# NLO structure functions at small-x

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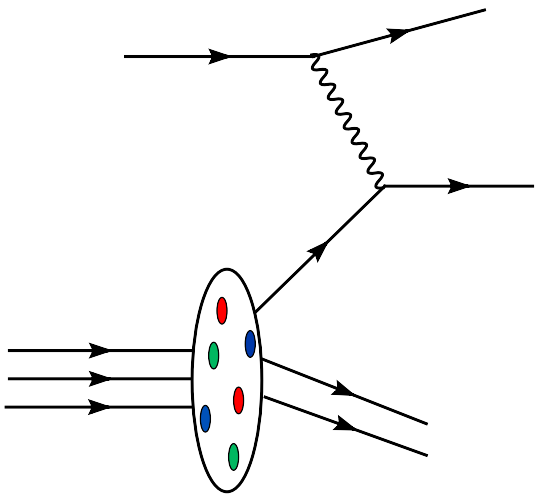
# Outline

- Light-cone OPE versus OPE in color dipoles.
- High-energy scattering and Wilson lines formalism.
- Factorization in rapidity.
- NLO Photon Impact Factor: analytic result.
- Brief review of the LO and NLO BK equation.
- Conclusions and outlook.

# Incoherent-vs-Coherent

Incoherent Interactions



Bjorken Limit

$$Q^2 \to \infty, \; s \to \infty$$

$$x_{\rm B} = \frac{Q^2}{s} \quad \text{fixed}$$

resum $\alpha_s \ln \dfrac{Q^2}{\Lambda_{\rm QCD}}$

# Incoherent-vs-Coherent

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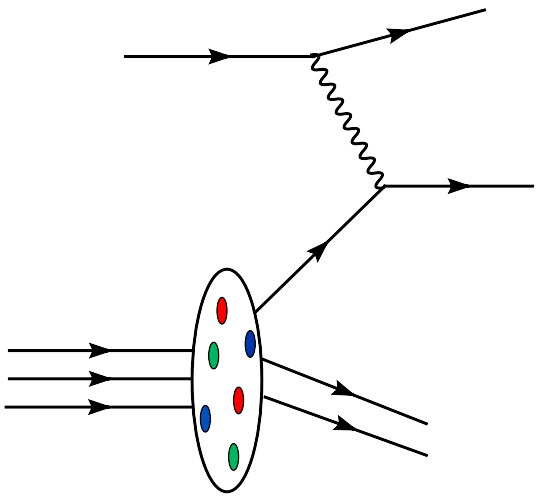
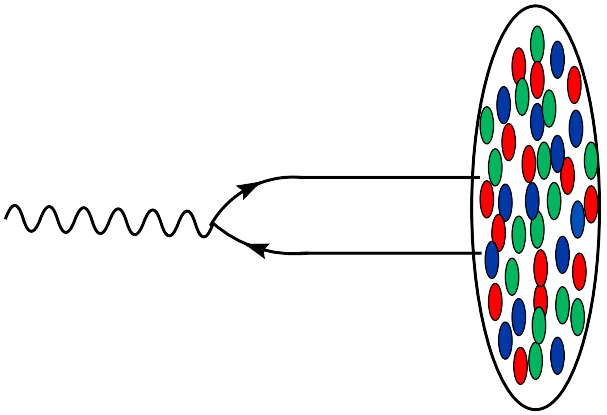


Coherent Interactions

VS.



Bjorken Limit

$$Q^2 \to \infty, \; s \to \infty$$

$$x_B = \frac{Q^2}{s} \quad \text{fixed}$$

resum $\alpha_s \ln \frac{Q^2}{\Lambda_{QCD}}$

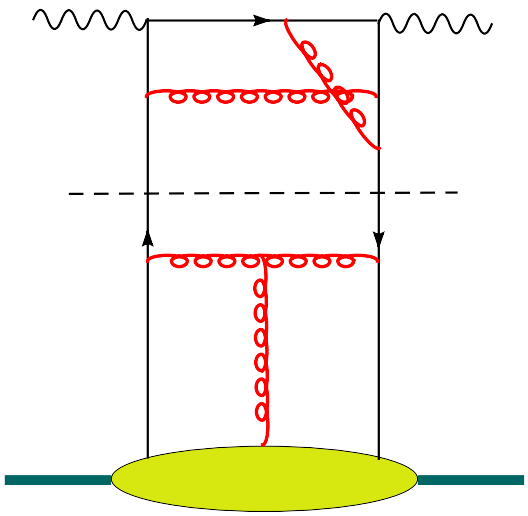
Regge Limit

$$Q^2 \;\; \text{fixed}, \; s \to \infty$$

$$x_B = \frac{Q^2}{s} \to 0$$

resum $\alpha_s \ln \frac{1}{x_B}$

# Light-cone expansion and DGLAP evolution in the NLO



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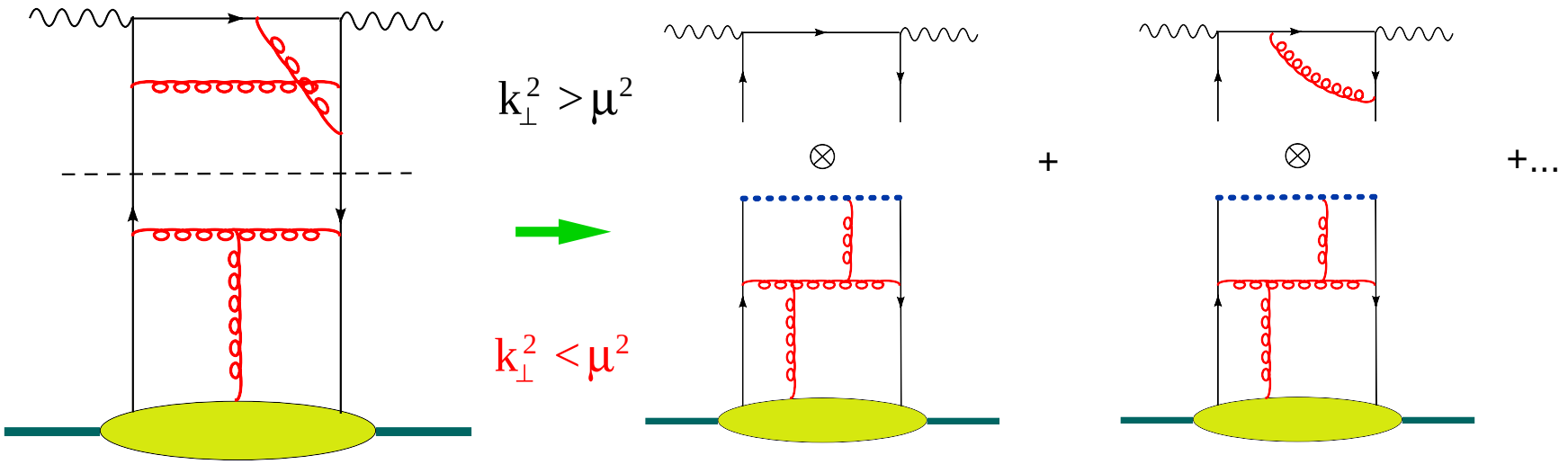


$\mu^2$ - factorization scale (normalization point)

$k_\perp^2 > \mu^2$ - coefficient functions

$k_\perp^2 < \mu^2$ - matrix elements of light-ray operators (normalized at $\mu^2$)

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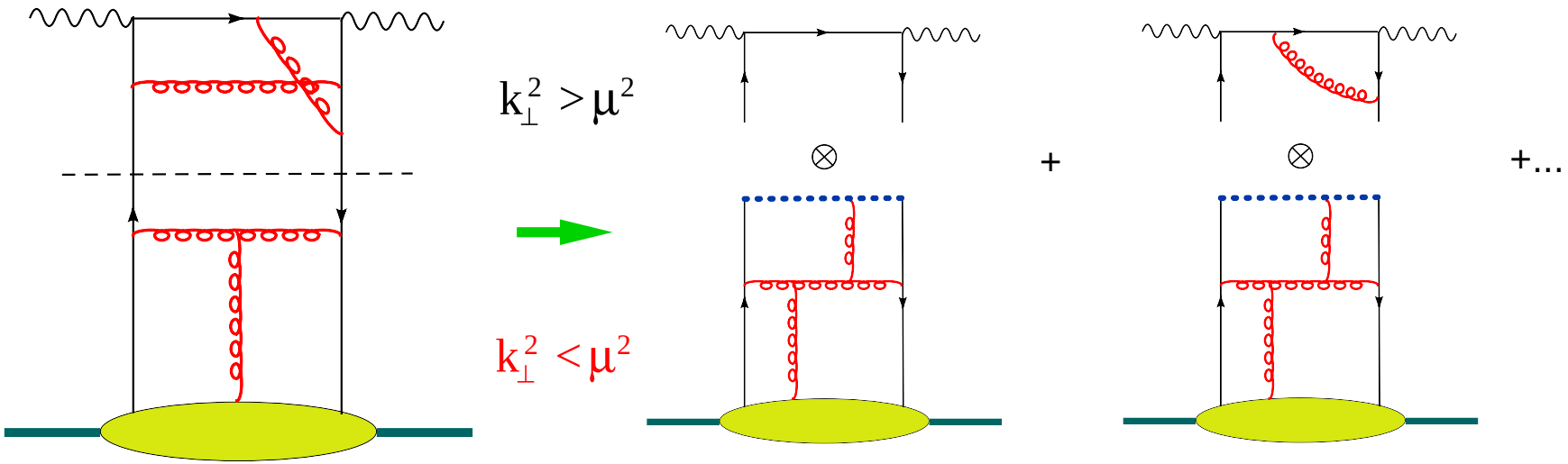


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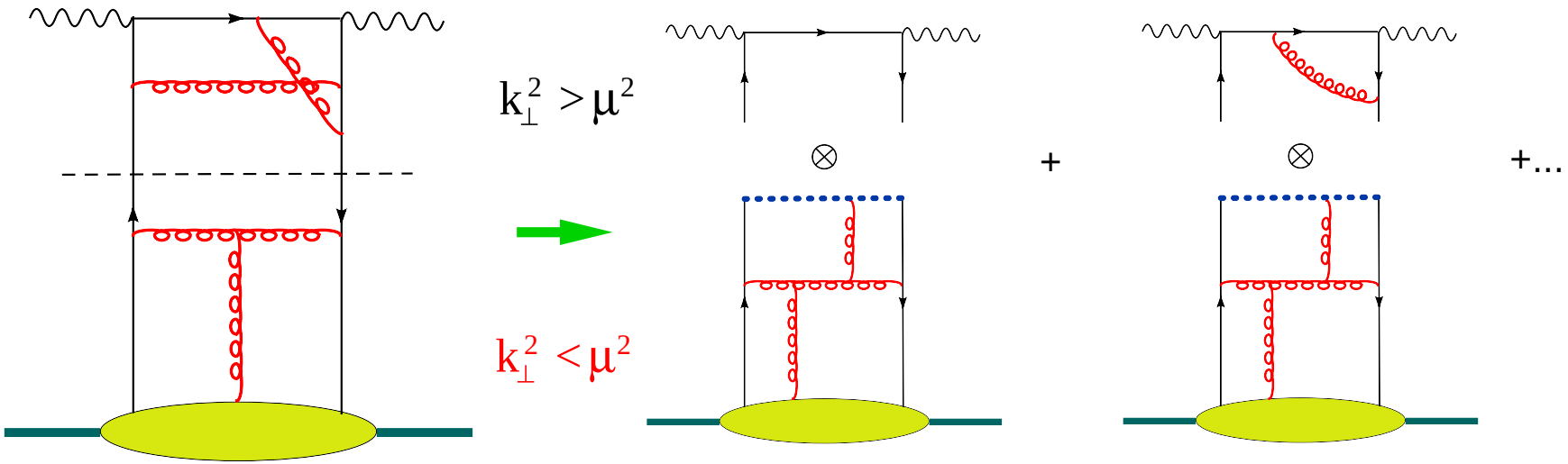
OPE in light-ray operators $\qquad (x-y)^2 \to 0$

$$T\{j_\mu(x) j_\nu(y)\} = \frac{(x-y)_\xi}{2\pi^2 (x-y)^4}\left[1 + \frac{\alpha_s}{\pi}(\ln(x-y)^2\mu^2 + C)\right]\bar{\psi}(x)\gamma_\mu\gamma^\xi\gamma_\nu[x,y]\psi(y)$$

$$[x,y] \equiv Pe^{ig\int_0^1 du\ (x-y)^\mu A_\mu(ux+(1-u)y)}$$ - gauge link

# Light-cone expansion and DGLAP evolution in the NLO

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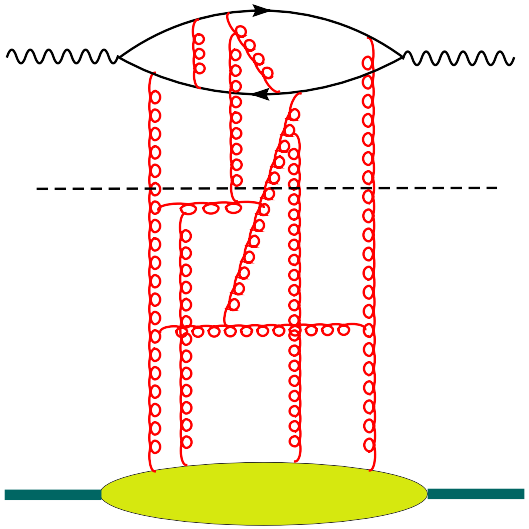
Renorm-group equation for light-ray operators $\Rightarrow$ DGLAP evolution of parton densities

$(x-y)^2 = 0$

$$\mu^2 \frac{d}{d\mu^2} \bar{\psi}(x)[x,y]\psi(y) = K_{\rm LO}\bar{\psi}(x)[x,y]\psi(y) + \alpha_s K_{\rm NLO}\bar{\psi}(x)[x,y]\psi(y)$$

# High-energy expansion in color dipoles in the NLO



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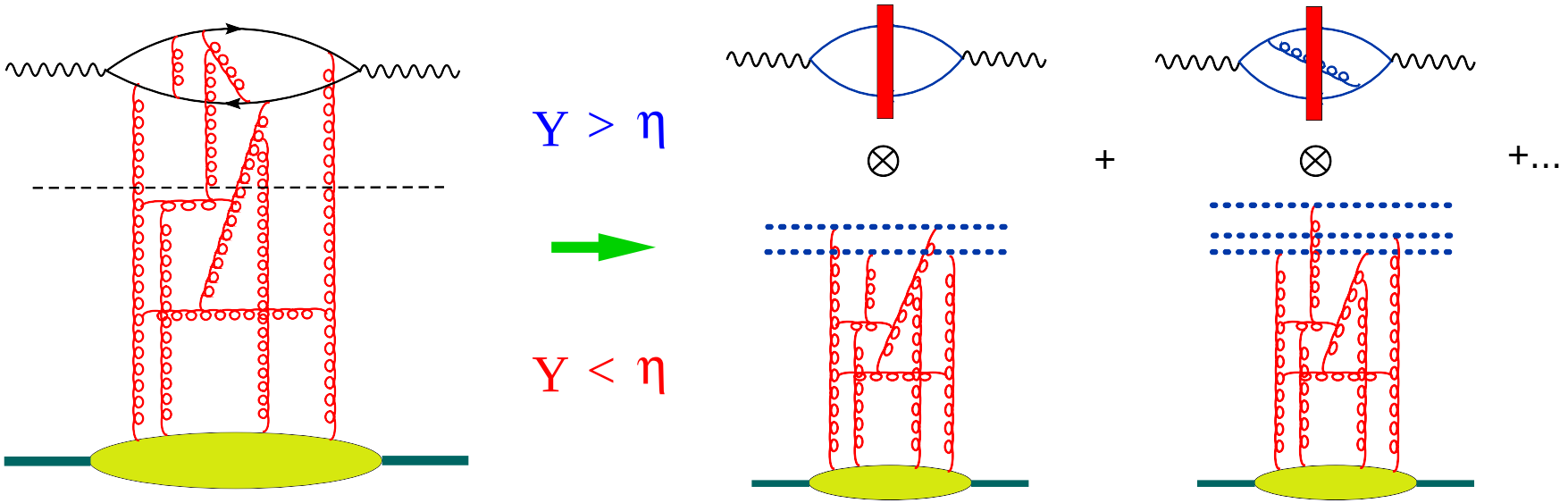

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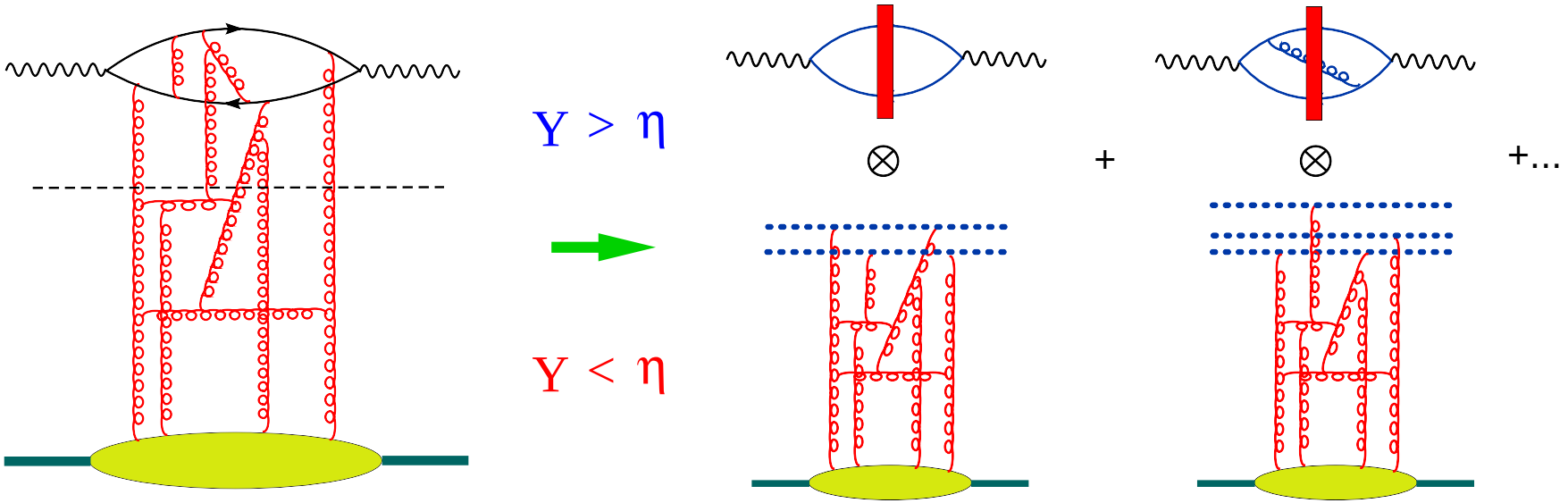



$\eta$ - rapidity factorization scale

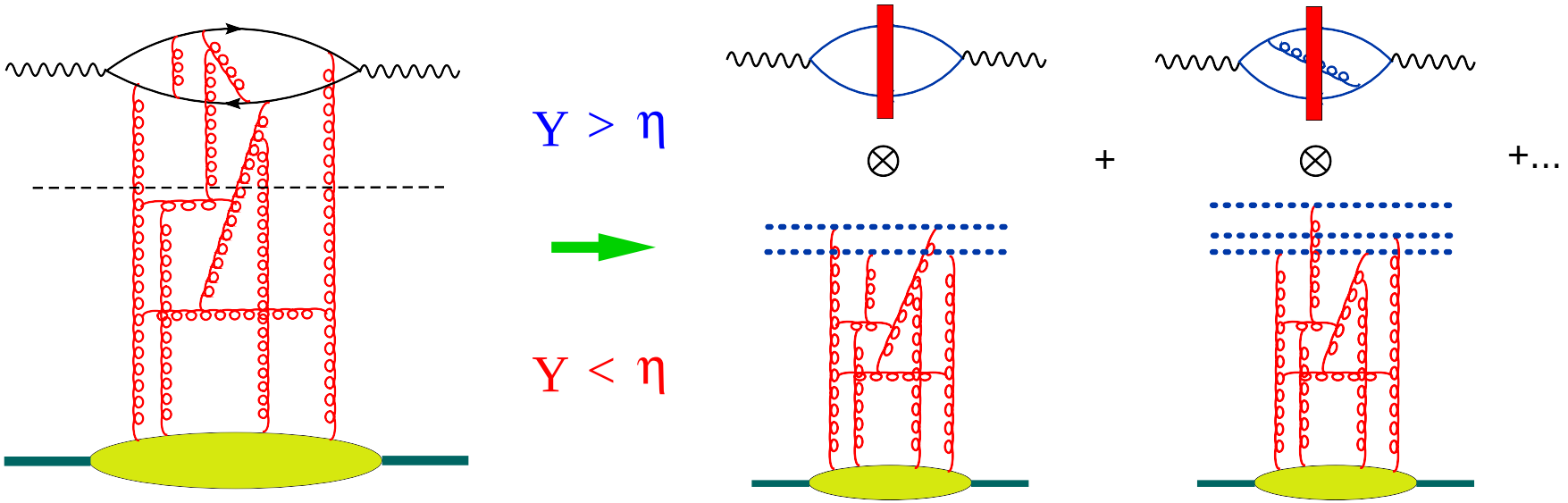
Rapidity Y > $\eta$ - coefficient function ("impact factor")

Rapidity Y < $\eta$ - matrix elements of (light-like) Wilson lines with rapidity divergence cut by $\eta$

$$U_x^\eta = \mathrm{Pexp}\left[ig\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dx^+ A_+^\eta(x_+, x_\perp)\right]$$

$$A_\mu^\eta(x) = \int \frac{d^4k}{(2\pi)^4}\theta(e^\eta - |\alpha_k|)e^{-ik\cdot x}A_\mu(k)$$

# High-energy expansion in color dipoles in the NLO




The high-energy operator expansion is

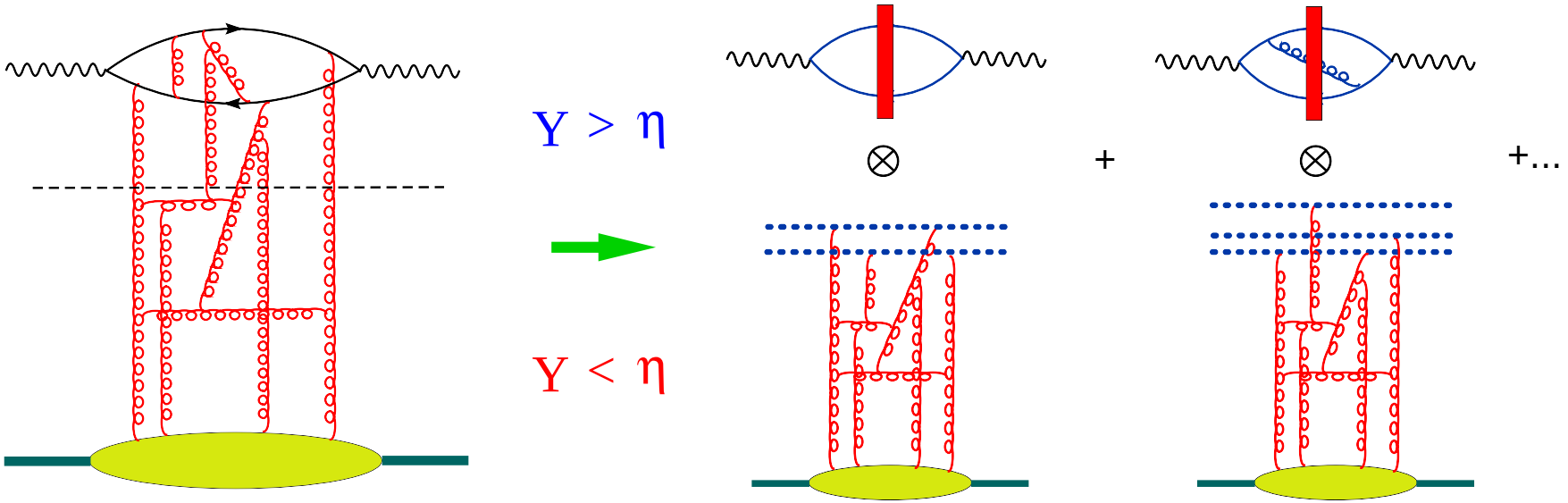
$$T\{\hat{j}_\mu(x)\hat{j}_\nu(y)\} = \int d^2z_1 d^2z_2\, I^{\rm LO}_{\mu\nu}(z_1,z_2,x,y)\mathrm{Tr}\{\hat{U}^\eta_{z_1}\hat{U}^{\dagger\eta}_{z_2}\}$$

$$+\int d^2z_1 d^2z_2 d^2z_3\, I^{\rm NLO}_{\mu\nu}(z_1,z_2,z_3,x,y)[\mathrm{tr}\{\hat{U}^\eta_{z_1}\hat{U}^{\dagger\eta}_{z_3}\}\mathrm{tr}\{\hat{U}^\eta_{z_3}\hat{U}^{\dagger\eta}_{z_2}\} - N_c\mathrm{tr}\{\hat{U}^\eta_{z_1}\hat{U}^{\dagger\eta}_{z_2}\}]$$

In the leading order the impact factor is Möbius invariant

In the NLO one should also expect conf. invariance since $I^{\rm NLO}_{\mu\nu}$ is given by tree diagrams

# High-energy expansion in color dipoles in the NLO



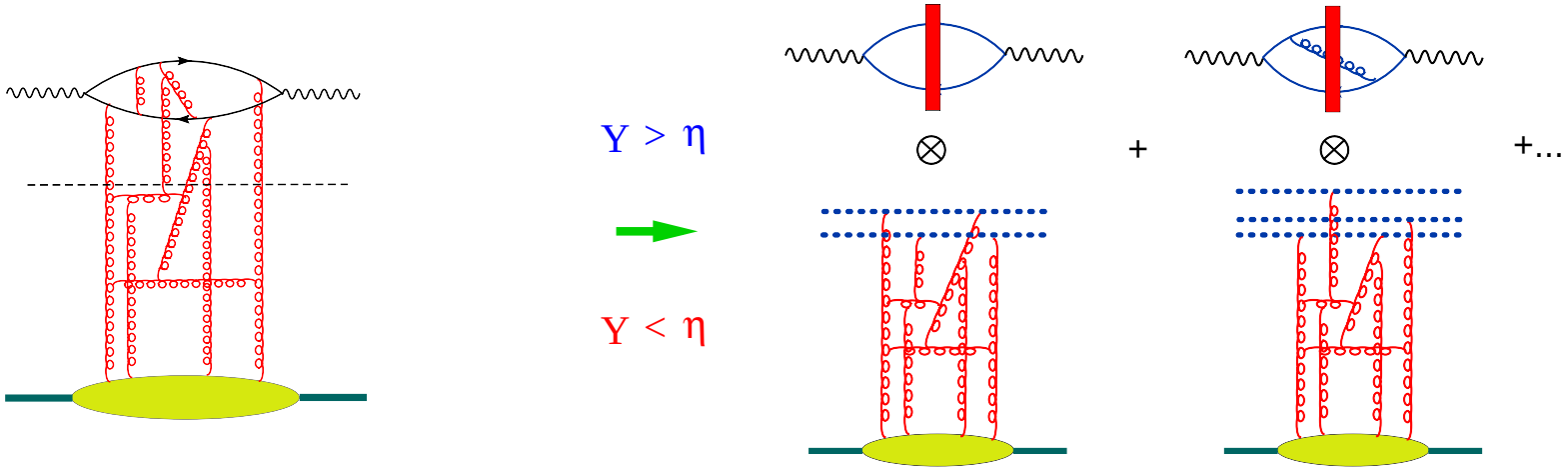

$\eta$ - rapidity factorization scale

Evolution equation for color dipoles

$$\frac{d}{d\eta}\mathrm{tr}\{U_x^\eta U_y^{\dagger\eta}\} = \frac{\alpha_s}{2\pi^2}\int d^2z \frac{(x-y)^2}{(x-z)^2(y-z)^2}[\mathrm{tr}\{U_x^\eta U_y^{\dagger\eta}\}\mathrm{tr}\{U_x^\eta U_y^{\dagger\eta}\} - N_c\mathrm{tr}\{U_x^\eta U_y^{\dagger\eta}\}] + \alpha_s K_{\mathrm{NLO}}\mathrm{tr}\{U_x^\eta U_y^{\dagger\eta}\} + O(\alpha_s^2)$$

$K_{\mathrm{NLO}}$=? (Linear part of $K_{\mathrm{NLO}}$ = $K_{\mathrm{NLO\ BFKL}}$)

# Expansion of $F_2(x)$ in color dipoles in the next-to-leading order




$$F_2(x_B) \simeq \int d^2z_1 d^2z_2\, I^{LO}(z_1,z_2)\langle \mathrm{tr}\{U^{\eta}_{z_1} U^{\dagger\,\eta}_{z_2}\}\rangle \qquad \eta = \ln\frac{1}{x_B}$$

$$+\frac{\alpha_s}{\pi}\int d^2z_1 d^2z_2 d^2z_3\, I^{NLO}(z_1,z_2,z_3)\langle \mathrm{tr}\{U^{\eta}_{z_1} U^{\dagger\eta}_{z_3}\}\mathrm{tr}\{U_{z_3} U^{\dagger\eta}_{z_2}\}\rangle$$

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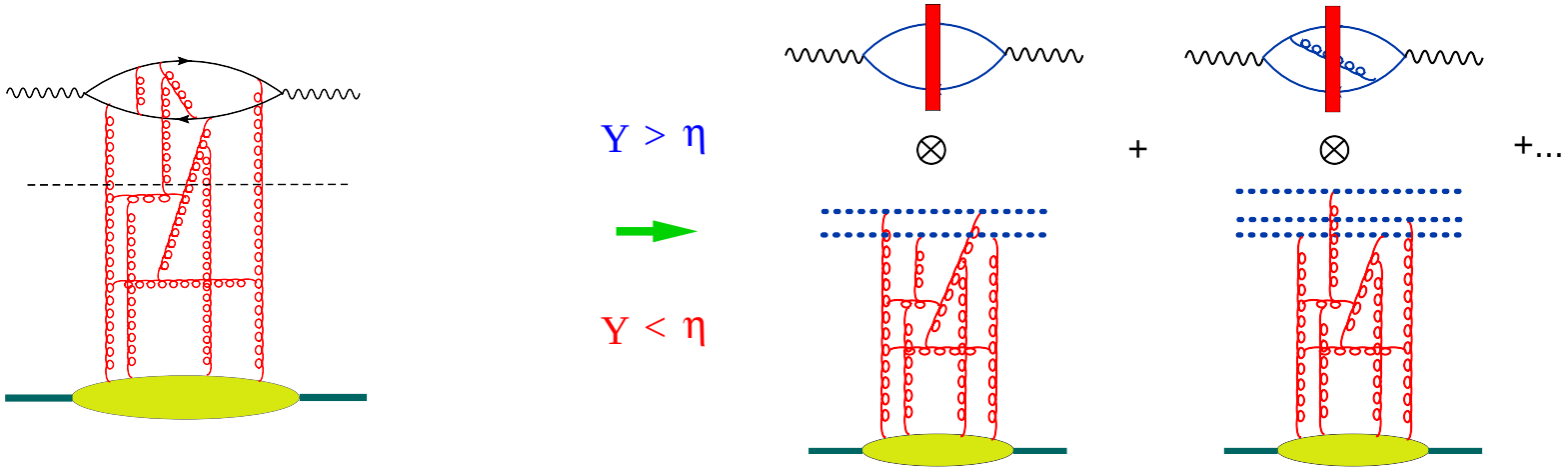


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## plan

- Calculate the NLO photon impact factor.
- Calculate the NLO evolution of color dipole.
- Convolute the solution with the initial conditions for the evolution and get the amplitude.

# Propagation in the shock wave: Wilson line (Spectator frame)

Each path is weighted with the gauge factor $Pe^{ig\int dx_\mu A^\mu}$. Since the external field exists only within the infinitely thin wall, quarks and gluons do not have time to deviate in the transverse direction $\Rightarrow$ we can replace the gauge factor along the actual path with the one along the straight-line path.

$$U_z = [\infty p_1 + z_\perp, -\infty p_1 + z_\perp]$$

$$[x,y] = Pe^{ig\int_0^1 du (x-y)^\mu A_\mu (ux+(1-u)y)} \qquad p^\mu = \alpha p_1^\mu + \beta p_2^\mu + p_\perp^\mu$$

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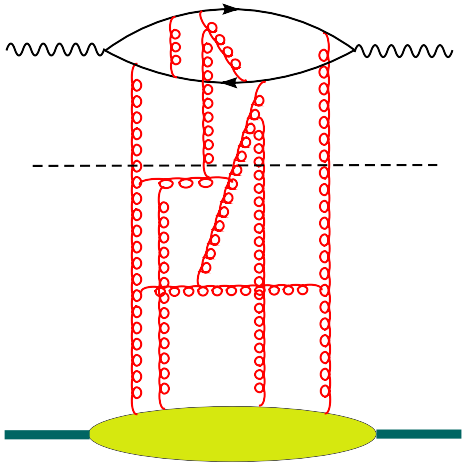

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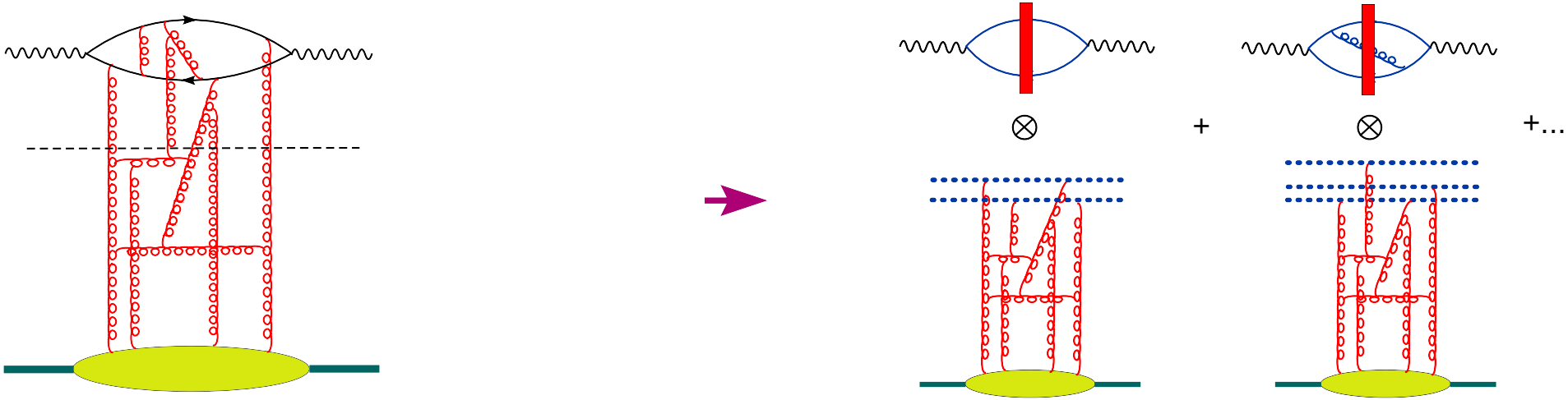

# LO and NLO Impact Factor

$$T\{\hat{j}_\mu(x)\hat{j}_\nu(y)\} = \int d^2z_1 d^2z_2\, I^{\rm LO}_{\mu\nu}(z_1,z_2,x,y)\,{\rm Tr}\{\hat{U}^\eta_{z_1}\hat{U}^{\dagger\eta}_{z_2}\}$$

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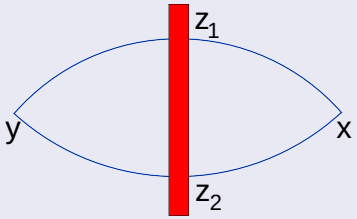
## LO Impact Factor diagram: $I^{\rm LO}$



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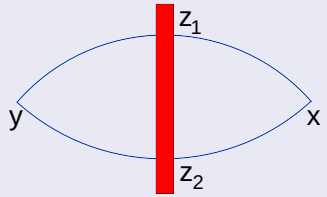
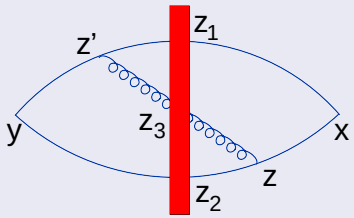
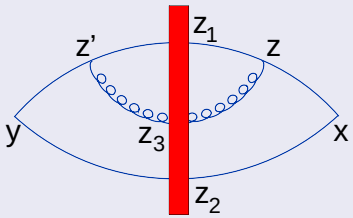
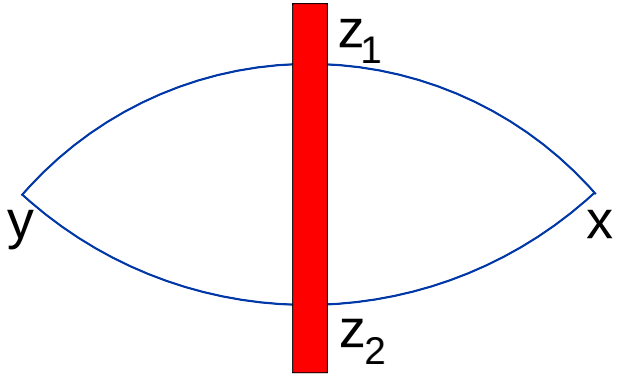



## NLO Impact Factor diagrams: $I^{\rm NLO}$



# LO Impact Factor




Conformal vectors:

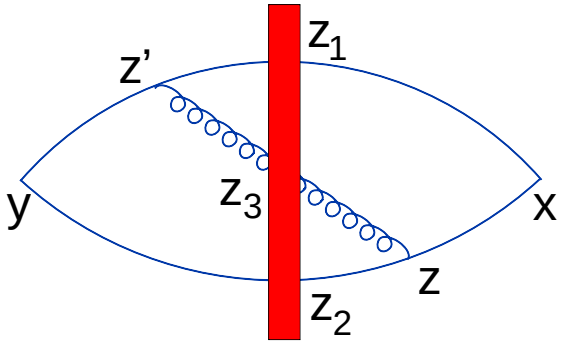
$$\kappa = \frac{\sqrt{s}}{2x_*}\left(\frac{p_1}{s} - x^2 p_2 + x_\perp\right) - \frac{\sqrt{s}}{2y_*}\left(\frac{p_1}{s} - y^2 p_2 + y_\perp\right)$$

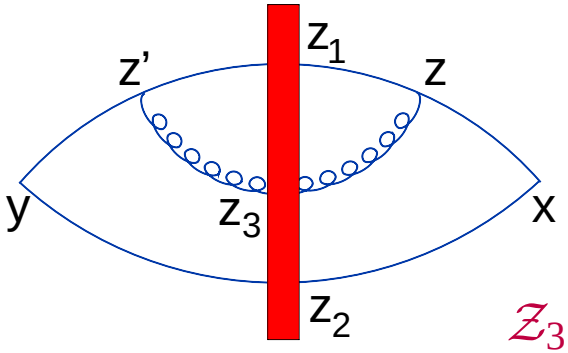
$$\zeta_1 = \left(\frac{p_1}{s} + z_{1\perp}^2 p_2 + z_{1\perp}\right), \qquad \zeta_2 = \left(\frac{p_1}{s} + z_{2\perp}^2 p_2 + z_{2\perp}\right)$$

Here $x^2 = -x_\perp^2$, $x_* \equiv x_\mu p_2^\mu$ (similarly for $y$); $\mathcal{R} = \frac{\kappa^2(\zeta_1\cdot\zeta_2)}{2(\kappa\cdot\zeta_1)(\kappa\cdot\zeta_2)}$

$$I_{\mu\nu}^{\rm LO}(z_1, z_2) = \frac{\mathcal{R}^2}{\pi^6(\kappa\cdot\zeta_1)(\kappa\cdot\zeta_2)} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial x^\mu \partial y^\nu}\left[(\kappa\cdot\zeta_1)(\kappa\cdot\zeta_2) - \frac{1}{2}\kappa^2(\zeta_1\cdot\zeta_2)\right]$$

# NLO Impact Factor



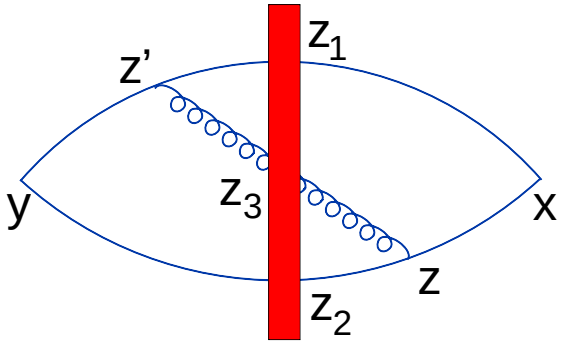



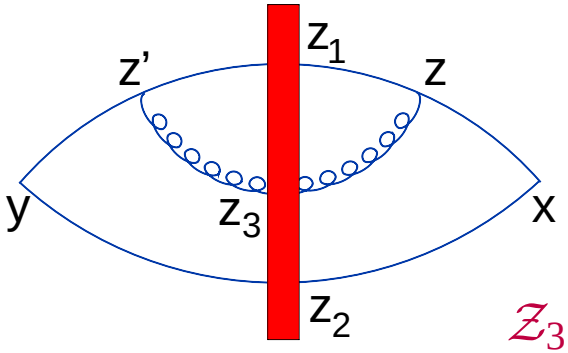

$$\mathcal{Z}_3 \equiv \frac{(x-z_3)^2_\perp}{x^+} - \frac{(y-z_3)^2_\perp}{y^+}$$

$$I^{\rm NLO}_{\mu\nu}(x,y;z_1,z_2,z_3;\eta) \;=\; -\,I^{\rm LO}_{\mu\nu} \times \frac{\alpha_s}{2\pi}\frac{z_{13}^2}{z_{12}^2 z_{23}^2}\ln\frac{\sigma s}{4}\mathcal{Z}_3 \;+\; \text{conf.}$$

The NLO impact factor is not Möbius invariant $\Rightarrow$ the color dipole with the cutoff $\eta = \ln\sigma$ is not invariant.

# NLO Impact Factor

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However, if we define a composite operator ($a$ - analog of $\mu^{-2}$ for usual OPE)

$$[\mathrm{Tr}\{\hat U^\eta_{z_1}\hat U^{\dagger\eta}_{z_2}\}]^{\rm conf} \;=\; \mathrm{Tr}\{\hat U^\eta_{z_1}\hat U^{\dagger\eta}_{z_2}\}$$
$$+\;\frac{\alpha_s}{4\pi}\int d^2z_3\,\frac{z_{12}^2}{z_{13}^2 z_{23}^2}[\frac{1}{N_c}\mathrm{tr}\{\hat U^\eta_{z_1}\hat U^{\dagger\eta}_{z_3}\}\mathrm{tr}\{\hat U^\eta_{z_3}\hat U^{\dagger\eta}_{z_2}\} - \mathrm{Tr}\{\hat U^\eta_{z_1}\hat U^{\dagger\eta}_{z_2}\}]\ln\frac{a z_{12}^2}{z_{13}^2 z_{23}^2} \;+\; O(\alpha_s^2)$$

the impact factor becomes conformal in the NLO.

# Operator expansion in conformal dipoles

**Analogy:**

When the UV cutoff does not respect the symmetry of a local operator, the composite local renormalized operator must be corrected by finite counter-terms order by order in perturbation theory.

$$T\{\hat{j}_\mu(x)\hat{j}_\nu(y)\} = \int d^2z_1 d^2z_2\, I^{\rm LO}_{\mu\nu}(z_1,z_2,x,y)\mathrm{tr}[\{\hat{U}^\eta_{z_1}\hat{U}^{\dagger\eta}_{z_2}\}]^{\rm conf}$$
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$$I^{\rm NLO}_{\mu\nu} = -I^{\rm LO}_{\mu\nu}\frac{\alpha_s N_c}{4\pi}\int dz_3 \frac{z_{12}^2}{z_{13}^2 z_{23}^2}\ln\frac{z_{12}^2 e^{2\eta} as^2}{z_{13}^2 z_{23}^2}\mathcal{Z}_3^2 + \mathrm{conf.}$$

The new NLO impact factor is conformally invariant.

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$$T\{\hat{j}_\mu(x)\hat{j}_\nu(y)\} = \int d^2z_1 d^2z_2\, I^{\rm LO}_{\mu\nu}(z_1,z_2,x,y)\mathrm{tr}[\{\hat{U}^\eta_{z_1}\hat{U}^{\dagger\eta}_{z_2}\}]^{\rm conf}$$
$$+\int d^2z_1 d^2z_2 d^2z_3\, I^{\rm NLO}_{\mu\nu}(z_1,z_2,z_3,x,y)[\frac{1}{N_c}\mathrm{tr}\{\hat{U}^\eta_{z_1}\hat{U}^{\dagger\eta}_{z_3}\}\mathrm{tr}\{\hat{U}^\eta_{z_3}\hat{U}^{\dagger\eta}_{z_2}\} - \mathrm{tr}\{\hat{U}^\eta_{z_1}\hat{U}^{\dagger\eta}_{z_2}\}]$$

$$I^{\rm NLO}_{\mu\nu} = -I^{\rm LO}_{\mu\nu}\frac{\alpha_s N_c}{4\pi}\int dz_3 \frac{z_{12}^2}{z_{13}^2 z_{23}^2}\ln\frac{z_{12}^2 e^{2\eta} as^2}{z_{13}^2 z_{23}^2}\mathcal{Z}_3^2 + \mathrm{conf.}$$

The new NLO impact factor is conformally invariant.

In conformal $\mathcal{N}=4$ SYM theory one can construct the composite conformal dipole operator order by order in perturbation theory.

$$\Delta \equiv (x-y), \qquad x_* = x^+\sqrt{s/2}, \qquad y_* = y^+\sqrt{s/2}, \qquad R \equiv \frac{\Delta^2 z_{12\perp}^2}{x_* y_* \mathcal{Z}_1 \mathcal{Z}_2}$$

$$I^{NLO}_{\mu\nu}(x,y) = \frac{\alpha_s}{4\pi^7\Delta^4}\frac{\partial\kappa^\alpha}{\partial x^\mu}\frac{\partial\kappa^\beta}{\partial y^\nu}\int\frac{dz_1 dz_2}{z_{12}^4}\,\mathcal{U}(z_1,z_2)R^2\Bigg\{-\frac{2}{\kappa^2}\Big(g^{\alpha\beta}-2\frac{\kappa^\alpha\kappa^\beta}{\kappa^2}\Big)$$

$$+\frac{\zeta_1^\alpha\zeta_2^\beta+\zeta_1\leftrightarrow\zeta_2}{(\kappa\cdot\zeta_1)(\kappa\cdot\zeta_2)}\Big[4\mathrm{Li}_2(1-R)-\frac{2\pi^2}{3}+\frac{2\ln R}{1-R}+\frac{\ln R}{R}-4\ln R+\frac{1}{2R}-2-4C-\frac{2C}{R}$$

$$+2(\ln\frac{1}{R}+\frac{1}{R}-2)\big(\ln\frac{1}{R}+2C\big)\Big]+\Big(\frac{\zeta_1^\alpha\zeta_1^\beta}{(\kappa\cdot\zeta_1)^2}+\zeta_1\leftrightarrow\zeta_2\Big)\Big[\frac{\ln R}{R}-\frac{2C}{R}+2\frac{\ln R}{1-R}-\frac{1}{2R}\Big]$$

$$+\Big[-2\frac{\ln R}{1-R}-\frac{\ln R}{R}+\ln R-\frac{3}{2R}+\frac{5}{2}+2C+\frac{2C}{R}\Big]\Big[\frac{\zeta_1^\alpha\kappa^\beta+\zeta_1^\beta\kappa^\alpha}{(\kappa\cdot\zeta_1)\kappa^2}+\zeta_1\leftrightarrow\zeta_2\Big]$$

$$+\frac{g^{\alpha\beta}(\zeta_1\cdot\zeta_2)}{(\kappa\cdot\zeta_1)(\kappa\cdot\zeta_2)}\Big[\frac{2\pi^2}{3}-4\mathrm{Li}_2(1-R)-2\big(\ln\frac{1}{R}+\frac{1}{R}+\frac{1}{2R^2}-3\big)\big(\ln\frac{1}{R}+2C\big)$$

$$+6\ln R-\frac{2}{R}+2+\frac{3}{2R^2}\Big]\Bigg\}$$

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# Photon Impact Factor at NLO

## Conformal vectors

$$\kappa^\mu = \frac{\sqrt{s}}{2x_*}\left(\frac{p_1^\mu}{s} - x^2 p_2^\mu + x_\perp^\mu\right) - \frac{\sqrt{s}}{2y_*}\left(\frac{p_1^\mu}{s} - y^2 p_2^\mu + y_\perp^\mu\right)$$

$$\zeta_1^\mu = \left(\frac{p_1^\mu}{s} + z_{1\perp}^2 p_2^\mu + z_{1\perp}^\mu\right), \qquad \zeta_2^\mu = \left(\frac{p_1^\mu}{s} + z_{2\perp}^2 p_2^\mu + z_{2\perp}^\mu\right)$$

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DIS photon impact factor is a linear combination of the following tensor basis

$$\mathcal{I}_1^{\mu\nu} = g^{\mu\nu} \qquad \mathcal{I}_2^{\mu\nu} = \frac{\kappa^\mu \kappa^\nu}{\kappa^2}$$

$$\mathcal{I}_3^{\mu\nu} = \frac{\kappa^\mu \zeta_1^\nu + \kappa^\nu \zeta_1^\mu}{\kappa \cdot \zeta_1} + \frac{\kappa^\mu \zeta_2^\nu + \kappa^\nu \zeta_2^\mu}{\kappa \cdot \zeta_2}$$

$$\mathcal{I}_4^{\mu\nu} = \frac{\kappa^2 \zeta_1^\mu \zeta_1^\nu}{(\kappa \cdot \zeta_1)^2} + \frac{\kappa^2 \zeta_2^\mu \zeta_2^\nu}{(\kappa \cdot \zeta_2)^2} \qquad \mathcal{I}_5^{\mu\nu} = \frac{\zeta_1^\mu \zeta_2^\nu + \zeta_2^\mu \zeta_1^\nu}{\zeta_1 \cdot \zeta_2}$$

Cornalba, Costa, Penedones (2010)

# Projection of the LO impact factor on the eigenfunctions

$$\int \frac{d^2z_1 d^2z_2}{z_{12}^2} I_{LO}^{\mu\nu}(z_1,z_2)\left(\frac{\kappa^2}{(\kappa\cdot\zeta_0)^2}\right)^{\gamma} = B(1-\gamma)\Gamma(\gamma+2)\Gamma(3-\gamma)$$

$$\times\left\{\frac{\gamma(1-\gamma)D_1}{12(1+\gamma)(2-\gamma)} + \frac{D_2}{2(1+\gamma)(2-\gamma)} - \frac{D_3^{\mu\nu}}{8(1+\gamma)(2-\gamma)}\right.$$

$$\left. - \frac{\gamma(1-\gamma)D_4^{\mu\nu}}{16(1+2\gamma)(3-2\gamma)(1+\gamma)(2-\gamma)} - \frac{D_1^{\mu\nu} + D^{\mu}\nu_2}{8}\right\}_{\mu\nu}\left(\frac{\kappa^2}{(\kappa\cdot\zeta_0)^2}\right)^{\gamma}$$

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$$\times\Big\{\frac{\gamma(1-\gamma)D_1^{\mu\nu}}{12(1+\gamma)(2-\gamma)} + \frac{D_2^{\mu\nu}}{2(1+\gamma)(2-\gamma)} - \frac{D_3^{\mu\nu}}{8(1+\gamma)(2-\gamma)}$$
$$-\frac{\gamma(1-\gamma)D_4}{16(1+2\gamma)(3-2\gamma)(1+\gamma)(2-\gamma)} - \frac{D_1^{\mu\nu}+D_2^{\mu\nu}}{8}\Big\}_{\mu\nu}\Big(\frac{\kappa^2}{(\kappa\cdot\zeta_0)^2}\Big)^\gamma$$

where

$$(D_1+D_2)^{\mu\nu} = -2\Delta^2 x_* y_* \kappa^{-2}\partial_x^\mu\partial_y^\nu\kappa^2$$
$$D_2^{\mu\nu} = -\Delta^2 x_* y_* \partial_x^\mu(\ln\kappa^2)\partial_y^\nu\ln\kappa^2$$
$$D_3^{\mu\nu} = 4\gamma\Delta^2 x_* y_*\big[(\partial_x^\mu\ln\kappa^2)\partial_\nu^y\ln(\kappa\cdot\zeta_0) + (\partial_y^\nu\ln\kappa^2)\partial_\mu^x\ln(\kappa\cdot\zeta_0) - (\partial_x^\mu\ln\kappa^2)\partial_y^\nu\ln\kappa^2\big]$$
$$D_4^{\mu\nu} = 4\gamma(1+2\gamma)\Delta^2 x_* y_*\big[-\frac{1}{3}\partial_x^\mu\partial_y^\nu\ln\kappa^2 - \partial_x^\mu(\ln\kappa^2)\partial_y^\nu\ln\kappa^2$$
$$+(\partial_x^\mu\ln\kappa^2)\partial_\nu^y\ln(\kappa\cdot\zeta_0) + (\partial_y^\nu\ln\kappa^2)\partial_\mu^x\ln(\kappa\cdot\zeta_0) - 2\partial_\mu^x\ln(\kappa\cdot\zeta_0)\partial_\nu^y\ln(\kappa\cdot\zeta_0)\big]$$

$B(a,b) = \frac{\Gamma(a)\Gamma(b)}{\Gamma(a+b)}$, $C = -\psi(1)$ is the Euler constant, and $\psi'(a) = \frac{d}{da}\ln\Gamma(a)$

# Projection of the NLO impact factor on the eigenfunctions

$$\int \frac{d^2z_1 d^2z_2}{z_{12}^4} I^{\mu\nu}_{NLO}(z_1,z_2)\left(\frac{\kappa^2}{(\kappa\cdot\zeta_0)^2}\right)^{\gamma} = \alpha_s \frac{B(1-\gamma)\Gamma(3-\gamma)\Gamma(2+\gamma)}{(2-\gamma)(1+\gamma)} \times$$

$$\left\{ \frac{D_1^{\mu\nu}}{3\sin^2(\gamma\pi)} \left[ (1-\cos(2\gamma\pi)) \left( \chi - 1 - \gamma(1-\gamma)\left( C\chi - \frac{1}{2} \right) \right) - \gamma(1-\gamma)\frac{\pi^2}{3}(5+\cos(2\gamma\pi)) \right] \right.$$

$$+ D_2^{\mu\nu} \left[ -\frac{3}{\gamma(1-\gamma)} + 2\chi \left( \frac{1}{\gamma(1-\gamma)} - 2C + 1 \right) + \frac{4}{3}\pi^2 (1 - \frac{3}{\sin^2(\gamma\pi)}) \right]$$

$$+ D_3^{\mu\nu} \left[ C\chi - \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{\gamma(1-\gamma)} - \frac{\chi}{4}\left( 1 + \frac{2}{\gamma(1-\gamma)} \right) - \frac{\pi^2}{3}(1 - \frac{3}{\sin^2(\gamma\pi)}) \right]$$

$$+ \frac{D_4^{\mu\nu}}{4[3+4\gamma(1-\gamma)]} \left[ \frac{15}{\gamma(1-\gamma)} + 10 + \gamma(1-\gamma) - \chi - 2\gamma(1-\gamma)\left( C\chi - \frac{\pi^2}{3} + \frac{\pi^2}{\sin^2(\gamma\pi)} \right) \right]$$

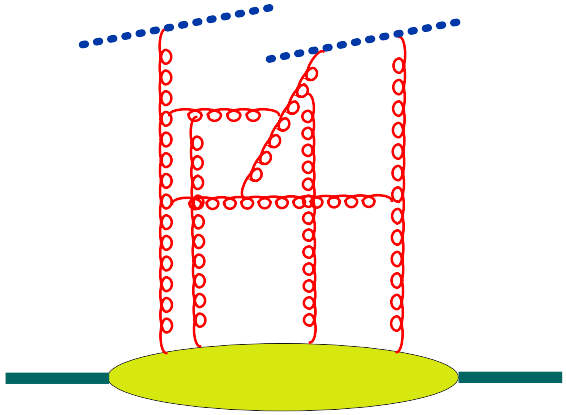
$$+ \frac{D_1^{\mu\nu} + D_2^{\mu\nu}}{[2+\gamma(1-\gamma)]^{-1}} \left[ 1 - \frac{\pi^2}{3} - \frac{2}{2+\gamma(1-\gamma)} \left( \frac{1}{1-\gamma} + \frac{1}{\gamma} - \chi \right) + \frac{4\chi - 6}{4\gamma(1-\gamma)[2+\gamma(1-\gamma)]} \right.$$

$$+ C\chi - \frac{\chi^2}{2} + \frac{\pi^2}{\sin^2(\gamma\pi)} - \frac{1}{2(1-\gamma)^2} - \frac{1}{2(2-\gamma)^2} - \frac{1}{2\gamma^2} - \frac{1}{2(1+\gamma)^2}$$

$$\left. \left. + \frac{1}{4}\left( \frac{1}{1-\gamma} + \frac{1}{2-\gamma} + \frac{1}{\gamma} + \frac{1}{1+\gamma} - \chi \right)^2 \right] \right\}$$

# Regularization of the rapidity divergence

Matrix elements of Wilson lines: $\langle \mathrm{Tr}\{U(x)U^\dagger(y)\}\rangle_A$ are divergent



For light-like Wilson lines loop integrals are divergent in the longitudinal direction

$$\int_0^\infty \frac{d\alpha}{\alpha} = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} d\eta = \infty$$

$$F_2(x_B) \simeq \int d^2z_1 d^2z_2\, I^{LO}(z_1,z_2)\langle \mathrm{tr}\{U^\eta_{z_1} U^{\dagger\,\eta}_{z_2}\}\rangle \qquad \eta = \ln\frac{1}{x_B}$$

$$+\frac{\alpha_s}{\pi}\int d^2z_1 d^2z_2 d^2z_3\, I^{NLO}(z_1,z_2,z_3)\langle \mathrm{tr}\{U^\eta_{z_1} U^{\dagger\eta}_{z_3}\}\mathrm{tr}\{U_{z_3} U^{\dagger\eta}_{z_2}\}\rangle$$

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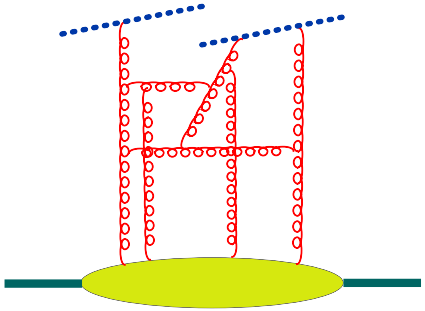

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**Regularization by: slope**

$$U^\eta(x_\perp) = \mathrm{Pexp}\Big\{ig \int_{-\infty}^\infty du\, n_\mu\, A^\mu(un + x_\perp)\Big\} \qquad n^\mu = p_1^\mu + e^{-2\eta} p_2^\mu$$

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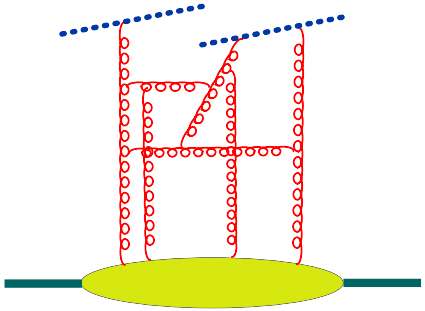

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**Regularization by: Rigid cut-off (used in NLO)**

$$U_x^\eta = \mathrm{Pexp}\Big[ig\int_{-\infty}^\infty du\; p_1^\mu A_\mu^\eta(up_1 + x_\perp)\Big]$$

$$A_\mu^\eta(x) = \int \frac{d^4k}{(2\pi)^4}\theta(e^\eta - |\alpha_k|)e^{-ik\cdot x}A_\mu(k)$$

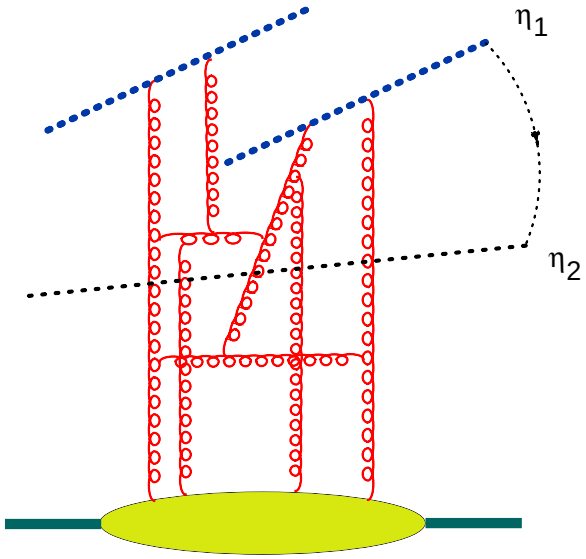
$k^\mu = \alpha_k\, p_1^\mu + \beta_k\, p_2^\mu + k_\perp^\mu$

# Evolution Equation

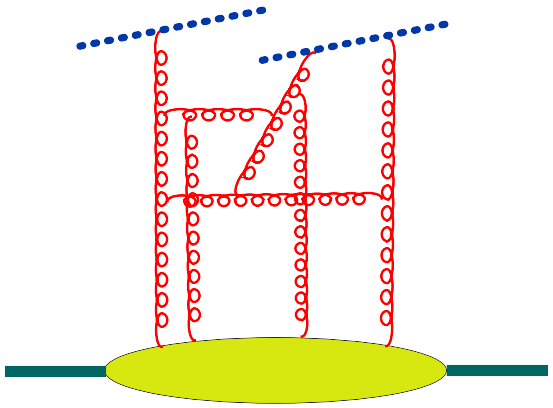
$$\frac{d}{d\eta}\mathrm{Tr}\{\hat{U}_x\hat{U}_y^\dagger\} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \frac{d}{d\eta}\langle\mathrm{Tr}\{\hat{U}_x\hat{U}_y^\dagger\}\rangle$$

To get the evolution equation, consider the dipole with the rapidies up to $\eta_1$ and integrate over the gluons with rapidity $\eta_1 > \eta > \eta_2$. This integral gives the kernel of the evolution equation (multiplied by the dipole(s) with rapidity up to $\eta_2$).

In the frame || to $\eta_1$ the gluons with $\eta < \eta_1$ are seen as pancake.




$$\alpha_s(\eta_1 - \eta_2)K_{\mathrm{evol}} \quad \otimes$$

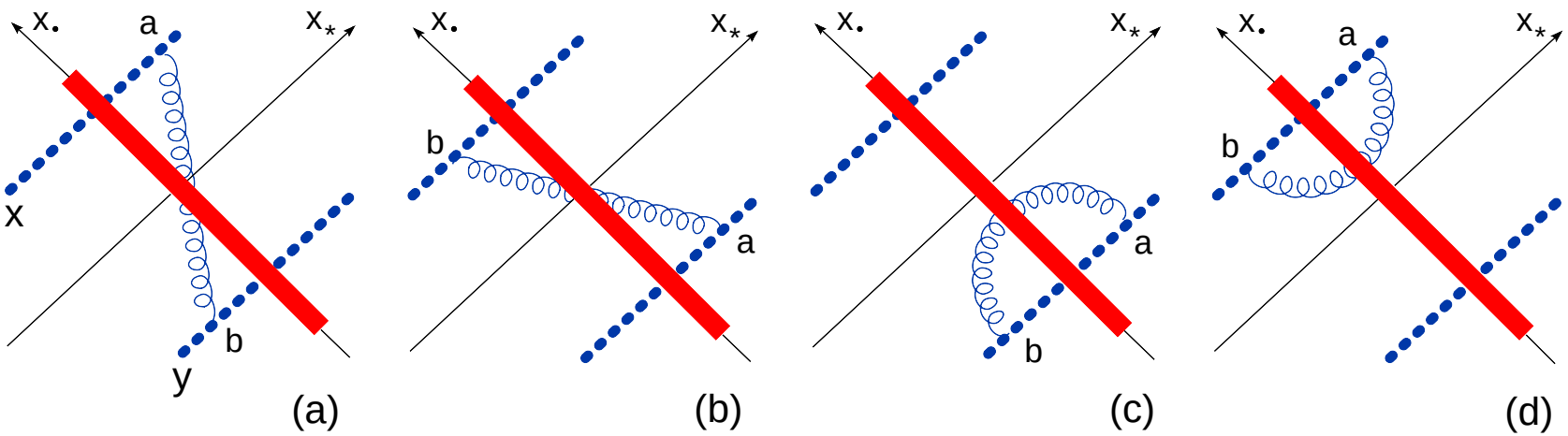


Particles with different rapidity perceive each other as Wilson lines.

# Leading order: BK equation

$$\frac{d}{d\eta}\mathrm{Tr}\{\hat{U}_x\hat{U}_y^\dagger\} = K_{\mathrm{LO}}\mathrm{Tr}\{\hat{U}_x\hat{U}_y^\dagger\} + \ldots \quad \Rightarrow$$

$$\frac{d}{d\eta}\langle\mathrm{Tr}\{\hat{U}_x\hat{U}_y^\dagger\}\rangle_{\mathrm{shockwave}} = \langle K_{\mathrm{LO}}\mathrm{Tr}\{\hat{U}_x\hat{U}_y^\dagger\}\rangle_{\mathrm{shockwave}}$$




$x_\bullet = \sqrt{\frac{s}{2}}x^-$ $\qquad$ $x_* = \sqrt{\frac{s}{2}}x^+$

# Non-linear evolution equation: BK equation

$$U_z^{ab} = \mathrm{Tr}\{t^a U_z t^b U_z^\dagger\} \quad \Rightarrow (U_x U_y^\dagger)^{\eta_1} \to (U_x U_y^\dagger)^{\eta_2} + \alpha_s(\eta_1 - \eta_2)(U_x U_z^\dagger U_z U_y^\dagger)^{\eta_2}$$

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$$\hat{\mathcal{U}}(x,y) \equiv 1 - \frac{1}{N_c}\mathrm{Tr}\{\hat{U}(x_\perp)\hat{U}^\dagger(y_\perp)\}$$

**BK equation:** **Ian Balitsky (1996), Yu. Kovchegov (1999)**

$$\frac{d}{d\eta}\hat{\mathcal{U}}(x,y) = \frac{\alpha_s N_c}{2\pi^2}\int \frac{d^2z\,(x-y)^2}{(x-z)^2(y-z)^2}\left\{\hat{\mathcal{U}}(x,z) + \hat{\mathcal{U}}(z,y) - \hat{\mathcal{U}}(x,y) - \hat{\mathcal{U}}(x,z)\hat{\mathcal{U}}(z,y)\right\}$$

Alternative approach: JIMWLK (1997-2000)

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LLA for DIS in pQCD $\Rightarrow$ BFKL (LLA: $\alpha_s \ll 1, \alpha_s\eta \sim 1$)

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Alternative approach: JIMWLK (1997-2000)

LLA for DIS in pQCD $\Rightarrow$ BFKL (LLA: $\alpha_s \ll 1,\ \alpha_s\eta \sim 1$)

LLA for DIS in sQCD $\Rightarrow$ BK eqn (LLA: $\alpha_s \ll 1,\ \alpha_s\eta \sim 1,\ \alpha_s^2 A^{1/3} \sim 1$)

(s for semi-classical)

# Conformal invariance of the BK equation

Formally, a light-like Wilson line

$$[\infty p_1 + x_\perp, -\infty p_1 + x_\perp] \;=\; \mathrm{Pexp}\left\{ig\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dx^+\, A_+(x^+, x_\perp)\right\}$$

is invariant under inversion (with respect to the point with $x^- = 0$).

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$(x^+, x_\perp)^2 = -x_\perp^2 \Rightarrow$ after the inversion $x_\perp \to x_\perp/x_\perp^2$ and $x^+ \to x^+/x_\perp^2 \Rightarrow$

$$[\infty p_1 + x_\perp, -\infty p_1 + x_\perp] \;\to\; \mathrm{Pexp}\left\{ig\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} d\frac{x^+}{x_\perp^2}\, A_+\left(\frac{x^+}{x_\perp^2}, \frac{x_\perp}{x_\perp^2}\right)\right\} \;=\; [\infty p_1 + \frac{x_\perp}{x_\perp^2}, -\infty p_1 + \frac{x_\perp}{x_\perp^2}]$$

$\Rightarrow$The dipole kernel is invariant under the inversion $V(x_\perp) = U(x_\perp/x_\perp^2)$

$$\frac{d}{d\eta}\mathrm{Tr}\{V_x V_y^\dagger\} = \frac{\alpha_s}{2\pi^2}\int \frac{d^2 z}{\cancel{z^4}} \frac{(x-y)^2\, \cancel{z^4}}{(x-z)^2 (z-y)^2}[\mathrm{Tr}\{V_x V_z^\dagger\}\mathrm{Tr}\{V_z V_y^\dagger\} - N_c \mathrm{Tr}\{V_x V_y^\dagger\}]$$

# Conformal invariance of the BK equation

## SL(2,C) for Wilson lines

$$\hat{S}_- \equiv \frac{i}{2}(K^1 + iK^2), \quad \hat{S}_0 \equiv \frac{i}{2}(D + iM^{12}), \quad \hat{S}_+ \equiv \frac{i}{2}(P^1 - iP^2)$$

$$[\hat{S}_0, \hat{S}_\pm] = \pm\hat{S}_\pm, \quad \frac{1}{2}[\hat{S}_+, \hat{S}_-] = \hat{S}_0,$$

$$[\hat{S}_-, \hat{U}(z,\bar{z})] = z^2\partial_z\hat{U}(z,\bar{z}), \quad [\hat{S}_0, \hat{U}(z,\bar{z})] = z\partial_z\hat{U}(z,\bar{z}), \quad [\hat{S}_+, \hat{U}(z,\bar{z})] = -\partial_z\hat{U}(z,\bar{z})$$

$z \equiv z^1 + iz^2, \bar{z} \equiv z^1 + iz^2, \quad U(z_\perp) = U(z,\bar{z})$

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$z \equiv z^1 + iz^2, \bar{z} \equiv z^1 + iz^2, \quad U(z_\perp) = U(z,\bar{z})$

## Conformal invariance of the evolution kernel

$$\frac{d}{d\eta}[\hat{S}_-, \mathrm{Tr}\{U_x U_y^\dagger\}] = \frac{\alpha_s N_c}{2\pi^2}\int dz\, K(x,y,z)[\hat{S}_-, \mathrm{Tr}\{U_x U_y^\dagger\}\mathrm{Tr}\{U_x U_y^\dagger\}]$$

$$\Rightarrow \left[x^2\frac{\partial}{\partial x} + y^2\frac{\partial}{\partial y} + z^2\frac{\partial}{\partial z}\right]K(x,y,z) = 0$$

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$$\Rightarrow \left[x^2\frac{\partial}{\partial x} + y^2\frac{\partial}{\partial y} + z^2\frac{\partial}{\partial z}\right]K(x,y,z) = 0$$

In the leading order - OK. In the NLO - ?

# Non-linear evolution equation at NLO

$$\frac{d}{d\eta} Tr\{U_x U_y^\dagger\} =$$

$$\int \frac{d^2z}{2\pi^2}\left(\alpha_s \frac{(x-y)^2}{(x-z)^2(z-y)^2} + \alpha_s^2 K_{NLO}(x,y,z)\right)[Tr\{U_x U_z^\dagger\}Tr\{U_z U_y^\dagger\} - N_c Tr\{U_x U_y^\dagger\}] +$$

$$\alpha_s^2 \int d^2z d^2z' \left(K_4(x,y,z,z')\{U_x, U_{z'}^\dagger, U_z, U_y^\dagger\} + K_6(x,y,z,z')\{U_x, U_{z'}^\dagger, U_{z'}, U_z, U_z^\dagger, U_y^\dagger\}\right)$$

$K_{NLO}$ is the next-to-leading order correction to the dipole kernel and K4 and K6 are the coefficients in front of the (tree) four- and six-Wilson line operators with arbitrary white arrangements of color indices.

# Definition of the NLO kernel

In general

$$\frac{d}{d\eta}\mathrm{Tr}\{\hat{U}_x\hat{U}_y^\dagger\} = \alpha_s K_{\mathrm{LO}}\mathrm{Tr}\{\hat{U}_x\hat{U}_y^\dagger\} + \alpha_s^2 K_{\mathrm{NLO}}\mathrm{Tr}\{\hat{U}_x\hat{U}_y^\dagger\} + O(\alpha_s^3)$$

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$$\alpha_s^2 K_{\mathrm{NLO}}\mathrm{Tr}\{\hat{U}_x\hat{U}_y^\dagger\} = \frac{d}{d\eta}\mathrm{Tr}\{\hat{U}_x\hat{U}_y^\dagger\} - \alpha_s K_{\mathrm{LO}}\mathrm{Tr}\{\hat{U}_x\hat{U}_y^\dagger\} + O(\alpha_s^3)$$

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$$\alpha_s^2 K_{\mathrm{NLO}}\mathrm{Tr}\{\hat{U}_x\hat{U}_y^\dagger\} = \frac{d}{d\eta}\mathrm{Tr}\{\hat{U}_x\hat{U}_y^\dagger\} - \alpha_s K_{\mathrm{LO}}\mathrm{Tr}\{\hat{U}_x\hat{U}_y^\dagger\} + O(\alpha_s^3)$$

We calculate the “matrix element” of the r.h.s. in the shock-wave background

$$\langle\alpha_s^2 K_{\mathrm{NLO}}\mathrm{Tr}\{\hat{U}_x\hat{U}_y^\dagger\}\rangle = \frac{d}{d\eta}\langle\mathrm{Tr}\{\hat{U}_x\hat{U}_y^\dagger\}\rangle - \langle\alpha_s K_{\mathrm{LO}}\mathrm{Tr}\{\hat{U}_x\hat{U}_y^\dagger\}\rangle + O(\alpha_s^3)$$

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$$\frac{d}{d\eta}\mathrm{Tr}\{\hat{U}_x\hat{U}_y^\dagger\} = \alpha_s K_{\mathrm{LO}}\mathrm{Tr}\{\hat{U}_x\hat{U}_y^\dagger\} + \alpha_s^2 K_{\mathrm{NLO}}\mathrm{Tr}\{\hat{U}_x\hat{U}_y^\dagger\} + O(\alpha_s^3)$$

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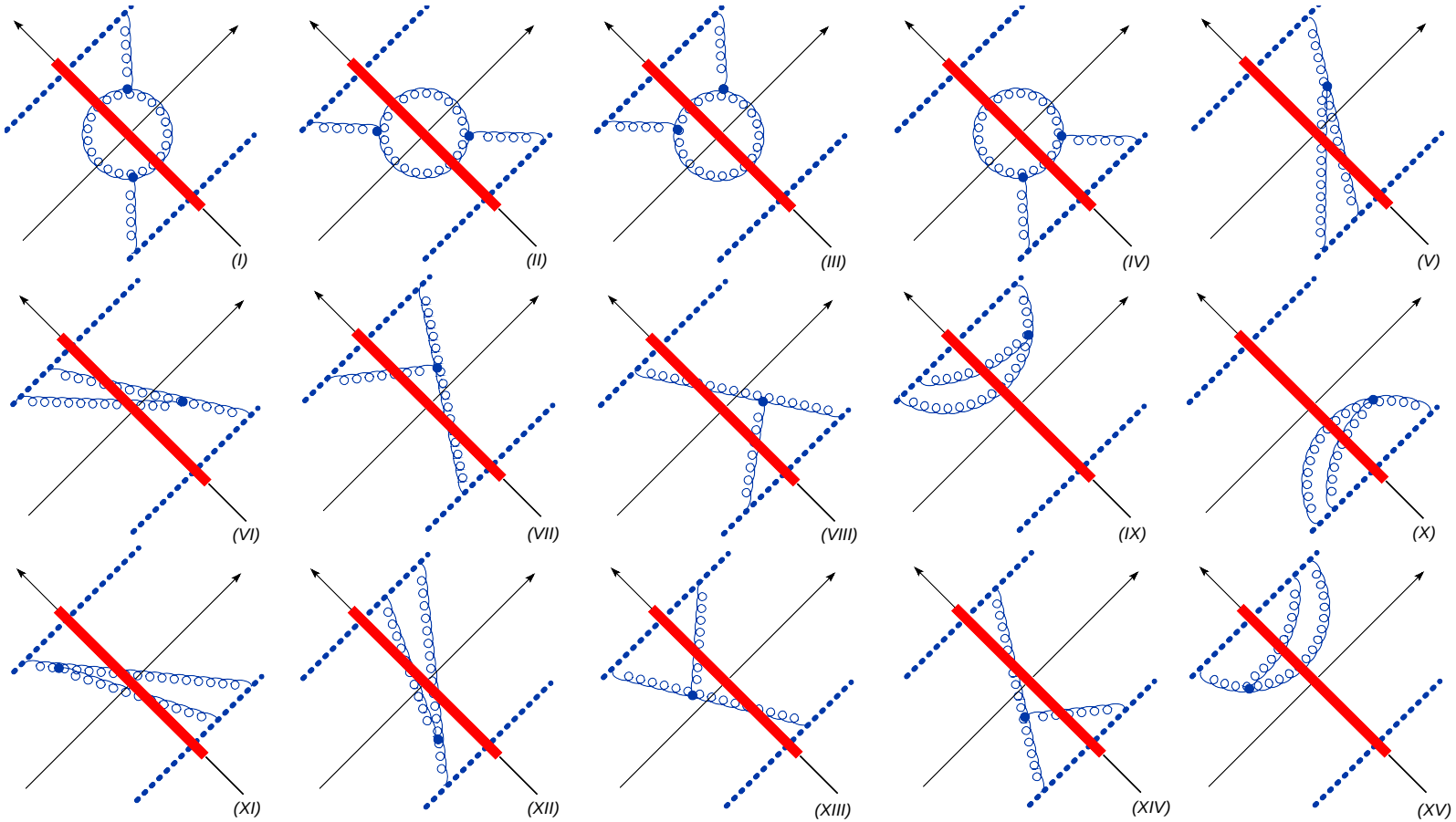
Subtraction of the (LO) contribution (with the rigid rapidity cutoff)

$\Rightarrow \quad \left[\frac{1}{v}\right]_+$ prescription in the integrals over Feynman parameter $v$

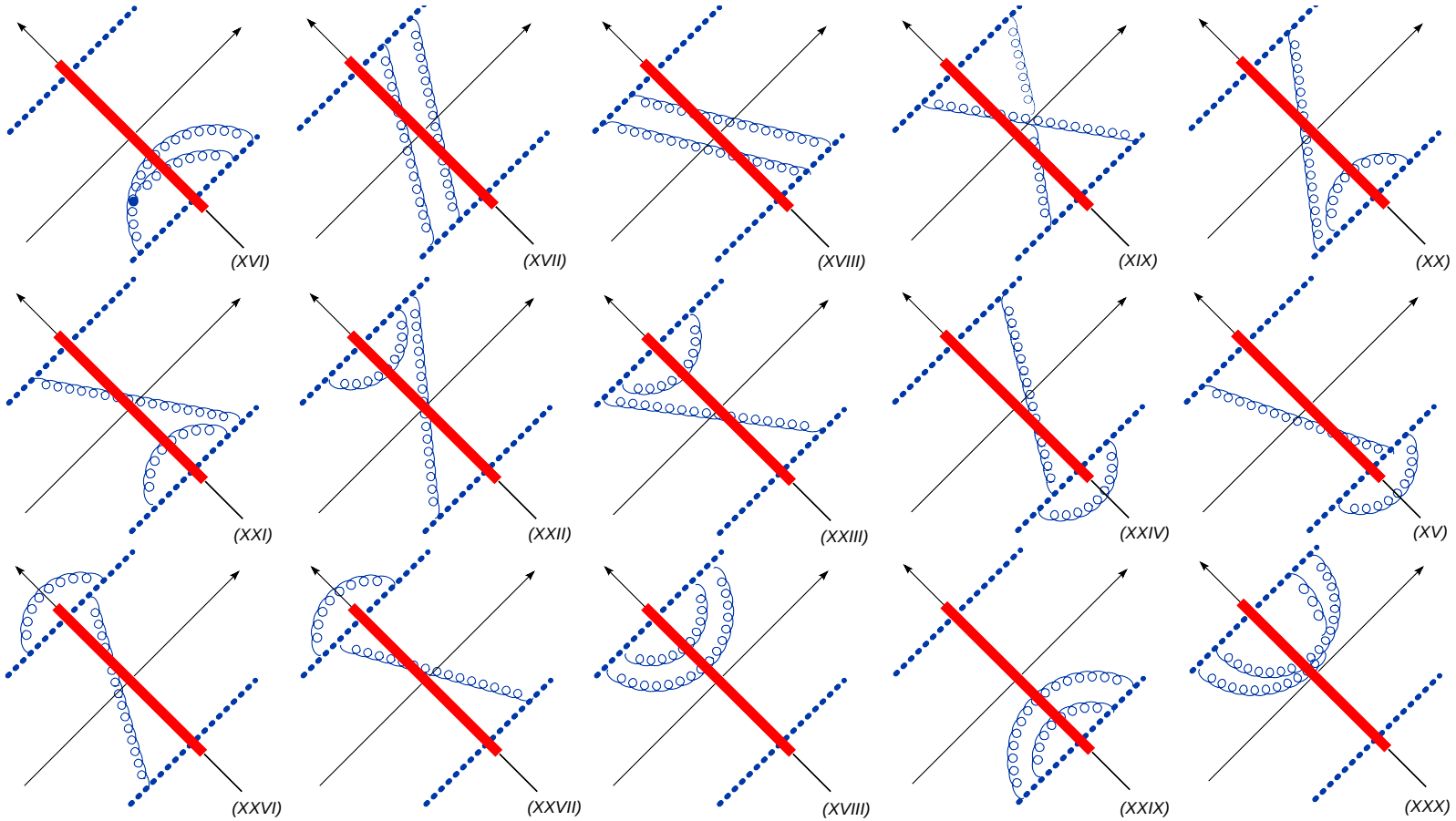
Typical integral

$$\int_0^1 dv\, \frac{1}{(k-p)_\perp^2 v + p_\perp^2 (1-v)}\left[\frac{1}{v}\right]_+ = \frac{1}{p_\perp^2}\ln\frac{(k-p)_\perp^2}{p_\perp^2}$$

## Diagrams with 2 gluons interaction

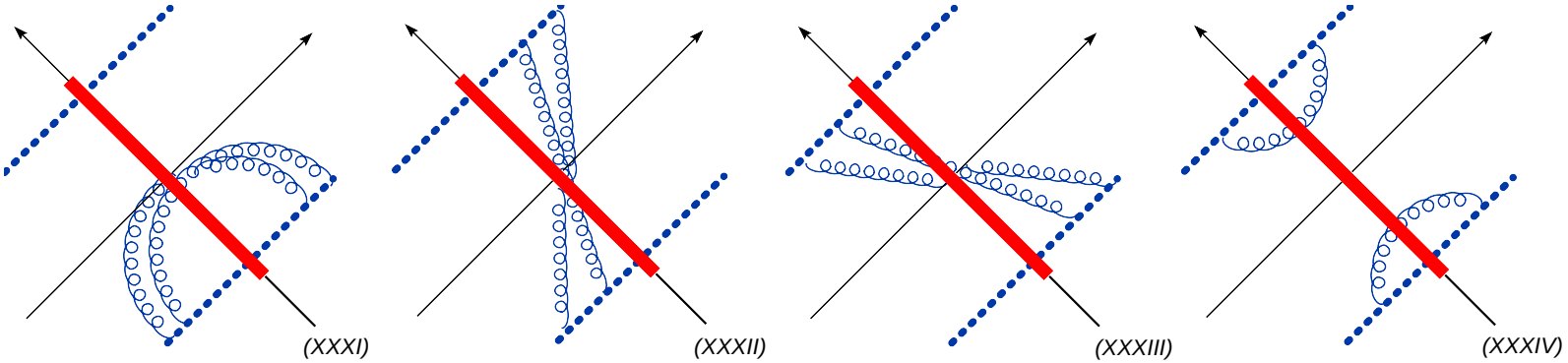


## Diagrams with 2 gluons interaction



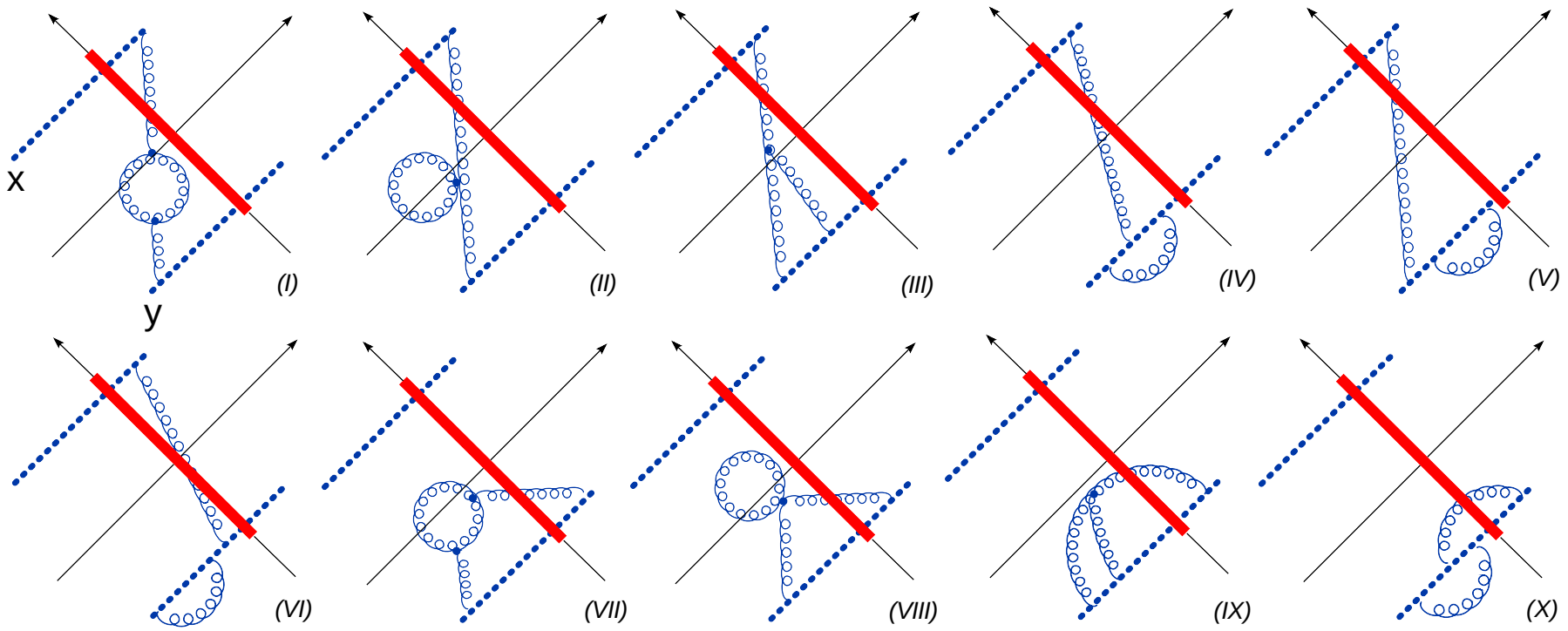
# Diagrams of the NLO gluon contribution

## Diagrams with 2 gluons interaction



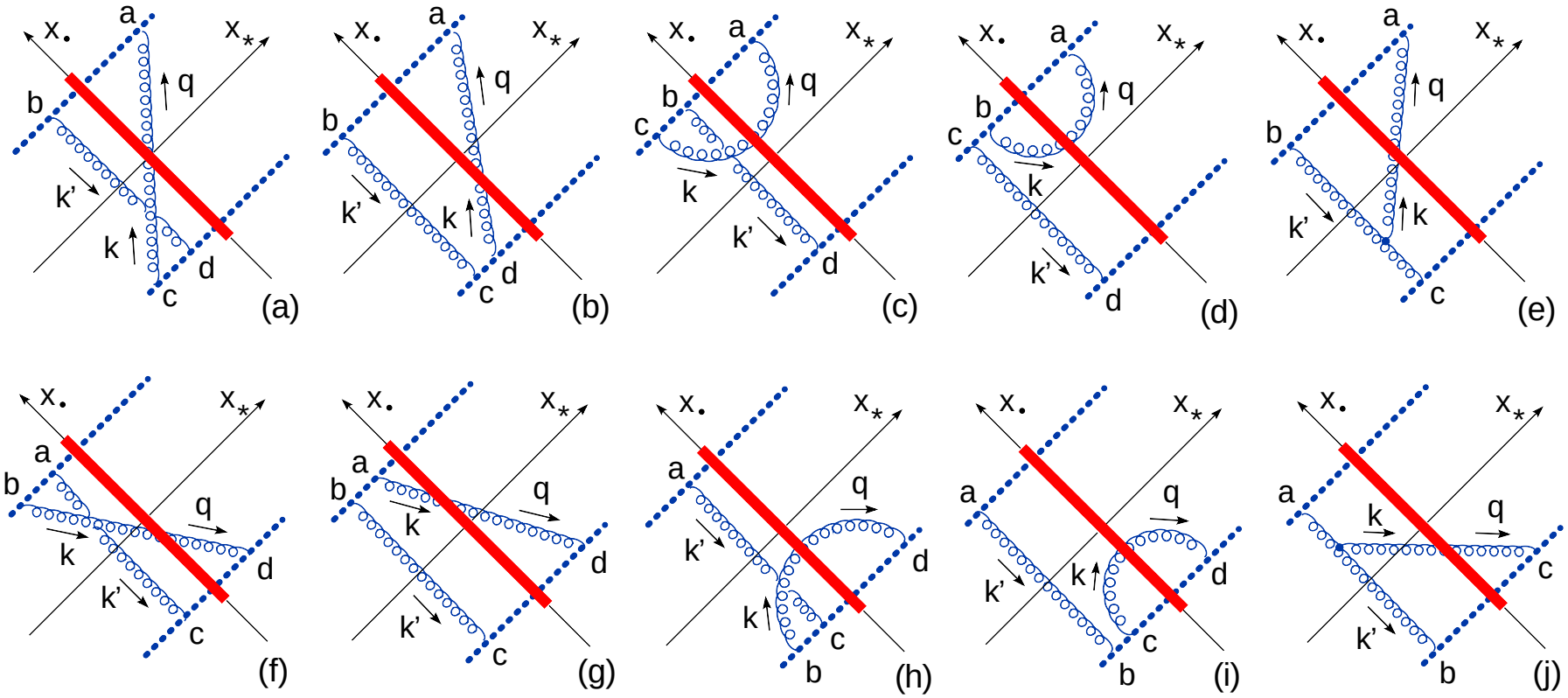
# Diagrams of the NLO gluon contribution

## "Running coupling" diagrams



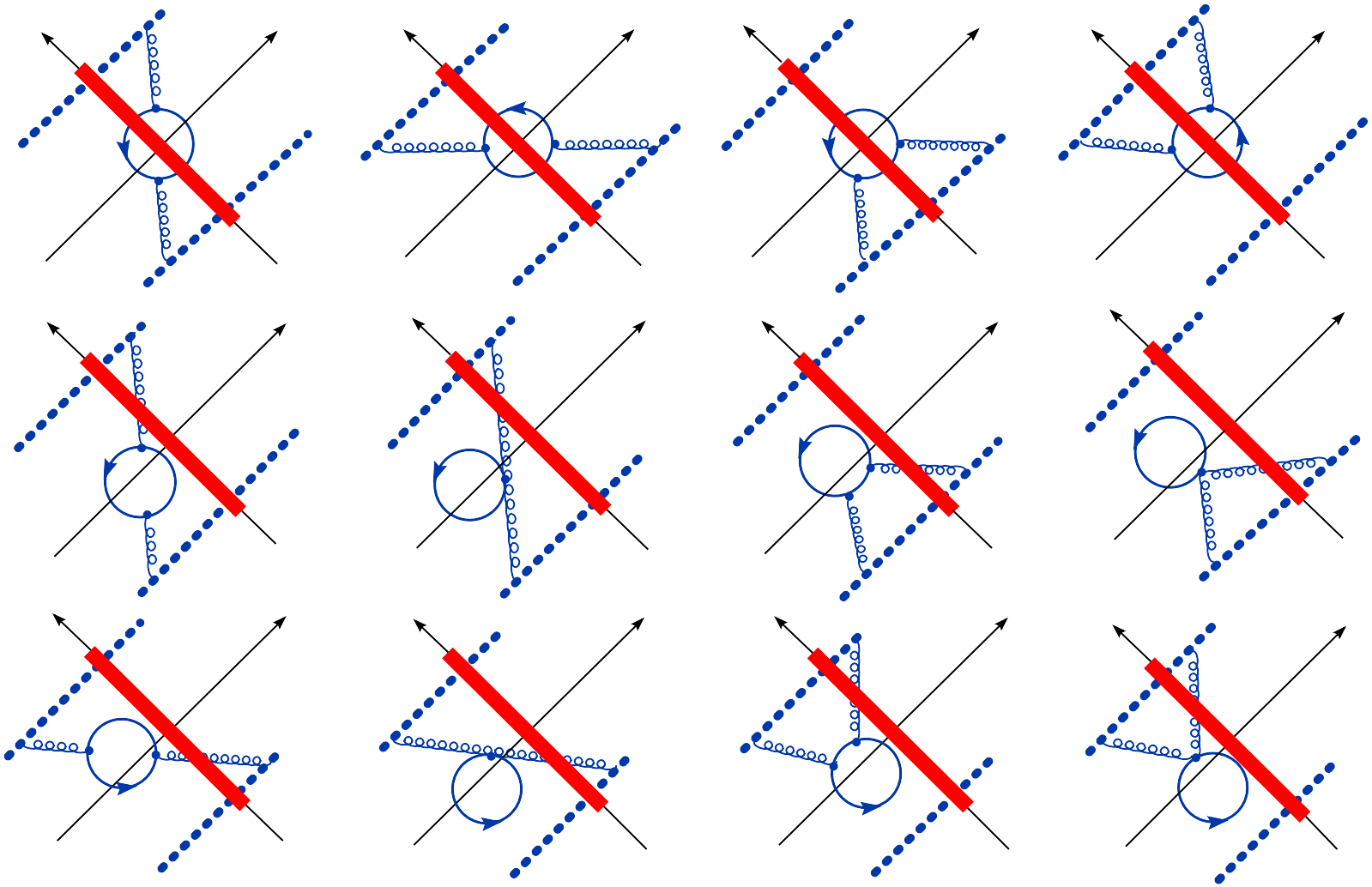
# Diagrams of the NLO gluon contribution

## $1 \to 2$ dipole transition diagrams



# Diagrams of the NLO gluon contribution

$\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM diagrams (scalar and gluino loops)



# Gluon contribution to the NLO kernel (I. Balitsky and G.A.C, 2007)

$$
\begin{aligned}
\frac{d}{d\eta}\mathrm{Tr}\{U_x U_y^\dagger\} \;=\; & \frac{\alpha_s}{2\pi^2}\int d^2z\,\Big([\mathrm{Tr}\{U_x U_z^\dagger\}\mathrm{Tr}\{U_z U_y^\dagger\} - N_c\mathrm{Tr}\{U_x U_y^\dagger\}] \\
& \times\Big\{\frac{(x-y)^2}{X^2Y^2}\Big[1+\frac{\alpha_s N_c}{4\pi}\Big(\frac{11}{3}\ln(x-y)^2\mu^2+\frac{67}{9}-\frac{\pi^2}{3}\Big)\Big] \\
& -\frac{11}{3}\frac{\alpha_s N_c}{4\pi}\frac{X^2-Y^2}{X^2Y^2}\ln\frac{X^2}{Y^2} \;-\; \frac{\alpha_s N_c}{2\pi}\frac{(x-y)^2}{X^2Y^2}\ln\frac{X^2}{(x-y)^2}\ln\frac{Y^2}{(x-y)^2}\Big\} \\
& +\frac{\alpha_s}{4\pi^2}\int d^2z'\,\Big\{[\mathrm{Tr}\{U_x U_z^\dagger\}\mathrm{Tr}\{U_z U_{z'}^\dagger\}\{U_{z'} U_y^\dagger\} - \mathrm{Tr}\{U_x U_z^\dagger U_{z'} U_y^\dagger U_z U_{z'}^\dagger\} \\
& -(z'\to z)]\frac{1}{(z-z')^4}\Big[-2+\frac{X'^2Y^2+Y'^2X^2-4(x-y)^2(z-z')^2}{2(X'^2Y^2-Y'^2X^2)}\ln\frac{X'^2Y^2}{Y'^2X^2}\Big] \\
& +[\mathrm{Tr}\{U_x U_z^\dagger\}\mathrm{Tr}\{U_z U_{z'}^\dagger\}\{U_{z'} U_y^\dagger\} - \mathrm{Tr}\{U_x U_{z'}^\dagger U_z U_y^\dagger U_{z'} U_z^\dagger\} - (z'\to z)] \\
& \times\Big[\frac{(x-y)^4}{X^2Y'^2(X^2Y'^2-X'^2Y^2)}+\frac{(x-y)^2}{(z-z')^2X^2Y'^2}\Big]\ln\frac{X^2Y'^2}{X'^2Y^2}\Big\}\Big)
\end{aligned}
$$

Our result Agrees with NLO BFKL

(Comparing the eigenvalue of the forward kernel)

It respects unitarity

# Gluon contribution to the NLO kernel (I. Balitsky and G.A.C, 2007)

$$
\begin{aligned}
\frac{d}{d\eta}\mathrm{Tr}\{U_x U_y^\dagger\} \;=\; & \frac{\alpha_s}{2\pi^2}\int d^2z\,\Big([\mathrm{Tr}\{U_x U_z^\dagger\}\mathrm{Tr}\{U_z U_y^\dagger\} - N_c\mathrm{Tr}\{U_x U_y^\dagger\}] \\
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& +\frac{\alpha_s}{4\pi^2}\int d^2z'\,\Big\{[\mathrm{Tr}\{U_x U_z^\dagger\}\mathrm{Tr}\{U_z U_{z'}^\dagger\}\{U_{z'}U_y^\dagger\} - \mathrm{Tr}\{U_x U_z^\dagger U_{z'}U_y^\dagger U_z U_{z'}^\dagger\} \\
& -(z'\to z)]\frac{1}{(z-z')^4}\Big[-2+\frac{X'^2Y^2+Y'^2X^2-4(x-y)^2(z-z')^2}{2(X'^2Y^2-Y'^2X^2)}\ln\frac{X'^2Y^2}{Y'^2X^2}\Big] \\
& +[\mathrm{Tr}\{U_x U_z^\dagger\}\mathrm{Tr}\{U_z U_{z'}^\dagger\}\{U_{z'}U_y^\dagger\} - \mathrm{Tr}\{U_x U_{z'}^\dagger U_z U_y^\dagger U_{z'}U_z^\dagger\} - (z'\to z)] \\
& \times\Big[\frac{(x-y)^4}{X^2Y'^2(X^2Y'^2-X'^2Y^2)}+\frac{(x-y)^2}{(z-z')^2X^2Y'^2}\Big]\ln\frac{X^2Y'^2}{X'^2Y^2}\Big\}\Big)
\end{aligned}
$$

NLO kernel = Running coupling terms + Non-conformal term + Conformal term

# Evolution equation for color dipoles in $\mathcal{N} = 4$

( I. Balitsky and G.A.C. 2009)

$$
\begin{aligned}
&\frac{d}{d\eta}\mathrm{Tr}\{\hat{U}^{\eta}_{z_1}\hat{U}^{\dagger\eta}_{z_2}\} \\
&= \frac{\alpha_s}{\pi^2}\int d^2z_3\,\frac{z_{12}^2}{z_{13}^2 z_{23}^2}\left\{1-\frac{\alpha_s N_c}{4\pi}\left[\frac{\pi^2}{3}+2\ln\frac{z_{13}^2}{z_{12}^2}\ln\frac{z_{23}^2}{z_{12}^2}\right]\right\} \\
&\times\left[\mathrm{Tr}\{T^a\hat{U}^{\eta}_{z_1}\hat{U}^{\dagger\eta}_{z_3}T^a\hat{U}^{\eta}_{z_3}\hat{U}^{\dagger\eta}_{z_2}\}-N_c\mathrm{Tr}\{\hat{U}^{\eta}_{z_1}\hat{U}^{\dagger\eta}_{z_2}\}\right] \\
&-\frac{\alpha_s^2}{4\pi^4}\int\frac{d^2z_3d^2z_4}{z_{34}^4}\,\frac{z_{12}^2z_{34}^2}{z_{13}^2z_{24}^2}\left[1+\frac{z_{12}^2z_{34}^2}{z_{13}^2z_{24}^2-z_{23}^2z_{14}^2}\right]\ln\frac{z_{13}^2z_{24}^2}{z_{14}^2z_{23}^2} \\
&\times\mathrm{Tr}\{[T^a,T^b]\hat{U}^{\eta}_{z_1}T^{a'}T^{b'}\hat{U}^{\dagger\eta}_{z_2}+T^bT^a\hat{U}^{\eta}_{z_1}[T^{b'},T^{a'}]\hat{U}^{\dagger\eta}_{z_2}\}(\hat{U}^{\eta}_{z_3})^{aa'}(\hat{U}^{\eta}_{z_4}-\hat{U}^{\eta}_{z_3})^{bb'}
\end{aligned}
$$

NLO kernel = Non-conformal term + Conformal term.

Non-conformal term is due to the non-invariant cutoff $\alpha < \sigma = e^{2\eta}$ in the rapidity of Wilson lines.

# Evolution equation for color dipoles in $\mathcal{N}=4$

( I. Balitsky and G.A.C. 2009)

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&\times\,[\mathrm{Tr}\{T^a\hat{U}^{\eta}_{z_1}\hat{U}^{\dagger\eta}_{z_3}T^a\hat{U}^{\eta}_{z_3}\hat{U}^{\dagger\eta}_{z_2}\}-N_c\mathrm{Tr}\{\hat{U}^{\eta}_{z_1}\hat{U}^{\dagger\eta}_{z_2}\}] \\
&-\frac{\alpha_s^2}{4\pi^4}\int\frac{d^2z_3d^2z_4}{z_{34}^4}\,\frac{z_{12}^2z_{34}^2}{z_{13}^2z_{24}^2}\Big[1+\frac{z_{12}^2z_{34}^2}{z_{13}^2z_{24}^2-z_{23}^2z_{14}^2}\Big]\ln\frac{z_{13}^2z_{24}^2}{z_{14}^2z_{23}^2} \\
&\times\,\mathrm{Tr}\{[T^a,T^b]\hat{U}^{\eta}_{z_1}T^{a'}T^{b'}\hat{U}^{\dagger\eta}_{z_2}+T^bT^a\hat{U}^{\eta}_{z_1}[T^{b'},T^{a'}]\hat{U}^{\dagger\eta}_{z_2}\}(\hat{U}^{\eta}_{z_3})^{aa'}(\hat{U}^{\eta}_{z_4}-\hat{U}^{\eta}_{z_3})^{bb'}
\end{aligned}
$$

NLO kernel = Non-conformal term + Conformal term.

Non-conformal term is due to the non-invariant cutoff $\alpha<\sigma=e^{2\eta}$ in the rapidity of Wilson lines.

For the conformal composite dipole the result is Möbius invariant

# Evolution equation for composite conformal dipoles in $\mathcal{N}=4$ SYM

$$[\mathrm{Tr}\{\hat{U}^{\eta}_{z_1}\hat{U}^{\dagger\eta}_{z_2}\}]^{\mathrm{conf}} = \mathrm{Tr}\{\hat{U}^{\eta}_{z_1}\hat{U}^{\dagger\eta}_{z_2}\}$$
$$+\frac{\alpha_s}{4\pi}\int d^2z_3\,\frac{z_{12}^2}{z_{13}^2z_{23}^2}[\frac{1}{N_c}\mathrm{tr}\{\hat{U}^{\eta}_{z_1}\hat{U}^{\dagger\eta}_{z_3}\}\mathrm{tr}\{\hat{U}^{\eta}_{z_3}\hat{U}^{\dagger\eta}_{z_2}\}-\mathrm{Tr}\{\hat{U}^{\eta}_{z_1}\hat{U}^{\dagger\eta}_{z_2}\}]\ln\frac{az_{12}^2}{z_{13}^2z_{23}^2} + O(\alpha_s^2)$$

$$\frac{d}{d\eta}\left[\mathrm{Tr}\{\hat{U}^{\eta}_{z_1}\hat{U}^{\dagger\eta}_{z_2}\}\right]^{\mathrm{conf}}$$
$$=\frac{\alpha_s}{\pi^2}\int d^2z_3\,\frac{z_{12}^2}{z_{13}^2z_{23}^2}\left[1-\frac{\alpha_sN_c}{4\pi}\frac{\pi^2}{3}\right]\left[\mathrm{Tr}\{T^a\hat{U}^{\eta}_{z_1}\hat{U}^{\dagger\eta}_{z_3}T^a\hat{U}_{z_3}\hat{U}^{\dagger\eta}_{z_2}\}-N_c\mathrm{Tr}\{\hat{U}^{\eta}_{z_1}\hat{U}^{\dagger\eta}_{z_2}\}\right]^{\mathrm{conf}}$$
$$-\frac{\alpha_s^2}{4\pi^4}\int d^2z_3d^2z_4\frac{z_{12}^2}{z_{13}^2z_{24}^2z_{34}^2}\left\{2\ln\frac{z_{12}^2z_{34}^2}{z_{14}^2z_{23}^2}+\left[1+\frac{z_{12}^2z_{34}^2}{z_{13}^2z_{24}^2-z_{14}^2z_{23}^2}\right]\ln\frac{z_{13}^2z_{24}^2}{z_{14}^2z_{23}^2}\right\}$$
$$\times\,\mathrm{Tr}\{[T^a,T^b]\hat{U}^{\eta}_{z_1}T^{a'}T^{b'}\hat{U}^{\dagger\eta}_{z_2}+T^bT^a\hat{U}^{\eta}_{z_1}[T^{b'},T^{a'}]\hat{U}^{\dagger\eta}_{z_2}\}[(\hat{U}^{\eta}_{z_3})^{aa'}(\hat{U}^{\eta}_{z_4})^{bb'}-(z_4\to z_3)]$$

Now Möbius invariant!

# NLO evolution of composite "conformal" dipoles in QCD

$$\frac{d}{d\eta}[\mathrm{tr}\{\hat{U}_{z_1}U^\dagger_{z_2}\}]^{\mathrm{conf}} = \frac{\alpha_s}{2\pi^2}\int d^2z_3\,\Big([\mathrm{tr}\{\hat{U}_{z_1}\hat{U}^\dagger_{z_3}\}\mathrm{tr}\{\hat{U}_{z_3}\hat{U}^\dagger_{z_2}\} - N_c\mathrm{tr}\{\hat{U}_{z_1}\hat{U}^\dagger_{z_2}\}]^{\mathrm{conf}}$$

$$\times\frac{z_{12}^2}{z_{13}^2z_{23}^2}\Big[1+\frac{\alpha_sN_c}{4\pi}\Big(b\ln z_{12}^2\mu^2 + b\frac{z_{13}^2-z_{23}^2}{z_{13}^2z_{23}^2}\ln\frac{z_{13}^2}{z_{23}^2}+\frac{67}{9}-\frac{\pi^2}{3}\Big)\Big]$$

$$+\frac{\alpha_s}{4\pi^2}\int\frac{d^2z_4}{z_{34}^4}\Big\{\Big[-2+\frac{{z_{14}}^2z_{23}^2+{z_{24}}^2z_{13}^2-4z_{12}^2z_{34}^2}{2({z_{14}}^2z_{23}^2-{z_{24}}^2z_{13}^2)}\ln\frac{{z_{14}}^2z_{23}^2}{{z_{24}}^2z_{13}^2}\Big]$$

$$\times[\mathrm{tr}\{\hat{U}_{z_1}\hat{U}^\dagger_{z_3}\}\mathrm{tr}\{\hat{U}_{z_3}\hat{U}^\dagger_{z_4}\}\{\hat{U}_{z_4}\hat{U}^\dagger_{z_2}\} - \mathrm{tr}\{\hat{U}_{z_1}\hat{U}^\dagger_{z_3}\hat{U}_{z_4}\hat{U}^\dagger_{z_2}\hat{U}_{z_3}\hat{U}^\dagger_{z_4}\} - (z_4\to z_3)]$$

$$+\frac{z_{12}^2z_{34}^2}{z_{13}^2{z_{24}}^2}\Big[2\ln\frac{z_{12}^2z_{34}^2}{z_{14}^2z_{23}^2}+\Big(1+\frac{z_{12}^2z_{34}^2}{z_{13}^2z_{24}^2-z_{14}^2z_{23}^2}\Big)\ln\frac{z_{13}^2{z_{24}}^2}{{z_{14}}^2z_{23}^2}\Big]$$

$$\times[\mathrm{tr}\{\hat{U}_{z_1}\hat{U}^\dagger_{z_3}\}\mathrm{tr}\{\hat{U}_{z_3}\hat{U}^\dagger_{z_4}\}\mathrm{tr}\{\hat{U}_{z_4}\hat{U}^\dagger_{z_2}\} - \mathrm{tr}\{\hat{U}_{z_1}\hat{U}^\dagger_{z_4}\hat{U}_{z_3}\hat{U}^\dagger_{z_2}\hat{U}_{z_4}\hat{U}^\dagger_{z_3}\} - (z_4\to z_3)]\Big\}$$

$$b = \tfrac{11}{3}N_c - \tfrac{2}{3}n_f$$

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$K_{\mathrm{NLO\ BK}}$ = Running coupling part + Conformal "non-analytic" (in j) part + Conformal analytic ($\mathcal{N}=4$) part

Linearized $K_{\mathrm{NLO\ BK}}$ reproduces the known result for the forward NLO BFKL kernel Fadin and Lipatov (1998).

# Conclusions

- High-energy operator expansion in color dipoles works at the NLO level.
- The analytic NLO photon impact factor in coordinate space has been calculated: the result is conformal.
- The NLO BK kernel in QCD and $\mathcal{N} = 4$ SYM agrees with NLO BFKL eigenvalues.
- The NLO BK kernel in QCD is a sum of the running-coupling part and conformal part.