# The Infrared structure of gauge amplitudes in the high-energy limit

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17 May 2012

Thursday, May 17, 2012

# Why the infrared structure of gauge amplitudes ?

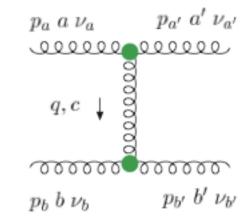
- Perturbation theory calculations of amplitudes beyond the leading order exhibit infrared divergences, which in physical processes must cancel between the virtual corrections and the real emissions
- While the finite part of an amplitude depends on the scattering process at hand, the infrared-divergent part is process independent (but for the parton species involved): it is *universal*, and reveals the infrared structure of the gauge theory
- Guesses have been made on the all-order structure of the infrared divergences (dipole formula). The high-energy limit is one more tool which allows us to constrain the all-order structure

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 $C_{\nu_a \nu_{a'}}(p_a, p_{a'})$  are called impact factors

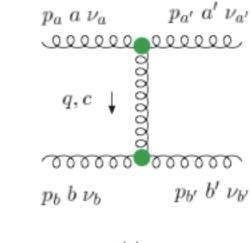


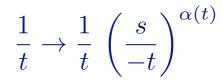
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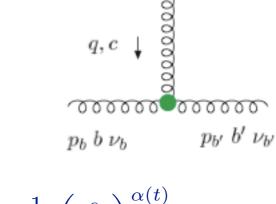
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- leading logarithms of s/t are obtained by the substitution
  - $\alpha(t)$  is the Regge gluon trajectory, with infrared coefficients

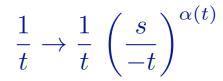
$$\alpha(t) = \frac{\alpha_s(-t,\epsilon)}{4\pi} \alpha^{(1)} + \left(\frac{\alpha_s(-t,\epsilon)}{4\pi}\right)^2 \alpha^{(2)} + \mathcal{O}\left(\alpha_s^3\right)$$

$$\alpha^{(1)} = C_A \frac{\widehat{\gamma}_K^{(1)}}{\epsilon} = C_A \frac{2}{\epsilon} \qquad \qquad \alpha^{(2)} = C_A \left[ -\frac{b_0}{\epsilon^2} + \widehat{\gamma}_K^{(2)} \frac{2}{\epsilon} + C_A \left( \frac{404}{27} - 2\zeta_3 \right) + n_f \left( -\frac{56}{27} \right) \right]$$



 $p_a a \nu_a \qquad p_{a'} a' \nu_{a'}$ 

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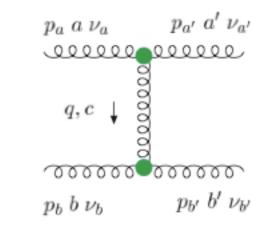
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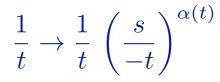
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in the Regge limit, the amplitude is invariant under  $s \leftrightarrow u$  exchange. To NLL accuracy, the amplitude is given by

$$\mathcal{M}_{aa'bb'}^{gg \to gg}(s,t) = 2 g_s^2 \frac{s}{t} \left[ (T^c)_{aa'} C_{\nu_a \nu_{a'}}(p_a, p_{a'}) \right] \left[ \left( \frac{s}{-t} \right)^{\alpha(t)} + \left( \frac{-s}{-t} \right)^{\alpha(t)} \right] \left[ (T_c)_{bb'} C_{\nu_b \nu_{b'}}(p_b, p_{b'}) \right]$$





# Resummation: Sudakov form factor

Sudakov (quark) form factor as matrix element of EM current

 $\Gamma_{\mu}(p_1, p_2; \mu^2, \epsilon) \equiv <0|J_{\mu}(0)|p_1, p_2> = \bar{v}(p_2)\gamma_{\mu}u(p_1)\Gamma\left(\frac{Q^2}{\mu^2}, \alpha_s(\mu^2), \epsilon\right)$ 

obeys evolution equation

$$Q^2 \frac{\partial}{\partial Q^2} \ln \left[ \Gamma\left(\frac{Q^2}{\mu^2}, \alpha_s(\mu^2), \epsilon\right) \right] = \frac{1}{2} \left[ K\left(\alpha_s(\mu^2), \epsilon\right) + G\left(\frac{Q^2}{\mu^2}, \alpha_s(\mu^2), \epsilon\right) \right]$$

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#### **RG** invariance requires

$$\mu \frac{dG}{d\mu} = -\mu \frac{dK}{d\mu} = \gamma_K(\alpha_s(\mu^2))$$

Korchemsky Radyushkin 1987

 $\gamma_K$  is the cusp anomalous dimension

the solution is

$$\Gamma\left(Q^{2},\epsilon\right) = \exp\left\{\frac{1}{2}\int_{0}^{-Q^{2}}\frac{d\xi^{2}}{\xi^{2}}\left[G\left(-1,\bar{\alpha}_{s}(\xi^{2},\epsilon),\epsilon\right) - \frac{1}{2}\gamma_{K}\left(\bar{\alpha}_{s}(\xi^{2},\epsilon)\right)\ln\left(\frac{-Q^{2}}{\xi^{2}}\right)\right]\right\}$$

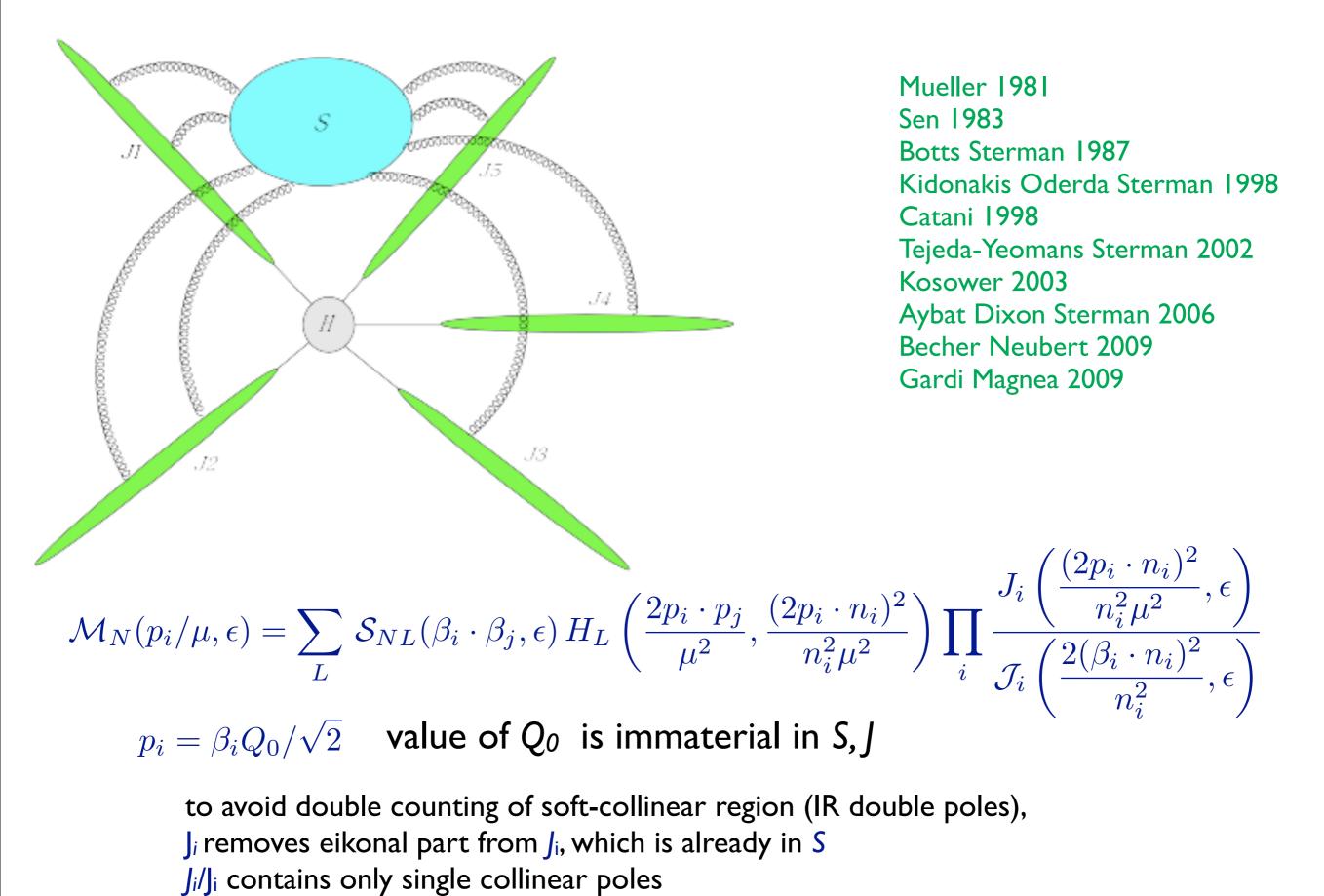
#### cusp anomalous dimension

loop expansion of the cusp anomalous dimension

$$\gamma_K^{(i)} = 2C_i \,\frac{\alpha_s(\mu^2)}{\pi} + KC_i \,\left(\frac{\alpha_s(\mu^2)}{\pi}\right)^2 + \cdots$$

$$K = \left(\frac{67}{18} - \zeta_2\right)C_A - \frac{10}{9}T_F N_f$$

#### Factorisation of a multi-leg amplitude



#### Factorisation

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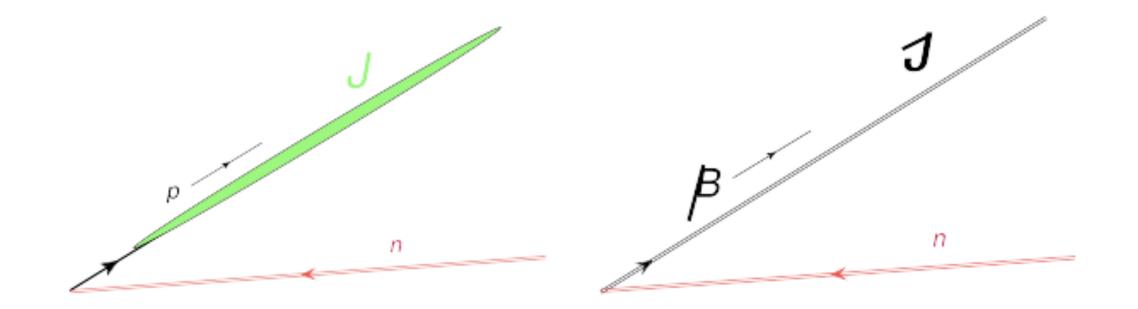
- Soft gluons decouple from the hard part of the amplitude
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  - colour links only the hard and soft parts of the amplitude
- Soft function is a matrix which mixes the colour representations and is driven by the anomalous dimension matrix  $\Gamma_s$

# Jet definition

- introduce auxiliary vector  $n_i$   $(n_i^2 \neq 0)$  to separate collinear region
- define a jet using a Wilson line along  $n_i$



partonic jet  $\bar{u}(p) J\left(\frac{(2p \cdot n)^2}{n^2 \mu^2}, \epsilon\right) =$ 

Wilson line

eikonal jet

$$\Phi_n(\lambda_2,\lambda_1) = P \exp\left[ig \int_{\lambda_1}^{\lambda_2} d\lambda n \cdot A(\lambda n)\right]$$

$$\mathcal{J}\left(\frac{2(\beta \cdot n)^2}{n^2}, \epsilon\right) = <0|\bar{\Phi}_{\beta}(\infty, 0)\Phi_n(0, -\infty)|0>$$

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  - double poles and kinematic dependence of single poles are controlled by cusp  $\gamma_{K,}$  like in the quark form factor

$$\mathcal{J}\left(\frac{2(\beta\cdot n)^2}{n^2},\epsilon\right) = \exp\left\{\frac{1}{4}\int_0^{\mu^2} \frac{d\lambda^2}{\lambda^2} \left[\delta_{\mathcal{J}_i}\left(\alpha_s(\lambda^2,\epsilon)\right) - \frac{1}{2}\gamma_K\left(\bar{\alpha}_s(\lambda^2,\epsilon)\right)\ln\left(\frac{2(\beta\cdot n)^2\mu^2}{n^2\lambda^2}\right)\right]\right\}$$

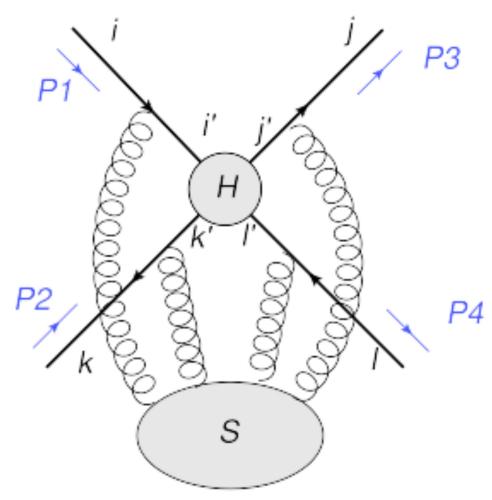
 $\delta j$  is a constant

# Soft function S

soft function is a matrix which mixes the colour representations

 $(c_N)_{ijkl}\mathcal{S}_{NL}\left(\beta_a\cdot\beta_b,\alpha_s(\mu^2),\epsilon\right)$ 

 $=\sum_{i'j'k'l'} <0|\Phi_{-\beta_2}^{k,k'}(0,\infty)\Phi_{\beta_1}^{i,i'}(\infty,0)\Phi_{\beta_3}^{j,j'}(0,\infty)\Phi_{-\beta_4}^{l,l'}(\infty,0)|0> (c_L)_{i'j'k'l'}$ 



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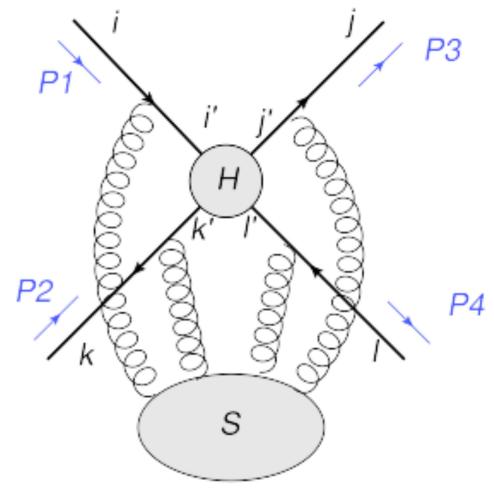
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matrix evolution equation

$$\mu \frac{d}{d\mu} \mathcal{S}_{JL} \left( \beta_a \cdot \beta_b, \alpha_s(\mu^2), \epsilon \right)$$
  
=  $-\sum_N [\Gamma_S]_{JN} \left( \beta_a \cdot \beta_b, \alpha_s(\mu^2), \epsilon \right) \mathcal{S}_{NL} \left( \beta_a \cdot \beta_b, \alpha_s(\mu^2), \epsilon \right)$ 

 $\Gamma_S$  soft anomalous dimension, singular due to the UV and collinear poles



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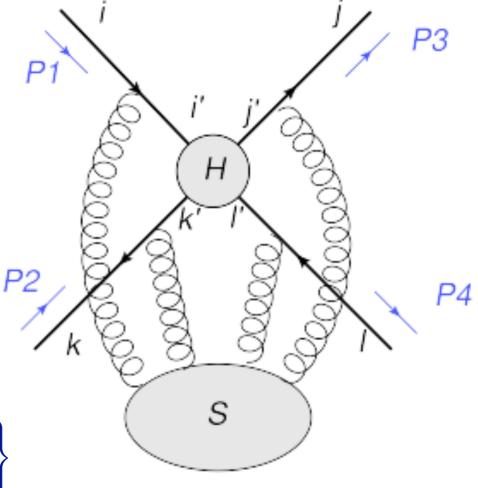
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 $\Gamma_{S}$  soft anomalous dimension, singular due to the UV and collinear poles

#### in DimReg the solution is

$$\mathcal{S}\left(\beta_a \cdot \beta_b, \alpha_s(\mu^2), \epsilon\right) = P \exp\left\{-\frac{1}{2} \int_0^{\mu^2} \frac{d\lambda^2}{\lambda^2} \Gamma_{\mathcal{S}}\left(\beta_a \cdot \beta_b, \alpha_s(\mu^2), \epsilon\right)\right\}$$
$$\Gamma_{\mathcal{S}} = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \Gamma_{\mathcal{S}}^{(n)} \left(\frac{\alpha_s(\mu^2)}{\pi}\right)^n$$



## Soft anomalous dimension

for an amplitude with an arbitrary # of legs

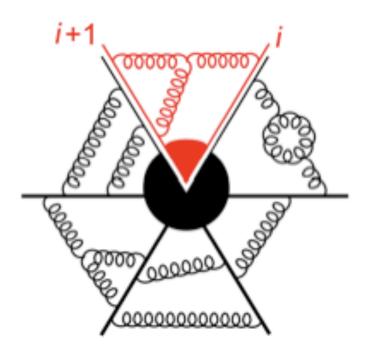
 $\Gamma_{S}^{(2)} = \frac{K}{2} \Gamma_{S}^{(1)}$  Aybat Dixon Sterman 2006

K is 2-loop coefficient of cusp anomalous dimension

 $\Gamma_S$  has cusp singularities like  $\gamma_J$ 

# N = 4 SUSY in the planar limit

colour-wise, the planar limit is trivial:can absorb S into  $J_i$ 



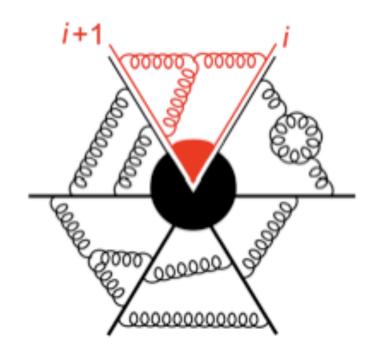
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each slice is square root of Sudakov form factor

$$\mathcal{M}_n = \prod_{i=1}^n \left[ \mathcal{M}^{[gg \to 1]} \left( \frac{s_{i,i+1}}{\mu^2}, \alpha_s, \epsilon \right) \right]^{1/2} h_n(\{p_i\}, \mu^2, \alpha_s, \epsilon)$$



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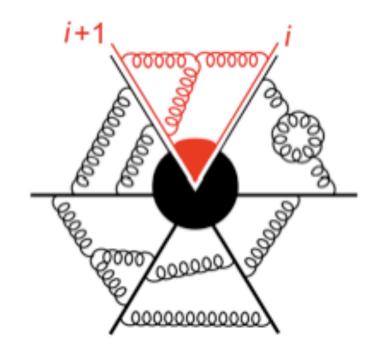


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 $\beta$  fn = 0  $\Rightarrow$  coupling runs only through dimension

$$\bar{\alpha}_s(\mu^2)\mu^{2\epsilon} = \bar{\alpha}_s(\lambda^2)\lambda^{2\epsilon}$$

the Sudakov form factor has a simple solution

$$\ln\left[\Gamma\left(\frac{Q^2}{\mu^2},\alpha_s(\mu^2),\epsilon\right)\right] = -\frac{1}{2}\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left(\frac{\alpha_s(\mu^2)}{\pi}\right)^n \left(\frac{-Q^2}{\mu^2}\right)^{-n\epsilon} \left[\frac{\gamma_K^{(n)}}{2n^2\epsilon^2} + \frac{G^{(n)}(\epsilon)}{n\epsilon}\right]$$

 $\Rightarrow$  IR structure of N = 4 SUSY amplitudes

#### Reduced soft function

$$\boldsymbol{\Theta} \quad \bar{\mathcal{S}}_{JL}\left(\rho_{ij},\epsilon\right) = \frac{\mathcal{S}_{JL}\left(\beta_i \cdot \beta_j,\epsilon\right)}{\prod_{i=1}^n \mathcal{J}_i\left(\frac{2(\beta_i \cdot n_i)^2}{n_i^2},\epsilon\right)}$$

Dixon Magnea Sterman 2008

the reduced soft function is made such that the double poles cancel. It does not have cusp singularities  $\Rightarrow$  must respect rescaling  $\beta_i \rightarrow \kappa_i \beta_i$ 



depends only on

$$\rho_{ij} = \frac{(\beta_i \cdot \beta_j)^2}{\frac{2(\beta_i \cdot n_i)^2}{n_i^2} \frac{2(\beta_j \cdot n_j)^2}{n_j^2}}$$

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$$\mathcal{M}_N(p_i/\mu,\epsilon) = \sum_L \bar{\mathcal{S}}_{NL}(\rho_{ij},\epsilon) H_L\left(\frac{2p_i \cdot p_j}{\mu^2}, \frac{(2p_i \cdot n_i)^2}{n_i^2 \mu^2}\right) \prod_i J_i\left(\frac{(2p_i \cdot n_i)^2}{n_i^2 \mu^2}, \epsilon\right)$$

 $\overline{S}$  has only single poles due to large-angle soft emissions

the evolution equation for the reduced soft anomalous dimension

$$\sum_{j \neq i} \frac{\partial}{\partial \ln \rho_{ij}} \Gamma^{\bar{\mathcal{S}}}(\rho_{ij}, \alpha_s) = \frac{1}{4} \gamma_K^{(i)}(\alpha_s)$$

(simplest) solution: *dipole formula* 

$$\Gamma^{\bar{\mathcal{S}}}(\rho_{ij},\alpha_s)\Big|_{\text{dip}} = -\frac{1}{8}\hat{\gamma}_K(\alpha_s)\sum_{i\neq j}\ln(\rho_{ij})T_i\cdot T_j + \frac{1}{2}\,\hat{\delta}_{\bar{\mathcal{S}}}(\alpha_s)\sum_{i=1}^n C_i \qquad \qquad \text{Becher Neubert 2009} \\ \text{Gardi Magnea 2009} \qquad \qquad \text{Gardi Magnea 2009}$$

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- only 2-eikonal-line correlations
- generalises 2-loop solution
- colour matrix structure fixed at one loop
- cusp anomalous dimension plays role of IR coupling

### Dipole formula for the amplitude

combining the dipole-formula solution for the reduced soft function with the jet functions, one obtains a dipole formula for the amplitude

$$\mathcal{M}\left(\frac{p_i}{\mu}, \alpha_s(\mu^2), \epsilon\right) = Z\left(\frac{p_i}{\mu_f}, \alpha_s(\mu_f^2), \epsilon\right) \mathcal{H}\left(\frac{p_i}{\mu}, \frac{\mu_f}{\mu}, \alpha_s(\mu^2), \epsilon\right)$$

where all the collinear and soft singularities are in the dipole operator  $\boldsymbol{Z}$ 

$$Z\left(\frac{p_l}{\mu}, \alpha_s(\mu^2), \epsilon\right) = \exp\left\{\frac{1}{2} \int_0^{\mu^2} \frac{d\lambda^2}{\lambda^2} \left[\frac{\widehat{\gamma}_K\left(\alpha_s(\lambda^2)\right)}{4} \sum_{(i,j)} \ln\left(\frac{-s_{ij}}{\lambda^2}\right) \mathbf{T}_i \cdot \mathbf{T}_j - \sum_{i=1}^L \gamma_{J_i}\left(\alpha_s(\lambda^2)\right)\right]\right\}$$

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#### Possible corrections to the dipole formula

the cusp anomalous dimension might violate Casimir scaling at 4 loops

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Becher Neubert 2009 Dixon Gardi Magnea 2009

we introduce the colour operators

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{T}_s &= \mathbf{T}_a + \mathbf{T}_b, \\ \mathbf{T}_t &= \mathbf{T}_a + \mathbf{T}_{a'}, \\ \mathbf{T}_u &= \mathbf{T}_a + \mathbf{T}_{b'} \end{aligned} \qquad \begin{aligned} \mathbf{T}_a + \mathbf{T}_b + \mathbf{T}_{a'} + \mathbf{T}_{b'} &= 0 \\ \mathbf{T}_s^2 + \mathbf{T}_a^2 + \mathbf{T}_a^2 &= \sum_{i=1}^4 C_i \end{aligned}$$

in the limit  $s \gg t$ , the dipole operator Z becomes, to power accuracy in s/t

$$Z\left(\frac{p_i}{\mu}, \alpha_s(\mu^2), \epsilon\right) = \widetilde{Z}\left(\frac{s}{t}, \alpha_s(\mu^2), \epsilon\right) Z_1\left(\frac{t}{\mu^2}, \alpha_s(\mu^2), \epsilon\right)$$
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Duhr Gardi Magnea White VDD 2011

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$$K\left(\alpha_s(\mu^2),\epsilon\right) = -\frac{1}{4} \int_0^{\mu^2} \frac{d\lambda^2}{\lambda^2} \,\widehat{\gamma}_K\left(\alpha_s(\lambda^2,\epsilon)\right) \,,$$

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the dipole operator fixes the Regge pole structure, and beyond



for completeness, the operator  $Z_1$  is

$$Z_{1}\left(\frac{t}{\mu^{2}},\alpha_{s}(\mu^{2}),\epsilon\right) = \exp\left\{\sum_{i=1}^{4}B_{i}\left(\alpha_{s}(\mu^{2}),\epsilon\right) + \frac{1}{2}\left[K\left(\alpha_{s}(\mu^{2}),\epsilon\right)\left(\ln\left(\frac{-t}{\mu^{2}}\right) - \mathrm{i}\pi\right) + D\left(\alpha_{s}(\mu^{2}),\epsilon\right)\right]\sum_{i=1}^{4}C_{i}\right\}$$

with

$$D\left(\alpha_s(\mu^2),\epsilon\right) = -\frac{1}{4} \int_0^{\mu^2} \frac{d\lambda^2}{\lambda^2} \,\widehat{\gamma}_K\left(\alpha_s(\lambda^2,\epsilon)\right) \ln\left(\frac{\mu^2}{\lambda^2}\right) \,,$$
$$B_i\left(\alpha_s(\mu^2),\epsilon\right) \equiv -\frac{1}{2} \int_0^{\mu^2} \frac{d\lambda^2}{\lambda^2} \,\gamma_{J_i}\left(\alpha_s(\lambda^2,\epsilon)\right)$$

## Dipole formula & leading logs

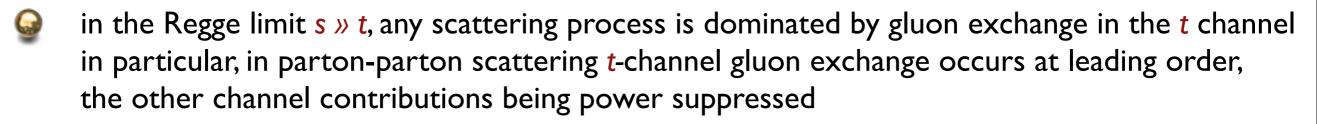
to leading logarithmic accuracy in s/t, the dipole operator loses the imaginary part (s-channel)

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the **t**-channel exchange colour structure is an eigenstate of the operator

 $\mathbf{T}_t^2 \mathcal{H}^{ff \to ff} \xrightarrow{|t/s| \to 0} C_t \mathcal{H}_t^{ff \to ff}$ 

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- in the Regge limit s » t, any scattering process is dominated by gluon exchange in the t channel in particular, in parton-parton scattering t-channel gluon exchange occurs at leading order, the other channel contributions being power suppressed

  - to leading logarithmic accuracy in s/t, the parton-parton scattering amplitude becomes  $\mathcal{M}^{ff \to ff} = \left(\frac{s}{-t}\right)^{C_A K\left(\alpha_s(\mu^2), \epsilon\right)} Z_1 \mathcal{H}_t^{ff \to ff}$

to leading order, the cusp anomalous dimension is

$$\widehat{\gamma}_K(\alpha_s) = 2 \frac{\alpha_s}{\pi} + \mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^2) \quad \blacksquare \quad K(\alpha_s, \epsilon) = \frac{1}{2\epsilon} \frac{\alpha_s}{\pi} + \mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^2)$$

so the singular part of the one-loop Regge gluon trajectory becomes

 $\alpha^{(1)} = C_A \frac{2}{\epsilon} + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon^0)$  in agreement with the high-energy limit of parton-parton amplitudes

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### Dipole formula beyond the leading logs

to power accuracy in  $\frac{s}{t}$  (thus to arbitrary logarithmic accuracy), the dipole operator Z can be rewritten as

$$\begin{aligned} \widetilde{Z}\left(\frac{s}{t},\alpha_{s}(\mu^{2}),\epsilon\right) &= \left(\frac{s}{-t}\right)^{K(\alpha_{s},\epsilon) \mathbf{T}_{t}^{2}} \exp\left\{\mathrm{i}\,\pi\,K(\alpha_{s},\epsilon)\,\mathbf{T}_{s}^{2}\right\} \\ &\times \exp\left\{-\mathrm{i}\,\frac{\pi}{2}\Big[K(\alpha_{s},\epsilon)\Big]^{2}\,\ln\left(\frac{s}{-t}\right)\,\Big[\mathbf{T}_{t}^{2},\mathbf{T}_{s}^{2}\Big]\right\} \\ &\times \exp\left\{\frac{1}{6}\left[K(\alpha_{s},\epsilon)\Big]^{3}\,\left(-2\pi^{2}\ln\left(\frac{s}{-t}\right)\,\Big[\mathbf{T}_{s}^{2},\big[\mathbf{T}_{t}^{2},\mathbf{T}_{s}^{2}\big]\Big] + \mathrm{i}\,\pi\,\ln^{2}\left(\frac{s}{-t}\right)\,\Big[\mathbf{T}_{t}^{2},\big[\mathbf{T}_{t}^{2},\mathbf{T}_{s}^{2}\big]\Big]\right)\right\} \\ &\times\,\exp\left\{\mathcal{O}\left(\left[K(\alpha_{s},\epsilon)\right]^{4}\right)\right\}\end{aligned}$$

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NLL accuracy:

$$K(\alpha_s,\epsilon) = \frac{\alpha_s}{\pi} \frac{1}{2\epsilon} + \left(\frac{\alpha_s}{\pi}\right)^2 \left(\frac{\widehat{\gamma}_K^{(2)}}{8\epsilon} - \frac{b_0}{16\epsilon^2}\right) + \mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^3)$$

reproduces the singular part of the one- and two-loop Regge gluon trajectory, while the imaginary part does not Reggeise

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$$\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^2): -\mathbf{D} - \frac{1}{2}\pi^2 K^2(\alpha_s, \epsilon) \left(\mathbf{T}_s^2\right)^2$$

which is non-logarithmic and non-diagonal in the *t* channel

$$\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^3): \quad - \triangleright \quad -\frac{\pi^2}{3} K^3(\alpha_s, \epsilon) \ln\left(\frac{s}{-t}\right) \left[\mathbf{T}_s^2, \left[\mathbf{T}_t^2, \mathbf{T}_s^2\right]\right]$$

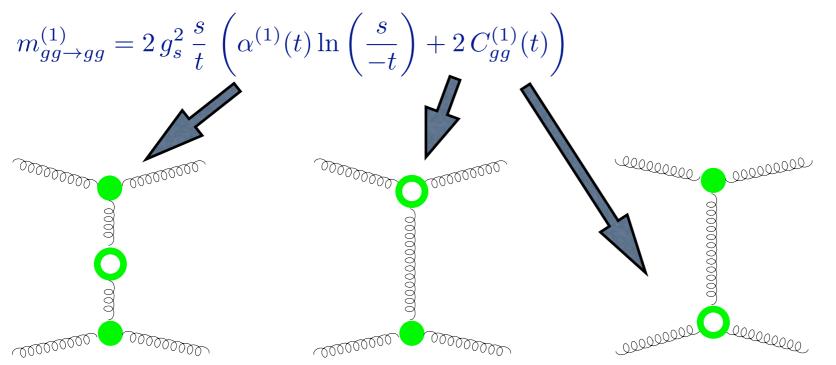
breaks down the Regge-pole picture

## Amplitudes in the high-energy limit

Regge limit of the gluon-gluon amplitude

$$\mathcal{M}_{aa'bb'}^{gg \to gg}(s,t) = 2 g_s^2 \frac{s}{t} \left[ (T^c)_{aa'} C_{\nu_a \nu_{a'}}(p_a, p_{a'}) \right] \left[ \left( \frac{s}{-t} \right)^{\alpha(t)} + \left( \frac{-s}{-t} \right)^{\alpha(t)} \right] \left[ (T_c)_{bb'} C_{\nu_b \nu_{b'}}(p_b, p_{b'}) \right]$$

strip colour off & expand at one loop



the Regge gluon trajectory is universal;

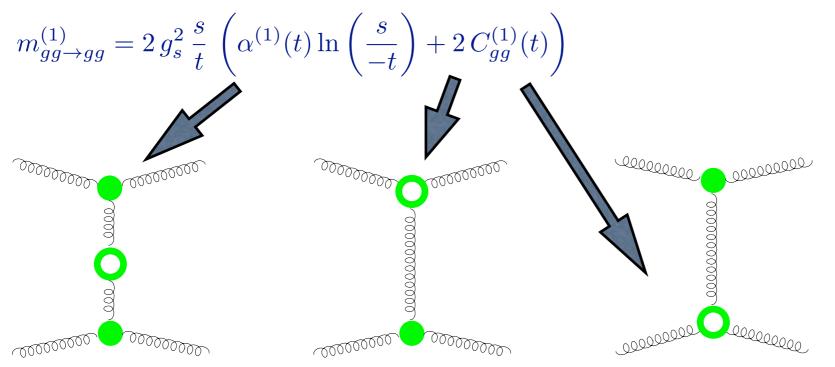
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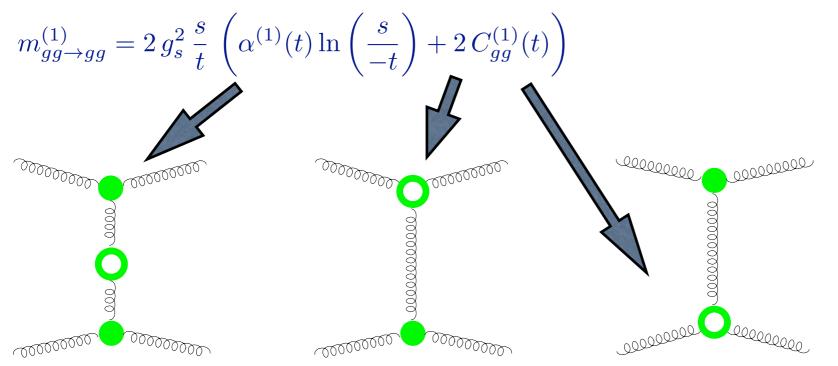
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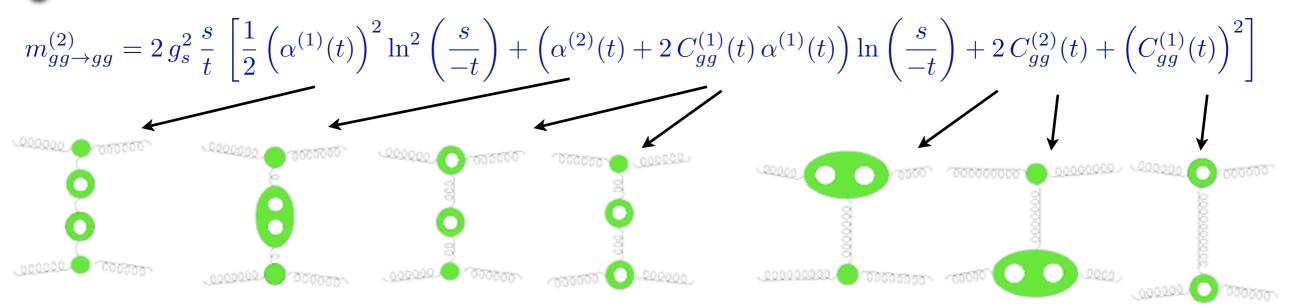
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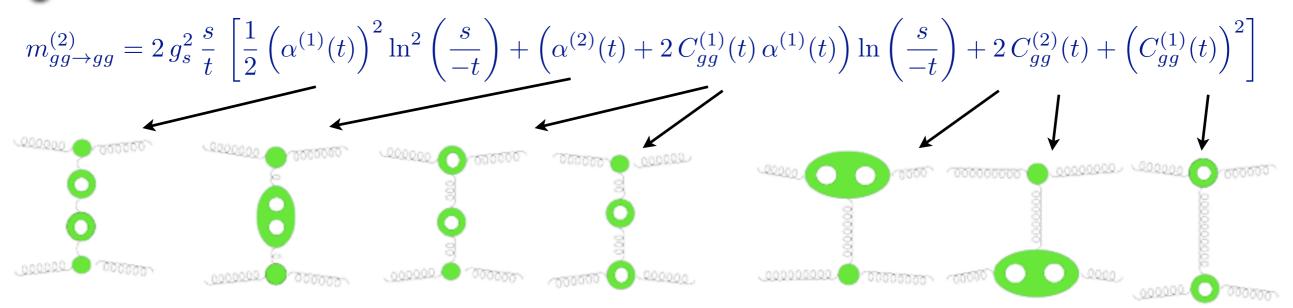
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- if factorisation holds, one can obtain the one-loop quark-gluon amplitude by assembling the Regge trajectory and the gluon and quark impact factors the result should match the quark-gluon amplitude in the high-energy limit: it does

in the Regge limit, the 2-loop expansion of the gluon-gluon amplitude is



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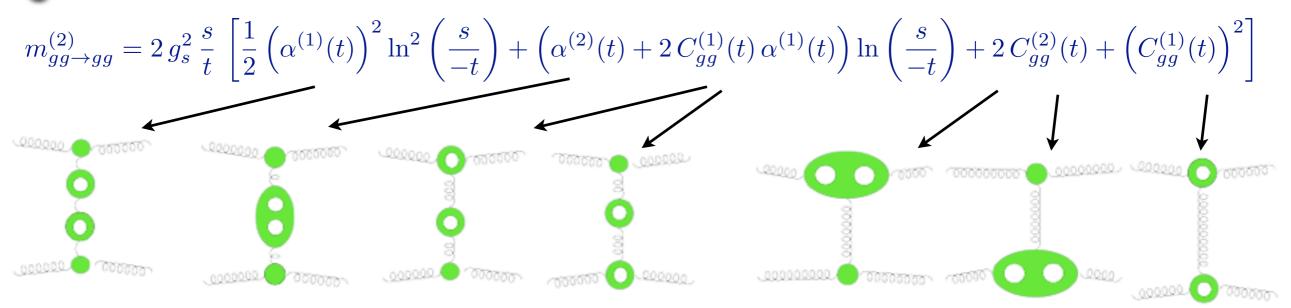
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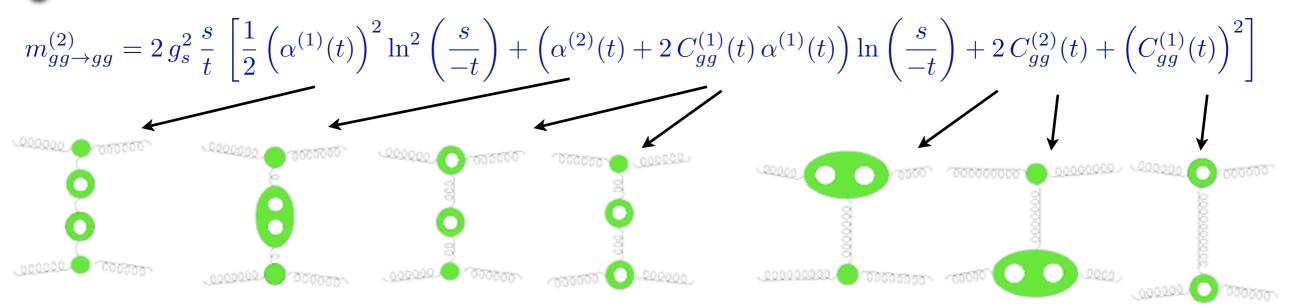


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Glover VDD 2001

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is it related to 
$$-\frac{1}{2}\pi^2 K^2(\alpha_s,\epsilon) \left(\mathbf{T}_s^2\right)^2$$
?

### Breaking down of the Regge-pole picture

- the analytic structure of an amplitude sports cuts and poles
- in the Regge limit, cuts should occur in 3-loop non-planar double-cross diagrams

Mandelstam 1965

 $\Theta$  is it related to  $-\frac{\pi^2}{3}K^3(\alpha_s,\epsilon)\ln\left(\frac{s}{-t}\right)\left[\mathbf{T}_s^2,\left[\mathbf{T}_t^2,\mathbf{T}_s^2\right]\right]$ ?

#### Possible corrections to the dipole formula

the high-energy limit puts constraints on 4-line correlations which may appear at 3 loops

we know that corrections to  $\Delta$  like

$$\Delta^{(212)}(\rho_{ijkl},\alpha_s) = \left(\frac{\alpha_s}{\pi}\right)^3 \mathbf{T}_1^a \mathbf{T}_2^b \mathbf{T}_3^c \mathbf{T}_4^d \left[ f^{ade} f^{cbe} L_{1234}^2 \left( L_{1423} L_{1342}^2 + L_{1423}^2 L_{1342} \right) + \text{cycl} \right]$$

fulfill Bose symmetry, collinear limits and transcendentality bounds Dixon Gardi Magnea 2009

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however, in the high-energy limit

$$\rho_{1234} = \frac{(-s_{12})(-s_{34})}{(-s_{13})(-s_{24})} = \left(\frac{s}{-t}\right)^2 e^{-2i\pi}; \qquad L_{1234} = 2(L - i\pi) \qquad L = \ln\left(\frac{s}{t}\right)$$

$$\rho_{1342} = \frac{(-s_{13})(-s_{24})}{(-s_{14})(-s_{23})} = \left(\frac{-t}{s+t}\right)^2; \qquad L_{1342} \simeq -2L$$

$$\rho_{1423} = \frac{(-s_{14})(-s_{23})}{(-s_{12})(-s_{34})} = \left(\frac{s+t}{s}\right)^2 e^{2i\pi}; \qquad L_{1423} \simeq 2i\pi$$

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta^{(212)}(\rho_{ijkl},\alpha_s)) &= \left(\frac{\alpha_s}{\pi}\right)^3 \mathbf{T}_1^a \mathbf{T}_2^b \mathbf{T}_3^c \mathbf{T}_4^d \ 32 \,\mathrm{i} \,\pi \Big[ \Big( -L^4 - \mathrm{i} \pi L^3 - \pi^2 L^2 - \mathrm{i} \pi^3 L \Big) f^{ade} f^{cbe} \\ &+ \Big( 2\mathrm{i} \pi L^3 - 3\pi^2 L^2 - \mathrm{i} \pi^3 L \Big) f^{cae} f^{dbe} \Big] + \mathcal{O}\left( |t/s| \right) \end{aligned}$$

has super-leading logs, which are incompatible with the high-energy limit

Duhr Gardi Magnea White VDD 2011

the dipole formula allows us to examine the infrared structure of amplitudes in the high-energy limit, and to make contact with the Regge-pole picture

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- thus one can show that the Regge-pole picture breaks down at next-to-next-to-leading-logarithmic accuracy
- conversely, the high-energy limit allows us to put constraints on the possible corrections to the dipole formula