

# Construction of two-loop amplitudes with HELAC

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# Introduction



Future 14 TeV HL-LHC runs



Observables measured with percent accuracy



NNLO or N3LO corrections demanded from theory side

## Cross Section Computations in Perturbative QCD

- QCD amplitudes expanded in  $\alpha_s \rightarrow$  X-loop contributions to hard-scattering cross section @ NXLO

$$d\hat{\sigma}_{ij \rightarrow f}^{\text{NXLO}} \sim \int d\Phi^{(n-2)} \left( 2 \operatorname{Re} \left[ \mathcal{M}_n^{(X)} (\mathcal{M}_n^{(0)})^* \right] \right) + \dots$$

- $\mathcal{M}_n^{(X)}$  is a sum of X-loop Feynman Diagrams  $\rightarrow$  Feynman Integrals (FIs) [ $d = 4 - 2\epsilon$ ]

$$\mathcal{M}_n^{(X)} = \sum_t C_t F_t \quad \text{with} \quad F_t = \int d^d k_1 \dots d^d k_X \prod_{i \in t} \frac{1}{D_i^{a_i}}, \quad D_i = (k_i + p_i)^2 - m_i^2$$

which satisfy integration-by-part relations [Chetyrkin & Tkachov, 1981; Laporta, 2004]  $\rightarrow$  Master Integrals

$$\int d^d k_1 \dots d^d k_X \frac{\partial}{\partial k_j^\mu} \prod_{i \in t} \frac{1}{D_i^{a_i}} = 0 \quad \longrightarrow \quad \{\mathcal{J}_i\} \quad (\text{See Gaia's Talk})$$

- $\mathcal{M}_n^{(X)}$  expressed as a sum of Master Integrals (MIs) multiplied by process-dependent coefficients

$$\mathcal{M}_n^{(X)} = \sum_{i=1}^{N_{\text{MIs}}} \tilde{c}_i \mathcal{J}_i$$

(See talks of Michal and Matteo for recent MI computations)

## Status of NNLO QCD predictions

- Current frontier of NNLO QCD predictions stands at 2  $\rightarrow$  3 processes [Les Houches 2023]

$$pp \rightarrow H + 2j, H/V'/j + t\bar{t}, V + b\bar{b}, VV' + j, tZj \text{ with } V' = V, \gamma \text{ and } V = Z, W$$

- Recent cross-section results

<i>Process</i>	<i>Color</i>	<i>Reference</i>
$pp \rightarrow \gamma\gamma\gamma$	LC	Kallweit, Sotnikov & Wiesemann, 2021
$pp \rightarrow \gamma\gamma j$	LC	Chawdhry, Czakon, Mitov & Poncelet, 2021
$pp \rightarrow jjj$	LC	Czakon, Mitov & Poncelet, 2021
$pp \rightarrow b\bar{b}W$	LC	Hartanto, Poncelet, Popescu & Zoia, 2022
$pp \rightarrow b\bar{b}Z$	LC	Mazzitelli, Sotnikov & Wiesemann, 2024
$pp \rightarrow \gamma\gamma + j$	FC	Badger, Czakon, Hartanto, Moodie, Peraro, Poncelet & Zoia, 2023
$pp \rightarrow \gamma\gamma j$	FC	Buccioni, Chen, Feng, Gehrmann, Huss & Marcoli, 2025
$q\bar{q} \rightarrow \gamma\gamma\gamma$	FC	Kermanschah & Vicini (2025)

Apologies if I missed any relevant citations or results herein and from here on!

## Recent Results for $2 \rightarrow 3$ Two-Loop Amplitudes

Process	Color	Reference
$pp \rightarrow Vjj$	LC	De Laurentis, Ita, Page & Vasily Sotnikov (2025)
$gg \rightarrow t\bar{t}g$	LC	Badger, Becchetti, Brancaccio, Hartanto & Zoia (2025)
$pp \rightarrow W\gamma j$	LC	Badger, Hartanto, Kryś & Zoia (2022)
$pp \rightarrow b\bar{b}H$	LC	Badger, Hartanto, Kryś & Zoia (2021)
$u\bar{d} \rightarrow b\bar{b}W^+$	LC	Badger, Hartanto & Zoia (2021)
$W + 4 \text{ partons}$	LC	Badger, Hartanto, Hansen & Peraro (2019), Abreu, Cordero, Ita, Klinkert, Page & Sotnikov (2022)
$gg/q\bar{q} \rightarrow g\gamma\gamma$	LC	Badger, Chicherin, Gehrmann, Hartanto, Hansen, Henn, Marcoli, Moodie, Peraro & Zoia (2021)
$q\bar{q} \rightarrow \gamma\gamma\gamma$	LC	Chawdhry, Czakon, Mitov & Poncelet (2021), Abreu, Page, Pascual & Sotnikov (2021)
$pp \rightarrow 3j$	LC	Abreu, Cordero, Ita, Page, & Sotnikov (2021)
$5 \text{ partons}$	LC	Abreu, Dormans, Cordero, Ita, Page & Sotnikov (2019), Abreu, Cordero, Ita, Page & Sotnikov, (2018)
$gg \rightarrow ggg$	LC	Abreu, Dormans, Cordero, Ita, Page & Zeng (2018 & 2019), Badger, Hansen, Hartanto & Peraro (2019)
$pp \rightarrow b\bar{b}H$	FC	Badger, Hartanto, Poncelet, Wu, Zhang & Zoia (2025)
$u\bar{d} \rightarrow \gamma\gamma W^+$	FC	Badger, Hartanto, Wu, Zhang & Zoia (2024)
$5 \text{ partons}$	FC	Agarwal, Buccioni, Devoto, Gambuti, Manteuffel, Tancredi, De Laurentis, Ita, Klinkert & Sotnikov (2023)
$q\bar{q} \rightarrow \gamma\gamma\gamma$	FC	Abreu, De Laurentis, Ita, Klinkert, Page & Sotnikov (2023)
$q\bar{q} \rightarrow \gamma gg/Q\bar{Q}$	FC	Badger, Czakon, Hartanto, Moodie, Peraro, Poncelet & Zoia (2023)
$q\bar{q} \rightarrow g\gamma\gamma$	FC	Agarwal, Buccioni, Manteuffel & Tancredi (2021)
$gg \rightarrow ggg$	FC	Badger, Chicherin, Gehrmann, Heinrich, Henn, Peraro, Wasser, Zhang & Zoia (2019)

## Color Decomposition of QCD Amplitude

- In QCD,  $\mathcal{M}_n^{(L)}$  can be decomposed into a color factor and a kinematic-dependent part

$$\mathcal{M}_n^{(L)} = \sum_F c_F^{(L)} \mathcal{A}_{n,F}^{(L)}.$$

- Several color representations (bases)  $\rightarrow$  most famous the fundamental one  $\rightarrow c_F^{(L)}$  expressed in terms of traces of the  $SU(3)$  generators ( $t_{ij}^a$ ).

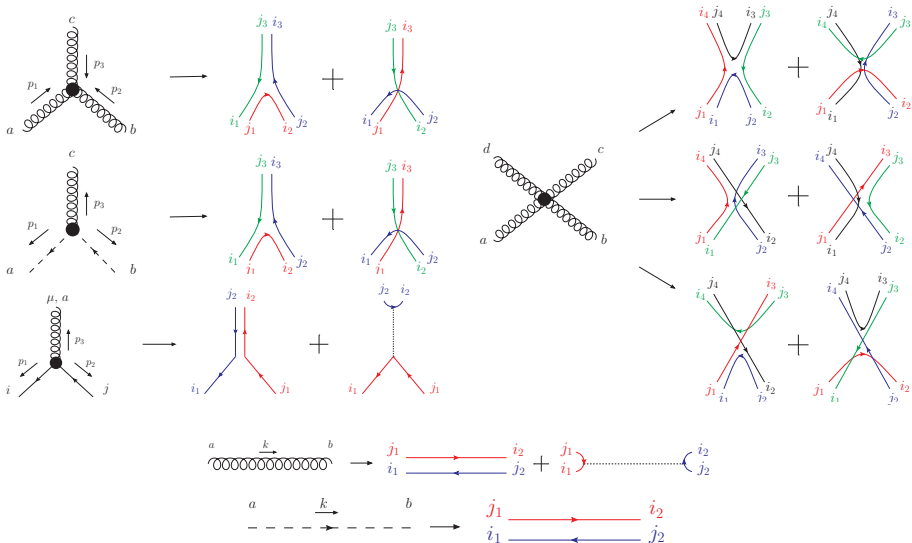
- We use the **color-flow basis**  $\rightarrow \mathcal{M}_n^{(L)}$  contracted with a  $t_{ij}^a$  (in the adjoint index) for every gluon

$$\mathcal{M}_n^{(L)} = \sum_{\sigma} \delta_{j_1}^{i_{\sigma_1}} \delta_{j_2}^{i_{\sigma_2}} \dots \delta_{j_k}^{i_{\sigma_k}} \mathcal{A}_{n,\sigma}^{(L)}, \quad \text{with} \quad k = n_g + n_{q\bar{q}}.$$

- In this representation:

- ① **Gluons and ghosts** are represented by a pair of color/anti-color indices/lines  $(i, j)$ .
- ② **Quarks** (anti-quarks) are represented by a single color  $(i, 0)$  (anti-color  $(0, j)$ ) index.
- ③ **All the rest** of the particles (not carry color) have  $(0, 0)$ .

# Color-Flow Feynman Rules



- This Talk → Construction of two-loop scattering amplitudes (skeletons)

$$\mathcal{M}_n^{(L)} = \sum_F c_F^{(L)} \int \left( \prod_{i=1}^L \frac{d^d k_i}{(2\pi)^d} \mu^{4-d} \right) \sum_{I \subseteq T} \frac{N_{I,F}(\{k\}, \{p\}, \gamma^\mu, \{\epsilon^\mu, u, v\})}{\prod_{j \in I} D_j^{a_j}(\{k\}, \{p\}, m_j)}$$

using a Hybrid approach: **Topology generation** + **Dyson-Schwinger recursion!**

- Numerical evaluation en-capturing the  $(d - 4)$ -dependency of the amplitude → [Giuseppe's Talk](#)
- Two-loop integrand reduction method → [Costas' Talk](#)

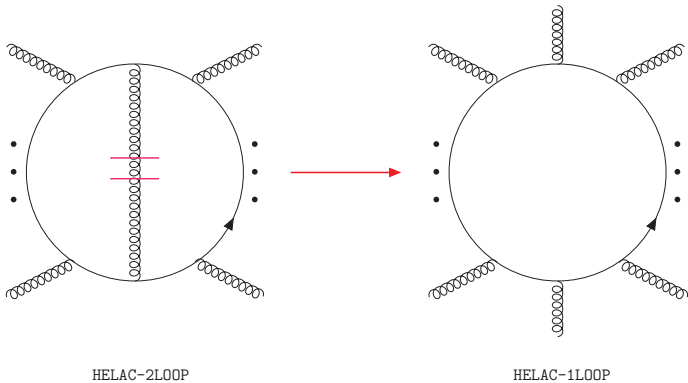
$$\mathcal{M}_n^{(L)} = \sum_F c_F^{(L)} \left( \sum_{i'} \tilde{c}_{i',F}^{(L)}(\{p_i \cdot p_j\}, \{m\}, \epsilon) F_{i',F}^{(L)}(\{p_i \cdot p_j\}, \{m\}, \epsilon) \right)$$

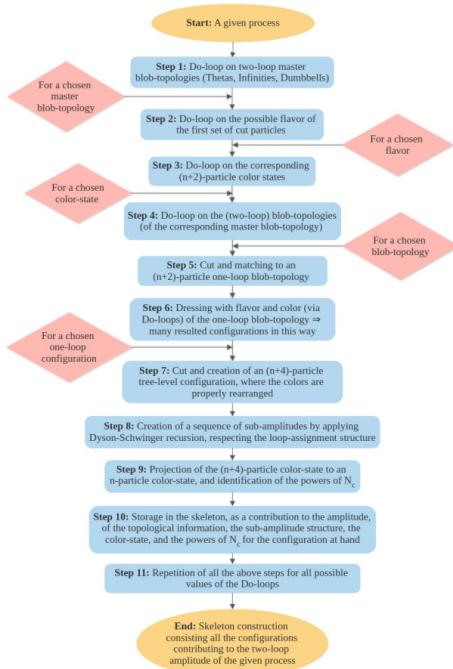
- Numerical implementation of the above method in HELAC-2LOOP → [Aris' Talk](#)

# The Algorithm

## Two-Loop Amplitude Construction using HELAC-2LOOP: The algorithm

$n$  - Particle & 2 - Loop Amplitude  $\rightarrow$   $(n + 2)$  - Particle & 1 - Loop Amplitude



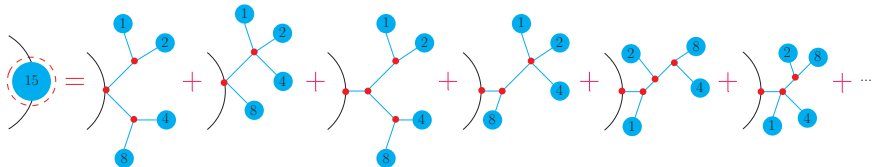


## Binary Representation and Blobs

- For the external particles we use a **binary representation** ( $2^{i-1}$ ). E.g.:

$$\text{For } n = 4 : \{p_1, p_2, p_3, p_4\} \rightarrow \{1, 2, 4, 8\}.$$

- What a blob and its level are?



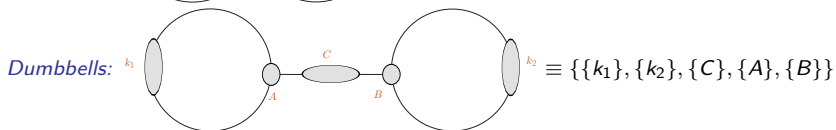
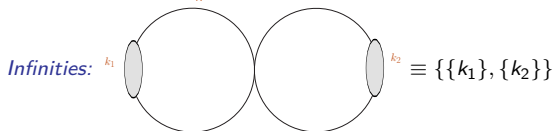
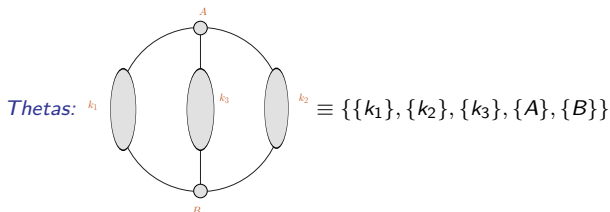
1) **Blob**  $\rightarrow$  sum of **all possible tree-level sub-currents** that can be constructed.

2) **Blob-Level**  $\rightarrow$  the **number of particles** consisted in the blob.

- In the example above: blob  $\rightarrow$  15, level  $\rightarrow$  4, and total number of graphs that describes  $\rightarrow$  26:
  - 3 graphs of the first type,
  - 4 graphs of the second type,
  - 3 graphs of the third type,
  - 4 graphs of the fourth type,
  - 12 graphs of the fifth type,
  - 3 graphs of the sixth type.

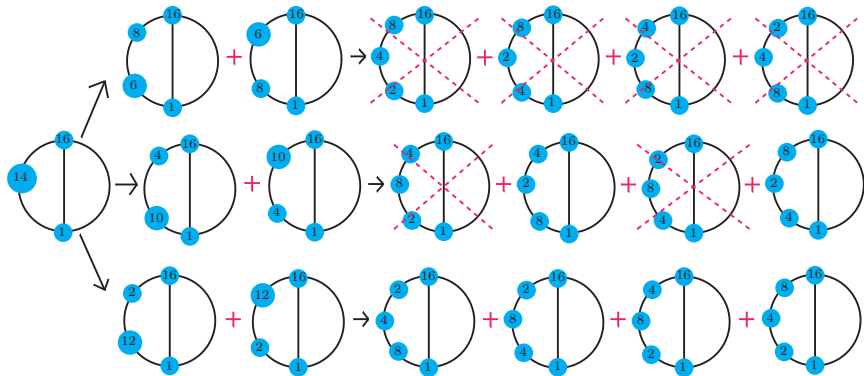
## Two-loop blob-topologies

- At two-loop 3 master blob-topologies exist



where with  $\{x\}$  we denote a sub-list of blobs.

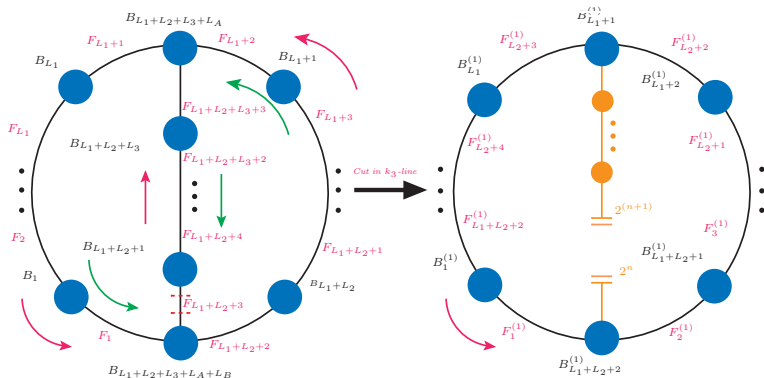
## Blob-Topology Generation



- Generate of all possible blob-topologies: From higher to lower level blobs.
- Order in the Lengths:  $L_1 \geq L_2 \geq L_3$  and  $L_A \geq L_B$ .
- Remove identical topologies using symmetries: 1) up-down (reversion), 2) loop-line swapping.

## From 2-Loop to 1-Loop: Thetas

- The red (green) arrows in the following graphs indicate the flow of flavor (momenta):

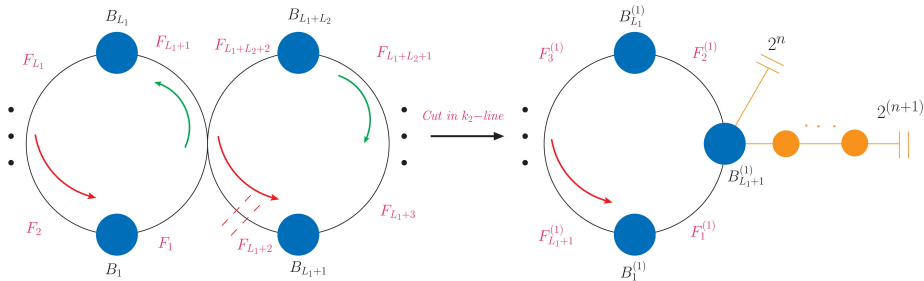


- The 1(2)-loop blobs (flavors) are defined algorithmically from the corresponding 2(1)-loop ones.
- Blob & flavor structure of the  $k_3$ -line and A/B-vertices stored  $\rightarrow$  dictated recursion applied!

$$B_{L_1+L_2+2}^{(1)} = 2^n + B_{L_1+L_2+L_3+L_A+L_B} \quad \text{and} \quad B_{L_1+1}^{(1)} = 2^{n+1} + B_{L_1+L_2+1} + \dots + B_{L_1+L_2+L_3} + B_{L_1+L_2+L_3+L_A}$$

## From Two-Loop to One-Loop: The Infinity-Topologies

- The red (green) arrows in the following graphs indicate the flow of flavor (momenta):

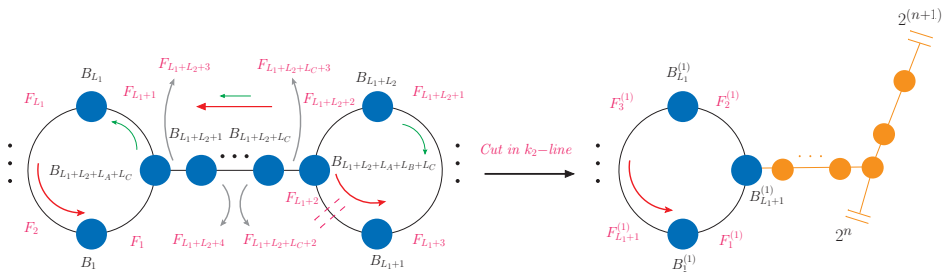


- The 1(2)-loop blobs (flavors) are defined algorithmically from the corresponding 2(1)-loop ones.
- Blob & flavor structure of  $k_2$ -line stored  $\rightarrow$  dictated recursion applied!

$$B_{L_1+1}^{(1)} = 2^n + 2^{n+1} + B_{L_1+1} + \cdots + B_{L_1+L_2}$$

## From Two-Loop to One-Loop: The Dumbbell-Topologies

- The red (green) arrows in the following graphs indicate the flow of flavor (momenta):
- The grey arrows indicate to which propagator the pointing flavor corresponds.



- The 1(2)-loop blobs (flavors) are defined algorithmically from the corresponding 2(1)-loop ones.
- Blob & flavor structure of  $k_2/C$ -lines and A/B-vertices stored  $\rightarrow$  dictated recursion applied!

$$B_{L_1+1}^{(1)} = 2^n + 2^{n+1} + B_{L_1+1} + \cdots + B_{L_1+L_2+L_A+L_B+L_C}$$

## Color-Flavor Dressing

- Current version: QCD particles on the loop + QCD & EW particles on the blobs!
- The color-flavor dressing of the blob-topologies occurs at 1-loop level with the following algorithm

### Flavor Dressing:

- Identify the blob-flavors
- Assign flavor to the 1st propagator
- Apply Feynman rules in vertices

### Color Dressing:

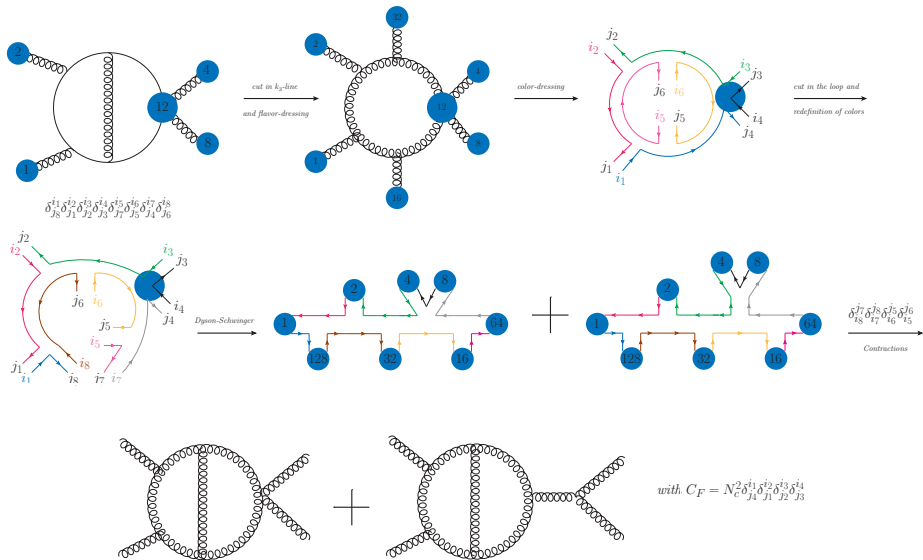
- Color of one-loop blobs already generated
- Assign color indices to the 1st propagator
- Track the color flow at each vertex

- The cut-lines are also dressed and stored for use when the Dyson-Schwinger recursion is applied.
- After the second cut, the flavor and the color of the new extra particles is defined and the color of the  $n + 4$  particle configuration is rearranged by tracking the flow in the one-loop topology.

This way we obtain a unique configuration with specific color and flavor for each loop particle!

All contributing configurations obtained by iterating through all possible values of flavors and colors of the 1st propagator!

Construction: gluonic  $\{\{1, 2\}, \{12\}, \{\}, \{\}, \{\}\}$  with  $\delta_{j_4}^{i_1} \delta_{j_1}^{i_2} \delta_{j_2}^{i_3} \delta_{j_3}^{i_4} \delta_{j_6}^{i_5} \delta_{j_5}^{i_6}$



*Skeleton: gluonic*  $\{\{1, 2\}, \{12\}, \{\}, \{\}, \{\}\}$  with  $\delta_{j_4}^{i_1} \delta_{j_1}^{i_2} \delta_{j_2}^{i_3} \delta_{j_3}^{i_4}$

Output in the usual HELAC notation, except for the last line!

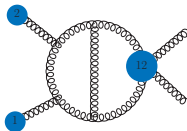
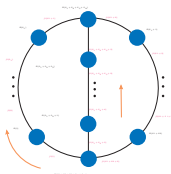
```

INFO =====
INFO COLOR          9 out of          24
INFO number of nums          0
INFO =====
INFO COLOR          10 out of          24
INFO number of nums        208
INFO NUM            52 of            208            7
INFO =====
INFO 4  80  35  9  1  1  16  35  5  64  35  7  0  0  0  0  1  2
INFO 4  12  35 10  1  1  4  35  3  8  35  4  0  0  0  0  1  1
INFO 4  92  35 11  1  2  12  35 10  80  35  9  0  0  0  0  1  1
INFO 5  92  35 11  2  2  4  35  3  8  35  4  80  35  9  0  1  5
INFO 4 124  35 12  1  1  32  35  6  92  35 11  0  0  0  0  1  2
INFO 4 126  35 13  1  1  2  35  2 124  35 12  0  0  0  0  1  1
INFO 4 254  35 14  1  1 128  35  8 126  35 13  0  0  0  0  1  2
INFO 6  1  12  1  2  12  35 35  35  35  35  35  0  0  0  0 99  9
  
```

→ Skeleton stored color-wise

$$ID_{topo} = \begin{cases} (2)^{L_1}(3)^{L_2}(5)^{L_3}(7)^{L_A}(11)^{L_B}, & \text{Theta} \\ (2)^{L_1}(3)^{L_2}, & \text{Infinity} \\ (2)^{L_1}(3)^{L_2}(5)^{L_C}(7)^{L_A}(11)^{L_B}, & \text{Dumbbell} \end{cases}$$

$$mb = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{Theta} \\ 2, & \text{Infinity} \\ 3, & \text{Dumbbell} \end{cases}$$



Skeleton knows nothing about  $d$  (it can be used in  $d = 4$  or  $d = 4 - 2\epsilon$ )!

# Results

## Skeleton Results (Thetas) for Several Processes

Process	Loop-Flavors	Time	Numerators
$pp \rightarrow ggg$	$\{g, q, \bar{q}, c, \bar{c}\}$	34368 s	1853960
$pp \rightarrow t\bar{t}j$	$\{g, q, \bar{q}, t, \bar{t}, c, \bar{c}\}$	15559 s	306240
$pp \rightarrow ggH$	$\{g, q, \bar{q}, t, \bar{t}, c, \bar{c}\}$	3849 s	67696
$pp \rightarrow t\bar{t}H$	$\{g, q, \bar{q}, t, \bar{t}, c, \bar{c}\}$	1962 s	18708
$pp \rightarrow HHg$	$\{g, q, \bar{q}, t, \bar{t}, c, \bar{c}\}$	1350 s	22676
$pp \rightarrow HHH$	$\{g, q, \bar{q}, t, \bar{t}, c, \bar{c}\}$	259 s	9096
$pp \rightarrow ggZ/\gamma$	$\{g, q, \bar{q}, t, \bar{t}, c, \bar{c}\}$	5302 s	176636
$pp \rightarrow t\bar{t}Z/\gamma$	$\{g, q, \bar{q}, t, \bar{t}, c, \bar{c}\}$	2035 s	66116
$pp \rightarrow gZZ/\gamma\gamma/Z\gamma$	$\{g, q, \bar{q}, t, \bar{t}, c, \bar{c}\}$	1809 s	58744
$pp \rightarrow ZZZ/\gamma\gamma\gamma/Z\gamma\gamma/ZZ\gamma$	$\{g, q, \bar{q}, t, \bar{t}, c, \bar{c}\}$	491 s	23096
$pp \rightarrow gHZ/\gamma$	$\{g, q, \bar{q}, t, \bar{t}, c, \bar{c}\}$	1484 s	23524
$pp \rightarrow HZZ/\gamma\gamma/Z\gamma$	$\{g, q, \bar{q}, t, \bar{t}, c, \bar{c}\}$	293 s	9192
$pp \rightarrow HHZ/\gamma$	$\{g, q, \bar{q}, t, \bar{t}, c, \bar{c}\}$	255 s	8912
$u\bar{d} \rightarrow ggW^+$	$\{g, u, \bar{u}, d, \bar{d}, t, \bar{t}, c, \bar{c}\}$	1592 s	45508
$u\bar{d} \rightarrow t\bar{t}W^+$	$\{g, u, \bar{u}, d, \bar{d}, t, \bar{t}, c, \bar{c}\}$	142 s	5692
$pp \rightarrow gW^+W^-$	$\{g, u, \bar{u}, d, \bar{d}, t, \bar{t}, c, \bar{c}\}$	1723 s	25720
$u\bar{d} \rightarrow gHW^+$	$\{g, u, \bar{u}, d, \bar{d}, t, \bar{t}, c, \bar{c}\}$	318 s	8468
$u\bar{d} \rightarrow HHW^+$	$\{g, u, \bar{u}, d, \bar{d}, t, \bar{t}, c, \bar{c}\}$	37 s	200
$u\bar{d} \rightarrow W^+W^-W^+$	$\{g, u, \bar{u}, d, \bar{d}, t, \bar{t}, c, \bar{c}\}$	81 s	2140
$u\bar{d} \rightarrow gW^+Z/\gamma$	$\{g, u, \bar{u}, d, \bar{d}, t, \bar{t}, c, \bar{c}\}$	239 s	9860
$u\bar{d} \rightarrow HW^+Z/\gamma$	$\{g, u, \bar{u}, d, \bar{d}, t, \bar{t}, c, \bar{c}\}$	44 s	264
$u\bar{d} \rightarrow W^+ZZ/\gamma\gamma/Z\gamma$	$\{g, u, \bar{u}, d, \bar{d}, t, \bar{t}, c, \bar{c}\}$	70 s	3040
$pp \rightarrow W^+W^-Z/\gamma$	$\{g, u, \bar{u}, d, \bar{d}, t, \bar{t}, c, \bar{c}\}$	222 s	6464

### Outcome

- Presented an **algorithmic construction of two-loop integrand numerators** using a hybrid Dyson-Schwinger recursion within the HELAC framework!
- Showed several **results for  $2 \rightarrow 3$  processes** consisting of EW and QCD external particles.
- **Cross-checked** some of the numerators if these processes **against FeynArts** [Hahn, 2000] and **FeynCalc** [Shtabovenko, Mertig & Orellana, 2023].

### What's Next

- Optimization of the code and the skeleton information (combine identical numerators) for optimizing the efficiency of the evaluations.
- Incorporation of the d-dimensional evaluation of the skeleton (see Giuseppe's talk) & the integrand reduction technique of [Bevilacqua, Canko, Papadopoulos, Spourdakis, 2025] (see Costas' and Aris' talks).

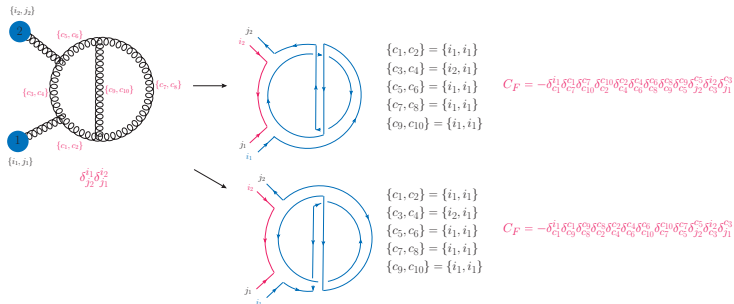
*Thank you very much!*

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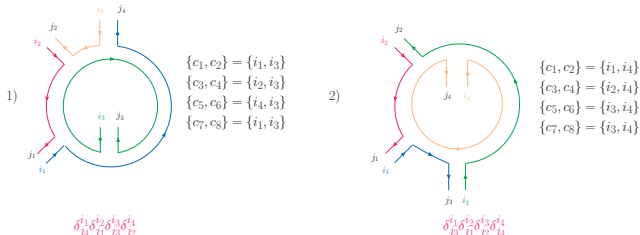


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# Backup-Slides: Identical Color Configurations for HELAC



This is not any more the case after cutting in  $k_3$ -line:



## Backup-Slides: Blob-Topology Symmetries

- Theta-Topology symmetries<sup>1</sup>:

$$\begin{aligned}\{\{k_1\}, \{k_2\}, \{k_3\}, \{A\}, \{B\}\} &= \{R[\{k_1\}], R[\{k_2\}], R[\{k_3\}], \{B\}, \{A\}\} = \{\{k_1\}, \{k_3\}, \{k_2\}, \{A\}, \{B\}\} \\ &= \{R[\{k_1\}], R[\{k_3\}], R[\{k_2\}], \{B\}, \{A\}\} = \{\{k_2\}, \{k_1\}, \{k_3\}, \{A\}, \{B\}\} \\ &= \{R[\{k_2\}], R[\{k_1\}], R[\{k_3\}], \{B\}, \{A\}\} = \{\{k_2\}, \{k_3\}, \{k_1\}, \{A\}, \{B\}\} \\ &= \{R[\{k_2\}], R[\{k_3\}], R[\{k_1\}], \{B\}, \{A\}\} = \{\{k_3\}, \{k_1\}, \{k_2\}, \{A\}, \{B\}\} \\ &= \{R[\{k_3\}], R[\{k_1\}], R[\{k_2\}], \{B\}, \{A\}\} = \{\{k_3\}, \{k_2\}, \{k_1\}, \{A\}, \{B\}\} \\ &= \{R[\{k_3\}], R[\{k_2\}], R[\{k_1\}], \{B\}, \{A\}\}\end{aligned}$$

- Infinity-Topology symmetries:

$$\begin{aligned}\{\{k_1\}, \{k_2\}\} &= \{\{k_2\}, \{k_1\}\} = \{R[\{k_1\}], \{k_2\}\} = \{\{k_1\}, R[\{k_2\}]\} = \{R[\{k_1\}], R[\{k_2\}]\} \\ &= \{R[\{k_2\}], \{k_1\}\} = \{\{k_2\}, R[\{k_1\}]\} = \{R[\{k_2\}], R[\{k_1\}]\}\end{aligned}$$

- Dumbbell-Topology symmetries:

$$\begin{aligned}\{\{k_1\}, \{k_2\}, \{C\}, \{A\}, \{B\}\} &= \{R[\{k_1\}], \{k_2\}, \{C\}, \{A\}, \{B\}\} = \{\{k_1\}, R[\{k_2\}], \{C\}, \{A\}, \{B\}\} \\ &= \{R[\{k_1\}], R[\{k_2\}], \{C\}, \{A\}, \{B\}\} = \{\{k_2\}, \{k_1\}, R[\{C\}], \{B\}, \{A\}\} \\ &= \{R[\{k_2\}], \{k_1\}, R[\{C\}], \{B\}, \{A\}\} = \{\{k_2\}, R[\{k_1\}], R[\{C\}], \{B\}, \{A\}\} \\ &= \{R[\{k_2\}], R[\{k_1\}], R[\{C\}], \{B\}, \{A\}\}\end{aligned}$$

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<sup>1</sup>We use the notation  $R[\{k_i\}] := \text{Reverse}[\{k_i\}]$ .