Revised value of the eighth-order electron $g-2$

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The contribution to the eighth-order anomalous magnetic moment $(g-2)$ of the electron from a set of diagrams without closed lepton loops is recalculated using a new FORTRAN code generated by an automatic code generator. Comparing the contributions of individual diagrams of old and new calculations, we found an inconsistency in the old treatment of infrared subtraction terms in two diagrams. Correcting this error leads to the revised value $-1.9144 (35)(\alpha/\pi)^4$ for the eighth-order term. This theoretical change induces the shift of the inverse of the fine structure constant by $-6.41180(73) \times 10^{-7}$.

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The anomalous magnetic moment $(g-2)$ of the electron has played a central role in testing the validity of QED [1, 2]. Recently, a Harvard group measured the electron $g-2$ value [4] using a Penning Trap with a cylindrical cavity [4]. Their result for $a_e = (g-2)/2$ [3]

$$a_e = 1 159 652 180.85(0.76) \times 10^{-12} \ [0.66 ppb], \quad (1)$$

has a 5.5 times smaller uncertainty than the best previous measurement [3].

To match the precision of this measurement the theory of $g-2$ must include up to the eighth-order contribution of the QED perturbation theory [2, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10] as well as the hadronic [11, 12] and weak contributions [13]. The tenth-order contribution of QED $A_1^{(10)}(\alpha/\pi)^5$ might be relevant, but at present it is not known. As a temporary measure we adopt the bound $A_1^{(10)} = 0 (3.8)$ proposed in Ref. [14] to indicate a likely range of value taken by $A_1^{(10)}$. This will soon be replaced by an actual number which is being evaluated right now [15, 16, 17]. Until then, the tenth-order term is the source of the largest theoretical uncertainty of the electron $g-2$. The next largest uncertainty comes from the numerical integration of the eighth-order coefficient $A_1^{(8)}$ [10].

The purpose of this letter is to report the new value

$$A_1^{(8)} = -1.9144 (35) \quad (2)$$

obtained by combining the information derived from the previous result [10] and a new and independent evaluation of $A_1^{(8)}$ by means of FORTRAN codes generated by an automatic code generator “gencodeN” [15, 16].

$A_1^{(8)}$ receives contributions from 891 Feynman diagrams. 373 of them that have closed lepton loops had been calculated by more than two independent methods [10]. The remaining 518 diagrams that have no closed lepton loop (called $q$-type) form one gauge invariant set (Group V). In our formulation these diagrams are represented by self-energy-like diagrams related by the Ward-Takahashi identity. Taking the time reversal symmetry of QED into account, 518 vertex diagrams are amalgamated into 47 self-energy-like diagrams shown in Fig. 1. Their integrands were carefully analyzed and checked by various means. However, no independent check of calculation has been attempted until now.

![FIG. 1: Eighth-order Group V diagrams. 47 self-energy-like diagrams of $M_{01} - M_{37}$ represent 518 vertex diagrams.](image-url)

Technical progress in handling UV- and IR-divergences has enabled us to generate the $N$th-order FORTRAN code easily and swiftly [15, 16]. Although “gencodeN” was developed primarily to handle the tenth-order term, we have applied it to fourth-, sixth- and eighth-order $q$-type diagrams as part of the debugging effort. With the help of “gencodeN” eighth-order codes are generated easily. However, their numerical evaluation by VEGAS [18] is quite nontrivial and requires huge computational resource. Numerical work has thus far reached relative uncertainty of about $3\%$. Although this is more than an order of magnitude less accurate than the uncertainty of the old calculation [10], it is good enough for checking algebra of the old calculation.

Ultraviolet (UV) divergences of vertex and self-energy subdiagrams are removed by the $K$-operation [17, 19].
TABLE I: Comparison of the numerical calculation of $M_{01}$–$M_{24}$ of the eighth-order Group V diagrams. The second column shows the analytic expression of the difference of old and new calculations of the magnetic moment. The third column, value $A$, is obtained by plugging lower-order renormalization constants, such as $\Delta M_{4a}, \Delta L_{4i}$ into the expression in the second column. The fourth column, value $B$, lists the numerical values of $\Delta M_{\text{old}} - \Delta M_{\text{new}}$. The fifth column is the difference $A - B$. If both numerical calculations are correct, $A - B$ must vanish within the numerical uncertainty. In evaluating $\Delta M_{\text{new}}$ the double precision is used for the diagrams without a self-energy subdiagram, while the quadruple precision is used for the reminder.

| Diagram | value $A$ | value $B$ | $A - B$ |
|---------|-----------|-----------|---------|
| $M_{01}$ | 0 | 0 | 0.0129(47) |
| $M_{02}$ | $2\Delta L_{6,f1}M_2$ | $-0.0066(3)$ | $0.0018(127)$ |
| $M_{03}$ | $\Delta L_{0,f1}M_2$ | $-0.1132(2)$ | $-0.0155(100)$ |
| $M_{04}$ | $2(\Delta L_{6a1} + \Delta L_{6a3})M_2$ | $0.3338(6)$ | $0.3515(221)$ |
| $M_{05}$ | 0 | 0 | $0.0020(28)$ |
| $M_{06}$ | 0 | 0 | $-0.0223(61)$ |
| $M_{07}$ | 0 | 0 | $-0.0102(40)$ |
| $M_{08}$ | $2(\Delta \delta m_{4a} \Delta M_{4a(1^*)} + \Delta L_{4a} \Delta M_{4a})$ | $-2.1809(7)$ | $-2.1773(163)$ |
| $M_{09}$ | $2\Delta L_{6,f2}M_2$ | $0.0805(2)$ | $0.0912(122)$ |
| $M_{10}$ | $2(\Delta \delta m_{4b} \Delta M_{4b(1^*)} + \Delta L_{6b3} M_2 + \Delta L_{4b} \Delta M_{4b})$ | $15.8899(49)$ | $15.8615(210)$ |
| $M_{11}$ | $2\Delta L_{6,5}M_2$ | $0.6948(3)$ | $0.6827(112)$ |
| $M_{12}$ | $2(\Delta L_{6a1} + \Delta L_{6a3})M_2$ | $1.2841(0)$ | $1.2875(74)$ |
| $M_{13}$ | $2\Delta L_{6,h1}M_2$ | $-0.4202(4)$ | $-0.4328(48)$ |
| $M_{14}$ | $2\Delta L_{6,g}M_2$ | $0.0892(3)$ | $0.0960(95)$ |
| $M_{15}$ | $2\Delta L_{6,g1}M_2$ | $0.0889(3)$ | $0.0893(71)$ |
| $M_{16}$ | $2(\Delta \delta m_{4a} \Delta M_{4b(1^*)} + \Delta L_{6c1} M_2 + \Delta L_{4a} \Delta M_{4a})$ | $-2.6042(6)$ | $-2.6316(235)$ |
| $M_{17}$ | $2(\Delta L_{6a1} + \Delta L_{6d4})M_2$ | $-2.1183(5)$ | $-2.1010(189)$ |
| $M_{18}$ | $2(\Delta \delta m_{4b} \Delta M_{4b(1^*)} + \Delta L_{4a} \Delta M_{4b} + (\Delta L_{6b1} + \Delta L_{6a2})M_2)$ | $16.9690(39)$ | $17.1897(206)$ |
| $M_{19}$ | 0 | 0 | $0.0002(3)$ |
| $M_{20}$ | 0 | 0 | $0.0010(17)$ |
| $M_{21}$ | 0 | 0 | $0.0003(3)$ |
| $M_{22}$ | 0 | 0 | $-0.0090(25)$ |
| $M_{23}$ | $2\Delta L_{6,h2}M_2$ | $0.0495(3)$ | $0.0438(59)$ |
| $M_{24}$ | $2\Delta L_{6,g2}M_2$ | $0.0786(2)$ | $0.0945(61)$ |

which is identical with the old approach. For diagrams containing self-energy subdiagrams, however, “gencodeN” treats UV-finite parts of self-energy subdiagrams and IR divergences differently from the old approach [16].

Comparison of the new (still tentative) and old calculations has revealed an inconsistency in the treatment of the infrared (IR) divergence in the latter, which is corrected in this letter. Thus we now have two independent evaluations of $A_1^{(8)}$. Of course, much more numerical work is required to reach the precision comparable to that of the old calculation. Fortunately, correction terms themselves can be evaluated easily and very precisely as are shown in [1] and [3].

Finite integrals $\Delta M_{ij}^{\text{old}}$, $i = 01, \ldots, 47$, from the previous calculation are given in Ref. [10]. $\Delta M_{ij}^{\text{new}}$ are calculated using the programs generated by “gencodeN” [15, 16]. The numerical values corresponding to $\Delta M_{ij}^{\text{old}} - \Delta M_{ij}^{\text{new}}$ are shown as value $B$ in Tables II and III. Since the diagrams without self-energy subdiagrams do not have IR divergence, $\Delta M_{ij}^{\text{old}}$ and $\Delta M_{ij}^{\text{new}}$ should be identical. This is confirmed within the numerical precision of $\Delta M_{ij}^{\text{new}}$. On the other hand, diagrams containing self-energy subdiagrams have IR divergence. The new treatment of their contributions produces results different from those of Ref. [10]. The difference $\Delta M_{ij}^{\text{old}} - \Delta M_{ij}^{\text{new}}$ is listed symbolically in the second column of Tables II and III. Their numerical values are calculated using the lower-order renormalization constants in Table III and are shown as value $A$ in Tables II and III. The difference of value $A$ and value $B$ is listed in the fifth columns of Tables II and III. If both calculations are free from error, value $A$ and value $B$ must agree with each other.

Tables II and III show that “old” and “new” calculations are in good agreement for most diagrams. However, a large discrepancy $-0.221$ (21) is found for the diagram M18. Though no detectable discrepancy is found for M16, it has a structure similar to M18 and is somewhat simpler to analyze. Thus we examine here M16 instead of M18.

After an intense scrutiny of the programs of $\Delta M_{16}^{\text{old}}$ and $\Delta M_{16}^{\text{new}}$, our attention was focused on one of the IR subtraction terms of the finite term $\Delta M_{16}^{\text{old}}$ [21, 22]:

$$\Delta M_{16}^{\text{old}} = M_{16} - \sum_{f \neq e} I_{f \rightarrow e} M_{16}$$

where $M_{16}$ is the bare amplitude, $\sum_{f \neq e} I_{f \rightarrow e} M_{16}$ is the UV counter terms defined by the $K$-operations [15].
and the remainder are the IR subtraction terms. By a term-by-term comparison, we found finally that the IR subtraction term $I_{4b(1')}$ was the culprit.

Separation of an IR divergent part and a finite part of an integral is arbitrary. However, we must keep track of what is treated as the IR divergent part. In particular the IR subtraction term in $\Delta M_i$ and one used to calculate the residual renormalization must be identical. All IR subtraction terms are summed up in the end, which gives a new definition as a part of the residual renormalization \cite{21,22,23}. What we found is that old FORTRAN codes of $I_{4b(1')}$ have different forms in $\Delta M_{16}$ and in $\Delta M_{4b(1')}$. If we use $I_{4b(1')}$ defined in Ref. \cite{21} as a part of $\Delta M_{4b(1')}$, we must add the correction term

$$\Delta M_{16}^{add} = -2 \times \frac{9}{4} \int (dz) G \frac{\delta m_{4a}[f_0]}{U^2 V^4} \times z_2 A_2 (1 - A_1)^3 (1 - A_2)$$

$$= 0.0294378 (98)$$

(4)

to $\Delta M_{16}^{old}$. The functions $A_i, U, V$ in Eq. (4) are defined in the $I_{1237}$ limit of the diagram $M_{16}$. For precise definitions of these functions see Refs. \cite{15,16,20,21,22,23}. The overall factor $2$ comes from the time-reversed diagram. The value $41$ is smaller than the uncertainty of value $B$ for $M_{16}$. Thus it is undetectable by direct comparison of values $A$ and $B$ until precision of $\Delta M_{16}^{new}$ is improved.

Analyzing the difference of $M_{18}^{old}$ and $M_{18}^{new}$ in the same manner, we found that the correction term is not small for $M_{18}$:

$$\Delta M_{18}^{add} = -2 \times \frac{9}{4} \int (dz) G \frac{\delta m_{4a}[f_0]}{U^2 V^4} \times z_2 A_2 (1 - A_1)^3 (1 - A_2)$$

$$= -0.215542 (19),$$

(5)

where all $A_i, U, V$ are defined in the $I_{1237}$ limit of $M_{18}$. Their explicit forms are different from those of $M_{16}$. The function $\delta m_{4a(b)}[f_0]$ in $M_{16(18)}^{add}$ is related to the UV-finite part $\Delta m_{4a(b)}$ of the mass-renormalization constant. If we add $\Delta M_{18}^{add}$ to $\Delta M_{18}^{old}$, value $B$ of $M_{18}$ becomes $16.974 (21)$ and the difference between values $A$ and $B$ is reduced to $-0.005 (21)$, which is consistent with zero within the precision of numerical calculation.

We should like to emphasize that the development of automatic code generator \cite{15,16} was crucial in discovering the existence of extra IR subtraction terms in $M_{16}$ and $M_{18}$. Details of our investigation will be reported elsewhere \cite{23}. Adding the terms Eq. (4) and Eq. (5) to the “old” calculation Eq. (58) of Ref. \cite{16}, we find the entire contribution of Group V:

$$A_1^{(8)}(Group V) = -2.17916 (343),$$

(6)

which is in good agreement with the still tentative value obtained by the code generated by “gencodeN”:

$$A_1^{(8)genN}(Group V) = -2.205 (54).$$

(7)
The revised contribution (6) shifts the total eighth-order term $A_1^{(8)}$ to the one given in Eq. (2). As a consequence, the theoretical prediction of $a_e$ is moved by $-5.421775(62) \times 10^{-12}$, yielding

$$a_e(\text{Rb}) = 1.15965218278(7.72)(0.11)(0.26) \times 10^{-12},$$

$$a_e(\text{Cs}) = 1.15965217298(9.33)(0.11)(0.26) \times 10^{-12},$$

(8)

where 7.72 and 9.33 come from the uncertainties of the input values of the fine structure constant

$$\alpha^{-1}(\text{Rb06}) = 137.03599884(91) \times 6.7 \text{ppb},$$

$$\alpha^{-1}(\text{Cs06}) = 137.03600000(110) \times 8.0 \text{ppb},$$

(9)

(10)
determined by the Rubidium atom [24] and Cesium atom [25, 26] experiments, respectively. The uncertainty 0.11 of Eq. (8) comes from the eighth-order calculation and 0.26 is an estimated uncertainty of the tenth-order term.

Because of high precision of the experiment [14] the fine structure constant $\alpha$ determined from the theory and the measurement is sensitive to the revision of theory. The inverse fine structure constant $\alpha^{-1}(a_e)$ moves by $-6.41180(73) \times 10^{-7}$ from the previous value in Ref. [27]. The revised $\alpha^{-1}(a_e)$ is about 4.7 ppb (or about 7 s. d.) smaller than $\alpha^{-1}(a_e)$, but is still in good agreement with $\alpha^{-1}(\text{Rb06})$ of Eq. (9) and $\alpha^{-1}(\text{Cs06})$ of Eq. (10), whose uncertainties are about 7 ppb.

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