

QFT with FDR

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I discuss the latest developments of FDR in the context of quantum field theory calculations relevant for high-energy particle physics phenomenology. In particular, I focus on NNLO computations and on the use of FDR in connection with effective field theories.

14th International Symposium on Radiative Corrections (RADCOR2019)9-13 September 2019Palais des Papes, Avignon, France

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1. Introduction

The overwhelming need for precise theoretical predictions in collider phenomenology requires a drastic rethinking of the current methodologies employed in perturbative quantum field theory (pQFT) calculations. In particular, the computational complexity grows very fast as a function of the perturbative order. The main reason for such a challenge is the appearance of intermediate expressions that diverge in the limit of hard/soft/collinear kinematic configurations, while the final result is free of singularities. The customary way to deal with such a problem is based on analytically continuing to *d* dimensions the divergent loop and phase-space integrals, while taking the $d \rightarrow 4$ limit at the end of the calculation [1, 2]. Unfortunately, such integrals do not lead themselves to a direct numerical computation and a huge amount of work is usually required to analytically extract the singularities. Recently, fully four-dimensional methods have been introduced to overcome these complications [3, 4, 5, 6]. So far, they have been implemented and tested up to NNLO for certain classes of processes [7], [8, 9, 10, 11, 12], [13, 14]. In this contribution I review the present status of FDR [4] in high-energy pQFT calculations as well as in the context of nonrenormalizable effective field theories (EFT).

2. Using FDR in pQFT calculations

The ultraviolet (UV) problem is solved in FDR by subtracting UV divergences directly at the integrand level. This is achieved by introducing a suitable linear integral operator, denoted by $\int [d^4q]$, whose action on a UV divergent integrand produces a finite result, which only depends upon the renormalization scale μ_R . For instance

$$I_{\rm FDR}^1 := \int [d^4 q] \frac{1}{(\bar{q}^2 - M^2)^2} = -i\pi^2 \ln \frac{M^2}{\mu_R^2}.$$
 (2.1)

The notation used in (2.1) is $\bar{q}^2 := q^2 - \mu^2$, where μ^2 is an auxiliary mass needed to extract the UV divergent piece by partial fractioning,

$$\frac{1}{(\bar{q}^2 - M^2)^2} = \left[\frac{1}{\bar{q}^4}\right] + \frac{M^2}{\bar{q}^2(\bar{q}^2 - M^2)^2} + \frac{M^2}{\bar{q}^4(\bar{q}^2 - M^2)}.$$
(2.2)

The term between square brackets is UV divergent and only depends on μ . For this reason it is considered unphysical and it is annihilated by $\int [d^4q]$. Subsequently, after taking the asymptotic $\mu \to 0$ limit, μ is identified with μ_R ,

$$\int [d^4q] \frac{1}{(\bar{q}^2 - M^2)^2} := \lim_{\mu \to 0} \int d^4q \left(\frac{M^2}{\bar{q}^2(\bar{q}^2 - M^2)^2} + \frac{M^2}{\bar{q}^4(\bar{q}^2 - M^2)} \right) \bigg|_{\mu = \mu_R} = -i\pi^2 \ln \frac{M^2}{\mu_R^2}.$$
 (2.3)

Note that μ_R is not a cut-off. For example, it appears logarithmically also in quadratically divergent integrals,

$$\int [d^4q] \frac{1}{(\bar{q}^2 - M^2)} = -i\pi^2 M^2 \left(\ln \frac{M^2}{\mu_R^2} - 1 \right).$$
(2.4)

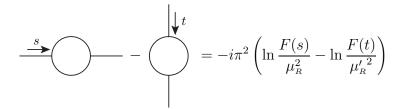


Figure 1: Combining two one-loop scalar functions depending on different kinematic invariants *s* and *t* gives the correct UV finite result $-i\pi^2 \left(\ln \frac{F(s)}{F(t)} \right)$ only if $\mu'_R = \mu_R$. Since it is hard to believe that the *s*-channel diagram knows something about the *t*-channel one (and vice versa), one further assumption is $\mu'_R = \mu_R = \text{constant.}$

More in general, the structure of a UV divergent ℓ -loop FDR integral is a polynomial of degree ℓ in $\ln(\mu_R^2)$,

$$I_{\rm FDR}^{\ell} = \sum_{k=0}^{\ell} c_k L_R^k, \quad L_R := \ln(\mu_R^2).$$
(2.5)

For instance [10]

$$I_{\rm FDR}^{2} := \int [d^{4}q_{1}][d^{4}q_{2}] \frac{1}{(\bar{q}_{1}^{2} - m_{1}^{2})^{2}(\bar{q}_{2}^{2} - m_{2}^{2})((q_{1} + q_{2})^{2} - \mu^{2})} = \pi^{4} \left\{ \frac{i}{\sqrt{3}} \left[\operatorname{Li}_{2}\left(e^{i\frac{\pi}{3}}\right) - \operatorname{Li}_{2}\left(e^{-i\frac{\pi}{3}}\right) \right] - \operatorname{Li}_{2}\left(1 - \frac{m_{2}^{2}}{m_{1}^{2}}\right) - \frac{1}{2} \ln^{2} \frac{\mu_{R}^{2}}{m_{1}^{2}} - \ln \frac{\mu_{R}^{2}}{m_{1}^{2}} \right\}. \quad (2.6)$$

It is important to realize that internal consistency requires μ_R to be independent of kinematics and identical in all loop functions. This guarantees correct cancellations when combining integrals, as illustrated in Fig. 1.

FDR is compatible with pQFT calculations because it respects gauge invariance and unitarity. In fact, FDR integrals are shift invariant objects which maintain the cancellations between reconstructed denominators and propagators required to prove graphical Ward-identities [8, 10]. In addition, unitarity is enforced by a special treatment of the Lorentz indices external to the divergent sub-diagrams.¹ This guarantees that ℓ -loop structures give the same result also when embedded in $(\ell + 1)$ -loop calculations.

In the presence of infrared (IR) divergences, the insertion of μ^2 in the denominators acts as a regulator of the IR behavior of the loop integrals. Consistency requires the addition of a mass μ also in the phase-space integration of the real counterpart. Things can be arranged in such a way that the real and virtual parts combine to give the correct result. This has been explicitly shown in [12], where the fully inclusive NNLO final-state quark-pair corrections depicted in Fig. 2 have been computed without relying, explicitly or implicitly, on dimensional regularization. The physical observable is

$$\sigma^{\text{NNLO}} = \sigma_B + \sigma_V + \sigma_R, \qquad (2.7)$$

¹See appendix A of [12].

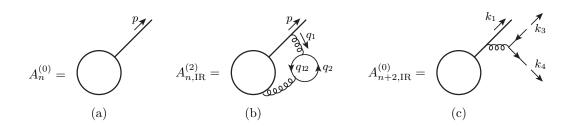


Figure 2: The lowest order amplitude (a), the IR divergent final-state virtual quark-pair correction (b) and the IR divergent real component (c). The blob stands for the emission of n-1 particles. Additional IR finite corrections are created if the gluon which splits into $q\bar{q}$ is emitted by the blob.

with

$$\sigma_{B} \propto \int d\Phi_{n} \sum_{\text{spin}} |A_{n}^{(0)}|^{2},$$

$$\sigma_{V} \propto \int d\Phi_{n} \sum_{\text{spin}} \left\{ A_{n}^{(2)} (A_{n}^{(0)})^{*} + A_{n}^{(0)} (A_{n}^{(2)})^{*} \right\},$$

$$\sigma_{R} \propto \int d\Phi_{n+2} \sum_{\text{spin}} \left\{ A_{n+2}^{(0)} (A_{n+2}^{(0)})^{*} \right\},$$
(2.8)

and the known $H \rightarrow b\bar{b} + jets$ and $\gamma^* \rightarrow jets$ results

$$\Gamma_{H \to b\bar{b}+jets}^{\text{NNLO}}(y_b) = \Gamma_2^{(0)}(y_b) \left\{ 1 + (\alpha_S/4\pi)^2 C_F N_F \left(2\ln^2 \frac{m_b^2}{M_H^2} - \frac{26}{3} \ln \frac{m_b^2}{M_H^2} + 8\zeta_3 + 2\pi^2 - \frac{62}{3} \right) \right\},\$$

$$\sigma_{e^+e^- \to jets}^{\text{NNLO}} = \sigma_2^{(0)} \left\{ 1 + (\alpha_S/4\pi)^2 C_F N_F \left(8\zeta_3 - 11 \right) \right\}$$
(2.9)

are reproduced by FDR when adding the three pieces.

One among the most important consequences of an integrand-level subtraction such as in (2.1) and (2.6) is that an order-by-order removal of the UV infinities is avoided. To illustrate this, consider a renormalizable Lagrangian $\mathscr{L}^{\mathbb{R}}(p_1,\ldots,p_m)$. It becomes predictive only after fixing the bare parameters p_k in terms of experimental observables $\mathscr{O}_k^{\text{EXP}}$ computed at the loop level ℓ one is working,

$$\tilde{p}_k(\boldsymbol{\mu}_R) := p_k^{\mathrm{TH},\ell-\mathrm{loop}}(\mathscr{O}_1^{\mathrm{EXP}},\ldots,\mathscr{O}_m^{\mathrm{EXP}},\boldsymbol{\mu}_R), \quad k = 1 \div m.$$
(2.10)

At this stage μ_R still appears, but it cancels out when computing a further independent observable $\mathcal{O}_{m+1}^{\text{TH},\ell-\text{loop}}$,

$$\frac{d\mathscr{O}_{m+1}^{\mathrm{IH},\ell-\mathrm{loop}}\big(\tilde{p}_1(\mu_R),\ldots,\tilde{p}_m(\mu_R),\mu_R\big)}{d\mu_R} = 0.$$
(2.11)

Eq. (2.11) is nothing but the renormalization group equation for $\mathscr{O}_{m+1}^{\text{TH},\ell-\text{loop}}$, that is obtained right away in FDR with no need of constructing a counterterm Lagrangian $\Delta \mathscr{L}^{\text{Counterterms}}$ such that

$$\mathscr{L}^{\mathsf{R}}(p_1,\ldots,p_m) = \mathscr{L}^{\mathsf{Renormalized}} + \Delta \mathscr{L}^{\mathsf{Counterterms}}.$$
(2.12)

3. Using FDR in EFT

In a pQFT described by a nonrenormalizable Lagrangian $\mathscr{L}^{N}(p_{1},\ldots,p_{m})$ one has

$$\frac{d\mathscr{O}_{m+1}^{\mathrm{TH},\ell-\mathrm{loop}}\big(\tilde{p}_1(\mu_R),\ldots,\tilde{p}_m(\mu_R),\mu_R\big)}{d\mu_R}\neq 0.$$
(3.1)

However, if one could infer μ_R by other means, $\mathscr{L}^N(p_1, \ldots, p_m)$ would describe as it stands a legitimate EFT. This means that introducing higher-dimensional operators $\Delta \mathscr{L}_{HDO}$ to reabsorb the UV infinities generated by the loop expansion of the interactions contained in $\mathscr{L}^N(p_1, \ldots, p_m)$,

$$\mathscr{L}^{\mathrm{N}}(p_1,\ldots,p_m) \to \mathscr{L}^{\mathrm{N}}(p_1,\ldots,p_m) + \Delta \mathscr{L}_{\mathrm{HDO}}, \tag{3.2}$$

is not necessarily needed in FDR [15]. In the following, I describe the order-by-order conditions under which a value of μ_R can be found that matches a given renormalizable model onto $\mathscr{L}^{N}(p_1,\ldots,p_m)$ without the addition of $\Delta \mathscr{L}_{HDO}$ [16].

The starting point for the matching is the equation

$$B_{m+1}(0, \alpha, \mu_R) = A_{m+1}(0, \alpha), \tag{3.3}$$

where $B_{m+1}(0, \alpha, \mu_R)$ and $A_{m+1}(0, \alpha)$ are the amplitudes for the observable \mathcal{O}_{m+1} in (3.1) and (2.11) computed in the effective and renormalizable models, respectively, and α is a coupling constant. I assume that \mathcal{O}_{m+1} refer to a zero-energy measurement and that a $\mathcal{L}^N(p_1, \ldots, p_m)$ exist such that (3.3) holds. If N is the number of independent kinematic invariants s_n , the energy dependence of \mathcal{O}_{m+1} can be described in terms of the ratios

$$\lambda_n = s_n / M_n^2, \quad n = 1 \div N, \tag{3.4}$$

where the M_n are mass scales parameterizing the range of validity of the effective description. The aim is to find an order-by-order solution $\mu_R = \mu'_R$ for which (3.3) persist also when $\lambda := \{\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_N\} \neq 0$,

$$B_{m+1}^{\ell-\text{loop}}(\lambda,\alpha,\mu_{R}') = A_{m+1}^{\ell-\text{loop}}(\lambda,\alpha), \qquad (3.5)$$

as illustrated schematically in Fig. 3. To determine μ'_R one writes down the all-order expansions of A_{m+1} and B_{m+1} ,

$$A_{m+1}(\lambda,\alpha) = K(\alpha) + K(\alpha) \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} A_{0j}^{\{m_j\}} \lambda^{\{m_j\}} + K(\alpha) \sum_{i,j=1}^{\infty} A_{ij}^{\{m_j\}} \alpha^i \lambda^{\{m_j\}}, \qquad (3.6a)$$

$$B_{m+1}(\lambda, \alpha, \mu_{\mathbb{R}}) = K(\alpha) + K(\alpha) \sum_{\substack{i,j=1\\0 \le k \le i}}^{\infty} B_{ijk}^{\{m_j\}} \alpha^i \lambda^{\{m_j\}} L_{\mathbb{R}}^k,$$
(3.6b)

where $K(\alpha)$ implements the initial condition (3.3),

$$B_{m+1}(0, \alpha, \mu_R) = A_{m+1}(0, \alpha) = K(\alpha).$$
(3.7)

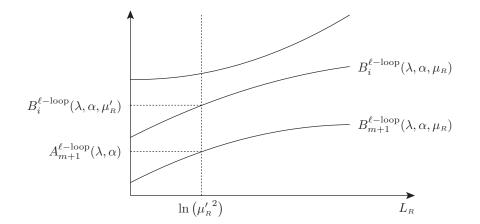


Figure 3: The space of the predictions of $\mathscr{L}^{\mathbb{N}}(p_1, \ldots, p_m)$ as a function of L_R in (2.5). The all-order expansions of the amplitudes labelled by the subscript m + 1 is given in (3.6). The index i > m + 1 denotes an observable different from those employed to determine the Lagrangian's parameter and μ'_R .

 $A_{0j}^{\{m_j\}}, A_{ij}^{\{m_j\}}, B_{ijk}^{\{m_j\}}$ are perturbative coefficients, in which *i* refers to the α expansion, whereas *j* denotes the power degree of the products of λ_n multiplying the coefficients. The notation

$$\{m_i\} := (m_{i1}, m_{i2}, \dots, m_{iN})$$

symbolizes an assignment of integer numbers $m_{jn} \ge 0$ fulfilling $\sum_{n=1}^{N} m_{jn} = j$, and a sum over all possible assignments is understood when contracting with $\lambda^{\{m_j\}} := \prod_{n=1}^{N} \lambda_n^{m_{jn}}$. For instance, if N = 2, $A_{02}^{\{m_2\}} \lambda^{\{m_2\}} = A_{02}^{(2,0)} \lambda_1^2 + A_{02}^{(0,2)} \lambda_2^2 + A_{02}^{(1,1)} \lambda_1 \lambda_2$. The coefficients in (3.6) may involve functions of s_n singular at $\lambda = 0$, such as $\ln s_n$ or $s_n^{-\frac{1}{2}}$, but (3.7) requires

$$A_{0j}^{\{m_j\}} \lambda^{\{m_j\}} \to 0, \quad A_{ij}^{\{m_j\}} \lambda^{\{m_j\}} \to 0, \quad B_{ijk}^{\{m_j\}} \lambda^{\{m_j\}} \to 0$$
(3.8)

when $\lambda \to 0$. Furthermore, B_{m+1} in (3.6b) depends on λ only through loop corrections, unlike A_{m+1} . Typically, the second term in the r.h.s. of (3.6a) is generated by Taylor expanding the treelevel propagators $1/(s_n - M_n^2)$ of the exact theory, that are absent in the effective model. Note also that the dependence upon μ_R is driven by (2.5). Solutions to (3.5) are found by replacing its two sides by (3.6a) computed with $(i \le \ell, j \le \ell)$ and (3.6b) truncated at $(i \le \ell + 1, j \le \ell, k \ge i - \ell)$, and allowing L_R in (3.6b) to mix different perturbative orders,

$$L_{R} = \sum_{i=-1}^{\ell-1} X_{i} \alpha^{i}.$$
(3.9)

Note that the loop and energy expansions should not be considered independently and that the coefficients of L_R^k should be known up to the $(\ell + 1)$ order. Equating the powers of α and $\lambda^{\{m_j\}}$ gives a system of equations to be fulfilled by the unknown coefficients X_i . As discussed in the previous section, only kinematics independent solutions X'_i for the X_i are compatible with FDR. This determines the necessary and sufficient conditions for the matching of (3.5). For instance,

when $\ell = 1$,

$$\begin{cases} A_{01}^{\{m_1\}} - B_{111}^{\{m_1\}} X'_{-1} - B_{212}^{\{m_1\}} (X'_{-1})^2 = 0, \\ A_{11}^{\{m_1\}} - B_{110}^{\{m_1\}} - B_{111}^{\{m_1\}} X'_{0} - B_{211}^{\{m_1\}} X'_{-1} - 2B_{212}^{\{m_1\}} X'_{-1} X'_{0} = 0, \\ \frac{\partial X'_{-1}}{\partial s_n} = \frac{\partial X'_{0}}{\partial s_n} = 0. \end{cases}$$

$$(3.10)$$

Since there are more equations than unknowns, relations must exist among coefficients. If the conditions in (3.10) are all obeyed, the solution is

$$\ln\left(\mu_{R}^{\prime 2}\right) = \frac{X_{-1}^{\prime}}{\alpha} + X_{0}^{\prime}.$$
(3.11)

Consider now a further independent amplitude B_i computed in the effective model and evaluated at $\mu_R = \mu'_R$, as in Fig. 3. An interesting question is whether or not it reproduces the result of a calculation performed within the renormalizable theory, namely whether

$$B_i^{\ell-\text{loop}}(\lambda, \alpha, \mu_R') = A_i^{\ell-\text{loop}}(\lambda, \alpha).$$
(3.12)

In [16] a conjecture is formulated which states that (3.12) holds whenever the two amplitudes coincide at $\lambda = 0$,

$$B_{i}^{\ell-\text{loop}}(0,\alpha,\mu_{R}') = A_{i}^{\ell-\text{loop}}(0,\alpha).$$
(3.13)

In what follows, I describe a realistic model, in which this conjecture is verified, for a given class of loop corrections, to all perturbative orders.

The effective Lagrangian

$$\mathscr{L}^{\mathrm{N}}(g^{2}, M^{2}, s_{\theta}^{2}) = \mathscr{L}^{\mathrm{QED}} + \mathscr{L}^{\mathrm{FERMI}}, \quad \mathscr{L}^{\mathrm{FERMI}} = -\frac{g^{2}}{8M^{2}}J_{c\alpha}^{\dagger}J_{c}^{\alpha} - \frac{g^{2}}{8M^{2}}J_{n\alpha}J_{n}^{\alpha}, \qquad (3.14)$$

is used to compute resummed one-fermion-loop interactions between two massless fermions and the results are compared with the predictions of the complete standard model (SM). Thus, the renormalizable theory to be matched onto $\mathscr{L}^{N}(g^{2}, M^{2}, s_{A}^{2})$ is

$$\mathscr{L}^{\mathsf{R}}(g^2, M^2, s^2_{\theta}) = \mathscr{L}^{\mathsf{SM}}.$$
(3.15)

Both Lagrangians in (3.14) and (3.15) depend on the same set of bare parameters $\{g^2, M^2, s_{\theta}^2\}$, which can be fixed experimentally it terms of the fine structure constant α_{EM} , measured in the Thomson limit of the Compton scattering, the muon decay constant G_F , extracted from the muon lifetime, and the ratio R_{ev} between the total $e^- v_{\mu}$ and $e^- \bar{v}_{\mu}$ elastic cross sections at zero momentum transfer. After that, one determines μ'_R by computing any high-energy amplitude in which two massless fermions interact via charged fermion-loops, as in Fig. 4. The conditions in (3.10) are fulfilled at the first order in $\lambda = p^2/\hat{M}^2 \neq 0$ when choosing

$$\ln\left(\mu_{R}^{\prime 2}\right) = \frac{\pi \hat{s}_{\theta}^{2}}{\alpha_{\scriptscriptstyle EM}} + K_{1}, \qquad (3.16)$$

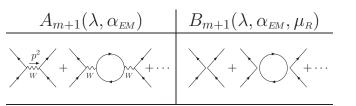


Figure 4: Example of diagrams contributing to charged current one-fermion-loop mediated interactions in the renormalizable and nonrenormalizable theories of (3.15) and (3.14). Comparing $A_{m+1}(\lambda, \alpha_{EM})$ with $B_{m+1}(\lambda, \alpha_{EM}, \mu_R)$ at $p^2 \neq 0$ allows one to find the exact solution of (3.5).

Figure 5: The neutral one-fermion-loop mediated amplitudes used to test the validity of (3.12). They are computed by using the Lagrangians of (3.14) and (3.15), respectively.

where \hat{s}_{θ}^2 , \hat{M}^2 are the tree-level solution for s_{θ}^2 , M^2 and

$$K_1 := \frac{1}{2} + \frac{\ln m_e^2 + \ln m_\mu^2 + \ln m_\tau^2}{12} + \frac{\ln m_u^2 + \ln m_c^2 + \ln m_t^2}{6} + \frac{\ln m_d^2 + \ln m_s^2 + \ln m_b^2}{12}.$$
 (3.17)

As a matter of fact, in the case at hand $L_R = \ln ({\mu'_R}^2)$ solves (3.5) at any value of ℓ and p^2 , if the one-fermion-loop contributions are resummed. The independent amplitudes of (3.12) are taken to be the neutral current interactions between two arbitrary massless fermions $f_{1,2}$ illustrated in Fig. 5. They obey (3.13) and, when choosing $\mu_R = \mu'_R$, the amplitude of Fig. 5(a) coincides with the one of Fig. 5(b) to all orders and energies, corroborating the conjecture of [16]. Note that this is not trivial because (3.12) is obeyed for any choice of f_1 and f_2 , while the process of Fig. 4 only involves V - A interactions.

Finally, it is interesting to take advantage of the fact that an exact gauge invariant all-order solution for the bare parameters can be found by simply resumming one-fermion-loop diagrams. One finds, in particular [16],

$$s_{\theta}^{2}(\mu_{R}) = \hat{s}_{\theta}^{2} \frac{F_{1}}{F_{2}}, \qquad (3.18)$$

where

$$F_1 := 1 - \frac{\alpha_{EM}}{\pi \hat{s}_{\theta}^2} \left(L_R - K_1 \right), \quad F_2 := 1 - \frac{8\alpha_{EM}}{3\pi} \left(L_R - K_2 \right), \tag{3.19}$$

with K_1 in (3.17) and

$$K_{2} := \frac{1}{2} + \frac{\ln m_{e}^{2} + \ln m_{\mu}^{2} + \ln m_{\tau}^{2}}{8} + \frac{\ln m_{u}^{2} + \ln m_{c}^{2} + \ln m_{t}^{2}}{6} + \frac{\ln m_{d}^{2} + \ln m_{s}^{2} + \ln m_{b}^{2}}{24}.$$
 (3.20)

Thus, $s_{\theta}^2(\mu_R') = 0$, namely the solution that matches $\mathscr{L}^{R}(g^2, M^2, s_{\theta}^2)$ onto $\mathscr{L}^{N}(g^2, M^2, s_{\theta}^2)$ is such that the number of parameters of the two theories is effectively reduced from three to two.

4. Conclusions

FDR can be used to perform higher-order calculations in renormalizable pQFTs. NNLO results have been successfully reproduced for observables involving intermediate UV and IR divergences without going away from the physical four-dimensional space-time.

Under certain circumstances, loop corrections computed in high-energy renormalizable pQFTs can be matched onto low-energy nonrenormalizable Lagrangians \mathscr{L}^N without modifying \mathscr{L}^N . This is possible only if UV infinities are handled à *la* FDR. For instance, $\mathscr{L}^N = \mathscr{L}^{QED} + \mathscr{L}^{FERMI}$ can be used to reproduce the exact electroweak interactions between two massless fermion lines induced by one-fermion-loop resummed gauge boson propagators. This is the first-ever example of nonrenormalizable pQFT consistently made predictive to all loop orders and energies without the addition of higher-dimensional operators.

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