



Improved Antenna Subtraction at NNLO

Oscar Braun-White (he/him/his), IPPP Durham

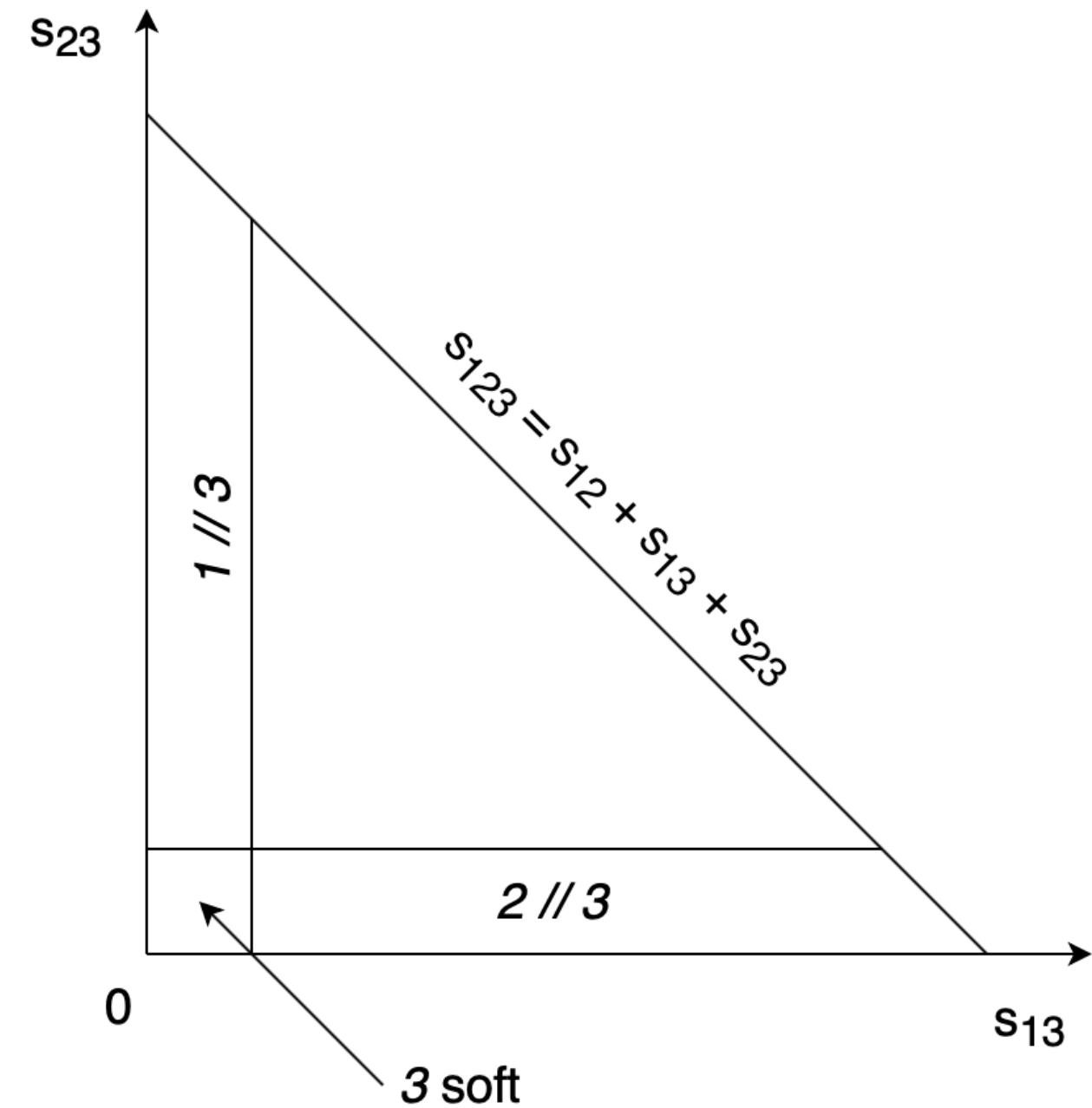
Based on work with Nigel Glover (IPPP Durham)
and Christian Preuss (ETH Zurich)
in arXiv:2302.12787 - accepted into JHEP, not yet published

RADCOR, Crieff, Scotland, 01/06/23

Introduction

Infrared Divergences

Subtraction/slicing at different orders in α_s



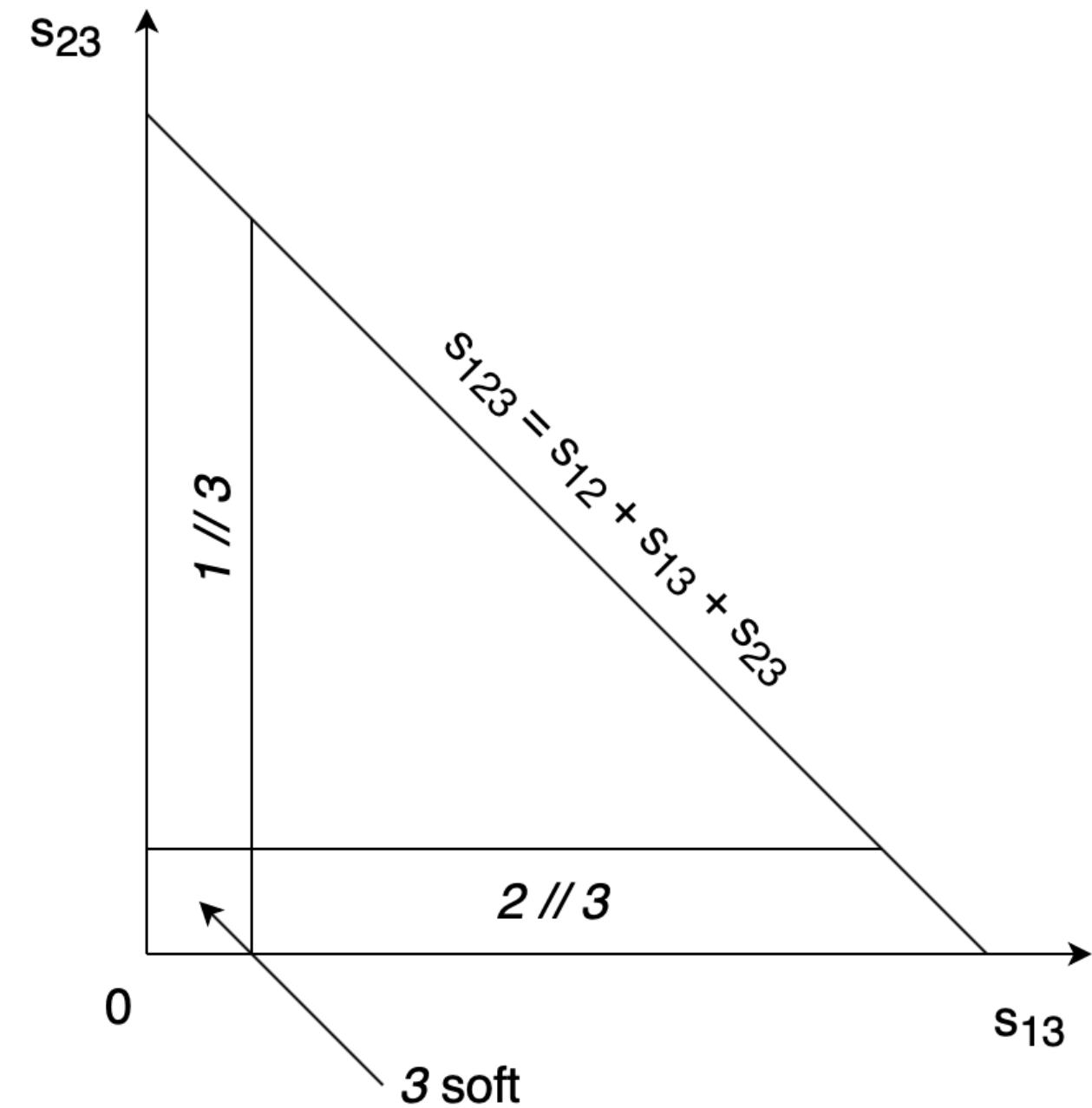
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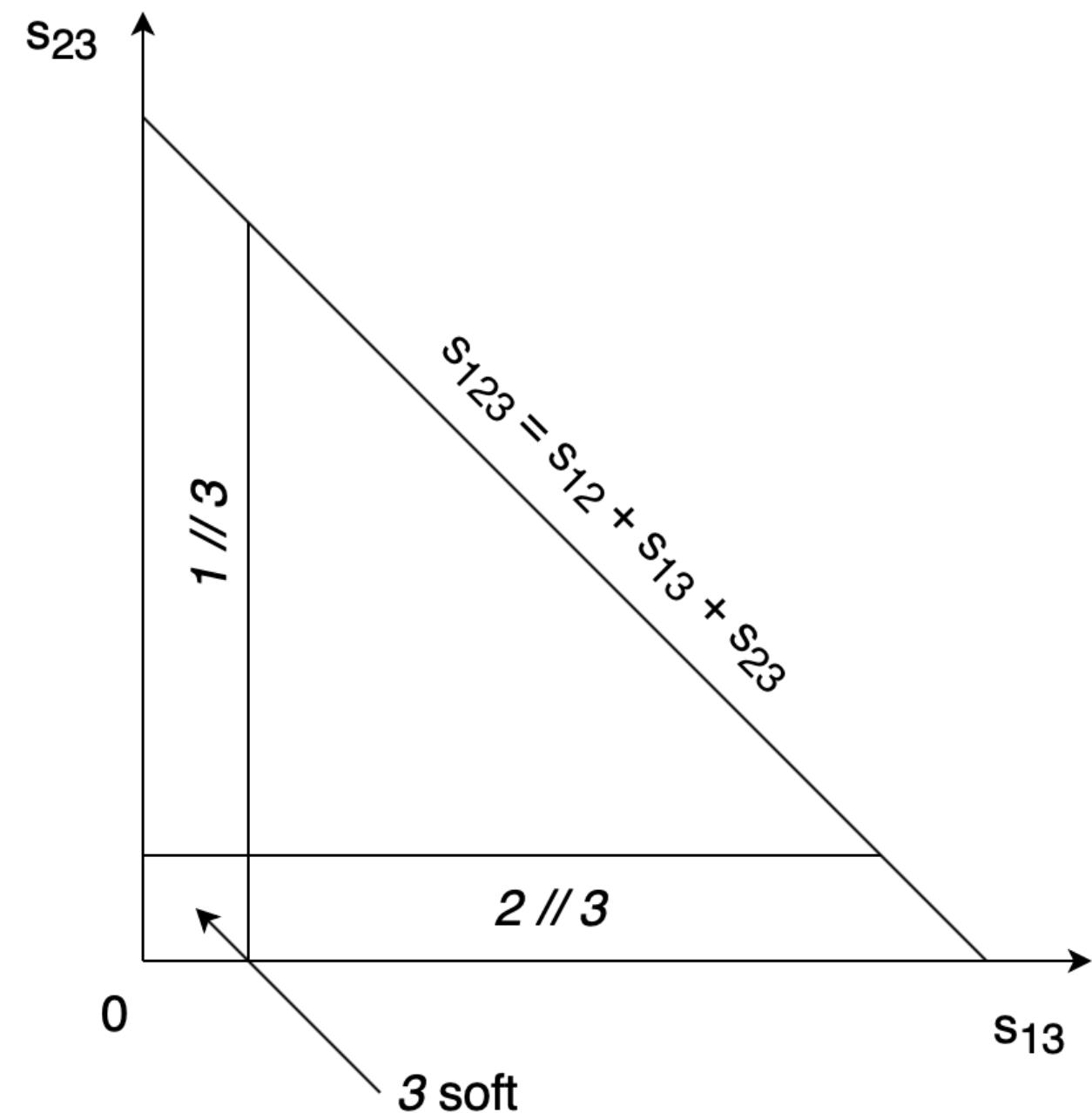
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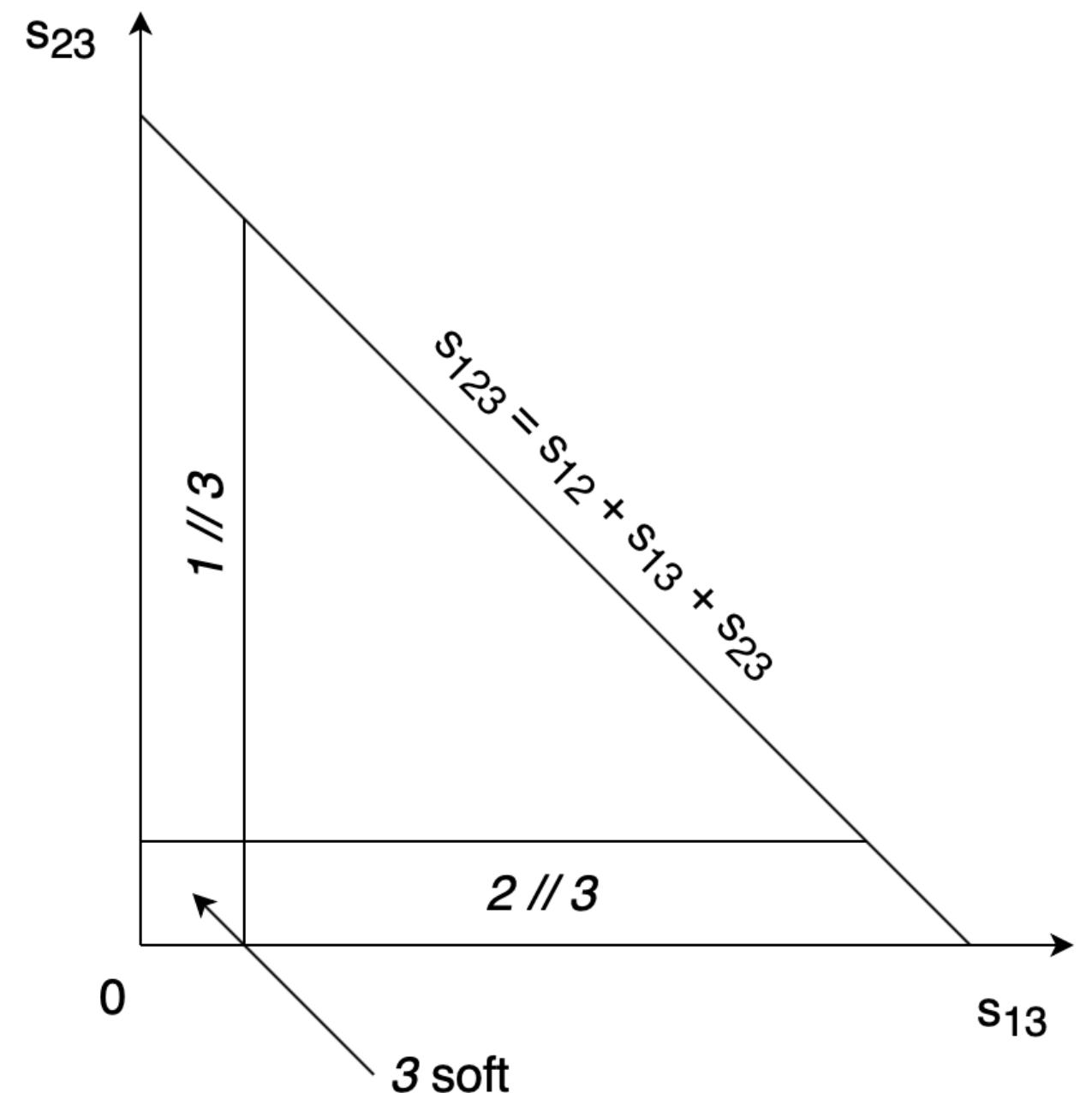
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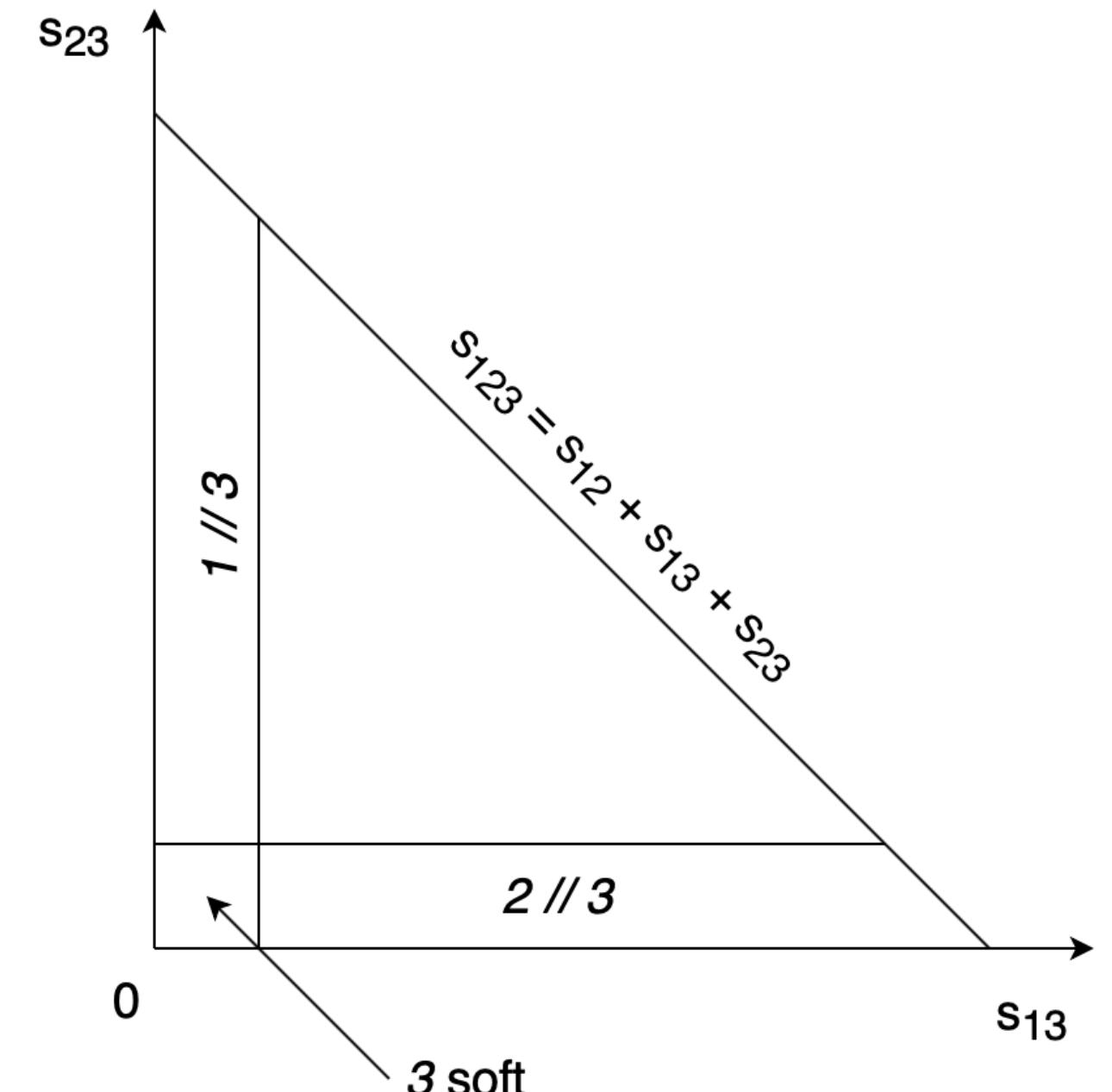
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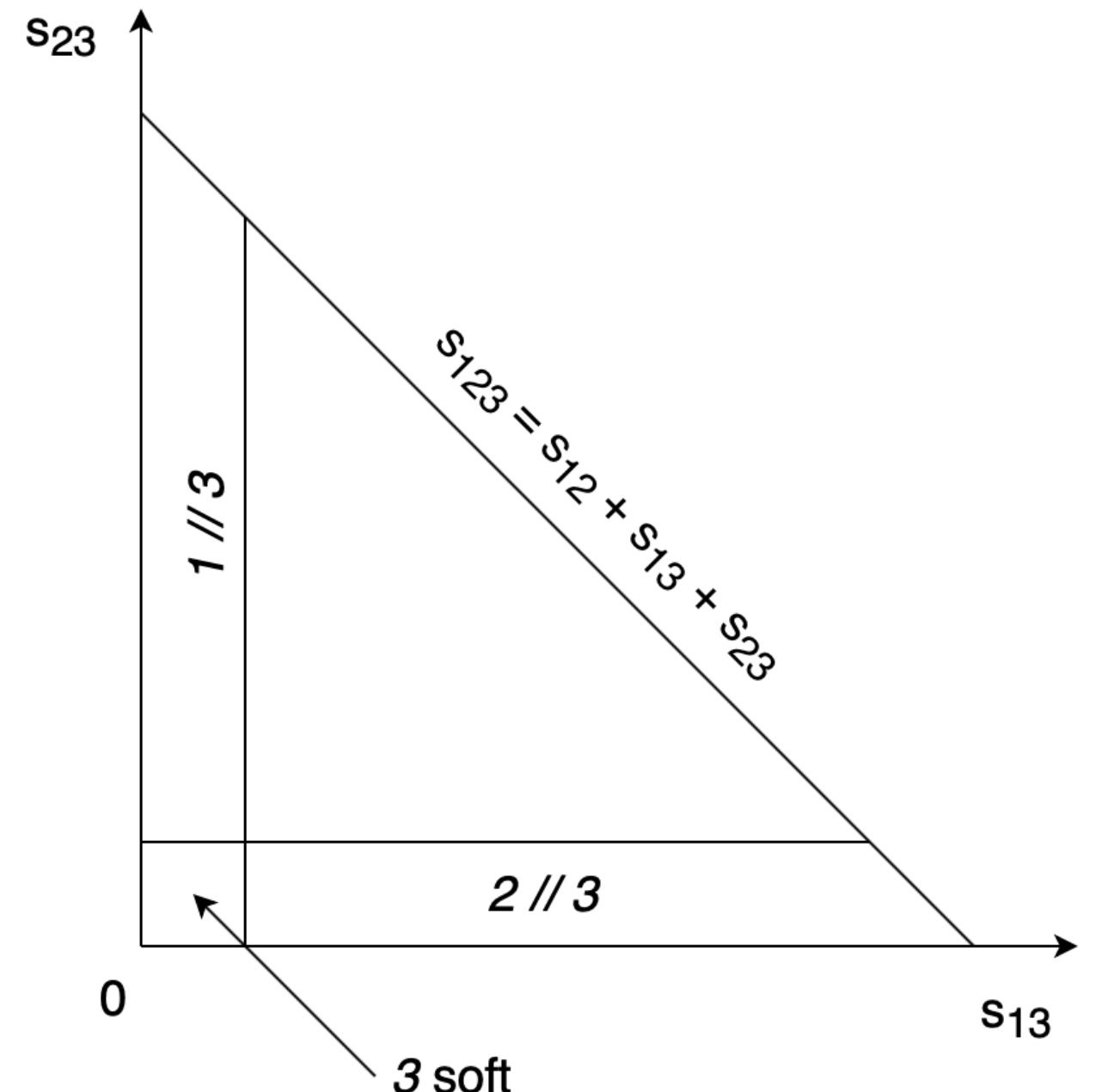
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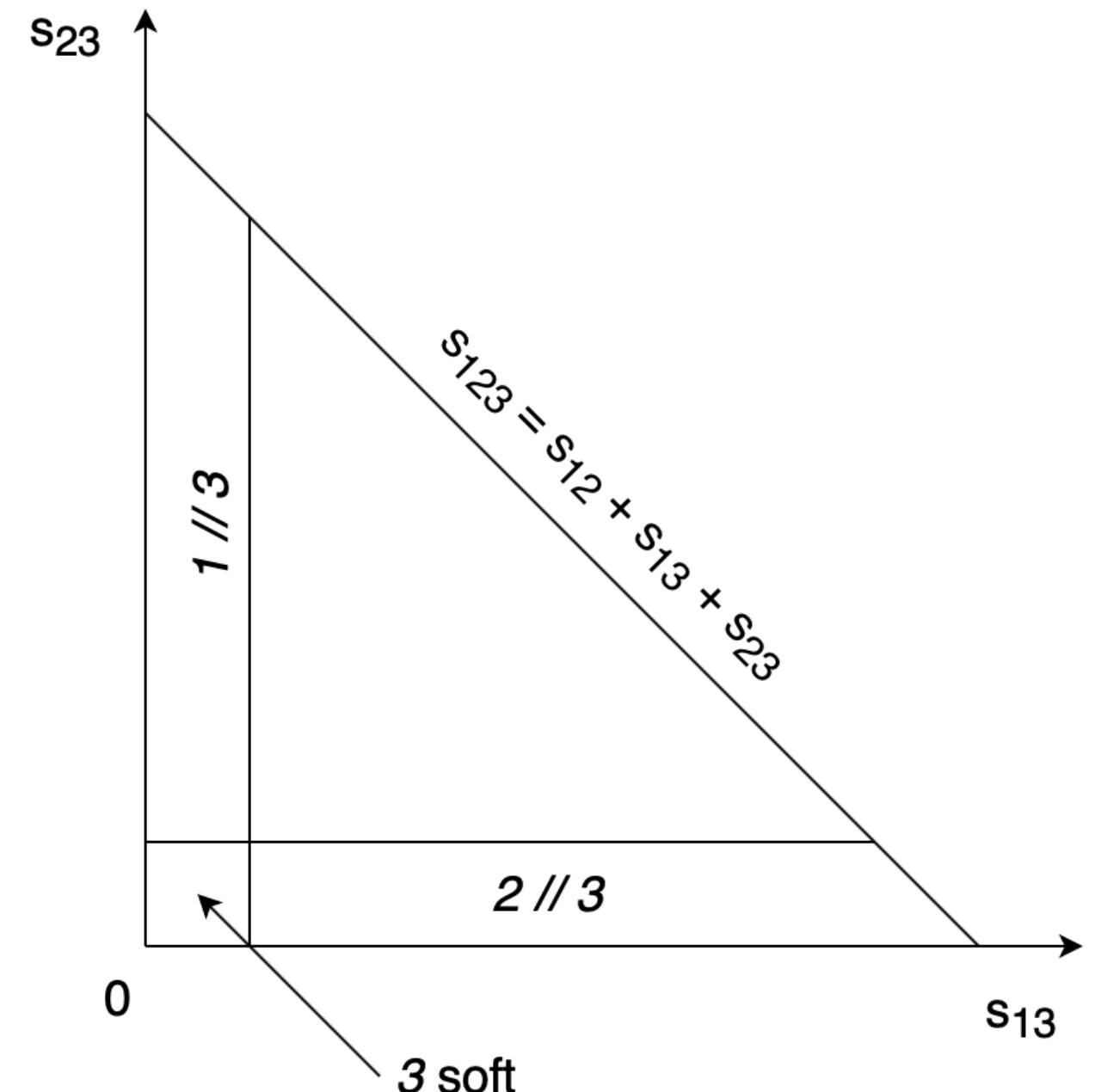
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- Subtraction or slicing scheme needed for higher order QCD calculations
- NNLOJET group uses antenna functions



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Subtraction at NLO

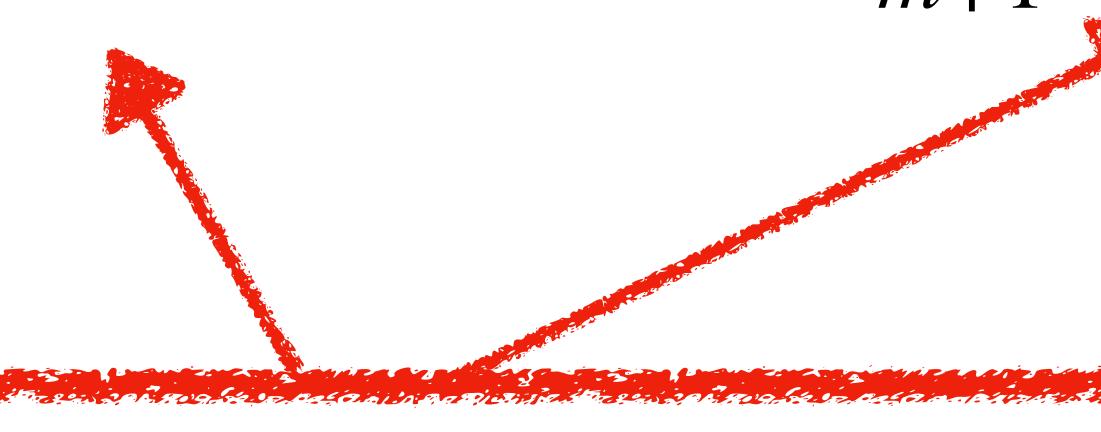
m-jet cross section

$$d\hat{\sigma}^{NLO} = \left[\int_{d\Phi_m} d\hat{\sigma}_V^{NLO} + \int_{d\Phi_{m+1}} d\hat{\sigma}_S^{NLO} \right] + \int_{d\Phi_{m+1}} (d\hat{\sigma}_R^{NLO} - d\hat{\sigma}_S^{NLO})$$

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→ ϵ poles to compare integrands under $d\Phi_m$ integral.

ϵ poles cancel and no soft/coll limits in V .

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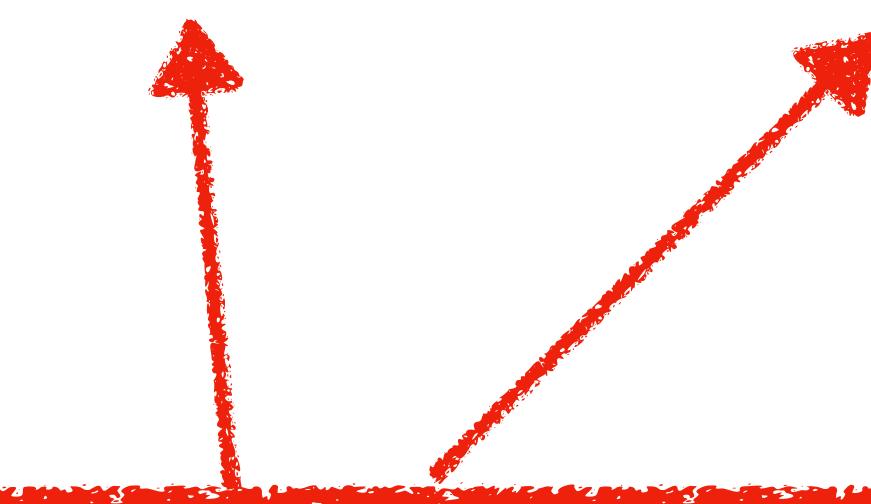
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Combination is IR finite and numerically integrable.

No explicit ϵ poles in R or S

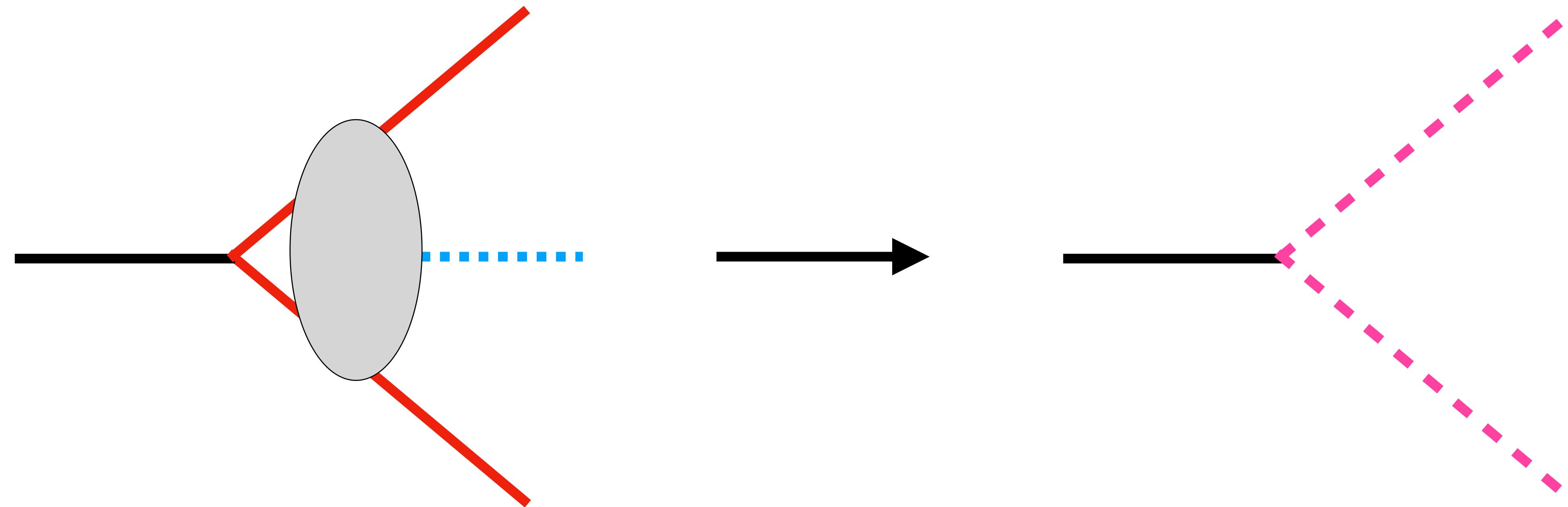
Antenna Subtraction

Started by Glover, Gehrmann and Gehrmann-De Ridder ~ 2005
NNLOJET

Subtraction Term at NLO - X_3^0

Two hard radiators, one unresolved particle

- Maps momentum of $3 \rightarrow 2$, where is soft or collinear with either of _____
- Contains limits associated with one particle unresolved



Subtraction Term at NLO - X_3^0

Sum over one particle unresolved at a time

$$d\hat{\sigma}_S^{NLO} \approx \sum_{m+1} d\Phi_{m+1} \sum_j X_3^0(i^h, j, k^h) |\mathcal{M}_m|^2 J_m^{(m)}$$

Different X_3^0 expressions depending on particle types of $\{i, j, k\}$

Subtracts against colour-ordered sub-amplitudes

$$d\Phi_{m+1} = d\Phi_m \cdot d\Phi_{X_{ijk}}$$

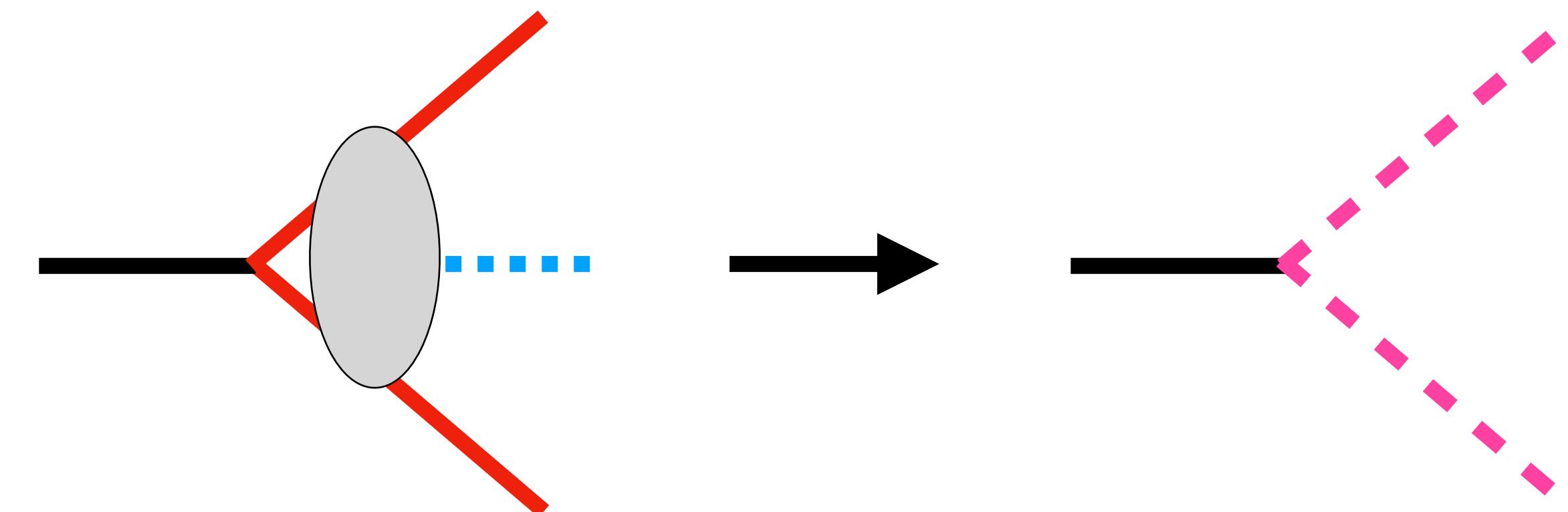
$\mathcal{X}_3^0 \approx \int_{X_{ijk}} d\Phi_{X_{ijk}} X_3^0$

Poles up to ϵ^{-2}

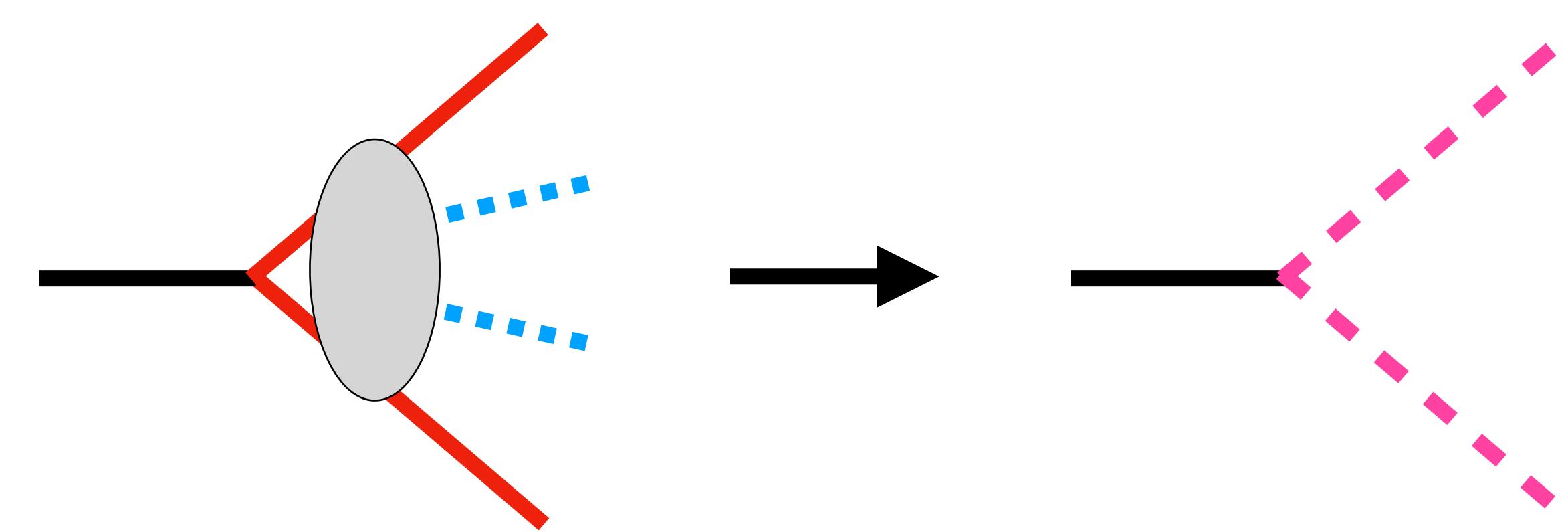


Antennae at NNLO

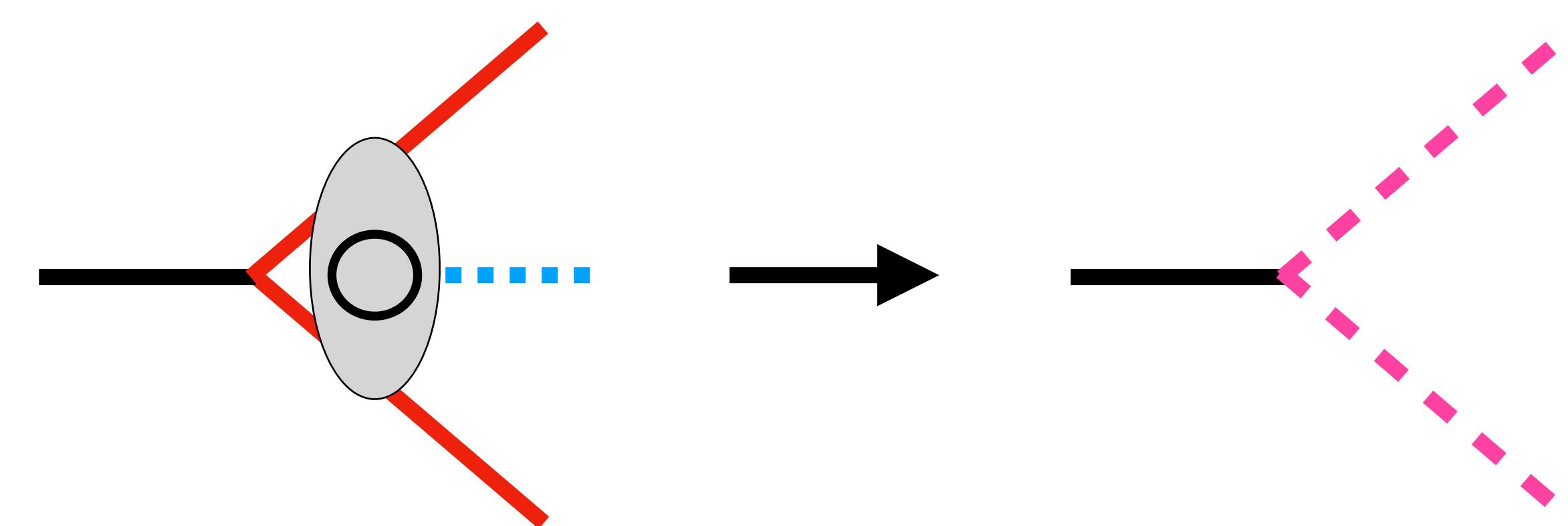
X_3^0 - Single unresolved limits of
No ϵ poles.



X_4^0 - Double and single unresolved
limits of
No ϵ poles.



X_3^1 - Single unresolved limits of
Poles up to ϵ^{-2} from loop O.



Subtraction at NNLO

m-jet cross section

$$\begin{aligned} d\hat{\sigma}^{NNLO} = & \int_{d\Phi_m} VV + \int_{d\Phi_{m+1}} S_{RV} \\ & + \int_{d\Phi_{m+1}} (RV - S_{RV}) \\ & + \int_{d\Phi_{m+2}} (RR - S_{RR}) + \int_{d\Phi_{m+2}} S_{RR} \end{aligned}$$

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Use X_4^0, X_3^1, X_3^0 factorised onto matrix elements to build S_{RR} and S_{RV} .

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See Matteo's talk for a more detailed discussion...

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Improved Antennae

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- Antenna functions obey physical symmetry relations (such as line reversal).

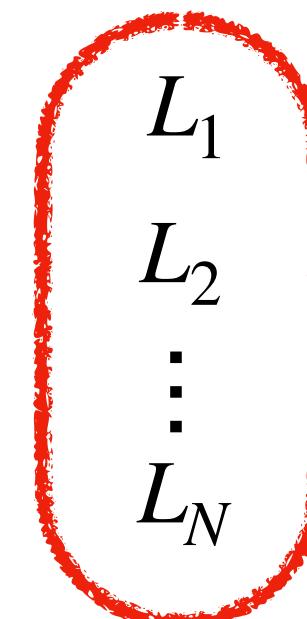
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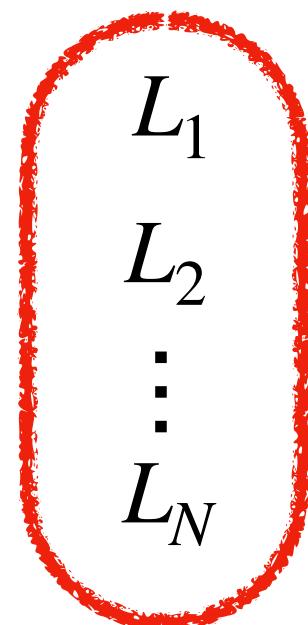
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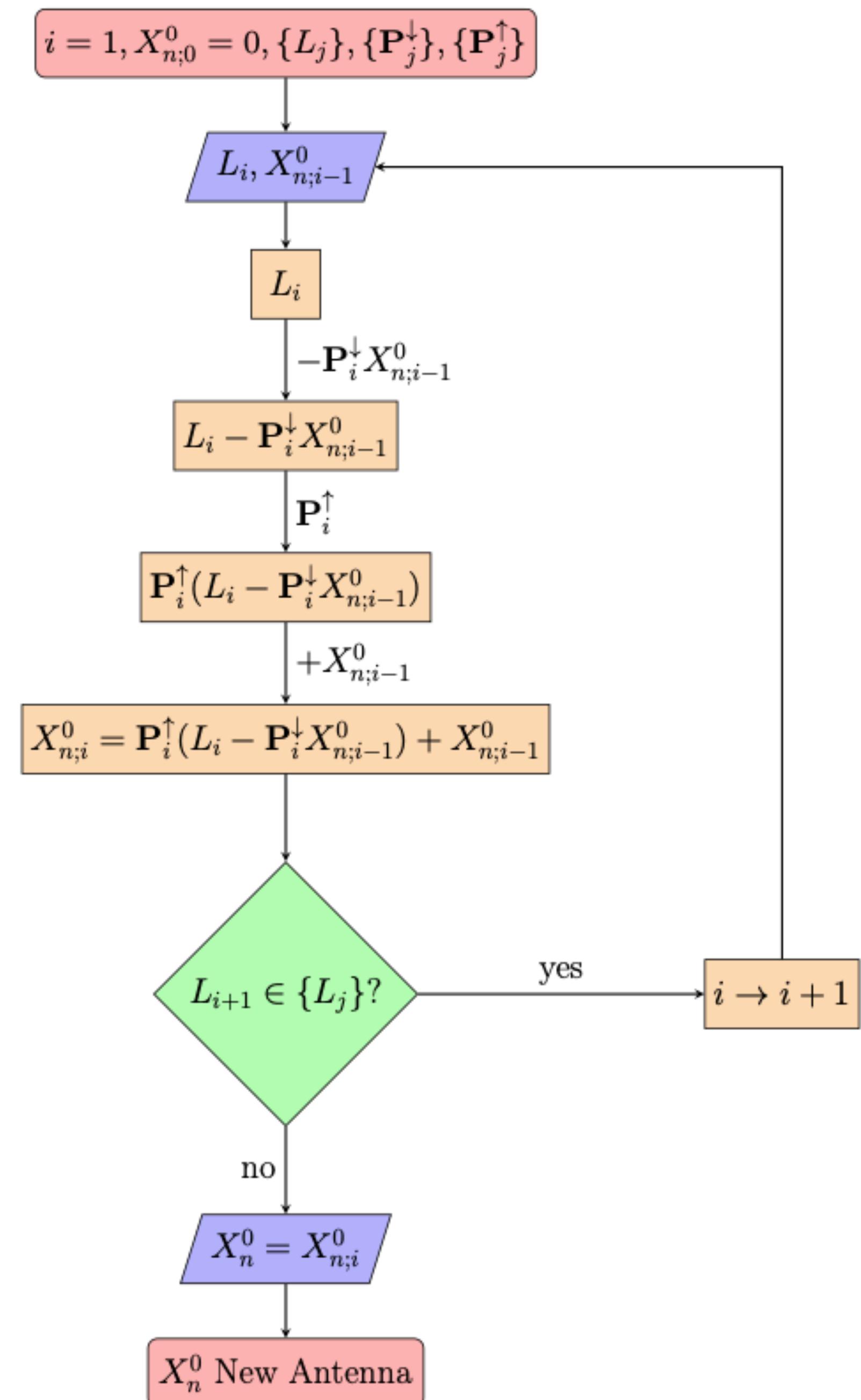
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$$\begin{aligned} X_{m,1}^0 &= P_1^\uparrow L_1 \\ X_{m,2}^0 &= X_{m,1}^0 + P_2^\uparrow (L_2 - P_2^\downarrow X_{m,1}^0) \\ &\vdots \\ X_{m,N}^0 &= X_{m,N-1}^0 + P_N^\uparrow (L_N - P_N^\downarrow X_{m,N-1}^0) \end{aligned}$$

Flowchart



Synthetic Antennae - $X_3^0(i^h, j, k^h)$

$$X_3^0(i^h, j, k^h) = \text{Ssoft}(i^h, j, k^h) + \text{Scol}(i^h, j; k^h) + \text{Scol}(k^h, j; i^h)$$

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$$A_3^0(i_q^h, j_g, k_{\bar{q}}^h) = \frac{2s_{ik}}{s_{ij}s_{jk}} + \frac{(1-\epsilon)s_{jk}}{s_{ijk}s_{ij}} + \frac{(1-\epsilon)s_{ij}}{s_{ijk}s_{jk}}$$

This differs from the old antenna derived directly from $|\mathcal{M}|^2$ for $\gamma^* \rightarrow qg\bar{q}$ at $\mathcal{O}(\epsilon)$

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Integrating over antenna phase space:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{A}_3^0(s_{ijk}) &= \left(s_{ijk} \right)^{-\epsilon} \left[\frac{1}{\epsilon^2} + \frac{3}{2\epsilon} + \frac{19}{4} - \frac{7\pi^2}{12} + \left(\frac{113}{8} - \frac{7\pi^2}{8} - \frac{25\zeta_3}{3} \right) \epsilon \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \left(\frac{675}{16} - \frac{133\pi^2}{48} - \frac{71\pi^4}{1440} - \frac{25\zeta_3}{2} \right) \epsilon^2 + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon^3) \right] \end{aligned}$$

Example - $F_3^0(i_g^h, j_g, k_g^h)$

$$F_3^0(i_g^h, j_g, k_g^h) = \frac{2s_{ik}}{s_{ij}s_{jk}} + \frac{s_{ik}s_{jk}}{s_{ijk}^2 s_{ij}} + \frac{s_{ij}s_{ik}}{s_{ijk}^2 s_{jk}}$$

This differs from the old antenna derived directly from $|\mathcal{M}|^2$ for Higgs boson decay, for which any of the three gluons can be soft. Here only j can be soft.

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Integrating over antenna phase space:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{F}_3^0(s_{ijk}) &= (s_{ijk})^{-\epsilon} \left[\frac{1}{\epsilon^2} + \frac{11}{6\epsilon} + \frac{65}{12} - \frac{7\pi^2}{12} + \left(\frac{129}{8} - \frac{77\pi^2}{72} - \frac{25\zeta_3}{3} \right) \epsilon \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \left(\frac{771}{16} - \frac{455\pi^2}{144} - \frac{71\pi^4}{1440} - \frac{275\zeta_3}{18} \right) \epsilon^2 + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon^3) \right] \end{aligned}$$

Example - $F_3^0(i_g^h, j_g, k_g^h)$

$$F_3^0(i_g^h, j_g, k_g^h) = \frac{2s_{ik}}{s_{ij}s_{jk}} + \frac{s_{ik}s_{jk}}{s_{ijk}^2 s_{ij}} + \frac{s_{ij}s_{ik}}{s_{ijk}^2 s_{jk}}$$

Here $L_2 = \text{Collinear}(i^h, j) = \frac{P_{gg}(i^h, j)}{s_{ij}} = \frac{1}{s_{ij}} \left(\frac{2(1 - x_j)}{x_j} + x_j(1 - x_j) \right)$

where $P_{gg}(i^h, j) + P_{gg}(j^h, i) \equiv P_{gg}(x_j)$

L_3 similar

Synthetic Antennae - $X_4^0(i^h, j, k, l^h)$

Same algorithm, more limits

$$\begin{aligned} X_4^0(i^h, j, k, l^h) = & Dsoft(i^h, j, k, l^h) \\ & + Tcol(i^h, j, k; l^h) + Tcol(l^h, k, j; i^h) \\ & + Dcol(i^h, j; k, l^h) \\ & + Ssoft(i^h, j, k; l^h) + Ssoft(j, k, l^h; i^h) \\ & + Scol(i^h, j; k, l^h) + Scol(j, k; i^l, l^h) + Scol(l^h, k; j, i^h) \end{aligned}$$

Slightly different structure for sub-leading colour antennae

Synthetic Antennae - $X_4^0(i^h, j, k, l^h)$

Same algorithm, more limits

For $T_{col}(i^h, j, k; l^h)$, need $P_{abc \rightarrow A}(i^h, j, k)$ for all $\{a, b, c\}$ QCD particle types.

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Most $P_{abc \rightarrow A}(i, j, k)$ have a hard particle by default, except
 $P_{g\bar{q}q \rightarrow g}(i, j, k)$ and $P_{ggg \rightarrow g}(i, j, k)$

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This work done in JHEP09(2022)059, arXiv: 2204.10755,
O. Braun-White and N. Glover,
Decomposition of triple collinear splitting functions

Example - $A_4^0(1^h_q, 2_g, 3_g, 4^h_{\bar{q}})$

Built using double unresolved limits, single unresolved limits and A_3^0

$$\mathbf{S}_{23}^\downarrow A_4^0(1^h, 2, 3, 4^h) = S_{gg}(1^h, 2, 3, 4^h)$$

$$\mathbf{TC}_{123}^\downarrow A_4^0(1^h, 2, 3, 4^h) = P_{qgg}(1^h, 2, 3)$$

$$\mathbf{TC}_{234}^\downarrow A_4^0(1^h, 2, 3, 4^h) = P_{qgg}(4^h, 3, 2)$$

$$\mathbf{DC}_{1234}^\downarrow A_4^0(1^h, 2, 3, 4^h) = P_{qg}(1^h, 2)P_{qg}(4^h, 3)$$

$$\mathbf{S}_2^\downarrow A_4^0(1^h, 2, 3, 4^h) = \frac{2s_{13}}{s_{12}s_{23}} A_3^0(1, 3, 4)$$

$$\mathbf{S}_3^\downarrow A_4^0(1^h, 2, 3, 4^h) = \frac{2s_{24}}{s_{23}s_{34}} A_3^0(1, 2, 4)$$

$$\mathbf{C}_{12}^\downarrow A_4^0(1^h, 2, 3, 4^h) = P_{qg}(1^h, 2)A_3^0([1+2], 3, 4)$$

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Expression too long to write here but integrated antenna matches $\mathcal{A}_4^{0,\text{OLD}}$

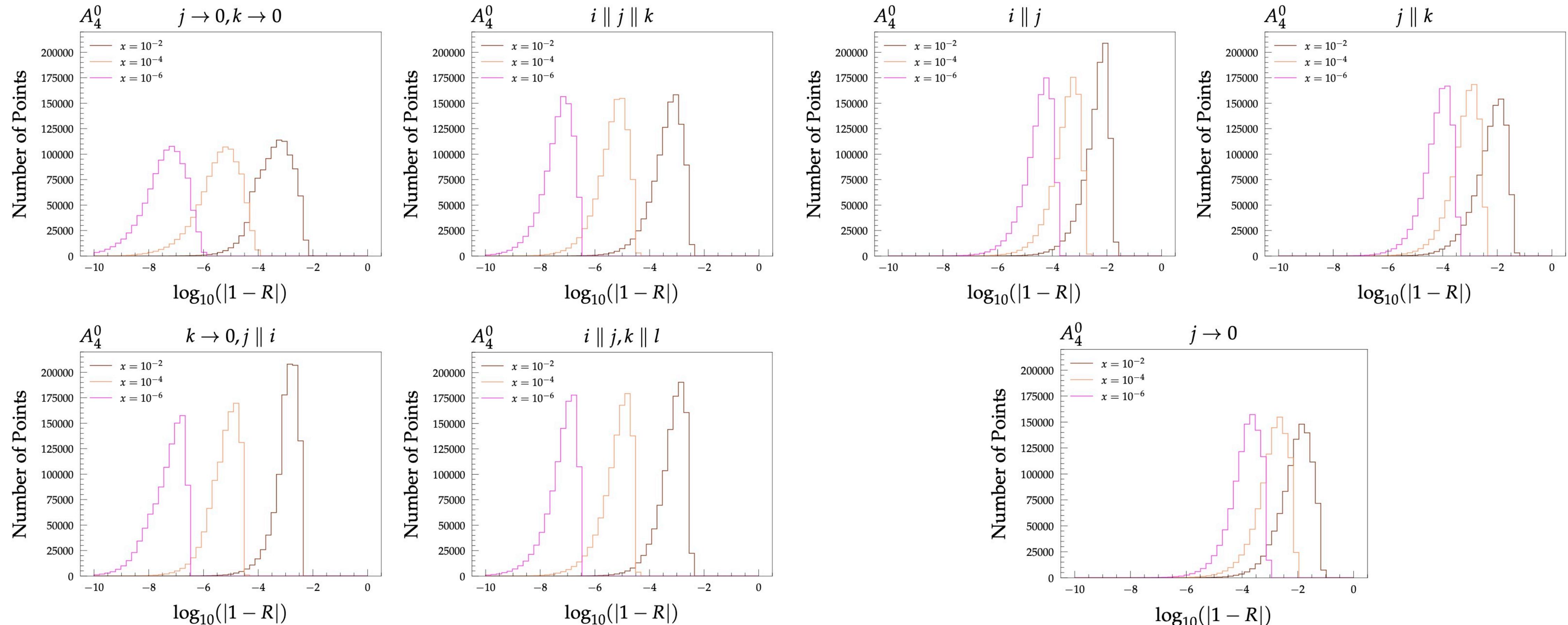
Example - $A_4^0(i_q^h, j_g, k_g, l_{\bar{q}}^h)$

Expression too long to write here but integrated antenna matches $\mathcal{A}_4^{0,\text{OLD}}$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{A}_4^0(s_{ijkl}) = & \left(s_{ijkl} \right)^{-\epsilon} \left[\frac{3}{4\epsilon^4} + \frac{65}{24\epsilon^3} + \frac{1}{\epsilon^2} \left(\frac{217}{18} - \frac{13\pi^2}{12} \right) \right. \\ & \left. + \frac{1}{\epsilon} \left(\frac{43223}{864} - \frac{589\pi^2}{144} - \frac{71\zeta_3}{4} \right) + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon^0) \right] \end{aligned}$$

Old A_3^0 used as input here. Using new A_3^0 would change $\mathcal{O}(\epsilon^{-1})$ terms but algorithm is focus here.

Example - $A_4^0(i_q^h, j_g, k_g, l_{\bar{q}}^h)$



Numerical tests of A_4^0 against $A_4^{0,\text{OLD}}$ in all relevant singular limits. For three different values of scaling parameter x , the relative disagreement of the ratio $R = A_4^0/A_4^{0,\text{OLD}}$ is shown on the logarithmic axis.

Examples - $F_4^0(i_g^h, j_g, k_g, l_g^h)$ and $\tilde{F}_4^0(i_g^h, j_g, k_g, l_g^h)$

Old F_4^0 antenna had any pair soft, split into permutations of the new F_4^0 and \tilde{F}_4^0

Examples - $F_4^0(i_g^h, j_g, k_g, l_g^h)$ and $\tilde{F}_4^0(i_g^h, j_g, k_g, l_g^h)$

Old F_4^0 antenna had any pair soft, split into permutations of the new F_4^0 and \tilde{F}_4^0

$$F_4^{0,OLD} \sim F_4^0(i^h, j, k, l^h) + \text{ 3 cyclic permutations} + \tilde{F}_4^0(i^h, j, l, k^h) + \tilde{F}_4^0(l^h, i, k, j^h)$$

Examples - $F_4^0(i_g^h, j_g, k_g, l_g^h)$ and $\tilde{F}_4^0(i_g^h, j_g, k_g, l_g^h)$

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Uses double unresolved limits, single unresolved limits and $F_3^0(i_g^h, j_g, k_g^h)$

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Uses double unresolved limits, single unresolved limits and $F_3^0(i_g^h, j_g, k_g^h)$

$$\mathcal{F}_4^0(s_{ijkl}) = (s_{ijkl})^{-\epsilon} \left[\frac{3}{4\epsilon^4} + \frac{77}{24\epsilon^3} + \frac{1}{\epsilon^2} \left(\frac{559}{36} - \frac{13\pi^2}{12} \right) + \frac{1}{\epsilon} \left(\frac{59249}{864} - \frac{671\pi^2}{144} - \frac{69\zeta_3}{4} \right) + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon^0) \right]$$

$$\tilde{\mathcal{F}}_4^0(s_{ijkl}) = (s_{ijkl})^{-\epsilon} \left[\frac{1}{\epsilon^4} + \frac{11}{3\epsilon^3} + \frac{1}{\epsilon^2} \left(\frac{313}{18} - \frac{3\pi^2}{2} \right) + \frac{1}{\epsilon} \left(\frac{34571}{432} - \frac{11\pi^2}{2} - \frac{86\zeta_3}{3} \right) + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon^0) \right]$$

Old f_3^0 sub-antenna used as input here. Using new F_3^0 would change $\mathcal{O}(\epsilon^{-2})$ terms but algorithm is focus here.

All X_4^0 complete for NNLO QCD

Quark-antiquark

$qgg\bar{q}$	$X_4^0(i_q^h, j_g, k_g, l_{\bar{q}}^h)$	$A_4^0(i^h, j, k, l^h)$
$q\gamma\gamma\bar{q}$	$\tilde{X}_4^0(i_q^h, j_\gamma, k_\gamma, l_{\bar{q}}^h)$	$\tilde{A}_4^0(i^h, j, k, l^h)$
$q\bar{Q}Q\bar{q}$	$X_4^0(i_q^h, j_{\bar{Q}}, k_Q, l_{\bar{q}}^h)$	$B_4^0(i^h, j, k, l^h)$
$q\bar{q}q\bar{q}$	$X_4^0(i_q^h, j_{\bar{q}}, k_q, l_{\bar{q}}^h)$	$C_4^0(i^h, j, k, l^h)$

Quark-gluon

$qggg$	$X_4^0(i_q^h, j_g, k_g, l_g^h)$	$D_4^0(i^h, j, k, l^h)$
	$\tilde{X}_4^0(i_q^h, j_g, k_g, l_g^h)$	$\tilde{D}_4^0(i^h, j, k, l^h)$
$q\bar{Q}Qg$	$X_4^0(i_q^h, j_{\bar{Q}}, k_Q, l_g^h)$	$E_4^0(i^h, j, k, l^h)$
$qg\bar{Q}Q$	$X_4^0(i_q^h, j_g, k_{\bar{Q}}, l_Q^h)$	$\overline{E}_4^0(i^h, j, k, l^h)$
$q\bar{Q}gQ$	$\tilde{X}_4^0(i_q^h, j_{\bar{Q}}, k_g, l_Q^h)$	$\tilde{E}_4^0(i^h, j, k, l^h)$

Gluon-gluon

$gggg$	$X_4^0(i_g^h, j_g, k_g, l_g^h)$	$F_4^0(i^h, j, k, l^h)$
	$\tilde{X}_4^0(i_g^h, j_g, k_g, l_g^h)$	$\tilde{F}_4^0(i^h, j, k, l^h)$
$g\bar{Q}Qg$	$X_4^0(i_g^h, j_{\bar{Q}}, k_Q, l_g^h)$	$G_4^0(i^h, j, k, l^h)$
$gg\bar{Q}Q$	$X_4^0(i_g^h, j_g, k_{\bar{Q}}, l_Q^h)$	$\overline{G}_4^0(i^h, j, k, l^h)$
$g\bar{Q}gQ$	$\tilde{X}_4^0(i_g^h, j_{\bar{Q}}, k_g, l_Q^h)$	$\tilde{G}_4^0(i^h, j, k, l^h)$
$\bar{q}q\bar{Q}Q$	$X_4^0(i_{\bar{q}}^h, j_q, k_{\bar{Q}}, l_Q^h)$	$H_4^0(i^h, j, k, l^h)$

All X_4^0 complete for NNLO QCD

Quark-antiquark

$qgg\bar{q}$	$X_4^0(i_q^h, j_g, k_g, l_{\bar{q}}^h)$	$A_4^0(i^h, j, k, l^h)$
$q\gamma\gamma\bar{q}$	$\tilde{X}_4^0(i_q^h, j_\gamma, k_\gamma, l_{\bar{q}}^h)$	$\tilde{A}_4^0(i^h, j, k, l^h)$
$q\bar{Q}Q\bar{q}$	$X_4^0(i_q^h, j_{\bar{Q}}, k_Q, l_{\bar{q}}^h)$	$B_4^0(i^h, j, k, l^h)$
$q\bar{q}q\bar{q}$	$X_4^0(i_q^h, j_{\bar{q}}, k_q, l_{\bar{q}}^h)$	$C_4^0(i^h, j, k, l^h)$

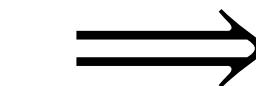
Quark-gluon

$qggg$	$X_4^0(i_q^h, j_g, k_g, l_g^h)$	$D_4^0(i^h, j, k, l^h)$	←
	$\tilde{X}_4^0(i_q^h, j_g, k_g, l_g^h)$	$\tilde{D}_4^0(i^h, j, k, l^h)$	←
$q\bar{Q}Qg$	$X_4^0(i_q^h, j_{\bar{Q}}, k_Q, l_g^h)$	$E_4^0(i^h, j, k, l^h)$	←
$qg\bar{Q}Q$	$X_4^0(i_q^h, j_g, k_{\bar{Q}}, l_Q^h)$	$\overline{E}_4^0(i^h, j, k, l^h)$	←
$q\bar{Q}gQ$	$\tilde{X}_4^0(i_q^h, j_{\bar{Q}}, k_g, l_Q^h)$	$\tilde{E}_4^0(i^h, j, k, l^h)$	←

Gluon-gluon

$gggg$	$X_4^0(i_g^h, j_g, k_g, l_g^h)$	$F_4^0(i^h, j, k, l^h)$	←
	$\tilde{X}_4^0(i_g^h, j_g, k_g, l_g^h)$	$\tilde{F}_4^0(i^h, j, k, l^h)$	←
$g\bar{Q}Qg$	$X_4^0(i_g^h, j_{\bar{Q}}, k_Q, l_g^h)$	$G_4^0(i^h, j, k, l^h)$	←
$gg\bar{Q}Q$	$X_4^0(i_g^h, j_g, k_{\bar{Q}}, l_Q^h)$	$\overline{G}_4^0(i^h, j, k, l^h)$	←
$g\bar{Q}gQ$	$\tilde{X}_4^0(i_g^h, j_{\bar{Q}}, k_g, l_Q^h)$	$\tilde{G}_4^0(i^h, j, k, l^h)$	←
$\bar{q}q\bar{Q}Q$	$X_4^0(i_{\bar{q}}^h, j_q, k_{\bar{Q}}, l_Q^h)$	$H_4^0(i^h, j, k, l^h)$	

Simplified IR structure for these X_4^0 compared to previously



Simplified subtraction terms

Conclusions and Outlook

Conclusions and Outlook

- General algorithm for creating more convenient idealised antennae
- Complete for all X_3^0 and X_4^0 , meeting all design principles
- Should support construction of simplified NNLO subtraction terms, with no over-subtraction
- Extendable algorithm to X_3^1
 - Requires additional manipulation of explicit ϵ poles and hypergeometric functions
- Extendable algorithm to X_5^0 for future streamlined N3LO antenna subtraction scheme
 - Requires decomposition of quadruple collinear splitting functions into $P_{abcd \rightarrow A}(i^h, j, k, l)$ and similar for one-loop triple collinear splitting functions.
 - Create lists of required limits for X_5^0 out of these and new X_4^0 and new X_3^0 .

**Thank you very much!
Questions?**

Oscar Braun-White (he/him/his), IPPP Durham

**Based on work with Nigel Glover (IPPP Durham)
and Christian Preuss (ETH Zurich) in arXiv:2302.12787**

Backup - F_4^0

$$\mathbf{S}_{23}^\downarrow F_4^0(1^h, 2, 3, 4^h) = S_{gg}(1^h, 2, 3, 4^h)$$

$$\mathbf{TC}_{123}^\downarrow F_4^0(1^h, 2, 3, 4^h) = P_{ggg}(1^h, 2, 3)$$

$$\mathbf{TC}_{234}^\downarrow F_4^0(1^h, 2, 3, 4^h) = P_{ggg}(4^h, 3, 2)$$

$$\mathbf{DC}_{1234}^\downarrow F_4^0(1^h, 2, 3, 4^h) = P_{gg}(1^h, 2)P_{gg}(4^h, 3)$$

$$\mathbf{S}_2^\downarrow F_4^0(1^h, 2, 3, 4^h) = \frac{2s_{13}}{s_{12}s_{23}} F_3^0(1, 3, 4)$$

$$\mathbf{S}_3^\downarrow F_4^0(1^h, 2, 3, 4^h) = \frac{2s_{24}}{s_{23}s_{34}} F_3^0(1, 2, 4)$$

$$\mathbf{C}_{12}^\downarrow F_4^0(1^h, 2, 3, 4^h) = P_{gg}(1^h, 2)F_3^0([1+2], 3, 4)$$

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$$\mathbf{SC}_{2;34}^\downarrow F_4^0(1^h, 2, 3, 4^h) = \frac{2s_{134}}{s_{12}s_{234}} P_{gg}(4^h, 3)$$

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Backup - \tilde{F}_4^0

$$\mathbf{S}_{23}^\downarrow \tilde{F}_4^0(1^h, 2, 3, 4^h) = S_{\gamma\gamma}(1^h, 2, 3, 4^h)$$

$$\mathbf{TC}_{123}^\downarrow \tilde{F}_4^0(1^h, 2, 3, 4^h) = P_{ggg}(2, 1^h, 3)$$

$$\mathbf{TC}_{234}^\downarrow \tilde{F}_4^0(1^h, 2, 3, 4^h) = P_{ggg}(3, 4^h, 2)$$

$$\mathbf{DC}_{1234}^\downarrow \tilde{F}_4^0(1^h, 2, 3, 4^h) = P_{gg}(1^h, 2)P_{gg}(4^h, 3)$$

$$\mathbf{DC}_{1324}^\downarrow \tilde{F}_4^0(1^h, 2, 3, 4^h) = P_{gg}(1^h, 3)P_{gg}(4^h, 2)$$

$$\mathbf{S}_2^\downarrow \tilde{F}_4^0(1^h, 2, 3, 4^h) = \frac{2s_{14}}{s_{12}s_{24}} F_3^0(1, 3, 4)$$

$$\mathbf{S}_3^\downarrow \tilde{F}_4^0(1^h, 2, 3, 4^h) = \frac{2s_{14}}{s_{13}s_{34}} F_3^0(1, 2, 4)$$

$$\mathbf{C}_{12}^\downarrow \tilde{F}_4^0(1^h, 2, 3, 4^h) = P_{gg}(1^h, 2)F_3^0([1+2], 3, 4)$$

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$$\mathbf{C}_{24}^\downarrow \tilde{F}_4^0(1^h, 2, 3, 4^h) = P_{gg}(4^h, 2)F_3^0(1, 3, [2+4])$$

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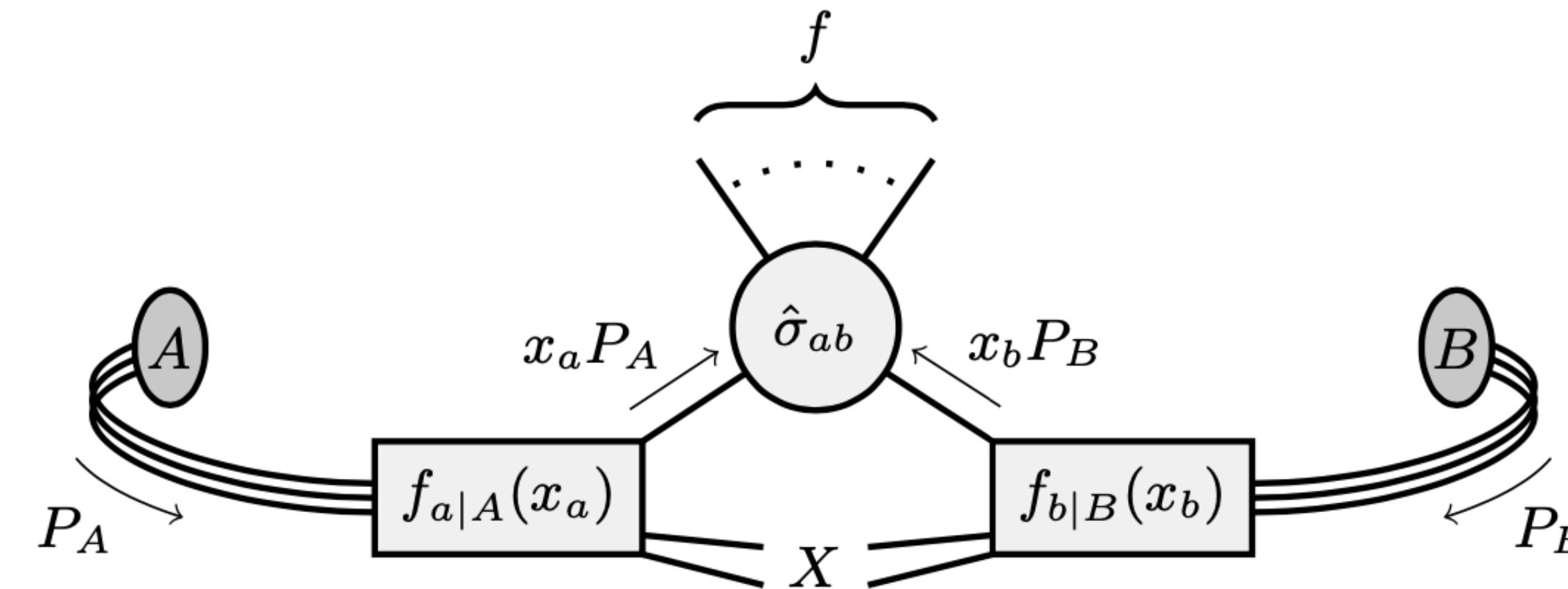
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$$\mathbf{SC}_{3;12}^\downarrow \tilde{F}_4^0(1^h, 2, 3, 4^h) = \frac{2s_{124}}{s_{34}s_{123}} P_{gg}(1^h, 2)$$

$$\mathbf{SC}_{2;13}^\downarrow \tilde{F}_4^0(1^h, 2, 3, 4^h) = \frac{2s_{134}}{s_{24}s_{123}} P_{gg}(1^h, 3)$$

Cross Section σ_{AB}



Credit: Alexander Huss

$$\sigma_{AB} = \sum_{ab} \int_0^1 dx_a \int_0^1 dx_b f_{a|A}(x_a) f_{b|B}(x_b) \hat{\sigma}_{ab}(x_a, x_b) (1 + \mathcal{O}(\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}/Q))$$

parton distribution functions
(non-perturbative, universal)



hard scattering
(perturbation theory)

non-perturbative effects
(no good understanding)
ultimately, limiting factor?

Partonic Cross Section $d\hat{\sigma}$

$$d\hat{\sigma} = \left(\frac{\alpha_s}{2\pi}\right)^m d\hat{\sigma}^{\text{LO}} + \left(\frac{\alpha_s}{2\pi}\right)^{m+1} d\hat{\sigma}^{\text{NLO}} + \left(\frac{\alpha_s}{2\pi}\right)^{m+2} d\hat{\sigma}^{\text{NNLO}} + \left(\frac{\alpha_s}{2\pi}\right)^{m+3} d\hat{\sigma}^{\text{N3LO}} + \mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^{m+4})$$

- Theoretical predictions of QCD observables need to match experimental precision.

