Appendix A: Generators and structure constants for SU(N), N = 2, 3, 4.

All generating matrices and structure constants are based on the normalization

$$\mathrm{Tr}(F_i F_k) = \delta_{ik}$$

and the relations (II.3.8) and (II.3.9).

i) SU(2):

$$F_1 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} , \quad F_2 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\begin{pmatrix} 0 & -i \\ i & 0 \end{pmatrix} , \quad F_3 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix} .$$

$$f_{ik\ell} = \sqrt{2} \quad , \quad d_{ik\ell} = 0 \quad , \quad i,k,\ell = 1,2,3 \quad .$$

ii) SU(3):

$$F_1 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} , \qquad F_2 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\begin{pmatrix} 0 & -i & 0 \\ i & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} ,$$

$$F_3 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} , \qquad F_4 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} ,$$

$$F_5 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & -i \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ i & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} , \qquad F_6 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} ,$$

$$F_7 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -i \\ 0 & i & 0 \end{pmatrix} , \qquad F_8 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}}\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -2 \end{pmatrix} .$$

$f_{ik\ell} =$	$\sqrt{2}$	$1/\sqrt{2}$	$-1/\sqrt{2}$	$\sqrt{6}/2$
$ik\ell$	1 2 3	1 4 7	1 5 6	4 5 8
		2 4 6	3 6 7	6 7 8
		2 5 7		
		3 4 5		

$d_{ik\ell} =$	$2/\sqrt{6}$	$1/\sqrt{2}$	$-1/\sqrt{2}$	$-1/\sqrt{6}$	$-2/\sqrt{6}$
$ik\ell$	1 1 8	1 4 6	2 4 7	4 4 8	8 8 8
	2 2 8	1 5 7	3 6 6	5 5 8	
	3 3 8	2 5 6	3 7 7	6 6 8	
		3 4 4		7 7 8	
		3 5 5			

iii) SU(4):

$$F_1 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\left(\begin{array}{c|c} \begin{matrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{matrix} & 0 \\ \hline 0 & 0 \end{array}\right), \qquad F_2 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\left(\begin{array}{c|c} \begin{matrix} 0 & -i \\ i & 0 \end{matrix} & 0 \\ \hline 0 & 0 \end{array}\right),$$

$$F_3 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\left(\begin{array}{c|c} \begin{matrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{matrix} & 0 \\ \hline 0 & 0 \end{array}\right), \qquad F_4 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\left(\begin{array}{c|c} 0 & \begin{matrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{matrix} \\ \hline \begin{matrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{matrix} & 0 \end{array}\right),$$

$$F_5 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\left(\begin{array}{c|c} 0 & \begin{matrix} -i & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{matrix} \\ \hline \begin{matrix} i & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{matrix} & 0 \end{array}\right), \qquad F_6 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\left(\begin{array}{c|c} 0 & \begin{matrix} 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 \end{matrix} \\ \hline \begin{matrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{matrix} & 0 \end{array}\right),$$

$$F_7 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\left(\begin{array}{c|c} 0 & \begin{matrix} 0 & 0 \\ -i & 0 \end{matrix} \\ \hline \begin{matrix} 0 & i \\ 0 & 0 \end{matrix} & 0 \end{array}\right), \qquad F_8 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}}\left(\begin{array}{c|c} \begin{matrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{matrix} & 0 \\ \hline 0 & \begin{matrix} -2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{matrix} \end{array}\right),$$

$$F_9 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\left(\begin{array}{c|c} 0 & \begin{matrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{matrix} \\ \hline \begin{matrix} 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 \end{matrix} & 0 \end{array}\right), \qquad F_{10} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\left(\begin{array}{c|c} 0 & \begin{matrix} 0 & -i \\ 0 & 0 \end{matrix} \\ \hline \begin{matrix} 0 & 0 \\ i & 0 \end{matrix} & 0 \end{array}\right)$$

$$F_{11} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\left(\begin{array}{c|c} 0 & \begin{matrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{matrix} \\ \hline \begin{matrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{matrix} & 0 \end{array}\right), \qquad F_{12} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\left(\begin{array}{c|c} 0 & \begin{matrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -i \end{matrix} \\ \hline \begin{matrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & i \end{matrix} & 0 \end{array}\right),$$

$$F_{13} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\left(\begin{array}{c|c} 0 & 0 \\ \hline 0 & \begin{matrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{matrix} \end{array}\right), \qquad F_{14} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\left(\begin{array}{c|c} 0 & 0 \\ \hline 0 & \begin{matrix} 0 & -i \\ i & 0 \end{matrix} \end{array}\right),$$

$$F_{15} = \frac{1}{2\sqrt{3}}\left(\begin{array}{c|c} \begin{matrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{matrix} & 0 \\ \hline 0 & \begin{matrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -3 \end{matrix} \end{array}\right).$$

The structure constants for index combinations with $1 \leq i,k,\ell \leq 8$ are the same as those for SU(3). Only the additional values are given below.

$f_{i,k,\ell} =$	$^1/_{\sqrt{2}}$	$-\,^1/_{\sqrt{2}}$	$^1/_{\sqrt{6}}$	$-\,^2/_{\sqrt{6}}$	$^2/_{\sqrt{3}}$
	1, 9,12	1,10,11	8, 9,10	8,13,14	9,10,15
	2, 9,11	3,11,12	8,11,12		11,12,15
	2,10,12	4,10,13			13,14,15
	3, 9,10	6,12,13			
	4, 9,14				
i,k,ℓ	5, 9,13				
	5,10,14				
	6,11,14				
	7,11,13				
	7,12,14				

$d_{i,k,\ell} =$	$^1/_{\sqrt{2}}$	$-\,^1/_{\sqrt{2}}$	$^1/_{\sqrt{6}}$	$^1/_{\sqrt{3}}$	$-\,^1/_{\sqrt{3}}$	$-\,^2/_{\sqrt{6}}$	$-\,^2/_{\sqrt{3}}$
	1, 9,11	2, 9,12	8, 9, 9	1, 1,15	9, 9,15	8,13,13	15,15,15
	1,10,12	3,11,11	8,10,10	2, 2,15	10,10,15	8,14,14	
	2,10,11	3,12,12	8,11,11	3, 3,15	11,11,15		
	3, 9, 9	5, 9,14	8,12,12	4, 4,15	12,12,15		
	3,10,10	7,11,14		5, 5,15	13,13,15		
i,k,ℓ	4, 9,13			6, 6,15	14,14,15		
	4,10,14			7, 7,15			
	5,10,13			8, 8,15			
	6,11,13						
	6,12,14						
	7,12,13						

Appendix B: Eigenvalues of the general two-level evolution matrix.

The three coupled linear inhomogeneous first-order differential equations (III.1.11-13) or, else, $\dot{\underline{v}}=G\underline{v}+\underline{k}$, with

$$G = \begin{pmatrix} -\gamma_3 & \alpha-\omega_0 & \beta-\omega_2 \\ \alpha+\omega_0 & -\gamma_2 & \delta-\omega_1 \\ \beta+\omega_2 & \delta+\omega_1 & -\gamma_1 \end{pmatrix} , \qquad (B.1)$$

are solved by the standard procedure outlined in II. 5. where the construction of eigenvectors is found. The corresponding eigenvalues λ_i are calculated from

$$\lambda^3 + a\lambda^2 + b\lambda + c = 0 , \qquad (B.2)$$

where

$$a = \gamma_1 + \gamma_2 + \gamma_3 , \qquad (B.3)$$

$$b = \gamma_1\gamma_2 + \gamma_1\gamma_3 + \gamma_2\gamma_3 + \omega_o^2 + \omega_1^2 + \omega_2^2 - (\alpha^2 + \beta^2 + \delta^2) , \qquad (B.4)$$

$$c = \gamma_1\gamma_2\gamma_3 + \gamma_1(\omega_o^2-\alpha^2) + \gamma_2(\omega_2^2-\beta^2) + \gamma_3(\omega_1^2-\delta^2) + 2\alpha\omega_1\omega_2 - 2\beta\omega_o\omega_1 + 2\delta\omega_o\omega_2 - 2\alpha\beta\delta . \qquad (B.5)$$

The discriminant d of (B.2) is

$$d = \left(\frac{q}{2}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{p}{3}\right)^3 , \qquad (B.6)$$

in terms of

$$p = b - \frac{a^2}{3} , \quad q = \frac{2}{27}a^3 - \frac{ab}{3} + c . \qquad (B.7)$$

With the abbreviations

$$x = \left(-\frac{q}{2} + \sqrt{d}\right)^{1/3} , \quad y = \left(-\frac{q}{2} - \sqrt{d}\right)^{1/3} , \tag{B.8}$$

$$z = \left(\frac{|p|}{3}\right)^{1/2} , \quad \varphi = \frac{1}{3} \arccos\left(-q/2z^3\right) , \tag{B.9}$$

the roots are as follows:

$$d \geq 0 : \quad \begin{cases} \lambda_1 = x + y - \frac{a}{3} , \\ \lambda_2 = -\frac{1}{2}(x+y) + i\,\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}(x-y) - \frac{a}{3} , \\ \lambda_3 = -\frac{1}{2}(x+y) - i\,\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2}(x-y) - \frac{a}{3} , \end{cases} \tag{B.10}$$

$$d < 0 : \quad \begin{cases} \lambda_1 = 2z\cos(\varphi) - \frac{a}{3} , \\ \lambda_2 = -2z\cos\left(\varphi - \frac{\pi}{3}\right) - \frac{a}{3} , \\ \lambda_3 = -2z\cos\left(\varphi + \frac{\pi}{3}\right) - \frac{a}{3} . \end{cases} \tag{B.11}$$

Appendix C: Elements of the time-dependent two-level evolution matrix.

We use O_t given in (III.2.3), the abbreviations

$$c = \cos(\omega t) \quad , \quad s = \sin(\omega t) \quad , \tag{C.1}$$

and the frequency detuning

$$\Delta = \omega_o - \omega \tag{C.2}$$

to obtain $\tilde{G}_t$ of (III.2.6). The list of components is as follows:

$$(\tilde{G}_t)_{11} = -(\gamma_2 s^2 + \gamma_3 c^2) - 2\alpha sc \quad , \tag{C.3}$$

$$(\tilde{G}_t)_{12} = -\Delta - \alpha(s^2 - c^2) + (\gamma_2 - \gamma_3) sc \, , \tag{C.4}$$

$$(\tilde{G}_t)_{13} = \beta c + (2\omega_1 c - \delta) s \quad , \tag{C.5}$$

$$(\tilde{G}_t)_{21} = \Delta - \alpha(s^2 - c^2) + (\gamma_2 - \gamma_3) sc \quad , \tag{C.6}$$

$$(\tilde{G}_t)_{22} = -(\gamma_2 c^2 + \gamma_3 s^2) + 2\alpha sc \quad , \tag{C.7}$$

$$(\tilde{G}_t)_{23} = \beta s - (2\omega_1 c - \delta) c \quad , \tag{C.8}$$

$$(\tilde{G}_t)_{31} = \beta c - (2\omega_1 c + \delta) s \quad , \tag{C.9}$$

$$(\tilde{G}_t)_{32} = \beta s + (2\omega_1 c + \delta) c \quad , \tag{C.10}$$

$$(\tilde{G}_t)_{33} = -\gamma_1 \quad . \tag{C.11}$$

The constant vector $\underline{k}$ transforms into

$$\underline{\tilde{k}}(t) = -\sqrt{2}(\lambda c + \mu s, \mu c - \lambda s, \nu)^T \quad . \tag{C.12}$$

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