

# Perturbative finiteness of three-dimensional supersymmetric QED to all orders

A. C. Lehum,<sup>1,\*</sup> A. F. Ferrari,<sup>1,†</sup> M. Gomes,<sup>1,‡</sup> A. Yu. Petrov,<sup>2,§</sup> and A. J. da Silva<sup>1,||</sup>

<sup>1</sup>*Instituto de Física, Universidade de São Paulo, Caixa Postal 66318, 05315-970, São Paulo, SP, Brazil\**

<sup>2</sup>*Departamento de Física, Universidade Federal da Paraíba, Caixa Postal 5008, 58051-970, João Pessoa, Paraíba, Brazil†*

(Received 6 November 2007; published 6 March 2008)

Within the superfield formalism, we study the ultraviolet properties of the three-dimensional supersymmetric quantum electrodynamics. The theory is shown to be finite at all loop orders in a particular gauge.

DOI: [10.1103/PhysRevD.77.065005](https://doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevD.77.065005)

PACS numbers: 11.10.Gh, 11.15.-q, 11.30.Pb

The presence of divergences is one of the main properties of quantum field theory. This has motivated the development of renormalization methods and the search for special finite field theories. The expectations of finding finite theories are strongly related with supersymmetry, which is well known to improve the ultraviolet behavior of models due to mutual cancellation of bosonic and fermionic contributions. Some notable examples in four dimensions are in the realm of extended supersymmetric theories, such as the  $\mathcal{N} = 4$  super-Yang-Mills [1] and some  $\mathcal{N} = 2$  superconformal models (see e.g. [2]), which turn out to be finite (discussions on the existence of finite noncommutative field theories can be found in [3,4]). Three-dimensional models have better ultraviolet properties and are therefore natural candidates to be finite. Indeed, the pure (i.e. without matter) Yang-Mills theory in three dimensions was shown to be finite in [5]. As for supersymmetric models, the pure Yang-Mills-Chern-Simons model was shown to be super-renormalizable and, furthermore, finite, in [6]. Minimally coupled to matter, three-dimensional supersymmetric gauge theories are still super-renormalizable, with superficial divergences appearing up to two-loops. In [7], the noncommutative Abelian and non-Abelian SUSY gauge models were shown to be one-loop finite. The remaining problem is the study of the two-loop quantum corrections in these theories, which would allow us to establish if they are finite. As a first step in this direction, in this work we will show the two-loop finiteness of the (commutative) three-dimensional supersymmetric quantum electrodynamics (SQED<sub>3</sub>) coupled to matter by explicitly calculating the relevant Green functions.

The starting point of our study is the classical action of SQED<sub>3</sub>

$$S = \int d^5z \left\{ \frac{1}{2} W^\alpha W_\alpha - \frac{1}{2} \bar{\nabla}^\alpha \bar{\Phi} \nabla_\alpha \Phi + M \bar{\Phi} \Phi \right\}, \quad (1)$$

where  $W^\alpha = \frac{1}{2} D^\beta D^\alpha A_\beta$ , and  $\nabla^\alpha = (D^\alpha - ieA^\alpha)$  is the gauge supercovariant derivative. Here and further we use the notations and conventions adopted in [8]. Using the definition of  $\nabla^\alpha$ , we can explicitly rewrite Eq. (1) as

$$S = \int d^5z \left\{ \frac{1}{2} W^\alpha W_\alpha + \bar{\Phi} (D^2 + M) \Phi + i \frac{e}{2} [D^\alpha \bar{\Phi} A_\alpha \Phi - \bar{\Phi} A^\alpha D_\alpha \Phi] - \frac{e^2}{2} \bar{\Phi} \Phi A^\alpha A_\alpha \right\}. \quad (2)$$

This action is invariant under the following infinitesimal gauge transformations:

$$\delta \bar{\Phi} = -ie \bar{\Phi} K, \quad \delta \Phi = ie K \Phi, \quad \delta A_\alpha = -D_\alpha K, \quad (3)$$

where the gauge parameter  $K = K(x, \theta)$  is a real scalar superfield.

The quantization of this theory requires the inclusion in Eq. (2) of the gauge fixing term and the corresponding Faddeev-Popov ghosts action

$$S_{\text{GF+FP}} = \int d^5z \left[ -\frac{1}{4\alpha} D^\alpha A_\alpha D^2 D^\beta A_\beta - \bar{c} D^2 c \right]. \quad (4)$$

The propagators of the model can be cast as

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \Phi(k, \theta_1) \bar{\Phi}(-k, \theta_2) \rangle &= -i \frac{(D^2 - M)}{k^2 + M^2} \delta_{12}, \\ \langle A_\alpha(k, \theta_1) A_\beta(-k, \theta_2) \rangle &= \frac{i}{2} \frac{D^2}{(k^2)^2} (D_\beta D_\alpha - \alpha D_\alpha D_\beta) \delta_{12}, \\ \langle c(k, \theta_1) \bar{c}(-k, \theta_2) \rangle &= i \frac{D^2}{k^2} \delta_{12}, \end{aligned} \quad (5)$$

where  $\delta_{12} = \delta^2(\theta_1 - \theta_2)$ . Note that, as this theory is Abelian and commutative, the ghosts decouple.

To describe the renormalization properties of the model, we must calculate the superficial degree of divergence  $\omega$  of an arbitrary diagram. We denote the number of vertices of the form  $(D^\alpha \bar{\Phi} A_\alpha \Phi - \bar{\Phi} A^\alpha D_\alpha \Phi)$  and  $\bar{\Phi} \Phi A^2$  by  $V_3$  and  $V_3$ , respectively. The number of propagators for the  $\Phi$  and gauge superfields are given by  $P_\Phi$  and  $P_A$ . For an arbitrary diagram, the superficial degree of divergence  $\omega$  is given by

\*lehum@fma.if.usp.br  
 †alysson@fma.if.usp.br  
 ‡mgomes@fma.if.usp.br  
 §petrov@fisica.ufpb.br  
 ||ajsilva@fma.if.usp.br

$$\omega = 2L - 2P_A - P_\Phi + \frac{V_3}{2}. \quad (6)$$

Indeed, each loop contributes to  $\omega$  with 3 from the integral in  $d^3k$  and  $-1$  from the contraction of the loop to a point. Each gauge propagator contributes  $-2$ , and each matter propagator  $-1$ . The number of propagators in a given Feynman diagram can be written in terms of the number of external superfields ( $E$ ) and vertices as

$$P_\Phi = \frac{1}{2}(2V_3 + 2V_3 - E_\Phi), \quad P_A = \frac{1}{2}(V_3 + 2V_3 - E_A).$$

Using the well-known topological identity  $L + V - P = 1$ , we obtain

$$\omega = 2 - V_4 - \frac{V_3}{2} - \frac{E_\Phi}{2} - \frac{N_D}{2}, \quad (7)$$

where  $N_D$  is the number of operators  $D^\alpha$  acting on the external legs of the diagram.

It follows from Eq. (6) that there are no superficially divergent supergraphs at three or higher loop orders or with more than two external legs. Two-point vertex functions can be divergent at one and two-loop orders. As for the one-loop graphs, the only potentially linearly divergent are those in Fig. 2, whose sum we will show to be finite; the two-point vertex function of the  $\Phi$  superfield in Fig. 1 happens to be finite by power counting. The logarithmically divergent graphs appear at two loops (Fig. 3), and their finiteness will also be established by direct computation.

The one-loop diagrams that contribute to the two-point vertex function of the  $\Phi$  superfield are depicted in the Fig. 1. The expression corresponding to the diagram 1(a) is given by

$$\begin{aligned} S_{\Phi\bar{\Phi}a} &= \frac{e^2}{8} \int \frac{d^3p}{(2\pi)^3} \int \frac{d^3k}{(2\pi)^3} \frac{1}{(k^2)^2[(k-p)^2 + M^2]} \\ &\quad \times \bar{\Phi}(p, \theta)[7(1-\alpha)(k \cdot p)(D^2 + M) \\ &\quad + 3\alpha k^2(D^2 + M) - 7k^2 D^2 + \alpha M k^2] \Phi(-p, \theta), \end{aligned} \quad (8)$$

whereas the diagram 1(b) vanishes since  $\int d\theta_1 \delta_{12}(D^2)^2 \delta_{12} = 0$ . Similar to [7], the two-point vertex function of the scalar superfield, given by Eq. (8), is finite

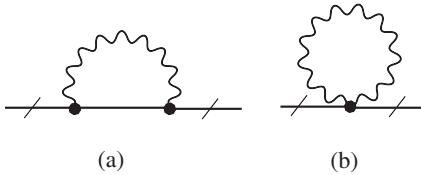


FIG. 1. One-loop contribution to the two-point function of the scalar superfield. Continuous lines represents the external fields  $\Phi$  and  $\bar{\Phi}$ , and wave lines represents the gauge superfield propagator.

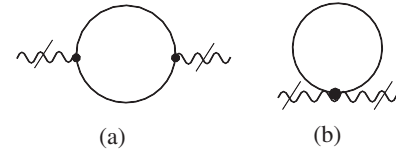


FIG. 2. One-loop contribution to the two-point function of gauge superfield  $A_\alpha$ . Continuous lines represent the matter superfield propagator, and wave crossed lines represent the external gauge superfield.

in any gauge, but it takes the simplest form in the Feynman gauge ( $\alpha = 1$ ),

$$\begin{aligned} S_{\Phi\bar{\Phi}} &= \frac{e^2}{2} \int \frac{d^3p}{(2\pi)^3} \bar{\Phi}(p, \theta)(D^2 + M)\Phi(-p, \theta) \\ &\quad \times \int \frac{d^3k}{(2\pi)^3} \frac{1}{k^2[(k-p)^2 + M^2]}. \end{aligned} \quad (9)$$

Two diagrams contributing to the radiative correction to the two-point vertex function of the gauge superfield  $A^\alpha$  are depicted in Fig. 2. The contribution of the diagram 2(a) reads

$$\begin{aligned} S_{AAa} &= -\frac{e^2}{2} \int \frac{d^3p}{(2\pi)^3} d^2\theta A^\alpha(p, \theta) A_\alpha(-p, \theta) \\ &\quad \times \int \frac{d^3k}{(2\pi)^3} \frac{1}{(k^2 + M^2)[(k-p)^2 + M^2]} \\ &\quad \times \left\{ (k^2 + M^2) A^\alpha(p, \theta) A_\alpha(-p, \theta) \right. \\ &\quad + \frac{M}{2} A^\beta(p, \theta) (p_\beta^\alpha - \delta_\beta^\alpha D^2) A_\alpha \\ &\quad \left. - \frac{1}{4} A^\beta (\delta_\beta^\alpha p^2 + p_\beta^\alpha D^2) A_\alpha(-p, \theta) \right\}. \end{aligned} \quad (10)$$

while, for the diagram 2(b), we have

$$\begin{aligned} S_{AAb} &= \frac{e^2}{2} \int \frac{d^3p}{(2\pi)^3} d^2\theta A^\alpha(p, \theta) A_\alpha(-p, \theta) \\ &\quad \times \int \frac{d^3k}{(2\pi)^3} \frac{1}{k^2 + M^2}. \end{aligned} \quad (11)$$

Adding up Eqs. (10) and (11), and carrying out some algebraic manipulations, we arrive at

$$S_{AA} = e^2 \int \frac{d^3p}{(2\pi)^3} d^2\theta f(p, M) \{W^\alpha W_\alpha - M A^\alpha W_\alpha\}, \quad (12)$$

where

$$f(p, M) = \int \frac{d^3k}{(2\pi)^3} \frac{1}{(k^2 + M^2)[(k-p)^2 + M^2]}. \quad (13)$$

It is important that the linear divergent terms present in Eqs. (10) and (11), which would correspond to the generation of a mass for the gauge superfield, cancel among themselves so the gauge invariance of the result is mani-

fest. The correction  $S_{AA}$  turns out to be finite, similar to [7,9], and corresponds to nonlocal contributions to the Maxwell and Chern-Simons terms.

Now let us turn to the two-loop approximation. Up to now, we have shown that the logarithmic divergences in the model can arise only at the two-loop level. One should notice that the logarithmic divergences are absent in the one-loop order in all three-dimensional field theories due to the symmetry of the Feynman integral [7] (however, this is not so in theories with effective dynamics obtained within the  $1/N$  expansion [9,10]). Since we are interested in the divergent parts, and keeping in mind Eq. (7), we will explicitly calculate all contributions to the effective action proportional to  $A^\alpha A_\alpha$ , where no covariant derivatives end up in the external legs, in the two-loop approximation. The corresponding supergraphs are depicted in Fig. 3.

The calculational procedure adopted by us was the following: the D-algebra manipulations on the two-loops supergraphs were performed with the help of the MATHEMATICA package SusyMath [11]. From the resulting (unintegrated) terms, we extracted all those proportional to  $A^\alpha A_\alpha$ . Finally, we considered the lowest term in an expansion of this result around vanishing external momentum, which corresponds to a mass term for the gauge superfield  $A^\alpha$ ,

$$S_{AA(\text{mass})} = -i \int \frac{d^3 p}{(2\pi)^3} d^2 \theta \Gamma_{AA} A^\alpha(p, \theta) A_\alpha(-p, \theta). \quad (14)$$

Any ultraviolet divergence present at the two-loop level must appear in this term and, as shown in [6], this is the only possible supersymmetric (but not BRST) invariant divergent term that could be induced in the effective action.

We may now describe the outcomes of our calculations. The diagrams 3(a) and 3(d) happen to vanish identically, as a consequence of the vanishing of 1(b). As for the remaining diagrams, we obtained

$$\Gamma_{AA} = \Gamma_{AA(b)} + \Gamma_{AA(c)} + \Gamma_{AA(e)} + \Gamma_{AA(f)} + \Gamma_{AA(g)}, \quad (15)$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} \Gamma_{AA(b)} = & i \frac{e^4}{6} \int \frac{d^3 k}{(2\pi)^3} \frac{d^3 q}{(2\pi)^3} \\ & \times \left[ -\frac{(1-\alpha)(k \cdot q)}{(k^2 + M^2)[(k+q)^2 + M^2](q^2)^2} \right. \\ & - \frac{1}{(k^2 + M^2)[(k+q)^2 + M^2]q^2} \\ & \left. + \frac{2M^2(1+\alpha)}{(k^2 + M^2)^2[(k+q)^2 + M^2]q^2} \right], \quad (16) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \Gamma_{AA(c)} = & i(1-\alpha) \frac{e^4}{64} \int \frac{d^3 k}{(2\pi)^3} \frac{d^3 q}{(2\pi)^3} \\ & \times \left[ \frac{4(k \cdot q)^2 k^2}{(k^2 + M^2)^2[(k+q)^2 + M^2]^2(q^2)^2} \right. \\ & - \frac{2(k^2)^2}{(k^2 + M^2)^2[(k+q)^2 + M^2]^2 q^2} \\ & + \frac{3(k \cdot q)^2 M^2}{(k^2 + M^2)^2[(k+q)^2 + M^2]^2(q^2)^2} \\ & \left. - \frac{M^2 k^2}{(k^2 + M^2)^2[(k+q)^2 + M^2]^2 q^2} \right], \quad (17) \end{aligned}$$

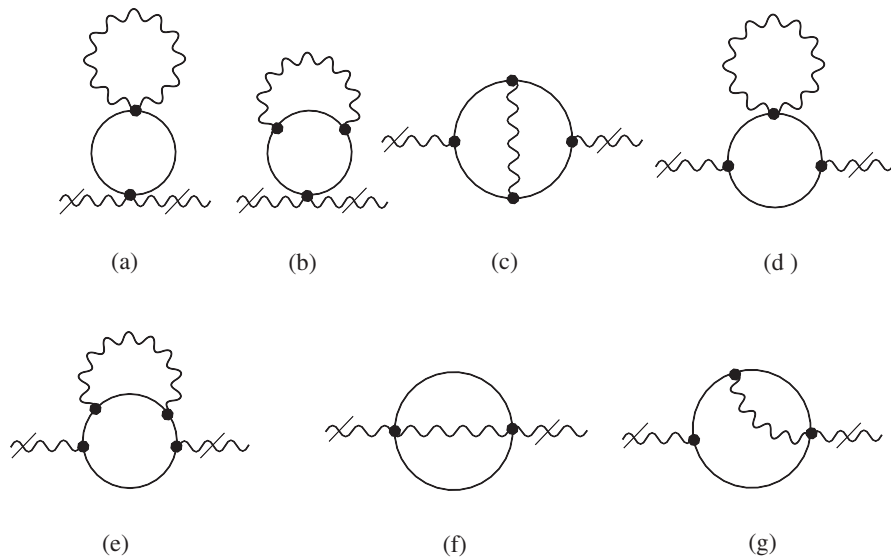


FIG. 3. Logarithmically divergent two-point diagrams.

$$\Gamma_{AA(e)} = i \frac{e^4}{16} \int \frac{d^3 k}{(2\pi)^3} \frac{d^3 q}{(2\pi)^3} \left[ \frac{(1-\alpha)(k \cdot q)^2}{(k^2 + M^2)^2 [(k+q)^2 + M^2] (q^2)^2} - \frac{8M^4 \alpha}{(k^2 + M^2)^3 [(k+q)^2 + M^2] q^2} \right. \\ \left. + \frac{k^2}{(k^2 + M^2)^2 [(k+q)^2 + M^2] q^2} + \frac{7\alpha(k^2)^2}{(k^2 + M^2)^3 [(k+q)^2 + M^2] q^2} - \frac{\alpha k^2 M^2}{(k^2 + M^2)^3 [(k+q)^2 + M^2] q^2} \right], \quad (18)$$

$$\Gamma_{AA(f)} = -i(1+\alpha) \frac{e^4}{2} \int \frac{d^3 k}{(2\pi)^3} \frac{d^3 q}{(2\pi)^3} \\ \times \frac{1}{(k^2 + M^2) [(k+q)^2 + M^2] q^2}, \quad (19)$$

$$\Gamma_{AA(g)} = -i \frac{e^4}{6} \int \frac{d^3 k}{(2\pi)^3} \frac{d^3 q}{(2\pi)^3} \\ \times \left[ \frac{2(1-\alpha)(k \cdot q)}{(k^2 + M^2) [(k+q)^2 + M^2] (q^2)^2} \right. \\ \left. + \frac{(1-2\alpha)(k \cdot q)^2}{(k^2 + M^2)^2 [(k+q)^2 + M^2] (q^2)^2} \right. \\ \left. + \frac{k^2 + 2(1-\alpha)M^2}{(k^2 + M^2)^2 [(k+q)^2 + M^2] q^2} \right]. \quad (20)$$

The two-loop integrals were performed through the regularization by dimensional reduction [12], using formulas from [13], and we obtained

$$\Gamma_{AA} = \frac{ie^4}{384\pi^2} \left\{ (\alpha + 8) \left[ \frac{1}{\epsilon} - (\gamma - \ln(4\pi) - 1) \right. \right. \\ \left. \left. - \ln\left(\frac{2M}{\mu}\right) \right] + \frac{3}{8}(7\alpha - 3) \right\}, \quad (21)$$

where  $\gamma$  is the Euler's constant. Unlike what happens in one loop, the mass term for the gauge superfield does not vanish identically. This fact signalizes that our regularization is not preserving the gauge symmetry at two loops, although it manifestly preserves supersymmetry. The known inconsistencies of dimensional reduction [14] are not relevant in the loop order we are considering [6]. Gauge symmetry may be restored by the introduction of a mass counterterm in the classical Lagrangian. For the specific gauge  $\alpha = -8$ , the two-point vertex function turns out to be finite, and only a finite counterterm is needed to ensure the BRST symmetry.

We have studied the perturbative finiteness of the three-dimensional supersymmetric quantum electrodynamics. The only possible divergence in the theory, arising in the two-point vertex function of the gauge superfield, turns out to vanish for a specific gauge choice  $\alpha = -8$ . This fact was established by means of a direct calculation of the potentially divergent vertex functions, up to the two-loop order. The finiteness of the  $n$ -point functions only in a specific gauge also happens in other supersymmetric models, such as in the  $\mathcal{N} = 4$  super-Yang-Mills theory in four spacetime dimensions [1].

It is interesting to compare our results with the ones in [6], where, in the absence of matter, the Yang-Mills-Chern-Simons model was shown to be finite and, furthermore, BRST invariant, unlike what happens here. Note that, in the component formalism used by [6], ultraviolet divergences can appear up to three-loop order, whereas in the superfield formalism used by us, they appear at most at the two-loop order. A peculiarity of the regularization by dimensional reduction, when coupling to matter is considered, is that a finite mass counterterm is needed to ensure the gauge invariance of the vertex functions. Two natural extensions of our work would be the evaluation of the non-Abelian version of this model, and the two-loops quantum corrections in three-dimensional noncommutative gauge theories, which we have already studied at the one-loop level in [7].

A. C. L. would like to thank W. Siegel for useful comments. This work was partially supported by Fundação de Amparo à Pesquisa do Estado de São Paulo (FAPESP) and Conselho Nacional de Desenvolvimento Científico e Tecnológico (CNPq). The work by A. F. F. has been supported by FAPESP, project 04/13314-4. The work by A. Yu. P. has been supported by CNPq-FAPESQ DCR program, CNPq project No. 350400/2005-9.

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