Real Representation in Chiral Gauge Theories on the Lattice

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ABSTRACT

The Weyl fermion belonging to the real representation of the gauge group provides a simple illustrative example for Lüscher’s gauge-invariant lattice formulation of chiral gauge theories. We can explicitly construct the fermion integration measure globally over the gauge-field configuration space in the arbitrary topological sector; there is no global obstruction corresponding to the Witten anomaly. It is shown that this Weyl formulation is equivalent to a lattice formulation based on the Majorana (left–right-symmetric) fermion, in which the fermion partition function is given by the Pfaffian with a definite sign, up to physically irrelevant contact terms. This observation suggests a natural relative normalization of the fermion measure in different topological sectors for the Weyl fermion belonging to the complex representation.

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1. Introduction

A general strategy to implement anomaly-free chiral gauge theories on the lattice while preserving the exact gauge invariance has emerged recently [1–6]. In this paper, we apply this formulation to a single Weyl fermion, which belongs to a real representation† of the gauge group. Our motivation is two fold:

In the formulation of [1,3], there are two kinds of obstruction that prevent the gauge-invariant formulation. The first is the local gauge anomaly that corresponds to the gauge anomaly in the continuum theory, but requires a control with finite lattice spacings [1–7] (see also [8]). The second is the global topological obstruction [1,3,9], which is a lattice counterpart of the Witten anomaly [10].‡ The local anomaly is absent from real representations, so we expect that global issues in the formulation are highlighted. In fact, we can show that there is no global obstruction for real representations and that it is always possible to construct the gauge-invariant fermion integration measure globally, over the gauge-field configuration space.§ This is the expected result from the knowledge in the continuum theory [10,12,13]. We will explicitly construct such a measure and, with that measure, we can work out all the quantities in the formulation, including fermion expectation values in general topological sectors. In this way, real representations provide an illustrative example for the formulation.

Secondly, there has been a renewed interest [14] in the context of the domain wall fermion [15] on a lattice formulation of SUSY Yang–Mills theories [16–18], in which the fermion (the gaugino) belongs to the real representation, i.e. the adjoint representation. Usually such a fermion is regarded as the Majorana fermion because either Weyl or Majorana is a matter of convention in four-dimensional continuum theory and the latter is more symmetric with respect to the chirality. However it is not obvious whether or not the lattice formulation based on the Weyl fermion [1–6] and that based on the Majorana fermion are equivalent. We will show that fermion expectation values in general topological sectors differ, in the two formulations, only by contact terms that are irrelevant in physical amplitudes.

† This is sometimes called the real-positive representation in the literature.
‡ The Witten anomaly in lattice gauge theory has been studied also from the viewpoint of the spectral flow [11].
§ For pseudo-real representations of $SU(2)$, from which the local anomaly is also absent, it has been shown [9] that a globally consistent definition of the fermion integration measure is impossible.
Thus they are actually physically equivalent. This result supports the view that the framework of [1,3] provides a unified treatment of chiral gauge theories in general. The matching between the Weyl and the Majorana formulations moreover suggests a natural relative normalization of the fermion integration measure in different topological sectors for the Weyl fermion in the complex representation.

We begin with recapitulating some basics of the formulation. For unexplained notations and for more details, see [1,3]. We assume that the lattice volume is finite throughout this paper.

2. Real representations in Lüscher’s formulation

In the formulation of [1,3], the expectation value of an operator $O$ in the fermion sector is defined by the path integral

$$
\langle O \rangle_F = \int D[\psi]D[\bar{\psi}] O e^{-S_F}.
$$

In this paper, the fermion action is taken as

$$
S_F = a^4 \sum_x \left[ \bar{\psi}(x)D\psi(x) + \frac{1}{2}im\psi^T(x)B\psi(x) - \frac{1}{2}im\bar{\psi}(x)B^{-1}\bar{\psi}^T(x) \right],
$$

where the Dirac operator $D$ satisfies the Ginsparg–Wilson (GW) relation [19] $\gamma_5 D + D \gamma_5 = aD \gamma_5 D$. We require that $D$ be gauge-covariant and that it depends, locally and smoothly, on the gauge field. Such a Dirac operator in fact exists [20,21]. The locality and the smoothness are, however, guaranteed only in a restricted gauge-field configuration space, as expected from the index relation [22]. For the overlap-Dirac operator [21], the sufficient condition is [23]

$$
\|1 - R[U(p)]\| < \epsilon \quad \text{for all plaquettes } p,
$$

where $R$ is the representation of the gauge group and $\epsilon$ is any fixed positive number smaller than 1/30. Under this admissibility, the gauge-field configuration space is divided

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The matrix $B$ is defined by $B = C \gamma_5$ from the charge conjugation matrix $C$. We take the representation of the Dirac algebra such that $C \gamma_\mu C^{-1} = -\gamma_\mu^T = -\gamma_\mu^*$, $C \gamma_5 C^{-1} = \gamma_5^T = \gamma_5^*$, $C^T C = 1$ and $C^T = -C$. These imply $B \gamma_\mu B^{-1} = \gamma_\mu^T = \gamma_\mu^*$, $B^T B = 1$ and $B^T = -B$.
into topological sectors [24,1] (see also [25]). As further requirements, we assume the \( \gamma_5 \)-
hermiticity \( D^\dagger = \gamma_5 D \gamma_5 \) and the charge conjugation property \( D^* = BD_{R \rightarrow R^*} B^{-1} \), where \( R^* \) is the complex conjugate representation of \( R \). For real representations, we may take \( R(T^a)^* = R(T^a) = -R(T^a)^T \), where \( R(T^a) \) is the representation matrix for the Lie algebra of the gauge group. This implies \( D^* = BDB^{-1} \) for real representations.

In (2.2), we have introduced the “Majorana” mass terms to treat topologically non-trivial sectors, in which there are zero modes of the Dirac operator, just as easily as the vacuum sector. If one is interested in the massless theory, it is sufficient to take the \( m \to 0 \) limit at the very end of calculations. The mass terms are consistent with the Fermi statistics and, for real representations, gauge-invariant.

The chirality of the Weyl fermion is introduced as follows [26]:** The GW chiral matrix
is defined by \( \hat{\gamma}_5 = \gamma_5 (1 - aD) \).*** The chiral projectors are then defined by \( \hat{P}_\pm = (1 \pm \hat{\gamma}_5)/2 \) and \( P_\pm = (1 \pm \gamma_5)/2 \). Since \( P_\pm D = D \hat{P}_\pm \), we can consistently impose the chirality as \( D \hat{P}_- \psi = \psi \) and \( \overline{\psi} P_+ = \overline{\psi} \). Note that the mass terms in (2.2) are also consistent with this definition of the chirality because \( B \hat{P}_- \hat{P}_+ = \hat{P}_- B = \hat{P}_+ B \).

To define the fermion integration measure \( D[\psi]D[\overline{\psi}] \) in (2.1), one first introduces basis vectors \( v_j (j = 1, 2, \ldots, \text{Tr } \hat{P}_-) \), which satisfy the constraint \( \hat{P}_- v_j = v_j \) and \( (v_j, v_k) = \delta_{jk} \).**** The fermion field is then expanded as \( \psi(x) = \sum_j v_j(x)c_j \) and the measure is defined by \( D[\psi] = \prod_j dc_j \equiv dc_1dc_2 \cdots dc_{\text{Tr } \hat{P}_-} \). These conditions, however, do not specify the measure uniquely; there remains a phase ambiguity that may depend on the gauge field. For a different choice of basis vectors \( \tilde{v}_j \), one has

\[
\tilde{v}_j(x) = \sum_k v_k(x)(Q^{-1})_{kj},
\]

with a unitary matrix \( Q \). The coefficients are thus related as \( \tilde{c}_j = \sum_k Q_{jk} c_k \) and the measures differ by a phase factor, \( \prod_j dc_j = \det Q \prod_j d\tilde{c}_j \). How to choose (and whether it is possible to choose) the phase over the gauge-field configuration space that is consistent

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* Throughout this paper, the complex conjugation and the transpose operation on an operator are defined with respect to the corresponding kernel in position space.

** For definiteness, we will consider the left-handed Weyl fermion.

*** Note that \((\hat{\gamma}_5)^2 = 1\) and \((\hat{\gamma}_5)^\dagger = \hat{\gamma}_5\).

**** The inner product for spinors is defined by \((\psi, \phi) = a^4 \sum_x \psi^\dagger(x)\phi(x)\).
with the gauge invariance is the central issue in the formulation. The measure for the anti-
fermion is defined similarly but with respect to $P_+$ as $D[\bar{\psi}] = \prod_k d\bar{\sigma}_k \equiv d\bar{\sigma}_1 \cdots d\bar{\sigma}_{\text{Tr} \, P_+}$, where $\bar{\psi}(x) = \sum_k \bar{\tau}_k \bar{\nu}_k(x)$, $\bar{\tau}_k P_+ = \bar{\tau}_k \, (k = 1, 2, \ldots, \text{Tr} \, P_+)$ and $(\bar{\tau}_k, \bar{\tau}_l) = \delta_{kl}$. The phase of $D[\bar{\psi}]$ can be chosen as being independent of the gauge field and it thus has no physical relevance.

An important point to note is that the above construction refers to a specific topological sector. The number of integration variables in $D[\psi]$ is $\text{Tr} \, \hat{P}_-$, and this number depends on the gauge-field configuration. In this way, the fermion-number violation in topologically non-trivial sectors is naturally incorporated. Since $\text{Tr} \, \hat{P}_-$ is an integer [22], the smoothness of the Dirac operator in the admissible space (2.3) guarantees that $\text{Tr} \, \hat{P}_-$ is constant within a connected component in the admissible space. The full expectation value, including the gauge field sector, is thus given by

$$\langle O \rangle = \frac{1}{Z} \sum_M \int_M D[U] \, e^{-S_G(M)} e^{i\vartheta(M)} \langle O \rangle^M_M,$$

where $Z$ is chosen as $\langle 1 \rangle = 1$ and $M$ stands for each connected component in the admissible space. The restriction of the gauge-field integration to the admissible space may be implemented by the modified plaquette action [1] for example. On the other hand, as already emphasized in [1], at the moment there is no obvious way to fix the relative normalization $\mathcal{N}(M)$ and the relative phase $\vartheta(M)$ for different topological sectors. We will come back to this point in a later section.

3. Global existence of the fermion integration measure

In this section, for real representations, we will show that it is possible to construct the gauge-invariant fermion measure globally and smoothly over the gauge-field configuration space (or more precisely, within each connected component in the admissible space). The underlying symplectic structure plays the key role in this.

Take a certain gauge-field configuration $U(x, \mu)$. We will construct the basis vectors $v_j$ introduced in the previous section starting with a complete set of arbitrarily chosen vectors $u_j$ in the constrained space $\hat{P}_- u_j = u_j$. We first set $v_1 = u_1 / \sqrt{(u_1, u_1)}$. Next we can take $v_2$ as $v_2 = v'_1 \equiv B^{-1} v^{*}_1$, because $v'_1$ satisfies $\hat{P}_- v'_1 = v'_1$ and $(v_1, v'_1) = 0$, since $B^T = -B$.
(\(v_2\) is correctly normalized, \((v_2, v_2) = 1\)). Note that \(v'_2 = B^{-1}v_2^* = -v_1\). Since \(u_j\) span a complete set, we have \(v_2 = \sum_{j \neq 1} kju_j\), where we may assume \(k_2 \neq 0\) without loss. Thus, we can replace \(u_1\) and \(u_2\) in the complete set by \(v_1\) and \(v_2\). Next, we define \(v_3\) from \(u_3\) such that it is orthogonal to \(v_1\) and \(v_2\). This can be done by the Gram–Schmidt method as \(\tilde{v}_3 = u_3 - (v_1, u_3)v_1 - (v_2, u_3)v_2\) and \(v_3 = \tilde{v}_3/\sqrt{(\tilde{v}_3, \tilde{v}_3)}\); \(v_4\) is defined from \(v_3\) by \(v_4 = v'_3 = B^{-1}v_3^*\). Now we see that \(v_4\) is linearly independent of \(v_1, v_2\) and \(v_3\), because \((v_1, v_4) = -(v_3, v_2) = 0, (v_2, v_4) = (v_3, v_1) = 0\) and \((v_3, v_4) = 0\). Since \(v_4 = \sum_{j \neq 1,2,3} k'_ju_j\), we may replace \(u_3\) and (say) \(u_4\) in the complete set by \(v_3\) and \(v_4\). Clearly this procedure can be repeated pairwise and we are left with the orthonormal complete set \(v_j\) with \(\hat{P}_-v_j = v_j\) such that \(v_{2l} = v'_{2l-1}\) and \(v_{2l-1} = -v'_{2l}\). This basis \(v_j\) can be characterized by

\[
v'_j(x) = B^{-1}v_j^*(x) = J_{jk}v_k(x), \quad J_{jk} = \delta_{j+1,k} - \delta_{j,k+1}, \tag{3.1}\]

where \(J^TJ = 1\) and \(J^T = -J\).

For a fixed gauge-field configuration \(U(x, \mu)\), we have shown that it is always possible to construct \(v_j\) such that \(\hat{P}_-v_j = v_j\), \((v_j, v_k) = \delta_{jk}\) and (3.1) hold. These \(v_j\) moreover can be smoothly continued to other gauge-field configurations, at least within a sufficiently small local patch containing \(U(x, \mu)\). The reason is that the above construction is purely algebraic and when the gauge field is continuously varied, \(v_j\) changes smoothly. The smoothness of the construction breaks down only when, for example, \(v_2\) happens to have no component of \(u_2\) and we need to change the labelling of \(u_j\)’s. But such a situation cannot occur for sufficiently close neighbors of \(U(x, \mu)\).

Therefore, it is always possible to construct a smooth basis \(v_j\) within a local patch in the gauge-field configuration space such that (3.1) holds. Now we can show that, as long as condition (3.1) is satisfied, the corresponding measure \(D[\psi]\)—we call this the symplectic measure—is unique. The proof of this important fact is simple: assume a different basis \(\tilde{v}_j\) also satisfies (3.1). Since \(v_j\) and \(\tilde{v}_j\) are related by (2.4), (3.1) implies that the unitary matrix \(Q\) satisfies \(JQJ^{-1} = Q^*\), i.e. \(Q\) is symplectic. Namely, we have det \(Q = 1^*\) and the associated measure for \(v_j\) and that for \(\tilde{v}_j\) are identical.

* We define \(\xi' = J^{-1}\xi^*\). If \(\xi\) is an eigenvector of \(Q\), \(Q\xi = e^{i\theta}\xi\), then \(\xi'\) has the eigenvalue \(e^{-i\theta}\). Since \(\xi\) and \(\xi'\) are linearly independent and \(\xi'' = -\xi\), this implies that the eigenvalues of \(Q\) always come in pairs as \(e^{i\theta}\) and \(e^{-i\theta}\).
Now, cover the gauge-field configuration space by a collection of local coordinate patches. Within each patch, we can construct the smooth symplectic measure as described above. In an overlap of two patches, the basis vectors in one patch and that in another patch are not necessarily the same. However, corresponding measures are identical, since both are symplectic, and the symplectic measure is unique. This shows that it is always possible to define a smooth measure over the gauge-field configuration space. The important point is that the construction of the symplectic measure within a local patch requires only the local information, but nevertheless the symplectic condition (3.1) guarantees the global consistency of the measure.

Under the infinitesimal variation of the gauge field

$$\delta_\eta U(x, \mu) = a\eta_\mu(x)U(x, \mu), \quad (3.2)$$

the measure changes as $\delta_\eta D[\psi] = -i\mathcal{L}_\eta D[\psi]$, where the measure term $\mathcal{L}_\eta$ [1,3] is defined by $\mathcal{L}_\eta = i\sum j(v_j, \delta_\eta v_j)$. For the symplectic measure, the measure term identically vanishes, $\mathcal{L}_\eta = i\sum j((v_{2l-1}, \delta_\eta v_{2l-1}) + (v_{2l}, \delta_\eta v_{2l})) = i\sum l \delta_\eta(v_{2l-1}, v_{2l-1}) = 0$, because $v_{2l} = v'_{2l-1} = B^{-1}v_{2l-1}$. This implies that the symplectic measure is independent of the gauge field within a connected component in the admissible space. Incidentally, since the measure term transforms as $\tilde{\mathcal{L}}_\eta = \mathcal{L}_\eta - i\delta_\eta \ln \det Q$ under the change of basis vectors (2.4), any measure with vanishing measure term $\mathcal{L}_\eta = 0$ is identical to the symplectic measure up to a constant phase.

It remains to be shown that the symplectic measure is gauge-invariant. The infinitesimal gauge transformation is given by $\eta_\mu(x) = -\nabla_\mu \omega(x)$ in (3.2). By using the gauge covariance of the Dirac operator $\delta_\eta D = [R(\omega), D]$ in (2.1), we have as the gauge variation of $\langle \mathcal{O} \rangle_F$,

$$\delta_\eta \langle \mathcal{O} \rangle_F = \langle \delta_\eta \mathcal{O} \rangle_F + [\text{Tr} R(\omega)(P_+ - \hat{P}_-) - i\mathcal{L}_\eta] \langle \mathcal{O} \rangle_F. \quad (3.3)$$

In the quantity in square brackets, the first term comes from the Jacobian of the change of fermion variables and the second term from the fact that basis vectors themselves change under (3.2). We showed that $\mathcal{L}_\eta = 0$ for the symplectic measure. On the other hand, noting $P_+^T = BP_+B^{-1}$, $(R(\omega))^T = -R(\omega)$ and $\hat{P}_-^T = B\hat{P}_-B^{-1}$ for real representations, we see that

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$\nabla_\mu \omega(x) = [U(x, \mu)\omega(x + a\hat{\mu})U(x, \mu)^{-1} - \omega(x)]/a$ is the covariant difference operator.
the first term identically vanishes. Namely, expectation values of gauge invariant operators are always gauge-invariant and the symplectic measure (or more generally any measure with \( \mathcal{L}_\eta = 0 \)) is gauge-invariant.\(^\dagger\) This establishes the existence of a globally consistent gauge-invariant measure in any topological sector; there is no global obstruction for real representations.

4. Fermion expectation values

In this section, we explicitly compute the expectation value (2.1) by using the symplectic measure. As shown in the previous section, the symplectic measure can be constructed starting with any complete set \( u_j \) satisfying \( \hat{P}_- u_j = u_j \). A particularly convenient complete set \( u_j \) is provided by eigenvectors of the hermitian operator \( D^\dagger D = (\gamma_5 D)^2 \):

\[
D^\dagger D u_j(x) = \lambda_j^2 u_j(x), \quad \hat{P}_- u_j(x) = u_j(x).
\] (4.1)

(This choice is analogous to that in the treatment of covariant gauge anomalies in the continuum theory [27].) These two conditions are consistent because \( D^\dagger D \) and \( \hat{P}_- \) commute. For later comparison with the Majorana formulation, we need to know some details concerning the eigenvalue problem (4.1). For this, we consider the auxiliary problem\(^\S\)

\[
\gamma_5 D \varphi_n(x) = \lambda_n \varphi_n(x), \quad \lambda_n: \text{real, \quad } n = 1, 2, \ldots, \text{Tr} 1. \] (4.2)

The eigenvectors \( \varphi_n \) are classified into three categories:\(^\¶\) (i) \( \lambda_n \neq 0 \) and \( \lambda_n \neq \pm 2/a \). Then \( \tilde{\varphi}_n \equiv \gamma_5 (1 - aD/2) \varphi_n / \sqrt{1 - a^2 \lambda_n^2 / 4} \) has the eigenvalue \( -\lambda_n \); the eigenvalues thus come in pairs as \( \lambda_n \) and \( -\lambda_n \). (ii) \( \lambda_n = \pm 2/a \). Denoting \( \Psi_\pm \) as the corresponding eigenvectors, one has \( P_\pm \Psi_\pm = \hat{P}_\mp \Psi_\pm = \Psi_\pm \). We denote the number of \( \Psi_\pm \) as \( N_\pm \). (iii) \( \lambda_n = 0 \). One can

\(^\dagger\) For anomaly-free complex representations, the quantity \( \text{Tr} R(\omega)(P_+ - \hat{P}_-) \) does not vanish and the way to (and whether it is possible to) choose \( \mathcal{L}_\eta \) to eliminate the combination inside the square brackets is the aforementioned problem of the local gauge anomaly. This problem can be studied by cohomological techniques [7,3,4]. The current status of our knowledge concerning \( \mathcal{L}_\eta \) is as follows: when the gauge group is \( U(1) \), such \( \mathcal{L}_\eta \) has been known non-perturbatively on finite lattices [1]. For general compact gauge groups, \( \mathcal{L}_\eta \) has been known, but only to all orders in the perturbation theory on the infinite lattice [4,6]. For the representation in the electroweak \( SU(2) \times U(1) \), \( \mathcal{L}_\eta \) has been known non-perturbatively at least on the infinite lattice [5].

\(^\S\) Note that \( \gamma_5 D \) is hermitian.

\(^\¶\) Since it is simple to prove the following statements, we do not give the detailed proof.
choose the eigenvectors with definite chiralities as $P_\pm \varphi_0^\pm = \hat{P}_\pm \varphi_0^\pm = \varphi_0^\pm$. We denote the number of $\varphi_0^\pm$ as $n_\pm$. The number $n_+ - n_-$ is the analytic index on the lattice [22], which is constant in a connected component in the admissible space. For the number of eigenvectors of the latter two categories, one can show the index relation [28]

$$n_+ - n_- + N_+ - N_- = 0,$$

starting with $\text{Tr} \gamma_5 = 0$. For real representations, all the eigenvalues including $\lambda_n = 0$ and $\lambda_n = \pm 2/a$ are moreover doubly-degenerate: $\varphi_n$ and $\varphi'_n = B^{-1} \varphi_n^*$ give the same eigenvalue $\lambda_n$, and $\varphi'_n$ is linearly independent with $\varphi_n$ because $(\varphi_n, \varphi'_n) = 0$. In particular, $N_\pm$ and $n_\pm$ are even numbers.

Once having obtained the solution of (4.2), we can obtain all the solutions of (4.1) by simply multiplying $\hat{P}_-$, because $\varphi_n$ span a complete set. In this way, we have: (I) $u_j$ with $\lambda_j^2 \neq 0$ and $\lambda_j^2 \neq 4/a^2$ from category (i). But since $\hat{P}_- [\varphi_n + (1 - a\lambda_n/2) \varphi_n] = 0$, only one linear combination of $\varphi_n$ and $\varphi_n$ gives rise to the solution of (4.1). Thus the total number of this type of $u_j$ is $[\text{Tr} 1 - (N_+ + N_- + n_+ + n_-)]/2$. (II) $u_j$ with $\lambda_j^2 = 4/a^2$. This is given by $\hat{P}_- \psi_+$ and the total number is $N_+$. (III) $u_j$ with $\lambda_j^2 = 0$. This is given by $\hat{P}_- \varphi_0^-$ and the total number is $n_-$. 

Following the previous construction from $u_j$ to $v_j$, we thus obtain $v_j$ that satisfy (4.1), (3.1) and $(v_j, v_k) = \delta_{jk}$. Below we will use this particular basis to compute the expectation value (2.1). Recall, however, that the fermion measure itself is independent of which kind of basis vectors are employed, as long as the symplectic condition (3.1) is satisfied.

The expectation value (2.1) also depends on how we choose the phase of $D[\bar{v}]$. We fix this phase by the following natural mapping from $v_j$ to $\bar{v}_j$ for $\lambda_j \neq 0$:

$$\bar{v}_j(x) = \frac{1}{\lambda_j} v_j^\dagger D^\dagger(x), \quad \lambda_j > 0.$$  

(4.4)

Note that $\bar{v}_j$ so constructed satisfies $\bar{v}_j P_+ = \bar{v}_j$, $\bar{v}_j D D^\dagger = \bar{v}_j (D \gamma_5)^2 = \lambda_j^2 \bar{v}_j$, $v_j = D^\dagger \bar{v}_j^\dagger / \lambda_j$ and $(\bar{v}_j^\dagger, \bar{v}_k^\dagger) = \delta_{jk}$. This mapping gives rise to the symplectic structure $\bar{v}_j \equiv \bar{v}_j^\dagger B = J_{jk} \bar{v}_k$ also for $\bar{v}_j$. For the zero modes $\lambda_j^2 = 0$, a mismatch between $\bar{v}_j$ and $v_j$ may occur and we can take $\varphi_0^+ P_+ = \varphi_0^{+\dagger}$ as the basis vectors for the zero modes in $\bar{v}_j$. The total number of these is $n_+$. 


We have completely fixed the phase ambiguity for the measure in (2.1). What remains to be done is simply the Grassmann integrals with respect to $c_j$ and $\tau_k$. For the partition function $\langle 1 \rangle_F$, after a careful calculation using the above relations, we have

$$\langle 1 \rangle_F = \prod_{\lambda_n > 0} \left[ -\left( \lambda_n^2 + m^2 \right) \right] \left[ -\left( \frac{4}{a^2} + m^2 \right) \right]^{N_+ / 2} \left( im \right)^{(n_+ + n_-) / 2}$$

$$= i^{[\text{Tr} 1 - (n_+ - n_-)] / 2} \prod_{\lambda_n > 0} \left( \lambda_n^2 + m^2 \right) \left( \frac{4}{a^2} + m^2 \right)^{N_+ / 2} m^{(n_+ + n_-) / 2},$$

in terms of the eigenvalues $\lambda_n$ in (4.2). In this expression, the product $\prod_{\lambda_n > 0} \lambda_n$ is understood to be taken without counting the double degeneracy of $\lambda_n$ (i.e. one factor for each $\lambda_n$). We have used the index relation (4.3) in deriving the second line.

The expression (4.5) holds for any topological sector. Interestingly, in the massive theory, the partition function $\langle 1 \rangle_F$ has a definite sign, up to a proportionality constant that depends only on which topological sector is concerned through the combination $n_+ - n_-$. In the massless theory $m \to 0$, $\langle 1 \rangle_F$ vanishes when there exists a zero mode, as should be the case.

The general fermion expectation value $\langle \mathcal{O} \rangle_F$ is computed as usual by $\langle 1 \rangle_F$ times the Wick contractions of fermion fields. The basic contractions are given by

$$\langle \psi(x) \bar{\psi}(y) \rangle_F \langle 1 \rangle_F = \hat{P}_- \frac{1}{D^1 D^2 + m^2} D^1 P_+(x, y),$$

$$\langle \psi(x) \psi^T(y) \rangle_F \langle 1 \rangle_F = \hat{P}_- \frac{-im}{D^1 D^2 + m^2} B^{-1} \hat{P}^T_-(x, y),$$

$$\langle \bar{\psi}^T(x) \bar{\psi}(y) \rangle_F \langle 1 \rangle_F = P_+ B \frac{im}{D D^1 + m^2} P_+(x, y).$$

It is easy to express these basic contractions in terms of the eigenvalues and eigenfunctions in (4.2) by noting $\hat{P}_-(x, y) = \sum_j v_j(x) v_j^\dagger(y)$ etc., although we do not write them.

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* In the massless limit $m \to 0$, this expression may be interpreted as $\langle 1 \rangle_F = \pm \sqrt{\det \gamma_5 D}$, as naively expected for the Weyl fermion in a real representation. Since eigenvalues of $\gamma_5 D$ are doubly-degenerate, even if some of the eigenvalues cross zero according to a deformation of the gauge field, there is no ambiguity in the sign of the square root [10] because it is always an even number of eigenvalues that cross zero [13]. This explains (for the vacuum sector) why the Witten anomaly does not appear for real representations from the viewpoint of the spectral flow.

** This fact may be of interest from the viewpoint of numerical simulations.
down explicitly. For example, in the massless limit \( m \to 0 \), 
\[ \langle \psi(x)\psi^T(y) \rangle_F / \langle 1 \rangle_F \to -i \varphi_0^\dagger(x)\varphi_0^\dagger(y)B^{-1}/m \]
and it thus precisely cancels one \( m \) in (4.5) due to one pair of left-handed zero modes. In this way, any fermion expectation value in any topological sector is obtained by combining (4.5) and (4.6). Note that, according to the above expressions, expectation values of gauge-invariant operators are manifestly gauge-invariant.

5. Matching to the Majorana formulation

As noted in the introduction, in four-dimensional continuum (unregularized) theories, the Weyl fermion in the real representation is equivalent to the Majorana fermion. Thus it is of interest to see how this equivalence is realized in the present formulation in which the left-right chiralities are treated asymmetrically. The lattice implementation of the Majorana (left–right symmetric) fermion would be given by

\[
S_{\text{Majorana}}^F = a^4 \sum_x \left[ \frac{1}{2} \chi^T(x)CD\chi(x) + \frac{1}{2} im\chi^T(x)C\gamma_5\chi(x) \right], \quad (5.1)
\]

where \( \chi \) is a four-component unconstrained spinor field. Note that \((CD)^T = -CD\) and \((C\gamma_5)^T = -C\gamma_5\) being consistent with the Fermi statistics and that the mass term is gauge-invariant for real representations. The expectation value is then given by 
\[ \langle O \rangle_{\text{Majorana}}^F = \int D[\chi] O e^{-S_{\text{Majorana}}^F}, \]
where the fermion integration measure is defined by \( \chi(x) = \sum_n \varphi_n(x)b_n \) (\( \varphi_n \)'s are certain orthonormal basis vectors) and \( D[\chi] = \prod_n db_n \equiv db_1 db_2 \cdots db_{\text{Tr}-1} \). The important difference from the Weyl formulation is that the Majorana formulation can be set up without referring to a particular topological sector, because the number of integration variables is always the same. Namely, the above definition is uniform for all topological sectors.*** This property of the Majorana formulation has an interesting implication, as we will discuss in the next section.

We can take the eigenvectors in (4.2) as the basis vectors \( \varphi_n \). With this choice, we obtain

*** This is analogous to the situation for the Dirac fermion in lattice QCD in which one usually never worries about the relative weight for the fermion measure in different topological sectors.
as the fermion partition function

$$\langle 1 \rangle_{\text{Majorana}}^{\text{F}} = \prod_{\lambda_n > 0} \frac{(\lambda_n^2 + m^2)(\frac{2}{a} - i m)^{N_+/2}}{(\frac{2}{a} - i m)^{N_-/2} (-i m)^{(n_+ + n_-)/2}} \prod_{\lambda_n > 0} \frac{(\lambda_n^2 + m^2)(\frac{4}{a^2} + m^2)^{N_+/2} m^{(n_+ + n_-)/2}}{\prod_{\lambda_n > 2/a} \lambda_n^2}.$$  

(5.2)

where from the first line to the second line we have used (4.3) and the fact that \( n_- \) is an even number. Note that \( N_\pm \) appear symmetrically in the first expression, because of the left–right-symmetric treatment in the Majorana formulation.

From (5.1), the fermion partition function in the Majorana formulation is given by the Pfaffian \( \langle 1 \rangle_{\text{Majorana}}^{\text{F}} \propto \text{Pf}(CD + imC\gamma_5) \) and (5.2) gives the precise meaning of this Pfaffian. In the massless limit, \( \langle 1 \rangle_{\text{Majorana}}^{\text{F}} \propto \text{Pf} CD \) and, when the overlap-Dirac operator [21] is employed as \( D \), this coincides with the expression in [18], which is based on a factorization property of the domain wall [15,14] (with the infinite five-dimensional separation) or the overlap [29] fermion determinant in vector-like theories. In this limit, (5.2) reduces to \( \langle 1 \rangle_{\text{Majorana}}^{\text{F}} = -\prod_{\lambda_n > 0} \frac{\lambda_n^2(4/a^2)^{N_+/2}}{\lambda_n^2(4/a^2)^{N_+/2}} \) (assuming there is no zero mode), which manifestly has a definite sign. This is important from the viewpoint of numerical simulations [13,14,16–18], because the fermion partition function then allows a statistical weight interpretation. This property with the overlap-Dirac operator has been shown [18] by appealing to the limiting procedure from the domain wall fermion with finite five-dimensional separation. Here we have shown the same property by using general properties of the GW Dirac operator alone.

Comparing (5.2) and (4.5), we find

$$\langle 1 \rangle_{\text{F}}^{\text{Majorana}} = -(-1)^{Tr} 1/4 \left( \frac{2}{a} - i m \right)^{(n_+ - n_-)/2} \langle 1 \rangle_{\text{F}}^{\text{Weyl}}.$$  

(5.3)

Namely, two formulations match up to a proportionality constant that depends only on the topological sector. If one is concerned with a particular topological sector, two formulations
are therefore completely equivalent. For the basic contraction, we find

$$\langle \chi(x)\chi^T(y) \rangle_{\text{Majorana}}^{\text{F}} = \frac{1}{(\gamma_5 D)^2 + m^2} \langle D^\dagger - i m\gamma_5 \rangle C^{-1}(x,y)$$

$$= \frac{2}{a} \frac{\langle \psi(x) - C^{-1}\psi^T(x) \rangle \langle \psi^T(y) - \psi(y)C^{-1}T \rangle}{2/a - im} \langle 1 \rangle_\text{F}^{\text{Weyl}}$$

$$- \frac{1}{2/a - im} \gamma_5 C^{-1}a^{-4} \delta_{x,y},$$

where, in deriving the last expression, we have noted $1 = P_+ + \hat{P}_- - a\gamma_5 D/2$. The relation in the opposite direction is given by

$$\langle \psi(x)\psi^T(y) \rangle_{\text{F}}^{\text{Weyl}} = -\frac{2}{a} \frac{\langle \psi(x)\psi^T(y) \rangle_{\text{F}}^{\text{Weyl}}}{2/a - im} \hat{P}_- \langle \chi(x)\chi^T(y) \rangle_{\text{F}}^{\text{Majorana}} C^T P_+$$

$$\langle \psi^T(x)\psi(y) \rangle_{\text{F}}^{\text{Weyl}} = \frac{2}{a} \frac{\langle \psi^T(x)\psi(y) \rangle_{\text{F}}^{\text{Weyl}}}{2/a - im} \hat{P}_- \langle \chi(x)\chi^T(y) \rangle_{\text{F}}^{\text{Majorana}} C^T P_+ + \frac{a}{2} C P_+ a^{-4} \delta_{x,y}.$$
6. Relative normalization for different topological sectors

We have seen that there is a complete matching between the Weyl formulation and the Majorana formulation for real representations. In this section, we present a possible implication of this matching for the relative normalization of the fermion measure in different topological sectors (the factor $\mathcal{N}(M)$ in (2.5)) for the Weyl fermion belonging to the complex representation. For complex representations, the mass term breaks the gauge symmetry. We thus restrict our problem to the massless theory.

Suppose that we have a consistent gauge-invariant measure for the Weyl fermion belonging to the complex representation, which is specified by the basis vectors $v_j$. Then the set of vectors $B^{-1}v_j^*$ naturally provides a consistent gauge-invariant measure for the complex conjugate representation $R^*$. With this choice of measure for $R^*$, we have $\langle O \rangle_{F,R}^* = \langle O^* \rangle_{F,R^*}$ and, as naively expected [12],

$$|\langle O \rangle_{F,R}|^2 = \langle O^* \rangle_{F,R^*} \langle O \rangle_{F,R} = \langle O^* O \rangle_{F,R^* R}, \quad (6.1)$$

where the measure for the real representation $R \oplus R^*$ is specified by the basis vectors $V_{2l-1} = (v_l, 0)^T$ and $V_{2l} = (0, B^{-1}v_l^*)^T$. This measure is symplectic with respect to $V_j' \equiv \left( \begin{array}{c} 0 \\ 1 \end{array} \right) B^{-1}V_j^*$ and we can thus apply the previous arguments. In particular, (6.1) shows that we can compute the modulus of $\langle O \rangle_{F,R}$ by using (4.5) and (4.6) with $m \to 0$.

For the real representation $R \oplus R^*$, we may use also the Majorana formulation. From (6.1), (5.3) and (5.5), we know that for a fixed topological sector:†

$$|\langle O \rangle_{F,R}|^2 = -(-1)^{\text{Tr} 1/4} \left( \begin{array}{c} a \\ 2 \end{array} \right)^{n_+-n_-} \langle O^* O \rangle_{F,R^* R}^{\text{Majorana}}, \quad (6.2)$$

up to contact terms.‡ In this expression, $n_\pm$ refer to the numbers of zero modes of the original Weyl fermion in the complex representation $R$. Now, as already emphasized, the Majorana formulation is uniform for all topological sectors. Thus it is quite natural to adjust the

† Although the phase of the proportionality constant in this expression depends on a way we specified the phase of $D[\chi]$, this does not affect the following argument for the normalization $\mathcal{N}(M)$.

‡ Eq. (5.5) shows that the substitution rule from the Weyl formulation to the Majorana formulation is given by $\psi(x) \to P_- \chi(x)$ and $\bar{\psi}(x) \to -\chi^T(x)O^T P_+$. 
normalization of $\langle O \rangle_{F,R}$ as it coincides with the normalization of the Majorana formulation for all topological sectors. Namely, we may define the relative weight for a topological sector as

$$\langle O \rangle_F \rightarrow \left( \frac{2}{a} \right)^{(n_+ - n_-)/2} e^{i\vartheta} \langle O \rangle_F .$$

(6.3)

The natural prescription for the full expectation value would thus be

$$\langle O \rangle = \frac{1}{Z} \sum_M \int_M D[U] e^{-S_G} \left( \frac{2}{a} \right)^{(n_+ - n_-)/2} e^{i\vartheta(M)} \langle O \rangle^M_F ,$$

(6.4)

where the relative phase $\vartheta(M)$ cannot be fixed from the present argument. Assuming that the operator $O$ has a definite mass dimension, the dimensionful factor $(1/a)^{(n_+ - n_-)/2}$ compensates changes of the mass dimension of $\langle O \rangle^M_F$, which depends on $\text{Tr}(P_+ - P_-) = n_+ - n_-$ (note that the mass dimension of the Grassmann integration $d\psi_j$ is 1/2). This is a natural requirement for $\mathcal{N}(M)$. On the other hand, the relative normalization $2^{(n_+ - n_-)/2}$ was determined from the matching with the Majorana formulation. If one chooses the normalization of the GW relation as $D\gamma_5 + \gamma_5 D = k a D\gamma_5 D$, the number 2 changes to $2/k$. Therefore, the Weyl formulation will automatically give rise to the natural relative normalization by choosing the normalization of the Dirac operator as $k = 2$.

7. Conclusion

The real representation, owing to its simplicity with regard to the local gauge anomaly, provides an interesting example with which one can work out all the quantities in L"uscher’s gauge-invariant lattice formulation. We hope that we clearly illustrated some global issues in the formulation with this simple example. An interesting implication of the present analysis is that the matching to the Majorana formulation provides a natural normalization of the fermion-integration measure in different topological sectors. This could be physically relevant, for example, when considering the absolute magnitude of fermion-number-violating processes in chiral gauge theories.

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