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The Chirality-Flow Formalism

SCIENCE COFFEE 19 JANUARY 2021 - ANDREW LIFSON
BASED ON HEP-PH:2003.05877 (EPJC) AND HEP-PH:2011.10075

IN COLLABORATION WITH JOAKIM ALNEFJORD, CHRISTIAN REUSCHLE, AND MALIN SJÖDAHL

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Pre-Seminar

Relevant Group Theory
Spinor-Helicity Formalism
Colour Flow

Questions?

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Lorentz Group Representations

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Questions?

Lorentz group elements: $e^{i(\theta_i J_i + \eta_i K_i)}$ $J_i \equiv$ rotations, $K_i \equiv$ boosts

- Lorentz group generators \simeq 2 copies of $\mathfrak{su}(2)$ generators
 - $\mathfrak{so}(3, 1)_{\mathbb{C}} \cong \mathfrak{su}(2) \oplus \mathfrak{su}(2)$

Group algebra defined by commutator relations

$$[J_i, J_j] = i\epsilon_{ijk} J_k, \quad [J_i, K_j] = i\epsilon_{ijk} K_k, \quad [K_i, K_j] = -i\epsilon_{ijk} J_k$$

$$N_i^{\pm} = \frac{1}{2}(J_i \pm iK_i), \quad [N_i^-, N_j^+] = 0,$$

$$[N_i^-, N_j^-] = i\epsilon_{ijk} N_k^-, \quad [N_i^+, N_j^+] = i\epsilon_{ijk} N_k^+$$

- Representations (i.e. realisations of N_i^{\pm})
 - $(0, 0)$ scalar particles
 - $(\frac{1}{2}, 0)$ left-chiral and $(0, \frac{1}{2})$ right-chiral Weyl (2-component) spinors.
 - $(\frac{1}{2}, 0) \oplus (0, \frac{1}{2})$, Dirac (4-component) spinors.
 - $(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2})$ vectors, e.g. gauge bosons



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Recap of Little Group and Spin

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Questions?

Spin quantum numbers come from little group of a particle
Massive and massless particles have different little groups
⇒ they have fundamentally different properties

- Massless particles have two helicity states $\pm j$
 - j is the spin rep of Lorentz group, e.g. $j = 1$ for photons, $j = 1/2$ for electrons
- Massive particles have two types of spin quantum numbers:
 - total spin $j^2 = j(j + 1)$ and
 - spin along an axis $j_s = j, j - 1, \dots, -j + 1, -j$

These differences imply a fundamentally different treatment of massive and massless particles necessary



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Massless and Massive Spinors

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Questions?

Lorentz algebra $so(3, 1) \cong su(2) \oplus su(2)$
Spinor $\psi(x) \sim \int d^4p (u(p)e^{-ip \cdot x} + v(p)e^{ip \cdot x})$

Massless

- Two helicity states $h = \pm \frac{1}{2}$
- Only one chirality per helicity state:
 - $u^+ = u_R$
 - $u^- = u_L$
- Two-component Weyl spinors
- Obey Weyl equations, e.g.
 $p^\mu \sigma_\mu u(p) = 0$
- At LHC used to describe leptons, light quarks

Massive

- Two fixed-spin states $j_s = \pm \frac{1}{2}$
- Both chiralities per spin- j_s state:
 - $u^+ \sim u_L + u_R$
 - $u^- \sim u_L + u_R$
- Four-component Dirac spinors
- Obey Dirac equations, e.g.
 $p^\mu \gamma_\mu u(p) = mu(p)$
- At LHC used to describe top and (sometimes) bottom quarks



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The Helicity Basis: what and why?

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Questions?

Helicity basis means each particle has a specific helicity

Lorentz algebra $so(3, 1) \cong su(2) \oplus su(2)$

Consider massless particles

- Ideal for (approximately) massless particles (e.g. most particles at LHC)
 - Helicity is the quantum number of the massless little group
 - For incoming (anti)spinors chirality $((\frac{1}{2}, 0)$ or $(0, \frac{1}{2})) \sim$ helicity $(-\frac{1}{2}$ or $+\frac{1}{2})$
 - For outgoing (anti)spinors chirality $((\frac{1}{2}, 0)$ or $(0, \frac{1}{2})) \sim$ helicity $(-\frac{1}{2}$ or $+\frac{1}{2})$
- Amplitude itself is a number rather than a matrix
 - Easy to square
- Different helicity amplitudes are orthogonal
 - Only sum over helicities after squaring



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Spinor-Helicity: its Building Blocks

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Questions?

Lorentz algebra $so(3, 1) \cong su(2) \oplus su(2)$
Consider massless particles: chirality \sim helicity

Spinors (use chiral basis):

$$u^+(p) = v^-(p) = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ |p\rangle \end{pmatrix} \quad u^-(p) = v^+(p) = \begin{pmatrix} |p] \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\bar{u}^+(p) = \bar{v}^-(p) = ([p| \quad 0) \quad \bar{u}^-(p) = \bar{v}^+(p) = (0 \quad \langle p|)$$

$$\gamma^5 = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad P_{L/R} = \frac{1 \mp \gamma^5}{2}$$

- Amplitude written in terms of Lorentz-invariant spinor inner products

$$\langle ij \rangle = -\langle ji \rangle \equiv \langle i||j \rangle \quad \text{and} \quad [ij] = -[ji] \equiv [i||j]$$

- These are well known complex numbers, $\langle ij \rangle \sim [ij] \sim \sqrt{2p_i \cdot p_j}$



Spinor-Helicity: Vectors and Removing μ Indices

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Questions?

Lorentz algebra $so(3, 1) \cong su(2) \oplus su(2)$
Consider massless particles: chirality \sim helicity

Dirac matrices in chiral basis

$$\gamma^\mu = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \sqrt{2}\tau^\mu \\ \sqrt{2}\bar{\tau}^\mu & 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad \sqrt{2}\tau^\mu = (1, \vec{\sigma}), \quad \sqrt{2}\bar{\tau}^\mu = (1, -\vec{\sigma}),$$

Remove $\tau/\bar{\tau}$ matrices in amplitude with

$$\underbrace{\langle i | \bar{\tau}^\mu | j \rangle [k | \tau_\mu | l \rangle}_{\text{Fierz identity}} = \langle il \rangle [kj], \quad \underbrace{\langle i | \bar{\tau}^\mu | j \rangle}_{\text{Charge Conjugation}} = [j | \tau^\mu | i \rangle$$

Express (massless) p^μ in terms of spinors

$$p^\mu = \frac{[p | \tau^\mu | p \rangle}{\sqrt{2}} = \frac{\langle p | \bar{\tau}^\mu | p \rangle}{\sqrt{2}}, \quad \sqrt{2}p^\mu \tau_\mu \equiv \not{p} = |p\rangle \langle p|, \quad \sqrt{2}p^\mu \bar{\tau}_\mu \equiv \bar{\not{p}} = |p\rangle [p|$$



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Spinor-Helicity: Gauge Bosons in Terms of Spinors

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Questions?

Lorentz algebra $so(3, 1) \cong su(2) \oplus su(2)$
Consider massless particles: chirality \sim helicity

Outgoing polarisation vectors:

$$\epsilon_+^\mu(p, r) = \frac{\langle r | \bar{\tau}^\mu | p \rangle}{\langle rp \rangle}, \quad \epsilon_-^\mu(p, r) = \frac{[r | \tau^\mu | p \rangle}{[pr]}$$

- r is a (massless) arbitrary reference momentum ($p \cdot r \neq 0$)
- Different r choices correspond to different gauges

$$\epsilon_+^\mu(p, r') - \epsilon_+^\mu(p, r) = -p^\mu \frac{\langle r' r \rangle}{\langle r' p \rangle \langle rp \rangle}$$

- Gauge invariant quantities must be r -invariant
 - Choose r as conveniently as possible (remember $\langle ij \rangle = -\langle ji \rangle$ s.t. $\langle ii \rangle = 0$)
 - Variance under $r \rightarrow r'$ good check of gauge invariance of (partial) amplitude



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Colour Flow: a Quick Introduction

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Questions?

Standard method in $SU(N)$ -colour calculations:

Write all objects in terms of $\delta_{i\bar{j}} \equiv$ flows of colour

$$\delta_{i\bar{j}} = \bar{j} \longrightarrow \longrightarrow i, \quad \text{Tr} = 1, \quad \sum_i \delta_{ii} = N = \text{circle}, \quad t_{ij}^a = \begin{array}{c} i \\ \nearrow \\ \bar{j} \end{array} \begin{array}{c} \text{circle} \\ \longleftarrow \\ a \end{array}$$

$$if^{abc} = \begin{array}{c} b \\ \text{circle} \\ \begin{array}{c} \nearrow \\ \searrow \end{array} \\ \begin{array}{c} a \\ \text{circle} \\ c \end{array} \end{array} = \begin{array}{c} b \\ \text{circle} \\ \begin{array}{c} \nearrow \\ \searrow \end{array} \\ \begin{array}{c} a \\ \text{circle} \\ c \end{array} \end{array} - \begin{array}{c} b \\ \text{circle} \\ \begin{array}{c} \nearrow \\ \searrow \end{array} \\ \begin{array}{c} a \\ \text{circle} \\ c \end{array} \end{array} = \text{Tr}(t^a[t^b, t^c])$$

$$\begin{array}{c} i \\ \nearrow \\ \bar{j} \end{array} \begin{array}{c} \text{circle} \\ \longleftarrow \\ k \end{array} = \begin{array}{c} i \\ \nearrow \\ \bar{j} \end{array} \begin{array}{c} \text{circle} \\ \longleftarrow \\ k \end{array} - \frac{1}{N} \begin{array}{c} i \\ \nearrow \\ \bar{j} \end{array} \begin{array}{c} \text{circle} \\ \longleftarrow \\ k \end{array}$$

$t_{ij}^a t_{k\bar{l}}^a$ $\delta_{i\bar{l}} \delta_{k\bar{j}}$ $\delta_{i\bar{j}} \delta_{k\bar{l}}$





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Outline of the Seminar

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- Last week: Seminar on little group and spinor helicity
 - Spinor helicity forms basis of this week's knowledge
 - Summarised in pre-seminar
- Will first remind how to calculate Feynman diagrams with standard methods
- Then show our new chirality-flow method
 - Will first show why valid in massless QED and examples of how to implement it
 - Then massless QCD and example
 - Then massive particles and examples
- More information available at [hep-ph:2003.05877](#) (published in EPJC) and [hep-ph:2011.10075](#) (recently submitted to EPJC)



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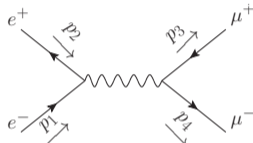
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Conclusions

- Keep all particles unpolarised
- Obtain amplitude as matrix



$$\sim [\bar{v}_r(p_2)\gamma^\mu u_s(p_1)][\bar{u}_t(p_4)\gamma_\mu v_w(p_3)]$$



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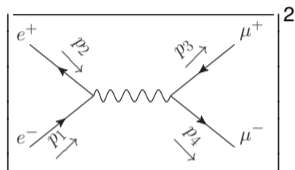
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Conclusions

- Keep all particles unpolarised
- Obtain amplitude as matrix
- Square the matrix amplitude
 - Spin states are orthogonal



$$\sim \sum_{r,s,t,w} [\bar{v}_r(p_2) \gamma^\mu u_s(p_1)] [\bar{u}_t(p_4) \gamma_\mu v_w(p_3)] \\ \times [\bar{u}_s(p_1) \gamma^\nu v_r(p_2)] [\bar{v}_w(p_3) \gamma_\nu u_t(p_4)]$$



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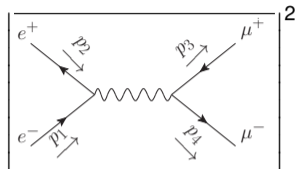
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Conclusions

- Keep all particles unpolarised
- Obtain amplitude as matrix
- Square the matrix amplitude
 - Spin states are orthogonal
- Move components around



$$\begin{aligned}
 &\sim \sum_{r,s,t,w} [\bar{v}_r(p_2) \gamma^\mu u_s(p_1)] [\bar{u}_t(p_4) \gamma_\mu v_w(p_3)] \\
 &\quad \times [\bar{u}_s(p_1) \gamma^\nu v_r(p_2)] [\bar{v}_w(p_3) \gamma_\nu u_t(p_4)] \\
 &\sim \sum_{r,s,t,w} [\gamma^\nu v_r(p_2) \bar{v}_r(p_2) \gamma^\mu u_s(p_1) \bar{u}_s(p_1)] \\
 &\quad \times [\gamma_\nu u_t(p_4) \bar{u}_t(p_4) \gamma_\mu v_w(p_3) \bar{v}_w(p_3)]
 \end{aligned}$$



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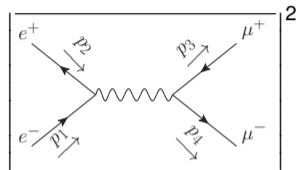
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Conclusions

- Keep all particles unpolarised
- Obtain amplitude as matrix
- Square the matrix amplitude
 - Spin states are orthogonal
- Move components around
- Use spin sums
- Take trace of fermionic structure
- Requires identities of γ^μ
- Simplify



$$\sim \text{Tr}[\gamma^\nu(\not{p}_2 - m_e)\gamma^\mu(\not{p}_1 + m_e)] \\ \times \text{Tr}[\gamma_\nu(\not{p}_4 + m_\mu)\gamma_\mu(\not{p}_3 + m_\mu)]$$

$$\text{Tr}[\gamma^{\mu_1}\gamma^{\mu_2}] = 4g^{\mu_1\mu_2}$$

$$\text{Tr}[\gamma^{\mu_1}\dots\gamma^{\mu_4}] =$$

$$4(g^{\mu_1\mu_2}g^{\mu_3\mu_4} - g^{\mu_1\mu_3}g^{\mu_2\mu_4} + g^{\mu_1\mu_4}g^{\mu_3\mu_2})$$

$$\text{Tr}[\gamma^{\mu_1}\dots\gamma^{\mu_{2n+1}}] = 0$$



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Same Simple Example using Spinor Helicity

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Lorentz algebra $so(3, 1) \cong su(2) \oplus su(2)$
Consider massless particles: chirality \sim helicity

- Explicit helicities for external particles
- $\gamma^\mu \rightarrow \tau^\mu$ or $\bar{\tau}^\mu \equiv$ Pauli matrices
- Now diagram is a complex number
 - $\langle ij \rangle \sim [ij] \sim \sqrt{2p_i \cdot p_j}$
 - Easy to square
- Square first, then sum over helicities
 - Some helicity configurations vanish
 - CP-invariance relates helicity configurations

$$\begin{aligned}
 &\sim \langle p_2 | \bar{\tau}^\mu | p_1 \rangle \langle p_4 | \bar{\tau}_\mu | p_3 \rangle \\
 &= [p_1 | \tau^\mu | p_2 \rangle \langle p_4 | \bar{\tau}_\mu | p_3 \rangle \\
 &= \langle p_4 p_2 \rangle [p_1 p_3]
 \end{aligned}$$

Same Simple Example using Spinor Helicity

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Consider massless particles: chirality \sim helicity

- Explicit helicities for external particles
- $\gamma^\mu \rightarrow \tau^\mu$ or $\bar{\tau}^\mu \equiv$ Pauli matrices
- Now diagram is a complex number
 - $\langle ij \rangle \sim [ij] \sim \sqrt{2p_i \cdot p_j}$
 - Easy to square
- Square first, then sum over helicities
 - Some helicity configurations vanish
 - CP-invariance relates helicity configurations

$$\sim [p_2 | \tau^\mu | p_1 \rangle \langle p_4 | \bar{\tau}_\mu | p_3]$$
$$= \langle p_4 p_1 \rangle [p_2 p_3]$$

Define Problem

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Kinematic part of amplitude slowed by spin and vector structures

- Can we still improve on this?
 - Deriving spinor inner products $\langle ij \rangle$, $[kl]$ requires at least 2 steps
 - Re-write every object as spinors
 - Use Fierz identity $\bar{\tau}_{\alpha\beta}^{\mu} \tau_{\mu}^{\dot{\alpha}\beta} = \delta_{\alpha}^{\beta} \delta_{\dot{\alpha}}^{\dot{\beta}}$
 - Not intuitive which inner products we obtain
- In SU(N) use graphical reps for calculations
 - E.g. using the colour-flow method (see pre-seminar)
 - (Also birdtracks etc.)
- Spinor-helicity $\equiv su(2) \oplus su(2)$
 - Can we do the same?

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Creating Chirality Flow: Building Blocks

A flow is a directed line from one object to another

$su(2)$ objects have dotted indices and $SU(2)$ objects undotted indices

■ Key difference:

■ Colour \equiv single $SU(N)$: generators $t^a \rightarrow \delta$'s

■ Spinor-hel $\equiv su(2) \oplus su(2)$: $\tau^\mu, \bar{\tau}^\mu, |i\rangle_\alpha, |j]^\dot{\alpha}, \epsilon_\pm^\mu, \rightarrow \langle ij \rangle, [kl]$

■ First step: Ansatz for spinor inner products (only possible Lorentz invariant)

$$\langle i |^\alpha | j \rangle_\alpha \equiv \langle ij \rangle = -\langle ji \rangle = i \longrightarrow j$$

$$[i |_\beta | j]^\dot{\beta} \equiv [ij] = -[ji] = i \dashrightarrow j$$

■ Spinors and Kronecker deltas follow

$$\langle i |^\alpha = \bullet \longleftarrow i \quad ,$$

$$| j \rangle_\alpha = \bullet \longrightarrow j$$

$$[i |_\beta = \bullet \dashleftarrow i \quad ,$$

$$| j]^\dot{\beta} = \bullet \dashrightarrow j$$

$$\delta_\alpha^\beta \equiv \mathbb{1}_\alpha^\beta = \alpha \longrightarrow \beta \quad ,$$

$$\delta_{\dot{\alpha}}^{\dot{\beta}} \equiv \mathbb{1}_{\dot{\alpha}}^{\dot{\beta}} = \dot{\beta} \dashrightarrow \dot{\alpha}$$

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Massless, Outgoing Spinors in Chirality Flow

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$$\text{Lorentz algebra } so(3, 1) \cong \underbrace{su(2)}_{\text{dotted}} \oplus \underbrace{su(2)}_{\text{undotted}}$$

Spinor	Feynman	Flow
$\bar{u}^-(p_i) = \langle i $		
$v^-(p_j) = j\rangle$		
$v^+(p_j) = j]$		
$\bar{u}^+(p_i) = [i $		

Chirality-flow arrow opposite to fermion arrow

Chirality Flow for QED: Photon Exchange

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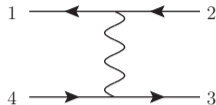
Conclusions



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- Second Step: Unpolarised photon exchange
- Split up standard term into helicity amplitudes

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathcal{M}_i &\sim \left(\bar{u}(p_1) \gamma^\mu v(p_2) \right) g_{\mu\nu} \left(\bar{u}(p_3) \gamma^\nu v(p_4) \right) \\
 &= \underbrace{\left([1 | \dot{\alpha} \tau^{\mu, \dot{\alpha} \beta} | 2 \rangle_\beta \right) \left([3 | \dot{\gamma} \tau_\mu^{\dot{\gamma} \eta} | 4 \rangle_\eta \right)}_{\mathcal{M}(1^+, 2^-, 3^+, 4^-)} + \underbrace{\left([1 | \dot{\alpha} \tau^{\mu, \dot{\alpha} \beta} | 2 \rangle_\beta \right) \left(\langle 3 | \gamma \bar{\tau}_{\mu, \gamma \dot{\eta}} | 4]^{\dot{\eta}} \right)}_{\mathcal{M}(1^+, 2^-, 3^-, 4^+)} \\
 &+ \underbrace{\left(\langle 1 | \alpha \bar{\tau}^\mu_{\alpha \dot{\beta}} | 2]^{\dot{\beta}} \right) \left([3 | \dot{\gamma} \tau_\mu^{\dot{\gamma} \eta} | 4 \rangle_\eta \right)}_{\mathcal{M}(1^-, 2^+, 3^+, 4^-)} + \underbrace{\left(\langle 1 | \alpha \bar{\tau}^\mu_{\alpha \dot{\beta}} | 2]^{\dot{\beta}} \right) \left(\langle 3 | \gamma \bar{\tau}_{\mu, \gamma \dot{\eta}} | 4]^{\dot{\eta}} \right)}_{\mathcal{M}(1^-, 2^+, 3^-, 4^+)}
 \end{aligned}$$



- 2 options: $\bar{\tau}^\mu \tau_\mu$ ($\tau^\mu \bar{\tau}_\mu$), or $\bar{\tau}^\mu \bar{\tau}_\mu$ ($\tau^\mu \tau_\mu$)

- $\bar{\tau}^\mu_{\alpha \dot{\beta}} \tau_\mu^{\dot{\gamma} \eta} = \delta_\alpha^\eta \delta_{\dot{\beta}}^{\dot{\gamma}}$ (Fierz)
- $\bar{\tau}^\mu_{\alpha \dot{\beta}} \bar{\tau}_{\mu, \gamma \dot{\eta}} = \epsilon_{\dot{\beta} \dot{\eta}} \epsilon_{\alpha \gamma}$ ($\epsilon \equiv$ Levi Cevita)

Photon Exchange: What is a Flow?

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■ A flow:

- Occurs when two indices are contracted via a Kronecker delta
- Is represented by a line with an arrow to indicate flow direction

■ Option 1: Fierz identity $\bar{\tau}_{\alpha\dot{\beta}}^{\mu} \tau_{\mu}^{\dot{\gamma}\eta} = \delta_{\alpha}^{\eta} \delta_{\dot{\beta}}^{\dot{\gamma}}$

- \Rightarrow option 1 creates a flow
- How to draw it?



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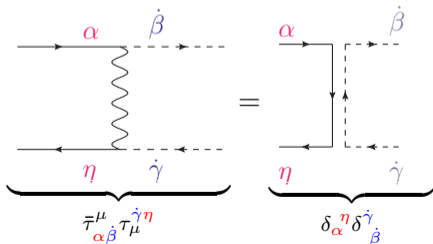
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Conclusions

- A flow occurs when two indices are contracted via a delta function
- A flow is represented by a line with an arrow to indicate flow direction
- Option 1: Fierz identity $\bar{\tau}_{\alpha\dot{\beta}}^{\mu} \tau_{\mu}^{\dot{\gamma}\eta} = \delta_{\alpha}^{\eta} \delta_{\dot{\beta}}^{\dot{\gamma}}$
 - \Rightarrow option 1 creates a flow
 - How to draw it?
- Take inspiration from often-used $SU(N)$ colour Fierz identity
- Spinor Fierz in flow form is:



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- A flow occurs when two indices are contracted via a delta function
- A flow is represented by a line with an arrow to indicate flow direction
- Option 2: $\bar{\tau}_{\alpha\beta}^{\mu} \bar{\tau}_{\mu,\gamma\eta} = \epsilon_{\beta\eta} \epsilon_{\alpha\gamma}$
 - \Rightarrow option 2 does **not** create a flow!
 - How to draw it??



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- A flow occurs when two indices are contracted via a delta function
- A flow is represented by a line with an arrow to indicate flow direction
- Option 2: $\bar{\tau}_{\alpha\dot{\beta}}^{\mu} \bar{\tau}_{\mu,\gamma\dot{\eta}} = \epsilon_{\dot{\beta}\dot{\eta}} \epsilon_{\alpha\gamma}$
 - \Rightarrow option 2 does **not** create a flow!
 - How to draw it??
- Pictorially, problem seen by arrows pointing towards or away from each other

$$\bar{\tau}_{\alpha\dot{\beta}}^{\mu} \bar{\tau}_{\mu,\gamma\dot{\eta}} = \quad \stackrel{??}{=} \quad$$



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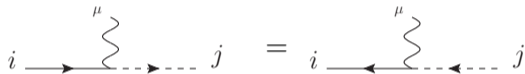
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Conclusions

- Can fix with charge conjugation of a current

- $\langle i |^{\alpha} \bar{\tau}_{\alpha\dot{\beta}}^{\mu} | j \rangle^{\dot{\beta}} = [j]_{\dot{\alpha}} \tau^{\mu, \dot{\alpha}\beta} | i \rangle_{\beta}$

- Or in pictures, charge conjugation = an arrow flip:



- Can replace $\tau \leftrightarrow \bar{\tau}$ if also replacing $|i\rangle_{\alpha} \leftrightarrow \langle i|^{\alpha}$, $[j]_{\dot{\alpha}} \leftrightarrow [j]^{\dot{\alpha}}$



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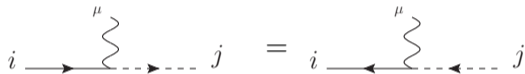
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Conclusions

- Can fix with charge conjugation of a current

$$\blacksquare \langle i |^{\alpha} \bar{\tau}_{\alpha\dot{\beta}}^{\mu} | j \rangle^{\dot{\beta}} = [j]_{\dot{\alpha}} \tau^{\mu, \dot{\alpha}\beta} | i \rangle_{\beta}$$

- Or in pictures, charge conjugation = an arrow flip:



- Can replace $\tau \leftrightarrow \bar{\tau}$ if also replacing $|i\rangle_{\alpha} \leftrightarrow \langle i|^{\alpha}$, $[j]_{\dot{\alpha}} \leftrightarrow [j]^{\dot{\alpha}}$

- Considering the complete diagram we have:

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 \begin{array}{c} 1 \longrightarrow \text{---} 2 \\ \text{---} 4 \longleftarrow \text{---} 3 \end{array} & = & \begin{array}{c} 1 \longrightarrow \text{---} 2 \\ \text{---} 4 \longrightarrow \text{---} 3 \end{array} & = & \begin{array}{c} 1 \longrightarrow \text{---} 2 \\ \text{---} 4 \longrightarrow \text{---} 3 \end{array} \\
 \underbrace{\hspace{10em}} & & \underbrace{\hspace{10em}} & & \underbrace{\hspace{10em}} \\
 (\langle 1 |^{\alpha} \bar{\tau}_{\alpha\dot{\beta}}^{\mu} | 2 \rangle^{\dot{\beta}}) (\langle 3 |^{\gamma} \bar{\tau}_{\mu, \gamma\dot{\eta}} | 4 \rangle^{\dot{\eta}}) & & (\langle 1 |^{\alpha} \bar{\tau}_{\alpha\dot{\beta}}^{\mu} | 2 \rangle^{\dot{\beta}}) (\langle 4 |^{\dot{\eta}} \tau_{\mu}^{\dot{\eta}\gamma} | 3 \rangle_{\gamma}) & & \langle 1 |^{\alpha} \delta_{\alpha}^{\beta} | 3 \rangle_{\alpha} [4]_{\dot{\beta}} \delta_{\dot{\alpha}}^{\dot{\beta}} | 2 \rangle^{\dot{\alpha}} \equiv \langle 13 \rangle [42]
 \end{array}$$



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Quick Summary: Photon Exchange

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- We are trying to build a spinor flow picture (contraction of spinors with delta functions)
- Have looked only at simple unpolarised photon exchange. Found:
 - Two terms have a 'natural' flow
 - Two terms can be changed into a flow
- We conclude for (at least) this process:

$$\Rightarrow \tau^{\mu, \dot{\alpha}\beta} = \begin{array}{c} \text{---} \swarrow \text{---} \\ \text{---} \rightarrow \text{---} \\ \swarrow \text{---} \\ \text{---} \end{array}, \quad \bar{\tau}^{\mu}_{\alpha\dot{\beta}} = \begin{array}{c} \swarrow \text{---} \\ \text{---} \rightarrow \text{---} \\ \text{---} \swarrow \text{---} \\ \text{---} \end{array}$$

$$\Rightarrow g_{\mu\nu} = \begin{array}{c} \text{---} \rightarrow \text{---} \\ \text{---} \leftarrow \text{---} \end{array}, \text{ or } \begin{array}{c} \text{---} \leftarrow \text{---} \\ \text{---} \rightarrow \text{---} \end{array}$$

- Fierz identity can be built into flow rule



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Creating Chirality Flow: Fermion Propagators

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- Third step: Fermion propagators
- We split $\not{p}_{4d} \equiv p_\mu \gamma^\mu$ split into two terms

$$\not{p} \equiv \sqrt{2} p^\mu \tau_\mu^{\dot{\alpha}\beta} = \text{---} \rightarrow \bullet \rightarrow \text{---} \quad \quad \quad \bar{\not{p}} \equiv \sqrt{2} p_\mu \bar{\tau}^\mu_{\alpha\dot{\beta}} = \text{---} \rightarrow \bullet \rightarrow \text{---}$$

- Momentum dot defined to represent slashed momenta
- In a propagator, we have $p^\mu = \sum p_i^\mu$, $p_i^2 = 0$

$$\not{p} = \text{---} \rightarrow \bullet \rightarrow \text{---} \stackrel{\sum_i p_i}{=} \sum_i |i\rangle^{\dot{\alpha}} \langle i|^{\beta} \quad \text{for } p_i^2 = 0$$

$$\bar{\not{p}} = \text{---} \rightarrow \bullet \rightarrow \text{---} \stackrel{\sum_i p_i}{=} \sum_i |i\rangle_{\alpha} |i]_{\dot{\beta}} \quad \text{for } p_i^2 = 0$$



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Fermion Lines with Multiple Photons

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What if fermions emit more than one photon? Is flow picture valid?

- Yes (at least at tree level)
- Conjugation of a current holds for full fermion line

$$\begin{aligned}
 \langle j | \bar{\tau}^{\mu_1} \tau^{\mu_2} \dots \bar{\tau}^{\mu_{2n+1}} | i \rangle &= \begin{array}{c} i \rightarrow \begin{array}{c} \bar{\tau}^{\mu_1} \\ \downarrow \uparrow \\ 1 \end{array} \begin{array}{c} \bar{\tau}^{\mu_3} \\ \downarrow \uparrow \\ 2 \end{array} \dots \begin{array}{c} \bar{\tau}^{\mu_{2n-1}} \\ \downarrow \uparrow \\ n \end{array} \rightarrow j \\ \dots \end{array} \\
 = \begin{array}{c} i \leftarrow \begin{array}{c} \tau^{\mu_1} \\ \downarrow \uparrow \\ 1 \end{array} \begin{array}{c} \tau^{\mu_3} \\ \downarrow \uparrow \\ 2 \end{array} \dots \begin{array}{c} \tau^{\mu_{2n-1}} \\ \downarrow \uparrow \\ n \end{array} \leftarrow j \\ \dots \end{array} = | j \rangle \tau^{\mu_{2n+1}} \bar{\tau}^{\mu_{2n}} \dots \tau^{\mu_1} | i \rangle
 \end{aligned}$$

i.e. arrow swap (and Fierz) works for any fermion line!

Creating Chirality Flow: External Gauge Bosons

- Final step: External gauge bosons

$$\epsilon_+^\mu(p, r) = \frac{[p|\dot{\alpha}\tau^\mu\dot{\alpha}\beta|r]_\beta}{\langle rp \rangle}, \quad \epsilon_-^\mu(p, r) = \frac{\langle p|\alpha\bar{\tau}^\mu\alpha\dot{\beta}|r\rangle^{\dot{\beta}}}{[pr]}$$

Pseudo vertex

External gauge bosons are just $f\bar{f}$ pairs with a denominator!

We can Fierz (with possible arrow swap) any external photon

$$\begin{aligned} \epsilon_+^\mu(p, r) &\rightarrow \frac{1}{\langle ri \rangle} \text{ (solid } \rightarrow \text{, dotted } \leftarrow \text{)} \quad \text{or} \quad \epsilon_+^\mu(p, r) \rightarrow \frac{1}{\langle ri \rangle} \text{ (dotted } \rightarrow \text{, solid } \leftarrow \text{)} \\ \epsilon_-^\mu(p, r) &\rightarrow \frac{1}{[ir]} \text{ (dotted } \rightarrow \text{, solid } \leftarrow \text{)} \quad \text{or} \quad \epsilon_-^\mu(p, r) \rightarrow \frac{1}{[ir]} \text{ (solid } \rightarrow \text{, dotted } \leftarrow \text{)} \end{aligned}$$

Note negative-hel particle solid, positive-hel dotted



The QED Flow Rules: External Particles

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Species	Feynman	Flow
$\bar{u}^-(p_i)$		
$v^-(p_j)$		
$v^+(p_j)$		
$\bar{u}^+(p_i)$		
$\epsilon_-^\mu(p_i, r)$		
$\epsilon_+^\mu(p_i, r)$		

Lorentz algebra $so(3, 1) \cong \underbrace{su(2)}_{\text{dotted}} \oplus \underbrace{su(2)}_{\text{undotted}}$



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The QED Flow Rules: Vertices and Propagators

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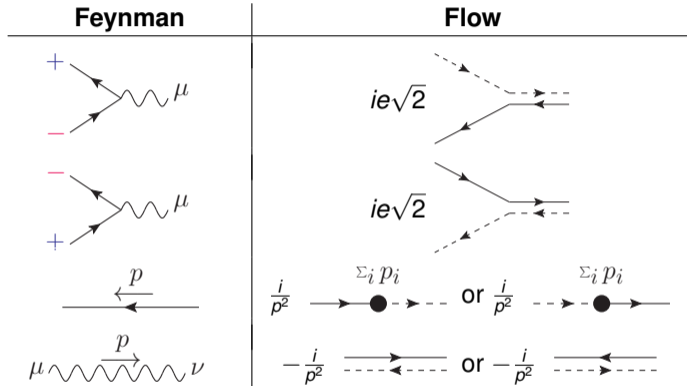
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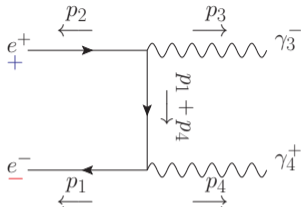


Lorentz algebra $so(3, 1) \cong \underbrace{su(2)}_{\text{dotted}} \oplus \underbrace{su(2)}_{\text{undotted}}$



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An Illuminating Example: $e^+ e^- \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$



Spinor helicity:

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \sim \langle p_1 | \bar{\tau}^\mu (|p_1\rangle \langle p_1| + |p_4\rangle \langle p_4|) \bar{\tau}^\nu |p_2\rangle \underbrace{\frac{\langle r_3 | \bar{\tau}_\nu | p_3 \rangle}{\langle r_3 3 \rangle}}_{\epsilon_3^-} \underbrace{\frac{[r_4 | \tau_\mu | p_4 \rangle}{[4r_4]}}_{\epsilon_4^+} \\
 & = \frac{(\langle p_1 | \bar{\tau}^\mu | p_1 \rangle + \langle p_1 | \bar{\tau}^\mu | p_4 \rangle) [r_4 | \tau_\mu | p_4 \rangle (\langle p_1 | \bar{\tau}^\nu | p_2 \rangle + \langle p_4 | \bar{\tau}^\nu | p_2 \rangle) [p_3 | \tau_\nu | r_3 \rangle]}{\langle r_3 3 \rangle [4r_4]} \\
 & = \frac{\langle 1r_4 \rangle ([41] \langle 13 \rangle + [44] \langle 43 \rangle) [r_3 2]}{\langle r_3 3 \rangle [4r_4]} = \frac{\langle 1r_4 \rangle [41] \langle 13 \rangle [r_3 2]}{\langle r_3 3 \rangle [4r_4]} \\
 & \quad \text{Fierz identities like } \langle i | \bar{\tau}^\mu | j \rangle [k | \tau_\mu | l \rangle = \langle il \rangle [kj] \quad [ij] = 0
 \end{aligned}$$



An Illuminating Example: $e^+ e^- \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$

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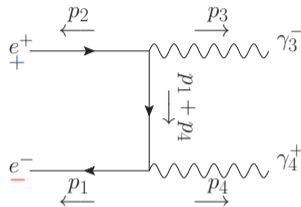
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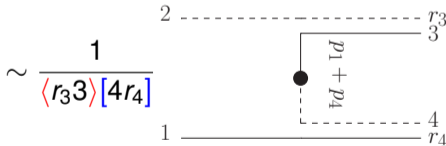
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Chirality flow:



An Illuminating Example: $e^+ e^- \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$

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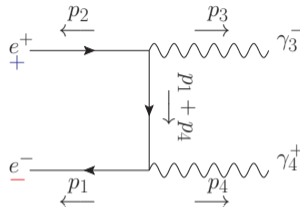
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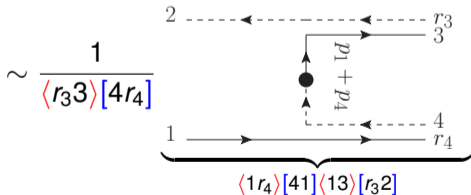
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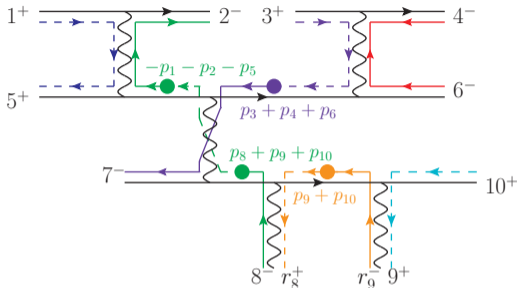
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Chirality flow:



A complicated QED Example



Compare to:

■ Standard QFT:

$$2 \times \text{Tr}(\gamma^{\mu_1} \dots \gamma^{\mu_{10}}),$$

$$2 \times \text{Tr}(\gamma^{\mu_1} \dots \gamma^{\mu_4}),$$

2 × photon spin sum

■ Standard spinor-helicity:

5 charge conjugation/Fierz

+ rearranging

$$= \underbrace{(\sqrt{2ei})^8}_{\text{vertices}} \underbrace{(-i)^3}_{\text{photon propagators}} \underbrace{(i)^4}_{\text{fermion propagators}} \underbrace{\frac{1}{[8r_8][r_99]}}_{\text{polarization vectors}} [15] \langle 64 \rangle [10 \ 9]$$

$$\times \left(\langle r_99 \rangle [9r_8] + \langle r_910 \rangle [10r_8] \right) \left(\underbrace{[33] \langle 37 \rangle + [34] \langle 47 \rangle + [36] \langle 67 \rangle}_0 \right)$$

$$\times \left(- \langle 89 \rangle [91] \langle 12 \rangle - \langle 89 \rangle [95] \langle 52 \rangle - \langle 810 \rangle [10 \ 1] \langle 12 \rangle - \langle 810 \rangle [10 \ 5] \langle 52 \rangle \right)$$

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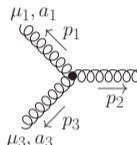


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Extending to QCD

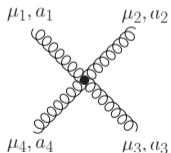
Non-abelian vertices only significant difference compared to QED

3-gluon:



$$= -\frac{g_s f^{abc}}{\sqrt{2}} g^{\mu_1 \mu_2} (p_1 - p_2)^{\mu_3} + \text{cyclic}$$

4-gluon:



$$= ig_s^2 \sum_{Z(2,3,4)} f^{a_1 a_2 b} f^{b a_4 a_3} (g^{\mu_1 \mu_4} g^{\mu_2 \mu_3} - g^{\mu_1 \mu_3} g^{\mu_2 \mu_4})$$

Need to understand p^μ in chirality flow

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Momentum: The Last Piece of the Flow Puzzle

■ Gordon identity: $p^\mu = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \langle p | \alpha \bar{\tau}^\mu_{\alpha\beta} | p \rangle^\beta = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} [p |_{\dot{\alpha}} \tau^{\mu\dot{\alpha}\beta} | p \rangle_\beta$

p^μ is a pseudo vertex \Rightarrow can be written as a flow

What does p^μ get contracted with?

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■ Gordon identity: $p^\mu = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \langle p | \alpha \bar{\tau}^\mu_{\alpha\beta} | p \rangle^\beta = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} [p | \dot{\alpha} \tau^{\mu\dot{\alpha}\beta} | p \rangle_\beta$

p^μ is a pseudo vertex \Rightarrow can be written as a flow

What does p^μ get contracted with?

■ $\tau_\mu \rightarrow \not{p}/\sqrt{2} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \dashrightarrow \bullet \xrightarrow{p}$, $\bar{\tau}_\mu \rightarrow \bar{\not{p}}/\sqrt{2} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \xrightarrow{p} \bullet \dashrightarrow$

■ $k_\mu \rightarrow p \cdot k = \frac{\text{Tr}(\not{p}\not{k})}{2} = \frac{1}{2} p \bullet \overset{\curvearrowright}{\dashrightarrow} k$
 $\text{Tr}(\tau^\mu \bar{\tau}^\nu) = g^{\mu\nu}$

Chirality-flow rule for p^μ

$p^\mu \rightarrow \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \dashrightarrow \bullet \xrightarrow{p}$, or $p^\mu \rightarrow \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \xrightarrow{p} \bullet \dashrightarrow$



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The Non-abelian Massless QCD Flow Vertices

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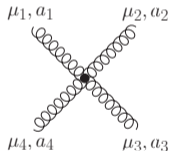
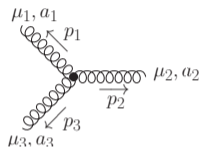
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Feynman



Flow

$$-\frac{g_s f^{abc}}{2} \left(\begin{array}{c} 1 \\ \text{---} \\ \text{---} \\ 2 \\ \text{---} \\ \bullet \\ \text{---} \\ 1-2 \end{array} + \begin{array}{c} \text{---} \\ \text{---} \\ 2-3 \\ \bullet \\ \text{---} \\ 2 \\ \text{---} \\ 3 \end{array} + \begin{array}{c} 1 \\ \text{---} \\ \text{---} \\ 3 \\ \text{---} \\ \bullet \\ \text{---} \\ 3-1 \end{array} \right)$$

$$ig_s^2 \sum_{Z(2,3,4)} f_{a_1 a_2 b} f_{b a_4 a_3} \left[\begin{array}{c} 1 \\ \text{---} \\ \text{---} \\ 4 \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{c} 2 \\ \text{---} \\ \text{---} \\ 3 \end{array} - \begin{array}{c} 1 \\ \text{---} \\ \text{---} \\ 4 \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{c} 2 \\ \text{---} \\ \text{---} \\ 3 \end{array} \right]$$

Arrow directions only consistently set within full diagram

Double line $\equiv g_{\mu\nu}$, momentum dot $\equiv p_\mu$

QCD Example: $q_1 \bar{q}_1 \rightarrow q_2 \bar{q}_2 g$

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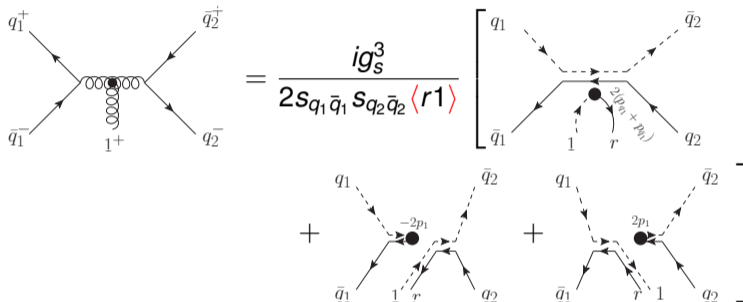
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$$\left[\dots \right] \equiv \left\{ 2[q_1 \bar{q}_2] \langle q_2 \bar{q}_1 \rangle ([1 q_1] \langle q_1 r \rangle + [1 \bar{q}_1] \langle 1 r \rangle) - 2[q_1 1] \langle 1 \bar{q}_1 \rangle \langle q_2 r \rangle [1 \bar{q}_2] + 2[q_1 1] \langle r \bar{q}_1 \rangle \langle q_2 1 \rangle [1 q_2] \right\}$$



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Massive Spinor Helicity Basics

Decompose massive momentum p as sum of massless ones

$$p^\mu = p^{b,\mu} + \alpha q^\mu, \quad (p^b)^2 = q^2 = 0, \quad \alpha = \frac{p^2}{2p \cdot q} \neq 0$$

$$\text{Spin measured along } s^\mu = \frac{1}{m}(p^{b,\mu} - \alpha q^\mu) = \frac{1}{m}(p^\mu - 2\alpha q^\mu)$$

- Massive spinors and polarisation vectors written in terms of massless Weyl spinors of momentum p^b, q
- We recycle results from massless chirality flow
 - E.g. slashed momentum written

$$\not{p} \equiv \sqrt{2} p^\mu \tau_\mu = |p^b\rangle\langle p^b| + \alpha |q\rangle\langle q|$$

$$\bar{\not{p}} \equiv \sqrt{2} p^\mu \bar{\tau}_\mu = |p^b\rangle[p^b| + \alpha |q\rangle[q|$$

- q is arbitrary but physical, as defines spin direction
 - Spin-summed amplitude independent of q choice

See e.g. hep-ph:0510157 for more details

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The Helicity Basis in Massive Spinor Helicity

Decompose massive momentum p as sum of massless ones

$$p^\mu = p^{b,\mu} + \alpha q^\mu, \quad (p^b)^2 = q^2 = 0, \quad \alpha = \frac{p^2}{2p \cdot q} \neq 0$$

$$\text{Spin measured along } s^\mu = \frac{1}{m}(p^{b,\mu} - \alpha q^\mu) = \frac{1}{m}(p^\mu - 2\alpha q^\mu)$$

- Consider eigenvectors/values of \not{p} , $\not{\bar{p}}$

$$\not{p}|p_{f/b}] = \lambda_{f/b}|p_{f/b}]$$

$$\lambda_{f/b} = p^0 \pm |\vec{p}|$$

$$\not{\bar{p}}|p_{f/b}\rangle = \lambda_{f/b}|p_{f/b}\rangle$$

$$p_{f/b}^\mu = \frac{\lambda_{f/b}}{2}(1, \pm \hat{p})$$



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See e.g. hep-ph:9805445, hep-ph:2011.10075 for more details

The Helicity Basis in Massive Spinor Helicity

Decompose massive momentum p as sum of massless ones

$$p^\mu = p^{b,\mu} + \alpha q^\mu, \quad (p^b)^2 = q^2 = 0, \quad \alpha = \frac{p^2}{2p \cdot q} \neq 0$$

$$\text{Spin measured along } s^\mu = \frac{1}{m}(p^{b,\mu} - \alpha q^\mu) = \frac{1}{m}(p^\mu - 2\alpha q^\mu)$$

- Consider eigenvectors/values of $\not{p}, \bar{\not{p}}$

$$\not{p}|p_{f/b}] = \lambda_{f/b}|p_{f/b}]$$

$$\bar{\not{p}}|p_{f/b}\rangle = \lambda_{f/b}|p_{f/b}\rangle$$

$$\lambda_{f/b} = p^0 \pm |\vec{p}|$$

$$p_{f/b}^\mu = \frac{\lambda_{f/b}}{2}(1, \pm \hat{p})$$

Conclusion: in helicity basis!

$$p^\mu = p_f^\mu + p_b^\mu, \quad p_f^2 = p_b^2 = 0, \quad p^b \rightarrow p_f, \quad \alpha \rightarrow 1, \quad q \rightarrow p_b$$

$$\text{Spin measured along } s^\mu = \frac{1}{m}(p_f^\mu - p_b^\mu) = \frac{1}{m}(|\vec{p}|, p^0 \hat{p}) \equiv \text{direction of motion!}$$

See e.g. hep-ph:9805445, hep-ph:2011.10075 for more details



Incoming Massive Spinors in Chirality Flow

$$p^\mu = p^b, \mu + \alpha q^\mu, \quad (p^b)^2 = q^2 = 0, \quad e^{i\varphi} \sqrt{\alpha} = \frac{m}{\langle p^b q \rangle}, \quad e^{-i\varphi} \sqrt{\alpha} = \frac{m}{[qp^b]}$$

$$\text{Spin operator } -\frac{\Sigma^\mu s_\mu}{2} = \frac{\gamma^5 s^\mu \gamma_\mu}{2}, \quad s^\mu = \frac{1}{m}(p^b, \mu - \alpha q^\mu)$$

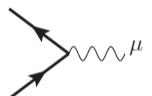
Spinor	Feynman	Flow
$\bar{v}^-(p)$		$\left(\text{grey circle} \xleftarrow{\text{dashed } p^b}, \sqrt{\alpha} e^{i\varphi} \text{grey circle} \xleftarrow{\text{solid } q} \right)$
$\bar{v}^+(p)$		$\left(-\sqrt{\alpha} e^{-i\varphi} \text{grey circle} \xleftarrow{\text{dashed } q}, \text{grey circle} \xleftarrow{\text{solid } p^b} \right)$
$u^-(p)$		$\left(\text{grey circle} \xrightarrow{\text{dashed } p^b}, \sqrt{\alpha} e^{i\varphi} \text{grey circle} \xrightarrow{\text{solid } q} \right)$
$u^+(p)$		$\left(-\sqrt{\alpha} e^{-i\varphi} \text{grey circle} \xrightarrow{\text{dashed } q}, \text{grey circle} \xrightarrow{\text{solid } p^b} \right)$

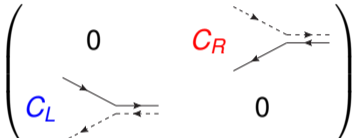


Fermion Vertices

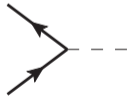
$$p^\mu = p^{b,\mu} + \alpha q^\mu, \quad (p^b)^2 = q^2 = 0, \quad \alpha = \frac{p^2}{2p \cdot q} \neq 0$$

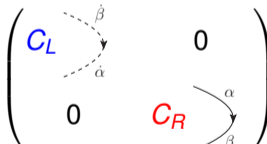
Fermion-vector vertex



$$= ie(P_L C_L + P_R C_R) \gamma^\mu = ie\sqrt{2} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & C_R \\ C_L & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$


Fermion-scalar vertex



$$= ie(P_L C_L + P_R C_R) = ie \begin{pmatrix} C_L & 0 \\ 0 & C_R \end{pmatrix}$$


Left and right chiral couplings may differ

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Fermion Lines with Multiple Emissions

$$p^\mu = p^{b,\mu} + \alpha q^\mu, \quad (p^b)^2 = q^2 = 0, \quad \alpha = \frac{p^2}{2p \cdot q} \neq 0$$

Fermion propagator

$$\frac{i}{p^2 - m_f^2} \begin{pmatrix} m_f \delta^{\dot{\alpha}\dot{\beta}} & \sqrt{2} p^{\dot{\alpha}\dot{\beta}} \\ \sqrt{2} \bar{p}_{\dot{\alpha}\dot{\beta}} & m_f \delta_{\dot{\alpha}\dot{\beta}} \end{pmatrix} = \frac{i}{p^2 - m_f^2} \left(\begin{array}{c} m_f \overset{\dot{\alpha}}{\dashrightarrow} \dots \overset{\dot{\beta}}{\dashrightarrow} \\ \overset{\Sigma_i p_i}{\dashrightarrow} \bullet \dashrightarrow \end{array} \quad m_f \overset{\alpha}{\dashrightarrow} \dots \overset{\beta}{\dashrightarrow} \right)$$

- Propagators and vertices don't always contribute factor $\tau/\bar{\tau}$
- Have to update arrow swap procedure to include even number of $\tau/\bar{\tau}$

$$\langle j | \bar{\tau}^{\mu_1} \tau^{\mu_2} \dots \bar{\tau}^{\mu_{2n+1}} | j \rangle = | j \rangle \tau^{\mu_{2n+1}} \bar{\tau}^{\mu_{2n}} \dots \tau^{\mu_1} | i \rangle$$

$$\langle i | \bar{\tau}^{\mu_1} \tau^{\mu_2} \dots \tau^{\mu_{2n}} | j \rangle = - \langle j | \bar{\tau}^{\mu_{2n}} \bar{\tau}^{\mu_{2n-1}} \dots \tau^{\mu_1} | i \rangle$$

$$| j \rangle \tau^{\mu_1} \bar{\tau}^{\mu_2} \dots \bar{\tau}^{\mu_{2n}} | j \rangle = - | j \rangle \tau^{\mu_{2n}} \bar{\tau}^{\mu_{2n-1}} \dots \bar{\tau}^{\mu_1} | j \rangle$$

Arrow flips may induce minus signs! Care must be taken

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Massive Polarisation Vectors

$$p^\mu = p^{b,\mu} + \alpha q^\mu, \quad (p^b)^2 = q^2 = 0, \quad \alpha = \frac{p^2}{2p \cdot q} \neq 0$$

External gauge bosons

$$\epsilon_+^\mu(p) = \frac{[p^b | \dot{\alpha} \tau^{\mu, \dot{\alpha} \beta} | q \rangle_\beta}{\langle q p^b \rangle}, \quad \epsilon_-^\mu(p) = \frac{\langle p^b | \alpha \bar{\tau}^{\mu, \alpha \dot{\beta}} | q \rangle^{\dot{\beta}}}{[p^b q]}$$

$$\epsilon_0^\mu(p) = s^\mu = \frac{1}{m}(p^{b,\mu} - \alpha q^\mu)$$

Translate to chirality flow

$$\begin{aligned} \epsilon_+^\mu(p) &\rightarrow \frac{1}{\langle ri \rangle} \text{ (diagram: vertex with } p^b \text{ and } q \text{ lines)} , & \text{OR} & \epsilon_+^\mu(p) \rightarrow \frac{1}{\langle ri \rangle} \text{ (diagram: vertex with } p^b \text{ and } q \text{ lines)} \\ \epsilon_-^\mu(p) &\rightarrow \frac{1}{[p^b q]} \text{ (diagram: vertex with } q \text{ and } p^b \text{ lines)} , & \text{OR} & \epsilon_-^\mu(p) \rightarrow \frac{1}{[p^b q]} \text{ (diagram: vertex with } q \text{ and } p^b \text{ lines)} \\ \epsilon_0^\mu(p) &\rightarrow \frac{1}{m\sqrt{2}} \text{ (diagram: vertex with } p^b - \alpha q \text{ line)} , & \text{OR} & \epsilon_0^\mu(p) \rightarrow \frac{1}{m\sqrt{2}} \text{ (diagram: vertex with } p^b - \alpha q \text{ line)} \end{aligned}$$



A Massive *Illuminating* Example

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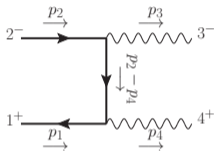
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Consider the same diagram of $f_1^+ \bar{f}_2^- \rightarrow \gamma_3^+ \gamma_4^-$ as before but include mass m_f

- Obtain 3 new terms
- Simplify with choices of q_1, q_2, r_3, r_4
- $e^{i\varphi_i} \sqrt{\alpha_i} = \frac{m_i}{\langle p_i^b q_i \rangle}$, $e^{-i\varphi_i} \sqrt{\alpha_i} = \frac{m_i}{[q_i p_i^b]}$



$$= \frac{-2ie^2}{(s_{23} - m_f^2) \langle r_3 3 \rangle [4 r_4]} \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \begin{array}{c} p_2^b \text{---} \text{---} r_3 \\ \uparrow \text{---} \text{---} 3 \\ \bullet \text{---} \text{---} p_4 - p_1^b - q_1 \\ \downarrow \text{---} \text{---} 4 \\ p_1^b \text{---} \text{---} r_4 \end{array} - \sqrt{\alpha_1 \alpha_2} e^{i(\varphi_2 - \varphi_1)} \begin{array}{c} q_2 \text{---} \text{---} 3 \\ \uparrow \text{---} \text{---} r_3 \\ \bullet \text{---} \text{---} p_4 - p_1^b - q_1 \\ \downarrow \text{---} \text{---} r_4 \\ q_1 \text{---} \text{---} 4 \end{array} \end{array} \right.$$

$$+ m_f \left(\begin{array}{c} \begin{array}{c} q_2 \text{---} \text{---} 3 \\ \uparrow \text{---} \text{---} r_3 \\ \bullet \text{---} \text{---} p_4 - p_1^b - q_1 \\ \downarrow \text{---} \text{---} 4 \\ p_1^b \text{---} \text{---} r_4 \end{array} \sqrt{\alpha_2} e^{i\varphi_2} - \sqrt{\alpha_1} e^{-i\varphi_2} \begin{array}{c} p_2^b \text{---} \text{---} r_3 \\ \uparrow \text{---} \text{---} 3 \\ \bullet \text{---} \text{---} p_4 - p_1^b - q_1 \\ \downarrow \text{---} \text{---} r_4 \\ q_1 \text{---} \text{---} 4 \end{array} \end{array} \right)$$



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A Second Massive Example: $f_1 \bar{f}_2 \rightarrow W \rightarrow f_3 \bar{f}_4 h_5$

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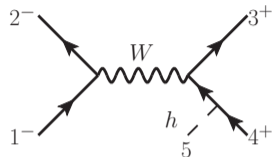
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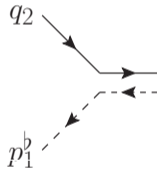
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- W bosons simplifies ($C_R = 0$)
- Simplify with choices of q_1, \dots, q_5
- $e^{i\varphi_i} \sqrt{\alpha_i} = \frac{m_i}{\langle p_i^b q_i \rangle}$, $e^{-i\varphi_i} \sqrt{\alpha_i} = \frac{m_i}{[q_i p_i^a]}$
- Scalar has no flow line



Step 1: Draw fermion lines: $\sim C_{L,12} \sqrt{\alpha_2} e^{i\varphi_2}$



$$\times C_{L,34} \sqrt{\alpha_3} (-e^{i\varphi_3}) \left[\sqrt{\alpha_4} (-e^{i\varphi_4}) \begin{array}{c} q_3 \\ \leftarrow \\ \text{---} 4 \text{---} 5 \\ \leftarrow \\ q_4 \end{array} + m_4 \begin{array}{c} q_3 \\ \leftarrow \\ \text{---} \\ \leftarrow \\ n_4^b \end{array} \right]$$



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A Second Massive Example: $f_1 \bar{f}_2 \rightarrow W \rightarrow f_3 \bar{f}_4 h_5$

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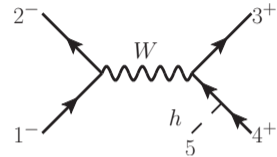
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- W bosons simplifies ($C_R = 0$)
- Simplify with choices of q_1, \dots, q_5
- $e^{i\varphi_i} \sqrt{\alpha_i} = \frac{m_i}{\langle p_i^b q_i \rangle}$, $e^{-i\varphi_i} \sqrt{\alpha_i} = \frac{m_i}{[q_i p_i^b]}$
- Scalar has no flow line



Step 2: Flip arrows and connect: $C_{L,12} C_{L,34} \sqrt{\alpha_2 \alpha_3} e^{i(\varphi_2 + \varphi_3)}$

$$\times \left[\begin{array}{c} \sqrt{\alpha_4} e^{i\varphi_4} \\ \begin{array}{c} q_2 \quad q_3 \\ \text{---} \quad \text{---} \\ \text{---} \quad \text{---} \\ n_1^b \quad q_4 \\ \text{---} \quad \text{---} \\ -4-5 - m_4 \\ \text{---} \quad \text{---} \\ n_1^b \quad n_4^b \end{array} \end{array} \right]$$



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- Chirality flow offers the shortest possible journey from Feynman diagram to complex number
 - Further simplifies the spinor helicity formalism
 - Calculations often performed in a single step, particularly for massless diagrams
- Useful at tree level for *any* model with only Dirac fermions and matrices (Pauli matrices), Minkowski metric, momenta, spin 0 and 1 bosons in Feynman rules
 - E.g. full standard model at tree level understood
- Loops next on the agenda
- Useful for generators based on Feynman diagrams
- Useful for quick pen and paper calculations and checks