RECEIVED: March 19, 2016

ACCEPTED: April 9, 2016

PUBLISHED: May 3, 2016

One-loop divergences in non-Abelian supersymmetric theories regularized by BRST-invariant version of the higher derivative regularization

S.S. Aleshin, A.E. Kazantsev, M.B. Skoptsov and K.V. Stepanyantz

*Moscow State University, Physical Faculty, Department of Theoretical Physics,
Moscow, 119991 Russia*

E-mail: aless2001@mail.ru, kazancev@physics.msu.ru, skoptsov23@ya.ru,
stepan@m9com.ru

ABSTRACT: We consider a general non-Abelian renormalizable $\mathcal{N} = 1$ supersymmetric gauge theory, regularized by higher covariant derivatives without breaking the BRST invariance, and calculate one-loop divergences for a general form of higher derivative regulator and of the gauge fixing term. It is demonstrated that the momentum integrals giving the one-loop β -function are integrals of double total derivatives independently of a particular choice of the higher derivative term. Evaluating them we reproduce the well-known result for the one-loop β -function. Also we find that the three-point ghost vertices with a single line of the quantum gauge superfield are not renormalized in the considered approximation.

KEYWORDS: Renormalization Regularization and Renormalons, Supersymmetric gauge theory, Gauge Symmetry

ARXIV EPRINT: [1603.04347](https://arxiv.org/abs/1603.04347)

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1 Introduction

The well-known non-renormalization theorem [1] states that in $\mathcal{N} = 1$ supersymmetric gauge theories the superpotential does not receive divergent quantum corrections. Moreover, there is one more interesting feature of quantum corrections in these theories. Namely, the renormalization of the coupling constant is related to the renormalization of the matter superfields by the so-called exact NSVZ β -function [2–7]. For the general $\mathcal{N} = 1$ supersymmetric Yang-Mills (SYM) theory with matter it is written as

$$\beta(\alpha, \lambda) = -\frac{\alpha^2 (3C_2 - T(R) + C(R)_i^j (\gamma_\phi)_j^i(\alpha, \lambda)/r)}{2\pi(1 - C_2\alpha/2\pi)}, \quad (1.1)$$

where $(\gamma_\phi)_j^i$ denotes the anomalous dimension of the chiral matter superfields and the following notation is used:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{tr}(T^A T^B) &\equiv T(R) \delta^{AB}; & (T^A)_i^k (T^A)_k^j &\equiv C(R)_i^j; \\ f^{ACD} f^{BCD} &\equiv C_2 \delta^{AB}; & r &\equiv \delta_{AA}. \end{aligned} \quad (1.2)$$

(It is assumed that the generators of the fundamental representation t^A are normalized by the condition $\text{tr}(t^A t^B) = \delta^{AB}/2$.)

In the early papers the NSVZ β -function was obtained from general arguments, such as the structure of instanton contributions to the effective action [2, 8], anomalies [3, 5, 9],

non-renormalization of the topological term [10]. However, it was also necessary to construct the subtraction scheme in which the NSVZ β -function is valid. The explicit loop calculations [11–15] (see [16] for a review) made with the dimensional reduction [17] in the $\overline{\text{DR}}$ -scheme agree with the NSVZ β -function only after a special finite renormalization which should be constructed in each order [12, 18]. Up to now, there is no general prescription how to do it in an arbitrary order. However, a possibility of making this finite renormalization is nontrivial [12], because from the general equation which describes how the NSVZ expression is changed under a finite renormalization [19, 20] one can derive some scheme independent consequences of the NSVZ relation [20, 21].

At least in the Abelian case, the NSVZ scheme can be naturally constructed if the supersymmetric theories are regularized by higher covariant derivatives [22, 23]. This regularization is mathematically consistent unlike the dimensional reduction [24]. (Removing the inconsistencies of the dimensional reduction leads to the loss of the explicit supersymmetry [25], which can be in this case broken by higher order quantum corrections [26–28].) The higher covariant derivative regularization can be formulated in the explicitly $\mathcal{N} = 1$ supersymmetric way [29, 30], so that it does not break supersymmetry. It can be also used for regularization of $\mathcal{N} = 2$ supersymmetric theories [31–33].

With the higher covariant derivative regularization the NSVZ relation was derived for the Abelian supersymmetric theories in all orders for the renormalization group (RG) functions defined in terms of the bare coupling constant [34, 35] (which are scheme-independent for a fixed regularization [36]). The RG functions defined in the standard way in terms of the renormalized coupling constant [37] satisfy the NSVZ relation only in the NSVZ scheme which in this case can be constructed in all orders by imposing simple boundary conditions on the renormalization constants [20, 36]. Thus, the NSVZ scheme can be easily constructed with the Slavnov higher derivative regularization. The main feature of quantum corrections, which allows to do this, is the factorization of integrals for the β -function (defined in terms of the bare coupling constant) into integrals of (double) total derivatives in the momentum space in the limit of the vanishing external momentum [38, 39]. In the Abelian case this has been proved in all orders [34, 35] and confirmed by explicit calculations in the three-loop approximation [40]. Using a similar method it has been proved that the integrals for the Adler D -function [41] (defined in terms of the bare coupling constant) in $\mathcal{N} = 1$ supersymmetric QCD are also integrals of double total derivatives in all orders. This feature allows to relate this function to the anomalous dimension of the matter superfields exactly in all orders [42, 43]. This new relation is similar to the NSVZ β -function and has a similar origin.

In the non-Abelian case the calculations of the β -function with the higher covariant derivative regularization were made only in the two-loop order [44, 45], where it was demonstrated that all momentum integrals giving the β -function are integrals of total derivatives. Subsequently, the results of the papers [44, 45] were written in the form of integrals of double total derivatives [46–48]. However, the versions of the higher covariant derivative regularization which were used for making explicit calculations for the non-Abelian $\mathcal{N} = 1$ supersymmetric theories break the BRST invariance [49, 50] (while the background gauge invariance is not broken). Then the calculations are much simpler in comparison with the

version of the higher derivative regularization which does not break the BRST invariance. Certainly, using of non-invariant regularizations is possible (see, e.g., [51–54]), if they are supplemented by a subtraction scheme which restores the Slavnov-Taylor identities [55, 56]. However, it is much more convenient to make calculations with the invariant regularization. Moreover, the invariant regularization may be useful for the general derivation of the NSVZ relation in the non-Abelian case. That is why in the present paper we consider a more complicated version of the higher derivative regularization which does not break the BRST invariance and very general forms of the higher derivative term and of the gauge fixing term. In this case the calculations are much more complicated. That is why here we make them only in the one-loop approximation. Certainly, in the one-loop approximation the higher derivative regularization always gives the result which is in agreement with other regularizations [57]. Nevertheless, the one-loop calculations can be used for demonstrating the factorization of integrals which give the β -function into integrals of double total derivatives. Moreover, they allow to verify the method of calculations and fix some potential problems. For example, the first calculation of the quantum corrections made with the higher covariant derivative regularization for the (non-supersymmetric) Yang-Mills theory [58] gave the correct result for the one-loop β -function [59, 60] only after corrections made in [61, 62]. (One-loop quantum corrections in non-supersymmetric electrodynamics with the higher derivative term were also recently investigated in [63].) There are also other subtleties in calculating quantum corrections in supersymmetric theories, see, e.g., [9, 64, 65]. One more important reason for making the one-loop calculation is that for deriving the NSVZ relation by the direct summation of supergraphs in all orders (such as in refs. [34, 35]) this approximation should be considered separately and the BRST invariant regularization is highly desirable.

This paper is organized as follows. In section 2 we regularize the $\mathcal{N} = 1$ SYM theory by higher covariant derivatives without breaking the BRST invariance and construct the generating functional for the regularized theory. In section 3 we calculate the one-loop divergences for various Green functions. In particular, we demonstrate that all integrals giving the one-loop β -function are integrals of double total derivatives in the momentum space independently of the form of the higher derivative term, and ghost vertices with a single gauge line are finite.

2 The BRST-invariant higher covariant derivative regularization for $\mathcal{N} = 1$ supersymmetric gauge theories

2.1 Action of the considered theory

In this paper we consider the general renormalizable $\mathcal{N} = 1$ SYM theory. In the massless limit this theory is described by the action

$$S = \frac{1}{2e_0^2} \text{Re tr} \int d^4x d^2\theta W^a W_a + \frac{1}{4} \int d^4x d^4\theta \phi^{*i} (e^{2V})_i{}^j \phi_j + \left(\frac{1}{6} \int d^4x d^2\theta \lambda_0^{ijk} \phi_i \phi_j \phi_k + \text{c.c.} \right), \quad (2.1)$$

which is written in terms of $\mathcal{N} = 1$ superfields [66, 67]. Here e_0 and λ_0^{ijk} denote the bare coupling constant and the Yukawa couplings, respectively. The gauge superfield

$$V = e_0 V^A T^A \quad (2.2)$$

is hermitian, so that its components, V^A , are real superfields. ϕ_i are chiral matter superfields which lie in a certain representation R of the gauge group G . In general, this representation can be reducible. The gauge superfield strength

$$W_a \equiv \frac{1}{8} \bar{D}^2 (e^{-2V} D_a e^{2V}) = e_0 W_a^A t^A \quad (2.3)$$

is also a chiral superfield. In order to obtain a gauge invariant theory, the Yukawa couplings should satisfy the condition

$$\lambda_0^{ijm} (T^A)_m{}^k + \lambda_0^{imk} (T^A)_m{}^j + \lambda_0^{mjk} (T^A)_m{}^i = 0. \quad (2.4)$$

In this case the theory (2.1) is invariant under the transformations

$$\phi \rightarrow e^A \phi; \quad e^{2V} \rightarrow e^{-A^+} e^{2V} e^{-A}, \quad (2.5)$$

where the parameter A is an arbitrary chiral superfield. Under these transformations the gauge superfield strength is changed as

$$W_a \rightarrow e^A W_a e^{-A}. \quad (2.6)$$

Note that in the last two equations we use the matrix notation. Explicitly writing the indexes we obtain, e.g.,

$$\phi_i \rightarrow (e^A)_i{}^j \phi_j, \quad \text{etc.} \quad (2.7)$$

It is also convenient to introduce the superfield Ω which, by definition, satisfies the equation

$$e^{2V} \equiv e^{\Omega^+} e^{\Omega}. \quad (2.8)$$

2.2 The background field method

A convenient tool for calculating quantum corrections is the background field method [68–70], because it allows to obtain the explicitly gauge invariant effective action. In the supersymmetric case it is introduced by the substitution

$$e^{\Omega} \rightarrow e^{\Omega} e^{\Omega}, \quad \text{so that} \quad e^{2V} \rightarrow e^{\Omega^+} e^{2V} e^{\Omega}. \quad (2.9)$$

Then the background gauge superfield $\mathbf{V}$ is defined by the equation

$$e^{2\mathbf{V}} = e^{\Omega^+} e^{\Omega}. \quad (2.10)$$

The theory which is obtained after the substitution (2.9) is evidently invariant under the background gauge transformations

$$e^{\Omega} \rightarrow e^{iK} e^{\Omega} e^{-A}; \quad e^{\Omega} \rightarrow e^{\Omega} e^{-iK}; \quad V \rightarrow e^{iK} V e^{-iK}; \quad \phi \rightarrow e^A \phi, \quad (2.11)$$

where K is an arbitrary hermitian superfield and A is a chiral superfield which lies in the Lie algebra of the gauge group.

Also the considered theory is invariant under the quantum gauge transformations

$$e^{2V} \rightarrow e^{-A^+} e^{2V} e^{-A}; \quad e^{\Omega} \rightarrow e^{\Omega}; \quad e^{\Omega^+} \rightarrow e^{\Omega^+}; \quad \phi \rightarrow e^{-\Omega} e^A e^{\Omega} \phi. \quad (2.12)$$

The parameter A of the quantum gauge transformations is a background chiral superfield which, by definition, satisfies the condition

$$\bar{\nabla}_{\dot{a}} A = 0, \quad (2.13)$$

where the gauge and supersymmetric background covariant derivatives are defined by

$$\nabla_a = e^{-\Omega^+} D_a e^{\Omega^+}; \quad \bar{\nabla}_{\dot{a}} = e^{\Omega} \bar{D}_{\dot{a}} e^{-\Omega}. \quad (2.14)$$

Acting on a superfield S which transforms as $S \rightarrow e^{iK} S$ under the background gauge symmetry (2.11) they will have the same transformation law, e.g., $\nabla_a S \rightarrow e^{iK} \nabla_a S$.

After the substitution (2.9) the superfield strength W_a will have the form

$$W_a = \frac{1}{8} e^{-\Omega} \bar{\nabla}^2 (e^{-2V} \nabla_a e^{2V}) e^{\Omega} + \mathbf{W}_a, \quad (2.15)$$

where we introduce the notation

$$\mathbf{W}_a = \frac{1}{8} \bar{D}^2 (e^{-2V} D_a e^{2V}). \quad (2.16)$$

It is convenient to fix a gauge and introduce a regularization in such a way that the invariance (2.11) remains unbroken. Then the effective action will be also invariant under the transformations (2.11), which is very convenient for calculating RG functions.

2.3 The higher covariant derivative regularization

The main idea of the higher covariant derivative regularization is adding a term with higher degrees of the covariant derivatives (which we will denote by S_{Λ}) to the classical action. Certainly, such a term is not uniquely defined. There are a lot of options for choosing it. Here, for definiteness, we will use the following expression:

$$\begin{aligned} S_{\Lambda} = & \frac{1}{2e_0^2} \text{Re tr} \int d^4x d^2\theta e^{\Omega} e^{\Omega} W^a e^{-\Omega} e^{-\Omega} \left[R \left(-\frac{\bar{\nabla}^2 \nabla^2}{16\Lambda^2} \right) - 1 \right]_{Adj} e^{\Omega} e^{\Omega} W_a e^{-\Omega} e^{-\Omega} \\ & + \frac{1}{4} \int d^4x d^4\theta \phi^+ e^{\Omega^+} e^{\Omega^+} \left[F \left(-\frac{\bar{\nabla}^2 \nabla^2}{16\Lambda^2} \right) - 1 \right] e^{\Omega} e^{\Omega} \phi, \end{aligned} \quad (2.17)$$

where the gauge and supersymmetric covariant derivatives are given by

$$\nabla_a = e^{-\Omega^+} e^{-\Omega^+} D_a e^{\Omega^+} e^{\Omega^+}; \quad \bar{\nabla}_{\dot{a}} = e^{\Omega} e^{\Omega} \bar{D}_{\dot{a}} e^{-\Omega} e^{-\Omega}. \quad (2.18)$$

The subscript *Adj* points out that they act on superfields in the adjoint representation. In particular, this implies that

$$(f_0 + f_1 V + f_2 V^2 + \dots)_{Adj} X \equiv f_0 X + f_1 [V, X] + f_2 [V, [V, X]] + \dots \quad (2.19)$$

The functions $R(x)$ and $F(x)$ satisfy the conditions $R(0) = 1$, $F(0) = 1$ and have polynomial growth in the limit $x \rightarrow \infty$.

One can verify that the expression (2.17) is invariant both under the background gauge transformations (2.11) and under the quantum gauge transformations (2.12). Taking into account that

$$-\frac{\bar{D}^2 D^2}{16\Lambda^2} \phi = \frac{\partial^2}{\Lambda^2} \phi \quad (2.20)$$

for an arbitrary chiral superfield ϕ , we see that in the lowest order in the (background and quantum) gauge superfields the regulators give $R(\partial^2/\Lambda^2) - 1$ and $F(\partial^2/\Lambda^2) - 1$. That is why eq. (2.17) is really a supersymmetric higher derivative term. After adding S_Λ to the classical action S we obtain the regularized action

$$S_{\text{reg}} = S + S_\Lambda. \quad (2.21)$$

It is convenient to choose the gauge fixing term in the form

$$S_{\text{gf}} = -\frac{1}{16\xi_0 e_0^2} \text{tr} \int d^4x d^4\theta \nabla^2 V K \left(-\frac{\bar{\nabla}^2 \nabla^2}{16\Lambda^2} \right)_{Adj} \bar{\nabla}^2 V, \quad (2.22)$$

because it does not break the background gauge invariance (2.11). Here the function $K(x)$ by construction satisfies the conditions $K(0) = 1$, $K(\infty) = \infty$, and ξ_0 is a constant. In this case the standard gauge fixing procedure leads to the following actions for the Faddeev-Popov and Nielsen-Kallosh ghosts:

$$S_{\text{FP}} = \frac{1}{e_0^2} \text{tr} \int d^4x d^4\theta \left(e^{\Omega} \bar{c} e^{-\Omega} + e^{-\Omega^+} \bar{c}^+ e^{\Omega^+} \right) \times \left\{ \left(\frac{V}{1 - e^{2V}} \right)_{Adj} \left(e^{-\Omega^+} c^+ e^{\Omega^+} \right) + \left(\frac{V}{1 - e^{-2V}} \right)_{Adj} \left(e^{\Omega} c e^{-\Omega} \right) \right\}; \quad (2.23)$$

$$S_{\text{NK}} = \frac{1}{2e_0^2} \text{tr} \int d^4x d^4\theta b^+ \left[e^{\Omega^+} K \left(-\frac{\bar{\nabla}^2 \nabla^2}{16\Lambda^2} \right) e^{\Omega} \right]_{Adj} b. \quad (2.24)$$

The ghost superfields $c = e_0 c^A t^A$, $\bar{c} = e_0 \bar{c}^A t^A$, $b = e_0 b^A t^A$ are anticommuting and chiral. As usual, the Nielsen-Kallosh ghosts interact only with the background gauge superfield V and, therefore, non-trivially contribute only in the one-loop approximation.

Introducing an auxiliary (commuting) chiral superfield f it is also convenient to present the gauge fixing term in the form

$$S_{\text{gf}} = \frac{1}{e_0^2} \text{tr} \int d^4x d^4\theta \left(16\xi_0 f^+ \left[e^{\Omega^+} K^{-1} \left(-\frac{\bar{\nabla}^2 \nabla^2}{16\Lambda^2} \right) e^{\Omega} \right]_{Adj} f + e^{\Omega} f e^{-\Omega} \nabla^2 V + e^{-\Omega^+} f^+ e^{\Omega^+} \bar{\nabla}^2 V \right). \quad (2.25)$$

One can easily verify that the sum

$$S + S_\Lambda + S_{\text{gf}} + S_{\text{FP}} + S_{\text{NK}}, \quad (2.26)$$

which is obtained after the gauge fixing procedure, is invariant under the background gauge transformations (2.11), under which f and ghost superfields should be transformed as

$$f \rightarrow e^A f e^{-A} = (e^A)_{Adj} f; \quad c \rightarrow (e^A)_{Adj} c; \quad \bar{c} \rightarrow (e^A)_{Adj} \bar{c}; \quad b \rightarrow (e^A)_{Adj} b. \quad (2.27)$$

However, it is evident that the action (2.26) is not invariant under the quantum gauge transformation (2.12). Instead of this invariance the total action becomes invariant under the BRST transformations

$$\begin{aligned} \delta V &= -\varepsilon \left\{ \left(\frac{V}{1 - e^{2V}} \right)_{Adj} \left(e^{-\Omega^+} c^+ e^{\Omega^+} \right) + \left(\frac{V}{1 - e^{-2V}} \right)_{Adj} \left(e^{\Omega} c e^{-\Omega} \right) \right\}; \quad \delta \phi = \varepsilon c \phi; \\ \delta \bar{c} &= \varepsilon \bar{D}^2 (e^{-2V} f^+ e^{2V}); \quad \delta \bar{c}^+ = \varepsilon D^2 (e^{2V} f e^{-2V}); \quad \delta c = \varepsilon c^2; \quad \delta c^+ = \varepsilon (c^+)^2; \\ \delta f &= \delta f^+ = 0; \quad \delta b = \delta b^+ = 0; \quad \delta \Omega = \delta \Omega^+ = 0, \end{aligned} \quad (2.28)$$

where $\varepsilon \neq \varepsilon(x)$ is an anticommuting real scalar parameter. Two first of these equations are equivalent to the equations (2.12) in which the parameter $\mathcal{A}$ is given by the expression

$$\mathcal{A} = \varepsilon e^{\Omega} c e^{-\Omega}; \quad \mathcal{A}^+ = -\varepsilon e^{-\Omega^+} c^+ e^{\Omega^+}. \quad (2.29)$$

This allows us to verify the nilpotency of the BRST transformations. Really, the equalities $\delta_1 \delta_2 c = 0$ and $\delta_1 \delta_2 \bar{c} = 0$ are evident, and

$$\delta_1 \delta_2 e^{2V} = \delta_1 \left(\varepsilon_2 e^{-\Omega^+} c^+ e^{\Omega^+} e^{2V} - e^{2V} \varepsilon_2 e^{\Omega} c e^{-\Omega} \right) = 0. \quad (2.30)$$

As a consequence, we obtain that $\delta_1 \delta_2 V = 0$ and see that the BRST transformations are nilpotent. Writing the gauge fixing term in the form (2.25) and using this property, one can easily verify the BRST invariance of the action (2.26).

By introducing the higher derivative term one regularizes divergences beyond the one-loop approximation [71]. In order to get rid of the remaining one-loop divergences, it is necessary to insert the Pauli-Villars determinants into the generating functional [72]. Due to the absence of quadratic divergences in supersymmetric theories it is possible to use the following Pauli-Villars determinants:

$$\begin{aligned} Z[\mathbf{V}, \text{Sources}] &= \int DV D\phi Db D\bar{c} Dc \text{Det}(PV, M_\Phi) \text{Det}(PV, M_\varphi)^{-1} \\ &\quad \times \exp(iS + iS_\Lambda + iS_{\text{gf}} + iS_{\text{FP}} + iS_{\text{NK}} + iS_{\text{source}}), \end{aligned} \quad (2.31)$$

where

$$\text{Det}(PV, M_\Phi) = \int D\Phi \exp(iS_\Phi); \quad \text{Det}(PV, M_\varphi)^{-1} = \int D\varphi \exp(iS_\varphi). \quad (2.32)$$

Here Φ_i is an anticommuting superfield in the same representation as ϕ_i , three commuting superfields φ_f lie in the adjoint representation of the gauge group, and the actions for the

Pauli-Villars superfields are given by

$$\begin{aligned}
S_\Phi &= \frac{1}{4} \int d^4x d^4\theta \Phi^{*i} \left[e^{\Omega^+} e^{\Omega^+} F \left(-\frac{\bar{\nabla}^2 \nabla^2}{16\Lambda^2} \right) e^\Omega e^\Omega \right]_i^j \Phi_j + \left(\frac{1}{4} \int d^4x d^2\theta (M_\Phi)^{ij} \Phi_i \Phi_j + \text{c.c.} \right); \\
S_\varphi &= \frac{1}{2e_0^2} \text{tr} \int d^4x d^4\theta \left(\varphi_1^+ \left[e^{\Omega^+} e^{\Omega^+} R \left(-\frac{\bar{\nabla}^2 \nabla^2}{16\Lambda^2} \right) e^\Omega e^\Omega \right]_{Adj} \varphi_1 + \varphi_2^+ \left[e^{\Omega^+} e^{2V} e^\Omega \right]_{Adj} \varphi_2 \right. \\
&\quad \left. + \varphi_3^+ \left[e^{\Omega^+} e^{2V} e^\Omega \right]_{Adj} \varphi_3 \right) + \frac{1}{2e_0^2} \text{tr} \left(\int d^4x d^2\theta M_\varphi (\varphi_1^2 + \varphi_2^2 + \varphi_3^2) + \text{c.c.} \right). \quad (2.33)
\end{aligned}$$

We will also assume that

$$(M_\Phi)^{ji} (M_\Phi^*)_{kj} = M_\Phi^2 \delta_k^i. \quad (2.34)$$

Below we will see that the chiral scalar superfields φ_f introduced in this way exactly cancel the one-loop (sub)divergences introduced by loops of the gauge superfield and ghosts.

The actions (2.33) are also BRST invariant, because they are evidently invariant under the quantum gauge transformations (2.12) if

$$\Phi \rightarrow e^{-\Omega} e^{\mathcal{A}} e^\Omega \Phi; \quad \varphi_f \rightarrow e^{-\Omega} e^{\mathcal{A}} e^\Omega \varphi_f e^{-\Omega} e^{-\mathcal{A}} e^\Omega = (e^{-\Omega} e^{\mathcal{A}} e^\Omega)_{Adj} \varphi_f. \quad (2.35)$$

For $\mathcal{A}$ given by eq. (2.29) we obtain the BRST invariance.

Thus, the final expression for the generating functional can be written as

$$Z[\mathbf{V}, \text{Sources}] = \int D\mu \exp(iS_{\text{total}} + iS_{\text{source}}), \quad (2.36)$$

where $\int D\mu$ denotes the integration measure which includes integration over all superfields of the theory, and the total action

$$S_{\text{total}} = S + S_\Lambda + S_{\text{gf}} + S_{\text{FP}} + S_{\text{NK}} + S_\Phi + S_\varphi \quad (2.37)$$

is invariant under the above described BRST transformations. The generating functional for the connected Green functions is given by

$$W[\mathbf{V}, \text{Sources}] = -i \ln Z[\mathbf{V}, \text{Sources}], \quad (2.38)$$

and the effective action $\Gamma[\mathbf{V}, \text{Fields}]$ is defined in the standard way by using the Legendre transformation.

2.4 Renormalization

It is well known [73–76] that the considered supersymmetric theory is renormalizable, so that the divergences can be absorbed into redefinitions of the coupling constants and (super)fields. Taking into account that the superpotential does not receive the divergent quantum corrections according to the non-renormalization theorem [1] we can make the following renormalization:

$$\begin{aligned}
\frac{1}{\alpha_0} &= \frac{Z_\alpha}{\alpha}; & \frac{1}{\xi_0} &= \frac{Z_\xi}{\xi}; & \mathbf{V} &= \mathbf{V}_R; & V &= Z_V Z_\alpha^{-1/2} V_R; & \bar{c}c &= Z_c Z_\alpha^{-1} \bar{c}_R c_R; \\
\phi_i &= (\sqrt{Z_\phi})_i^j (\phi_R)_j; & \lambda^{ijk} &= \lambda_0^{mnp} (\sqrt{Z_\phi})_m^i (\sqrt{Z_\phi})_n^j (\sqrt{Z_\phi})_p^k; & b &= \sqrt{Z_b} b_R,
\end{aligned} \quad (2.39)$$

where α and λ^{ijk} are the renormalized coupling constant and Yukawa couplings, respectively, and the renormalized superfields are denoted by the subscript R . We also take into account that the background gauge superfield is not renormalized due to the unbroken background gauge symmetry (2.11). From the definitions (2.39) we see that Z_c denotes the renormalization constant for the Faddeev-Popov ghosts; Z_V is the renormalization constant for the quantum gauge superfield, and Z_α encodes the charge renormalization.

Because the Nielsen-Kallosh action is not renormalized, the renormalization constants satisfy the relation $Z_\alpha Z_b = 1$. Similarly, taking into account that the two-point Green function of the quantum gauge superfield is transversal due to the Slavnov-Taylor identity [55, 56], we obtain the relation $Z_\xi Z_V^2 = 1$.

The renormalization constants Z_α and Z_ϕ can be found by calculating the two-point Green functions of the background gauge superfield $\mathbf{V}$ and the matter superfields, respectively. Due to the background gauge invariance (2.11) the corresponding part of the effective action can be written in the form

$$\Gamma_{\mathbf{V},\phi}^{(2)} = -\frac{1}{8\pi} \text{tr} \int \frac{d^4 p}{(2\pi)^4} d^4 \theta \mathbf{V}(\theta, -p) \partial^2 \Pi_{1/2} \mathbf{V}(\theta, p) d^{-1}(\alpha_0, \lambda_0, \Lambda/p) \\ + \frac{1}{4} \int \frac{d^4 p}{(2\pi)^4} d^4 \theta \phi^{*i}(\theta, -p) \phi_j(\theta, p) (G_\phi)_i^j(\alpha_0, \lambda_0, \Lambda/p), \quad (2.40)$$

where $\partial^2 \Pi_{1/2} = -D^a \bar{D}^2 D_a / 8$ denotes the supersymmetric transversal projection operator. The functions d^{-1} and $(G_\phi)_i^j$ are, in general, divergent in the limit $\Lambda \rightarrow \infty$. The renormalized coupling constant $\alpha(\alpha_0, \lambda_0, \Lambda/\mu)$ and the renormalization constant $(Z_\phi)_i^j(\alpha_0, \lambda_0, \Lambda/\mu)$, where μ is a renormalization point, are defined by requiring finiteness of the expressions

$$d^{-1}(\alpha_0(\alpha, \lambda, \Lambda/\mu), \lambda_0(\alpha, \lambda, \Lambda/\mu), \Lambda/p); \\ (Z_\phi)_i^j (G_\phi)_j^k (\alpha_0(\alpha, \lambda, \Lambda/\mu), \lambda_0(\alpha, \lambda, \Lambda/\mu), \Lambda/p) \quad (2.41)$$

(considered as functions of α , λ , μ/p and Λ/p) in the limit $\Lambda \rightarrow \infty$. Then the renormalization constant Z_α is obtained from the equation

$$Z_\alpha = \frac{\alpha}{\alpha_0}. \quad (2.42)$$

In order to find the remaining renormalization constants Z_V and Z_c we consider the two-point Green functions of the quantum gauge superfield and ghosts. The Slavnov-Taylor identity ensures that all quantum corrections to the Green function of the quantum gauge superfield are transversal, so that

$$\Gamma_{V,c}^{(2)} - S_{\text{gf}}^{(2)} = -\frac{1}{2e_0^2} \text{tr} \int \frac{d^4 p}{(2\pi)^4} d^4 \theta V(\theta, -p) \partial^2 \Pi_{1/2} V(\theta, p) G_V(\alpha_0, \lambda_0, \Lambda/p) \\ + \frac{1}{2e_0^2} \text{tr} \int \frac{d^4 p}{(2\pi)^4} d^4 \theta (-\bar{c}(\theta, -p) c^+(\theta, p) + \bar{c}^+(\theta, -p) c(\theta, p)) G_c(\alpha_0, \lambda_0, \Lambda/p). \quad (2.43)$$

Then the renormalization constants Z_V and Z_c can be obtained by requiring finiteness of the functions

$$\begin{aligned} Z_V^2 G_V(\alpha_0(\alpha, \lambda, \Lambda/\mu), \lambda_0(\alpha, \lambda, \Lambda/\mu), \Lambda/p) \quad \text{and} \\ Z_c G_c(\alpha_0(\alpha, \lambda, \Lambda/\mu), \lambda_0(\alpha, \lambda, \Lambda/\mu), \Lambda/p) \end{aligned} \quad (2.44)$$

in the limit $\Lambda \rightarrow \infty$, respectively.

2.5 RG functions

In this paper we consider the RG functions defined in terms of the bare coupling constant. In particular, the β -function is defined in terms of the bare coupling constants according to the prescription

$$\beta(\alpha_0, \lambda_0) = \left. \frac{d\alpha_0(\alpha, \lambda, \Lambda/\mu)}{d \ln \Lambda} \right|_{\alpha, \lambda = \text{const}}, \quad (2.45)$$

and can be related to the renormalization constant Z_α . Really, differentiating the first equation in (2.39) with respect to $\ln \Lambda$ we obtain

$$\beta(\alpha_0, \lambda_0) = -\alpha_0 \left. \frac{d \ln Z_\alpha}{d \ln \Lambda} \right|_{\alpha, \lambda = \text{const}}. \quad (2.46)$$

For calculating this β -function it is convenient to consider the expression

$$\left. \frac{d}{d \ln \Lambda} (d^{-1}(\alpha_0, \lambda_0, \Lambda/p) - \alpha_0^{-1}) \right|_{p=0} = -\frac{d\alpha_0^{-1}(\alpha, \lambda, \Lambda/\mu)}{d \ln \Lambda} = \frac{\beta(\alpha_0, \lambda_0)}{\alpha_0^2}, \quad (2.47)$$

in which the derivative with respect to $\ln \Lambda$ is calculated at fixed values of the renormalized coupling constant α and renormalized Yukawa constants λ^{ijk} in the limit of the vanishing external momentum p .

The anomalous dimensions are defined in terms of the bare coupling constants by the equations

$$\begin{aligned} (\gamma_\phi)_i^j(\alpha_0, \lambda_0) &\equiv -\left. \frac{d \ln (Z_\phi)_i^j(\alpha, \lambda, \Lambda/\mu)}{d \ln \Lambda} \right|_{\alpha, \lambda = \text{const}} = \left. \frac{d \ln (G_\phi)_i^j(\alpha_0, \lambda_0, \Lambda/p)}{d \ln \Lambda} \right|_{\alpha, \lambda = \text{const}; p=0}; \\ \gamma_V(\alpha_0, \lambda_0) &\equiv -\left. \frac{d \ln Z_V(\alpha, \lambda, \Lambda/\mu)}{d \ln \Lambda} \right|_{\alpha, \lambda = \text{const}} = \frac{1}{2} \cdot \left. \frac{d \ln G_V(\alpha_0, \lambda_0, \Lambda/p)}{d \ln \Lambda} \right|_{\alpha, \lambda = \text{const}; p=0}; \\ \gamma_c(\alpha_0, \lambda_0) &\equiv -\left. \frac{d \ln Z_c(\alpha, \lambda, \Lambda/\mu)}{d \ln \Lambda} \right|_{\alpha, \lambda = \text{const}} = \left. \frac{d \ln G_c(\alpha_0, \lambda_0, \Lambda/p)}{d \ln \Lambda} \right|_{\alpha, \lambda = \text{const}; p=0}. \end{aligned} \quad (2.48)$$

It is known [36] that the RG functions defined in terms of the bare couplings depend on the regularization, but do not depend on the subtraction scheme for a fixed regularization.

3 The RG functions in the one-loop approximation

3.1 One-loop β -function

The two-point Green function of the background gauge superfield in the one-loop approximation is contributed by the diagrams presented in figure 1. In these diagrams external

Figure 1. One-loop diagrams which contribute to the two-point Green function of the background superfield.

lines correspond to the superfield V . The wavy internal lines denote propagators of the quantum gauge superfield V ; the solid lines denote propagators of the matter superfields ϕ_i and of the Pauli-Villars superfields Φ_i and φ_f ; the dashed lines denote propagators of the Faddeev-Popov ghosts; the dotted lines denote propagators of the Nielsen-Kallosh ghosts.

After calculating these diagrams we have obtained the following result:

$$\frac{\beta(\alpha_0, \lambda_0)}{\alpha_0^2} = C_2 I_V + T(R) I_\phi + O(\alpha_0, \lambda_0^2). \quad (3.1)$$

Here I_V is the contribution of the quantum gauge superfield, the (Faddeev-Popov and Nielsen-Kallosh) ghosts, and the Pauli-Villars superfields φ_f . I_ϕ denotes the contribution of the matter superfield ϕ and the corresponding Pauli-Villars superfield Φ . We have verified that both these integrals are integrals of double total derivatives independently of the concrete form of the functions R and F and have the following form:

$$I_V = \pi \int \frac{d^4 q}{(2\pi)^4} \frac{d}{d \ln \Lambda} \frac{\partial}{\partial q^\mu} \frac{\partial}{\partial q_\mu} \left[\frac{2}{q^2} \ln \left(\frac{R(q^2/\Lambda^2)}{K(q^2/\Lambda^2)} \right) - \frac{2}{q^2} \ln \left(1 + \frac{M_\varphi^2}{q^2} \right) - \frac{1}{q^2} \ln \left(\frac{q^2 R^2(q^2/\Lambda^2) + M_\varphi^2}{q^2 K^2(q^2/\Lambda^2)} \right) \right]; \quad (3.2)$$

$$I_\phi = \pi \int \frac{d^4 q}{(2\pi)^4} \frac{d}{d \ln \Lambda} \frac{\partial}{\partial q^\mu} \frac{\partial}{\partial q_\mu} \left[\frac{1}{q^2} \ln \left(1 + \frac{M_\Phi^2}{q^2 F^2(q^2/\Lambda^2)} \right) \right], \quad (3.3)$$

where M_Φ is defined by eq. (2.34). (The first term in the integral I_V is the contribution of diagrams with the loop of the quantum gauge superfield V . The second term is a sum of diagrams with the loop of the Faddeev-Popov ghosts and the loop of the Pauli-Villars superfields φ_2 and φ_3 . The last term corresponds to diagrams with the loop of the Nielsen-Kallosh ghosts and the Pauli-Villars superfield φ_1 .)

We see that all these integrals are integrals of double total derivatives in the momentum space. However, in general, they do not vanish, because of singularities of the integrands. Really, let $f(q^2/\Lambda^2)$ be a non-singular function with a rapid falloff at infinity. Then we consider the integral of the double total derivative

$$I \equiv \int \frac{d^4 q}{(2\pi)^4} \frac{\partial}{\partial q^\mu} \frac{\partial}{\partial q_\mu} \left(\frac{1}{q^2} f(q^2/\Lambda^2) \right). \quad (3.4)$$

This integral can be easily reduced to the integral of the δ -function singularity:

$$\begin{aligned}
 I &= \int \frac{d^4 q}{(2\pi)^4} \frac{\partial}{\partial q^\mu} \left(-\frac{2q^\mu}{q^4} f(q^2/\Lambda^2) + \frac{2q^\mu}{q^2 \Lambda^2} f'(q^2/\Lambda^2) \right) \\
 &= \int \frac{d^4 q}{(2\pi)^4} \frac{1}{q^2} \frac{d}{dq^2} \left(-4f(q^2/\Lambda^2) + \frac{4q^2}{\Lambda^2} f'(q^2/\Lambda^2) \right) \\
 &= \frac{1}{4\pi^2} \left(f(q^2/\Lambda^2) - \frac{q^2}{\Lambda^2} f'(q^2/\Lambda^2) \right) \Big|_{q=0} = \frac{1}{4\pi^2} f(0) = 4\pi^2 \int \frac{d^4 q}{(2\pi)^4} \delta^4(q) f(q^2/\Lambda^2). \quad (3.5)
 \end{aligned}$$

Using this result we calculate the integrals I_V and I_ϕ . For example, let us consider the integral I_ϕ . First, we make the differentiation with respect to $\ln \Lambda$ taking into account that M_Φ is proportional to Λ and, then, use eq. (3.5):

$$\begin{aligned}
 I_\phi &= \pi \int \frac{d^4 q}{(2\pi)^4} \frac{\partial}{\partial q^\mu} \frac{\partial}{\partial q_\mu} \left(\frac{2M_\Phi^2}{q^2(q^2 F^2(q^2/\Lambda^2) + M_\Phi^2)} + \frac{4M_\Phi^2 F'(q^2/\Lambda^2)}{\Lambda^2 F(q^2/\Lambda^2)(q^2 F^2(q^2/\Lambda^2) + M_\Phi^2)} \right) \\
 &= \int \frac{d^4 q}{(2\pi)^4} \delta^4(q) \frac{8\pi^3 M_\Phi^2}{(q^2 F(q^2/\Lambda^2) + M_\Phi^2)} = \frac{1}{2\pi}. \quad (3.6)
 \end{aligned}$$

Similarly, we obtain

$$I_V = -\pi \int \frac{d^4 q}{(2\pi)^4} \frac{d}{d \ln \Lambda} \frac{\partial}{\partial q^\mu} \frac{\partial}{\partial q_\mu} \left[\frac{2}{q^2} \ln \left(1 + \frac{M_\varphi^2}{q^2} \right) + \frac{1}{q^2} \ln \left(1 + \frac{M_\varphi^2}{q^2 R^2} \right) \right] = -\frac{3}{2\pi}. \quad (3.7)$$

Therefore, in the one-loop approximation the β -function (defined in terms of the bare coupling constant) is

$$\beta = -\frac{\alpha_0^2}{2\pi} (3C_2 - T(R) + O(\alpha_0, \lambda_0^2)). \quad (3.8)$$

Thus, we reobtain the standard expression for the one-loop β -function, which was first found in [77].

In the end of this section we note that eq. (3.1) can be also rewritten in the form

$$\begin{aligned}
 \frac{d \ln Z_\alpha}{d \ln \Lambda} &= \pi \alpha_0 \int \frac{d^4 q}{(2\pi)^4} \frac{d}{d \ln \Lambda} \frac{\partial}{\partial q^\mu} \frac{\partial}{\partial q_\mu} \left[\frac{C_2}{q^2} \ln \left(1 + \frac{M_\varphi^2}{q^2 R^2} \right) \right. \\
 &\quad \left. + \frac{2C_2}{q^2} \ln \left(1 + \frac{M_\varphi^2}{q^2} \right) - \frac{T(R)}{q^2} \ln \left(1 + \frac{M_\Phi^2}{q^2 F^2} \right) \right] + O(\alpha_0^2, \alpha_0 \lambda_0^2), \quad (3.9)
 \end{aligned}$$

which will be useful below.

3.2 One-loop anomalous dimension of the matter superfields

The one-loop anomalous dimension of the superfields ϕ_i for the considered theory is determined by the diagrams presented in figure 2. They give the following result for the anomalous dimension defined in terms of the bare coupling constant:

$$\begin{aligned}
 (\gamma_\phi)_i^j(\alpha_0, \lambda_0) &= \int \frac{d^4 k}{(2\pi)^4} \frac{d}{d \ln \Lambda} \left(-C(R)_i^j \frac{2e^2}{k^4 R(k^2/\Lambda^2)} + \lambda_{imn}^* \lambda^{jmn} \frac{2}{k^4 F^2(k^2/\Lambda^2)} \right) \\
 &\quad + O(\alpha^2, \alpha \lambda^2, \lambda^4). \quad (3.10)
 \end{aligned}$$

Figure 2. Diagrams contributing to the one-loop anomalous dimension of the matter superfield.

Due to the derivative with respect to $\ln \Lambda$ (which should be taken at fixed values of the renormalized coupling and Yukawa constants e and λ^{ijk} , respectively) this integral is well defined. Taking into account that

$$\frac{d}{d \ln \Lambda} f(k^2/\Lambda^2) = -\frac{d}{d \ln k} f(k^2/\Lambda^2) = -2k^2 \frac{d}{dk^2} f(k^2/\Lambda^2) \quad (3.11)$$

and that for an arbitrary function f with a sufficiently rapid falloff at infinity

$$\int \frac{d^4 k}{(2\pi)^4} \frac{1}{k^2} \frac{df}{dk^2} = -\frac{1}{16\pi^2} f(0), \quad (3.12)$$

we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} (\gamma_\phi)_i^j(\alpha_0, \lambda_0) &= \int \frac{d^4 k}{(2\pi)^4} \frac{1}{k^2} \frac{d}{dk^2} \left(C(R)_i^j \frac{4e^2}{R(k^2/\Lambda^2)} - \lambda_{imn}^* \lambda^{jmn} \frac{4}{F^2(k^2/\Lambda^2)} \right) \\ &\quad + O(\alpha^2, \alpha\lambda^2, \lambda^4) \\ &= -C(R)_i^j \frac{\alpha_0}{\pi} + \frac{1}{4\pi^2} \lambda_{0imn}^* \lambda_0^{jmn} + O(\alpha_0^2, \alpha_0 \lambda_0^2, \lambda_0^4). \end{aligned} \quad (3.13)$$

Note that in the last equation the result is written in terms of the bare coupling constants α_0 and λ_0^{ijk} , because we calculate the anomalous dimension defined in terms of the bare charges. Certainly, the expression (3.13) coincides with the well-known result. However, it is interesting to compare the integral (3.10) with the integrals which give the two-loop β -function with the considered regularization, as it was done in, e.g., [40].

3.3 One-loop renormalization of the quantum gauge superfield

From the two-point Green function of the quantum gauge superfield we can find the constant Z_V^2 . In the one-loop approximation this Green function is contributed by the diagrams presented in figure 3. After calculating them in the limit of the vanishing external momentum we obtained

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d \ln Z_V^2}{d \ln \Lambda} &= \pi \alpha_0 \int \frac{d^4 q}{(2\pi)^4} \frac{d}{d \ln \Lambda} \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial q^\mu} \frac{\partial}{\partial q_\mu} \left[\frac{C_2}{q^2} \ln \left(1 + \frac{M_\varphi^2}{q^2 R^2} \right) + \frac{2C_2}{q^2} \ln \left(1 + \frac{M_\varphi^2}{q^2} \right) \right. \right. \\ &\quad \left. \left. - \frac{T(R)}{q^2} \ln \left(1 + \frac{M_\Phi^2}{q^2 F^2} \right) \right] + 8C_2 \left(-\frac{1}{3Rq^4} + \frac{\xi_0}{3Kq^4} \right) + O(\alpha_0, \lambda_0^2) \right). \end{aligned} \quad (3.14)$$

Comparing this equation with the expression $d \ln Z_\alpha / d \ln \Lambda$ given by eq. (3.9) we obtain

$$\gamma_V = -4\pi \alpha_0 C_2 \int \frac{d^4 q}{(2\pi)^4} \frac{d}{d \ln \Lambda} \left(-\frac{1}{3Rq^4} + \frac{\xi_0}{3Kq^4} \right) - \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{d \ln Z_\alpha}{d \ln \Lambda} + O(\alpha_0^2, \alpha_0 \lambda_0^2). \quad (3.15)$$

Figure 3. One-loop diagrams contributing to the two-point Green function of the quantum gauge superfield.

The integral in this expression can be easily calculated by using eq. (3.11):

$$\begin{aligned} \int \frac{d^4 q}{(2\pi)^4} \frac{d}{d \ln \Lambda} \left(-\frac{1}{3Rq^4} + \frac{\xi_0}{3Kq^4} \right) &= - \int \frac{d^4 q}{(2\pi)^4} \frac{2}{3q^2} \frac{d}{dq^2} \left(-\frac{1}{R} + \frac{\xi_0}{K} \right) \\ &= -\frac{1}{24\pi^2} \left(\frac{1}{R(0)} - \frac{\xi_0}{K(0)} \right) = -\frac{(1-\xi_0)}{24\pi^2}, \end{aligned} \quad (3.16)$$

so that finally we obtain

$$\gamma_V = \frac{\alpha_0 C_2 (1 - \xi_0)}{6\pi} + \frac{\beta(\alpha_0, \lambda_0)}{2\alpha_0} + O(\alpha_0^2, \alpha_0 \lambda_0^2). \quad (3.17)$$

3.4 One-loop renormalization of the Faddeev-Popov ghosts

In order to find the anomalous dimension of the Faddeev-Popov ghosts (defined in terms of the bare coupling constant) it is necessary to calculate the diagrams presented in figure 4. It is convenient to write the result in the form

$$\begin{aligned} \gamma_c &= 4\pi\alpha_0 C_2 \int \frac{d^4 q}{(2\pi)^4} \frac{d}{d \ln \Lambda} \left(-\frac{1}{3Rq^4} + \frac{\xi_0}{3Kq^4} \right) + O(\alpha_0^2, \alpha_0 \lambda_0^2) \\ &= -\frac{\alpha_0 C_2 (1 - \xi_0)}{6\pi} + O(\alpha_0^2, \alpha_0 \lambda_0^2). \end{aligned} \quad (3.18)$$

This implies that in the general gauge the two-point Green function of the Faddeev-Popov ghosts is divergent, and the higher covariant derivative regularization does regularize these divergences. However, comparing eq. (3.18) with eq. (3.15) (or eq. (3.17)) we see that in the one-loop approximation

$$\frac{d}{d \ln \Lambda} \left(\ln Z_c + \ln Z_V - \frac{1}{2} \ln Z_\alpha \right) = 0. \quad (3.19)$$

As a consequence, the vertices of the type $\bar{c}Vc$ are finite. Possibly, this statement is valid in all loops if the regularization does not break the BRST invariance of the theory. Note that for some particular regularizations and gauge fixing conditions validity of eq. (3.19) in the one-loop approximation can also be seen from the results of refs. [54] for the pure $\mathcal{N} = 1$ SYM theory and of refs. [32, 33] for the general $\mathcal{N} = 2$ SYM theory with matter.

Figure 4. Diagrams contributing to the one-loop anomalous dimension of the Faddeev-Popov ghosts.

4 Conclusion

In this paper we consider a general $\mathcal{N} = 1$ SYM theory with matter regularized by a very general version of the higher derivative regularization which does not break the BRST invariance and calculate all RG functions in the one-loop approximation. The considered version of the higher derivative regularization was not earlier used to obtain quantum corrections, because it leads to very complicated calculations. However, it does not break symmetries of the theory and seems to be very useful for the general derivation of the NSVZ β -function in the non-Abelian case by the direct summation of supergraphs. Making such a derivation one should consider the one-loop approximation separately, and this problem is addressed in this paper. In particular, we have demonstrated that all one-loop momentum integrals for the β -function are integrals of double total derivatives independently of the form of the higher derivative term. This seems to be a general feature of all supersymmetric theories.¹ Certainly, the result of the calculation coincided with the well-known expression for the one-loop β -function in the supersymmetric case. Also we have obtained the momentum integrals defining the one-loop anomalous dimension, which also coincided with the well-known expression. In prospect, these integrals can be compared with integrals giving the two-loop β -function, which are related to them due to the existence of the NSVZ β -function. Also we obtained that the vertices $\bar{c}Vc$, $\bar{c}Vc^+$, $\bar{c}^+Vc$, and $\bar{c}^+Vc^+$ (containing two lines of the Faddeev-Popov ghosts and a single line of the quantum gauge superfield) are not renormalized in the considered approximation. Possibly, this feature is valid in an arbitrary order of the perturbation theory.

Acknowledgments

The authors are very grateful to D.S. Kolupaev for valuable discussions. The work of K.S. is supported by the RFBR grant No. 14-01-00695.

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¹The similar structures for Abelian $\mathcal{N} = 1$ supersymmetric theories regularized by the dimensional reduction were considered in [78].

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