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HOMework 2

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Quantum Field Theory II

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1 Sharp Cutoff Regularizaion

- (a) We consider the renomalization of ϕ^4 theory leading to finite physical mass and coupling. At one loop, the renormalized Euclidean action $S_R[\phi] = S[\phi] + \hbar\Delta_1 S[\phi]$ for ϕ^4 theory has two contributions: an action $S[\phi]$ featuring the renormalized parameters (coupling g_R associated to an energy-momentum scale μ and mass m_R) and a counterterm action $\hbar\Delta_1 S[\phi]$. Explicitly we have

$$S[\phi] = \int d^4x \left[\frac{1}{2}(\partial\phi)^2 + \frac{m_R^2}{2}\phi^2 + \frac{g_R}{4!}\phi^4 \right], \quad \Delta_1 S[\phi] = \int d^4x \left[\frac{B_1}{2}\phi^2 + \frac{C_1}{4!}\phi^4 \right]$$

where C_1 and B_1 are UV divergent quantities that are meant to cancel the divergence arising from the one-loop corrections to mass and coupling. In what follows we calculate n -point functions using momentum space Feynman rules. We associate different sets of Feynman rules for the S and $\hbar\Delta_1 S[\phi]$. Respectively, their vertices contribute factors $-g_R/\hbar$ (\bullet) and $-C_1$ (\circ) and their propagators are $\partial^2 - m_R^2$ and $\partial^2 - (B_1\hbar)^2$. Since there is an additional \hbar factor in the counter terms $\hbar\Delta_1 S[\phi]$, their tree-level diagrams mix with the S diagrams at one loop order (and the $\hbar\Delta_1 S$ on loop diagram contribute at the truncated two-loop order $O(\hbar^2)$). With this mixing in mind, we can approximate the momentum space irreducible 4-point function of momenta p_1, p_2, p_3, p_4 (collectively denoted p_i and all flowing inwards) with the following S diagrams

$$+ \Gamma_R^4(p_i) = g_R - \hbar \frac{g_R^2}{2} \left(I(p_1 + p_2, m_R) + I(p_1 + p_3, m_R) + I(p_1 + p_4, m_R) \right) + \hbar C_1 + O(\hbar^2)$$

where the dashed lines represent truncated propagators contributing a factor of 1 to the diagram expression and full lines are mass m_R propagators. The factor of 1/2 is the symmetry factor of the one-loop diagrams, the conserving delta factor is omitted to extract effective coupling (in the notation used here $\Gamma_R^4(p_i)$ is the 4-point irreducible function without this delta factor) and the loop integral I is given by

$$I(p_1 + p_2, m_R) = \int \frac{d^4k}{(2\pi)^4} \frac{1}{k^2 + m_R^2} \frac{1}{(k + p_1 + p_2)^2 + m_R^2}$$

where m_R was used for the mass instead of the bare mass $m_R^2 + \hbar B_1$ because the \hbar contribution is pushed to truncated orders of \hbar by the \hbar factor from the loop. The divergence of the integral is more explicit in 3-spherical coordinate with "z" axis along $p_1 + p_2$ ($p = \sqrt{(p_1 + p_2)^2}$). In these coordinated, we have the angle measure $d\Omega$, θ the angle between k and p and $q = \sqrt{k^2}$ leading to the expression

$$I(p_1 + p_2, m_R, \Lambda) = \int d\Omega \int_0^\Lambda \frac{dq}{(2\pi)^4} \frac{q^3}{q^2 + m_R^2} \frac{1}{q^2 + p^2 + 2\cos(\theta)pq + m_R^2}$$

where we have introduced a sharp momentum cutoff Λ to regulate UV divergence.

- (b) We now take the physical mass to be $m_R = 0$. Ignoring the low q contribution to extract UV divergence at $\Lambda/p \rightarrow \infty$ of $I(p_1 + p_2, m_R, \Lambda)$ we get

$$\begin{aligned} I(p, 0, \Lambda) &= \int d\Omega \int_0^\Lambda \frac{dq}{(2\pi)^4} \frac{q^3}{q^2 + p^2 + 2\cos(\theta)pq} \\ &= \int d\Omega \int_0^{\Lambda/p} \frac{d\tilde{q}}{(2\pi)^4} \frac{1}{\tilde{q}} \frac{1}{1 + 1/\tilde{q}^2 + 2\cos(\theta)/\tilde{q}} \sim \int d\Omega \int_0^{\Lambda/p} \frac{d\tilde{q}}{(2\pi)^4} \frac{1}{\tilde{q}} (1 + O(\tilde{q}^{-1})), \quad \tilde{q} = q/p \\ &\sim \frac{2\pi^2}{2^5\pi^4} \ln\left(\frac{\Lambda^2}{p^2}\right) + O((\Lambda/p)^{-1}) - \text{UV finite terms} \end{aligned}$$

- (c) Performing the same $\Lambda/p \rightarrow \infty$ expansion for the first derivative of I with respect to m_R^2 , yields

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial}{\partial m_R^2} I(p, m_R, \Lambda) &= \frac{\partial}{\partial m_R^2} \int d\Omega \int_0^\Lambda \frac{dq}{(2\pi)^4} \left[\frac{q^3}{q^2 + m_R^2 q^2 + p^2 + 2\cos(\theta)pq + m_R^2} \right] \\ &\sim \frac{\partial}{\partial m_R^2} \int d\Omega \int_0^{\Lambda/p} \frac{d\tilde{q}}{(2\pi)^4} \left[\frac{\tilde{q}^3}{(\tilde{q}^2 + m_R^2/p^2)^2} \right] \\ &\sim \int d\Omega \int_0^{\Lambda/p} \frac{d\tilde{q}}{(2\pi)^4} \left[\frac{-\tilde{q}^3}{p^2(\tilde{q}^2 + m_R^2/p^2)^3} \right] \sim \frac{1}{(4p\pi)^2} \left[\frac{1}{u} - \frac{m_R^2}{2u^2} \right]_{(m_R/p)^2}^{(\Lambda/p)^2 + (m_R/p)^2} \\ &\sim \frac{1}{(4\pi)^2} \left[\frac{1}{\Lambda^2 + m_R^2} - \frac{m_R^2}{2p^2((\Lambda/p)^2 + (m_R/p)^2)^2} \right] - \text{other UV finite terms} \end{aligned}$$

This result is finite in the limit $\Lambda/p \rightarrow \infty$ and the integral contains no additional divergence from the $m_R^2 \neq 0$ case (the first term in this result is UV divergent when integrated against m_R^2 , but the divergences is the one found in (b) and it does not depend on m_R : $\ln(\Lambda^2 + m_R^2) \sim \ln(\Lambda^2)$). Therefore, $I(p, m_R, \Lambda) \sim \frac{1}{(4\pi)^2} \ln\left(\frac{\Lambda^2}{p^2}\right)$.

- (d) Since the divergent behavior of the integral $I(p, m_R, \Lambda)$ is the same for $m_R = 0$, we study the counterterm C_1 in the massless theory form (d) to (h). At the energy momentum scale μ , we have

$$\Gamma_R^4(p_i^{\text{ref}}) = g_R, \quad (p_1 + p_2)^2 = (p_1 + p_3)^2 = (p_1 + p_4)^2 = \mu^2$$

which is consistent with

$$\begin{aligned} g_R &= g_R - \hbar \frac{g_R^2}{2} (I(\mu, m_R, \Lambda) + I(\mu, m_R, \Lambda) + I(\mu, m_R, \Lambda)) + \hbar C_1 + O(\hbar^2) \\ &\sim g_R - \hbar \frac{3g_R^2}{2} \left(\frac{1}{(4\pi)^2} \ln\left(\frac{\Lambda^2}{\mu^2}\right) \right) + \hbar C_1 + O(\hbar^2) \iff C_1 = \frac{3g_R^2}{2} \frac{1}{(4\pi)^2} \ln\left(\frac{\Lambda^2}{\mu^2}\right) + O(\hbar) \end{aligned}$$

where we have used the UV divergence leading contribution in $I(p, m_R, \Lambda)$ evaluated at $p = \mu$ (same result for the three scattering channels). This approach will work well if the additionnal finite terms in $I(\mu, m_R, \Lambda)$ are small compared to g_R (the C_1 contribution found here is only the UV divergent contribution).

- (e) Now that the counter term is approximated we can write

$$\begin{aligned} \Gamma_R^4(p_i) &\sim g_R - \hbar \frac{g_R^2}{2} (I(p_1 + p_2, m_R, \Lambda) + I(p_1 + p_3, m_R, \Lambda) + I(p_1 + p_4, m_R, \Lambda)) + \hbar \frac{3g_R^2}{2} \frac{1}{(4\pi)^2} \ln\left(\frac{\Lambda^2}{\mu^2}\right) + O(\hbar^2) \\ &\sim g_R - \hbar \frac{g_R^2}{2} \frac{1}{(4\pi)^2} \left(\ln\left(\frac{\Lambda^2}{(p_1 + p_2)^2}\right) + \ln\left(\frac{\Lambda^2}{(p_1 + p_3)^2}\right) + \ln\left(\frac{\Lambda^2}{(p_1 + p_4)^2}\right) \right) + \hbar \frac{3g_R^2}{2} \frac{1}{(4\pi)^2} \ln\left(\frac{\Lambda^2}{\mu^2}\right) + O(\hbar^2) \\ &\sim g_R - \hbar \frac{g_R^2}{2} \frac{1}{(4\pi)^2} \left(\ln\left(\frac{\mu^2}{(p_1 + p_2)^2}\right) + \ln\left(\frac{\mu^2}{(p_1 + p_3)^2}\right) + \ln\left(\frac{\mu^2}{(p_1 + p_4)^2}\right) \right) + O(\hbar^2) \end{aligned}$$

In what follows, we replace \sim with $=$ keeping in mind that some terms are missing.

- (f) We could have built the previous result from a different physical coupling g'_R at scale μ' . Since $\Gamma_R^4(p_i)$ is a result from the theory with no dependance on experiment, it is independant of the choice of the reference energy momentum. This can be expressed as $\Gamma_R^4(p_i, g_R, \mu) = \Gamma_R^4(p_i, g'_R, \mu')$ and suggests that g_R depends on μ to keep $\Gamma_R^4(p_i)$ the same at p_i as μ changes. We now suppose μ' is close to μ to write the expansion $g'_R = g_R + (\dots)g_R^2 + O(g_R^3)$ and get (at $O(\hbar^2)$)

$$\begin{aligned} g_R - \hbar \frac{g_R^2}{2} \frac{1}{(4\pi)^2} \ln \left(\frac{\mu^6}{(p_1 + p_2)^2 (p_1 + p_3)^2 (p_1 + p_4)^2} \right) &= g'_R - \hbar \frac{(g'_R)^2}{2} \frac{1}{(4\pi)^2} \ln \left(\frac{(\mu')^6}{(p_1 + p_2)^2 (p_1 + p_3)^2 (p_1 + p_4)^2} \right) \\ \Rightarrow g_R - 6\hbar \frac{g_R^2}{2} \frac{1}{(4\pi)^2} \ln(\mu) &= g'_R - 6\hbar \frac{(g'_R)^2}{2} \frac{1}{(4\pi)^2} \ln(\mu') = g'_R - 6\hbar \frac{g_R^2}{2} \frac{1}{(4\pi)^2} \ln(\mu') + O(g_R^3) \\ \Rightarrow g'_R &= g_R + 6\hbar \frac{g_R^2}{2} \frac{1}{(4\pi)^2} \ln(\mu') - 6\hbar \frac{g_R^2}{2} \frac{1}{(4\pi)^2} \ln(\mu) + O(g_R^3) = g_R + \hbar \frac{3g_R^2}{(4\pi)^2} \ln \left(\frac{\mu'}{\mu} \right) + O(g_R^3). \end{aligned}$$

- (g) To obtain the beta function for the one-loop effective coupling of ϕ^4 theory, we take $\mu' = \mu + \delta\mu$ leading to

$$\begin{aligned} g'_R &= g_R + \hbar \frac{3g_R^2}{(4\pi)^2} \ln \left(\frac{\mu + \delta\mu}{\mu} \right) + O(g_R^3) = g_R + \hbar \frac{3g_R^2}{(4\pi)^2} \ln(1 + \delta\mu/\mu) + O(g_R^3, \delta\mu^2) \\ &= g_R + \hbar \frac{3g_R^2}{(4\pi)^2} \frac{\delta\mu}{\mu} + O(g_R^3, \delta\mu^2) \Rightarrow \beta_g(g_R(\mu)) := \mu \lim_{\delta\mu \rightarrow 0} \frac{g'_R - g_R}{\delta\mu} = \hbar \frac{3g_R^2}{(4\pi)^2} + O(g_R^3). \end{aligned}$$

Note for Dan: During the interview, I tried to obtain this result by differentiating $\Gamma_R^4(p_i)$ with respect to μ , taking into account implicit dependance on μ in g_R and setting the result to 0. Explicitly

$$0 = \frac{dg_R}{d\mu} - \hbar g_R \frac{dg_R}{d\mu} \frac{1}{(4\pi)^2} \left(\ln \left(\frac{\mu^2}{(p_1 + p_2)^2} \right) + \dots \right) - \hbar g_R^2 \frac{1}{(4\pi)^2 \mu} + O(\hbar^2)$$

taking the momentums to be at reference scale μ removes the logarithm term vanish and we recover the desired result. If we instead solve for the beta function, we get

$$\beta_g(g_R(\mu)) = \hbar g_R^2 \frac{1}{(4\pi)^2 \mu} \frac{1}{1 - \hbar g_R \frac{1}{(4\pi)^2} \ln \left(\frac{\mu^2}{(p_1 + p_2)^2} + \dots \right)} + O(\hbar^2).$$

Note that the g_R expansion of this result truncated at $O(g_R^2)$ gives the right result. The additionnal terms are also $O(\hbar^2)$ and do not contribute at one-loop.

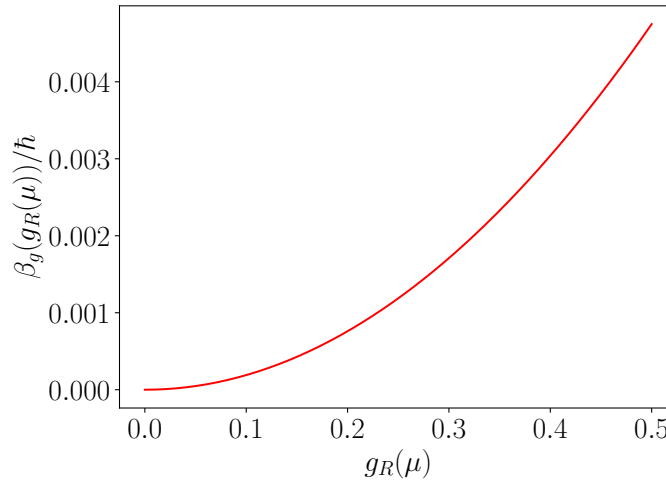
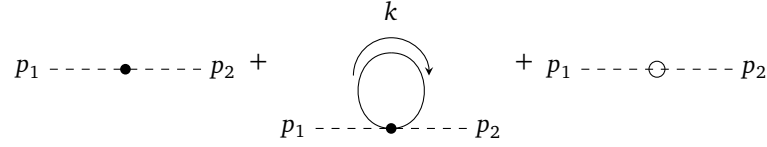


Figure 1: Beta function for the effective coupling g_R at scale μ as a function of g_R

- (h) In fig.1, we see that the beta function for the effective coupling is positive and strictly increasing for $g_R > 0$. Since the beta function is a derivative of g_R with respect to μ , its positivity tells us that, as the energy momentum scale increases, the effective coupling also increases. At some point the increase in the effective coupling will break the assumption of small g_R required for a good approximation of the beta function at $O(g_R^2)$ and further analysis will be required. If we decrease μ , g_R is reduced at a rate $\propto g_R^2$ (the decrease will slow down as $g_R = 0$ is approached). Going to low energy, we approach $g_R = 0$ (free theory).
- (i) Using the decomposition of the action described above, we can perturbatively calculate the irreducible two-point function as



$$= \Gamma_R^2(p_i) = m_R^2 + p^2 + \hbar \frac{g_R}{2} T(m_R) + \hbar B_1 + O(\hbar^2)$$

where the full line represents a propagator associated to mass m_R (in principle it involves the bare mass $m_R^2 + \hbar B_1$, but the counter term contribution is shifted out of the one-loop expansion by the factor of \hbar from the loop) and the dashed lines are truncated propagators. A symmetry factor of $1/2$ is included for the loop diagram. The first and last terms are doubly truncated and are respectively associated to mass m_R (marked with \bullet) and $\hbar B_1$ (marked with \circ). These two diagrams represent the bare mass doubly truncated propagator $m_R^2 + \hbar B_1 + p^2$. The loop integral T is given by

$$T(m_R) = \int \frac{d^4 k}{(2\pi)^4} \frac{1}{k^2 + m_R^2} = \int d\Omega \int \frac{dk}{(2\pi)^4} \frac{k^3}{k^2 + m_R^2} = \frac{2}{(4\pi)^2} \int dk \frac{k^3}{k^2 + m_R^2}.$$

To UV regulate this integral, we introduce a sharp UV cutoff Λ to get

$$T(m_R, \Lambda) = \frac{2}{(4\pi)^2} \int_0^\Lambda dk \frac{k^3}{k^2 + m_R^2}.$$

- (j) We take a detour to show how the D dimensionnal angular integral $\int \text{text} d\Omega_D$ is evaluated. Consider the following Gaussian integral on D real variables x_i :

$$I = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dx_1 \cdots dx_D \exp\left(-\sum_{i=1}^D x_i^2\right) = \prod_{i=1}^D \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dx_i \exp(-x_i^2) = (\sqrt{\pi})^D.$$

We can express this integral in a hyperspherical coordinate system with radius variable $r^2 = \sum_{i=1}^D x_i^2$ and angular variables associated to a measure $d\Omega_D$. It then reads

$$I = \int d\Omega_D \int_0^\infty dr r^{D-1} \exp(-r^2).$$

To bring this result closer to the definition of the gamma function, we perform the change of variables $r^2 = u$ associated to $dr = du/(2\sqrt{u})$ to obtain

$$I = \frac{1}{2} \int d\Omega_D \int_0^\infty du u^{(D-1)/2-1/2} \exp(-u) = \frac{1}{2} \int d\Omega_D \frac{1}{2} \int d\Omega_D \int_0^\infty du u^{D/2-1} \exp(-u) = \frac{1}{2} \int d\Omega_D \Gamma(D/2).$$

Comparing this result with the direct gaussian integral evaluation, we find

$$(\sqrt{\pi})^D = \frac{1}{2} \int d\Omega_D \Gamma(D/2) \iff \int d\Omega_D = \frac{2\pi^{D/2}}{\Gamma(D/2)} = 2\pi^2 \quad (D=4).$$

(k) We can now evaluate the k remaining integral in $T(m_R, \Lambda)$ as follows

$$\begin{aligned}
T(m_R, \Lambda) &= \frac{2}{(4\pi)^2} \int_0^\Lambda dk \frac{k^3}{k^2 + m_R^2} \\
&= \frac{2}{(4\pi)^2} \int_{m_R^2}^{\Lambda^2 + m_R^2} du \frac{u - m_R^2}{2u}, \quad \text{with } u = k^2 + m_R^2, \quad du/2 = k dk \\
&= \frac{2}{(4\pi)^2} \left[\frac{1}{2} u - \frac{m_R^2}{2} \ln |u| \right]_{m_R^2}^{\Lambda^2 + m_R^2} = \frac{1}{(4\pi)^2} \left(\Lambda^2 - \frac{m_R^2}{2} \ln \left(\frac{\Lambda^2 + m_R^2}{m_R^2} \right) \right) \\
&\sim \frac{1}{(4\pi)^2} \left(\Lambda^2 - \frac{m_R^2}{2} \ln \left(\frac{\Lambda^2}{m_R^2} \right) \right) \quad (\Lambda/m_R \rightarrow \infty).
\end{aligned}$$

We have identified two UV divergent terms: one is quadratic and the other is logarithmic.

- (l)
- (m)
- (n)
- (o)
- (p)

2 Acknowledgement

Thanks to Dan for guidance in the interview which is related to my answer to (f)