Exploring three-point functions in the complex plane

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The complex structure of strong interactions in Euclidean and Minkowski space

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Glueballs

Propagators, vertices, glueballs

- Glueballs: Existence and properties?
- Bound state equations: Setup and input in form of propagators and vertices?
- Propagators and vertices in the complex plane: Models? Calculations?



Experiment (BESIII): $f_0(1710)$ [JPAC Coll., Rodas et al., Eur.Phys.J.C 82 (2022)], $f_0(1770)$ [Sarantsev, Denisenko, Thoma, Klempt, Phys. Lett. B 816 (2021)], X(2370) [Ablikim et al. (BESIII), PRL132 (2024)]

Quenched: [Morningstar, Peardon, Phys. Rev. D60 (1999); MQH, Fischer, Sanchis-Alepuz, Eur.Phys.J.C80,C81 (2020,2021); Athenodorou, Teper, JHEP11 (2020)]

- Calculation of bound states from different methods with individual challenges
- Bound state equations (Bethe-Salpeter, Faddeev, ...)

Example: Mesons, glueballs



Input:

• Nonperturbative propagators: Gluon, ghost, quarks

Kernels



 \rightarrow Nonperturbative vertices

Functional spectrum calculations

Functional methods successful in describing many aspects of the hadron spectrum qualitatively and quantitatively!



[Eichmann, Sanchis-Alepuz, Williams, Alkofer, Fischer, Prog.Part.Nucl.Phys. 91 (2016); Eichmann,

Few Body Syst. 63 (2022)]

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Correlation functions for complex momenta

Bound states



(pseudoscalar glueball)

 $\boldsymbol{\lambda(P)}\boldsymbol{\Gamma(P)} = \mathcal{K} \cdot \boldsymbol{\Gamma(P)}$

 \rightarrow Eigenvalue problem for $\Gamma(P)$:

• Solve for $\lambda(P)$.

Find *P* with
$$\lambda(P) = 1$$
.
 $\Rightarrow M^2 = -P^2$

Correlation functions for complex momenta



(pseudoscalar glueball)

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- Solve for $\lambda(P)$.
- Find *P* with $\lambda(P) = 1$. $\Rightarrow M^2 = -P^2$

However:

Propagators are probed at
$$\left(q \pm \frac{P}{2}\right)^2 = \frac{P^2}{4} + q^2 \pm \sqrt{P^2 q^2} \cos \theta = -\frac{M^2}{4} + q^2 \pm i M \sqrt{q^2} \cos \theta$$

 \rightarrow Complex for $P^2 < 0!$

Time-like quantities ($P^2 < 0$) \rightarrow Correlation functions for complex arguments.

Quark propagator and models

Quark propagator DSE:



-1

Example: [Windisch, Phys. Rev. C 95 (2017)]



Glueballs with model input

Glueballs? Rainbow-ladder?



Glueballs with model input



Glueballs? Rainbow-ladder?

There is no rainbow for gluons!

Glueballs with model input



Glueballs? Rainbow-ladder?

There is no rainbow for gluons!

<u>Model based</u> BSE calculations (J = 0):

- [Meyers, Swanson, Phys.Rev.D87 (2013)]
- [Sanchis-Alepuz, Fischer, Kellermann, von Smekal, Phys.Rev.D92, (2015)]
- [Souza et al., Eur.Phys.J.A56 (2020)]
- [Kaptari, Kämpfer, Few Body Syst.61 (2020)]

Glueballs with model input



Model based BSE calculations

There is no rainbow for gluons!

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(J = 0):

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- [Kaptari, Kämpfer, Few Body Syst.61 (2020)]

Alternative: Calculated input [MQH, Phys.Rev.D 101 (2020)]

- J = 0: [MQH, Fischer, Sanchis-Alepuz, Eur.Phys.J.C80 (2020)]
- *J* = 0, 2, 3, 4: [MQH, Fischer, Sanchis-Alepuz, Eur.Phys.J.C81 (2021)]

Extreme sensitivity on input!

Kernels for (pure) glueballs

Systematic derivation from 3PI eff. action: [Berges, Phys. Rev. D 70 (2004); Carrington, Gao, Phys. Rev. D 83 (2011)] Need propagators and vertices!





[Fukuda, Prog. Theor. Phys 78 (1987); McKay, Munczek, Phys. Rev. D 40 (1989); Sanchis-Alepuz, Williams, J. Phys: Conf. Ser. 631 (2015); MQH, Fischer, Sanchis-Alepuz, Eur.Phys.J.C80 (2020)]

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Three-point functions in the complex plane

Input for bound state equations from 2013?

Bound state equations require propagators and vertices as input.

Truncation: Three-gluon vertex model tailored to reproduce lattice results.

Propagators from 2013 [Sternbeck, hep-lat/0609016; MQH, von Smekal, JHEP 04 (2013)]:



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Three-gluon vertex [Cucchieri, Maas, Mendes, Phys. Rev. D 77 (2008); MQH, Phys. Rev. D 101 (2020)]:



 \rightarrow Insufficient for bound states.

Correlation functions

Correlation functions of quarks and gluons



 \rightarrow [Review: MQH, Phys.Rept. 879 (2020)]



- Conceptual and technical challenges: nonperturbative renormalization, two-loop diagrams, convergence, size of kernels, ...
- Self-contained: Only parameters are the strong coupling and the quark masses!
- Long way, e.g., ghost-gluon vertex, three-gluon vertex, four-gluon vertex,
- \rightarrow MQH, Phys.Rev.D 101 (2020)

Correlation functions

Correlation functions of quarks and gluons

Equations of motion of 3PI effective action

 \rightarrow [Review: MQH, Phys.Rept. 879 (2020)]





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- \rightarrow MQH, Phys.Rev.D 101 (2020)

Start with pure gauge theory.

Correlation functions

Landau gauge correlation functions



[MQH, Fischer, Sanchis-Alepuz, 2503.03821]

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 $\sqrt{S_0}$ [GeV]

4

1

-0.5

Landau gauge correlation functions: Apparent convergence?

- \rightarrow [MQH, Fischer, Sanchis-Alepuz, 2503.03821]
 - Good agreement between lattice and functional methods
 - Good agreement between different functional methods
 - Further tests:
 - Three-gluon vertex: tree-level dressing dominant [Eichmann, Williams, Alkofer, Vujinovic, Phys.Rev.D89 (2014)]
 - Influence of other four-point functions tiny [MQH, Eur. Phys.J.C77 (2017)]

 \rightarrow Glueballs?

Glueballs as bound states of gluons

Use results for glueball calculations?

All results for spacelike momenta. \rightarrow Not directly.

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• Reconstruction from Euclidean results to get correlation functions for complex arguments.

Glueballs as bound states of gluons

Use results for glueball calculations?

All results for spacelike momenta. \rightarrow Not directly.

• Reconstruction from Euclidean results to get correlation functions for complex arguments.

OR

• Extrapolation of the eigenvalue curve. \rightarrow More stable and tests possible.

Glueballs

Extrapolation of $\lambda(P^2)$

Extrapolation method

- Extrapolation to time-like *P*² using Schlessinger's continued fraction method (proven superior to default Padé approximants) [Schlessinger, Phys.Rev.167 (1968)]
- Average over extrapolations using subsets of points for error estimate

$$f(x) = \frac{f(x_1)}{1 + \frac{a_1(x - x_1)}{1 + \frac{a_2(x - x_2)}{1 + \frac{a_3(x - x_3)}{1 + \frac{a$$

Coefficients a_i can be determined such that f(x) exact at x_i .

Extrapolation of $\lambda(P^2)$

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- Average over extrapolations using subsets of points for error estimate

Test extrapolation for solvable system:

Heavy meson [MQH, Sanchis-Alepuz, Fischer, Eur.Phys.J.C 80 (2020)]

$$f(x) = \frac{f(x_1)}{1 + \frac{a_1(x-x_1)}{1 + \frac{a_2(x-x_2)}{1 + \frac{a_2(x-x_3)}{1 + \frac{a_3(x-x_3)}{1 + \frac{a_3(x$$

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Three-point functions in the complex plane

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Glueballs

Glueball results



[MQH, Fischer, Sanchis-Alepuz, Eur.Phys.J.C81 (2021)]

Agreement with lattice results

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All results for $r_0 = 1/418(5)$ MeV.

Apparent convergence in glueball calculations

Compare gluons only, one-loop and two-loop kernels.



- Small influence of three-gluon kinematics (S_0 only vs. S_0 , a, s) $\rightarrow \Delta m \approx 50 \text{ MeV}$
- Ghost diagrams essential: $\Delta m \approx 200 350 \, {\rm MeV}$
- Two-loop diagrams negligible: $\Delta m < 2\%$

[MQH, Fischer, Sanchis-Alepuz, 2503.03821]

Correlation functions in the complex plane

Standard integration techniques fail.

Consider example integral:

$$J_2(p^2) = \int dq^2 J(q^2, p^2), \quad J(q^2, p^2) = \int d\theta \sin^2 \theta_1 \frac{1}{q^2 + p^2 + \sqrt{p^2}\sqrt{q^2}\cos\theta_1 + m^2} \frac{1}{q^2 + m^2}$$

 $\int d^4 q
ightarrow \int_{\Lambda^2_{
m LD}}^{\Lambda^2_{
m UV}} dq^2 \int d heta_1$

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After θ_1 integration:



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After θ_1 integration:



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Integration path $\Lambda_{IR}^2 \rightarrow \Lambda_{UV}^2$ on real line forbidden. \rightarrow Take a detour.

 $\int d^4 q
ightarrow \int_{\Lambda^2_{
m UV}}^{\Lambda^2_{
m UV}} dq^2 \int d heta_1$



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Contour deformation method (CDM)

Originally used for QED: [Maris, Phys.Rev.D52, (1995)]



Recent resurgence: massive propagators, three-point functions, e.g.: [Alkofer et al., Phys.Rev.D 70 (2004); Eichmann, Krassnigg, Schwinzerl, Alkofer, Ann.Phys. 323 (2008); Strauss, Fischer, Kellermann, Phys.Rev.Lett, 109 (2012); Windisch, MQH, Alkofer, Phys.Rev.D 87 (2013), Acta Phys.Polon.Supp. 6 (2013); Strodthoff, Phys.Rev.D 95 (2017); Weil, Eichmann, Fischer, Williams, Phys.Rev.D 96 (2017): Pawlowski, Strodthoff, Wink, Phys.Rev.D 98 (2018); Williams, Phys.Lett.B 798 (2019); Miramontes, Sanchis-Alepuz, Eur.Phys.J.A 55 (2019); Eichmann, Duarte, Pena, Stadler, Phys.Rev.D 100 (2019); Fischer, MQH, Phys.Rev.D 102 (2020); Miramontes, Sanchis-Alepuz, Phys.Rev.D 103 (2021); Eichmann, Ferreira, Stadler, Phys.Rev.D 105 (2022): Miramontes, Alkofer, Fischer, Sanchis-Alepuz, Phys.Lett.B 833 (2022); MQH, Kern, Alkofer, Phys.Rev.D 107 (2023); ... 1

Landau conditions: When do singularities arise in external momenta [Landau, Sov. Phys. JETP 10 (1959)]? Directly reflected in possible contours [Windisch, MQH, Alkofer, Acta Phys.Polon.Supp. 6 (2013); MQH, Kern, Alkofer, Phys.Rev.D 107 (2023)].

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Simpler truncation:



Simpler truncation:



m = 0: Branch cuts are circles with one opening.



 \rightarrow Opening at $q^2 = p^2$.

Simpler truncation:



m = 0: Branch cuts are circles with one opening.



Rays: $(p+q)^2 \propto e^{i\theta} \rightarrow$ Argument dressings all *on* the rays.

Arc: Contribution tiny. Manageable with extra techniques.

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Three-point functions in the complex plane



Ray technique for self-consistent solution of a DSE:



- Current truncation leads to a pole-like structure in the gluon propagator.
- Analyticity up to 'pole' confirmed by various tests (Cauchy-Riemann, Schlessinger, reconstruction).
- Origin? Effect of dynamic three-point functions?

Kinematics



 $r = \sqrt{q^2}$
Three-point functions

Singularities in the integrand

 γ

Integration over θ_1 and θ_2 creates branch cuts. \rightarrow One generic form ($z_1 = \cos \theta_1$):



3-point

$$\begin{split} k_a &\to \gamma_{a\pm}(z_1; p_a^2, m^2) = \gamma_{\pm}(z_1; p_a^2, m^2), \\ k_b &\to \gamma_{b\pm}(\tilde{z}; p_b^2, m^2) = \gamma_{\pm}(-\tilde{z}; p_b^2, m^2) \end{split}$$

$$\tilde{z} = \cos \tilde{\theta} = \cos \theta \, \cos \theta_1 + \sin \theta \, \sin \theta_1 \, \cos \theta_2.$$

3-point for $p_a^2 = p_b^2 = p^2$

Branch cuts on top of each other:

- $\gamma_{a\pm}$ as for 2-point integral.
- $\gamma_{b\pm}$ is a function of θ_1 AND θ_2 .



 $p^2 = -3m^2$, $\theta = 2\pi/3$, $\theta_2 = \pi$: two cuts cross at *i* m

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[MQH, Kern, Alkofer, Phys.Rev.D 107 (2023)]

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ϕ^3 theory

Simple scalar theory with cubic interaction:

$$\mathcal{L}=rac{1}{2}(\partial_{\mu}\phi)\partial^{\mu}\phi-rac{1}{2}m^{2}\phi^{2}+rac{g}{3!}\phi^{3}$$

ightarrow Technical testbed for QCD: 2-point, triangle, swordfish integrals



(Ignoring instability of theory.)

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Nonperturbative equations

3PI effective action truncated at 3 loops [Berges, Phys. Rev. D 70 (2004); Carrington, Gao, Phys. Rev. D 83 (2011)]

Propagator:



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Nonperturbative equations

3PI effective action truncated at 3 loops [Berges, Phys. Rev. D 70 (2004); Carrington, Gao, Phys. Rev. D 83 (2011)]



Three-point functions in the complex plane

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Vertex:

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Propagator



- Nonperturbative pole at $p^2 = -0.75m^2 = -m_r^2$
- A branch cut starting at $-3m^2 = -4m_r^2$

0.0 <u>–</u>0.2 D(p²/m²) -0.8 -1.0-1.75 1.50 1.25 1.00 1.00 0.50 Re p²/m² 0.25 -3 0.00-4

[MQH, Kern, Alkofer, Phys.Rev.D 107 (2023)]

Vertex



Vertex

Branch point position: Calculation vs. Landau

[MQH, Kern, Alkofer, Phys.Rev.D 107 (2023)]



- Numerically more demanding due to calculations close to cuts.
- Branch cuts start close to the predicted value \checkmark

Three-gluon vertex

The simplest three-point function in QCD?

Three-point functions depend on two momenta/three Lorentz invariants.

- Quark-gluon vertex: 8 dressings ⁽²⁾ and nontrivial kinematic dependence ⁽²⁾, e.g., [Williams, Fischer, Heupel, Phys. Rev. D93 (2016); Gao, Papavassiliou, Pawlowski, Phys. Rev. D103 (2021); Cyrol et al. D97 (2018); Kızılersü et al., 2111.13455]
- Ghost-gluon vertex: kinematic dependence 😀

[Maas, 1907.10435; MQH, Phys. Rev. D90 (2020)]



Three-gluon vertex: One dominant dressing ⁽²⁾, in good approximation only one kinematic variable ⁽²⁾ (planar degeneracy) [Eichmann, Williams, Alkofer, Vujinovic, Phys.Rev.D89 (2014); MQH, Phys. Rev. D90 (2020); Pinto-Gómez et al., Phys.Lett.B838 (2023); Aguilar et al., Eur.Phys.J.C83 (2023)]
 → Explore three-point function without complications of three kinematic variables.

Three-gluon vertex

Equation of motion



Kinematics: S₃ singlet only [Eichmann, Williams,

Alkofer, Vujinovic, Phys. Rev. D89 (2014)]

$$S_0 = rac{p_1^2 + p_2^2 + p_3^2}{6}$$

Doublet: a = s = 0 (symmetric point)



[MQH, Phys. Rev. D90 (2020)]

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Input

Gluon propagator

Reconstruction from [Cyrol,

Pawlowski, Rothkopf, Wink, Sci. Post 5



 \rightarrow Input has no complex conjugate poles by construction!

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Ghost propagator

Input

Gluon propagator



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Three-point functions in the complex plane

Input



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Three-gluon vertex dissection

[MQH, Phys. Rev. D 101 (2020)]



Three-gluon vertex

Three-gluon vertex dissection



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Three-gluon vertex dissection



[MQH, Phys. Rev. D 101 (2020)]



 Different cancellations for 1PI and 3PI with similar results

Consistent cancellations in different systems.

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Summary and outlook

- Propagators and vertices at complex momenta for bound state studies needed, in particular for resonances, decays.
- Contour deformation method gives access to analytic structure of correlation functions.
- Mechanism of creation of branch cuts \rightarrow "nonperturbative" Landau conditions
- Origin of singularities? Unbalanced cancellations?

- Testbed ϕ^3 theory.
- First results for three-gluon vertex (relevant for glueballs).

Summary and outlook

- Propagators and vertices at complex momenta for bound state studies needed, in particular for resonances, decays.
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Thank you for your attention.

Spectrum for family of solutions

Couplings:





[MQH, Fischer, Sanchis-Alepuz, 2503.03821]

$$\alpha_{\mathsf{ghg}}(p^2) = \alpha(\mu^2) \left[D^{\mathsf{ghg}}(p^2) \right]^2 Z(p^2) \left[G(p^2) \right]^2$$



Spectrum for family of solutions

Couplings:

$$\alpha_{3g}(\boldsymbol{p}^2) = \alpha(\mu^2) \left[\boldsymbol{D}^{3g}(\boldsymbol{p}^2) \right]^2 \left[\boldsymbol{Z}(\boldsymbol{p}^2) \right]^3$$



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[MQH, Fischer, Sanchis-Alepuz, 2503.03821]

$$\alpha_{\mathsf{ghg}}(\boldsymbol{p}^2) = \alpha(\mu^2) \left[\boldsymbol{D}^{\mathsf{ghg}}(\boldsymbol{p}^2) \right]^2 \boldsymbol{Z}(\boldsymbol{p}^2) \left[\boldsymbol{G}(\boldsymbol{p}^2) \right]^2$$



- Invariant spectrum → Nonperturbative gauge hypothesis supported.
- \bullet Invariance lost when deforming the input. \rightarrow Consistency relevant

Creation of branch points in external momentum (2-point)

A branch point arises in the external momenta if the integration contour cannot be deformed.



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Creation of branch points in external momentum (2-point)

A branch point arises in the external momenta if the integration contour cannot be deformed.



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Increasing p^2 until *i m* is at the end point of the branch cut. \rightarrow Contour deformation no longer possible and branch point is created.

- Analytical determination of branch points possible from contour deformations [Windisch, MQH, Alkofer, Acta Phys.Polon.Supp. 6 (2013)]
- \rightarrow Landau conditions [Landau, Sov.Phys.JETP10 (1959)]: $p_B^2 = -(m_1 + m_2)^2$

Critical points

2 solutions: Relevant one is that with the critical point in the r plane closer to the origin.



Critical points

2 solutions: Relevant one is that with the critical point in the r plane closer to the origin.



Three-point functions in the complex plane

Creation of branch points (3-point)

2-point

Match a pole and the end points of the branch cuts ($\theta_1 = 0, \pi$).

Creation of branch points (3-point)

2-point

Match a pole and the end points of the branch cuts ($\theta_1 = 0, \pi$).

3-point: End point in θ_2 !

- Two cuts cross for same θ_1 at pole. or
- Two cuts meet for θ_1 'inside' of circle.

$$p_{B,1}^2 = -4m^2\sin^2rac{ heta}{2}$$
 $p_{B,2}^2 = -rac{m^2}{\cos^2rac{ heta}{2}}$

Similar analysis [MQH, Kern, Alkofer, Phys.Rev.D 107 (2023)]:

• Identify case where all three propagators agree.

$$\rightarrow p_a^2 p_b^2 p_c^2 = m^2 (p_a^4 + p_b^4 + p_c^4 - 2(p_a^2 p_b^2 + p_a^2 p_c^2 + p_b^2 p_c^2))$$

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Identify cases where cuts cross closer to the origin than the pole.
 Shortcut: Ignore one propagator and analyze a two-point integral. ↔ Contracted diagrams of Landau analysis.

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- Quadratic equation for $p_c^2 \rightarrow$ only one solution relevant.

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Landau condition

$$p_c^2 = \frac{2m^2(p_a^2 + p_b^2) + p_a^2 p_b^2 + \sqrt{p_a^2(4m^2 + p_a^2)}\sqrt{p_b^2(4m^2 + p_b^2)}}{2m^2}$$
for $-4m^2 \le p_a^2, p_b^2 \le 0$, and $p_a^2 + p_b^2 \le -4m^2$
 $p_a^2 = p_b^2 = p_c^2 = -4m^2$ else.

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Branch points for general kinematics (3-point)

Exclusion of one solution of the quadratic equation for p_c^2 :




[MQH, Kern, Alkofer, Phys.Rev.D 107 (2023)]

Nonperturbative masses

[MQH, Kern, Alkofer, Phys.Rev.D 107 (2023)]

- Nonperturbative masses ✓
- Up to 3 different masses 🗸

- Nonperturbative masses \checkmark
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- Cuts instead of poles \rightsquigarrow continuum of singular points \rightarrow Forbidden area, but deformation doable.



- Nonperturbative masses \checkmark
- Up to 3 different masses ✓
- Cuts instead of poles

 \rightsquigarrow continuum of singular points \rightarrow Forbidden area, but deformation doable.

• Nonperturbative vertices with singularities in dressings: similar branch cuts in integrands as from propagators.

