On the determination of anomalies in supersymmetric theories

Friedemann Brandt and Jordi Paris

Instituut voor Theoretische Fysica
Katholieke Universiteit Leuven
Celestijnenlaan 200 D
B–3001 Leuven (Heverlee), Belgium

We develop an efficient technique to compute anomalies in supersymmetric theories by combining the so-called nonlocal regularization method and superspace techniques. To illustrate the method we apply it to a four dimensional toy model with potentially anomalous $N = 1$ supersymmetry and prove explicitly that in this model all the candidate supersymmetry anomalies have vanishing coefficients at the one-loop level.

I. INTRODUCTION

Supersymmetric quantum field theories have many remarkable properties. In particular quantum corrections are usually better under control in such theories than in others due to nonrenormalization properties implied by supersymmetry. However, it is not clear from the outset whether the supersymmetry of a classical theory survives as a symmetry of the quantized theory, due to the lack of consistent regularization methods which manifestly preserve supersymmetry in perturbation theory. Nevertheless, supersymmetry ‘miraculously’ appears to be preserved in standard supersymmetric theories.

An indirect but powerful and regularization independent tool to investigate whether or not supersymmetry can be anomalous consists in an analysis of the supersymmetric analog of the Wess–Zumino consistency condition [1]. Nontrivial solutions to this consistency condition are candidate supersymmetry anomalies whereas the absence of such solutions indicates that supersymmetry is not anomalous.

The consistency condition for supersymmetry anomalies, in combination with the usual Wess–Zumino consistency condition in the case of supersymmetric gauge theories, has been studied already for various $D = 4$, $N = 1$ globally supersymmetric models, see e.g. [2,3], and recently also for minimal supergravity [4]. It turns out that whether or not candidate supersymmetry anomalies exist depends decisively on the way supersymmetry is represented on the fields, i.e. on the structure of the supersymmetry multiplets present in the model in question. For standard representations, such as multiplets that can be described in terms of unconstrained or chiral scalar superfields, one finds that candidate anomalies for supersymmetry itself do not exist. However, this does not exclude the existence of supersymmetrized versions of other candidate anomalies such as ABJ chiral anomalies in super Yang–Mills theories. Moreover, there are non-standard representations of supersymmetry ("non-QDS-representations" in the terminology of [3]) which do give rise to candidate anomalies for supersymmetry itself.

When the cohomological analysis alone is not sufficient to exclude candidate anomalies due to the existence of nontrivial solutions to the consistency condition (for supersymmetry or other symmetries), one has to check by an explicit calculation whether or not these candidate anomalies have vanishing coefficients. To that end one needs an appropriate regularization method. One of the main disadvantages of most of the regularization methods designed for supersymmetric theories is the lack of a consistent implementation of the superspace techniques –one of the main tools in supersymmetry– at the regularized level [6]. This drawback, somewhat analogous to the dimensional regularization troubles when dealing with chiral theories, becomes then relevant in analyzing the presence of anomalies in the model under consideration. Indeed, naive manipulations in superspace may lead to inconsistencies or ambiguities when computing divergent expressions, making impossible to detect and calculate (unambiguously) such anomalies. It would thus be desirable to design a method in which superspace computations were unambiguously defined.

In this paper we develop a new efficient technique to investigate anomaly issues in supersymmetric theories. It combines naturally superspace techniques, which facilitate the perturbative calculations in supersymmetric theories considerably, with the so-called nonlocal regularization [7,8], which has already been successfully used to compute one [9] and higher loop anomalies [8] in other (non supersymmetric) theories. Among others, the method allows to check...
whether or not supersymmetry itself is anomalous. We illustrate this by applying the method to a four dimensional
supersymmetric toy model whose supersymmetry is potentially anomalous, as cohomological results indicate [3].

The paper is organized as follows. First we describe our method in section II. To that end we briefly recall the
basic concepts of nonlocal regularization, emphasizing its use to determine anomalies, and describe how superspace
techniques are naturally implemented in it. In section III we introduce the toy model and present its candidate
supersymmetry anomalies. In section IV we then apply our method to this toy model and prove the absence of
supersymmetry anomalies at the one-loop level. Three appendices finally collect our conventions.

II. NONLOCAL REGULARIZATION OF SUPERSYMMETRIC THEORIES

There exist many ways in the literature to algebraically compute (one-loop) anomalies. All of them are essentially
based in testing the response of the –suitably regulated– partition function of the model under the (infinitesimal version
of the) symmetry transformation under study. Departures from unity of the jacobian arising upon this change which
can not be absorbed by suitable counterterms reflect then the presence of anomalies in the model.

The so-called “nonlocal regularization” method, recently introduced in [7,8], fits perfectly well in this philosophy.
Indeed, this approach proceeds by constructing from the original action $S(\Phi^A)$ and symmetry transformations $\delta \Phi_A$
of the model a regulated action $S_{\Lambda}(\Phi^A)$, invariant under a “regulated” version of the original symmetry, $\delta_{\Lambda} \Phi_A$, where
$\Lambda$ stands for a cut-off or regulating parameter. Such invariant action, exponentiated afterwards in the path integral,
generates then a modified set of Feynman rules and propagators that yield finite Feynman integrals for finite values
of the cut-off at all loop levels, and thus a finite partition function.

For our purposes, there are two main advantages of this approach relative to other “standard” regularization
methods. First of all, the nonlocally regularized action $S_{\Lambda}(\Phi^A)$ can just be seen as a “smooth” deformation of the
original one such that its main features (dimensionality, field content, symmetries...) remain unaltered. Therefore,
when dealing with supersymmetric theories, in particular, superspace computations at regulated level can be performed
in exactly the same way as in the original theory. Second, and on top of that, the invariance of $S_{\Lambda}$ under $\delta_{\Lambda}$ directly
relates potential one–loop anomalies to the finite part of the functional trace –now completely regulated– of the
jacobian matrix, namely [4]

$$\mathcal{A} = \left[ (-1)^A \frac{\partial_r (\delta_{\Lambda} \Phi_A)}{\partial \Phi_A} \right], \quad (2.1)$$

where $(-1)^A \equiv (-1)^{\phi_A}$ stands for the Grassmann parity of the field $\Phi_A$. In view of these facts, nonlocal regularization
appears thus as an excellent candidate to implement our programme.

In what follows, we briefly summarize the construction of the nonlocal action $S_{\Lambda}$ and of its symmetries $\delta_{\Lambda}$, as well as
the specific form of the anomaly (2.1), along the lines of refs. [7,8], implementing afterwards the standard superspace
techniques in this framework.

A. Basics on Nonlocal Regularization

Consider a theory defined by a classical action $S(\Phi^A)$, which admits a sensible perturbative decomposition into
free and interacting parts

$$S(\Phi) = F(\Phi) + I(\Phi), \quad \text{with} \quad F(\Phi) = \frac{1}{2} \Phi^A F^B_{A,B} \Phi_B. \quad (2.2)$$

Introduce now a field independent operator $(T^{-1})_A^B$ such that a second order derivative ‘regulator’ $R^B_A$
arises through the combination

$$R^B_A = (T^{-1})_A^C F_C^B ,$$

\footnote{De Witt notation is assumed throughout the paper whenever capital indices $A, B, \ldots$ are used. These indices indicate the
different fields, their components, and the space-time point on which they depend (unless it is explicitly displayed). In this
way, a summation over $A$ includes not only discrete summations, but also integration over (super)space-time. The derivatives
are left and right functional derivatives.}
and construct from this object the so-called smearing operator, \( \varepsilon_A^B \), and shadow kinetic operator, \((\mathcal{O}^{-1})_A^B\)

\[
\varepsilon_A^B = \exp \left( \frac{R_A^B}{2\Lambda^2} \right),
\]

\[
(O^{-1})_A^B = T_A^C \int_0^1 \frac{dt}{\Lambda^2} \exp \left( t \frac{R_C^B}{\Lambda^2} \right).
\]

(2.3)

(2.4)

To each original field \( \Phi_A \) it is now associated an auxiliary, or ‘shadow’, field \( \Psi_A \) with the same statistics. Both sets of fields are then coupled by means of the auxiliary action

\[
\tilde{S}(\Phi, \Psi) = F(\hat{\Phi}) - A(\Psi) + I(\Phi + \Psi),
\]

(2.5)

with \( A(\Psi) \), the kinetic term for the auxiliary fields, constructed with the help of (2.4) as

\[
A(\Psi) = \frac{1}{2} \Psi_A^B (O^{-1})_A^B \Psi_B,
\]

and where the “smeared” fields \( \hat{\Phi}_A \) appearing in the free part of the auxiliary action (2.5) are defined, using (2.3), by

\[
\hat{\Phi}_A \equiv (\varepsilon^2)^A_B \Phi_B.
\]

The perturbative theory described by (2.5), when only external \( \Phi \) lines are considered, is then seen to describe the same theory as the original action (2.2). However, the special form of propagators and couplings in (2.3) lead the loops formed with shadow propagators to isolate the divergent parts of the original diagrams. As a consequence, dropping out these loop contributions, i.e., the quantum fluctuations of the shadow fields by hand, regularizes the theory. Such \textit{ad hoc} procedure may however be simply implemented by putting the auxiliary fields \( \Psi \) classically on–shell. The classical shadow field equations of motion

\[
\frac{\partial}{\partial \Psi_A} \tilde{S}(\Phi, \Psi) = 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad \Psi_A = \left( \frac{\partial I}{\Psi_B} \right) \mathcal{O}_B^A,
\]

(2.6)

should then be solved, in general, in a perturbative fashion and its solution \( \Psi_0(\Phi) \) substituted in the auxiliary action (2.5). The result of this process is the nonlocalized action to be used in regularized perturbative computations

\[
S_{\Lambda}(\Phi) \equiv \tilde{S}(\Phi, \Psi_0(\Phi)).
\]

(2.7)

Moreover, as mentioned above, the nonlocalization procedure just presented has the merit of preserving at tree level a distorted version of any of the original continuous symmetries of the theory. Indeed, assume the original action (2.2) be invariant under the infinitesimal transformation

\[
\delta \Phi_A = R_A(\Phi).
\]

Then, the auxiliary action (2.5) is seen to be invariant under the infinitesimal transformations

\[
\tilde{\delta} \Phi_A = (\varepsilon^2)_A^B R_B(\Phi + \Psi), \quad \tilde{\delta} \Psi_A = (1 - \varepsilon^2)_A^B R_B(\Phi + \Psi),
\]

while the nonlocally regulated action \( S_{\Lambda}(\Phi) \) (2.7) becomes invariant under

\[
\delta_{\Lambda} \Phi_A = (\varepsilon^2)_A^B R_B(\Phi + \Psi_0(\Phi)),
\]

with \( \Psi_0(\Phi) \) the solution of (2.4). In this way, an extensive use of the chain rule allows to determine a closed form for the anomaly (2.1) in terms of propagators and vertices of the original theory as

\[
\mathcal{A} = [(-1)^A(\varepsilon^2)_A^B J_B^C (\delta \Lambda)_C^A], \quad \text{where} \quad J_A^B = \frac{\partial R_A}{\partial \Phi_B},
\]

(2.8)

and with the regulated identity \((\delta \Lambda)_A^B\) defined by

\[
(\delta \Lambda)_A^B \equiv (\delta_A^B - \mathcal{O}_A^C I_C^B)^{-1} = \delta_A^B + \sum_{n \geq 1} (\mathcal{O}_A^C I_C^B)^n,
\]

in terms of the functional hessian of the original interaction in (2.2)

\[
I_A^B = \frac{\partial \partial_r I}{\partial \Phi_A \partial \Phi_B}.
\]

(2.9)

The proof of these statements is straightforward and can be found in the original references [7,8], to which we refer the reader for further details.
B. Implementation of superspace techniques

The nonlocal regularization procedure outlined above applies of course to all kinds of perturbative models, including supersymmetric ones. Now, it is well-known that in supersymmetric theories perturbative calculations can often be considerably simplified by means of superspace techniques due to the cancellation of terms caused by supersymmetry. It is therefore natural to look for a way to implement these techniques in the nonlocal regularization procedure. An obvious idea is to replace ordinary fields by superfields. However one faces immediately the following related difficulties: how should one define functional derivatives w.r.t. arbitrary (constrained) superfields and integrations over their ‘superspace coordinates’? These two problems appear to make the simple substitution ‘fields → superfields’ impossible except in very special cases where one deals only with particular superfields such as unconstrained or chiral ones. Thus in general we cannot simply take the Φ’s of the previous subsections to be superfields.

Fortunately this is not necessary at all since superspace techniques are of course not restricted to true superfields. In fact, we will show now that they apply also to “constituents” of superfields such as

\[ \varphi(x, \bar{\theta}) = a(x) + \bar{\theta}^\alpha b^\alpha(x) + \frac{i}{2} \bar{\theta}^2 c(x) \],

provided \( a, b, c \) are elementary fields. Namely then we can define functional derivatives w.r.t. \( \varphi \) simply through

\[ \frac{\partial}{\partial \varphi(x, \bar{\theta})} = -\frac{\partial}{\partial c(x)} + \bar{\theta}^\alpha \frac{\partial}{\partial b^\alpha(x)} - \frac{1}{2} \bar{\theta}^2 \frac{\partial}{\partial a(x)}, \tag{2.11} \]

which results in

\[ \frac{\partial \varphi(x, \bar{\theta})}{\partial \varphi(x', \bar{\theta}')} = \delta^2(\bar{\theta} - \bar{\theta}')\delta^4(x - x') \equiv \delta^6(\vec{z} - \vec{z}'). \]

Summation over their indices in de Witt’s condensed notation includes then simply an integration \( \int d^6 \bar{\theta} \equiv \int d^4 x d^2 \bar{\theta} \).

Alternatively we can (and will) use instead of \( \varphi \) the quantity

\[ \Phi(z) = \exp(-i\theta \bar{\partial} \bar{\theta}) \varphi(x, \bar{\theta}) \],

which is antichiral in the sense that

\[ D_\alpha \Phi = 0, \tag{2.13} \]

where the standard covariant derivatives are defined as

\[ D_\alpha = \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta^\alpha} + i \bar{\theta}^\alpha \partial_\alpha \bar{\theta}, \quad \bar{D}_{\dot{\alpha}} = -\frac{\partial}{\partial \bar{\theta}^\dot{\alpha}} - i \theta^\dot{\alpha} \partial_\alpha \bar{\theta} \].

However \( \Phi \) is not in general a superfield (see appendix B) i.e. (2.13) does not reflect the transformation properties of \( \Phi \). The functional derivative w.r.t. \( \Phi \) is then defined by means of (2.11) according to

\[ \frac{\partial}{\partial \Phi(z)} = \exp(-i\theta \bar{\partial} \bar{\theta}) \frac{\partial}{\partial \varphi(x, \bar{\theta})}. \]

This results in

\[ \frac{\partial \Phi(z)}{\partial \Phi(z')} = \frac{i}{2} D^2 \delta^8(z - z'), \tag{2.15} \]

due to the identity

\[ \exp(-i\theta \bar{\partial} \bar{\theta} + i \bar{\theta}' \bar{\partial} \bar{\theta}') \delta^6(\vec{z} - \vec{z}') = \frac{i}{2} D^2 \delta^8(z - z'). \]

Formula (2.13) can indeed be found in many textbooks on supersymmetry for functional derivatives w.r.t. to antichiral superfields – we just extend it to constituents of superfields satisfying (2.13). Due to the presence of the antichiral

\[ \text{See appendix B for a discussion of the concept of superfield.} \]

\[ \text{3For definiteness all formulae are written for left-derivatives in this subsection.} \]
projector $\frac{1}{2}D^2$ in (2.15), summation over the indices of these constituents does not involve the integration $\int d^8z$ but again only an integration $\int d^8\bar{z}$. Analogous formulæ hold of course for functional right-derivatives and chiral quantities.

We conclude that we can use quantities like (2.10) or (2.12) in nonlocal regularization instead of ordinary fields. This remains true even if it is impossible to combine all the elementary fields in such quantities -- the remaining elementary fields may be treated as usual, i.e. one can use quantities (2.10) or (2.12) and ordinary fields simultaneously if necessary. The only thing one has to keep in mind when dealing with such constituents is that operators such as (2.14) or the usual generators of supersymmetry transformations

$$\nabla_\alpha = \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta^\alpha} - i \bar{\theta}^\alpha \partial_{\alpha\dot{a}} , \quad \nabla_{\dot{a}} = - \frac{\partial}{\partial \bar{\theta}^{\alpha}} + i \theta^\alpha \partial_{\alpha a},$$

(2.16)
do not have the same interpretation on constituents of superfields as on superfields themselves: in particular the operators (2.16) do not represent the supersymmetry transformations anymore on all of the constituent fields.

III. THE MODEL

A. Multiplet and supersymmetry transformations

The four dimensional toy model we are going to use contains only a supersymmetry multiplet considered in section 7 of [2]. This multiplet consists of complex Weyl spinors $\chi$, $\psi$ and $\eta$, a complex vector field $V$, and two complex scalar fields $A$ and $F$. On these fields the abstract supersymmetry algebra

$$[P_a, P_b] = [P_a, Q_\alpha] = [P_a, \bar{Q}_\dot{a}] = 0, \quad \{Q_\alpha, Q_\beta\} = \{Q_\alpha, \bar{Q}_\dot{\beta}\} = 0, \quad \{Q_\alpha, \bar{Q}_\dot{a}\} = -2i\sigma^a_{\alpha\dot{a}} P_a,$$

(3.1)
is represented with $(P_a, Q_\alpha, \bar{Q}_\dot{a}) \equiv (\partial_\alpha, D_\alpha, \bar{D}_{\dot{a}})$ according to table 1 (using $X_{\alpha\dot{a}} = \sigma^a_{\alpha\dot{a}} X_a$).

|     | $\chi_\beta$ | $A$ | $V_{\dot{a}\dot{b}}$ | $\bar{\psi}_{\dot{b}}$ | $\eta_\beta$ | $F$ |
|-----|--------------|-----|----------------------|-------------------|--------------|-----|
| $D_\alpha$ | $\varepsilon_{\beta\alpha}$ | $A$ | $-2i\partial_{\alpha\dot{b}} \chi_\beta + \varepsilon_{\alpha\beta} \bar{\psi}_{\dot{b}}$ | $-2i\partial_{\alpha\dot{a}} A$ | $2i\partial_{\alpha\dot{a}} V_{\dot{a}\dot{b}} - \varepsilon_{\alpha\dot{b}} F$ | $2i\partial_{\alpha\dot{a}} \bar{\psi}_{\dot{a}}$ |
| $\bar{D}_{\dot{a}}$ | $\varepsilon_{\dot{a}\dot{b}} \eta_\beta$ | 1 | $\varepsilon_{\dot{a}\dot{b}} F$ | 3/2 | 3/2 | 2 |
| dim($\phi$) | 1/2 | 1 | | | | |

Table 1

The assignment of the dimensions (dim) to the fields in table 1 follows from the choice dim($\chi$)=1/2, which will be the power counting dimension of $\chi$, and from the standard convention dim($D_\alpha$)= dim($\bar{D}_{\dot{a}}$)=1/2, dim($\partial_\alpha$)=1.

Supersymmetry transformations, $\delta_{\text{susy}}$, of the fields in table 1 are then defined according to the relation

$$\delta_{\text{susy}} = e^\alpha D_\alpha + \bar{e}_{\dot{a}} \bar{D}_{\dot{a}} = e^\alpha D_\alpha ,$$

(3.2)

where the parameters $e^\alpha$ are constant anticommuting spinors.

The supersymmetry multiplet and transformation laws of table 1 can also be formulated in superspace (c.f. appendix B) which will be useful within the computation of the anomaly coefficients. However, for the reasons we have just explained, we will apply a somewhat unconventional approach involving not only true superfields but also special constituents of them, which will be introduced and discussed in the following.

The fundamental (‘defining’) superfield of the multiplet of table 1 is

$$G^\alpha = \exp(\theta D + \bar{\theta} \bar{D}) \chi^\alpha = H^\alpha + \theta^\alpha K ,$$

(3.3)

with

$$H^\alpha = \exp(-i\theta \bar{\theta}) h^\alpha , \quad K = \exp(-i\theta \bar{\theta}) k ,$$

(3.4)
$$h^\alpha = \exp(\bar{\theta} \bar{D}) \chi^\alpha = \chi^\alpha + \partial_\alpha V_{\dot{a}\dot{b}} + \frac{1}{2} \partial^2 \eta^\alpha ,$$

(3.5)
$$k = \exp(\bar{\theta} \bar{D}) A = A + \bar{\theta}_{\dot{a}} \bar{\psi}^{\dot{a}} + \frac{1}{2} \bar{\theta}^2 F ,$$

(3.6)
where we used the identity (A1), table 1 and the notation \( \theta \partial \bar{\theta} = \theta^\alpha \partial_{\alpha \dot{\alpha}} \bar{\theta}^\dot{\alpha} \), \( \theta^2 = \theta^\alpha \theta_\alpha \) and \( \bar{\theta}^2 = \bar{\theta}^\dot{\alpha} \bar{\theta}^\dot{\alpha} \). The split of \( G^\alpha \) into the constituents \( H^\alpha \) and \( K \) will be useful later on, in particular since the latter are ‘antichiral’ in the sense that

\[
\mathcal{D}_\alpha H_\beta = \mathcal{D}_\alpha K = 0, \quad (3.7)
\]

whereas \( G^\alpha \) itself satisfies the ‘constraint’

\[
\mathcal{D}_{(\alpha} G_{\beta)} = 0. \quad (3.8)
\]

It is important to realize and keep in mind that \( H_\alpha \) is not a superfield since it does not satisfy the first identity (B1). Rather, its supersymmetry transformations are given by

\[
D_\alpha H_\beta = \nabla_\alpha H_\beta + \varepsilon_{\beta\alpha} K, \quad \bar{D}_\alpha H_\beta = \bar{\nabla}_\alpha H_\beta. \quad (3.9)
\]

In contrast, \( K \) is a true superfield and thus satisfies (B1),

\[
K = \frac{i}{2} \mathcal{D}_\alpha G^\alpha, \quad D_\alpha K = \nabla_\alpha K, \quad \bar{D}_\alpha K = \bar{\nabla}_\alpha K. \quad (3.10)
\]

We remark that the supersymmetry multiplet of table 1 can be truncated (consistently with the supersymmetry algebra) in two ways, by setting to zero either all the fields \( \chi, V, \eta \) or all the fields \( A, \psi, F \). One would then be left with standard antichiral supersymmetry multiplets given by \( (A, \psi, F) \) and \( (\chi, V, \eta) \) respectively, corresponding to \( K \) and \( H^\alpha \) respectively. Hence, the supersymmetry multiplet of table 1 may be regarded as a nontrivial merger of these two multiplets. Alternatively, one can regard it itself as the truncation of a full complex vector multiplet corresponding to an unconstrained complex scalar superfield.

### B. Action

Using the techniques of [3] one can prove that the most general real action for the supersymmetry multiplet of table 1 which is a) polynomial in the elementary fields and their derivatives, b) constructible out of field monomials of dimension \( \leq 4 \) (with dimensions as in table 1), c) Poincaré invariant and d) invariant (up to surface terms) under the supersymmetry transformations \( D_\alpha \) and \( \bar{D}_\alpha \) given in table 1, can be written, up to surface terms, in terms of superspace integrals in the form

\[
S = \int d^4 x \left( L_1 + L_2 + L_3 + L_4 \right), \quad (3.11)
\]

\[
L_1 = \int d^2 \theta \left\{ \mu^2 K + \text{c.c.} \right\}, \quad (3.12)
\]

\[
L_2 = \int d^4 \theta \left\{ i a_1 G \partial \bar{G} + a_2 K \bar{K} + \left( \frac{1}{4} a_3 G \bar{D}^2 G + \frac{1}{2} m GG + \text{c.c.} \right) \right\}, \quad (3.13)
\]

\[
L_3 = \int d^4 \theta \left\{ \left( \frac{1}{2} b_1 G \bar{G} \bar{K} + \frac{1}{2} b_2 G G K \right) + \text{c.c.} \right\}, \quad (3.14)
\]

\[
L_4 = \int d^4 \theta \left( \frac{1}{4} b_3 G G \bar{G} \bar{G} \right), \quad (3.15)
\]

where \( G^\alpha \) and \( K \) are the superfields given in (B3) and (B4): \( \mu^2, a_3, m, b_1, b_2 \) are complex parameters and \( a_1, a_2, b_3 \) are real parameters. The action is spelled out explicitly in appendix 3.

Some special features of this general action merit now special consideration. First of all, the terms in \( 3.12, 3.15 \) corresponding to the parameters \( \mu^2, m, b_2 \) give rise to a superpotential \( \left( \mu^2 K - m K^2 - b_2 K^3 \right) \) for the antichiral multiplet \( (A, \psi, F) \) since one has

\[
\int d^2 \theta \mu^2 K + \frac{1}{2} \int d^4 \theta \left( m GG + b_2 G G K \right) \cong \int d^2 \theta \left( \mu^2 K - m K^2 - b_2 K^3 \right), \quad (3.16)
\]

\[4\]Throughout the paper superfields or constituents thereof are called antichiral if they satisfy eq. (3.7) and (functions of) elementary fields and their derivatives are called antichiral if they fulfill \( D_\alpha \phi = 0 \).
where $\equiv$ denotes equality up to a total derivative. Expression (3.16) together with the kinetic term corresponding to the parameter $a_2$ constitute thus nothing but the familiar action of a Wess-Zumino model for the fields $A, \psi, F$ making up the (anti)chiral superfields $K, \bar{K}$. The other terms in the action involve also the fields $\chi, V, \eta$ and in particular couple them to $A, \psi, F$.

For simplicity we will later not work with the above general action but restrict ourselves to the simpler action

$$\int d^8 z \left( i a_1 G \partial \bar{G} + a_2 K \bar{K} + \frac{1}{2} b_2 G \bar{G} \bar{K} + \frac{1}{2} b_3 \bar{G} \bar{G} K \right),$$

(3.17)
i.e. we will set to zero the Wess-Zumino superpotential (3.16) as well as the coefficients $a_3$ and $b_3$. Furthermore we will assume

$$a_1 \neq 0, \quad a_1 + a_2 \neq 0,$$

(3.18)
since otherwise (3.17) does not give well-defined propagators for all the fields. $a_1 \neq 0$ is imposed since otherwise the kinetic terms of (3.17) reduce to those of the Wess-Zumino model for $A, \psi, F$ and the remaining fields would not propagate. $a_1 + a_2 \neq 0$ warrants that (3.17) has no gauge invariance.

C. Candidate anomalies

By standard arguments, analogous to those used in [1] and applied to the vertex functional (effective action), one concludes from the (classical) supersymmetry algebra (3.1) that at lowest order in $\hbar$ supersymmetry anomalies must satisfy the consistency conditions

$$D(\alpha \Delta_{\dot{\beta}}) = \bar{D}(\dot{\alpha} \Delta_{\bar{\beta}}) = D_{\alpha} \Delta_{\dot{\alpha}} + \bar{D}_{\dot{\alpha}} \Delta_{\alpha} = 0,$$

(3.19)
where the contributions $\Delta_{\alpha}$ and $\Delta_{\dot{\alpha}}$ to such anomaly are local functionals of the fields. Furthermore one can assume

$$\Delta_{\alpha} \neq D_{\alpha} \Gamma_0, \quad \Delta_{\dot{\alpha}} \neq \bar{D}_{\dot{\alpha}} \Gamma_0,$$

(3.20)
for any local functional $\Gamma_0$ of the fields since otherwise the anomaly can be removed through a local counterterm, at least up to terms of higher order in $\hbar$.

The consistency condition (3.19) and the non-triviality condition (3.20) are most efficiently formulated and analysed using cohomological techniques. To that end one introduces a ‘BRST’-operator $s$ corresponding to the algebra (3.1)

$$s = \xi^\alpha D_\alpha + \bar{\xi}^\dot{\alpha} \bar{D}_{\dot{\alpha}} + C^a \partial_a + 2i \xi^\alpha \bar{\xi}^\dot{\alpha} \frac{\partial}{\partial C^a},$$

where $\xi^\alpha$ are constant commuting supersymmetry ghosts and $C^a$ are constant anticommuting translation ghosts ($D_\alpha$ and $\bar{D}_{\dot{\alpha}}$ vanish on the ghosts). $s$ is nilpotent and allows to reformulate (3.19) and (3.20) through

$$s \Delta = 0, \quad \Delta \neq s \Gamma_0,$$

(3.21)
with

$$\Delta = \xi^\alpha \Delta_{\alpha} + \bar{\xi}^\dot{\alpha} \Delta_{\dot{\alpha}}.$$

In (3.19) and (3.21) it is understood that the operators ($D_\alpha$ resp. $s$) act on the integrands of the $\Delta$’s and $\Gamma_0$ and, in general, equalities need to hold only on–shell (up to surface terms).

For the model in question two complex solutions of (3.21) have been given in section 7 of [3]:

$$\Delta_1 = \xi^\alpha \int d^4 x \bar{D}^2 \chi_\alpha = -2 \xi^\alpha \int d^4 x \eta_\alpha, \quad \Delta_2 = \xi^\alpha \int d^4 x \bar{D}^2 (\chi_\alpha \bar{\psi}' \psi'),$$

(3.22)
where $\bar{\psi}'$ is the combination

$$\bar{\psi}'_\alpha = \bar{\psi}_\alpha + 2i \partial_\alpha \chi^\alpha.$$

(3.23)
The explicit form of $\Delta_2$ is given in appendix [3]. We note that both $\Delta_1$ and $\Delta_2$ give in fact rise to two independent real solutions of (3.21), given by their real and imaginary part respectively.
Using the methods of [3] and extending them to the on-shell problem one can prove that, up to trivial solutions of the form $s \Gamma_0$ and surface terms, the functionals (3.22) and their complex conjugates are indeed the only inequivalent solutions to (3.21) in our model which have the correct Lorentz transformation properties and are polynomials in all the fields and their derivatives with $\text{dim}(\Delta) \leq 4$ (using $\text{dim}(\xi) = -1/2$).

It is evident that both functionals (3.22) indeed solve the first condition (3.21), using the fact that $\bar{\psi}'$ is antichiral, i.e.

$$D_\alpha \bar{\psi}'_\alpha = 0.$$  

Furthermore $\Delta_1$ and $\Delta_2$ are cohomologically nontrivial, i.e. there is no local functional $\Gamma_0$ of the fields such that $s \Gamma_0$ equals $\Delta_1$ or $\Delta_2$ on-shell modulo a surface term. This can be verified straightforwardly by an explicit inspection of all the relevant candidates for $\Gamma_0$. In fact there are only finitely many such candidates as only functionals need to be considered which have the same dimension as the respective $\Delta$ (1 resp. 4) and which are Lorentz-invariant, thanks to the properties of $s$.

Without going into details we remark that the presence of candidate supersymmetry anomalies in our model is due to the fact that the representation of the supersymmetry algebra given in table 1 of section III A does not have "QDS-structure" in the terminology of [3], in contrast to more standard representations of supersymmetry. Furthermore we note that the non-QDS-property itself can be traced back to the 'constraint' (3.8).

Finally we add two comments concerning the consistency condition for supersymmetry anomalies in general and its solutions $\Delta_1$ and $\Delta_2$:

a) In superspace notation $\Delta_1$ and $\Delta_2$ read

$$\Delta_1 = -\xi^\alpha \int d^8z \theta^2 G_\alpha, \quad \Delta_2 = -\xi^\alpha \int d^8z \theta^2 \bar{\Psi}' \bar{\Psi}' ,$$

with $G_\alpha$ as in (3.3) and $\bar{\Psi}'$ being the antichiral superfield whose lowest component field is $\bar{\psi}'$ (3.23)

$$\bar{\Psi}'_\dot{\alpha} = \exp(\theta D + \bar{\theta} \bar{D}) \bar{\psi}'_{\dot{\alpha}} = \bar{D}_\dot{\alpha} K + 2i \partial_{\dot{\alpha}} G^\alpha .$$

The presence of $\theta^2$ in the integrands in (3.24) indicates that $\Delta_1$ and $\Delta_2$ cannot be written as superspace integrals $\int d^8z$ (or $\int d^6\bar{z}$) over true (antichiral) superfields. This shows that in general it would be misleading to formulate the consistency conditions (3.19) resp. (3.21) in terms of the operators $\nabla_\alpha$ defined in (2.16) instead of the $D_\alpha$ (recall that the $\nabla$’s represent the supersymmetry transformations only on true superfields).

b) The dimensions of $\Delta_1$ and $\Delta_2$ indicate that they would play different roles if they would occur in the (anomalous) jacobian of supersymmetry transformations: $\Delta_1$ has dimension 1 and thus would eventually arise as a divergent contribution to that jacobian, in contrast to $\Delta_2$ which has canonical dimension 4 and is interpreted as a genuine potential anomaly.

IV. COMPUTATION OF THE ANOMALY COEFFICIENTS

Let us finally pass to investigate the actual presence of the candidate anomalies (3.22) in our toy model by applying expression (2.8) of the nonlocally regularized form of the anomaly to it. For the sake of simplicity, to illustrate the procedure and results we restrict ourselves to the simple version (3.17) of the general action (3.11).

The structure of the superfield (3.3) and the previous considerations immediately suggest to work with its ‘(anti)chiral’ constituents (3.4) and use as basis to express matrix-like operators

$$\Phi^A \equiv (\Phi^a, \bar{\Phi}^\dot{a}) \equiv (H^\alpha, K; \bar{H}_{\dot{\alpha}}, \bar{K}), \quad \Phi_A \equiv \begin{pmatrix} \Phi^a \\ \Phi^{\bar{a}} \end{pmatrix} \equiv \begin{pmatrix} H_\alpha \\ K \\ \bar{H}_{\dot{\alpha}} \\ \bar{K} \end{pmatrix},$$

where latin indices express compactly antichiral ($a$) and chiral ($\bar{a}$) components. In terms of these (anti)chiral components, the action (3.17) reads then

---

5This is done efficiently by introducing antifields à la [10].
\[ S = \int \! d^8 z \left\{ i a_1 (H^\alpha + \theta^\alpha K) \partial_{a1\beta} (H^\alpha + \bar{\theta}^\alpha \bar{K}) + a_2 K \bar{K} \right. \]
\[ \left. + \left[ \frac{1}{2} b_1 \left( H^\alpha H_\alpha + 2 H^\alpha \theta_\alpha K + \theta^2 K^2 \right) \bar{K} + (c.c.) \right] \right\} , \quad (4.1) \]

As pointed out in subsection [II.13] (and in many textbooks), the constrained character of these (anti)chiral components requires some reinterpretation of their superspace integration and functional differentiation rules. First of all, the functional derivative rules for (anti)chiral fields (2.15), now reading
\[ \frac{\partial \Phi_a}{\partial \Phi_B} = \frac{\partial \Phi_b}{\partial \Phi_A} = \frac{1}{2} D^2 \delta^a_b , \]
where \( \delta^a_b \) encodes, according to the compact notation we are using, a discrete identity as well as the 8-dimensional delta function \( \delta^8(z-z') \) in superspace, express nothing but the fact that (anti)chiral fields and operators obtained from functional differentiation with respect to them naturally live in six dimensional superspace. This fact is conveniently expressed by introducing the projector in the space of antichiral-chiral superfields \((P_q)_{A^B}\), now reading
\[ (P_q)_{A^B} = \begin{pmatrix} (P_q)^a_b & 0 \\ 0 & (P_q)^{\bar{a}}_{\bar{b}} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{2} D^2 \delta^a_b & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{1}{2} D^2 \delta^{\bar{a}}_{\bar{b}} \end{pmatrix} , \]
verifying\(^6\)
\[ (P_q)_a^c (P_q)_c^b = \int \! d^8 z'' \frac{1}{2} D^2 \delta^8(z-z'') \frac{1}{2} D^2 \delta^8(z''-z') = \frac{1}{2} D^2 \delta^8(z-z') = (P_q)_a^b , \quad (4.2) \]
and an analogous relation for the chiral sector. ‘(Anti)chiral’ kernels will thus be typically expressed, in compact notation, as
\[ M_{A^B} = (P_q)^A_C M_{C^D} (P_q)^D_B \equiv (P_q M P_q)_{A^B} , \]
so that super matrix multiplication will then yield, according to (4.2)
\[ M_{A^C} N_{C^B} = (P_q M P_q)^A_C (P_q N P_q)^C_B = (P_q M P_q N P_q)_{A^B} . \]

The nonlocal regularization of the model (4.1) requires now the identification of the basic quantities involved in the computation, namely the jacobian (2.8) of the original transformation, the hessian of the interaction (2.9) and the computation, namely the jacobian (2.8) of the original transformation, the hessian of the interaction (2.9) and the hessian of the interaction term in (4.1) results in
\[ \mathcal{J}_{A^B} = \frac{\partial^2 \mathcal{L} \Phi_A}{\partial \Phi_B} = (\mathcal{J} P_q)^{A^B} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{2} D^2 J_a^b & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{1}{2} D^2 \bar{J}_{\bar{a}}_{\bar{b}} \end{pmatrix} , \quad (4.3) \]
with its antichiral and chiral sectors given by
\[ J_a^b = \begin{pmatrix} \epsilon^a \nabla_\alpha \delta^\beta \beta \\ \epsilon_\alpha \nabla_a \delta^\alpha \beta \end{pmatrix} , \quad \bar{J}_{\bar{a}}_{\bar{b}} = \begin{pmatrix} \epsilon^\alpha \nabla_\alpha \delta^\beta \beta \\ \epsilon_\alpha \nabla_a \delta^\alpha \beta \end{pmatrix} . \]

In an analogous way, the hessian of the interaction term in (4.1) results in \( I_{A^B} = (P_q \mathcal{L} P_q)_{A^B} \), with the ‘naive’ hessian \( \mathcal{I}_{A^B} \) expressed as
\[ \mathcal{I}_{A^B} = \begin{pmatrix} b_1 \delta_{\alpha}^\beta \bar{K} & b_1 \theta_{\alpha} \bar{K} & 0 & b_1 G_\alpha \\ b_1 \theta^\beta \bar{K} & b_1 \theta^2 \bar{K} & b_1 \bar{G}_\beta & b_1 \bar{G}_{\alpha} \theta^\beta \\ 0 & b_1 \bar{G}_\alpha & \bar{b}_1 \delta_{\beta}^\alpha \bar{K} & \bar{b}_1 \bar{G}_{\alpha} \theta^\beta \\ b_1 G^\beta & (b_1 G^\alpha \theta_\alpha + b_1 \bar{G}_\alpha \bar{\theta}^\alpha) & \bar{b}_1 \theta_{\beta} \bar{K} & \bar{b}_1 \bar{G}_\beta \end{pmatrix} , \]
\(^6\)Recall that matrix multiplication among projectors \( P \) must be performed using an integration in the corresponding six dimensional superspaces, i.e. either \( \int \! d^8 z \) or \( \int \! d^8 z \).
Finally, the kinetic operator is found to be $F_A^B = (P_q F P_q)_A^B$, with the ‘naive’ kinetic term $F_A^B$ given by

$$F_A^B = \begin{pmatrix}
0 & 0 & i a_1 \partial_\alpha \bar{\theta}^\beta & i a_1 \partial_\alpha \bar{\theta}^3 \\
i a_1 \partial^\alpha \beta & i a_1 \partial^\alpha \beta & a_2 + i a_1 \partial \bar{\theta} & 0 \\
i a_1 \partial^\alpha \beta & 0 & 0 & 0 \\
0 & 0 & 0 & 0
\end{pmatrix}.$$ 

Introducing then as operator $T^{-1}$ the free propagator of the model in superspace up to $(-\Box)^{-1}$, namely $(T^{-1})_A^B = (P_q T^{-1} P_q)_A^B$ with

$$(T^{-1})_A^B = \frac{-1}{4(a_1 + a_2)} \begin{pmatrix}
0 & 0 & \left(\frac{(a_1 + 2a_2) \partial^\alpha \beta - \bar{\theta}^\alpha \theta^\beta}{2a_1 \Box} \right) \\
0 & 0 & \bar{\theta}^\alpha \\
\bar{\theta}^\beta & -1 & 0 & 0
\end{pmatrix},$$

a suitable regulator, diagonal and quadratic in space-time derivatives, arises

$$R_A^B = -\Box (P_q)_A^B.$$ 

In this way the corresponding smearing and shadow kinetic operators $[2.3], [2.4]$, adapted to the chiral case, result in

$$(\varepsilon^2)_A^B = \varepsilon^2 (P_q)_A^B, \quad \mathcal{O}_A^B = \hat{\sigma} (P_q T^{-1} P_q)_A^B,$$

with $\varepsilon^2$ and $\hat{\sigma}$ defined as

$$\varepsilon^2 = \exp (-\Box / \Lambda^2), \quad \hat{\sigma} = \int_0^1 dt \exp (-t\Box / \Lambda^2).$$

The form of the candidate anomalies $[3.22]$ – involving only either products of antichiral fields $H^\alpha$, $K$, or of chiral fields $\tilde{H}^\alpha$, $\tilde{K}$, but no crossed terms – indicates that the evaluation of their coefficients by means of the supertrace $[2.8]$ can now be considerably simplified by considering for instance only the antichiral sector, i.e. by neglecting the fields $\tilde{H}^\alpha$ and $\tilde{K}$, and by further restricting the computation to only linear and trilinear terms in $H^\alpha$, $K$, namely to the first and third order interaction terms $[4.1]$. The coefficients coming from the chiral sector contributions can then be automatically determined by complex conjugation. Therefore, from now on we are going to concentrate our attention in the terms

$$\mathcal{A}_n = \left[(-1)^A (\varepsilon^2) J_B^C \left(\mathcal{O}_C D I_D^A\right)^n\right]_{\text{anti}}, \quad \text{for } n = 1, 3, \quad (4.4)$$

where the subscript ‘anti’ indicates that all terms involving $\tilde{H}^\alpha$ and $\tilde{K}$ are neglected.

Our main task shall now consist in determining the diagonal entries of the matrix involved in expression $[4.4]$. First of all, the $n$th power of the matrix $\mathcal{O}_A^C I_C^B$ reads, under the above restrictions

$$\left(\mathcal{O}_A^C I_C^B\right)_{\text{anti}} = \left((\mathcal{O} I_n)_a^b \cdots (\mathcal{O} I_n)_{\bar{a}}_{\bar{b}} \right).$$

Its diagonal blocks – the relevant ones taking into account the block diagonal form of the Jacobian $[4.3]$ – can be easily found by using the commutation relation

$$[\frac{1}{2} D^2, \theta_\alpha] = D_\alpha, \quad (4.5)$$

resulting in

---

$^7$This restriction is indeed sufficient even though candidate anomalies are defined only modulo trivial solutions of the consistency conditions. The reason is that the supersymmetry transformations of table 1 are linear and do not mix the fields of the chiral and antichiral sector.
\[
(\mathcal{O} I_n)_{\alpha}^b = \frac{1}{2} D^2 \left( \theta_\alpha (S^\gamma D_\gamma)^{n-1} - \theta_\alpha (S^\gamma D_\gamma)^{n-1} \theta_\beta \right) S^\beta \frac{1}{2} D^2,
\]

\[
(\mathcal{O} I_n)_{\bar{\alpha}}^\bar{b} = \frac{1}{2} \bar{D}^2 \left( 0 \cdots 0 (D_\gamma \partial_\gamma)^n \right) \bar{D}^2,
\]
in terms of the quantities \( S^\alpha, G^\alpha \) defined as

\[
S^\alpha = \frac{1}{2} D^2 G^\alpha, \quad G^\alpha = \left( \frac{-b_1}{4(a_1 + a_2)} \right) \bar{\sigma} G^\alpha,
\]

where all the operators are understood to act on everything on their right. Terms indicated by dots in the above matrices turn out to be irrelevant for the present computation.

Afterwards, straightforward matrix multiplication yields

\[
\text{diag} \left( (\epsilon^2)^A B^C (\mathcal{O} C^D I D^E)^n \right)_{\text{anti}} = ((A_n)_{\alpha}^\beta, A_n; 0, C_n),
\]

where the expressions for the antichiral sector operators are found to be, upon use of the commutation relation \([\bar{\omega} \nabla_{\bar{\beta}}, \theta_\alpha] = \epsilon_\alpha\),

\[
(A_n)_{\alpha}^\beta = \epsilon^2 \frac{1}{2} D^2 \left[ \bar{\omega} \nabla_{\bar{\beta}} \theta_\alpha - \epsilon_\alpha \right] (S^\gamma D_\gamma)^{n-1} S^\beta \frac{1}{2} D^2
\]

\[
= \epsilon^2 \frac{1}{2} D^2 \theta_\alpha \bar{\omega} \nabla_{\bar{\beta}} (S^\gamma D_\gamma)^{n-1} S^\beta \frac{1}{2} D^2,
\]

\[
A_n = \epsilon^2 \frac{1}{2} D^2 \bar{\omega} \nabla_{\bar{\gamma}} (S^\gamma D_\gamma)^{n-1} \bar{\theta}_\beta S^\beta \frac{1}{2} D^2,
\]

whereas the chiral sector operator is directly given by

\[
C_n = \epsilon^2 \bar{\epsilon} \delta \nabla_{\delta} \frac{1}{2} \bar{D}^2 D_\alpha, G^\alpha \frac{1}{2} D^2 \cdots \frac{1}{2} \bar{D}^2 D_\alpha, G^\alpha \frac{1}{2} \bar{D}^2.
\]

The general expression of \( \tilde{A}_n \) is thus

\[
\tilde{A}_n = \text{Tr} \left[ -(A_n)_{\alpha}^\alpha + A_n \right] + \text{Tr}[C_n],
\]

where the extra minus sign comes from taking the discrete trace over the fermionic fields, while the symbols \( \text{Tr} \) and \( \text{Tr} \) stand respectively for the functional traces in the antichiral and chiral superspaces, namely

\[
\text{Tr}[A] = \int d^6 \bar{z} \ A(z, z') |_{z = z'}, \quad \text{Tr}[C] = \int d^6 z \ C(z, z') |_{z = z'}.
\]

Upon substitution of expressions (4.7) and (4.8), both traces in (4.9) are then seen to share similar structures. However, there is the fundamental difference that such functional traces are taken in different superspaces, according to (4.10). Therefore, in order to compare both expressions, some mechanism should be found to relate supertraces of antichiral expressions to those of chiral ones. Fortunately, it is not difficult to verify, as shown in appendix D, that for chiral operators \( \mathcal{A} \), namely those verifying \( D_\alpha \mathcal{A} = 0 \), the following relation holds

\[
\text{Tr} \left[ \frac{1}{2} D^2 \mathcal{A} \frac{1}{2} D^2 \right] = \text{Tr} \left[ \mathcal{A} \frac{1}{2} D^2 \frac{1}{2} D^2 \right].
\]

Using this result as well as the commutation relation (4.5) and the cyclic property of the regulated trace, the antichiral sector contribution \( \text{Tr} \left[ -(A_n)_{\alpha}^\alpha + A_n \right] \) to (4.9) can be rewritten in chiral form as

\[
\text{Tr} \left[ -(A_n)_{\alpha}^\alpha + A_n \right] = \text{Tr}[B_n],
\]

with the operator \( B_n \) given by

\[
B_n = \epsilon^2 \bar{\omega} \nabla_{\bar{\gamma}} \frac{1}{2} \bar{D}^2 G^\alpha D_\alpha, G^\alpha \frac{1}{2} D^2 \cdots \frac{1}{2} \bar{D}^2 G^\alpha D_\alpha, G^\alpha \frac{1}{2} \bar{D}^2,
\]

after substitution of \( S^\alpha \) by its explicit expression (4.6). In this way, \( B_n \) is seen to ‘almost’ coincide with \( C_n \) when reading it from the right to the left.

This similarity may conveniently be exploited by using the property that the trace of an operator and of its transpose coincide. Combining further this fact with the cyclic property of regulated traces, the following relations are seen to hold
so that the contribution coming from the antichiral sector, $\overline{\text{Tr}}[C_n]$, is seen to exactly cancel that coming from the chiral sector, $\text{Tr}[C_n]$, for all $n$. The present computation leads thus to the vanishing of $\hat{A}_n \ (4.13)$ for all $n$ and with it, of the potential anomalies of our model. Therefore, we conclude that the latter, potentially present on cohomological grounds, actually do not show up in the model we have analyzed at the one loop level. We have also checked that this remains valid for supersymmetric actions which differ from (3.17) and arise from (3.11) by turning on other (combinations of) coefficients such as $a_3$, $m$ or $b_3$. However, we have not performed the computation for the most general action (3.11), as the main purpose of considering the toy model was the illustration of the method outlined in section II.

V. CONCLUSION

The purpose of this paper is to show that implementation of superspace techniques in the framework of nonlocal regularization constitutes a suitable and efficient tool to analyze anomaly issues. To outline and illustrate the method, we have applied it to a toy model whose supersymmetry, by cohomological arguments, is potentially anomalous, but turns out to be actually nonanomalous at the one-loop level. As a byproduct, the result of the computation gives further evidence that the remarkable quantum stability of supersymmetry even extends to models which admit nontrivial solutions of the consistency condition for supersymmetry anomalies. Finally, although not proven, our construction also points out to nonlocal regularization as a possible candidate for a supersymmetric invariant regularization method.

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APPENDIX A: CONVENTIONS AND NOTATION

1. Lorentz ($SL(2, \mathbb{C})$) invariant tensors

Minkowski metric, $\varepsilon$-tensors:

$$
\eta_{ab} = \text{diag}(1,-1,-1,-1), \quad \varepsilon^{abcd} = \varepsilon^{[abcd]}, \quad \varepsilon^{0123} = 1, \\
\varepsilon^{\alpha\beta} = -\varepsilon^{\beta\alpha}, \quad \varepsilon^{\alpha\dot{\beta}} = -\varepsilon^{\dot{\beta}\alpha}, \quad \varepsilon^{12} = \varepsilon^{12} = 1, \\
\varepsilon_{\alpha\gamma}\varepsilon^{\gamma\dot{\beta}} = \delta_{\alpha}^{\beta} = \text{diag}(1,1), \quad \varepsilon_{\alpha\gamma}\varepsilon^{\gamma\dot{\beta}} = \delta^{\dot{\beta}}_{\alpha} = \text{diag}(1,1)
$$

$\sigma$-matrices: $\sigma^{a}_{\alpha\beta}$ ($\alpha$: row index, $\beta$: column index):

$$
\sigma^0 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \sigma^1 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \sigma^2 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -i \\ i & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \sigma^3 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}
$$

$\bar{\sigma}$-matrices:

$$
\bar{\sigma}^{\alpha\dot{\beta}} = \varepsilon^{\alpha\dot{\beta}} \sigma^{\alpha}_{\alpha\beta}
$$

$\sigma^{ab}, \bar{\sigma}^{ab}$–matrices:

$$
\sigma^{ab}_{\alpha\beta} = \frac{1}{4}(\sigma^{a}_{\alpha} \bar{\sigma}^{b}_{\beta} - \sigma^{b}_{\beta} \bar{\sigma}^{a}_{\alpha}) , \quad \bar{\sigma}^{ab}_{\dot{\alpha}\dot{\beta}} = \frac{1}{4}(\bar{\sigma}^{a}_{\dot{\alpha}} \sigma^{b}_{\dot{\beta}} - \bar{\sigma}^{b}_{\dot{\beta}} \sigma^{a}_{\dot{\alpha}})
$$
2. Spinors, grading and complex conjugation

We work with two-component Weyl spinors. Undotted and dotted spinor indices $\alpha, \dot{\alpha}$ distinguish the $(\frac{1}{2}, 0)$ and $(0, \frac{1}{2})$ representations of $SL(2, \mathbb{C})$ related by complex conjugation.

Raising and lowering of spinor indices:

$$\psi_\alpha = \epsilon_{\alpha \dot{\beta}} \psi^{\dot{\beta}}, \quad \psi^{\dot{\alpha}} = \epsilon^{\dot{\alpha} \beta} \psi_\beta, \quad \bar{\psi}_\dot{\alpha} = \epsilon_{\dot{\alpha} \dot{\beta}} \bar{\psi}^{\dot{\beta}}, \quad \bar{\psi}^{\dot{\alpha}} = \epsilon^{\dot{\alpha} \dot{\beta}} \bar{\psi}_{\dot{\beta}}$$

Contraction of spinor indices:

$$\psi \chi := \psi_\alpha \chi^\alpha, \quad \bar{\psi} \bar{\chi} := \bar{\psi}^{\dot{\alpha}} \bar{\chi}_{\dot{\alpha}}$$

Lorentz vector indices in spinor notation:

$$V_{\alpha \dot{\alpha}} = \sigma^a_{\alpha \dot{\alpha}} V_a$$

The grading (Grassmann parity) $|X|$ of a field or an operator $X$ is determined by the number of its spinor indices and its ghost number $(gh)$,

$$|X^{\dot{\alpha}_1 \ldots \dot{\alpha}_m}| = m + n + gh(X) \pmod{2}.$$ 

The grading of the fields $\phi^i$ determines their statistics,

$$\phi^i \phi^j = (-)^{|\phi^i|,|\phi^j|} \phi^j \phi^i.$$ 

Complex conjugation of a field or operator $X$ is denoted by $\bar{X}$. Complex conjugation of products of fields and operators is defined by

$$\overline{XY} = (-)^{|X||Y|} \bar{X} \bar{Y}.$$ 

In particular this implies

$$\overline{\partial/\partial \phi} = (-)^{|\phi|} \partial/\partial \bar{\phi}$$

and thus the minus sign in front of $\partial/\partial \bar{\theta}$ in (2.16) and (2.14).

3. Superspace conventions and useful identities

$\theta^a$ and $\bar{\theta}^\dot{a}$ are odd graded, constant and related by complex conjugation.

Superspace integration:

$$\int d\theta \theta = \int d\bar{\theta} \bar{\theta} = 1, \quad \int d^2 \theta = \int d^2 \bar{\theta} = 1, \quad \int d^4 \theta = \int d^2 \theta d^2 \bar{\theta}, \quad \int d^8 z = \int d^4 x d^2 \theta, \quad \int d^8 \bar{z} = \int \bar{d}^2 \theta d^2 \bar{\theta}, \quad \int d^8 z = \int d^2 \theta d^2 \bar{\theta}$$

$\delta$-functions:

$$\delta^2(\theta - \theta') = -\frac{1}{2}(\theta - \theta')^2 \quad \delta^2(\bar{\theta} - \bar{\theta}') = -\frac{1}{2}(\bar{\theta} - \bar{\theta}')^2$$

$$\delta^6(z - z') = \delta^2(\theta - \theta') \delta^4(x - x') \quad \delta^6(\bar{z} - \bar{z}') = \delta^2(\bar{\theta} - \bar{\theta}') \delta^4(x - x')$$

Useful identities:
\[ \exp(\theta D + \tilde{\theta} \tilde{D}) = \exp(i\theta \tilde{\theta}) \exp(\theta D) \exp(\tilde{\theta} \tilde{D}) = \exp(-i\theta \tilde{\theta}) \exp(\tilde{\theta} \tilde{D}) \exp(\theta D) \]  
\[ \mathcal{D}_\alpha \exp(\theta D + \tilde{\theta} \tilde{D}) = \exp(\theta D + \tilde{\theta} \tilde{D}) \mathcal{D}_\alpha. \]  

\( \theta \)-integrations over superfields \( [\mathcal{B}^2] \) result thus in
\[ \int d^2 \theta \exp(\theta D + \tilde{\theta} \tilde{D}) f(\phi, \partial \phi, \ldots) \cong \frac{1}{2} D^2 \exp(\tilde{\theta} \tilde{D}) f(\phi, \partial \phi, \ldots), \]
\[ \int d^4 \theta \exp(\theta D + \tilde{\theta} \tilde{D}) f(\phi, \partial \phi, \ldots) \cong \frac{1}{4} D^2 \tilde{D}^2 f(\phi, \partial \phi, \ldots) \]
where \( \cong \) denotes equality up to a total derivative.

**APPENDIX B: SUPERFIELDS AND CONSTITUENTS**

In this appendix, we briefly review the construction of superfields out of ordinary fields for given supersymmetry transformations of the latter according to the conventions used in this paper. As usual we implement the supersymmetry transformations on superfields through the operators \( \nabla_\alpha, \nabla_\bar{\alpha} \) \( [2.16] \). Then, given a (linear) representation \( D_\alpha, \tilde{D}_\alpha \) of the supersymmetry algebra \( \{3.1\} \) on ordinary fields \( \phi^i \) such as in table 1 of section \( \text{III A} \), superfields are defined as functions \( \Sigma \) of the \( \theta^\alpha, \tilde{\theta}^{\bar{\alpha}}, \phi^i \) and of the derivatives of the \( \phi^i \), \( \Sigma = \Sigma(\theta, \tilde{\theta}, \phi, \partial \phi, \ldots) \), satisfying
\[ D_\alpha \Sigma = \nabla_\alpha \Sigma, \quad \tilde{D}_\bar{\alpha} \Sigma = \bar{\nabla}_{\bar{\alpha}} \Sigma, \] \( (B1) \)
where \( D_\alpha \) and \( \tilde{D}_{\bar{\alpha}} \) act nontrivially only on the \( \phi^i \) and their derivatives and anticommute with all the \( \theta^\alpha \) and \( \tilde{\theta}^{\bar{\alpha}} \). The operators \( \nabla_\alpha, \nabla_\bar{\alpha} \) \( [2.16] \) provide then a representation of the supersymmetry algebra \( \{3.1\} \) with \( (P_\alpha, Q_\alpha, \bar{Q}_{\bar{\alpha}}) \equiv (-\partial_\alpha, -\nabla_\alpha, -\bar{\nabla}_{\bar{\alpha}}) \). Note that \( \nabla_\alpha \Sigma \) is not a superfield since its \( D_\alpha \) transformation is not given by \( \nabla_\alpha \nabla_\alpha \Sigma \), but rather by
\[ \tilde{D}_{\bar{\alpha}} \nabla_\alpha \Sigma = -\nabla_\alpha D_\alpha \Sigma = -\nabla_\alpha \nabla_\alpha \Sigma. \]

Instead, and in contrast to the \( \nabla \)'s, the standard 'covariant derivatives \( \nabla_\alpha, \nabla_\bar{\alpha} \) \( [2.14] \) map superfields to superfields because they anticommute both with the \( D \)'s and with the \( \nabla \)'s.

Having characterized superfields abstractly by \( (B1) \), we can now construct them explicitly: any superfield, i.e. any solution of \( (B1) \) can be written in the form
\[ \Sigma = \exp(\theta D + \tilde{\theta} \tilde{D}) f(\phi, \partial \phi, \ldots), \] \( (B2) \)
where \( f(\phi, \partial \phi, \ldots) \) is a function of the (ordinary) fields and their derivatives and we used the summation conventions \( \theta D = \theta^\alpha D_\alpha \) and \( \tilde{\theta} \tilde{D} = \tilde{\theta}^{\bar{\alpha}} \tilde{D}_{\bar{\alpha}} \). The proof of this statement is straightforward using that (i) \( (B2) \) satisfies \( (B1) \) for any \( f(\phi, \partial \phi, \ldots) \), as can be easily checked directly, (ii) any nonvanishing superfield has a nonvanishing \( \theta \)-independent part which is required by \( (B1) \). The assertion is now proved as follows: given a nonvanishing solution \( \Sigma \) of \( (B1) \) with \( \theta \)-independent part \( f(\phi, \partial \phi, \ldots) \) we consider \( \Sigma' = \Sigma - \exp(\theta D + \tilde{\theta} \tilde{D}) f(\phi, \partial \phi, \ldots) \). The latter is a superfield due to (i) and must vanish due to (ii) since by construction it has no \( \theta \)-independent part.

**APPENDIX C: LAGRANGIAN AND CANDIDATE ANOMALY IN EXPLICIT FORM**

The various parts \( \{3.12 - 3.15\} \) of the general Lagrangian read explicitly (up to total derivatives)
\[ \int d^2 \tilde{\theta} K \cong -F, \]
\[ \int d^4 \theta iG \partial \tilde{G} \cong i\eta \partial \bar{\eta} - i\psi \partial \bar{\psi} + 2\psi \Box \chi + 2\bar{\psi} \Box \bar{\chi} - 4i\chi \Box \bar{\chi} - 4A \Box \bar{A} \]
\[ -4(\partial_a V^a) \bar{\partial}_b V^b + 2F_{ab} F^{ab} + 2iF \partial_a V^a - 2i\bar{F} \bar{\partial}_a V^a, \]
\[ \int d^4 \theta K \tilde{K} \cong -4A \Box \bar{A} - 2i\bar{\psi} \partial \bar{\psi} + F \bar{F}, \]
\[ \int d^4 \theta \frac{1}{2} G \bar{D}^2 G \approx 2 \eta \partial \bar{\psi} \bar{\psi} + 4 \eta \Box \chi - 4 V_a \Box V^a - F^2 - 4 i F \partial_a V^a, \]
\[ \int d^4 \theta G G \approx -2 \bar{\psi} \psi + 4 F A, \]
\[ \int d^4 \theta \frac{1}{2} G \bar{G} K \approx -\bar{A} \psi \psi - 2 \chi \chi \Box \bar{A} + 2 i \chi \sigma^a \bar{\psi} \partial_a \bar{\psi} - A \eta \psi \]
\[ + V^{\alpha \beta} (\bar{\psi} \gamma^\alpha \psi_a - 2 i \chi_a \sigma^\beta \bar{\psi} \partial^a \bar{\psi}) - 4 i A V^a \partial_a \bar{\psi} \]
\[ - F (V^a \partial_a - \chi \eta) + F (2 A A - \chi \psi), \]
\[ \int d^4 \theta \frac{1}{2} G \bar{G} K \approx -A \bar{\psi} \bar{\psi} + A^2 F, \]
\[ \int d^4 \theta \frac{1}{2} G G \bar{G} G \approx \frac{1}{2} A^2 A + V^a \bar{V} \bar{A} A + \frac{1}{2} V^a \bar{V} \bar{A} A - F (\bar{\chi} \bar{V} - A \bar{\chi} \bar{\chi}) \]
\[ - \chi \eta \bar{V} + \chi V \eta \bar{A} - \chi \sigma^a \bar{\psi} V^a \bar{V} - \chi \bar{\psi} \bar{A} - 2 \chi \psi \bar{A} \bar{A} \]
\[ + i (A \chi \partial (\bar{\chi} A) - 2 i V^a \partial_a (\bar{\chi} \bar{\chi}) - i (V^{\alpha \beta} \chi_{\beta} \partial_a (\bar{\chi} \bar{V}^a \alpha) \]
\[ + \frac{1}{2} \chi \eta \bar{\psi} \chi \bar{\psi} - \frac{1}{2} (\chi \chi) (\psi) \psi \]
\[ + \chi \partial_a (\psi \sigma^a \bar{\chi}) - (\chi \chi) \Box (\bar{\chi} \bar{\chi}) + c.c. \]

with \( F_{ab} = \partial_a V_b - \partial_b V_a \) and \( \Box = \partial_a \partial^a \).

The integrand of the candidate anomaly \( \Delta_2 \) in (3.22) reads explicitly
\[ \frac{1}{2} D^2 (\xi \chi \bar{\psi} \psi) = \xi \chi \{ 2 i \varepsilon^{abcd} F_{ab} F_{cd} + 8 (\partial_a V^a) \partial_b V^b + 4 F_{a b} F^{a b} - 2 F^2 \]
\[ - 8 i F \partial_a V^a + 4 V^a \partial^a \partial^a \} - \xi \eta \bar{\psi} \bar{\psi} - 2 \xi V^a \bar{\psi} F - 4 i \xi \sigma^a \bar{\sigma}^a \bar{\psi} V^a \partial_a V_b. \]

**APPENDIX D: PROOF OF RELATION (4.11)**

In the perturbative computation of the anomaly coefficients performed in section [IV], relation (4.11) has been seen to be crucial in checking their vanishing. In this appendix, we prove that relation.

Consider a generic chiral operator \( \bar{A} \), namely an object verifying \( \bar{D}_a \bar{A} = 0 \), and a typical trace over this quantity of the form
\[ \text{Tr} \left[ \frac{1}{2} D^2 \bar{A} \frac{1}{2} D^2 \right] = \int d^6 \bar{z} \left[ \frac{1}{2} D^2 \bar{A} \frac{1}{2} D^2 \delta^8 (z - z') \right] \left|_{z = z'} \right. \]
\[ = \int d^6 \bar{z} d^6 z' \left[ \frac{1}{2} D^2 \bar{A} \frac{1}{2} D^2 \delta^8 (z' - z) \right] \left[ \left. \frac{1}{2} D^2 \delta^8 (z' - z) \right] \right] \]
\[ \label{D1} \]

The identity for chiral expressions
\[ \bar{A} (z) = \int d^6 z'' \frac{1}{2} D^2 \delta^8 (z - z'' \bar{A} (z''), \]
allows to rewrite (D1) as
\[ \int d^6 \bar{z} d^6 z' d^6 z'' \left[ \frac{1}{2} D^2 \frac{1}{2} D^2 \delta^8 (z - z'') \right] \left[ \bar{A} (z') \frac{1}{2} D^2 \delta^8 (z' - z') \right] \left[ \frac{1}{2} D^2 \delta^8 (z' - z) \right] = \]
\[ \int d^6 \bar{z} d^6 z' d^6 z'' \left[ \bar{A} (z'') \frac{1}{2} D^2 \delta^8 (z'' - z) \right] \left[ \frac{1}{2} D^2 \frac{1}{2} D^2 \delta^8 (z'' - z) \right] ; \]
\[ \label{D2} \]

where in writing the second expression use has been made of the property (4.2) for the antichiral projector \( \frac{1}{2} D^2 \). By exactly the same arguments, (D2) can be further rewritten as
\[ \int d^6 \bar{z} d^6 z' d^6 z'' \left[ \frac{1}{2} D^2 \frac{1}{2} D^2 \delta^8 (z' - z') \right] \left[ \bar{A} (z') \frac{1}{2} D^2 \delta^8 (z' - z) \right] \left[ \frac{1}{2} D^2 \frac{1}{2} D^2 \delta^8 (z - z'') \right] = \]
\[ \int d^6 \bar{z} d^6 z' d^6 z'' \left[ \frac{1}{2} D^2 \delta^8 (z' - z') \right] \left[ \bar{A} (z') \frac{1}{2} D^2 \delta^8 (z' - z) \right] \left[ \frac{1}{2} D^2 \frac{1}{2} D^2 \delta^8 (z'' - z') \right] = \]
\[ \int d^6 \bar{z} \left[ \bar{A} (z) \frac{1}{2} D^2 \frac{1}{2} D^2 \delta^8 (z - z') \right] \left|_{z = z'} \right. = \text{Tr} \left[ \bar{A} \frac{1}{2} D^2 \frac{1}{2} D^2 \right] ; \]
which finally shows fulfillment of relation (4.11).