

# Non-Abelian Gauge theories

invariance under a non-abelian internal  
symmetry based on a group  $G$

(think of  $SU(2)$ ). e.g: isospin

• start with a theory with global  $SU(2)$   
invariance

$$\Phi = \begin{pmatrix} \varphi_1 \\ \varphi_2 \end{pmatrix} \in \mathbb{C}^2$$

$$\mathcal{L} = (\partial_\mu \Phi)^\dagger (\partial^\mu \Phi) - V(\Phi^\dagger \Phi)$$

transform:  $\Phi \rightarrow U \Phi \quad U \in SU(2)$

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} U^\dagger U = \mathbb{1} \\ \det U = 1 \end{array} \right\} \begin{pmatrix} \varphi_1(x) \\ \varphi_2(x) \end{pmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \varphi_1(x) \\ \varphi_2(x) \end{pmatrix}$$

Global symmetry:  $U$   
is a constant matrix

$$\mathcal{L} \rightarrow \mathcal{L} \text{ is invariant}$$

$$U = \exp \left[ i \sum_{a=1}^3 \theta_a \tau_a \right] \quad \theta_a \in \mathbb{R}$$

$$\tau_a = \sigma_a / 2$$

Pauli 2x2 Matrices

$$[\tau_a, \tau_b] = i \epsilon_{abc} \tau_c$$

$\tau_a$ : generators of infinitesimal transformation

$$\theta_a \ll 1 \Rightarrow U \simeq \mathbb{1} + \omega \quad \omega = \sum \theta_a \tau_a$$

they form a Lie Algebra  $\mathcal{A}$ :

$$\begin{cases} \omega + \lambda \omega' \in \mathcal{A} \\ [\omega, \omega'] \in \mathcal{A} \\ [[\omega, \omega'], \omega''] + \text{cyclic} = 0 \end{cases}$$

$$\delta \Phi = i \sum_{a=1}^3 \theta_a \tau_a \Phi \Leftrightarrow \delta \begin{pmatrix} \psi_1 \\ \psi_2 \end{pmatrix} = i \begin{pmatrix} \theta_3 & \theta_1 - i\theta_2 \\ \theta_1 + i\theta_2 & -\theta_3 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \psi_1 \\ \psi_2 \end{pmatrix}$$

We can generalize this to :

- Different representations of  $SU(2)$  :

$$\Phi(x) = \begin{pmatrix} \psi_1(x) \\ \vdots \\ \psi_n(x) \end{pmatrix} \quad n = 2J + 1 \quad (\text{representation of } SU(2) \text{ with "spin" } J)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L} &= (\partial_\mu \Phi)^\dagger (\partial^\mu \Phi) - V(\Phi^\dagger \Phi) \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^n (\partial_\mu \psi_i^\dagger) (\partial^\mu \psi_i) - V(\sum_i \psi_i^\dagger \psi_i) \end{aligned}$$

[this "spin" is an "internal" quantum number, has nothing to do with space-time rotations]

The transformation symmetry is realized by an  $n \times n$  matrix :

$$\Phi'(x) = U \Phi(x) \Leftrightarrow \begin{pmatrix} \psi_1(x) \\ \vdots \\ \psi_n(x) \end{pmatrix}' = \begin{pmatrix} & \\ & n \times n \\ & \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \psi_1(x) \\ \vdots \\ \psi_n(x) \end{pmatrix}$$

$U$  is now an  $n \times n$  matrix (so not an  $SU(2)$ ) matrix but the algebra of infinitesimal transformations is the same:

$$U = \exp\left(\sum_{a=1}^3 i\theta_a T_a\right)$$

$\{T_a\}$ : 3  $n \times n$  matrices satisfying the same algebra as the  $T_a$ :

$$\boxed{[T_a, T_b] = i \epsilon_{abc} T_c}$$

*this makes it a representation of  $SU(2)$*

$$\delta \Phi = i \sum_a \theta_a T_a \Leftrightarrow \delta \begin{pmatrix} \psi_1 \\ \vdots \\ \psi_n \end{pmatrix} = i \sum_{a=1}^3 \theta_a \begin{pmatrix} T_a \\ n \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \psi_1 \\ \vdots \\ \psi_n \end{pmatrix}$$

Notice the # of generators is still 3.

**3:** dimension of the group  $\equiv$  # of infinitesimal generators  $\equiv$  dimension of the associated Lie algebra. For  $SU(2)$  it is 3

**n:** dimension of the representation in which the field  $\Phi$  transforms  $\equiv$  size of the matrices which represent the generators

For  $SU(2)$ :  $n = 2J + 1$   $J \equiv$  half-integer

- We can do this for a generic group  $G$ :  
 $G$  = set of elements endowed with an operation  
 $g_1 \cdot g_2$  such that:  $\begin{cases} \exists \mathbb{1} : g \cdot \mathbb{1} = \mathbb{1} \cdot g = g \\ \exists g^{-1} : g^{-1} g = g g^{-1} = \mathbb{1} \end{cases}$

•  $G$  is abelian if  $g_1 g_2 = g_2 g_1 \forall g_1, g_2$  (e.g.  $U(1)$ )

• Otherwise  $G$  is non-abelian (e.g.  $SU(2)$ )

For example we can consider:

$$\Phi = \begin{pmatrix} \varphi_{1(N)} \\ \vdots \\ \varphi_{N(N)} \end{pmatrix} \longrightarrow U \Phi$$

$U \equiv$  unitary  $N \times N$  matrix: they form the group  $SU(N)$  ( $U^T U = \mathbb{1}$ ,  $\det U = 1$ )

- Just like for  $SU(2)$ , the infinitesimal transformations define a Lie Algebra  $\mathcal{A}_G$

$$U \simeq \mathbb{1} + \omega \quad \omega = \sum_{a=1}^D \lambda_a \tau_a \in \mathcal{A}_G$$

$\hookrightarrow N \times N$  matrices

$D \equiv$  dimension of the algebra.

For  $SU(N)$ :  $D = N^2 - 1$  (show it as an exercise)

$$[\tau_a, \tau_b] = \sum_{c=1}^D i f_{abc} \tau_c$$

$\hookrightarrow$  "structure constants"

e.g. for  $N=2$ ,  $D=3$ ,  $f_{abc} = \epsilon_{abc}$

- the numbers  $f_{abc}$  completely characterize the algebra

- We can have different representations of the same algebra: take  $D$   $n \times n$

matrices  $T_a$  satisfying:

$$[T_a, T_b] = i f_{abc} T_c \rightarrow \text{same } f_{abc} \text{ as for the } T'_a$$

$\Rightarrow \exp\left(\sum_{a=1}^D i \lambda_a T_a\right)$  are  $n \times n$  matrices acting on an  $n$ -tuple field  $\phi = \begin{pmatrix} \phi_1 \\ \vdots \\ \phi_n \end{pmatrix}$  ( $n \neq N$ )

•  $n = N$ : fundamental representation

•  $n = D$ : adjoint representation

For  $SO(2)$ :

- the fundamental representation is the  $J = 1/2$ :

$$\phi = \begin{pmatrix} \phi_1 \\ \phi_2 \end{pmatrix}, \quad T_a = \sigma_a/2 = \left\{ \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -i \\ i & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \right\}$$

- the adjoint representation has  $n=3 \Rightarrow J=1$

$$\phi = \begin{pmatrix} \phi_1 \\ \phi_2 \\ \phi_3 \end{pmatrix} \text{ Real}, \quad T_a = \left\{ i \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, i \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, i \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ -1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \right\}$$

# Local non-abelian invariance

take  $\mathcal{L}$  invariant under some global non-abelian group  $G$  : e.g. for  $U(2)$

$$\Phi = \begin{pmatrix} \varphi_1(x) \\ \varphi_2(x) \end{pmatrix} \quad \Phi \rightarrow U \Phi$$

$$\mathcal{L} = (\partial_\mu \Phi)^\dagger (\partial^\mu \Phi) - V(\Phi^\dagger \Phi)$$

Can we make  $\mathcal{L}$  invariant under local group transformations?

$$\begin{pmatrix} \varphi_1(x) \\ \varphi_2(x) \end{pmatrix} \rightarrow (U(x)) \begin{pmatrix} \varphi_1(x) \\ \varphi_2(x) \end{pmatrix}$$

$$V(\Phi^\dagger \Phi) \rightarrow V(\Phi^\dagger \underbrace{U^\dagger U}_1 \Phi) = V(\Phi^\dagger \Phi) \text{ invariant.}$$

$$\begin{aligned} (\partial_\mu \Phi)^\dagger (\partial^\mu \Phi) &\rightarrow \partial_\mu (\Phi^\dagger U^\dagger) \partial^\mu (U \Phi) = \\ &= [(\partial_\mu \Phi)^\dagger U^\dagger + \Phi^\dagger \partial_\mu U^\dagger] [U \partial^\mu \Phi + (\partial^\mu U) \Phi] \end{aligned}$$

$$= (\partial_\mu \Phi)^\dagger \cancel{U^\dagger} U (\partial^\mu \Phi)$$

$$+ \Phi^\dagger (\partial_\mu U) U \partial^\mu \Phi + (\partial_\mu \Phi)^\dagger U (\partial^\mu U) \Phi + \Phi^\dagger (\partial_\mu U^\dagger) (\partial^\mu U) \Phi$$

kinetic term not invariant.

Add a gauge field  $A_\mu$  such that:

$$\Phi \rightarrow U(x)\Phi$$

$$A_\mu \rightarrow U(x)A_\mu U(x)^{-1} - \frac{i}{g} \overbrace{(\partial_\mu U(x)U(x)^{-1})}^{\text{Matrix}}$$

$g \equiv$  gauge coupling constant

replace  $\partial_\mu \Phi$  by  $D_\mu \Phi = \partial_\mu \Phi - ig A_\mu \Phi$

•  $A_\mu$  has to be a matrix

$$\underbrace{(\partial_\mu U(x)U(x)^{-1})}_{\parallel} = \sum_a (\partial_\mu \alpha^a(x)) T^a$$

write  $U(x) = \exp(i\omega(x))$

$\omega(x) \in$  Lie Algebra of  $G$

$$\omega(x) = \sum_{a=1}^{\dim \mathfrak{g}} \alpha^a(x) T^a$$

$\alpha^a \downarrow$  basis for Lie Algebra  
Real functions

$$SU(2): T^a = \tau^a = \frac{\sigma^a}{2} \quad a=1,2,3$$

$$A'_\mu = U A_\mu U^{-1} - \frac{i}{g} \sum_a (\partial_\mu \alpha^a(x)) T^a$$

= something + linear combination of lie algebra elements

$\Rightarrow A_\mu$  must be a matrix in the lie algebra of  $G$

$$A_\mu(x) = \sum_{a=1}^{\mathcal{D}-1} \underbrace{A_\mu^a(x)}_{\text{vector fields}} T^a$$

$$SU(2): T^a = \frac{\sigma^a}{2}$$

$$A_\mu^1(x), A_\mu^2(x), A_\mu^3(x) \quad 3 \text{ vector fields}$$

$$A_\mu(x) = \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} A_\mu^3 & A_\mu^1 - iA_\mu^2 \\ A_\mu^1 + iA_\mu^2 & -A_\mu^3 \end{pmatrix}$$

Covariant derivative:

$$D_\mu \Phi = \begin{pmatrix} \partial_\mu \psi_1 \\ \partial_\mu \psi_2 \end{pmatrix} - i g \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} A_\mu^3 & A_\mu^1 - iA_\mu^2 \\ A_\mu^1 + iA_\mu^2 & -A_\mu^3 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \psi_1 \\ \psi_2 \end{pmatrix}$$
$$= \left( \mathbb{1} \partial_\mu - \frac{i g}{2} A_\mu \right) \begin{pmatrix} \psi_1 \\ \psi_2 \end{pmatrix}$$



• Invariant gauge transformation

$$A'_\mu = U A_\mu U^{-1} - \frac{i}{g} \sum_a (\partial_\mu \alpha^a) T^a$$

$$U = \exp \left[ i \sum_{a=1}^D \alpha^a(x) T^a \right] \underset{\alpha^a(x) \ll 1}{\approx} \mathbb{1} + i \sum_a \alpha^a T^a$$

$$\begin{aligned} U A_\mu U^{-1} &= (\mathbb{1} + i \sum_a \alpha^a T^a) \left( \sum_b A_\mu^b T^b \right) (\mathbb{1} - i \sum_c \alpha^c T^c) \\ &= \sum_b A_\mu^b T^b + i \sum_{b,a} \alpha^a A_\mu^b \underbrace{T^a T^b} - i \sum_{c,a} \alpha^a A_\mu^b \underbrace{T^b T^c} \\ &\quad + O(\alpha^2) \end{aligned}$$

$$= \sum_b A_\mu^b T^b + i \sum_{a,b} \alpha^a A_\mu^b [T^a, T^b]$$

$$[T^a, T^b] = i \sum_c f^{abc} T^c \quad f^{abc} = \text{structure constants of the Lie Algebra}$$

$$= \sum_b A_\mu^b T^b - \sum_{a,b,c} \alpha^a A_\mu^b f^{abc} T^c$$

$$\begin{aligned} A'_\mu &= \sum_b A_\mu^b T^b - \sum_{a,b,c} \alpha^a A_\mu^b f^{abc} T^c \\ &\stackrel{''}{=} \sum_b A_\mu^{b'} T^b + \frac{1}{g} \sum_b (\partial_\mu \alpha^b) T^b \end{aligned}$$

$$A_\mu^b = A_\mu^b + \underbrace{\sum_{a,c=1}^D \alpha^a A_\mu^c f^{acb}}_{\text{homogeneous}} + \frac{1}{g} \underbrace{\partial_\mu \alpha^b}_{\text{non-homogeneous}}$$

(Recall:  $U(1)$ :  $A_\mu' = A_\mu + \frac{1}{e} \partial_\mu \alpha$ )

$SU(2)$ :  $f^{abc} = \epsilon^{abc}$   $\dim G = 3$

$[\tau^a, \tau^b] = i \sum_c \epsilon^{abc} \tau^c$   $\tau^a = \frac{\sigma^a}{2}$

Local invariance under a non-Abelian group  $G$

$\Rightarrow$  Add  $D = \dim G$  vector fields  $A_\mu^a$   $a = 1 \dots D$

Kinetic term for  $A_\mu$

$U(1)$ :  $\mathcal{L}_{A_\mu} = -\frac{1}{4} F_{\mu\nu} F^{\mu\nu}$

$F_{\mu\nu} = \partial_\mu A_\nu - \partial_\nu A_\mu$

try:  $F_{\mu\nu}^a = \partial_\mu A_\nu^a - \partial_\nu A_\mu^a$   $a = 1 \dots \dim G$

$\sum_a F_{\mu\nu}^a F^{\mu\nu a}$  ? is it locally G-invariant?

NO! (try it:  $A' = UAU^{-1} - \frac{i}{g}(\partial U)U^{-1}$ )

Correct thing to do (Yang-Mills '54)

$F_{\mu\nu} = (\underbrace{\partial_\mu A_\nu - \partial_\nu A_\mu}_{\text{linear in } A_\mu}) - ig \underbrace{[A_\mu, A_\nu]}_{\substack{\text{Quadratic in } A_\mu \\ 0 \text{ for abelian group}}}$

*matrix* (under  $F_{\mu\nu}$ )

$L_{YM} = -\frac{1}{2} \text{Tr} F_{\mu\nu} F^{\mu\nu}$

*We Algebra* (under  $\text{Tr}$ )

$F_{\mu\nu} = \sum_a F_{\mu\nu}^a T^a$

$F_{\mu\nu}^a = \partial_\mu A_\nu^a - \partial_\nu A_\mu^a + g \sum_{b,c=1}^D f^{abc} A_\mu^b A_\nu^c$

[SU(2)  $= \partial_\mu A_\nu^a - \partial_\nu A_\mu^a + g \sum_{b,c=1}^3 \epsilon^{abc} A_\mu^b A_\nu^c$ ]

$$-\frac{1}{2} \text{Tr} F_{\mu\nu} F^{\mu\nu} = -\frac{1}{4} \sum_a F_{\mu\nu}^a F^{\mu\nu a} =$$

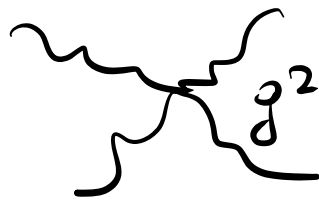
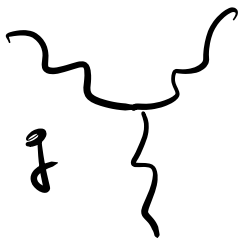
$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{YM}} = -\frac{1}{4} \sum_a (\partial_\mu A_\nu^a - \partial_\nu A_\mu^a)^2 \leftarrow \text{Free}$$

$$+ g \sum_{a,b,c} (\partial_\mu A_\nu^a - \partial_\nu A_\mu^a) \epsilon^{abc} A^{\mu b} A^{\nu c}$$

$$+ \frac{1}{4} g^2 \sum_{a,b,c,d} f^{abc} f^{ade} A_\mu^b A_\nu^c A^{\mu d} A^{\nu e}$$

interactions  $\leftarrow$

( $g=0 \Rightarrow$  no interactions)



Rules to write a non-Abelian gauge theory:

- Choose the group(s)
- Choose a coupling constant for each group
- Choose the representations for matter fields
- Choose gauge-invariant interactions between matter fields

# Higgs Mechanism

It works like in the abelian case, except that the symmetry breaking can be partial:

• if  $U \Phi_0 \neq \Phi_0 \quad \forall U \Rightarrow$  Symmetry is completely broken

$\Rightarrow$  All gauge fields  $A_\mu^a \quad a=1 \dots D$  become massive

• if  $U \Phi_0 = \Phi_0$  for some  $U$ 's  $\Rightarrow$  some gauge fields stay massless.

More precisely: the  $U \in G$  which leave  $\Phi_0$  invariant form a subgroup  $H$ .

We can split the generators of  $G$  in two classes:

$$\{T_a\}_{a=1}^D = \left\{ \underbrace{T_1^{(H)} \dots T_d^{(H)}}_{\text{generators of } H}; \underbrace{T_{d+1}^{G/H} \dots T_D^{G/H}}_{\text{the rest of the generators}} \right\}$$

•  $T_a^{H} \Phi_0 = 0 \Rightarrow$  the corresponding gauge fields are massless

$$\Rightarrow \begin{cases} d \text{ massless} \\ D-d \text{ massive} \end{cases} A_\mu^a \quad \text{e.g. } SO(3) \longrightarrow SO(2) \quad \text{with } \Phi_0 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ v \end{pmatrix}$$