

# Four-loop Screened Perturbation Theory

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# Outline

Motivation

Screened Perturbation Theory

Results and summary

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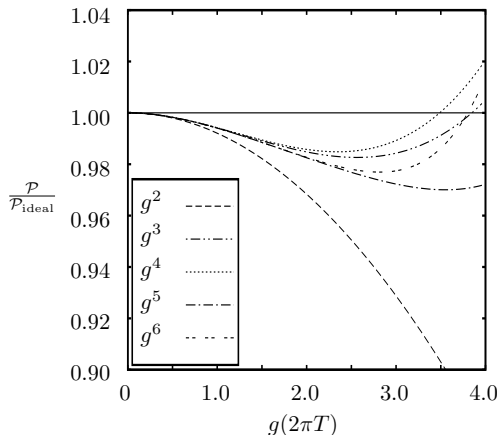
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- ▶ Pressure was recently<sup>1</sup> calculated to order  $g^6$  in weak-coupling expansion.
- ▶ Present work: Pressure to four-loop order in **screened perturbation theory**.
- ▶ Motivation: Corresponding problem in QCD.

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## Weak-coupling expansion



$g^4$ : P. Arnold and C. Zhai,  
Phys. Rev. D **50**, 7603  
(1994)

$g^5$ : E. Braaten and A. Nieto,  
Phys. Rev. D **51**, 6990  
(1995)

$g^6$ : A. Gynther et al.,  
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  - ▶ Example: 2PI effective action formalism, where the propagator is treated as a variational function.
- ▶ **Screened perturbation theory**<sup>2</sup> (SPT) is one of these.

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<sup>2</sup>F. Karsch, A. Patkós, and P. Petreczky, Phys. Lett. B **401**, 69 (1997)

# Basics of SPT (1)

Lagrangian for massless  $\phi^4$  theory:

$$\mathcal{L} = \frac{1}{2}(\partial_\mu\phi)(\partial^\mu\phi) - \frac{g^2}{24}\phi^4$$

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When  $m_1^2 = m^2$ , we recover the original theory.

## Basics of SPT (2)

Treat one mass term as an interaction,

$$\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{L}_{\text{free}} + \mathcal{L}_{\text{int}},$$

where

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We now expand around an ideal gas of **massive** particles.


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Truncate resulting expressions at  $g^7$ .

## Loop expansion

The free energy  $\mathcal{F}$  is the sum of these diagrams:

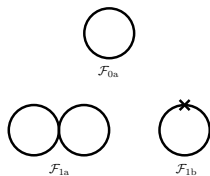
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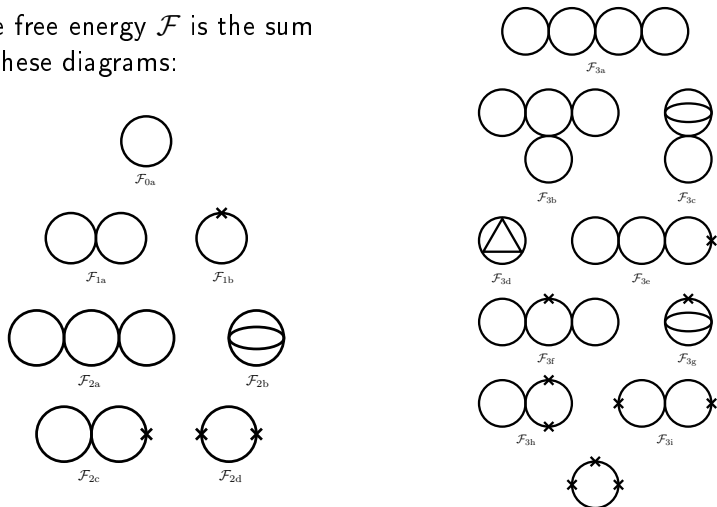
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- ▶ Need a prescription for  $m$  as a function of  $g$  and  $T$ .
- ▶ To obtain weak-coupling limit:

$$m^2 = \frac{\text{circle}}{\text{line}} = \frac{g^2 T^2}{24}$$

## Tadpole mass

We choose  $m$  to be the **tadpole mass**,

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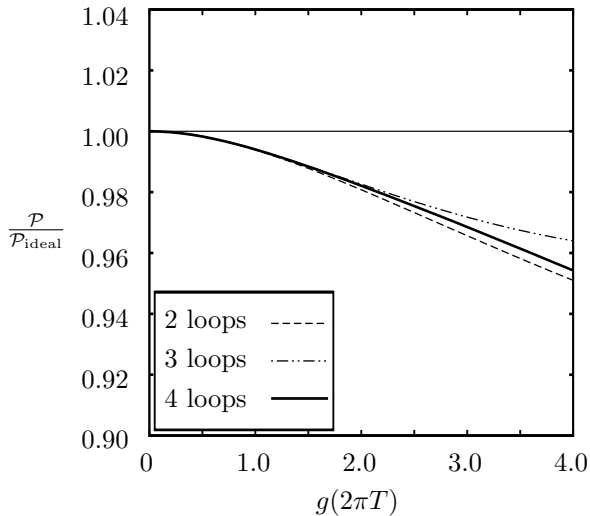
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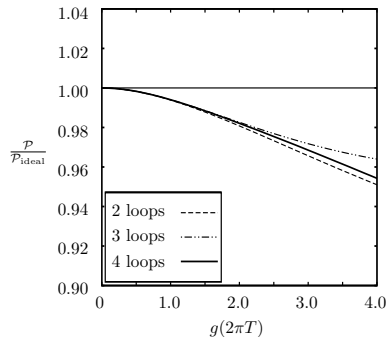
- ▶ Self-consistent **gap equation** for  $m$ .
- ▶  $m$  is well-defined at all loop orders.
- ▶ Selective resummation of diagrams from all loop orders in the original (massless) theory.

## Results

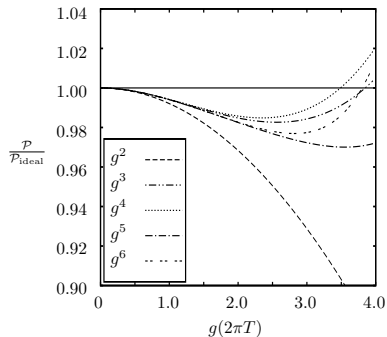


# Comparison

Screened perturbation theory:




Weak-coupling expansion:



## Convergence properties

- ▶ Two-loop result:
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  - ▶ Reasonable approximation?

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- ▶ Resummation of selected diagrams from all loop orders in the massless theory gives better convergence properties.
- ▶ Agreement with earlier results, both weak-coupling and exact numerical results.

# Outlook

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  - ▶ Necessary to confirm convergence of result at  $g^7$ .

That's all, folks!