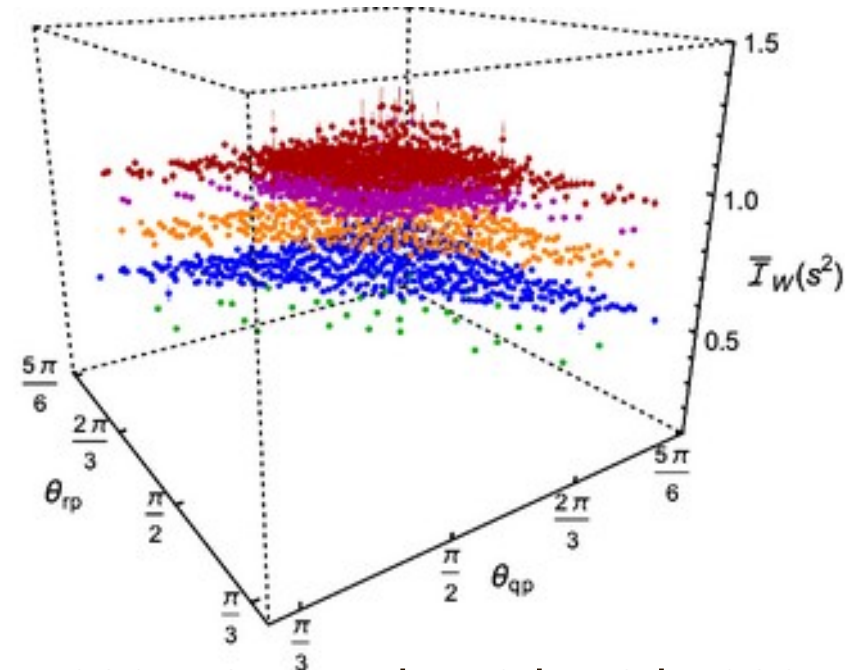
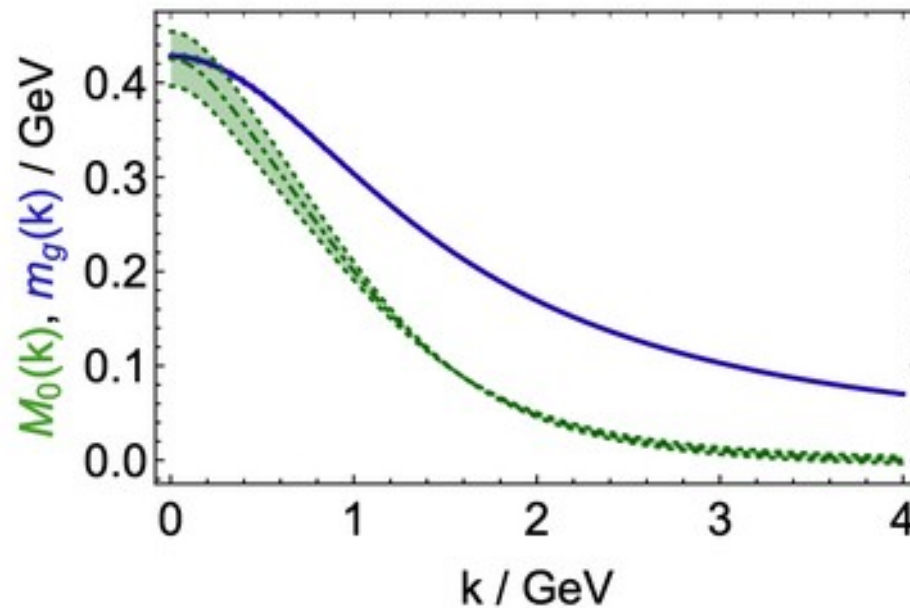


Complete analysis of the Landau-gauge 3-gluon vertex from lattice QCD

by J. Rodríguez-Quintero



Phys.Lett.B 838 (2023) 137737, Phys.Lett.B 841 (2023) 137906, Phys.Rev.D 110 (2024) 1, 014005
In collaboration with: A.C. Aguilar, F. De Soto, M.N. Ferreira, J. Papavassiliou, C. D. Roberts, F. Pinto-Gómez.



Valencia (Spain), QuantFunc2024, September 2th - 6th, 2024.

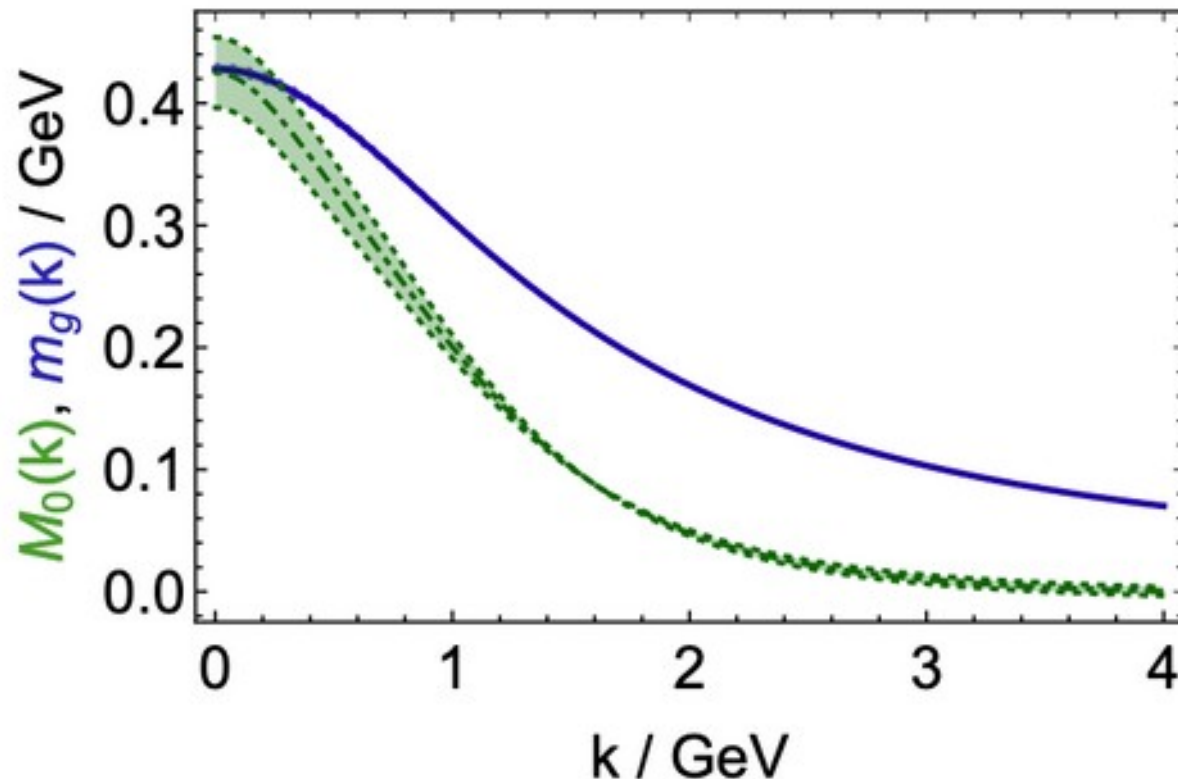
Motivation: The emergence of gluon mass

- **QCD** is characterized by two **emergent** phenomena: **confinement** and **DGM**, both tightly connected to the **running coupling**.
- **RGI gluon** and **chiral-limit quark** masses can be defined and found to be commesurate with each other and of the order of half of the proton mass.

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{QCD}} = \sum_{j=u,d,s,\dots} \bar{q}_j [\gamma_\mu D_\mu + m_j] q_j + \frac{1}{4} G_{\mu\nu}^a G_{\mu\nu}^a,$$

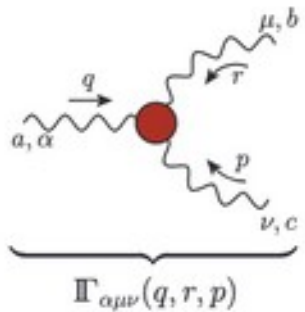
$$D_\mu = \partial_\mu + ig \frac{1}{2} \lambda^a A_\mu^a,$$

$$G_{\mu\nu}^a = \partial_\mu A_\nu^a - \partial_\nu A_\mu^a - gf^{abc} A_\mu^b A_\nu^c,$$



Motivation: The Schwinger mechanism

- The **3-gluon vertex**, triggered by the non-abelian nature of QCD,



$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{QCD}} = \sum_{j=u,d,s,\dots} \bar{q}_j [\gamma_\mu D_\mu + m_j] q_j + \frac{1}{4} G_{\mu\nu}^a G_{\mu\nu}^a,$$

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- The **3-gluon vertex**, triggered by the non-abelian nature of QCD, is a key ingredient for the gluon mass generation mechanism [**Schwinger mechanism**].

$$\Pi_{\alpha\mu\nu}(q, r, p) = \Gamma_{\alpha\mu\nu}(q, r, p) + V_{\alpha\mu\nu}(q, r, p)$$

J. M. Cornwall, Phys.Rev. D 26 (1982) 1453
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$$V_{\alpha\mu\nu}(q, r, p) = \frac{q_\alpha}{q^2} g_{\mu\nu} C_1(q, r, p) + \dots$$

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Longitudinal massless poles activating the
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From 3-g STI:

$$\mathbb{C}(r^2) = L_{sg}(r^2) - F(0) \left\{ \frac{\mathcal{W}(r^2)}{r^2} \Delta^{-1}(r^2) + \tilde{Z}_1 \frac{d\Delta^{-1}(r^2)}{dr^2} \right\}$$

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Soft-gluon 3-gluon form factor
 Gluon two-point function
 Ghost-gluon finite RC
 Ghost dressing

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$$\mathcal{W}_1(r^2) = \frac{g^2 C_A \tilde{Z}_1}{6} \int_k \Delta(k^2) D(k^2) D(t^2) (r \cdot k) B_1(t, -k, -r) B_1(k, 0, -k) \left[1 - \frac{(r \cdot k)^2}{r^2 k^2} \right]$$

$$\mathcal{W}_2(r^2) = -\frac{g^2 C_A \tilde{Z}_1}{6} \int_k \Delta(k^2) \Delta(t^2) D(t^2) B_1(t, 0, -t) \mathcal{I}_{\mathcal{W}}(r^2, k^2, t^2)$$

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$$\mathcal{I}_{\mathcal{W}}(q^2, r^2, p^2) := \frac{1}{2} (q - r)^\nu \delta^{\alpha\mu} \bar{\Gamma}_{\alpha\mu\nu}(q, r, p)$$

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▼ Transversely projected 3-gluon vertex

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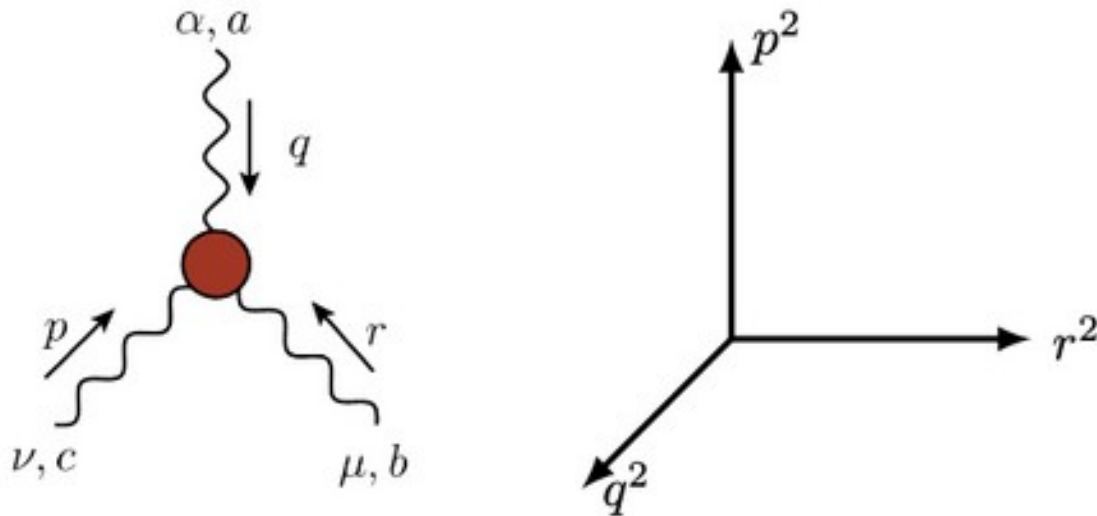
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3-gluon vertex: Kinematics



A general kinematic configuration remains fully described by the three squared momenta and can be geometrically represented by the three cartesian coordinates:

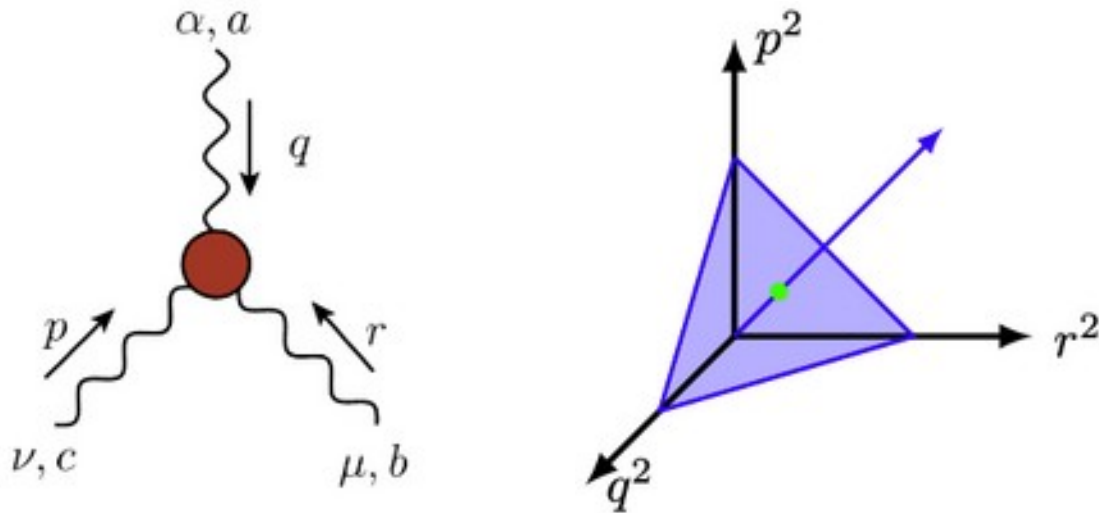
$$(q^2, r^2, p^2)$$

With the the angles:

$$\cos \theta_{qr} = (p^2 - q^2 - r^2) / 2 \sqrt{q^2 r^2}$$

And equivalently for θ_{rp}, θ_{pq}

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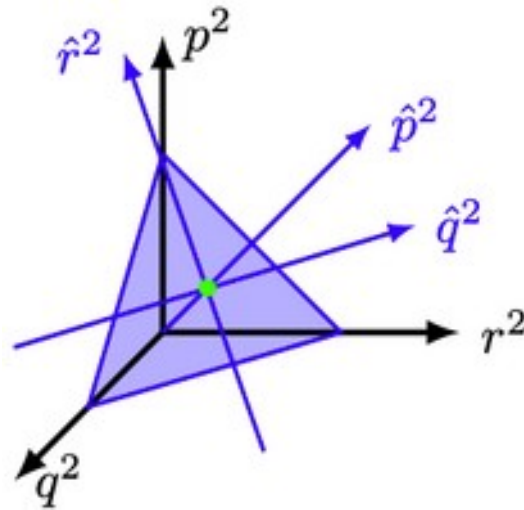
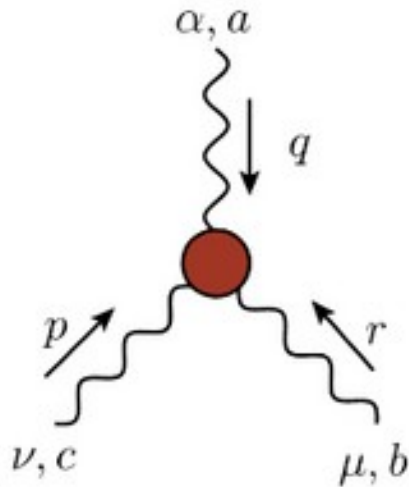
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$$\hat{p}^2 = (q^2 + r^2 + p^2) / \sqrt{3}$$

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A general kinematic configuration remains fully described by the three squared momenta and can be geometrically represented by the three cartesian coordinates:

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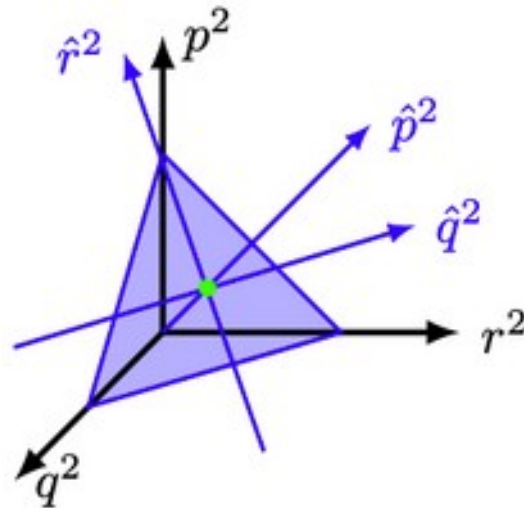
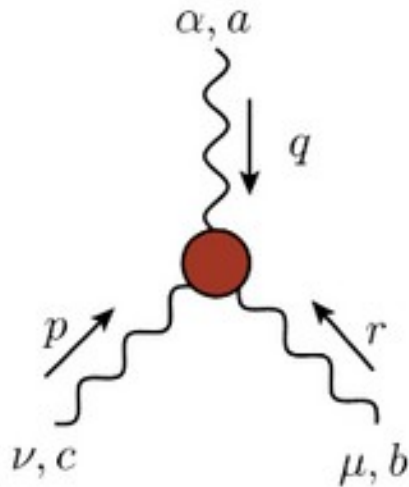
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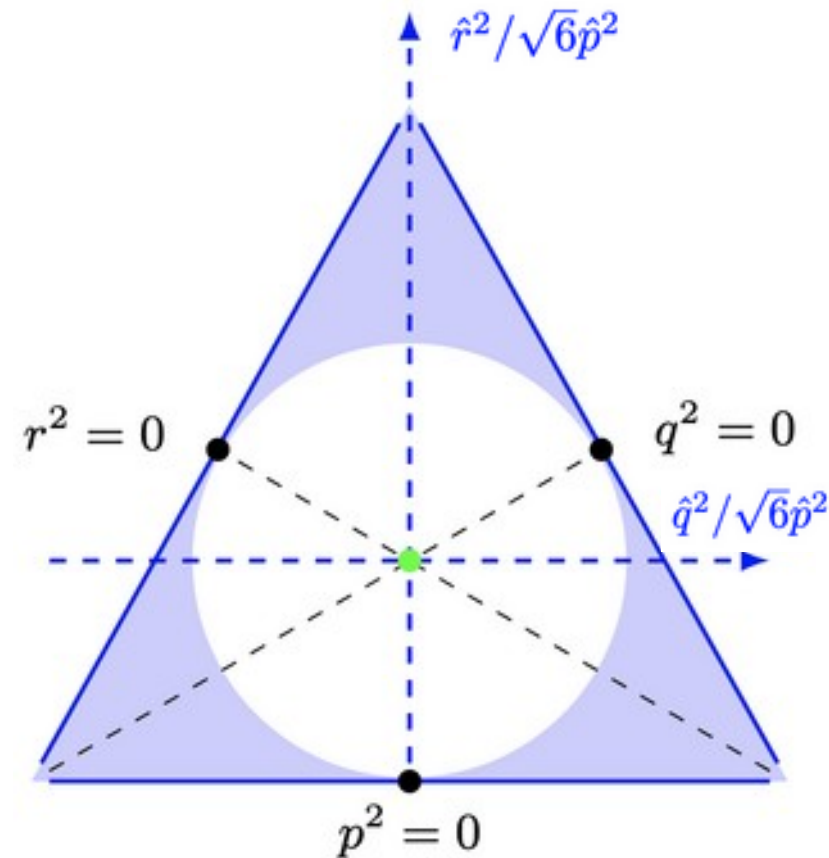
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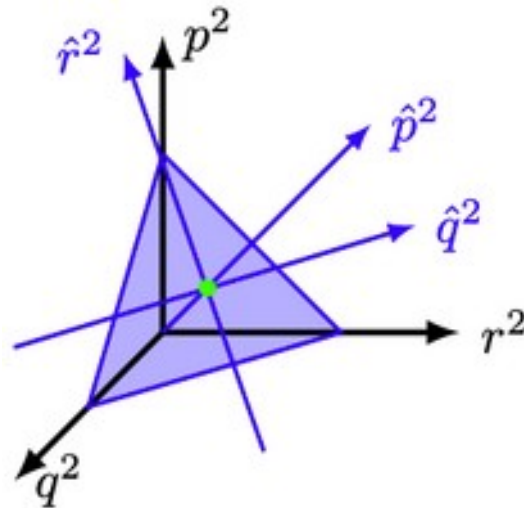
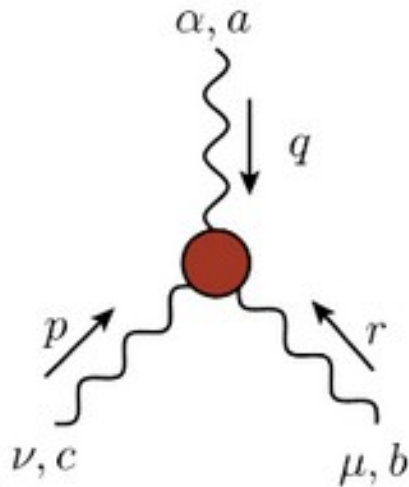
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Momentum conservation implies for the 3-g kinematic representations to lie on the incircle

$$\hat{q}^4 + \hat{r}^4 \leq \frac{1}{2} \hat{p}^4$$

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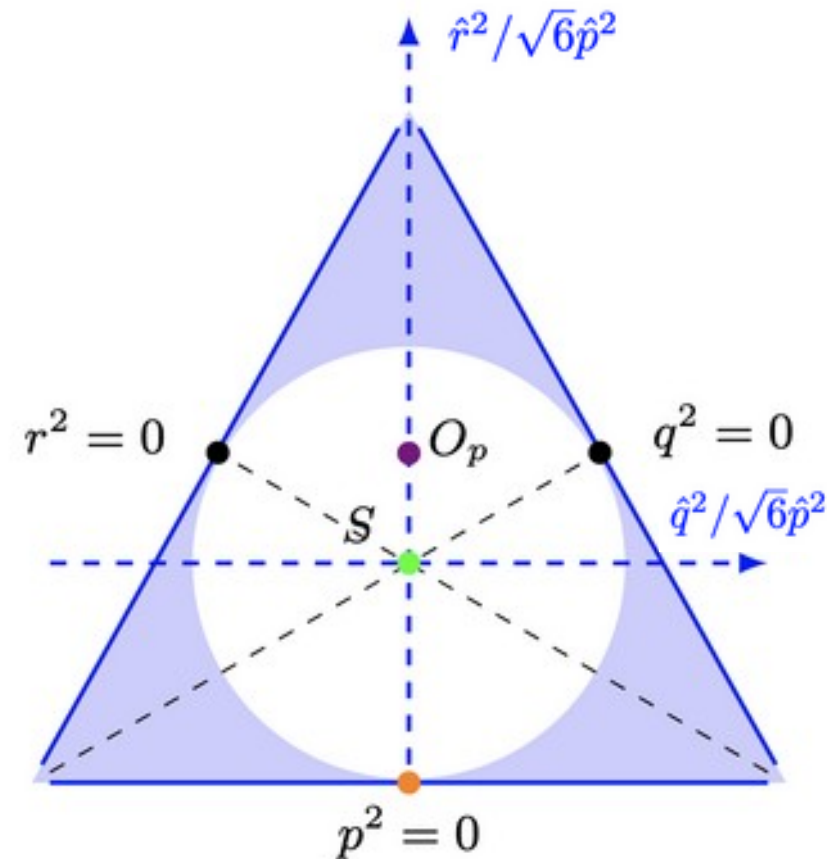
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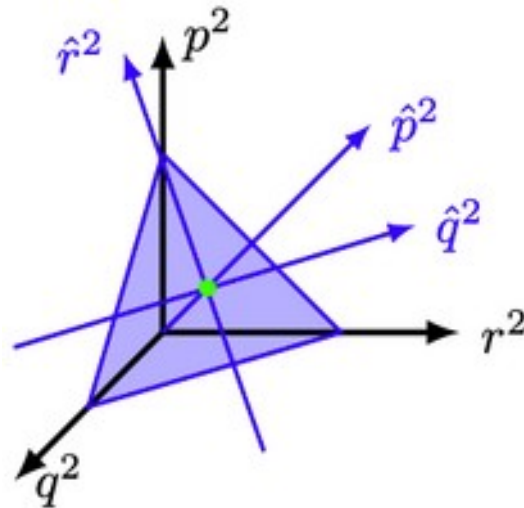
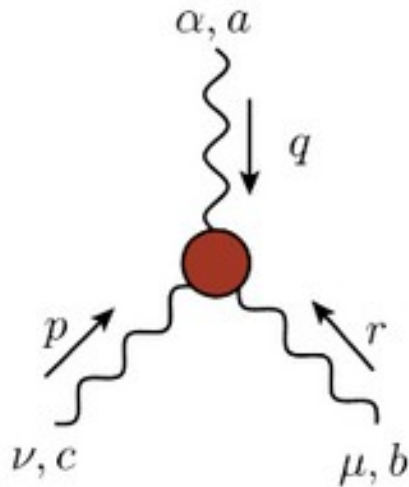


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Some particular cases can be then displayed

3-gluon vertex: Kinematics



A general kinematic configuration remains fully described by the three squared momenta and can be geometrically represented by the three cartesian coordinates:

$$(q^2, r^2, p^2) \longrightarrow (\hat{q}^2, \hat{r}^2, \hat{p}^2)$$

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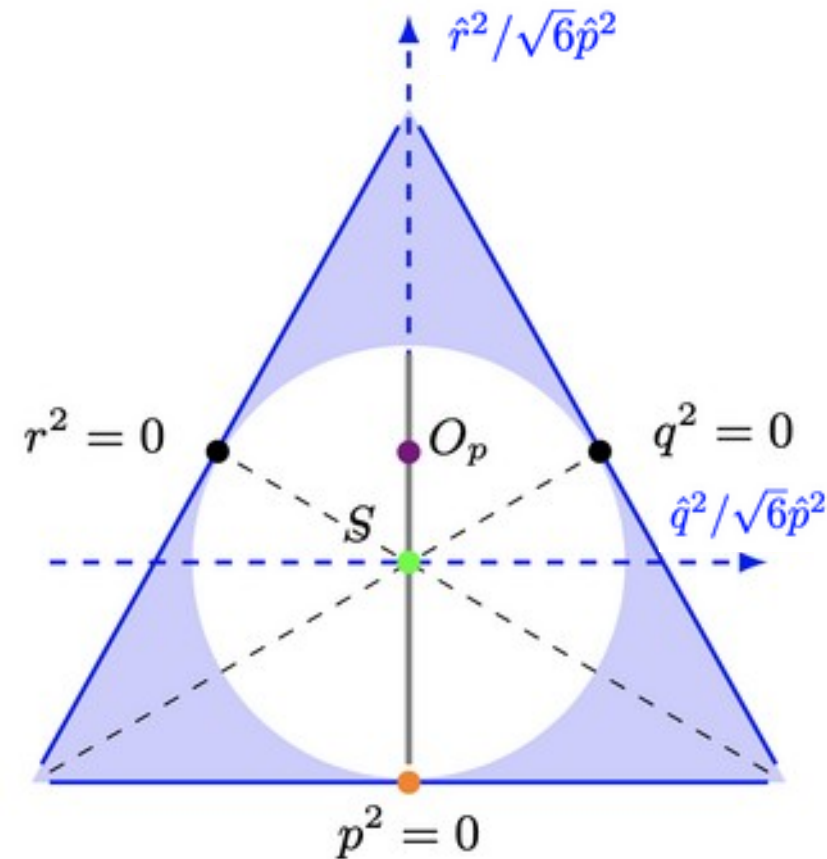
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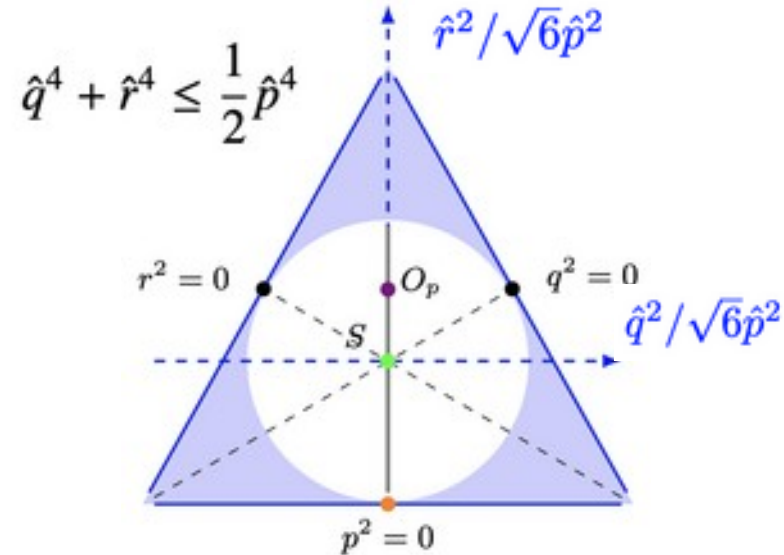
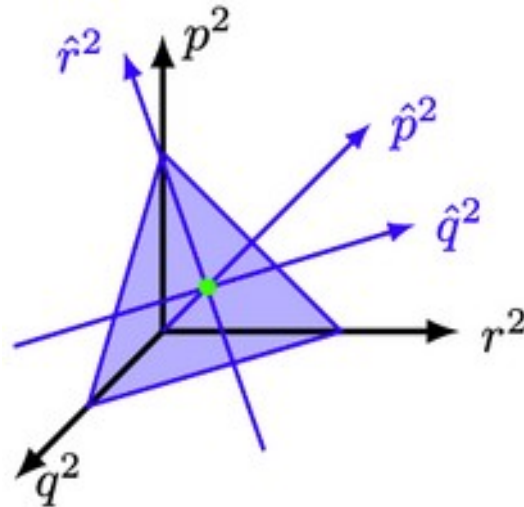
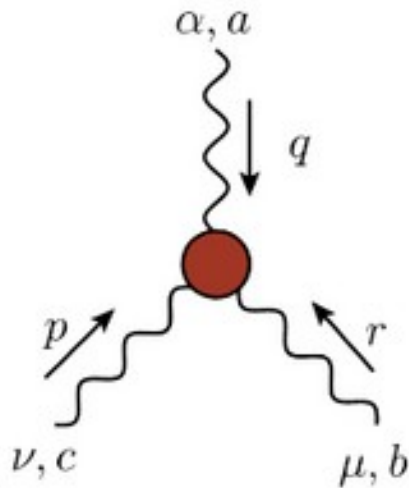


Momentum conservation implies for the 3-g kinematic representations to lie on the incircle

$$\hat{q}^4 + \hat{r}^4 \leq \frac{1}{2} \hat{p}^4$$

Some particular cases can be then displayed, particularly the **bisectoral** line.

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More symmetrically:

$$\hat{q}^2 = (r^2 - q^2) / \sqrt{2},$$

$$\hat{r}^2 = (2p^2 - q^2 - r^2) / \sqrt{6}$$

$$\hat{p}^2 = (q^2 + r^2 + p^2) / \sqrt{3}$$

Also in terms of Bose-symmetric redefinitions of the kinematic variables:

$$s^2 = \frac{q^2 + r^2 + p^2}{2}$$

$$t^4 = \frac{(q^2 - r^2)^2 + (r^2 - p^2)^2 + (p^2 - q^2)^2}{3}$$

$$u^6 = (q^2 + r^2 - 2p^2)(r^2 + p^2 - 2q^2)(p^2 + q^2 - 2r^2)$$

3-gluon vertex: Lattice data and tensor basis

Capitalizing on lattice QCD, one can only access non-amputated Green's function:

$$\mathcal{G}_{\alpha\mu\nu}(q, r, p) = \frac{1}{24} f^{abc} \langle \tilde{A}_\alpha^a(q) \tilde{A}_\mu^b(r) \tilde{A}_\nu^c(p) \rangle$$

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$$\Delta(p^2) = \frac{1}{24} \delta^{ab} P_{\mu\nu}(p) \langle \tilde{A}_\mu^a(p) \tilde{A}_\mu^b(-p) \rangle$$

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$$\Gamma^{\alpha\mu\nu}(q, r, p) = \underbrace{\sum_{i=1}^{10} X_i(q^2, r^2, p^2) \ell_i^{\alpha\mu\nu}(q, r, p)}_{\text{10-d non-transverse subspace}} + \underbrace{\sum_{i=1}^4 Y_i(q^2, r^2, p^2) t_i^{\alpha\mu\nu}(q, r, p)}_{\text{4-d transverse subspace}} \quad \text{Ball-Chiu basis}$$

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$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{\lambda}_1^{\alpha\mu\nu} &= P_{\alpha'}^\alpha(q) P_{\mu'}^\mu(r) P_{\nu'}^\nu(p) \left[\ell_1^{\alpha'\mu'\nu'} + \ell_4^{\alpha'\mu'\nu'} + \ell_7^{\alpha'\mu'\nu'} \right], \\ \tilde{\lambda}_2^{\alpha\mu\nu} &= \frac{3}{2s^2} (q-r)^{\nu'} (r-p)^{\alpha'} (p-q)^{\mu'} P_{\alpha'}^\alpha(q) P_{\mu'}^\mu(r) P_{\nu'}^\nu(p), \\ \tilde{\lambda}_3^{\alpha\mu\nu} &= \frac{3}{2s^2} P_{\alpha'}^\alpha(q) P_{\mu'}^\mu(r) P_{\nu'}^\nu(p) \left[\ell_3^{\alpha'\mu'\nu'} + \ell_6^{\alpha'\mu'\nu'} + \ell_9^{\alpha'\mu'\nu'} \right], \\ \tilde{\lambda}_4^{\alpha\mu\nu} &= \left(\frac{3}{2s^2} \right)^2 \left[t_1^{\alpha\mu\nu} + t_2^{\alpha\mu\nu} + t_3^{\alpha\mu\nu} \right], \end{aligned}$$

A special basis, each element respecting the antisymmetric behaviour: $\tilde{\lambda}_i \rightarrow -\tilde{\lambda}_i$

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$$\bar{\Gamma}^{\alpha\mu\nu}(q, r, p) = \sum_{i=1}^4 \tilde{\Gamma}_i(q^2, r^2, p^2) \tilde{\lambda}_i^{\alpha\mu\nu}(q, r, p)$$

★ Thus:

$$\tilde{\Gamma}_i(q^2, r^2, p^2) = \tilde{\Gamma}_i(r^2, q^2, p^2) = \tilde{\Gamma}_i(q^2, p^2, r^2)$$

The form factors can only depend on bose-symmetric combinations of the three momenta, as

$$\hat{p}^2 = (q^2 + r^2 + p^2) / \sqrt{3}$$

$$\tilde{\lambda}_1^{\alpha\mu\nu} = P_\alpha^\alpha(q) P_\mu^\mu(r) P_\nu^\nu(p) [\ell_1^{\alpha'\mu'\nu'} + \ell_4^{\alpha'\mu'\nu'} + \ell_7^{\alpha'\mu'\nu'}],$$

$$\tilde{\lambda}_2^{\alpha\mu\nu} = \frac{3}{2s^2} (q-r)^{\nu'} (r-p)^{\alpha'} (p-q)^{\mu'} P_\alpha^\alpha(q) P_\mu^\mu(r) P_\nu^\nu(p),$$

$$\tilde{\lambda}_3^{\alpha\mu\nu} = \frac{3}{2s^2} P_\alpha^\alpha(q) P_\mu^\mu(r) P_\nu^\nu(p) [\ell_3^{\alpha'\mu'\nu'} + \ell_6^{\alpha'\mu'\nu'} + \ell_9^{\alpha'\mu'\nu'}],$$

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An improved basis:

$$\bar{\Gamma}_{\alpha\mu\nu}(q, r, p) = \sum_{i=1}^4 \tilde{\Gamma}_i^*(q^2, r^2, p^2) \tilde{\lambda}_{i\alpha\mu\nu}^*(q, r, p)$$

$$\tilde{\lambda}_1^{\alpha\mu\nu} = P_\alpha^\alpha(q) P_\mu^\mu(r) P_\nu^\nu(p) \left[\ell_1^{\alpha'\mu'\nu'} + \ell_4^{\alpha'\mu'\nu'} + \ell_7^{\alpha'\mu'\nu'} \right],$$

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$$\tilde{\lambda}_{i\alpha\mu\nu}^*(q, r, p) = \tilde{\lambda}_{i\alpha\mu\nu}(q, r, p) - \delta_{i3} \frac{3}{2} \tilde{\lambda}_{1\alpha\mu\nu}(q, r, p)$$

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$$\tilde{\Gamma}_i^*(q^2, r^2, p^2) = \sum_{k=1}^4 \left(\delta_{ik} + \frac{3}{2} \delta_{i1} \delta_{k3} \right) \tilde{\Gamma}_k(q^2, r^2, p^2)$$

The only consequence is the borrowing of a new piece by the tree-level form factor.

$$\tilde{\lambda}_1^{\alpha\mu\nu} = P_\alpha^\alpha(q) P_\mu^\mu(r) P_\nu^\nu(p) \left[\ell_1^{\alpha'\mu'\nu'} + \ell_4^{\alpha'\mu'\nu'} + \ell_7^{\alpha'\mu'\nu'} \right],$$

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3-gluon vertex: Lattice data results

Specializing for the bisectoral case:

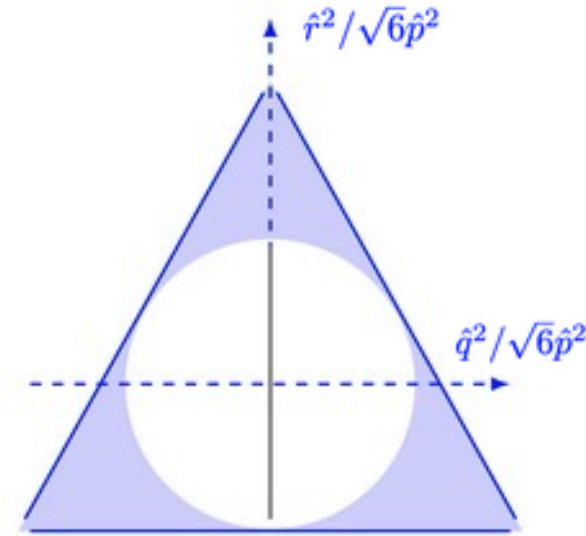
$$\lambda_i^{\alpha\mu\nu}(q, r, p) = \lim_{r^2 \rightarrow q^2} \tilde{\lambda}_i^{\alpha\mu\nu}(q, r, p)$$

$$\lim_{r^2 \rightarrow q^2} \lambda_4^{\alpha\mu\nu} = \sum_{i=1}^3 f_i(z) \lambda_i^{\alpha\mu\nu}(q, r, p)$$

$$f_1(z) = \frac{9}{16}z(1-z) \quad f_2(z) = \frac{9}{32}z - \frac{3}{8} \quad f_3(z) = \frac{3}{8}z$$

$$z = p^2 / \left[q^2 + \frac{p^2}{2} \right]$$

$$\bar{\Gamma}_i(q^2, q^2, p^2) = \tilde{\Gamma}_i(q^2, q^2, p^2) + f_i(z) \tilde{\Gamma}_4(q^2, q^2, p^2)$$



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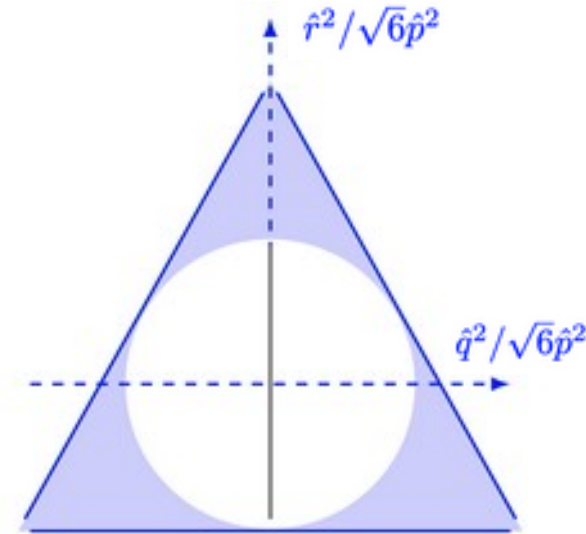
$$\lambda_i^{\alpha\mu\nu*}(q, r, p) = \lim_{r^2 \rightarrow q^2} \tilde{\lambda}_i^{\alpha\mu\nu*}(q, r, p)$$

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$$f_1^*(z) = \frac{9}{16}z(2-z) \quad f_2^*(z) = \frac{9}{32}z - \frac{3}{8} \quad f_3^*(z) = \frac{3}{8}z$$

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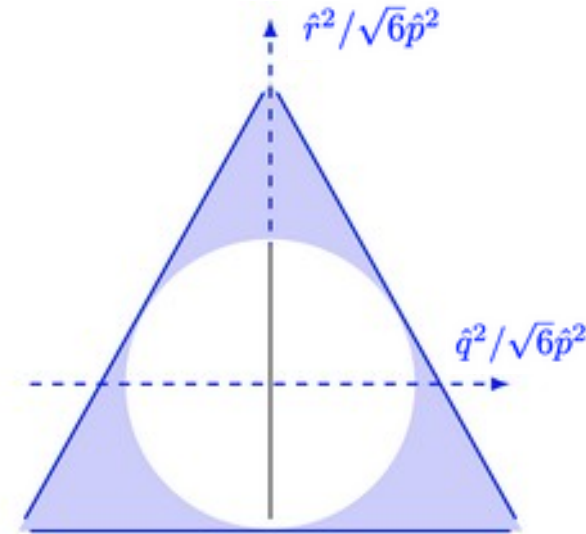
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Exploiting the following lattice configurations

β	L^4/a^4	a (fm)	confs
5.6	32^4	0.236	2000
5.8	32^4	0.144	2000
6.0	32^4	0.096	2000
6.2	32^4	0.070	2000

To calculate the required 2- and 3-point Green's functions and project out the 3-g form factors.

3-gluon vertex: Lattice data results

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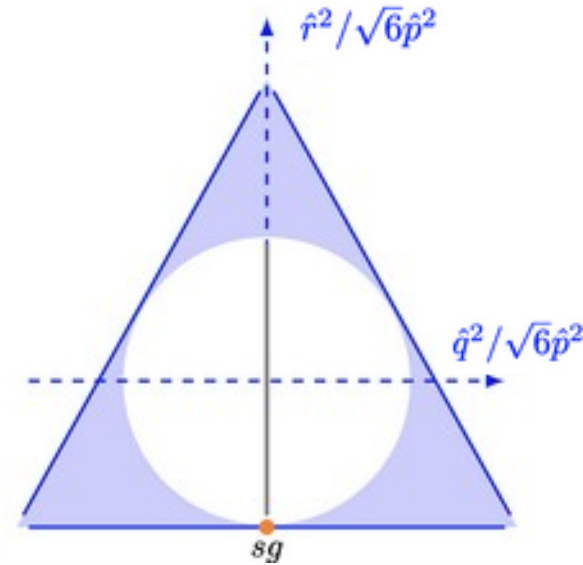
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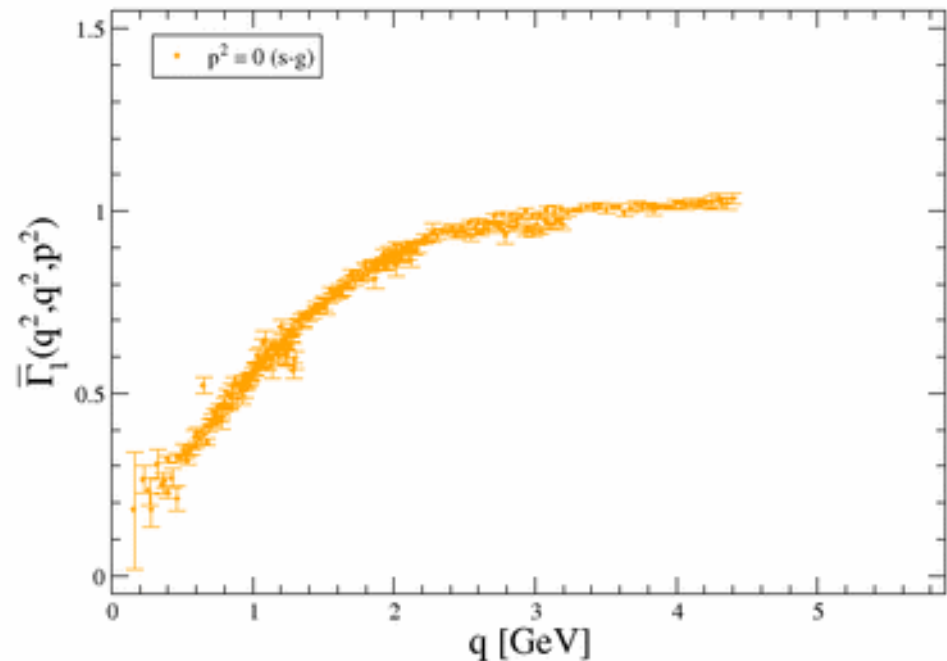
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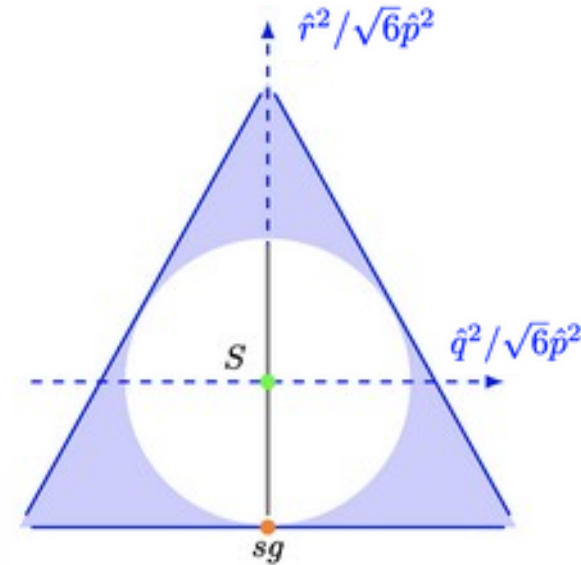
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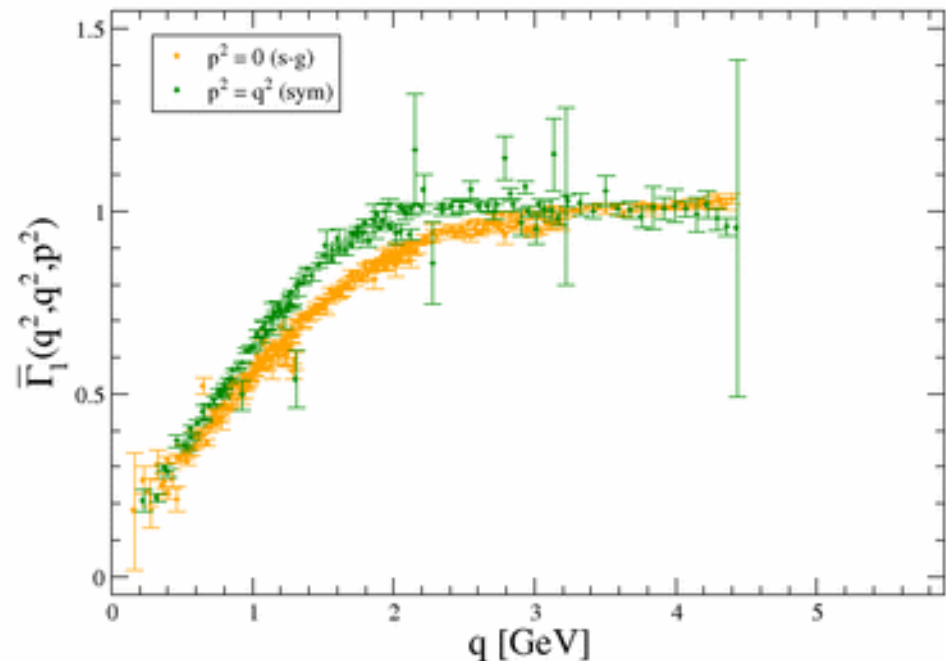
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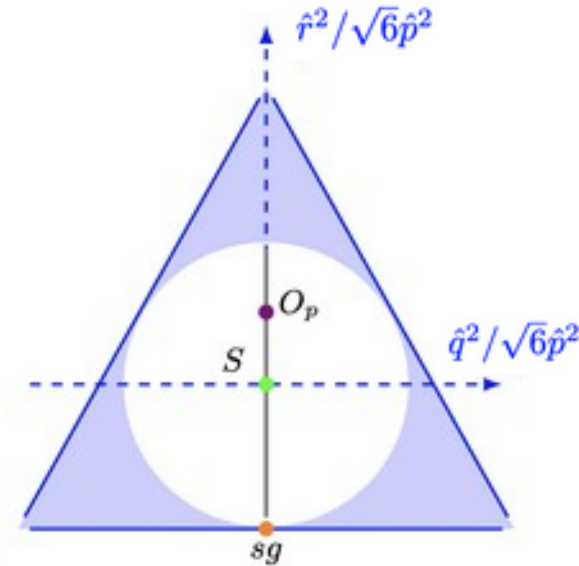
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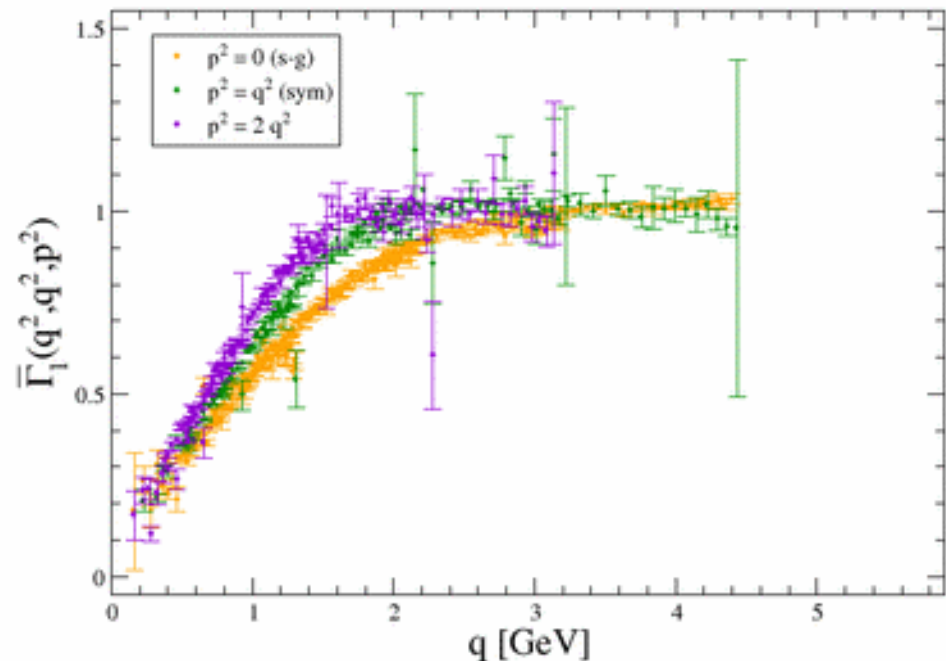
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3-gluon vertex: Lattice data results

Specializing for the bisectoral case:

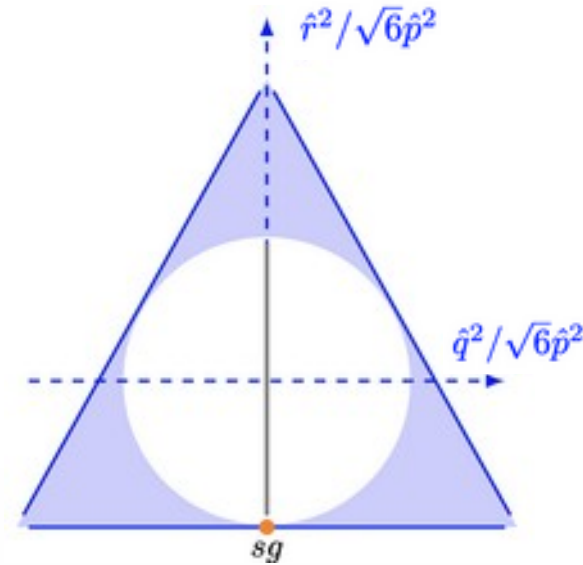
$$\lambda_i^{\alpha\mu\nu}(q, r, p) = \lim_{r^2 \rightarrow q^2} \tilde{\lambda}_i^{\alpha\mu\nu}(q, r, p)$$

$$\lim_{r^2 \rightarrow q^2} \lambda_4^{\alpha\mu\nu} = \sum_{i=1}^3 f_i(z) \lambda_i^{\alpha\mu\nu}(q, r, p)$$

$$f_1(z) = \frac{9}{16}z(1-z) \quad f_2(z) = \frac{9}{32}z - \frac{3}{8} \quad f_3(z) = \frac{3}{8}z$$

$$z = p^2 / \left[q^2 + \frac{p^2}{2} \right]$$

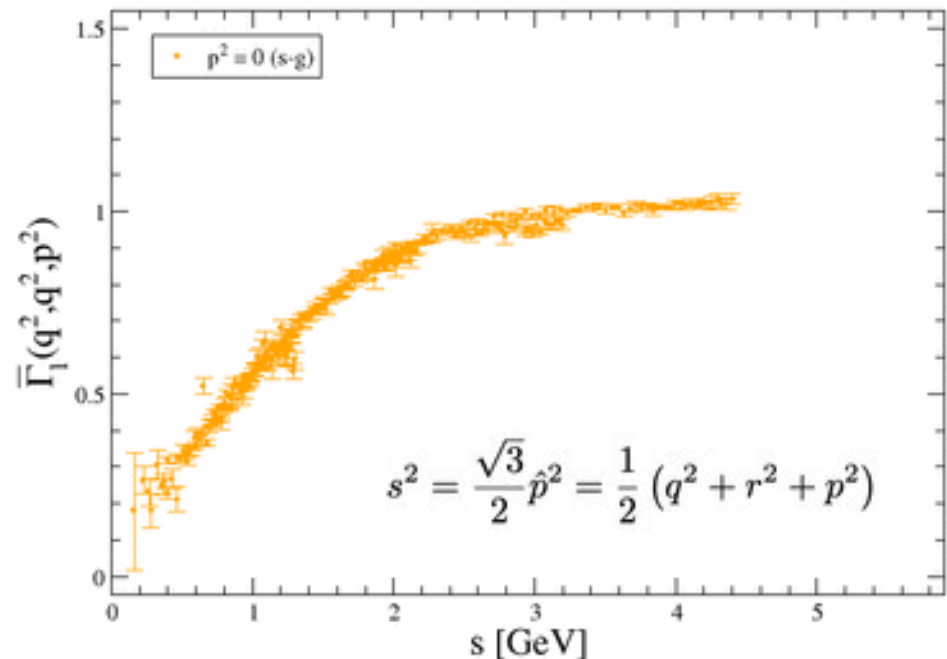
$$\bar{\Gamma}_i(q^2, q^2, p^2) = \tilde{\Gamma}_i(q^2, q^2, p^2) + f_i(z) \tilde{\Gamma}_4(q^2, q^2, p^2)$$



Exploiting the following lattice configurations

β	L^4/a^4	a (fm)	confs
5.6	32^4	0.236	2000
5.8	32^4	0.144	2000
6.0	32^4	0.096	2000
6.2	32^4	0.070	2000

To calculate the required 2- and 3-point Green's functions and project out the 3-g form factors.



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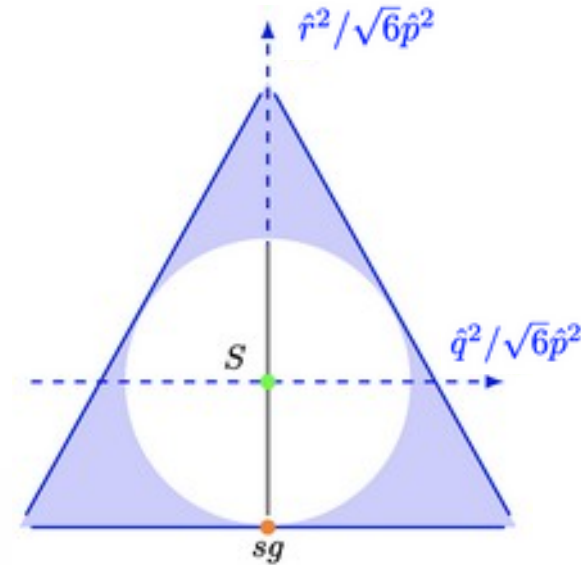
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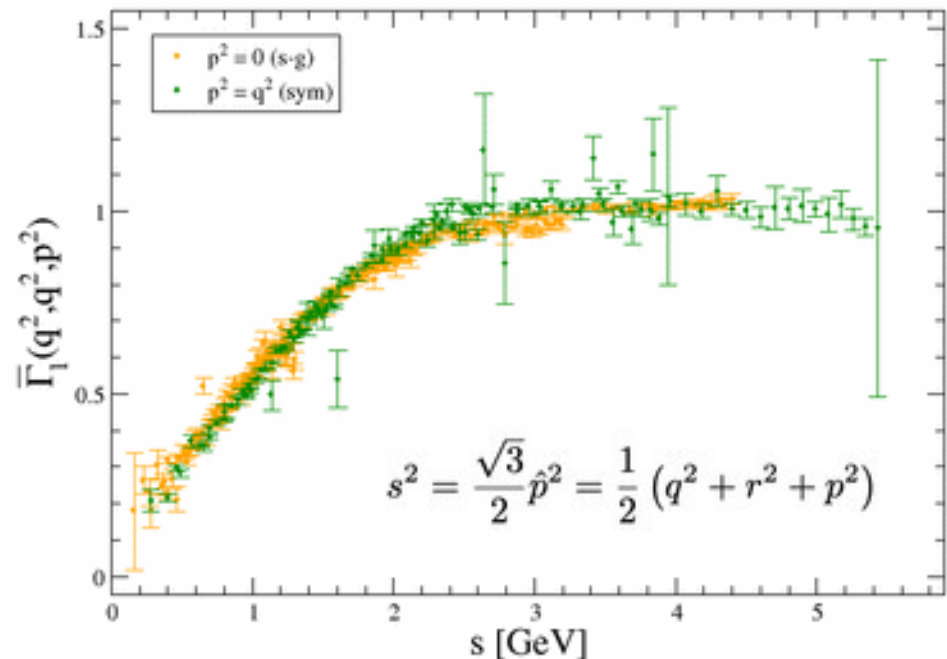
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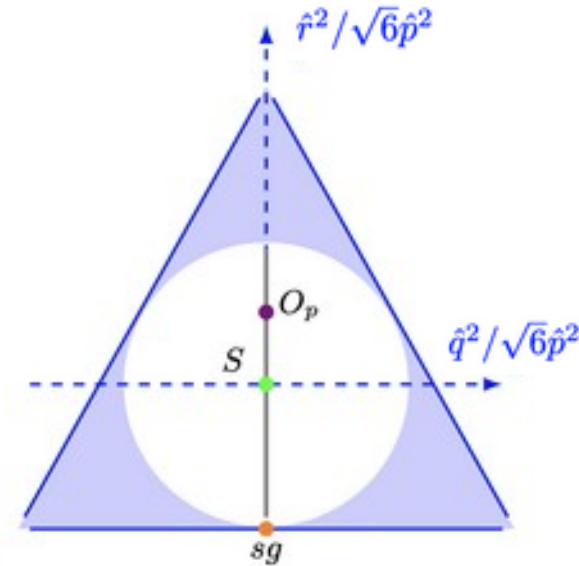
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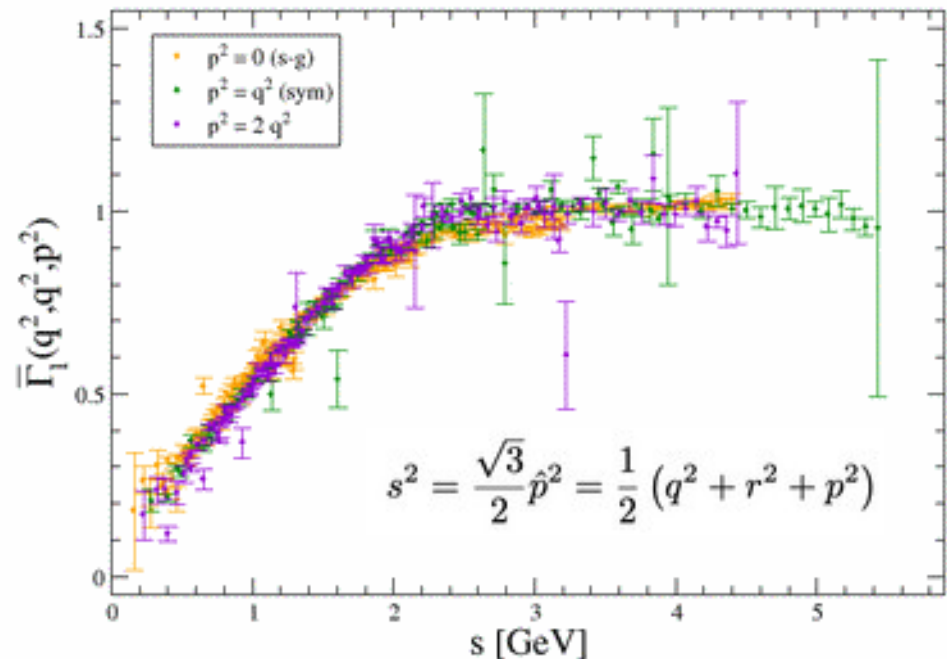
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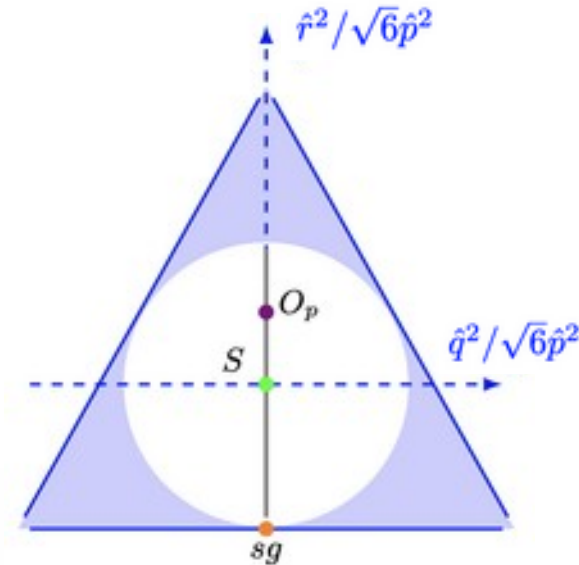
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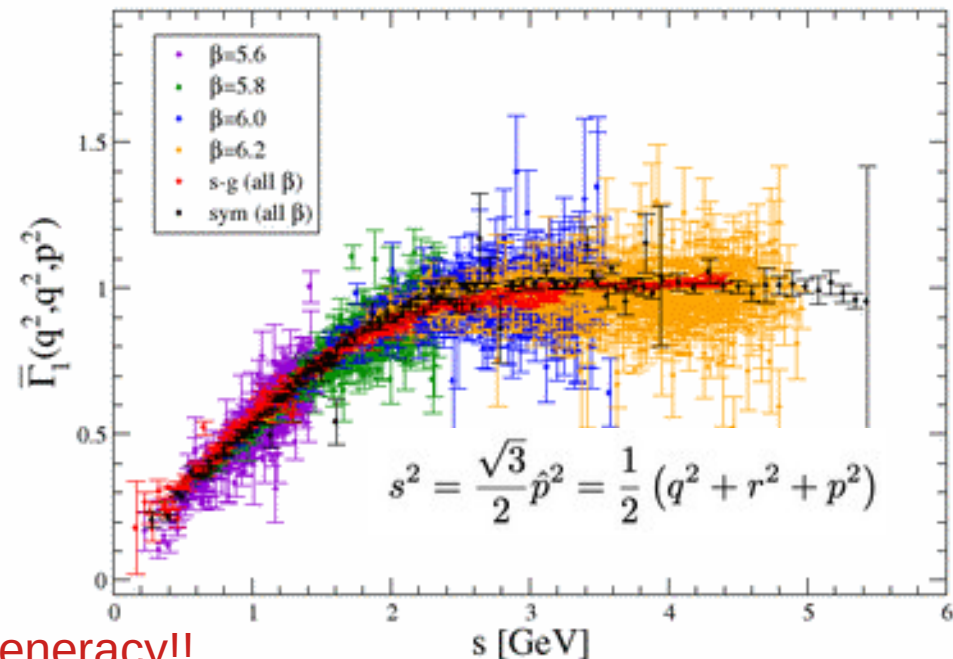
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Planar degeneracy!!

3-gluon vertex: Lattice data results

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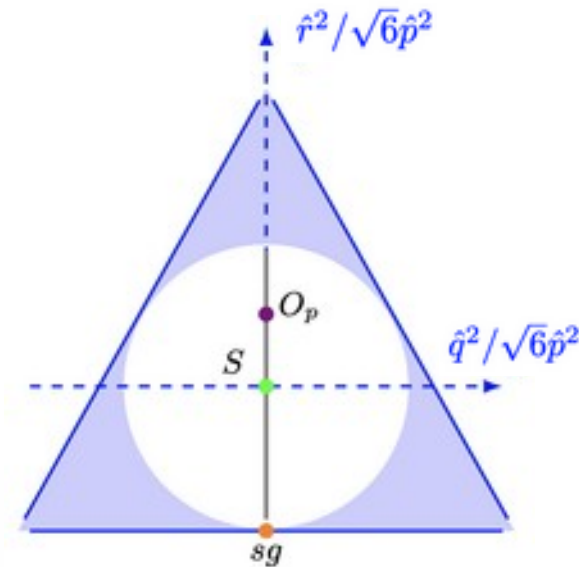
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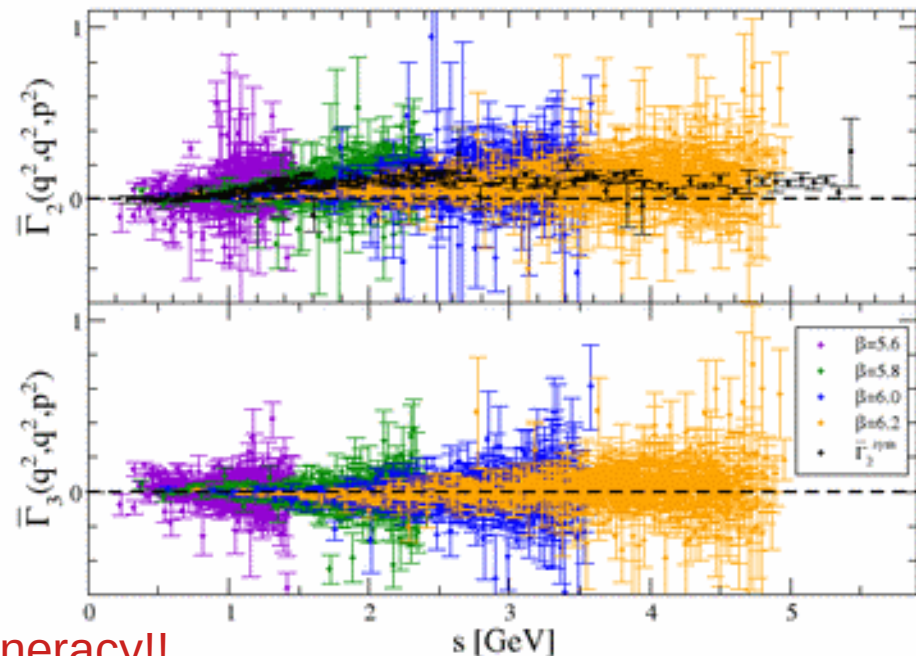
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Planar degeneracy!!

3-gluon vertex: planar degeneracy approximation ⁶

Specializing for the symmetric case:

$$\bar{\Gamma}_{\alpha\mu\nu}(r, q, p) = \sum_{i=1}^2 \bar{\Gamma}_i^{\text{sym}}(q^2) \lambda_{i\alpha\mu\nu}(q, r, p) \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \bar{\Gamma}_1^{\text{sym}}(q^2) = \lim_{p^2 \rightarrow q^2} \bar{\Gamma}_1(q^2, q^2, p^2) + \frac{1}{2} \bar{\Gamma}_3(q^2, q^2, p^2) \\ \bar{\Gamma}_2^{\text{sym}}(q^2) = \lim_{p^2 \rightarrow q^2} \bar{\Gamma}_2(q^2, q^2, p^2) - \frac{3}{4} \bar{\Gamma}_3(q^2, q^2, p^2) \end{array} \right.$$

$$\lambda_{i\alpha\mu\nu}(q, r, p) = \lim_{p^2 \rightarrow q^2} \bar{\lambda}_{i\alpha\mu\nu}(q, r, p) \quad i=1,2$$

3-gluon vertex: planar degeneracy approximation ⁶

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Specializing for the soft-gluon case:

$$\bar{\Gamma}_{\alpha\mu\nu}(r, q, p) = \bar{\Gamma}^{\text{sg}}(q^2) \lambda_{1\alpha\mu\nu}(q, r, p)$$
$$\boxed{L_{\text{sg}}(q^2)} = \lim_{p^2 \rightarrow 0} \bar{\Gamma}_1(q^2, q^2, p^2) + \frac{3}{2} \bar{\Gamma}_3(q^2, q^2, p^2)$$
$$\lambda_{i\alpha\mu\nu}(q, r, p) = \lim_{p^2 \rightarrow q^2} \bar{\lambda}_{i\alpha\mu\nu}(q, r, p) \quad i=1,2$$

3-gluon vertex: planar degeneracy approximation ⁶

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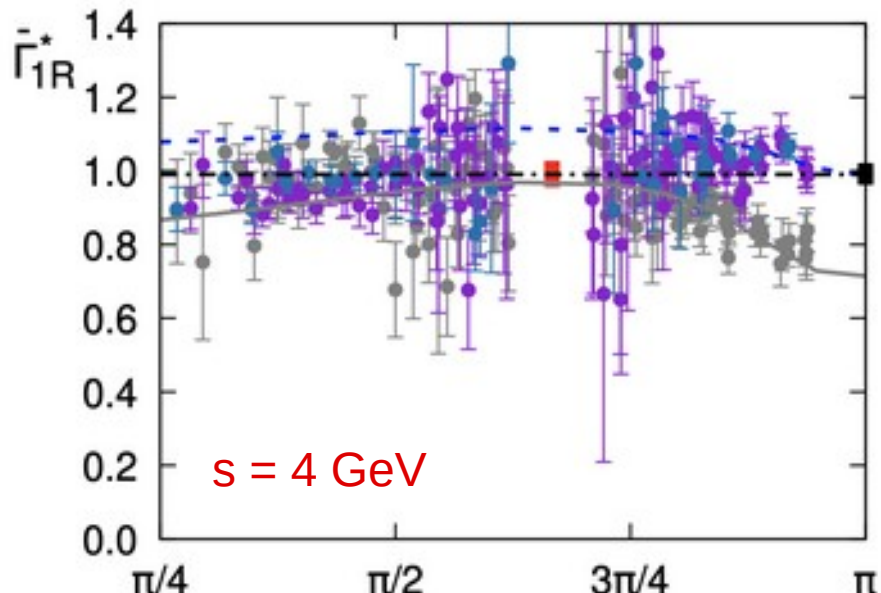
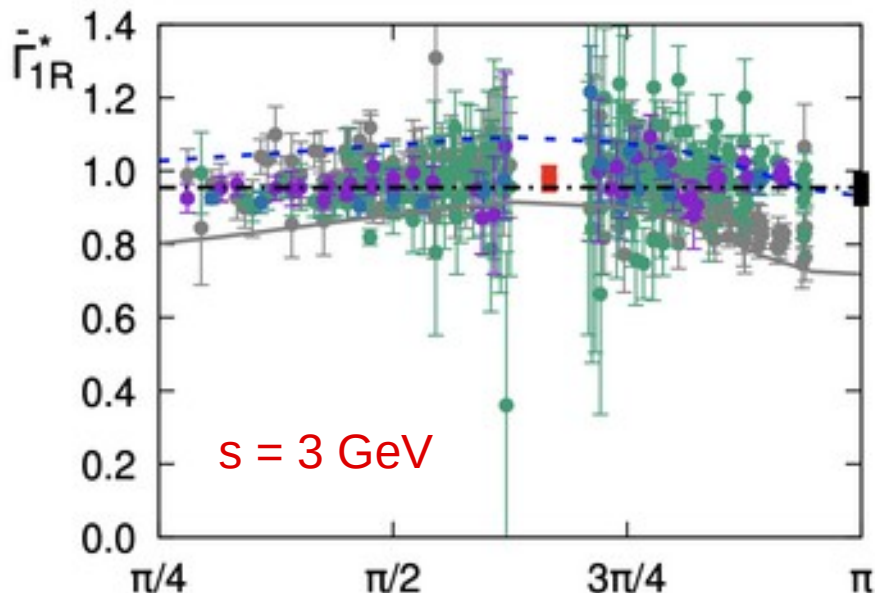
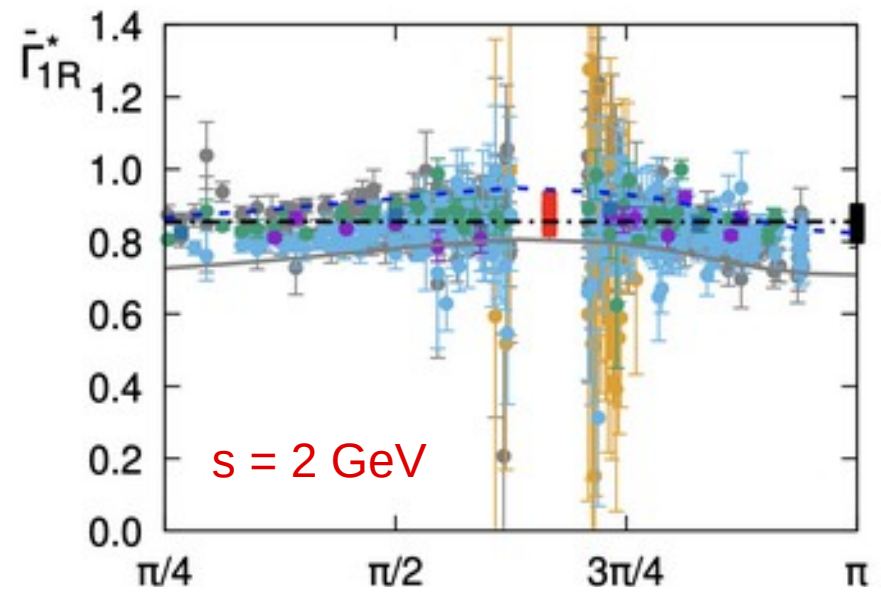
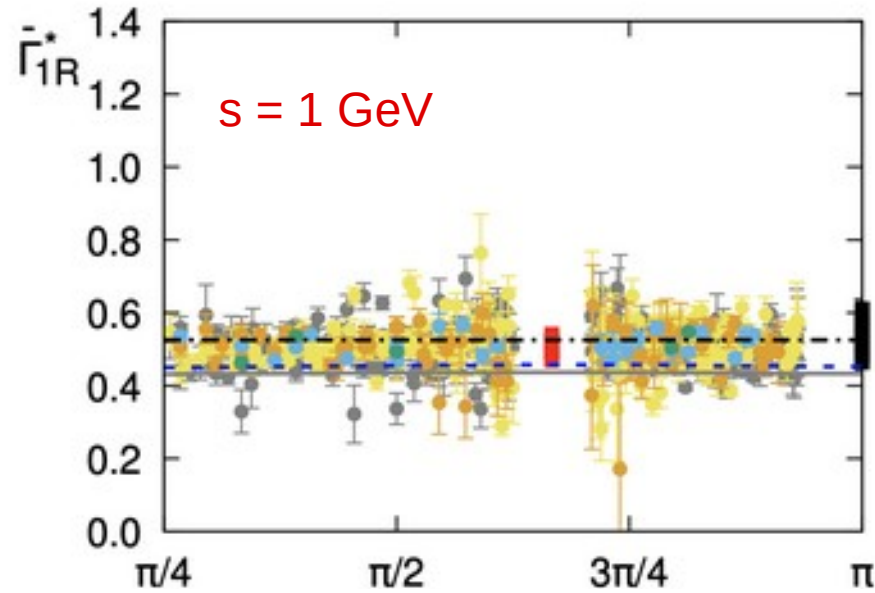
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$$\lambda_{i\alpha\mu\nu}(q, r, p) = \lim_{p^2 \rightarrow q^2} \bar{\lambda}_{i\alpha\mu\nu}(q, r, p) = \lim_{p^2 \rightarrow q^2} \bar{\lambda}_{i\alpha\mu\nu}^*(q, r, p)$$

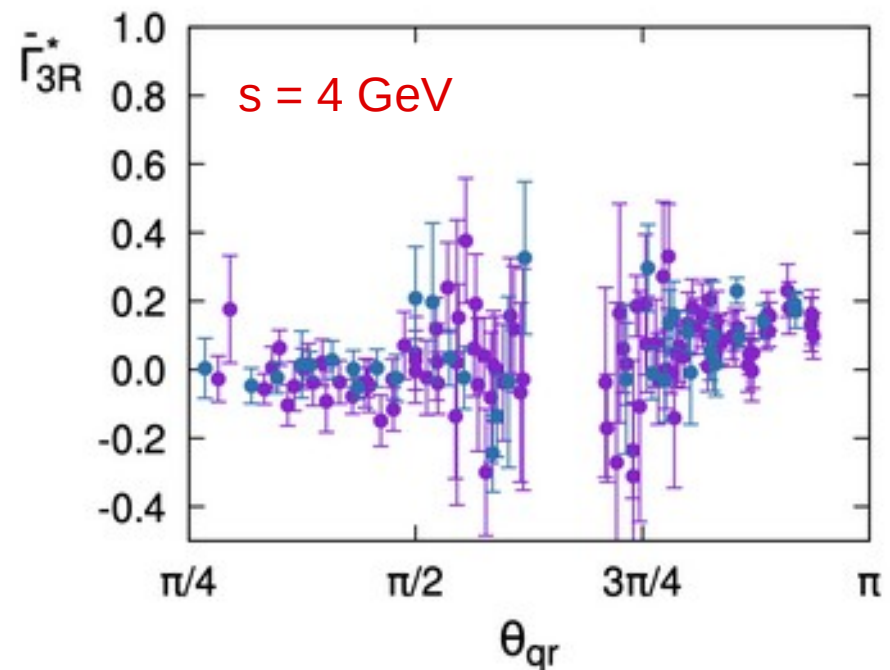
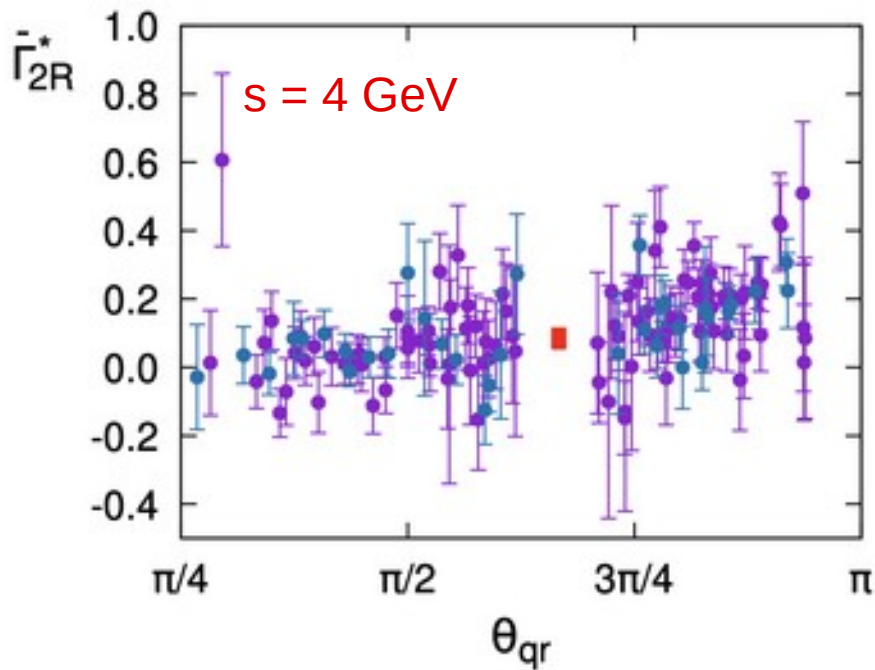
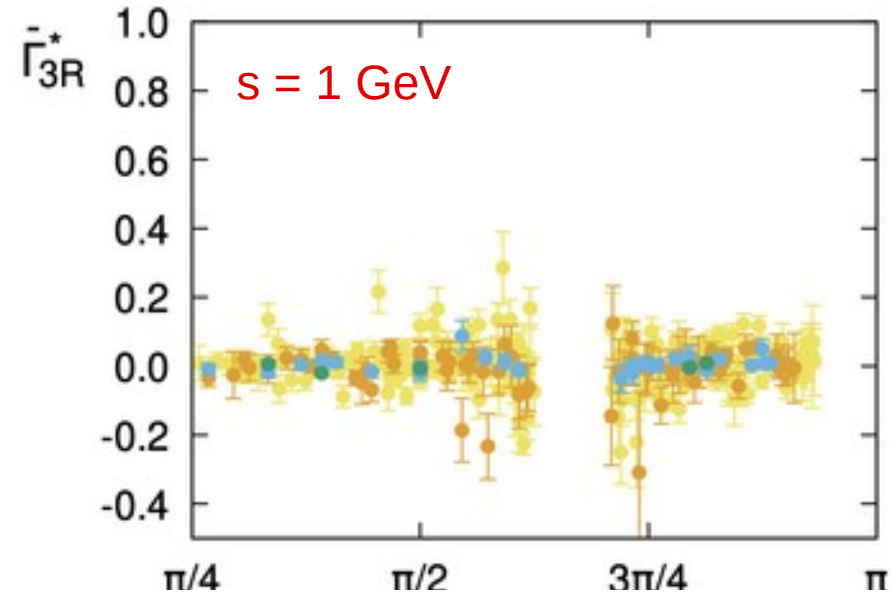
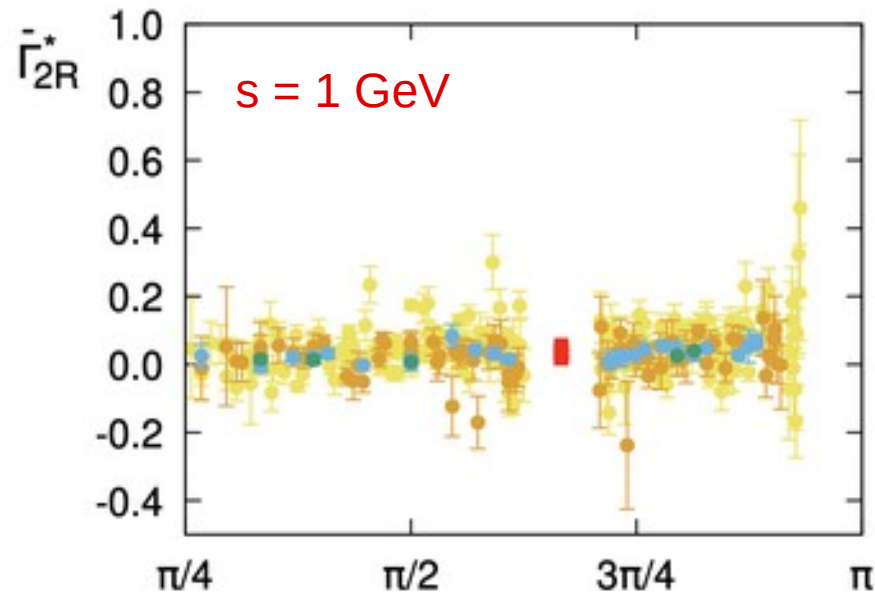
3-gluon vertex: planar degeneracy approximation ⁷



θ_{qr}

θ_{qr}

3-gluon vertex: planar degeneracy approximation⁷



3-gluon vertex: planar degeneracy approximation⁸

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$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \bar{\Gamma}_1^{\text{sym}}(q^2) = \lim_{p^2 \rightarrow q^2} \bar{\Gamma}_1^*(q^2, p^2) - \bar{\Gamma}_3^*(q^2, p^2) \\ \bar{\Gamma}_2^{\text{sym}}(q^2) = \lim_{p^2 \rightarrow q^2} \bar{\Gamma}_2^*(q^2, p^2) - \frac{3}{4} \bar{\Gamma}_3^*(q^2, p^2) \end{array} \right.$$

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3-gluon vertex: planar degeneracy approximation⁸

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$$\tilde{\Gamma}_1^*(q^2, r^2, p^2) \approx \bar{\Gamma}_1^*(s^2, s^2, 0) \approx L_{\text{sg}}(s^2)$$

$$\bar{\Gamma}_2(q^2, r^2, p^2) \approx \tilde{\Gamma}_2\left(\frac{2s^2}{3}, \frac{2s^2}{3}, \frac{2s^2}{3}\right) \approx \bar{\Gamma}_2^{\text{sym}}\left(\frac{2s^2}{3}\right)$$

And then:

$$\bar{\Gamma}^{\alpha\mu\nu}(q, r, p) \approx L_{\text{sg}}(s^2) \tilde{\lambda}_1^{\alpha\mu\nu}(q, r, p) + \bar{\Gamma}_2^{\text{sym}}\left(\frac{2s^2}{3}\right) \tilde{\lambda}_2^{\alpha\mu\nu}(q, r, p)$$

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And then:

$$\bar{\Gamma}^{\alpha\mu\nu}(q, r, p) \approx L_{\text{sg}}(s^2) \tilde{\lambda}_1^{\alpha\mu\nu}(q, r, p)$$

Concerning the kernel for the displacement function:

$$\mathcal{I}_{\mathcal{W}}(q^2, r^2, p^2) := \frac{1}{2}(q - r)^\nu \delta^{\alpha\mu} \bar{\Gamma}_{\alpha\mu\nu}(q, r, p)$$

3-gluon vertex: planar degeneracy approximation ⁸

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Concerning the kernel for the displacement function:

$$\mathcal{I}_{\mathcal{W}}(q^2, r^2, p^2) \approx \mathcal{I}_{\mathcal{W}}^0(q^2, r^2, p^2) L_{\text{sg}}(s^2)$$

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$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{I}_{\mathcal{W}}^0(q^2, r^2, p^2) &= \frac{1}{2p^2 q^2 r^2} \left[4q^2 r^2 - (p^2 - q^2 - r^2)^2 \right] \\ &\times \left[3q^2 r^2 - \frac{1}{4} (r^2 - q^2 - p^2) (q^2 - r^2 - p^2) \right] \end{aligned}$$

3-gluon vertex: planar degeneracy approximation ⁸

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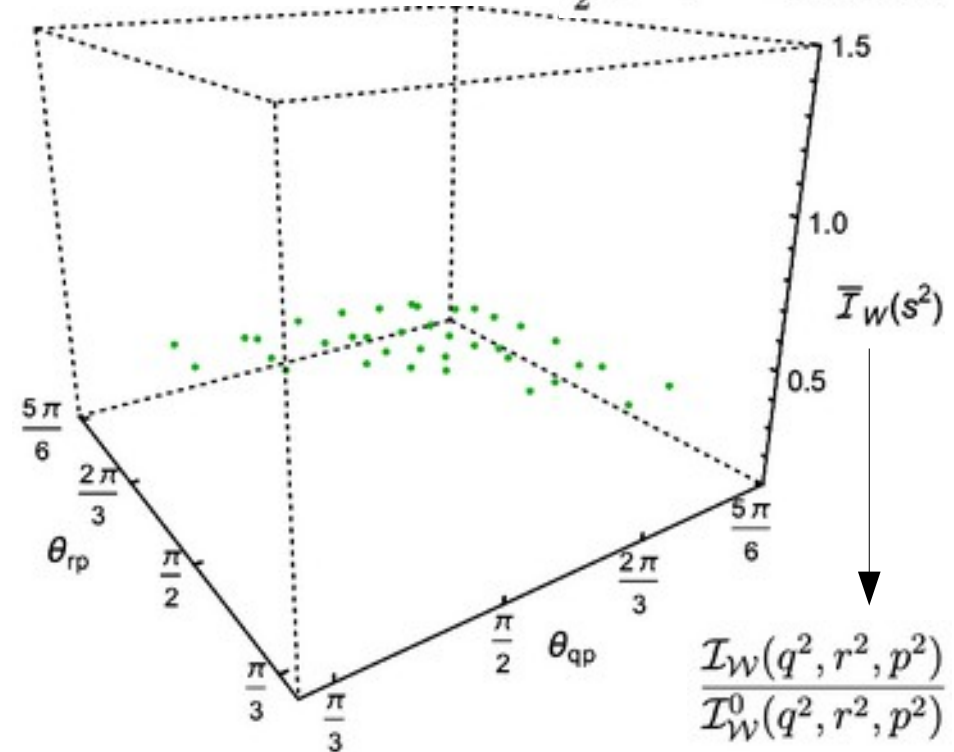
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Lattice direct calculation: $\frac{1}{2}(q-r)^\nu \delta^{\alpha\mu} \bar{\Gamma}_{\alpha\mu\nu}(q, r, p)$



3-gluon vertex: planar degeneracy approximation ⁸

Specializing for the symmetric case:

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \bar{\Gamma}_1^{\text{sym}}(q^2) = \lim_{p^2 \rightarrow q^2} \bar{\Gamma}_1^*(q^2, p^2) \\ \bar{\Gamma}_2^{\text{sym}}(q^2) = \lim_{p^2 \rightarrow q^2} \bar{\Gamma}_2(q^2, p^2) \end{array} \right.$$

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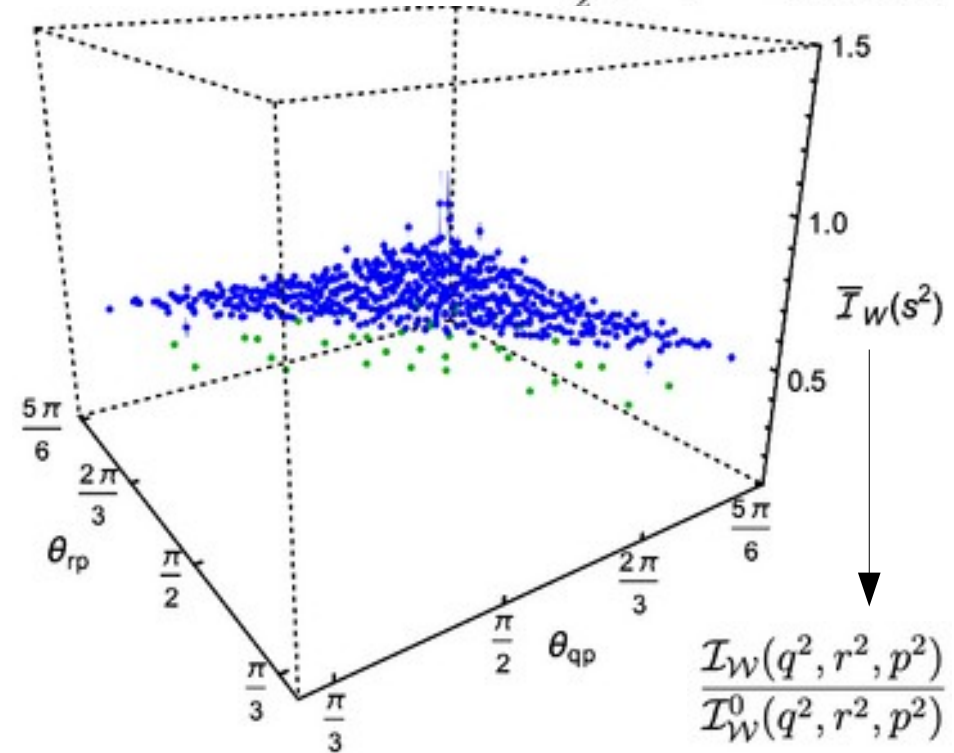
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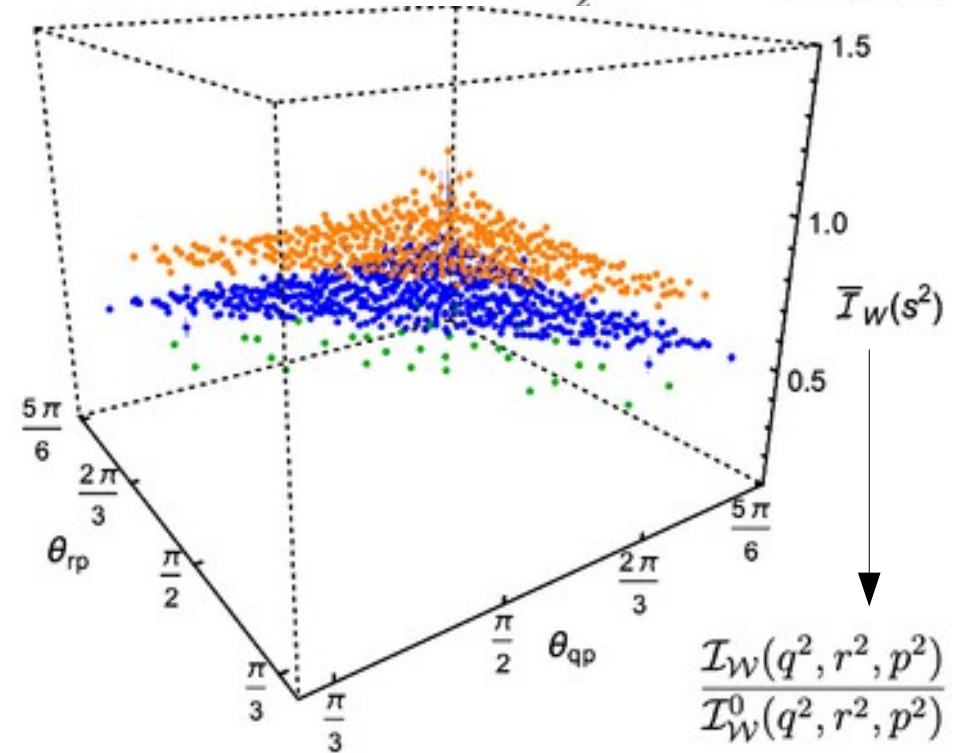
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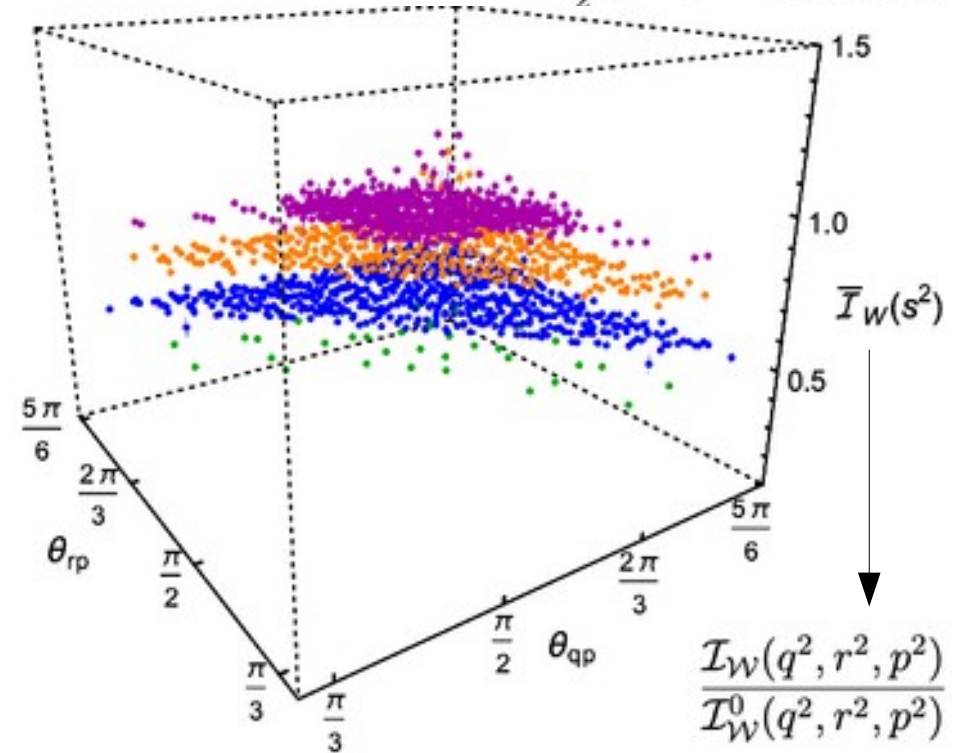
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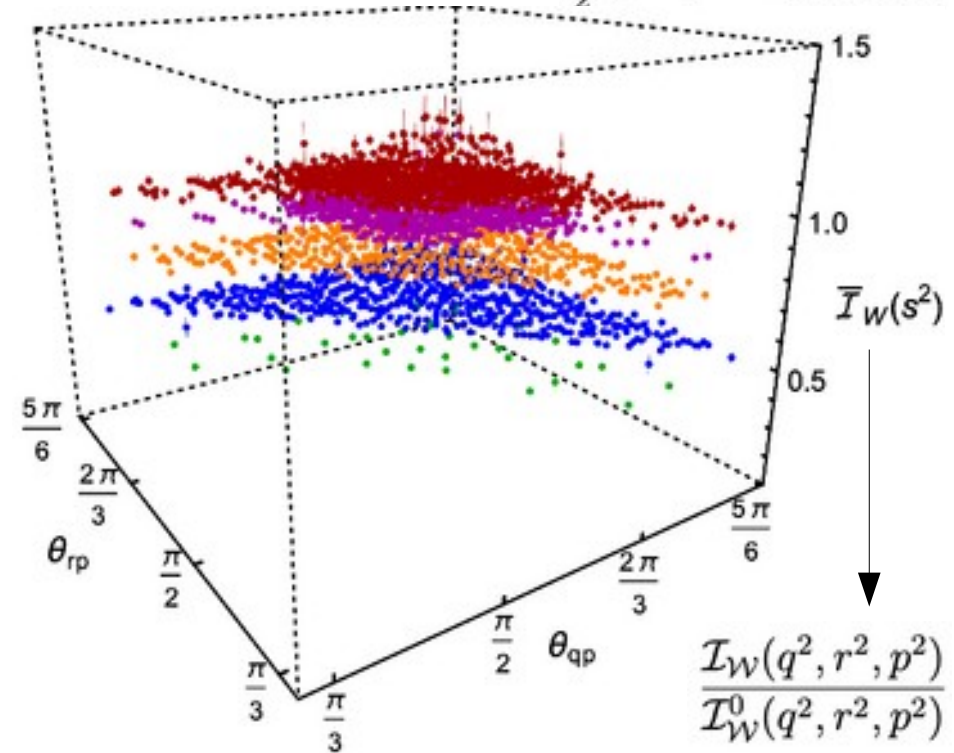
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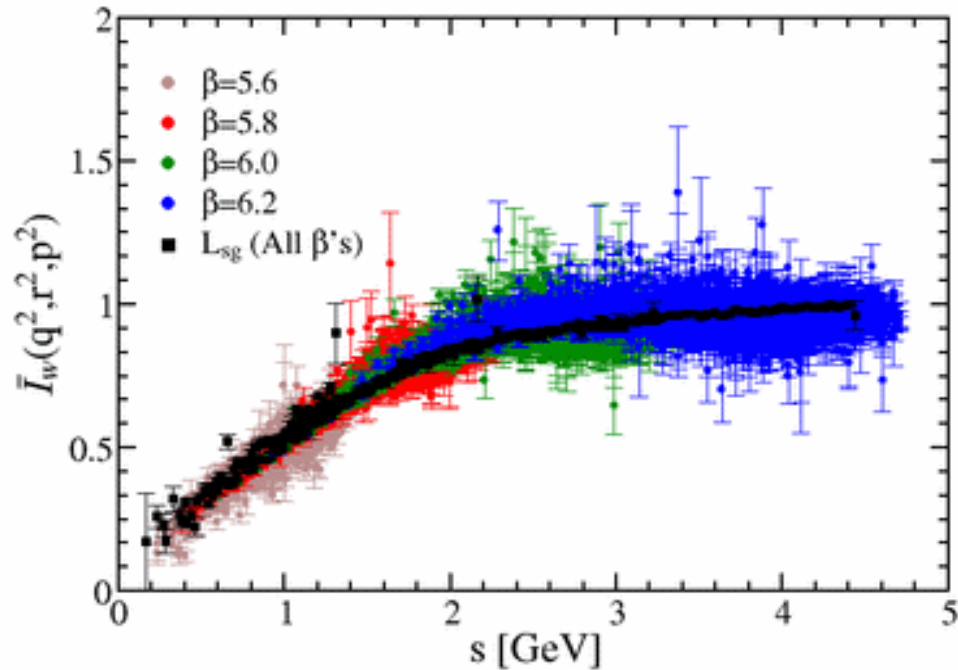
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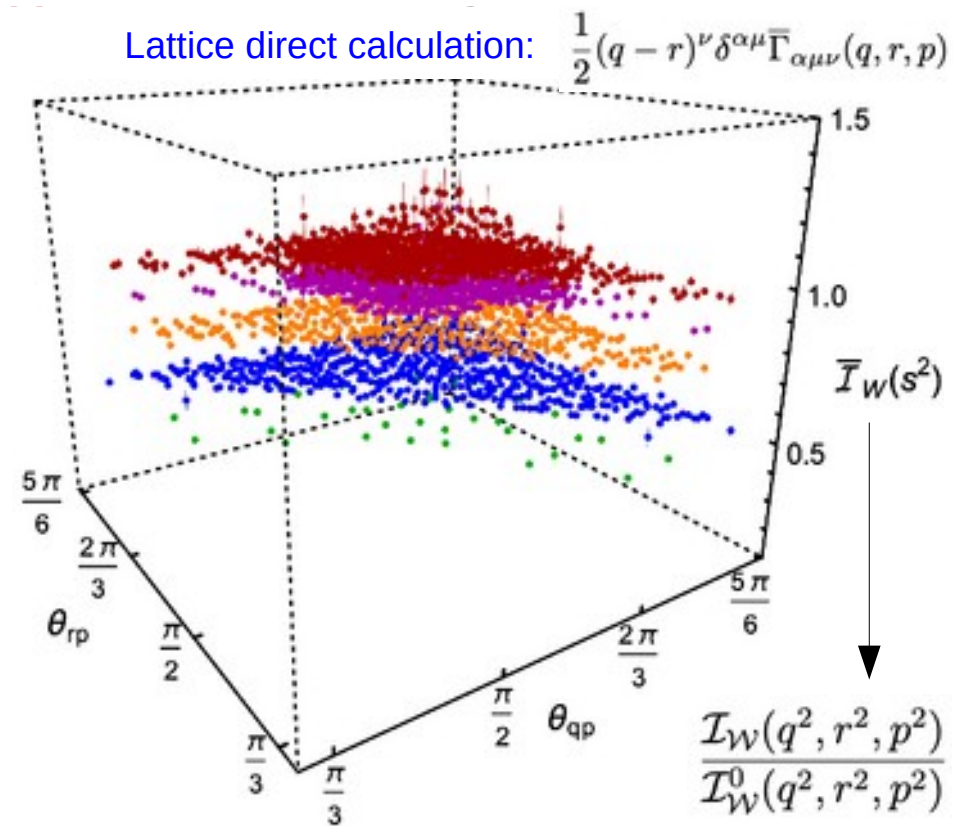


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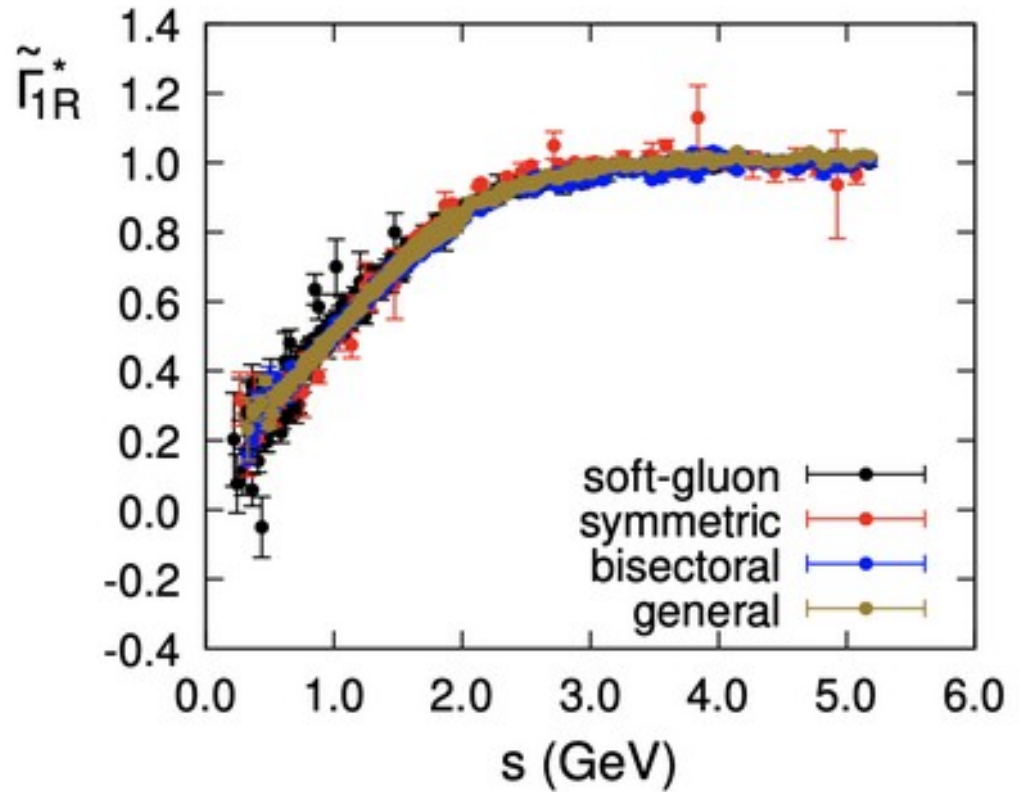
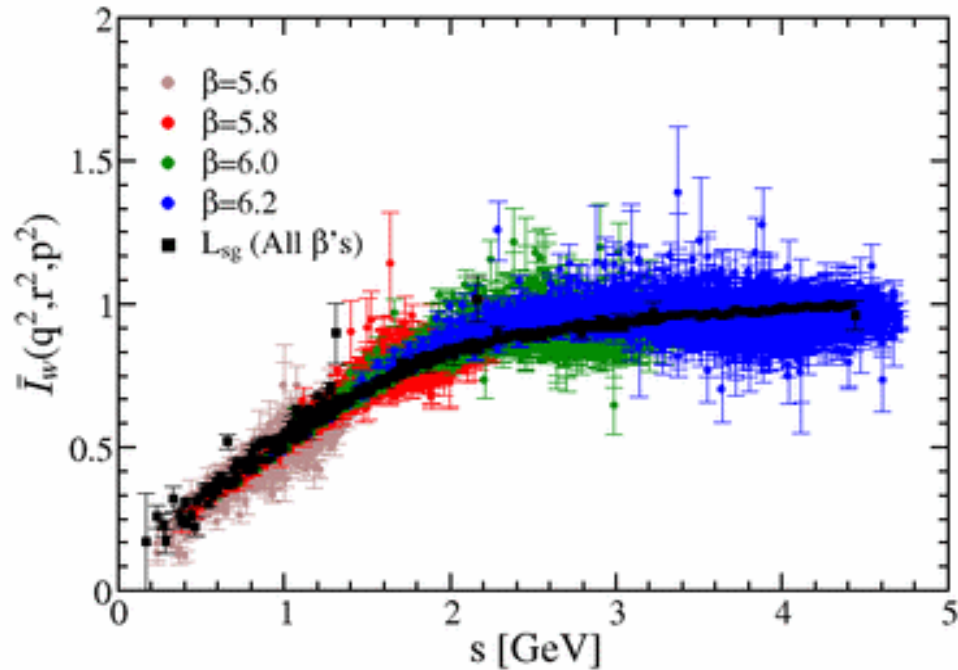
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Averaging over all kinematic configurations sharing the same s^2 , a smoothly behaving curve fully agreeing with L_{sg} is left, both strongly supporting **planar degeneracy** and greatly improving the statistics for the determination of this latter form factor.

3-gluon vertex: renormalization and coupling

Assuming multiplicative renormalizability

$$\Delta_R(q^2) = \lim_{a \rightarrow 0} Z_A^{-1}(a) \Delta(q^2; a)$$

$$\mathcal{G}_{R\alpha\mu\nu}(q, r, p) = \lim_{a \rightarrow 0} Z_A^{-3/2}(a) \mathcal{G}_{\alpha\mu\nu}(q, r, p; a)$$

Only one further renormalization constant needs to be introduced for all the form factors of the 1PI 3-gluon vertex

$$\tilde{\Gamma}_{iR}^*(q^2, r^2, p^2) = \lim_{a \rightarrow 0} Z_3(a) \tilde{\Gamma}_i^*(q^2, r^2, p^2; a)$$

$$\mathcal{G}_{\alpha\mu\nu}(q, r, p) = g \bar{\Gamma}_{\alpha\mu\nu}(q, r, p) \Delta(q^2) \Delta(r^2) \Delta(p^2)$$

$$g_R = \lim_{a \rightarrow 0} Z_A^{3/2}(a) Z_3^{-1}(a) g(a)$$

3-gluon vertex: renormalization and coupling

Assuming multiplicative renormalizability and applying **MOM** prescription

$$\Delta_R(q^2) = \lim_{a \rightarrow 0} Z_A^{-1}(a) \Delta(q^2; a) \longrightarrow Z_A(a^2) = \zeta^2 \Delta(\zeta^2; a)$$

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$$k(\zeta) \equiv \{\zeta^2, \theta_{qp}, \theta_{rp}\}$$

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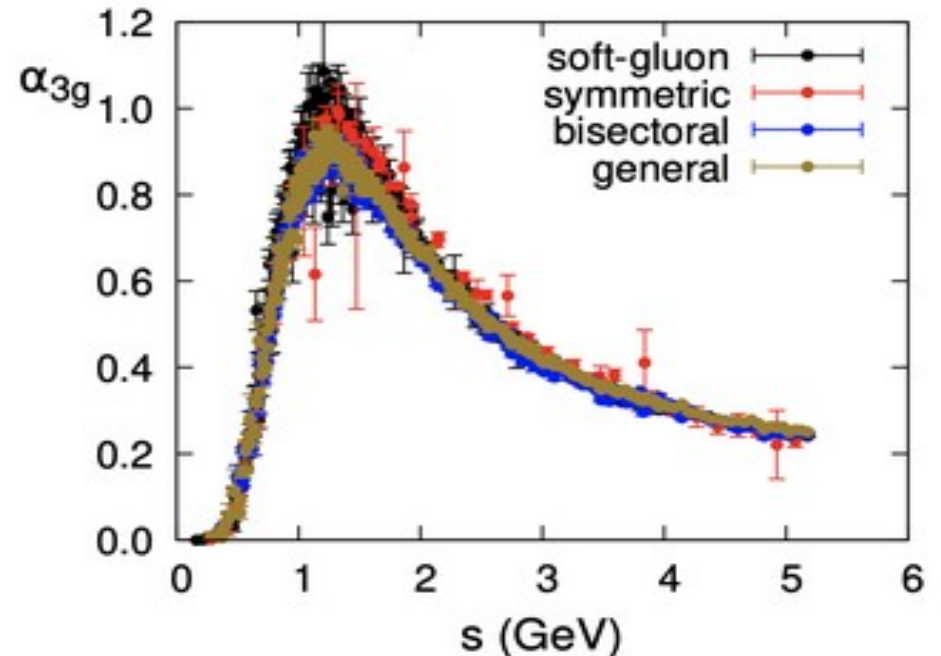
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Summary

- The **3-gluon vertex**, triggered by the non-perturbative nature of QCD, contains a key ingredient for the activation of **Schwinger mechanism**, responsible for the gluon mass generation. Such an ingredient is made crucially manifest by analysing the **STId** involving the 3-gluon vertex, through the so-called **displacement function**.
- To perform this analysis, the required piece can be directly accessed from lattice QCD calculations: the **transversely projected 3-gluon vertex**.
- We have expanded the **transversely projected 3-gluon vertex** by using a basis for which any of its elements satisfies the **Bose symmetry**, thus obtaining form factors that can only depend on **Bose-symmetric** combinations of momenta. Such form factors, particularly the one behaving as the tree-level one, are seen to depend basically on $s^2 = \frac{1}{2}(q^2 + r^2 + p^2)$ and nothing else. We called this property **planar degeneracy**.
- Owing to **planar degeneracy**, the transversely projected 3-gluon vertex can be well and easily approximated, and applied to deliver a compact expression of the kernel involved in the computation of the **displacement function**. A direct lattice calculation supports the approximation.
- To the extent that **planar degeneracy** works as a reliable approximation, a unique definition of the **3-gluon QCD coupling** can be made, irrespectively of any particular kinematic configuration.

