

Extrapolation to UV from IR physics

YITP, Kyoto University

Hiromasa Takaura

based on ongoing work in collaboration with

Wen Yin

(Tokyo Metropolitan U.)

@ mini workshop on new ideas in particle physics and cosmology

Sept. 30, 2025

What is the UV physics?

What is the UV physics?

Widely asked: BSM, Quantum gravity,...

We present a new idea that allows us to explore the UV physics
beyond the threshold of a given IR expansion.

Background

Aiming to study low-energy dynamics of QCD(-like) theories,
I have proposed a method to bridge low-energy dynamics and high energy behavior in [2404.05589 HT](#):
low-energy limits of correlators can be extracted from systematically calculable high energy expansions

UV \rightarrow IR

We discuss an application in the opposite direction: IR \rightarrow UV.

Framework

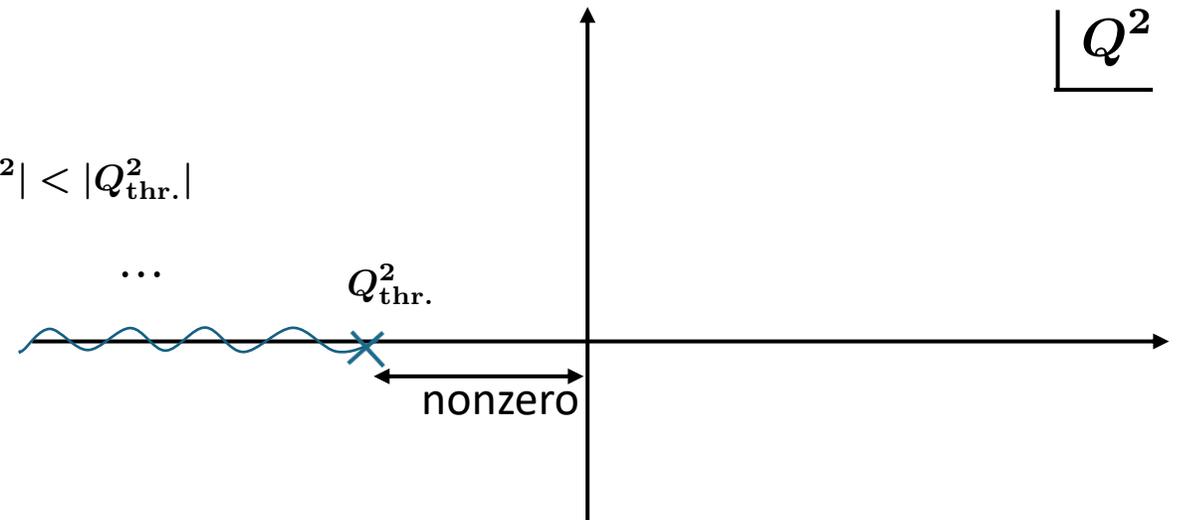
$Q^2 > 0$: Euclidean momentum

The assumption in this talk:

Consider an (analytic) physical quantity $f(Q^2)$ whose low-energy expansion has a finite radius of convergence (such as current-current correlator in a mass gapped theory).

↔ The nearest singularity to the origin is located at $Q^2 = Q_{\text{thr.}}^2$ with $|Q_{\text{thr.}}^2| > 0$.

$$f(Q^2) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n \left(\frac{Q^2}{Q_{\text{thr.}}^2} \right)^n \quad \text{for } |Q^2| < |Q_{\text{thr.}}^2|$$



In the following, we mainly consider the situation where the energy scale $Q_{\text{thr.}}$ corresponds to the scale where heavy (unknown) degrees of freedom exist.

Framework

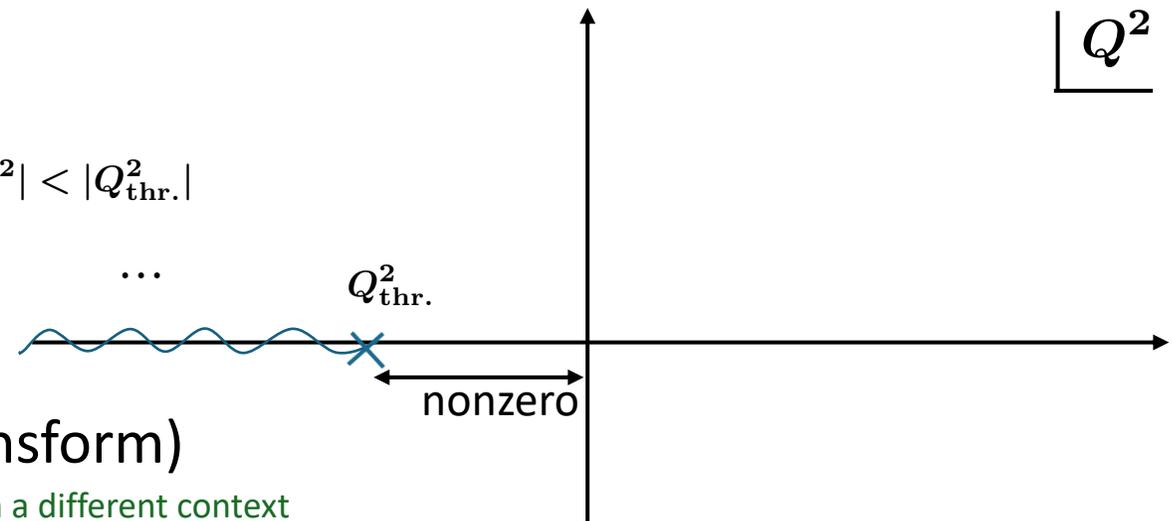
$Q^2 > 0$: Euclidean momentum

The assumption in this talk:

Consider an (analytic) physical quantity $f(Q^2)$ whose low-energy expansion has a finite radius of convergence (such as current-current correlator in a mass gapped theory).

↔ The nearest singularity to the origin is located at $Q^2 = Q_{\text{thr.}}^2$ with $|Q_{\text{thr.}}^2| > 0$.

$$f(Q^2) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n \left(\frac{Q^2}{Q_{\text{thr.}}^2} \right)^n \quad \text{for } |Q^2| < |Q_{\text{thr.}}^2|$$



The inverse Laplace transform (Borel transform)

Originally introduced in 2303.16392 Hayashi, Mishima, Sumino, HT in a different context

$$\tilde{f}(\tau) = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{-i\infty}^{i\infty} \frac{dr}{r} f(Q^2 = 1/r) e^{\tau r} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{c_n}{n!} \left(\frac{\tau}{Q_{\text{thr.}}^2} \right)^n$$

The convergence radius is infinity ($|c_n| \sim 1$) and $\tilde{f}(\tau)$ is analytic anywhere in the τ -plane!

Key features (1)

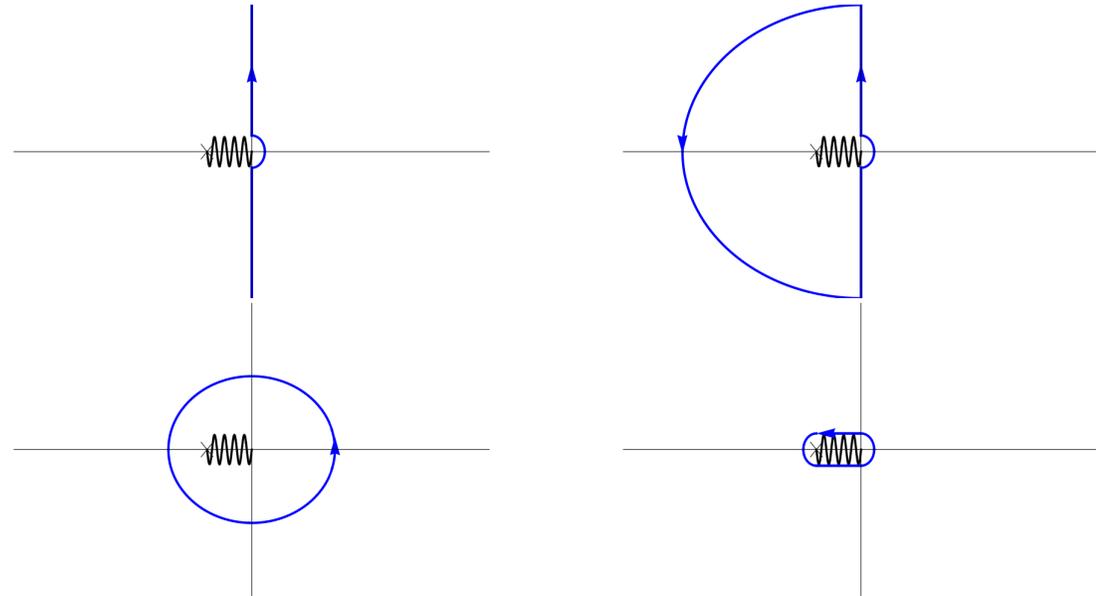
If the IR expansion is available to sufficiently high orders, one can construct a function valid up to higher energies $\tau \gg Q_{\text{thr.}}^2$. (arbitrarily high energies, in principle).

$$f(Q^2) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n \left(\frac{Q^2}{Q_{\text{thr.}}^2} \right)^n \longrightarrow \tilde{f}(\tau) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{c_n}{n!} \left(\frac{\tau}{Q_{\text{thr.}}^2} \right)^n$$

Key features (2)

$$\begin{aligned}\tilde{f}(\tau) &= \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{-i\infty}^{i\infty} \frac{dr}{r} f(Q^2 = 1/r) e^{\tau r} \\ &= \frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^{-1/Q_{\text{thr}}^2} \frac{dr}{r} \text{Im} f(Q^2 = 1/(r + i0)) e^{\tau r} \\ &\quad (\tau > 0)\end{aligned}$$

1/Q²-plane



If $\text{Im} f(-|Q^2| + i0)$ is positive, $\tilde{f}(\tau)$ is also positive for $\tau > 0$.

Key features (3)

Corresponding to a high energy behavior $f(Q^2) \sim \left(\frac{Q_{\text{thr.}}^2}{Q^2}\right)^a$,
 the high energy behavior of $\tilde{f}(\tau)$ emerges as $f(\tau) \sim \left(\frac{Q_{\text{thr.}}^2}{\tau^2}\right)^a$. More precisely,

$$\frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{-i\infty}^{i\infty} \frac{dr}{r} (Q_{\text{thr.}}^2 r)^a e^{\tau r} = \frac{1}{\pi} \left(\frac{Q_{\text{thr.}}^2}{\tau}\right)^a \Gamma(a) \sin(\pi a)$$

For instance,

$$f(Q^2) \approx x + y \log(Q^2/\mu^2) + \mathcal{O}(Q_{\text{thr.}}^2/Q^2)$$



$$\tilde{f}(\tau) \approx x + y \log(\tau e^{\gamma_E}/\mu^2) + \mathcal{O}(Q_{\text{thr.}}^2/\tau)$$

If the UV behavior is assumed to be governed by a weakly coupled gauge theory and $f(Q^2) \approx a_0 \alpha(Q^2)$, $a_0 > 0$ follows if $\text{Im} f(-|Q^2| + i0) > 0$ from the previous discussion.

In addition, since $f(Q^2) \approx a_0 \alpha(Q^2) = a_0 \alpha(\mu^2) - a_0 b_0 \alpha^2(\mu^2) \log(\tau/\mu^2) + \mathcal{O}(\alpha^3)$ for $\mu^2 \frac{d}{d\mu^2} \alpha(\mu^2) = -b_0 \alpha^2 + \mathcal{O}(\alpha^3)$,

the sign of y tells us whether it is asymptotically free or not: $y < 0 \iff$ Asymptotically free

What we can do

IR expansion $f(Q^2 < Q_{\text{thr.}}^2) = \sum_n c_n \left(\frac{Q^2}{Q_{\text{thr.}}^2} \right)^n$



The inverse Laplace transform $\tilde{f}(\tau) = \sum_n \frac{c_n}{n!} \left(\frac{\tau}{Q_{\text{thr.}}^2} \right)^n \approx x + y \log(\tau e^{\gamma_E} / \mu^2) + \mathcal{O}(Q_{\text{thr.}}^2 / \tau)$
($\tau \gg Q_{\text{thr.}}^2$)



UV behavior $f(Q^2 \gg Q_{\text{thr.}}^2) \approx x + y \log(Q^2 / \mu^2) + \mathcal{O}(Q_{\text{thr.}}^2 / Q^2)$

We can reach the UV physics beyond the threshold of the original IR expansion.

Toy example

To examine if and how this framework works, we ask the following question:

Can we give QED predictions if we start from the Euler-Heisenberg theory?

Euler-Heisenberg theory: theory at $Q^2 < 4m_e^2 (= Q_{\text{thr.}}^2)$ (the electron is decoupled)

No running gauge coupling

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{E-H}} = -\frac{1}{4}F_{\mu\nu}F^{\mu\nu} + \frac{\alpha^2}{m_e^4} \left\{ c_1(F_{\mu\nu}F^{\mu\nu})^2 + c_2(F_{\mu\nu}\tilde{F}^{\mu\nu})^2 \right\} + \mathcal{O}(m_e^{-6})$$

QED: gauge theory with a running coupling

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{QED}} = -\frac{1}{4}F_{\mu\nu}F^{\mu\nu} + \bar{\psi}(i\gamma^\mu(\partial_\mu + ieA_\mu) - m_e)\psi$$

Toy example

To examine if and how this framework works, we ask the following question:

Can we give QED predictions if we start from the Euler-Heisenberg theory?

Euler-Heisenberg theory: theory at $Q^2 < 4m_e^2 (= Q_{\text{thr.}}^2)$ (the electron is decoupled)

No running gauge coupling

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{E-H}} = -\frac{1}{4}F_{\mu\nu}F^{\mu\nu} + \frac{\alpha^2}{m_e^4} \left\{ c_1(F_{\mu\nu}F^{\mu\nu})^2 + c_2(F_{\mu\nu}\tilde{F}^{\mu\nu})^2 \right\} + \mathcal{O}(m_e^{-6})$$

↓ *Is it possible to reach QED?*

QED: gauge theory with a running coupling

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{QED}} = -\frac{1}{4}F_{\mu\nu}F^{\mu\nu} + \bar{\psi}(i\gamma^\mu(\partial_\mu + ieA_\mu) - m_e)\psi$$

Starting point

Assume that we know the potential energy between an electron and an anti-electron at long distances $V_{\text{QED}}(r \gg m_e)$ or its Fourier transform $\alpha_V(Q^2 \ll m_e^2) \approx \frac{\alpha(\mu^2)}{1 - \Pi_{\text{QED}}(Q^2)} \approx \alpha(\mu^2)(1 + \Pi_{\text{QED}}(Q^2))$

$$\alpha_V(Q^2 \ll m_e^2) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n \left(\frac{Q^2}{Q_{\text{thr.}}^2} \right)^n = \alpha + \frac{4\alpha^2}{15\pi} \frac{Q^2}{4m_e^2} - \frac{4\alpha^2}{35\pi} \left(\frac{Q^2}{4m_e^2} \right)^2 + \dots$$

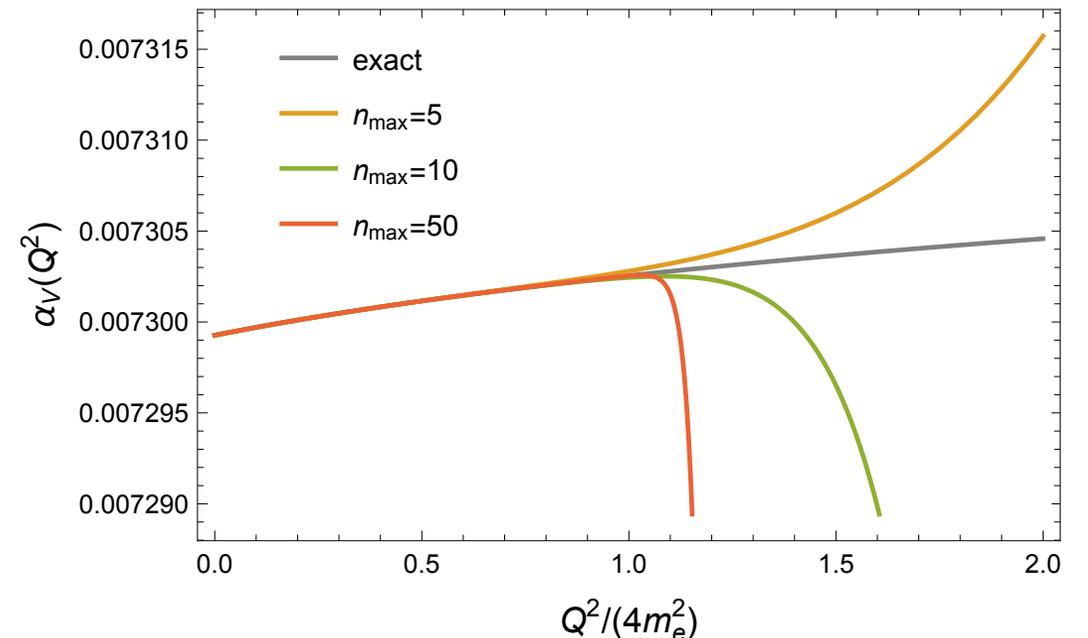
Since $\text{Im} \Pi(-|Q^2| + i0) \propto \sigma(\gamma^* \rightarrow X) > 0$, positivity of $\tilde{\alpha}_V(\tau)$ follows.

Starting point

Assume that we know the potential energy between an electron and an anti-electron at long distances $V_{\text{QED}}(r \gg m_e)$ or its Fourier transform $\alpha_V(Q^2 \ll m_e^2) \approx \frac{\alpha(\mu^2)}{1 - \Pi_{\text{QED}}(Q^2)} \approx \alpha(\mu^2)(1 + \Pi_{\text{QED}}(Q^2))$

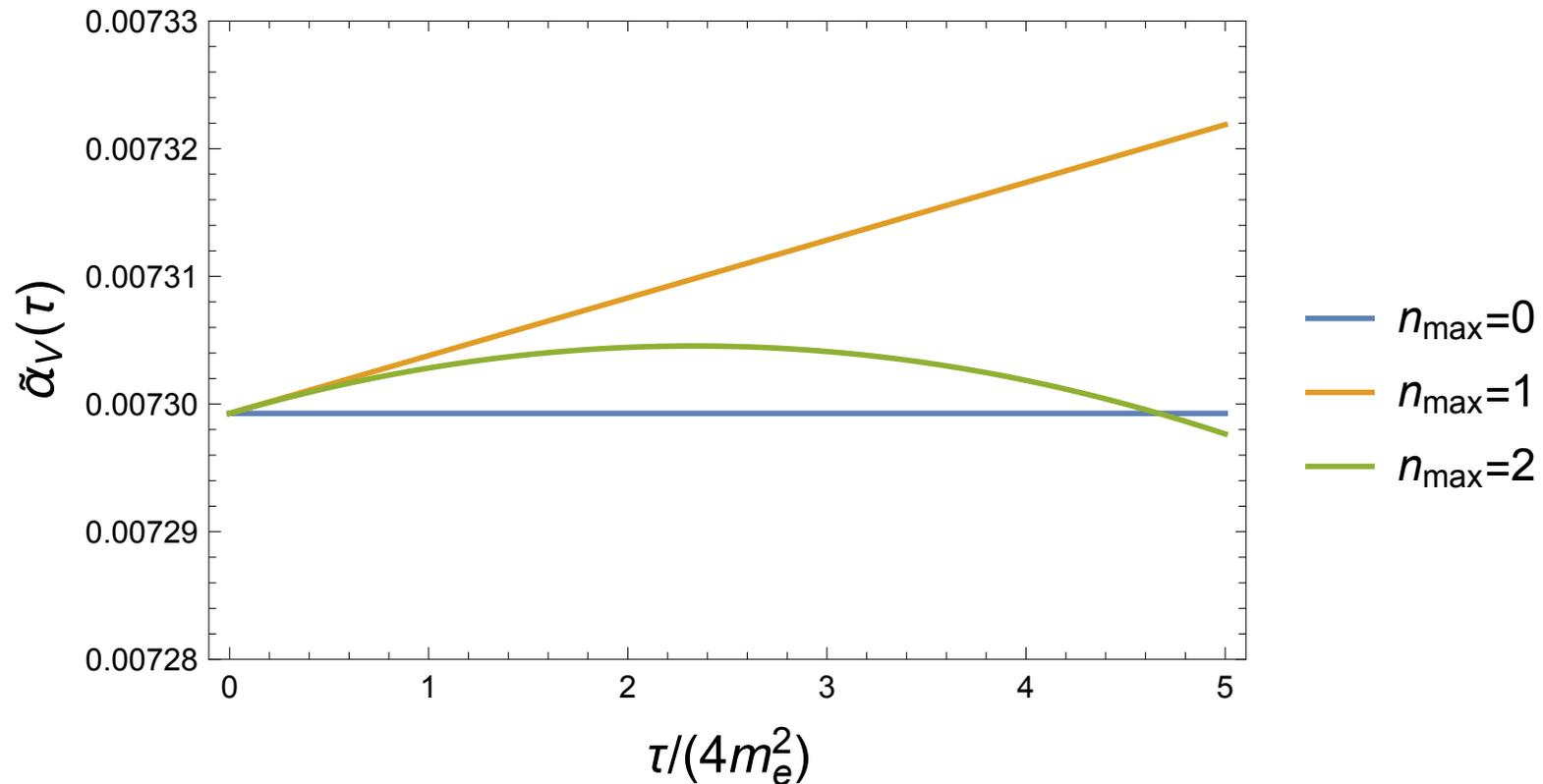
$$\alpha_V(Q^2 \ll m_e^2) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} c_n \left(\frac{Q^2}{Q_{\text{thr.}}^2} \right)^n = \alpha + \frac{4\alpha^2}{15\pi} \frac{Q^2}{4m_e^2} - \frac{4\alpha^2}{35\pi} \left(\frac{Q^2}{4m_e^2} \right)^2 + \dots$$

(We cannot go beyond the threshold in a straightforward method no matter how many terms we include.)



Inverse Laplace transform

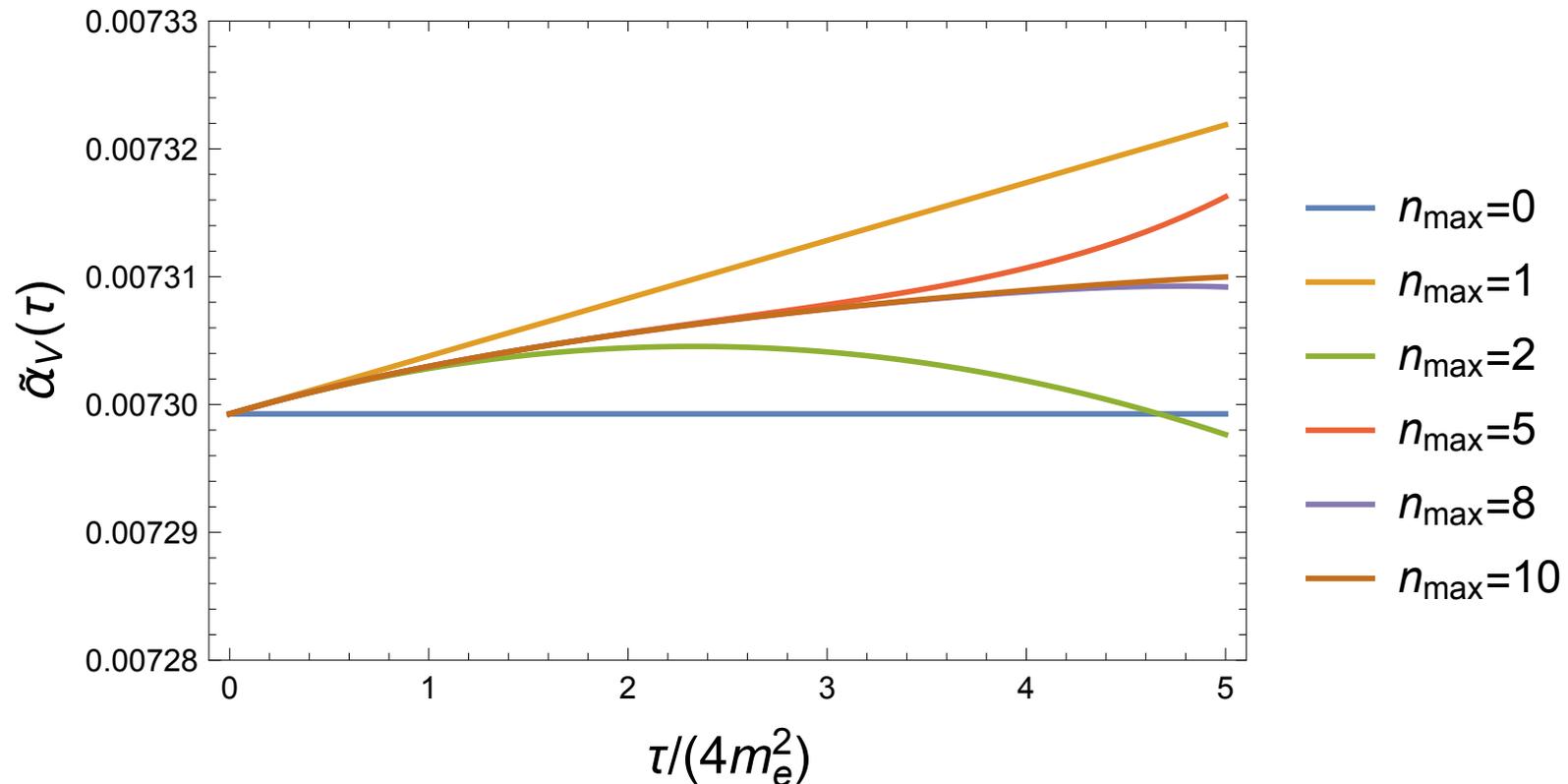
$$\tilde{\alpha}_V(\tau) \approx \sum_{n=0}^{n_{\max}} \frac{c_n}{n!} \left(\frac{\tau}{4m_e^2} \right)^n$$



Inverse Laplace transform

$$\tilde{\alpha}_V(\tau) \approx \sum_{n=0}^{n_{\max}} \frac{c_n}{n!} \left(\frac{\tau}{4m_e^2} \right)^n$$

Convergence in a wider range with more terms.



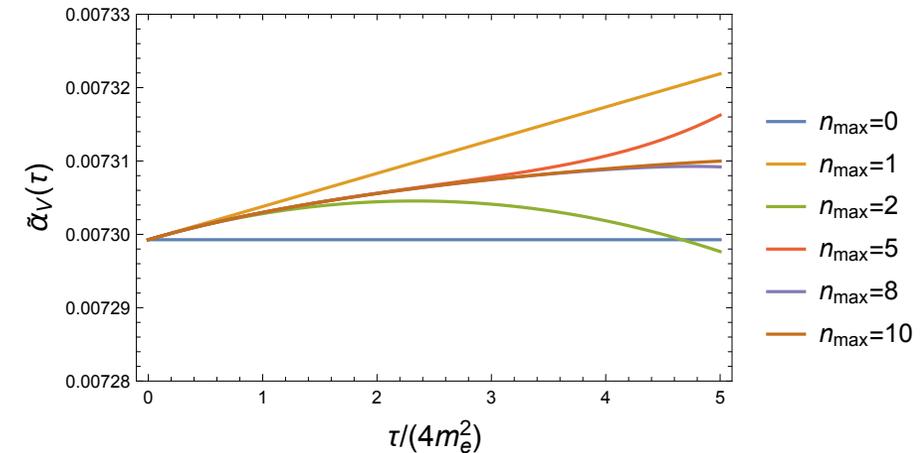
Fit

We fit the data given by $\tilde{\alpha}_V(\tau) \approx \sum_{n=0}^5 \frac{c_n}{n!} \left(\frac{\tau}{4m_e^2} \right)^n$ for $2 \leq \tau/(4m_e^2) \leq 3$

with the ansatz $\tilde{\alpha}_V(\tau) \approx x + y \log(\tau e^{\gamma_E} / \mu^2) + \mathcal{O}(Q_{\text{thr.}}^2 / \tau)$ and taking $\mu = m_e$.

We obtain

$$x = 0.00729, \quad y = 5 \times 10^{-6}$$



The UV theory is suggested to be not asymptotically free.

UV behavior

$$\begin{aligned} f(Q^2) &\approx x + y \log(Q^2/\mu^2) + \mathcal{O}(Q_{\text{thr.}}^2/Q^2) \\ &\quad \updownarrow \\ \tilde{f}(\tau) &\approx x + y \log(\tau e^{\gamma_E}/\mu^2) + \mathcal{O}(Q_{\text{thr.}}^2/\tau) \end{aligned}$$

From the previous result, we infer the UV behavior in the original space as

$$\alpha_V(Q^2) = 0.00729 + 5 \times 10^{-6} \log(Q^2/m_e^2) + \mathcal{O}(4m_e^2/Q^2)$$

UV behavior

$$\begin{aligned} f(Q^2) &\approx x + y \log(Q^2/\mu^2) + \mathcal{O}(Q_{\text{thr.}}^2/Q^2) \\ &\quad \updownarrow \\ \tilde{f}(\tau) &\approx x + y \log(\tau e^{\gamma_E}/\mu^2) + \mathcal{O}(Q_{\text{thr.}}^2/\tau) \end{aligned}$$

From the previous result, we infer the UV behavior in the original space as

$$\alpha_V(Q^2) = 0.00729 + 5 \times 10^{-6} \log(Q^2/m_e^2) + \mathcal{O}(4m_e^2/Q^2)$$

Exact result from QED

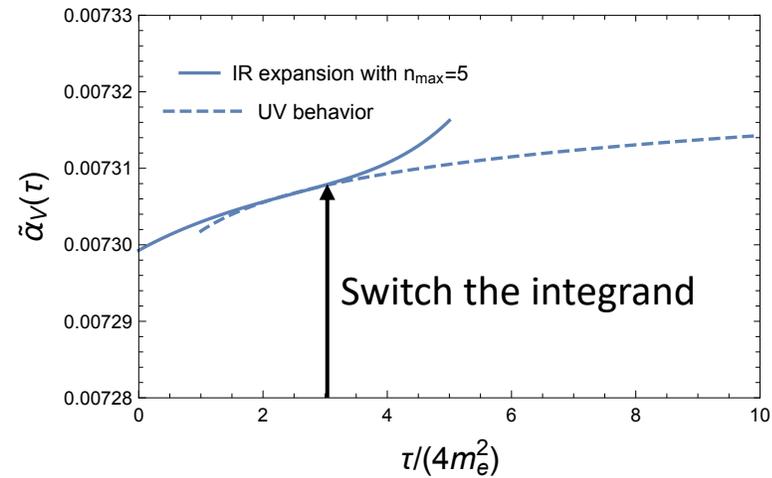
$$\alpha_V(Q^2) = 0.007298985 + 5.65311 \times 10^{-6} \log(Q^2/m_e^2) + \dots$$

“Can we give QED predictions if we start from the Euler-Heisenberg theory?”

Yes, the UV behavior was successfully inferred from the IR expansion.

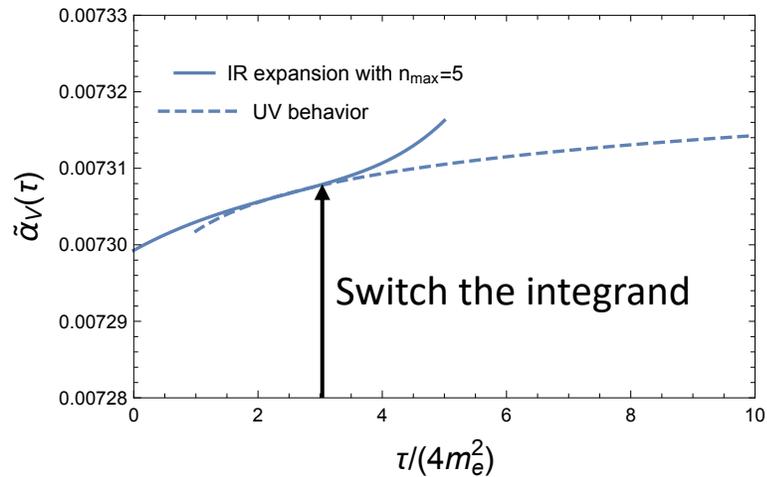
Behavior in the entire region

(Borel transform)+(extrapolation to UV)

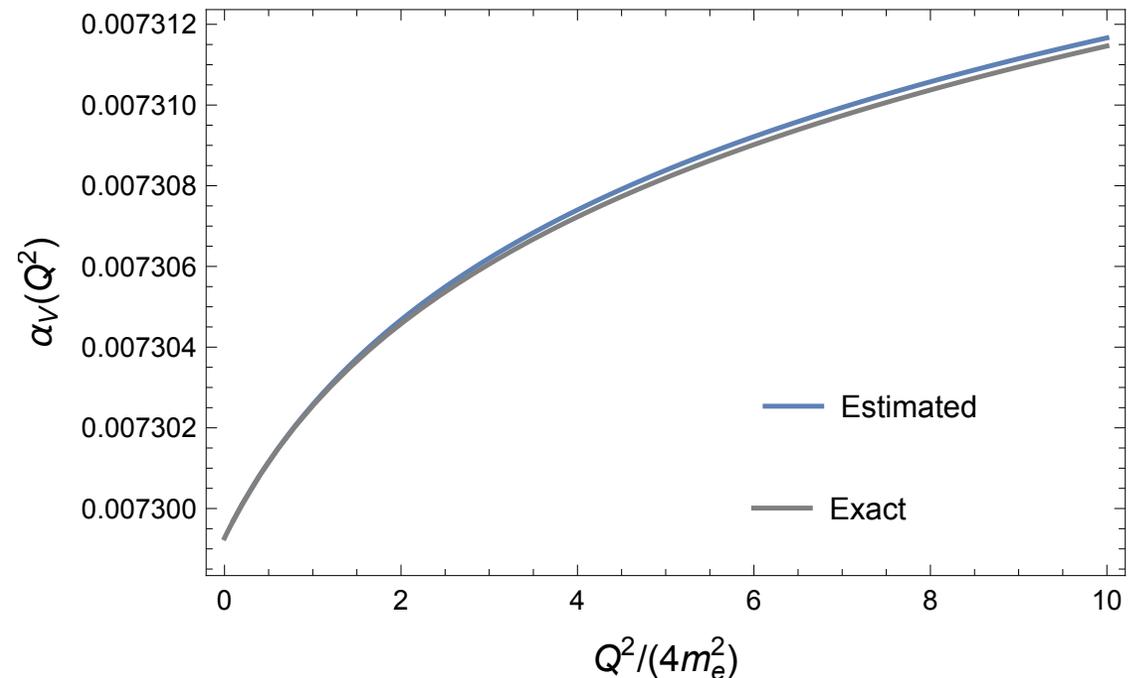


Behavior in the entire region

(Borel transform)+(extrapolation to UV)

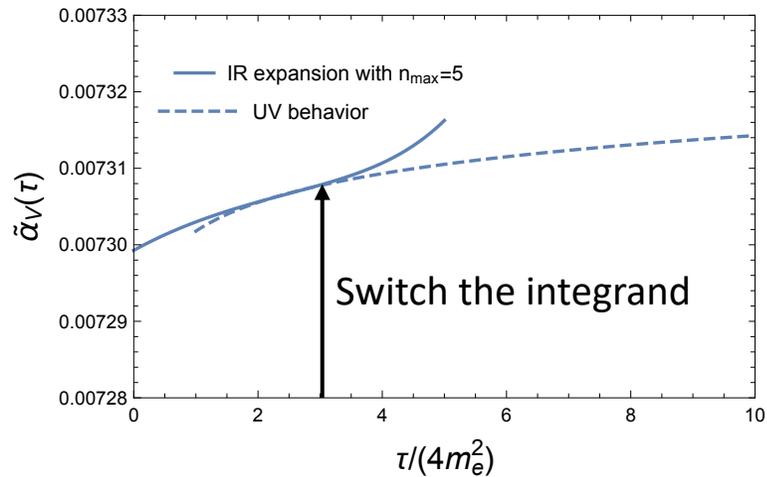


$$\alpha_V(Q^2) = \frac{1}{Q^2} \int_0^\infty d\tau \tilde{\alpha}_V(\tau) e^{-\tau/Q^2}$$

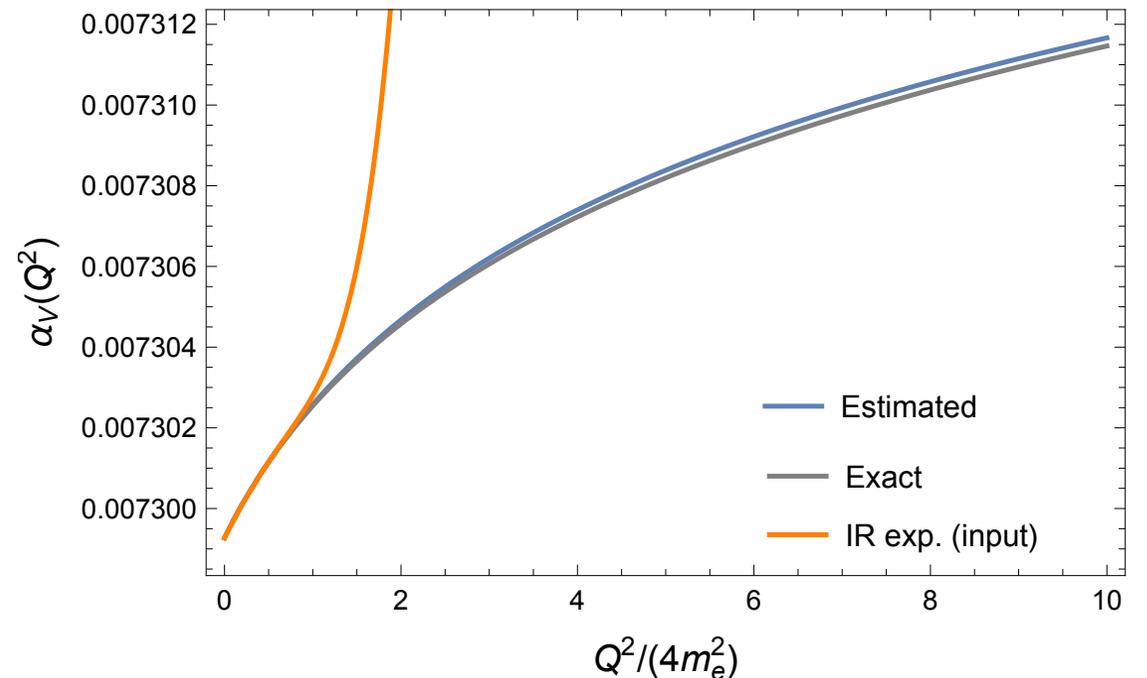


Behavior in the entire region

(Borel transform)+(extrapolation to UV)



$$\alpha_V(Q^2) = \frac{1}{Q^2} \int_0^\infty d\tau \tilde{\alpha}_V(\tau) e^{-\tau/Q^2}$$



Summary

- We propose a method to explore the UV behavior from a given IR expansion *beyond the threshold*.

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} \text{(IR expansion)} & \longrightarrow & \text{(Inverse Laplace transform)} & \longrightarrow & \text{(UV behavior)} \\ f(Q^2 < Q_{\text{thr.}}^2) = \sum_n c_n \left(\frac{Q^2}{Q_{\text{thr.}}^2}\right)^n & & \tilde{f}(\tau) = \sum_n \frac{c_n}{n!} \left(\frac{\tau}{Q_{\text{thr.}}^2}\right)^n & & f(Q^2 \gg Q_{\text{thr.}}^2) \end{array}$$

Convergence radius is infinity

- For QED as an example, we show that the running behavior, specific to the UV theory, was indeed extracted from its low energy effective theory.

Outlook

- We are working on another toy example where IR physics is fully nonperturbative, studying whether asymptotically free nature can be inferred from it.

Potential applications

- Bottom-up approach to BSM

SMEFT \longrightarrow BSM predictions @ $Q > \Lambda_{\text{SMEFT}}$

- Bottom-up approach to quantum gravity

The framework does not always require field theoretical descriptions.

- Many others...