

Confinement in Schwinger model at finite temperature and θ

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H. Ohata,

“Monte Carlo study of Schwinger model without the sign problem,”
JHEP 12, 007 (2023), arXiv:2303.05481.

- Introduction
- Lattice bosonized Schwinger model
–methodology
- Confinement at finite temperature and θ
–result
- Summary and outlook

Introduction

QCD and θ term

Strong interaction is described by QCD:

$$S_{\text{QCD}} = \int d^4x \frac{1}{2} \text{tr}(G_{\mu\nu}G_{\mu\nu}) + \sum_f \bar{q}_f (\gamma_\mu D_\mu + m_f) q_f$$

Gauge principle and renormalizability almost uniquely determine the action.

The only possible extension to QCD is the θ term :

$$i\theta Q, \quad Q = \int d^4x \frac{g^2}{32\pi^2} \epsilon_{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} \text{tr}(G_{\mu\nu}G_{\rho\sigma})$$

Unlike S_{QCD} , Q is antisymmetric under the CP transformation.

\Rightarrow

The real parameter θ determines the degree of CP symmetry breaking in QCD.

The CP symmetry is strictly preserved in QCD for some reason:

$$|\theta| \lesssim 3 \times 10^{-12} \quad \text{Abel et al., '20}$$

Interesting properties of the θ term

$$i\theta Q, \quad Q = \int d^4x \frac{g^2}{32\pi^2} \epsilon_{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} \text{tr}(G_{\mu\nu}G_{\rho\sigma})$$

- θ term is total derivative \implies purely quantum effects
- Q takes an integer $\implies \theta$ has 2π periodicity
 $\theta = \pi$ is the most distinct point from our vacuum $\theta = 0$.
- CP transformation: $\theta \rightarrow -\theta$
 \implies CP symmetry is not explicitly broken at $\theta = \pi$.

θ term is interesting, but...

By examining the quantum effects of the θ term, we can gain insights into the quantum aspects of the system and deepen the understanding of our vacuum $\theta = 0$. However, investigating the effects of the θ term is difficult by the Monte Carlo method due to the sign problem.

Monte Carlo method and sign problem

$$\begin{aligned}\langle \hat{O} \rangle_T &= \text{tr}(\hat{O} \exp(-\hat{H}/T)) / \text{tr}(\exp(-\hat{H}/T)) \\ &= (\text{Eliminate operator by inserting completeness relations}) \\ &= \int D\phi O \exp(-S_E) / \int D\phi \exp(-S_E)\end{aligned}$$

An imaginary term like $i\pi\partial_\tau\phi$ appears in the exponential. In the case of the scalar theory

$$-i\pi\partial_\tau\phi + \frac{1}{2}\pi^2 = \frac{1}{2}(\pi - i\partial_\tau\phi)^2 + \frac{1}{2}(\partial_\tau\phi)^2 \implies S_E \in \mathbb{R}$$

integrated out

The expectation value can be approximated by sampling configurations with the probability $\exp(-S_E)$.

Sign problem

If S_E has an imaginary part (e.g., at finite θ), $\exp(-S_E)$ cannot be a probability. Monte Carlo method is not applicable.

Purpose of this talk

Purpose of this talk

Investigate the confining properties of the Schwinger model (QED in 1 + 1 dims) at finite temperature and θ using the Monte Carlo method.

$$S_E[A_\mu, \psi, \bar{\psi}]_{g,m,\theta} = \int d^2x \left[\frac{1}{4} F_{\mu\nu} F_{\mu\nu} + \bar{\psi} (\not{\partial} + g\not{A} + m) \psi \right] + i\theta Q,$$
$$Q := \int d^2x \frac{g}{4\pi} \epsilon_{\mu\nu} F_{\mu\nu} = \int d^2x \frac{g}{2\pi} E \in \mathbb{Z}.$$

Similarities with QCD

- Chiral anomaly: $\partial_\mu j_5^\mu = \frac{g}{\pi} E$
- Confinement (discussed later)
- θ term \rightarrow [sign problem](#)

Properties originating from low dimensionality

- Gauge coupling has mass dimension.
- Equivalent bosonized form (**We exploit this feature**)

Lattice bosonized Schwinger model

Hamiltonian of the Schwinger model

$$H = \int dx \left[-i\psi^\dagger(\partial_x - igA^1)\gamma^5\psi + \frac{g^2}{2} \left(\frac{E}{g} + \frac{\theta}{2\pi} \right)^2 + m\bar{\psi}\psi \right]$$

$$\text{Gauss law: } \partial_x E/g = \psi^\dagger\psi$$

The Dirac fermion in 1 + 1 dimensions can be described by the scalar field:

$$-\bar{\psi}i\partial_x\gamma^1\psi = \frac{1}{2}\pi^2 + \frac{1}{2}(\partial_x\phi)^2,$$

$$\bar{\psi}\psi = -\frac{e^\gamma}{2\pi}\mu\mathcal{N}_\mu \cos(2\sqrt{\pi}\phi), \quad \mu : \text{regularization scale}$$

After bosonization, the Gauss law can be solved locally

$$\partial_x E/g = \psi^\dagger\psi = \partial_x\phi/\sqrt{\pi}$$

\implies

$$E/g = \phi/\sqrt{\pi}$$

Bosonized Schwinger model

Bosonized Schwinger model Coleman, Jackiw, and Susskind, '75

$$H = \int dx \frac{1}{2} \pi^2 + \frac{1}{2} (\partial_x \phi)^2 + \frac{g^2}{2\pi} \left(\phi + \frac{\theta}{2\sqrt{\pi}} \right)^2 - \frac{e^\gamma m g}{2\pi^{3/2}} \mathcal{N}_{g/\sqrt{\pi}} \cos(2\sqrt{\pi}\phi), \quad \phi/\sqrt{\pi} = E/g$$

\mathcal{N}_μ denotes normal ordering with respect to the creation and annihilation operators defined as

$$\phi(x) =: \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{dk}{2\pi} \left[\frac{1}{2\sqrt{k^2 + \mu^2}} \right]^{1/2} (a(k, \mu)e^{-ikx} + a^\dagger(k, \mu)e^{ikx}),$$
$$\pi(x) =: -i \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{dk}{2\pi} \left[\frac{\sqrt{k^2 + \mu^2}}{2} \right]^{1/2} (a(k, \mu)e^{-ikx} - a^\dagger(k, \mu)e^{ikx})$$

For the path-integral rep. at $m \neq 0$, \mathcal{N}_μ must be removed.

Using Wick's theorem,

$$\mathcal{N}_\mu \exp(i2\sqrt{\pi}\phi) = \exp(2\pi\Delta(x=0; \mu)) \exp(i2\sqrt{\pi}\phi)$$

$\Delta(x; \mu)$: Feynman propagator for the scalar field of mass μ

Continuum

Feynman propagator regularized with a UV cutoff Λ :

$$\Delta(x; \mu; \Lambda) := \Delta(x; \mu) - \Delta(x; \Lambda) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \ln \frac{\Lambda}{\mu} + \mathcal{O}(x^2)$$

$$\Rightarrow \mathcal{N}_\mu \exp(i2\sqrt{\pi}\phi(x)) = (\Lambda/\mu) \exp(2\sqrt{\pi}\phi(x))$$

Lattice

$$\mathcal{N}_{g/\sqrt{\pi}} \exp(i2\sqrt{\pi}\phi_x) = C(ag) \exp(i2\sqrt{\pi}\phi_x)$$

$$C(ag) := \exp\{2\pi\Delta_{\text{latt}}(0; g/\sqrt{\pi}; 1/a)\} \simeq 10/ag$$

Lattice bosonized Schwinger model

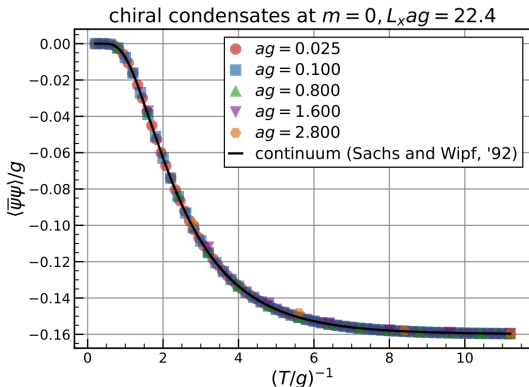
Euclidean action of the lattice bosonized Schwinger model

$$S_E = \sum_{\tau=0}^{L_\tau-1} \sum_{x=0}^{L_x-1} \frac{1}{2} (\partial_\tau \phi_{x,\tau})^2 + \frac{1}{2} (\partial_x \phi_{x,\tau})^2 + \frac{(ag)^2}{2\pi} \left(\phi_{x,\tau} + \frac{\theta}{2\sqrt{\pi}} \right)^2 - \frac{e^\gamma}{2\pi^{3/2}} \frac{m}{g} (ag)^2 C(ag) (\approx 10/ag) \cos(2\sqrt{\pi}\phi_{x,\tau}) \in \mathbb{R}$$

Advantages

- Monte Carlo simulation without encountering the sign problem
- Low-cost Configuration generation using the heat-bath algorithm
- Chiral anomaly is exactly preserved on a lattice.
- First convergence to the continuum limit (next slide)

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \bar{\psi}\psi \rangle_{\text{latt}} &= -\frac{e^\gamma}{2\pi^{3/2}} g C(ag) \langle \cos(2\sqrt{\pi}\phi) \rangle_{\text{free}, L_x, L_\tau} \\ &= -\frac{e^\gamma}{2\pi^{3/2}} g \exp[-2\pi\{\Delta_{\text{latt}}(ag)_{L_x, L_\tau} - \Delta_{\text{latt}}(ag)\}]. \end{aligned}$$



VEV of the chiral condensate is reproduced at any ag .
 \iff Chiral anomaly is exactly preserved on a lattice.
 Fast convergence to the continuum limit even at $T \neq 0$

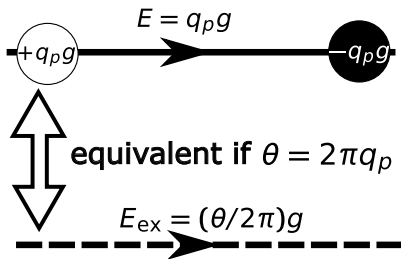
Confinement at finite temperature and θ

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$$H = \int dx \frac{g^2}{2} \left(\frac{E}{g} + \frac{\theta}{2\pi} \right)^2 + \dots$$

θ is an external electric field:

$$\frac{E_{\text{ex}}}{g} = \frac{\theta}{2\pi}$$



String tension can be obtained from the difference in the free energy densities (after taking $L_x a \rightarrow \infty$)

$$\sigma(q_p, \theta) = f(2\pi q_p + \theta) - f(\theta)$$

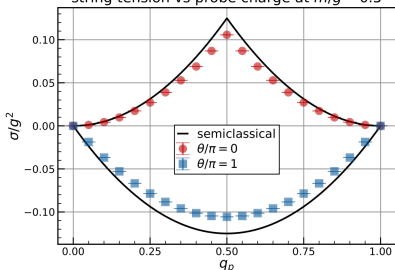
$$= \frac{-1}{L_x L_\tau a^2} \ln \left\langle \exp \left[-\frac{(ag)^2}{\sqrt{\pi}} \sum_{x,\tau} q_p \left(\phi_{x,\tau} + \frac{\theta + \pi q_p}{2\sqrt{\pi}} \right) \right] \right\rangle_\theta$$

Integer charge is screened by the creation of a dynamical charge pair due to the 2π periodicity of θ .

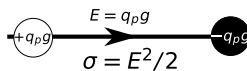
String tension of probe charge $q_p \in [0, 1]$

$ag = 0.2$, $L_X \times L_T = 112 \times 56$

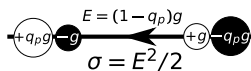
string tension vs probe charge at $m/g = 0.5$



• $q_p \in [0, 1/2]$, $\theta = 0$

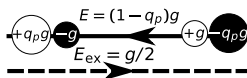


• $q_p \in [1/2, 1]$, $\theta = 0$

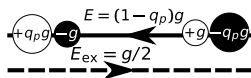


applying an external electric field
 $E_{\text{ex}} = g/2$

• $q_p \in [0, 1/2]$, $\theta = \pi$



• $q_p \in [1/2, 1]$, $\theta = \pi$



Semiclassical estimate:

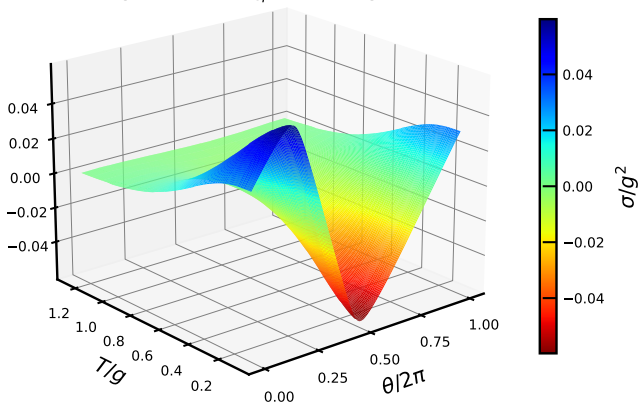
$$\sigma/g^2 = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{2}q_p^2, & q_p \in [0, \frac{1}{2}], \theta = 0, \\ \frac{1}{2}(1 - q_p)^2, & q_p \in [\frac{1}{2}, 1], \theta = 0, \\ -\frac{1}{2}q_p(1 - q_p), & q_p \in [0, 1], \theta = \pi. \end{cases}$$

See Misumi et al., '19; Honda et al., '22 for explanation of negative string tension for integer probe charge in the charge- N ($N > 1$) Schwinger models in terms of the Z_N 1-form symmetry

String tension σ in (T, θ) plane

Using reweighing method, (T, θ) plane can be covered **densely**

string tension at $q_p = 0.3, m/g = 0.25$



- At low temperature, as $\theta = 0 \rightarrow \pi$,
confining \rightarrow deconfining \rightarrow inversely confining
- At high temperature, always deconfining

Summary and outlook

Summary and outlook

Summary

- The Schwinger model with the θ term can be simulated by the Monte Carlo method using bosonization.
- The lattice bosonized Schwinger model was verified through the comparison with previous results.
- Confining properties in the Schwinger model at finite temperature and θ were quantitatively revealed.

Please refer to [H. Ohata, PTEP 2024, 013B02 \(2024\), arXiv:2311.04738](#) for the determination of the phase diagram at $\theta = \pi$ in the temperature and fermion mass plane.

Outlook

- Application to finite density system
- Application to more nontrivial models

Backup

Previous studies

The Schwinger model at finite θ has been studied mainly by three methods.

- **Tensor network in the Hamiltonian formalism**
Apply the tensor network method to the 2^{L_x} dimensional spin Hamiltonian formulation of the Schwinger model
Byrnes et al., '02; Banuls et al., '13; Buyens et al., '14; many other works
- **Quantum algorithm (mostly in the Hamiltonian formalism)**
Apply the quantum algorithm to the spin Hamiltonian
For example, obtain the ground state via adiabatic state preparation
Kuhn et al., '14; Chakraborty et al., '22; Honda et al., '22; many other works
- **Tensor network in the path-integral formalism**
Evaluate the path-integral deterministically using the Grassmann tensor renormalization group
Shimizu and Kuramashi, '14; Shimizu and Kuramashi, '14; Akiyama et al., '24

Spin representation of Schwinger model

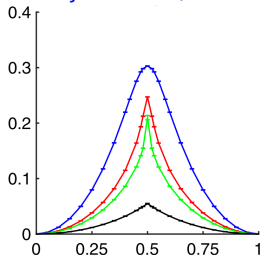
Hamiltonian of the Schwinger model

$$H = \int dx \left[-i\psi^\dagger(\partial_x - igA^1)\gamma^5\psi + \frac{g^2}{2} \left(\frac{E}{g} + \frac{\theta}{2\pi} \right)^2 + m\bar{\psi}\psi \right]$$

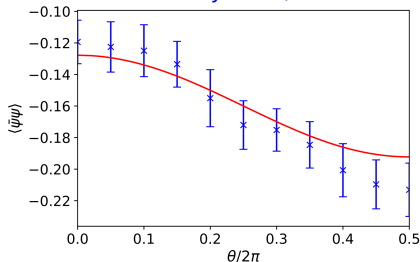
$$\text{Gauss law: } \partial_x E/g = \psi^\dagger\psi$$

staggered fermion + Gauss law + Jordan-Wigner transformation
 $\Rightarrow 2^{L_x}$ dimensional spin Hamiltonian

Tensor Network,
 $m/g = 0.125, 0.25, 0.3, 0.5$
Buyens et al., '17



Quantum computing, $m/g = 0.1$
Chakraborty et al., '22



The origin of sign problem at finite θ

Hamiltonian of the Schwinger model

$$H = \int dx \left[-i\psi^\dagger (\partial_x - igA^1) \gamma^5 \psi + \frac{1}{2} \left(E + \frac{g\theta}{2\pi} \right)^2 + m\bar{\psi}\psi \right]$$

Gauss law: $\partial_x E/g = \psi^\dagger \psi$

$$\begin{aligned} S_E &= \int d^2x -iE\partial_\tau A^1 + \frac{1}{2} \left(E + \frac{g\theta}{2\pi} \right)^2 + \dots \\ &= \int d^2x \frac{1}{2} \left\{ \underbrace{E + \left(\frac{g\theta}{2\pi} - i\partial_\tau A^1 \right)}_{\text{integrated out}} \right\}^2 + \frac{1}{2} \left(\partial_\tau A^1 + i\frac{g\theta}{2\pi} \right)^2 + \dots \\ &= \int d^2x \frac{1}{2} (\partial_\tau A^1)^2 + \underbrace{i\frac{g\theta}{2\pi} \partial_\tau A^1}_{\text{purely imaginary}} + \dots \end{aligned}$$

After bosonization, the Gauss law can be solved locally, and S_E remains real.

Generating Monte Carlo configurations

Heat bath algorithm

Start with an initial field configuration $\{\phi_{x,\tau}\}$

- 1 focus on $\phi_{x,\tau}$ at some site (x, τ)
- 2 update $\phi_{x,\tau}$ while fixing the rest (**heat bath**)
- 3 repeat **1** and **2** for all sites

Repeating the sweep many times, the field configuration $\{\phi_{x,\tau}\}$ starts to distribute with $P(\{\phi_{x,\tau}\}) \propto \exp(-S_E(\{\phi_{x,\tau}\}))$.

$$P(\phi_{x,\tau}) \propto \exp \left\{ -2I(ag) \left(\phi_{x,\tau} - \frac{\bar{\phi}_{x,\tau}}{I(ag)} \right)^2 \right\} \\ \times \exp \left\{ \frac{e^\gamma}{2\pi^{3/2}} (m/g)(ag)^2 C(ag) \cos(2\sqrt{\pi}\phi_{x,\tau} - \theta) \right\},$$

$$\bar{\phi}_{x,\tau} := (\phi_{x,\tau+1} + \phi_{x,\tau-1} + \phi_{x+1,\tau} + \phi_{x-1,\tau})/4, I(ag) := 1 + (ag)^2/4\pi.$$

Generate a Gaussian random number, apply the rejection sampling

Chiral anomaly in the bosonized form

Bosonized form of the chiral current:

$$j_5^\mu = \bar{\psi} \gamma^5 \gamma^\mu \psi = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi}} \pi, & \mu = 0, \\ -\frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi}} \partial_x \phi, & \mu = 1. \end{cases}$$

Bosonized form of the Schwinger model at $m = \theta = 0$

$$H = \int dx \frac{1}{2} \pi^2 + \frac{1}{2} (\partial_x \phi)^2 + \frac{g^2}{2\pi} \phi^2.$$

Time evolution

$$\dot{\pi} = -\frac{\delta H}{\delta \phi} = \partial_x^2 \phi - \frac{g^2}{\pi} \phi,$$

The conservation law of the chiral current is broken as

$$\partial_\mu j_5^\mu = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi}} (\dot{\pi} - \partial_x^2 \phi) = \frac{g}{\pi} E.$$

This relation holds also on a lattice with no $\mathcal{O}(a)$ correction.

Chiral symmetry in Schwinger model

At $m = 0$, the action has the chiral symmetry

$$U(1)_V \times U(1)_A \times SU(N_f)_V \times SU(N_f)_A.$$

$U(1)_A$ is explicitly broken by the chiral anomaly.

Spontaneous continuous symmetry breaking is prohibited in $1 + 1$ dims model (except the Higgs mechanism). [Coleman, '73](#)

- $N_f \geq 2$
 $\langle \bar{\psi}\psi \rangle \neq 0 \implies$ spontaneous $SU(N_f)_A$ symmetry breaking, which contradicts Coleman's theorem.
- $N_f = 1$
We don't have $SU(N_f)_A$ symmetry from the beginning.
 \implies
 $\langle \bar{\psi}\psi \rangle \neq 0$ does not contradict Coleman's theorem.