Analog Electromagnetism in a Symmetrized $^3$He-A

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We derive a low temperature effective action for the order parameter in a symmetrized phase A of helium 3, where the Fermi velocity equals the transversal velocity of low energy fermionic quasiparticles. The effective action has a form of the electromagnetic action. This analog electromagnetism is a part of the program to derive analog gravity and the standard model as a low energy effective theory in a condensed matter system. For the analog gauge field to satisfy the Maxwell equations interactions in $^3$He require special tuning that leads to the symmetric case.

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I. INTRODUCTION

Quantum mechanics is not compatible with general relativity. There are well known problems with the definition of a time operator, the cosmological constant problem, the divergencies in the relativistic quantum field theory and the black hole paradoxes [1]. In recent years, as a result of interaction between the condensed matter and the high energy physics communities, a new program is emerging that may solve all these fundamental problems at once [2,3]. The key idea is that both general relativity and the Standard Model [2,3] are low energy effective field theories of an underlying condensed matter system.

By its very definition this program invalidates the time operator problem. The fundamental theory is a condensed matter system described by a “nonrelativistic” N-body Schrödinger equation in an abstract configuration space. The time operator problem is an artifact of the effective low energy relativistic theory. When the missing definition of a time operator leads to paradoxes in the effective theory, their resolution can be found at the level of the fundamental condensed matter system.

The cosmological constant or Casimir energy, when calculated within the effective relativistic quantum field theory, is divergent. It is customary to cut off this divergence at the Planck scale. Even when cut off the cosmological constant is still, by many orders of magnitude, inconsistent with observations. A fundamental condensed matter theory should, at the very least, provide a correct prescription how to make the cut off in the effective relativistic theory [3]. An example in Ref. [3] demonstrates that in a condensed matter system it is even possible to have a nonzero Casimir force but at the same time an exactly vanishing cosmological constant.

The divergencies in the perturbative relativistic quantum field theory are yet another artifact of the effective low energy theory. The underlying N-body Schrödinger equation does not suffer from any divergencies.

Violation of relativity at high energies or strong fields, where the “nonrelativistic” nature of the fundamental theory shows up, allows the high energy particles to communicate over a black hole event horizon and in this way it solves the paradoxes related to the horizon [4].

The idea that relativistic fields are low energy excitations of a condensed matter system is older than the relativistic fields themselves. Maxwell derived his famous equations as a hydrodynamic description of a hypothetical ether. Later on the Michelson-Morley experiment proved that there is no detectable motion of the Earth with respect to the ether. The fundamental condensed matter system is an ether but in a modern guise. There is an essential difference with respect to the traditional ether: now “everything”, i.e. both light and fermionic matter (including the famous Michelson and Morley’s experimental setup), are effective low energy bosonic and fermionic relativistic excitations. The low energy relativistic excitations cannot detect their motion with respect to the modern ether and there are no fundamental relativistic fields, otherwise we would have to deal again with the time operator and the cosmological constant problem. The condition that the low energy excitations must include relativistic fermionic quasiparticles strongly suggests that the underlying condensed matter system must contain fundamental “nonrelativistic” fermions.

Analogies between the black hole horizon and sonic horizons in a number of condensed matter systems were explored in Refs. [2]. Analogies between fermionic helium 3 [2,3] and the standard model plus general relativity were explored in depth by Volovik in Ref. [2]. Of particular interest in the present context are two phases of the superfluid helium 3: the A phase and the planar phase [2]. In a conventional superconductor and in the B phase of helium 3 there is an energy gap $\Delta_0$ between the Landau quasiparticles below the Fermi surface, where $p = p_F$, and those above the Fermi surface. In the A phase and the planar phase this gap has two nodes at the so called Fermi points on the Fermi surface. Order parameter includes a unit vector $\hat{l}$ related to orbital angular momentum of the atoms. The two Fermi points are located at $p = \pm p_F \hat{l}$. Close to the Fermi point, say, $p = p_F \hat{l}$ the energy $\epsilon_p$ of the fermionic Landau quasiparticles can be approximated by

$$\epsilon_p^2 + g^{ab}(p_a - p_F l_a)(p_b - p_F l_b) \approx 0, \quad (1)$$
where the indices \(a, b\) run over 1, 2, 3 (or \(x, y, z\)). This spectrum is relativistic, there are low energy effective Dirac fermions in this system.

In general, the metric tensor depends on \(\hat{l}\),
\[
g^{00} = 1 ,
\]
\[
-g^{ab} = c_F^2 t^a t^b + c_L^2 (\delta^{ab} - t^a t^b) ,
\]
where \(c_F\) is an effective Fermi velocity and \(c_L = \Delta_0 / p_F\) is a transversal velocity of the fermionic quasiparticles near a Fermi point. However, in a symmetric case, when
\[
c_\perp = c_F ,
\]
the metric tensor becomes independent of \(\hat{l}\),
\[
g^{\mu\nu} = \text{diag} \{1, -c_F^2, -c_F^2, -c_F^2\} ,
\]
and \(c_F\) becomes an effective velocity of light for the Dirac fermions.

As noted in Ref. [3] the \(p_F \hat{l}\) in Eq. (1) can be interpreted as an electromagnetic vector potential and integration over the relativistic fermions should give an effective electromagnetic action for this gauge field. This integration over an equilibrium low temperature ensemble of fermions is a subject of the next Section. This derivation shows how an effective relativistic electrodynamics emerges from an underlying fermionic condensed matter system.

The derivation in the next Section generalizes the classic helium 3 results for \(c_F \gg c_\perp\) obtained by Cross in Ref. [3]. The symmetric case \(c_F = c_\perp\) is far from the real helium 3. However, it should be possible to construct an abstract symmetrized helium 3 with interactions tuned so as to have a stable phase A and \(c_F = c_\perp\) at the same time. The fundamental condensed matter system does not need to be constrained by the generic properties of interactions in the electronic or atomic condensed matter systems. The aim of this paper is to better substantiate the idea [3] that the relativistic electrodynamics can be an effective low energy theory in a "nonrelativistic" fermionic condensed matter system.

II. THE EFFECTIVE ELECTROMAGNETISM

A. Bogolubov-Nambu space

To describe helium 3 it is convenient to combine spin-up and spin-down fermions into a Bogolubov-Nambu spinor
\[
\chi(x) = \begin{pmatrix} \psi_1^\dagger(x) \\ \psi_2^\dagger(x) \\ \psi_3^\dagger(x) \\ -\psi_4^\dagger(x) \end{pmatrix} .
\]

It is understood here that \(\mathbf{p} = -i \nabla\) and the nabla is applied to the \(\chi(x)\) on the right. A mean field Hamiltonian that describes interaction of the fermionic atoms with the order parameter in the phase A of \(^3\)He is given by
\[
H = \frac{1}{2} \int d^3x \chi^\dagger(x) \begin{pmatrix} \epsilon_p + \epsilon_p^\dagger \\ \Delta_0 \sigma_p^\dagger \frac{p_L}{p_F} \\ \Delta_0 \sigma_p \frac{p_L}{p_F} \\ -\epsilon_p \end{pmatrix} \chi(x) .
\]
Here \(\Delta_0(x)\) is the energy gap and \(p_F\) is the Fermi momentum. \(\epsilon(p)\) is a quasiparticle energy, which can be approximated close to the Fermi surface by
\[
\epsilon_p \simeq \frac{p^2}{2m_*} - \frac{p_F^2}{2m_*} = \frac{(p + p_F)(p - p_F)}{2m_*} \approx c_F (p - p_F) ,
\]
where \(c_F = p_F / m_*\) is a Fermi velocity and \(m_*\) is an effective mass of Landau quasiparticles close to the Fermi surface.

\[
\sigma(x) \equiv d^\mu(x) \sigma_\mu
\]
with \(d^\mu d^\nu = 1\) is a \(2 \times 2\) spin matrix.
\[
p_\perp(x) = \frac{1}{2} \{\epsilon_1^a(x) + i \epsilon_2^a(x), p^a\} ,
\]
where summation runs over \(a = 1, 2, 3\), and \(\hat{e}_1\) and \(\hat{e}_2\) satisfy
\[
\hat{e}_1 \hat{e}_1 = 1 , \hat{e}_2 \hat{e}_2 = 1 , \hat{e}_1 \hat{e}_2 = 0 , \hat{l} = \hat{e}_1 \times \hat{e}_2 .
\]

B. Background order parameter

We will derive an effective action for small fluctuations of the order parameter around the equilibrium order parameter
\[
\Delta_0(x) = \Delta_0 \in \mathcal{R} ,
\]
\[
\sigma(x) = \sigma_3 ,
\]
\[
\hat{e}_1(x) = \hat{e}_z
\]
\[
\hat{e}_2(x) = \hat{e}_y
\]
\[
\hat{l}(x) = \hat{e}_x \times \hat{e}_y = \hat{e}_z
\]
\[
p_\perp = p_x + i p_y .
\]
With this background the Hamiltonian (7) becomes
\[
H_0 = \frac{1}{2} \int d^3x \chi^\dagger(x) \begin{pmatrix} \epsilon_p + \epsilon_p^\dagger \\ \Delta_0 \sigma_p^\dagger \frac{p_L}{p_F} \\ \Delta_0 \sigma_p \frac{p_L}{p_F} \\ -\epsilon_p \end{pmatrix} \chi(x) .
\]

C. Bogolubov transformation

The Hamiltonian (18) is diagonalized by a Bogolubov transformation.
\[ \psi_\dagger(p) = u_p \gamma_\dagger(p) + v_p \gamma_\dagger(-p), \]
\[ \psi(p) = u_p \gamma_\dagger(p) + v_p \gamma_\dagger(-p), \]
where the Bogoliubov coefficients \( u_p \) and \( v_p \) satisfy
\[ |u_p|^2 = \frac{1}{2} \left( 1 + \frac{e_p}{e_p} \right), \]
\[ |v_p|^2 = \frac{1}{2} \left( 1 - \frac{e_p}{e_p} \right), \]
\[ 2u_pv_p = \frac{e_u}{e_p} \]
\[ e_p = \left( e_p^2 + e_p^2|p\|^2 \right)^{1/2} \]

Here we define \( e_p \equiv \Delta_0/pF \). The diagonalized Hamiltonian is
\[ H_0 = \int d^3p \ e_p \left[ \gamma_\dagger(p)\gamma_\dagger(p) + \gamma_\dagger(p)\gamma_\dagger(p) \right]. \]

Close to the Fermi point at \( p = \pm p_F \) the energy squared of the quasiparticles can be approximated by
\[ e_p^2 + g^{ab}(p_a - p_F l_a)(p_b - p_F l_b) \approx 0, \]

compare with Eqs. (28, 29). \( g^{ab} \) is a spatial part of a metric tensor
\[ g^{ab} = \text{diag} \left\{ 1, -c_\perp^2, -c_\perp^2, -c_F^2 \right\}. \]

**D. Small fluctuations of \( \hat{\mathbf{t}} \).**

We add small perturbations to the background field \( \hat{\mathbf{t}} \)
\[ \hat{e}_1(x) = \hat{e}_x + n_1(x), \]
\[ \hat{e}_2(x) = \hat{e}_y + n_2(x) \]
and define a small complex vector field
\[ z_a(x) \equiv n_a^0(x) + i n_a^0(x). \]

The Hamiltonian becomes
\[ H_1 = \int d^3p \left[ \hat{\mathbf{F}}^a_{p} \right] \gamma_\dagger(p) \hat{\mathbf{F}}^a_{p} + \text{h.c.}, \]
an interaction Hamiltonian linear in \( z_a \). Here we use the Fourier transform
\[ z_a(p) = \int \frac{d^3x}{(2\pi)^3} e^{-ipx} z_a(x), \]
and the operator
\[ F^a_p[\gamma] = -\Delta_0 \int d^3k \ \frac{k^a}{p_F} \times \]
\[ \left[ u_{\frac{k}{2} + k} u_{\frac{k}{2} - k} \gamma_\dagger(\frac{p}{2} + k) \right] + \]
\[ v_{\frac{k}{2} + k} u_{\frac{k}{2} - k} \gamma_\dagger(\frac{p}{2} - k) \gamma_\dagger(\frac{p}{2} + k) \right] + \]
\[ u_{\frac{k}{2} - k} v_{\frac{k}{2} - k} \gamma_\dagger(\frac{p}{2} - k) \gamma_\dagger(\frac{p}{2} - k) \right]. \]

**E. Second order effective action**

A real (unitary) part of the second order effective action is
\[ S^{(2)}[z] = \left[ \begin{array}{c} S^{(2)}[z] \\ \text{Re} \int \frac{i}{2} \int dt dt' \left( \hat{T} H_1 [\gamma_\dagger(t)] H_1 [\gamma_\dagger(t')] \right) \end{array} \right] \]
\[ + \left( \text{Re} \int \frac{i}{2} \int dt dt' \int d^3p d^3p' \times \right) \]
\[ \left[ 2z_a(t, p) \left( \hat{T} F^a_p[\gamma_\dagger(t)] F^a_p[\gamma_\dagger(t')] \right) z_a^\dagger(t', p') + \right. \]
\[ \left. (z_a^\dagger(t, p) \left( \hat{T} F^a_p[\gamma_\dagger(t)] F^a_p[\gamma_\dagger(t')] \right) z_a^\dagger(t', p') + \text{c.c.} \right) \],

where \( \hat{T} \) means time ordering along the Kyeldshy contour. The interaction picture \( \gamma_\dagger(t) \)’s sit on the positive (forward in time) branch of the contour. A straightforward but somewhat tedious calculation, which uses a correlator time ordered along the contour
\[ \left( \hat{T} [\gamma_\dagger(t, k) \gamma_\dagger(t', k')] \right) = \delta(k - k') \ e^{-i\omega(k-t')} \times \]
\[ \left[ \theta(t-t') f(-\beta\epsilon_k) - \theta(t-t') f(\beta\epsilon_k) \right] \]

with \( f(x) = (1 + e^{-x})^{-1} \) and \( \beta \) an inverse temperature, gives an effective action
\[ S^{(2)}[z] = \int d\omega \int d^3p \times \]
\[ \left[ z_a(\omega, p) \begin{array}{c} G_{1}^{ab}(\omega, p) z_a^\dagger(\omega, p) + \end{array} \right. \]
\[ \left. (z_a^\dagger(\omega, p) \begin{array}{c} G_{2}^{ab}(\omega, p) z_a^\dagger(\omega, -p) 
\right. \right] + \text{c.c.} \right) \].

The kernels are given by
\[ G_{1}^{ab}(\omega, p) = 2\pi \Delta^2 \text{ P.V.} \int d^3k \ \frac{k^a k^b}{p_F} \times \]
\[ \frac{2 \sinh(\beta\epsilon_k)}{1 + \cosh(\beta\epsilon_k)} \times \]
\[ \left[ \frac{|u_{k+\frac{p}{2}}|^2 |u_{k-\frac{p}{2}}|^2}{+\omega + \epsilon_{k+\frac{p}{2}} + \epsilon_{k-\frac{p}{2}}} + \frac{|u_{k+\frac{p}{2}}|^2 |v_{k-\frac{p}{2}}|^2}{-\omega + \epsilon_{k+\frac{p}{2}} + \epsilon_{k-\frac{p}{2}}} \right] \]
\[ \right] \]
\[ G^2_2(\omega, \mathbf{p}) = -\pi \Delta_0^2 \text{ P.V.} \int d^3 k \frac{k^a k^b}{p_F^2} \times \]
\[ \frac{2 \sinh(\beta E_k)}{1 + \cosh(\beta E_k)} \times (u_{k+\frac{\mathbf{p}}{2}} v_{k-\frac{\mathbf{p}}{2}})(u_{k-\frac{\mathbf{p}}{2}} v_{k+\frac{\mathbf{p}}{2}}) \times \]
\[ \left[ \frac{1}{+\omega + \epsilon_{k+\frac{\mathbf{p}}{2}} + \epsilon_{k-\frac{\mathbf{p}}{2}}} + \frac{1}{-\omega + \epsilon_{k+\frac{\mathbf{p}}{2}} + \epsilon_{k-\frac{\mathbf{p}}{2}}} \right] \] (38)

Here we neglect terms that are exponentially small for small temperature. In order to get a low energy effective theory, these kernels will be (gradient) expanded in powers of \( \omega \) and \( \mathbf{p} \).

**F. Gradient expansion of \( G^{33} \)**

A gradient expansion of \( G^{33} \) gives terms which are logarithmically divergent when \( \beta \to \infty \). This divergence, localized at the Fermi points \( k = \pm p_F \mathbf{1} \), can be identified as

\[ G_{1,\text{log}}^{33}(\omega, \mathbf{p}) = \frac{4\pi^2 \Delta_0^2}{3} \left[ \omega^2 - \frac{1}{2} c_1^2 (p_x^2 + p_y^2) - c_2^2 (p_z^2) \right] \ln(\beta \Delta_0). \] (39)

and

\[ G_{2,\text{log}}^{33}(\omega, \mathbf{p}) = \frac{\pi^2 \Delta_0^2}{3} \left[ c_1^2 p_z^2 \right] \ln(\beta \Delta_0). \] (40)

After inverse Fourier transform we obtain the logarithmically divergent part of the second order effective action

\[ S^{(2)}_{\text{Log}}[\mathbf{n}] = \frac{p_F^2}{24\pi^2} \int d^4 x \times \]
\[ \left\{ \sum_{k=1,2} \left[ \left( \frac{\partial n_3^\dagger}{\partial t} \right)^2 - c_1^2 \left( \frac{\partial n_3}{\partial x} \right)^2 \right] - c_2^2 \left[ \partial_2 n_2^\dagger - \partial_y n_2 \right]^2 \right\}. \] (41)

This action is a second order perturbative version of an action

\[ S^{(2)}_{\text{Log}}[\mathbf{l}] = \frac{p_F^2}{24\pi^2} \int d^4 x \times \]
\[ \left\{ \left[ \frac{\partial l}{\partial t} \right]^2 - c_1^2 \left[ l \times (\nabla \times 1) \right]^2 - c_2^2 \left[ l(\nabla \times 1) \right]^2 \right\}. \] (42)

Fluctuations of \( \mathbf{l} \) are not the only contribution to the logarithmically divergent part of the low energy effective action. Another contribution comes from the component of the superfluid velocity \( \mathbf{v} \) which is parallel to \( \mathbf{l} \).

**G. Small fluctuations of \( \mathbf{l} \mathbf{v} \)**

For a uniform stationary superfluid flow with velocity \( \mathbf{v} \) and close to the Fermi surface, \( p \approx p_F \), the Hamiltonian \( \mathbf{l} \mathbf{v} \) becomes

\[ H_0 = \frac{1}{2} \int d^3 x \chi^\dagger(\mathbf{x}) \times \]
\[ \left( + \epsilon_{p+m,v} + \frac{1}{2} m_s v^2 \right) \Delta_0 \sigma_3 \frac{ (p_x+m_x v_x)^2}{p_F} - \epsilon_{p-m,v} - \frac{1}{2} m_s v^2 \chi(\mathbf{x}) \right), \]

compare with Eqs. (38) and use a Galilean transformation. Here \( v_x \equiv v_x + i v_y \). We are interested in the part of the Hamiltonian (43) that is linear in \( \mathbf{v} \) and we expand

\[ \epsilon_{p+m,v} = \epsilon_p + \mathbf{p} \mathbf{v} + \mathcal{O}(v^2). \] (44)

So far \( \mathbf{v} \) was constant. Now we make it space and time dependent, \( \mathbf{v} = \mathbf{v}(t, \mathbf{x}) \), and at the same time, to keep the Hamiltonian (43) hermitian, we make in Eq. (44) a replacement

\[ \mathbf{p} \mathbf{v} \rightarrow \frac{1}{2} \{ \mathbf{p}, \mathbf{v}(t, \mathbf{x}) \} = \frac{1}{2} (\mathbf{p} \mathbf{v}(t, \mathbf{x}) + \mathbf{v}(t, \mathbf{x}) \mathbf{p}). \] (45)

We expand the Hamiltonian (43) to leading order in \( \mathbf{v} \) using Eq. (44) and the replacement (45). In the expanded Hamiltonian we keep only terms where the operator \( \mathbf{p} \) is applied to \( \chi \) or \( \chi^\dagger \). As the main contribution to the logarithmically divergent part of the effective action comes from near the Fermi points at \( p = \pm p_F \mathbf{1} \), these terms are formally of the order of \( p_F \). They are large as compared to terms where the operator \( \mathbf{p} \) is applied to the slowly varying velocity field \( \mathbf{v} \). After those last terms are neglected the interaction Hamiltonian becomes

\[ H_1 \approx \frac{1}{2} \int d^3 x \chi^\dagger(\mathbf{x}) \left[ v^a(\mathbf{x}) \mathbf{p}_a \right] \chi(\mathbf{x}). \] (46)

This Hamiltonian is hermitian when we take into account that \( p_a \chi(\mathbf{x}) \) is negligible as compared to \( p_a \chi^{(1)} \). With the definition (3) and the Bogolubov transformation (20) the Hamiltonian becomes

\[ H_1 \approx \int d^3 p \left[ v^a_\mathbf{p} f^a_\mathbf{p} + \text{h.c.} \right] \] (47)

where

\[ f^a_\mathbf{p} = \int d^3 k k_a \times \]
\[ \left( u_{k+\frac{\mathbf{p}}{2}} v_{k-\frac{\mathbf{p}}{2}} - u_{k-\frac{\mathbf{p}}{2}} v_{k+\frac{\mathbf{p}}{2}} \right) \gamma_i (-\mathbf{k}) \gamma_j (+\mathbf{k}) \] (48)

Here we neglect all mixed terms of the form \( \gamma^i \gamma^j \) which for small \( T \) give an exponentially small contribution to the effective action. The effective action is given by

\[ S^{(2)}_{\text{Log}}[\mathbf{v}] \approx \text{Re} \frac{i}{2} \int dt dt' \int d^3 p d^3 p' \times \]
\[ 2 v_a(t, \mathbf{p}) \langle \hat{T} f^a_\mathbf{p} \gamma_+(t) f^a_\mathbf{p} \gamma_+(t') \rangle v_b'(t', \mathbf{p}'). \] (49)

compare to Eq. (77). A straightforward calculation similar to the derivation of the effective action for small fluctuations of \( \mathbf{l} \) gives
\[ S_{\mathrm{Log}}^{(2)}(\nu) = \frac{p_F^2}{24\pi^2} \ln \left( \frac{\Delta_0^2}{T^2} \right) \int \sqrt{-g} \, d^4 x \left( -g^{ab} \partial_a \nu_3 \partial_b \nu_3 \right) . \]  

(50)

The logarithmically divergent part of the effective action \( S_{\mathrm{Log}}^{(2)}(\nu) \) contains only \( \nu_3 \) because at the Fermi points it is only \( \nu_3 \) that couples to \( p = \pm p_F \hat{l} = \pm p_F \epsilon_z \), compare Eq.\((46)\).

H. The electromagnetic effective action

In the symmetric \(^3\)He-A,

\[ c_F = c_\perp , \]
\[ g^{\mu\nu} = \text{diag} \{ 1, -c_F^2, -c_F^2, -c_F^2 \} , \]  

(51)

and after identifications

\[ A_0 = p_F (i \nu) , \]
\[ A = p_F \hat{l} \]  

(52)

the sum of the two actions \((42, 50)\) becomes

\[ S_{\mathrm{Log}}^{(2)} = \frac{\ln \left( \frac{\Delta_0^2}{T^2} \right)}{12\pi^2} \int \sqrt{-g} \, d^4 x \left( -\frac{1}{4} F^{\mu\nu} F_{\mu\nu} \right) , \]  

(53)

where

\[ F_{\mu\nu} = \partial_\mu A_\nu - \partial_\nu A_\mu . \]  

(54)

In the symmetric case the metric tensor \((51)\) does not depend any more on the direction of \( \hat{l} \). \( \hat{l} \) can be unambiguously interpreted as a vector potential. The symmetrization is essential for the interpretation of \( \hat{l} \) as a vector potential.

III. CONCLUSION

The effective action \((52)\) and the identifications agree with the effective action and the identifications that were suggested in Ref.\( [2] \).

The relativistically invariant low temperature effective action comes from integration near the Fermi points where the quasiparticles are well approximated by relativistic Dirac fermions. The effective electromagnetic action plus Dirac fermions minimally coupled to the gauge field give rise to an effective relativistic electrodynamics emerging from an underlying nonrelativistic fermionic condensed matter system.

The dispersion relation in Eq.\((1)\) allows one to interpret the \( p_F \hat{l} \) as a gauge field for the relativistic fermions near a Fermi point. However, for this gauge field to satisfy the gauge invariant Maxwell equations of motion we need a right tuning of interactions in the model so that \( c_F = c_\perp \). Symmetry considerations based on Eq.\((1)\) alone are not enough to get the right dynamics for the gauge field.

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