



Three-loop Feynman integrals for leading-colour diboson production at hadron colliders

Mattia Pozzoli



Theory and Phenomenology
of Fundamental Interactions
UNIVERSITY AND INFN · BOLOGNA

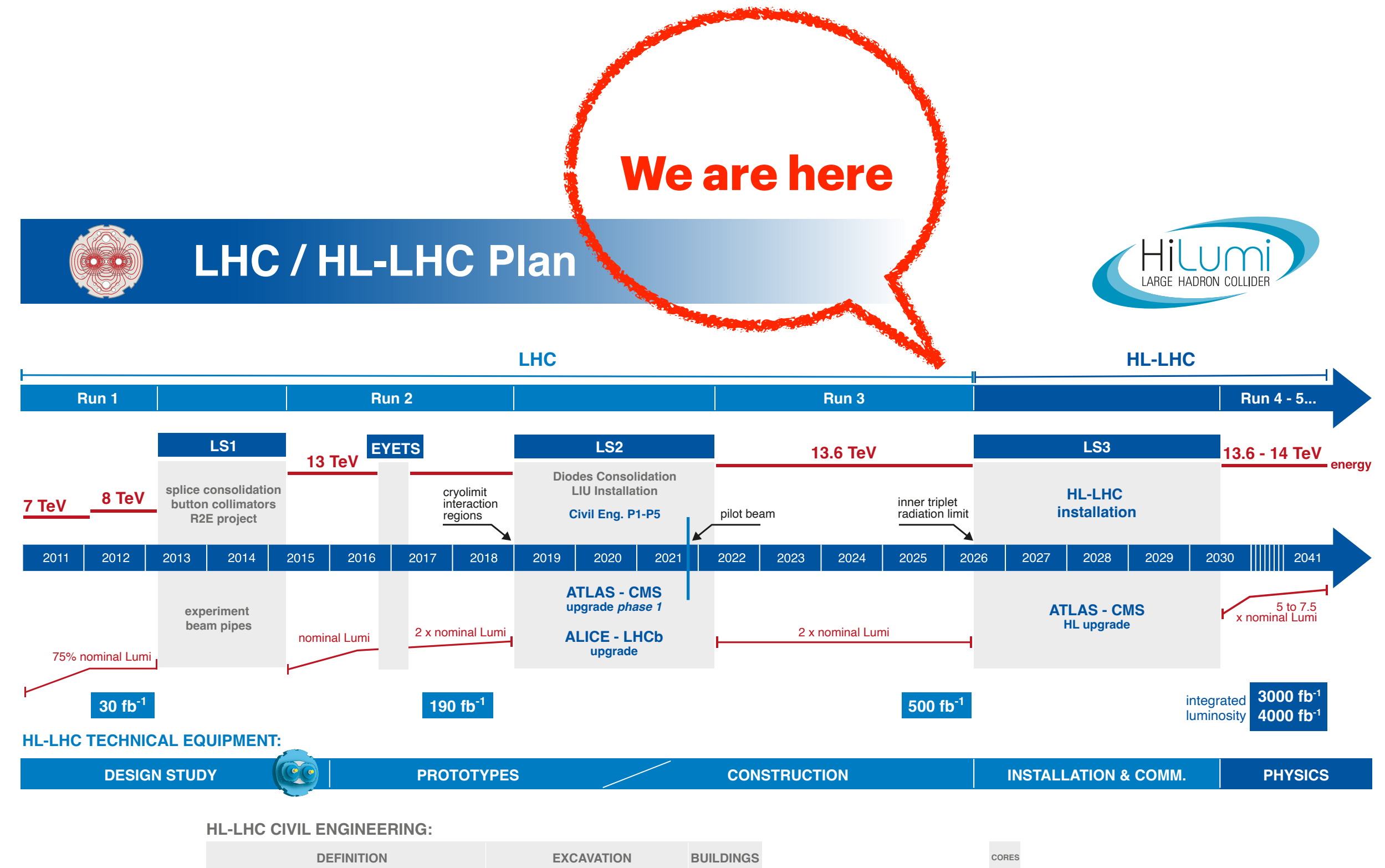
Based on [JHEP 02 \(2025\) 088](#) and [JHEP 05 \(2026\) 226](#) with D. Canko



3rd INPP Demokritos-APCTP Workshop, Athens, 2/7/2026

Motivation

- ▶ **Percent-level experimental precision** for many collider observables $\implies$ precision of **theoretical predictions** is a **limiting factor**
- ▶ Diboson production: **N3LO QCD** needed
- ▶ Interesting studies on the **mathematical structure** of the **Feynman integrals**



From cross-sections to Feynman integrals

Cross sections for $pp \rightarrow f$:

$$d\sigma_{pp \rightarrow f} = \sum_{i,j=q,\bar{q},g} \int \int dx_1 dx_2 \mathcal{F}_i(x_1, \mu^2) \mathcal{F}_j(x_2, \mu^2) d\hat{\sigma}_{ij \rightarrow f}(\vec{s}, \mu^2)$$

Partonic cross section:

$$d\hat{\sigma}_{ij \rightarrow f} \sim \int d\Phi |\mathcal{A}|^2$$

Amplitude:

Rational coefficients

$$\mathcal{A} \sim \sum_i F_i(\vec{s}; \varepsilon) G_i(\vec{s}; \varepsilon)$$

Feynman Integrals

Setup and kinematics

$$p_1 + p_2 + p_3 + p_4 = 0$$

$$p_1^2 = p_2^2 = 0,$$

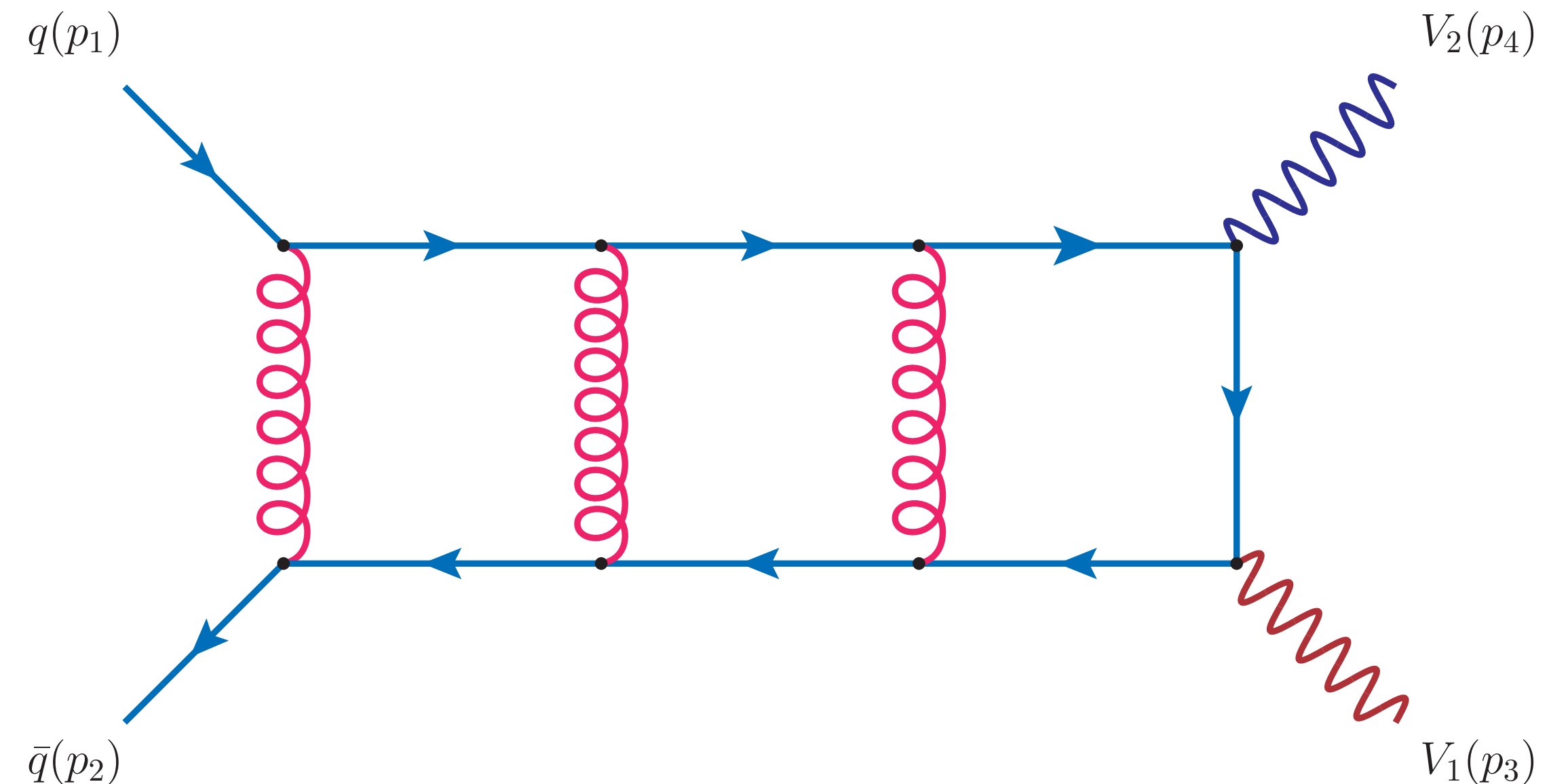
$$p_3^2 = m_3^2, p_4^2 = m_4^2$$

4 invariants:

$$\vec{s} := \{s_{12}, s_{23}, m_3^2, m_4^2\}, \quad s_{ij} = (p_i + p_j)^2$$

Dimensional regularisation:

$$d = 4 - 2\varepsilon$$



Outline

- ▶ Families of Feynman integrals
- ▶ Calculation of the Feynman integrals
- ▶ Solving the differential equations

Families of Feynman integrals

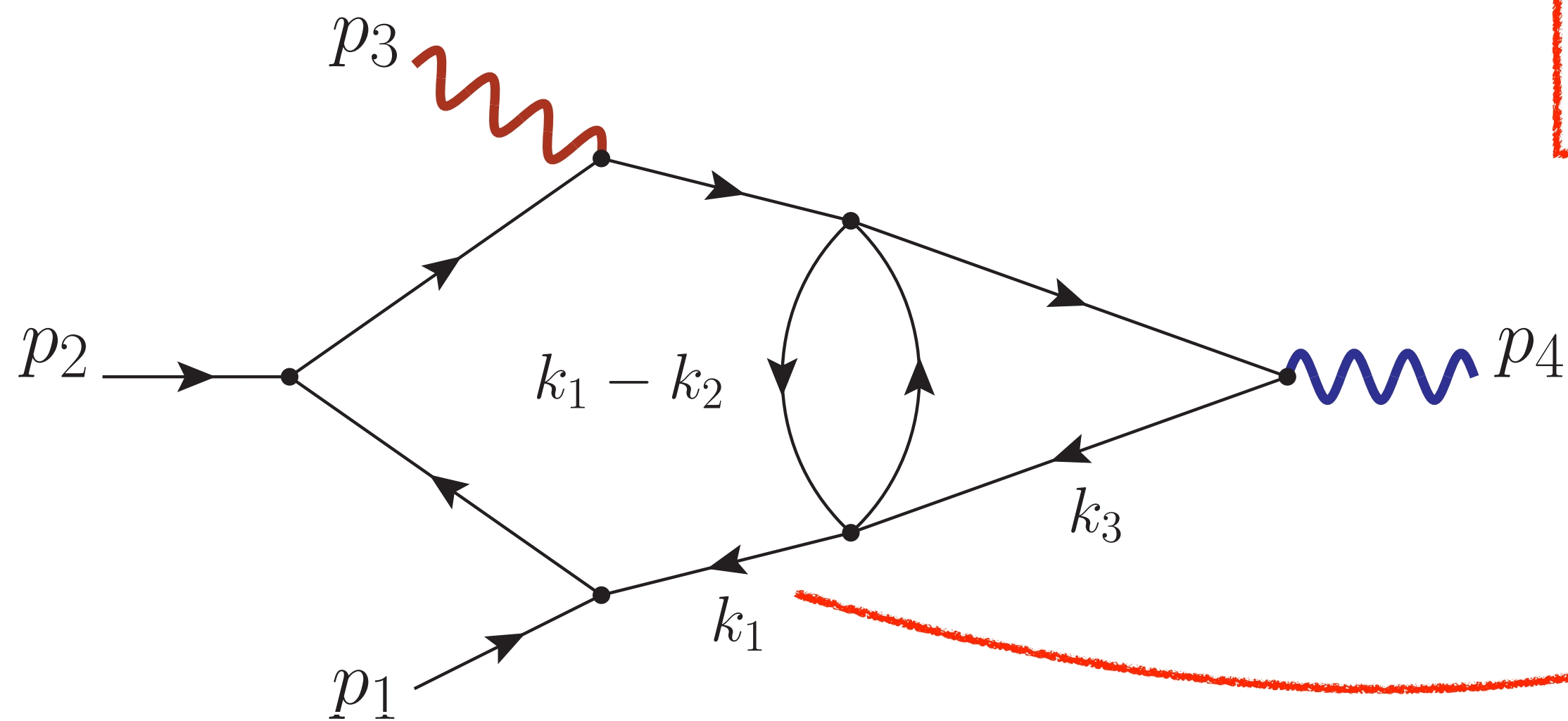
Integral Families

$$G_{a_1, \dots, a_{15}} = \int d^d k_1 d^d k_2 d^d k_3 \frac{1}{D_1^{a_1} \dots D_{15}^{a_{15}}}, \quad (a_1, \dots, a_{15}) \in \mathbb{Z}^{15}$$

Inverse propagators of Feynman diagrams

$$D_j = l_j^2 - m_j^2$$

e.g. $D_1 = k_1^2$



Sector: same set of $a_i > 0$

Integral Families

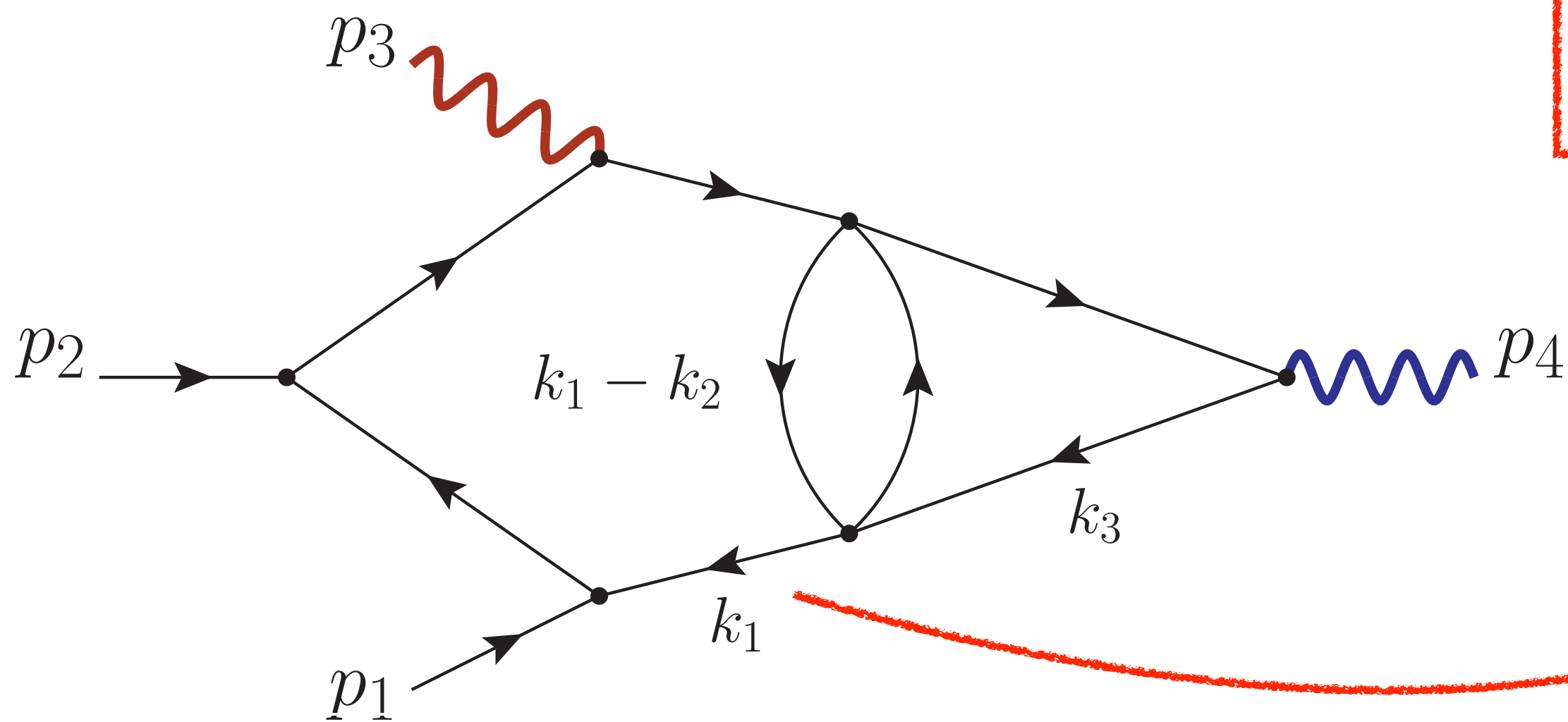
Irreducible scalar products (ISPs):
 $a_i \leq 0$ for all integrals

$$G_{a_1, \dots, a_{15}} = \int d^d k_1 d^d k_2 d^d k_3 \frac{1}{D_1^{a_1} \dots D_{15}^{a_{15}}}, \quad (a_1, \dots, a_{15}) \in \mathbb{Z}^{15}$$

Inverse propagators of Feynman diagrams

$$D_j = l_j^2 - m_j^2$$

e.g. $D_1 = k_1^2$



IBPs and reduction to master integrals

Feynman integrals satisfy **linear relations**: integration by part identities (IBPs) [Tkachov '81], [Chetyrkin, Tkachov '81]

$$0 = \int d^d k_1 d^d k_2 d^d k_3 \frac{\partial}{\partial k_l^\mu} \frac{v^\mu}{D_1^{a_1} \dots D_{15}^{a_{15}}}, \quad v^\mu \in \{k_j^\mu, p_j^\mu\}$$

Master integrals
(MIs) $\vec{I}(\vec{x})$

Reduction to **master integrals**

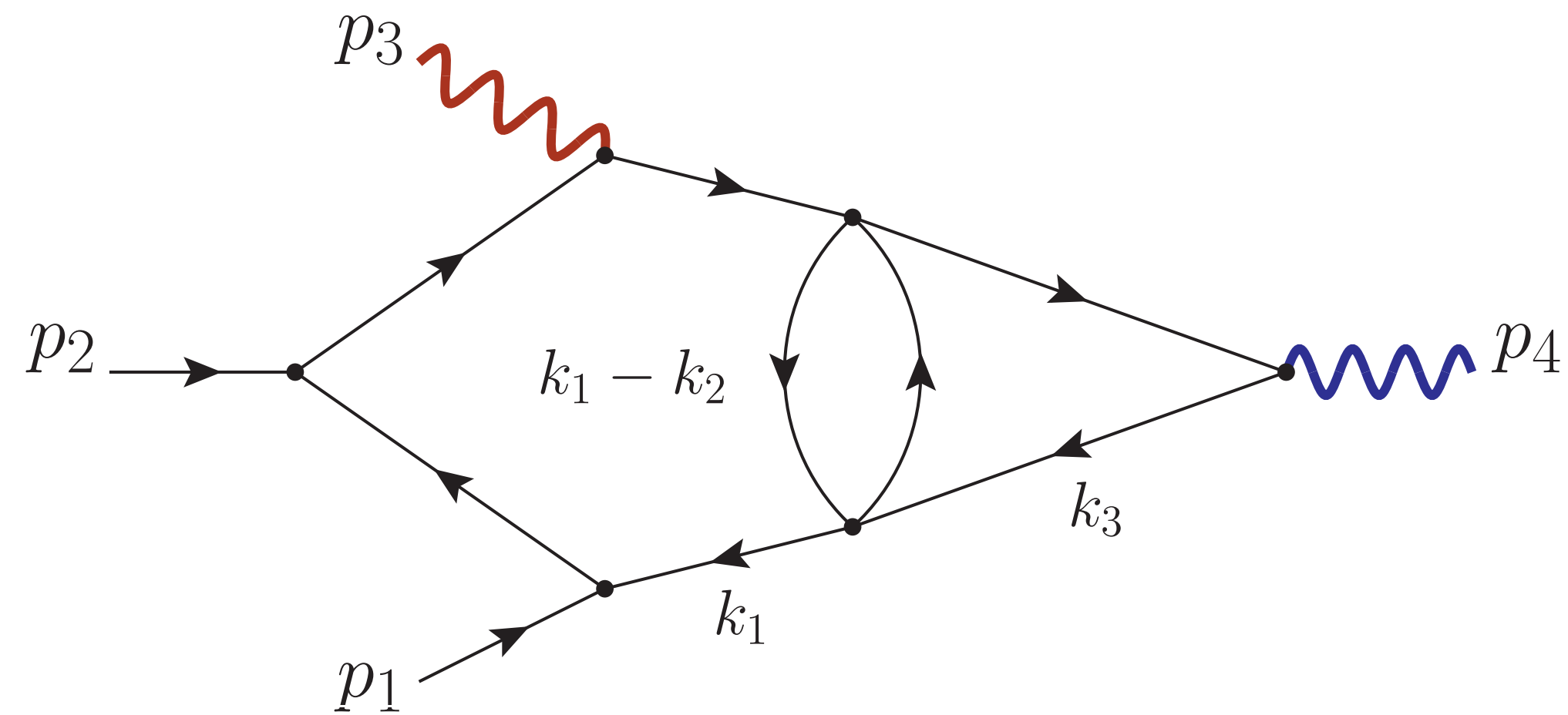
$$\sum_{\vec{a}_k} c_{\vec{a}_k}(\vec{x}; \varepsilon) G_{\vec{a}_k}(\vec{x}; \varepsilon) = 0 \implies G_{\vec{a}}(\vec{x}; \varepsilon) = \sum_j c_{\vec{a},j}(\vec{x}; \varepsilon) I_j(\vec{x}; \varepsilon)$$

Laporta algorithm: we generate IBPs for some choices of exponents [Laporta 2000]

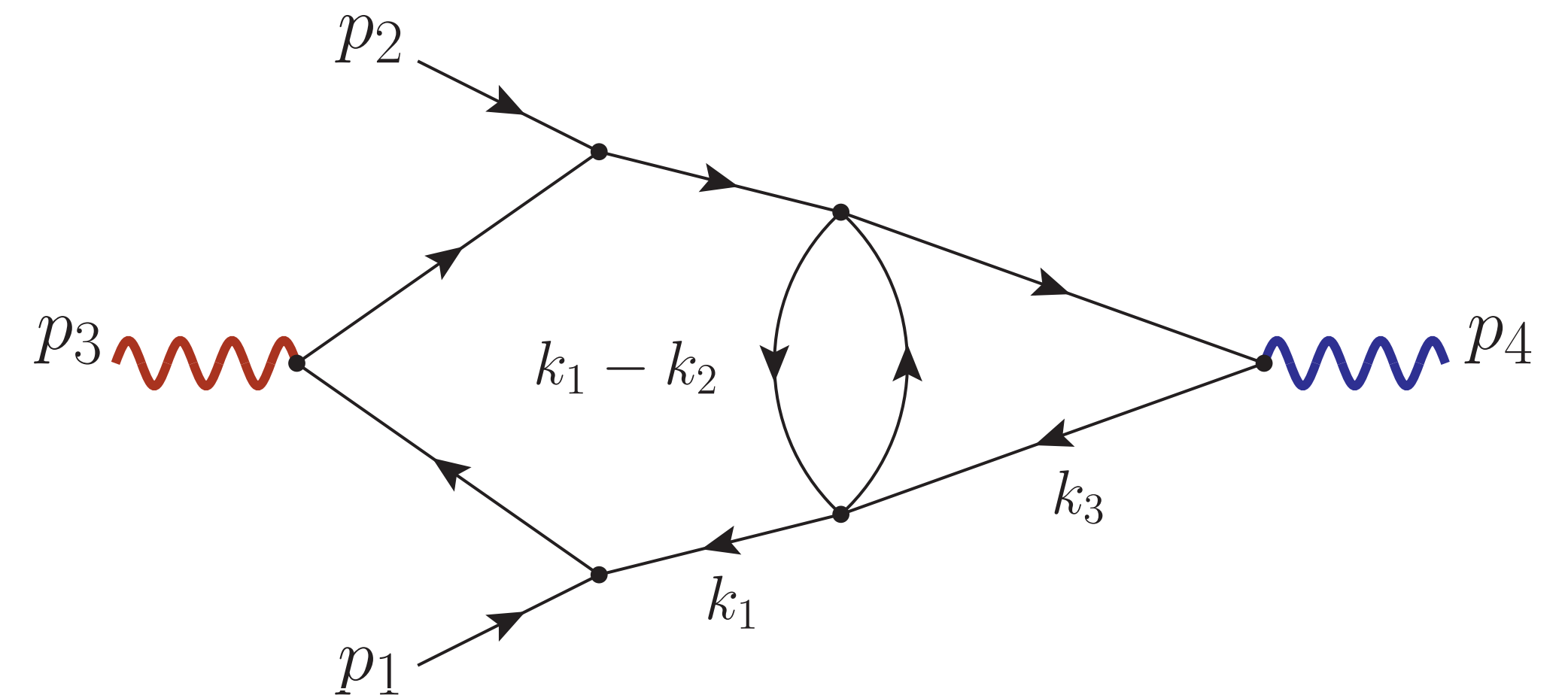
Finite fields techniques [von Manteuffel, Schabinger 2014; Peraro 2016] to tackle algebraic complexity

FFIntRed and FiniteFlow [Peraro 2019] to generate and solve IBPs

The reducible ladder-box families

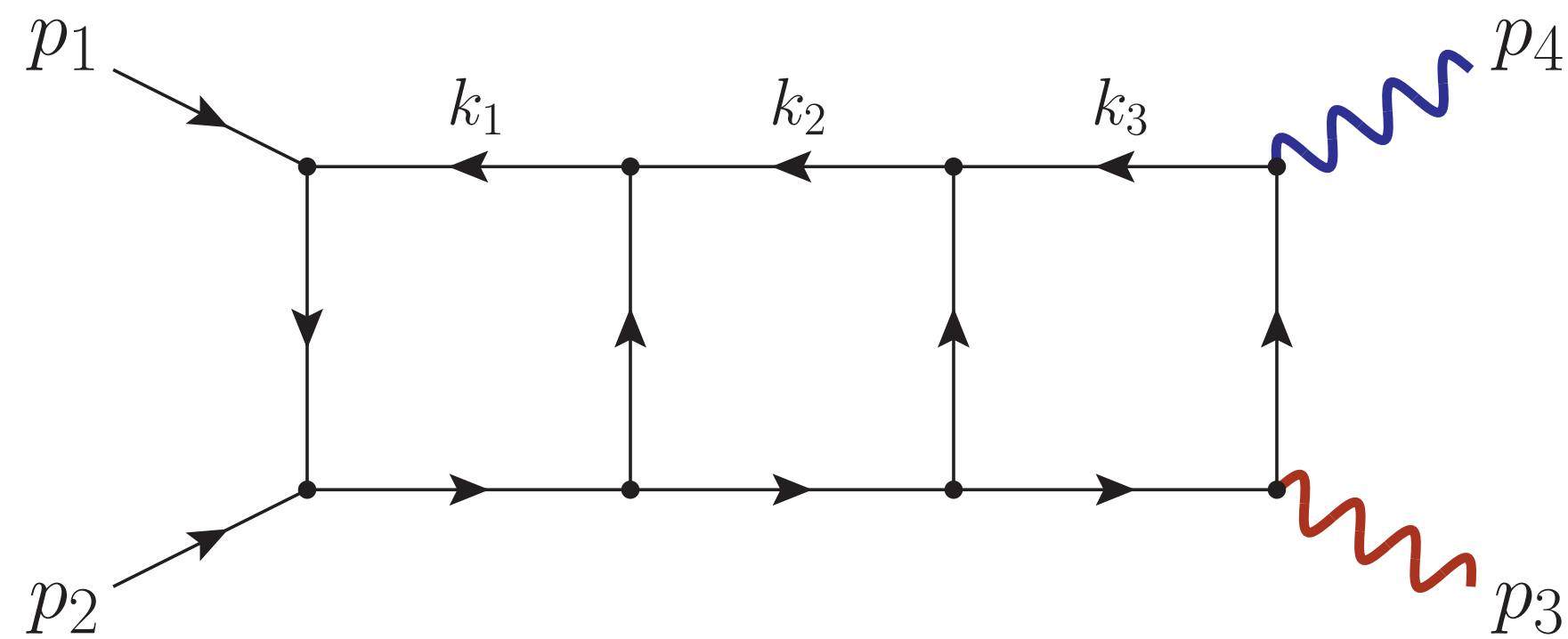


RL₁: 27 MIs (24 for equal masses)

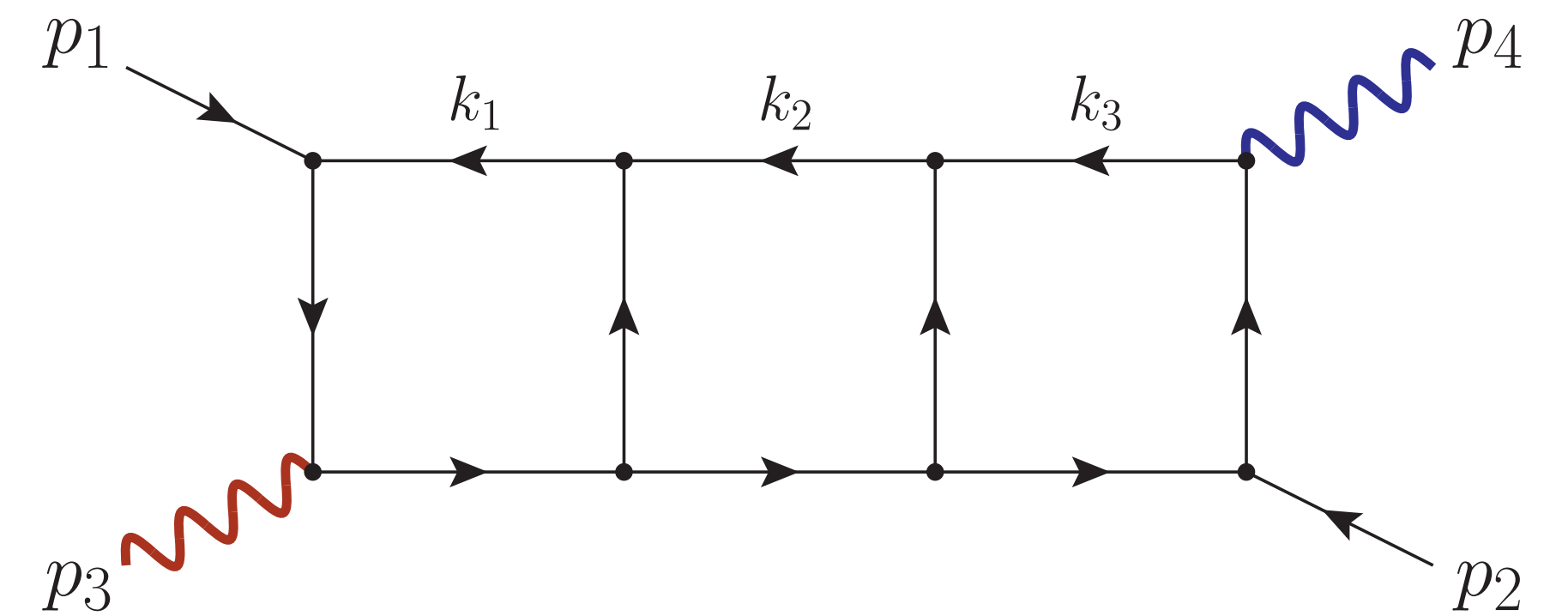


RL₂: 25 MIs (22)

The ladder-box families

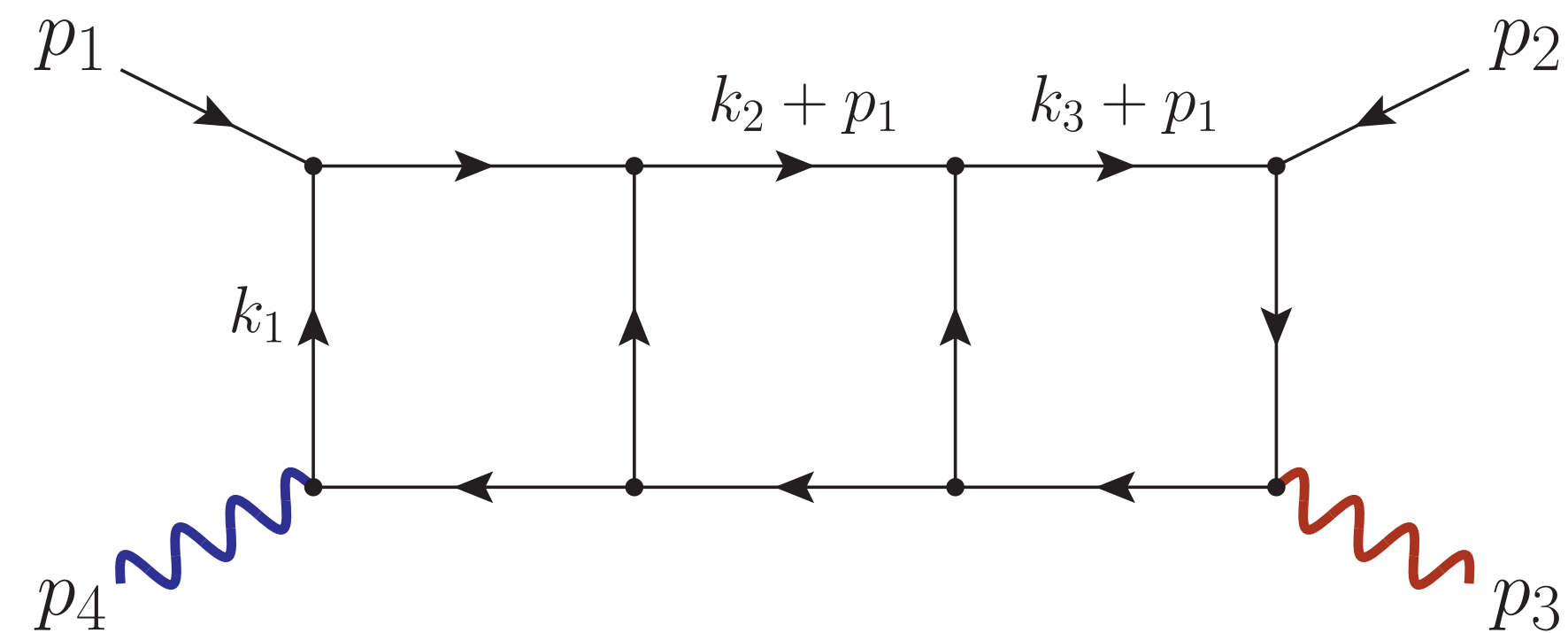


PL₁: 150 MIs (94)

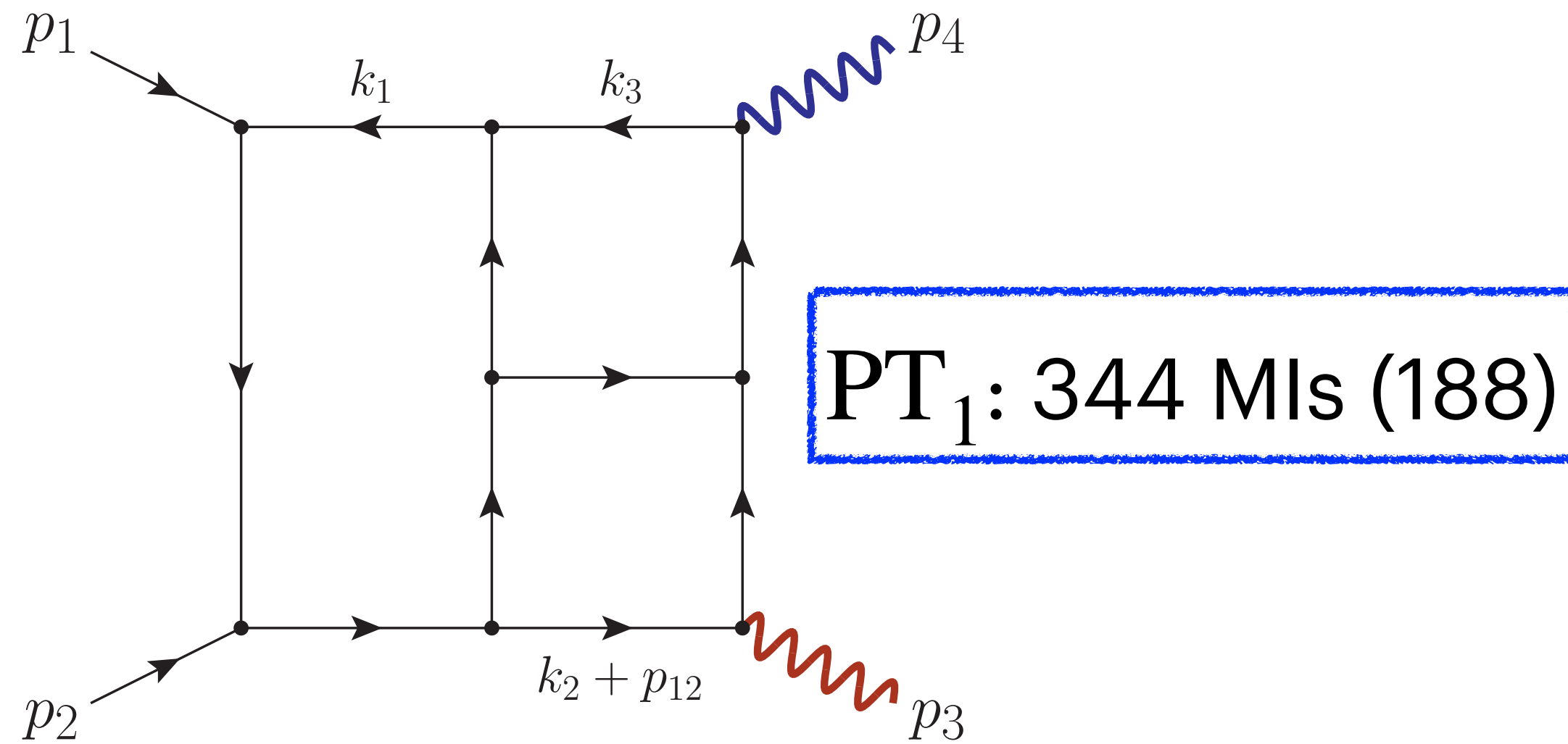


PL₂: 143 MIs (84)

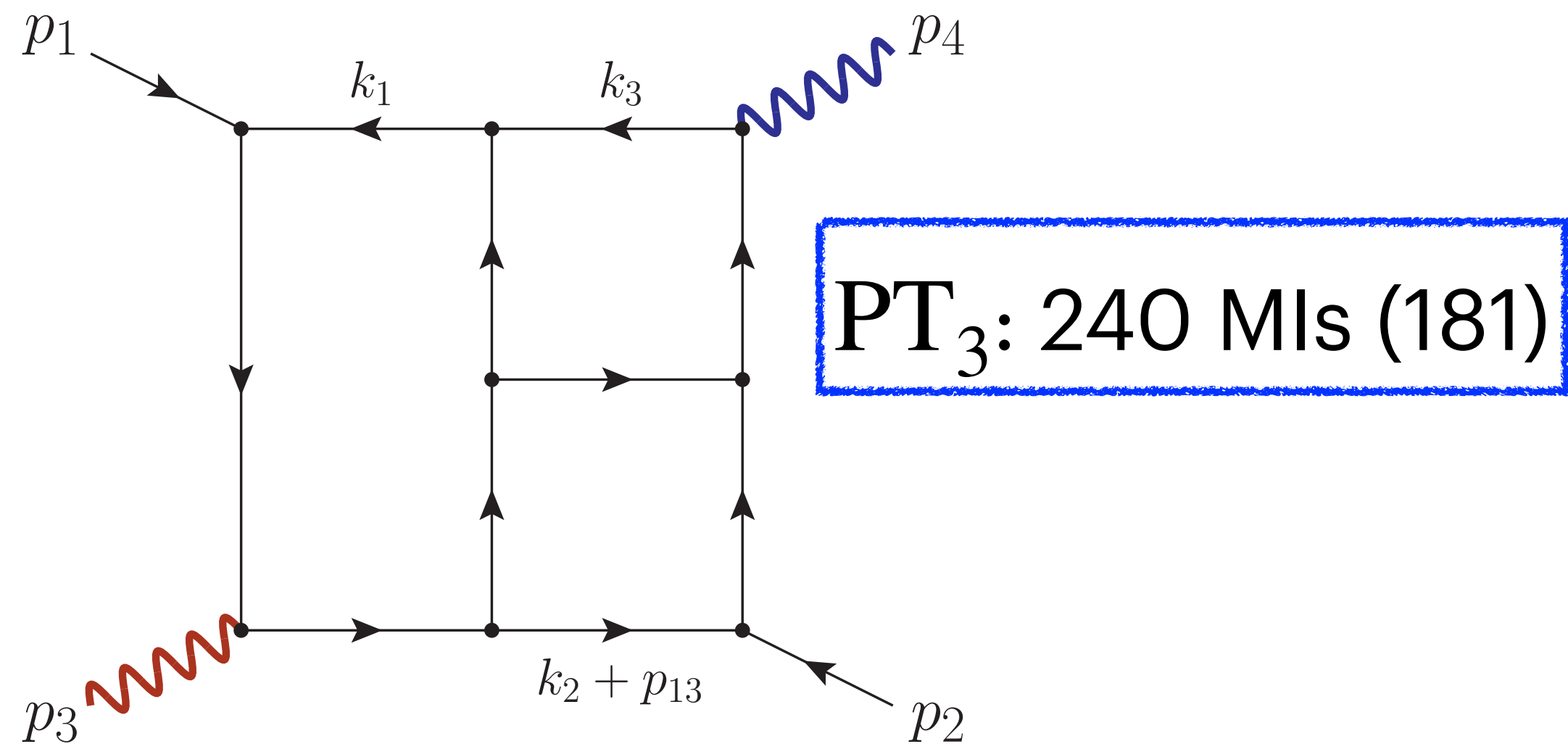
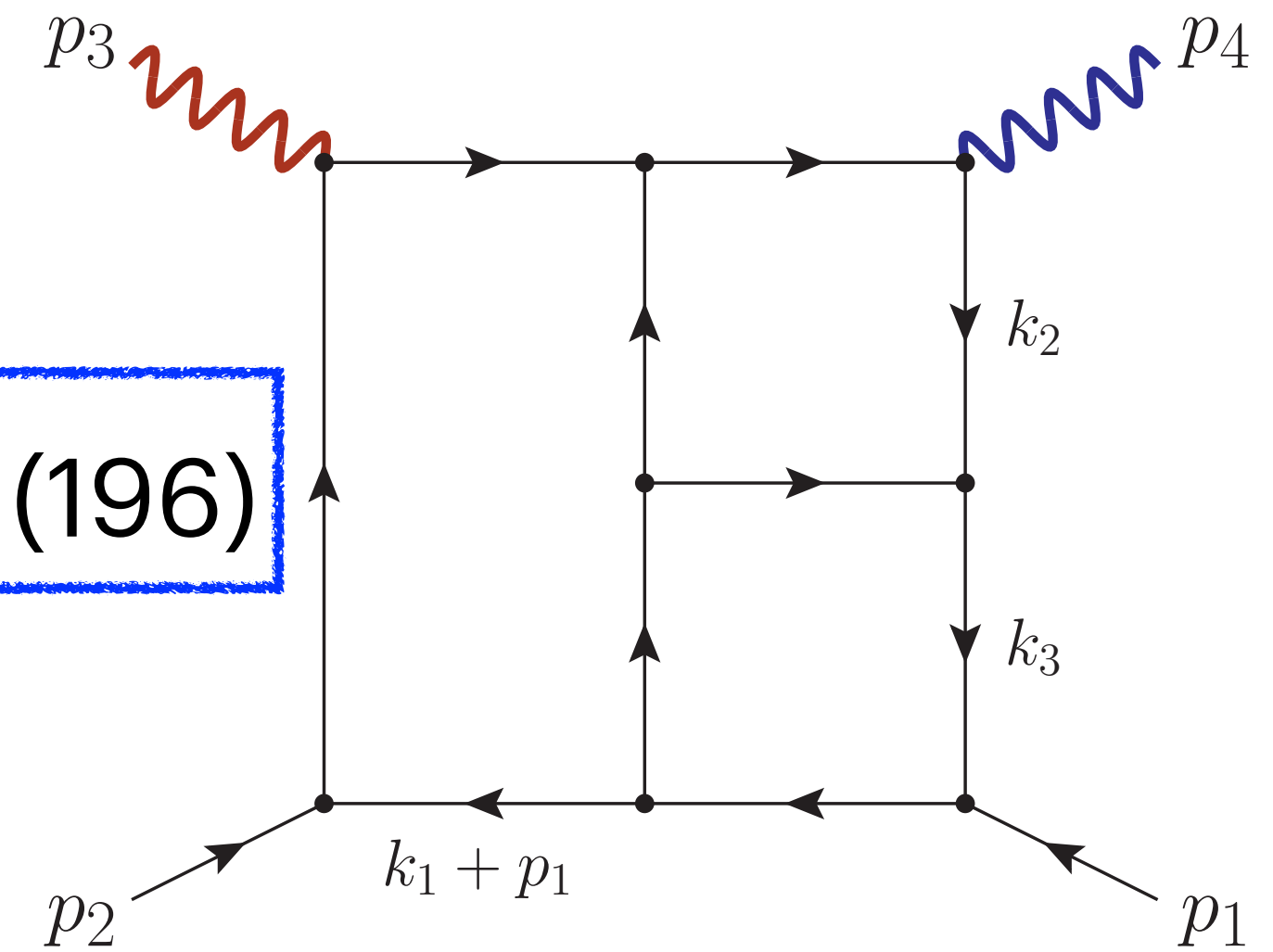
PL₃: 142 MIs (81)



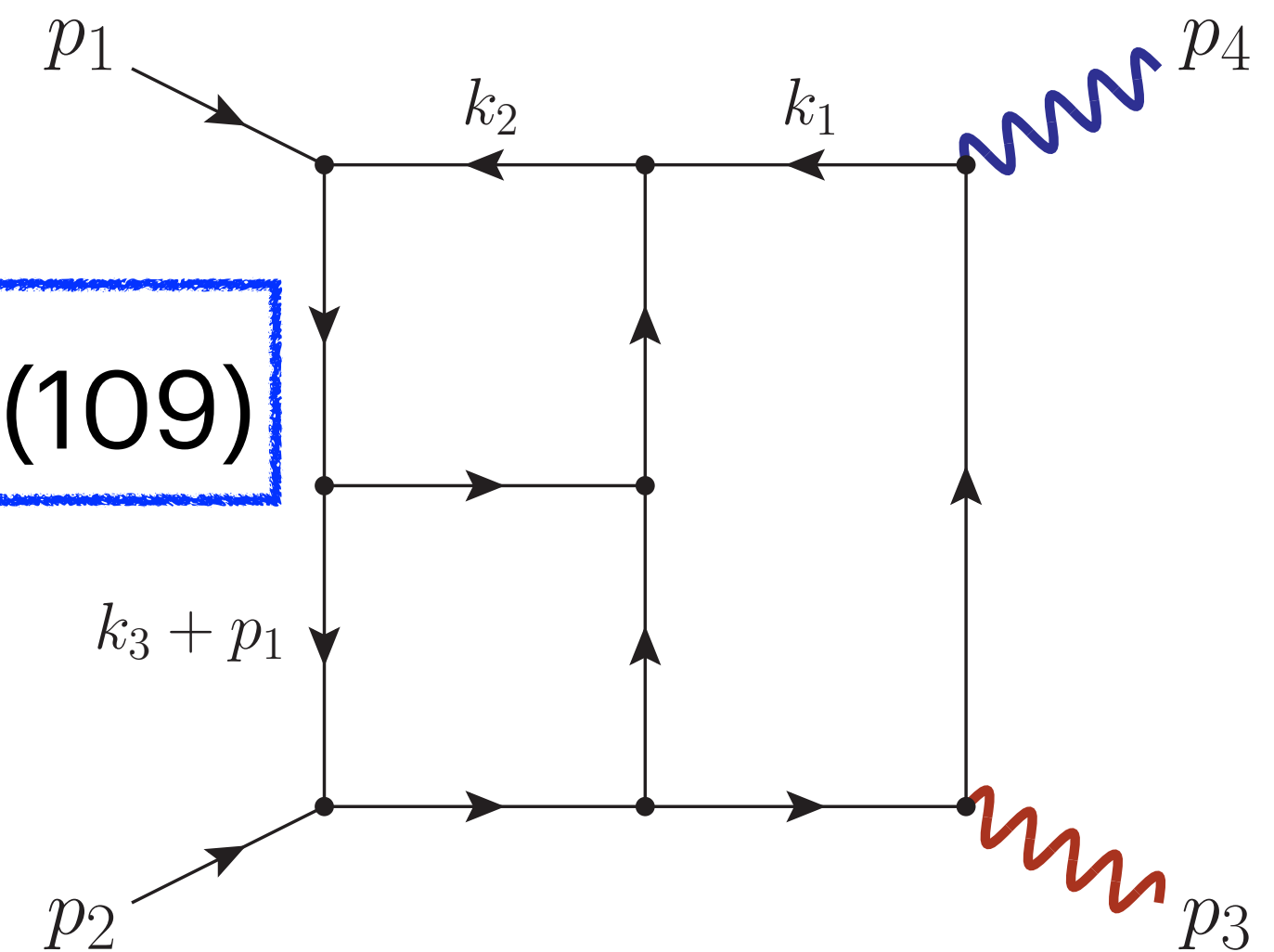
The tennis-court families



PT_2 : 252 MIs (196)



PT_4 : 189 MIs (109)

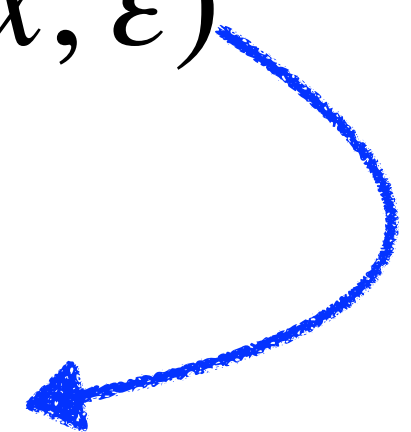


Calculation of the Feynman integrals

Method of differential equations

[Kotikov '91; Bern, Dixon, Kosower '94; Gehrmann, Remiddi 2000]

Using IBPs we can construct **linear differential equations** (DEs) for the MIs

$$\forall \xi \in \vec{x} : \quad \partial_\xi I_i(\vec{x}; \varepsilon) = \sum_{\vec{a}} c_{i,\vec{a}}(\vec{x}; \varepsilon) G_{\vec{a}}(\vec{x}; \varepsilon)$$
$$\implies \partial_\xi \vec{I}(\vec{x}; \varepsilon) = B_\xi(\vec{x}; \varepsilon) \cdot \vec{I}(\vec{x}; \varepsilon)$$


IBP reduction

For a general basis the **matrices** B_ξ are **rational functions** that

- mix ε and the kinematics
- have spurious poles

What is a good choice of MIs?

A good choice of basis can greatly simplify the DEs

[Henn 2014]: DEs in **canonical form** (no general algorithm)

$$d\vec{I}(\vec{x}; \varepsilon) = \varepsilon \, d\tilde{A}(\vec{x}) \, \vec{I}(\vec{x}; \varepsilon)$$

one-forms with **at most simple poles**

- ε -dependence factorises: solution at each order depends only on previous order
- Formal solution in terms of **Chen iterated integrals**

See D. Canko's talk for a case beyond the *dlog*-form

In the best understood cases the one-forms are logarithmic

$$d\tilde{A}(\vec{x}) = \sum_i a^{(i)} d\log W_i(\vec{x})$$

All our families are *dlog*!

Letters

$$d\log(z + c) = \frac{dz}{z + c}$$

Canonical form and iterated integrals

$$\vec{I}(\vec{x}; \varepsilon) = \sum_{w=0}^M \varepsilon^w \vec{I}^{(w)}(\vec{x}) + \mathcal{O}(\varepsilon^{M+1})$$

The factorisation of ε allows us to solve the DEs iteratively:

$$d\vec{I}(\vec{x}; \varepsilon) = \varepsilon d\tilde{A}(\vec{x}) \cdot \vec{I}(\vec{x}; \varepsilon) \implies d\vec{I}^{(w)}(\vec{x}) = d\tilde{A}(\vec{x}) \cdot \vec{I}^{(w-1)}(\vec{x})$$

Solution in terms of iterated integrals [Chen 1977]

$$\mathbf{I}_{\gamma}(\omega_1, \dots, \omega_n) = \int_{\gamma} \omega_1 \dots \omega_n = \int_{0 \leq t_1 \leq \dots \leq t_n} f_1(t_1) dt_1 \dots f_n(t_n) dt_n$$

Canonical form and iterated integrals

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For canonical basis: $M = 6$

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One-forms over space X

For canonical DEs in $d\log$ -form: $\omega_i = d\log(W_i(x))$

Pull-backs of the one-forms by the path γ

Integrand analysis

[Arkani-Hamed, Bourjaily, Cachazo, Trnka 2012], [Henn, Mistlberger, Smirnov, Wasser, 2020]

Conjecture: integrals with a loop-integrand with **at most simple poles** and a **constant leading singularity** satisfy canonical DEs

The diagram illustrates the relationship between the leading singularity (LS) and the dlog-form of the integrand. A blue box labeled "Leading singularity (LS)" has a blue arrow pointing to the $R(\vec{x})$ term in the integrand expression. A red box labeled "dlog-form" has a red arrow pointing to the $d \log(\dots) \wedge d \log(\dots)$ term. To the right, a blue box contains the formula $d \log(z + c) = \frac{dz}{z + c}$.

$$I^{\varepsilon=0} \propto R(\vec{x}) \int d \log(\dots) \wedge d \log(\dots)$$

Leading singularity (LS)

dlog-form

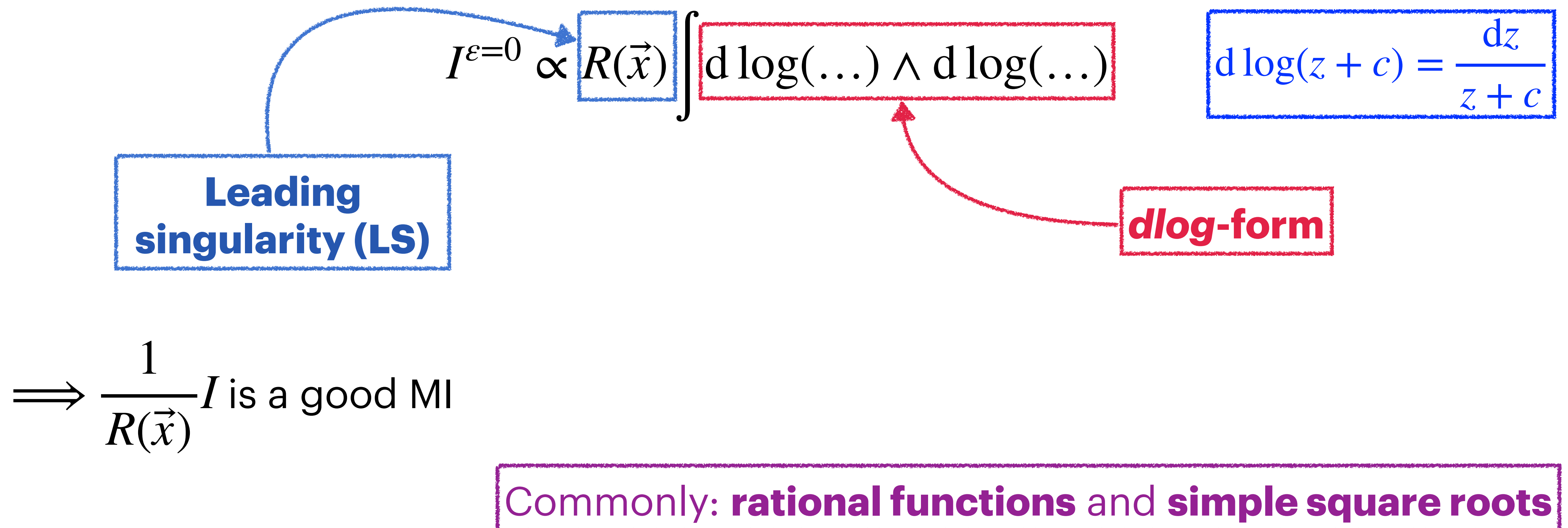
$$d \log(z + c) = \frac{dz}{z + c}$$

$\Rightarrow \frac{1}{R(\vec{x})} I$ is a good MI

Integrand analysis

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An alternative approach

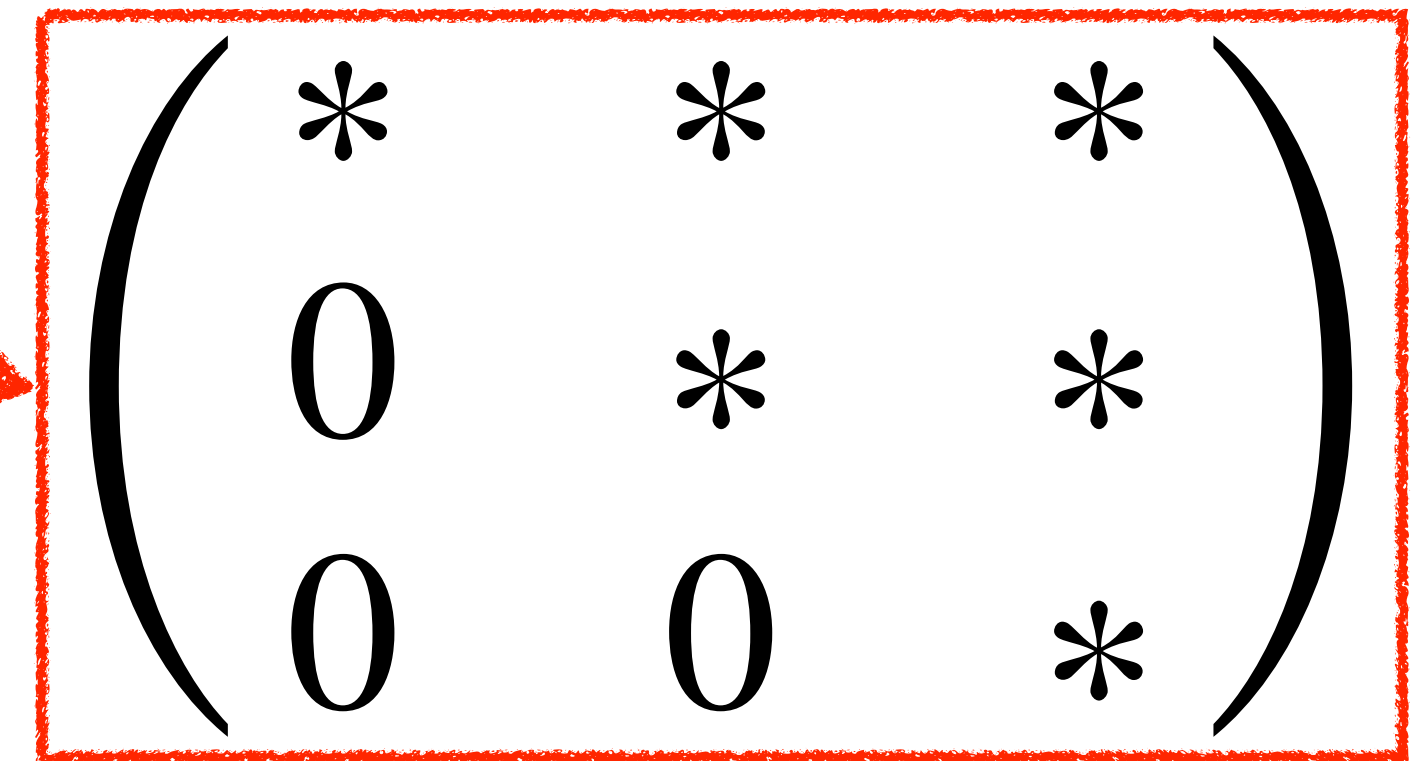
[Argeri et al. 2014]
[Gehrmann et al. 2014]

Over 800 MIs to compute $\implies$ **integrand analysis** too **time-consuming**

Pre-canonical basis such that

$$B_{\xi}(\vec{x}; \varepsilon) = \varepsilon B_{\xi}^{(1)}(\vec{x}) + B_{\xi}^{(0)}(\vec{x})$$

$B_{\xi}^{(0)}$ can be removed through **algebraic transformations**


$$\begin{pmatrix} * & * & * \\ 0 & * & * \\ 0 & 0 & * \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\vec{I}(\vec{x}; \varepsilon) \longrightarrow T(\vec{x}; \varepsilon) \cdot \vec{I}(\vec{x}; \varepsilon)$$

Such that

$$B_{\xi}(\vec{x}; \varepsilon) \longrightarrow \left(T(\vec{x}; \varepsilon) \cdot B_{\xi}(\vec{x}; \varepsilon) + \partial_{\xi} T(\vec{x}; \varepsilon) \right) \cdot T^{-1}(\vec{x}; \varepsilon)$$

Removing the diagonal entries

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Toy example:

Removing the diagonal entries

Toy example:

$$\partial_x f(x; \varepsilon) = \left(\varepsilon b^{(1)}(x) + b^{(0)}(x) \right) f(x; \varepsilon)$$

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Find **logarithmic primitive**

Removing the diagonal entries

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Find **logarithmic primitive**

$$b^{(0)}(x) = -\partial_x \log(c(x)) = -\frac{\partial_x c(x)}{c(x)}$$

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Normalise the integral as $g(x, \varepsilon) = c(x) f(x; \varepsilon)$

$$\begin{aligned} \implies \partial_x g(x; \varepsilon) &= \left(\partial_x c(x) \right) f(x; \varepsilon) + c(x) \left(\varepsilon b^{(1)}(x) - \frac{\partial_x c(x)}{c(x)} \right) f(x; \varepsilon) \\ &= \varepsilon b^{(1)}(x) g(x; \varepsilon) \end{aligned}$$

Removing the diagonal entries

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$$\begin{aligned} \Rightarrow \partial_x g(x; \varepsilon) &= \cancel{(\partial_x c(x)) f(x; \varepsilon)} + c(x) \left(\varepsilon b^{(1)}(x) - \cancel{\frac{\partial_x c(x)}{c(x)}} \right) f(x; \varepsilon) \\ &= \varepsilon b^{(1)}(x) g(x; \varepsilon) \end{aligned}$$

Removing the off-diagonal entries

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Toy example:

Removing the off-diagonal entries

Toy example:

$$F(x; \varepsilon) = \begin{pmatrix} f_1 \\ f_2 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \text{with} \quad B_x^{(0)} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & b(x) \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

Removing the off-diagonal entries

Toy example:

$$F(x; \varepsilon) = \begin{pmatrix} f_1 \\ f_2 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \text{with} \quad B_x^{(0)} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & b(x) \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

Find **algebraic primitive**

Removing the off-diagonal entries

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$$b(x) = -\partial_x c(x)$$

Removing the off-diagonal entries

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Then $G(x; \varepsilon) = \begin{pmatrix} f_1 + c f_2 \\ f_2 \end{pmatrix}$ satisfies

Removing the off-diagonal entries

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$$\partial_x G(x; \varepsilon) = \partial_x F(x; \varepsilon) + c \begin{pmatrix} \partial_x f_2 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} - b(x) \begin{pmatrix} f_2 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

Removing the off-diagonal entries

Toy example:

$$F(x; \varepsilon) = \begin{pmatrix} f_1 \\ f_2 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \text{with} \quad B_x^{(0)} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & b(x) \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

Find **algebraic primitive**

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Then $G(x; \varepsilon) = \begin{pmatrix} f_1 + c f_2 \\ f_2 \end{pmatrix}$ satisfies

$$\boxed{\propto \varepsilon} \quad \partial_x G(x; \varepsilon) = \partial_x F(x; \varepsilon) + \boxed{c \begin{pmatrix} \partial_x f_2 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}} - b(x) \begin{pmatrix} f_2 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$


Removing the off-diagonal entries

Toy example:

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$$\partial_x G(x; \varepsilon) = \partial_x F(x; \varepsilon) + c \begin{pmatrix} \partial_x f_2 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} - b(x) \begin{pmatrix} f_2 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$\propto \varepsilon$

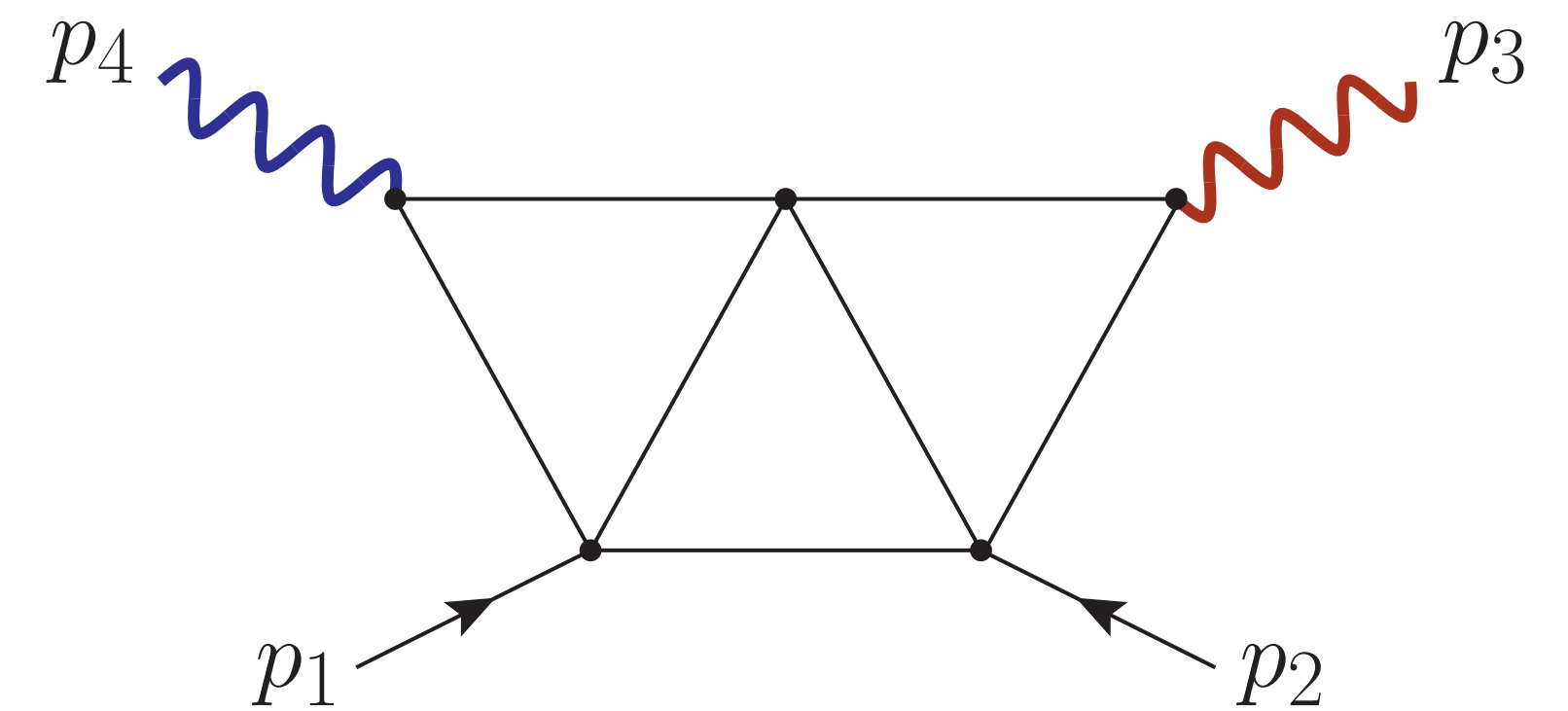
Removes $B_x^{(0)}$

Finding the pre-canonical basis is non-trivial

No general algorithm to find the pre-canonical integrals

- **Public packages** (e.g. DlogBasis [Henn, Mistlberger, Smirnov, Wasser 2020])
- **Integrand analysis** in Baikov representation
- Use **patterns** known from **similar calculations**
- Need only ε -dependence $\Rightarrow$ use **numerical slices** to test multiple candidates efficiently

Difficulty grows with the number of MIs associated to a given graph



15 MIs in this sector (10 in the equal mass case)

Solving the DEs

Iterated integrals of logarithmic forms

Rational alphabet: Multiple Polylogarithms (**MPLs**)

$$G(a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n; x) = \int_0^x \frac{dt}{t - a_1} G(a_2, \dots, a_n; t)$$

$$G(; x) = 1$$

$$G(\underbrace{0, \dots, 0}_n; x) = \frac{1}{n!} \log(x)^n$$

Well-established mathematical technology to deal with them and
public tools to evaluate them

Analytic solution in terms of GPLs

At **two loops** the canonical DEs involved only **one square root**

$$r_1 = \sqrt{s_{12}^2 + (m_4^2 - m_3^2)^2 - 2s_{12}(m_4^2 + m_3^2)} \left(\sqrt{s_{12}(s_{12} - 4m^2)} \text{ in the massless case} \right)$$

Change of variables

$$\frac{s_{12}}{m_3^2} = (1+x)(1+xy), \quad \frac{s_{23}}{m_3^2} = -xz, \quad \frac{m_4^2}{m_3^2} = x^2y$$
$$\implies r_1 = m_3^2 x(1-y)$$

[Canko, MP 2024]: families RL_1, RL_2, PL_1 and PT_4 involve only the same square root $\implies$ solution in terms of **MPLs**

New square roots appear at three loops!

The families PT_1 , PT_2 and PL_3 involve **four additional square roots**:

$$r_2 = \sqrt{(m_3^2 m_4^2 + s_{13}(s_{12} + s_{13}))^2 - 4m_3^2 m_4^2 s_{13}^2} \xrightarrow{m_3, m_4 \rightarrow m} \sqrt{(m^4 + s_{13}(s_{12} + s_{13}))^2 - 4m^4 s_{13}^2}$$

$$r_3 = \sqrt{s_{23}((m_3^2 - m_4^2)^2 s_{23} - 4m_3^2 m_4^2 s_{12})} \longrightarrow 2m^2 \sqrt{-s_{12} s_{23}}$$

$$r_4 = \sqrt{(m_4^2 - s_{23})((m_4^2 - s_{12})^2 (m_4^2 - s_{23}) - 4m_3^2 m_4^2 s_{12})} \longrightarrow \sqrt{(m^2 - s_{23})((m^2 - s_{12})^2 (m^2 - s_{23}) - 4m^4 s_{12})}$$

$$r_5 = \sqrt{(m_3^2 - s_{23})((m_3^2 - s_{12})^2 (m_3^2 - s_{23}) - 4m_3^2 m_4^2 s_{12})} \longrightarrow \sqrt{(m^2 - s_{23})((m^2 - s_{12})^2 (m^2 - s_{23}) - 4m^4 s_{12})}$$

We could not find a transformation to rationalise simultaneously all the square roots
 $\implies$ try a more **flexible approach to solve the DEs**

The alphabet gets larger!

- ▶ 37 letters in the general case (22 in the equal-mass case)
- ▶ 21 (11) **new letters** compared to the two-loop planar case
- ▶ New **algebraic letters** depending on **two square roots**:

$$r_1 = \sqrt{s_{12}^2 + (m_4^2 - m_3^2)^2 - 2s_{12}(m_4^2 + m_3^2)}$$

$$r_3 = \sqrt{s_{23}((m_3^2 - m_4^2)^2 s_{23} - 4m_3^2 m_4^2 s_{12})}$$

$$W_{r_1 r_3, 1} = \frac{s_{23}(m_3^4 + m_4^4) - s_{12}s_{23}(m_3^2 + m_4^2) - 2m_3^2 m_4^2 (s_{12} + s_{23}) - r_1 r_3}{s_{23}(m_3^4 + m_4^4) - s_{12}s_{23}(m_3^2 + m_4^2) - 2m_3^2 m_4^2 (s_{12} + s_{23}) + r_1 r_3}$$

$$W_{r_1 r_3, 1}^{(\text{EM})} = \frac{s_{12}(m^2 + s_{23}) + r_1 r_3}{s_{12}(m^2 + s_{23}) - r_1 r_3}$$

- ▶ New **rational letters** with **higher degree**!

$$W_{22} = (m_3^2 m_4^2 + s_{13}(s_{12} + s_{13}))^2 - 4m_3^2 m_4^2 s_{13}^2$$

$$W_{13}^{(\text{EM})} = (m^2 - s_{12})^2 (m^2 - s_{23}) - 4m^4 s_{12}$$

[Canko, Syrrakos 2022] hinted to the **stability of the alphabet** with the loop order in the planar case

Evaluation of the MIs

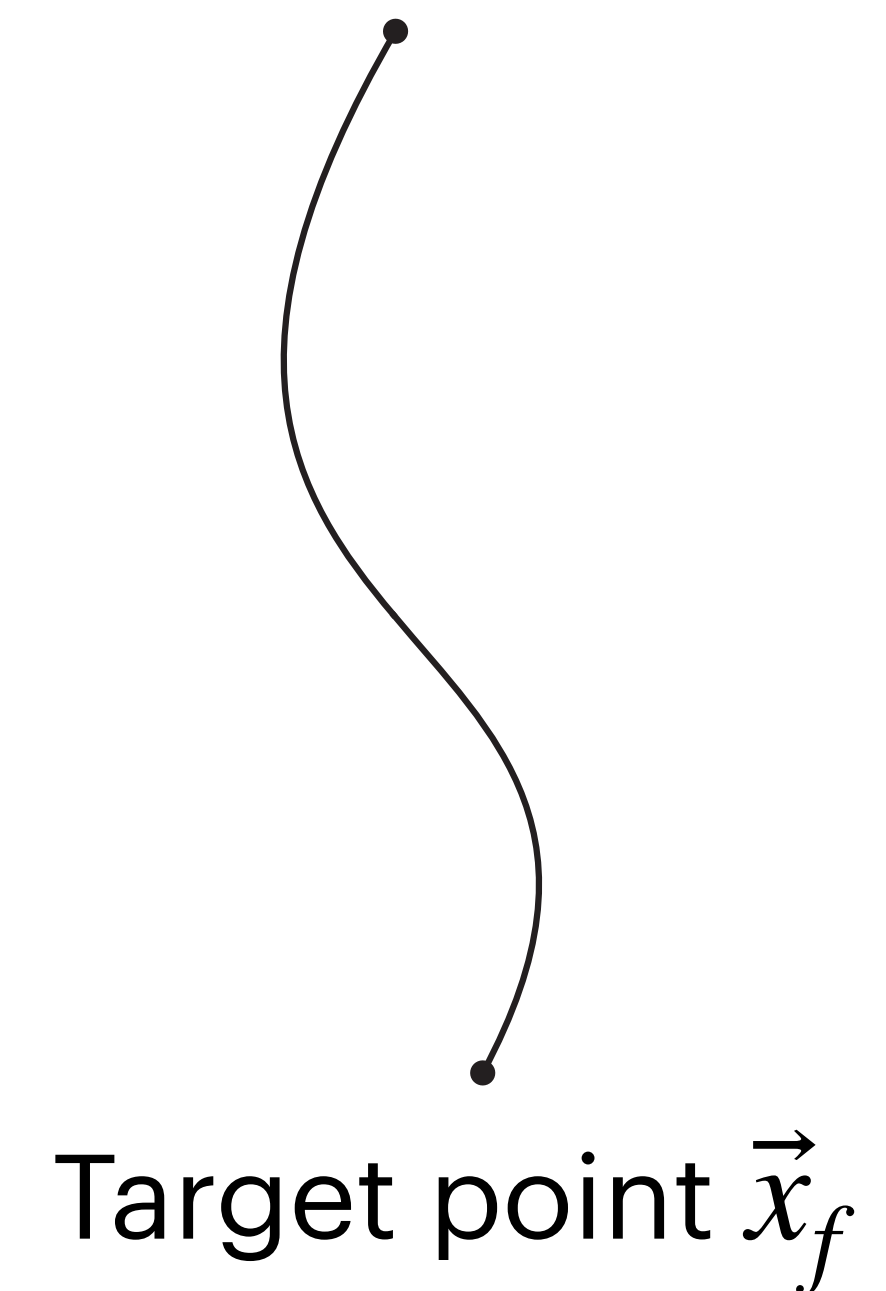
Solve the DEs through **generalised series expansions**

Parametrise a **linear path**

$$\gamma(\eta) = (1 - \eta)\vec{x}_i + \eta\vec{x}_f$$

$\Rightarrow$ DEs A_η in one variable

Boundary point $\vec{x}_i$:
values from AMFlow
[Liu, Ma 2022]



Evaluation of the MIs

Solve the DEs through **generalised series expansions**

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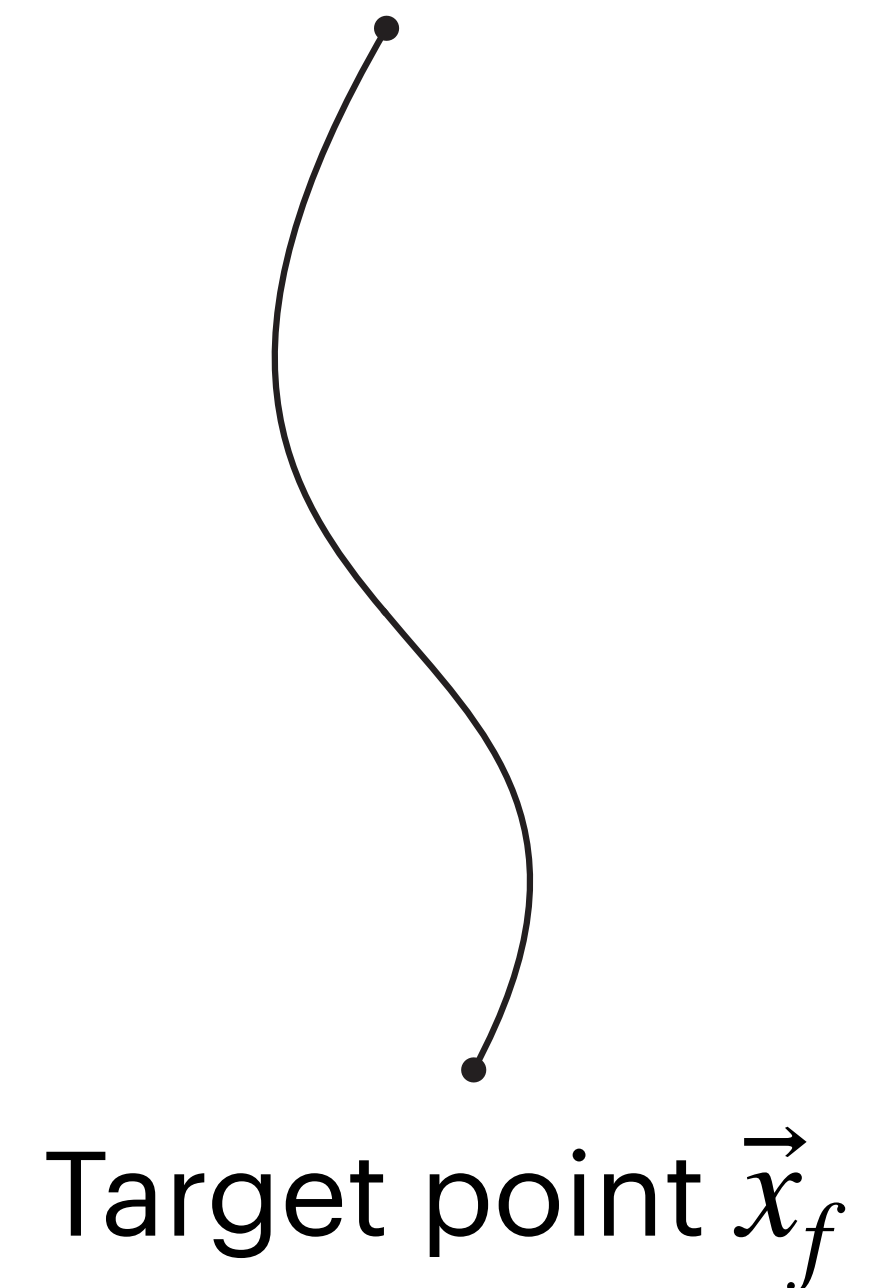
$\Rightarrow$ DEs A_η in one variable

The solution admits an **expansion**

$$I \sim I_0 + \sum A_\eta \log(\eta - \tau)^{k_1} (\eta - \tau)^{k_2}$$

$\Rightarrow$ **evolution of the solution** using the DE solver of AMFlow and DiffExp [Hidding 2020]

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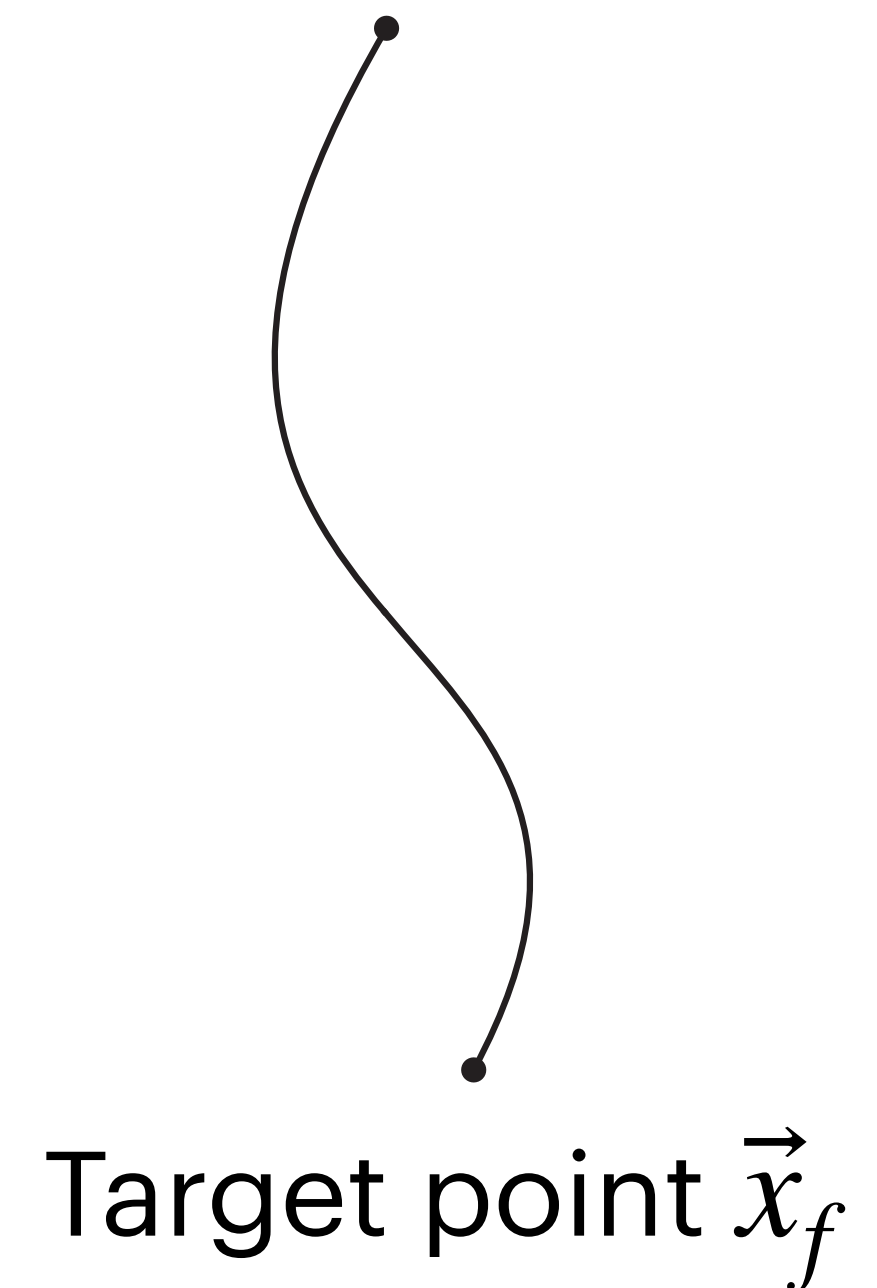
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Evaluation of a single family in the order of minutes per phase space point

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[Liu, Ma 2022]



Conclusion

- ▶ We computed all the **planar integral families** relevant for **diboson production** at **N3LO QCD** in the leading colour approximation
- ▶ For each family, we constructed a basis of MIs satisfying **canonical DEs**
- ▶ **New square roots** and letters appear, which were absent at two loops
- ▶ **Semi-numerical solution** using DiffExp and the DE solver of AMFlow
- ▶ Future work
 - **Optimisation** of the evaluation of the integrals **for phenomenology**
 - Computation of **three-loop amplitudes** for diboson production

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Thank you!