



Quantum Field Theory and Statistical Systems

# Banana integrals in configuration space

Sergio L. Cacciatori<sup>a,b,\*</sup>, Henri Epstein<sup>c</sup>, Ugo Moschella<sup>a,b,c</sup>

<sup>a</sup> *Disat, Università dell'Insubria, Como, Italy*

<sup>b</sup> *INFN, Sezione di Milano, Italy*

<sup>c</sup> *IHES, Bures-sur-Yvette, France*

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## Abstract

We reconsider the computation of banana integrals at different loops, by working in the configuration space, in any dimension. We show how the 2-loop banana integral can be computed directly from the configuration space representation, without the need to resort to differential equations, and we include the analytic extension of the diagram in the space of complex masses. We also determine explicitly the  $\varepsilon$  expansion of the two loop banana integrals, for  $d = j - 2\varepsilon$ ,  $j = 2, 3, 4$ .

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## 1. Introduction

Ultraviolet divergences are an unavoidable crucial feature of Quantum Field theory (QFT). While infrared divergences, appearing in the presence of massless fields or in collinear beams of particles at high energies, can be cured by means of physical considerations [7–9], ultraviolet divergences are more deeply related to the mathematical structure underlying the construction of the theory. They proliferate in perturbative formulations, requiring regularization at high momenta of the Feynman integrals and successive renormalization. When renormalization is controlled by a finite number of conditions, then fixing a finite number of external parameters, possibly as functions of the energy scale, the theory is renormalizable. One of the most spectacular successes of QFT is the Standard Model of Particles, which, however, is not yet the final

\* Corresponding author.

E-mail address: [sergio.cacciatori@uninsubria.it](mailto:sergio.cacciatori@uninsubria.it) (S.L. Cacciatori).

theory since it does not incorporate the gravitational field (in its full quantum formulation) and is not free from problems (neutrino masses, quantization of the charges,  $g - 2$  for the muon, etc.). In the absence of a full nonperturbative formulation, the comparison of the very high-precision experiments performed nowadays requires to be able computing perturbative calculations at higher orders and expressing the results in the most possible compact and simple form. Several efforts are done in this direction in recent years. A possibility is to reformulate the perturbative QFT in terms of positive Grassmannian geometry in a complexified momentum space. This strategy has led to the notion of Amplituhedron and its generalizations [10–12], and has the advantage of potentially reducing the sum of the so-called kilo-Feynman to just the sum of few integrals. This line of research is developing rapidly and recently it has been shown that one of its realizations allows controlling ultraviolet and infrared divergences simultaneously [13]. However, these methods do not apply in general yet but only work with particular theories.

Several other approaches are instead devoted to making the calculation of “traditional” Feynman integrals more efficient. One of these is the method of integration by parts, used to relate generic Feynman integrals of a given type to a small number of simpler integrals, called Master Integrals, explicitly known or easier to be computed analytically or numerically [14,15]. With the same method, one can compute differential equations for the Master Integrals, to be solved with specific boundary conditions.

Another closely related method is inspired by certain cohomological techniques originally developed in order for a deeper understanding of hypergeometric integrals, see for example [16–19]. The main idea is to interpret Feynman integrals as period integrals of some forms representing cohomological classes of a suitable twisted-cohomology. In this way, the set of Feynman integrals acquires a structure of linear space, endowed with a scalar product, given by the intersection product of the twisted cohomology [20,25–28]. Using this strategy is, therefore, easier to individuate a “basis” of master integrals, and then project any other integral in the same cohomology on the basis, or determine a Picard-Fuchs equation for the basis itself, by means of projections defined by the intersection product. Even this line of research is fast growing and has already originated several developments and applications [21–24,29–32].

The same strategy applies not only to Feynman integrals but also to more general integrals involving special functions, typically appearing in Quantum Mechanics or in Statistical Physics [33]. This suggests that the generic Feynman integrals can be tackled also in other representations rather than in the usual momentum space representation. An extended analysis including motivations for preferring the  $x$ -space to the momentum space can be found in [6].<sup>1</sup> For example, this appears evident when looking for a relationship between Feynman integrals and the geometry of certain Calabi-Yau manifolds. In [34], the 3-bananas integral in two dimensions is written in the configuration space representation, therefore as an integral of the product of Macdonald functions, and specialized to the case of equal masses (normalized to 1) to find a differential Picard-Fuchs equation (w.r.t.  $t = \sqrt{K^2}$ ,  $K$  being the total momentum entering the banana diagram) whose solutions are used to compute the integral and then related to the motivic cohomology of a suitable  $K3$  surface. In [35] this is generalized to the case of any  $\ell$ -banana integrals, still in two dimensions and equal masses, again starting from the representation in terms of Bessel functions. They are related to the motivic cohomology of specific Calabi-Yau manifolds. In [36], the same strategy, once again in two spacetime dimensions, is extended to other classes of integrals. Banana integrals at any loop with all equal masses are studied in [37].

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<sup>1</sup> We thank Alexei Morozov for putting this paper to our attention.

A review of the connection between vacuum banana integrals and integrals of products of Macdonald's functions can be found in [1]. In the context of conformal field theory, scalar 3-point functions are given by an integral of three Macdonald functions, determined in terms of Appell  $F_4$  functions in [2].

In the present paper, we consider banana integrals up to two-loop order, with arbitrary masses, but with vanishing entering momentum. In [47] the two-loop banana integral for arbitrary masses and dimensions is explicitly solved by passing through the solutions of differential equations obtained from the momentum space representation of the integral. The solution is then used to compute the effective potential for the Standard Model of Particles up to two loops. It is clear that for more than two loops, the banana integrals are no more sufficient for computing the effective potential. However, our aim here is not to compute the effective potential at higher loops but rather to show the unexpected efficiency of working in the configuration space representation, in order to compute Feynman integrals or in finding differential equations they have to solve. The 0-momentum banana integrals thus allow us to compare our results with the ones in [47]. It is worth mentioning that the x-space representation of Feynman integrals has already been used in literature for different aims than the present one. For example, in [38–43] it played a crucial role in the determination of certain identities relating all equal masses  $d = 2$  sunrise integrals to modular integrals. In that case, the restriction to equal masses is crucial in order to factorize out the mass dependence and then map the problem to one of analytic number theory. However, we are treating the general case where all the involved masses are not necessarily equal, and in this case, it is not possible to obtain such a reduction. After putting  $d = 2$  and all masses equal to 1 we do not get directly the same relations as in [38–43] but other equivalent expressions. Our results might also be used to attempt a generalization of their formulas to different values of the dimension  $d$ . We leave this analysis for further research. On the other hand, it is interesting to notice that in that papers the differential equations are solved with methods avoiding the inversion of the Wronskian.<sup>2</sup> This also happens for all methods we used in the present paper.

In section 2, we will warm up by computing the 1-loop banana integral (the bubble integral), so reproducing the well-known standard result.

In section 3, we show how the 2-loop banana integral can be computed directly from the configuration space representation, which is the integral of a product of Macdonald functions, without the need to resort to differential equations.

In Section 4, we determine the analytic extension of the diagram in the space of complex masses.

In Section 5, we provide very explicit formulas for the two-loop banana integral in dimension 2, 3 and 4.

In section 6, we recall the standard strategy of finding Picard-Fuchs equation for Feynman integrals, by reproducing the same equations used in [47] for the 2-loop banana integral.

In Section 7 we then show that the same equations are nothing but a manifestation of certain standard recursive relations among Macdonald functions, and the associated Bessel-type second-order differential equation.

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<sup>2</sup> We acknowledge an anonymous referee for bringing this issue to our attention.

## 2. The bubble and its momenta

As a starter let us compute the bubble in  $x$ -space. In Euclidean Minkowski space the Schwinger function of a massive scalar field is proportional to a Macdonald function:

$$G_m^d(x) = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^d} \int \frac{e^{-ipx}}{p^2 + m^2} dp = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^{\frac{d}{2}}} \left(\frac{r}{m}\right)^{1-\frac{d}{2}} K_{\frac{d}{2}-1}(mr), \quad r = \sqrt{x^2}, \quad (2.1)$$

where  $m$  is the mass of the field. In  $x$ -space the bubble diagram is represented by the following integral:

$$\int G_{m_1}(x)G_{m_2}(x)dx = \frac{(m_1m_2)^{\frac{d}{2}-1}}{2^{d-1}\pi^{\frac{d}{2}}\Gamma(\frac{d}{2})} \int_0^\infty K_{\frac{d}{2}-1}(m_1r) K_{\frac{d}{2}-1}(m_2r) r dr \quad (2.2)$$

$$= \frac{\Gamma(1-\frac{d}{2})(m_1m_2)^{\frac{d}{2}-1}}{2^d\pi^{\frac{d}{2}}} \int_0^\infty \left(I_{\frac{d}{2}-1}(m_1r) - I_{1-\frac{d}{2}}(m_1r)\right) K_{\frac{d}{2}-1}(m_2r) r dr; \quad (2.3)$$

in the last elementary but important step we used the identity

$$K_\nu(z) = \frac{\Gamma(1-\nu)\Gamma(\nu)}{2} (I_{-\nu}(z) - I_\nu(z)). \quad (2.4)$$

The integral at the r.h.s. of (2.2) always converges at infinity. On the other hand, since in an angle containing the positive real semiaxis in the complex  $z$ -plane

$$I_\nu(z) \sim \frac{e^z}{\sqrt{2\pi z}}, \quad K_\nu(z) \sim e^{-z} \sqrt{\frac{2\pi}{z}}, \quad (2.5)$$

the integrals at the r.h.s. of Eq. (2.3) converge provided  $0 < m_1 < m_2$ .

By using the series representation

$$I_\nu(z) = \sum_{n=0}^\infty \frac{1}{n! \Gamma(n + \nu + 1)} \left(\frac{z}{2}\right)^{2n+\nu} \quad (2.6)$$

we may prove right away the well-known general formula

$$\begin{aligned} \int_0^\infty I_\nu(ar) K_\rho(br) r dr &= \sum_{n=0}^\infty \frac{(a/2)^{2n+\nu}}{n! \Gamma(n + \nu + 1)} \int_0^\infty r^{1+2n+\nu} K_\rho(br) dr \\ &= \frac{a^\nu \Gamma\left(\frac{\nu+\rho}{2} + 1\right) \Gamma\left(\frac{\nu+\rho}{2} - 1\right) {}_2F_1\left(\frac{\nu+\rho}{2} + 1, \frac{\nu-\rho}{2} + 1; \nu + 1; \frac{a^2}{b^2}\right)}{b^{\nu+2} \Gamma(\nu + 1)}. \end{aligned} \quad (2.7)$$

In the special case of interest to Quantum Field Theory  $\rho = d/2 - 1$  and  $\nu = \pm(d/2 - 1)$ ; the above formula immediately reduces to the textbook answer for the bubble:

$$\int G_{m_1}(x)G_{m_2}(x)dx = \frac{\Gamma(1-\frac{d}{2})}{(4\pi)^{\frac{d}{2}}} \frac{m_2^{d-2} - m_1^{d-2}}{m_1^2 - m_2^2}. \quad (2.8)$$

With the same simple steps, we may quickly find the ‘‘moments’’ of the bubble as follows:

$$\begin{aligned}
 I_k(m_1, m_2, d) &= \frac{2\pi^{\frac{d}{2}}}{\Gamma(\frac{d}{2})} \int_0^\infty r^k G_{m_1}(r) G_{m_2}(r) r^{d-1} dr = \\
 &= \frac{\Gamma(\frac{k}{2} + 1) m_1^{d-k-4} \Gamma(\frac{4-d+k}{2}) {}_2F_1\left(\frac{k+2}{2}, \frac{4-d+k}{2}, \frac{4-d}{2}, \frac{m_2^2}{m_1^2}\right)}{2^{d-k-1} \pi^{\frac{d}{2}} (d-2)} + \\
 &+ \frac{m_1^{-k-2} m_2^{d-2} \Gamma(1 - \frac{d}{2}) \Gamma(\frac{k}{2} + 1) \Gamma(\frac{d+k}{2}) {}_2F_1\left(\frac{k+2}{2}, \frac{d+k}{2}, \frac{d}{2}, \frac{m_2^2}{m_1^2}\right)}{2^{d-k} \pi^{\frac{d}{2}} \Gamma(\frac{d}{2})}. \tag{2.9}
 \end{aligned}$$

The unpleasant feature of the above formula is that the symmetry in the exchange of the masses  $m_1$  and  $m_2$  is not manifest.

Always with the aim of explaining our methods in the simplest example, an explicitly symmetric formula is provided by the use of the Kallen-Lehmann representation (or linearization); we recall it for the reader’s convenience:

$$G_{m_1}(x) G_{m_2}(x) = \int_0^\infty \rho(s, m_1, m_2) G_{\sqrt{s}}(x) ds \tag{2.10}$$

where

$$\rho(s, m_1, m_2) = \frac{\left((s - (m_1 + m_2)^2)(s - (m_1 - m_2)^2)\right)^{\frac{d-3}{2}}}{2^{2d-3} \pi^{\frac{d-1}{2}} \Gamma(\frac{d-1}{2}) s^{\frac{d-2}{2}}} \theta((s - (m_1 + m_2)^2)). \tag{2.11}$$

It follows that

$$\begin{aligned}
 I_k(m_1, m_2, d) &= \frac{2\pi^{\frac{d}{2}}}{\Gamma(\frac{d}{2})} \int_0^\infty \int_0^\infty r^k \rho(s, m_1, m_2) G_{\sqrt{s}}(r) r^{d-1} dr ds \\
 &= \frac{\Gamma(\frac{k}{2} + 1) \Gamma(\frac{4-d+k}{2}) {}_2F_1\left(\frac{3-d}{2}, \frac{4-d+k}{2}, 3-d; \frac{4m_1m_2}{(m_1+m_2)^2}\right)}{2^{d-k-1} \pi^{\frac{d}{2}} (d-2) (m_1 + m_2)^{4-d+k}} + \\
 &+ \frac{m_1^{d-2} m_2^{d-2} \Gamma(1 - \frac{d}{2}) \Gamma(\frac{k}{2} + 1) \Gamma(\frac{d+k}{2}) {}_2F_1\left(\frac{d-1}{2}, \frac{d+k}{2}, d-1; \frac{4m_1m_2}{(m_1+m_2)^2}\right)}{2^{d-k} \pi^{\frac{d}{2}} \Gamma(\frac{d}{2}) (m_1 + m_2)^{d+k}}. \tag{2.12}
 \end{aligned}$$

Comparing Eqs. (2.9) and (2.12) we deduce as a bonus the following remarkable identity: for  $a > b$

$$\left(\frac{a}{a+b}\right)^{d+k} {}_2F_1\left(\frac{d-1}{2}, \frac{d+k}{2}, d-1; \frac{4ab}{(a+b)^2}\right) = {}_2F_1\left(\frac{2+k}{2}, \frac{d+k}{2}, \frac{d}{2}; \frac{b^2}{a^2}\right). \tag{2.13}$$

### 3. Two loops: the watermelon

In the previous simple example, we displayed the main ingredients of the calculation of a loop diagram in  $x$ -space: the identity (2.4), the series expansion (2.6), and the Kallen-Lehmann representation (2.10). We now exploit the same tools to compute the harder two-loop watermelon:

$$\begin{aligned}
 I(m_1, m_2, m_3, d) &= \int G_{m_1} G_{m_2} G_{m_3}(x) dx = \frac{2\pi^{\frac{d}{2}}}{\Gamma(\frac{d}{2})} \int G_{m_1} G_{m_2} G_{m_3}(r) r^{d-1} dr \\
 &= \frac{2(m_1 m_2 m_3)^{\frac{d}{2}-1}}{2^{\frac{3d}{2}} \pi^d \Gamma(\frac{d}{2})} \int_0^\infty r^{2-\frac{d}{2}} K_{\frac{d}{2}-1}(m_1 r) K_{\frac{d}{2}-1}(m_2 r) K_{\frac{d}{2}-1}(m_3 r) dr = \tag{3.1}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$= \frac{\Gamma(1-\frac{d}{2})^2 \Gamma(\frac{d}{2})^2}{4} \sum_{\epsilon, \epsilon' = \pm} \epsilon \epsilon' R_{\epsilon \epsilon'}(m_1, m_2, m_3, d) \tag{3.2}$$

where

$$R_{\epsilon \epsilon'}(m_1, m_2, m_3, d) = \int_0^\infty r^{2-\frac{d}{2}} I_{\epsilon(\frac{d}{2}-1)}(m_1 r) I_{\epsilon'(\frac{d}{2}-1)}(m_2 r) K_{\frac{d}{2}-1}(m_3 r) dr. \tag{3.3}$$

$I(m_1, m_2, m_3, d)$  actually depends on the squared masses.

The integral at the r.h.s. of Eq. (3.1) always converges at infinity; it converges at  $r = 0$  in the strip

$$\Sigma = \{d \in \mathbb{C} : 0 < \text{Re } d < 3\}; \tag{3.4}$$

it makes sense and defines a holomorphic function of the complex masses  $m_1, m_2, m_3$ , provided that  $\text{Re } m_j > 0$  for  $j = 1, 2, 3$ . The function  $I(m_1, m_2, m_3, d)$  at the l.h.s. coincides with the integral at the r.h.s. when the integral converges and is defined by analytic continuation otherwise.

On the other hand, the four integrals at the r.h.s. of (3.3) converge at infinity only if  $\text{Re } m_3 > \text{Re } m_1 + \text{Re } m_2$ . Using Eq. (2.6) Bailey [48] proved in 1936 the following two elementary identifications<sup>3</sup>:

$$\begin{aligned}
 &\int_0^\infty r^{\lambda-1} I_\mu(ar) I_\nu(br) K_\rho(cr) dr = \\
 &= \sum_{n=0}^\infty \frac{2^{\lambda-2} a^\mu b^\nu \Gamma\left(\frac{\lambda+\mu+\nu+\rho}{2} + n\right) \Gamma\left(\frac{\lambda+\mu+\nu-\rho}{2} + n\right)}{c^{\lambda+\mu+\nu} \Gamma(\mu+1) \Gamma(n+1) \Gamma(n+\nu+1)} \times \\
 &\quad \times {}_2F_1\left(\frac{\lambda+\mu+\nu+\rho}{2} + n, \frac{\lambda+\mu+\nu-\rho}{2} + n; \mu+1; \frac{a^2}{c^2}\right) \frac{b^{2n}}{c^{2n}} = \tag{3.7}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$= \frac{2^{\lambda-2} a^\mu b^\nu \Gamma\left(\frac{\lambda+\mu+\nu+\rho}{2}\right) \Gamma\left(\frac{\lambda+\mu+\nu-\rho}{2}\right) F_4\left(\frac{\lambda+\mu+\nu+\rho}{2}, \frac{\lambda+\mu+\nu-\rho}{2}; \mu+1, \nu+1; \frac{a^2}{c^2}, \frac{b^2}{c^2}\right)}{c^{\lambda+\mu+\nu} \Gamma(\mu+1) \Gamma(\nu+1)} \tag{3.8}$$

<sup>3</sup> We recall for the reader's convenience the definition of the Appell series of the first and of the fourth type

$$F_1(a, b_1, b_2; c; x, y) = \sum_{m,n=0}^\infty \frac{(a)_{m+n} (b_1)_m (b_2)_n}{(c)_{m+n} m! n!} x^m y^n = \frac{\Gamma(c)}{\Gamma(a) \Gamma(c-a)} \int_0^1 \frac{dt}{t} \frac{t^a (1-t)^{c-a-1}}{(1-xt)^{b_1} (1-yt)^{b_2}} \tag{3.5}$$

$$F_4(a, b; c_1, c_2; x, y) = \sum_{m,n=0}^\infty \frac{(a)_{m+n} (b)_{m+n}}{(c_1)_m (c_2)_n m! n!} x^m y^n \tag{3.6}$$

valid for  $\text{Re}(\lambda + \mu + \nu) > |\text{Re } \rho|$  and  $\text{Re}(c \pm a \pm b) > 0$ .

### 4. First derivation

When  $m_3 > m_1 + m_2$ , Eq. (3.8) allows the identification of the watermelon with a sum of four Appell functions  $F_4$ :

$$\begin{aligned}
 I(m_1, m_2, m_3, d) &= (4\pi)^{1-d} m_3^{2d-6} \frac{\Gamma(2-d)}{2 \sin(\frac{\pi d}{2})} F_4\left(3-d, 2-\frac{d}{2}, 2-\frac{d}{2}, 2-\frac{d}{2}, \frac{m_1^2}{m_3^2}, \frac{m_2^2}{m_3^2}\right) \\
 &+ (4\pi)^{-d} m_1^{d-2} m_2^{d-2} m_3^{-2} \Gamma\left(1-\frac{d}{2}\right)^2 F_4\left(1, \frac{d}{2}, \frac{d}{2}, \frac{d}{2}, \frac{m_1^2}{m_3^2}, \frac{m_2^2}{m_3^2}\right) \\
 &- (4\pi)^{-d} m_1^{d-2} m_3^{d-4} \Gamma\left(1-\frac{d}{2}\right)^2 F_4\left(1, 2-\frac{d}{2}, \frac{d}{2}, 2-\frac{d}{2}, \frac{m_1^2}{m_3^2}, \frac{m_2^2}{m_3^2}\right) \\
 &- (4\pi)^{-d} m_2^{d-2} m_3^{d-4} \Gamma\left(1-\frac{d}{2}\right)^2 F_4\left(1, 2-\frac{d}{2}, 2-\frac{d}{2}, \frac{d}{2}, \frac{m_1^2}{m_3^2}, \frac{m_2^2}{m_3^2}\right).
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{4.1}$$

The above Appell functions may be reduced to the standard hypergeometric function by easy manipulations<sup>4</sup> and there follows a simple symmetric formula for the watermelon:

<sup>4</sup> Let us for instance exhibit the few self-explanatory simple steps to compute the first term:

$$\begin{aligned}
 R_{++}(m_1, m_2, m_3, d) &= \int_0^\infty r^{2-\frac{d}{2}} I_{\frac{d}{2}-1}(m_1 r) I_{\frac{d}{2}-1}(m_2 r) K_{\frac{d}{2}-1}(m_3 r) dr \\
 &= \sum_{n=0}^\infty \frac{2^{1-\frac{d}{2}} m_1^{\frac{d}{2}-1} m_2^{\frac{d}{2}-1} {}_2F_1\left(n+1, \frac{d}{2}+n; \frac{d}{2}; \frac{m_1^2}{m_3^2}\right) m_2^{2n}}{c^{\frac{d}{2}+1} \Gamma\left(\frac{d}{2}\right)} \frac{m_2^{2n}}{m_3^{2n}} \\
 &= \sum_{n=0}^\infty \frac{2^{1-\frac{d}{2}} m_1^{\frac{d}{2}-1} m_2^{\frac{d}{2}-1} {}_2F_1\left(n+1, -n; \frac{d}{2}; \frac{m_1^2}{m_1^2-m_3^2}\right) m_2^{2n}}{m_3^{\frac{d}{2}+1} \Gamma\left(\frac{d}{2}\right)} \frac{m_2^{2n}}{m_3^{2n}} \left(1-\frac{m_1^2}{m_3^2}\right)^{-n-1} \\
 &= \frac{2^{1-\frac{d}{2}} m_1^{\frac{d}{2}-1} m_2^{\frac{d}{2}-1}}{m_3^{\frac{d}{2}+1}} \sum_{n=0}^\infty \sum_{k=0}^n \frac{\Gamma(k-n)\Gamma(k+n+1) \left(\frac{m_1^2}{m_1^2-m_3^2}\right)^k \left(\frac{m_2}{m_3}\right)^{2n} \left(\frac{m_3^2}{m_3^2-m_1^2}\right)^{n+1}}{\Gamma(k+1)\Gamma(-n)\Gamma(n+1)\Gamma\left(\frac{d}{2}+k\right)} \\
 &= \sum_{k=0}^\infty \sum_{n=k}^\infty \frac{2^{1-\frac{d}{2}} m_1^{\frac{d}{2}-1} m_2^{\frac{d}{2}-1} m_2^{2n}}{m_3^{\frac{d}{2}+1}} \frac{m_2^{2n}}{m_3^{2n}} \left(\frac{m_3^2}{m_3^2-m_1^2}\right)^{n+1} \frac{\left(\frac{m_1^2}{m_3^2-m_1^2}\right)^k}{\Gamma(k+1)\Gamma\left(\frac{d}{2}+k\right)} \frac{\Gamma(k+n+1)}{\Gamma(-k+n+1)} \\
 &= \left(\frac{m_1 m_2}{2m_3}\right)^{\frac{d}{2}-1} \frac{{}_2F_1\left(\frac{1}{2}, 1; \frac{d}{2}; \frac{4m_1^2 m_2^2}{(m_3^2-m_1^2-m_2^2)^2}\right)}{\Gamma\left(\frac{d}{2}\right) (m_3^2-m_1^2-m_2^2)}.
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{4.2}$$

The other terms are evaluated in a similar way.

$$\begin{aligned}
 I(m_1, m_2, m_3, d) &= \frac{\Gamma(2-d) (S(m_1, m_2, m_3))^{\frac{d-3}{2}}}{2^{2d-1} \pi^{d-1} \sin\left(\frac{\pi d}{2}\right)} \\
 &+ \frac{(m_1 m_2)^{d-2}}{4^d \pi^{d-2} \sin^2\left(\frac{\pi d}{2}\right) \Gamma\left(\frac{d}{2}\right)^2} \frac{{}_2F_1\left(\frac{1}{2}, 1; \frac{d}{2}; \frac{4m_1^2 m_2^2}{(m_3^2 - m_1^2 - m_2^2)^2}\right)}{(m_3^2 - m_1^2 - m_2^2)} \\
 &+ \frac{(m_3 m_1)^{d-2}}{4^d \pi^{d-2} \sin^2\left(\frac{\pi d}{2}\right) \Gamma\left(\frac{d}{2}\right)^2} \frac{{}_2F_1\left(\frac{1}{2}, 1; \frac{d}{2}; \frac{4m_3^2 m_1^2}{(m_2^2 - m_3^2 - m_1^2)^2}\right)}{(m_2^2 - m_3^2 - m_1^2)} \\
 &+ \frac{(m_2 m_3)^{d-2}}{4^d \pi^{d-2} \sin^2\left(\frac{\pi d}{2}\right) \Gamma\left(\frac{d}{2}\right)^2} \frac{{}_2F_1\left(\frac{1}{2}, 1; \frac{d}{2}; \frac{4m_2^2 m_3^2}{(m_1^2 - m_2^2 - m_3^2)^2}\right)}{(m_1^2 - m_2^2 - m_3^2)} \tag{4.3}
 \end{aligned}$$

where

$$S(m_1, m_2, m_3) = m_1^4 + m_2^4 + m_3^4 - 2m_1^2 m_2^2 - 2m_1^2 m_3^2 - 2m_2^2 m_3^2 \tag{4.4}$$

is the Symanzik polynomial.

The above formula is valid when one of the masses is bigger than the sum of the other two; this happens if and only if the Symanzik polynomial is positive:

$$0 < \frac{4m_i^2 m_j^2}{(m_k^2 - m_i^2 - m_j^2)^2} = 1 - \frac{S(m_1, m_2, m_3)}{(m_k^2 - m_i^2 - m_j^2)^2} < 1, \quad i \neq j \neq k. \tag{4.5}$$

The condition  $S(m_1, m_2, m_3) > 0$ , in turn, implies that all the arguments of the hypergeometric functions on the r.h.s. of Eq. (4.3) are in the domain of convergence of the corresponding hypergeometric series and Eq. (4.3) can be taken at face value.

The Symanzik polynomial is positive in the particular case when one of the three masses is zero; in this case, the above formula simplifies to

$$I(m_1, m_2, 0, d) = \frac{\Gamma(2-d) \left((m_1^2 - m_2^2)^2\right)^{\frac{d-3}{2}}}{2^{2d-1} \pi^{d-1} \sin\left(\frac{\pi d}{2}\right)} - \frac{(m_1 m_2)^{d-2} {}_2F_1\left(\frac{1}{2}, 1; \frac{d}{2}; \frac{4m_1^2 m_2^2}{(m_1^2 + m_2^2)^2}\right)}{4^d \pi^{d-2} (m_1^2 + m_2^2) \sin^2\left(\frac{\pi d}{2}\right) \Gamma\left(\frac{d}{2}\right)^2}. \tag{4.6}$$

Note also that a direct calculation would give an unsymmetrical result:

$$I(m_1, m_2, 0, d) = \frac{\Gamma(2-d) \left((m_1^2 - m_2^2)^2\right)^{\frac{d-3}{2}}}{2^{2d-1} \pi^{d-1} \sin\left(\frac{\pi d}{2}\right)} - \frac{\Gamma\left(1 - \frac{d}{2}\right) {}_2F_1\left(1, 2 - \frac{d}{2}; \frac{d}{2}; \frac{m_2^2}{m_1}\right)}{4^d \pi^{d-1} m_1^2 (m_1 m_2)^{2-d} \sin\left(\frac{\pi d}{2}\right) \Gamma\left(\frac{d}{2}\right)}. \tag{4.7}$$

Comparing the above equations we deduce the remarkable identity<sup>5</sup>

<sup>5</sup> This can be obtained from [50], by equating (15.3.16) to (15.3.17) and using

$$a = 1, \quad b = \frac{d}{2} - \frac{1}{2}, \quad z = \frac{4m_1 m_2}{(m_1 + m_2)^2}. \tag{4.8}$$

$$\left(1 + \frac{m_2^2}{m_1^2}\right) {}_2F_1\left(1, 2 - \frac{d}{2}; \frac{d}{2}; \frac{m_2^2}{m_1^2}\right) = {}_2F_1\left(\frac{1}{2}, 1; \frac{d}{2}; \frac{4m_1^2 m_2^2}{(m_1^2 + m_2^2)^2}\right) \tag{4.9}$$

valid at face value for  $m_2 < m_1$ . This formula allows us to compare (4.3) with the results in [3], see formulas (4.24) and (4.25). Starting from (3.1), after reversing the sign of all Bessel  $K$  indices in the integral and multiplying by an appropriate power of the product of the masses, it reduces to (4.24) in [3]. After using (4.9) we then get (4.3).<sup>6</sup>

When one of the masses is equal to the sum of the other two, then the Symanzik polynomial vanishes: all the arguments of the hypergeometric functions at the r.h.s. become equal to one while the argument of the last term vanishes. We will compute the corresponding diagram below in Eq. (4.19).

When the Symanzik polynomial is negative, or equivalently when each of the three masses is smaller than the sum of the other two (i.e. when  $m_1, m_2$ , and  $m_3$  are the sides of a triangle), none of the integrals at the r.h.s. of (3.3) converge but a minor modification allows us to compute directly the diagram also in this circumstance. Suppose indeed that  $m_1 < m_2 + m_3$ . Then

$$I(m_1, m_2, m_3, d) = \frac{\sum_{\epsilon=\pm} \epsilon \int_0^\infty r^{2-\frac{d}{2}} I_{\epsilon(\frac{d}{2}-1)}(m_1 r) K_{\frac{d}{2}-1}(m_2 r) K_{\frac{d}{2}-1}(m_3 r) dr}{2^{\frac{3d}{2}-1} (m_1 m_2 m_3)^{1-\frac{d}{2}} \pi^{d-1} \sin\left(\frac{\pi d}{2}\right) \Gamma\left(\frac{d}{2}\right)} \tag{4.10}$$

and now both the integrals at the r.h.s. of (4.10) converge splendidly at infinity.

We now may insert in Eq. (4.10) the series expansion (2.6), compute the integral using the formula for the moments (2.9), and sum the resulting series following the same steps used to derive Eq. (4.2). This will produce the formula to be used when the Symanzik polynomial is negative. An alternative way makes use of the analyticity properties of the watermelon diagram in the three complex masses and is explained in the following Section 4.1.<sup>7</sup>

### 4.1. Analytic continuation

At first, we exploit the well-known hypergeometric identity

$$\begin{aligned} {}_2F_1(\alpha, \beta; \gamma; z) &= \frac{\Gamma(\gamma)\Gamma(\beta - \alpha) {}_2F_1\left(\alpha, \alpha - \gamma + 1; \alpha - \beta + 1; \frac{1}{z}\right)}{\Gamma(\beta)\Gamma(\gamma - \alpha)} (-z)^{-\alpha} + \\ &+ \frac{\Gamma(\gamma)\Gamma(\alpha - \beta) {}_2F_1\left(\beta, \beta - \gamma + 1; -\alpha + \beta + 1; \frac{1}{z}\right)}{\Gamma(\alpha)\Gamma(\gamma - \beta)} (-z)^{-\beta}, \quad |\arg(-z)| < \pi \end{aligned} \tag{4.11}$$

to remodel our formula (4.3) in a way that may be used directly. Let us, therefore, consider complex masses  $\zeta_1, \zeta_2, \zeta_3$  such that none of the arguments of the hypergeometric functions at the r.h.s. of Eq. (4.3) is real. The identity (4.11) has the virtue of disentangling the real and imaginary parts of the various contributions in the limit when the arguments become real: for instance, we have

<sup>6</sup> We thank Paul McFadden, Adam Bzowski, and Kostas Skenderis for pointing out these facts to us.

<sup>7</sup> As pointed out to us by P. McFadden, A. Bzowski, and K. Skenderis, the problem of analytically continuing in the masses also appears in the context of extracting flat-space scattering amplitudes from CFT correlators as discussed in [4] and [5]. For this, one needs to analytically continue triple-K integrals to unphysical configurations where the sum of the momentum magnitudes vanishes.

$$\begin{aligned}
 R_{++}(\zeta_1, \zeta_2, \zeta_3) = & \frac{(\zeta_1 \zeta_2)^{\frac{d}{2}-3} (-\zeta_1^2 - \zeta_2^2 + \zeta_3^2) {}_2F_1\left(1, 2 - \frac{d}{2}; \frac{3}{2}; \frac{(-\zeta_1^2 - \zeta_2^2 + \zeta_3^2)^2}{4\zeta_1^2 \zeta_2^2}\right)}{2^{\frac{d}{2}} \zeta_3^{\frac{d}{2}-1} \Gamma\left(\frac{d}{2} - 1\right)} + \\
 & + \frac{2^{2-d} \sqrt{\pi} (2\zeta_1 \zeta_2 \zeta_3)^{1-\frac{d}{2}} (-S(\zeta_1, \zeta_2, \zeta_3))^{\frac{d-3}{2}} \sqrt{-(-\zeta_1^2 - \zeta_2^2 + \zeta_3^2)^2}}{\Gamma\left(\frac{d-1}{2}\right) (-\zeta_1^2 - \zeta_2^2 + \zeta_3^2)}
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{4.12}$$

and so on. Suppose then that  $S(m_1, m_2, m_3) < 0$ . There are three possibilities:

1. The triangle is obtuse: the square of one of the masses is bigger than the sum of the squares of the other two, say  $m_3^2 > m_1^2 + m_2^2$ .
2. The triangle is acute-angled: no choice of the masses verifies the above inequality.
3. The triangle is right, say  $m_3^2 = m_1^2 + m_2^2$ .

1. Suppose that  $m_3^2 > m_1^2 + m_2^2$  and let  $\zeta_3 = m_3 + i\epsilon$ ; it is easily verified that

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{Im}\left(-\left(m_1^2 - m_2^2 - \zeta_3^2\right)^2\right) < 0, \quad \text{Im}\left(-\left(-m_1^2 + m_2^2 - \zeta_3^2\right)^2\right) < 0, \\
 \text{Im}\left(-\left(-m_1^2 - m_2^2 + \zeta_3^2\right)^2\right) < 0, \quad \text{Im} S > 0,
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{4.13}$$

and therefore

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{Im}(R_{++} - R_{+-} - R_{-+} + R_{--}) = & -i \frac{2^{2-d} \sqrt{\pi} (2m_1 m_2 m_3)^{1-\frac{d}{2}} (-S(m_1, m_2, m_3))^{\frac{d-3}{2}}}{\Gamma\left(\frac{d-1}{2}\right)} \\
 & + 2i \frac{2^{2-d} \sqrt{\pi} (2m_1 m_2 m_3)^{1-\frac{d}{2}} (-S(m_1, m_2, m_3))^{\frac{d-3}{2}}}{\Gamma\left(\frac{d-1}{2}\right)} \\
 & - i \frac{2^{2-d} \sqrt{\pi} (2m_1 m_2 \zeta_3)^{1-\frac{d}{2}} (-S(m_1, m_2, m_3))^{\frac{d-3}{2}} \sin\left(\frac{d-3}{2}\pi\right)}{\cos\left(\frac{\pi d}{2}\right) \Gamma\left(\frac{d-1}{2}\right)} = 0.
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{4.14}$$

2. Suppose that  $m_i^2 < m_j^2 + m_k^2$  for every  $i \neq j \neq k$  and let  $\zeta_1 = m_1 + i\epsilon$ : we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{Im}\left(-\left(\zeta_1^2 - m_2^2 - m_3^2\right)^2\right) > 0, \quad \text{Im}\left(-\left(-\zeta_1^2 + m_2^2 - m_3^2\right)^2\right) < 0, \\
 \text{Im}\left(-\left(-\zeta_1^2 - m_2^2 + m_3^2\right)^2\right) < 0, \quad \text{Im} S < 0.
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{4.15}$$

Again  $\text{Im}(R_{++} - R_{+-} - R_{-+} + R_{--}) = 0$ . In both cases, the imaginary part of the sum of the various terms vanishes. This implies that it vanishes also in the limiting case  $m_3^2 = m_1^2 + m_2^2$ . Then, for  $S(m_1, m_2, m_3) < 0$ , the final result may be rewritten as follows:

$$\begin{aligned}
 I(m_1, m_2, m_3, d) = & -2^{1-2d} \pi^{1-d} \Gamma(2-d) (-S(m_1, m_2, m_3))^{\frac{d-3}{2}} \\
 & + \frac{(m_1 m_2)^{d-4} (m_1^2 + m_2^2 - m_3^2) {}_2F_1\left(1, 2 - \frac{d}{2}; \frac{3}{2}; M_{123}^2\right)}{4^d \pi^{d-2} (\cos(\pi d) - 1) \Gamma\left(\frac{d}{2} - 1\right) \Gamma\left(\frac{d}{2}\right)} \\
 & + \frac{(m_2 m_3)^{d-4} (-m_1^2 + m_2^2 + m_3^2) {}_2F_1\left(1, 2 - \frac{d}{2}; \frac{3}{2}; M_{231}^2\right)}{4^d \pi^{d-2} (\cos(\pi d) - 1) \Gamma\left(\frac{d}{2} - 1\right) \Gamma\left(\frac{d}{2}\right)}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$+ \frac{(m_1 m_3)^{d-4} (m_1^2 - m_2^2 + m_3^2) {}_2F_1\left(1, 2 - \frac{d}{2}; \frac{3}{2}; M_{312}^2\right)}{4^d \pi^{d-2} (\cos(\pi d) - 1) \Gamma\left(\frac{d}{2} - 1\right) \Gamma\left(\frac{d}{2}\right)}. \tag{4.16}$$

where we defined

$$M_{ijk} = \left( \frac{m_i^2 + m_j^2 - m_k^2}{2m_i m_j} \right) \tag{4.17}$$

In the special important case where the three particles have the same mass the above formula reduces to

$$I(m, m, m, d) = \frac{\frac{3}{2} \Gamma\left(1 - \frac{d}{2}\right) \Gamma\left(2 - \frac{d}{2}\right) \left( {}_2F_1\left(1, 2 - \frac{d}{2}; \frac{3}{2}; \frac{1}{4}\right) - \frac{3^{\frac{d-5}{2}} \Gamma\left(\frac{3}{2} - \frac{d}{2}\right) \sqrt{\pi}}{2^{d-3} \Gamma\left(2 - \frac{d}{2}\right)} \right)}{(4\pi)^d} m^{2(d-3)}. \tag{4.18}$$

By invoking the analyticity properties of the diagram in the complex masses we also are able to evaluate the watermelon in the limiting case  $S = 0$ , when one mass is equal to the sum of the other two:

$$I(m_1, m_2, m_1 + m_2, d) = \frac{\Gamma\left(1 - \frac{d}{2}\right) \Gamma\left(2 - \frac{d}{2}\right) \left( (m_1 + m_2)^{d-3} (m_2^3 m_1^d + m_1^3 m_2^d) - m_1^d m_2^d \right)}{2^{2d} \pi^d (m_1 m_2)^3 (d - 3)}. \tag{4.19}$$

### 5. Evaluation near integer dimensions

We will now consider the expansion in  $\varepsilon$  near  $\varepsilon \sim 0$ , for

$$d = D - 2\varepsilon.$$

It is convenient to distinguish the dimensions according with their parity.

#### 5.1. Odd dimensions

The odd-dimensional case is the easiest because only the first line in formula (4.16) has a (simple) pole at  $\varepsilon = 0$  due to the pole in the Gamma function

$$\Gamma(1 - 2k - 2\varepsilon) = -\frac{1}{(2k - 1)!} \left( \frac{1}{2\varepsilon} + \psi(2k) \right) + O(\varepsilon), \tag{5.1}$$

where  $\psi$  is the logarithmic derivative of the gamma function. Therefore

$$I(m_1, m_2, m_3, 2k + 1) = \left( \frac{1}{2\varepsilon} \psi(2k) - \frac{1}{2} \log \frac{-S(m_1, m_2, m_3)}{16\pi^2} \right) \frac{(-S(m_1, m_2, m_3))^{k-1}}{2(4\pi)^{2k} (2k - 1)!} \\ - \frac{(m_1 m_2)^{2k-3} (m_1^2 + m_2^2 - m_3^2) {}_2F_1\left(1, \frac{3}{2} - k; \frac{3}{2}; M_{123}^2\right)}{32(4\pi)^{2k-1} \Gamma(k - 1/2) \Gamma(k + 1/2)} \\ - \frac{(m_2 m_3)^{2k-3} (m_2^2 + m_3^2 - m_1^2) {}_2F_1\left(1, \frac{3}{2} - k; \frac{3}{2}; M_{231}^2\right)}{32(4\pi)^{2k-1} \Gamma(k - 1/2) \Gamma(k + 1/2)}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 & - \frac{(m_3 m_1)^{2k-3} (m_3^2 + m_1^2 - m_2^2) {}_2F_1\left(1, \frac{3}{2} - k; \frac{3}{2}; M_{312}^2\right)}{32(4\pi)^{2k-1} \Gamma(k - 1/2) \Gamma(k + 1/2)} \\
 & + O(\varepsilon).
 \end{aligned} \tag{5.2}$$

The hypergeometric functions appear in the form

$${}_2F_1\left(1, \frac{3}{2} - k; \frac{3}{2}; z^2\right) = \frac{1}{2} \int_0^1 \frac{dt}{\sqrt{1-t}} (1 - z^2 t)^{k-\frac{3}{2}}, \tag{5.3}$$

and can be expressed in terms of elementary functions. For example for  $k = 1$  (i.e.  $D = 3$ ) we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 I(m_1, m_2, m_3, 3 - 2\varepsilon) &= \frac{1}{32\pi^2} \frac{1}{2\varepsilon} + \frac{1}{32\pi^2} \left(1 - \gamma - \frac{1}{2} \log \frac{-S(m_1, m_2, m_3)}{16\pi^2}\right) \\
 & - \frac{\tanh^{-1}(M_{123}) + \tanh^{-1}(M_{213}) + \tanh^{-1}(M_{312})}{32\pi^2} + O(\varepsilon).
 \end{aligned} \tag{5.4}$$

5.2. Even dimensions. Case  $D = 2$

5.2.1. Triangular case

We single out at first the case  $d = 2$  which is non singular and start discussing the triangular configuration where  $S < 0$ . A Laurent series expansion of Eq. (4.16) shows that the coefficient of the possible diverging term vanishes thanks to the remarkable identity

$$\arcsin(M_{123}) + \arcsin(M_{312}) + \arcsin(M_{231}) = \frac{\pi}{2}; \tag{5.5}$$

Equation (5.5) becomes obvious by using the identity

$$\arcsin M_{ijk} = \theta_{ijk} = -i \log \left( \frac{1}{2m_i m_j} \sqrt{-S} + i M_{ijk} \right) \tag{5.6}$$

A simple calculation shows that

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \left( \frac{1}{2m_1 m_2} \sqrt{-S} + i M_{123} \right) \left( \frac{1}{2m_2 m_3} \sqrt{-S} + i M_{231} \right) \left( \frac{1}{2m_3 m_1} \sqrt{-S} + i M_{312} \right) = \\
 & = \exp(i\theta_{123} + i\theta_{231} + i\theta_{312}) = \exp\left(\frac{i\pi}{2}\right).
 \end{aligned} \tag{5.7}$$

Therefore, the final result is completely fixed and there is no arbitrary regulatory mass floating around. The zero-th order term of the Laurent series expansion includes a derivative of the hypergeometric function w.r.t. the parameter  $b$ :

$$I(m_1, m_2, m_3, 2) = F(m_1, m_2, m_3) + F(m_3, m_1, m_2) + F(m_2, m_3, m_1) \tag{5.8}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned}
 F(m_1, m_2, m_3) &= \frac{M_{123} {}_2\dot{F}_1\left(1, 1, \frac{3}{2}, M_{123}^2\right)}{16\pi^2 m_1 m_2} + \frac{\log\left(\frac{-S(m_1, m_2, m_3)}{2m_1 m_2 m_3}\right)}{48\pi \sqrt{-S(m_1, m_2, m_3)}} + \\
 & + \frac{\gamma(\pi - 6 \arcsin(M_{123})) - 6 \log\left(\frac{m_1 m_2}{2m_3}\right) \arcsin(M_{123})}{48\pi^2 \sqrt{-S(m_1, m_2, m_3)}}
 \end{aligned} \tag{5.9}$$

and we introduced the notation

$${}_2\dot{F}_1(a, x; c; z) = \frac{\partial}{\partial b} {}_2F_1(a, b; c; z)|_{b=x} = - \int_0^1 \frac{t^{a-1} \Gamma(c)(1-t)^{-a+c-1} \log(1-tz)}{\Gamma(a)\Gamma(c-a)(1-tz)^x} dt. \tag{5.10}$$

A formula for  $\dot{F}_1(1, 1; \frac{3}{2}; z)$  in terms of the Euler-Spence dilogarithm function  $\text{Li}_2$  may be obtained by changing the integration variable  $t$  for  $u = \sqrt{\frac{z(1-t)}{1-z}}$  and then by factorizing  $(1+u^2) = (1+iu)(1-iu)$  whenever it appears. The final result is

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{F}_1\left(1, 1; \frac{3}{2}; z\right) &= - \frac{\log(2\sqrt{1-z})}{\sqrt{(1-z)z}} \frac{1}{2i} \left( \log\left(1+i\sqrt{\frac{z}{1-z}}\right) - \log\left(1-i\sqrt{\frac{z}{1-z}}\right) \right) \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{\sqrt{(1-z)z}} \frac{1}{2i} \left( \text{Li}_2\left(\frac{1}{2} + \frac{i}{2}\sqrt{\frac{z}{1-z}}\right) - \text{Li}_2\left(\frac{1}{2} - \frac{i}{2}\sqrt{\frac{z}{1-z}}\right) \right). \end{aligned} \tag{5.11}$$

Note that in the second line the imaginary part of  $\text{Li}_2$  show up only when  $z$  real and such that  $0 \leq z < 1$ . This happens exclusively in the triangular case.

Inserting the above formula into Eq. (5.8) we get

$$I(m_1, m_2, m_3, 2) = G(m_1, m_2, m_3) + G(m_3, m_1, m_2) + G(m_2, m_3, m_1) \tag{5.12}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} G(m_1, m_2, m_3) &= \frac{i\text{Li}_2\left(\frac{1}{2} - \frac{i(m_1^2+m_2^2-m_3^2)}{2\sqrt{-S}}\right) - i\text{Li}_2\left(\frac{1}{2} + \frac{i(m_1^2+m_2^2-m_3^2)}{2\sqrt{-S}}\right)}{16\pi^2\sqrt{-S}} \\ &\quad - \frac{i \log(2m_3) \log\left(\frac{\sqrt{-S}+i(m_1^2+m_2^2-m_3^2)}{2m_1m_2}\right)}{8\pi^2\sqrt{-S}} + \frac{\log\left(\frac{\sqrt{-S}}{2m_1m_2m_3}\right)}{48\pi\sqrt{-S}}. \end{aligned} \tag{5.13}$$

Once more, only in the triangular case there appears the imaginary part of the Euler-Spence dilogarithm  $\text{Li}_2$ ; in this case the first line can be expressed in terms of the Bloch-Wigner<sup>8</sup> function  $D$ . By using Eq. (5.6) and by taking the cyclic sum we get

$$I(m_1, m_2, m_3, 2) = \frac{1}{8\pi^2\sqrt{-S}} D\left(\frac{\sqrt{-S} + i(m_1^2 + m_2^2 - m_3^2)}{2\sqrt{-S}}\right) + \text{cyc}\{1, 2, 3\}. \tag{5.15}$$

It is interesting to compare our result to formula (3.10) of [46]. Before doing this, it is worth noticing that such formula is correct as such only when the  $\Delta$  appearing there is negative, namely, in the triangular case; when  $z$  is real, one must replace the Bloch-Wigner function  $D$  in formula (3.10) of [46] with the second line of their formula (A.1).

<sup>8</sup> For general complex  $z$  the definition of the Bloch-Wigner function  $D(z)$  is

$$D(z) = \text{ImLi}_2(z) + \arg(1-z) \log|z|, \tag{5.14}$$

$D(z)$  and has a number of interesting properties [45,46].

To make the comparison it is also necessary to remove a typo in formula (3.10) of [46], the correct coefficient being  $4i\pi^2\mu^2$ . With this in mind, we get the interesting formula

$$\begin{aligned}
 2D\left(\frac{i\sqrt{-S} + m_1^2 - m_2^2 + m_3^2}{2m_1^2}\right) &= D\left(\frac{\sqrt{-S} + i(m_1^2 + m_2^2 - m_3^2)}{2\sqrt{-S}}\right) \\
 &+ D\left(\frac{\sqrt{-S} + i(m_1^2 - m_2^2 + m_3^2)}{2\sqrt{-S}}\right) \\
 &+ D\left(\frac{\sqrt{-S} + i(-m_1^2 + m_2^2 + m_3^2)}{2\sqrt{-S}}\right). \tag{5.16}
 \end{aligned}$$

The r.h.s. is a manifestly symmetric function of the masses. The above relation may be rewritten as a four term identity satisfied by the Bloch-Wigner function:

$$\begin{aligned}
 2D\left(\frac{2x+i}{2(x+y)}\right) &= 2D\left(\frac{2y+i}{2(x+y)}\right) \\
 &= D\left(\frac{1}{2} + ix\right) + D\left(\frac{1}{2} + iy\right) + D\left(\frac{1}{2} + \frac{i(1-4xy)}{4(x+y)}\right), \tag{5.17}
 \end{aligned}$$

valid for  $x$  and  $y$  real. Indeed, this identity can be obtained from the Kummer formula (2) in [45], by replacing

$$z = \frac{1 - z_2}{1 - z_1 - z_2}, \tag{5.18}$$

where  $z_1 = \frac{1}{2} + ix$ ,  $z_2 = \frac{1}{2} + iy$ . Then, Kummer’s formula gives

$$2D\left(\frac{2y+i}{2(x+y)}\right) = D\left(-\frac{1-z_1}{z_1}\right) + D\left(-\frac{1-z_2}{z_2}\right) + D\left(\frac{z_1z_2}{z_1+z_2}\right). \tag{5.19}$$

By using the identity ([45], (3))

$$D(w) = D\left(-\frac{1-w}{w}\right), \tag{5.20}$$

we get (5.17).

### 5.2.2. Non-triangular case

Here  $S > 0$  and the starting point is Eq. (4.3); we suppose that  $m_3 > m_1 + m_2$ . There might exist first and second order poles in the result but, again, their coefficients vanish. The zero-th order term of the Laurent series around  $D = 2$  now is given by

$$\begin{aligned}
 I(m_1, m_2, m_3, 2) &= \frac{\log(m_1m_2)\left(\log\left(\frac{m_1m_2}{16\pi^2}\right) + 2\gamma\right)}{8\pi^2\sqrt{S}} - \frac{\log(m_1m_3)\left(\log\left(\frac{m_1m_3}{16\pi^2}\right) + 2\gamma\right)}{8\pi^2\sqrt{S}} \\
 &- \frac{\log(m_2m_3)\left(\log\left(\frac{m_2m_3}{16\pi^2}\right) + 2\gamma\right)}{8\pi^2\sqrt{S}} + \frac{1}{48\sqrt{S}} + \frac{\log(S)(\log(S) + 4\gamma - 4\log(4\pi))}{32\pi^2\sqrt{S}} + \\
 &- \frac{2F_1''\left(\frac{1}{2}, 1, 1, \frac{4m_1^2m_2^2}{(m_1^2+m_2^2-m_3^2)^2}\right) + 4\left(\log\left(\frac{m_1m_2}{4\pi}\right) + \gamma\right)2F_1'\left(\frac{1}{2}, 1, 1, \frac{4m_1^2m_2^2}{(m_1^2+m_2^2-m_3^2)^2}\right)}{32\pi^2(m_1^2+m_2^2-m_3^2)}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 & - \frac{{}_2F_1''\left(\frac{1}{2}, 1, 1, \frac{4m_1^2m_2^2}{(m_1^2-m_2^2+m_3^2)^2}\right) + 4\left(\log\left(\frac{m_1m_3}{4\pi}\right) + \gamma\right) {}_2F_1'\left(\frac{1}{2}, 1, 1, \frac{4m_1^2m_3^2}{(m_1^2-m_2^2-m_3^2)^2}\right)}{32\pi^2(m_1^2-m_2^2+m_3^2)} \\
 & - \frac{{}_2F_1''\left(\frac{1}{2}, 1, 1, \frac{4m_2^2m_3^2}{(-m_1^2+m_2^2+m_3^2)^2}\right) + 4\left(\log\left(\frac{m_1m_2}{4\pi}\right) + \gamma\right) {}_2F_1'\left(\frac{1}{2}, 1, 1, \frac{4m_1^2m_2^2}{(-m_1^2+m_2^2+m_3^2)^2}\right)}{32\pi^2(-m_1^2+m_2^2+m_3^2)}
 \end{aligned} \tag{5.21}$$

where

$${}_2F_1'(a, b, c; x; z) = \frac{\partial}{\partial c} {}_2F_1(a, b, c; z)|_{c=x}, \quad {}_2F_1''(a, b, c; x; z) = \frac{\partial^2}{\partial c^2} {}_2F_1(a, b, c; z)|_{c=x} \tag{5.22}$$

For  $(a, b, c) = (\frac{1}{2}, 1, 1)$  they can be computed as follows. First, we use the Kummer relation and assume<sup>9</sup>  $0 \leq z < 1/2$  to write

$$\begin{aligned}
 {}_2F_1\left(\frac{1}{2}, 1; x; z\right) &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-z}} F_1\left(\frac{1}{2}, x-1; x; -\frac{z}{1-z}\right) \\
 &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-z}} \frac{\Gamma(x)}{\sqrt{\pi}\Gamma\left(x-\frac{1}{2}\right)} \int_0^1 \frac{dt}{\sqrt{t}} \frac{(1-t)^{x-\frac{3}{2}}}{\left(1+\frac{z}{1-z}t\right)^{x-1}}.
 \end{aligned} \tag{5.23}$$

Taking the derivative w.r.t.  $x$  in  $x = 1$  gives

$${}_2F_1'\left(\frac{1}{2}, 1; 1; z\right) = -\frac{1}{\sqrt{1-z}} \frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^1 dt \frac{1}{\sqrt{t(1-t)}} \log\left(1+\frac{z}{1-z}t\right). \tag{5.24}$$

After the first change of variable  $t = s^2$  one can then rewrite the logarithm as a sum of two logarithms with argument linear in  $s$ . We are then left with the sum of two integrals in which we take the changes  $u = \sqrt{1-s^2} - is$  and  $v = \sqrt{1-s^2} + is$ . After simple manipulations, one gets that the sum of the integrals can be recast in an integral on the unit circle around the origin of the complex plane. Using the residue theorem gives

$${}_2F_1'\left(\frac{1}{2}, 1; 1; z\right) = -\frac{2}{\sqrt{1-z}} \log\left(\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-z}}\right). \tag{5.25}$$

Similar manipulation can be used for the second derivative, giving

$$\begin{aligned}
 {}_2F_1''\left(\frac{1}{2}, 1; 1; z\right) &= -\frac{\pi^2}{3} \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-z}} + \frac{8 \log 2}{\sqrt{1-z}} \log\left(\frac{2}{z}(z-1+\sqrt{1-z})\right) \\
 &+ \frac{2}{\sqrt{1-z}} \left(\text{Li}_2\left(\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-z}}\right) - \text{Li}_2\left(\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2} \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-z}}\right)\right) \\
 &+ \frac{2}{\sqrt{1-z}} \log\left(\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-z}}\right) \log\left(-\frac{4z}{1-z}\right).
 \end{aligned} \tag{5.26}$$

<sup>9</sup> at the end, this condition can be relaxed by analytic continuation.

One sees that, for  $0 < z < 1$  the argument of the logarithm in the second term at the RHS is negative and the argument of the first dilogarithm is greater than one. However, proceeding carefully, one sees that the two imaginary parts arising from those terms compensate each other and the formula stays real as the LHS is real. Actually the above equation can be rewritten<sup>10</sup> in a form which is free of the above shortcomings:

$${}_2F_1''\left(\frac{1}{2}, 1; 1; z\right) = \frac{2}{\sqrt{1-z}} \left( \log^2\left(\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-z}}\right) - 2\text{Li}_2\left(\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2} \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-z}}\right) \right). \quad (5.30)$$

By inserting Eqs. (5.25) and (5.30) in (5.21) one gets an expression for the non-triangular case. The final result is not particularly illuminating and we do not write it down explicitly.

However, there is an important point to be mentioned here. From (5.26), we see that in the final formula the Euler-Spence dilogarithms are evaluated at different real points. The Bloch-Wigner function, which is defined as the imaginary part of the dilogarithm plus a correction, does not appear in the non-triangular case (and in general for complex masses). The expression (3.10) in [46] thus contains the  $D(z)$  function exclusively in the triangular case. We can further notice that the two cases (triangular and non) are related by analytic continuation in the complex plane, while the Bloch-Wigner dilogarithm is not analytic in the complex plane, and, as such, not particularly relevant for quantum field theory.

### 5.3. Even dimensions: $D = 4$

Here we discuss only the triangular case  $S < 0$ . For general even  $D$ , beyond the first-order pole from the first line, we have also in general second-order pole contribution from the remaining lines, since  $\cos(\pi d) - 1 = -2 \sin^2(\pi \varepsilon)$ . We limit the discussion to  $D = 4$  which is obviously the physically relevant one but has all the features of general case.

A Laurent expansion gives

$$\begin{aligned} I(m_1, m_2, m_3, 4 + (d - 4)) &= -\frac{m_1^2 + m_2^2 + m_3^2}{128\pi^4(d - 4)^2} + \\ &+ \frac{(3 - 2\gamma + \log(16\pi^2))(m_1^2 + m_2^2 + m_3^2)}{256\pi^4(d - 4)} - \frac{m_1^2 \log(m_1) + m_2^2 \log(m_2) + m_3^2 \log(m_3)}{64\pi^4(d - 4)} \\ &+ \frac{\sqrt{-S} \left( \log\left(-\frac{S}{16\pi^2}\right) + 2\gamma - 3 \right)}{512\pi^3} \\ &- \left( \frac{(m_1^2 + m_2^2 - m_3^2) \left( {}_2\dot{F}_1\left(1, 0, \frac{3}{2}, M_{123}^2\right) + \left(2 - 2 \log\left(\frac{m_1^2 m_2^2}{16\pi^2}\right) - 4\gamma\right) {}_2\dot{F}_1\left(1, 0, \frac{3}{2}, M_{123}^2\right) \right)}{1024\pi^4} \right) \end{aligned}$$

<sup>10</sup> This can be made by using the identities

$$\text{Li}_2(z) = \frac{\pi^2}{6} - \text{Li}_2(1 - z) - \log z \log(1 - z), \quad (5.27)$$

$$\log\left(-\frac{4z}{1-z}\right) = \log\left(\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2} \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-z}}\right) + \log\left(\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-z}}\right) + 4\log 2, \quad (5.28)$$

$$\log\left(\frac{2}{z}(z - 1 + \sqrt{1-z})\right) = -\log\left(\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-z}}\right). \quad (5.29)$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 &+ \text{cyclic} \Big) \\
 &- \frac{1}{512\pi^4} \left( (m_1^2 + m_2^2 + m_3^2) \left( 1 + \frac{\pi^2}{6} \right) - 2(m_1^2 L_{m_1} + m_2^2 L_{m_2} + m_3^2 L_{m_3}) \right. \\
 &+ m_1^2 L_{m_1}^2 + m_2^2 L_{m_2}^2 + m_3^2 L_{m_3}^2 + (m_1^2 + m_2^2 - m_3^2) L_{m_1} L_{m_2} \\
 &\left. + (m_1^2 - m_2^2 + m_3^2) L_{m_1} L_{m_3} + (m_1^2 + m_2^2 - m_3^2) L_{m_2} L_{m_3} \right), \tag{5.31}
 \end{aligned}$$

where

$$L_a := \log \frac{a^2}{4\pi} + \gamma.$$

Now, by using steps similar to those sketched in the two-dimensional case we get:

$${}_2\dot{F}_1 \left( 1, 0; \frac{3}{2}; z \right) = 2 - 2\sqrt{\frac{1-z}{z}} \arctan \sqrt{\frac{z}{1-z}} \tag{5.32}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 {}_2\ddot{F}_1 \left( 1, 0; \frac{3}{2}; z \right) &= 4i\sqrt{\frac{1-z}{z}} \left( \text{Li}_2 \left( \frac{1 + i\sqrt{\frac{1-z}{z}}}{1 - i\sqrt{\frac{1-z}{z}}} \right) + \frac{\pi^2}{12} - \arctan^2 \sqrt{\frac{z}{1-z}} \right) \\
 &+ 4\sqrt{\frac{1-z}{z}} \arctan \sqrt{\frac{z}{1-z}} (\log(4 - 4z) - 2) + 8. \tag{5.33}
 \end{aligned}$$

In the triangular case  $z \in (0, 1)$  and we can write

$$\frac{1 + i\sqrt{\frac{1-z}{z}}}{1 - i\sqrt{\frac{1-z}{z}}} = e^{2i\psi}, \quad \psi = \arctan \sqrt{\frac{1-z}{z}} = \frac{\pi}{2} - \arctan \sqrt{\frac{z}{1-z}}.$$

The RHS of Eq. (5.33) is therefore real, as it can be checked by using the identity

$$\text{Li}_2(e^{ix}) = \frac{\pi^2}{6} - \frac{\pi}{2}x + \frac{1}{4}x^2 + iCl_2(x), \tag{5.34}$$

valid for  $x \in (-\pi, \pi)$ , where  $Cl_2$  is the Clausen function defined by

$$Cl_2(x) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{\sin(nx)}{n^2} = - \int_0^x \log \left| 2 \sin \frac{t}{2} \right| dt. \tag{5.35}$$

More specifically, we can write

$$\begin{aligned}
 {}_2\dot{F}_1 \left( 1, 0; \frac{3}{2}; \frac{(a^2 + b^2 - c^2)^2}{4a^2b^2} \right) &= 2 + i \frac{\sqrt{-S}}{a^2 + b^2 - c^2} \log \frac{\sqrt{-S} + i(a^2 + b^2 - c^2)}{\sqrt{-S} - i(a^2 + b^2 - c^2)} \\
 {}_2\ddot{F}_1 \left( 1, 0; \frac{3}{2}; \frac{(a^2 + b^2 - c^2)^2}{4a^2b^2} \right) &= 4i \frac{\sqrt{-S}}{a^2 + b^2 - c^2} \left( \text{Li}_2 \left( \frac{a^2 + b^2 - c^2 + i\sqrt{-S}}{a^2 + b^2 - c^2 - i\sqrt{-S}} \right) \right. \\
 &\left. + \frac{\pi^2}{12} + \frac{1}{4} \log^2 \frac{\sqrt{-S} + i(a^2 + b^2 - c^2)}{\sqrt{-S} - i(a^2 + b^2 - c^2)} \right) \tag{5.36}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$-\frac{2i\sqrt{-S}}{a^2 + b^2 - c^2} \log \frac{\sqrt{-S} + i(a^2 + b^2 - c^2)}{\sqrt{-S} - i(a^2 + b^2 - c^2)} \left( \log \frac{-S}{a^2 b^2} - 2 \right) + 8. \tag{5.37}$$

Replaced in  $I(m_1, m_2, m_3, 4 + (d - 4))$  it gives

$$\begin{aligned} I(m_1, m_2, m_3, 4 + (d - 4)) &= -\frac{m_1^2 + m_2^2 + m_3^2}{128\pi^4(d - 4)^2} + \\ &+ \frac{3(m_1^2 + m_2^2 + m_3^2) - 2(m_1^2 L_{m_1} + m_2^2 L_{m_2} + m_3^2 L_{m_3})}{256\pi^4(d - 4)} \\ &- \frac{1}{512\pi^4} \left( (m_1^2 + m_2^2 + m_3^2) \left( 7 + \frac{\pi^2}{6} \right) - 6(m_1^2 L_{m_1} + m_2^2 L_{m_2} + m_3^2 L_{m_3}) \right. \\ &+ m_1^2 L_{m_1}^2 + m_2^2 L_{m_2}^2 + m_3^2 L_{m_3}^2 + (m_1^2 + m_2^2 - m_3^2) L_{m_1} L_{m_2} \\ &+ (m_1^2 - m_2^2 + m_3^2) L_{m_1} L_{m_3} + (m_1^2 + m_2^2 - m_3^2) L_{m_2} L_{m_3} \Big) \\ &- \frac{i\sqrt{-S}}{256\pi^4} \left[ \text{Li}_2 \left( \frac{m_1^2 + m_2^2 - m_3^2 + i\sqrt{-S}}{m_1^2 + m_2^2 - m_3^2 - i\sqrt{-S}} \right) \right. \\ &\left. + \frac{\pi^2}{12} + \frac{1}{4} \log^2 \frac{\sqrt{-S} + i(m_1^2 + m_2^2 - m_3^2)}{\sqrt{-S} - i(m_1^2 + m_2^2 - m_3^2)} + \text{cyc}\{1, 2, 3\} \right]. \end{aligned} \tag{5.38}$$

By using the above relation with the Clausen function, with  $\psi \equiv \frac{\pi}{2} - \theta_{ijk}$ , after introducing the Lobachevsky function

$$L(\theta) = -\int_0^\theta dx \log |\cos x|, \tag{5.39}$$

so that

$$L(\theta_{ijk}) = \theta_{ijk} \log 2 - \frac{1}{2} Cl_2(\pi - 2\theta_{ijk}), \tag{5.40}$$

and finally using (5.7), we get

$$\begin{aligned} i \left[ \text{Li}_2 \left( \frac{m_1^2 + m_2^2 - m_3^2 + i\sqrt{-S}}{m_1^2 + m_2^2 - m_3^2 - i\sqrt{-S}} \right) + \frac{\pi^2}{12} + \frac{1}{4} \log^2 \frac{\sqrt{-S} + i(m_1^2 + m_2^2 - m_3^2)}{\sqrt{-S} - i(m_1^2 + m_2^2 - m_3^2)} \right. \\ \left. + \text{cyc}\{1, 2, 3\} \right] &= -(Cl_2(\pi - 2\theta_{123}) + Cl_2(\pi - 2\theta_{231}) + Cl_2(\pi - 2\theta_{312})) \\ &= (L(\theta_{123}) + L(\theta_{231}) + L(\theta_{312}) - \frac{\pi}{2} \log 2). \end{aligned} \tag{5.41}$$

Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned} I(m_1, m_2, m_3, 4 + (d - 4)) &= -\frac{m_1^2 + m_2^2 + m_3^2}{128\pi^4(d - 4)^2} + \\ &+ \frac{3(m_1^2 + m_2^2 + m_3^2) - 2(m_1^2 L_{m_1} + m_2^2 L_{m_2} + m_3^2 L_{m_3})}{256\pi^4(d - 4)} \\ &- \frac{1}{512\pi^4} \left( (m_1^2 + m_2^2 + m_3^2) \left( 7 + \frac{\pi^2}{6} \right) - 6(m_1^2 L_{m_1} + m_2^2 L_{m_2} + m_3^2 L_{m_3}) \right) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 &+ m_1^2 L_{m_1}^2 + m_2^2 L_{m_2}^2 + m_3^2 L_{m_3}^2 + (m_1^2 + m_2^2 - m_3^2) L_{m_1} L_{m_2} \\
 &+ (m_1^2 - m_2^2 + m_3^2) L_{m_1} L_{m_3} + (m_1^2 + m_2^2 - m_3^2) L_{m_2} L_{m_3} \\
 &+ \frac{\sqrt{-S}}{128\pi^4} \left( L(\theta_{123}) + L(\theta_{231}) + L(\theta_{312}) - \frac{\pi}{2} \log 2 \right).
 \end{aligned} \tag{5.42}$$

This coincides with formula (4.20) in [47].

#### 5.4. The 1-loop sunset

A little adaption of the above results provides a formula for the sunset at 1-loop: this is nothing but the Fourier transform of the product of two Schwinger functions

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{Sun}(k, m_2, m_3, d) &= \int e^{ikx} G_{m_2}(x) G_{m_3}(x) dx = \\
 &= \frac{1}{(2\pi)^{\frac{d}{2}}} \left( \frac{k}{m_2 m_3} \right)^{1-\frac{d}{2}} \int r^{2-\frac{d}{2}} J_{\frac{d}{2}-1}(kr) K_{\frac{d}{2}-1}(m_2 r) K_{\frac{d}{2}-1}(m_3 r) dr.
 \end{aligned} \tag{5.43}$$

By using Eqs. (4.2) we immediately get

$$\text{Sun} = \frac{m_3^{d-2} {}_2F_1\left(\frac{1}{2}, 1; \frac{d}{2}; -\frac{4m_2^2 k^2}{(-m_2^2 + m_3^2 - k^2)^2}\right)}{2^d \pi^{\frac{d}{2}-1} \sin\left(\frac{\pi d}{2}\right) \Gamma\left(\frac{d}{2}\right) (m_2^2 - m_3^2 + k^2)} - \frac{m_2^{d-2} {}_2F_1\left(\frac{1}{2}, 1; \frac{d}{2}; -\frac{4m_2^2 k^2}{(m_2^2 - m_3^2 - k^2)^2}\right)}{2^d \pi^{\frac{d}{2}-1} \sin\left(\frac{\pi d}{2}\right) \Gamma\left(\frac{d}{2}\right) (m_2^2 - m_3^2 - k^2)} \tag{5.44}$$

valid for values of  $k$  small enough. In the limit where the two masses are equal the above formula reduces to

$$\text{Sun}(k, m, m, d) = \frac{2m^{d-2} \Gamma\left(1 - \frac{d}{2}\right) {}_2F_1\left(\frac{1}{2}, 1; \frac{d}{2}; -\frac{4m^2}{k^2}\right)}{2^d \pi^{\frac{d}{2}} k^2}. \tag{5.45}$$

Similarly, by using Eqs. (4.12) and similar, we get

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{Sun} &= - \frac{(d-2) \Gamma\left(1 - \frac{d}{2}\right) (-m_2^2 + m_3^2 + k^2) {}_2F_1\left(1, 2 - \frac{d}{2}; \frac{3}{2}; -\frac{(m_2^2 - m_3^2 - k^2)^2}{4m_2^2 k^2}\right)}{2^{d+2} \pi^{\frac{d}{2}} m_2^{4-d} k^2} \\
 &- \frac{(d-2) \Gamma\left(1 - \frac{d}{2}\right) (m_2^2 - m_3^2 + k^2) {}_2F_1\left(1, 2 - \frac{d}{2}; \frac{3}{2}; -\frac{(m_2^2 - m_3^2 + k^2)^2}{4m_3^2 k^2}\right)}{2^{d+2} \pi^{\frac{d}{2}} m_3^{4-d} k^2}
 \end{aligned} \tag{5.46}$$

valid for values of  $k$  large enough. In the limit where the two masses are equal the above formula reduces to

$$\text{Sun}(k, m, m, d) = \frac{(4m^2 + k^2)^2 {}_2F_1\left(1, 2 - \frac{d}{2}; -\frac{1}{2}; -\frac{k^2}{4m^2}\right) + 4(d-6)m^2 k^2 - 16m^4}{2^d \pi^{\frac{d}{2}-1} (d-5)(d-3) \sin\left(\frac{\pi d}{2}\right) \Gamma\left(\frac{d}{2} - 1\right) m^{4-d} k^4}. \tag{5.47}$$

5.5. Three loops: an example

Here the general task would be to compute

$$\begin{aligned}
 I(m_1, m_2, m_3, m_4, d) &= \int G_{m_1}(x)G_{m_2}(x)G_{m_3}(x)G_{m_4}(x)dx \\
 &= \frac{\omega_d}{(2\pi)^{2d}} \left( \frac{1}{m_1 m_2 m_3 m_4} \right)^{1-\frac{d}{2}} K(m_1, m_2, m_3, m_4 d)
 \end{aligned} \tag{5.48}$$

where

$$K(m_1, m_2, m_3, m_4, d) = \int_0^\infty r^{3-d} K_{\frac{d}{2}-1}(m_1 r) K_{\frac{d}{2}-1}(m_2 r) K_{\frac{d}{2}-1}(m_3 r) K_{\frac{d}{2}-1}(m_4 r) dr \tag{5.49}$$

The same methods applied before allow to derive formulae in special cases. For instance

$$\begin{aligned}
 K(m, m, M, M, d) &= \int_0^\infty r^{3-d} K_{\frac{d}{2}-1}(mr) K_{\frac{d}{2}-1}(mr) K_{\frac{d}{2}-1}(Mr) K_{\frac{d}{2}-1}(Mr) dr = \\
 &= \frac{\pi^{3/2} 2^{d-6} m^{2d-6} M^{2-d} \Gamma(4 - \frac{3d}{2}) \Gamma(3-d) \Gamma(\frac{d}{2}-1) {}_2F_1\left(4 - \frac{3d}{2}, \frac{3-d}{2}; \frac{7}{2} - d; \frac{M^2}{m^2}\right)}{\sin\left(\frac{\pi d}{2}\right) \Gamma\left(\frac{7}{2} - d\right)} \\
 &= \frac{\pi 2^{2-d} m^{d-4} \Gamma\left(1 - \frac{d}{2}\right) {}_3F_2\left(\frac{1}{2}, 1, 3-d; \frac{5}{2} - \frac{d}{2}, \frac{d}{2}; \frac{M^2}{m^2}\right)}{(d-3) \sin^2\left(\frac{\pi d}{2}\right) \Gamma\left(\frac{d}{2}-1\right)} \\
 &+ \frac{\pi 2^{-d-1} M^{d-2} \Gamma\left(1 - \frac{d}{2}\right) \Gamma\left(2 - \frac{d}{2}\right) {}_3F_2\left(1, 2 - \frac{d}{2}, \frac{d}{2} - \frac{1}{2}; \frac{3}{2}, d-1; \frac{M^2}{m^2}\right)}{m^2 \sin\left(\frac{\pi d}{2}\right)}
 \end{aligned} \tag{5.50}$$

The most interesting case  $M = m$  follows.

6. PDE's for banana integrals: a summary

Here we reconsider the method of PDEs applied to banana integrals in  $x$ -space.

The usual way to tackle the calculation of Feynman's diagrams is to start from their momentum space representations. For the watermelon, this is

$$F(u, v, z, d) = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^{3d}} \int \frac{e^{-ikx}}{k^2 + u} \frac{e^{-iqx}}{q^2 + v} \frac{e^{-ipx}}{p^2 + z} dkdqdpdx \tag{6.1}$$

$$= \frac{1}{(2\pi)^{2d}} \int \frac{dqdk}{(k^2 + u)(q^2 + v)((q+k)^2 + z)} = I(\sqrt{u}, \sqrt{v}, \sqrt{z}, d). \tag{6.2}$$

The trick to deduce a partial differential equation (PDE) for  $F(u, v, z, d)$  makes use of Stokes' theorem as, for instance, in the following example:

$$\begin{aligned}
 0 &= \frac{1}{(2\pi)^{2d}} \int dqdk \frac{\partial}{\partial k^\mu} \frac{k^\mu}{(k^2 + u)(q^2 + v)((q+k)^2 + z)} \\
 &= F(d-3) - 2u \frac{\partial F}{\partial u} - (u-v+z) \frac{\partial F}{\partial z} - J(u, v, z),
 \end{aligned} \tag{6.3}$$

where

$$J(u, v, z) = -\frac{\Gamma\left(1 - \frac{d}{2}\right) \Gamma\left(2 - \frac{d}{2}\right) \left(u^{\frac{d}{2}-1} - v^{\frac{d}{2}-1}\right) z^{\frac{d}{2}-2}}{(4\pi)^d} \tag{6.4}$$

satisfies the identity

$$J(u, v, z)z + J(z, u, v)v + J(v, z, u)u = 0. \tag{6.5}$$

Interchanging  $u$  and  $v$  in Eq. (6.3) we get a second independent equation:

$$F(d - 3) - 2v \frac{\partial F}{\partial v} - (v - u + z) \frac{\partial F}{\partial z} - J(u, v, z) = 0. \tag{6.6}$$

By summing and subtracting Eqs. (6.3) and (6.6) they are replaced by<sup>11</sup>

$$u \frac{\partial F}{\partial u} - v \frac{\partial F}{\partial v} + (u - v) \frac{\partial F}{\partial z} + J(u, v, z) = 0, \tag{6.8}$$

$$(d - 3)F - u \frac{\partial F}{\partial u} - v \frac{\partial F}{\partial v} - z \frac{\partial F}{\partial z} = 0. \tag{6.9}$$

A third independent equation may be obtained by interchanging the roles of  $v$  and  $z$  in Eq. (6.8)

$$u \frac{\partial F}{\partial u} - z \frac{\partial F}{\partial z} + (u - z) \frac{\partial F}{\partial v} + J(u, z, v) = 0. \tag{6.10}$$

The remaining equation obtained by interchanging  $u$  and  $z$  is not independent of the other two; however, the sum of the three equations obtained in this way coincide with the symmetric equation solved in [47] to derive a formula for the watermelon:

$$(u - v) \frac{\partial F}{\partial z} + (v - z) \frac{\partial F}{\partial u} + (z - u) \frac{\partial F}{\partial v} + J(u, v, z) + J(z, u, v) + J(v, z, u) = 0. \tag{6.11}$$

Because of their independence and their linearity, Eqs. (6.8), (6.9) and (6.10) may be used to disentangle the partial derivatives of  $F$ :

$$\frac{\partial F}{\partial u} = \frac{(d - 3)(u - v - z)F(u, v, z) + 2J(u, v, z)z + J(v, z, u)(u - v + z)}{u^2 + v^2 + z^2 - 2uv - 2uz - 2vz}; \tag{6.12}$$

the other derivatives  $\partial F/\partial v$  and  $\partial F/\partial z$  are obtained by cyclic permutations of the variables  $u, v$  and  $z$ .

For example, the derivative of the watermelon w.r.t. say  $m_1^2$  takes the following form:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial I}{\partial m_1^2} &= I(m_1, m_2, m_3) \frac{\partial \log S^{\frac{d-3}{2}}}{\partial m_1^2} + \frac{\Gamma\left(1 - \frac{d}{2}\right) \Gamma\left(2 - \frac{d}{2}\right)}{(4\pi)^d} \times \\ &\times \frac{2m_1^4 m_2^d m_3^d - m_1^d m_2^2 m_3^d (m_1^2 + m_2^2 - m_3^2) - m_1^d m_2^d m_3^2 (m_1^2 - m_2^2 + m_3^2)}{m_1^4 m_2^2 m_3^2 S(m_1, m_2, m_3)}. \end{aligned} \tag{6.13}$$

<sup>11</sup> Eqs (6.8) and (6.9) follow directly from the vanishing of the integrals

$$\int dq dk \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial k^\mu} \frac{k^\mu}{(k^2 + u)(q^2 + v)((q + k)^2 + z)} \pm \frac{\partial}{\partial q^\mu} \frac{q^\mu}{(k^2 + u)(q^2 + v)((q + k)^2 + z)} \right) = 0 \tag{6.7}$$

Another noticeable symmetric equation where the Symanzik polynomial explicitly appears:

$$\frac{\partial F}{\partial u} + \frac{\partial F}{\partial v} + \frac{\partial F}{\partial z} = - \frac{(d-3)(u+v+z)F(u,v,z)}{u^2+v^2+z^2-2uv-2uz-2vz} + \frac{J(u,v,z)(v-u) + J(v,z,u)(z-v) + J(z,u,v)(u-z)}{u^2+v^2+z^2-2uv-2uz-2vz}. \tag{6.14}$$

The conclusion is that the set of equations (6.6), (6.8), and (6.10) fully characterizes the banana integral we are analyzing; eq. (6.6) is just reflecting the homogeneity of the integral. This is due to the fact that the set of equations obtained by differentiating the integral w.r.t. the masses is a  $D$ -module of dimension 3.

The  $D$ -module for the two-loop banana integral (or the sunrise) is well-known as well as the equations discussed in the present section. They are equivalent to the equations obtained in [44] or the ones of [47]. Then, one usually looks for a Gröbner basis of the module; here we do not, since we are investigating a way to determine an optimal expression for the explicit solution of the integral rather than a way for constructing a basis for such equations. In passing we remark that the equations exhibited in [47] look to us more advantageous than the ones in [44] since they lead directly to an expression of the two-loop banana integral manifestly symmetric in the masses; this simplifies the task of the analytic continuation to the physical range of interest. While the analysis in [44] is complete from the point of view of characterizing and determining a set of Master Integrals, it would make the derivations of the results of [47] much harder.

### 7. PDE’s for loop diagrams: a fresh look in position space

In this section we propose a way to derive convenient equations suitable for providing explicit solutions of the banana integrals with arbitrary masses and dimensions. We do this directly in  $x$ -space. The main idea is that in order to look for more symmetric representations of the integral one should look for symmetric expressions of the nonhomogeneous terms. Inspired by [47], we look for a way to reproduce their equations for the two-loop banana integral, in a manner that can be extended to higher loop cases.

Let us focus again on Eq. (6.3). A useful modification is to apply Stokes’ trick to the r.h.s. of Eq. (6.1) as follows:

$$\frac{1}{(2\pi)^{3d}} \int \frac{\partial}{\partial k^\mu} \frac{k^\mu e^{-ikx}}{k^2+u} \frac{e^{-iqx}}{q^2+v} \frac{e^{-ipx}}{p^2+z} dkdqdpdx = 0. \tag{7.1}$$

At this point we may perform first the integration over the  $k$  variable (and leave the integration over  $x$  at the last step): formally we get

$$\frac{1}{(2\pi)^d} \int \frac{\partial}{\partial k^\mu} \frac{k^\mu e^{-ikx}}{k^2+m^2} dk = (d-2)G_m^d(x) - 2m^2 \partial_{m^2} G_m^d(x) - 2\pi r^2 G_m^{d+2}(x) = 0. \tag{7.2}$$

In terms of MacDonald functions the above identity is indeed well-known (Eq. (7.6)) and it amounts to

$$m^{\frac{d}{2}} r^{2-\frac{d}{2}} K_{-\frac{d}{2}}(mr) - (d-2)m^{\frac{d}{2}-1} r^{1-\frac{d}{2}} K_{1-\frac{d}{2}}(mr) - m^{\frac{d}{2}} r^{2-\frac{d}{2}} K_{2-\frac{d}{2}}(mr) = 0. \tag{7.3}$$

The conclusion is summarized in the following

**Lemma 7.1.** *The partial differential equation (6.3) is equivalent to the recurrence relation (7.3) among Macdonald functions.*

The point that we want to make now is that indeed all the PDEs described in Sect. 6 arise from the modified Bessel equation and the known recursion relations for the Macdonald functions.<sup>12</sup>

Before proceeding it is worthwhile to stress that our method might work also in curved space-times where a global linear momentum space is not available; furthermore, it may also be used to obtain rapidly new equations also in flat space as we will do at the end of this chapter.

Let us start by exhibiting a few basic formulae.

$$\frac{\partial G_m^d(r)}{\partial m^2} = -\frac{1}{2(2\pi)^{\frac{d}{2}}} \left(\frac{r}{m}\right)^{\frac{4-d}{2}} K_{\frac{d-d}{2}}(mr) = -\frac{1}{4\pi} G_m^{d-2}(r), \tag{7.8}$$

where we used both (7.5) and (7.6). Similarly

$$\frac{\partial G_m^d(r)}{\partial r} = -\frac{1}{(2\pi)^{\frac{d}{2}}} m^{\frac{d}{2}} r^{1-\frac{d}{2}} K_{\frac{d}{2}}(mr) = -2\pi r G^{d+2}(r). \tag{7.9}$$

Together they give

$$\partial_r \partial_{m^2} G_m^d(r) = \frac{r}{2} G_m^d(r). \tag{7.10}$$

Furthermore

$$\frac{\partial^2 G_m^d(r)}{\partial r^2} = m^2 G_m^d(r) + 2\pi(d-1)G_m^{d+2}(r). \tag{7.11}$$

Finally, it is useful to rewrite also the recurrence (7.7) in terms of the Schwinger functions:

$$(d-2)G_m^d(r) - 2\pi r^2 G_m^{d+2}(r) + \frac{m^2}{2\pi} G_m^{d-2}(r) = 0. \tag{7.12}$$

Now let us proceed with the derivation of two other PDEs by working only in  $x$ -space. Using Eqs. (7.8), (7.9) and (7.12) we get (the argument  $r$  in  $G$  is omitted):

$$\begin{aligned} m_1^2 \frac{\partial I}{\partial m_1^2} &= -\frac{m_1^2 \omega_d}{4\pi} \int_0^\infty r^{d-1} G_{m_1}^{d-2} G_{m_2}^d G_{m_3}^d dr \\ &= \frac{\omega_d}{2} (d-2) \int_0^\infty r^{d-1} G_{m_1}^d G_{m_2}^d G_{m_3}^d dr - \pi \omega_d \int_0^\infty r^{d+1} G_{m_1}^{d+2} G_{m_2}^d G_{m_3}^d dr \\ &= \left(\frac{d}{2} - 1\right) I + \frac{\omega_d}{2} \int_0^\infty r^d (\partial_r G_{m_1}^d) G_{m_2}^d G_{m_3}^d dr. \end{aligned} \tag{7.13}$$

<sup>12</sup> We list them here for reference [49]:

$$z^2 \partial_z^2 K_\nu(z) + z \partial_z K_\nu(z) - (z^2 + \nu^2) K_\nu(z) = 0, \tag{7.4}$$

$$2\partial_z K_\nu(z) + K_{\nu-1}(z) + K_{\nu+1}(z) = 0, \tag{7.5}$$

$$K_{\nu-1}(z) - K_{\nu+1}(z) + 2\nu z^{-1} K_\nu(z) = 0, \tag{7.6}$$

$$\partial_r (r^\nu K_\nu(mr)) + mr^\nu K_{\nu-1}(mr) = 0. \tag{7.7}$$

Symmetrization in the masses gives

$$\left(m_1^2 \partial_{m_1^2} + m_2^2 \partial_{m_2^2} + m_3^2 \partial_{m_3^2}\right) I = 3 \left(\frac{d}{2} - 1\right) I + \frac{\omega_d}{2} \int_0^\infty r^d \partial_r \left(G_{m_1}^d G_{m_2}^d G_{m_3}^d\right) dr. \quad (7.14)$$

When  $0 < \text{Re}(d) < 3$  the boundary term obtained by partial integration vanishes and we recover Eq. (6.9):

$$\left(m_1^2 \partial_{m_1^2} + m_2^2 \partial_{m_2^2} + m_3^2 \partial_{m_3^2}\right) I = (d - 3)I. \quad (7.15)$$

Finally, the analyticity properties of the function  $I(m_1, m_2, m_3, d)$  guarantee that Eq. (7.15) holds without restriction on the dimension  $d$ .

In the following example, the role of boundary terms at  $r = 0$  may be better appreciated. By interchanging the role of  $m_1$  and  $m_2$  in Eq. (7.13) we get

$$\begin{aligned} \left(m_1^2 \partial_{m_1^2} - m_2^2 \partial_{m_2^2}\right) I &= \frac{\omega_d}{2} \int_0^\infty r^d G_{m_3}^d \left(G_{m_2}^d \partial_r G_{m_1}^d - G_{m_1}^d \partial_r G_{m_2}^d\right) dr \\ &= \omega_d \partial_{m_3^2} \int_0^\infty r^{d-1} \partial_r G_{m_3}^d \left(G_{m_2}^d \partial_r G_{m_1}^d - G_{m_1}^d \partial_r G_{m_2}^d\right) dr \\ &= b.t. - \omega_d \partial_{m_3^2} \int_0^\infty (d-1) r^{d-2} G_{m_3}^d \left(G_{m_2}^d \partial_r G_{m_1}^d - G_{m_1}^d \partial_r G_{m_2}^d\right) dr \\ &\quad - \omega_d \partial_{m_3^2} \int_0^\infty r^{d-1} G_{m_3}^d \left(G_{m_2}^d \partial_r^2 G_{m_1}^d - G_{m_1}^d \partial_r^2 G_{m_2}^d\right) dr. \end{aligned} \quad (7.16)$$

A comment is in order concerning the second step, where we used Eq. (7.10): in that equation, the derivative w.r.t.  $m^2$  cancels a term that close to  $r = 0$  behaves differently than at the l.h.s.; when the derivative is taken outside the integral the convergence of the latter gets worst and it only works for  $0 < \text{Re}(d) < 2$ . In the third step, we integrated by parts denoting by *b.t.* the boundary terms. By inserting Eq. (7.9) in the first line and Eq. (7.11) in the second we get the following equation:

$$\left(m_1^2 \partial_{m_1^2} - m_2^2 \partial_{m_2^2}\right) I = b.t. - (m_1^2 - m_2^2) \partial_{m_3^2} I. \quad (7.17)$$

There remains the evaluation of the boundary terms. For  $0 < \text{Re}(d) < 2$  the leading terms of the Schwinger function at  $r \sim 0$  are

$$G_m^d(r) \simeq \frac{\Gamma(1 - \frac{d}{2})}{(4\pi)^{\frac{d}{2}}} m^{d-2} + \frac{\Gamma(\frac{d}{2} - 1)}{4\pi^{\frac{d}{2}}} r^{2-d}, \quad \partial_r G_m^d(r) \simeq -\frac{\Gamma(\frac{d}{2})}{2\pi^{\frac{d}{2}}} r^{1-d} \quad (7.18)$$

so that

$$\begin{aligned} b.t. &= \omega_d \partial_{m_3^2} \int_0^\infty \frac{d}{dr} \left[ r^{d-1} G_{m_3}^d \left(G_{m_2}^d \frac{d}{dr} G_{m_1}^d - G_{m_1}^d \frac{d}{dr} G_{m_2}^d\right) \right] dr \\ &= \omega_d \lim_{r \rightarrow 0} \left[ r^{d-1} \partial_{m_3^2} G_{m_3}^d \left(G_{m_1}^d \partial_r G_{m_2}^d - G_{m_2}^d \partial_r G_{m_1}^d\right) \right] \end{aligned}$$

$$= -\frac{\partial G_{m_3}^d(0)}{\partial m_3^2} \left( G_{m_1}^d(0) - G_{m_2}^d(0) \right) = -J(m_1^2, m_2^2, m_3^2). \quad (7.19)$$

All in all, we recover Eq. (6.8):

$$\left( m_1^2 \partial_{m_1^2} - m_2^2 \partial_{m_2^2} \right) I + (m_1^2 - m_2^2) \partial_{m_3^2} I + J(m_1^2, m_2^2, m_3^2) = 0. \quad (7.20)$$

## 8. Conclusions and perspectives

By considering the explicit example of zero-momentum banana integrals with arbitrary masses and in any dimensions, we have investigated the potentiality of using the configuration space representation to compute the Feynman integrals. In particular, we studied very explicitly the case of two loops. After expressing the banana integral as an integral of the product of three Macdonald functions, we have used two strategies in order to compute them. On one hand, by means of certain Bailey's formulas known in the mathematical literature, we have expressed the banana integral as a combination of  $F_4$  Appel's functions. On the other hand, we have shown that quite simple manipulations of the series expansion of the modified Bessel functions it is possible to rewrite the banana integral as a combination of (much simpler)  ${}_2F_1$  hypergeometric functions, manifestly symmetric in the masses, a result directly comparable to the one in [47] but obtained in an elementary way, without recurring to the solution of differential equations. Moreover, we studied the analytic extension of such solutions thus providing the necessary formula for all possible physical cases. Interestingly, by comparing the two different expressions, we get an interesting relation between certain combinations of  $F_4$  Appel's functions and corresponding combinations of Gauss' hypergeometric functions.

We have then investigated the Picard-Fuchs equations associated with the banana integrals by showing that they can be obtained in a quite elementary way from the configuration space representation: they are simply a direct consequence of the standard recursive relations satisfied by the modified Bessel functions and the modified Bessel equation.

There are several possible perspectives we want to consider for future work. First, it could be interesting to generalize our construction to the case of non-zero external momentum, for applications to scattering theory. Another possibility is to consider more general zero momentum loop integrals as, e.g., the ones necessary to compute the 3-loops effective potential for the standard model. Further, by combining with the methods in [35,36], it may be that one can identify a more general relation with cohomological structures and with the intersection theory methods.

Finally, and perhaps more interesting for justifying the configuration space representation, is to try applying the same philosophy to the case of quantum field theory on a curved background, where the momentum representation is not available. Some of these topics are under consideration for further work.

## Declaration of competing interest

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

## Data availability

No data was used for the research described in the article.

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**Appendix A. Another formula for the watermelon and a corollary**

Another interesting formula for the two-loop watermelon which involves only one Appell function  $F_1$ , may be obtained by using the Kallen-Lehmann representation:

$$\begin{aligned}
 I(m_1, m_2, m_3, d) &= \int dx \int_0^\infty \rho(s, m_1, m_2) G_{m_3}(x) G_{\sqrt{s}}(x) ds \\
 &= \int_{(m_2+m_3)^2}^\infty \frac{\left(\frac{\sqrt{s}^{2-d}}{m_1^{2-d}} - 1\right) (s - (m_2 - m_3)^2)^{\frac{d-3}{2}} (s - (m_2 + m_3)^2)^{\frac{d-3}{2}}}{2^{2d-1} \pi^{d-1} \sin\left(\frac{\pi d}{2}\right) (s - m_3^2) \Gamma(d-1)} ds = \tag{A.1}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 &= -\frac{((m_1 - m_2)^2 - m_3^2)^{\frac{d-3}{2}} ((m_1 + m_2)^2 - m_3^2)^{\frac{d-3}{2}}}{2^{2d-1} \pi^{d-2} \sin\left(\frac{\pi d}{2}\right) \sin(\pi d) \Gamma(d-1)} + \\
 &- \frac{m_1^{d-2} m_2^{d-2} \Gamma\left(1 - \frac{d}{2}\right) {}_2F_1\left(1, \frac{d-1}{2}; d-1; \frac{4m_1 m_2}{(m_1+m_2)^2 - m_3^2}\right)}{4^d \pi^{d-1} \sin\left(\frac{\pi d}{2}\right) \Gamma\left(\frac{d}{2}\right) ((m_1 + m_2)^2 - m_3^2)} + \\
 &+ \frac{m_3^{d-2} \Gamma\left(2 - \frac{d}{2}\right) (m_1 + m_2)^{d-4} {}_4F_1\left(2 - \frac{d}{2}; \frac{3-d}{2}, 1; \frac{3}{2}; \frac{(m_1-m_2)^2}{(m_1+m_2)^2}, \frac{m_3^2}{(m_1+m_2)^2}\right)}{2^{3d-4} \pi^{d-1} \sin\left(\frac{\pi d}{2}\right) \Gamma\left(\frac{d}{2}\right)}. \tag{A.2}
 \end{aligned}$$

The above formula is valid when  $m_3^2 < m_1^2 + m_2^2$ .

By comparing Eqs. (4.3) and (A.2) we obtain a far from obvious summation formula for the Appell series  $F_1$  appearing in Eq. (A.2):

**Lemma A.1.**

$$\begin{aligned}
 F_1\left(\frac{4-d}{2}; \frac{3-d}{2}, 1; \frac{3}{2}; \frac{(a-b)^2}{(a+b)^2}, \frac{c^2}{(a+b)^2}\right) &= \\
 &= \frac{2^{d-4} \Gamma\left(1 - \frac{d}{2}\right) a^{d-2} b^{d-2} c^{2-d} (a+b)^{4-d} {}_2F_1\left(1, \frac{d-1}{2}; d-1; \frac{4ab}{(a+b)^2 - c^2}\right)}{\Gamma\left(2 - \frac{d}{2}\right) ((a+b)^2 - c^2)} + \\
 &- \frac{2^{d-4} \pi b^{d-2} (a+b)^{4-d} {}_2F_1\left(\frac{1}{2}, 1; \frac{d}{2}; \frac{4b^2 c^2}{(-a^2 + b^2 + c^2)^2}\right)}{\sin\left(\frac{\pi d}{2}\right) \Gamma\left(2 - \frac{d}{2}\right) \Gamma\left(\frac{d}{2}\right) (-a^2 + b^2 + c^2)} +
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
& - \frac{2^{d-4} \pi a^{d-2} (a+b)^{4-d} {}_2F_1\left(\frac{1}{2}, 1; \frac{d}{2}; \frac{4a^2c^2}{(a^2-b^2+c^2)^2}\right)}{\sin\left(\frac{\pi d}{2}\right) \Gamma\left(2-\frac{d}{2}\right) \Gamma\left(\frac{d}{2}\right) (a^2-b^2+c^2)} + \\
& - \frac{2^{d-4} \pi a^{d-2} b^{d-2} c^{2-d} (a+b)^{4-d} {}_2F_1\left(\frac{1}{2}, 1; \frac{d}{2}; \frac{4a^2b^2}{(a^2+b^2-c^2)^2}\right)}{\sin\left(\frac{\pi d}{2}\right) \Gamma\left(2-\frac{d}{2}\right) \Gamma\left(\frac{d}{2}\right) (a^2+b^2-c^2)}. \tag{A.3}
\end{aligned}$$

Explicit nontrivial formulae for the Appell functions are rare; it is another good point of our method its ability to produce such formulae.

Similarly, by comparing Eqs (4.1) and (4.3) we get three more summation formulae for the Appell series  $F_4$ :

$$\begin{aligned}
& F_4\left(3-d, 2-\frac{d}{2}, 2-\frac{d}{2}, 2-\frac{d}{2}, \frac{a^2}{c^2}, \frac{b^2}{c^2}\right) \\
& = c^{6-2d} \left(a^4 + b^4 + c^4 - 2a^2b^2 - 2a^2c^2 - 2b^2c^2\right)^{\frac{d-3}{2}} \\
& F_4\left(1, 2-\frac{d}{2}, 2-\frac{d}{2}, \frac{d}{2}, \frac{a^2}{c^2}, \frac{b^2}{c^2}\right) = -\frac{c^2}{a^2-b^2-c^2} {}_2F_1\left(\frac{1}{2}, 1; \frac{d}{2}; \frac{4b^2c^2}{(-a^2+b^2+c^2)^2}\right) \\
& F_4\left(1, \frac{d}{2}, \frac{d}{2}, \frac{d}{2}, \frac{a^2}{c^2}, \frac{b^2}{c^2}\right) = -\frac{c^2}{a^2+b^2-c^2} {}_2F_1\left(\frac{1}{2}, 1; \frac{d}{2}; \frac{4a^2b^2}{(a^2+b^2-c^2)^2}\right) \tag{A.4}
\end{aligned}$$

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