

Forward Particle Production in pA Collisions

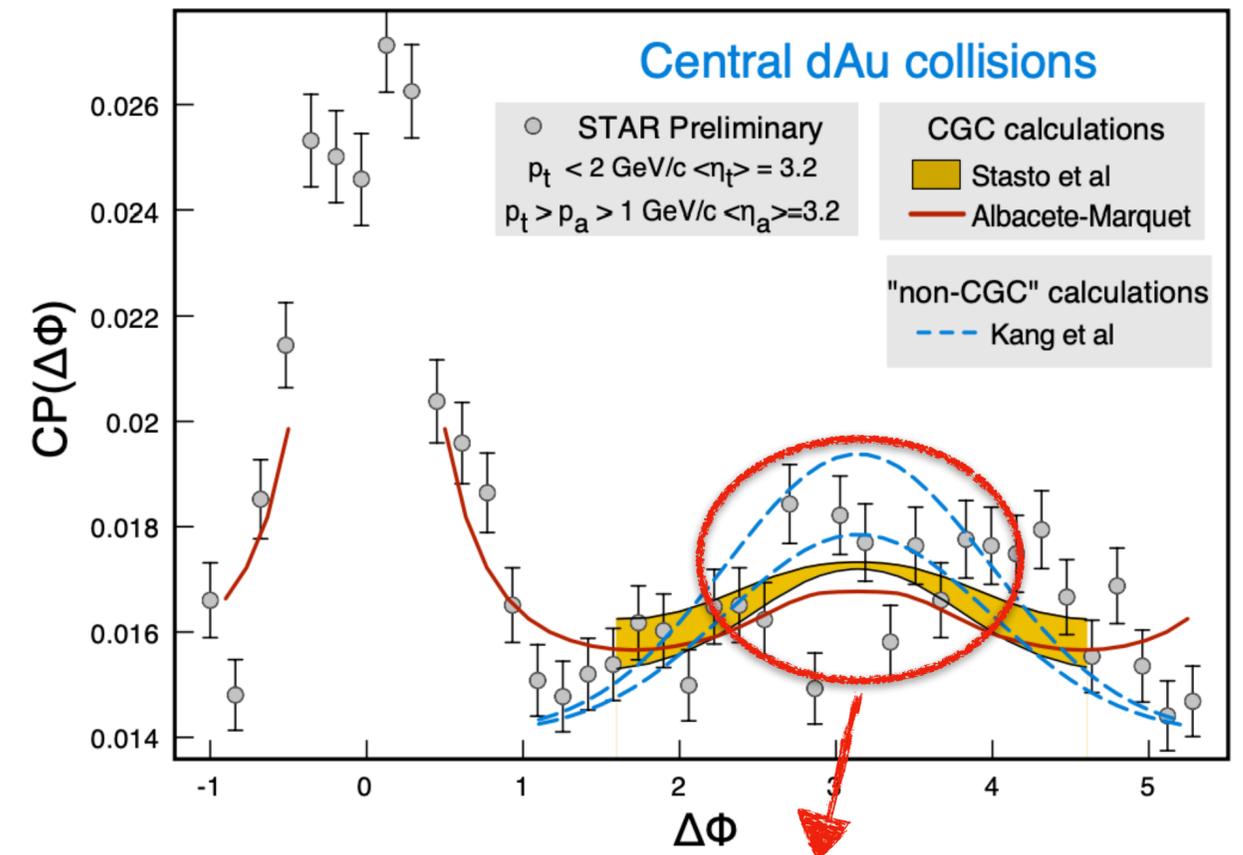
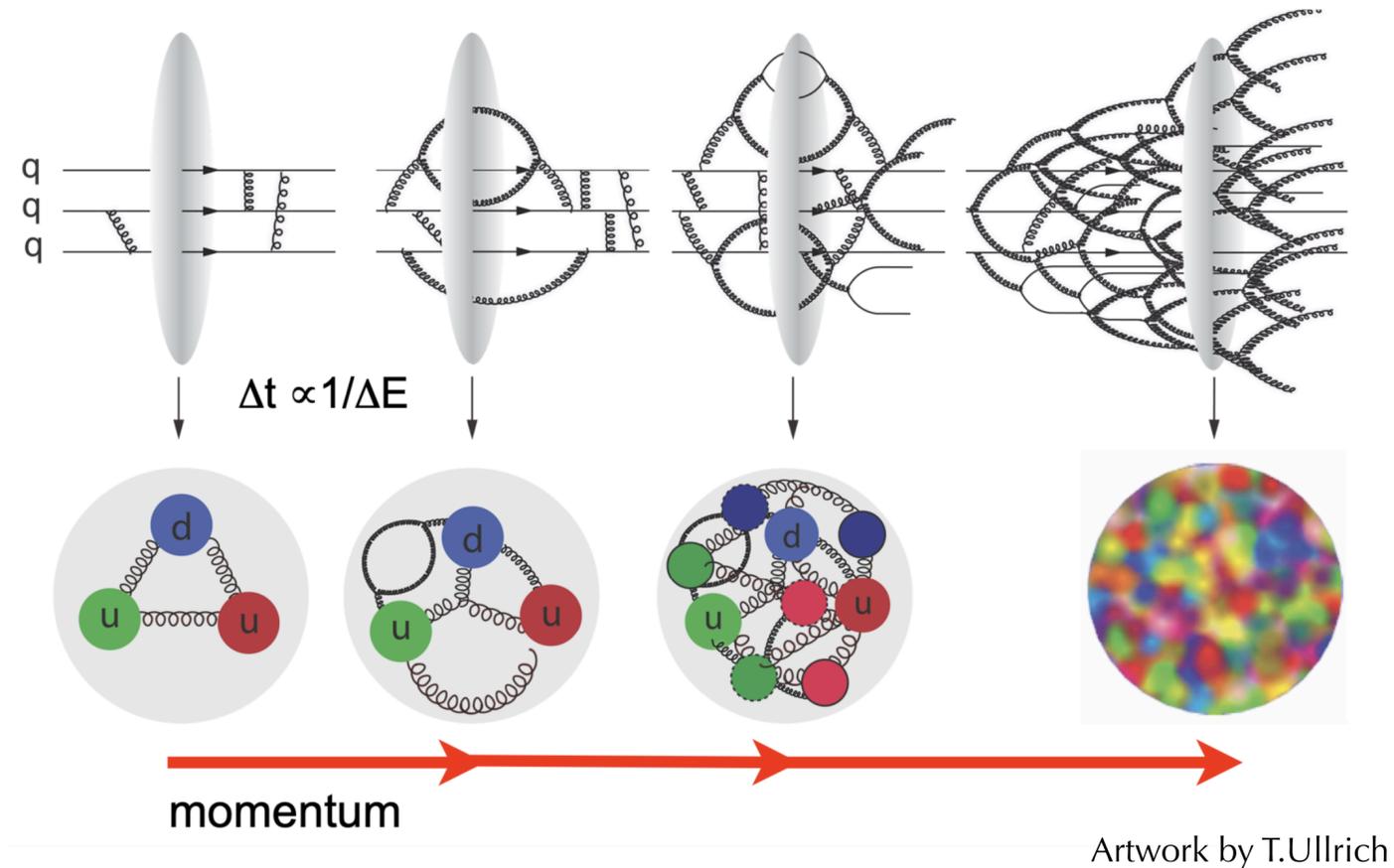
Xiaohui Liu

Hadronic Interaction Workshop @ HK, 2025



1910.10166, 2004.11990, 2204.03026

Precision Matters



Compatible with both CGC and collinear high twist predictions

- Highly dense region: gluon splittings and recombinations
- Non-linear evolution, gluon saturation
- **Pillar scientific goal of EIC**

- Implications but not nailed down
- Needs different probes to differentiate
- **Needs precision: go beyond LO**

See Bowen's talk for recent progress within CGC EFT

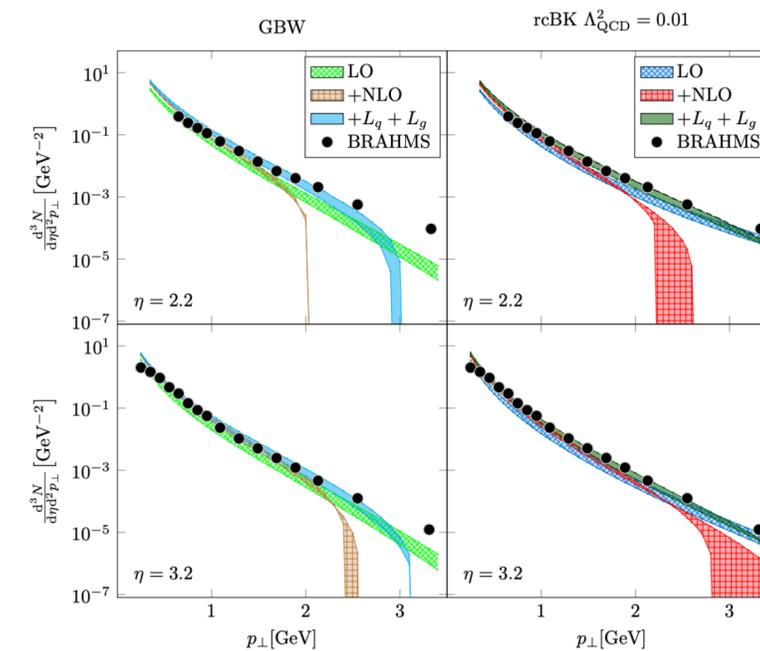
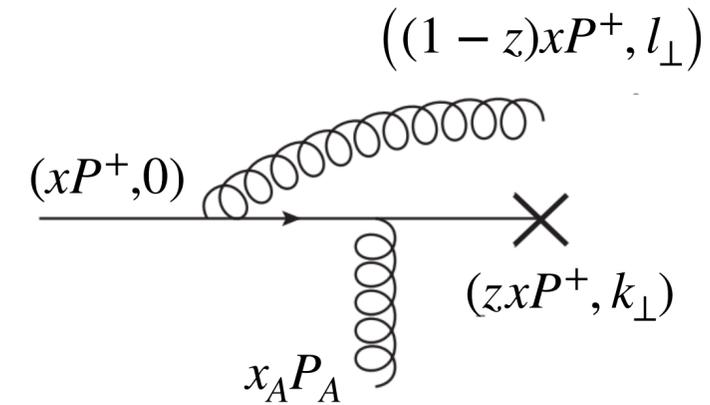
Issues at NLO in CGC

- Kinematic constraint, implemented by hand 1505.05183

$$z \leq 1 - \frac{l_{\perp}^2}{xS}, \quad \psi(u_{\perp}) \rightarrow \psi(u_{\perp}) [1 - J_0(u_{\perp} \Delta)]$$

- Negative cross section, calling for threshold resummation 1806.03522, 2112.06975

○ ...



See Bowen's talk for more details and his solution to these issues

Issues at NLO in CGC

- Kinematic constraint, implemented by hand

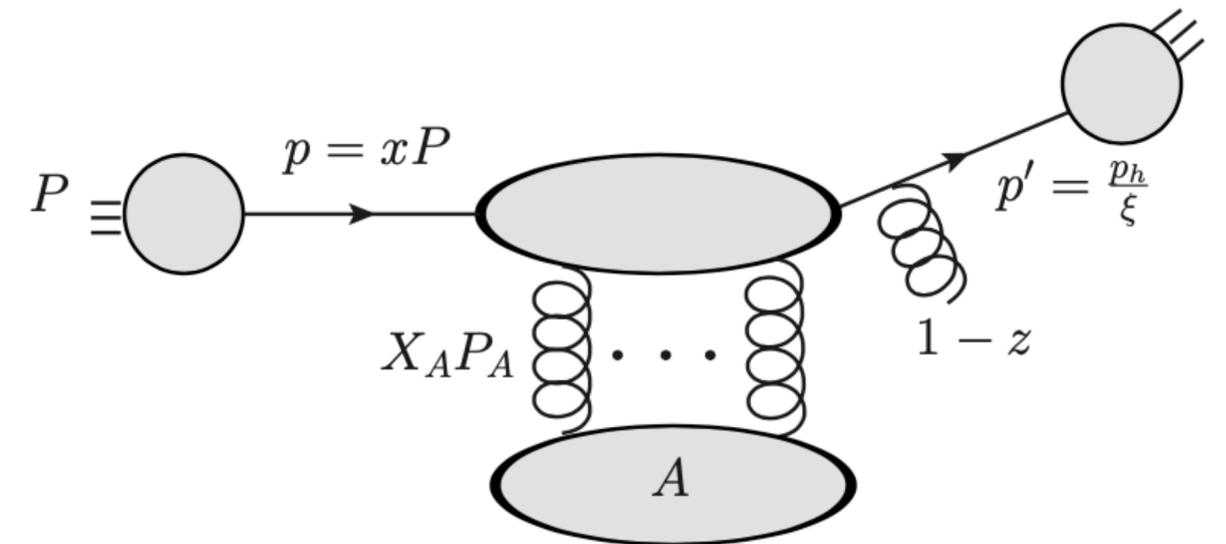
$$z \leq 1 - \frac{l_{\perp}^2}{xS}, \quad \psi(u_{\perp}) \rightarrow \psi(u_{\perp}) [1 - J_0(u_{\perp} \Delta)]$$

- Negative cross section, calling for threshold resummation

- ...

This talk:

- Try to understand these problems within “textbook” QCD
- Fitting into the philosophy of effective field theory



Idea of Effective Field Theories

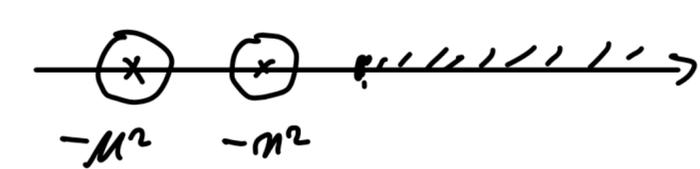
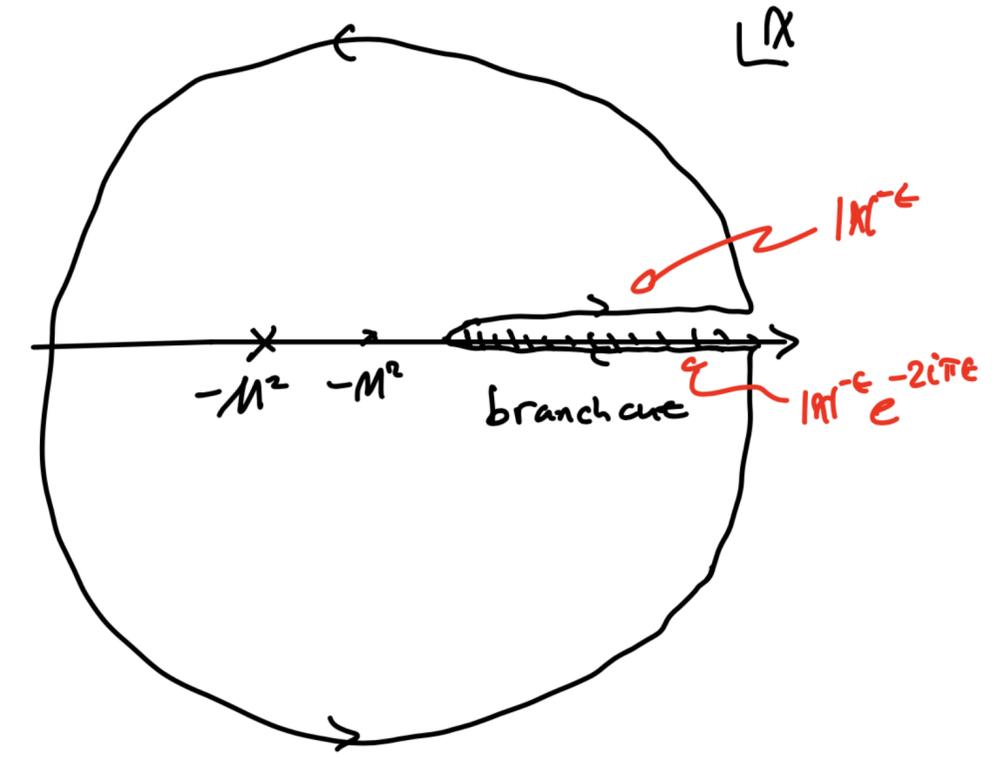
Toy Model Full Theory:

$$I_{\text{full}} = \frac{\lambda^2}{2} \int_0^\infty dk \frac{k}{(k^2 + m^2)(k^2 + M^2)} \stackrel{x=k^2}{=} \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0} \frac{1}{1 - e^{-2i\pi\epsilon}} \oint_C dx \frac{\lambda^2 (x/\mu^2)^{-\epsilon}}{(x + m^2)(x + M^2)}$$

$$= \frac{2\pi i \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0}}{1 - e^{-2i\pi\epsilon}} \text{Res} \frac{\lambda^2 (x/\mu^2)^{-\epsilon}}{(x + m^2)(x + M^2)} = \frac{\lambda^2 \ln \frac{m^2}{M^2}}{m^2 - M^2} \approx_{M \gg m} -\lambda^2 \frac{\ln \frac{m^2}{M^2}}{M^2} + \mathcal{O}\left(\frac{m^2}{M^2}\right)$$

- I_{full} is finite, $\sim_{|x| \rightarrow \infty} |x|^{-1} \rightarrow 0$, $\sim_{|x| \rightarrow 0} 0$, $x^{-\epsilon}$ is barely a mathematic trick
- Dominant contribution from $k^2 \sim -m^2$ and $k^2 \sim -M^2$
- Logarithmic enhancement when there exists hierarchy ($M \gg m$),

$\lambda^2 \ln \frac{m^2}{M^2} \gtrsim 1$, which spoils the perturbative expansion.



Idea of Effective Field Theories

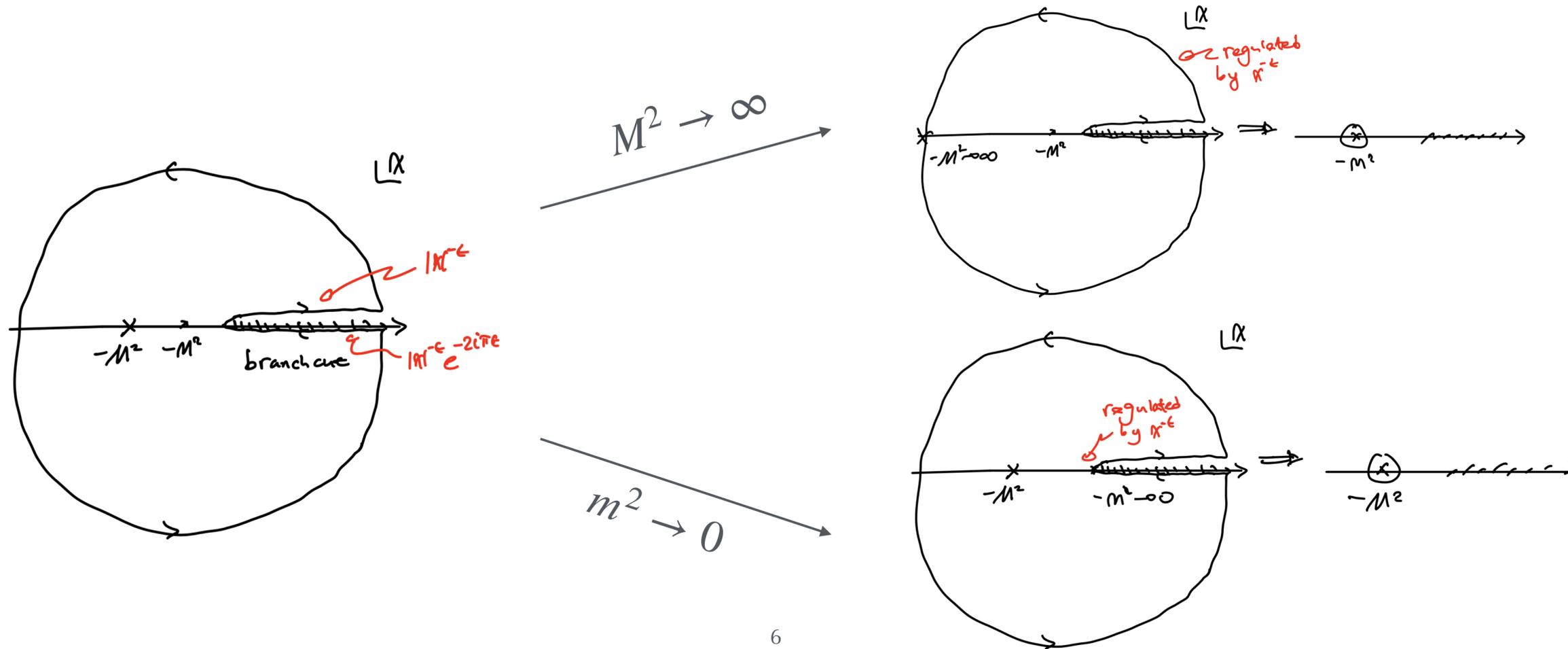
EFT: Focus on one single scale each time

Now, UV regulator

$$I_{k^2 \sim -m^2} = \frac{\lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0}}{1 - e^{-2i\pi\epsilon}} \oint_C dx \frac{\lambda^2 (x/\mu^2)^{-\epsilon}}{(x+m^2)(x+M^2)} \approx_{x \sim m^2 \ll M^2} \frac{\lambda^2 \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0}}{1 - e^{-2i\pi\epsilon}} \oint_C dx \frac{(x/\mu^2)^{-\epsilon}}{(x+m^2)(M^2)} = \frac{\lambda^2}{M^2\epsilon} - \lambda^2 \frac{\ln(m/\mu)^2}{M^2}$$

Now, IR regulator

$$I_{k^2 \sim -M^2} = \frac{\lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0}}{1 - e^{-2i\pi\epsilon}} \oint_C dx \frac{\lambda^2 (x/\mu^2)^{-\epsilon}}{(x+m^2)(x+M^2)} \approx_{x \sim M^2 \gg m^2} \frac{\lambda^2 \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0}}{1 - e^{-2i\pi\epsilon}} \oint_C dx \frac{(x/\mu^2)^{-\epsilon}}{x(x+M^2)} = -\frac{\lambda^2}{M^2\epsilon} + \lambda^2 \frac{\ln(M/\mu)^2}{M^2}$$



Idea of Effective Field Theories

EFT: Focus on one single scale each time

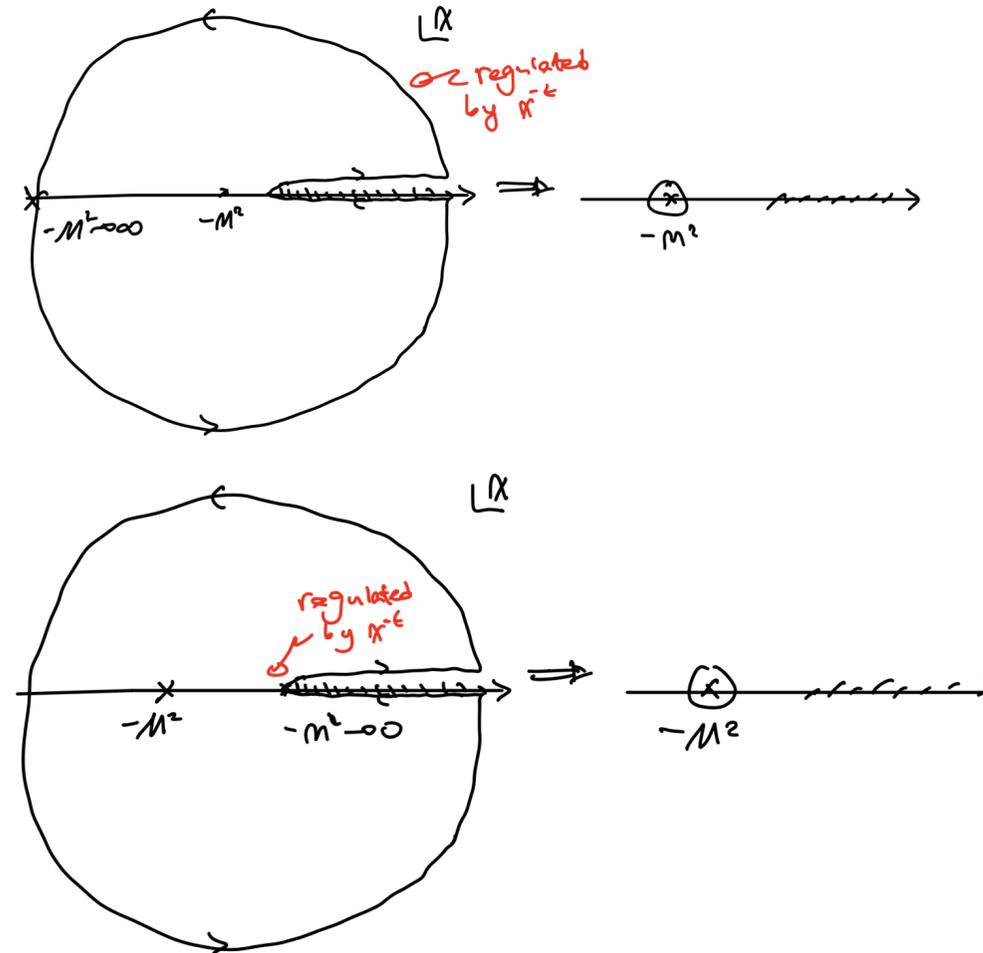
Now, UV regulator

$$I_{k^2 \sim -m^2} = \frac{\lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0}}{1 - e^{-2i\pi\epsilon}} \oint_C dx \frac{\lambda^2 (x/\mu^2)^{-\epsilon}}{(x+m^2)(x+M^2)} \approx_{x \sim m^2 \ll M^2} \frac{\lambda^2 \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0}}{1 - e^{-2i\pi\epsilon}} \oint_C dx \frac{\boxed{(x/\mu^2)^{-\epsilon}}}{(x+m^2)(M^2)} = \frac{\lambda^2}{M^2\epsilon} - \lambda^2 \frac{\ln(m/\mu)^2}{M^2}$$

Now, IR regulator

$$I_{k^2 \sim -M^2} = \frac{\lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0}}{1 - e^{-2i\pi\epsilon}} \oint_C dx \frac{\lambda^2 (x/\mu^2)^{-\epsilon}}{(x+m^2)(x+M^2)} \approx_{x \sim M^2 \gg m^2} \frac{\lambda^2 \lim_{\epsilon \rightarrow 0}}{1 - e^{-2i\pi\epsilon}} \oint_C dx \frac{\boxed{(x/\mu^2)^{-\epsilon}}}{x(x+M^2)} = -\frac{\lambda^2}{M^2\epsilon} + \lambda^2 \frac{\ln(M/\mu)^2}{M^2}$$

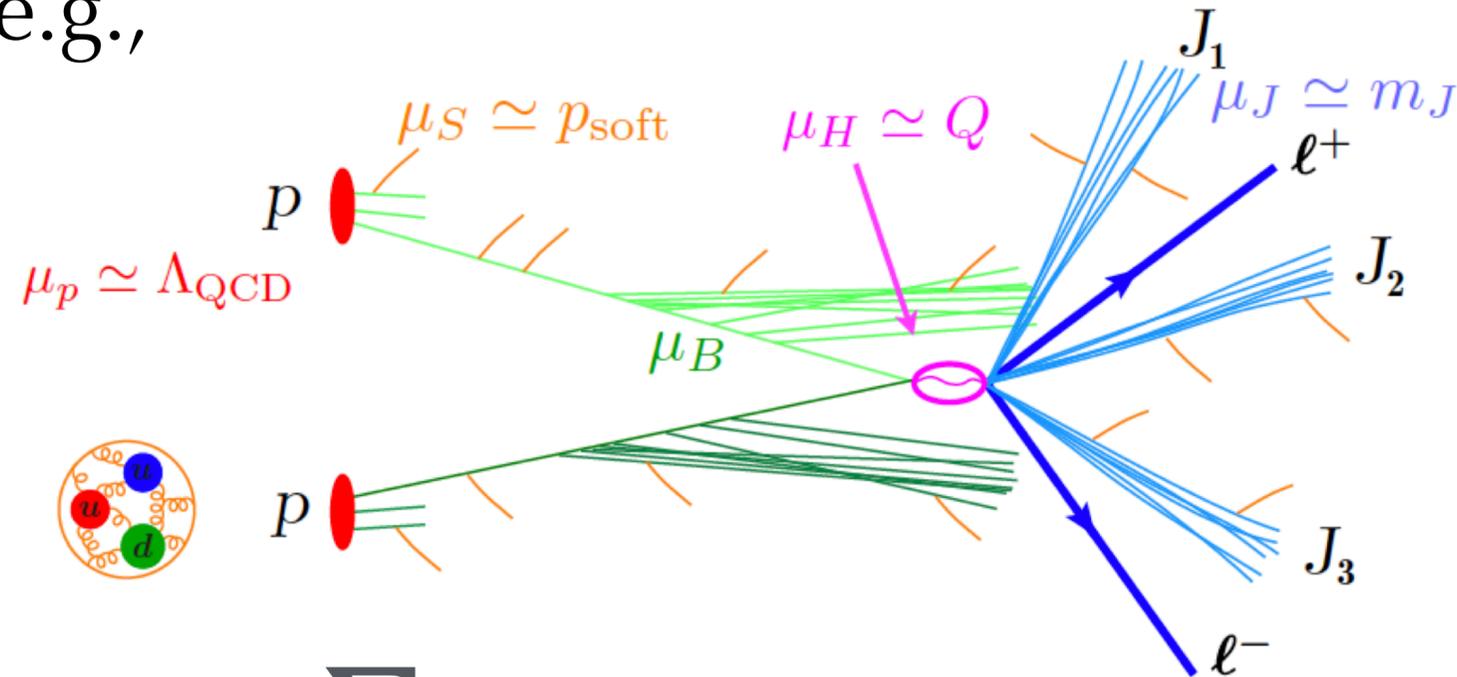
- Power expansion at the integrand level (different modes), seemingly same integration boundary but **different domain**.
- Neither integral (effective theory) is finite, UV for $I_{k^2 \sim -m^2}$ and IR for $I_{k^2 \sim -M^2}$. Both need a regulator, which leads to μ dependence. (Allow for RGE to resum logs)
- $I_{k^2 \sim -m^2} + I_{k^2 \sim -M^2} = I_{\text{full}}$, poles cancel, independent of μ



Idea of Effective Field Theories

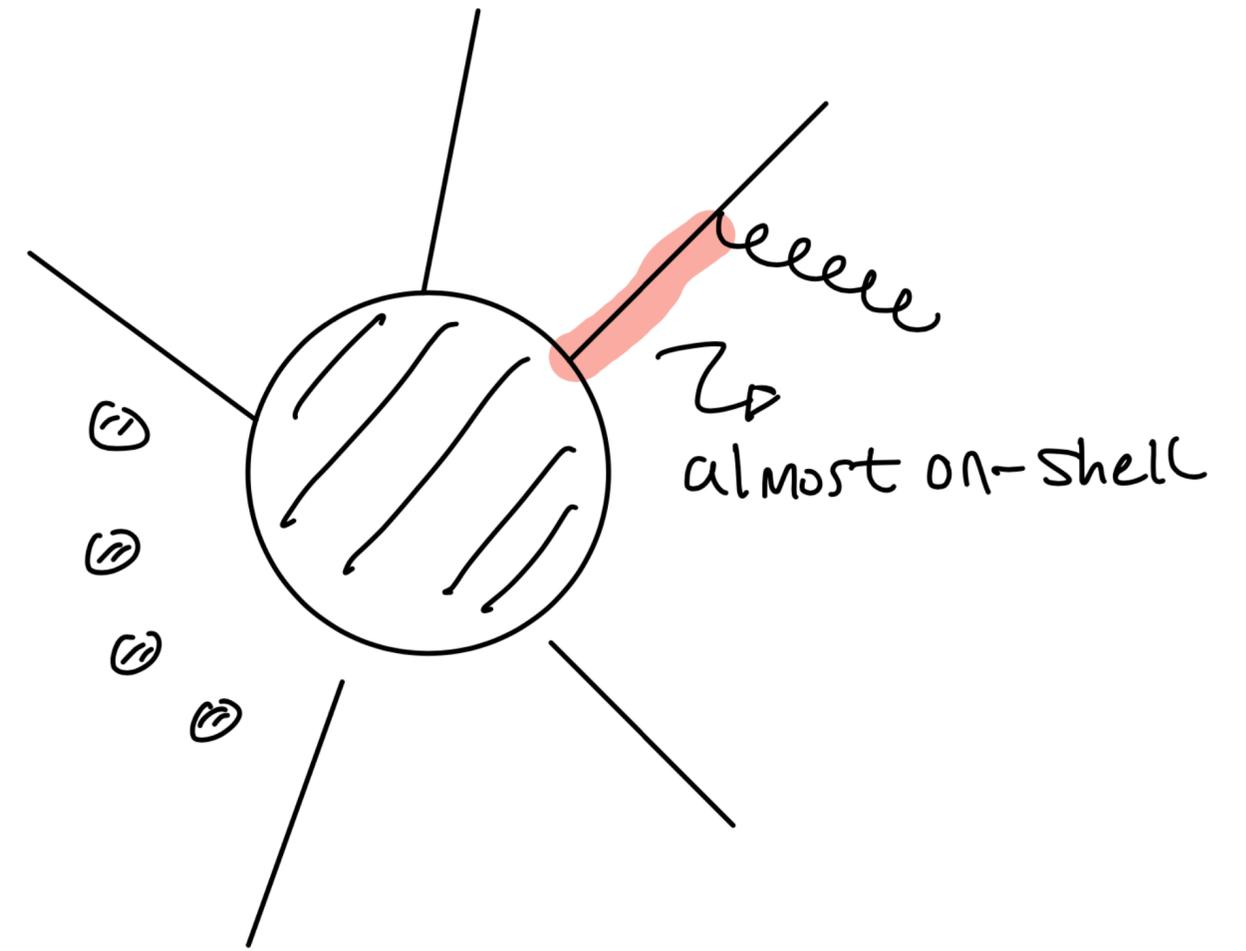
EFT: Focus on one single scale each time
 Mode expansion based on ν (set by the observable/constraint)

e.g.,



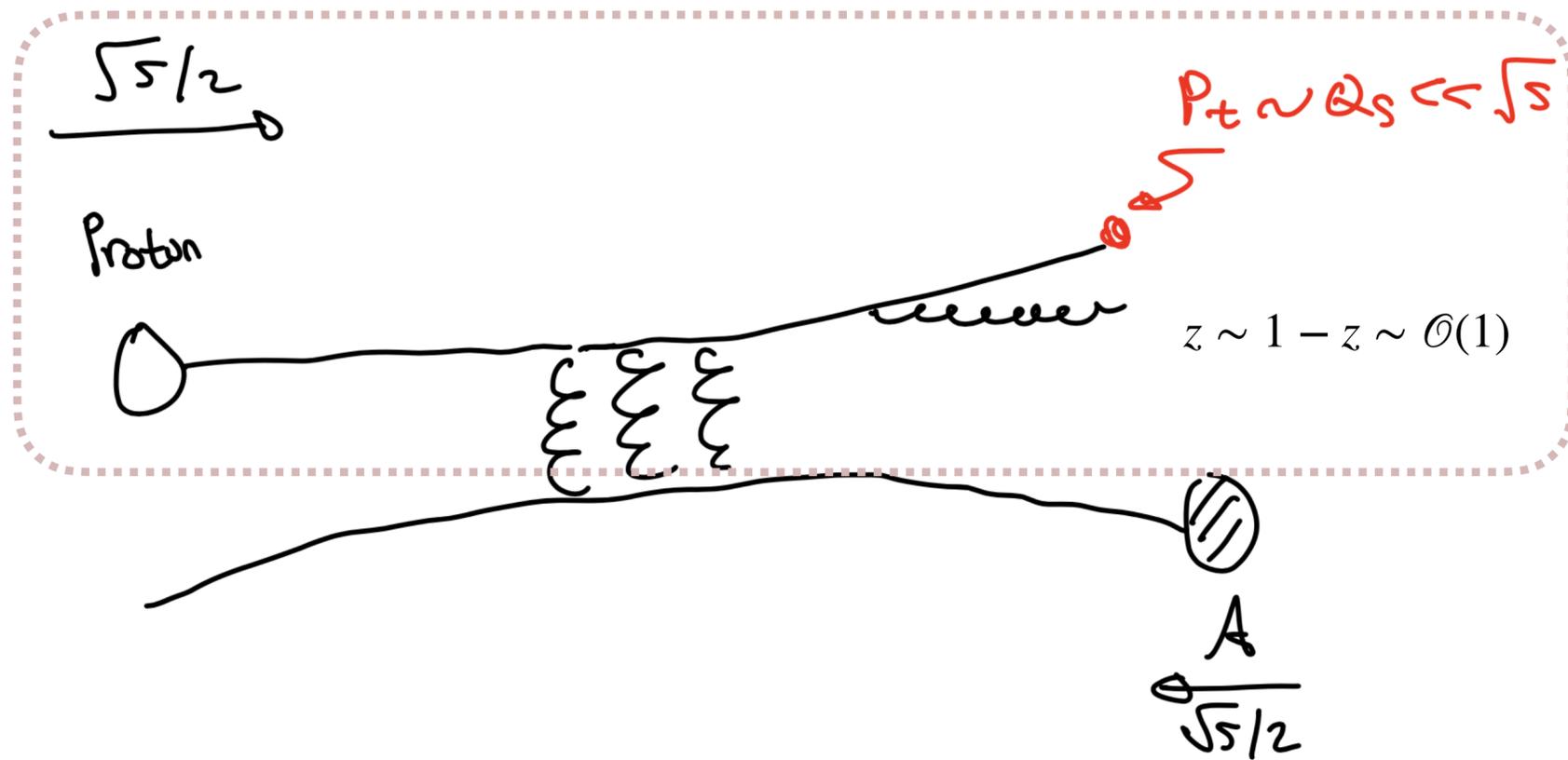
$$\phi = \sum_{i=H,S,J} \phi_i$$

$$\sigma(\nu) \xrightarrow{\nu \rightarrow 0} H \times S \times J_i \dots$$



- Looking for configurations that makes internal line almost on-shell
- ν will enforce the configurations

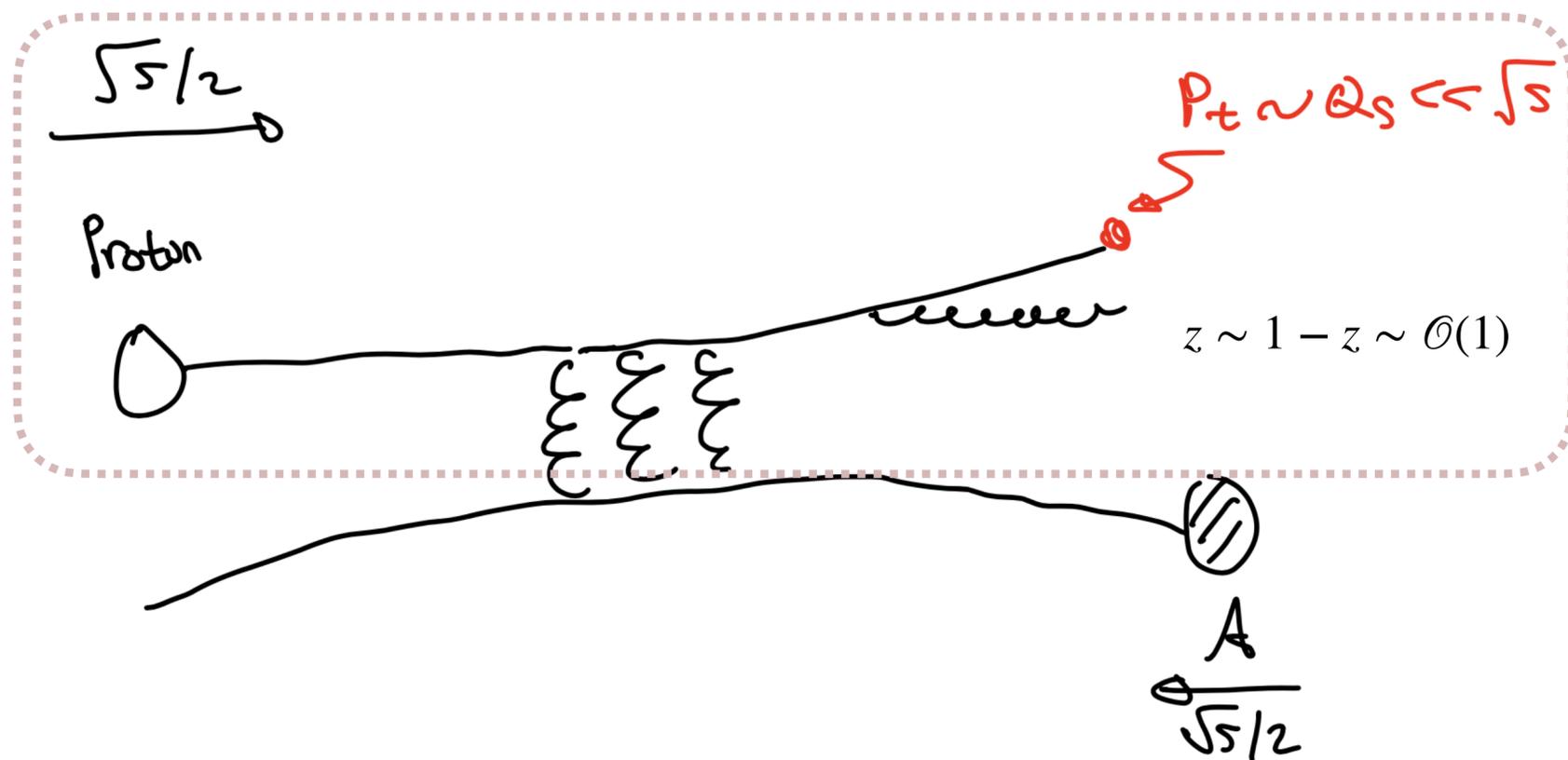
Modes in pA forward scattering



$$v \sim p_t/\sqrt{s} \sim Q_s/\sqrt{s} \ll 1$$

$$p^+ \equiv p^0 + p^3, \quad p^- \equiv p^0 - p^3$$

Modes in pA forward scattering



$$v \sim p_t/\sqrt{s} \sim Q_s/\sqrt{s} \ll 1$$

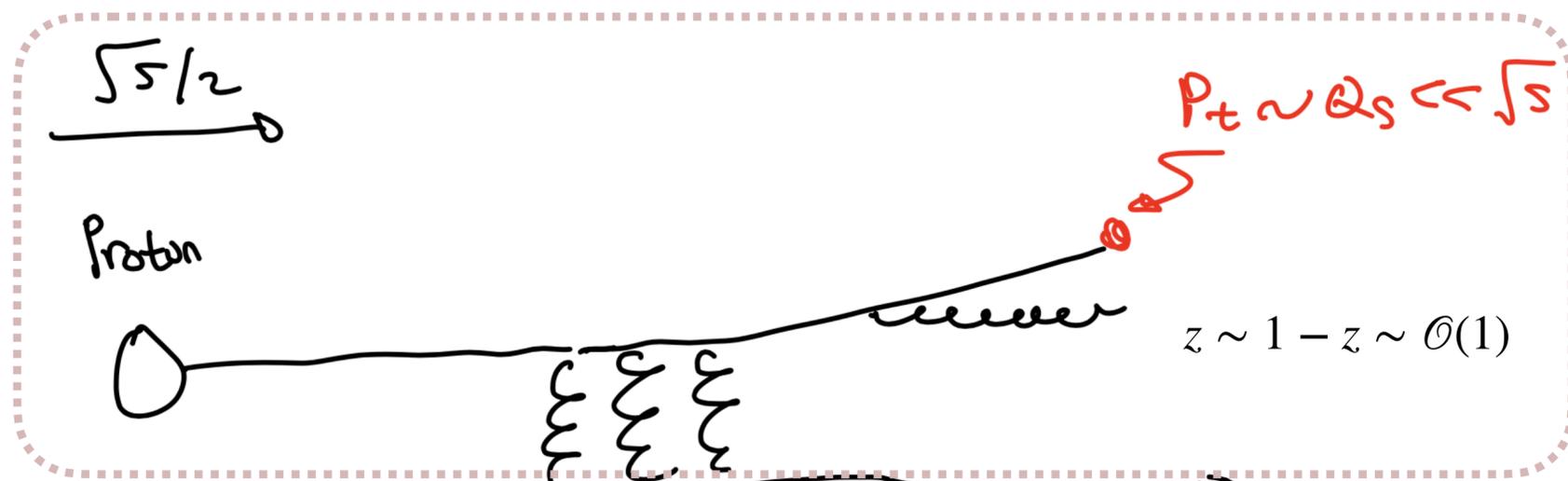
$$\text{Collinear: } P_c = \frac{\sqrt{s}}{2} (1, v, v^2)$$

$$\bar{\text{Collinear:}} \quad P_{\bar{c}} = \frac{\sqrt{s}}{2} (v^2, v, 1)$$

$$\text{Glauber: } q \sim \Delta P_c \sim \Delta P_{\bar{c}} \sim \frac{\sqrt{s}}{2} (v^2, v, v^2)$$

$$p^+ \equiv p^0 + p^3, \quad p^- \equiv p^0 - p^3$$

Modes in pA forward scattering



Eikonalization of the Glauber mode

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \text{Diagram 1} + \text{Diagram 2} + \text{Diagram 3} = \text{Diagram 4} \\
 & \sim \alpha_s T^a T^a T^{\epsilon} \left[\frac{\mu^2 b^2 e^{\epsilon}}{4} \right] \\
 & \sim -ig_s T^a \int dx^+ g_s A_{class}^{a-}(x^+, b) \\
 & A_{class}^{a-} \equiv \delta(x^+) \frac{1}{\nabla^2} \delta^2(z) T^a \\
 & \equiv W = \exp \left[-ig_s T^a \int dx^+ g_s A_{class}^{a-}(x^+, b) \right]
 \end{aligned}$$

$$v \sim p_t / \sqrt{s} \sim Q_s / \sqrt{s} \ll 1$$

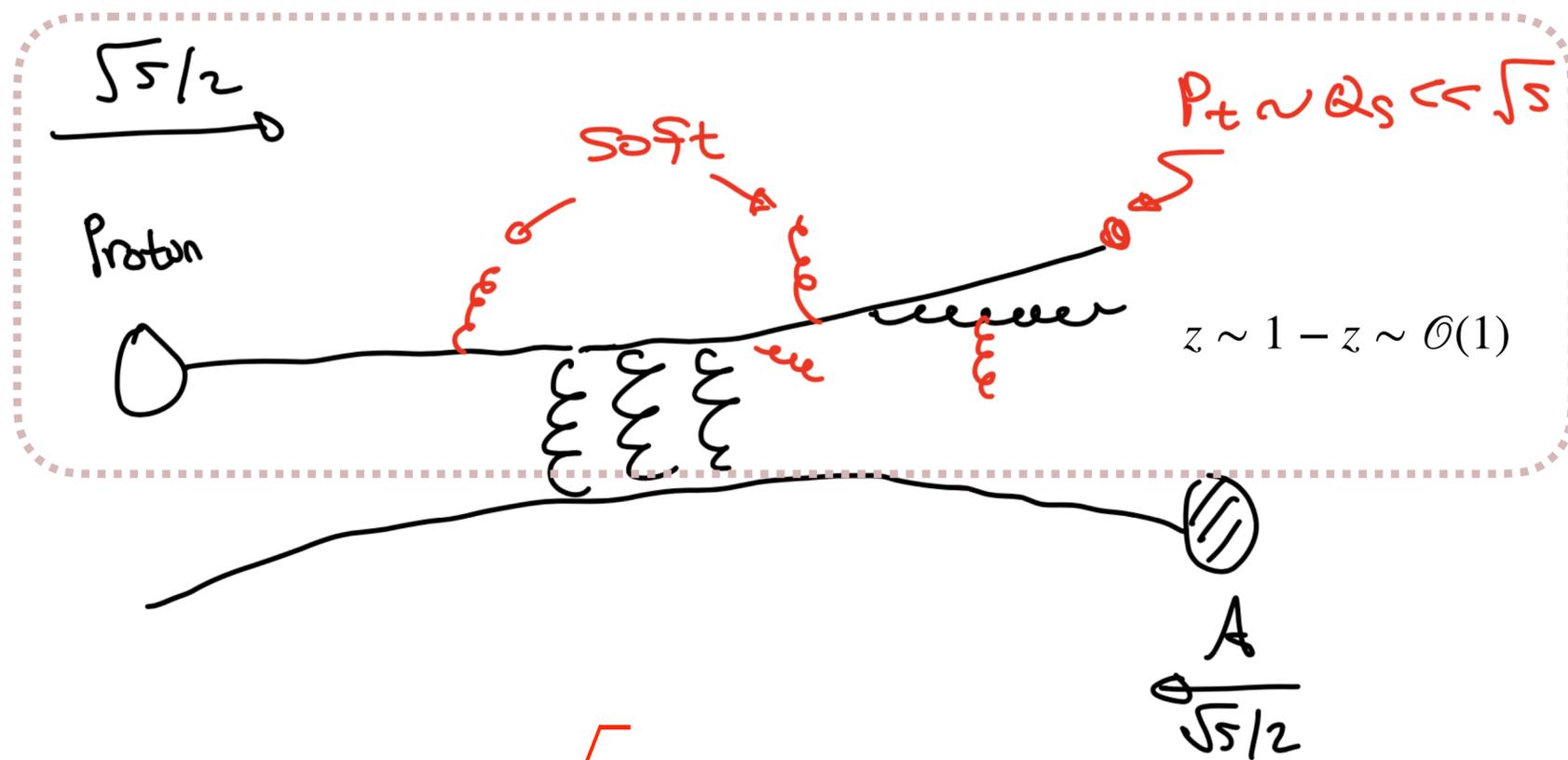
$$\text{Collinear: } P_c = \frac{\sqrt{s}}{2} (1, v, v^2)$$

$$\bar{\text{Collinear:}} P_{\bar{c}} = \frac{\sqrt{s}}{2} (v^2, v, 1)$$

$$\text{Glauber: } q \sim \Delta P_c \sim \Delta P_{\bar{c}} \sim \frac{\sqrt{s}}{2} (v^2, v, v^2)$$

Reproduce CGC (modes) and the CGC "Wilson line" (shock wave)

Modes in pA forward scattering



$$v \sim p_t/\sqrt{s} \sim Q_s/\sqrt{s} \ll 1$$

$$\text{Collinear: } P_c = \frac{\sqrt{s}}{2} (1, v, v^2)$$

$$\bar{\text{Collinear:}} P_{\bar{c}} = \frac{\sqrt{s}}{2} (v^2, v, 1)$$

$$\text{Glauber: } q \sim \Delta P_c \sim \Delta P_{\bar{c}} \sim \frac{\sqrt{s}}{2} (v^2, v, v^2)$$

$$\text{Soft: } P_s \sim \frac{\sqrt{s}}{2} (v, v, v)$$

- Absent in the CGC EFT
- Crucial for kinematic constraint, producing correctly the poles ...
- Threshold resummation

Interaction in pA forward scattering

Start with the QCD Lagrangian and expand it in terms of v : $\phi = \sum_{i=\text{modes}} \phi_i$

○ Collinear propagators:

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{p} \\ \longrightarrow \\ i \qquad \qquad j \end{array} = \delta_{ij} \frac{i p^+}{p^2 + i0^+} \not{n} \qquad p = p^+ \frac{\not{n}}{2} + p^- \frac{\not{\bar{n}}}{2} + \not{p}_t$$

Keep the leading contribution in v

○ Collinear-collinear interaction:

Similarly we have gluon Feyn rules

$$\begin{array}{c} p \qquad \qquad p' \\ \text{---} \\ \text{g} \\ \text{---} \\ \text{m.a.} \end{array} = i g_s T^a \left(\not{n}^\mu + \frac{\not{p}_t \not{p}'_t}{p^+} + \frac{\not{p}'_t \not{p}_t}{p'^+} \right)$$

“Bad components in terms of the good components”

$$n = (1, 0, 0, 1), \quad \bar{n} = (1, 0, 0, -1) \quad \bar{n} \cdot A = 0$$

Interaction in pA forward scattering

Start with the QCD Lagrangian and expand it in terms of v : $\phi = \sum_{i=\text{modes}} \phi_i$

○ Collinear propagators:

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{p} \\ \longrightarrow \\ i \text{-----} j \end{array} = \delta_{ij} \frac{i p^+}{p^2 + i0^+} \not{n}$$

$$\langle i_c j_b \dots | T_i^a | i_{c'} j_{b'} \dots \rangle = T_{cc'}^a \delta_{bb'} \dots$$

\longleftarrow *i*th particle

$$T_{cc'}^a = \begin{cases} t_{cc'}^a & \text{quark} \\ -t_{c'c}^a & \text{anti-quark} \\ if_{cac'} & \text{gluon} \end{cases}$$

○ Collinear-collinear interaction:

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{p} \text{-----} \text{p}' \\ | \\ \text{gluon} \\ \text{p}_{\mu,a} \end{array} = ig_s \mathbf{T}^a \left(\not{n}^\mu + \frac{\not{\epsilon}_t^\mu \not{p}_t}{p^+} + \frac{\not{p}'_t \not{\epsilon}_t^\mu}{p'^+} \right)$$

“Bad components in terms of the good components”

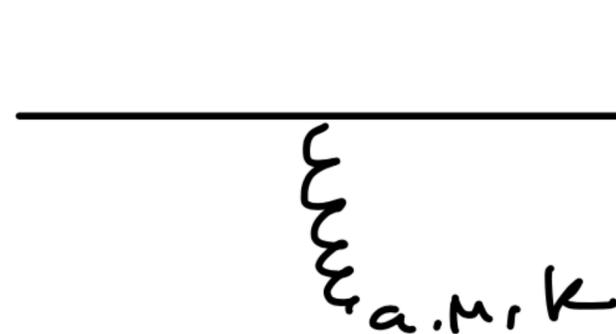
Rotation in the color space when emitting a gluon

$$n = (1,0,0,1), \quad \bar{n} = (1,0,0,-1) \quad \bar{n} \cdot A = 0$$

Interaction in pA forward scattering

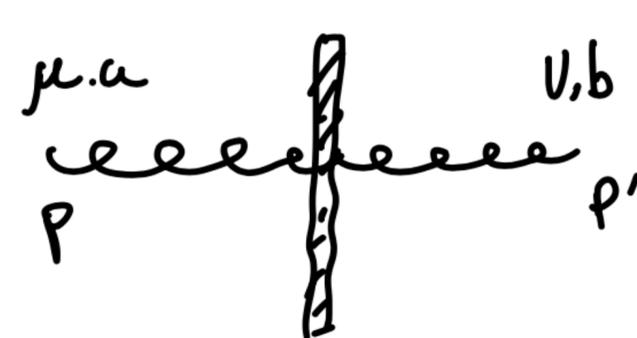
Start with the QCD Lagrangian and expand it in terms of v : $\phi = \sum_{i=\text{modes}} \phi_i$

○ Interaction with soft (eikonal):



$$= -g_s T^a \frac{\not{n}^\mu}{k^-}$$

○ Interaction with the Glauber (or shockwave interaction):



$$= -g_{\mu\nu} (4\pi) \delta(p'^+ - p^+) p^+ \int d\vec{b}_\perp e^{i(\vec{p}'_\perp - \vec{p}_\perp) \cdot \vec{b}_\perp} W_{ba}(b_\perp)$$

Same for collinear and soft, due to small Glauber
 “+” component, $\sim \mathcal{O}(v^2)$

$$n = (1, 0, 0, 1), \quad \bar{n} = (1, 0, 0, -1) \quad \bar{n} \cdot A = 0$$

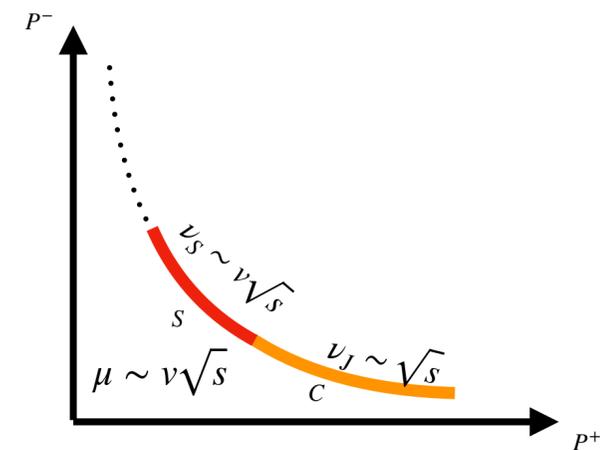
Interaction in pA forward scattering

Start with the QCD Lagrangian and expand it in terms of v : $\phi = \sum_{i=\text{modes}} \phi_i$

○ Interaction with soft (eikonal):

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{---} \\ | \\ \text{wavy line} \\ \text{a.m. } k \end{array} = -g_s T^a \frac{\eta^\mu}{k^-} \rightarrow -g_s T^a \frac{\eta^\mu}{k^-} \left(\frac{v}{k^+}\right)^{\eta/2} e^{-\frac{\eta}{2} |\ln k|}$$

Rapidity regulator (similar to TMD),
 v : rapidity scale



○ Interaction with the Glauber (or shockwave interaction):

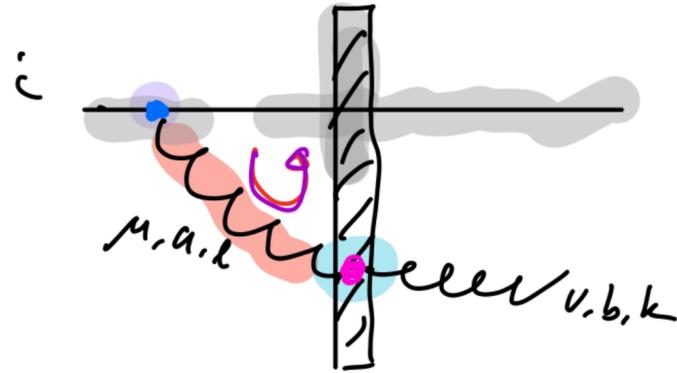
$$\begin{array}{c} \mu, a \\ \text{wavy line} \\ p \end{array} \begin{array}{c} \text{---} \\ | \\ \text{shockwave} \\ \text{---} \\ \nu, b \\ p' \end{array} = -g_{\mu\nu} (4\pi) \delta(p'^+ - p^+) p^+ \int d^2\vec{b}_\perp e^{i(\vec{p}'_\perp - \vec{p}_\perp) \cdot \vec{b}_\perp} W_{ba}(b_\perp)$$

Same for collinear and soft, due to small Glauber
 "+" component, $\sim \mathcal{O}(v^2)$

$$n = (1, 0, 0, 1), \quad \bar{n} = (1, 0, 0, -1) \quad \bar{n} \cdot A = 0$$

Interaction in pA forward scattering

e.g., Soft ISR:



Typical color structure
in the small-x physics

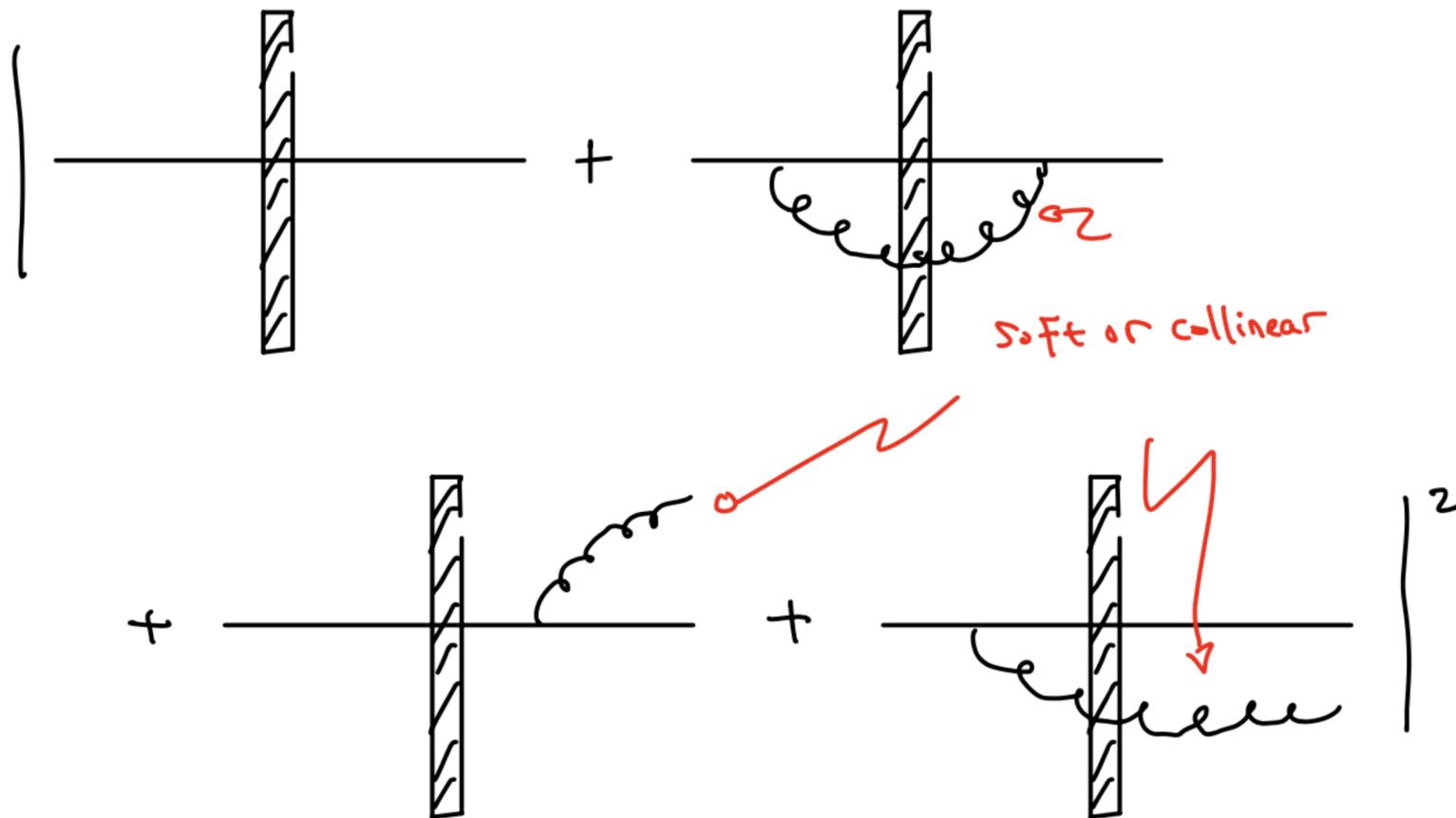
$$= -g_s \int \frac{d^d l}{(2\pi)^d} \frac{n^\mu}{n \cdot l} \left(\frac{v}{l^2}\right)^{\eta/2 - \eta/4} e^{i l \cdot b_t} \frac{i d_{\mu\nu}}{l^2 + i0^+} (-\epsilon^\nu) (4\pi) \delta(k^+ - l^+) k^+$$

$$\int d^2 b_t e^{i(k_t - l_t) \cdot b_t} \underline{W_{ba}(z_t)} \underline{T_c^a} |W(\vec{r}_t)\rangle$$

$$= \frac{ig_s}{(4\pi)^{n_c}} \mu^{2\epsilon} v^{\eta/2} e^{-\eta/2 \ln|y_k|} \frac{\Gamma[1 - \epsilon - \eta/4]}{\Gamma[1 + \eta/4]} \int d^2 b_t b_t^\nu \left[\frac{b_t^2}{4}\right]^{-1 + \epsilon + \eta/4} e^{-i l_t \cdot b_t}$$

$$\times W_{ba}(z_t) T_c^a |W(\vec{r}_t)\rangle$$

pA forward scattering: generic case



- $z \sim 1 - z \gg v \dots (1)$

- Both collinear and soft radiations are allowed

- Same topology for both collinear and soft radiation, but different Feyn. Rules

- **Different phase space constraint.** e.g. Soft $\propto \delta(1 - z - E_g) \approx \delta(1 - z)$, since (1)

pA forward scattering: generic case

- Reproduce the known NLO calculation

- Pole terms:

Collinear:

$$-\frac{\alpha_s}{2\pi\epsilon} P_{ij}(z) \left[1 + \frac{1}{z^2} e^{-i\frac{1-z}{z} \vec{P}_t \cdot \vec{r}_t} \right] \langle W_{ij} | \delta_{jj'} | W_{j'i} \rangle$$

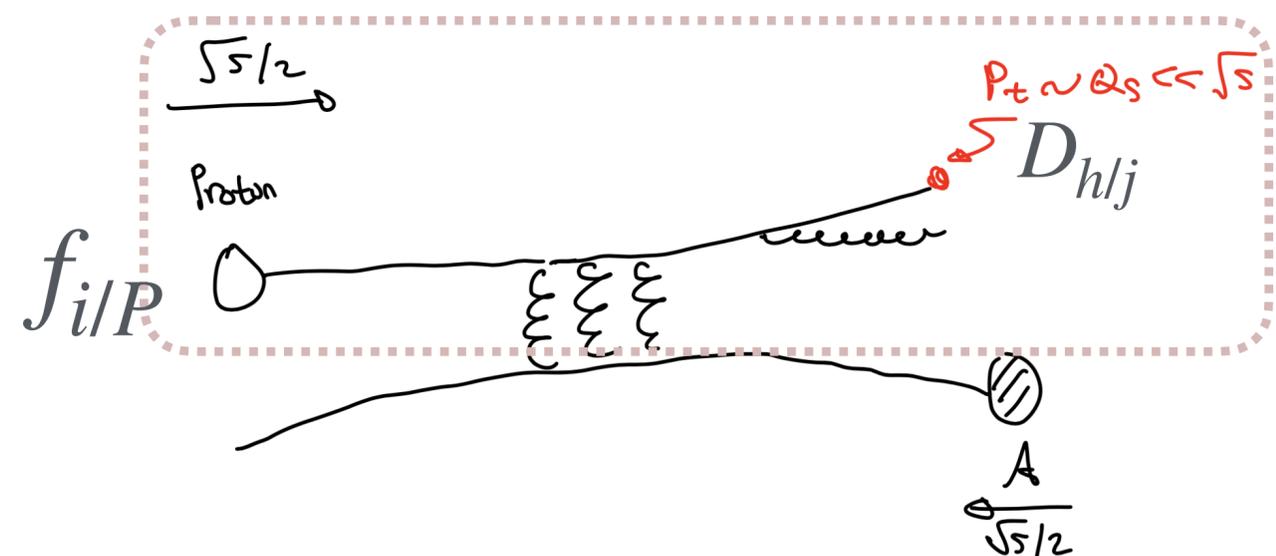
ISR FSR

$$-\frac{\alpha_s}{\pi\eta} \left[1 + \eta \log \frac{V}{P_t} \right] \frac{1}{\pi} \left[\frac{\vec{r}_t^2}{\vec{r}_t'^2 \vec{r}_t''^2} \right]_+ \langle W_{ij} | T^a W_{ab} T^b | W_{j'i} \rangle$$

- ϵ^{-1} poles in the collinear sector, proportional to the splitting function, to be absorbed by the PDF and FF, leads to DGLAP evolution

Soft:

$$\frac{2\alpha_s}{\pi\eta} \left[1 + \eta \log \frac{V}{P_t} \right] \frac{1}{\pi} \left[\frac{\vec{r}_t^2}{\vec{r}_t'^2 \vec{r}_t''^2} \right]_+ \langle W_{ij} | T^a W_{ab} T^b | W_{j'i} \rangle$$



pA forward scattering: generic case

- Reproduce the known NLO calculation

- Pole terms:

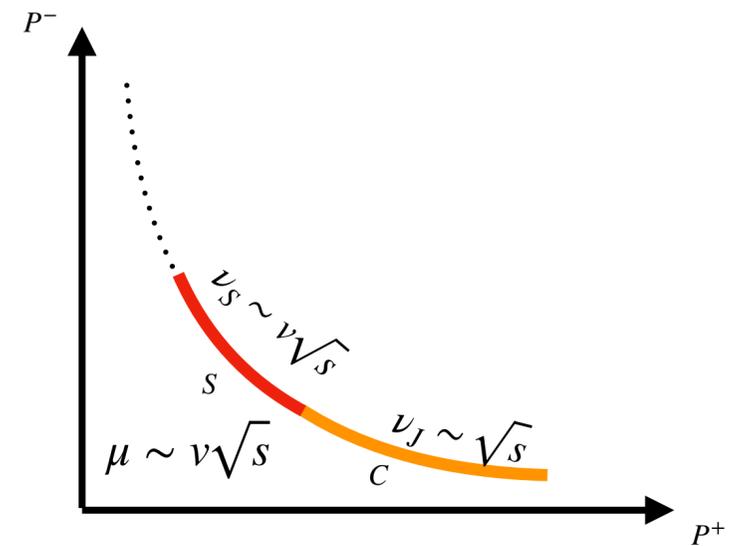
Collinear:

$$-\frac{\alpha_s}{2\pi\epsilon} P_{ij}(z) \left[1 + \frac{1}{z^2} e^{-i\frac{1-z}{z} \vec{P}_t \cdot \vec{r}_t} \right] \langle W_{ij} | \delta_{jj'} | W_{j'i} \rangle$$

ISR
FSR

$$-\frac{\alpha_s}{\pi\eta} \left[1 + \eta \log \frac{\nu}{P^+} \right] \frac{1}{\pi} \left[\frac{\vec{r}_t^2}{\vec{r}_t'^2 \vec{r}_t''^2} \right]_+ \langle W_{ij} | T^a W_{ab} T^b | W_{j'i} \rangle$$

- ϵ^{-1} poles in the collinear sector, proportional to the splitting function, to be absorbed by the PDF and FF, leads to DGLAP evolution



Soft:

$$\frac{2\alpha_s}{\pi\eta} \left[1 + \eta \log \frac{\nu}{P_t} \right] \frac{1}{\pi} \left[\frac{\vec{r}_t^2}{\vec{r}_t'^2 \vec{r}_t''^2} \right]_+ \langle W_{ij} | T^a W_{ab} T^b | W_{j'i} \rangle$$

- Additional rapidity η^{-1} poles in both sectors, characterizing the rapidity divergence as $P^- \rightarrow 0$ in coll. or $P^\pm \rightarrow 0$ in soft

- Logs indicate the natural scale for each sector

pA forward scattering: generic case

- Reproduce the known NLO calculation

- Pole terms:

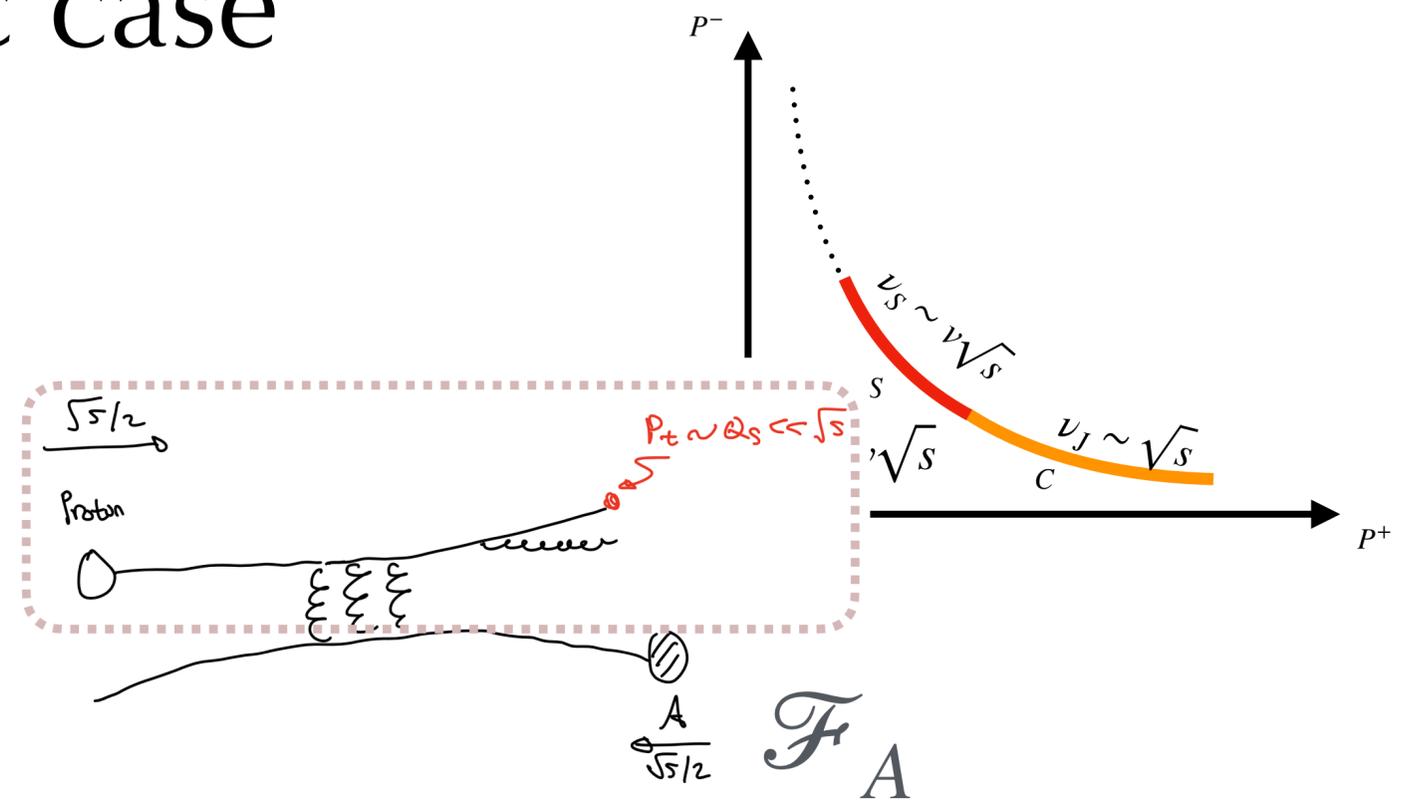
Collinear + Soft:

$$\frac{dS}{\pi g} \left[1 + g \log \frac{v}{p_t^2/p^+} \right] \frac{1}{\pi} \left[\frac{\vec{r}_t^2}{r_t'^2 r_t''^2} \right]_+ \langle W_{ij} | T^a W_{ab} T^b | W_{j'i} \rangle$$

$P_g^- \sim X_A P_A$ small-x scale

$$\frac{P}{\epsilon \phi p_g}$$

$$(P + p_g)^2 = P^+ P_g^- - \vec{p}_g^2 = 0 \Rightarrow p_g^- = \frac{\vec{p}_g^2}{P^+}$$



- η^{-1} -pole to be absorbed by the nucleus structure function \mathcal{F}_A

- Log indicates correctly the small-x scale

- η^{-1} -pole produces the rapidity RG equation for the nucleus structure function = BK!

$$v \frac{d}{dv} \langle W_{ij} | \delta_{ij} | W_{j'i} \rangle = \frac{\alpha_s}{\pi} \int \frac{d\vec{x}_\epsilon}{\pi} \left[\frac{\vec{r}_t^2}{r_t'^2 r_t''^2} \right]_+ \langle W_{ij} | T^a W_{ab} T^b | W_{j'i} \rangle$$

pA forward scattering: generic case

○ Finite terms:

Collinear + Soft:

$$-\frac{\alpha_s}{2\pi} P(z) \ln \frac{\vec{r}_t^2 \mu^2}{c_0^2} \left(1 + \frac{1}{z^2} e^{-i\frac{1-z}{z} \vec{P}_t \cdot \vec{r}_t} \right) \langle W_{ij} | d_{j'c} | W_{j'c} \rangle$$

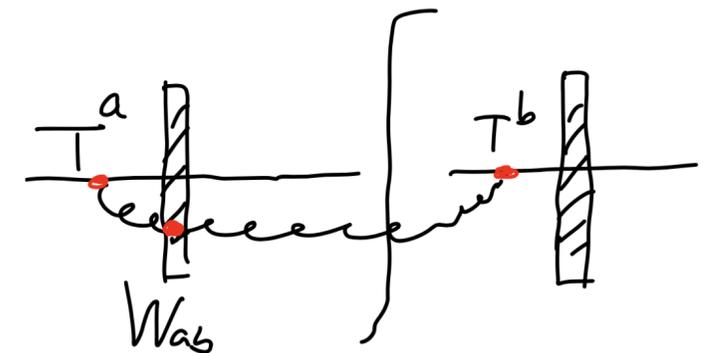
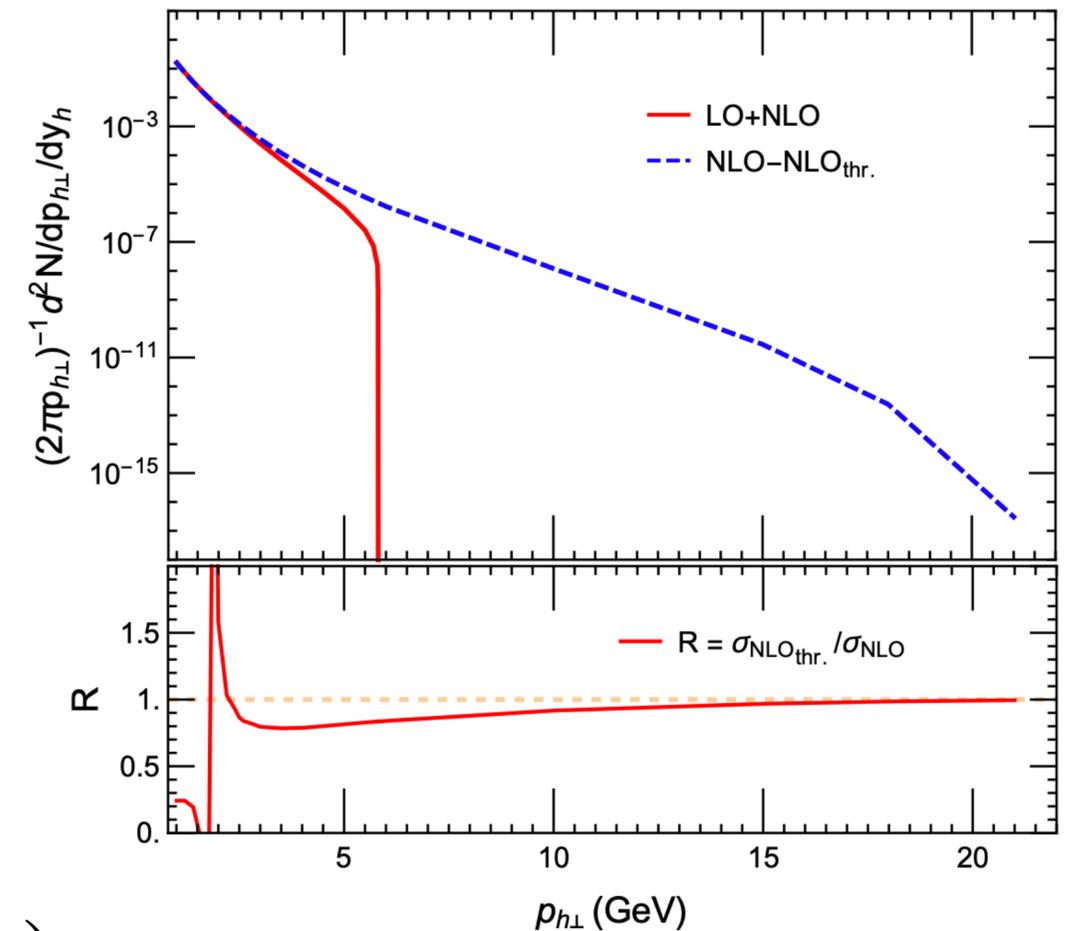
$$+ \frac{\alpha_s}{\pi} \left\{ \frac{1}{z} \tilde{P}(z) e^{-i\frac{1-z}{z} \vec{P}_t \cdot \vec{r}_t} \left[\frac{\vec{r}_t \cdot \vec{r}_t'}{|\vec{r}_t|^2 |\vec{r}_t'|^2} + \dots \right] \right\} \langle W_{ij} | T^a W_{ab} T^b | W_{j'c} \rangle$$

○ $z \rightarrow 1$, huge threshold logs, $P(z) \sim \tilde{P}(z) \sim 2/(1-z)_+$

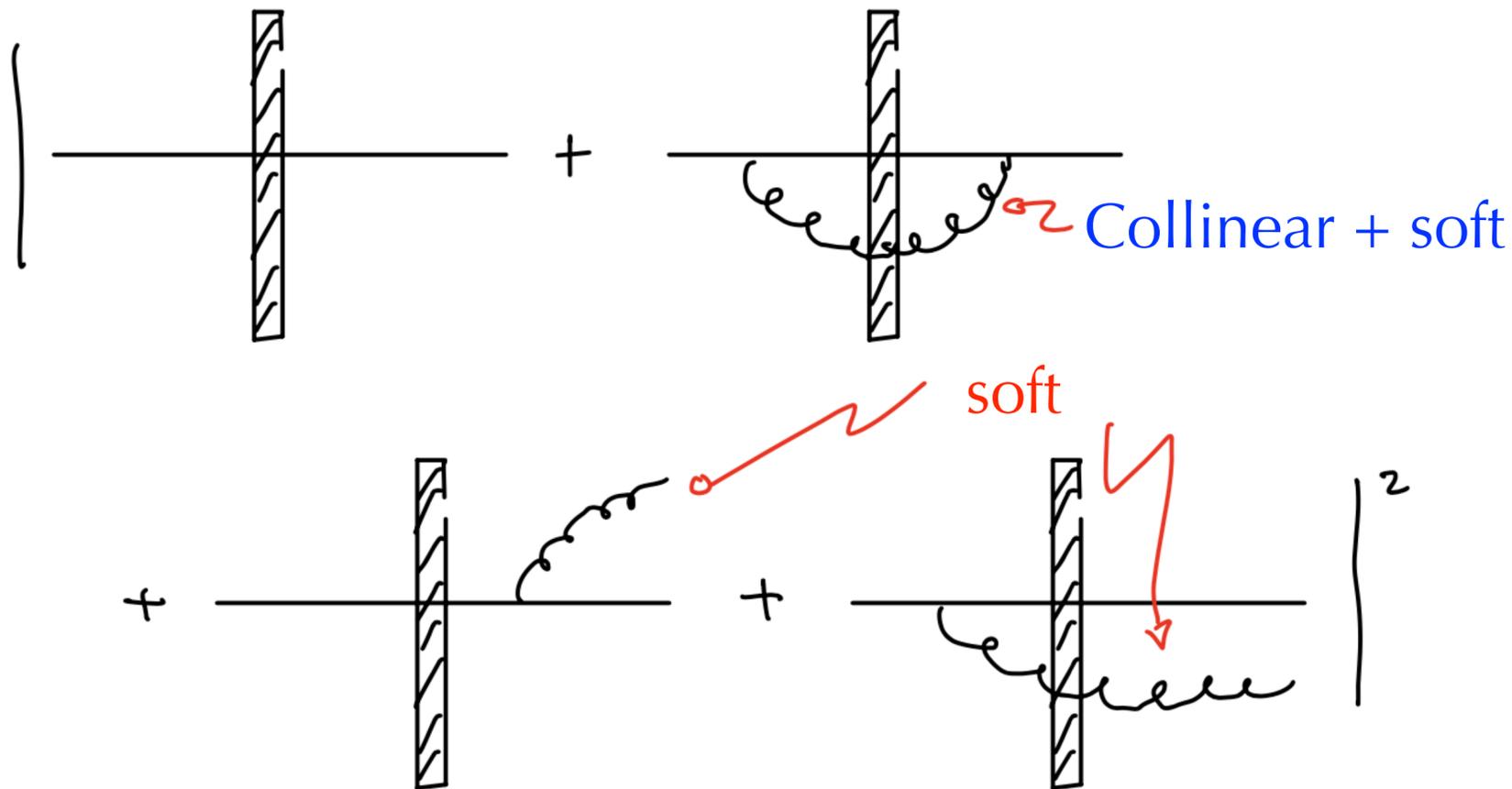
○ Threshold PDF and FF can be eliminated by

$$\mu \sim c_0 / |r_t|$$

○ \tilde{P} term: non-LO kinematic factor + color flow (BK real) due to interference



pA forward scattering: threshold case



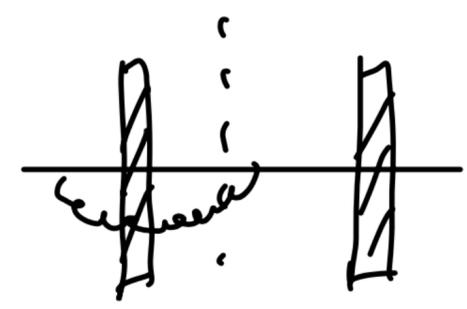
- $z \sim 1 \gg 1 - z \sim \nu \dots (2)$
- Only soft real emission are allowed
- Phase space constraint. Soft $\propto \delta(1 - z - E_g) \approx \delta(1 - z)$, can NOT be further expanded, since (2)

η^{-1} -pole $\implies \mathcal{U}_J \mathcal{U}_S =$

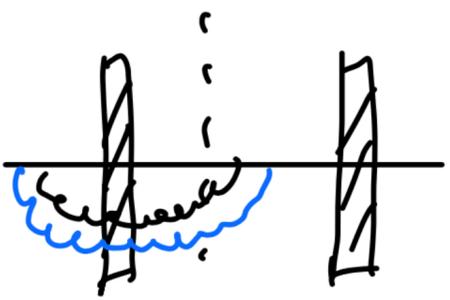
$$\int_0^1 \frac{z^{N-1}}{(1-z)_+} dz \rightarrow -\ln(\bar{N}) \quad \exp \left[\frac{ds}{\pi} \int \frac{d\vec{k}_\perp}{\pi} \left(-2 \ln \bar{N} \frac{\vec{k}_\perp^r \cdot \vec{k}_\perp^l}{k_\perp^r k_\perp^l} + \ln \frac{\nu}{\Lambda_{NP}} I_{BK} \right) T^a W_{ab} T^b \right]$$

Large threshold logs automatically resummed by rapidity RGE

pA forward scattering: threshold case



$$\sim T^a W_{ab} T^b$$



$$\sim \frac{1}{2!} T^a W_{ab} T^b T^{a'} W_{a'b'} T^{b'}$$

$$= \frac{1}{2!} (T^a W_{ab} T^b)^2$$

=

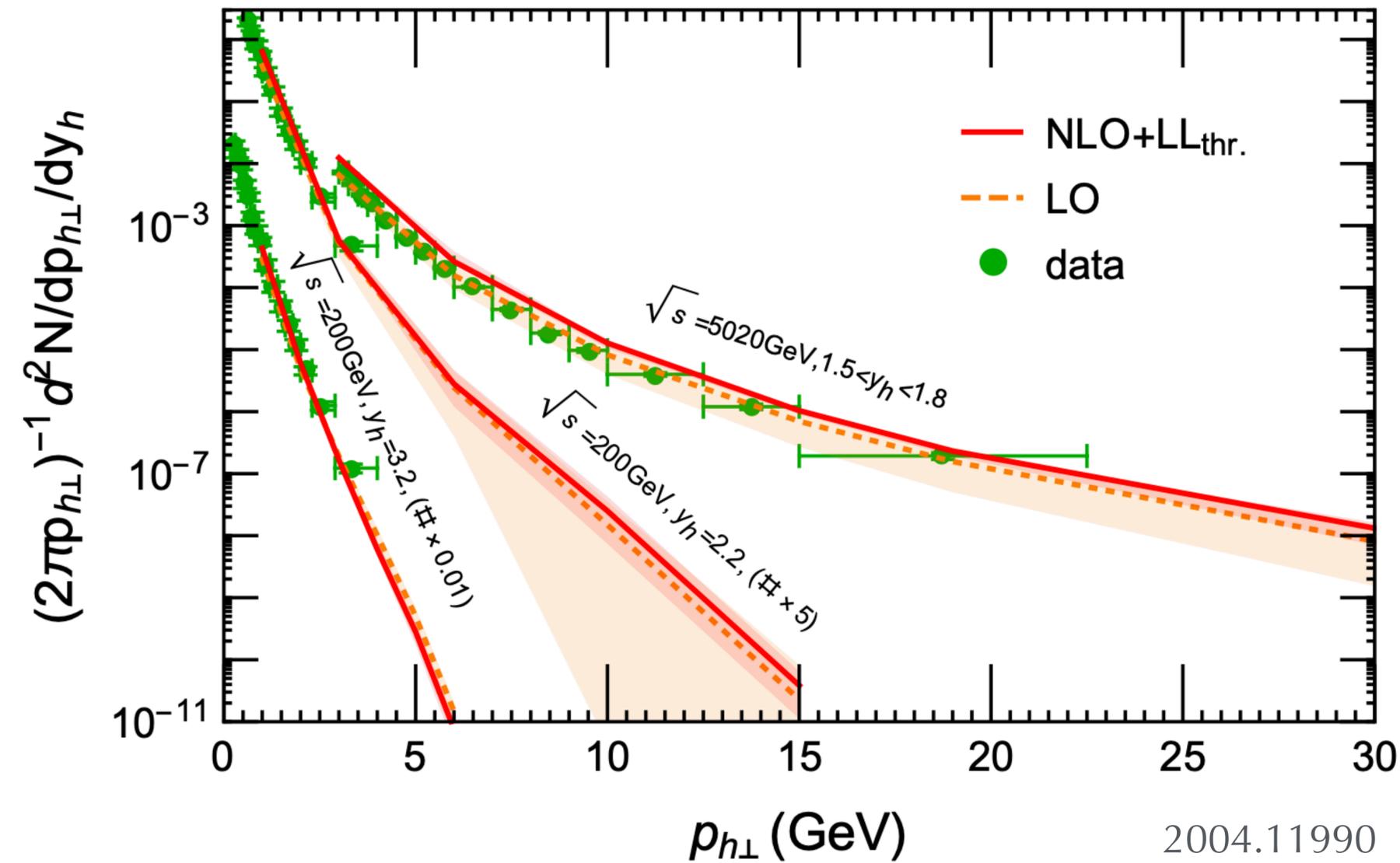
$$U_J U_S =$$

$$\exp\left[\frac{\alpha_s}{\pi} \int \frac{d\vec{k}_t}{\pi} \left(-2/n\bar{N} \frac{\vec{k}_t^r \cdot \vec{k}_t'^r}{k_t^2 k_t'^2} + \frac{1}{n} \frac{\nu}{\chi_{PA}} I_{BK}\right) T^a W_{ab} T^b\right]$$

⋮

Can also reproduce the RGE result by summing all order emissions in the strong order limit (LL)

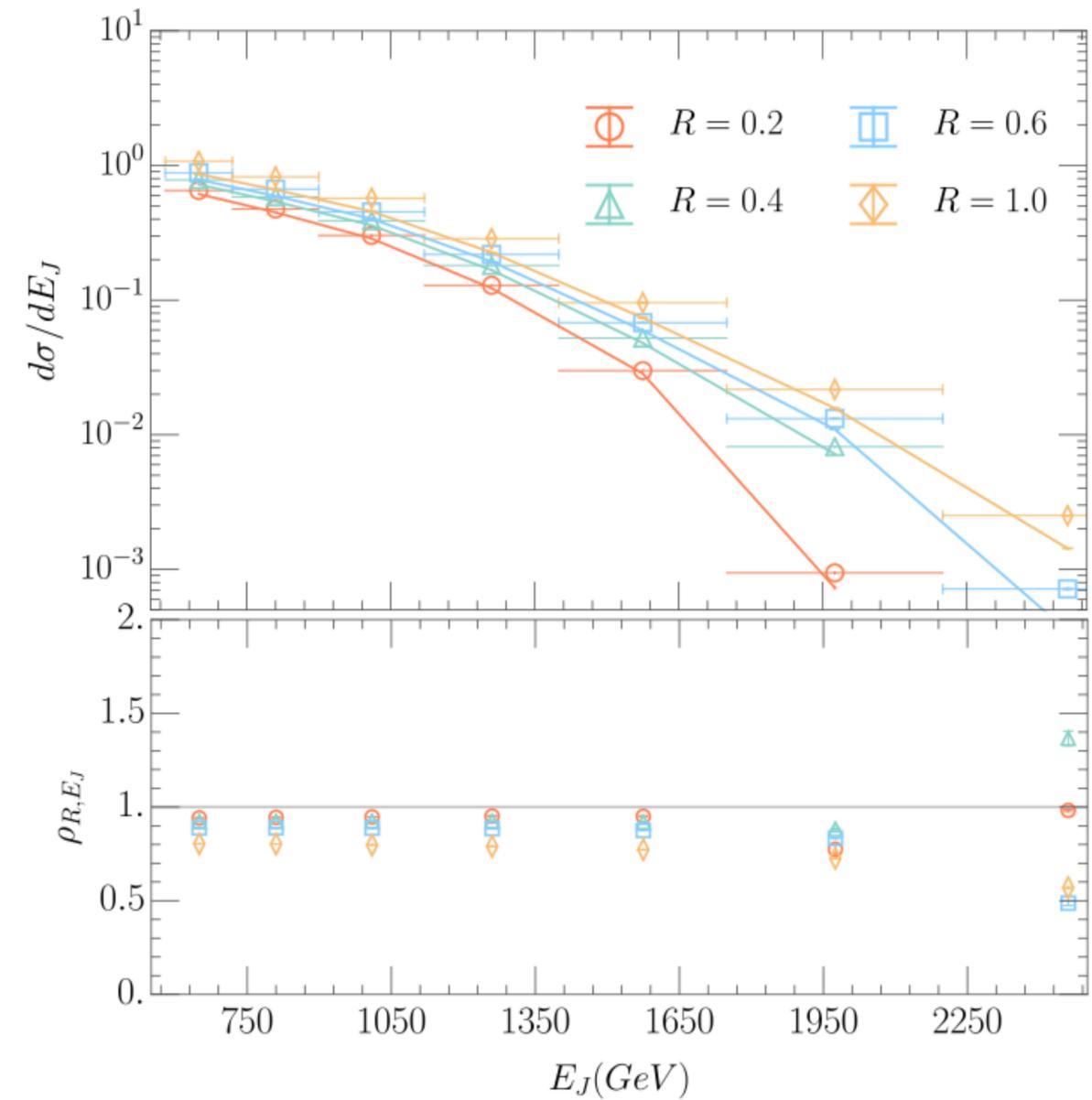
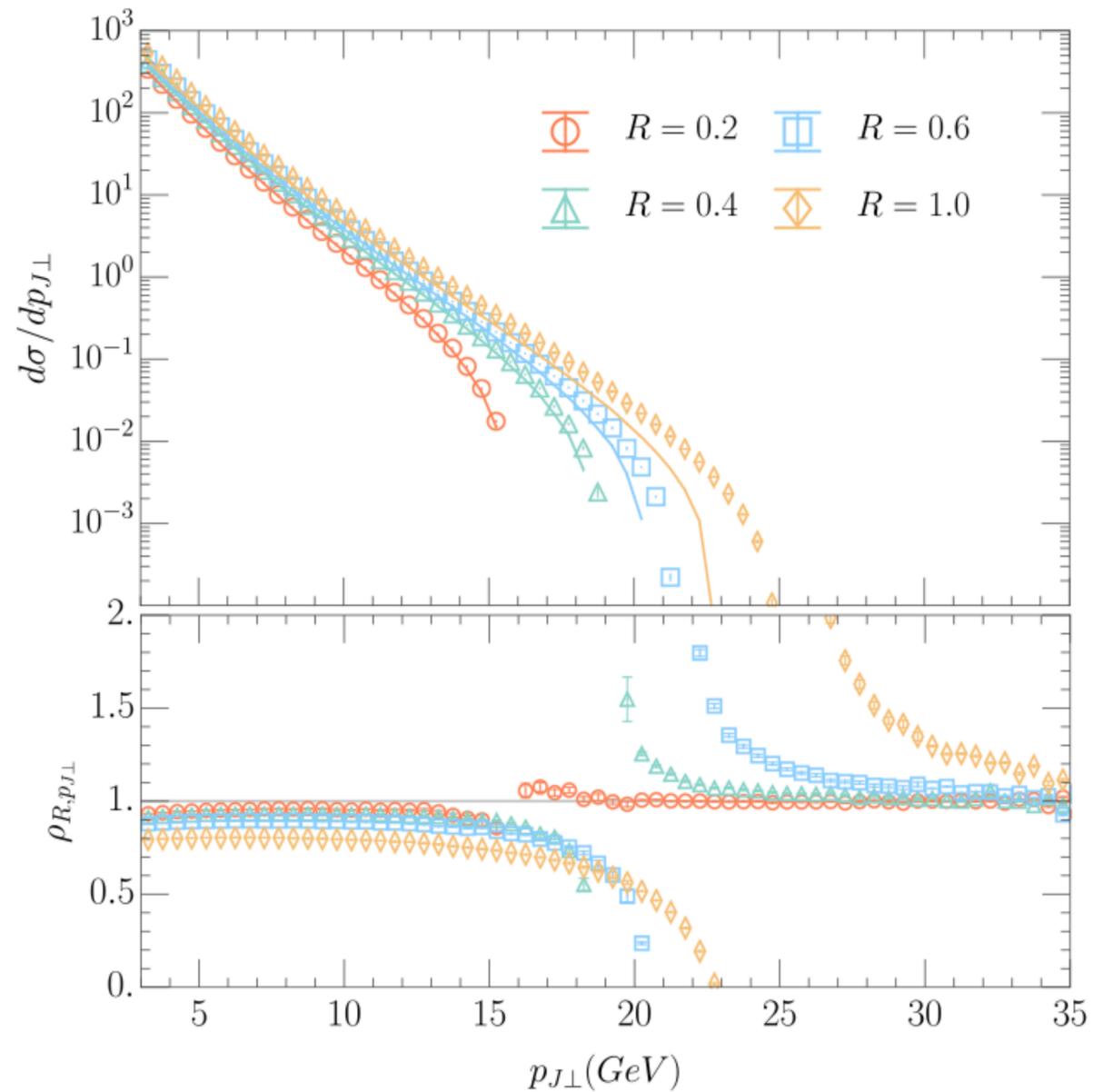
pA forward scattering



Good agreement
with current data

pA forward scattering

$$\sqrt{s} = 5.02 \text{ TeV}, \quad 5.2 < \eta_J < 6.6, \quad \text{anti-}k_T$$



Full jet algorithm (numerical monte carlo) v.s. small-R approximation (analytic)

Thanks!