

# The ``ra'' basis

A more transparent physical connection

- Introduce a new basis  $\phi_r \equiv \frac{\phi_1 + \phi_2}{2}$ ,  $\phi_a \equiv \phi_1 - \phi_2$ . The propagator is

$$\mathbf{D} = \begin{pmatrix} \langle \phi_r \phi_r \rangle & \langle \phi_r \phi_a \rangle \\ \langle \phi_a \phi_r \rangle & \langle \phi_a \phi_a \rangle \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} D^{rr} & D^R \\ D^A & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

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- **Two causal** and a **statistical** propagator ( $D_{rr}$  or *symmetric*). A vanishing entry

$D_{rr} = \frac{1}{2}(D^> + D^<)$  is the anticommutator (for bosons).

$$D_{rr}(\omega) = \left( \frac{1}{2} + n_B(\omega) \right) \rho_B(\omega), \quad S_{rr}(\omega) = \left( \frac{1}{2} - n_F(\omega) \right) \rho_F(\omega)$$

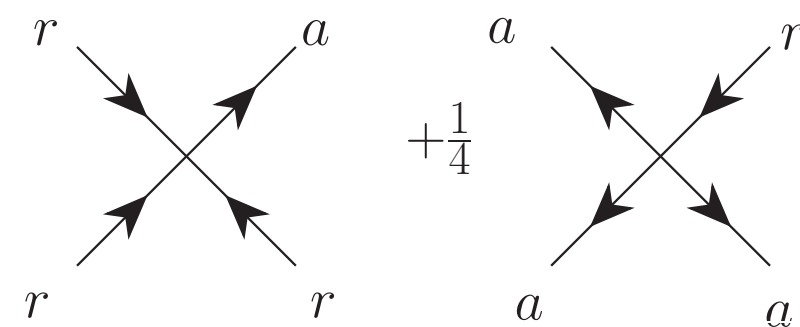
- Everything clearly determined by the retarded propagator and the statistical function
- Recall that the bare spf is  $\rho_B(\omega) = 2\pi\epsilon(\omega)\delta(\omega^2 - E_k^2)$

# The “ra” basis

## A more transparent physical connection

- Introduce a new basis  $\phi_r \equiv \frac{\phi_1 + \phi_2}{2}$ ,  $\phi_a \equiv \phi_1 - \phi_2$ . The vertices become

$$S_I(\phi_1) - S_I(\phi_2) = S_I\left(\phi_r + \frac{1}{2}\phi_a\right) - S_I\left(\phi_r - \frac{1}{2}\phi_a\right) \quad S_I(\phi_1) - S_I(\phi_2) \propto \frac{1}{4!}(\phi_1^4 - \phi_2^4) = \frac{1}{2^2} \frac{1}{3!} \phi_a^3 \phi_r + \frac{1}{3!} \phi_r^3 \phi_a.$$



Standard vacuum vertex with one  $a$ , extra “triple  $a$ ” vertex with  $1/4$  factor

- Graphical notation for the flow of causality, arrows point towards  $r$  fields

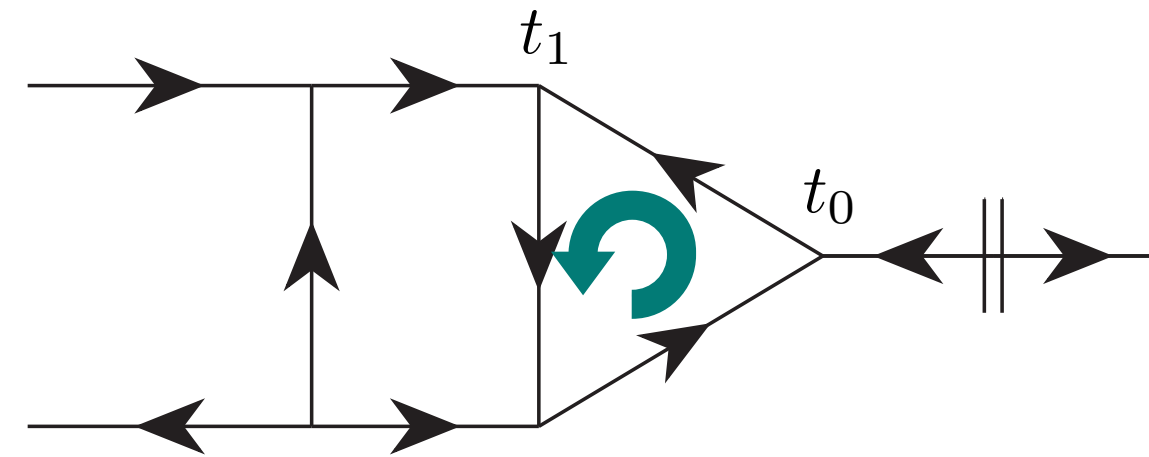
$$D^R(\mathcal{P}) = \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{\mathcal{P}} \\ \longrightarrow \end{array}$$

$$D^A(\mathcal{P}) = \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{\mathcal{P}} \\ \longleftarrow \end{array}$$

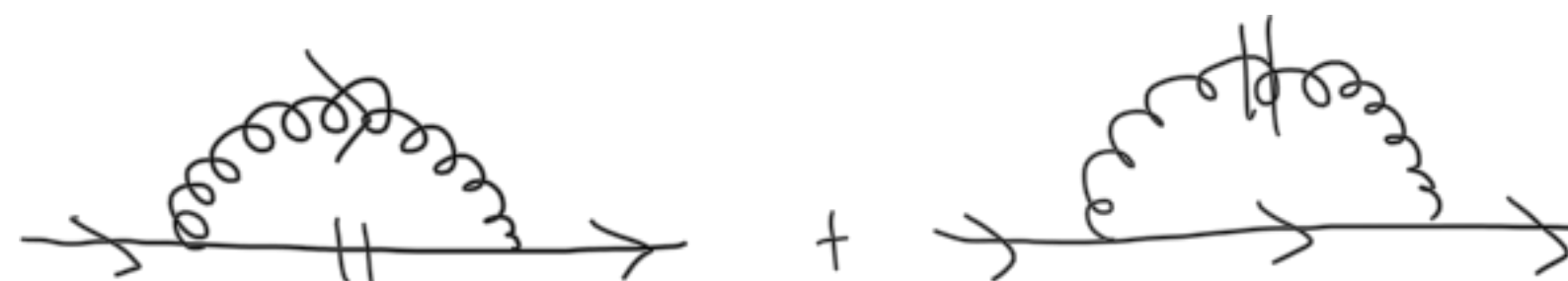
$$D^{rr}(\mathcal{P}) = \begin{array}{c} \xrightarrow{\mathcal{P}} \\ \longleftarrow \parallel \longrightarrow \end{array}$$

# The ``ra'' basis

## Causality



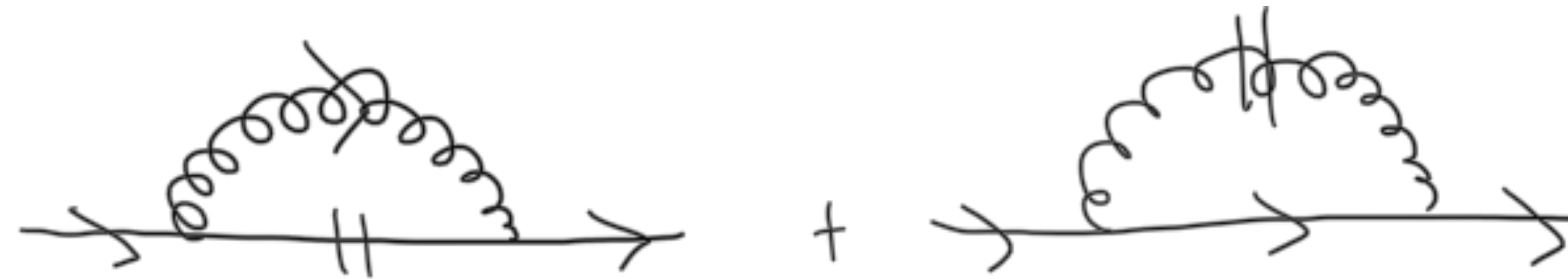
- Closed loops with a **flow of causality** vanish: require  $t_1 > t_0$  and  $t_0 > t_1$
- In momentum space: 
$$\int_P D_R(P)D_R(P + Q)D_R(P + Q + K) = 0$$
- Diagrams where **a** vertex is at latest time vanish
- Retarded self-energy very simple: correlation X causation





# The “ra” basis

## Resummation



- The lack of an  $aa$  propagator (at all orders!) makes the Schwinger-Dyson eq. for the retarded propagator diagonal

$$D^R(\mathcal{P}) = \rightarrow + \rightarrow \text{---} \bigcirc \rightarrow + \rightarrow \text{---} \bigcirc \text{---} \bigcirc \rightarrow + \dots$$

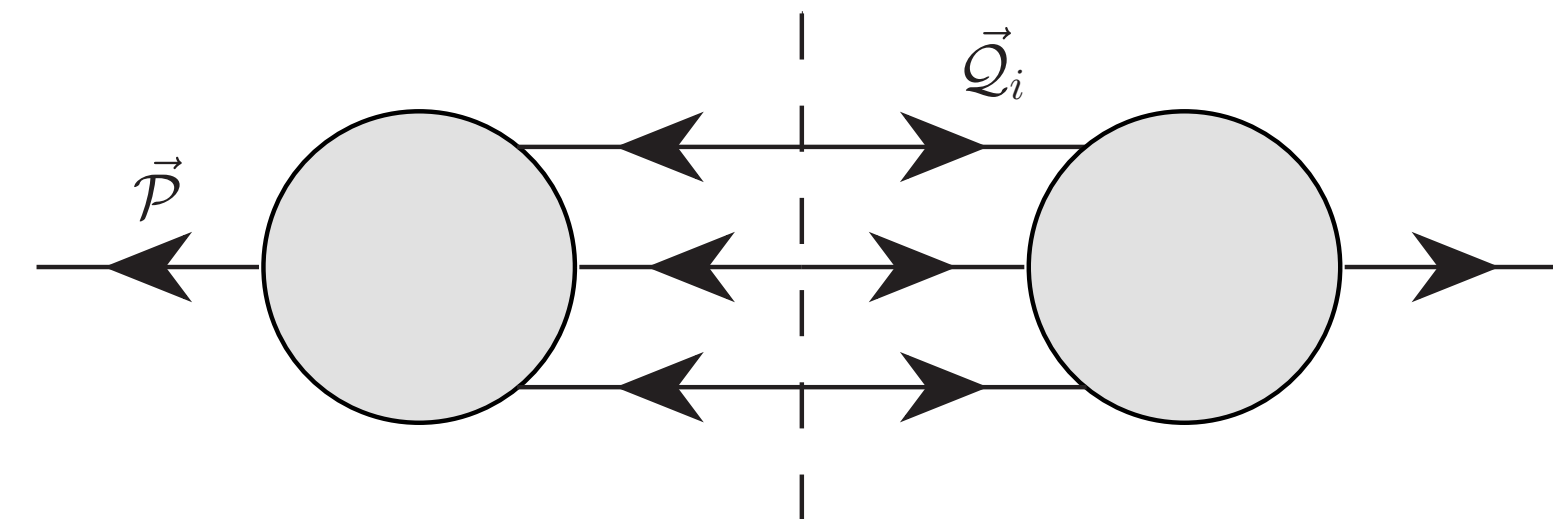
- Try that in the 12 basis...
- For the  $rr$  a bit more complicated. And there is KMS for self-energies too

$$\Pi^{aa}(\mathcal{P}) = \left( \frac{1}{2} \pm n(p^0) \right) (\Pi^R(\mathcal{P}) - \Pi^A(\mathcal{P}))$$

# Cutting rules

From the Wightman self-energy to retarded amplitudes

$$\begin{aligned} \Pi^>(\mathcal{P}) = & \sum_n \frac{1}{n!} \left( \prod_n \int \frac{d^4 Q_n}{(2\pi)^4} \right) (2\pi)^4 \delta^4(Q_1 + \dots + Q_n - \mathcal{P}) \\ & \times \mathcal{M}_{ar\dots r}(\mathcal{P}; Q_1, \dots, Q_n) \mathcal{M}_{ar\dots r}(-\mathcal{P}; -Q_1, \dots, -Q_n) \\ & \times D^>(Q_1) \dots D^>(Q_n), \end{aligned}$$



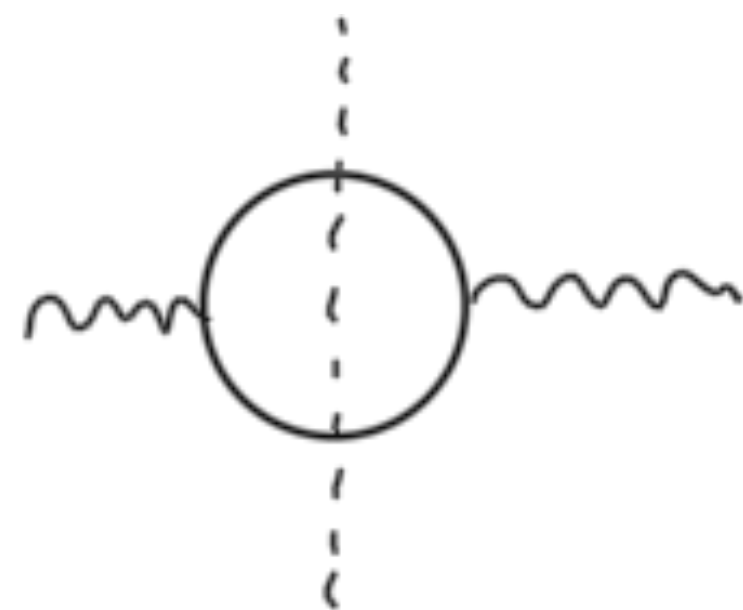
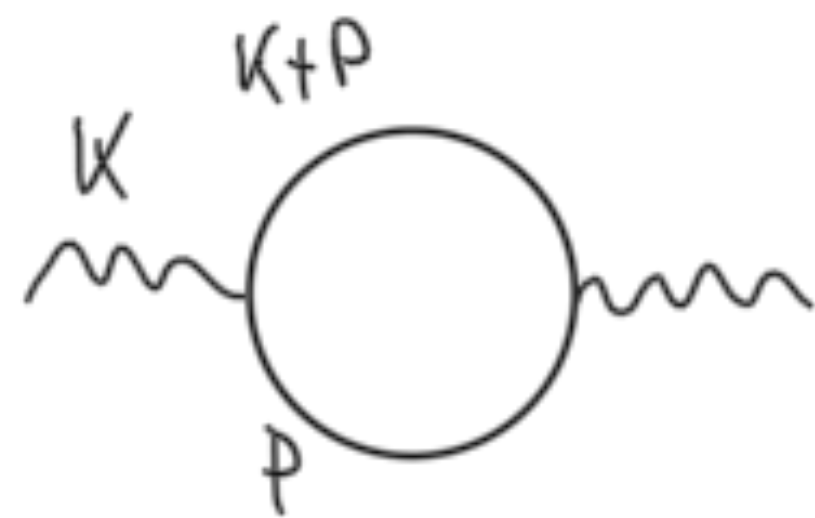
- Sum over all possible cuts. Each cut line is replaced by a Wightman propagator, amplitudes on both sides of the cut fully retarded (one  $a$ , all other  $r$ ): finite- $T$  generalisation of matrix elements squared
- Have to try it to actually see it work

# The *ra* basis with cutting rules

We are ready to go (and see the failure of the loop expansion)

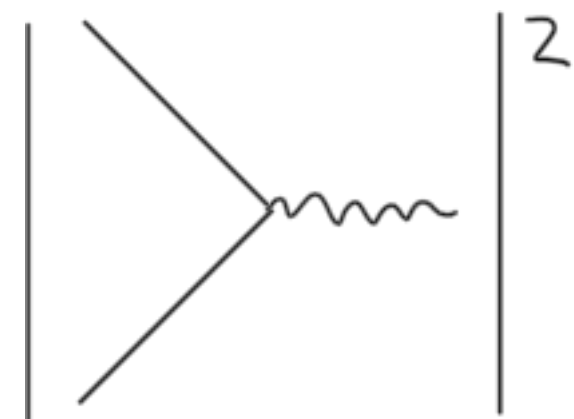
$$\frac{dN_\gamma}{d^4 X d^3 k} \equiv \frac{d\Gamma_\gamma}{d^3 k} \stackrel{k \parallel z}{=} \frac{-e^2}{(2\pi)^3 2k} \int d^4 X e^{ik(t-z)} \langle J^\mu(0) J_\mu(X) \rangle$$

- This is a  $<$  Wightman function,  $\Pi^<(K)$ . We can use the cutting rule!



$$\propto S^<(k+p) S^<(-p)$$

$$\propto \delta((k+p)^2) \delta(p^2) = 0 \quad \text{for } k^2 = 0$$

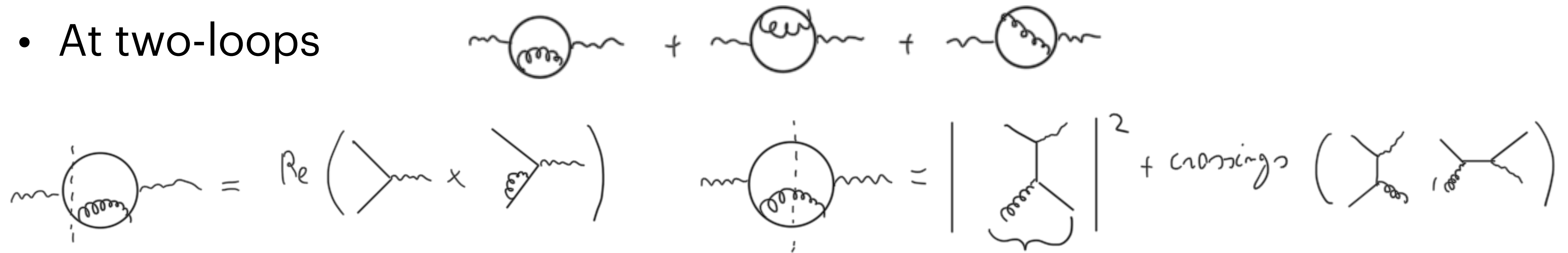


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$$\frac{d\Gamma_\gamma}{d^3k} = \frac{\Pi^<(\mathcal{K})}{(2\pi)^3 2k}, \quad \Pi^<(\mathcal{K}) = \int d^4\mathcal{X} e^{-i\mathcal{K}\cdot\mathcal{X}} \langle J^\mu(0) J_\mu(\mathcal{X}) \rangle$$

- At two-loops



we are actually still tree-level, since the virtual corrections necessarily vanish.

# The *ra* basis with cutting rules

We are ready to go (and see the failure of the loop expansion)

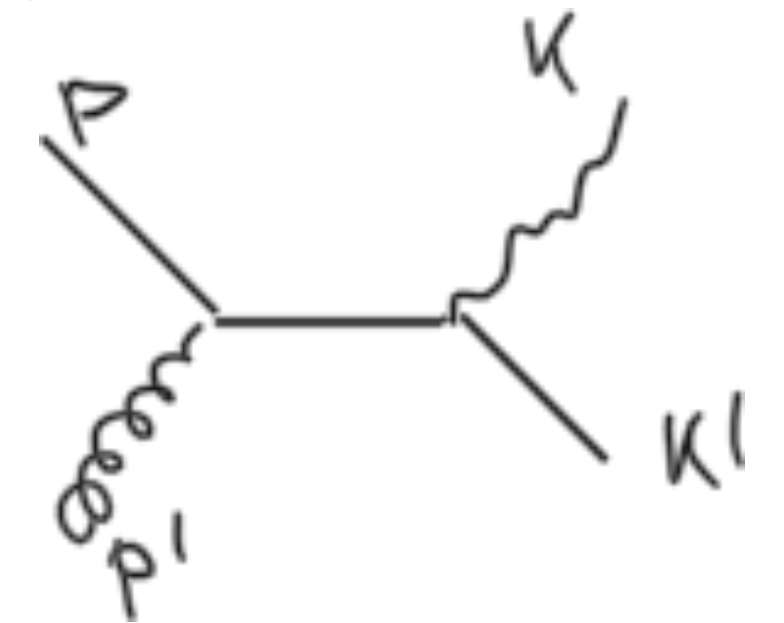
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- Doing all diagrams and cuts one finds

$$\Pi_{g^2 \text{ naive}}^<(\mathcal{K}) \equiv \Pi^<(\mathcal{K})_{\text{Compton}} + \Pi^<(\mathcal{K})_{\text{annih}},$$

$$\Pi^<(\mathcal{K})_{\text{Compton}} = e^2 \sum_{i=1}^{n_f} Q_i^2 \int \frac{d^3p d^3p' d^3k'}{(2\pi)^9 8 p p' k'} (2\pi)^4 \delta^{(4)}(\mathcal{P} + \mathcal{P}' - \mathcal{K} - \mathcal{K}') 16d_F C_F g^2 \left[ \frac{-s}{t} + \frac{-t}{s} \right] n_F(p) n_B(p') (1 - n_F(k'))$$

$$\Pi^<(\mathcal{K})_{\text{annih}} = e^2 \sum_{i=1}^{n_f} Q_i^2 \int \frac{d^3p d^3p' d^3k'}{(2\pi)^9 8 p p' k'} (2\pi)^4 \delta^{(4)}(\mathcal{P} + \mathcal{P}' - \mathcal{K} - \mathcal{K}') 8d_F C_F g^2 \left[ \frac{u}{t} + \frac{t}{u} \right] n_F(p) n_F(p') (1 + n_B(k'))$$



- This naive evaluation is equivalent to kinetic theory (gain term only)
- **Exercise:** work out one of these crossings directly from the cutting rules in Feynman gauge (see attachment). Bonus points if you try in 12 basis...

# The *ra* basis with cutting rules

We are ready to go (and see the failure of the loop expansion)

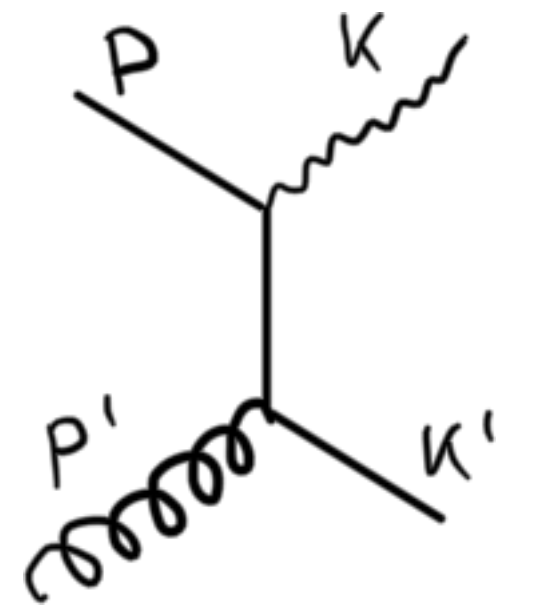
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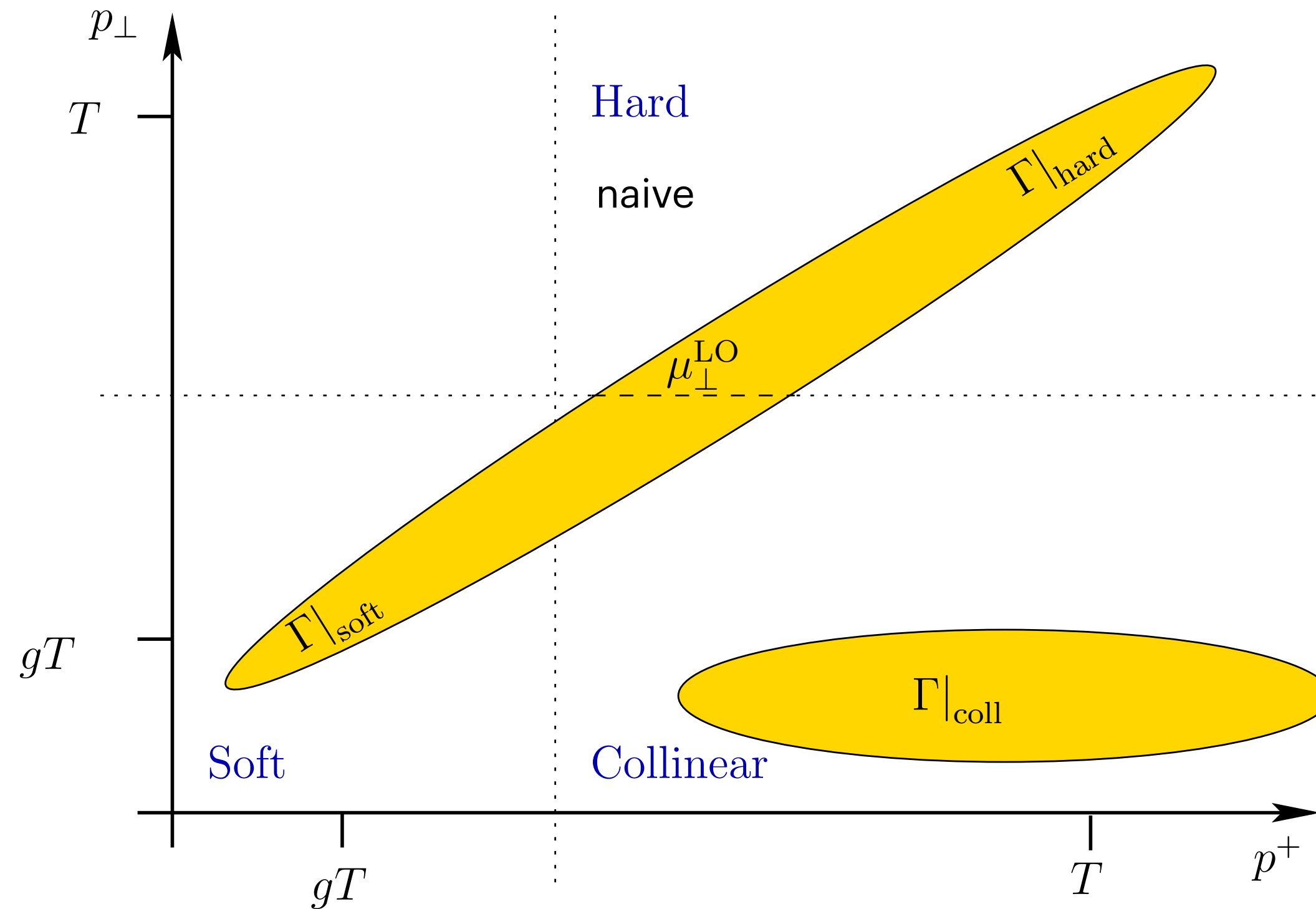
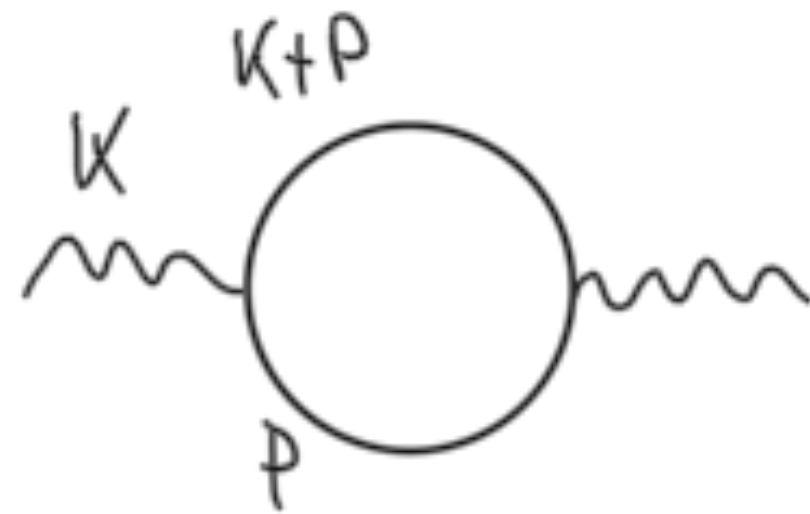


- The integrals can be worked out with the methods of [hep-ph/011107](#)
- At small  $t$  and  $u$  we have a log IR divergence: breakdown of the loop expansion

# The *ra* basis with cutting rules

We are ready to go (and see the failure of the loop expansion)

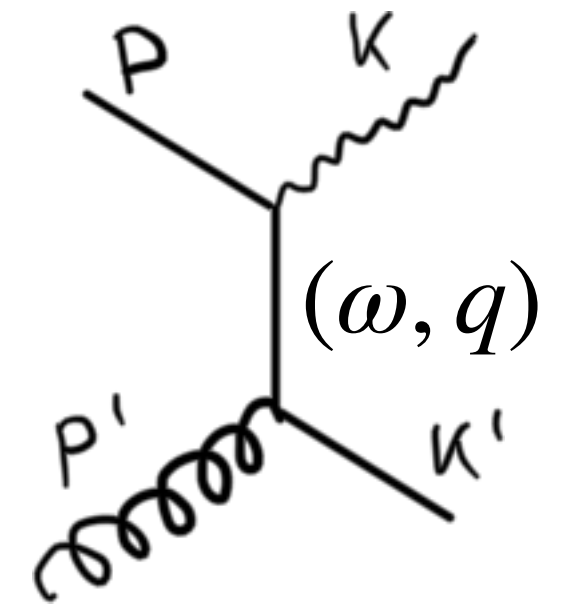
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# Breakdown of the loop expansion

## 1) Soft modes



- When  $t \ll s \sim T^2$  there is a logarithmic IR divergence.

**Exercise:** show that it has this form (I might have screwed the prefactors)

$$\Pi^<(K)_{\text{compton}}^{\text{soft}} = \frac{e^2 \sum_i Q_i d_F C_F g^2 n_F(k)}{2\pi^3} \int_{\text{soft}} dq \int_{-q}^q d\omega \int_0^\infty dp' \frac{p'}{q^2} n_B(p') (1 - n_F(p'))$$

- If there is an IR scale ( $\ll T$ ) it will contribute to LO to this logarithmic phase space  $dq/q$
- This scale is the scale  $gT$  where the first **collective effects** appear



# Breakdown of the loop expansion

## 1) Soft modes

- In vacuum (at  $m = 0$ )  $\Sigma(Q) \propto g^2 Q$
- Here we have an extra scale,  $T$ . Hence we can have  $\Sigma_R(Q \ll T) \sim g^2 T^2 / Q$  (this will be shown explicitly soon)
- We have  $Q \sim \Sigma_R(Q \ll T)$  for  $Q \sim gT$ : this is where the loop expansion breaks down. For gauge bosons  $\Pi_R(Q \ll T) \sim g^2 T^2$ , same story
- How to deal with this breakdown? What are the physical consequences? And how is it related to the emergence of collectivity?
- To answer these question, introduce **Hard Thermal Loops**

# Hard Thermal Loops

## Emergence of collectivity

- Hard Thermal Loop (HTL) effective theory: a consistent, modern and gauge-invariant handling of these effects
- Originally introduced by Braaten and Pisarski [1, 2], Frenkel and Taylor [3, 4] and Taylor and Wong [5]. Their connection to a kinetic picture for the underlying hard modes has been illustrated in the review of Blaizot and Iancu [6]

[1,2] [10.1016/0550-3213\(90\)90508-B](https://arxiv.org/abs/10.1016/0550-3213(90)90508-B), [10.1103/PhysRevD.45.R1827](https://arxiv.org/abs/10.1103/PhysRevD.45.R1827)

[3,4] [10.1016/0550-3213\(90\)90661-V](https://arxiv.org/abs/10.1016/0550-3213(90)90661-V), [10.1016/0550-3213\(92\)90480-Y](https://arxiv.org/abs/10.1016/0550-3213(92)90480-Y)

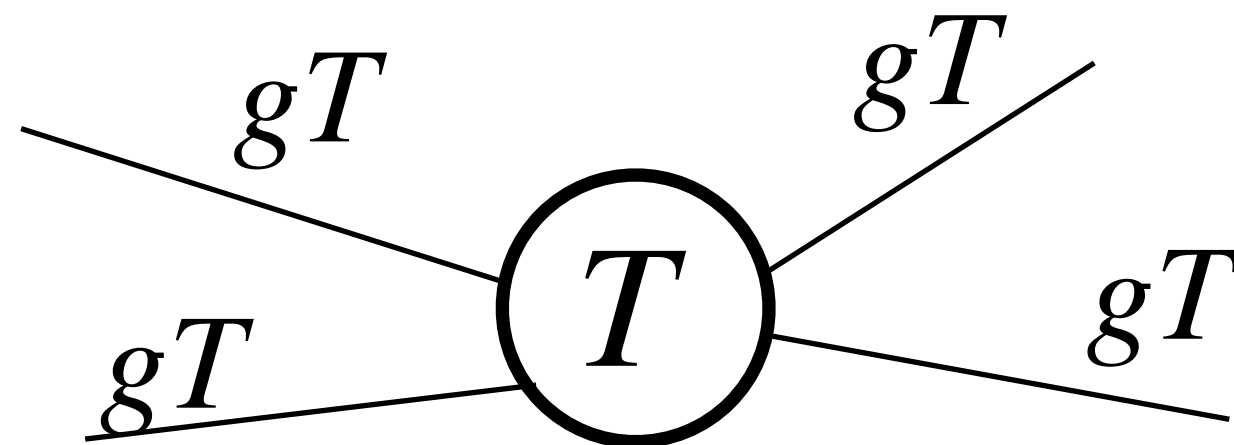
[5] [10.1016/0550-3213\(90\)90240-E](https://arxiv.org/abs/10.1016/0550-3213(90)90240-E)

[6] [hep-ph/0101103](https://arxiv.org/abs/hep-ph/0101103)

# Hard Thermal Loops

## Diagrammatics and connection to kinetics

- Diagrammatically: HTLs= $g^2 T^2$ -proportional gauge-invariant amplitudes with  $n \geq 2$  external soft lines and thermal ("hard") loop momentum



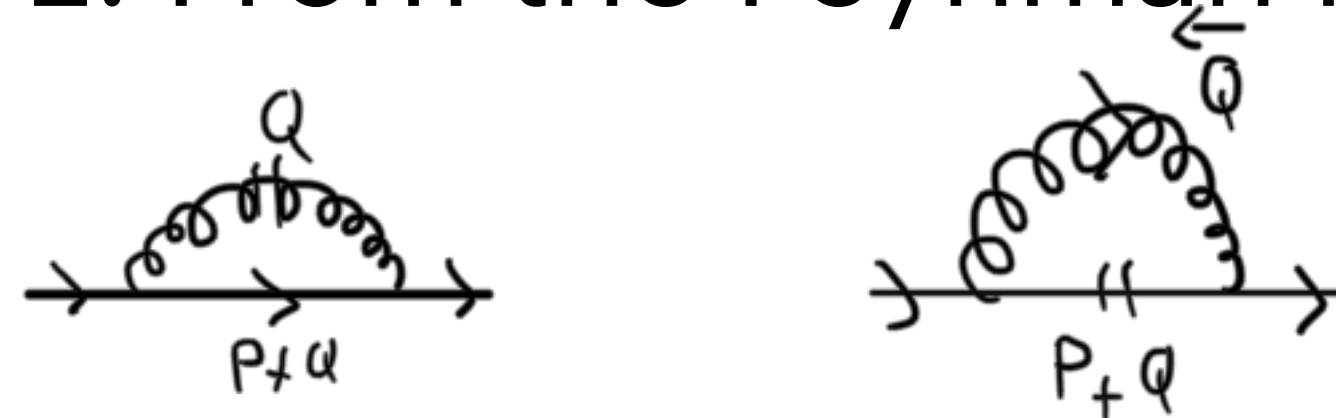
- Let us derive the quark two-point HTL. From the Feynman rules we have

$$-i\Sigma^R(Q) = (-ig)^2 C_F \int \frac{d^4\mathcal{P}}{(2\pi)^4} \gamma^\mu [S^R(\mathcal{P} + Q) G_{\mu\nu}^{rr}(\mathcal{P}) + S_{rr}(\mathcal{P} + Q) G_{\mu\nu}^A(\mathcal{P})] \gamma^\nu,$$

# Hard Thermal Loops

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- This is the one-loop self-energy without approximations
- Use bare propagators (copypaste from my review, mostly+ metric) and throw away vacuum part

$$\Sigma^R(Q) = g^2 C_F \int \frac{d^4\mathcal{P}}{(2\pi)^4} \gamma^\mu (\mathcal{P} + Q) \gamma_\mu \left[ \frac{n_B(|p^0|) 2\pi \delta(\mathcal{P}^2)}{(\mathcal{P} + Q)^2 - i\epsilon(p^0 + q^0)} - \frac{n_F(|p^0 + q^0|) 2\pi \delta((\mathcal{P} + Q)^2)}{\mathcal{P}^2 + i\epsilon p^0} \right]$$

# Hard Thermal Loops

## Diagrammatics and connection to kinetics

- Shift the second term into the same form as the first

$$\Sigma^R(Q) = g^2 C_F \int \frac{d^4 \mathcal{P}}{(2\pi)^4} \frac{4\pi \delta(\mathcal{P}^2)}{(\mathcal{P} + Q)^2 - i\epsilon(p^0 + q^0)} [(\not{\mathcal{P}} + \not{Q}) n_B(|p^0|) + \not{\mathcal{P}} n_F(|p^0|)]$$

- We now expand for  $Q \ll P$ . At first order (unlike for gluons) we find HTL

$$\Sigma^R(Q) = g^2 C_F \int \frac{d^4 \mathcal{P}}{(2\pi)^4} 2\pi \delta(\mathcal{P}^2) (n_B(|p^0|) + n_F(|p^0|)) \frac{\not{\mathcal{P}}}{\mathcal{P} \cdot Q - i\epsilon p^0} \quad \Sigma^R(Q) = g^2 C_F \int \frac{d^4 \mathcal{P}}{(2\pi)^4} 2\pi \delta(\mathcal{P}^2) (n_B(|p^0|) + n_F(|p^0|)) \frac{\not{\psi}}{v \cdot Q - i\epsilon}$$

with  $v \equiv P/p^0$ . Factorisation of angular part. Finally

$$\Sigma^R(Q) = \frac{m_\infty^2}{2} \int \frac{d\Omega_v}{4\pi} \frac{\psi}{v \cdot Q - i\epsilon}$$

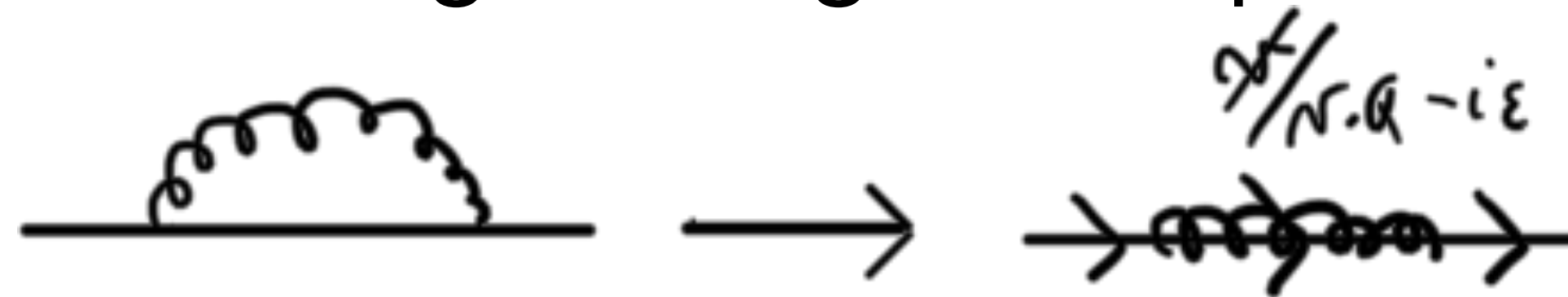
$m_\infty^2 = g^2 C_F T^2 / 4$  is the *asymptotic mass* of the quark.  $\Sigma_R(Q \ll T) \sim g^2 T^2 / Q$

# Hard Thermal Loops

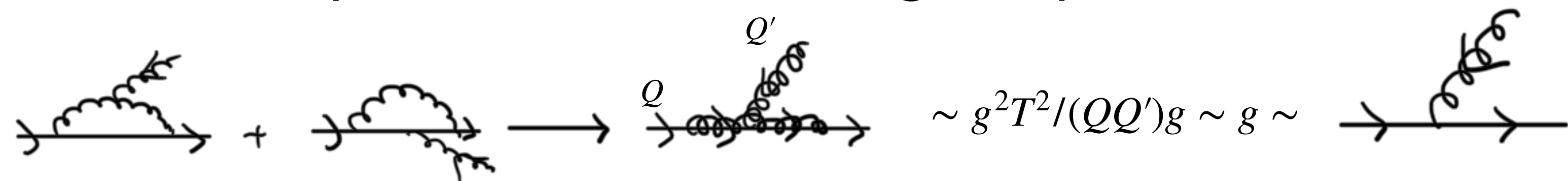
## Diagrammatics and connection to kinetics

$$\Sigma^R(Q) = \frac{m_\infty^2}{2} \int \frac{d\Omega_v}{4\pi} \frac{\psi}{v \cdot Q - i\epsilon}$$

- This is the quark 2-point HTL. Simple structure:  $m_\infty^2$  times the angular average of the propagator for the **induced fermion source**, which is the effective structure that emerges. Original loop not resolved



- In Fourier space  $1/v \cdot Q \rightarrow 1/v \cdot \partial$ . Gauge invariance then suggests  $1/v \cdot D$ , which is confirmed by calculations of higher-point functions



HTL resummation needed not just in two-point function

# Hard Thermal Loops

## Effective Lagrangian and resummation

- All n-point HTLs with two external quark lines and n-2 gluon lines are generated by

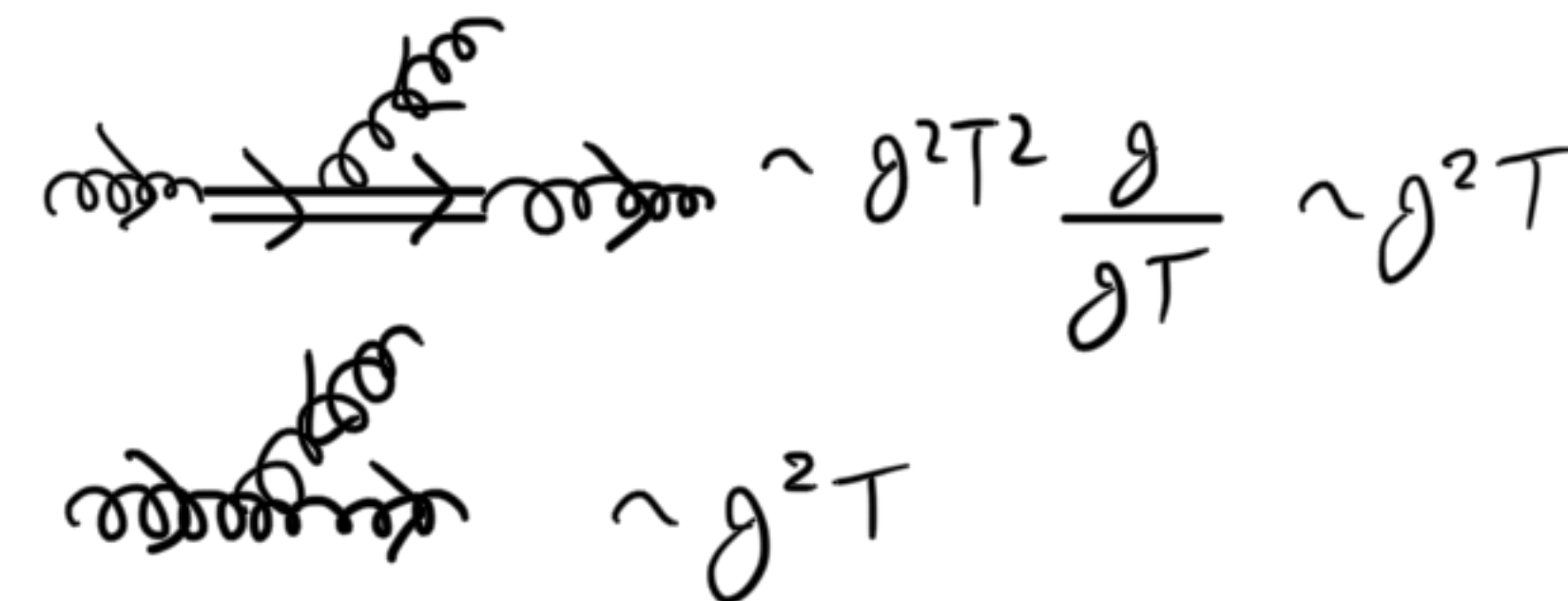
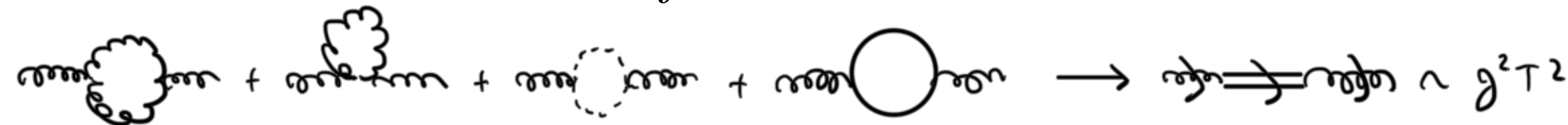
$$\delta\mathcal{L}_f = i\frac{m_\infty^2}{2} \bar{\psi} \int \frac{d\Omega_v}{4\pi} \frac{\psi}{v \cdot D} \psi$$

No HTLs with more than 2 quark lines exist

- A similar derivation finds for the  $n \geq 2$  all-gluon HTL

$$\delta\mathcal{L}_g = \frac{m_D^2}{2} \text{Tr} \int \frac{d\Omega_v}{4\pi} F^{\mu\alpha} \frac{v_\alpha v_\beta}{(v \cdot D)^2} F^\beta{}_\mu$$

$m_D^2 = g^2 T^2 (N_c/3 + N_f/6)$  is the Debye mass



# Hard Thermal Loops

## Effective Lagrangian and resummation

- For practical higher-loop (typically beyond LO) in the HTL theory, this business of eikonal propagators and effective Feynman rules in the *ra* formalism is ideal. See my review and the original paper by Caron-Huot ([0710.5726](#)) for more detail
- The power-counting that emerges is non-trivial and requires some getting used to. Dealing with loop-level HTLs requires even more getting used to, analytically and numerically...
- NLO heavy quark momentum diffusion, Caron-Huot Moore [0801.2173](#)  
Cold Quark matter at N3LO: soft contribution Gorda et al [2103.07427](#)



# Hard Thermal Loops

## Resummations and collective modes

- To see the emergence of collectivity, consider resummed propagators
- Gluons: now two independent structures, versus one in vacuum. Longitudinal and transverse to spatial  $\mathbf{q}$ , both transverse to  $Q$ . They are

$$\Pi_L(Q) = (1 - q_0^2/q^2)\Pi^{00}(Q), \quad \Pi_T(Q) = (\delta^{ij} - \hat{q}^i\hat{q}^j)\Pi^{ij}(Q)/2$$

- From the rules/Lagrangian

$$\Pi_R^{\mu\nu}(Q) = m_D^2 \int \frac{d\Omega_v}{4\pi} \left( \delta_0^\mu \delta_0^\nu + v^\mu v^\nu \frac{q^0}{v \cdot Q - i\epsilon} \right) \quad \Pi_R^{00}(Q) = m_D^2 \left( 1 - \frac{q^0}{2q} \ln \frac{q^0 + q + i\epsilon}{q^0 - q + i\epsilon} \right) \quad \Pi_T^R(Q) = \frac{m_D^2}{2} - \frac{\Pi_L^R(Q)}{2}$$

the logs come from the angular average of the induced source (kinetic) propagator

# Hard Thermal Loops

## Collective gluonic modes

- Resummed Coulomb gauge propagators (physical features gauge inv.)

$$G_R^{00}(Q) = \frac{i}{q^2 + m_D^2 \left( 1 - \frac{q^0}{2q} \ln \frac{q^0 + q + i\epsilon}{q^0 - q + i\epsilon} \right)} \quad G_R^{ij}(Q) \equiv (\delta^{ij} - \hat{q}^i \hat{q}^j) G_R^T(Q) = \frac{i(\delta^{ij} - \hat{q}^i \hat{q}^j)}{q_0^2 - q^2 - \frac{m_D^2}{2} \left( \frac{q_0^2}{q^2} - \left( \frac{q_0^2}{q^2} - 1 \right) \frac{q^0}{2q} \ln \frac{q^0 + q}{q^0 - q} \right)} \Big|_{q^0 = q^0 + i\epsilon}$$

- In the time-like sector **plasmons**: collective excitations with modified dispersion relation. At vanishing momentum  $G_R^{00}(q^0) = G_R^L(q^0) = G_R^T(q^0) = \frac{i}{(q^0 + i\epsilon)^2 - \frac{m_D^2}{3}}$  three propagating, massive modes! **Plasma oscillations**

At large  $q \gg m_D$ , longitudinal mode has exponentially small residue, transverse modes have  $q_0^2 - q^2 = m_D^2/2 = M_\infty^2$  asymptotic mass.

In-between: numerical solution

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$$G_R^{00}(Q) = \frac{i}{q^2 + m_D^2 \left( 1 - \frac{q^0}{2q} \ln \frac{q^0 + q + i\epsilon}{q^0 - q + i\epsilon} \right)} \quad G_R^{ij}(Q) \equiv (\delta^{ij} - \hat{q}^i \hat{q}^j) G_R^T(Q) = \frac{i(\delta^{ij} - \hat{q}^i \hat{q}^j)}{q_0^2 - q^2 - \frac{m_D^2}{2} \left( \frac{q_0^2}{q^2} - \left( \frac{q_0^2}{q^2} - 1 \right) \frac{q^0}{2q} \ln \frac{q^0 + q}{q^0 - q} \right)} \Big|_{q^0 = q^0 + i\epsilon}$$

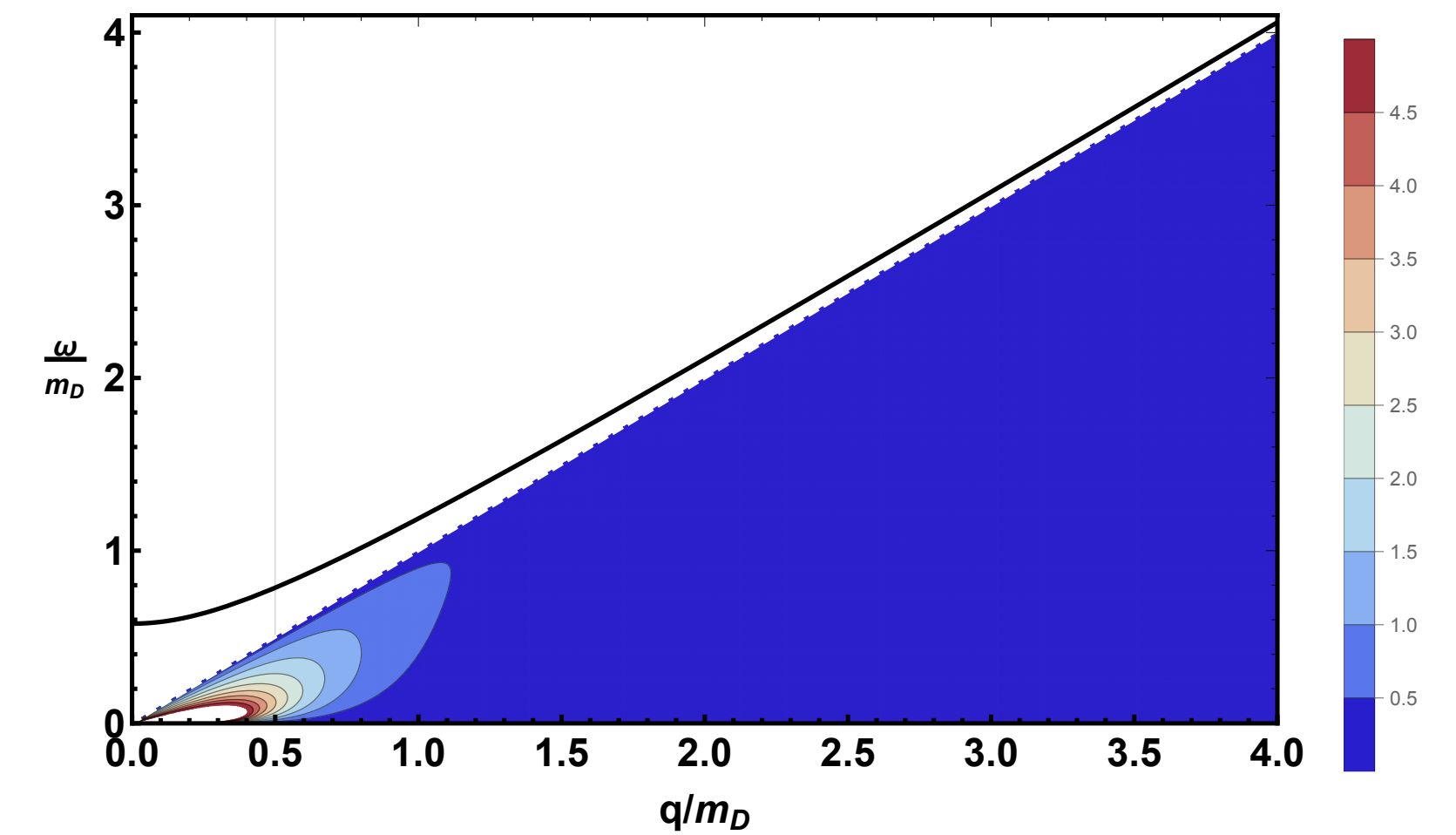
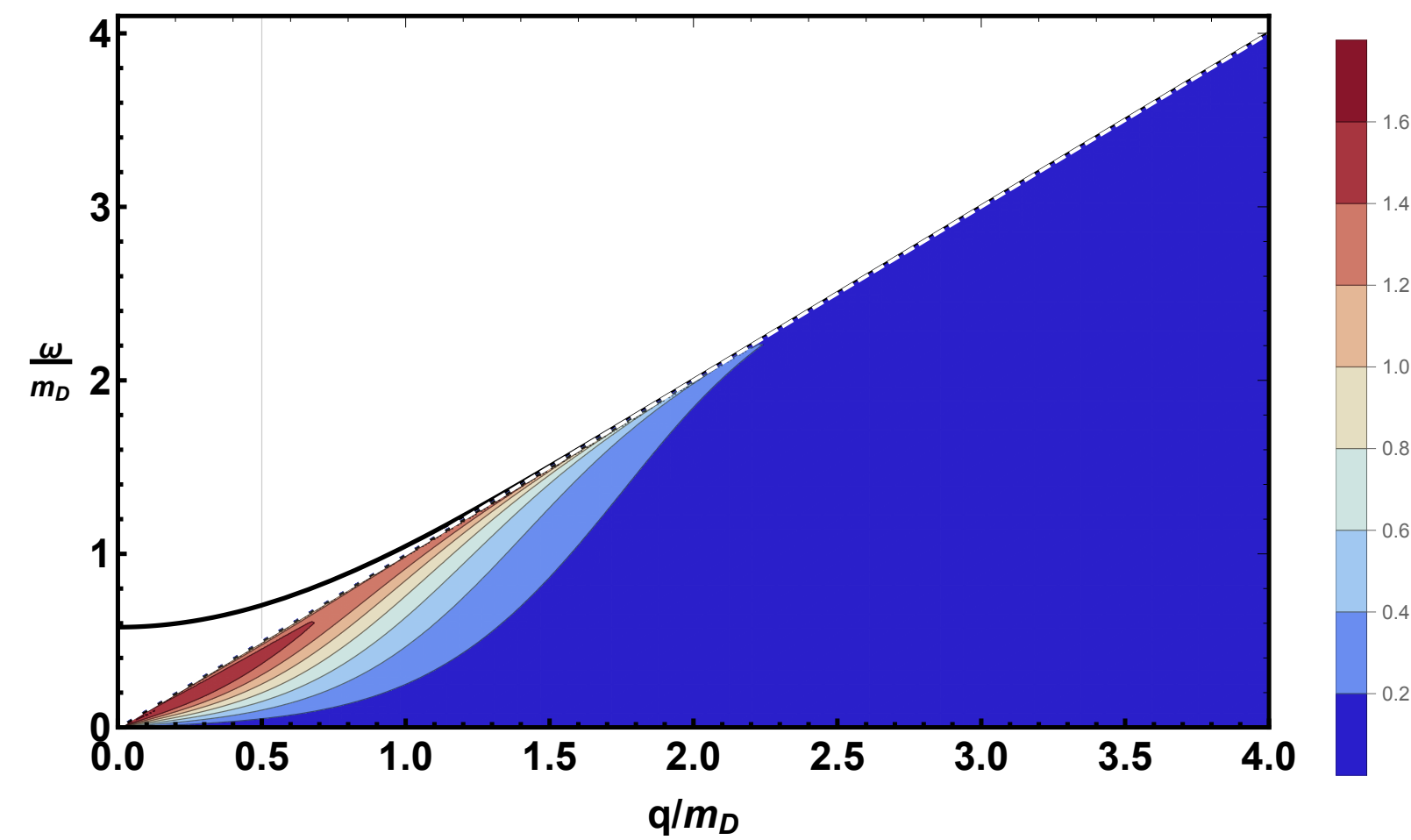
- In the space-like sector **Landau damping**: the branch cuts in the logarithms create a non-zero imaginary part in the denominators, a non-zero spectral function! The coupling of the soft modes to the induced current damps them!
- At zero frequency (time-independent): Debye screening of (chromo)electrostatic modes

# Hard Thermal Loops

## Collective gluonic modes

$$G_R^{00}(Q) = \frac{i}{q^2 + m_D^2 \left( 1 - \frac{q^0}{2q} \ln \frac{q^0 + q + i\epsilon}{q^0 - q + i\epsilon} \right)}$$

$$G_R^{ij}(Q) \equiv (\delta^{ij} - \hat{q}^i \hat{q}^j) G_R^T(Q) = \frac{i(\delta^{ij} - \hat{q}^i \hat{q}^j)}{q_0^2 - q^2 - \frac{m_D^2}{2} \left( \frac{q_0^2}{q^2} - \left( \frac{q_0^2}{q^2} - 1 \right) \frac{q^0}{2q} \ln \frac{q^0 + q}{q^0 - q} \right)}$$

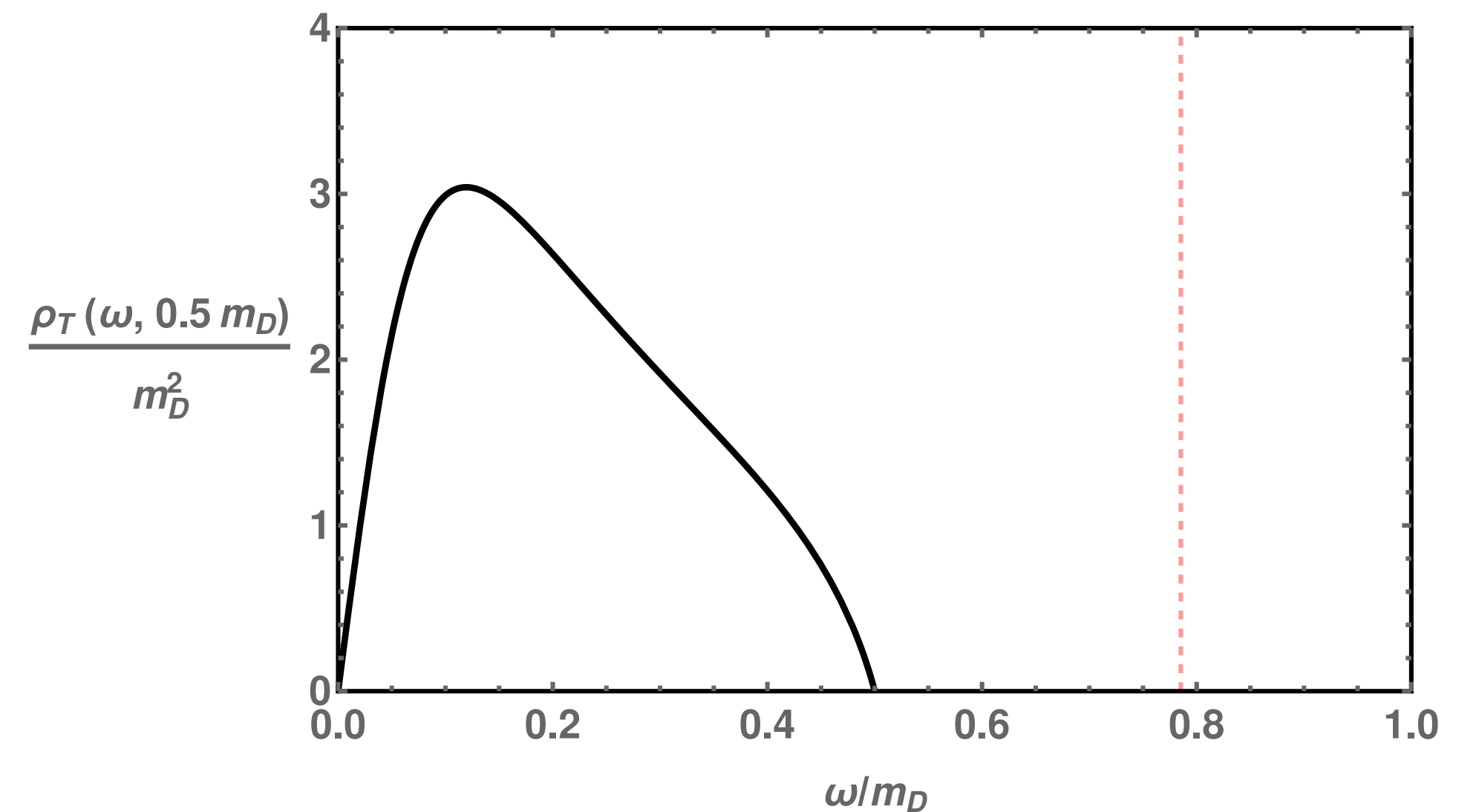
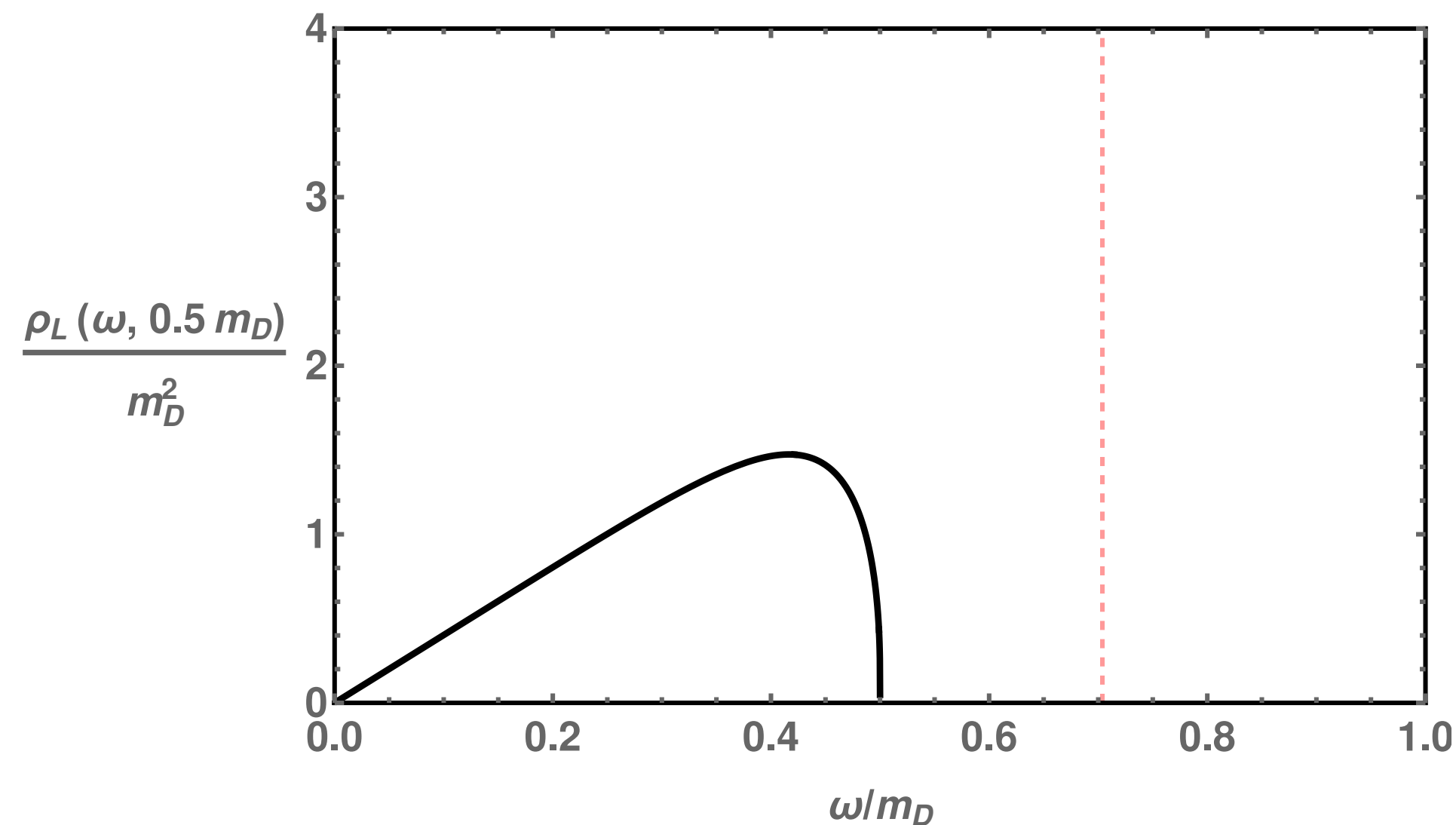


# Hard Thermal Loops

## Collective gluonic modes

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- Plasmons appear as delta functions in the spf. That is because their pole position is  $\mathcal{O}(gT)$ , their width is  $\mathcal{O}(g^2T)$ , to be determined within HTL th