

Leading Chiral Logarithms for Pion Form Factors to Arbitrary Number of Loops

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We develop the method of calculation of the leading chiral (infrared) logarithms to an arbitrary loop order for various form factors of Nambu-Goldstone bosons. The method is illustrated on example of scalar and vector form factors in massless 4D $O(N+1)/O(N)$ σ -model. The analytical properties of the form factors are derived. The leading chiral (infrared) logarithms are summed up in the large N limit.

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Recently we developed a new puissant method [1] for calculations of leading chiral (infrared) logarithms in a wide class of non-renormalizable massless field theories. The method has been applied to the amplitude of Nambu-Goldstone boson scattering in 4D $O(N+1)/O(N)$ sigma-model defined by the following Lagrangian:

$$\mathcal{L}_2 = \frac{1}{2} [\partial_\mu \sigma \partial_\mu \sigma + \partial_\mu \pi^a \partial_\mu \pi^a], \quad (1)$$

where the fields are constrained by the relation $\sigma^2 + \sum_{a=1}^N \pi^a \pi^a = F^2$. The amplitude of $\pi\pi$ scattering can be decomposed into the invariant tensors of $O(N)$ group as follows:

$$T^{abcd} = \delta^{ab} \delta^{cd} A + \delta^{cb} \delta^{da} B + \delta^{bd} \delta^{ac} C. \quad (2)$$

The amplitudes A, B and C are functions of the Mandelstam variable s and c.m. scattering angle θ . In Ref. [1] we derived these amplitudes in the leading logarithms (LLs) approximation. The LLs approximation consists in the summation of contributions of the type $\sim [s \ln s]^n$ in the low-energy expansion of the amplitude. Such contributions arise from the n -loop Feynman graphs of the effective theory (1). At the first glance, a mission is impossible – to compute the n -loop graphs in a non-renormalizable theory. However, in the LLs approximation this task can be accomplished as it can be reduced to the calculations of the spectrum of anomalous dimensions of the $O(N)$ symmetric composite operators made of four pion fields in an *free field theory* [1]. The result Ref. [1] for the $\pi\pi$ scattering amplitudes in LLs approximation can be presented in the form of the partial wave decomposition as:

$$\begin{aligned} A &= \frac{s}{F^2} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (S L)^n \sum_{\substack{l=0 \\ \text{even}}}^{n+1} \omega_{nl} P_l(\cos \theta), \\ B &= \frac{s}{F^2} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (S L)^n \sum_{\substack{j=0 \\ \text{even}}}^{n+1} \omega_{nj} \sum_{l=0}^{n+1} \Omega_{n+1}^{jl} P_l(\cos \theta), \\ C &= \frac{s}{F^2} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (S L)^n \sum_{\substack{j=0 \\ \text{even}}}^{n+1} \omega_{nj} \sum_{l=0}^{n+1} (-1)^l \Omega_{n+1}^{jl} P_l(\cos \theta). \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

We introduced dimensionless expansion parameter $S = s/(4\pi F)^2$ and we collected only contribution with maximal power of chiral logarithm $L = \ln(-\mu^2/s)$, $P_l(\cos \theta)$ are Legendre polynomials. The crossing matrix Ω_n^{jl} has the following form:

$$\Omega_n^{jl} = \frac{2l+1}{2^{n+1}} \int_{-1}^1 dx P_j \left(\frac{x+3}{x-1} \right) P_l(x) (x-1)^n. \quad (4)$$

The LLs coefficients ω_{nj} satisfy non-linear recursion relation [1]:

$$\omega_{nj} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{m=0}^{n-1} \sum_{\substack{i=0 \\ \text{even}}}^{m+1} \sum_{\substack{l=0 \\ \text{even}}}^{n-m} B_j^{(m+1,i)(n-m,l)} \omega_{mi} \omega_{(n-m-1)l}, \quad (5)$$

which allows us to express the higher coefficients ω_{nj} through the coefficients with lower values of n , starting with $\omega_{00} = 1$. [We remind that n enumerates the loop order and $j \leq (n + \text{Mod}(n, 2))$]. The coefficients $B_j^{(m+1,i)(n-m,l)}$ are given by:

$$\begin{aligned} B_j^{(m,i)(p,l)} &= \frac{1}{2j+1} \left[\frac{N}{2} \delta_{ij} \delta_{lj} + \delta_{ij} \Omega_p^{li} + \delta_{lj} \Omega_m^{il} \right] + \\ &+ (1 + (-1)^j) \sum_{k=0}^{\min[p,m]} \frac{\Omega_m^{ik} \Omega_p^{lk} \Omega_{m+p}^{kj}}{2k+1}. \end{aligned} \quad (6)$$

The recursive relation (5) allows a very fast computation of LLs. For example, the 33-loop chiral LL is computed in a dozen of seconds on a PC ¹⁾.

In present paper we develop the general method for calculation of LL's corrections to the form factors of the Nambu–Goldstone bosons (pions). We calculate here LL's for the scalar and vector form factors of pions in the massless $O(N+1)/O(N)$ σ -model (1). This model for $N=3$ is equivalent to the chiral $SU(2) \times SU(2)$ model which describes the leading low-energy interaction of Nambu–Goldstone bosons (pions) of QCD in the chiral limit [2]. The chirally odd scalar form factor in the effective theory (1) is defined as:

$$\langle 0|J(0)|\pi^a(p_1)\pi^b(p_2)\rangle = \delta^{ab} 2BF_S(W^2), \quad (7)$$

where the scalar form factor $F_S(W^2)$ depends on the invariant mass of two pions $W^2 = (p_1 + p_2)^2$ and the chirally odd scalar operator $J(x)$ is defined as:

$$J(x) = 2BF(F - \sigma(x)) = B \sum_{a=1}^N \pi^a(x)\pi^a(x) + O(\pi^4). \quad (8)$$

Here the constant B is proportional to the order parameter of spontaneously broken symmetry; in the case of strong interactions it is proportional to the quark condensate $B = -\langle 0|\bar{u}u|0\rangle/F^2$.

The chirally even vector form factor in the effective theory (1) is defined as:

$$\langle 0|J_\mu^{[ab]}(0)|\pi^c(p_1)\pi^d(p_2)\rangle = i(p_2 - p_1)_\mu \times (\delta^{ac}\delta^{bd} - \delta^{bc}\delta^{ad}) F_V(W^2), \quad (9)$$

where the vector current $J_\mu^{[ab]}(x)$ is defined as follows:

$$J_\mu^{[ab]}(x) = \pi^a(x)\partial_\mu\pi^b(x) - \pi^b(x)\partial_\mu\pi^a(x). \quad (10)$$

This current is nothing but the Noether current corresponding to the global $O(N)$ symmetry of the Lagrangian (1). The low energy expansion of the scalar $F_S(W^2)$ and the vector $F_V(W^2)$ form factors has the following structure:

$$F_{S,V}(W^2) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \sum_{k=0}^n f_{nk}^{S,V} w^{2n} L^k, \quad (11)$$

where $f_{nk}^{S,V}$ are the coefficients of the low-energy expansion in the powers of dimensionless variables

$$w^2 \equiv \frac{W^2}{(4\pi F)^2}, \quad L \equiv \ln\left(-\frac{\mu^2}{W^2}\right),$$

where μ^2 is the normalization scale.

The lowest coefficients $f_{00}^{S,V} = 1$ is obtained from tree-level calculations of the matrix elements (7) and (9). The calculation of higher order coefficients requires consideration of the loop diagrams in effective theory. Generically, the coefficients $f_{nk}^{S,V}$ can be obtained from the calculation of diagrams with number of loops $\leq n$ with inclusion of vertices from higher order effective Lagrangians \mathcal{L}_{2r} , which contain $2r$ derivatives with $r = n + 1 - k$. The calculation of the LL coefficients $f_n^{S,V} \equiv f_{nn}^{S,V}$ is reduced to calculation of n -loop diagrams with vertices generated by the the leading effective Lagrangian (1). Presently, record calculations of the LLs coefficients for the scalar form factor (for $N=3$) are performed by Bissegger and Fuhrer [4] to the four-loop order with the result:

$$f_1^S = 1, \quad f_2^S = \frac{43}{36}, \quad f_3^S = \frac{143}{108}, \quad f_4^S = \frac{15283}{9720}. \quad (12)$$

The vector form factor (for $N=3$) is know to the two-loop order [5]:

$$f_1^V = \frac{1}{6}, \quad f_2^V = \frac{1}{72}. \quad (13)$$

Now we present a general method, which allows us to perform the calculation of LLs for form factors to an unlimited order and for arbitrary N . We present the method for the scalar form factor $F_S(W^2)$, therefore we do not write (super)subscripts S in order to simplify notations.

The UV divergencies in a n -loop diagram are removed by the subtraction of lower-loop graphs with insertion of the local counterterms corresponding to the subdivergencies of the original n -loop diagram. See detailed discussion of the structure of the subtractions in Refs. [6, 7]. The local counterterms relevant for our calculations renormalize the couplings g_{nj} of the all-order Lagrangian (see Eq. (5) of Ref. [1]). After subtraction of the UV divergencies the low-energy expansion of the form factor has the following structure:

$$F(W^2) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} r_n(\mu) w^{2n} + \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \sum_{k=0}^n f_{nk}(\mathbf{g}, \mathbf{r}) w^{2n} L^k, \quad (14)$$

where $r_n(\mu)$ are renormalized tree level subtraction constants that depend on the renormalization scale μ . By \mathbf{g} we denote the infinite set of the constants $g_{nj}(\mu)$ of the all-order chiral Lagrangian (Eq. (5) of Ref. [1]), by \mathbf{r} we denote the tree level subtraction constants $r_n(\mu)$. The form factor $F(W^2)$ should be μ independent, i.e.

¹⁾ Mathematica notebook for computing LLs is available at <http://www.tp2.rub.de/~maximp/research/research.html>.

$\mu^2 \frac{d}{d\mu^2} F(W^2) = 0$. This requirement leads to the following equation for the coefficients f_{nk} :

$$\begin{aligned} \gamma_n + (\hat{G} + \hat{H})f_{n0} &= 0, \\ (\hat{G} + \hat{H})f_{nk} + (k+1)f_{nk+1} &= 0, \end{aligned} \quad (15)$$

where the γ -functions are defined as $\gamma_n(\mathbf{g}, \mathbf{r}) \equiv \mu^2 \frac{d}{d\mu^2} r_n(\mu)$ and \hat{G} and \hat{H} stand for the following operators:

$$\hat{G} \equiv \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \gamma_n(\mathbf{g}, \mathbf{r}) \frac{\partial}{\partial r_n}, \quad \hat{H} \equiv \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \sum_{\substack{j=0 \\ \text{even}}}^n \beta_{nj}(\mathbf{g}) \frac{\partial}{\partial g_{nj}}, \quad (16)$$

with β -functions defined as $\beta_{nj}(\mathbf{g}) \equiv \mu^2 \frac{d}{d\mu^2} g_{nj}(\mu)$. These β -functions were discussed in details in Ref. [1].

The equation (15) has an obvious solution:

$$f_{nk}(\mathbf{g}, \mathbf{r}) = \frac{1}{k!} (\hat{G} + \hat{H})^k \gamma_n(\mathbf{g}, \mathbf{r}), \quad (17)$$

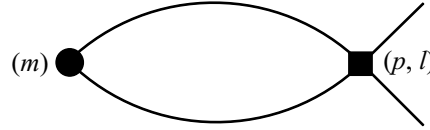
with lowest constant $f_{00} = 1$ fixed by the tree order calculation of the form factor with the leading Lagrangian (1). We see from the solution (17) that, in order to obtain the LLs (constants $f_n \equiv f_{nn}$), we have to apply the operator $(\hat{G} + \hat{H})$ n times to the γ -function $\gamma_n(\mathbf{g}, \mathbf{r})$. This at first glance formidable problem can be solved if one notes that the operators \hat{G} and \hat{H} act as a contraction mapping on the space of constants \mathbf{g}, \mathbf{r} . As it was shown in Ref. [1] the operator \hat{H} possesses the following crucial property: $\hat{H}^n g_{mj} = 0$, if $m \leq n$, which implies that $\hat{H}^n g_{n+1j} = n! \omega_{nj}$ with constants ω_{nj} satisfying the non-linear recursion (5). Analogously one can show that the operator \hat{G} possesses the ‘‘contraction’’ property $\hat{G}^n r_m = 0$ if $m \leq n-1$, which implies that the application of the operator \hat{G} n -times to γ_n has a fixed point. Thus, we can write:

$$\hat{G}^n \gamma_n(\mathbf{g}, \mathbf{r}) = \hat{G}^{n+1} r_n = n! v_n, \quad (18)$$

where v_n are the constants that are independent of couplings \mathbf{g}, \mathbf{r} , which we use in order to find with help of Eq. (17) the coefficients in front of LLs in form factor expansion $f_n \equiv f_{nn} = v_n$. For computing the constants v_n (that is equivalent to LL approximation) due to the ‘‘contraction’’ properties of the operators \hat{G} and \hat{H} only the quadratic part of the $\gamma_n(\mathbf{g}, \mathbf{r})$ contribute to the Eq. (18), so that we can represent the γ -function as following:

$$\gamma_n(\mathbf{g}, \mathbf{r}) = \sum_{m=0}^{n-1} \sum_{\substack{j=0 \\ \text{even}}}^{n-m} \Gamma^{(n-m,j)} r_m g_{(n-m)j}. \quad (19)$$

The quadratic dependence of the relevant piece of the γ -function means that the coefficients $\Gamma^{(p,l)}$ can be computed from the one loop diagram shown in Figure.



One loop diagram contributing to the γ -functions coefficients (20), (21). Filled circle denotes the counterterms for the form factor and the filled square denotes counterterms (pl) introduced in Eq. (5) of Ref. [1]

The result of the calculation for the scalar form factor is:

$$\Gamma_S^{(p,l)} = \frac{N}{2} \delta_{l0} + \Omega_p^{l0}, \quad (20)$$

and for the vector form factor we obtain:

$$\Gamma_V^{(p,l)} = (-1)^{p+1} \frac{1}{3} \Omega_p^{l1}. \quad (21)$$

In both equations matrices Ω_p^{lj} are given by Eq. (4).

Now with help of Eq. (18) and Eq. (19) we can easily obtain recursive equations for the LL coefficients for the scalar and vector form factors:

$$f_n^{S,V} = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{m=0}^{n-1} \sum_{\substack{j=0 \\ \text{even}}}^{n-m} \Gamma_{S,V}^{(n-m,j)} f_m^{S,V} \omega_{(n-m-1)j}, \quad (22)$$

with $f_0^{S,V} = 1$. The coefficients of γ -functions are given by Eq. (20) and Eq. (21) for the scalar and vector form factors correspondingly. The LL coefficients of the Nambu-Goldstone scattering amplitude ω_{pl} can be found from the solution of the non-linear recursion relation (5).

The equation (22) together with (5) provides a very powerful tool for calculation of the LL coefficients in the expansion of the form factors. The results for the first 6 loops for the scalar and vector form factors in the $O(N+1)/O(N)$ sigma-model (1) are presented in Table 1 and Table 2 correspondingly. For $N = 3$ the results coincide with the laborious four-loop calculation of the scalar form-factors obtained in Ref. [4] (see, Eq. (12)) and with 2-loop calculations of Ref. [3] (see Eq. (13)).

In the large N limit the $O(N+1)/O(N)$ sigma model can be solved by the semiclassical methods [8]. In Ref. [1] we showed that in this limit the non-linear recursion equation (5) has the following solution:

$$\omega_{nj} = \left(\frac{N}{2}\right)^n \delta_{j0} \left(1 + O\left(\frac{1}{N}\right)\right). \quad (23)$$

Substituting this solution into Eq. (22) we can easily solve corresponding recursion relation in the large N limit with the result ($n \geq 1$):

Table 1

LL coefficients for the scalar form factor

n	$f_n^S(N=3)$	$f_n^S(N)$
0	1	1
1	1	$\frac{N}{2} - \frac{1}{2}$
2	$\frac{43}{36}$	$\frac{N^2}{4} - \frac{29N}{72} + \frac{11}{72}$
3	$\frac{143}{108}$	$\frac{N^3}{8} - \frac{271N^2}{864} + \frac{7N}{24} - \frac{89}{864}$
4	$\frac{15283}{9720}$	$\frac{N^4}{16} - \frac{121N^3}{600} + \frac{423961N^2}{1555200} - \frac{70997N}{388800} + \frac{76459}{1555200}$
5	$\frac{2578307}{1458000}$	$\frac{N^5}{32} - \frac{13741N^4}{108000} + \frac{328547N^3}{1440000} - \frac{1629803N^2}{7290000} + \frac{14045881N}{116640000} - \frac{169303}{5832000}$
6	$\frac{888770227}{428652000}$	$\frac{N^6}{64} - \frac{6382513N^5}{84672000} + \frac{3785803199N^4}{22861440000} - \frac{7206506437N^3}{34292160000} + \frac{11173397867N^2}{68584320000} - \frac{630301337N}{8573040000} + \frac{255705409}{17146080000}$

Table 2

LL coefficients for the vector form factor

n	$f_n^V(N=3)$	$f_n^V(N)$
0	1	1
1	$\frac{1}{6}$	$\frac{1}{6}$
2	$\frac{1}{72}$	$\frac{N}{24} - \frac{1}{9}$
3	$\frac{91}{1296}$	$\frac{N^2}{80} - \frac{3N}{160} + \frac{181}{12960}$
4	$\frac{3607}{155520}$	$\frac{N^3}{240} - \frac{17N^2}{1200} + \frac{27931N}{1555200} - \frac{4879}{311040}$
5	$\frac{7124897}{163296000}$	$\frac{N^4}{672} - \frac{20917N^3}{4536000} + \frac{10524683N^2}{1632960000} - \frac{2081833N}{544320000} + \frac{2729}{2551500}$
6	$\frac{937784623}{41150592000}$	$\frac{N^5}{1792} - \frac{24313N^4}{9408000} + \frac{8249471N^3}{1524096000} - \frac{478853567N^2}{68584320000} + \frac{34922611N}{6531840000} - \frac{1164883001}{411505920000}$

$$f_n^S = \left(\frac{N}{2}\right)^n \left(1 + O\left(\frac{1}{N}\right)\right),$$

$$f_n^V = \frac{1}{(n+1)(n+2)} \left(\frac{N}{2}\right)^{n-1} \left(1 + O\left(\frac{1}{N}\right)\right). \quad (24)$$

With these results we can perform the summation of the LL contributions in the large N limit. The form factors in these approximation have the following form:

$$F_S(W^2) = \frac{1}{1-\varepsilon},$$

$$F_V(W^2) = 1 + \frac{2}{N} \left(\frac{2-\varepsilon}{2\varepsilon} + \frac{(1-\varepsilon)}{\varepsilon^2} \ln(1-\varepsilon) \right). \quad (25)$$

Here we introduced a following short hand notation $\varepsilon = (N W^2 / 2(4\pi F)^2) \ln(-\mu^2/W^2)$. We see that the

scalar form factor in the large N limit and LL approximation possesses a pole at $\varepsilon = 1$ (which is actually outside the applicability of the LL approximation). This pole corresponds to the contribution of the auxiliary scalar field, which is introduced in order to solve the model (1) at $N \rightarrow \infty$ (see e.g. [8]). The vector form factor also possesses a weaker singularity at $\varepsilon = 1$, that corresponds to the threshold of 2π +auxiliary scalar field production. We see that the form factors in the LL approximation and in the limit of large number of Nambu-Goldstone boson N have correct analytical properties. Let us demonstrate that in general case the form factors obtained in LL approximation with help of our recursion equation (22) satisfy all constraints imposed by analyticity on the form factors.

Now we present general solution of recursion relation (22) that expresses LL coefficients for form factors $f_n^{S,V}$

in terms of the LL coefficients of $\pi\pi$ scattering amplitude $\omega_{n,j}$. To this end we introduce two types of generating functions for the coefficients:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{F}_{S,V}(x) &\equiv \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} f_n^{S,V} x^n, \\ W_{S,V}(x) &\equiv \sum_{p=1}^{\infty} x^{p-1} \sum_{\substack{j=0 \\ \text{even}}}^{p+1} \Gamma_{S,V}^{(p,j)} \omega_{(p-1)j}, \end{aligned} \quad (26)$$

which satisfy obvious conditions $W_{S,V}(0) = 1$ and $\mathcal{F}_{S,V}(0) = 1$. The scalar and vector form factors in the LL approximation can be express in terms of generating functions $\mathcal{F}_{S,V}$ as follows:

$$F_{S,V}(W^2) = \mathcal{F}_{S,V}(w^2 L). \quad (27)$$

The recursion relation (22) can be reduced to the differential equation for the generating functions (26) that has the following solution:

$$\mathcal{F}_{S,V}(x) = \exp\left(\int_0^x dy W_{S,V}(y)\right). \quad (28)$$

From Eq. (3) we can conclude that the lowest $l = 0, 1$ partial wave amplitudes $t_l^i(s) = \frac{1}{2i} \left(e^{2i\delta_l^i(s)} - 1 \right)$ can be expressed in terms of the generating functions $W_{S,V}(x)$ in the following way:

$$t_0^0(s) = \pi S W_S(SL), \quad t_1^1(s) = \pi S W_V(SL). \quad (29)$$

(For notations of kinematical variables see text after Eq. (3).) We see that due to the relations (27), (28) the form factors in the LL approximation can be expressed in terms of partial waves for the $\pi\pi$ scattering in the following way:

$$F_{S(V)}(W^2) = \exp\left(\frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^{w^2} \frac{ds}{s} t_{0(1)}^{0(1)}(s) \left[\ln\left(-\frac{\mu^2}{s}\right) - 1 \right]\right). \quad (30)$$

Noting the following small W^2 asymptotic to the leading logarithms accuracy:

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{W^2 \rightarrow 0} \int_0^{\infty} ds \frac{\left[s \ln\left(-\frac{\mu^2}{s}\right) \right]^n}{s - W^2 - i\varepsilon} &= \\ &= \frac{1}{n+1} W^{2n} \ln^{n+1}\left(-\frac{\mu^2}{W^2}\right), \end{aligned}$$

we can put representation of the form factors in terms of the $\pi\pi$ partial wave amplitudes (30) in the form which corresponds to the Omnès solution [9] of the dispersion relations for the form factors:

$$F_{S(V)}(W^2) = \exp\left(\frac{W^2}{\pi} \int_0^{\infty} \frac{ds}{s} \frac{\delta_{0(1)}^{0(1)}(s)}{s - W^2 - i\varepsilon}\right). \quad (31)$$

This demonstrates that the solution of the recursion relation (22) provides the form factors with correct analytical properties.

In summary, we suggested new method to compute leading infrared logarithms to arbitrary loop order for the form factors of the Nambu–Goldstone bosons of an effective field theory in four dimensions. The method is demonstrated on the example of the scalar and the vector form factors in 4D $O(N+1)/O(N)$ σ -model. The proposed method can be applied to a wide range of effective theories.

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