

### 11.3 Dimensional regularisation and $\gamma^5$ .

Show that the properties  $\text{tr}(\gamma^\mu \gamma^\nu) = d\eta^{\mu\nu}$ ,  $\text{tr}(1) = 4$  and  $\{\gamma^\mu, \gamma^5\} = 0$  lead to an inconsistency in  $d \neq 4$  dimensions. (Hint: Consider first  $d\text{tr}[\gamma^5] = -d\text{tr}[\gamma^5]$ , then  $d\text{tr}[\gamma^5 \gamma_\alpha \gamma_\beta] = (4-d)\text{tr}[\gamma^5 \gamma_\alpha \gamma_\beta]$  and finally  $(4-d)\text{tr}[\gamma^5 \gamma_\alpha \gamma_\beta \gamma_\rho \gamma_\sigma] = 0$ .)

We show that  $\{\gamma^\mu, \gamma^\nu\} = 2\eta^{\mu\nu} \mathbf{1}_d$  with  $\text{tr}(\mathbf{1}_d) = f(d)$  and  $f(4) = 4$  is incompatible with  $\{\gamma^\mu, \gamma^5\} = 0$ .

Setting  $f(d) = 4$ , it is

$$\gamma_\mu \gamma^\mu = \frac{1}{2} \{\gamma_\mu, \gamma^\mu\} = d.$$

Next we consider

$$d\text{tr}[\gamma^5] = \text{tr}[\gamma^5 \gamma_\mu \gamma^\mu] = -\text{tr}[\gamma^5 \gamma_\mu \gamma^\mu] = -d\text{tr}[\gamma^5]$$

and thus  $\text{tr}(\gamma^5) = 0$  (except possibly for  $d = 0$ ). Analyticity implies then  $\text{tr}(\gamma^5) = 0$  for all  $d$ .

Then we consider

$$d\text{tr}[\gamma^5 \gamma_\mu \gamma_\nu] = \text{tr}[\gamma^5 \gamma_\mu \gamma_\nu \gamma_\lambda \gamma^\lambda] = -\text{tr}[\gamma^5 \gamma^\lambda \gamma_\mu \gamma_\nu \gamma_\lambda]$$

Now we use twice  $\gamma^\lambda \gamma_\mu = 2\delta_\mu^\lambda - \gamma_\mu \gamma^\lambda$  to find

$$d\text{tr}[\gamma^5 \gamma_\mu \gamma_\nu] = -2\delta_\mu^\lambda \text{tr}[\gamma^5 \gamma_\nu \gamma_\lambda] + 2\delta_\nu^\lambda \text{tr}[\gamma^5 \gamma_\mu \gamma_\lambda] - d\text{tr}[\gamma^5 \gamma_\mu \gamma_\nu] \quad (215)$$

$$= 4\text{tr}[\gamma^5 \gamma_\mu \gamma_\nu] - d\text{tr}[\gamma^5 \gamma_\mu \gamma_\nu] \quad (216)$$

and thus  $(2-d)\text{tr}(\gamma^5 \gamma_\mu \gamma_\nu) = 0$  or  $\text{tr}(\gamma^5 \gamma_\mu \gamma_\nu) = 0$  (except possibly for  $d = 2$ ). Analyticity implies again  $\text{tr}(\gamma^5 \gamma_\mu \gamma_\nu) = 0$  for all  $d$ .

Proceeding in the same way for 4 gammas results in

$$(4-d)\text{tr}(\gamma^5 \gamma_\mu \gamma_\nu \gamma_\lambda \gamma_\kappa) = 0$$

If we require analyticity (needed to do DR), the trace is zero – in contradiction to our  $d = 4$  result.