

## MITP Scientific Program

### “Amplitudes - practical and theoretical developments”

Organizers: Fabrizio Caola (CERN and Durham Univ.), Herbert Gangl (Durham Univ.), Jaroslav Trnka (UC Davis), Johannes Henn (JGU Mainz), Stefan Müller-Stach (JGU Mainz) and Stefan Weinzierl (JGU Mainz)

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The two week MITP scientific program “Amplitudes - practical and theoretical developments” brought together about thirty-five physicists and mathematicians in the intersection from the fields of high energy physics, mathematics and string theory. The main emphasis of the program was on scattering amplitudes, a fascinating topic relevant to precision calculations in particle physics and enjoying remarkable mathematical properties. The program evolved in a stimulating and productive atmosphere, with one talk usually scheduled in the morning and another talk scheduled in the afternoon. Probably the most important part of the program were the discussions in the coffee room.

Scattering amplitudes in particle physics are related to the probability with which a certain scattering process occurs. Perturbative quantum field theory offers – in theory at least – a systematic way to calculate the scattering amplitudes through Feynman diagrams. However, any practitioner in the field realises soon that an approach based on Feynman diagrams is feasible only for the simplest processes. The complexity of the calculation increases with the number of external particles and with the number of internal loops. However, it is very often the case that the final answer is much shorter than any intermediate expression. This is an indication that not all structures and symmetries of the problem have been identified. Furthermore, scattering amplitudes in Yang-Mills theory show a close connection to scattering amplitudes in perturbative gravity.

The recent years have shown great progress in this area and have given rise to an active interaction between high energy physics, mathematics and string theory.

The program started in medias res with a talk by David Broadhurst, who reported on impressive results for specific 18 loops diagrams, which he related to particular values of Dirichlet  $L$ -functions. This was followed in the afternoon by a talk of Lorenzo Tancredi, who related maximal cuts of Feynman diagrams to solutions of the corresponding homogeneous differential equations. Jacob Bourjaily

challenged the audience with an “integration polemics” on unitarity methods. Leonardo Vernazza reported on progress on two-parton scattering in the high-energy limit. Dmitrii Chicherin talked on the duality of Wilson form factors, Harald Ita on numerical unitarity at two-loop. There was an afternoon session on elliptic generalisations of polylogarithms with expositions by Pierre Vanhove, Matt Kerr and Christian Bogner, followed by a general discussion on this topic on the next day. Dario Consoli reported on simplifying one-loop amplitudes in superstring theory. At the end of the first week Claude Duhr taught the audience about defining a co-action on one-loop graphs. The second week started with an overview on perturbative calculations by Kirill Melnikov. Simon Badger spoke on mass renormalisation and unitarity cuts. Henrik Johansson presented new and simple formulas for Einstein-Yang-Mills amplitudes, Carlos Cardona reported on  $S$ -matrix singularities and CFT correlation functions.

It was very often the case, that these talks triggered discussions, which were continued in the coffee room. In this way the MITP scientific program “Amplitudes - practical and theoretical developments” was very successful and it is not unlikely that several new collaborations and research projects grew out of this scientific program.