

Problem 1(a):

In the first diagram (1), the virtual photon has momentum $q = p'_1 - p_1 = p_2 - p'_2$, hence $q^2 = t$. In the second diagram, the virtual photon's momentum is $\tilde{q} = p_1 + p_2 = p'_1 + p'_2$, hence $\tilde{q}^2 = s$. Accordingly, the two diagrams are called the s -channel diagram and the t -channel diagram.

The t -channel diagram evaluates to

$$\begin{aligned} i\mathcal{M}_1 &= -\left(\bar{v}(e^+)(ie\gamma_\mu)v(e^{+'})\right) \times \left(\bar{u}(e^{-'})(ie\gamma_\nu)u(e^-)\right) \times \frac{-ig^{\mu\nu}}{q^2} \\ &= \frac{-ie^2}{t} \times \bar{v}(e^+)\gamma_\mu v(e^{+'}) \times \bar{u}(e^{-'})\gamma^\mu u(e^-) \end{aligned} \quad (\text{S.1})$$

where the overall minus sign is due to the positron-out to positron-in fermionic line. And the s -channel diagram evaluates to

$$\begin{aligned} i\mathcal{M}_2 &= +\left(\bar{v}(e^+)(ie\gamma_\mu)u(e^-)\right) \times \left(\bar{u}(e^{-'})(ie\gamma_\nu)v(e^{+'})\right) \times \frac{-ig^{\mu\nu}}{\tilde{q}^2} \\ &= \frac{+ie^2}{s} \times \bar{v}(e^+)\gamma_\mu u(e^-) \times \bar{u}(e^{-'})\gamma^\mu v(e^{+'}) \end{aligned} \quad (\text{S.2})$$

where the overall sign is plus because both fermionic lines have an incoming or outgoing electron at one end.

Problem 1(b):

Summing /averaging the $|\mathcal{M}_2|^2$ over spins works exactly as for the muon pair production discussed in class:

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{\text{spins}} |\mathcal{M}_2|^2 &= \left(\frac{e^2}{s}\right)^2 \sum_{\text{spins}} \left[\bar{v}(e^+)\gamma_\mu u(e^-) \times \bar{u}(e^{-'})\gamma_\nu v(e^{+'})\right] \times \left[\bar{u}(e^{-'})\gamma^\mu v(e^{+'}) \times \bar{v}(e^{+'})\gamma^\nu u(e^-)\right] \\ &= \left(\frac{e^2}{s}\right)^2 \text{tr}[(\not{p}_2 - m)\gamma_\mu(\not{p}_1 + m)\gamma_\nu] \times \text{tr}[(\not{p}'_1 - m)\gamma^\mu(\not{p}'_2 - m)\gamma^\nu] \\ &\quad \langle\langle \text{neglecting the mass relative to the momenta} \rangle\rangle \\ &\approx \left(\frac{e^2}{s}\right)^2 \text{tr}[\not{p}_2\gamma_\mu\not{p}_1\gamma_\nu] \times \text{tr}[\not{p}'_1\gamma^\mu\not{p}'_2\gamma^\nu] \end{aligned} \quad (\text{S.3})$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&= \left(\frac{e^2}{s}\right)^2 \times 4 [p_{2\mu}p_{1\nu} + p_{2\nu}p_{1\mu} - g_{\mu\nu}(p_2p_1)] \times 4 [p_2'^\mu p_1'^\nu + p_2'^\nu p_1'^\mu - g^{\mu\nu}(p_2'p_1')] \\
&= 16 \left(\frac{e^2}{s}\right)^2 \left[2(p_2'p_2)(p_1'p_1) + 2(p_2'p_1)(p_1'p_2) \right. \\
&\quad \left. - 2(p_2'p_1')(p_2p_1) - 2(p_2'p_1')(p_2p_1) + 4(p_2'p_1')(p_2p_1) \right] \\
&= 32 \left(\frac{e^2}{s}\right)^2 [(p_2'p_2)(p_1'p_1) + (p_2'p_1)(p_1'p_2)] \\
&= 8 \left(\frac{e^2}{s}\right)^2 [t^2 + u^2] \tag{S.3}
\end{aligned}$$

where the last equality follows from the kinematic relations (4). Altogether,

$$\frac{1}{4} \sum_{\text{spins}} |\mathcal{M}_2|^2 = 2e^4 \times \frac{t^2 + u^2}{s^2}. \tag{5}$$

Problem 1(c):

The two diagrams for Bhabha scattering are related by the *crossing symmetry*, so the amplitudes \mathcal{M}_1 and \mathcal{M}_2 are related to each other via analytic continuation of particle's momenta. In terms of the spin-summed $|\mathcal{M}|^2$ and Mandelstam variables,

$$\sum_{\text{spins}} |\mathcal{M}_1(s, t, u)|^2 = \sum_{\text{spins}} |\mathcal{M}_2(t, s, u)|^2, \tag{S.4}$$

hence eq. (5) for the second amplitude implies a similar equation for the first amplitude, but with s and t exchanged with each other — *i.e.*, eq. (6).

Alternatively, we may sum the $|\mathcal{M}_1|^2$ over all the spins in the same way as we summed the $|\mathcal{M}_2|^2$ in part (b):

$$\begin{aligned}
\sum_{\text{spins}} |\mathcal{M}_1|^2 &= \left(\frac{e^2}{t}\right)^2 \sum_{\text{spins}} [\bar{u}(e^-)\gamma^\mu u(e^-) \times \bar{u}(e^-)\gamma^\nu u(e^-)] \times [\bar{v}(e^+)\gamma_\mu v(e^+) \times \bar{v}(e^+)\gamma_\nu v(e^+)] \\
&= \left(\frac{e^2}{t}\right)^2 \text{tr}[(\not{p}'_1 + m)\gamma^\mu(\not{p}_1 + m)\gamma^\nu] \times \text{tr}[(\not{p}'_2 - m)\gamma_\mu(\not{p}_2 - m)\gamma_\nu]
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&\approx \left(\frac{e^2}{t}\right)^2 \text{tr} [\not{p}'_1 \gamma^\mu \not{p}'_1 \gamma^\nu] \times \text{tr} [\not{p}'_2 \gamma_\mu \not{p}'_2 \gamma_\nu] & (S.5) \\
&= \left(\frac{e^2}{t}\right)^2 \times 4 [p_1'^\mu p_1'^\nu + p_1'^\nu p_1'^\mu - g^{\mu\nu} (p_1' p_1')] \times 4 [p_2'^\mu p_2'^\nu + p_2'^\nu p_2'^\mu - g_{\mu\nu} (p_2' p_2')] \\
&= 16 \left(\frac{e^2}{t}\right)^2 \left[2(p_1' p_2') (p_1 p_2) + 2(p_1' p_2) (p_1 p_2') \right. \\
&\quad \left. - 2(p_1' p_1) (p_2' p_2) - 2(p_1' p_1) (p_2' p_2) + 4(p_1' p_1) (p_2' p_2) \right] \\
&= 32 \left(\frac{e^2}{t}\right)^2 [(p_1' p_2') (p_1 p_2) + (p_1' p_2) (p_1 p_2')] \\
&= 8 \left(\frac{e^2}{t}\right)^2 [s^2 + u^2] & (S.5)
\end{aligned}$$

and hence

$$\frac{1}{4} \sum_{\text{spins}} |\mathcal{M}_1|^2 = 2e^4 \times \frac{s^2 + u^2}{t^2}. \quad (6)$$

Problem 1(d):

The interference term between the two diagrams is more complicated:

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathcal{M}_1^* \times \mathcal{M}_2 &= -\frac{e^2}{t} \left(\bar{u}(e^-) \gamma^\nu u(e'^-) \times \bar{v}(e'^+) \gamma_\nu v(e^+) \right) \times \\
&\quad \times \frac{e^2}{s} \left(\bar{v}(e^+) \gamma_\mu u(e^-) \times \bar{u}(e'^-) \gamma^\mu v(e'^+) \right) \\
&= -\frac{e^4}{st} \times \bar{u}(e^-) \gamma^\nu u(e'^-) \times \bar{u}(e'^-) \gamma^\mu v(e'^+) \times \bar{v}(e'^+) \gamma_\nu v(e^+) \times \bar{v}(e^+) \gamma_\mu u(e^-) & (S.6)
\end{aligned}$$

where on the last line I have re-ordered the factors so that each \bar{u} is followed by u of the same electron and each \bar{v} is followed by v for the same positron. After summing over all the spins, each $u \times \bar{u}$ becomes $(\not{p} + m)$, each $v \times \bar{v}$ becomes $(\not{p} - m)$, and the whole product becomes a single big trace rather than a product of two traces,

$$\begin{aligned}
\sum_{\text{spins}} \mathcal{M}_1^* \times \mathcal{M}_2 &= -\frac{e^4}{st} \times \text{tr} \left[(\not{p}_1 + m) \gamma^\nu (\not{p}'_1 + m) \gamma^\mu (\not{p}'_2 - m) \gamma_\nu (\not{p}_2 - m) \gamma_\mu \right] \\
&\approx -\frac{e^4}{st} \times \text{tr} \left[\not{p}_1 \gamma^\nu \not{p}'_1 \gamma^\mu \not{p}'_2 \gamma_\nu \not{p}_2 \gamma_\mu \right]. & (S.7)
\end{aligned}$$

This trace looks more complicated than it is, and we may drastically simplify it by summing

over ν and μ before taking the trace. Back in [homework#6](#) we saw that

$$\gamma^\alpha \not{a} \not{b} \not{c} \gamma_\alpha = -2 \not{c} \not{b} \not{a} \quad \text{and} \quad \gamma^\alpha \not{a} \not{b} \gamma_\alpha = 4(ab). \quad (\text{S.8})$$

For the problem at hand, this gives us $\gamma^\nu \not{p}'_1 \gamma^\mu \not{p}'_2 \gamma_\nu = -2 \not{p}'_2 \gamma^\mu \not{p}'_1$ and hence

$$\begin{aligned} \text{tr} \left[\not{p}'_1 \times \gamma^\nu \not{p}'_1 \gamma^\mu \not{p}'_2 \gamma_\nu \times \not{p}'_2 \gamma_\mu \right] &= -2 \text{tr} \left[\not{p}'_1 \times \not{p}'_2 \gamma^\mu \not{p}'_1 \times \not{p}'_2 \gamma_\mu \right] = -2 \text{tr} \left[\not{p}'_1 \not{p}'_2 \times \gamma^\mu \not{p}'_1 \not{p}'_2 \gamma_\mu \right] \\ &= -2 \text{tr} \left[\not{p}'_1 \not{p}'_2 \times 4(p'_1 p_2) \right] = -8(p'_1 p_2) \times \text{tr} \left[\not{p}'_1 \not{p}'_2 \right] \\ &= -8(p'_1 p_2) \times 4(p_1 p'_2) \\ &= -8u^2. \end{aligned} \quad (\text{S.9})$$

Plugging this trace back into eq. (S.6), we arrive at

$$\frac{1}{4} \sum_{\text{spins}} \mathcal{M}_1^* \times \mathcal{M}_2 = +2e^4 \times \frac{u^2}{st}. \quad (7)$$

Problem 1(e):

Assembling the spin sums / averages (5–7) together according to eq. (3), we get

$$\begin{aligned} \overline{|\mathcal{M}|^2} &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \frac{1}{4} \sum_{\text{spins}} |\mathcal{M}_1 + \mathcal{M}_2|^2 \\ &= \frac{1}{4} \sum_{\text{spins}} \left(|\mathcal{M}_1|^2 + |\mathcal{M}_2|^2 + 2 \text{Re} \mathcal{M}_1^* \mathcal{M}_2 \right) \\ &= 2e^4 \times \frac{s^2 + u^2}{t^2} + 2e^4 \times \frac{t^2 + u^2}{s^2} + 4e^4 \times \frac{u^2}{st} \\ &= 2e^4 \left(\frac{s^2}{t^2} + \frac{t^2}{s^2} + \frac{u^2}{s^2 t^2} \times \left(s^2 + t^2 + 2st = (s+t)^2 = u^2 \right) \right) \\ &= 2e^4 \times \frac{s^4 + t^4 + u^4}{s^2 \times t^2}. \end{aligned} \quad (\text{S.10})$$

Consequently, the un-polarized partial cross-section for the Bhabha scattering is

$$\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega_{\text{c.m.}}} = \frac{\overline{|\mathcal{M}|^2}}{64\pi^2 s} = \frac{\alpha^2}{2s} \times \frac{s^4 + t^4 + u^4}{s^2 \times t^2}. \quad (8.a)$$

To complete the problem, let's work out the kinematics in the center of mass frame:

$$\begin{aligned}
s &= 4E^2 \approx 4\mathbf{p}^2, \\
t &= -(\mathbf{p}'_1 - \mathbf{p}_1)^2 = -2\mathbf{p}^2(1 - \cos\theta), \\
u &= -(\mathbf{p}'_2 - \mathbf{p}_1)^2 = -2\mathbf{p}^2(1 + \cos\theta),
\end{aligned} \tag{S.11}$$

hence

$$\begin{aligned}
\frac{s^4 + t^4 + u^4}{s^2 t^2} &= \frac{(4\mathbf{p}^2)^4 + (2\mathbf{p}^2)^4 \times (1 - \cos\theta)^4 + (2\mathbf{p}^2)^4 \times (1 + \cos\theta)^4}{(4\mathbf{p}^2)^2 \times (2\mathbf{p}^2)^2 (1 - \cos\theta)^2} \\
&= \frac{16 + (1 - \cos\theta)^4 + (1 + \cos\theta)^4}{4 \times (1 - \cos\theta)^2} = \frac{18 + 12 \cos^2\theta + 2 \cos^4\theta}{4 \times (1 - \cos\theta)^2} \\
&= \frac{(3 + \cos^2\theta)^2}{2(1 - \cos\theta)^2}.
\end{aligned} \tag{S.12}$$

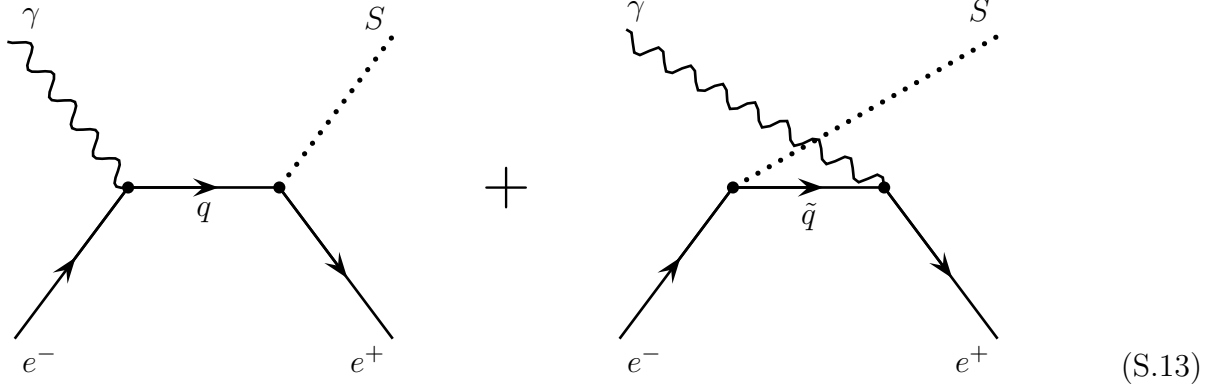
Plugging this formula into eq. (8.a), we finally obtain

$$\frac{d\sigma^{\text{Bhabha}}}{d\Omega_{\text{cm}}} = \frac{\alpha^2}{4s} \times \frac{(3 + \cos^2\theta)^2}{(1 - \cos\theta)^2}. \tag{8.b}$$

Quod erat demonstrandum.

Problem 3(a):

There are two tree diagrams for the $e^-e^+ \rightarrow S\gamma$ process, namely



These two diagrams are related by $t \leftrightarrow u$ crossing, and also by the charge conjugation (which exchanges the initial e^- and e^+). The net tree-level amplitude is

$$\mathcal{M}_{\text{tree}} = \mathcal{E}_{\mathbf{k},\lambda}^{*\mu}(\gamma) \times \mathcal{M}_\mu, \tag{S.14.a}$$

$$\mathcal{M}^\mu = \mathcal{M}_1^\mu + \mathcal{M}_2^\mu, \quad (\text{S.14.b})$$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{M}_1^\mu &= -i \bar{v}(e^+) (-ig) \frac{i}{\not{q} - m_e} (ie\gamma^\mu) u(e^-) \\ &= \frac{eg}{t - m^2} \times \bar{v}(\not{q} + m_e) \gamma^\mu u, \end{aligned} \quad (\text{S.14.c})$$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{M}_2^\mu &= -i \bar{v}(e^+) (ie\gamma^\mu) \frac{i}{\not{\tilde{q}} - m_e} (-ig) u(e^-) \\ &= \frac{eg}{u - m^2} \times \bar{v} \gamma^\mu (\not{\tilde{q}} + m_e) u, \end{aligned} \quad (\text{S.14.d})$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} q &= p_- - k_\gamma = k_s - p_+, \quad q^2 = t, \\ \text{and } \tilde{q} &= p_- - k_s = k_\gamma - p_+, \quad \tilde{q}^2 = u. \end{aligned} \quad (\text{S.15})$$

Problem 3(b):

The Ward identity for the one-photon amplitude (S.14.a) says $k_\gamma^\mu \times \mathcal{M}_\mu = 0$. To verify it, let's start with the first diagram:

$$\begin{aligned} k_\gamma^\mu \times \bar{v}(\not{q} + m_e) \gamma_\mu u &= \bar{v}(\not{q} + m_e) \not{k}_\gamma u \\ &= \bar{v}(\not{p}_- - \not{k}_\gamma + m_e) \not{k}_\gamma u \\ &= \bar{v}(\not{p}_- + m_e) \not{k}_\gamma u \quad \langle\langle \text{because } \not{k}_\gamma \not{k}_\gamma = k_\gamma^2 = 0 \rangle\rangle \\ &= \bar{v} \left(2(p_- k_\gamma) - \not{k}_\gamma (\not{p}_- - m_e) \right) u \quad \langle\langle \text{anticommuting } \not{p}_- \text{ and } \not{k}_\gamma \rangle\rangle \\ &= 2(p_- k_\gamma) \times \bar{v} u - 0 \quad \langle\langle \text{because } (\not{p}_- - m_e) \times u(e^-) = 0 \rangle\rangle \\ &= (m_e^2 - t) \times \bar{v} u, \end{aligned} \quad (\text{S.16})$$

and hence

$$k_\gamma^\mu \times \mathcal{M}_{1\mu} = -eg \times \bar{v} u. \quad (\text{S.17})$$

We see that *by itself*, the first diagram does not satisfy the Ward entity. Instead, we need

to add the second diagram's contribution

$$\begin{aligned}
k_\gamma^\mu \times \bar{v} \gamma_\mu (\not{q} + m_e) u &= \bar{v} \not{k}_\gamma (\not{q} + m_e) u \\
&= \bar{v} \not{k}_\gamma (\not{k}_\gamma - \not{p}_+ + m_e) u \\
&= \bar{v} \not{k}_\gamma (-\not{p}_+ + m_e) u \quad \langle\langle \text{because } \not{k}_\gamma \not{k}_\gamma = k_\gamma^2 = 0 \rangle\rangle \\
&= \bar{v} \left(-2(p_+ k_\gamma) + \not{k}_\gamma (\not{p}_+ + m_e) \right) u \quad \langle\langle \text{anticommuting } \not{p}_+ \text{ and } \not{k}_\gamma \rangle\rangle \\
&= -2(p_+ k_\gamma) \times \bar{v} u + 0 \quad \langle\langle \text{because } \bar{v}(e^+) \times (\not{p}_+ + m_e) = 0 \rangle\rangle \\
&= (u - m_e^2) \times \bar{v} u,
\end{aligned} \tag{S.18}$$

and hence

$$k_\gamma^\mu \times \mathcal{M}_{2\mu} = +eg \times \bar{v} u. \tag{S.19}$$

Again, the second diagram does not satisfy the Ward identity *by itself*, but the net amplitude does:

$$k_\gamma^\mu \times (\mathcal{M}_\mu = \mathcal{M}_{1\mu} + \mathcal{M}_{2\mu}) = 0. \tag{S.20}$$

Problem 3(c):

Thanks to the Ward identity, summing $|\mathcal{M}|^2$ over the photon's polarizations is easy:

$$\begin{aligned}
\sum_\lambda |\mathcal{M}|^2 &= -\mathcal{M}^\mu \mathcal{M}_\mu^* \quad \langle\langle \text{see my notes on Ward identities} \rangle\rangle \\
&= -\mathcal{M}_1^\mu \mathcal{M}_{1\mu}^* - \mathcal{M}_2^\mu \mathcal{M}_{2\mu}^* - 2 \operatorname{Re} (\mathcal{M}_1^\mu \mathcal{M}_{2\mu}^*) \\
&= -\frac{e^2 g^2}{(t - m_e^2)^2} \times \bar{v} (\not{q} + m_e) \gamma^\mu u \times \bar{u} \gamma_\mu (\not{q} + m_e) v \\
&\quad - \frac{e^2 g^2}{(u - m_e^2)^2} \times \bar{v} \gamma^\mu (\not{q} + m_e) u \times \bar{u} (\not{q} + m_e) \gamma_\mu v \\
&\quad - \frac{2e^2 g^2}{(t - m_e^2)(u - m_e^2)} \times \operatorname{Re} \left(\bar{v} (\not{q} + m_e) \gamma^\mu u \times \bar{u} (\not{q} + m_e) \gamma_\mu v \right).
\end{aligned} \tag{S.21}$$

Consequently, averaging this formula over the electron's and the positron's spins yields

$$\overline{|\mathcal{M}|^2} = \frac{1}{4} \sum_{s_-, s_+} \sum_\lambda |\mathcal{M}|^2 = e^2 g^2 \left(\frac{A_{11}}{(t - m_e^2)^2} + \frac{A_{22}}{(u - m_e^2)^2} + \frac{2 \operatorname{Re} A_{12}}{(t - m_e^2)(u - m_e^2)} \right) \tag{10}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned}
A_{11} &= \frac{1}{4} \sum_{s_-, s_+} \bar{v}(\not{q} + m_e) \gamma^\mu u \times \bar{u} \gamma_\mu (\not{q} + m_e) v, \\
A_{22} &= \frac{1}{4} \sum_{s_-, s_+} \bar{v} \gamma^\mu (\not{q} + m_e) u \times \bar{u} (\not{q} + m_e) \gamma_\mu v, \\
A_{12} &= \frac{1}{4} \sum_{s_-, s_+} \bar{v}(\not{q} + m_e) \gamma^\mu u \times \bar{u} (\not{q} + m_e) \gamma_\mu v.
\end{aligned} \tag{S.22}$$

At this point, we use the spin sums

$$\sum_{s_-} u \times \bar{u} = (\not{p}_- + m_e), \quad \sum_{s_+} v \times \bar{v} = (\not{p}_+ - m_e) \tag{S.23}$$

to convert eqs. (S.22) to Dirac traces (11):

$$\begin{aligned}
A_{11} &= \frac{1}{4} \text{Tr} \left(\left(\sum_{s_+} v \times \bar{v} \right) (\not{q} + m_e) \gamma^\mu \left(\sum_{s_-} u \times \bar{u} \right) \gamma_\mu (\not{q} + m_e) \right) \\
&= \frac{1}{4} \text{Tr} \left((\not{p}_+ - m_e) (\not{q} + m_e) \gamma^\mu (\not{p}_- + m_e) \gamma_\mu (\not{q} + m_e) \right),
\end{aligned} \tag{S.24}$$

and likewise

$$\begin{aligned}
A_{22} &= \frac{1}{4} \text{Tr} \left(\left(\sum_{s_+} v \times \bar{v} \right) \gamma^\mu (\not{q} + m_e) \left(\sum_{s_-} u \times \bar{u} \right) (\not{q} + m_e) \gamma_\mu \right) \\
&= \frac{1}{4} \text{Tr} \left((\not{p}_+ - m_e) \gamma^\mu (\not{q} + m_e) (\not{p}_- + m_e) (\not{q} + m_e) \gamma_\mu \right),
\end{aligned} \tag{S.25}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
A_{12} &= \frac{1}{4} \text{Tr} \left(\left(\sum_{s_+} v \times \bar{v} \right) (\not{q} + m_e) \gamma^\mu \left(\sum_{s_-} u \times \bar{u} \right) (\not{q} + m_e) \gamma_\mu \right) \\
&= \frac{1}{4} \text{Tr} \left((\not{p}_+ - m_e) (\not{q} + m_e) \gamma^\mu (\not{p}_- + m_e) (\not{q} + m_e) \gamma_\mu \right).
\end{aligned} \tag{S.26}$$

Quod erat demonstrandum.

Problem 3(d):

Evaluating the Dirac traces (11) is straightforward but tedious. Fortunately, it becomes much simpler when we neglect the electron's mass. In that limit, the first trace becomes

$$\begin{aligned}
A_{11} &\approx -\frac{1}{4} \text{Tr}(\not{p}_+ \not{q} \gamma^\mu \not{p}_- \gamma_\mu \not{q}) \\
&= +\frac{1}{2} \text{Tr}(\not{p}_+ \not{q} \not{p}_- \not{q}) \quad \langle\langle \text{using } \gamma^\mu \not{p}_- \gamma_\mu = -2 \not{p}_- \rangle\rangle \\
&= 4(p_+q)(p_-q) - 2(p_+p_-)q^2 \\
&\approx (M_s^2 - t) \times t - s \times t = (M_s^2 - t - s) \times t \\
&\approx u \times t,
\end{aligned} \tag{S.27}$$

where the last two lines follow from

$$\begin{aligned}
q^2 &= t, \\
p_+p_- &= \frac{1}{2}(p_- + p_+)^2 - \cancel{m_e^2} \approx \frac{s}{2}, \\
p_-q &= p_-(p_- - k_\gamma) = \frac{1}{2}(p_- - k_\gamma)^2 + \cancel{\frac{1}{2}m_e^2} \approx \frac{t}{2}, \\
p_+q &= p_+(k_S - p_+) = -\frac{1}{2}(p_+ - k_S)^2 + \frac{1}{2}M_s^2 - \cancel{\frac{1}{2}m_e^2} \approx \frac{M_s^2 - t}{2}, \\
s + t + u &= M_s^2 + \cancel{2m_e^2} \approx M_s^2.
\end{aligned} \tag{S.28}$$

Likewise, the second trace becomes

$$\begin{aligned}
A_{22} &\approx -\frac{1}{4} \text{Tr}(\not{p}_+ \gamma^\mu \not{q} \not{p}_- \not{q} \gamma_\mu) \\
&= -\frac{1}{4} \text{Tr}(\gamma_\mu \not{p}_+ \gamma^\mu \not{q} \not{p}_- \not{q}) \\
&= +\frac{1}{2} \text{Tr}(\not{p}_+ \not{q} \not{p}_- \not{q}) \quad \langle\langle \text{using } \gamma_\mu \not{p}_+ \gamma^\mu = -2 \not{p}_+ \rangle\rangle \\
&= 4(p_+\tilde{q})(p_-\tilde{q}) - 2(p_+p_-)\tilde{q}^2 \\
&\approx (M_s^2 - u) \times u - s \times u = (M_s^2 - u - s) \times u \\
&\approx t \times u,
\end{aligned} \tag{S.29}$$

where the last two lines follow from (S.28) and

$$\begin{aligned}
\tilde{q}^2 &= u, \\
p_+\tilde{q} &= p_+(k_\gamma - p_+) = -\frac{1}{2}(k_\gamma - p_+)^2 - \cancel{\frac{1}{2}m_e^2} \approx -\frac{u}{2}, \\
p_-\tilde{q} &= p_-(p_- - k_s) = \frac{1}{2}(p_- - k_s)^2 - \frac{1}{2}M_s^2 + \cancel{\frac{1}{2}m_e^2} \approx \frac{u - M_s^2}{2}.
\end{aligned} \tag{S.30}$$

Finally, the third trace becomes

$$\begin{aligned}
A_{22} &\approx -\frac{1}{4} \text{Tr}(\not{p}_+ \not{q} \gamma^\mu \not{p}_- \not{q} \gamma_\mu) \\
&= -(p_-\tilde{q}) \times \text{Tr}(\not{p}_+ \not{q}) \quad \langle\langle \text{using } \gamma^\mu \not{p}_- \not{q} \gamma_\mu = +4(p_-\tilde{q}) \rangle\rangle \\
&= -4(p_-\tilde{q})(p_+q) \\
&\approx +(u - M_s^2)(t - M_s^2).
\end{aligned} \tag{S.31}$$

Quad erat demonstrandum.

Problem 3(e):

Now let's evaluate eq. (10) for the spin summed/averaged $\overline{|\mathcal{M}|^2}$. Neglecting the m_e^2 terms in the denominators and plugging in eqs. (12) for the A_{11} , A_{22} , and A_{12} , we have

$$\begin{aligned}
\overline{|\mathcal{M}|^2} &= e^2 g^2 \left(\frac{tu}{t^2} + \frac{ut}{u^2} + \frac{2(t - M_s^2)(u - M_s^2)}{tu} \right) \\
&= \frac{e^2 g^2}{tu} \times \left(u^2 + t^2 + 2(t - M_s^2)(u - M_s^2) \right) \\
&= \frac{e^2 g^2}{tu} \times \left((t + u - M_s^2)^2 + M_s^4 \right) \\
&= e^2 g^2 \times \frac{s^2 + M_s^4}{tu}.
\end{aligned} \tag{S.32}$$

Now let's work out the kinematics in the center of mass frame. The initial electron and positron have 4-momenta $p_\mp^\mu = (E_e, \pm \mathbf{p})$ where $E_e \approx |\mathbf{p}|$. But since the scalar and the photon produced in the collision have different masses, they have equal and opposite 3-momenta (in the CM frame) but different energies: $k_\gamma^\mu = (\omega, +\mathbf{k})$ while $k_S^\mu = (E_s, -\mathbf{k})$, where $\omega = |\mathbf{k}| \neq E_s = \sqrt{\mathbf{k}^2 + M_s^2}$. By energy conservation

$$\omega + E_s = 2E_e = \sqrt{s}. \tag{S.33}$$

To solve this equation, we rewrite it as

$$\omega^2 + M_s^2 = E_s^2 = (\sqrt{s} - \omega)^2 = s - 2\sqrt{s} \times \omega + \omega^2, \tag{S.34}$$

which gives us

$$\omega = \frac{s - M_s^2}{2\sqrt{s}} \implies E_s = \frac{s + M_s^2}{2\sqrt{s}}. \quad (\text{S.35})$$

Given all these momenta, Mandelstam's t and u obtain as

$$\begin{aligned} t &\approx -2(p_- k_\gamma) = -2E_e \omega + 2\mathbf{p} \cdot \mathbf{k} \approx -2E_e \omega \times (1 - \cos \theta) \\ &= -\frac{1}{2}(s - M_s^2) \times (1 - \cos \theta), \end{aligned} \quad (\text{S.36})$$

$$\begin{aligned} u &\approx -2(p_+ k_\gamma) = -2E_e \omega - 2\mathbf{p} \cdot \mathbf{k} \approx -2E_e \omega \times (1 + \cos \theta) \\ &= -\frac{1}{2}(s - M_s^2) \times (1 + \cos \theta). \end{aligned} \quad (\text{S.37})$$

Hence, plugging these values into eq. (S.32) gives us

$$\overline{|\mathcal{M}|^2} = 4e^2 g^2 \times \frac{s^2 + M_S^4}{(s - M_S^2)^2} \times \frac{1}{\sin^2 \theta}. \quad (\text{S.38})$$

Finally, the partial cross-section for a $2 \text{ particles} \rightarrow 2 \text{ particles}$ inelastic scattering in the CM frame is given by

$$\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega_{\text{cm}}} = \frac{|\mathcal{M}|^2}{64\pi^2 s} \times \frac{|\mathbf{p}'|}{|\mathbf{p}|}. \quad (\text{S.39})$$

For the problem at hand, the inelasticity factor $|\mathbf{p}'|/|\mathbf{p}|$ is

$$\frac{|\mathbf{k}|}{|\mathbf{p}|} \approx \frac{\omega}{E_e} = \frac{s - M_s^2}{s}. \quad (\text{S.40})$$

Combining this factor with eq. (S.38), we finally arrive at the following formula for the partial cross-section:

$$\frac{d\sigma(e^- e^+ \rightarrow \gamma S)}{d\Omega_{\text{c.m.}}} = \frac{\alpha g^2}{4\pi} \times \frac{s^2 + M_s^4}{s^2(s - M_s^2)} \times \frac{1}{\sin^2 \theta}. \quad (\text{S.41})$$

Note the forward-backward symmetry $\theta \leftrightarrow \pi - \theta$ of this cross section. Physically, it is due to the charge-conjugation symmetry which exchanges the initial electron and positron.

As usual for annihilation processes in the ultra-relativistic limit, the cross-section (S.41) has divergent peaks in forward and backward directions, $\theta \rightarrow 0$ or $\theta \rightarrow \pi$. The divergence here is an artefact of the $m_e^2 = 0$ approximation, which becomes inaccurate at very small angles $\theta \lesssim (m_e/E)$ (or $\pi - \theta \lesssim (m_e/E)$).

A more careful analysis — which was not a required part of this homework — leads to

$$\text{for } \theta \lesssim \gamma^{-1}, \quad \frac{d\sigma(e^-e^+ \rightarrow \gamma S)}{d\Omega_{\text{c.m.}}} \approx \frac{\alpha g^2}{4\pi s} \times \left(\frac{s - M_s^2}{s} \times \frac{1}{\theta^2 + \gamma^{-2}} + \frac{M_s^2}{s - M_s^2} \times \frac{2\theta^2}{(\theta^2 + \gamma^{-2})^2} \right) \quad (\text{S.42})$$

— where $\gamma^{-1} = m_e/E \ll 1$ — instead of eq. (S.41). Consequently, the total cross-section turns out to be finite rather than divergent, namely

$$\sigma_{\text{tot}}(e^-e^+ \rightarrow \gamma S) = \alpha g^2 \times \frac{(s^2 + M_s^4)}{s^2(s - M_s^2)} \left(\log \frac{2E_e}{m_e} - \frac{sM_s^2}{s^2 + M_s^4} + O\left(\frac{m_e^2}{E_e^2}\right) \right). \quad (\text{S.43})$$

Problem 4(a):

The scalar potential part of the linear sigma model's Lagrangian (13) is

$$V(\phi) = \frac{\lambda}{8} \left(\sum_i \phi_i^2 - f^2 \right)^2 - \beta \lambda f^2 \times \phi_{N+1}, \quad (\text{S.44})$$

where the last term explicitly breaks the $O(N+1)$ symmetry of the first term down to $O(N)$. To find the minimum of this potential, let's first find the stationary points where all the first derivatives $\partial V/\partial \phi_i$ are zero:

$$\text{for } i = 1, \dots, N, \quad \frac{\partial V}{\partial \phi_i} = \frac{\lambda}{2} \left(\sum_j \phi_j^2 - f^2 \right) \times \phi_i = 0, \quad (\text{S.45})$$

$$\text{and } \frac{\partial V}{\partial \phi_{N+1}} = \frac{\lambda}{2} \left(\sum_j \phi_j^2 - f^2 \right) \times \phi_{N+1} - \beta \lambda f^2 = 0. \quad (\text{S.46})$$

From eq. (S.46) we immediately see that at any stationary point $(\sum \phi^2 - f^2) \neq 0$, hence eqs. (S.45) tell us that $\phi_1 = \dots = \phi_N = 0$. In other words, all the stationary points lie on

the ϕ_{N+1} axis in the $(N + 1)$ dimensional space of the scalar field values. And in this space, eq. (S.46) becomes a simple cubic equation

$$\phi_{N+1}^3 - f^2 \times \Phi_{N+1} - 2\beta f^2 = 0. \quad (\text{S.47})$$

For small $\beta \ll f$, this cubic equation has 3 real solutions, approximately

$$\langle \phi_{N+1} \rangle_1 \approx -2\beta, \quad \langle \phi_{N+1} \rangle_2 \approx -f + \beta, \quad \langle \phi_{N+1} \rangle_3 \approx +f + \beta. \quad (\text{S.48})$$

Now let's find out which of the three stationary points is a minimum (or at least a local minimum) by looking at the second derivatives of the potential (S.44). Along the ϕ_{N+1} axis in the field space, the second derivatives amount to

$$\frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial \phi_i \partial \phi_j} = \frac{\lambda}{2} \times \begin{cases} (3\phi_{N+1}^2 - f^2) & \text{for } i = j = N + 1, \\ 0 & \text{for } i \leq N, j = N + 1 \text{ or } j \leq N, i = N + 1, \\ (\phi_{N+1}^2 - f^2) \times \delta_{ij} & \text{for } i, j \leq N. \end{cases} \quad (\text{S.49})$$

Evaluating these derivatives for the 3 stationary points (S.48) — while assuming small $\beta > 0$ — gives us

$$\begin{aligned} \textcircled{a} \langle \phi_{N+1} \rangle_1 : & \frac{\partial^2 V}{(\partial \phi_{N+1})^2} < 0 \quad \text{while other} \quad \frac{\partial^2 V}{(\partial \phi_i)^2} < 0 \implies \text{maximum}, \\ \textcircled{a} \langle \phi_{N+1} \rangle_2 : & \frac{\partial^2 V}{(\partial \phi_{N+1})^2} > 0 \quad \text{while other} \quad \frac{\partial^2 V}{(\partial \phi_i)^2} < 0 \implies \text{saddle point}, \\ \textcircled{a} \langle \phi_{N+1} \rangle_3 : & \frac{\partial^2 V}{(\partial \phi_{N+1})^2} > 0 \quad \text{while other} \quad \frac{\partial^2 V}{(\partial \phi_i)^2} > 0 \implies \text{minimum}. \end{aligned} \quad (\text{S.50})$$

Thus, the potential (S.44) has a unique minimum at

$$\langle \phi_1 \rangle = \dots = \langle \phi_N \rangle = 0, \quad \langle \phi_{N+1} \rangle = +f + \beta + O(\beta^2/f). \quad (14)$$

Quod erat demonstrandum.

Problem 4(b):

Let's shift the fields as in eq. (15). In terms of the shifted fields,

$$T \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \sum_i \phi_i^2 - f^2 = \underline{\pi}^2 + (\sigma + \langle \phi_{N+1} \rangle)^2 - f^2 = \underline{\pi}^2 + \sigma^2 + 2 \langle \phi_{N+1} \rangle \times \sigma + (\langle \phi_{N+1} \rangle^2 - f^2), \quad (\text{S.51})$$

where $\underline{\pi}$ is a short-hand for N -vector (π^1, \dots, π^N) of the pion fields, thus $\underline{\pi}^2 = (\pi^1)^2 + \dots + (\pi^N)^2$. Therefore, expanding the scalar potential (S.44) into powers of the shifted fields, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} V &= \frac{\lambda}{8} \times T^2 - \beta \lambda f^2 \times (\sigma + \langle \phi_{N+1} \rangle) \\ &= \frac{\lambda}{8} \times (\underline{\pi}^2 + \sigma^2)^2 + \frac{\lambda \langle \phi_{N+1} \rangle}{2} \times \sigma \times (\underline{\pi}^2 + \sigma^2) \\ &\quad + \frac{\lambda \langle \phi_{N+1} \rangle^2}{2} \times \sigma^2 + \frac{\lambda (\langle \phi_{N+1} \rangle^2 - f^2)}{4} \times (\underline{\pi}^2 + \sigma^2) \\ &\quad + \left(\frac{\lambda \langle \phi_{N+1} \rangle}{2} \times (\langle \phi_{N+1} \rangle^2 - f^2) - \beta \lambda f^2 \right) \times \sigma + \text{const.} \end{aligned} \quad (\text{S.52})$$

On the last line here, the coefficient of σ vanishes thanks to $\langle \phi_{N+1} \rangle$ obeying the cubic equation (S.47). For the same reason, the coefficient of $(\underline{\pi}^2 + \sigma^2)$ on the line before the last may be simplified as

$$\frac{\lambda (\langle \phi_{N+1} \rangle^2 - f^2)}{4} = \frac{\beta \lambda f^2}{2 \langle \phi_{N+1} \rangle}. \quad (\text{S.53})$$

Altogether, we have

$$V(\sigma, \underline{\pi}) = \frac{\lambda}{8} \times (\underline{\pi}^2 + \sigma^2)^2 + \frac{\kappa}{2} \times (\sigma^3 + \sigma \underline{\pi}^2) + \frac{M_\sigma^2}{2} \times \sigma^2 + \frac{M_\pi^2}{2} \times \underline{\pi}^2 + \text{const}, \quad (\text{S.54})$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} \text{quartic coupling} \quad \lambda &= \lambda, \\ \text{cubic coupling} \quad \kappa &= \lambda \times \langle \phi_{N+1} \rangle \approx \lambda(f + \beta), \\ \text{pion mass}^2 \quad M_\pi^2 &= \frac{\beta \lambda f^2}{\langle \phi_{N+1} \rangle} \approx \beta \lambda f, \\ \text{sigma mass}^2 \quad M_\sigma^2 &= M_\pi^2 + \lambda \langle \phi_{N+1} \rangle^2 \approx \lambda f(f + 3\beta). \end{aligned} \quad (\text{S.55})$$

Let's take a closer look at the pion's mass², $M_\pi^2 \approx \beta \times \lambda f$. In the $\beta = 0$ limit, the pions are massless in accordance with the Goldstone theorem. Indeed, for $\beta = 0$ the sigma

model's Lagrangian has an exact $SO(N+1)$ symmetry which is spontaneously broken down to an $SO(N)$ subgroup; there are N spontaneously broken generators, so there should be N massless Goldstone bosons. But for $\beta \neq 0$, the $SO(N+1)$ symmetry of the Lagrangian is only approximate, and its *explicit* breaking by the $\beta\lambda f^2 \times \phi_{N+1}$ term spoils the Goldstone theorem. Thus, instead of exactly massless Goldstone bosons we should get light but not quite massless pseudo-Goldstone bosons; to the first order in β , their mass² should be proportional to β . And indeed, in the linear sigma model $M_\pi^2 \approx \beta \times \lambda f$.

Still, for $\beta \ll f$, the pions should be much lighter than the sigma particle. And indeed, according to eqs. (S.55),

$$\frac{M_\pi^2}{M_\sigma^2} \approx \frac{\beta\lambda f}{\lambda f^2} = \frac{\beta}{f} \ll 1. \quad (\text{S.56})$$

Problem 4(c): Back in [homework#9](#) (problem 3), we had a very similar setup for the *shifted* fields of the linear sigma models: $N+1$ scalar fields $\sigma(x)$ and $\pi^i(x)$, with the Lagrangian

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L} &= \frac{1}{2}(\partial_\mu\sigma)^2 + \frac{1}{2}(\partial_\mu\pi)^2 - V, \\ V(\sigma, \pi) &= \frac{\lambda}{8}(\pi^2 + \sigma^2 + 2f \times \sigma)^2 \\ &= \frac{\lambda f^2}{2} \times \sigma^2 + \frac{\lambda f}{2} \times (\sigma^3 + \sigma\pi^2) + \frac{\lambda}{8} \times (\sigma^2 + \pi^2)^2. \end{aligned} \quad (9.2)$$

In particular, there is a mass term for the σ field but not for the pions, which are exactly massless — exactly as in the present sigma model with $\beta = 0$. The cubic and quartic terms in the potential (9.2) also have exactly the same form as in eq. (S.54), and the quartic coupling λ and the cubic coupling $\kappa = \lambda f$ are related to the σ field's mass as

$$\kappa^2 = \lambda \times M_\sigma^2. \quad (\text{S.57})$$

For the present sigma model, we have exactly similar relation for $\beta = 0$. Indeed, according to eq. (S.55),

$$\text{for } \beta = 0, \quad \kappa = \lambda f, \quad M_\sigma^2 = \lambda f^2 \quad \implies \quad \kappa^2 = \lambda \times M_\sigma^2. \quad (\text{S.58})$$

Therefore, the $\pi\pi \rightarrow \pi\pi$ scattering amplitudes in the linear sigma model for $\beta = 0$ come out

to be exactly as [homework#9](#): At the tree level,

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{M}(\pi^j + \pi^k \rightarrow \pi^\ell + \pi^m) = & - \left(\lambda + \frac{\kappa^2}{s - M_\sigma^2} \right) \times \delta^{jk} \delta^{\ell m} - \left(\lambda + \frac{\kappa^2}{t - M_\sigma^2} \right) \times \delta^{j\ell} \delta^{km} \\ & - \left(\lambda + \frac{\kappa^2}{u - M_\sigma^2} \right) \times \delta^{jm} \delta^{k\ell}, \end{aligned} \quad (\text{S.59})$$

which in light of the relation (S.57) becomes

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{M}(\pi^j + \pi^k \rightarrow \pi^\ell + \pi^m) = & - \frac{\lambda s}{s - M_\sigma^2} \times \delta^{jk} \delta^{\ell m} - \frac{\lambda t}{t - M_\sigma^2} \times \delta^{j\ell} \delta^{km} \\ & - \frac{\lambda u}{u - M_\sigma^2} \times \delta^{jm} \delta^{k\ell}. \end{aligned} \quad (\text{S.60})$$

When any of the 4 pions' energy becomes small, we get $s, t, u \ll M_\sigma^2$, and the scattering amplitude becomes small as

$$\mathcal{M} \approx \frac{\lambda}{M_\sigma^2} \times \left(s \times \delta^{jk} \delta^{\ell m} + t \times \delta^{j\ell} \delta^{km} + u \times \delta^{jm} \delta^{k\ell} \right) = O\left(\frac{\lambda E_{\text{cm}}^2}{M_\sigma^2}\right). \quad (\text{S.61})$$

Problem 4(d): For $\beta \neq 0$, the quartic and the cubic couplings of the σ and π^i to each other has similar overall form to what we had back in [homework#9](#), but the overall coefficients λ and κ of those couplings are no longer related to the σ particle's mass by eq. (S.57). Instead, eq. (S.55) gives us

$$\kappa = \lambda \langle \phi_{N+!} \rangle, \quad M_\sigma^2 = M_\pi^2 + \lambda \langle \phi_{N+!} \rangle^2 \quad \implies \quad \kappa^2 = \lambda \times (M_\sigma^2 - M_\pi^2). \quad (\text{S.62})$$

Now consider the $\pi\pi \rightarrow \pi\pi$ scattering. At the tree level, we have exactly the same 4

diagrams for such scattering as in the [homework#9](#), namely

$$\begin{array}{cc}
 \pi^j(p_1) & \pi^\ell(p'_1) \\
 \diagdown & / \\
 \bullet & \\
 / & \diagdown \\
 \pi^k(p_2) & \pi^m(p'_2)
 \end{array}
 \quad
 \begin{array}{cc}
 \pi^j(p_1) & \pi^\ell(p'_1) \\
 \diagdown & / \\
 \bullet & \text{---} \bullet \\
 / & \diagdown \\
 \pi^k(p_2) & \pi^m(p'_2)
 \end{array}
 \tag{S.63}$$

$$\begin{array}{cc}
 \pi^j(p_1) & \pi^\ell(p'_1) \\
 \diagdown & / \\
 \bullet & \\
 / & \diagdown \\
 \pi^k(p_2) & \pi^m(p'_2)
 \end{array}
 \quad
 \begin{array}{cc}
 \pi^j(p_1) & \pi^\ell(p'_1) \\
 \diagdown & / \\
 \bullet & \text{---} \bullet \\
 / & \diagdown \\
 \pi^k(p_2) & \pi^m(p'_2)
 \end{array}$$

Altogether, these diagrams yield the scattering amplitude exactly as in eq. (S.59), but for the β -modified couplings and masses. Consequently, in light of eq. (S.62) instead of (S.57), we have

$$\lambda + \frac{\kappa^2}{s - M_\sigma^2} = \frac{\lambda s - \lambda M_\sigma^2 + \kappa^2}{s - M_\sigma^2} = \frac{\lambda s - \lambda M_\pi^2}{s - M_\sigma^2} \tag{S.64}$$

and likewise

$$\lambda + \frac{\kappa^2}{t - M_\sigma^2} = \frac{\lambda(t - M_\pi^2)}{t - M_\sigma^2} \quad \text{and} \quad \lambda + \frac{\kappa^2}{u - M_\sigma^2} = \frac{\lambda(u - M_\pi^2)}{u - M_\sigma^2}, \tag{S.65}$$

so the amplitude (S.59) becomes

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathcal{M}(\pi^j + \pi^k \rightarrow \pi^\ell + \pi^m) = & -\frac{\lambda(s - M_\pi^2)}{s - M_\sigma^2} \times \delta^{jk} \delta^{\ell m} - \frac{\lambda(t - M_\pi^2)}{t - M_\sigma^2} \times \delta^{j\ell} \delta^{km} \\
 & - \frac{\lambda(u - M_\pi^2)}{u - M_\sigma^2} \times \delta^{jm} \delta^{k\ell}.
 \end{aligned} \tag{S.66}$$

When the pions' energies become low compared to M_σ — or in Lorentz-invariant terms, when $s, t, u \ll M_\sigma^2$ — we may simplify this amplitude by approximating all the denominators

as $-M_\sigma^2$, thus

$$\mathcal{M}(\pi^j + \pi^k \rightarrow \pi^\ell + \pi^m) \approx \left(\frac{\lambda}{M_\sigma^2} \approx \frac{1}{f^2} \right) \times \left(\begin{aligned} (s - M_\pi^2) \times \delta^{jk} \delta^{\ell m} + (t - M_\pi^2) \times \delta^{j\ell} \delta^{km} \\ + (u - M_\pi^2) \times \delta^{jm} \delta^{k\ell} \end{aligned} \right). \quad (16)$$

What happens to this amplitude when one of the pions' momentum becomes very small? Alas, for $\beta \neq 0$ the pions are massive, so we cannot take all 4 components of a pion's p^μ to zero. The best we can do is to take $\mathbf{p} \rightarrow 0$ while $p^0 \rightarrow m$, which is the *non-relativistic limit*. However, if only one pion is non-relativistic while the other 3 pions have $E \gg M_\pi$ (but $E \ll M_\sigma$), we generally have $s, t, u = O(E \times M_\pi) \gg M_\pi^2$ (albeit $s, t, u \ll M_\sigma^2$), and the scattering amplitude becomes

$$\mathcal{M} = O\left(\frac{E \times M_\pi}{f^2}\right) \not\rightarrow 0. \quad (\text{S.67})$$

The strongest low-energy limit we can take for massive pions is to make all four pions non-relativistic. In this limit, $s = E_{\text{cm}}^2 \approx 4M_\pi^2$ while $u, t = O(\mathbf{p}^2) \ll M_\pi^2$, so the scattering amplitude (5) becomes

$$\mathcal{M}(\pi^j + \pi^k \rightarrow \pi^\ell + \pi^m) \approx \left(\frac{\lambda M_\pi^2}{M_\sigma^2} \approx \frac{\beta \lambda}{f} \right) \times \left(3\delta^{jk} \delta^{\ell m} - \delta^{j\ell} \delta^{km} - \delta^{jm} \delta^{k\ell} \right). \quad (17)$$

This amplitude is suppressed by the factor β/f , but it does not vanish! And even if all 4 pions belong to the same species, the scattering amplitude does not vanish in the non-relativistic limit,

$$\mathcal{M}(\pi^1 + \pi^1 \rightarrow \pi^1 + \pi^1) \approx \frac{\lambda \beta}{f} \neq 0, \quad (\text{S.68})$$

unlike what we had back in [homework#9](#).

Problem 5(a):

$$\text{given } \Phi \rightarrow e^{+i\theta} U_L \Phi U_R^\dagger, \quad (20)$$

$$\text{we have } \Phi^\dagger \rightarrow e^{-i\theta} U_R \Phi^\dagger U_L^\dagger, \quad (\text{S.69})$$

$$\text{hence } \Phi^\dagger \Phi \rightarrow U_R (\Phi^\dagger \Phi) U_R^\dagger, \quad (\text{S.70})$$

$$(\Phi^\dagger \Phi)^2 \rightarrow U_R \Phi^\dagger \Phi U_R^\dagger U_R \Phi^\dagger \Phi U_R^\dagger = U_R (\Phi^\dagger \Phi)^2 U_R^\dagger, \quad (\text{S.71})$$

$$\text{likewise } (\Phi^\dagger \Phi)^n \rightarrow U_R (\Phi^\dagger \Phi)^n U_R^\dagger \quad \forall n = 1, 2, 3, \dots, \quad (\text{S.72})$$

and therefore

$$\text{all traces } \text{tr} \left((\Phi^\dagger \Phi)^n \right) \text{ are invariant under symmetries (20),} \quad (\text{S.73})$$

thanks to the cyclic invariance rule for traces, $\text{tr}(U_R X U_R^\dagger) = \text{tr}(X U_R^\dagger U_R) = \text{tr}(X)$ for any $X = (\Phi^\dagger \Phi)^n$. Consequently, the scalar potential (19) is invariant under the symmetries (20).

For the global symmetries where $e^{i\theta}$, U_L , and U_R do not depend on x , the kinetic term in the Lagrangian (18) is also invariant. Indeed,

for constant $e^{i\theta}$, U_L , U_R ,

$$\begin{aligned} \partial_\mu \Phi &\rightarrow e^{+i\theta} U_L (\partial_\mu \Phi) U_R^\dagger, \\ \partial_\mu \Phi^\dagger &\rightarrow e^{-i\theta} U_R (\partial_\mu \Phi^\dagger) U_L^\dagger, \end{aligned} \quad (\text{S.74})$$

$$\partial^\mu \Phi^\dagger \partial_\mu \Phi \rightarrow U_R (\partial^\mu \Phi^\dagger \partial_\mu \Phi) U_R^\dagger,$$

and $\text{tr}(\partial^\mu \Phi^\dagger \partial_\mu \Phi)$ is invariant.

Altogether, the whole Lagrangian (18) is invariant, *Q.E.D.*

Problem 5(★):

The kinetic term in (10) and the last two terms in the potential (11) have a much bigger symmetry than $G = SU(N) \times SU(N) \times U(1)$, namely the $SO(2N^2)$ which does not care for the matrix structure of the $\Phi(x)$ and treats it as $2N^2$ real component fields. Indeed,

$$\text{tr}(\Phi^\dagger \Phi) = \sum_{i,j} |\Phi_i^j|^2 = \sum_{i,j} \left((\text{Re } \Phi_i^j)^2 + (\text{Im } \Phi_i^j)^2 \right) \quad (\text{S.75})$$

is invariant under all $SO(2N^2)$ “rotations” of the components, and so is the kinetic term.

On the other hand, the $\text{tr}(\Phi^\dagger\Phi\Phi^\dagger\Phi)$ in the potential does depend on the packing of $2N^2$ real components into a complex $N \times N$ matrix, and it is this term which reduces the internal symmetry group of the theory to $G = SU(N) \times SU(N) \times U(1)$.

Proving that all the $SO(2N^2)/G$ symmetries are broken by the quartic trace term is a non-trivial exercise in group theory rather than field theory. You do not have to do it as part of this homework set, and I am not writing down the proof here.

Problem 5(b):

Given the eigenvalues $(\kappa_1, \dots, \kappa_N)$ of the $\Phi^\dagger\Phi$ matrix, the invariant traces (S.73) obtain as

$$\text{tr}\left((\Phi^\dagger\Phi)^n\right) = \sum_{i=1}^N \kappa_i^n. \quad (\text{S.76})$$

Consequently, the scalar potential is

$$V = \frac{\alpha}{2} \sum_i \kappa_i^2 + \frac{\beta}{2} \left(\sum_i \kappa_i \right)^2 + m^2 \sum_i \kappa_i. \quad (\text{S.77})$$

Now let's minimize this potential. Since the matrix $\Phi^\dagger\Phi$ cannot have any negative eigenvalues, we are looking for a minimum of $V(\kappa_1, \dots, \kappa_N)$ *under constraints* $\kappa_i \geq 0$. This requires

$$\forall i = 1, \dots, N, \quad \text{either } \kappa_i \geq 0 \text{ and } \frac{\partial V}{\partial \kappa_i} = 0, \quad \text{or else } \kappa_i = 0 \text{ and } \frac{\partial V}{\partial \kappa_i} > 0, \quad (\text{S.78})$$

where

$$\frac{\partial V}{\partial \kappa_i} = \alpha \kappa_i + m^2 + \beta \sum_j \kappa_j. \quad (\text{S.79})$$

These derivatives are linear functions of the eigenvalues κ_i , so all the non-zero eigenvalues must obey the same linear equation

$$\alpha \times \kappa_i = -m^2 - \beta \times \sum_j \kappa_j, \quad \text{same for all } \kappa_i \neq 0,$$

which means that all non-zero κ_i have the same value. Thus, up to a permutation of

eigenvalues,

$$\kappa_1 = \cdots = \kappa_k = C^2, \quad \kappa_{k+1} = \cdots = \kappa_N = 0, \quad (\text{S.80})$$

for some $k = 0, 1, 2, \dots, N$, and C^2 obtains from

$$\alpha \times C^2 + m^2 + \beta \times kC^2 = 0 \quad \longrightarrow \quad C^2 = \frac{-m^2}{\alpha + k\beta}. \quad (\text{S.81})$$

To make sure that the solution (S.80) is a minimum rather than a maximum or a saddle point, we need

$$\begin{aligned} C^2 &= \frac{-m^2}{\alpha + k\beta} > 0 \quad \text{unless } k = 0, \\ m^2 + \beta k C^2 &= \frac{\alpha m^2}{\alpha + k\beta} > 0 \quad \text{unless } k = N. \end{aligned} \quad (\text{S.82})$$

Depending on the signs of α , β and m^2 parameters, this limits the solutions to the following:

- For $\alpha > 0$, $\beta > 0$, and $m^2 > 0$, the only solution is $k = 0$, which means $\kappa_1 = \cdots = \kappa_N = 0$ and hence $\langle \Phi \rangle = 0$.
- For $\alpha > 0$, $\beta > 0$, and $m^2 < 0$, the only solution is $k = N$, which means

$$\kappa_1 = \cdots = \kappa_N = C^2 = \frac{-m^2}{\alpha + N\beta} > 0, \quad (21)$$

and hence $\langle \Phi \rangle = C \times$ a unitary matrix as in eq. (22). We shall focus on this regime through the rest of this problem.

- For $\alpha < 0$ or $\beta < 0$, the situation is more complicated:
 - * When $\alpha + \beta < 0$ or $\alpha + N\beta < 0$, the scalar potential (19) is unbounded from below and the theory is sick.
 - * When $\alpha > 0$ and $\beta < 0$ but $\alpha + N\beta > 0$, the solutions are similar to the $\beta > 0$ case: For $m^2 > 0$ all $\kappa_i = 0$, while for $m^2 < 0$ the κ_i are as in eq. (21).
 - * When $\beta > 0$ and $\alpha < 0$ but $\alpha + \beta > 0$: for $m^2 > 0$ the only solution is $k = 0$, meaning $\langle \Phi \rangle = 0$, but for $m^2 < 0$ all the solutions (S.80) with $k = 1, 2, \dots, N$ are good local minima.

To find the global minimum, we compare the potentials at the local minima,

$$\begin{aligned}
V(\text{minimum}\#k) &= \frac{\alpha}{2} \times kC^4 + \frac{\beta}{2} \times (kC^2)^2 + m^2 \times kC^2 \\
&= \frac{k\alpha + k^2\beta}{2} \times \frac{m^4}{(\alpha + k\beta)^2} + km^2 \times \frac{-m^2}{(\alpha + k\beta)} \\
&= -\frac{m^4}{2} \times \frac{k}{k\beta + \alpha}.
\end{aligned} \tag{S.83}$$

Since $\alpha < 0$ but $\alpha + \beta > 0$, the deepest minimum obtains for $k = 1$, thus

$$\kappa_1 = \frac{-m^2}{\alpha + \beta}, \quad \kappa_2 = \dots = \kappa_N = 0. \tag{S.84}$$

Problem 5(c):

Let's act with some $SU(N)_L \times SU(N)_R \times U(1)$ symmetry (20) on the vacuum expectation values (22):

$$\langle \Phi \rangle = C \times \mathbf{1}_{N \times N} \rightarrow e^{i\theta} U_L \langle \Phi \rangle U_R^\dagger = C \times e^{i\theta} U_L U_R^\dagger. \tag{S.85}$$

Clearly, to keep the VEVs $\langle \Phi \rangle$ invariant, we need

$$e^{i\theta} U_L U_R^\dagger = \mathbf{1}_{N \times N} \tag{S.86}$$

and hence

$$U_R = e^{i\theta} \times U_L. \tag{S.87}$$

Moreover, since the U_L and U_R matrices have unit determinants, this requires

$$\det \left(e^{i\theta} \times \mathbf{1}_{N \times N} \right) = 1 \implies N \times \theta = 0 \pmod{2\pi}. \tag{S.88}$$

Such a phase can be absorbed into the $U_L \in SU(N)$, so without loss of generality we need

$$e^{i\theta} = 1 \quad \text{and} \quad U_L = U_R \in SU(N). \tag{S.89}$$

In other words, the *unbroken* symmetry group is $SU(N)_V$ which acts on the scalar fields as

$$\Phi(x) \rightarrow U \Phi(x) U^\dagger, \quad U \in SU(N). \tag{S.90}$$

Problem 5(d):

In terms of the shifted fields (23),

$$\partial_\mu \Phi = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (\partial_\mu \varphi_1 + i \partial_\mu \varphi_2), \quad \partial_\mu \Phi^\dagger = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (\partial_\mu \varphi_1 - i \partial_\mu \varphi_2), \quad (\text{S.91})$$

hence the kinetic term in the Lagrangian becomes

$$\text{tr}(\partial_\mu \Phi^\dagger \partial^\mu \Phi) = \frac{1}{2} \text{tr}(\partial_\mu \varphi_1 \partial^\mu \varphi_1) + \frac{1}{2} \text{tr}(\partial_\mu \varphi_2 \partial^\mu \varphi_2). \quad (\text{S.92})$$

As to the potential terms, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \Phi^\dagger \Phi &= C^2 \times \mathbf{1}_{N \times N} + C \times (\delta \Phi^\dagger + \delta \Phi) + \delta \Phi^\dagger \delta \Phi \\ &= C^2 \times \mathbf{1}_{N \times N} + \sqrt{2} C \times \varphi_1 + \frac{1}{2} \varphi_1^2 + \frac{1}{2} \varphi_2^2 + \frac{i}{2} [\varphi_1, \varphi_2] \end{aligned} \quad (\text{S.93})$$

and consequently

$$\text{tr}(\Phi^\dagger \Phi) = NC^2 + \sqrt{2} C \text{tr}(\varphi_1) + \frac{1}{2} \text{tr}(\varphi_1^2) + \frac{1}{2} \text{tr}(\varphi_2^2), \quad (\text{S.94})$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{tr}^2(\Phi^\dagger \Phi) &= N^2 C^4 + 2\sqrt{2} NC^3 \text{tr}(\varphi_1) + 2C^2 \text{tr}^2(\varphi_1) + NC^2 (\text{tr}(\varphi_1^2) + \text{tr}(\varphi_2^2)) \\ &\quad + \sqrt{2} C \text{tr}(\varphi_1) \times (\text{tr}(\varphi_1^2) + \text{tr}(\varphi_2^2)) + \frac{1}{4} (\text{tr}(\varphi_1^2) + \text{tr}(\varphi_2^2))^2 \end{aligned} \quad (\text{S.95})$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{tr} \left((\Phi^\dagger \Phi)^2 \right) &= NC^4 + 2\sqrt{2} C^3 \text{tr}(\varphi_1) + 3C^2 \text{tr}(\varphi_1^2) + C^2 \text{tr}(\varphi_2^2) \\ &\quad + \sqrt{2} C \text{tr}(\varphi_1^3) + \sqrt{2} C \text{tr}(\varphi_1 \varphi_2^2) \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{4} \text{tr}(\varphi_1^4) + \frac{1}{4} \text{tr}(\varphi_2^4) + \frac{3}{2} \text{tr}(\varphi_1^2 \varphi_2^2) - \frac{1}{2} \text{tr}(\varphi_1 \varphi_2 \varphi_1 \varphi_2). \end{aligned} \quad (\text{S.96})$$

Plugging all these formulae into the potential (12) and expanding in powers of φ_1 and φ_2 , we obtain

$$V = \text{const} + V_1 + V_2 + V_3 + V_4 \quad (\text{S.97})$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} V_1 &= \sqrt{2} C \times (m^2 + \beta NC^2 + \alpha C^2) \times \text{tr}(\varphi_1) = 0 \\ &\quad \langle\langle \text{because } m^2 + (\alpha + N\beta)C^2 = 0 \rangle\rangle \end{aligned} \quad (\text{S.98})$$

$$\begin{aligned}
V_2 &= \beta C^2 \times \text{tr}^2(\varphi_1) + \frac{1}{2}(m^2 + \beta N C^2 + 3\alpha C^2) \times \text{tr}(\varphi_1^2) \\
&\quad + \frac{1}{2}(m^2 + \beta N C^2 + \alpha C^2) \times \text{tr}(\varphi_2^2) \\
&= \beta C^2 \times \text{tr}^2(\varphi_1) + \alpha C^2 \text{tr}(\varphi_1^2) + 0,
\end{aligned} \tag{S.99}$$

$$V_3 = \frac{\beta C}{\sqrt{2}} \times \text{tr}(\varphi_1) \times \left(\text{tr}(\varphi_1^2) + \text{tr}(\varphi_2^2) \right) + \frac{\alpha C}{\sqrt{2}} \times \left(\text{tr}(\varphi_1^3) + \text{tr}(\varphi_1 \varphi_2^2) \right), \tag{S.100}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
V_4 &= \frac{\beta}{8} \left(\text{tr}(\varphi_1^2) + \text{tr}(\varphi_2^2) \right)^2 \\
&\quad + \frac{\alpha}{8} \left(\text{tr}(\varphi_1^4) + \text{tr}(\varphi_2^4) + 6 \text{tr}(\varphi_1^2 \varphi_2^2) - 2 \text{tr}(\varphi_1 \varphi_2 \varphi_1 \varphi_2) \right).
\end{aligned} \tag{S.101}$$

Combining the quadratic part (S.99) of this potential with the kinetic terms (S.92), we arrive at

$$\mathcal{L}_2 = \frac{1}{2} \text{tr}(\partial_\mu \varphi_1 \partial^\mu \varphi_1) - \beta C^2 \times \text{tr}^2(\varphi_1) - \alpha C^2 \text{tr}(\varphi_1^2) + \frac{1}{2} \text{tr}(\partial_\mu \varphi_2 \partial^\mu \varphi_2) \tag{S.102}$$

which gives us the mass spectrum of the theory: the $\varphi_1(x)$ matrix of fields is massive and the $\varphi_2(x)$ matrix is massless. Each matrix is $N \times N$ and hermitian, so it contains N^2 independent real scalar fields, which give rise to N^2 particles. Altogether, the spectrum comprises:

- N^2 massless particles from the $\varphi_2(x)$ matrix.
- $N^2 - 1$ massive particles with $M^2 = 2\alpha C^2$ from the traceless part of the $\varphi_1(x)$ matrix.
- One more massive particle with $M^2 = 2(\alpha + N\beta)C^2 = -2m^2$ from the trace of $\varphi_1(x)$.

To see where the values of the masses come from, let's decompose the φ_1 matrix into the pure trace plus the traceless part,

$$\xi(x) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \frac{\text{tr}(\varphi_1(x))}{\sqrt{N}} \quad \text{and} \quad \tilde{\varphi}_1(x) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \varphi_1(x) - \frac{\xi(x)}{\sqrt{N}} \times \mathbf{1}_{N \times N} \quad \implies \quad \text{tr}(\tilde{\varphi}_1) \equiv 0. \tag{S.103}$$

Consequently,

$$\text{tr}^2(\varphi_1) = N \times \xi^2, \quad \text{tr}(\varphi_1^2) = \xi^2 + \text{tr}(\tilde{\varphi}_1^2), \tag{S.104}$$

likewise

$$\text{tr}(\partial_\mu \varphi_1 \partial^\mu \varphi_1) = \partial_\mu \xi \partial^\mu \xi + \text{tr}(\partial_\mu \tilde{\varphi}_1 \partial^\mu \tilde{\varphi}_1),$$

so the free Lagrangian (S.102) becomes

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}_2 = & \frac{1}{2}(\partial_\mu \xi)^2 - 2(\beta C^2 N + \alpha C^2) \times \frac{1}{2}\xi^2 \\ & + \frac{1}{2} \text{tr}((\partial_\mu \tilde{\varphi}_1)^2) - 2\alpha C^2 \times \frac{1}{2} \text{tr}(\tilde{\varphi}_1^2) \\ & + \frac{1}{2} \text{tr}((\partial_\mu \varphi_2)^2) - 0 \times \frac{1}{2} \text{tr}(\varphi_2^2) \end{aligned} \quad (\text{S.105})$$

where all the masses are manifest.

Problem 5(e):

The unbroken $SU(N)_V$ symmetry acts on the scalar fields according to

$$\Phi(x) \rightarrow U \times \Phi(x) \times U^\dagger. \quad (\text{S.90})$$

and since the VEV (22) is invariant, the shifted fields $\delta\Phi(x) = \Phi(x) - \langle \Phi \rangle$ also transform according to

$$\delta\Phi(x) \rightarrow U \times \delta\Phi(x) \times U^\dagger. \quad (\text{S.106})$$

Moreover, unitary transforms like these preserve hermiticity, so when we decompose $\delta\Phi(x)$ into a hermitian matrix $\varphi_1(x)$ and an antihermitian matrix $i\varphi_2(x)$, the transforms (S.106) do not mix the φ_1 and φ_2 with each other. Instead, they transform like

$$\varphi_1(x) \rightarrow U \varphi_1(x) U^\dagger, \quad \varphi_2(x) \rightarrow U \varphi_2(x) U^\dagger, \quad (\text{S.107})$$

which means that φ_1 and φ_2 comprise separate $SU(N)$ multiplets. Furthermore, the transforms (S.107) preserve the traces $\text{tr}(\varphi_1)$ and $\text{tr}(\varphi_2)$, so to make the $SU(N)$ multiplet structure manifest, let's decompose both φ_1 and φ_2 into their traceless parts and pure traces along

the lines of eq. (S.103),

$$\varphi_1(x) = \frac{\xi_1(x)}{\sqrt{N}} \times \mathbf{1}_{N \times N} + \tilde{\varphi}_1(x), \quad \varphi_2(x) = \frac{\xi_2(x)}{\sqrt{N}} \times \mathbf{1}_{N \times N} + \tilde{\varphi}_2(x), \quad \text{tr}(\tilde{\varphi}_1) \equiv \text{tr}(\tilde{\varphi}_2) \equiv 0. \quad (\text{S.108})$$

With this decomposition, the ξ_1 and the ξ_2 are both invariant under the $SU(N)$ — which puts each of them into its own singlet multiplet — while the each of the traceless parts $\tilde{\varphi}_1$ and $\tilde{\varphi}_2$ makes its own *adjoint multiplet*.

This multiplet structure agrees with the masses we obtained in part (d). Indeed, all $N^2 - 1$ members of the adjoint multiplet $\tilde{\varphi}_1$ have the same mass $2\alpha C^2$, while the singlet ξ_1 has a different mass $2(\alpha + N\beta)C^2$.

On the other hand, both the adjoint multiplet $\tilde{\varphi}_2$ and the singlet ξ_2 are massless. The reason for this degeneracy goes beyond the un-broken $SU(N)$ symmetry; instead, both the $\tilde{\varphi}_2$ and the ξ_2 are Goldstone bosons of the spontaneously broken symmetries in

$$G/H = \left(SU(N)_L \times SU(N)_R \times U(1) \right) / SU(N). \quad (\text{S.109})$$

Specifically, the singlet ξ_2 is the Goldstone boson of the broken $U(1)$ symmetry. Indeed, the $U(1)$'s generator commutes with all the other generators, so it belongs in its own singlet of the symmetry, and the corresponding Goldstone particle should also be a singlet.

Now consider the non-abelian generators. Generators T_L^a of the $SU(N)_L$ form an adjoint multiplet of the $SU(N)_L$, but are invariant under the $SU(N)_R$. Likewise, generators T_R^a of the $SU(N)_R$ form an adjoint multiplet of the $SU(N)_R$, but are invariant under the $SU(N)_L$. In other words, under an $(U_L, U_R) \in SU(N)_L \times SU(N)_R$ they transform as

$$T_L^a \rightarrow U_L T_L^a U_L^\dagger, \quad T_R^a \rightarrow U_R T_R^a U_R^\dagger. \quad (\text{S.110})$$

When the $SU(N)_L \times SU(N)_R$ is broken down to a single $SU(N)$ spanning $U_L = U_R = U$, both T_L^a and T_R^a transform as

$$T_L^a \rightarrow U T_L^a U^\dagger, \quad T_R^a \rightarrow U T_R^a U^\dagger, \quad (\text{S.111})$$

which puts them into *two adjoint multiplets* of the unbroken $SU(N)$. Equivalently, we may

form two adjoint multiplets out of

$$T_V^a = T_L^a + T_R^a \quad \text{and} \quad T_A^a = T_L^a - T_R^a, \quad (\text{S.112})$$

which act on the scalar fields according to

$$T_V^a \Phi = \frac{i}{2} [\lambda^a, \Phi], \quad T_A^a \Phi = \frac{i}{2} \{\lambda^a, \Phi\}. \quad (\text{S.113})$$

The T_V^a generate the unbroken $SU(N)_V$ symmetry, *cf.* eq. (S.90). The T_A^a generators are spontaneously broken, hence there should be an adjoint multiplet of massless Goldstone bosons. And indeed there is — the $\tilde{\varphi}_2$.