

Lecture spring 2024:
Quantum field theory II
Problem sheet 6

Problem 18

The electron self-energy at $\mathcal{O}(\alpha)$, i.e. at lowest loop-order, is given by

$$\Sigma_2(p) = 2e^2 \int_0^1 dx \int \frac{d^4k}{(2\pi)^4} \frac{x\not{p} - 2m_0}{[k^2 - \Delta + i\varepsilon]^2},$$

where $\Delta \equiv (1-x)m^2 - p^2x$ and m_0 is the (bare) electron mass parameter in the Lagrangian.

- Derive the above expressions from the QED Feynman rules, using Feynman parameters to bring the loop propagators into the stated form.
- Regularize the above integral using Pauli-Villard, and compute both infinite and finite parts.
- Repeat the same for dimensional regularization.

Problem 19

Use the results from the previous problem to show that, in dimensional regularization, the on-shell renormalization conditions for the electron self-energy Σ imply that the counterterms to lowest order are given by

$$\delta_2 = \frac{\alpha}{\pi} \left\{ -\frac{1}{2\varepsilon} - \frac{1}{4} \log \frac{\tilde{\mu}^2}{m_p^2} - 1 - \frac{1}{2} \log \frac{m_\gamma^2}{m_p^2} \right\}$$
$$\delta_m = \frac{\alpha}{\pi} \left\{ -\frac{3}{2\varepsilon} - \frac{3}{4} \log \frac{\tilde{\mu}^2}{m_p^2} - 1 \right\}$$

Confirm explicitly that Σ (to this order) is independent of $\tilde{\mu}$! Why is this expected? What happens to the photon mass m_γ ?

Problem 20

Show that the *photon* self-energy, to leading order in dim. reg., is given by

$$\Pi_2^{\mu\nu} = (p^2 g^{\mu\nu} - p^\mu p^\nu) \Pi_2(p^2),$$

with

$$\Pi_2 = -2 \frac{\alpha}{\pi} \int_0^1 dx x(1-x) \left[\frac{1}{\epsilon} + \log \frac{\tilde{\mu}^2}{m_0^2 - p^2 x(1-x)} \right] + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon).$$