn't vanish

With a bit more work – far less than the original computation – we could compute the correct nonzero value by multiplying together simple trees

# Recurrent theme

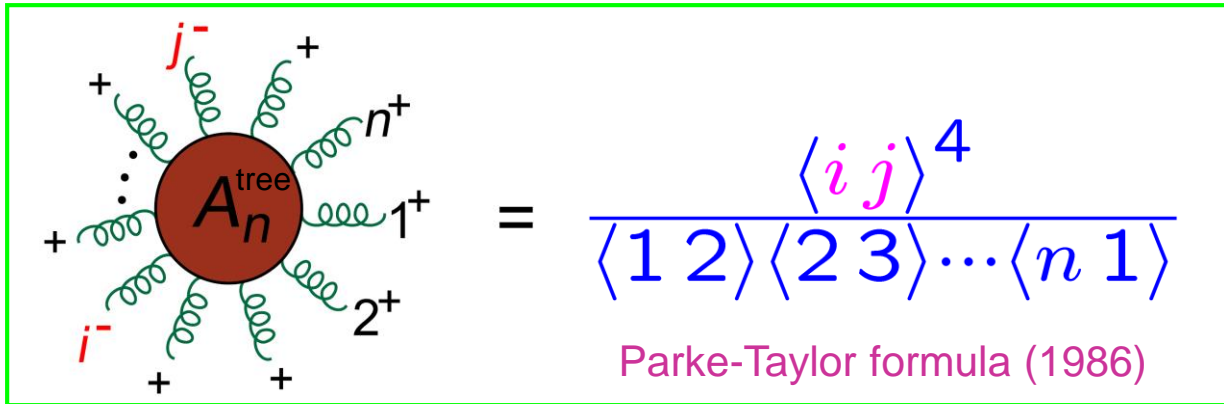
1. A little more computational power leads to new results
2. Explaining the patterns in the new results leads to new relations
3. The new relations can be exploited for even more computational power
4. See step 1.

# Another recurrent theme

Bern, LD, Dunbar, Kosower (1994)

- When you are lacking computational power in QCD, first try its cousin, N=4 super-Yang-Mills theory [Brink, Schwarz, Scherk; Gliozzi, Scherk, Olive \(1977\)](#)
- Using just one unitarity cut, could compute an infinite sequence of 1-loop amplitudes in this theory – the 1-loop Parke-Taylor amplitudes
- Remarkably, all made out of “easy 2 mass” scalar box integrals

# From trees to loops

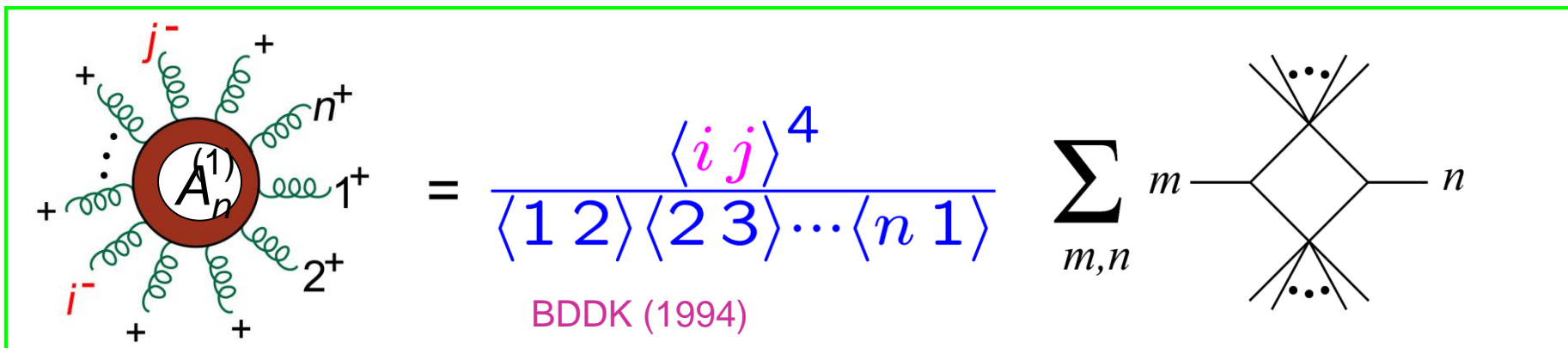


A diagram showing a tree-level amplitude  $A_n^{\text{tree}}$  as a central brown circle with  $n$  external wavy lines. The lines are labeled with momenta and helicities:  $1^+$ ,  $2^+$ , ...,  $n^+$ . Two lines are highlighted in red:  $i^-$  and  $j^-$ . The diagram is equated to the Parke-Taylor formula:

$$A_n^{\text{tree}} = \frac{\langle ij \rangle^4}{\langle 12 \rangle \langle 23 \rangle \dots \langle n1 \rangle}$$

Parke-Taylor formula (1986)

N=4 SYM



A diagram showing a loop-level amplitude  $A_n^{(1)}$  as a central brown circle with  $n$  external wavy lines. The lines are labeled with momenta and helicities:  $1^+$ ,  $2^+$ , ...,  $n^+$ . Two lines are highlighted in red:  $i^-$  and  $j^-$ . The diagram is equated to the BDDK formula:

$$A_n^{(1)} = \frac{\langle ij \rangle^4}{\langle 12 \rangle \langle 23 \rangle \dots \langle n1 \rangle} \sum_{m,n} m$$

BDDK (1994)

The summation symbol  $\sum_{m,n}$  is followed by a diagram of a diamond-shaped loop with four external lines. The top and bottom lines are labeled  $m$  and  $n$  respectively. Ellipses indicate additional external lines on the left and right sides.

# For Efficient Computation

## Reduce

the number of “diagrams”

## Reuse

building blocks over & over

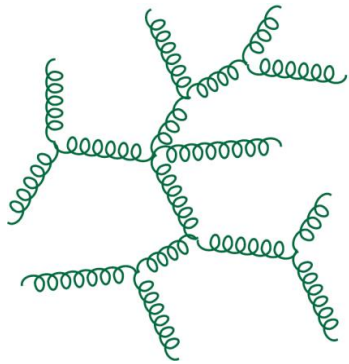
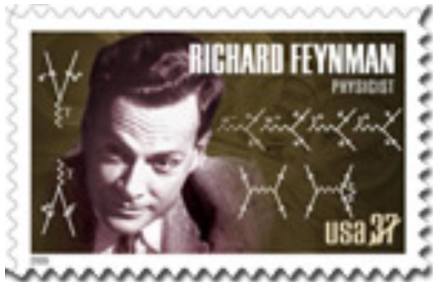
## Recycle

lower-point (1-loop) & lower-loop (tree)  
on-shell amplitudes

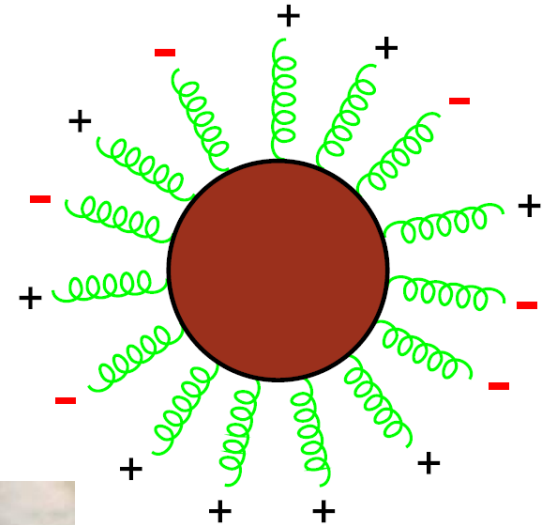
## Recurse



# Granularity vs. Fluidity



+ ...



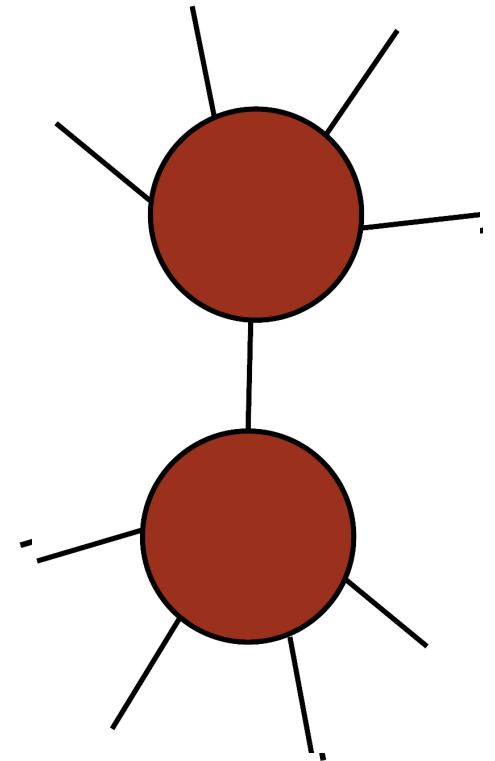
# Recycling Fluid Amplitudes

Amplitudes fall apart into simpler ones in special limits  
– pole information

Picture leads directly to BCFW  
(on-shell) recursion relations

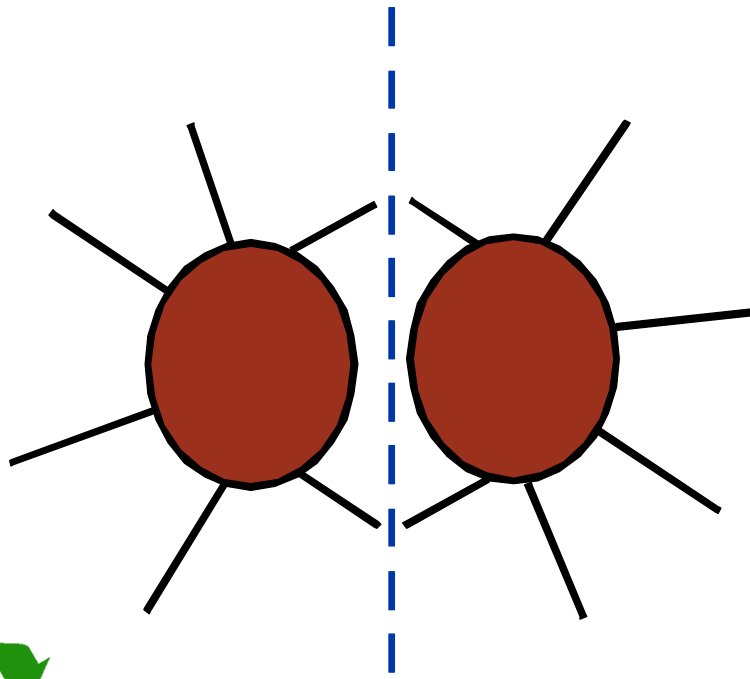
Britto, Cachazo, Feng, Witten, hep-th/0501052

Trees recycled into trees

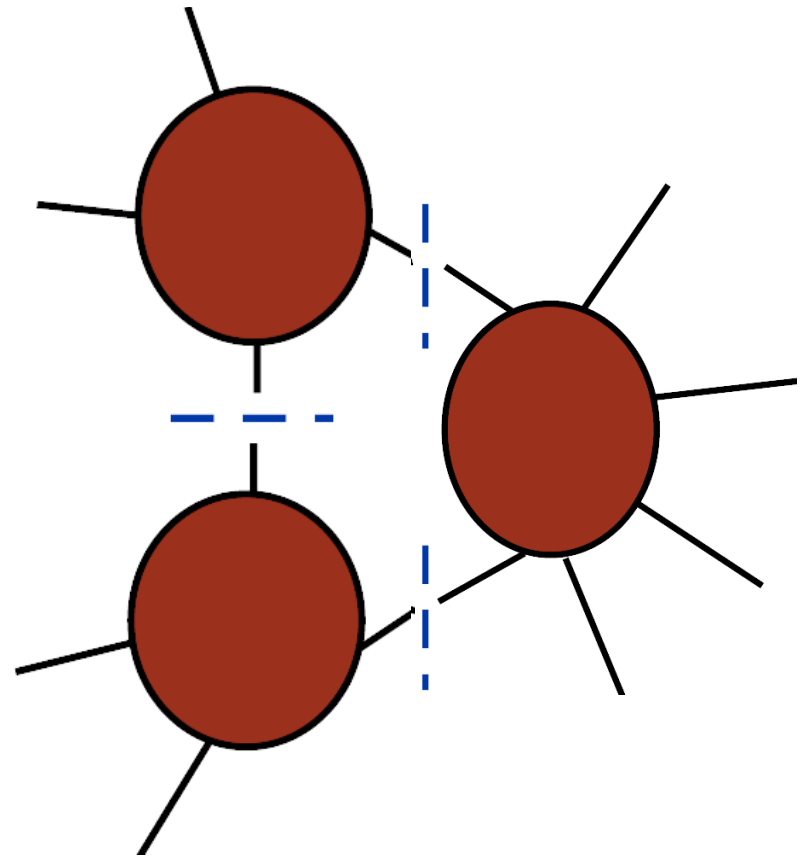


# Branch cut information $\rightarrow$ Generalized Unitarity: Fluidity of the Loop Integrand

**Ordinary unitarity:**  
put 2 particles on shell

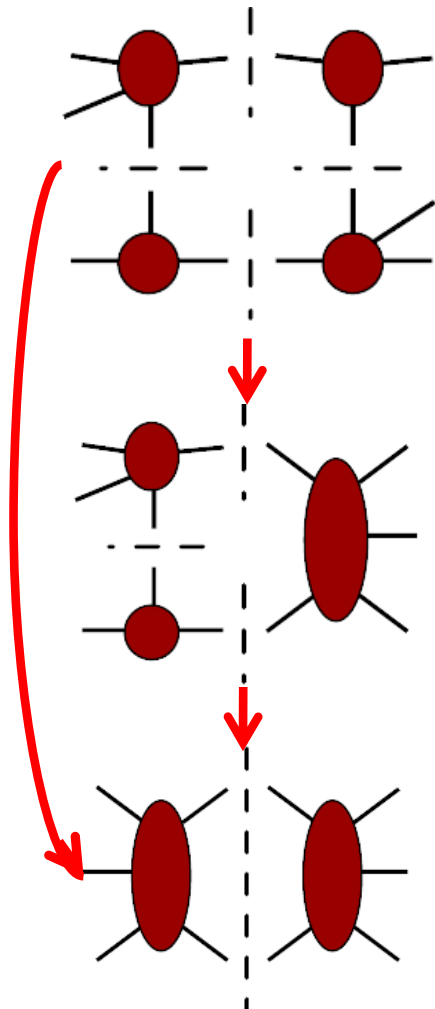


**Generalized unitarity:**  
put 3 or 4 particles on shell



**Trees recycled into loops!**

# One-loop amplitudes determined hierarchically



# As a result...

Dramatic increase recently  
in rate of NLO QCD predictions  
for new processes!

# Automated On-Shell One Loop Programs for LHC

circa 2011

**Blackhat:** Berger, Bern, LD, Diana, Febres Cordero, Forde, Gleisberg, Höche, Ita, Kosower, Maître, Ozeren, 0803.4180, 0808.0941, 0907.1984, 1004.1659, 1009.2338...  
+ **Sherpa** → NLO  $W,Z + 3,4,5$  jets pure QCD 4 jets

**CutTools:** Ossola, Papadimitriou, Pittau, 0711.3596  
NLO  $WWW, WWZ, \dots$  OPP, 0804.0350  
NLO  $t\bar{t}b\bar{b}, t\bar{t} + 2$  jets,...

Bevilacqua, Czakon, Papadimitriou, 0723; 1002.4009

**MadLoop:** Hirschi, Maierhofer, Pittau, 1103.0621

**HELAC-NLO:** Bevilacqua et al, 1110.1499

**Rocket:** Giele, Zanderighi, 0805.2152

NLO  $W + 3$  jets, Giele, Kunszt, Melnikov, Zanderighi, 0810.2762

$W^+W^\pm + 2$  jets Ellis, Melnikov, Zanderighi, 0901.4101, 0906.1445

Melia, Melnikov, Rontsch, Zanderighi, 1007.5313, 1104.2327

**SAMURAI:** Mastrolia, Ossola, Reiter, Tramontano, 1006.0710

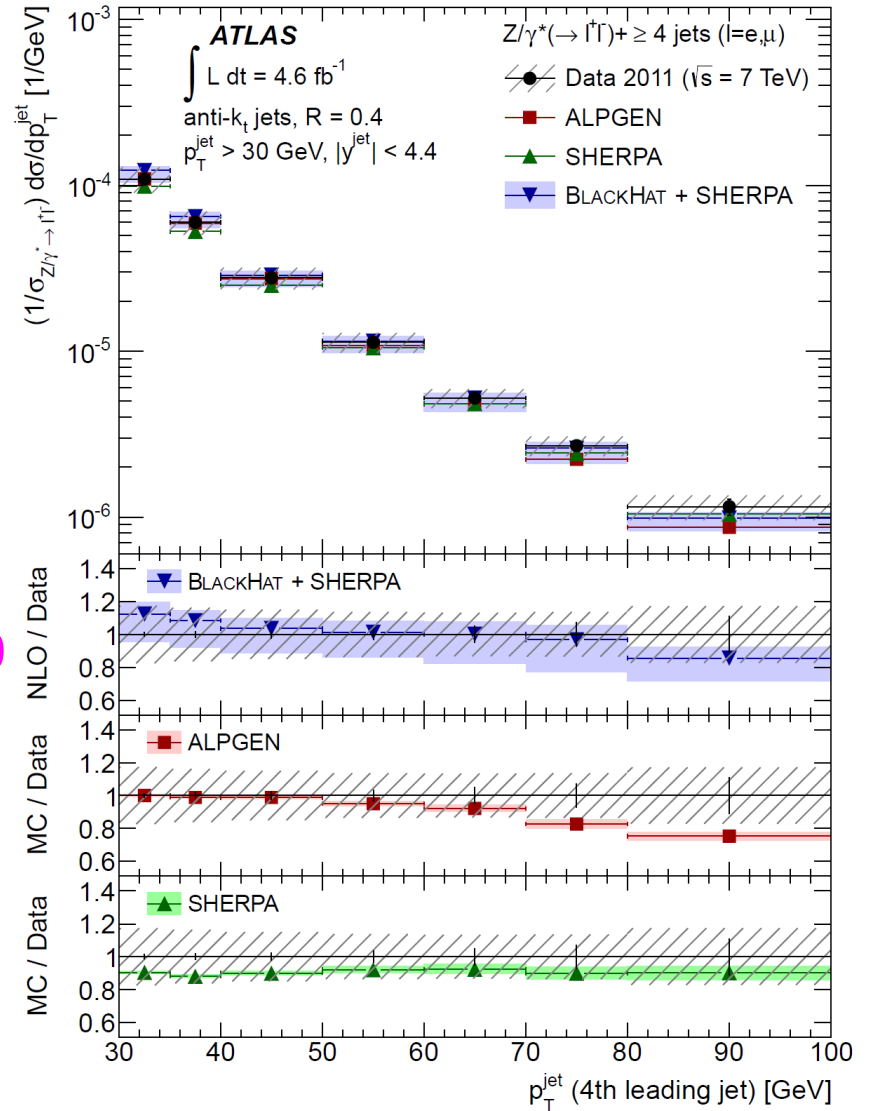
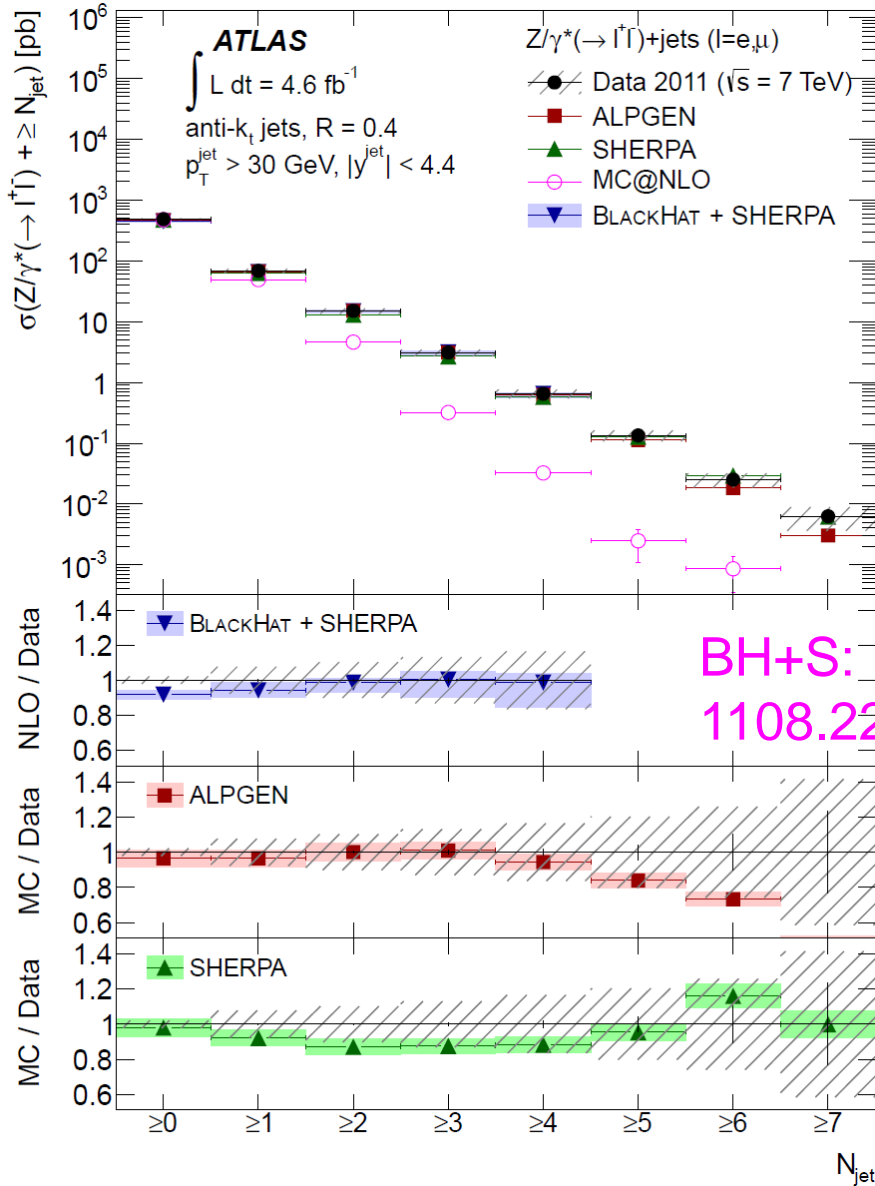
**NGluon:** Badger, Biedermann, Uwer, 1011.2900, 1209.0098

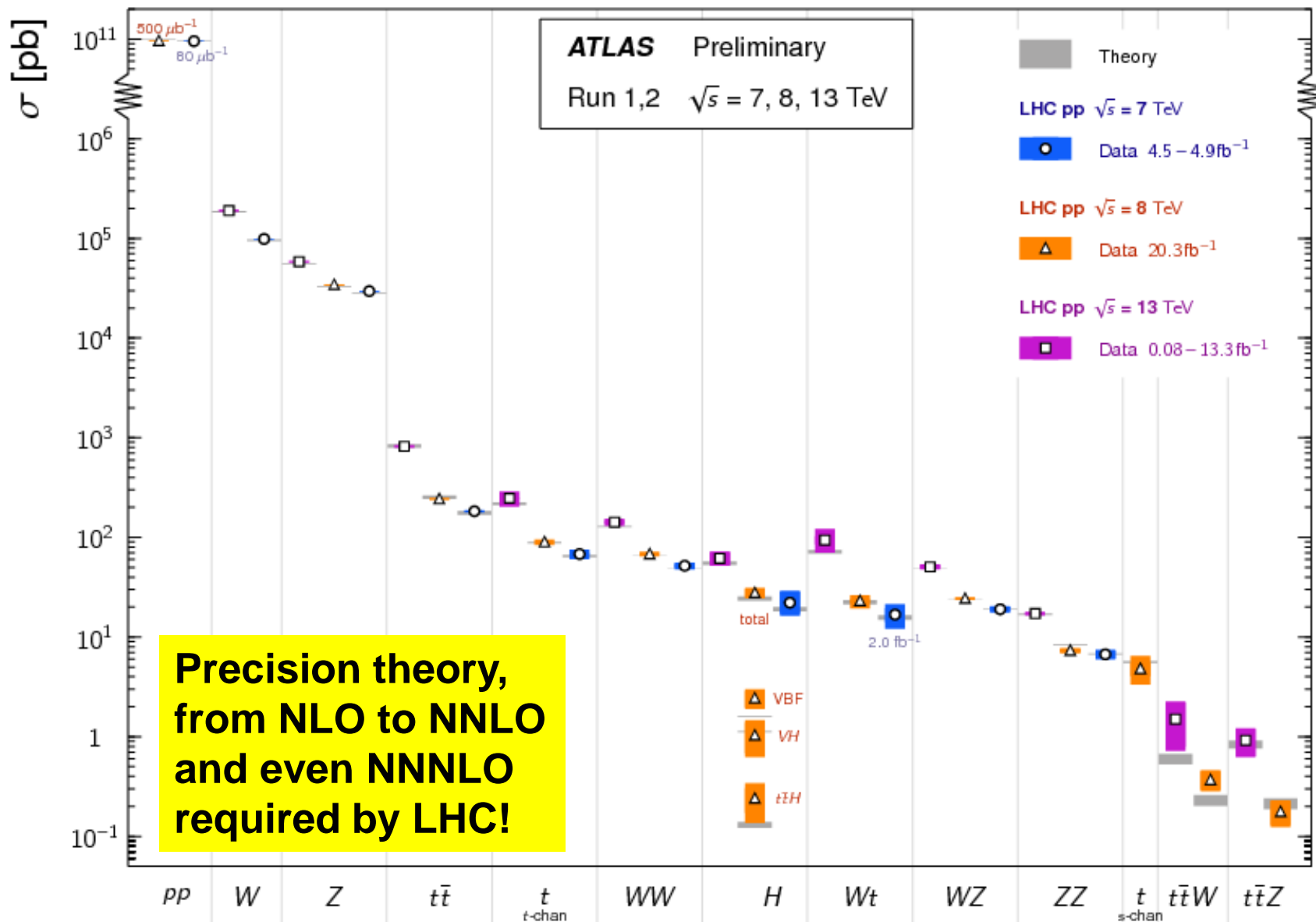
**Open Loops:** Cascioli, Maierhofer, Pozzorini, 1111.5206

**Current QCD Frontiers:**  
One loops,  $n > 6-8$  external legs  
Two loops,  $n > 4$  external legs

# NLO $pp \rightarrow Z + 1,2,3,4$ jets vs. ATLAS 2011 data

ATLAS 1304.7098

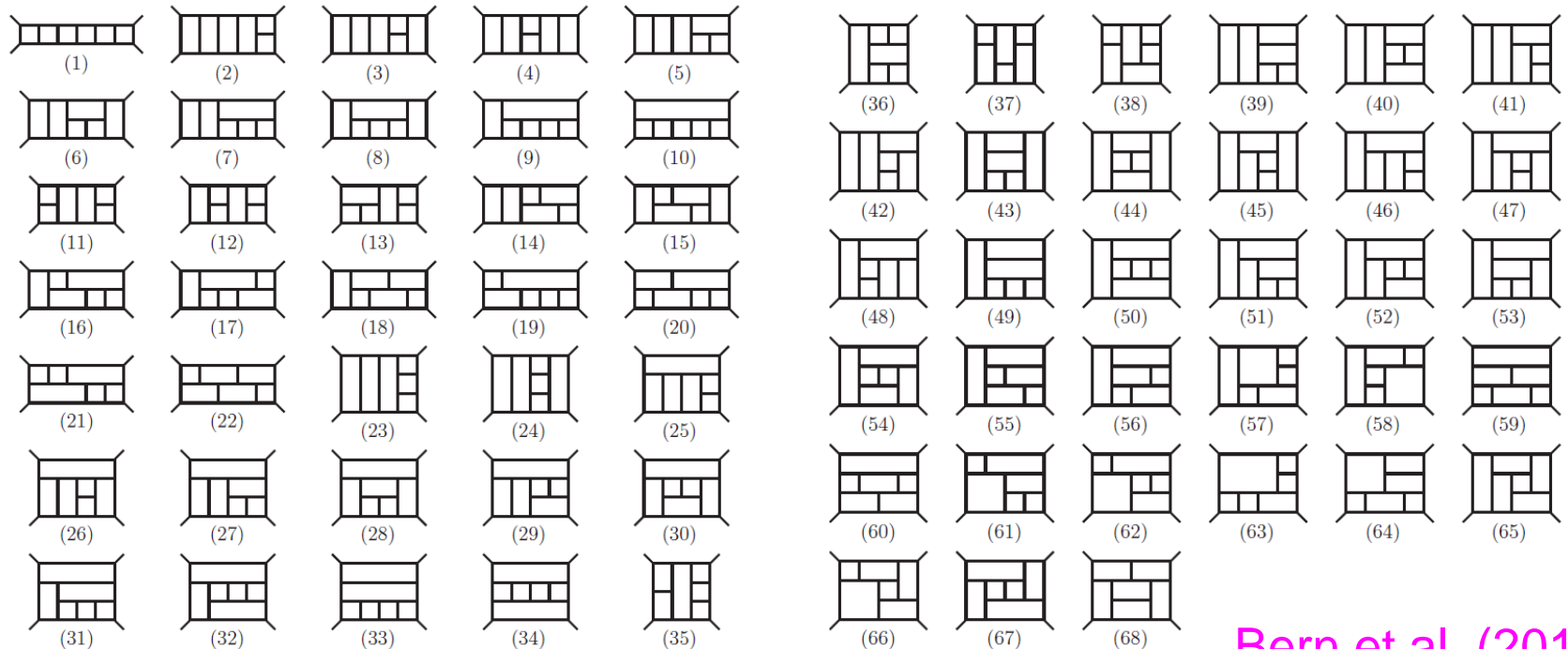




# In simpler theories can go to many loops



- 6-loop 4-gluon amplitude in  $N=4$  super-Yang-Mills theory in planar limit of a large number of colors:

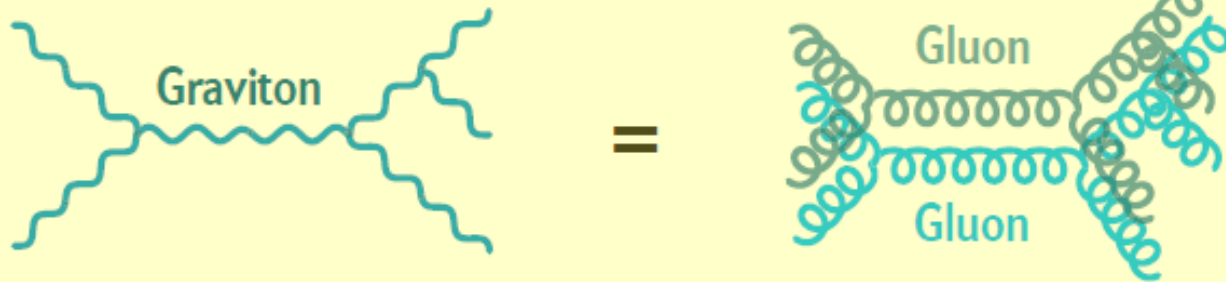


Bern et al. (2012)

# Striking patterns emerge

- Including remarkable relations between gauge theory and gravity

Bern, Carrasco, Johansson (2008,2010)



- **N=8 supergravity** exceptionally well-behaved for a point-like theory of quantum gravity.
- Through 4 loops, no worse behaved than a finite gauge theory, N=4 SYM
- **However, this property breaks at 5 loops!**

Bern, Carrasco, LD, Johansson, Kosower, Roiban (2007-2012)

Bern, Carrasco, Chen, Edison, Johansson, Parra-Martinez, Roiban, Zeng, 1804.09311

# Connections to Mathematics

- Planar N=4 super-Yang-Mills **loop integrand**: a volume form on the positive Grassmannian – **the amplituhedron**  
 Arkani-Hamed, Bourjaily, Cachazo, Goncharov, Postnikov, Trnka, 1212.5605; Arkani-Hamed, Trnka, 1312.2007, 1312.7878

$$\mathcal{A}_{\text{MHV}}^{2\text{-loop}} = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i < j < k < l < i} \text{Diagram} = \text{Amplituhedron}$$

The diagram shows the 2-loop MHV integrand as a sum over a specific Feynman diagram. The diagram consists of two adjacent loops, each formed by two vertices (represented by black dots) and two external legs (represented by white circles). The vertices are connected by wavy lines, and the external legs are labeled with indices  $i, j, k, l$ . The sum is over all permutations of these indices that satisfy the ordering  $i < j < k < l < i$ . The result of this sum is the amplituhedron, a 3D geometric object with a complex, multi-faceted structure, colored with a gradient from yellow to green.

- The amplituhedron represents a **geometric** formulation of scattering, in which **causality** is **emergent**
- Whereas causality is **hard-wired** into Feynman diagrams.
- But this also means that amplituhedron integrand is **not easy to integrate** – need to **rewrite** so one can apply the  **$+i\epsilon$**  from Feynman

# Connections to Math (cont.)

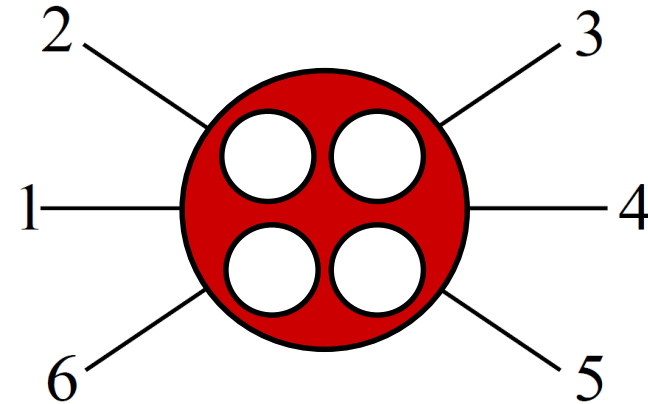
- After loop integration, often get **iterated integrals**,

$$G(a_1, \dots, a_n; z) = \int_0^z \frac{dt}{t - a_1} G(a_2, \dots, a_n; t),$$

- which possess a Hopf algebra **co-product** [Brown, Goncharov](#)
- Use structure to simplify amplitudes ranging from planar N=4 SYM [Goncharov, Spradlin, Vergu, Volovich, 1006.5703](#)  
to Higgs boson production [Duhr, 1203.0454](#)  
to electron **g-2** [Laporta, 1704.06996; Schnetz, 1711.05118](#)
  - Especially powerful in planar N=4 SYM where one can avoid even looking at the loop integrand!

# Hexagon function bootstrap

Use analytical properties of perturbative amplitudes in planar  $N=4$  SYM to determine them directly, **without ever peeking inside the loops**



First step toward doing this **nonperturbatively** (no loops to peek inside) for general kinematics

Works to an astounding 6 loops for the first nontrivial amplitude (6 gluon scattering)

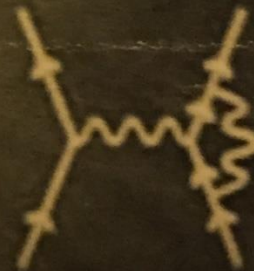
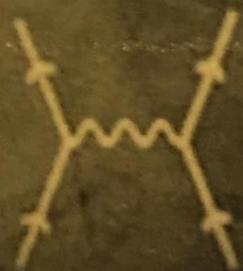
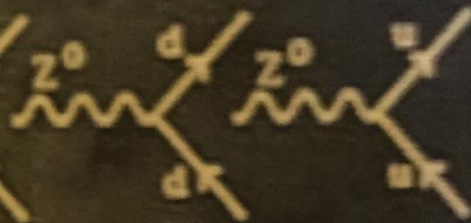
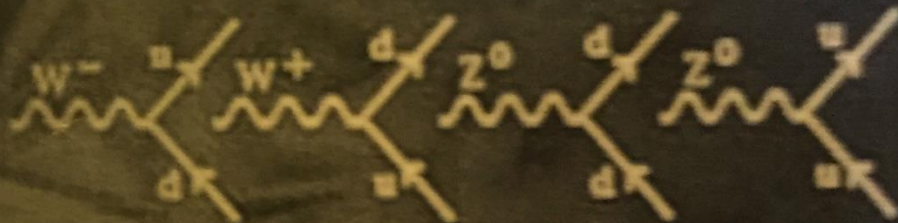
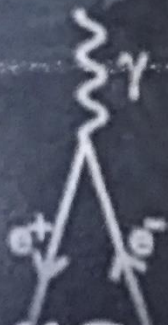
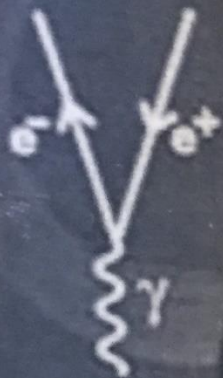
Caron-Huot, LD,  
Dulat, von Hippel,  
McLeod,  
Papathanasiou,  
to appear

# 70 years of particle scattering...

- Feynman's insights in making perturbation theory in QED covariant meant "anyone could compute" perturbative scattering – later on, including computers
- Feynman diagrams at the heart of almost all quantitative comparisons between theory and experiment since 1947
- LHC demands for theory → reorganize Feynman diagrams to incorporate unitarity (as well as many other advances in loop and phase space integration).
- Spawned many other novel "amplitudes" developments
- Standard Model, built by Feynman and others, has survived every quantitative test to date, but it is still not the last word!

# RICHARD FEYNMAN

PHYSICIST



**“SHUT UP AND CALCULATE”**

2005



$-AC_2$

$1$

$(E-A)(C_1+C_2)$

$-AC_1$

$-\frac{C_1}{E-A} t$

$(E+A)$

$1, C_1=$

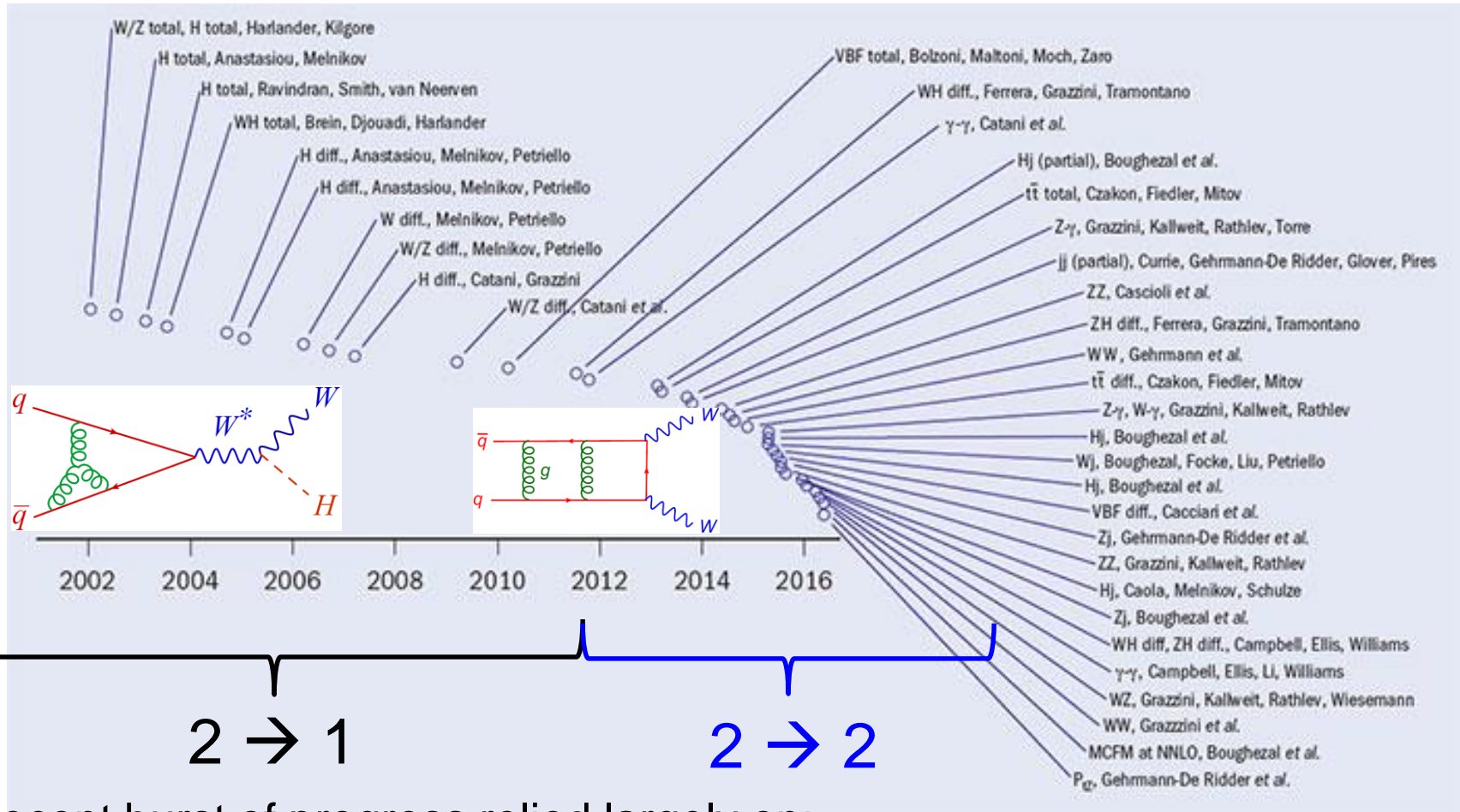
$1$



# Extra Slides

# NNLO timeline

G. Zanderighi  
CERN Courier (2017)



2 → 1

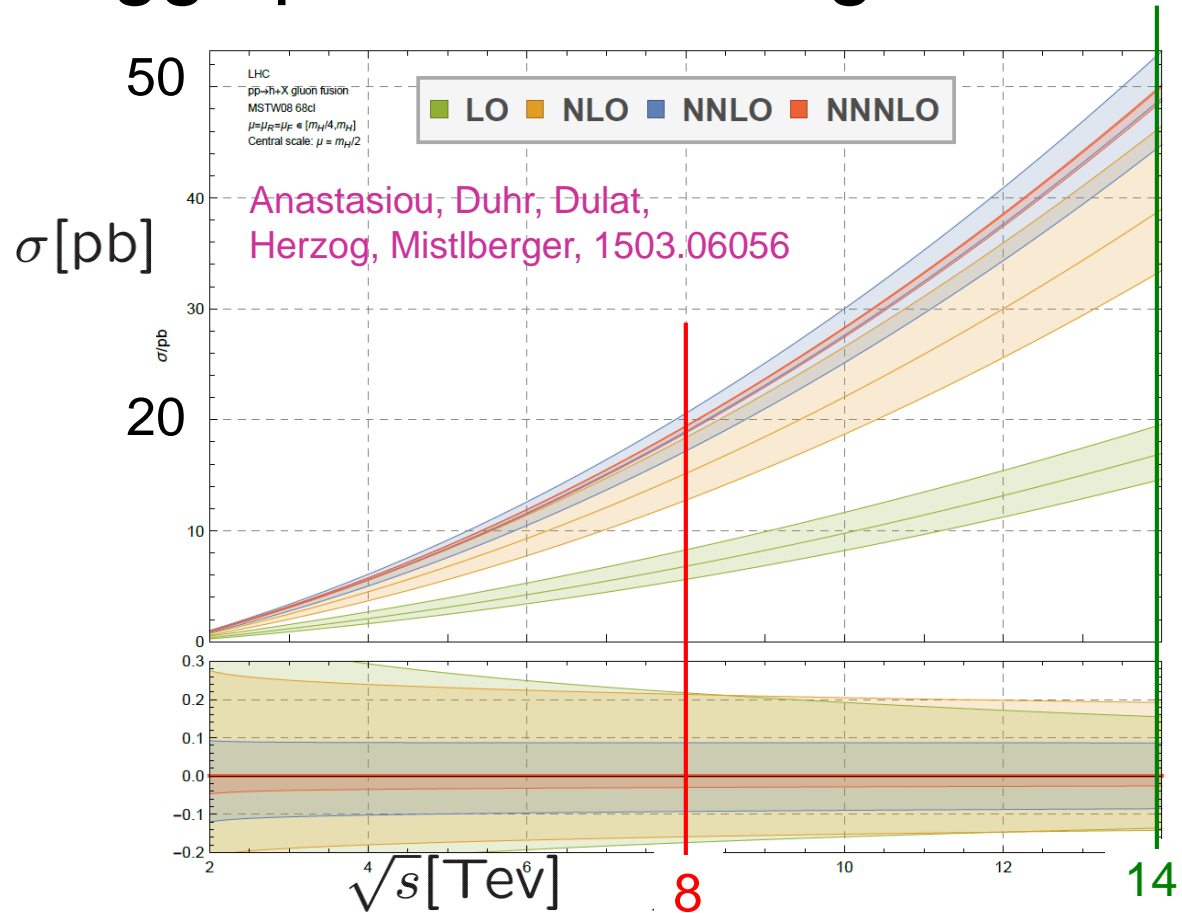
2 → 2

Recent burst of progress relied largely on:

- 2 loop 2 → 2 amplitudes, new loop integration methods
- NNLO subtraction (or slicing) methods

# The one high $p_T$ LHC cross section known at NNNLO

## Higgs production via gluon fusion

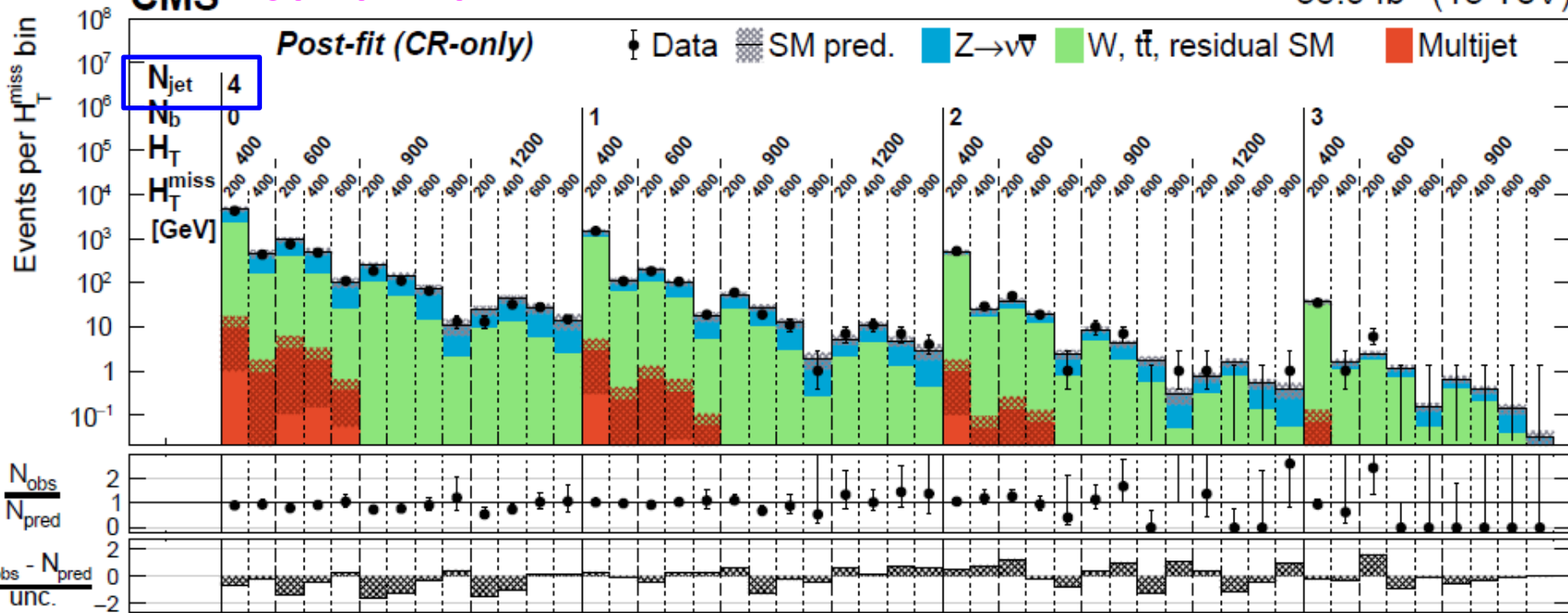


LO  $\rightarrow$  NNNLO  
gives factor of  
2.7 increase!

# SUSY (and other) searches now very advanced

CMS 1802.02110

35.9 fb<sup>-1</sup> (13 TeV)



- Also  $N_{\text{jet}} = 1, 2, 3, 5, 6$
- No significant excesses seen, so set lower limits on masses of superparticles.
- Can better simulations, (N)NLO + parton showers, help further?

# One-Loop Amplitude Decomposition

Bern, LD, Dunbar, Kosower (1994)

Merges analytic **S**-matrix with perturbative structure



coefficients can be determined from products of **trees** using (generalized) unitarity

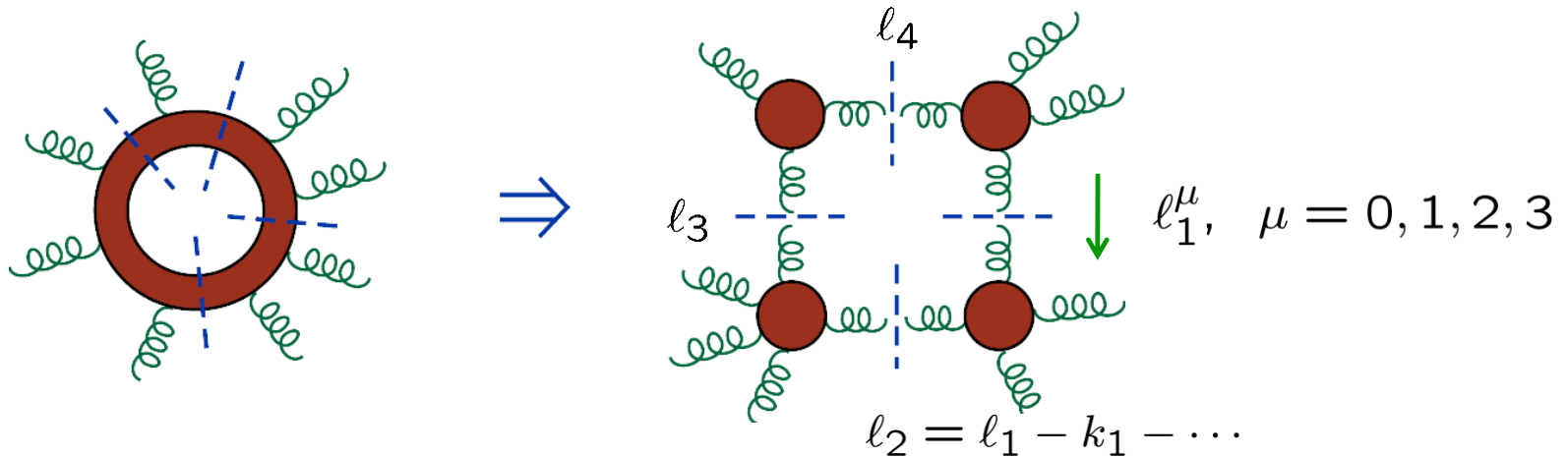
$$A^{1\text{-loop}} = \sum_i d_i \text{[box diagram]} + \sum_i c_i \text{[triangle diagram]} + \sum_i b_i \text{[bubble diagram]} + R + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon)$$

Known functions (integrals), same for all amplitudes

rational part; from D-dimensional trees, or recursively

# Generalized Unitarity for Box Coefficients $d_i$

Britto, Cachazo, Feng, hep-th/0412103




$$d_i = \sum_{\pm} A_1^{\text{tree} \pm} \times A_2^{\text{tree} \pm} \times A_3^{\text{tree} \pm} \times A_4^{\text{tree} \pm}$$

Just multiply together 4 different tree amplitudes, evaluated at appropriate “quadruple cut” kinematics

$$l_1^2 = l_2^2 = l_3^2 = l_4^2 = 0$$

# N=4 SYM particle content

*massless spin 1 gluon*   
*4 massless spin 1/2 gluinos*   
*6 massless spin 0 scalars* 

SUSY  
 $Q_a, a=1,2,3,4$   
 shifts helicity  
 by  $1/2$   $\longleftrightarrow$

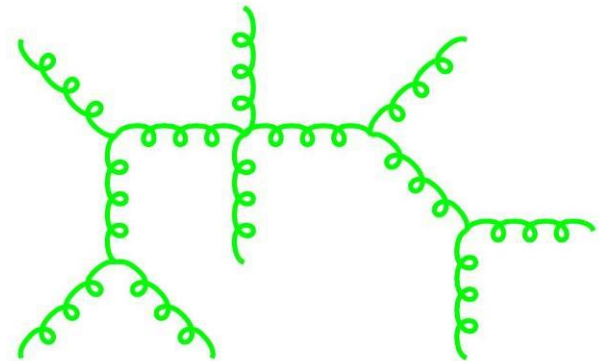
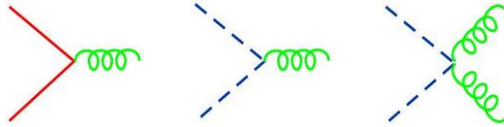
$\mathcal{N} = 4$	1	$\longleftrightarrow$	4	$\longleftrightarrow$	6	$\longleftrightarrow$	4	$\longleftrightarrow$	1
	$g^-$		$\lambda_{\bar{i}}^-$		$\bar{\phi}_{\bar{i}\bar{j}}, \phi_{ij}$		$\lambda_i^+$		$g^+$
helicity	-1		$-\frac{1}{2}$		0		$\frac{1}{2}$		1

all in adjoint representation

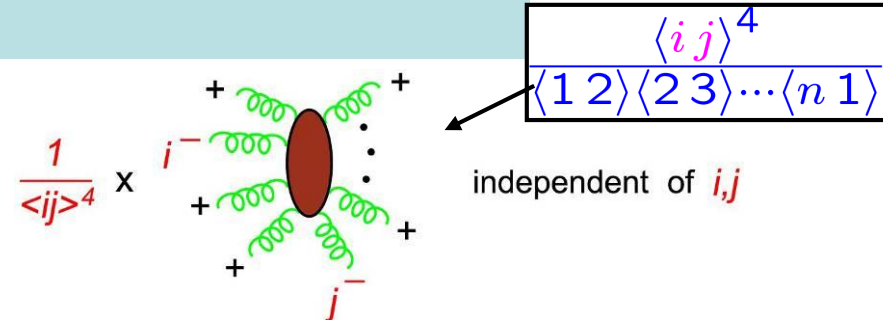
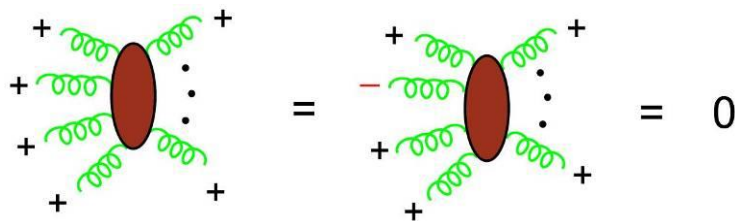
# How are QCD and N=4 SYM related?

At tree level they are essentially identical

Consider a tree amplitude for  $n$  gluons.  
 Fermions and scalars cannot appear  
 because they are produced in pairs

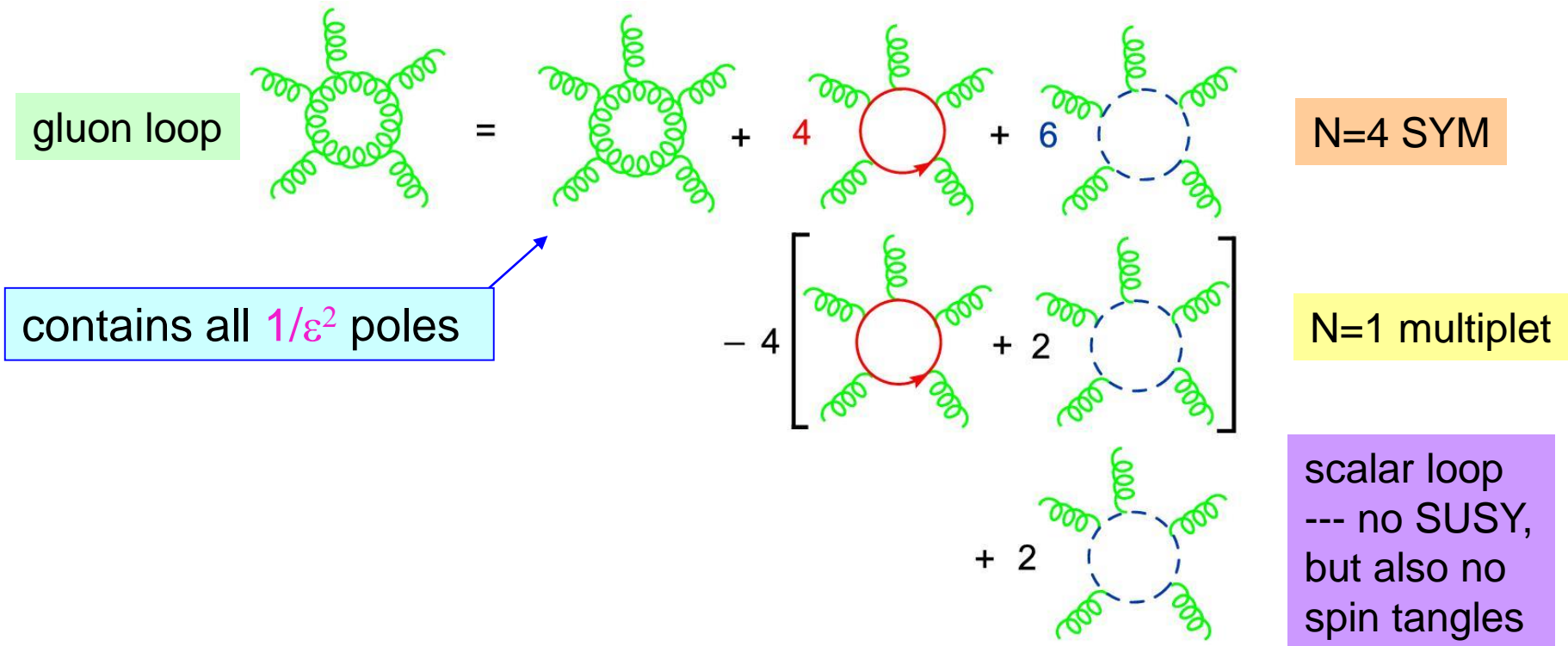


Hence the amplitude is the **same** in QCD and N=4 SYM.  
 So the QCD tree amplitude “secretly” obeys  
 all identities of N=4 supersymmetry:



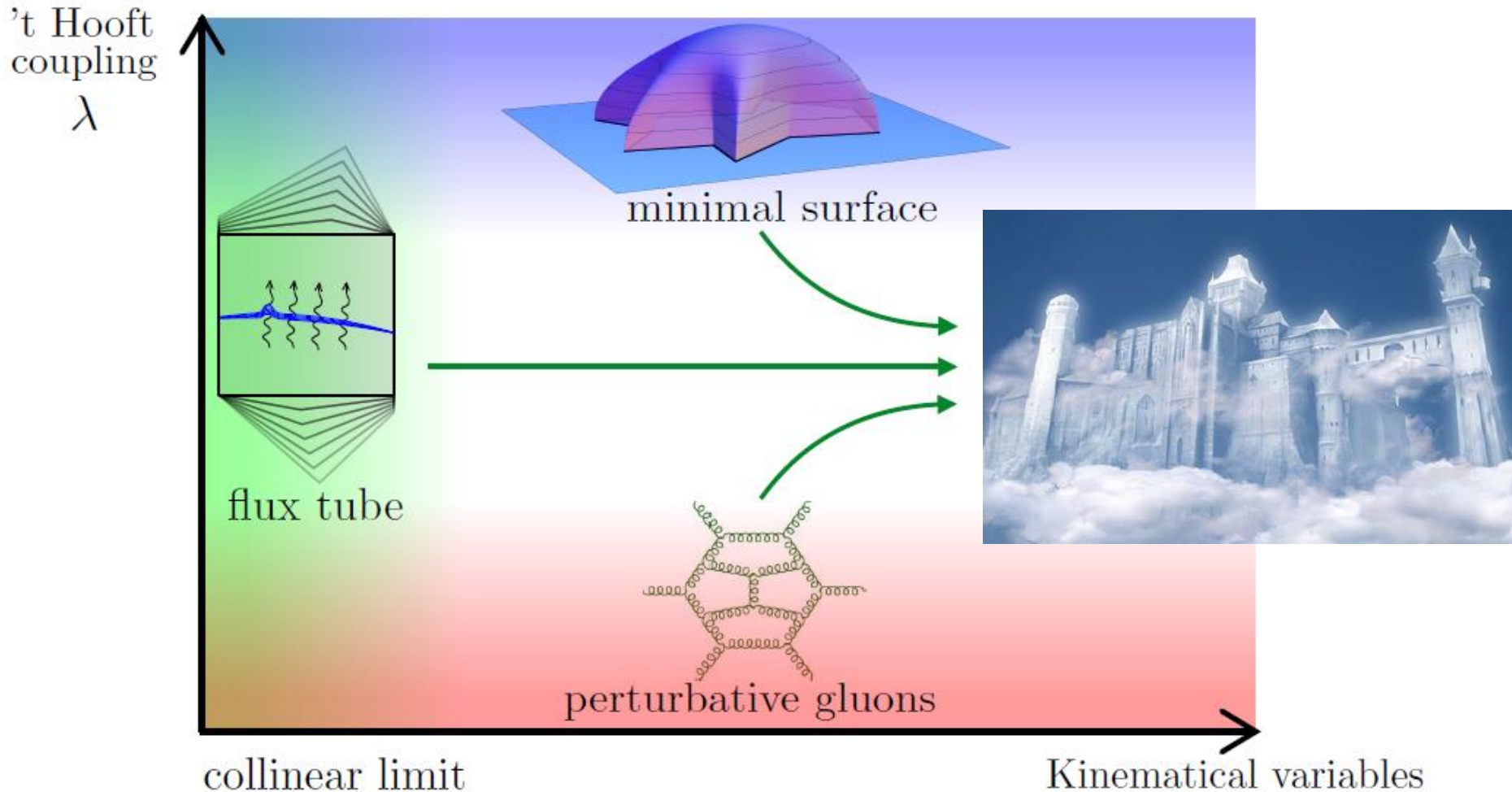
# At loop level, QCD and N=4 SYM differ

However, it is profitable to rearrange the QCD computation to exploit supersymmetry



# Solving Planar N=4 SYM

Images: A. Sever, N. Arkani-Hamed



# Strong coupling and soap bubbles

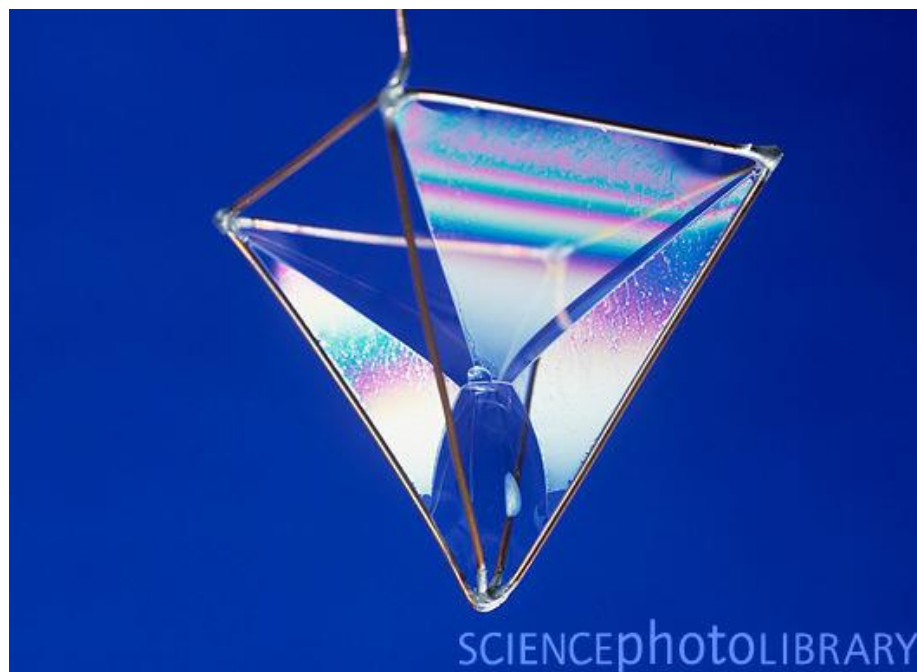
Alday, Maldacena, 0705.0303

- Use AdS/CFT to compute scattering amplitude
- High energy scattering in string theory semi-classical: two-dimensional string world-sheet stretches a long distance, classical solution minimizes area

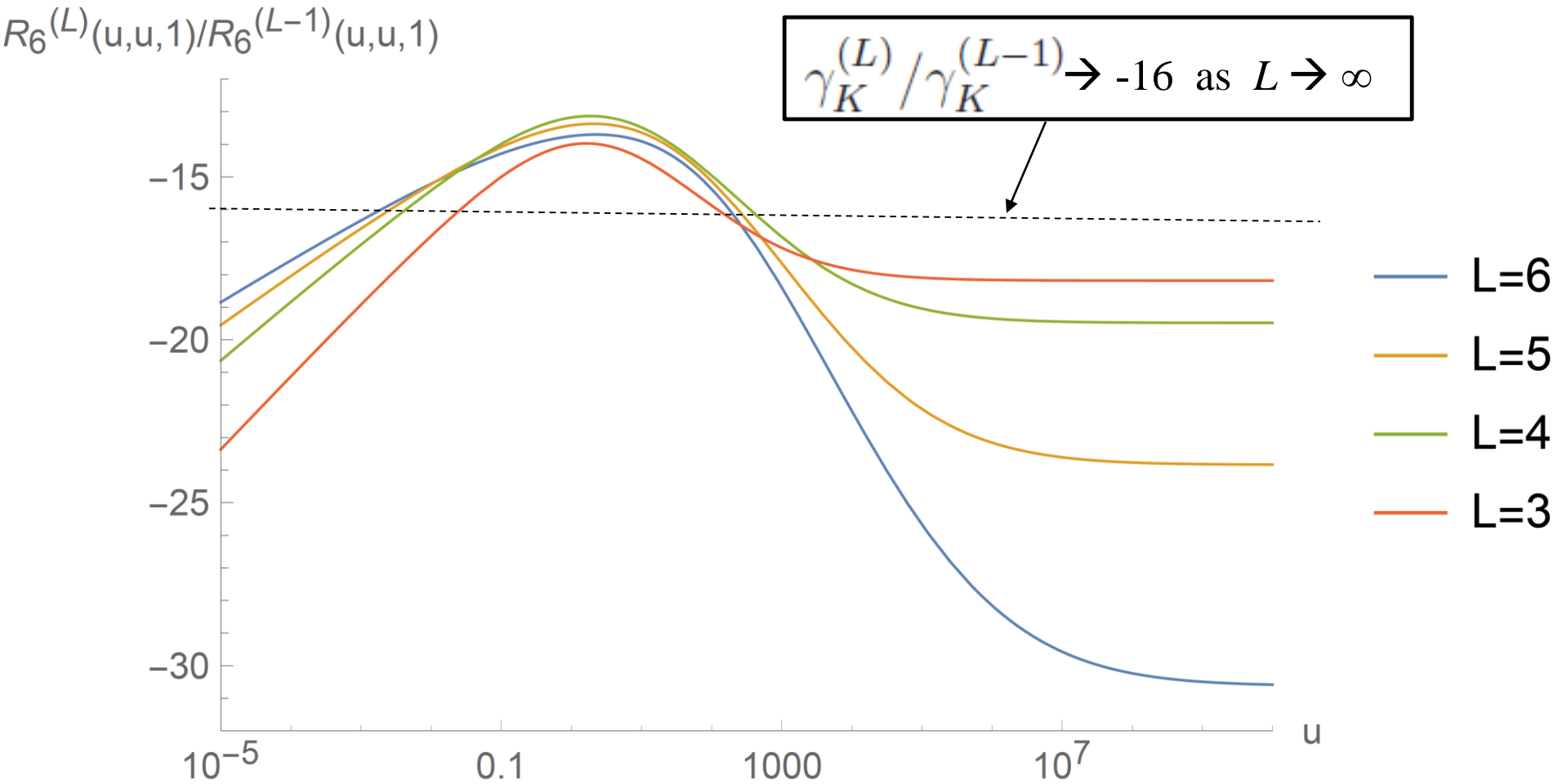
Gross, Mende (1987,1988)

Classical action imaginary  
→ exponentially suppressed  
tunnelling configuration

$$A_n \sim \exp[-\sqrt{\lambda} S_{cl}^E]$$

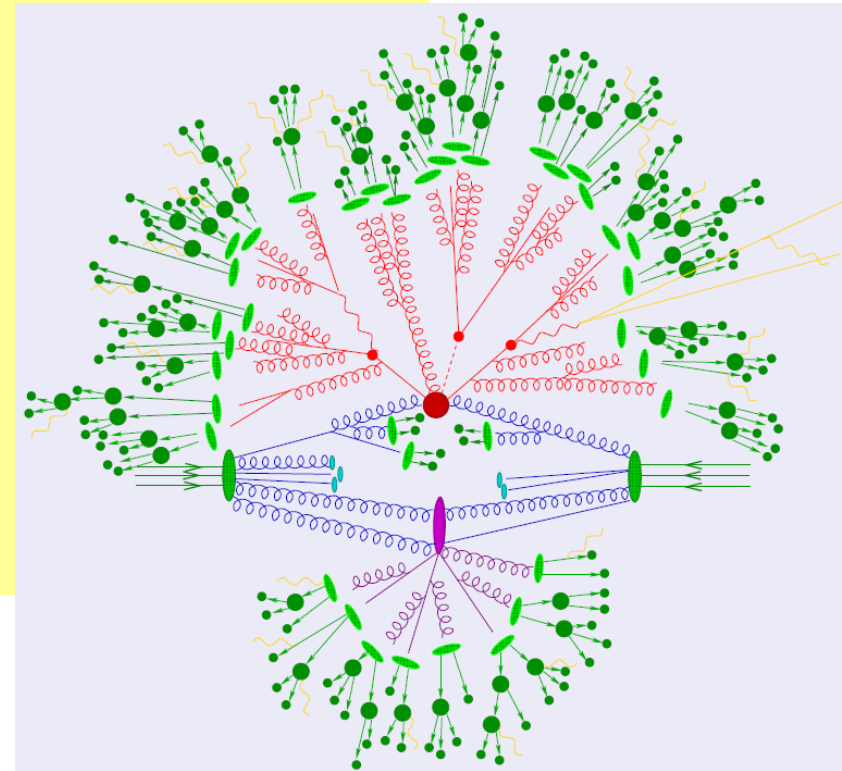


# Ratio of successive loop orders for planar N=4 SYM 6-gluon amplitude for kinematics $(u,u,1)$ through 6 loops



# Fixed order vs. Monte Carlo

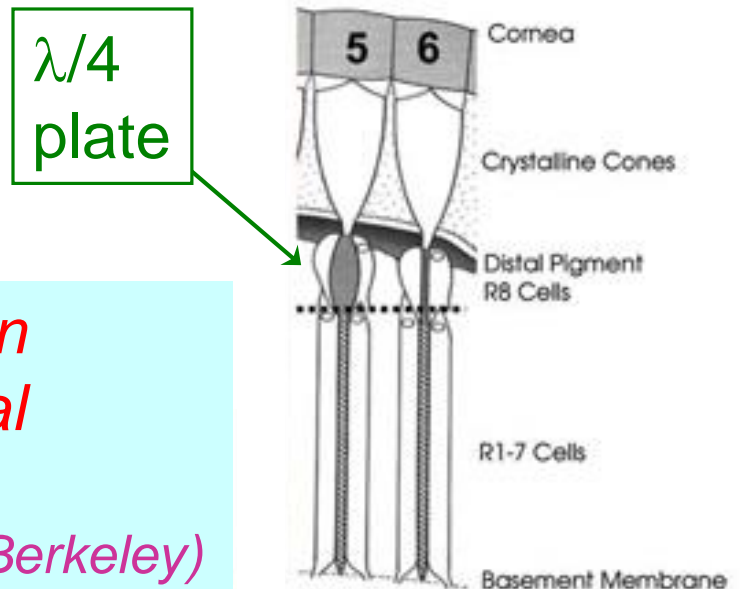
- Previous plots were NLO but **fixed-order, few partons**: no model of long-distance effects included; cannot pass through a detector simulation
- Methods available for **matching** NLO parton-level results to **parton showers**, **accuracy**:
  - **MC@NLO** Frixione, Webber (2002) ; ...; SHERPA implementation
  - **POWHEG** Nason (2004); Frixione, Nason, Oleari (2007)
  - **SHERPA** Krauss et al. (2012,...)
- Recently implemented for increasingly complex final states



# The tail of the mantis shrimp

- Reflects left and right circularly polarized light differently

- Led biologists to discover that its eyes have differential sensitivity
- It communicates via the helicity formalism



*“It's the most private communication system imaginable. No other animal can see it.”*

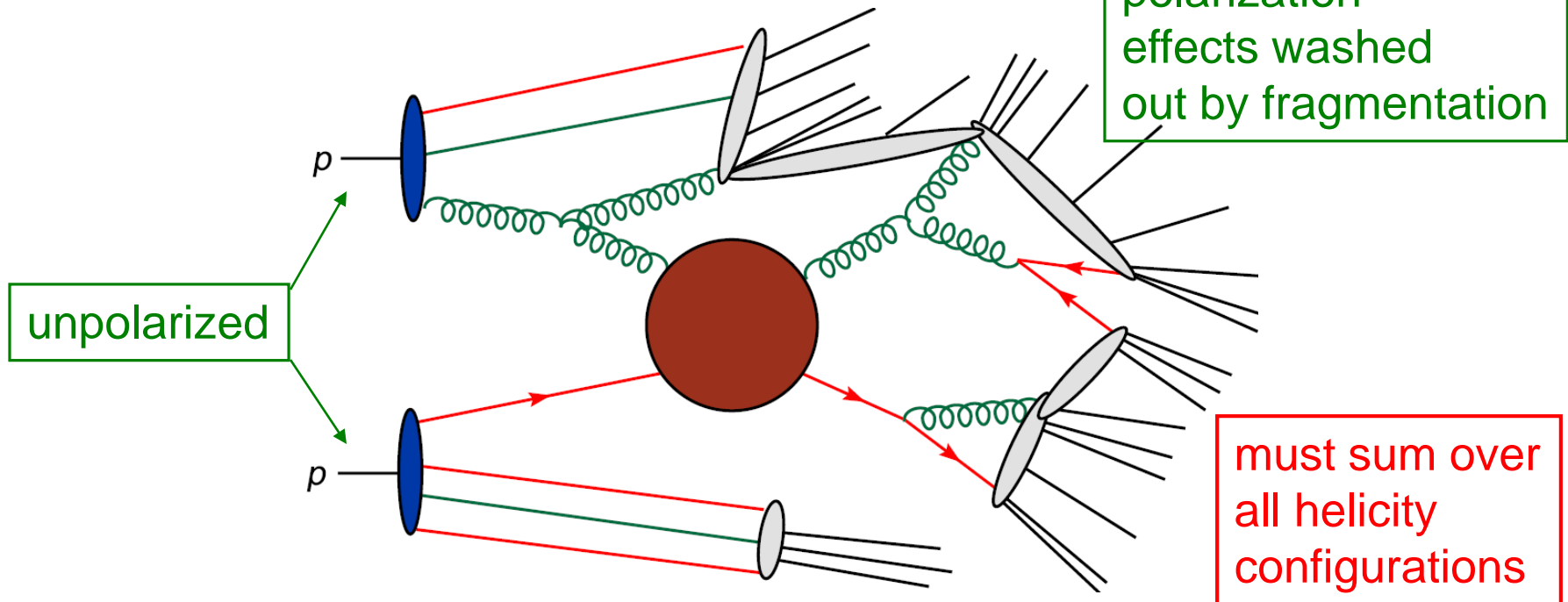
*- Roy Caldwell (U.C. Berkeley)*

# What the biologists didn't know

Particle theorists have also evolved capability to communicate results via **helicity formalism**

*LHC experimentalists are blind to it*

any final-state polarization effects washed out by fragmentation



# Possible future of numerical approaches

- Computation is getting much cheaper
- Still, integrals needed at state-of-art, for either **fixed-order**, or high-precision **resummation**, or **matched Monte Carlos**, are getting more difficult.
- Find better ways to integrate approximate integrands?

# Possible future of numerical approaches (cont.)

- With all the analytic and numerical knowledge we have accumulated, can **machine learning** be used in pQCD?
- For example, to **predict** approximate amplitudes?
- Already being used in **jet substructure** analyses to optimize separation of new physics from QCD.

# Possible future of analytical approaches

- More sophisticated mathematics for complicated loop integrals
- Polylogarithms  $\rightarrow$  elliptic integrals  $\rightarrow$  hyperelliptic integrals  $\rightarrow$  ...
- Lots of interesting math including algebraic geometry and number theory.

# Multiple Zeta Values (MZVs)

- Classical polylogs

$$\text{Li}_n(u) = \int_0^u \frac{dt}{t} \text{Li}_{n-1}(t) = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{u^k}{k^n}$$

evaluate to Riemann zeta values

$$\text{Li}_n(1) = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{k^n} = \zeta(n) \equiv \zeta_n$$

- HPL's evaluate to **nested sums** called **multiple zeta values (MZVs)**:

$$\zeta_{n_1, n_2, \dots, n_m} = \sum_{k_1 > k_2 > \dots > k_m > 0} \frac{1}{k_1^{n_1} k_2^{n_2} \dots k_m^{n_m}}$$

Weight  $n = n_1 + n_2 + \dots + n_m$

- MZV's** obey many identities, e.g. stuffle

$$\zeta_{n_1} \zeta_{n_2} = \zeta_{n_1, n_2} + \zeta_{n_2, n_1} + \zeta_{n_1 + n_2}$$

- All reducible to Riemann zeta values until **weight 8**.

**Irreducible MZVs:**  $\zeta_{5,3}, \zeta_{7,3}, \zeta_{5,3,3}, \zeta_{9,3}, \zeta_{6,4,1,1}, \dots$

# One-loop QCD, cast of dozens



## BlackHat, past and present:

Berger, Bern, Diana, LD, Febres Cordero, Forde, Gleisberg, Höche, Ita, Kosower, Lo Presti, Maître, Ozeren

## Other key contributors:

Anastasiou, Badger, Bevilacqua, Biedermann, Britto, Cachazo, Cascioli, Czakon, Dunbar, Ellis, Feng, Frederix, Frixione, Garzelli, Giele, Hirschi, Kardos, Kunszt, Maltoni, Mastrolia, Melnikov, Ossola, Papadopoulos, Pittau, Pozzorini, Reiter, Schulze, Tramontano, Uwer, van Hameren, Weinzierl, Winter, Witten, Worek, Zanderighi, ...