NEW ACTION-BASED METHOD FOR EFFICIENT COMPUTATION OF MULTI-LEG SCATTERING AMPLITUDES IN YANG-MILLS THEORY

PIOTR KOTKO

AGH University, Krakow

in collaboration with: H. KAKKAD, A. STASTO,

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n-gluon scattering amplitudes



# legs	4	5	6	7	8
# diagrams	4	25	220	2485	34300

Many diagrams, but when expressed using the helicity spinors results are suspiciously simple...

Example: tree 8-point amplitude



Basic methods

8

34300

654

Color decomposition

$$\mathcal{M}^{a_1,\ldots,a_n} = \sum_{\substack{\text{non-cyclic} \\ \text{permutations}}} \operatorname{Tr}(t^{a_1}\ldots t^{a_n}) \, \mathscr{A}(1,\ldots,n)$$

$$Tr(t^{a}t^{b}) = \delta_{ab}$$
$$[t^{a}, t^{b}] = i\sqrt{2}f^{abc}t^{c}$$

Spinor helicity method

SL(2,C) representation for Lorentz group.

 $v_{+} = \begin{pmatrix} \lambda_{\alpha} \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad v_{-} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ \tilde{\lambda}_{\dot{\alpha}} \end{pmatrix}$

where v_{\pm} are solution to Dirac equation:

 $k v_+(k) = 0$

spinor products:

$$\langle ij
angle = \lambda_i^{lpha} \lambda_{j lpha} \qquad \left[ij
ight] = \tilde{\lambda}_i^{\dot{lpha}} \tilde{\lambda}_{j \dot{lpha}} \qquad ext{for on-shell momenta} \ k_i, k_j.$$

legs

planar

diagrams

color d ordered amplitudes

diagrams

5

4

3

6

4 25 220 2485

10 38

7

154

Key tree-level results for any number of gluons

The simplest (color-ordered) helicity amplitudes:



$$\mathcal{A}(1^+, 2^+, ..., n^+) = 0$$

 $\mathcal{A}(1^-, 2^+, ..., n^+) = 0$

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Maximally Helicity Violating (MHV) amplitudes:



$$\mathcal{A}(1^-, 2^-, 3^+, \dots, n^+) = g^{n-2} \frac{\langle 12 \rangle^4}{\langle 12 \rangle \langle 23 \rangle \dots \langle (n-1)n \rangle \langle n1 \rangle}$$

[S.J. Parke, T.R Taylor, 1986]

Simplicity of the MHV amplitudes triggered incredible developments in theory over last 20 years...

Cachazo-Svrcek-Witten (CSW) method

MHV vertices

The Maximally Helicity Violating (MHV) amplitudes can be treated as interaction vertices.

[F. Cachazo, P. Svrcek, E. Witten, 2004]



spinor products (on-shell) $\langle ij \rangle = \epsilon_{\alpha\beta} \lambda_i^{\alpha} \lambda_j^{\beta} + hilidites \\ [ij] = \epsilon_{\dot{\alpha}\dot{\beta}} \tilde{\lambda}_i^{\dot{\alpha}} \tilde{\lambda}_j^{\dot{\beta}} - hilidites \\ [ij] = \epsilon_{\dot{\alpha}\dot{\beta}} \tilde{\lambda}_i^{\dot{\alpha}} \tilde{\lambda}_j^{\dot{\beta}} - hilidites \\$ off-shell continuations $\lambda_{i\alpha}^* = (k_i)_{\alpha\dot{\alpha}} \tilde{\eta}_j^{\dot{\alpha}} = (k_i^{\mu} \sigma_{\mu})_{\alpha\dot{\alpha}} \tilde{\eta}_j^{\dot{\alpha}} \\ (\frac{1}{2}, 0) \times (0, \frac{1}{2}) \text{ representation} \qquad \text{anxiliany spinor}$





Lagrangian for the CSW method (1)



Lagrangian for the CSW method (2)



(Incomplete) List of papers on the subject

CSW method

- F. Cachazo, P. Svrcek, E. Witten, JHEP 09 (2004) 006
- F. Cachazo, P. Svrcek, E. Witten, JHEP 10 (2004) 074
- G. Georgiou, V. Khoze, JHEP 05 (2004)
- G. Georgiou, E.W.N. Glover, V.V. Khoze, JHEP 07 (2004)
- J.-B. Wu, C.-J. Zhu, JHEP 07 (2004) 032
- L.J. Dixon, E.W.N. Glover, V.V. Khoze, JHEP 12 (2004) 015
- K. Risager, JHEP 12 (2005) 003
- A. Brandhuber, B. Spence, G. Travaglini, JHEP 01 (2006) 142
- M. Kiermaier, S.G. Naculich, JHEP 05 (2009) 072
- T. Adamo, L. Mason, Phys.Rev.D 86 (2012) 065019

Lagrangian formulation of CSW

- P. Mansfield, JHEP 03 (2006) 037
- J.H. Ettle, T.R. Morris, JHEP 08 (2006) 003
- A. Gorsky, A. Rosly, JHEP 01 (2006) 101
- J.H. Ettle, T.R. Morris, Z. Xiao, JHEP 08 (2008) 103
- T.R. Morris, Z. Xiao, JHEP 12 (2008) 028
- H. Feng, Y.-T. Huang, JHEP 04 (2009) 047
- C.-H. Fu, JHEP 04 (2010) 044
- S. Buchta, S. Weinzierl, JHEP 09 (2010) 071
- P.K, A. Stasto, JHEP 09 (2017)
- H. Kakkad, P.K, A. Stasto, Phys.Rev.D 102 (2020) 9

Lagrangian formulation of CSW at loop level

- A. Brandhuber, B. Spence, G. Travaglini, JHEP 02 (2007) 088
- A. Brandhuber, B. Spence, G. Travaglini, K. Zoubos, JHEP 07 (2007) 002
- J.H. Ettle, C.-H. Fu, J.P. Fudger, P. Mansfield, T.R. Morris, JHEP 05 (2007) 011
- R. Boels, C. Schwinn, JHEP 07 (2008) 007
- C.-H. Fu, J.P. Fudger, P. Mansfield, T.R. Morris, Z. Xiao, JHEP 06 (2009) 035
- H. Elvang, D.Z. Freedman, M. Kiermaier, JHEP 06 (2012) 015
- H. Kakkad, P.K, A. Stasto, JHEP 11 (2022) 132

WILSON LINES

Field transformations as Wilson lines



WILSON LINES

Field transformations as Wilson lines

Collective degrees of freedom

"Wilson line" in momentum space:



Exactly corresponds to:



Wilson line along polarization vector resums (-++) triple-gluon interactions!

[PK, A. Stasto, 2017]

Can we do the same with the (++-) interactions?

Field transformations (1)

New fields Z^{\bullet}, Z^{\star}

[H. Kakkad, PK, A. Stasto, 2021]

Introduce a canonical transformation $\{A^{\bullet}, A^{\star}\} \rightarrow \{Z^{\bullet}, Z^{\star}\}$ given by the generating functional:

$$\mathscr{G}[A^{\bullet}, Z^{\star}](x^{+}) = -\int d^{3}\mathbf{x} \operatorname{Tr} \hat{\mathscr{W}}_{(-)}^{-1}[Z](x) \partial_{-} \hat{\mathscr{W}}_{(+)}[A](x)$$

where





[H. Kakkad, PK, A. Stasto, 2021]

It turns out, that the new fields can be introduced also from the MHV action :



Z-field action

[H. Kakkad, PK, A. Stasto, 2021]

Solving the field transformation relations we get the following action:

Structure of vertices



Example of amplitude calculation (1)



Example of amplitude calculation (2)



Problems with transformed actions

All-plus-helicity amplitude at one loop

Amplitude with all same helicity gluons is non-zero at one loop and is a rational function:

$$\mathscr{A}^{(1)}(1^+, 2^+, 3^+, \dots, n^+) = g^n \sum_{q \le i < j < k < l \le n} \frac{\langle ij \rangle [jk] \langle kl \rangle [li]}{\langle 12 \rangle \langle 23 \rangle \dots \langle n1 \rangle}$$

[Z. Bern, G. Chalmers, L. Dixon, D.A. Kosover, 1993] [G. Mahlon, 1994]

Problems with MHV action (or Z-field action) at quantum level

It is not possible to reconstruct $(\pm + + \dots +)$ amplitudes in the MHV theory or the Z-field action.



The self-dual vertex (-++) was removed in both MHV action and in the Z-field action.

One also cannot get the rational parts of other (singular) amplitudes...

[J. Bedford, A. Brandhuber, B.J. Spence, G. Travaglini, 2005]

LOOP AMPLITUDES Quantum anomaly in Self-Dual Yang-Mills

Self Dual (SD) Yang-Mills theory

One of the simplest 4D theory with nontrivial amplitudes.

$$S_{\rm SD}^{\rm (LC)}\left[A^{\bullet},A^{\star}\right] = \int dx^{+} \int d^{3}\mathbf{x} \left\{ -\operatorname{Tr} \hat{A}^{\bullet} \Box \hat{A}^{\star} - 2ig \operatorname{Tr} \partial_{-}^{-1} \partial_{\bullet} \hat{A}^{\bullet} \left[\partial_{-} \hat{A}^{\star}, \hat{A}^{\bullet}\right] \right\}$$



Classical SD theory is integrable (has infinite set of conserved currents)

- tree amplitudes must vanish
- loop amplitudes are effect of a quantum anomaly of classical symmetries

[W.A. Bardeen, 1996]

[P. Chattopadhyay, K. Krasnov, 2022, 2023] [R. Monteiro, R. Stark-Muchao, S. Wikeley, 2023]

One loop effective action

Generating functional for Y-M theory:

$$\mathscr{Z}_{Y-M}[J] = \int [dA^{\bullet}][dA^{\star}] e^{i\left\{S[A^{\bullet},A^{\star}] + \int d^{4}x \operatorname{Tr}(\hat{J}_{\bullet}\hat{A}^{\bullet} + \hat{J}_{\star}\hat{A}^{\star})\right\}}$$

Apply the field transformation $A \rightarrow Z$: (warning: transform also the current terms!)

$$\mathscr{Z}[J] = \int [dZ^{\bullet}][dZ^{\star}] e^{i\{S[Z^{\bullet},Z^{\star}] + \int d^4x \operatorname{Tr}(\hat{J}_{\bullet}\hat{A}^{\bullet}[Z] + \hat{J}_{\star}\hat{A}^{\star}[Z])}\}}$$

Integrate quadratic fluctuations around the classical solution:

$$\mathscr{Z}[J] \approx \exp\left\{iS\left[Z_c^{\bullet}[J], Z_c^{\star}[J]\right] - i\frac{1}{2}\mathrm{Tr}\ln\left(\mathbb{M}_Z[J] + \mathbb{M}_{\mathrm{src}}[J]\right)\right\}$$

Z-field theory virtices

missing contributions J

where $k, l, m, ... = \{\{\bullet, \star\}, x^{\mu}, a\}$ are collective indices.

Legendre transform to one-loop effective action:

$$\mathscr{Z}[J] \to \Gamma[\phi] = S[\phi] - \frac{1}{2} \operatorname{Tr} \ln \left(\mathbb{M}_{Z} + \mathbb{M}_{\operatorname{src}} \right)_{Z_{c}[J] = \phi}$$

Quantum Z-field theory action (1)

One loop effective action

Generating functional for Y-M theory:

$$\mathscr{Z}_{Y-M}[J] = \int [dA^{\bullet}][dA^{\star}] e^{i\{S[A^{\bullet},A^{\star}] + \int d^4x \operatorname{Tr}(\hat{J}_{\bullet}\hat{A}^{\bullet} + \hat{J}_{\star}\hat{A}^{\star})\}}$$

Apply the field transformation $A \rightarrow Z$: (warning: transform also the current terms!)

$$\mathscr{Z}[J] = \int [dZ^{\bullet}][dZ^{\star}] e^{i\{S[Z^{\bullet},Z^{\star}] + \int d^4x \operatorname{Tr}(\hat{J}_{\bullet}\hat{A}^{\bullet}[Z] + \hat{J}_{\star}\hat{A}^{\star}[Z])\}}$$

Integrate quadratic fluctuations around the classical solution:

- We developed a new theory, classically equivalent to the Yang-Mills theory on the Light Cone.
- Theory is local in the light-cone time.
- Dramatically fewer diagrams when computing tree level scattering amplitudes.
- The number of diagrams follows Dellanoy number series (see Hiren's talk).
- Collective degrees of freedom a nontrivial slope-integrated Wilson line-type functionals extending in complexified Minkowski space.
- Encoded geometry of scattering amplitudes?
- The structure at quantum level gets very complicated (unlike the classical level), probably because of the quantum anomalies in the self-dual and anti-self dual sectors of the Yang-Mills.

BACKUP

Further steps

• The log can be "computed" to the desired number of legs, but it's complicated as there are multiple nested sums (I used **FORM** ...)

$$\operatorname{Tr}\ln\left(\mathbb{M}_{Z} + \mathbb{M}_{\mathrm{src}}\right) = \frac{\operatorname{fadpoles}}{\operatorname{fadpoles}} - 4 \xrightarrow{\Box Z^{\star}} \underbrace{\Xi }_{+} \underbrace{\Box }_{-} \underbrace{\Box \underbrace{\Box$$

- We can prove that the one loop effective action is "quantum complete" (the rational contributions are not missing).
- Diagrams can be calculated in 4D world-sheet regularization scheme Chakrabarti-Qiu-Thorn (CQT).

[for some examples see H. Kakkad thesis, ArXiv:2308.07695]