

Prove that:

$$\partial_\mu K^\mu = \frac{1}{2} \varepsilon^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} F_{\mu\nu}^a F_{\rho\sigma}^a \equiv \frac{1}{2} F F^*, \quad (1)$$

where

$$F_{\mu\nu}^a = \partial_\mu A_\nu^a - \partial_\nu A_\mu^a + g f^{abc} A_\mu^b A_\nu^c, \quad (2)$$

and

$$K^\mu = \varepsilon^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} \left(A_\nu^a F_{\rho\sigma}^a - \frac{g}{3} f^{abc} A_\nu^a A_\rho^b A_\sigma^c \right). \quad (3)$$

First we rewrite the right hand side of (1) using (2):

$$\frac{1}{2} \varepsilon^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} F_{\mu\nu}^a F_{\rho\sigma}^a = \frac{1}{2} \varepsilon^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} (\partial_\mu A_\nu^a - \partial_\nu A_\mu^a + g f^{abc} A_\mu^b A_\nu^c) F_{\rho\sigma}^a \quad (4)$$

$$= \varepsilon^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} \partial_\mu A_\nu^a F_{\rho\sigma}^a \quad (5)$$

$$+ \frac{g}{2} \varepsilon^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} f^{abc} A_\mu^b A_\nu^c F_{\rho\sigma}^a. \quad (6)$$

Next we rewrite the left hand side of (1) using (3):

$$\partial_\mu K^\mu = \varepsilon^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} \partial_\mu \left(A_\nu^a F_{\rho\sigma}^a - \frac{g}{3} f^{abc} A_\nu^a A_\rho^b A_\sigma^c \right) \quad (7)$$

$$= \varepsilon^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} (\partial_\mu A_\nu^a) F_{\rho\sigma}^a \quad (8)$$

$$+ \varepsilon^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} A_\nu^a (\partial_\mu F_{\rho\sigma}^a) - \frac{g}{3} \varepsilon^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} f^{abc} \partial_\mu (A_\nu^a A_\rho^b A_\sigma^c). \quad (9)$$

We observe now that because of Eqs.(4)-(6) line (8) equals

$$\varepsilon^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} (\partial_\mu A_\nu^a) F_{\rho\sigma}^a = \frac{1}{2} F F^* - \frac{g}{2} \varepsilon^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} f^{abc} A_\mu^b A_\nu^c F_{\rho\sigma}^a.$$

Therefore we have to show that

$$\underbrace{-\frac{g}{2} \varepsilon^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} f^{abc} A_\mu^b A_\nu^c F_{\rho\sigma}^a}_{=C_1} + \underbrace{\varepsilon^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} A_\nu^a (\partial_\mu F_{\rho\sigma}^a)}_{=C_2} - \underbrace{\frac{g}{3} \varepsilon^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} f^{abc} \partial_\mu (A_\nu^a A_\rho^b A_\sigma^c)}_{=C_3} = 0. \quad (10)$$

Let us discuss each term separately. First

$$C_1 = -\frac{g}{2}\varepsilon^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} f^{abc} A_\mu^b A_\nu^c (\partial_\rho A_\sigma^a - \partial_\sigma A_\rho^a + g f^{ars} A_\rho^r A_\sigma^s) \quad (11)$$

$$= -g\varepsilon^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} f^{abc} (\partial_\mu A_\nu^a) A_\rho^b A_\sigma^c \quad (12)$$

$$+ \frac{g^2}{2}\varepsilon^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} f^{abc} f^{ars} A_\mu^b A_\nu^c A_\rho^r A_\sigma^s. \quad (13)$$

In (12) we have used the antisymmetry property of $\varepsilon^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma}$ and we also rearranged the indices appropriately. We will show now that (13) is zero. Indeed

$$\varepsilon^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} f^{abc} f^{ars} A_\mu^b A_\nu^c A_\rho^r A_\sigma^s = -\varepsilon^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} \text{Tr}([\mathbf{A}_\mu, \mathbf{A}_\nu][\mathbf{A}_\rho, \mathbf{A}_\sigma]) \quad (14)$$

where

$$\mathbf{A}_\mu = A_\mu^a T^a. \quad (15)$$

We have

$$\begin{aligned} & \varepsilon^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} \text{Tr}([\mathbf{A}_\mu, \mathbf{A}_\nu][\mathbf{A}_\rho, \mathbf{A}_\sigma]) \\ &= \varepsilon^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} \text{Tr}(\mathbf{A}_\mu \mathbf{A}_\nu \mathbf{A}_\rho \mathbf{A}_\sigma - \mathbf{A}_\mu \mathbf{A}_\nu \mathbf{A}_\sigma \mathbf{A}_\rho - \mathbf{A}_\nu \mathbf{A}_\mu \mathbf{A}_\rho \mathbf{A}_\sigma + \mathbf{A}_\nu \mathbf{A}_\mu \mathbf{A}_\sigma \mathbf{A}_\rho). \end{aligned} \quad (16)$$

Each term under the trace can be permuted cyclically, however ε changes the sign

$$\begin{aligned} \varepsilon^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} \text{Tr}(\mathbf{A}_\mu \mathbf{A}_\nu \mathbf{A}_\rho \mathbf{A}_\sigma) &= \varepsilon^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} \text{Tr}(\mathbf{A}_\sigma \mathbf{A}_\mu \mathbf{A}_\nu \mathbf{A}_\rho) \\ &= -\varepsilon^{\sigma\mu\nu\rho} \text{Tr}(\mathbf{A}_\sigma \mathbf{A}_\mu \mathbf{A}_\nu \mathbf{A}_\rho) \\ &= -\varepsilon^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} \text{Tr}(\mathbf{A}_\mu \mathbf{A}_\nu \mathbf{A}_\rho \mathbf{A}_\sigma) \\ &= 0. \end{aligned} \quad (17)$$

Hence

$$C_1 = -g\varepsilon^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} f^{abc} (\partial_\mu A_\nu^a) A_\rho^b A_\sigma^c. \quad (18)$$

Next

$$\begin{aligned} C_2 &= \varepsilon^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} A_\nu^a \partial_\mu (\partial_\rho A_\sigma^a - \partial_\sigma A_\rho^a + g f^{ars} A_\rho^r A_\sigma^s) \\ &= g \varepsilon^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} f^{abc} A_\nu^a \partial_\mu (A_\rho^b A_\sigma^c) \\ &= 2 \varepsilon^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} f^{abc} (\partial_\mu A_\nu^a) A_\rho^b A_\sigma^c. \end{aligned} \tag{19}$$

We have used the fact that antisymmetrized $\partial_\mu \partial_\rho$ vanishes, and then we have rearranged indices to have the same order as in (18).

Finally

$$\begin{aligned} C_3 &= -\frac{g}{3} \varepsilon^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} f^{abc} \partial_\mu (A_\nu^a A_\rho^b A_\sigma^c) \\ &= -g \varepsilon^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} f^{abc} (\partial_\mu A_\nu^a) A_\rho^b A_\sigma^c. \end{aligned} \tag{20}$$

We see that indeed

$$C_1 + C_2 + C_3 = 0.$$