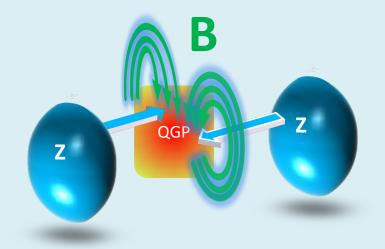
# Theory of strong QED field at RHIC

## Koichi Hattori

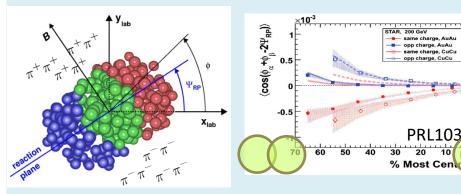
Online workshop: RHIC Science Programs Informative Toward EIC in the Coming Years May 26, 2021 <u>koichi.hattori@yukawa.kyoto-u.ac.jp</u>

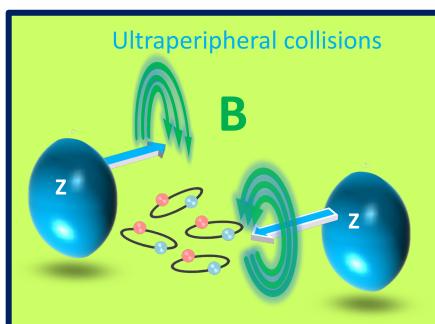
#### Peripheral collisions



Novel transport phenomena in QGP

- Chiral magnetic effect
- magnetohydrodynamics
- thermal radiations in B
- etc.

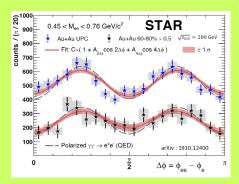




"Strong-field QED" without QGP --- Vacuum physics in strong fields

- Photon-photon interactions
- Vacuum fluctuations in B

• etc.



#### Photon-photon interactions

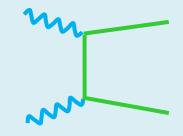
DECEMBER 15, 1934

PHYSICAL REVIEW

VOLUME 46

Collision of Two Light Quanta

G. BREIT\* AND JOHN A. WHEELER,\*\* Department of Physics, New York University (Received October 23, 1934)



#### Vacuum fluctuations in external strong fields

#### Consequences of Dirac's Theory of the Positron W. Heisenberg and H. Euler (1935)

#### Abstract

According to Dirac's theory of the positron, an electromagnetic field tends to create pairs of particles which leads to a change of Maxwell's equations in the vacuum. These changes are calculated in the special case that no real electrons or positrons are present and the field varies little over a Compton wavelength. The resulting effective Lagrangian of the field reads:

The expansion terms in small fields (compared to  $\mathfrak{E}$ ) describe light-light scattering. The simplest term is already known from perturbation theory. For large fields, the equations derived here differ strongly from Maxwell's equations. Our equations will be compared to those proposed by Born.

Resummation wrt the number of external legs -- Furry's theorem: Only even-order diagrams contribute in C-even systems.

+

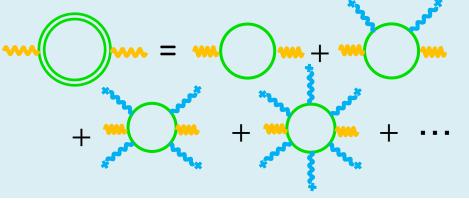
#### What happens when photons go through strong fields?

THE DISPERSION RELATION FOR LIGHT AND ITS APPLICATION TO PROBLEMS INVOLVING ELECTRON PAIRS A Dissertation Presented to the Faculty of Princeton University in Candidacy for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy. by John Sampson Toll

Vacuum fluctuations play a role.



#### Resuumed vacuum polarization diagram



#### PHOTON SPLITTING IN A STRONG MAGNETIC FIELD

S. L. Adler, J. N. Bahcall,\* C. G. Callan, and M. N. Rosenbluth The Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, New Jersey 08540 (Received 6 August 1970)

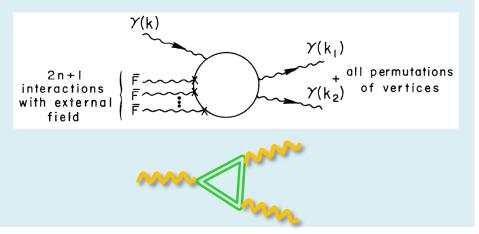
ANNALS OF PHYSICS: 67, 599-647 (1971)

Photon Splitting and Photon Dispersion in a Strong Magnetic Field

STEPHEN L. ADLER

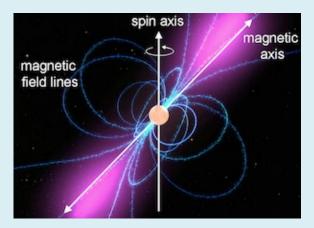
Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, New Jersey 08540

Received January 27, 1971



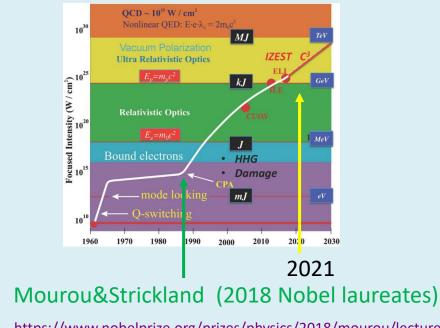
#### Strong fields in laboratories and nature (other than HIC)

#### Magnetospheres of neutron stars/magnetars



Dipole strength estimated from the intervals of the pulsation.

#### High-intensity laser field



https://www.nobelprize.org/prizes/physics/2018/mourou/lecture/

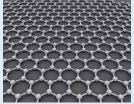
#### Supercritical Coulomb fields

### Z > 137 [Coulomb potential: $\frac{Ze^2}{4\pi r}$ ]

Transient high-Z atoms (once studied at GSI)

See an anecdotal review "Probing QED Vacuum" with Heavy Ions" Rafelski, Kirsch, Mueller, Reinhardt, and W. Greiner [1604.08690]

Renewed interests realized with graphene; "Atomic collapse"



v << c  $\rightarrow$  Larger effective  $\alpha$ .  $\rightarrow$  Kinetic energy << Coulomb potential

# Table of contents

#### **0.** Introduction

- Strong magnetic fields in laboratories and nature
- Brief historical overview

1-1. Photon propagation in a magnetic field (at zero T and  $\mu$ )

- Vacuum birefringence and (real) photon decay
- (Diagrammatic technique by the proper-time method)

#### 1-2. Differential dilepton spectrum in a magnetic field

- (Ritus basis formalism)
- "Helicity suppression" in the ratio of di-electron yield to di-muon yield

#### 2. Summary

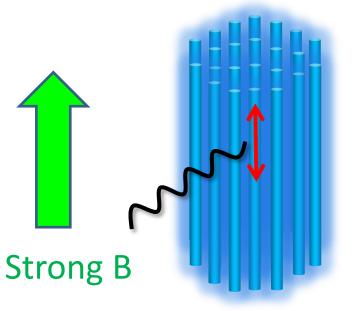
# (1) Refractive index of photon in strong B-fields - Old but unsolved problem

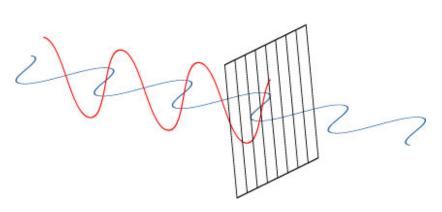
KH and K.Itakura, "Vacuum birefringence in strong magnetic fields":(I) Photon polarization tensor with all the Landau levels," (2013);(II) Complex refractive index from the lowest Landau level," (2013).

Photon propagation in magnetic fields (in four dimensions)



Preferred orientation provided by an external B  $\rightarrow$  ``Vacuum birefringence"

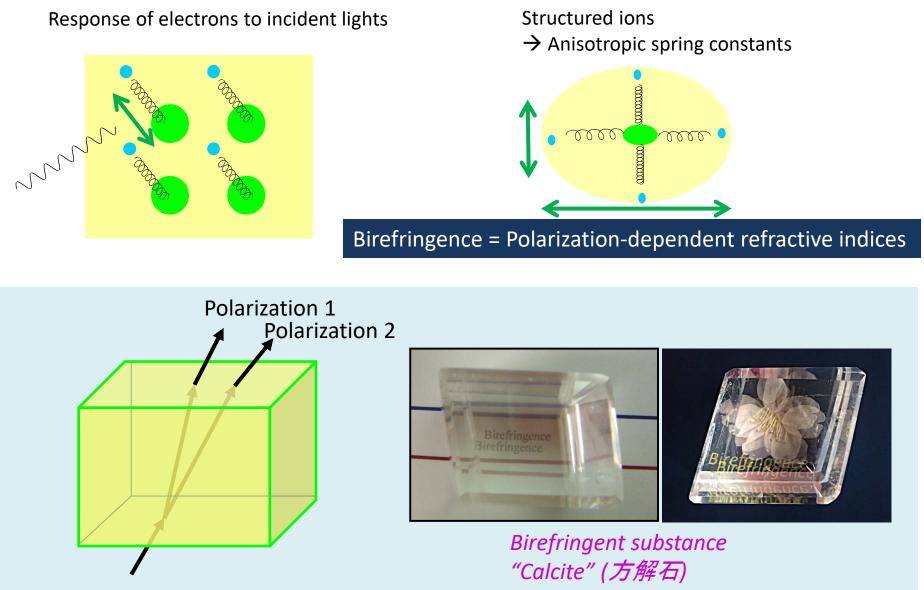




Polarizer

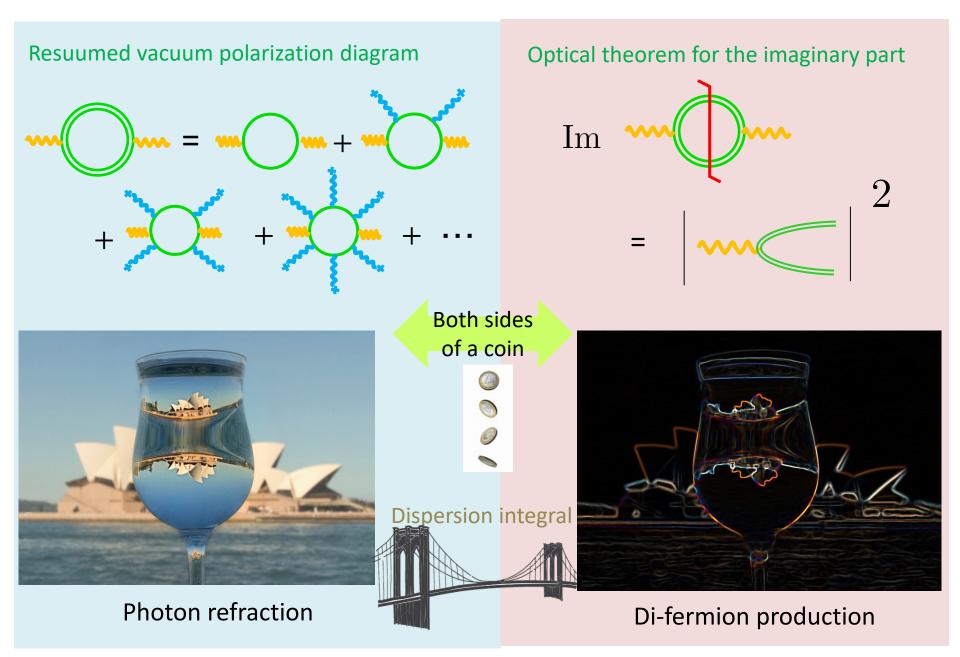
Cyclotron motion in B field

## What is birefringence?

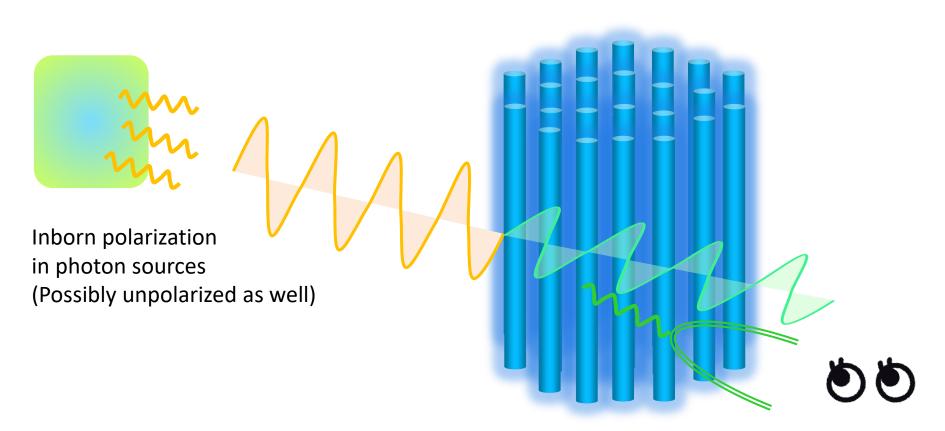


Lesson: The fermion spectrum is important for the photon spectrum.

### **Complex refractive indices**



### Rotating photon polarization



- Acquired polarization due to the birefringence
- Some of photons decay into fermion pairs

Cf. Cotton-Mouton effect, Faraday effect, etc in optics

Vacuum birefringence from the resummed vacuum polarization tensor

Maxwell eq. w/ quantum corrections: 
$$[q^2 g^{\mu\nu} - q^{\mu}q^{\nu} - \Pi^{\mu\nu}]A_{\nu}(q) = 0$$

U(1) gauge symmetry constrains  $q_{\mu}\Pi^{\mu\nu} = 0$ possible tensor structures

$$\Pi^{\mu\nu} = -[\chi_0 P_0^{\mu\nu} + \chi_1 P_1^{\mu\nu} + \chi_2 P_2^{\mu\nu}]$$

$$P_0^{\mu\nu} = q^2 \eta^{\mu\nu} - q^{\mu} q^{\nu}$$

$$P_1^{\mu\nu} = q_{\parallel}^2 \eta_{\parallel}^{\mu\nu} - q_{\parallel}^{\mu} q_{\parallel}^{\nu}$$

$$P_2^{\mu\nu} = q_{\perp}^2 \eta_{\perp}^{\mu\nu} - q_{\perp}^{\mu} q_{\perp}^{\nu}$$
B-induced structures

Preferred orientation in B  

$$B = (0, 0, B)$$

$$\eta_{\parallel}^{\mu\nu} = \text{diag}(1, 0, 0, -1)$$

$$\eta_{\perp}^{\mu\nu} = \text{diag}(0, -1, -1, 0)$$

$$q_{\parallel}^{\mu} = (q^{0}, 0, 0, q^{3})$$

$$q_{\perp}^{\mu} = (0, q^{1}, q^{2}, 0)$$
(Boost invariance along B)

Refractive indices from the Maxwell eq.

spatial r

$$n = \frac{|\boldsymbol{q}|}{\omega} \qquad \text{Two (physical) polarization modes in || and  $\perp$  to B.  

$$n_{\parallel}^{2} = \frac{1 + \chi_{0} + \chi_{1}}{1 + \chi_{0} + \chi_{1} \cos^{2} \theta} \rightarrow 1$$
Direct consequence of the gauge symmetry and the breaking of one spatial rotational symmetry.  
Spatial rotational symmetry.  
Vanishing B limit:  $\chi_{0} \rightarrow \Pi_{\text{vac}}, \quad \chi_{1,2} \rightarrow 0$$$

### Proper-time method for external strong fields

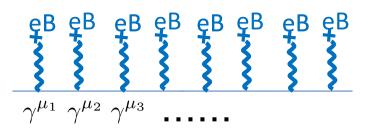
$$G(p|A) = \frac{i(\not p - eA + m)}{(\not p - eA)^2 - m^2 + i\epsilon} \qquad A^{\mu} \text{ for external (constant) fields}$$
$$= i(\not p - eA + m) \times \frac{1}{i} \int_0^{\infty} d\tau \ e^{i\tau \{(\not p - eA)^2 - (m^2 - i\epsilon)\}} \\ \tau : \text{ proper-time}$$

No p and A in the denominator  $\rightarrow$  Gaussian form

$$i\Pi^{\mu\nu}_{\rm ex}(q) = e^2 \int \frac{d^4p}{(2\pi)^4} \text{Tr}\left[ \gamma^{\mu}G(p|A)\gamma^{\nu}G(p+q|A) \right]$$



### Nonlinear wrt the external fields



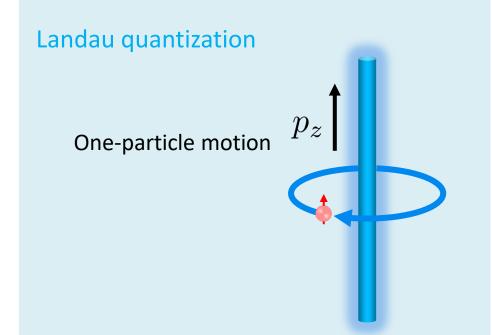
Technically demanding.

For example, one needs to perform the Dirac trace with an "infinite" number of gamma matrices.

Peskin & Schoeder tell us only  $tr[\gamma \gamma \gamma \gamma]$  or a little more...

### Fermion spectrum in a magnetic field

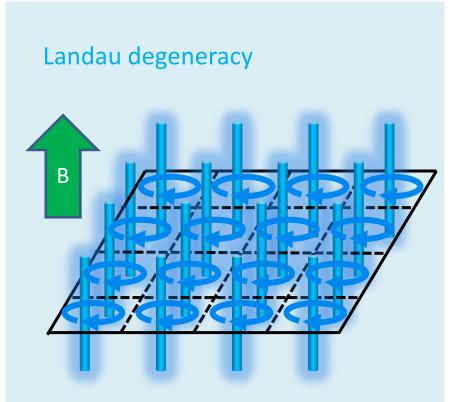
Remember the lesson: Photon spectrum depends on the fermion spectrum.



- 1. No effects on the longitudinal motion
- 2. Cyclotron motion  $\sim$  Harmonic oscillation
- 3. Spin polarization (Zeeman effect)

Energy spectrum

$$\epsilon_n^2 = p_z^2 + m^2 + (2n+1)|eB| \pm \frac{g}{2}|eB|$$



No energetically favored position. → Degeneracy

Landau degeneracy  $\rho_B = \frac{eB}{2\pi}$ 

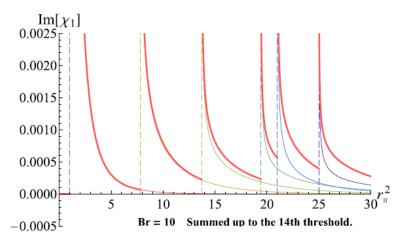
### Fermion pair spectrum in the imaginary part --- Thresholds at the Landau levels

Only one possible source of the imaginary part:

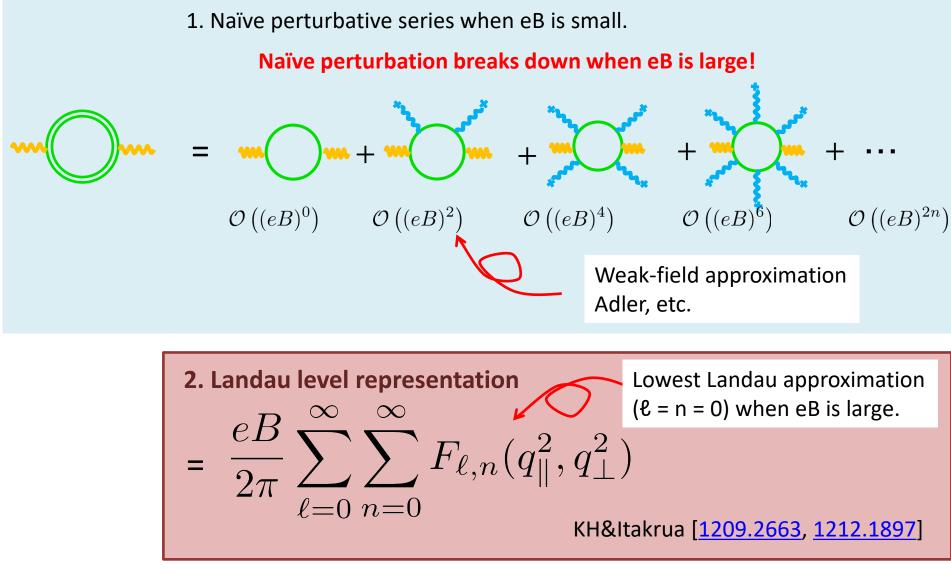
$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{4ac-b^2}} \left[ \arctan\left(\frac{b+2a}{\sqrt{4ac-b^2}}\right) - \arctan\left(\frac{b-2a}{\sqrt{4ac-b^2}}\right) \right]$$
$$a = q_{\parallel}^2/(4m^2), \ b = -(n-\ell)eB/m^2, c = (1-a) + (\ell+n)eB/m^2$$

Polarization tensor acquires an imaginary part when  $4ac - b^2 \leq 0$ Threshold condition  $q_{\parallel}^2 \geq (\epsilon_{\ell} + \epsilon_n)^2$   $\epsilon_n = \sqrt{p_z^2 + 2neB + m^2}$ The integers are identified with the Landau levels.

- $q_{\parallel}^2 = \omega^2 q_z^2$ : Photon energy in the frame where  $q_z = 0$ . (Boost invariance along a constant B-field)
- Compatible with the on-shell condition  $q^2 = 0$ .
- Real photon can decay in B. (Cyclotron radiation is also a 1-to-2 process in B.)

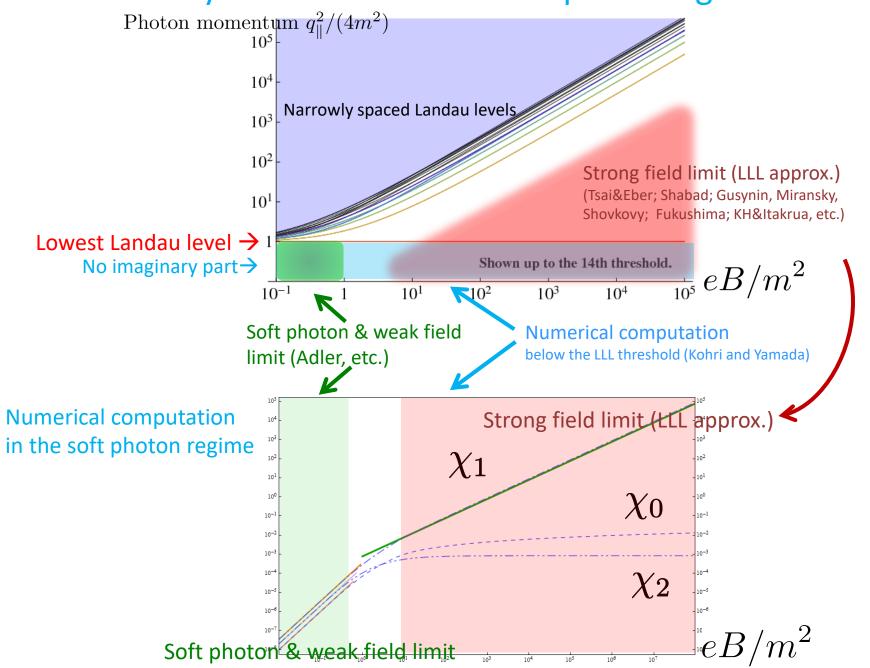


#### Vacuum polarization tensor in two different series representations



Cf. For the Landau level representation of the HE effective action, see KH, Itakura, Ozaki [2001.06131].

### Summary of relevant scales and preceding calculations



## Refractive indices and decay rate

 $\Pi^{\mu\nu} \to n_{\parallel,\perp}$ 

### Refractive indices with the LLL fluctuations

#### <u>Refractive indices at the LLL(ℓ=n=0)</u>

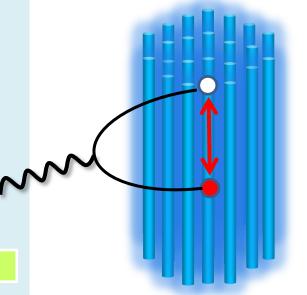
Polarization excites only along the magnetic field ``Vacuum birefringence''

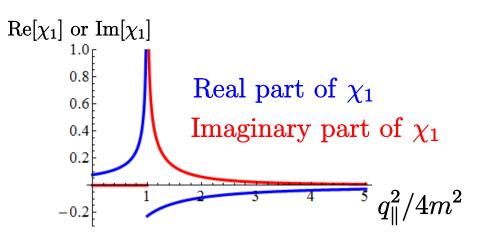
$$\chi_1 \neq 0, \quad \chi_0 = \chi_2 = 0$$

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} n_{\parallel}^2 = \frac{1 + \chi_1}{1 + \chi_1 \cos^2 \theta} \\ n_{\perp}^2 = 1 \end{array} \right. \xleftarrow{} \text{No modification in the } \bot \text{ mode}$$

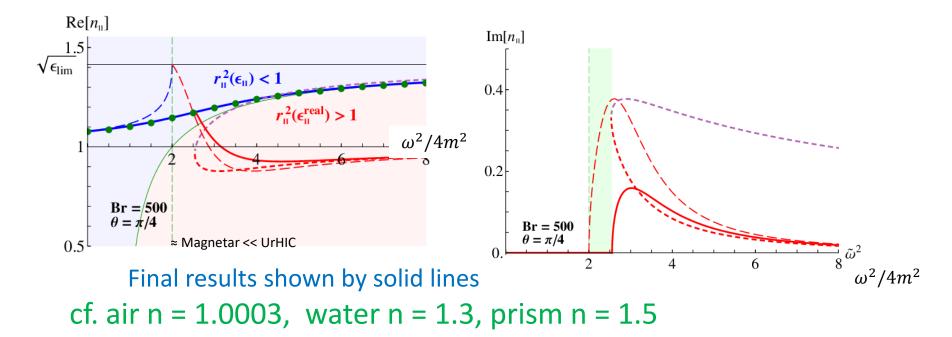
#### (1+1)-dimensional fluctuations

В





### Complex refractive indices



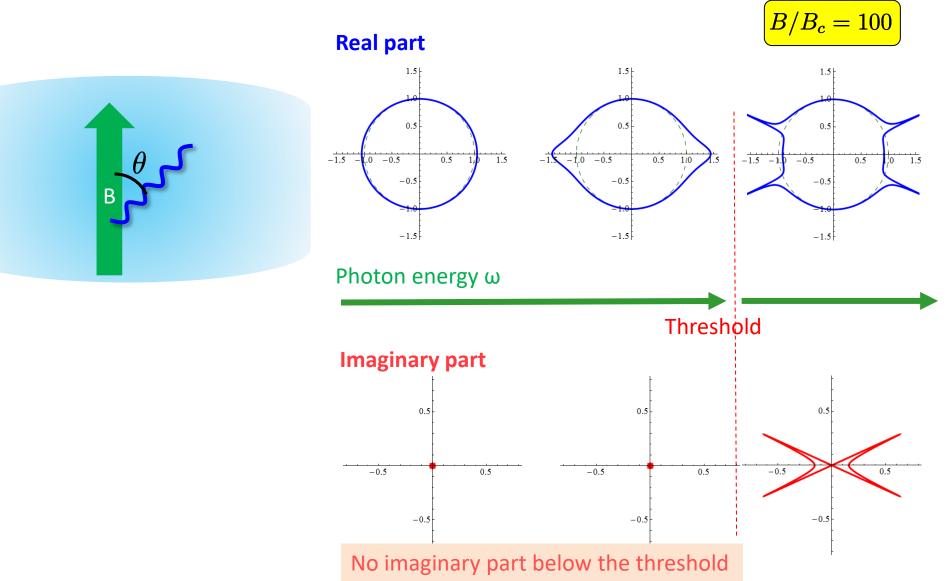


Refraction

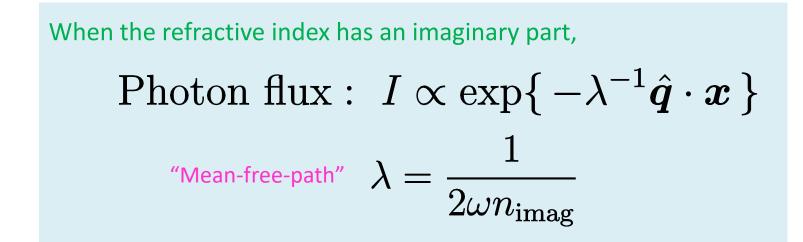
**Difermion production** 

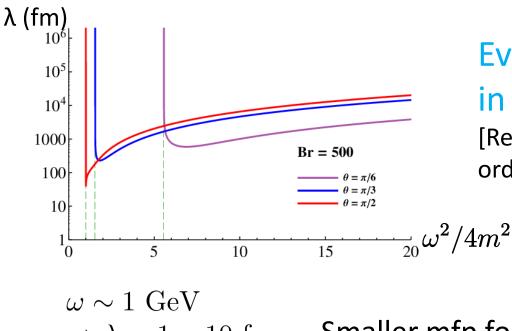
#### Anisotropy of the refraction index

Angle : Direction of the photon propagation Radius : Magnitude of the refraction index



### "Mean-free-path" of photons in B-fields





Even real photons decay in a microscopic scale! [Real photons never decay in ordinary vacuum without B-field.]

 $\omega \sim 1 \text{ GeV}$  $\rightarrow \lambda \sim 1 - 10 \text{ fm.}$  Smaller mfp for a larger energy ~ 1/ $\omega$ 

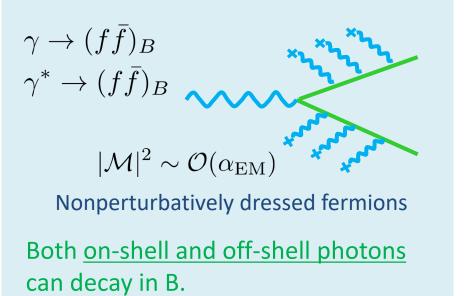
## Differential dilepton spectrum

--- Better accessibility than the photon polarization

KH, Hidetoshi Taya, Shinsuke Yoshida, "Di-lepton production from a single photon in strong magnetic fields: vacuum dichroism", [2010.13492]

### Pair production in a magnetic field

#### LO w/ B-field



### LO w/o B-field

No kinematical window for <u>a single on-shell photon when B = 0.</u>

→ Starts only from 2 photons  $|\mathcal{M}|^2 \sim \mathcal{O}(\alpha_{\rm EM}^2)$ E.g., Breit-Wheeler process

Not compatible with each other without B.  $q_{\gamma}^{2} = (\epsilon_{f} + \epsilon_{\bar{f}})_{\rm CoM}^{2} \neq 0$ F-m conservation
On-shell conditions Finite B opens a kinematical window for an on-shell  $\gamma \rightarrow f$  fbar.

In B-field, 
$$\ q_{\parallel}^2 \geq (\epsilon_\ell + \epsilon_n)^2$$

Compatible with  $q^2 = 0$ 

## Ritus basis formalism

= Mode expansion with the exact fermion wave functions in B-field.

$$(i\not\!\!D_{\rm ext} - m)\psi = 0$$

$$D^{\mu}_{\rm ext} = \partial^{\mu} + i|e|A^{\mu}_{\rm ext}$$

 $\operatorname{rot} A_{\operatorname{ext}} = B$ 

- Mode expansion with the eigenspinor basis.
- Fermion propagator gets simplified.
- Price: Convolution of the wave functions at the vertex is no longer a delta function.

#### Pair production rate for general kinematics

Fermion pair in the Landau levels



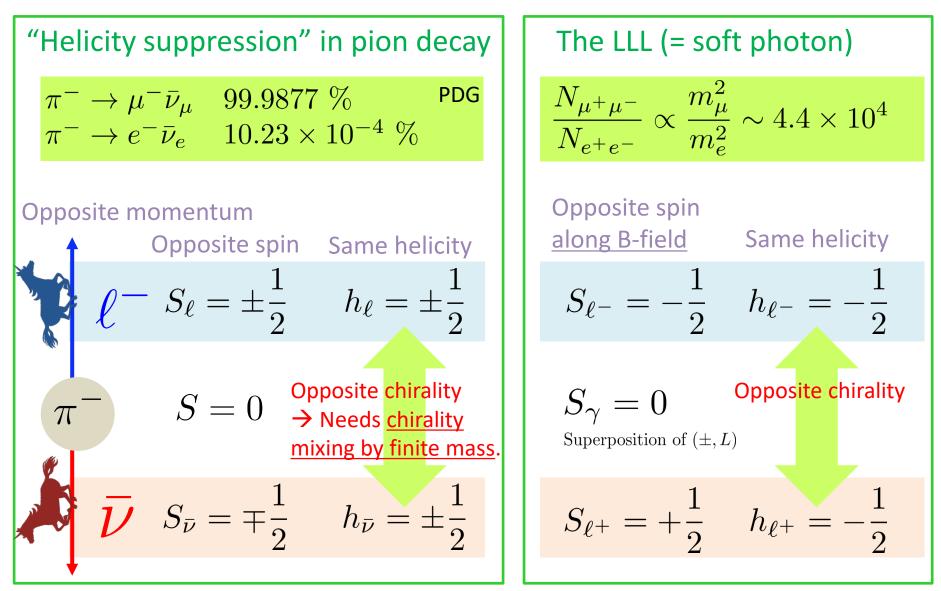
Differential information includes

- Photon polarization ( $\epsilon^{\mu}$ )
- Photon momentum  $(q^{\mu})$  with a general direction and invariant mass
- Landau levels (n, n') and continuous momentum ( $p_z$ ,  $p_z'$ ) along B

Consistency checks done: Ward identity, etc.

### Muon-pair excess over electron pairs

#### KH, Taya, Yoshida [2010.13492]



Especially, R neutrino (L antineutrino) does not exist at the QCD scale. (However, this is not an essential reason for the helicity suppression.)

### Feasibility with HIC?

Ideal set-up

Inborn polarization in photon sources (Possibly unpolarized as well)

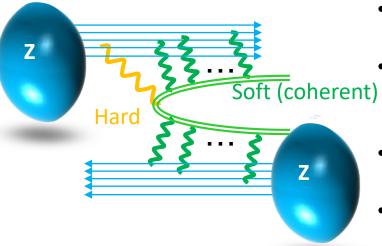
• Acquired polarization due to the birefringence

もう

• Some of photons decay into fermion pairs

#### **UPC** events

#### What is a photon source and what is a strong B field in HIC?



- There is no a priori difference: Both are Coulomb electric fields in the nucleus rest frame.
- The photon source has a momentum distribution: Fourier transform of the charge distribution, e.g., the Woods-Saxon profile.
- The hard and soft components of the distribution may be regarded as "photons" and a "magnetic field".
- Needs quantitative estimates with a separation scale.

## Summary

- Vacuum birefringence (polarization-dependent refractive indices)
- $\gamma \rightarrow$  ee for both on-shell and off-shell photons
- Differential di-lepton spectrum
  - $\rightarrow$  "Helicity suppression" in the electron/muon

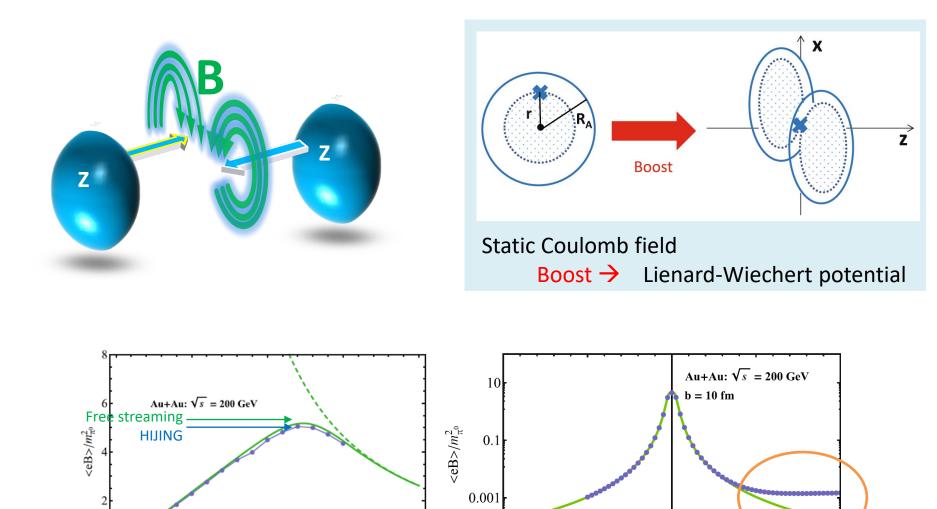
## Prospects for the UPC

- Needs convolution with the photon distribution function
- Time dependence of a magnetic field

KH, Xu-Guang Huang, Hidetoshi Taya, Shinsuke Yoshida, In progress.

# Back-up slides

#### Strong magnetic fields induced by relativistic heavy-ion collisions



 $10^{-5}$ 

-2

-1

Central coll.

10

b (fm)

15

5



1

2

0

t (fm/c)

#### Lifetime of the B-field after the collisions

B(t)

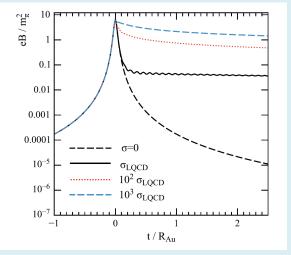
A longer lifetime due to the Lenz's law?

Tuchin

Time dependent B induces E.

E induces J if QGP is conducting.

 $\rightarrow$  Induced J sustains B.



McLerran & Skokov

Important to know the conductivity of QGP in magnetic fields. KH & Satow; KH, Li, Satow, Yee; Fukushima & Hidaka

Isobaric collisions will help us to understand the backgrounds and to extract the magnetic-field effects.

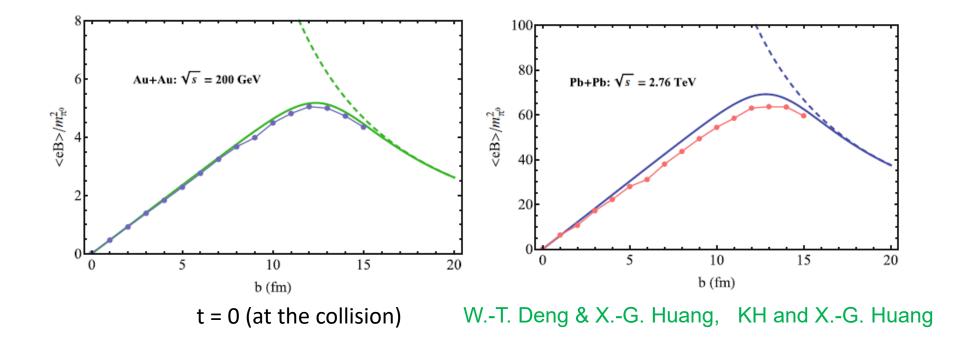
 $\Delta Z \sim 10 \% \rightarrow \Delta B \sim 10 \%$ , but little difference in the flow effects

Cf. Deng, Huang, Ma, Wang for recent estimates

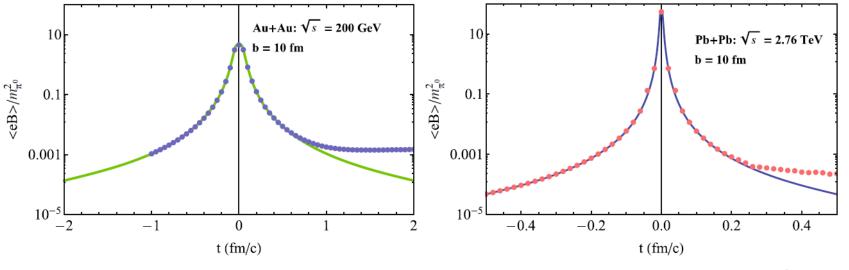




## Analytic and numerical estimates of the strong B -- Impact parameter dependences

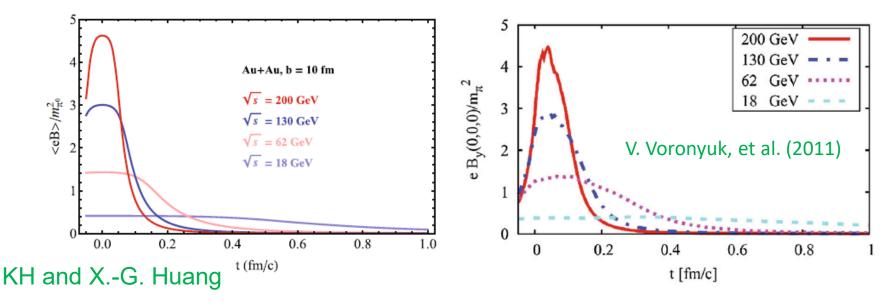


#### **Time dependences**



KH and X.-G. Huang

#### **Collision-energy dependences**



### **Canonical quantization in B-field**

$$(i \not D_{\text{ext}} - m) \psi = 0$$
$$D_{\text{ext}}^{\mu} = \partial^{\mu} + i |e| A_{\text{ext}}^{\mu}$$
$$\text{rot} \boldsymbol{A}_{\text{ext}} = \boldsymbol{B}$$

#### Ritus basis: Eigenspinor in B-field

$$\mathcal{R}_n(x_\perp) = \phi_n \mathcal{P}_+ + \phi_{n-1} \mathcal{P}_-$$

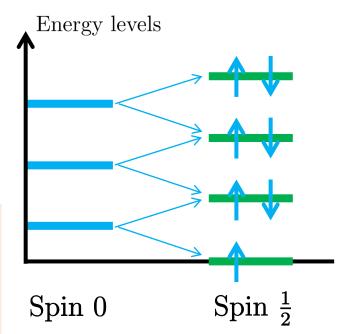
 $\phi_n(x_{\perp})$ : Wave function at the Landau level  $n \mathcal{P}_{\pm}$ : Spin projection operator along B-field

Mode expansion can be performed in this basis. Fermion propagator gets simplified.

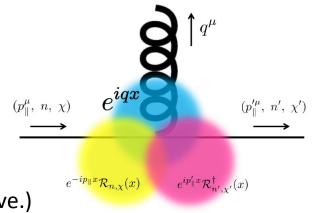
$$\mathcal{R}_n \frac{i}{\not{\!\!D}_{\text{ext}} - m} \mathcal{R}_{n'}^{\dagger} = \frac{i}{\not{\!\!p}_n - m} \delta_{nn'}$$
$$p_n^{\mu} = (p^0, \sqrt{2n|eB|}, 0, p^3)$$

Price: Convolution of the wave functions at the vertex gets — complicated. Fermion wave functions are not orthogonal to photon wave function. (Photon wave function is a plane wave.)

#### See a review part in [2010.13492]



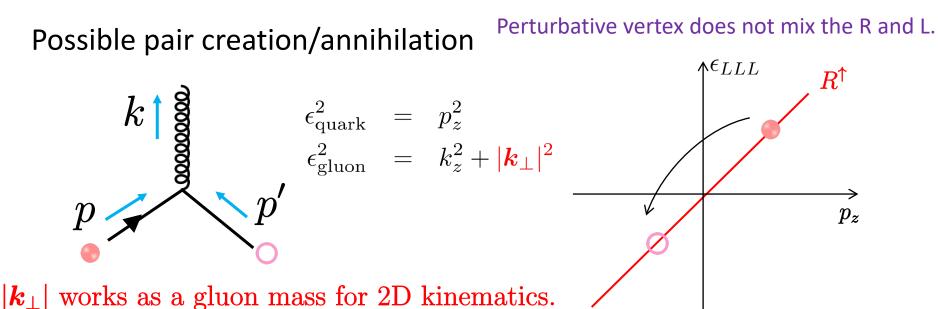
Spin up and down states are degenerated except for n = 0.



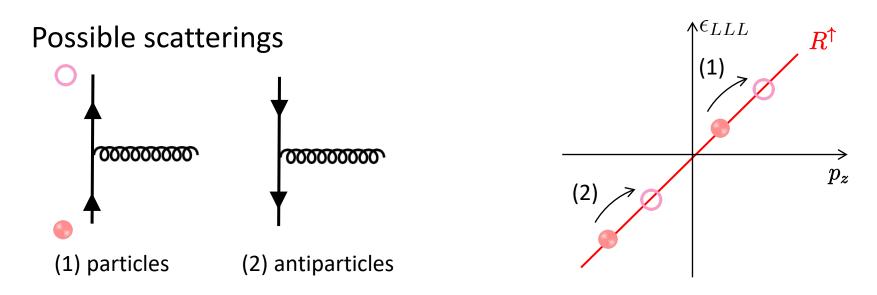
## Possible 1-2 processes in the massless LLL

 $R^{\uparrow}$ 

 $p_{z}$ 



Analogue of a massive weak boson production from  $q\bar{q}$  annihilation in 4D.



### Possible quantum numbers carried by gluons

When the LLL fermion moves from one LLL to another,

No changes of quantum numbers but  $\epsilon$  and  $p_z$ .  $\delta\epsilon$ ,  $\delta p_z \neq 0$ No spin! (The LLL is completely polarized.)  $\delta q_{
m electric, flavor} = 0$ 

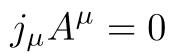
 $\delta s_z = 0$ 

Possible quantum numbers carried by gluons are  $\epsilon = p_z$  (and color), but no spin!

 $\Rightarrow \underline{\text{No coupling to the transverse gluons}}.$ Possibly coupled to scalar fields such as phonons (?)

Kinematics in the massless limit is satisfied only in the "collinear limit." The scattering in the (1+1) D is *prohibited* 

by the chiral symmetry in the massless limit (cf., CME).

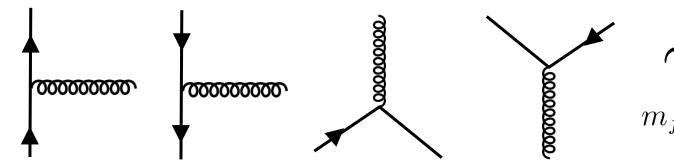


Fermion mass

Scatterings allowed only in a massive case

 $R^{\uparrow}$ 

000000000



## **Resummed polarization tensor**

Integrands with strong oscillations

$$\chi_i(r_{\parallel}^2, r_{\perp}^2, B_{\rm r}) = \frac{\alpha B_{\rm r}}{4\pi} \int_{-1}^{1} d\beta \int_0^{\infty} d\tau \; \frac{\Gamma_i(\tau, \beta)}{\sin(\tau)} \; e^{-i(\phi_{\parallel} + \phi_{\perp})\tau}$$

Proper time integrals on the two fermion lines

Vanishing B limit:  $\chi_0 
ightarrow \Pi_{
m vac} \,, \,\, \chi_{1,2} 
ightarrow 0$ 

Schwinger, Adler, Shabad, Urrutia, Tsai and Eber, Dittrich and Gies

### **Decomposing exponential factors**

$$\chi_{i} = \frac{\alpha}{4\pi} \int_{-1}^{1} d\beta \int_{0}^{\infty} d\tau \, \frac{\Gamma_{i}(\tau,\beta)}{\sin \tau} \, e^{-iu\cos(\beta\tau)} \, e^{i\eta\cot\tau} \, e^{-i\phi_{\parallel}\tau}$$
Contains arbitrarily higher harmonics
$$= 1 + c_{1}\cos(\beta\tau) + c_{2}\cos^{2}(\beta\tau) + \cdots + c_{n}\cos^{n}(\beta\tau) + \cdots$$

$$= 1 + d_{1}\cos(\beta\tau) + d_{2}\cos(2\beta\tau) + \cdots + d_{n}\cos(n\beta\tau) + \cdots$$

1<sup>st</sup> step: "Partial wave decomposition"

$$e^{-iu\cos(\beta au)} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (2-\delta_{n0}) I_n(-iu) e^{in\beta au}$$
 Linear w.r.t.  $au$  in exp.

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> step: Getting Laguerre polynomials

Put 
$$z = \exp(-2i\tau)$$
 and  $x = y = \eta$   

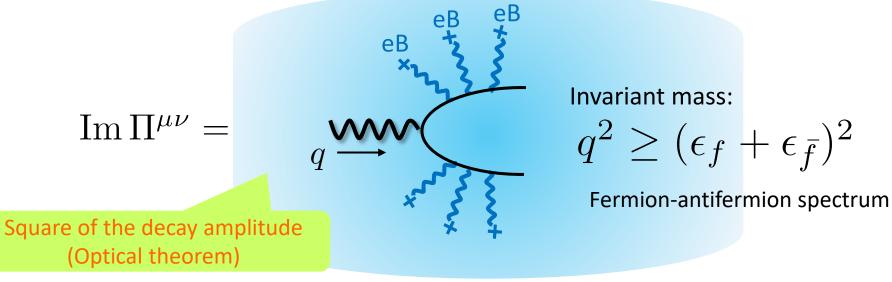
$$\exp\left(-\frac{(x+y)z}{1-z}\right) I_n\left(\frac{2\sqrt{xyz}}{1-z}\right) = (1-z)(xyz)^{\frac{n}{2}} \sum_{\ell=0}^{\infty} \frac{\ell!}{\Gamma(\ell+n+1)} L_{\ell}^n(x) L_{\ell}^n(y) e^{-2i\ell\tau}$$
Linear w.r.t.  $\tau$  in exp.

All terms fall in one of three elementary integrals.

$$\begin{split} F_{\ell}^{n}(r_{\parallel}^{2},B_{\rm r}) &= \frac{i}{B_{\rm r}} \int_{-1}^{1} d\beta \int_{0}^{\infty} d\tau \ e^{-i\left(\phi_{\parallel}+2\ell-n\beta+n\right)\tau} \\ G_{\ell}^{n}(r_{\parallel}^{2},B_{\rm r}) &= \frac{i}{B_{\rm r}} \int_{-1}^{1} d\beta \int_{0}^{\infty} d\tau \ \beta \ e^{-i\left(\phi_{\parallel}+2\ell-n\beta+n\right)\tau} \\ H_{\ell}^{n}(r_{\parallel}^{2},B_{\rm r}) &= \frac{i}{B_{\rm r}} \int_{-1}^{1} d\beta \int_{0}^{\infty} d\tau \ \beta^{2} \ e^{-i\left(\phi_{\parallel}+2\ell-n\beta+n\right)\tau} \end{split} \qquad \phi_{\parallel}(q_{\parallel}^{2},B) = \frac{m^{2}}{eB} \left\{ 1 - (1-\beta^{2}) \ \frac{q_{\parallel}^{2}}{4m^{2}} \right\}$$

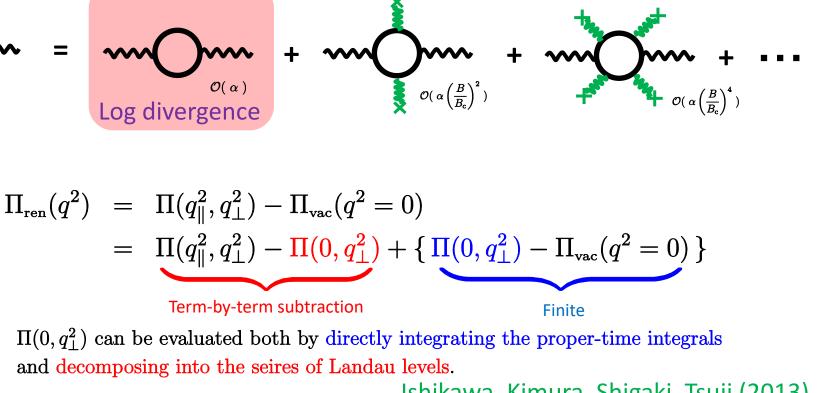
What are the integers  $\ell$  and n intorudced in the mathematical formulas?

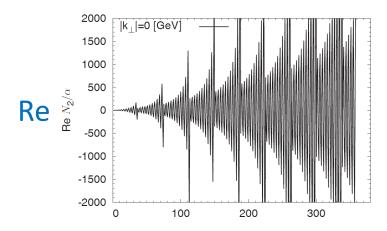
Integers specify the fermion spectrum encoded in the photon spectrum. (Remember the lesson in introduction)

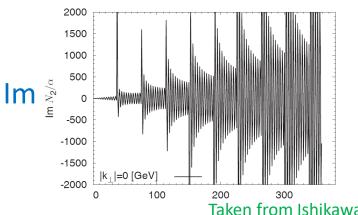


## Renormalization









#### Ishikawa, Kimura, Shigaki, Tsuji (2013)

Taken from Ishikawa, et al. (2013)