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Toward an efficient evaluation of two-loop massive scalar integrals

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A key ingredient in an automated evaluation of two-loop multileg processes is a fast and numerically stable evaluation of scalar Feynman integrals. In this respect, the calculation of two-loop three- and four-point functions in the general complex mass case so far relies on multidimensional numerical integration through sector decomposition whereby a reliable result has a high computing cost, whereas the derivation of a fully analytic result remains beyond reach. It would therefore be useful to perform part of the Feynman parameter integrations analytically in a systematic way to let only a reduced number of integrations to be performed numerically. Such a working program has been initiated for the calculation of massive two-loop N -point functions

using analytically computed building blocks. This approach is based on the implementation of two-loop scalar N -point functions in four dimensions I_N^4 as double integrals in the form:

$I_N^4 \sim \sum \int_0^1 d\rho \int_0^1 d\xi P(\rho, \xi) \tilde{I}_{N+1}^4(\rho, \xi)$ where the building blocks $\tilde{I}_{N+1}^4(\rho, \xi)$ are involved in the integrands of loop $(N+1)$ -point Feynman-type integrals, and where $P(\rho, \xi)$ are weighting functions. The $\tilde{I}_{N+1}^4(\rho, \xi)$ are $0 \leq z_j \leq 1, j = 1, \dots, N+1; \sum_{j=1}^{N+1} z_j = 1$ at work for the one-loop $(N+1)$ -point function, but another domain (e.g. a loop N -point function) is considered. The generalisation concerns also the underlying kinematics, which, besides external momenta, loop $(N+1)$ -particle processes at colliders. The only two remaining integrations over ρ, ξ to be performed numerically represent loop integrals.

As a first step in this direction, the method developed has been successfully applied to the usual one-loop four-point function for arbitrary masses and kinematics as a “proof of concept”, showing its ability to circumvent the subtleties of the various analytic continuations in the kinematical variables in a systematic way, in a series of three articles. The target work, namely its practical implementation to compute the building blocks $\tilde{I}_{N+1}^4(\rho, \xi)$ is to be elaborated and presented in a future series of articles.

Primary authors: Mr GUILLET, Jean-Philippe (LAPTh CNRS); Mr PILON, Eric (LAPTh CNRS); Mr SHIMIZU, Yoshimitsu (KEK); Mr ZIDI, Sadek (Jijel University, Algeria)

Presenter: Mr GUILLET, Jean-Philippe (LAPTh CNRS)

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