

Derivative expansion of quadratic operators in a general 't Hooft gauge

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A derivative expansion technique is developed to compute functional determinants of quadratic operators, nondiagonal in spacetime indices. These kinds of operators arise in general 't Hooft gauge fixed Lagrangians. Elaborate applications of the developed derivative expansion are presented. [S0556-2821(99)03318-4]

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I. INTRODUCTION

A very powerful mathematical technique that is used in many areas of theoretical physics is the heat kernel expansion of a quadratic operator. It has become very significant because it can help us calculate quantum corrections in quantum field theories and in quantum gravity.

The transition amplitudes are calculated in terms of perturbation expansion. If the path integral has a saddle point then we can perform a functional Taylor expansion around it and keep the terms up to second order. Saddle points are the solutions of the classical field equations which dominate the path integral. In this way we find the one loop corrections as a function of the determinant of the quadratic fluctuations of the quantum fields.

The derivative expansion presented here extends the work of Moss, Toms, and Poletti [1,2]. Their expansion is a modification of the heat kernel asymptotic expansion. They expand in powers of covariant derivatives.

The derivative expansion method is very useful when we want to evaluate one loop corrections, in cases where the background field is not constant. This is indeed the situation for the soliton solutions, as well for the tunneling rates where the instanton solution is a function of the Euclidean space coordinates. Recently theories that predict nontopological soliton solutions have attracted the interest. Similar expansions need to be performed in order to study the fate of these nontrivial time independent classical solutions when quantum corrections are considered [3–6].

A more general version of the derivative expansion method is developed. This can deal with an extended number of operators, nondiagonal in spacetime indices, covering all the interesting ones in gauge field theories. The new formalism can deal with all the gauge choices, in 't Hooft gauge fixing. It is thus very useful when we want to study the gauge dependency of the various results.

II. THE DERIVATIVE EXPANSION

Heat kernel expansions and the similar derivative expansions are useful when the background field or fields are not homogeneous. In the conventional estimations of the first quantum corrections, for example, in the one loop effective action, we assume that the classical scalar field (the vacuum expectation value) is constant. In the case that this is not true, derivatives of the background field do not vanish resulting in the appearance of extra kinetic terms in the Lagrangian. In

this case we have to deal with second order operators of the form

$$\Delta = -\mathcal{D}^2 + X, \quad (1)$$

where $\mathcal{D}$ is the covariant derivative associated with the group symmetry and X a matrix in the same space with the group structure.

The heat kernel $K(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}', t)$, ($\mathbf{x}$ represents a spacetime point and t a positive parameter) is a quantity that helps to deal with the eigenvalues of the operator. If $u_n(\mathbf{x})$ are the normalized eigenfunctions of the operator Δ , with corresponding eigenvalues λ_n , the heat kernel can be expressed as

$$K(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}', t) = \sum_n u_n(\mathbf{x})^\dagger u_n(\mathbf{x}') e^{-\lambda_n t}. \quad (2)$$

It is related with another useful quantity, the generalized ζ function

$$\zeta(\mathbf{x}, s) = \sum_n \lambda_n^{-s} \quad (3)$$

in the following way:

$$\zeta(\mathbf{x}, s) = \frac{1}{\Gamma(s)} \int_0^\infty dt t^{s-1} \text{tr}[K(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}, t)] \quad (4)$$

for $s > d/2$ (with space dimensions d). It can also continued analytically at $s=0$. The above defined functions $K(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}', t)$, $\zeta(\mathbf{x}, s)$ are useful in computing one loop quantum corrections since the functional determinant of the relevant quadratic operator can be expressed as

$$\det \Delta = \prod_n \lambda_n = \exp \left[- \int d^4x \zeta'(\mathbf{x}, 0) \right] \quad (5)$$

with

$$\zeta'(\mathbf{x}, 0) = \left. \frac{d\zeta(\mathbf{x}, s)}{ds} \right|_{s=0}. \quad (6)$$

The derivative expansion I closely follow, suggested in Ref. [2], is based on a different expansion from that in Eq. (2). The expansion can be written in powers of covariant or ordinary derivatives

$$\text{tr}[K(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}, t)] = (4\pi t)^{-d/2} \sum_i A_i(\mathbf{x}, t), \quad (7)$$

where $A_i(\mathbf{x}, t)$ is a function carrying i derivatives of X : The derivative expansion is a local expansion which sums contributions of a given number of derivatives to all orders contrary to the heat kernel expansion which sums different number of derivatives order by order and therefore has, in some cases, worst infrared problems. These functions $A_i(\mathbf{x}, t)$ can be computed using the heat kernel equation expanded in the momentum space. The heat kernel equation

$$\Delta K = -\frac{\partial K}{\partial t} = -\dot{K} \quad (8)$$

can be written as

$$\int d^4x [k^2 + X(k, \mathbf{x})] K(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}', t) e^{-ik(\mathbf{x}-\mathbf{x}')} = -\dot{K}(k, \mathbf{x}', t), \quad (9)$$

where $K(k, \mathbf{x}', t)$ is the following transformation of $K(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}', t)$,

$$K(k, \mathbf{x}', t) = \int d^4x e^{-ik(\mathbf{x}-\mathbf{x}')} K(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}', t). \quad (10)$$

We also expand in powers of usual derivatives

$$K(k, \mathbf{x}, t) = K_0(k, \mathbf{x}, t) \sum_n a_n(k, \mathbf{x}, t), \quad a_0 = 1, \quad X = \sum_n X_n, \quad (11)$$

where X_n is the part of the quadratic terms carrying n th order derivatives or in other words the n th order kinetic terms while X_0 contains the mass terms. K_0 is the part of the heat kernel with no derivatives and a_n is the part of the heat kernel that carries n th order derivatives divided by K_0 .

We can now express the functions $A_n(x, t)$ in terms of the new defined functions a_n . From expressions (7), (10) we get

$$\sum_i A_i(\mathbf{x}, t) = (4\pi t)^{d/2} \text{tr} \int d^4x \int d\mu(k) K(k, \mathbf{x}', t) e^{ik(\mathbf{x}-\mathbf{x}')} \delta(\mathbf{x}-\mathbf{x}') \Rightarrow A_n(\mathbf{x}, t) = (4\pi t)^{d/2} \int d\mu(k) \text{tr}[K_0(k, \mathbf{x}, t) a_n(k, \mathbf{x}, t)]. \quad (12)$$

The next step is to develop an iterative scheme which will give the first terms of the expansion, in powers of covariant or ordinary derivatives of the relevant operator.

III. GENERALIZED METHOD

In the previous section we described the first common steps between the derivative expansion method developed previously [1,2], for operators of the form $\Delta = -\nabla^2 + X$, and the generalized method presented here. The old method is not applicable in the case of some quadratic operators we encounter in gauge field theories. The reason is that in different gauges than the Feynman one, we get operators of the following form:

$$\Delta = -\delta_\mu^\nu \nabla^2 + (1 - \xi^{-1}) \nabla_\mu \nabla^\nu + X \delta_\mu^\nu. \quad (13)$$

The material below is a generalization of the derivative expansion method in order to handle the quadratic operators in 't Hooft gauge fixing. We avoid describing in great detail the derivation of the various expressions. The reason is that the algebra is too lengthy to be presented.

The heat kernel equation of the above operator can be written in the momentum space, after a Taylor expansion of $X(k, \mathbf{x})$, in powers of $\mathbf{x}-\mathbf{x}' \equiv x^\mu - x'^\mu$ around $X(k, \mathbf{x}')$, as follows:

$$\left[\delta_\mu^\nu k^2 - (1 - \xi^{-1}) k_\mu k^\nu + \delta_\mu^\nu \sum_{r=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{r!} X_{,\mu_1 \dots \mu_r} \delta^{\mu_1 \dots \mu_r} \right] \times K(k, \mathbf{x}', t) = -\dot{K}(k, \mathbf{x}', t), \quad (14)$$

where $\delta^\mu = i\partial/\partial k^\mu$ is the transformed $x^\mu - x'^\mu$. We define

$$P_\mu^\nu = \delta_\mu^\nu - \hat{k}_\mu \hat{k}^\nu, \quad Q_\mu^\nu = \hat{k}_\mu \hat{k}^\nu, \quad (15)$$

where

$$\hat{k}_\mu \hat{k}^\nu = \frac{k_\mu k^\nu}{k^2}. \quad (16)$$

It is obvious that

$$PQ \equiv P^\lambda_\mu Q^\mu_\nu = 0, \quad P^\nu_\mu + Q^\nu_\mu = \delta^\nu_\mu. \quad (17)$$

Performing the derivative expansion approximation we find from Eq. (14), at zero order

$$K_0 = e^{-[(P_\mu^\nu + \xi^{-1} Q_\mu^\nu) k^2 + \delta_\mu^\nu X_0]t} = (Pe^{-k^2 t} + Qe^{-\xi^{-1} k^2 t}) e^{-X_0 t}. \quad (18)$$

K_0 can further be written in terms of the eigenvalues m_i^2 of the matrix X_0 and the matrices T_i , which are defined by

$$X_0 = \sum m_i^2 T_i. \quad (19)$$

Using expression (18), a recursion equation can be obtained

$$\dot{a}_n = - \sum_{0 < r+s \leq n} \sum_{i,j} \frac{1}{r!} T_i X_{s,\mu_1 \dots \mu_r} T_j e^{-(m_j^2 - m_i^2)t} \times \hat{D}^{\mu_1} \dots \hat{D}^{\mu_r} a_{n-r-s}, \quad (20)$$

where

$$\hat{D}^\rho = \delta_\mu^\nu i \frac{\partial}{\partial k^\rho} - \Gamma_\mu^{\nu\rho} = \delta_\mu^\nu \delta^\rho - \Gamma_\mu^{\nu\rho}. \quad (21)$$

The connection term is

$$\Gamma_\mu^{\nu\rho} \equiv \Gamma^\rho = 2ik^\rho t(P + \xi^{-1}Q) - iPP^{\cdot\rho}(1 - e^{(1-\xi^{-1})k^2 t}) - iQP^{\cdot\rho}(-1 + e^{(-1+\xi^{-1})k^2 t}), \quad (22)$$

where

$$P^{\cdot\rho} \equiv P_\mu^{\nu,\rho} = \frac{\partial P_\mu^\nu}{\partial k^\rho}. \quad (23)$$

The following relations are very helpful to proceed further into the algebra of the iterative scheme.

Zeroth order:

$$PP = P, \quad QQ = Q. \quad (24)$$

First order:

$$PP^{\cdot\rho} + P^{\cdot\rho}P = P^{\cdot\rho}, \quad \text{tr}[PP^{\cdot\rho}] = \text{tr}[P^{\cdot\rho}] = 0. \quad (25)$$

Second order:

$$\text{tr}[P^{\cdot\rho}P^{\cdot\sigma}] = \frac{2}{k^2}P^{\rho\sigma}, \quad \text{tr}[PP^{\cdot\rho}P^{\cdot\sigma}] = \frac{1}{k^2}P^{\rho\sigma}, \quad (26)$$

also

$$\text{tr}[P^{\cdot\rho\sigma}] = 0, \quad \text{tr}[PP^{\cdot\rho\sigma}] = -\frac{2}{k^2}P^{\rho\sigma}, \quad \text{tr}[PP^{\cdot\rho}PP^{\cdot\sigma}] = 0. \quad (27)$$

Terms including Q are

$$P^{\cdot\rho} = -Q^{\cdot\rho}, \quad P^{\cdot\rho\sigma} = -Q^{\cdot\rho\sigma}, \quad (28)$$

and

$$\text{tr}[QP^{\cdot\rho}] = 0, \quad \text{tr}[QP^{\cdot\rho}P^{\cdot\sigma}] = \frac{1}{k^2}P^{\rho\sigma},$$

$$\text{tr}[QP^{\cdot\rho\sigma}] = \frac{2}{k^2}P^{\rho\sigma}, \quad (29)$$

$$\text{tr}[PP^{\cdot\rho}QP^{\cdot\sigma}] = \frac{1}{k^2}P^{\rho\sigma}, \quad \text{tr}[QP^{\cdot\rho}QP^{\cdot\sigma}] = 0. \quad (30)$$

For the terms containing Γ we find that

$$\text{tr}[P\Gamma^{\cdot\rho}\Gamma^{\cdot\sigma}] = -4k^\rho k^\sigma t^2(\text{tr}P) - \frac{2}{k^2}P^{\rho\sigma} \times \{\cosh[k^2(-1 + \xi^{-1})t] - 1\}, \quad (31)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{tr}[P\Gamma^{\cdot\rho\sigma}] &= 2i\delta^{\rho\sigma}t(\text{tr}P) - i\frac{1}{k^2}P^{\rho\sigma}[e^{k^2(1-\xi^{-1})t} - 1] \\ &\quad + i\frac{1}{k^2}P^{\rho\sigma}[e^{k^2(-1+\xi^{-1})t} - 1] \end{aligned} \quad (32)$$

for the matrix Q

$$\begin{aligned} \text{tr}[Q\Gamma^{\cdot\rho}\Gamma^{\cdot\sigma}] &= -4k^\rho k^\sigma t^2\xi^{-2} - \frac{2}{k^2}P^{\rho\sigma} \\ &\quad \times \{\cosh[k^2(-1 + \xi^{-1})t] - 1\}, \end{aligned} \quad (33)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{tr}[Q\Gamma^{\cdot\rho\sigma}] &= 2i\delta^{\rho\sigma}t\xi^{-1} + i\frac{1}{k^2}P^{\rho\sigma}[e^{k^2(1-\xi^{-1})t} - 1] \\ &\quad - i\frac{1}{k^2}P^{\cdot\rho\sigma}[e^{k^2(\xi^{-1}-1)t} - 1]. \end{aligned} \quad (34)$$

The recursion Eq. (20), leads to an iterative scheme with which we can evaluate the first terms in powers of ordinary derivatives of the heat kernel. In the first iteration we get

$$\dot{a}_1 = \Gamma^\rho \sum_{i,j} T_i X_{0,\rho} T_j e^{(m_i^2 - m_j^2)t} - \sum_{i,j} T_i X_1 T_j e^{(m_i^2 - m_j^2)t} \quad (35)$$

and after an integration from $t=0$ to $t=\infty$ we find

$$\begin{aligned} a_1 &= 2ik^\rho(P + \xi^{-1}Q) \sum_{i,j} T_i X_{0,\rho} T_j f_{ij} - \sum_{i,j} T_i X_1 T_j g_{ij} \\ &\quad - i(P - Q)P^{\cdot\rho} \sum_{i,j} T_i X_{0,\rho} T_j g_{ij} \\ &\quad + i \sum_{i,j} T_i X_{0,\rho} T_j \left[PP^{\cdot\rho}g[m^2 + (1 - \xi^{-1})k^2] - QP^{\cdot\rho}g[m^2 - (1 - \xi^{-1})k^2] \right], \end{aligned} \quad (36)$$

where

$$f(m^2) \equiv f_{ij}(t) = \frac{\partial}{\partial m^2} g_{ij}(t), \quad m^2 = m_i^2 - m_j^2, \quad (37)$$

$$g(m^2) \equiv g_{ij}(t) = m^{-2}(e^{m^2 t} - 1). \quad (38)$$

The lengthy evaluation of the second term $\dot{a}_2$ is described in Appendix B.

Finally after considerable cancellations, we find through the expression Eq. (12) that for a 't Hooft gauge fixing the first terms of the derivative expansion are

$$A_0 = (4\pi t)^{d/2}(\text{tr}P + \xi^{d/2})K(t) \sum_i \text{tr}(T_i) e^{-m_i^2 t}, \quad (39)$$

where

$$K(t) = \int d\mu(k) e^{-k^2 t}. \quad (40)$$

The term A_1 does not contribute in the effective action, in our case, because leads to a total divergence:

$$\begin{aligned}
A_2/(4\pi t)^{d/2} = & -\frac{1}{6}t^2(\text{tr}P + \xi^{-1+d/2}) \sum_i \text{tr}(T_i \nabla_\mu \nabla^\mu X_0 T_i) K_i(t) - \frac{2}{3}t \sum_i \text{tr}(T_i \nabla_\mu \nabla^\mu X_0 T_i) [\tilde{K}_i(t) - K_i^{(\xi)}(t)] \\
& + (\text{tr}P + \xi^{-1+d/2}) K(t) \sum_{i,j} \text{tr}(T_i \nabla_\mu X_0 T_j \nabla^\mu X_0 T_i) \eta_{ij}(t) + \frac{2}{3} [\tilde{K}(t) - K^{(\xi)}(t)] \\
& \times \sum_{i,j} \text{tr}(T_i \nabla_\mu X_0 T_j \nabla^\mu X_0 T_i) \chi_{ij}(t) + K(t) (\text{tr}P + \xi^{d/2}) \sum_{i,j} \text{tr}(T_i X_1 T_j X_1 T_i) \chi_{ij}(t) \\
& + \frac{2}{3} \sum_{i,j} \text{tr}(T_i \nabla_\mu X_0 T_j \nabla^\mu X_0 T_i) \left[\frac{t\lambda_{ij}(t) + \mu_{ij}(t)}{\xi - 1} + \nu_{ij}(t) \right], \tag{41}
\end{aligned}$$

where

$$K_i(t) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} d\mu(k) e^{-k^2 t} e^{-m_i^2 t} = K(t) e^{-m_i^2 t}, \tag{42}$$

$$\tilde{K}_i(t) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} d\mu(k) \frac{1}{k^2} e^{-k^2 t} e^{-m_i^2 t} = \tilde{K}(t) e^{-m_i^2 t}, \tag{43}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}
\lambda_{ij}(t) = & \frac{1}{2} \int d\mu(k) \frac{k^{-2}}{-m^2 + k^2(1 - \xi^{-1})} \theta_{ij}(t) \\
& + \frac{1}{2} \int d\mu(k) \frac{k^{-2}}{m^2 + k^2(1 - \xi^{-1})} \theta_{ji}(t), \tag{44}
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
\mu_{ij}(t) = & \frac{1}{2} \frac{1}{m^2} \int d\mu(k) \frac{k^{-2}}{-m^2 + k^2(1 - \xi^{-1})} [\zeta_{ij}(t) - \zeta_{ji}(t)] \\
& + \frac{1}{2} \frac{1}{m^2} \int d\mu(k) \frac{k^{-2}}{m^2 + k^2(1 - \xi^{-1})} [\zeta_{ij}(t) - \zeta_{ji}(t)], \tag{45}
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
\nu_{ij}(t) = & \frac{1}{2} \int d\mu(k) \frac{k^{-4}}{-m^2 + k^2(1 - \xi^{-1})} [-\zeta_{ij}(t) + \zeta_{ji}(t)] \\
& + \frac{1}{2} \int d\mu(k) \frac{k^{-4}}{m^2 + k^2(1 - \xi^{-1})} [\zeta_{ij}(t) - \zeta_{ji}(t)], \tag{46}
\end{aligned}$$

also

$$\begin{aligned}
\eta_{ij}(t) = & -m^{-6} \left(1 + \frac{1}{6} m^4 t^2 \right) (e^{-m_i^2 t} - e^{-m_j^2 t}) \\
& - \frac{1}{2} m^{-4} t (e^{-m_i^2 t} + e^{-m_j^2 t}) \tag{47}
\end{aligned}$$

$$\chi_{ij}(t) = -\frac{1}{2} m^{-2} t (e^{-m_i^2 t} - e^{-m_j^2 t}). \tag{48}$$

In the case where $i = j$,

$$\eta_{ii}(t) = \frac{1}{12} t^3 e^{-m_i^2 t}, \quad \chi_{ii}(t) = \frac{1}{2} t^2 e^{-m_i^2 t}. \tag{49}$$

The above results in the Feynman gauge $\xi = 1$, reduce to the respective expressions, in Ref. [2]. We should ignore the spacetime indices if the operators do not carry such indices, otherwise we should take them into account, assuming that the traces in the respective equations in Ref. [2] are also over spacetime indices.

The above developed expansion formulas can also be given in a different and more lengthy in our case form, using the covariant derivatives $\mathcal{D}_\mu$ instead of the simple derivatives ∇_μ . The above expansion can be carefully transformed in the covariant form in a similar way with that proposed in Ref. [2].

Note that

$$\text{for } \xi = 1, \quad \tilde{K}(t) = K^{(\xi)}(t) \quad \text{and} \quad \lambda_{ij}(t) = \mu_{ij}(t) = \nu_{ij}(t) = 0$$

and

$$\text{for } \xi = 0, \quad K^{(\xi)}(t) = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \lambda_{ij}(t) = \mu_{ij}(t) = \nu_{ij}(t) = 0.$$

Note that one can prove, in order to test the validity of the developed expansion, that the derivative of the corrected effective action with respect to the ξ parameter, evaluated at $\xi = 1$, is zero. Thus small deviations from the Feynman gauge leave the calculated corrected action invariant, as one should expect.

A. Landau gauge

The derivative expansion in the Landau gauge $\xi = 0$ reduces to the following equations:

$$A_0 = (4\pi t)^{d/2} (\text{tr}P) K(t) \sum_i \text{tr}(T_i) e^{-m_i^2 t}, \tag{50}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
A_2/(4\pi t)^{d/2} = & -\frac{1}{6}t^2(\text{tr}P)\sum_i \text{tr}(T_i\nabla_\mu\nabla^\mu X_0 T_i)K_i(t) \\
& -\frac{2}{3}t\sum_i \text{tr}(T_i\nabla_\mu\nabla^\mu X_0 T_i)\tilde{K}_i(t) \\
& +(\text{tr}P)K(t)\sum_{i,j} \text{tr}(T_i\nabla_\mu X_0 T_j\nabla^\mu X_0 T_i)\eta_{ij}(t) \\
& +\frac{2}{3}\tilde{K}(t)\sum_{i,j} \text{tr}(T_i\nabla_\mu X_0 T_j\nabla^\mu X_0 T_i)\chi_{ij}(t) \\
& +K(t)(\text{tr}P)\sum_{i,j} \text{tr}(T_i X_1 T_j X_1 T_i)\chi_{ij}(t). \quad (51)
\end{aligned}$$

B. Finite temperature corrections

In some stages of the early Universe evolution, we often expect the particles to be in thermal equilibrium. Therefore a field Φ can be in contact with this heat bath. The result is that it gets a temperature dependent mass. Since we deal with an ensemble of particles in thermal equilibrium, the background state in which we perform calculations is no longer the ground state of the Hamiltonian but a thermal bath at temperature T . To study this situation is essential to use a statistical quantity, the finite temperature effective potential $V(\Phi, T)$. This is the free energy density associated with the Φ field. At $T \neq 0$ quantum statistics is equivalent to Euclidean quantum field theory in a space which is periodic with period $\beta = 1/T$ along the “imaginary time” axis. Thus we can write the partition function Z as

$$\begin{aligned}
Z = & \sum_{\Phi} \langle \Phi(\mathbf{x}), t=0 | e^{-\beta H} | \Phi(\mathbf{x}), t=0 \rangle \\
& \propto \int \mathcal{D}[\Phi] \exp \left\{ \int_0^\beta d\tau \int d^3x \mathcal{L} \right\}, \quad (52)
\end{aligned}$$

where the integral is periodic with period depending on the kind of statistics the particles obey

$$\text{bosons: } \phi(\tau=0, \mathbf{x}) = \phi(\tau=\beta, \mathbf{x}), \quad (53)$$

$$\text{fermions: } \psi(\tau=0, \mathbf{x}) = -\psi(\tau=\beta, \mathbf{x}). \quad (54)$$

The fields here represent ensemble of particles in local thermal equilibrium. These thermal averages vary over space. The short discussion we had, implies that the integral measure, in momentum space, becomes

$$\int d\mu(k) f(k^i, k^0) \rightarrow \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} \beta^{-1} \int \frac{d^3k}{(2\pi)^3} f\left(k^i, \frac{2\pi n + s\pi}{\beta}\right), \quad (55)$$

where $s=0$ for bosons and $s=1$ for fermions. We need to calculate now the $\zeta'(\mathbf{x}, 0)$ function in order to find the one loop corrections through the expression Eq. (5). The $\zeta'(\mathbf{x}, s)$ can be written as the sum of terms $\zeta'_n(\mathbf{x}, s)$ with different number n of derivatives.

$$\zeta'_n(\mathbf{x}, s) = \frac{1}{\Gamma(s)} \int_0^\infty dt t^{s-1} \text{tr}[K_0 a_n]. \quad (56)$$

The above expression together with the developed expansion, see Eqs. (39), (41), contains all the information needed to find quantum corrections at finite temperature. The one loop contribution, at finite temperature, is given by the following expression:

$$\Gamma^{(1)} = \frac{1}{T} \int d^3x \left[-\frac{1}{2} \zeta'(x, 0) \right]. \quad (57)$$

It is straightforward to find, but lengthy to present, the temperature corrected expansion in 't Hooft gauge. In the previous work [2] the temperature corrected expansion was given in Feynman gauge while here is given, for comparison, in Landau gauge. The way we can calculate this expansion for bosons and fermions is described in Appendix A:

$$\begin{aligned}
\zeta'_2(x, 0) = & (\text{tr}P) \sum_i \text{tr}[T_i \nabla_\mu \nabla^\mu X_0 T_i] \rho'_i(0) \\
& + \sum_i \text{tr}[T_i \nabla_\mu \nabla^\mu X_0 T_i] \tilde{\rho}'_i(0) \\
& + (\text{tr}P) \sum_{i,j} \text{tr}[T_i \nabla_\mu X_0 T_j \nabla^\mu X_0 T_i] \eta'_{ij}(0) \\
& + \sum_{i,j} \text{tr}[T_i \nabla_\mu X_0 T_j \nabla^\mu X_0 T_i] \tilde{\chi}'_{ij}(0) \\
& + (\text{tr}P) \sum_{i,j} \text{tr}[T_i X_1 T_j X_1 T_i] \chi'_{ij}(0). \quad (58)
\end{aligned}$$

The new functions, we introduce, are given below, in the high temperature ($m/T < 1$) regime and for bosons:

$$\rho'_i(0) \simeq -\frac{T}{48\pi} m_i^{-1}, \quad (59)$$

$$\tilde{\rho}'_i(0) \simeq -\frac{T}{6\pi} m_i^{-1}, \quad (60)$$

$$\eta'_{ij}(0) \simeq \frac{T}{192\pi} \frac{4(m_i^2 + m_j^2)}{m_i m_j (m_i + m_j)^3}, \quad (61)$$

$$\chi'_{ij}(0) \simeq \frac{T}{8\pi} (m_i + m_j)^{-1}, \quad (62)$$

$$\tilde{\chi}'_{ij}(0) \simeq \frac{T}{12\pi} \frac{1}{m_i m_j} (m_i + m_j)^{-1}. \quad (63)$$

One should note here that the finite temperature effective action is not well defined because of the nonanalytic behavior of the two point functions involved. This problem becomes manifest from the different results we get, taking different order of zero limits of the four external momenta [7]. However it can give a correct approximate estimation of the

critical temperature. As far as the nature of the transition is concerned, something that would be crucial for the cosmological electroweak phase transition [8], the various proposed improved methods do not seem to agree [9].

IV. SCALAR ELECTRODYNAMICS

In this section we will apply as an example, the derivative expansion method we just described, in the toy model of scalar electrodynamics. For loop corrections of this model see Refs. [10,11].

The Lagrangian can be written as the sum of the physical and the ghost contributions.

$$\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{L}_{\text{phys}} + \mathcal{L}_{\text{ghost}}. \quad (64)$$

This model just has a charged scalar field and an electromagnetic one:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}_{\text{phys}} = & -(D_\mu \Phi)(D^\mu \Phi)^* - \mu^2 \Phi \Phi^* - \frac{1}{4} \lambda (\Phi \Phi^*)^2 \\ & - \frac{1}{4} F_{\mu\nu} F^{\mu\nu} - \frac{1}{2\xi} (\partial_\mu A^\mu - \xi q \phi_{cl} \phi_1)^2, \end{aligned} \quad (65)$$

where

$$\Phi = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (\phi_{cl} + \phi_1 + i \phi_2). \quad (66)$$

The U(1) covariant derivative is

$$D_\mu = \partial_\mu + i q A_\mu \quad (67)$$

and the electromagnetic tensor

$$F_{\mu\nu} = \partial_\mu A_\nu - \partial_\nu A_\mu. \quad (68)$$

Since we want to find the quadratic part of the Lagrangian we expand Eq. (65) and drop total divergences. We get

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}_{\text{quadr}} = & -\frac{1}{2} \partial_\mu \phi_1 \partial^\mu \phi_1 - \frac{1}{2} \left(\mu^2 + \frac{3}{4} \lambda \phi_{cl}^2 \right) \phi_1^2 - \frac{1}{2} \partial_\mu \phi_2 \partial^\mu \phi_2 \\ & - \frac{1}{2} \left(\mu^2 + \frac{1}{4} \lambda \phi_{cl}^2 + \xi q^2 \phi_{cl}^2 \right) \phi_2^2 \\ & - \frac{1}{2} [(1 - \xi^{-1}) A^\mu \partial_\mu \partial^\nu A_\nu \\ & - A^\mu \delta_\mu^\nu \partial_\lambda \partial^\lambda A_\nu + q^2 \phi_{cl}^2 A^\mu A_\mu] \\ & - 2 i q \phi_2 A^\mu \partial_\mu \phi_{cl} + \bar{c} [-\partial^\mu \partial_\mu + \xi q^2 \phi_{cl}^2] c. \end{aligned} \quad (69)$$

It can be written as

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{quadr}} = -\frac{1}{2} \eta_\nu^\top \Delta_\mu^\nu \eta^\mu + \bar{c} \Delta_{\text{ghost}} c, \quad (70)$$

where

$$\eta_\nu^\top = (A_\nu \quad \phi_1 \quad \phi_2) \quad (71)$$

and

$$\Delta_\mu^\nu = \begin{pmatrix} \Delta_{\mu(A)}^\nu & 0 & X_{1\mu} \\ 0 & \Delta_{11}^\phi & 0 \\ X_1^\nu & 0 & \Delta_{22}^\phi \end{pmatrix}. \quad (72)$$

The off diagonal entries are the nonzero kinetic terms

$$X_{1\mu} = 2 i q \partial_\mu \phi_{cl}. \quad (73)$$

The fluctuation operators are

$$\Delta_\phi = -\nabla^2 + X_\phi \quad (74)$$

with

$$X_\phi = \begin{pmatrix} \mu^2 + \frac{3}{4} \lambda \phi_{cl}^2 & 0 \\ 0 & \mu^2 + \frac{1}{4} \lambda \phi_{cl}^2 + \xi q^2 \phi_{cl}^2 \end{pmatrix}. \quad (75)$$

The gauge field operator is

$$\Delta_{\mu(A)}^\nu = -\delta_\mu^\nu \nabla^2 + (1 - \xi^{-1}) \nabla_\mu \nabla^\nu + q^2 \phi_{cl}^2 \delta_\mu^\nu \quad (76)$$

and the ghost one

$$\Delta_{gh} = -\nabla^2 + \xi q^2 \phi_{cl}^2. \quad (77)$$

So the quantities we need for the formalism of the derivative expansion are

$$X_0 = \begin{pmatrix} \delta_\mu^\nu m_1^2 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & m_2^2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & m_3^2 \end{pmatrix}, \quad (78)$$

$$X_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & X_{1\mu} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ X_1^\nu & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad (79)$$

with masses

$$\begin{aligned} m_1^2 &= q^2 \phi_{cl}^2, \quad m_2^2 = \mu^2 + \frac{3}{4} \lambda \phi_{cl}^2, \\ m_3^2 &= \mu^2 + \frac{1}{4} \lambda \phi_{cl}^2 + \xi q^2 \phi_{cl}^2. \end{aligned} \quad (80)$$

The projection matrices are

$$\begin{aligned} T_1 &= \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad T_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \\ T_3 &= \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}. \end{aligned} \quad (81)$$

Since now the matrix X is

$$X = \begin{pmatrix} \delta_\mu^\nu m_1^2 & 0 & X_{1\mu} \\ 0 & m_2^2 & 0 \\ X_1^\nu & 0 & m_3^2 \end{pmatrix} \quad (82)$$

it is trivial to see that here we should introduce the following definitions:

$$\Pi_\mu^\nu = \begin{pmatrix} P_\mu^\nu & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = P_\mu^\nu T_1 + T_2 + T_3, \quad (83)$$

$$\Theta_\mu^\nu = \begin{pmatrix} Q_\mu^\nu & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} = Q_\mu^\nu T_1. \quad (84)$$

It is obvious that Π_μ^ν and Θ_μ^ν satisfy similar expressions to P_μ^ν and Q_μ^ν :

$$\Pi_\mu^\lambda \Theta_\lambda^\nu = 0, \quad \Pi_\mu^\nu + \Theta_\mu^\nu = \delta_\mu^\nu T_1 + T_2 + T_3, \quad (85)$$

$$\Pi_\mu^\lambda \Pi_\lambda^\nu = \Pi_\mu^\nu, \quad \Theta_\mu^\lambda \Theta_\lambda^\nu = \Theta_\mu^\nu. \quad (86)$$

The important expressions are

$$\begin{aligned} \text{tr}[\Pi \Gamma^{\cdot\rho\sigma}] &= 2i \delta^{\rho\sigma} t [\text{tr}(P) T_1 + T_2 + T_3] \\ &\quad - i \frac{1}{k^2} P^{\cdot\rho\sigma} T_1 [e^{k^2(1-\xi^{-1})t} - 1] \\ &\quad + i \frac{1}{k^2} P^{\cdot\rho\sigma} T_1 [e^{k^2(-1+\xi^{-1})t} - 1] \end{aligned} \quad (87)$$

while for the matrix Θ_μ^ν ,

$$\begin{aligned} \text{tr}[\Theta \Gamma^{\cdot\rho\sigma}] &= -4k^\rho k^\sigma t^2 \xi^{-2} T_1 - \frac{2}{k^2} P^{\cdot\rho\sigma} T_1 \\ &\quad \times \{\cosh[k^2(-1+\xi^{-1})t] - 1\}. \end{aligned} \quad (88)$$

Proceeding as before, the first terms of the derivative expansion are

$$A_0 = (4\pi t)^{d/2} K(t) \sum_i \text{tr}(T_i) e^{-m_i^2 t} (\delta_{i1} \text{tr} P + \delta_{i2} + \delta_{i3} + \delta_{i1} \xi^{d/2}), \quad (89)$$

$$\begin{aligned} A_2 / (4\pi t)^{d/2} &= -\frac{1}{6} t^2 \sum_i \text{tr}(T_i \nabla_\mu \nabla^\mu X_0 T_i) (\delta_{i1} \text{tr} P + \delta_{i2} + \delta_{i3} + \delta_{i1} \xi^{-1+d/2}) K_i(t) \\ &\quad - \frac{2}{3} t \sum_i \text{tr}(T_i \nabla_\mu \nabla^\mu X_0 T_i) \delta_{i1} [\tilde{K}_i(t) - K_i^{(\xi)}(t)] + K(t) \sum_i \text{tr}(T_i \nabla_\mu X_0 T_i \nabla^\mu X_0 T_i) \left[\frac{\delta_{i1} \text{tr} P + \delta_{i2} + \delta_{i3}}{\delta_{i1} \xi^{-1+d/2}} \right] \eta_{ii}(t) \\ &\quad + \frac{2}{3} [\tilde{K}(t) - K^{(\xi)}(t)] \sum_{i,j} \text{tr}(T_i \nabla_\mu X_0 T_j \nabla^\mu X_0 T_i) \delta_{i1} \chi_{ij}(t) + K(t) \sum_{i,j} \text{tr}(T_i X_1 T_j X_1 T_i) (\delta_{i1} + \delta_{j1}) \\ &\quad \times [\text{tr} P + \xi^{d/2}] \chi_{ij}(t) + \frac{2}{3} \sum_{i,j} \text{tr}(T_i \nabla_\mu X_0 T_j \nabla^\mu X_0 T_i) \left[\frac{t \lambda_{ij}(t) + \mu_{ij}(t)}{\xi - 1} \nu_{ij}(t) \right] \delta_{i1}. \end{aligned} \quad (90)$$

The only nonzero combinations are

$$\begin{aligned} T_1 \partial_\mu X_0 T_1 \partial^\mu X_0 T_1 &= (\partial^\mu m_1^2)^2 T_1, \\ T_2 \partial_\mu X_0 T_2 \partial^\mu X_0 T_2 &= (\partial^\mu m_2^2)^2 T_2, \\ T_3 \partial_\mu X_0 T_3 \partial^\mu X_0 T_3 &= (\partial^\mu m_3^2)^2 T_3, \end{aligned} \quad (91)$$

and

$$T_1 X_1 T_3 X_1 T_1 = -4q^2 \partial_\mu \phi_{cl} \partial^\nu \phi_{cl} T_1,$$

$$T_3 X_1 T_1 X_1 T_3 = -4q^2 \partial_\mu \phi_{cl} \partial^\nu \phi_{cl} T_3 \quad (92)$$

$$\begin{aligned} T_1 \partial_\mu \partial^\mu X_0 T_1 &= \partial_\mu \partial^\mu m_1^2 T_1, \quad T_2 \partial_\mu \partial^\mu X_0 T_2 = \partial_\mu \partial^\mu m_2^2 T_2, \\ T_3 \partial_\mu \partial^\mu X_0 T_3 &= \partial_\mu \partial^\mu m_3^2 T_3. \end{aligned} \quad (93)$$

Now we can calculate for this model, the one loop effective action with nonconstant background field ϕ_{cl} . One can choose a value for ξ and proceed further. Results are known in Feynman gauge [10,11], so we will present the results in Landau $\xi=0$ gauge:

$$\begin{aligned}
A_0/(4\pi t)^{d/2} &= (\delta_{i1}\text{tr}P + \delta_{i2} + \delta_{i3})K(t) \sum_i \text{tr}(T_i) e^{-m_i^2 t} \\
&= 3K_1(t) + K_2(t) + K_2(t),
\end{aligned} \tag{94}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
A_2/(4\pi t)^{d/2} &= -\frac{1}{6}t^2 \sum_i \text{tr}(T_i \nabla_\mu \nabla^\mu X_0 T_i) (\delta_{i1}\text{tr}P + \delta_{i2} + \delta_{i3})K_i(t) - \frac{2}{3}t \text{tr}(T_1 \nabla_\mu \nabla^\mu X_0 T_1) \tilde{K}_1(t) \\
&\quad + K(t) \sum_{i,j} \text{tr}(T_i \nabla_\mu X_0 T_i \nabla^\mu X_0 T_j) (\delta_{i1}\text{tr}P + \delta_{i2} + \delta_{i3}) \eta_{ij}(t) + \frac{2}{3} \tilde{K}(t) \text{tr}(T_1 \nabla_\mu X_0 T_1 \nabla^\mu X_0 T_1) \chi_{11}(t) \\
&\quad + K(t) \sum_{i,j} \text{tr}(T_i X_1 T_j X_1 T_i) [(\delta_{i1} + \delta_{j1})\text{tr}P] \chi_{ij}(t).
\end{aligned} \tag{95}$$

In four dimensions we have that

$$K(t) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} d\mu(k) e^{-k^2 t} = \frac{1}{16\pi^2 t^2}, \tag{96}$$

$$\tilde{K}(t) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} d\mu(k) \frac{1}{k^2} e^{-k^2 t} = \frac{1}{16\pi^2 t}. \tag{97}$$

Using the values of some useful $\zeta'(m^2, p, s)$ functions we calculated in Appendix A, and the above integrals, we can find the one loop action including the kinetic terms of the background field. We get

$$\begin{aligned}
\zeta'_2(x, 0) &= [\phi_{cl} \phi''_{cl} + (\phi'_{cl})^2] \left[\frac{7}{12\pi^2} q^2 \ln\left(\frac{m_1^2}{\mu_R}\right) - \frac{1}{64\pi^2} \lambda \ln\left(\frac{m_2^2}{\mu_R}\right) \right] + [\phi_{cl}^2 (\phi'_{cl})^2] \left[\frac{7}{12\pi^2} q^4 \frac{1}{m_1^2} + \frac{3}{256\pi^2} \lambda^2 \frac{1}{m_2^2} \right. \\
&\quad \left. + \frac{1}{768\pi^2} \lambda^2 \frac{1}{m_3^2} \right] \\
&\quad - (\phi'_{cl})^2 \frac{q^2}{4\pi^2} \left[\frac{2[L(m_3^2) - L(m_1^2)]}{(m_1^2 - m_3^2)^2} - \frac{3}{(m_1^2 - m_3^2)} \left[-m_1^2 + m_1^2 \ln\left(\frac{m_1^2}{\mu_R^2}\right) \right] \right. \\
&\quad \left. + \frac{3}{(m_1^2 - m_3^2)} \left[-m_3^2 + m_3^2 \ln\left(\frac{m_3^2}{\mu_R^2}\right) \right] \right]
\end{aligned} \tag{98}$$

and

$$\zeta'_0(x, 0) = \frac{1}{16\pi^2} [3L(m_1^2) + L(m_2^2) + L(m_3^2)], \tag{99}$$

where

$$L(m^2) = \zeta'(m^2, -2, 0) = \frac{1}{2} m^4 \left[\frac{3}{2} - \ln\left(\frac{m^2}{\mu_R^2}\right) \right]. \tag{100}$$

Finally, the one loop corrections to the tree action are kinetic terms

$$\Gamma_2^{(1)} = \int d^4x \left[-\frac{1}{2} \zeta'_2(x, 0) \right] \tag{101}$$

and potential terms

$$\Gamma_0^{(1)} = \int d^4x \left[-\frac{1}{2} \zeta'_0(x, 0) \right]. \tag{102}$$

In Feynman gauge the results look different, i.e., there is a ξ dependence,

$$\begin{aligned} \zeta'_2(x,0) = & [\phi_{cl}\phi''_{cl} + (\phi'_{cl})^2] \left[\frac{1}{3\pi^2} q^2 \ln\left(\frac{m_1^2}{\mu_R}\right) - \frac{1}{64\pi^2} \lambda \ln\left(\frac{m_2^2}{\mu_R}\right) \right. \\ & \left. - \frac{1}{192\pi^2} (\lambda + 4q^2) \ln\left(\frac{m_3^2}{\mu_R}\right) \right] + [\phi_{cl}^2 (\phi'_{cl})^2] \left[\frac{1}{3\pi^2} q^4 \frac{1}{m_1^2} + \frac{3}{256\pi^2} \lambda^2 \frac{1}{m_2^2} \right. \\ & \left. + \frac{1}{768\pi^2} (\lambda + 4q^2)^2 \frac{1}{m_3^2} \right] \\ & - (\phi'_{cl})^2 \frac{q^2}{\pi^2} \left[\frac{3[L(m_3^2) - L(m_1^2)]}{4(m_1^2 - m_3^2)^2} - \frac{1}{(m_1^2 - m_3^2)} \left[-m_1^2 + m_1^2 \ln\left(\frac{m_1^2}{\mu_R^2}\right) \right] \right] \\ & + \frac{1}{(m_1^2 - m_3^2)} \left[-m_3^2 + m_3^2 \ln\left(\frac{m_3^2}{\mu_R^2}\right) \right] \end{aligned} \quad (103)$$

while the ghost contribution is

$$\begin{aligned} \zeta_2^{('ghost)}(x,0) = & [\phi_{cl}\phi''_{cl} + (\phi'_{cl})^2] \left[\frac{q^2}{48\pi^2} \ln\left(\frac{m_1^2}{\mu_R}\right) \right] \\ & + [\phi_{cl}^2 (\phi'_{cl})^2] \left[\frac{q^4}{48\pi^2} \frac{1}{m_1^2} \right] \end{aligned} \quad (104)$$

and

$$\zeta'_0(x,0) = \frac{1}{16\pi^2} [4L(m_1^2) + L(m_2^2) + L(m_3^2)], \quad (105)$$

$$\zeta_0^{('ghost)}(x,0) = \frac{1}{16\pi^2} L(m_1^2). \quad (106)$$

The one loop corrections to the tree action are the kinetic,

$$\Gamma_2^{(1)} = \int d^4x \left[-\frac{1}{2} \zeta'_2(x,0) + \zeta_2^{('ghost)}(x,0) \right], \quad (107)$$

and potential terms

$$\Gamma_0^{(1)} = \int d^4x \left[-\frac{1}{2} \zeta'_0(x,0) + \zeta_0^{('ghost)}(x,0) \right]. \quad (108)$$

The ξ dependence of both the kinetic and potential terms is profound. This dependence should cancel out for a given solution that extremises the effective corrected action. Such a solution is the bubble one which is known only numerically.

V. FULL ELECTROWEAK MODEL

In order to convince the reader for the power and the range of applicability of the described method we present the evaluation of second order derivative terms for the full electroweak theory, around a nonconstant background scalar field. Recent works, performing derivative expansions, set the Weinberg angle to zero [12–14], in order to simplify the group structure of the quadratic operator.

The classical Lagrangian for the Higgs field in the electroweak model is given by

$$\mathcal{L}_s = -(D\Phi)^\dagger (D\Phi) + \mu^2 \Phi^\dagger \Phi - \lambda (\Phi^\dagger \Phi)^2, \quad (109)$$

with Φ the following $SU(2)$ doublet:

$$\Phi = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} \varphi_1 + i\varphi_2 \\ \varphi_3 + i\varphi_4 \end{pmatrix}. \quad (110)$$

Gauge covariant derivatives will be written in the form

$$D_\mu = \nabla_\mu - \frac{i}{\sqrt{2}} g A_{\mu a} T^a, \quad (111)$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} T^a = \sigma^a & \quad \text{for } a = 1, 2, 3, \\ T^a = tI & \quad \text{for } a = 4. \end{aligned} \quad (112)$$

The first three generators are Pauli matrices and the fourth is equal to the unit matrix I multiplied by the tangent of the Weinberg angle [15,16]. The $SU(2)$ coupling is g and the $U(1)$ one g' .

$$t = \frac{g'}{g}. \quad (113)$$

Group indices will be raised with the metric $2\delta^{ab}$ and lowered with the metric $\frac{1}{2}\delta_{ab}$. We focus on one real component ϕ ,

$$\hat{\Phi} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ \phi \end{pmatrix}, \quad (114)$$

and calculate the effective action $\Gamma[\phi]$.

The effective action will be expanded in powers of $\hbar$, β and $\nabla\phi$. First of all the effective Lagrangian including derivative terms up to second order can be expressed as [17]

$$\mathcal{L} = -\frac{1}{2}Z(\phi, T)(\nabla\phi)^2 - V(\phi, T). \quad (115)$$

The $\hbar$ expansion takes the form

$$Z(\phi, T) = 1 + Z^{(1)}(\phi, T), \quad (116)$$

$$V(\phi, T) = -\frac{1}{2}\mu^2\phi^2 + \frac{1}{4}\lambda\phi^4 + V^{(1)}(\phi, T). \quad (117)$$

The radiative corrections to the effective potential are well known up to this order [18,19]. In the region of the potential where tunnelling is important the effective Higgs mass is small and the radiative corrections are dominated by the vector bosons and the top quark [20,21].

A. Zero temperature

We use an improved method for calculating the effective action which includes a quadratic source [22]. This adds a term

$$k = -\phi^{-1}V'(\phi) \quad (118)$$

to the Higgs masses, making them positive, but does not change the vector boson mass terms. At order $\hbar$, the effective action is given by

$$\begin{aligned} \Gamma[\phi] = & \frac{1}{2} \log \det \Delta_b - \log \det \Delta_{gh} - \frac{1}{2} \log \det \Delta_f \\ & - \frac{1}{2} \text{tr}(\Delta_b^{-1}k), \end{aligned} \quad (119)$$

where Δ_b is the fluctuation operator for the boson fields, Δ_{gh} for the ghosts and Δ_f for the fermion fields.

The gauge is fixed by the 't Hooft R_ξ gauge fixing functional $\mathcal{F}$. We will use

$$\mathcal{F}_a = \nabla \cdot A_a + \frac{i}{\sqrt{2}} \xi g (\hat{\Phi}^\dagger T_a \Phi - \Phi^\dagger T_a \hat{\Phi}). \quad (120)$$

The gauge-fixing Lagrangian is

$$\mathcal{L}_{gf} = -\frac{1}{2\xi} \mathcal{F}_a \mathcal{F}^a. \quad (121)$$

The cross term of the gauge-fixing term $ig(\partial_\mu A^{a\mu})\Phi^\dagger T_a \hat{\Phi}$ cancels a part of the cubic term $2ig(\partial_\mu \Phi^\dagger)T_a \hat{\Phi} A^{a\mu}$ that appears from the kinetic term with the covariant derivatives of the scalar fields, after the symmetry breaking.

The quadratic term of the electroweak Lagrangian can be written as

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{quad}} = \frac{1}{2} \eta^\dagger \Delta_b \eta - \bar{c} \Delta_{gh} c, \quad (122)$$

where

$$\eta^\dagger = (A_1^\mu \quad A_2^\mu \quad A_3^\mu \quad A_4^\mu \quad \varphi_1 \quad \varphi_2 \quad \varphi_3 \quad \varphi_4) \quad (123)$$

and

$$\Delta_b \equiv \Delta_{\mu(b)}^\nu = \begin{pmatrix} \Delta_{\mu(A)}^\nu & X_{1\mu} \\ X_1^\nu & \Delta_\phi \end{pmatrix}. \quad (124)$$

The off diagonal entries are the extra kinetic terms. The fluctuations operators are

$$\Delta_\phi = -\nabla^2 + X_\phi, \quad (125)$$

$$\Delta_A \equiv \Delta_{\mu(A)}^\nu = -\delta_\mu^\nu \nabla^2 + (1 - \xi^{-1}) \nabla_\mu \nabla^\nu + \delta_\mu^\nu X_A, \quad (126)$$

$$\Delta_{gh} = -\nabla^2 + \xi X_A. \quad (127)$$

Let us work out to find the scalar quadratic term. The scalar quadratic part of the gauge fixing term becomes

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{\xi}{16} g^2 \left[(0\phi) T_a \begin{pmatrix} \varphi_1 + i\varphi_2 \\ \varphi_3 + i\varphi_4 \end{pmatrix} (0\phi) T^a \begin{pmatrix} \varphi_1 + i\varphi_2 \\ \varphi_3 + i\varphi_4 \end{pmatrix} \right. \\ & - (0\phi) T_a \begin{pmatrix} \varphi_1 + i\varphi_2 \\ \varphi_3 + i\varphi_4 \end{pmatrix} (\varphi_1 - i\varphi_2 \varphi_3 - i\varphi_4) T^a \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ \phi \end{pmatrix} \\ & - (\varphi_1 - i\varphi_2 \varphi_3 - i\varphi_4) T_a \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ \phi \end{pmatrix} (0\phi) T^a \begin{pmatrix} \varphi_1 + i\varphi_2 \\ \varphi_3 + i\varphi_4 \end{pmatrix} \\ & \left. + (\varphi_1 - i\varphi_2 \varphi_3 - i\varphi_4) T_a \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ \phi \end{pmatrix} (\varphi_1 - i\varphi_2 \varphi_3 - i\varphi_4) \right. \\ & \left. \times T^a \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ \phi \end{pmatrix} \right] \\ & = -\frac{\xi}{4} g^2 [\phi^2 \varphi_1^2 + \phi^2 \varphi_2^2 + (1+t^2) \phi^2 \varphi_4^2]. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore

$$\begin{aligned} X_{0(b)} = & \frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial \phi_i \partial \phi_j} - \frac{\xi}{4} g^2 [\phi^2 \varphi_1^2 + \phi^2 \varphi_2^2 + (1+t^2) \phi^2 \varphi_4^2] \\ = & (3\lambda \phi^2 - \mu^2) \delta_{33} + (\lambda \phi^2 - \mu^2) (\delta_{11} + \delta_{22} + \delta_{44}) \\ & - \frac{\xi}{4} g^2 \phi^2 [\delta_{11} + \delta_{22} + (1+t^2) \delta_{44}] \\ & + k (\delta_{11} + \delta_{22} + \delta_{33} + \delta_{44}) \end{aligned} \quad (128)$$

the value of k is

$$k = -\lambda \phi^2 + \mu^2. \quad (129)$$

Thus the eigenvalues are

$$\begin{aligned} m_5^2 = m_6^2 = & \frac{1}{4} \xi g^2 \phi^2, \quad m_7^2 = 2\lambda \phi^2, \\ m_8^2 = & \frac{1}{4} \xi g^2 (1+t^2) \phi^2. \end{aligned} \quad (130)$$

There are more eigenvalues of X_0 , coming from X_A . They can be evaluated in the same way from the quadratic interaction terms with the gauge fields A_μ :

$$m_1^2 = m_2^2 = \frac{1}{4}g^2\phi^2, \quad m_3^2 = \frac{1}{4}g^2(1+t^2)\phi^2, \quad m_4^2 = 0. \quad (131)$$

It is easy to see that the T_i matrices of the expansion, Eq. (19) are

$$T_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ & & & \mathbf{0} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ & & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} \end{pmatrix},$$

$$T_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ & & & \mathbf{0} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ & & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} \end{pmatrix},$$

$$T_4 = T_3 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ & & & \mathbf{0} \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -t \\ 0 & 0 & -t & t^2 \\ & & \mathbf{0} & \mathbf{0} \end{pmatrix} \frac{1}{1+t^2}, \quad (132)$$

$$T_5 = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{0} & & \mathbf{0} & \\ & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ \mathbf{0} & & & & \\ & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

$$T_6 = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{0} & & \mathbf{0} & \\ & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ \mathbf{0} & & & & \\ & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

$$T_7 = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{0} & & \mathbf{0} & \\ & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ \mathbf{0} & & & & \\ & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

$$T_8 = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{0} & & \mathbf{0} & \\ & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ \mathbf{0} & & & & \\ & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}. \quad (133)$$

The ghost quadratic part is given by the matrix X_{gh} ,

$$X_{gh} = \xi(m_1^2 T_1 + m_2^2 T_2 + m_3^2 T_3). \quad (134)$$

Note that X_{gh} and has no spacetime indices.

The matrix X_1 is determined from the kinetic terms in the Lagrangian. There is the following kinetic term:

$$-\frac{i}{\sqrt{2}}g(\nabla_\mu\phi)A_{\mu a}(01)T^a\begin{pmatrix}\varphi_1+i\varphi_2 \\ \varphi_3+i\varphi_4\end{pmatrix}$$

$$= \frac{-i}{\sqrt{2}}g(\nabla_\mu\phi)\left[\begin{array}{l} A_{\mu 1}(\varphi_1+i\varphi_2)+A_{\mu 2}(i\varphi_1-\varphi_2) \\ +A_{\mu 3}(-\varphi_3-i\varphi_4)+A_{\mu 4}(t\varphi_3+it\varphi_4) \end{array}\right]$$

and also this

$$\frac{i}{\sqrt{2}}g(\nabla_\mu\phi)(\varphi_1-i\varphi_2\varphi_3-i\varphi_4)A_{\mu a}T^a\begin{pmatrix}0 \\ 1\end{pmatrix}$$

$$= \frac{i}{\sqrt{2}}g(\nabla_\mu\phi)\left[\begin{array}{l} A_{\mu 1}(\varphi_1-i\varphi_2)+A_{\mu 2}(-i\varphi_1-\varphi_2) \\ +A_{\mu 3}(-\varphi_3+i\varphi_4)+A_{\mu 4}(t\varphi_3-it\varphi_4) \end{array}\right].$$

Thus we get

$$X_1 \equiv X_{1\mu} = -\sqrt{2}g\nabla_\mu\phi T_k, \quad (135)$$

where

$$T_k = \begin{pmatrix} & & & & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ & & & & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ & & & & 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 \\ & & & & 0 & 0 & 0 & t \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & t \end{pmatrix}. \quad (136)$$

We have presented so far, for pedagogical reasons, how to calculate explicitly the various matrices. In summary, we first separate off any derivative terms already present in X , $X = X_0 + X_1$. The eigenvalues of X_0 are the squared particle masses m_i^2 . Projection matrices onto the accompanying eigenspaces are denoted by T_i .

As in the previous chapter we can define new Π_μ^ν and Θ_μ^ν

that satisfy similar expressions to P_μ^ν and Q_μ^ν :

$$\Pi_\mu^\lambda \Theta_\lambda^\nu = 0, \quad \Pi_\mu^\nu + \Theta_\mu^\nu = \delta_\mu^\nu (T_1 + T_2 + T_3 + T_4) + T_5 + T_6 + T_7 + T_8. \quad (137)$$

One now can easily guess that the expansion is

$$A_0 = (4\pi t)^{d/2} K(t) \sum_i \text{tr}(T_i) e^{-m_i^2 t} \left[\sum_{j=1}^4 \delta_{ij} (\text{tr} P + \xi^{d/2}) + \sum_{j=5}^8 \delta_{ij} \right], \quad (138)$$

$$\begin{aligned} A_2 / (4\pi t)^{d/2} = & -\frac{1}{6} t^2 \sum_i \text{tr}(T_i \nabla_\mu \nabla^\mu X_0 T_i) \left[\sum_{j=1}^4 \delta_{ij} (\text{tr} P + \xi^{-1+d/2}) + \sum_{j=5}^8 \delta_{ij} \right] K_i(t) - \frac{2}{3} t \sum_i \text{tr}(T_i \nabla_\mu \nabla^\mu X_0 T_i) \\ & \times \sum_{j=1}^4 \delta_{ij} [\tilde{K}_i(t) - K_i^{(\xi)}(t)] + K(t) \sum_i \text{tr}(T_i \nabla_\mu X_0 T_i \nabla^\mu X_0 T_i) \left[\sum_{j=1}^4 \delta_{ij} (\text{tr} P + \xi^{-1+d/2}) + \sum_{j=5}^8 \delta_{ij} \right] \eta_{ii}(t) \\ & + \frac{2}{3} [\tilde{K}(t) - K^{(\xi)}(t)] \sum_{i,j} \text{tr}(T_i \nabla_\mu X_0 T_j \nabla^\mu X_0 T_i) \sum_{k=1}^4 \delta_{ik} \chi_{ij}(t) + K(t) \sum_{i,j} \text{tr}(T_i X_1 T_j X_1 T_i) \\ & \times \sum_{k=1}^4 (\delta_{ik} + \delta_{jk}) [\text{tr} P + \xi^{d/2}] \chi_{ij}(t) + \frac{2}{3} \sum_{i,j} \text{tr}(T_i \nabla_\mu X_0 T_j \nabla^\mu X_0 T_i) \left[\frac{t \lambda_{ij}(t) + \mu_{ij}(t)}{\xi - 1} \nu_{ij}(t) \right] \sum_{k=1}^4 \delta_{ik}. \end{aligned} \quad (139)$$

It is also plain to compute

$$\text{tr}[T_i \partial_\mu \partial^\mu X_0 T_i] = \partial_\mu \partial^\mu m_i^2,$$

$$\text{tr}[T_i \partial_\mu X_0 T_j \partial^\mu X_0 T_i] = \delta_{ij} (\partial^\mu m_i^2)^2 \quad (140)$$

while the nonzero terms of $\sum_{ij} \text{tr}[T_i X_1 T_j X_1 T_i]$ are

$$\begin{aligned} \text{tr}[T_1 X_1 T_6 X_1 T_1] &= \text{tr}[T_2 X_1 T_5 X_1 T_2] = \text{tr}[T_5 X_1 T_2 X_1 T_5] \\ &= \text{tr}[T_6 X_1 T_1 X_1 T_6] = 2g^2 (\partial^\mu \phi)^2, \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{tr}[T_3 X_1 T_8 X_1 T_3] &= \text{tr}[T_4 X_1 T_8 X_1 T_4] = \text{tr}[T_8 X_1 T_3 X_1 T_8] \\ &= \text{tr}[T_8 X_1 T_4 X_1 T_8] = 2g^2 (1+t^2) (\partial^\mu \phi)^2. \end{aligned} \quad (141)$$

From this point on, we can directly calculate Eqs. (138), (139) and after some trivial algebra we finally compute, as in the previous chapter, the one loop corrections from the extra kinetic and potential terms, Eqs. (107), (108) at zero temperature and in 't Hooft gauge.

B. High temperature limit

As an example we present the results in Landau gauge ($m_5^2 = m_6^2 = m_8^2 = 0$). Masses and temperature corrections for the boson sector are given below. The vector boson mass corrections which include only daisy type rings [20] are

$$m_{W'}^2 = m_5^2(T) = m_6^2(T) = \frac{1}{8} g^2 T^2 + \frac{1}{16} g^2 (1+t^2) T^2 + \frac{1}{2} \lambda^2 T^2, \quad (142)$$

$$m_W^2 = m_1^2(T) = m_2^2(T) = m_1^2 + \frac{5}{6} g^2 T^2, \quad (143)$$

$$m_{Z'}^2 = m_8^2(T) = \frac{1}{8} g^2 T^2 + \frac{1}{16} g^2 (1+t^2) T^2 + \frac{1}{2} \lambda^2 T^2, \quad (144)$$

$$m_H^2 = m_7^2(T) = m_7^2 + \frac{1}{8} g^2 T^2 + \frac{1}{16} g^2 (1+t^2) T^2 + \frac{1}{2} \lambda^2 T^2, \quad (145)$$

$$\begin{aligned} m_\gamma^2 &= m_4^2(T) \\ &= \frac{1}{2} [M^2 - \sqrt{M^4 - 4(m_1^2 \pi_1 + \pi_1 \pi_2 + t^2 m_1^2 \pi_2)}], \end{aligned} \quad (146)$$

$$\begin{aligned} m_Z^2 &= m_3^2(T) \\ &= \frac{1}{2} [M^2 + \sqrt{M^4 - 4(m_1^2 \pi_1 + \pi_1 \pi_2 + t^2 m_1^2 \pi_2)}], \end{aligned} \quad (147)$$

with

$$M^2 = m_1^2 + \pi 1 + \pi 2 + t^2 m_1^2, \quad (148)$$

where the relevant polarization tensors are given by [20],

$$\pi 1 = \pi_{U(1)} = \frac{1}{6} t^2 g^2 T^2, \quad \pi 2 = \pi_{SU(2)} = \frac{5}{6} g^2 T^2. \quad (149)$$

It is straightforward now to calculate the $Z^{(1)}(\phi, T)$ contribution to the action, from the modified Eq. (58) in the spirit of Eqs. (138) and (139), using the results in Eqs. (140) and (141). The fields contribute

$$\begin{aligned} Z^{(1)}(\phi, T) = & -\zeta'_2 = (\partial^\mu m_{W'})^2 \frac{1}{24\pi} \frac{T}{m_{W'}} \\ & + (\partial^\mu m_{Z'})^2 \frac{1}{48\pi} \frac{T}{m_{Z'}} + (\partial^\mu m_H)^2 \frac{1}{48\pi} \frac{T}{m_H} \\ & + (\partial^\mu m_W)^2 \frac{11}{24\pi} \frac{T}{m_W} + (\partial^\mu m_\gamma)^2 \frac{11}{48\pi} \frac{T}{m_\gamma} \\ & + (\partial^\mu m_Z)^2 \frac{11}{48\pi} \frac{T}{m_Z} - g^2 (\partial^\mu \phi)^2 \\ & \times \left[\frac{2}{m_W + m_{W'}} + \frac{1+t^2}{m_Z + m_{Z'}} + \frac{1+t^2}{m_\gamma + m_{Z'}} \right] \frac{3T}{2\pi}. \end{aligned} \quad (150)$$

We also present, for comparison, the kinetic term in Feynman gauge. It is given by

$$Z^{(1)}(\phi, T) = -\zeta'_2{}^{(\text{phys})} + 2\zeta'_2{}^{(gh)}, \quad (151)$$

where the physical fields contribute

$$\begin{aligned} \zeta'_2{}^{(\text{phys})} = & (\partial^\mu m_{W'})^2 \frac{T}{48\pi} \frac{-2}{m_{W'}} + (\partial^\mu m_{Z'})^2 \frac{T}{48\pi} \frac{-1}{m_{Z'}} \\ & + (\partial^\mu m_W)^2 \frac{T}{48\pi} \frac{-8}{m_W} + (\partial^\mu m_H)^2 \frac{T}{48\pi} \frac{-1}{m_H} \\ & + (\partial^\mu m_Z)^2 \frac{T}{48\pi} \frac{-4}{m_Z} + g^2 (\partial^\mu \phi)^2 \\ & \times \left[\frac{T}{\pi} \frac{1}{m_W + m_{W'}} + \frac{T}{2\pi} (1+t^2) \frac{1}{m_Z + m_{Z'}} \right] \end{aligned} \quad (152)$$

while the ghost fields give

$$\zeta'_2{}^{(gh)} = (\partial^\mu m_W)^2 \frac{T}{48\pi} \frac{-2}{m_W} + (\partial^\mu m_Z)^2 \frac{T}{48\pi} \frac{-1}{m_Z}. \quad (153)$$

Note that the ring corrections are the appropriate for this gauge choice.

Fermions do not contribute at this order. The advantage of using the ring corrected masses is that we get finite result for small values of the scalar field ϕ [12,13]. The negativity of the $Z^{(1)}$, which is a signal of the breakdown of the perturbation theory happens for smaller value of ϕ compared with the previous results [12,13]. If we use the conventional approach of calculating the effective action, without including a quadratic source, then we recover the expression in Ref. [12], using the plasma mass terms and setting $t=0$.

VI. FINAL REMARKS

We developed this expansion method to cover fluctuation operators appearing from a general 't Hooft gauge fixing. The superiority of these gauges is discussed in Ref. [23].

The aim of this work is to provide a powerful derivative expansion method that can be used easily by other researchers in a wide range of Lagrangians. An important feature of this derivative expansion method is that it can handle complicated gauge groups. We applied as an example this method in the $SU(2) \times U(1)$ group structured model.

There is also another usefulness of the proposed method. Quantum corrections to soliton solutions can be found applying the developed derivative expansion technique.

As we have already pointed out the finite temperature results are only indicative and performed for testing the method. The nonanalyticity of Feynman amplitudes at high temperatures make the derivative expansion not well defined [7]. Widely accepted improved results still are missing.

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APPENDIX A: USEFUL INTEGRALS AND EXPANSIONS

Let us define the following integrals in momentum space:

$$K(t) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} d\mu(k) e^{-k^2 t} \quad (A1)$$

and

$$K_i(t) = K(t) e^{-m_i^2 t}. \quad (A2)$$

One can then prove that

$$\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} d\mu(k) k_0 k_0 e^{-(k^2 + m_i^2)t} = \frac{1}{2t} \left(1 + \beta \frac{\partial}{\partial \beta} \right) K_i(t) \quad (A3)$$

and more general for $n=0,1,2 \dots$

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} d\mu(k) (k_0)^{2n+2} e^{-(k^2 + m_i^2)t} \\ = \frac{1}{2t} \left[(2n+1) + \beta \frac{\partial}{\partial \beta} \right] \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} d\mu(k) (k_0)^{2n} e^{-k^2 t}, \end{aligned} \quad (A4)$$

where

$$k^2 = \bar{k}^2 + k_0^2. \quad (\text{A5})$$

$\bar{k}$ is the spatial part of the vector k . The one loop corrections can be expressed in terms of the zeta function defined below,

$$\zeta_i(\mathbf{x}, p, s) \equiv \zeta_i(p, s) = \frac{1}{\Gamma(s)} \int_0^\infty dt t^{p+s-1} \int d\mu(k) e^{-(k^2 + m_i^2)t}, \quad (\text{A6})$$

where the i subscript in $\zeta_i(p, s)$ does not represent derivative but the index associated with the mass m_i . The following recursion relation helps to relate the above function with $\zeta_i(0, s)$:

$$\zeta_i(p+1, s) = -\frac{\partial}{\partial m_i^2} \zeta_i(p, s). \quad (\text{A7})$$

The value of $\zeta'_i(0, s)$ at $s=0$ is defined by analytic continuation. Performing a high temperature expansion ($m/T \ll 1$) we recover the well known free energy density of an ensemble of bosons or fermions. For bosons we find

$$\begin{aligned} \zeta'_i(0, 0) \simeq & \frac{\pi^2}{45} T^4 - \frac{m_i^2}{12} T^2 + \frac{m_i^3}{6\pi} T + \frac{m_i^4}{32\pi^2} \ln\left(\frac{\mu_R}{T^2}\right) \\ & - \frac{1}{384\pi^4} \zeta_R(3) \frac{m_i^6}{T^2}. \end{aligned} \quad (\text{A8})$$

and for fermions

$$\begin{aligned} \zeta'_i(0, 0) \simeq & -\frac{7}{8} \frac{\pi^2}{45} T^4 + \frac{m_i^2}{24} T^2 + \frac{m_i^4}{32\pi^2} \ln\left(\frac{\mu_R}{T^2}\right) \\ & - \frac{7}{384\pi^4} \zeta_R(3) \frac{m_i^6}{T^2}. \end{aligned} \quad (\text{A9})$$

Now we will evaluate the function $\tilde{\chi}'_{ij}(0)$ for bosons, defined below using the previous formulas.

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{\chi}'_{ij}(0) &= -\frac{m^{-2}}{3} \frac{d}{ds} \left[\frac{1}{\Gamma(s)} \mu_R^{2s} \int dt t^{s-1} t (e^{-m_i^2 t} - e^{-m_j^2 t}) \int d\mu(k) k^{-2} e^{-k^2 t} \right]_{s=0} \\ &= -\frac{m^{-2}}{3} 2[\zeta'_i(2, 0) - \zeta'_j(2, 0)] \\ &= -\frac{2}{3} m^{-2} \left[\frac{T}{8\pi} m_i^{-1} - \frac{T}{8\pi} m_j^{-1} \right] \\ &= \frac{T}{12\pi} \frac{1}{m_i + m_j} \frac{1}{m_i m_j}. \end{aligned} \quad (\text{A10})$$

In the same way we will calculate the function $\tilde{\rho}'_i(0)$ (bosons). We always try to rewrite it, using the recursion equations, in terms of $\zeta'_i(0, 0)$.

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{\rho}'_i(0) &= -\frac{2}{3} \frac{d}{ds} \left[\frac{1}{\Gamma(s)} \mu_R^{2s} \int dt t^{s-1} t e^{-m_i^2 t} \right. \\ &\quad \left. \times \int d\mu(k) k^{-2} e^{-k^2 t} \right]_{s=0}. \end{aligned} \quad (\text{A11})$$

It contains the following integral:

$$\begin{aligned} I &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} d\mu(k) k^{-2} e^{-k^2 t} \\ &= \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} 4\pi e^{-k_0^2 t} \frac{1}{\beta(2\pi)^3} \int_0^\infty dk k^2 \frac{1}{k^2 + k_0^2} e^{-\bar{k}^2 t}. \end{aligned} \quad (\text{A12})$$

The integral in the last equation can be evaluated,

$$\int_0^\infty dk k^2 \frac{1}{k^2 + k_0^2} e^{-\bar{k}^2 t} = \frac{1}{2} \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{t}} - \frac{\pi}{2} k_0 e^{tk_0^2} [1 - \Phi(\sqrt{t}k_0)],$$

where

$$\Phi(x) = \frac{2}{\sqrt{\pi}} e^{-x^2} \sum_{\lambda=0}^{\infty} \frac{2^\lambda x^{2\lambda+1}}{(2\lambda+1)!!}$$

is the probability integral. It is also true that

$$I_0 = \int_0^\infty dk k^2 e^{-\bar{k}^2 t} = \frac{1}{4t} \sqrt{\frac{\pi}{t}}.$$

Combining all together we get

$$\begin{aligned} I &= \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} \left[4\pi e^{-k_0^2 t} \frac{1}{\beta(2\pi)^3} 2t I_0 - 4\pi \frac{1}{\beta(2\pi)^3} \frac{\pi}{2} \left(\frac{2\pi n}{\beta} \right) \right] \\ &\quad + \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} 4\pi \frac{1}{\beta(2\pi)^3} \frac{\pi}{2} k_0 \Phi(\sqrt{t}k_0) \\ \Rightarrow I &= 2t \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} d\mu(k) e^{-(\bar{k}^2 + k_0^2)t} \\ &\quad + \sum_{n=-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{4\pi}{\beta(2\pi)^3} \frac{\pi}{2} k_0 \frac{2}{\sqrt{\pi}} e^{-k_0^2 t} \\ &\quad \times \sum_{\lambda=0}^{\infty} \frac{2^\lambda t^{(2\lambda+1)/2} k_0^{2\lambda+1}}{(2\lambda+1)!!} \\ &= 2t \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} d\mu(k) e^{-(\bar{k}^2 + k_0^2)t} + \sum_{\lambda=0}^{\infty} \frac{2^\lambda t^{\lambda+1}}{(2\lambda+1)!!} 4t \\ &\quad \times \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} d\mu(k) k_0^{2\lambda+2} e^{-(\bar{k}^2 + k_0^2)t}. \end{aligned} \quad (\text{A13})$$

We can proceed further using Eq. (A4),

$$I = 2tK(t) + \sum_{\lambda=0}^{\infty} \frac{2^{\lambda+2} t^{\lambda+2}}{(2\lambda+1)!!} \frac{1}{(2t)^{\lambda+1}} \times \left[\left((2\lambda+1) + \beta \frac{\partial}{\partial \beta} \right) \cdots \left(1 + \beta \frac{\partial}{\partial \beta} \right) \right] K(t). \quad (\text{A14})$$

Finally

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{\rho}'_i(0) &= -\frac{4}{3} \zeta'_i(2,0) \\ &= -\frac{4}{3} \sum_{\lambda=0}^{\infty} \frac{[(2\lambda+1) + \beta(\partial/\partial\beta)] \cdots [1 + \beta(\partial/\partial\beta)]}{(2\lambda+1)!!} \\ &\quad \times \zeta'_i(2,0) \\ &= -\frac{T}{6\pi} \frac{1}{m_i} - \frac{1}{6\pi} \frac{1}{m_i} \sum_{\lambda=0}^{\infty} \\ &\quad \times \frac{[(2\lambda+1) + \beta(\partial/\partial\beta)] \cdots [1 + \beta(\partial/\partial\beta)]}{(2\lambda+1)!!} T \\ &= -\frac{T}{6\pi} \frac{1}{m_i}. \end{aligned} \quad (\text{A15})$$

So far we ignored the renormalization scale in the zeta function for simplicity. A useful definition for zero temperatures is the following function:

$$\zeta(m^2, p, s) = \frac{1}{\Gamma(s)} \mu_R^{-2p} \int_0^\infty dt t^{p+s-1} e^{-(m^2/\mu_R^2)t}. \quad (\text{A16})$$

From the definition of the Gamma functions we can find that

$$\begin{aligned} \zeta(m^2, 0, s) &= \frac{1}{\Gamma(s)} \left(\frac{m^2}{\mu_R^2} \right)^{-s} \Gamma(s) \\ &\Rightarrow \zeta'(m^2, 0, s) = - \left(\frac{m^2}{\mu_R^2} \right)^{-s} \ln \left(\frac{m^2}{\mu_R^2} \right) \\ &\Rightarrow \zeta'(m^2, 0, 0) = - \ln \left(\frac{m^2}{\mu_R^2} \right). \end{aligned} \quad (\text{A17})$$

It is obvious from the analogous recursion equation to Eq. (A7) that

$$\zeta'(m^2, 1, 0) = \frac{1}{m^2}. \quad (\text{A18})$$

We also can get

$$\begin{aligned} \zeta(m^2, -1, s) &= \frac{1}{\Gamma(s)} \mu_R^2 \frac{t^{s-1}}{s-1} e^{-(m^2/\mu_R^2)t} \Big|_0^\infty \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{\Gamma(s)} m^2 \int_0^\infty dt \frac{t^{s-1}}{s-1} e^{-(m^2/\mu_R^2)t} \\ &= \frac{1}{s-1} m^2 \zeta(m^2, 0, s) \Rightarrow \zeta'(m^2, -1, 0) \\ &= -m^2 + m^2 \ln \left(\frac{m^2}{\mu_R^2} \right). \end{aligned} \quad (\text{A19})$$

In the same way

$$\begin{aligned} \zeta(m^2, -2, s) &= \frac{1}{s-2} m^2 \zeta(m^2, -1, s) \Rightarrow \zeta'(m^2, -2, s) \\ &= -\frac{1}{(s-2)^2} m^2 \zeta(m^2, -1, s) \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{s-2} m^2 \zeta'(m^2, -1, s) \\ &\Rightarrow \zeta'(m^2, -2, 0) \\ &= \frac{1}{2} m^4 \left[\frac{3}{2} - \ln \left(\frac{m^2}{\mu_R^2} \right) \right]. \end{aligned} \quad (\text{A20})$$

APPENDIX B: SECOND ORDER TERM

Here we compute the second order term in the generalized derivative expansion. We get from Eq. (20) that

$$\dot{a}_2 = q + r + s + w, \quad (\text{B1})$$

$$q = \frac{1}{2} (\delta^\rho \Gamma^\sigma - \Gamma^\rho \Gamma^\sigma) \sum_{i,j} T_i X_{0,\rho\sigma} T_j e^{(m_i^2 - m_j^2)t}, \quad r = \dot{a}_1 a_1, \quad (\text{B2})$$

$$s = - \sum_{i,j} T_i X_{0,\rho} T_j \delta^\rho a_1 e^{(m_i^2 - m_j^2)t},$$

$$w = \Gamma^\rho \sum_{i,j} T_i X_{1,\rho} T_j e^{(m_i^2 - m_j^2)t}. \quad (\text{B3})$$

What we want now to calculate is the A_n functions from Eq. (12). Thus we will calculate the functions $\text{tr}[K_0(k, \mathbf{x}, t) a_n(k, \mathbf{x}, t)]$. Since we are not interested for the A_1 term we will ignore it:

$$\begin{aligned}
\text{tr}[K_0(k, \mathbf{x}, t)q] &= -\left(\frac{1}{2}\delta^{\rho\sigma} - \frac{2}{3}k^\rho k^\sigma t\right)t^2(\text{tr}P) \int d\mu(k) \text{tr}[K_0(k, \mathbf{x}, t)q] \\
&\times \sum_i \text{tr}(T_i X_{0,\rho\sigma} T_i) e^{-k^2 t} e^{-m_i^2 t} - \xi^{-1} = -\frac{1}{6}t^2(\text{tr}P) \sum_i \text{tr}(T_i \nabla_\rho \nabla^\rho X_0 T_i) K_i(t) \\
&\times \left(\frac{1}{2}\delta^{\rho\sigma} - \frac{2}{3}\xi^{-1}k^\rho k^\sigma t\right)t^2 = -\frac{1}{6}t^2 \xi^{-1+d/2} \sum_i \text{tr}(T_i \nabla_\rho \nabla^\rho X_0 T_i) K_i(t) \\
&\times \sum_{i,j} \text{tr}(T_i X_{0,\rho\sigma} T_j) e^{-\xi^{-1}k^2 t} e^{-m_i^2 t} = -\frac{2}{3}t \sum_i \text{tr}(T_i \nabla_\rho \nabla^\rho X_0 T_i) \tilde{K}_i(t) \\
&+ e^{-m_i^2 t} \sum_i \text{tr}(T_i X_{0,\rho\sigma} T_i) \frac{1}{k^2} P^{\rho\sigma} = +\frac{2}{3}t \sum_i \text{tr}(T_i \nabla_\rho \nabla^\rho X_0 T_i) K_i^{(\xi)}(t) \quad (\text{B5})
\end{aligned}$$

$$\times \begin{bmatrix} -t(e^{-k^2 t} + e^{-\xi^{-1}k^2 t}) \\ -\frac{2\xi}{k^2(\xi-1)}e^{-k^2 t} \\ +\frac{2\xi}{k^2(\xi-1)}e^{-\xi^{-1}k^2 t} \end{bmatrix}. \quad (\text{B4})$$

where

$$K_i(t) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} d\mu(k) e^{-k^2 t} e^{-m_i^2 t} = K(t) e^{-m_i^2 t}, \quad (\text{B6})$$

$$\tilde{K}_i(t) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} d\mu(k) \frac{1}{k^2} e^{-k^2 t} e^{-m_i^2 t} = \tilde{K}(t) e^{-m_i^2 t}, \quad (\text{B7})$$

Integrating we found

and

$$K_i^{(\xi)}(t) = K^{(\xi)}(t) e^{-m_i^2 t} = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} d\mu(k) \left[\begin{array}{c} -k^2 e^{-\xi^{-1}k^2 t} \\ +\frac{1}{k^4} \frac{4}{(1-\xi^{-1})t} \sinh\left(\frac{k^2}{2}(1-\xi^{-1})t\right) e^{-(k^2/2)(1+\xi^{-1})t} \end{array} \right] e^{-m_i^2 t}. \quad (\text{B8})$$

From the above definitions it is easy to check that

$$\text{for } \xi=0, \quad K_i^{(\xi)}(t) = 0, \quad (\text{B9})$$

$$\text{for } \xi=1, \quad K_i^{(\xi)}(t) = \tilde{K}_i(t). \quad (\text{B10})$$

From the second term of $\dot{a}_2$ we get

$$\begin{aligned}
\text{tr}[K_0(k, \mathbf{x}, t)r] &= -4k^\rho k^\sigma \left[\begin{array}{c} \text{tr}(P) e^{-k^2 t} \\ +\xi^{-2} e^{-\xi^{-1}k^2 t} \end{array} \right] S_{i,j}^0 \left[\begin{array}{c} \frac{t^3}{3} + \frac{t^2}{2m^2} \\ -\frac{1}{m^2} f(m^2) \end{array} \right] \frac{-1}{m^2} e^{-m_i^2 t} \\
&+ Z_{i,j} e^{-k^2 t} \left[\begin{array}{c} t - g(m^2) - g[k^2(1-\xi^{-1})] \\ +g[m^2 + k^2(1-\xi^{-1})] \end{array} \right] \frac{-1}{m^2} e^{-m_i^2 t} \\
&- Z_{i,j} e^{-k^2 t} \left[\begin{array}{c} -t - g(m^2) + g[-k^2(1-\xi^{-1})] \\ +g[m^2 + k^2(1-\xi^{-1})] \end{array} \right] \frac{-1}{m^2 + k^2(1-\xi^{-1})} e^{-m_i^2 t} \\
&- Z_{i,j} e^{-\xi^{-1}k^2 t} \left[\begin{array}{c} -t + g(m^2) + g[-k^2(1-\xi^{-1})] \\ -g[m^2 - k^2(1-\xi^{-1})] \end{array} \right] \frac{-1}{m^2} e^{-m_i^2 t} \\
&+ Z_{i,j} e^{-\xi^{-1}k^2 t} \left[\begin{array}{c} t + g(m^2) - g[k^2(1-\xi^{-1})] \\ -g[m^2 - k^2(1-\xi^{-1})] \end{array} \right] \frac{1}{-m^2 + k^2(1-\xi^{-1})} e^{-m_i^2 t} \\
&+ \left[\begin{array}{c} \text{tr}(P) e^{-k^2 t} \\ +e^{-\xi^{-1}k^2 t} \end{array} \right] S_{i,j}^1 [t - g(m^2)] \frac{-1}{m^2} e^{-m_i^2 t} + \text{odd terms}, \quad (\text{B11})
\end{aligned}$$

where

$$Z_{i,j} = k^{-2} P^{\rho\sigma} S_{i,j}^0 = k^{-2} P^{\rho\sigma} \sum_{i,j} \text{tr}(T_i X_{0,\rho} T_j X_{0,\sigma} T_i), \quad (\text{B12})$$

$$S_{i,j}^1 = \sum_{i,j} \text{tr}(T_i X_1 T_j X_1 T_i). \quad (\text{B13})$$

The odd terms, proportional to k^ρ do not survive after the integration:

$$\begin{aligned} \int d\mu(k) \text{tr}[K_0(k, \mathbf{x}, t) r] = & \frac{2}{t} [\text{tr}(P) + \xi^{-1+d/2}] S_{i,j}^0 \frac{1}{m^2} K_i(t) \left[\begin{array}{c} \frac{t^3}{3} + \frac{t^2}{2m^2} \\ -\frac{1}{m^2} f(m^2) \end{array} \right] \\ & + \frac{2}{3} S_{i,j}^0 \frac{1}{m^2} \tilde{K}_i(t) g(m^2) (1 + \xi^{-1+d/2}) + \frac{2}{3} S_{i,j}^0 \frac{1}{m^2} \tilde{K}_i(t) g(m^2) \left[\begin{array}{c} \Lambda_i(m^2, t) - \Lambda_i(-m^2, \xi^{-1}t) \\ + e^{m^2 t} [\Lambda_i(-m^2, t) - \Lambda_i(m^2, \xi^{-1}t)] \end{array} \right] \\ & + \frac{2}{3} S_{i,j}^0 [g(m^2) + t] [-\Lambda_i(m^2, t) + \Lambda_i(-m^2, \xi^{-1}t)] \\ & + \frac{2}{3} S_{i,j}^0 \frac{\xi}{\xi-1} \left[\begin{array}{c} \tilde{\Lambda}_i(m^2, t) + \tilde{\Lambda}_i(-m^2, \xi^{-1}t) \\ - \tilde{\Lambda}_i(m^2, (2-\xi^{-1})t) - \tilde{\Lambda}_i[-m^2, (2\xi^{-1}-1)t] \end{array} \right] \\ & + \frac{2}{3} S_{i,j}^0 \left[\begin{array}{c} -N_i(m^2, t) - N_i(-m^2, \xi^{-1}t) \\ + e^{m^2 t} [N_i(m^2, \xi^{-1}t) + N_i(-m^2, t)] \end{array} \right] - \frac{2}{3} t S_{i,j}^0 \tilde{K}_i(t) \frac{1}{m^2} + \frac{2}{3} t S_{i,j}^0 K_i^{(\xi)}(t) \frac{1}{m^2} \\ & - [\text{tr}(P) + \xi^{d/2}] S_{i,j}^1 \frac{1}{m^2} K_i(t) [t - g(m^2)], \end{aligned} \quad (\text{B14})$$

where

$$\Lambda_i(m^2, t) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} d\mu(k) k^{-2} \frac{1}{m^2 + k^2(1 - \xi^{-1})} e^{-k^2 t} e^{-m_i^2 t}, \quad (\text{B15})$$

$$\tilde{\Lambda}_i(m^2, t) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} d\mu(k) k^{-4} \frac{1}{m^2 + k^2(1 - \xi^{-1})} e^{-k^2 t} e^{-m_i^2 t}, \quad (\text{B16})$$

$$N_i(m^2, t) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} d\mu(k) k^{-2} \frac{1}{[m^2 + k^2(1 - \xi^{-1})]^2} e^{-k^2 t} e^{-m_i^2 t}. \quad (\text{B17})$$

We focus now on the third term of $\dot{a}_2$,

$$\begin{aligned} \text{tr}[K_0(k, \mathbf{x}, t) s] = & 2 \left[\begin{array}{c} \text{tr}(P) e^{-k^2 t} \\ + \xi^{-1} e^{-\xi^{-1} k^2 t} \end{array} \right] S_{i,j}^0 \left[\begin{array}{c} \frac{t^2}{2} + \frac{t}{m^2} \\ -\frac{1}{m^2} g(m^2) \end{array} \right] \frac{-1}{m^2} e^{-m_i^2 t} \\ & + (-e^{-k^2 t} + e^{-\xi^{-1} k^2 t}) Z_{i,j} \{-g(m^2) + g[k^2(1 - \xi^{-1})]\} \frac{e^{-m_i^2 t}}{-m^2 + k^2(1 - \xi^{-1})} \\ & + (-e^{-k^2 t} + e^{-\xi^{-1} k^2 t}) Z_{i,j} \{-g(m^2) + g[-k^2(1 - \xi^{-1})]\} \frac{e^{-m_i^2 t}}{m^2 + k^2(1 - \xi^{-1})} + \text{odd terms} \end{aligned} \quad (\text{B18})$$

and after the integration

$$\begin{aligned}
\int d\mu(k) \text{tr}[K_0(k, \mathbf{x}, t)s] = & -2[\text{tr}(P) + \xi^{-1+d/2}] S_{i,j}^0 \frac{1}{m^2} K_i(t) \left[\begin{array}{c} \frac{t^2}{2} + \frac{t}{m^2} \\ -\frac{1}{m^2} g(m^2) \end{array} \right] \\
& + \frac{2}{3} S_{i,j}^0 \frac{\xi}{\xi-1} \left[\begin{array}{c} -2\tilde{\Lambda}_i(-m^2, \xi^{-1}t) + \tilde{\Lambda}_i(-m^2, t) + \tilde{\Lambda}_i[-m^2, (2\xi^{-1}-1)t] \\ + \tilde{\Lambda}_i[m^2, (2-\xi^{-1})t] - 2\tilde{\Lambda}_i(m^2, t) + \tilde{\Lambda}_i(m^2, \xi^{-1}t) \end{array} \right] \\
& + \frac{2}{3} S_{i,j}^0 g(m^2) \left[\begin{array}{c} \Lambda_i(-m^2, t) - \Lambda_i(-m^2, \xi^{-1}t) \\ + \Lambda_i(m^2, t) + \Lambda_i(m^2, \xi^{-1}t) \end{array} \right]. \tag{B19}
\end{aligned}$$

The contribution of the fourth term w , of $\dot{a}_2$ is zero because the trace gives a function proportional to k^ρ .

Finally from Eq. (B5), Eq. (B14), Eq. (B19) after considerable cancellations, we find through the expression Eq. (12) that in 't Hooft gauge the first terms of the derivative expansion are given by expression Eqs. (39), (41).

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