

Resurgent Analysis of Ward–Schwinger–Dyson Equations

Marc P. BELLON and Enrico I. RUSSO

Sorbonne Université, CNRS, Laboratoire de Physique Théorique et Hautes Energies, Paris, France

E-mail: marc.bellon@upmc.fr, erusso@lpthe.jussieu.fr

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Abstract. Building on our recent derivation of the Ward–Schwinger–Dyson equations for the cubic interaction model, we present here the first steps of their resurgent analysis. In our derivation of the WSD equations, we made sure that they had the properties of compatibility with the renormalisation group equations and independence from a regularisation procedure which was known to allow for the comparable studies in the Wess–Zumino model. The interactions between the transseries terms for the anomalous dimensions of the field and the vertex is at the origin of unexpected features, for which the effect of higher order corrections is not precisely known at this stage: we are only at the beginning of the journey to use resurgent methods to decipher non-perturbative effects in quantum field theory.

Key words: renormalization; Schwinger–Dyson equation; resurgence

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1 Introduction

Quantum field theories do not produce convergent perturbative series, while these perturbative series are often the only information accessible up to now through an analytic treatment. Converting these series in numbers and properties of the theory therefore requires some non trivial summation methods, especially in the large coupling regime. A very useful method goes through the definition of a Borel transform that will give the solution through a Laplace integral. However, in many cases, the Borel transform has singularities on the real axis which make the naive Borel–Laplace summation ambiguous: integration on rotated axis lose the reality properties of the original series. In such situations, results with much reduced ambiguities can be obtained through the use of real averages of the different analytic continuations.

It has been known for a long time that a successful resummation of a divergent series requires the knowledge of its asymptotic properties and recent works have tried to quantify the gains which can result from a deeper knowledge of the properties of the Borel transform. We would single out the paper [14] that show how the use conformal maps of the Borel plane allows for the most precise results. However, such gains are only possible if the precise structures of the singularities of the Borel transform are known.

In quantum mechanics, singularities of the Borel transform stem from the presence of non trivial saddle point of the action functional, dubbed instantons, but in renormalisable quantum field theories, new singularities appear, related to the behaviour of diagrams with a maximal number of subdivergences which are called renormalons. Much work has been devoted to the finding of classical field configurations which could explain these singularities, but with limited

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success even if we must cite [3, 4]. This work will be based on a quite different approach, in the spirit of [8, 9], which made use of the tools of resurgence theory and in particular the alien derivatives, in the study of the solution of a Schwinger–Dyson equation. This work has been prepared by a number of studies [5, 6, 7] which addressed only what was later recognized as the singularities nearest the origin of the Borel transform. These previous studies were however limited to the supersymmetric Wess–Zumino model, first solved perturbatively at high order in [11], or a very special case of the ϕ_6^3 model we study here, where the vertex gets no radiative corrections at one loop [6].

It is therefore very interesting that our recent work [10] gives a system of equations for the determination of the renormalisation group functions of the ϕ_6^3 model, that we called Ward–Schwinger–Dyson equations, most suitable for a resurgent analysis. Indeed, this scheme has the properties which made the analysis in [8] possible, the absence of any explicit regularisation parameter and the invariance of the solution under the renormalisation group. Indeed one may say that our computations tend to transform a leading log approximation for the propagator and the vertex in a computation of the leading terms for the high order terms of the perturbative solution, but with the possibility to go beyond these leading behaviours through the systematic inclusion of corrections.

It is a quite old observation by Giorgio Parisi that the renormalisation group equations written for the Borel transform of the propagator imply that at a position ρ in the Borel plane, the propagator has a leading correction proportional to $(p^2/\mu^2)^{b_1\rho}$, with b_1 the leading coefficient of the β function [22]. These power corrections give rise to new divergences which seemed impossible to renormalize, in particular in the case of the infrared ones. We will instead show that these divergences, linked to the poles of the Mellin transforms of the graphs, simply enable us to compute the singularities of the Borel transforms of the anomalous dimensions.

2 The Borel–Laplace resummation method

2.1 General properties

We do not have the presumption here to introduce the topic of Borel–Laplace resummation techniques; there are excellent introductions in the literature [13] or [21]. We report here though some basic properties that we will need in the further development.

The formal Borel transform is defined on formal series as

$$\mathcal{B}: (z^{-1}\mathbb{C}[[z^{-1}]], \cdot) \longrightarrow (\mathbb{C}[[\xi]], \star),$$

$$\tilde{f}(z) = \frac{1}{z} \sum_{n=0}^{+\infty} \frac{c_n}{z^n} \longrightarrow \hat{f}(\xi) = \sum_{n=0}^{+\infty} \frac{c_n}{n!} \xi^n.$$

Let \tilde{f}, \tilde{g} in $z^{-1}\mathbb{C}[[z^{-1}]]$ be two formal series and \hat{f}, \hat{g} in $\mathbb{C}[[\xi]]$ be their Borel transforms. The following properties hold

$$\mathcal{B}(\tilde{f}.\tilde{g}) = \hat{f} \star \hat{g}, \quad \mathcal{B}(\partial\tilde{f}) = -\zeta\hat{f}, \quad \mathcal{B}(z^{-1}\tilde{f}) = \int \hat{f},$$

$$\tilde{f}(z) \in z^{-2}\mathbb{C}[[z^{-1}]] \implies \mathcal{B}(z\tilde{f}) = \frac{d\hat{f}}{d\zeta},$$

with the derivatives and the integral defined term by term and \star denoting the convolution product of formal series. If \hat{f} and \hat{g} are convergent,

$$\hat{f} \star \hat{g}(\zeta) = \int_0^\zeta \hat{f}(\eta)\hat{g}(\zeta - \eta) d\eta$$

for ζ in the intersection of the convergence domains of \hat{f} and \hat{g} . The analytic continuation of the convolution product on a given path can also be expressed through such an integral, but the integration path is in general much more complex than the path on which the analytic continuation is taken.

The definition of the Borel transform can be extended to series with constant terms through the introduction of a unit δ for the convolution product. The constant function equal to the constant a is mapped to $a\delta$ and then the whole space of formal series $\mathbb{C}[[z^{-1}]]$ can be mapped by linearity.

A formal series $\tilde{f}(z) = \frac{1}{z} \sum_{n=0}^{+\infty} \frac{a_n}{z^n}$ is 1-Gevrey if

$$\exists A, B > 0: |a_n| \leq AB^n n! \quad \forall n \in \mathbb{N}.$$

In this case, we write $\tilde{f}(z) \in z^{-1}\mathbb{C}[[z^{-1}]]_1$. In this case and only in this case, its Borel transform has a finite radius of convergence and we denote by $\mathbb{C}\{\zeta\}$ the space of such functions.

The Borel transform can be inverted through the Laplace transform. Let $\theta \in [0, 2\pi[$ and set $\Gamma_\theta := \{Re^{i\theta}, R \in [0, +\infty[\}$. Let $\hat{f} \in \mathbb{C}\{\zeta\}$ be a germ admitting an analytic continuation in an open subset of \mathbb{C} containing Γ_θ and such that

$$\exists c \in \mathbb{R}, K > 0: |\hat{f}(\zeta)| \leq Ke^{c|\zeta|} \tag{2.1}$$

for any ζ in Γ_θ . Then the Laplace transform of \hat{f} in the direction θ is defined as

$$\mathcal{L}^\theta[\hat{f}](z) = \int_0^{e^{i\theta}\infty} \hat{f}(\zeta)e^{-\zeta z} d\zeta.$$

When the bound (2.1) is verified, this expression is finite in the half-plane $\operatorname{Re}(ze^{i\theta}) > c$ and therefore defines an analytic function of z in this domain, which is called a Borel sum of \tilde{f} .

For a formal series $\tilde{f}(z) \in z^{-1}\mathbb{C}[[z^{-1}]]$ with a non-zero radius of convergence, equation (2.1) is true for all $\theta \in [0, 2\pi[$ and its Borel sum in any direction coincide with the usual sum of the series. For more general Borel summable series, many interesting phenomena can arise, such as the Stokes phenomenon: the singularities of the Borel transform imply differences between the Borel sums defined in directions separated by these singularities and even in cases, where the condition (2.1) is satisfied for all directions, the Borel sum will differ from its analytic continuation in a path around infinity, giving a non trivial monodromy. These problems are at the heart of the renewed interest in summability techniques in particular in the physics community [1, 2, 16, 20].

2.2 Resurgent functions and alien derivatives

Borel summation heavily relies on the possibility of analytically continuing the Borel transform on a neighbourhood of the integration axis. In fact, the situation is usually better, with a continuation possible in the whole complex plane minus some set of singularities. These singularities can be studied through alien derivatives. The alien operator Δ_ω extracts the singularity around ω of the Borel transform and translates it to the origin. Some care must be taken when n singularities lie on the segment $[0, \omega]$ since there is no longer a canonical analytic continuation of the Borel transform to the neighborhood of ω : each singularity can be avoided in two different ways resulting in 2^n possible analytic continuations. It is easy to show that in the simple case without singularities between 0 and ω , Δ_ω is a derivation with respect to the convolution product. With adequate weighting of the different paths to ω , this can be made true in the general case with any number of singularities on the path.

The first equation allows us to determine the 2-point function, while the second one is for the 3-point function. Dotted lines represent a vanishing incoming momentum, the decorations represent the functions we compute

$$G(a, L) := \sum_{n \geq 0} \frac{1}{n!} \gamma_n(a) L^n \quad \text{for } \text{---}\bullet\text{---},$$

$$Y(a, L) := \sum_{n \geq 0} \frac{1}{n!} v_n(a) L^n \quad \text{for } \text{---}\blacktriangle\text{---}$$

and the square appears once and only once in the diagrams for the derivative of the propagator

$$K^\nu(a, L) := \partial^\nu \left(\frac{G(a, L)}{p^2} \right) = \frac{2p^\nu}{(p^2)^2} \sum_{n \geq 0} (\gamma_{n+1} - \gamma_n) \frac{L^n}{n!} \quad \text{for } \text{---}\blacksquare\text{---}.$$

In these equations, $a := g^2/(4\pi)^3$ is an equivalent of the fine structure constant which hides irrelevant π factors, g is the coupling constant, $\partial^\nu := \partial/\partial p_\nu$, and $L := \log(p^2/\mu^2)$ is the logarithmic kinematic variable for a reference energy scale μ^2 . These decorations and the functions they denote are always relative to the free propagator. They do not depend on any regularisation parameter and satisfy the renormalisation group equations

$$\partial_L G = (\gamma + \beta a \partial_a) G, \tag{3.2}$$

$$\partial_L Y = (v + \beta a \partial_a) Y, \tag{3.3}$$

where $\gamma(a)$ and $v(a)$ are the anomalous dimensions of the 2-point and 3-point function and $\beta(a)$ is the beta-function of the model. In [10], we established that $\beta = 2v + 3\gamma$, but we must point out that our convention for the function β differs from the usual ones. Since γ_0 and v_0 are left undetermined by the equations, we fix them to 1 as a normalisation condition. Then equations (3.2) and (3.3) impose the relations $\gamma_1 = \gamma$ and $v_1 = v$ which are used to determine the renormalisation group functions γ and v .

Decorations can be further composed as Cauchy products of the G and Y series. We can assign to each internal line an operator \mathcal{W} given as a product of G and Y , with its anomalous dimension w given as

$$w = \#G \gamma + \#Y v,$$

and the renormalisation group equation

$$\partial_L \mathcal{W} = (w + \beta a \partial_a) \mathcal{W}.$$

Here is a non-exhaustive list of operators \mathcal{W} that we could consider

$$\mathcal{W} \in \{ \text{---}\bullet\text{---}, \text{---}\blacktriangle\bullet\text{---}, \blacktriangle\text{---}\bullet\text{---}, \text{---}\bullet\blacktriangle\text{---}, \blacktriangle\text{---}\bullet\blacktriangle\text{---}, \blacktriangle\text{---}\bullet\bullet\blacktriangle\text{---}, \blacktriangle\text{---}\bullet\bullet\bullet\blacktriangle\text{---} \}.$$

In equations (3.1), two products appear, \mathfrak{F} (read ‘‘Samekh’’) and Φ (read ‘‘Qof’’), defined as

$$\mathfrak{F}(a, L) := YGY(a, L) = \sum_{n \geq 0} \frac{1}{n!} s_n(a) L^n \quad \text{for } \blacktriangle\text{---}\bullet\text{---}\blacktriangle,$$

$$\Phi(a, L) := GYG(a, L) = \sum_{n \geq 0} \frac{1}{n!} q_n(a) L^n \quad \text{for } \text{---}\bullet\text{---}\blacktriangle\text{---}\bullet\text{---}.$$

In particular, they satisfy

$$\partial_L \mathfrak{F} = (\gamma + 2v + \beta a \partial_a) \mathfrak{F}, \quad \partial_L \Phi = (2\gamma + v + \beta a \partial_a) \Phi,$$

and we will write $s = 2v + \gamma$ and $q = 2\gamma + v$. This formalism was tested in [10] by showing that the renormalisation functions to order a^2 computed with it matched with known results.

As is customary in resurgence literature, we work with a variable defined in the neighbourhood of infinity, that is one which is proportional to $1/a$. We use the variable r with a normalisation such that:

$$r\beta(r) = -1 + o\left(\frac{1}{r}\right). \quad (3.4)$$

This means that we define $r = -1/(\beta_1 a)$ and the sign here is important because we want to keep this trademark of asymptotic freedom. This normalisation ensures that the transseries terms in the expansion of the anomalous dimensions will contain $\exp(nr)$ factors with integer n , and the exponents we compute have simpler expressions.

Our computations make use of the Mellin transform representation of graphs. It is obtained by replacing the n_e propagators by full propagators with an additional $\exp(xL)$ factor. The evaluation of the resulting modified graph gives a function of n_e complex parameters, meromorphic with poles on linear subspaces.

The usefulness of such a function stems from the relation

$$L^n = \partial_x^n e^{xL} \Big|_{x=0},$$

which permits to obtain any function of L through the action of an infinite order differential operator on $\exp(xL)$. The effect of the replacement of any propagator in a diagram can be obtained from the action of this differential operator on (one of the parameters of) the Mellin transform, followed by putting the parameter to 0. So, for example, the G series is described by

$$G_x := G(a, \partial_x) = \sum_{n \geq 0} \gamma_n(a) \frac{\partial_x^n}{n!}.$$

We assign also an operator \mathcal{O} to the whole graph by multiplying the operators associated to all of the internal lines \mathcal{W}_i , with a factor $1/r^l$ for a diagram with l loops, so that the evaluation of the graph is just by applying this operator on the Mellin transform of the graph. For example, for the graphs appearing in equations (3.1)

$$\mathcal{O}_{xy} = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{r} K_x^\nu \mathbb{F}_y & \text{for } \begin{array}{c} \bullet \\ \circlearrowleft \\ \bullet \\ \square \\ \bullet \\ \circlearrowright \\ \bullet \end{array}, \\ \frac{1}{r} \Phi_x \mathbb{F}_y & \text{for } \begin{array}{c} \bullet \\ \circlearrowleft \\ \bullet \\ \bullet \\ \bullet \end{array}. \end{cases}$$

We do not keep K^ν in our operators, since it can be expressed through G and its derivative with respect to L : K_x^ν can be traded for G_x , with only a multiplication of the Mellin transform by $x - 1$. In the one loop diagram we consider here, the propagator K^ν is the only one in a path between the exterior legs of the diagram, so that it could be obtained through the derivation of the whole diagram with respect to the exterior momentum. In any case, we can just write G instead of K^ν . We can assign to \mathcal{O} an anomalous dimension $\gamma_{\mathcal{O}}$:

$$\gamma_{\mathcal{O}} \equiv \#G\gamma + \#Yv - l\beta, \quad (3.5)$$

and write

$$\partial_L \mathcal{O} = (\gamma_{\mathcal{O}} - \beta r \partial_r) \mathcal{O}.$$

The β function appears in equation (3.5) due to the $1/r^l$ factor in the definition of \mathcal{O} . It is a combination of the anomalous dimensions γ and ν , in our model

$$\beta = 3\gamma + 2\nu,$$

such that for the graphs in equation (3.1)

$$\gamma_{\mathcal{O}} = \begin{cases} -\gamma & \text{for } \mathcal{O}_{\gamma} := \frac{1}{r} G_x \mathbb{F}_y, \\ \nu & \text{for } \mathcal{O}_{\nu} := \frac{1}{r} \Phi_x \mathbb{F}_y. \end{cases}$$

This ensures that both sides of the WSD equations obey the same renormalisation group equations and is instrumental in the proof we have given in [10] that the solutions of the WSD equations obey renormalisation group equations. The β function is then the logarithmic derivative of the effective charge $r^{-1}Y^2G^3$, which have important combinatorial properties, see for example [25].

From Ward–Schwinger–Dyson equations (3.1) we can extract equations for the anomalous dimensions:

$$\begin{aligned} \gamma &= (\gamma + \beta r \partial_r) \gamma - \frac{T_2}{2\beta_1} \mathcal{O}_{\gamma} H^{\gamma}, \\ \nu &= \frac{T_3}{\beta_1} \mathcal{O}_{\nu} H^{\nu}, \end{aligned}$$

where H^{γ} and H^{ν} are functions associated to the two graphs through Mellin transforms.

4 Singularity structure of the Mellin transform

4.1 General properties

The poles of the Mellin transforms H^{γ} and H^{ν} give the dominant contributions in the evaluation of the anomalous dimensions. These two functions are given by

$$\begin{aligned} H^{\gamma}(x, y) &= \frac{\Gamma(1-x-y)\Gamma(2+x)\Gamma(2+y)}{\Gamma(4+x+y)\Gamma(1-x)\Gamma(1-y)}, \\ H^{\nu}(x, y) &= \frac{\Gamma(1-x-y)\Gamma(1+x)\Gamma(2+y)}{\Gamma(3+x+y)\Gamma(2-x)\Gamma(1-y)}, \end{aligned}$$

and they have poles when the argument of one of the Γ function in their numerators is a negative integer or zero. In terms of natural integers n, n', n'' , we have therefore poles on the line with equations

$$\begin{cases} 2+x = -n, \\ 2+y = -n', \\ 1-x-y = -n'', \end{cases} \quad \text{and} \quad \begin{cases} 1+x = -n, \\ 2+y = -n', \\ 1-x-y = -n'', \end{cases}$$

respectively for H^{γ} and H^{ν} .

The singularity structures of these functions are represented in Figure 1. We can also infer from these plots the properties of the residue along any pole line. Consider one of them, whenever a zero line crosses it, the residue get a zero, unless another pole line goes through the intersection point. One can see that a zero line is present at each intersections of two pole lines, so that the

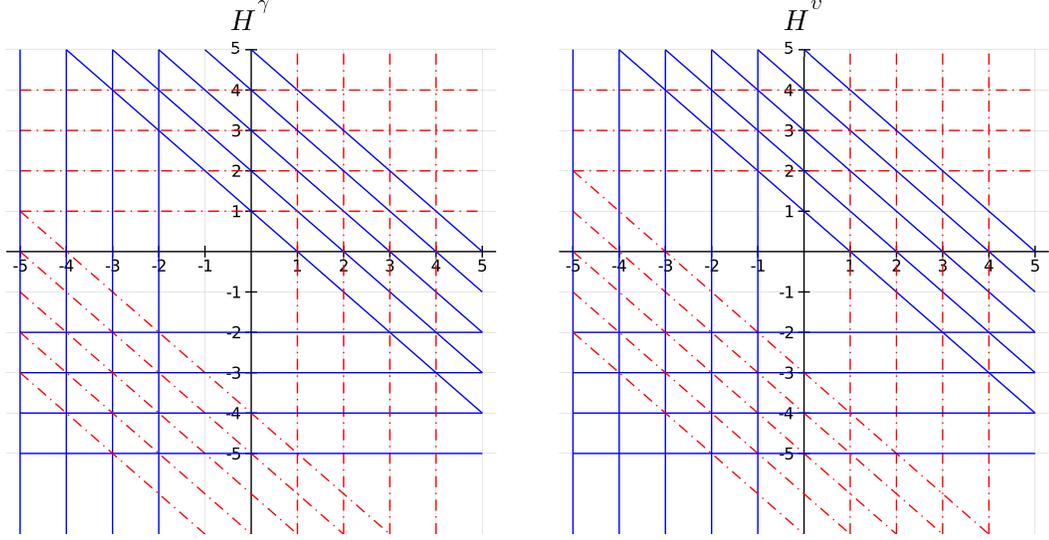


Figure 1. Singularity structure of the characteristic functions H : the continuous blue lines represent the poles, the dot-dashed red ones the zeroes.

residues never get poles of their own. In both cases, the singularity represented by the blue line $1 - x - y = 0$ is the closest one to the origin. For any H function we write the decomposition

$$H(x, y) = \sum_k \frac{h_k(x, y)}{k - x - y} + \frac{h'_k(y)}{k + x} + \frac{h''_k(x)}{k + y} + \sum_{n, m} \tilde{h}_{n, m} x^n y^m, \quad (4.1)$$

where the index sum is intentionally left unspecified because it depends on the particular choice of H and a priori there should be four different summations but we did not want to weight the notation too much. This description separates the poles of different kind whose residues are h_k , h'_k , h''_k and an analytic part described by $\tilde{h}_{n, m}$. Obviously if H is symmetric for $x \leftrightarrow y$ then $h'_k = h''_k$, but it is not the case for H^ν . We give here their values for small k :

| | k | h_k | h'_k | h''_k |
|------------|-----|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| H^γ | 1 | $\frac{xy(2 + xy)}{4!}$ | — | — |
| | 2 | $\frac{xy(3 + xy)(1 - xy)}{5!}$ | $\frac{(y - 2)(y - 1)}{2}$ | $\frac{(x - 2)(x - 1)}{2}$ |
| | 3 | $\frac{xy(xy - 2)^2(xy + 4)}{6!2}$ | $\frac{(y^2 - 1)(2 - y)(3 - y)}{3!}$ | $\frac{(x^2 - 1)(2 - x)(3 - x)}{3!}$ |
| H^ν | 1 | $\frac{x(1 + y)}{3!}$ | $\frac{1 - y}{2}$ | — |
| | 2 | $\frac{xy(1 + y)(1 - x)}{4!}$ | $\frac{(1 - y^2)(y - 2)}{3!}$ | $\frac{2 - x}{2}$ |

The decompositions (4.1) of the functions $H(x, y)$ give corresponding decompositions of the $\mathcal{O}H$ constructs. The poles for $x + y = k$ give rise to functions E_k in this decompositions. For the poles depending on a single variable, the corresponding term can be further decomposed as a product of factors respectively associated to the variables x and y : this part of $H(x, y)$ is the product of two functions depending on a single variable and the action of \mathcal{O} on it will give the product of the action of \mathcal{O}_x on the function of x and the action of \mathcal{O}_y on the function of y . The factor

corresponding to a single pole in a single variable will be called F_k . Functions E_k and F_k , were first considered in [6] and were fundamental tools in [12] and in [7].

4.2 F_k functions

These functions capture the contribution to anomalous dimensions due to $k+x=0$ or $k+y=0$ poles of the characteristic functions H . For \mathcal{W} in $\{G, \mathbb{F}, \Phi\}$ and the corresponding w in $\{\gamma, s, q\}$, we define

$$F_k^w := \mathcal{W}_x \left(\frac{x}{k+x} \right) = \mathcal{W}_x \left(\sum_{n \geq 0} \frac{(-1)^n x^{n+1}}{k^{n+1}} \right) = - \sum_{m \geq 1} \frac{(-1)^m w_m}{k^m}.$$

We could have defined F_k^w as the action of \mathcal{W} on the rational function $1/(k+x)$, but this would produce terms which have a constant part and this would bring some difficulties with the Borel transforms.

It follows immediately from the definition that

$$\partial_L \mathcal{W} \left(\frac{x}{k+x} \right) = -k F_k^w + w. \quad (4.2)$$

Indeed, we can write

$$\begin{aligned} \partial_L \mathcal{W} \sum_{n \geq 0} (-1)^n \frac{x^{n+1}}{k^{n+1}} &= (w - \beta r \partial_r) \sum_{n \geq 0} (-1)^n \frac{w_{n+1}}{k^{n+1}} = \sum_{n \geq 0} (-1)^n \frac{w_{n+2}}{k^{n+1}} \\ &= k \sum_{n \geq 2} (-1)^n \frac{w_n}{k^n} = -k \left(F_k^w - \frac{w}{k} \right). \end{aligned}$$

The generic equation (4.2) can be specialised to the three different kinds of F_k , associated to the three kinds of propagator like operators appearing in the Ward–Schwinger–Dyson equations. The resulting equations allow to compute the corresponding F_k :

$$\begin{aligned} (\gamma - \beta r \partial_r) F_k^\gamma &= \gamma - k F_k^\gamma, \\ (s - \beta r \partial_r) F_k^s &= s - k F_k^s, \\ (q - \beta r \partial_r) F_k^q &= q - k F_k^q. \end{aligned}$$

There is potentially an infinity of F_k terms which can contribute to the WSD equations, but in our computations, we will need only a finite number of them. The first one in importance is F_1^q but we also have all the F_k with a constant term in the residue of the corresponding pole. These cases can be read in Figure 1 since they correspond to the poles parallel to an axis which are not crossed by zeroes at their intersection with the other axis. In the case of H^γ , since it is symmetric by $x \leftrightarrow y$, it suffices to describe the poles along one direction. These poles come from $\Gamma(2+x)$ and thus start for $x = -2$ and end when a zero is crossed for $y = 0$, produced by the term $1/\Gamma(4+x+y)$, therefore for $x = -4$ and lower. In the end, we have contributions from two values of k , 2 and 3. In the case of H^v , we do not have this symmetry and we must distinguish the two directions: along x , the poles start at $x = -1$, from $\Gamma(1+x)$, and hit a zero at $x = -3$, from $1/\Gamma(3+x+y)$ taken at $y = 0$, leaving the two poles at -1 and -2 . Along the y direction, the important poles are determined by $\Gamma(2+y)$ for the start of the poles and get a zero in the residue from the same factor than for the x poles, leaving only one pole for $y = -2$. In the equation for the anomalous dimension γ there will be contributions from F_k^s and F_k^γ , while for the one for the anomalous dimension v there will be contributions from F_k^s and F_k^q .

4.3 E_k functions

The E_k functions capture the contribution to anomalous dimensions due to $k - x - y = 0$ poles of the characteristic functions H . Differently from F_k functions, they are not associated to a single propagator but to the whole diagram. We define them through the action of the operators \mathcal{O}_{xy} :

$$E_k = \mathcal{O}_{xy} \frac{\mathbf{h}_k(x, y)}{k - x - y}. \quad (4.3)$$

In this article we will work with the functions E_k^γ and E_k^v given by

$$E_k^\gamma = \frac{G_x \mathbb{F}_y}{r} \frac{h_k^\gamma(x, y)}{k - x - y}, \quad (4.4)$$

$$E_k^v = \frac{\Phi_x \mathbb{F}_y}{r} \frac{h_k^v(x, y)}{k - x - y}. \quad (4.5)$$

As remarked already in [6], the relation (4.3) can also be written with exchanged places of derivatives and variables

$$E_k = \frac{\mathbf{h}_k(\partial_1, \partial_2)}{k - \partial_1 - \partial_2} \mathcal{O}(L_1, L_2),$$

where ∂_i stands for ∂_{L_i} and as usual, the variables are set to zero after all differentiations are evaluated. Inverting $k - \partial_1 - \partial_2$ is challenging, but when acting on $\mathcal{O}(L_1, L_2)$, it can be brought to a form that only refers to the r variable and therefore act similarly on the function E_k . We can also see that an arbitrary power of $\partial_1 + \partial_2$ followed by the evaluation at $L_1 = L_2 = 0$ can be replaced by first evaluating $L_1 = L_2 = L$, applying the same power of ∂_L and finally put $L = 0$. We can then write, with $\mathcal{O}' = \mathbf{h}_k(\partial_1, \partial_2)\mathcal{O}$,

$$\frac{1}{k - \partial_1 - \partial_2} \mathcal{O}' = \frac{1}{k} \sum_n \frac{1}{k^n} \partial_L^n \mathcal{O}' = \frac{1}{k} \sum_n \frac{1}{k^n} (\gamma_{\mathcal{O}} - \beta r \partial_r)^n \mathcal{O}' = \frac{1}{k - \gamma_{\mathcal{O}} + \beta r \partial_r} \mathcal{O}',$$

which ultimately brings the equation

$$(k - \gamma_{\mathcal{O}} + \beta r \partial_r) E_k = \mathbf{h}_k(\partial_1, \partial_2) \mathcal{O}(L_1, L_2).$$

The rather formal definitions (4.4) and (4.5) can be converted to the following equations

$$(k + \gamma + \beta r \partial_r) E_k^\gamma = h_k^\gamma(\partial_1, \partial_2) \frac{G(L_1) \mathbb{F}(L_2)}{r},$$

$$(k - v + \beta r \partial_r) E_k^v = h_k^v(\partial_1, \partial_2) \frac{\Phi(L_1) \mathbb{F}(L_2)}{r}.$$

One must remark that it is the inclusion of the $1/r$ factor in the definition of these E_k that brings the simplification of the anomalous dimensions $\gamma_{\mathcal{O}}$ to $-\gamma$ and v .

Using the functions E_k and F_k , the contribution of the diagrams can be written as

$$\mathcal{O}H = \frac{c}{r} + \sum_k E_k + \frac{1}{r} \sum_w \sum_k \mathfrak{z}_w^k F_k^w + R, \quad (4.6)$$

with c the constant giving the leading term and R collecting all other possible terms. Notice that E_k functions include a factor $1/r$ while the F_k do not. This explains that the two sums do not come with the same $1/r$ factor. The F_k^w come with a factor \mathfrak{z}_w^k , which is just a number which is given by

$$\mathfrak{z}_w^k = -\frac{1}{k} h_k^w(0),$$

where $h_k^w(0)$ denotes the constant term of either $h_k'(y)$ or $h_k''(x)$ according to which Mellin variable is associated to the line and the prefactor $-1/k$ comes from the identity

$$\frac{1}{k+x} = \frac{1}{k} \left(1 - \frac{x}{k+x} \right).$$

We could have kept other terms of the residue, but they would not contribute to the exponents.

4.4 R function

Our computations presume that the dominant contributions come from the poles of the Mellin transform and more specifically from the poles near the origin. We therefore need some way of bounding the contributions coming from the remainder of the Mellin transform, once a finite number of poles has been subtracted.

The solution is not easy, since for the terms with exponential factors, all derivatives with respect to L of the propagator corrections are now of the same order. In a first attempt to find the corrections to the asymptotic behaviour of the series for the Wess–Zumino model [7], a solution could be devised by using the conjecturally exact expansion of the Mellin transform as sum of the pole contributions, when using a particular extension of the residues to the whole (x, y) plane. This approach is however limited by the appearance of multizeta values with high depth, which rapidly go beyond the cases with known reductions.

In a following work [8], we could find a much easier solution. It used a transformation of the propagator which can be written as

$$G(L) = \sum_n \frac{1}{n!} \gamma_n L^n \longrightarrow \check{G}(\lambda) = \sum_n \gamma_n \lambda^{-n-1}.$$

The relation between G and its transform looks like G is the Borel transform of this new function \check{G} , but it is not a proper interpretation, since the natural product for G is not a convolution product. Nevertheless, the derivation with respect to L becomes the multiplication by λ after this transform, so that it is easy to convert the renormalisation group equation for G in an equation for \check{G} . In this equation, a term with an $\exp(kr)$ factor in \check{G} gets multiplied by $\lambda - k$, so that \check{G} gets a singularity for $\lambda = k$.

On the other side, the pairing of G with the Mellin transform is straightforward in this form. We just have to make the sum of the products of the x^n terms in H and the λ^{-n-1} terms in \check{G} which is just the residue of $H(x, y)\check{G}(x)$ at $x = 0$. This can be conveniently expressed as a contour integral around the origin. If \check{G} depends on $\exp(kr)$ and has therefore singularities for $x = k$, the contour integral will involve also evaluation of H or its derivatives at $x = k$: this certainly does not work out if H has a pole at this point, so that this computation can only be done after subtracting a number of poles of H , but the upshot is that one can obtain in this way the contribution from the remainder of H in a form which contains sufficiently many $1/r$ factor to not have any influence on the exponents we compute.

This construction must also be applied for the \mathbb{F} and \mathbb{P} products, which must be directly obtained from their respective renormalisation group equations, since the pointwise product in the variable L has no easy equivalent in the variable λ . The full development of this formalism is certainly complex, since the Mellin transform must be evaluated not only at the origin, but also, after suitable subtractions, at integer points. Nevertheless, for the sake of our limited ambition in this work, it is possible to consider that the rest function which accounts for all but linear terms in h_k' and h_k'' and the regular part of the H function is controlled. We can characterise it as being

$$R = \oint \oint H_{\text{reg}} \check{\mathcal{O}},$$

where H_{reg} is the function H with subtracted polar parts. This subtraction unfortunately cannot be put in the form of a canonical projection as would be possible for H a function of a single variable.

5 Trans-series corrections

5.1 Results

From the resurgent point of view the situation is quite intricate, but there are things that we can easily establish. First of all, from the dominant term in $r\beta(r)$ in equation (3.4), one sees that there is a dominant $(k + \partial_r)F_k$ term in the equations for the F_k and $(k - \partial_r)E_k$ in the ones for the E_k . We therefore see that F_k can be modified by a term proportional to e^{-kr} and E_k by a term proportional to e^{kr} . This is however not sufficient to characterise these terms. The next term in an expansion in $1/r$ cannot be compensated by the derivation of a series in powers of r^{-1} , which have a derivative starting with r^{-2} , so that one has to multiply such terms by a power of r , generically with a non-integer exponent which will be the dominant one in the exponential terms in order to cancel the terms of order $1/r$.

The purpose of this section is to show how to compute the values of these dominant exponents for the corrections proportional to e^r and e^{-r} for the anomalous dimension γ and ν . The situation appears more complex than in the Wess–Zumino model, where there is only one E_k and one F_k for each positive integer k and all exponents have been computed in [8]. Talking about the first trans-series corrections means to talk about the closest singularities in the Borel plane through their relations to alien derivatives. In turn, these singularities control the asymptotic behaviour of the perturbative series. Terms that are proportional to e^r are linked to the singularities at -1 in the Borel plane while the e^{-r} terms are linked to the singularities at 1 . We will use the notation that $[k]$ indicates the part of a function which has a factor e^{kr} , so that $[0]$ indicates the classical part and we will compute the exponents for the $[1]$ and $[-1]$ parts, corresponding respectively to the singularities in -1 and 1 of the Borel transform.

The results of this section are expressed in terms of three quantities g , u and b appearing in the first orders of the renormalisation group functions as

$$\begin{aligned}\gamma[0] &= \frac{g}{r} + O\left(\frac{1}{r^2}\right) = -\frac{T_2}{12\beta_1} \frac{1}{r} + O\left(\frac{1}{r^2}\right), \\ \nu[0] &= \frac{u}{r} + O\left(\frac{1}{r^2}\right) = \frac{T_3}{2\beta_1} \frac{1}{r} + O\left(\frac{1}{r^2}\right), \\ \beta[0]r &= (3\gamma[0] + 2\nu[0])r = -1 + \frac{b}{r} + O\left(\frac{1}{r^2}\right),\end{aligned}$$

with

$$\begin{aligned}\beta_1 &= \frac{T_2}{4} - T_3, \\ b &= \frac{\beta_2}{\beta_1^2} = \frac{1}{\beta_1^2} \left(\frac{11}{24} T_2 T_3 - \frac{11}{144} T_2^2 - \frac{3}{4} T_3^2 - \frac{1}{2} T_5 \right).\end{aligned}$$

These expressions appear different from previously published results, notably [17], due to our conventions: we write the renormalisation group equations with $\beta(r)$ as the variation of $\log r$. This shifts the powers of g and introduces a factor of 2 in β .

The trans-series corrections will come with dominant powers of r . We will name their exponents η , θ and the pair of conjugated numbers λ^\pm as follows: $\gamma[1]$ is proportional to $r^\eta e^r$;

$v[1]$ to $r^\theta e^r$; both $\gamma[-1]$ and $v[-1]$ are dominated by the two terms $r^{\lambda^\pm} e^{-r}$, with a definite relation between the dominant terms in $\gamma[-1]$ and $v[-1]$. Our results are summarized by

$$\eta = g + b, \quad \theta = b - \frac{2}{3}u, \quad \lambda^\pm = -2g - b \pm |3g| \sqrt{1 + \frac{4u}{3g}}.$$

Remarkably the difference

$$\eta - \theta = \frac{1}{3}$$

does not depend on the Casimir operators T_i , apart in the case, where β_1 vanishes and our change of variable is ill-defined.

We were surprised to find that λ^\pm is algebraic and even complex in general. Real asymptotic behaviors can only be obtained by combining two conjugate terms involving λ^+ and λ^- .

Let us show how they are calculated.

5.2 Preparatory steps

We start again from the WSD equations

$$\begin{aligned} \gamma &= (\gamma + \beta r \partial_r) \gamma - \frac{T_2}{2\beta_1} \mathcal{O}_\gamma H^\gamma, \\ v &= \frac{T_3}{\beta_1} \mathcal{O}_v H^v, \end{aligned}$$

and rewrite them using equation (4.6) as

$$\gamma = (\gamma + \beta r \partial_r) \gamma - \frac{T_2}{2\beta_1} \left(\frac{1}{6r} + \sum_k E_k^\gamma + \frac{1}{r} \left(-\frac{1}{2}(F_2^\gamma + F_2^s) + \frac{1}{3}(F_3^\gamma + F_3^s) \right) \right), \quad (5.1)$$

$$v = \frac{T_3}{\beta_1} \left(\frac{1}{2r} + \sum_k E_k^v + \frac{1}{r} \left(-\frac{1}{2}F_1^q + \frac{1}{6}F_2^q - \frac{1}{2}F_2^s \right) \right), \quad (5.2)$$

while neglecting the R terms.

For both e^r and e^{-r} trans-series order we can neglect E_k for $k \geq 2$. This occurs because these functions satisfy the equations

$$\begin{aligned} (k + \gamma + \beta r \partial_r) E_k^\gamma &= h_k^\gamma(\partial_1, \partial_2) \frac{G(L_1) \overline{\mathbb{F}}(L_2)}{r}, \\ (k - v + \beta r \partial_r) E_k^v &= h_k^v(\partial_1, \partial_2) \frac{\Phi(L_1) \overline{\mathbb{F}}(L_2)}{r}, \end{aligned}$$

and if we denote the descending powers by

$$N^n = N(N-1) \cdots (N-n+1)$$

we have

$$\begin{aligned} h_k^\gamma(x, y) &= \frac{(-1)^{k-1}}{(k-1)! \Gamma(4+k)} (2+x)^{k+2} (2+y)^{k+2}, \\ h_k^v(x, y) &= \frac{(-1)^{k-1}}{(k-1)! \Gamma(3+k)} (1+y)^k x^k. \end{aligned}$$

The lowest degree monomial will be xy for these h_k except for h_1^v , where it is just x . Higher orders in x and y for h_k extract terms with higher order in L in the propagators and these terms

also begin at higher order in $1/r$. Indeed, since we have that $w_{n+1} = (w - \beta r \partial_r)w_n$, w_{n+1} is of one order higher than w_n . Since the equations for the E_k with k larger than two are not resonant, they are of the same order than the term produced by h_k , which is at least two order smaller than γ or v , unable to modify the exponents. At this stage, we only have to consider E_1^γ and E_1^v . This simplification might not be true at higher trans-series order. From now on let us forget the subscript 1.

Furthermore, the F_k functions do not contribute to the dominant exponents for trans-series term proportional to e^r , as can be seen from the computation of $F_k[1]$:

$$((k + w - \beta r \partial_r)F_k^w)[1] = w[1]. \quad (5.3)$$

The left hand side can be expanded as

$$((k + w - \beta r \partial_r)F_k^w)[1] = (k + w - \beta r \partial_r)[0]F_k^w[1] + (k + w - \beta r \partial_r)[1]F_k^w[0].$$

If we parametrise $F_k^w[1]$ as follows

$$F_k^w[1] = e^r r^{f_k^w} c_k^w (1 + \dots),$$

we have

$$\partial_r F_k^w[1] = \left(1 + \frac{f_k^w}{r} + \mathcal{O}(r^{-2})\right) F_k^w[1].$$

Using that $F_k^w[0]$ is at least of order 1 in $1/r$, the dominant term of equation (5.3) gives that

$$F_k^w[1] \sim \frac{1}{k+1} w[1],$$

which can be specialised to the following dominant behaviours

$$\begin{aligned} F_k^\gamma[1] &\sim \frac{1}{k+1} \gamma[1], \\ F_k^s[1] &\sim \frac{1}{k+1} s[1] = \frac{1}{k+1} (\gamma[1] + 2v[1]), \\ F_k^q[1] &\sim \frac{1}{k+1} q[1] = \frac{1}{k+1} (2\gamma[1] + v[1]). \end{aligned}$$

Since in equations (5.1) and (5.2) they appear with a prefactor of r^{-1} they will always be subdominant and for our purpose negligible. The dominant contributions proportional to e^r come from $E[1]$.

The opposite situation occurs for the e^{-r} terms. The $E[-1]$ do not contribute. It suffices to consider the equations

$$\begin{aligned} ((1 + \gamma + \beta r \partial_r)E^\gamma)[-1] &= \frac{1}{12r} (\gamma s)[-1], \\ ((1 - v + \beta r \partial_r)E^v)[-1] &= \frac{1}{6r} q[-1], \end{aligned}$$

and observe that the left hand side is dominated by $(k+1)E_k[-1]$. This happens because $E_k[0] \in r^{-2}\mathbb{C}[[1/r]]$, since \mathcal{O} contains a factor of r^{-1} and h_k do not contain constant terms; also

$$\beta r \partial_r E[-1] \sim E[-1]$$

because the factor -1 coming from e^{-r} compensates with $\beta[0]r = -1 + \dots$.

This means that $E^\gamma[-1]$ will always be subdominant. Any contribution are suppressed by two factors of r : one from the original equation and one from order $[0]$ series. So even if there was resonance, which in fact occur, the shift is sufficient to neglect these terms. The situation is, a priori, different for $E^v[-1]$. In fact due to the exceptional right hand side for E^v , where no order $[0]$ series appear, E^v might contribute. Nevertheless we will see in Section 5.4 that $F_1^q[-1]$ is resonant and will dominate over E^v .

5.3 Exponents of the leading singularities at -1

We take the following form for the functions E^γ at the e^r level

$$E^\gamma[1] = e^r r^\epsilon c_\epsilon (1 + \dots),$$

$$E^v[1] = e^r r^{\bar{\epsilon}} c_{\bar{\epsilon}} (1 + \dots).$$

In equation (5.1), the first term on the right hand side has the following leading contribution

$$((\gamma + \beta r \partial_r) \gamma)[1] \sim -\gamma[1]$$

which generates a factor of 2 with the $\gamma[1]$ of the left hand side. Putting this in equation (5.2) we obtain the dominant terms

$$\gamma[1] \sim 3gE_1^\gamma[1], \tag{5.4}$$

$$v[1] \sim 2uE_1^v[1]. \tag{5.5}$$

Then ϵ and $\bar{\epsilon}$ can be obtained from the equations for E^γ and E^v

$$((1 + \gamma + \beta r \partial_r) E^\gamma)[1] \sim -\frac{1}{12r} (\gamma s)[1],$$

$$((1 - v + \beta r \partial_r) E^v)[1] \sim -\frac{1}{6r} q[1],$$

where we have neglected higher order terms on the right hand side. At this transseries order we have resonance: the highest order terms in the left hand side cancel exactly due to $\beta[0]r = -1 + O(1/r)$. No contribution from $E^\gamma[0]$ or $E^v[0]$ occurs because $E^\gamma[0] \in r^{-3}\mathbb{C}[[1/r]]$ and $E^v[0] \in r^{-2}\mathbb{C}[[1/r]]$. We are left with

$$\frac{g + b - \epsilon}{r} E^\gamma[1] \sim 0,$$

$$\frac{-u + b - \bar{\epsilon}}{r} E^v[1] \sim -\frac{1}{6r} q[1].$$

In the first one of these equations, the right hand side is negligible, because it contains either $\gamma[0]$ or $s[0]$ which give an additional $1/r$ factor. In the last one, we use $q[1] = 2\gamma[1] + v[1]$ and the relation (5.5) to end up with

$$\epsilon = g + b,$$

$$\bar{\epsilon} = -\frac{2}{3}u + b$$

in order to have non trivial solutions for E^γ and E^v . Then, using the relations (5.4) and (5.5) shows that the dominant exponents in $\gamma[1]$ and $v[1]$ are the ones announced before.

5.4 Exponents of the leading singularities at 1

Here the situation is less straightforward, with different important terms in the equations for γ and v and interactions between them.

For $\gamma[-1]$, the leading resonance comes from the term $(\gamma + \beta r \partial_r) \gamma$. The F_2 and F_3 terms, even if they are not resonant, give contributions of the order $\gamma[-1]/r$ which cannot be neglected. The first subdominant terms come from $\beta[-1]$ and $\gamma[0]$. In particular equation (5.1) becomes, when regrouping all $g\gamma[1]$ terms

$$(g + \lambda + b)\gamma[-1] + 2gv[-1] \sim 6g \left(-\frac{1}{2}(F_2^\gamma + F_2^s)[-1] + \frac{1}{3}(F_3^\gamma + F_3^s)[-1] \right).$$

The right hand side can be further simplified using

$$F_k^w[-1] \sim \frac{1}{k-1} w[-1].$$

We therefore obtain that

$$(g + \lambda + b)\gamma[-1] + 2gv[-1] \sim -4g(\gamma[-1] + v[-1]),$$

giving

$$(5g + \lambda + b)\gamma[-1] \sim -6gv[-1]. \quad (5.6)$$

If $v[1]$ had a smaller exponent than $\gamma[1]$, this would give an equation for λ , but this is not the case.

In the expression for $v[-1]$, F_1 stands out because it is resonant, so it adumbrates the other F_k . Indeed, in the equation for F_1^q

$$((1 + q - \beta r \partial_r)) F_1^q[-1] = q[-1]$$

the highest terms cancel, so if we call φ the dominant exponent for F_1^q , we have

$$\frac{1}{r}(q_1 + b + \varphi) F_1^q[-1] \sim 2\gamma[-1] + v[-1], \quad (5.7)$$

with $q_1 = u + 2g$ the first coefficient in q . The other F_k do not have these cancellations, so that they give contributions smaller by a factor $1/r$ to $v[-1]$ in equation (5.2), which at the approximation level we use, gives a further relation

$$v[-1] \sim -\frac{u}{r} F_1^q[-1]. \quad (5.8)$$

Putting together equations (5.6), (5.7) and (5.8), we get an equation for the dominant power λ :

$$q_1 + b + \varphi = -u(2\chi + 1),$$

where

$$\chi = \frac{-6g}{5g + \lambda + b}$$

is the proportionality factor between $\gamma[-1]$ and $v[-1]$ from equation (5.6). Equation (5.7) further shows that $\varphi = \lambda + 1$ and we will use that, with our rescaling, the first coefficient of β is -1 so that $1 = -3g - 2u$. Finally λ satisfies

$$\lambda^2 + 2(2g + b)\lambda + b^2 + 4gb - 5g^2 - 12ug = 0,$$

with solutions

$$\lambda^\pm = -2g - b \pm |3g| \sqrt{1 + \frac{4u}{3g}}.$$

The fact that it is algebraic is already strange, but for generic ϕ^3 models the argument of the square root is even negative, thus giving imaginary numbers. For example for the one-component case where $T_2 = T_3 = T_5 = 1$, its value is $\lambda^\pm = \frac{107}{81} \pm \frac{i\sqrt{7}}{3}$.

This result is quite surprising, since we expected that the exponents would remain rational, since they only depend on the rational numbers b , g and u . In Section 2.2, we recalled

how, through the use of alien derivatives, a link can be established between deformations of the solution involving exponential factors and the asymptotic behaviour of the perturbative series. The $r^{\lambda^\pm} e^{-r}$ terms in our transseries solutions therefore convert into $n^{\lambda^\pm-1} n!$ asymptotic contributions to the $(n+1)$ th term of the perturbative series. Terms with the two possible values of λ must be combined to obtain real results and give in particular a slowly oscillating factor $\cos(\text{Im}(\lambda^+) \ln(n) + \phi)$. The dependence of this phase on the logarithm of n means that we would have to reach quite high orders to have an unambiguous sign of the associated oscillations. A more speculative point is that such singularities of the Borel transforms could be related to singularities of the propagator at points proportional to the renormalisation group invariant mass [9]. The complex values of λ^\pm could imply complex values for the corresponding position of the singularities of the propagator: such unusual analyticity properties of the propagator have been proposed as signs of confinement of the corresponding field [19, 23, 24].

6 Conclusion

In this paper we have started the resurgent analysis of the Ward–Schwinger–Dyson equations for the ϕ_6^3 model. This is a clear illustration of the power of this new approach to quantum field theory to address asymptotic properties of the perturbative series. The exponents we compute are totally inaccessible to the simple minded considerations of specific graphs that allowed to locate renormalon singularities of the Borel transform. Classical field configurations which could reproduce such singularities in a semiclassical expansion would have serious difficulties to explain such exponents.

It is clear that the situation is much more intricate than for the Wess–Zumino model studied in [9], where infinite families of possible transseries deformations could be readily obtained. Already at the level we consider here of the nearest singularities of the Borel transform, we have a pair of complex conjugated exponents in the transseries expansion. At the following levels, we would have three different objects of the type F_2 , which could mean that three different exponents are possible at level $[-2]$. And we cannot neglect the possibility that higher order corrections to the Ward–Schwinger–Dyson equations have an influence on this whole picture, since some aspects of our computations depend on the precise way we have done the infrared rearrangements. It is therefore our hope that new constraints can be obtained that would allow us to tame this proliferation of new series and use them to study non-perturbative effects for this model through these methods.

It has recently been remarked that in a quite interesting special case, where the field is in a bi-adjoint representation, the first coefficient of the β function vanishes, while the theory remains asymptotically free due to the sign of the second coefficient [18]. In this case, the transseries solution would include powers of $\exp(r^2) = \exp(1/a^2)$, meaning that singularities appear only for the Borel plane dual to a variable $u = r^2$ or some equivalent one. Such a study could reveal new aspects of resurgence studies, but needs a knowledge of the β function at higher loop for us to be able to control the precise transmonomial appearing in the expansion of the renormalisation group function.

This is but a first step in the study of non-perturbative effects in this particular quantum field theory, but it nevertheless presents results not accessible by other methods.

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