



Gradient flow equation in SQCD

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We propose a supersymmetric gradient flow in $\mathcal{N} = 1$ SQCD in four dimensions. The flow equation is derived in the superfield formalism and is also given for component fields of the Wess-Zumino gauge in a gauge covariant manner. We find that the flow for the component fields is supersymmetric in a sense that the flow time derivative and any supersymmetry transformation commute with each other up to a gauge transformation.

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1. Introduction

Gradient flow is widely accepted as a useful tool in various fields of physics. In lattice gauge theory, the Yang-Mills flow [1, 2, 3] leads to many interesting applications such as a construction of energy-momentum tensor on a lattice [4, 5], based on the finiteness of flowed field correlators [2]. So, if a gradient flow approach is extended to SUSY cases, further interesting researches could be created.

For $\mathcal{N} = 1$ SYM, a non-SUSY flow is defined by the YM flow [1] and a flow for a gaugino [3], which has been studied in [6, 7, 8]. On the other hand, a SUSY flow is defined by the gradient of the SYM action with respect to a vector superfield [9]. The latter flow can be given for the component fields in a gauge covariant and supersymmetric manner [10], and the finiteness of flowed field correlators can be shown for the whole gauge supermultiplet [11]. ¹

In this paper, a SUSY gradient flow is derived for $\mathcal{N} = 1$ SQCD in four dimensions. For the gauge multiplet, a flow equation is defined in the similar manner as that of SYM while, for the matter multiplet, a technical modification is needed to define a SUSY flow in the superfield formalism. The flow can also be written in the component fields by taking the Wess-Zumino gauge, which has the SUSY covariance since the flow time and supersymmetry commute with each other up to a gauge transformation.

2. SQCD in the superfield formalism

The $\mathcal{N} = 1$ SQCD is a gauge theory that consists of a gauge multiplet (A_{μ}, λ, D) and N_f matter multiplets $(\phi_{\pm}, q_{\pm}, F_{\pm})_f$ for $f = 1, 2, ..., N_f$. Here A_{μ} is a gauge field, $\lambda_{\alpha}, (q_{\pm})_{\alpha}$ are twocomponent spinors, D, F_{\pm} are real and complex auxiliary fields, respectively. The gauge group is SU(N) (or U(N)) and the generators T^a are hermitian matrices normalized as $tr(T^aT^b) = \frac{1}{2}\delta_{ab}$. Although the gradient flow is a kind of diffusion equation in Euclidean spacetime, we derive it in Minkowski spacetime with the superfield formalism. The euclidean theory is obtained by the Wick rotation $t \to -it$, $A_0 \to iA_0$ and replacements of the auxiliary fields $D \to iD$, $F_{\pm} \to iF_{\pm}$ and $F_{\pm}^{\dagger} \to iF_{\pm}^{\dagger}$. We consider the massless $N_f = 1$ case for simplicity of explanation, and it is straightforward to extend our results to a case of multi flavors with a non zero mass term.

The action of $\mathcal{N} = 1$ SQCD in Minkowski space is given by $S_{\text{SQCD}} = S_{\text{SYM}} + S_{\text{MAT}}$:²

$$S_{\text{SYM}} = \frac{1}{g^2} \int d^4 x \, \text{tr} \left\{ -\frac{1}{2} F_{\mu\nu}^2 - 2i\bar{\lambda}\,\bar{\sigma}^{\mu}D_{\mu}\lambda + D^2 \right\}, \qquad (2.1)$$

$$S_{\text{MAT}} = \int d^4 x \left\{ -|D_{\mu}\phi_{+}|^2 - |D_{\mu}\phi_{-}|^2 + |F_{+}|^2 + |F_{-}|^2 - i\bar{q}_{+}\bar{\sigma}^{\mu}D_{\mu}q_{+} - iq_{-}\sigma^{\mu}D_{\mu}\bar{q}_{-} + \phi^{\dagger}_{+}D\phi_{+} - \phi_{-}D\phi^{\dagger}_{-} + \sqrt{2}i(\phi^{\dagger}_{+}\lambda q_{+} + \phi_{-}\bar{\lambda}\bar{q}_{-} - \bar{q}_{+}\bar{\lambda}\phi_{+} - q_{-}\lambda\phi^{\dagger}_{-}) \right\}, \qquad (2.2)$$

¹See [12] for the SUSY gradient flow in the Wess-Zumino model.

²We basically follow the notation used in Ref. [13]. The Greek indices μ, ν, ρ, σ run from 0 to 3. The metric is given by $\eta_{\mu\nu} = \text{diag}\{-1, +1, +1, +1\}$. The four component $(\sigma^{\mu})_{\alpha\dot{\beta}}$ and $(\bar{\sigma}^{\mu})^{\dot{\alpha}\beta}$ are defined as $\sigma^{\mu} = (-i, \sigma^{i})$ and $\bar{\sigma} = (-1, -\sigma^{i})$ where σ^{i} is the standard Pauli matrix. We use $\sigma^{\mu\nu} \equiv \frac{1}{4}(\sigma^{\mu}\bar{\sigma}^{\nu} - \sigma^{\nu}\bar{\sigma}^{\mu})$. See [13] for other details of the notation and useful identities for two-component spinors and σ^{μ} matrix.

where $F_{\mu\nu} = \partial_{\mu}A_{\nu} - \partial_{\nu}A_{\mu} + i[A_{\mu}, A_{\nu}]$ and D_{μ} is a covariant derivative in the representation of acting fields: $D_{\mu}\varphi = \partial_{\mu}\varphi + i[A_{\mu}, \varphi]$ for $\varphi = \lambda$, D, $F_{\rho\sigma}$ and $D_{\mu}X = \partial_{\mu}X + iA_{\mu}X$ for $X = \phi_{+}$, q_{+} , $F_{+}, \phi_{-}^{\dagger}, \bar{q}_{-}, F_{-}^{\dagger}$. The action is invariant under an infinitesimal gauge transformation,

$$\delta^g_{\omega}A_{\mu} = -D_{\mu}\omega, \quad \delta^g_{\omega}\varphi = i[\omega,\varphi], \quad \delta^g_{\omega}X = i\omega X, \tag{2.3}$$

and a SUSY transformation,

$$\begin{split} \delta_{\xi}A_{\mu} &= i\xi\,\sigma_{\mu}\bar{\lambda} + i\bar{\xi}\,\bar{\sigma}_{\mu}\lambda,\\ \delta_{\xi}\lambda &= \sigma^{\mu\nu}\xi F_{\mu\nu} + i\xi D\\ \delta_{\xi}D &= -\xi\,\sigma_{\mu}D_{\mu}\bar{\lambda} + \bar{\xi}\,\bar{\sigma}_{\mu}D_{\mu}\lambda\\ \delta_{\xi}\phi_{\pm} &= \sqrt{2}\xi\,q_{\pm},\\ \delta_{\xi}q_{\pm} &= \sqrt{2}i\sigma^{\mu}\bar{\xi}D_{\mu}\phi_{\pm} + \sqrt{2}\xi F_{\pm},\\ \delta_{\xi}F_{+} &= \sqrt{2}i\bar{\xi}\,\bar{\sigma}^{\mu}D_{\mu}q_{+} + 2i\bar{\xi}\bar{\lambda}\phi_{+},\\ \delta_{\xi}F_{-} &= \sqrt{2}i\bar{\xi}\,\bar{\sigma}^{\mu}D_{\mu}q_{-} - 2i\phi_{-}\bar{\xi}\bar{\lambda}, \end{split}$$
(2.4)

where ξ_{α} is a global anti-commuting parameter.

In the superfield formalism, a superfield F is introduced as a function of $z = (x^{\mu}, \theta_{\alpha}, \bar{\theta}_{\alpha})$ which transforms under a supersymmetry transformation as

$$\delta F(z) = (\xi Q + \bar{\xi} \bar{Q})F(z) \tag{2.5}$$

where $\theta_{\alpha}, \bar{\theta}_{\dot{\alpha}}$ are two component anti-commuting parameters, and Q_{α} and $\bar{Q}_{\dot{\alpha}}$ are differential operators defined by

$$Q_{\alpha} = \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta^{\alpha}} - i(\sigma^{\mu})_{\alpha \dot{\alpha}} \bar{\theta}^{\dot{\alpha}} \partial_{\mu}, \qquad \bar{Q}_{\dot{\alpha}} = -\frac{\partial}{\partial \bar{\theta}^{\dot{\alpha}}} + i\theta^{\alpha}(\sigma^{\mu})_{\alpha \dot{\alpha}} \partial_{\mu}, \tag{2.6}$$

For later use, let us introduce other differential operators D_{α} and $\bar{D}_{\dot{\alpha}}$ as

$$D_{\alpha} = \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta^{\alpha}} + i(\sigma^{\mu})_{\alpha \dot{\alpha}} \bar{\theta}^{\dot{\alpha}} \partial_{\mu}, \qquad \bar{D}_{\dot{\alpha}} = -\frac{\partial}{\partial \bar{\theta}^{\dot{\alpha}}} - i\theta^{\alpha}(\sigma^{\mu})_{\alpha \dot{\alpha}} \partial_{\mu}.$$
(2.7)

Note that $\{Q_{\alpha}, \bar{Q}_{\dot{\beta}}\} = -\{D_{\alpha}, \bar{D}_{\dot{\beta}}\} = 2i\sigma^{\mu}_{\alpha\dot{\beta}}\partial_{\mu}$ and the other anti-commutation relations are zero.

A superfield Λ with a superchiral condition $\bar{D}_{\dot{\alpha}}\Lambda = 0$ is called a chiral superfield and may be expanded as

$$\Lambda(y,\theta) = A(y) + \sqrt{2}\theta\psi(y) + \theta\theta F(y)$$
(2.8)

with $y^{\mu} = x^{\mu} + i\theta \sigma^{\mu} \bar{\theta}$. Similarly, an anti-chiral superfield Λ^{\dagger} is defined by $D_{\alpha} \Lambda^{\dagger} = 0$. A superfield *V* that satisfies $V = V^{\dagger}$ is called a vector superfield, which is expanded as

$$V(x,\theta,\bar{\theta}) = \frac{1}{2}C(x) + i\theta\chi(x) + \frac{i}{2}\theta\theta(M(x) + iN(x)) - \frac{1}{2}\theta\sigma^{\mu}\bar{\theta}A_{\mu}(x) + i\theta\theta\bar{\theta}(\bar{\lambda}(x) + \frac{i}{2}\bar{\sigma}^{\mu}\partial_{\mu}\chi(x)) + \frac{1}{4}\theta\theta\bar{\theta}\bar{\theta}(D(x) + \frac{1}{2}\Box C(x)) + h.c.$$
(2.9)

where C, M, N, A_{μ}, D are bosonic fields and χ, λ are fermionic fields.

The SQCD action is then written as

$$S_{SYM} = \frac{1}{2g^2} \int d^4 x \operatorname{tr} \left(W^{\alpha} W_{\alpha} |_{\theta\theta} + h.c. \right), \qquad (2.10)$$

$$S_{\rm MAT} = \int d^4x \left\{ \left. Q_+^{\dagger} e^{2V} Q_+ + Q_- e^{-2V} Q_-^{\dagger} \right\} \right|_{\theta \theta \bar{\theta} \bar{\theta} \bar{\theta}},$$
(2.11)

where

$$W_{\alpha} = -\frac{1}{8}\bar{D}\bar{D}e^{-2V}D_{\alpha}e^{2V}$$
(2.12)

with $V = \sum_{a=1}^{N_c^2 - 1} V^a T^a$, and Q_{\pm} are chiral superfields,

$$Q_{\pm}(y,\theta) = \phi_{\pm}(y) + \sqrt{2}\theta q_{\pm}(y) + \theta \theta F_{\pm}(y).$$
(2.13)

The superfield action has unwanted C, χ, M, N fields which are not included in eqs. (2.1) and (2.2) with an enlarged symmetry. Eqs. (2.10) and (2.11) are actually invariant under SUSY transformation eq. (2.5) and an extended gauge transformation generated by a chiral superfield Λ as

$$e^{2V} \rightarrow e^{2V'} = e^{2\Lambda^{\dagger}} e^{2V} e^{2\Lambda},$$

$$Q_{+} \rightarrow Q'_{+} = e^{-2\Lambda} Q_{+},$$

$$Q_{-} \rightarrow Q'_{-} = Q_{-} e^{2\Lambda}.$$

(2.14)

It is possible to remove the extra C, χ, M, N fields by choosing the component fields of Λ by hand so that

$$C = \chi = M = N = 0, \tag{2.15}$$

which is called the Wess-Zumino gauge. With this gauge fixing, Eqs.(2.1) and (2.2) are reproduced from the superfield action eqs. (2.10) and (2.11). Then the gauge and SUSY transformations, eqs. (2.3) and (2.4), are also reproduced as part of enlarged symmetry keeping this gauge.

3. Derivation of SQCD flow

In order to define a supersymmetric gradient flow, the vector and chiral superfields are transcribed into *t*-dependent superfields where *t* is a flow time with V(z,t=0) = V(z) and $Q_{\pm}(z,t) = Q_{\pm}(z)$ at t = 0. We assume that all properties of superfields are inherited into the *t*-dependent superfields while θ and $\bar{\theta}$ are *t*-independent. For instance, supersymmetry transformation is given by $\delta F(z,t) = (\xi Q + \bar{\xi} \bar{Q})F(z,t)$ where ξ and $\bar{\xi}$ are *t*-independent and $Q_{\alpha}, \bar{Q}_{\dot{\alpha}}$ defined by eq. (2.6) are kept unchanged. In the following, the superfield action eqs. (2.10) and (2.11) are given by replacing $V(z) \rightarrow V(z,t), \ Q_{\pm}(z) \rightarrow Q_{\pm}(z,t).$

For the gauge multiplet, a supersymmetric gradient flow is defined as

$$\partial_t V^a = -\frac{1}{2} g^{ab} \frac{\delta S_{\text{SQCD}}}{\delta V^b},\tag{3.1}$$

where $g_{ab}(V)$ is a metric derived from a norm,

$$||\delta V||^{2} = \frac{1}{2} \int d^{8}z \operatorname{tr} \left(e^{-2V} \delta e^{2V} e^{-2V} \delta e^{2V} \right) (z), \qquad (3.2)$$

such that $||\delta V||^2 = \int d^8 z g_{ab}(V) \delta V^a \delta V^b$. Without the metric, the RHS and the LHS of eq.(3.1) obey different transformation laws under the extended gauge transformation which is nonlinear as in the case of general relativity. Since this norm is invariant under both of the *t*-independent super and extended gauge transformations, the flow equation with the metric eq. (3.1) is covariant under these two transformations.

Let us consider a supersymmetric flow for the matter multiplets. A naive one for Q_+ would be given by $\partial_t Q_+ = \delta S_{SQCD} / \delta Q_+^{\dagger}$. This is however not a correct flow equation because the superchiral condition $(\bar{D}_{\dot{\alpha}}Q_+ = 0)$ is not kept and the RHS is not proportional to $\Box Q_+$ in the free limit as

$$\frac{\delta S_{\text{SQCD}}}{\delta Q_{+}^{\dagger}} = -\frac{1}{4} DD(e^{2V}Q_{+}), \qquad (3.3)$$

where the functional derivative is one keeping the superchiral condition (See the derivation of field equations in Ref. [13]). If the RHS of eq. (3.3) is multiplied by \bar{D}^2 , the superchiral condition is kept since $\bar{D}_{\dot{\alpha}}\bar{D}^2 = 0$, and $\Box Q_+$ term appears as $\bar{D}^2D^2 = -4\Box$. Therefore a SUSY flow for the matter multiplets may be given by

$$\partial_t Q_+ = -\frac{1}{4} \bar{D} \bar{D} \left(e^{-2V} \frac{\delta S_{\text{MAT}}}{\delta Q_+^{\dagger}} \right), \qquad (3.4)$$

$$\partial_t Q_- = -\frac{1}{4} \bar{D} \bar{D} \left(\frac{\delta S_{\text{MAT}}}{\delta Q_-^{\dagger}} e^{2V} \right).$$
(3.5)

Note that S_{MAT} is the same as S_{SQCD} under $\delta/\delta Q$ since S_{SYM} does not have Q_{\pm} . These equations are covariant under *t*-independent super and extended gauge transformations. We thus find that SQCD flow equations are defined by eqs. (3.1), (3.4), (3.4) in the superfield formalism.

These flow equations are modified to define SUSY flows for the component fields of the Wess-Zumino gauge. The straightforward calculations tell us that the Wess-Zumino gauge eq.(2.15) is not kept after the time evolution because $\partial_t C = -D - (\phi_+^{\dagger} T^a \phi_+ - \phi_- T^a \phi_-^{\dagger})T^a \neq 0$ and the RHS of $\partial_t \chi$, $\partial_t M$, $\partial_t N$ are also non zero. To keep the Wess-Zumino gauge, we modify the SUSY flow equations adding an extended gauge transformation as

$$\partial_{t}V^{a} = -\frac{1}{2}g^{ab}\frac{\delta S_{SQCD}}{\delta V^{b}} + \delta_{\Lambda}V^{a}$$

$$\partial_{t}Q_{+} = -\frac{1}{4}\bar{D}\bar{D}\left(e^{-2V}\frac{\partial S_{SQCD}}{\partial Q_{+}^{\dagger}}\right) + \delta_{\Lambda}Q_{+}$$

$$\partial_{t}Q_{-} = -\frac{1}{4}\bar{D}\bar{D}\left(\frac{\partial S_{SQCD}}{\partial Q_{-}^{\dagger}}e^{2V}\right) + \delta_{\Lambda}Q_{-},$$
(3.6)

where δ_{Λ} is an infinitesimal transformation derived from eq. (2.14). We take component fields of Λ by hand such that $\partial_t C = \partial_t \chi = \partial_t M = \partial_t N = 0$:

$$A = \frac{D}{2} + \frac{1}{2} (\phi_{+}^{\dagger} T^{a} \phi_{+} - \phi_{-} T^{a} \phi_{-}^{\dagger}) T^{a},$$

$$\psi = -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \sigma^{\mu} D_{\mu} \bar{\lambda} + (\phi_{+}^{\dagger} T^{a} q_{+} - q_{-} T^{a} \phi_{-}^{\dagger}) T^{a},$$

$$F = (\phi_{+}^{\dagger} T^{a} F_{+} - F_{-} T^{a} \phi_{-}^{\dagger}) T^{a}.$$

(3.7)

Using these A, ψ, F , the Wess-Zumino gauge fixing is maintained for any nonzero flow time as long as it is set at t = 0.

Thus we obtain the flow equations of the components fields: for the gauge multiplet,

$$\begin{aligned} \partial_{t}A_{\mu} &= D^{\rho}F_{\rho\mu} - \lambda\sigma_{\mu}\lambda - \lambda\bar{\sigma}_{\mu}\lambda + i(\phi_{+}^{+}T^{a}D_{\mu}\phi_{+} - D_{\mu}\phi_{-}T^{a}\phi_{-}^{+} - h.c.)T^{a} \\ &+ (\bar{q}_{+}\bar{\sigma}^{\mu}T^{a}q_{+} + q_{-}\sigma_{\mu}T^{a}\bar{q}_{-})T^{a}, \end{aligned} \tag{3.8} \\ \partial_{t}\lambda &= -\sigma^{\mu}\bar{\sigma}^{\nu}D_{\mu}D_{\nu}\lambda - [\lambda,D] - \sqrt{2}\sigma^{\mu}(\bar{q}_{+}T^{a}D_{\mu}\phi_{+} - D_{\mu}\phi_{-}T^{a}\bar{q}_{-})T^{a} \\ &- \sqrt{2}i(F_{+}^{\dagger}T^{a}q_{+} - q_{-}T^{a}F_{-}^{\dagger})T^{a} - (\phi_{+}^{\dagger}\lambda T^{a}\phi_{+} + \phi_{-}\bar{\lambda}T^{a}\phi_{-}^{\dagger} + h.c.)T^{a}, \end{aligned} \tag{3.9} \\ \partial_{t}D &= D^{\mu}D_{\mu}D + i(D_{\mu}\lambda\sigma^{\mu}\bar{\lambda} - D_{\mu}\bar{\lambda}\bar{\sigma}^{\mu}\lambda - h.c.) - (\phi_{+}^{\dagger}DT^{a}\phi_{+} + \phi_{-}DT^{a}\phi_{-}^{\dagger} + h.c.)T^{a} \\ &+ 2(D^{\mu}\phi_{+}^{\dagger}T^{a}D_{\mu}\phi_{+} - D_{\mu}\phi_{-}T^{a}D_{\mu}\phi_{-}^{\dagger})T^{a} + 2\sqrt{2}i(\bar{q}_{+}T^{a}\bar{\lambda}\phi_{+} + \phi_{-}\bar{\lambda}T^{a}\bar{q}_{-} - h.c.)T^{a} \\ &+ i(\bar{q}_{+}T^{a}\bar{\sigma}^{\mu}D_{\mu}q_{+} - q_{-}T^{a}\sigma^{\mu}D_{\mu}\phi_{-}^{\dagger} - h.c.)T^{a} - 2(F_{+}^{\dagger}T^{a}F_{+} - F_{-}T^{a}F_{-}^{\dagger})T^{a}, \end{aligned} \tag{3.10}$$

and, for the matter multiplet,

$$\partial_t \phi_+ = D^{\mu} D_{\mu} \phi_+ + i \sqrt{2} \lambda q_+ - (\phi_+^{\dagger} T^a \phi_+ - \phi_- T^a \phi_-^{\dagger}) T^a \phi_+, \qquad (3.11)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \partial_{t}q_{+} &= -\mathbf{O}^{*}\mathbf{O}^{*}D_{\mu}D_{\nu}q_{+} + i\sqrt{2}\mathcal{X}F_{+}^{*} - \sqrt{2}\mathbf{O}^{*}\mathcal{X}D_{\mu}\phi_{+}^{*} - Dq_{+}^{*} \\ &- (\phi_{+}^{\dagger}T^{a}\phi_{+} - \phi_{-}T^{a}\phi_{-}^{\dagger})T^{a}q_{+} - 2(\phi_{+}^{\dagger}T^{a}q_{+} - q_{-}T^{a}\phi_{-}^{\dagger})T^{a}\phi_{+}, \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \partial_{t}F_{+} &= D^{\mu}D_{\mu}F_{+} - 2DF_{+} + \sqrt{2}(D_{\mu}\bar{\lambda}\bar{\sigma}^{\mu}q_{+} - \bar{\lambda}\bar{\sigma}^{\mu}D_{\mu}q_{+}) - 2\bar{\lambda}\bar{\lambda}\phi_{+} \\ &- (\phi_{+}^{\dagger}T^{a}\phi_{+} - \phi_{-}T^{a}\phi_{-}^{\dagger})T^{a}F_{+} + 2(\phi_{+}^{\dagger}T^{a}q_{+} - q_{-}T^{a}\phi_{-}^{\dagger})T^{a}q_{+} \\ &- 2(\phi_{+}^{\dagger}T^{a}F_{+} - F_{-}T^{a}\phi_{-}^{\dagger})T^{a}\phi_{+}, \end{aligned}$$

$$(3.12)$$

where similar equations are given for ϕ_-, q_-, F_- . Note that we are now working on the Minkowski space. After the Wick rotation, the euclidean flow equations, which are kinds of diffusion equations, are obtained for all fields.

These equations are gauge covariant under the *t*-independent gauge transformations. The supersymmetry transformations for the flowed fields are defined by eq. (2.4) replacing all of the fields with the corresponding *t*-dependent fields. Then one can show that

$$[\partial_t, \delta_{\xi}] = \delta^g_{\omega}, \quad \omega \equiv -iD_{\mu}(\xi \sigma_{\mu}\lambda + \xi \bar{\sigma}_{\mu}\lambda), \tag{3.14}$$

where δ_{ω}^{g} is an infinitesimal gauge transformations with a gauge parameter ω , which is given by eq. (2.3). The obtained flows are supersymmetric since the RHS of eq. (3.14) vanishes for gauge invariant quantities.

These flow equations can be simplified without breaking the supersymmetry covariance. The gradient of S_{SYM} is also employed to define a flow for the gauge multiplet in eq. (3.1) instead of S_{SQCD} . Although the flows for the matter multiplet are given by the same expressions as eqs. (3.4) and (3.5), this change affects the whole of flow equations for the component fields because Λ changes. A straightforward calculation yields

$$\partial_t A_\mu = D^\rho F_{\rho\mu} - \lambda \,\sigma_\mu \bar{\lambda} - \bar{\lambda} \,\bar{\sigma}_\mu \lambda, \qquad (3.15)$$

$$\partial_t \lambda = -\sigma^\mu \bar{\sigma}^\nu D_\mu D_\nu \lambda - [\lambda, D], \qquad (3.16)$$

$$\partial_t D = D^{\mu} D_{\mu} D + i (D_{\mu} \lambda \sigma^{\mu} \bar{\lambda} - D_{\mu} \bar{\lambda} \bar{\sigma}^{\mu} \lambda - h.c.), \qquad (3.17)$$

and

$$\partial_t \phi_+ = D^\mu D_\mu \phi_+ + i\sqrt{2}\lambda q_+, \tag{3.18}$$

$$\partial_t q_+ = -\sigma^\mu \bar{\sigma}^\nu D_\mu D_\nu q_+ + i\sqrt{2}\lambda F_+ - \sqrt{2}\sigma^\mu \bar{\lambda} D_\mu \phi_+ - Dq_+, \qquad (3.19)$$

$$\partial_t F_+ = D^\mu D_\mu F_+ - 2DF_+ + \sqrt{2} (D_\mu \bar{\lambda} \bar{\sigma}^\mu q_+ - \bar{\lambda} \bar{\sigma}^\mu D_\mu q_+) - 2\bar{\lambda} \bar{\lambda} \phi_+. \tag{3.20}$$

where similar equations are given for ϕ_{-}, q_{-}, F_{-} . These simplified flows also satisfy eq. (3.14).

4. Summary and future outlook

We have derived a supersymmetric flow equation in four-dimensional $\mathcal{N} = 1$ SQCD using the superfield formalism. The flows can also be written in the component fields of the Wess-Zumino gauge in a gauge covariant manner. We have directly confirmed that the obtained flow is supersymmetric in a sense that the flow time derivative and supersymmetry commute with each other up to a gauge transformation at any non-zero flow time.

As a next step of our research, we are investigating the finiteness of flowed field correlators at all order of the perturbation theory. Then we aim to construct the Ferrara–Zumino multiplet on the lattice using a small flow time expansion of flowed field correlators, after which we will use our method in actual numerical simulations to study Seiberg duality in $\mathcal{N} = 1$ SQCD.

SUSY flows of $\mathcal{N} = 2$ and $\mathcal{N} = 4$ theories would be derived using similar techniques given in this paper. If they are given in terms of $\mathcal{N} = 1$ superfield formalism, eq. (3.14) would not be satisfied for the whole of extended supersymmetry. In the case, it is not obvious how to hold the finiteness of flowed field correlators. Therefore further studies are needed to understand SUSY flows in extended SUSY theories.

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