

Lee-Wick's Complex Ghost violates Unitarity in Quadratic Gravity Theory

Taichiro KUGO
YITP, Kyoto University

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based on the collaboration with

Jisuke KUBO
Max Planck Institute für Physik and Univ. Toyama

1 Introduction

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{Lee-Wick: Finite QED '69} & \mathcal{L} = -\frac{1}{4}F_{\mu\nu} \left(1 + \frac{\square}{m^2}\right) F^{\mu\nu} \\ \text{Quadratic Gravity Theory} & \mathcal{L} = m^2 R + \alpha R^2 + \beta R_{\mu\nu} R^{\mu\nu} \end{array}$$

Propagator

$$\frac{1}{k^2 + k^4/m^2} = \frac{1}{k^2} - \frac{1}{k^2 + m^2}$$

massless	massive (ghost)
positive metric	negative metric

Finite QED becomes finite. Quadratic gravity becomes renormalizable

But, Massive Ghost $\implies$ Unitarity is violated

Lee-Wick noted:

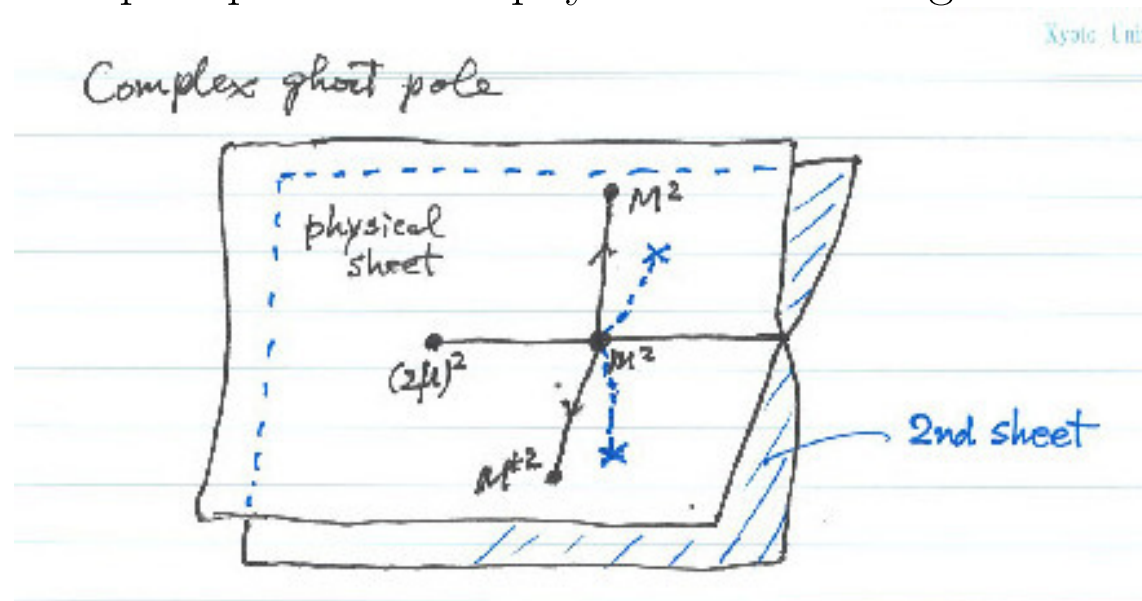
massive ghost can "decay" into lepton pair

Pole at one-loop : lepton-loop graph $\Sigma(q)$

$$q^2 + q^4/m^2 - \Sigma(q) = 0 \quad \rightarrow \quad q^2 = M^2, \quad M^{*2}$$

$$M^2 = m^2 + i\gamma^2$$

Complex poles on the physical sheet! for ghost



Complex energy $E_q = \sqrt{q^2 + M^2} \Rightarrow$ Complex Ghost

$$\langle \phi \phi \rangle = \frac{1}{q^2} - \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{1}{q^2 + M^2} + \frac{1}{q^2 + M^{*2}} \right)$$

$$\begin{matrix} \langle AA \rangle & \langle \varphi \varphi \rangle & \langle \varphi^\dagger \varphi^\dagger \rangle \end{matrix}$$

$$\longrightarrow \boxed{\phi = A + \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(\varphi + \varphi^\dagger)}$$

They argue:

Energy Conservation $\rightarrow$ Complex ghosts never produced from scattering of physical particles alone $\rightarrow$ **physical unitarity**

Even ghost-anti-ghost pair have complex energy except measure-zero points

$$E = \sqrt{(\mathbf{P}/2 + \mathbf{k})^2 + M^2} + \sqrt{(\mathbf{P}/2 - \mathbf{k})^2 + M^{*2}}$$

$$= \sum_{\pm} \sqrt{\mathbf{P}^2/4 \pm \mathbf{P} \cdot \mathbf{k} + \mathbf{k}^2 + m^2 \pm i\gamma^2}$$

is real only when $\mathbf{P} \perp \mathbf{k}$; measure zero (2d) points in 3d $\mathbf{k}$ space.

このトークでは

これは全くの誤解

(1)

で、Complex ghost はノンゼロノルムで現れることを示す。

不思議な事に

Nakanishi $\rightarrow$ Lorentz inv. broken

Coleman $\rightarrow$ Causality, broken (2)

と批判しながら、Energy 保存による unitarity の議論は認めている!

最近、Quadratic Gravity 理論で、この Lee-Wick complex ghost の議論が revival

Anselmi(2017,2018), Donoghue(2019, 2021)

これがOKなら、gravity は、Quadratic Gravity の理論だとすれば、**摂動論的にくり込み可能で、UV complete** となる!

Sect.2. Lee-Wick の間違い I: Energy 保存と複素デルタ関数

Sect.3. Lee's Model in “Quanta”

Sect.4. Lee-Wick の間違い II: 複素デルタ関数の使い方

Sect.5. Conclusion

2 Lee-Wick の間違い I: Energy 保存と複素デルタ関数

”Energy 保存則とは？”

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{-iEt} dt = 2\pi\delta(E), \quad E = \sum_i E_i$$

where E_i : energy of i -th particle coming into a interaction vertex.

E_i に complex energy が入っていると、we need regularization

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{int}}(t) \rightarrow e^{-a^2 t^2} \mathcal{L}_{\text{int}}(t)$$

and take $\lim_{a \rightarrow 0}$ finally.

Then, $\delta(E)$ replaced by

$$\Delta_a(z) := \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dt e^{-a^2 t^2} e^{-izt} = \frac{1}{2\sqrt{\pi} a} e^{-z^2/a^2}. \quad (3)$$

Its $a \rightarrow 0$ limit defines Complex Delta function (distribution)

$$\lim_{a \rightarrow 0} \Delta_a(z) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dt e^{-izt} =: \delta_c(z), \quad (4)$$

このdistribution の support は、 $z = 0$ に局在しているわけではない!

Consider the single ghost production in Lee's scalar model¹

$$\psi(\mathbf{p}_1) + \psi(\mathbf{p}_2) \rightarrow \phi(\mathbf{q}), \quad \text{by } \mathcal{L}_{\text{int}} = \frac{f}{2}\psi^2\phi$$

. Then, the invariant amplitude square (Ghost production probabolity) is proportional to

$$|\mathcal{M}|^2 \sim f^2 \left(\frac{1}{\omega_{\mathbf{q}}} \delta_c(E - \omega_{\mathbf{q}}) + \frac{1}{\omega_{\mathbf{q}}^*} \delta_c(E - \omega_{\mathbf{q}}^*) \right) \quad \omega_{\mathbf{q}} = \sqrt{\mathbf{q}^2 + M^2}$$

and $E = \sqrt{\mathbf{p}_1^2 + \mu^2} + \sqrt{\mathbf{p}_2^2 + \mu^2}$

So let us examine

$$\Delta_a(E - \omega) \propto \frac{1}{a} e^{-(E-\omega)^2/a^2} = \frac{1}{a} \exp \left[-\frac{(E - \text{Re } \omega)^2 - (\text{Im } \omega)^2}{a^2} \right] \cdot e^{i\Theta}$$

with $\Theta = \frac{2}{a^2}(E - \text{Re } \omega)\text{Im } \omega.$

Since

$$(E - \text{Re } \omega)^2 - (\text{Im } \omega)^2 = (E - \text{Re } \omega + \text{Im } \omega)(E - \text{Re } \omega - \text{Im } \omega)$$

¹next section

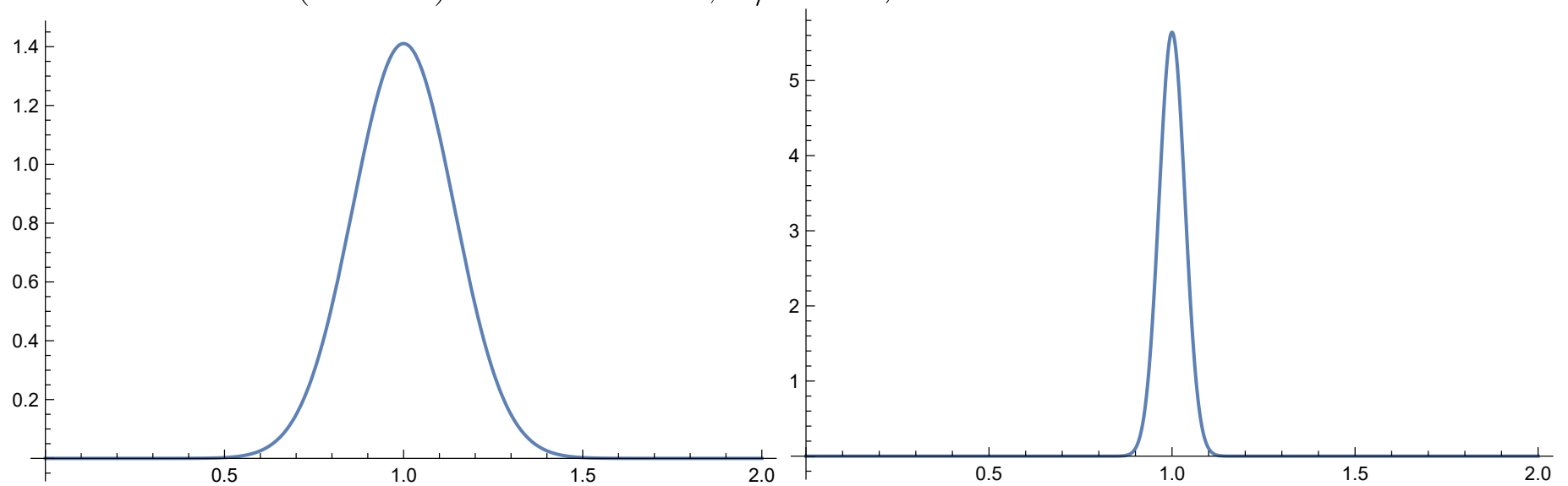
we have

$$\delta_c(E - \omega) = \lim_{a \rightarrow 0} \Delta_a(E - \omega) = 0 \quad \text{for} \quad \begin{cases} E < \operatorname{Re} \omega - \operatorname{Im} \omega \\ \operatorname{Re} \omega + \operatorname{Im} \omega < E \end{cases}. \quad (5)$$

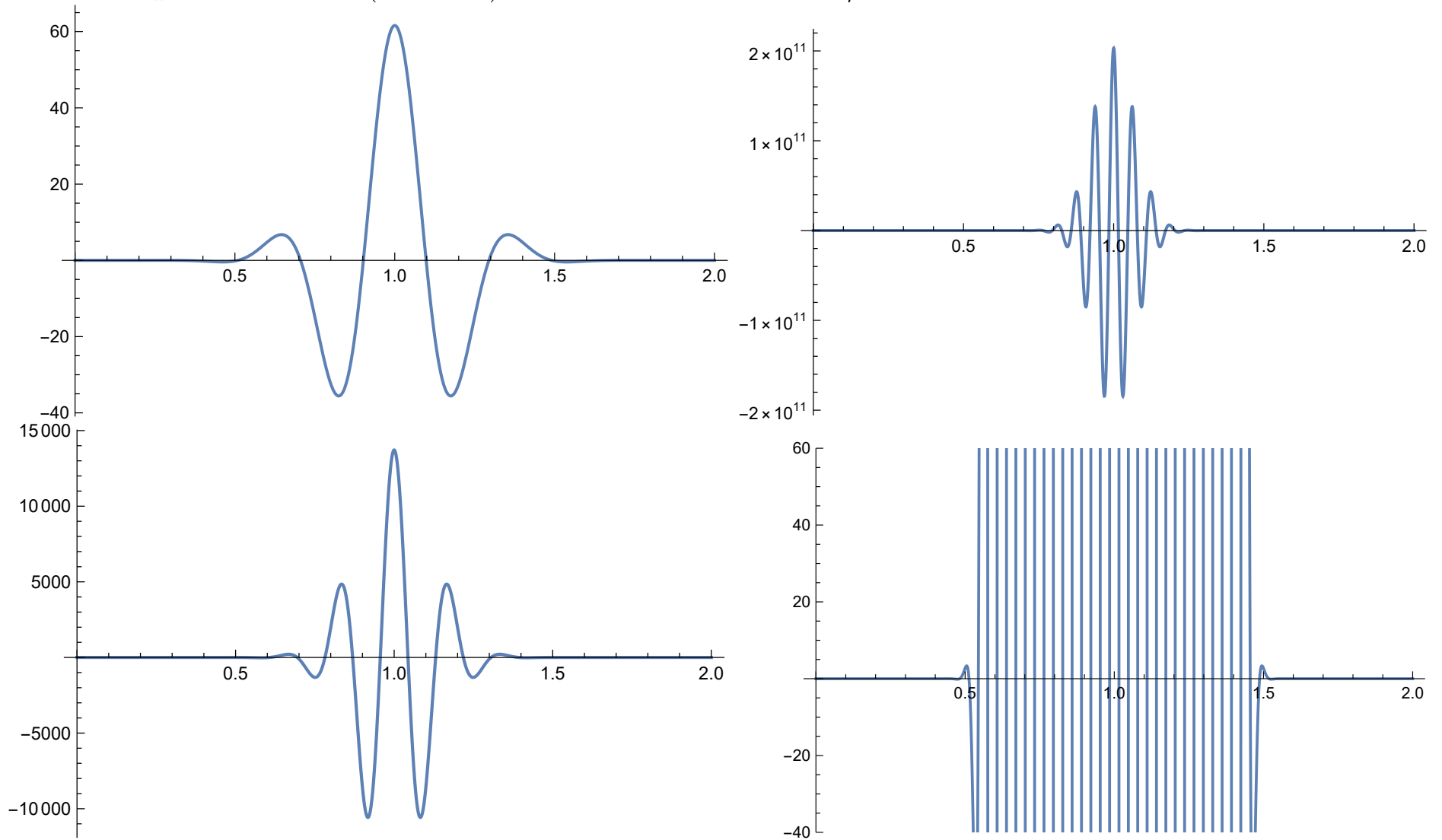
So, in the limit $a \rightarrow 0$, it has the support only in $|E - \operatorname{Re} \omega| \leq \operatorname{Im} \omega$. On the support, it has **no definite limit**; since it is **divergent** and **rapidly oscillating**. It gives a well-defined **distribution**. It is as usual for the distribution.

$$\delta_c(E - \omega) = \lim_{a \rightarrow 0} \Delta_a(E - \omega) \quad \mathcal{O}(\boxtimes)$$

- Dirac delta $\delta(E - \omega)$: $\omega = 1 + 0i$, $1/a = 5, 20$



- Complex delta $\delta_c(E - \omega)$: $\omega = 1 + 0.5i$, $1/a = 4, 10$



左下: $1/a = 6$, $E_{\text{Lth}} = \text{Re } \omega - \text{Im } \omega = 0.5$, $E_{\text{Uth}} = \text{Re } \omega + \text{Im } \omega = 1.5$

Property of δ_c

For test fn $\forall f(E)$: analytic in a rectangular strip D ,

$$\boxed{\int_R dE \delta_c(E - \omega) f(E) = f(\omega)} \quad (6)$$

($\because$)

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dE \delta_c(E - \omega) f(E) = \lim_{a \rightarrow 0} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dE \frac{1}{2a\sqrt{\pi}} \exp \left[-\frac{(E - \omega)^2}{a^2} \right] f(E)$$

is evaluated by deforming the contour

$$\begin{aligned} R[-\infty \rightarrow +\infty] \Rightarrow & C_1[-\infty + i0 \rightarrow -\infty + i\text{Im } \omega] \\ & + R'[-\infty + i\text{Im } \omega \rightarrow +\infty + i\text{Im } \omega] \\ & + C_2[+\infty + i\text{Im } \omega \rightarrow +\infty + i0] \end{aligned} \quad (7)$$

If $f(E)$ が $D (= [C_1 + R' + C_2 - R])$ で囲まれた短冊領域) で正則

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{R'} dE \delta_c(E - \omega) f(E) &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dE' \delta(E' - \text{Re } \omega) f(E' + i\text{Im } \omega) \\ &= f(\text{Re } \omega + i\text{Im } \omega) = f(\omega) . \text{ q.e.d.} \end{aligned}$$

しかし、Feynman graph の計算では、 $f(E)$ は meromorphic.

Well-defined distribution?

実際の実験では、入射エネルギーに幅 σ がある：

$$f_{P^0}(E) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2}} \exp \left[-\frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{E - P^0}{\sigma} \right)^2 \right]$$

Then, the ghost production probability becomes

$$\begin{aligned} P_\varphi &= -\text{Re} \left[f^2 2\pi \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dE f_{P^0}(E) \delta_c(E - \omega) \frac{1}{2\omega} \right] \\ &= -\text{Re} \left[f^2 \frac{\pi}{\omega} f_{P^0}(\omega) \right] = -\frac{f^2}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2}} \text{Re} \left[\frac{\pi}{\omega} \exp \left[-\frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{\omega - P^0}{\sigma} \right)^2 \right] \right]. \end{aligned}$$

This is finite.

Complex Ghost は、 $\text{Re} \omega - \text{Im} \omega < E < \text{Re} \omega + \text{Im} \omega$ のエネルギー範囲で有限確率で生成される。

3 Lee’s Model in “Quanta”

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{int}}(\phi, \psi) = f\psi^2\phi, \quad f\psi^2\phi^2, \dots \quad (8)$$

'Photon' A and ghost φ , anti-ghost $\varphi^\dagger$ interact only through $\mathcal{L}_{\text{int}}(\phi, \psi)$

Free fields:

$$A(x) = \int \frac{d^3\mathbf{q}}{\sqrt{(2\pi)^3 2\nu_{\mathbf{q}}}} \left(a(\mathbf{q}) e^{i\mathbf{q}\mathbf{x} - i\nu_{\mathbf{q}}x^0} + a^\dagger(\mathbf{q}) e^{-i\mathbf{q}\mathbf{x} + i\nu_{\mathbf{q}}x^0} \right), \quad \nu_{\mathbf{q}} = \sqrt{\mathbf{q}^2 + \delta^2}$$

$$\psi(x) = \int \frac{d^3\mathbf{p}}{\sqrt{(2\pi)^3 2E_{\mathbf{p}}}} \left(d(\mathbf{p}) e^{i\mathbf{p}\mathbf{x} - iE_{\mathbf{p}}x^0} + d^\dagger(\mathbf{p}) e^{-i\mathbf{p}\mathbf{x} + iE_{\mathbf{p}}x^0} \right), \quad E_{\mathbf{p}} = \sqrt{\mathbf{p}^2 + \mu^2}.$$

$$[a(\mathbf{p}), a^\dagger(\mathbf{q})] = [d(\mathbf{p}), d^\dagger(\mathbf{q})] = -\delta^3(\mathbf{p} - \mathbf{q}),$$

Ghost

$$\varphi(x) = \int \frac{d^3 \mathbf{q}}{\sqrt{(2\pi)^3 2\omega_{\mathbf{q}}}} \left(\alpha(\mathbf{q}) e^{i\mathbf{q}\mathbf{x} - i\omega_{\mathbf{q}}x^0} + \beta^\dagger(\mathbf{q}) e^{-i\mathbf{q}\mathbf{x} + i\omega_{\mathbf{q}}x^0} \right)$$

where $\omega_{\mathbf{q}}$ is the complex energy

$$\omega_{\mathbf{q}} = \sqrt{\mathbf{q}^2 + M^2} = \sqrt{\mathbf{q}^2 + m^2 + i\gamma^2} \quad (9)$$

CCR

$$\begin{aligned} [\alpha(\mathbf{p}), \beta^\dagger(\mathbf{q})] &= [\beta(\mathbf{p}), \alpha^\dagger(\mathbf{q})] = -\delta^3(\mathbf{p} - \mathbf{q}), \\ [\alpha(\mathbf{p}), \alpha^\dagger(\mathbf{q})] &= [\beta(\mathbf{p}), \beta^\dagger(\mathbf{q})] = 0. \end{aligned}$$

1-ghost states

$$|\alpha(\mathbf{p})\rangle := \alpha^\dagger(\mathbf{p}) |0\rangle, \quad |\beta(\mathbf{p})\rangle := \beta^\dagger(\mathbf{p}) |0\rangle$$

have off-diagonal innerproduct structure

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \alpha(\mathbf{p}) | \alpha(\mathbf{q}) \rangle &= 0, & \langle \beta(\mathbf{p}) | \alpha(\mathbf{q}) \rangle &= \delta^3(\mathbf{p} - \mathbf{q}), \\ \langle \beta(\mathbf{p}) | \beta(\mathbf{q}) \rangle &= 0, & \langle \alpha(\mathbf{p}) | \beta(\mathbf{q}) \rangle &= \delta^3(\mathbf{p} - \mathbf{q}). \end{aligned}$$

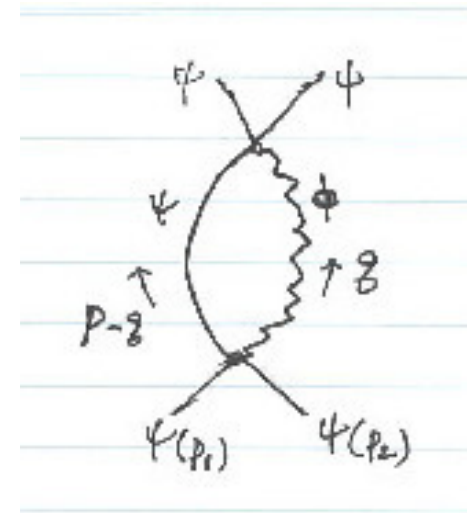
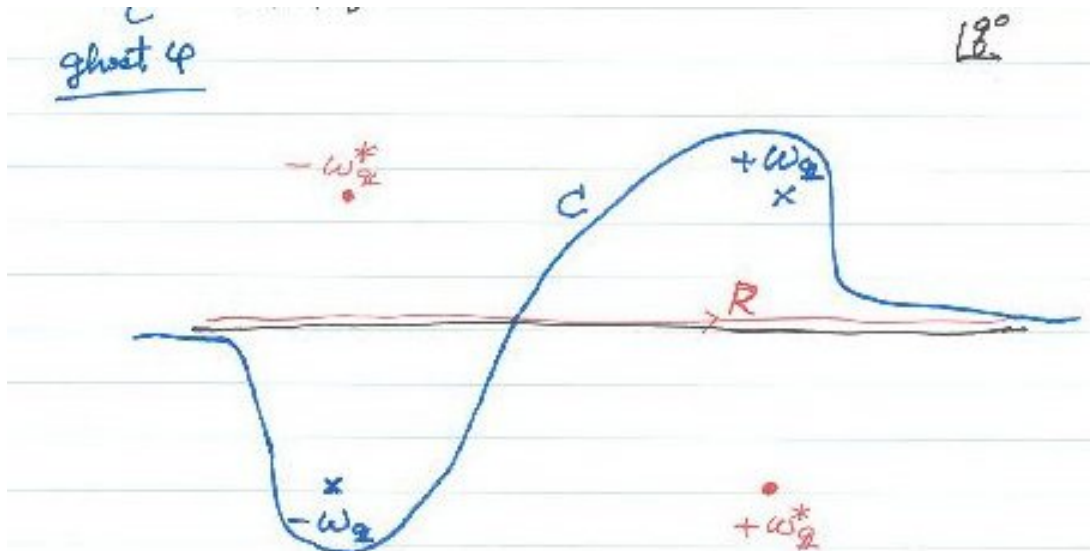
Propagator:

$$\begin{aligned}
& \langle 0 | T \varphi(x) \varphi(y) | 0 \rangle \\
&= \int \frac{d^3 \mathbf{q} d^3 \mathbf{p}}{(2\pi)^3 \sqrt{2\omega_{\mathbf{q}} 2\omega_{\mathbf{p}}}} \left\{ \theta(x^0 - y^0) e^{i(\mathbf{q}\mathbf{x} - \omega_{\mathbf{q}}x^0) - i(\mathbf{p}\mathbf{y} - \omega_{\mathbf{p}}y^0)} \langle 0 | \alpha(\mathbf{q}) \beta^\dagger(\mathbf{p}) | 0 \rangle \right. \\
&\quad \left. + \theta(y^0 - x^0) e^{i(\mathbf{p}\mathbf{y} - \omega_{\mathbf{p}}y^0) - i(\mathbf{q}\mathbf{x} - \omega_{\mathbf{q}}x^0)} \langle 0 | \alpha(\mathbf{p}) \beta^\dagger(\mathbf{q}) | 0 \rangle \right\} \\
&= - \int \frac{d^3 \mathbf{q}}{(2\pi)^3 2\omega_{\mathbf{q}}} \left\{ \theta(x^0 - y^0) e^{i\mathbf{q}(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}) - i\omega_{\mathbf{q}}(x^0 - y^0)} + \theta(y^0 - x^0) e^{-i\mathbf{q}(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y}) + i\omega_{\mathbf{q}}(x^0 - y^0)} \right\}
\end{aligned}$$

Note that the over-all minus sign implying **negative norm**.

This 3d expression over $d^3\mathbf{q}$ can be rewritten into the usual 4d form over $d^4q = d^3\mathbf{q}dq^0$

$$= - \int \frac{d^3q}{(2\pi)^3} e^{iq(x-y)} \left[\int_C \frac{dq^0}{2\pi i} \frac{e^{-iq^0(x^0-y^0)}}{q^2 + M^2} \right], \quad (10)$$



4 Lee-Wickの間違いII: 複素デルタ関数の使い方

Single ghsot ϕ + matter ψ production

$$\psi(\mathbf{p}_1) + \psi(\mathbf{p}_2) \rightarrow \phi(\mathbf{q}) + \psi(\mathbf{p} - \mathbf{q})$$

$(\mathbf{p}_1 + \mathbf{p}_2 \equiv \mathbf{p})$ の cross section を

$$\psi(\mathbf{p}_1) + \psi(\mathbf{p}_2) \xrightarrow{(\phi(\mathbf{q}) + \psi(\mathbf{p} - \mathbf{q}) \text{ の Loop})} \psi(\mathbf{p}_1) + \psi(\mathbf{p}_2)$$

の前方散乱振幅の Imaginary part から計算。 Figure

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{int}} = \frac{1}{3!} \psi^3 \phi$$

Lee wrote $[\phi_i = (A, \varphi, \varphi^\dagger), M_i^2 = (\delta^2, M^2, M^{*2})]$

$$\Sigma(p) = -f^2 \sum_j \int_{C_j} \frac{d^4 q}{i(2\pi)^4} \frac{\overset{D_\phi(q)}{1}}{q^2 + M_j^2} \frac{\overset{D_\psi(p-q)}{1}}{(p-q)^2 + \mu^2 - i\varepsilon} \quad (11)$$

and computed it by closing the contour adding infinite semi-circle in upper (or lower) half plane: ($\mathbf{k} \equiv \mathbf{p} - \mathbf{q}$)

$$\begin{aligned}
 &= \frac{f^2}{32\pi^2} \int d^3\mathbf{q} \\
 &\quad \times \left\{ \frac{1}{\nu_{\mathbf{q}} E_{\mathbf{k}}} \left(\frac{1}{p^0 - \nu - E - i\varepsilon} - \frac{1}{p^0 + \nu + E - i\varepsilon} \right) \right. \quad \leftarrow A\psi \\
 &\quad - \frac{1}{2} \left[\frac{1}{\omega_{\mathbf{q}} E_{\mathbf{k}}} \left(\frac{1}{p^0 - \omega - E} - \frac{1}{p^0 + \omega + E} \right) \right. \quad \leftarrow \varphi\psi \\
 &\quad \left. \left. + \frac{1}{\omega_{\mathbf{q}}^* E_{\mathbf{k}}} \left(\frac{1}{p^0 - \omega^* - E} - \frac{1}{p^0 + \omega^* + E} \right) \right] \right\} \quad \leftarrow \varphi^\dagger\psi
 \end{aligned}$$

Sum of the last two terms is real, has **no imaginary part**! He concluded **Ghost is not produced**.

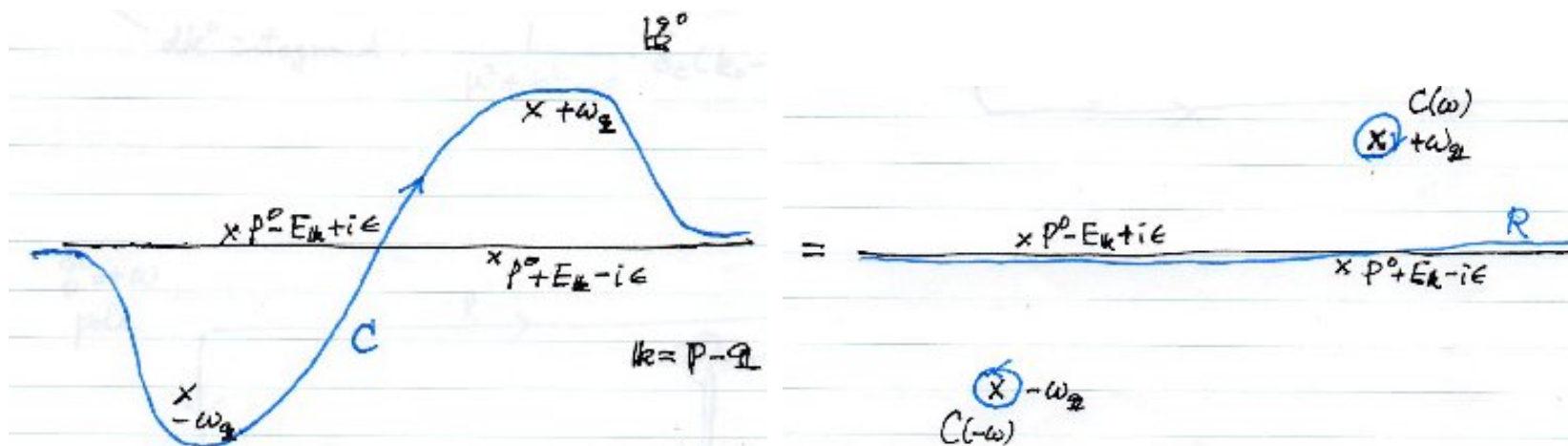
What's wrong?

正しくやると、ghost φ のエネルギーの δ_c 関数の積分が非自明！

$$-\Sigma(p) = f^2 \int \frac{d^3 \mathbf{q}}{i(2\pi)^4} \times \int_C dq^0 \int_R dk^0 \delta_c(k^0 + q^0 - p^0) \frac{D_\varphi(q)}{q^2 + M^2} \frac{D_\psi(k)}{k^2 + \mu^2 - i\varepsilon} \Big|_{k=p-q}$$

q^0 積分を先ずやり、 $\delta_c(k^0 + q^0 - p^0)$ の積分はその後の dk^0 積分でやる。

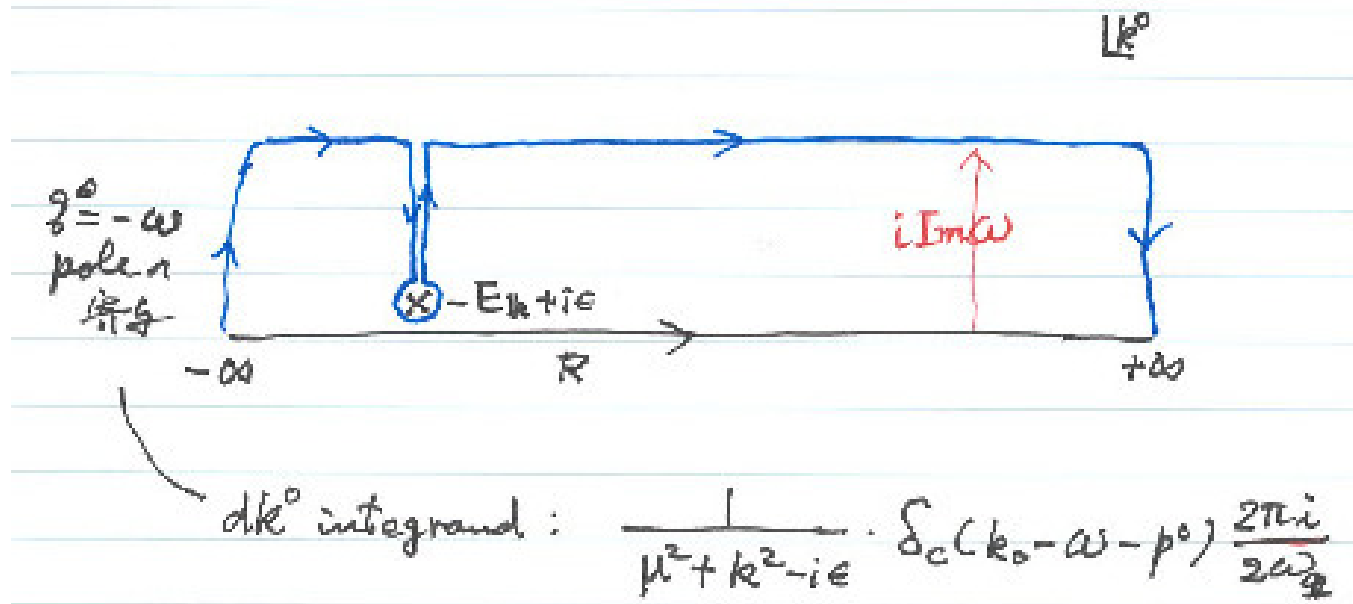
$$\int_C dq^0 = \int_R dq^0 + \int_{C(-\omega)} dq^0 + \int_{C(+\omega)} dq^0 \quad (12)$$



後者2つの pole contribution は、

$$\int d^3 \mathbf{q} \left(\frac{2\pi i}{2\omega_q} \right) \int_R dk^0 \left[\delta_c(p^0 + \omega - k^0) + \delta_c(p^0 - \omega - k^0) \right] \frac{1}{E_k^2 - k^{02}} \quad (13)$$

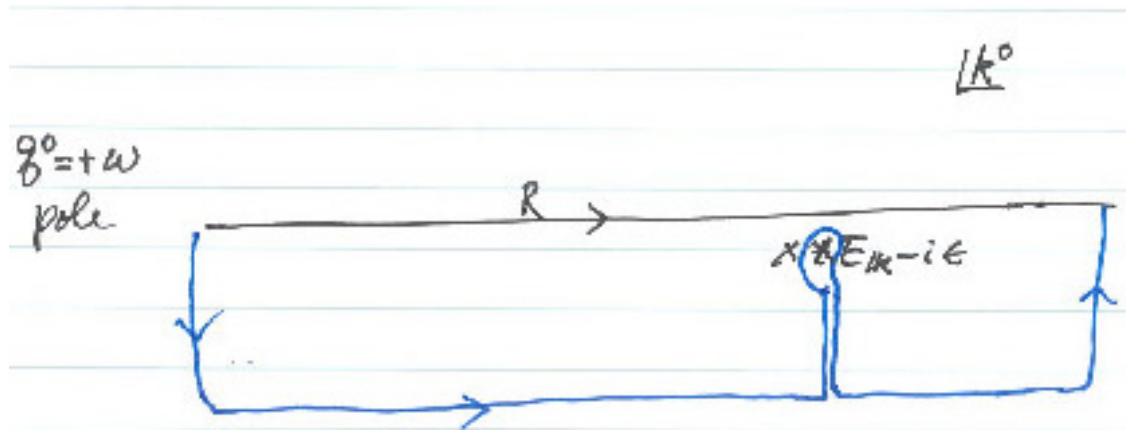
ここで k^0 積分をやるのに、積分経路 R を、(第1項では) $\text{Im } \omega$ だけ持ち上げ、(第2項では) $\text{Im } \omega$ だけ下げれば、それぞれ実数の普通の Dirac delta になる。その際におつりが出る。



通常の Dirac delta の公式を使える $\text{Im } \omega_q$ だけ持ち上げた積分路の寄与に加えて、

$$\text{おつり項} = \frac{2\pi i}{2E_k} \frac{2\pi i}{2\omega_q} \delta_c(E_k - \omega_q - p^0)$$

が出る。



後者の寄与を加えて、おつりはネットに、

$$\text{おつり} = -f^2 \int \frac{d^3 \mathbf{q}}{i(2\pi)^4} \left\{ \frac{(2\pi i)^2}{2\omega_{\mathbf{q}} 2E_{\mathbf{k}}} \left(\delta_c(p^0 + \omega_{\mathbf{q}} + E_{\mathbf{k}}) + \delta_c(p^0 - \omega_{\mathbf{q}} - E_{\mathbf{k}}) \right) \right\}$$

もとの R に沿っての dq^0 積分の部分も素朴に delta 関数を適用出来、後者二つの素朴に delta 関数公式を使える寄与を加えると、Lee の最初から素朴なデルタ関数公式を使った表式を与える。それは real だったので、Imaginary part は全ておつりの項から来て

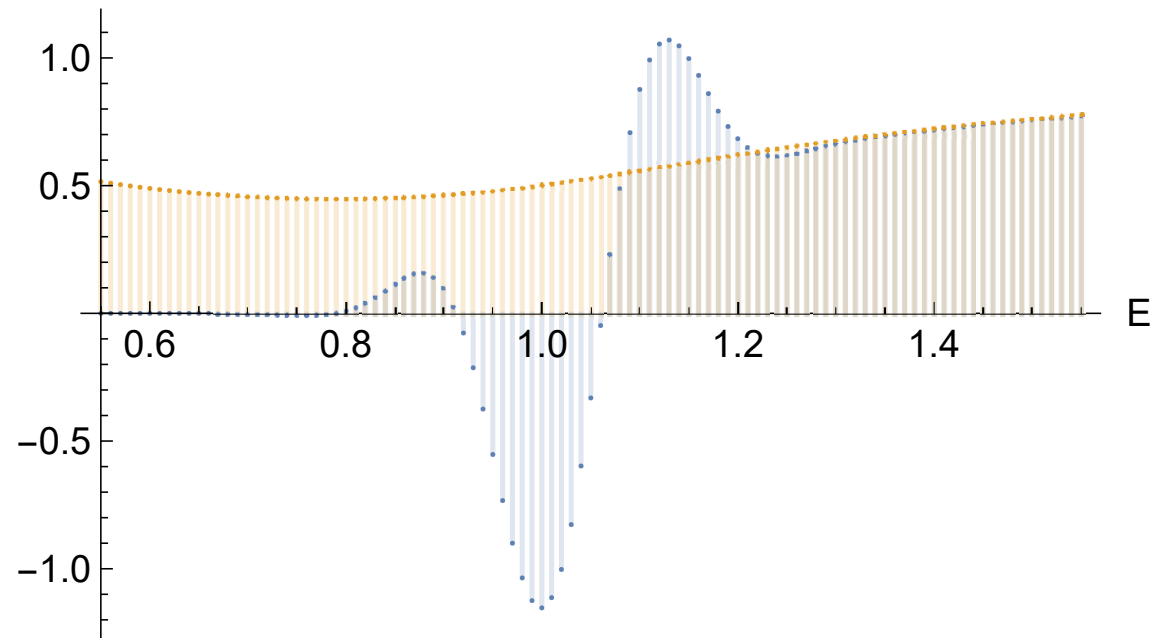
$$\text{Im } \Sigma(p) = f^2 \frac{-\pi^2}{(2\pi)^4} \int d^3 \mathbf{q} \text{Re} \left[\frac{1}{\omega_{\mathbf{q}} E_{\mathbf{k}}} \left(\delta_c(p^0 + \omega_{\mathbf{q}} + E_{\mathbf{k}}) + \delta_c(p^0 - \omega_{\mathbf{q}} - E_{\mathbf{k}}) \right) \right]$$

これは、直接 production cross-section を計算した結果と一致した答えを与える。

Ghost production probability の計算例 :

$$\psi + \psi \rightarrow \varphi + \varphi$$

$$m^2 = 1, \gamma^2 = 0.5, a = 1/14, E_{\text{Lth}} = 0.786, E_{\text{Uth}} = 1.272$$

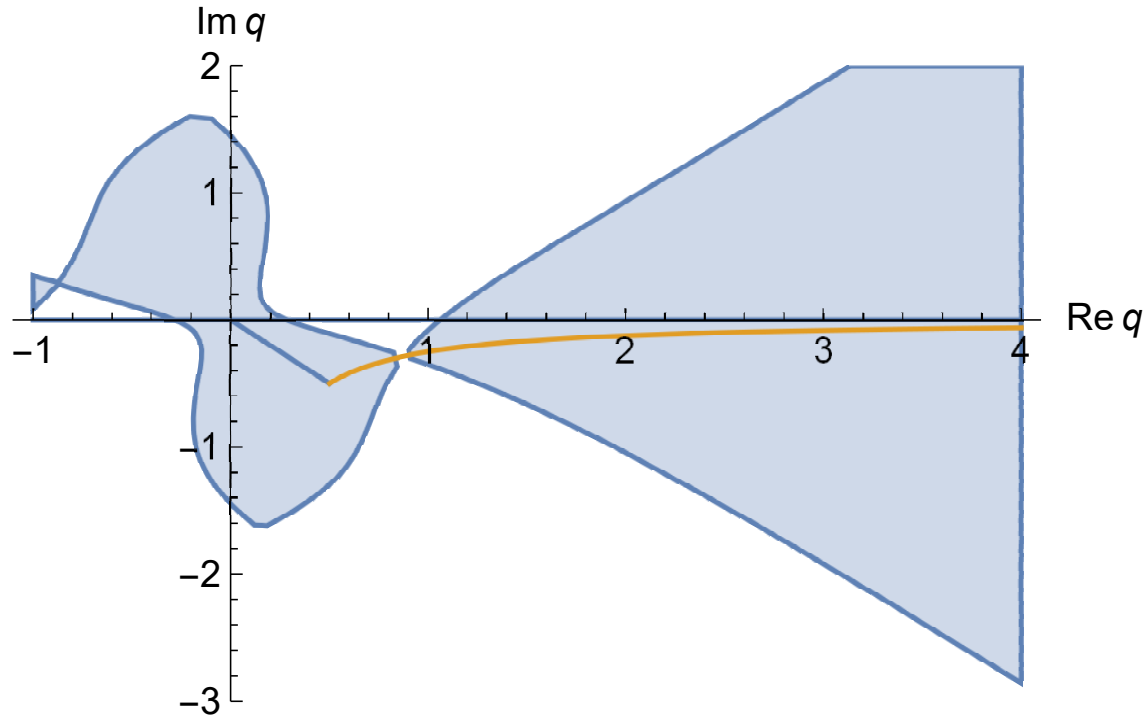


5 Conclusion

- Complex ghosts は、有限 (non-zero) 確率で現れ、(physical) Unitarity を壊す。
- Complex ghost は、unstable particle ではない。
むしろ安定 or Anti-stable (Coleman) である。

Hamiltonian はエルミートなので、ノルムは保存する。親粒子が complex ghost だと initial state は負ノルム。それが decay して、全てが安定な正ノルムの physical particle ばかりになることは出来ない。必ず、負ノルムの粒子が残っている必要がある。

- Complex ghost theory は、場の理論として数学的には consistent.
しかし、physical unitarity が壊れるので、物理的理論としては、このままでは inconsistent.
- Lower threshold 以下のエネルギー $E < \text{Re} \sqrt{M^2} - \text{Im} \sqrt{M^2}$ では、ghost は生成されないので、unitarity, renormalizability は OK.



Positive $\text{Re}[(E - \omega_{\mathbf{q}})^2]$ region and $\mathbf{q}$ -contour at E above upper threshold $E_{\text{Uth}} = \text{Re} \omega_{\mathbf{q}} + \text{Im} \omega_{\mathbf{q}}$.