

# Renormalization Group and the S-matrix

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# Questions

- Can niceness of amplitudes help compute  $\beta$ -functions?
- How to think of RGE on shell, without a Lagrangian?

## Outline

1. One-loop:
  - Yang-Mills beta function from tree S-matrix
  - review of related works
2. All-loops:
  - dilatation operator is phase of S-matrix
3.  $1\frac{1}{2}$ -loops:
  - length changing effects in Yukawa theory
  - subtleties with masses, etc.

# 1-loop QCD $\beta$ -function

- Start with form factor for Lagrangian  $\text{Tr}[F^2]/g^2$
- Remove IR divergences using IR-safe ratio:

$$\frac{\langle p_1, p_2 | F^2 | 0 \rangle}{\langle p_1, p_2 | T^{\mu\nu} | 0 \rangle} \sim \left( \frac{-s}{\mu^2} \right)^{\frac{1}{2} \gamma_{F^2}}$$

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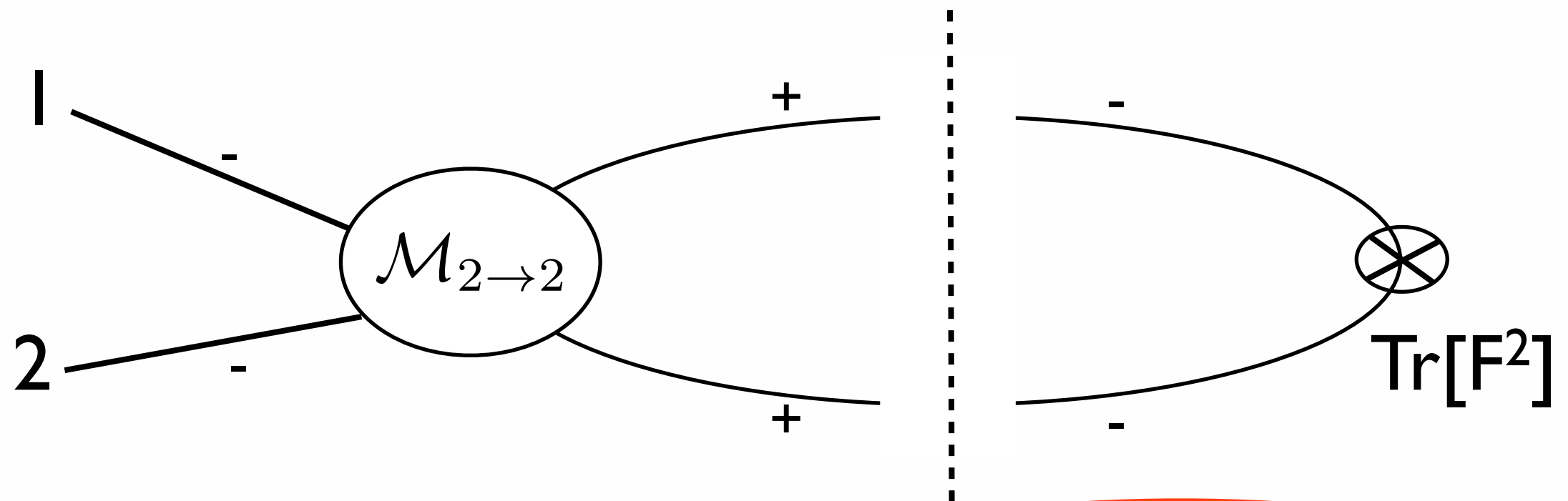
$$\frac{\langle p_1, p_2 | F^2 | 0 \rangle}{\langle p_1, p_2 | T^{\mu\nu} | 0 \rangle} \sim \left( \frac{|s|}{\mu^2} \right)^{\frac{1}{2} \gamma_{F^2}} e^{-\frac{1}{2} i \pi \gamma_{F^2}}$$

- **Phase** equal to anomalous dimension:

$$\gamma_{F^2}^{(1)} = -\frac{1}{\pi} 2 \text{Im} \left( \log \frac{\langle p_1, p_2 | F^2 | 0 \rangle^{(1)}}{\langle p_1, p_2 | T^{\mu\nu} | 0 \rangle^{(1)}} \right)$$

$$\gamma_{F^2}^{(1)} = -\frac{1}{\pi} 2 \operatorname{Im} \left( \log \frac{\langle p_1, p_2 | F^2 | 0 \rangle^{(1)}}{\langle p_1, p_2 | T^{\mu\nu} | 0 \rangle^{(1)}} \right)$$

- Optical theorem:



$$\operatorname{Im} \langle p_1, p_2 | \text{Tr}[F^2] | 0 \rangle^{(1)} = \langle p_1, p_2 | \mathcal{M}^{\text{tree}} | p'_1, p'_2 \rangle \otimes \langle p'_1, p'_2 | \text{Tr}[F^2] | 0 \rangle^{\text{tree}}$$

Tree amplitude x Polynomial

- Parke-Taylor tree amplitude for color-singlet pair:

$$\mathcal{M}_{1^-2^-3^+4^+}^{abcd} \delta^{cd} = -2g^2 C_A \delta^{ab} \frac{\langle 12 \rangle^4}{\langle 13 \rangle \langle 32 \rangle \langle 24 \rangle \langle 41 \rangle}$$

- Phase space: use nice spinor parametrization [Zwiebel '11]

$$\begin{pmatrix} \lambda_3 \\ \lambda_4 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \cos \frac{\theta}{2} & -\sin \frac{\theta}{2} e^{i\phi} \\ \sin \frac{\theta}{2} e^{-i\phi} & \cos \frac{\theta}{2} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \lambda_1 \\ \lambda_2 \end{pmatrix}$$

- $\theta$  = scattering angle. Plug into amplitude:

$$\langle 14 \rangle = \langle 23 \rangle = \cos \frac{\theta}{2}, \text{ etc.}$$

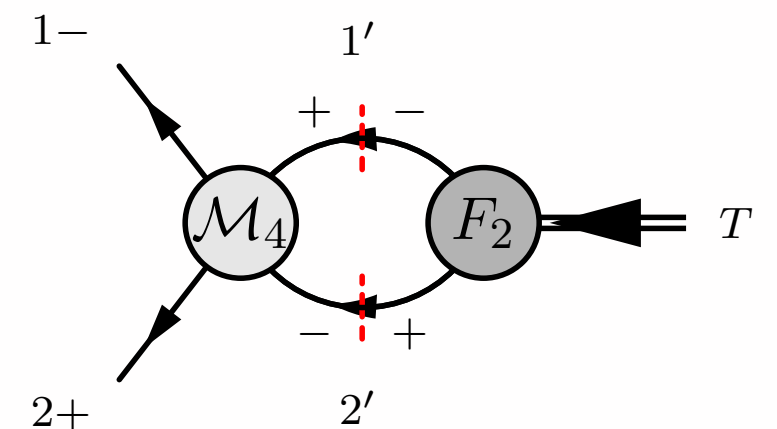
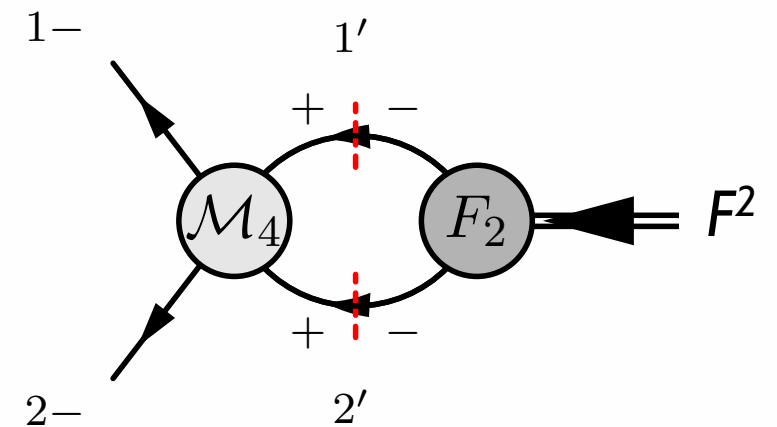
$$\mathcal{M}_{1^-2^-3^+4^+}^{abcd} \delta^{cd} = + \frac{2g^2 C_A \delta^{ab}}{\cos^2 \frac{\theta}{2} \sin^2 \frac{\theta}{2}}$$

$$\gamma_{F^2}^{(1)} = -\frac{1}{\pi} 2 \operatorname{Im} \left( \log \frac{\langle 1-2- | F^2 | 0 \rangle^{(1)}}{\langle 1-2+ | T^{\mu\nu} | 0 \rangle^{(1)}} \right)$$

$$= -\frac{1}{16\pi^2} \int_0^\pi \frac{\sin \theta d\theta}{2} \left( + \frac{2g^2 C_A}{\cos^2 \frac{\theta}{2} \sin^2 \frac{\theta}{2}} \right.$$

from  $T^{\mu\nu}$   
helicities

$$- \frac{2g^2 C_A (\cos^8 \frac{\theta}{2} + \sin^8 \frac{\theta}{2})}{\cos^2 \frac{\theta}{2} \sin^2 \frac{\theta}{2}} \Bigg)$$

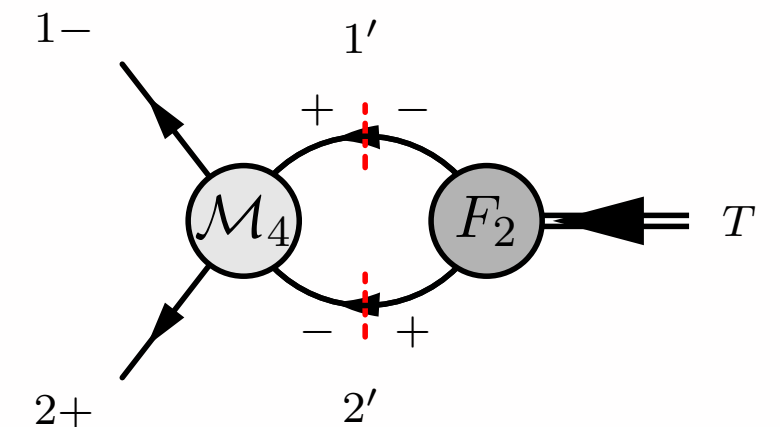
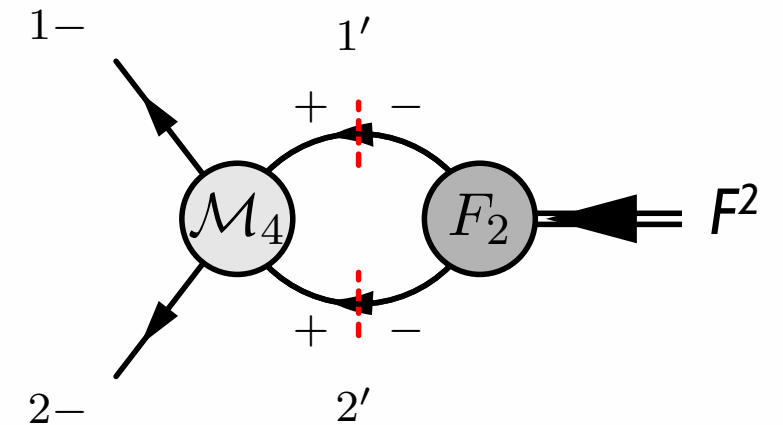


$$\gamma_{F^2}^{(1)} = -\frac{1}{\pi} 2 \operatorname{Im} \left( \log \frac{\langle 1_- 2_- | F^2 | 0 \rangle^{(1)}}{\langle 1_- 2_+ | T^{\mu\nu} | 0 \rangle^{(1)}} \right)$$

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$$- \frac{2g^2 C_A (\cos^8 \frac{\theta}{2} + \sin^8 \frac{\theta}{2})}{\cos^2 \frac{\theta}{2} \sin^2 \frac{\theta}{2}} \Bigg)$$



- IR/collinear divergences cancel, integral finite!

$$\gamma_{F^2}^{(1)} = -\frac{g^2}{16\pi^2} \times \frac{22C_A}{3}$$




- Running of  $F^2$  **equivalent** to  $\beta$ -function

$$\gamma_{F^2} = g^2 \frac{\partial}{\partial g^2} \left( \frac{\beta(g^2)}{g^2} \right)$$

[Kluberg-Stern&Zuber '74]

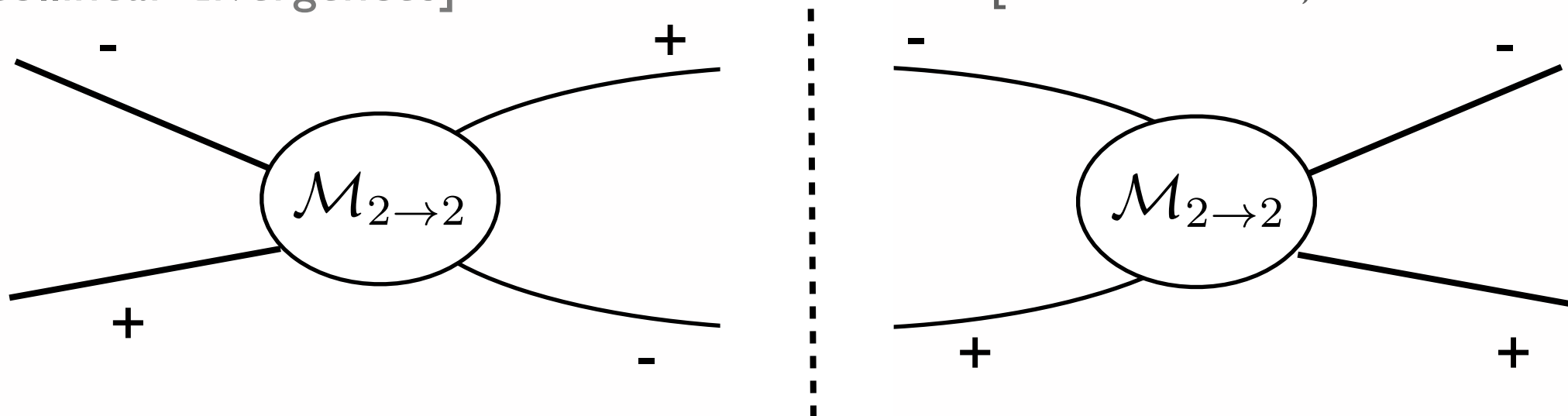
$$\Rightarrow \beta(g^2) = -\frac{g^2}{16\pi^2} \times \frac{22C_A}{3} \quad \checkmark$$

- One-loop unitarity  $\Rightarrow$   $\beta$ -function as eigenvalue of  $2 \rightarrow 2$  gluon tree amplitude. No ghosts, etc. 
- **Sign:**  $\gamma \sim -\mathcal{M}/\pi$  negative because  $\mathcal{M}$  is positive:  
 $\gamma$  probed by two gluons, which **attract**
- Goal: **systematize** and extend to **higher loops**

# Related works

- Generalized unitarity:

1-loop  $\beta$ -function  $\Leftrightarrow$   $1/\varepsilon$  poles  $\Leftrightarrow$  sum of bubble coefficients  
 [+ collinear divergences] [Arkani-Hamed, Cachazo & Kaplan '08]



- 1-loop dilatation operator in N=4SYM as  $2 \rightarrow 2$  S-matrix  
 originally motivated by symmetries! [Zwiebel '11; Wilhelm '14]  
 [Brandhuber et al '15]
- Vanishing of  $M_{++++}$  and  $M_{+++-}$  leads to helicity selection rules:  
 explains many 'zeros' in dimension-6 SM EFT operator mixing  
 [Alonso, Jenkins, Manohar & Trott, '14]  
 [Cheung & Shen, '15]
- Here:** only **standard** unitarity; one tree and one **form factor**;  
 use  $T^{uv}$  to **control IR divergences**: works for QCD too!

# More on stress tensor

- IR-safe ratio:  $\frac{1}{g^2} \beta(g^2)^{(1)} = -\frac{1}{\pi} 2 \operatorname{Im} \left( \log \frac{\langle p_1, p_2 | F^2 | 0 \rangle^{(1)}}{\langle p_1, p_2 | T^{\mu\nu} | 0 \rangle^{(1)}} \right)$
- **Denominator** is only matter contribution in QCD (& QED!)
- Tree-level  $T^{\mu\nu}$  form factors: **polynomials** fixed by symmetry:
  - normalization is physical:  $\langle p | T^{\mu\nu} | p \rangle = 2p^\mu p^\nu$
  - transverse (momentum conservation)
  - little group weights

gluons:  $\langle 1_-^a 2_+^b | T^{\alpha\beta, \dot{\alpha}\dot{\beta}} | 0 \rangle = 2\lambda_1^\alpha \lambda_1^\beta \tilde{\lambda}_2^{\dot{\alpha}} \tilde{\lambda}_2^{\dot{\beta}}$

quarks:  $\langle 1_\psi 2_{\bar{\psi}} | T^{\alpha\beta, \dot{\alpha}\dot{\beta}} | 0 \rangle = \frac{1}{2} (\lambda_1^\alpha \lambda_1^\beta \tilde{\lambda}_1^{\dot{\alpha}} \tilde{\lambda}_2^{\dot{\beta}} + \lambda_1^\alpha \lambda_1^\beta \tilde{\lambda}_1^{\dot{\beta}} \tilde{\lambda}_2^{\dot{\alpha}} - \lambda_1^\alpha \lambda_2^\beta \tilde{\lambda}_2^{\dot{\alpha}} \tilde{\lambda}_2^{\dot{\beta}} - \lambda_1^\beta \lambda_2^\alpha \tilde{\lambda}_2^{\dot{\alpha}} \tilde{\lambda}_2^{\dot{\beta}})$

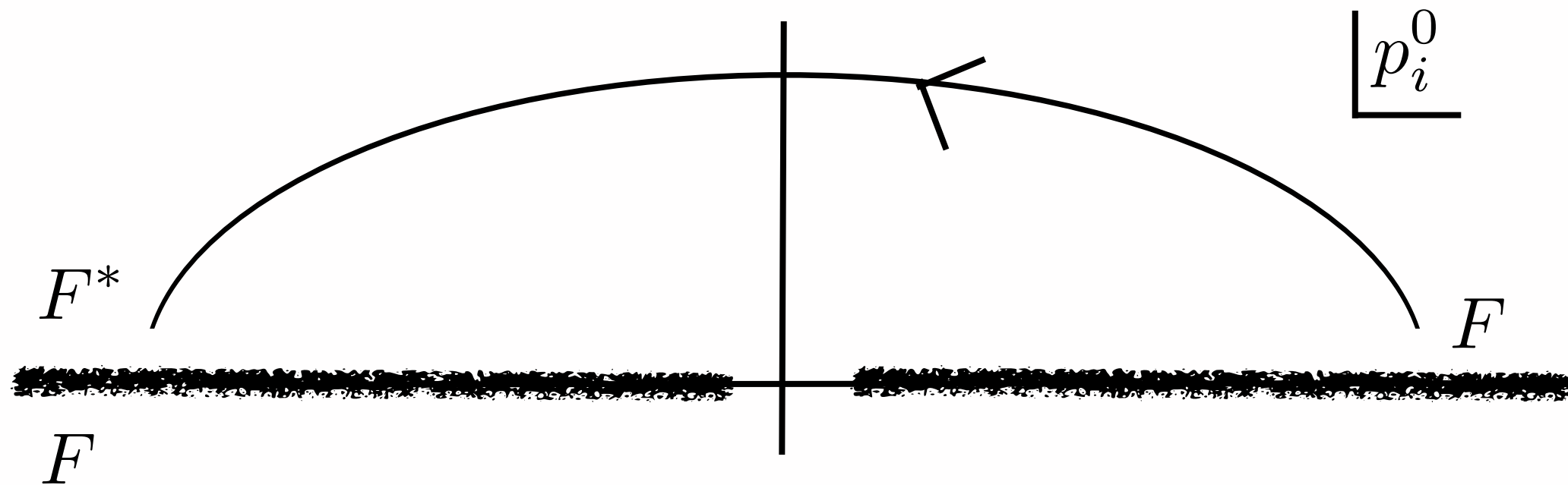
scalars:  $\langle 1_\phi 2_{\bar{\phi}} | T^{\alpha\beta, \dot{\alpha}\dot{\beta}} | 0 \rangle = \frac{1}{3} (p_1^{\alpha\dot{\alpha}} p_1^{\beta\dot{\beta}} + p_2^{\alpha\dot{\alpha}} p_2^{\beta\dot{\beta}} - p_1^{\alpha\dot{\alpha}} p_2^{\beta\dot{\beta}} - p_1^{\beta\dot{\alpha}} p_2^{\alpha\dot{\beta}} - p_1^{\alpha\dot{\beta}} p_2^{\beta\dot{\alpha}} - p_1^{\beta\dot{\beta}} p_2^{\alpha\dot{\alpha}})$

# Finite coupling, I: Analyticity

- Energy dependence  $\Leftrightarrow$  phase of amplitude
- Start from form factor with all outgoing momenta
- Use complex rescaling:

$$F(p_1, \dots, p_n) \rightarrow F(p_1 e^{i\alpha}, \dots, p_n e^{i\alpha})$$

# Finite coupling, I: Analyticity



$$F(p_1, \dots, p_n) \rightarrow F(p_1 e^{i\alpha}, \dots, p_n e^{i\alpha}) \\ = e^{i\alpha D} F(p_1, \dots, p_n),$$

- Rotation by  $\pi$  gives complex conjugate:

$$F^* = e^{i\pi D} F$$

$$D \equiv \sum_i p_i^\mu \frac{\partial}{\partial p_i^\mu} \quad \text{dilatation operator}$$

# Finite coupling, 2: Optical theorem

- To compute ‘imaginary parts’
- ‘Standard’ optical theorem:  $SS^\dagger = 1, S = 1 + i\mathcal{M}$   
 $\Rightarrow -i(\mathcal{M} - \mathcal{M}^\dagger) = \mathcal{M}\mathcal{M}^\dagger$
- Formally, form factor = deformation of S-matrix  $\delta S = i\mathcal{F}$   
 $0 = \delta(SS^\dagger) = i(\mathcal{F}S^\dagger - S\mathcal{F}^\dagger)$   
 $\Rightarrow \mathcal{F} = S\mathcal{F}^\dagger S$
- Restrict to **final-state** particles:  $F = SF^*$

# Finite coupling

Analyticity

+

Unitarity

$$F = e^{-i\pi D} F^*$$

$$F = S F^*$$

$$e^{-i\pi D} F^* = S F^*$$

Dilatation operator  
= minus the phase of the S-matrix,  
divided by  $\pi$ .

# Partial waves $\Leftrightarrow$ twist-2

- Twist-2 operators  $\text{Tr}[\bar{\phi}(\overleftrightarrow{D}_+)^m \phi]$
- Mod out total derivatives: go forward  $p_2 = -p_1$

- Minimal form factor:

$$\langle p, -p | \mathcal{O}_m | 0 \rangle = (p_+)^m$$

- Zwiebel's phase space parametrization: [works for spacelike channels!]

$$p'^{\alpha\dot{\alpha}} = \lambda^\alpha \tilde{\lambda}^{\dot{\alpha}} \left( \cos \frac{\theta}{2} - \sin \frac{\theta}{2} e^{i\phi} \right) \left( \cos \frac{\theta}{2} + \sin \frac{\theta}{2} e^{-i\phi} \right)$$

- Azimuthal integral gives Legendre polynomial!

$$P_m(\cos \theta) = \int_0^{2\pi} \frac{d\phi}{2\pi} \left( \cos \frac{\theta}{2} - \sin \frac{\theta}{2} e^{i\phi} \right)^m \left( \cos \frac{\theta}{2} + \sin \frac{\theta}{2} e^{-i\phi} \right)^m$$

twist-two operators  $\Leftrightarrow$  partial wave amplitude



# Partial waves $\Leftrightarrow$ twist-2

- For QCD: gluons have spin, partial waves are some generalization of Legendre polynomials
- Made simple with Zwiebel's parametrization:

$$\langle 1-2_+ | F_{11} (D_{1i})^m \bar{F}_{i1} | 0 \rangle = (\lambda_1)^2 (\tilde{\lambda}_2)^2 (\lambda_1 \tilde{\lambda}_1)^{m-2}$$

- Rotated form factor gives partial wave projector:

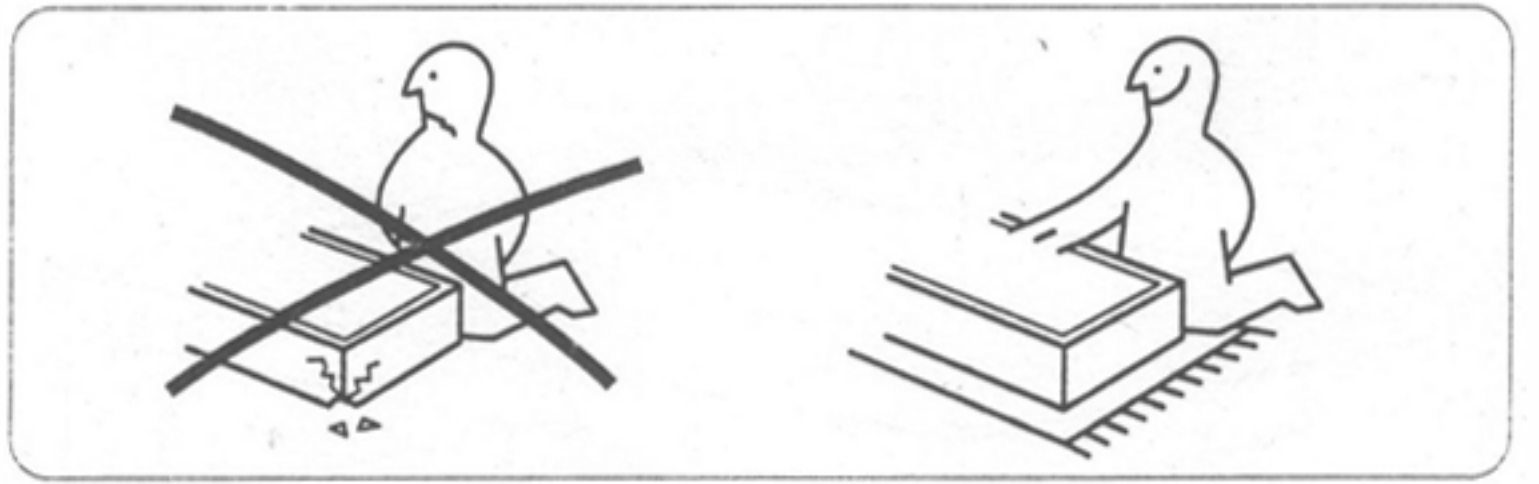
$$\gamma_m \sim \frac{-1}{16\pi^2} \int \frac{d\Omega}{4\pi} \mathcal{M}(\cos \theta) \int_0^{2\pi} \frac{d\phi}{2\pi} (\cos \frac{\theta}{2} - i \sin \frac{\theta}{2} e^{i\phi})^{m-2} (\cos \frac{\theta}{2} + i \sin \frac{\theta}{2} e^{-i\phi})^{m+2}$$

- We checked that this matches moments of gluon DGLAP equation!

$$\gamma_m = \int_0^1 dx x^m P_{gg}(x)$$

QCD phase shifts (times  $-1/\pi$ )  $\Leftrightarrow$  DGLAP equation!

# Varning!



- At higher loops: **Phase of S-matrix  $\not\Rightarrow$  phase of  $S_{2 \rightarrow 2}$  !!**

**2 loops:**

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \text{Diagram 1: } \mathcal{M}_{2 \rightarrow 2}^{(1)} \text{ (loop with two external lines)} \\
 \text{Diagram 2: } \mathcal{M}_{2 \rightarrow 2}^{(0)} \text{ (loop with two external lines)} \\
 \text{Diagram 3: } \mathcal{M}_{3 \rightarrow 2}^{(0)} \text{ (loop with three external lines)}
 \end{array}
 +
 \begin{array}{c}
 \text{Diagram 1: } F_2^{(0)} \text{ (loop with two external lines)} \\
 \text{Diagram 2: } F_2^{(1)} \text{ (loop with two external lines)} \\
 \text{Diagram 3: } F_3^{(0)} \text{ (loop with three external lines)}
 \end{array}$$

← non-minimal form factor

- If coupling runs, phase gives anomalous dimension **averaged over complex circle!**

$$e^{-i\pi D} F^* = S F^* \quad D \simeq \left( \gamma_{\mathcal{O}} + \gamma_{\text{IR}} + \beta(g^2) \frac{\partial}{\partial g^2} \right)$$

# Yukawa theory

- Motivation:
  - mixing between different lengths
  - investigate possible subtleties with formalism
  - see nontrivial interplay between cuts

- 1 real scalar + 1 Weyl fermion

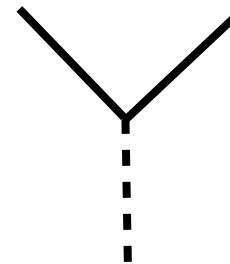
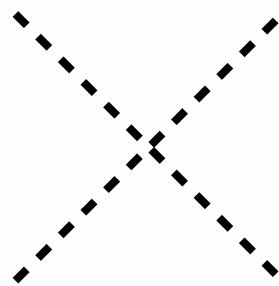
$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{int}} = \lambda \mathcal{O}_\lambda + y \mathcal{O}_y \quad \text{with} \quad \mathcal{O}_\lambda = -\frac{1}{4!} \phi^4 \quad \text{and} \quad \mathcal{O}_y = \frac{1}{2} (\psi \psi \phi + \text{h.c.}) .$$

- Anomalous dimension matrix:

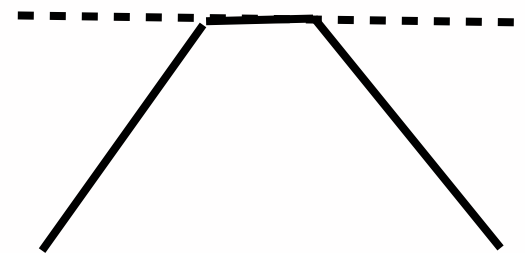
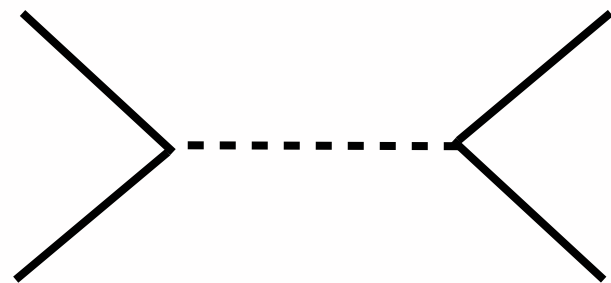
$$-\mu \frac{\partial}{\partial \mu} \begin{pmatrix} \mathcal{O}_\lambda \\ \mathcal{O}_y \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \gamma_{yy} & \gamma_{y\lambda} \\ \gamma_{\lambda y} & \gamma_{\lambda\lambda} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \mathcal{O}_\lambda \\ \mathcal{O}_y \end{pmatrix}$$

- Basic matrix elements:

$$\mathcal{M}_{1_\phi 2_\phi 3_\phi 4_\phi} = -\lambda, \quad \mathcal{M}_{1_\psi 2_\psi 3_\phi} = y\langle 12 \rangle$$



- From these, simple  $2 \rightarrow 2$  tree amplitudes



& permutations

- Diagonal elements, same recipe:
  - act with  $2 \rightarrow 2$  amplitude on all pairs
  - subtract IR (collinear) divs. using stress tensor

- Lower-triangular elements: two-loop integrals with  $3 \rightarrow 2$  tree amplitude:

$$\gamma_{y\lambda} \sim -\frac{1}{\pi} \left[ \text{Diagram 1} + \text{Diagram 2} \right]$$

The diagram shows two Feynman diagrams enclosed in large square brackets. The first diagram (Diagram 1) consists of a dashed line from the left entering a circle with a cross inside. A vertical dashed line passes through the center of the circle. A blue dashed rectangle is drawn around the circle, with the label  $\sim \lambda y$  above it. Two solid lines exit the circle to the right. The second diagram (Diagram 2) consists of a dashed line from the left entering a circle with a cross inside. A vertical dashed line passes through the center of the circle. A blue dashed rectangle is drawn around the circle, with the label  $\sim y^3$  above it. Two solid lines exit the circle to the right, forming a square loop structure.

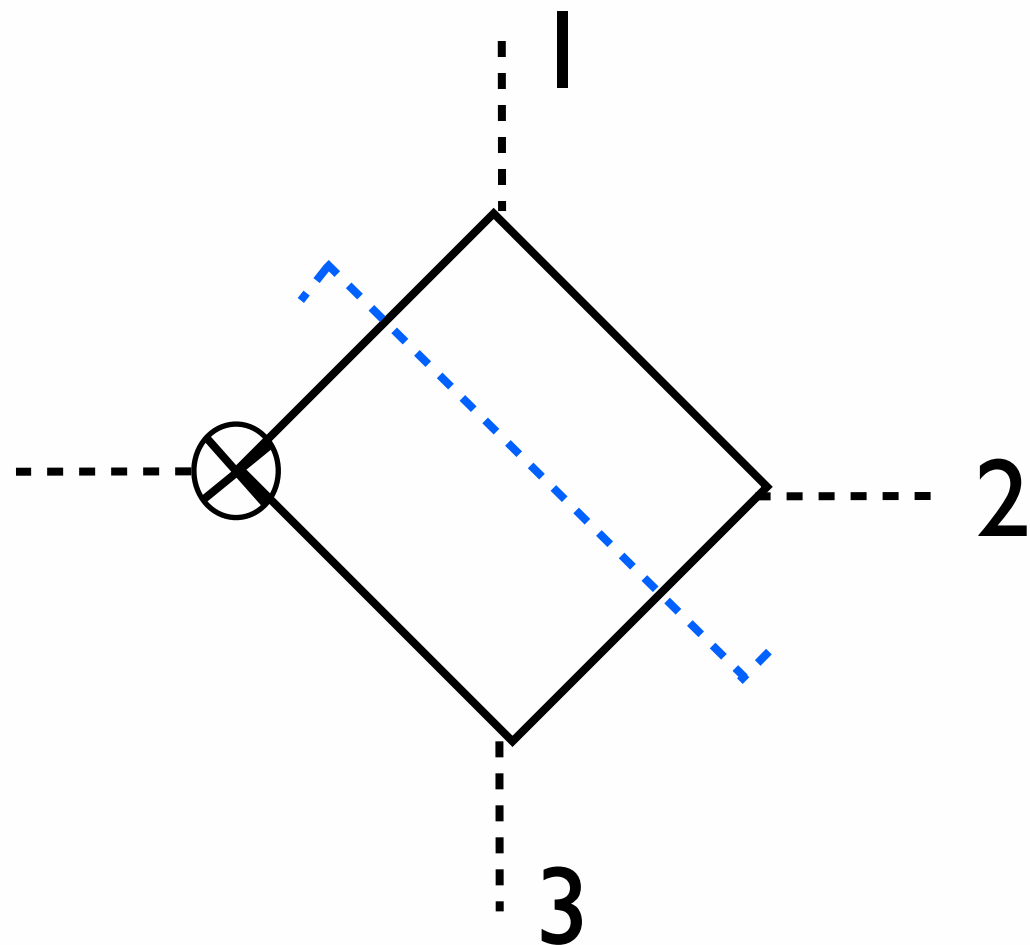
- Lower-triangular **vanish at 1-loop**: can't have  $2 \rightarrow 1$  cut!
- Keep **all graphs** in  $3 \rightarrow 2$  amplitude: **1PI or not**
- Only single-scale integrals. Propagators & measure factorize, integrals ok with explicit parametrization:

$$\lambda_1'^\alpha = \lambda_1^\alpha \cos \theta_2 - e^{i\phi} \lambda_2^\alpha \cos \theta_1 \sin \theta_2 ,$$

$$\lambda_2'^\alpha = \lambda_1^\alpha \sin \theta_2 \cos \theta_3 + e^{i\phi} \lambda_2^\alpha (\cos \theta_1 \cos \theta_2 \cos \theta_3 - e^{i\rho} \sin \theta_1 \sin \theta_3) ,$$

$$\lambda_3'^\alpha = \lambda_1^\alpha \sin \theta_2 \sin \theta_3 + e^{i\phi} \lambda_2^\alpha (\cos \theta_1 \cos \theta_2 \sin \theta_3 + e^{i\rho} \sin \theta_1 \cos \theta_3) .$$

- Upper-triangular elements (length-increasing): formally one-loop, but individual cuts **harder**



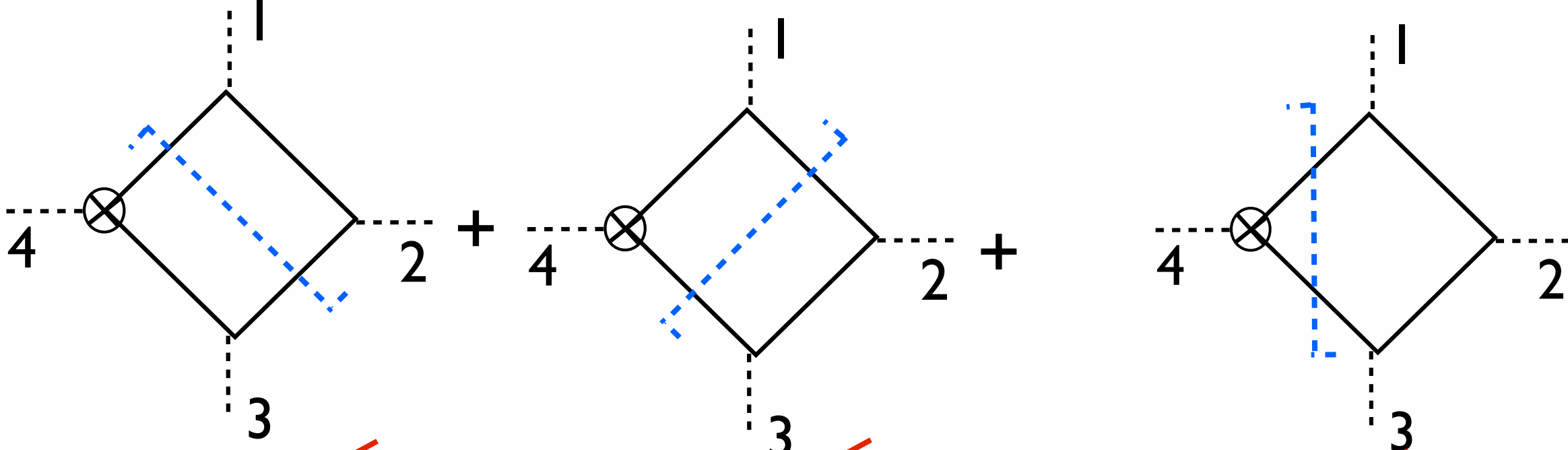
$$-\frac{1}{\pi} \int d\text{Lips} \frac{\langle l_2 p_1 \rangle \langle l_1 p_3 \rangle}{\langle l_1 p_1 \rangle \langle l_2 p_3 \rangle}$$

New feature:  
integral produces a log

$$\propto 1 + \log \frac{p_2 \cdot p_3}{(p_1 + p_2) \cdot p_3}$$

Generic feature beyond LO for final states with  $\geq 3$  particles! But RG should give a polynomial!

# Cancellation between cuts:



$$\begin{aligned}
 & 1 + \log \frac{p_2 \cdot p_3}{(p_1 + p_2) \cdot p_3} + 1 + \log \frac{p_1 \cdot p_2}{p_1 \cdot (p_2 + p_3)} + \log \frac{(p_1 + p_2) \cdot p_3 p_1 \cdot (p_2 + p_3)}{p_1 \cdot p_2 p_2 \cdot p_3} = 2
 \end{aligned}$$

Generically expected!

- In summary [up to irrelevant typos]

$$\begin{pmatrix} n=3 & n=4 \\ \gamma_{yy} & \gamma_{y\lambda} \\ \gamma_{\lambda y} & \gamma_{\lambda\lambda} \end{pmatrix} = \frac{1}{16\pi^2} \begin{pmatrix} \text{1-loop, 'easy'} & \text{1-loop 3} \rightarrow \text{4 'hard'} \\ 12y^2 & 8\lambda y - 96y^3 \\ 0 + \frac{-2y^3 + \lambda y/6}{16\pi^2} & 6\lambda + 4y^2 \\ \text{2-loop, 'easy'} & \text{1-loop, 'easy'} \end{pmatrix}$$

- Length-changing effect only affect **eigenvalues** at **two-loops: '1 1/2 loops'**  
(because of the one-loop zero for length-decreasing effects)



- To get  $\beta$ -function:  
use generalization of QCD formula for  $F^2$ !

[Kluberg-Stern&Zuber '74]

$$\partial_a \beta_b = \gamma_{ab}$$

[interpretation:

- Form factor = variation of S-matrix

$$\partial_a \mathcal{M}(g_a(\mu), \mu) = \mathcal{F}_a$$

- Commute this variation with RGE:

$$\left( \mu \frac{\partial}{\partial \mu} + \beta_a \frac{\partial}{\partial g_a} \right) \mathcal{M}(g_a(\mu), \mu)$$

- ‘anomalous dimension of couplings  
controls perturbations of RG flow’]

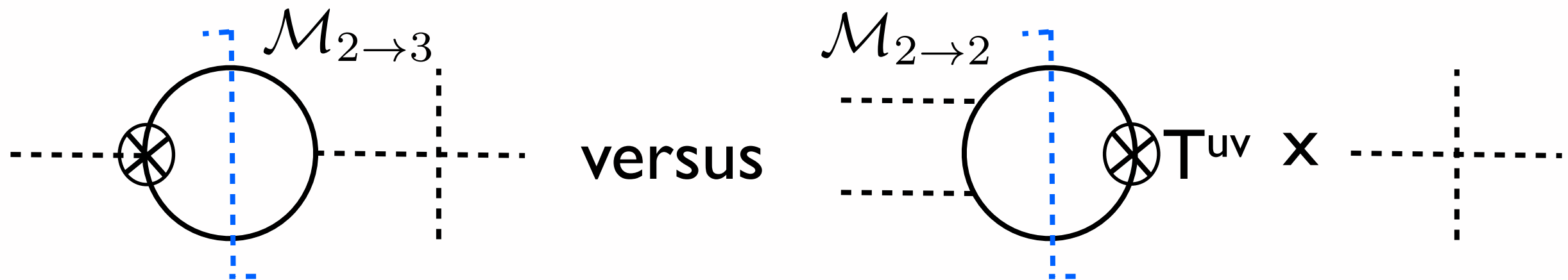
# Symmetry of derivatives not manifest!

$$\begin{pmatrix} \gamma_{yy} & \gamma_{y\lambda} \\ \gamma_{\lambda y} & \gamma_{\lambda\lambda} \end{pmatrix} = \frac{1}{16\pi^2} \begin{pmatrix} 12y^2 & 8\lambda y - 96y^3 \\ 0 + \frac{-2y^3 + \lambda y/6}{16\pi^2} & 6\lambda + 4y^2 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\partial_a \beta_b = \gamma_{ab} \Rightarrow \beta(\lambda) = \frac{1}{16\pi^2} (3\lambda^2 + 4\lambda y^2 - 24y^4)$$

$$\beta(y) = \dots$$

Nice consistency check!



Which property of the S-matrix ensures this??

# On masses

- In conventional RG applications, a particle is either light or heavy and integrated out:  
it is appropriate to use massless S-matrix
- Example: running of heavy quark mass  
operator  $\bar{\psi}_Q \psi_Q$  is only relevant at energies  $\gg m_Q$

- Does unitarity ‘misses’ mass logarithms?

$$\begin{array}{c} \bigcirc \\ \diagup \quad \diagdown \end{array} \propto \lambda m^2 \log \frac{m^2}{\mu^2} \Rightarrow \mu \frac{\partial}{\partial \mu} (m^2) \stackrel{?}{\propto} \lambda m^2 \quad \text{No cut!}$$

- Does unitarity ‘misses’ mass logarithms?

$$\text{Diagram} \propto \lambda m^2 \log \frac{m^2}{\mu^2} \Rightarrow \mu \frac{\partial}{\partial \mu} (m^2) \stackrel{?}{\propto} \lambda m^2 \quad \text{No cut!}$$

- No! RG can answer two **distinct** questions:
  - Optimal **bare parameters** to use at a given cutoff scale (e.g. lattice, or putative UV completion of SM)?
  - Optimal **running couplings** to use to **minimize large logs** in a **physical observable** at given energy scale?
- Constant logarithms affect only first question  
[and quadratic divergences]

**⇒ Unitarity correctly answers second question**

[see evanescent effects:

# Summary

- Dilatation operator is minus the phase of the S-matrix, divided by  $\pi$ . ( $e^{-i\pi D} F^* = S F^*$ )
- One-loop YM  $\beta$ -function “ $-\frac{11}{3}$ ” is an eigenvalue of Parke-Taylor amplitude:

$$\mathcal{M}_4 = \frac{\langle ij \rangle^4}{\langle 12 \rangle \langle 23 \rangle \langle 34 \rangle \langle 41 \rangle}$$

- IR divergences: cancel using stress tensor
- Analyzed Yukawa to 1 1/2 loops

# Outlook

- Dilatation operator in N=4/QCD at higher loops? (Twist-two in QCD: all spins from same matrix elements?)

[Beisert, Ferretti, Heise & Zarembo '04]

[(Loebbert), Nandan, Sieg, Wilhelm & Yang, '15]

[Brandhuber, Kostacinska, Penante, Travaglini & Young, '16]

- Length-changing: mysterious cancellations of logs between cuts? N=4 Yangian? Role of  $F^*$  in  $e^{-i\pi D} F^* = S F^*$  ?

[Brandhuber, Heslop, Travaglini & Young, '15]

- Which questions can be answered with spectrum of S (now already known in planar N=4 SYM?)
- Exponentiation of logs: Derive RGE from on-shell ideas?