

§ 2.3. Feynman rules for time-ordered product

How to compute $\langle 0 | T \{ O_I^1(x_1) O_I^2(x_2) \dots O_I^n(x_n) \exp[-i \int dt V_I(t)] \} | 0 \rangle$

$$\langle 0 | T \{ O_I^1(x) O_I^2(y) \} | 0 \rangle_{\text{1PI}}$$

etc.

full conn.

amp.?

"Elementary" fields are in the form of

$$\begin{cases} \psi_I(x) = \int \frac{d^3 p}{(2\pi)^3} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2E_p}} (u_s(p) a_{p,s} e^{-ip \cdot x} + v_s(p) b_{p,s}^\dagger e^{ip \cdot x}) \end{cases}$$

Dirac field

$$\bar{\psi}_I(x) = \int \frac{d^3 p}{(2\pi)^3} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2E_p}} (\bar{u}_s(p) a_{p,s}^\dagger e^{ip \cdot x} + \bar{v}_s(p) b_{p,s} e^{-ip \cdot x})$$

means onshell

A complex ^{scalar} boson: just drop the 4-component spinors $u_s(p)$ etc.
 (relativistic)

A real relativistic boson: drop distinction between a_p^\dagger & b_p^\dagger .
 (scalar)

e.g.

$$\begin{aligned} \langle 0 | T \{ \psi_I(x) \bar{\psi}_I(y) \} | 0 \rangle &= \int \frac{d^3 p}{(2\pi)^3} \left(\frac{\Theta(x^0 - y^0)}{2E_p} u_s(p) \bar{u}_s(p) e^{-ip \cdot (x-y)} + \frac{\Theta(y^0 - x^0)}{2E_p} \bar{u}_s(p) u_s(p) e^{-ip \cdot (x-y)} \right) \\ &= \int \frac{d^4 p}{(2\pi)^4} \frac{i(p+m)}{(p^2 - m^2 + i\varepsilon)} e^{-ip \cdot (x-y)} =: D(x-y). \end{aligned}$$

the principle: bring ann. operators to the right
 creat. ops! to the left.

ann. ops } become a part of $[,]$ or $\{ \}$ or otherwise act on $\{ | 0 \rangle$
 creat. ops } to be C -valued. $\langle 0 |$

exploit all possible combinatorics (contraction patterns).

Supplementary notes on Dirac fermion

We use $\mathcal{L} = \bar{\psi}(i\gamma^\mu D_\mu - m)\psi$ as the Lagrangian.

The gamma matrices satisfy the relation $\{\gamma^\mu, \gamma^\nu\} = 2\eta^{\mu\nu}$
 \downarrow
 $\text{diag}(+, -, -, -)$.

To the equation of motion $(i\gamma^\mu D_\mu - m)\psi = 0$, there are 2 solutions

of the form $\psi(x) = u_s(\vec{p}) \underline{e^{-ip\cdot x}} = u_s(\vec{p}) e^{-iEpt} e^{i\vec{p}\cdot \vec{x}}$, ($s=1, 2$).

In a chiral basis, where ~~γ^0~~ , $\gamma^0 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1_{2 \times 2} \\ 1_{2 \times 2} & 0 \end{pmatrix}$, $\gamma^i = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \tau^i \\ -\tau^i & 0 \end{pmatrix}$,

$$u_s(\vec{p}) = \begin{pmatrix} (\sqrt{p \cdot \sigma}) \xi_s \\ (\sqrt{p \cdot \bar{\sigma}}) \bar{\xi}_s \end{pmatrix}, \quad \begin{pmatrix} (\sigma^\mu)_{2 \times 2} = (1, \vec{\tau}) \\ (\bar{\sigma}^\mu)_{2 \times 2} = (1, -\vec{\tau}) \end{pmatrix}$$

Two other solutions to the equation of motion are given by

$$\psi(x) = v_s(\vec{p}) \underline{e^{ip\cdot x}} = v_s(\vec{p}) e^{iEpt} e^{-i\vec{p}\cdot \vec{x}} \quad (s=1, 2),$$

with $v_s(\vec{p}) = \begin{pmatrix} \sqrt{p \cdot \sigma} \xi_s \\ -\sqrt{p \cdot \bar{\sigma}} \bar{\xi}_s \end{pmatrix}$ in the chiral basis above.

We usually take the 2-component spinors ξ_r to be orthonormal, $\xi_r^\dagger \xi_s = \delta_{rs}$.

Q One can verify that the following relations hold: [see Peskin-Schroeder §3]

$$\sum_{s=1,2} u_s(\vec{p}) \bar{u}_s(\vec{p}) = p^0 + m, \quad \sum_{s=1,2} v_s(\vec{p}) \bar{v}_s(\vec{p}) = p^0 - m,$$

$$u_r^\dagger(\vec{p}) u_s(\vec{p}) = 2E_p \xi_r^\dagger \xi_s = v_r^\dagger(\vec{p}) v_s(\vec{p})$$

$$\bar{u}_r(\vec{p}) u_s(\vec{p}) = 2m \xi_r^\dagger \xi_s = -\bar{v}_r(\vec{p}) v_s(\vec{p}).$$

In the non-relativistic limit, $\frac{1}{\sqrt{2E_p}} u_s(\vec{p})$ becomes $\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} \xi_s \\ \bar{\xi}_s \end{pmatrix}$ in the chiral basis.

E $\begin{pmatrix} \xi_s \\ \bar{\xi}_s \end{pmatrix}$ in the non-rela. basis

Therefore:

time-ordered correlation funcs. are given by summing up contributions.
(amplitudes)
from all possible contraction patterns.
(Feynman diagram).

The amplitude of a given diagram is given by a product of.

[propagator] $D(x-y)$: for each one of contractions.
and. ($\{ \text{ann.creat.} \}, \{ \text{ann,creat} \}$)

[vertex] remaining coefficients. (eg. $-i \int dt' \int^3 \vec{x} (\vec{q} \cdot \vec{y}^\mu e A_\mu \cdot \vec{q})$)

integrated over all the spacetime coordinates of T_2 .

Its Fourier transform version is often more convenient.

$$f(x) = \int \frac{dp}{(2\pi)^4} e^{-ipx} \tilde{f}(p). \text{ then...}$$

for each vertex $\int d^4x \Pi(e^{-ip_i x}) \times \text{coeff.} = (2\pi)^4 \delta^4(\Sigma p_i) \times \text{coeff.}$

for each propagator $\int \frac{d^4p}{(2\pi)^4} \int \frac{d^4x}{(2\pi)^4} \int \frac{d^4y}{(2\pi)^4} e^{-ipx - iqy} D(x-y) = \frac{(2\pi)^8 \delta^4(p+q)}{d^4x d^4y} \times D(p).$

Instead of # (vertex) spacetime integrals, we are left with.

$$\#(\text{propagator (internal lines)}) - \#(\text{vertex}) = -\chi(\text{graph}) = -h_0 + h_1 \dots$$

$$h_0 := \#(\text{connected components}) = 1 \quad (\text{of fully connected})$$

$$h_1 := \#(\text{loops})$$

actually $[h_2 = \#(\text{loops})]$ momentum integrals.

$h_1 = 0$ (tree level) leading order contributions.

$h_2 = 1$ (1-loop) next-to-leading order contributions.

§2.4. Other quantities of interest in QFT

Time-ordered product correlation functions

(and scattering amplitudes derived from them)

are not the only class of observables in QFT's.

Two other classes of interest.

- In-In formalism / real time formalism in thermal field theory / Schwinger-Keldysh formalism (known in many different names).

examples: $\langle \text{init. state} | \{O_1(x_1) O_2(x_2) \dots O_n(x_n)\} | \text{init. state} \rangle$

The initial state $|\text{init. state}\rangle$ is... often... the ground state or thermal ensemble, and interactions (backgrounds) are turned on later.

✓ conductance (current-current correlation) in a time-dep. background field

✓ decay / scattering of particles in a thermal plasma.

✓ growth (time evolution) of inflation field fluctuations

in the background of metric of expanding universe

The time coordinate starts at $t=t_0$ for the initial state. It then goes up (operators are sorted out that way), and then comes back to $t=t_0$ in this class of observables.

- Out-of-time-ordered correlation functions

example $\langle 02 | [A(t, \vec{x}), B(0, \vec{y})]^2 | 02 \rangle - (\dagger)$. vanishes @ $t=0$ ($\vec{x} \neq \vec{y}$). How fast does it grow?

If A and B are unitary operators

$$(*) = 2 - (\langle 02 | B^\dagger A^\dagger B A | 02 \rangle + \text{c.c.})$$

There are experimental ways to measure such (*)'s.

§3 Scattering Processes at the Leading Order

§3.1 Vector field propagators:

gauge symmetry = redundant description.

$A_\mu(x,t)$ and $A'_\mu := A_\mu - (\partial_\mu \chi(x,t))$ are physically equivalent.

Choose a gauge

example: Coulomb gauge $A_0 = 0$ and $\vec{\nabla} \cdot \vec{A} = 0$.

when the photon is not coupled to matter.

Mode decomposition + canonical quantization.

$$\Rightarrow \begin{cases} \vec{A}(x,t) = \int \frac{d\vec{p}}{(2\pi)^3} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2E_{\vec{p}}}} \sum_{r=1,2} \left(\vec{e}_r(\vec{p}) a_{\vec{p},r} e^{-ip \cdot x} + \vec{e}_r(\vec{p}) a_{\vec{p},r}^\dagger e^{ip \cdot x} \right) \\ A_0(x,t) = 0. \end{cases} \quad \vec{p} \cdot \vec{e}_r(\vec{p}) = 0. \quad (\text{transverse polarization})$$

This results in

$$\begin{aligned} G_{ij}(x,y) &:= \langle 0 | T\{A_i(x) A_j(y)\} | 0 \rangle \rightarrow \left[1 - \frac{\vec{p}_i \otimes \vec{p}_j}{\vec{p}^2} \right] \\ &= \int \frac{d\vec{p}}{(2\pi)^3} \frac{i e^{-ip(x-y)}}{p^2 + i\epsilon} \left[\sum_r \vec{e}_r(\vec{p}) \otimes \vec{e}_r(\vec{p}) \right]_{ij}. \end{aligned}$$

But this Green function does not satisfy the EoM.

$$[\partial^2 \delta_{\mu\nu} - \partial_\mu \partial^\nu] G_{\mu\nu} J^\lambda = J_\mu \dots \quad (\times)$$

Modification A (temporal / axial gauge)

$$G_{\mu\nu} = \frac{-i}{p^2 + i\epsilon} \left[\eta_{\mu\nu} - \frac{(p_\mu n_\nu + n_\mu p_\nu)}{(p \cdot n)} + \frac{p_\mu p_\nu n^2}{(p \cdot n)^2} \right] \quad \text{for some } n_\mu.$$

$$\text{For } n^\mu = (1, \vec{0}) \quad n^\mu G_{\mu\nu} = 0, \quad \cancel{\frac{i}{p^2 + i\epsilon} p^\mu G_{\mu\nu} J^\nu} = \frac{i P(p)}{p^0}, \quad (\times)$$

are all satisfied. $\left[\frac{\partial^\mu J_\mu}{\partial t} = 0 \right]$

The 3x3 part is $\left[-1 + \frac{\vec{p} \otimes \vec{p}}{(p^0)^2} \right]$

Modification B (Coulomb gauge)

$$\left(\text{replace by } \left[\eta_{\mu\nu} - \frac{(p_\mu n_\nu + n_\mu p_\nu)}{(p \cdot n)^2 - p^2 n^2} + \frac{p_\mu p_\nu n^2}{(p \cdot n)^2 - p^2 n^2} \right] \right)$$

The Coulomb gauge (or axial gauge, temporal gauge) propagator is rarely used for practical computations in QFT.

More convenient choice is

$$G_{\mu\nu} = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^4} \frac{i e^{-ip(x-y)}}{p^2 + i\epsilon} \left[\eta_{\mu\nu} + (\xi - 1) \frac{p_\mu p_\nu}{p^2} \right].$$

- $\xi = 1$: Feynman gauge.
- $\xi = 0$: Landau gauge
- $\xi = \infty$: unitary gauge.

(For derivation, see Peskin-Schroeder §9.)

§ 3.2. $e^+e^- \rightarrow \mu^+\mu^-$ cross section

We use a Lagrangian $\mathcal{L} = -\frac{1}{4} F_{\mu\nu} F^{\mu\nu} + \bar{\psi} (\gamma^\mu D_\mu - m) \psi$.

$$D_\mu = (\partial_\mu - ieQA_\mu)$$

($e > 0$).

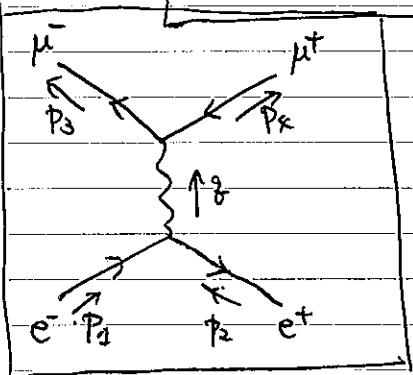
(Q : charge. ($Q_e = -1$)).

Consider.

$$(*) = \langle 0 | T \left\{ \overline{\psi}_{m,c}(-p_3) \overline{\psi}_{m,d}(-p_4) \overline{\psi}_{e,b}(p_2) \overline{\psi}_{e,a}(p_1) \int d^4x i e \{ Q_m (\overline{\psi}_m \gamma^\mu \psi_m) + Q_e (\overline{\psi}_e \gamma^\mu \psi_e) \} A_\mu \right. \\ \left. \int d^4y i e \{ Q_m (\overline{\psi}_m \gamma^\nu \psi_m) + Q_e (\overline{\psi}_e \gamma^\nu \psi_e) \} A_\nu \times \frac{1}{2!} \} | 0 \rangle. \right. \\ (p_2^{\mu=0}, p_2^{\mu=0}, p_3^{\mu=0}, p_4^{\mu=0} > 0).$$

□ (contraction) : pairing of annihilation and creation operators

$$\Rightarrow \frac{2}{2} \times \frac{i(p_3+m_m)_cf}{p_3^2-m_m^2+i\varepsilon} i e Q_m [\gamma^\mu]_{fg} \frac{i(-p_2+m_m)gd}{p_2^2-m_m^2+i\varepsilon} \times \left(\frac{-i\eta_{\mu\nu}}{g^2+i\varepsilon} \right) \\ \times \frac{i(p_2+m_e)bh}{p_2^2-m_e^2+i\varepsilon} i e Q_e [\gamma^\nu]_{hf} \frac{i(p_1+m_e)ia}{p_1^2-m_e^2+i\varepsilon} \\ \times (2\pi)^4 \delta^4(p_1+p_2-g) \times (2\pi)^4 \delta^4(g-p_3-p_4) \frac{\partial^4 g}{(2\pi)^4}$$



$$\text{Res}((*)) = \left[\bar{\psi}_f(\vec{p}_3) \gamma^\mu \psi_s(\vec{p}_4) \right] \left[\bar{\psi}_s(\vec{p}_2) \gamma^\nu \psi_r(\vec{p}_1) \right] \frac{\eta_{\mu\nu}}{(p_1+p_2)^2+i\varepsilon} \\ \times i(2\pi)^4 \delta^4(p_1+p_2-p_3-p_4) \times (e^2 Q_e Q_\mu) \\ = (2\pi)^4 \delta^4(p_1+p_2-p_3-p_4) i M (e_s^+ e_r^- \rightarrow \mu_s^+ \mu_r^-).$$

(LSZ formula)

Now, we hope to compute $|M|^2$. (and then the cross section).

But the expression is a mess, when we retain m_e, m_μ etc.
r.s., r'.s'.

The expression of $|M|^2$ simplifies when we think of

$$\rightarrow \sum_{r,s} |M(e^-_r + e^+_s \rightarrow \bar{\mu}_r^- + \mu_s^+)|^2$$

ignore the spin of μ^-, μ^+
in the final state.

$$\rightarrow \frac{1}{2} \sum_{r'=1}^2 \frac{1}{2} \sum_{s'=1}^2 \sum_{r,s=1}^2 |M(e^-_r + e^+_s \rightarrow \bar{\mu}_r^- + \mu_s^+)|^2$$

initial state e^+, e^-
are not polarized.

Now

$$\begin{aligned} \overline{\sum |M|^2} &= \frac{1}{4} \sum_{r,s',r,s} \left(\frac{e^2 Q_e Q_\mu}{(p_1 + p_2)^2} \right)^2 \times [U_r(\vec{p}_3) \gamma^\mu V_s(\vec{p}_4)] [\bar{U}_{s'}(\vec{p}_4) \gamma^\kappa U_r(\vec{p}_3)] \\ &\quad \times [\bar{V}_{s'}(\vec{p}_2) \gamma_\mu U_{r'}(\vec{p}_1)] [\bar{U}_{r'}(\vec{p}_1) \gamma_\kappa V_{s'}(\vec{p}_2)] \end{aligned}$$

$$= \frac{1}{4} \left(\frac{e^2 Q_e Q_\mu}{(p_1 + p_2)^2} \right)^2 \times \text{Tr}_{4 \times 4} [\gamma^\mu (p_2 - m_\mu) \gamma^\kappa (p_3 + m_\mu)] \times \text{Tr}_{4 \times 4} [\gamma_\mu (p_1 + m_e) \gamma_\kappa (p_2 - m_e)]$$

(see. suppl. notes)

$$= \frac{1}{4} \left(\frac{e^2 Q_e Q_\mu}{(p_1 + p_2)^2} \right)^2 \times \left\{ -m_\mu^2 \eta^{\mu\kappa} - (p_3 \cdot p_2) \eta^{\mu\kappa} + p_4^\mu p_3^\kappa + p_4^\kappa p_3^\mu \right\} \times$$

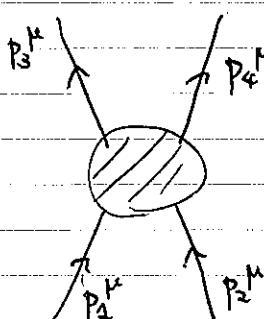
$$\times \left\{ -m_e^2 \eta_{\mu\kappa} - (p_1 \cdot p_2) \eta_{\mu\kappa} + p_{1\mu} p_{2\kappa} + p_{1\kappa} p_{2\mu} \right\} \times$$

$$= 8 \left(\frac{e^2 Q_e Q_\mu}{(p_1 + p_2)^2} \right)^2 \times \left[\begin{aligned} &\left\{ (p_3 \cdot p_2) + m_\mu^2 \right\} \left\{ (p_1 \cdot p_2) + m_e^2 \right\} \\ &+ (p_1 \cdot p_4)(p_2 \cdot p_3) + (p_2 \cdot p_4)(p_1 \cdot p_3) \end{aligned} \right] \times 2$$

$$- [(p_1 \cdot p_2) + m_e^2] (p_3 p_4) \cdot 2 - [(p_3 \cdot p_4) + m_\mu^2] (p_1 p_2) \cdot 2$$

It is conventional to use the following variables (Mandelstam variables)

in 2-body \rightarrow 2-body scattering:



$$s := (p_1 + p_2)^2$$

Due to the momentum conservation

$$t := (p_1 - p_3)^2$$

$$(p_1 + p_2 - p_3 - p_4)^\mu = 0,$$

$$u := (p_1 - p_4)^2$$

there is a relation

$$s + t + u = m_1^2 + m_2^2 + m_3^2 + m_4^2.$$

Using these kinematical variables, the spin-sum/average MT can be rewritten as follows:

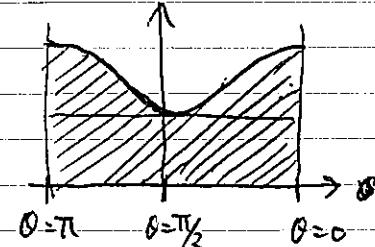
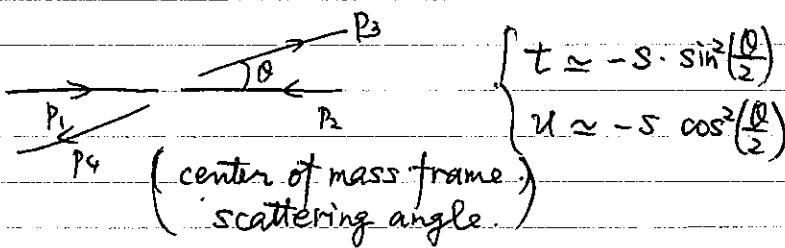
$$\frac{1}{4} \sum_{r,s,r,s} |M|^2 = \epsilon \left(\frac{e^2 Q_e Q_\mu}{s} \right)^2 \left[s^2 + \frac{1}{2} \left\{ (-u + m_e^2 + m_\mu^2)^2 + (-t + m_e^2 + m_\mu^2)^2 \right\} - s \left(\frac{s - 2m_\mu^2}{2} \right) - s \left(\frac{s - 2m_e^2}{2} \right) \right]$$

$$= \epsilon \left(\frac{e^2 Q_e Q_\mu}{s} \right)^2 \left[\frac{u^2 + t^2}{2} + (s - u - t)(m_e^2 + m_\mu^2) + (m_e^2 + m_\mu^2)^2 \right].$$

Here are two limits of interest.

• High energy limit : $(2m_\mu)^2 \ll s$.

$$\Rightarrow \frac{1}{4} \sum_{r,s,r,s} |M|^2 \approx 2 \left(\frac{e^2 Q_e Q_\mu}{s} \right)^2 \left(\frac{u^2 + t^2}{s^2} \right) = (e^2 Q_e Q_\mu)^2 (1 + \cos^2 \theta)$$



Using [homework I-1]

$$d\sigma \approx \frac{d(\cos \theta)}{32\pi s} (p \approx 1) \left(\frac{1}{4} \sum_{r,s,r,s} |M|^2 \right) \approx \left[d(\cos \theta) (1 + \cos^2 \theta) \Rightarrow \frac{d\theta}{3} \right] \times \frac{\pi \alpha_e^2}{2s} (Q_\mu)^2 \Rightarrow \frac{4\pi \alpha_e^2}{3} \frac{(Q_\mu)^2}{s}$$

• Just above the threshold : $s \sim (2m_\mu)^2 \quad (\Rightarrow t \sim u \sim -m_\mu^2)$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{1}{4} \sum_{r,s,r,s} |M|^2 \approx 2 \left(\frac{e^2 Q_e Q_\mu}{s} \right)^2 \quad (\theta\text{-indep.})$$

Using [homework I-1]

$$\int d\sigma \approx \int_{-1}^{+1} d(\cos \theta) \cdot \frac{\beta}{32\pi s} \left(\frac{1}{4} \sum_{r,s,r,s} |M|^2 \right) \approx \boxed{\pi \frac{\alpha_e^2}{s} (Q_\mu)^2 \times \beta}$$

$$\beta = \frac{|\vec{p}_\mu|}{E_\mu}$$

$$\alpha_e := \frac{e^2}{4\pi C}$$

Supplementary notes

$\{\gamma^\mu, \gamma^\nu\} = 2\eta^{\mu\nu}$: the definition of gamma matrices.

We can use this anti-commutation relation to derive the followings.

First,

$$\text{tr}_{4\times 4} [\gamma^\mu \gamma^\nu] = \frac{1}{2} \left(\underset{\substack{\uparrow \\ \text{cyclic rotation within a trace}}}{\text{tr} [\gamma^\mu \gamma^\nu]} + \text{tr} [\gamma^\nu \gamma^\mu] \right) = \frac{1}{2} \text{tr} [\{\gamma^\mu, \gamma^\nu\}] = \frac{3}{2} \text{tr} [1_{4\times 4}] \eta^{\mu\nu} = 8\eta^{\mu\nu}.$$

Secondly,

$$\begin{aligned} \text{tr}_{4\times 4} [\gamma^\mu \gamma^\nu \gamma^\kappa \gamma^\lambda] &= \text{tr}_{4\times 4} [\{\gamma^\mu, \gamma^\nu\} \gamma^\kappa \gamma^\lambda] + \text{tr}_{4\times 4} [\gamma^\nu \gamma^\mu \gamma^\kappa \gamma^\lambda] \\ &= 2\eta^{\mu\nu} \text{tr} [\gamma^\kappa \gamma^\lambda] - \text{tr} [\gamma^\nu \{\gamma^\mu, \gamma^\kappa\} \gamma^\lambda] + \text{tr} [\gamma^\nu \gamma^\kappa \{\gamma^\mu, \gamma^\lambda\}] \\ &= 2\eta^{\mu\nu} \text{tr} [\gamma^\kappa \gamma^\lambda] - 2\eta^{\mu\kappa} \text{tr} [\gamma^\nu \gamma^\lambda] + \text{tr} [\gamma^\nu \gamma^\kappa \{\gamma^\mu, \gamma^\lambda\}] \\ &\quad - \text{tr} [\gamma^\nu \gamma^\kappa \gamma^\lambda \gamma^\mu] \\ &= 2 \times 8 (\eta^{\mu\nu} \eta^{\kappa\lambda} - \eta^{\mu\kappa} \eta^{\nu\lambda} + \eta^{\mu\lambda} \eta^{\nu\kappa}) - \text{tr} [\gamma^\mu \gamma^\nu \gamma^\kappa \gamma^\lambda]. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore $\text{tr}_{4\times 4} [\gamma^\mu \gamma^\nu \gamma^\kappa \gamma^\lambda] = 8(\eta^{\mu\nu} \eta^{\kappa\lambda} - \eta^{\mu\kappa} \eta^{\nu\lambda} + \eta^{\mu\lambda} \eta^{\nu\kappa}).$