

# Fermi Gas

Jie Ren

## 1 Fourier transformation convention

We use box normalization so that both momentums and Matsubara frequency are discrete. We combine the position with time, and similarly momentum with frequency to form a four-vectors

$$\begin{aligned}x &:= (\mathbf{x}, \tau), \\p &:= (\mathbf{p}, \omega),\end{aligned}$$

where Matsubara frequency is:

$$\omega_n = \begin{cases} 2n\pi/\beta & \text{boson} \\ (2n+1)\pi/\beta & \text{fermion} \end{cases}.$$

For convenience, we define the inner product

$$p \cdot x := \mathbf{p} \cdot \mathbf{x} - \omega\tau.$$

The Fourier transformation of fields is

$$\begin{aligned}\psi_p &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{\beta L^d}} \int_0^\beta d\tau \int d^d x e^{-ip \cdot x} \psi_x, \\ \psi_x &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{\beta L^d}} \sum_\omega \sum_{\mathbf{p}} e^{+ip \cdot x} \psi_p.\end{aligned}$$

Strictly speaking, the spatial integral should be written as  $\int_V d^d x$ . While generally, we consider it to be “semi-infinite” - while the integral is done on the infinite space, the system can still have a macroscopic volume denoted by  $V$ .

A slightly different normalization is taken for Fourier transformation of functions:

$$\begin{aligned}f(\mathbf{k}) &= \frac{1}{L^d} \int d^d x e^{-i\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{x}} f(\mathbf{x}), \\ f(\mathbf{x}) &= \sum_{\mathbf{k}} e^{+i\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{x}} f(\mathbf{x}).\end{aligned}$$

Oftentimes, we are considering a semi-continuous system, where we can always make the substitution:

$$\sum_{\mathbf{k}} \rightarrow L^d \int \frac{d^d k}{(2\pi)^d},$$

and in zero-temperature limit, we can replace frequency sum by integral:

$$\sum_l \rightarrow \beta \int \frac{d\omega}{2\pi}$$

## 2 Action

The action of interacting Fermi gas is:

$$\begin{aligned}
S &= S_0 + S_1, \\
S_0 &= \int d^4x \sum_{\sigma} \bar{\psi}^{\sigma}(x) \left( \partial_{\tau} - \frac{\nabla^2}{2m} - \mu \right) \psi^{\sigma}(x), \\
S_1 &= \frac{1}{2} \int d^4x_1 \int d^4x_2 \sum_{\sigma, \sigma'} \bar{\psi}^{\sigma}(x_1) \bar{\psi}^{\sigma'}(x_2) V(\mathbf{x}_1 - \mathbf{x}_2) \psi^{\sigma'}(x_2) \psi^{\sigma}(x_1).
\end{aligned}$$

Where the  $V(\mathbf{r})$  is the Coulomb interaction

$$V(\mathbf{r}) = \frac{e^2}{r}.$$

In momentum space:

$$\psi_p^{\sigma} = \sqrt{\frac{T}{L^3}} \sum_x e^{-ip \cdot x} \psi^{\sigma}(x).$$

The action is then

$$\begin{aligned}
S_0 &= \sum_p \sum_{\sigma} \bar{\psi}_p^{\sigma} \left( -i\omega_l + \frac{\mathbf{p}^2}{2m} - \mu \right) \psi_p^{\sigma}, \\
S_1 &= \frac{T}{2L^3} \sum_{p_1, p_2, k} \sum_{\sigma, \sigma'} \bar{\psi}_{p_1+k}^{\sigma} \bar{\psi}_{p_2-k}^{\sigma'} V(\mathbf{k}) \psi_{p_2}^{\sigma'} \psi_{p_1}^{\sigma}.
\end{aligned}$$

The  $V(\mathbf{q})$  is the Fourier transformed interaction:

$$\begin{aligned}
V(\mathbf{k}) &= \lim_{\alpha \rightarrow 0} e^2 \int d^3r \frac{e^{-i\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{r} - \alpha r}}{r} \\
&= \lim_{\alpha \rightarrow 0} e^2 \int_0^{+\infty} r^2 dr \int_{-1}^{+1} d(\cos \theta) \int_0^{2\pi} d\theta \frac{e^{-ikr \cos \theta - \alpha r}}{r} \\
&= \lim_{\alpha \rightarrow 0} 2\pi e^2 \int_0^{+\infty} dr \cdot r e^{-\alpha r} \frac{e^{-ikr} - e^{ikr}}{-iqr} \\
&= \lim_{\alpha \rightarrow 0} \frac{2\pi e^2}{ik} \int_0^{+\infty} dr \left( e^{(ik-\alpha)r} - e^{(-ik-\alpha)r} \right) \\
&= \lim_{\alpha \rightarrow 0} \frac{2\pi e^2}{ik} \left[ \frac{-1}{ik-\alpha} - \frac{-1}{-ik-\alpha} \right] \\
&= \lim_{\alpha \rightarrow 0} \frac{4\pi e^2}{k^2 + \alpha^2} \\
&= \frac{4\pi e^2}{k^2}.
\end{aligned}$$

The exponential of action can then be expanded in perturbative series:

$$\begin{aligned}
e^{-S} &= e^{-S_0} e^{-S_1} \\
&= e^{-S_0} \cdot \sum_{n=0}^{+\infty} \frac{(-1)^n}{n!} S_1^n.
\end{aligned}$$

### 3 Gaussian integral and frequency summation

#### 3.1 Grassmann variable

Grassmann number has the defining properties:

$$\begin{aligned}\psi_1\psi_2 &= -\psi_2\psi_1, \\ f(\psi) &= 1 + f'(0)\psi, \\ \int d\psi &= 0, \\ \int d\psi\psi &= \partial_\psi\psi = 1.\end{aligned}$$

With those relations, the Gaussian form is actually a quadratic form:

$$e^{-a\bar{\psi}\psi} = 1 - a\bar{\psi}\psi,$$

so the Gaussian integral is

$$\begin{aligned}\int d\bar{\psi}d\psi e^{-\bar{\psi}a\psi} &= \int d\bar{\psi}d\psi (1 - a\bar{\psi}\psi) \\ &= a \int d\bar{\psi}d\psi \psi\bar{\psi} \\ &= a, \\ \int d\bar{\psi}d\psi e^{-\bar{\psi}a\psi + \bar{u}\psi + \bar{\psi}v} &= ae^{\bar{u}v}, \\ \int d\bar{\psi}d\psi e^{-\bar{\psi}^T \mathbf{A} \psi + \bar{\mathbf{u}}^T \cdot \psi + \bar{\psi}^T \cdot \mathbf{v}} &= \det \mathbf{A} e^{\bar{\mathbf{u}}^T \mathbf{A}^{-1} \mathbf{v}}.\end{aligned}$$

#### 3.2 Wick's theorem

We define an averaging by Gaussian integral:

$$\langle \dots \rangle := \frac{\int D[\bar{\psi}, \psi] (\dots) \exp(-\bar{\psi}^T \mathbf{A} \psi)}{\int D[\bar{\psi}, \psi] \exp(-\bar{\psi}^T \mathbf{A} \psi)},$$

where the measure is

$$D[\psi^\dagger, \psi] := \prod_i d\psi_i^* d\psi_i$$

Wick's theorem is used to calculate the  $2n$  point correlation function:

$$\langle \psi_{i_1} \dots \psi_{i_n} \bar{\psi}_{j_1} \dots \bar{\psi}_{j_n} \rangle$$

The corresponding generating function is

$$\begin{aligned}Z[\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}] &:= \frac{\int D[\bar{\psi}, \psi] \exp(-\bar{\psi}^T \mathbf{A} \psi + \bar{\mathbf{u}}^T \cdot \psi + \bar{\psi}^T \cdot \mathbf{v})}{\int D[\bar{\psi}, \psi] \exp(-\bar{\psi}^T \mathbf{A} \psi)} \\ &= \exp(\bar{\mathbf{u}}^T \mathbf{A}^{-1} \mathbf{v}) \\ &= \prod_{i,j} \exp[\bar{u}_i (\mathbf{A}^{-1})_{ij} v_j].\end{aligned}$$

The correlation function can be derived by differentiating the generating function:

$$\begin{aligned}
\langle \psi_{i_1} \cdots \psi_{i_n} \bar{\psi}_{j_1} \cdots \bar{\psi}_{j_n} \rangle &= \frac{\partial^{2n} F[\bar{\mathbf{u}}, \mathbf{v}]}{\partial \bar{u}_{i_1} \cdots \partial \bar{u}_{i_n} \partial v_{j_1} \cdots \partial v_{j_n}} \Big|_{\bar{\mathbf{u}}=\mathbf{v}=0} \\
&= \frac{\partial^n}{\partial \bar{u}_{i_1} \cdots \partial \bar{u}_{i_n}} \prod_{mn} \bar{u}_m (\mathbf{A}^{-1})_{mj_n} \Big|_{\mathbf{u}=0} \\
&= \sum_P \text{sign} P \cdot (\mathbf{A}^{-1})_{i_1 j_{P1}} \cdots (\mathbf{A}^{-1})_{i_n j_{Pn}}
\end{aligned}$$

### 3.3 Matsubara summation

Use fermion distribution function

$$n_F(z) := \frac{1}{\exp(\beta z) + 1}$$

as auxiliary function. The summation  $\sum_l f(\omega_l)$  could be evaluated by a loop integral:

$$\sum_l f(\omega_l) = -\beta \oint \frac{dz}{2\pi i} n_F(z) f(i\omega_l \rightarrow z).$$

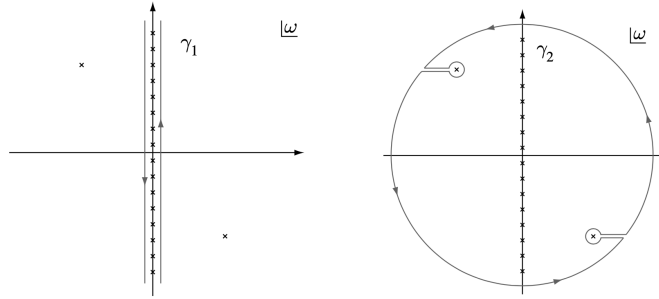


Figure 3.1: Integration contour

If function  $f(i\omega_l \rightarrow z)$  has simple poles, the integral can be evaluated using residue theorem:

$$\sum_l f(\omega_l) = \beta \sum_{z_k} n_F(z_k) \text{Res}[f(i\omega_l \rightarrow z)]|_{z=z_k}.$$

## 4 Free Fermi gas

The unperturbed action is:

$$S_0 = \sum_p \sum_\sigma \bar{\psi}_p^\sigma \left( -i\omega_l + \frac{\mathbf{p}^2}{2m} - \mu \right) \psi_p^\sigma.$$

The free field average is:

$$\langle \cdots \rangle_0 = \frac{\int D[\bar{\psi}, \psi] (\cdots) \exp(-S_0)}{\int D[\bar{\psi}, \psi] \exp(-S_0)}.$$

## 4.1 Green function

The Green function of the quadratic field action is:

$$G_{\sigma\sigma'}^{(0)}(p) = \frac{\delta_{\sigma\sigma'}}{i\omega_l - \frac{p^2}{2m} + \mu}.$$

Sum the Matsubara frequency:

$$\begin{aligned} G_{\sigma\sigma'}^{(0)}(\mathbf{p}) &= \sum_l \frac{\delta_{\sigma\sigma'}}{i\omega_l - \frac{p^2}{2m} + \mu} \\ &= \sum_{z_k} \frac{\beta \delta_{\sigma\sigma'}}{\exp(\beta z_k) + 1} \operatorname{Res} \left[ \frac{1}{z - \frac{p^2}{2m} + \mu} \right] \Big|_{z=z_k} \\ &= \frac{\beta \delta_{\sigma\sigma'}}{e^{\beta(\epsilon_{\mathbf{p}} - \mu)} + 1} \\ &= \delta_{\sigma\sigma'} \beta n_F(\epsilon_{\mathbf{p}} - \mu). \end{aligned}$$

## 4.2 Free energy

The partition function

$$\mathcal{Z}^{(0)} = \prod_{\mathbf{p}, \sigma} \left( -i\omega_l + \frac{p^2}{2m} - \mu \right)$$

gives the free energy:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{F}^{(0)} &= -T \ln \mathcal{Z} \\ &= -2T \sum_{\mathbf{p}} \sum_l \ln \left( -i\omega_l + \frac{p^2}{2m} - \mu \right). \end{aligned}$$

The Matsubara summation is done by integrating over a path circumventing the branch cut:

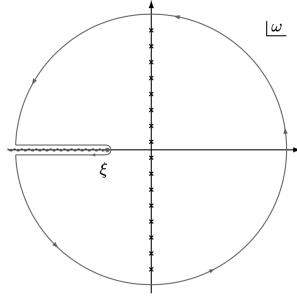


Figure 4.1: Integration contour

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_l \ln \left( -i\omega_l + \frac{p^2}{2m} - \mu \right) &= -\beta \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \frac{dz}{2\pi i} n_F(z) \ln \left( \frac{z^+ - \frac{p^2}{2m} + \mu}{z^- - \frac{p^2}{2m} + \mu} \right) \\ &\stackrel{b.p.}{\Rightarrow} - \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} \frac{dz}{2\pi i} \ln(1 + e^{-\beta z}) \left[ \frac{1}{z - \frac{p^2}{2m} + \mu + i\eta} - \frac{1}{z - \frac{p^2}{2m} + \mu - i\eta} \right] \\ &= \ln(1 + e^{-\beta(\epsilon_{\mathbf{p}} - \mu)}), \end{aligned}$$

where we have used the identity:

$$\lim_{\eta \rightarrow 0^+} \frac{1}{x \pm i\eta} = \mp i\pi\delta(x) + \mathcal{P}\left(\frac{1}{x}\right).$$

So the free energy is:

$$\mathcal{F}^{(0)} = 2T \sum_{\mathbf{p}} \ln \left( 1 + e^{-\beta(\epsilon_{\mathbf{p}} - \mu)} \right).$$

In low-T limit:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{F}^{(0)} &\approx 2 \sum_{p < k_F} \left( \frac{p^2}{2m} - \mu \right) \\ &= \frac{2L^3}{(2\pi)^3} \cdot 4\pi \cdot \int_0^{k_F} dp \cdot p^2 \cdot \frac{p^2 - k_F^2}{2m} \\ &= -\frac{2L^3}{(2\pi)^3} \cdot 4\pi \cdot \frac{k_F^5}{15m} \\ &= -\frac{L^3 k_F^5}{15\pi^2 m} \end{aligned}$$

Note that:

$$\begin{aligned} N &= \sum_{p < k_F} \sum_{\sigma} 1 \\ &= \frac{2L^3}{(2\pi)^3} \cdot \frac{4\pi}{3} k_F^3. \end{aligned}$$

So the free energy can be further simplified to:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{F}^{(0)} &\approx -\frac{2L^3}{(2\pi)^3} \cdot \frac{4\pi}{3} k_F^3 \cdot \frac{k_F^2}{5m} \\ &= -\frac{2}{5} N \mu. \end{aligned}$$

## 5 Free energy RPA

The functional integral to the first order is:

$$\int D[\bar{\psi}, \psi] e^{-S} \xrightarrow{1^{st}} \int D[\bar{\psi}, \psi] (-S_1) e^{-S_0}.$$

Now consider the Feynman rule for free energy

$$\mathcal{F} = -T \ln \mathcal{Z}$$

By some combinatory relation, the sum of all bubble graphs can be decomposed into the product of the summation of connected bubble graphs, divided by permutation number  $n!$  :

$$\begin{aligned}
& \left( \text{diagram 1} + \text{diagram 2} \right) + \left( \text{diagram 3} + \text{diagram 4} + \text{diagram 5} + \text{diagram 6} \right) \\
& + \left( \text{diagram 7} + \text{diagram 8} + \text{diagram 9} + \text{diagram 10} + \text{diagram 11} + \text{diagram 12} \right) + \text{higher order} \\
& = \sum_n \frac{1}{n!} \left( \text{diagram 1} + \text{diagram 2} + \text{diagram 3} + \text{diagram 4} + \text{diagram 5} + \text{diagram 6} \right)^n
\end{aligned}$$

Figure 5.1: Cluster decomposition

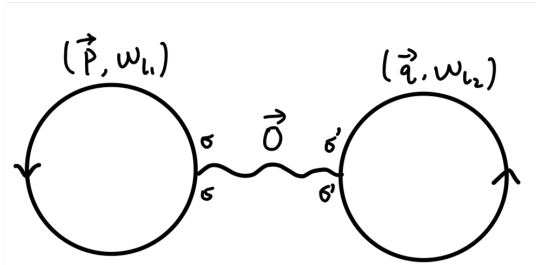
$$\begin{aligned}
Z &= Z_0 \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^n}{n!} \langle S_1^n \rangle_0 \\
&= Z_0 \prod_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n!} \left( \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^m}{m!} \langle S_1^m \rangle_0^c \right)^n \\
&= Z_0 \exp \left( \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^m}{m!} \langle S_1^m \rangle_0^c \right).
\end{aligned}$$

The perturbative expansion of free energy is then:

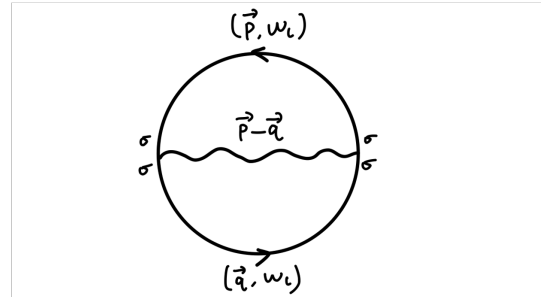
$$\mathcal{F} = \mathcal{F}^{(0)} - T \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^m}{m!} \langle S_1^m \rangle_0^c.$$

## 5.1 First order

To the first order:



(a) Hatree term.



(b) Fock term.

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathcal{F}^{(1)} &= \frac{T^2}{2L^3} \sum_{p_1, p_2, k} \sum_{\sigma, \sigma'} \left\langle \bar{\psi}_{p_1+k}^{\sigma} \bar{\psi}_{p_2-k}^{\sigma'} V(\mathbf{k}) \psi_{p_2}^{\sigma'} \psi_{p_1}^{\sigma} \right\rangle_0^c \\
&= \mathcal{F}_{\text{Hatree}}^{(1)} + \mathcal{F}_{\text{Fock}}^{(1)},
\end{aligned}$$

where the Hartree and Fock term is:

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathcal{F}_{Hartree}^{(1)} &= \frac{2T^2}{L^3} \sum_{\mathbf{p}_1, \mathbf{p}_2} G_{\mathbf{p}_1}^{(0)} G_{\mathbf{p}_2}^{(0)} V(\mathbf{0}) \\
&= 0, \\
\mathcal{F}_{Fock}^{(1)} &= -\frac{T^2}{L^3} \sum_{\mathbf{p}_1, \mathbf{p}_2} G_{\mathbf{p}_2}^{(0)} G_{\mathbf{p}_1}^{(0)} V(\mathbf{p}_1 - \mathbf{p}_2) \\
&= -\frac{1}{L^3} \sum_{\mathbf{p}_1, \mathbf{p}_2} n_F(\epsilon_{\mathbf{p}_1} - \mu) n_F(\epsilon_{\mathbf{p}_2} - \mu) \frac{4\pi e^2}{|\mathbf{p}_1 - \mathbf{p}_2|^2} \\
&= -L^3 \int \frac{d^3 p_1}{(2\pi)^3} \int \frac{d^3 p_2}{(2\pi)^3} n_F(\epsilon_{\mathbf{p}_1} - \mu) n_F(\epsilon_{\mathbf{p}_2} - \mu) \frac{4\pi e^2}{|\mathbf{p}_1 - \mathbf{p}_2|^2}.
\end{aligned}$$

In low-T limit:

$$\mathcal{F}_{Fock}^{(1)} \approx -\frac{2e^2 L^3}{(2\pi)^5} \int_{p, q < k_F} \frac{d^3 p d^3 q}{|\mathbf{p} - \mathbf{q}|^2}.$$

The integral is:

$$\begin{aligned}
I &= \int_{p, q < k_F} d^3 p d^3 q \frac{1}{|\mathbf{p} - \mathbf{q}|^2} \\
&= 4\pi \int_0^{k_F} p^2 dp \int_0^{k_F} q^2 dq \int_{-1}^{+1} d(\cos \theta) \int_0^{2\pi} d\theta \frac{1}{p^2 + q^2 - 2pq \cos \theta} \\
&= 8\pi^2 \int_0^{k_F} p^2 dp \int_0^{k_F} q^2 dq \int_{-1}^{+1} \frac{d(p^2 + q^2 - 2pq \cos \theta)}{-2pq} \frac{1}{p^2 + q^2 - 2pq \cos \theta} \\
&= 8\pi^2 \int_0^{k_F} p^2 dp \int_0^{k_F} q^2 dq \frac{1}{pq} \ln \left| \frac{p+q}{p-q} \right| \\
&= 16\pi^2 \int_0^{k_F} p^3 dp \int_0^1 dt \left[ t \ln \left( \frac{1+t}{1-t} \right) \right] \\
&= 16\pi^2 \int_0^{k_F} p^3 dp \left[ \int_0^1 dx (x-1) \ln x + \int_1^2 dx (x-1) \ln x \right] \\
&= 16\pi^2 \int_0^{k_F} p^3 dp \left[ \frac{t^2 \ln t}{2} - \frac{t^2}{4} + t - t \ln t \right] \Big|_0^2 \\
&= 16\pi^2 \int_0^{k_F} p^3 dp \\
&= (2\pi)^2 k_F^4.
\end{aligned}$$

So the free energy to the first order is:

$$\mathcal{F}^{(1)} = \mathcal{F}_{Fock}^{(1)} = -\frac{2e^2 L^3 k_F^4}{(2\pi)^3}.$$

## 5.2 Random phase approximation

The largest perturbative contribution is the ring graphs:



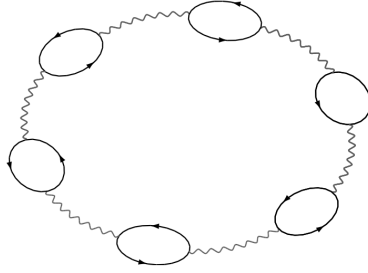


Figure 5.2: Ring graph

$$F_{RPA}^{(n)} = -\frac{T}{2n} \sum_q \left( \frac{2T}{L^3} \sum_p G_p^{(0)} G_{p+q}^{(0)} \right)^n,$$

where  $2n$  is the symmetry factor. To evaluate the  $n^{th}$  order free energy, we first calculate the polarization operator:

$$\begin{aligned} \Pi_q &:= \frac{2T}{L^3} \sum_{\mathbf{p}} \sum_{\omega_p} G_p^{(0)} G_{p+q}^{(0)} \\ &= \frac{2T}{L^3} \sum_{\mathbf{p}} \sum_{\omega_p} \frac{1}{i\omega_p - \epsilon_{\mathbf{p}} + \mu} \cdot \frac{1}{i(\omega_p + \omega_q) - \epsilon_{\mathbf{p}+\mathbf{q}} + \mu} \\ &= \frac{2}{L^3} \sum_{\mathbf{p}} \frac{n_F(\epsilon_{\mathbf{p}+\mathbf{q}} - \mu) - n_F(\epsilon_{\mathbf{p}} - \mu)}{-i\omega_q + \epsilon_{\mathbf{p}+\mathbf{q}} - \epsilon_{\mathbf{p}}} \\ &= \frac{2}{(2\pi)^3} \int d^3p \frac{n_F(\epsilon_{\mathbf{p}+\mathbf{q}} - \mu) - n_F(\epsilon_{\mathbf{p}} - \mu)}{-i\omega_q + \epsilon_{\mathbf{p}+\mathbf{q}} - \epsilon_{\mathbf{p}}}. \end{aligned}$$

To evaluate the integration, first note that for small  $\mathbf{q}$  and low temperature, we can linearize the energy and distribution difference:

$$\begin{aligned} \epsilon_{\mathbf{p}+\mathbf{q}} - \epsilon_{\mathbf{p}} &\approx \frac{\mathbf{p} \cdot \mathbf{q}}{m}, \\ n_F(\epsilon_{\mathbf{p}+\mathbf{q}} - \mu) - n_F(\epsilon_{\mathbf{p}} - \mu) &\approx \frac{\partial n_F}{\partial \epsilon}(\epsilon_{\mathbf{p}} - \mu) \cdot \frac{\mathbf{p} \cdot \mathbf{q}}{m} \\ &\approx -\delta^{(3)}(\epsilon_{\mathbf{p}} - \mu) \cdot \frac{\mathbf{p} \cdot \mathbf{q}}{m}. \end{aligned}$$

So the integration becomes:

$$\begin{aligned} \Pi_q &\approx \frac{-2}{(2\pi)^3} \int p_F^2 dp \delta\left(\frac{p^2}{2m} - \mu\right) \int_{-1}^{+1} d(\cos \theta) \int_0^{2\pi} d\phi \frac{p_F q \cos \theta / m}{-i\omega_q + p_F q \cos \theta / m} \\ &= -\frac{1}{2\pi^2} \int p_F^2 dp \delta\left(\frac{p^2}{2m} - \mu\right) \int_{-1}^{+1} d(\cos \theta) \frac{v_F q \cos \theta}{-i\omega_q + v_F q \cos \theta} \\ &= -\frac{1}{2\pi^2} \int p_F^2 dp \delta\left(\frac{p^2}{2m} - \mu\right) \left[ 1 + \frac{i\omega_q}{2v_F q} \ln \left( \frac{i\omega_q + v_F q}{i\omega_q - v_F q} \right) \right] \\ &= -\frac{mp_F}{\pi^2} \left[ 1 - \frac{i\omega_q}{2v_F q} \ln \left( \frac{i\omega_q + v_F q}{i\omega_q - v_F q} \right) \right]. \end{aligned}$$

where we have used

$$\delta(f(z)) = \sum_{z_k} \frac{\delta(z - z_k)}{|f'(z_k)|}.$$

## 6 Self energy

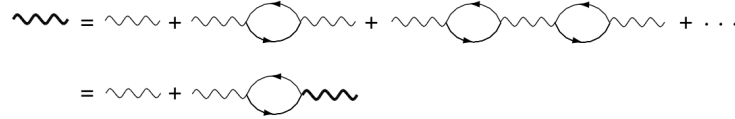


Figure 6.1: Photon self energy

$$\begin{aligned} V_{eff}(q) &= V(q) + V(q) \Pi_q V_{eff}(q) \\ &= \frac{V(q)}{1 - V(q) \Pi_q} \\ &=: \frac{V(q)}{\epsilon(q)}, \end{aligned}$$

where we have defined a dielectric function:

$$\epsilon(q) := 1 - V(q) \Pi_q.$$

For small  $q$  and  $\omega_q$  :

$$\omega_q \ll qv_F,$$

$$\Pi(q, \omega_q) \approx -\frac{mp_F}{\pi^2} =: -\nu_0.$$

In this limit:

$$V(q) \approx \frac{1}{V^{-1}(q) + \nu_0} = \frac{4\pi e^2}{q^2 + 4\pi e^2 \nu_0} =: \frac{4\pi e^2}{q^2 + \lambda^{-2}}.$$

The  $\lambda := (4\pi e^2 \nu_0)^{-1/2}$  is the Thomas-Fermi screening length. To see the physical meaning, do the inverse Fourier transformation:

$$\begin{aligned} V(r) &= \int \frac{d^3 q}{(2\pi)^3} e^{i\mathbf{q} \cdot \mathbf{r}} \frac{4\pi e^2}{q^2 + \lambda^{-2}} \\ &= \frac{e^2}{\pi} \int_0^{+\infty} q^2 dq \int_{-1}^{+1} d(\cos \theta) \frac{e^{iqr \cos \theta}}{q^2 + \lambda^{-2}} \\ &= \frac{e^2}{i\pi r} \int_0^{+\infty} dq \frac{q}{q^2 + \lambda^{-2}} (e^{+iqr} - e^{-iqr}) \\ &= \frac{e^2}{i\pi r} \int_{-\infty}^{+\infty} dq \frac{q}{q^2 + \lambda^{-2}} e^{+iqr}. \end{aligned}$$

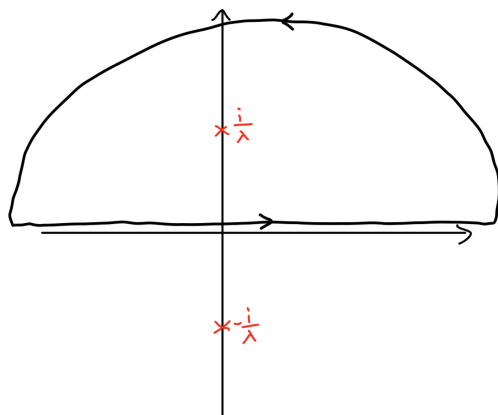


Figure 6.2: Integration contour

Apply residue theorem to get the result:

$$\text{Res} \left[ \frac{q}{q^2 + \lambda^{-2}} e^{+iqr} \right] \Big|_{q=\frac{i}{\lambda}} = \frac{1}{2} e^{-\frac{r}{\lambda}},$$

$$V(r) = \frac{e^2}{r} e^{-\frac{r}{\lambda}}.$$