

# Scattering Amplitudes, MHV Diagrams, and Wilson Loops

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Brandhuber, Spence, GT                    hep-th/0612007  
Brandhuber, Spence, Zoubos, GT        0704.0245 [hep-th]  
Nasti, GT                                      0706.0976 [hep-th]

Brandhuber, Heslop, GT                    0707.1153 [hep-th]  
Brandhuber, Heslop, Spence, GT        in preparation

Twistors, Strings, and Scattering Amplitudes, LMS Durham Symposium  
Durham, August 2007

# Outline

- MHV diagrams (Cachazo, Svrcek, Witten)
  - ▶ Loop MHV diagrams (Brandhuber, Spence, GT)
- Amplitudes in pure Yang-Mills from MHV diagrams (Brandhuber, Spence, Zoubos, GT)
  - ▶ All-plus amplitude
- MHV amplitudes in N=4 SYM from a Wilson loop calculation at weak coupling
  - ▶ One-loop calculation at  $n$  points (Brandhuber, Heslop, GT)
  - ▶ Higher loops (Brandhuber, Heslop, Spence, GT, in preparation)

# Motivations

- Unifying theme is **simplicity** of amplitudes
  - ▶ Geometry in **Twistor Space**
- **unexplained by Feynman diagrams**
  - ▶ Parke-Taylor formula for **Maximally Helicity Violating** amplitude of gluons (helicities are a permutation of  $--++ \dots +$ )
- **New methods** account for this **simplicity**, and allow for very **efficient calculations**

👉 Number of Feynman diagrams for scattering  $gg \rightarrow ng$  :

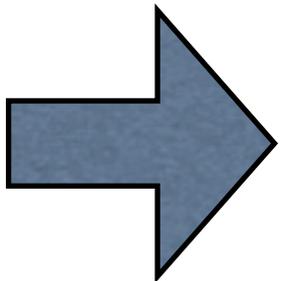
$n$	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
# of diagrams	4	25	220	2485	34300	559405	10525900

(tree level)

👉 Result is:  $\mathcal{A}(1^\pm, 2^+, \dots, n^+) = 0$

at tree level

$$\mathcal{A}_{\text{MHV}}(1^+ \dots i^- \dots j^- \dots n^+) = \frac{\langle ij \rangle^4}{\langle 12 \rangle \langle 23 \rangle \dots \langle n1 \rangle}$$



Large numbers of Feynman diagrams  
combine to produce **unexpectedly and  
mysteriously simple expressions**

LHC is coming !



# Amplitudes

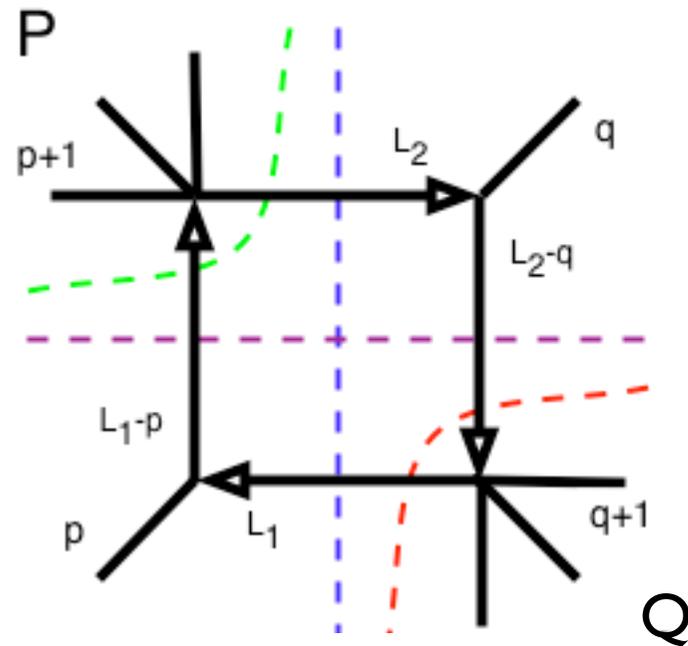
$$\mathcal{A} = \mathcal{A}(\{\lambda_i, \tilde{\lambda}_i, h_i\})$$

- Colour-ordered partial amplitudes
  - ▶ momenta and polarisation vectors expressed in terms of spinors and helicities
  - ▶ colour indices stripped off
- Planar theory

# Simplicity of amplitudes persists at loop level:

- $n$ -point MHV amplitude in  $N=4$  SYM at one loop:

$$\mathcal{A}_{\text{MHV}}^{1\text{-loop}} = \mathcal{A}_{\text{MHV}}^{\text{tree}} \Sigma$$



- Sum of two-mass easy box functions, all with coefficient 1

Diagrammatic interpretation

- Computed in 1994 by Bern, Dixon, Dunbar, Kosower using **unitarity**
- Rederived in 2004 with loop **MHV diagrams...**  
(Brandhuber, Spence, GT)
- ...and, more recently, with a **weakly-coupled Wilson loop calculation, with the Alday-Maldacena polygonal contour** (Brandhuber, Heslop, GT)

# All-loop conjecture of Bern, Dixon, Smirnov

Zvi Bern and Anastasia Volovich's talks

- $n$ -point MHV amplitudes in N=4 SYM

$$\mathcal{M}_n = \exp \left[ \sum_{L=1}^{\infty} a^L \left( f^{(L)}(\epsilon) \mathcal{M}_n^{(1)}(L\epsilon) + C^{(L)} + E_n^{(L)}(\epsilon) \right) \right]$$

- $\mathcal{M}_n := \mathcal{A}_{n,\text{MHV}} / \mathcal{A}_{n,\text{MHV}}^{\text{tree}}$

- $\mathcal{M}_n^{(1)}(\epsilon)$  is the all-orders in  $\epsilon$  one-loop amplitude

- $f^{(L)}(\epsilon) = f_0^{(L)} + \epsilon f_1^{(L)} + \epsilon^2 f_2^{(L)}$



anomalous dimension of twist-two operators at large spin

- $C^{(L)}, E_n^{(L)}(\epsilon)$

More on this later...

## Another intriguing, simple amplitude:

- All-plus amplitude in pure Yang-Mills, 1 loop

$$\mathcal{A}_n^{1\text{-loop}}(1^+, \dots, n^+) = \frac{-i}{48\pi^2} \sum_{1 \leq l_1 < l_2 < l_3 < l_4 \leq n} \frac{\text{Tr}(\frac{1-\gamma^5}{2} \hat{l}_1 \hat{l}_2 \hat{l}_3 \hat{l}_4)}{\langle 12 \rangle \langle 23 \rangle \cdots \langle n1 \rangle}$$

finite, rational

- ▶ like MHV amplitude, no multiparticle poles
  - ▶ all-plus equivalently computed in Self-Dual Yang-Mills
  - ▶ vanishes in supersymmetric theories
  - ▶ dimension shifting relations (Bern, Dixon, Dunbar, Kosower)
- Escapes naive application of MHV rules !



One-loop  
vertex ?

# Amplitudes in Twistor Space

(Witten, 2003)

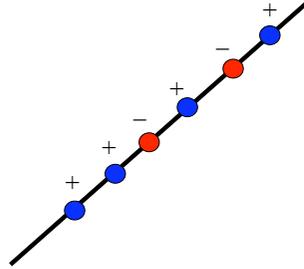
- Scattering amplitudes are supported on algebraic curves in **Penrose's twistor space**
- $d = q - l + 1$        $q = \#$  negative helicity gluons,  
 $l = \#$  loops
- $g \leq l$ 
  - ▶ Tree MHV:  $q=2, l=0 \Rightarrow d=1, g=0$  (complex line)

# Amplitude

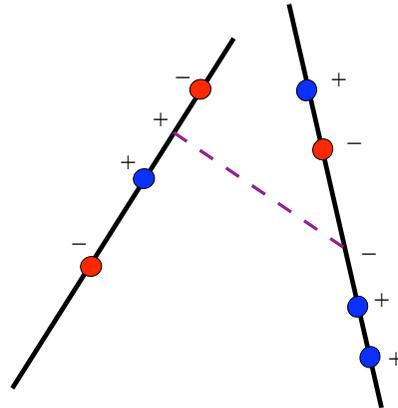
# Twistor space structure

# MHV diagrams

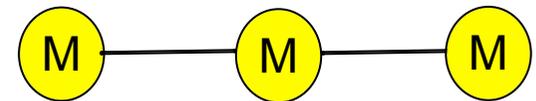
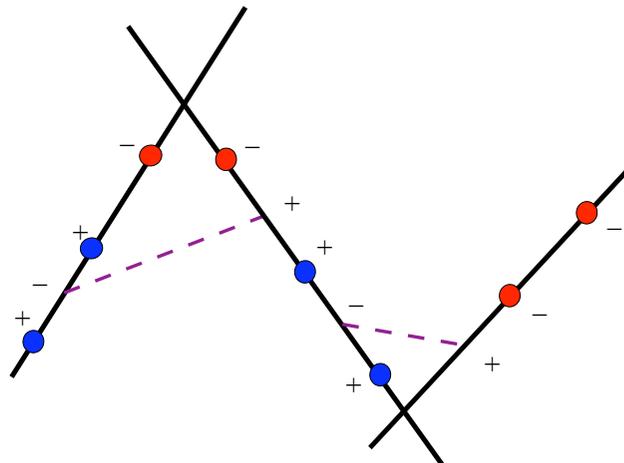
MHV



nMHV



nnMHV



# Why MHV diagrams

- MHV amplitudes  $\rightarrow$  complex lines in twistor space (Witten)
- Line in twistor space  $\rightarrow$  point in Minkowski space (Penrose)
- MHV amplitude  $\rightarrow$  local interaction in spacetime ! (Cachazo, Svrcek, Witten)
- ▶ Locality in lightcone formulation (Mansfield; Gorsky & Rosly)

# MHV Rules

(Cachazo, Svrcek, Witten)

- MHV amplitude  $\rightarrow$  MHV vertex
- Off-shell continuation for internal (possibly loop) momenta needed
  - ▶ Same as in lightcone Yang-Mills



- Internal momentum is off-shell
- Need to define spinor  $\lambda$  for an off-shell vector!

- Scalar propagators connect MHV vertices

- Off-shell prescription:

$$L_{a\dot{a}} = l_{a\dot{a}} + z\eta_{a\dot{a}}$$

- ▶  $l_{a\dot{a}} := l_a \tilde{l}_{\dot{a}}$  is the off-shell continuation
- ▶  $\eta$  is a reference vector

- Draw all diagrams obtained by sewing  $d = q - 1 + l$  MHV vertices

$q = \#$  negative helicity gluons,

$l = \#$  loops

- Examples:

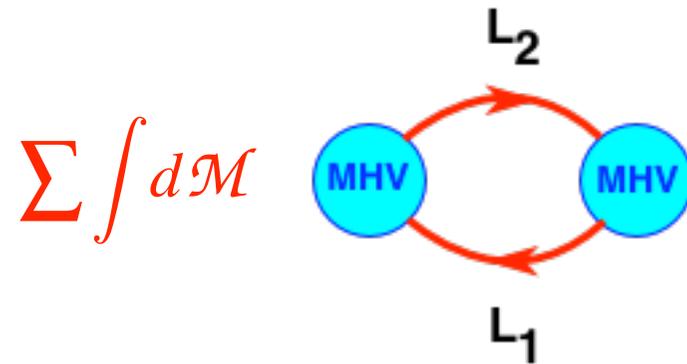
▶ MHV:  $q=2, l=1, d=2$

▶ All minus:  $q=n, l=1, d=n$

▶ All plus:  $q=0, l=1, d=0 ??$

# One-loop MHV amplitudes in N=4

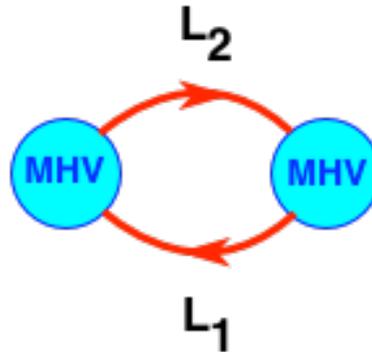
(Brandhuber, Spence, GT)



- **Sum over**
  - ▶ all possible **MHV diagrams**
  - ▶ internal particle species (**g, f, s**) and **helicities**
- $d\mathcal{M}$  = phase space measure  $\times$  dispersive measure
- **Different from unitarity-based approach** of BDDK

# The integration measure

- $P_L$  is the momentum on the left



$$d\mathcal{M} := \frac{d^4 L_1}{L_1^2 + i\epsilon} \frac{d^4 L_2}{L_2^2 + i\epsilon} \delta^{(4)}(L_2 - L_1 + P_L)$$

- Use  $L = l + z\eta$ , and  $L \rightarrow (l, z)$

$$\rightarrow \frac{d^4 L}{L^2 + i\epsilon} = \frac{dz}{z + i \operatorname{sgn}(l_0 \eta_0) \epsilon} \frac{d^3 l}{2l_0}$$

dispersive measure  $\times$  phase-space measure  
(Nair measure)

# Applications (with supersymmetry)

- One-loop MHV amplitudes in  $N=4$  SYM

(Brandhuber, Spence, GT)

- One-loop MHV amplitudes in  $N=1,2$  SYM

(Bedford, Brandhuber, Spence, GT; Quigley, Rozali)

- ▶ No twistor string theory for  $N=1$  SYM, nevertheless  
MHV diagram method works

# Proving MHV diagrams at one loop

Supersymmetric theories

(Brandhuber, Spence, GT)

- Covariance ( $\eta$ -independence)

Feynman Tree Theorem

- Correct **singularity** structure

- ▶ Discontinuities across (generalised) cuts
- ▶ Soft, collinear
- ▶ Multiparticle

- Use tree-level BCFW proof at one loop:
  - ▶ If all singularities match, and the amplitude is covariant, then  $\mathcal{A}_{\text{MHV}} - \mathcal{A}_{\text{Feynman}}$  is a polynomial in the external momenta whose dimension is  $4 - \# \text{ particles}$  →

$$\mathcal{A}_{\text{MHV}} = \mathcal{A}_{\text{Feynman}}$$

- Proof from **field redefinition on lightcone Yang-Mills action** (Mansfield)

- Proof from **twistor actions** (Boels, Mason, Skinner)

Tim Morris and Rutger Boels talks tomorrow

- Relation with BCFW **recursion relation (tree level)** (Risager)

# Without supersymmetry

- **Cut-constructible part** of one-loop MHV amplitudes in **pure Yang-Mills**

(Bedford, Brandhuber, Spence, GT)

- **Rational terms** in **non-supersymmetric** amplitudes **missed by MHV diagrams**

- ▶ **Non-supersymmetric** amplitudes are **not cut-constructible** in four dimensions

- ▶ use **recursive techniques** to derive rational terms

(Bern, Dixon, Kosower; Bern, Berger, Dixon, Forde, Kosower)

# The all-minus amplitude

(Brandhuber, Spence, GT)

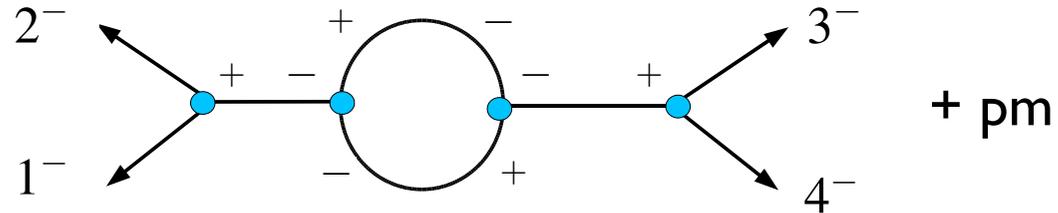
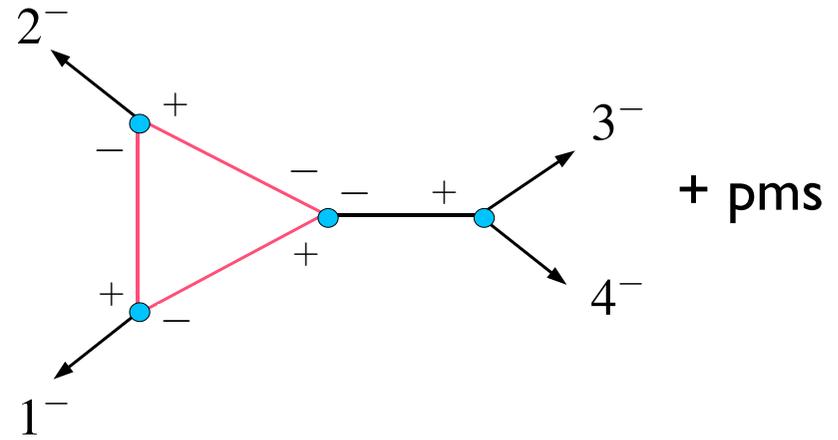
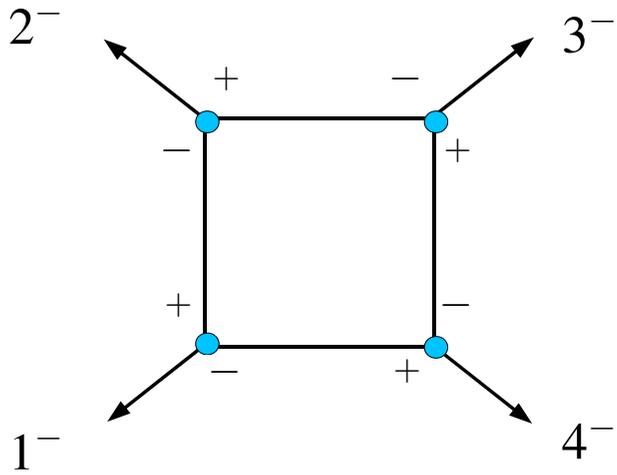
- $n$  three-point MHV vertices (for  $A(1^- \cdots n^-)$  )
- **Key observation:** three-point MHV vertices are the same as lightcone vertices  $\rightarrow$  result is a priori correct

# Explicit calculation

- Use supersymmetric decomposition:

$$\mathcal{A}_g = (\mathcal{A}_g + 4\mathcal{A}_f + 3\mathcal{A}_s) - 4(\mathcal{A}_f + \mathcal{A}_s) + \mathcal{A}_s$$

- N=4 and N=1 contributions vanish
- Gluon → scalar running in the loop
  - ▶ simpler to calculate



Result  $\sim \frac{\langle 12 \rangle \langle 34 \rangle}{[12] [34]} K_4 \quad K_4 = -\varepsilon(1-\varepsilon) I_4^{D=8-2\varepsilon} \xrightarrow{\varepsilon \rightarrow 0} -\frac{1}{6}$

(Originally derived by Bern & Kosower, and Bern & Morgan)

# Finiteness of the all-minus amplitude

- Define  $L_D = L_4 + L_{-2\varepsilon}$  with  $L_D^2 = L_4^2 + L_{-2\varepsilon}^2 := L_4^2 - \mu^2$
- A finite, non-zero result arises from incomplete cancellations of propagators

$$\frac{L_4^2}{L_D^2} = \frac{L_4^2 - \mu^2 + \mu^2}{L_D^2} = 1 + \frac{\mu^2}{L_D^2}$$

- ▶ MHV vertices are 4-dimensional
- ▶ D-dimensional propagators

- Naive calculation directly in 4d gives zero
- Finite, non-zero result related to an anomaly ?
  - ▶ Finiteness arises as  $\epsilon/\epsilon$  effect
  - ▶ Anomaly in worldsheet conformal symmetry in N=2 open strings (Chalmers, Siegel)



Reminiscent of an anomaly...

- **All-minus** amplitude understood within MHV diagram method
- **All-plus** amplitude
  - ▶ **Parity conjugate** of **all-minus**, but MHV method treats the two helicities differently
- Longstanding speculations on a one-loop **all-plus vertex**
  - ▶ All-plus amplitude has **no multiparticle poles** (as MHV)
  - ▶ **Twistor space geometry** seems to **confirm this**

# Where is the all-plus amplitude ?

Go back to the path integral !

- **Mansfield's procedure:** (in a nutshell)
  - ▶ Start from **lightcone** quantisation of YM,  $A^- = 0$
  - ▶ integrate out  $A^+$  (no derivatives wrt lightcone time  $x^-$ )
  - ▶  $A_z, A_{\bar{z}}$  correspond to physical polarisations

- **Action is**  $S = S^{-+} + S^{--+} + S^{++-} + S^{---++}$

(Scherk, Schwarz)



- Change variables in path integral:  $A_z, A_{\bar{z}} \rightarrow B_+, B_-$

$$(S^{-+} + S^{-++})[A_z, A_{\bar{z}}] = S^{-+}[B_+, B_-]$$

- LHS is SDYM action
- Bäcklund transformation

- Further require:

- ▶ Transformation is **canonical**, with  $A_z = A_z[B_+]$
- ▶ **Canonicity**  $\Rightarrow$  Jacobian equal to **1** (classically)
  - ▶ Subtleties related to  $\det \partial_+$

- Plug  $A_z \sim B_+ + B_+^2 + B_+^3 + \dots$

$$A_{\bar{z}} \sim B_- (1 + B_+ + B_+^2 + B_+^3 + \dots)$$

in  $(S^{--+} + S^{--+})[A_z, A_{\bar{z}}]$

- Result is

$$S[B_+, B_-] = S^{-+} + S^{--+} + S^{--+} + S^{--+} + \dots$$

- Vertices have MHV helicity configuration

# Comments

- Jacobian for  $A_z, A_{\bar{z}} \rightarrow B_+, B_-$  is 1 (classically)
- Equivalence Theorem:
  - ▶ Green's functions of the B fields are different from those of the A fields, however
  - ▶ S-matrix elements are the same modulo a wave-function renormalisation...
  - ▶ ...equal to 1 at one loop (Ettle & Morris)
- We can equivalently calculate amplitudes with B fields insertions

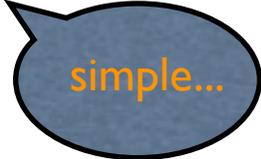
# One missing thing !

- We have just mapped **Self-Dual Yang-Mills** to a **free theory...**
- ...with the consequence of **eliminating the all-plus amplitude**
- **Potential sources of problems:**
  - ▶ **Jacobian**
  - ▶ **Equivalence Theorem**
  - ▶ **Regularisation**

# Our solution

(Brandhuber, Spence, Zoubos, GT)

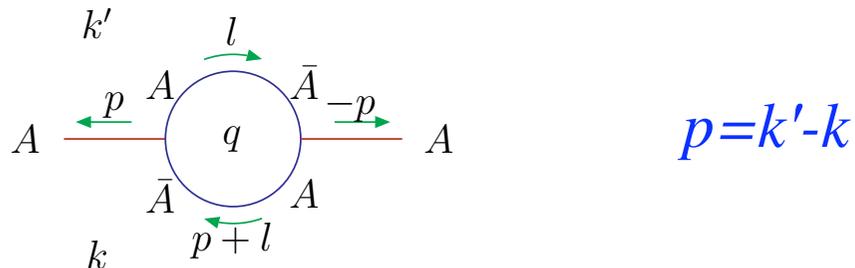
- Use **Thorn worksheet friendly regularisation**
  - ▶ inherently four-dimensional
- Perform Mansfield-Bäcklund transformation on the **regularised, 4d action**
  - ▶ **SDYM** classically **integrable** only in **4d**
- New one-loop **effective interactions** from **regularisation**, plus
- Usual MHV vertices



simple...

- **Worksheet friendly regulator:**  $\exp(-\delta \sum_{i=1}^n q_i^2)$   
 $q^2 = 2q_z q_{\bar{z}}$  
- ▶  $\delta$  is sent to zero at the end of calculation

- $q_i$  are loop **region (T-dual) momenta**

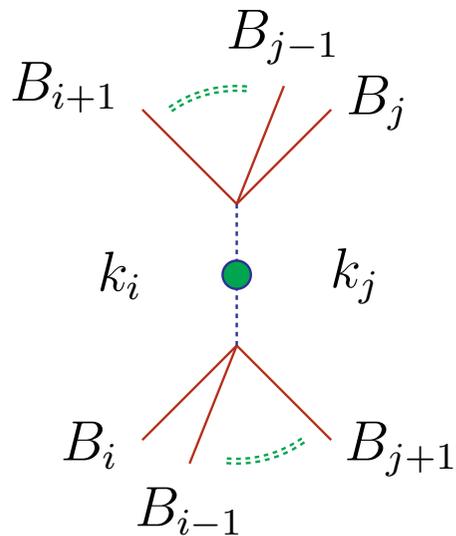


- Regularisation generate **Lorentz-violating processes**
- ▶ cancel with appropriate **++ counterterm**  
 (Chakrabarti, Qiu, Thorn)

- 

$$\text{counterterm} \sim \frac{g^2 N}{12\pi^2} ((k_{\bar{z}})^2 + (k'_{\bar{z}})^2 + k_{\bar{z}} k'_{\bar{z}})$$

- Applying **Mansfield transformation** on **counterterm** generates **all-plus amplitudes**:



Reminders:  $A = A(B)$  holomorphic

$A$  is **positive**-helicity gluon

Equivalence Theorem:  $A \rightarrow B$

Counterterm acts as a **generating functional** of **all-plus amplitudes**

- Explicit check at **four points**
- **Soft, collinear limits**

# A complementary solution

(Ettle, Fu, Fudger, Mansfield, Morris)

- Use **dimensional regularisation**
  - ▶ new interactions due to the regularisation
  - ▶ vanish as  $\epsilon \rightarrow 0$
- Perform Mansfield-Bäcklund transformation on the **full D-dimensional action**
- **Violations of the equivalence theorem produce the missing amplitudes**

Tim Morris's talk tomorrow

# Next tasks

- Calculate **more general amplitudes**, including **rational terms**
- First example:  $-++\dots+$

# Gravity

Michael Green's talk  
Zvi Bern's talk on Friday

- **Simplicity of gravity amplitudes**
  - ▶ **Twistor space structure** (Bern, Bjerrum-Bohr, Dunbar)
  - ▶ **Tree-level MHV rules** from recursion relations (Bjerrum-Bohr, Dunbar, Ita, Perkins, Risager)
  - ▶ Applications to **one-loop MHV diagrams** (Nasti, GT)
  - ▶ **Field redefinitions** on lightcone gravity action (Ananth, Theisen)
  - ▶ **Recursion relations** (Bedford, Brandhuber, Spence, GT; Cachazo, Svrcek; Benincasa, Boucher-Veronneau, Cachazo)
- **Finiteness of  $N=8$  ?** (Bern, Dixon, Roiban; Bern, Carrasco, Dixon, Johansson, Kosower, Roiban; Green, Russo, Vanhove)
- **Surprises even without supersymmetry !** (Bern, Carrasco, Forde, Ita, Johansson)

Back to  $N=4$  Super Yang-Mills

# Amplitudes and Wilson Loops

(Brandhuber, Heslop, GT; Brandhuber, Heslop, Spence, GT)

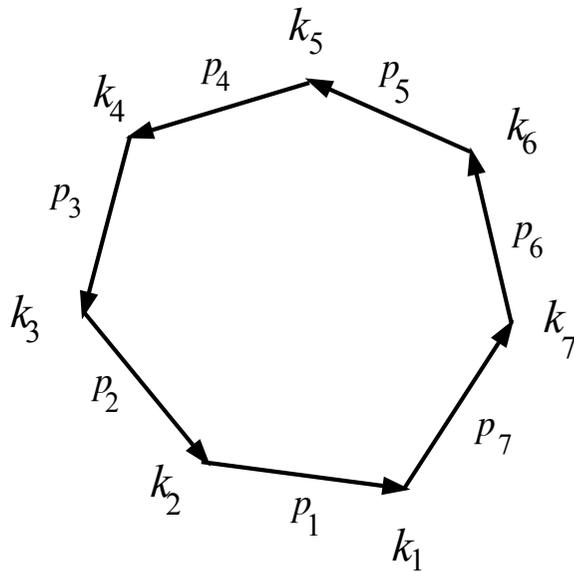
- We wish to calculate  $\langle W[C] \rangle$  at **weak coupling**

$$W[C] := \text{TrP exp} \left[ ig \oint_C d\tau \left( A_\mu(x(\tau)) \dot{x}^\mu(\tau) + \phi_i(x(\tau)) \dot{y}^i(\tau) \right) \right]$$

- ▶ Contour  $C$  as in Alday-Maldacena calculation (next slide)
- ▶ When  $\dot{x}^2 = \dot{y}^2$  Wilson loop is **locally supersymmetric**
- ▶ Choose  $\dot{x}^2 = 0$  (lightlike momenta) and  $\dot{y} = 0$
- ▶ In general, **supersymmetry is broken globally**

- Contour  $C$  in the strong-coupling calculation of A&M

- ▶ Dictated by the momenta of the scattered gluons



$$p_i = k_i - k_{i+1} \quad k\text{'s are T-dual (region) momenta}$$

$$\sum_{i=1}^n p_i = 0$$

Contour is closed

# Motivation

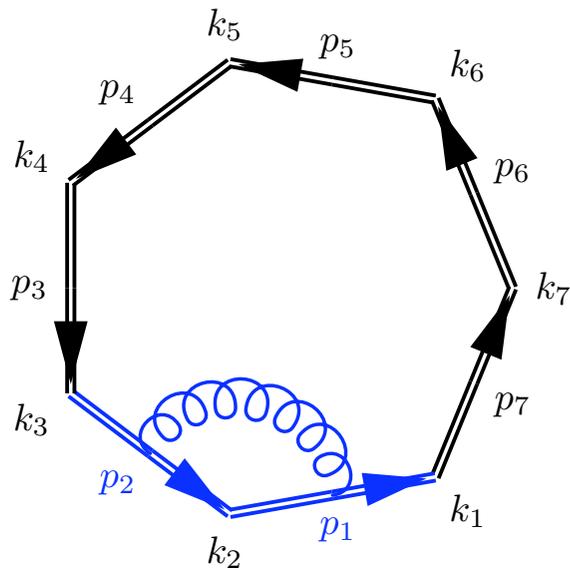
- Computation of amplitudes at strong coupling (Alday and Maldacena) (Fernando Alday's talk)
  - ▶ dual to that of the area of a string ending on a lightlike polygonal loop embedded in the boundary of AdS
  - ▶ scattering in AdS is at fixed angle, large energy → similar to Gross-Mende calculation
  - ▶ leads to an exponential of classical string action
  - ▶ calculation in the T-dual variables is equivalent to that of a lightlike Wilson loop at strong coupling (Maldacena; Rey and Yee)

- Calculate  $\langle W[C] \rangle$  at weak coupling for  $n$  points
  - ▶ One loop (two-loop calculation in preparation)
  - ▶ Four-point case addressed by Drummond, Korchemsky, Sokatchev
- Result:  $\langle W[C] \rangle$  gives the  $n$ -point MHV amplitude in N=4 SYM ! (modulo tree-level prefactor)
- Conjecture that equality  $\langle W[C] \rangle = \mathcal{M}$  persists at higher loops

# $\langle W[C] \rangle$ at one loop

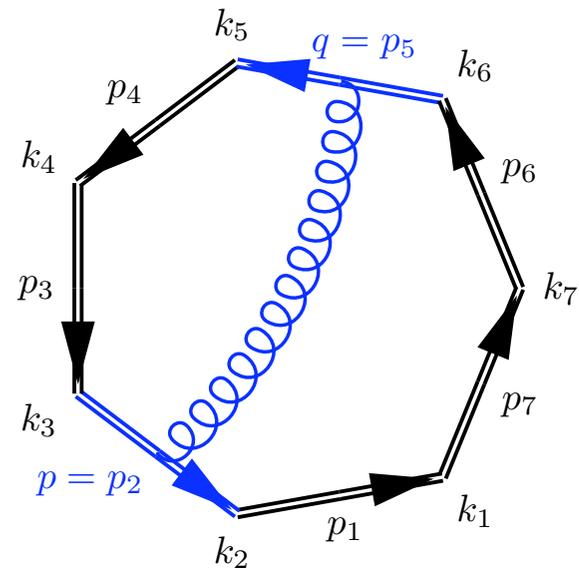
(Brandhuber, Heslop, GT)

- Calculation done (almost) instantly.  
Two classes of diagrams:



Gluon stretched between two segments meeting at a cusp

**A. Infrared divergent**



Gluon stretched between two non-adjacent segments

**B. Infrared finite**

- Clean separation between **infrared-divergent** and **infrared-finite** terms

- ▶ Important advantage, as  $\epsilon$  can be set to zero in the finite parts from the start

- From diagrams in class **A** :

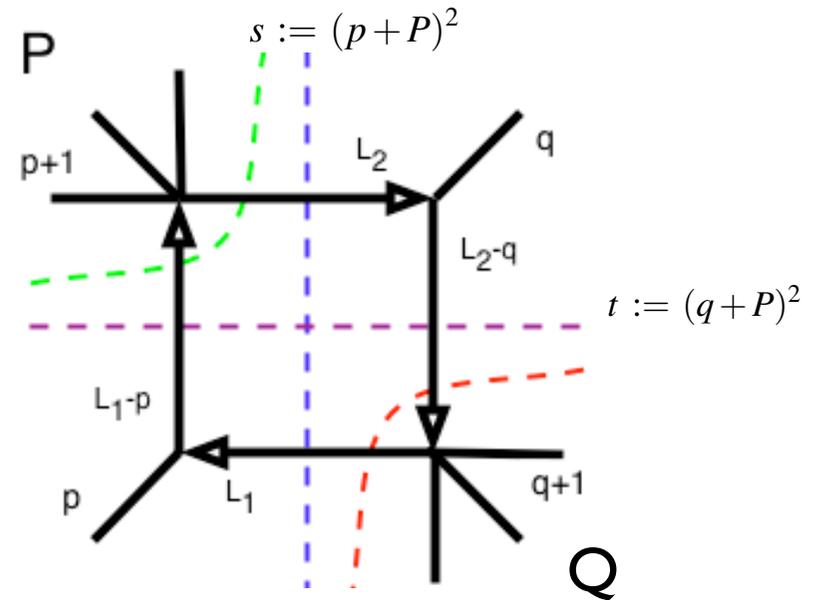
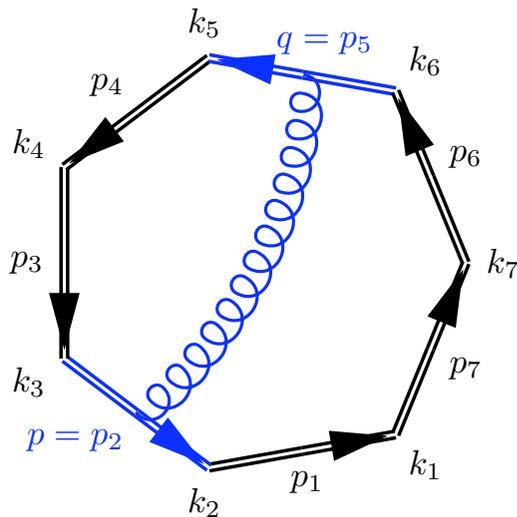
$$\mathcal{M}_n^{(1)}|_{IR} = -\frac{1}{\epsilon^2} \sum_{i=1}^n \left( \frac{-s_{i,i+1}}{\mu^2} \right)^{-\epsilon}$$

- ▶  $s_{i,i+1} = (p_i + p_{i+1})^2$  is the invariant formed with the momenta meeting at the cusp

- Diagram in class **B**, with **gluon** stretched between  $p$  and  $q$  gives a result proportional to

$$\mathcal{F}_\varepsilon(s, t, P, Q) = \int_0^1 d\tau_p d\tau_q \frac{P^2 + Q^2 - s - t}{[-(P^2 + (s - P^2)\tau_p + (t - P^2)\tau_q + (-s - t + P^2 + Q^2)\tau_p\tau_q)]^{1+\varepsilon}}$$

- Explicit evaluation shows that this is equal to the **finite part** of a **2-mass easy box function**:



▶ In the example:  $p = p_2$   $q = p_5$

$$P = p_3 + p_4, \quad Q = p_6 + p_7 + p_1$$

- ▶ One-to-one correspondence between **Wilson loop diagrams** and **finite parts of 2-mass easy box functions**
- ▶ Explains why each box function appears with coefficient equal to **1** in the expression of the one-loop N=4 MHV amplitude

- Explicit calculation gives:

$$a := \frac{2(pq)}{P^2Q^2 - st} \quad \text{👉}$$

$$\mathcal{F}_\varepsilon = -\frac{1}{\varepsilon^2} \left[ \left( \frac{a}{1-aP^2} \right)^\varepsilon {}_2F_1 \left( \varepsilon, \varepsilon, 1 + \varepsilon, \frac{1}{1-aP^2} \right) + \left( \frac{a}{1-aQ^2} \right)^\varepsilon {}_2F_1 \left( \varepsilon, \varepsilon, 1 + \varepsilon, \frac{1}{1-aQ^2} \right) - \left( \frac{a}{1-as} \right)^\varepsilon {}_2F_1 \left( \varepsilon, \varepsilon, 1 + \varepsilon, \frac{1}{1-as} \right) - \left( \frac{a}{1-at} \right)^\varepsilon {}_2F_1 \left( \varepsilon, \varepsilon, 1 + \varepsilon, \frac{1}{1-at} \right) \right]$$

- **At  $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$ :**  $\mathcal{F}_{\varepsilon=0} = -\text{Li}_2(1-as) - \text{Li}_2(1-at) + \text{Li}_2(1-aP^2) + \text{Li}_2(1-aQ^2)$

- ▶ Box function in the same compact form derived from dispersion integrals using **one-loop MHV diagrams**

(Brandhuber, Spence, GT)

- At 4 points, **all-orders in  $\varepsilon$  result:**

$$\mathcal{M}_4^{(1)}(\varepsilon) = -\frac{2}{\varepsilon^2} \left[ \left( \frac{-s}{\mu^2} \right)^{-\varepsilon} {}_2F_1 \left( 1, -\varepsilon, 1 - \varepsilon, 1 + \frac{s}{t} \right) + \left( \frac{-t}{\mu^2} \right)^{-\varepsilon} {}_2F_1 \left( 1, -\varepsilon, 1 - \varepsilon, 1 + \frac{t}{s} \right) \right]$$

- ▶ Agrees with result of Green, Schwarz and Brink

- For  $n > 4$ , **missing topologies** (vanish as  $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$ )

- ▶ E.g.  $n > 5$ , get only parity-even part

# $\langle W[C] \rangle$ at higher loops

(Brandhuber, Heslop, Spence, GT, in preparation)

- Key result: **non-abelian exponentiation theorem** (Gatheral; Frenkel and Taylor)

$$\langle W[C] \rangle := 1 + \sum_{L=1}^{\infty} a^L W^{(L)} = \exp \sum_{L=1}^{\infty} a^L w^{(L)}$$

- $w$ 's are calculated by keeping only terms containing **maximal non-abelian colour factor**
  - ▶ subset of all possible diagrams

- **BDS's Exponential Ansatz naturally emerges**

$$\mathcal{M}_n := 1 + \sum_{L=1}^{\infty} a^L \mathcal{M}_n^{(L)} = \exp \left[ \sum_{L=1}^{\infty} a^L \left( f^{(L)}(\varepsilon) \mathcal{M}_n^{(1)}(L\varepsilon) + C^{(L)} + E_n^{(L)}(\varepsilon) \right) \right]$$

$$\langle W_n[C] \rangle := 1 + \sum_{L=1}^{\infty} a^L W_n^{(L)} = \exp \sum_{L=1}^{\infty} a^L w_n^{(L)}$$

- **If  $\langle W[C] \rangle = \mathcal{M}$ , then**

$$w_n^{(L)} = f^{(L)}(\varepsilon) \mathcal{M}_n^{(1)}(L\varepsilon) + C^{(L)} + O(\varepsilon)$$

- Calculation of  $w$  at **two loops** almost completed *Stay tuned !*
- Four-point MHV amplitude fixed using **dual conformal invariance** and factorisation of **infrared divergences** (Drummond, Korchemsky, Sokatchev)
  - ▶ appears to be not restrictive enough for  $n > 4$
  - ▶ issues with **anomalous dimension** of **twist 2** operators

# Summary

- **Simplicity** of scattering amplitudes → geometry in **Twistor Space**
- **New, efficient methods to derive amplitudes**
  - ▶ **MHV diagrams**
  - ▶ **recursion relations, generalised unitarity...**

- **MHV diagrams:** provide a **new diagrammatic method** to calculate scattering amplitudes at **tree** and **one-loop** level in **super Yang-Mills**
- **Progress in non-supersymmetric Yang-Mills**
  - ▶ All-minus amplitude, all-plus amplitude
  - ▶ 4d Mansfield-Bäcklund transformation
  - ▶ worldsheet friendly regularisation

- MHV amplitude in  $N=4$  SYM from a Wilson loop calculation at weak coupling
  - ▶ One loop
  - ▶ Higher loops

# Some of the pressing questions...

- ▶ Rational terms in pure YM amplitudes
- ▶ Higher loops
- ▶ Relation to integrability
- ▶ Wilson loop calculations to higher loops
- ▶ What about correlators of gauge-invariant operators ?

...and many more...

