

Renormalons as Saddle Points

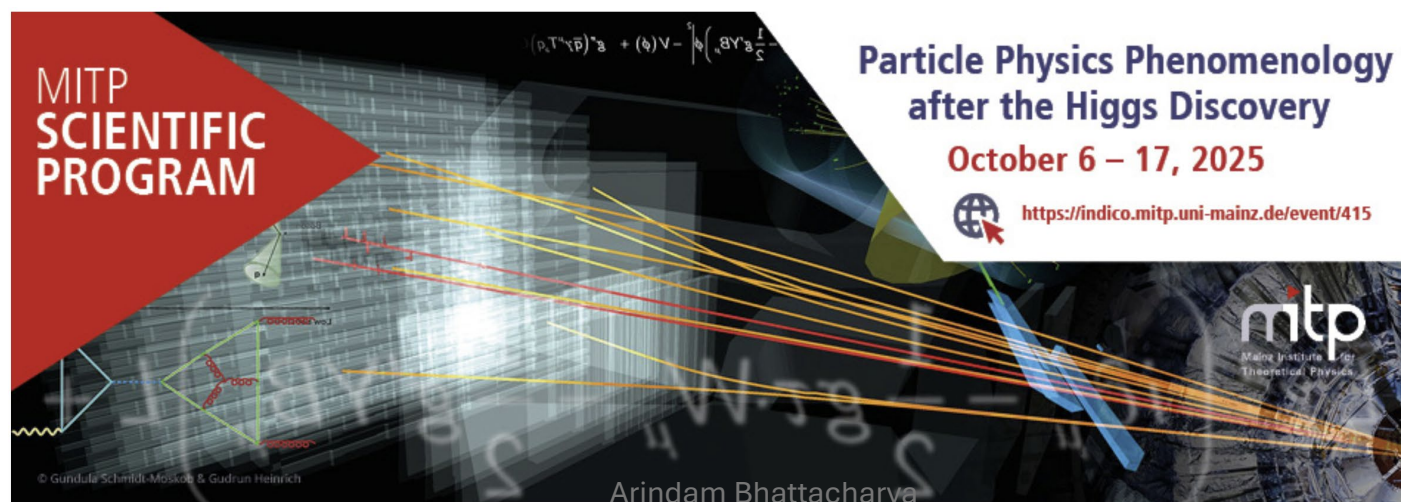
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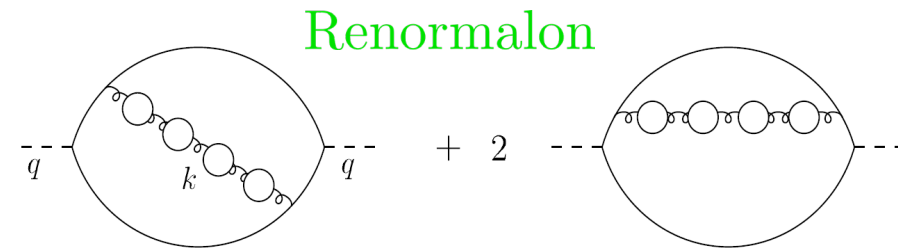
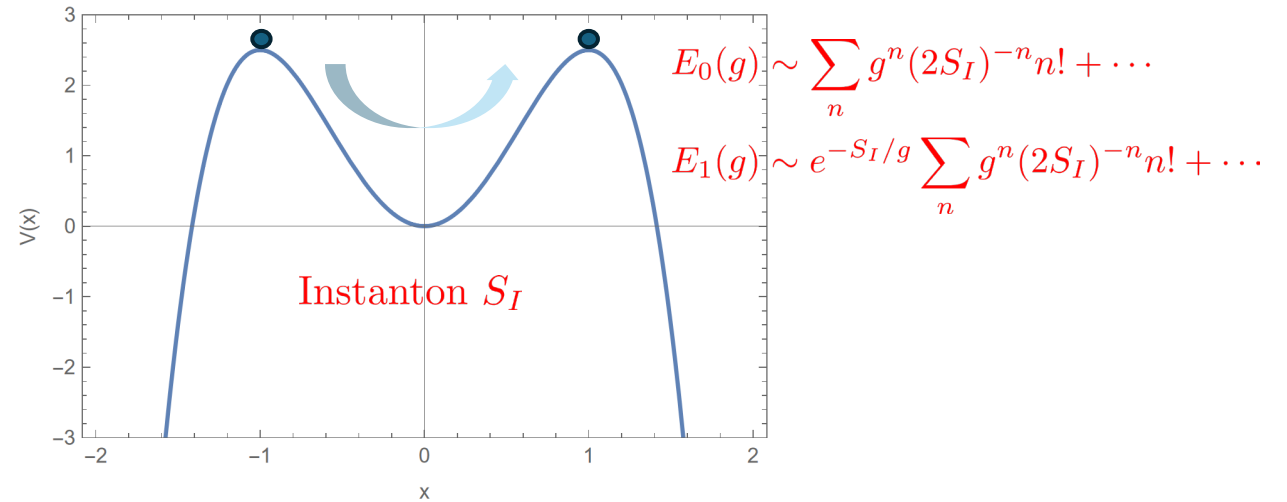
Based on work with Jordan Cotler, Aurélien Dersy, Matthew D Schwartz

arXiv: 2410.07351



Outline

- Asymptotic Series in QFT and QM
- Borel Resummation
- Saddle Points : Instantons
- Renormalons
- Borel Action Correspondence
- Renormalons as Saddle Points



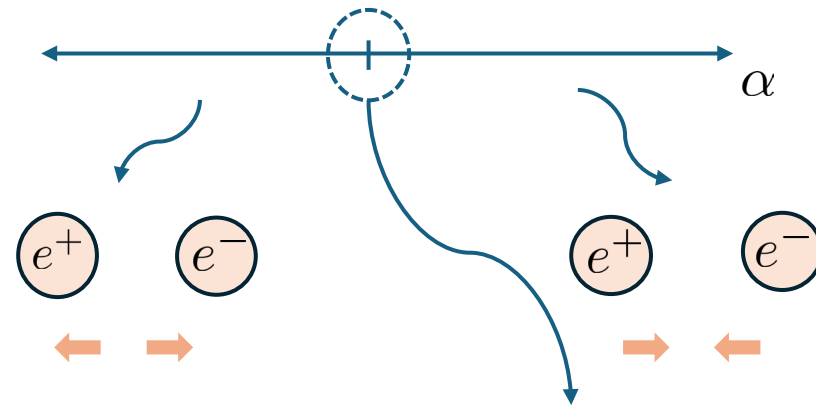
$$\begin{aligned}
 D(Q^2) &\sim \int \frac{dk^2}{k^2} F(k^2) \alpha(\mu)^{n+1} \beta_0^n \ln^n \frac{\mu^2}{k^2} \quad \longrightarrow \quad S_R \stackrel{?}{=} \frac{2}{\beta_0} \\
 &\sim \alpha(\mu)^{n+1} \left(\frac{\beta_0}{2} \right)^n n! + \dots
 \end{aligned}$$

Perturbation Theory gives Asymptotic Series

- Perturbation Theory is ubiquitous in QFT and QM

$$\text{Physical Quantity}(\alpha) = c_{-1} + \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n \alpha^{n+1}$$

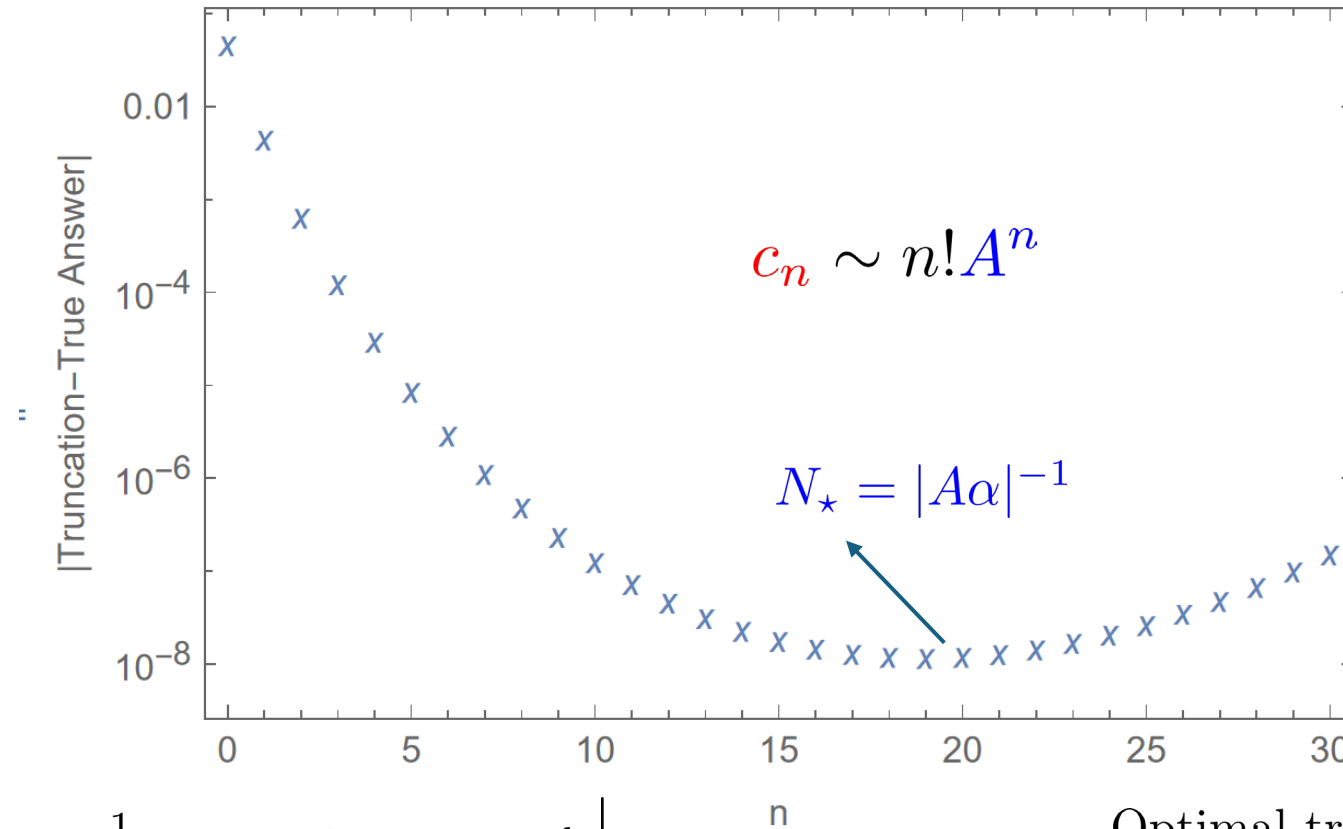
- Series does not converge, and is asymptotic at best (Dyson, 1952)



Very different physics on change of sign! $\rightarrow$ No finite radius of convergence

Perturbation Theory gives Asymptotic Series

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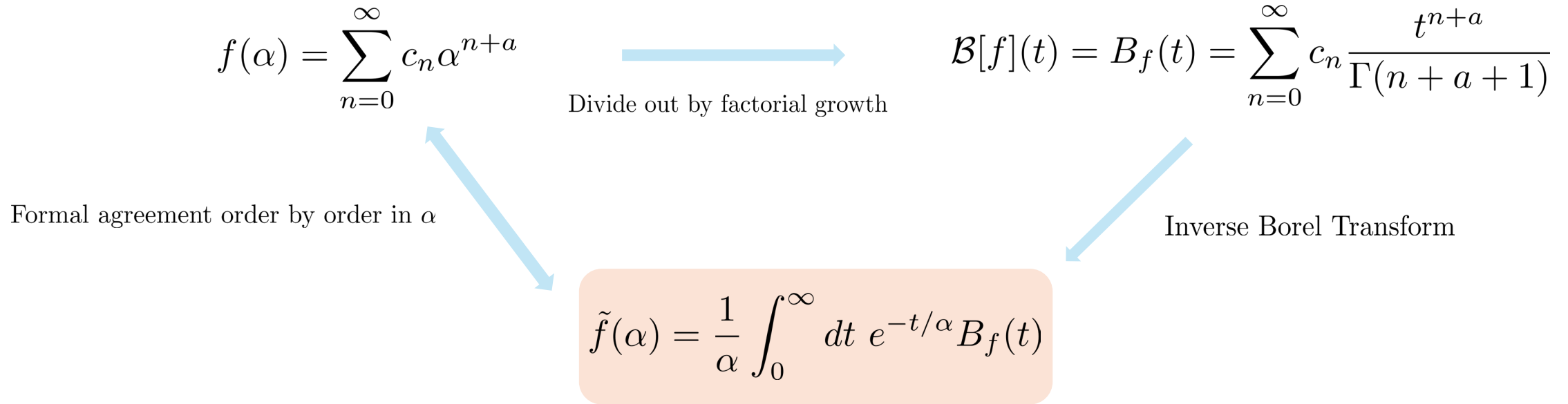
$$\left| \frac{1}{\alpha} \int_0^\infty dt e^{-t/\alpha} \frac{1}{1+t} - \sum_{k=0}^n k! (-\alpha)^k \right|$$

$$\alpha = 0.05$$

Optimal truncation intuitive, but not rigorous

How do we 'resum' these series ?

Borel Resummation



If the integral exists, it ‘assigns’ a meaning to the sum of the asymptotic series
 Converges for convergent series

Example:

$$c_n \sim n!(-A)^{-n}, \quad A > 0, \quad a = 0 \quad \longrightarrow \quad B(t) = \frac{1}{1 + At} \quad \longrightarrow \quad \tilde{f}(\alpha) = \frac{e^{\frac{1}{A\alpha}}}{A} \Gamma\left[0, \frac{1}{A\alpha}\right]$$

Alternating factorial blowups can be resummed

Borel Resummation: Obstruction

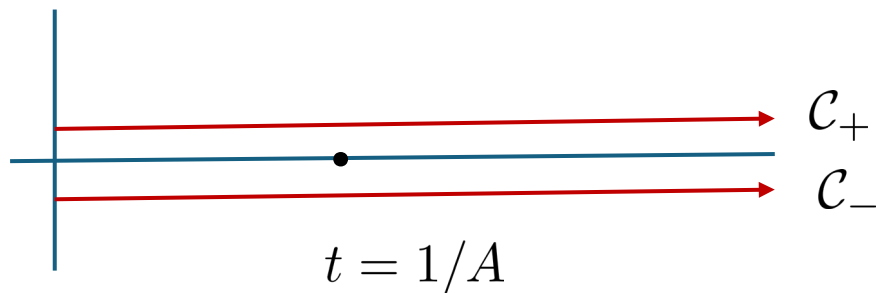
- What if one cannot resum it using the Borel transform?

Example:

$$c_n \sim n! A^{-n}, \quad A > 0, \quad a = 0 \quad \implies \quad B(t) = \frac{1}{1 - At} \quad \implies \quad \tilde{f}(\alpha) = \frac{1}{\alpha} \int_0^\infty dt \, e^{-t/\alpha} \frac{1}{1 - At}$$



Pole obstructs resummation



- Resummation is ambiguous, upto terms of the form

$$\frac{1}{\alpha} \oint_{t=1/A} dt \, e^{-t/\alpha} \frac{1}{1 - At} = -\frac{2\pi i}{\alpha A} e^{-1/A\alpha}$$

- Does not admit a series
- Non perturbative contributions (Instantons, $\propto \Lambda_{\text{QCD}}$ if $A = \beta_0$)

Sources of Factorial Growth

- Number of Feynman diagrams is generically order $n!$ at α^n

Example 1d Integral

$$Z(\alpha) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dz e^{-\frac{z^2}{2} - \frac{\alpha z^4}{4!}} = \sqrt{\frac{3}{2\pi\alpha}} e^{\frac{3}{4\alpha}} K_{\frac{1}{4}}\left(\frac{3}{4\alpha}\right), \quad \alpha > 0$$

$$= \frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi}} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \alpha^n \frac{(-6)^{-n} \Gamma(2n + \frac{1}{2})}{n!} \sim \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} \sum_n \alpha^n \left(-\frac{3}{2}\right)^{-n} n!$$



Propagator = 1



Interaction = $-\alpha$

$$Z(\alpha) = 1 + \text{[two circles joined at a point]} + \text{[circle with two vertical lines]} + \dots$$

Symmetry factor ≤ 1 , so number of diagrams $\sim n!$

- In field theory, existence of instantons implies combinatorial blowup of number of diagrams (Lipatov 1976)

Sources of Factorial Growth : Instantons

- In field theory, existence of instantons implies combinatorial blowup of number of diagrams
(Lipatov 1976)

$$S_E[\phi] = \int d^4x \left[-\frac{1}{2} \phi(x) \square \phi(x) - \frac{1}{4!} \phi(x)^4 \right]$$

$$Z(\lambda) = \int \mathcal{D}\phi e^{-S[\phi]/\lambda} = \sum_n c_n \lambda^n$$

$$c_n = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \oint \frac{d\lambda}{\lambda^{n+1}} Z(\lambda) = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int d\lambda \mathcal{D}\phi e^{-S[\phi]/\lambda - (n+1) \ln \lambda}$$

Saddle point approximation in ϕ and λ

$$\frac{\delta S}{\delta \phi} = 0$$

$$\phi_I(x) = 4\sqrt{3} \frac{R}{R^2 + (x + x_0)^2}$$

$$S[\phi_I] = 16\pi^2$$

$$\lambda_* = \frac{S_I}{n+1}$$

$$\implies c_n \approx (n+1)! (S_I)^{-n-1}$$

Using Stirling's approx.

Sources of Factorial Growth : Instantons

- In field theory, existence of instantons implies combinatorial blowup of number of diagrams
(Lipatov 1976)

$$S_E[\phi] = \int d^4x \left[-\frac{1}{2}\phi(x)\square\phi(x) - \frac{1}{4!}\phi(x)^4 \right]$$

$$Z(\lambda) = \int \mathcal{D}\phi e^{-S[\phi]/\lambda}$$

$$\underset{\phi=0}{=} \text{Expansion} \sum_n c_n \lambda^n$$

$$\frac{\delta S_E}{\delta \phi} = 0 \implies \phi_I(x) = 4\sqrt{3} \frac{R}{R^2 + (x + x_0)^2}$$

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 $\implies$

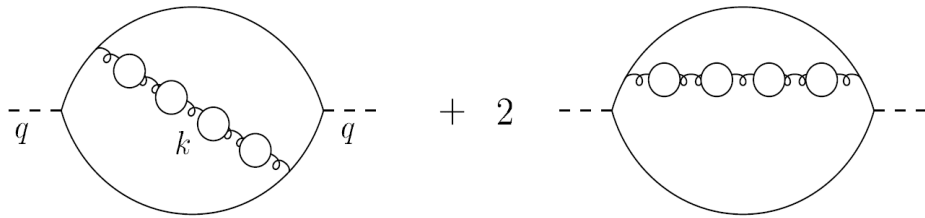
$$c_n \sim n! (S_I)^{-n}$$



$$\frac{\delta S_E}{\delta \phi} = 0 \implies \phi_{\text{Instanton}} \implies Z(\lambda) \sim \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \lambda^n n! S_I^{-n}$$

Sources of Factorial Growth : Renormalons

- Is that all of the factorial growth? No! **Renormalons** (t'Hooft 1977, Lautrup 1977, Gross & Neveu 1974)
- Subclass of diagrams lead to faster factorial growth than the total number



$$D(Q^2) \sim \int_0^{\mu^2} \frac{dk^2}{k^2} k^{2a} \alpha(\mu)^{n+1} (-N_f)^n \ln^n \frac{\mu^2}{k^2}$$

$$= \alpha(\mu)^{n+1} (-aN_f)^n n! \frac{\mu^{2a}}{a}$$

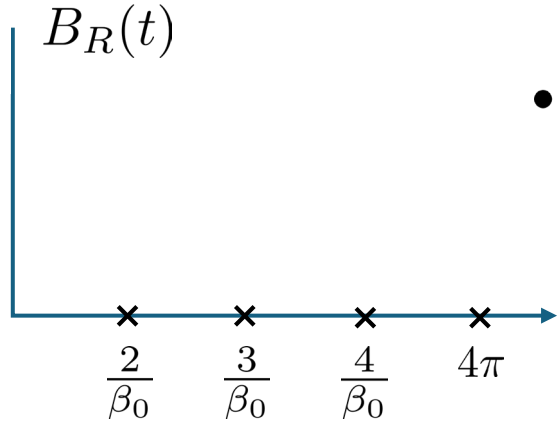
- Adding up other loops that **renormalize** the coupling turns N_f to β_0 (Naive non-abelianization)

$$\alpha(\mu)^{n+1} (a\beta_0)^n n! \frac{\mu^{2a}}{a}$$

$$\frac{d}{d \ln \mu^2} \frac{1}{\alpha(\mu)} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \alpha(\mu) + \dots$$

- How do these two factorial growths look in the Borel plane?

Renormalons



- Renormalons are closer to the origin than instantons. Phenomenologically more relevant!

Examples

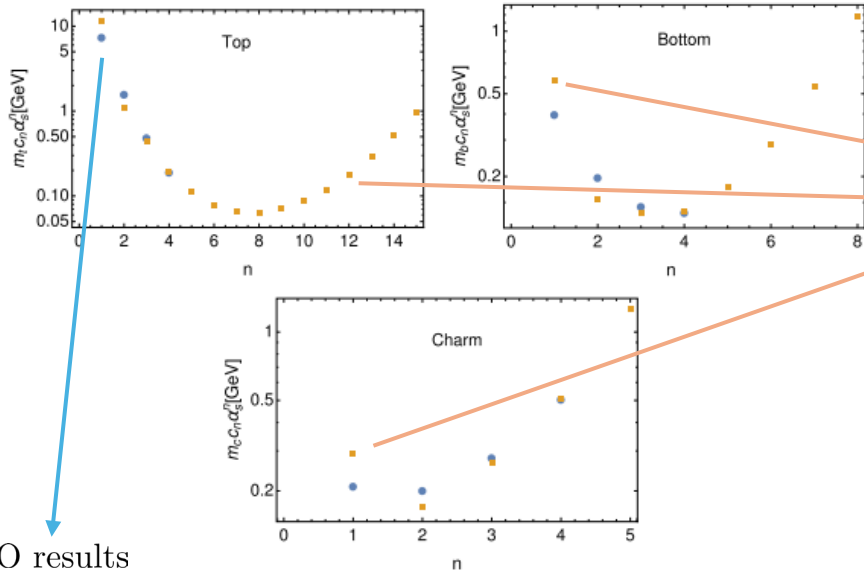
- Heavy quark masses suffer from a pole mass renormalon giving an ambiguity $\sim \Lambda_{\text{QCD}}$

$$m_{\text{Pole, Heavy Quark}} = m_{\overline{\text{MS}}}(\mu) \left[1 + \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \alpha(\mu)^{n+1} c_n(\mu) \right]$$

- Better scheme choices to remove the leading renormalon (MSR [Hoang et.al.](#), Potential Subtracted [Beneke](#), ...)

$$\sim \frac{C_F}{\pi} \mu \sum_n (2\beta_0)^n n! \alpha(\mu)^{n+1}$$

- Precision theory predictions for measurements of strong coupling constant α_s , quark masses, etc. need to account for renormalon subtraction to ensure due convergence



FO results

[Beneke, Eur. Phys. J. Spec. Top., 2021](#)

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Factorial Growth $\overset{?}{\iff}$ Saddle Points

$$\frac{\delta S_E}{\delta \phi} = 0 \quad \implies \phi_{\text{Instanton}} \quad \implies Z(\alpha) \sim \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \alpha^n n! S_I^{-n}$$

Saddle point of an action $\longrightarrow$ Series

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Saddle point of an action



Series

$$\frac{\delta S_{\text{?}}}{\delta \phi} = 0 \quad \stackrel{?}{\Leftarrow} \phi_{\text{Renormalon}} \quad \stackrel{?}{\Leftarrow} \mathcal{O}(\alpha) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \alpha^n n! (\beta_0/k)^n$$

$$S_{\text{?}} = k/\beta_0$$

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- Which S ? Which renormalon?

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- Which $S_{\text{?}}$ Which renormalon?
- Spoiler : S_{eff} with an operator insertion

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- Which $S_{\text{?}}$ Which renormalon?
- Spoiler : S_{eff} with an operator insertion
- Let's build up to it

Saddle Point Approximation : Why Borel transforms work

Exponential Laplace integrals are common (Euclidean path integrals)

Obtain perturbative series by expanding around saddle point of exponential

1D Integrals

$$\begin{aligned} f(\alpha) &= \int dz \, e^{-S(z)/\alpha} \\ &= e^{-S(z_*)/\alpha} \int dz \, e^{-\frac{1}{\alpha} \left[S^{(2)}(z_*) \frac{(z-z_*)^2}{2} + S^{(4)}(z_*) \frac{(z-z_*)^4}{24} + \dots \right]} \end{aligned}$$

Saddle point approximation around $S'(z_*) = 0$



$$= \sqrt{\frac{\alpha}{S^{(2)}(z_*)}} e^{-S(z_*)/\alpha} \int dz \, e^{-\frac{z^2}{2} - \alpha \frac{z^4}{24(S^{(2)}(z_*))^2} + \dots}$$

Asymptotic series, which we Borel transform

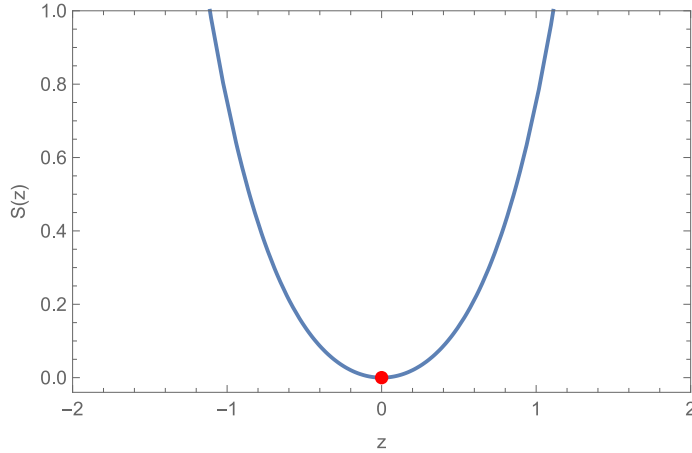


Gaussian integration *but* along the path $\text{Re}[S(z)]$ increases rapidly $\longrightarrow$ Thimble



Thimbles : Why Borel transforms work

$$S(z) = \frac{z^2}{2} + \frac{z^4}{4}$$



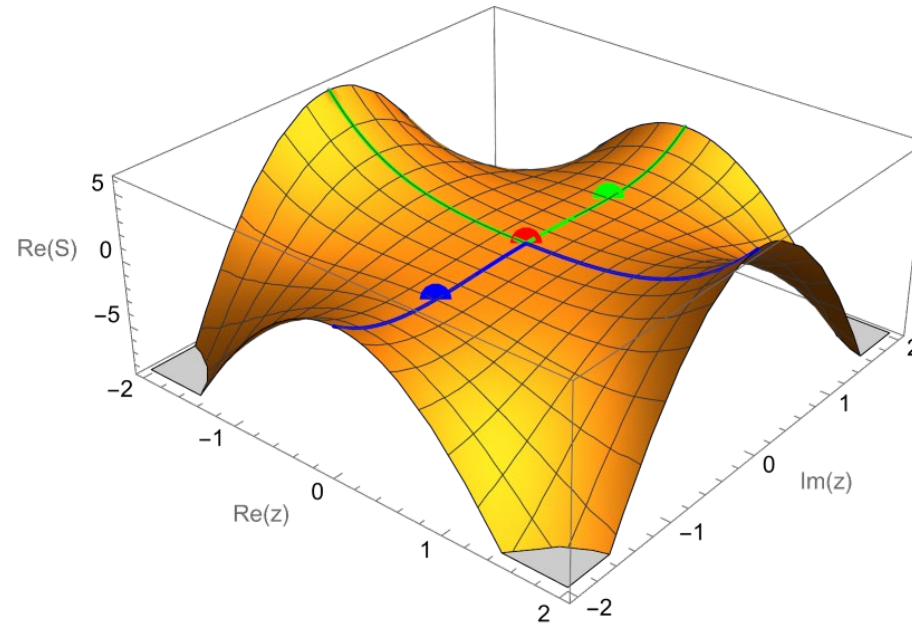
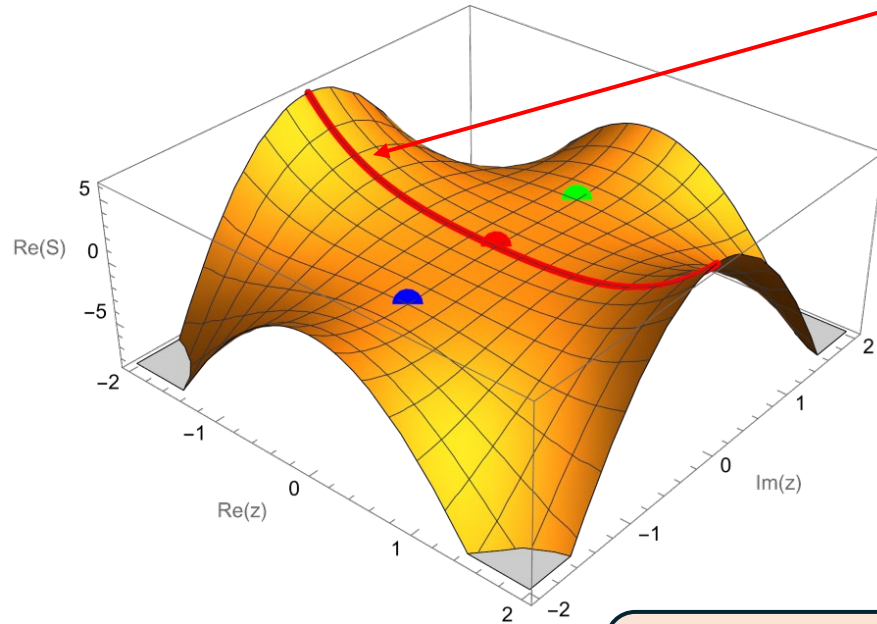
$$\sim \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \sqrt{2\alpha} (-\alpha)^n \frac{\Gamma(\frac{1}{2} + 2n)}{n!}$$

$$S'(z^*) = 0, \quad z^* = 0, \pm i$$

Borel summable, alternating series

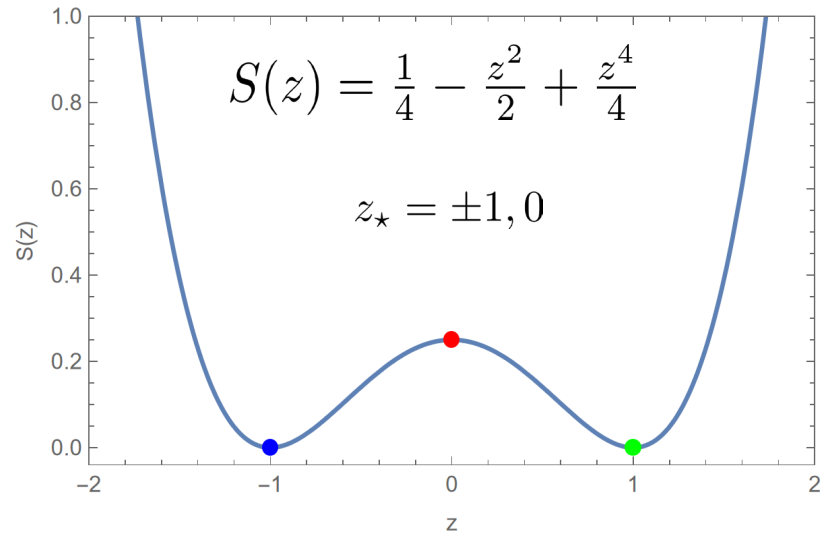
$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dz \, e^{-S(z)/\alpha} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} e^{\frac{1}{8\alpha}} \mathcal{K}_{\frac{1}{4}}\left(\frac{1}{8\alpha}\right).$$

Thimble

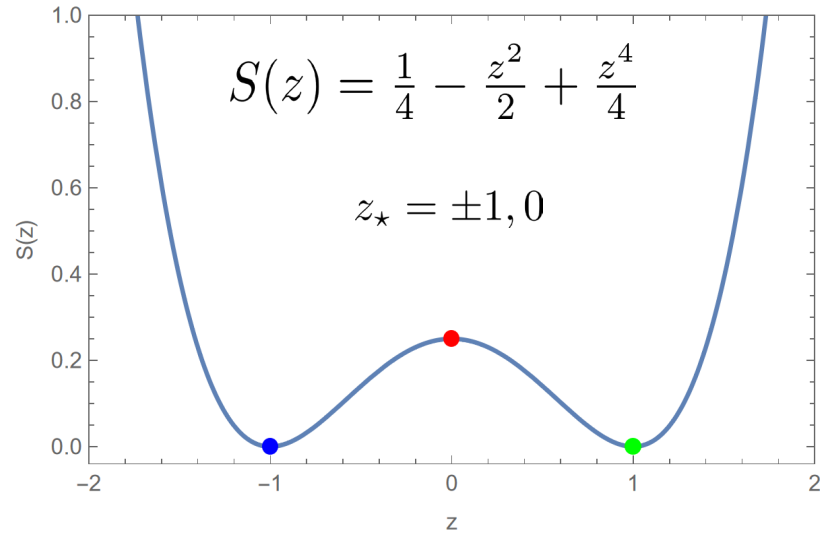


Theorem : Borel resummation from expansion along a saddle gives the resultant integral along the thimble passing through it

Thimbles : Why Borel transforms work



Thimbles : Why Borel transforms work

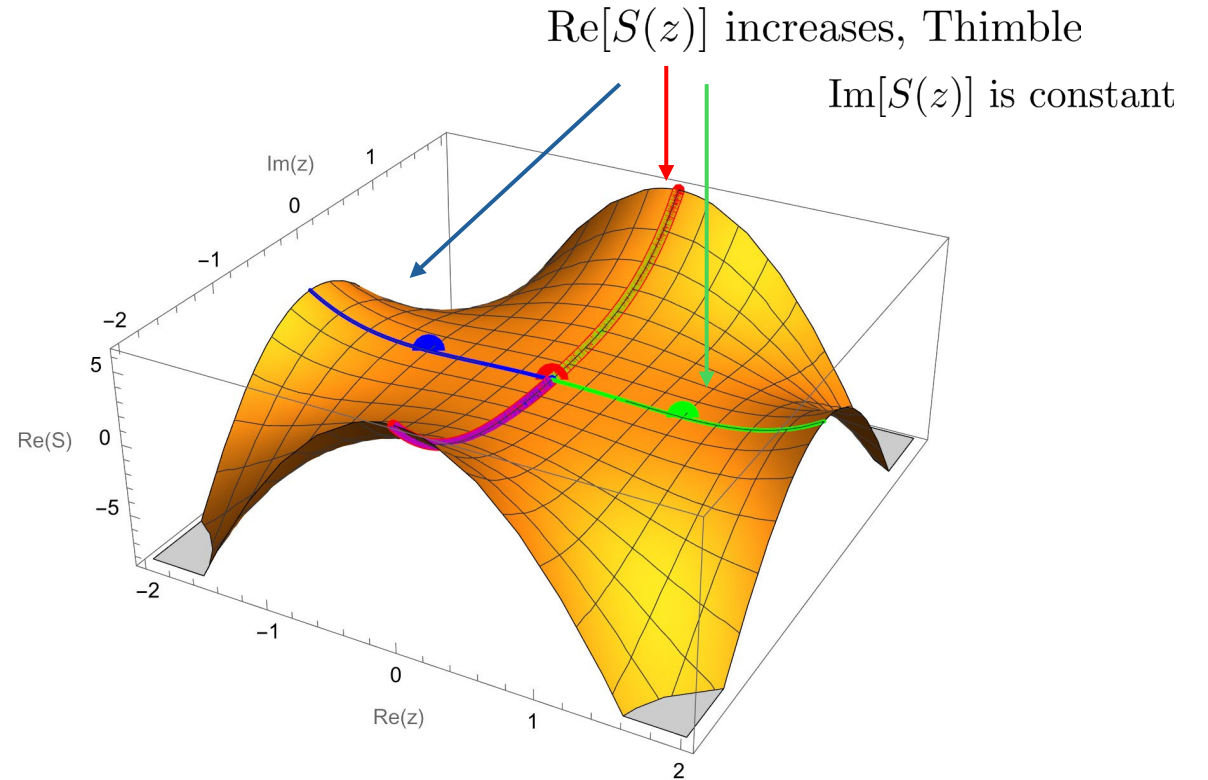
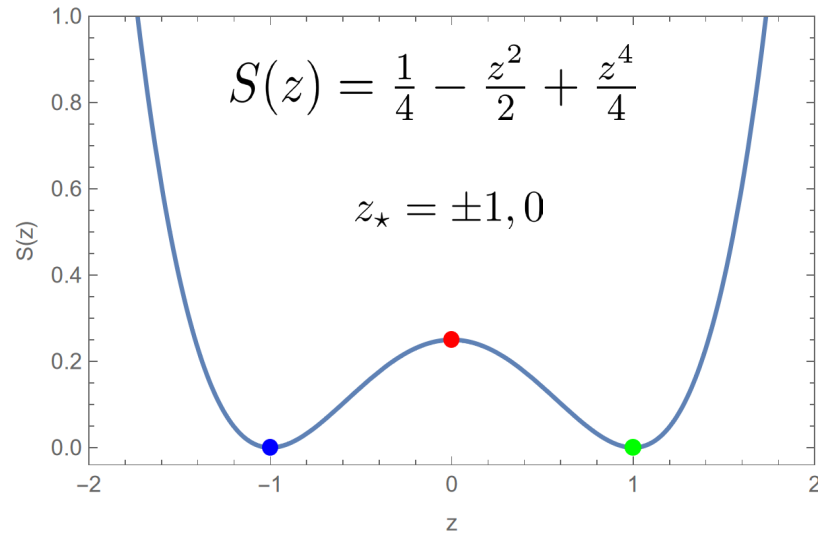


Saddle point Expansion around $z = -1$

↓

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \alpha^{n+\frac{1}{2}} \frac{\Gamma\left(\frac{1}{2} + 2n\right)}{n!}$$

Thimbles : Why Borel transforms work



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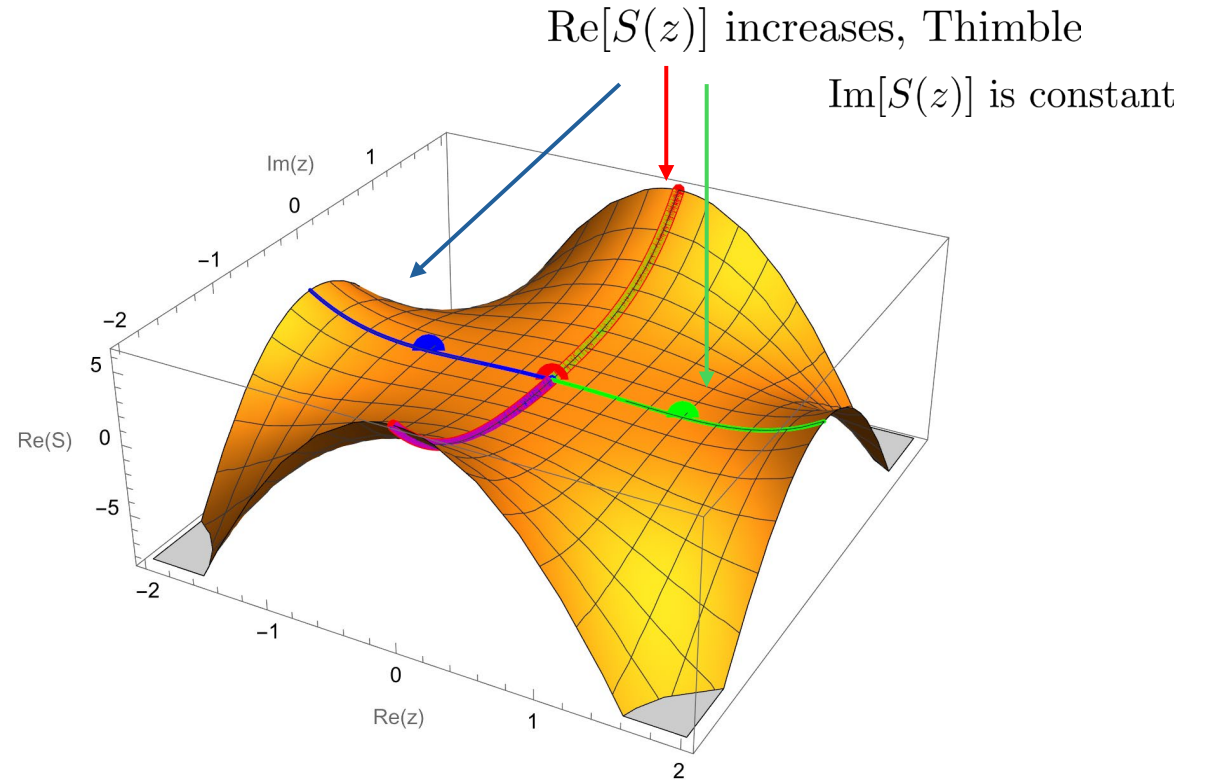
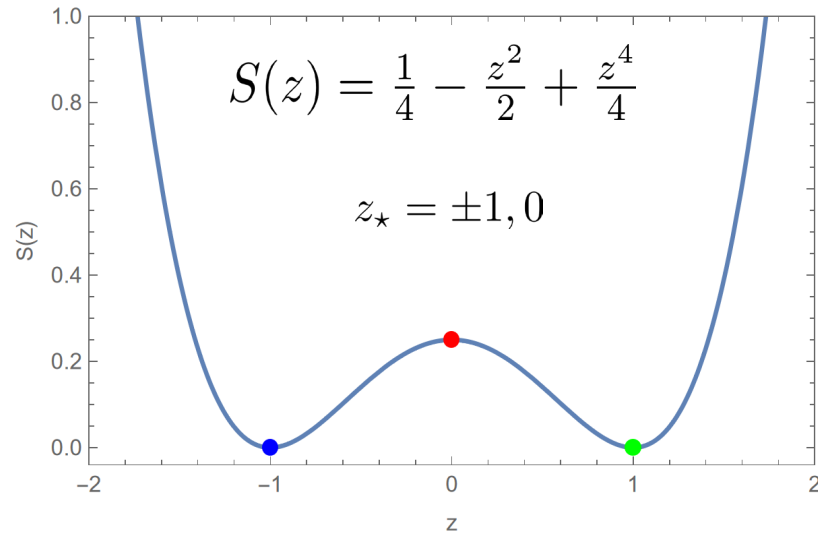
Borel transform

$$\sqrt{2 - 2\sqrt{1 - 4t \pm i\epsilon}}$$

Resum

Reproduce the integral along the thimble through $z = -1$

Thimbles : Why Borel transforms work



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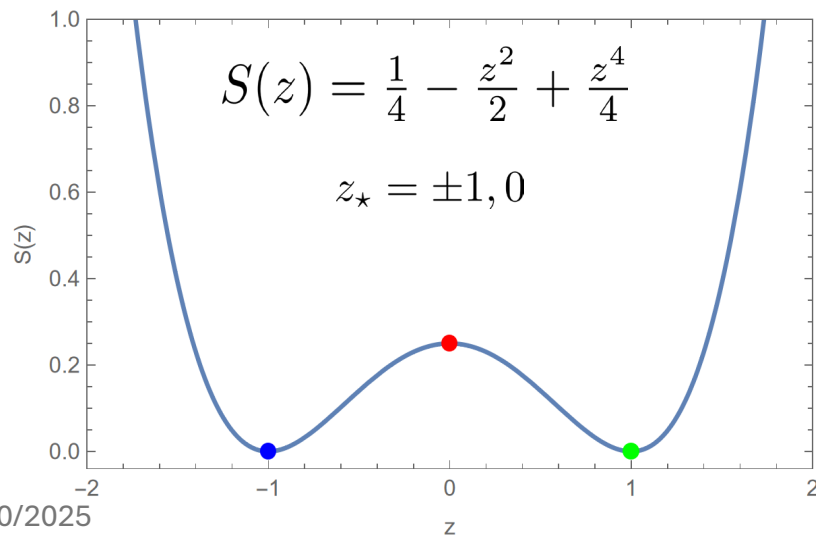
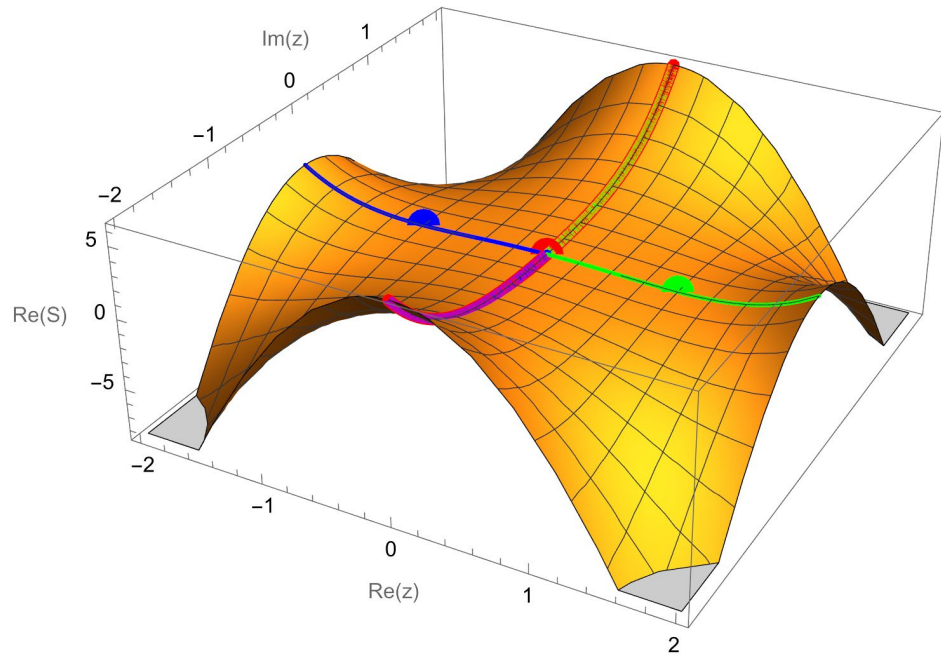
Reproduce the integral along the thimble through $z = -1$

How does the Borel pole show up in thimbles?

Thimbles : Why Borel transforms work

How does the Borel pole show up in thimbles?

If thimble from one saddle intersects the other. [Stokes phenomena](#)



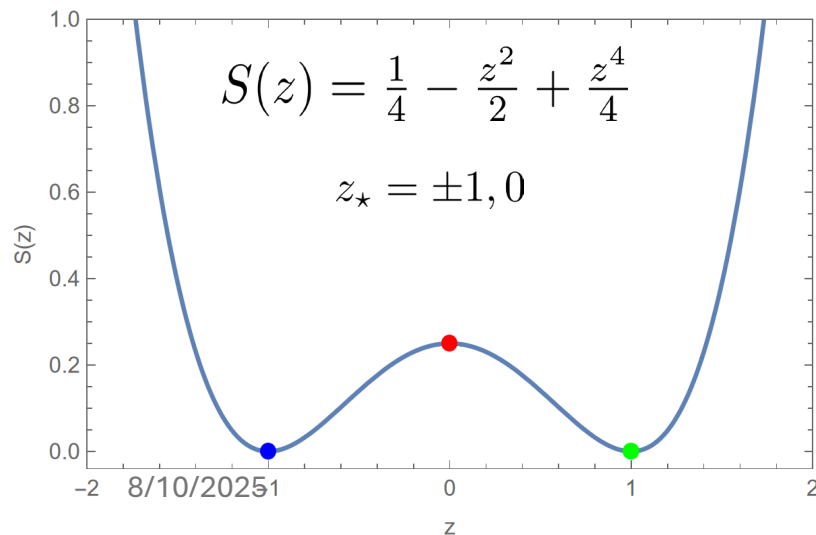
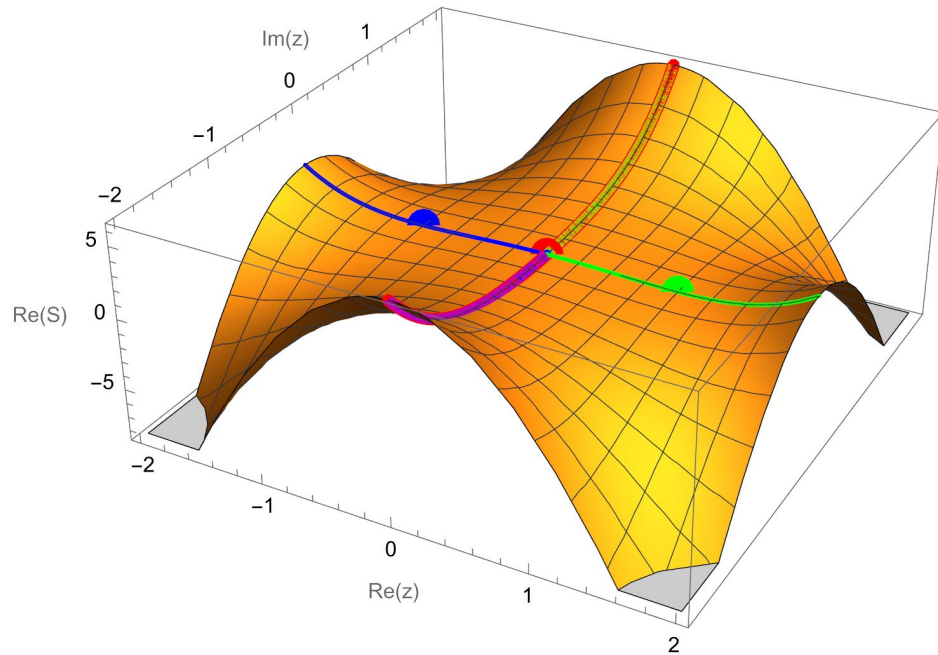
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Write original integration contour as sum of thimbles

$$\mathcal{C} = \sum n_j \mathcal{C}_j$$



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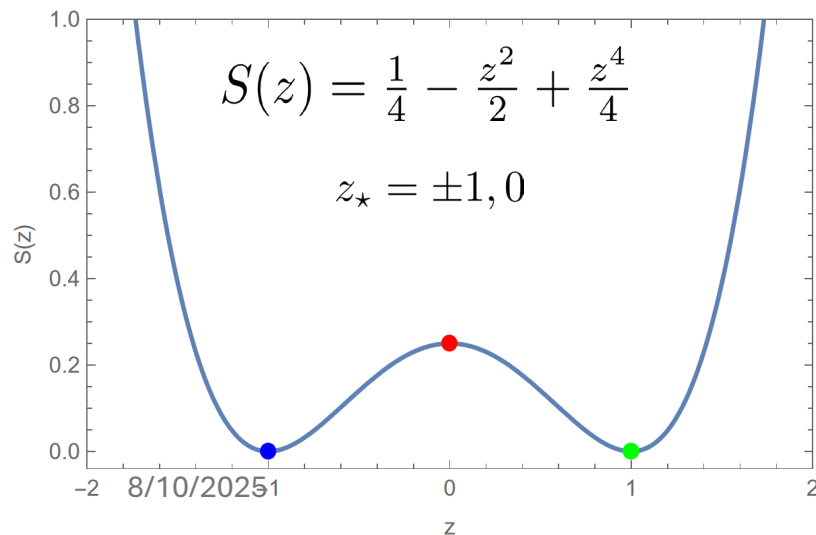
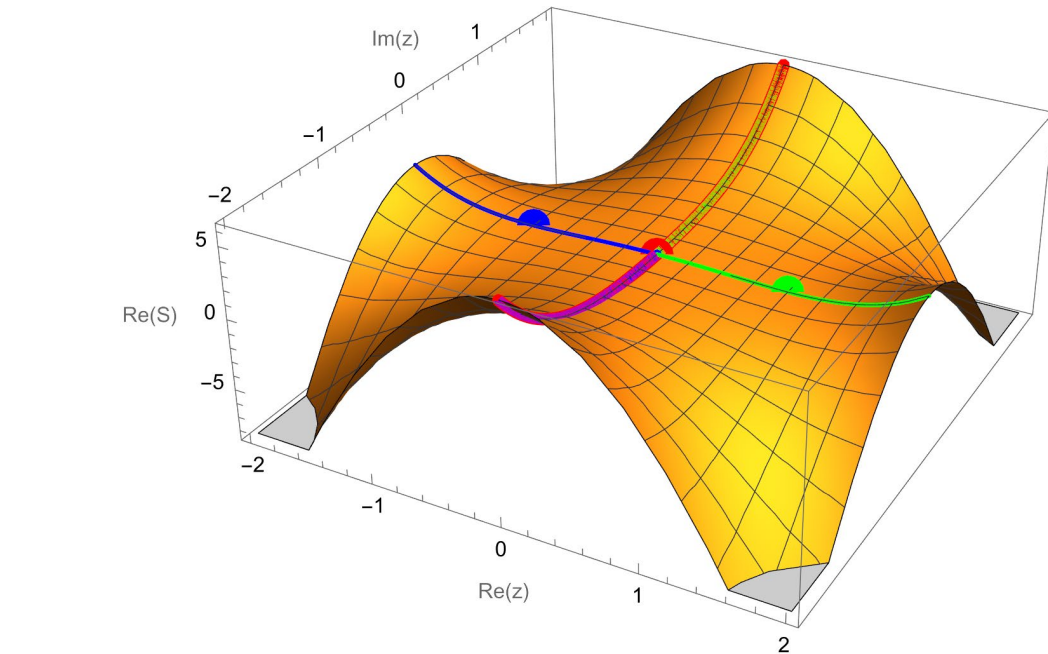
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Sum of inverse Borel transforms recovers the integral

$$B_{\pm 1}(t) = \sqrt{2 - 2\sqrt{1 - 4t} \pm i\epsilon}$$

$$B_0(t) = \pm 2i\sqrt{\sqrt{1 + 4t} - 1}$$



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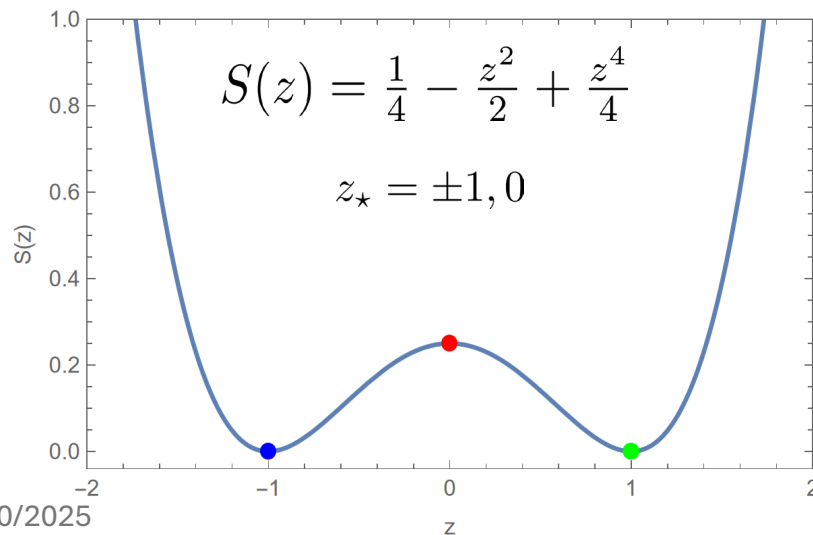
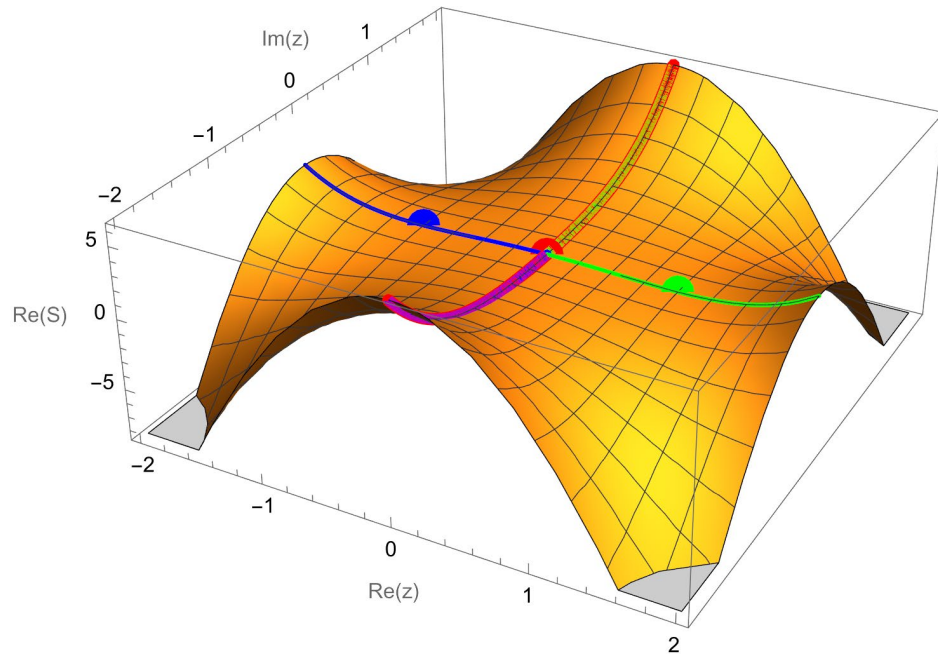
$$B_{\pm 1}(t) = \sqrt{2 - 2\sqrt{1 - 4t} \pm i\epsilon}$$

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$$\frac{1}{\alpha} \int_0^\infty dt e^{-t/\alpha} [B_1(t) + B_{-1}(t)] + \frac{1}{\alpha} e^{-\frac{1}{4\alpha}} \int_0^\infty dt e^{-t/\alpha} B_0(t) = \int_{-\infty}^\infty dz e^{-S(z)/\alpha}$$

Imaginary parts from lateral Borel resummation cancel between thimbles yielding a real result

Lateral Borel Resummation works since original integral has a thimble decomposition



Borel Action Correspondence

General observation

$$f(\alpha) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dz \, e^{-S(z)/\alpha}$$

Borel Action Correspondence

General observation

$$\begin{aligned} f(\alpha) &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dz \, e^{-S(z)/\alpha} \\ \Rightarrow \quad \frac{f(\alpha)}{\alpha} &= \frac{1}{\alpha} \int_0^{\infty} dt \, e^{-t/\alpha} \underbrace{\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dz \, \delta(t - S(z))}_{\mathcal{B}[f(\alpha)/\alpha](t)} \end{aligned}$$

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$$\mathcal{B} \left[\frac{f(\alpha)}{\alpha} \right] (t) = \frac{d}{dt} \mathcal{B} [f(\alpha)] (t) = \sum_{S(z)=t} \frac{1}{S'(z)} = \sum_{S(z)=t} \left| \frac{dz}{dS} \right|$$

Borel Action Correspondence

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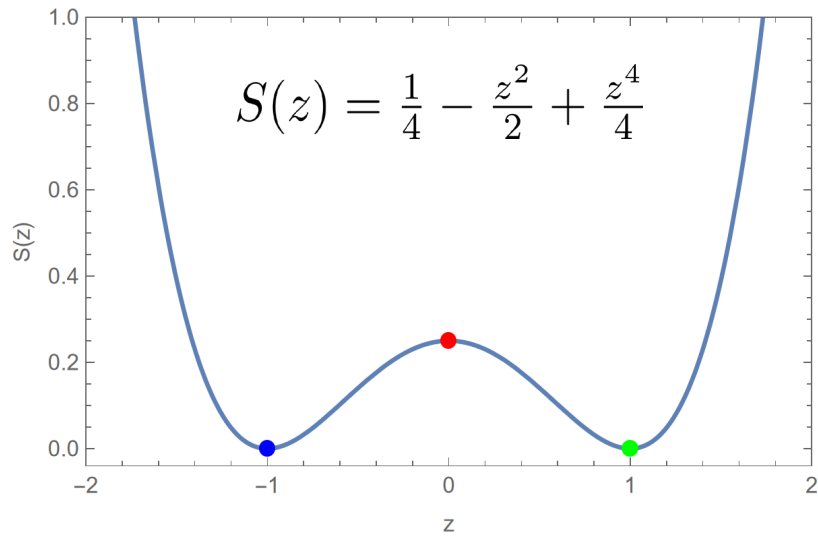
Integrate

$$B(t) = \sum_{S(z)=t} \pm z$$

$$t = S(z)$$

Borel Action correspondence

Borel Action Correspondence

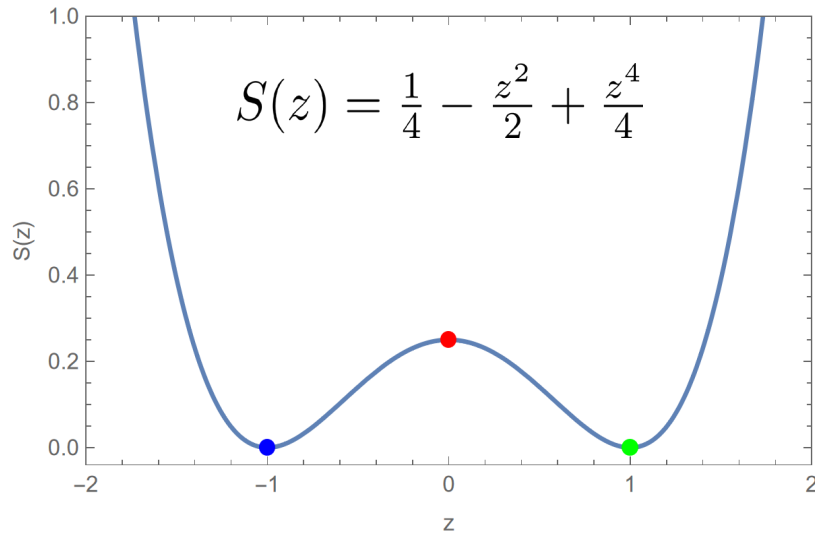


$$B(t) = \sum_{S(z)=t} \pm z \quad t = S(z)$$

Two solutions for $t > 1/4$ $z = \pm\sqrt{1 + 2\sqrt{t}}$

Four solutions for $t < 1/4$ $z = \pm\sqrt{1 + 2\sqrt{t}}$ $z = \pm\sqrt{1 - \sqrt{2}\sqrt{t}}$

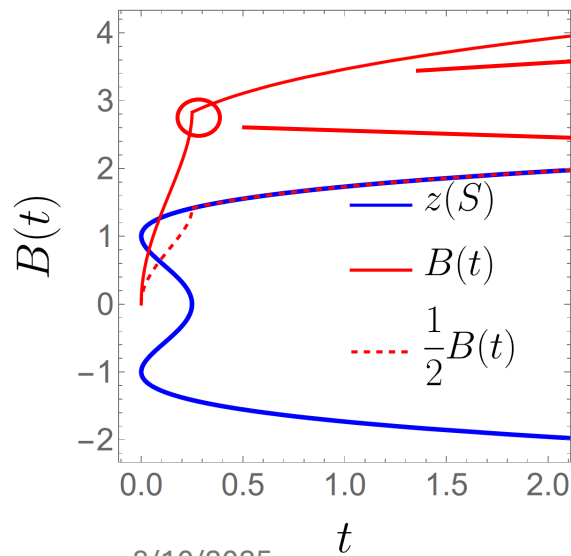
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$$B(t) = -2\sqrt{1-2\sqrt{t}} \theta\left(\frac{1}{4} - t\right) + 2\sqrt{1+2\sqrt{t}}$$

Equivalent to $B_{-1}(t) + B_1(t) + B_0(t)$

Non analytic behaviour at $t = 1/4$

$$B_{\pm 1}(t) = \sqrt{2 - 2\sqrt{1 - 4t \pm i\epsilon}}$$

Expansion about $z = 1$ indicates the presence of saddle at $S'(0) = 0$

Borel Action Correspondence

$$1\text{D} : B(t) = \int dz \, \theta(t - S(z))$$

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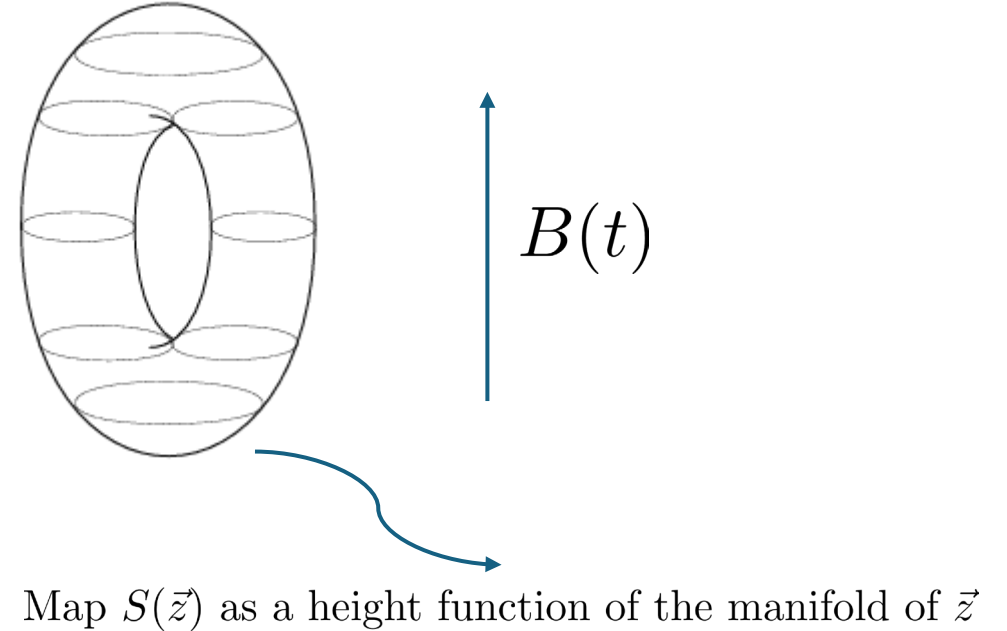
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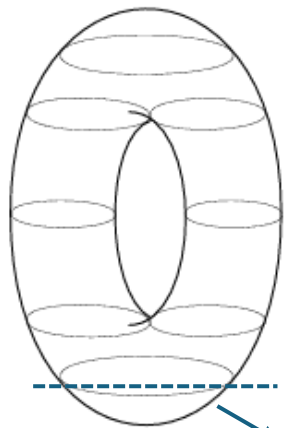


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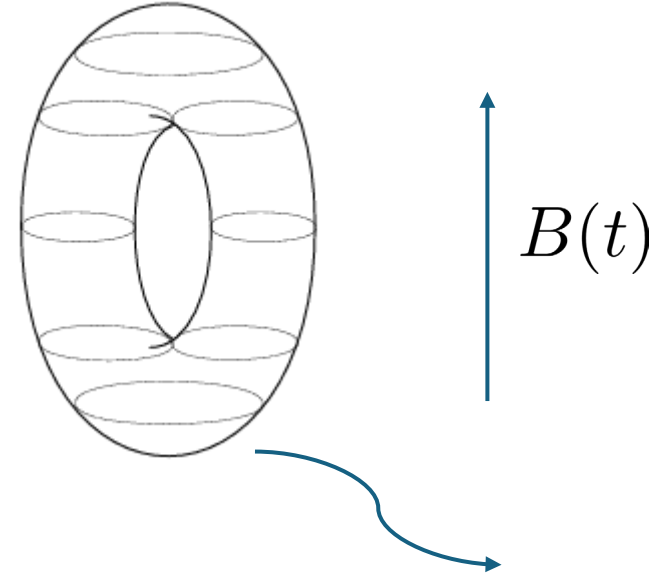
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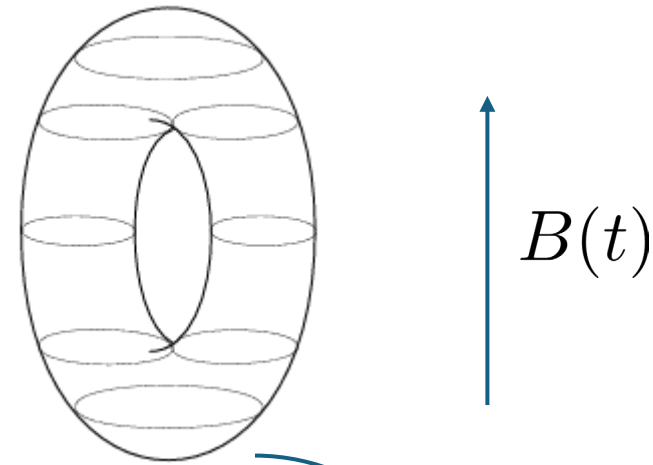
Map $S(\vec{z})$ as a height function of the manifold of $\vec{z}$

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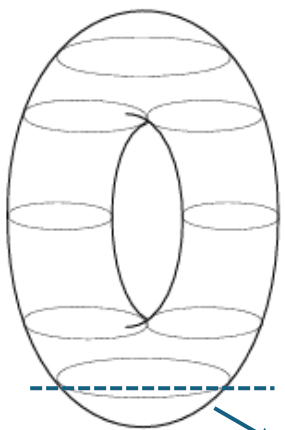
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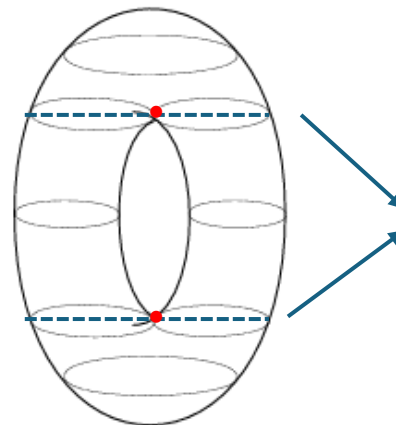
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Volume increases continuously



Level set of volume ‘splits’

$B(t)$ has non-analytic behaviour, discontinuities

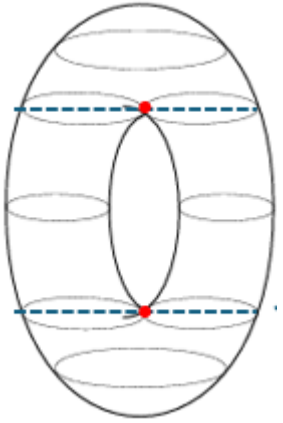
• $\rightarrow$ Saddle points of action $S(\vec{z})$

Borel Singularities

Borel Action correspondence shows how $B(t)$ can blow up

$$B(t) = \int d^n \vec{z} \, \theta(t - S(\vec{z}))$$

- Case 1: $B(t)$ has a branch cut, $S'(z) = 0$ at finite z



$$\frac{\delta S_E}{\delta \phi} = 0 \implies \phi_{\text{Instanton}} \implies Z(\alpha) \sim \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \alpha^n n! S_I^{-n}$$

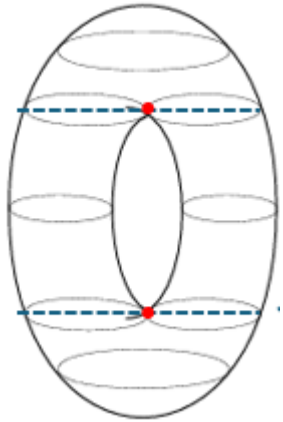
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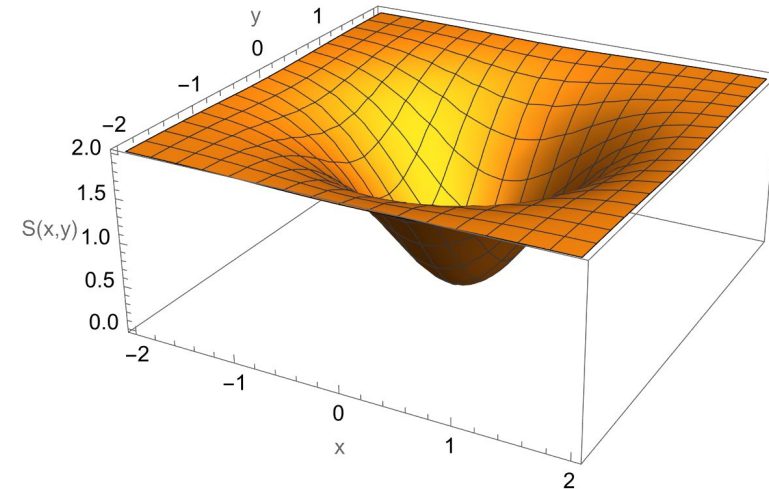
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- Case 2: $S(z) \rightarrow \text{constant}$ as $z \rightarrow \infty$, $B(t)$ diverges

$$S(z) = 2S_I(1 - e^{-z})$$



$$B(t) = -\ln \left(1 - \frac{t}{2S_I} \right)$$



Ex) Double well energy levels,
Instanton Anti Instanton pair in QCD, etc.

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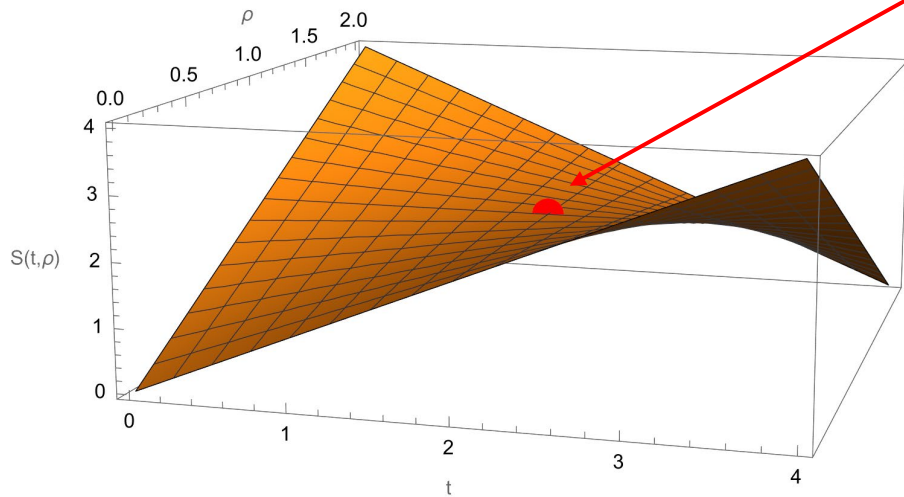
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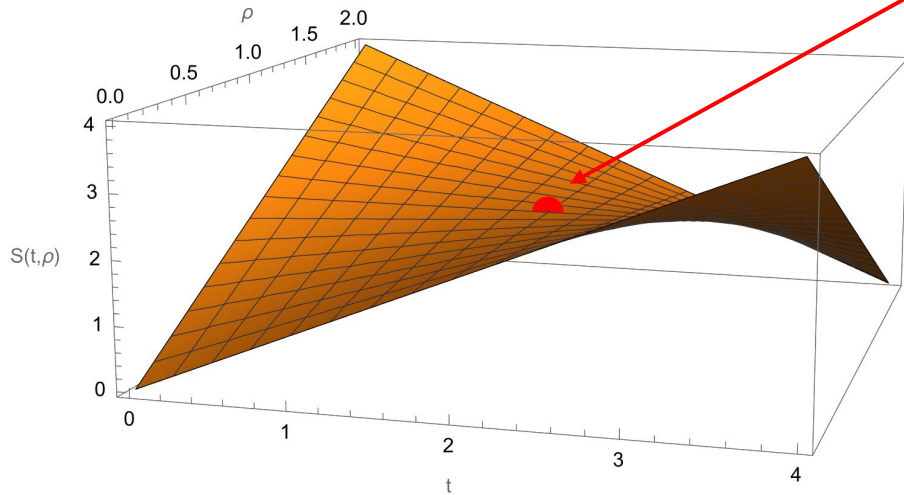
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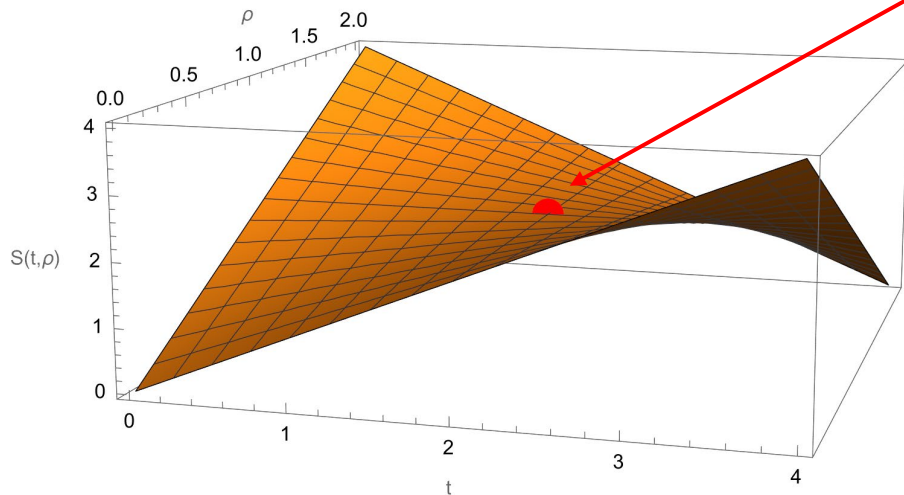
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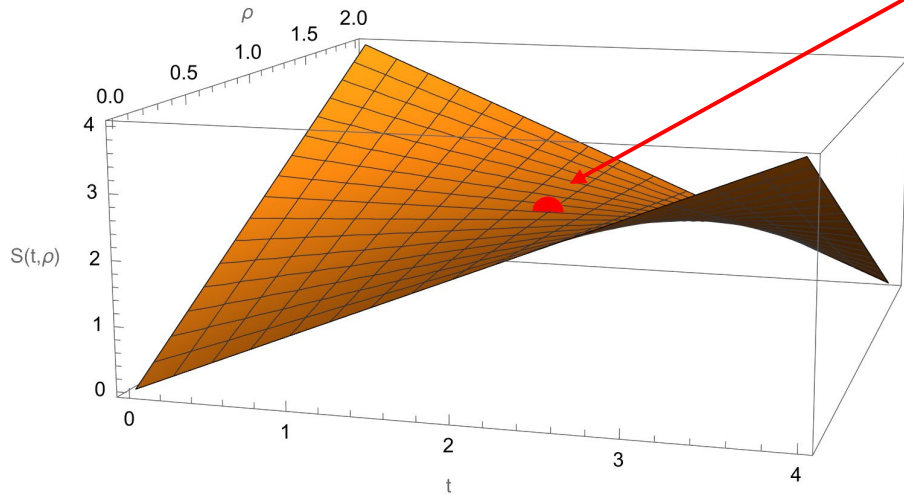
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Scalar field theory example, but general. $[\mathcal{O}] = \Delta_{\mathcal{O}}$

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arXiv:1707.08124 Andreassen, Frost, Schwartz

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Integrate over IR modes in R ,
energy scales $\leq 1/R_0$

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Similar to [Balitsky Babansky \(2000\)](#) but do not need to thread along instanton-anti-instanton valley $t = S(A_I + A_{\bar{I}})$

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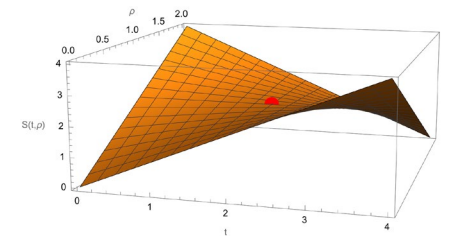
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Arindam Bhattacharya

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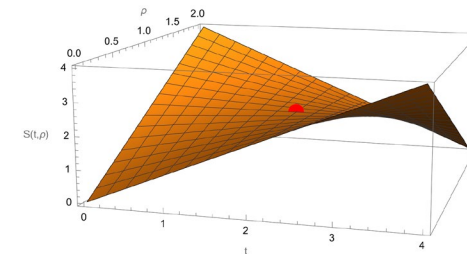
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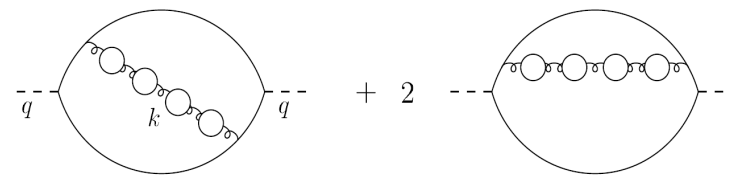
Diagrammatic renormalon is thus a saddle of the effective action

$$t_R = \frac{\Delta_{\mathcal{O}}}{2\beta_0} \quad \rho = \frac{1}{2\beta_0\alpha(\mu)} \quad R = \frac{1}{\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}}$$

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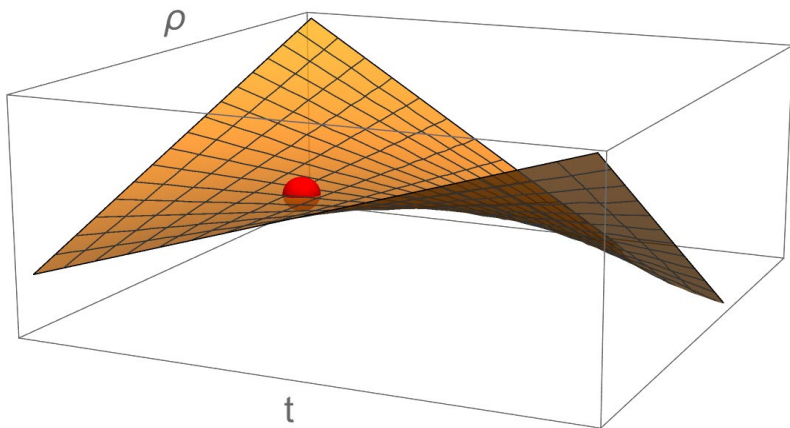
Example

$$\mathcal{O} = \text{Tr}(G^2), \Delta_{\mathcal{O}} = 4 \text{ gives } t_R = 2/\beta_0$$



Leading renormalon in Adler function, R ratio

Renormalon Thimble



Thimbles in higher dimensional complex space are middle real dimensional complex cycles that have $\text{Im}[S]$ constant

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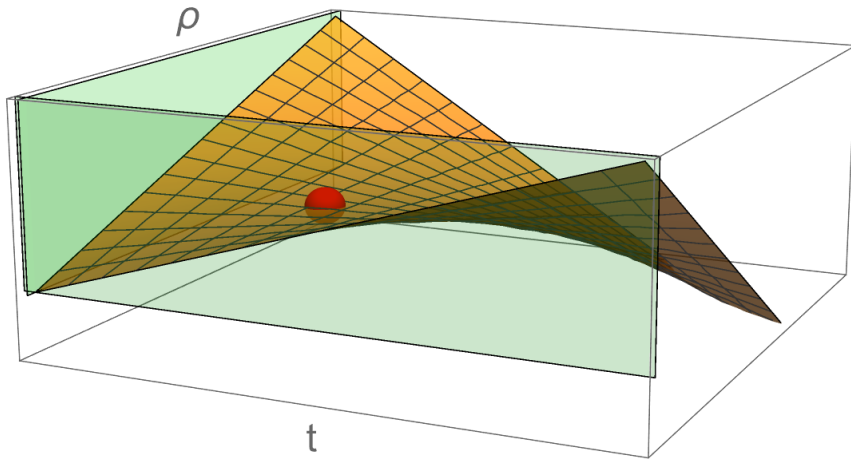
$$t = x + iw$$

4d complex space, 2d real middle dimension

$$\rho = y + iw$$

Action increases in a real direction and in an imaginary direction

Renormalon Thimble



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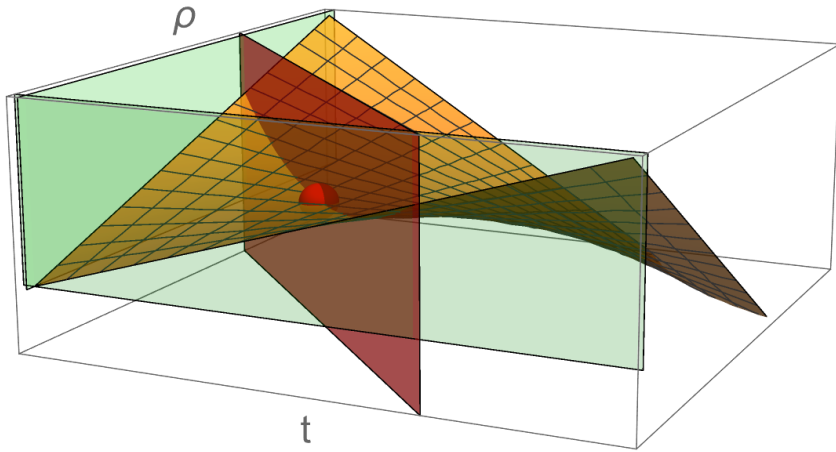
$$C_1 = (\mathbb{R}^+, 0, \mathbb{R}^+)$$

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Integration along thimble gives same answer as lateral Borel resummation

Justification as to why lateral Borel transform works in the OPE!

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Thimble through renormalon saddle $t = t_R, \rho = \frac{1}{2\beta_0\alpha(\mu)}$

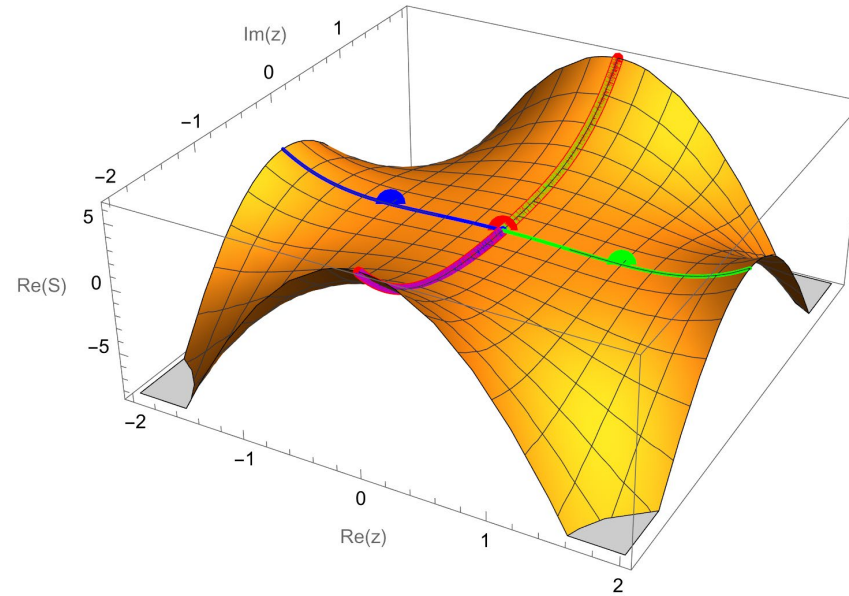
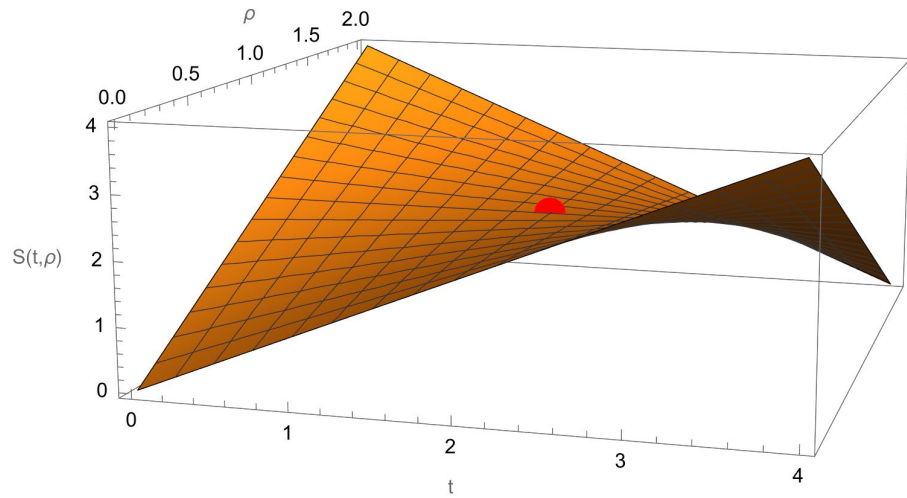
$$w \in \mathbb{R}, -\infty \leq x - t_R = \frac{1}{\alpha} - y \leq \infty$$

Pure imaginary part, twice that of lateral Borel resummation around diagrams

Work in progress : OPE cancellation of renormalons via thimbles

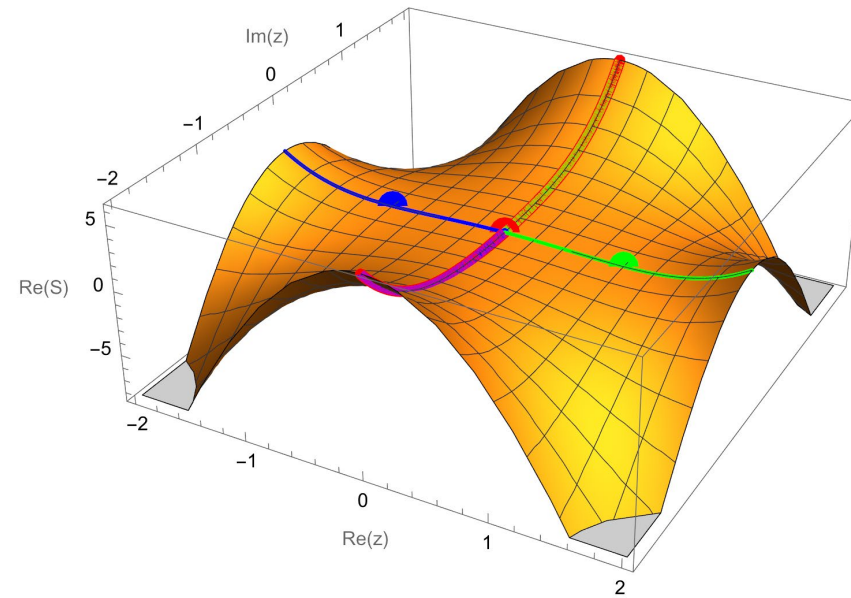
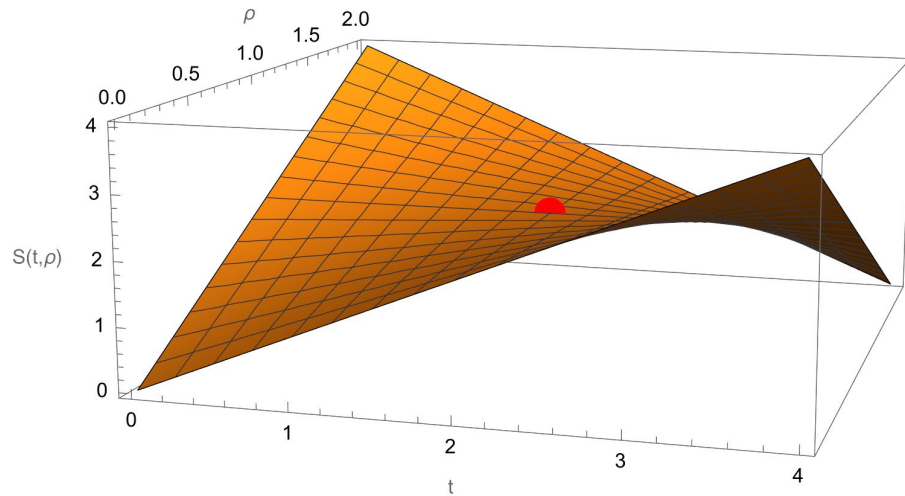
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- Renormalon appears as saddle point of the effective action. Same footing as instantons!



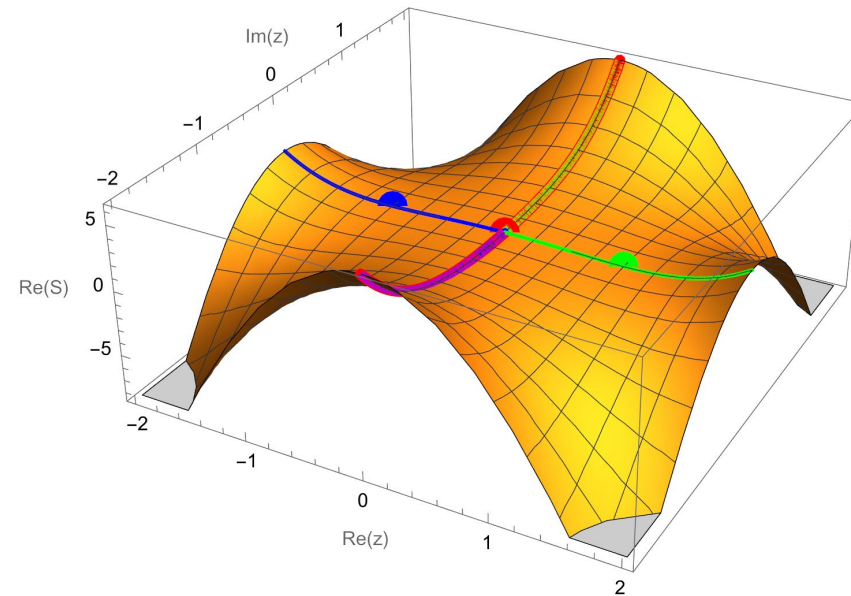
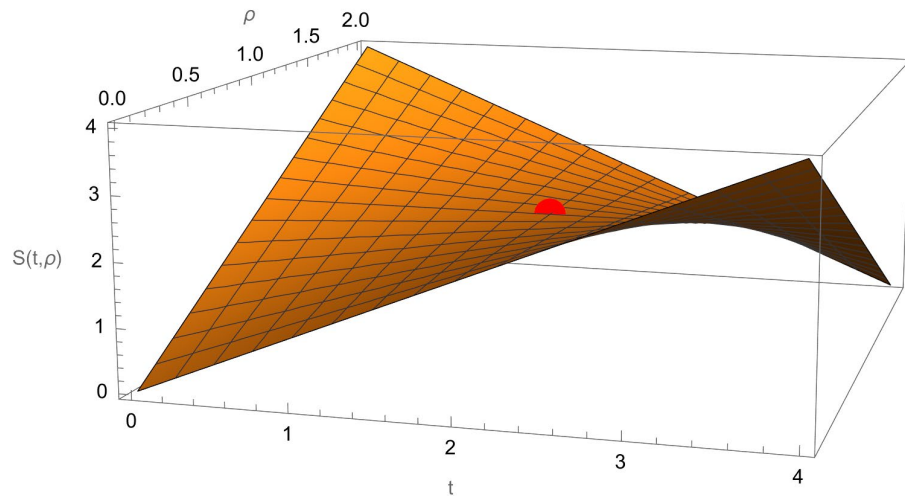
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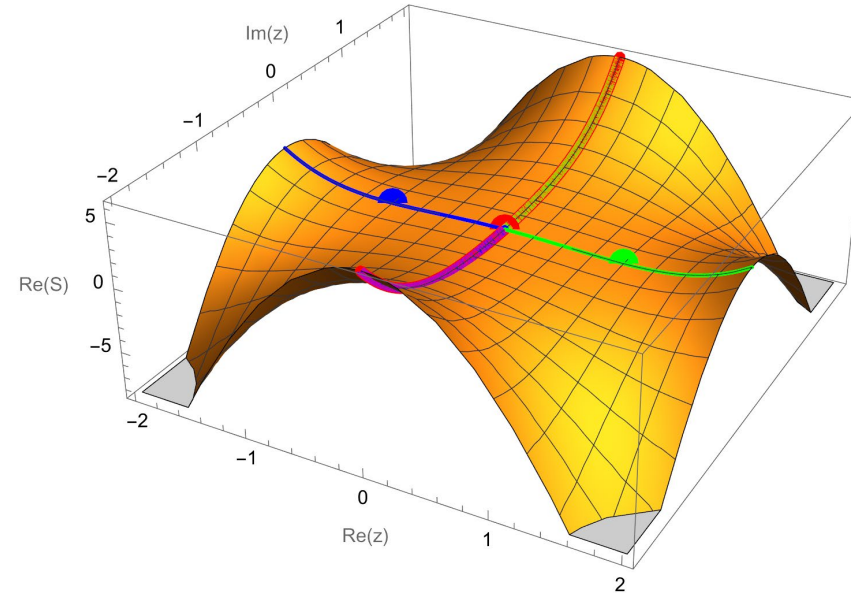
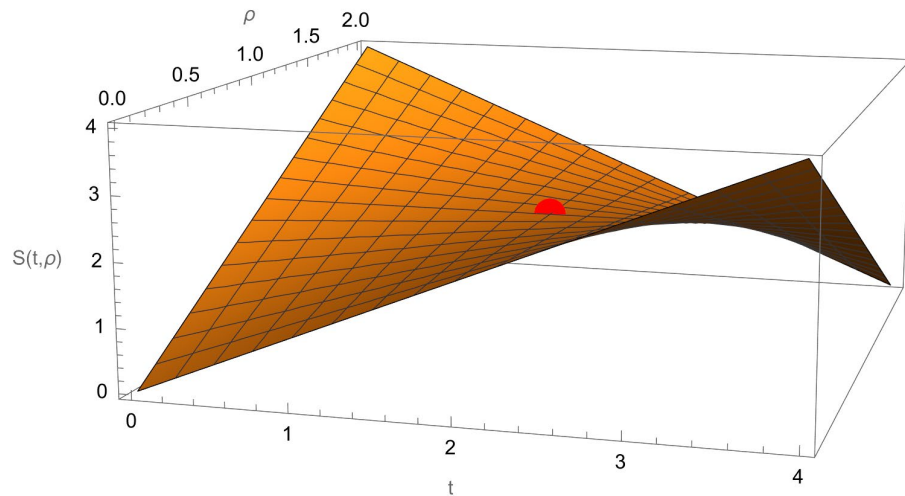
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- Renormalon appears as saddle point of the effective action. Same footing as instantons!
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- Alternate probe of diagrammatic renormalon going beyond naïve non-abelianization of large N_f
- Full trans-series of renormalons using thimble decomposition of the path integral?



Thank you for your time! Questions?

Backup

Two Loop Renormalon

$$\int_0^\infty dt \int_{R_0}^\infty \frac{dR}{R^{1+\Delta}} e^{-t/\alpha(\mu) - 2\beta_0 t \ln \mu R + \frac{\beta_1 t}{\beta_0} \ln(\frac{1}{\alpha(\mu)} + \frac{\beta_1}{\beta_0}) + \dots}$$

Shift to

$$\frac{1}{\tilde{\alpha}(\mu)} = \frac{1}{\alpha(\mu)} + \frac{\beta_1}{\beta_0}$$

$$\begin{aligned} & \int_0^\infty dt e^{-t/\tilde{\alpha}(\mu)} \int_{R_0}^\infty \frac{dR}{R^{1+\Delta}} (\mu R)^{-2\beta_0 t} \tilde{\alpha}(\mu)^{-\beta_1 t/\beta_0} e^{\beta_1 t/\beta_0} \\ &= \mu^\Delta \int_0^\infty dt e^{-t/\tilde{\alpha}(\mu)} \int d\rho e^{-\rho(2\beta_0 t - \Delta)} \tilde{\alpha}(\mu)^{-\beta_1 t/\beta_0} e^{\beta_1 t/\beta_0} \end{aligned}$$

Integration by parts

$$\begin{aligned} & \mu^\Delta \int_0^\infty dt e^{-t/\tilde{\alpha}(\mu)} \int d\rho e^{-\rho(2\beta_0 t - \Delta)} \tilde{\alpha}(\mu)^{-2\beta_1/\beta_0^2} e^{\beta_1 t/\beta_0} \\ & \propto \mu^\Delta \int_0^\infty dt e^{-t/\tilde{\alpha}(\mu)} \frac{1}{(2\beta_0 t - \Delta)^{1+\Delta\beta_1/\beta_0^2}} e^{-t\beta_1/\beta_0} \end{aligned}$$

Form of two loop running included in renormalons from diagrams [Mueller 1992](#), [Grunberg 1993](#)

Renormalons in SYM

Some literature claim that $\langle \text{Tr } G^2(0) \rangle$ vanishes in $\mathcal{N} = 1$ SYM [Shifman : 1411.4004](#), [Dunne, Shifman, Unsal : 1502.06680](#). Does the leading renormalon in the Adler function vanish?

Diagrammatic probe is hard since we rely on large N_f and naïve non-abelianization

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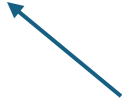
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Path integral methods can answer this! Potential fermion zero-modes (as present in instanton-anti-instanton) can make the Borel transform / operator vev zero.

$$\int [da_n] e^{-S_0(a_n)} \underbrace{\frac{d^4 x_0 d\rho}{\rho^5}}_{\text{Bosonic Zero Modes}} \times \underbrace{\prod_{n=1}^{2Nk} d\theta}_{\text{Fermionic Zero Modes}} \quad n_f = 2Nk \text{ zero modes in } SU(N) \text{ with } \mathcal{N} = k \text{ SUSY}$$

$$\lambda^\alpha \sim \frac{\rho}{(\rho^2 + (x + x_0)^2)^{3/2}} \xi^\alpha$$

Kills Bosonic operator expectation values



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$\langle (\bar{\psi}\psi)^2(0) \rangle$ gives the leading renormalon at $t = 3/\beta_0$. Interesting to check and prove this using diagrams!

OPE and Renormalons

In precision QCD, the OPE is a Λ_{QCD}/Q expansion

$$\sigma = C_0(Q, \mu) \mathcal{O}_0(\mu) + C_1(Q, \mu) \frac{\langle \mathcal{O}_2(\mu) \rangle}{Q} + \dots$$

Feynman diagrams contribute
to the Wilson coefficients

A H Mueller, 1985
L Maiani et.al, 1992
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NP operator matrix elements
Contain imaginary contributions that
cancel with the IR renormalons
in the Wilson coefficients

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