



Workshop Dyson-Schwinger Equations
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Analogs of Dyson-Schwinger equations for gauge invariant quark Green's functions

Hagop Sazdjian

IPN, University Paris-Sud, Orsay

Motivations, advantages and difficulties

Gauge invariant objects expected to provide a more precise description of physical observables.

Better infrared behavior, free of spurious singularities.

Necessity of introducing gauge field **path-ordered phase factors** (parallel transporters) to ensure gauge invariance.

Gauge invariant quantities are generally extended objects \implies more complicated mathematical properties.

Difficulties in introducing functional inverses of gauge invariant Green's functions and defining proper vertices, which play a fundamental role in establishing Dyson-Schwinger equations in QFT. One is obliged to work constantly with Green's functions.

Method of approach

Functional method based on functional differentiation of path-ordered phase factors. One establishes functional relations between various Green's functions with different phase factor lines.

The kernels of the equations that are obtained are represented by [Wilson loops](#), which are gauge invariant quantities. They are suitable to describe large-distance properties of QCD, since they are saturated at large distances by minimal surfaces, which satisfy the area law. ([Makeenko and Migdal, 1980](#)).

References: arXiv, 0709.0161, P.R. D 77 (2008) 045028; arXiv, 1003.5099, P.R. D 81 (2010) 114008; arXiv, 1304.0961, P.R. D 88 (2013) 025034.

Properties of Wilson loops with minimal surfaces: F. Jugeau and H. S., arXiv, hep-ph/0305021, N.P. B 670 (2003) 221.

Phase factor paths along polygonal lines

We work in the framework of QCD theory, with the color gauge group $SU(N_c)$, with the quark fields in the defining fundamental representation.

Choice of the path for the phase factor lines in the Green's functions is arbitrary. Nevertheless, the space of arbitrary types of line seems overcomplete, leading to unnecessary complications.

Paths along **polygonal lines** are of particular interest, since they can be decomposed into a succession of straight line segments. The latter have a Lorentz invariant form and have an unambiguous geometrical limit when their end points approach each other.

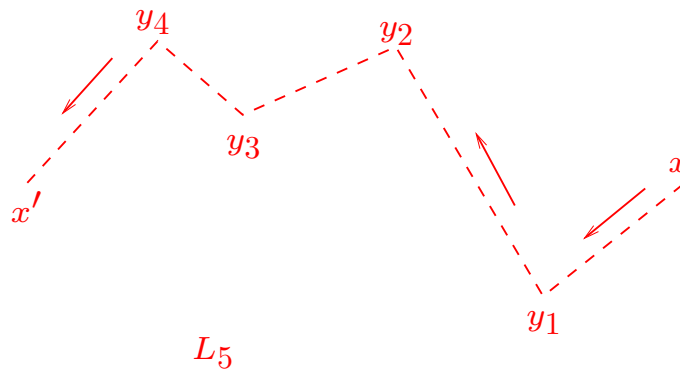
For our study, the polygonal lines form a complete set of paths for the quark Green's functions.

A phase factor with a single straight line segment going from x to y :

$$U(y, x) = P e^{-ig \int_x^y dz^\mu A_\mu(z)} .$$

For a polygonal line L_n between the points x and x' with n segments and $(n - 1)$ junction points y_1, y_2, \dots, y_{n-1} , one has

$$U(x', x; L_n) = U(x', y_{n-1})U(y_{n-1}, y_{n-2}) \dots U(y_2, y_1)U(y_1, x) .$$



Rigid path derivation

For a rigid straight line segment a displacement of one end of the segment generates also displacements of the interior points of the segment with appropriate weights. (Mandelstam, 1968.)

$$\frac{\partial U(\mathbf{y}, \mathbf{x})}{\partial y^\alpha} = -ig A_\alpha(\mathbf{y})U(\mathbf{y}, \mathbf{x}) + ig(\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{x})^\beta \int_0^1 d\lambda \lambda U(1, \lambda) F_{\beta\alpha}(\lambda) U(\lambda, 0),$$

$$\frac{\partial U(\mathbf{y}, \mathbf{x})}{\partial x^\alpha} = +ig U(\mathbf{y}, \mathbf{x}) A_\alpha(\mathbf{x}) + ig(\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{x})^\beta \int_0^1 d\lambda (1 - \lambda) U(1, \lambda) F_{\beta\alpha}(\lambda) U(\lambda, 0).$$

Conventions to represent the contributions of the integrals:

$$\frac{\bar{\delta} U(\mathbf{y}, \mathbf{x})}{\bar{\delta} y^{\alpha+}} \equiv ig(\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{x})^\beta \int_0^1 d\lambda \lambda U(1, \lambda) F_{\beta\alpha}(\lambda) U(\lambda, 0),$$

$$\frac{\bar{\delta} U(\mathbf{y}, \mathbf{x})}{\bar{\delta} x^{\alpha-}} \equiv ig(\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{x})^\beta \int_0^1 d\lambda (1 - \lambda) U(1, \lambda) F_{\beta\alpha}(\lambda) U(\lambda, 0).$$

Gauge invariant Green's functions along polygonal lines

Gauge invariant Green's functions with polygonal lines can be classified according to the number of segments they contain.

The gauge invariant two-point quark Green's function with a polygonal line with n segments and $n - 1$ junction points y_1, y_2, \dots, y_{n-1} between the segments is defined as

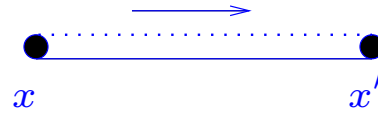
$$S_{(n)}(x, x'; y_{n-1}, \dots, y_1) = -\frac{1}{N_c} \langle \bar{\psi}(x') U(x', y_{n-1}) \dots U(y_1, x) \psi(x) \rangle,$$

where each U is along a straight line segment.

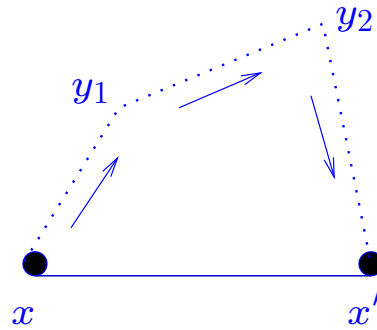
For one straight line, one has:

$$S_{(1)}(x, x') \equiv S(x, x') = -\frac{1}{N_c} \langle \bar{\psi}(x') U(x', x) \psi(x) \rangle.$$

Pictorially:



$$S(x, x') \equiv S_{(1)}(x, x') = -\frac{1}{N_c} \langle \bar{\psi}(x') U(x', x) \psi(x) \rangle$$



$$S_{(3)}(x, x'; y_2, y_1) = -\frac{1}{N_c} \langle \bar{\psi}(x') U(x', y_2) U(y_2, y_1) U(y_1, x) \psi(x) \rangle$$

Wilson loops

$$\Phi(C) = \frac{1}{N_c} \text{tr} P e^{-ig \oint_C dx^\mu A_\mu(x)}.$$

Vacuum expectation value:

$$W(C) = \langle \Phi(C) \rangle.$$

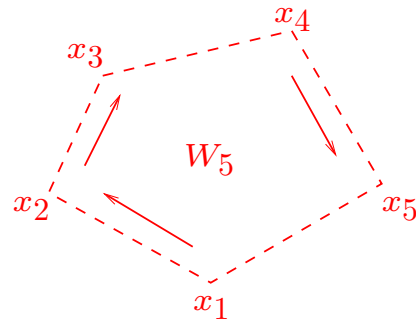
Functional representation:

$$W(C) = e^{F(C)}.$$

(Dotsenko and Vergeles, Makeenko and Migdal, 1980.)

If the contour C is a polygon C_n with n sides and n successive junction points x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n , then we write:

$$W(x_n, x_{n-1}, \dots, x_1) = W_n = e^{F_n(x_n, x_{n-1}, \dots, x_1)} = e^{F_n}.$$



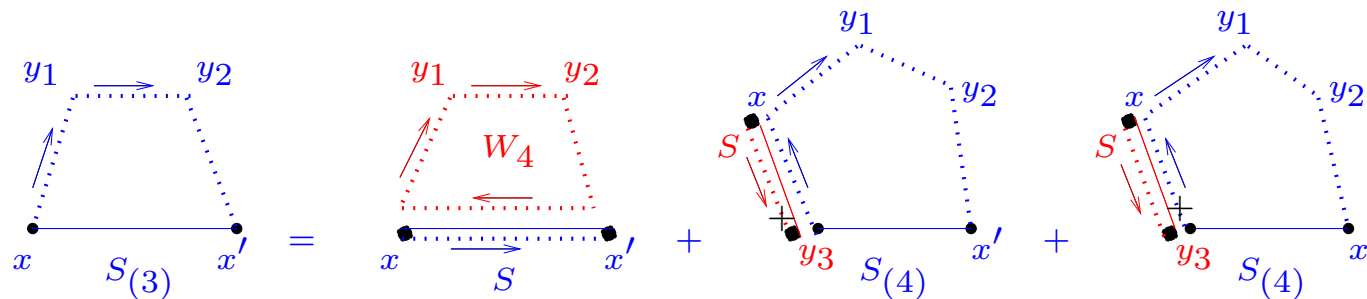
$$W_5(x_5, x_4, \dots, x_1) = e^{F_5(x_5, \dots, x_1)}$$

Functional relations for Green's functions

Use of equations of motion of quark fields and integrations yield functional relations between the various Green's functions with polygonal lines. (Integration symbols omitted.)

$$S_{(n)}(x, x'; y_{n-1}, \dots, y_1) = S(x, x') e^{F_{n+1}(x', y_{n-1}, \dots, y_1, x)}$$

$$+ \left(\frac{\bar{\delta} S(x, y_n)}{\delta y_n^{\alpha+}} + S(x, y_n) \frac{\bar{\delta}}{\delta y_n^{\alpha-}} \right) \gamma^\alpha S_{(n+1)}(y_n, x'; y_{n-1}, \dots, y_1, x).$$



$\implies S$ is the only dynamically independent gauge invariant quark Green's function.

Equations of motion of Green's functions

$$(i\gamma \cdot \partial_{(x)} - m) S_{(n)}(x, x'; y_{n-1}, \dots, y_1) = i\delta^4(x - x') e^{F_n(x, y_{n-1}, \dots, y_1)} + i\gamma^\mu \frac{\bar{\delta} S_{(n)}(x, x'; y_{n-1}, \dots, y_1)}{\bar{\delta} x^{\mu-}}.$$

$$(i\gamma \cdot \partial_x - m) \begin{array}{c} \bullet \xrightarrow{\text{---}} \bullet \\ x \quad S \quad x' \end{array} = i\delta^4(x - x') \bullet + \begin{array}{c} \bullet \times \xrightarrow{\text{---}} \bullet \\ x \quad S \quad x' \end{array}$$

$$(i\gamma \cdot \partial_x - m) \begin{array}{c} y_1 \xrightarrow{\text{---}} y_2 \\ \uparrow \quad \downarrow \\ \bullet \quad \bullet \\ x \quad S_{(3)} \quad x' \end{array} = \begin{array}{c} y_1 \xrightarrow{\text{---}} y_2 \\ \uparrow \quad \downarrow \\ \bullet \\ W_3 \\ \bullet \\ i\delta^4(x - x') \end{array} + \begin{array}{c} y_1 \xrightarrow{\text{---}} y_2 \\ \uparrow \quad \downarrow \\ \bullet \times \quad \bullet \\ x \quad S_{(3)} \quad x' \end{array}$$

Integrodifferential equation for the two-point function

S satisfies the following equation of motion:

$$(i\gamma \cdot \partial_{(x)} - m)S(x, x') = i\delta^4(x - x') + i\gamma^\mu \frac{\bar{\delta}S(x, x')}{\bar{\delta}x^{\mu-}}.$$

The rigid path derivative $\bar{\delta}S(x, x')/\bar{\delta}x^{\mu-}$ is calculated using the functional relations between Green's functions. One establishes the following integrodifferential equation for the Green's function $S(x, x')$:

$$(i\gamma \cdot \partial_{(x)} - m)S(x, x') = i\delta^4(x - x') + i\gamma^\mu \left\{ K_{2\mu}(x', x, y_1) S_{(2)}(y_1, x'; x) + \sum_{n=3}^{\infty} K_{n\mu}(x', x, y_1, \dots, y_{n-1}) S_{(n)}(y_{n-1}, x'; x, y_1, \dots, y_{n-2}) \right\}.$$

The kernel K_n contains globally n derivatives of Wilson loops with a $(n + 1)$ -sided polygonal contour and also the Green's function S and its derivative.

The above equation is the analog of the Dyson-Schwinger equation. Two main differences are to be noted:

1) In the r.h.s., the whole set of Green's functions with polygonal lines appears, instead of a single S .

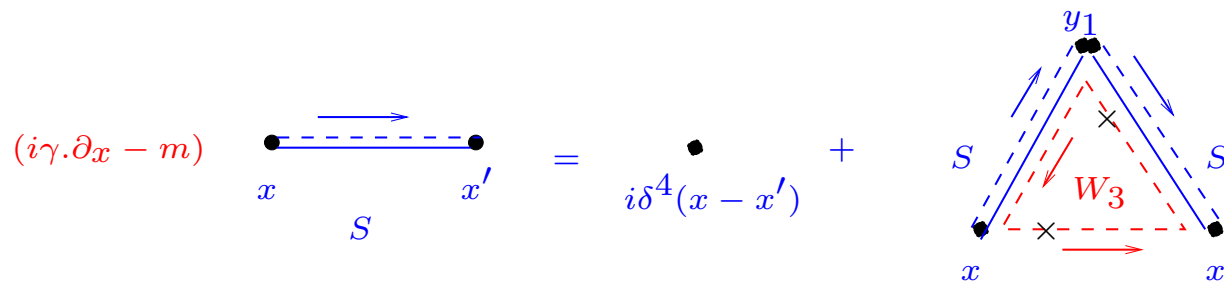
However, the Green's functions $S_{(n)}$ themselves are related to the simplest Green's function S with functional relations. Therefore, this is ultimately an equation for S .

2) The action of the kernels K_n is not convolutive. Does not lead to factorization in momentum space. Forces us to work with Green's functions.

The dominant parts of the kernel are expected to be those containing the least number of derivatives of Wilson loops.

Thus the leading term is the second-order term (the first-order one being zero for symmetry reasons).

$$\frac{\bar{\delta} S(x, x')}{\bar{\delta} x^{\mu-}} \simeq - \int d^4 y_1 \frac{\bar{\delta}^2 F_3(x', x, y_1)}{\bar{\delta} x^{\mu-} \bar{\delta} y_1^{\alpha_1+}} e^{F_3(x', x, y_1)} S(x, y_1) \gamma^{\alpha_1} S(y_1, x').$$



Two-dimensional QCD

Many simplifications in two-dimensional QCD at large N_c .
Crossed diagrams and quark loop contributions disappear. ('t Hooft, 1974.)

Wilson loop averages are exponential functionals of the areas of the surfaces enclosed by the contours. (Kazakov and Kostov, Bračić, 1980.) The area law naturally produced.

The second-order derivative of the logarithm of the Wilson loop average is a delta-function. Kernels with more derivatives than two disappear.

⇒ Equation of S with the lowest-order kernel becomes an exact equation.

$$(i\gamma \cdot \partial - m)S(x) = i\delta^2(x) - \sigma \gamma^\mu (g_{\mu\alpha} g_{\nu\beta} - g_{\mu\beta} g_{\nu\alpha}) x^\nu x^\beta$$

$$\times \left[\int_0^1 d\lambda \lambda^2 S((1-\lambda)x) \gamma^\alpha S(\lambda x) + \int_1^\infty d\xi S((1-\xi)x) \gamma^\alpha S(\xi x) \right].$$

(σ is the string tension.)

The interaction term is quasi-local in x : x is integrated along a line and not in two dimensions. \implies the equation can also be studied in instantaneous type limits. The interaction is covariantly instantaneous with respect to any of the components of x .

Study of the equal-time instantaneous limit of $S(x)$, $x^0 = 0$

$$S(x_1, x_2) = S(x) = -\frac{1}{N_c} \langle \bar{\psi}(x_2) U(x_2, x_1) \psi(x_1) \rangle.$$

Considering $S(x)$ at $x^0 = 0$ in the axial gauge $A_1 = 0$, reduces the phase factor to 1 and $S(x)$ becomes identical to the ordinary quark Green's function

$$S_{ax}(x) = \frac{1}{N_c} \langle \psi(x_1) \bar{\psi}(x_2) \rangle.$$

\implies

$$S(x) \Big|_{x^0=0} = S_{ax}(x) \Big|_{x^0=0}.$$

$S_{ax}(x)$ satisfies a Dyson-Schwinger equation which can be solved exactly. (The whole interaction reduces in this gauge to the instantaneous one-gluon exchange.)

Passing to momentum space:

$$\int \frac{dp_0}{2\pi} S_{ax}(p) = \frac{1}{2} \left(-\gamma_1 \sin \theta(p_1) + \cos \theta(p_1) \right).$$

θ , an odd function of p_1 , satisfies an integral equation

$$p_1 \cos \theta(p_1) - m \sin \theta(p_1) = \sigma \int \frac{dk_1}{2\pi} \frac{1}{(p_1 - k_1)^2} \sin \left(\theta(p_1) - \theta(k_1) \right),$$

which has a nonperturbative solution, determined numerically.

(Bars and Green, 1978; Li, Willets and Birse, 1987.)

Back to the the gauge invariant function $S(x)$ and its equation.
Passing to momentum space:

$$S(p) = \gamma \cdot p F_1(p^2) + F_0(p^2).$$

F_1 and F_0 satisfy two coupled equations. In the instantaneous limit, one finds that the only infrared finite solution is given by the parametrization

$$\int \frac{dp_0}{2\pi} S(p) = \frac{1}{2} \left(-\gamma_1 \sin \theta(p_1) + \cos \theta(p_1) \right),$$

where θ satisfies the same equation as the one in the axial gauge. The two Green's functions, S and S_{ax} are therefore identical in the instantaneous limit, in agreement with the equality found previously from general arguments.

Resolution of the covariant equation

We assume that the quark and the gluon fields carry positive energies and satisfy causality. One then establishes that the Green's function S satisfies a generalized form of the Källén-Lehmann representation, with spectral functions having as support the real timelike axis of p^2 . This implies definite analyticity properties in the complex plane.

The equation of S can then be studied through the singularities of S that may be present. The problem can be solved explicitly in analytic form.

The covariant functions $F_1(p^2)$ and $F_0(p^2)$ have an infinite number of branch points at mass values $M_1^2, M_2^2, \dots, M_n^2, \dots$, ordered with increasing values; in particular $M_1 > m$. The power of the singularity is $-3/2$.

The solutions are:

$$F_1(p^2) = -i \frac{\pi}{2\sigma} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_n \frac{1}{(M_n^2 - p^2)^{3/2}},$$

$$F_0(p^2) = i \frac{\pi}{2\sigma} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (-1)^n b_n \frac{M_n}{(M_n^2 - p^2)^{3/2}},$$

or for S ,

$$S(p) = -i \frac{\pi}{2\sigma} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_n \frac{(\gamma \cdot p + (-1)^{n+1} M_n)}{(M_n^2 - p^2)^{3/2}}.$$

The M_n s and b_n s satisfy algebraic equations that are solved numerically.
For large n :

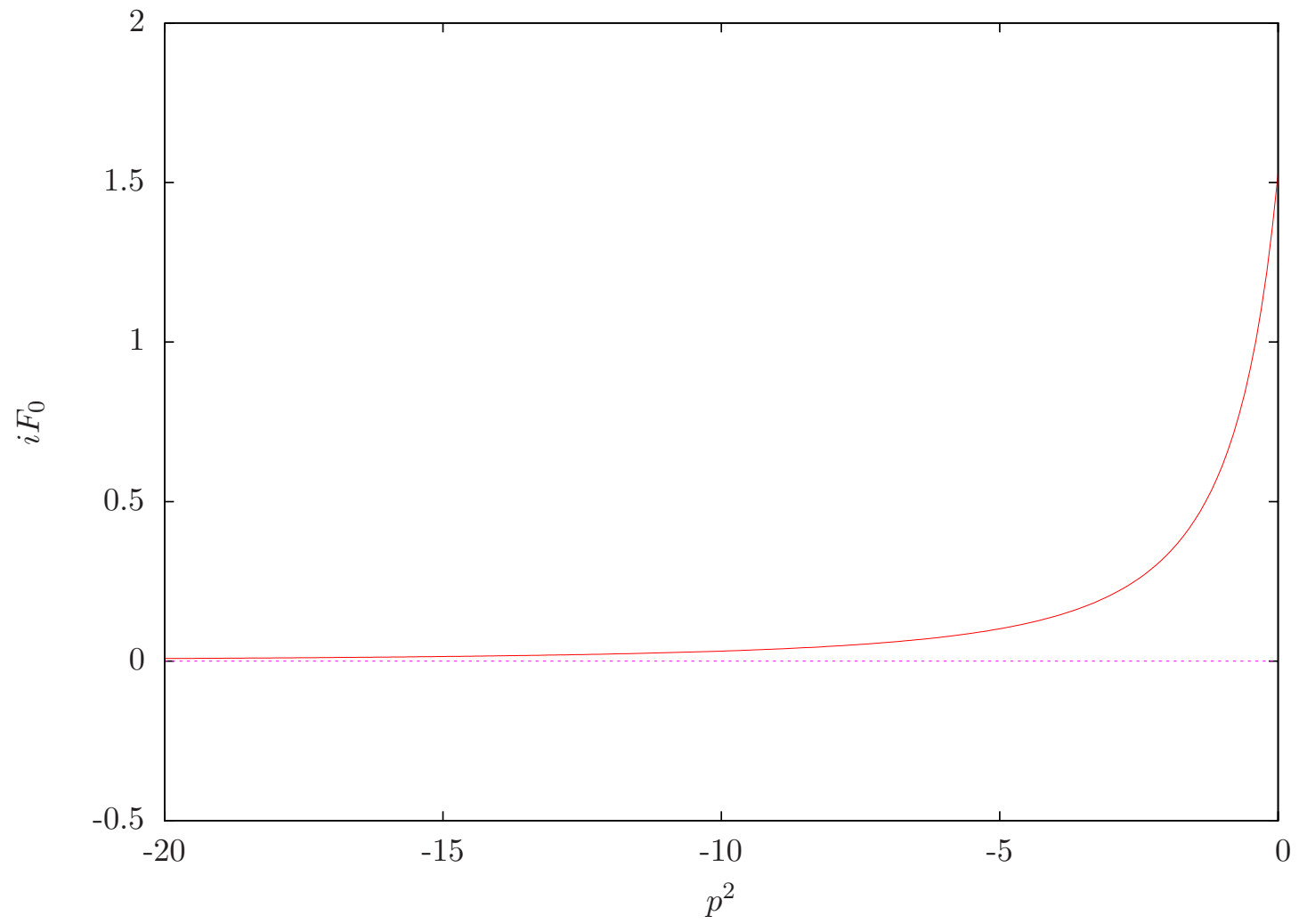
$$M_n^2 \simeq \sigma \pi n, \quad b_n \simeq \frac{\sigma^2}{M_n}, \quad \text{for } \sigma \pi n \gg m^2.$$

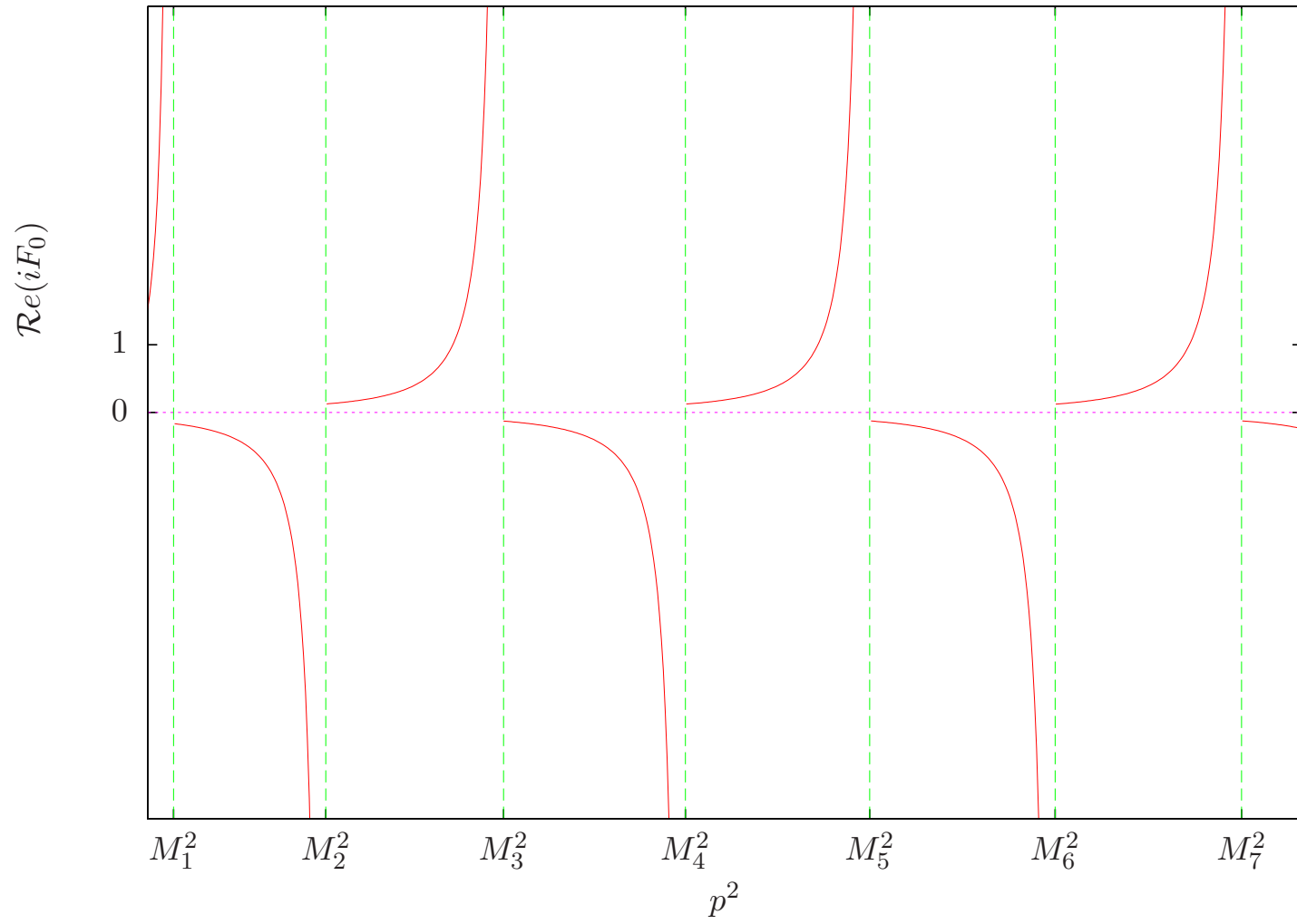
Asymptotic behaviors:

$$F_1(p^2) \underset{|p^2| \rightarrow \infty}{=} \frac{i}{p^2},$$

$$F_0(p^2) \underset{|p^2| \rightarrow \infty}{=} \frac{im}{p^2}, \quad m \neq 0,$$

$$F_0(p^2) \underset{|p^2| \rightarrow \infty}{=} \frac{2i\sigma \langle \bar{\psi}\psi \rangle}{N_c (p^2)^2}, \quad m = 0.$$





Conclusion

1) The equations satisfied by gauge invariant quark Green's functions may provide complementary informations about the spectral properties of quark and gluon fields, not available with ordinary Green's functions.

2) In two-dimensional QCD at large- N_c , the spectral functions are **infrared finite** and lie on the positive real axis of p^2 . No singularities in the complex plane or on the negative real axis have been found. \implies Quarks contribute with **positive energies**.

3) The singularities are represented by an infinite number of **threshold type singularities**, characterized by positive masses M_n ($n = 1, 2, \dots$). **The corresponding singularities are stronger than simple poles** and this feature might prevent observability of quarks as free particles.

4) The threshold masses M_n represent **dynamically generated masses** and maintain the scalar part of the Green's function at a nonzero value.