

Week 10: Spontaneous symmetry breaking

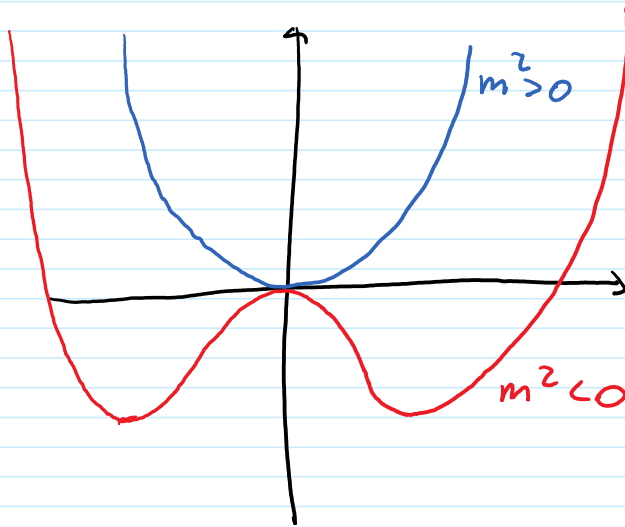
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Discrete symmetries

Let us consider the following Lagrangian for a real scalar field ϕ

$$\mathcal{L} = \frac{1}{2} (\partial_\mu \phi) (\partial^\mu \phi) - \frac{1}{2} m^2 \phi^2 - \frac{\lambda}{4} \phi^4 = \frac{1}{2} (\partial_\mu \phi) (\partial^\mu \phi) - V(\phi)$$

The potential $V(\phi)$ has two different behaviours according to the sign of m^2



For $m^2 > 0$, $\phi = 0$ corresponds to the minimum of the potential. Small perturbations around $\phi = 0$ lead to a theory for scalar particles with positive squared mass

For $m^2 < 0$, we cannot expand the field ϕ around $\phi = 0$, because any small perturbation will drive us away from that point. This leads to a theory with tachyons

In order to quantize such a theory perturbatively, we need to expand the field around either of the two minima of the potential, located at

$$\phi(x) = \phi_0 = \pm v \quad v = \sqrt{\frac{-m^2}{\lambda}}$$

For instance, let us expand $\phi(x)$ around $\phi_0 = +v$
 $\phi(x) = v + h(x)$

Substituting into the Lagrangian gives

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L} &= \frac{1}{2} \partial_\mu h \partial^\mu h - \frac{1}{2} m^2 (v+h)^2 - \frac{\lambda}{4} (v+h)^4 = \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \partial_\mu h \partial^\mu h - \frac{1}{2} m^2 (v^2 + 2hv + h^2) + \\ &\quad - \frac{\lambda}{4} (v^4 + 4hv^3 + 6h^2v^2 + 4h^3v + h^4) = \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \partial_\mu h \partial^\mu h - \left\{ \underbrace{\frac{1}{2} (m^2 v^2 + \frac{\lambda}{2} v^4)}_{= -\frac{\lambda}{4} v^4 < 0} + \underbrace{(m^2 + \lambda v^2)}_{= 0} v h + \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \frac{1}{2} (\underbrace{m_h^2 = -2m^2}_{> 0}) h^2 + \lambda v h^3 + \frac{\lambda}{4} h^4 \right\} \equiv \end{aligned}$$

self interactions

$$\equiv \frac{1}{2} \partial_\mu h \partial^\mu h - V(h)$$

$$V(h) = \frac{1}{2} m_h^2 h^2 + \lambda v h^3 + \frac{\lambda}{4} h^4 + \text{constant term}$$

$$m_h^2 = -2m^2 = 2\lambda v^2 > 0 \quad \text{well-defined perturbative theory!}$$

The original Lagrangian had a $\mathbb{Z}_2$ symmetry $\phi \rightarrow -\phi$

The new Lagrangian is not symmetric under $h \rightarrow -h$ because of the presence of the h^3 term. The presence of this term follows from the fact that we have expanded around a non-symmetric configuration

However, the original $\mathbb{Z}_2$ symmetry is still there, but it is realised non linearly

$$h \rightarrow -h - 2v$$

This phenomenon is known as spontaneous symmetry breaking

Spontaneous symmetry breaking: a theory has a symmetry (e.g. stemming from a classical Lagrangian), whose corresponding operator U does not leave the ground state invariant

$$U|0\rangle \neq |0\rangle$$

In the case of spontaneous symmetry breaking one or more scalar fields acquire a vacuum expectation value (VEV)

i) Only scalar fields can acquire a VEV. In fact, suppose we have fields $\Phi_a(x)$ transforming under Poincaré as

$$U(\Lambda, a) \Phi_a(x) U^\dagger(\Lambda, a) = S_{ab}(\Lambda^{-1}) \Phi_b(\Lambda x + a)$$

Since $U(\Lambda, a)|0\rangle = |0\rangle$, then

$$\begin{aligned} \langle 0 | \Phi_a(x) | 0 \rangle &= \langle 0 | e^{iP \cdot x} \Phi_a(0) e^{-iP \cdot x} | 0 \rangle = \\ &= \langle 0 | \Phi_a(0) | 0 \rangle = \langle 0 | U(\Lambda) \Phi_a(0) U^\dagger(\Lambda) | 0 \rangle = \\ &= S_{ab}(\Lambda^{-1}) \langle 0 | \Phi_b(0) | 0 \rangle \Rightarrow S_{ab}(\Lambda^{-1}) = \delta_{ab} \end{aligned}$$

Hence $\Phi_a(x)$ are scalar fields

Note: the proof works also if the vacuum has finite energy E_0

ii) If $|0\rangle$ is symmetric, then $\langle 0 | \Phi_a(x) | 0 \rangle = 0$ for any scalar field. In fact, suppose we have a symmetry S realised on a scalar field $\phi(x)$ as follows

$$U_S \phi_a(x) U_S^\dagger = \Pi_{ab}^S \phi_b(x) \quad \text{and} \quad U_S |0\rangle = |0\rangle$$

Then

$$\langle 0 | \phi_a(0) | 0 \rangle = \langle 0 | U_S \phi_a(0) U_S^\dagger | 0 \rangle = \Pi_{ab}^S \langle 0 | \phi_b(0) | 0 \rangle$$

If $\Pi_{ab}^S \neq \delta_{ab}$, this implies $\langle 0 | \phi_a(x) | 0 \rangle = 0$

Example: $\mathbb{Z}_2$ symmetry

We have a "parity" operator P such that

$$P\phi(x)P^\dagger = -\phi(x)$$

We have two vacua $|0, +\rangle$ and $|0, -\rangle$ such that

$$\langle 0, \pm | \phi(x) | 0, \pm \rangle = \pm v \Leftrightarrow P|0, \pm\rangle = |0, \mp\rangle$$

The parity operator transforms one vacuum into the other

If $\mathbb{Z}_2$ is a symmetry of the theory, then $(P, H) = 0$

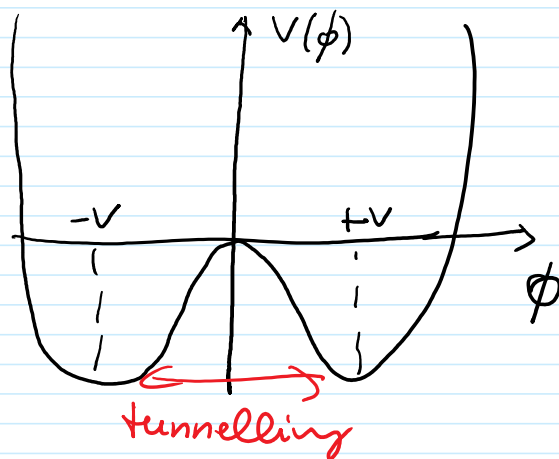
$\Rightarrow |0, +\rangle$ and $|0, -\rangle$ are degenerate vacua

In fact, let $H|0, +\rangle = E_+|0, +\rangle$, then

$$\begin{aligned} H|0, -\rangle &= HP|0, +\rangle = (PH|0, +\rangle + \underbrace{[H, P]}_{=0})|0, +\rangle = \\ &= PH|0, +\rangle = E_+P|0, +\rangle = E_+|0, -\rangle \end{aligned}$$

In ordinary quantum mechanics, the true ground state is

$$|\Omega\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(|0, +\rangle + |0, -\rangle) \text{ such that } P|\Omega\rangle = |\Omega\rangle$$



Even if the system starts with a non-symmetric state, say $|0, +\rangle$, quantum tunnelling will bring the system into the symmetric state $|\Omega\rangle$

Tunnelling occurs because $\langle 0, - | H | 0, + \rangle \neq 0$

In quantum field theory, if $|u\rangle$ and $|v\rangle$ are two degenerate ground states, then $\langle v|H|u\rangle = 0$

$\Rightarrow$ no tunnelling, for small perturbations the system fluctuates around any of the degenerate vacua

In fact, suppose we select $|u\rangle$ and $|v\rangle$ among a set of degenerate vacua $|u\rangle$

For any couple of hermitian operators $A(x)$ and $B(x)$, we consider the following expectation value

$$\langle u|A(\vec{x})B(0)|v\rangle = \sum_u \langle u|A(0)|u\rangle \langle u|B(0)|v\rangle + \sum_N \langle u|A(0)|N\rangle \langle N|B(0)|v\rangle e^{-i\vec{p}_N \cdot \vec{x}}$$

For $|\vec{x}| \rightarrow \infty$ we can neglect the fast oscillating contribution due to multi-particle states $|N\rangle$

Similarly

$$\langle u|B(\vec{x})A(0)|v\rangle \xrightarrow{|\vec{x}| \rightarrow \infty} \sum_u \langle u|B(0)|u\rangle \langle u|A(0)|v\rangle$$

But, due to causality, $\langle u|[A(\vec{x}), B(0)]|v\rangle = 0$

This implies that, as matrices, $\langle u|A(0)|v\rangle$ and $\langle u|B(0)|v\rangle$ commute $\Rightarrow$ simultaneous diagonalisation

$$\langle u|A(0)|v\rangle = a_v \delta_{uv} \quad \text{and} \quad \langle u|B(0)|v\rangle = b_v \delta_{uv}$$

In this basis, if the Hamiltonian is constructed out of products of such operators

$$\langle u|H|v\rangle = E_0 \delta_{uv} \Rightarrow \text{no tunnelling!}$$

Spontaneous breaking of a global continuous symmetry

Consider a complex scalar field, with the Lagrangian

$$\mathcal{L} = (\partial_\mu \phi^*)(\partial^\mu \phi) - m^2 \phi^* \phi - \lambda (\phi^* \phi)^2 \quad \lambda > 0$$

The Lagrangian has a global $U(1)$ symmetry

We look for vacuum solutions, that minimise the Hamiltonian.

Since the kinetic energy is positive definite, such solutions need to have $\partial_\mu \phi = 0 \Rightarrow \phi = \text{constant}$

Any of these solutions minimise the potential

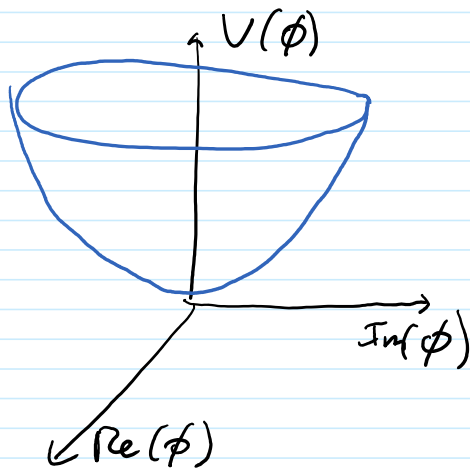
$$V(\phi) = m^2 \phi^* \phi + \lambda (\phi^* \phi)^2$$

Let ϕ_0 be any of such solutions. Then, if the theory is perturbative

$$\phi(x) = \phi_0 + \sqrt{2\lambda} \int d\vec{p} (a(\vec{p}) e^{-ipx} + b^\dagger(\vec{p}) e^{ipx}) + O(\lambda)$$

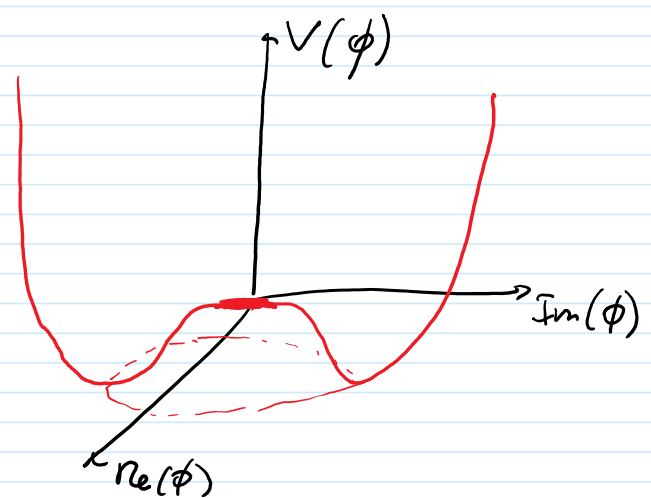
This means that the configuration ϕ_0 corresponds to a vacuum $|0\rangle$ such that $\langle 0 | \phi(x) | 0 \rangle = \phi_0$

$$m^2 > 0$$



One global minimum $\phi_0 = 0$

$$m^2 < 0$$



Infinitely many global minima

$$m^2 + 2\lambda \phi_0^* \phi_0 = 0$$

$$|\phi_0| = \sqrt{\frac{-m^2}{2\lambda}} \equiv \frac{v}{\sqrt{2}}$$

Spontaneous symmetry breaking

In order to perturbatively quantize this theory for $m^2 < 0$, we expand the field ϕ around any of its vacuum configurations

$$\phi_0 = \frac{v}{\sqrt{2}} e^{i\alpha_0} \quad \phi(x) = \frac{e^{i\alpha_0}}{\sqrt{2}} (v + h(x) + i\chi(x))$$

$\nwarrow \quad \nearrow$
 real fields

The Lagrangian becomes

$$\mathcal{L} = \frac{1}{2} \partial_\mu (h - i\chi) \partial^\mu (h + i\chi) - \frac{1}{2} m^2 (v^2 + 2vh + h^2 + \chi^2) +$$

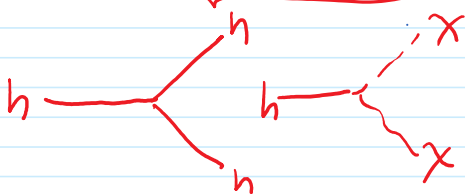
$$- \frac{\lambda}{4} (v^4 + 4hv^3 + v^2(6h^2 + 2\chi^2) + 4vh(h^2 + \chi^2) + (h^2 + \chi^2)^2)$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} (\partial_\mu h) (\partial^\mu h) + \frac{1}{2} (\partial_\mu \chi) (\partial^\mu \chi) +$$

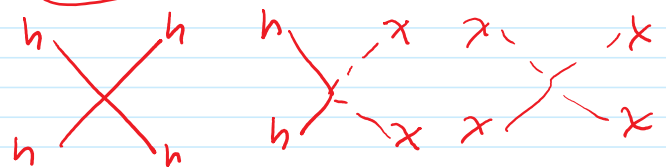
$$- \left\{ \underbrace{\frac{1}{2} (m^2 v^2 + \frac{\lambda}{2} v^4)}_{= -\frac{\lambda v^2}{4} < 0} + \underbrace{(m^2 + \lambda v^2) v h}_{= 0 \quad (m^2 = -\lambda v^2)} + \right.$$

$$+ \frac{1}{2} \underbrace{(m^2 + 3\lambda v^2) h^2}_{= m_h^2 = -2m^2 > 0} + \frac{1}{2} \underbrace{(m^2 + \lambda v^2) \chi^2}_{= m_\chi^2 = 0!} +$$

$$- \underbrace{\lambda v h (h^2 + \chi^2)}$$



$$- \frac{\lambda}{4} (h^2 + \chi^2)^2$$



$$\mathcal{L} = \frac{1}{2} (\partial_\mu h) (\partial^\mu h) + \frac{1}{2} (\partial_\mu \chi) (\partial^\mu \chi) - V(h, \chi)$$

$$V(h, \chi) = \frac{1}{2} m_h^2 h^2 - \lambda v h (h^2 + \chi^2) - \frac{\lambda}{4} (h^2 + \chi^2)^2 + \text{constant}$$

Two scalars with free-level squared masses

$$m_h^2 = -2m^2 = 2\lambda v^2 > 0$$

$$m_\chi^2 = 0 \quad \text{massless!}$$

The original Lagrangian is still invariant under $U(1)$ global transformations of the field $\phi(x)$

$$\phi(x) \rightarrow e^{i\alpha} \phi(x) \simeq \phi(x) + i\alpha \phi(x)$$

In the current parameterisation

$$i\alpha \phi(x) = i\alpha \frac{e^{i\alpha_0}}{\sqrt{2}} (v + h + i\chi) = \frac{e^{i\alpha_0}}{\sqrt{2}} (-\alpha\chi + i\alpha(v + \chi))$$

$$h \rightarrow h - \alpha\chi \quad \chi \rightarrow \chi + \alpha h + \alpha v$$

On the massless field, the symmetry is non-linearly realised

One can obtain the masses of the particles by expanding the potential around ϕ_0 (simpler using real fields)

$$\phi(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (\phi_1(x) + i\phi_2(x)) \quad \phi_0 = \frac{v}{\sqrt{2}} (\cos\alpha_0 + i\sin\alpha_0)$$

$$V(\phi) = \frac{\lambda}{2} \left[-v^2 (\phi_1^2 + \phi_2^2) + \frac{1}{2} (\phi_1^2 + \phi_2^2)^2 \right] \simeq$$

$$\simeq V(\phi_0) + \frac{1}{2} (\phi_1 - \phi_{0,1}, \phi_2 - \phi_{0,2}) \Pi^2 \begin{pmatrix} \phi_1 - \phi_{0,1} \\ \phi_2 - \phi_{0,2} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\Pi^2 = \left. \frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial \phi_1 \partial \phi_2} \right|_{\phi=\phi_0} = 2\lambda v^2 \begin{pmatrix} \cos^2 \alpha_0 & \sin \alpha_0 \cos \alpha_0 \\ \sin \alpha_0 \cos \alpha_0 & \sin^2 \alpha_0 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\det \Pi^2 = 0 \Rightarrow \text{one zero eigenvalue} \Rightarrow \text{massless particle}$$

Goldstone theorem

If a theory is invariant under a continuous global symmetry transformation, then either

- i) the ground state (vacuum) is invariant as well
- ii) or there exists a particle without spin and zero mass

For each generator of a broken continuous global symmetry, there exists a spinless massless particle, the Goldstone boson

Heuristic proof for perturbative scalar field theory

Consider a classical Lagrangian for scalar fields ϕ^i

$$\mathcal{L} = \underbrace{T(\phi^i)}_{\text{kinetic}} - \underbrace{V(\phi^i)}_{\text{potential}}$$

Under a global transformation (in infinitesimal form)

$$\phi^a \rightarrow \phi^a + \alpha_a T^a_b \phi^b \quad \text{and} \quad \delta \mathcal{L} = 0$$

The vacuum of the theory corresponds to field configurations ϕ_0^a such that

$$T(\phi_0^a) = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \left. \frac{\partial V(\phi^i)}{\partial \phi^a} \right|_{\phi^a = \phi_0^a} = 0$$

If the vacuum state is not invariant, then

$$\alpha_a T^a_b \phi_0^b \neq 0$$

Choose a particular ground-state configuration and expand the potential about it:

$$V(\phi) = V(\phi_0) + \frac{1}{2} (\phi - \phi_0)^a (\phi - \phi_0)^b \underbrace{\frac{\partial^2 V}{\partial \phi_a \partial \phi_b} \bigg|_{\phi = \phi_0}}_{= m_{ab}^2 \text{ (mass matrix)}} + \dots$$

Eigenvalues of $m_{ab}^2 \rightarrow$ particle masses

$$\text{Invariance of } V \Rightarrow 0 = \delta V = V(\phi) - V(\phi_0) = \frac{1}{2} (\alpha_a T^a_b \phi_0^b) m_{bc}^2 (\alpha_c T^c_d \phi_0^d)$$

This means that $\alpha_a T^a_b \phi_0^b$ is a non-vanishing eigenvector of m_{ab}^2 with eigenvalue $= 0$

Goldstone theorem in QFT

A continuous global symmetry transformation

$$U = \exp(i\alpha_a T^a)$$

gives rise to conserved Noether currents J_a^μ , i.e. $\partial_\mu J_a^\mu = 0$
The corresponding charges Q^a are time-independent

$$Q_a = \int d^3x J_a^0(x) \quad \frac{dQ_a}{dt} = i[H, Q_a] = 0$$

If a vacuum $|0\rangle$ is not invariant under this symmetry,

$$e^{i\alpha_a Q_a} |0\rangle \rightarrow Q_a |0\rangle \neq 0$$

We have a family of degenerate vacua

$$|\alpha_a\rangle = e^{i\alpha_a Q_a} |0\rangle$$

In fact, if $H|0\rangle = E_0|0\rangle$, we have

$$H|\alpha_a\rangle = H e^{i\alpha_a Q_a} |0\rangle = e^{i\alpha_a Q_a} H|0\rangle = E_0 |\alpha_a\rangle$$

Since $Q_a|0\rangle \neq 0$, then Q_a produces an excitation of the vacuum that has zero momentum

$$\vec{P} Q_a |0\rangle = [\vec{P}, Q_a] |0\rangle = 0$$

$$H Q_a |0\rangle = [H, Q_a] |0\rangle + Q_a H |0\rangle = E_0 Q_a |0\rangle$$

$Q_a|0\rangle$, at zero momentum, has no extra energy on top of the vacuum $\Rightarrow$ massless particle

To make the argument more rigorous, we consider scalar fields $\phi_i(x)$ such that

$$\langle 0 | \phi_i(x) | 0 \rangle \neq 0$$

$$e^{i\alpha_a Q_a} \phi_i(x) e^{-i\alpha_a Q_a} = (e^{i\alpha_a T^a})_{ij} \phi_j(x)$$

For any generator Q_a of a broken symmetry, we have

$$[Q_a, \phi_i(x)] = T_{ij}^a \phi_j(x)$$

Step 1: write the commutator of a current and a field in terms of a spectral density $\rho(q^2)$

$$\langle 0 | [J_a^\mu(x), \phi_i(y)] | 0 \rangle = \langle 0 | [J_a^\mu(x-y), \phi_i(0)] | 0 \rangle = \\ = \langle 0 | J_a^\mu(x-y), \phi_i(0) | 0 \rangle - \langle 0 | \phi_i(0) J_a^\mu(x-y) | 0 \rangle$$

Inserting a complete set of states, and setting $E_0=0$, gives

$$\langle 0 | J_a^\mu(x) \phi_i(0) | 0 \rangle = \sum_N \langle 0 | J_a^\mu(0) | N \rangle \langle N | \phi_i(0) | 0 \rangle e^{-i p_N \cdot x} = \\ = \int \frac{d^4 q}{(2\pi)^3} \tilde{\rho}_{ai}^\mu(q) e^{-i q \cdot x}$$

$$\tilde{\rho}_{ai}^\mu(q) = (2\pi)^3 \sum_N \langle 0 | J_a^\mu(0) | N \rangle \langle N | \phi_i(0) | 0 \rangle \delta^4(p_N - q)$$

From Lorentz invariance, and the positivity of energy

$$\tilde{\rho}_{ai}^\mu(q) = -i q^\mu \rho_{ai}(q^2) \Theta(q_0)$$

Assume $J_a^\mu(x)$ and $\phi_i(x)$ to be hermitian, then

$$\langle 0 | \phi_i(0) J_a^\mu(x) | 0 \rangle = (\langle 0 | J_a^\mu(x) \phi_i(0) | 0 \rangle)^* = \\ = \int \frac{d^4 q}{(2\pi)^3} (i q^\mu \rho_{ai}^*(q^2) \Theta(q_0)) e^{i q \cdot x}$$

This gives

$$\langle 0 | [J_a^\mu(x), \phi_i(0)] | 0 \rangle = \int \frac{d^4 q}{(2\pi)^3} (-i q^\mu) (\rho_{ai}(q^2) e^{-i q \cdot x} + \rho_{ai}^*(q^2) e^{i q \cdot x}) \Theta(q_0) = \\ = \partial^\mu \int \frac{d^4 q}{(2\pi)^3} (\rho_{ai}(q^2) e^{-i q \cdot x} - \rho_{ai}^*(q^2) e^{i q \cdot x}) \Theta(q_0)$$

Step 2: use causality to show that $\rho_{ai}^*(q^2) = \rho_{ai}(q^2)$

For $x^2 < 0$ we change integration variable, so that $x = (0, \vec{x})$

$$\int \frac{d^4 q}{(2\pi)^3} (\rho_{ai}(q^2) e^{-i q \cdot x} - \rho_{ai}^*(q^2) e^{i q \cdot x}) \Theta(q_0) = \\ = \int \frac{d^4 q}{(2\pi)^3} (\rho_{ai}(q^2) - \rho_{ai}^*(q^2)) e^{i \vec{q} \cdot \vec{x}} \Theta(q_0) \stackrel{\text{causality}}{=} 0 \Rightarrow \rho_{ai}(q^2) = \rho_{ai}^*(q^2)$$

Summary of steps 1 and 2

$$\langle 0 | [T_a^\mu(x), \phi_i(0)] | 0 \rangle = \partial^\mu \int_0^\infty d\mu^2 \rho_{ai}(\mu^2) i \Delta(x-y, \mu^2)$$

$$i \Delta(x, \mu^2) = \int \frac{d^4 q}{(2\pi)^3} (e^{-iqx} - e^{iqx}) \Theta(q_0) \delta(q^2 - \mu^2)$$

Step 3: use current conservation to show that $q^2 \rho_a(q^2) = 0$

$$\begin{aligned} 0 &= \langle 0 | [\partial_\mu T_a^\mu(x), \phi_i(0)] | 0 \rangle = \\ &= \square \int_0^\infty d\mu^2 \rho_{ai}(\mu^2) \Delta(x, \mu^2) \end{aligned}$$

But $\Delta(x, \mu^2)$ satisfies Klein-Gordon equation

$$(\square + m^2) \Delta(x, \mu^2) = 0$$

This gives

$$\int_0^\infty d\mu^2 \mu^2 \rho_{ai}(\mu^2) \Delta(x, \mu^2) = 0 \Rightarrow \mu^2 \rho_{ai}(\mu^2) = 0$$

Specialize our result to

$$\langle 0 | [T_a^0(x), \phi_i(y)] | 0 \rangle \Big|_{x_0=y_0} = \int_0^\infty d\mu^2 \rho_{ai}(\mu^2) \frac{\partial}{\partial x_0} i \Delta(x-y, \mu^2) \Big|_{x_0=y_0}$$

Recall properties of $\Delta(x-y, \mu^2)$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x_0} \Delta(x-y, \mu^2) \Big|_{x_0=y_0} = -\delta^3(\vec{x} - \vec{y})$$

This gives

$$\langle 0 | [T_a^0(x), \phi_i(y)] | 0 \rangle \Big|_{x_0=y_0} = -i \delta^3(\vec{x} - \vec{y}) \int_0^\infty d\mu^2 \rho_{ai}(\mu^2)$$

Step 4: impose spontaneous symmetry breaking to show that $\rho_{ai}(q^2) = N_a \delta(q^2)$

$$\int d^3\vec{x} \langle 0 | [J_a^0(x), \phi_i(y)] | 0 \rangle \Big|_{x_0=y_0} = \langle 0 | [Q_a, \phi_i(y)] | 0 \rangle =$$

$$= T_{ij}^a \langle 0 | \phi_j(y) | 0 \rangle = T_{ij}^a \langle 0 | \phi_j(0) | 0 \rangle$$

From step 3, we also know that

$$\int d^3\vec{x} \langle 0 | J_a^0(x), \phi_i(y) | 0 \rangle = -i \int_0^\infty d\mu^2 \rho_{ai}(\mu^2)$$

If no spontaneous symmetry breaking $\Rightarrow \rho_{ai}(\mu^2)$

In the case of spontaneous symmetry breaking, we have

$$T_{ij}^a \langle 0 | \phi_j(0) | 0 \rangle = -i \int_0^\infty d\mu^2 \rho_{ai}(\mu^2)$$

with the constraint $\mu^2 \rho_{ai}(\mu^2) = 0$, this implies

$$\rho_{ai}(\mu^2) = i \delta(\mu^2) T_{ij}^a \langle 0 | \phi_j(0) | 0 \rangle$$

There is one massless particle in the spectrum for each broken generator T^a !

Step 5: use the definition of $\rho_{ai}(q^2)$ to show that these massless particles are bosons with the same internal quantum numbers of J^0

$\tilde{\rho}_{ai}(q)$ takes contribution only on one-particle states

$$-iq_0 \rho_{ai}(q^2) = \int \frac{d^3\vec{p}}{2|\vec{p}|} \langle 0 | J_a^0(0) | \vec{p} \rangle \langle \vec{p} | \phi_i(0) | 0 \rangle \delta^4(q-p)$$

$U(1) \phi_i(0) | 0 \rangle = \phi_i(0) | 0 \rangle \Rightarrow |\vec{p}\rangle$ gives a boson of spin 0

Suppose $J_a^0(0)$ has some internal quantum number

$J_a^0(0) | 0 \rangle$ creates a state with the same quantum numbers of $J_a^0(0)$ (e.g. parity) $\Rightarrow |\vec{p}\rangle$ has the same quantum numbers as $J_a^0(0)$