

Effective Field Theories in R_ξ gauges

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1. Introduction
2. Operator basis reduction
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After perturbative decoupling of heavy particles with masses $\sim \Lambda$, the EFT Lagrangian takes the form:

$$\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{L}^{(4)} + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{\Lambda^k} \sum_i C_i^{(k+4)} Q_i^{(k+4)}$$

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R_ξ gauge fixing in SMEFT up to dimension-six operators:

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Notation: $F_{\mu\nu}^a = \partial_\mu A_\nu^a - \partial_\nu A_\mu^a - f^{abc} A_\mu^b A_\nu^c$, $D_\mu \Phi = (\partial_\mu + iA_\mu^a T^a) \Phi$, $(D_\rho F_{\mu\nu})^a = \partial_\rho F_{\mu\nu}^a - f^{abc} A_\rho^b F_{\mu\nu}^c$.

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Part of $\mathcal{L}^{(4)}$ that matters for the bilinear terms: $\mathcal{L}_{\Phi,A}^{(4)} = \frac{1}{2} (D_\mu \Phi)^T (D^\mu \Phi) - \frac{1}{4} F_{\mu\nu}^a F^{a\mu\nu} - V(\Phi)$.

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Claim: Out of all $\Phi^n F^m D^k$, only Φ^n , $\Phi^n D^2$ and $\Phi^n F^2$ matter for the bilinear terms after the EOM reduction (actually, field redefinitions - see J. C. Criado, M. Perez-Victoria, arXiv:1811.09413).

Examples: Before the reduction, e.g., $(D_\mu \Phi)^T (D^\mu \Phi) F_{\nu\rho}^a F^{a\nu\rho}$ does not matter but, e.g., $(\Phi^T \Phi) (\Phi^T D^\mu D^\nu D_\mu D_\nu \Phi)$ may matter.

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In the following, F may stand for \tilde{F} , too.

Step-by-step EOM reduction (starting from the lowest dimension, and highest number of derivatives at a given dimension):

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1. $D_{\mu_1} \dots D_{\mu_k} \Phi$ with internal contractions. $D_\mu D_\nu = D_\nu D_\mu + \boxed{HL}$.

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At this point, no operators with second or higher derivatives of Φ need to be considered any longer.

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4. $P^{ab}(\Phi) [(\dots)(D_\mu F_{\nu\rho})]^a [(\dots)(D^\mu F^{\nu\rho})]^b$ or $P^{ab}(\Phi) [(\dots)(D_\mu F_{\nu\rho})]^a [(\dots)(D^\nu F^{\mu\rho})]^b$.

Bianchi identity: $D_{[\mu} F_{\nu\rho]} = 0$, EOM: $D_{[\mu} \tilde{F}_{\nu\rho]} = \boxed{HL}$

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5. Skip $\Phi^n F \tilde{F}$ (total derivative after $\Phi \rightarrow v$).

□

The sum of all the $\Phi^n D^2$ and $\Phi^n F^2$ terms can be written as:

$$\mathcal{L}_{h,g} = \frac{1}{2}(D_\mu \Phi)_i h_{ij}[\Phi] (D^\mu \Phi)_j - \frac{1}{4} F_{\mu\nu}^a g^{ab}[\Phi] F^{b\mu\nu} \quad (\text{position-dependent metric in the field space}).$$

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The bilinear terms are selected by setting

$$h_{ij}[\Phi] \rightarrow h_{ij}[v] \equiv h_{ij} \quad \text{and} \quad g^{ab}[\Phi] \rightarrow g^{ab}[v] \equiv g^{ab}.$$

$$\text{Then } \mathcal{L}_{h,g} = \frac{1}{2}(D_\mu \Phi)^T h (D^\mu \Phi) - \frac{1}{4} A_{\mu\nu}^T g A^{\mu\nu} + (\text{interactions}) \quad \text{with } A_{\mu\nu}^a \equiv \partial_\mu A_\nu^a - \partial_\nu A_\mu^a.$$

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The “unwanted” tree-level mixing:

$$\mathcal{L}_{A\varphi} = -i \left(\partial^\mu A_\mu^a \right) [\varphi^T h T^a v] \quad (\text{identification of the would-be Goldstone and physical scalars}).$$

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Now, we can specify the R_ξ gauge-fixing term as:

$$\mathcal{L}_{GF} = -\frac{1}{2\xi} \mathcal{G}^a g^{ab} \mathcal{G}^b \quad \text{with} \quad \mathcal{G}^a = \partial^\mu A_\mu^a - i\xi (g^{-1})^{ab} [\varphi^T h T^b v].$$

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$$\text{The kinetic terms are rendered canonical via:} \quad \tilde{\varphi}_i = (h^{\frac{1}{2}})_{ij} \varphi_j, \quad \tilde{A}_\mu^a = (g^{\frac{1}{2}})^{ab} A_\mu^b,$$

which brings the bilinear terms to the familiar form:

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{kin,mass}} = -\frac{1}{4} \tilde{A}_{\mu\nu}^T \tilde{A}^{\mu\nu} + \frac{1}{2} \tilde{A}_\mu^T (M^T M) \tilde{A}^\mu + \frac{1}{2} (\partial_\mu \tilde{\varphi})^T (\partial^\mu \tilde{\varphi}) - \frac{1}{2\xi} (\partial^\mu \tilde{A}_\mu)^T (\partial^\nu \tilde{A}_\nu) - \frac{\xi}{2} \tilde{\varphi}^T (M M^T) \tilde{\varphi},$$

$$\text{with } M_j^b \equiv [h^{\frac{1}{2}}(iT^a)v]_j (g^{-\frac{1}{2}})^{ab} \quad (\text{real matrix}).$$

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{kin,mass}} = -\frac{1}{4}\tilde{A}_{\mu\nu}^T\tilde{A}^{\mu\nu} + \frac{1}{2}\tilde{A}_\mu^T(\mathbf{M}^T\mathbf{M})\tilde{A}^\mu + \frac{1}{2}(\partial_\mu\tilde{\varphi})^T(\partial^\mu\tilde{\varphi}) - \frac{1}{2\xi}(\partial^\mu\tilde{A}_\mu)^T(\partial^\nu\tilde{A}_\nu) - \frac{\xi}{2}\tilde{\varphi}^T(\mathbf{M}\mathbf{M}^T)\tilde{\varphi}.$$

Singular Value Decomposition: $\mathbf{M} = \mathbf{U}^T\mathbf{\Sigma}\mathbf{V}$, $\Sigma_{ij} = 0$ when $i \neq j$, \mathbf{U}, \mathbf{V} – orthogonal matrices.

$$\Rightarrow \mathbf{M}\mathbf{M}^T = \mathbf{U}^T(\mathbf{\Sigma}\mathbf{\Sigma}^T)\mathbf{U} \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbf{M}^T\mathbf{M} = \mathbf{V}^T(\mathbf{\Sigma}^T\mathbf{\Sigma})\mathbf{V}.$$

$$\text{Mass eigenstates:} \quad \phi_i = U_{ij}\tilde{\varphi}_j, \quad W_\mu^a = V^{ab}\tilde{A}_\mu^b.$$

$$\text{Diagonal mass matrices:} \quad m_\phi^2 = \mathbf{\Sigma}\mathbf{\Sigma}^T = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{D} & \\ & \mathbf{0} \end{bmatrix}_{m \times m} \quad m_W^2 = \mathbf{\Sigma}^T\mathbf{\Sigma} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{D} & \\ & \mathbf{0} \end{bmatrix}_{n \times n}$$

The bilinear terms in the mass eigenbasis take the standard form:

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{kin,mass}} = -\frac{1}{4}W_{\mu\nu}^T W^{\mu\nu} + \frac{1}{2}W_\mu^T m_W^2 W^\mu + \frac{1}{2}(\partial_\mu\phi)^T(\partial^\mu\phi) - \frac{1}{2\xi}(\partial^\mu W_\mu)^T(\partial^\nu W_\nu) - \frac{\xi}{2}\phi^T m_\phi^2 \phi.$$

Ghost sector and BRST

Infinitesimal gauge transformations in the initial basis:

$$\delta\varphi = -i\alpha^a T^a (\varphi + v), \quad \delta A_\mu^a = \partial_\mu \alpha^a - f^{abc} A_\mu^b \alpha^c.$$

The corresponding BRST variations:

$$\delta_{\text{BRST}}\varphi = -i\epsilon N^a T^a (\varphi + v), \quad \delta_{\text{BRST}}A_\mu^a = \epsilon \left(\partial_\mu N^a - f^{abc} A_\mu^b N^c \right).$$

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Gauge-fixing functional: $\mathcal{G}^a = \partial^\mu A_\mu^a - i\xi(g^{-1})^{ac} [\varphi^T h T^c v]$.

Its BRST variation: $\delta_{\text{BRST}}\mathcal{G}^a = \epsilon M_F^{ab} N^b$.

Introducing the ghost term: $\mathcal{L}_{GF} + \mathcal{L}_{FP} = -\frac{1}{2\xi} \mathcal{G}^a g^{ab} \mathcal{G}^b + \bar{N}^a g^{ab} M_F^{bc} N^d$.

Explicitly: $\mathcal{L}_{FP} = g^{ab} \bar{N}^a \square N^b + \xi \bar{N}^a [v^T T^a h T^b v] N^b + \bar{N}^a \overleftarrow{\partial}^\mu g^{ab} f^{bcd} A_\mu^c N^d + \xi \bar{N}^a [v^T T^a h T^b \varphi] N^b$.

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Its BRST variation: $\delta_{\text{BRST}}\mathcal{G}^a = \epsilon M_F^{ab} N^b$.

Introducing the ghost term: $\mathcal{L}_{GF} + \mathcal{L}_{FP} = -\frac{1}{2\xi} \mathcal{G}^a g^{ab} \mathcal{G}^b + \bar{N}^a g^{ab} M_F^{bc} N^d$.

Explicitly: $\mathcal{L}_{FP} = g^{ab} \bar{N}^a \square N^b + \xi \bar{N}^a [v^T T^a h T^b v] N^b + \bar{N}^a \overleftarrow{\partial}^\mu g^{ab} f^{bcd} A_\mu^c N^d + \xi \bar{N}^a [v^T T^a h T^b \varphi] N^b$.

BRST variations of the ghosts: $\delta_{\text{BRST}}N^a = \frac{\epsilon}{2} f^{abc} N^b N^c, \quad \delta_{\text{BRST}}\bar{N}^a = \frac{\epsilon}{\xi} \mathcal{G}^a$.

$$\Rightarrow \delta_{\text{BRST}}(M_F^{ab} N^b) = 0 \quad \Rightarrow \delta_{\text{BRST}}(\mathcal{L}_{GF} + \mathcal{L}_{FP}) = 0.$$

Ghost sector and BRST

Infinitesimal gauge transformations in the initial basis:

$$\delta\varphi = -i\alpha^a T^a (\varphi + v), \quad \delta A_\mu^a = \partial_\mu \alpha^a - f^{abc} A_\mu^b \alpha^c.$$

The corresponding BRST variations:

$$\delta_{\text{BRST}}\varphi = -i\epsilon N^a T^a (\varphi + v), \quad \delta_{\text{BRST}}A_\mu^a = \epsilon \left(\partial_\mu N^a - f^{abc} A_\mu^b N^c \right).$$

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Mass eigenstates: $\eta = V g^{\frac{1}{2}} N, \quad \bar{\eta} = V g^{\frac{1}{2}} \bar{N}$.

The ghost bilinear terms in the mass eigenbasis take the standard form:

$$\mathcal{L}_{FP} = \bar{\eta}^T \square \eta + \xi \bar{\eta}^T m_W^2 \eta + (\text{interactions}).$$

Summary

- We considered R_ξ gauge fixing in EFTs arising after decoupling of heavy ($M \sim \Lambda$) particles, assuming that scalar VEVs ($\langle \Phi \rangle \ll \Lambda$) give masses to some of the gauge bosons via the Higgs mechanism.

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- Specifying the gauge-fixing and ghost terms, as well as the BRST variations proceeds along the same lines as in a renormalizable theory with non-canonical kinetic terms.
- Standard relations between the masses of gauge bosons, would-be Goldstone bosons and ghosts remain valid. However, their interactions are affected by the presence of higher-dimensional operators.