

Non-abelian gauge theories (classical) ^①

- Outline: add gauge field (A_μ) to make earlier global non-abelian symmetry local (space-time dependent parameters β_a appearing in transformation)
- Do it in "steps" [following what is done for QED, i.e., abelian (U(1), case)]
 - Matter kinetic term made invariant under local non-abelian "phase" rotation by coupling to A_μ , which has to transform in a suitable way [define covariant derivative, D_μ]
 $\Rightarrow A_\mu$ ^{itself} transforms [in adjoint representation], even for global phase rotation, cf. photon in QED (U(1)) doesn't
 - Kinetic term for $(A_\mu)^a$: gauge invariance then ^{automatically} leads to [i.e., without asking for them] self-interactions [$\partial A A^2$ & A^4] for gauge fields ^{get}
 \Rightarrow upon quantization, asymptotic freedom [gauge coupling becomes weaker in UV] from loops of ^(only) gauge bosons
- Higgs mechanism: subset of gauge bosons massive

Non-abelian

Covariant derivative for matter fields

- Warm-up with QED/U(1): $\psi' = e^{-ieQ\theta(x)} \psi$

$$\Rightarrow \mathcal{L}_{\psi'} = \bar{\psi}' (i \not{\partial} - m) \psi' = \bar{\psi} (i \not{\partial} - m) \psi$$

$$\neq \mathcal{L}_{\psi}$$

$$+ eQ \partial_{\mu} \theta(x) \bar{\psi} \gamma^{\mu} \psi$$

- So, add coupling to A_{μ} :

extra term

$$\mathcal{L}_{\psi-A} = -eQ \bar{\psi} \gamma^{\mu} A_{\mu} \psi, \text{ with } A'_{\mu} = A_{\mu} + \partial_{\mu} \theta(x)$$

so that extra term "cancels", i.e.,

$$\mathcal{L}_{\psi'-A'} = -eQ \bar{\psi}' \gamma_{\mu} A'^{\mu} \psi' = -eQ \bar{\psi} A_{\mu} \gamma^{\mu} \psi$$

$$- eQ \bar{\psi} \gamma_{\mu} \partial^{\mu} \theta(x) \psi$$

$$\Rightarrow \mathcal{L}_{\psi'} + \mathcal{L}_{\psi'-A'} = \mathcal{L}_{\psi} + \mathcal{L}_{\psi-A}, \text{ i.e., locally } \gamma^{\mu} \text{ invariant} = \bar{\psi} (i \not{\underline{D}} - m) \psi, \text{ where } \underline{D} = \underline{\partial} + ieQ \underline{A}_{\mu}$$

- Then, make A_{μ} dynamical by including (gauge invariant) kinetic term (quadratic in A_{μ} with derivatives), i.e., $\mathcal{L}_A = -\frac{1}{4} F_{\mu\nu} F^{\mu\nu}$,

$$\text{where } \underline{F}_{\mu\nu} = \partial_{\mu} A_{\nu} - \partial_{\nu} A_{\mu} \text{ such that } \underline{F}'_{\mu\nu} = \underline{F}_{\mu\nu}$$

- Essentially, repeat above procedure for $SU(n)$

non-abelian case, i.e., $\psi' = U \psi$, where

$$\underline{U} = \exp \left[-i \beta_a(x) \underline{T}^a \underline{g} \right] \dots (1) \quad \rightarrow \text{e.g., } n\text{-column for fundamental representation}$$

like $\theta(x)$ in QED

like

like e in QED

\underline{g} in QED, e.g., $n \times n$ Hermitian, traceless matrices

$$\text{so that } \mathcal{L}_{\psi'} = \bar{\psi}' (i \not{\partial} - m) \psi$$

$$= \bar{\psi} (i \not{\partial} - m) \psi + \bar{\psi} U^{-1} i \gamma^{\mu} (\partial_{\mu} U) \psi \neq \mathcal{L}_{\psi}$$

— Add A_μ 's: $n^2 - 1$ of them corresponding to number of generators (T_a 's) or parameters β_a , i.e., $\mathcal{L}_{\psi - A_\mu} = \bar{\psi} (i \not{D} - m) \psi$, where

$$D_\mu = \partial_\mu + i g T_a A_\mu^a \quad (\text{like for QED}) \dots (2)$$

— Fix transformation of A_μ by requiring gauge invariance of $\mathcal{L}_{\psi - A_\mu}$, i.e., transformation of A_μ cancels extra term in $\mathcal{L}_{\psi'}$ vs \mathcal{L}_ψ :

$$\begin{aligned} \rightarrow [i \bar{\psi} U^{-1} \gamma_\mu (\partial^\mu U) \psi] &= \mathcal{L}_{\psi' - A_\mu^{a'}} - \mathcal{L}_{\psi - A_\mu^a} \\ \text{extra term } \textcircled{1} &= -g \underbrace{\bar{\psi} U^{-1}}_{\bar{\psi}'} \underbrace{\gamma_\mu T_a}_{\textcircled{2}} \underbrace{U \psi}_{\psi'} \underbrace{A_\mu^{a'}}_{\text{to be determined}} \\ &+ g \bar{\psi} \gamma_\mu T_a A_\mu^a \psi \end{aligned}$$

can't set to 0 due to T_a in middle

$$\Rightarrow \underbrace{U^{-1} T_a A_\mu^{a'}}_{\textcircled{2}} = \underbrace{T_a A_\mu^a}_{\textcircled{3}} + i/g \underbrace{U^{-1} (\partial_\mu U)}_{\textcircled{1}} \quad \text{or}$$

$$T_a A_\mu^{a'} = U \underbrace{(T_a A_\mu^a)}_{(1^{st})} U^{-1} + i/g (\partial_\mu U) \underbrace{U^{-1}}_{(2^{nd})} \dots (3)$$

Interpretations:

(1). Recall that in $U(1)/\text{QED}$ case, the "point" of defining D_μ (covariant derivative) is that it transforms exactly like matter field itself under gauge (or local phase) transformation:

$$[D_\mu (\text{Field})]' = e^{-i e Q_{\text{field}} \theta(x)} [D_\mu (\text{Field})] \quad (\text{cf. } \partial_\mu \text{ Field has "extra" term})$$

Similarly, for the non-abelian case here, 4
we can show (see HW 6.1) that

$$\boxed{(D_\mu \Psi)' = U(x) D_\mu \Psi} \quad \left[\begin{array}{l} \dots (4) \\ \text{again, } U(x) \text{ is simply} \\ \text{generalization of} \\ e^{-i\theta(x)\alpha} \end{array} \right]$$

↳ non-trivial representation of $SU(n)$

And, analogously for scalar fields (see HW 6.2)

[2] Onto local/gauge transformation of A_μ^a (gauge field), which has 2 terms (see Eq. 3)

[a] 2nd term is inhomogeneous, involves $\partial_\mu \beta^a(x)$,
this is simply generalization of abelian case
(see more below)

[b] 1st term, i.e., $U(T_a A_\mu^a)U^{-1}$, is new ^{with} _{on left side}
respect to abelian case; note that U doesn't
commute with T_a , so doesn't "cancel" U^{-1} on
right. Indeed in abelian case, such a
cancellation occurs, since U 's, T_a 's are numbers
(or 1D matrices): photon field is invariant globally.

In fact, in order to focus on 1st term, we can
go to a global non-abelian transformation, i.e., ^{set} $\beta^a = \text{constant}$ and use compact notation

$A \equiv T_a A_\mu^a \dots (5)$, i.e., $(n \times n)$ _{matrix} for Ψ being in
fundamental representation [recall we have
 $(n^2 - 1)$ A_μ fields] so that

(6) ... $A' = U A U^{-1}$, under global $SU(n)$ transformation

which shows that A_μ^a transform in an adjoint ⁽⁵⁾ representation of $SU(n)$: see HW 5.2.2, where this is shown for an arbitrary ^{Spin} field.

- Of course, this was perhaps "expected" given (again) that we have $(n^2 - 1)$ gauge fields, i.e., same as dimensionality of adjoint representation.

- The infinitesimal version of the general gauge transformation (see also HW 5.2.2) is:

$$(A_\mu^a)' = A_\mu^a + ig \beta_b(x) A_\mu^c \underbrace{(-if_{abc})}_{\left[\begin{array}{c} \text{adj.} \\ b \quad ac \end{array} \right]} + \partial_\mu \beta_a(x) \quad (2^{nd})$$

... (7) (1st)

- So, we see (again) ^{in Eq. 7} that in 2nd inhomogeneous term, the "a" index simply goes along for the ride, i.e., this piece is not so interesting (being same as for abelian) in particular, "g" doesn't appear here.

And, 1st term has structure constants of $SU(n)$, i.e., generators of adjoint representation, showing (again) that there is a non-trivial, homogeneous transformation / rotation of A_μ^a 's into each other.

- Bottomline, non-abelian gauge fields are ^{really} "charged" under $SU(n)$ [cf. photon in QED only transforms inhomogeneously], so we can expect self-interactions among/gauge fields to arise when we incorporate gauge-invariant kinetic terms for gauge fields [just like happened with matter fields above.]

Onto Pure gauge Lagrangian

— Recall that for abelian case, we add gauge fields (A_μ) to first make matter kinetic terms locally/gauge invariant; then, we make gauge field dynamical by including a kinetic (i.e., containing derivatives); gauge invariant term for A_μ , i.e., $\mathcal{L}_A \ni -\frac{1}{4} F_{\mu\nu} F^{\mu\nu}$, where $F_{\mu\nu} = \partial_\mu A_\nu - \partial_\nu A_\mu$ is gauge invariant (by itself)

— We would like to do it similarly for non-abelian gauge fields: I can just tell you the answer, but it's good to get some insight into how it is obtained, so here goes. (see end of this note)

— We can begin with the "trial" $f_{\mu\nu}^a = \partial_\mu A_\nu^a - \partial_\nu A_\mu^a$ [reserving "F" for the actual/final answer]: it is easy to see that (schematically), upon gauge transformation of A_μ given in Eq. 7, we will get

$$f_{\mu\nu}^{\prime a} \sim f_{\mu\nu}^a + \underbrace{(\partial_\mu \beta_\nu)}_{1st} (A_\nu^a) + \underbrace{(\beta_\nu)}_{2nd} (f_{\mu\nu}^a) \dots (9)$$

We see that there is no inhomogeneous (i.e., involving only β) term in above transformation of $f_{\mu\nu}^a$ [unlike for A_μ^a itself in Eq. 7 and similar to $F_{\mu\nu}$ for abelian case]

— Indeed above transformation of $f_{\mu\nu}^a$ looks like that of a kinetic term of a matter field in adjoint (ϕ^a)

representation, i.e., for $\phi'^a = \phi^a - i\beta_b(x) \underbrace{(T_{adj}^b)_{ac}}_{-i f_{acb}} \phi^c$ [7]

$$(\partial_\mu \phi^a)' \sim \partial_\mu \phi^a + (\partial_\mu \beta_{..}) (\phi^{..}) + (\beta_{..}) (\partial_\mu \phi^{..})$$

— So, just like for $\partial_\mu \phi^a$, we can "take care of" 1st term in Eq. 9 by converting " ∂_μ " in definition of $f_{\mu\nu}$ into a suitable covariant derivative " D_μ ". Similarly, 2nd term in Eq. 9, which is just a rotation of $f_{\mu\nu}^a$'s into each other, can be handled by "squaring" the new $f_{\mu\nu}^a$ (which will then be gauge invariant, thus can be included in Lagrangian to make A_μ^a dynamical)

— Here's one systematic way to obtain correct $F_{\mu\nu}^a$, i.e., " D_μ " A_ν^a [ala Lahiri, Pal: another method is in HW 6.3.2]. Let's go back to U(1) case, where covariant derivative for matter field:

$$D_\mu \psi = \partial_\mu \psi + ieQ A_\mu \psi \quad (\text{infinitesimal})$$

is "obtained" from transformation of matter field:

$$\psi' = \psi - ieQ \theta(x) \psi \quad \dots (10)$$

by adding derivative on 1st term on RHS of Eq. 10 and replacing $\theta(x)$ by $-A_\mu(x)$ in 2nd term

— Indeed, same procedure works for gauge field, i.e., we start with transformation of gauge field:

$$A'_\nu = A_\nu + \partial_\nu \theta(x) \quad \dots (11),$$

do the above 2 replacements, ^{on RHS of Eq. (11)} done for Ψ to get (8)

" D_μ " $A_\nu = \partial_\mu A_\nu + \partial_\nu (-A_\mu)$... which, of course ^{is} the usual $F_{\mu\nu}$ so that kinetic term for photon field, i.e., $-\frac{1}{4} F_{\mu\nu} F^{\mu\nu}$ can be written as

$-\frac{1}{4} ("D_\mu" A_\nu) ("D^\mu" A^\nu)$ so that it looks similar to kinetic term of scalar (matter) field

— Onto non-abelian gauge theories, where story with matter field is similar to $U(1)$ case, i.e.,

$D_\mu \psi = \partial_\mu \psi + ig T_a A_\mu^a \psi$, i.e., Eq. 2 applied to ψ ,

is "obtained" from

$\psi' \approx \psi - i\beta_a(x) T^a \psi$ (infinitesimal form of Eq. 1)

by adding derivative on 1st term in Eq. 1 and $[\beta_a(x) \rightarrow -A_\mu^a(x)]$ in 2nd term ^{infinitesimal form of}

— So, we do similarly for A_μ^a , i.e., our candidate (which as we show will work!) is ... (12)

$$F_{\mu\nu}^a = "D_\mu" A_\nu^a \equiv \partial_\mu A_\nu^a - \partial_\nu A_\mu^a - gf_{abc} A_\mu^b A_\nu^c$$

[again, applying recipe for Ψ to transformation for A_μ^a in Eq. 7: note $\beta(x)$ appears in 2 terms on RHS of Eq. 7, giving last 2 terms on RHS of Eq. 12: compared to "trial" in Eq. 8, 3rd term in Eq. 12 is "extra"]

— Note that for $U(1)$ case, $F_{\mu\nu}$ transforms locally like A_μ under global symmetry (i.e., both actually are invariant)

- So, for non-abelian symmetry, we expect 9

$F_{\mu\nu}^a$ to transform locally like A_μ^a globally,
homogeneously [that too, as an adjoint rotation]

[As an aside, note that situation is slightly different for matter field, i.e., $D_\mu \psi$ transforms locally like ψ itself does locally ("D $_\mu$ goes along for the ride"), but for gauge field case, there is an extra inhomogeneous piece in local transformation of A_μ^a , i.e., $F_{\mu\nu}^a$ does not quite transform locally like A_μ^a locally]

- Indeed, Lahiri, Pal around Eqs. 14.21, 14.22 [with remaining steps in Exercise 14.3, which is assigned as HW 6.3.1] show that

$$\boxed{(T_a F_{\mu\nu}^a)' = U (T_a F_{\mu\nu}^a) U^{-1}} \text{ (again locally) } \dots (13)$$

which says that $F_{\mu\nu}^a$ transforms in adjoint representation: see discussion around Eq. 6 & 5.2.2 HW

- Finally, in order to get a Lorentz-invariant term, we "square" $F_{\mu\nu}^a$ and to make it gauge invariant, we take a "trace", i.e.,

$$\boxed{\text{tr}} (T_a F_{\mu\nu}^a T_b F_b^{\mu\nu}) = \text{tr} [(U T_a F_{\mu\nu}^a U^{-1}) (U F_b^{\mu\nu} T_b U^{-1})] \\ \dots (14) = \text{tr} [T_a F_{\mu\nu}^a T_b F_b^{\mu\nu}] \text{ (i.e., all } U\text{'s cancel)}$$

- We can choose T_a 's to be generators of fundamental representation and $\text{tr} (T_a T_b) = \frac{1}{2} \delta_{ab}$, so

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{pure gauge}} = -\frac{1}{4} F_{\mu\nu}^a F_a^{\mu\nu} \dots (15) \quad \boxed{10}$$

[In HW 8.1.1, you will generalize above point by showing that $\Phi_a \Phi'^a$ is locally invariant for Φ, Φ' transforming in adjoint representation (locally)]

- Based on form of $F_{\mu\nu}^a$ in Eq. 12, we see that Eq. 15 ^($\mathcal{L}_{\text{pure gauge}}$) contains not only kinetic term for A_μ^a [i.e., quadratic, like for $U(1)$ case], but also $\partial_\nu A_\mu^a$ ⁽³⁾ and $A_\mu^a A_\nu^a$ (schematically), which (upon quantization) leads to (as promised!) self-interactions of gauge bosons [so, in a sense, we get this non-trivial feature by simply following our nose, i.e., without ^{actually} asking for it: note we only "required" Lorentz & gauge invariant kinetic, i.e., quadratic, term for $A_\mu \dots$ but self-interactions inevitably followed!] ^(i.e., apart from f_{abc} factors)
- Note also that coupling constant in these self interactions is "g", i.e., same as for coupling of gauge field to matter (again, all this is dictated by gauge invariance): of course, coupling to matter also depend's on latter's representation, i.e., T_a 's, but that's in a sense a "discrete" choice (cf. abelian case, where Q can be arbitrary)

— "Modification" of classical EOM and conserved current due to gauge boson self-interactions: the full Lagrangian then is

$$\mathcal{L} = -\frac{1}{4} F_{\mu\nu}^a F_a^{\mu\nu} + \bar{\Psi} i \gamma^\mu D_\mu \Psi + (D^\mu \Phi)^\dagger (D_\mu \Phi) + \text{mass terms, other interactions} \dots (16)$$

(no derivatives) for Ψ, Φ

[Note that since $D_\mu(\text{Field})$ transforms just like Field under gauge symmetry, it is clear that $(D_\mu \text{Field})^\dagger$, like $(\text{Field})^\dagger$, transforms oppositely: that's why the Ψ, ϕ quadratic/kinetic terms shown in Eq. 16 are gauge-invariant.]

— We can construct Noether current as in abelian/ $U(1)$ case, except that transformation parameter α has index "a": we get

$$J_a^\mu = \underbrace{f_{abc} F_b^{\mu\nu} A_\nu^c}_{\text{new (vs. abelian), since gauge fields are also "charged"}} + \bar{\Psi} \gamma^\mu T_a \Psi \quad \leftarrow \text{matter part} + [i(\partial^\mu \phi) T_a \phi + \text{h.c.}] \dots (17)$$

— Similarly, Equation of motion (EOM) for A_μ^a is

$$\partial^\mu F_{\mu\nu}^a = J_\nu^a \dots (18)$$

[but J contains A as in Eq. 17]: that's the advantage of above definition of $F_{\mu\nu}^a$

— Alternately (HW 6.3.3 deals with equivalence of these 2 forms), we can keep only matter fields

on RHS (i.e., same as for abelian), but (12)

then ∂_μ on LHS becomes D^μ (again, since A_μ^a is charged also)

$$\boxed{D^\mu} F_{\mu\nu}^a = j_\nu^a \text{ (only } \Psi, \Phi) \dots (19)$$

onto

- Higgs mechanism for non-abelian gauge theories (Peskin, Schroeder pages 692-699)

- Big picture (self-interactions not relevant here) (gauge boson): scalar field VEV's make gauge bosons massive (by eating NGB's), but not all of them

- Consider Lagrangian of scalar fields which is invariant under symmetry group with generators T_a , i.e., $\phi_i \rightarrow (1 + i\beta_a T^a)_{ij} \phi_j$ (infinitesimal version)

- It is convenient to re-write in terms of real ϕ_i , i.e., each complex $\phi = \frac{\phi_1 + i\phi_2}{\sqrt{2}}$ ($\phi_{1,2}$ real)

$\Rightarrow T_a$'s are purely imaginary (so that shift in ϕ is also real) and anti-symmetric (since T_a 's are hermitian)

e.g. 3×3 matrices $T_{a=1,2,3}$ acting on $\Phi = (\phi_1, \phi_2, \phi_3)^T$, i.e., pions (in pion-nucleon Lagrangian/system) ... (20)

— So, we can write $\boxed{(T_a)_{ij} = i (t_a)_{ij}}$, where

$\boxed{t_a}$'s are real, still antisymmetric e.g. $\boxed{e^{+\beta_a t^a}}$ are generators of $SO(3)$ for ϕ_1, ϕ_2, ϕ_3 orthogonal matrices

- As usual, we promote global symmetry (13) to local using $D_\mu \Phi = (\partial_\mu - ig A_\mu^a T^a) \Phi = (\partial_\mu + g A_\mu^a t^a) \Phi$,

resulting in gauge boson masses from kinetic terms for Φ (like for abelian case):

$$\mathcal{L} \ni \frac{1}{2} (D_\mu \Phi_i)^2 = \frac{1}{2} (\partial_\mu \Phi_i)^2 + g A_\mu^a (\partial_\mu \Phi_i t_{ij}^a \Phi_j) + \frac{1}{2} g^2 A_\mu^a A^{\mu b} (t^a \Phi)_i (t^b \Phi)_j$$

$\underbrace{\Phi_i \text{ real}} \dots (21)$

where we expand Φ_i 's about their VEV's,

$\langle 0 | \Phi_i | 0 \rangle \equiv (\Phi_0)_i$ so that last term in Eq. 21 gives \leftarrow denotes VEV (as in SSB global discussion)

$$\Delta \mathcal{L} = \frac{1}{2} m_{ab}^2 A_\mu^a A^{\mu b} \quad (A\text{'s are real fields})$$

with $m_{ab}^2 = g^2 \sum_i (t^a \Phi_0)_i (t^b \Phi_0)_i$

- Now, this is a positive (semi-)definite (mass)² matrix, since diagonal elements in (any basis)

$$m_{aa}^2 \text{ (no sum over } a) = g^2 (t^a \Phi_0)^2 \geq 0$$

\Rightarrow gauge bosons get positive (mass)² in general, with exception being $\boxed{\text{if}} (t_a \Phi_0) = 0$,

i.e., some generator $\boxed{t^a}$ annihilates \uparrow VEV \leftarrow

vacuum (corresponding transformation

leaves vacuum invariant: see HW 5.3.2)

- In this case, the generator doesn't contribute

to m_{ab}^2 above, i.e., that gauge boson remains massless

- Finally, let's check eating of NGB's:
2nd term in Eq. 21 with Φ set to VEV is

$$\Delta \text{ (mix)} = g^2 A_\mu^a \partial_\mu \phi_i (t^a \Phi_0)_i$$

i.e., it's a (quadratic-level) mixing of gauge boson and a combination of ϕ_i 's given by "vector" in field (ϕ -) space: $(t^a \Phi_0)_i \dots$

\dots which reminds us of identity of NGB's in ϕ -space (Peskin, Schroeder pages 351-352, also done in lecture). Namely, we said then that if shift of $\phi_a = \alpha \Delta^a(\phi)$, then ^{all of them}

NGB vector is $\Delta^a(\phi_0)_{\rightarrow \text{VEV}}$: there "a" was index for ϕ , which here is denoted by "i" with "a" ^{being} reserved for generator index, i.e., shift of $\phi_i = \beta_a (t^a \Phi_0)_i$ so that under generator $t^a \rightarrow$ "a" earlier

NGB vector is indeed $(t^a \Phi_0)$ (in notation here)

\Rightarrow just like for $U(1)$ case that we worked out explicitly, we use gauge-fixing term to "get rid of" above mixing such that $\xi \rightarrow \infty$ (unitary gauge) makes these vectors

in ϕ -space [i.e., NGB's] "disappear" (or eaten by massive gauge bosons) (15)

— Same phenomenon is seen using radial representation that we used for $U(1)$ case, but now suitably generalized (see pages 246-247 of Cheng, Li), i.e., we re-write_λ (schematically)

$$\phi_i = \sum_{j \text{ (not over } i)} \exp \left\{ i T_{ij}^{\text{broken only}} \frac{\xi_j(x)}{v_j} \right\}$$

$$\times [v_j + \eta_j(x)]$$

[i.e., $T_{ij}^{\text{broken}} v_j \neq 0$ (these T 's ^{do not} annihilate vacuum), whereas $T_{ij}^{\text{others/unbroken}} v_j = 0$]

— As we did for $U(1)$ case, a gauge transformation:

$$\beta_a(x) = -i T_{ij}^{\text{broken only}} \frac{\xi_j(x)}{v_j} \quad (\text{i.e., scalar fields orthogonal to } \xi_j^{\text{broken}})$$

will remove $\xi_j^{\text{broken only}}(x)$, leaving only η_j (and of course mass terms for gauge bosons)

(where above notation is more clear) and 7.1.2
[concrete examples are in HW 7.1.1 and 7.1.2]

where the global $SU(2)$ theories for which SSB was studied in HW 5.3 & 5.4 are now gauged.]