

Gauge Invariance and Finite Counterterms in Chiral Gauge Theories

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Outline

- Intro: Dimensional Regularization and the BMHV scheme
- Regularization of chiral gauge theories
- Symmetries: spurious anomalies and counterterms
- Background field method
- Result: 1-loop gauge-restoring counterterm for chiral theories in Dim-Reg.
- Motivation: useful for checks and automation

INTRO:

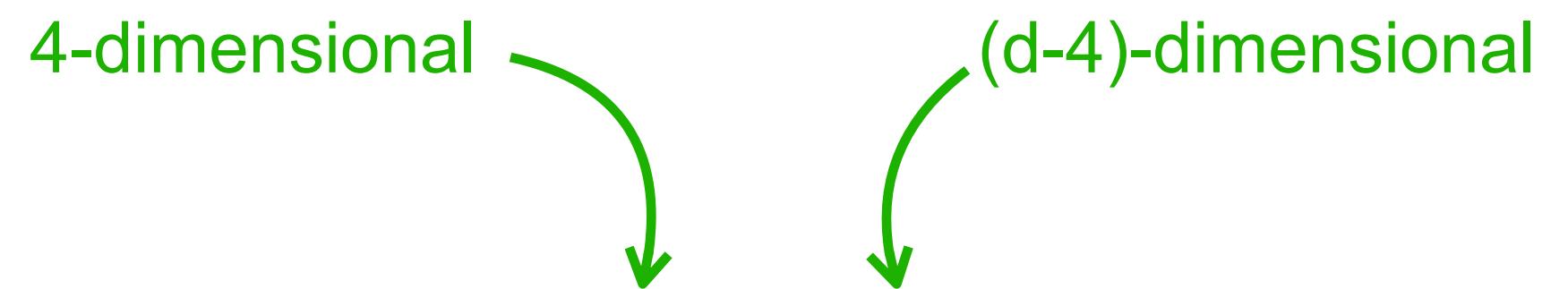
Dimensional Regularization

and the BMHV scheme

Dimensional Regularization

Recipe:

- Space-time dimension continued to (complex) d . Coordinates split $\mu = \bar{\mu} \oplus \hat{\mu}$
- Kinetic terms (propagators) promoted to d -dimensions
- Interactions (vertices) are scheme-dependent: just need to reduce to the familiar 4-dim theory
- Regularized bosonic part can respect all 4-dim symmetries (we make natural choice).
- **Regularized fermionic action cannot respect the 4-dim chiral symmetries...**



Chirality?

There is no notion of chirality in arbitrary d-dimensions!

- Chirality-projectors must be trivial
- The usual 4-dim relations must become inconsistent

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} \{\gamma^\mu, \gamma_5\} = 0 \\ \text{Cyclicity of the trace} \end{array} \right\} \Rightarrow \begin{array}{l} \text{All traces with one } \gamma_5 \text{ vanish: cannot have} \\ \text{tr}(\gamma^\mu \gamma^\nu \gamma^\rho \gamma^\sigma \gamma_5) = 4i\epsilon^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} \end{array}$$

't Hooft-Veltman:

- Cyclicity of trace is sacred (no anti-commuting γ_5)
- Chirality (and hence Levi-Civita) is a purely 4-dimensional concept

$$\gamma_5 = -\frac{i}{4!} \epsilon_{\bar{\mu}\bar{\nu}\bar{\alpha}\bar{\beta}} \gamma^{\bar{\mu}} \gamma^{\bar{\nu}} \gamma^{\bar{\alpha}} \gamma^{\bar{\beta}} \implies \begin{cases} \{\gamma^{\bar{\mu}}, \gamma_5\} = 0 \\ [\gamma^{\hat{\mu}}, \gamma_5] = 0 \end{cases}$$

Breitenlohner-Maison:

- Algebraically consistent definitions
- Allows to identify an unambiguous scheme at all orders

Note: no alternative prescription has been proven consistent (ambiguities).

Chiral Theories in Dim-Reg with BMHV

Implications: Chiral gauge theories

Consider the following 4-dimensional theory

$$S_{\text{Fermions}} = \int d^4x \bar{\Psi} i\gamma^\mu [\partial_\mu - iA_\mu^a T^a] \Psi$$

Arbitrary compact gauge theory: product of U(1)'s and simple factors.

Arbitrary fermion content: LH and RH charged under different (reducible) representations

$$T^a = T_L^a P_L + T_R^a P_R,$$

$$[T^a, T^b] = if^{abc}T^c$$

Same for LH and RH generators

$$P_L = \frac{1}{2}(1 - \gamma_5)$$

$$P_R = \frac{1}{2}(1 + \gamma_5)$$

Chiral projectors

Regularized version in Dim-Reg with BMHV:

- Kinetic term must be promoted to d-dimensions.

$$S = \int d^4x \bar{\Psi} i\gamma^{\bar{\mu}} \partial_{\bar{\mu}} \Psi + \dots \rightarrow S^{(d)} = \int d^d x \bar{\Psi} i\gamma^{\mu} \partial_{\mu} \Psi + \dots$$

Denominator of propagator falls off
as p^2 in any d-direction

- Interaction: a lot of freedom, just needs to recover the familiar 4-dim limit

$$J_L^\mu = \bar{\Psi} \gamma^\mu P_L \Psi \quad \text{or} \quad \bar{\Psi} P_R \gamma^\mu \Psi \quad \text{or} \quad \bar{\Psi} P_R \gamma^\mu P_L \Psi ???$$

Chiral projectors
defined as in d=4

$$J_L^\mu \equiv \bar{\Psi} P_R \gamma^\mu P_L \Psi = \bar{\Psi} \gamma^{\bar{\mu}} P_L \Psi = [J_L^\mu]^\dagger$$

Our choice:

It is hermitian (unitarity retained by regulator)

It minimizes the spurious anomaly.

Our regularized fermion action finally reads (= choice of scheme):

$$\begin{aligned}
 S_{\text{Fermions}}^{(d)} &\equiv \int d^d x \left[\bar{\Psi} i \gamma^\mu \partial_\mu \Psi + \bar{\Psi} \gamma^{\bar{\mu}} A_{\bar{\mu}}^a T^a \Psi \right] \\
 &= \int d^d x \left[\bar{\Psi} i \gamma^{\bar{\mu}} (\partial_{\bar{\mu}} - i A_{\bar{\mu}}^a T^a) \Psi + \boxed{\bar{\Psi} i \gamma^{\hat{\mu}} \partial_{\hat{\mu}} \Psi} \right]
 \end{aligned}$$

d-dimensional

Conserved global symmetries:

- **SO(1,3)xSO(d-4)** → no need of Lorentz-restoring counterterms
- **CP**
- **Spurious P** (under which generators transform)
- **Vector-like rotations**
- **Chiral rotations (even non-abelian) are classically anomalous!**

Our regularized fermion action finally reads (choice of scheme):

$$S_{\text{Fermions}}^{(d)} \equiv \int d^d x \left[\bar{\Psi} i \gamma^\mu \partial_\mu \Psi + \bar{\Psi} \gamma^{\bar{\mu}} A_{\bar{\mu}}^a T^a \Psi \right]$$

$$= \int d^d x \left[\bar{\Psi} i \gamma^{\bar{\mu}} (\partial_{\bar{\mu}} - i A_{\bar{\mu}}^a T^a) \Psi + \boxed{\bar{\Psi} i \gamma^{\hat{\mu}} \partial_{\hat{\mu}} \Psi} \right]$$

Local symmetries?

They must be defined in d-dimensions...

We declare they are purely 4-dimensional.

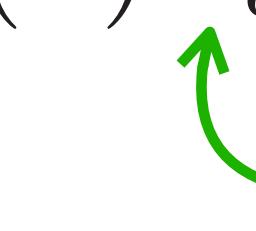
- This way vector-like symmetries are preserved.
- Axial symmetries are broken....

$$U = e^{i \alpha^a(\bar{x}) T^a}$$

$$\rightarrow \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \Psi \rightarrow U \Psi \\ \bar{\Psi} \rightarrow \bar{\Psi} \gamma_0 U^\dagger \gamma_0 \\ A_{\bar{\mu}} \rightarrow U A_{\bar{\mu}} U^\dagger - i U \partial_{\bar{\mu}} U^\dagger \\ A_{\hat{\mu}} \rightarrow U A_{\hat{\mu}} U^\dagger \end{array} \right.$$

$$\delta_\alpha S^{(d)} \equiv \int d^d x \alpha_a(\bar{x}) L_a S^{(d)} = - \int d^d x \alpha_a(\bar{x}) \boxed{\bar{\Psi}(T_R^a - T_L^a) \gamma_5 \gamma^{\hat{\mu}} \partial_{\hat{\mu}} \Psi}$$

Small parameter 

Generator of infinitesimal gauge transformations of fields 

Classical anomaly 

Unavoidable: d-dim kinetic term mixes L with R \rightarrow explicit breaking of chiral symmetry.

Evanescence: the anomaly must vanish as $d \rightarrow 4$.

Minimality: our assumptions lead to minimal, irreducible anomaly (practical utility).

Generality: same anomaly found including Yukawas (result is general at ren. level).

Quantum Symmetries: Spurious anomalies and Counterterms

Quantum Symmetries in Dim-Reg

$$e^{i\Gamma[\phi_c]} = \int_{1\text{PI}} \mathcal{D}\phi \ e^{iS[\phi+\phi_c]}$$

1) In Dim-Reg the measure is invariant under local transformations of fields since $\delta(0)=0$:

$$\mathcal{D}\phi' = e^{i\delta^{(d)}(0) \int d^d x f(x)} \mathcal{D}\phi = \mathcal{D}\phi$$

2) The transformation of the background is given by:

$$e^{i\Gamma[\phi'_c]} = \int_{1\text{PI}} \mathcal{D}\phi \ e^{iS[\phi+\phi'_c]} = \int_{1\text{PI}} \mathcal{D}\phi' \ e^{iS[\phi'+\phi'_c]} = \int_{1\text{PI}} \mathcal{D}\phi \ e^{iS[\phi'+\phi'_c]}$$

At infinitesimal level the variation of the 1PI effective action is given by the matrix elements of the classical anomaly (Quantum Action Principle)

$$L_a^{\text{bckgrd}} \Gamma[\phi_c] = \frac{\int_{\text{1PI}} \mathcal{D}\phi e^{iS[\phi + \phi_c]} L_a S[\phi + \phi_c]}{\int_{\text{1PI}} \mathcal{D}\phi e^{iS[\phi + \phi_c]}}$$

Infinitesimal transformation of background fields Infinitesimal transformation of quantum+classical fields

- Symmetries of the classical action hold at all orders (4-dim Lorentz, vector-like, CP, P).
- What happens to anomalous symmetries?
Spurious (gauge, non-abelian axial) or Physical (abelian axial, scale invariance)

Theorem (anomaly of non-abelian global symmetries):

If the renormalized 1PI effective action is symmetric up to order $(n-1)$ in \hbar
then the anomaly is the variation of a local functional \Rightarrow it is spurious.

Proof:

$$\left. \begin{aligned} L_a \Gamma^{(n)} &= \mathcal{A}_a^{(n)} \\ [L_a, L_b] &= i f_{abc} L_c \end{aligned} \right\} L_a \mathcal{A}_b^{(n)} - L_b \mathcal{A}_a^{(n)} = i f_{abc} \mathcal{A}_c^{(n)} \Rightarrow \mathcal{A}_a^{(n)} = L_a \left[L^{-2} L_b \mathcal{A}_b^{(n)} \right] - S_{\text{ct}}^{(n)}$$

Casimir (invertible because anomaly is non-trivial)

$$L^2 \mathcal{A}_a^{(n)} = L_a (L_b \mathcal{A}_b^{(n)})$$

It is local at each order!

Result:

At order n the spurious anomaly can be removed by an appropriate counterterm.

$$\Gamma_{\text{inv}}^{(n)} \equiv \Gamma^{(n)} + S_{\text{ct}}^{(n)}$$

Gauge theories are self-consistent as long as

$$D^{abc} = \text{tr}(T_L^a\{T_L^b, T_L^c\}) - \text{tr}(T_R^a\{T_R^b, T_R^c\}) = 0. \quad \text{Georgi-Glashow (1972)}$$

No new anomalies emerge in perturbation theory (even beyond renormalizable). [See, e.g., Gomis-Weinberg \(1995\)](#)
[Luscher \(1999\)](#)

Breaking due to Dim-Reg is artificial \Rightarrow the anomaly can be removed via counterterms.

[Tonin et al. \(1977\)](#)

Explicit form of the Counterterm? Background Field Method: 1-loop results

Gauge theories: Background Field Method

See, e.g. Abbott

$$e^{i\Gamma[\phi_c]} = \int_{\text{1PI}} \mathcal{D}\phi \ e^{iS[\phi+\phi_c]}$$

- Split physical fields in bckgrnd + quantum fluctuations.
- Gauge-fixing can be chosen to preserve bckgrnd gauge-invariance: $\mathcal{L}_{\text{g.f.}} = -\frac{1}{2\xi}(D_c^\mu A_\mu)_a(D_c^\mu A_\mu)_a$
- Then: the symmetry acts linearly on the 1PI effective action → easier.

Alternatively:

Gauge-fixing leaves BRST → (non-linear) Slavnov-Taylor Identities.

[Martin-SanchezRuiz \(2000\)](#)
[SanchezRuiz \(2003\)](#)
[BeluscaMaito et al. \(2020-2021\)](#)

Chiral gauge theories at 1-loop

Use MSbar: introduce divergent counterterms (symmetric & evanescent non-symmetric!) to make the regularized 1PI effective action finite. At 1-loop:

$$\begin{aligned} e^{i\Gamma_{\text{fin},1}^{(d)}[\phi_c]} &= \int_{\text{1PI}} \mathcal{D}\phi \ e^{iS^{(d)}[\phi+\phi_c] + iS_{\text{div},1}^{(d)}[\phi+\phi_c]} \\ L_a^{\text{bckgrd}} \Gamma_{\text{fin},1}^{(d)} &= \frac{\int_{\text{1PI}} \mathcal{D}\phi \ e^{iS^{(d)} + iS_{\text{div},1}^{(d)}} L_a \left[S^{(d)} + S_{\text{div},1}^{(d)} \right]}{\int_{\text{1PI}} \mathcal{D}\phi \ e^{iS^{(d)} + iS_{\text{div},1}^{(d)}}} \\ &= \langle L_a S^{(d)} \rangle_1 + L_a S_{\text{div},1}^{(d)} \end{aligned}$$

Cancels the divergent part of the 1-loop matrix element of classical anomaly.

$$= \langle L_a S^{(d)} \rangle_1 \Big|_{\text{finite part}}$$

Combining evanescent & divergent (local) we get a local finite quantum anomaly.

In summary, at 1-loop:

- the quantum anomaly is given by the finite part of the matrix element of the classical anomaly
- it is local because LS is evanescent: to survive in 4-dim it must be multiplied by a divergence.

$$L_a^{\text{bckgrd}} \Gamma_{\text{fin},1}^{(d)} = \left. \frac{\int_{\text{1PI}} \mathcal{D}\phi \ e^{iS^{(d)}} L_a S^{(d)}}{\int_{\text{1PI}} \mathcal{D}\phi \ e^{iS^{(d)}}} \right|_{\text{finite}}$$

Note it is trivial to automatize:

Introduce η Anomaly= η LS as a new vertex and evaluate finite part of diagrams with 1 external η .

$$\lim_{d \rightarrow 4} L_a \Gamma_{\text{Gauge}}^{(d)} \Big|_{(1)} = -\text{tr} \left[T_A^a (a_2^\epsilon(x) + a_2^\not{\epsilon}(x)) \right]$$

$$a_2^\epsilon = \frac{\epsilon^{\mu\nu\alpha\beta}}{16\pi^2} \left[\mathcal{V}_{\mu\nu} \mathcal{V}_{\alpha\beta} + \frac{1}{3} \mathcal{A}_{\mu\nu} \mathcal{A}_{\alpha\beta} - \frac{8}{3} i (\mathcal{A}_\alpha \mathcal{A}_\beta \mathcal{V}_{\mu\nu} + \mathcal{A}_\alpha \mathcal{V}_{\mu\nu} \mathcal{A}_\beta + \mathcal{V}_{\mu\nu} \mathcal{A}_\alpha \mathcal{A}_\beta) - \frac{32}{3} \mathcal{A}_\mu \mathcal{A}_\nu \mathcal{A}_\alpha \mathcal{A}_\beta \right]$$

$$a_2^\not{\epsilon} = \frac{1}{16\pi^2} \left[\frac{4}{3} D_\nu^\mathcal{V} D_\nu^\mathcal{V} D_\mu^\mathcal{V} \mathcal{A}_\mu + \frac{8}{3} i [\mathcal{A}_\mu, D_\nu^\mathcal{V} \mathcal{V}_{\mu\nu}] - \frac{2}{3} i [\mathcal{A}_{\mu\nu}, \mathcal{V}_{\mu\nu}] \right] \\ + \frac{1}{16\pi^2} \left[-8 \mathcal{A}_\mu (D_\nu^\mathcal{V} \mathcal{A}^\nu) \mathcal{A}_\mu - \frac{8}{3} \{ D_\mu^\mathcal{V} \mathcal{A}_\nu + D_\nu^\mathcal{V} \mathcal{A}_\mu, \mathcal{A}_\mu \mathcal{A}_\nu \} + \frac{4}{3} \{ D_\mu^\mathcal{V} \mathcal{A}^\mu, \mathcal{A}_\nu \mathcal{A}_\nu \} \right]$$

$$\lim_{d \rightarrow 4} L_c \Gamma_{\text{Fermions}}^{(d)} \Big|_{(1)} = -\frac{2G_{aa}}{16\pi^2} \left(1 + \frac{\xi - 1}{6} \right) \bar{f} \gamma_5 \left(\overrightarrow{\partial} + \overleftarrow{\partial} \right) T^a T_A^c T^a f \\ + \frac{2G_{aa}}{16\pi^2} \left(1 + \frac{\xi - 1}{6} \right) \bar{f} \gamma_5 \gamma^\mu \{ [T^c, T^a T_A^m T^a] - i f^{cmn} T^a T_A^n T^a \} f A_\mu^m$$

- Calculation performed via heat kernel
- Multiple checks using Feynman diagrams
- Result satisfies Wess-Zumino consistency conditions
- Respects spurious P and CP and vector gauge symmetries

Do not commute

$$\mathcal{V}_\mu = \frac{1}{2} (T_R^a + T_L^a) A_\mu^a \quad T^a = T_R^a P_R + T_L^a P_L$$

$$\mathcal{A}_\mu = \frac{1}{2} (T_R^a - T_L^a) A_\mu^a \quad G_{aa} = \delta_{ab}^G g_G^2$$

The explicit form of the gauge-restoring counterterm (up to gauge-invariant terms) is:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathcal{L}_{\text{ct}}|_{(1)} = & \frac{\epsilon^{\mu\nu\alpha\beta}}{16\pi^2} \text{Tr} \left\{ \frac{8}{3} \partial_\mu \mathcal{V}_\nu \{ \mathcal{V}_\alpha, \mathcal{A}_\beta \} + 4i \mathcal{V}_\mu \mathcal{V}_\nu \mathcal{V}_\alpha \mathcal{A}_\beta + \frac{4}{3} i \mathcal{V}_\mu \mathcal{A}_\nu \mathcal{A}_\alpha \mathcal{A}_\beta \right\} \\
 & + \frac{1}{16\pi^2} \text{Tr} \left\{ -\frac{4}{3} (D_\mu^\nu \mathcal{A}_\nu)^2 + 2 (D_\mu^\nu \mathcal{A}^\mu)^2 - \frac{4}{3} [\mathcal{A}_\mu, \mathcal{A}_\nu]^2 + \frac{4}{3} (\mathcal{A}_\mu \mathcal{A}_\nu)^2 + \mathcal{A}_{\mu\nu}^2 \right\} \\
 & - \frac{2}{16\pi^2} \left(1 + \frac{\xi - 1}{6} \right) G_{aa} \bar{f} \gamma_5 \gamma^\mu T^a \mathcal{A}_\mu T^a f
 \end{aligned}$$

Holds for most general fermion + gauge theory

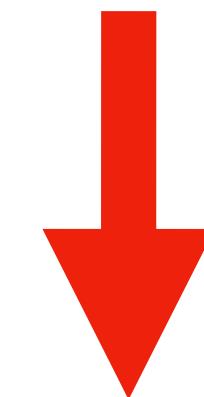
Very compact: CP and (spurious) P are manifest.

Finally...

Previous slide

$$L_a^{\text{bckgrd}} \Gamma_{\text{fin},1}^{(d)} = -L_a^{\text{bckgrd}} S_{\text{ct},1}^{(d)} + \text{finite evanescent}$$

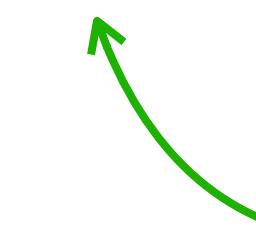
$$e^{i\Gamma_{\text{fin,invariant},1}^{(d)}[\phi_c]} = \int_{\text{1PI}} \mathcal{D}\phi \ e^{iS^{(d)}[\phi+\phi_c] + iS_{\text{div},1}^{(d)}[\phi+\phi_c] + iS_{\text{ct},1}^{(d)}[\phi+\phi_c]}$$



At 1-loop
(local and global symmetries)

Renormalized

$$L_a^{\text{bckgrd}} \Gamma_{\text{fin,invariant},1}^{(4)} = +\frac{1}{48\pi^2} \epsilon^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} F_{\mu\nu}^b F_{\alpha\beta}^c \text{ tr} ([T_L^a \{ T_L^b, T_L^c \}] - [T_R^a \{ T_R^b, T_R^c \}])$$



Standard result (Bardeen)

In the Standard Model:

- QCD & QED are vector-like and manifest
- no terms with Levi-Civita, peculiarity of SU(2)xU(1)
- Contains all interactions that respect QCD & QED but violate SU(2)xU(1)

VVDD: $D_\mu W_\nu^- D^\mu W^{+\nu} \quad \partial_\mu Z_\nu \partial^\mu Z^\nu$

VVVD: $iF^{\mu\nu}W_\mu^+W_\nu^- \quad iD^\mu W_\mu^-W_\nu^+Z^\nu \quad iD^\nu W_\mu^-W_\nu^+Z^\mu \quad iD_\nu W_\mu^-W^{+\mu}Z^\nu \quad +\text{hc}$

VVVV: $(W_\mu^-W^{+\mu})^2 \quad (W_\mu^-W^{-\mu})(W_\nu^+W^{+\nu}) \quad (Z_\mu Z^\mu)^2 \quad (W_\mu^+Z^\mu)(W_\nu^-Z^\nu) \quad (W_\mu^+W^{-\mu})(Z_\nu Z^\nu)$

ffW: $W_\mu^+ \overline{f_u} \gamma^\mu P_L f_d \quad W_\mu^+ \overline{f_u} \gamma^\mu P_R f_d \quad +\text{hc}$

ffZ: $Z_\mu \overline{f} \gamma^\mu P_L f \quad Z_\mu \overline{f} \gamma^\mu P_R f \quad +\text{hc}$

Our calculation was performed in a specific scheme.

Identified scheme-independent (1-loop) mapping Spurious Anomaly \Rightarrow Counterterm

I_a^0	$\square \partial^\mu A_{a\mu}$
I_{ab}^1	$\epsilon^{\mu\nu\alpha\beta}(\partial_\alpha A_{a\mu})(\partial_\beta A_{b\nu})$
I_{ab}^2	$A_{a\mu}(\partial^\mu \partial^\nu - \square g^{\mu\nu})A_{b\nu}$
I_{ab}^3	$A_{a\mu}\square A_b^\mu$
I_{ab}^4	$(\partial_\nu A_{a\mu})(\partial^\nu A_b^\mu)$
I_{ab}^5	$(\partial_\nu A_{a\mu})(\partial^\mu A_b^\nu)$
I_{ab}^6	$(\partial^\mu A_{a\mu})(\partial^\nu A_{b\nu})$
I_{abd}^7	$(\partial_\mu A_a^\mu)A_{b\nu}A_d^\nu$
I_{abd}^8	$(\partial_\mu A_a^\nu)A_{b\mu}A_d^\nu$
I_{abd}^9	$\epsilon^{\mu\nu\alpha\beta}(\partial_\beta A_{a\mu})A_{b\nu}A_{d\alpha}$
I_{abde}^{10}	$A_{a\mu}A_b^\mu A_{d\nu}A_e^\nu$
I_{abde}^{11}	$\epsilon^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma}A_{a\mu}A_{b\nu}A_{d\rho}A_{e\sigma}$
I_{Xij}^{12}	$\bar{f}_{Xi}\overrightarrow{\not{\partial}} f_{Xj}$
I_{Xij}^{13}	$\bar{f}_{Xi}\overleftarrow{\not{\partial}} f_{Xj}$
I_{Xaij}^{14}	$\bar{f}_{Xi}\not{A}_a f_{Xj}$



\mathcal{I}_{ghl}^1	$(\partial^\nu A_g^\mu)A_{h\nu}A_{l\mu}$
\mathcal{I}_{gh}^2	$A_{g\mu}\square A_h^\mu$
\mathcal{I}_{gh}^3	$A_{g\mu}\partial^\mu \partial^\nu A_{h\nu}$
\mathcal{I}_{ghl}^4	$\epsilon^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma}A_{g\mu}A_{h\nu}(\partial_\rho A_{l\sigma})$
\mathcal{I}_{ghlm}^5	$\epsilon^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma}A_{g\mu}A_{h\nu}A_{l\rho}A_{m\sigma}$
\mathcal{I}_{ghlm}^6	$A_{g\mu}A_h^\mu A_{l\nu}A_m^\nu$
\mathcal{I}_{Xij}^7	$\bar{f}_{Xi}\overrightarrow{\not{\partial}} f_{Xj}$
\mathcal{I}_{Xaij}^8	$\bar{f}_{Xi}\not{A}_a f_{Xj}$

Assume 4-dim. Lorentz, vectorial gauge, spurious P&CP

Impose Wess-Zumino consistency conditions

Then

Given the “spurious anomaly”, the Counterterm is fixed up to gauge invariant terms.

Conclusions

- In concrete calculations, counterterms needed to restore chiral invariance
- 1-loop counterterm in dim-reg & BMHV for general fermionic reps**
 - (i) Non-trivial check of explicit calculations
 - (ii) Useful for automation
- General map anomaly → counterterm, valid for general regularizations**
- Extendable to Yukawa sector and SM-EFT