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Three-loop cusp anomalous dimension in QCD

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The three-loop cusp anomalous dimension Γ has been calculated analytically, as a function of the Minkowski angle ϕ , via harmonic polylogarithms up to weight 5. The color structures $C_F(T_F n_f)^{L-1} \alpha_s^L$ in Γ and the HQET quark field anomalous dimension have been obtained to all orders. At large ϕ the coefficient of $1/(1-z)_+$ in the DGLAP evolution kernel is reproduced. If we introduce an effective coupling a in such a way that the large- ϕ result is exactly first order and re-express $\Gamma(\phi)$ via a , the resulting expression does not contain n_f (and has only one color structure at each order). The known relation between $\Gamma(\phi \rightarrow i\pi)$ and the quark-antiquark potential (which follows from conformal invariance) is violated at three loops by a term proportional to β_0 .

Primary author: GROZIN, Andrey (urn:Google)

Co-authors: Dr KORCHEMSKY, Gregory (Institut de Physique Théorique, CEA Saclay, 91191 Gif-sur-Yvette Cedex, France); HENN, Johannes (IAS); Dr MARQUARD, Peter (Deutsches Elektronen-Synchrotron, DESY, Platanenallee 6, D15738 Zeuthen, Germany)

Presenter: GROZIN, Andrey (urn:Google)

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