

5.8 Local U(1) transformation.

Only problematic term is the kinetic energy $\mathcal{L} = -\phi^*\square\phi$. For an infinitesimal transformation, $\phi \rightarrow \tilde{\phi} = (1 + i\alpha)\phi$ we find

$$\square\tilde{\phi} = \partial^\mu\partial_\mu\tilde{\phi} = \partial^\mu(\partial_\mu\phi + i\alpha\partial_\mu\phi + i\partial_\mu\alpha\phi) = \quad (141)$$

$$= \square\phi + i\square\alpha\phi + 2i\partial^\mu\alpha\partial_\mu\phi + i\alpha\square\phi. \quad (142)$$

Multiplying with $\tilde{\phi}^* = (1 - i\alpha)\phi^*$, the $\alpha\phi^*\square\phi$ terms cancel and we are left in linear order with

$$\tilde{\phi}\square\tilde{\phi} = \phi^*\square\phi + i\square\alpha\phi^*\phi + 2i\partial^\mu\alpha\partial_\mu\phi + \mathcal{O}(\alpha^2). \quad (143)$$

Thus the Lagrangian changes as

$$\delta\mathcal{L} = i[2\partial^\mu\alpha\phi^*\partial_\mu\phi + \square\alpha\phi^*\phi] \quad (144)$$

$$= i\partial^\mu\alpha[\phi^*\partial_\mu\phi - \partial_\mu\phi^*\phi] = \partial^\mu\alpha j_\mu, \quad (145)$$

where we performed a partial integration and used the product rule.

If one prefers the form $\mathcal{L} = \partial_\mu\phi^*\partial^\mu\phi$ for the kinetic energy, then

$$\partial_\mu\tilde{\phi}^*\partial^\mu\tilde{\phi} = (\partial_\mu\phi^* - i\alpha\partial_\mu\phi^* - i\partial_\mu\alpha\phi^*)(\partial^\mu\phi + i\alpha\partial^\mu\phi + i\partial^\mu\alpha\phi) = \quad (146)$$

$$= \partial_\mu\phi^*\partial^\mu\phi + i\partial_\mu\phi^*(\alpha\partial^\mu\phi + \partial^\mu\alpha\phi) - i(\alpha\partial_\mu\phi^* + \partial_\mu\alpha\phi^*)\partial^\mu\phi = \quad (147)$$

$$= \partial_\mu\phi^*\partial^\mu\phi + i\partial_\mu\phi^*\partial^\mu\alpha\phi - i\partial_\mu\alpha\phi^*\partial^\mu\phi = \quad (148)$$

$$= \partial_\mu\phi^*\partial^\mu\phi - \partial^\mu\alpha j_\mu \quad (149)$$

leads to the same $\delta\mathcal{L}$.