

Subleading soft dressings of asymptotic states in explicit QED processes

Stavros Christodoulou

University of Cyprus

Workshop on Quantum Gravity and Strings,
September 2025

Content

- 1 Soft physics & infrared (IR) divergence
 - IR divergences in QED
 - Soft photon theorems (leading & subleading)
 - Bloch-Nordsieck (BN) resolution & formal issues in scattering theory
- 2 The dressed state formalism
 - Faddeev-Kulish (FK) construction
 - Soft momentum expansion and extensions
- 3 QED scattering: a case study of explicit interactions
 - Fock space amplitudes
 - Applying subleading dressings to Fock states
 - Dressed amplitudes: soft-photon emission suppression & IR-finiteness
- 4 Summary & future directions

Content

1 Soft physics & infrared (IR) divergence

- IR divergences in QED
- Soft photon theorems (leading & subleading)
- Bloch-Nordsieck (BN) resolution & formal issues in scattering theory

2 The dressed state formalism

- Faddeev-Kulish (FK) construction
- Soft momentum expansion and extensions

3 QED scattering: a case study of explicit interactions

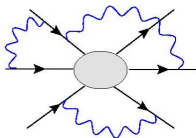
- Fock space amplitudes
- Applying subleading dressings to Fock states
- Dressed amplitudes: soft-photon emission suppression & IR-finiteness

4 Summary & future directions

Soft physics & IR divergences

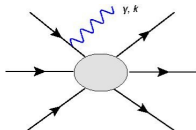
IR divergences in QED

- Virtual IR divergences ($\lambda \rightarrow 0$)



$$\Rightarrow S_{\beta\alpha} \sim e^{\ln(\frac{\lambda}{\Lambda})} \mathcal{B}_{\beta\alpha}$$

- Real soft divergences ($\omega_k \rightarrow 0$)

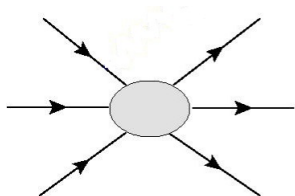


\Rightarrow Soft photon theorems

Soft physics & IR divergences

Soft photon theorems (leading & subleading)

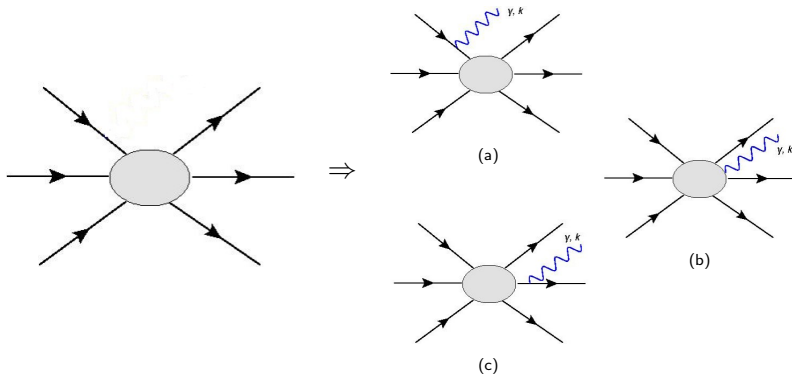
- Additional photon emission during $\alpha \rightarrow \beta$



Soft physics & IR divergences

Soft photon theorems (leading & subleading)

□ Additional photon emission during $\alpha \rightarrow \beta$



Soft physics & IR divergences

Soft photon theorems (leading & subleading)

□ Additional photon production during $\alpha \rightarrow \beta$

In the low energy limit ($\omega_k \rightarrow 0$)

- Leading divergences: $\mathcal{O}(\omega_k^{-1})$ at any order in e
- Dependence of **leading soft factor** on $\{(e_i, \vec{p}_i)\}$

where ω_k is the photon energy.

Soft physics & IR divergences

Soft photon theorems (leading & subleading)

□ Additional photon production during $\alpha \rightarrow \beta$

In the low energy limit ($\omega_k \rightarrow 0$)

➤ Leading divergences: $\mathcal{O}(\omega_k^{-1})$ at any order in e

➤ Dependence of **leading soft factor** on $\{(e_i, \vec{p}_i)\}$

where ω_k is the photon energy.

Soft photon theorem (leading & all loops):

Adding one soft photon (of momentum k and of polarization λ) in a scattering process $\alpha \rightarrow \beta$ results in

$$S_{\beta\gamma,\alpha} = \left[\sum_{i \in \beta} e_i \frac{p_i \cdot \epsilon_{\lambda}^*(k)}{p_i \cdot k} - \sum_{i \in \alpha} e_i \frac{p_i \cdot \epsilon_{\lambda}^*(k)}{p_i \cdot k} \right] S_{\beta\alpha} + \dots$$

Soft physics & IR divergences

Soft photon theorems (leading & subleading)

□ Additional photon production during $\alpha \rightarrow \beta$

In the low energy limit ($\omega_k \rightarrow 0$)

➤ Leading divergences: $\mathcal{O}(\omega_k^{-1})$ at any order in e

➤ Dependence of **leading soft factor** on $\{(e_i, \vec{p}_i)\}$

where ω_k is the emitted energy.

Soft photon theorem (subleading & tree):

Adding one soft photon (of momentum k and of polarization λ) in a scattering process $\alpha \rightarrow \beta$ results in

$$S_{\beta\gamma,\alpha}^{(tree)} = \left[\sum_{i \in \beta} e_i \frac{p_i \cdot \epsilon_{\lambda}^*(k)}{p_i \cdot k} - \sum_{i \in \alpha} e_i \frac{p_i \cdot \epsilon_{\lambda}^*(k)}{p_i \cdot k} \right] S_{\beta\alpha} + \mathcal{O}(\omega_k^0)$$

Soft physics & IR divergences

Soft photon theorems (leading & subleading)

□ Additional photon production during $\alpha \rightarrow \beta$

In the low energy limit ($\omega_k \rightarrow 0$)

➤ Leading divergences: $\mathcal{O}(\omega_k^{-1})$ at any order in e

➤ Dependence of **leading soft factor** on $\{(e_i, \vec{p}_i)\}$

where ω_k is the photon energy.

Soft photon theorem (subleading & 1-loop): [Sahoo & Sen '19]

Adding one soft photon (of momentum k and of polarization λ) in a scattering process $\alpha \rightarrow \beta$ results in

$$S_{\beta\gamma,\alpha}^{(\text{loop})} = \left[\sum_{i \in \beta} e_i \frac{p_i \cdot \epsilon_{\lambda}^*(k)}{p_i \cdot k} - \sum_{i \in \alpha} e_i \frac{p_i \cdot \epsilon_{\lambda}^*(k)}{p_i \cdot k} \right] S_{\beta\alpha} + \mathcal{O}(\ln \omega_k)$$

Soft physics & IR divergences

Soft photon theorems (leading & subleading)

□ Additional photon production radiation during $\alpha \rightarrow \beta$

Beyond the strict **zero energy limit**, at the **tree level**

➤ No divergences: $\mathcal{O}(\omega_k^0)$ at leading order in e

➤ Dependence of **subleading soft factor** on $\{J_i\}$

where ω_k is the photon energy.

Low-Burnett-Kroll (LBK) Theorem:

$$\mathcal{O}(\omega_k^0) = i \left[\sum_{i \in \beta} e_i \frac{\epsilon_{\lambda\mu}^*(\vec{k}) k_\nu}{p_i \cdot k} \bar{J}_i^{\mu\nu} - \sum_{i \in \alpha} e_i \frac{\epsilon_{\lambda\mu}^*(\vec{k}) k_\nu}{p_i \cdot k} J_i^{\mu\nu} \right] S_{\beta\alpha}$$

where $J_i^{\mu\nu} = L_i^{\mu\nu} + S_i^{\mu\nu}$ and $\bar{J}_i^{\mu\nu} = \bar{L}_i^{\mu\nu} + \bar{S}_i^{\mu\nu}$

Soft physics & IR divergences

BN resolution & formal issues in scattering theory

- Bloch - Nordsieck (1937): All processes that can not be distinguished by experimental setups contribute to observable quantities, such as the **inclusive cross sections**.

i.e.: soft bremsstrahlung radiation ($\omega_k < \Lambda$)

Diagrammatically, we illustrate that as follows

The diagram shows two large square brackets, each raised to the power of 2, representing the squared amplitudes for inclusive cross sections. The first bracket contains a series of diagrams for the emission of soft photons from the external lines of a scattering process. The diagrams show a central interaction region with four external fermion lines (labeled p, p', q, q'). The first diagram is the tree-level process. The subsequent diagrams show the emission of a soft photon (represented by a wavy line) from one of the external lines. The second bracket contains a similar series of diagrams, but with the photon emission occurring from the internal lines of the scattering process. The sum of these two brackets is shown to be less than infinity, indicating that the infrared divergences cancel out when considering inclusive cross sections.

Soft physics & IR divergences

BN resolution & formal issues in scattering theory

- Bloch - Nordsieck (1937): All processes that can not be distinguished by experimental setups contribute to observable quantities, such as the **inclusive cross sections**.

i.e.: soft bremsstrahlung radiation ($\omega_k < \Lambda$)

Diagrammatically, we illustrate that as follows

The diagram shows two large square brackets, each containing a sum of Feynman diagrams and followed by a superscript 2. The first bracket contains diagrams with a hard interaction (two incoming lines from the left, two outgoing lines to the right) and a soft photon (wavy line) attached to one of the external lines. The second bracket contains diagrams with a hard interaction and a soft photon attached to one of the internal lines. The two brackets are added together, and the result is shown to be less than infinity, indicating that the infrared divergences cancel out when considering inclusive cross sections.

⇒ Cancellation works only at the level of inclusive probabilities (order by order), but the S-matrix itself is **ill-defined**!

Content

- 1 Soft physics & infrared (IR) divergence
 - IR divergences in QED
 - Soft photon theorems (leading & subleading)
 - Bloch-Nordsieck (BN) resolution & formal issues in scattering theory
- 2 The dressed state formalism
 - Faddeev-Kulish (FK) construction
 - Soft momentum expansion and extensions
- 3 QED scattering: a case study of explicit interactions
 - Fock space amplitudes
 - Applying subleading dressings to Fock states
 - Dressed amplitudes: soft-photon emission suppression & IR-finiteness
- 4 Summary & future directions

The dressed state formalism

Faddeev-Kulish (FK) construction

□ Scattering theory in QED: Asymptotically H_0^I

- ① Fields obey free dynamics far before and far after the scattering

□ Faddeev-Kulish (1970): Asymptotically $H_{as}^I = H_0^I + V_{as}^I \neq H_0^I$

- ① Coulombic interactions can not be neglected

$$V_{as}^I(t) = -e \int \widetilde{d^3p} \rho(\vec{p}) p^\mu \int \widetilde{d^3k} [\alpha_\mu(\vec{k}) e^{ip \cdot kt/p^0} + \text{h.c.}]$$

where $\rho(\vec{p}) = \sum_s [b_s^\dagger(\vec{p}) b_s(\vec{p}) - d_s^\dagger(\vec{p}) d_s(\vec{p})]$, $\alpha_\mu = \sum_\lambda \epsilon_{\lambda\mu}(k) \alpha_\lambda(k)$

⇒ Non-zero contribution due to low energy photons

⇒ Coupling with matter fields regardless their **spin**

The dressed state formalism

Faddeev-Kulish (FK) construction

□ Multi-fermion FK states: let $\alpha = \{e_i, \vec{p}_i, s_i\}$. Then,

$$|\alpha\rangle_d = e^{R_f} |\alpha\rangle$$

where

$$R_f = \int \widetilde{d^3p} \, \rho(\vec{p}) \int_{\lambda}^{E_d} \widetilde{d^3k} \left[f(\vec{p}, \vec{k}) \cdot \alpha^\dagger(\vec{k}) - f^*(\vec{p}, \vec{k}) \cdot \alpha(\vec{k}) \right]$$

and

$$f(\vec{p}, \vec{k}) \cdot \alpha^\dagger(\vec{k}) = \sum_{\lambda} f^{\mu}(\vec{p}, \vec{k}) \epsilon_{\lambda\mu}^*(\vec{k}) \alpha_{\lambda}^{\dagger}(\vec{k})$$
$$f^{\mu}(\vec{p}, \vec{k}) = \left(\frac{p^{\mu}}{p \cdot k} - c^{\mu} \right) e^{-ip \cdot k t / p^0}, \quad c^{\mu} = \frac{1}{2k^0} (-1, \hat{k})$$

The dressed state formalism

Faddeev-Kulish (FK) construction

□ Multi-fermion FK states: let $\alpha = \{e_i, \vec{p}_i, s_i\}$. Then,

$$|\alpha\rangle_d = e^{R_f} |\alpha\rangle$$

obtain a product of $|\alpha\rangle$ with a **coherent photon state**

$$|\alpha\rangle_d = |\alpha\rangle \times |f_\alpha\rangle$$

where

$$|f_\alpha\rangle = \mathcal{N}_\alpha e^{\int_\lambda^{E_d} d^3k [f_\alpha(\vec{k}) \cdot \alpha^\dagger(\vec{k})]} |0\rangle$$

and

$$\mathcal{N}_\alpha = e^{-\frac{1}{2} \int_\lambda^{E_d} d^3k f_\alpha^*(\vec{k}) \cdot f_\alpha(\vec{k})}, \quad f_\alpha^\mu(\vec{k}) = \sum_{i \in \alpha} e_i \left(\frac{p_i^\mu}{p_i \cdot k} - c^\mu \right) e^{-ip_i \cdot kt/p_i^0}$$

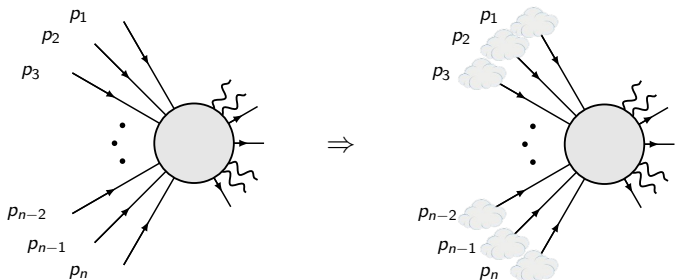
The dressed state formalism

Faddeev-Kulish (FK) construction

□ Multi-fermion FK states: let $\alpha = \{e_i, \vec{p}_i, s_i\}$. Then,

$$|\alpha\rangle_d = e^{R_f} |\alpha\rangle$$

Diagrammatically...



Dressed State Formalism

Faddeev-Kulish (FK) construction

□ Elastic FK amplitudes

$$\tilde{S}_{\beta\alpha} = \left(\frac{E_d}{\Lambda} \right)^{\mathcal{B}_{\beta\alpha}} e^{i\phi_{\beta\alpha}} S_{\beta\alpha}^{(\Lambda)} < \infty$$

where

$$\tilde{S}_{\beta\alpha} = {}_d\langle\beta|S|\alpha\rangle_d, \quad \text{and} \quad S_{\beta\alpha} = \langle\beta|S|\alpha\rangle$$

and

- ① Λ : IR-cutoff scale
- ② $\mathcal{B}_{\beta\alpha}$: positive kinematical factor
- ③ $\phi_{\beta\alpha}$: real phase (not contributing to observable quantities)
- ④ $S_{\beta\alpha}^{(\Lambda)}$: S-matrix element without contributions from virtual soft photons

Dressed State Formalism

Faddeev-Kulish (FK) construction

□ Radiation-emitting FK amplitudes

$$\tilde{S}_{\beta\gamma,\alpha} = F_{\beta\alpha}(\vec{q}_\gamma, \epsilon_r^*(\vec{q}_\gamma))$$

where

$$\tilde{S}_{\beta\gamma,\alpha} = {}_d\langle\beta\gamma|S|\alpha\rangle_d$$

and

$$F_{\beta\alpha}(\vec{q}_\gamma, \epsilon_r^*(\vec{q}_\gamma))$$

is a function free of

- 1 IR-virtual divergences, and
- 2 the leading (i.e. ω_k^{-1}) contribution in the soft expansion.

Dressed State Formalism

Subleading extensions

□ Dressed states: [Choi & Akhoury '19]

$$|\alpha\rangle_{\tilde{d}} = |\alpha\rangle \times e^{\int \widetilde{d^3k} [f_\alpha(\vec{k}) \cdot a^\dagger(\vec{k}) - h.c.]} \left(1 + \int \widetilde{d^3k} [g_\alpha(\vec{k}) \cdot a^\dagger(\vec{k}) - h.c.] \right) |0\rangle$$

where

$$g_\alpha^\mu(\vec{k}) = i \sum_{i \in \alpha} e_i \frac{k_\nu}{p_i \cdot k} J_i^{\mu\nu} e^{-ip_i \cdot kt / p_i^0}, \quad J_i^{\mu\nu} = L_i^{\mu\nu} + S_i^{\mu\nu}$$

Dressed State Formalism

Subleading extensions

□ Dressed states: [Choi & Akhoury '19]

$$|\alpha\rangle_{\tilde{d}} = |\alpha\rangle \times e^{\int \widetilde{d^3k} [f_\alpha(\vec{k}) \cdot a^\dagger(\vec{k}) - h.c.]} \left(1 + \int \widetilde{d^3k} [g_\alpha(\vec{k}) \cdot a^\dagger(\vec{k}) - h.c.] \right) |0\rangle$$

where

$$g_\alpha^\mu(\vec{k}) = i \sum_{i \in \alpha} e_i \frac{k_\nu}{p_i \cdot k} J_i^{\mu\nu} e^{-ip_i \cdot kt / p_i^0}, \quad J_i^{\mu\nu} = L_i^{\mu\nu} + S_i^{\mu\nu}$$

□ Elastic FK amplitudes:

$$\tilde{\tilde{S}}_{\beta\alpha} < \infty, \quad \text{where} \quad \tilde{\tilde{S}}_{\beta,\alpha} = {}_{\tilde{d}}\langle \beta | S | \alpha \rangle_{\tilde{d}}$$

Dressed State Formalism

Subleading extensions

- Dressed states: [Choi & Akhoury '19]

$$|\alpha\rangle_{\tilde{d}} = |\alpha\rangle \times e^{\int \widetilde{d^3k} [f_\alpha(\vec{k}) \cdot a^\dagger(\vec{k}) - h.c.]} \left(1 + \int \widetilde{d^3k} [g_\alpha(\vec{k}) \cdot a^\dagger(\vec{k}) - h.c.] \right) |0\rangle$$

where

$$g_\alpha^\mu(\vec{k}) = i \sum_{i \in \alpha} e_i \frac{k_\nu}{p_i \cdot k} J_i^{\mu\nu} e^{-ip_i \cdot kt/p_i^0}, \quad J_i^{\mu\nu} = L_i^{\mu\nu} + S_i^{\mu\nu}$$

- Elastic FK amplitudes:

$$\tilde{\tilde{S}}_{\beta\alpha} < \infty, \quad \text{where} \quad \tilde{\tilde{S}}_{\beta,\alpha} =_{\tilde{d}} \langle \beta | S | \alpha \rangle_{\tilde{d}}$$

- Radiation-emitting FK amplitudes:

$$\tilde{\tilde{S}}_{\beta\gamma,\alpha} \sim \mathcal{O}(E_d), \quad (\text{tree-level result})$$

Content

- 1 Soft physics & infrared (IR) divergence
 - IR divergences in QED
 - Soft photon theorems (leading & subleading)
 - Bloch-Nordsieck (BN) resolution & formal issues in scattering theory
- 2 The dressed state formalism
 - Faddeev-Kulish (FK) construction
 - Soft momentum expansion and extensions
- 3 QED scattering: a case study of explicit interactions
 - Fock space amplitudes
 - Applying subleading dressings to Fock states
 - Dressed amplitudes: soft-photon emission suppression & IR-finiteness
- 4 Summary & future directions

QED scattering: a case study of explicit interactions

Fock space amplitudes

□ Explicit process: $e^-(p_1) + \gamma(p_2) \rightarrow e^-(q_1) + \gamma(q_2)$

$$\begin{aligned} S_{\text{tree}}^{(\gamma)} = e \left\{ \left[\frac{q_2 \cdot \epsilon_r^*(\vec{k})}{q_2 \cdot k} - \frac{p_1 \cdot \epsilon_r^*(\vec{k})}{p_1 \cdot k} \right] \right. \\ \left. + i \epsilon_{r\mu}^*(\vec{k}) k_\nu \left[\frac{\bar{J}_{q_2}^{\mu\nu}}{q_2 \cdot k} - \frac{J_{p_1}^{\mu\nu}}{p_1 \cdot k} \right] \right\} S_0^{(\gamma)} + \mathcal{O}(\omega_k) \end{aligned}$$

where $S_0^{(\gamma)}$ is the elastic tree-level amplitude, and

$$J_{p_1}^{\mu\nu} = L_{p_1}^{\mu\nu} + S_{p_1}^{\mu\nu}, \quad \bar{J}_{q_1}^{\mu\nu} = \bar{L}_{q_1}^{\mu\nu} + \bar{S}_{q_1}^{\mu\nu}$$

with

$$\begin{aligned} L_{p_1}^{\mu\nu} &= i \left(p_1^\mu \frac{\partial}{\partial p_{1\nu}} - p_1^\nu \frac{\partial}{\partial p_{1\mu}} \right), & \bar{L}_{q_1}^{\mu\nu} &= -i \left(q_1^\mu \frac{\partial}{\partial q_{1\nu}} - q_1^\nu \frac{\partial}{\partial q_{1\mu}} \right) \\ S_{p_1}^{\mu\nu} &= +\frac{i}{4} [\gamma^\mu, \gamma^\nu] u(\vec{p}_1) \circ \frac{\partial}{\partial u(\vec{p}_1)}, & \bar{S}_{q_1}^{\mu\nu} &= +\bar{u}(\vec{q}_1) \frac{i}{4} [\gamma^\mu, \gamma^\nu] \circ \frac{\partial}{\partial \bar{u}(\vec{q}_1)} \end{aligned}$$

QED scattering: a case study of explicit interactions

Applying subleading dressings to Fock states

□ Use dressed states, as suggested by CA:

$$|q_1, q_2\rangle_d = e^{\int \widetilde{d^3k} [f_q(\vec{k}) \cdot a^\dagger(\vec{k}) - h.c.]} \left(1 + \int \widetilde{d^3k} [g_q(\vec{k}) \cdot a^\dagger(\vec{k}) - h.c.] \right) |q_1, q_2\rangle$$

$$|p_1, p_2\rangle_d = e^{\int \widetilde{d^3k} [f_p(\vec{k}) \cdot a^\dagger(\vec{k}) - h.c.]} \left(1 + \int \widetilde{d^3k} [g_p(\vec{k}) \cdot a^\dagger(\vec{k}) - h.c.] \right) |p_1, p_2\rangle$$

where $|q_1, q_2\rangle, |p_1, p_2\rangle \in \mathcal{H}_{\text{Fock}}$, and

① leading dressing functions

$$f_q^\mu(\vec{k}) = e e^{-iq_2 \cdot k t_0 / q_2^0} \left(\frac{q_2^\mu}{q_2 \cdot k} - c^\mu \right)$$

$$f_p^\mu(\vec{k}) = e e^{-ip_1 \cdot k t_0 / p_1^0} \left(\frac{p_1^\mu}{p_1 \cdot k} - c^\mu \right)$$

QED scattering: a case study of explicit interactions

Applying subleading dressings to Fock states

□ Use dressed states, as suggested by CA:

$$|q_1, q_2\rangle_d = e^{\int \widetilde{d^3k} [f_q(\vec{k}) \cdot a^\dagger(\vec{k}) - h.c.]} \left(1 + \int \widetilde{d^3k} [g_q(\vec{k}) \cdot a^\dagger(\vec{k}) - h.c.] \right) |q_1, q_2\rangle$$

$$|p_1, p_2\rangle_d = e^{\int \widetilde{d^3k} [f_p(\vec{k}) \cdot a^\dagger(\vec{k}) - h.c.]} \left(1 + \int \widetilde{d^3k} [g_p(\vec{k}) \cdot a^\dagger(\vec{k}) - h.c.] \right) |p_1, p_2\rangle$$

where $|q_1, q_2\rangle, |p_1, p_2\rangle \in \mathcal{H}_{\text{Fock}}$, and

② subleading dressing functions

$$g_q^\mu(\vec{k}) = iek_\nu e^{-iq_2 \cdot kt_0/q_2^0} \frac{\bar{J}_{q_2}^{\mu\nu}}{q_2 \cdot k}$$

$$g_p^\mu(\vec{k}) = iek_\nu e^{-ip_1 \cdot kt_0/p_1^0} \frac{J_{p_1}^{\mu\nu}}{p_1 \cdot k}$$

QED scattering: a case study of explicit interactions

Dressed amplitudes: soft-emission suppression & IR-finiteness

- The radiation-emitting amplitude, defined as

$$\tilde{S}_{\text{tree}}^{(\alpha)} = \tilde{d} \langle q_1, q_2; \gamma | S_{(\alpha)}^{(1)} | p_1, p_2 \rangle_{\tilde{d}}, \quad \alpha \in \{\gamma, \mu, e\}$$

vanishes upon taking $E_d \rightarrow \Lambda$:

$$\tilde{S}_{\text{tree}}^{(\alpha)} = \mathcal{O}(\Lambda)$$

Subleading corrections of dressings in tree-level amplitudes

- ⇒ suppress soft photon emission
- ⇒ renders dressed state formalism equivalent to the BN method

QED scattering: a case study of explicit interactions

Dressed amplitudes: soft-emission suppression & IR-finiteness

- The radiation-emitting amplitude, defined as

$$\tilde{S}_{\text{tree}}^{(\alpha)} = \tilde{d} \langle q_1, q_2; \gamma | S_{(\alpha)}^{(1)} | p_1, p_2 \rangle_{\tilde{d}}, \quad \alpha \in \{\gamma, \mu, e\}$$

vanishes upon taking $E_d \rightarrow \Lambda$:

$$\tilde{S}_{\text{tree}}^{(\alpha)} = \mathcal{O}(\Lambda)$$

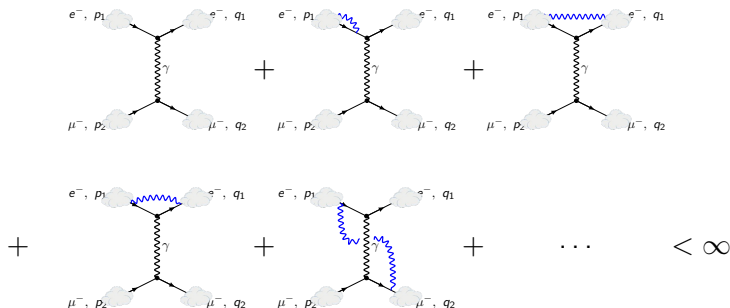
Subleading corrections of dressings in tree-level amplitudes

- ⇒ suppress soft photon emission
- ⇒ renders dressed state formalism equivalent to the BN method

QED scattering: a case study of explicit interactions

Dressed amplitudes: soft-emission suppression & IR-finiteness

- The elastic amplitude for each of these processes is finite and equal to the corresponding undressed amplitude without virtual soft photons, i.e. for the **electron-muon** interaction



Content

- 1 Soft physics & infrared (IR) divergence
 - IR divergences in QED
 - Soft photon theorems (leading & subleading)
 - Bloch-Nordsieck (BN) resolution & formal issues in scattering theory
- 2 The dressed state formalism
 - Faddeev-Kulish (FK) construction
 - Soft momentum expansion and extensions
- 3 QED scattering: a case study of explicit interactions
 - Fock space amplitudes
 - Applying subleading dressings to Fock states
 - Dressed amplitudes: soft-photon emission suppression & IR-finiteness
- 4 Summary & future directions

Summary & future directions

□ Summary of results:

① Dressed states are the eigenstates of H_{as} ($\neq H_0$)

⇒ appropriate for the definition of S-matrix elements

Summary & future directions

□ Summary of results:

① Dressed states are the eigenstates of $H_{\text{as}} (\neq H_0)$

⇒ appropriate for the definition of S-matrix elements

② Application of FK dressings to Fock states

⇒ removes IR-divergences due to virtual photons

⇒ removes leading real soft divergences

⇒ suppresses additional soft radiation (extended dressings)

$$\tilde{\tilde{S}}_{\text{tree}} \sim \mathcal{O}(E_d), \quad (\text{tree-level result})$$

Extensions are integrable, they do not affect elastic amplitudes

Summary & future directions

□ Limitation:

① Tree-level result.

⇒ What happens at the loop-level (or at higher perturbative orders)?

Summary & future directions

□ Limitation:

① Tree-level result.

⇒ What happens at the loop-level (or at higher perturbative orders)?

□ Future directions:

Summary & future directions

□ Limitation:

- ① Tree-level result.

⇒ What happens at the loop-level (or at higher perturbative orders)?

□ Future directions:

- ① Construct loop-corrected subleading dressings by studying loop-level radiation-emitting amplitudes for these interactions.

Summary & future directions

□ Limitation:

- ① Tree-level result.

⇒ What happens at the loop-level (or at higher perturbative orders)?

□ Future directions:

- ① Construct loop-corrected subleading dressings by studying loop-level radiation-emitting amplitudes for these interactions.
- ② Dressings for gravitational processes.

Summary & future directions

□ Limitation:

- ① Tree-level result.

⇒ What happens at the loop-level (or at higher perturbative orders)?

□ Future directions:

- ① Construct loop-corrected subleading dressings by studying loop-level radiation-emitting amplitudes for these interactions.
- ② Dressings for gravitational processes.

Summary & future directions




- Expectations regarding loop-corrections: [Krishna & Sahoo '23]

	1-st	2-nd	...	m-th	soft expansion
1-st	ω_k^{-1}	ω_k^0	...	ω_k^m	
2-nd	ω_k^{-1}	$\log \omega_k$...	ω_k^{m-1}	
\vdots	\vdots	\vdots	\ddots		
n-th	ω_k^{-1}	ω_k^{n-1} $\times (\log \omega_k)^n$			

perturbation theory

Summary & future directions

- Expectations regarding loop-corrections: [Krishna & Sahoo '23]





	1-st	2-nd	...	m-th	soft expansion
1-st	ω_k 	ω_k^0	...	ω_k^m	
2-nd	ω_k 	$\log \omega_k$...	ω_k^{m-1}	
...		
n-th	ω_k 	$\omega_k^{n-1} \times (\log \omega_k)^n$			

FK dressings

perturbation theory

Summary & future directions

- Expectations regarding loop-corrections: [Krishna & Sahoo '23]






	1-st	2-nd	...	m-th	soft expansion
1-st	 ω_k^{-1}	 ω_k^0	$\mathcal{O}(E_d)$	ω_k^m	
2-nd	 ω_k^{-1}	$\log \omega_k$...	ω_k^{m-1}	
...		
n-th	 ω_k^{-1}	$\omega_k^{n-1} \times (\log \omega_k)^n$			

FK dressings
CA dressings

perturbation theory

Summary & future directions

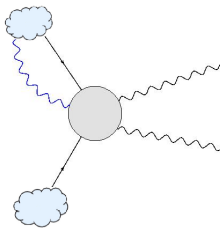
□ Expectations regarding loop-corrections: [Krishna & Sahoo '23]

	1-st	2-nd	...	m-th	soft expansion
1-st	 ω_k^{-1}	 ω_k^0	...	ω_k^m	
2-nd	 ω_k^{-1}	 $\log \omega_k$	$\mathcal{O}(\omega_k^0)$	ω_k^{m-1}	
...		
n-th	 ω_k^{-1}	$\omega_k^{n-1} \times (\log \omega_k)^n$			

perturbation theory ↓

FK dressings
CA dressings
Loop-corrected

Thank you for your attention



QED scattering: a case study of three interactions

Fock space amplitudes

□ Explicit process: $e^-(p_1) + \mu^-(p_2) \rightarrow e^-(q_1) + \mu^-(q_2)$

$$\begin{aligned} S_{\text{tree}}^{(\mu)} = e \Bigg\{ & \left[\frac{q_1 \cdot \epsilon_r^*(\vec{k})}{q_1 \cdot k} + \frac{q_2 \cdot \epsilon_r^*(\vec{k})}{q_2 \cdot k} - \frac{p_1 \cdot \epsilon_r^*(\vec{k})}{p_1 \cdot k} - \frac{p_2 \cdot \epsilon_r^*(\vec{k})}{p_2 \cdot k} \right] \\ & + \frac{2k \cdot (p_1 - q_1)}{(p_1 - q_1)^2} \left[\frac{q_1 \cdot \epsilon_r^*(\vec{k})}{q_1 \cdot k} - \frac{q_2 \cdot \epsilon_r^*(\vec{k})}{q_2 \cdot k} - \frac{p_1 \cdot \epsilon_r^*(\vec{k})}{p_1 \cdot k} + \frac{p_2 \cdot \epsilon_r^*(\vec{k})}{p_2 \cdot k} \right] \\ & + i \epsilon_{r\mu}^*(\vec{k}) k_\nu \left[\frac{\bar{S}_{q_1}^{\mu\nu}}{q_1 \cdot k} + \frac{\bar{S}_{q_2}^{\mu\nu}}{q_2 \cdot k} - \frac{S_{p_1}^{\mu\nu}}{p_1 \cdot k} - \frac{S_{p_2}^{\mu\nu}}{p_2 \cdot k} \right] \Bigg\} S_0^{(\mu)} + \mathcal{O}(\omega_k) \end{aligned}$$

where $S_0^{(\mu)}$ is the elastic tree-level amplitude, and

$$S_p^{\mu\nu} = +\frac{i}{4}[\gamma^\mu, \gamma^\nu] u(\vec{p}) \circ \frac{\partial}{\partial u(\vec{p})}, \quad \bar{S}_q^{\mu\nu} = +\bar{u}(\vec{q}) \frac{i}{4}[\gamma^\mu, \gamma^\nu] \circ \frac{\partial}{\partial \bar{u}(\vec{q})}$$

with $p \in \{p_1, p_2\}$ and $q \in \{q_1, q_2\}$.

QED scattering: a case study of three interactions

Fock space amplitudes

□ Explicit process: $e^-(p_1) + e^+(p_2) \rightarrow e^-(q_1) + e^+(q_2)$

$$S_{\text{tree}}^{(e)} = e \left\{ \left[\frac{p_2 \cdot \epsilon_r^*(\vec{k})}{p_2 \cdot k} - \frac{p_1 \cdot \epsilon_r^*(\vec{k})}{p_1 \cdot k} \right] + i \epsilon_{r\mu}^*(\vec{k}) k_\nu \left[\frac{J_{\vec{p}_2}^{\mu\nu}}{p_2 \cdot k} - \frac{J_{\vec{p}_1}^{\mu\nu}}{p_1 \cdot k} \right] \right\} S_0^{(e)} + \mathcal{O}(\omega_k)$$

where $S_0^{(e)}$ is the elastic tree-level amplitude, and

$$J_{\vec{p}_1}^{\mu\nu} = L_{\vec{p}_1}^{\mu\nu} + S_{\vec{p}_1}^{\mu\nu}, \quad J_{\vec{p}_2}^{\mu\nu} = L_{\vec{p}_2}^{\mu\nu} + S_{\vec{p}_2}^{\mu\nu}$$

with

$$L_{\vec{p}_1}^{\mu\nu} = i \left(p_1^\mu \frac{\partial}{\partial p_{1\nu}} - p_1^\nu \frac{\partial}{\partial p_{1\mu}} \right), \quad L_{\vec{p}_2}^{\mu\nu} = i \left(p_2^\mu \frac{\partial}{\partial p_{2\nu}} - p_2^\nu \frac{\partial}{\partial p_{2\mu}} \right)$$
$$S_{\vec{p}_1}^{\mu\nu} = +\frac{i}{4} [\gamma^\mu, \gamma^\nu] u(\vec{p}_1) \circ \frac{\partial}{\partial u(\vec{p}_1)}, \quad S_{\vec{p}_2}^{\mu\nu} = -\bar{u}(\vec{p}_2) \frac{i}{4} [\gamma^\mu, \gamma^\nu] \circ \frac{\partial}{\partial \bar{u}(\vec{p}_2)}$$

QED scattering: a case study of three interactions

Applying subleading dressings to Fock states

□ Use dressed states, as suggested by CA:

$$|q_1, q_2\rangle_d = e^{\int \widetilde{d^3k} [f_q(\vec{k}) \cdot a^\dagger(\vec{k}) - h.c.]} \left(1 + \int \widetilde{d^3k} [g_q(\vec{k}) \cdot a^\dagger(\vec{k}) - h.c.] \right) |q_1, q_2\rangle$$

$$|p_1, p_2\rangle_d = e^{\int \widetilde{d^3k} [f_p(\vec{k}) \cdot a^\dagger(\vec{k}) - h.c.]} \left(1 + \int \widetilde{d^3k} [g_p(\vec{k}) \cdot a^\dagger(\vec{k}) - h.c.] \right) |p_1, p_2\rangle$$

where $|q_1, q_2\rangle, |p_1, p_2\rangle \in \mathcal{H}_{\text{Fock}}$, and

① for the electron-muon interaction: **leading dressing functions**

$$f_q^\mu(\vec{k}) = e \left[e^{-iq_1 \cdot kt_0/q_1^0} \left(\frac{q_1^\mu}{q_1 \cdot k} - c^\mu \right) + e^{-iq_2 \cdot kt_0/q_2^0} \left(\frac{q_2^\mu}{q_2 \cdot k} - c^\mu \right) \right]$$

$$f_p^\mu(\vec{k}) = e \left[e^{-ip_1 \cdot kt_0/p_1^0} \left(\frac{p_1^\mu}{p_1 \cdot k} - c^\mu \right) + e^{-ip_2 \cdot kt_0/p_2^0} \left(\frac{p_2^\mu}{p_2 \cdot k} - c^\mu \right) \right]$$

QED scattering: a case study of three interactions

Applying subleading dressings to Fock states

□ Use dressed states, as suggested by CA:

$$|q_1, q_2\rangle_d = e^{\int \widetilde{d^3k} [f_q(\vec{k}) \cdot a^\dagger(\vec{k}) - h.c.]} \left(1 + \int \widetilde{d^3k} [g_q(\vec{k}) \cdot a^\dagger(\vec{k}) - h.c.] \right) |q_1, q_2\rangle$$

$$|p_1, p_2\rangle_d = e^{\int \widetilde{d^3k} [f_p(\vec{k}) \cdot a^\dagger(\vec{k}) - h.c.]} \left(1 + \int \widetilde{d^3k} [g_p(\vec{k}) \cdot a^\dagger(\vec{k}) - h.c.] \right) |p_1, p_2\rangle$$

where $|q_1, q_2\rangle, |p_1, p_2\rangle \in \mathcal{H}_{\text{Fock}}$, and

① for the electron-muon interaction: [subleading dressing functions](#)

$$g_q^\mu(\vec{k}) = iek_\nu \left[e^{-iq_1 \cdot kt_0/q_1^0} \frac{\bar{J}_{q_1}^{\mu\nu}}{q_1 \cdot k} + e^{-iq_2 \cdot kt_0/q_2^0} \frac{\bar{J}_{q_2}^{\mu\nu}}{q_2 \cdot k} \right]$$
$$g_p^\mu(\vec{k}) = iek_\nu \left[e^{-ip_1 \cdot kt_0/p_1^0} \frac{J_{p_1}^{\mu\nu}}{p_1 \cdot k} + e^{-ip_2 \cdot kt_0/p_2^0} \frac{J_{p_2}^{\mu\nu}}{p_2 \cdot k} \right]$$

QED scattering: a case study of three interactions

Applying subleading dressings to Fock states

□ Use dressed states, as suggested by CA:

$$|q_1, q_2\rangle_d = e^{\int \widetilde{d^3k} [f_q(\vec{k}) \cdot a^\dagger(\vec{k}) - h.c.]} \left(1 + \int \widetilde{d^3k} [g_q(\vec{k}) \cdot a^\dagger(\vec{k}) - h.c.] \right) |q_1, q_2\rangle$$

$$|p_1, p_2\rangle_d = e^{\int \widetilde{d^3k} [f_p(\vec{k}) \cdot a^\dagger(\vec{k}) - h.c.]} \left(1 + \int \widetilde{d^3k} [g_p(\vec{k}) \cdot a^\dagger(\vec{k}) - h.c.] \right) |p_1, p_2\rangle$$

where $|q_1, q_2\rangle, |p_1, p_2\rangle \in \mathcal{H}_{\text{Fock}}$, and

② for the electron-photon interaction: **leading dressing functions**

$$f_q^\mu(\vec{k}) = e e^{-iq_2 \cdot k t_0 / q_2^0} \left(\frac{q_2^\mu}{q_2 \cdot k} - c^\mu \right)$$

$$f_p^\mu(\vec{k}) = e e^{-ip_1 \cdot k t_0 / p_1^0} \left(\frac{p_1^\mu}{p_1 \cdot k} - c^\mu \right)$$

QED scattering: a case study of three interactions

Applying subleading dressings to Fock states

□ Use dressed states, as suggested by CA:

$$|q_1, q_2\rangle_d = e^{\int \widetilde{d^3k} [f_q(\vec{k}) \cdot a^\dagger(\vec{k}) - h.c.]} \left(1 + \int \widetilde{d^3k} [g_q(\vec{k}) \cdot a^\dagger(\vec{k}) - h.c.] \right) |q_1, q_2\rangle$$

$$|p_1, p_2\rangle_d = e^{\int \widetilde{d^3k} [f_p(\vec{k}) \cdot a^\dagger(\vec{k}) - h.c.]} \left(1 + \int \widetilde{d^3k} [g_p(\vec{k}) \cdot a^\dagger(\vec{k}) - h.c.] \right) |p_1, p_2\rangle$$

where $|q_1, q_2\rangle, |p_1, p_2\rangle \in \mathcal{H}_{\text{Fock}}$, and

② for the electron-photon interaction: [subleading dressing functions](#)

$$g_q^\mu(\vec{k}) = iek_\nu e^{-iq_2 \cdot kt_0/q_2^0} \frac{\bar{J}_{q_2}^{\mu\nu}}{q_2 \cdot k}$$

$$g_p^\mu(\vec{k}) = iek_\nu e^{-ip_1 \cdot kt_0/p_1^0} \frac{J_{p_1}^{\mu\nu}}{p_1 \cdot k}$$

QED scattering: a case study of three interactions

Applying subleading dressings to Fock states

□ Use dressed states, as suggested by CA:

$$|q_1, q_2\rangle_d = e^{\int \widetilde{d^3k} [f_q(\vec{k}) \cdot a^\dagger(\vec{k}) - h.c.]} \left(1 + \int \widetilde{d^3k} [g_q(\vec{k}) \cdot a^\dagger(\vec{k}) - h.c.] \right) |q_1, q_2\rangle$$

$$|p_1, p_2\rangle_d = e^{\int \widetilde{d^3k} [f_p(\vec{k}) \cdot a^\dagger(\vec{k}) - h.c.]} \left(1 + \int \widetilde{d^3k} [g_p(\vec{k}) \cdot a^\dagger(\vec{k}) - h.c.] \right) |p_1, p_2\rangle$$

where $|q_1, q_2\rangle, |p_1, p_2\rangle \in \mathcal{H}_{\text{Fock}}$, and

③ for the electron-positron interaction: [leading dressing functions](#)

$$f_q^\mu(\vec{k}) = (0, 0, 0, 0)$$

$$f_p^\mu(\vec{k}) = e \left[e^{-ip_1 \cdot kt_0/p_1^0} \left(\frac{p_1^\mu}{p_1 \cdot k} - c^\mu \right) - e^{-ip_2 \cdot kt_0/p_2^0} \left(\frac{p_2^\mu}{p_2 \cdot k} - c^\mu \right) \right]$$

QED scattering: a case study of three interactions

Applying subleading dressings to Fock states

□ Use dressed states, as suggested by CA:

$$|q_1, q_2\rangle_d = e^{\int \widetilde{d^3k} [f_q(\vec{k}) \cdot a^\dagger(\vec{k}) - h.c.]} \left(1 + \int \widetilde{d^3k} [g_q(\vec{k}) \cdot a^\dagger(\vec{k}) - h.c.] \right) |q_1, q_2\rangle$$

$$|p_1, p_2\rangle_d = e^{\int \widetilde{d^3k} [f_p(\vec{k}) \cdot a^\dagger(\vec{k}) - h.c.]} \left(1 + \int \widetilde{d^3k} [g_p(\vec{k}) \cdot a^\dagger(\vec{k}) - h.c.] \right) |p_1, p_2\rangle$$

where $|q_1, q_2\rangle, |p_1, p_2\rangle \in \mathcal{H}_{\text{Fock}}$, and

③ for the electron-positron interaction: [subleading dressing functions](#)

$$g_q^\mu(\vec{k}) = (0, 0, 0, 0)$$

$$g_p^\mu(\vec{k}) = iek_\nu \left[e^{-ip_1 \cdot kt_0/p_1^0} \frac{J_{p_1}^{\mu\nu}}{p_1 \cdot k} - e^{-ip_2 \cdot kt_0/p_2^0} \frac{J_{\bar{p}_2}^{\mu\nu}}{p_2 \cdot k} \right]$$