

Transcendental structure of multiloop massless correlators and anomalous dimensions

P.A. Baikov^a and K.G. Chetyrkin^{b,c}

^a*Skobeltsyn Institute of Nuclear Physics, Lomonosov Moscow State University, 1(2), Leninskie gory, Moscow 119991, Russian Federation*

^b*Institut für Theoretische Teilchenphysik, Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT), Wolfgang-Gaede-Straße 1, 726128 Karlsruhe, Germany*

^c*II Institut für Theoretische Physik, Universität Hamburg, Luruper Chaussee 149, 22761 Hamburg, Germany*

E-mail: baikov@theory.sinp.msu.ru, Konstantin.Chetyrkin@kit.edu

ABSTRACT: We give a short account of recent advances in our understanding of the π -dependent terms in massless (Euclidean) 2-point functions as well as in generic anomalous dimensions (ADs) and β -functions. We extend the considerations of [1] by two more loops, that is for the case of 6- and 7-loop correlators and 7- and 8-loop renormalization group (RG) functions. Our predictions for the (π -dependent terms) of the 7-loop RG functions for the case of the $O(n)$ ϕ^4 theory are in full agreement with the recent results from [2]. All available 7- and 8-loop results for QCD and the scalar $O(n)$ φ^4 theory obtained within the large N_f approach to the quantum field theory (see, e.g. [3]) are also in full agreement with our results.

KEYWORDS: Perturbative QCD, Renormalization Group

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1 Introduction

Since the seminal calculation of the Adler function at order α_s^3 [4] it has been known that p-functions in QCD demonstrate striking regularities in terms proportional to π^{2n} (or, equivalently, even zetas,¹ with n being positive integer. Indeed, it was demonstrated in [4] for the first time a mysterious complete cancellation of all contributions proportional to $\zeta_4 \equiv \frac{\pi^4}{90}$ (which generically appear in separate diagrams) while odd zetas terms (that is those proportional to ζ_3 and ζ_5 in the case under consideration) do survive and show up in the final result. Here by p-functions we understand ($\overline{\text{MS}}$ -renormalized) Euclidean Green functions² or 2-point correlators or even some combination thereof, expressible in terms of massless propagator-like Feynman integrals (to be named p-integrals below).

Since then it has been noted many times that *all* physical (that is scale-invariant) p-functions are indeed free from even zetas at order α_s^4 (like corrections to the Bjorken (polarized) DIS sum rule) and *some* of them — like the Adler function — even at the next, in fact, 5-loop, $\alpha_e \alpha_s^4$ order [6]. On the other hand, the first appearance of ζ_4 in a one-scale physical quantity has been demonstrated in [7] for the case of the 5-loop scalar correlator.

It should be stressed that the limitation to QCD p-functions in the above discussion is *essential*. In general case scale-invariant p-functions do depend on even zetas already at 4 loops (see eq. (11.8) in [1]).

¹As is well known every even power $2n$ of π is uniquely related to the corresponding Euler ζ -function $\zeta_{2n} \equiv \sum_{i>0} \frac{1}{i^{2n}}$, according to a rule $\zeta_{2n} = r(n) \pi^{2n}$, with $r(n)$ being a (known) rational number [5].

²Like quark-quark-gluon vertex in QCD with the external gluon line carrying no momentum.

To describe these regularities more precisely we need to introduce a few notations and conventions. Let

$$F_n(a, \ell_\mu) = 1 + \sum_{\substack{0 \leq j \leq i \\ 1 \leq i \leq n}} g_{i,j}(\ell_\mu)^j a^i \quad (1.1)$$

be a (renormalized) p-function in a one-charge theory with the coupling constant a .³ Here Q is an (Euclidean) external momentum and $\ell_\mu = \ln \frac{\mu^2}{Q^2}$. The integer n stands for the (maximal) power of a appearing in the p-integrals contributing to F_n . In the case of one-charge gauge theory and gauge non-invariant F we will always assume the case of the Landau gauge. In particular all our generic considerations in this paper are relevant for QCD p-functions with $a = \frac{\alpha_s(\mu)}{4\pi}$.

The F without n will stand as a shortcut for a formal series F_∞ . In terms of bare quantities⁴

$$F = Z F_B(a_B, \ell_\mu), \quad Z = 1 + \sum_{i \geq 1} \sum_{1 \leq j \leq i} Z_{i,j} \frac{a^i}{\epsilon^j}, \quad (1.2)$$

with the bare coupling constant, the corresponding renormalization constant (RC) and AD being

$$a_B = \mu^{2\epsilon} Z_a a, \quad Z_a = 1 + \sum_{i \geq 1} \sum_{1 \leq j \leq i} (Z_a)_{i,j} \frac{a^i}{\epsilon^j}, \quad (1.3)$$

$$\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial \ell_\mu} + \beta a \frac{\partial}{\partial a} \right) F = \gamma F, \quad (1.4)$$

$$\gamma(a) = \sum_{i \geq 1} \gamma_i a^i, \quad \gamma_i = -i Z_{i,1}. \quad (1.5)$$

The coefficients of the β -function β_i are related to Z_a in the standard way:

$$\beta_i = i (Z_a)_{i,1}. \quad (1.6)$$

A p-function F is called scale-independent if the corresponding AD $\gamma \equiv 0$. If $\gamma \neq 0$ then one can always construct a scale-invariant object from F and γ , namely:

$$F_{n+1}^{si}(a, \ell_\mu) = \frac{\partial}{\partial \ell_\mu} (\ln F)_{n+1} \equiv \left(\frac{(\gamma(a) - \beta(a) a \frac{\partial}{\partial a}) F_n}{F_n} \right)_{n+1}. \quad (1.7)$$

Note that $F_{n+1}^{si}(a, \ell_\mu)$ starts from the first power of the coupling constant a and is formally composed from $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^{n+1})$ Feynman diagrams. In the same time it can be completely restored from F_n and the $(n+1)$ -loop AD γ .

If not otherwise stated we will assume the so-called G -scheme for renormalization [8]. The scheme is natural for massless propagators. All ADs, β -functions and Z -factors are identical in $\overline{\text{MS}}$ - and G -schemes. For (finite) renormalized functions there exists a simple conversion rule. Namely, in order to switch from an G -renormalized quantity to the one in

³We implicitly assume that the coupling constant a counts loops.

⁴We assume the use of the dimensional regularization with the space-time dimension $D = 4 - 2\epsilon$.

the $\overline{\text{MS}}$ -scheme one should make the following replacement in the former: $\ln \mu^2 \rightarrow \ln \mu^2 + 2$ (μ is the renormalization scale, the limit of $\epsilon \rightarrow 0$ is understood).

An (incomplete) list of the currently known regularities⁵ includes the following cases.

1. Scale-independent QCD p-functions F_n and F_n^{si} with $n \leq 4$ are free from π -dependent terms.
2. Scale-independent QCD p-functions F_5^{si} are free from π^6 and π^2 but do depend on π^4 .
3. The QCD β -function starts to depend on π at 5 loops only [14–16] via ζ_4 . In addition, there exists a remarkable identity [1]

$$\beta_5^{\zeta_4} = \frac{9}{8} \beta_1^{(1)} \beta_4^{\zeta_3}, \quad \text{with} \quad F^{\zeta_i} = \lim_{\zeta_i \rightarrow 0} \frac{\partial}{\partial \zeta_i} F.$$

4. If we change the $\overline{\text{MS}}$ -renormalization scheme as follows:

$$a = \bar{a} \left(1 + c_1 \bar{a} + c_2 \bar{a}^2 + c_3 \bar{a}^3 + \frac{1}{3} \frac{\beta_5}{\beta_1^{(1)}} \bar{a}^4 \right), \quad (1.8)$$

with c_1, c_2 and c_3 being any rational numbers, then all known QCD functions $\hat{F}_5^{si}(\bar{a}, \ell_\mu)$ and the (5-loop) QCD β -function $\bar{\beta}(\bar{a})$ both lose any dependence on π . This remarkable fact was discovered in [9] and led to the renewed interest in the issue of even zeta values in two-point correlators and related objects.

5. It should be also noted that no terms proportional to the first or second powers of π do ever appear in *all known* (not necessarily QCD!) p-functions and even in separate p-integrals at least at loop number L less or equal 5. This comes straightforwardly from the fact that the corresponding master p-integrals are free from such terms. The latter has been established by explicit analytic calculations for $L = 2, 3$ [8], $L = 4$ [17–19] and finally at $L = 5$ [20]. Note for the last case only a part of 5-loop master integrals was explicitly computed. However, there are generic mathematical arguments in favor of absence of contributions with weight one and two, that is π and π^2 in p-integrals *at least with the proper choice of the basis set of transcendental generators* [21, 22]. By *proper choice* here we mean, essentially, a requirement that transcendental generators should be expressible in terms of *rational* combinations of *finite* p-integrals [23, 24], without use of π as a generator.

Our results below are in full agreement with these arguments.

It should be stressed that eventually every separate diagram contributing to F_n and F_{n+1}^{si} contains the following set of irrational numbers: $\zeta_3, \zeta_4, \zeta_5, \zeta_6$ and ζ_7 for $n = 4$, ζ_3, ζ_4 and ζ_5 for $n = 3$ as illustrated in table 1. Thus, the regularities listed above are quite nontrivial and for sure can not be explained by pure coincidence.

⁵For discussion of particular examples of π -dependent contributions into various QCD p-functions we refer to works [9–13].

L	p-integrals	L+1	Z
0	rational	1	rational/ ϵ
1	rational/ ϵ	2	rational/ ϵ^2
2	ζ_3	3	ζ_3/ϵ
3	$\zeta_3/\epsilon, \zeta_4, \zeta_5$	4	$\zeta_3/\epsilon^2, \{\zeta_4, \zeta_5\}/\epsilon$
4	$\zeta_3/\epsilon^2, \{\zeta_4, \zeta_5\}/\epsilon, \zeta_3^2, \zeta_6, \zeta_7$	5	$\zeta_3/\epsilon^3, \{\zeta_4, \zeta_5\}/\epsilon^2, \{\zeta_3^2, \zeta_6, \zeta_7\}/\epsilon$
5	$\zeta_3/\epsilon^3, \{\zeta_4, \zeta_5\}/\epsilon^2, \{\zeta_3^2, \zeta_6, \zeta_7\}/\epsilon,$ $\zeta_3\zeta_4, \zeta_8, \zeta_3\zeta_5, \zeta_{5,3}, \zeta_3^3, \zeta_9$	6	$\zeta_3/\epsilon^4, \{\zeta_4, \zeta_5\}/\epsilon^3, \{\zeta_3^2, \zeta_6, \zeta_7\}/\epsilon^2,$ $\{\zeta_3\zeta_4, \zeta_8, \zeta_3\zeta_5, \zeta_{5,3}, \zeta_3^3, \zeta_9\}/\epsilon$

Table 1. The structure of p-integrals (expanded in ϵ up to and including the constant ϵ^0 part) and RCs in dependence on the loop number L . The inverse power of ϵ stands for the *maximal* one in generic case; in particular cases it might be less.

In this paper⁶ we first present a short discussion of recent advances in studying the structure of the π -dependent terms in massless (Euclidean) 2-point functions as well as in generic anomalous dimensions and β -functions. Then we extend the considerations of [1] by two more loops. Finally, we discuss remarkable connections between ϵ -expansion of 4-loop p-integrals and the $D = 4$ values of finite 5-, 6-, and 7-loop p-integrals.

2 Hatted representation: general formulation and its implications

The full understanding and a generic proof of points 1–5 above have been recently achieved in our work [1]. The main tool of the work was the so-called “hatted” representation of transcendental objects contributing to a given set of p-integrals.

Let us reformulate the main results of [1] in an abstract form. We will call the set of all L -loop p-integrals \mathcal{P}_L a π -safe one if the following is true.

- (i) All p-integrals from the set can be expressed in terms of $(M+1)$ mutually independent (and ϵ -independent) transcendental generators

$$\mathcal{T} = \{t_1, t_2, \dots, t_{M+1}\} \quad \text{with } t_{M+1} = \pi. \tag{2.1}$$

This means that any p-integral $F(\epsilon)$ from \mathcal{P}_L can be uniquely⁷ presented as follows

$$F(\epsilon) = F(\epsilon, t_1, t_2, \dots, t_M, \pi) + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon), \tag{2.2}$$

where by $F(\epsilon)$ we understand the *exact* value of the p-integral F while the combination $\epsilon^L F(\epsilon, t_1, t_2, \dots, t_M, \pi)$ should be a rational polynomial⁸ in $\epsilon, t_1, \dots, t_M, \pi$. Every such polynomial is a sum of monomials T_α of the generic form

$$\sum_{\alpha} r_{\alpha} T_{\alpha}, \quad T_{\alpha} = \epsilon^n \prod_{i=1, M+1} t_i^{n_i}, \tag{2.3}$$

⁶A preliminary version of the present work (not including the 8-loop case) was reported on the International Seminar “Loops and Legs in Quantum Field Theory” (LL2018) in St. Goar, Germany and published in [25].

⁷We assume that $F(\epsilon, t_1, t_2, \dots, \pi)$ does not contain terms proportional to ϵ^n with $n \geq 1$.

⁸That is a polynomial having rational coefficients.

with $n \leq L$, n_i and r_α being some non-negative integers and rational numbers respectively. A monomial T_α will be called π -dependent and denoted as $T_{\pi,\alpha}$ if $n_{M+1} > 0$. Note that a generator t_i with $i \leq M$ may still include explicitly the constant π in its definition, see below.

(ii) For every t_i with $i \leq M$ let us define its hatted counterpart as follows:

$$\hat{t}_i = t_i + \epsilon \sum_{\alpha} h_{i\alpha}(\epsilon) T_{\pi,\alpha}, \tag{2.4}$$

with $\{h_{i\alpha}\}$ being rational polynomials in ϵ and $T_{\pi,\alpha}$ are all π -dependent monomials as defined in (2.3). Then there should exist a choice of both a basis \mathcal{T} and polynomials $\{h_{i\alpha}\}$ such that for every L-loop p-integral $F(\epsilon, t_i)$ the following equality holds:

$$F(\epsilon, t_1, t_2, \dots, t_M, \pi) = F(\epsilon, \hat{t}_1, \hat{t}_2, \dots, t_M, 0) + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon). \tag{2.5}$$

We will call π -free any rational polynomial (with possibly ϵ -dependent coefficients) in $\{t_i, i = 1, \dots, M\}$.

As we will discuss below the sets \mathcal{P}_i with $i = 3, 4, 5$ are for sure π -safe (well, for $L = 5$ almost) while \mathcal{P}_6 highly likely shares the property. For the case of \mathcal{P}_7 the situation is more complicated (but still not hopeless!) as discussed in section 5. In what follows we will always assume that every (renormalized) L-loop p-function as well as (L+1)-loop β -functions and anomalous dimensions are all expressed in terms of the generators t_1, t_2, \dots, t_{M+1} .

Moreover, for any polynomial $P(t_1, t_2, \dots, \pi)$ we define its *hatted* version as

$$\hat{P}(\hat{t}_1, \hat{t}_2, \dots, \hat{t}_M) := P(\hat{t}_1, \hat{t}_2, \dots, \hat{t}_M, 0).$$

Let F_L is a (renormalized, with ϵ set to zero) p-function, γ_L and β_L are the corresponding anomalous dimension and the β -function (all taken in the L -loop approximation). The following statements have been proved in [1] *under the condition that the set \mathcal{P}_L is π -safe and that both the set \mathcal{T} and the polynomials $\{h_{i\alpha}(\epsilon)\}$ are fixed.*

1. No- π Theorem.

- (a) F_L is π -free in any (massless) renormalization scheme for which corresponding β -function and AD γ are both π -free at least at the level of $L + 1$ loops.
- (b) The scale-invariant combination F_{L+1}^{si} is π -free in any (massless) renormalization scheme provided the β -function is π -independent at least at the level of $L + 1$ loops.

2. π -dependence of L-loop p-functions. If F_L is renormalized in $\overline{\text{MS}}$ -scheme, then all its π -dependent contributions can be expressed in terms of $\hat{F}_L|_{\epsilon=0}$, $\hat{\beta}_{L-1}|_{\epsilon=0}$ and $\hat{\gamma}_L|_{\epsilon=0}$.

3. π -dependence of L-loop β -functions and AD. If β_L and γ_L are given in the $\overline{\text{MS}}$ -scheme, then all their π -dependent contributions can be expressed in terms of $\hat{\beta}_{L-1}|_{\epsilon=0}$ and $\hat{\beta}_{L-1}|_{\epsilon=0}$, $\hat{\gamma}_{L-1}|_{\epsilon=0}$ correspondingly.

3 π -structure of 3,4,5 and 6-loop p-integrals

A hatted representation of p-integrals is known for loop numbers $L = 3$ [26], $L = 4$ [17] and $L = 5$ [20]. In all three cases it was constructed by looking for such a basis \mathcal{T} as well as polynomials $h_{i\alpha}(\epsilon)$ (see eq. (2.4)) that eq. (2.5) would be valid for sufficiently large subset of \mathcal{P}_L .

Let us consider the next-loop level, that is \mathcal{P}_6 . In principle, the strategy requires the knowledge of all (or almost all) L-loop master integrals. On the other hand, if we *assume* the π -safeness of the set \mathcal{P}_6 we could try to fix polynomials $h_{i\alpha}(\epsilon)$ by considering some limited subset of \mathcal{P}_6 .

Actually, we do have at our disposal a subset of \mathcal{P}_6 due to work [18] where all 4-loop master integrals have been computed up to the transcendental weight 12 in their ϵ -expansion. Every particular 4-loop p-integral divided by ϵ^n can be considered as a $(4+n)$ -loop p-integral. The collection of such $(4+n)$ -loop p-integrals form a subset of \mathcal{P}_{4+n} which we will refer to as \mathcal{P}_4/ϵ^n . We have tried this subset for $n = 1$ and 2.

Our results are given below. (To make resulting formulas shorter we use even zetas $\zeta_2 = \pi^2/6$, $\zeta_4 = \pi^4/90$, $\zeta_6 = \pi^6/945$, $\zeta_8 = \pi^8/9450$ and $\zeta_{10} = \pi^{10}/93555$ instead of the corresponding even powers of π).

$$\underbrace{\hat{\zeta}_3}_{L=6} := \underbrace{\boxed{\zeta_3}}_{L=3} + \frac{3\epsilon}{2}\zeta_4 - \frac{5\epsilon^3}{2}\zeta_6 + \frac{21\epsilon^5}{2}\zeta_8 - \frac{153\epsilon^7}{2}\zeta_{10}, \quad (3.1)$$

$$\underbrace{\hat{\zeta}_5}_{L=6} := \underbrace{\boxed{\zeta_5}}_{L=3} + \frac{5\epsilon}{2}\zeta_6 - \frac{35\epsilon^3}{4}\zeta_8 + \frac{63\epsilon^5}{2}\zeta_{10}, \quad (3.2)$$

$$\underbrace{\hat{\zeta}_7}_{L=6} := \underbrace{\boxed{\zeta_7}}_{L=4} + \frac{7\epsilon}{2}\zeta_8 - \frac{21\epsilon^3}{2}\zeta_{10}, \quad (3.3)$$

$$\underbrace{\hat{\zeta}_{5,3}}_{L=6} = \underbrace{\boxed{\zeta_{5,3} - \frac{29}{12}\zeta_8}}_{L=5} - \frac{15\epsilon}{2}\zeta_4\zeta_5 - \frac{2905\epsilon^2}{376}\zeta_{10} + \frac{25\epsilon^3}{2}\zeta_5\zeta_6, \quad (3.4)$$

$$\underbrace{\hat{\zeta}_9}_{L=6} := \underbrace{\boxed{\zeta_9}}_{L=5} + \frac{9}{2}\epsilon\zeta_{10}, \quad (3.5)$$

$$\underbrace{\hat{\zeta}_{7,3}}_{L=6} := \underbrace{\boxed{\zeta_{7,3} - \frac{793}{94}\zeta_{10}}}_{L=6} + 3\epsilon(-7\zeta_4\zeta_7 - 5\zeta_5\zeta_6), \quad (3.6)$$

$$\underbrace{\hat{\zeta}_{11}}_{L=6} := \underbrace{\boxed{\zeta_{11}}}_{L=6}, \quad (3.7)$$

$$\underbrace{\hat{\zeta}_{5,3,3}}_{L=6} := \underbrace{\boxed{\zeta_{5,3,3} + 45\zeta_2\zeta_9 + 3\zeta_4\zeta_7 - \frac{5}{2}\zeta_5\zeta_6}}_{L=6}. \quad (3.8)$$

Here multiple zeta values are defined as [27]

$$\zeta_{n_1, n_2} := \sum_{i>j>0} \frac{1}{i^{n_1} j^{n_2}}, \quad \zeta_{n_1, n_2, n_3} := \sum_{i>j>k>0} \frac{1}{i^{n_1} j^{n_2} k^{n_3}}. \quad (3.9)$$

Some comments on these eqs. are in order.

- The boxed entries form a set of π -independent (by definition!) generators for the cases of $L = 3$ (eqs. (3.1), (3.2)), $L = 4$ (eqs. (3.1)–(3.3)), $L = 5$ (eqs. (3.1)–(3.5)) and $L = 6$ (eqs. (3.1)–(3.8)). In what follows we will use for the boxed combinations in eqs. (3.1)–(3.8) the notation

$$\bar{\zeta}_{n_1, n_2, \dots} := \hat{\zeta}_{n_1, n_2, \dots} |_{\epsilon=0}. \quad (3.10)$$

- There is no terms proportional to single or second powers of π *outside* boxed combinations in relations (3.1)–(3.8). This fact directly leads to the absence of such terms in the (renormalized) 6-loop p-integrals and generic ADs and β -functions with the loop number not exceeding 7. Later we will see that the same is true for 7-loop p-integrals and 8-loop RG functions (assuming the conservative scenario as described in section 5).
- For $L = 5$ we recover the hatted representation for the set \mathcal{P}_5 first found in [20]. The latter coincides with eqs. (3.1)–(3.3) and (3.5) while instead of (3.4) the authors of [20] suggest

$$\hat{\zeta}_{3,5} := \varphi - 3\epsilon \zeta_4 \zeta_5 + \frac{5\epsilon}{2} \zeta_3 \zeta_6, \quad (3.11)$$

with

$$\varphi := \frac{3}{5} \zeta_{5,3} + \zeta_3 \zeta_5 - \frac{29}{20} \zeta_8 = \zeta_{6,2} - \zeta_{3,5}. \quad (3.12)$$

Our $\hat{\zeta}_{5,3}$ (eq. (3.4)) is related (up to the corresponding order of ϵ) to $\hat{\zeta}_{3,5}$ from [20] as $\hat{\zeta}_{5,3} = \frac{5}{3}(\hat{\zeta}_{3,5} - \hat{\zeta}_3 \hat{\zeta}_5)$. The reason for this redefinition is that we want every hatted zeta to be equal to the corresponding unhatted zeta plus terms proportional to explicit powers of π^2 at ϵ^0 order as well.

- We do not claim that the generators

$$\zeta_3, \zeta_5, \zeta_7, \bar{\zeta}_{5,3}, \zeta_9, \bar{\zeta}_{7,3}, \zeta_{11}, \bar{\zeta}_{5,3,3} \text{ and } \pi \quad (3.13)$$

are sufficient to present the pole and finite parts of every 6-loop p-integral. In fact, it is not true [2, 28, 29]. However we believe that it is safe to assume that all missing irrational constants can be associated with the values of some convergent 6-loop p-integrals at $\epsilon = 0$.

4 π -dependence of 7-loop β -functions and AD

Using the approach of [1] and the hatted representation of the irrational generators (3.13) as described by eqs. (3.1)–(3.8) we can straightforwardly predict the π -dependent terms in the β -function and the anomalous dimensions in the case of *any* 1-charge minimally renormalized field model at the level of 7 loops.

Our results read (the combination $F^{t_{\alpha_1} t_{\alpha_2} \dots t_{\alpha_n}}$ stands for the coefficient of the monomial $(t_{\alpha_1} t_{\alpha_2} \dots t_{\alpha_n})$ in F ; in addition, by $F^{(1)}$ we understand F with every generator t_i from $\{t_1, t_2, \dots, t_{M+1}\}$ set to zero).

$$\gamma_4^{\zeta_4} = -\frac{1}{2} \gamma_1^{(1)} \beta_3^{\zeta_3} + \frac{3}{2} \gamma_3^{\zeta_3} \beta_1^{(1)}, \quad (4.1)$$

$$\gamma_5^{\zeta_4} = -\frac{3}{8} \gamma_1^{(1)} \beta_4^{\zeta_3} - \gamma_2^{(1)} \beta_3^{\zeta_3} + \frac{3}{2} \gamma_3^{\zeta_3} \beta_2^{(1)} + \frac{3}{2} \gamma_4^{\zeta_3} \beta_1^{(1)}, \quad (4.2)$$

$$\gamma_5^{\zeta_6} = -\frac{5}{8} \gamma_1^{(1)} \beta_4^{\zeta_5} + \frac{5}{2} \beta_1^{(1)} \gamma_4^{\zeta_5}, \quad (4.3)$$

$$\gamma_5^{\zeta_4 \zeta_3} = 0, \quad (4.4)$$

$$\gamma_6^{\zeta_4} = -\frac{3}{10} \gamma_1^{(1)} \beta_5^{\zeta_3} - \frac{3}{4} \gamma_2^{(1)} \beta_4^{\zeta_3} - \frac{3}{2} \gamma_3^{(1)} \beta_3^{\zeta_3} + \frac{3}{2} \gamma_3^{\zeta_3} \beta_3^{(1)} + \frac{3}{2} \gamma_4^{\zeta_3} \beta_2^{(1)} + \frac{3}{2} \gamma_5^{\zeta_3} \beta_1^{(1)}, \quad (4.5)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \gamma_6^{\zeta_6} = & -\frac{1}{2} \gamma_1^{(1)} \beta_5^{\zeta_5} - \frac{5}{4} \gamma_2^{(1)} \beta_4^{\zeta_5} + \frac{5}{2} \beta_2^{(1)} \gamma_4^{\zeta_5} \\ & + \frac{5}{2} \beta_1^{(1)} \gamma_5^{\zeta_5} + \frac{3}{2} (\beta_1^{(1)})^2 \beta_3^{\zeta_3} \gamma_1^{(1)} - \frac{5}{2} (\beta_1^{(1)})^3 \gamma_3^{\zeta_3}, \end{aligned} \quad (4.6)$$

$$\gamma_6^{\zeta_8} = -\frac{7}{10} \gamma_1^{(1)} \beta_5^{\zeta_7} + \frac{7}{2} \beta_1^{(1)} \gamma_5^{\zeta_7}, \quad (4.7)$$

$$\gamma_6^{\zeta_4 \zeta_3} = -\frac{3}{5} \gamma_1^{(1)} \beta_5^{\zeta_3^2} + 3 \beta_1^{(1)} \gamma_5^{\zeta_3^2}, \quad (4.8)$$

$$\gamma_6^{\zeta_4 \zeta_5} = 0, \quad (4.9)$$

$$\gamma_6^{\zeta_6 \zeta_3} = 0, \quad (4.10)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \gamma_7^{\zeta_4} = & -\frac{1}{4} \gamma_1^{(1)} \beta_6^{\zeta_3} - \frac{3}{5} \gamma_2^{(1)} \beta_5^{\zeta_3} - \frac{9}{8} \gamma_3^{(1)} \beta_4^{\zeta_3} + \frac{3}{2} \gamma_3^{\zeta_3} \beta_4^{(1)} - 2 \gamma_4^{(1)} \beta_3^{\zeta_3} \\ & + \frac{3}{2} \gamma_4^{\zeta_3} \beta_3^{(1)} + \frac{3}{2} \gamma_5^{\zeta_3} \beta_2^{(1)} + \frac{3}{2} \gamma_6^{\zeta_3} \beta_1^{(1)}, \end{aligned} \quad (4.11)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \gamma_7^{\zeta_6} = & -\frac{5}{12} \gamma_1^{(1)} \beta_6^{\zeta_5} - \gamma_2^{(1)} \beta_5^{\zeta_5} - \frac{15}{8} \gamma_3^{(1)} \beta_4^{\zeta_5} + \frac{5}{2} \beta_3^{(1)} \gamma_4^{\zeta_5} + \frac{5}{2} \beta_2^{(1)} \gamma_5^{\zeta_5} \\ & + \frac{5}{2} \beta_1^{(1)} \gamma_6^{\zeta_5} + \frac{5}{2} \beta_1^{(1)} \beta_2^{(1)} \beta_3^{\zeta_3} \gamma_1^{(1)} + \frac{5}{4} (\beta_1^{(1)})^2 \beta_4^{\zeta_3} \gamma_1^{(1)} \\ & + 3 (\beta_1^{(1)})^2 \beta_3^{\zeta_3} \gamma_2^{(1)} - \frac{15}{2} (\beta_1^{(1)})^2 \beta_2^{(1)} \gamma_3^{\zeta_3} - \frac{5}{2} (\beta_1^{(1)})^3 \gamma_4^{\zeta_3}, \end{aligned} \quad (4.12)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \gamma_7^{\zeta_8} = & -\frac{7}{12} \gamma_1^{(1)} \beta_6^{\zeta_7} - \frac{7}{5} \gamma_2^{(1)} \beta_5^{\zeta_7} + \frac{7}{12} (\beta_3^{\zeta_3})^2 \gamma_1^{(1)} + \frac{7}{2} \beta_2^{(1)} \gamma_5^{\zeta_7} \\ & + \frac{7}{2} \beta_1^{(1)} \gamma_6^{\zeta_7} - \frac{7}{8} \beta_1^{(1)} \gamma_1^{(1)} \beta_5^{\zeta_3^2} - \frac{7}{8} \beta_1^{(1)} \beta_3^{\zeta_3} \gamma_3^{\zeta_3} \\ & + \frac{21}{8} (\beta_1^{(1)})^2 \gamma_5^{\zeta_3^2} + \frac{35}{8} (\beta_1^{(1)})^2 \gamma_1^{(1)} \beta_4^{\zeta_5} - \frac{35}{4} (\beta_1^{(1)})^3 \gamma_4^{\zeta_5}, \end{aligned} \quad (4.13)$$

$$\gamma_7^{\zeta_{10}} = -\frac{3}{4}\gamma_1^{(1)}\beta_6^{\zeta_9} + \frac{9}{2}\beta_1^{(1)}\gamma_6^{\zeta_9}, \quad (4.14)$$

$$\gamma_7^{\zeta_4\zeta_3} = -\frac{1}{2}\gamma_1^{(1)}\beta_6^{\zeta_3^2} - \frac{6}{5}\gamma_2^{(1)}\beta_5^{\zeta_3^2} + \frac{3}{8}\gamma_3^{\zeta_3}\beta_4^{\zeta_3} - \frac{1}{2}\gamma_4^{\zeta_3}\beta_3^{\zeta_3} + 3\beta_2^{(1)}\gamma_5^{\zeta_3^2} + 3\beta_1^{(1)}\gamma_6^{\zeta_3^2}, \quad (4.15)$$

$$\gamma_7^{\zeta_4\zeta_5} = \frac{5}{4}\gamma_1^{(1)}\beta_6^{\bar{\zeta}_{5,3}} - \frac{1}{4}\gamma_1^{(1)}\beta_6^{\zeta_3\zeta_5} + \frac{3}{2}\gamma_3^{\zeta_3}\beta_4^{\zeta_5} - 2\beta_3^{\zeta_3}\gamma_4^{\zeta_5} - \frac{15}{2}\beta_1^{(1)}\gamma_6^{\bar{\zeta}_{5,3}} + \frac{3}{2}\beta_1^{(1)}\gamma_6^{\zeta_3\zeta_5}, \quad (4.16)$$

$$\gamma_7^{\zeta_4\zeta_7} = 0, \quad (4.17)$$

$$\gamma_7^{\zeta_6\zeta_3} = -\frac{5}{12}\gamma_1^{(1)}\beta_6^{\zeta_3\zeta_5} - \frac{15}{8}\gamma_3^{\zeta_3}\beta_4^{\zeta_5} + \frac{5}{2}\beta_3^{\zeta_3}\gamma_4^{\zeta_5} + \frac{5}{2}\beta_1^{(1)}\gamma_6^{\zeta_3\zeta_5}, \quad (4.18)$$

$$\gamma_7^{\zeta_6\zeta_5} = 0, \quad (4.19)$$

$$\gamma_7^{\zeta_8\zeta_3} = 0, \quad (4.20)$$

$$\gamma_7^{\zeta_4\zeta_3^2} = -\frac{3}{4}\gamma_1^{(1)}\beta_6^{\zeta_3^3} + \frac{9}{2}\beta_1^{(1)}\gamma_6^{\zeta_3^3}. \quad (4.21)$$

The results for π -dependent contributions to a β -function are obtained from the above relations by a formal replacement of γ by β in every term. For instance, the 6 and 7-loop π -dependent contributions read:

$$\beta_6^{\zeta_4} = \frac{6}{5}\beta_1^{(1)}\beta_5^{\zeta_3} + \frac{3}{4}\beta_2^{(1)}\beta_4^{\zeta_3}, \quad (4.22)$$

$$\beta_6^{\zeta_6} = 2\beta_1^{(1)}\beta_5^{\zeta_5} - (\beta_1^{(1)})^3\beta_3^{\zeta_3} + \frac{5}{4}\beta_2^{(1)}\beta_4^{\zeta_5}, \quad (4.23)$$

$$\beta_6^{\zeta_8} = \frac{14}{5}\beta_1^{(1)}\beta_5^{\zeta_7}, \quad (4.24)$$

$$\beta_6^{\zeta_4\zeta_3} = \frac{12}{5}\beta_1^{(1)}\beta_5^{\zeta_3^2}, \quad (4.25)$$

$$\beta_6^{\zeta_4\zeta_5} = 0, \quad (4.26)$$

$$\beta_6^{\zeta_6\zeta_3} = 0, \quad (4.27)$$

$$\beta_7^{\zeta_4} = \frac{5}{4}\beta_1^{(1)}\beta_6^{\zeta_3} + \frac{9}{10}\beta_2^{(1)}\beta_5^{\zeta_3} + \frac{3}{8}\beta_3^{(1)}\beta_4^{\zeta_3} - \frac{1}{2}\beta_3^{\zeta_3}\beta_4^{(1)}, \quad (4.28)$$

$$\beta_7^{\zeta_6} = \frac{25}{12}\beta_1^{(1)}\beta_6^{\zeta_5} + \frac{3}{2}\beta_2^{(1)}\beta_5^{\zeta_5} - \frac{5}{4}\beta_4^{\zeta_3}(\beta_1^{(1)})^3 + \frac{5}{8}\beta_3^{(1)}\beta_4^{\zeta_5} - 2\beta_3^{\zeta_3}\beta_2^{(1)}(\beta_1^{(1)})^2, \quad (4.29)$$

$$\beta_7^{\zeta_8} = \frac{35}{12}\beta_1^{(1)}\beta_6^{\zeta_7} + \frac{7}{4}(\beta_1^{(1)})^2\beta_5^{\zeta_3^2} - \frac{35}{8}(\beta_1^{(1)})^3\beta_4^{\zeta_5} + \frac{21}{10}\beta_2^{(1)}\beta_5^{\zeta_7} - \frac{7}{24}(\beta_3^{\zeta_3})^2\beta_1^{(1)}, \quad (4.30)$$

$$\beta_7^{\zeta_{10}} = \frac{15}{4}\beta_1^{(1)}\beta_6^{\zeta_9}, \quad (4.31)$$

$$\beta_7^{\zeta_4\zeta_3} = \frac{5}{2}\beta_1^{(1)}\beta_6^{\zeta_3^2} + \frac{9}{5}\beta_2^{(1)}\beta_5^{\zeta_3^2} - \frac{1}{8}\beta_3^{\zeta_3}\beta_4^{\zeta_3}, \quad (4.32)$$

$$\beta_7^{\zeta_4\zeta_5} = -\frac{25}{4}\beta_1^{(1)}\beta_6^{\bar{\zeta}_{5,3}} + \frac{5}{4}\beta_1^{(1)}\beta_6^{\zeta_3\zeta_5} - \frac{1}{2}\beta_3^{\zeta_3}\beta_4^{\zeta_5}, \quad (4.33)$$

$$\beta_7^{\zeta_4\zeta_7} = 0, \quad (4.34)$$

$$\beta_7^{\zeta_6\zeta_3} = \frac{25}{12}\beta_1^{(1)}\beta_6^{\zeta_3\zeta_5} + \frac{5}{8}\beta_3^{\zeta_3}\beta_4^{\zeta_5}, \quad (4.35)$$

$$\beta_7^{\zeta_6\zeta_5} = 0, \quad (4.36)$$

$$\beta_7^{\zeta_8 \zeta_3} = 0, \tag{4.37}$$

$$\beta_7^{\zeta_4 \zeta_3^2} = \frac{15}{4} \beta_1^{(1)} \beta_6^{\zeta_3^3}. \tag{4.38}$$

4.1 Tests at 7 loops

With eqs. (4.1)–(4.38) we have been able to reproduce successfully all π -dependent constants appearing in the β -function and anomalous dimensions γ_m and γ_2 of the $O(n)$ φ^4 model which all are known at 7 loops from [2]. In addition, we have checked that the π -dependent contributions to the terms of order $n_f^6 \alpha_s^7$ in the QCD β -function as well as to the terms of order $n_f^6 \alpha_s^7$ and of order $n_f^5 \alpha_s^7$ contributing to the quark mass AD (all computed in [30–32]) within the framework of large N_f [3, 33–36] approach are in full agreement with the constraints listed above.

Numerous successful tests at 4,5 and 6 loops have been presented in [1].

5 Hatted representation for 7-loop p-integrals and the π^{12} subtlety

Motivated by the success of our derivation of the hatted representation for the 6-loop case we have decided to look on the next, 7-loop level. Within our approach this requires the knowledge of the ϵ -expansion of the 4-loop master integrals presented in [18] up to the transcendental weight 13. In principle, the methods employed by Lee and A. and V. Smirnovs are powerful enough to find such an expansion. One of the authors of [18] has provided us with ϵ -expansions for all 4-loop master p-integrals up to and including weight 13.

In fact, we have (well, almost) succeeded in constructing the hatted representation for the subset \mathcal{P}_4/ϵ^3 of \mathcal{P}_7 . Our results are presented below.⁹

$$\underbrace{\hat{\zeta}_3}_{L=7} := \underbrace{\hat{\zeta}_3}_{L=6} + \frac{1705 \epsilon^9}{2} \zeta_{12}, \tag{5.1}$$

$$\underbrace{\hat{\zeta}_5}_{L=7} := \underbrace{\hat{\zeta}_5}_{L=6} - \frac{2805 \epsilon^7}{4} \zeta_{12}, \tag{5.2}$$

$$\underbrace{\hat{\zeta}_7}_{L=7} := \underbrace{\hat{\zeta}_7}_{L=6} + 231 \epsilon^5 \zeta_{12}, \tag{5.3}$$

$$\underbrace{\hat{\zeta}_{5,3}}_{L=7} := \underbrace{\hat{\zeta}_{5,3}}_{L=6} + ? \zeta_{12} - \frac{105 \epsilon^5}{2} \zeta_5 \zeta_8, \tag{5.4}$$

$$\underbrace{\hat{\zeta}_9}_{L=7} := \underbrace{\hat{\zeta}_9}_{L=6} - \frac{165 \epsilon^3}{4} \zeta_{12}, \tag{5.5}$$

$$\underbrace{\hat{\zeta}_{7,3}}_{L=7} := \underbrace{\zeta_{7,3}}_{L=6} - ? \zeta_{12} + \epsilon^3 \left(\frac{105}{2} \zeta_5 \zeta_8 + 35 \zeta_6 \zeta_7 \right), \tag{5.6}$$

⁹Note that the hatted representation of single odd zetas displayed in eqs. ((5.1), (5.2), (5.3), (5.5), (5.7) and (5.10) is in agreement with the recent findings of [37].

$$\underbrace{\hat{\zeta}_{11}}_{L=7} := \underbrace{\hat{\zeta}_{11}}_{L=6} + \frac{11\epsilon}{2}\zeta_{12}, \tag{5.7}$$

$$\underbrace{\hat{\zeta}_{5,3,3}}_{L=7} := \underbrace{\hat{\zeta}_{5,3,3}}_{L=6} + ?\zeta_{12} + \frac{3\epsilon}{2}\zeta_4\zeta_{5,3} - \frac{105\epsilon^2}{16}\zeta_5\zeta_8, \tag{5.8}$$

$$\underbrace{\hat{\zeta}_{9,3}}_{L=7} := \boxed{\zeta_{9,3}} - \frac{75\epsilon}{2}\zeta_6\zeta_7 - 21\epsilon\zeta_5\zeta_8 - \frac{81\epsilon}{2}\zeta_4\zeta_9, \tag{5.9}$$

$$\underbrace{\hat{\zeta}_{13}}_{L=7} := \boxed{\zeta_{13}}, \tag{5.10}$$

$$\underbrace{\hat{\zeta}_{5,5,3}}_{L=7} := \boxed{\zeta_{5,5,3} + \frac{145}{12}\zeta_5\zeta_8 + 25\zeta_4\zeta_9 + \frac{275}{2}\zeta_2\zeta_{11}}, \tag{5.11}$$

$$\underbrace{\hat{\zeta}_{7,3,3}}_{L=7} := \boxed{\zeta_{7,3,3} - 4\zeta_6\zeta_7 + \frac{29}{2}\zeta_5\zeta_8 + 28\zeta_4\zeta_9 + \frac{407}{2}\zeta_2\zeta_{11}}, \tag{5.12}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \underbrace{\hat{\zeta}_{6,4,1,1}}_{L=7} := & \boxed{\zeta_{6,4,1,1} + ?\zeta_{12} - \frac{3}{2}\zeta_4\zeta_{5,3} + \frac{1}{2}\zeta_3\zeta_4\zeta_5 + \frac{9}{4}\zeta_3^2\zeta_6 - 3\zeta_2\zeta_{7,3} - \frac{7}{2}\zeta_2\zeta_5^2 - 10\zeta_2\zeta_3\zeta_7} \\ & + \epsilon \left(\frac{5665}{32}\zeta_6\zeta_7 + \frac{203}{2}\zeta_5\zeta_8 + \frac{1799}{12}\zeta_4\zeta_9 - \frac{799}{16}\zeta_3\zeta_{10} + \frac{1}{2}\zeta_3^3\zeta_4 \right). \end{aligned} \tag{5.13}$$

The meaning of the question mark in front of ζ_{12} in eqs. (5.4), (5.8) and (5.13) for hatted form of multiple zeta objects is as follows. Every integral from the set \mathcal{P}_4/ϵ^3 can either include at least one (or more) multiple zeta values from the collection $\bar{\zeta}_{5,3}, \bar{\zeta}_{7,3}, \bar{\zeta}_{5,3,3}, \bar{\zeta}_{7,3,3}$ and $\bar{\zeta}_{6,4,1,1}$ or not. Thus, the whole set \mathcal{P}_4/ϵ^3 can be represented as a union of two (non-intersecting!) subsets, namely, a simple one, \mathcal{S}_4/ϵ^3 , (that is without any dependence on multiple zeta values) and the rest \mathcal{N}_4/ϵ^3 .

The fact is that the hatted representation does exist for all p-integrals \mathcal{S}_4/ϵ^3 , while there is no way to replace the question marks in eqs. above by some coefficients in order to meet eq. (2.5) for the p-integrals from \mathcal{N}_4/ϵ^3 . On the other hand, if we formally set to zero all terms proportional to ζ_{12} in eqs. (5.1)–(5.13), then eq. (2.5) will be valid for the whole set \mathcal{P}_4/ϵ^3 “modulo” terms proportional to ζ_{12} .

It is quite remarkable that the distinguished role of ζ_{12} has been already established in [2] as a result of direct analytical calculations of quite complicated *convergent* 7-loop p-integrals.

Thus, we observe a nontrivial interplay between higher terms in the ϵ -expansion of 4-loop p-integrals and 7-loop *finite* p-integrals.

Certainly, the subset of the 7-loop p-integrals which has led to eqs. (5.1)–(5.13) is rather limited and our conclusions about π -structure of \mathcal{P}_7 are not final. In principle, we can outline 3 possible scenarios.

Scenario 1 (pessimistic). There is no hatted representation for the set \mathcal{P}_7 .

Scenario 2 (conservative). The master p-integrals from the difference $\mathcal{P}_7 \setminus \mathcal{P}_4/\epsilon^3$ can be presented in the hatted form modulo (explicitly) π -proportional terms with weight more or equal 12.

Scenario 3 (optimistic). The master p-integrals from the difference $\mathcal{P}_7 \setminus \mathcal{P}_4/\epsilon^3$ can be presented in the hatted form modulo ζ_{12} .

6 π -dependence of 8-loop β -functions and AD

In this section we assume the conservative Scenario 2 and extend (following generic prescriptions elaborated in [1]) the predictions from section 4 by one more loop for π -dependent terms with the transcendental weight not exceeding 11. The results read:

$$\begin{aligned} \gamma_8^{\zeta_4} = & -\frac{3}{14} \gamma_1^{(1)} \beta_7^{\zeta_3} - \frac{1}{2} \gamma_2^{(1)} \beta_6^{\zeta_3} - \frac{9}{10} \gamma_3^{(1)} \beta_5^{\zeta_3} + \frac{3}{2} \gamma_3^{\zeta_3} \beta_5^{(1)} - \frac{3}{2} \gamma_4^{(1)} \beta_4^{\zeta_3} \\ & + \frac{3}{2} \gamma_4^{\zeta_3} \beta_4^{(1)} - \frac{5}{2} \gamma_5^{(1)} \beta_3^{\zeta_3} + \frac{3}{2} \gamma_5^{\zeta_3} \beta_3^{(1)} + \frac{3}{2} \gamma_6^{\zeta_3} \beta_2^{(1)} + \frac{3}{2} \gamma_7^{\zeta_3} \beta_1^{(1)}, \end{aligned} \quad (6.1)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \gamma_8^{\zeta_6} = & -\frac{5}{14} \gamma_1^{(1)} \beta_7^{\zeta_5} - \frac{5}{6} \gamma_2^{(1)} \beta_6^{\zeta_5} - \frac{3}{2} \gamma_3^{(1)} \beta_5^{\zeta_5} - \frac{5}{2} \gamma_4^{(1)} \beta_4^{\zeta_5} + \frac{5}{2} \beta_4^{(1)} \gamma_4^{\zeta_5} + \frac{5}{2} \beta_3^{(1)} \gamma_5^{\zeta_5} \\ & + \frac{5}{2} \beta_2^{(1)} \gamma_6^{\zeta_5} + \frac{15}{14} (\beta_2^{(1)})^2 \beta_3^{\zeta_3} \gamma_1^{(1)} + \frac{5}{2} \beta_1^{(1)} \gamma_7^{\zeta_5} \\ & + \frac{15}{7} \beta_1^{(1)} \beta_3^{(1)} \beta_3^{\zeta_3} \gamma_1^{(1)} + \frac{15}{7} \beta_1^{(1)} \beta_2^{(1)} \beta_4^{\zeta_3} \gamma_1^{(1)} + 5 \beta_1^{(1)} \beta_2^{(1)} \beta_3^{\zeta_3} \gamma_2^{(1)} - \frac{15}{2} \beta_1^{(1)} (\beta_2^{(1)})^2 \gamma_3^{\zeta_3} \\ & + \frac{15}{14} (\beta_1^{(1)})^2 \beta_5^{\zeta_3} \gamma_1^{(1)} + \frac{5}{2} (\beta_1^{(1)})^2 \beta_4^{\zeta_3} \gamma_2^{(1)} + \frac{9}{2} (\beta_1^{(1)})^2 \beta_3^{\zeta_3} \gamma_3^{(1)} - \frac{15}{2} (\beta_1^{(1)})^2 \beta_3^{(1)} \gamma_3^{\zeta_3} \\ & - \frac{15}{2} (\beta_1^{(1)})^2 \beta_2^{(1)} \gamma_4^{\zeta_3} - \frac{5}{2} (\beta_1^{(1)})^3 \gamma_5^{\zeta_3}, \end{aligned} \quad (6.2)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \gamma_8^{\zeta_8} = & -\frac{1}{2} \gamma_1^{(1)} \beta_7^{\zeta_7} - \frac{7}{6} \gamma_2^{(1)} \beta_6^{\zeta_7} - \frac{21}{10} \gamma_3^{(1)} \beta_5^{\zeta_7} + \beta_3^{\zeta_3} \beta_4^{\zeta_3} \gamma_1^{(1)} + \frac{35}{24} (\beta_3^{\zeta_3})^2 \gamma_2^{(1)} \\ & + \frac{7}{2} \beta_3^{(1)} \gamma_5^{\zeta_7} + \frac{7}{2} \beta_2^{(1)} \gamma_6^{\zeta_7} - \frac{3}{4} \beta_2^{(1)} \gamma_1^{(1)} \beta_5^{\zeta_3^2} - \frac{7}{4} \beta_2^{(1)} \beta_3^{\zeta_3} \gamma_3^{\zeta_3} \\ & + \frac{7}{2} \beta_1^{(1)} \gamma_7^{\zeta_7} - \frac{3}{4} \beta_1^{(1)} \gamma_1^{(1)} \beta_6^{\zeta_3^2} - \frac{7}{4} \beta_1^{(1)} \gamma_2^{(1)} \beta_5^{\zeta_3^2} - \frac{7}{4} \beta_1^{(1)} \beta_3^{\zeta_3} \gamma_4^{\zeta_3} \\ & + \frac{21}{4} \beta_1^{(1)} \beta_2^{(1)} \gamma_5^{\zeta_3^2} + \frac{15}{2} \beta_1^{(1)} \beta_2^{(1)} \gamma_1^{(1)} \beta_4^{\zeta_5} + \frac{21}{8} (\beta_1^{(1)})^2 \gamma_6^{\zeta_3^2} + \frac{15}{4} (\beta_1^{(1)})^2 \gamma_1^{(1)} \beta_5^{\zeta_5} \\ & + \frac{35}{4} (\beta_1^{(1)})^2 \gamma_2^{(1)} \beta_4^{\zeta_5} - \frac{105}{4} (\beta_1^{(1)})^2 \beta_2^{(1)} \gamma_4^{\zeta_5} - \frac{35}{4} (\beta_1^{(1)})^3 \gamma_5^{\zeta_5} \\ & - \frac{15}{2} (\beta_1^{(1)})^4 \beta_3^{\zeta_3} \gamma_1^{(1)} + \frac{21}{2} (\beta_1^{(1)})^5 \gamma_3^{\zeta_3}, \end{aligned} \quad (6.3)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \gamma_8^{\zeta_{10}} = & -\frac{9}{14} \gamma_1^{(1)} \beta_7^{\zeta_9} - \frac{3}{2} \gamma_2^{(1)} \beta_6^{\zeta_9} + \frac{11}{7} \beta_3^{\zeta_3} \gamma_1^{(1)} \beta_4^{\zeta_5} + \frac{9}{2} \beta_2^{(1)} \gamma_6^{\zeta_9} + \frac{9}{2} \beta_1^{(1)} \gamma_7^{\zeta_9} + \frac{415}{188} \beta_1^{(1)} \gamma_1^{(1)} \beta_6^{\zeta_{5,3}} \\ & - \frac{33}{28} \beta_1^{(1)} \gamma_1^{(1)} \beta_6^{\zeta_3 \zeta_5} - \frac{11}{4} \beta_1^{(1)} \beta_3^{\zeta_3} \gamma_4^{\zeta_5} - \frac{2905}{376} (\beta_1^{(1)})^2 \gamma_6^{\zeta_{5,3}} \\ & + \frac{33}{8} (\beta_1^{(1)})^2 \gamma_6^{\zeta_3 \zeta_5} + 9 (\beta_1^{(1)})^2 \gamma_1^{(1)} \beta_5^{\zeta_7} - 21 (\beta_1^{(1)})^3 \gamma_5^{\zeta_7}, \end{aligned} \quad (6.4)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \gamma_8^{\zeta_4 \zeta_3} = & -\frac{3}{7} \gamma_1^{(1)} \beta_7^{\zeta_3^2} - \gamma_2^{(1)} \beta_6^{\zeta_3^2} - \frac{9}{5} \gamma_3^{(1)} \beta_5^{\zeta_3^2} + \frac{3}{5} \gamma_3^{\zeta_3} \beta_5^{\zeta_3} + 3 \beta_3^{(1)} \gamma_5^{\zeta_3^2} \\ & - \gamma_5^{\zeta_3} \beta_3^{\zeta_3} + 3 \beta_2^{(1)} \gamma_6^{\zeta_3^2} + 3 \beta_1^{(1)} \gamma_7^{\zeta_3^2}, \end{aligned} \quad (6.5)$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \gamma_8^{\zeta_4\zeta_5} &= \frac{15}{14}\gamma_1^{(1)}\beta_7^{\bar{\zeta}_{5,3}} - \frac{3}{14}\gamma_1^{(1)}\beta_7^{\zeta_3\zeta_5} + \frac{5}{2}\gamma_2^{(1)}\beta_6^{\bar{\zeta}_{5,3}} - \frac{1}{2}\gamma_2^{(1)}\beta_6^{\zeta_3\zeta_5} + \frac{3}{2}\gamma_3^{\zeta_3}\beta_5^{\zeta_5} \\
 &\quad - \frac{3}{2}\beta_4^{\zeta_3}\gamma_4^{\zeta_5} + \frac{3}{2}\gamma_4^{\zeta_3}\beta_4^{\zeta_5} - \frac{5}{2}\beta_3^{\zeta_3}\gamma_5^{\zeta_5} - \frac{15}{2}\beta_2^{(1)}\gamma_6^{\bar{\zeta}_{5,3}} \\
 &\quad + \frac{3}{2}\beta_2^{(1)}\gamma_6^{\zeta_3\zeta_5} - \frac{15}{2}\beta_1^{(1)}\gamma_7^{\bar{\zeta}_{5,3}} + \frac{3}{2}\beta_1^{(1)}\gamma_7^{\zeta_3\zeta_5}, \tag{6.6}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\gamma_8^{\zeta_4\zeta_7} = 3\gamma_1^{(1)}\beta_7^{\bar{\zeta}_{7,3}} - \frac{3}{14}\gamma_1^{(1)}\beta_7^{\zeta_3\zeta_7} + \frac{3}{2}\gamma_3^{\zeta_3}\beta_5^{\zeta_7} - \frac{5}{2}\beta_3^{\zeta_3}\gamma_5^{\zeta_7} - 21\beta_1^{(1)}\gamma_7^{\bar{\zeta}_{7,3}} + \frac{3}{2}\beta_1^{(1)}\gamma_7^{\zeta_3\zeta_7}, \tag{6.7}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \gamma_8^{\zeta_6\zeta_3} &= -\frac{5}{14}\gamma_1^{(1)}\beta_7^{\zeta_3\zeta_5} - \frac{5}{6}\gamma_2^{(1)}\beta_6^{\zeta_3\zeta_5} - \frac{3}{2}\gamma_3^{\zeta_3}\beta_5^{\zeta_5} + \frac{5}{2}\beta_4^{\zeta_3}\gamma_4^{\zeta_5} - \frac{5}{2}\gamma_4^{\zeta_3}\beta_4^{\zeta_5} \\
 &\quad + \frac{5}{2}\beta_3^{\zeta_3}\gamma_5^{\zeta_5} + \frac{5}{2}\beta_2^{(1)}\gamma_6^{\zeta_3\zeta_5} + \frac{5}{2}\beta_1^{(1)}\gamma_7^{\zeta_3\zeta_5} + \frac{15}{7}\beta_1^{(1)}(\beta_3^{\zeta_3})^2\gamma_1^{(1)} \\
 &\quad + \frac{15}{7}(\beta_1^{(1)})^2\gamma_1^{(1)}\beta_5^{\zeta_3^2} - 3(\beta_1^{(1)})^2\beta_3^{\zeta_3}\gamma_3^{\zeta_3} - 5(\beta_1^{(1)})^3\gamma_5^{\zeta_3^2}, \tag{6.8}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\gamma_8^{\zeta_6\zeta_5} = \frac{15}{7}\gamma_1^{(1)}\beta_7^{\bar{\zeta}_{7,3}} - \frac{5}{7}\gamma_1^{(1)}\beta_7^{\zeta_5^2} - 15\beta_1^{(1)}\gamma_7^{\bar{\zeta}_{7,3}} + 5\beta_1^{(1)}\gamma_7^{\zeta_5^2}, \tag{6.9}$$

$$\gamma_8^{\zeta_8\zeta_3} = -\frac{1}{2}\gamma_1^{(1)}\beta_7^{\zeta_3\zeta_7} - \frac{21}{10}\gamma_3^{\zeta_3}\beta_5^{\zeta_7} + \frac{7}{2}\beta_3^{\zeta_3}\gamma_5^{\zeta_7} + \frac{7}{2}\beta_1^{(1)}\gamma_7^{\zeta_3\zeta_7} - \frac{9}{4}\beta_1^{(1)}\gamma_1^{(1)}\beta_6^{\zeta_3^3} + \frac{63}{8}(\beta_1^{(1)})^2\gamma_6^{\zeta_3^3}, \tag{6.10}$$

$$\beta_8^{\zeta_4} = \frac{9}{7}\beta_1^{(1)}\beta_7^{\zeta_3} + \beta_2^{(1)}\beta_6^{\zeta_3} + \frac{3}{5}\beta_3^{(1)}\beta_5^{\zeta_3} - \beta_3^{\zeta_3}\beta_5^{(1)}, \tag{6.11}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \beta_8^{\zeta_6} &= \frac{15}{7}\beta_1^{(1)}\beta_7^{\zeta_5} + \frac{5}{3}\beta_2^{(1)}\beta_6^{\zeta_5} - \frac{20}{7}\beta_2^{(1)}(\beta_1^{(1)})^2\beta_4^{\zeta_3} - \frac{10}{7}\beta_5^{\zeta_3}(\beta_1^{(1)})^3 \\
 &\quad + \beta_3^{(1)}\beta_5^{\zeta_5} - \frac{10}{7}\beta_3^{\zeta_3}(\beta_2^{(1)})^2\beta_1^{(1)} - \frac{6}{7}\beta_3^{\zeta_3}\beta_3^{(1)}(\beta_1^{(1)})^2, \tag{6.12}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \beta_8^{\zeta_8} &= 3\beta_1^{(1)}\beta_7^{\zeta_7} + \frac{15}{8}(\beta_1^{(1)})^2\beta_6^{\zeta_3^2} - 5(\beta_1^{(1)})^3\beta_5^{\zeta_5} + \frac{7}{3}\beta_2^{(1)}\beta_6^{\zeta_7} + \frac{11}{4}\beta_2^{(1)}\beta_1^{(1)}\beta_5^{\zeta_3^2} \\
 &\quad - 10\beta_2^{(1)}(\beta_1^{(1)})^2\beta_4^{\zeta_5} + \frac{7}{5}\beta_3^{(1)}\beta_5^{\zeta_7} - \frac{3}{4}\beta_3^{\zeta_3}\beta_1^{(1)}\beta_4^{\zeta_3} + 3\beta_3^{\zeta_3}(\beta_1^{(1)})^5 - \frac{7}{24}(\beta_3^{\zeta_3})^2\beta_2^{(1)}, \tag{6.13}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \beta_8^{\zeta_{10}} &= \frac{27}{7}\beta_1^{(1)}\beta_7^{\zeta_9} - \frac{2075}{376}(\beta_1^{(1)})^2\beta_6^{\bar{\zeta}_{5,3}} + \frac{165}{56}(\beta_1^{(1)})^2\beta_6^{\zeta_3\zeta_5} \\
 &\quad - 12(\beta_1^{(1)})^3\beta_5^{\zeta_7} + 3\beta_2^{(1)}\beta_6^{\zeta_9} - \frac{33}{28}\beta_3^{\zeta_3}\beta_1^{(1)}\beta_4^{\zeta_5}, \tag{6.14}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\beta_8^{\zeta_4\zeta_3} = \frac{18}{7}\beta_1^{(1)}\beta_7^{\zeta_3^2} + 2\beta_2^{(1)}\beta_6^{\zeta_3^2} + \frac{6}{5}\beta_3^{(1)}\beta_5^{\zeta_3^2} - \frac{2}{5}\beta_3^{\zeta_3}\beta_5^{\zeta_3}, \tag{6.15}$$

$$\beta_8^{\zeta_4\zeta_5} = -\frac{45}{7}\beta_1^{(1)}\beta_7^{\bar{\zeta}_{5,3}} + \frac{9}{7}\beta_1^{(1)}\beta_7^{\zeta_3\zeta_5} - 5\beta_2^{(1)}\beta_6^{\bar{\zeta}_{5,3}} + \beta_2^{(1)}\beta_6^{\zeta_3\zeta_5} - \beta_3^{\zeta_3}\beta_5^{\zeta_5}, \tag{6.16}$$

$$\beta_8^{\zeta_4\zeta_7} = -18\beta_1^{(1)}\beta_7^{\bar{\zeta}_{7,3}} + \frac{9}{7}\beta_1^{(1)}\beta_7^{\zeta_3\zeta_7} - \beta_3^{\zeta_3}\beta_5^{\zeta_7}, \tag{6.17}$$

$$\beta_8^{\zeta_6\zeta_3} = \frac{15}{7}\beta_1^{(1)}\beta_7^{\zeta_3\zeta_5} - \frac{20}{7}(\beta_1^{(1)})^3\beta_5^{\zeta_3^2} + \frac{5}{3}\beta_2^{(1)}\beta_6^{\zeta_3\zeta_5} + \beta_3^{\zeta_3}\beta_5^{\zeta_5} - \frac{6}{7}(\beta_3^{\zeta_3})^2(\beta_1^{(1)})^2, \tag{6.18}$$

$$\beta_8^{\zeta_6\zeta_5} = -\frac{90}{7}\beta_1^{(1)}\beta_7^{\bar{\zeta}_{7,3}} + \frac{30}{7}\beta_1^{(1)}\beta_7^{\zeta_5^2}, \tag{6.19}$$

$$\beta_8^{\zeta_8\zeta_3} = 3\beta_1^{(1)}\beta_7^{\zeta_3\zeta_7} + \frac{45}{8}(\beta_1^{(1)})^2\beta_6^{\zeta_3^3} + \frac{7}{5}\beta_3^{\zeta_3}\beta_5^{\zeta_7}, \tag{6.20}$$

$$\beta_8^{\zeta_4\zeta_3^2} = \frac{27}{7}\beta_1^{(1)}\beta_7^{\zeta_3^3} + 3\beta_2^{(1)}\beta_6^{\zeta_3^3} + \frac{1}{5}\beta_3^{\zeta_3}\beta_5^{\zeta_3^2}. \tag{6.21}$$

6.1 Tests at 8 loops

Here we summarize all currently available evidence supporting assumptions (that is scenarios 2 and 3) leading to eqs. (6.1)–(6.21).

First of all, we have checked that currently known 8-loop results for ADs and β -functions are in full agreement to our predictions. Namely, we have successfully checked the following cases.

- Contributions of order $\alpha_s^8 N_f^7$ to the QCD β -function [30].
- Contributions of orders $\alpha_s^8 N_f^7$ and $\alpha_s^8 N_f^6$ to the QCD quark mass anomalous dimension [31, 32].
- Contributions of order $g^8 n^7$ and $g^8 n^6$ to the β -function, the field anomalous dimension and to the mass anomalous dimension of the scalar $O(n)$ ϕ^4 theory [36].

The above list give some support to the conservative Scenario 2. In fact, there is an argument in favor of even less conservative optimistic Scenario 3. Indeed, according our definitions the value of any convergent (*and* expressible in terms of multiple zeta values only) 7-loop p-integral at $D = 4$ should become completely π -free (modulo terms proportional to π^{12}) if rewritten in terms of the generators

$$\zeta_3, \zeta_5, \zeta_7, \bar{\zeta}_{5,3}, \zeta_9, \bar{\zeta}_{7,3}, \zeta_{11}, \bar{\zeta}_{5,3,3}, \bar{\zeta}_{9,3}, \zeta_{13}, \bar{\zeta}_{5,5,3}, \bar{\zeta}_{7,3,3}, \bar{\zeta}_{6,4,1,1}. \quad (6.22)$$

The authors of [22] have published analytic results for a large collection of finite p-integrals. At 7 loops the collection contains 369 7-loop finite p-integrals which depends on single and multiple zeta values only.¹⁰

We have successfully checked the following.

1. All 369 p-integrals stop to depend on π after being rewritten in terms of the proper generators (6.22) *provided* all terms proportional to ζ_{12} are set to zero by hand.
2. The disappearance of π -dependence in the above point holds not only for all terms with weight less or equal 11 but also for all (rather numerous) terms with the transcendental weight 12 *and* 13.
3. In fact, the database [22] contains also many finite p-integrals with loop number 8. Some of them depend on multiple zeta values only. If one discards in these integrals all contributions with the transcendental weight strictly larger than 13 then there will remain exactly two non-vanishing integrals. After rewriting the survivors in terms of generators (6.22) and setting ζ_{12} to zero they also cease to depend on π !

¹⁰We do not count uninteresting for our discussion cases of p-integrals depending only on single (odd) zetas, as the latter do not depend on π at all neither in original nor in hatted forms in the limit of $\epsilon \rightarrow 0$.

7 Conclusion

Using as input data essentially **only** deep ϵ expansions of the **4-loop** master integrals [18] we have extended the hatted representation of 4-loop p-integrals of work [17] to the 5-, 6- and 7-loop families of p-integrals. At 5-loop level we successfully reproduced the results of [20] which had been obtained by a direct calculation of a rather large subset of **5-loop** master p-integrals.

We have derived a set of generic model-independent predictions for π -dependent terms of RG-functions at 7 and 8 loops (at the latter case only for terms with weight less or equal to 11). All available 7- and 8-loop results are in agreement with our predictions.

Our results demonstrate a remarkable and somewhat mysterious (at least for us) connection between ϵ -expansions of the *4-loop* p-integrals and $D = 4$ values of 5-, 6- and 7-loop *finite* p-integrals. Indeed, dealing *only* with 4-loop p-integrals we have been able to get some non-trivial information about 5-, 6- and 7-loop p-integrals. More precisely, we have found a set of proper transcendental generators which form a π -free basis for every known 5-, 6, and 7-loop p-integrals provided that (i) the latter is expressible only in terms of multiple zeta values and (ii) all terms (if any) proportional to ζ_{12} are discarded.

It would be interesting to see what new information can be extracted from expanding 4-loop master p-integrals to even higher orders in ϵ .

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