

## Anomalies

Anomalies are related to the notion of symm. breaking. There are several mechanisms to break the symmetry:

\* SOFT BREAKING: addition of a "small" term into  $\mathcal{L}$  s.t. it breaks the existent symmetry

\* SPONTANEOUS SYMMETRY BREAKING

[ '39 Heisenberg in cond. mat.  
'60s Goldstone in qft ]

\* ANOMALOUS BREAKING: disappearance of class. symm. at quantum level.

there can be both local and global  
anomalous symm. with  $\neq$  outcomes  
(they must not lead to inconsistent theories!)

CLASSICAL  $\xrightarrow[\text{SYMMETRY}]{} \text{QUANTUM}$

needs "regularisation" to be promoted!  
(otherwise it cannot be realised)

e.g.: suppose  $S$  invariant  $\Rightarrow$  current

$$\partial_\mu J_\alpha^\mu = 0 \text{ (classically)}$$

$\rightarrow$  it might be that:

$$\partial_\mu \langle J_\alpha^\mu(x) \rangle = a_\alpha(x)$$

at quantum level.

e.g.: suppose  $D=2$  and interacting theory s.t.:

$$\begin{cases} \gamma^0 = \sigma^{-1} \\ \gamma^1 = \sigma^{-2} \\ \gamma^3 = -i\sigma^3 \end{cases} \Rightarrow \begin{cases} J^\mu = \bar{q} \gamma^\mu q \\ J_5^\mu = i \bar{q} \gamma^\mu \gamma^5 q \end{cases} \quad \text{s.t.: } \partial_\mu J^\mu = \partial_\mu J_5^\mu = 0. \quad [\text{NB: } J_5^\mu = \epsilon^{\mu\nu\rho} J_\nu] \quad \text{dual!}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Then at quant. level} \Rightarrow & \langle J^\mu(x) J^\nu(0) \rangle = g^{\mu\nu} \bar{\Pi}_1(x) - \square^{-1} (\partial^\mu \partial^\nu \bar{\Pi}_2(x) + \partial^\mu \epsilon^{\nu\rho} \partial_\rho \bar{\Pi}_3(x)) \\ & \langle J_5^\mu(x) J^\nu(0) \rangle = \epsilon^{\mu\nu} \bar{\Pi}_1(x) - \square^{-1} (\epsilon^{\mu\rho} \partial_\rho \partial^\nu \bar{\Pi}_2(x) + g^{\mu\nu} \square \bar{\Pi}_3(x) - \\ & \quad - 2 \partial^\mu \partial^\nu \bar{\Pi}_3(x)) \end{aligned}$$

$\rightarrow$  imposing conservation, we get:

$$\begin{cases} \bar{\Pi}_1 = \bar{\Pi}_2, \quad \bar{\Pi}_3 = 0 \\ \bar{\Pi}_1 = 0 \end{cases}$$

$\Rightarrow \bar{\Pi}_1 = \bar{\Pi}_2 = \bar{\Pi}_3 \Rightarrow$  either the THEORY IS TRIVIAL  
or it is ANOMALOUS!

Consider for example:

\* YM theory in  $D=4$  spacetime dimension:

- $G$ : gauge group
- $\psi^a, A_u^a$ : fields in rep.  $R$  of  $G$
- $A_u^a = A_u^a T_a^a$  where  $T_a^a$  are generators of  $G$  in rep.  $R$
- $\delta A_u^a = \partial_u \varepsilon^a - i [A_u^a, \varepsilon^a] \quad (\varepsilon^a = \varepsilon^a T_a^a)$

$$\delta \psi^a = i \varepsilon^a \psi^a$$



$$\begin{aligned} \text{e.g.: } \delta \phi^a &= i \varepsilon^b (T_b^{adj})^b_c \phi^c = -\varepsilon^b \int_b^a \phi^c \Rightarrow \delta \phi^a = -\varepsilon^b \int_b^a T_a^b \phi^c = \\ &= i \varepsilon^b [T_b^a, T_c^a] \phi^c = i [\varepsilon^a, \phi^a] \end{aligned}$$

$$\Rightarrow \text{Gauge transf.: } \delta \psi(x) = i \varepsilon^a(x) (T_a^a) \psi(x)$$

$$\delta A_u^a(x) = \partial_u \varepsilon^a(x) + \int_b^a A_u^b(x) \varepsilon^c(x)$$



$$(D_u)^{ab} = \delta^{ab} \partial_u - \int_b^a \varepsilon^c A_u^c$$

Moreover:

add  $\mathcal{L}_{\text{Matter}}[q, \bar{q}]$  to YM action:

$$\frac{\delta \mathcal{L}_{\text{Matter}}}{\delta A_u^a} = (J_{\text{matt.}}^a)_a \rightarrow (D_u F^{uv})_a = -(J_{\text{matt.}}^v)_a \quad \text{s.t. } \underline{\underline{D_u (J_{\text{matt.}}^u)}} = 0$$

## ABELIAN ANOMALY

$$\mathcal{L} = -\frac{1}{4} F_{\mu\nu} F^{\mu\nu} \quad \text{where } D = \partial - iA^\mu$$

$= \mathcal{L}_{\text{matt}}$

$\Rightarrow$  How to compute correlation functions?

$$\langle \Theta_1(x_1) \dots \Theta_n(x_n) \rangle = \int dA_\mu d\bar{q} d\bar{\bar{q}} e^{i \int d^4x \mathcal{L}[q, \bar{q}, A_\mu]} \Theta_1(x_1) \dots \Theta_n(x_n)$$

Consider  $\Theta_i(x_i) \sim (J^{a_i}(x_i))_{a_i}$ :

$\Rightarrow$  it's enough to study

$$e^{i \bar{q} [A_\mu]} = \int d\bar{q} d\bar{\bar{q}} e^{i \int d^4x \mathcal{L}_{\text{matt}}[q, \bar{q}, A_\mu]}$$

and take funct. deriv. w.r.t.  $A_{a_i}^{a_i}(x_i)$  since  $(J_{\text{matt}}^a(x))_a = \frac{\delta \mathcal{L}_{\text{matt}}}{\delta A_a}$ .

[arbitrary S-matrix elements are made of current correlators and gauge field propagators  $\Rightarrow$  considering the above is not a loss in generality]

Now consider:  $\begin{cases} q(x) \mapsto U(x)q(x) \\ \bar{q}(x) \mapsto \bar{q}(x)\bar{U}(x) \end{cases} \Rightarrow$  the action is NOT invariant unless  $U$  is const.  
or  $U(x)$  is a gauge transf.  $[\bar{U} = (i\gamma^0)U^\dagger(i\gamma^0)]$

•  $U(x) = e^{i\varepsilon^a(x) T_a} \Rightarrow \bar{U}(x) = U^{-1}(x)$ :

$$\partial q' \partial \bar{q}' = \partial q \partial \bar{q} (\det U)^{-1} (\det \bar{U})^{-1}$$

where  $\langle x | \bar{U} | y \rangle = \bar{U}(x) \delta^4(x-y)$ .

$\Rightarrow \partial q' \partial \bar{q}' = \partial q \partial \bar{q} \Rightarrow$  the measure is invariant!

↓

no anomalies for non chiral

coupling of gauge fields to matter

•  $U(x) = e^{i\varepsilon^a(x) T_a \gamma_5} \rightarrow \bar{U}(x) = U(x)$ :

$$\Rightarrow \partial q' \partial \bar{q}' = \partial q \partial \bar{q} (\det U(x))^{-2} \rightarrow \text{NON TRIVIAL JACOBIAN}$$

where:

$$\begin{aligned}
(\det U)^2 &= e^{\text{Tr} \ln U^2} = e^{-2 \text{Tr} \ln U} = \exp \left( -2 \int d^4x \langle x | \text{tr} \ln U(x) \delta^4(0) | x \rangle \right) = \\
&= \exp \left( -2 \int d^4x i \epsilon^a(x) \text{tr}(T_a)_{\mathcal{S}} \delta^4(0) \right) = \exp \left( -2 \delta^4(0) \int d^4x \epsilon^a(x) \text{Tr}(T_a)_{\mathcal{S}} \right)
\end{aligned}$$

In general:

$$\partial q' \partial \bar{q}' = \partial q \partial \bar{q} e^{i \int d^4x \epsilon^a(x) a_a(x)}$$

→ in this case we first need to regularize the  $\delta^4(0)$  factor [UV divergence! short

$$\Rightarrow (\det U)^{-2} = \exp \left( -2 \lim_{\Lambda \rightarrow \infty} \int d^4x \text{Tr} \left[ \langle x | \epsilon^a(x) T_a \rangle_{\mathcal{S}} f \left( -\frac{q^2}{\Lambda^2} \right) | x \rangle \right] \right) =$$

$$= \exp \left( -2 \lim_{\Lambda \rightarrow \infty} \int d^4x \frac{d^4q}{(2\pi)^4} \text{Tr} \left[ \langle x | q \rangle \langle q | \dots | x \rangle \right] \right) =$$

$$= \exp \left( -2 \lim_{\Lambda \rightarrow \infty} \int d^4x \epsilon^a(x) \frac{\int d^4p}{(2\pi)^4} \langle x | p \rangle \text{tr}(T_a)_{\mathcal{S}} \langle p | f \left( -\frac{q^2}{\Lambda^2} \right) | x \rangle \right) =$$

$$= \exp \left( -2 \lim_{\Lambda \rightarrow \infty} \int d^4x \epsilon^a(x) \frac{\int d^4p}{(2\pi)^4} e^{ip \cdot x} \text{tr}(T_a)_{\mathcal{S}} f \left( -\left( -iq + \frac{p}{\Lambda} \right)^2 \right) \Lambda^4 \right) \sim$$

expand around  $q^2$

$$\sim \exp \left( -2 \int d^4x \epsilon^a(x) \frac{\int d^4q}{(2\pi)^4} \underbrace{\frac{1}{2} \int''(q^2) \text{Tr}(T_a)_{\mathcal{S}}}_{\frac{i}{32\pi^2}} (-\not{p})^2 \right) =$$

$$= \exp \left( -\frac{1}{16\pi^2} \int d^4x \epsilon^a(x) \epsilon^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} \text{Tr}(T_a F_{\mu\nu} F_{\rho\sigma}) \right) =$$

Then  $a_a = -\frac{1}{16\pi^2} \epsilon^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} \text{Tr}(T_a F_{\mu\nu} F_{\rho\sigma})$ . Consider  $G = U(1) \ni T$

\* CLASSICAL THEORY:

$L_{\text{mat}} = -\bar{q} \not{D} q$  under  $q'(x) = e^{i\epsilon^a T \gamma_5} q(x)$  with  $\epsilon^a = \text{const}$  is a symm!

$$\Rightarrow J_5^\mu = i \bar{q} \gamma^\mu \gamma_5 q \rightarrow \partial_\mu J_5^\mu(x) = 0.$$

\* QUANTUM THEORY:

$$\begin{aligned}
Z &= \int \partial q' \partial \bar{q}' e^{\frac{i}{\hbar} \int d^4x L_{\text{mat}} [q', \bar{q}', A_\mu]} = \int \partial q \partial \bar{q} e^{\frac{i}{\hbar} \int d^4x \{ L_{\text{mat}} [q, \bar{q}, A_\mu] - \epsilon^a \partial_\mu J_5^\mu \}} \\
&\sim \int \partial q \partial \bar{q} \left[ 1 + i \int d^4x \epsilon^a(x) a_a + O(\epsilon^2) \right] e^{\frac{i}{\hbar} \int d^4x \{ L_{\text{mat}} [q, \bar{q}, A_\mu] - \epsilon^a(x) \partial_\mu J_5^\mu(x) \}}
\end{aligned}$$

$\Rightarrow$  therefore AT QUANTUM LEVEL:

from gauge group

$$[T, T_a] = 0 \Rightarrow \text{anomaly is gauge inv!}$$

$$\partial_\mu \langle J_5^{\mu}(x) \rangle_A = \frac{i\hbar}{16\pi^2} \epsilon^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} \text{Tr} (T F_{\mu\nu} F_{\rho\sigma}) \neq 0$$

fixed  $A_\mu$  background

since  $F_{\mu\nu}$  contains  $A_\mu$   $\langle \dots \rangle_A$  is superflous!

### Summary:

- classical symmetry (global)
- functional measure not invariant
- quantum anomaly!

e.g.: "abelian symmetry" (chiral  $U(1)$  transf.)

### $\Rightarrow$ RELATION TO INSTANTONS

The abelian anomaly is the ANOMALOUS VARIATION OF AN EFFECTIVE ACTION:

$W[A_\mu]$  depends only on  $A_\mu \rightarrow$  define sth with fermions! (We are looking at anom. on matter fields (not gauge))

Introduce  $J[\chi, \bar{\chi}] = \int d^4x (\bar{\chi} \psi + \chi \bar{\psi})$  as source for fermions:

$$\psi(x) = \frac{\delta J}{\delta \bar{\chi}} ; \quad \bar{\psi}(x) = \frac{\delta J}{\delta \chi}$$

$\Rightarrow$  def  $\tilde{W}[A_\mu, \chi, \bar{\chi}]$  after functional integral on  $\psi, \bar{\psi}$  (fixed  $A_\mu$ ).

$\rightarrow$  EFFECTIVE ACTION:  $\tilde{\Gamma}[A_\mu, \psi, \bar{\psi}] = \tilde{W}[A_\mu, \chi, \bar{\chi}] - \int d^4x \bar{\chi} \frac{\delta J}{\delta \bar{\chi}} - \int d^4x \chi \frac{\delta J}{\delta \chi}$  (Legendre transf.)

$\Downarrow$   
obeys Slavnov-Taylor:

with anomaly:  $\delta_\epsilon \tilde{\Gamma} = \epsilon \int d^4x a(x)$

In abelian anomaly:

$$\int d^4x \alpha(x) \sim \int d^4x \epsilon^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} F_{\mu\nu} F_{\rho\sigma} = \frac{64\pi^2}{g^2} v$$

$$\hookrightarrow \delta_\epsilon \tilde{\Gamma} = -4 C_R v \epsilon \xrightarrow{\text{Instanton no.}} \text{where } \text{Tr}(T_a^\mu T_b^\nu) = C_R \delta_{ab}$$

## RELATION WITH INDEX OF DIRAC OPERATOR:

→ consider Euclidean space:  $i \not{D}_E \varphi_k = \lambda_k \varphi_k$  where  $\varphi = \sum_k c_k \varphi_k$ ,  $\bar{\varphi} = \sum_k \bar{c}_k \varphi_k^\dagger$  Grammatical var.

→ since  $[T, \not{D}_E] = 0 \Rightarrow T \varphi_k = t_k \varphi_k$

Therefore

$$\int d\varphi d\bar{\varphi} e^{-\int d^4x \bar{\varphi} \not{D}_E \varphi} = \det \not{D}_E = \prod_k \lambda_k$$

and

$$\gamma_5 \not{D}_E = -\not{D}_E \gamma_5, \quad [T, \gamma_5] = 0 \Rightarrow i \not{D}_E (\gamma_5 \varphi_k) = -\lambda_k (\gamma_5 \varphi_k)$$

$$T(\gamma_5 \varphi_k) = \lambda_k (\gamma_5 \varphi_k)$$

Now define

$$\varphi_{k,\pm} = \frac{I \pm \gamma_5}{2} \varphi_k \rightarrow \not{D}_E^2 \varphi_{k,\pm} = \pm \lambda_k^2 \varphi_{k,\pm} \quad \text{for } \lambda_k \neq 0$$

while if  $\lambda_k = 0 \Rightarrow \not{D}_E \varphi_0 = 0$  and  $\not{D}_E^2 \varphi_{0,\pm} = 0$

$\Rightarrow \lambda_0 = 0$  eigenspace:

$$\begin{cases} n_+ \text{ times } \varphi_{0,+} \\ n_- \text{ times } \varphi_{0,-} \end{cases}$$

Therefore with the regularization:

$$\lim_{\Lambda \rightarrow \infty} \text{Tr} \left( \gamma_5 T f \left( -\frac{\not{D}_E^2}{\Lambda^2} \right) \right) = \lim_{\Lambda \rightarrow \infty} \sum_k \langle \varphi_k | \gamma_5 T f \left( -\frac{\not{D}_E^2}{\Lambda^2} \right) | \varphi_k \rangle =$$

$$= \lim_{\Lambda \rightarrow \infty} \sum_k f \left( \frac{\lambda_k^2}{\Lambda^2} \right) \langle \varphi_k | \gamma_5 T | \varphi_k \rangle =$$

$$= \sum_{n=1}^{n_+} t_n - \sum_{v=1}^{n_-} t_v$$

Consider  $T = \mathbb{I}$ :

$$\lim_{\Lambda \rightarrow \infty} \text{Tr} \left( \gamma_5 f \left( -\frac{\not{D}_E^2}{\Lambda^2} \right) \right) = n_+ - n_- = \text{index}(i\not{D}_E)$$

Since

$$\int d^4x \alpha(x) = -2 \text{index}(i\not{D}_E) \rightarrow \text{index}(i\not{D}_E) = \frac{1}{32\pi^2} \int d^4x \epsilon^{μνρσ} \text{Tr}_R(F_{μν}F_{ρσ}).$$

In general, for  $d=2n$ :

$$\text{index}(i\not{D}_E) = \frac{(-1)^n}{n!} \frac{1}{(4\pi)^n} \int d^{2n}x \epsilon^{μ_1...μ_{2n}} \text{Tr}[F_{μ_1, μ_2} \dots F_{μ_{2n-1}, μ_{2n}}].$$

## ANOMALOUS GAUGE FIELDS

Consider a local symmetry:

$$S[\phi^r + \delta\phi^r] = S[\phi^r] \quad \text{under} \quad \delta A_a^a = \partial_a \epsilon^a \quad \text{in adj rep.}$$

such that:

$$\overline{\text{Tr}} \delta(\phi^r + \delta\phi^r) = \overline{\text{Tr}} \delta\phi^r e^{i\varepsilon \int d^4x \not{A}(x)}$$

Therefore:

$$\begin{aligned} \delta_\epsilon W[\phi^r, A_a] &= \epsilon^a \int d^4x \not{A}_a(x) \\ &= \int d^4x \delta A_a^a \frac{\delta W}{\delta A_a^a} = \int d^4x \partial_a \epsilon^a \frac{\delta W}{\delta A_a^a} = - \int d^4x \epsilon^a(x) \partial_a J_a^a \end{aligned}$$

$$\Rightarrow (\partial_a \langle J^a \rangle)^a = -\not{A}(x) \Rightarrow \text{anomalous current!}$$

From the diagrammatic POV:

$$\frac{\delta}{\delta A_a^a} \dots W[A] \Big|_{A_a=0} = \langle J_a^a \dots \rangle \xrightarrow{\text{coupling } \dots A_a J^a \dots} \Gamma_{a_1 \dots a_n}^{μ_1 \dots μ_n}(x_1 \dots x_n) \quad (\text{only connected})$$

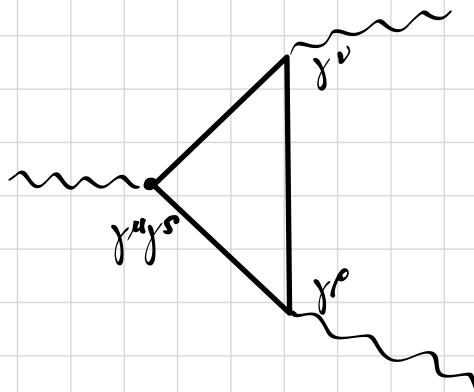
Consider the abelian anomaly:

$$\partial_a \langle J_5^μ \rangle = -\alpha(x) \Rightarrow \partial_a [\delta_{A_a} \delta_{A_b} \langle J_5^μ \rangle] = -\partial_a T_5^{μν}(x, y, z) = -\delta_{A_a} \delta_{A_b} \alpha(x)$$

Then the anomalies

$$-i(p+q)_\mu \Gamma_{abc}^{\mu\nu\rho}(-p-q, p, q) = -\frac{1}{2\pi^2} \text{Tr}(T_a T_b T_c) \epsilon^{\nu\rho\lambda} p_\lambda p_0$$

comes from:



$\Rightarrow$  No other anomalies since  $U(1) \Rightarrow$  bilinear in  $A_\mu \Rightarrow$  at most 2  $\delta_{A_\mu}$ !

If non abelian symmetry  $\rightarrow$  more legs (i.e.: more functional derivatives)!

$$D_\mu \langle J^\mu \rangle_a = -v_{fa} \rightarrow \text{Define: } \Gamma_{abc}^{\mu\nu\rho} = -\langle J_a^\mu J_b^\nu J_c^\rho \rangle$$

$$\Pi_{ab}^{\rho\sigma} = i \langle J_a^\rho J_b^\sigma \rangle$$

$$A_{abc}^{\rho\sigma} = \delta_{Ab} \delta_{Ac} v_{fa}$$

Therefore:

$$\partial_\mu \Gamma_{abc}^{\mu\nu\rho}(x, y, z) + f_{abc} [\delta^4(x-y) \Pi_{ab}^{\nu\rho}(y, z) - \delta^4(x-z) \Pi_{ab}^{\nu\rho}(y, z)] = -v_{abc}^{\nu\rho}(x, y, z)$$

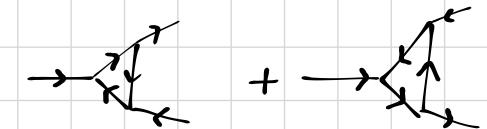
Since

$$A_a = 4c \epsilon^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} \text{Tr}[T_a T_b T_c] \partial_\mu A_\nu^\lambda \partial_\rho A_\sigma^\lambda + O(A^3)$$

$$\Rightarrow -i(p+q)_\mu \Gamma_{abc}^{\mu\nu\rho}(-p-q, p, q) \Big|_{\text{anomaly}} = 8c \epsilon^{\nu\rho\lambda} p_0 p_1 D_{abc}^\lambda$$

## AXIAL ANOMALY

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} J_{sa}^\mu = i \bar{\psi} \gamma^\mu \gamma_5 T_a \psi \\ J_a^\mu = i \bar{\psi} \gamma^\mu T_a \psi \end{array} \right\} \rightarrow \text{compute } \langle J_{sa}^\mu J_b^\nu J_c^\rho \rangle$$



Then:

$$\text{Pauli-Villars regularization} \Rightarrow -i(p+q)_\mu \Gamma_{abc}^{\mu\nu\rho}(-p-q, p, q) = -\frac{1}{2\pi^2} \epsilon^{\nu\rho\lambda} p_0 p_1 \text{Tr}(T_a T_b T_c)$$

$\rightarrow$  if anomalous GLOBAL chiral symmetry  $\Rightarrow$  No inconsistency

$\rightarrow$  NB: vector currents:

$$p_\nu \Gamma_{abc}^{\mu\nu\rho}(-p-q, p, q) = q_\rho \Gamma_{abc}^{\mu\nu\rho}(-p-q, p, q) = 0 \Rightarrow \text{gauge fields NOT anomalous!}$$

What if chiral matter?  $\Rightarrow \psi_L, \psi_R$ :

$$-i(p+q)_\mu T_{abc}^{\mu\nu\rho}(-p-q, p, q) = -\frac{1}{12\pi^2} \text{Tr}(T_a T_b T_c) \epsilon^{\nu\rho\lambda} p_2 p_3 + O(A^3)$$

because

$\bar{\psi} (\not{D} - iA^\mu \not{P}_L) \psi$  does not trans. covariantly!

↳ the measure of  $\partial \bar{\psi} \partial \psi$  does not trans. nicely  $\Rightarrow$  anomaly!

Since anomalies are always FINITE and LOCAL:

$$\text{full anomaly: } A_a^L(x) = -\frac{1}{24\pi^2} \epsilon^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} \text{Tr} \left[ T_a \partial_\mu \left( A_\nu \partial_\rho A_\sigma - \frac{i}{4} A_\nu [A_\rho, A_\sigma] \right) \right]$$

$\Rightarrow$  Does it vanish?

$$A_a(x) = \sum_i A_{a,i}^L + \sum_j A_{a,j}^R$$

↳ causal for pseudoreal rep.'s:

- $SO(2n+1), SO(4n)$
- $USp(2n)$
- $G_2, F_4, E_7, E_8$
- $SU(2)$  (real)
- $SO(4n+2)|_{n>1}, E_6$  (luck...)

Final remark:

$$-\left(\partial_\mu \frac{\delta}{\delta A_\mu}\right)^c W[A] = \mathcal{A}^c \rightarrow \text{Define: } G_{ab} = -\left(\partial_\mu \delta_{A_\mu}\right)^c \Rightarrow [G_a, G_b] = f_{ab}^c G_c(x) \delta^4(x-y)$$

$\rightarrow$  WZ consistency relation:  $G_a(x) \partial_b g - G_b(y) \partial_a(x) = f_{ab}^c \delta^4(x-y) A_c(x)$ .