

A FINITE S-MATRIX

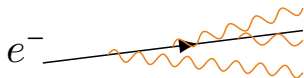
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Institute for Advanced Study

arXiv: 1810.10022 with C. Frye, N. Paul, M. Schwartz, and K. Yan

arXiv: 1906.03271 with M. Schwartz

arXiv: 1911.06821 with M. Schwartz



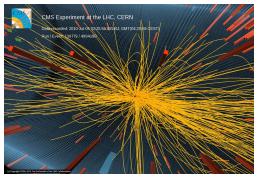
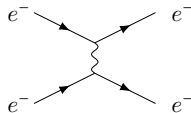
OUTLINE

- Introduction: IR divergences
- Ideas for IR finiteness:
 - Cross section method
 - Finite S -matrix
 - Coherent states
- Conclusions & Future directions

THE SCATTERING MATRIX (S -MATRIX)

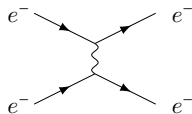
$\langle f|S|i\rangle$: **Probability amplitude** for measuring a final state $|f\rangle$ given an initial state $|i\rangle$

- Used in most **Quantum Field Theory** calculations.
 - Leads to predictions for **collider experiments**.
 - Standard Model observables computed to high precision.
 - Calculated using **Feynman diagrams**.



PROBLEM WITH S -MATRIX: DIVERGENCES

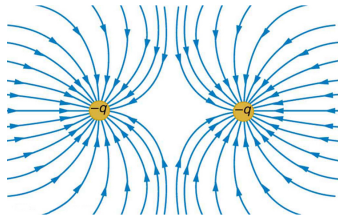
- Probability of e^-e^- scattering is naively $\propto \frac{1}{\epsilon} \rightarrow \infty$.
- **UV divergences** at high energies.
- **IR divergences** at low energies.



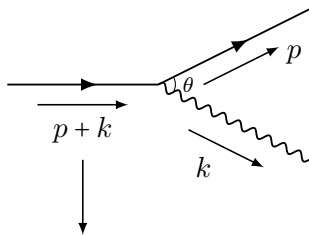
Problems provide an opportunity: Explore and gain new insight

PROBLEM WITH S -MATRIX: DIVERGENCES

Physical Reason: We are not including the electromagnetic field correctly in scattering calculations.



IR DIVERGENCES IN QFT



Propagator: $\frac{1}{(p+k)^2} \sim \frac{1}{|k|(1-\cos\theta)}$

Singularities: $\left. \begin{array}{ll} |k| \rightarrow 0 & \text{soft} \\ \theta \rightarrow 0 & \text{collinear} \end{array} \right\} \text{IR divergences}$

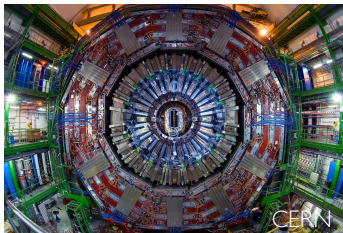
IDEAS FOR IR FINITENESS

1. **Finite cross sections** $\sigma \propto \int |\langle f | S | i \rangle|^2 d\Pi_f$
 - Bloch-Nordsieck theorem
 - KLN theorem
2. **Finite S -matrix**
3. **Finite scattering amplitudes** $S_{fi} = \langle f | S | i \rangle$

1. FINITE CROSS SECTIONS

CROSS SECTION METHOD - INTRODUCTION

Idea: Cross section is **measurable** and hence should be finite.



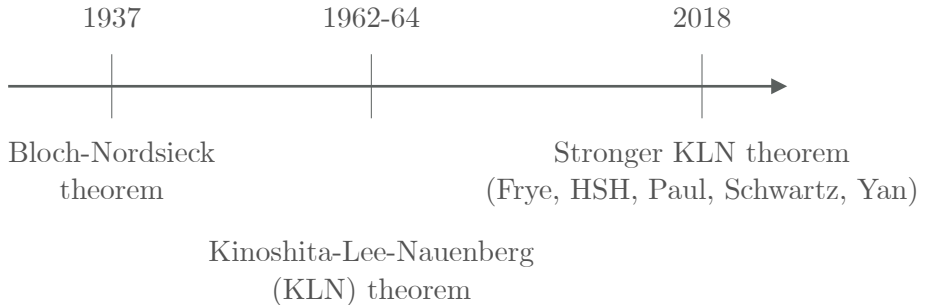
Need to calculate the same quantity as we measure.

CROSS SECTION METHOD - INTRODUCTION

Physical Motivation: All physical observables are finite.

Theoretical Goal: Find the *minimal set* of Feynman diagrams needed for finiteness.

PREVIOUS THEOREMS ON IR DIVERGENCES



PREVIOUS THEOREMS ON IR DIVERGENCES

Bloch-Nordsieck (1937): Soft IR divergences cancel in QED when summing over **final state photons** with finite energy resolution.

Doria, Frenkel, Taylor (1980): Counterexample in QCD: $qq \rightarrow \mu\mu qq$ + final state gluons is soft IR divergent at 2-loops.

KLN Theorem (1962-64): S -matrix elements squared are IR finite when summing over **final states and initial states** within some energy window:

$$\sum_{f,i \in [E-E_0, E+E_0]} |\langle f | S | i \rangle|^2 < \infty$$

STRONGER KLN THEOREM

KLN Theorem (1962-64): *S*-matrix elements squared are IR finite when summing over **final states and initial states** within some energy window:

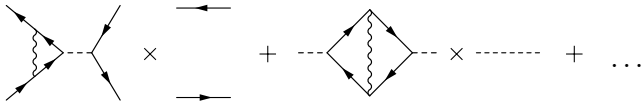
$$\sum_{f,i \in [E-E_0, E+E_0]} |\langle f | S | i \rangle|^2 < \infty$$

Stronger KLN Theorem (2018): *S*-matrix elements squared are IR finite when summing over **final states or initial states**:

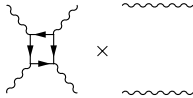
$$\sum_f |\langle f | S | i \rangle|^2 < \infty, \quad \sum_i |\langle f | S | i \rangle|^2 < \infty$$

FORWARD SCATTERING

- KLN is a trivial consequence of **unitarity**:
 - Probability of $i \rightarrow \text{anything}$ is $1 < \infty$
 - Probability of $\text{anything} \rightarrow f$ is $1 < \infty$
- **KLN requires a term where $f = i \rightarrow$ forward scattering**

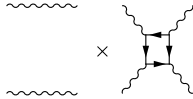


$\gamma\gamma \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$ SCATTERING



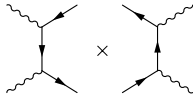
×

$$\sigma \propto \frac{1}{2\epsilon}$$



×

$$\sigma \propto \frac{1}{2\epsilon}$$



×

$$\sigma \propto -\frac{1}{\epsilon}$$

Rate to produce no charged particles
in photon collisions is not IR safe

$m_e = 0$, Dim reg, CM frame

CONCLUSION OF CROSS SECTION METHOD

$$\sum_f |\langle f | S | i \rangle|^2 \propto 1 < \infty$$

Conclusion: KLN theorem = unitarity.

If we sum over **all possible diagrams** we get 1 by unitarity, and 1 is IR finite.

Not closer to finding the **minimal set of diagrams** needed for IR finiteness.

CONCLUSION OF CROSS SECTION METHOD

$$\sum_f |\langle f | S | i \rangle|^2 \propto 1 < \infty$$

Conclusion: KLN theorem = unitarity.

If we sum over **all possible diagrams** we get 1 by unitarity, and 1 is IR finite.

Not closer to finding the **minimal set of diagrams** needed for IR finiteness.

Need new ideas beyond the cross section method.

2. A FINITE \mathcal{S} -MATRIX

THE SCATTERING MATRIX (*S*-MATRIX)

- Properties extensively studied.
 - How to **encode its content**? *Spinors, twistors, amplituhedron?*
 - What are its **symmetries**? *Lorentz invariance, Dual conformal invariance?*
 - What **constraints** can we impose? *Steinmann relations, limits?*
- Still, **the *S*-matrix does not exist** in theories with massless particles.
 - Divergent in perturbation theory.
 - Zero non-perturbatively.

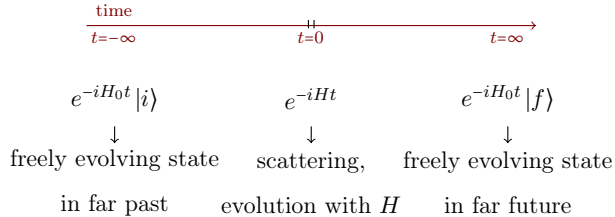
THE SCATTERING MATRIX (S -MATRIX)

Why are our previous calculations valuable?

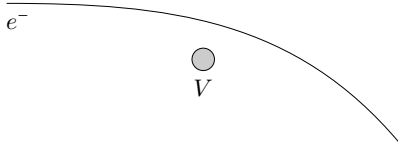
What is the **fundamental object** we should calculate?

What do we gain from a **firmer mathematical ground**?

WHAT IS SCATTERING?



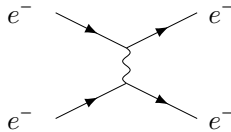
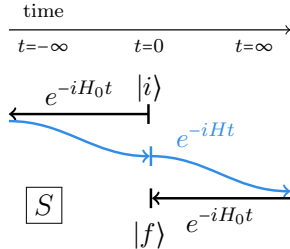
$\langle f | S | i \rangle$: **Probability amplitude**
for measuring $|f\rangle$ given $|i\rangle$



WHAT IS SCATTERING?

S -matrix: **Probability amplitude** for measuring $|f\rangle$ given $|i\rangle$

$$S_{fi} = \lim_{t_{\pm} \rightarrow \pm\infty} \langle f | e^{iH_0 t_+} e^{-iH t_+} e^{iH t_-} e^{-iH_0 t_-} | i \rangle$$



TRADITIONAL DEFINITION OF S -MATRIX

$$S_{fi} = \lim_{t_{\pm} \rightarrow \pm\infty} \langle f | e^{iH_0 t_+} e^{-iH t_+} e^{iH t_-} e^{-iH_0 t_-} | i \rangle$$

Free Theory:

$$S = \mathbb{1} \quad S_{fi} = \langle f | i \rangle \quad \checkmark$$

QM, short range potential:

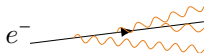
\checkmark

Const. potential $H = H_0 + V_0$: $S_{fi} = \langle f | i \rangle \lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} e^{-2iV_0 T} ?$

QED:

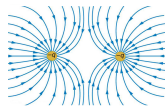
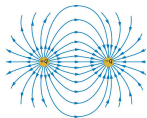
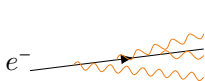
$$S = \mathbb{1} - \frac{\alpha}{\epsilon^2} + \dots = -\infty ?$$

$$S = \exp \left\{ -\frac{\alpha}{\epsilon^2} \right\} = 0 ?$$



MODIFY S -MATRIX TO S_H

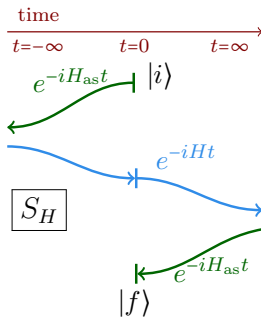
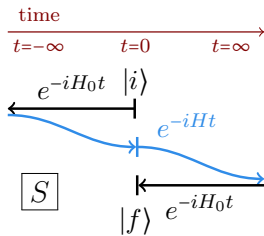
Recall: Interactions do not vanish as $t \rightarrow \pm\infty$ in QED.



Redefine S -matrix in theories with long range interactions:

$$S_{fi} = \lim_{t_{\pm} \rightarrow \pm\infty} \langle f | e^{iH_0 t_+} e^{-iH t_+} e^{iH t_-} e^{-iH_0 t_-} | i \rangle$$
$$\rightarrow S_{fi}^H = \lim_{t_{\pm} \rightarrow \pm\infty} \langle f | e^{iH_{as} t_+} e^{-iH t_+} e^{iH t_-} e^{-iH_{as} t_-} | i \rangle$$

MODIFY S -MATRIX TO S_H



QUESTIONS

$$S_{fi}^H = \lim_{t_{\pm} \rightarrow \pm\infty} \langle f | e^{iH_{\text{as}}t_+} e^{-iHt_+} e^{iHt_-} e^{-iH_{\text{as}}t_-} | i \rangle$$

- (i) How to pick H_{as} ?
 - Criteria: IR finite, easy to calculate, useful in practice, consistent with every measurement to date.
- (ii) How to calculate matrix elements of S_H ?
- (iii) How to interpret S_H ?

CHOICE OF H_{AS}

(i) *How to pick H_{as} ?*

- Use **factorization**, and techniques from Soft-Collinear Effective Theory (SCET):

$$H_{\text{as}} = H_{\text{SCET}}$$

- IR finite by construction due to **universality of IR divergences**.
- States **evolve independently of how they scatter**.
- New UV divergences dealt with using renormalization.
- No scales, most integrals are zero in dim reg.

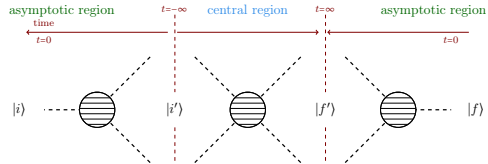
THREE PART CALCULATION

(ii) *How to calculate matrix elements of S_H ?*

- Calculation trick in perturbation theory:

$$S_{fi}^H = \int d\Pi'_f \int d\Pi'_i \underbrace{\langle f | \Omega_+^{\text{as}} | f' \rangle}_{\text{TOPT rules}} \underbrace{\langle f' | S | i' \rangle}_{\text{usual Feynman rules}} \underbrace{\langle i' | \Omega_+^{\text{as}} | i \rangle}_{\text{TOPT rules}}$$

- Calculations split into three parts:



EXAMPLE: $Z \rightarrow e^+ e^-$ FOR $H_{\text{AS}} = H_{\text{SCET}}$

$$\begin{aligned}
 &= \mathcal{M}_0 \frac{\alpha}{4\pi} \left[\frac{1}{\epsilon_{\text{UV}}} - \frac{2}{\epsilon_{\text{IR}}^2} - \frac{4+2L}{\epsilon_{\text{IR}}} - 8 + \frac{\pi^2}{6} - L^2 + 3L \right] \\
 &\left. \begin{aligned}
 &= \mathcal{M}_0 \frac{\alpha}{4\pi} \left[\frac{2}{\epsilon_{\text{IR}}^2} + \frac{4+2L}{\epsilon_{\text{IR}}} - \frac{2}{\epsilon_{\text{UV}}^2} - \frac{4+2L}{\epsilon_{\text{UV}}} \right] \\
 &\overline{\overline{\langle e^+ e^- | S_H | Z \rangle^{\overline{\text{MS}}} = \mathcal{M}_0 + \mathcal{M}_0 \frac{\alpha}{4\pi} \left[-8 + \frac{\pi^2}{6} - L^2 + 3L \right]}}
 \end{aligned} \right\}
 \end{aligned}$$

$m_e=0, L=\ln \frac{-E_{\text{CM}}^2}{\mu^2}, \mathcal{M}_0: \text{LO matrix element, Dim reg, CM frame}$

INTERPRETATION OF S_H

(iii) *How to interpret S_H ?*

- a. Wilson coefficients in Soft-Collinear Effective Theory (SCET)
- b. Remainder functions in $\mathcal{N} = 4$ Supersymmetric Yang-Mills theory (SYM)
- c. Dressed states / Coherent states

a. WILSON COEFFICIENTS

$$\langle e^+ e^- | S_H | Z \rangle^{\overline{\text{MS}}} = \mathcal{M}_0 + \mathcal{M}_0 \frac{\alpha}{4\pi} \left[-8 + \frac{\pi^2}{6} - L^2 + 3L \right]$$

Familiar expression:

S_H amplitudes = Wilson coefficients in SCET

- **Wilson coefficients:** Coupling constants in the effective field theory.
- Encode **hard dynamics** of a scattering process.

a. WILSON COEFFICIENTS

Advantages to alternative definition:

Properties of Wilson coefficients identical to those of S_H .

- Usually: difference of matrix elements in different theories.
- Here: matrix elements of a **single operator**.
- *What are the **analytic** and **symmetry** properties of S_H ?*

b. $\mathcal{N} = 4$ REMAINDER FUNCTIONS

- $\mathcal{N} = 4$ supersymmetric Yang-Mills theory obeys dual conformal invariance (DCI).
 - Amplitudes **bootstrapped** to 6 and 7 loops (Caron-Huot et al. 2019)
 - DCI violated at 1-loop.
- Compute **remainder functions** R instead of amplitudes
 - **Ratio** of full amplitude and an exponentiation of 1-loop divergences.
 - Sometimes obey **Steinmann relations** and **DCI**.

IR divergences obscure simplicity of $\mathcal{N} = 4$ amplitudes.

4-Point Amplitude in $\mathcal{N} = 4$ is Complicated

$$M_4^{(1)}(\epsilon) = -\frac{2}{\epsilon^2} + \frac{1}{\epsilon} M_4^{(1)}(\epsilon^{-1}) + M_4^{(1)}(\epsilon^0) + \dots$$

$$M_4^{(1)}(\epsilon^{-1}) = -\ln \frac{\mu^2}{-s} - \ln \frac{\mu^2}{-t}$$

$$M_4^{(1)}(\epsilon^0) = -\ln \frac{\mu^2}{-t} \ln \frac{\mu^2}{-s} + \frac{2\pi^2}{3}$$

$$M_4^{(1)}(\epsilon^1) = -\frac{\pi^2}{2} \ln \frac{-s}{u} - \frac{1}{3} \ln^3 \frac{-s}{u} + \frac{\pi^2}{12} \ln \frac{\mu^2}{-s} - \frac{1}{6} \ln^3 \frac{\mu^2}{-s} + \frac{\pi^2}{4} \ln \frac{\mu^2}{u} + \frac{1}{2} \ln^2 \frac{-s}{u} \ln \frac{\mu^2}{u} - \frac{1}{2} \ln \frac{-s}{u} \ln \frac{-t}{u} \ln \frac{\mu^2}{u} \\ - \ln \frac{-s}{u} \text{Li}_2 \frac{-s}{u} + \text{Li}_3 \frac{-s}{u} + \frac{7}{3} \zeta_3 + (s \leftrightarrow t)$$

$$M_4^{(1)}(\epsilon^2) = \frac{5\pi^2}{24} \ln^2 \frac{-s}{u} + \frac{1}{8} \ln^4 \frac{-s}{u} + \frac{3}{8} \ln \frac{-s}{u} \ln \frac{-t}{u} + \frac{1}{6} \ln^3 \frac{-s}{u} \ln \frac{-t}{u} - \frac{1}{4} \ln^2 \frac{-s}{u} \ln^2 \frac{-t}{u} + \frac{\pi^2}{24} \ln^2 \frac{\mu^2}{-s} - \frac{1}{24} \ln^4 \frac{\mu^2}{s} - \frac{\pi^2}{2} \ln \frac{-s}{u} \ln \frac{\mu^2}{u} \\ - \frac{1}{3} \ln^3 \frac{-s}{u} \ln \frac{\mu^2}{u} + \frac{\pi^2}{8} \ln^2 \frac{\mu^2}{u} + \frac{1}{4} \ln^2 \frac{-s}{u} \ln^2 \frac{\mu^2}{u} - \frac{1}{4} \ln \frac{-s}{u} \ln \frac{-t}{u} \ln^2 \frac{\mu^2}{u} + \frac{7}{3} \zeta_3 \ln^2 \frac{\mu^2}{-s} + \frac{1}{2} \ln^2 \frac{-s}{u} \text{Li}_2 \frac{-s}{u} - \ln \frac{-s}{u} \ln \frac{\mu^2}{u} \text{Li}_2 \frac{-s}{u} \\ + \ln \frac{\mu^2}{u} \text{Li}_3 \frac{-s}{u} - \ln \frac{-s}{u} \text{Li}_3 \frac{-t}{u} - \text{Li}_4 \frac{-s}{u} + \frac{49\pi^4}{720} + (s \leftrightarrow t)$$

Use universality of IR divergences to simplify.

b. $\mathcal{N} = 4$ REMAINDER FUNCTIONS

S_H approach:

- **Subtract** divergent amplitudes instead of taking ratios.
- S_H amplitude for 4-points, 1-loop after renormalization:

$$\widehat{M}_4^{\text{BDS},(1)} = -\ln \frac{\mu^2}{-t} \ln \frac{\mu^2}{-s} + \frac{5\pi^2}{6}$$

- S_H amplitude for 4-points, 2-loop after renormalization:

$$\widehat{M}_4^{\text{BDS},(2)} = \frac{1}{2} \left[\widehat{M}_4^{\text{BDS},(1)} - \frac{\pi^2}{6} \right]^2$$

b. $\mathcal{N} = 4$ REMAINDER FUNCTIONS

$$M_4^{(1)}(\epsilon) = -\frac{2}{\epsilon^2} + \frac{1}{\epsilon} M_4^{(1)}(\epsilon^{-1}) + M_4^{(1)}(\epsilon^0) + \dots$$

$$M_4^{(1)}(\epsilon^{-1}) = -\ln \frac{\mu^2}{-s} - \ln \frac{\mu^2}{-t}$$

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b. $\mathcal{N} = 4$ REMAINDER FUNCTIONS

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$$\widehat{M}_4^{\text{BDS},(1)} = -\ln \frac{\mu^2}{-t} \ln \frac{\mu^2}{-s} + \frac{5\pi^2}{6}$$

b. $\mathcal{N} = 4$ REMAINDER FUNCTIONS

Factorization, and techniques from SCET,
explain why remainder functions have simple forms.

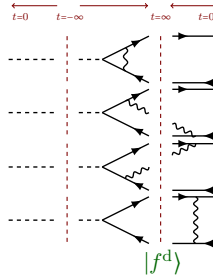
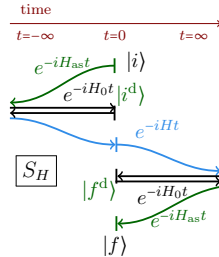
$$\widehat{M}_4^{\text{BDS},(1)} = -\ln \frac{\mu^2}{-t} \ln \frac{\mu^2}{-s} + \frac{5\pi^2}{6}$$

3. FINITE SCATTERING AMPLITUDES

C. COHERENT STATES

- Arise as intermediate steps in S_H calculations:

$$S_{fi}^H = \sum_{f'} \sum_{i'} \underbrace{\langle f | \Omega_+^{\text{as}} | f' \rangle \langle f' | S | i' \rangle}_{\langle f^{\text{d}} |} \underbrace{\langle i' | \Omega_+^{\text{as}} | i \rangle}_{| i^{\text{d}} \rangle}$$



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Mathematically the same as the finite S -matrix

FUTURE DIRECTIONS: ANALYTIC STRUCTURE OF S_H

We have explored:

S_H provides an alternative definition of familiar QFT objects.

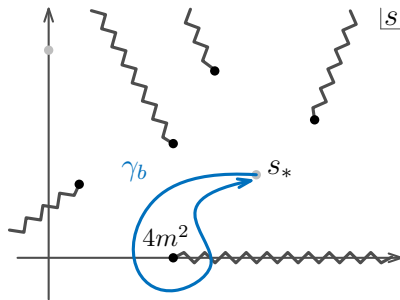
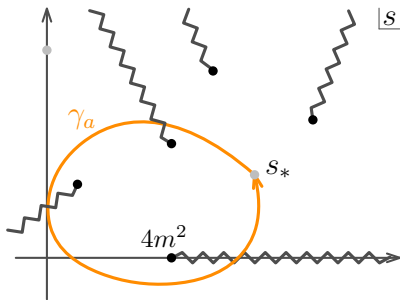
New goal:

Examine properties of S_H , e.g. using **bootstrapping** methods.

Tools needed:

Better handle on **analytic structure** of amplitudes.

FUTURE DIRECTIONS: ANALYTIC STRUCTURE OF S_H



Can we deduce branch-point structure of S_H ?

CONCLUSIONS

- **IR divergences** remain a problem in QFT
- Explored **three solutions**:
 1. Finite cross sections: *Sum over all diagrams for finiteness.*
 2. Finite S -matrix: *Encodes hard dynamics of scattering processes.*
 3. Finite scattering amplitudes (Coherent states): *Same as Finite S -matrix.*
- Future directions: Explore **analytic structure**

THANKS!