

2.3.1 Vacuum polarization (16)

Scalar QED

$$\text{Diagram: } \frac{k-p}{p} \rightarrow \frac{k-p}{k} = (-ie) \frac{2k^\mu - (2k^\mu - p^\mu)}{(2\pi)^4 (k-p)^2 - m^2 + i\epsilon} \cdot \frac{i(2k^\nu - p^\nu)}{k^2 - m^2 + i\epsilon}$$

$$\text{Diagram: } \frac{-e^2 k}{k} = 2ie^2 g^{\mu\nu} \frac{1}{(2\pi)^4 k^2 - m^2 + i\epsilon}$$

Embedded diagrams \rightarrow keep photon off-shell, Lorentz indices uncontracted.

Sum of two diagrams:

$$i\pi_2^{\mu\nu} = -e^2 \int \frac{d^4 k}{(2\pi)^4} \frac{-4k^\mu k^\nu + 2p^\mu k^\nu + 2p^\nu k^\mu - p^\mu p^\nu + 2g^{\mu\nu} [(p-k)^2 - m^2]}{[(p-k)^2 - m^2 + i\epsilon][k^2 - m^2 + i\epsilon]}$$

Lorentz invariance:

$$\pi_2^{\mu\nu} = \Delta_1(p^2, m^2) p^\mu p^\nu + \Delta_2(p^2, m^2) p^\mu p^\nu$$

Δ_2 contributes to gauge-dependent part $\propto p^\mu p^\nu$ in propagator \rightarrow must drop out, need only

$$\pi_2^{\mu\nu} = ie^2 \int \frac{d^4 k}{(2\pi)^4} \frac{-4k^\mu k^\nu + 2g^{\mu\nu} [(p-k)^2 - m^2]}{[(p-k)^2 - m^2 + i\epsilon][k^2 - m^2 + i\epsilon]}$$

Feynman parameters:

$$\frac{1}{AB} = \int_0^1 dx \frac{1}{[A + (B-A)x]^2}$$

Using $A = (p-k)^2 - m^2 + i\epsilon$, $B = k^2 - m^2 + i\epsilon$

$$A + (B-A)x = [k - p(1-x)]^2 + p^2 x(1-x) - m^2 + i\epsilon$$

Loop integral:

$$\pi_2^{\mu\nu} = ie^2 \int \frac{d^4 k}{(2\pi)^4} \int_0^1 dx \frac{-4k^\mu k^\nu + 2g^{\mu\nu} [(p-k)^2 - m^2]}{[(k - p(1-x))^2 + p^2 x(1-x) - m^2 + i\epsilon]^2}$$

Shift loop momentum $k^\mu \rightarrow k^\mu + p^\mu(1-x)$, measure remains unchanged

$$\pi_2^{\mu\nu} = 2ie^2 \int \frac{d^4 k}{(2\pi)^4} \int_0^1 dx \frac{-2k^\mu k^\nu + g^{\mu\nu} [k^2 + x^2 p^2 - m^2]}{[k^2 + p^2 x(1-x) - m^2 + i\epsilon]^2}$$

We have dropped terms in p^μ and $p^\mu p^\nu$ (see above) and terms linear in k^μ , since we integrate over k .

Dimensional regularization:

$$\int \frac{d^4 k}{(2\pi)^4} \rightarrow \int \frac{d^d k}{(2\pi)^d} \quad \text{with } d = 4 - \epsilon$$

Regularizes both UV and IR for logarithmically divergent integrals.

Using $k^\mu k^\nu \rightarrow \frac{1}{d} k^2 g^{\mu\nu}$ (read Schwartz, Sec. B.3.4)

$$\Pi_2^{\mu\nu} = 2ie^2 \frac{4-d}{\mu} g^{\mu\nu} \int dx \int \frac{d^d k}{(2\pi)^d} \frac{(1-\frac{1}{2}) + \frac{i}{\Delta} \vec{p}^2 - m^2}{[k^2 + \vec{p}^2 \times (1-\frac{1}{2}) - m^2 + i\epsilon]^2}$$

Using the formulas from App. B:

$$\begin{aligned} \int \frac{d^d k}{(2\pi)^d} \frac{k^2}{[k^2 - \Delta + i\epsilon]^2} &= -\frac{d}{2} \frac{i}{(4\pi)^{d/2}} \frac{1}{\Delta^{1-\frac{d}{2}}} \Gamma\left(\frac{2-d}{2}\right) \\ \int \frac{d^d k}{(2\pi)^d} \frac{1}{[k^2 - \Delta + i\epsilon]^2} &= \frac{i}{(4\pi)^{d/2}} \frac{1}{\Delta^{2-\frac{d}{2}}} \Gamma\left(\frac{4-d}{2}\right) \end{aligned}$$

Insert in $\Pi_2^{\mu\nu}$:

$$\begin{aligned} \Pi_2^{\mu\nu} &= -2 \frac{e^2}{(4\pi)^{d/2}} g^{\mu\nu} \mu^{4-d} \int dx \\ &\quad \times \left[\left(1 - \frac{1}{2}\right) \Gamma\left(1 - \frac{d}{2}\right) \left(\frac{1}{\Delta}\right)^{1-\frac{d}{2}} + (\vec{p}^2 - m^2) \Gamma\left(2 - \frac{d}{2}\right) \left(\frac{1}{\Delta}\right)^{2-\frac{d}{2}} \right] \end{aligned}$$

Using $\Gamma(2 - \frac{d}{2}) = (1 - \frac{d}{2}) \Gamma(1 - \frac{d}{2})$ this simplifies to

$$\Pi_2^{\mu\nu} = -2 \frac{e^2}{(4\pi)^{d/2}} \vec{p}^2 g^{\mu\nu} \Gamma\left(2 - \frac{d}{2}\right) \mu^{4-d} \int dx \times (2x-1) \left(\frac{1}{\Delta}\right)^{2-\frac{d}{2}}$$

For completeness, we also give the result with $p^\mu p^\nu$ terms:

$$\Pi_2^{\mu\nu} = \frac{-2e^2}{(4\pi)^{d/2}} (\vec{p}^2 g^{\mu\nu} - p^\mu p^\nu) \Gamma\left(2 - \frac{d}{2}\right) \mu^{4-d} \int dx \times (2x-1) \left(\frac{1}{m^2 - \vec{p}^2 \times (1-x)}\right)^{2-\frac{d}{2}}$$

\Rightarrow satisfies Ward Identity: $p_\mu \Pi_2^{\mu\nu} = 0$. ✓

Expanding in $d=4-\epsilon$:

$$\Pi_2^{\mu\nu} = -\frac{e^2}{8\pi^2} (\vec{p}^2 g^{\mu\nu} - p^\mu p^\nu) \int dx \times (2x-1) \left[\frac{2}{\epsilon} + \ln\left(\frac{4\pi e^{-\delta\epsilon} \mu^2}{m^2 - \vec{p}^2 \times (1-x)}\right) + O(\epsilon) \right].$$

If $\vec{p}^2 = -\vec{p}^2 > 0$ and $m \ll \vec{p}$, integration over x leads to

$$\boxed{\Pi_2^{\mu\nu} = -\frac{e^2}{48\pi^2} (\vec{p}^2 g^{\mu\nu} - p^\mu p^\nu) \left(\frac{2}{\epsilon} + \ln\frac{\tilde{\mu}^2}{\vec{p}^2} + \frac{8}{3} \right)}$$

where $\tilde{\mu}^2 = 4\pi e^{-\delta\epsilon} \mu^2$ as in modified Minimal Subtraction scheme (MS).

QED

$$\text{Diagram: } \text{---} \overset{4-p}{\curvearrowright} \text{---} = -(-ie)^2 \int \frac{d^4 k}{(2\pi)^4} \frac{i}{(k^2 - m^2)} \frac{i}{k^2 - m^2} \text{Tr}[\gamma^\mu (4-p) \gamma^\nu (4-p)]$$

Trace theorems for Dirac matrices, integrals as above, lead to:

$$\Pi_2^{\mu\nu} = -\frac{e^2}{2\pi^2} \vec{p}^2 g^{\mu\nu} \int dx \times (1-x) \left[\frac{2}{\epsilon} + \ln\left(\frac{\tilde{\mu}^2}{m^2 - \vec{p}^2 \times (1-x)}\right) + O(\epsilon) \right]$$

So we find for large $(\vec{p}^2 = -\vec{p}^2 \gg m^2)$:

$$\boxed{\Pi_2^{\mu\nu} = \frac{-e^2}{12\pi^2} \vec{p}^2 g^{\mu\nu} \left(\frac{2}{\epsilon} + \ln\frac{\tilde{\mu}^2}{\vec{p}^2} + \frac{5}{3} + O(\epsilon) \right)}$$

Full result (with $p^\mu p^\nu$ pieces):

Full result (with p/ρ^0 pieces):

$$\Pi_2^{\mu\nu} = \frac{-8e^2}{(4\pi)^{d/2}} \left(\rho^2 g^{\mu\nu} - \rho^\mu \rho^\nu \right) \Gamma(2 - \frac{d}{2}) \mu^{4-d} \\ \times \int_0^1 dx x(1-x) \left(\frac{1}{m^2 - \rho^2 x(1-x)} \right)^{2 - \frac{d}{2}}$$

Satisfies Ward identity. (✓)

Renormalization:

Corrected photon propagator:

$$iG^{\mu\nu} = \frac{m}{p} + \frac{m}{p} \cancel{D}_{\mu\nu} = \\ = -i \frac{g^{\mu\nu}}{p^2} + \frac{-i}{p} i \Pi_2^{\mu\nu} \frac{-i}{p^2} + p^\mu p^\nu \text{ terms} = \\ = -i \frac{[1 - e^2 \Pi_2(p^2)] g^{\mu\nu}}{p^2} + p^\mu p^\nu \text{ terms}$$

Corrected Coulomb potential (in Fourier space):

$$V(p) = e^2 \frac{1 - e^2 \Pi_2(p^2)}{p^2}$$

Definition of renormalized charge, defined at scale p_0 :

$$e_R^2 := p_0^2 V(p_0^2) = e^2 - e^4 \Pi_2(p_0^2) + \dots \quad \Leftrightarrow$$

$$e^2 = e_R^2 + e_R^4 \Pi_2(p_0^2) + \dots$$

Since $\Pi_2(p_0^2)$ is infinite, so is e , but only e_R is observable.

Potential at a different scale p :

$$p^2 V(p^2) = -e^2 - e^4 \Pi_2(p^2) + \dots = e_R^2 - e_R^4 [\Pi_2(p^2) - \Pi_2(p_0^2)] + \dots$$

Taking $p_0 \rightarrow 0$ corresponds to $r \rightarrow \infty$, i.e. macroscopically defined charge. Since

$$\Pi_2(p^2) - \Pi_2(p_0^2) = -\frac{1}{2\pi} e \int_0^1 dx x(1-x) \ln \left[1 - \frac{p^2}{m^2} x(1-x) \right]$$

Small distance limit ($r = \frac{1}{p} \ll \frac{1}{m}$):

$$V(p^2) \simeq \frac{e_R^2}{p^2} \left\{ 1 + \frac{e_R^2}{12\pi^2} \ln \frac{-p^2}{m^2} + O(e_R^4) \right\}$$

Setting $m \rightarrow 0$ leads to a mass singularity, but potential difference is independent of m .