

Solution 17:

Consider the free Dirac Lagrangian, which can be written in components as

$$\mathcal{L}(x) = \sum_{a,b} \psi_a^*(x) [i(\gamma^0 \gamma^\mu)_{ab} \partial_\mu - m(\gamma^0)_{ab}] \psi_b(x).$$

(a) Euler-Lagrange equation for $\psi_a^*(x)$:

$$\begin{aligned} \partial_\mu 0 - \sum_b [i(\gamma^0 \gamma^\mu)_{ab} \partial_\mu - m(\gamma^0)_{ab}] \psi_b(x) &= - \sum_c \gamma_{ac}^0 \sum_b [i(\gamma^\mu)_{cb} \partial_\mu - m\delta_{cb}] \psi_b(x) \\ &= - \sum_c \gamma_{ac}^0 [(i\gamma^\mu \partial_\mu - m)\psi(x)]_c = 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad [(i\gamma^\mu \partial_\mu - m)\psi(x)]_c = 0. \end{aligned}$$

Euler-Lagrange equation for $\psi_b(x)$:

$$\partial_\mu \sum_a \psi_a^*(x) i(\gamma^0 \gamma^\mu)_{ab} + m \sum_a \psi_a^*(x) (\gamma^0)_{ab} = [\bar{\psi}(x) (i\gamma^\mu \overleftarrow{\partial}_\mu + m)]_b = 0.$$

(b) As $\partial_\mu \alpha = 0$, the factors $e^{-i\alpha}$ transforming ψ^* and $e^{i\alpha}$ transforming ψ cancel each other in \mathcal{L} . So, the free Dirac Lagrangian has a symmetry under global phase transformations (= global $U(1)$ gauge transformations). This gives rise to the following conserved Noether current:

$$j^\mu(x) = \sum_b \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial(\partial_\mu \psi_b(x))} \Delta \psi_b(x) + 0 = \sum_{a,b} \psi_a^*(x) i(\gamma^0 \gamma^\mu)_{ab} [i\psi_b(x)] = -\bar{\psi}(x) \gamma^\mu \psi(x) = -j_V^\mu(x),$$

which equals the Dirac vector current (up to a sign). Here we used that

$$\psi_b(x) \rightarrow e^{i\alpha} \psi_b(x) \approx \psi_b(x) + \alpha [i\psi_b(x)] \equiv \psi_b(x) + \alpha \Delta \psi_b(x).$$

Since $\partial \mathcal{L} / \partial(\partial_\mu \psi_b(x))$ represents a row vector and $\Delta \psi_b(x)$ a column vector, we can derive the Noether current directly in spinor form:

$$j^\mu(x) = \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial(\partial_\mu \psi(x))} \Delta \psi(x) = i\bar{\psi}(x) \gamma^\mu [i\psi(x)] = -\bar{\psi}(x) \gamma^\mu \psi(x) = -j_V^\mu(x).$$

(c) First: $\gamma^\mu e^{i\alpha \gamma^5} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(i\alpha)^n}{n!} \gamma^\mu (\gamma^5)^n \xrightarrow{\text{ex.16, eq.2}} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{(i\alpha)^n}{n!} (-\gamma^5)^n \gamma^\mu = e^{-i\alpha \gamma^5} \gamma^\mu$ for $\mu = 0, 1, 2, 3$.

As $m = 0$ only the term with $\gamma^0 \gamma^\mu$ in the Lagrangian remains. Commuting the γ_5 -exponential with γ^0 gives one ‘-’ sign in the exponent, with γ^μ again another one, and therefore the factors cancel as in case (b) above. Note that this is not the case for the mass term: it only involves γ^0 and hence flips the sign of the exponent. The additional Noether current for $m = 0$ reads

$$j^\mu(x) = \sum_b \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial(\partial_\mu \psi_b(x))} \Delta \psi_b(x) = \sum_{a,b} \psi_a^*(x) i(\gamma^0 \gamma^\mu)_{ab} [i\gamma^5 \psi_b(x)] = -\bar{\psi}(x) \gamma^\mu \gamma^5 \psi(x),$$

which equals the Dirac axial vector current (up to a sign).

Solution 18:

Notation: in \hat{a}_p^s the label s labels the spin and \vec{p} the three-momentum. All fields used in this exercise are free fields, i.e. they would be interaction-picture fields in case of an interacting theory.

The positive frequency part $\hat{\psi}^+(x)$ contains \hat{a}_p^s and the negative frequency part $\hat{\psi}^-(x)$ contains $\hat{b}_p^{s\dagger}$, whereas $\hat{\hat{\psi}}^+(x)$ contains \hat{b}_p^s and $\hat{\hat{\psi}}^-(x)$ contains $\hat{a}_p^{s\dagger}$. Therefore, all anticommutators vanish except $\{\hat{\psi}_a^+(x), \hat{\hat{\psi}}_b^-(y)\}$ and $\{\hat{\hat{\psi}}_b^+(y), \hat{\psi}_a^-(x)\}$, where a and b are spinor indices.

$$\boxed{x^0 > y^0} :$$

$$T(\hat{\psi}_a(x)\hat{\hat{\psi}}_b(y)) = (\hat{\psi}_a^+(x) + \hat{\psi}_a^-(x))(\hat{\hat{\psi}}_b^+(y) + \hat{\hat{\psi}}_b^-(y)),$$

$$\begin{aligned} N(\hat{\psi}_a(x)\hat{\hat{\psi}}_b(y)) &= \hat{\psi}_a^+(x)\hat{\hat{\psi}}_b^+(y) + \hat{\psi}_a^-(x)(\hat{\hat{\psi}}_b^+(y) + \hat{\hat{\psi}}_b^-(y)) - \hat{\hat{\psi}}_b^-(y)\hat{\psi}_a^+(x) \\ &= T(\hat{\psi}_a(x)\hat{\hat{\psi}}_b(y)) - \{\hat{\psi}_a^+(x), \hat{\hat{\psi}}_b^-(y)\}. \end{aligned}$$

$$\boxed{x^0 < y^0} :$$

$$T(\hat{\psi}_a(x)\hat{\hat{\psi}}_b(y)) = -(\hat{\hat{\psi}}_b^+(y) + \hat{\hat{\psi}}_b^-(y))(\hat{\psi}_a^+(x) + \hat{\psi}_a^-(x)),$$

$$N(\hat{\psi}_a(x)\hat{\hat{\psi}}_b(y)) = -N(\hat{\hat{\psi}}_b(y)\hat{\psi}_a(x)) = T(\hat{\psi}_a(x)\hat{\hat{\psi}}_b(y)) + \{\hat{\hat{\psi}}_b^+(y), \hat{\psi}_a^-(x)\}.$$

$$\text{Hence, } T(\hat{\psi}_a(x)\hat{\hat{\psi}}_b(y)) = N(\hat{\psi}_a(x)\hat{\hat{\psi}}_b(y)) + \overbrace{\hat{\psi}_a(x)\hat{\hat{\psi}}_b(y)} = N(\hat{\psi}_a(x)\hat{\hat{\psi}}_b(y)) + [S_F(x-y)]_{ab} \hat{1}.$$

Since $\{\hat{\psi}_a^+(x), \hat{\psi}_b^-(y)\} = \{\hat{\hat{\psi}}_a^+(x), \hat{\hat{\psi}}_b^-(y)\} = 0$, one has $\overbrace{\hat{\psi}_a(x)\hat{\hat{\psi}}_b(y)} = \overbrace{\hat{\hat{\psi}}_a(x)\hat{\hat{\psi}}_b(y)} = 0$.

The proof of Wick's theorem follows the steps outlined on p. 38 and 39 of the lecture notes with $\hat{\phi}_j$ representing a fermionic field at the spacetime point x_j , i.e. either $\hat{\phi}_j = \hat{\psi}_{a_j}(x_j)$ or $\hat{\phi}_j = \hat{\hat{\psi}}_{a_j}(x_j)$. Since interchanging two fields now generates a minus sign, the differences to the scalar case are

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{\phi}_1^+ N(\hat{\phi}_2 \cdots \hat{\phi}_m) &= N(\{\hat{\phi}_1^+, \hat{\phi}_2^-\} \hat{\phi}_3 \cdots \hat{\phi}_m - \hat{\phi}_2 \{\hat{\phi}_1^+, \hat{\phi}_3^-\} \hat{\phi}_4 \cdots \hat{\phi}_m + \cdots \\ &\quad + (-1)^{m-2} \hat{\phi}_2 \cdots \hat{\phi}_{m-1} \{\hat{\phi}_1^+, \hat{\phi}_m^-\}) + (-1)^{m-1} N(\hat{\phi}_2 \cdots \hat{\phi}_m) \hat{\phi}_1^+ \\ &= N(\hat{\phi}_1^+ \hat{\phi}_2 \cdots \hat{\phi}_m + \overbrace{\hat{\phi}_1 \hat{\phi}_2 \hat{\phi}_3 \cdots \hat{\phi}_m} + \overbrace{\hat{\phi}_1 \hat{\phi}_2 \hat{\phi}_3 \hat{\phi}_4 \cdots \hat{\phi}_m} + \cdots), \end{aligned}$$

where we have used that $N(\hat{\phi}_2 \cdots \hat{\phi}_m) \hat{\phi}_1^+ = (-1)^{m-1} N(\hat{\phi}_1^+ \hat{\phi}_2 \cdots \hat{\phi}_m)$.

For the four-point Green's function this implies:

$$\begin{aligned} &\langle 0 | T(\hat{\psi}_{a_1}(x_1) \hat{\psi}_{a_2}(x_2) \hat{\hat{\psi}}_{a_3}(x_3) \hat{\hat{\psi}}_{a_4}(x_4)) | 0 \rangle \\ &= \langle 0 | N(\hat{\psi}_{a_1}(x_1) \hat{\psi}_{a_2}(x_2) \hat{\hat{\psi}}_{a_3}(x_3) \hat{\hat{\psi}}_{a_4}(x_4) + \text{all possible contractions}) | 0 \rangle \\ &= [S_F(x_1 - x_4)]_{a_1 a_4} [S_F(x_2 - x_3)]_{a_2 a_3} - [S_F(x_1 - x_3)]_{a_1 a_3} [S_F(x_2 - x_4)]_{a_2 a_4}, \end{aligned}$$

where only fully contracted terms contribute and the minus sign originates from Fermi statistics.

Solution 19:

Let's consider a fermionic theory with Lagrangian

$$\mathcal{L}(x) = \bar{\psi}(x)(i\gamma^\mu\partial_\mu - m_\psi)\psi(x) + \frac{1}{2}[\partial_\mu\phi(x)][\partial^\mu\phi(x)] - \frac{1}{2}m_\phi^2\phi^2(x) - g\bar{\psi}(x)\Gamma\psi(x)\phi(x) ,$$

with Γ an arbitrary 4×4 matrix, $\phi(x)$ a real scalar field and $\psi(x)$ a Dirac field. This gives rise to the following interaction term in the Hamilton operator: $\hat{H}_{\text{int}} = g \int d\vec{x} \hat{\bar{\psi}}(x)\Gamma\hat{\psi}(x)\hat{\phi}(x)$.

(a) We first derive the Euler-Lagrange equations for all three fields:

$$\begin{aligned} \partial_\mu \left(\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial(\partial_\mu \bar{\psi})} \right) - \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \bar{\psi}} &= \partial_\mu(i\bar{\psi}\gamma^\mu) + m_\psi\bar{\psi} + g\bar{\psi}\Gamma\phi = \bar{\psi}(i\overleftarrow{\not{\partial}} + m_\psi + g\phi\Gamma) = 0 , \\ \partial_\mu \left(\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial(\partial_\mu \psi)} \right) - \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \psi} &= \partial_\mu(0) - (i\not{\partial} - m_\psi)\psi + g\Gamma\psi\phi = -(i\not{\partial} - m_\psi - g\phi\Gamma)\psi = 0 , \\ \partial_\mu \left(\frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial(\partial_\mu \phi)} \right) - \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}}{\partial \phi} &= \partial_\mu(\partial^\mu\phi) + m_\phi^2\phi + g\bar{\psi}\Gamma\psi = (\square + m_\phi^2)\phi + g\bar{\psi}\Gamma\psi = 0 . \end{aligned}$$

(b) We know that the action has mass dimension 0, i.e. $[S] = 0$. Therefore we have

$$\left[\int d^4x \mathcal{L} \right] = 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad [\mathcal{L}] = 4 .$$

Furthermore, we know that

$$[m_\psi] = [m_\phi] = [\partial_\mu] = 1 .$$

This leads to the following mass dimensions for the remaining objects:

$$[\phi] = \frac{4-2}{2} = 1 , \quad [\psi] = [\bar{\psi}] = \frac{4-1}{2} = \frac{3}{2} \quad \text{and} \quad [g] = 4 - 2 \cdot \frac{3}{2} - 1 = 0 .$$

Hence, g is a dimensionless coupling constant in four spacetime dimensions! So, we anticipate to be dealing with a renormalizable theory.

(c) The non-interacting (interaction picture) field $\hat{\psi}_I(x)$ contains the operators $\hat{a}_{\vec{p}}, \hat{b}_{\vec{p}}^\dagger$, while $\hat{\bar{\psi}}_I(x)$ contains the operators $\hat{a}_{\vec{p}}^\dagger, \hat{b}_{\vec{p}}$. This implies that

$$\langle 0 | T(\hat{\psi}_{a_I}(x)\hat{\psi}_{b_I}(y)) | 0 \rangle = \langle 0 | T(\hat{\bar{\psi}}_{a_I}(x)\hat{\bar{\psi}}_{b_I}(y)) | 0 \rangle = 0 ,$$

since in both cases the two sets of operators contained in the two fields anticommute and therefore annihilate the vacuum $|0\rangle$ or $\langle 0|$.

(d) Next we want to determine

$$\langle 0 | T\left(\hat{\psi}_{a_I}(x_1)\hat{\bar{\psi}}_{b_I}(x_2)\hat{\phi}_I(x_3)e^{-i\int d^4z \hat{\mathcal{H}}_{\text{int}_I}(z)}\right) | 0 \rangle$$

to first order in the coupling constant g . Expanding the time-ordered product up to first

order in the interaction and applying Wick's theorem, we find

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \langle 0 | T \left(\hat{\psi}_{a_I}(x_1) \hat{\psi}_{b_I}(x_2) \hat{\phi}_I(x_3) e^{-ig \int d^4 z \sum_{c,d} \hat{\psi}_{c_I}(z) \Gamma_{cd} \hat{\psi}_{d_I}(z) \hat{\phi}_I(z)} \right) | 0 \rangle \\
 & \stackrel{\mathcal{O}(g)}{=} \langle 0 | T \left(\hat{\psi}_{a_I}(x_1) \hat{\psi}_{b_I}(x_2) \hat{\phi}_I(x_3) \left[\hat{1} - ig \sum_{c,d} \int d^4 z \hat{\psi}_{c_I}(z) \Gamma_{cd} \hat{\psi}_{d_I}(z) \hat{\phi}_I(z) \right] \right) | 0 \rangle \\
 & \stackrel{\text{Wick}}{=} -ig \sum_{c,d} \int d^4 z \langle 0 | \overbrace{\hat{\psi}_{a_I}(x_1) \hat{\psi}_{b_I}(x_2) \hat{\phi}_I(x_3)}^{1: -} \underbrace{\hat{\psi}_{c_I}(z) \Gamma_{cd} \hat{\psi}_{d_I}(z) \hat{\phi}_I(z)}_{2: +} | 0 \rangle \\
 & \quad - ig \sum_{c,d} \int d^4 z \langle 0 | \overbrace{\hat{\psi}_{a_I}(x_1) \hat{\psi}_{b_I}(x_2) \hat{\phi}_I(x_3)}^{1: +} \underbrace{\hat{\psi}_{c_I}(z) \Gamma_{cd} \hat{\psi}_{d_I}(z) \hat{\phi}_I(z)}_{2: +} | 0 \rangle .
 \end{aligned}$$

Note that the lowest-order term in the expansion vanishes, because it is a product of three fields and therefore cannot be fully contracted. Furthermore, we used that contractions of $\hat{\psi}$ with $\hat{\psi}$ vanish, just like contractions of $\hat{\psi}$ with $\hat{\bar{\psi}}$ (in accordance with part d).

Next, we should replace contractions by propagators. The fermionic propagator is defined as the following contraction:

$$[S_F(x-y)]_{ab} = \overbrace{\hat{\psi}_{a_I}(x) \hat{\bar{\psi}}_{b_I}(y)} = - \overbrace{\hat{\bar{\psi}}_{b_I}(y) \hat{\psi}_{a_I}(x)} .$$

Therefore, the propagator picks up an additional minus sign if the order of the two fields is interchanged. Altogether, we find for the $\mathcal{O}(g)$ terms:

$$\begin{aligned}
 & + ig \int d^4 z D_F(x_3 - z) \sum_{c,d} [S_F(x_1 - z)]_{ac} \Gamma_{cd} [-S_F(z - x_2)]_{db} \\
 & - ig [S_F(x_1 - x_2)]_{ab} \int d^4 z D_F(x_3 - z) \sum_{c,d} \Gamma_{cd} [-S_F(z - z)]_{dc} \\
 & = -ig \int d^4 z D_F(x_3 - z) [S_F(x_1 - z) \Gamma S_F(z - x_2)]_{ab} \\
 & \quad + ig [S_F(x_1 - x_2)]_{ab} \int d^4 z D_F(x_3 - z) \text{Tr}(\Gamma S_F(z - z)) .
 \end{aligned}$$

Diagrammatically this can be represented by

Note that the analytic expressions nicely confirm the Feynman rules for fermion loops as well as the arrow convention!

$$\begin{aligned}
i\mathcal{M} &= \text{Diagram 1} + \text{Diagram 2} \equiv i\mathcal{M}_1 + i\mathcal{M}_2 \\
&= -(-ig)^2 i \left(\frac{[\bar{v}^{sA}(k_A)v^{r_1}(p_1)][\bar{v}^{sB}(k_B)v^{r_2}(p_2)]}{(k_A - p_1)^2 - m_\phi^2 + i\epsilon} - (p_1, r_1) \leftrightarrow (p_2, r_2) \right).
\end{aligned}$$
$${}_0\langle \vec{p}_1 \vec{p}_2 | \int d^4x \hat{\bar{\psi}}_I(x) \hat{\psi}_I(x) \hat{\phi}_I(x) \int d^4y \hat{\bar{\psi}}_I(y) \hat{\psi}_I(y) \hat{\phi}_I(y) | \vec{k}_A \vec{k}_B \rangle_0$$
$$_0 \langle \vec{p}_1 \vec{p}_2 | \int d^4 x \hat{\bar{\psi}}_I(x) \hat{\psi}_I(x) \hat{\phi}_I(x) \int d^4 y \hat{\bar{\psi}}_I(y) \hat{\psi}_I(y) \hat{\phi}_I(y) | \vec{k}_A \vec{k}_B \rangle_0 .$$

follows:

$$\begin{aligned}
 -i\Sigma_\phi(p^2) &\stackrel{\text{one-loop}}{=} \text{---}\overset{p}{\longrightarrow}\bullet\circlearrowleft[\ell_1, \ell_1+p]\bullet\overset{p}{\longrightarrow}\text{---} \\
 &= -(-ig)^2 i^2 \int \frac{d^4\ell_1}{(2\pi)^4} \frac{\text{Tr}([\ell_1 + m_\psi][\ell_1 + \not{p} + m_\psi])}{[\ell_1^2 - m_\psi^2 + i\epsilon][(\ell_1 + p)^2 - m_\psi^2 + i\epsilon]}.
 \end{aligned}$$
$$\text{Tr}(I_4) = 4 \quad \text{and} \quad \text{Tr}(\gamma^\mu \gamma^\nu) = 4g^{\mu\nu}.$$

We then find for the trace

$$\text{Tr}\left(\ell_1(\ell_1 + \not{p}) + m_\psi(2\ell_1 + \not{p}) + m_\psi^2\right) = 4[\ell_1 \cdot (\ell_1 + p) + m_\psi^2] ,$$

giving us the desired result.

- (h) Consider an arbitrary loop diagram in the Yukawa theory with N_F external fermions, N_B external bosons, P_F fermion propagators, P_B boson propagators, V vertices, and L loop momenta:

- two fermions and one boson meet in each vertex, each external line is connected to one vertex and each propagator is connected to two vertices:

$$2V = N_F + 2P_F \quad , \quad V = N_B + 2P_B \quad ,$$

which implies that N_F is always even and

$$P_F = V - \frac{1}{2}N_F \quad , \quad P_B = \frac{1}{2}(V - N_B) \quad ;$$

- as usual $L = P - V + 1$, with P the total number of propagators, i.e.

$$L = (P_F + P_B) - V + 1 = \frac{1}{2}(V - N_F - N_B) + 1 \quad \Rightarrow \quad L \geq 1 \quad \text{if} \quad V \geq N_B + N_F .$$

Naive power counting tells us that each loop momentum yields Λ^4 , each boson propagator yields Λ^{-2} , and each fermion propagator Λ^{-1} , as long as we are working in four spacetime dimensions. Therefore the superficial degree of divergence of the considered loop diagram equals

$$D = 4L - 2P_B - P_F = 4 - \frac{3}{2}N_F - N_B .$$

Since D is independent of V , divergences (i.e. $D \geq 0$) can occur at all loop orders, but there is only a finite number of divergent amplitudes (i.e. amplitudes with $N_F = 0, N_B \leq 4$ or $N_F = 2, N_B \leq 1$). As anticipated, the Yukawa theory is indeed renormalizable in four spacetime dimensions!